

National Contest Journal

Volume 54 Number 4

August/September 2026

National Contest Journal (ISSN 0899-0131) is published bimonthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December by the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1494, USA. Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, Connecticut, and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: National Contest Journal, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1494, USA.

Publisher

David A. Minster, NA2AA
American Radio Relay League
225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111
Tel: 860-594-0200
Fax: 860-594-0259 (24-hour direct line)
Email: hq@arrl.org
Web: www.arrl.org

Editor

John Pescatore, K3TN
jpescatore@aol.com

Assistant Editor

John McKenna, K3NNA

Layout & Production Specialist

Matt Ali

NCJ Website

Matt Wilhelm, W1PY, Webmaster
www.ncjweb.com

ARRL Officers

President: Rick Roderick, K5UR

Contributing Editors

Mike Goldstein, VE3GFN — Little Pistol Pages
Jon Jones, NØJK — VHF-UHF Contesting!
Scott Rosenfeld, N7JI — Next-Gen Contesters
North American QSO Party, CW
Dave Mueller, N2NL
10206 Summerlake Dr., Mobile, AL 36608
cwnaqpMgr@ncjweb.com
North American QSO Party, SSB
Dan Craig, N6MJ
200 Barcelona Cir., Fullerton, CA 92835
ssbnaqpMgr@ncjweb.com
North American QSO Party, RTTY
Mark Aaker, K6UFO
300 Berry St., Unit 1009, San Francisco, CA 94158-1668
rttynaqpMgr@ncjweb.com
North American Sprint, CW
Phil Koch, K3UA
204 Dana Drive, Eighty Four, PA 15330
cwsprintMgr@ncjweb.com
North American Sprint, RTTY
Ed Muns, WØYK
P.O. Box 1877, Los Gatos, CA 95031-1877
rttysprintMgr@ncjweb.com

Advertising Sales Manager

Steve Bossert, K2GOG — sbossert@arrl.org

NCJ subscription orders, changes of address, and reports of missing or damaged copies should be addressed to ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111 and be marked **NCJ Circulation**. ARRL members are asked to include their membership control number or their QST mailing label.

Submit articles, correspondence, and club newsletters to NCJ, John Pescatore, K3TN, 1515 Lost Creek Dr., Ashton, MD 20861.

The NA Sprint and NA QSO Parties are not sponsored by ARRL.

Contents

- 2 From the Editor
John Pescatore, K3TN

Features

- 3 Signals Across the Caribbean: Preparing a DXpedition to Montserrat
Juan Lopez Jr., AC6ZM
- 6 Meet the North Coast Contesters
Tom Lee, K8AZ
- 8 Hamvention 2026 Contester Gallery
John Pescatore, K3TN
- 10 The Contest Hall of Fame 2026 Inductees
John Pescatore, K3TN

Columns

- 11 The Little Pistol Pages
Mike Goldstein, VE3GFN
- 13 Next-Gen Contesters
Scott Rosenfeld, N7JI
- 17 VHF/UHF Contesting!
Jon Jones, NØJK
- 20 Newcomer Notes
Rich Moseson, W2VU

Advertising Index

DX Engineering: Cover 4

Elecraft: 44, Cover 3

FlexRadio Systems: Cover 2

Geochron: 19

Icom: 16



All original material not attributed to another source is copyright © 2026 by The American Radio Relay League, Inc. Materials may be excerpted from NCJ without prior permission provided that the original contributor is credited, and the NCJ is identified as the source.

In order to ensure prompt delivery, we ask that you periodically check the address information on your mailing label. If you find any inaccuracies, please contact the Circulation Department immediately. Thank you for your assistance.