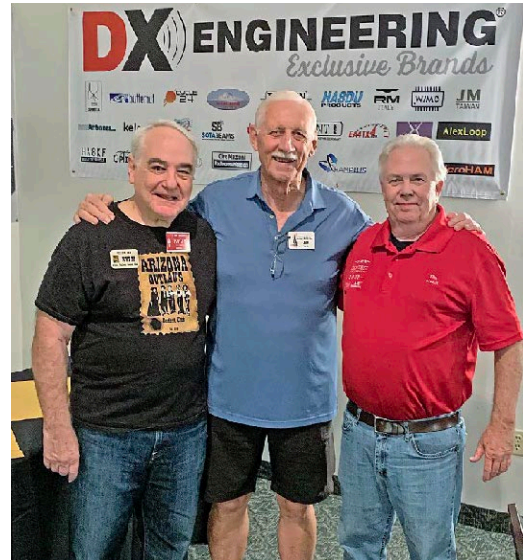


Dayton/Xenia Hamvention® 2022 Retrospective

When I arrived in Dayton, local TV newscasts reported that Hamvention® attendance was expected to be 30,000, and that it would have a huge positive financial impact on the Dayton/Xenia area. Everyone was excited for the 70th Dayton Hamvention, themed as “Reunion.” Dayton was back!

I checked into the Hope Hotel at the edge of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on Wednesday evening. This was to be the new location for Contest University (CTU). After heading downstairs, I picked up my registration bag for CTU and walked around to see who was hanging out at the bar and restaurant. The Contest Super Suite was just down the hall from there. After saying hello to several folks, I spotted Joe Rudi, NK7U, chatting with Oliver, W6NV, and a few others. Joe greeted me warmly, and when Tim, K3LR, joined us, Oliver volunteered to take a photo.



L – R: Lee, KY7M; Joe, NK7U, and Tim, K3LR

CTU started promptly Thursday at 8 AM with a full house of 300 attendees. After greetings from ARRL CEO Dave Minster, NA2AA, a seasoned contester, and a few others, CTU kicked off with an excellent joint session on contest ethics by Dave, K5GN. After that, the big room was carved up to accommodate the four CTU tracks, and everyone had to choose which sessions to attend. The full 2022 course outline is on the CTU website. You can view the CTU program videos here.



ARRL CEO Dave Minster, NA2AA, welcomed the CTU attendees.



Dave, K5GN, opened CTU with his talk about contest ethics.

TV Bob, N6TV, took more photos at CTU.



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The packed opening session with all 300 CTU attendees



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L – R attendees N8EA, KU4V, K4BAI, and K4QPL



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L – R: CTU presenters Marty, NN1C and Tim, N6WIN.



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L – R: attendees W6NV and KC7V with CTU presenter Tim, W3YQ



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L – R: attendees VE2AED and WA3FET.



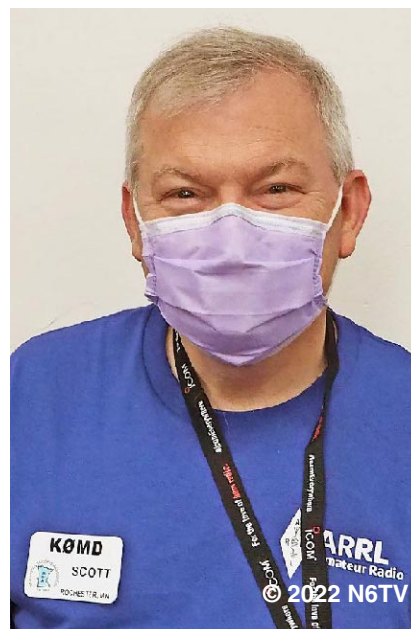
L – R: attendees W2GD, K9CT, and K9GY.



Attendee WP3R.



L – R: attendees DM9EE and DL1QQ with CTU presenter Ward, NØAX.



The always-masked Dr. Scott Wright, KØMD, was inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame this year in recognition of his leadership at The Mayo Clinic in developing the use of convalescent plasma as one of the first treatments for COVID-19.

L – R: CTU presenter Joel, W5ZN and attendee K8ZR.



TV Bob has posted even more CTU photos on his website.

It rained on Thursday night, and on Friday, I walked around the muddy fairgrounds looking at the sellers' booths and stopping to admire some of the many vintage radios for sale. ARRL had set up its exhibits in Building 2, and I went there to take the first of several 1-hour turns at a table set up for Authors and Editors. I got to meet some of our *NCJ* readers and helped sign up a few new subscribers, who received a *NCJ* 50th anniversary challenge coin.



Ingrid, W7ISG, with Lee, KY7M, in front of the ARRL "Authors and Editors" table.

One of many, many muddy aisles at the Greene County Fairgrounds on Friday morning.



On Friday night, the Spurious Emissions band, led by Ward Silver, NØAX, gave its first live performance in several years. The audience grew rapidly as the 10 PM start time approached, and it continued to grow after the band launched into its repertoire of humorous send-ups of popular songs. These included many of their standard ham radio parodies, such as "On the Cover of the *NCJ*" (sung to the tune of "On the Cover of the Rolling Stone"), which was saved for next to last. It was the first time I got to sing along with my new favorite song. The band sounded terrific and new lead singer Nancy, N9NCY, showed off a phenomenal voice on several numbers, including "Piece of my Log," a raspy parody of Janis Joplin's "Piece of My Heart."



The Spurious Emissions band was happy to be playing together again, and the audience was delighted. L – R: Ellen Zerr, KDØPES (lyric projectionist), Scott Robbins, W4PA (bass and vocals), Nancy Livingston, N9NCY (vocals), Sean Kutzko, KX9X (drums and vocals), Dr. Beldar, L1AR, a-k-a NØAX (mandolin and vocals and lyric mangling), and Kirk Pickering, K4RO (guitar and vocals).

On Saturday afternoon, Doug Grant, K1DG, emceed the Contest Forum at the Fairgrounds in Xenia. In addition, Doug summarized his 2022 Poisson d'Avril Contest that raised more than \$32,000 from 103 donors to help hams in Ukraine and their families. DM9EE was the point person on the Ukraine project. For his part in personally providing matching funds in the fundraising effort, K3LR was recognized by Doug (see photo).



Contest Forum emcee Doug Grant, K1DG, goes over the agenda.



"Taking Remote Contesting to the Next Level" by Ray, W2RE.



Co-presenting with W2RE was Rockwell, WW1X.



"A Funny Thing Happened on the way to Checking Digital Contest Logs" by Ed, W0YK.



Special award presentation by Doug, K1DG, to Tim, K3LR.



“Building a World Class Contest Station...in Arizona” by Tim, N6WIN, and Dan, N6MJ.



“WRTC 2022/2023 Update” by Fabio, I4UFH, and Claudio, I4VEQ.



Joe Rudi, NK7U, was the keynote speaker at the Contest Dinner.



Joe and his wife Sharon.

Inductees to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame Class of 2022 were then introduced. Tony Willard, AB9YC, introduced Craig Thompson, K9CT, and Doug Grant, K1DG, introduced Dave Pascoe, KM3T. We heard impressive stories about the qualifications of each inductee that supported their HoF nominations. John presented plaques to each honoree.



Tony Willard, AB9YC, introduced HoF inductee Craig Thompson, K9CT.



John Dorr, K1AR, presented Craig Thompson, K9CT, with his HoF plaque.



Doug Grant, K1DG, introduced HoF inductee Dave Pascoe, KM3T.



John Dorr, K1AR, presented Dave Pascoe, KM3T, with his HoF plaque

Also in attendance and introduced was CQ Contest HoF member Geoff Howard, WØCG, who was inducted in 2020, when Dayton Hamvention was on hiatus for the pandemic.



Geoff Howard, WØCG/PJ2DX.

Many contest-related activities, such as CTU and the Contest Dinner, would not have happened without the direction of DX Engineering superstar Teri Grizer, K8MNJ, seen here with two of her helpers.



L – R: Amy, N8AMY; Teri, K8MNJ (DXE superstar), and Jason, KC3UCJ.

Here are a few more Contest Dinner photos taken by TV Bob, N6TV. Additional Contest Dinner photos by TV Bob are in his website.

The Hawaii contingent at the dinner. Jim, N6TJ, travelled the next weekend to operate in a multi-multi WPX CW team as NH7T at KH6YY.





A couple of well-known testers: Frank, W3LPL, and Rick N6XI.



Photographer par excellence TV Bob, N6TV, and the guy who dedicated countless hours along with his DX Engineering team to make the Dayton/Xenia contest activities run smoothly, Tim Duffy, K3LR.



Some of our Japanese guests and their friends.



A couple of other well-known contestants: Tom, K8AZ, and John, W2GD.



The upcoming (January 2023) 3YØJ DXpedition was well represented by team members Otis, NP4G; Adrian, KO8SCA, and Dave, WD5COV. Note that Dave is holding a bottle of Bouvet Brut hoping it can be opened for a celebration next year.

For me, the good news about Dayton was that it exceeded my expectations and was very well run by the hundreds of Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) volunteers. The Hope Hotel, while a convenient and more-than-adequate venue for CTU, has some room for improvement. The not-totally unexpected downside for Dayton was that it became a superspreader event for COVID, with numerous reports of post-convention illnesses. The Contest Dinner seemed to be a prime vector. I feel lucky to have returned home healthy. Assuming the world will continue to get healthier, I've already made my Hamvention hotel reservation for 2023 and hope to see you there.