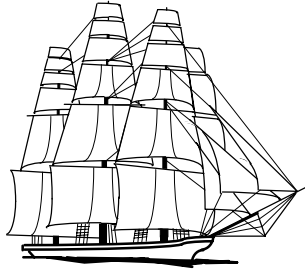


Yankee Clipper



Contest Club

Scuttlebutt

August 1997

Issue 130

Captain's Cabin

Dean Straw, N6BV

I write this column at the very last minute, as my wife and I prepare for a bus tour in France. (We will also visit ON4UN at the end of the tour.) I'll miss the IARU competition, which along with Field Day is a highlight of the summertime contesting season. For the last two years, the Sporadic-E openings to Europe and all throughout the US during IARU were nothing short of spectacular. 150+ hours on 10 meters CW to Europe were matter-of-course last year! Hopefully, this will happen for the 1997 contest as well.

Speaking of Field Day, I hope YCCCers had some opportunities to do some hands-on training of younger or less-experienced ops at FD. I operated for a few hours with a truly gung-ho local club called NARC, the Nashua (New Hampshire) Area Radio Club. These guys are amazing. They ran 29A class, with transmitters for phone and CW on every band from dc to light! Although only a few youngsters poked their heads into the 20/40-meter CW tent where I was operating along with fellow-YCCCer WS1E, I couldn't help notice how many enthusiastic operators congregated at the VHF phone tent next to us. They all were having a great time on VHF -- but they didn't seem interested in CW. I don't know, perhaps they viewed CW as being something only "old men" did, or perhaps there simply wasn't enough physical space inside the CW tent to accommodate them. Whatever, I am concerned about the long-term future of HF contesting unless we can get these youngsters interested in HF.

The June meeting in Sturbridge was enthusiastically attended. I personally learned a lesson about making sure there's more "face-to-face" time at meetings. It was almost impossible to get everyone

back together after the break... I'll try to remember that formal presentations are not so important as allowing everyone the chance to get together to chat. K1DG, K1XM, KQ1F and company did a great presentation on DXpeditioning. I hope that people are really fired up to do some operating outside the US. Those scores can really pile up for YCCC. The cups for 1997 ARRL DX went over very well too.

The YCCC picnics have started in earnest. The gathering at my place in NH had a number of big and little guns show up. K1EA seems to be all fired up for the coming contest season -- and he's back looking at improving the CT program. K5ZD brought his young son and operated the Kid's Day Contest from my station. There could well be another big gun on the way in the Thompson house. I had a leisurely chance to talk with some YCCC members I didn't know very well because of the size and spread of this club. These informal outings are a great opportunity to rub elbows with your fellows.

I hope that you all are planning ahead for the coming contest season. It's fascinating to hear N1RR's weekly progress reports on the YCCC Reflector, while he cuts trees for the monster station he's putting together in Seekonk, MA. Others are planning a lot of antenna work too -- when the temperature drops below 90°, maybe in September! In addition to planning a DXpedition to build up the club point scores, you should be reviewing the gear in your shack. Perhaps now is the time to rob the piggybank to buy those bandpass filters or that DSP box, before the rush in October. Perhaps it's also time to run an informal Contest University or two, featuring hands-on training and operating. Perhaps some of those youngsters you saw in the VHF tent at Field Day can be invited to see how much fun HF contesting can be!

Even now, it's time to start lining up operators and stations for the coming fall contest season. One thing (among many) that we learned last year was that it is crucial to plan the multi-op operations well in advance. Make sure that all operators are YCCC members (**Pay your dues, please!**). And operators, make sure before you commit to a multi-op that the owner is a YCCC member and that he/she intends to give the score to YCCC. We had an unfortunate incident this year where a Summary Sheet was not submitted with all the blanks filled in -- the club line was not submitted for YCCC, and we lost multi-mega points as a result. With an even more invigorated FRC down south, we can't afford to let any scores go uncounted for YCCC!

See you at the picnics when we return. □

Amidships

Leonard Kay, K1NU

Did you operate IARU? If not, I suggest you give it a try next year. It's my favorite 'minor' contest. It helps keep you sharp during that long 'off-season' stretch, and the time format (12Z Sat - 12Z Sun) is pretty low impact on the weekend. I also enjoy chasing the HQ mults. Look for scores next issue.

If you're a club member, the 1997 roster is enclosed with this issue as usual. A utilitarian thing I did this year (actually because I had a couple of extra pages) was to make the center page 'pull-out'. This allows you to (like I do) tear out the Cluster map and the Calendar and put them under the Plexiglas sheet on your shack desk or other convenient place.

I am also gearing up now for the 1997 Contest Cookbook. See the Poop Deck to learn more. See you on Sept. 28! □

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The Yankee Clipper Contest Club (an ARRL affiliated club) holds five general meetings per year in Sturbridge, MA and various special meetings throughout club territory. Attendance at a meeting is required to become a member.

Articles in the **Scuttlebutt** (except for those separately copyrighted) may be reprinted, provided proper credit is given. The editorial deadline for the Scuttlebutt is the 10th of every odd month.

For any club-related questions, contact your area manager or any officer.

A Contester's View of Dayton 1997

Doug Grant, K1DG

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I left home for Dayton on Thursday afternoon. John, K1AR, and I flew together out of Manchester, NH, and encountered Don, KA1T on the same flight. The flight left a few minutes late, and when we landed in Philadelphia for the connecting flight to Dayton, we were joined by the passengers of the Hartford flight (including W1WEF, K1CC, K1ZZ, KS1L, and several others I can't remember. Surprisingly, there did not seem to be a lot of FRCers on the flight. Guess the 1s chased them off the band. Or they got to Dayton earlier and beat us to all the good mults.

Arriving in Dayton, we all jammed into one car, and headed to the Crowne Plaza. All the regulars were in the lobby, and a bunch of us went to Chin's across the corner from the hotel. Included in the group was N5NJ, formerly WA2OVE/KR2J, one of the N2RM/V26B team. Bob's been living in Texas for a couple of years, and was telling us all about Texas. He hasn't been too active there, and AR accused him of not remembering all the letters of the code. When John quizzed him "What's 'L'?", Bob thought a few seconds, and replied "Lima". QRP ace AA2U was also there. Randy told us he had suffered a direct lighting hit on his tower last summer. KR2Q commented that it's probably the only real power his antenna's ever seen. Turns out he wasn't home when it happened, but the next day when an element half fell on the roof, revealing a melted end, he figured out what happened pretty quickly.

Back to the Crowne Plaza - the Sultans were in full Schwing on the 12th floor, but I spent most of the evening in the Super Suite on the first floor. N6NT (ex-AA6KX) showed up - it was his first trip to Dayton. He looked around and commented that "All the calls he'd ever worked in a contest were in the room". I reminded him that it was only Thursday night, and not many people had shown up yet (the room was less than half full). I explained to him that Friday and Saturday nights would see the whole room full (and the hallway, and every floor with a hospitality suite). I don't think he believed me.

Friday morning I woke up and checked in with my office. I had a 9 AM conference call planned, which was expected to last a half hour or so. I had several messages and figured I could take care of things pretty quickly, and get out to the Hamvention mid-morning. Wrong. The conference call lasted a full hour, and the other messages led to a succession of long calls. I finally left for the Arena at 1 PM.

I checked in at the Forum speaker's area, and was pleased to see that all the speakers for the Contest Forum had arrived and checked in. Stopped by the CQ booth, and said hello to the folks, then went to visit a few of the exhibitors I know. Then I went did a quick turn through the inside exhibits and half of the flea market. The Weather outside was unseasonably cool. Without a jacket, it was chilly in the wind outside. At least it wasn't raining.

I saw a few new items that piqued my interest. Cushcraft has some new items of interest to contesters. One is a new killer tribander - the "Big Thunder". This is a totally new design - new hardware, etc. It's 4 elements per band - three driven elements, and separate reflectors for each band. Some of the directors are trapped and shared. Boom is 28 feet long (I think), and it looks well-built. There's a downsized version as well, called the "Little Thunder". They've also been paying some attention to our needs for 40M beams - the new "40-2SS" includes all the mods that have been suggested over the years, and the new version is rated for 100 MPH survival. NOTE: this is not an upgrade kit for your existing 40-2CD (W9RE sells one of those); however, if you're putting up a new 40, this looks like the way to go.

Incidentally, you should call for the new Cushcraft catalog - on page 4, they show the KC1XX 10/15M tower, with its 14 Cushcraft 4-element beams (8 of them on 10, 6 on 15). I asked K1GW what the price would be for a copy of Matt's stack. He asked if I wanted it in stainless or plated. Hmmm...

(continued)

Yaesu had a really cool new dual-band HT. It's a little bigger than the average pager, and includes receive capability for lots of VHF/UHF spectrum, including broadcast, TV, public-service, etc., up to 1 Ghz (but not including the cellular band). It's a half-watt output, and if you use an alkaline instead of the Lithium-ion battery, it automatically drops back to 100 mW to save the battery. Model VX-1, available in July - about \$275.

Why am I looking at HTs? Beats me. Last one I bought was the IC2AT I now use on packet. But this is a really cool little radio, and I recognize cool when I see it.

Besides, there weren't any new contest-grade HF rigs there. My 940 and my 930 are both sick, and I really need a new radio. Sure wish there was a \$3000 radio aimed at us contesters. When I saw the ads for the IC756 a few months back, I thought it was the new standard. It's not. In talking to the contest gang, I came to realize that there sure are a lot of 930s still in use out there - especially the DXpedition gang.

Hello, Kenwood ? This is the contest community calling! None of us have bought one of your radios in 10 years! Please make a 930-type radio with RS-232 interface, and a cleaner synth (DDS for example). DSP is not needed (besides, the implementation in the 870 makes it useless for serious CW work...and a lot of us really like to do CW). We'll buy the crystal filters for the Ifs. Make it a bit lighter (use a switcher for the supply). We'll all come back. Or else we'll buy FT100MPs. Or second-hand 930s.

The flea market had lots of old equipment in it again. Saw two NCX3s, and even a Conar 400 transmitter (remember those? - I had one for my Novice rig). Also saw a Hallicrafters SX-110...my Novice receiver.

Back to the Crowne Plaza, for a quick change and then dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse. There were 7 of us, but we took a table for 10, knowing someone will join us. Sure enough, K1MM, K1RT, and K1RA show up a bit later. By some strange twist of fate, we are served by the same waitress as last year. K3EST proposed to Rachele last year, and had a bit of explaining to do about why he hadn't called her. for a whole year. Anyway, they renewed their vows, and dinner was served.

Back to the CP. The Super Suite was in full swing, and the other suites were starting to pick up. The DX banquet was just beginning the VK0IR program. I stuck my head in long enough to hear KK6EK explain that the amount of VK0IR signal power received by the average North American station, after allowing for antenna patterns, path loss, etc., would take 3 billion years to heat up a cup of coffee. Maybe DXers are that patient, but we contesters would have warmed up the coffee in the microwave and changed bands long before that. The VK0IR T-shirts are very cool, though, and I bought one.

KR2Q mentioned that he had been accosted by several people complaining about the Contest Forum being scheduled for Saturday morning instead of afternoon. A new twist on the mistaken-identity theme. Several people ask me every year me how I like working at CQ. For the record - K1AR is John, and used to work at CQ, but doesn't anymore. I'm Doug, K1DG, and I never worked at CQ (although I did a book for them). KR2Q is "the other Doug", and never worked at CQ (although he is on the WW Contest Committee, and writes frequently for CQ-Contest magazine). There'll be a quiz next year.

Anyway, the suite was running pretty full until about 1 AM. At 1:30, DL2CC (ex-DL1SBR) is trying to get people interested in trying the RUFZ program on his PC in the suite. The high score (out of about 30 at that point) is by W2UP (about 30K points) when I sit down. Even though I had had a few beers by that time, I got lucky and racked up the #2 score. Ever try RUFZ? You can find it somewhere on the Web, and download it. It's kind of fun. RUFZ sends call signs, one at a time. If you get it right, the next is sent a few WPM faster. Points are scored for accuracy, speed of call sent, and response time. The computed score and the highest speed are recorded for each entrant. My score was about 27K points, and I somehow managed to copy at least one call at 347 "PARIS" speed (divide by 5 for WPM). I felt pretty good about the score. Then DL2CC sat down.

This guy is a mutant. With a bunch of us standing around listening to the speaker output in amazement, he put up a score around 40K, with a PARIS speed of 418. "PARIS" speed is WPM x 5. Do the math - this was over 80 WPM. On Saturday, word spread, and a lot more people tried it. CC actually improved his score, with a top PARIS of 446 if memory serves. I wonder if he can copy RTTY in his head also. When Frank shut the system down on Saturday night, the top rankings were DL2CC, W2UP, me, and K1AR. I finally beat that guy...

Friday night, the suite went to about 3, from what I was told later. With the Contest Forum scheduled for 9 AM, I figured that as moderator, I should at least be there, which meant I needed to get a little sleep. I went back to the room at about 1:45, and AR was already asleep, and snoring. Loud. 59+30. Try as I might, I couldn't get to sleep until finally exhaustion overcame me at about 3. However, I managed to exact a certain measure of revenge - when I got up Saturday morning, AR complained that my snoring woke him up around 4.

The Contest Forum was well-attended, even though it was held in the morning. The Hamvention folks scheduled it, not me. And not KR2Q). We started with the WRTC-96 video, ad very nice presentation. A few copies are still available from N6NT (ex-AA6KX). Gold Medalist K1TO was in the audience, as were Bronze Medalists N2IC and K6LL. I asked them to stand and they were suitably applauded.

Next talk was KC1XX and KM3T describing how the 1996/97 winning multi-multi station was built from the ground up in a mere 14 months. It takes a lot of planning, sweat, skill, and commitment. Matt and Dave have them all.

Then ON4UN and the aforementioned DL2CC talked about how John has made the transition from low-band DXing expert to serious contesteer. Another case of careful planning, and flawless execution. Some raised eyebrows over the use of external spotters coordinated by a full-time, on-site Master of Ceremonies, whose function was to keep the spotters up-to-date on what multipliers were needed.

Next talk was K3EST and KR2Q describing some of the techniques that have been used to bend and break the rules of the CQWW Contest. Two examples stick in my mind. The WW rules state that all stations and antennas must be within a 500 meter radius or the owner's property boundaries. Several years ago, a few of the big Hungarian contest stations figured that all their stations were located on government-owned property, and all were connected by government-owned roads, and thus qualified as "one location", even though the stations were in some cases hundreds of

miles apart. Sure made the inter-station interference problems at HG73DX easier to solve.

Another example was the IB4M log of a few years ago. As most people know, the log-checking process uses a "unique-check" to identify unusual logs by flagging those with a large number of QSOs with stations not contacted by anyone else in the contest (this often indicates a high logging error rate). In the checking process, it turned out that many of the multipliers, and a lot of the JA QSOs logged by IB4M only appeared in two other logs - one from Italy, and one from Switzerland. Further checking indicated that these logs were completely fraudulent, and had been submitted only to mask the uniques in the IB4M log. Many of the stations claimed in the log were sent letters to determine if they had been active, and nearly all had not operated in the contest.

The message of the talk was a bit sobering - even in a hobby, people will find a way to cheat. Fortunately, the combination of peer pressure and careful log-checking help to preserve the integrity of the competition, and make the published results reflect the actual results of the competition.

We had two DXpedition talks - one by K4LT (ex-WD8AUB) on the topic of budget Contest DXpeditioning in the Caribbean, and one by KC7V of the VooDoo Contest group on serious, big-ticket DXpeditioning in West Africa. A clear message emerged - plan for everything or suffer the consequences. All things considered, I'll take the Caribbean.

The last talk, and the winner of the Best Presentation Award was Larry "Tree" Tyree, N6TR, describing two-radio contesting. I was surprised to see the show of hands indicate that fully a third of the people in the audience had operated in two-radio mode, and another third were thinking about it. Tree has mastered this, both in station design and operating technique.

Several people asked me if transcripts would be available. The answer is yes, but the details are unclear just now. KE3Q videotaped and will be transcribing the presentations for print. The KC1XX/KM3T, K4LT, and N6TR talks are available in electronic format, and will probably find their way to a Web site somewhere. Watch the reflectors and check the contest sites.

Spent Saturday afternoon touring the flea market and more of the exhibits. There's another company trying to get the "PC peripheral radio" concept right. First, there was Comfocus. Then there was the Comer Communications card-level transceiver. This new one, from Kachina, is a box that looks like a tower-style PC that connects to your PC, which controls the radio. It's a 100W transceiver, and uses DSP. No idea how it compares to real" radios. Maybe these guys have gotten it right.

Saturday afternoon, K1AR was featured in a point-counterpoint discussion hosted by WA6ITF, and carried on the Ham Radio and More satellite radio program. The theme of this segment was contest-free zones, and while I was late getting to the Forum room, reports were that John represented us well.

After that, we went back to the C.P., and got ready for the 5th Annual Contest Banquet. Featured speaker was Fred Laun, K3ZO. Fred commented a bit on the evolution of contest operating techniques, and made it clear that the goal of contesting is to have fun. This comment drew a round of applause. Fred offered advice to DXpeditioning hams - specifically, that as visiting operators, we should be ambassadors for the hobby, especially in countries where there is no strong national organization. As Fred pointed

out, all countries have equal votes at World Administrative Radio Conferences, and countries where ham radio is not widely practiced are unlikely to support proposals on our behalf. Wise words from one of contesting's true statesmen. His years in the Foreign Service have given him a valuable perspective on how things work internationally.

After Fred's talk, several new members were inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame. Gordon Marshall, W6RR was inducted, with a short introduction by W7RM, who accepted the award on Gordon's behalf. Also inducted was John Devoldere, ON4UN, who is the source of most our knowledge when it comes to low-band operating. John's own contesting accomplishments since his conversion from DXing to contesting are also noteworthy. Carl Cook, AI6V/P40V was next, introduced by Rich, N6KT. Carl was nominated by the Northern California Contest Club, for his accomplishments and influence on contesting out there as well as his exploits from Aruba. Jorge Bozzo, LU8DQ, certainly the top South American CW operator of all time and one of the best-ever, was honored posthumously. He was introduced by K1AR, who relayed details of Jorge's accomplishments passed along by LU6ETB.

AND then the big surprise. The agenda for the banquet called for AR to take back the podium from K3EST when the last Hall of Fame induction was completed. But EST did not take his seat at this point. John was getting nervous that Bob had forgotten the program, but then Bob invited me to come to the dais to introduce the newest Hall of Fame member...K1AR. John was caught completely by surprise. After a few comments describing John's numerous accomplishments as an operator over the last 20+ years, and his contributions to the sport as Contest Editor of CQ, host of the Getting Started in Contest video, and all his other works on behalf of contesting, John was formally inducted into the Hall of Fame. His impromptu acceptance speech was emotional, and from the heart, telling of how his first love in ham radio has always been, is now, and will always be contesting. It was obvious that most of the 300+ people in the room felt the same way.

After all door prizes were drawn, and the banquet ended, there was a brief meeting of the CQWW Committee. No real news to report...several issues are under consideration. The introduction of electronic log submission has been a great success, with over a third of the logs submitted this way. Something on the order of 80% of all logs were computer logs this year - guess paper logging is pretty well history now.

Then the Saturday night partying began. The KCDXC had their annual CW pileup-copying contest, with a new tape by N0SS, who was at Dayton after several years of absence. When the dust settled, K3ZO emerged on top, copying 56 out of 104 calls. Fred has been second the past few years, and it was nice to see him win it this year. W9WI and W2UP had 53 each, followed by K1TO and G3SXW at 51 and K1DG at 50. Once more, the KCDXC awarded nice prizes to the top 5 finishers, thanks to generous donations from several manufacturers and publishers. I won a subscription to a DX magazine - since I'm not much of a DXer, I looked around for a Deserving who would appreciate it. I spotted KH8/N5OLS, who is a DXer, and seemed interested. And now I have a "subscription" to KH8 on all bands from now on...

The RUFZ competition also heated up. DL2CC's laptop was running pretty much continuously from 9 PM to 2 AM. About 90 people tried their hand, many of them multiple times, and this addictive little game may become another Dayton tradition among the CW men.

Things kind of slowly wound down - by 2 AM, the Super Suite was almost empty. In past years, we've had to leave the room when it closed at 2; this year, we were gone by then. The Society of Midwest Contesters on the 12th floor sent out for pizza; it wasn't enough. Attempts to get more were closed" from all the pizza places in the phone book. A group migrated to the "lobby suite" - the traditional place where the Contesters close the Hamvention.

Dayton felt different to me this year. I managed to get through most of the exhibits, but only spent \$5 (for a hardline adapter...).. In years past, I generally had a mission - find the last few issues of QST; bring home a bunch of connectors and coax relays for a new antenna switching system; line up a source for material for the Amateur Radio Almanac. This year, I don't need any QSTs (finished the collection last year); haven't thought much about my station for the last year (a lot is broken, and needs repair before new projects can start); and have stepped down as Almanac Editor. I was just visiting with old friends and making a few new ones along the way (DL2CC and TI2CF, for example). I had a feeling that, like the past few years, most of us are in the "working hard" part of our lives, raising families, shouldering serious responsibilities in our careers, and trying hard to keep all that stuff balanced while still finding time for our hobby. I think the economy must be picking up, because I heard fewer "I've been down-sized" stories this year. A lot of us are working towards the goal of personal and family financial security, and keeping our friendships alive in the process, while making time for some serious operating a few weekends a year. So all in all, the pressure is there, but everyone's handling it well. Everyone's doing just fine.

And about "those two guys":

I've been writing a summary of Dayton impressions for the YCCC Scuttlebutt for over 10 years now. For the first several years, when flying out of Boston, there were two guys that I saw on the plane every year. VHFers, but apparently as much into VHF as we are into contesting. You know the type - started in 2M FM with surplus Motorola commercial rigs (Motrac, Micor, Mocom, Motown, Mopar, Midol, etc.). If you're from the W1 area, you've probably seen these guys at a flea market or Boxboro. One's a skinny, strawberry-blonde who often wears a funny hat. His buddy is a big guy - about 6'4", heavy-set, and with thinning dark hair. I don't know their calls, and don't really want to. They serve as calibration points of a sort to me.

Anyway, these two guys were *always* there. I either saw them in the airport, on the plane, or in the flea market. A few years ago, I began flying out of Manchester, NH instead of Boston. For the last two years, the skinny guy was among the missing. I wondered if they had succumbed to the temptations of the Internet and forsaken ham radio. At Dayton, various exchange readers of the Scuttlebutt asked me if I'd seen "those two guys". Even JE1CKA asked me about them one year! They have no idea how famous they have gotten!

Anyway, this year, while chatting with Fred, K1VR and Luigi, AA1AA in the flea market, I saw the skinny guy! Luigi, a VHFer himself, told me he knows those guys and started to tell me their callsigns. Luckily Fred understood, and prevented Luigi from spoiling the mystique. At any rate, I am happy to report that at least one of the two guys has been spotted, and seemed to be in good shape. And all's right with the world. ☐

Class 0D

David Robbins, K1TTT (ex-KY1H)

Call: K1TTT
Section: WMA
Category: 0D

BAND	QSOs	QSO PTS
PKT	68	114

TOTAL	68	114

114 PTS X 2 (POWER MULT) = **228 pts**
Operator List: K1TTT
Equipment Description:
Pentium 100MHZ, 28.8k modem

Comments:

Well, Field Day 97 is now history. Now if I can just get the ARRL to accept it and put it in the record books.

This year I entered as class 0D just to prove that the rules for packet radio on FD have outlived their usefulness. I was attempting to probe new heights of absurdity, but instead I had a good time. I only had two of the expected arguments about 0D not being a valid class, I had expected many more. I did have a few who asked for repeats, or told me they couldn't log 0D (they must have been using CT). But over all it was a good weekend. Much more fun than sitting in a tent with bugs (the flying type, not CW ones, although those aren't that nice either!) and I got lots of firewood cut, split, and stacked in between contacts.

I worked 25 sections without even putting a radio on the air, including a nice chat with a station from Belgium and another one from Italy (with absolutely NO QRM!). I also saw spots from KP2, KP4, and a couple other countries. There probably would have been more DX participation but I think the DX node links were cut off for the weekend. It was great seeing KH2D from the PAC section CQ'ing on the PacketCluster network. How many stations on the east coast never have worked PAC before on FD and did this weekend? His appearance was a product of the Internet accessibility of the cluster and the Internet connection of the different PacketCluster networks. Many contacts were made via this internet link from W1/W2 into W8, W9, W4, and even a few into W5.

It was also nice being able to help a few stations get the ARRL FD Bulletin. Some didn't realize all they had to do was ask their node for it, another one needed it forwarded to their node. This is the way to do it, just ask the node, download it, and you have the bonus points. No more waiting for broadcasts, trying to get it relayed or wasting time hunting around.

Before this weekend I had supported one of the following:

1. Remove the repeater exemption for packet radio. This would put it on par with the other digital modes. Since packet is now as common as many of the other modes its preferred treatment should probably end.

(see Class 0D, page 7)

Flotsam & Jetsam

“Barnacle Jack” Schuster, W1WEF

Please continue to send your experiences and ideas to share with fellow YCCer's! Drop me a note or use packet! This issues's tips:

- Ever experience hooking up the eight wires underneath a Hygain Rotor on top of the tower? Here are a few ways to make it easier: Kurt, W6PH, has been successful in using a pigtail about a foot long, pre connected and stripped at the end before he goes up the tower. He then uses wire nuts as are used in house wiring, twists them on and tapes them up and has had no problems. If your rotor cable is long enough, you can lay the rotor on it's side and hook up the wires more easily than trying to work from underneath it. Both Kurt and I have tried various connectors with corrosion after a few years. K1BW suggested using a barrier strip at the end of a pigtail, taping it up well after connecting the cable.
- K7LXC suggests that when taping anything on the tower, make the final layer overlapping on an angle, from the bottom up, similar to roofing shingle overlap, so water doesn't collect in the edge of the tape and find it's way inside. Steve also says not to pull the final wraps tight, because stretching the tape tends to make it unwrap itself in time.
- W6PH suggests that with the low cost of computer keyboards you dont have to be shy anymore about drilling holes to mount switches for things like your two radio options.
- Fred, K1VR, suggests using "never seize" available from auto parts stores to prevent galling of stainless hardware (same suggestion a while back from K1EBY but dont recall if I published it). Fred also buys an extra ten percent of the SS bolts and nuts he goes up the tower with, so he doesn't have to go down to find them when he drops them! (make sure your ground crew wears hard hats!) Fred passes along the word that W1JR manufactures SS U bolts and other odd sized hard to find SS hardware for antenna work. (www.radio-ware.com or 800 950 ware)
- When advertising on packet or any of the ham classifieds on the Internet, describe and price the item youre selling in the title! YCCC Packetcluster allows 29 characters in the title, so instead of just saying AMP for SALE, say MLA2500 AMP \$450. This will save people time who are looking for a 2M amp, or who were wondering if it's another \$200 amp they might miss, and reduce traffic on the cluster.
- Before this year's contest, read this year's rules! There may be new rules, new multipliers, or other changes you want to know about! Don't count on the author stating in his opening paragraph that there is anything new.
- When you sign on to operate at a multi-op station, make sure the criteria is met for that particular contest that will allow the score to go to YCCC! If the required percentage of ops are not club members, your effort will not go toward the club score. If the owner of the station does not submit the score for YCCC, your contribution wont go to YCCC!

- I recently had a receptacle BURN up in a "surge protected" outlet strip that I had just plugged my new computer into. After being relieved to find that the smoke wasn't coming from the computer, I found that not only had the receptacle cooked, but the third wire ground on the receptacles had never been connected because of a riveted connection to a painted surface. Take the time to check your outlet strips to be sure you have that third wire connection. I recall in my working years we discovered hundreds of Waber strips with a similar problem.
- K1RM uses readily available SS bolts, washers, lockwashers, and nuts in HAM series or Tailtwister rotators instead of the odd sized U Bolts specially designed for HyGain (they were probably the first U Bolts invented and the design has held forever!)
- Before going up the tower, carefully plan what you will be doing while on the ground. Go through every step and consider potential problems that might require another tool. For example, if you will be tightening two PL259s in a barrel, bring up two pairs of pliers instead of one! ☐

Do It Now!!

Glen Whitehouse, K1GW

Have you seen the terrible ads on TV that remind us that stores are having either pre-Fall or Fall sales? Isn't it depressing since we are not even through July yet? We often hear quips about summer in the Northeast lasting one day. Perhaps the retail chains believe it.

As pessimistic as their outlook may be, it is perhaps a positive reminder to us that some of Fall's chores might better be done now. Some of the milder summer days might be better times to straighten those twisted antenna elements or replace a water-soaked coax connector than the third week of October in the freezing rain. Since people have more free time in the summer, it might be an easier time to have an Antenna Party. Cement surely hardens better above freezing.

In theory if we get the outdoor station maintenance done now, we can work on the inside stuff later on. Then, we will really be ready to rack up those high scores in late October and November.

Being a little pistol, my goal for the Fall season is to replace the little tribander with a much larger new one. I know my wife, Sharon, plans on me putting up the packet antenna in a better fashion than the pole leaning against the porch that now constitutes the support for it. Then there is the rest: seal the driveway, trim those broken limbs from last winter's ice, build a new frame for the boat's winter tarp, and on and on and on

Hope you don't mind this reminder from your YCCC Activities Director. We would all like to make a very good showing this fall and that cannot happen if our gear isn't ready. ☐

PacketCluster Update

[or, 8 Days of contesting, 357 Days of whatever]

Dick Pechie, KB1H

As a member of the YCCC, you probably know the importance of the PacketCluster Network's contribution to contest club scores. Though there is no official connection between the YCCC and the group that works to keep the system running, most SY-SOPs are a contester and YCCC member. The SYSOP group (YSA) attempts to maintain the important backbone links, help SYSOPs with equipment failure, and at a snail's pace plan for expansion. Before I get ahead of myself, let me explain the heading of this article.

8 Days of Contesting is the 4 weekends that the cluster is expected to work flawlessly, efficiently, and fast. Believe me, during any one of these weekends is not the time to try and improve/correct operation of the network.

This leaves 357 days to do whatever needs to be done to reach the performance expected the contest weekends. If you remove working days, family commitments, yard work, and days spent readying a station for the upcoming contest season, the days available for cluster chores are very few.

About two years ago it was agreed to work on the backbone for speed and reliability. Redundant paths, shorter links, network patching capabilities were a few of the goals. Unfortunately just as this work was to begin the supplier of the TNC used decided to leave the amateur market. K1XX began his own search for replacement hardware. Calls to Germany, England, and throughout the US were made. Charlie feels confident that he has finally found a suitable combination of hardware/software to begin our task again.

Let me get back to the 357 days. The YSA up to this time has been consisting of the SYSOPs and a few KA-Node operators. With a group of only 23-25 people and that group spread all over New England, the tasks of getting a link fixed in Maine, the starting of a new node in Connecticut, and even replacing a bad hard disk in Massachusetts all become huge burdens. Now add to the equation that like any group, a small percentage of members actually do the work. The 357 days of cluster work has just been pared down to a precious few. In fact, the days available in the past year have been used to keep the network running. Expansion has been pushed aside and day to day operation has been in the forefront. It has become obvious that with the present level of participation the only task that can be done is the upkeep. In order to accomplish other goals, the pool of help has to grow.

Now for the plea... The YSA needs help from anyone who is willing to lend a hand. Tasks such as climbing towers, preparing computers, testing radios, driving a radio or computer to a node for replacement all need people with varying degrees of expertise. In the past volunteers were not utilized but that response has to stop and will stop.

Do you have a technical skill? Can you climb a tower? Are you willing to take a morning and deliver equipment? Though each individual has only a few days, many individuals can have collectively many days. How close can we come to being busy those 357 days??

Another goal of this asking for help would be to have available in each geographical area a pool of help. It is unreasonable for a link problem in CT. to be fixed by a NH. member or a CT. member going to ME. to analyze cluster problem.

If you are willing to lend a hand, please drop a message to me on packet or call me at (860)779-1096. Your offer will be replied to.

In other news.....

- New nodes are planned and will be on the air soon at the QTHs of K1MS and K1KP. K1MS plans on having a 9600 Baud User port. These nodes will also need rearranging of the backbone but probably will allow for patching around should a path fail. Also K1KP will help in the path to the northeast going up into ME.
- The group at W1QK are preparing to start up the node in SW CT. The hardware was shipped many months ago but a new site had to be found and it looks like the new site is excellent for the desired coverage.
- Thanks to W1TE, the upgrading of backbone computers is progressing well. All backbone computers will be 486-based or better soon.
- A rare "Letter for Donation" will be sent out soon. Hopefully the work done these past few years and the plans for the future will be explained in more detail. It has been almost three years since the packet fund has had any donations. □

(from Class 0D, page 5)

2. Allow use of digipeaters or relay nodes, but only if the repeating node was on emergency power and did not use commercial communication channels (phone lines, internet, spare channel wormholes, etc). This would make the use of packet much more like it is in real emergencies. It would make it much more challenging since everyone would essentially have to build a temporary packet network for the weekend.

If you still like one of those proposals NOW is the time to contact your ARRL representative and let them know you want the rules changed. If the rules don't change I am planning a multi-op effort for 0D next year. I can probably even have software ready by then to connect to each of the available cluster and chat gateways and log contacts automatically. That way I could get lots more wood stacked during FD! I wonder how it would count if I had multiple computers on the Internet? Maybe add something to designate the number of computers or phone lines like 0D2. Or should it be sorted by bandwidth like 0D28k? Anyone want to join the radio-less Field Day competition??? How about an operator-less category competition? My software against yours! □

CQ WPX CW Claimed Scores

Dave Hoaglin, K1HT

YCCC Scores in BOLD

(Other NE USA scores from the Contest Reflector - thanks to WA4ZXA)

CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	PREFIXES
<u>Single Op QRP</u>			
KR2Q	766,206	640	378
K1VUT	735,190	634	370
N1TM	519,248	503	332
KX1M (K1RC)	452,570	489	334

Single Op High Power

N2NL (@N2RM)	7,226,128	2752	784
KQ2M (@K1TTT)	7,085,792	2757	784
K3ZO	5,700,000	2141	726
KT3Y	4,559,235	2073	669
W3PP	3,928,308	1823	622
AA3B	3,300,090	1634	615
K5ZD	3,144,704	1652	592
K1AR	2,012,885	1238	595
WV2LI (N2GA)	1,797,450	1294	521
K1VW	1,655,912	1089	461
N3OC	1,205,433	888	453
K5MA	1,006,630	794	430
N1CC	655,603	630	377
KA1DWX	579,309	527	307
W1WFF	366,795	522	297
K1BV	99,120	233	168
N4XR	56,472	116	104

Single Op Low Power

K1HTV	1,743,159	1083	523
K1HT	723,387	617	343
K3MD	528,775	549	325
WA1S	439,738	509	338
K1OA	359,600	419	290
W1SRG	139,860	277	180
KD1YN	128,404	253	188
NR1F	116,871	312	239
N3TG	104,912	205	166
K1WD	34,632	135	117
K3PP	9,900	59	55

Single Op Unlimited

WF3T	4,302,037	2077	701
K3MM	2,568,344	1368	554
W3HVQ	1,022,544	787	432
K3WW	818,280	621	360
ND3F	540,000	567	391
K1TH	137,870	245	170
KF2O	13,568	68	64
N1MD (LP)	7,038	50	46
W1BB (K1VV op,160)	156	18	13

Single Band

<u>160M</u>			
K1ZM	29,808	105	81
<u>80M</u>			
K2ONP (HP)	45,756	106	93
<u>40M</u>			
WS1M (HP)	566,642	479	311
W3CP	160,822	214	191
<u>20M</u>			
KI1G	3,409,847	1949	763
WF1L (LP)	657,640	751	410
K1OZ (LP)	45,500	154	140
AB1U (LP)	34,344	108	108

Multi-Single

EA6ZY	4,763,124	2990	723
NB1B (@W1KM)	6,195,510	2519	738
NC3DX	517,000	657	376

Multi-Multi

KG1D (@K1KI)	12,685,265	4215	955
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TS

K3KO	2,041,080	1209	584
N3NT	1,131,648	814	448
WK2G	835,992	791	408
W1TE	291,312	410	272

Band Breakdowns

CALL	160	80	40	20	15	10
<u>Single Op QRP</u>						
KR2Q	0/ 0	14/ 7	182/109	336/209	103/ 50	5/ 3
N1TM	0/ 0	14/ 9	190/137	255/163	43/ 22	1/ 1
<u>Single Op High Power</u>						
K5ZD	5/ 4	32/ 17	338/181	902/265	369/122	6/ 3
K1VW	5/ 1	35/ 19	304/145	677/261	66/ 33	2/ 2
K5MA	0/ 0	27/ 16	114/ 63	599/309	41/ 32	13/10
N1CC	0/ 0	33/ 19	61/ 32	486/300	45/ 21	5/ 5
<u>Multi-Single</u>						
NB1B	0/ 0	222/ 57	712/317	1198/260	376/ 98	11/ 7
<u>Multi-Multi</u>						
KG1D	28/ 7	322/ 65	1021/291	1844/419	955/161	45/12
K3EST	9/ 2	262/ 26	766/142	1309/440	687/220	94/17

Multi Operators

Call Ops

Multi-Single

EA6ZY	EA6ZY	K2LE
NB1B	NB1B	N1BB
	W1FJ	W1KM

Multi-Multi

KG1D	KG1D	K1KI	K1PI
	K1CC	KM1P	

Poop Deck

New Crew

Please welcome the following new and returning members, who joined at the June general meeting:

Scott R. Bullock, KA1CLX
8 Howard Rd.
Hudson, MA 01749
phone: (508)568-1944
email: twoway@scoden.com
home page: <http://www.scoden.com>

Daniel J. Drost, K1DD
9 Arnold Way
South Windsor, CT 06074
home phone: (860)644-0277
work phone: (860)654-4464
email: DrostDD@HSD.UTC.Com

Fred W. Ring, W1NHS
456 Sportsman Rd.
Orange, CT 06477-2329
home phone: (203)795-5478
email: w1nhs0@iconn.net

Burt Eldridge, W1ZS
20 Brattle St.
Brattleboro, VT 05301
email: eldr@sover.net

YCCers Win Scholarships!

Two YCCers were recently named as scholarship winners by The Foundation for Amateur Radio:

QCWA Memorial Scholarship (\$800):
David Case, KA1NCN, Hampton CT

Radio Club of America Scholarship,
Grebe Fund (\$750):
Ethan Handwerker, N1SOH,
Lexington MA

Congratulations to David and Ethan!

We Need YOU !! For the 1997 Contest Cookbook

Authors are desperately needed for both single-band and operating-class strategy articles. This is always a great chance to see your name in print! Contact Len, K1NU, by phone, packet or Email. ☐

NEDXCC Dinner counts as YCCC Meeting Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

In cooperation with the Patriot DX Association, the **NE DXCC Dinner** will also be an officially sanctioned local meeting of YCCC. New members can join YCCC; existing members can make attendance requirements.

Here's the details:

The New England DXCC Convention and dinner will be held on October 12, 1997 at the Elks Hall, Rt 110, Chelmsford Mass. (near the junction of I-495 and Rt 3).

Talk-in: 147.12+

Doors open at 8:00 AM with a busy schedule through 5:00PM:

- J3 - A number of people join Paul and Charlotte for CQWW and a DX holiday
- Heard Island by N6EK
- Spratley 1997- K1XM and KQ1F do it again
- Lots more

For Tickets: \$25.00 at door \$22.50 advance (Order early-seating limited!) Send SASE and check payable to:

Patriot DX Association

P.O. Box 8

Prides Crossing, MA 01965

Ticket info: WZ1Q, Mel Cole 508-927-1953

The 'Butt: 10 And 20 Years Ago Leonard Kay, K1NU

September 1977 (Issue 3): Doug, K1DG, gets his hands on 14 2300' rolls of hardline at \$100 a roll.....K1XX orders the first batch of YCCC QSL cards (30,000).

Licensing tip: If you upgrade to Extra and want your 1x2 call fast, fill out and submit a preference list when you take the exam!

Next official meeting is at the ARRL NE Division Convention in Hartford, CT.

August 1987 (Issue 70): Tom, K1KI, has a drawing explaining those 'mysterious antennas on Rt. 2 in Acton' belonging to W1EVT....Dave, K1VUT, tells us about a Heapsort program in BASIC to do dupe sorting on your computer.

The club roster totals 164 people.

- Summer hasn't changed. No contest results were reported in either issue! ☐

Have You Paid your Dues? Dean, N6BV

The following list shows who has already paid their YCCC 1998 dues. Thanks! (If you paid within about the last couple weeks, you may not show up on this list)

AA1AA	K2ZP	N4XR
AA1ER	K2ZZ	N6BV
AA1IZ	K3UU	N6RFM
AA1MY	K5FUV	NB1U
AA1ON	K5MA	NR1F
AA1PK	K8LT	NU1P
AA1QD	KA1CLX	NY1L
AB1U	KA1ERF	WIAX
AD1C	KA1ESR	W1BIH
AI3E	KA1PRD	W1BK
AK1N	KA1R	W1C5M
K1AE	KA1T	W1CU
K1AM	KA1TAF	W1EL
K1AR	KA1TFU	W1EQ
K1BB	KA1VY	W1FJ
K1BD	KA1YED	W1FM
K1BV	KA1ZD	W1LW
K1BW	KB1FJ	W1NA
K1CA	KB1GW	W1NHS
K1CC	KB1H	W1NR
K1CLN	KB1W	W1OG
K1DD	KB2HUN	W1OHM
K1DG	KC1XX	W1OJ
K1EFI	KD1KI	W1QK
K1EP	KE1CT	W1RH
K1GE	KF1V	W1RM
K1HT	KF2XX	W1RY
K1KI	KG1D	W1RZF
K1KP	KL7DN	W1UK
K1MEM	KM3T	W1VE
K1MM	KO0U	W1WEF
K1MO	KQ1F	W1XF
K1MY	KV1J	W1XK
K1NU	KV1W	W1ZS
K1OA	N1AFC	W1ZZ
K1OZ	N1CC	W2LK
K1PTF	N1DS	W2SF
K1PVT	N1GS	W2UD
K1RO	N1HMG	W2XX
K1RQ	N1IXF	W3IQS
K1RU	N1KWF	W6PH
K1RV	N1KWJ	WA1FCN
K1SD	N1MD	WA1KKM
K1SM	N1NEO	WA1MWN
K1TW	N1NQD	WA1QGC
K1TWF	N1NYD	WA1S
K1VA	N1RR	WA1ZAM
K1VV	N1RWM	WB1H
K1VW	N1SMB	WB2UMF
K1WD	N1SNB	WF1L
K1XM	N1SOH	WF2B
K1YR	N1SP	WK1J
K1ZE	N1SR	WK2H
K1ZM	N1TIV	WN1V
K1ZO	N1TZ	WO1N
K1ZZ	N1UVA	WR1X
K2AJY	N1XJA	WT1O
K2BX	N1XYS	WT2Q
K2EP	N1XYU	WW1E
K2KQ	N2FF	
K2LE	N2LBR	
K2TE	N2MG	
K2TR	N2UN	
K2XA	N2ZX	

Secretary's Report

Charlotte Richardson, KQ1F

The June, 1997, meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club was held on Sunday, June 8, 1997, in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. The meeting was called to order by club President Dean, N6BV.

The meeting began with a discussion of ARRL DX contest club scores to date. In the 1997 WPX contest, we have about 40M points reported so far. In other news, the 4U1UN station is being reactivated and needs operators for the IARU contest. Interested people should talk to W6TER. Members interested in receiving the Electronic Scuttlebutt in place of the hardcopy newsletter, in Word or Acrobat format, were reminded to tell club secretary KQ1F. Randy, K5ZD, is now the club webmeister. See him or AD1C for changes to the YCCC web site. Club Secretary Charlotte, KQ1F, had the logs and QSLs from the 9M6TPR and 9M6TCR DXpedition available for those needing a Spratlys confirmation.

Several summer picnic meetings have already been scheduled:

June 21 at N6BV in Windham, NH

July 19 at KB1GW in Avon, CT

July 19 at K1EU in Scarborough, ME

August 10 at KV1W in Berlin, MA

August 17 at KB1H in East Killingly, CT

September 12 in Albany, NY

Dean announced that John, K1AR, was inducted in the CQ Contest Hall of Fame at this year's Dayton Hamvention.

Following these announcements, the 82 members present and their guests introduced themselves.

Glenn, KB1GW, introduced the proposed guidelines for use of the club call signs, AJ1I and W2PV.

Fred, K2TR, was presented with the ARRL SS CW plaque for a new Hudson Division record for high power, operated under the W2PV call from K2TR's station. Fred was also presented with a copy of the 1997 edition of CQ's Amateur Radio Almanac.

Doug, K1DG, then presented a panel discussion (with K1XM, KQ1F, and WA1S) on how to plan a contest DXpedition. Doug noted that K1MM's first

DXpedition was to FP8, in February, temperature on arrival -30 degrees Fahrenheit! Doug also gave www pointers to sites to help you find the cheapest airfares.

Tom, K1KI, and Dave, K1HT, passed out ARRL DX Contest mugs. And Len, K1NU (ex KB2R) handed out the last of his order of club T shirts and jackets. CQ WW participation certificates were also handed out.

After the break, the club welcomed four new and returning members: Scott Bullock, KA1CLX, Daniel Drost, K1DD, Fred Ring, W1NHS, and Burt Eldridge, W1ZS.

Jim, K1OZ, then talked about summer projects to improve station performance. Several of his suggestions follow. Consider buying a new radio with more features. Replace your old coaxes. Try a remote coax switch. Organize your shack, build some shelves, and clean up the mess. Move to computer logging if you haven't already. Volunteer to help out at a multi-op. Buy a voice keyer. To improve your skills, operate some of the summer contests, and practice with CT using PED. Subscribe to a new contest magazine: NCJ or CQ Contest.

Frank, A1IH, then spoke about how to find losses in antenna systems. He first considered the feed system: transmission lines, antenna tuners, baluns and transformers, and UHF and VHF connectors. Then he presented an analysis of the G5RV antenna. He recommends antenna simulation software such as ELNEC, EZNEC, AO, YO, YA, NEC/wires, and referred to the October, 1995, issue of QST, where there is a good article on pages 72-74. For antenna software he recommends TL and TLA, which come with the ARRL Handbook. He wrapped up with a discussion of how to measure the loss of an antenna tuner.

Members then adjourned to Rom's and other local restaurants. □

CT area picnic a success!

Glenn Swanson, KB1GW

While there were no new members joining, we had 22 guests at the CT picnic in July, which was held at Glenn, KB1GW's place at the edge of Secret Lake in Avon, CT.

YCCC members and special guests included:

ARRL Midwest Vice-Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, his YL Janice, and their son Jon, KB0MBS, all of Colby, Kansas
Garth Hamilton, VE3HO, of Niagara, Ontario, Canada

Wayne Mills, N7NG, of Jackson, Wyoming

ARRL N.E. Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, of West Suffield, CT

ARRL N.E. Vice-Director Don Haney, KA1T, of Harvard, MA

YCCC CT Area Manager, Jack Schuster, W1WEF, of Glastonbury, CT

YCCC Awards Manager, Mark Wilson, K1RO, of Bloomfield, CT

Paul Young, K1XM, of Hudson, MA
Fred Lucas, K1EFI and Jean Lucas, N1HMG, of Brookfield, CT

Paul Iltchenko, KF2XK, and Susan Troupe, KA1YED, of Waterbury, CT

Peter Budnik, KB1HY, of Burlington, CT

John Thompson, W1BIH, of Torrington, CT

Vin Sgroi, K1RM, of Plainville, CT

Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, of Hebron, CT

John Larson, NQ1K, of Burlington, CT

Pete, W1RM, and YL Bobbie, WB1ADL, of Burlington, CT

Glenn Swanson, KB1GW, of Avon, CT

And our executive chefs (thanks guys!)

Mike Kaczynski, W1OD, of Bristol, CT

and Jim Carney, KA1TAF, of Burlington, CT.

In addition to co-manning the grill, Mike, W1OD, retained his golf-driving championship title with the longest drive into the lake! All-in-all, we had perfect WX and a good time! Bruce, K0BJ, sent in a nice postcard thanking the YCCC for the hospitality and for the opportunity to meet some contesters "with familiar call signs." We'll look for you all next year--probably from an exciting new location in Connecticut! □

YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF Dues (currently \$20) are payable as of the April election meeting, which begins our club "contest year", with a grace period until the end of June, at which time your membership lapses if dues are not paid up. In order to rejoin, a lapsed member must attend a meeting, like any new member, or may simply become a subscriber to the Scuttlebutt by paying up (see below). Club members who move out of club territory and so are not eligible to contribute to club aggregate scores automatically become subscribers. New members who join at the February meeting are credited with dues for the year beginning the following April. You can tell if you owe dues by checking your 'Butt mailing label. Only paid-up members are eligible to contribute to the club score in contests. **Mail your dues** to the club treasurer, Ric Plummer, KV1W, 195 Highland Street, PO Box 1158, Berlin, MA 01503-2158. **FAMILY MEMBERS** Members of the same family living at the same address may elect to receive only one copy of the Scuttlebutt. One member of the family must pay full dues, enabling the rest of the family to join as family members, which is free. **STUDENT MEMBERS** Full-time students are eligible for dues at half the regular rate. **SCUTTLEBUTT SUBSCRIPTIONS** Anyone may subscribe to the club newsletter, the *Scuttlebutt*. The subscription year begins in April. Subscribers who sign up between December and April are considered paid-up for the upcoming year. You can tell if your subscription is current by checking your 'Butt mailing label. The grace period for late subscriptions is the same as for late memberships.

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Leonard Kay, K1NU, preferably by E-mail at lkay@tiac.net, or on 3½" disk (in MSWord format or text file) by snail mail to YCCC Scuttlebutt, Box 1297, Burlington, MA 01803. The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month. **CONTEST SCORES** should be sent to the club scorekeeper, Dave Hoaglin, K1HT, preferably by packet or by E-mail at dave_hoaglin@abtassoc.com. Please include details such as numbers of QSOs, QSO points (if appropriate), and multipliers (all types); entry category; and power.

CLUB GOODIES **BADGES** YCCC badges are available from Ric, KV1W. Send \$2, name and call desired on the badge, and your mailing address to: Ric Plummer - YCCC Badge, 195 Highland Street, PO Box 1158, Berlin, MA 01503-2158. **APPAREL** Len, K1NU, has stepped down after four years as Apparel Coordinator. We need someone to take over this important position. Contact K1NU or any officer if interested. **QSL CARDS** are ordered through John Dorr, K1AR. To order, send John packet mail, or E-mail at k1ar@contesting.com, detailing exactly what you want the card to say. There are 2 lines of text available for awards, etc. You will receive a proof by return mail. Approve the proof, making any corrections, and return to John *with payment* (make checks out to John, not YCCC). Current price is \$54 for 2000 cards. Normal turnaround is 30 days after approving proof. **MEMBERSHIP ROSTER** is mailed annually with the August issue of the Scuttlebutt, and to new members when they join. Updates are published in 'Movers and Shakers' when members move or change callsigns. If you want a new copy of the club roster, contact the Scuttlebutt editor, Len, K1NU. **INTERNET REFLECTOR** There is an Internet mailing list for YCCC members. To subscribe, send mail to yccc-request@yccc.org. Include the words "subscribe yccc" in the body of the mail message. **WWW HOME PAGE** Come visit us at <http://www.yccc.org>.

CT CONTEST LOGGING SOFTWARE is available from Matt, KC1XX. Orders: 603-878-4600. Support: 603-878-4200 CT-BBS: 603-878-1900 (28.8k, 8,N,1). As of this writing there is no E-mail address, but Matt says something is coming. There is an Internet mailing list for CT users. To subscribe, send mail to ct-user-request@ve7tcp.ampr.org, and include the single word SUBSCRIBE in the body. The CT reflector is also the best way to get CT country file updates. These updates may also be obtained from the CT BBS, or send a blank formatted disk and \$1.00 for postage to Jim Reiser, AD1C, 181 Littleton Road #324, Chelmsford, MA 01824.

W1 QSL BUREAU is sponsored by the YCCC. Keep your account up to date with SASEs, or send a check. Stamps are sold at face value, envelopes are 10 cents each. Address: W1 QSL Bureau, YCCC, PO Box 80216, Springfield, MA 01138. Email address: w1qsl@yccc.org. **ARRL LIAISON** is Tom, K1KI. **PACKET NETWORK** information is available from Charlie Carroll, K1XX, Candlelight Rd., Ringe NH 03461.

Tips for Two-Radio Contesting

Dean Straw, N6BV

To operate two radios successfully in a single-operator all-band station (or a multi-transmitter station), you've got to be able to hear! On CW especially, the second harmonic of 80 m can kill reception on 40 m, 40 m can kill 20 m, and 20 m can hurt 10 m. The first step is to prevent the front-end of the second radio (the multiplier-hunting radio) from generating its own harmonics due to fundamental overload. This mandates the use of bandpass filters of some sort. I use Dunestar 600 filters, automatically switched with Top Ten Devices decoders from each of my two IC-765s.

The second step is to knock down the transmitted harmonics from the main radio (the one used to call CQ mainly in a single-op station). Shorted quarter-wave stubs made of RG-213 will typically reduce the second harmonic by 25 dB. The principle is simple: at the fundamental frequency the shorted quarter-wave stub is an open circuit, but at the second harmonic the stub is a shorted half-wave long -- that is, a short circuit at the second harmonic. The stub is placed at the output of the linear amplifier directly in parallel with the output coax or if you use monoband antennas, you can place dedicated shorted quarter-wave stubs across each coax at the point where they go to the bandswitch. If you're like me and you use tribanders, you need a set of switched stubs, probably selected

through relays. My relay system is also tied to the Top Ten Devices band decoder for the main radio so that it is automatic.

How do you make a shorted quarter-wave stub? You must take into account the velocity factor of the coax you use. RG-213 has a rated VF of 0.66, but it can vary about +/- 5%. So you should cut each stub a little longer than the computed value of $246 * VF / \text{Freq (MHz)}$ and then "prune" to frequency. I find it easiest to use an SWR Analyzer such as the Autek RF-1 or the MFJ-259 equivalent (the one with a resistance meter as well as an SWR meter). Start out with the stub open-circuited, since its easier to do this when you're snipping off pieces, rather than snipping and then shorting each time. Tune the SWR Analyzer to the fundamental frequency (since an open quarter-wave is a short at the fundamental) and snip off half-inch pieces of the coax, looking for the lowest impedance on the Autek or the lowest resistance on the MFJ. Then, when you're close, short the end of the coax and measure at the second harmonic. The impedance should be very low at the second harmonic. Seal up the shorted end of the coax with tape and you're done.

Happy listening! ☐

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
Aug. 10	Special	KV1W (MA)
Aug. 17	Special	KB1H (CT)
Sept. 12	Special	Albany, NY
Sep. 28 (Sun)	General	Sturbridge, MA
Oct. 12	Special	NEDXCC Dinner (EMA)
Dec. 7 (Sun)	General	Sturbridge, MA
Feb. 7 (Sat)	General	Sturbridge, MA

For more information about a special meeting, contact the Area Manager of the indicated section.

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The next general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be held on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 1:00 PM at the Host Hotel in Sturbridge, MA, near the intersection of I-84 and I-90. To get there, exit I-84 onto Route 20 West. Go through two sets of stoplights and turn right just before the Burger King into the hotel parking lot. C U there!

Inside: CQ WPX CW scores • K1DG's Dayton Diary

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
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FIRST CLASS MAIL