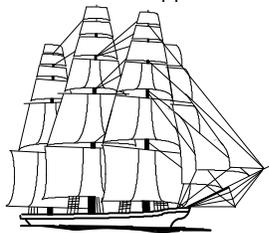

Yankee Clipper



Contest Club

Scuttlebutt

February 1999

Issue 140

Zulu Musings

Jeff Briggs, K1ZM

This is being written in early January and I have just received my copy of the FRC Newsletter from K3WW. In it the President of FRC all but concedes the CQWW contest to YCCC - which is very, very GOOD news for YCCC members! What was only a dream last April seems to have become a reality thanks to some very hard work by many YCCC members. And, it is something we all can be very proud of as FRC is a fine, competitive club. While we may not have seen their very best effort this time out, it takes nothing away from the magnitude of this win - in a word, it was MAGNIFICENT.

I must again recall some of the heroes of the CQWW as I remember them. First, KB1H for managing to make over 3MEG on SSB with nothing - and then a huge score for CQWW CW after working non-stop for a month getting his antennas ready. Then there was the dynamic duo of K1YR and K1RU whose antennas and towers were on the ground in mid-November - but they got QRV and both made multi-meg scores two weeks later. And how about the effort of KF2O at over 1MEG with a severe TVI problem and very basic antennas? I should note also the efforts of our "olde garde" W1AX, N4XR and W1BIH - all with huge scores and W1AX sandwiching a serious back operation in between CQWW SSB and CW mode. And how about all our huge multi scores made at K2TR/K2LE/1/KE2NL/K1RX/WO1N - K1NU (at K1TTT) and all the others? Taken together, our efforts this time out were truly a team effort. YCCC has never come together in quite this same fashion previously - let's all hope it continues unabated as we head into ARRL DX next month!

Please note that our next meeting is February 7th at 1PM and it is our first being held at our new site in Worcester

in the student union at Worcester State College. Directions appear elsewhere in this BUTT and are listed also on the YCCC Website. At this meeting we will have a modest celebration of our CQWW efforts and we will also be voting on a proposed by-law change which appears elsewhere in this BUTT. Please take the time to look it over as it represents an important directional change for YCCC. What is being proposed is twofold:

- 1) A reduction in dues to \$15 for those members receiving butt delivery in electronic form (known as EBUTT). Paper Butt membership shall continue to be available (for those who want it) at the current price of \$20 per annum.
- 2) The elimination of dues as a requirement for score submission for YCCC (but NOT the concept of dues generally). Dues shall remain a necessary component of membership within YCCC but we shall now chase dues laggards in order to secure operating funds for the Club - RATHER THAN as a means of producing scores for YCCC. New members shall continue to pay dues when they join YCCC and existing members shall be invoiced annually in April with a mailer envelope as a means of helping us gather in members' dues more effectively.

Why the proposed changes? Primarily to help YCCC compete more effectively against FRC who currently has NO DUES (just donations). This concept makes FRC's entire active membership roster 100% eligible each year for CQWW. This practice also makes it easier for FRC members to compete in ARRL contests as they need only worry about making (2) meetings each year absent the dues requirement for score submission to count.

See Zulu Musings, p 3)

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SNY/NJ/PA Hank Kiernan, KF2O (914) 235-4940 hankkier@aol.com

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.

Directions To Worcester State College

YCCC meetings in Worcester, MA are held at the Student Union on the campus of Worcester State College.

The college is located 2.5 miles NORTH of I-290 exit #13 on ROUTE 122/122A (Chandler Street).

When exiting I-290 at Exit 13 (Vernon St exit), turn LEFT if traveling up I-290 from the South/West or RIGHT if coming from the North/East on I-290. You then get on to Route 122/122A NORTH (CHANDLER ST.) and proceed through a series of lights (at least 4-5 sets) staying on Route 122/122A. As you begin entering what is clearly a residential area of Worcester at the 2.5mi marker on 122/122A there is a TEMPLE EMANUEL on the LEFT.

Just AFTER Temple Emanuel, on the LEFT you will see the campus. The entrance is actually made via a LEFT turn onto May Street (comes up just after Temple Emanuel) and then a quick RIGHT into the College Entrance. The STUDENT UNION is in the REAR next to a LAKE.

Local Repeaters

- Worcester Airport (Covers +/- 50 miles) - W1YK/R - 146.925 (-, no PL)
- WPI (Covers +/-10 miles) - W1WPI/R - 145.31 (-, no PL)
- WPI (Covers +/- 5 miles) - W1WPI/R - 449.025 (-, no PL)

E' Butt

Art Holmes, W1RZF
Scuttlebutt Publisher

At the 12/5 meeting and later on the reflector I asked members to drop the hardcopy of the Butt and pick up the e-mail version as the current cost of the hardcopy is \$1.00 a copy. The response has been great; 50 members switched and 15 members who were getting both dropped the hard copy. If you received the hardcopy this time and would also like to switch to the email version, Drop a note to Charlotte Richardson, KQ1F, KQ1F@underwater.org. State that you want to drop the hardcopy, the version of email you want, acrobat or word7, and the email address you want the butt sent to.

Movers and Shakers

New Email for KQ1F: KQ1F@underwater.org

December Meeting Minutes

Ric Plummer, KV1W

The meeting was opened by Vice President Bill Santleman. He advised all to remember that from here forward, our meeting place will be in Worcester. Directions are on the web site. It was also Bill's pleasure to review how well we are doing in CQWW !! CQWW CW now is at 269M and climbing. Many thanks to our President, K1ZM for getting all the troops out this year, great job !! But make sure the logs get sent in !! The team results were reviewed with team 17 in the lead, followed by 21 and 9 in second and third. Also, it is now open recruiting to fill your teams up to 20 members for ARRL DX !!

Members present then introduced themselves and made comments on the CQWW from their perspectives. It was obvious that this is indeed a very good year.

Art, W1RZF presented his outlook on keeping the cost of the Butt under control. He explained that white paper, in a newspaper fold out format would save money and took a straw poll, where all were in favor. He also reminded us that those choosing electronic format, also to save costs, need to indicate that to Charlotte, KQ1F, Club Sec'y, so she can make those changes in the data base.

Dan, N1ND, the new Contest Manager at ARRL, had the pleasure in presenting the First Place Plaque for ARRL DX CW M/S to W1WEF and W1BIH, which was accepted by Jack, W1WEF.

Whitey, K1VV, made a presentation on Inverted "L"s for 160, 80 and 40 with raised radials. Several examples were given as well as the inclusion of a matching transformer (UNUN). These are easy to install so can be used for temporary and Field Day use also. Don, K2KQ, also added that he had used a Double "L" configuration at J3A with only an IC706 and had excellent results.

The video of the IG9 Dxpediton for 1995/96 CQWW was viewed, followed by a break.

Don, K2KQ, gave a short talk on the J3A, CQWW CW opportunity for YCCC. It is an excellent time and a great point getter for YCCC. Much of the hardware is there, so it's a relatively easy Dxpediton. He wants 5 or 6 YCCer's with rigs for next year. With 12 ops it would really "sing". Cost is about \$1000 per person total. He is committed to it and would like ALL the other ops to be YCCC !! So what say ??

New member application for NC1I was read and accepted. Welcome to Frank.

In parting, be sure to send in your logs!!

February 1999

We all viewed the video on the KOHA super station, especially the low band antennas !!

We then closed the formal meeting and some stayed to chat for a while.

See you all in February in Worcester.

(Zulu Musings from p 1)

What's the downside? Not a great deal really. Your management team is not about to let YCCC go down the tubes here! Dollars are still needed to run the Club - Butts do not get produced without funds, meetings rooms do not get paid for without dues and club awards programs like mugs, highpoint pins and YCCC Challenge awards will not continue to be available without incoming funds. So we shall chase people just as vigorously as ever - but it will not prevent a member from submitting a score if a brief payment lapse happens to occur from one year to the next and across a specific contest submission deadline. At the end of the day, I believe YCCC members will continue to value their membership benefits and will, therefore, do the right thing. We don't need a by-law to make people recognize what is correct and appropriate here..... Folks will continue to pay their dues as always - as long as they perceive that their YCCC membership is a valuable asset. And, at \$15 per annum, it is more than just an asset - it is a GREAT deal.....

So, pse come prepared to vote on this important item at the February meeting - we will try hard not to take up too much time debating it to death - just figure out where you stand on it and let's make a decision here.....for me, this approach makes intuitive sense. I think it is a smart move for YCCC and an idea whose time has come.

SE Mass Area Meeting - 11/14/98

Greg Cronin, W1KM

9 new members and 11 old members met for breakfast at Persy's in Middleboro. Special thanks to K1RV and K1TH for helping recruit most of the new blood.

N1DG won the free breakfast, representing Team 17, but graciously offered to pay his way anyway.

New members joining:

N1EDM, N1BSO, W1CC, KZ1A, K1TEX, W1AY, AA6PN, K1RWS and NC1N

Also attending: WT1O, NB1B, K1VUT, K1TH, K1RV, K1VV, AA1V, N1DG, K1SM, N1IUN and Tim

Flotsam & Jetsam

“Barnacle Jack” Schuster, W1WEF

After operating the Fall contests, I am reminded once again that many of us don't know how to tune our radios so that we're right on frequency of the station we call. Aside from those times we might want to intentionally be off frequency so as to stand out in a pileup, there are too many stations that call way off frequency! This year I found that I could use my 250Hz filters more effectively than ever, and squeeze in between two other stations to run. After I would work all those who called right on my frequency, I would twiddle the "Clarifier" on the MP, and work the others, sometimes calling way outside the passband. Get to know how to properly zero beat with YOUR radio. It's not as easy as it was in the old days with separate receivers and transmitters and Beat Frequency Oscillators!

To wind a neat coax balun at the feedpoint, K1KP uses a two litre plastic bottle as a coil form. Cut off the ends after you wind it around the bottle and drink the contents. Tape it to the form to hold it in place.

CT has a real neat feature that I still don't use enough. WA1FCN answers my CQ. When he turns it over to me I only have "WA1F" typed into the computer. As soon as he turns it over, I hit Insert and my computer starts sending his call. While it is being sent, I type the last two letters and as long as I got them in before it finished sending the "F", it sends the rest of the call and the exchange. As an alternative to doing this I often send his call manually with my right hand while continuing to type the rest of the call with my left, but I know that using the type ahead feature is the better way to go.

Don't be afraid to use your attenuator, as I was for years for fear that I would miss the weak ones. I used as much as 18db attenuation in my MP in CQWW, this year on bands with strong signals, and copied ALL signals weak and strong easier than ever. (except for the ones I didn't hear! hi)

For a couple of good WEB sites to buy and sell ham gear, check out QTH.COM, and BARC (Birmingham Amateur Radio Club).

When did you last clean the contacts on your paddle? It was too long for me, and unfortunately it wasn't until I got back from Hawaii that I realized this was part of the cause of problems I was having sending. I thought it was the fault of the radio. I feel the best way to clean them is with a contact burnishing tool or small fine flat file. Before I burnished them recently, I sprayed an electronic cleaner on them, and the next day found that the silver contacts reacted with the stuff I used, and they became nonconductive. I

thought the keyer died!

When you tighten PL259's on a barrel to couple two cables, W1UK suggests using two pairs of pliers. If done by hand, sometimes one or both 259's binds and while you may think they're tight, they can loosen later.

Len K1NU offers this great idea for your old PC gathering dust in the corner. Set it up in the shack, dedicated to running GEOCLOCK This shareware program gives you greyline in real time on a world map, similar to a Geochron that sells for several Kbucks! I saw it demonstrated when I recently visited N6BV, and it's really neat! Greyline is the line between daylight and darkness, and shows where propagation peaks, especially on the low bands (<http://www.clark.net/pub/bblake/geoclock>) One caveat...it's about useless on a monochrome monitor.

Using a HAM Series rotor? Do you wish the indicator on the control box was South centered? K5FUV tells me all you have to do is take the meter apart and turn the meter face over. On the back is a South centered scale!

Whenever I go up my tower, I take 3 or 4 carribeaners and slings. Available at EMS stores, I find them handy for temporarily holding all sorts of stuff, eg an antenna to the side of the tower.

Area Meetings Minutes

Salisbury, MA - 11/12/98

Attendees: K1EPJ, KF1V, K1RX, KA1UQ and new member, AA1SI.

Manchester, NH - 11/16/98

An interesting if small regional meeting of YCCC was held November 16, 1998 in Manchester, NH.

In attendance were K1GW, W1JR, NM1W, and WW1Y. WW1Y is a prospective new member.

Spirited discussions covering antennas, towers, radios, and meteors filled the time available.

Kensington, NH - 11/27/98

We had a regional meeting of the YCCC at the QTH of Mark Pride, K1RX on Friday November 27, 1998. In attendance were K1RX, K1EPJ and KR1G. The only item on the agenda was to vote on accepting Ed Koerner, N1TO into the YCCC. Mark accepted Ed's application and first year dues. The vote was held and Ed was unanimously accepted.

Ed spends a number of months of the year in VQ9 and plans on participating from there in the ARRL contests. We are wondering if that will count as dxpedition points???

Constitution/ByLaws Changes

Jeff Briggs, K1ZM

The following are proposed changes to the YCCC Constitution and By-Laws. These changes will be voted on at the February General Meeting in Worcester.

ARTICLE I (Proposed Text)

All persons interested in amateur radio contesting shall be eligible for membership. Membership shall be by application, election and dues payment upon such terms as the club shall by its By-Laws provide.

ARTICLE VI (Proposed Text)

The club, by majority vote of those present at a REGULAR meeting, may levy such dues as are deemed necessary for the operation of the club. Payment of current dues shall be a pre-condition for the delivery of the YCCC Scuttlebutt (in either paper or electronic form) and shall also be a precondition for participation in the Club's various awards programs, eg: YCCC Challenge, general awards programs (mugs/certificates/top gun pins, etc). Payment of dues shall not be a pre-condition for submission of member scores to the YCCC Club aggregate in competitions.

Lapses in member dues payments exceeding 24 months shall cause the member to be dropped from the YCCC active roster. However, any former member may again stand before the Club at any meeting for re-election to active status as prescribed in Article I.

BY LAWS - Paragraph 6. DUES (Proposed Text)

An annual dues assessment covering the period 1 April - 31 March (defined as the YCCC Contest Season) is hereby levied pursuant to Article VI of the Constitution to meet current club operating expenses. The payment of Club dues is a pre-condition for delivery of the club newsletter in either paper or electronic form and is also a pre-condition for participation in the various Club awards programs that shall be offered to members. The dues assessment schedule is as follows:

Full Member (FP)

\$20 (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper delivery of Club Newsletter)

Full Member (FE)

\$15 (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and electronic "Ebutt" delivery of Club Newsletter)

Family Member (FM)

\$0 (Grants full membership to all amateurs residing at one domicile on payment of one member's "Full Member")

annual dues and entitlement to one Club Newsletter sent to one domicile or email address. All members of said family are eligible for YCCC awards programs.)

Student Member (ST)

\$10 (Grants full membership to students at a reduced level. Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper or electronic delivery of the Club Newsletter.)

Subscription (SU)

\$** (A "friend of YCCC" - not a member but a possible candidate for future membership. Receives Club Newsletter only in either paper or electronic form. Fee basis is \$20 for overseas paper delivery, \$15 for domestic paper delivery and \$10 for electronic "Ebutt" delivery domestically or overseas.)

New Crew

Charlotte Richardson, KQ1F

Please welcome these new and returning members who joined at the November local meetings:

Ernest Malafrente, WA1AES
87 Barnfinch
Naugatuck, CT 06770
home phone: (203)723-5586
work phone: (203)753-5131 x 116
email: M.J.Daly@snet.et

Don Benecchi, K1DC
7 Keenan Street
West Bridgewater, MA 02379
home phone: (508)587-7045
work phone: (781)963-3306
email: k1dc@hatchassoc.com

Conrad Sheldon, N1QDA
12 Putting Green Lane
Prospect, CT 06712
home phone: (203)758-4897
work phone: (203)925-6100 x 417
email: n1qda@qsl.net
home page: www.qsl.net/n1qda

Don Grudee, KE2DX
44 Long Hill Road
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
home phone: (914)896-6981
email: ke2dx@aol.com

(See New Crew, p 6)

(New Crew from p 5)

Frank Lauri, N2IX
P. O. Box 1143
Carmel, NY 10512
home phone: (914)225-3959
email: qrpp@yahoo.com

E. Peter Krulewitch, W1YG
225 West 86th Street
New York, NY 10024
home phone: (212)580-7543
work phone: (212)832-6922
email: peter@33arch.com

Please welcome these new and returning members who joined in November and December:

At the local meeting in Salisbury, Massachusetts, on November 12:

Harry Wilson, AA1SI
27 Broadway St. #1
Beverly, MA 01915
home phone: (978)927-6258
work phone: (617)428-8529
email: hwilson@nii.net

William A. Lawless, Jr., KA1UQ
18 Marlboro Rd.
Georgetown, MA 01833-1703
email: ka1uq@nsradio.org

At the SE MA breakfast meeting on 11/14:

Don "Mac" McGrath, KZ1A
153 Lake St.
Pembroke, MA 02359
home phone: (781)293-6968
work phone: (508)830-3699
email: dmcgrath@adefphia.net

Brad Wilson, W1AY
22 Tiffany Rd.
Norwell, MA 02061
home phone: (781)826-2746
work phone: (617)423-3282

John Laiosa, N1BSO
301 Pine Street
Marshfield, MA 02050
home phone: (781)837-2311
work phone: (508)650-3291
email: jlaiosa@cognex.com

Tom Delano, W1CC

46 Pilgrim By-way
Duxbury, MA 02332
home phone: (781)934-7715
work phone: (781)939-5343
email: tdelano@tiac.net

Bob Mandeville, N1EDM
94 Florence St.
Brockton, MA 02401
home phone: (508)583-3639
email: n1edm@thecia.net

Charlie Ross, NC1N
12 Hemlock Drive
Medway, MA 02053-2318
home phone: (508)533-7680
work phone: (781)455-3095
email: ross_family@acm.org
home page: <http://www.tiac.net/users/nc1n>

Richard T. MacDonald, K1RWS
20 Baclou Rd.
Hopedale, MA 01747
home phone: (508)473-3786
work phone: (508)389-2809
email: k1rws@110.net

Mike Principe, Jr., K1TEX
30 Malta St.
Hull, MA 02045
email: k1tex@goldtel.net

Richard Currier, AA6PN
119 Althea Rd.
North Falmouth, MA 02556
home phone: (508)495-0947
work phone: (508)563-5920
email: ryokan@capeonramp.com

At the NH local meeting at the K1RX QTH on 11/27:

Ed Koerner, N1TO (also VQ9VK)
14 Amberwood Dr.
Atkinson, NH 03811
phone: (603)362-5979
email: marconi91@aol.com

At the general meeting in Sturbridge on December 5th:

Frank Potts, NC1I
65 Hastings Rd.
Southwick, MA 01077
home phone: (413)569-0314
work phone: (413)786-7000
email: nc1i@gcq.net

ARRL DX 1999 Status

Members needing (1) meeting to be eligible.

K1AM	K1ART	WC1D
WW1E	K1EO	KE1EO
W1ES	KC1F	WA1FCN
KB1FJ	KM1H	N1HAJ
K1HI	KE1IH	K1IK
N1IUN	KS1J	KS1L
NY1L	N1LJA	N1LYA
K1MA	N1MD	W1MD
W1MK	K1MO	W1NHS
N1NQD	N1NY	KA1O
W1OHM	W1OJ	N1PFC
N1PGA	WA1QGC	KR1R
WB1S	N1SNB	W1TE
K1TEV	N1TMG	W1TQ
K1TXH	K1XX	KA1YED
K1ZE	KA1ZFK	W1ZZ
K2AJY	NA2M	KM2P
K2QNU	W2SF	KF2XK
W0MHK		

Members needing (2) meetings to be eligible.

AK1A	KM1A	NF1A
AA1AA	W1ABC	K1AE
N1AFC	KB1AWE	W1AZ
W1BR	AD1C	K1CA
W1CB	KA1CI	K1CN
N1GA	K1GQ	K1GRS
KB1GW	WB1H	N1IWV
W1IX	WM1K	N1KB
K1KRY	N1KWJ	W1LW
K1MD	K1MM	KA1NCN
K1NG	AK1O	W1OD
K1OX	K1PR	K1PVT
N1QMM	KA1R	N1RHY
K1RU	N1RWM	K1SD
K1SF	K1ST	K1TI
N1TM	N1TPY	K1TR
KA1ULN	W1UQ	N1UVA
WK1V	K1VA	KB1WH
N1XJA	W1XK	K1YL
KA1YTR	WA1ZAM	N1ZRO
K2LUQ	K2SS	WB2UMF
N2UN	K2UU	K2ZZ
AI3E	KM3T	K8LT
W9WBA	K0TV	

(Please NOTE: The above list is hardly complete and merely represents those YCCC members who have paid dues for 1999 but not yet made their 1998-99 ARRL (2) meeting requirements).

Upcoming Area Meetings

Date	Location	Contact
January 23	Middleboro, MA	W1KM
January 25	Waterbury, CT	KF2XK
January 26	Keene, NH	K1ZO
January 30	Hope, RI	K1IG
February 10	Berlin, MA	KV1W
February 12	Colonie, NY	K2ONP
February 16	Nashua, NH	K1GW

Score Reductions in 1997 CQWW

Dave Hoaglin, K1HT

Now that the CQWW Committee receives many logs in electronic form and has sophisticated software for a first pass of log-checking, substantial score reductions seem to be the rule, rather than the exception. Several articles in *CQ Contest* magazine have discussed the log-checking and some measures of accuracy.

When the results of 1997 CQWW appeared in *CQ* magazine, I was curious to see how our published scores compared with our claimed scores. I found 93 published SSB scores and 85 published CW scores for which I had a claimed score. The totals yielded an aggregate reduction of 10.5% on SSB and 12.1% on CW --- not exactly a source of pride. Is this how we all fared, or did some of us do better (and others do worse)? For some answers I looked at the distribution of the individual percentage reductions and then took the data apart by category.

The median reductions are a little better: 9.3% on SSB and 10.3% on CW (half of the reductions are smaller than the median, and half are larger). The lower quartile and upper quartile show how the middle half of the data spread out:

	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
SSB	4.4%	14.5%
CW	6..5	16..3

So reductions varied a lot, and they seem to be a little larger on CW than on SSB. The good news is that a quarter of the scores suffered no more than about a 5% reduction. The bad news is that another quarter had reductions of about 15% or more. And the bad news was sometimes very bad indeed. 13 SSB scores and 16 CW scores were reduced by more than 20%, and the damage ranged upward to 50% or so for a few!

(See *Score Reductions*, p 8)

(Score Reductions from p 7)

Category doesn't matter much; we had small and large reductions (over 20%) in every category. The table below shows lower quartile, median, and upper quartile on both modes for the five largest categories. Because these are small samples, we can't hope to reach firm conclusions. It seems clear, though, that reductions are generally greater on CW and that the SOLP entries had smaller reductions. Further, SOA, MS, and MM seem to have larger reductions than SOHP and SOLP. One possible explanation is the greater risk of busting a callsign because it was wrong in the packet spot.

	SSB			CW		
	LQ	Med	UQ	LQ	Med	UQ
SOHP	0	8.1	13.7	5.6	9.5	15.4
SOLP	2.4	5.3	7.3	3.4	6.1	11.5
SOA	7.1	9.4	13.6	7.5	10.2	18
MS	11.8	12.9	18.3	8.1	14	21.2
MM	8.8	11.3	12.3	8.3	10.4	17.8

The data offer opportunities for further analysis, and I hope to do more. But the important question is how to improve our accuracy. Others, with more experience, can give better advice than I can, but three steps should be easy. Make sure you have the other station's callsign correct. Make sure you log the exchange as sent (don't just accept the default zone from the logging program). If a station calls you and your logging program says it's a dupe, work it anyway; you may not be in their log. If you sent in your CQWW log by e-mail, you should be able to view the results of the first pass of log-checking on the CQWW Web site. Study the report to see whether you can find clues for improvement. I hope the better conditions this year helped us to be more accurate. We'll find out when the results are published.

**New PacketCluster Node:
W1FY in Hopkinton, MA**

Charlie Ross, NC1N

A new PacketCluster node joined the YSA network on Labor Day. Sponsored by the Framingham Amateur Radio Association (FARA), its call sign is W1FY and its user port is on 145.61 MHz.

The node located at AA1ON's QTH at 42-13-00, 71-30-44. The current (temporary) antennas are at about 510 feet AMSL. Although the current antennas are providing good service, plans call for a permanent, multi-bay user port antenna whose center of radiation will be about 20 feet

higher. It will be installed in the spring.

The node is available for use by anyone. There is no requirement for membership in FARA or YCCC, and all "Metrowest" area hams are invited to check it out. Coverage maps are available on the FARA web site at <http://www.qsl.net/fara/dxcluster>.

The W1FY team had a busy fall, first getting the software stabilized and later dealing with a series of hardware issues. The network link (originally to KB1H on 220) took a beating during CQWW, so the node now connects in via K1EA. The equipment is in an unheated building, and a series of temperature-related gremlins struck in November and December. These have now been solved, and a new insulated cabinet has been prepared. The cabinet says "General Electric" on the door and looks remarkably like a freezer... in fact, EXACTLY like a freezer... but there's no ice cream inside: just a PC, some radios, TNCs, and power supplies. It features feed-through coax connectors, mouse-proof ventilation openings, and thermostatically-controlled muffin fans. The "cabinet" was donated by Pete, W1VAB. Peter, KA1AXY, prepared it for its "second career"... a true work of art.

FARA's PacketCluster project had its genesis at Field Day '97. It took 14 months of planning to get everything together.

The 16-person team is chaired by Charlie, NC1N, who is also the lead sysop. The other sysops are Lee, KA1USL; Sharon, KC1YR; and Dennis, NB1B. Bob, W1RH leads the RF portion of the team.

YSA members Dick, KB1H and Charlie, K1XX have provided invaluable support to the project.

The team includes 6 YCCC members: W1RH, NB1B, NC1N, AA1ON, K1HT and T93M.

Ops Needed For ARRL DX M/M

Ed, WA1ZAM is looking for ops to staff Multi-Multis at K1TTT for both modes of the ARRL DX 'tests.

If you need a chair for either weekend here's a chance to operate a First Class station!

Contact Ed for info. elandry@adelphia.net

Two Wire Beverage

Jeff Parker, KA1GJ

(Editors Note: Full Size diagrams for this project are available in the Feature Articles section of the YCCC Website or with SASE to Doug Scribner, 52 Manchester Street, Keene, NH 03431)

I recently erected a simple two-wire Beverage antenna and, during a recent on-the-air meeting, was asked to write it up for the Scuttlebutt. The design of this antenna is published in the two excellent books listed below as references 1 and 2. The two-wire Beverage is fed from one end but can be switched to receive either from the forward or the backward direction. This system is really very simple and, with help from W1FV, I erected a very nice antenna.

My two-wire Beverage consists of two 14 AWG wires run parallel to each other for 450 feet in a NE/SW direction behind my QTH. The wires are approximately 8 feet off the ground and spaced 12 inches apart. I used trees as the supports, one wire on each side. The 450 foot run is quite straight. The antenna is fed at the SW end through two transformers to match to a single 50 ohm cable approximately 60 feet long. One wire at the NE end is grounded and the other is open. I built up a box (outside) containing the matching transformers and a relay to switch directions and a control box (inside) for 1) selecting either the transmitting antenna or the Beverage antenna when receiving, 2) selecting the Beverage direction and 3) disconnecting the receive antenna input when transmitting.

Shown below in Figure 1 is a schematic for the antenna and the matching network. In the backward direction, the two-wires work as an open-wire feeder in push-pull mode. Transformer T1 transforms the RF from the open-wire feeder to the unbalanced 50 ohm coax. In the forward direction, the two-wires act as a transmission line made of parallel conductors. Transformer T2 transforms the RF from the two-wire transmission line to the unbalanced 50 ohm coax. I used Amidon FT-82-75 cores which I purchased directly from Amidon Associates. At the time of the writing, cores cost \$1.20 plus shipping. Following reference 1, 7 turns were used for the primary windings of both T1 and T2. As per reference 2, the primary of T1 was wound as a Faraday shielded winding (see below). I found that 19 turns were required as a secondary for T1. This differs from both references but yielded the best match. W1FV has a very similar two-wire beverage and also found less winding were required for the secondary of T1. I found 18 turns were required as a secondary for T2.

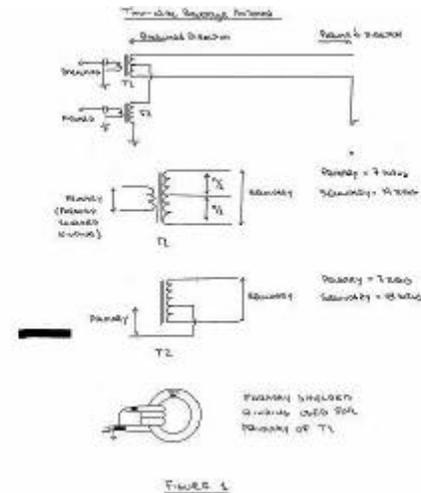


FIGURE 1

The two transformers were assembled into a box as shown in Figure 2. 12 DC is supplied from the shack over the 50 ohm feed line and is used to toggle the relay. In the 0 VDC state, the output from T1 is fed through a 2 watt 50 ohm resistor to ground and the output from T2 is coupled to the feed line. This causes the antenna to receive in the NE direction. When the relay is powered, T1 is coupled the feed line and T2 is terminated causing the antenna to receive in the SW direction. It is important that transformer not feeding the 50 ohm coax be terminated in a 50 ohm load. In addition, I found that a good ground was necessary at both the NE and SW ends to achieve the best match.

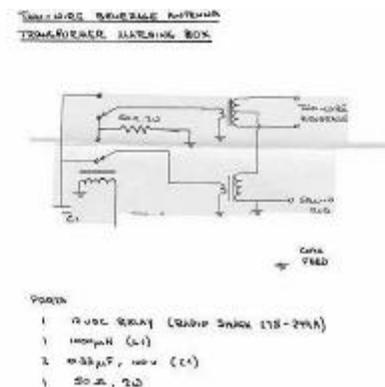
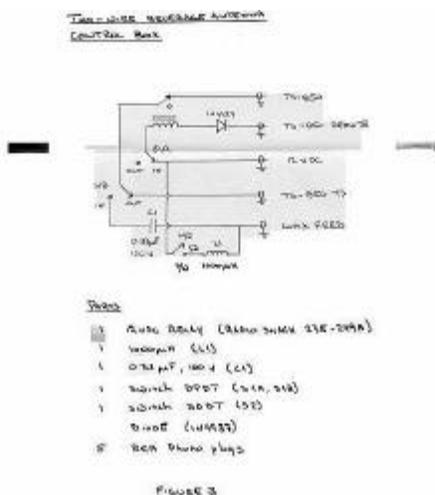


FIGURE 2

(See Beverage p 10)

(Beverage from p 9)

The antenna direction is selected from the shack with a control box shown in Figure 3. The control box serves a number of functions. First, either the transmit antenna or the Beverage antenna can be selected for receive. Second, the Beverage direction is selected by applying 12 VDC to the 50 coax feed line which powers the relay in the matching box. Power is available in the shack and is placed on the feed line through inductor L1. The RF is coupled to the receiver through C1. Third, the receive antenna input is disconnected during transmit. For the Kenwood TS-850, pins 2 and 4 on the REMOTE connector are used to key the relay on transmit. This line is wired in parallel with the key line for my Ameritron linear amplifier.



I suggest using mini-coax where ever possible when wiring either box to reduce the chance of stray pick-up.

The noise level of the antenna is considerable lower than either my vertical or my dipole and shows approximately 4 s-units of front-to-back performance. I am looking forward to trying the antenna out in the upcoming contest season.

My thanks to John Kaufmann, W1FV, for all of his help.

I will be happy to answer any questions. Feel free to EMAIL me at parker@ll.mit.edu or call (781) 275-9609.

Reference:

1. "The Beverage Antenna Handbook", Victor Mizek (W1WCR), 1987
2. "Antennas and Techniques for Low-Band DXing", John Devoldere (ON4UN), ARRL, 1994.

SNY Area Meeting - 1/11/99

Jeff Briggs, K1ZM

KF2O - YCCC SNY Area Manager Presiding

A local/regional YCCC meeting was held this date and attended by 14 YCCC members and one guest, Tony Kazmakites, N2TK, an FRC friend of K1ZM.

After a leisurely chat over dinner, Don, K2KQ, gave a fine power-point presentation of his recent 4U1UN operation during CQWW/SSB followed by a tour of the J3A YCCC multi-multi operation conducted during CQWW/CW by YCCC members K2KQ/W1WFZ/N9KAU (and friends).

The group also reviewed YCCC's results in CQWW 1998 and the preliminary results of the YCCC CQWW Challenge competition. Spirits were high looking ahead to the upcoming ARRL DX Tests.

The initiation of a 50/50 raffle was well-received by the members attending with 1 ticket being sold for \$1, 3 tickets for \$2 and an "arm's length" of tickets for \$5. A total of \$58 was generated with 1/2 going to the winner and 1/2 going to the YCCC Treasury.

Jonathan, W1CU, did the drawing and JP Kleinhaus, W2XX, was the night's winner. A total of \$29 will go to YCCC as a result of the 50/50 raffle.

The meeting closed with a reminder that we have moved our GENERAL meeting site to the campus of Worcester State College in Worcester, MA. starting with the February 7th meeting.

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, 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, Doug Scribner K1ZO, preferably by E-mail at thecomshop@monad.net or on 3½" disk (in MSWord format or text file) by snail mail to Doug Scribner, 52 Manchester Street, Keene, NH 03431. 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, 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 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.

COMPUTER STUFF **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>. Our Webmaster is Doug Scribner, K1ZO. **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 email to CT-USER-REQUEST@contesting.com, and put only the word SUBSCRIBE in the message 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 Reisert, AD1C, 7 Charlemont Court, North Chelmsford, MA 01863-2306.

ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF **The 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. **PACKET NETWORK** information is available from Charlie Carroll, K1XX, Candlelight Rd., Rindge NH 03461. **ARRL COMMITTEE REPS** are CAC New England Dave Hoaglin, K1HT; CAC Hudson Rich Gelber, K2WR; DXAC New England Jim Dionne, K1MEM; DXAC Hudson Bill Hellman, W2UD. **ARRL LIAISON** is Tom, K1KI.

Scores In The Scuttlebutt? A Member Survey

Doug Scribner, K1ZO

Although we are right in the middle of the 1998 - 99 Contest season, you may notice the lack of any published scores in this issue. No, I didn't forget.! Their absence, at least in this issue, is intentional.

In this and future issues I am trying to keep the page count to 6 double sided pages. In doing this we are able to mail the hardcopies at the basic First Class rate of 33 cents.

After discussions with K1HT and K1ZM I opted to fill the issue with editorial material submitted by our members - material that is generally not available anywhere else.

In hindsight I am thinking that this decision should be made by you the members and not myself. So I pose this question to you:

In future issues, if space becomes a problem, would you rather see the claimed scores lists that we have had in the past or articles similar to what is in this issue?

Drop me a note and let me know what you think. My Email and Snail Mail addresses are located on the YCCC Resources page of every issue or reach me via the PacketCluster at: K1ZO > K1XX.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
February 7 (Sun)	General	Worcester, MA
April 3 (Sat)	General	Worceter, MA
June 6 (Sun)	General	Worcester, MA

A listing of upcoming Area meetings is included elsewhere in this issue.

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The next general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be held Sunday February 7th, at 1:00 PM at the Student Union on the campus of Worcester State College in Worcester, MA

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
 48 North Avenue
 Mendon, MA 01756

FIRST CLASS MAIL