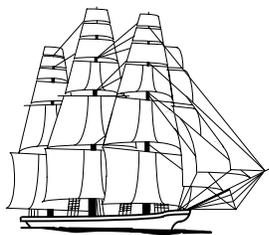

Yankee Clipper



Contest Club

Scuttlebutt

October 1999

Issue 144

Captain's Cabin

Don Toman - K2KQ

It's been a busy summer.

YCCC continues to grow and prosper. We won the CQ WW '98, both modes, but by a lot less margin than I like to see. See Dave Hoaglin's article on score reductions for some shocks.

We look forward to winning again this year but we need to improve our scores over last year by a substantial margin. Reducing errors will help. Getting more people on the air, eligible and sending in scores will also help. Take a look at the piece by our corporate motivator, Jeff Briggs, in this issue, then go and look in a mirror and ask the person looking back how YOU are going to help to make us winners again. Wait for an answer.

We are getting sharp operators and good technical people to join us. New blood is coming into the club, but it is increasingly challenging to maintain a sense of unity, and communication is the key.

The Scuttlebutt is one of the few ways we can contact everyone. The reflector, e-mail, regular and regional meetings and on-the-air meetings only reach a fraction of the membership. We need all active members to take the initiative in bringing inactive people up to speed and getting them into the action.

We're looking forward to loads of fun at our October meeting on Saturday the ninth at which we will celebrate our 1998 CQ WW wins.

In June, I mailed a notice to regional managers asking for help in finding inactive people and getting them active and eligible. Since then, we've had a groundswell of regional meetings. New people have joined and current members have paid their dues. Meanwhile, Greg, W1KM, Mark, K1RX and Dave, K1TTT have sponsored hands-on sessions in connection with the WAE contests. Doug and our experts have produced another winner-producing contest cookbook.

Dave, K1ZZ, Dick, KB1H and Ric, KV1W have been the hosts of successful picnic meetings in the core area and we've had a bunch of regional meetings including Northern Vermont, Albany and Maine. We look forward to more in ENY, New Hampshire and Connecticut. If you need to build skills and confidence, the support organization is in place and ready to help.

Woody Allen once said, "The key to success is showing up." Not a bad observation.

Thanks to all the regional managers and team captains who rose to the challenge and organized all those sessions. I hope one recurring theme has been to come to grips with how to reach inactive members, get them on the air for the major contests and get them to send in scores. While you are at it, keep looking for prospective new members.

We've had a good time with on-the-air meetings on Monday nights on 75 meters. In spite of my puny signal from Martha's Vineyard and my absence for a couple of weeks, the meetings have been happening in an unbroken string. Sessions typically include members from the far reaches of the club ranging from Northern Vermont through Maine, Albany and Pennsylvania. Paul, AA1SU and Ron, KK1L, both from Northern Vermont, are weekly regulars and we frequently see our Mainer's represented. We don't see check-ins from Long Island. Maybe the fishing's too good. YCCers raise issues, discuss plans and seek help through these meetings. We usually see from 12 to 20 check-ins and the total group numbers close to 40 individuals. It's difficult to remember a meeting where people who show up don't have fun, learn something and get motivated. If you haven't been among the check-ins, give it a try on Monday nights at 9 PM on 3830. We may move to a day other than Monday to accommodate some who want to watch Monday night football. Stay tuned.

(See Captain's Cabin – p. 2)

Yankee Clipper Contest Club

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(Captain's Cabin from p. 1)

Our e-mail reflector and web site are increasingly effective vehicles for communicating with and among members. Thanks to Jim and Doug. The meeting notices feature agendas and directions and we even added a map for finding Worcester State. Doug has added a members-only feature that forms the foundation for more useful features in the future and now includes archives of the reflector. I even found a way to add a photo album without tying up the web site. A unified club-accessible database is still in the future, but a growing possibility.

All that is good news. Here are a few things we need to work on:

- At present, only about half the membership can be reached via the reflector and e-mail.
- A dedicated core of people shows up at meetings and at the OTA sessions. Many are missing.
- About half of the membership actually participated and sent in scores in the CQ WW and ARRL DX contests in the past year.
- The only universal communication media open to us that reach all of the members are old-fashioned US mail and the telephone.

Those of you who are active and motivated need to reach into your bag of tricks and find ways to reach inactive members. Take a delinquent to lunch. Go more than half way and the rewards will exceed the extra effort.

Those of you who have been inactive this past year need to look in the mirror and make the commitment to the person you see to show up.

Are You Overdue?

Just a quick reminder that YCCC annual dues are due in April which marks the beginning of our "contest year".

While dues are no longer a prerequisite for submitting to the Club aggregate score you are required to remain current for the various YCCC awards programs...this includes the YCCC Challenge.

So sit down and write that check now...payable to YCCC.

Send the check along with your Name and Call to:

Ric Plummer - KV1W
PO Box 1158
Berlin, MA 01503

And as always "Thanks For Your Support".

Getting Psyched for CQWW 1999

Jeff Briggs - K1ZM

Hi Gang

Once again, that time of year is upon us. The temperatures in the mornings are getting cooler and the leaves on the trees are already starting to turn - that means CQWW Phone is not far away. Don, K2KQ, has asked me to say a few words (as YCCC Corporate Cheerleader) to you guys and gals in order to help YCCC "keep up rate up" again this year.

First, let's start with the dates of CQWW:

CQWW SSB will be held on October 30/31 this year. The contest actually begins Friday night October 29th at 8PM local time (0001z).

CQWW CW will be held on November 27/28 this year. The contest actually begins Friday night November 26th at 7PM local time (0001z). Please note this is the weekend following Thanksgiving again this year.

Now is the time to start speaking with the XYL about reserving these dates and be ****sure**** to plan on being home (or close by) for Thanksgiving - in order that you may participate. Visits to Aunt Emma in Kalamazoo are to be avoided, if possible. We need you in front of your radios for BOTH weekends - as that is where the FRC guys and gals will be.....!!

FRC's new President this year is Alex, W2OX, whom we all know well as V47KP. Alex is wasting no time firing up FRC and is already lining up ops and stations for WW. You can be sure that FRC (and a newly rejuvenated PVRC) will be charging hard in CQWW this year. It will surely not be easy for YCCC to win this year - BUT it can be done if we all pull together.

For starters, we in YCCC will have some really HEAVY DX'pedition artillery out there this year. We will have large crews at J3 again this year - headed up by K2KQ and WA1S. Additionally, I have already heard that K1XM is going to H4 and T93M tells me that he will be a part of the crew at A61AJ. There are quite a few others planning to be on as well, so FRC will not wipe us up from outside the country. That's good news for YCCC.

Given our ability to offset the FRC expedition advantage (well pretty much offset), that means it comes down to a DOMESTIC numbers game once again this year at home. YCCC simply must get each and every eligible station on the air - both modes - and we will have an excellent chance of winning this thing.....it is just that simple. So get on and help us win!

Along the way, please be SURE to use 100% YCCC eligible ops at your CQWW multis. Remember, every non-YCCC

operator at a CQWW multi costs YCCC that person's pro-rata share. If there are 5 ops at a multi, and one is a non-YCCC op and that group makes a 10Meg score, then YCCC loses 2 million points. So, please save "training exercises" for potential YCCC members for ARRL DX where the 2/3 rule will allow us such liberties without costing us serious points. Remember, CQWW is different from ARRL DX in this important respect.

Another thing to be aware of is the UBN checking now going on within the CQWW Contest Committee. I myself got hammered (as did many other YCCC members) last year. Many stations logged my call incorrectly costing me serious points and somehow I was not in the log of quite a few stations I was sure I worked! The only thing I can say here is try to be sure you and the other station get it right - such that a valid QSO has been made. Be sure you copy and enter the callsign correctly and ask again if you are unsure - NEVER guess - if you do, you may wind up losing 4 qso's (the invalid qso plus a 3 qso penalty!) I cannot emphasize how important this is - especially at multis where the cumulative effect of a lost QSO or multiplier is severe!

Finally, we all need to remember this is a TEAM effort. We need everybody to get on the air. Big stations, small stations - even ops with NO station - we need every last one of you. If you want to operate, we will find you a home. If you CANNOT operate due to a personal commitment, then let us know and we will find an operator to put your station on the air, if okay with you.

They said it couldn't be done last year - but we did not know any better and did it anyway. FRC is still licking their wounds after we smoked 'em last year.

Wanna go for a REPEAT? The choice is up to you. We CAN do it again if we all pull together. Please make plans NOW to get yourself ready for the WW "world wars". Condx should be great and it should be a blast.

Are you QRV? CU in the pileups!

Score Reductions in 1998 CQWW: Where Did All the Points Go?

Dave Hoaglin - K1HT

As the results are published, we can see that the log-checking gouged sizable chunks out of many of our claimed scores. I don't yet have the whole story for CW, but I can sketch the main patterns and compare them to last year.

A reduction of 10% or so in our scores was typical again this year, and again we lost more on CW than on SSB. In most of the five largest entry categories (SOHP, SOLP, SOA, MS, MM) the reductions were somewhat larger this year than last year, especially on CW.

The lower quartile, median, and upper quartile give an indication of where the middle half of the data is located and how it spreads out (all values are in percent):

	SSB			CW		
	LQ	Med	UQ	LQ	Med	UQ
SOHP	7.0	9.0	10.8	7.9	10.7	20.8
SOLP	5.1	10.2	17.3	6.7	12.8	22.1
SOA	4.3	8.3	13.6	8.8	13.4	23.1
MS	8.2	9.6	16.5	8.7	14.5	23.9
MM	10.6	12.5	15.0	12.6	23.5	26.0

On SSB no differences among the categories stand out. But on CW it's notable that the median reduction in the MM category (among 8 logs) is 23.5%. In each of the first four categories the lower quartile and the median for CW are a few percentage points higher than the corresponding summaries for SSB. The upper quartiles for CW in all categories are more worrisome, not only because they're considerably higher than for SSB, but also because they're high in absolute terms: More than a quarter of our logs had reductions of 20% or more.

Unfortunately, the bad news doesn't stop there. Even on SSB every category but one has a score that dropped more than 30%. And one multi-single on SSB gave up over 50%. Not to be outdone, one multi-multi on CW lost over 75%! And they had company: Of the 63 SOA CW scores that I've looked at, 10 were reduced by more than 30% (and one dropped by 79%).

There is a brighter side, though. We had a large enough lead in total claimed score that we should still win the club competition. And, in the October issue of CQ Contest magazine, "The CQWW SSB Honor Roll" (entries with score reductions of 10% or less) includes many YCCC callsigns.

To put our SSB results in perspective, that same article yields the following median reductions (based on all

electronic logs [with 10 or more QSOs]):

	All	YCCC (from above)
SOHP	10.5%	9.0%
SOLP	11.7	10.2
SOA	9.0	8.3
MS	14.5	9.6
MM	13.0	12.5

In each category our median is better than the overall median --- often substantially better. As a club we can be proud of this performance, and we can congratulate the individual members with large logs and small reductions.

Still, we have much to be modest about --- and much room for improvement. As one approach, we can almost all learn from our "UBN report" (the output from the computer checking of our log). If you sent in an electronic log, your UBN report (along with your log and other files) should be on the CQWW Committee's web site under the callsign used during the contest. For example, <http://www.cqww.com/logs/ssb/k1ht> (for the CW files, replace "ssb" by "cw"). To access those files, you need the 9-digit access code, which the person who submitted the log should have received last spring by e-mail (if the log was sent in by e-mail). If you sent in an electronic log but not by e-mail, or if you've misplaced the access code, you can get your report by sending e-mail to k3est@cqww.com.

Download your UBN report and study it, with a copy of your log handy. In a multi-op entry, all ops should have a chance to study the report and the log.

For a good explanation of the UBN report, download the "Guide to CQWW DX-Contest UBN and NIL Reports" from <http://www.cqww.com/ubn-nil-new.html>. This new version is NOT the one you'll get if you follow the link from your UBN report itself.

Pay particular attention to the -B and -N QSOs; those are the ones that the log-checking software automatically removes from your log --- with a 3-QSO penalty.

Beyond this sort of post-motem analysis, we have loads of accumulated experience within YCCC. Ask the other members of your Challenge team or one of our experts for suggestions on avoiding score reductions. Let's make 1999 CQWW another victory for YCCC!

New Crew

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

Jeanne Schipelliti, KB1DFG
7 Dearborn Ridge Road
Atkinson, NH 03811
phone: (603)362-6580
email: KB1DFG@arrl.net

Barry Gross, N1EU
911 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, NY 12054
home phone: (518)439-6550
work phone: (518)463-0789
email: n1eu@yahoo.net

Ginger Smith, KE1GQ
1 Celeste Terrace
Sandown, NH 03873-2041
phone: (603)887-0195
email: WQ1H@qsinet.net

Dave Patton, NT1N
324 Ashford Center Road
Ashford, CT 06278
home phone: (860)429-1201
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email: nt1n@arrl.org

John Guida, NJ1V
175 Centre Street #1603
Quincy, MA 02169
home phone: (617)786-9267
work phone: (617)646-5670
email: NJ1V@arrl.net

Yuri Blanarovich, K3BU
Box 282
Pine Brook, NJ 07058
home phone: (973)227-0712
work phone: (973)808-1970
email: k3bu@aol.com

Please welcome the following new member who joined at the Northern New York regional meeting on June 26th:

Dennis Wheeler, NW2J
1529 Sunset Road
Castleton, NY 12033
home phone: (518)477-7741
work phone: (518)402-0174
email: denw@ix.netcom.com

Please welcome the following new members who joined at local area meetings this summer:

Tom Cooper, W1EAT
143 Spruce Street
Burlington, VT 05401
home phone: (802)658-9943
email: w1eat@usa.net

Edwin Shipley, N1PEA
4 Colbert St.
Essex Junction, VT 05452
home phone: (802)878-4543
email: n1pea@arrl.net

Bill Legge, NT1R
6 Sarah Goud Road
Yarmouth, ME 04096
home phone: (207)846-4759
work phone: (207)775-5678
email: nt1r@aol.com

Maine Area Meeting – 8/14

An authorized regional meeting of the YCCC was held in Portland ,Maine on Saturday August 14th at the Village Cafe starting at 12:00 noon .

The following YCCC members attended:

N1AO, K1MV, N1RLI, KA1PRD, K1EU, NY1E, K1MA, W4ZGR (Ex. N1AFC), K1JB, K1TEV , W9WBA, K1RQ, KT1O and K1MY

One new member joined us NT1R- BILL LEGGE and one visitor N2IJR Larry Reinstein

A discussion on contest software was given by K1MV and K1MY as a new logging program will be used by Joe K1JB , Steve K1MV and Mike K1EU on their upcoming trip to zone 2 for CQWW Phone in October.

The members approved membership for Bill NT1R during a brief business meeting. Another local meeting will be held in September (time and place to be announced).

W1KM Contest University

Greg Cronin – W1KM

Attending:

N1TB, WT1O, W1RZF, N1RR(+2 harmonics), K2KQ, W1KM, K1XM, W1AY and W1WEF. We were also honored to have Jelke (?), S57NW join us, and it was most interesting to hear her talk about contesting in S59A and HP.

N1RR had the highest claimed rate in WAE, but Rick and Lindsey were his only witnesses. N1TB made the most Qs.

K1XM showed off part of what will be his Zone 28-station-in-a-suitcase, as he's getting ready to travel to H44 for WWCW.

W1WEF mentioned some mods to the 1000mp, which has become THE contest radio, and he has put these out on the reflector.

I think the "hands-on" contest university concept--ie, having less-experienced ops do some operating during a low key contest in the presence of seasoned veterans-- has potential-- and I encourage anybody who can to visit K1RX 's for WAE phone.

While there's no substitute for on-air time, there is a wealth of collective operating experience in this club that can benefit anybody whose willing to listen.

Just Do It!

Art Holmes – W1RZF

There is an old expression "The cream always comes to the top" that seems very appropriate as we approach the CQWW DX contests. We have about 470 members who are all eligible for the CQWW. They are on 26 teams which are all equal based upon last years scores.

Which team is going to come out on top and have those bragging rights for the next year? The formula is known, no invention required!

1) Get everyone on the team eligible - its done

2) Get everyone on the air - The YCCC club participation from last year, with 458 members on teams:

CW	SSB	BOTH
201	244	163
43.9%	53.3%	35.6%

The top teams last year had 60 -70 percent participation.

Our goal should be 90% participation. Join a multi-op if your station is down. Get on both modes!

3) Improve operating skills - Practice. You won't win the world series if that is the only game you play!

4) Improve your station - determine what will give you the biggest bang for the buck that you can afford and do it.

5) Increase your operating hours - You can't score if you don't operate!

6) Set goals for each band, operating time... Winners have goals and a plan. Everyone should be trying to increase their score by 30% if the club is going to win.

I am hearing rumors that some teams think they have CQWW all rapped up, and can see you eating their dust now.

Are you a dust eater or a butt kicker? CU in the pileups.

Flotsam and Jetsam

"Barnacle Jack" Schuster – W1WEF

Having trouble getting disconnected from packet? One common problem reiterated by W1RM is that you cant hear all the stations connected to the node. You have to be able to hear them all, not only the packet node station itself. Use the command "mh" to check the stations you are hearing and compare that to the list of stations on the node as seen by "sh/u".

While recently helping a friend with tower work, I was reminded how much more I liked my 5/8 braided polypropylene gin pole rope than his 1/2 inch nylon. I find that my 5/8 polypropylene is much easier to hold onto, and is plenty strong for anything I'll ever do with it.

When K1RM was helping me as ground crew, and I needed a tool, he just untwisted the braided rope, stuck the tool thru the braid, and sent it up. I thought that was a neat way to attach a tool.

I store my rope in a plastic bin that measures about 2 ft by 3 ft. I just lay it in and find that much easier than spooling it on a reel, without getting it tangled.

(See Flotsam – p. 7)

(Flotsam from p. 6)

Jeff, K1ZM has had a lot of experience curing neighbor's Telephone RFI problems. He finds the ICE I467 telephone filter to be excellent (available from club YCCC member Craig Clark, Radioware, 1 800 950 WARE) and the less expensive I465 30db filter also sometimes adequate. In extreme cases he puts an Amidon #240 #43 mix right at the handset with as many turns as possible of the handset cord thru the core. Jeff had poor results with KCOM filters. Another solution he has found is to use a RadioShack RS 43-591 or 592 telephone for RF immunity (might be good to have for use during contests in your own house if you couldn't send your family to visit the in-laws!).

W1KM learned by experience to use eyeglass retainer straps when working on the tower!

Steve, N1SR found that Home Depot carries marine grade SS hose clamps. (Not necessarily at all HD's...make sure they say ALL STAINLESS!)

A funny thing happened as I drove to Jeff's house on Cape Cod. As I drove out on the peninsula surrounded by salt water, I was listening to the 706 in my car and as I approached his QTH, it seemed like signals came out of nowhere! That salt water is worth a lot of points!!!

K1ZM and KS1L have found that when they put up Cushcraft trapped antennas, it is good to replace the self tapping screws that hold the trap to the boom with the next larger size. Otherwise, the trap can loosen and wiggle on the element in time. Seems to me I ran into that on one of my 40-2CDs!

When Charlie, N1RR, was preparing his bottom sections of Rohn 25 to be used in his 4 square, he found that in order to fit his solid delrin rods in the bottom legs, he had to ream them out using a 1 1/8 hole saw in a 3/8 drill.

K1ZM finds that taping all the joints on his antennas with plastic electrical tape wherever two elements telescope together pays off in keeping water out of the joint.

Sidemounting an antenna on the tower? One way Jeff mounts fixed antennas is to make an oversized rectangular plate out of 3/8 aluminum to mount to TWO tower legs with U bolts. The antenna boom then mounts to that plate using 4 heavy duty Muffler clamps. To orient the antenna in the right direction, he puts a block of pressure treated wood between one tower leg and the plate. This might necessitate extra long U bolts which he makes by bending threaded steel rod and cutting to the required length.

A simple but effective way to make a multiband antenna is often forgotten. K1ZM has a 160 Inv Vee and a 80 Inv Vee fed by the same feedline at the top of his tower. The ends of

the 80 are directly beneath the 160 (both broadside to Eu), separated by about ten feet at the ends. I have a 40 M vertical wire out in the woods that runs straight up to a tree, with 20, 15 and 10 verticals sloping away to other trees, fed by one feedline. I have few radials on the ground cut for a quarter wave on each band. You can do the same thing with one elevated radial on each band, and tune the antenna by adjusting the length of the radial.

Submitting Scores and Logs For CQWW

Dave Hoaglin - K1HT

In this fall's CQWW we can expect keen competition, both with other clubs and among the teams in the YCCC Challenge. As usual, I'm eager to have your claimed scores, so that we can share them within the Club. But, if you want your points to count for YCCC or for your team, you must send in your log (with YCCC on the summary sheet). The CQWW Committee has asked us to submit as many logs as possible in electronic form. In return for submitting an electronic log, you'll be able to access (on the CQWW web site) the reports from the computerized checking of your log --- and learn which QSOs (and multipliers) you lost, because of bad callsigns and QSOs not in the other station's log. A few details have changed this year, and the whole process is important, so let's review it.

Claimed Scores. As soon as possible after the end of the contest, send me your claimed score (preferably the whole summary sheet) --- by e-mail, packet, or U.S. mail (see the Club Resource Page in any 'Butt). Please include your team number for the Challenge; it makes compiling the team scores easier.

Send Logs by E-mail. The easiest way to send in your log is by electronic mail. You send an e-mail message to ssb@cqww.com (SSB logs) or to cw@cqww.com (CW logs). Your message should include two plain-text ASCII files: your summary sheet and your log file. Acceptable formats for the log file include the .ALL file from CT, the .DAT file from TR Log, and the .PRN file from NA. The name of the log file should be your callsign, followed by the appropriate extension; for example, K5ZD.ALL or K1HT.DAT. You may name your summary file in a similar way, using SUM as the extension (e.g., K1HT.SUM).

(See CQWW Scores - p. 8)

(CQWW Scores from p. 7)

If you have to send the summary sheet and log in separate messages, the subject line of each message must contain your callsign and the mode (SSB or CW).

In return you'll receive an automatic message acknowledging receipt of your log. Once the logs are available (on the web site) for viewing, please check that yours arrived intact.

IMPORTANT. Please send me a copy of your e-mail message --- for example by putting `dave_hoaglin@abtassoc.com` in the "cc:" field. Then I can help to make sure that all our logs are submitted on time and credited to YCCC. (If you can send me a preliminary claimed score earlier, I'd appreciate it.)

Diskette and Paper Log. As in the past, you may send in (via U.S. mail to CQ Magazine, 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801) hard-copy versions of your summary sheet, your log, and your dupe sheets (by band). Instead of a paper log you may submit an MS-DOS-compatible diskette containing your log file; the acceptable formats are the same as for logs submitted by e-mail. (A paper summary sheet must accompany the diskette.) The CQWW Committee would like to have all log files in electronic form, and it requires them for entries that are potentially high-scoring.

If you're submitting a diskette or a paper log, please send me a copy of whatever you send in (including the diskette):
73 Hickory Road
Sudbury, MA 01776.

The Club Score. We need your cooperation in making sure that your score counts toward the YCCC club score. The Secretary sends in a list of Club members who are eligible to have their scores counted, and you must indicate on your summary sheet that you want your score credited to YCCC. If you don't assign your score to YCCC on the summary sheet, the Club won't get your points (and neither will your team).

If you're a single-op entry, that's all it takes. For multi-op entries the CQWW Committee requires more information. The summary sheet must (as usual) list all the operators. It must also indicate which operators are members of YCCC (and are assigning their share of the score to the Club). Importantly, the summary sheet must allocate the score (by fractions or percentages) among the clubs to which the participating operators belong. This last step is essential if most of the operators belong to some other club -- if the summary sheet doesn't show the allocation, YCCC won't get credit for your share of that big expedition score! (In the past you could handle this by sending an e-mail message or a letter to the CQWW Committee. No longer! They now want the information on the summary sheet.)

Deadlines. SSB entries must be postmarked no later than December 1, 1999; and CW entries, by January 15, 2000.

Please get your log in early!

Rules. Before the contest and again before you send in your log, you should review the rules in the September issue of CQ Magazine (pages 32 and 35).

Single-band Entries. If you're competing as a single-band single-operator entry in CQWW, you may still operate on other bands and contribute your all-band score to the Club. (You may not do anything on the other bands, however --- such as moving multipliers --- that would help your score on your entry band.) Show both your single-band score and your all-band score on your summary sheet, and request that your log on the other bands be considered as a check log. This way you can maximize your contribution to the Club score.

A Contester's View of Dayton 1999

Doug Grant, K1DG

(Note: I started writing this on the way home from Dayton in May, and am just now finishing it in early September! It's been a busy summer.) I need to plan my travel better. This is the second year in a row that I ended up returning a frequent-flier ticket to Dayton due to a last-minute business trip. Assuming I actually get to use it next year, the "free" ticket will have cost me \$70 in "processing fees".

Anyway, my itinerary took me to Dayton via Cincinnati. As I boarded the short flight from Cincinnati to Dayton, I heard a voice behind me ask "Is this the place where I can complain about the Contest Forum being moved to the High School?". It was Mal, W5XX, and he wins the prize for the first complaint. At least he didn't call me John. Or Don. During the flight, I leafed through USA Today, and there was an article about the people lining up to see the first showing of the Star Wars movie. The reporter in the accompanying photo looked enough like KA9FOX to be his twin.

(See Dayton – p. 9)

(Dayton from p. 8)

When we arrived in Dayton, I scrounged a ride downtown from Mal, and arrived at the Crowne Plaza around 4 PM. I hooked up with the PVRC gang and assorted others, and we all went out for Chinese food. It was pretty interesting sitting with K3ZO and hearing tales of ham radio in Asia. Lots of new Chinese private stations are springing up, and there are some band segments allocated to these newbies...including one in the high end of the 15M band. Fred also commented on the new license exam for HF privileges in Thailand...turns out that they copied a lot of the questions from the FCC tests, but some of them don't seem relevant in HS, such as "What is RACES?".

When we got back to the hotel, a well-known contester was demonstrating his latest software in his room...no, not logging software, but stock-charting software. This guy claims to have made a tidy sum last year by analyzing stock charts and timing the stocks ("The Bollinger bands have been narrowing, and it looks like a breakout is coming"). I suggested a few stocks for him to analyze, and he thought some of them looked like good "plays". I also insisted he do his own due diligence, and not to blame me if he lost money. A bit later, I met another contester who had spent a few months day-trading, but in one day lost everything he had gained in a few months. He's sworn off the stuff.

Later, a fair number of guys assembled in the Super Suite (1st floor). Someone decided that N2AA should apply for vanity call "N2AARP". Someone (maybe Gene) noted that there was at least one conversation in the room where people were comparing sigmoidoscopies. I'm not sure what that is, but I don't think it has much to do with run vs. S&P strategies. Or maybe it does...

Friday morning I started the day with a 90-minute conference call back to the office. When that finally ended, AR and I went out to the Arena. There were a few noteworthy items. You may have seen the Alpha/Power ads stating that they had terminated their agreement with the Bulgarian supplier that had been building the Alpha 91B. The supplier has now re-emerged on the market as "ACOM", Krassy, K1LZ, handling U.S. sales. They have a nice new autotune amplifier for sale. It uses a pair of 4CX800s, and appears well-built. Some of the components have Cyrillic markings on them, so you might have to guess what they are if you ever have to fix one. Web page is www.hfpower.com, and the amp is priced in the \$5K range.

Wandering around the flea market with K1AR and W1WEF was fun. At one point, AR found something that N2NT wanted, so he called him on his cell phone. Remember when we used 2M FM for that? Later, AR spotted someone selling Beanie Babies in the flea market, so he pulled out his cellphone, and consulted with Mrs. AR on which ones were needed. Saw someone in the flea market selling something called Gator Clips. Felt like buying some for N5RZ.

Saw two tables next to each other - one had a Cantenna for \$29 (with oil!), the other had a 10kW water-cooled commercial dummy load for \$1500 (water not included). Later in the day, I heard that Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, (the new FCC sheriff on the amateur beat) had observed some guy selling non-type-approved amplifiers in the flea market. After getting the sales pitch (including easy operation on 11 meters), Riley identified himself and suggested that the guy leave the premises or be cited and possibly end up in Federal Prison. The guy left. Speaking of Riley, there was a rumor going around that he plans on setting up some spot inspections of contest stations during a few select weekends this fall. I guess he wants to deal with some complaints of high-power operation. Just a rumor, though.

Inside, there was some news. Force 12 now owns the Triex tower company. MFJ has bought the HyGain ham product line from Telex. Guess merger-mania is hitting the ham business. The Kachina guys keep adding features to their computer-radio. This year, they were operating it by remote control over a 900 MHz radio link. Maybe next year, they'll have one Kachina remote-controlling another Kachina on HF. Where will it all end?

Later, back at the Crowne Plaza, I bumped into K1KNQ in the lobby. He had picked up a rare amplifier in the flea market - a Heath "Kompact Kilowatt". He plans to use it for DXpeditioning. One trip he is planning is for a relative's wedding this fall in Pakistan. When the wedding was announced, Jack asked the bride and groom to set the date for somewhere near the end of October, not the middle, so he would be able to operate CQWW SSB from there. I like his style. We should all have such understanding relatives!

Some of the boys decided they wanted dinner at the Barnsider, out near the Arena. We had a multi-multi going in the room...AR was on that damned cell-phone talking to N2NT, while I was on the room phone calling the restaurant for reservations. That wasn't enough, of course. At the restaurant, AR, N2NC, and N2NT all called KM3T on their cellphones and started a pileup on 800 MHz for him. And we found a potential contester - the waitress in the bar took orders for 11 beers from our gang (mostly different kinds) and got 'em all delivered to the right guy without writing anything down.

(See Dayton - p. 10)

(Dayton from p. 9)

Back at the Crowne Plaza, I found DL6FBL/CN8WW and N5KO/HC8N bemoaning the fact that they had both worked something like 6000 stations in the CQWW, and never worked each other on any band.

Saturday morning was the Contest Forum, once again at Meadowdale High School. It was a great program. First up was the story of the Great CQ 160-Meter Contest Multiop Shoot-out, with K1ZM/W1BB, W2GD, and W8JI describing the battle. The BB/ZM crew had more Qs and mults, but the GD guys had more 10-pointers. ZM's new place on Cape Cod looks like a contesters' dream. The GD QTH at the Coast Guard station at Sandy Hook, NJ, looks like a cold place to climb towers in January. But the best station engineering came from W8JI. He bought a huge parcel of land in rural Georgia, and put up a 320 foot tower for starters. It holds some wires, and is also fed as a vertical. He has a lot of Beverages for receiving... all completely on his land. He says the local farmers ask if they can graze their herds on his land, and he tells them it's OK as long as they don't screw up the antennas. Kind of a nice turnabout from the usual drill. He also has a novel way to select the direction. He sends DTMF tones down the coax to select the direction. This later prompted N2NT to suggest a voice recording at the operating position that says "Welcome to W8JI's listening antennas. For Europe, push 1. For Africa, push 2, for South America and the Caribbean, push 3...".

Next was a report on recent changes at the ARRL Contest Branch. N1ND, the new contest manager, was unable to attend at the last minute, so his boss, K5FUV stood in for him. He reported that the ARRL received over 17,000 contest entries in 1998, an all-time record, and 50% over the number from 10 years ago. They have over 20,000 call signs in the entry database.

Paul, K1XM/V63X, described his experience contesting from Micronesia last fall in the CQWW CW with KQ1F and WA1S. When the luggage finally arrived, they managed to set up a very effective station using just verticals on the beach. Paul and Charlotte also took some very impressive underwater photos on their trip, which they showed in their presentation. I still suspect they are doing something underwater to enhance the antenna performance, but I can't prove it.

K2KW used the 6Y2A operation to discuss how to go about setting up a contest multi-multi expedition. Planning and teamwork are the keys to success. They choose their equipment and antennas on the basis of QSOs per pound. One of their ops (NT1N, ex-W9QA) was quoted as saying, "Be loud or be hosed". K2KW also says "Chicks dig contesters". But remember it was K1XM that spent the whole weekend operating with two women...

I introduced NCJ editor K7BV, and CQ-Contest Editor K3EST to the audience. They are both doing a good job on

"our" publications. At around this time, K1ZM and K1EA strolled through the Forum carrying a big banner that said "We Be Kicking Butt - Yankee Clipper Contest Club". This was a reference to the sound thrashing that YCCC gave FRC last year in the CQWW, largely due to K1ZM's tireless efforts at recruiting and motivating people to operate.

I also wondered if we'll need to use 4-digit "checks" in SS this year, in order to be Y2K compliant.

I tried a roll-call to see how many zones the assembled contesters had operated from. We had representatives from all zones except 18 and 35. Maybe next year.

N6AA filled in for the absent N6TJ. AA, by the way, was able to answer my roll call 33 times - yep, he's operated the CQWW from 33 different zones! TJ was going to talk about ZD8Z, but could not attend at the last minute, and Dick gave a talk on "Where Logging Errors Come From". It was excellent, and very revealing. There are good reasons why experienced ops get the calls right, and less-experienced ops make errors. I'll try to get his slides and give the talk at an upcoming YCCC meeting.

Last, but not least, ON6TT/5X1T talked about the Forgotten multipliers in Africa. When the runs die out, Peter says it's hard to attract the attention of stations running the major population areas ("you guys have no idea what's going on behind your backs!"). He related the story of calling a South American station that had a big W pileup and could not hear him. After a while, the guy with the pileup had 5 different African multipliers calling him (5X, D2, ET3, CN8, 5N). The Africans all started to work each other, and the SA guy never got any of them. The lesson is that you occasionally should listen for stations outside of your run area. It can pay off!

After the Forum ended, I went over to the Arena to finish the flea market, and check out some of the indoor exhibits I missed Friday. Saw some old friends here and there, and found a tuner for K1AR (he has managed to kill his old one, loading up his now-famous dipole on all bands).

(See Dayton - p. 11)

(Dayton from p. 10)

Saw N6TR selling his logging software and Boring ARC T-shirts (proceeds from the shirts pay for certificates for the Kids' Day contests). Ever check out the Boring ARC Web page? It's hysterical, and the email reflector generates some of the funniest radio-related mail I get. And Tree wins the prize for the best badge. Just before Dayton, the closely-checked SS results were published. Many people lost a lot of QSOs for copying errors, and complained that "they" took away good QSOs. Tree (who did a lot of work on the log checking software) wore a badge identifying himself as "They, N6TR".

Inrad seems to be doing well...several new products, mostly new filters and some modifications for FT1000MPs. Top Ten Devices was also there...still cranking out great stuff for serious contesters. Their web site is at www.qth.com/topten. Ten-Tec had a couple of new products - one was the Centaur amplifier - 3x811As giving 600W output in a 40-pound box. Sounds good for DXpeditioning. They also had the Titan II amplifier, with a single 4CX1600B. I think this amplifier was also shown last year. Dunno why it's still "Coming Soon".

Last year, Yaesu announced a cute new radio called the FT100, and it is now apparently available for sale. It is a tiny thing, and covers all the ham bands from 160M through 450 MHz, and throws in a bunch of general-coverage receive bands as well. Looks pretty good in general - there's even a review in the June QST. However, it appears that only the Yaesu hand mike can be used with it (this from a report post-Dayton from a buyer who wanted to use a Heil headset with it).

Speaking of Heil - the Heil booth also had a CD of Bob (K9EID) Heil's organ music for sale. Across from his booth, there was another guy selling CDs of big-band music (and I don't mean 160). I looked it over and then asked him what his booth had to do with ham radio - he admitted "nothing". Hmmm.

WX0B had a new stacking switch - "the Stackmaster" for 4-stacks, with all combinations selectable. He also still produces the Stackmatch boxes and the "Six-Pack" for two-radio antenna switching. Wonder what he'll make for next year. He's probably open to suggestions... Check out www.arraysolutions.com.

Need a rotor repaired? The old "C.A.T.S." is now www.rotordoc.com. I am personally very happy with their waterproof connector replacement for HAM and T2X rotators. Got big antenna plans? Need a REALLY BIG rotator? Try www.prosistel.it and their Big Boy Rotators. To give you an idea of how big these things are, the smallest one weighs in at 48 pounds - almost twice the weight of a Tailtwister! And the biggest one can handle 81 square feet of antenna, which is roughly equal to 6 M2 4-element 40M

beams.

At the other end of the scale, a bunch of the W0 gang were raving about this cute little QRP rig by Elecraft - the K2. It seems to be a 160-10M 10W SSB/CW rig with a real receiver (unlike the usual stuff the QRP guys use). Check out www.elecraft.com to find out more. It's a \$549 kit...looks like a good project for your local radio club to build during the winter then use in FD in the battery category.

Also inside, there was a guy selling telescoping fiberglass poles for \$99. They weigh 3.3 pounds, extend out to about 33 feet, and it seems to me that two of them with appropriately-fastened wires would make a dandy rotary dipole for 40M. And four of em give you the makings of a 2-element full-sized yagi. Check out www.qsl.net/dk9sq.

The hit new product of the show was the teeny little paddle made by K9LU (www.qth.com/k9lu) out of a stationery-store jumbo paper clip. \$10 for the head alone, or \$20 for the head mounted on a wooden base. They actually have a surprisingly nice feel to them. Very clever, and he's selling a ton of 'em.

Saturday afternoon, it was back to the CP to get ready for the Contest Banquet. New members of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame were W2GD and W3LPL - both of these guys are great examples of what contesting is supposed to be all about...both are fine operators and excellent station builders, but also have shown leadership in bringing new ops into the game. The dinner speaker was ARRL Secretary and QST Publisher Dave Sumner, K1ZZ. He told tales of his early experiences in ham radio, with his first love being contesting. In case you haven't been following the accuracy threads on the Internet, or in the magazines, you should know that Dave is consistently one of the most accurate ops in the game today.

I had a family obligation at home that required me to leave Dayton Saturday night, but I managed to run up to the KCDXC suite to get in a run at the pileup tape. A bad year for me...well down in the pack with a score of 54 (but at least I beat AR!). W9WI won it this year with 71 calls, followed by N2AA with 65, W2UP and WA tied for third with 64, and the perennial K3ZO in 5th at 63. Immediately after handing in my paper, I jumped in a cab and made the flight to the airport with minutes to spare.

(See Dayton - p. 12)

(Dayton from p. 11)

The flight home was interesting. In 20+ years of business travel, I have never been the only passenger on a flight - until the flight back to Cincinnati from Dayton. I had a 50-passenger jet all to myself (and the crew, of course). Despite the low loading, they still limited me to one carry-on bag, and made me check the other. It was pretty funny getting off the plane in Cincinnati, where the baggage handler took out my one-suitcase.

So this year's abbreviated Dayton pilgrimage was a lot like last year. New technologies that people think should replace our hobby are complementing it - computers for logging, the Web for finding good radio stuff, and cellphones to check with home to find out which Beanie Babies you need in the flea market. Contesting is alive and well, but it seems like mostly the same group of guys. Still not much new blood coming in, but somehow the scores keep going up.

And I did not see either of those two guys (two VHF guys from the Boston area that I used to see every year in the flea market; never knew their calls or names, but their presence always gave me the feeling that all was right with the hobby). This is the second year that they were not in evidence. Maybe next year.

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1999 RI QSO PARTY

*(For a complete set of Rules contact:
Bob Rogers KB1LN – kb1ln@arrl.net)*

The Rhode Island QSO Party will begin at 0000Z on Saturday October 23rd and end at 2400Z Sunday October 24th. All stations may work during the entire 48-hour period of this contest.

CLUB BONUS POINT STATIONS

KB1LN, N1HRA, KA1VMG, KD1NW, WA1MKS, AA1KM, N1OLF, K1WI, and WB1FDM. Contact with each of these stations counts only once, regardless of band, mode or category.

ONE-TIME BONUS POINT STATION

Contact with WA1RR will count 10 points for a phone contact and 20 points for a digital mode contact. This Special Bonus will count only once, regardless of band, mode or category.

EXCHANGE

Rhode Island Stations - Send signal report and county.

Non-Rhode Island Stations

US Stations - Send signal report and State

Canadian Stations - Send signal report and Province

DX Stations - Send signal report and Country

SCORING

Rhode Island Stations

(1) point per phone QSO with any station

(2) points per digital QSO with any station

(5) points per phone QSO with a RI Bonus Station

(10) points per digital QSO with a RI Bonus Station

Non-Rhode Island Stations

(1) point per phone QSO with any RI Station

(2) points per digital QSO with any RI Station

(5) points per phone QSO with any RI Bonus Station

(10) points per digital QSO with any RI Bonus Station

MULTIPLIERS

5 RI counties

51 States (D.C. is a multiplier separate from MD)

13 Canadian Provinces

1 DXCC country

Non-Rhode Island Stations

Your multiplier is the number of Rhode Island counties worked (5).

FINAL SCORE

Multiply the total QSO points times your multiplier to arrive at your final score.

All logs must be submitted no later than 31 November 1999.

RI QSO PARTY

c/o Bob Rogers KB1LN

PO Box 995

Charlestown, RI 02813

or send ASCII text file to kb1ln@arrl.net

YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF Dues are payable as of the April election meeting, which begins our club "contest year". The YCCC has adopted a multi-tiered membership format as follows: Please note that payment of dues IS NOT a prerequisite for contributing scores to the Club aggregate, but IS for the various YCCC Awards Programs

Full Member - \$20 (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper delivery of Club newsletter)

Full Member - \$15 (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and electronic "Ebutt" delivery of Club newsletter)

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

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. **Mail your dues to the club treasurer, Ric Plummer, KV1W, PO Box 1158, Berlin, MA 01503-2158**

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Doug Scribner K1ZO, preferably by E-mail at k1zo@arri.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** Contact Brad, W1NT bradld@sprynet.com
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 \$62 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 word "subscribe" 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** Rich Wujciak-K2RW. **ARRL LIAISON** is Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
October 9 (Saturday)	General	Worcester, MA
December 5 (Sunday)	General	Worcester, MA
February 6 (Sunday)	General	Worcester, MA

Ship's Log	October, 1999	Issue 144
Captain's Cabin	Don Toman - K2KQ	1
Are You Overdue?		2
Getting Psyched For CQWW '99	Jeff Briggs - K1ZM	3
Where Did All The Points Go?	Dave Hoaglin - K1HT	4
New Crew	Charlotte Richardson - KQ1F	5
Maine Area Meeting		5
W1KM Contest U.	Greg Cronin - W1KM	6
Flotsam and Jetsam	"Barnacle Jack" - W1WEF	6
Submitting Scores For CQWW	Dave Hoaglin - K1HT	7
A Contester's View Of Dayton '99	Doug Grant - K1DG	8
1999 Rhode Island QSO Party		12

The next general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be held Saturday October 9th,
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