



Scuttlebutt

February 2003

Issue 164

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY February - 1st

Captain's Cabin

Chris Terkla, N1XS

We have officially made the halfway point of the contest season. As a Team, our SSB performance fell a bit short from last year, and was cause for some concern. But there were some outstanding efforts that came forward we managed to end up about 6M below FRC's claimed score. There may be a few SSB scores that we don't know, but the 6M deficit is probably reasonably close to the actual number. A few members have chosen to support more regional clubs, which was for several reasons that we will try to address in the upcoming months. And then when CW came around, you all rallied to the cause of the Team, and we have done well here. Our CW score was in excess of 31 Meg greater than last year's CW effort. The net gain will be a 7 - 8 Meg (approximately after UBN assuming the same deduction as last year) improvement over last years total for both modes. Will this be enough? We can only wait and see. We also need to see what FRC has claimed in full for both modes, as well as the dastardly UBN's. We won by a scant 6M last year, time will tell. We improved a little so the results will fall where they may. We ultimately improved our score as a Team, and that is a good thing.

So what went well? Did you have results that were less than desirable? I hope you made some notes and have them ready for the next year, or perhaps the ARRL contests coming up in a few weeks.

There were so many good points to the CQWW contests this year, many improvements and efforts. The efforts made by the Team have been outstanding! There are to many to mention, but as I right this, several come to mind like: W1EBI joining the club in Boxborough and getting on the air for both modes and contributing in excess 1.25M combined, or W1SRG shattering the 1M boundary for the first time in SSB and repeating that same feat in CW. K0TV hustling to get the station on the air and staffed for the first time as a Multi-Op, N3KCJ borrowing

a rig to get on for both modes and making great contributions as a new member. The CT-RI group who although looking to participate as a club in the smaller contests contribute their efforts in CQWW and ARRL to the Team. All of the members who, when mother nature rendered their station inoperable to whatever degree made the effort to get to assist at a multi-op instead of sitting home. I could go on for hours, but suffice to say that to all of you who made the effort to support the Team in one or both modes THANKS to all from the Officers!

Will you be QRV for ARRL DX? It is coming up soon! This is the contest where the world needs to work the US. Have you been practicing your running? The world will want to work us, if you can get on a frequency, even high in the bands, you should be able to get some great runs going in this test. Why not get on a little contest between now and the ARRL DX CW and get a little practice in running. It will improve your score and your abilities, and probably your enjoyment in the contest. We will still be fighting to beat FRC in the ARRL DX contests, and will once again call on each and every one of you folks to get on and support the Team. Are you ready for the challenge? I hope so because the Team needs you!

In the reviews of CQWW however, there is a trend or two that is troubling to me, and I hope to you as well.

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Yankee Clipper Contest Club

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(Continued from Page 1)

When I first was elected to be your president nearly a year ago, on of the first things I did was send a letter to Doug Priest W3CF who was the president on FRC to inquire of their claimed scores for ARRL DX and part of his reply was: *"...we have 190 members and about 140 active....Last time I heard you guys were hovering about 450.....It's like fighting a war of attrition with the Chinese...."* We may have let them off the hook ourselves. We did hover close to 450 for eligible members this year in CQWW, but you know what? Our active participation in CQWW CW was about 150 scores there might be 50 members who supported the mutli-ops in that bringing the total to about 200. In CQWW SSB we have seen numbers only slightly larger than that, the same number supporting the multi-ops and about ten more scores in all. We have certainly reduced our participation enough to give FRC the opening they needed. Every president of the YCCC has always pointed out the FRC's tremendous operators, and how they have in a top 50 comparison been able to beat us. Our strength has always been in our depth. We mustn't lose that Team!

We have a large club, and there will always be reasons why some people may or may not get on and support the Team in the contests, but the large drop off we have seen this year worries me a little? Not everyone can participate in every facet of a Club like ours. But I am certainly curious as to why we have had such a drop off in participation. If you have an opinion on why, and would like to share it with me, please send it along in an email to me at president@yccc.org. I would love to hear about your opinions, and from this maybe we can improve the YCCC as a whole! I would certainly like to get the story from the horses mouth so to speak, and see if there is a way to get us all excited to get on the air in a contest and compete against the FRC or whomever may come along and show then why the YCCC is the premier contesting club that you have all made it.

73 for now. Thanks to all who have helped in the Drive for Five. The waiting game has started as the log checkers settle in with our logs! I know that regardless of the end result, that everyone who got on the air and submitted their score deserves a great hand from us all! KB folks, in everything you do! And let us start 2003 with a major KB job in ARRL DX!

73, Chris N1XS

Flotsam & Jetsam

Jack Schuster W1WEFw1wef@arrl.net

Ahoy Maties! I'm writing this as we're getting set to head South in the motorhome for our 11th year on the road since retiring. I do more casual operating from the motorhome than I do when I'm at home, and can be found most mornings between 6 and 8 AM (local time depending on where we are) and around supper time, around 025 on any band. Looking forward to seeing how my stealth antenna does with the latest mod. In case you didn't see it in the latest Antenna Compendium, I load the ladder on the back of my RV using an Icom AH4 tuner near the base of the ladder. It loads on 80 thru 6M and I can change bands with the IC706 in two seconds. My "mod" is the addition of an 8-ft whip at the top of the ladder, which folds down while driving. It's no longer a "stealth antenna" but may get out better. Look for me and say hello this winter! Of course we come home for ARRL CW...then head out again for a second trip.

Got this note from Kurt Pauer, IV3/W6PH (enjoying Christmas in Italy):

"Jack, I want to give you this one before I forget. Whenever I use U-bolts doing antenna work, I buy muffler clamps of the same diameter as the pipe I am clamping. Throw away the U-bolt (they start rusting immediately) and use the saddle with your stainless steel U-bolt. You never have to worry about deforming the aluminum tubing that you are clamping (within reason) as the saddle holds the shape of the tubing. It never loosens!! "

Enjoyed reading the recent thread about elevated radials on the YCCC reflector. Interesting how many members are in the Broadcast Industry or have had experience in AM, FM or TV broadcasting. We have a wide base of expertise in this club, where you can get answers to any technical question you have! Don't be shy...ask and you'll get answers.

In my last column I talked about phasing headphones to make it sound like the sound is in the center of your head (in-phase) or at each ear. I had gotten a Heil headset with a phasing switch, but decided that the headset was no more comfortable than my old Beyers headset, and decided to just refurbish the Beyers with a new headband and earpads. Having done that, by the second day of CQWW CW, the Beyers headset was killing my ears (just as the Heil did), even though it fit a little looser than the Heil. I made an amazing discovery to relieve the pain. I grabbed a soft Kleenex tissue, lightly crumpled it, and stuck it between the earpad and my ear...and the pain was gone! It may not have looked pretty, but it worked.

One last item before I unplug the computer. Sorry, I can't

help bragging about this one...Dean Straw, N6BV, sent this from the NCCC Reflector:

Jack: Look what they're saying about you! "W1WEF has got something special going on for 10m antenna. W1WEF asked me to QSY to 10M in CQWW from VU3JDI. He was 569 at 2100 local time of VU where 10m to USA was even not possible any time of the day. W3LPL QSYed me to 10m but I couldn't hear a dit just 2 minutes after working W1WEF. I was not even using beam for 10m just a vertical dipole. Strange!!! " Just so you know what a good guy I am, I told Frank Donovan, W3LPL what my secret weapon was... a Th6. Frank's reply..."Jack, I wouldn't even think about changing that antenna!" hi

Oh...did I tell you about the signal report I got on 80 with my new phased 4 squares from a European station right after he worked KC1XX? I was one S unit louder! John Kauffman, W1FV was operating at the time, and it was the night before the boom broke in the ice storm. I wonder if the two inches of ice buildup on his antenna at the time had anything to do with it?

Happy New Year and may you all meet your contest goals in 2003!

Barnacle JACK W1WEF

ARRL DX Dates

Please make sure to mark these dates on your calendar and keep them clear to support the Team in the ARRL DX competitions:

ARRL DX Contest, CW

0000Z, Feb 15 - 2400Z, Feb 16

ARRL DX Contest, Phone

0000Z, Mar 1 - 2400Z, Mar 2

Lets plan on making the Drive for Five a SWEEP! Please plan to be an active part of the Team for these two important contests.

Movers and Shakers

New Email Address

Brian, W2SUQ Work: brian.boerner@sun.com
Home: bmb@adelphia.net

John Corini , KE1IH KE1IH@ARRL.NET

New Call

Marc Camerlin K1TS now K1MZ

W1NR DX Cluster Node

New IP address for w1nr.net is: **66.47.90.124**
Trouble reports to w1nr@arrl.net

Marconi Anniversary

There has been a lot of bandwidth on the reflector regarding the Marconi Anniversary. It has been quite an event! I wish that I had been able to get out to the site and take it in. I believe that the organizers of the events that took place should take a well-deserved bow for their efforts not only for the meat and potatoes of the event but for the extensive media coverage surrounding the event. It is not often that Amateur Radio gets such wide and, from what I have seen, outstanding and positive press. I know that there were many YCCC folks involved, and many more from Providence out to the site on the Cape. Thanks to everyone who helped in so many ways to make this event the huge success it was.

YCCC AWARDS

Have you earned a Clipper or Schooner award? Over 60 members did in each of the 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 seasons. You must contribute a total of 10million points to YCCC in the CQWW and ARRL DX contests to get a Clipper Award and 5 million points for a Schooner Award . Don't miss out , you can do it in the 2002/2003 season. It will look great on the wall in your shack.

Did you earn a 100k award in the CQWW contests? The awards are offered for each contest. All you have to do is contribute 100k more points to YCCC than you did last year to get an award for that contest

Remember we have new categories for awards this season. We have the Rookie award for new contesters and Triband /Single element for those with modest stations.

Awards will be mailed to you if you can't make the meeting when the awards are presented.

Push yourself a little and get recognition for doing it, and also help YCCC be a winner again.

Art Holmes W1RZF Awards Manager

YCCC Meeting Feb 1, 2003 (Sat.) Antennas and propagation

Howard Johnson Hotel at I-95 exit 39A in Milford, CT

It's near the intersections of I-95, I-91, Merritt Parkway. It's on the New Haven Railroad and it's near the Bridgeport/Port Jefferson (LI) ferry. We can arrange to pick up and deliver people who want to walk on the ferry at Long Island.

There's a Friendly's and a Hooters within walking distance. There's plenty of free parking.

Speakers:

- Dean Straw on the latest version of YT (which should be out of Beta testing and released).
- John Corini on how to put up a Rohn 25G, guy it properly, put a mast and antennas on it.
- Ron Block on lightning protection. He's the brother of the founder/owner of Polyphaser and he's written most of the stuff on Polyphaser's website (which is really excellent).

Hope to see you there.

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 or 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, Ed Parish, K1EP, 9 Spoon Way, N. Reading, MA 01864**

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Steve Rodowicz N1SR, preferably by E-mail at **n1sr@arrl.net** or on 3½" disk (in MS-Word format or text file) by snail mail to Steve Rodowicz, 809 Pendleton Avenue, Chicopee, MA 01020. 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 Bob Rogers **KB1LN@yahoo.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 \$68 (delivered) for 2000 cards. Normal turnaround is 30 days after approving proof.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER is posed on the YCCC website. 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. (Do not send messages to the reflector that have file attachments, HTML formatting, use boldface or other fancy fonts, etc.)

WWW HOME PAGE Come visit us at <http://www.yccc.org> Our Webmaster is Mike Gilmer, N2MG.

ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF The W1 QSL BUREAU is sponsored by the YCCC. Keep your account up to date by sending a check. Stamps are sold at face value, envelopes are 10 cents each. Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. 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** Ken Bolin, W1NG **DXAC Hudson** Rich Wujciak-K2RW. **ARRL LIAISON** is Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
Feb 1 1PM - 5PM	General Meeting http://www.yccc.org	Milford, CT
Apr 6 1PM - 5PM	General Meeting http://www.yccc.org	Worcester, MA

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Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Saturday February 1st – 1PM to 5PM

Antennas & Propagation

Howard Johnson Hotel at I-95 exit 39A in Milford, CT

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
44 Williams Road
Lexington, MA 02420-3232

FIRST CLASS MAIL