



Scuttlebutt

August 2004

Issue 173

NEXT MEETING: - Saturday - August 14th

Captain's Cabin

Jim McCobb, WILLU

WILLU@verizon.net

I am writing this on a very heavy evening in early July waiting for the clock to reach 9. And what is at 9 on a Monday evening? The informal YCCC net on 3830. So far its re-intro has not been a flaming success per the numbers, but then again every thing during the summer seems to move along slowly. We are typically getting more than 5 check-ins and less than ten. Hope you will join us when you get a chance. You will be able to get tips on antennas, contesting of course and hear what is going on with summer projects, which of course is all aimed at getting ready for the contest season. Although it sounds like it is a long way off, it really isn't. Before you know it, October will be just around the next corner.

I heard from Krassey, K1LZ, this evening and I guess his contest season is going to get off to an early start, or is it a late finish this year. He is heading down to P40. I assume he is going to be operating in the IARU---lets all wish him well and if possible a Q as well.

This is the boring time of year for me---I am a fall, winter, spring kind of guy. Heat and I don't see eye to eye, although so far this year the weather, like the Red Sox, has been erratic and definitely unhot most of the time. I did some tower work last week, noting a potential problem with the raising cable (which was replaced just six years ago) on my crank-up tower. Looks like replacement in the fall will be in order. Everything else looked good---did the greasing, oiling and tightening of all I could get at. Hope you guys are taking advantage of this unusual weather to get some projects done as well---without the extreme heat.

By the time you read this Boxboro will be around the corner and the Picnic at Tymor Park on July 31 will be either eminent or over. I hope you will have joined us.

Jerry, N1DD, will soon be introducing a new column in the BUTT---Member Profiles. He will be filling us in on some of our members---what they do, their ham career, rigs, antennas, pictures, scores, aspirations, tips, etc. His initial

column will probably be in the October issue---I hope you will provide him with some time and good info should he call you for an interview. Lets help him make this a successful and interesting column.

Steve, N1SR, our Editor is working on a "face lift" for the Butt---it hasn't had one for a long time. I'm told by certain friends that a little extra eye appeal never hurts, plus my son is a graphic artist and one of my daughters is a photographer, both in NYC.

By the way, I am working on the Constitution and By-Laws of the Club. I am looking for ways to bring more in the way of continuity to our operations, increasing our institutional knowledge and taking advantage of the experience of some of our members. Also, the By-Laws could stand some cleaning up in thought and word. Some redundancies would be eliminated as well. And a bit more clarity is in order. A couple of things I am wrestling with include a Board of Directors separate from the officers and the issue of a meeting quorum and what I call a super quorum. The latter might be necessary in order to for example vote in or out officers. If you have any ideas you would like to put forth for consideration in this process, please send them along. It is my intention to present the proposed modified By-Laws to the membership by November 1, 2004, put them in the December Butt if space permits and then ask you to vote on them at the December general meeting.

One thing that I am embarrassed to admit to here is that your not seeing much about contesting in my messages. There is good reason for that: the big contest season was more or less over when I took over in April, but as important and if you haven't gathered as much by now, I am not INTO contesting in lets say a truly passionate way. I do operate contests (having won a couple in the past---SS and NR), mainly DX types and mainly Phone, but my passions evolve around ham

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radio in general and downhill skiing. I don't regret where my passions lie, but I am concerned that contesting is not getting more attention in my messages to you. So, if one of you would like to contribute a few paragraphs on contesting to my future messages, please let me know.

During the past couple of weekends I have attended a couple of meetings that might be of interest to you. There was a Cabinet meeting on the 10th at Boxboro run by Tom K1KI and Mike, K1TWF, Director and Vice Director respectively of the NE Division of the ARRL. There were many different topics discussed by about 30 attendees. The YCCC was well represented. Tom has this meeting prior to Board meetings of the ARRL so that he can obtain information from the Cabinet that drives some of the issues that he brings up before the full board of ARRL.

This past weekend the ARRL had its Board meeting starting Friday morning and ending Saturday afternoon. As some of you may know, there are plenty of members of YCCC attending this Board meeting as officials and Board members. There were many topics discussed at these meetings. And yes, the major one was probably BPL. With all the information flowing, much of which is readily available to all of you, all I can say is that it is receiving lots of attention on many fronts and a slew of alliances are being build with other interested organizations of various ilk. The League is doing all it can to at least neutralize if not sink this very important issue. Also, a large number of hams are participating in this effort from all over the country. A number of new strategies were developed during the meeting.

I hope you have marked your calendar for the fall contest season. Even though my kids are all grown and out of the house, reserving certain weekends early is an absolute necessity.

Hope you all have a great summer and maybe we will get the opportunity to see some of you at the Tymor Park picnic and/or at Boxboro.

73, Jim WILLU

New Publisher

Please join with me in congratulating John, KO1H in his new position as Publisher of the Scuttlebutt and wish him well. Also, I want to take this opportunity to thank Bob, KB1LN, for having filled the position in the recent past. I wish him well as a newly "retired" volunteer to YCCC. Hopefully we will again see him as a volunteer some time in the future.

- Jim, WILLU

**YCCC Regular Meeting
June 5, 2004
Nashua, NH**

The June meeting was convened at the Holiday Inn in Nashua, NH, with a smaller-than-usual 20 attendees. Jim WILLU called the meeting to order at 1:15pm. Attendees introduced themselves in traditional YCCC fashion. The first order of business was to elect Mark, KF1V, as Secretary pro-tem, as George W1EBI was absent for a very important birthday party (Secretary's note: grandson's first birthday trumped YCCC).

The previous minutes and Secretary's report were read and accepted.

The new officers then provided a description of their ham radio and contest experience. A copy of KF1V's presentation can be viewed on the YCCC website.

Jim K1IR gave a briefing on this year's experience at Dayton. While turnout appeared to be down from last year the participants had a great time and the contest forums/dinner were well attended.

Ed K1EP gave the Treasurer's Report. Ed also provided a eulogy for Jim Dalterio KZ1M (SK).

Tim KT1W provided a briefing on Boxboro 2004, which is scheduled for August 13, 14, and 15th. He said the committee was looking for a volunteer to serve as parking lot manager. If interested please contact KT1W as soon as possible since Boxboro is only weeks away. Tickets for Boxboro are available on the web at <http://www.boxboro.org/2004>.

Dave K1NQ provided an in-depth contest log analysis which proved to be very interesting. During the past several months Dave compiled logs from some of the top multi-op contest stations and did a comparison from those logs versus antenna performance at the respective stations. His research was able to identify possible performance issues (antenna, operator, etc) as they differed between the various contest stations. The research also provided insight into run rates, search and pounce percentages, and packet usage. The analysis is quite extensive but if you drop K1NQ an email (jordand@tycoelectronics.com) he may be able to analyze your log(s) if time permits.

Door prizes as well as coffee, soda, and refreshments complemented the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted (with thanks to Mark KF1V)
George Harlem W1EBI

**YCCC Regular Meeting
Saturday,
August 14th, 2004
New England Division Convention
Holiday Inn Conference Center
Boxboro, MA**

**Federal Room
1pm to 5pm**

Speakers

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1:15pm | Dean Straw "Terrain Analysis: YCCC Case Studies." |
| 2:30pm | Tom Frenaye Awards for W1 QSL bureau |
| 2:45pm | David Jordan "Effective wire antennas you can build." |
| 4:00pm | Krassey Petkov "PEI Contesting from VY2ZM: Not your basic Caribbean DX-pedition." |

Flotsam & Jetsam

Jack Schuster W1WEF w1wef@arrl.net

Ahoy Maties!

It's Friday afternoon before the IARU Contest, and I'm just about ready. Steve Rodowicz reminded me of the deadline for the August Butt this morning so I thought I'd better get started.

One item I've been meaning to mention is to encourage more members to write articles for the Scuttlebutt. Anything you think might be of interest is welcome I'm sure, and I am not referring just to input for this column. Write it up, and send it to Steve, N1SR.

Of course I still welcome tidbits for Flotsam and Jetsam.

I came home from Cape Cod and left the fantastic fishing to operate and check the station out, since I've been away since the end of May. Although I volunteered to write a Cookbook chapter on getting ready for a contest, let me just review what I've done for this one.

While still on Cape, I reviewed the rules, downloaded a listing of ITU Society Abbreviations, and looked at results of last year's IARU contest on-line. First thing I did when I got home Wednesday night was to fire up the station to see if everything still worked. Good thing I didn't wait until the last minute, because my monitor died Thursday morning! Fortunately I had a backup monitor which was the same model NEC as the original, so I didn't have to deal with new RFI problems with a brand new monitor.

While checking 160 the SWR jumped suddenly. Turned out the vertical portion of the Inverted L got tangled with a TH6 element. I had left a lot of slack in the wire while away, to minimize stress from wind blowing the tree on the far end. Turning the antenna and adjusting the wires cleared up that problem.

Thursday morning I checked the 4 square wires and walked the beverage. Found only a few radials that needed support, as well as one or two places on the Eu beverage. Spooked a deer but fortunately didn't find any rattlers or bear! (Last year I almost stepped on a 4 foot rattlesnake in my driveway, and recently the first black bear sighting ever in town was not far from my QTH!)

I can't believe how much the trees around my tower have grown this year. Possibly as a result of trees being closer, SWR on my stack wasn't as good as it used to be, and I decided to just use the two higher TH6's. The lower TH6 fixed on Europe was often better on ten in better times of the cycle, but I don't expect much on ten this year. I marked the amplifier settings for the stack with just the two antennas.

I had downloaded the Randy's latest Super Check Partial file while on the Cape, and saved it on a floppy disk. When I tried to load it at home I got an error message, so I downloaded again here, saved on floppy and got another similar message. I'm not sure at this point if it's a computer

problem here or what, but decided to go with the previous scp file.

During the day Thursday and Friday (nice being retired) I got on the bands to check propagation, which I found very up and down. I used the CT 991 program that I'll use in the contest, checked for RF into the computer on all bands in case anything had changed, and set the clock to WWV. Everything seems ready except the operator who hasn't slept well the past two nights! Despite trying to get more sleep than usual, I got less.

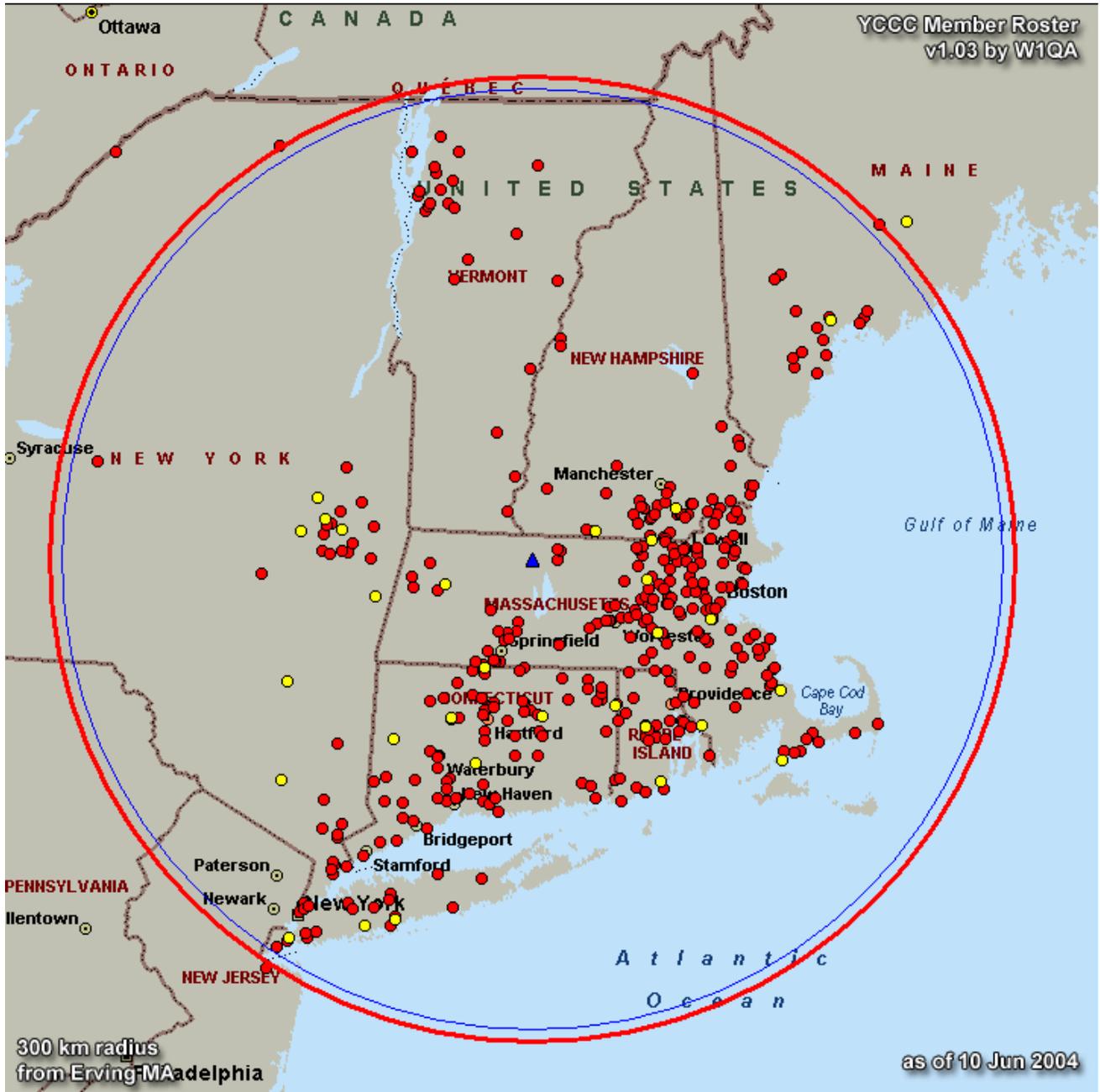
This could turn out to be a very boring contest. Went out and stocked up on a few sandwiches, and instant coffee, as I figure I'll try to stick with it no matter what for the 24 hours. Sure would be nice to be number 1 on CW Hi Power again this year!

Here's a photo of the fencing I wrap around the bottom of my tower to avoid being an "attractive nuisance" should any kids discover it.



See you in Boxboro Barnacle JACK w1wef@arrl.net

YCCC Country



YCCC shipmate distribution within “YCCC Country”
courtesy of Bob, W1QA.

10/15 M Dual Band Dual feed 26-foot Boom

5 elements on 10m 10.2 dBi 17 dB F/B 28-28.7 MHz

4 Elements on 15m 9.0 dBi 17 dB F/B 21-21.45 MHz

Dave Jordan, K1NQ, 4/2004 Rev1

Description:

This is an interlaced 10 and 15m mono-band yagi on a 26 foot 2" boom with separate feeds for both bands. This design is a trade off between reasonable Gain and F/B while maintaining a VSWR of 2:1 or less across both bands. This antenna was design to solve a need at the K1IR contest station. K1IR did not have the available room for a 3 high christmas tree stack on mono-band antennas on his tower and did not want degraded performance associated with a short stack on yagi antennas typically installed on the top of a tower. The antenna described has been successfully used as the main 10/15M antenna at K1IR M/S station in all 4 major contests in the last year. K1IR has reported excellent results using this dual-band solution. This design is built around DX engineering hardware to keep the machine fabrication to a minimum. No attempt has been made to balance the weight distribution of the yagi. A dummy PVC element placed towards the front of the boom is recommended to compensate.

Background:

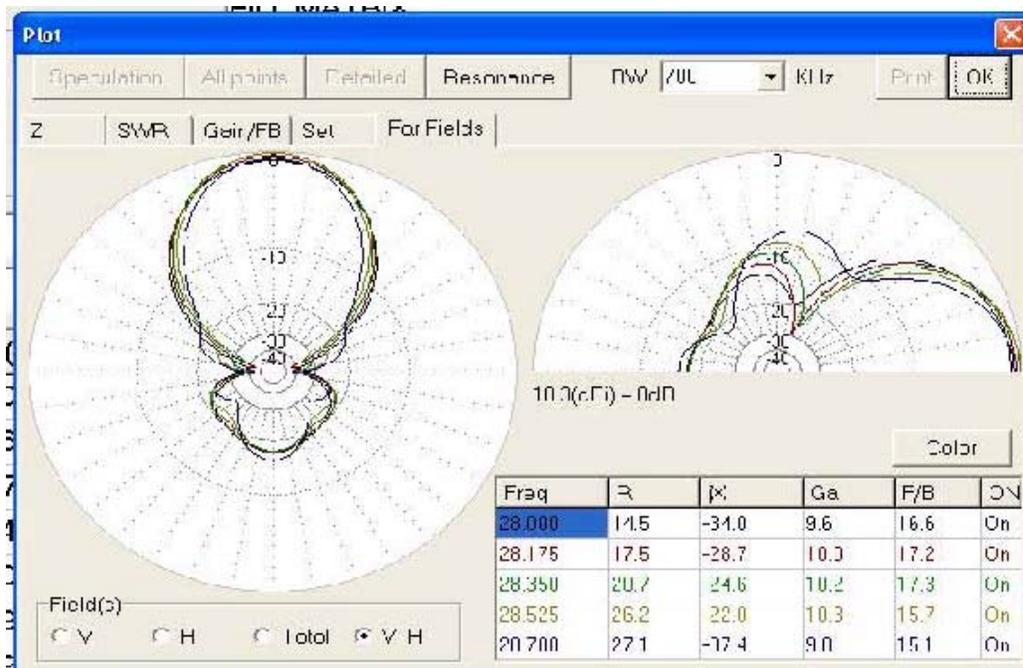
In a closely spaced installation of 10 and 15m mono band yagi antenna, the typical separation distance is anywhere from 5 to 10 feet. The general rule of thumb is 1/2 the boom

length or 10% of the lowest frequency of the two closely spaced yagis. With the advent of NEC and Mininec variants available to model antennas, it becomes quite clear the 10m yagi will suffer greatly if placed within 15 feet of the 15 or 20m yagi. It is not uncommon to have a reduction in gain of 3 dB on 10m with this typical installation and yet see no ill effects in VSWR or F/B. While it is beyond the scope of this design article to go into great depths on the subject of closely spaced antenna, this design solves the interaction issue and is offered as a reasonable solution.

Unfortunately, there are very few manufactures of these kinds of antennas so we are forced to design our own.

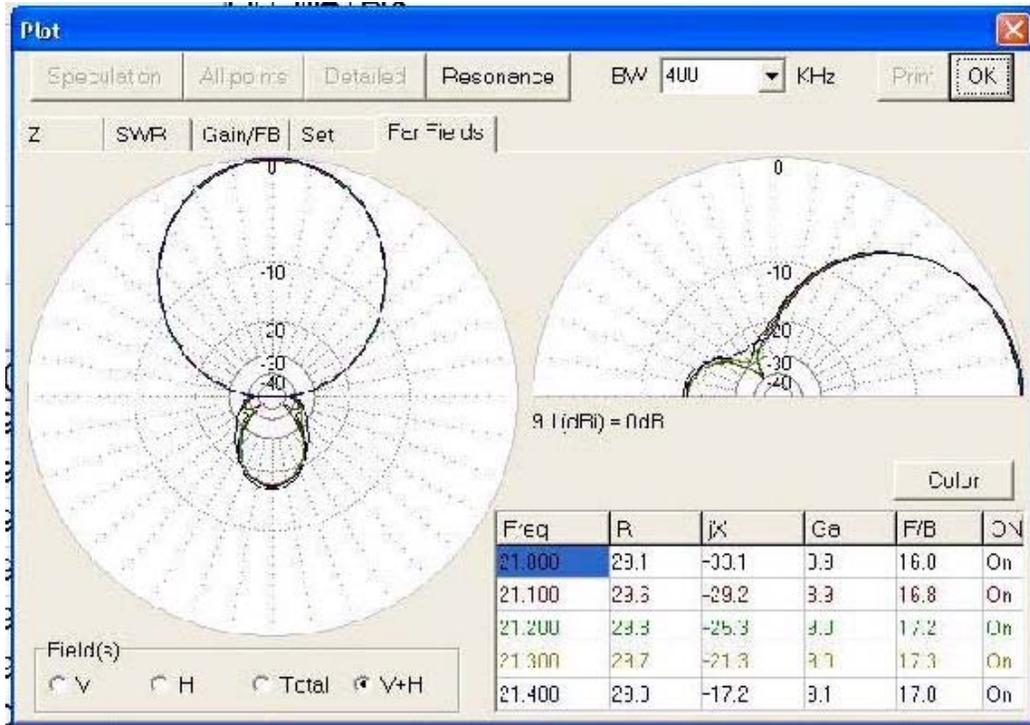
The specs are as follows:

Freq	Gain (dBi)	F/B	Zin	Matched
28.0	9.6	16.6	14.5-j34	1.85:1
28.35	10.2	17.3	20-j25	1:1
28.7	9.8	15.1	27-j37	1.85:1
21.0	8.9	16.0	29-j33	1.4:1
21.22	9.0	17.2	30-j25	1:1
21.45	9.1	17.0	29-j15	1.4:1



Gain on 10M

note sidelobes on 10m due to phase errors from 15m elements



Gain on 15M

Construction:

Elements are made up as follows except for both driven elements which are split down the center.

	Half Element Lengths				(exposed lengths)
	0.875	0.75	0.625	0.5	*.5"dia can be .049WT
150.875	18	32	20	71.5	R15
-126		14	32	62.313	R10
-76.85		14	32	51.25	DE 10
-48.25	18	32	20	63	DE15
-22.875		14	32	53.75	D10-1
21.75	18	32	20	61.438	D15-1
68.875		14	32	53.188	D10-2
126	18	32	20	48.25	D15-2 Not a typo
150.875		14	32	52.625	D10-3

Use min 4" overlap

Directors and reflectors are mounted in DX – Engineering DXE-BEP-4 plates (3.5"x8"x.190"). Driven elements are cut in half and drilled to fit DX Engineering DXEBEB-2 insulated element brackets. See DX Engineering web site for info www.dxengineering.com

A short length of 6" long .875"dia tubing should be slipped over the ends of the 10m director to fit the bracket and strengthen the joint.

On the 15M DE, a 6" pc of .75" tubing should be inserted in to the open end of the 7/8 tube to strengthen the joint.

In all cases, the tubing overlap should be at least 4". The lengths above are the exposed lengths only. Use rivets, SS screws with nylock nuts, or SS hose clamps to lock the joints.

The 1/2" dia tips of both DE should be attached with hose

clamps for tuning and the overlap should be 8" to accommodate SWR adjustments. For long term reliability, some form of anti oxidize compound should be used at each joint.

Feed System:

The feed system used the DX Engineering beta match DXE-HMS-1P on each driven element. You may fabricate your own system. The beta matches should be positioned to cause least interference with the driven elements, toward REF works if you trim them.

Preset the beta matches as detailed below. It is recommended that a coaxial choke be made for each DE. 6T of RG213 or Equiv on a 4" dia form in solenoid style should be all that is required. Strip ends of cable and solder on lugs to attach to beta match. Seal coax and keep these pigtails as short as

The YCCC Scuttlebutt

possible as they add to the driven element lengths.

Boom

- Cut the 1.875" tube into 3 pc's 6", 32" and 108" long.
- Mark the center of the 108" tube and insert into 1 end of the 2"X12' tube
- Pin with 2 1/4"x20 SS bolts place bolts so they will not interfere w/ element clamps
- Slide other 12' - 2"od over other end of 1.875" tube. Pin 2 places with 1/4X20 SS bolts.
- Install 6" pc of 1.875" tube flush on one end of 24ft assy. Rivet in place, this is the reflector end.
- Install 32' 1.875" tube in the other end of the 2" boom assy. Pin with 2-10-24 -2.5" SS screws leaving 24" of the 1.875" tube exposed to make boom 26' long
- Mark 4.5" in from 6" tube end and mark locations for all elements.

Elements

- Build elements as marked leaving exposed lengths from chart for each section.
- It is recommend that elements are cut with a high quality tubing cutter not a hack saw.
- You can find a high quality tubing cutter at Home depot for about \$25. Don't use the handyman special but buy a quality tubing cutter.

The center tubes of both DE are cut in half. Install the 6" tubes (.625 for 15m and .875 for 10m) flush with the cut ends. Using a center punch, carefully dimple tubes 5" in from ends to lock in place. Don't worry the insulated DX Engineering element clamps and hardware kits will secure the elements. I suggest 3/4 to 1" air gap between the driven element tubes when mounting them in the clamps. On the

DE, slot the 5/8" tube to allow adjustment of the 1/2" tube for VSWR. 3X rivets or 2 #8 SS screws and nylock nuts are suggested methods to join the tubing sections. You may want to slot all the 5/8" tubes for future adjustments and keep the other joints fixed. Mount the elements per the location chart. Do not over tighten. You may want to check the beam for balance before installing on the tower. A 1.5" sch 40 PVC pipe place near the director end can be used to better balance the beam. See ARRL antenna handbook for details.

Tuning

The antenna is best tuned at minimum of 10 feet above the ground. A minor shift will occur after installation on the tower but not enough to warrant concern. Attach a balun/coax cable to the 15m DE. Adjust for best match in center of band. Check the band edges. VSWR should be less that 1.6 or 1.7 across the band. You may need to shorten the DE if you used a long pigtail on the coax to beta match connection. Next follow the same procedure for 10m. Matching will be more difficult. Expect a 1.9:1 or less across the 28-28.7 MHz band. The effects of the pigtail will be dramatic on this band. Set the beta match per the table and adjust the element tips to center the VSWR then adjust the beta match. The beta match rods are over 30" long 10m beta match dim 5.75" trim off excess so it will not touch other elements. 15m beta match dim 11.75" trim off excess so it will not touch other elements.

Boom truss and other hardware

See DX Engineering web site and documentation for details

Place each boom truss clamps in a convenient location about 2/3's the distance out from the boom center on each side.

See <http://www.yccc.org> for full information including an itemized list of parts with DxEngineering and Texas Tower pricing.

Word of Caution

If you are planning to use this antenna in a multi radio environment you may need coaxial band stubs or bandpass filters similar to ICE or equiv. on each feed line. Test interference at low power levels at first to determine filtering requirements. Make necessary stubs or install BPF units as required per your installation. You may use this text to build your own antenna for non commercial applications. Author is not responsible for any damages. Installing antennas can be dangerous. Please use caution during installation due to inherent weight distribution on the boom may make the antenna tip. You must balance the weight to limit this effect. Please keep antenna away from power lines.

If you are not sure how to build or install this antenna safely, please have a professional assist you.

Thanks to Jim, K1IR for letting me design this antenna for his contest station. Element scaling was done on W6NL spreadsheet. Antenna was designed using MMANA and MMANA NEC2.

Dave Jordan 4/8/04 K1NQ

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.

Advertising in Scuttlebutt: Nominal Business Card sized ad, \$50 per year (6 appearances)

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 Dick Greene, WC1M **Hudson** John Crovelli, W2GD **Atlantic** Rus Healy, K2UA

DXAC: New England Ken Bolin, W1NG **Hudson** Angel Garcia, WA2VUY **Atlantic** Tony Gargano, N2SS

ARRL LIAISON: Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

Upcoming Meetings

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Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Saturday, August 14th – 1:00PM - 5:00PM

ARRL New England Division Convention

Holiday Inn Conference Center, Boxboro, MA

Federal Room

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
PO Box 995
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