



Scuttlebutt

October 2004

Issue 174

NEXT MEETING: - Saturday - October 9th

Captain's Cabin

Jim McCobb, WILLU

WILLU@verizon.net

This evening I am sitting here writing and listening to 15 meters with a few JA's coming through with fairly good signals---makes for happiness in my ears. I am always on the lookout for such openings because at one time I operated as KA8JM, when KA's were US Personnel operating in JA. For me that was 1964 located on the Northern Honshu in the coastal town of Misawa. At that time the base mission was "listening" and reconnaissance. So it is good to hear the JA's coming through because that means, if conditions hold up, that we might have a good MUF up to 15 for the contest season coming up---hope so.

Although it is not quite over, we had a pretty good summer, what we had of it. The June meeting had very modest attendance, while the Boxboro meeting turned out to be a success in various ways. First we had some nice presentations from Dean, N6BV, Dave K1NQ and Krassey, K1LZ. I want to thank this trio for the work they did putting together their presentations and for their successful effort. All three went over well with the attendees, which turned out to be about 86 members and about 15 non'. From the non's we ended up with 9 new members. Welcome aboard! The crew that ran the Boxboro Hamfest was comprised of many YCCC members who are to be congratulated for their efforts. I was there for most of Saturday, attended the dinner and departed Sunday morning. And yes, I did leave some money behind with the vendors. Also, congrats to our members, of which there were many, who received awards from the W! QSL bureau. Thanks for the hard work.

During the Hamfest, Ed, K1EP and Chris, N1XS announced the winner of the DXpedition Program. For those of you that were not there, it was Jesse Logan Cottingham, KB1GWT, a 15-year-old General Class amateur and club member, located in Otisfield, Maine. Elsewhere in this issue of the Butt you will find more info on Jesse and his plans.

Our next meeting is schedule for October 9, 2004, at Worcester State. We did attempt to book a hotel in Sturbridge as suggested by some of our members, but either they did not wish to give us a commitment in advance or did not want us on a Saturday. So---we booked our previous stomping grounds. We will be meeting at 1 PM and we will supply lunch. We will soon post a menu on the site. My guess is that that the meeting should be over by 4 or so. We are planning on a contesting panel and breakout groups, plus a couple of brief presentations by officers. At least one of the presentations will be by yours truly at which time I will give you a summary on what I will propose to the membership at the /December meeting regarding modifications to the By-Laws. This will be brief and no vote will be called for at this time.

So, come on over to the meeting if you have the time, we'd love to see you. And bring along a friend---either a fellow member or a potential new member would be nice too. There will be ample opportunity to do some matchmaking during the meeting---I will supply time during the meeting to fulfill this very important task. As I previously mentioned, there will be a meaningful free door prize, which should be of particular to CW op's. But no fone op would turn it down. And by the way, many of you are still behind on your dues, so please check in with Ed and George and get yourself brought up to date.

And for those of you that are wondering, it is my intent to bring along hard copies of the Contest Cookbook for 04/05, edited and published by Mike, W7OT and his XYL Lisa, K7UQT. Your Secretary, W1EBI and yours truly made some editing contributions as well. My thanks to the authors, we all appreciate your efforts. Most of the articles contained in this years Cookbook were written this year and of course, the charts by N6BV were prepared for this contesting season. The Cookbook, in addition to being distributed at the meeting will be posted on our web site in both Word and PDF form.

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All of you may not get this on time, but the Hoss Trader's will be having their Flea Market on Friday, October 1st and Saturday the 2nd. As usual, of late, it will be help in Hopkinton, NH Hope to see many of you there and with a bit of luck the weather will be almost as good as the Spring meet.

Well what do you think is next on the agenda for many of us after the October 9th meeting? I hope it is the first big contest of the season---CQWW DX Phone---on October 30 and 31st, starting of course Friday evening for us here on the east coast. Conditions seem to be improving every day and hopefully they will continue to do so---as promised by Dean, N6BV. Yes, that was a promise of yours wasn't it? I am now in my check-off mode; that is, I am reviewing my pre-contest check list in order to be sure that all is working properly, from A to Z. I have not set any goals yet, but will do so in the next few weeks. All I can say at this point is that if my body holds up, it should be better than last year. Some may say that anything should be better than my last years score---probably close to true.

With all of that said, I hope many of you will join in the four major DX contests, which will be our primary target for this contest season. Whether you are shooting for a big score or you just want to work some new countries, I hope you will submit your scores, no matter how large or small, for credit to the YCCC effort. Also, to the SS'ers of the Club, I wish you well. Unfortunately my days of SS'ing are now behind me. And by the way, along the way, please check with our Treasurer or Secretary to be sure that your dues are current; otherwise, your score may not qualify to be on our list.

Have a great contesting season and look forward to seeing many of you at Worcester State on the 9th.

73, Jim W1LLU

Youth Scholarship Program

The YCCC is offering a \$1500.00 Scholarship to a College bound youth in memory of YCCC Silent Keys, past and future. Young hams living in our territory or attending college within YCCC territory qualify to apply. The program is being administered by the American Radio Relay League Foundation (ARRLF). The Foundation has many scholarships available including ours and it's never too early to start the process. Downloadable applications, information and instructions are available at www.arrl.org/arrlf.

Flotsam & Jetsam

Jack Schuster W1WEF w1wef@arrl.net

Ahoy Maties!

Summer is over and Contest Season is here! Although this is being written on Cape Cod, I was back in Ct to check out the station last week and enjoy one of my favorite contests, the North American Sprint. Conditions were actually pretty good, and the few Europeans that called in off the back of the beam even had pretty good signals. Despite my thoughts last year that I would do a single band and sleep more next time in CQWW, I'm now recalling the fun part of doing all bands and am looking forward to yet another all band "all-out" effort!

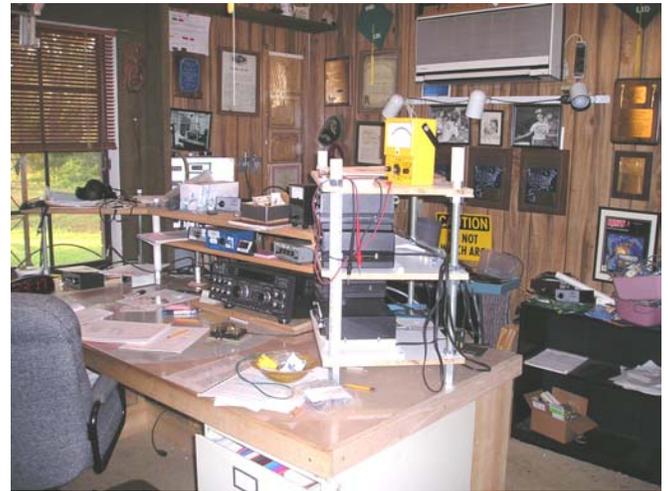
In checking the station out for the Sprint, I found several downed elevated radials, from big trees or fallen branches. After repairing radials, I attacked a high (2.5:1) SWR problem on middle TH6 at 75 ft. I brought down the driven element, the only trapped element easily reached, and opened the traps to find an unbelievable amount of grass and other garbage inside. The photo below shows the end of one trap, but another was totally packed in the center like you wouldn't believe!



Hy-Gain Traps

For those unfamiliar with Hy-Gain traps, there are drain holes in the bottom that bugs find inviting. After cleaning them out, and replacing the DE the SWR was back to 1:1. I guess I should be grateful that the bugs only like driven elements! (Note: Cushcraft A3 & A4 use traps of similar construction that are also subject to foreign intrusion.)

When I returned to Connecticut and used my 15 inch computer monitor after using this 17 incher on the Cape, I decided it was time to upgrade the Connecticut station. I would have done it long ago, but a larger monitor wouldn't fit under the shelf that supports the amp and other accessories.



K4OJ Shelves

Recently on the CQ-contest reflector, Ellen White, W1YL, offered a photo of the adjustable shelf that K4OJ had built using threaded rod as legs with washers and nuts to support the shelves. I think I'll adapt Jim's idea to my shelf and design for a future 19 inch monitor while I'm at it. Threaded rod is available at places like Home Depot, Lowe's, and hardware stores everywhere. If you don't like looking at the rod, inexpensive PVC pipe can be cut to cover it as Jim did, and it could even be painted. Looking closely at the photo Ellen sent, I'm reminded of K4OJ's great sense of humor. On the wall is a sign that says "WARNING Do not look at ARC".

As much as I love the CW Sprint, I have been missing the February running because of our RV travels. Thanks to K3LR who decided to put the rare Kansas multiplier on in September by driving to Kansas, and operating with a IC706, a wire antenna, and laptop, Tim has inspired me to do the same while I'm on the road. Maybe I'll put another rare one on in February. I'll have to remember to load the logging program on my laptop before I leave, and also to bring a CW interface!!!

I hope our ham friends in Florida and along the Gulf coast weren't hurt too badly by the devastating hurricanes this year. We have traveled along those coastal roads shown on TV every year since I retired, and can perhaps appreciate the tremendous losses more having seen what was there before.

73 KB Barnacle Jack W1WEF

YCCC Regular Meeting August 14, 2004 Boxborough, MA

The August 2004 meeting was called to order just after 1:00pm by Jim McCobb WILLU at the Holiday Inn Boxborough Woods in Boxborough, MA. This was our biannual opportunity to reach out to the amateur radio community in general with an open regular meeting at the ARRL New England Division convention and hamfest, "Boxboro 2004."

Jim briefly summarized the four-hour agenda, then introduced the keynote speaker, Dean Straw N6BV, Senior Assistant Technical Editor, ARRL, and an Honorary Life Member of YCCC. Dean's presentation, "Terrain Analysis: Some YCCC Case Studies," explored the applications of High Frequency Terrain Assessment (HFTA), a powerful Windows-based program that just happens to be included with *The ARRL Antenna Book*, to analyze the predicted performance of HF antenna arrays as a function of the surrounding terrain profile in the far field of the antenna farms of several top contest stations. As always, Dean's presentation was well illustrated with numerous maps, charts and calculations. The presentation has been uploaded to the YCCC website under "Articles."

Jim WILLU introduced nine prospective new YCCC members who were present, the largest number to attend a single meeting in recent years. After being elected by acclamation, the following new members were welcomed on board:

NW1A	Bob Dyk
K1BG	Bruce Blain
W1BYH	Norm Rivers
AB1DR	Ann Byers
WB1DX	Ken Miller
KB1JZU	Bob Montemerlo
N1WJ	Jay Desmond
NT2Y	Eugene Pokatilov
KL7JT	Steve Stutman

Total meeting attendance, which varied as the afternoon progressed, was easily over 100. While 84 attendees self-spotted (Note--we actually encourage this practice at club meetings), several other members and guests spotted during the session missed the sign-in sheet.

Art Holmes W1RZF, W1 QSL Bureau Manager, and Tom Frenaye K1KI, ARRL New England Division Director, presented service awards to local New England clubs for their efforts in support of the W1 QSL Bureau. After an explanation of the card sorting process, Art singled out for special thanks four area clubs: Candlewood ARC, Falmouth ARA, Great Bay (NH) ARA, and Nashoba Valley ARC. Art and Tom handed out service recognition awards to several

individual volunteer sorters with ten or more years of service, with special thanks to Charlotte Richardson KQ1F for 20 years of service, and to Bob Bernard W1URV and xyl Valerie WA1ULY for their amazing 26 years of card-sorting service.

Treasurer Ed Parish K1EP and past-president Chris Terkla N1XS jointly presented the results of the First Annual YCCC DXpedition Award program. Profits from the raffle last April will be used to help fund travel expenses for a new or young ham to join a YCCC-authorized contest DXpedition during one of the four major contests in the 2004-05 season. The announced winner of the \$1,500 prize was Jesse Cottingham KB1GWT, 15, a General-class ham from Otisfield, ME. An additional \$1,500 from the raffle will go into a scholarship fund to be administered by ARRL on behalf of YCCC.

Dave Jordan K1NQ gave his presentation, "Effective Wire Antennas for DX and Contesting." Dave, a professional antenna design engineer, described a triband wire Yagi, a 2-element Moxon wire Yagi, and a halfsquare. Each of these wire-only designs is easy to build, features low cost, is easy to tune, and offers several dB gain over a dipole.

The day's final presentation was a captivating saga of radiosport determination by Krassy Petkov K1LZ, who, along with Jeff Briggs K1ZM, walked through neck-high snowdrifts from a monster snowstorm to reach Jeff's place in PEI for the ARRL CW contest last February. That they eventually made it to the house and posted great SOSB scores from VY2ZM (Krassy's 1211/98 as VY2LZ on 80m is the new W/VE 80m record, while Jeff's 468/76 was his second consecutive 160m SOSB win) seemed far less amazing than the hair-raising tale of merely transporting themselves from Logan Airport to Jeff's place. A great finish to a well-attended session.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
George Harlem W1EBI

PROFILES

by Jerry Woodworth N1DD

Jim asked me to write a profiles column for each issue of the Butt. We will focus on ops who make a contribution to YCCC, officers, appointees, regular contributors, not just the big guns, and anyone else that may have an interesting story. The early columns will cover some of the officers, as some of us members would like to know more about the folks who lead our club. If anyone wants to nominate the subject of a future column, please contact me at jerry.woodworth at comcast.net.

It was easy to start with Jim McCobb, WILLU, as I have known him for at least 30 years. We met while working in finance and accounting for the old Shawmut Bank. Over the years we have worked together on many antenna projects, some successful, others less so.

Jim was first licensed in 1959 as KN1LLU. A tech license in 1960 was followed by a general in 1961, an advanced in 1974, and an extra in 1997. He changed his call to WILLU, which he admits was not a good contesting move. The "W" is elongated which makes for more repeats than the more distinct "K".

Jim started contesting in the novice roundup and finished 10th nationally in his first try. Over the years he has contested regularly, sometimes for score, sometimes casually. Since joining YCCC a few years ago, he usually scores about a million points in the dx contests. I have watched Jim proficiently operate cw, but he prefers ssb. Favorite contest is CQWW, but you can find him in ARRL DX and Sweepstakes where he has one EMA certificate.

In 2002, Jim operated from V31JR in m/s in ARRL DX, which was one of his more interesting contest experiences. He wrote about being a newbe in contest expeditioning in QST, Aug 2003, and relates the following story. Jim was operating the night shift and went outside to change the antenna from 80 to 160. The wild dogs in the area made for an interesting trip. The next night his neighbor left meat for the dogs when Jim did his antenna work, and V31JR was quickly back on the air.

Jim also likes to restore equipment from the mid to late 1950's, by repairing the electronics but especially enjoys restoring the cabinets and cosmetics. He has owned and restored several Collins 75A4's, 51J4's, and KWS1, as well as some Hallicrafter and Central Electronics equipment. Jim doesn't do it for the money, although with the increase in value of vintage equipment, the restoration efforts have resulted in several pieces of modern equipment for his shack. The current project is an HW101.

The present line up is a FT1000D as the primary contest radio plus an Acom 2000. Also on board are an Icom 781

and a JST 245. A Bencher Skyhawk tribander and an M2-2 element linear loaded 40 sit atop a 70-foot crank up tower. A 65-foot vertical covers 75 with a small plug in coil at the base for 80. An inverted L for 160 runs alongside the aluminum vertical and is fed in parallel. This summer, WILLU replaced the small number of radials with a ground screen as his property is so densely wooded that an extensive field of conventional radials was most difficult. The ground screen is 50 strips of aluminum gutter guard each 6 inches wide and 20 feet long. We will all see if it plays in the coming dx contests.

Jim graduated from Bentley College with a degree in accounting. He spent his career in banking and finance and was president of two different community banks. Jim retired a few years ago, but keeps busy as a pension fund investment advisor and board member of a range of community and charitable activities. He has also been an advisor to a mutual fund and a past board member of two hospitals.

WILLU appears in QST as the Treasurer of ARRL. As such, he makes stock and bond investment decisions for the league's investment portfolio. Other duties are advisor for ARRL's pension fund and Treasurer of the ARRL Foundation. Jim also serves on the administration and finance committee.

A few more facts in closing-Jim resides with his wife, Rosemarie, in West Newbury, MA. He has three adult children. A son and daughter live in New York City and when last heard have not succumbed to the influence of the Evil Empire. One daughter lives in New Hampshire. Jim's other hobbies are woodworking and downhill skiing, and he has had a few broken bones to prove it.

Movers & Shakers

New Members

At Boxboro General Meeting :

Bob Dyk, NW1A	Falmouth, ME
Bruce Blain, K1BG	Harvard, MA
Norman Rivers, W1BYH	Leominster, MA
Ann Byers, AB1DR	Newton, NH
Ken Miller, WB1DX	Sterling, MA
Bob Montemerlo, KB1JZU	Lunenburg, MA
Jay Desmond, N1WJ	Peaks Island, ME
Eugene Pokatillov, NT2Y	Brooklyn, NY
Steve Stutman, KL7JT	Sudbury, MA

At 8/28 WMA Area Meeting::

Joe Pietrowsky, W1BS	Pittsfield, MA
Pat Pietrowsky, N1LZH	Pittsfield, MA.

***Jesse Cottingham, KB1GWT,
receives DXpedition Award.***

Jesse Logan Cottingham, KB1GWT, a 15 year old General Class amateur from Otisfield, Maine has been chosen for the 2004 DXpedition Award. He is presently a member of YCCC and has some contesting experience with Ray, NR1Y. Jesse has been a ham for four years and has a few young friends in his area that also have licenses. Jesse is home schooled and thus he will be able to get away for the offer that came along.

As sometimes happens, things come together at the right time and in the right place---too bad it doesn't happen more often. Just after Jesse received the award, Joe, K1JB, contacted me via e-mail to inform me that he, Mike, K1EU and Steve, K1MV would all be going to the Bahamas for the CQWW DX Phone contest in late October, 2004. And, they are all from Maine. Perfect!

I believe that Joe and Steve will be flying to the Bahamas together on a Cessna and Mike will be taking a scheduled commercial aircraft. Thus Jesse will be traveling with him. Again perfect!

The trio will be taking care of equipment needs, so all Jesse has to do is get himself to the airport to hook up with Mike and from what I understand they are renting a Villa for a week from which they will operate C6A. Oh, and by the way, all parties have now met Jesse as well as his mother and father. All seem thrilled by the sequence of events and are keenly looking forward to the DXpedition/Contesting trip made possible by YCCC and Joe, Steve, Mike and of course Jesse.

De WILLU

**Contest Cookbook
2004-2005**

The Contest Cookbook, being published by Mike, W7OT and Lisa, K1UQT is done. In addition W1EBI and I did some of the editing. It includes many great articles, most of which are new. The authors did a wonderful job and virtually all submitted their materials on time, producing a rather smooth process and an attractive product. It will be comprised of about 70 pages, including 24 pages of charts. A couple of copyrighted zone maps were left out because we did not want to try to get a release from the map maker on such short notice. Printed copies of the Cookbook will be available at the meeting of October 9th, one per customer. Many thanks to the authors, plus Mike, Lisa and George who have made this issue of the Cookbook a great success.

**YCCC Meeting Agenda
Saturday, October 9th, 2004
Worcester, MA
1pm to 5pm**

Presentations:

- o Ted Demopoulos, KT1V: Announcing a Membership Survey --- What direction for YCCC?.
- o Dave, K1HT: will share some stats with us.
- o Jim, WILLU: will share his thoughts on amendments to the Constitution.
- o Dave, K1NQ: Contesters Panel with break out sessions..
- o Jim, WILLU: Brief personal thoughts on the 04/05 contest season.
- o Lunch will be available. Mark, our VP, will be posting the menu on the reflector.
- o Treasurer's Report
- o Secretary's Report.
- o Free door prize---a special Keyer that even phone guys would love to win.
- o Mike, W7OT and Lisa, K1UQT will present the new Cookbook.
- o Dave, K1NQ and Mark, K1RX: Provide details on proposed new Technical Experts program.
- o Matchmakers session if time allows.

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 Jim Reisert, AD1C **Hudson** Angel Garcia, WA2VUY **Atlantic** Tony Gargano, N2SS

ARRL LIAISON: Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

The YCCC Scuttlebutt

Upcoming Meetings

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Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Saturday, October 9th – 1:00PM - 5:00PM

Worcester State College Student Union

Worcester, MA

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
68 Garnet Street
West Warwick, RI 02893

FIRST CLASS MAIL