



# Scuttlebutt

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October 2005

Issue 180

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**NEXT MEETING: - Saturday - October 8<sup>th</sup>**

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## Captain's Cabin

Mark Pride, K1RX

[mpride@us.ibm.com](mailto:mpride@us.ibm.com)

Listening to the pileup on K7C on 40 M CW makes for an entertaining background as I sit down to write this month's Captain's Cabin and nursing of sore muscles (old age) after some antenna work at K0TV's place. Took down his 40 M yagi and preparing to install the newer, better M2 (approximately the same set of dimensions but much nicer construction which is always a key factor in surviving in YCCC country).

Hopefully you have gotten those key success projects completed for the contest season! We still have some time left to get our stations set and ready. To help guide us in this prep work, make the effort to attend the next General Meeting Oct. 8 in Marlboro. Our own K1DG and some other experts of many years of contesting will be on hand to analyze a few of our past contest logs in the CQ WW Contest Makeover session. This will be a very revealing session and will help us all improve our scores. Something for everyone!

So after you attend this meeting, what next? You're pumped and excited about the upcoming contest weekends! Have you checked out your station thoroughly? Cleaned the room, cleared the desk, re-cabled the station after Field Day or the last event that had you pulling stuff apart? Test the computer logging program, flush out problems, turn the rotors, power up everything, confirmed on the calendar those weekends in October and November are clear and work a few contests that lead up to the big ones! If you are a multi-op station, a more pleasurable experience comes when the station is clean and in good working order for your guests. You can't just count on good food to keep 'em coming back. I know at my place, I typically have to bring in the bulldozer to clear the workshop and shack of debris from summer projects. Creature comforts translate into more time in the chair and as we all know, this is how a score is made. Record-breaking scores come from your own creativity and resources and *time in the chair!*

And in driving the motivational aspect for more seat time, an Awards Program has now been formulated that should please everyone. Brian, N1IK will take us through the offerings for this season at the October 8 meeting.

For those of you that recently filled out the new YCCC membership form, you may have noticed that we look for your contribution not only in score to help our effort to beat the W3-land based Frankford Radio Club (our continuing theme) but also help better exercise your other talents. We have openings in our Editorial Staff to follow the lead of Steve, N1SR as the Chief Editor and Layout Manager to address Content and Advertising; and Awards Management, Contest Czar (looking for motivational speakers!), YCCC Badge Production and QSL ordering administrator. More specifics will be offered at the meeting but start thinking about it now as to how you can help the YCCC.

Officers Note: At the October 8 meeting, the YCCC will sponsor the Sprint Contest. This will be our way of getting us all introduced to each other at the start of the meeting. Read the rules on the Sprint Contest. I will offer some modifications to the rules at the meeting to reflect this face-to-face contest!

73 and start getting excited – what we have all worked for these past months (and years) is just a few weeks away! And these weekends just blow by, so set those goals, post them on the wall in front of you and do it! On behalf of your 2005 – 2006 officers, I am thanking you in advance!

Mark, K1RX

## Treasurer's Report

Included in the account balances is the  
Scholarship/School Fund balance of \$2181.50.

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	<b>Checking</b>	<b>CD</b>
<b>Balance (4/1/2005)</b>	6,065.94	6,049.64
Dues and Subscriptions	1,635.00	-----
Raffle	1,200.00	-----
Donations	5.00	-----
Interest	2.99	-----
Investment Interest	-----	38.62
INCOME Subtotal	2,881.61	
Plaques	260.00	-----
Awards	200.00	-----
WRTC2006	1,000.00	-----
ISP	100.50	-----
Meeting Expenses	-----	-----
Food	226.50	-----
Picnic	216.63	-----
Postage and Delivery	59.20	-----
Printing and Reproduction	286.89	-----
EXPENSE Subtotal	2,349.72	-----
Subtotal	493.27	38.62
<b>Balance 8/31/2005</b>	6,559.21	6,088.26
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>12,647.47</b>	

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# Flotsam & Jetsam

Barnacle Jack Schuster W1WEF

Ahoy Maties!

Gentlemen, start your engines. Contest season is here.

Well, maybe I should have said turn your rotators. Time to check out the station, finish those antenna projects, set your goals. On a recent trip back to Ct to operate the CW Sprint, I found the lower 40M beam (fixed South) wasn't working. Looking up the tower to see if the antenna was in one piece, at 70 ft up the tower I discovered the biggest wasp's nest I ever saw in my life. Shooting 50 rocks at it with my slingshot, the best I could do was hit a tower leg close to the nest, which stirred about 500 wasps (at least I think they're wasps) to swarm outside the nest. I decided to grant them free rent until December. Luckily the 40M beam problem turned out to be a contact in the relay box at the bottom of the tower that just needed burnishing.



My remote relay box is an old Comtek which was built on a steel chassis. Today's Comtek boxes are aluminum and wouldn't have this problem. I noticed that the chassis was rusting especially badly around the SO239 connectors. As a result, I dismantled the whole thing, cleaned up the rust with a wire brush in a drill, and used clear Krylon on the chassis after reassembly.

Randy, K5ZD, found a neat clock that displays hours, minutes and seconds on his desktop. The normal windows clock doesn't have seconds. Check out the free download of "Alpha Clock" at [www.irmis.net/soft/aclock/](http://www.irmis.net/soft/aclock/)

Don, K2KQ, suggests a simple vertically stacked 20M antenna with gain that he has wanted to try but hasn't gotten a round tuit yet. With a rope dropped vertically from a high tree branch, he suggests supporting one dipole over another, spaced about 30 ft apart, using pvc pipe for a vertical "spacer". At the top and bottom of the vertical pvc, he would tee two ten foot lengths of pvc which are held horizontal with ropes. Dipole wires are strung thru the horizontal pieces of pipe, and the ends beyond the ten feet go vertically toward each other with ropes between the ends of the two "U" shaped dipoles. The two dipoles can be fed thru the vertical pipe, with open wire line or a coax-matching scheme. I hope you get the general idea...sorry I couldn't include Don's sketch.



When Whitey, K1VV, mentioned recently that he had to fold his Rohn 25 tower over to service his rotor, I cautioned him to be careful with that winch. Whitey sent me a photo of what I thought was a really clever idea. He keeps an extra winch cable connected to the foldover section, which attaches to a power winch that he installs temporarily in parallel with the normal manual winch. Rather than leave it out in the weather, the power winch is removed when the job is done.



My Compaq Deskpro computer developed a problem a couple months ago, which I reported on the club reflector, asking for suggestions. I had already tried reseating connectors, but the problem remained. The symptom was that the two LEDs on the front panel would blink AFTER the computer shut down. Other than that, it seemed to function normally. One response on the Reflector

suggested reseating the "slide board" ...but I had already done that at least twice. After being away from that computer for a few weeks, I returned home and the lights still blinked when I plugged the computer in again. I decided to try reseating that board one more time, and this time it worked! When I ran a maintenance group for 16 years, connectors were indeed the most common failure, and no contact cleaners we ever used ever produced laudable results.

Need a Manual? ....Free manual downloads on all kinds of ham gear or test equipment at [www.bama.sbc.edu](http://www.bama.sbc.edu)

Good luck to all this contest season, and may the propagation Gods be with us.

Barnacle JACK W1WEF

# A Spectator's Guide to the Olympics of Amateur Radio

## The World Radiosport Team Championships

### July 7-10, 2006

### Florianopolis, Brazil

By Jeff Briggs, K1ZM/VY2ZM

WRTC 2006 – Florianopolis, Brazil – July 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2006?

So you don't think you really know what those letters mean....?

Well, you are not alone. But please read on and at the end of this article, you will not only understand what it all means, you just might want to book a flight to Santa Catarina Island in southern Brazil next summer to be a witness to the most important amateur radio contesting event taking place on the planet!



#### **Background**

Billed as the *“Olympics of Amateur Radio”*, the World Radiosport Team Championship was conceived in the late 1980's by Danny Eskenazi, K7SS. The event was run by a committee of local Seattle amateurs including K7SS, N0AX, K7LXC, K7ST and others with integral help from W6OAT, K3EST and OH2BH. WRTC 1990 wanted to create a very special kind of contest competition that would test the operating skills of the very "best of the best" contest operators from around the world – in an environment that leveled the playing field as much as might be possible.

Now why would anyone want to do that? Well, as most experienced contesters and Dx'ers know, there are enormous geographical disadvantages that exist both here at home and equally abroad which make it all but impossible to compare the Top 10 results in the various major contests. For example, it is totally unfair to attempt to compare CQWW scores made from New England against those made from say Chicago, Illinois or Dallas, Texas. In Europe, it is also impossible to equate scores made from G, CT1 or EA with those made from LZ or YO. In Asia it is not possible to equate scores made from JA versus those made from 5B4 or 4X. And, in the Pacific, one cannot compare a DX contest score made from KH6 against those made by even the very best operators from VK or ZL. It just isn't possible because of the disparity of the various locations involved and their respective distances from the world's major population centers and multiplier-rich zones (read that Europe!)

Thus, out of this problem came a wonderful opportunity. The amateurs noted above and some of their friends decided in 1990 to host the very first WRTC in Seattle, Washington. The plan was to bring the very best operators in the world to a common location and then let them operate in national teams of two (2) from various sites around the Seattle suburbs using comparable antennas, the same power level and operating locations chosen as much as was possible in order to level the geographic playing field. In reality, at this first WRTC, the organizers were not totally successful at equalizing these variables. In the end, operator skill probably outweighed station capabilities with stations in roughly similar classes. In so doing, the organizers hoped at long last to determine which operators were really the best of the best from around the world and then award gold, silver and bronze medallions to the winners in much the same way as is done in the real Olympics every four years. As luck would have it, Ted Turner's *Goodwill Games* were also taking place that year in Seattle and the first WRTC 1990 preceded Turner's games as a prelude activity to the real games which actually opened that following weekend.

Just over twenty teams were invited to participate, drawn by application, and the games were held on a Thursday afternoon and evening Seattle time as a 10-hour contest of limited duration. (Starting in 1996 with the San Francisco games, WRTC's began being conducted as a "contest within a contest" – meaning that henceforth WRTC's ran for 24 hours simultaneously within and during the IARU Contest of that summer.) In 1990, teams came from as far away as the Soviet Union, Asia, Europe and South America and when the smoke had cleared away, the team of John Dorr (K1AR) and Doug Grant (K1DG) representing the USA was the winner of the Gold medallion. And that is how it all started.

Perhaps one of the most important benefits of WRTC 1990 was that it served as a setting which brought together many of amateur radio's finest operators – both contesters and Dx'ers. From the personal friendships made in Seattle have grown some of the most significant Dx'peditions of the last 15 years. Thus many Dx'ers have the WRTC program to thank for some of their rarer QSL cards (like, for instance, FT5XO, VP8THU, VP8SGI, etc.)

### ***What's Happened Since?***

Following the Seattle games, subsequent WRTC championships have taken place in 1996 in San Francisco, in 2000 in Slovenia and most recently in 2002 in Helsinki. With each running of the games, the number of teams and countries represented has grown. And, so too has the number of WRTC guests and spectators coming to each venue to witness the various competitions making the WRTC games one of the most sought after gatherings of dyed in the wool contesters in the world. Everybody who is anybody in contesting (and many Dx'ers as well) will likely be there as a competitor, judge or spectator just out for an exciting vacation. The early scuttlebutt regarding WRTC 2006 in Florianopolis, Brazil has it that this event may well turn out to be the best WRTC ever in part due to its wonderful location, the fact that it is being held in a part of the world that is further away from Europe and North America than any past WRTC and because its organizers are introducing some exciting rules changes that are hoped to make the competition more lively than ever before.

For example, in addition to equalized operating locations from a common general theater of southern Brazil, there are some new twists in the rules, such as:

- 1) Competitors will be no longer be limited to 100w output only; small amplifiers will be allowed for the first time
- 2) An HF log periodic antenna and a small 40m yagi will be permitted in addition to the windom that has been de riguer at past WRTC competitions
- 3) A number of multi-operator teams is planned from home stations in Brazil which may be populated by visiting guest amateurs by way of application to the organizers
- 4) Student type teams will be introduced at WRTC as a means of attracting newcomers to contesting and the games
- 5) Three teams will be drawn by lottery from private bidding by sponsors as a means of securing necessary funding for the games which is a substantial sum this time out
- 6) The central site for the games will be located at a 5 star resort on the NE side of Santa Catarina Island – known at the Costao do Santinho. This complex is located right on the Atlantic ocean in a magnificent setting with a private beach, multiple pools and restaurants and simply gorgeous, secure grounds. Most everything at the games, except for the WRTC competition itself, will be run out of this complex making it wonderfully convenient for competitors, judges, guests and spectators alike.

### ***What Should I Bring? What Will I Do at a WRTC?***

Unless you are coming as a competitor, you should bring sport casual clothes, some shorts and your jeans, a light jacket or windbreaker, your camera and a positive outlook aimed at just having fun! At a WRTC, spectators participate and get to oversee all public events such as the opening and closing/award ceremonies, pileup competitions, WRTC planning sessions, meals and evening beer drinking conversations that often take place all night long until the sun comes up. It is actually possible to go to bed at midnight and awaken at 7AM and stroll out again only to find many folks still going at it long after daybreak.

On Friday morning, the competitor teams will select their operating locations around Santa Catarina province by lottery and shortly thereafter, they will depart to set up their stations. Each team will be dreaming of a hilltop location overlooking the sea but, in reality, most will find generally average locations which have been preselected by the organizers to be as competitively equal as is humanly possible. Remember, the winners of the WRTC games are intended to be ***the best operators***, not the team that just happens to wind up with a superior location. That is the beauty and fundamental guiding principle behind the WRTC games in the first place, eg: give everyone an equal setting, equal power output and antennas and then let the games begin – and may the most talented and skilled operating team come out the winners. That is the spirit of WRTC and the organizers will be very careful to ensure this is again the basis for the competition.

During the games themselves, spectators can stay at the Costao do Santinho and follow the hour-by-hour results of the competition. Or, they may go off on a sightseeing trip around the island or take a tour of Florianopolis, the capital city of SC province, which is a beautiful city on a bay just about 25 minutes from the resort. On Sunday afternoon, the various WRTC team competitors will return to the hotel for a hot shower, a nap and then the ubiquitous story telling about their experiences in the contest which is always great fun to listen to. The organizers will also host a nice evening meal on Sunday night for all to enjoy to be followed by the awards ceremony for the winners and then the closing ceremony which will bring WRTC 2006 to its close.

### ***How to Get There? Visa Requirements?***

>From the US, a number of airlines provide daily service to Brazil from major city gateways such as Miami, New York, Chicago and elsewhere. American Airlines and Varig (the national airline of Brazil) are two examples of major carriers serving Brazil. Many flights go into Sao Paulo on the Atlantic coast and a regional carrier called TAM services routes to the south including Florianopolis in Santa Catarina province.

>From overseas, Varig serves Brazil from a number of gateways located in many of the major capitals around the world. Once entry into Brazil has been made, a transfer to one of the local carriers such as TAM will get you down to Florianopolis.

US travelers do need a VISA for travel to Brazil and these can be obtained in person at Brazilian consular offices in major cities here in the US. Information on visa requirements applicable to other countries is available on the internet and should be carefully followed. Briefly, here are a few of the high points for US travelers:

- 1) The cost of a visa for travel to Brazil is \$100US.
- 2) Entry into Brazil must take place within 90 days following the date of issuance of the visa
- 3) The Visa must be paid for by means of a money order only
- 4) Passport photos, airline tickets or proof of an airline travel itinerary to Brazil are required for issuance of a visa
- 5) A valid US passport is required and it must be valid for 6 months following completion of one's trip to Brazil in order to secure an entry visa
- 6) The US passport must have an empty visa page available inside it on which the Brazilian consular office authorities will affix the visa
- 7) A Brazilian visa is good for multiple re-entry visits for 5 years following the date of first entry into Brazil
- 8) A surcharge of \$10 per person is required if one applies for a visa for another person

### ***So, are you QRV for the games?***

Now that you know all about WRTC and the significance and history of the games, are you QRV for a visit to Florianopolis? Atilano de Oms, PY5EG, and the rest of the organizing committee surely hope so and no effort will be spared to ensure you have a wonderful experience should you elect to take some vacation time next summer to join them at the games. If you wish to stay abreast of up to the minute WRTC 2006 news, there is a website available to follow at <http://www.wrtc2006.com> . Click on the HTML format for the latest WRTC news, rules, travel and hotel information (coming soon) and competitor information once the final competing teams have been selected. Again, we hope to see you in Florianopolis next summer between July 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2006 for what will surely be one the most important amateur radio gatherings of the year – WRTC 2006. It will be a great place to be for contesters and Dx'ers alike!

73 Jeff K1ZM/VY2ZM  
For the WRTC Organizing Committee

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### **Movers and Shakers:**

<b>New Crew</b>	At WMA Meeting:	W2RU, Bud Hipsisley KA2WIN, Linda Hipsisley W3UA (RA3AA), Gene Shablygin W1BNC, Mike Keller N1MGO, Gordon LaPoint RX9UL (KC2OOV), Oxana Sinyakova
	At Nat's Place Meeting:	K2PH, Paul
<b>Returning Crew</b>	At Nat's Place Meeting:	K2EK, Bill WR2I, Marc

## **Western MA Regional Meeting Saturday - Aug 27, 2005**

A regional meeting/picnic for the Yankee Clipper Contest Club was held on August 27, 2005 at the station of Dave Robbins, K1TTT in Peru, Massachusetts. The picnic started a little before the scheduled noon start. A brief business meeting began at approximately 1:00 p.m. to vote on several new member applications.

Tom Wagner, N1MM, was on hand to demonstrate the N1MM Contest Logger. Dave continues as an active member of the N1MM Contest Logger Software development team. His multi-multi station uses this software for all major contests. Tom gave an overview of the software operation and then demonstrated its operation in the Ohio QSO Party. Several of the group gave the software a test drive.

Tours of towers and antennas were conducted. These included discussions of construction techniques, grounding, stack design and switching. There were also demos of tower tools, how to install deadends, and other tower stuff.

Dave's new deck is a great place to hold a cookout and view the extensive antenna farm. There were plenty of burgers and hot dogs from the grill and lots of other good food.

Our goal to attract new members was very successful. Six completed applications for membership were received and all voted into membership. The new members are: W2RU, Bud Hippisley; KA2WIN, Linda Hippisley; W3UA (RA3AA), Gene Shablygin; W1BNC, Mike Keller; N1MGO, Gordon LaPoint; and RX9UL (KC2OOV), Oxana Sinyakova. Completed application and dues will be forwarded to the secretary and treasurer.

This was the largest crowd ever to visit the recently established Berkshire Insulator Gallery.

Many attendees took pictures and some will be posted on [www.k1ttt.net](http://www.k1ttt.net)

We were pleased to have YCCC Vice President, Brian Lambert, N1IK in attendance. There were twenty-nine YCCC members attending, including our new members.

Tom Homewood  
Western Mass. Section Manager

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## **Southern NY/NJ Regional Meeting Monday - Sept 26, 2005**

The Southern NY/NJ area hosted a regional meeting at Nat's Place in Elmsford, NY on Monday, Sept. 26 at 7PM.

At the meeting we voted in 1 new member (K2PH, Paul) and 2 returning former members (K2EK, Bill and WR2I, Marc).

All our active members are now dues paid for the year. Also in attendance were K2SX, Dennis, K2KQ, Don, W2WB, Sergiy, AE2F, Eugene, N2UN, Tony, and KF2O, Hank, as well as former member and visitor emeritus, K1ZM, Jeff.

Jeff gave a brief presentation on the upcoming WRTC competition and extolled the virtues of beautiful Brazil.

Hank KF2O

# PROFILE - N1IK

Jerry Woodworth N1DD

Brian Lambert, N1IK, is the type of person we need to attract to YCCC. He is a bit younger than us 50+ old goats that make up so much of the club, but has an established station. A relatively new ham and contestor, Brian is high energy, enthusiastic, competitive, and dedicated and to improving his contesting skills and station with an expressed goal of moving up contesting's ladder. He is the club's recently elected Vice-president.

Originally from Salem, MA, Brian became interested in ham radio as a Boy Scout. Many years passed before he had enough time to get serious about licensing. He was licensed in 2001 as a technician with the call sign, KB1IFE. Over an eighteen month period of study, he received General and Extra class tickets, and was assigned AB1CA before receiving his current call.

Friends at the Billerica Amateur Radio Club got him to try contesting and then into YCCC. His contest start was at N1IW's "Contesting 101" session at W1ON, the MITRE Club station. His first real contest effort was at K0TV, where, according to Brian, the only thing they would let him try was overnight 40 phone. Still, it was enough to get him excited about contesting, and in 2003, he started contesting from home with 100 watts and a multiband vertical. Brian is making rapid progress as he recently broke the 1 million-point level on cw and the 2 million-point level on phone. He recently received the New Hampshire certificate for the 2005 ARRL DX Phone contest. N1IK prefers cw and is working diligently to improve his running skill. Favorite contests are CQWWCW and ARRL 160, although he plans on at least six contests this coming season to expand his experience. Brian started contesting in the assisted category, but after trying unassisted, he finds that unassisted is more fun and provides a better learning opportunity.

His station has gone through major upgrades since the initial contesting efforts. The radio is an Icom 7800 followed by an Alpha 87A. A 4-element SteppIR is at 55 feet, but is aided by ground that slopes away in all directions, except North, which has flat terrain. There are two inverted V's for phone and cw on 80. The 160 antenna is an inverted v, and a dipole at 50 feet takes care of 40. The K9AY loop is available for receiving. Brian has assembled the parts for a 40-meter 4-square, which he will build in the near future, and has started collecting the parts for a phased system for 80 as well as a small beverage.

Brian particularly enjoys the whole process of designing, building, and integrating his station and antennas. Then comes evaluation of performance and improving by going through the cycle once again.

Brian spent 10 years in night school at Boston University and Northeastern studying computer science. His work career has been in software development from the days of Lotus Notes to later startup companies. With a partner, he founded his present company, NEXTYPE, which is a consulting and software development company.

Since Brian's work is digital and all computer oriented, ham radio provides a good complement, as in Brian's words "ham radio is analog in that you have to build real things to participate". Of course, he never gets far from the digital world, as likes to experiment by writing software for ham radio in the little spare time he has.

According to the YCCC Constitution, the Vice-President assumes the duties of the President, when the President is absent and performs other duties as agreed upon with the President. Presently, Brian is working on a new awards program, which will be revealed at the October meeting.

As to the future of contesting, Brian believes that a goal of any ham radio club should be the preservation of the hobby. While he has no disagreement with the conventional wisdom of attracting school age new hams, he thinks that finding technically oriented people of all ages and introducing them to the fun of the hobby and contesting may have a higher payoff. He feels that we need to attract a sufficient number of new hams so that contesting will draw its percentage.

Brian lives in Windham, NH. I kidded Brian that if he can win his town, he will make the top 5 box as so many big guns live in Windham. N1IK is married to Karen, who holds a technician class license with the call sign, KA1REN. Their daughters are Lauren, a student at Boston University, and Ashley, who is a senior in high school. During the summer, Brian can be found on his boat on Lake Winnepesaukee or riding his Harley Davidson around New Hampshire.

N1DD note—when I was asked to start the Profiles column several issues ago, we had two goals. One was to provide members with information about the principal officers who lead the club. The second was to recognize members who make a significant contribution to YCCC or ham radio in general either through contesting or other means. (The really big contest guns are already known.) Other possibilities might be a member with a unique and interesting occupation or other activity. At this time, I am asking for ideas for future profile columns. Please contact me at [jerry.woodworth@comcast.net](mailto:jerry.woodworth@comcast.net).

# A Tribute to one of our own – Bob Czajkowski, N1TZ

From the YCCC Club History files -

## A Dialogue Begins...

Almost immediately following the club elections, an informal working committee was formed within MM and given the task of opening communications with NECC. Over the air discussions among the parties had indicated a willingness within NECC to at least consider some new arrangement as long as there existed the legitimate prospect of creating a different kind of club at the end result of the deliberations - one that would be truly regional in its underlying charter and operation.

With that understanding in mind, an initial meeting was held in Worcester, Mass. at the home of Bob Czajkowski, WA1TAI (now N1TZ) and included Roger Burt W5UDK/1 (N4ZC), Jeff Bouvier K1LPA (K1IU), Rich Roth K1OME, Charlie Carroll W1GQO (K1XX) and Jeff Briggs WA2CLQ (K1ZM). (Apart from being sort of neutral ground, Bob's place offered some of the best cold cuts and beer around!)

And later in our history...

## The New Club is Formed and Gets a Name

The unification meeting that was held in Worcester was probably the longest YCCC meeting in the club's history because of the incredible amount of official business required to form the new club. We had an enormous turnout at the meeting; the event had been well-publicized and enthusiasm was high.

The core working committee had produced a recommended slate of officers which was presented and voted on by the group. These were:

President	Jeff Briggs, K1ZM
Vice President	Roger Burt, N4ZC
Secretary	John Kenny, W1RR
Treasurer	Bob Czajkowski, N1TZ
Activities Manager	Charlie Carroll, K1XX

K1SF writes:

I spent countless hours helping Bob with his station. I first met Bob when he was still living in Worcester, and I believe he was first licensed around 1971 or 72. He and I got our Extra class licenses together back in 1977. I guess he was my driving force to upgrade. We both operated at W2PV for a CQWW contest back in 1978 or so. He was the one that got me to join YCCC, and involved in contesting. I remember going to some of the early meetings with him when N4ZC was involved.

When Bob moved into Spencer (where I live) I helped him put up two of his 3 towers at his new QTH. He was finally able to overcome his fear of heights, and put up his third tower with the help of his wife.....because he could do things during the week, while I had to work. I have spent 3 or 4 hours straight on his towers putting up his hardware.

Many contest weekends were spent at his MS station, with only a few operators there we were still able to produce some descent scores.

He had at one time, 2 el. on 40, 4 on 20 at 100 feet. He had 4/4 on 15, and 10 meters side mount with rotor; 4 element triband quad at 90 feet, with numerous fixed yagis on all three towers. He had numerous wire antennas for 160/80-75/40....and beverages all over the place. All fed with surplus cable TV coax, that he and I got from the local cable company that we transported in his neighbors dump truck.

There were so many things that Bob was involved with Amateur Radio, that it would take me some time to remember everything.....from a local club that we were involved with, to setting up a 220 repeater, teaching new hams.....and it goes on.

This is only a small portion of the things that I remember about Bob....he would do anything for anyone if it had to do with Ham Radio.....

K1SF

*Note: Bob passed away in May, 2005 and will be missed by the many that knew him. He was highly devoted to the YCCC and K1SF's note of tribute reflects our feelings as well. Thanks Bob for putting in the good fight and your life serves as a great model for us all to copy.*

## New RT-20 Universal Rotator Controller from Green Heron Engineering and Special YCCC Offer

Jim Idelson K1IR

While I was at the Dayton Hamvention this year, I was very pleased to learn of the new RT-20 Rotator Controller being introduced by my friend Jeff Ach W2FU, founder of Green Heron Engineering. This new controller adds a whole new dimension to control of rotors.

Shown in the picture is the RT-20, a TIC Ring Rotor controller and an M2 Orion control box. The RT-20 combines the best of all worlds - point-and-shoot direction setting, a huge display, fairly small enclosure size and a built-in computer control port - and lets you control ANY rotor you own. This gives you a fantastic new tool for your shack.

It works great with just one rotor, but if you can equip ALL your rotors with this controller, the benefits go much further. Of course, now you only have to learn how to use one type of controller - a nice benefit in the middle of a contest night when you can't remember how to do very much at all. But, there's more. If you have a stack of independently rotatable antennas, you can now control them all from a single control point using the RT-20's Master/Slave mode. In this mode, when you turn the heading control on the Master controller, all the Slave controllers go to the same heading. This is just like having a rotating tower - but a lot cheaper and more flexible, because you can still have independent control of the direction of every antenna!

And, if you DO have a rotating tower, the RT-20 has something for you, too! It's called "Counter-Rotate" mode. Typically, you only have one rotator at the bottom of your rotating tower. The direction of all antennas is determined by this rotor. With the RT-20, you can add a second rotor on the tower and maintain independent control of both rotors. When you turn the tower using one RT-20 as the Master in Counter-Rotate mode, that controller instructs a Slave controller to Counter-Rotate the second rotor. That rotor will turn an equal amount in the opposite direction that the tower is turning to maintain its current heading. Of course, when you turn a Slave, it moves independent of the Master.

I am beta testing this controller for Green Heron, and so far everything has been working extremely well. One of the great benefits of this rotor is the ability to upgrade its firmware via the computer control port. Jeff has already delivered a few new features and provided some fixes in this manner since I've had the controllers here.

This is a very cool new product. It's priced at \$569. If you are looking into replacing a lost or failed control box, you should consider the RT-20. If you are looking into a NEW rotor, you should look at the possibility of just buying the rotor without the manufacturer's controller, and instead buying an RT-20.



I've just received an email from W2FU. He's offering YCCC a great deal on the T-20 If we purchase 10 or more units as a club, all paid by check or cash and shipped to one address. The price per unit will be \$475, a discount of 16%. Green Heron will pick up shipping of the bulk order. Please email me if you are interested. If there is sufficient interest, I will let Jeff know and we'll workout the logistics.

Check it out at [www.greenheronengineering.com](http://www.greenheronengineering.com).

73,  
Jim K1IR

email k1ir at designnet.com  
web <http://www.k1ir.com>

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:KB1LN@yahoo.com)

**QSL CARDS** are ordered through John Dorr, K1AR. To order, send John packet mail, or E-mail at [k1ar@contesting.com](mailto: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 call signs.

**COMPUTER STUFF INTERNET REFLECTOR** There is an Internet mailing list for YCCC members. To subscribe, send mail to [yccc-request@yccc.org](mailto: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 20 cents each. Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. Email address: [w1qsl@yccc.org](mailto: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 Green, 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.

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**Upcoming Meetings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Place</b>
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	General	Marlborough, MA

<b>Ship's Log</b>	<b>October 2005</b>	<b>Issue 180</b>
<b>Captain's Cabin</b>	Mark Pride - K1RX	1
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Ed Parish, K1EP	2
<b>Flotsam &amp; Jetsam</b>	Jack Schuster - W1WEF	3
<b>WRTC 2006</b>	Jeff Briggs, K1ZM	4,5,6
<b>Movers and Shakers</b>		6
<b>Regional Meeting Minutes</b>		7
<b>Profile-N1IK</b>	Jerry Woodworth, N1DD	8
<b>Bob Czajkowski, N1TZ</b>	Bob Archambeault, K1SF	9
<b>Green Heron Rotor Control</b>	Jim Idelson, K1IR	10

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**Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club**

**Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> – 1:00PM - 5:00PM**

**Holiday Inn in Marlborough, MA**

**(Intersection of 495 and Rt. 20)**

The YCCC Scuttlebutt  
177 Upper North Row  
Sterling, MA 01564

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**