



Scuttlebutt

April 2006

Issue 183

**NEXT MEETING: - Saturday - April 8th - Noon- 5 PM
Holiday Inn - Marlborough, MA**

Captain's Cabin

Mark Pride, K1RX

mpride@us.ibm.com

What a ride this past 2005 – 2006 contest season has been! We saw all kinds of poor propagation and no 10 Meters to boost our collective scores but we managed to put together an incredible total club score! Congratulations to all for achieving (or nearly achieving) the goals you set for yourself. For myself, I had a ball – tried some new antennas, found some changes will be necessary in the coming warmer months both in the shack and out on the farm and kicked in few points to the YCCC along the way. But this is what's it's all about – making those incremental changes, year after year that continue to yield more fun for us and increase your personal satisfaction in the contesting side of the hobby!

The April General Meeting is a critical point on our calendar – Election of officers for the coming season (06-07), membership dues are due, and some fabulous door prizes are to be awarded to several lucky members! And for those wondering about the big raffle that generates a lot of excitement and helps the club deliver the necessary funds to support our Youth Scholarship programs and other helpful programs to further the hobby, it will be held at the Boxboro Convention in August. So plan accordingly.

At this upcoming meeting, after paying your dues or reconfirming your dues are paid up through 3/31/07 or later, you will be handed a ticket (you must attend the meeting to be eligible for the door prize) and the door prizes will be picked later in the meeting.

Aside from a very short business meeting (this is always our goal), we have Tim Duffy, K3LR as our guest speaker who will share his contesting experiences that include details of his incredible multi-operator, multi-transmitter contest station and his many successes in our contesting world. As a tease, check out Tim's web site: www.K3LR.com. Tim has been, and continues to be, a key mover and shaker at the Dayton Hamvention by organizing many great programs relevant to the contester including the very popular banquet that has attracted nearly 300 attendees each year, from around the world. The Dayton Hamvention is scheduled for May 18, 19, 20 and 21, 2006.

And again, I would like to thank all of the members that participated in the many contests this season and contributed their time, scores and support to one another in reaching our collective goal of taking top honors in the large club competition. Great job! Nice to be on the winning team!

73, Mark, K1RX

p.s. See you ALL at the meeting in Marlboro – the room is large and I expect we will fill it.

Yankee Clipper Contest Club

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Treasurer's Report

	Checking	CD
Balance (2/1/2006)	6,070.15	6,137.78
Balance (3/31/2006)	4,297.88	6,161.28
Difference	-1,772.27	23.50
Total Balance	10,459.16	

Movers and Shakers:

New Crew NT2A, Gene Moshkov, Staten Island NY
 NF1R, Clayton Nall, Cambridge MA
 NE1RD, Scott Andersen, Acton MA
 W1TR, Terry Glagowski, Ashford CT

Returning Crew Bill Ohm W1OHM, Avon CT

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 The editorial deadline for the Scuttlebutt is the 10th of every odd month.

Flotsam & Jetsam

Barnacle Jack Schuster, W1WEF w1wef@arrl.net

Ahoy Maties!

Ever think about how we only remember the “Firsts”, and seldom the “Seconds” We remember and recognize the first to make a discovery, the first to climb a mountain, the first finisher in a marathon... seldom the follow ups? We remember the text of Marconi’s FIRST transatlantic message...”What hath God wrought?”...but how many ever even heard the reply? Maybe it’s because the general public just wouldn’t get it. That little known reply: 5NN001

Since my wire 4 square array is optimized for 3525, it doesn’t play well on 75M SSB. As a result, I used my unorthodox dipole in the ARRL DX Phone contest. What makes it unorthodox is that the SWR is under 2:1 from the bottom of the CW band to higher than I ever want to go in the phone band. Although I’ve probably mentioned this before, I’ve been using it since Rus Healy was at the League (K2UA) because I remember discussing it with him after an article in QST that he edited. The dipole is cut for 3650Khz. It is fed at the feedpoint with a quarter wave of 70 ohm coax, and the rest of the way into the shack with 50 ohm. This was the first time in over ten years that I was home for the phone contest, since we usually are away on a second winter RV trip. Although I didn’t put in a real serious effort, I was surprised at the great run I had on 75 a couple hours before the end. If it wasn’t for my Eu beverage, I wouldn’t have copied hardly anyone, but there were still many very weak signals I couldn’t pull out. One future improvement has got to be more receiving antenna options.

Jim, W6ZF, writes about another unorthodox 80M dipole he uses with good success. “My King Cobra outperforms any single dipole I’ve ever had: Fritzel off-center-fed, G5RV, Double Bazooka, regular half-wave doublet”. A friend of Jim’s told him about an antenna called the “Cobra”, made from Romex. Each half of the dipole is 70 ft long. 400 ohm open wire line feeds the center white insulated wires. At the outer ends of the white wires they tie to the ends of the bare ground wire. The center of the bare wires connects to the center of the black wires. If you draw this as described it looks like the number “25” One hundred ft of 400 ohm feedline runs to an MFJ 912 current balun which connects to a tuner through ten feet of LMR400. Jim also uses a bi-directional Moxon wire antenna on 40 described by Cebik at cebik.com/moxon/mox40.html. He has seen as much as a 30Db difference when switching direction.

Many LCD displays in use today are connected to a circuit board by a flexible plastic cable with what appears to be a conductive ink for conductors, bonded to the board with an adhesive. When my wife’s real good “CC Radio” display started acting up intermittently with missing segments a few years ago, I determined that the problem was the bonding of the cable to the circuit board etch. At the time I didn’t realize that the conductors were just ink on plastic, and I destroyed the radio with my soldering iron! She doesn’t like the new Grundig I replaced it with nearly as much. Rich, N1IXF happened to mention a similar problem with the display on his microwave oven. Being smarter than me, he did a Google on “LCD ribbon cable repairs”, and found a tip that worked for him (and probably would have for me). To hold the cable in place on the etch, he used a “post it” stick on paper. Using a 25 W soldering iron with a flat tip, and a rheostat to lower the heat, he held the flat on top of the post-it until the paper just started to singe. That was all it took to rebond the plastic cable to the board..

During one recent contest I had severe noise that sounded like band noise on ten meters. Luckily there was next to nothing to work, but I decided that it may have been coming from something in the house , and would try to track it down. One of the first things I did was turn off the new 19 inch CRT monitor I was using, and the noise disappeared. A high voltage corona in the monitor was generating the noise, but did not in any way affect the display.

If you worked me while on the road this year, I was using a new antenna that played much better than the ladder that I used to load. I can put the Hustler 6BTV up in 5 minutes, and found it played so well without radials that I didn’t ever bother with them.

Last but not least, I found the ideal chair for you guys who put in 48 hours! See photo.

Send your tidbits for the next Flotsam and Jetsam to my email address above.

73 Barnacle JACK W1WEF

w1wef@arrl.net for your input!



SO2R Methods in ARRL DX 2006

Ed Sawyer, N1UR

ARRL DX is a different contest than CQ WW. Mults are important but not as plentiful as CQ WW. DX is looking for W/VE and NOT working themselves at times when W/VE propagation is marginal (even a marginal band opening is going to work for a low power or antenna challenged station in ARRL DX). There are many casual participants from EU which will never CQ but are looking for counties on states on new bands.

So the logic is to run, run, run. Easy enough when running full power to decent antenna systems on big towers. Harder, when using marginal antenna systems and full power or almost any system and low power. But you have to do it, to have any chance of seeing your callsign in the top 5 box on a consistent basis.

The typical problem becomes the following: a good S & P rate is producing 50 + Qs an hour. Our contester finds a hole and says "great, I'll try some CQs". A few people respond but very soon the rate meter starts dropping to, say, 30 – 40 Qs an hour and our contester says "I know I can do better S & Ping" and moves on. This happens for 75% of the contest until the later part when the S & P rate starts to fall to 20 – 30 because the bands have been "worked out". Typically, 750 – 1000 Qs is the threshold. The bands have indeed been mostly worked out of what we like to call the "first layer CQing stations" and some of the "second layer CQing stations". However, there were hundreds more of the casual or just "non-CQing" stations that were never worked if our contester did not CQ. How do I know? I did all these things and kept "hitting the wall" at 1000Qs.

This is where SO2R really helps the smaller and/or low power contester. Once that hole is found, the SO2R contester accepts the 30 – 40 Qs an hour rate because he/she sees that most of the people calling are typically low power stations that have not been worked on any other band (the casual ones). The SO2R contester jumps on a second band and starts S & Ping for mults or just additional contacts. The net result is back to the 50+ rate or maybe even better, but now at least half the contacts are people that were uncontactable before. The later part of the contest is workable, longer, at good rate. Typical result is an additional 100 – 300 Qs and more mults. Smiles while reading box scores in QST are at no extra charge....

So, for ARRL DX, the strategy becomes CQ almost all of the time when 20 and 15 are open to EU. S & P to a hole, CQ, start tuning radio 2 on 10, 15, or 20 whichever band you are not CQing, call all the LOUD guys on radio 2 so that you don't screw up your rhythm CQing too much. If you get kicked off of your run frequency, stop the process and go back to radio 1 S & Ping until you find another hole. Repeat. Leave radio 2 where it is and keep tuning along the same pattern that you left so that you are more likely to find "new meat" as you tune.

What changes this process is high rate on the run radio (high is a relative term), high QRM/QRN that makes it virtually impossible to hear a CQ responding station without absolute concentration, or conditions where there is just such a low CQ rate that S & P just makes more sense (typically rates of less than 20Qs and hour at 08 – 10Z).

As you develop SO2R skills, certain things start to materialize as station improvement needs:

- being louder while CQing so you don't get kicked off your run frequency as often
- having a decent antenna for radio 2 in the directions that you are S & Ping. This actually evolves over a few years. First its, a good antenna to EU, then it's a good antenna to the south, then its working JA on 15 while running EU on 40 or 20 (with antennas on a rotating mast fighting for the best direction), etc.
- being able to reduce QRN while CQing (beverages or pennants for listening antennas)
- being able to reduce QRM (improving front to back ratio on listening antenna, better filtering, etc.)

For this year at N1UR in ARRL DX SSB, I found that the first couple of hours were S & P at a decent rate. By 02Z, I was CQing on 80M. I would often go no longer than 15 or 20 mins netting 10 or so Qs and have to move to a new frequency. I figure that I had 75 or so Qs in the contest CQing on 80M and about 2/3rds were casuals. I was using an inverted vee at 70 feet and low power. About half the time I was CQing on 80M, I was S & Ping 40 or 160M. I had about as many Qs S & Ping as I did "running" during that time period.

40M SSB CQing is always something to test your fortitude. I wouldn't recommend it until you are comfortable doing it on 80M including listening down for EU. Think of 80M CQing on SSB as the Masters Program and 40M SSB CQing as the Doctoral program. I had maybe 50Qs during ARRL DX SSB CQing on 40M but second radio work is hard, especially if you are already listening "this frequency and 70xx". I got a couple of nice mults doing it and at least half were casuals who probably weren't going to CQ.

20M CQing was literally 15 plus hours of the contest for me. Maybe 1/3 of the time I was solely CQing because of rate or because I was so afraid of losing my run frequency I didn't want to risk a second radio Q. 2/3 of the time I was combing 10/15 or 40. It is not uncommon for a low power op for every other Q (while running in the slower run spans) to be a second radio Q (total rate of 50 – 60 an hour). I would say that almost my entire Sunday afternoon was this way.

15M CQing was not nearly as productive as last year. Many times on 15M, I would be CQing and have 2 or 3 20M S & P Qs for every "run" Q on 15M. The value of this is if you find a good run freq on 20M, you can confidently switch radios and CQ on 20M and know that you aren't leaving "great rate" on the table on 15 because you were just CQing on 15M less than a minute ago.

10M was all S & P for me. Despite all my CQing, I always felt I knew what was up on 10M because I was able to scan it frequently with the second radio and fixed south 2 el wire yagii on 10M. I did abandon CQing for about an hour Sunday afternoon to jump on 10M with full attention while the best opening was happening to Central America and the Carib.

SO2R, ironically, is more helpful if you are a medium gun. It is the medium gun who is constantly worried whether the 40Q rate CQing could be bettered S & Ping. The Big Gun is CQing at 80 – 100 many, many times. They know that they can't beat it S & Ping. Sure they can enhance the rate even more with SO2R, but it isn't going to change their decision on CQing. For the Medium Gun, or even small gun for periods of the contest, it literally changes the strategy.

There is lots of help for those willing to try it. Just drop a note on the YCCC reflector and soak up all of the great advice. I know I have...many times.

YCCC Informal Meeting Martha's Exchange Nashua, NH 1/31/2006



K0TV N1IW NE1B, K1EP W6ZF K1IR K8PO KM1P

Rules for DXing or How to have more FUN on the Bands:

The DX MODE:

1. If you come upon a pileup, find the exact DX frequency and slowly tune up your KW right on his frequency. Take your time doing this as it has maximum effect this way. The longer you take, the better. It lets others know that YOU are going to call the DX.
2. If you cannot wait to find out the DX call sign, ask, "What is the DX call sign?" On CW send "DX?" Call?" Do NOT listen, this takes time. DO this repeatedly until someone gives you the DX call. This will show all others on frequency that you are serious about wanting to work this DX. This is called sharing.
3. When you find out the DX call, repeat your call over and over again on the DX frequency. Even if he is working split there is a chance he may be listening on his transmit frequency.
4. When the DX says "ABC only"- Don't believe him. If he says "Europe only" - Don't believe him. If he says, "2's only" - Don't believe him. Keep giving your call "XYZ" !!...XYZ !! ...XYZ !! How Copy MARIO?" Make sure you use his name when you call him, he may think you are someone he knows. It must work as we hear it on bands all the time so it has to be effective. Don't pay attention to directional calls. When did any DX know what they wanted ? What matters most is what YOU want.
5. To get the DX to work other modes tell him you want to set up a schedule later which is convenient to you. You should wait until the pileup has built up to several hundred and just before the band is about to go out, then ask him to meet you on CW, PSK31, RTTY or SSB at a set time and frequency. Above all, make sure you tell him that YOU need him on these modes. This will endear you in the hearts of all on frequency, it shows that you can work more than one mode and are a well-rounded amateur.
6. If you have worked the DX previously make sure you call him and tell him that he is stronger than the last 6 times you worked him this week. The DX station will want to know this. Others on frequency will respect you more, you will be recognized as a Big Gun DXer.
7. When you find a DX pileup, to bring your operating skills to a higher level and impress all those on frequency - Zero beat the DX send "QRL? Is this frequency in use?" This shows character and that you are truly a caring person.
8. When finally making the DX contact, give the DX some background about yourself, TX, RX, ANT, WX, how many children and grandchildren you have, where they went to college, what size bedroom slipper you wear, or any other items of interest to the DX. This shows that you are not just a 59 kind of guy. This is most effective when the band is just about to fold.
9. After you have worked the DX you will need the QSL route. Although this will be listed on the DX packet cluster, in ARRL & DX News Letters, and on the Internet, there is no reason for you to go to all the bother of reading these sources. You can just keep calling on the DX frequency..."What is the QSL Information?" If you don't get a reply with the information after 8 or 10 calls, keep it up, your persistence will payoff. There are plenty of other stations on frequency who are waiting to work the DX who have read these publications and they willing and ready to help you.

Rules for THE FUN MODE

1. For a split operation, spend most of your day listening and transmitting on the DX sending frequency. On CW, if someone calls on the DX transmitting frequency, right away using your J-38 at 4 WPM, send VP...UG...NP ...UP. until you get it right. If the station continues to call on the DX frequency, then send LSD .. LIB ..LED... LID..until you get it right.

This has three benefits.

- A. Others waiting to work the DX will be forever indebted to you for informing the offending station that the DX is working split.
 - B. The offending station will be grateful.
 - C. You will get some needed code practice to get you over that 5 WPM hump.
2. For those with CW and voice memory keyers this will be easy. All you have to do is program in "UP" and "LID". For the more advanced operators you can add "SPLIT" "YOU IDIOT, WORKING SPLIT" ...Using the memory keyers for your day's activity will save your voice. Should you happen by chance to have a QSO you will need it.

As always ... Work'em First..... Confirm LaterWFCL

73 Whitey, K1VV ... " UP UP UP ! "

YCCC Sponsors G3SXW Visit

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club is pleased to sponsor a visit and talk by noted contester, DXer and author, Roger Western, G3SXW, on Tuesday evening, May 16, at 7:00 PM at ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main Street, Newington CT. Roger's presentation will be "TZ5A - An African Adventure", describing the latest chapter in many years of contesting and DXpeditions by the VooDoo Contest Group, of which Roger is a co-founder.

Many of us worked TZ5A in Mali during the 2005 CQWW CW DX contest. This will be a great opportunity to learn first-hand from Roger about the latest big-time multi-multi adventure in a long list of contesting operations from exotic locations that goes back to the late 1980's. Many photos and video also illustrate West African village life and the wonderful hospitality extended to the ten-man team of testers by the local residents.

In addition to authoring two recent books, "Up Two - Adventures of a DXpeditioner" and "Contesting in Africa - Multi-Multi on the Equator", Roger is an active ham from his home QTH near London, has served as president of the First Class Operators' Club, and has served as International Advisor to the CQWW Committee. Roger was inducted as the 30th member of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame in 1998.



Roger has operated under dozens of different callsigns since 1963. He won't be bringing his logbooks to the May 16th session at ARRL HQ, but he has offered to bring QSL's for anyone who emails him with callsign, date, time and band. Send data to: G3SXW@compuserve.com.

Roger will also **bring and sign pre-ordered copies of his latest books**, "Up Two - Adventures of a DXpeditioner" and "Contesting in Africa - Multi-Multi on the Equator". The books are \$20.00 each.

YCCC is proud to present Roger in advance of his traveling to the 2006 Dayton Hamvention.

If you plan to attend on May 16th (spouses and guests welcome), RSVP by May 1st via email to:

George Harlem, W1EBI
w1ebi@lightband.com

Upcoming Contests

April, 2006

Kids Roundup	1400Z, Apr 1 to 2200Z, Apr 2
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 1 to 0500Z, Apr 2 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 2
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 8 to 0359Z, Apr 9 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 9
Montana QSO Party	2300Z, Apr 8 to 2300Z, Apr 9
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 15 to 0400Z, Apr 16
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 15 to 1800Z, Apr 16
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 22 to 0159Z, Apr 23 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 23

May, 2005

MARAC County Hunter Contest, CW	0000Z, May 6 to 2400Z, May 7
Nevada QSO Party	0000Z, May 6 to 0600Z, May 7
Oregon QSO Party	1400Z, May 6 to 0200Z, May 7
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 6 to 0400Z, May 7
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 6 to 0500Z, May 7 1300Z-2400Z, May 7
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party	1600Z, May 14 to 0400Z, May 15 1100Z-2400Z, May 15
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 28 to 2359Z, May 29

Regular Meeting

February 4, 2006 - Vernon, CT

VP Brian N1IK, pinch-hitting for Mark K1RX, called the meeting to order at 1:13pm at the Quality Inn, Vernon CT. The first order of business was a round of self-introductions, with each attendee stating his/her plans for ARRL DX, and whether operating from home or a club multi. Lots of participation was committed to by the 34 attendees.

Brian offered a valuable prize to the attendee who traveled the greatest distance to attend the meeting. Ed K1EP claimed the top spot for having driven all the way from NJ, but he was DQ'd since he was actually on the way home from a business trip. New member applicant Gene Moshkov NT2A was the winner, having braved the roads to Vernon all the way from Staten Island NY, about a 160-mile trip (claimed score). Runners-up were the tag team from Manchester NH, Barry WB1EDI and Mary N1OZF, driving down 126.8 miles. Rich K1CC walked from his QTH in Vernon. The valuable prize was lost in the pileup.

YCCC was delighted to welcome five prospective new members:

Gene Moshkov NT2A, Staten Island NY
Bill Ohm W1OHM, Avon CT (former member)
Clayton Nall NF1R, Cambridge MA
Scott Andersen NE1RD, Acton MA
Terry Glagowski W1TR, Ashford CT

All five were voted in as new members by acclamation. The crew is growing fast.

Ed K1EP gave the treasurer's report, noting a balance of \$12,207.93 in the club treasury.

George W1EBI gave the secretary's report and read a note of thanks from Donna KB1LWY in appreciation of the club's contribution to her "Hamsters" in the first-grade class at Winn Brook School in Belmont MA.

Chuck W1HIS briefed the meeting on recent activity to update the station at Winn Brook School, which now includes an IC-746 Pro, a PW-1 linear and a SteppIR vertical. Chuck was working to prepare the station for an upcoming sked with the 3Y0X DXpedition to Peter I Island.

After a break, Don K2KQ gave a presentation on his experiments with the "Double-L" antenna, a half-wave end-loaded vertical for 160 meters that fits comfortably in a small lot, needing only 100 feet of horizontal space. The double-L is more efficient than an inverted-L as a result of greater radiation resistance, is omnidirectional with a small horizontal component, and does not use ground to collect return current. Don's PPT presentation is on the "Articles" page of the club website.

Tom K1KI gave a briefing on a variety of issues currently being addressed by ARRL plus an update from the CAC. Tom noted the new white paper on contesting on the ARRL website at www.arrl.org/contests/hf-faq.html. On the subject of BPL, there are several test projects being conducted within the YCCC area, including Agawam MA (now discontinued), Shelton CT, Falmouth MA and Briarcliff Manor NY. Tom pointed out that the FCC still has not done any enforcement on dealing with interference issues.

Tom addressed the question of an operator at a contest multi operating out of the band portion for her/his personal license. The FCC now interprets an op at a multi as NOT a third party, so the only concern is the issue of the control op. FCC wants the control op to be physically present in the radio room in this circumstance.

We should see some decision in 2006 on refarming the current Novice sub-bands, as proposed by ARRL, according to Tom. An NPRM on ARRL's proposal for license class restructuring is likely after the refarming matter, with the prospect of 20,000- to-30,000 Technicians becoming new Generals with HF access not limited to CW. Finally, ARRL's proposal on band segmentation by bandwidth vs. mode probably will not be acted on for at least another year.

George W1EBI asked about potential interest in a midweek meeting in May, prior to the Dayton Hamvention, to hear a new presentation by Roger Western G3SXW on the TZ5A multiop in CQWW CW last year. There was a generous show of hands, with Tuesday, May 16, as a preferred date (see related article elsewhere in this issue).

Paul K1XM gave an interesting talk on his project to set up his home station for SO2R with the constraint that everything fit on a single five-foot-long operating table. Paul's requirements allowed items to be either on or under the table. He designed and built a switchbox (with 64 relays!) to allow switching back and forth between a 40 meter Yagi or any combination of three stacked tribanders.

Brian N1IK closed the meeting by awarding YCCC certificates to club members on DXpeditions during CQWW 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,
George Harlem W1EBI
Secretary

New to 160

Well, just for the heck of it I decided to play in the 2005 ARRL 160 contest. I didn't have a 160 antenna but I had a wire vertical for 80 and an MFJ tuner and was able to load it up. It was quite a struggle, but I managed to work 102 Qs and 35 multipliers. Many stations that I was receiving quite strong told me I was very weak, so it was tough going.

Anyway, I kept at it and finished the contest thinking that if I could do that with an 80 meter antenna and tuner, I should be able to do even better with a real 160 meter antenna. I have a long (400 ft) narrow (70 ft) city lot. I am up on one of the highest spots in Manchester, NH and have many 65 ft oaks in the back yard. Being a bit small for a K1NQ four square I decided to set my sights a bit lower and try out a single element antenna. After some research and asking about on the YCC email list I decided on the the inverted L antenna. I cut 3 pieces of 16 AWG insulated wire (I have a large spool) $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength long and one nice, lovely day My XYL (N1OZF) and I went out in the woods with my 25 pound compound bow and a spool of 30 pound test fishing line, and proceeded to come very close to putting my eye out. When I launched the arrow, a loop of line wrapped around Mary's finger and the arrow came straight back and hit me on the side of my nose. This hurt and there was a lot of blood, so we stopped for the day.

The next day, was a nasty, rainy, cold day so we decided to try again. Well this time I was able to build a support for the spool so it would not snag again. My woods are a bit dense so getting a clear shot up over the trees was a bit tricky but after a while I got it up and over and put the wire on. I disconnected the 80 meter vertical element and added the 2 160 radials to the mount so I had 4 80 meter and 2 160 meter $\frac{1}{4}$ wave radials. I then connected the 160 "L" portion to the mount and broke out the MFJ 259 antenna analyzer. After some trimming I was able to get the resonant point down but it still said that I had a high SWR. I hooked up to my radio (FT1000MKV Field) and the SWR showed very low at 1840 or so.

Another email to the YCC email list brought info that the 259 has issues with overload from strong local am stations on 160. I have 2 am stations within a few miles that I get at more than 40 over here so that made some sense. Then I took the 2 160 radials and hung them in the branches of some cooperating trees and found that my 1:1 spot moved up to almost 1900. Oh well, I was able to tune it all over the band with my internal tuner so it was good enough. I put the 80 meter element back on with the 160 element and found that they both still were working ok so my antenna is an 80/160 vertical/inverted L with a single feed. I tuned around that evening and heard a weak G3FPQ calling CQ on CW and I said, why not, and gave him a call. Was I surprised to hear WB1EDI in my headphones! He gave me a 579 and we had a short QSO. Now I was a 160 op.

I next decided to try my hand at the CQ160 CW and SSB contests. I got 316 QS with 54 State/province multipliers and 11 country Multipliers. I was also told by many how strong I was now. I was amazed at how weak a station could be and still hear me. I had very few repeats asked of me and was very happy. I could now also check into the YCCC OTA meetings and I'm told I am quite strong. Mary and I played in the CQ160 SSB contest and I got 118 Qs with 31 state/province multipliers and 4 countries. It is definitely harder to do SSB on that band then it is CW. I found that with my 100 watts it was easier to compete with the big guns than other bands. I am now looking into ways to get a better RX antenna. I now have 47 states worked on 160 and quite a few countries. I wish I had put up something for top band a long time ago. If you haven't tried top band, go out and get some wire and give it a try. I very much appreciate the assistance of all of the YCCers that have helped me with this.

73
Barry
WB1EDI

Product Review: Heil Pro Set Quiet Phone Headset

When seated in front of transceiver, my computer is two feet to my left and amplifier is two feet to my right. I found while wearing my Heil Pro Set 4, I could easily hear blower and computer. I therefore decided to purchase the Heil Quiet Phone Headset.

The Heil Quiet Phone is an active noise canceling boomset; noise canceling affects earphone audio, not transmitted audio. Power is supplied by two AAA batteries (not included). The headset comes with a very nice padded, zippered carrying case. Inside are Velcro retention straps, and a zippered accessory pocket.

The headset can be purchased (\$199, HRO) with your typical element choice - I chose HC4 (other choices include HC5 and Icom). No differences noted on transmit from regular Pro Set 4. But receive is a dramatically different story. Turn on noise reduction and both blower and computer noise disappears. I found the received signal became much easier to understand.

The headset cord is typical, but not typical is a plastic module located 32 inches from headset. This module with two AAA batteries installed weighs 2.7 oz and measures 5 x 1.75 x .625 inches. A nice touch is that the hinged battery cover is retained when opened. Along the module's left side is the noise reduction on-off slide switch. The right side has another slide switch for on-off phase reversal. The front has a green power-is-on LED, and a 0.25 inch diameter PTT button. I tried using the PTT on occasion and it works as it should. The button does not project much beyond surrounding case and is contoured such that it does not catch on clothing nor inadvertently become activated.

Also not typical is the additional 1/4 inch male plug (monaural type) found at cord's end. Plugging this red colored plug into the Heil adaptor's footswitch connector enables the PTT function.

The ear cups are covered with a removable and washable black fabric which I found cooler and more comfortable. The headband is steel and can be bent to suit, again tailoring for comfort. Headband structure on Quiet Phone is same as Pro Set except the plastic ear cup supports now have a more pronounced black matte finish.

Weighing just the headset portion finds the Pro Set weighing 8.3 oz. and the Quiet Phone weighing 9.4 oz. The Quiet Phone cord is a tad wider and thicker. This plus the internal microphones in earpieces plus fabric covers account for the 1.1 oz. weight gain.

As for the phase reversal, there are times I like it, and others I do not; more experience may determine a preference.

I previously, and in error, reported the Quiet Phones did not provide stereo audio, meaning I could not hear VFO-A only in left ear and VFO-B only in right. I found the Radio Shack extension cord's female stereo connector to be defective and upon replacing this connector, I can say the Quiet Phone headset works as it should.

Bottom line - if you would like to reduce or possibly eliminate ambient noise, try a set.

Regards and happy listening,

Bill K1UQ

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

YCCC LOGO ITEMS <http://www.cafepress.com/n1ik>

QSL CARDS are ordered through Burt Eldridge, W1ZS. To order, send Burt an email at eldr@adelphia.net, detailing card information per "QSL Request" form available at http://www.yccc.org/members/yccc_qsl.htm. You will receive a proof by email. Approve the proof, making any corrections, and return to Burt *with payment* (make checks out to Burt, not YCCC). Current price is \$35 (delivered) for 1,000 cards.

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. 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.

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** George Wilner, K2ONP **Atlantic** Rus Healy, K2UA
DXAC: New England Jim Reisert, AD1C **Hudson** John Sawina, NA2R **Atlantic** Tony Gargano, N2SS
ARRL LIAISON: Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
April 8 th	Elections	Marlboro, MA

Ship's Log	April 2006	Issue 183
Captain's Cabin	Mark Pride - K1RX	1
Treasurer's Report	Ed Parish - K1EP	2
Movers and Shakers		2
Flotsam & Jetsam	Jack Schuster - W1WEF	3
SO2R Methods in ARRL DX	Ed Sawyer - N1UR	4
Rules for Dxing	Whitey - K1VV	6
G3SXW Visit		7
Upcoming Contests		7
Feb 4th Meeting Minutes	George Harlem - W1EBI	8
New on 160	Barry Whittemore - WB1EDI	9

Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Saturday, April 8th – Noon - 5:00PM

Holiday Inn Marlborough, MA

K3LR on Multi-Multi Contesting!

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
18 Bancroft Tower Road
Worcester, MA 01609

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