



Scuttlebutt

June 2006

Issue 184

Next General Meeting: - August ARRL New England Division Convention - Boxborough, MA

Captain's Cabin

Mark Pride, K1RX

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The month of June is an exciting time to be into Amateur Radio and contesting! Summer is upon us and time for those outdoor projects to commence in earnest. All those outdoor tweaks to the station can now be done! Assuming you have your project list ready!

I write this month's Captain's Cabin as I travel to Dayton, Ohio for the annual trek to see old friends, radio and antenna manufacturers, a huge flea market and lots of story telling, swapping lies, and bragging about our yet to be announced win over the FRC in 2005 -2006 Contest season at all the hospitality suites! In the wonderful tradition of serving our fellow testers, the YCCC is providing pizza on Saturday night in the Super Suite this year (one night of the 3 pizza nights). And speaking of the YCCC at Dayton, the expectation is that over 50 members will be attending which is not unlike our 2005 performance! Looking forward to a fabulous yet sleepless weekend! The topics for the contest community at the Hamvention will be equally entertaining and this year, there appears to be considerable interest in contesting in a mobile environment! Sounds like some fun stuff and will probably learn a few more tricks of the trade.

There is no formal meeting planned in June this year with the exception of some local dinners, picnics and antenna parties. Invite your fellow YCCCer over to your place, do some mentoring, discuss how one can improve score production, and any secrets about working multipliers! Don't forget Field Day is at the end of the month – a great recruiting time – as you help your local clubs with the respective efforts, keep watch for those new folks that show more than just that passing interest to the “contesting” side of the event. I would suggest that those with the many years of experience in contesting and membership in the YCCC, seriously consider searching out these potential testers, take them under your wing, do a great job of introducing them to the best side of the hobby!

Finally, at the end of this summer, the ARRL is hosting it's Division convention in Boxboro, MA and invitations are being extended to the entire New England as well as Hudson Divisions to participate. The YCCC is will put on a full day of exciting programs, including our general meeting at the end of the day. I welcome your input as a guest speaker or provide us with topics with widespread appeal. A committee has been formed to organize our portion of the event by our newly elected Vice President, Mike, N1IW and a team of your fellow YCCCs. Our BIG raffle will also take place during the meeting as well – so it is guaranteed to be a fun day (Saturday, August 26).

Have a fun and productive summer!
73, Mark, K1RX

PS – did I thank you yet for your support in the coming contest season (2006 – 2007)? Thanks! Your newly elected set of officers are ready to rock and roll!

Yankee Clipper Contest Club

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Treasurer's Report

4/1/2006 - 5/31/2006

	Inflow	Outflow
Dues and Subscriptions	1,755.00	
Gifts to YCCC	15.00	
Subtotal:		
Badges		2.00
ISP		40.20
Meeting Expenses		---
Door Prize		485.80
Food		300
Rental		325.00
Postage and Delivery		66.69
Printing and Reproduction		180.07
Subtotal		1,399.76
Total:	370.24	



Full house at the April Meeting in Marlborough

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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!

It's that time of year when thoughts turn to Antennas, Boating and the Cape . Barnacle Jack actually avoids barnacles by trailering his boat, and the boat was already trailered back to the Cape just before the New England QSO Party (it's only a 16 ft yacht). Among many other items we carry back and forth in the boat between Ct and the Cape was the Hustler vertical that was to be my 40 and 80 antenna for NEQP. Although it assembles very quickly, especially with coax and radials already in place from last summer, all appeared to be lost when I realized that the base section was home on the RV! After a bit of sulking, a temporary base insulator was gerry rigged with a piece of PVC pipe and the 570D tuner took care of the rest. Despite severe weather last December that took down many big trees on the Cape, I was happy that the TH6 was still FB as well as the Yaesu rotor. During my operating time however, conditions were so up and down that I thought something was wrong. Happily, everyone else found the same conditions.

Bruce King, W1CSM sent this tip on powering a remote antenna switch via coax along:

"I use a remote relay to activate a loading coil for my 160M antenna. It is set up to take DC power from the coax line. A while back I changed the coax feeds coming into the shack. I now use an Ameritron RCS-4 to control the selection of my low band antennas over a single coax line. The problem I ran into was passing DC through the remote control relay box to the 160M control relay. The solution is simple. Use an additional RF Choke in the remote box and tack it from the Antenna 3 Coax center connector to the hot side of relays 202 and 203, the ones that select antennas 3 and 4. Use one of the Ameritron RF chokes to minimize the voltage drop since you are now powering 3 relays. My first try with a "normal" RF choke didn't work. I made up a small coax harness assembly that uses a T connector to tie both antenna 3 and 4 outputs together. The common output then goes to the remote antenna. With the switch in the antenna 3 position, minus 12V goes on the coax line, in position 4 it doesn't. A minor note, DC will be present on Antenna 3 when Antenna 1 is selected."

Dayton is days away as I write, and the weather forecast both in Ct and Ohio is for about 40 days and nights of rain. Anyway, I cant wait to leave on our 6AM flight Thursday morning out of Boston. Now you know why I looked like I was falling asleep all weekend!

I AM really looking forward to buying a new IC7000 in Dayton, or preferably making arrangements to have one shipped to my home. Thanks to Kurt Pauer, W1/6PH, I had a chance to try his 7000 and decided it was a bit better than the 706, but not really better by as much as I had hoped. It was less susceptible to overload, and the DSP filters seemed very good. Since I sold the 706 in anticipation of getting the new radio, I have really missed not being able to operate CW mobile as I have for years. The 7000 will mount in the same mobile bracket used for the 706, but the power connector is different. I'll pick up a new connector in Dayton from Quicksilver Radio Products, rather than route a new power cable through the car.

Speaking of selling radios, I find that ARRL Classifieds on-line works really well. If you haven't tried it, take a look. Easy to use, good exposure, free to members.

One feature originally touted on the 7000 was the ability to watch TV when the bands were dead. It turns out that the TV feature was eliminated as delivered, but February 2006 CQ magazine has an article on how to remove the surface mount diode to enable it. Someone who did the mod told me that the TV picture was quite good on the TFT display, but it only receives channels 2 thru 6. By the way, I finally found out what "TFT" stands for...I felt like such a dummy when I couldn't understand the Radio shack ads that come in the mail every week... "Thin Film Technology". I wonder if the people working in Radio Shack know that?

Bob Doherty, K1VV sent some photos of a portable vertical antenna he put together using a telescoping fibreglass 33 ft mast he got at Hosstraders. It appears to collapse to about 4 ft, and Bob says it weighs only a bit over 3 pounds. The mast supports a wire that is tuned with his MFJ autotuner.

Several YCCers will be heading for Brazil before long, either as participants or just to enjoy being there for WRTC. Best of luck to all those competing. Think I'll turn that bottom fixed TH6 toward Brazil instead of Europe.

That's all folks!
73 Barnacle JACK W1WEF
w1wef@arrl.net for your input!



Western Mass Meeting Notice

This is an advance announcement of the Western Mass Area Picnic, a Regional Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club on Saturday July 29, 2006. The meeting will be held at the station of K1TTT, Dave Robbins, in Peru, MA. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. local time. This will be an official meeting; a YCCC Officer will be present. You can pay your dues and new members can join.

The purpose of the meeting is to demonstrate multi-multi contesting for those interested in learning more about contesting. We plan to make this a Contest University type meeting, the IOTA Contest will be in progress and attendees can take part in the activity. Dave will have several new antennas in place for us to try out.

Dave is always looking for operators for contests, for the 4 major contest each year and well as many others. If you have an interest in participating, this would give you an excellent preview of all that is involved.

If you know anyone that would like to learn more about YCCC or to join the club please pass this information on to them, all are welcome.

Additional information will be released in July. We will ask for attendance interest at that time.

Directions to K1TTT are located on Dave's web site: <http://k1ttt.net/overview.html>

email k1ttt@arrl.net or w1to@arrl.net

Tom Homewood, W1TO
Western Mass. Section Manger YCCC

ARRL New England Division Conventiuon

The 2006 ARRL New England Division Convention will be held on August 25, 26th and 27th. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

A great program is being planned. We are excited to announce that the newly elected A.R.R.L President, Joel Harrison, W5ZN will be in attendance. Here is your opportunity to meet Joel first hand at the ARRL Forums. He doesn't get off that easy though, as our guest of honor at the Saturday evening banquet, we get the opportunity to hear from him again. Order your tickets early as the banquet seating is limited.

We are also happy to report that Bob Heil, K9EID will be making a return visit with one of his ever popular talks on all things audio. Look for Bob's presentation early on Saturday, and we've left plenty of time of questions and answers after his presentation.

The Special Event station W1A will be in operation. This is a good opportunity to operate the top shelf amateur radio equipment the industry has to offer and have fun while doing it!

The Boxboro Holiday Inn, located at the junction of Routes 111 and 495 in Massachusetts, will again open it's doors to the Amateur Radio community with its spacious parking and comfortable accommodations. Hotel information is available through the Boxboro.org website. Room rates are reduced for this year, be sure to ask for the "Boxboro Ham Radio Convention Rate" when making your reservations.

The "Call for Presenters" remains open. Please contact WO1N if you have an Amateur Radio related presentation or represent an organization that would like to reach out to a large population of active Hams.

Volunteers are also welcome to help with event planning and execution.

We hope to see you there!

Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF
Convention Chair
K1TWF@arrl.org

Ken Caruso, WO1N
Program Chair
WO1N@ARRL.NET

Tom Walsh, K1TW
Volunteer Chair
K1TW@arrl.net

The 100 Pound DXpedition

B. Scott Andersen (NE1RD)

Sitting hunched in my chair trying to call some far-away place in a recent contest made me wonder, “what would it be like to be the DX?” Instead of searching and pouncing with my little 100 watt station with the bad antennas, what would it be like to sit on an island, surrounded by salt water, running US stations for hours on end?

I was able to penetrate these mysteries and more during the 2006 ARRL DX SSB contest. This is my story of the *100 pound DXpedition*, a trip made to the island of St. John in the US Virgin Islands with a minimum of equipment, hand-carried, and assembled just for the contest. There are no towers, rotors, stacked arrays, or even yagis in this story. Just a little ingenuity, a little luck, lots of warm breezes and sunshine, and a few good runs on 15 meters.

Why 100 Pounds?

There are places you can rent where a well equipped shack, computers, towers, and antennas are already in place and ready for a contest. One such place is Windwood Estates on St. Croix, situated atop a 900 ft cliff with the blue waters of the Caribbean below and a direct line to the US above. Contesting from here means bringing only your toothbrush and a change of clothes as everything else is provided. But what if you're more of a do-it-yourself-er?

For that you'll need to pack your own radios and equipment. Unfortunately the airlines recently changed their rules for carry-on baggage allowances limiting passengers to two bags of no more than 50 pounds each (hence the 100 pounds). There are exceptions and, in fact, you can squeak by with a bit more than that 100 pound limit, but that was my rough-cut weight budget for my prospective trip to St. John.

The 100 pound budget also brought focus to my gear selection. As artists often say, “form is freeing”. Once I had decided to bring all of the equipment with me (instead of, say, shipping it ahead), and I had to live within the weight and size limits dictated by the airlines, many of my choices narrowed and it was actually easier to make selections from my cache of equipment.

Starting with the 50 Pound DXpedition

I began planning my trip with the basics: radio, power supply, and tuner. While not a great radio for contesting, the Yaesu FT-897D has some things going for it. First, it can hold its power supply internally saving weight and space. Secondly, LDG makes a versatile bolt-on style tuner that can tune over a fairly wide range. Since we don't yet know what kind of antennas will be driven, this flexibility can be very helpful. This package, radio, power supply, and tuner together weigh in at only 12 pounds, an excellent start to our shack on a (weight) budget.

The radio needs to be shipped inside some kind of luggage. Since this is the centerpiece to our shack, we'll want to protect it as much as possible. For this I selected a Pelican case model 1610. The good news about this case is it measures just under the 62-linear-inch limit allowed by the airlines so there is plenty of room on the inside. The bad news is it weighs 22 pounds empty. Twenty two pounds is nearly half the 50 pound allowance for the piece of luggage! Yet, it doesn't do us any good to save weight on the trunk and ship more equipment if it all arrives damaged.

The 22 pounds for the Pelican case plus the 12 pounds for the brings us to 34 pounds. Rounding off this first case is an MFJ 259B analyzer, a 25 foot piece of coax, SuperAntennas MP-1 portable antenna system for hotel balcony use, an Anderson PowerPole power distribution box, and miscellaneous cables, connectors, and some extra stuff like aluminum extension arms for the antenna, and a 12 foot MFJ collapsible whip. All totaled, the first case weighs in at 48 pounds and provides enough equipment to operate a 100 watt station from a hotel room with a vertical antenna attached to the balcony railing. I did just that from St. Thomas using only the contents of this case on our return trip from St. John.

Antennas and Feed Lines

Putting a radio in a box is easy; getting reasonable radiators erected in some remote location is not so easy. I began by looking over what kind of case would be needed to ship any of the antenna pieces I would consider. Nearly all of them were too long for a standard bag so something else would need to be used. As it turns out, the airlines have many exceptions to their “two bags”, “nothing bigger than 62 linear inches”, and “no more than 50 pounds” rules, and nearly all of these exceptions have to do with accommodating sportsman.

Skis, fishing poles, and golf clubs are routinely carried by airline travelers and all of these cases violate the standard baggage rules. That is why all these cases, and many more, are exempted from the standard limitations! What antenna parts need is a case that will accommodate pieces 48 inches long or so as most antenna components that can be considered for such a journey break down into pieces of this length. As it happens, a standard-sized, hard-sided golf bag fits the task perfectly.

I began thinking I would bring a tri-band yagi, assemble it on the island, and point it towards North America. Since the ARRL DX SSB contest is the USA and Canada versus the world, I only need to talk in one direction—the US mainland—so no rotator would be necessary. I had ordered a Force-12 C3SS and it had arrived. Unfortunately, it weighs in at nearly 38 pounds once

you include the mast-to-beam plate and all the associated hardware. Add in the weight of any reasonable mast material and my weight budget would be blown completely!

With a heavy heart, I put the tri-bander away and considered other options. I had visited the big island of Hawaii last year and had done very well using a simple vertical antenna. Verticals over salt water, especially when perched high and accompanied with reasonable radials, perform extremely well. I decided to bring only my commercial Buddipole and materials to make verticals for the trip. The good news is verticals are simple to construct in the field; the bad news is they are all monoband antennas (except for the 40/15 vertical) and so they require lots of feed line.

The hard-sided golf case called “The Vault” began as an empty space. From there I added the Buddipole system in its padded case, a DK9SQ 33-foot (10m) collapsible mast from Kanga for the low bands, a 20-foot collapsible fishing pole for 40/15m, along with 250 feet of lightweight RG-8X feed line. There were a few other items included in another bag thrown in such as two baluns/center insulators for feeding my two verticals, Dacron rope, and a 500 foot spool of lightweight and high-strength wire for the radiators and radials.



Checking out the Buddipole

Here’s where I cheat a bit: if you have a hard-sided golf case, they allow up to 70 pounds instead of the normal limit of 50! So, I was a bit over my limit on essentials, especially once tools and a few extras were thrown in, but the budget worked like a charm keeping me focused on what was necessary and what was simply “nice to have.” Just a couple of extras like my Heil ProSet Plus headset were packed separately. We now had all we need to put a station on the air on bands 6m-80m.

Arrival on St. John

We stayed at Windchime, a villa high atop Giff Hill on the Western side of St. John near its main port of Cruz Bay. Windchime has two buildings, a main house with kitchen, laundry, and two bedrooms, and a “guest house” with bedroom and bath that would serve as my shack. The roof of the guest house is completely accessible via a spiral staircase and includes plenty of room for antennas, even with the hot tub in the middle!

I constructed four antennas and placed them in the four corners of this roof: a 20 meter dipole made from the Buddipole, an 80m sloper made from the 10 meter mast, a 40/15m vertical made from the 20-foot fishing pole, and a 15 meter vertical made from the MFJ whip and several other miscellaneous components. The two big verticals for 80 and 40 were fed each with 100 foot lengths of coax on ground level behind the building. The 20 meter antenna was directly above the shack so a 50 foot run of coax sufficed. The 15 meter antenna shared the 20 meter’s coax run.

With antenna construction complete, it was time to test everything to see if we were really “getting out”. K2UTC was first on 15 meters followed by KP2YL, V44KJ, and OK2RZ on 80m. HK3AK and a string of other stations were loud on 20 meters and claimed I was loud, too. Things looked ready!

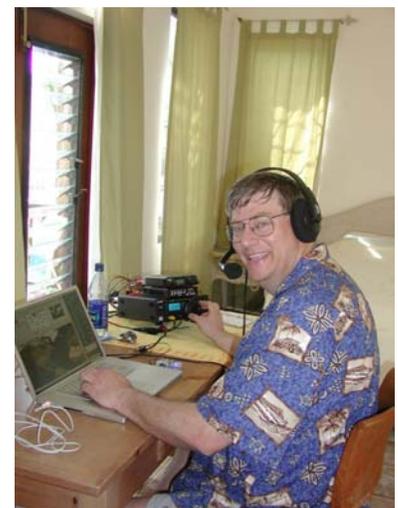
CQ CQ CQ This Is KP2/NE1RD

My call KP2/NE1RD is quite a mouthful and I confess I was tongue-tied during the first thousand or so times I stomped on the foot peddle and called it out. But, at least for a couple of hours, I was able to make runs on 15 meters and rack up some points.

I had begun my planning with thoughts of a yagi and a hard-core effort. My goal had been 1000 QSOs and maybe something approaching a million points. When I discarded the yagi because of weight concerns, I ratcheted down my expectations to 500 QSOs on whatever bands were hot. I made that goal, and then some, using only 100 watts and four very simple antennas.

The point of the exercise was to see how much radio capabilities, and fun, could be contained in just a couple of bags and something approaching 100 pounds. Indeed with care and planning for both the equipment and location, even simple antennas and low power can provide a reasonable contesting set-up and absolutely tons of fun.

In deference to DXpeditioning tradition, on the plane ride home we began asking ourselves, “where next?!” Wherever it may be, our goals will be the same: more points, less weight!



Upcoming Contests

June, 2006

ANARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Jun 10 to 2400Z, Jun 11
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Jun 10 to 0300Z, Jun 12
All Asian DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Jun 17 to 2400Z, Jun 18
SMIRK Contest	0000Z, Jun 17 to 2400Z, Jun 18
West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 17 to 0200Z, Jun 18
Quebec QSO Party	1700Z, Jun 17 to 0300Z, Jun 18
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jun 17
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	1200Z, Jun 24 to 1200Z, Jun 25
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	1200Z, Jun 24 to 1200Z, Jun 25
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	[cancelled]
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 24 to 2100Z, Jun 25

July, 2006

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 1 to 1059Z, Jul 2
MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint	2300Z, Jul 4 to 0300Z, Jul 5
IARU HF World Championship (WRTC - Brazil)	1200Z, Jul 8 to 1200Z, Jul 9
Six Club Contest	1800Z, Jul 8 to 2100Z, Jul 9
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 15 to 2100Z, Jul 16
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 15 to 0600Z, Jul 16
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 29 to 1200Z, Jul 30

N1DG Inducted into CQ DX Hall of Fame

At the Dayton DX Dinner on Friday May 19th two DXers were inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame. They were K0IR, Ralph Fedor, and N1DG, Don Greenbaum.

Don Greenbaum was nominated to the CQ DX Hall of fame by the Dateline DX Association. Greenbaum was first licensed as WN2DND in 1962 and then upgraded to WB2DND, earning DXCC at the age of 15. During the 1980's he traveled on business through Asia and operated from several spots along the way. He was the software designer of the WB2DND logging program. This was one of the first DOS logging programs, which was used worldwide. During the late 80's and early 90's Don was instrumental in much of the A6 activity from the United Arab Emirates. He has also been involved with the Websites and/or pilot operations for K5K, A52A, VK0IR, 9M0C, ZK1XXP, AL7EL/KH9, BQ9P, ZL9CI and the most recent 3Y0X operation.

Thanks to "The Weekly DX" <http://www.dailydx.com/weekly2.html>



Regular Meeting

April 8, 2006 - Marlborough, MA

Mark K1RX called the April meeting to order at 12:38pm at the Holiday Inn in Marlborough, MA. Since the conference room was bulging with 90 members, Mark dispensed with the eyeball sprint in favor of the more traditional round of auto-introductions.

George W1EBI gave the secretary's report, noting 343 active members as of April 7. There were an additional 43 members with dues paid to March 31, 2005, who fell into the "inactive" category as of April 1st. Ed K1EP gave the treasurer's report, noting income for the year ending March 31, 2006 of \$5,540.91 and expenses of \$7,011.79. Bank balance as of March 31, 2006, was \$10,644.70. Both reports were accepted by vote.

Doug K1DG introduced the special guest speaker, Tim Duffy K3LR, owner and builder of one of the world's top multi-multi contest stations. Doug emphasized that Tim is a founder and member of the North Coast Contest Club (NCCC) of western PA and *not* from that other club elsewhere in the mid-Atlantic area. From his 11-acre QTH off I-80 just 1.5 miles from the Ohio border, Tim and company (including John K1AR) turned in the high claimed score in the recent 2006 ARRL DX CW contest, beating out both W3LPL and KC1XX (LCR's pending). Tim's lavishly illustrated presentation touched on the multiple stacked arrays of Yagis on Rohn 45's, the tallest of which is at 197', and the lengths he has gone to in order to achieve maximum RF isolation and minimum interstation interference, perhaps at the expense of lightning protection. K3LR consists of 13 separate operating positions outfitted with IC-781's and homebrew 8877 amps (plus one AL-1200). Not surprisingly, Tim was bombarded with questions and did a great job fielding them all. In gratitude for his fine presentation, Craig K1QX presented Tim with a container of very special New Hampshire maple elixir on behalf of YCCC.



Mark ran through some remaining meeting agenda items, including an update on WRTC, the club raffle, which will be on the agenda for the all-day meeting at Boxboro 2006 in August, the upcoming YCCC-sponsored talk at ARRL HQ by G3SXW, NEQP in May, summer picnics, and a poll of attendees who planned to experience Dayton (numerous).

Three new members were introduced:

- Ed Stratton, W1ZZ, Groton MA
- Joe Ciarcia, K1JC, Londonderry NH
- Matt Cassarino, WV1K, South Orleans MA
- Bert Weijers, N1QN, Dracut MA

In time-honored YCCC fashion, all four were voted in by acclamation and welcomed aboard.

Following a break to allow a round of eyeball QSO's among the throng at the most heavily-attended meeting of the year, Mark moved on to the annual election of officers for the upcoming year. The officers and board of advisors presented a slate consisting of:

- Mark Pride K1RX, president (incumbent)
- Mike Bernock N1IW, vice president
- George Harlem W1EBI, secretary (incumbent)
- Ed Parish K1EP, treasurer (incumbent)
- Jerry Muller K0TV, activities manager

Motions were made and seconded to close nominations and to vote on the slate as presented. The slate of officers was elected by acclamation, then subjected to posing for a group photograph by Jim K1IR (adjacent and on the website).



Chuck W1HIS, a/k/a Wizard of Ferrite, gave a presentation on common mode chokes, an abbreviated version of his detailed 42-page treatise now up on the club website (<http://www.yccc.org/Articles/articles.htm>). Chuck suggested that we may have as many as 100 individual MF/HF noise sources in our own home. Common mode noise can be choked. Chuck did a graphic demonstration using a laptop PC with a power brick connected to an AC extension cord. With his portable AM radio as a noise detector, we heard clearly audible broadband noise produced by the laptop's power supply. Chuck then replaced the AC extension cord with a similar one loaded with \$26 worth of ferrite. The noise virtually disappeared. There was no quiz following the demo.

Dave KIHT, club scorekeeper, summarized the early 2006 ARRL DX results, which showed YCCC leading FRC in combined CW and SSB by over 15 million points, a great showing by YCCC in view of the substantial lead the Keystone guys had over us in DXpeditions (22 million vs. our 6 million) and overall SSB scoring (19 million vs. our 11 million). It ain't over until the LCR's are out, but the preliminary numbers are a great statement of the importance of Mark's charge last October to get in the chair, submit all logs regardless of total score, and kick some butt for YCCC. For CQWW 2005, the final numbers for combined CW and SSB showed a solid victory for YCCC with 307 million vs. FRC's 278 million. We can celebrate taking back the #1 spot in the CQWW Unlimited Club category!

Mark recognized a newly-formed group including Ken WB1DX, Ed N1UR and Jack W1WEF who will be teaming with Scuttlebutt editor Steve N1SR to broaden and enhance the club newsletter. Articles are welcome.

The final agenda item was the drawing of tickets for a bunch of door prizes. Our guest K3LR picked the first ticket. The prize winners were:

N1QN	Bencher paddle	KB1T	Heil Pro Set
N1IX	DX Engineering gift certificate	WB1ADR	DXE gift certificate
W6PH	LDG auto tuner	K1XM	Samlex power supply
W1WEF	Plantronics Bluetooth headset	W2AFC	DXE gift certificate
K1JC	DXE gift certificate		
N1DD	W1WEF CW interface		
N1SR	W1WEF CW interface		

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
George Harlem W1EBI
Secretary



Wizard of Ferrite, Chuck, W1HIS

Movers and Shakers



New Crew

Ed Stratton, W1ZZ	Groton MA
Joe Ciarcia, K1JC	Londonderry NH
Matt Cassarino, WV1K	South Orleans MA
Bert Weijers, N1QN	Dracut MA

PROFILES

Jerry Woodworth N1DD

Mike Gilmer, N2MG, is the Webmaster for the YCCC website. He keeps the website up to date by posting information on meetings, directions to meetings including maps, and articles of interest, using Microsoft Front Page. Mike credits K5ZD with modernizing and cleaning up the website about three years ago, which makes the job of Webmaster easier and faster. Mike also maintains the email forwarding for club officers. He gets occasional questions about email forwarding for members, but is unable to expand the service as the number of users that can be accommodated is limited. Mike also gets questions about the reflector. While he tries to provide answers when available, the reflector administrator is actually K1MK.

A major portion of his time is spent as Webmaster for the eHam website. When Bill Fisher, W4AN, started eHam, he talked Mike into helping. Although the two never met in person, they conversed regularly by email. After Bill died, the remaining owners recruited Mike to help on a variety of activities.

Mike is a regular contributor to Strays on Contesting.com. If he finds a quote from a poet or well-known person that can be converted to contesting, he will place the saying on the website. Mike describes himself as a converter, not an originator. He is always on the look out for new material and keeps a notebook of ideas. (N1DD—some of his material is very funny. Maybe he should moonlight as a gag writer.)

Mike grew up on Long Island and attended a Catholic high school. While in a science class, he became curious about a KWM-1 in the rear of the room. The teacher, a Franciscan Brother, was WA2RFL, now KQ2V. With his and another local ham's help, Mike earned a novice license with the call sign, WN2ROK, in 1973. The Novice Round Up was his first contest. Before finishing high school, he upgraded to General and then Extra. At that time, his call sign was WA2ROK. In 1977, Extra class licensees could choose their call sign, and Mike became the original holder of N2MG.

Ham radio and contesting were on the back burner during his college years at Polytechnic University, which is probably better known by its former name of Brooklyn Poly Tech. He graduated with BSEE and MSEE degrees.

In the early 80's, Mike erected a small crank up tower with a KT34XA, using it dabble in domestic contesting and do some DXing. In 1986, he was invited to operate from VP2MU in CQWW CW located at the VP2ML station, shortly before VP2ML was destroyed by the eruption of a volcano. New to high level DX contesting, Mike found that the experience at that M/M was overwhelming, but he caught the contesting bug. When he returned home, he added a second tower and operated N2MG several times as single op and M/S and M2. By 1989, he was living in upstate New York and renting a house, where the only antenna was an A3 mounted on a lamp pole.

In 1993, Mike married Yvonne. According to Mike, one of their first dates consisted of installing a 40-meter dipole, but she hasn't shown much interest since in Ham radio. They have a nine-year-old daughter, Mollie.

About 1996, a house with 12 acres was purchased in Vernon, NY, where Mike claims distinction as YCCC's western most member near the edge of the club's circle. For the past several years, he has been building a station, which is intended for serious single op and semi-serious M/S or M2 contesting. Two towers, 150 feet and 130 feet high with latter rotating the top 70 feet, are in place. Stacks of four 5-element antennas for 10 meters and four 5-element antennas for 15 are on the tower. Stacks on both 40 and 20 will be on the other tower. The coax and hardline are still on the ground but should be up in the spring. Inside, an operating room was built in the basement. The radios are an FT1000MP and TS940 with two ARD amplifiers. Still to be completed are homebrew boxes for switching and station automation.

Mike has considerable experience at multi ops. He operated from KY1H, now K1TTT, several times and from various other multis. Mike related a story about operating 20 meters from his M2 on Long Island. A local called him, and said he had been trying to call Mike on 10 meters. The guy was located less than a mile away and had been trying to work the second harmonic, which was 10 over S9. In 1991, Mike was at the M/S, VP5P, for CQWW CW. In the 2005 CQWW CW, he was the 80-meter operator at HC8N. In the 2005 ARRL DX Phone, he was on 10 meters at K3LR. As such, his number of Q's were small, but operating with world class operators at a super station was a great experience.

Mike is employed as an electrical engineer doing mostly software work for Par Technology, making asset tracking and telemetry systems utilizing GPS, cellular, and satellites for the trucking industry.

N2MG's favorite contest is CQWW CW, and he also likes the Sprints. He prefers cw contests, as there is less QRM which makes copying weak signals easier, and thinks that the level of operation is better than in phone contests. Still, Mike does operate phone contests and likes CQWW SSB for the variety of DX stations that participate. Mike enjoys YCCC for its welcome to all levels from top contestors to regular guys who like to contest. In Mike's words, "It is an inclusive club". The range of knowledge and the ease of discussion with other members are valuable. He also enjoys the meetings, although the long drive to the meetings limits the opportunities to attend.

YCCC Does Dayton

Mark Pride - K1RX

Very early departure Thursday morning arriving by bus from Newburyport at 4:30 AM (came early expecting road delays due to flooding) - the flight left on time to Detroit at 6 AM. Dragged the rest of day!

My room mate this year was our newly elected Vice President, Mike, N1IW which was his very *first time at Dayton!* Through the course of the weekend, Mike kept saying my head is gonna explode with some much contesting talk and meeting the best of the best in this game! (I bet he has a lot to say in this column). Mike had accepted my offer to stay of the Contester's Hotel (Crown Plaza, Downtown) to catch the most action relative to our game. Success - at every turn, Mike was running into all kinds of great testers from around the world.

I have been coming to the Dayton Hamvention since 1972 and as best I can tell, probably my 15th time since. Recall one trip where the group of 9 in a Chevy Vega station wagon drove straight through and we had to unfold ourselves like broken pretzels at touch down. Will never forget that trip as we went on the cheap. Times change and now I fly/rent a car, etc. Much more comfortable for sure. While in Detroit, I met N9PG who told me the story of his last visit when he just drove into the flea market area and was attacked at the gate. He had collected 30 years of stuff in his basement and sold it all for \$8000 in an hour. Then at that Dayton, bought an FT9000 (one of the very early ones) and ever since has had a bunch of problems, returns to the factory at a considerable cost, etc and said, Chip, K7JA is the only one that knows about customer service! (After all that, he is still quite happy with the rig)

Arrived pretty much on time and found my travelling buds, Jack, W1WEF and Jim, K1IR in the baggage claim all ready to go. Met an old friend that moved out of YCCC territory a few years ago and he joined us in the ride to the hotel (Duke, W1ZA). From that time forward, it all becomes a blurr seeing a bunch of old friends: K3WW, N2RD, AI6V, N6AA, N2AA, K1ZZ, N1SV, W1AO, N4CW, W6PH, N9RV, W2SC, W2GD, W9RE, K4XS, K1EA, N4ZZ, W4RM, K4ISV, K5NA, K5DU, W2JU, WE3C, W3LPL, N4PN, and a million other guys and gals. Like strolling down a K5ZD super check partial list. Although we see these guys pretty much each year, it is always fun to get that quick catch up data dump and check to see what new things or interests they are chasing. This networking stuff really stimulates the masses - bunch of ideas about everything in radio contesting.

My flea market mission was pretty light duty this year - only a handful of parts needed to finish a couple of projects at home. Wife commented to me via the cell phone that I spent all that money to buy a couple dollars worth of parts? Heck of return on investment - but I know you all understand!

The Contest Banquet was very good (thanks Tim, K3LR) - sat with a bunch of W4's from GA and we had a great exchange of detail on stations, rigs, contest interests, etc. As the guest speaker, Rusty, W6OAT led us through his long history in amateur radio and contesting, it brought back all kinds of great moments I have experienced in my 42 years of hamming. I wish you all could have been there - it was truly a good moment for us all, touching the many areas that those before us or our mentors or just those that reach out to each of us and place us in the right place at the right time, really impacts our lives in such a positive and fulfilling way! The underlying theme was "time to give it back" and excite others about the value of contesting.

The new inductees for 2006 Contest Hall of Fame were introduced and their stories were presented by several good friends - again a very touching time for us all. Congrats Tim, K3LR and Bill, W4AN (rip)!

Crowds seemed down by quite a bit this year - flea market estimates thought 40% down from last year. Hope this turns around! But still a lot of people - all buying! Inside where the many vendors and manufacturers were interesting to talk with - new amps, new rigs, add on equipment, Software Defined Radio's, antennas, tools, and the usual bunch of little guys trying to stake a claim in our lucrative ham market (hi !).

This is a small tidbit of Dayton detail and lots more that could be offered here - will let others chime in and add to the mix. At the airport, met with Dean, N6BV and we discussed having a joint conference call soon with all the club presidents around the US and tee up an agenda that speaks to our common challenges - growing the membership of our respective clubs and keep this aspect of the contesting world alive and kicking. I suggested a "strawman" agenda (a term I use frequently in work) be put together as a starting point and he laughed!

One last thing, I think many of you have probably worked Rebecca (KB0VVT) in some past contests and she was there too. I introduced myself and suggested if she has any time this fall, be sure to come to a YCCC meeting and join our fun! She is going to MIT this fall on a nice scholarship so I thought I would at least extend the invite while I had the chance!!

Flew back with YCCCer, Al, KD1EA and NH friend, Cal, WA1WOK and we all had our Dayton stories to share - all good stuff! Next year? Let me get my head screwed back on first, then we'll see!

Martin Durham - W1MD - Did notice a marked reduction in YCCC members stopping by at the booth...were they there and just didn't make it to the Radio Bookstore? Or did they stay downtown? or did they just not come this year? Get to drink good scotch with old friends.....Hoo Rah!!!

Jim Ussailis - W1EQO

1. Got a slight sunburn on Friday & Saturday!!
2. Refurb Orion I is \$2600 (no tuner) & \$2900 (tuner). Has same firmware as Orion II. Orion II has about 2 dB better dynamic range compared to Orion I in CW. They are the same on SSB.
3. Less empty space inside compared to 2004. More vacant slots in boneyard. Bigger crowd inside.
4. Less used test equip, with much higher prices. Didn't find a spectrum analyser for less than about 4K (other than one beat-up 141T).

Ted Demopoulos, KT1V - "Severe Stomach Virus" (as diagnosis post Dayton Monday) cut down on drinking and eating severely but still had fun! Didn't vomit on any YCCers :)

Fred Hpopengarten - K1VR

Observations:

Yaesu FT-9000: A lot of little knobs.

Orion II: A lot of menus.

Alpha 2 KW (keydown) dry dummy load: And who, exactly, would want this?

ARRL Booth: A tremendous leap forward in servicing the interests of the membership.

KB0VVT: She will be a freshman at MIT this coming fall, and she likes contests, having just operated PJ2T this past year.

Kids!: Speaking generally, I saw a lot of young hams in Dayton this year. At least it seemed to me that there were a lot.

Pizza: The arrival of the pizza was moved up to 11:30 pm this year, on the grounds that not enough guys can still stay up until midnight and be at Hara Arena early in the morning. Sic transit gloria mundi.

K3LR Never Quits: After the pizza arrived on Friday night, K3LR grabbed a whole box of pizza and took it directly to a table full of kids in the rear of the Miami Room and nowhere near the pizza. The pizza was just for them. There's a man who knows how to recruit operators by using the coin of the realm.

The inescapable:

I showed up at the HamVention Speaker's Office to pick up my registration envelope.

Forum? Ham Radio and the Law

Name? Fred Hopengarten

Callsign? K1VR

Are you sure? Uh, yes. Why do you ask?

Your envelope says "Fred Hopengarten, K1AR"

[Fortunately, my badge callsign was not busted.]

Kansas City DX Club Code Copying Contest (maximum of 100 callsigns):

The winner had 56, second place 54, third 53 with ties, fourth with 52. I had 51 and came in 7th, beating K1DG who also had 51 -- only because I won the tie-breaker by having more consecutive calls correct. Do you know how often I beat K1DG at anything? Almost never. Which is quite close to never. Priceless. I won a Compendium of issues of the Low Band Monitor.

Ann Santos - WA1S - It was a great time working for ICOM and seeing everyone again. One of the highlights was beating K1IR by 2 callsigns in the pileup challenge :). I purchased an LDG-7000 auto tuner for my IC-7000 to take with me on trips. The radio, PS and tuner will fit nicely in my carry-on case.

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 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 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
July 29 th	Regional	K1TTT Peru, MA
Aug	General	NE Div Conv Boxboro, MA

Ship's Log	June 2006	Issue 184
Captain's Cabin	Mark Pride - K1RX	1
Treasurer's Report	Ed Parish - K1EP	2
Flotsam & Jetsam	Jack Schuster - W1WEF	3
WMA Meeting Notice		4
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Upcoming Contests		7
N1DG Inducted into DX Hall of Fame		7
Apr 8th Meeting Minutes	George Harlem - W1EBI	8
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Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club

ARRL New England Division Convention - Boxboro MA

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
18 Bancroft Tower Road
Worcester, MA 01609

FIRST CLASS MAIL