



Scuttlebutt

February 2007

Issue 188

**Next General Meeting: - Saturday February 3rd - 1pm - 5pm
MIT Building 36, Room 156 - Cambridge, MA**

Captain's Cabin

It's been a wild, fall contest season given the fact the sun is operating a minimum now! What can we expect in the ARRL DX contest? Time will tell but the YCCC will be out in force! With all the warm weather during our late fall 2006 and early 2007, were you able to do some final tweaks on the antenna farm? Love working in a bug free environment! The recent ice storm in southern NH and other YCCC locals did cause some damage but not too bad. Now would be a good time to have a stretch of warm weather to bring everything back to life again.

The February, 2007 General Meeting is expected to be a good one. The YCCC was well represented at the WRTC event Brazil this past July and a number of operators, judges and observers will be sharing stories and interesting contest related tidbits for us along with several pictures of the different stations used during the contest! Jim, K1IR has organized a nice presentation and informal discussion for our pleasure.

On behalf of the YCCC officers, we wish to thank Andy, K2TJ who attends MIT, for arranging the use of a room and AV setup. The meeting location and directions have been detailed at the YCCC web site including a map that shows all the possible FREE parking locations for our use. (Map reproduced on page 4 following.) The meeting location is Room 156, Building 36 just off of Vassar Street. Having a meeting on Saturday in Cambridge will be a breeze for all of us – travel will be simple as the highways will be lightly loaded (usually means a poorly tuned amplifier in our speak). Our expectations for this meeting include the participation of members from the north (Maine) as well as the south (RI) and due West since MIT is central in the east. By the way, Andy plans to provide those attending, a tour of the world famous W1MX station. (I have done some operating from W1MX myself although I attended college at the competition, Lowell Technological Institute. now UMASS Lowell back in the 70's – can't wait to see what is different today). This impressive station served as a lab of all sorts for many interesting antenna systems now in use in amateur radio, including the switchable 2 element. that two alumni designed, one of which was W1FV whom I suspect applied these same principles to the incredible antenna system now in service at KC1XX on 80 M (Stacked 2 el. Delta loops). Lots of interesting history and great legacy abound at MIT, so come into the big city and enjoy!

I am expecting the final wrap up of the CQ WW contest from our scores master, Dave, K1HT as well along with other interesting topics for us to enjoy. We have the ARRL DX test to tune up for – bring your winning solutions to the meeting and share with your fellow YCCers. Remember ARRL is all about us! The DX is looking for you. Therefore making for a very fun contest – high rates, interesting multipliers calling in from unexpected parts of the world!

See you all at the next General Meeting at MIT in Cambridge, MA on Feb. 3rd!

73, Good Contesting!

Mark, K1RX

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February Meeting Agenda

- Brazil WRTC Overview
(several YCCC members were in attendance in various capacities)
- All this talk of No Code
Featuring a collection of Paddles for all to play with, understand better and perhaps improve our cw scores in the ARRL DX test (and beyond).
- Scores Recap by Dave, K1HT
- W1MX station tour (club station of MIT)
Site of very interesting antenna experiments and design development, many now deployed around the world.

“HAM ATLAS” ON THE WEB!

Darek, SP6NVK, informs OPDX that he has started a new ham atlas service on the Web after 4 years of work on it. This service contains the complete information on all 337 DXCC Entities, over 3000 pictures and 1100 maps. He hopes everyone will enjoy and be satisfied in using his service.

The HamAtlas Web site is available at: <http://www.hamatlas.eu/>

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

Flotsam & Jetsam

Barnacle Jack Schuster, W1WEF w1wef@arri.net

Ahoy Maties!

I'm writing early before we head South in the RV and then further South on the Mariner of the Seas. For anyone who has never been on a cruise, we just started cruising about 6 years ago, and have been going annually since. In fact, this will be our fourth cruise on the Mariner, we like that fantastic ship so much. Cruises can be very reasonable...I'm not a travel agent but you can contact me off line if you'd like any advice.

Art Holmes, W1RZF, sent this along. Art had to splice a piece of wire to one end of his 80M dipole, which was oxidized. He tried some muriatic acid that he had used for etching his garage floor, and found it did a great job in cleaning the wire. He just rinsed the wire after putting it in the acid, and then found it soldered very nicely with a torch.

Speaking of splicing, one of my favorite ways to splice antenna wire is to use Buchanan copper crimp splice caps. I have a special crimp tool that I bought years ago when I was wiring a house, but other crimp tools might work as well. After crimping the splice, I solder it as well, flowing solder under the copper cap. One drawback to my tool is the fact that the tool surrounds the wire and cap. Unless you have a lot of crimp tools so you can leave one on the wire, you have to make sure you can recover the tool!

Bob Hess, W1RH/6, now living in CA but a former club member offers this:

Bob had a full wave vertical 80M loop when he was in Hopkinton Ma, hung from two 100 ft+ trees. The antenna really played on 80 and 40M. Fed by 450 ohm ladder line, the line just laid on the ground and entered the house through two feedthru insulators. Even when covered by three feet of snow, he could always tune it with his Johnson Matchbox. In Ca where Bob is on ten acres, he sees alot of electric fences using "polytape" as the conductor. He is putting up a couple loops at the new QTH, and will use polytape insulators for the ladder line, as they are just the right size and look like they will make for a neat intallation.

Trivia Quiz: What's this? 35Z550L612SK712SQ712SA7 or 35W412BE612BA612AT650C5

Ever use a selenium rectifier?

Remember buffer capacitors and vibrators?

Resistance line cords?

How about wide whitewalls?

Fake whitewalls?

"Color TV transparent overlays with blue on top and green on the bottom to convert your black and white TV set to color?"

Ever use a safety razor with double edged disposable blades?

Remember cars with starter switches on the floor?

Coke bottles that needed an opener?

If you remember ANY of this stuff at all, you're at the median age of today's Hams

...well I had to relate it somehow! hi

73,

Barnacle Jack W1WEF

w1wef@arri.net for your input!

Upcoming Contests

February, 2007

Vermont QSO Party
 Minnesota QSO Party
 Delaware QSO Party

0000Z, Feb 3 to 2400Z, Feb 4
 1400Z-2400Z, Feb 3
 1700Z, Feb 3 to 0500Z, Feb 4
 1300Z, Feb 4 to 0100Z, Feb 5

North American Sprint, SSB
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
 YLRL YL-OM Contest, SSB
 North American Sprint, CW
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB
 UBA DX Contest, CW
 North American QSO Party, RTTY
 North Carolina QSO Party

0000Z-0400Z, Feb 4
0000Z, Feb 10 to 2400Z, Feb 11
 1400Z, Feb 10 to 0200Z, Feb 12
 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 11
0000Z, Feb 17 to 2400Z, Feb 18
0000Z, Feb 24 to 2359Z, Feb 25
 1300Z, Feb 24 to 1300Z, Feb 25
 1800Z, Feb 24 to 0600Z, Feb 25
 1700Z, Feb 25 to 0300Z, Feb 26

March, 2007

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB
 Oklahoma QSO Party

0000Z, Mar 3 to 2400Z, Mar 4
 1400Z, Mar 10 to 0200Z, Mar 11
 1400Z-2000Z, Mar 11

North American Sprint, RTTY
 Wisconsin QSO Party
 Virginia QSO Party
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

0000Z-0400Z, Mar 11
 1800Z, Mar 11 to 0100Z, Mar 12
 1800Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 19
0000Z, Mar 24 to 2359Z, Mar 25

Tnx to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, "WA7BNM 12-Month Contest Calendar" <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>



There are a few parking lots that are free on the weekend at MIT, the two most convenient being the East Lot and the Hayward Street Lot.

Other maps: http://web.mit.edu/admissions/pdf/MIT_Campus_Map.pdf

<http://whereis.mit.edu/map-jpg>

Orion Power Supply Mod

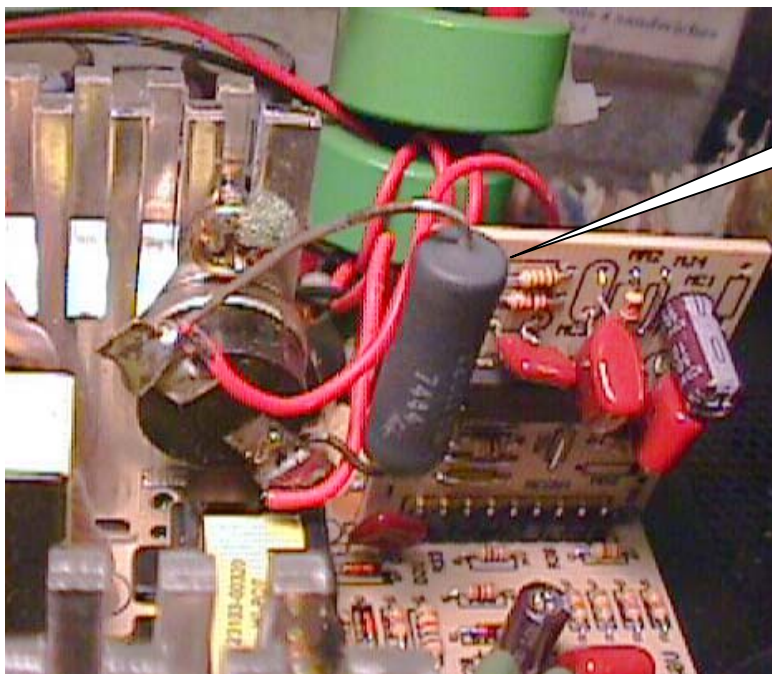
(Read on...this might apply to YOUR power supply too!)

by Chet Slabinski, N8RadioActive

My radio is powered from a 12V power supply and draws about 3 A when not transmitting. This amount of current is enough to cause a heatsink inside the power supply to reach a high enough temperature that the small cooling fan on the back of it kicks on about every 15 minutes or so, and makes enough noise so to be quite annoying when the radio is simply turned on in the background. The fan runs for a few minutes and then turns off. Fifteen minutes later the cycle repeats.

I thought if I could set up the fan to be always on at a slow quiet speed, maybe enough cooling air would go through the supply to keep it cool and avoid having the fan periodically kick in at high speed. This thought turned out to be easy to implement. The power supply in my case is the Ten-Tec 963 (a 25 A. switcher) but this modification would apply to the generic Astrons of this ilk as well.

Looking inside the case, I learned that the cooling fan is controlled by a small bimetallic type thermal switch mounted to one of the heatsinks. Putting an ammeter across the switch turned on the fan of course, and I found that the fan then drew 130 mA. Since it is powered from 13 volts, the fan is a 100 ohm load. My first thought was to cut the voltage to the fan in half and see if it would reliably spin but not be noisy. I did not have a 100 ohm/2watt resistor available, but tried a 120 ohm/10watt one from the junkbox. It worked like a charm; the fan spins nicely but quietly. I simply soldered this resistor across the thermal switch.



Added resistor

When the heatsink gets hot enough during heavier duty use of the radio, the thermal switch closes, shorting the resistor, and supplies full voltage to the fan, just as before.

Be sure to find the correct thermal switch for this mod. There is a similar looking thermal switch on the other heatsink that will open the AC line input if it gets too hot- you don't want to mess with that one.

YCCC Regular Meeting

December 10, 2006—Marlborough, MA

Mark, K1RX, called the meeting to order promptly at 1:00pm at the Holiday Inn, Marlborough, MA. The first order of business was the announcement that two copies of the 2007 CQ Calendar and the 2007 ARRL Handbook would be raffled off later in the meeting, courtesy of items donated by RadioWare and Craig, K1QX.

Mark announced that the club now has its own digital projector after an exhaustive market search and procurement by Ed, K1EP. He then announced the receipt by YCCC of several contest awards, including the gavel used to call the meeting to order awarded by ARRL for the the victory by YCCC in ARRL DX 2006 in the Unlimited Club category. We also won a plaque for winning the Unlimited Club competition in CQ Worldwide 2005 as well as a plaque for YCCC's aggregate score in the 2005 Russian DX Contest.

Following a round of introductions by the 39 attendees, George, W1EBI, submitted the secretary's report. YCCC active membership stood at 388, with 299 (77%) paid up to March 31, 2007. George said that the YCCC eligibility list for CQWW 2006 had been submitted to K3EST showing 362 members eligible for both modes and 364 for CW. We acquired two new members who joined at area meetings prior to the regular meeting:

Scott Currier, KT1B Haverhill, MA

Reg Tremblay, N7FE Cape Elizabeth, ME

The October meeting minutes as published in the current issue of Scuttlebutt were accepted.

Ed, K1EP, followed with the treasurer's report, showing a bank balance as of November 30 of \$1,220.23. The report was accepted.

Since Mike, N1IW, was unable to attend the meeting, Mark said that the planned YCCC club awards program has been deferred to February 2007.

Mark summarized the preliminary YCCC claimed scoring in CQWW 2006:

SSB	83 scores	92.395M	(2005 was 129M)
CW	90 scores	<u>216.163M</u>	(2005 was 178M)
		308.558M	

These scores include 11.576M points in SSB from five DXpeditions and 10.795M points in CW from four DXpeditions, including an outstanding claimed score of 6.163M by Paul, K1XM, at 6V7D. Paul presented a briefing on his Senegal adventure and said he plans to return to 6W again in 2007.

K1RX discussed point contribution for DXpeditions in CQWW vs. ARRL and whether operations from home or by DXpeditions are more valuable in each contest. There was a discussion of a financial contribution by YCCC to provide a more flexible station at J3A, where several YCCC ops have participated in the past. Mark urged more consideration of YCCC participation in DXpeditions in future major contests.

Before a social break, the raffle made Vic, N4XR, and Ken, WO1N, winners of CQ calendars, and Eldon, WIEND, won the ARRL Handbook.

Following the break, John, KE1IH, gave an excellent presentation on "Antenna Stress and Vibrations". John discussed the effects on Yagis of lift, drag and gravity forces and the stresses placed on these antennas by gravity, wind and ice, and touched on vibration effects, fatigue point and element reinforcing measures. (Note: victims of the Great Northern New England Ice Storm of 2007 can reach John at ke1ih@arrl.net).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,
George Harlem, W1EBI
Secretary

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..

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

CONTEST SCORES should be sent to the club scorekeeper, Dave Hoaglin, K1HT, preferably by E-mail at scores@yccc.org. Please include details such as numbers of QSOs, QSO points (if appropriate), and multipliers (all types); entry category; and power.

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.

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
February 3 rd	General	Cambridge, MA

Ship's Log	February 2007	Issue 188
Captain's Cabin	Mark Pride - K1RX	1
Flotsam & Jetsam	Jack Schuster - W1WEF	3
Upcoming Contests		4
Power Supply Mod	Chet Slabinski, N8RA	5
December Minutes	George Harlem - W1EBI	6

Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Saturday February 3, 2007 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm

MIT Building 36, Room 156 - Cambridge, MA

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
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Worcester, MA 01609

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