



Scuttlebutt

June 2007

Issue 190

**Next Meeting:
Picnic - July 1 K1RX QTH 12noon til**

Captain's Cabin

Another busy summer underway for most of us, taking care of antenna repairs, new tower installations, and maybe even putting a brand new rig on the operating table! Dayton is done for another year and proved to be another great one! The big difference this year was the Contest University that occurred the day before the Hamvention kicks off. Deemed a tremendous success by all accounts! Expect to see a writeup elsewhere in this issue.

This summer is shaping up to be the "summer of socializing" that includes BBQ's and picnics around the territory. Starting with one right here at my place on Sunday, July 1 followed by at least a couple in the west (K1TTT) or southwest (N8RA) in August. Try to make as many as you can to see what your fellow YCCers are doing in their own backyard.

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club turned 30 years old this year (1977 to 2007)! Amazing to see – Congratulations! And to celebrate, many of our members have been celebrating on the air by signing /30 after their calls. To date, I have made over 800 QSO's raising the awareness of our 30 year birthday to a worldwide audience. We have put together a nice certificate for those that have worked at least 10 YCCC members. Our friends on the New England QSO Party management team made it very easy to those that worked 10 or more YCCers to gain a certificate by doing a sort and sending the results to Dave, W1CTN who is managing the 30 Year Certification program.

I encourage all members to get on the air and use the /30 to generate interest and excitement on the bands – also serves a good practice in pileup management! This on-the-air event runs until December 31, 2007.

Come out to at least one of the planned BBQ's this summer and have a nice time! Bring a new member too and expand our sphere of influence! All in the name of fun!

73, Good Contesting! Mark, K1RX

YCCC Summer Meetings/Picnics

<i>July 1</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>K1RX</i>	<i>Kensington, NH</i>	<i>(East YCCC territory)</i>
<i>August 11</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>N8RA</i>	<i>New Hartford, CT</i>	<i>(West YCCC territory)</i>
<i>August 25</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>K1TTT</i>	<i>Peru, MA</i>	<i>(West YCCC territory)</i>

http://www.yccc.org/Meetings/area_meetings.htm

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SK:, March 2007

KD1EA - Al Kinnon
Dayton 2006



W1US - Bob (Doc) Kelemen -
Dayton 2000



The loss of a comrade is always difficult, more so for those closest.

73 & rest in peace OM

Area Managers

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

Flotsam & Jetsam

Barnacle Jack Schuster, W1WEF w1wef@arrrl.net

Ahoy Maties!

I'm starting this 6 days before flying to Dayton. This will make about 25 Hamventions for me, even though I've said almost every year that I'll take the next one off! I have a short memory. It always turns out to be lots of fun, and I highly recommend that every ham go at least once.

Jeff Briggs, K1ZM paid me a visit recently and has me thinking about a replacement for my 4 sq on 80. He suggested two phased verticals, 5/8 wave apart. With simple switching they can shoot broadside to Europe or endfire, with a little more gain than the 4 sq but no f/b. The reason I am considering it is that my present 4 sq dimensions depend on where the trees are to support my wires. I would build the two verticals out of telescoping aluminum tubing, following KV1W's design as shown and would be able to locate them precisely where they belong.

Jeff mentioned an experience worth passing along. He was giving another ham a hand in determining why his SWR went to pot on a stack of monobanders. He found that the feedpoint connections had been sealed with RTV of some kind, with big blobs of the stuff bridging the connections to the matching section. Jeff found that the RTV had become conductive, and stripping it all off resolved the problem. A rule of thumb Jeff follows with RTV insulation is that "if it smells like vinegar, don't use it".

We don't have a mall in Glastonbury, but we have a Home Depot. With my back problem of late, I try to get myself to walk every day, and in inclement weather have found that it's a pretty good walk up and down every aisle in HD. One interesting find was a Husky aluminum case for \$20, that looked ideal to pack a small rig and power supply for a vacation or expedition. It measured 18x13x6, and had locks.

Chet Slabinski, N8RA, recently ran the 7/8 hardline he got from me out to a junction box at one of his towers. To seal the entrance into the box, Chet found that plumber's putty was easy to use and made a good watertight seal.

I'll continue now that I'm back from Dayton. First, I'm happy to report that I walked the whole flea market and all the exhibit areas, and I was no more sore than ever!

Dayton wx was perfect all three days. That meant that half the attendees were outside and half inside, so it was generally easy to get to any exhibitor booth or table. One exception was Begali keys. I hope it was because all the new no coders were getting interested in CW! I did take a look later when the crowd thinned, but decided that as pretty as they were, my Bencher and Vibroplex paddles are good enough. The Bencher Hex Key is worth a look, as I believe it is a lower cost version of the N2DAN Mercury paddle.

There is a lot of interest in the Elecraft K3 which can be ordered in kit form with no solder assembly required. Word is that Elecraft postponed their impressive solid state 1500W amp shown a few years ago to complete design of the K3. Regardless of great specs, I'll take an FT2000 for a lower price than a K3 which still looks like a toy to me... IMHO.

Array Solutions was showing a new German Heiberling radio which starts at \$11,000, with a 600W version at \$16,000. Most interesting to me was that it comes in your choice of cabinet color! It is not type accepted yet, so leave it in your 401K for now!

Jay (WX0B) told us what is involved in FCC type acceptance. The manufacturer goes to an FCC approved lab, with \$2000 (that price may have only applied to the antenna tuner we were looking at) and the lab can give it approval or rejection quite fast. The manufacturer then submits the paperwork from the lab to the FCC. I questioned why the antenna tuner we were looking at had to be type accepted. It was because this very impressive 5KW tuner had a microprocessor controller in it. Jay pointed out that there were a lot of products containing microprocessors that should have gotten type acceptance but did not.

Aside from the good looking US Tower display, renewing my CQ subscription, taking in a few speakers in the ARRL area and relaxing, the best part as usual for me is the socializing back in the Crowne Plaza. Thursday's Contest University was well attended with 150 attendees, and I heard favorable comments from a number of attendees. One fellow I spoke to gave me an example of a great tip he got from the university; feed the dumped power from a four square to a dipole instead of a dummy load. That idea came from a QSO I had with Dean Straw on 75M when he was in NH, when my signal in NH went up by 20DB as I did just that!

John Dorr, K1AR, did his usual great job MCing the Contest banquet, where one out of four attendees won a door prize, including yours truly! Thanks to DX Engineering for their generous contribution.

Time to get the boat ready to haul back to the Cape...that means filling it with boxes of plants for Natalie's garden.

73,
Barnacle Jack W1WEF
YCCC Scuttlebutt

June 2007

w1wef@arrrl.net for your input!

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PVRC Takes High Row to Defeat!

The Potomac Valley Radio Club took the difficult, but high road recently after discovering scores submitted for club credit were more than 175 miles from the center of the "club circle" as stipulated in the ARRL Club Competition Rules (<http://www.arrl.org/contests>). Forfeiting a hard-won gavel to an arch rival (Northern California Contest Club) is not an easy decision (http://pvrc.org/2006_ss_gavel.html), but it was the Right Thing to do. This might be a good time for your contest club to check to be sure all of the required information (circle center coordinates and member locations) is up to date. (Thanks, PVRC President Jim WX3B)

YCCC 30th Year Celebration Certificate!

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club celebrates its 30th year of competing in the unlimited club category from the Northeastern US. Now having a membership count of nearly 400, the club has steadily grown since its inception (1977), the current officers of the YCCC offer the following on-the-air fun event for both the membership as well as our fellow contesters worldwide. For the balance of 2007, commencing immediately, YCCC members may sign their calls /30, indicating our 30-year anniversary, as a way to positively promote the YCCC on the air. A special certificate will be provided after confirming contacts with at least 10 members. This confirmation and request for the special certificate can be done via email at yccc30@gmail.com. Please indicate the date, time, frequency, call sign of member along with your mailing address so we might send you the certificate. QSL cards may be used to confirm these contacts as well and by sending them to Dave, W1CTN who will administer the program. Additionally, the complete list of YCCC members can be found at www.yccc.org then click on "Members Only" in the left-side menu and follow the directions to enter the site (open to all). Look up "roster" in the right-side menu for the complete list of members active within the YCCC.

All eligible QSOs for the award must be completed by December 31, 2007, with the request for the certificate submitted no later than February, 1, 2008.

QSLs may be sent to: David Arruzza, W1CTN
32 Benz Street
Ansonia, CT, USA 06401

Upcoming Contests

July, 2007

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 7 to 1059Z, Jul 8
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 14 to 1200Z, Jul 15
Colorado QSO Party	1200Z, Jul 15 to 0400Z, Jul 16
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 21 to 0600Z, Jul 22
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 21 to 2100Z, Jul 22
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 28 to 1200Z, Jul 29

August, 2007

National Lighthouse Weekend QSO Contest	0001Z, Aug 4 to 2359Z, Aug 5
European HF Championship	1200Z-2359Z, Aug 4
ARRL UHF Contest	1800Z, Aug 4 to 1800Z, Aug 5
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 4 to 0600Z, Aug 5
WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 11 to 2359Z, Aug 12
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 11 to 0400Z, Aug 12
	1600Z-2359Z, Aug 12
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z-0800Z, Aug 18
	1600Z-2400Z, Aug 18
	0800Z-1600Z, Aug 19
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 18 to 0600Z, Aug 19
New Jersey QSO Party	2000Z, Aug 18 to 0700Z, Aug 19
	1300Z, Aug 19 to 0200Z, Aug 20
Hawaii QSO Party	0700Z, Aug 25 to 2200Z, Aug 26
SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 25 to 1159Z, Aug 26
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 25 to 0400Z, Aug 26

Tnx to WA7BNM's Contest Calendar Web page - <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal>

High Energy and Big Time Excitement: My First Multi Multi From K1RX

By
Regis Tremblay – N7FE
February 19, 2007

In The Beginning

Fifty years ago as two bored 8th graders, my best friend and I wrote out secret messages during class in dots and dashes. Gary Rancourt, K1JAM, and his dad, K1NFL, got licensed in 1958. I got the bug watching him operate from his QTH in Waterville, Maine.

It took a lot of persuading to get my parents buy me a used Hallicrafters S38E and the license manual. I began studying in earnest for my Novice ticket. After passing the test, I waited every day for what seemed like an eternity before receiving that distinctive envelope from the FCC with my very own ham radio license. I was KN1KNJ, and one very proud young man.

We didn't have much money, so I had to wait to get a used DX40 and a couple of crystals for 80 meters. In the meantime, I built a "fish pole vertical" and a dipole and I listened every night to cw stations from as far away as Maryland. What magic that was!

Anyway, K1JAM and I would spend hours during class drawing up station diagrams and dipole antennas, and of course, sending secret messages in Morse Code. Once I got on the air, Gary and I would get to school early to we could compare notes and he would tell me about all the new dx he had worked. Gary had an NC300 receiver, a Johnson Ranger driving an amplifier, and a 3 element yagi on a 50ft tower. Gosh, was I envious!

Gary would show me his DX QSL cards, and I'd show him my "pink slips" from an FCC listening station telling me my second harmonic using the fish pole vertical was out of the 40 meter band! As time went on, CW became my mode of choice, perhaps because I couldn't hear much less work any DX on phone.

Renewed Interest in Ham Radio & Chasing DX

Some time around 1972 I let my license expire due to work and other interests. However, some 20 years later, thanks to another good friend, Lee, KY7M, I re-entered the hobby, and with a renewed interest went from Novice to Amateur Extra in four months. I was amazed I hadn't forgotten the code. In fact, I passed at 13 wpm when I sat for the Novice, and 20 wpm a month later.

At the urging of KY7M and other members of the Central Arizona DX Association, I took part in my first CQWW CW contest during the top of the sunspot cycle. With just a 100 watts and a tri-bander at 30 ft mounted to the side of the garage, I was able to work the world and the DX Bug hit big time.

I entered contests as a single op primarily to work new countries and increase my DXCC totals. Over the years, I made a few serious efforts in the CQ and ARRL contests, but would never describe myself as a contester. Since I was busy establishing a career and raising a family, I had neither the time nor the resources to pursue serious contesting or going to exotic places to "be the DX" during all the big contests. I was more than happy moving up to Honor Roll, achieving 5BDXCC, working DX for fun, and rag chewing on cw mobile when I traveled for work.

New Frontiers to Conquer

When I re-entered the hobby after a 20 year hiatus, I discovered SSB, 2 meter operation and repeaters, packet, and I even toyed a bit with RTTY. Friends were doing moon bounce, satellite, and amateur TV. So far, those modes haven't enticed me. But, achieving DXCC on 160 and 6 meters, and contesting were things I've had an inclination to do.

So, when K1RX invited me to join the Yankee Clipper Contest Club in 2006, I thought, "why not?" All I had to do was operate from my QTH and send in my log. No pressure, lots of fun, work a few hours, and be a tiny part of a large effort to compete with other similar clubs.

I had heard about Mark's QTH as a big time contest station, and at first didn't think I would ever be invited, much less be able to fit in. After all, I was a new guy with no contest experience in anything other than a modest single op environment. Sure, I had made Honor Roll and 5BDXCC in less than 10 years, and was only two short of working them all. But, I wasn't a contester.

Unlike some other Big Gun contest stations, I didn't have to be interviewed by committee or prove my pedigree. Mark simply extended an offer to drop in, observe and maybe work a little during some off hours. I soon found out that Mark is as concerned about introducing people to contesting, as he is about competing at a high level. No stand-off, aloof guru, full-of-

himself -person (his reputation, knowledge, competence, and experience might perhaps justify that), Mark wants to share what he has learned and accomplished with others. That includes neophytes like me.

ARRL CW Contest: My Initiation To Big Time Contesting

So, leading up to my first real contest adventure at K1RX's multi-multi QTH, I was not too worried about being able to copy and send cw at high speeds, nor was I worried about having the stamina to put in long shifts. What I didn't anticipate was what it would be like from a Big Gun station in a major contest!

Because I host my own radio show on Saturday mornings from 8 am – 10 am in Portland, Maine, I wasn't able to arrive at K1RX's QTH until after lunch on Saturday. I didn't expect to operate much because I heard that there were many guys who loved to operate from there. Only Mark and Chris Sloane K1YU were on hand to start the contest at 7:00 pm Friday evening, but Chris had to get home by 10 PM because he had a busy weekend with non-radio activities. Mark continued to operate until 12 midnight and then crashed on the floor next to the station just in case a crowd arrived early on Saturday morning.

By the time I arrived, only Mark and Ann Santos, WA1S, herself a very accomplished, and well-known DXpeditioner and contester were operating. Ann had been at it since 8:00 am. She didn't retire until 2:30 am Sunday. Ed Parish, K1EP showed up for a couple of hours Saturday about the same time as I did and worked 15 meters.

Ann has been part of many rare DXpeditions to places that were "new ones" for me, so I knew she was an experienced operator. Operators don't get invited to tag along because they have the money, or the desire. DXpeditions are made up of individuals who are recruited for their skills, and the ability to survive and get along under extreme conditions. Besides, the rest of the world really isn't very tolerant of inexperienced operators when a rare new one is at stake.

It was obvious immediately that I was new at this and that Ann was a serious operator. I was wondering if she would even talk to me, much less acknowledge my presence. Just like Mark, Ann turned out to be very friendly and patient with my interruptions and requests for help.

At first, I sat next to Mark and just observed, waiting for someone to take a break. After a while, Mark relinquished the 40 meter position and let me take over. I wasn't prepared for what would follow. As a serious DXer, I knew what a pileup sounded like when a "million" stations were trying to work N. Korea or some such other rare entity. This time, the pileup was calling me!

"Oh my gosh!" Actually "explicative deleted." What to do now? Working a pileup is nothing compared to being "in" a pileup trying to work the DX. You've got to make the contacts and not slow down. I had heard all about "managing" a pileup from the other side, and, of course, could recognize a great operator who could "run 'em" without slowing down. It must have been somewhat painful for K1RX to sit there and observe my panic and inexperience.

Being able to pick out even part of a call, get the rest of it quickly and log the contact takes special skills and experience. It was obvious I didn't have either! It took me forever to be sure of the correct call, and in the interim, we must have lost a lot of contacts when folks in the pileup lost interest and moved on. It is one thing to be able to send and receive CW at high speeds. It is quite another to do it managing a pileup in a major DXpedition or contest. I wonder how many busted calls I was responsible for?

Wanting to help in any way he could, K1RX put on a second set of headphones and listened in. Pressure? Nah! I knew my limitations and was there to have fun and learn. Mark Pride is a serious contester, which translated means he's very competitive, wants to win and wants those around him to do their best and strive for an efficient and effective operation.

After a bit, while I'm trying to sort out calls, Mark yelled over, "pass the mult to 20." I failed to grasp the importance of this to the team effort because multipliers are worth more points. Hell, I didn't even know what he was talking about. Pass the mult where, and to whom? If Mark said this to me once, he said it 50 times and I still didn't get it.

K1RX uses an old DOS based contest logging program (CT V10.03) that I had used years ago in my single op contesting. No big deal. In those days, I had plenty of time to refer to my "cheat sheets" when I wanted to see a particular pop-up window showing rates, summaries, location of dx, needed multipliers, packet windows, etc. There was never any pressure. It was just me having fun and working a bunch of new ones.

At K1RX, every station is networked together. I could see the station log in real time, and I could see the other contacts being logged at a furious pace. "Talk screens" kept popping up with messages from the other ops. Damn, that was annoying and distracting while I was concentrating on getting a call logged and making the entry in CT. Other screens would show which multipliers were needed, and others showed summary totals and rates. All of this was more than I could handle! Multi tasking at it's peak!

I decided I wouldn't panic, and besides there were only three of us, so why be embarrassed? After a bit, Mark took up a full-time spot when Ed had to leave, so I was left to myself. Every so often, Mark would yell out, "why didn't you pass that mult over to Ann, or me?" "What mult," I would ask. CT actually shows this in the logging window, and in a pop-up window, but I

didn't know that. I was more concerned with what to do when <DUPE> popped up! As time wore on and Mark kept one eye on what I was doing, every so often he'd yell out, "switch to the 4 el fixed on South," or "use the stack," or "use the rotary."

There are more antenna combinations possible at Mark's QTH than I had ever thought possible. Four towers out back with untold number of yagis, some that rotate, others that are fixed. Some are stacked and in phase. There's even a four square array for 80 meters that is directional....if you know what switch to turn! Every so often, Mark would ask, "having fun yet?"

Now, I had to worry about which antenna to use, AND how the heck to switch over to it. I should have been on OVERLOAD! But, I was determined to have fun, do my best, and in the thick of a contest, maybe learn a couple of things. Actually, the only way to learn anything is to get totally immersed in the real thing. I discovered this almost 40 years ago when I learned to speak Italian. It was one thing to sit in a language class in the U.S., and quite another to be thrown into a foreign culture where nobody spoke English. You make a lot of mistakes, cause a few snickers and chuckles, but you learn pretty fast.

Old-time Magic & The Thrill Of Running Stations

As evening passed into night, I ended up on 80 meters, and what a thrill that turned out to be working European stations as fast as I could until their sunrise. Actually 2:30 am EST. I had enjoyed a few special moments over the years working pileups of JA's and EU's when conditions were good, but never anything like this.

Ann, WA1S, had been at it since 8:00 am Saturday morning and when she decided to call it a day and a night she got the spare bedroom. Unfortunately, she didn't sleep well because "the bed was too soft." I got the half mattress on the floor in the basement, and didn't sleep too well because I kept hearing stations calling me in the pileups. I couldn't turn it off! I also wasn't very comfortable and sheer exhaustion, both mental and physical, forced me into a couple of restless hours of sleep. Next time I'll take the soft bed!

I heard Ann come downstairs and settle back into her spot at the 20 meter station about 6 am Sunday morning. I tried to rest a little longer, but finally got up around 6:30. The rest of Sunday wasn't very eventful, although I did manage to "pass a few mults," although I don't know if those stations actually changed bands to work Mark or Ann. I still haven't figured out the antenna possibilities, but there's plenty of time for that. Hey, give me a couple of hours, point something at Europe, and let me enjoy the experience. Running European stations in Arizona was never this good where there are dozens of countries (multipliers) and thousands of hams in those countries, as compared to a zillion hams in Japan, and only one mult! Although the experience might be similar, it just isn't the same. Ask any contester.

Great Hospitality & A Gracious and Understanding XYL

During a contest, especially with only three operators, you wouldn't think of abandoning your operating position when there's dx to work. So, it was a pleasant surprise when Mark's XYL, Judy, came into the shack and announced that she had pizza and wings for dinner. Ann and I obliged and went upstairs to nourish the body.

It is widely known that many serious ham radio operators have been divorced because their wives tired of their spouses' obsession with the hobby, unsightly antennas, boat anchors in the basement and garage, and spare parts and tubes everywhere.

So, when you find someone like Mark's wife Judy, you can almost see the halo above her head. Not only does she tolerate the hobby, she respects Mark's interest and passion, and she actually enjoys making everyone comfortable in "their" home! We had a wonderful conversation as we ate that focused on family, kids, and anything but ham radio.

Sometime Sunday morning, we were asked by Mark if we were ready for breakfast. I didn't think another meal would be included, but scrambled eggs, pancakes, and coffee were served at our operating positions – by Mark – so we wouldn't miss anything! Throughout the day, we snacked and drank diet sodas. Ann had some green tea concoction and energy drinks.

By now, I figured I could hold out until I got back home to Cape Elizabeth where I'd cook up something to eat, have a drink, and relax before retiring. The next thing I knew, as I was chasing multipliers on 20 meters, dinner shows up at my operating position. Judy had gone out for fried chicken, cold slaw, mashed potatoes, and biscuits (must have been from the Colonel's).

What a great host and hostess Mark and Judy were. Not a bad gig for a weekend. New friends, good food, awesome station, and great fun "playing radio." To the uninitiated and to many estranged partners, it may not seem like much. For me, it was another new frontier I had not experienced in this wonderful hobby.

What Its Really All About

Life's unpredictable turns have limited my station to 100 watts and a vertical. At 62 years of age, I still look forward to a little acreage (for a tower and some wire antennas), 220v for my amp, and the opportunity to work rare DX from my own QTH. For now, I'm grateful for a generous person like Mark Pride, K1RX, who has given me the opportunity to operate a Big Gun station as part of a team of people who still get a rush from the magic of making radio contact with people all over the world.

I'm grateful to have met Ann and look forward to working another contest at her side and being entertained by the countless interesting and funny tales of her DXpeditions and adventures to the far corners of the world with all of the great operators. I wonder if I ever worked her? No way to know on cw, her preferred mode of operating.

At one point on Sunday, a bit disappointed that only two of us showed up to operate the ARRL CW contest, Mark made the comment that he just might give up on doing another multi multi operation and do a multi single or even a single op two radio. I sure hope he changes his mind because I experienced another thrill and look forward to doing it again.

I am grateful for people like Mark who are willing to share their vast knowledge from years of building stations and operating in all kinds of conditions. I've met a lot of nice people over the years through amateur radio and I have had many wonderful experiences. The opportunity to operate from a Big Gun QTH like Mark's has been one of the highlights.

K1RX could recruit and carefully screen teams of top notch operators with the sole purpose of winning the major contests. Mark is proud of the station he has built and rightfully proud of his reputation around the world. But, that isn't his purpose. Mark sets a comfortable tone at his station and is constantly looking for new people to have a fun experience.

In Mark's words, "just giving some new experiences - that is what is all about here - multi tasking, having fun as a group, enjoying everyone's unique chemistry, etc. I never laugh so hard when some of these "weekend warriors" come here. Funny stories, great stuff, and we're playing radio at the same time! All we need is the tropical weather and we would be in heaven at a DX location!!"

I would encourage any club member, or anyone that lives within driving distance, who might like to try something new, fun, and exciting with a great group of people, to accept Mark's invitation without fear or hesitation. Mark's generosity succeeded in introducing me to a new and exciting part of the hobby I could not have experienced on my own. Hams have always been willing to share what they know with others. The Elmer tradition is alive and well at K1RX!

I'm looking forward to learning all there is to know about contesting, and especially to improving my cw copying skills and managing those pileups. What a thrill and sense of accomplishment that will be! And, oh yes, passing the multipliers and scoring points.

Thanks, Mark, and perish the thought of single op!

Regis Tremblay is an advocate for putting the needs of children first in the areas of sports, education, and health. A former organization consultant and leader of learning with a private practice specializing in cultural change, he has authored and delivered more than 50 training programs, numerous articles, and a book (looking for a publisher) entitled, "Reclaiming The Timeless Value of Sport and Play." In 2000, he founded The Center For Kids FIRST In Sports, Health, and Education as a non-profit organization with a mission to be a catalyst for change.

Regis is also the creator, producer, and host of The Kids FIRST Radio Show which airs every Saturday from 8 am – 10 am on WJAB in Portland, Maine. He is experimenting with Podcasting, and soon hopes WJAB will be streaming the program on the Internet. The Kids FIRST website can be found at www.thecenterforkidsfirst.org

He can be reached via email at: regis@thecenterforkidsfirst.org

First licensed as KN1KNJ in 1959, re-licensed in 1992 as KB7OCA, he quickly upgraded to N7UOW. He received N7FE through the Vanity Call Sign program as an Amateur Extra Class. Now making his home in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, he has recently applied for and is awaiting the arrival of his original call sign, K1KNJ.

New Crew:

Tim Dunn, KT1D, Arlington, MA
Gus Hedlund, W1GUS, Darien, CT
Betty O'Donnell, KB1MOT, Auburn, NH
Carl Mikkelsen, K1UZK, Wayland, MA
Eilif Mikkelsen, KB1NYQ, Wayland, MA

YCCC Regular Meeting April 7, 2007—Marlborough, MA

Mark, K1RX, called the meeting to order at 1:23 pm at the Holiday Inn, Marlborough, MA, amid a huge pileup at the dues table. Ed, K1EP, was running dues payments at a rapid clip while members looked for a clear spot in line to get current, since it was one week into the new club financial year. Mark started a round of self-introductions, which found 57 attendees from MA, NH, ME, VT, CT, NY and RI, and then introduced a special guest attendee and familiar contester, Champ, E21EIC, visiting Jim, N1NK.

George, W1EBI, presented the secretary's report. YCCC active membership (dues current to 31 March 2008) stood at 318, plus 72 additional members with 2007 dues having expired a week earlier. George reported that the YCCC eligibility list for ARRL DX 2007 had been forwarded to KC1J at HQ. Condolence cards on behalf of the club were sent to the families of Al Kinnon, KD1EA, and Bob "Doc" Kelemen, W1US, who became Silent Keys since the February meeting. The minutes of the February meeting, published in Scuttlebutt, were accepted.

Ed, K1EP, followed with the treasurer's report, showing a bank balance as of March 31 of \$11,136. The report was accepted.

There was no old business to be discussed. Mark called for new business. Art, W1RZF, proposed that the club make a gift donation to ARRL in support of Logbook of the World to enable additional support to further develop and enhance the steadily growing program. About half of the attendees indicated they were LoTW users. Art suggested a contribution of \$1,000. Several members voiced support of LoTW and of providing a YCCC contribution, including a suggestion that we encourage similar action by other major clubs. Rich, K2WR, proposed that we pledge \$1,000 with the requirement that ARRL first define what the funds will be used for. After further discussion, a majority voted in favor of the \$1,000 pledge. A motion was then made to make the \$1,000 an immediate contribution with no restrictions. That motion carried by a 23-for, 12-against vote. A second motion to request feedback from ARRL on how the funds are ultimately used was made and seconded.

Mark recognized Jake, W1FM, who announced that he and son Ethan, N1SOH, had received a certificate for 1st place Multi-Op in the 2006 Holyland DX Contest.

The annual election of club officers for the coming year followed. The YCCC directorate for 2007-2008 includes:

Mark Pride, K1RX, president (re-elected)
Art Holmes, W1RZF, vice president
George Harlem, W1EBI, secretary (re-elected)
Ed Parish, K1EP, treasurer (re-elected)
Jerry Muller, K0TV, activities manager (re-elected)

Mark introduced Champ Muangamphun, E21EIC, from Thailand, enroute to Dayton while on a 2-1/2-month trip to the U.S., his first to this country. Champ operated at club station HS0AC from 1998-2002, and since then has had his own low-power station in Bangkok. Champ operated CQWW 2006 from Laos. He presented K1RX with gifts to YCCC, a book on the 40th anniversary of the Radio Society of Thailand (RAST), a Thai flag, and CD's from RAST. Champ will be making a presentation at the Contest University in Dayton on contesting in Thailand. In closing, Champ presented a gift to Jonathan, W1CU, as a thank-you for sponsoring Champ's trip to WRTC 2006 in Brazil. As a thank-you for attending our meeting, Mark gave Champ a YCCC teacup and extended him a one-year honorary membership in the club.

Scorekeeper Dave, K1HT, presented a recap of the results of ARRL DX 2007, showing an exceptionally narrow YCCC victory over FRC, before LCR's, by a margin of 144.7 million points to FRC's 143.0 million, reflecting combined CW and SSB. The "final" claimed score results, before UBN's, for CQWW 2006, SSB plus CW, are: YCCC, 313 million vs. FRC, 260 million. Dave agreed to continue as YCCC scorekeeper for 2007-08.

Several new attendees appeared for club membership:

Tim Dunn, KT1D, Arlington, MA
Betty O'Donnell, KB1MOT, Auburn, NH
Eilif Mikkelsen, KB1NYQ, Wayland, MA
Gus Hedlund, W1GUS, Darien, CT
Carl Mikkelsen, K1UZZ, Wayland, MA

All were voted in as new YCCC members.

Following a break, Mark reminded attendees of the Contest University to be held at Dayton in May. This event was further described by Doug, K1DG, who will be one of the C.U. moderators. The fee will be \$80, no walk-ins. Doug said 140 attendees were signed up already.

Mark then led an interactive discussion that followed up a recent thread on the email reflector on how to grow our membership and promote interest among hams new to contesting. There was considerable energy from the attendees to sponsor, promote and run a beginner's contest, spread meetings to the perimeter of the club circle, increase contesting education and technical support, and prepare for another contesting agenda at Boxboro 2008. A committee to address the various steps to grow membership and develop routes to market contesting to newcomers was formed, consisting of:

Wally, N1GLT	Bruce, WW1M	Jerry, K0TV
Dennis, W1UE	Jerry, N1DD	Barry, WB1EDI
Mary, NE1F		

Paul, K1XM, recommended giving the committee a budget to allow them to function. Mark suggested \$500. A motion was moved, seconded and passed.

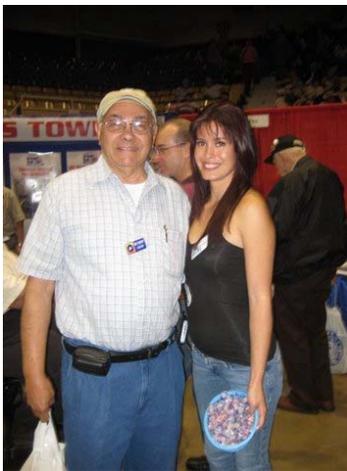
Rich, K2WR, asked for confirmation that 2007 was the 30th anniversary year for YCCC. Mark believed that was the case.

Before ending the meeting, Mark started the drawing for six raffle prizes of various accessories and publications. The lucky winners were:

W1EBI	K1BV	W1FM
E21EIC	K1VR	K2TJ

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
George Harlem, W1EBI
Secretary



Who said Barnacle Jack didn't have fun in Dayton?

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 (\$35/2 yr) (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper delivery of Club newsletter)

Full Member - \$15 (\$25/2 yr) (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. Insert only the word "subscribe" in the subject 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** Michael Gilmer, N2MG

DXAC: New England OPEN **Hudson** John Sawina, NA2R **Atlantic** Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

ARRL LIAISON: Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
July 1 st	Picnic	K1RX
Aug 11	Picnic	N8RA
Aug 25	Picnic	K1TTT

Ship's Log	June 2007	Issue 190
Captain's Cabin	Mark Pride - K1RX	1
Flotsam & Jetsam	Jack Schuster - W1WEF	3
Honorable PVRC		4
YCCC 30 th Anniversary		4
Upcoming Contests		4
MM at K1RX	Regis Tremblay - N7FE	5-8
April Meeting Minutes	George Harlem - W1EBI	9

Next Meeting:
Picnic - July 1 K1RX QTH 12noon til ...

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
18 Bancroft Tower Road
Worcester, MA 01609

FIRST CLASS MAIL