



Scuttlebutt

February 2008

Issue 193

**Next Meeting:
Saturday, February 9, 2008, Noon-5PM
ARRL Headquarters Building, Newington, CT**

Captain's Cabin

This month's meeting will be at the ARRL Headquarters building in Newington, CT. We move the General Meeting location around within the YCCC territory to maximize the exposure to the club membership. Additionally, one of our guest speakers will be Sean, KX9X who has just taken the reins of the Contest desk at the ARRL. Although new in this role, Sean brings a new level of enthusiasm to this position. He will share this excitement with you at the meeting! The raffle drawing will also take place here and there are several books and smaller prizes for the attending members at this meeting. The raffle supports our annual YCCC Youth Scholarship and tickets are still available at \$25 each. The grand prize as most of you know is the K3 100 watt version. You don't have to be present to win the grand prize but you are encouraged join us for this great meeting. Check the YCCC web site for details and send your money to K1EP who is managing the financial aspects to the program for the YCCC. Tickets will be available up to the time of the drawing. In order to meet our commitment to this worthy cause, the officers believe that should we fall short of our goal to deliver a minimum of \$1000 to the Scholarship program, that we recommend the club membership funds to make up the difference.

Despite the high snow levels, cold (and warm) temps and other winter weather challenges, I understand many of you are indeed ready to do battle in the ARRL DX Contest coming up this month! Great news! Love it when we are ready to rock and roll through another big one! We have the ARRL DX contest strategy to discuss at this meeting too – bring your winning solutions to the meeting and share with your fellow YCCers. Remember the contest 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! This is the time when you can get pileups regardless of your power level, antenna farm and time over the target area (sunrise, sunsets both here and in Europe).

Come to the ARRL on Saturday, Feb. 9, get pumped up about the ARRL DX Competition and be prepared to get another injection of pure radio fun! Part of the meeting time will be devoted to a tour of WIAW and a K3 will be setup to check out as well.

73, Good Contesting!

Mark, K1RX

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Directions to ARRL HQ

From the North: Take Interstate 91 South through Hartford to Exit 28, which brings you to Route 5/15 South. Continue to the Route 175 exit. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Route 175 (Cedar Street). In the center of Newington, turn right onto Main Street, (Route 176). ARRL Hq is on the left just past the second light. Look for W1AW and the antenna farm.

From the South: Take Interstate 91 North to Exit 21, Route 372 West. At Route 5/15 North, head north. Take the Route 176 exit (Main Street, Newington), a left-hand turn lane. ARRL Hq is just on the left just past the seventh traffic light. Look for W1AW and the antenna farm.

From the West: Take Interstate 84 to Exit 41 (South Main Street, West Hartford). At the end of the ramp turn right onto South Main Street. At the second light, turn left onto New Britain Avenue. At the 6th light (immediately after the railroad overpass), turn right onto South Street. South Street's name changes to Main Street at the Newington town line. ARRL Hq will be on the right hand side of the road at 225 Main Street. Look for W1AW and the antenna farm.

CREW NEWS

New Crew:

Steve Hunt, W1CDX, Manchester, NH
 Bill Lindie, K1HTJ, Graniteville, VT
 Dan Monfried, W2FZ, Bedford, NH
 Jeff Miller, KB1ILH, Charlton, MA

Returning Crew:

Tom Hurley, K1TH, Plymouth, MA

Area Managers

ME	Mike Russo, K1EU	(207) 883-9524	k1eu@maine.rr.com
ENH	Glen Whitehouse, K1GW	(603) 673-6290	glenw@pinnaclewireless.com
WNH/SVT	Ed Sawyer, N1UR	-----	Sawyered@earthlink.com
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Boston (617/781)	Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P	(617) 325-6767	jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu
WMA (413)	Tom Homewood, W1TO	(413) 743-7342	w1to@arrl.net
CT (860)	Dick Pechie, KB1H	-----	kblh@arrl.net
CT (203)	Dave Arruzza, W1CTN & Mike Loukides, W1JQ	----- (203) 458-2545	Darruzza@adelphia.net MikeL@oreilly.com
RI (401)	OPEN	-----	
NNY	John Bradke, W2GB	-----	W2gb@arrl.net
NYC/LI (718)	Rich Cariello, AA2MF	(718) 980-1104	aa2mf@arrl.net
SNY/NJ/PA (914)	Hank Kiernan, KF2O	(914) 235-4940	hankkier@aol.com
NVT (802)	Al Frugoli, KE1FO	(802) 893-8388	frugoli@worldlinkisp.com

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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!

It's 2008 and I've already operated in two contests. Stew Perry was a first for me, and NAQP was the first time in over twenty years. I really enjoyed NAQP, but hope that by the next one I can get a SO2R setup of some kind going. I have a Butternut vertical buried in the snow right now, and I know that if I get it far enough to the North of the tower, I can use it on a second radio with no serious filtering because this is a 100W limit contest. If you've not done a North American QSO Party, you'll like it!

BJ will be on the high seas again before the next meeting. We'll be within sight of FJ, St Barthelemy, the recently declared new entity, but with a 8 hour stop in FS there's no way I can think of going there to operate. The excitement for us on this cruise is that we'll be on one of the two the biggest ships in the world (Freedom of the Seas), along with over 4300 other passengers. In a couple years, the first "Genesis" class ship will set sail with a capacity of over 6000 passengers!

Following the Stew Perry test when the jzap site with the rules was down, Ed Parish suggested I ask here...who IS "jzap" and what is his call? (BJ is probably the only one who never heard of jzap") Answer below.

George Harlem, W1EBI sent this interesting input: Jack, since I'm solely a wire antenna guy, my "farm" includes two Carolina Windoms. These antennas have produced pretty good multiband results for me. I recently replaced an 80 meter C.W. after frying the matching unit in CQWW CW a year ago, but the new antenna was dead on arrival. I managed to get Radio Works to replace the DOA antenna--and the replacement was also DOA! As a result, I'm looking at a new concept for a center-loaded, off-center-fed dipole by ON4AA that claims to perform with low SWR (2:1 or lower) on seven HF bands from 80 to 10 meters, including 30 and 17 meters. Conventional wisdom is that a 134' OCF dipole will have acceptable performance on 80, 40, 20 and 10, but not 15. ON4AA claims that L.B. Cebik has agreed to take a look at his design. The website is <http://hamwaves.com/cl-ocfd/>.

Our Club Project Manager, Dave Jordan K1NQ sent this along: We are working on a new member project. Project is a PCB K9AY dual loop controller for 80/160m on two printed circuit boards. The 1st PCB contains a selectable broadcast band filter, a 1.8 to 8 mhz band pass filter, and 20 dB high IP3 preamp. A 4 position switch selects NE/SW/NW/SE direction. The unit contains a 12V AC transformer for all power and remote control is done by AC voltage via the coax input to the remote antenna switch. The remote antenna switch pcb switches direction via coax. The switch contains a 9:1 matching transformer and four 1/2W resistors for termination. PCB design should be ready for Spring 08. BJ is certainly interested...you can't have too many receive antennas as K1ZM says, and right now BJ is down to one.

Looking ahead to February and ARRL DX, we know about a few Club expeditions so far:

Feb 3-11	CQ WPX RTTY	H7/NP3D	SOAB LP	QSL via LoTW or via W3HNC or direct
Feb 16-17	ARRL DX CW	VP9/W6PH	SOAB LP	100% YCCC
Feb 29-Mar 2	ARRL DX SSB	VP9/W6PH	SOAB LP	100% YCCC
Feb 29-Mar 2	ARRL DX SSB		C6ANM (N1GN, NE1B)	100% YCCC

From Bob Garceau, W1EQ: The KZ1M Jim Dalterio Memorial Station has been active for over one year. Jim, who passed away at the young age of 49, was a true contester and member of YCCC. Jim's call was picked up by the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association and is being used in the CQWW, ARRLDX and SSCW with W1EQ as the op. The call is also used during FD (one of Jim's favorite contests) and in the 160 ARRLCW by W1EQ and K1ZE. The first contact made with Jim's call was on 10/28/06 with PJ2T in the CQWW SSB contest. Since that day, 6,413 Q's have been logged and uploaded to LOTW, resulting in 1,742 QSL's. 82 DXCC countries are confirmed mixed. The challenge total is up to 208. On the WAS side, 49 states confirmed mixed and 47 confirmed on 160.

Fred Hopengarten, K1VR offers this solution to emi from the four foot fluorescent light fixtures in his shack. At the AC power end of the ballast, he has installed a CorCom AC line filter. At the other end of the ballast he has two turns of the wire to the light fixture going through a ferrite bead. According to Fred, KC1XX has done a similar measure in his shack.

BJ had a FB CW QSO recently with SE5H. Try sending that ten times in a row! Love that call!

And the answer is: John Zapisek, K2MM

73 Barnacle JACK W1WEF

w1wef@arrrl.net for your input!

KB1LQD is the YCCC Youth Scholarship winner!

Dear Yankee Clipper Contest Club,

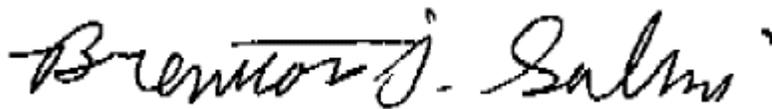
I would like to take an opportunity to thank you for funding the Yankee Clipper Contest Club Youth Scholarship. I am very thankful for your contribution to my education at Rochester Institute of Technology.

I have been an amateur radio operator for just under 3 years and I have enjoyed every minute. I have found many ways to enjoy amateur radio and I am discovering new ways everyday. Contesting has been a fun and challenging activity that adds to the hobby. The skills and tricks learned while operating a contest can also be applied to my everyday radio activities. I also am very active within home brewing, building circuits and learning more about them have interested me since I became a ham. Outside of amateur radio I am an avid mountain biker and enjoy many other outdoor activities such as hiking, running, and climbing.

I choose Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) for many reasons. Through my college search process, I have found RIT to offer a very good engineering program that focused my attentions to the school. RIT also offers many extracurricular activities that I am looking forward to becoming involved with including their amateur radio station K2GXT, Cycling club, crew, and others.

I would like to thank you again for your contributions, your financial help towards my college education is deeply appreciated. I am proud to be part of the amateur radio community as it has not only helped me in many ways, but offers ways to give back to the hobby as well as my local community.

Sincerely,



Brenton J. Salmi
KB1LQD



Checkout last year's list of winners of the ARRL Scholarship program (that YCCC uses to administer - thankfully!).
<http://www.arrlf.org/files/File/2007scholarshipWinner.pdf>

YCCC Youth Scholarship Raffle 2008

Something that goes way beyond the fun of beating a rival club is the YCCC Youth Scholarship program we started many years ago. The funds generated by this program helps one of our own in achieving an incredible goal - higher education. We all know this is really the best way to get a good launch in life and many just starting off, all have a financial challenge to get the process started. The YCCC though its incredible generosity has been delivering a substantial amount of money to a well deserved college bound student year after year. NOW this is something we all can be proud of!

Our raffle this year includes the grand prize of a K3 100 watt radio along with several other cool prizes for the contesters shack (to be disclosed shortly). As evidenced during the Boxboro event, we really delivered on the prizes and raised enough money to help yet another college bound amateur in our territory. I am asking for your support here. If you have not purchased a raffle ticket (or more), please consider doing this today. And if you have already, thanks but maybe its time to pick an additional ticket too!

We have a few other prizes that have been donated to the club for the raffle.

Top prize is an Elecraft K3/100 kit

The K3 kit doesn't involve any soldering. It is basically a mechanical assembly, no test equipment necessary except a VOM. Since the radio will be "made to order", you can specify any additional options or even factory assembly if you want at your own additional cost (see www.elecraft.com)

- Heil Pro-Set (winner's choice of rig adaptors).

- Certificate from Inrad, redeemable for any one filter for the K3
(yes, it is transferable/sellable if you don't have a K3;
and after the February meeting, you will know at least one K3 owner...).

In addition, the "profit" from the raffle (minimum of \$1000) goes to our ARRL youth scholarship. Tickets are \$25 each.

Ed, K1EP has an easy system setup to receive your money for the raffle ticket purchase and provide you a number for the raffle scheduled for our February Meeting. And although I really want to see as many members attend, it is not necessary to be there for the raffle drawing for the K3 radio. Of course, in order to pick up the smaller prizes, you do need to be present.

No need to be present to win (major prizes) or have their actual raffle ticket stub.

Every sale recorded with your callsign and ticket number.

Payment can also be made through Paypal to yccc-paypal@yccc.org.

Make sure you use CASH sales, please no credit or debit card transactions.

Mark the transaction OTHER or QUASI-CASH if given that option.

Raffle tickets can be purchased by check or PayPal (\$25 each):

CHECK:

Make payable to: "YCCC" or "Yankee Clipper Contest Club"

Be sure to write your call on the check.

Mail checks to: Ed Parish
9 Spoon Way
North Reading, MA 01864

PAYPAL: Accepted only if it is CASH, no credit or debit cards

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!!!!

Please help! Better to give than to receive and this kind of program fulfills this statement on so many levels - and you have the chance of winning a very cool radio as well. Having played with K1EP's K3 during the CW WW contest, I can certainly tell you it was fulfilling!

YCCC Regular Meeting, December 2, 2007—Sturbridge, MA

The final meeting of the calendar year was called to order at 12:47pm by vice-president Art, W1RZF, at the historic Publick House in Sturbridge, MA. Prior to the start of the meeting, attendees were treated to a pizza lunch as a way to celebrate still another victorious year by YCCC, taking home top honors again in the Unlimited Club category in both CQWW 2006 as well as ARRL DX 2007. The website home page shows our clear margins of victory over perennial adversary, FRC, in both major DX contests of the 2006-07 season.

Following a round of self-introductions by the 43 attendees, George, W1EBI, gave the secretary's report. Active membership stands at 369, an increase of 12 from the October report. Of those, 260 members are current with dues paid to March 31, 2008. George reminded members that dues need to be current to purchase a raffle ticket. Three new members have come aboard since the October meeting:

Steve Hunt, W1CDX, Manchester, NH
Bill Lindie, K1HTJ, Graniteville, VT
Dan Monfried, W2FZ, Bedford, NH

Ed, K1EP, gave the treasurer's report. The club bank balance grew by \$1,640 since the October meeting.

Art announced that the club will once again contribute to the YCCC Youth Scholarship Program, administered by the ARRL Foundation and funded by sales of raffle tickets. Since the club needs to sell 125 tickets to cover the cost of raffle prizes and have excess funds for the scholarship program, due to limited ticket sales the drawing will now be deferred until the February meeting. Tickets are \$25 each, with a Grand Prize of a brand new Elecraft K3/100. More on the raffle is elsewhere in Scuttlebutt.

In the absence of any old business, Ed, K1EP, described his experience beta testing a pre-production K3 kit, which he has had for two months. Ed is pleased with his new radio, which he praised as "very light" and "self-calibrating" with assembly documentation "better than Heathkit".

Dave, K1HT, club scorekeeper, presented an early look at CQWW 2007 for YCCC.

Claimed scores for the club stand at 129.2Meg in SSB (79 scores by 119 members) and 154.0Meg in CW (79 scores by 115 members). YCCC received 37.0Meg points from SSB DXpeditions, with 24.7Meg claimed in CW. As an illustration of how Mr. Sun has affected propagation and resulting scores, Dave pointed to YCCC's 313Meg point total in CQWW 2006 vs. our 2007 claimed total of 283.2Meg, a drop of 9.5%.

A new member and a former member presented themselves for election, and were subsequently voted into the club:

Jeff Miller, KB1ILH, Charlton, MA
Tom Hurley, K1TH, Plymouth, MA (former member)

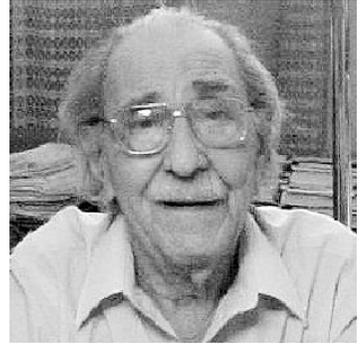
Following a break for mandatory socializing, Eric, K3NA, narrated an excellent slide presentation on his participation in the September 3B7C DXpedition to St. Brandon sponsored by FSDXA. Eric showed some great photos of the site and its native birds and turtles, and a spectacular shot of the "green flash" at sunset. He described the preparation, setup, operation and results of this very successful project, as well as the issues addressed and lessons learned by the Five Star DX Association team. Eric did not fail to shill for the \$25 DVD of the DXpedition, but he followed with a preview of the February 2008 FSDXA trip to Ducie Island. Eric will be part of the VP6DX team, which will be QRV in ARRL DX CW.

The meeting, held in a somewhat cramped conference room, was adjourned into a developing snowstorm at 2:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,
George Harlem, W1EBI
Secretary

Remembering a Remarkable Ham: Dr Leslie (Laci) Radnay, W1PL

An extraordinary man was born in May 1912 in Szolnok, a regional center town in Hungary. Early in his youth, he had shown interest in science, learned Morse code with the Boy Scouts and became acquainted with short wave amateur radio. At the tender age of 15, he was listed among the founding members of the newly formed Hungarian Radio Amateur Association (Ser. No. H-053). He did not have a license; but as it was customary in those days, he just got on the air with a homebrewed rig using the self-assigned call of HAF3HI in 1928, and later as HAF3RL, his initials.



Among his vividly told stories was that his single-tube receiver and transmitter sets shared a common valve, requiring it to be unplugged and re-plugged when switching from transmit to receive, thereby often missing the first part of the response.

He wanted to pursue a career in engineering; but at the insistence of his father, he enrolled in law school and received a Doctorate in 1935. It did not curtail his enthusiasm for his hobby, making thousands of QSOs and acquiring many friends all over the world. However, he did not have much time to enjoy his hobby--he was soon called into the service of the Hungarian Army; first as an officer but later on, being of Jewish ancestry, in a forced-labor brigade. When the war broke out in 1941, he was sent to serve under some brutal condition the eastern front, where he was severely wounded – both of his legs were broken. Even then he offered constant encouragement to his fellows, most of whom did not survive the ordeal of the Russian front. Eventually, he managed to escape and went into hiding until the early spring of 1945, when the advancing Russian Army liberated Hungary from German occupation.

His fiancée, Olga, also miraculously survived a year in a concentration camp in Austria; and upon her return to Hungary they were reunited and got married in June 1945.

In the chaotic postwar years in Hungary under Russian occupation there were no ham licenses issued. It was thus customary again to get on the air with a self-assigned call-sign. His call, HA4EA, became widely known around the world.

One day in early 1947, however, his home in Budapest was raided by a horde of Russian soldiers. The apartment was ransacked, confiscating all his radio equipment and every piece of paper (including his log of the 1947 ARRL DX CW Contest) He was incarcerated for 3 months, leaving no clue to Olga and their infant daughter as to what happened to him. He was accused, but never charged with espionage spying for the Americans and sending secret coded messages. At one point, after a brutal day of investigation, he was told that he would be executed. With a great deal of luck, however, he was released to the custody of Hungarians, and was eventually freed. He returned to his wife and child and soon the family made the decision to return to Szolnok.

Once again he became heavily involved with ham radio activities. Commuting three days a week to Budapest, he became the organizing force for the MRRE, the newly formed HA Shortwave Radio Amateur League, serving as its first secretary. He established P.O. Box 185 as its QSL Bureau (still in existence), organized courses in theory and Morse code, and became an “Elmer” to a whole generation of young hams. During this short period of democratic rule in Hungary he was quite active on the air with his first officially licensed call HA4SA.

In 1949, a new totalitarian Communist regime came to power. In a short period of time, the MRRE was disbanded and all licenses were summarily revoked (except for those who were serving in the party establishment). Citing the Cold War and fearing clandestine activities, all transmitting apparatus were confiscated. Laci found himself persecuted for the third time; he and his family (which by this time included a second daughter) were evicted from their home and were given forty-eight hours to leave the city. The children and Laci’s father took refuge with Olga’s aunt in a small village in western Hungary; and Laci and Olga went to Budapest to find a new home and a job. Eventually, they made their home in a small mountain village north of Budapest; and Laci got a job at the “Red Spark” Radio Transmitter factory, formerly Phillips of Hungary, as a technician. A short time later, he became a section manager for the test department, earning the respect of not just his colleagues, but the Communist bosses as well.

In the mid 1950s, the pressure of Communism began to fade. The new amateur radio society was clearly in need of the older, experienced hams. Everyone knew Laci – it was just a matter of time before he was, grudgingly, rehabilitated and got his license as HA7PD. Following the 1956 revolt in Hungary, which was crushed by the Russians, the Communists regained control of the government; and Laci was once more arrested as a spy for the British. All his papers, records, and equipment were confiscated. He returned to the family the next morning but never discussed what had taken place while he was in captivity. The family settled down to their life, daily planning to escape to Yugoslavia. Finally, on the cold morning of February 2, 1957, with the help of a member of the underground, Laci packed up his family and left his home and father behind and, after four days and nights, found himself in Austria. He arrived in Canada a few months later, penniless, but with untamed

energy and enthusiasm to start life anew. Again, he started to work as a technician, and even got a license as VE2AZQ – no political questions asked.

In 1959, he moved to the States, to Great Neck, Long Island. For the fifth time in his life, he started from scratch, establishing himself in a new environment. As a testament to his incredible talent and diligence, in two years he became the managing director of a high-power radio transmitter factory. Three years later, he moved his family to Stamford, CT. In the United States at that time, no one could receive a ham license who was not a citizen. Thus, Laci was off the air until in 1966 he became a citizen. (pssst...he was guest operator at my Long Island QTH a few times). Eventually, his call came through as WA1FHU. When two-letter call signs became available, we were able to get affidavits attesting to his 25 plus years of ham experience and his call was changed to W1PL.

The National Radio Co. offered him a job the same year and he moved his family to Melrose, MA. Sometime later, he accepted a position as senior RF engineer at Raytheon of Bedford, and stayed there until his retirement in 1977. He remained active professionally for many years after that until his wife's medical problems made it necessary for him to stay at home. All the while, he was still totally committed to ham radio.

He was an active and supportive member of the FOC, along with many other organizations: HSC (#13), OTC, OOTC, QCWA, and NMARK--the association of Hungarian émigré amateurs worldwide (of which he was a founding member and president emeritus).

His seemingly inexhaustible energy and his talent for organizing, improving and improvising should be an example to us all. After the death of his wife, Olga, in 1992, he remained in the house that he was able to call home for twenty-six years. A few years ago, his eyesight began to fail, yet he staunchly maintained his independence, proudly refusing reliance on others. And he was always there whenever someone needed a helping hand. His motto, which he would say with a mischievous gleam in his fading eyes, was: "Take your time, and take mine too."

Dear friend, hope you find final peace where the sun always shines brightly and the sunspots are always plentiful.

- Andrew Bodony K2LE

I saw Laci a couple of months ago when I gave him a hand getting his Omni back on the air. A well meaning relative had been "helping", and had done more harm than good. After I managed to get everything working, and Laci insisted on paying me for the service. I declined money, but did accept a few books he had on his shelf. Laci's eyesight had degraded to the point where he could no longer read them. Dean, you probably saw "Modulation Theory" by Black on the shelf during your interview.

I especially enjoyed Laci's story about the one tube he could afford as a teenager in pre-war Hungary. He'd call CQ, stand on a chair, pull the tube out of the transmitter at the top of his equipment rack then reach down and plug it into the receiver to see if he got an answer!

-Joe KM1P

With considerable sadness I hear that Laci Radnay, W1PL, passed away last night at the age of 96. Laci and I go back at least 40 years, for he was the man who hired me at National Radio Company after I graduated from college in 1967. By the time I finally arrived in Melrose, MA, as a junior engineer, Laci had moved on to work at Raytheon. So I never actually directly worked under his tutelage.

However, I did get to know him well as a person, a friend and a contest mentor because we lived nearby and we were both active members of the Quannapowitt Radio Association (QRA) in Wakefield, MA. I remember getting my clock cleaned numerous times by WA1FHU (he was then WA1FHU, while I was WA1IRG) in contests in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Forgive me if you've heard this story before — I'm invoking my "old codger" privilege. This is a how Laci taught me about contesting "iron pants." My memory is a little foggy about the exact date, but I think it was June 1970 when the QRA was doing a big-time Field Day. I was operating 40 CW in the mid afternoon and I was making a lousy 10 QSOs/hour, a rate a hotshot young operator like myself, ahem, found to be demeaning, even worthless. I got up, threw down the headphones in disdain and said loudly that I was thoroughly bored. Laci sat down in front of the radio and started operating, while I marched off to get some coffee.

Some time later, maybe a half hour or so, I wandered back, rather curious to see how Laci was doing. Lo and behold, he was making 10 QSOs/hour. As I watched him patiently call CQ after CQ, it suddenly dawned on me why WA1FHU kept beating me so thoroughly in contests where we went head-to-head. Laci was sitting there actually making QSOs, while I was bored silly, but making NO QSOs... "Duh," they say nowadays.

Laci taught me the lesson that he who has on his "iron pants," sitting there grinding and grinding away, has a far better chance of winning the contest. Keep on grinding away. That's a valuable life lesson, not only a strategy about how to operate radio contests.

I last saw Laci at the Dayton Airport, about five years ago. There he was, distinctive bushy mustache and a gray sports coat, slacks and tie, smiling broadly and enthusiastically relating in his thick Hungarian accent how he had worked some choice DX recently — on CW, of course. That's what I remember about Laci Radnay, W1PL — his old-world courtliness, seasoned with overflowing enthusiasm for Ham Radio, this hobby we all love so well.

Rest in Peace, old friend. You were one of a kind. We'll miss you.

-Dean, N6BV

Former YCCC member K2VUI posted another moving eulogy to W1PL on the FOC reflector:

Although I knew Laci wasn't doing well, this news hits very hard. He was indeed and in many ways a remarkable fellow.

I first met Laci (pronounced "Lot-see", emphasis on the first syllable, short for his original Hungarian name of Laszlo, which he later Americanized to Leslie or Les) in 1990 when I was a new member of FOC. He was then very active, both socially and on the air. He always made a point of attending the annual luncheons we had in suburban Boston for Maud Slater when she visited each year in October, until his eyesight started failing and he could no longer drive home in the dusk. He was also present when Per LA3FL invited a number of Boston-area members to visit him on his ship, the Crystal Symphony, when she put into port in Boston (Per was then chief radio operator). In those pre-9/11 days you could actually board a cruise ship in port without being a passenger. I also remember seeing Laci at Lords one year, and at Maud's party in West Sussex on the Sunday of that weekend. He told me that he'd been spending three weeks in Hungary and was now heading home. Since I knew he had no responsibilities at home and lots of friends in Hungary, I asked him why he was spending only three weeks, to which he replied that that was as much clean clothing as he could carry around with him at one time. I decided not to ask him about the availability of laundries in Hungary.

His wife Olga died in the early to mid-1990s and Laci was pretty lonely after that, but he was always on the air and that seemed to help. He always kept busy with a variety of activities, many related to ham radio, including serving for a time as editor of a Hungarian-language amateur radio newsletter. I recall during a visit to his shack asking him what he did to keep busy and I'll never forget his answer: "Joe" (pronounced "Cho"), he said, "I work 14 hours a day, seven days a week; if you want to be as busy as I am, you have to retire." I don't know how many times I've repeated that to others, because it was so true.

Those of you who met Laci in person will remember his very thick accent when he spoke English. I recall joking with him that I actually understood him better on CW - which was absolutely perfect, right up until the end - than in person. He had no accent on CW.

Part of the reason for his accent, of course, was that he learned English so late in life. He was about 45 when he left Hungary in early 1957, walking through the woods for four nights with Olga and their two little girls and hiding during the daytime, before reaching safety in Austria. Those of us old enough to remember the Hungarian Revolution (some of us actually don't!) will remember that in late 1956 it was relatively easy to leave Hungary for Austria, with borders which, if not open, were pretty porous for that short period of time. But when the Russians cracked down, the border slammed shut again and escape from Hungary became difficult. When I asked Laci why he waited so long to leave, he explained that they lived in a small town outside of Budapest and that communication was cut off, that they didn't know in their little town what was happening in the rest of the country.

Then he said that he got a communication from his brother in either Canada or the US telling him to expect a message from someone soon and that he should be prepared to go with that person immediately and he and his family would be guided "underground" out of the country, which is what finally happened.

Laci was born around 1912 and educated in Hungary in engineering and law, with University degrees in both disciplines. He told me that he had served as a lawyer for his town for a while, but I'm not sure when. He was fluent in German and he credited that fluency with getting him through World War II relatively safely. The Germans invaded Hungary in April, 1944 and for the next nine months it was deadly to be a Hungarian Jew, which Laci was, but with his ability to translate for the Germans (who not surprisingly couldn't speak a word of Hungarian) he was able to survive when many others did not. Notwithstanding his educational qualifications and his practical experience and the fact that he had relatives in the US, he was unable to gain entry to the United States after leaving Hungary. He went first to Canada and after some time there (I don't know how long) he was able to emigrate with his family to the US. He settled in the Boston area and worked as an engineer for Raytheon for many years.

Laci talked a little about his early radio experiences, starting before the Second World War. After the war he went back on the air for a while, but was tossed into jail by the Communist authorities around 1948 (or maybe 1952, I'm not sure). It had something to do with his radio activities as I recall and he was off the air for several years as a result, but then he was able to get back on and was very active once again in the pre-Revolution days. When he came to the US he was once again forced to QRT, because we had rules at that time that permitted only US citizens to hold amateur radio licenses and it took Laci the prescribed five years to gain citizenship. With his citizenship papers in hand, he quickly obtained his US license and the rest is history as we know it. He had one of the best fists I've ever heard and that never changed, even as he got older.

But as he got older things did get more difficult, especially after Olga died. He had two daughters, one married to a physician in New Haven, CT (about three hours away by car) and another who lived closer by. They looked after him as best they could (as best he would let them), but he remained in the same house in Melrose where he and Olga had lived for many years and entertained many FOC friends, both local and visitors from abroad. There were always problems in recent years - a flood in his basement shack which wreaked havoc with his equipment and QSL files, difficulties with his antennas which some of our local members were sometimes able to help with, especially K1AJ and N1BB, who would climb his tower and try to figure why the SWR on his beam was astronomically high. There was no way he could do even the most elementary antenna work anymore. But one way or another, he managed to stay on the air most of the time.

A few years ago I learned that he was off the air because he'd sent his Omni VI back to Ten-Tec for some work. With his infirmities, being off the air just about cut him off from the world, and when I learned of this I arranged to lend him my Omni VI (which I wasn't using at the time), the theory being that he could operate it literally blindfolded - which was about his physical condition at the time. His eyesight was so bad he was practically blind, but I figured that he already knew all the controls of the Omni VI by heart and therefore would have a fighting chance of being on the air again until his rig was fixed. As it happened, the Omni VI stayed there a long time, and one day he called me and told me that he'd "somehow" blown out the speaker and was sending it to Ten-Tec for repair at his expense. I spoke to the people at Ten-Tec and learned that the entire speaker circuit had been blown out and that they'd replaced it, but I had them send me the bill. I knew that Laci's finances weren't in the greatest shape at that point. When I next visited him, I discovered what the speaker problem had been. When we went down to his shack he had the audio turned up all the way, with the result that the internal speaker (his rig, this time) was thumping and distorting terribly, making it hard to understand anything. But with his hearing (or lack thereof) at the time, this was the only way he could hear anything. I couldn't resist asking the obvious question: Laci, why don't you use headphones? You'd certainly be able to hear better. His response? "Joe (Cho), I've never used headphones in my life and I don't intend to start now." So much for that.

Several years ago, hoping to solve some of his antenna problems, Laci ordered a SteppIR yagi. He was a little disconcerted when they told him that the antennas were on backlog and that he would have to go on a long waiting list. He told them (and this was confirmed to me by the people at SteppIR) that he was 91 years old so he hoped the waiting list wouldn't be too long. That took them aback and they told him that they were instituting a new rule then and there: Anyone 90 years or older would go to the top of the wait list. Sure enough, a few weeks later his new SteppIR arrived; I don't know who put it up for him, but it did work and he was once again back on the air, as active as his hearing and eyesight and propagation would permit.

Laci was a true gentleman in an era when there are very few true gentlemen still around. He had a difficult life but always made the best of it, even in his last years, although I think he was depressed much of the time during the last few years. He told me something else a year or so ago which was really heart-rending, but clearly true. He said, "the reward for leading a decent life is living too long" and I think he really believed that. I'm glad that his suffering is ended, but can't help feeling the big void that he has left.

Laci was a terrific radio operator and a great friend; he will be missed by a lot of people all around the world who were pleased to count themselves among his friends.

RIP, Laci,
Joe K2VUI

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
Feb 9	General	ARRL HQ, Newington, CT

Ship's Log	February 2008	Issue 193
Captain's Cabin	Mark Pride - K1RX	1
Meeting Directions		2
Crew News		2
Flotsam & Jetsam	Jack Schuster - W1WEF	3
Scholarship Winner		4
Scholarship Raffle		5
December Meeting Minutes	George Harlem - W1EBI	6
Laci Radner - W1PL Remembered		7

Next Meeting:
Saturday, February 9, Noon-5PM
ARRL Headquarters Building, Newington, CT
(Directions on Page 2)

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
18 Bancroft Tower Road
Worcester, MA 01609

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