



Scuttlebutt

December 2014

Issue 229

**Next Meeting- Holiday Lunch & Yankee Swap
Sunday, December 7th – 12:30pm till 4:30pm
Auburn Elk's Hall
Auburn, Massachusetts**

Captain's Cabin

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

When looking for a topic for this month's Captain's Cabin, I asked myself "What's the Message"? In other words, where do we go from here? I thought back to my first Captain's Cabin, and recalled that I have a great concern for the future of the club and the future of Ham Radio. I'm actually more worried about the survival of ham radio in general than I am about the survival of YCCC. Contesting is Ham Radio's fastest growing sub-group, so as long as there are hams to feed it, that group should survive just fine.

I look around at meetings, and while the influx of new faces is good, these new faces are not young. Now I hesitate to bring up what is an already overworked subject, that of interesting new blood in our aging hobby/sport. The same song is sung in a multitude of hobbies and sports, so we do not have exclusive claim to the complaint. But as leaders in our field, it is up to us to do just that – lead, not follow or sit idle. So in an effort to begin to understand the problem, I took a look at some statistics. (See Chart on Page 5)

Novice and Advanced can be used to indicate exit rate of hams due to loss of interest or mortality, between 3.3 and 6 % per year. At the same time Tech, General, and Extra can be used to show influx of new hams and progression in the hobby at around 1.5% per month for new Techs and just over 3% for Extras (which is more than replacing losses due to loss of interest and SK). Of the 720,000 licensed hams in the US, very close to half are Techs. The three percent growth rate of Extras suggest that an average of about 360 new Extras are minted each month. General class licenses are also growing at a bit over 3% per month, or 442 new Generals each month. The rate of growth of the Tech class is 461 net Techs each month. Assuming that the number of applicants that go from zero to General or Extra is negligible, the Generals and Extras can be assumed to be coming out of the Tech class pool, so that would infer 461 + 442 + 360 people pass the Tech exam each month (to account for those leaving the Tech class for higher classes). This implies that around 1263 people enter Ham radio by passing the Tech exam each month, and 903 move on from the Tech license to higher classes, which indicates ongoing interest in the hobby.

I haven't done the detailed effort to say for sure, but I'm willing to bet that the statistics for YCCC are very different. I would bet that we are very heavily weighted towards Extra class licenses. To me, that means that there is a huge untapped resource of Technician class licenses who could become YCCC members! Unfortunately, I was unable to find demographics on US Ham Licenses that give the age distributions of license classes. It would be interesting to know how many young people there are in this pool of Technician licenses – I bet there is quite a large percentage.

We need to find a way to move younger, less experienced hams, perhaps from the huge pool of Tech licensees, into contesting, and locally, into YCCC. At the same time, we need to find a way to reach the non-ham youth, and invite them to enjoy ham radio. These are slightly different problems, but they may have common solutions.

(Continued on page 5)

Yankee Clipper Contest Club	
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Directions to Auburn Elk's Hall

From points east & west, via Mass Pike Interstate 90, take exit 10 onto Route 12 South. Travel 7/10 of a mile, pass through two sets of traffic lights, pass by Waterman Road and Warren Road on the right. Take a right into the Lodge before Jiffy Lube.

From points east, via Interstate 290 West, exit 8 in Auburn. Or From points north, via interstate 190 South onto Interstate 290 West, exit 8 in Auburn. Then From Interstate 290 take exit 8 in Auburn onto Route 12 South. Travel 9/10 of a mile, pass through two sets of traffic lights, pass by Waterman Road and Warren Road on the right. Take a right into the Lodge before Jiffy Lube.



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Loos Tension Gage Study

Dale Drake, AA1QD

Loos Naples web site states that the Model PT-2 tension gage (as well as their other tension gages) is designed for use on 302/304 stainless steel 1x19 cable and that using it on other cable will result in consistent results but the actual pounds of tension read will not be accurate.

The model PT-2 tension gage is a lever/spring device that measures the cable tension indirectly by flexing the cable under tension with a certain spring tension and measuring how much the cable actually flexes. The measured flex is then correlated to a given tension force based on the cable diameter using a chart.

There are two forces involved in flexing a cable under tension. First is the force to overcome the tension itself and second is the force needed to flex the cable against its natural stiffness. Another way to describe the second force is that it is the force needed to flex the cable while not under tension. The method of tension measurement used by the model PT-2 does not differentiate between the two. The “calibration”, or the chart provided on the gage, assumes that the natural stiffness is that of the 302/304 stainless steel 1x19 cable.

Most amateur radio antenna tower guy cables are 3/16” EHS galvanized steel cable. EHS cable is significantly stiffer than 1x19 stainless steel cable of the same diameter.

Hypothesis –

The Loos model PT-2 tension gage, when used to measure tension of 3/16” EHS at tensions near that used on Rohn towers (400#) may significantly over state the actual cable tension due to the greater stiffness of EHS cable compared to 1x19 stainless steel cable. Put another way, the stiffness of 3/16” EHS is significant when measuring tensions near 400# using a PT-2 Loos tension gage.

Experiment –

Connect together a section of Loos 3/16” 302/304 stainless 1x19 cable, a section of Rohn 3/16” EHS guy cable, a spring scale and a come-a-long. Tension the assembly to 400 pounds and measure the tension with a model PT-2 gage connected on each cable type.

Repeat the measurements on each a total of 10 times relaxing and re-tensioning the cable several times between readings and measuring with the PT-2 gage at different locations on each cable type.

Analyze the data for repeatability. Take additional measurements until sufficient data is collected to establish a reliable correction factor.

Results –

The data was very consistent. The PT-2 gage read very close to the spring scale reading. The most significant variable was the friction in the PT-2 gage. After 10 data runs the results showed that when 3/16” EHS cable is tensioned to 400# the PT-2 gage will read 500#. Due to the greater natural stiffness of the EHS cable the error will be great at lower tensions. No effort was made to determine a correction factor at other tensions since Rohn only recommends a tension of 400#. If one were to tension the 3/16” EHS to a reading of 400# on the PT-2 gage the true tension would be somewhat less than 300#.

1x19 Stainless Steel Cable		
Run#	Scale Reading (400 ± 5 LBS)	Model PT-2 Reading
1	409	15.5
2	403	15.5
3	400	15.0
4	414	16.0
5	412	16.0
6	412	15.5
7	410	15.5
8	410	15.5
9	410	15.5
10	410	15.5

3/16” EHS Cable		
Run#	Scale Reading (400 ± 5 LBS)	Model PT-2 Reading
1	409	18.5
2	402	18.0
3	400	18.0
4	412	17.5
5	412	17.5
6	414	18.0
7	412	18.0
8	410	18.0
9	410	18.0
10	410	18.0

Bob Johnson K1VU - SK

Longtime YCCC member Bob K1VU became SK on September 8th.

Robert E. "Bob" Johnson, 74, of West Bridgewater, died Monday, September 8, 2014, at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton, after a brief illness.

He was the loving husband of Ruth C. (Carlson) Johnson of 51 years. Born Wednesday, June 12, 1940, in Brockton, he was the son of the late Carl E. and Irene F. (Hill) Johnson. Bob was a graduate of Brockton High School, Wentworth Institute, and of Northeastern University.

He had lived in West Bridgewater since 1969 and worked as a research engineer for the Foxboro Company for many years. He served the West Bridgewater Police Department as a part time officer for a number of years.

He enjoyed his Ham Radio (K1VU), beekeeping, photography, and was an avid outdoorsman. A devoted grandfather, he greatly enjoyed spending time with his grandsons. He was also a member of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brockton.

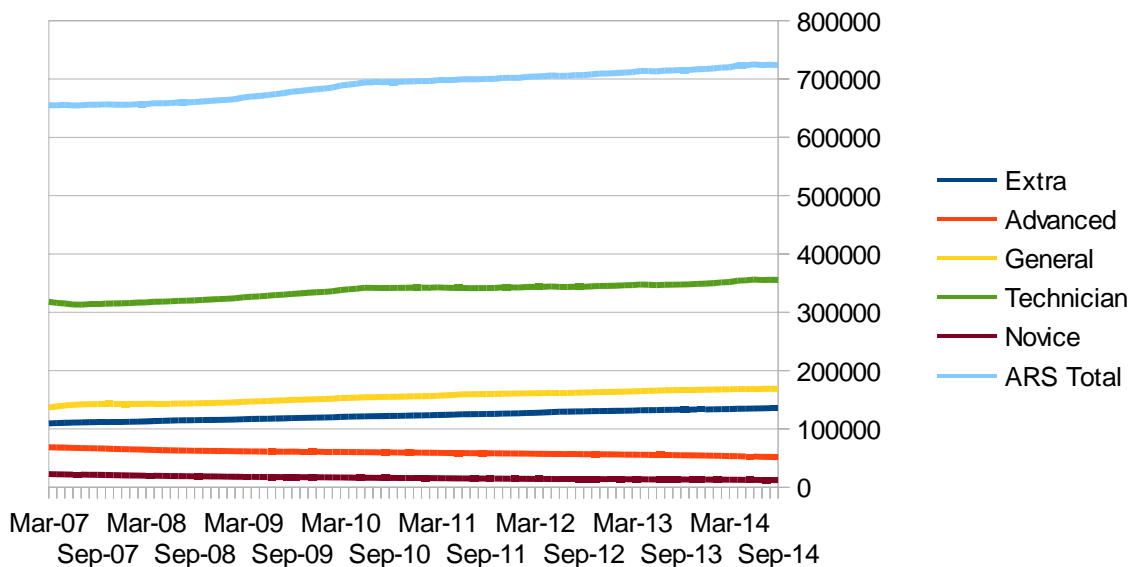
In addition to his wife, Ruth, he is survived by two beloved daughters, Alice N. Johnson and her husband Richard W. of Wrentham and Carlene A. Johnson of Arlington; and two grandchildren, Russell E. and Nathan P. Johnson. He was also the brother of the late Carole A. Fitts.

Memorial visitation was held Thursday, September 11, 2014, from 5-8 p.m. in the Dahlborg-MacNevin Funeral Home, 647 Main St., Brockton. A memorial service was held Friday, September 12, 2014, at 11 a.m. in the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 900 Main St., Brockton. Memorial gifts may be given to Camp Calumet Lutheran, P.O. Box 236, West Ossipee, NH 03890. Dahlborg-MacNevin Funeral Home 647 Main St., Brockton 508-586-4391

(Captain's Cabin, Continued from page 1)

Number of US Ham Licenses by Class and Year

(from <http://www.ah0a.org/FCC/Licenses.html>)



I have spent many idle moments contemplating this question: Why was ham radio so attractive to myself and others of my generation, but is not as attractive to the current generation of young people who are the same age as we were when we got interested? To answer this, I ask what were the aspects of ham radio that were so appealing to me, and what has changed in the decades since?

For me, Ham radio was a natural offshoot of my basic interest in electronics, which must have been genetic. I was enthralled at a very young age by my engineer-father's schematic drawings that he brought home from work, which were works of art drawn with multiple colored pencils for clarity. I demonstrated a Heathkit AM radio broadcaster (which I built) to my second grade class. I can remember my total focus and concentration, when at age 9 I watched my brother and father struggle getting a newly-constructed Heathkit AR-3 to work. The glowing tubes and #47 pilot lamps were, to quote a line from K2ORS (the original), sheer 'electric sex' to me!

Later, I was excited about the idea of being able to transmit my voice through thin air over long distances. CB was a distraction, but this was before the big CB boom of the late 70s. Fortunately my father and my Elmer managed to steer me away from the Dark Side and got me on track to get my Novice and Technician licenses. I remember studying the ARRL License Manual for hours on end. Something about this hobby interested me enough to invest the hours it took to learn the technology behind it. I'm sure every one of you has similar stories about how you became passionate about ham radio. They say that it takes 10,000 hours of practice to become an elite performer at any skill. Only teenagers have the opportunity to invest this much time before they become distracted by life.

So what is different now? I know, everyone says the internet has ruined (fill in the blank). Certainly cell phones and the internet have taken away some of the mystique of transmitting one's voice over long distances. Are today's kids less interested in technology? I really don't think so. I still find kids who are interested in electronics in my sons' grade school and high schools. Is it that this is the 'instant-gratification' generation? Again, I don't believe that is the case. I see some kids investing huge amounts of time in their activities.

As I described in a previous column, I believe there is a fairly common progression of Hams through various aspects of the hobby. Of course, one of the wonderful things about Ham Radio is the many varied sub-interests there are to provide new excitement and learning opportunities. Not every ham has to take a trip through satellite communications, microwave, or even Morse Code. But I do think that once a new ham gets on the air, they start to get excited about making contacts, and that extends to making contacts over longer distances (DX); and finally, after they have worked as many as they can, hams tire of DX and at some point, many succumb to their competitive instincts and take an interest in contesting. This long path from new licensee to contester need not be the only one. The fact that most of our membership has been licensed for a long time, and most are Extra class licensees, seems to give credence to this theory that contesting is a long way down the career path of the average ham.

Is it possible that contesting could become the main attraction of ham radio? Could contesting be presented in the right light, and marketed the right way, so that it became the entry point? I think a lot would have to change to make that happen – and this is why I write about this idea. I'm looking for new thinkers to help me figure out ways to make this happen.

YCCC worked together this past summer in WRTC2014 and showed what it could do when all motivated in a common cause, and directed towards a common goal. I believe YCCC can take on this project with the same enthusiasm, and success. *Does anybody read this column?* If you've read this far, send me an email to let me know you will help. I'm looking for a few good ideas, and volunteers to put them into action!

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YCCC Fifth Annual Holiday Lunch and Yankee Swap 12:30-4:30 pm - Sunday December 7th.

Menu

The American Special is Hot Roast Beef
Hot Oven Roasted Chicken
Hot Rigatoni with sauce
Garden Salad
Oven Roasted Potato
Rolls, Coffee, and a Sheet Cake Desert

Arrival is at Noon, meal is served from 12:30-1:30p.,

Tickets for the Holiday Buffet Lunch are \$20 each. Anyone interested in attending should email Tony, K1KP at barockteer@aol.com with the number of tickets needed.

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YCCC QSL's

Tom Homewood, W1TO is working on a new source for YCCC QSLs, UX5UO.

The QSLs will look much like the latest version we received with a choice of matte or glossy and pricing is expected to be comparable to the present QSL source.

Anyone interested in being part of the "trial Order" should contact Tom (w1to@yccc.org) for more information and a sample QSL card..

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From the YCCC Reflector

Good Sunrise/SunSet (SR/SS) website

de Charlie N1RR:

I bet our low banders would love the single page full-year SR / SS table they can make in a few clicks.

<http://sunrisesunsetmap.com/>

T'Was the Night Before World-Wide

Tony, K1KP (with Apologies to Clement Clarke Moore, and Doug

T'was the night before World Wide, when all through the shack

Not a rotor was turning, not even the stack;
The finals were warmed in their chimneys so clear,
In hopes that DXpeditions soon would appear;

The guest ops were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of morning runs danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'headphones, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a last minute nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the piles of unraked leaves below,
Gave rise to the guilt of yard tools still stowed.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a full-on mobile, all bris'ling with gear.

With a little old guest op, so lively and free,
I knew in a moment it must be 'DG.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old Op,
And I laughed when I saw him, I just couldn't stop;

More rapid than eagles his QSOs they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, G3! now, DL! go P4 and VE!
On, VK! next ZL! now, ZK and TT!
To the top of the Section! to the top of the Zone!
Now dash away, records, top them, alone!"

As QRM that before the highspeed run splatter,
He lost not a moment to deal with the matter,
And using his mouse to zero beat the zoo,
'Get off my freq AR, I know that it's you'!

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled up the log; then moved for a jerk.
And laying his finger aside of his Bose,
And giving a nod, up the standings he rose.

He copied the QSOs, some strong and some light,
And worked them all quickly, late into the night.
With uncanny speed the log he did fill,
I knew after checking his UBN would be nil!

He sprang to his mobile, to his mic gave a whistle,
And away QSY'd with the speed of a missile.
But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove like a nut,
Happy WorldWide to all, and to all, a 'KICK BUTT' !!

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From the YCCC Reflector

Don Wallace, W6AM (SK) Documentary

de Shane, K1ZR

I came across a video on YouTube featuring Don Wallace, W6AM filmed in 1984. My late grandfather, W1EP (SK 1993) told many stories of W6AM's signal dominance over several decades and I was always fascinated by each one....even if they were told to me over and over again....hi. This an amazing video and a must-see for those interested in seeing what one of the most dominant DX and contest stations looked like from the early days of ham radio through the early-80's. Those rhombics were unbelievable.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5iVb-3MHEY>

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YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF Dues for the year are payable as of January 1st. 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 - \$15/yr (Eligible for YCCC member benefits and electronic "Ebutt" delivery of Club newsletter)

Full Member - \$30/yr (Eligible for YCCC member benefits and paper 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 member benefits.)

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 "supportive friend of YCCC" - not a member but a possible candidate for future membership. Only receives club newsletter in paper or electronic form. \$10 for electronic "Ebutt" delivery domestically or overseas or \$25 for domestic paper delivery.)

Club members who move out of club territory and so are not eligible to contribute to club aggregate scores can continue to participate in the Club's e-mail reflector and receive the electronic "Ebutt" delivery of newsletter at no cost.

You can tell if you owe dues by checking your 'Butt mailing label or the Club roster in the Members Only section of the website.

NOTE: If your dues are paid to a March 31 date, then you now need to synchronize to the calendar year. Please see the "Dues" area on the Members Only section of the website for the pro-rated dues amount for a partial year.

Mail your dues to the club treasurer, Chet Slabinski, N8RA, 462 W. Hill Rd, New Hartford, CT 06057.

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Steve Rodowicz N1SR, by E-mail at n1sr@arri.net 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, Alec Berman, W2JU, 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 Tony, K1KP. Send \$3, name and call desired on the badge, and your mailing address to Tony.

APPAREL Contact Richie, W1STT. Email: richd1313@aol.com

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

QSL CARDS are ordered through Dennis Egan, W1UE. To order, send Dennis an email at egan.dennis88@gmail.com, 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 Dennis *with payment* (make checks out to Dennis, not YCCC). Current price is \$50 (delivered) for 1,000 cards. Also available is the glossy version for \$70/1000.

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 Lyn Glagowski, WB1CCL.

ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF *The W1 QSL BUREAU* is sponsored by the YCCC. More information at: www.w1qsl.org Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. Email address: w1qsl@yccc.org

ARRL COMMITTEE REPS are:

CAC: New England Dennis Egan, W1UE Hudson George Wilner, K2ONP Atlantic Charles D Fulp Jr, K3WW

DXAC: New England Bob Beaudet, W1YRC Hudson John Sawina, NA2R Atlantic Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

VUAC: New England Ed Parish, K1EP Hudson Frederick Lass, K2TR Atlantic Joe Taylor, K1JT

ARRL LIAISON: Sean Kutzko, KX9X
