



Scuttlebutt

October 2021

Issue 261

YCCC Zoom October Meeting(s)
Time & Gate TBD - See YCCC Reflector for details

Holiday Gathering
Sunday December 5th (160M contest weekend) - Auburn Elks Lodge.

CAPTAIN'S LOG

Hi All,

In the lull just before the HamXposition weekend (which started Thursday for me), I dug out a pile of unknown aluminum I have staged in my back 40. I took a bunch of detailed measurements and figured out it most probably is a Cushcraft A4 with the A744 40M add on kit. The problem is, it is missing 10 of the 12 required traps. A search and rescue mission was deployed to the K1TWF Building #19 otherwise known as "The Barn", but no joy.

HamX was a success from the committee's perspective despite missing all of the big names on the vendor floor. There was really nothing we could do about that. The Friday/Saturday Flea Market was well received. The facilities were a step up from the tired and old Boxboro facility. However, it is somewhat short on large indoor spaces that we will have to deal with if and when the Ham vendors decide it is OK to come out in the light again. The complimentary breakfast was great, but not having their pub open during the day was a huge problem. Our attendance was just as predicted and the expenses were lower. A good donation to the FEMARA scholarship fund will be possible. After all, that is entire purpose of the convention.

The DX Dinner, sponsored by the YCCC, was well attended, around 95 people. Adrian – KO8SCA was entertaining as ever, but what really generated a lot of questions were the plans and preparations for the upcoming 3Y0J DXpedition. Adrian also brought along some DX. He introduced us all to Ahmed - HC2AP. Ahmed is looking for a seat for the CQWW SSB. Joe - W1JR won the DX Countdown award, an HRO gift certificate donated by the YCCC and Bob – W1YRC won the DX Engineering gift certificate donated by DX Engineering.



Figure 1 WO1N, HC2AP and KO8SCA

The YCCC meeting was well attended. We had a pile of renewals and 7 new members were voted in. Just to restate for the record, you only need to pay your dues for the current year to bring yourself up-to-date. No need to pay past years to catch up. (Continued on page 17)

Yankee Clipper Contest Club	
President	Ken Caruso, WO1N President@YCCC.org
Vice President	Charles Morrison, N1RR 401-742-7240 VicePresident@YCCC.org
Activities Manager	Gerry Kersus, W1GD Activities@yccc.org
Secretary	Brian Szewczyk, NJ1F Secretary@YCCC.org
Treasurer	Chet Slabinski, N8RA Treasurer@YCCC.org
Scuttlebutt Editor & Publisher	Steve Rodowicz, N1SR (413) 593-6554 N1SR@arrl.net
Webmaster	Mike Gilmer, N2MG webmaster@yccc.org
Scorekeeper	Alec Berman, W2JU Scores@YCCC.org
W1 QSL Bureau	Eric Williams, KV1J Dennis Egan, W1UE W1QSL@YCCC.ORG
Technical Assist Mgr	Dave Jordan, K1NQ (978) 443-3603 YCCCTA@YCCC.ORG
New Members	Mark Pride, K1RX (603) 778-1222 Members@yccc.org
Media Manager	Tom LeClerc, W1TJL Content@yccc.org

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Area Managers

ME	Mike Russo, K1EU	(207) 883-9524	k1eu@maine.rr.com
ENH/NEMA	Ken Caruso, WO1N	-----	wo1n@arrl.net
WNH/SVT	Craig Clark, K1QX	-----	k1qx@arrl.net
SE MA (508) [co-mgr]	Charlie Morrison, N1RR	-----	kv1j@arrl.net
SE MA (508) [co-mgr]	Dave Neil, W2DAN	-----	-----
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)	Rich Cady, N1IXF	-----	n1ixf@arrl.net
CT (203)	Mike Loukides, W1JQ	(203) 458-2545	MikeL@oreilly.com
RI (401)	Charlie Morrison, N1RR	(401) 742-7240	n1rr@n1rr.com
NNY	John Corini, KE1IH	-----	John.Corini@gmail.com
NYC/LI (718)	Tom Carrubba, KA2D	(631) 422-9594	ka2d@arrl.net
SNY/NJ/PA (914)	Hank Kiernan, KF2O	(914) 235-4940	hankkier@aol.com
NVT (802)	Jason Garneau, K1LOL	-----	-----
QUEBEC	Guy Lemieux, VE2BWL	-----	guy@guylemieux.com
CAPE & ISLANDS	----- OPEN -----	-----	-----

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YCCC General Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2021 - HamXposition – Marlborough, MA

President Ken WO1N called the first in-person meeting since the COVID pandemic lockdown at the Northeast HamXposition to order at 1:14 pm.

President Ken WO1N asked for a moment of silence to remember the events of September 11, 2001

President Ken WO1N then asked for a roll call of those present.

President Ken WO1N asked for the Secretary's Report which Brian NJ1F gave. A motion to accept the report was made by Craig K1QX and seconded by Charlie N1RR. The motion carried

President Ken WO1N gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept the reports was made by Charlie N1RR and Seconded by Ed N2HX. The motion carried.

President Ken WO1N asked if there was any Old Business. There was no Old Business.

President Ken WO1N asked if there was anyone at the meeting that wanted to join the club. KC1RLS, KC1POB, W1HNZ, AC1DC, AB1BY, KC1DGW, KB1VKS and returning member W5OV were welcomed aboard.

President Ken WO1N introduced Fred AB1OC who gave a presentation titled "Contest Activities for Young People".

President Ken WO1N announced that it was election time and introduced Brian NJ1F who announced a proposed slate of officers.

President Ken WO1N Introduced Marty NN1C and Abby AB1BY for a roundtable discussion on current youth interests in Amateur radio and contesting.

Vice President Charlie N1RR conducted a quiz for contesting. Randy K5ZD had the highest score and was awarded a \$25 HRO Gift Certificate.

President Ken WO1N then led a discussion about upcoming meetings and polled those present about having them in person, via Zoom. Several members felt that the club should explore doing Hybrid meetings. Upcoming meetings are early October in person or Zoom to be determined and the Holiday luncheon to be held in person on the Sunday following the ARRL 160 meter contest.

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm.

Submitted

Brian Szewczyk NJ1F

YCCC Secretary

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Why I Seek Re-election as Your New England Director

Fred Hopengarten, K1VR

I have been an avid contester for many years now. A **charter member of the YCCC**, I was present at the birth – voting YES to create the YCCC. And I know Morse Code!

I've seen many changes and have operated from many places around the world. Even so, I don't know what is best for every ARRL member, because we have many hobbies within Amateur Radio. But you will tell me, as you have before. Last time, running against a 20 year incumbent, I was an unlikely candidate – but was convinced by many of you that change was urgently needed.

My first 2.5 years as a Board member taught me a few things: about how the League is run, about some serious problems caused by earlier Boards, and about things that

urgently needed doing where I could help. I accepted the challenge when you asked me to serve. You will judge whether I met those challenges by considering my record. More importantly, let me know what you would have preferred and why. A director is supposed to represent all Members of the division, not just the director's idea of what might be best. This I have done.

The Big Picture

Candidates usually make big promises, whether practical or not. But here are some things I talked about when first I ran for office, and what happened when I went to work on them for you.

HOA Law. I worked hard to stop the previous Board's "Amateur Radio Parity Act," supposedly designed to help HOA hams. But, as written, *it would do more harm than good*. Many of my lawyer colleagues who are also active hams were blocked by the Board – prevented from sharing their experiences and insights, while Board members who lacked the background or insight to make good decisions about the quality of the work done met in secret. When we found out too late, experienced hams were troubled by this poorly managed but very important project.

For example, it would have made it illegal under the FCC rules to place a stealth antenna in an HOA – rather than a simple violation of an agreement among property owners. The definition of antennas allowed was poorly drafted. It would not assure anything but maybe a 440 MHz whip. The earlier Board refused dialog with those of us that "knew something about something." That failure alone should be telling. The new Board you voted in wisely chose to withdraw support in Congress for that troubled bill. It was a very difficult, but necessary, decision. Fortunately for all of us, no foot was accidentally shot, but the bill was killed.

I've been one of two principal authors of a replacement for that "Parity Act." Hundreds of hours of time



Presentation of an IC-7000 After winning 2010 Dayton CW Pile-Up Contest Sponsored by the KCDXC

have been spent utilizing better analysis and proper procedures our old ARRL board failed to try. Many board members then had no real insight into the matter. Board membership requires constant attention - being neck deep in the big issues which do not lend themselves to simplistic answers, or delegation to others with even less expertise. Soap-boxing and a few meetings, a few times a year, get little real work done.

While Covid delayed us all for some 18 months, keep your eyes open now. Something should appear in Congress soon – I’ve been hard at work. Can you help get support from a U.S. Representative, or Senator? Please let me know, as the draft bill has been given to Hill staffers for comment. We have many weeks of work invested now. We went through at least 18 versions before we submitted it to our Congressional sponsors. We are on this.

NH HOA Law. I’ve appeared twice before a NH state government committee to promote Amateur Radio interests. This process may take years. But I drafted the bills we presented, and I’m working with three hams who are members of the state legislature, and one who was formerly a state rep (and is a YCCC member, Bill Ohm, W1OHM). If you could be helpful, please join NH-HOA@groups.io.

Transparency. Last time I said “we should embrace more transparency.” My new fellow Board members, swept in by a popular member uprising in a truly historic ARRL election, have helped me fulfill this pledge. I’ve publicly released the Board’s Standing Orders, previously on the ARRL web site, but hidden from the general membership. I’ve reorganized them by subject, instead in chronological order, and posted them to <https://nediv.arrl.org/>. If you want a copy, drop me a note.

Legal Restructuring. I am also proud to report I was appointed to our Legal Restructuring Committee, working to update, guess what, our legal structure. There are only two lawyers elected to the 15-member voting Board – I am one of them.. Our League is foremost a technical and service organization, but a firm grip on the massive, serious legal issues is required to assure our future. Frankly, I’m part of the professional talent our earlier Board did not have available.

IMC. I also said we should be modern, and discovered that, for 40+ years, the ARRL endowment, almost \$40 million, has been run by one man. That had to change. On my motion, the Board agreed with my views that (1) we should create an Investment Management Committee, (2) bring in a professional investment management team, and (3) take on more reasonable risk, yielding more money over time to fund more mission-critical projects to benefit members.

CEO. I worked hard to replace the former CEO, unwisely selected by the former Board in the absence “best practices.” I was named by the President to the CEO Search Committee. We found a qualified CEO, marketing-oriented, devoted to ham radio his whole life, who will work on converting more licensees into members. The new CEO has real experience managing a big organization, not just a flashy resume. Moreover, our committee created a system so the Board could choose among the top five CEO candidates, after in-person interviews with dozens of others. No choices were presented to the Board the previous time - unfathomable. Going through multiple CEOs suggests problems – but our new process solved that.

Executive Committee. Twice I’ve been voted by the other Board members to be on the Executive Committee, which runs the Board between meetings. As a result, our New England Division is in a leadership position as it should be. I am proud that other division directors have asked me to represent them. I am honored they valued my background even though I am the new guy on the block. I am happy to help on something so important.

Washington, DC. And I’ve also been selected by the Board to represent the League at meetings on Capitol Hill and at the FCC. A member of the Bar in DC, I was a law clerk (legal advisor) to the Chairman of the FTC. I know something about how Washington works. Been there, done that, and worked for you as you asked.

Newcomers. We have many challenges, including membership, promoting new hams and STEM education. We advance such things through our Learning Network, Teachers Institute, and our significant youth scholarship program.

Other. There are other important issues as well. Preserving our spectrum is mission critical. What could be more important? A rising RFI noise floor is also a serious problem. Antenna restrictions, my forté for years, remain a big issue. On some matters, we have been losing ground. All of these topics must be prioritized by those of us who have worked in these areas. Otherwise, I would predict our League will fall back into its old ways of governance – by popularity and personality – rather than by professional competence. Those choices are up to you, as it should be.

Your Vote

This is a contested election. Good ham operators are running and we all know that friends will vote for friends. We all understand that - just like in a radio club election. But the ARRL is not just a bigger radio club. Board leadership requires technical and professional skills, combined with experience, to benefit our membership. If you agree, please vote for me when the ballots come out around September 1st.

In the meantime, I will place more information at www.Hams4NewEngland.org and answer your questions there - call or write me directly at Fred@antennazoning.com.



As this is a contest club, did I mention that I've been #1 World (and a World Record). Just once. But what a thrill.

I recently returned from the first live ARRL board meeting in 18 months. I can fill you in on some happenings. We have ground to make up after 18 months of purely remote management operations. But we are under way again. The ship is tracking straight after so many years of being rudderless. Choose your navigators well.

-Fred K1VR



*2018 CQ WW SSB at K1LZ
(Multi-Single High Power) #1 USA
Team: W1UE, NN1C, N1RR, K3JO, YT6W*

Tom Frenaye, K1KI

Candidate - New England Division Director

Hi, I'm Tom Frenaye from West Suffield CT (near Springfield MA) and I'm running for election as New England Division Director of the ARRL. I've served as ARRL Director in the past and am currently elected as an ARRL Director Emeritus.

My Background

I've been licensed since I was 14 years old, thanks to a middle school science teacher. Amateur Radio has been part of my life ever since! I'm particularly interested and involved in on-the-air activities. In high school I focused on DXing and county hunting and worked more than 1500 US counties. A friend and I started the California QSO Party in the early 1970s.

After graduate school I took a once in a lifetime job as a communications specialist and spent a year in Palmer Station, Antarctica, also operating as KC4AAC. Following that, I took the job of contest program manager at ARRL in Newington CT. During that time, I learned about packet radio, which led to an understanding of computer networks, and a career in information technology at a Hartford-area insurance company where I developed large corporate databases for end user access, managed the new information center and the network control operations.



I was elected as ARRL Director and Vice President until 2018, and also as ARRL Foundation president for ten years. I've also served on several of my town's boards and commissions, including finance, technology, capital projects, and the planning and zoning commission. I've also served as mayor (First Selectman). I believe every ham should look for the opportunity to get involved in their town's government in some way.

In the 1990's I started a New England effort to get new hams on the air called the Get On The Air Program. It focused on reaching out to new hams and helping them to get started in ham radio by connecting them to local ham radio clubs. This program was then adopted by the ARRL as a major addition to Field Day – the Get On The Air (GOTA) station which is perfect for introducing and mentoring new hams on-the-air.

In 2002 I started the New England QSO Party as a way to help encourage on-the-air activity. Over the last twenty years it has grown to more than 150,000 QSOs made in a weekend and 1100 logs received.

When the World Radiosport Team Championships were held in the Boston area in 2014, I was part of the team that managed the event. My assignment was to find 50+ locations for teams to operate from, and to build the several hundred volunteers for site management. I've also served as President of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. I especially like to operate CW and on 160 meters, and really enjoy building antennas. I'm looking forward to the improving propagation on the 15 and 10m bands!

What have I accomplished on the ARRL Board in the past? (here are some of them!)

- Grew ARRL Foundation from 20 scholarships/year to 100 scholarships/year, totaling over \$1.4M awarded.
- Pushed for expanded ARRL Expo at Dayton and other large conventions

- Stopped Broadband over Powerline (BPL) –ARRL sued FCC and won
- Helped to ensure state and federal legislation regarding cell phone in cars did not include ham radio
- Strong support of International Amateur Radio Union to protect ham radio internationally
- Supported establishment of ARRL Continuing Education program (now the Learning Network)
- Filed comments with FCC protecting ham bands from commercial interests
- Strongly supported successful efforts to gain access to 2200m(135 KHz) and 630m (472 KHz) bands in 2017, as well as 60m(5 MHz) in 2002.
- Chairmen of ARRL Board committees – Administration and Finance, Programs and Services, Ethics and Elections, served on Executive Committee many years, and led Entry Level License Committee
- Led effort to make ARRL Board and Executive Committee agendas available to members via email ahead of meetings, and distribute meeting minutes afterwards
- Pushed for new ARRL magazine for newcomers – On The Air
- Voted to approve making QST available in electronic format as an option (2011)
- Supported first remote Volunteer Exam sessions using Internet video
- Supported hardware improvements and programming resources for Logbook of the World
- Conducted two day long in-person meetings of Section Managers and ARRL club presidents each year to discuss ARRL policies and programs and receive input on local/club issues
- Supported Amateur Radio Parity Act in Congress to extend PRB-1 protections to condos and HOA owners.
- Approved Board action to ask FCC for changes in rules to allow Pactor 4 and similar digital codes
- Supported ARRL petition to FCC to expand 80m digital band segment

Why Run for the ARRL Board

ARRL is at a crossroads and has faltered during the last several years. There have been five different CEOs in the last five years, many of the key staff members have retired or left the organization. The ARRL Board has also had a difficult time with inexperience and failure to apply good management to the organization.

I'm running for Director because I'm critical of the way things have been managed by HQ and the Board. I believe that the right decision is not just to criticize but to step forward and be part of the solution to improve the organization.

The ARRL needs to have a current strategic plan and must focus on improving the League's relationship with both the FCC and members of Congress. Amateur radio needs to continue to adapt to the changing technological world, FCC rules need to be modernized.

Hams need relief from the condominium and homeowner association rules that limit or prohibit reasonable antennas. During the last three years, no progress has been made on that relief, and actually, the effort has ground to a stop.

The Technician license needs to be modernized so digital modes can be used on HF band segments, not just CW.

We have to find a way to limit the serious problem with consumer electronic equipment RF interference, the FCC, because the current rules are incapable of addressing the RF pollution, and enforcement is nearly non-existent.

ARRL conflict of interest rules for elected officials are not sufficient to deal with many current situations, and I will work to strengthen them.

I'd appreciate your vote in the upcoming ARRL Director election. Ballots will be mailed out from Newington by October 1st.

If you have any questions at all, please give me a call at 860-597-4539 or email to frenaye@pcnet.com or K1KI@arrl.net.

Thanks, and 73!

 K1KI

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HamXposition New England Division Director Candidates Forum Video

The questions were unknown from the candidates. only the moderator knew them..

<https://youtu.be/LeyDAGrPC6w>

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Yankee Clipper Contest Club YouTube Channel

Link to Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOZDgRPZQ5lvtry1OjNWBYQ/videos>

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K3LR interviews CQWW Contest Director K1AR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GICdPFrdYI>

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With the Crew

Randy K5ZD - Mark K1RX along with Jim K1IR visited in early July and helped to fix the intermittent connection in my 40m beam. We replaced both loading coils on the driven element. The antenna is now rock solid on receive. We must have bumped something else because the SWR curve is not as good as it was before. A bit of a surprise given that we replaced like for like. Regardless, it is nice to work weak signals without having to bump the transmitter to get full receive.

Does anyone know how to diagnose a WX0B Stackmatch? My 10m stack is kind of working, but something makes me think there is a wire or relay problem. That's the next project.

Chet, N8RA - Elecraft K3 hints and kinks: My K3 transmit section had been acting up the last few months. After trying many suggested fixes offered on the K3 forum, I finally got it working again by taking off the top cover, removing the subreceiver chassis, and cleaning and reseating all the little coax interconnecting cables inside. The problem may have been caused by the installation of the subreceiver, since it is a tight fit in there, and can strain and bend those little coaxes and the TMP connectors and sockets. Others K3 owners had problems with those, and I heard that Kenwood used them in some of their transceivers too with similar difficulties. (Ed Note: Late model Ten-Tecs and Icoms also use TMP connectors.)

While things were apart, I also removed many of the internal PCBs, sprayed the connectors with contact cleaner and reseated them. And I did the same with the front panel, which was an easy off/on.

An interesting caution from one of the Elecraft techs referring to running the transmitter gain calibration routine was to "NOTE; After a successful Gain-Cal, then never, ever, TX at exactly 5 or 50watts (or 1.0MW) as that can cause an inadvertent TX gain cal and mess it up." Interesting....!??

Tom, K1KI notes - Endless brush cutting around my towers is complete! Now to start over... Working on a YCCC 9-circle 160/80m receiving array.

Steve, N1SR - A couple of weeks ago I had a PL-259 connector fall off a commercially assembled "RG-213/U TYPE" jumper cable. The connector wasn't an Amphenol, but was "MADE IN USA". The center conductor looked like it was properly soldered, as did the braid connection. Unfortunately none of solder touched the center conductor or the braid. Close inspection of the center conductor and the braid revealed bright shiny copper without any trace of solder contamination. I think that the heat-shrink tubing they install over the rear of the connector was the only thing holding the connector on. Funny thing, the few times I used the cable I never noticed a problem, no intermittents. I guess the only way to be sure its "done right" is to do it yourself, at least that way you know who to blame when it falls apart,

Jack, W1WEF - "73" - I know this doesn't apply to most YCCers but I remember a "Jeeves" cartoon years ago in QST where Jeeves was correcting someone saying 73s, telling them it's "73" without the "s". "73" means "Best Regards"...it already has the "s". I'm hesitant to correct people on 2M but when I've done so recently they thanked me. It's probably not a question in the Extra Exam...only on QTH.Com...hi.

Gerry, W1VE - Fantastic Song for us hams, < https://youtu.be/cq9hzqD3_Ow>, written and performed by a blind ham (Raul Midon, AE3RM)

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9M0W - Operating from SHANGRI-LA (NOT!) on 160M

By Jeff Briggs, K1ZM/VY2ZM

9M0W - 160M The decision to join this expedition

The decision to join 9M0W took place when K1LZ told me he was going to activate Scarborough Reef - I was pretty sure that was not where he was planning to go and later learned it was indeed SPRATLY.

Once we got that straight, he said "You want to come?"

I said - "Yeah - why not - as long as you and I can do 160M and not be required to operate on the higher bands..."

Krassy called Hrane, YT5A, who was the TEAM LEADER of 9M0W who said it would be okay as long as Krassy and I were totally responsible for the setup of both 80M and 160M - and that we might focus on 160M ourselves in terms of on the air time. Let me note at this point the really incredible will and talent of Hrane in terms of making all of this happen - what he had to overcome every step of the way to secure permission and overcome unreal obstacles when the whole thing almost failed on Sabah - well - he deserves my thanks and total respect because he was tireless and just would not quit on us - and in the end he prevailed and got us there. And back...

9M0W - Original Planning for 160M with YT5A and K1LZ

Planning commenced with invaluable assistance from Fred PY2XB - who added considerably with antenna recommendations, strategy and a checklist of everything that we might encounter from RFI, to site placement. While he never operated to my knowledge on Topband while we were at 9M0W - he was a part of the lowband team for sure.

We divided things into assigned roles: Krassy brought 4 spider poles - two at about 75 feet tall for 160M and two for 80M at around 62 feet tall (or so). He brought also the support ropes, antenna wire (really strong strong stuff - silver wire inside the equivalent of phillystran) - and some wire for radials.

I brought everything I have ever known in terms of Front-End (F/E) protection, antenna switching, 160M RX bandpass filters, jumpers, a KD9SV preamp, power adapters, custom 5 outlet strips designed for both 220v and 110V, a 220-110V 200w stepdown xfmr, and a 2.5A/12Vdc transformer power supply to power needed accessory devices. Krassy and I both brought noise canceling headphones. I also had coaxial adapters for everything I have ever seen - with the one exception of not being able to adapt from something else to an F-male - that caused us some grief during setup. Eventually we found another way to do it.

The list included SO-239 females with pre-attached pigtails, some Bymark 2:1 (50/25) KW UNUNS which proved invaluable to avoid tuning hassles at vertical feedpoints, Beverage and pennant matching transformers, 1000 feet of coax (not fun to lift that bag) - but needed for the 3/4 wavelength phasing lines planned for the 80M and 160M phased verticals, plus wire for a 160MBOG and 1000 feet of ground radial wire/or a Beverage.

We had constant email reflector dialogues taking place and this helped us to eventually avoid making BIG mistakes. We wanted to go earlier in the year but the resort was closed - we were their first arrivals after opening.

We desperately wanted the CONFERENCE ROOM at the western end of the complex - because from there coax runs are reasonable and might have allowed lowband RX systems that could have been reached with a coax run to acquire NA in reverse mode - while keeping the damned things as far away from man-made noise as possible.

9M0W - Departure Date Bad Luck and its Consequences

Krassy and I planned to fly together from Boston at 9PM on 02 March via Doha/Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu (SABAH). Arrival would be 04 March, a TEAM MEETING for all on 05 March and a private charter flight to Layang Layang at 0545 hours on 06 March.

On Wed Feb 28th I learned of the GIANT Nor'Easter that was going to hit BOSTON about our takeoff time on Friday.

I called Krassy and we changed our departure to THURS night 0850 hours - at a mere additional cost of \$800 per man to re-write our tickets.

I mean - what the HELL!! This was SPRATLY - damned that we were going to back out at this point.....

Departure was okay - we beat the storm and got to DOHA on time. In the re-write process of our tickets Krassy got a good itinerary - mine SUCKED in plain English - he got on a plane to KL - I had about a 9 hour layover and could not get on his plane(without paying another \$280 which I decided not to do.)

9M0W - More Bad Luck and near disaster for me...and the Dx'pedition

I sat in Doha for my 9 hours and boarded the plane at 0145 Local. We were supposed to take off at 0245 but at 4AM we were still sitting on the tarmac which I had not noticed as I had the headphones on watching a movie.

The captain said "sorry for the delay in taking off - we were loading cargo!!!!!!!!!!!!+*&%\$#@+++ - GO FIGURE! QFU QFU QFU!

This meant I would miss my connection from KL to SABAH.

As we landed in KL, a QATAR agent had a sign with my name on it at the end of the jetway. I asked why they were looking for me. They had arranged an alternate flight to KK on MALINDO airways - where I was originally on MALAYSIAN AIR.

I asked specifically about my (2) bags of luggage and we stopped at a counter to deal with the issue of getting my bags to KK on MY PLANE!!!!!!

(NOT!!)

I arrived in KK with NO BAGS on the arrival luggage chute - and spent the next hour with MALAYSIAN Airlines luggage. They worked for quite some time and advised they had NO IDEA were all my stuff had gone. I filed a claim sheet and took a taxi to my hotel.

I later hooked up with Krassy, Chris VK3FY and Peter VK3GN - for a few beers and a burger at the Hyatt Regency. Then crashed as I was a total zombie - with no clothes except for one tee shirt - and my winter clothes were soaked with sweat from the humidity and 2.5 days on the planes.

I would try to follow up with Air Malaysia the next morning (this was now SAT night - having left on Thurs night from BOSTON.)

9M0W - Day 6 - Team Meeting at Shangri La

At 10AM we all met each other for the first time - it was a BIG TEAM with several great 9M6 local hams.

Hrane went over all necessary departure logistics for our supposed departure on 06 MARCH FROM KK to Layang Layang.

We ended our meeting pretty pumped as the day of departure was almost at hand - then MORE BAD NEWS.

At 5PM Hrane came to my hotel to advise that our departure was CANCELLED for the next day - no specific reason - basically claiming unforeseen complications - departure now set for 0545 on 07 March.

I spent the day checking my luggage and just chilling - talking with my wife about all of this on SKYPE.

Of course we all had to PAY for the extra night in our hotels - there was some possible compensation that some got from Layang Layang - I just wanted to GO.

By the way - Hrane's reply to the "DEAR JOHN" letter he got from the resort as to the cancellation was a classic - and totally unfit for repeating here - it was pretty spirited to say the least.

9M0W - Day 7 Cancellations galore!

Again, our hopes are DASHED - at 4PM Hrane advises we have been annulled again!

This time my hotel tells me they are BOOKED SOLID - they have no room for me for the night - but eventually they come through with a smallish room - who cares I told them - it was BETTER than OUTSIDE on the street!

Hrane calls to advise that NO BS - we will fly at 0545 AM - this being DAY 7 and 08 March.

Really?

9M0W - Actual Departure on 08 March and Setup on Layang Layang

We all met at 0400Am at KK airport and Hrane organized the MOUNTAIN of excess luggage going out to Spratly.

We took a private charter run by Malaysian Air and took off at 0545. In a little over an hour we were over the reef and the lagoon was below us - landing formalities were quite professional and we all gathered in the lobby - to meet with Mark Peter, manager of the resort.

MARK was tremendously accommodating - but there was some really bad news in his briefing:

- 1) They were down to one generator - thus no power to the conference room - REAL BUMMER!
- 2) They were to swap generators the next day from 80KW to something like 300KW - so there would be frequent brownouts - at unexpected times of their choosing.
- 3) We would have to set up in the middle of the resort - to accommodate computer networking - and our planned antenna placement was basically torn up and we started 160M antenna planning anew with a blank sheet of paper.

Our 160M plans were totally thrown out the window - and a new site plan was arranged. The real downside was that listening antennas would now be FAR TOO CLOSE to the hotel - but we really had no choice as we had no long coax runs that would get to where we really wanted to site the 160M listening stuff. BUMMER - but we were there at last!

Between 0730AM and our sunset many teams all worked like madmen getting all of this stuff up - assisted in large measure by Mark Peter's loan of his maintenance staff to help us - they were a GODSEND as time was short - we had precious little time to get on the lowbands by dark.

Here's what went up that single day:

2 Rotary Yagis on 10M masts (one for 20/15/10 and one for the WARC bands) - a 4O3A KW Triplexer and six 4O3A KW Passband Filters allowed sharing of the HF yagi on the upper bands

A 4 square for 40M brought by Dusko ZL3WW was set up well away from the bldg

Krassy, JT1CO, VK3FN, 9M0KOM and the Layang staff - helped erect two spider pole verticals for 160M - sited one at the shore and one to the SW near the runway - providing 5.5db bi-directional gain SE and NW - in the hopes of LP propagation into the USA East Coast. These were phased with 3/4 wave coaxial lines (electrical) that I brought - and then matched with the BYMARK Ununs.

KRASSY near sunset added a single 80M vertical for CW at the shoreline - which had a good SWR on 3503.

Sunset was at 1030Z and I missed it by a few minutes due to final antenna work with PY2XB - we tried a FLAG aimed SE and a PENNANT aimed to USA that I brought.

Our plan was to primarily use the XMIT antenna for LP RX with its gain - and directivity. The other RX stuff was PLAN B and backup.

We made it on the air at about 1045Z and DU7ET Bob was there as planned to announce on ON4KST our XMIT and RX frequency. Bob was there every day to help out and I am especially grateful for his being there to help us at every sunset opening.

DU7ET was also our first 160M qso - followed almost immediately by Don KH6DX.

By 1130Z - initial results were in - BUMMER! NO3M/AA1K and other ECJ's say they cannot even hear us - (we did not hear them either!)

The first night included some West Coast and N5DG I think - plus many JA's and quite a few EU stations.

(KRASSY AND I DECIDED TO GIVE UP ON LP TO THE EAST COAST - AND A COMPLETE 160M ANTENNA REWORK WAS PLANNED FOR SUNRISE THE NEXT MORNING).

At least we were on the air and making some noise!

9M0W - Day 2 – Total Revision of 160M Approach and a Better Showing

At sunrise after breakfast Krassy and I wired in a 180 degree delay transformer that could be switched from the operating position to switch the 2-el array from BROADSIDE to END-FIRE, and also to unidirectional NE or SW.

Thus night 2 at 1030Z was far better for us on Topband - DU7ET was there again and we were ON TIME at 1015Z for our SUNSET at 1033Z.. Instantly N4WW was worked with a respectable signal (this means we could hear him at about RST 349.)

Since Dragan, YT3W has the logs and I am now doing this from memory, I do not remember if we then worked NO3M - or if it was the next night - but Eric became our most Northeastern qso on 160M - so congrats to Eric for hearing us and for making us be able to hear him (barely!) Water-weak like would aptly describe our side of this qso (HI)

We worked quite a few USA mid-western and Far Western stations this night - plus at least 300 Europeans. My son Patrick KK6ZM had a great signal near his SR peak - it was among the loudest signals we worked on night two.

9M0W - Day 3 – RX Adjustments, Building a Better EU RX Antenna

At SR after this night, Krassy and I decided to take down the runway 160M radiator and use only the single 160M radiator at the edge of the lagoon - and we threw its 20 odd radials into the salt water lagoon.

We moved the runway spider pole to the north side of the island and placed it on the seawall - and used it for 80M SSB thereafter.

We also decided we had to try to find a way to get a Beverage up on 160M for RX - even if it was one that could only be aimed at EU.

ZL3WW came up with a scheme to use the 2nd abandoned vertical feedline for this Beverage and by relocating the coax slightly. We started at the runway and got a NW Beverage straight for about 800 feet toward the seawall - then we crossed a pathway in the air - and ran it at least another 500 feet along the seawall.

This turned out to be a real gem - as we ran the table for HOURS into EU after SR had passed in W6/W7. It made a huge difference in our ability to work the 2nd and 3rd tier EU callers.

It worked so well that ZL3WW and I tried our hand the next afternoon on a USA Beverage to the NE.

9M0W - Day 4 - An attempt to get an RX antenna for NA short path that worked

The plan was to switch the feedline to the USA at our SS and then at 1430 after W7 SR move the feedline over to the EU Beverage again. This was easy to do at 10:30PM in the dark as it was an open field and with a flashlight it took all of 5 minutes.

This was a pretty fair Beverage - about 650 feet long - straight as an arrow - but it also ran close to the hotel complex for most of its run. As I feared, this one was not stone cold quiet like the EU Beverage was - when I switched to it there was some kind of background hash that covered up most weaker signals. Listening on the EU Beverage did not work well either towards NA - as while it was super quiet - it was at least 90 degrees off of a true NE short path NA heading - some USA signals could be heard on it - but not the East Coast weaker guys we desperately wanted to work.

So night 4 we spent listening for NA on the single 160M vertical located at the seawall - and listened to EU on its quieter NW Beverage.

AGAIN EU was bedlam all night long - 160M to NA was only so-so, we worked into the mid-west and then the NW USA at their SR pretty well.

Near SR Krassy (who had departed for 80CW late into the EU opening) - went to sleep - and YT3W took over on 80M CW near our SR grayline peak.

I nearly fell out of my chair when I saw his 80 CW Grayline contacts come onto my screen.

In the space of 10 mins, he logged K1CP (Maine), N1RJ (also Maine) - and W1JR (NH) - followed by PY5EG - Atilano - and then the LP sunset peak had passed on the eastern seaboard of NA because we went into daylight on our side at SR.

9M0W - Day 5 - The decision to keep 160M QRV for one more sunset - and takedown at 0300 in the dark (in the pouring rain)

At our SS time of 1033Z, Bob DU7ET was again there to greet us and help out.;

While it was quiet for 25 mins or so - I alone mis-logged W4ZV as N4IS (this was entirely possible due to the doppler effect on this path on a RST 219 signal!) - my BAD - so sincere apologies to Bill - but I know he did not need the country - at least he now knows he was HEARD!

9M0W - Operating Impressions - Basically a review of "on the air" impediments that added to fatigue and frustration most of the time

We worked KJ9I and others - W5IZ was in for at least an hour and finally heard his report on a peak - congrats Alan - you were good copy the whole time and glad you finally heard US!

As the sun marched across the US to the West Coast - our noise (QRN) became unbearable and a few guys like AE6C we just could not put together in the midst of S9 incessant crashes.

I heard C, I heard 6C but never could get the rest - I tried for a solid 10 minutes with him - then he went into daylight - so sorry - I really tried hard on that one. Again, we only had the XMIT antenna for RX into NA - and under that kind of noise (it was the storm coming at us!) - the final two hours into W7 and W6 were a major disappointment for us - we apologize for really being MORE THAN DEAF.

Krassy and CHAK JT1CO took over for the final 4 hour EU run on 160M and worked at least another 150 stations.

EU signals compared to NA are about 3-4 s units louder on Spratly on Topband - it is always the way.

About 3:45AM local time, we decided we had to abandon the EU pileup to take down our stuff - basically three verticals, a tribander and something for 40 came down in the rain in 2.5 hours - was packed and we prepared for our departure at 0700 hours local time.

We thanked our host Mark Peter and his staff for their wonderful support and we only wish we could have worked more NA east coast. There really is not enough common darkness on 160M into W1 at this time of year - & while we hoped for AA1K in Delaware and N4RJ in GA - we just could not make that happen either - but we did try on all the right openings. I do know our PINGS were heard in NE - but not enough signal to make QSO's = pity!

9M0W - Epilogue - Lessons learned and why certain 160M goals are very hard to achieve on Layang Layang

Here are a few random thoughts and suggestions for anyone else who tries to do this:

1) If you are a HOUND chasing the FOX (THAT'S US!) and you hope to get in some DX'pedition log on a tough path with noise and super weak signals

PLEASE PLEASE do not call only once at 30 wpm and then not xmit again until you hear the next CQ.

What we are trying to do is PIECE together a letter or two of your call - so you have to do two things to help us:

a) SLOW DOWN - PLEASE!!

b) Call over and over and over - and we will then have a chance to figure out ur callsign

Calling once at a "rabbit-like" speed - is not likely to get you in our log. Those that kept at it - usually had a far better chance. It was maddening to hear a fairly good signal that we would try to respond to - who just waited as long as 2 minutes to call again - PLS KEEP CALLING.

2) If we blow your call (it happened a lot at 9M0W) - keep at us trying to get our attention to fix it on the fly. I blew KJ9I as KJ9B due to doppler fading - but he kept calling and he is in our log as a result - congrats on doing it right!

3) If anyone ever goes out to Layang Layang again (I personally will not be doing this - Krassy and I have other things on the drawing boards)

a) Get the conference room at the Western end of the complex - put your RX antennas for EU and NA - as FAR out into the open spaces that are out there as you possibly have coax feeders for - and then you probably can hear with a quiet noise floor.

b) CONSIDER a K7TJR listening array and put it out there as an alternative to using Beverages - again as far to the west as possible - and you will be rewarded as a result for doing so..

WE WANTED THE CONFERENCE ROOM - but it was beyond our control - so we were compromised as a result - HUMAN devices make NOISE!

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IF WE DID NOT WORK YOU FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE REASONS - HERE ARE A FEW MORE TO LAUGH (CRY ABOUT!)

Happiness is NOT having this happen at your exact SUNSET - or at other optimum listening times:

1) Having the staff cut power at 1040Z to swap generators (NOT GOOD!)

2) Having one of the other ops shout something at the worst possible time during a listening cycle (we tried our best to maintain a quiet room)

3) Sometimes the staff was rolling carts for our evening meal at 1015-1045Z from the kitchen past us to the dining area - which was a great concentration breaker!

4) Another unavoidable dilemma was almost getting a weak caller and then having a local area station decide to call us at the worst possible time - despite our pleas for NA NA NA NA only! (It happens!)

Anyway - no complaints really - but this is what we had to deal with out there - and nothing is perfect - we tried as hard as we could and only wish we could have worked a few more of you in NA on Topband.

73 and thanks for the memories guys - we had fun trying to work you - I hope you had fun trying to hear and work us

73,

JEFF K1ZM/VY2ZM

For the 160M team of K1LZ/K1ZM/WD5COV/JT1CO/PY2XB (and DU7ET!)

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Captain's Log (Continued from page 1)

I had a couple of last minutespeaker cancellations which were stressing me out, much to the amusement of Marty – NN1C. However, all was well with an excellent discussion session featuring Marty - NN1C and Abby - AB1BY (now a YCCC member) that followed Fred's – AB1OC talk on how to get younger hams involved with contesting.

Finally, Charlie – N1RR stepped up with his now famous DX Trivia quiz. Randy – K5ZD topped the leader board on that and walked away with a HRO gift certificate. In the end, the message I heard loud and clear was, especially for the convention weekend, four hour meetings are not wanted. Message received!

The Special Event station run by Marty – NN1C and Gerry – W1VE was a bit of a missed opportunity. I was initially told we would be sharing the room with MMRA, but that was not the case, so, we had this great room complete with a refrigerator that could be employed as a gathering area for YCCC members. Opportunity for the next time. Otherwise, I did a few sessions on the remote setups. Working the WAE SSB from the ZF1A station was a gas though it was hard to dissuade the US stations from calling. Good time, thanks guys for making that happen.

I took a few days off from Ham activities after the Northeast HamX. Big mistake, the deadline for this column caught me out. Charlie - N1RR worked hard finding us a live meeting date/location that didn't conflict with NEAR-Fest, but after discussion amongst the BoD we decided a live meeting was not in the cards. We are now trying to define at least two Zoom sessions for the month of October, one early in the month and the 2nd session being just before CQWW SSB.

The BoD has had its plate full trying to plan out the upcoming meetings, working on some Constitution/Bylaw changes that should be published for consideration soon and other administrative stuff.

We considered Jack – W1WEF's note as a request to initiate a club donation to the W1CTN house fire recovery fund. This has been executed as of this writing. Thank you, Jack.

As mentioned, October will feature 2 ~2 hour Zoom meetings and we are planning for the holiday gathering Sunday December 5th (160M contest weekend) at the Auburn Elks Lodge.

Well, the diddles aren't getting answered in the background here and another epic K5ZD/AA3B is going down. Time to get back to some contesting.

73,

Ken – WO1N

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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. **Mail your dues to the club treasurer, Chet Slabinski, N8RA, 200 Mount Parnassus Rd, East Haddam, CT 06423.**

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Steve Rodowicz N1SR, by E-mail at n1sr@arrrl.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 Tom, W1TO. To order, complete the QSL form from the YCCC website, send it to W1TO who will verify all information is included and send to UX5UO after resolving any issues. You will receive a proof copy directly from UX5UO. Approve the proof after resolving any issues with UX5UO. Email acceptance to UX5UO with copy to W1TO. Current price is \$45/thousand (matte) and \$49/thousand heavy matte. Payment to UX5UO representative, KD4POJ at Mr David Lipscomb, KD4POJ, 4201 13th Street NE, Minot, ND, 58703. eMail: kd4poj@srt.com

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER is posed on the YCCC website. Updates are published in 'Movers and Shakers' when members move or change callsigns.

COMPUTER STUFF INTERNET REFLECTOR There is an Internet mailing list for YCCC members. To subscribe, go to <https://groups.io/g/yccc/join> and enter your email address.

WWW HOME PAGE Come visit us at <http://www.yccc.org> Our Webmaster is Mike Gilmer, N2MG.

QSL BUREAU – The W1 QSL BUREAU is sponsored by the YCCC. For more information at: www.w1qsl.org
Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 73, Marlborough, MA 01752-0073. Email address: w1qsl@w1qsl.org

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CAC: New England Dennis Egan, W1UE **Hudson** Zev Darack, N2WKS **Atlantic** Charles D Fulp Jr, K3WW

DXAC: New England Bob Beaudet, W1YRC **Hudson** Saul Abrams, K2XA **Atlantic** Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

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