



Scuttlebutt

February 2019

Issue 251

**YCCC General Meeting
Saturday, February 2nd, 2019
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Auburn Elks Club
754 Southbridge St, Auburn MA 01501**

CAPTAIN'S CABIN

Here we are, just two weeks before the Super Bowl. The Patriots made it again. Two months ago, I didn't think they would be in this position, but here we go again! The old hands come through, Brady has a brilliant day, and Kansas City falls one possession short. After all that preparation, sweating, and effort, a simple coin toss becomes as big a play as almost any. Go Pats!

Since I knew all along the Pats were going to be in the Super Bowl, the YCCC February meeting is scheduled for Saturday Feb 2, at the Auburn Elks Club. It will not conflict with Super Bowl parties this year, unless you start yours Saturday afternoon! For those that didn't get the whole story, we usually have the February meeting at the Holiday Inn in Enfield, CT, but they are having construction so their meeting room wasn't available; we then tried the Sturbridge Host, but there was no room available at the inn that day. So, we went with option 3. For those that have been to the Holiday meeting the last several years, its the same place.

Our program will feature Bill NE1B talking about DMR (and the Wednesday night YCCC net), Jim W1EQO with a presentation on SSB contesting, and Gerry W1GD with a presentation on "Low Band Receive Antennas for Small Lots". Raffle tickets will be available (we still need to sell about 60 tickets to meet our 150 requirement), and we will be reviewing the latest WRTC2022 qualifying rules.

Hope to see you there!

Personally, I'm off traveling again. I'm going to the Orlando Hamcation, and following that up with two weeks on Roatan island in Honduras for ARRL DX CW and CQ160M SSB. I've been practicing, using the CWTs, and will be putting a big effort into the CQWW 160M CW contest this weekend, trying to get myself back into game shape. Hope to work everyone from HR on 6 bands!

In the meantime, February into March is an excellent contest month, so enjoy: NA Sprint CW Feb 3, RTTY WPX Feb 9, ARRL DX CW Feb 16, CQ160M SSB Feb 23, ARRL SSB Mar 2, and Russian DX Mar 16. Lots of good fun out there!

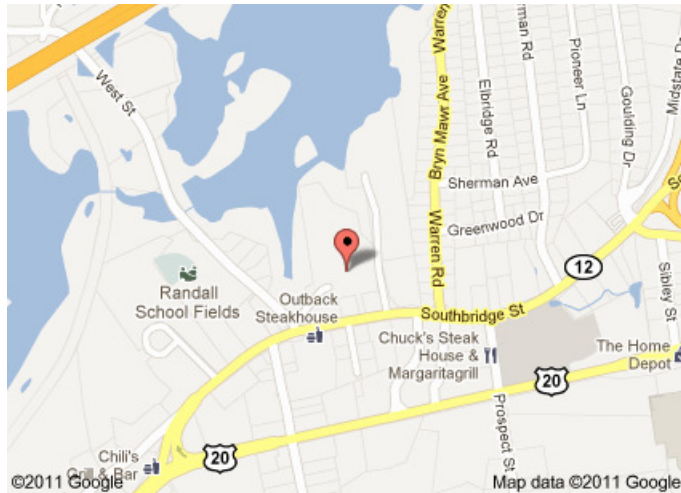
Dennis W1UE
YCCC President

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Directions to Auburn Elks Hall

754 Southbridge St, Auburn, MA 01501



From East & West via Mass Pike Interstate 90; take Exit 10 onto Route 12 South. Travel 7/10 of a mile, pass through twosets of traffic lights, pass by Waterman Road and Warren Road on the right. Take a right into the Lodge before Jiffy Lube.

From East, via Interstate 290 West; 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.

From North, via interstate 190; South onto Interstate 290 West. Then 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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December 2, 2018 General Meeting Minutes

President Dennis W1UE called the December 2, 2018 general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club held at the Auburn Elks Hall Auburn, MA to order at 12:25 pm.

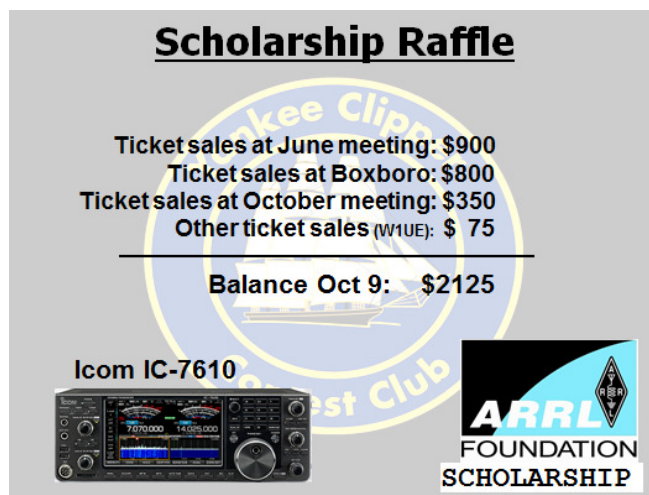
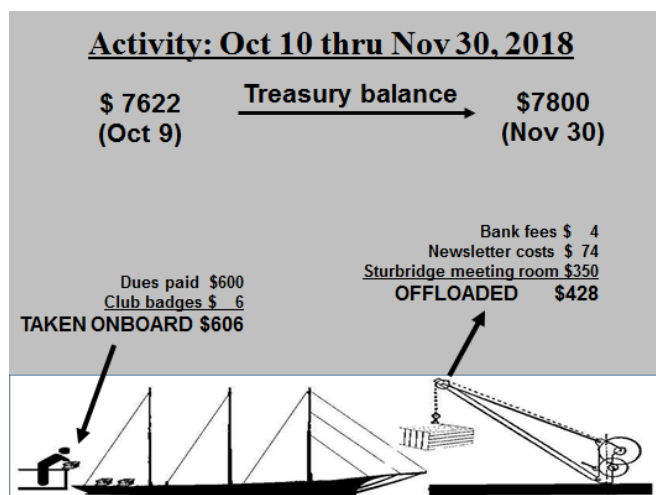
President Dennis W1UE then announced the agenda for the meeting.

President Dennis W1UE then asked for a roll call of the members present.

President Dennis called for the Secretaries Report which was given by Brian NJ1F

A motion to accept the report was made by Chet N8RA and Seconded by Ed K3EP. The Motion Carried.

President Dennis W1UE then called for the Treasurers Report which was given by Chet N8RA.



A motion to accept the reports was made by Charlie N1RR and Seconded by Gerry W1VE.

The Motion Carried.

President Dennis W1UE asked if there was any old business. There was no old business.

President Dennis W1UE then asked Alec W2JU to give an update on the clubs score verses the FRC.

Dennis W1UE then announced a break at 12:55 so those present could enjoy the Holiday Buffet.

Dennis W1UE reconvened the meeting at 1:50 pm and asked if there were any new members. There were none.

President Dennis W1UE then Introduced Terry W1TR who gave a presentation titled Pneumatic skyhook launcher. Terry shared his experiences of various methods he has used to get antenna support ropes over tree branches over the years and his recent method.

Dennis W1UE then introduced Eric KV1J who gave a presentation on the W1 QSL Bureau activities for the past year. The number of cards processed has declined because of LOTW and lack of Sunspots. However there has been an uptick in cards for FT-8

Dennis W1UE then introduced Brian NJ1F who conducted the Yankee Swap.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm

Submitted
Brian Szewczyk NJ1F
YCCC Secretary

My Early Contesting Experiences

Jeff Richter - W1LX

My journey in contesting started at my first club meeting at the Port City Amateur Radio Club in Greenland, NH. I had a QSO over my local repeater with a few hams, then in turn, invited me to attend a meeting at the club. I was very nervous, newly licensed, and had no idea what to expect. I pulled into a packed parking lot, walked in, and everyone turned around and looked at the new guy. I felt like the cowboy in the saloon entrance that nobody knew. I took a seat next to the ham that I spoke with on the repeater. He told me that it would be a good first meeting at PCARC, and that the "Ham Radio Olympics" had made a documentary about "Contesting" that would be shown. Olympics? WRTC? Contesting? I had read about contesting, didn't know anything about it. Well, I was there, so I might as well stay and check it out.

Mark, K1RX, was the president of the PCARC at the time, and led the presentation. Once the usual business went by, a projector and screen went up, and the WRTC 2014 Documentary was watched by all. I was blown away. I was dying to try contesting, even though I had never even touched an HF Transceiver. All these exchanges, speed, efficiency, skill, practice, fun. I could almost say I was sure I would like it. It was said that "Field Day" was coming up. So, off I went to Field Day. I ended up having a blast. I sat down next to Mark, got a quick rundown on how everything was set up, exchange, etc, and listened in for a bit. Then I gave it a shot. Soon enough I had a large seemingly endless pileup going. One at a time, I made every Q I could, trying to fight the noise, QSB, etc. and this was one of the first times I had ever used an HF rig..... My big question I left with was "So when is the next contest?".

The next contests posed unique challenges and various learning experiences. The 2016 ARRL SS SSB was a very different exchange compared to what I had seen before at Field Day. I decided to go unassisted to force myself to really *copy everything*, and listen and tune and pick out who's who. I needed to work on tuning, catching more on the S&P sweep, learning to break into that pileup. The big thing that caught me off guard was the length of the exchange and how accurate I knew I had to be in order to get a decent score. I actually worried about getting disqualified due to too many mistakes, I still had a ton of fun. I anxiously waited to see how I did. I ended up with 98k, 2nd Place in NH for B Class. Not bad, I had a good coach encouraging me to keep going and to not doubt myself. I did make the QST results article for accuracy, with a 1% error rate for the entire log. Lesson learned? Log what you hear, be confident, be everywhere all the time, and have fun. I joined the fun in the 10M Contest that year as a Phone Only contender. The twist this time was being told that I would need to also add in moving the rotor and being observant for sporadic openings. The conditions weren't that great, but fun was had. I kept my butt in the chair and pressed on. I enjoyed a nice opening to Georgia and scooped up 75 QSOs from that area. I finished that contest up with 21k, and thought I did "OK?". Well, I had to wait and see.

A few months went by and my wife texted me. "You got a big envelope from the ARRL, what is it?", I thought to myself, I don't know, hope it isn't bad, did I do something wrong? She followed up with a picture of an award for 9th Place in the US for SOHP Phone only. I was surprised! I figured my slower than slow going would put me somewhere in the bottom of the scoreboard. I enjoyed more great fun, and learned a bit more about sporadic openings and playing on 10M. I ended up having some events in life that kept me tied up and I was unable to participate much in the radio world. I got back in the hobby again in 2018, and it has been a complete blast. I always wanted to do a M2 contest like I saw in WRTC where Mark, K1RX, would be a referee that year during the IARU Contest (WRTC 2018).

I thought about hopping in and operating SOLP in the IARU Championship. I had never done a DX contest, never participated in anything worldwide, and it would be a challenge. I had the understanding to be looking and calling everywhere all the time. So I got ready and put in a good effort in the contest, and I found a major weakness. I couldn't understand *most* of the stations I heard in Europe. I didn't think I heard the call right, couldn't understand what they were saying with the strong accents. It proved to be a large hindrance, but still was very fun. I knew I had to practice even more if I would have a chance in any worldwide contest. I knew I did terrible. I wrote it off as 18 hrs of fun, even though it was a struggle of my own, and I knew what I had to work on. Months later, I ended up on the ARRL website looking for results. My jaw dropped, SOLP Phone Only, 103k, probably won NH or something; Zone 8 Winner, 1st Place NH, 1st Place New England, 2nd Place W/VE. I guess I didn't do that bad. My lesson learned was listen harder and believe. I swore I copied calls incorrectly, didn't make it in their log, etc. I reached out to Mark initially after the contest to see how it was in Germany, and said I wanted to try another contest. He

invited me to do the WAE Contest at his station. I was nervous! A 48 hr contest, ONLY DX, and I send QTCs? Well I looked up QTC on YouTube hoping to hear the exchange and found only CW examples, and I don't know CW, so in addition to not being unable to understand a lot of accents from Europe, I'm going to work ONLY Europe, do whatever these QTCs are, and understand what they are saying? HaHa, great, OK. So I sat down with Mark, and he showed me how to generate the QTCs, how to exchange them, etc. It didn't seem too bad. He had set up an audio splitter so he could listen in and see how it's going. Well, I still struggled to copy through accents etc., and I was introduced to RIT and proper tuning (Aha!) and it got quite a bit easier. So, I hadn't been doing the tuning I had thought I had been doing.....great. Well, lesson learned. Nice job, Jeff.... I still had a blast, and found another few things to work on. Kept at it, kept trying to improve while keeping past experiences, goof ups, and strategies in mind. The contest went well. I seemed to have done OK. Started to be able to copy the European-stations-that- I-wasn't-ever-even-tuning-properly-anyway, and felt like I pulled some good rates and scores.

The next contest I did was CQWW SSB M/2 again from Mark's station. It had some unique challenges as well as the challenges that were still there from previous contests. I followed that with the 2018 ARRL SS SSB, ended up with a claimed Clean Sweep (only 1 VT QSO), and 200k. I hope it turns out to be a good one. Every contest I have entered has had a huge challenge, as well as a boatload of fun to go with it. I always try to take at least one or two things I learn and keep it in my head as something to work on. I try to make the special effort to find what the next weakness is, and turn it into a strength.

I was encouraged by Mark, K1RX to share my early experiences in contesting here. It has been a fun journey thus far. I have kept learning and enjoying every second. I am lucky to have such a good Elmer, always having me try harder, try new things, new contests, and new equipment (SO2R). I look forward to the future, look forward to learning more, improving, seeing new things. Thank You all for letting me share my experiences with all of you. I look forward to getting you all in the log.

73 from W1LX
Jeff Richter, Seabrook, NH
W1LX@arrl.net

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Silent Key

Darrel L. Daley – K1KU (x-WL7ADU & KL7DN) – Putney, VT: December 16, 2018



Long time member of the YCCC in addition to QCWA, FIST, CQDX, Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society and the West River Radio Club (VT). Served for over two decades with the W1 QSL Bureau as Letter Sorter Manager and Letter Sorter (K).

Born in Porterville, Calif., to Leonard and Helen (Scharlepp) Daley, he grew up in this farming community in the Great Central Valley of California. Upon graduation from high school, he joined the Navy and became a navy musician. His first "overseas post" was Kodiak, Alaska. There he met Marion Collani, who was doing her first year of teaching after graduating from Montclair (N.J.) State Teachers College. They married in December 1957. After his discharge from the Navy, he returned to California to attend Pasadena City College and then Cal State-Los Angeles. After he earned his B.S., Darrel and Marion took teaching positions in Chugiak, Alaska. Their original plan was to teach there a couple of years and then return to the "lower 48." That time period stretched out to two decades. They both taught at the elementary level until the new Chugiak High School was built. Then Darrel took the

position of music/band director. He continued at that job until retirement in 1983.

In 1978, the family piled into their pickup and camper to drive to Putney, where Darrel was to attend a photography workshop. They discovered the beauty of the Green Mountain State and bought 10 wooded acres in Putney. Each following summer, they traveled to Vermont to work on the land. When Darrel retired, the family moved everything they owned by U-Haul and trailer to Putney where the house was to be built on land overlooking the Connecticut River and the Great Meadows. They moved into their new home in 1984, and have been there ever since. Darrel was a man of many talents: house builder, photographer, chess player, and musician. The hobby that gave him the most pleasure was ham radio. When the house was designed, there was a darkroom and a "Ham Shack" included. He spent many hours enjoying many aspects of that hobby. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Marion; two sons: Daren Daley, his wife Debbie, their daughters, Kayla Daley and Brittany Parker, and great-granddaughters Caitlyn and Melynnie, all of Texas, and Matt Daley, his wife, Reiko and their daughter, Amanda, who live in Hokkaido, Japan.

SSB Contesting Hints

Jim Ussailis - W1EQO

Why do we do participate in this ARRL SSB contest? Simple reason; in our competition against all the contest clubs, world-wide, all scores for each club are added, not just separate CW & SSB scores but a combined final tally CW & SSB score is found. If YOU and a FEW others just operate SSB for a few hours your score is added to the final total. Might that make a difference?

A few years ago I looked at how the YCCC did during its 40 year life of this and the CQWW contests.. In the roughly last 20 years we did very well during high points of the solar cycle. Generally #1, rarely #2. Once we set a record, an amazing all-time high score. However, we usually LOST by a slim margin during every solar minima. As I recall once by a fraction of one percent. Consider this, a few dedicated CW ops taking a shot at SSB might have placed YCCC over the top during those years. This year we will have a solar minima. PLEASE go for it in SSB as well as CW!!!

SSB Contesting.

Here are some hints that I've used in SSB contesting. Warning, this is a collection of ideas from one person, me, W1EQO. Others have ideas that may work better or significantly better. Read & try them also.

The reason for this work is to get more operators involved with SSB contesting, specifically for CQWW and ARRL DX Contests. Some might also enjoy the CQWW,160 M, SSB contest which is on the weekend between the league 'tests. I hope this memo helps you achieve a bigger score and find SSB contesting more enjoyable.

1. SSB contesting is different from CW, both in transceiver set-up and in operation.

A. Signals are wideband:

This physically increases the QRN and QRM noise floors. This decreases reception quality at both your location and the DX location, which causes differences in what to expect from understandability of the received signal or your signal at DX. These differences will also cause you to not being heard in Europe when you expect to be, especially near the start and close of band openings.

B. Band characteristics

Presently we should find that the 160 to 40 meter bands are perhaps as 'hot' as they ever will be. 20M might be OK, 15M might be or not be "iffy," and 10 is a band to get multipliers on, maybe. So we should expect noise (QRM & QRN) on the active bands. Yes there might be much QRM on 20M also as it will be crowded with DX, unless 15 is open.

The bands we are allowed to use for SSB are only subsets of the complete band. In the US this is not a "gentleman's agreement," but in the FCC regulations. Know the allowable SSB frequencies. Write them out & post them in front of your face. Always remember your signal is at least 3 KHz wide, so operate at least 3 KHz from the allowed band edge you are using.

On lower sideband (LSB) that band edge is the lower band edge. Opposite edge for upper sideband (USB).

Never place your signal at a band edge as there might be splatter on the wrong sideband that isn't completely removed..

C. Rules.

Read them carefully. The ARRL contests are very different from the CQWW contests. The ARRL contests are "US & Canada against the rest of the world" These contests migrated from the first North America to Europe trials in the 1920s. That presents a good point of where to start:

"QSO's between the US & Canada don't count, neither do "zone multipliers."

There are some exceptions to all this, however. Think what was DX in the 1920s. Perhaps Alaska, Hawaii, St Peter and St Paul rocks, Sable Island? Of course, they are all DX as many of the US islands around the world. All those that we might like a QSL from.

Yes, these contests are as good as CQWW in the Fall to help us complete DXCC. Actually even better as DX wants to work us. We give 'em their points! Without the US & Canada, they have no contest.

Let me bring this home. From the ARRL website, "Scoring," Section 5.1, regarding the 2019 ARRL DX contests

"QSO-Points- W/VE stations count three points per DX QSO. DX stations count three points per W/VE QSO"

2. Station set-up

Here the concentration is on transceiver set-up. The remainder of your station ought to work as it does in CW, with the exceptions of a few differences in the computer logging format, and a higher duty cycle on that boomer power amplifier. There a fan might help

A. Receiver.

Let's get the equipment running as best as we can. The place to start is at the receiver, if you can't hear 'em, you can't work 'em. First, divide the bands into two groups of three; 160, 80, 40 and 20, 15, and 10. Sorry, but I tend to make no distinction between the 80M and 75M bands.

So we need to maximize signal & minimize noise. Then attack dynamic range There are several ways:

1. Unless that preamp in the receiver is absolutely necessary, on 160, 80, and 40 turn it OFF.
2. Minimize overall received bandwidth.
3. Improve your listening audio. Much of that audio contains little, to no, useful information.
This isn't a Bach Cantata!
4. Learn how your receiver signal processing works

Preamp

When one or more of the low band are "open", they are characterized with high levels of QRN. That is, static and other noise generated in the atmosphere and ionosphere, as opposed to modern AC powered gadget noise. On 160 & 80 this "open" time typically occurs near or after dark. During daylight hours the ionospheric D-layer absorbs energy propagating through and from the ionosphere so the low bands tend to be from quiet to very quiet.

For example, compare the noise levels of 160 or 80 at midnight against noontime noise on any day. So does a receiver preamplifier bring nighttime noise level down to the level of daytime noise? It doesn't even come close!

What does the preamp do? What is it's purpose if not to help reduce noise? Or will the preamp increase the signal-to-noise (S/N) level of the signal at the receiver output that we wish to copy?

The purpose of any receiver preamp is to overcome the noise generated at the receiver mixer stage and following stages, within the receiver. That cannot be accomplished if the preamp already is amplifying QRN static noise then supplying the mixer with a even higher noise level!.

During active band conditions on 160 and 80 close to a zero dB gain accomplishes this task AND does not overdrive the mixer on near-in louder signals & QRM. On the other hand if the preamp already is amplifying static noise then supplying the mixer with a even higher noise level will over -rive it causing receiver AGC to automatically reduce receiver gain. This results in any weak signals that you might want to copy being further downgraded into the noise, and likely lost

We call CQ and have no preconceived notion of the strength of a returned signal. It could be very strong, or so weak it is almost, or missed, buried in noise. Or anywhere in between. A preamplifier is added to your receiver, between the antenna input and mixer stage and to overcome QRN noise. Does it?

It depends. On the low bands, especially 160 and 80, the noise level of an open band is generally more than the noise generated by the receiver mixer. The signals sound louder but the addition of a preamp most often increases the noise, and almost never reduces it..

Unfortunately adding noise to the receiving system because of a preamp can easily mask weak signals. Weak ones that are often the DX that we want to hear.

But, you say, that doesn't do harm. Yes it does as it causes the mixer to be overloaded when a moderate signal comes by. This happens a lot in an SSB contest. Often two signals are within, or close to, the receiver passband. In

this case, shutting off the preamp increases receiver dynamic range, that is the ability to handle weak and stronger signals at the same time.

Should the preamp be disabled on 40? Sometimes it will improve reception of the weak ones. Costs nothing to try

On the high bands (20, 15, & 10) the preamp can be useful. Listen to the background noise & compare it to other signals with the preamp ON and OFF. If there is a lot of QRM, then OFF is probably a better choice. (See dynamic range, below)

During the expected solar minimum the preamp ought to be active on 10 M. (Footnote 3 might be useful here)

Preamp use with Beverage antenna

It may be that you are using a Beverage or K9AY loop antenna. There a preamp at the antenna will overcome coax loss and perhaps improve S/N because the antenna is an intrinsic low noise receiver. However the preamp should only have enough gain to exceed these obstacles by a small amount.

Passband filters

Now is the time to reduce the passband width as it also can provide noise reduction, as well as keeping close by signals out of the receiver passband.

Why, you ask, isn't this as much of a problem with CW? Simple, the receiver bandwidth is much narrower and CW signals are generally not all on at exactly the same time. Even with a crowded bandwidth there is enough of a difference in timing and pitch to often copy that DX signal out of the mud.

I find that good quality 1.8 KHz and 2.4 KHz crystal filters are worth the cost. Yes I occasionally use a 6 KHz and 1 KHz filter, but these usually are the transceiver manufacturer's stock filters. Good quality filters will have steeper passband skirts and possibly less nose ripple. Steep skirts provide more, to much more, close by attenuation. Here the difference can be considerable, with the ability to eliminate a strong signal that is near, but not in, the passband.

Another bandwidth hint for us older folk. As we age, our ears tend to lose frequency response, I find increasing in bandwidth from a 1.8 KHz IF filter to 2.4 KHz gives me enough extra high frequency audio to grab that elusive call letter that I was missing. Changing bandwidth a few times in a contest QSO can be worth it. Try it, even if you have young ears.

Receiver audio & signal processing

Modern receivers have a plethora of IF and audio processing circuits. Some implemented in hardware, others in software. Read your manual. Try each one during different types of band conditions well before any contest. Find out what "fits" your ears, for both SSB and CW signals on each band to reduce QRN & QRN, Also figure out how to cut down on family QRM. For the ARRL contests start on this road NOW.

I have found a simple audio filter (MFJ-616 Speech Intelligibility Enhancer) to work well for my old ears, It consists of four filter bands, each adjustable. Universal Radio has it for \$160. If I were to do it again, I would get the MFJ-618, as it is for single op, two receivers (SO2R)

Dynamic range & AGC

Yaesu calls the turning off the preamp "IPO," for Intercept Point Optimization. The intercept point (ICP) is one method of characterizing receiver dynamic range. It well overstates the dynamic range, but ICP is a good measurement of amplifier quality.

The other is One dB Compression Point, (1dBcp).The 1 dBcp is roughly where distortion sets in, making the latter method acceptable for practical use. Dynamic range is then the almost linear gain space between the noise floor and 1 dBcp. This is often measured at amplifier output because the numbers are higher. Measurement at the receiver input is a better value of performance.

Automatic Gain Control (AGC) usually takes over at, or just below the 1dBcp. And AGC will reduce your hearing of that weak one because it automatically reduces gain somewhere in the receiver chain. Listing to a loud signal is traded off for loss of weak signals. Although counterintuitive the 1dBcp and dynamic range are normally increased when the preamp is off.

Normally I set the AGC to fast. Why? Many receivers automatically set any voice or wideband mode to slow AGC. This is a holdover to allow signal level changes that occur in the shortwave bands to change loud speaker volume slowly. In contesting we operate much quicker than that. Often we are trying to just grab a single callsign letter that is almost lost in the confusion of many callers & noise. Fast AGC allows the receiver to quickly return to hearing the atmospheric noise level so that weak signal can be quickly copied.

And there are times when there is perhaps one (or two) callers that are weak. While, the other anti-noise settings are useful, occasionally I find turning the AGC to OFF can be very helpful for a single contact. I do urge that you lower the volume control before you do this! Otherwise you may be quite surprised who is strong & who is weak QSB (signal fading).

When AGC takes over there are signals in the receiver passband strong enough to be easily copied, unless QRM is an issue. Weak signals are often ignored due to reduced receiver gain. Slow AGC probably will not recover receiver gain fast enough for you to hear that weak one. Fast AGC might, and no AGC may do even better (see lower the volume control, above). This is especially true during QSB, when signals are going up & down. Fast, CW-style, AGC may allow a recovery to get that last letter or two in a call (or that zone in a CQWW contest).

3. Transmitter

A. Transceiver menu settings

Just as for the receiver, there are the MENU settings for the transmitter section..Again, find that cheat sheet that came with the instruction book, or carefully read the instruction book..Every transceiver has a menu set of useful & often necessary changes that can be made. These are in addition to the front panel changes. Do a Google search for menu settings. You might find a list of hidden” menus. My Yaesu FT-100D has more “hidden menus than onscreen menus

A reasonable set-up often makes the difference between frustration and fun. So do this weeks BEFORE the contest.

Getting the menu settings correct for your operating style and your other equipment can be more difficult than rigging up another new antenna at 20 below.

Again, consider making a laminated copy of the transceiver manufactures menu sheet. This can be annotated during the menu change process with a ‘magic marker’ Then the settings can be returned to original after you made a blunder.

Transmit audio frequency response

This is usually a menu setting. If you can change the transmitter frequency response, do so. Bass response should be higher than what might be thought. A lot of energy is wasted on bass that carries little information. I have read that above 400 Hz is good. The treble response should be changed also. I am not sure where to set this, and still experimenting.

YLs should up the treble response. That alleviates one problem that I have heard over the past 10 years.

B. Bands and antenna SWR measurements

Here we have two different conditions, low power (100 Watts) transceiver only, and using that new humongous power amp. We will also have to consider, compared to CW operation, and except for the case of 160, we will be using: 1- a different part of every band, and 2- a greater part of any band. As a result we should make some SWR measurements of our antennas for the US phone bands.

This will tell us if we can use an entire phone band, have to restrict operation to part of some bands. Excessive SWR may exist on the upper end of 80, and 15 in some cases. The upper of 10 isn’t a worry, it will be unused for some time.

C. Front panel settings

Two important front panel changes are the power output and amount of speech compression (processing gain). I tend to set these controls higher than most do. This is because an SSB signal has a significantly lower average power level than a CW signal. Average power IS the name of the communication game.

I usually start these controls at mid-range, as I figure that's where any good factory manufacturing and alignment process would set them. Then I look at the power output indicator while I say a loud, long "Hello" into the mic.

The power output ought to be about 60 to 70% of what I would expect to be maximum output.

Of course if I have any complaints, then I lower the processor a bit.

Transmit-Receiver (T/R) change time

This may or may not be a front panel setting. The change time should be quick enough so that the first letter of your call isn't cut off. When listening to others this can be very annoying. I hear a call, but mistake it because I don't hear the first letter. I request "again" and still don't quite make it out. Time is wasted. Adjust either the T/R time, or put some slack into your logging program voice responses.

4. Operating

The old hand at CW ought to find something useful in this section. Particularly the info that is unique to wideband signals in a crowded band. Much of the following is written for the newer contesteer.

A. Running and search & pounce (S&P)

There are two methods of acquiring contest contacts: 1. Search and pounce (S&P) 2. Calling CQ (Running). Both can work well. However after a bit of contesting you will find that running gathers contacts at a significantly higher rate than S&P. After some time running the answer rate to your CQ will get fall. That's when to switch to S&P. However, if this your first time at SSB, get your feet wet using S&P. Also keep the message you send. brief. Exchange only what is required by the rules.

B. Rate

Rate (number of QSOs per hour) is the name of the game both for Qs and multipliers. Concentrate on Qs early in the contest. They may be gone later. Many others concentrate on multipliers. This makes the multipliers "hot stuff."

Often they are the "big guns" on contest expedition located on a DX island. Everybody is calling them. Most of them will be there on the 2 day of the contest looking (perhaps even begging) for a contact. They are easy to get then. Remember when you get the mult is NOT part of the score, just getting it anytime during the contest is.

If you are not a "big gun" (you wouldn't have read this far if you were) the multipliers will come when propagation allows your 100 watt transmitter to do the job. That time is not against a mob of big guns chasing a rare one.

And, don't forget, while multipliers are important, you do need something to multiply. That's what all those Qs with Europe & South America are for.

Rate is dependant on everything that goes into SSB contesting:

Band: Will you have a sustained high rate over several hours on 160M?

Probably not, a good rate on 160 is lucky to last for ½ hour.

on 40M ? With difficulty

on 20M ? Probably yes

on 15M? If it's open, yes

on 10M? Not for a few years

To have a good rate depends on propagation, & our situation. Suppose we are on 15M and the rate is going up, Stay there. Work'em.

On the other hand we might be on 40 & it is becoming a mad-house, causing rate to drop. Move on, unless you are operating in one band only.

5. Getting started

Chances are good that your computer program sets the time between automatic CQs. For CW that time is usually short. Change it for SSB. 5 to 6 seconds minimum. Many SSB ops will be slow to respond to your call.

A. Set-up Transmitter.

We will assume you have read the transceiver and amplifier (if any) manuals well before the contest starts. Go to a unused frequency & tune the transmitter. This is best done before the contest starts. Jot down any adjustments you have made (antenna match, power level, SWR, voice level, processing level, etc.) so you do not have to tune after a major frequency or band change.

There is no need of having to make xmitter tuning adjustments for small frequency changes. Your signal will be not improve at all. Other users will be very upset!!!

Initially set your receiver to a 2.4 KHz bandwidth, aim the antenna where you feel will work best and LISTEN.

There is little use in trying to run stations under a powerhouse.

Then call "is this frequency in use?" Only if you get no response start CQing.⁶

Here I assume you have already loaded up your logging program with the various voice commands: CQ, send report, QRZ & so forth, I like to add "again, again;" and my call one or two times with phonetics appropriate for Spanish and Russian speakers.

B. Hints

1. With Spanish speakers I find that reading from N1MM logger & repeating his call back greatly reduces logging errors
2. Instead of International/NATO phonetics, use city or country names as phonetics. Use only major cities like Toronto, Tokyo, Manila, London, etc. W1EQO becomes "Whiskey" "One" "Ecuador" "Quebec" "Ontario"
3. Simply pronouncing a Russian 'R' the way they do makes Qs go faster
4. Older Germans tend to be less fluent in English, especially for our 'W' and 'V'. They become 'V' and 'F' respectively. On the other hand, younger Germans & Austrians can teach us a thing or two about English.
5. The Swiss often are fluent in 4 or 5 languages.
6. If you know a few words in a foreign language; Use them! You will be amazed how many returns you will get with a 'goodby' in Polish. Or any other language. I remember sitting behind a fellow from Japan one morning during CQWW. We hardly ever worked Japan up until that time...he ran them for a solid hour. I don't have a clue what he said, no matter, the 20M score built up.
I have used "Tschüss", (informal good bye in German) and have noticed an increase in calls.
7. What to say. Here I do make many mistakes. Keep your message short. Even in FD "please copy" wastes time. NEVER SAY IT. Think about this, is the fellow on the other end not going to copy what you send? Is he just wasting his time guzzling beer?

How to deal with 40M.

You might hear the term "Split", "Split operation", It refers to receiving on one frequency & transmitting on another. This is a handy score enhancer that comes about because much of the rest of the world has only a gentleman's agreement as to the boundaries of CW and SSB subbands.

Operating split is common on 40M The reason for this is our restricted phone bands. In many other countries only a gentlemen's agreement, that applies outside of contests, determines which band segments are for CW & phone.

On 40 you might hear someone on 7170, at the end of a CQ say "Listening on 7045 and this frequency." Then you hear a one sided contact, the other side is DX transmitting on 7045, where we in the US cannot.

Split is a legal way around this restriction. If you use N1MM+ Logger, and you click on a spot of a DX station that is running split, it will automatically activate the 2nd receiver in your transmitter. CAUTION before you key the mic be absolutely sure you will be transmitting at least 3 KHz above the US lower band edge.

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@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 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 call signs.

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 Lyn Glagowski, WB1CCL.

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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