



Scuttlebutt

December 2010

Issue 206

First Annual YCCC Holiday Brunch & General Meeting

Noon to 4 PM - December 12, 2010

Host Hotel - Sturbridge, MA

Captain's Cabin

CQ WW is now in the books for this year – what a great time! Conditions could not have been better even without 10 M. That is a weird statement to make when you see the new records that have been set in so many categories but these are the facts. Have we turned the corner for this new cycle? Still hard to say when 10 M is not roaring like in years past but now beginning to think, who cares when the other bands have never been in such incredible shape. As I write this, I am still in the recovery mode following the CW weekend. Decided after this weekend it was time to crank up the M/M operation again. It has truly been fun for me to just do a SO2R on a select set of contests but need to get back to introducing new hams to the world of contesting and all the fun and adventure it brings. Seems this year everything has been working well – new antennas, equipment lineup, time in the chair (well, could be better) and it has been a real pleasure to contest. Tried a 40 M Moxon made from wire just to see how that works in the CW WW – seems promising, so work will continue on that front. But enough about all my fun, it is time for another YCCC General meeting. Sunday, December 12 is the date and it will be different as we are doing our first annual (?) luncheon to just have some good fun and lots of other fun activities. Sure I know it conflicts with the 10 M Contest but who knows how that will go? (see above comment)

Full details on this meeting can be found on the YCCC web site and elsewhere in this issue. RSVP so the hotel can have a good count on the food. The club is subsidizing a portion of this event

Send in your CQ WW CW score now – deadlines are shorter now and tell Dave, K1HT how you did. See you all in Sturbridge on the 12th!

73, Mark, K1RX
President, YCCC 2010-2011

Yankee Clipper Contest Club	
President (603) 778-1222	Mark Pride, K1RX President@YCCC.org
Vice President	Richard Feola, W1STT VicePresident@YCCC.org
Activities Manager	Mark Watson, W1MAW mark@w1maw.com
Secretary	George Harlem, W1EBI Secretary@YCCC.org
Treasurer	Ed Parish, K1EP Treasurer@YCCC.org
Scuttlebutt Editor (413) 593-6554	Steve Rodowicz, N1SR Editor@YCCC.org
Scuttlebutt Publisher	Ken Miller, WB1DX Publisher@YCCC.org
Webmaster (315) 829-5291	Mike Gilmer, N2MG Webmaster@YCCC.org
Scorekeeper (978) 443-3603	Dave Hoaglin, K1HT Scores@YCCC.org
W1 QSL Bureau Manager	Art Holmes, W1RZF W1QSL@YCCC.ORG
Technical Assistance Manager	Dave Jordan, K1NQ YCCCTA@YCCC.ORG
New Members Manager	S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA K1SFA@ARRL.ORG

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Directions to Sturbridge Host Hotel

Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center is located on Route 20.

- From the North, East and West, take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) to Exit 9, Route 20 West.

- From the South, take either Interstate 84 or Route 131 to Route 20 West.

Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center is located on the shore of Cedar Lake, just past the first set of traffic lights.



Area Managers

ME	Mike Russo, K1EU	(207) 883-9524	k1eu@maine.rr.com
ENH	Jerry Muller, K0TV	-----	k0tv@arrl.net
WNH/SVT	Ed Sawyer, N1UR	-----	Sawyerred@earthlink.com
NE MA (978)	Scott Andersen, NE1RD	(978) 263-9617	bsandersen@mac.com
SE MA (508)	Greg Cronin, W1KM	(508) 428-4205	w1km@capecod.net
Boston (617/781)	Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P	(617) 325-6767	jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu
WMA (413)	Tom Homewood, W1TO	(413) 743-7342	w1to@arrl.net
CT (860)	Dick Pechie, KB1H	-----	kblh@arrl.net
CT (203)	Dave Arruzza, W1CTN	-----	Darruzza@adelphia.net
	& Mike Loukides, W1JQ	(203) 458-2545	MikeL@oreilly.com
RI (401)	Nat Henrickson, NG1Z	(401) -----	nglz@nsradio.org
NNY	John Bradke, W2GB	-----	W2gb@n2ty.org
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)	Al Frugoli, KE1FO	(802) 893-8388	kelfo@arrl.net

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

Flotsam & Jetsam

Barnacle Jack (BJ) Schuster, W1WEF w1wef@arri.net

Ahoy Maties!

Taking a break from trying to learn how to use this new fangled radio. Sure are a lot of features, but I know I love it already even though I don't know how to use them all. Just spent an hour trying to figure out why the tuning rate was faster than I wanted it on VFO B, and learned what "Rx Clar Fast" did...hi The radio is a Yaesu FTDX 5000 Tranceiver. No, I didn't misspell it...that's how it's spelled right on the front panel of my collector's edition. The later ones are "Transceivers".

By the way, there was a misnomer in the QST review of the 5K. You cannot do "SO2R in a box" with this radio alone. You CAN do SO2R with the FT9000 alone, but you can buy two 5000's for the price of a 9000.

BJ finally put up a second beverage in time for this contest season. In order to run it N-S I had to really start WAY out in the woods. I ran the 70 ohm feedline from the N-S beverage to the feedpoint of the Eu beverage, and made a remote relay box at that point to select one or the other. When the relay is de-energized, the Eu beverage is connected. A couple of LEDs and a switch in the shack selects one or the other. As usual, my collection of all kinds of little boxes didn't include the size I needed, but Home Depot came to the rescue. I used a 20 cent outlet box with a blank plastic cover plate for another half a buck or so, as you can see in the photo.

Ever try to run a beverage in a straight line through thick woods? I don't recall if I ever told you how I do it before, so pardon me for not looking back. I tie a red ribbon on the tree at the starting point. Next I line up the next tree in line with a compass to set the direction, and put a ribbon on that tree. The third tree is sighted to line up with the first two ribbons, and so on thru the woods. When there is no tree to support the wire, I run a rope supported by two trees perpendicular to the wire, one on each side.

Vin, K1RM just came up with a neat fix for a common antenna trap problem. I wish I did it years ago to my TH6's. Vin's Cushcraft X9 has traps similar to HyGain traps, with drain holes in the bottom. Flying insects of some kind love to see who can stuff the most grass into a trap thru these holes. If the grass gets damp, as it somehow usually does when it rains, the SWR on the antenna goes to pot (no, not that kind of grass). Vin's fix with cloth mesh screening can be seen in the photo. I don't know why manufacturers didn't do something like this long ago.



Speaking of Cushcraft traps, Vin mentioned that unlike HyGain traps they can be installed with either end toward the boom. They only work right with the CORRECT end pointed toward the boom!

At a lunch get together with W1EBI and W1IRM, both mentioned that they are using Global QSL for handling their QSLs. I know others in the club are as well, but I never paid much attention before to this unique idea. You design your card online with Global QSL, and pay them up front for a number of cards. You then send them your QSO info whenever you want to QSL, and Global takes care of mailing the cards to the appropriate bureau.

If you ever hired Mark Pride, K1RX, to do antenna work for you, you probably saw his neat power winch that he mounts at the bottom of the tower. It holds a few hundred feet of aircraft cable that he can run over a pulley on top of the tower and back down to the ground to hoist things up the tower using an up-down switch at the base. BJ recently discovered "Harbor Freight" after Saul, K2XA gave him a coupon for a free LED flashlight at the Plimoth Plantation YCCC meeting. HF (Harbor Freight) carries just about any tool you want, including a variety of power winches. I was intrigued by a 12VDC winch they had which was radio controlled. One could control it from the top of the tower and move it up or down remotely. I think it has a 3,000 pound capacity, so if you were really trusting you could rig it with a lift platform to take you up the tower! BJ is not vouching for how reliable this thing is, nor would he dare to do it, but it invoked some interesting thoughts. How about an inexpensive rotor? It sells for \$60 and has been discounted to \$40 at times.

Hope everyone had fun in the contests this season...with a few more to go. BJ has to find ten more contests to work to make it 58 contests in his 58th year of Ham radio!

73

Barnacle JACK - W1WEF

YCCC Regular Meeting, 2 October 2010—Plymouth, MA

The October meeting was called to order at 12:35 pm by Mark, K1RX, in the Accomack Room of the Plimouth Plantation. Mark provided a review of the club's treasury.

Former member Peter Schipelliti, W1DAD, was voted back into membership.

Pete, W1RM, provided an overview of the CW Ops organization and welcomed new members. CW Ops was hosting a concurrent gathering of code enthusiasts at Plimouth Plantation.

K1RX led a long discussion on what may have caused our loss in CQWW 2009. Mark's post mortem revealed that if we had gotten all logs in and attributed to YCCC we may have been able to turn things around. His message was: If you simply get everyone on, for whatever time you can spare, we WIN. But, having lost this past year, a little lost business investigation showed some issues in the way logs are checked and how credit for club score is given. This could stand some attention by the contest sponsor. Lessons learned.

Paul, K1XM, and others covered the upcoming changes in country status of the Netherlands Antilles effective 10 October. More mults for us!

Rich, K2WR, gave a presentation on EU propagation and how we need to think about band openings.

Doug, K1DG, provided an overview of WRTC 2014. There will be lots to do and this opportunity will require a big investment in time and money.

The next meeting will probably be the second weekend in December in Sturbridge, MA. Look for confirmation on the website later.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Minutes recorded by Mark, W1MAW.

Respectfully submitted,
George Harlem, W1EBI, secretary

Authors Wanted! **Next issue of PileUP! will see daylight Jan 2, 2011.**

It is another talkoo issue by volunteers.

Suggested topics:

- Propagation forecasting & analysis
- Antennas, headphones, station autom., etc.
- Good old times (photos + memories) cntd. from PileUP! 14(3-4)
- Your thoughts on international radio contesting coordination
- Aftermath of autumn's contents (short-long stories etc.)
- Original humor in all forms (lyrics, cartoons, photos, etc.)

Contribute by Dec 31, 2010 (Please contact the editors beforehand).

Editors:

ilkka, oh1wz at sral.fi
Esa, oh7wv at sral.fi
Kim, kim.ostman at abo.fi (oh6kzp)

December YCCC Holiday Brunch

Noon - December 12, 2010

Respond at the RSVP Page on the YCCC Website by Monday Dec 6th.

<http://yccc.org/Holiday%20RSVP%20FORM.htm>

RSVP DEADLINE: 12/06/2010

**Dinner style venue \$15.00 per person and YLs are welcome
(balance of dinner cost paid for by YCCC)**

Yankee Swap - For those who wish to participate, nothing to purchase.

MENU

Appetizers

Minestrone Soup

Caesar Salad with Garlic Croutons and Fresh Grated Parmesan

Rustic Italian Antipasto Display

Italian Meats and Cheese, Roasted Marinated Vegetables, Mixed Field Greens and Aged Balsamic Reduction

Entrees

Chicken Saltimbocca

Roast Sirloin with a Madeira Demi Glace and Confetti Vegetables

Penne Pasta Florentine with Caramelized Pancetta and Shaved Parmesan

Also Includes; Italian Squash Medley, Basket Display of Garlic Breadsticks and Focaccia, Tiramisu, Mini Cannoli, and Italian Cookies, Fresh Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee and a selection of Herbal Teas

HI-Z Receiving 4-Square for 40/80/160

Jose Castillo – N4BAA (formerly N1BAA)

A friend of mine, W4VIC, bought me an early Christmas present..... a HI-Z RCV 4 Square.... (works on 40-80-160).

So far after a few weeks of testing...it appears to be everything and then some that is advertised.



Amazing how quiet this thing is.... Uses 23 foot verticals that I made myself...as well as the ground mounts....

Hears at least as well as my 880 foot beverages AND always better than my beverages in the 4 square's primary directions...NE-SE-SW-NW....amazing.... BEVS are only a little better in the non-primary directions which my bevs are designed for...N-E-S-W-.....

On Top Band (160) I have heard XU, 9M2, HS, and BU with the 4 square and have NOT heard them on my bevs....amazing actually.

I continue to be "off the hook" impressed with this antenna!

It has been consistently better than any 580 foot bevs I have and very rarely...and I mean rarely is there a noticeable difference between my 880 foot EU bev and the HI-Z four square.

It is a real benefit on 80 and 40...just amazing....I continue to say that ...but it is....I have not been using the 2L yagi at all since having the 4 SQ installed. I am about to rip the bevs down...as soon as I turn it into an 8 circle array in March

MUCH cheaper then the DX Engineering version and 2 hams that have tested the HI-Z side by side with DXE's model claim that the HI-Z version was better 100% of the time....

Link is here: <http://www.hizantennas.com/>

Next year I will turn it into an 8 circle RCV array and the bevs will only be redundant!



Feedpoint



Here's what makes it work!



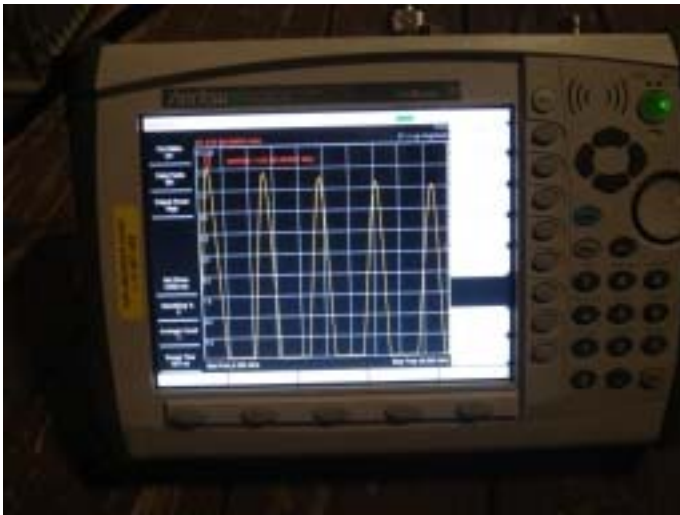
Nothing like Camouflage to hide the working parts

Now to tune up the phasing lines:

The equipments ready!



And the lines are cut to perfection for 3.069091 MHz.



Sure is nice working at a place where you can borrow a \$12K analyzers to tune your antenna.

Now it's just a minor problem of stabilizing the temperature year-round so that the lines don't seasonally QSY

YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF Dues are payable as of the April election meeting, which begins our club "contest year". The YCCC has adopted a multi-tiered membership format as follows: Please note that payment of dues IS NOT a prerequisite for contributing scores to the Club aggregate, but IS for the various YCCC Awards Programs

Full Member - \$20 (\$35/2 yr) (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper delivery of Club newsletter)

Full Member - \$15 (\$25/2 yr) (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and electronic "Ebutt" delivery of Club newsletter)

Family Member - \$0 (Grants full membership to all amateurs residing at one domicile on payment of one member's "Full Member" annual dues and entitlement to one Club Newsletter sent to one domicile or email address. All members of said family are eligible for YCCC awards programs.)

Student Member - \$10 (Grants full membership to students at a reduced level. Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper or electronic delivery of the Club Newsletter.)

Subscription - \$** (A "friend of YCCC" - not a member but a possible candidate for future membership. Receives club newsletter only in paper or electronic form. Fee basis is \$20 for overseas paper delivery, \$15 for domestic paper delivery and \$10 for electronic "Ebutt" delivery domestically or overseas.)

Club members who move out of club territory and so are not eligible to contribute to club aggregate scores automatically become subscribers. New members who join at the February meeting are credited with dues for the year beginning the following April. You can tell if you owe dues by checking your 'Butt mailing label. **Mail your dues to the club treasurer, Ed Parish, K1EP, 9 Spoon Way, N. Reading, MA 01864**

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Steve Rodowicz N1SR, preferably by E-mail at n1sr@arrl.net or on 3½" disk (in MS-Word format or text file) by snail mail to Steve Rodowicz, 809 Pendleton Avenue, Chicopee, MA 01020. The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month..

Scuttlebutt Advertising: Nominal Business Card sized ad, \$50 per year (6 appearances)

CONTEST SCORES should be sent to the club scorekeeper, Dave Hoaglin, K1HT, preferably by E-mail at scores@yccc.org. Please include details such as numbers of QSOs, QSO points (if appropriate), and multipliers (all types); entry category; and power.

CLUB GOODIES

BADGES YCCC badges are available from Ric, KV1W. Send \$2, name and call desired on the badge, and your mailing address to: Ric Plummer - YCCC Badge, PO Box 1158, Berlin, MA 01503-2158.

APPAREL Contact Bob Rogers KB1LN@yahoo.com

YCCC LOGO ITEMS <http://www.cafepress.com/n1k>

QSL CARDS are ordered through Burt Eldridge, W1ZS. To order, send Burt an email at w1zs@arrl.net, detailing card information per "QSL Request" form available at http://www.yccc.org/members/yccc_qsl.htm. You will receive a proof by email. Approve the proof, making any corrections, and return to Burt *with payment* (make checks out to Burt, not YCCC). Current price is \$50 (delivered) for 1,000 cards. Also available is the glossy version for \$70/1000.

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

COMPUTER STUFF INTERNET REFLECTOR There is an Internet mailing list for YCCC members. To subscribe, send mail to yccc-REQUEST@yccc.org. Insert only the word "subscribe" in the subject of the mail message. (Do not send messages to the reflector that have file attachments, HTML formatting, use boldface or other fancy fonts, etc.)

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

ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF The W1 QSL BUREAU is sponsored by the YCCC. Keep your account up to date by sending a check. Stamps are sold at face value, envelopes are 20 cents each. Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. Email address: w1qsl@yccc.org.

ARRL COMMITTEE REPS are:

CAC: New England Dick Green, WC1M Hudson George Wilner, K2ONP Atlantic Michael Gilmer, N2MG

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

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

ARRL LIAISON: Tom Frenaye, K1KI.
