



Scuttlebutt

June 2003

Issue 166

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY June - 7th

Captain's Cabin

Chris Terkla, N1XS

First please let me apologize for my lack of presence lately, I have been consumed with duties at work, but that seems to have acquiesced for the time being.

As we wait for the UBN and LCR reports signifying the end of the log checker's duties we find ourselves in the middle of prime time shack and tower work. Many of the Team has been buying and selling things in quick order on the reflector as well as soliciting assistance for some of the early projects. Several of our Teammates have taken on hefty projects and to date have solicited some good help. What are your plans in and around the shack? And don't be bashful, maybe asking for some assistance to get a none radio project done for the xyl or the general homestead is something that you might get help from. Say painting the house or something similar. For the price of a few burgers and beverages you might knock off a project that will then get you onto a radio project in good order. Please keep in mind that while we are a contest club, we are still a Team that can also provide non-radio help to! Heck if you can handle a 100-foot tower, a 24-foot ladder ought to be a cinch.

Dayton has come and gone as I pen this. Did you go? What did you see, find, or perhaps just have to buy? Perhaps someone will offer up an article for the 'Butt, or the reflector. I would love to hear and tales you may have. Pass them along Team.

This summer we will once again have the YCCC/FRC joint picnic. It is once again in the Troy Hills Park in Morristown NJ. We have it scheduled on Saturday, July 26. The start time is 12 noon and it will continue until dusk. Last years event was really fun, and getting a chance to meet these great contesters and learn that they are also a great bunch of folks really made me feel sad that I had not attended the other events. The location is outstanding, and there are hotels etc within 10 or 15 minutes of the park if you would want to stay overnight and come home in the morning. Carpooling is also an option and I am sure that we could get several together on

the reflector. Please try to make this event. It is an outstanding time, the FRC folks will provide the food and beverages, and we will need to get them a headcount so please let me know if you plan on attending. I hope to see you there, please put it on your calendar. It will be great to be there with our YCCC 5 hats on!

We are also planning a YCCC picnic in late August somewhere reasonably central to the club territory. Members and their guests are invited. The party is on us. A nice late summer picnic to celebrate our success, our teamwork, and to perhaps rally for the fall contests! We are hoping to get it in on a Saturday afternoon. If you know of a place in say North Central Mass where we might have such a party please let me know and if you would perhaps like to help out with this even please let me know. Lets have an outing worthy of 5 time champions!

While we have a couple of major picnics on tap for the summer please don't forget to have a few local picnics if you can, maybe built around a little work party, or maybe just a station tour and barbecue! A chance to rub elbows with that guy in the next county that keeps whomping you in the contest and maybe pick up that tip that you need to improve your effort. These can be a great opportunity to recruit new members. If you have the ability to host a small gathering at your QTH please try to do so. Let the Webmaster and I know, announce it on the reflector. Just because we are not requiring meetings doesn't mean we should not have them! Little meetings and get-togethers are perhaps the core fabric of our Team. Let us remember to keep this fabric strong. Hints and kinks exchanged during little meetings and get-togethers may be the difference in your own performance and making the box or winning your category in the next contest.

(Continued on Page 2)

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By the time you read this CQ WW WPX CW will be in the log. I hope you were able to get on the air, work some of the boys and shake your station down a little for a chance to see what needs to be done to be ready for the fall contest. Pay attention to how the bands are behaving and use this as an opportunity to make the improvements that will matter for the fall. Beverages, lower band antennas are things that come to mind right away. If you got on for the contest, right down all those little notes in a booklet and start to figure what it is you can do to improve on these notes. It is your chance to get things in order for the fall, and perhaps the IARU will be the chance to proof some of your improvements and fine tune for the CQWW.

In short Team, let's get ready to Kick Butt this fall!

Hope to see you at one, both or more picnics this summer.

73 Team es KB!

Chris N1XS

June General Meeting

Saturday June 7th, 2003.

Meeting location will be in Portsmouth, New Hampshire at the Yokens Conference Center on Route 1.

The meeting start time will be 12:30PM (Note the earlier start time) and we will adjourn at 4:30PM.

To get to Yokens take Interstate 95 to exit 5. At the rotary follow Route 1 Bypass South for 2 miles. You will see Yokens on the right hand side next to a Comfort Inn.

The Comfort Inn will give YCCC members a 10% discount of the normal rate of \$99 for a double or single. Just ask for the "corporate" rate and tell them you are attending the YCCC meeting. The number for reservations is 800-552-8484. Make your reservations early since they are quite busy in early June with weddings etc.

Flotsam & Jetsam

Jack Schuster W1WEF w1wef@arri.net

It's that time of year to be working on those new antennas, repairs, and improvements. Whenever I help someone with antenna work, I learn something. Working with Pete, W1RM, assembling and checking out his new Force 12 C31XR tribander and 2 el 40, we used two really neat sawhorses that Pete got from Home Depot. They come with an attachment to hold a piece of pipe, and are perfect for supporting the boom while assembling an antenna. It sells for about \$30 for the pair which fold up nicely for storage. Lowes has a similar pair made by Skil.



Pete coated all of his zinc plated U Bolts to inhibit rust at the suggestion of W1UK, using a Professional High Performance Enamel made by Rustoleum, also available from Home Depot. (They must have a better color than yellow! bj)

As has been touted here before, but worth mentioning again, Pete uses Liquid Electrical Tape to seal all his connectors, combined with Scotch 88. Using white or red, you can see where you missed on top of black tape. (you're not going to ask where to get it are you?)

While we were checking out the SWR with the antenna hoisted part way up the tower, the MFJ 259B analyzer would jump intermittently. We lowered the antenna, and figured we could find what was loose by tapping it with a broom handle, but could not synchronize the tapping with any jumps. We tried a second MFJ and had the same jumping. After pondering the problem for quite a while, we found that whenever Pete's packet node transmitted on two meters...the MFJ analyzer objected!

Speaking of analyzers, I own an MFJ 259B and an AEA HF analyst. I previously had an Autek HF1 (I think that was the model). While they all do the job, I have grown to really love the AEA. The SWR curve is plotted before your eyes, and the lowest SWR frequency can be seen readily. Really nice analyzer but pretty pricey. By the way, it's easy to check the

frequency accuracy of your antenna analyzer by just listening to it in your receiver. Both of mine were right on the nose.

Kurt Pauer, W6PH/1 (or is it W1PH/6?) passes this along. After being a ham for 20 years, he figured out why his soldering gun didn't solder as well as it used to! Loosening the two nuts that hold the tip, and retightening would make it work like new. Kurt admits that this may be well known, but I told him there may be other pilots out there still trying to figure that one out!

Are you still having trouble remembering which color terrorist alert is which? Do you know the resistor color code? Red is Highest, followed by Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue.

If you don't get NCJ, it's the best magazine there is devoted to contesting. The latest issue has an article by our own Ed Sawyer, N1UR, about his interesting contest operation from PJ2 (at W1BIH's former QTH). A station profile article on VE1JF mentions several YCCC operations from Jim Fisher's great location atop a 200 ft cliff on the edge of the Bay of Fundy. Last month's mystery photo was revealed to be KM3T while he was at HC8N. Many more articles of special interest to contesters appear bimonthly. (I just checked my dictionary...bimonthly means once every two months OR twice a month! No wonder I had to look it up...NCJ comes out every two mos)

Now for a bit of YCCC Trivia. What member of YCCC sailed solo across the Atlantic in a small sailboat? (Answer next month)

The question of improving CW skills comes up frequently. While driving the Natchez Trace through Tennessee in March, I happened to remember this ditty from my early days in ham radio.that will prove you have mastered CW. Send this without any errors at 35WPM: "TENNESSEE SISSIES ARE SISSIER THAN MISSISSIPPI SISSIES"

In my earliest logbooks from my novice days in the early 50's, Dave Allen, WN1WAI was a frequent entry. RIP Old Friend.

Send me your tips, stories, questions, contest trivia. Flotsam & Jetsam is a nautical term for stuff you can throw overboard to keep from sinking, so HELP! Time to start packing for Dayton...by the time you read this it will be history.

73, Barnacle JACK

Meetings and Requirements

Many of you have written concerned about our core perhaps losing some of that strong binding that we have enjoyed in recent years. There is a common theme to almost every note that I have received, or comment that I have fielded at a meeting or when visiting someone's shack or simply enjoying an eyeball with a fellow YCCCer.

That is that since the ARRL has dropped the meeting requirement and we chose to follow suit, we have experienced lower attendance at meetings and perhaps lesser participation in the club. Generally in the same breath we will receive a comment from a nearby member that they feel that if we re-impose a meeting requirement that we might lose operators. While I am sure there were many folks who have breathed a sigh of relief when the ARRL dropped the meeting requirement, not the least of which was probably the combined body of every Club secretary everywhere, I think that in retrospect we have to admit that the YCCC dropping the meeting requirement has hurt us to a degree.

So what should we do? Let us consider a couple of things. First what we need is a solid club with a bond between all of our members the while centered around contesting and ham radio, is also active in the events that the club, your club, chooses to be active in. While I would love to say the answer is to require each member to submit four scores each year, I understand how that may be impractical to expect everyone to get on (quite novel though). I also understand that attendance at meetings, while supporting the club and speakers that we may get to present at a meeting is not the full answer. And no one can argue the point that we need to keep a flow of new members. We need to perhaps consider all of these. Each perhaps feeds off of each other, and in the final analysis should provide perhaps new drive for the club.

Let us think about perhaps having a discussion in June, and beyond perhaps about a cumulative system. The club needs scores, members and participation in general and we are not getting it.

Do you have an opinion? Please let me know what you think. I have some ideas that have been floating around. What have you to offer?

Chris Terkla
N1XS

Door Prizes at the June Meeting.

We will have a drawing for some subscriptions to CQ magazine at the June meeting. I would like to offer a special thanks to the folks at CQ for their donation!

New Officers Elected

Congratulations to the following officers:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Chris Terkla N1XS | President |
| Joe Natale K1JN | Vice President |
| George Harlem W1EBI | Secretary |
| Ed Parish K1EP | Treasurer |
| Don Toman K2KQ | Activities Manager |

Ten-Tec Orion - Initial Impressions

Earl, K6SE k6se@juno.com

I received my new Ten-Tec Orion on Friday, 16 May 2003 and I've had enough time to play with it and let you know my initial impressions about the rig.

After playing with it for a few hours, it was apparent that there were a few bugs in the software (v1.337) that was installed in the radio. The next day I downloaded the latest software update (v1.341) from <http://www.rfsquared.com> and loaded it into the radio. This task was painless and went without a hitch. The new software cured a couple of the bugs I noticed.

On May 22 I loaded another new update (v1.342) into the radio and that cured two other minor bugs.

The ability of being able to upgrade this radio without pulling the cover and getting out the soldering iron is new to me and I like the idea.

Transmitter:

My Orion's transmitter puts out a bit more than 100 watts (as indicated on my Drake W-4 wattmeter) into a 50-ohm dummy load on all 9 bands. The power output is easily adjustable in one-watt increments from 1 to 100 watts (as read on the LCD display). While transmitting, the SWR is displayed as "SWR 1.0:1" or whatever the value might be. I used an MFJ-4322 power supply which is rated at 13.8VDC and 22 amps intermittent duty and 20 amps continuous duty. The power supply didn't glitch when I checked the output power into the dummy load.

On my antennas, the SWR can be much higher if I transmit far from the antenna's resonant frequency. I did this out of curiosity to see if the Orion's power output would automatically be reduced like it is on most other rigs. Transmitting with an indicated SWR of 5:1 showed that there was no cutback of the power output. I ordered my Orion without the optional built-in antenna tuner, so this was gratifying.

The PA transistors draw more current when transmitting into a high SWR and my 22-amp power supply would trip at full power under these circumstances. I recommend using a 25-amp (or greater) power supply.

SSB:

I bought the optional Heil microphone that Ten-Tec sells for the Orion and I set the MIC Gain and TX EQ to the values recommended in the manual for that mike and made a few DX QSOs on SSB. The audio sounded okay to me using the monitor feature the radio has and I did not solicit nor receive

any comments about the audio.

The next day a local friend who is a DXer and I got together on 10 meters to try to "tailor" my audio using the several different things you can set up in the Orion in this respect. It seemed that no matter what I tried, he said the audio was "mushy and bassy". He recorded one of my transmissions and when I went to his QTH and heard the playback I was stunned by how terrible it sounded!

Disappointed, while driving back home (with thoughts of returning the radio and getting a refund), I remembered that I had hit the "Panic" button the night before (this is the RECALL button on the front panel which resets the radio to the factory defaults). I then realized that I forgot to reset the TX EQ equalization back to -14dB which was recommended in the manual.

As soon as I got home I checked that setting and is was indeed at the factory setting of 0 dB. When I called my friend now on 10-meters, his first words were, "What did you do? It sounds great!" There are several things you can adjust in the Orion's menus which affect the transmitted audio. TX EQ is the most important one!

From what I can hear in the built-in monitor, the audio seems to have plenty of punch and even more so when the speech processor is turned on. The Orion uses RF compression and with the speech processor set at 3 or 4 (it's adjustable from 1 to 9) seems about right. The way the audio sounds, I would think that the radio would do quite well on SSB in pile-ups and under weak signal conditions. My FT-1000MP's transmit audio doesn't sound anywhere near as punchy in its monitor.

One thing that I noticed is that the power output level must be set a bit higher on SSB to drive my Alpha 76CA amplifier than it does on CW. About 50 watts drive is required to get about 1300 watts out on CW. Although the manual doesn't mention it, perhaps the power output reverts to peak power rather than average power when in the SSB mode. The S-meter (a real meter) becomes a power output meter when transmitting, and indicates approximately the same on SSB as it does on CW.

I found out that there is an internal adjustment in the Orion to compensate for microphones with low output (the Heil dynamic mike spec says "-55 dBv (1.78 mV) into 600 ohms". Not sure how that compares with Ten-Tec's electret mike). The adjustment is accessible through a smount hole in the bottom cover near the front of the radio. Someday I'll try it.

The transmitted SSB bandwidth is menu-adjustable from 900 to 3900Hz. The factory default is 3000Hz, which I fear might be a bit too wide. I have set mine to 2700Hz, about the same as most modern rigs. It made very little difference in

audio quality.

CW:

On CW, the radio is a pleasure to operate. It's built-in programmable memory keyer works well and the dit-dah weighting is easily adjustable. The CW waveform (which is shaped by DSP) rise/fall time is easily adjustable from 3ms to 10ms (the factory default is 5ms). I haven't set it up for the "K6SE key click test" yet, but I intend to and will let you know the results.

Although I have never really used QSK (the Alpha 76CA can't do that), I did try it (barefoot) and I can say that you can hear the other guy while you're transmitting at any speed. The keyer is adjustable from 10 to 60 wpm.

The sidetone audio (front panel level adjustable) sounds good. When you set the pitch of the sidetone, this automatically sets it up so that when you tune in a signal at that same pitch, it is centered in the receiver's passband. The SPOT switch is automatically set to the same pitch as the sidetone.

I presently have my sidetone pitch set at 410Hz. CW signals at that pitch stand out and sound much louder and clearer than they do on my FT-1000MP (where I have the pitch set at 400Hz). I plan to try the Orion with the pitch set to 310 Hz and see what it sounds like (I can hear weak CW signals better at the lower pitches because the higher-pitched band noise is then attenuated. Also, you don't hear any of that ringing that narrow filter users complain about when they have their tone set to a higher pitch). The sidetone/spot pitch (and CW offset) is adjustable in 20-Hz steps from 310 to 1210Hz.

Receiver:

The more I use the receiver, the more impressed I am. The adjustable noise reduction is truly amazing. On 160m SSB with the NR turned off, the S-meter reads about S-8 on ambient noise. Turning the NR on at its lowest setting (it's adjustable from 1 to 9) lowers the noise to about S-5. At "9", the noise is S-4 (although you hear the usual DSP "thingy" at the high NR settings). The FT-1000MP doesn't even come close to this. My JPS NIR-12 outboard audio DSP does a good job on the MP, but does not appear to work nearly as well as the Orion's NR.

I have a "tick-tick" noise from my neighbor's electric fence which is eliminated by the Orion's adjustable DSP noise blanker at its lowest setting (adjustable from 1 to 9), but I also notice that the NR also eliminates it at its lowest setting, so the NB stays off. I haven't played with the hardware NB yet.

On CW, the S-meter reading is about S-1 on 160m because for weak signals I have the receiver bandwidth set to 100Hz (fully adjustable in 10Hz steps from 100 to 6000Hz) and you can't see any difference in S-meter readings when you switch the NR on and off. I have a very weak signal on 1830kHz (3rd harmonic from a local AM BC station on 610 kHz) that I use to "test" receivers on 160m. With the NR off, the signal is barely audible. With the NR on at its lowest setting, the signal appears to jump out of the noise. Turning the NR to 9 (wide open) makes the signal Q5 copy (if were a CW signal). This is FAR superior to my FT-1000MP and Elecraft K2 which, up until now, have tied for first place in the "test" compared to a number of other modern rigs. I'm impressed!! None of the DSP "thingies" are heard at the 100Hz bandwidth when the NR is set to "9".

The receiver has a RX EQ control in the menu which works identically to the TX EQ control. These controls act like a bass/treble tone control acts like on a hi-fi audio system. This enhances the receive audio output almost as much as it does for the transmitter audio. The receiver really sounds great on SSB, even with BW set as narrow as 1800Hz.

There are four band stacking registers for each of the nine bands covered by the Orion (the FT-1000MP has two). This makes it convenient to set up for quick QSYing, so I set mine up for two CW frequencies and two SSB frequencies for most bands. You can set the Orion's tuning step from very slow to very fast (7 different ranges). Mine is set to the slowest rate, so punching the bandswitch button makes it easier to QSY from one end of the band to the other.

I learned an early lesson on the Orion. I was using the "User" memories to store the parameters for which I had everything set up for. Pushing the "panic button" ("Recall" to factory defaults) does not wipe out what you store in the User memories, so it's easy to restore your favorite settings by punching just one button (User1 or User2).

After I set up the band stacking registers (which takes a bit of time for 36 frequencies/modes/BWs, etc.), I hit the Recall button to get back to the factory default settings. I pressed User1 to restore my favorite settings, which it did, but I was chagrined to find that I lost all of the band stacking work that I had done. I redid all of the band stacking again and then I stored everything (hoprfully) in User1 memory). Then I did a Recall. After the radio reset itself to the factory defaults, I pressed User1 to get everything back to my preferences. The first thing I checked were the band stacking registers -- they were all there just where I had set them!!

Moral of the story: Whenever you change ANYTHING, make sure you store it in one of the User memories before you do a factory default recall. The User feature seems to be very useful.

The YCCC Scuttlebutt

This coming weekend I plan to put the receiver to the ultimate test during the CQ CW WPX contest.

Now, the down side:

Hardware bug:

There is an annoying tone from the front panel headphone jack. My guess is that it's around 1500Hz. It's more noticeable with narrower bandwidths (because the received noise level goes down). It's there when the audio gain is turned all the way down and increases as the the audio gain control is turned up. There is also a very weak audio hiss audible. I use a Kenwood SP-230 speaker which the headphones plug into and the tone is much weaker there. It's obvious that the output at the radio headphone jack is much greater than that at the external speaker output jack. The SP-230 has selectable audio filters in it which eliminates the problem. However, this prohibits using the Orion's "panoramic stereo reception" feature (which I haven't tried yet) because the external speaker output is monoaural.

Software bugs (software v1.342):

- 1) If the radio is powered down while the preamp is on, the next time you power the radio up, the displays says the preamp is "ON", but it's really off. Pressing the PREAMP on/off button twice restores the preamp.
- 2) Pressing RECALL brings up the recall menu as it should, but it also brings up the sweep (panadapter) display in an inactive state.
- 3) To do a split operation (transmit on one VFO and receive on the other) requires doing three things:
 - a) Press the A/B button to put both VFOs on the same freq.
 - b) Select one VFO for rx and the other for tx.
 - c) Adjust the tx VFO for the split offset.

With the FT-1000MP, this is a one-button operation, where all you have to do is press the SPLIT button and it enables VFO-B as the tx VFO and puts it up 5 kHz from VFO-A (offset is adjustable in the MP's menu). I believe that Ten-Tec can do this in the software by adding an item in the menu to turn on/off the capability for the A/B button to split tx/rx on the two VFOs and another menu item to set the amount of frequency offset the user desires.

The first two software bugs above are a minor nuisance. The third one bothers me a bit more because the FT-1000MP's ease of going to split operation spoiled me, I guess.

My K2 works fine on SPLIT, but it's also not as easy to set up for split use as the MP. The K2 has only one VFO knob, so the Orion has the edge over the K2 in that respect.

My big problem now is deciding whether to sell my MP or my Elecraft K2/100. My main dislike about the K2 is its non-steep filter skirts (other gripes I had were taken care of wonderfully well by mods developed by the K2 engineers). The steep skirts achieved with Elecraft's new audio DSP module may be enough make me keep the K2 and sell the MP.

73, de Earl, K6SE

"Submarines On The Air" Special Event

April 26-27, 2003

WA1RR Operations From The
USS NAUTILUS SSN 571, Groton CT

The CTRI Contest Group, WA1RR, decided to put the USS NAUTILUS, the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, on the air for the annual "Submarines On The Air" special event. W3TB, Ted Edwards, got the ball rolling by contacting the Submarine Museum Commanding Officer and obtaining permission from the U.S. Navy to operate from there. This would be the first time the USS NAUTILUS has been activated for the "Submarines On The Air" Special Event, and the first time she has been activated since she was berthed at the Submarine Museum in 1986.

Initially, plans were made to operate from onboard the "boat", as all submarines are called. K1JN, Joe Natale and KB1LN, Bob Rogers made a tour of the boat, looking for a space to set up operations, discussing methods of running coaxial cable, and types of antennas that could be best utilized for the event. The Chief Petty Officer's Quarters, located on the lowest deck, was the only suitable spot with adequate access and room to set up an HF station. The large table with wrap-around bench seating in this compartment would be ideal for the event. A dipole strung from the top of the sail, where the periscopes and antennas are mounted, or a vertical antenna set up on the after deck or on top of the sail were discussed. The vertical antenna was decided on as being the easiest to install with multiple band capabilities and no tuner needed. A Cushcraft R7 antenna (10-40m) was provided by the CTRI Contest Group for this use.

Discussions were made with the Command Master Chief Petty Officer a week prior to the special event and we were given the "bad news" that, due to safety concerns for the visitors of the USS NAUTILUS, no hatches could be opened to run coax cable through the submarine from either the after deck or sail locations. He then suggested we set up operations in the "Nautilus Room" inside the museum itself, overlooking the boat, about 50 yards away. This would require putting the vertical antenna on the roof of the museum and running 200+ feet of coax to the operating position.

Joe and Bob returned to the museum on the Friday afternoon before the event to install the antenna to a steel roof access ladder, and running the coax cable, saving time to start operating as soon as possible after the museum opened at 0900 Saturday morning. Since the museum closes at 1600 (that's 4PM for you land-lubbers) we knew we were at a disadvantage to those submarines that would be operating throughout the weekend. They also had the advantage of being able to conduct nighttime operations, something we could not do from the museum.

Friday was a beautiful, sunny, but very breezy, day. Joe was familiar with the R7 setup as he had taken it to the island of Grenada for the CQ WW DX SSB contest last October. While he put the antenna together on the roof, Bob managed to run a length of 9913 double-shielded coax almost the entire length of the museum to the operating position in the Nautilus Room. A short length of RG-8X coax was needed to fit through existing holes in the museum's walls and ceiling.

With assistance from the museum staff electrician, the coax was routed through three walls and through the ceilings to the operating position. The museum closed before we had a chance to check the installation, except for a quick "sanity check" using a multimeter to verify that the coax and connectors were OK.

Saturday morning came, and along with it, a wind-driven rainstorm. Radios were plugged in, a laptop computer for logging was set up and the power switches were thrown to the ON position at 0910. A quick check of the SWR showed that the antenna was connected and was still standing. WA1RR was on the air!! Twenty meters was already active, but conditions were terrible, to say the least. All other bands appeared to be totally dead. Bob wanted to have an ex-USS NAUTILUS sailor and fellow Amateur Radio Operator at the special event, so W1DMM, Dan Murphy from Durham CT was invited to attend and assist. Dan showed up early Saturday morning and enjoyed his operating time putting his old "boat" back on the air again.

Sunday's operations were much like Saturday's. Lots of visitors to the museum saw us operating and asked lots of questions. We did our best to explain about the special event and ham radio, in general. Brochures were made up about the event and were left on the table for the public to take home with them. N1HRA, Will Champagne stopped by Sunday morning to give us a hand operating and stayed around to help disassemble the station when the special event was over.

Sunday afternoon operations stopped for a few minutes while the USS PITTSBURGH SSN 720 returned home from "Operation Enduring Freedom" with multiple fireboat escorts, each shooting water over a hundred feet into the air!! An announcement was made on the museum's public address system that the USS PITTSBURGH was coming home and the public lined up on board the USS NAUTILUS to get a closer look at a modern-day, Fast Attack Submarine on it's way up river.

A total of 191 QSOs were put into the log with to 22 States, 2 Canadian provinces and 8 DX countries noted. Other "Submarines On The Air" that we contacted over the weekend were:

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|------------------|
| USS CLAMAGORE | SS 343 | in Charleston SC |
| USS COBIA | SS 245 | in Manitowoc WI |
| USS MARLIN | AGSS 2 | in Omaha NE |
| USS SILVERSIDES | SS 236 | in Muskegon MI |

The Submarine Museum staff was very helpful and provided immediate assistance any time we asked them to. We later learned that the Command Master Chief was actually already on leave (we call it vacation), but he came in that Friday before the event to make sure we got all the help we needed and that our set-up went smoothly!!

July 19-20 is the date for the "Museum Ships On The Air" special event, and the USS NAUTILUS will once again be activated by members of the CTRI Contest Group using the call **NIS**. Operators will be needed for this event, so if you're interested, please contact Bob at kb1ln@yahoo.com 401-364-6375, or Joe at k1jn@snet.net 860-536-2021

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 (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper delivery of Club newsletter)

Full Member - \$15 (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. **CONTEST SCORES** should be sent to the club scorekeeper, Dave Hoaglin, K1HT, preferably by packet or by E-mail at **dave_hoaglin@abtassoc.com**. 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**

QSL CARDS are ordered through John Dorr, K1AR. To order, send John packet mail, or E-mail at **k1ar@contesting.com**, detailing exactly what you want the card to say. There are 2 lines of text available for awards, etc. You will receive a proof by return mail. Approve the proof, making any corrections, and return to John *with payment* (make checks out to John, not YCCC). Current price is \$68 (delivered) for 2000 cards. Normal turnaround is 30 days after approving proof.

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, send mail to **yccc-request@yccc.org**. Include the word "subscribe" in the body 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 10 cents each. Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. Email address: **w1qsl@yccc.org**. **PACKET NETWORK** information is available from Charlie Carroll, K1XX, Candlelight Rd., Rindge NH 03461.

ARRL COMMITTEE REPS are

CAC: New England Dave Hoaglin, K1HT **Hudson** John Crovelli, W2GD **Atlantic** Rus Healy, K2UA
DXAC: New England Ken Bolin, W1NG **Hudson** Rich Wujciak, K2RW **Atlantic** Tony Gargano, N2SS
ARRL LIAISON: Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

Upcoming Meetings

| Date | Type | Place |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| June 7 12:30PM – 4:30PM | General Meeting http://www.yccc.org | Portsmouth, NH |

| Ship's Log | June 2003 | Issue 166 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Captain's Cabin | Chris Terkla – N1XS | 1 |
| Portsmouth NH Meeting Directions | | 2 |
| Flotsam & Jetsam | Jack Schuster – W1WEF | 3 |
| Meetings and Requirements – | Chris Terkla – N1XS | 4 |
| New Officers | | 4 |
| TenTec Orion – Initial Impressions | Earl Cunningham K6SE | 5 |
| Submarines On-The-Air | | 8 |

Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Saturday June 7th – 12:30-4:30PM

**Yokens Conference Center - Rte 1, Portsmouth, NH
(Directions on Page 2)**

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
44 Williams Road
Lexington, MA 02420-3232

FIRST CLASS MAIL