



Scuttlebutt

June 2001

Issue 154

Captain's Cabin

Jim Idelson K1IR k1ir@designet.com

It gives me great pleasure to be writing my first Captain's Cabin for YCCC. The very first thing I want to do is recognize the accomplishments of everyone who made a personal investment in YCCC over the past year. All of you - from the officers to the Area Managers to the individual members who gave their time and energy to make YCCC a better club every one of you deserve our thanks.

Your new crew of officers is excited about the coming year, and we're committed to do everything we can to make YCCC exactly the kind of club you want it to be.

Waves of Change

There's only one constant in life, and that is change. YCCC is no different; our club is changing all the time. A few short years ago, we were a club with the "potential" to win. We've come a long way; we're now the undisputed champions. With our increased focus on doing what it takes to win, the nature of our club is also changing. We've found that increasing the number of regional meetings is of great value they serve to ease meeting attendance requirements, and they help us build relationships with local members. But, these local get-togethers haven't helped us build other critical relationships those that span our club's large and dispersed population. The comments I've heard recently clearly indicate that our members want to develop stronger bonds with other members all over our territory.

In an effort to help foster an environment that encourages more interaction amongst club members wherever they are located, we're going to try a few things. First, we'll make an effort to provide more time for socializing at our general meetings. Take a look at the meeting agenda for June 2, 2001 elsewhere in this Scuttlebutt. It's full of opportunities to meet with old friends and develop some new ones.

We're also revamping the YCCC Team Challenge in an effort to add some needed excitement. Our team captains

and team members have been finding it difficult to get the competitive juices flowing in this club-sponsored competition. Discussion about the Challenge on the reflector indicates that there is a lot of interest amongst the membership in making the teams more regional, and having teams representing the different parts of our territory engage in friendly competition with one another. I want to thank Art, W1RZF, for all the energy he's put into the Challenge, and welcome George, K2ONP to the role of Challenge Coordinator for this season. George will be working to give the Challenge a new feel for the coming contest season.

Semaphores

A third area of focus that should help to increase the interaction amongst our members is communication mechanisms. We have several communication tools already in place. All are working well right now, but all can be improved even more.

The Scuttlebutt is the most widely received communication vehicle we use. Every member gets a copy, either by email or by USPS. Last year, the Scuttlebutt was ably delivered to us by K1ZO, Editor, K1KI Electronic Publisher, and W1RZF Print Publisher. Recently, Ned, K1GU picked up the print publishing role. Just about two weeks ago, Doug, K1ZO, informed me that he will not be able to continue in the Editor role due to some changes in his personal life. He's done a great job producing a newsletter that we all look forward to receiving each month. We are very fortunate to have a new player taking on the challenge Steve, N1SR has graciously agreed to step into this role. Steve has lots of experience as a newsletter editor, and I know he'll be bringing a plethora of new ideas to the 'Butt. We have every reason to expect great things in this space!

The YCCC email reflector sees tremendous use every day. It has been an invaluable communication tool for many of our members. I can say, personally, that the reflector has been very important to me. It was the excitement in communications with various members over the reflector that convinced me to pursue the presidency of the club this year. I encourage every member to subscribe to the reflector

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and get involved in the discussion. Even if you just monitor the activity there, you'll find that you're tapped into everything that's going on in the club. Do you know who makes sure the reflector keeps running without interruptions? It's club member K1MK. Thanks Mike!

It may not be convenient for you to look at the reflector all the time. Or, you might not have time to sift through the volume of email that comes through. But, you do want to know about important club events and major issues that we're dealing with. To accomplish this, we will be creating a special email list that everyone will be subscribed to. Messages going to this list will be carefully managed. Although the volume will be low, it will be very important for you to monitor these messages.

Finally, there's the YCCC website <http://www.yccc.org>. The club's website has been a tremendous asset for many years hosted, developed and maintained gratis by a group of mostly unsung heroes. Server space and technical support were provided by W4AN's crew [founders of eham.net and contesting.com], including AD1C, K5ZD and KM3T. However, due to changes in our technical and support requirements, we recently decided to make a move in our website hosting arrangement. We have made that change and the site is now hosted on a new server. For those of you with a technical interest, the new server is an NT machine; the old site ran under Unix. This means there are some additional things we can do with the website and we have a good number of skilled web people in the club who are willing to help out in this area. Sometime soon I hope to make an announcement describing just how we'll be handling the website. You should expect to see more visual, interactive and personal elements on the website in the coming months.

All Hands On Deck

When I took the podium for the first time after the elections in April, I noted that our club has clearly been very successful but that we have the potential to achieve much, much more. One of the secrets to unleashing that potential is getting our membership involved. In the past few weeks, I have been very impressed with the number of volunteers who have stepped forward to take on the wide variety of interesting roles that need to be performed. But, there are many more things on our wish list than we have people to do them. If EVERY member on the roster takes on just one small task, we can transform our club into a juggernaut leading the contest community and setting an example for amateur radio clubs of all kinds.

An awful lot has happened within YCCC in a few short weeks. Changes in the Scuttlebutt and web teams; redefining of the Challenge; redefining the way we run general meetings. We expect to see plenty more changes through the coming year. I hope you are as excited about everything as I am.

See you in June after our annual pilgrimage to Dayton!
73, Jim Idelson K1IR

April Meeting Minutes (4/1/2001)

Charlotte Richardson – KQ1F

Kq1f@underwater.org

Club President Don, K2KQ, called the meeting to order. He displayed the new YCCC club banners, one podium-sized and the other a large flag. The club emblem is blue with gold accents on a white background, with a white clipper ship. Charlotte, KQ1F, will bring the new banners to Dayton. The artwork will soon be on the club web site in Adobe Illustrator format, so it is scaleable for other uses. Don also had club pins available. The meeting began with introductions of the 49 members present. Mike, K1TWF, is still working on getting the club incorporated. Club Treasurer Ric, KV1W, gave the treasurer's report, which showed a balance of \$7289.35, plus \$160.00 in the CD Fund.

Art, W1RZF, then talked about club and team score breakdowns. For the CQ WW CW, the club had 183 participants for a total of 372M. For the CQ WW SSB, the club had 237 participants, for 302M. He also showed a chart of the top ten percent scorers. Dave, K1HT, then talked about the ARRL DX Contest scores. For CW, the club had 102 entrants, for a score of 199.3M, compared to 121 entrants and 197.5M last year. On SSB, with some data still coming in, the club had 105 entrants and 161.5M, compared to 129 entrants and 208M last year. The ARRL totals this year are 207 entrants for 360.8M, compared to 250 entrants for 405.4M last year claimed, with last year's published totals 253 entrants and 395M. For comparison, FRC's published numbers for last year were 164 entrants for a total score of 322.7M. Dave reminded everyone to send in their WPX SSB scores.

The club welcomed one new member: Frank Welch, N1FUS

Paul, K1XM, then commented on the categories of people who make major contributions to the club aggregate scores: the multi-op station owners and the team of people who drum up eligibility for the club aggregate score: Jeff, K1ZM, Art, W1RZF, Dave, K1HT, and Charlotte, KQ1F.

Don, K2KQ, then held an open question session, similar to the on-the-air meetings. Did anyone have experience with the 756PRO in a contest? Several members said that its receiver is as good as an FT1000D, but that the rig does not have a real dual receiver. The DSP works great. Where does the 756PRO stand out? Its DSP filters are better than analog filters, and it is a good ergonomic radio and very easy to use. Jack, W1WEF, noted that plugging his headphones into the speaker jack instead of the headphone jack on his FT1000s (both D and MP) allowed him to get more drive to the headphones. More discussion of DSP circuits and A/D converters followed. Why isn't anyone

using NA contest software? Multiops use CT, and serious single-ops use WriteLog. However, NA has better support for two-radio contesting and is still under active development. Some members use TR, which is also good for two-radio contesting. How much insertion loss can be expected in two-radio contesting using transmitter filters? The consensus was that it should be insignificant, and filters may not even be needed unless all the antennas are on one tower. How bad is it to have multiple independent antennas with separate feed lines on the same boom? Ira, K2RD, has a multi-band quad, which is heavily filtered with stubs on the amplifiers and WX0B filtering on the transmitters. He warns that you also need to put a 2m bandpass filter on your packet rig, and recommends using double-shielded coax for everything in your shack. Any advice for 2m packet cluster signal getting into the home theater system? Try ferrite chokes and isolation transformers. What should the shack Pentium 133 be replaced with when the budget is around \$500? The new computer needs to run Windows, support WriteLog, and have both a serial and a parallel port. Several ideas were tossed around. Several members report good success using an MFJ equalizer to boost audio for frequencies where their hearing or the radio's receiver is weak and suggest this method for curing "muddy" audio and reducing operator fatigue.

Art, W1RZF, then talked about the W1 QSL BURO. He was happy to report that he now has 28 individuals and 12 clubs signed up to do the presorting and is very pleased with the response. He brought several cartons of cards for presorters as well as several cartons for final sorters.

Don, K2KQ, showed pictures of his favorite station chair. The chair itself is too cumbersome to bring. It is an Aeron chair, made by Herman Miller, and lists for \$699. See their web site at <http://www.hermanmiller.com>.

For the Show and Tell session, Jack, W1WEF, brought a two-radio switch box he built based on a K8CC design published in NCJ several years ago. Yuri, K3BU, brought his switching box that allows two-radio switching on the same band. During the break, several keyers and paddles were set up on the side table for CW mavens to test-drive, including models from Bencher, Kent, G4ZPY, Schurr, and Vibroplex.

After the break, club elections were held. The following were elected for the 2001-2002 contest year: Treasurer: Ric, KV1W, Secretary: Charlotte, KQ1F, President: Jim, K1IR, Vice President: Len, K1NU, and Activities Manager: JP, W2XX.

Don, K2KQ, then talked about club strategic plans. The club mission should be to turn "newbies" into "old farts" with club support (technical, institutional, and social). He believes that the club should have a couple of remote

general meetings (not in Worcester). He volunteered to organize a meeting in Bridgeport or New Haven next February, with the focus on Antennas. He recommends a second site, maybe southern New Hampshire (Nashua?), for the June meeting. He would like to make it mandatory for the area managers to plan one meeting ahead of time and advertise it. He believes that the general meetings should have more content, and that the easiest way to achieve this is to appoint "meeting managers" who report to the Activities Manager, each responsible for the program material at one meeting. Don will organize the FRC-PVRC-YCCC joint picnic in July, which will be on the IOTA Contest weekend as that is the only available date. He wants at least one multi-multi Contest University run this summer, for example, in conjunction with the WAE contest, advertised so that many people will come. He would like to appoint roving area managers who can set up local meetings. The club needs an awards manager. He would like to see the general meetings videotaped so that the program material can be shown at local meetings. And he would like to schedule local and general meetings ahead of time.

Art, W1RZF, then talked about awards. One idea is to have individual awards based on scores or improvement in scores. He is also looking for ideas on how to improve the team challenge. Get your ideas to Art.

Incoming President Jim, K1IR, then talked about ideas to revitalize the club. Then Yuri, K3BU, talked about the Tesla Club Contest he has been working on. Yuri would also like to see an East Coast convention each year in the fall, and is working on that idea.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte L. Richardson, KQ1F, secretary
3 April 2001

WRTC-2002 YCCC Selection Committee Announcement

The YCCC committee of W1WEF, W1UK, and N7NG would like to announce that selection of ten top candidates from the US as requested by the OH organizers will be done at the June 2 YCCC meeting. Candidates will be from those who have submitted resumes on the WRTC 2002 website by May 31, 2001. Further details will be on the YCCC Reflector.

YCCC Strategic Plan

Don – K2KQ has prepared some thoughts regarding a strategic plan for YCCC. Watch for it in the Member's Only section of the YCCC website.

Long Island Meeting (3/24/01)

John Nistico-NY6DX ny6dx@netscape.net

I am pleased to say that the 3/24 meeting went very well.

The following members were in attendance, Jim KE2TR, Mike N2TX, Ted K2QMF, Tom AA2FB, and John NY6DX.

We talked about the future of YCCC and trying to get the Long Island crew motivated.

Some suggestions were picnics at the local parks for members and families, as well as a get to know your fellow YCCC'ers meeting. Also mentioned were plans for new stations to be designed and built, as well as the up coming election.

Northern VT Area Mtg (3/24/01)

Ronald Rossi - KK1L kk1l@arrl.net

Members in attendance: AA1SU, KK1L, WJ1Z, and W1ZK.

New members: K1WEY, N1JEZ, and KD1R.

We had a great little meeting the evening of Saturday March 24th. The plan was to talk about our options for Field Day antennas and compare WJ1Z's FT1000D against his Mark V. What we ended up doing was talking about logging software for an hour. For another hour we brainstormed about how to de-resonate an aluminum ridge vent which gives Bob, WJ1Z, fits on 15m (at least that is the theory), aquatinted the then potential new members to the club, and talked about carpooling down to Worcester for a meeting sometime and the great sense local meetings make.

This was also Paul's, AA1SU, last meeting as Area Manager. I agreed to take over the job for a while and Don approved the switch last Monday. I would like to thank Paul for all his hard work and efforts getting the club on it's feet in this part of the state. I look forward to continuing to foster the great sport of contesting in this neck of the woods.

June 2nd Meeting- Something Different

We've been listening to your comments and suggestions about general meetings; you've told us a few important things:

1. You enjoy interesting meeting programs and presentations and you want them to continue,
2. You would like to have more time for socializing with other members from across the club's territory, and
3. You want our general meetings to offer opportunities and programs that are different from what you can get at a local meeting.

The agenda for our upcoming meeting at Worcester State College on Saturday June 2, 2001. was shaped with these desires in mind. So, there are some changes in the format. I hope you'll like them!

Here's the schedule of events:

- 10:00 - 13:00 Welcome Brunch and YCCC Contesters' Swapfest
13:00 - 13:45 YCCC Business Meeting
13:45 - 14:00 Break
14:30 - 15:30 Contest Program, including . . .
"YCCC Does Dayton" report by K1DG,
K1IR and K1NU Hot Topics from the
Dayton
Contest Forum
15:30 - 16:30 YCCC Contesters' Swapfest and social time
17:00 - 19:00 Local dinner

Welcome Brunch - Come early and spend some time with your fellow club members. Have a bite with that guy who keeps stealing your frequency. We have permission from Worcester State to bring in our own food! Let's put together a nice spread for ourselves. It'll be Saturday morning 10:00

through lunch . . . so, YCCC will provide bagels and toppings, and deli platters. We'll also need coffee, juice, chips and snacks, soda, desserts, cups, plates, ice, plastic utensils, etc. K1NU will be coordinating the food. Please email Len and let him know what you'd like to bring. It would also help if we could get a handle on how many people are coming.

Contesters' Swapfest - A combination social activity and station improvement activity. Bring those old contesting-related things that have been sitting in your basement for too long. Make them available to your fellow club members - swap them, loan them, borrow them . . . even sell them! We'll have some tables setup for members to use, and you can make deals on larger things out in the

parking lot.

Frank Cartier, W6FC and Gwen Cartier, KD6YYY - very experienced swapfest managers - will be taking the reins for this activity. Be prepared for them to contact you.

Business Meeting - We'll do a rapid-fire review of a variety of ongoing club activities:

1. Secretary and Treasurer's reports - KQ1F and KV1W
2. Status of Scuttlebutt and website - N1SR and K1IR
3. YCCC Challenge for 2001-2002 - K2ONP and W1RZF
4. WRTC 2002 US Team selection activities and YCCC involvement - W1WEF and K1IR
5. Awards programs for 2001-2002 - K1NU
6. Induction and welcome to new members - K1IR

Contest Program - Best of Dayton 2001

Local Dinner - To wrap up the day, we'll make reservations at a local restaurant for an early dinner, around 5:00pm. At the start of the Business Meeting, we'll call in the number of people who will be coming to dinner.

This will be another opportunity to build relationships across the territory

So, to make this meeting a smashing success, we need your help – bring something for the BRUNCH, load up your car for the SWAPMEET, and join us for DINNER, if you can. Remember, all of these extra activities are optional.

You can certainly attend just the standard meeting . . . but, it'll be a lot more enjoyable for all if you can arrive a couple hours earlier and/or leave a couple hours later than usual.

Looking forward to a great meeting . . . 73!

Your 2001-2002 officers,

Jim Idelson K1IR
Len Kay K1NU
J.P. Kleinhaus W2XX
Charlotte Richardson KQ1F
Ric Plummer KV1W

Long Island meeting (3/30/01)

John Nistico-NY6DX ny6dx@netscape.net

I would like to say the Friday night meeting was a good one. The following members were in attendance K2DO, N2DA, NY6DX, new members N2MUN, KA2D, late showers AA2FB, KE2TR, N2TX, K2QMF

We talked about going to local club meetings and hamfests to try to increase our numbers and participation here on Long Island. I hope the new president finds it to keep me on the as the manager here in Long Island. I believe we could have a strong showing in the future thank all who made this possible,

Framingham Meeting (3/25/01)

Ned Swartz-K1GU k1sop@arrrl.net

A regional meeting was held on Sunday morning, 3/25/01 at the site of the Framingham (MA) ARA Flea Market, Framingham High School. 21 people attended (17 old members, 3 new members, and 1 guest) which I think is remarkable considering the 09:30 start time.

Dues were collected from 14 attendees.

New or returning members unanimously accepted were:

W1HNZ - Bruce Rusch brusch@tiac.net
K1RB - Bob Burns k1rb@mediaone.net
N1TQ - Tom Qualtieri thomas_qualtieri@hphc.org

The rest of the gang included:

W1RZF, AA1ON, K1GU, K1WCC, W1RH, K1RV, N1ZZN, W1AY, K1IR, KB1FPU (son of K1IR, future member), K1NU, W1RES, W1UQ, W1CC, KC1YR, K1BFD, K1AM, and W1BK.

Art, W1RZF led a lively discussion around the team challenge, area meetings, and individual recognition. Many thought that the teams should be made up of local members;

They know each other, and They can help each other (it's hard to help someone put up an antenna when they live 3 hours away).

A good discussion considered ways to breathe life into the team competition by factoring participation into the scoring with winning based upon team participation, score improvement, as well as raw score. Another suggestion was competition by class of station, say wire antennas, under 75' towers, unlimited real estate and money.

Most thought we should adhere to our club rules for regional meetings and most thought it would be good to have a regular meeting in Springfield/Hartford in support of our members in CT, WMass and NY. Walking around Dayton with a notepad and pencil and jotting down faces seen was not considered appropriate

Several thought we should have individual awards. As an example; divide the club up into ten groups based upon score in CQWW 2000 for competition in CQWW 2001, so the members that had 500K or less points would compete for recognition among themselves and not get dwarfed by the M/Ms.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30. Several folks told me later that they would have gone another half-hour and many, if not most, are planning to attend the general meeting in Worcester on April 1.

Patriot Meeting (3/26/01)

Dennis M Scolamiero-N1DS
dennisn1ds@juno.com

Patriot DX Association joint meeting.

At the Patriot meeting, 3 delinquents, myself included, were rescued from the loss of combined ARRL sb/cw scores totaling more than 2 Megapoints! We are thankful for the opportunity for hosting such a productive meeting!

Thanks to The club and to Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P and YCCC area coordinator for Middle Eastern Mass/ Greater Boston for making the joint meeting possible. Hats off to Joe for his presentation on "Digisonde" a near real time ionospheric propagation assessment tool on the Internet. He brought some sample displays from the site < <http://digisonde@haystack.org> >, a U. Mass., Lowell developed system that delivers a fresh measurement of layer heights over Westford MA (& there are many other deployed sounders {more than a few with net sites, also} all over the world. We must be able to evolve all sorts of prop inferences from this resource.

Much good conversation preceded and followed the presentation.

73% (no numerical pun intended) of the attendees were YCCC members and 27% were YCCC Guests at PDX for the occasion. No new members were enrolled or dues collected.

WRTC-2004: Northeast USA

Don Toman – K2KQ toman@attglobal.net

If you have discussed past WRTCs with anyone who has been involved in running one, they all tell you that it's the best amateur radio experience they have ever had. They will also tell you that it's a huge undertaking, but worth every moment.

If YCCC does WRTC-2004, it will follow in that tradition and add to it in a way that will never be matched.

While we didn't start WRTC, we have the means to sponsor one that will set the standard for the future. After all, we have the experience of three previous events to draw on.

YCCC takes in a territory that offers unique assets, available nowhere else on earth. If we don't take advantage of these and we sponsor an adequate but mundane WRTC, we will be missing an opportunity that occurs once in a lifetime.

If we do it right, we can ingratiate amateur radio in general and YCCC and contesting in particular with effectiveness that can't be matched by any other group.

We take in two major metropolitan areas, the seat of the international community (UN Headquarters) and the New England location every contester is itching to try. We have a wealth of educational and cultural assets, unmatched anywhere else. We have within our territory all the Ivy League colleges but two, plus numerous other major colleges and universities. One of our secondary cities, Worcester, has ten colleges. Coming to our area, even if it were not for WRTC, would be an exciting experience in its own right. Anyone coming to WRTC 2004 should have the opportunity to sample the wealth of attractions we have in our region and want to return.

Within our territory, the electric light and the first electric power company were created. The site of the first transatlantic radio station (Marconi), the first FM broadcast station (Armstrong's W2XMN), the first commercial television stations (RCA's WNBT and DuMont's WABD), many of the first international communications facilities (RCA at Rocky Point and Press Wireless' WPK at Hicksville) were located here. The Beverage antenna was invented here. Phil Carter did the pioneering work on vertical antennas here. The MIT Radiation Laboratory pioneered modern radar and the Cruft Laboratory at Harvard pioneered electronic countermeasures. Much of the early work on ARPANET, which led to the creation of the internet, happened here at Bolt, Beranek and Newman. The modern electronic computer as developed at IBM was

born here and the minicomputer as well, at Digital. Those are but a few of the contributions to modern technology that emanated from our territory. In the world of amateur radio, we have the headquarters of both ARRL and IARU. A wide variety of technical innovations within amateur radio originated here. Not too long ago, the 4-square was invented here. Within YCCC, we have the author of the first successful contesting logger, and the creators of packet cluster.

So, YCCC has not only an opportunity, but also a responsibility. Being the best requires an appreciation of that responsibility.

We will need a well-designed plan and an organization to make it happen. Above all, we need an individual to lead who can realize the potential both of the region and the human resources in the region.

The key activity will be fund-raising. With sufficient funds, we can hire professionals to take care of myriad non-radio details. Without enough funds, the job will require a huge amount of volunteer manpower. The unique contributions we can best make are our vision and our talents.

It would truly be a shame if YCCC fell into a provincial funk and failed to share both the work and the glory connected with a really memorable WRTC. Furthermore, it would be a major embarrassment for us all if we accept this task and either fail to follow through or fail to take advantage of all that's available to us. It's up to us.

(Don originally presented this at the December, 2000 meeting. Its something to keep in mind between now and July 2002 as the Contest Club of Finland (CCF) hams prepare for WRTC-2002 – n1sr)

WRTC-2002 Dayton Fundraising Report

K1ZM and crew including YCCC'ers K1NU – Len, KR1G– Ted, W3SM – Steve, KD1EA–Al, WF2B – Bud, N2MG-Mike and W1ZT-George gathered a healthy \$5,652 over the weekend - plus \$15 Australian dollars to boot (K1ZM says no one was SAFE from K7BV & our guys out there!)

Special thanks are also due to our YCCC guys who helped from the dais at the various forums:

Contest Forum Moderator - Doug Grant K1DG

Contest Dinner Moderator - John Dorr K1AR

Both of whom gave us a special mention which undoubtedly helped our cause. It was a GREAT start towards WRTC 2002.

Flotsam & Jetsam

Jack Schuster - W1WEF w1wef@arrl.net

As a result of an email problem, F&J missed the last three issues of the Butt. There was a lesson learned however, worth passing on. Doug had changed his email address, but when I emailed his old address, I received no notice that it was undeliverable! I should have asked for a return receipt...an option I never used before!

Speaking of email addresses, League members can sign up on the arrl website to use their call @arrl.net as their email address.. Any email sent to that address is forwarded to you at the address you provide the League. If you change your email address or ISP, you just notify the League, and you don't have to notify everyone you know. I don't know why we don't all use that free service!

Fred, K1VR sends this tip along: Save the cost of a refrigerator for your shack, or the time necessary to make multiple trips to the kitchen refrigerator. For the contest, pull a picnic cooler out of the garage and put it next to you in the shack. In advance, freeze several plastic milk bottles filled with water as really giant ice cubes. Standard picnic gel blocks are not adequate for 48 hours of cooling.

Having recently purchased a second FT1000D, I was more determined than ever to make use of the second radio. I decided that the easiest way to go was to put up separate wire antennas, far away from my single tower. Thanks to a suggestion from NT1N, I put up vertical dipoles on 20, 15 and 10, suspended from tree limbs. The dipoles worked fairly well, with minimal QRM between radios, thanks to the distance and polarization. I was pleased to find that when I needed 500 ft of RG213 coax for this last minute project, Radioware had it on my doorstep two days later at a very good price! (NX1G @ 800 457 7373)

I recently asked on the YCCC Monday night gathering on 3830 for suggestions where to buy 2 conductor shielded cable no more than 1/8 in diameter. I thought that Don, K2KQ was dreaming when he suggested Home Depot, but to my surprise they had exactly what I wanted! I've bought antenna wire there for years (eg 12 ga THHN stranded), but never stopped to look at all the other cable they carry.

Tom, N1MM suggests that it's a good idea to keep shortcuts to items related to a "task" in a folder on your

desktop; eg put shortcuts to all tools you need for contesting in a Contesting folder. You can put in shortcuts to Geoclock, your logging program, Windows Explorer, shortcuts to different URLs, etc. Don't put shortcuts in just one place. For example, you might want shortcuts to Windows Explorer in each task window.

Jeff Briggs suggested recently that he always uses a relay to open the receive antenna inputs to his radios, and to ground the input while transmitting. This is cheap insurance against blasting the front end with RF picked up on beverages or other receive antennas while transmitting. I built a simple outboard box to do it with a Radio Shack 12V relay...p/n 275-248A.

Paul, K1XM recently mentioned that he was considering using CATV RG6 to save weight on DXpeditions. I thought that was a great idea, and for the heck of it looked at what could be done for connectors. I found that Radio Shack makes an adapter from F to PL259. Screw-on F connectors with RG6 have worked well for me in TV applications.

If you don't already do it, keep a notebook with station notes on everything you do to your station for future reference. I keep a loose leaf notebook with an index by date. I can then remove any pages that are no longer relevant. (I suppose this could be stored in your computer, but not as easily if you have a lot of sketches!)

Does anyone know who currently is holding the call W9IOP? I worked him in 2000 Sweepstakes, and was reminded of the original W9IOP, Larry LeCashman who was one of the most impressive SS operators there ever was. Larry would go back to two people at the same time and tell both to send their exchanges simultaneously.

In a recent QSO with K4XU, Dick mentioned that he was going to "reverse feed" his tower to use it as an antenna on 80. I had never heard of this, but Dick said that K4VX did it and it worked well for Lew. Put 4 elevated radials at the base of the tower, put the center of the coax to the radials, and the shield to the tower! I suspect you can tune it by adjusting radial lengths or using an omega match.

Please send me any tidbits you think others might find interesting or useful. 73 JACK w1wef@arrl.net

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 of 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, Ric Plummer, KV1W, PO Box 1158, Berlin, MA 01503-2158**

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 MSWord 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 Brad, W1NT bradld@bellatlantic.net **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 mailed annually with the August issue of the Scuttlebutt, and to new members when they join. 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. **WWW HOME PAGE** Come visit us at <http://www.yccc.org>. Our Webmaster is Doug Scribner, K1ZO. **CT CONTEST LOGGING SOFTWARE** is available from Matt, KC1XX. Orders: 603-878-4600. Support: 603-878-4200 Internet: <http://www.k1ea.com>. There is an Internet mailing list for CT users. To subscribe, send email to CT-USER-REQUEST@contesting.com, and put only the word SUBSCRIBE in the message body. The web site is the best way to get CT country file updates, which are regularly announced on the reflector. These updates may also be obtained by sending a blank formatted disk and \$1.00 for postage to Jim Reisert, AD1C, 7 Charlemont Court, North Chelmsford, MA 01863-2306.

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; **CAC Hudson** Rich Gelber, K2WR; **DXAC New England** Ken Bolin, W1NG **DXAC Hudson** Rich Wujciak-K2RW. **ARRL LIAISON** is Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
Jun 2 (Sat)	General	Worcester MA
Jun 23 (Sat 3PM)	NNY	Albany ARA Field Day

Ship's Log	June 2001	Issue 154
Captain's Cabin	Jim Idleson - K1IR	1
April Meeting Minutes	Charlotte Richardson - KQ1F	3
WRTC- 2002 Selection Comm	Jack Schuster - W1WEF	4
June Meeting - Something Different		5
Area Meeting Minutes		4,5,6
WRTC-2004 Northeast USA	Don Toman - K2KQ	7
Flotsam & Jetsam	Jack Schuster - W1WEF	8

The next general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be held Saturday June 2nd,
in the Student Union on the campus of Worcester State College.

Brunch & Swapfest @ 10, Business Meeting at 1:00 PM - Program @ 2 (See Page 4)

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
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Lexington, MA 02420-3232

FIRST CLASS MAIL