



Scuttlebutt

June 1994

Issue 111

Captain's Cabin

Rich G/K2WR

It's the end of May, and here I am in London, where it's raining. This looks a lot like New York where it's raining, except that the buses are red and the shop on the corner sells fried fish instead of pizza. (This will be my only mention of food this month.) Speaking of rain, if it rained a lot harder I might be able to imagine I was back in Dayton. Since it rained all three days in Dayton this year, we are therefore due for five years or so of warm, sunny weather in Dayton in the near future. Trust me. It occurs to me that each year in Dayton I spend less and less time looking at equipment exhibits and more and more time talking to contesters and DXers from around the world. I'm starting to believe that this hobby is much more about people than about technology, and I think this realization is enhancing my enjoyment of it immensely.

I'm on what has become an annual spring or summer vacation trip to the U.K. and environs. (The rest of Europe qualifies as the neighborhood of the U.K.: remember that it was a British headline writer in the 1930's who wrote, "Storm in Channel - Continent Cut Off!") A lot of things draw me back here year after year — certainly the hospitality of the U.K. hams leads the list, particularly G4CLF, G3TXF, GJ0KKB, and GJ5NO. Ken, GJ0KKB would be upset if I failed to specify here that the Channel Islands (GJ & GU) are not part of the United Kingdom. They are part of the British Isles, and their citizens recognize the Queen of England as their sovereign, but as the Duke of Normandy, not as Queen.

It all goes back to 1066 and William the Conqueror and is far too complicated for me to explain here, even if I understood it fully, which I don't. Fortunately, about 218 years ago, a bunch of New Englanders, and a few notable others, managed to arrange things so that I can observe all this as a spectator, rather than as a participant.

By the way, if you receive this issue of the Scuttlebutt before the CW-WPX Contest weekend, look for me in the contest as GH3DVC (This is a version of the Jersey Amateur Radio Society club callsign — QSL via the GJ3DVC c.b.a., or via the bureau, not to me.)

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Y.C.C.C. for re-electing me as President, for one more (and what I expect will be the final) term. In the next Scuttlebutt I'll spend some time discussing where we are and where we're going. I'll still be in Europe on the day of the June meeting, but AA2DU has been busy putting a program together and will chair the meeting as well. Nothing like trial by fire, I guess. I would be remiss if I closed without publicly thanking Saul, K2XA, for his two years of service as Vice-President. Saul's assistance was invaluable, and he did most of the work in organizing meeting programs (and chairing one big meeting) during this period. I hope Saul can find the time to hold Club office again in the future.

73 & cheers for now.

April Meeting

Paul Young, K1XM

The next meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be on Sunday, June 5, at the Sturbridge Host Hotel, beginning at 1 pm.

The Hosts Hotel is located on Route 20 in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, 1/2 mile West of I-84 (first exit off I-84 when coming South from the Mass. Turnpike).

To get to the Host Hotel, exit I-84 on to Route 20 West. You will pass through two sets of stoplights while noticing several motels on your right. Make a right turn just prior to the Burger King sign. This is the entrance to the Host Hotel. There is plenty of parking in front of the hotel.

The meeting dates for 1994 are:

DATE	DAY
June 5, 1994	Sunday
August ?, 1994	Saturday
October 1, 1994	Saturday
December 4, 1994	Sunday

The August meeting is the club picnic. The October meeting is at the ARRL division convention in Boxboro, MA.

Secretary's Report, April 1994

The April, 1994, meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club was held on Saturday, April 9, 1994, in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. The meeting was called to order by club President Rich, K2WR, and began with introductions of the 55 members and guests present. The treasury balance stood at \$1534.06. The club re-elected Rich Gelber, K2WR, as president for the 1994-95 contest season, JP Kleinhaus, AA2DU, as Vice President/Activities Manager, and Charlotte Richardson, KQ1F, as Secretary/Treasurer. The club welcomed one new member, Rob, WS1A.

Rich, K2WR, reminded everyone going to Dayton about the Dayton Contest Dinner. He also mentioned that the dinner conflicts with the Dayton banquet, where club member Dick, AK1A, would receive a Technical Achievement Award. Bill, K1JKS, circulated an interest list for members wanting to hear John, ON4UN, speak on May 13th. John was also planning to speak to the NJDXA on May 9th, and would be at the Ham Radio booth at Dayton.

The Dayton Contest Forum this year will be hosted by our members Charlie, WZ1R, and Doug, K1DG.

The Grand Prize at the New England DXCC dinner next fall will be plane fare and hotel for Dayton, 1995.

The October YCCC meeting will be at the Boxboro New England Division ARRL Convention on Saturday, October first.

CT v. 9 is in beta test.

After this business and information, Charlie, WZ1R, then discussed club scorekeeping. For the ARRL DX contests, he had collected 102M so far (to FRC's 130.2M). For the WPXSSB, 51M has been reported so far, more than the total club score for both modes last year.

Len, KB2R, club apparel coordinator, then modeled the new club polo shirts. Club members who had already ordered personalized shirts picked them up at the meeting, and Len also had several non-

personalized shirts for sale in various sizes, in both blue with white clipper ship and white with blue ship. The plain shirts are \$22, plus a \$5 charge for personalization (name and callsign), with a surcharge for sizes over XXL. Len had also investigated silkscreened T shirts, which can be ordered for \$7. Lapel pins, enameled in three colors, can be had for \$3 or less each, if the club is interested.

Fred, K2TR, then spoke about the packet cluster system. An appeal for more operating funds will go out soon, since the funds are getting low. More clusters are needed to better serve the Boston and South Shore area. Many new nodes are up now, especially in areas with many users. Maine has two new nodes. New features have been added to the software to make life easier for the sysops. PacketCluster v6 will only run on a 386 or better.

Charlie, WZ1R, then reminded people that club badges can be had for \$2, and passed out those ordered since the last meeting.

After the break, Rich introduced new club VP JP, AA2DU, for an ARRL CAC update. Rich reminded members that YCCC is the only contest club with two CAC representatives: Kurt, W1PH, for the New England Division, and JP, AA2DU, for the Hudson Division. A new rover rule has been proposed for VHF contests to close a loophole which allowed family teams to use the same transceiver with different calls at grid intersections. For DX contests, QST will include regional top 5 boxes as well as the main top 10 box. The proposal to add a 24 hour category to the DX Contests was defeated. Under discussion is a proposal to allow DXpeditions by US/VE clubs to count for club scores. Most of the members present were against this change. Members discussed at length a proposal to require digital (disk, internet, or BBS) submission of DX contest logs.

Upcoming programs include: HS0AC by K1XM and KQ1F at the Boxboro meeting; Fred, K2TR, article and meeting program on multiband filtering and switching, and Frank, W3LPL, on solar physics effects on radio propagation. The June meeting will be chaired by the club

VP, JP, AA2DU, since President Rich, K2WR, has work commitments.

Members adjourned to Rom's and other eateries.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte L. Richardson, KQ1F
Secretary/Treasurer, YCCC
11 April 1994

Contest University Minutes

A Contest University was held, at the request of Club president Rich, K2WR, in conjunction with the ON4UN/ON6WU lowband antenna lecture and dinner in Canton, Massachusetts, on Friday, May 13, 1994. Twenty YCCC members and many other DXers and low-band enthusiasts attended. John Devoldere's interesting and informative lecture was divided into three segments.

His first topic was low-band (40m and 80m) full-sized Yagis. John uses his own software to perform both electrical and mechanical modeling of antennas. He finds that element sag is a good measure of strength. He designs his antenna systems to balance both wind-loading and weight, and uses trusses. As an example, he designed and installed a full-sized 3-element 40m Yagi. After some redesign to prevent pivoting of the elements on the boom, this antenna has survived severe weather.

His second topic was the design of a 3-element full-sized 80m Yagi(!). This monster antenna, installed in Germany, allows electrical direction reversal, is switchable for phone/cw, and is designed to require minimum maintenance.

The third topic was the design of John's own new 80m antenna, a four-square. This system was designed to incorporate his 160m vertical in the center of the square. Nylon ropes extend in four directions from the top of the vertical. Each element has one elevated radial.

Dayton '94

Doug Grant, K1DG

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It's that time of year again - springtime, when hams' fancies turn to thoughts of Dayton.

It began a day earlier than usual for me this year - I had a business engagement in Dayton (what a coincidence!) on Thursday of Dayton week, and flew out on Wednesday. Bumped into NX1G of Radio Bookstore and K1GW, W1PH and the rest of the Cushcraft gang at the lovely new Manchester airport. Kurt let me in on the big new product announcement a day early - Cushcraft now has a log-periodic Yagi (the "Skylog", I think they call it). After the close of business on Thursday, several of my colleagues (including a few hams) were going out to dinner, but I opted out - I was on my time, and that meant heading for Stouffer's.

Got to Stouffer's, and hooked up with K3LR and a bunch of the North Coast guys for dinner at the Chinese place near the hotel. Met the NCC newsletter editor - Spike, W9XR. A very funny fellow whose columns are further edited by LR before printing to prevent really offending too many people. Spike also showed photos of his unique 40M beam. The elements are slightly shortened, and lengthened by dropping wires vertically off the ends of the elements. Furthermore, the reflector and director aren't straight - they are in the shape of horizontal Vees, opening out away from the end of the boom. Viewed from the top, it looks like this: >-|-<. Unusual, but it seems to work.

'AR finally shows up - he's been at some industry-group meeting - then TG9AJR arrives. Juan has been promised floor space in our room. Juan enters the Poisson d'Avril Contest a bit late, but he enters the "Single-op-but-still-looking" category with the room service menu from Stouffer's as his log. Nice touch. The action Thursday night is mainly in the Miami room and on the 12th floor, where KA9FOX, N0BSH, and WE9V have

proclaimed themselves the "Sultans of Schwing", and are running Beavis and Butthead videos and serving cold beer until they run out at midnight. We all call it a night around 1:30 and head off to bed.

Next morning, 'AR is obliged to give a ride to several CQ folks who are staying at the Radisson. AJR and I hustle to get up and dressed so we can get a ride to the Hara Arena before the hamvention opens. I pick up my speaker badge, and bump into the Wiz (WZ1R) who is doing the same thing. After we get inside, we take a quick look around before the crowds arrive at noon. My big purchase is a 387DX-20 math processor so I can turbo-charge those antenna models. It's \$10. Last year they were \$100 or so. Guess the 486 has caught on, eh?

Also got to take a look at a new box - it's a DSP-based receiver made by a company called ComFocus of San Diego, CA. Specs are a bit short of "contest-quality" (3rd-order intercept is only +2.5 dBm), but the concept is probably the wave of the future - DSP is used for the filtering functions and the digitizing occurs at the IF, not at audio. It's advertised as a "fully integrated digital receiver for Microsoft Windows". You get a DSP card to go inside the PC, a receiver box that goes outside, and it covers 0.5 to 30 MHz plus 108-174 MHz, has spectrum-analyzer function built-in (to 5 MHz bandwidth), and a zillion other features (all selectable by clicking the mouse...). Price is \$1495, software included. Watkins-Johnson was also showing a DSP-based receiver - the HF-1000. Quite a remarkable box, with excellent receiver specs (+30 dBm IP3, for example), and a staggering 58 different IF filter bandwidths (which is probably about 56 more than most of us now use). A staggering \$3800 price tag is also included (but alas, the Windows software drivers are not...).

Not to be left in the dust, Ten-Tec also showed a prototype DSP-based receiver, although it's for some government program, not the ham market. Strange form factor - about like a pizza box, 19" wide, about 24" deep and an inch high. Everything is software-controlled.

The rumors of bus service problems seem

to have been overblown - the buses were running slightly less frequently than past years, and routed through a few hubs, but there weren't many more complaints than usual. The parking situation, however, was the worst in recent memory. Parking in the main lots (within a day's hike of the Arena) was \$5.00. The exhibitor parking lot was overbooked. At one point, mild-mannered K2MGA, publisher of CQ, left for a short time and was unable to park when he returned. I have never seen him quite so upset.

Anyway, Friday's weather was cool and cloudy with occasional drizzle. Decided to skip the antenna forum and do the flea market instead. Bumped into K2WR, who told me he had a shopping list for the "guys from Jersey". It took me a good five minutes to figure out that he meant guys from GJ, not W2 ("Oh...that 'Jersey'"). Found a couple of QSTs from 1920 and finished that year. Now only need 5 issues from 1916 for a clean sweep. When it started raining again, sought shelter at the CQ booth, where I was pressed into service selling subscriptions and books (including my own, heh, heh...). While standing at the booth, I noticed the usual complement of strange hams with call-letter hats and antennas on their heads (you may have seen the goon with the 2M quad on his hat in previous years...). Then I saw a guy with a satellite on his head. I think he was just holding it there so he could carry it to the AMSAT booth without bumping into anyone, but it looked like it was built into his hat. It would not have surprised me.

After the exhibits closed, rode with AR back to the Radisson, where we stopped for a while with the CQ gang. There were sufficient munchies in the bar to serve as dinner, and I kinda missed the usual wait in line at the Spaghetti Warehouse for dinner. Got to Stouffer's about 8:30, and wandered from the Miami Room to various suites.

Last year, I showed Wiz around Dayton (it was his first time...). This year, we split up about 10:00 AM, and I didn't see him again until midnight. He learns fast - one multi, and he's ready for single-op!

That night in the Miami room, I wandered from group to group picking up little

snippets of conversation that I could include in this article. K1AR was in one corner talking to some of the Russian guys and butchering names as new guys were introduced to him. A bunch of W0s arrive with really cool jackets advertising their membership in the "North American Multi-Tube Multi-KW QRO Club - 3770 kHz Sundays". WC4E is talking about operating when the rate gets slow and you're begging for contacts; "Do what you gotta do to get a Q" is the K4XS motto, according to Jeff. Words to live by.

Someone took a photo of WB2R and KB2R posed next to Doug KR2Q and Doug K1DG. A bit later, someone else caught N2AA, N4AA, N6AA, N8AA, and AA1AA on film. N2SKH (traveling with K1RT) described Dayton as a "Hamfest on steroids". It was his first time. There was a semi-serious discussion in one corner wondering when we'll see the first computer-controlled "operator-optional" contest station. Bumped into N6AA, who is working on his "OWWAZ" (Operated the WW from All Zones) award. He's done 23 zones already (needs 2, 4, 14-19, 23-29, 38, and 40). He's looking for a connection in OX for this fall...

I asked if the KCDXC was having the CW pileup contest somewhere. They had it only on Saturday night...more on that later. WN4KKN said that "Real contests are hard enough. I hate these pileup things, PED contest simulators, etc.". K1AR asked him "Is that because you suck at them?" I think AR has been watching too much Beavis & Butthead.

One group was talking about the Internet contest reflector. I suggested that we'll all probably spend a lot of time on the Internet during the low sunspot years since we won't be able to work each other. Carrying that thought one step further, perhaps when the sunspots come back, we won't need them anyway since we'll all be cruising the information highway ("we don't need no stinkin' ionosphere"?). Trey, WN4KKN, then guessed that contests will be held on-line with simulators, and the winners will be the guys with 622 Mb/s optical links directly to the NSFNet backbone. I suppose the

"little guns" will gripe that they need their scores equalized because they can only afford wimpy 2400 bps dialups...

Talked with Jim, K8MR, who contributes frequently to the Mad River Radio Club newsletter. He gave me a copy, which included a lot of really funny stuff. For example, you know those Miller Lite ads that show unusual combinations of sports like "sumo high-diving" "luge bowling" and "beauty queen hockey"? Jim proposes a new award - the DX Rag Chewers Century Club (DXRCCC). To qualify, you need to submit proof of 30-minute QSOs with stations in at least 100 countries.

I came across a conversation where people were telling "true confessions" stories, like the time they got FCC notices for out-of-band operation, etc. I admitted that in my teenage years, I had once gotten an OO notice for chirp - N6KT asked me if that was for phone or cw.

As the night wore on and several of us set off in pursuit of the Worked All Suites award, the handwriting in my notepad deteriorated as did the comments overheard in the halls. There was one discussion on the topic of radios needing to be politically and anatomically correct, with both female and male connectors. VE5XZ was talking about his pileups when he held the CY5XZ callsign (and K8MR noted that there's no "black hole", only "black callsigns"). N4RJ of the Southeast DXers expressed the opinion that KM9P will probably drop out of contesting now that he's a new daddy. RJ claims that most of the DXers operating in the middle of the night are new fathers on the 2 AM feeding routine.

Someone commented on their roommate at Stouffer's snoring - KR2Q asked him to rate the snorer on a scale of 1 (not too loud) to 10 (N2AA). The story was told of the year that 10 guys shared a room with Gene one year, and by morning, KR2Q was in the bathtub with a pillow on his head and the rest of the guys were on the floor out in the hallway. Another story was told about the time N3ED was operating in a multi-multi (probably in the Caribbean) and he couldn't sleep because someone was snoring so he put earplugs in. When it came time for Ed to

operate, he forgot to take out the earplugs for the first hour or so, and complained about how lousy conditions were...

Then there was the story about the year that some newcomer got elected to be secretary of PVRC. He noticed that a few members were delinquent in paying their dues, so he kicked them out of the club. Among them were K3EST, W3GRF, and W3AU, without which there was no PVRC!

K2WR saw KR2Q and AA2U talking together and commented that there was about a half-watt of RF between them. He also claims he saw W8AH shaking hands and saying hello to everyone in the NJDXA suite three times (just to make sure he was in the log...). Someone was looking for the FOC SSB division suite.

And at 1:30 AM we sent out for pizza. When it arrived, several anonymous donors presented K1AR with a special "Hall of Fame" certificate, framed and everything. Propriety prevents me from citing his qualifications for the award, but you can ask him about it (preferably during the WW phone contest this fall...). K3EST paraphrased an old Zen saying - "You can not drink in the same suite twice", and it was time for bed.

Saturday morning I vaguely recall some noise when AR left. Deciding to skip the DX Forum, I finally crawled out of bed about 10:00 AM, then remembered that I needed to find a printer to make copies of the comment form for the Contest Forum. Found a printer within walking distance of Stouffer's and started out. G3RZP and G4CLF had called for a cab, and expected it about the time I figured I'd be back. Walked two blocks in light drizzle, got the forms printed, then ran back in a downpour. Soaking wet, I got into the cab and we rode out to the Arena in style. The cab radio is crackling with taxis being sent to the arena to pick up people whose cars had gotten stuck in the mud. The going joke among the cabbies was that the parking fee was "\$5 to get in, and a \$45 tow to get out". Cabs are cheaper (note for future reference, it's \$11 from Stouffer's to the Hara Arena...).

Contest forum occupied all my time Saturday afternoon. Wiz and I had been

asked by Tim Duffy, K3LR, to take over the chair/moderator chores since he had done it for 10 years straight and needed a break. The program had come together pretty well at that point, so it was easy this time. We gave Tim a plaque in appreciation of his work over the years. The room was as full as I've ever seen it, probably because it was raining too hard to be in the flea market. The talks went well, everyone showed up, and everyone's slides were in the carousel right side up.

Speakers were W7RM, KR0Y/N5RZ (of P40L fame), KN8Z, G4BUO (of G0KPW fame), N6KT (of HC8A, etc. fame), KC1XX/K1EA, and N6AA/K3EST. RM talked about this new station in Washington, and showed some vintage slides of the old W7RM station on Foul Weather Bluff. The best photo was a group shot of the ops (circa 1973), including K7SS (who at the time bore a striking resemblance to David Crosby of Crosby, Stills and Nash, mustache, greasy long hair and all) and K7JA (who bore a striking resemblance to a typical nerd engineering student, complete with very short hair and thick black horn-rimmed glasses). The P40L guys talked about the 2-man multi-single that included a 457 QSO hour by KR0Y. KN8Z talked about his station in Ohio - probably the best-constructed amateur station in the country. BUO talked about the G0KPW multi-multi, which involves a Field-Day style installation and disassembly for every DX Contest. KT talked about the planning and execution of the first 10K-QSO single-op contest operation. XX and EA talked about the design and construction of the KC1XX station - the high bands are direct copies of K1EA, and the results indicate nearly identical performance. AA and EST talked about log-checking in the CQWW, and other related trivia. For example, the country submitting the most check logs every year is Norway. I dunno why. And the decline of 10M resulted in 400 pounds less of WW logs being submitted this year compared to last year. EST also announced the availability of the Personalized reports available for entrants of the CQWW. Send \$6 to K3EST, and you'll get a report detailing what was found in your log for uniques, bad cross-

checks, and error rates compared to others in your category and as a function of number of QSOs. He also is offering a new book called the CQWW Contest Handbook, with more info on the WW than you've ever seen. Very thorough job for \$25 or so. Contact K3EST for more info.

At one short break, I presented the Top Ten Fun Things for Contesters to do at Dayton.

- 10 Go over to the QRP Forum and see if they're whispering to each other.
- 9 Find out how many other guys are going to the same island as you are for the CQWW.
- 8 Chase that elusive Worked All Suites award.
- 7 Ask K1AR about the award he got in the Miami room last night.
- 6 Find that guy who stole your run frequency in the last contest and have a few words with him.
- 5 Go tell K1EA about the new feature you just thought of for CT Version 10.
- 4 Best 3AM pizza you ever ate in Stouffer's lobby.
- 3 Watch the W1s visit the propagationally-challenged members of the Society of Midwest Contesters and tell them "we feel your pain" with a straight face.
- 2 Try again to figure out which one is K1AR and which one is K1DG.
- 1 Buy a 2M HT with a belt clip, and a hat with an antenna and your callsign on it so you can blend in with the 35,000 "real hams".

Afterwards, Wiz and I collected the comment sheets and found that the KR0Y/N5RZ talk was voted the best. It really was pretty good. We had also asked for ideas for next year's program, and got some volunteers already. I also asked for comments and one stood out in my mind. Some pinhead took me to task for wearing jeans with my sport coat. Sheesh. Get a life. This is a hobby.

Then it was back to the room for a few

minutes to relax before the contest dinner. The dinner was opened with an invocation by Rev. Paul Bittner, W0AIH, followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of KH6IJ, who died earlier this year. Dinner was good, and I sat with KR0Y, WA8YVR, and a bunch of other guys. YVR got attacked by a bunch of other 8s, including KN8Z with his 4-olive martini. Guest speaker was W3LPL, who chronicled his contest career from his 1960 effort as KN1LPL in the Novice Roundup (with 48 Qs in 33 hours), followed by numerous CD-party activities (he noted that some of the guys he worked in the 60s are now ops at his station), to his moves to and around Maryland (including one in 1973 when K1AR helped him install the antennas), to his present QTH and world-class multi-multi station. And we all learned that Frank and K6LL were roommates in college. Three new members were inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame. They were Herb Becker, W6QD (former DX editor of Radio and CQ magazines, who created what has since evolved to the CQWW Contest); John Thompson, W1BIH/PJ9JT, still going strong at age 79, with over 350,000 contest QSOs in the log over 60 years; and Atilano Oms de Oms, PY5EG, holder of numerous WW records and the top gun contest of Brazil for as long as anyone can remember. In Oms' acceptance speech, he set yet another record - he told the entire room they were all 59, and asked for a report, then claimed the speed record - 300 Qs in 30 seconds. AR had Oms pull the door prize tickets - no, I didn't win anything this year.

Then back to the suites. More trivia uncovered - N6TJ has had the World high single-op score in a major DX contest in each of four decades now - dunno if anyone else can make that claim. Need to look it up. Numerous suggestions for topics for next year's contest forum. K3ZO was bemoaning the growing use of two radios by single ops. He likes that break between QSOs. Gives him a chance to savor the last one, basking in the glow of the great mult that just called in, or enjoying the bouquet of the polar flutter of the UA0 he just worked. Ahh...the romance of the contest...

After dinner, the Kansas City gang has

the pileup tape running. If you haven't done it, here's the deal. NOSS records 100 callsigns, usually two at a time, on a 5 minute tape. Most calls are sent twice, some only once. Varying speeds. Increasing QRN added in as time goes on. Some partial calls to throw you off. It started about 10 years ago as a friendly game. Then they started posting the scores. Then they started offering prizes to the top scorers. Now it's gotten serious. Typically 75 guys take the test, and the winner gets bragging rights for a year. K3ZO and K5ZD usually take turns winning with about 62 calls. I don't recall ever seeing one higher than 65. But ZD's not here this year, so it looks like ZO's got it made. When I get there this time, the competitive picture has begun to take shape. W6RGG has the high score at about 56. A group has just gone in, with a bunch of good guys in it (K3ZO, W2GD, WZ1R, and others). I wait for the next group of six. The scores are posted, and sure enough, ZO is on top with 61. Several clustered in the high 50s, which is where I usually end up. Then they call the next group in, including me.

Tape starts, and for some reason, I decide to copy the entire introduction section. Then... QRZ de K0VBU, and we're off. I seem to be in sync this year. I still can only get one call at a time, but I seem to be guessing which one will only send his call once and copying it, giving me a second chance at the other guy. For the first 30 seconds or so, I think I'm getting nearly every call. This has never happened before. Then the tricks start - drifting signals, partial calls, other junk. I'm writing calls without thinking or questioning if they make sense. Miss one, forget it, get the next. I realize that I'm starting a fourth column of callsigns on the page - will I run out of paper? This is amazing! Then the tape stops. I look at the page, and see one call that I've kind of scribbled - I tell the judge that it's 5W1GC, and he writes it legibly for me. Then we all leave the room and wait for the results. When the results are being written on the poster on the door, we all watch intently. The score-poster likes to keep the high score for each group for last, adding to the suspense. WT3Q was in my group, and he's got 51. Everyone congratulates him.

Then the scorekeeper says "Wait 'til you see *this* one", and he looks over at me. He writes my call, then a hyphen, then a "6" - looks over at me again - then says "You guys ready for this?", and writes the last digit: "7". 67!!! Wow! Some days it just all goes right. Lots of congratulations, and people coming up to me all night long congratulating me. At midnight, I get the first prize, donated by the Missouri Radio Center.

Then back to the suites. K3ZO reveals that his wife calls him for dinner when he's operating by stomping on the kitchen floor (right over the shack). The Kentucky Contest Group / Devil's Triangle Contest Team gang is all wearing badges with their calls and "Bubba" for a name. K8MR says he went searching for a clean rest room at the Hara Arena during the day and found himself in a ladies room. KA9FOX confessed he'd been thrown out of the NJDXA suite for taking a beer out of the bathtub rather than from the guy at the bar. GM3YTS said he liked the CQ Almanac, but when he found out that K1MEM had contributed a chapter, he tore those pages out (he and 'MEM are good friends).

Several guys commenting on the new ETO amplifier - the 91β. It uses Russian tubes and other components from Eastern Europe. It's assembled in Bulgaria. They had a "guess the price" contest, and the winning price was \$2298 (\$1998 special at Dayton). Not type-accepted yet, but it's pending. Manual-tune. Hope they plan to sell spare "GU-74" tubes directly, otherwise replacements will be a big issue...

N4XM walked in to the suite, pulled up a table and started showing his new antenna tuner. Looks pretty nice - covers 160-10, including WARC. He claims it is specified for a wider range of matchable impedances than any other tuner on the market, with higher power-handling capability. No SWR meter built into it. Handles coax feeders only (no open-wire). Manual operation only. Nice solid feel to it, but I think that the price is too high, though (\$1045).

Pizza again at 2 AM. Offered the delivery guy a 1000-ruble (about 75 cents) tip, courtesy of UA6HZ. Lots of photos, and

other things going on, but my notes are totally illegible. I was far too busy celebrating the pileup tape results with some rare Belgian beer provided by WA3FET. I seem to recall someone reminding us that the Miami Room festivities were being sponsored by Kenwood, and someone else bemoaning the "bag/map vultures" swarming the Kenwood booth. There was a short note from someone at Kenwood apologizing for "... the obscene of Joe Rudi, NK7U...". I believe they meant absence.

Trundled off to bed about 3 AM. Never heard AR leave Sunday morning. When I finally arose, I stumbled into the FOC breakfast, and then off to the Arena one last time. A quick turn through the few booths I wanted to see before leaving, then met AA1AA at the CQ booth looking for a ride to the airport.

Every year, there is a theme that emerges at Dayton. This year, it was mostly people trying to figure out why we come to Dayton every year. There are rarely any new products of interest to us these days (no new HF contest-quality transceivers in years, no breakthroughs in coax, rotors, towers, or beams; even contest software has kind of maxed out with CT9). The best summary was offered by WN4KKN. He observed that he almost didn't go to Dayton this year, but as it drew closer, he got worried that he'd miss something and booked his ticket. The urge to be part of the community outweighed the more sane instinct to stay home. In other words, he wanted to see his friends more than he wanted to avoid the long plane ride and the crowds. I guess that goes for most of us.

My route home was through Washington Dulles instead of the usual USAir via Philadelphia or Pittsburgh for some unknown reason. The plane was one of these little 2-engine turboprop buzzboxes, and I was across the aisle from K3NA, holder of many DXpedition callsigns, including one from VK9L. As we boarded, there was a guy with a 9M2 callsign on his hat - Eric struck up a conversation with him, and found out that he, too, had operated on Lord Howe. What are the chances of TWO VK9L licensees finding themselves on the same plane anywhere

but in Dayton (or Lord Howe itself, I guess...).

And since I was on a different route than usual, both to and from Dayton, I regret to report that for the first time in many many years, I didn't see either of the two guys. Every year, these two guys show up at Dayton on the same flight as me. They live in the Boston/128/Southern NH area, and seem to be VHFers. I don't know their calls, but they're always there. Actually, last year one of the two guys (the tall dark-haired one) was missing, but the other guy was still there. Dunno if they were there or not this year. Since I first mentioned the two guys in my Dayton article several years ago, people come up to ask me about them every year. Sad to say, I didn't see them on the trip to and from Dayton this year.

However, all is not lost. I saw one of them last July at the New England Division Convention in Manchester. The skinny blond guy was walking in my direction. I could see he had a callsign badge on, and as he got closer, I had to make a quick decision - did I finally want to find out who he is? I was tempted, but just as he made it around a couple of other people, I turned away just in time. I noticed a "WA1" on the first part of his badge, but luckily I didn't get the rest of the call. There are some things in life I just don't want to know.

Parts List:

20' CATV hardline
1000pf Arco trimmer
Radio Shack Box 2"x2"x4"
3x SO-239
2x Double Male UHF
2x Double Female UHF
8' 1 1/4" Dowel
1' x 3/8" Dowel
2x 1" Hose Clamp
Tape
6' Furring Strip
12x #6 screws/nuts
3x Solder Lugs
Ameco PLF-2 or ARR VD1-30

A Simple Receive Loop for 80/160M

Jeff Briggs, K1ZM

Reasonably good conditions this past contest season have rekindled interest and activity once again on our two lowest frequency bands. As I am often asked about small-lot receiving antennas for 80/160, here's a very simple, yet effective, RX antenna that is a real performer on 160M. As an added bonus, it may also be tuned for 80M. Or, use two loops!

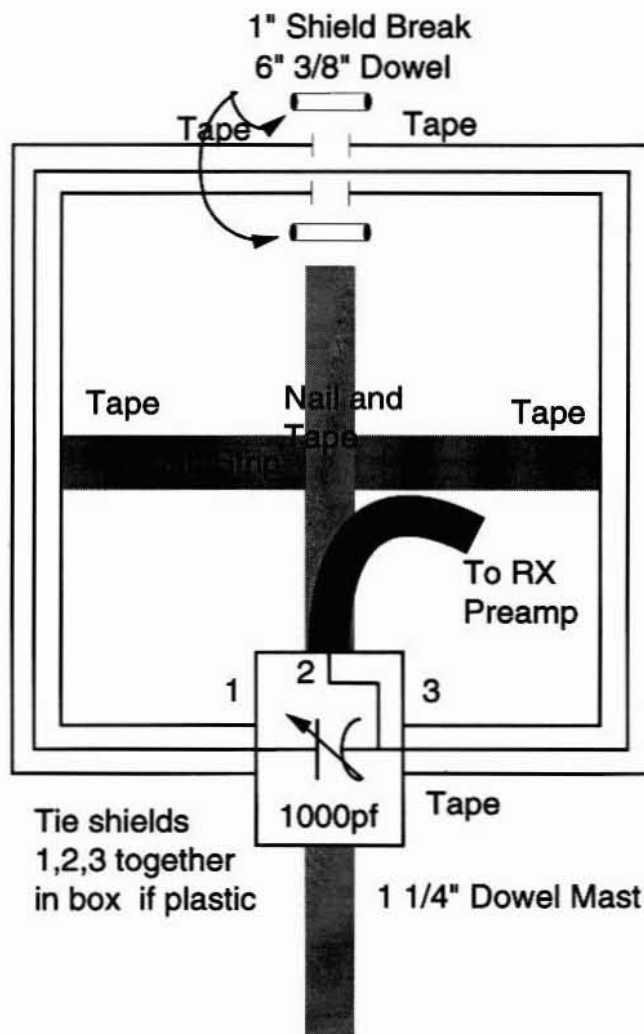
The basic ingredient is 20 feet of CATV hardline although the antenna may be made from RG8X or from RG59U. Refer to the diagram and parts list as you read the text for specific construction details.

You start by shaping your 20 foot piece of hardline into a rectangular "quad" with 5 foot sides. You'll note that the bottom

side of the loop (where it is to be fed) actually consists of two 2.5 foot sides which attach to a small Radio Shack box using typical UHF connector hardware. The box serves two purposes in that it keeps the feedpoint matching network weatherproof and it also adds rigidity to the bottom of the loop.

After forming your basic loop, you will need to cut the outer jacket of the hardline (the shield only - NOT the center conductor) at the 10 foot point of the loop. Assuming that the feedpoint is at the bottom of the quad loop, this places the 1" cut in the jacket at the top center of the loop when mounted in a rectangular configuration.

To cut the jacket, *carefully* make a diagonal cut along the jacket at the midpoint of the hardline. This may be done with a hacksaw. Then make two right angle cuts around the jacket's circumference and you will find you can easily and safely lift



off the 1" of jacket required without breaking/weakening the center conductor of the hardline. When you are done, tape up the cut point and add some rigidity to the joint by placing some $\frac{3}{8}$ " wooden dowel along and over the cutpoint and tape the whole joint again. When done, you will have a weatherproof joint and you will have restored the mechanical rigidity of the cutpoint as well.

To make your feedpoint connections, any number of ideas will work. My own preference is to make two cuts in the jacket at right angles, file down the center conductor using a flat file and then jam a PL-258 double female UHF connector into each side of the 2.5 ft hardline ends using a rubber hammer. The shield connection is made with a 1" hoseclamp.

This approach then allows me to fit a UHF double male connector into each PL-258 which then can be mounted into SO-239 females mounted on opposite ends of the Radio Shack box. I place a third SO-239 female on the boxes' top in order to bring in my RG-58 feedline.

After having finished building your loop, you can mount it on a 1.25" wooden dowel which makes a fine non-conducting mast. I tape the top of the loop to the dowel with a nail on either side of the hardline just to make sure the taping doesn't slip over time. A six foot piece of furring strip material can be affixed to the dowel at right angles (making a cross) which gives two anchor/tape points for the sides of the loop. The dowel can simply be placed in the ground or, alternatively, you can mount it in a Radio Shack rotor at ground level in order to rotate your loop for directivity. I find that placing the rotor at about 2 feet above ground level on a TV mast works very well. The 1.25" dowel fits very nicely into the top of the rotor and the bottom side of your loop winds up about waist high. This makes tuning accessibility very convenient and a breeze to complete.

Referring to the diagram once again, you will see that the two sides of the loop and the feedline come into the Radio Shack box via SO-239 female UHF connectors. If your box is plastic, tie the shields together using solder lugs and a buss-wire to connect the three SO-239 shells.

Then you place your tuning capacitor (a 1000pF ARCO trimmer) in series with the center conductors of the two sides of the loop. This can be done inside the box by placing the trimmer between the two SO-239 center pins. You should place the tuning screw DOWN to facilitate adjustment. Then you add another wire from either side of the trimmer cap to the center pin of the feedpoint SO-239. It does not matter which side of the tuning cap you affix the feedpoint to; either side will work just fine.

To tune your loop, wait until dusk, hook up a feedline and listen to an RX for maximum signal/bandnoise on 1835 kHz. I do this using two 2m FM HT's. I place one next to my HF radio speaker and use a rubber band to hold the mike switch in xmit. I listen outside at the feedpoint using the second HT and tune the trimmer cap for max signal. My preference is to start with the ARCO trimmer fully-meshed (e.g., maximum "C") and start loosening the tuning screw which decreases "C". You will find that a hardline loop usually gives a well-defined peak. Sometimes RG8X or RG59U loops produce very broad peaks. What you see is what you get - so, at the end of day, go with it. Remember, 80M will require less "C" than 160M when tuning!

You will find that this antenna produces very low amplitude signal strength at your RX. I find it to be weaker than most beverages. To compensate for this, a good quality, low-noise preamp is usually required for comfortable listening levels. Two that I have used are the *older* type AMECO PLF-2s (the ones in a black metal box) and the Advanced Receiver Research VD 1-30MHz preamp. Don't even think of the newer plastic junk now being sold by AMECO or the Palomar preamps. These preamps produce more birdies than you'll ever find at your local pet shop! The old AMECO's can be found in the yellow-sheets or at hamfests. The VD 1-30 MHz from ARR continues to be available for about \$30; just check QST for ARR advertisements. The only disadvantage about the latter is that it is not tunable and requires a separate switchbox to switch it in and out. So I personally prefer the AMECO's myself but the VD 1-30 is an acceptable substitute

and is cheaper to boot. I place these preamps in line with my beverage box common just before the front-end input of my RX. As with any beverage RX antenna, remember to break this line using a relay when you Xmit or you may even fry the front-end of your radio when you xmit due to induced RF pickup on the loop!

New Crew

Please welcome the following new member who joined at the April meeting:

Rob Hummel, WS1A
PO Box 12
Richmond, NH 03470
home phone: (603)239-4048

Movers and Shakers

New address for newly-elected club VP, JP, AA2DU:

JP Kleinhaus, AA2DU
29 Dirubbo Drive
Cortlandt Manor, NY 10566
home phone: (914)739-6318

New address for Jim, AD1C:

Jim Reisert, AD1C
181 Littleton Rd. #324
Chelmsford, MA 01824-2662

WB2DND has 20 copies of John, ON4UN's low-band DX book for sale for those of you that missed the Contest University. Cost is \$20.00. Get in touch with him if you want

THE CLUB RESOURCES PAGE

The Place to Find Club Information

DUES are due at the April election meeting, which begins our club "contest year", with a grace period until the end of June. Membership in the club will lapse at the end of the grace period if dues are not paid up. In order to re-join the club, a lapsed member must attend a meeting, like any new member, and be welcomed back into membership, or may become a subscriber to the *Scuttlebutt* by paying up (see below). 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 last meeting of the club's contest year (February) are credited with dues for the following year (that is, the contest year beginning that April). You can tell if you owe dues by checking your 'Butt mailing label. Only paid-up members are eligible to contribute to the club score in contests.

FAMILY MEMBER Members of the same family living at the same address may elect to receive only one copy of the *Scuttlebutt*. One member of the family must pay full dues, enabling the rest of the family to join as family members. Being a family member is currently free.

STUDENT MEMBERS Full-time students are eligible for dues at half the regular rate.

SCUTTLEBUTT SUBSCRIBERS Anyone may subscribe to the club newsletter, the *Scuttlebutt*. A subscription currently costs \$10 per year. At the present time, overseas subscriptions cost the same as domestic (we have very few overseas subscribers). The subscription period begins at the beginning of the club year, in April. New subscribers who begin their subscriptions after the December issue are considered to have paid for the following year (that is, they receive as many issues as new members joining at that time do). You can tell if your subscription is current by checking your 'Butt mailing label. The grace period for late subscriptions is the same as for late memberships.

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the *Scuttlebutt* editor, Paul Young, K1XM, 11 Michigan Drive, Hudson, MA 01749, home phone (508)562-5819. The deadline for each issue is usually three weeks before the next meeting.

CLUB BADGES are available from WZ1R. Send two dollars, Your callsign, name, and mailing address to WZ1R-YCCC Badge, P.O. Box 9106, Pawtucket R.I. 02862

CLUB JACKETS Len, KB2R coordinates group purchases of club jackets.

CLUB QSL CARDS are ordered through John Dorr, K1AR, 8 Anchor Lane, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766.

PACKET NET information is available from Charlie Carroll, K1XX, Candlelight Rd, Ringe NH 03461.

CONTEST SCORES are sent to the club scorekeeper, Kurt Pauer, W1PH.

CLUB ROSTER appears in the summer issue of the *Scuttlebutt* every year. Updates are published when members move or change callsigns. If you want a new copy of the club roster, contact the club secretary/treasurer, Charlotte Richardson, KQ1F, 11 Michigan Drive, Hudson MA 01749, home phone (508)562-5819.

CONTRIBUTIONS The YCCC welcomes your contributions, be it money to help offset the cost of the *Scuttlebutt* and club operations, scores for the club aggregate score, time spent helping other members, articles for the *Scuttlebutt*, or presentations at club meetings.

CT CONTEST LOGGING SOFTWARE is available from K1EA Software, 5 Mount Royal Avenue, Marlborough MA 01752 for \$69.95 plus sales tax. Telephone (508)460-8873, FAX (508)460-6211, BBS (508)460-8877.

W1 QSL BUREAU is sponsored by the YCCC. Keep your account up to date with SASEs, or send a check. Stamps are sold at face value, envelopes are 10 cents each. W1 QSL Bureau - YCCC, PO Box 216, Forest Park Station, Springfield, MA 01108.

ARRL LIAISON For ARRL matters, contact Tom Frenaye, K1KI, PO Box 386, West Suffield CT 06093, home phone (203)668-5444.

Dues are \$15 per year, payable 1 April. Non-members may subscribe to the **Scuttlebutt** by sending \$10 to the treasurer: Charlotte Richardson, KQ1F, 11 Michigan Drive, Hudson MA 01749. Subscribers who subsequently become members will be credited as having paid \$10 towards dues.

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The Yankee Clipper Contest Club (an ARRL affiliated club) holds six official meetings per year, on the Saturday or Sunday afternoon of the first full weekend of every even month, usually in the Sturbridge, Massachusetts area. The deadline for article submission to the **Scuttlebutt** is usually three weeks before the next meeting date. The next meeting will be on Sunday, June 5, 1994. Attendance at an official meeting is required in order to become a member. Club members congregate on 3830 after contests. The packet frequencies for DX spotting are 144.95, 145.69, 144.93, 144.97 and 144.99 MHz.

Rosters are mailed to all paid members each summer. For more information and/or assistance, contact the area manager nearest you.

Officers:

President	Rich Gelber	K2WR	212-580-1075
VP-Activities Manager	JP Kleinhaus	AA2DU	914-739-6318
Secretary-treasurer	Charlotte Richardson	KQ1F	508-562-5819
Editor	Paul Young	K1XM	508-562-5819

Area Managers:

Area	Call	Name	Home	Work
CT/RI	K1RU	Gene Frohman	203-393-1772	203-386-6137
EMass	N1AU	Bill Santelmann	617-862-1753	508-692-6000
WMass	W1GG	Gary Gaudette	413-443-3404	
VT/NH	K1GW	Glen Whitehouse	603-673-6290	603-627-7877
ME	N1AFC	Peter Archibald	207-767-2169	207-797-8931
NLI	NQ2D	Jim Metcalf	516-744-9422	516-467-4800
NNY	K2TR	Fred Lass	518-355-4813	518-346-6666
SNY/NJ	K2EK	Bill Gioia	914-221-1672	914-697-3250

YCCC

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