



The Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Scuttlebutt

June 1991 Issue 93

Captain's Cabin

Stu Santelmann, KC1F

Thank you to all YCCC members who turned out in the nice weather for the April meeting, and thank you to KY1H for standing at the helm for the 1990-1991 Contest year. It was an eventful year, with YCCC entries being quite successful as usual in both the single-op and multi-op categories. Although the final club results are not available yet, it is apparent that we submitted a solid effort. My goal for contest year 1991-92 will be to preside over another YCCC win, the first since my father was president several years ago!

As I write this, some club members are getting ready for the WPX CW – a good chance to try out new antennas and so on. It is my hope that contests like this one can be an opportunity for small multi-op operations, where newer contesters can be trained on-line. The recent profile of W3GM in the NCJ highlights how valuable this tactic can be to welcome newer contesters to the club. My hope also is that the Contest University seminars, run at several points during the last year, can be expanded even more. At the last one I attended, at W1CB's house, I knew we had hit the mark when almost a dozen new faces showed up! *The professor* may even show up again at the next one!

The local meetings have also proven to be valuable contributors to club cohesion. I've been to gatherings in New Hampshire and East Mass, with sizable turnouts for each. During my calls to the Area Managers, I was also gratified to find that each area has these informal gatherings. One thing that would naturally happen with a club of this geographical size is that communication

would be difficult between areas – I've encouraged the area managers to communicate with their counterparts to match up stations with operators, for instance. We'll also want to make sure that everybody is eligible to submit scores once the ARRL DX contest comes around again!

The club has also pitched in and assisted with the operation of the W1 QSL bureau. The system appears to be working almost too well – I recently arrived home to find a six-pound bag of QSLs hanging from my mailbox! I can tell you also that it took a while to answer 2,000 direct QSL requests from our 1990 St. Martin trip – my wife is eyeing the 3 inch tall stack of "green stamps" received!

Packet radio also continues to expand, and spots from Ohio and Ontario are showing up here frequently. Apparently there have been upward of 250 countries spotted on each of the high bands during the past six months! Computers have drastically changed both contesting and DXing. What's next?

Join us at the June meeting for a variety of activities including a Contest Quiz and a DX scramble. Also any members who wish to get on the program, contact either me (at K1GQ node) or Rich, K2WR.

Next Meeting

Paul Young, K1XM

The next meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be on Sunday, June 2, at the Sheraton Sturbridge, beginning at 1 pm.

The Sheraton Sturbridge Resort and Conference Center 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).

Directions to the Sheraton are easy: 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 Sheraton, and there is plenty of parking in front of the hotel.

The meeting dates for 1991 are:

DATE	DAY
August picnic	TBD
October 13, 1991	Sunday
December 1, 1990	Sunday

Next Scuttlebutt

Paul Young, K1XM

Just a reminder that the next issue of the Scuttlebutt will contain the club roster. If you are not sure you are listed correctly, check at the next meeting, or contact me via mail or via packet.

Secretary's Report

Yankee Clipper Contest Club

The April, 1991, YCCC meeting was held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel (the former Sheraton Sturbridge), in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, on April 7th. 71 members and their guests attended. The meeting began with introductions. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$2281.10, with dues for the 1991-1992 contest year due at this meeting. The club welcomed 3 new and returning members:

Kevin Webster, N1EPU
Thomas Thibault, KA1IK
Bud Amsden, WD1Z

The following officers were elected for the 1991-1992 contest year:

President:

Stu Santelmann, KC1F

Vice president/Activities Manager:

Rich Gelber, K2WR

Secretary/Treasurer:

Charlotte Richardson, KQ1F

Dayton arrangements were briefly discussed, with several members looking for rooms. Stu, KC1F, requested communications help for the May 5th Walk for Hunger; volunteers were being organized by his father Bill, N1AU. Dave, KY1H, plans to operate a Field Day station at his home QTH (Field Day is the weekend of June 22nd) and was looking for operators. John, KB1T, was selling 1991 Contest Calendars for \$6. Ed, NT2X, gave further details of the YA0RR DXpedition hardships, and reported that the QSL cards are now being printed in Japan. Ed is still trying to get Romeo to come to Dayton. The DXpedition made a total of 31,000 QSOs. Rich, K2WR, reported on the team helping Tom, K1KI, perform the primary sorting for the W1 QSL BUREAU. Cards belonging to 47 members who get large volumes of cards were pulled separately and Rich brought those to the meeting for distribution directly to those members,

After the break, two copies of the W1FM Ionsound propagation prediction software for PC compatibles were auctioned off to benefit the club, and were won by Ann, WA1S, and Stephen Thibault (son of new member KA1IK). The technical program centered around two new digital voice keyers. KA2EYP displayed his new digital voice keyer prototype, expected to be available in 2-3 months for about \$350. The unit has built-in jumpers for all popular radios and microphones. Then Carl, KM1H, showed the new DVK replacement, the DVR-100, which is available from RadioKit. Jake, W1FM, offered the rest of the club members not lucky enough to win a copy in the

raffle a chance to buy his Ionsound program at 20% off list price for YCCC members only. Dave, KY1H, announced that he will be presenting a plaque to the club's number one "bull collector", Gary, W1GG, for uploading bulletins to the packet system. Dave will deliver the plaque as soon as he decides what appropriate object to mount on it.... Gary, W1GG, requested that the "object" be well-composted first!

Ed, NT2X, reported that he has become too busy to handle club jackets and needs a new volunteer; if you can help, contact Ed.

Rich, K5NA, announced another OMARC Midnight Special Contest on May 19th and urged club members to participate. Ann, WA1S, announced that she is running for RI ARRL section manager and wants club members' votes.

Rich, K2WR, briefly divided packet DX spots into several useful categories.

The meeting broke up relatively early due to the unseasonably warm and pleasant weather, and many members adjourned to Rom's for refreshment while others stayed around to discuss power-supply design tradeoffs.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte L. Richardson, KQ1F
Secretary/Treasurer
8 April 1991

1989 CQ WW Plaque

I wanted to thank the YCCC for the trophy awarded for my operation at SU1RR during the 1989 CQ WW CW DX Contest.

Visiting Egypt was a most interesting experience that won't be forgotten. The contest had its own set of unique challenges, and I was pleased to be able to dish out the SU multiplier with over 4000 QSOs.

I'll be sending a picture of myself holding the plaque to SU1ER to make him aware of the operation's success.

Thanks again for donating the trophy.

73 de Phil Goetz, N6ZZ

Buy an FT-1000?

Paul Young, K1XM

This is not a review of the Yaesu FT-1000. I have never used one. But I have seen one, and that is close enough for me to write this article.

There were two FT-1000 rigs at YCCC contest stations for evaluation during the CQ WW CW. One was at the K1ST multi-multi. It was used on 10 meters. Mark, K1RX, found that it was receiving the same signals every 23 KHz. The transmitter was clean, so the short-term workaround was to call a station every time he heard it until it came back; that was the "real" one. Eventually it was swapped out and K1MNS' Drake TR7 was substituted.

The other FT-1000 didn't get that far. It was at the K1AR multi-single. Ken, K1EA tried to interface it to CT. He found several problems, the most serious being that there is no way to read just the frequency. The radio dumps the entire status, over 1,600 bytes. This takes almost four seconds, during which time the radio locks the front panel! So the rig never was used, and Ken thinks Yaesu doesn't understand contesting.

George, W2VJN tested an FT-1000 for the FRC newsletter and found the receiver to be about as good as a TS-930S. He later tested another and found it to be many dB better.

At the Dayton Hamvention® I talked to Chip, K7JA, of Yaesu. He had not heard about the problem at K1ST, and he could not explain why one of the rigs George tested came out so poorly. He said he has been trying to get a ROM update from Japan to fix the CT problem. He also confirmed that the FT-990 would have the same problem.

I'm not saying you should not buy an FT-1000. But it appears Yaesu is having quality control problems with this

complex radio. So buy it from a dealer who is willing to fix it if necessary. And if you operate in the unlimited or multi-op categories, or you count on the radio to tell your computer what band you are on, the CT problem may be a show-stopper.

WANTED: List Manager

Fred Hopengarten K1VR

The YCCC needs someone to do database and list management for the YCCC Packet Network.

We'd like to track who uses what node and who has contributed to the YCCC Packet Radio Fund. We'd like to make sure that people are notified as to how to get a PacketCluster User's Guide, why joining YCCC is a good idea, and how to join YCCC. Lists will be posted at nodes so that new users will get some welcoming E-Mail, as well as the sales spiel on YCCC.

The List Manager should be able to update our mailing list by using Buckmaster CD-ROM addresses (which may be available to us by modem, as well as radio). This means that you should have a modem, and know how to use it. Familiarity with any of the standard database packages is a plus, but we might even obtain a database package for the right candidate. You must supply your own computer.

We'll write the marketing letters and materials, and give you copious credit. In the last mailing, we thanked NM1D, and do so again here. Your reward is that you'll provide valuable service in building the world's best and fastest DX and contest spotting network, you'll be deemed worthy by a great bunch of guys and gals, and you'll be modestly famous -- getting a mention in each YCCC Scuttlebutt (the best radio club bulletin in the world).

Candidates should volunteer by calling Ken Wolff K1EA on his secret ham radio telephone number, 508/456-8232, or send him packet mail. Non-candidates should not harass me for

soliciting this help, as Ken and I worked alone, except for the most welcome help of NM1D, on our mailing last summer.

By the way, in case you are wondering who is paying for the 9600 baud backbone equipment, that mailing was modestly successful, and your packet network is the better for it.

PacketCluster Database of the Month:

Dave Robbins, KY1H

SHOW/CONTEST

The SHOW/CONTEST command provides access to a calendar of information on DX related contests. It can be accessed either by the month (3 letters) or the contest key name. To get started try SHOW/CONTEST JUN, you will get a list of the contests for the month of June showing date, time period, the KEYWORD, and the contest name. For detailed information on a particular contest try SHOW/CONTEST ASIAN, this will give you who sponsors the contest, bands, exchange, and where to send logs. It also lists where to find more details in magazines. Be careful to compare dates to a calendar to be sure they line up on a weekend if they should, since this lists contests by date and not just 'first weekend' it has to be updated regularly, and some of the dates may be off.

COAX switch follow-up

Fred Hopengarten, K1VR

After the article "In Re Coaxial Switches" appeared, several responses from YCCC members who use the YCCC PacketClustertm appeared K1VR's electronic mailbox. As they are from sources usually considered reliable (journalistspeak), they are included below without further comment.

From Jack Schuster, W1WEF:

You sparked my curiosity, so I opened up the two MFJ 1702 switches that I had on the shelf.

Neither was made before break as Ken's was, but both of mine were different - one from the other - inside. The casting had been redesigned. The contact separation at break was greater by far in one than the other. I'm not sure which of mine was the older one, the blue or the green one.

Both had misaligned contacts. Two of the six SO-239's were loose, but easily tightened with a set screw. One switch had SO-239's with four "dimples," the other with a "normal" full set of dimples.

The world still needs a more sensibly designed coax switch, with ease of mounting, and connectors in the rear!

From John Kenny, W1RR:

I've been using an Alpha-Delta 4 for about a year. Power is 1500 Watts out at 75 Ohms, and sometimes a bit of SWR. No problems yet. Detents are sure. I chose it for the antenna center conductor grounding feature and the arc-plug. I guess earlier ones were back access to arc-plug and modern ones, like mine, are front access to the arc-plug.

I also use a couple of Ameritron RCS-8V switches on the tower. They have served well. I use one of them for upper/lower/both switch on 20.

From Jim Dionne, K1MEM:

I have used a Daiwa CS-201 for 10 years to switch between two TX sources (transceiver and T-4XC) and the linear. In my present lash-up it is also used to select the transmit antenna, or a Beverage antenna for receiving on 80 and 160 (the Beverage is not used often).

Note that infrequent use, as it may be related to the next comment. The only problem I have noticed is that when used as the receive antenna selector, the switch needs multiple action sometimes

to "clean the contacts," or the very low level signals (especially on 160) are lost. Of course, I find the same thing in the bandswitch on the R-4C (when it leaves the 160 position once or twice a year).

I have also used a B&W Model 376 (Protaxtm), five positions plus ground all position, rotary switch for 10-12 years. For 5 years it has been used only to select between a dummy load, the 80 meter verticals, or the remote Ameritron RCS-8V switch up on the tower. I have only two comments relative to the B&W Model 376:

1) While still at my prior location, when it selected all antennas/dummy load, I once worked CE3ZM on 15 or 20 SSB with my dummy load. Obviously the isolation on the switch is poor, or my Heathkit dummy load can replace my Hy-Gain 205-BA!

2) When I had some water come down the coax from the 160 dipole that K1VR launched into my Sudbury trees in 1982 (note: I built the dipole), the switch dripped some rusty water onto the shack floor. Haven't touched it since.

I also have a Daiwa CS-401 that is still in the box, and has never been used. I can only comment that it appears to have a very good shelf life. It has been on the shelf 7 years, and still looks the same.

Review: N6RJ 2nd OP,

Version V3.0

Jim, N5DC

In the May 1990 issue of the Texas DX Society Bullshead (also see errata in July 1990) I reviewed the DX logging program, N6RJ 2nd OP, which is marketed by Ham Radio Outlet. I recently obtained Version 3.0. It is a significantly improved and enhanced program from the earlier versions! It still does the same basic logging functions that I described earlier. However, there are some major changes in this new

version that really put the program in a class by itself.

Specifically, there are four main areas of interest. First, Fast Log is a great new feature for real-time logging. It really does just exactly what the name implies. It is a pleasure to use the Fast Log function. The second addition is the use of the "N" key, or the Need function, that allows you to see for each country which modes and bands you have worked and which ones you still need. It considerably simplifies your tracking for 5 Band DXCC. The major improvement lies in the fact that it is almost impossible to throw a call-sign at it, and not have the program correctly identify the country.

Last, and by no means least, is the conversion program supplied that will convert K1EA logs to the 2nd OP format. If you are into contesting, and want to include your contest logs in your 2nd OP records, this feature will solve your problem. With as many testers as we have using K1EA, I think this makes ownership of 2nd OP almost mandatory for anyone who also chases DX.

I might note in closing, that data files from previous versions are not directly compatible with the new program, but the authors have taken care of that with a suitable conversion program. My installation, and the data file conversion, came off without a hitch! As usual, you are cautioned and begged to "BACK UP YOUR FILES". I stated in my previous articles that 2nd OP was a winner then, and it is even better now.

Movers and Shakers

Please update your club roster to include the following changes:

John, K1ULI is now WS1E

New Crew

Kevin Webster, N1EPU
1564 Byam Rd.
Cheshire, CT 06410
Home: (203)272-7834
Work: (203)639-4110

Thomas Thibault, KA1IK
12 Fairmount Av.
Saugus, MA 01906
Home: (617)231-3149

Bud Amsden, WD1Z
23 Grant Hill Rd.
Tolland, CT 06084
Home: (203)870-9737
Work: (203)565-7450

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 Butt. 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 JACKETS We are looking for someone to coordinate club jackets. If you can help contact Ed Kritsky, NT2X, 580 East 17th Street, Apt. 2F, Brooklyn, NY 11226, home phone (718)284-4493.

CLUB QSL CARDS are ordered through John Dorr, K1AR, 2 Baldwin Street, Windham, NH 03087, home phone (603)434-5661.

PACKET NET information is available from Dick Newell, AK1A, 8 Golden Run Rd., Bolton, MA 01740, home phone (508)779-5198, or Dave Robbins, KY1H, Baumann Road, Peru, MA 01235, home phone (413)655-2714.

CONTEST SCORES are sent to the club scorekeeper, Jeff Detray, NK1F, P. O. Box 524, Troy, NH 03465, home phone (603)242-7995.

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.

DXCC LIST The club maintains a one-page version of the ARRL DXCC Countries List. To get a copy, send an SASE to the club secretary, Charlotte Richardson, KQ1F, 11 Michigan Drive, Hudson, MA 01749. Complete DXCC rules are only available from the ARRL.

CT by K1EA is available from Bill McGowan, KC1EO, 33 Truell Rd., Hollis, NH 03049. Send \$40 (US funds) to register and receive the latest version.

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.

The Scuttlebutt may be reprinted in whole and in part, except for separately copyrighted articles, provided proper credit is given.

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 2, 1991. 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, and 144.97 MHz.

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

Officers:

President	Stu Santelmann	KC1F	603-672-2509
VP-Activities Manager	Rich Gelber	K2WR	212-580-1075
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

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