



# Scuttlebutt

February 1991

Issue 91

## Captain's Cabin

*Dave Robbins, KY1H*

As I write this the world is in turmoil. We are waiting for war in the Persian Gulf, Soviet troops have just moved into Lithuania, there are several civil wars in progress in various countries, and here we sit watching and waiting. I have just spent several hours listening to the LY stations on 20 meters reporting from their Parliament building and elsewhere in Vilnius. I have heard MARS stations passing messages out of Saudi Arabia. There have been other stations on from some of the other troubled Russian Republics and other countries. And yet in other areas relations seem to be improving. There is an expedition on the air in Afghanistan, there are reports that Albania wants to improve relations, East Germany has merged back into the rest of Germany.

Not only is the world changing, but so is the Amateur Radio Service in this country. The Technician License is being changed to create a no-code license, Congress has removed the requirement that Amateur Radio stations would have to shut down in event of war, local building restrictions have been overturned by FCC preemption in some areas, and are getting tighter in others, there are plans being made for the next WARC conference, the bottom 2Mhz of the 220Mhz band may be lost to UPS. Included in the discussion for WARC proposals is the moving of the 40m band down 100khz, removing some microwave segments, and various other changes in allocations.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch... I have been very busy here myself, unfortunately not all with radio stuff. I have not been able to spend all the time I

would have liked to working to improve the YCCC, and it doesn't look like that will change in the near future. I am also looking for someone to help out here with organizing operators and equipment for the major contests, see my want add later in this issue. Also look for information on using Cluster databases.

This is a good time to keep your ears open, as in the recent move of the Soviets into Lithuania one of the first sources of information was from Amateur Radio. Also keep your seatbelts fastened, this is a crazy rollercoaster we are on these days.

If I don't get snowed in, and can come up with appropriate awards, the following people are up for awards at the next meeting: W1GG, AK1A, K1KI, NT2X, K1ST, K1AR/K1EA Team, NK1I, and maybe a few others.

## Next Meeting

*Paul Young, K1XM*

The next meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be on Sunday, February 3, 1991, at the Sheraton Sturbridge, beginning at 1 pm.

The meeting will feature slides of Taiwan by Mark, K1RX, and a talk with slides on Little Cayman by Paul, K1XM

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
February 3, 1991	Sunday
April 7, 1991	Sunday
June 2, 1991	Sunday
August picnic	TBD
October 13, 1991	Sunday
December 1, 1990	Sunday

## Secretary's Report

### Yankee Clipper Contest Club

The meeting was held as usual at the Sturbridge Sheraton in the Seminar Room, convening at 1:00 pm. In the absence of president, KY1H, the vice president, KC1F, presided. N1AU served as the Secretary-Treasurer in the absence of KQ1F. The number of attendees on the sign-up list totaled 56.

Stu. KC1F, began the meeting with the customary self-introductions, but asked also that each person summarize his or her activities during the fall contest season. This was an excellent opportunity for all of the "little guns" to be heard and recognized for their contributions, without which the "big guns" will never win a contest! It is hoped that this will be a regular feature of the introductions in future meetings held after contests.

Two new members were admitted to the YCCC, Fred Weir, W2UB, of Lancaster, NY, and Frank Collins, K1EBY, of Windsor, CT.

Rich, K2WR, announced several new operating awards sure to appeal to many, including the WAN (Worked All Nets), and the MCR (Most Cards Returned).

A door prize, a copy of the N6RC "Second Operator" software package was contributed by NW1U on behalf of HRO. The winner was determined through the use of the sign-up sheet and a random four-digit number from the audience, 3658. This number was divided by the number of names on the sign-up sheet (56), arriving at 65.32. Then, 3658 was diminished by 65 times 56, or 3640, leaving 18 as a remainder. Therefore, name #18 on the list, KN1M, Tony Stokes, was selected as the winner. In effect, the sign-up list was counted by this means to find entry #3658 by recycling through the list 66 times. It is a random selection and avoids the bother of tickets.

Tom, K1KI, brought 75 pounds of QSL cards from the First Call Area QSL Bureau with a plea for help in sorting into alphabetic order. It was not long before everyone had taken a hand-ful and was sorting. Fortunately, we had the tables of the Seminar Room to work on; without tables it could not have happened. In about an hour, the sorting was done, and we all had received on-the-job training as sorters and an appreciation for the work the sorters do for us.

Mark, K1RX, then showed slides of his participation in the I3MAU team during the recent CQWW Phone contest, which ended with champagne! The RF at the operating positions was so intense that computers were useless and the CT logging program could not be used. Instead, the contacts were relayed by voice over a VHF link to a remote computer for logging with CT! Mark also described operating in Taiwan during the CQWW CW contest as BV/K1RX, with observations on the signal strengths of several YCCC stations.

Stu, KC1F, and Bill, N1AU, also showed slides of their trips in 1989 and 1990 to French St. Martin, operating two transmitters as FS/KC1F in the CQWW phone contests. They offered the benefit of their experience to any who would like to visit the Coralita Hotel for next year's contests. Even though it is a "two point" country, they earned a score of over 9,000,000 points for the YCCC with 7,388 contacts during the recent contest. During their seven days of operation, they made a total of about 12,000 contacts.

Finally, Tom, K1KI, described his experience at PJ1B during the same CQWW Phone contest, and how they managed to beat a much larger and better-equipped group at PJ9W.

Respectfully submitted  
Bill Santelmann, N1AU  
Acting Secretary/Treasurer  
2 December 1990

and

Charlotte L. Richardson, KQ1F  
Secretary/Treasurer  
26 December 1990

## WANTED BY KY1H:

Chief Operator. I have a Multi-Multi station badly in need of a person to recruit and organize operators. Duties include recruiting, organizing, and training operators. A good knowledge of Multi-Multi operation in CQWW and ARRL DX contests is a must, other contests are optional. Station has 6 operating positions complete with terminals, antenna switches, stubs, and filters. I have 2 radios and amplifiers, the rest must be supplied by the operators. Contact me ASAP on Cluster or at 413-655-2714 evenings.

## Score Rumors

*Jeff DeTray, NK1F*

### ARRL SS CW:

Call		Qs	Ss	Score
W1AX				25,500
AD1C	B	146	56	16,352
WA1G	A	176	46	16,192
K1TO	B	519	72	140,296
K1VSJ	A	368	70	51,520
W1WEF	B	1,073	77	165,242
N4XR	B	179	74	26,492

### ARRL SS SSB:

Call		Qs	Ss	Score
AD1C	B	162	63	20,412
NY1E	A	735	75	110,250
WA1G	B	400	70	56,000
K1GW	B	206	57	23,404
KA1HGY	A	483	73	70,518
WA1IML	B	217	56	24,304
KV1J	B	136	59	16,048
K1TO	B	923	76	53,976
K1VSJ	A	761	76	115,672
W1WEF	B	1,582	77	242,628
KS9Z/1	B	749	77	115,346

### CQ WW SSB:

Single-Op:

Call	Qs	Zs	Cs	Score
W1BIH	377	90	207	316K
W1FM	606	78	212	492K
WA1G	434	91	195	342K
W1FM	606	78	212	492K
KA1HGY	975	67	214	772K
NK1I	?	?	?	643K
KV1J	143	50	92	56K
K1JKS	504	83	252	476K
NM1K/QRP	130	42	81	44K
W1MK	?	?	?	155K
NW1U	406	63	158	245K
K1VSJ	645	83	250	616K
W1WEF	2,069	137	444	3.43M
W1XS	863	98	320	1.00M
K2AJY	168	44	96	64K
KF2O	1,048	104	323	1.26M
N4XR	271	82	191	201K
KS9Z/1	1,084	101	315	1.26M

Single-Op Unlimited:

Call	Qs	Zs	Cs	Score
W1AX	649	115	331	829K
N1DEA	412	66	195	304K
WA1IML	663	83	214	570K

## Single-Op Single-Band:

Call	Band	Qs	Zs	Cs	Score
KS1L	10	1,647	37	156	915K
NQ2D	40	447	28	97	147K

## Multi-Single:

Call	Qs	Zs	Cs	Score
W1BK	1,027	124	393	1.48M
NJ2LS	1,606	131	419	2.51M

## CQ WW CW:

## Single-Op:

Call	Qs	Zs	Cs	Score
W1BIH	603	32	105	239K
K1CC	?	?	?	5.48M
K1CGJ/qrp	672	97	271	741K
WA1G	651	83	198	498K
K1GW	117	56	87	41K
NK1I	?	?	?	461K
NO1I	992	?	?	1.3M
AA1K*	2,512	145	438	4.25M
KS1L	477	94	244	442K
KN1M/qrp	551	87	236	490K
KV1P	229	71	143	133K
K1TO*	2,853	132	413	4.58M
W1WEF	2,058	130	387	3.09M
W1XS	843	119	349	1.1M
N2BA	2,152	130	371	3.14M
(K8HVT)				
NJ2L	2,098	116	335	2.73M
N2NT*	3,152	139	440	5.34M
KF2O	798	96	256	800K

## Single-Op:

Call	Qs	Zs	Cs	Score
K2PS	1,586	134	360	2.25M
K2SX	2,031	140	395	3.12M
W3IUU	427	85	198	352K
K3LR*	2,505	146	405	4M
K3NA	2,067	140	375	3M
K3TUP*	2,536	157	451	4.5M
K3ZO	2,671	144	414	4.3M
N4KG/qrp	691	114	276	748K
N4XR	1,117	128	362	1.57M
K5GN	1,583	155	417	2.6M
N5RZ	2,240	158	447	3.9M
K8CC*	2,414	136	365	3.5M
NA8V*	2,608	143	398	4.07M
W9RE*	2,811	155	424	4.7M
(WA9YVR)				
P40GD	?	?	?	10M
VE2ZP	2,768	113	299	2.7M

## Single-Op Unlimited:

Call	Qs	Zs	Cs	Score
AK1A	635	122	353	850K
K1BG	931	134	436	1.5M
KM1C	269	57	143	151K
AA1M	260	71	170	172K
KT1O	824	109	295	928K
W1PH	1,959	147	436	3.3M

Call	Qs	Zs	Cs	Score
NR1R	611	117	335	750K
N2IC/O	2,169	152	436	3.7M
KM2P	1,330	154	442	2.32M
K3SA	917	101	264	975K
KS9Z/1	246	76	167	163K

## Single-Op Single-Band:

Call	Band	Qs	Zs	Cs	Score
K1VUT	10	353	29	89	118K
KM5X	10	812	32	119	366K

## (KY5N)

W0ZV	10	1,074	36	124	504K
W1RM	15	1,488	36	126	702K
NW1U	15	440	29	83	139K
K1ZX	15	1,170	34	110	?
KE3Q	15	1,641	36	124	758K
AA4NC	15	1,344	38	126	610K
K1XA	20	627	31	97	229K
W1GIH	40	570	30	81	185K
K1MM	40	903	35	115	420K
KC1XX	10	40	28	88	340K
WA4SVO	40	275	29	82	70K
K5GO	40	1,435	34	99	542K
K8PO	40	1,204	29	100	448K
W1MK	80	821	27	78	246K
W1FV	80	857	25	86	?
KZ3H	80	360	25	84	102K
N8UM/4	80	313	25	77	?
K4TEA	160	79	17	46	12K

## Multi-Single:

Call	Qs	Zs	Cs	Score
W1AF	1,653	141	460	2.75M
W1BK	398	108	296	448K
W1FJ	1,251	135	394	1.9M
KB1H	1,505	134	403	2.3M
K1IU	2,311	154	521	4.51M
K1ULI	1,372	141	427	2.18M
K1VR*	2,721	161	546	5.5M
K1YR	2,804	148	520	5.44M
W2HPF	1,979	154	459	3.479M
K3DI	1,065	116	322	1.35M
N3RS*	3,547	175	605	8.0M
N4RJ*	3,076	176	565	6.6M
K5NA*	3,239	182	609	7.4M
K8AZ*	2,852	168	549	5.9M
W8FN	1,921	155	484	3.5M
WB8K	2,334	168	526	4.7M
W18L	669	116	276	723K
WD8LLD	1,991	163	466	2.67M
AA9A	1,379	141	371	2.0M
K9UWA	1,922	159	430	3.2M
VE3EJ*	3,800	162	476	6.3M
ZF2PR*	5,840	139	437	8.2M

## Multi-Multi:

Call	Qs	Zs	Cs	Score
K1AR*	6,985	181	683	17.4M
KY1H*	5,222	174	609	11.5M
K1ST*	6,620	171	600	12.3M
N2RM*	7,065	189	669	17.58M
W3LPL*	6,868	187	678	16M
NQ4I*	3,533	158	500	6.81M
K4VX*	5,296	179	576	11.4M
J6DX	12,000	160	500	18M

## \*CQ WW CW Score Breakdowns:

## K1AR M/M:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	91	16	50	
3.5	714	24	89	
7	1,336	34	122	
14	2,124	37	149	
21	1,545	36	141	
28	1,175	34	132	
TOTAL	6,985	181	683	17.4M

## KY1H M/M:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	79	14	38	
3.5	381	21	77	
7	1,057	32	106	
14	1,460	38	144	
21	1,266	36	125	
28	979	33	119	
TOTAL	5,222	174	609	11.5M

## AA1K S/O:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	48	15	37	
3.5	182	17	62	
7	610	24	71	
14	616	30	89	
21	688	30	92	
28	608	29	87	
TOTAL	2,512	145	438	4.2M

## K1ST M/M:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	110	14	37	
3.5	387	19	78	
7	1,344	33	111	
14	1,632	37	134	
21	1,339	37	119	
28	808	31	121	
TOTAL	6,620	171	600	12.3M

## K1TO S/O:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	22	7	17	
3.5	273	15	57	
7	427	24	81	
14	948	30	93	
21	782	31	92	
28	401	25	73	
TOTAL	2,853	132	413	4.58M

## K1VR M/S:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	35	11	34	
3.5	256	20	69	
7	734	33	103	
14	539	35	117	
21	651	32	116	
28	509	30	112	
TOTAL	2,724	161	551	5.6M

## N2NT S/O:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	28	11	24	
3.5	185	16	61	
7	798	25	74	
14	814	30	95	
21	692	30	94	
28	635	27	92	
TOTAL	3,152	139	440	5.34M

## N2RM M/M:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	96	17	51	
3.5	622	24	88	
7	1,535	34	121	
14	2,085	39	149	
21	1,495	38	130	
28	1,232	37	130	
TOTAL	7,065	189	669	17.58M

## W3LPL M/M:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	147	17	59	
3.5	605	28	92	
7	1,682	33	120	
14	1,693	39	139	
21	1,576	36	132	
28	1,165	34	136	
TOTAL	6,868	187	678	16M

## K3LR S/O:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	24	11	19	
3.5	79	16	49	
7	671	29	76	
14	589	32	90	
21	595	31	86	
28	547	27	85	
TOTAL	2,505	146	405	4M

## N3RS M/S:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	27	12	23	
3.5	246	22	83	
7	735	24	111	
14	569	39	135	
21	855	35	130	
28	1,115	33	123	
TOTAL	3,547	175	605	8.0M

## K3TUP (KC1F) S/O:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	30	11	22	
3.5	100	19	54	
7	552	31	88	
14	618	34	101	
21	667	30	99	
28	569	32	87	
TOTAL	2,536	157	451	4.5M

## NQ4I M/M:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	22	13	27	
3.5	100	16	55	
7	443	28	87	
14	1,044	36	108	
21	1,044	33	112	
28	860	32	111	
TOTAL	3,533	158	500	6.81M

## N4RJ M/S:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	42	16	41	
3.5	79	24	74	
7	856	35	107	
14	656	37	109	
21	616	33	117	
28	803	31	116	
TOTAL	3,076	176	565	6.6M

## K4VX M/M:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	85	17	39	
3.5	216	22	73	
7	1,354	35	113	
14	1,443	38	124	
21	1,156	35	118	
28	1,042	32	109	
TOTAL	5,296	179	576	11.4M

## K5NA M/S:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	47	17	43	
3.5	181	25	82	
7	708	35	119	
14	1,126	39	132	
21	684	35	118	
28	493	31	115	
TOTAL	3,239	182	609	7.4M

## K8AZ M/S:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	39	13	34	
3.5	131	18	65	
7	519	33	105	
14	684	38	125	
21	918	33	113	
28	561	33	107	
TOTAL	2,852	163	549	5.9M

## NA8V S/O:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	25	9	20	
3.5	100	15	54	
7	534	27	71	
14	679	33	82	
21	625	30	87	
28	645	29	84	
TOTAL	2,608	143	398	4.07M

## W9RE (WA8YVR) S/O:

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	31	12	24	
3.5	107	19	56	
7	542	29	71	
14	514	33	91	
21	803	34	92	
28	814	28	90	
TOTAL	2,811	155	424	4.767M

## ZF2PR M/S

band:	Qs	Zs	Cs	
1.8	270	13	26	
3.5	565	19	65	
7	1,079	23	78	
14	933	33	100	
21	1,350	29	94	
28	1,643	22	74	
TOTAL	5,840	139	437	8.2M

## ARRL 10M:

Call	Mode	Qs	Ms	Score
K1VUT	?	1,226	123	603K
K2AJY	SSB	408	97	79,152
KS9Z/1	SSB	500	104	104,000

## ARRL 160M:

Call	Qs	Ms	Score
KN1M	327	49	32,193



## In Re Coaxial Switches

Fred Hopengarten K1VR

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If you'll take a careful look at the front cover of the January 1991 issue of CQ Magazine, you'll see a rack of 10 switches at K1EA. These are used to select whether an antenna goes to the left hand station, or the right hand station. Together, K1EA and K1VR own over 30 coax switches. Along the way, we've made some observations.

### MFJ

In the course of building his station, Ken discovered that there are, in his opinion, several design and construction defects in the manufacture of MFJ model MFJ-1702 two position coaxial switches. This opinion is also shared by our common friend and helper, Owen Gallagher (a Stratus engineer awaiting the "no code" era), a fellow who is very good at looking at questions which are a mixture of mechanical and RF issues.

- When the switch is in the center, between detents, both positions are shorted to the centered, or all three ports are connected together. So one guy's transmitter can transmit into the other guy's receiver. The switch is a make before break.
- They don't use ball bearings for the detent, as Daiwa does. Ball bearings provide a nice feel and snap to the switch.
- The contact surfaces on the switch were not aligned. Every one was misaligned.
- The SO-239 UHF connectors were not mounted so that the guide pins were square to the switch. Therefore, when using right angle connectors, the cables don't go straight back, they go away from the operator at skewed angles.
- A number of the SO-239's were loose, so tightening a cable caused

the contacts to rotate, and the switch didn't work at all.

- The quality of soldering was lousy.

And there were more!

As a result, K1EA and K1VR buy Daiwa model CS-210 switches for two-way coax switching.

### Daiwa

I purchased Model CS-201 switches, from Marty NB1H, at HRO's New Hampshire store, at a quantity 10 price of \$24.95. They are used for switching antennas between the "run" station and the "multiplier" station. This is only a few dollars more than the comparable MFJ switch, and represents a reasonable value.

The only problem Ken and I have found with the Daiwa switches is that the SO-239 (female panel mount coax jack) has only four dimples. Using right angle adapters to bring cables away from the switch, may require some rearranging of cables, as a full circle of choices is not available.

### Waters and B&W

These two brands are virtually identical in construction. Common elements include the use of wafer switches (no isolation). No center off position. Unused antennas are not grounded. On the other hand, they use good Amphenol SO-239's, they are easy to mount, they come in five and six position models, they are relatively inexpensive, widely available, and they work just fine in most single operator situations, if you can live without, or substitute another form of lightning protection.

### Alpha Delta™

At the 1989 Dayton HamVention, Ken Wolff K1EA and I wandered by the Alpha Delta booth, manned by Don Tyrrell W8AD, the president and founder of Alpha Delta. (Yes, W8 Alpha Delta). He showed us a new switch that he was introducing, the Delta-4. It looked rugged. It looked

safe. But most important, it looked like it had isolation. We each bought one, and put them "on the shelf."

Along came the 1990 CQ World War CW Contest. K1EA moved up from Multi-single to multi-multi, and I moved up from single-op to multi-single. Time to take the coax switches off the shelf and throw them into the fray.

At K1VR, in the Multi-Single category, it looks like I may have placed fourth in the USA. (Drat ... I placed second in the ARRL DX CW.) I found that the switch sloshed. It had a non-crisp feeling. Sometimes I couldn't feel the detents well. It did however, work. But the loose, mushy feeling was a problem. On Tuesday, after the contest, I took a hard look at the situation.

The Delta-4 switch has a shaft that goes all the way through the body of the switch, and out the other side. I had the switch mounted hard against a piece of pine, in a specially constructed wooden switch rack. The problem was that the shaft wanted to stick out just a bit. Just a wee bit. But the pine board pushed the shaft back in, causing the mushy feeling.

The fix was to put washers on each of the two screws between the pine and the switchplate, allowing space for the shaft to stick out the back (just a wee bit) without touching anything. In addition, I added one more washer straight up from the shaft, to stabilize the switch. The problem is that that washer isn't sitting around a screw, so I'll probably have to glue it to the back of the case, a slightly awkward solution.

At K1EA, Ken's problem was substantially worse. ETO had loaned him a prototype Alpha 87A, RF sensing and automatically bandswitching, with no tune up, as it is microprocessor controlled. It is the model that they haven't released yet, but they were hoping for some good publicity. The amplifier had its software problems, frankly, but they seem to be working on those cures.

The Delta-4 switch just plain failed after a while, when K1AR (the CHOP, or Chief Operator for you youngsters) tried going into the far right (in this case, 80 meters) position. Toward the end of the contest, K1AR replaced the Delta-4 by screwing and unscrewing PL-259's.

Opening up the case, arcing was apparent. The switch had failed.

Without phoning, I sent the switch off to AZ, by UPS, with no "Return Authorization". I did enclose a cover letter explaining what had happened. Four business days later, probably the day he received it, I received a call on December 19, 1990 from Don Tyrell, W8AD. The essence of his remarks follows.

"With respect to the shaft problem: Nothing like that has been brought to our attention so far. That was an error on our part though, so let me leave you with this thought. If anything happens and it fails, no matter when, I'll replace it with a brand new one. My personal opinion is that if something was mis-manufactured, we'll replace it no matter when.

"Early on, when we started manufacturing that switch, we used to cut those shafts ourselves. Now we have a spec, and the contractor manufacturer manufactures to that spec. In the early days, we could have cut one just a shade too long.

"On K1EA's switch: I've had a couple back for arcing, only a couple, but we've produced thousands. A couple came back for hotswitching, or, in the case of the arc plug cartridge, if run at a high RF power level with high SWR (2:1 or more). When the RF voltage and SWR voltage peak, the arc plug conducts and may produce an arc, because it thinks it has seen lightning. By the way, something happened in the rotating mechanism on Ken's switch too, so we'll replace it. I'm going to send K1EA's switch back to our

contract manufacturer in Ohio for evaluation.

"We have a lot of Delta-4's in contest stations. The two position version is a new switch, so there aren't as many out there yet. Of the Delta-4, we produce 3,000 per year, and they've been on the market for years. Probably we've had no more than 5-6 fail with an arcing problem. By the way, if you take out the gas pill, it will take more power, until you arc the Amphenol connector.

"Maybe that gas pill had the wrong breakdown voltage. Or, since you say it was specifically related to switching to the 80 meter antenna, it might have been a misaligned stripline. I'll check for that on template alignment. In any event, we'll get a new one out this week.

"I appreciate knowing these things, and your points are well taken. Thanks for your letter.

"The Delta-2 sells for around \$49. It has center off, cast iron tracks, and a gas pill. The Daiwa two way switch (which lacks those features) sells for around \$29

W8AD continues: I used to use the Daiwa myself. I'm not a tester, but I do hang around DX pile-ups.

#### Conclusion

True to the word of W8AD, the replacement Delta-4 was received, by UPS from Arizona, January 7, 1991. In our view, Alpha Delta couldn't have been prompter or nicer. We are inclined to believe that the problems experienced were due to early production run problems.

It is an excellent idea to have a gas pill that acts as a fuse when lightning is present, dying for a cause. The basic concept for Alpha Delta switches is sound, the construction is sturdy, and the protection provided to the station is valuable. I wish that Alpha Delta and Daiwa made a six way switch (for six bands). Once lightning protection is achieved with the Alpha Delta switch, I

am satisfied with the less expensive Daiwa switches further down the same line.

## A Note on PacketCluster Databases:

*Dave Robbins, KY1H*

On the PacketCluster system we have a series of databases that are distributed by W6GO to the Cluster Nodes that have his QSL database on-line. If you have tried the W6GO database lookup before and been frustrated by having to find someone to look up a reference in an old issue, try again. The latest issue has all the old data on-line with no references to printed lists. The W6GO list is not available on Tri-State nodes, only on the YCCC nodes on the W1RM side of the Tri-State link.

I will attempt to outline one or two of the other databases that are available each month. These databases are available on the YCCC nodes, but could be installed on any node if the sysop sends me a SASDM with a high density 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" diskette.

Database of the month:  
SHOW/DEALER

The DEALER database contains a list of telephone numbers for Amateur Radio dealers and suppliers. As in all the databases doing just "SHOW/DEALER" with nothing to look up will give general information on using the database. There are 4 different ways to lookup information on dealers. As an example, Pavillion Software can be found using any of the following:

1. Alphabetical (SH/DEALER a-z)  
SH/DEALER P
2. FAX/Telex (SH/DEALER FAXa-z)  
SH/DEALER FAXP
3. By state (SH/DEALER st)  
SH/DEALER MA
4. By Area Code (SH/DEALER nnn)  
SH/DEALER 508

## Survey of Soviet Amateurs

Ed Kritsky, NT2X

The following questionnaire was created by Ed Kritsky, NT2X, for the polling of the Soviet amateur radio operators in the fall of 1989. Since we know very little about amateur radio there aside from the official information provided by the Central Radio Club of the USSR and from occasional bits and pieces, this information is probably the first breakthrough and tries to paint a broader picture. The poll was conducted over a period of six months with assistance provided by UA6XT, UZ4FWD, UT5HP. 500 questionnaires were sent out and about 50 percent of them were returned for analysis and tabulation. A number of questionnaires were handed out at a radio conference in UA4-land, thus there is a slant toward 4-th call area participation and the operators of the higher category licenses.

1. Your age. Under 20: 6%, 21-30: 23%, 31-40: 37%, 41-50: 22%, 51 and over: 12%.

2. What is the class of your station? 1 category (Extra): 70%, 2 category (General): 15%, 3 category (Novice): 7%, 4 category (No-code) and SWLs: 8%.

3. Where do you reside (call areas using 'old' regions)? 1: 4%, 2: 4%, 3: 9%, 4: 29%, 5: 18%, 6: 16%, 7: 3%, 8: 3%, 9: 9%, 0: 4%

4. How many years have you been active as an amateur radio operator? Under 5 years: 10%, 5-10 years: 18%, 11-20 years: 37%, 21-30 years: 24%, 31 or more years: 11%

5. Which modes of operation do you prefer? CW: 35%, SSB: 34%, CW/SSB: 20%, RTTY: 5%, PACKET: 2%, a bit of everything: 4%.

6. What is your equipment and antennas you are using? Transceiver UW3DI: 71, Transceiver UA1FA: 17, Transceiver RA3AO: 2, Transceiver

DL-79: 2, Transceiver Ural: 1, Transceiver Radio-77: 1, Transceiver Radio-76: 2, VHF only: 2, my own design: 25, Transceiver KRS: 6, Transverter to R250: 12, foreign-made radio: 2, did not indicate any: 17. Dipole/Delta loop/IV: 52%, Quads of 2 elements or more: 21%, Yagi: 21%, did not indicate any: 6%.

7. How many hours per week do you spend behind the radio? Under 10 hours: 32%, 10-20 hours: 34%, 21-30 hours: 16%, 31-40 hours: 7%, 41 and more hours: 11%.

8. What is the REAL power of your station? Under 10 watts: 6%, up to 100 watts: 26%, up to 200 watts: 16%, up to 500 watts: 26%, up to 1 KW: 11%, up to 1.2 KW: 3%, up to 3 KW: 1%.

9. Which aspect of our hobby interests you the most? DX and awards: 30%, purely contests: 5%, contests and DX: 23%, building equipment: 12%, VHF: 1%, a bit of everything: 16%, awards: 7%, other things: 6%.

10. How often do you visit your local radio club? Twice a week and more: 24%, once a week: 22%, 3-5 times a month: 4%, once or twice a month: 26%, few times a year: 23%, never go: 1%.

11. What is the number of your fellow amateurs you regularly talk to on the air, exchange information and news, keep in touch with? 1-5: 31%, 6-15: 27%, 16-20: 10%, 21-30: 6%, 31 and more: 18%, did not answer: 8%.

12. If you're a DXer, which sources of information do you regularly use, which ones do you consider the most useful (1-10 points, 1 point: lowest, 10 points: highest)? Newspaper 'Patriot Batkivshiny' (Ukraine): 515 points, UDXC Bulletin: 474 points, MM Bulletin: 472 points, newspaper 'Sovetsky Patriot' (Moscow): 403 points, Infotech Magazine (Minsk): 363 points, ZILAN DX Club Bulletin: 289 points, 'Radio' Magazine: 271 points, foreign sources (magazines,

bulletins): 219 points, Kivach Bulletin (Karelia): 13 points.

13. If most of your information comes to you over the air, which bands and where from? Most of the information is received on 80 and 20 meters during the 'round tables' of UDXC, ZILAN DXC, many fellow amateurs.

14. Do you operate DX nets, if so, how often and which ones? Response wasn't overwhelming, boils down to this: many operate nets the best they can, but not to waste time waiting in line (too much 'waiting in line' in real life - E.K.).

15. Do you own a Callbook? If so, which year? 37.5% of respondents own a Callbook. 1989: 10, 1988: 10, 1987: 12, 1986: 3, 1985: 3, 1984: 3, 1983: 2, 1982: 1, 1981: 2, 1980: 1. Others didn't indicate the year.

16. Did you send your address to be published in International Callbook? Yes: 76%, No: 17%, didn't indicate: 7%.

17. Do you prefer to send your QSL direct or via the bureau? Via the bureau: 25%, direct: 44%, direct for DX only: 31%.

18. Do you have access to IRCes? Yes: 34%, No: 38%. The rest didn't indicate anything (presume "no").

19. Would you like to have your local awards become available worldwide, and if so, is your local radio club/radio sport federation ready for it? Want to go 'international' but radio club not ready: 45%, already doing it: 29%, they don't care at the radio club: 16%, they don't want to do it at the radio club: 10%.

20. What foreign languages do you speak? 10 people are fluent in languages: English: 5, French: 2, Spanish: 1, Italian: 1, Esperanto: 1. 92 persons have satisfactory knowledge of languages: English: 63, German: 18, French: 8, Spanish: 2, Esperanto: 1. 108 persons know language only to the extent of 'on-air' exchanges. Some of



these indicated they 'know' 2-3 and more languages.

21. Are you a member of a DX club? Dismal response, so useful information couldn't be derived.

22. Have you traveled around the USSR, traveled and QRVed from other locations? Traveled: 26%, traveled and QRVed from another location: 46%, never traveled: 31%.

23. How many people did you help to join the 'HF ranks', to become DXers? 1-2: 23%, 3-5: 17%, 6-10: 13%, 11-20: 4%, 21-50: 2%, many: 10%, none: 31%.

24. Would you like to share your amateur experiences with others through articles in amateur publications, if so, what subjects? The total of 33% have expressed interest in sharing their experiences: DXing: 17, social responsibility of amateur radio operator: 4, amateur ethics: 5, diplomas chasing: 5, contesting training and methodology: 2, amateur and moral values: 1, QSLing, IRCes and pennants: 2. There were many who had suggestions on these subjects: DX clubs, DXpeditions, problems of amateurs, working with the neophytes and kids, to share 'radio poetry', homebrewing, antennas for all bands, practical advice. Other 67% refused or declined to do anything due to 'no experience', 'they wouldn't print anyway' (I presume 'Radio' Magazine - E.K.)

25. Who do you think symbolizes the forefront of our hobby in the USSR today (The number of people who suggested these candidates): UT5HP: 30, RA4HA: 17, UA1DZ: 12, UW0MF: 10, YL2MU: 8, UA1CK: 7, UA3CR: 7, UA4PW: 7, UB5UN: 7, UA1FA: 6, UB5WE: 6, RB5FF: 5, UA2AO: 5, UC2BF: 4, UW3AX: 4, RL8PYL: 4, UA9CBO: 3.

26. Which aspects of amateur radio abroad are of most interest to you? New communications modes: 17.4%, High level of informativeness, QSLing: 3.1%, Availability of good quality

equipment: 11%, Diplomas, DXing, DXpeditions: 28.2%, Antennas, building smaller-size antennas: 2.5%, Equipment building: 4.3%, Unrestricted travel, assistance to DXpeditions and various national amateur radio organizations: 2.5%, Everything: 1.9%, Contests: 3.1%, Don't know/Cannot answer right away: 18%, Industrial production of amateur equipment: .5%, Organizational and economical aspects of amateur radio: .5%, Commercial services to the amateur community: 1.2%, How to create clubs and associations: 1.2%, Serious attitude toward amateur radio: 1.9%, SWLing: .5%, Robotics and technology: .5%.

27. Are you going to try packet radio? Yes: 29%, would like to: 12%, if I have equipment: 8%, no: 51%.

28. Which activity of the Central Radio Club of the USSR in your opinion enhances international ties of the Soviet amateurs? None whatsoever, no such thing, none: 35.6%, Cannot answer, don't know: 35.6%, Diploma service, QSL buro, IARU membership, CQ-M, expeditions: 21.2%, CQ-M only: 1.9%, CRC works for itself, not amateurs: 1.9%, Expeditions 4J1FS, UG6 during Armenian earthquake: 1.2%, Who needs them anyway: .5%, We must reach international standards: .5%, It's good that they procrastinate, otherwise everything that still exists would have been destroyed: 1.2%.

29. What do you think needs to be done in order to make the Soviet hams an integral part of the worldwide amateur community? Don't stand in the way: .6%, Creation of independent radio associations: 8.2%, Don't know: 6.8%, Didn't answer: 1.9%, Don't create problems for amateurs: 1.9%, Start building real amateur equipment in adequate quantities, make it easier to bring equipment from abroad: 9.4%, More personal contacts, joint DXpeditions: 13.7%, Remove existing restrictions (including age), simplify information and equipment exchange, remove the Iron Curtain, solve the prob-

lem of IRCes, Callbooks: 21.7%, Create material base (more spare parts - E.K.): 1.2%, Start taking us seriously, meetings in places other than Moscow and Leningrad: 1.2%, Remove the military from being our 'bosses': 1.2%, Work on improving our own qualifications, higher discipline on the air: 1.9%, Return to the old system of radio club: .6%, Provide an opportunity to subscribe to any foreign ham radio publications, availability of all amateur literature: 7.5%, We're getting there: 1.2%, Get out of DOSAAF: 1.2%.

The totals of this questionnaire had been computed by UA6XT.

## Movers and Shakers

Please update your club roster to include the following changes:

New home address and phone number for Dave, KM3T: 117 South Street, Northboro MA 01532 (508)393-5201.

New work phone number for Bob, KA1XN: (508)351-8879.

Matt, DL7AEY, now holds the US call KC1XX.

## New Crew

Please welcome the following new members who joined at the December meeting:

Frank D. Collins, K1EBY  
93 Mountain Rd.  
Windsor, CT 06095  
Phone: (203)688-2112 (home)  
(203)386-6453 (work)

Fred Weir, W2UB  
292 Ranson Rd., Lancaster, NY 14086  
Phone: (716)684-681 (home)  
(212)887-4200 (work)

## Editor's Note

I'm moving the Scuttlebutt to a Macintosh®, and changing the format. Let me know what you think.



## 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 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** are available through 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.

**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 treasure: 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, February 3, 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	Dave Robbins	KY1H	413-655-2714
VP-Activities Manager	Stu Santelmann	KC1F	603-672-2509
Secretary-treasurer	Charlotte Richardson	KQ1F	603-562-5819
Editor	Paul Young	K1XM	603-562-5819

#### 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	KY1H	Dave Robbins	413-655-2714	413-494-2023
VT/NH	K1GW	Glen Whitehouse	603-673-6290	603-627-7877
ME	K1SA	Bernie Cohen	207-773-6589	207-797-3585
NLI	NQ2D	Jim Metcalf	516-744-9422	516-467-4800
NY/NJ	K2EK	Bill Gioia	914-221-1672	914-697-3250

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