

Yankee Clipper



Contest Club

Scuttlebutt

No. 81 June 1989

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Captain's Cabin

Fred Lass, K2TR

A Well-rounded club

May CQ shows that YCCC beat FRC in the WPX club competition. June QST lists YCCC as third place in the January VHF Sweepstakes - medium category. We have scored well in Field Day, CQ WW, and won the ARRL DX gavel. Individually, YCCC members have won the November Sweepstakes, the ARRL DX Contest, the CQ WW, VHF QSO parties, WPX, 160 contests, Worked All Europe, and the Bermuda contest. Fellow members are resources for contest and packet software, computer-designed yagis, multiop operators, digital voice keyers, and our famous source - the Scuttlebutt. YCCC members serve on the ARRL Board of Directors, the ARRL Committees, and the CQ Contest Committee. We all are conscientious family members, dedicate employees, and good students.

I am proud of the YCCC. I like the way we are growing. While some will say we must win every major club competition to be successful, I'm glad that we are a well-rounded club. Let's keep growing - our time will come.

Next Meeting

Paul Young, K1XM

The next meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be on Saturday, June 17, 1989, at the Sheraton Sturbridge, beginning at 1 pm. The technical program

will feature an Antenna Forum and Mark, K1RX, with slides of KP2A.

The Sheraton Sturbridge Resort and Conference Center is located on Route 20 in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 1989 are:

DATE	DAY
June 17, 1989	Saturday
August 6, 1989 (picnic)	Sunday
October 1, 1989	Sunday
December 2, 1989	Saturday

Secretary's Report

Yankee Clipper Contest Club

The April, 1989, YCCC meeting was held at the Sheraton Sturbridge in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, on April 2, 1989, and attracted 61 members and their guests. The business meeting was chaired by Fred, K2TR, Club President, and Bill, N1CQ, Vice President and Activities Manager. We took advantage of the "reverb" switch on the microphone sound system in the Seminar Room to introduce ourselves. The treasury balance stood at \$1497.76. The club welcomed four new members:

Bill Shipp. KC1AG
 Dan Brevik. KZ1D
 Dave Donnelly. K2SS
 Bruce Makas. KS9Z

Club elections were held, and the officers were all re-elected for another term:

President: Fred Lass. K2TR
 VP/Activities Mgr: Bill Shaheen. N1CQ
 Secy/Treas: Charlotte Richardson. KQ1F

Fred, K2TR, talked about the highlights of the past year. For SSB operators, the CQ WW SSB was the best ever. For CW fans, the ARRL DX Context CW was also very good. Other contests also had good conditions. The latest rumor, from club scorekeeper Jeff, NK1F, shows the YCCC club aggregate score for the ARRL DX Contests at 113M points. The club packet system has been widely copied, as we continue to expand and add new features. Ken, K1EA, has been selling packet software to non-club members, and using the money to support our packet system.

Craig, N1ACH, of **Ham Radio Magazine**, is heading an industry committee to try to address problems in the amateur radio industry: low rate of growth and an aging amateur population. He mentioned the "Archie" comic book and various no-code license proposals. The committee will next meet at Dayton. The ARRL is studying no-code licensing, and a presentation will be made to the executive committee this weekend in Kansas City. Craig asked for a show of hands of club members on a no-code license proposal (UHF/VHF privileges only, 2-year non-renewable term, written test like the Novice license). A similar survey was conducted both by **Ham Radio** and by **CQ**.

Dave, KY1H, had copies of a data sheet for a \$49 digital voice recorder circuit board which holds 128 seconds of voice. Rich, K5NA, encouraged participation in the Midnight Special contest (May 29th). After the break, Paul, K1XM, showed slides of the PJ2X CQ WW CW 1988 contest DXpedition. Despite the numerous problems encountered for the second year in a row, this effort probably won second place M/S. Vic, KD2HE, completed the program with a slide show on the January, 1989, DXpedition to Mellish and Willis (VK9ZM and VK9ZW), including some beautiful boobybird pictures. Following the DXpedition presentations, members adjourned for much-needed refreshment at Rom's and other local eateries.

Respectfully submitted,
 Charlotte L. Richardson, KQ1F
 Secretary/Treasurer

NP4A The FUN Way
3-el Full-Sized on 3.5Mhz at 160 Feet
 Jeff Briggs, K1ZM

Author's Note: The article which follows relates what it was like to *operate* the 1988 CQ WW CW Contest from NP4A while using a 3el full-sized yagi on 3.5MHz at 160 feet high. Construction details, design specifications and pictures have been reserved by prior agreement to **CQ Magazine** and will appear in a subsequent issue of that journal.

Background

By now, most active testers are aware of the new 80m yagi that has been under construction for the past two years in the Caribbean - that being the monster "dream antenna" of Pedro Piza, Jr., NP4A. In July of 1988 the antenna was completed and in short order the initial results were in - the new array was a veritable FLAMETHROWER! Perhaps Sat, G2PU, said it best when he was overheard to have remarked "Good God man! What are you using down there? You're the loudest station I've ever heard on 75 meters!"

Last November I was invited to visit NP4A to give the new beast a go in the CQ WW CW Contest. Since Pedro had tried out the antenna mono 80 during the SSB test in October with good results, I knew the November test would be terrific. Naturally, I accepted and ordered my plane tickets in record time!

When I reached Pedro's QTH I was more than impressed. Perhaps what appealed to me most was the fact that here was a beam with a 145 foot reflector that by itself weighed all of 500 pounds and there wasn't an inch of sag in the whole element when viewed from over a mile away! I mean, the man knows how to build an antenna. Also, the array was perfectly aligned, all elements level and aimed directly at the horizon - not a simple feat for something that weighs over 2500 pounds! When the construction details are released later this year, they will make very interesting reading for all I am sure.

Even though it was late at night when I arrived at NP4A (after a very long day at work) I just **had** to make a few contacts to try the thing out before going to bed Thursday night. One CQ generated a pretty large European pileup and after exchanging a few quick 599+ reports, I knew the contest was going to be super - the antenna really "talked"!!

0001Z - The Race is On!

A bit of background info needs to be told first in order to put things into proper perspective. Pedro and I had discussed our expectations for the test and figured I would probably make around 2000 contacts during the monoband 80m effort. Not being a K1EA computer-jock (not yet anyway), I had prepared paper logs and multiple dupe sheets for the USA, Europe and the rest of the world. I guess I am a glutton for punishment as I was fully-unprepared for what hit me once the clock struck 0001Z.

I picked out a spot near the band-edge and worked a few "bubs" up until the start of the contest. A UD6 called me at 2359Z and we chatted until 0001Z so he became my first QSO in the test and a nice double multiplier to start things off on the right foot! What happened after we signed I know I won't soon forget. As I let out my first QRZ, it literally sounded as if the sky had fallen in on me. There was a pile-up of European stations AT LEAST 500 deep calling continuously occupying nearly the first 5 kHz of 80m cw. As some of my friends know, I have been contesting for nearly 30 years now, know the "code" so to speak and have experienced just about everything that amateur radio contesting has to offer at one time or another - or so I **thought!** But, this was something else - just not to be believed. It is hard to put into words the feeling of utter helplessness being completely **overwhelmed** by a cw pileup of this size. I think I completely froze for about 30 seconds trying to figure out how to deal with what I was hearing. I finally decided to split my VFOs on the TS-940 and listen up-frequency to the top of the pile which by now was around 3.508 kHz. I really had no choice as the bottom of the band was where I was transmitting and I couldn't go there, even though a few EUs were calling me below 3.500 as well.

The basic plan was to pick a couple off at the top of the pile, listen for tail-enders as best I could and try to establish some kind of a rate. That may SOUND easy, but it was not. The concept worked OK for about each set of 2-3 QSOs but then turned to disaster. As soon as the EU boys figured where I was *listening*, all five hundred of them shifted up frequency and then, there they all were again, calling continuously. Bedlam does not do justice to what I was hearing. So, I had to jump around back and forth all over the low-end just trying to get even two letters of a call so I could intelligently go back to someone. I must admit this was embarrassing and frustrating at the same time. And, I apologize to those who were calling. I am sure it was frustrating to be calling a 599+ sixty dB over NP4A with seemingly "no ears", but that was the way it was.

The process sort of worked and I wound up with around 100 QSOs for the first hour. It was acceptable, but the pileup's size really had done a number on my rate. A smaller pile that I could have managed more effectively would probably have yielded a rate of over 150 QSOs. My only hope was to work the boys **as fast as I possibly could** and pray that I could diminish their numbers quickly enough to raise my rate to a more acceptable level. Again, I must say this was the first time I have ever been humiliated by the size of a pileup - but it actually happened.

The process indeed worked and the second hour was better, somewhere around 102 Qs. The third was better still and eventually rose to about 120 per hour for

the next 5 hours. When I hit 0800Z I figured that I had averaged roughly 115 per hour for the first eight hours of the contest. I was delighted but thoroughly exhausted. Visions ran through my head of Chuck, K0RF, operating 40CW at KP2A the year before and cruising along at around 150 per hour, as fast as he could go, for the first seven hours. I never thought it was possible to do the same on 3.5MHz but indeed it was!

What is also worth noting is that I was keeping up three **manual** dupe sheets with a mechanical pencil while all this was going on! When the last GIs and GMs finally faded out at European sunrise around 0830Z I stood up for ten seconds, shook both arms up and down for a bit to get things flowing again and was thoroughly relieved NOT to have to deal with Europe for at least another 15 hours (Hi Hi). It had been quite a run and nearly 1100 Qs were in the log, but it was sobering indeed!

When Europe dies out on 80cw, it is time to run the states for awhile and then start looking out to the Pacific and to JA. I worked a lot of W/Ks in the next hour, most of whom I could not hear at all when the beam was pointed at Europe. With Pedro's new antenna the states is 25 dB down when compared to a sloper headed at W1. And, as luck would have it, the EU sigs were all head and shoulders above the USA signals. This is important since all those EU Qs yield 3 points and the W/Ks, which usually cover up many of the lesser-equipped EU boys, are worth only two points per QSO. This may not seem all that important but in fact it is the key to the contest from a two point North American location. In order to set a new world record on 3.5MHz, which was our **real** objective, we needed to work every EU station that **moved** - and before this contest was over I think we did. Even 10 watt wonder UJ8 stations were 559 or better at NP4A on the new antenna.

Part of the strategy on 80 of course is to work runs whenever you can and the JA sunset timeframe was the next opportunity to make some three-point hay. From Puerto Rico this is a tough shot and requires good conditions in addition to a fine antenna. Unfortunately, this was not the case on Friday night of the test. When conditions are poor the JAs come out of the southwest around 200 degrees on a side-skew path. When this happens the JA "bubs" are puny weak - around 339 - and if a bunch start calling together, you have **had** it. It is impossible to get even a partial call with the echo and polar flutter accompanying the signals along with the QRM.

When conditions are good, the path shifts North after JA twilight and then signals are more solid 559-579 for the better equipped stations. This "moving North" of the path never occurred the first night and I was left

with an enormous pile of JAs that I literally could barely hear. There was quite a bit of Caribbean static to boot and after working about 12 JAs in a half hour period I decided it was better to pick up some more USA Qs and hope for better conditions the second night. I managed a few choice Pacific goodies as well including KX6, KG6 and a very loud YB0ARA at KP4 sunrise. After sunrise it is still possible to work the USA for about another two hours and I milked it for all it was worth finally crashing about 1230Z for some much-needed sleep. By this time my right arm was really sore from writing as fast as I possibly could all night long. **Never** again this way - K1EA, you will be having a new customer as soon as I can buy a PC!

The Second Night...

One of the observations made at sunset Saturday answered a question once and for all that many of us in YCCC have asked ourselves over the years. That question was whether or not it is possible to be heard in Europe on 3.5MHz during broad daylight at the western end of the path. I have often wondered if antenna gain could compensate for local European QRM at their end of the path. What happens is that we can hear the Europeans well before sunset, sometimes 599+, for nearly two hours **before** it is possible to get them to respond. Obviously, in this situation we are beaming into darkness through the absorption of the "D" layer and my hope was that the extra gain of the 3el yagi would raise my signal level enough to get the EUs' attention sooner. Well, now I know the answer; even with an extra 8dB of gain it is **not** possible. I had to wait until about 45 minutes before local sunset before the EU boys started hearing me consistently. Oh well!

Tuning around the band at 2100Z yielded a very loud EA8XS and VK6HD long path for a nice double multiplier (zone 29). A few Europeans started hearing me somewhere around 2200Z. Somewhere about this time I became aware of a huge European pileup call calling something I could not hear. I kept coming back to the pileup but could never figure out what was going on exactly. I was to be **very** pleasantly surprised the following afternoon! About 2230Z I got another European run going and again this was non-stop bedlam until 0800Z. I really did not think it was possible to work so many EU boys on 3.5MHz. There were a few Russian stations that I couldn't quite pull out of the Caribbean QRN, but **not** many! Looking back at my dupe sheet I noted later that I worked about 250 Ukraine stations, over twenty UA9s, numerous UH8, UI8 and UJ8 stations in this period. About 100 Gs and DLs were in the log as well. Needless to say, the antenna was "cooking"; the rate was still around 90 for most of this period and the pileups had become manageable. I found I was able to keep up much better than the night before.

Around 0745Z I worked my first JA station and this kicked off what was to become a run of nearly 120 JAs right up until sunrise; the last JA was worked at 1111Z. This time the JAs did peak out of the NW following their sunset and I was able to take the pileup by JA call areas. I started with JA1, JA2, etc. and found the JA boys were extremely disciplined throughout the entire three hour and one-half run. Taking the pile by districts limited the pile to about three stations at a time, and even though it seemed painfully slow at the time, I later figured out that I was running JAs at about 55 per hour with their signal levels averaging 449! This was both fun and challenging at the same time with the QRN and polar flutter making copy really tough at times.

Sunday Evening

Sunday evening proved to be the high point of this contest. Again about 2200Z (local sunset) I came across the huge pileup of Europeans calling something I couldn't hear. There wasn't much else to do so I really tried to find out what they were calling this time. After about ten minutes I began hearing the DX station, weak but clearly copiable. It was 3W8CW about 339-349!! I started calling with the Europeans and after about five minutes I was convinced I would never make it. I remember thinking, "Jeez, even with a "cannon" for an antenna these EU boys must be 3 s-units louder than I am in Vietnam - this is hopeless!" Just then I heard another station start calling me. It was not the 3W8; it was much louder, so loud that I was sure it was an EU station. I listened and heard "NP4A, NP4A de HS0A, HS0A K". I couldn't believe it as this guy was 579. I later learned it was Fred Laun, K3ZO, operating. So I quickly exchanged reports with Fred, delighted for the Zone 26. Just then the 3W8, having heard the QSO, started calling ME. I quickly exchanged reports for another multiplier and a second, back to back Zone 26 on 3.5MHz. At this point I was happier than a proverbial bug in you know what - and tuning up about a half a KHz I found Dick Norton calling CQ from SU1ER. I needed zone 34 so I worked Dick and indeed thought I was in heaven. A minute later I found an IS0 which I also needed which became my sixth multiplier in about five minutes time. An excerpt of my log at this point looks like this:

2207Z HS0A Zone 26
 2209Z 3W8CW Zone 26
 2211Z SU1ER Zone 34
 2212Z IS0...

6 new multipliers

After all this excitement had died down, I basically ran Europe until 2400Z. My last hour of the test was an 88 hour into Europe, not bad for the 48th hour on 3.5MHz.

The Aftermath

When I got back to New York I had a friend at work write me a simplistic duping program for my PC XT at the office. One night in early December I spent about five hours keying all the calls into the computer and found that I had 77 dupes out of 2333 QSOs made in the test. The final line score came out at 2256 Qs, 31 zones, 103 countries. I found that due to the sunspot maxima I had missed zones 01, 13, 30, and 38. I guess there was no activity from these places this time around. Too bad, it would have been nice to have made 35 zones on 80cw. But, all things considered, I knew I had little to complain about. It had been the thrill of a lifetime – and something I'll probably remember the rest of my contest "life". Most contests in time seem to blend together after awhile – like a blurred continuum in your mind – but this one was SPECIAL. Final score was over 800,000 points (claimed score) for a new world record which made Pedro happy, not to mention yours truly!

I suppose that in about three years time it will be possible to generate a higher score. Certainly, one could be made from a comparable station in three point country, ie: 9Y4, PJ, P40, or perhaps at CT3 or EA9/EA8. What was especially noteworthy though about this particular effort from NP4A was that over 1500 European stations and JAs were worked in all. This means that only about 625 W/VE Qs were made. The overall point factor from 2 point territory was about 2.71 which exceeded my wildest expectations! We figured it would be tough to make a better score from North America, even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle!

Needless to say I was amazed at the performance of Pedro's new antenna. If you were at the Antenna Forum at Dayton this year you know what an **impressive** antenna this thing truly is. And, don't miss the CQ article and pictures when they come out later this year. Finally, would I give this another go given the opportunity? You betcha!!!

Statistical highlights

QSO Breakdown	
Non-European DX	71
JAs	123
W/VEs	628
Europeans	1434
Total	2256

Contest QSO Rates	
For 34 hours operated	66.35
For 29 significant hrs (less 5 hours with fewer than 10 QSOs per hour)	77.06

Hour	1st Day	2nd Day
00	100	98
01	102	89
02	119	86
03	120	81
04	106	86
05	121	75
06	126	79
07	100	48
08	80	41
09	37	55
10	40	56
11	39	37
12	6	4
13	-	2
14-19	-	-
20	3	-
21	30	6
22	103	78
23	92	88
Totals	1324	1009
Grand total		2256

QSO Rate

DG's Dayton Diary

Doug Grant, K1DG

Thursday, April 27 – Split from work later than planned – met 'AR at my house, and packed my stuff, trying to remember things like my QST needs list, 2AT, charger, and other necessities for Dayton. Jumped into the van, and Mrs. DG made near-record time to Logan. Halfway there I remembered that I forgot my call-letter badge. Again. Got to the Piedmont gate, and found several YCCCs loitering about, including Mr. and Mrs. XM (or is it Mr. and Mrs. F?), MM and MEM, VR, EA, and a couple of ham-looking guys I see on this same flight every year but don't know. Maybe I'll ask them who they are next year.

Flight was uneventful but late. I was surprised to notice empty seats on the flight. This is a first. Arrived in Dayton, and was met by a couple of non-ham friends (Jim and Lenny) who are instrumentation fanatics, and came solely for the flea market on my recommendation. They commented on the unusually high concentration of nerdy types getting off planes in Dayton, particularly the ones coming off the plane talking into their HTs to their friends who were still on the plane. Hams are a strange bunch. Got to the Hilton, and after straightening out a reservation mixup (tastefully planned and executed by Jim), we got checked in. It seems there were two John Dorrs registered, and – well, it's a long story...

Hung around the Hilton bar until 11:30PM, and decided that the boys were probably at Stouffers' bar, and that we should be there, too. We were right. Encountered MM/MEM, K2TW, W3UM, KN8Z, new grandpa N2AA, KR2Q, K3EST, TF3CW, LU2AH, and others. Hung in there until 1 AM.

Friday, April 28 – Slept in late. Looked out the window

when I got up, and it was pouring rain. Got downstairs and found the boys, including AR, EA, W1GG, XM/F, KA1FBY, VR, and John, W0UN. Still trying to wake up, I remember everybody muttering about rain, not enough cars for us all, and no buses yet. We decided to hang out in the coffee shop at the Hilton. W0UN is an interesting guy to talk to. He owns a small company building various HF/VHF radar systems, and has been planning to build a truly gigantic contest station in Colorado for a long time. He seems to be getting close. He's gotten permission for 12 200' towers on his 160-acre spread. He also got married one week before Dayton, and he and his wife were on separate honeymoons.

Eventually got over to the newly-enlarged-but-oops-we-forgot-to-enlarge-the-parking-lot Hara Arena, and discovered the advantage of riding over with an exhibitor. He got a parking spot near the door away from the "oops we forgot to enlarge the parking lot but it's OK - they can park over there on the dirt as long as it doesn't rain" mud field.

Made it to the Antenna Forum for perhaps the first time ever. Missed the first talk, while trying to find a call-letter badge maker who had a real "1" for my K1DG and a "0" for my 7J0AAA badge. I refused to be K1DG or 7J0AAA. Anyway, the talk I missed was something about Yagis, Coax, and VSWR. Second talk was Jim, WA3FET/6 (soon to be /3), explaining computer propagation models and their use in creating excuses for why the W1s always win DX contests. OK, so we do have a 15 dB advantage over everybody else into Europe on 80 meters. And I always thought it had something to do with operating skill, antennas, etc. Ken, K1EA, described his 80 M vertical array, including playing a tape of a European run and a QSO with a Zone-18 UA9 during the CQ WWCW. Suitably impressed everybody. And I figured out one thing I did wrong on my verticals...

Took a break and unfortunately missed W3LPL's talk on antennas for the coming sunspot peak. Got back in time for NP4A's talk on his 80-meter 3-element full-size rotary. This antenna is difficult to describe, but let me try. The boom is made of AB-105 tower - 80 feet or so if memory serves. Since there are so many hurricanes in KP4, Pedro had the antenna designed so the boom and driven element actually fold in the middle and the antenna actually folds down alongside the tower for safety during storms. The director and reflector rotate so they are parallel to the boom for ease in folding it down. Suitable non-corrosive pulleys were unavailable, so a local mechanic (who did most of the mechanical design) melted down a bunch of old VW pistons and cast his own aluminum pulleys. A discarded floor-polishing machine was stripped for the gears to build the drive train for the rotor and folding apparatus, and a Volvo engine block served as

a jig for machining various tubing parts. The free-standing tower was reinforced and guyed in order to have a chance with this monster up at 190 feet on a mountaintop. Woof. It's up, it works, and check out the mono-80 CQWW CW score turned in by K1ZM operating there. And ask Jeff sometime about running UA9s. Or how HS0A called him while he was calling 3W8CW, who then tailed. Woof.

A bunch of us (DG, AR, N6AA, N6ZZ, VR, W0UN, EA, FBY, and JA7RHJ) went out to dinner at Charlie's Crab, a Dayton tradition. We were joined by KC1F, who had rented a car and drove to Dayton - alone. Woof. N6AA described his competition with N6TJ to see who will operate the CQWW from all 40 zones first. They're both around 12 or 15 now, but I don't remember the exact counts. Dick also regaled us with tales of his trip to operate 9Q5NW in the WW last year.

Attended the CQWW Contest Committee meeting, and made it to the KCDXC/Southeast DXers Suite around 11. Met countless famous hams. SM5GMG was there on his honeymoon (he did bring his wife!), and J52US/K8MN brought his wife. Dave's looking good, but he didn't do the light-bulb trick this year. Just made it into the last run of the night of the KCDXC pileup tape tests, both CW and Mixed this year. Noticed N6AA taking a mini-meditation break in between. I just took a deep breath. Looked around at the other papers after each run, and I seemed to have at least as many lines filled in as anyone. When the results were posted, I had the highest scores from our group, good enough for the top mixed score and third on CW for the night. I then proceeded to razz N2AA, who is my rival in the CW one. Bumped into W8AH, who I had recently worked from Japan. I operated as 7J0AAA/3 from two locations on two bands, and Al found me on both within 5 minutes of firing up. I don't know how he does it. Made it out of Stouffers about 2 AM.

Saturday, April 29 - Saw Jim and Lenny in the Hilton in the morning. They were still reeling from the first day of flea marketing. They had loaded up on Tektronix stuff, and were making arrangements for a local contact to ship it all back home to W6 for them. They were also counting their money to determine how much more they could buy.

Got to Hara in time for the second half of the Contest Forum. Saw the last part of the K3TUP video. I remarked to K3LR (one of the key players at 'TUP) that it was very well done, with an obviously professional announcer, clean editing, effects, titles, and background music. Tim informed me that 'TUP owns a TV station, and thus had the necessary resources at his disposal to produce the video. 'AR and N8BJQ handed out a zillion CQWW and WPX

awards. W2GD presented the findings of his survey on what makes us contesters tick. Interesting demographics we exhibit - I'm sure he'll publish his findings in the NCJ soon. A disproportionate number of contesters are in the \$100K+ income bracket, the average contestator owns 2 transceivers, 2 towers, and 8 antennas for HF. Many are engineers, with most holding managerial titles. If Kenwood gets hold of this data, we're all in trouble - new HF contest rigs will be targeted at those high-income guys and will be even more ridiculously expensive than they are now. SM5GMG talked about contesting from CT3, K1EA talked about contesting from his station in Massachusetts, and K5ZD closed the Forum with a 5-minute "eyeball QSO contest" in Room 1.

The rain stopped, and I made it out to the flea market. Found several 1920-21 QSTs for my collection. Bought a touch-tone telephone for \$3. Also found a book called "Ham Register 1958" published by W3 something or other. Apparently this guy sent out questionnaires to famous hams of the day, and published a sort of "Who's Who" of Hamdom. Some familiar calls in there - W1BIH, HZ1HZ, G3FXB (who was at Dayton, and remembered the book well), and lots of guys still hanging in there. My favorite comment in the book was in W3GRF's bio: "hobbies other than ham radio - none".

Considered going to the DX Forum (featuring DXAC, Don Search, 3D2XX, J52US, CY9DXX, Yasme, 4J1FS, and the W6AM Museum), or Wayne Green's low-key talk titled (and I'm not kidding) "Will Amateur Radio Trigger WW3 - or Is It Already Too Late to Stop the Destruction of the World?". I guess anything goes when you're trying to sell magazines. Anyway, unable to decide between these, I chose instead to continue my quest in the flea market for March 1916 QST. Bumped into W2GD, who told me to plan to attend the FRC/PVRC/YCCC/Etc dinner at the Myung Sun restaurant, 6:30 PM, map is in the Yellow Pages, spread the word. Reservation is for 50.

Rode to the restaurant with F and FBY in the rented T-bird. The room wasn't big enough, latecomers ended up in another part of the restaurant. A splendid time was had by all. During the introductions, with names and calls, I recognized Jack Russell, K2RS, formerly WA2APG, whom I hadn't seen since college days (around 1975). It was good to see the old boy again. He's just getting back into contesting. It's a small world.

After dinner, back to the suites. This time, I got around to the other suites. K5ZD and I tried to convince SM5GMG that he should try computer logging with the CT program in the Mad River suite. As a former long-time holdout and now devout convert myself, I was amazed that Lars hadn't seen the light yet.

Midnight - the final scores from the KCDXC tapes are announced. N2AA has responded to my challenge and ties for second place, one ahead of me. Not bad for an old guy. He gets the fishing depth gauge and thermometer, I get the VHF weather radio. But I smoke everybody in the mixed event. The blue ribbon is enormous.

The suites begin to clear out around 2. Most years, the conversion to Daylight Savings Time occurs now, and we take the time to call someone who has a poor excuse for not attending Dayton and remind them to set their clocks ahead. However, DST started early this year and we're stuck for a suitable juvenile activity. 'AR and K1ZX get the munchies and send out for pizza. It arrives, and we chow down. I settle down next to my old friend Pedro, NP4A, and try to act unimpressed by his 80-meter beam. I ask what he's going to do next. He responds that he's considering a future conversion of the beam to a 2-element full-size 160, but the next antenna will be the JA-special for 10 meters. This will be an array of 6 side-by-side 3-element yagis, on a 130-foot boom. The beams will be fed with binarily-weighted currents, resulting in a very narrow pattern. At this point, I can contain myself no longer. I begin laughing hysterically, and when I finally calm down, I inform Pedro that in my humble opinion he is certifiably insane. He grins and thanks me for the compliment (which, I discover, is how I meant it). He's used to this sort of thing by now.

I leave the suite at 3:30 AM. Randy, K5ZD, and I observe that this seems early for a Dayton. I guess it has something to do with the increasing median age of amateurs. The only young guys hanging around are Jeff, WC4E, and Phil/Felipe, NP4Z. Too bad there aren't more guys like these around to insure the future of contesting.

Sunday, April 30 - Checked out of the Hilton, loaded 'EA's car up and proceeded to Hara. Bumped into K1RT, who advised that he spotted a booth indoors with a bunch of rare old QSTs. I have run out of money, but when I find the booth, he's got 3 issues I need. Tracked down 'AR, hit him up for enough money to buy 'em. Checked out the new radios - the IC765, and the prototype Yaesu rig. The 765 looks nice, but \$2700 will buy a new 940 with enough left over for a PC/AT to contest with. The Yaesu rig will cost "under \$4K". Guess they've seen 'GD's survey results already. Nice new rotor on display from Orion, but its target price is around a grand. Glad I bought my Tailtwisters in the old days. Renewed all my subscriptions, and left for the airport. Handed KA1FBY my ticket stubs in the event I won anything good, since he had a later flight and was staying for the prize drawings. I didn't win anything, but he did - a new IC745 or something like that.

Flight departed on time, loaded with hams, including those same guys I saw on the flight to Dayton that I don't know. One of them is toting a Bird dummy load. I point to it and exclaim "What a dummy!". These guys don't think it's funny. Some day I'll ask them who they are. Maybe next year.

Climbing Belts Cheap

Fred Hopengarten, K1VR*

Virtually every month, the following ad appears in QST, as reproduced below (grammar errors and all):

LINESMANS Belts \$35. Extra safety straps \$12. Climber straps. (20"x1"x3/16") \$5/pair. \$3 postage each item. John Orr, N2RU, 715 River Road, Fair Haven, NJ 07704, 201-747-7334.

My company needed a few climbing belts for tower work (until May 1989, I was in the cable TV industry), so I called Mr. Orr and made inquiries. After listening to him, I thought it was worth the gamble to send him some money. We ordered three (3) belts with safety straps (the ad was not "cute" about this, as the leather safety straps came with the belt for the same \$35.00). We also ordered an extra safety strap, which is made of Klein Cord, the proprietary Klein Tool product.

I have an old, standard issue Bell system linesman's belt, and I've seen a few others too, as a basis of comparison. The belting is thinner in width and height than the Bell system belt. On the other hand, it is adequate for relatively short periods of time on a tower, and appears safe. The leather strap is only a shade thinner than my Bell system belt. The D-rings are very sturdy, and every bit the equivalent of the Bell system belt. Everyone who has used the belts has reported that they worked well. These belts do not have straps which go under your fanny, for better back support. If you make your living climbing towers, these belts are inadequate. However, if you've always thought that it would be a good idea to have a second belt around, these are terrific.

The Klein Cord replacement (extra) safety strap is positively a steal, a great price. As best I can tell, the only difference between these and the ones for sale at our cable TV supply house is that the cable TV version is colored yellow, and Orr's version is a dull mud color. Given the age of my Bell system belt, I shall probably swap the extra belt from Orr for the old leather strap which came with my primary belt.

Orr's story is that he is a school teacher, but his father was a lineman who bought a lot of new, but surplus belts which have been stored in cosmoline for a number of years. Orr removes almost all of the cosmoline before shipping. There was only enough to make his claim credible; not enough to bother removing. When the lot is finally cleaned out of Orr's storage area, it

will be gone. He had less than 100 belts when I last spoke with him, and that was more than six months ago. Nonetheless, I did notice the advertisement in the March 1989 issue of QST, so he probably has a few left. UPS shipping is inconvenient for Orr. He uses the US Postal Service.

* Mr. Hopengarten swears that he will soon mount his 40 meter beam on a TIC General "RingRotor". If a reader would like to help, the reader can test the Orr belt for himself.

Movers and Shakers

Please update your club roster to include the following changes:

New work phone numbers:

for Rich, K2WR: (202)456-3675

for Ed, NT2X: (212)578-5679

for Doug, K1DG: (508)658-9400 x 481

for Ken, K1EA: (508)435-2000 x 415.

New (old) home phone number for Jay, NU0X, is (203)666-3940.

New Crew

Please welcome the following new and returning members who joined at the April meeting:

Bill Shipp, KC1AG
19 Drowne Parkway
Rumford, RI 02916
Home phone: (401)438-4548
Work phone: (401)863-3438

Dan J. Brevik, KZ1D
250 Millham Street
Marlboro, MA 01752
Home phone: (508)460-9059
Work phone: (508)879-2960 x 3645

Dave Donnelly, K2SS
40 Brookwood Road
Bethany, CT 06525
Home phone: (203)393-1287
Work phone: (203)785-4999

Bruce Makas, KS9Z
58 Stonegate Road
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107
Home phone: (207)767-8150
Work phone: (207)283-3611

Excess Cargo

FOR SALE: 100-foot Rohn 25 and 70-foot Rohn 25 towers, 25AG-4 top section, TB-4 thrust bearing, Ham-IV and Ham-II rotor, 4-element 20m, 5-element 15m, 5-element 10m, guy wires, torque bars, equalizer plates, tilt bases, masts, and more. You take down; make an offer. Contact Larry, K1UO, at (207)234-7175. Larry plans to put up a rotating tower instead.

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 MEMBERS 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 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.

CLUB QSL CARD BADGES are available from Tom Frenaye, K1KI, 23 Pinehurst Road, Box 62, Unionville, CT 06085, home phone (203)673-5429, by sending him a club QSL card. The cost is \$1 payable to the club treasurer on receipt of your badge.

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, 23 Pinehurst Road, Box 62, Unionville, CT 06085, home phone (203)673-5429.

The **Scuttlebutt** is the newsletter of the **Yankee Clipper Contest Club** and is mailed six times per year to all paid up members. Dues are \$15 per year, payable 1 April with a grace period through 30 June. 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 dues.

The **Scuttlebutt** may be reprinted in whole or 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 three weeks before the next meeting date. The next meeting will be on Saturday, June 17, 1989. Attendance at an official meeting is required in order to become a member. Club members congregate on 3830 KHz after contests. The packet frequency is 144.95 MHz.

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

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
NNY	K2TR	Fred Lass	(518) 355-4813	(518) 346-6666
SNY/NJ	K2EK	Bill Gioia	(914) 221-1672	(914) 697-3250

YCCC
11 Michigan Drive
Hudson MA 01749

FIRST CLASS