

Yankee Clipper



Contest Club

Scuttlebutt

No. 43 February 1983

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Captain's Cabin

John Yodis, K2VV

Judging by the excellent turnout at the last meeting I'd say the YCCC spirit is still intact. Hopefully, it won't have evaporated for the ARRL DX Contest. We will not win ARRL with the type of participation we had in CQ WW; more than half of YCCC apparently had better things to do during the last weekends of October and November. The staff of the **YCCC Contest Handbook** has put together some excellent recommendations for members who can devote only a few hours to the contest. If you can't get on the air at all, either weekend, may I suggest you've joined the wrong club?

The size of YCCC makes it difficult to collect scores directly. Please make a point of getting your score into your Area Manager within a week after the contest; a 13 cent postcard or a 50 cent phone call won't kill anyone.

Joe, WA2SPL, made a good point at the February meeting: YCCC has a good chance of winning the CQ 160 meter Contest club competition. Despite the fact that we don't make an official club effort a lot of YCCC members ran up some pretty impressive totals. If you've already submitted your log please drop a postcard to the contest director and tell him to credit YCCC. If you were on, but didn't submit a log, please do so.

High claimed scores are out for CQ WW Phone and YCCC took four of the top five positions. Nice work!

I'm pleased to announce that Gary, W1GG, will take over as the Area Manager for Western Massachusetts, replacing

W1ZT. Gary will also have responsibility for the former Central Massachusetts group as Bob, N1TZ, has asked to be relieved.

Welcome to the following new members who joined at the Winter meeting: KA1CI, KB2HP, KA2KVZ, AK1L, KJ1N, W1RM, AG2X, KA1YQ, and K1YRP.

One topic of discussion at the Winter meeting was selection of a place for the Spring meeting. The primary concern is price, followed closely by location in the area of western Connecticut/New York. Anyone with a potential site — please contact the nearest club official post haste! ■

Ponderings from the Poop Deck

Bill Myers, K1GQ

The proximity of the postmark on the January **Scuttlebutt** to the date of the Winter meeting raised the usual ruckus about lack of adequate notice. I'm not particularly moved by these cries of alarm. After all, our hobby revolves around the art of communication by radio and it's not especially challenging to get on the air and ask a club member when the next meeting will be. Similarly, a few members expected the club to mail them copies of the **YCCC Contest Handbook** in spite of our reiterated policy of only responding to SASEs due to the expense (13 pages). And then there were the complaints about the selection of the meeting date. Where are all you guys with better ideas when the club is looking for leadership at the election meetings?

The New England Division representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee (me) has resigned. My replacement is Doug Grant, K1DG. A number of other changes have occurred, including a new Chairman, N6TR. I expect that Doug will provide more consistent reporting in these pages than I did regarding CAC affairs.

Another personnel change of interest is the departure of Doug DeMaw (**QST** Senior Technical Editor, etc.). Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, will be taking over W1FB's responsibilities at ARRL shortly. Paul has been (among other things) editing the ARRL technical newsletter **QEX**; it will be interesting to see how the content of **QST** is affected by the change. I feel that our hobby's most prominent journal compares poorly with European journals in technical content, for whatever reasons.

The anonymous photographer whose work was featured in the last **Scuttlebutt** was Bill, KM1C. The rather poor quality of the reproductions was entirely my responsibility; the originals were fine and the printer did his best. I've yet to find a convenient way to make halftones with reasonable dynamic range. Bill has provided another set of photos from the Winter meeting, and introduced another problem — I don't recognize many of the subjects! At one time I felt that I could assign a call to every face in the club, but those days are past. Please be understanding if I misidentify you — but be sure to let me know so I can get it right the next time.

Area Managers: I'd like to add other repeaters frequented by YCCC members to the blurb on the back page. Please let me know if you have such in your region. ■

Flotsam

Announcing the Nantucket Island DXpedition and Beer Fest, May 21 and 22, sponsored by the Algonquin ARC. Contact W1BK (616-562-5622) or KA1CLV (617-481-0930) for details if you think you would enjoy a family-style weekend with a radio flavor.

Ted, K1OX, has developed a replacement transformer for the SB-220/221 with a local supplier. The voltages are the same, but the primary winding is heavier and the core material is higher grade, so that the high voltage regulation is better and the transformer runs cooler. Best of all, it fits in the box (barely). The price is \$100. Ted is also considering making a quantity buy of stainless steel hardware such as Rohn tower nuts and bolts, so check with him on your hardware needs. The Tailtwisters are gone (up Ted's own towers). 603-887-4478.

Pedro, NP4A, attended our Winter meeting. After some coaxing, he gave us a brief description of his station, protesting all the while that we couldn't really be interested! Several YCCC members have operated Pedro's station over the past few years; evidently their performance was satisfactory as Pedro said we're welcome back. The YCCC charter has no provisions for honorary membership; nevertheless, NP4A is our first honorary member.

ARRL has announced that there will be no 1983 New England Division Convention, continuing the tradition begun in 1981. Clarke, K1JX, volunteered (with some persuasion) to investigate the possibility of holding another mini-convention for testers as we did in 1981; perhaps in cooperation with Murphys Marauders.

The work phone number for Bill, W2RQ, has changed to 201-673-8237.

Everett, AJ1I, showed samples of the new QSL card at the meeting. The price will be \$31 per two thousand (honest), and the clipper ship hand drawn by Ev looks terrific! (Anyone with the resources to produce screened or etched name badges with this ship as a logo please identify yourself to K1GQ.) 617-667-1150.

John, K1AR, is once again offering rooms for the Dayton Hamvention at the Sheraton. Previous roomers get first dibs, but John says there are plenty to go around. 617-663-3452.

The Newington Amateur Radio League is sponsoring a bus to Dayton, leaving ARRL Headquarters at 6:30 PM Thursday night (April 28) and arriving about noon Friday. The price is \$125 for the round trip, including a room (double occupancy) for two nights, \$50 deposit to Bob Anderson, PO Box 11043, Newington, CT 06111, will hold your reservation (first come, first serve). Details available from Bernice, KA1BRD, on the W1AW repeater: 145.450. [Sorry, I have no phone numbers for Bernice. — ed.]

Tom, K1KI, sends out letters to each of the YCCC members in his area. In the latest: "The fastest growing area within YCCC is CT/RI. Welcome to new members KA1CI, K1YRP, W1RM and KJ1N who signed up at the last meeting. Last summer there were 16 CT members and 1 RI member. Now we have 27 CT and 1 RI (let's go Rhode Island). That's a 65% increase! Pretty soon we'll have to demand that 3/4 of the meetings be in Hartford (instead of just asking). Your big scores will help make the rest of the areas notice..."

Clipper's Log

Matt Power, KA1R

YCCC members who use the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau may be interested in this list of countries which do not have a QSL bureau. QSLs for these countries will remain at ARRL HQ; they will not be mailed out or returned to you.

A51	A6	A71	BV2	BY
C53	C9	D68	HZ1	J5
S9	ST	T2	T3	TJ
TL	TR	TT	TY	TZ
V3	VP2E	VP2K	VP5	VR6
XT	XU	XV	XW	YA
YI	YJ	ZA	ZD9	ZK2
ZM7	1S	3C	3V	3X
4W	5H3	5U7	5X	7O
9N				

CQ WW phone

KB1W 346K

ARRL Sweepstakes

KB1W 93K

CQ WW cw

KB1W 687K
W1YN (+AG1C AK1A KA1O) 3.25M m/m

ARRL QSO Party cw

W2RQ 657/67
W1WEF 622/66
KA1R 560/64
N1EE 538/63
KC2FV 411/56

73 Magazine 160 meter phone

WA2SPL 900/73

World Communications Year Contest (PVRC)

KA1R 801/138
K1AR 400/100
K2EK 400/50

ARRL QSO Party phone

W1WEF 558/72
KA1R 588/68

73 Magazine 40 meter phone

KG1E 680/90

73 Magazine 80 meter phone

KG1E 730/98

CQ WW 160 meter cw

WA2SPL 601/92
W1MX (KA1R N2ME) 555/87
W1WEF 233/59
K1KI 67/34

ARRL Midnight Special

W1WEF 124
KC2FV 109
KA2AEV 95

W2VJN TS-930S TESTS

[These results, dated January 6, 1983, were published in the Frankford Radio Club newsletter. - ed.]

Receiver Characteristics

Sensitivity SSB noise floor: -132.0 dBm at 14 and 28 MHz. CW noise floor: -137.5 dBm at 14 MHz and -138.0 dBm at 28 MHz. Noise figure: 10 dB.

3 dB Bandwidth Small signal (AGC off): SSB 1420 Hz, CW 400 Hz. -20 dBm signal (AGC on): SSB 1670 Hz, CW 690 Hz. CW measurements were made with both 500 Hz filters installed.

Blocking An S5 signal at 7 MHz was degraded 1 dB by a 0 dBm signal 5 kHz away and a +17 dBm signal 20 kHz away. A +20 dBm signal 200 kHz away degraded the S5 signal 0.1 dB.

Third Order Intercept For two strong signals spaced 20 kHz, the degradation at 7 MHz was +6/0 dBm for the low side and high side respectively. A second unit tested +1.5/-1.5 dBm. For 200 kHz spacing the degradation was +15/+15 dBm for unit #1 and +16.5/+7.5 dBm for unit #2.

Phase Noise For a -38 dBm signal at 28 MHz and CW bandwidth, the noise floor was degraded 2.5 dB 3 kHz away, 3.5 dB 5 kHz away, 3.0 dB 10 and 20 kHz away, 1.0 dB 30 kHz away, and 0.5 dB 40 kHz away. Unit #2 tested 14 dB 3 kHz away, 8.0 dB 5 kHz away, 3.0 dB 10 kHz away, and 0.5 dB 20 kHz away.

AGC SSB threshold: 1.6 microvolts. The AGC characteristic was very flat. CW overshoot was 3 dB for fast AGC and 1.5 dB for slow AGC.

Transmitter Characteristics

Keying Rise and fall times: 3 milliseconds. The waveform had no overshoot or undershoot for any setting of the carrier control.

Harmonics The second harmonic of 7 MHz was -50 dB with the tuner out and -60 dB with the tuner in. The third harmonic was -72 dB without the tuner and -63 dB with the tuner. For 28 MHz, the second harmonic was suppressed 63/64 dB and the third harmonic was suppressed 62/62 dB.

Spurs At 7 MHz there were no spurs above -80 dB within 500 kHz. At 28 MHz there was a -60 dB spur at 16 MHz and a -64 dB spur at 34 MHz (-67 and -70 dB with the tuner in).

Amplifier Control The amplifier relay output is a solid state device and switches in microseconds after the key is closed. RF output began 7 milliseconds later. Four milliseconds after the end of RF the amplifier relay output ceased. QSK is quite smooth.

Power Output At 1.8 MHz unit #1 output was 130 watts and unit #2 output was 105 watts. At 7 MHz the outputs were 138/112 watts. At 14.2 MHz the outputs were 135/108 watts. At 28.5 MHz the outputs were 126/110 watts.

Clipper Calendar

Mark Wilson, AA2Z

Entering Foreign Contests. From time to time, I enter contests sponsored by societies in other countries. Worked All Europe, the Scandinavian Activity Contest and the OK DX Contest are several that come to mind. I almost always report my score, no matter how small, just to let them know I was active. Who knows? I might win a certificate, and I'm sure that a few of the stations worked will reciprocate during an ARRL or CQ DX Contest when I can use a few extra QSOs.

Because I almost always report my score, and because I almost never have the official log and summary sheets for these contests, I know I must be careful to give the sponsor all of the information that *must* be included if my score is to be counted as anything other than a checklog. Speaking from personal experience in the ARRL contest branch, there is nothing more aggravating to a contest sponsor than having to look high and low in a contest log for vital information, and then having to take what information is provided and guess at what it should be. At ARRL, our policy regarding homemade forms is very simple: If we can't figure it out with a minimum of effort, the entry becomes a checklog. We have so many logs to go through that we can't waste our time trying to track down missing info. Other contest sponsors feel the same way.

Homemade forms don't have to be incomplete, however. Here are some things that *must* be included to make your entry complete.

Logs: For starters, the name of the contest and your call sign should appear on each page, along with the mode (if separate contests for each mode). There should be columns for the following information: Band, Mode (if cw and phone can be working during the same contest), UTC time and date, Station contacted, Exchange sent (this can be entered once at the top of each page and changed only when some of the information changes), Exchange received, New Multipliers, and Points. Be sure to copy the complete exchange for each contact. Clearly indicate multipliers. Cross out dupes and other zero point contacts. Number each page. If the contest rules call for separate logs per band, put all the pages from each band together in chronological order and then put the band logs in frequency order, either lowest-to-highest or visa-versa. Finally, use an even number (like 50) of QSOs per page.

Dupe Sheets: Even if the contest rules don't specify dupe sheets, it's always best to include them if you make more than 50 or so QSOs. They help in several ways. Besides ridding the log of dupes, they also help the log checker quickly determine what you worked. If, for example, you lose the QSO you claim as your LX multiplier on 80 in the WAE because you copied the call sign incorrectly, the log checker can quickly determine whether you worked another LX so you can keep the multiplier. From personal experience, the longer a log checker has to look to find out if you worked another of a multiplier you're about to lose, the more likely you are to lose it.

Summary Sheet: This is where most people who attempt homemade forms screw up. Most of this is common sense, but... You must include (1) Your call sign; (2) Your name and full mailing address; (3) Your entry class (cw-only, single op all band, multi-single, etc.). Hint: the entry class must correspond to something that's defined in the rules. If multi-op, be sure to list the

calls of all operators; (4) A score calculation showing QSOs, QSO points, multipliers (both per band and overall) and claimed score. Clearly indicate any applicable bonus points; (5) A brief station description, including power input used; (6) A signed and dated declaration that you followed all contest rules, as well as the regulations established for amateur radio in the U.S. (This is very important to some contest sponsors); (7) Any other miscellaneous information required by the sponsor (e.g., detailed QTH info such as county; summary of off-times if required; etc.).

Once you've gotten all of the paperwork together, check it again to be sure you've included everything. Contest sponsors do not look favorably upon entrants who mail log and summary sheets one week and dupe sheets the next. It's often not so simple to "Please put these dupe sheets with the rest of my entry," when you've got four file drawers full of unsorted logs.

Always observe mailing deadlines. Mail as early as possible, as some contest sponsors are very strict. Always use airmail if you want the entry to arrive in one piece. Sure, it costs more, but what are a few bucks compared to the money invested in your station and the time invested in your contest operation?

If you enter more than one contest sponsored by the same group (e.g., WAE phone and WAE cw), send the entries in separate envelopes. If you insist on using the same envelope for both logs, securely staple everything relating to phone into one neat pile and everything relating to cw into another. This will help, but it's still no guarantee that the sponsors will realize that you've sent two separate entries.

If you use common sense, you should be able to enter just about any contest and see your call sign properly in the results. If you send the contest sponsor a disorganized, unreadable, incomplete mess expect to see your call in the checklog section of the results.

MARCH

5-6

ARRL International DX Contest, phone. If you have any questions, contact your Area Manager. This is the big one! The club score will benefit from any however you make, however large or small.

19-20

Bermuda Contest. Win a contest, win a trip to Bermuda to pick up your prize. Just ask K1DG about the VP9 hospitality; he won in 1978. Work West German, United Kingdom and Bermuda stations only. Work stations once per band, regardless of mode. All stations must operate from their own private residence or property (no guest ops).

Times: 0001Z March 19 until 2400Z March 20. Operate 36 hours maximum. Off-times must be at least three hours each and clearly indicated in the log.

Categories: Single operator only.

Exchange: Signal report and QTH. W/K stations send state; VE stations send province; U.K. stations send county; West German send DOK number; VP9 stations send parish name. **Suggested Frequencies:** 80-10 meters only, phone and cw.

Scoring: Count five points per valid QSO. Multi-

ply by the number of VP9 stations worked per band. The same VP9 station may be worked once on each band (either mode) for credit, so try moving them around as much as possible. **Reporting:** Entries must be received by May 31. Mail to RSB Contest Committee, Box 275, Hamilton 5, Bermuda.

26-27

CQ Worldwide Prefix Contest, phone. Those YCCers who have done this contest successfully offer the following observations: (1) There is generally much greater activity on the first day than the second, unless there is some solar catastrophe. (2) There are so many possible multipliers available that this is essentially a max QSO contest. Don't waste too much time looking for multipliers. (3) Don't spend too much time on the low bands on phone unless you're real loud. Multipliers count only once, so there is nothing to be gained by working a station again on 40 or 80 except a few QSO points. If the rates are good, do the low bands. If not, they're a waste of time. Work stations once per band. Stations operating outside the call area indicated by their license must sign portable. For example, I must sign AA2Z/1, and I count as an AA1 multiplier. There is a club competition (which YCCC hasn't taken seriously) so indicate the club on your summary sheet if you enter.

Times: 0000Z March 26 until 2400Z March 27. Single ops are allowed 30 hours maximum operating time. Off-times may be taken in no more than five periods and must be clearly indicated. Multiops may operate the entire 48 hours.

Categories: Single operator, all band and single band; single operator, QRP (5W output maximum); multioperator, single transmitter; multioperator, multi transmitter. Multi-singles must remain on a band for at least 10 minutes after making a QSO. Multi-multis are allowed only one signal per band.

Exchange: Signal report and serial number. Multi-multis use separate numbers per band. Others send consecutive numbers, regardless of band.

Suggested Frequencies: 160-10 meter phone bands, excluding the WARC bands.

Scoring: For North American stations (us): On 1.8, 3.5 and 7 MHz count 6 points for QSOs with stations on different continents and 4 points for QSOs with non-U.S. North American stations (including VEs). On 14, 21 and 28 MHz, count 3 points for QSOs with stations on different continents and 2 points for QSOs with non-U.S. North American stations. Contacts with U.S. stations count zero QSO points but are valid for multiplier credit. The multiplier is the total number of different prefixes worked on all bands (not per band). A prefix is defined as the three letter/number combination (two in some cases, I guess) that forms the first part of an amateur call sign, as in H44, G3, W3, AA2, K1, etc.

Reporting: Postmark logs by May 10. Mail to Steve Bolia, N8BJQ, 7659 Stonesboro Dr., Huber Heights, OH 45424.

APRIL

23-24

Helvetia (Swiss) Contest. Details next month.

29-May 1

Dayton Hamvention.

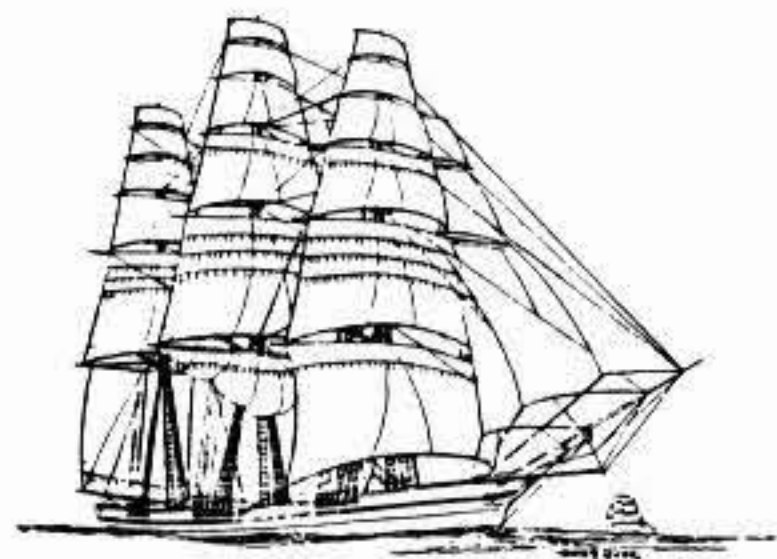
The **Scuttlebutt** is the newsletter of the **Yankee Clipper Contest Club** and is mailed about nine times per year to all paid up members. Dues are \$10 per year, payable 1 April with grace period through 30 June. Non-members may subscribe to the **Scuttlebutt** by sending \$10 to the Treasurer: Bob Czajkowski, N1TZ, North Brookfield Rd., Spencer, MA 01562. Subscribers who subsequently become members will be credited as having paid dues.

The **Yankee Clipper Contest Club** (an ARRL Affiliated Club) holds four official meetings per year, on Saturday afternoons in March/April, October (at the New England Division Convention), November/December, and January/February. Also, W2YV hosts a summer social gathering each July, usually on the second weekend after July 4. Attendance at an official meeting is *required* in order to become a member. Club members congregate on 3830 kHz Monday evenings; many routinely monitor this frequency other evenings as well. On two meters, try 146.745 (K1OX) in the East MA/NH area.

For information and/or assistance, contact the Area Manager nearest you on the following list:

YCCC AREA MANAGERS

			home	work
CT/RI	K1KI	Tom Frenaye	(203) 673-5429	(203) 549-0107
VT/NH	WB8BTH	Jeff DeTray	(603) 525-4998	(603) 924-9471
EMass	W1FJ	Al Rousseau	(617) 598-3744	(617) 599-7500x173
SNY/NJ	K2EK	Bill Gioia	(914) 221-1672	(212) 888-2102
ME	K1SA	Bernie Cohen	(207) 773-6589	(207) 797-3585
NNY	K2VV	John Yodis	(518) 843-3897	(518) 370-4200x600
WMass	W1GG	Gary Gaudette	(413) 443-3404	(413) 494-4047



YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB

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FIRST CLASS