# The Scuttlebutt

## yankee clipper contest club

## From the President

John Dorr, K1AR

Although it may appear that we are in an idle season, let me assure you that YCCC is an active organization throughout the year. There are two major events coming up in the next few months that I would like to mention once again.

First is the annual bash at W2YV's house in July. This event has been growing every year and is really a fun time for YCCCers and friends to get together during the summer and tell each other how they are going to win the next few contests. Last year's highlights included K2TR shooting bottle rockets from Dave's tower, a freak opening to the Northeast in which a hapless DXpedition could only work very loud 1's and 2's, and the humiliation of the W1's in softball (although rubber clocking was suspected). All kidding aside guys, make a special effort to attend.....- you'll love it.

Currently preparation is underway for our Fall meeting in Hartford, CT. I recently had another conversation with ARRL to verify that the NE Convention is indeed cancelled. What that means to YCCC is that we are on our own this year to find a suitable meeting place near Hartford and to provide a program. Through the efforts of Clarke, K1JX, and Tom, K1KI, a meeting place is being arranged. We need suggestions from all of you regarding how we should structure the meeting day. We're hoping to make the

event an intensive day of contest talk (with a little fun thrown in!)

The weather has at last made it possible to do antenna work. One of the big advantages of being a YCCC member is that all of you have a wealth of knowledge to tap with your problems and questions. Don't forget, a big antenna job is a lot easier with 2 or 3 other YCCC guys helping out!!! ∎

Editorial

## Ponderings from the Poop Deck

Bill Myers, K1GQ

I've been receiving considerable constructive criticism of late (why me?) with the general theme that YCCC does not do enough to meet the needs of its "average" members. Upon cross-examination, the plaintiffs often offer examples that would have never occurred to me. The point is this: the "successful" contesters which you have selected as your officers have been at it so long we've forgotten what our needs were as beginners. Although describing what you don't know may be challenging, keep trying. We'll do our best to address these topics in the **Butt** and at the meetings.

One of the topics of discussion at the Spring meeting which didn't get into the minutes was that old warhorse, the "mess on 3830." Frankly, I've little

sympathy for those who feel wounded because nobody invites them to talk. We do not operate round-table style on 3830. If you have something to say, speak up. Somebody stepped on you? Say it again, use VOX, and keep it short. Along the same lines, you may never hear anything you're interested in, unless you bring it up; nobody is going to attempt broadcasts for the benefit of a silent public. Also, don't wait for someone to check-in - many of us monitor without comment for hours, while writing editorials, duping logs, etc.

We do have a special problem with W4EX and his friends, who fire up on 3830 every night regardless of who is already on the frequency. Both rational and ir-rational discussions directly with EX have had no impact on his behavior. So be it. Normally, we move down 2 KHz while the pigfarmers do their shoveling.

Over the past few years, 3830 has become the place to go for East Coast scores right after a contest - even 5's and Ø's show up. Bitching about lack of proper net control is not appropriate, as there is no net. Bitching about having to listen to scores and other chatter that is not germane to YCCC is parochial - 3830 does not belong to us anymore than to the pigfarmers.

3830 is an important YCCC asset, because it provides intra-club communications which cannot be accomplished on VHF or at meetings. An officer of the club is there almost any evening; if the guy you want isn't there, one of the regulars will take a message. If you don't use this asset because something offends you, you're hurting both yourself and the club.

Enough sermonizing. One of the most interesting operating aids since memory keyers was previewed at the YCCC suite in Dayton. The DX EDGE is a slide-rule type device allowing you to determine those areas of the world that are in daylight and those in darkness at any time of day and month of year. Unfortunately, the device isn't available yet (June 1), so I haven't seen one in the flesh. If you want details, write

The DX EDGE
P.O. Box 834
Madison Square Station
New York, N.Y. 10159

If you're really eager, send them $14.95. Dennis, K2SX, gave me a flyer. He's an ex-CAC'er so the gizmo has some chance of being more than a "re-surface your driveway" proposition.

It's that time of year - everyone seems to be putting up towers. A prevalent question is, "Should I use Rohn 25, 45, or 55?". Anyone who has seen my place knows where I stand on this, but I'm not prepared to back it up with numbers, and the experts are also the sellers. Are there any mechanical engineer-types out there who can work up a cookbook-style guide on tower selection? ∎

# Typesetting The BUTT

## Rex Lint, K1HI

Notice anything different about your **Butt**? Does it look better than it used to? It should; it's typeset on DECset. Bill (K1GQ), Dick (AK1A), and I teamed up to make this happen using Digital Equipment Corporations's new text management system. DECset is a VAX computer system, tailored to make the publishing of text fast, efficient, and easy. The VAX computer is attached to a phototypesetter, and the system which we used is connected to Digital's engineering computer network.

Dick and I both work at DEC's Merrimack (NH) plant. Dick is the System Manager of one of the VAXs in the Engineering Department, and I'm the Product Manager for DECset. Dick's intimate knowledge of the VAX led to his interest in typesetting some of the textual data on his own system. He enters text into files on his VAX using his computer video display terminal (VDT) and an editor, which is a program that makes the VDT/VAX combination act almost like a word processor. Since Dick's system has a remote dial-up capability, he can access it from his terminal at home, or from any other VDT with remote capability. Using the network connection between his VAX and my laboratory DECset system, he then transmits the text he wants typeset to DECset.

For the newsletter, Dick wrote several "formats" which specify the typographic characteristics associated with headlines, running text, etc., and assigned names to these formats. That made it easy for Bill, who was itching to get his hands on Dick's VDT, to input and edit (as editors are wont to do) articles for the **Butt**. He just types in the the text, identifying each textual element with the format names. Dick then copies the text files across the computer network to the DECset machine, passes them through the text processing program, outputs the result to the photo-composer, and out comes the **Butt**, nice and pretty!

We've done other HAMtype, as well. You may have seen some of Dick's dupe sheets or custom contest log sheets. I've put together a typeset QSL card which comes off the composer in camera-ready condition; these look like a very inexpensive solution to the financial woes of the 100% clan. What you've seen so far is just a beginning - we're limited only by our imaginations! ∎