



# Scuttlebutt

June 2023

Issue 270

**Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**YCCC Cookout, 11:00AM – 3:00PM**  
**Southborough Rod & Gun Club**  
**254 Fruit St, Hopkinton, MA 01772**

## CAPTAIN'S LOG

Hi All,

Focus and activities here have been decidedly not radio related but Club business is going on in the background all of the time.

Rudy – N2WQ was supported with some background info and data for a CAC issue he is working.

We were approached by the Florida Contest Group with an offer regarding the W1CW/W1YL legacy. Chris – W4WF, FCG President has been working with the family to preserve their call signs. He approached us to determine if it made sense for at least one of the calls to be managed by the Club given their history in the area. Our more senior members were polled and the consensus was the FCG had the strongest connection as Bob and Ellen were the founders. We have conveyed that position to Chris and the FCG.

Northeast HamXposition (<https://hamxposition.org/>) preparations are in full swing and we are pleased to announce YCCC member Don Greenbaum – N1DG will be the DX Dinner speaker. YCCC member Dennis – W1UE will give a presentation on his experiences at the upcoming WRTC. YCCC member Doug – K1DG will give a presentation on Intro to Contesting.

One additional talk is needed for the YCCC sponsored Contesting track and a team is needed to set-up and manage the W1A station. There have been passionate pleas to reintroduce a contesting cookbook like we used to hand out during the convention in years past. We will work with anyone that wants to lead the effort. Watch your in-boxes!

We have conveyed our support for the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications (DLARC) (<https://archive.org/details/dlarc>) to include all of the Club's Scuttlebutts in their archive.

We on-boarded Paul – K1XM for a return engagement as Vice President, a role he previously held 2000 – 2001. Paul threw his hat into the nomination pool at the April meeting as was quickly voted in. Thank you, Paul.

Jeff – NT1K volunteered for the Western Mass Area manager. Thank you, Jeff.

The CQ WPX CW pre-meeting was well attended with some 38 members in the Zoom session. We enjoyed talks by Ray – NM2O and Rudy – N2WQ.

*(Captain's Log continued on page 3)*

<b>Yankee Clipper Contest Club</b>	
<b>President</b>	Ken Caruso, WO1N <a href="mailto:President@YCCC.org">President@YCCC.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Charles Morrison, N1RR 401-742-7240 <a href="mailto:VicePresident@YCCC.org">VicePresident@YCCC.org</a>
<b>Activities Manager</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	Brian Szewczyk, NJ1F <a href="mailto:Secretary@YCCC.org">Secretary@YCCC.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chet Slabinski, N8RA <a href="mailto:Treasurer@YCCC.org">Treasurer@YCCC.org</a>
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<b>W1 QSL Bureau Co-Managers</b>	Eric Williams, KV1J Dennis Egan, W1UE <a href="mailto:W1QSL@W1QSL">W1QSL@W1QSL</a>
<b>New Members</b>	Mark Pride, K1RX (603) 231-8965 <a href="mailto:Members@yccc.org">Members@yccc.org</a>
<b>Media Manager</b>	Tom LeClerc, W1TJL <a href="mailto:Content@yccc.org">Content@yccc.org</a>

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**NEXT MEETING**  
**Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Southborough Rod & Gun Club**  
**254 Fruit St, Hopkinton, MA 01772**  
**(See Page 8 for Detail Directions)**

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**Area Managers**

<b>ME</b>	Mike Russo, K1EU	(207) 883-9524	<a href="mailto:k1eu@maine.rr.com">k1eu@maine.rr.com</a>
<b>ENH/NEMA</b>	Ken Caruso, WO1N	-----	<a href="mailto:wo1n@arrl.net">wo1n@arrl.net</a>
<b>WNH/SVT</b>	Craig Clark, K1QX	-----	<a href="mailto:k1qx@arrl.net">k1qx@arrl.net</a>
<b>SE MA (508) [co-mgr]</b>	Charlie Morrison, N1RR	(401) 742-7240	<a href="mailto:charles.morrison.n1rr@gmail.com">charles.morrison.n1rr@gmail.com</a>
<b>SE MA (508) [co-mgr]</b>	Dave Neil, W2DAN	-----	-----
<b>Boston (617/781)</b>	Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P	(617) 325-6767	<a href="mailto:jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu">jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu</a>
<b>WMA (413)</b>	Jeff Bail, NT1K	-----	<a href="mailto:nt1k@nt1k.com">nt1k@nt1k.com</a>
<b>CT (860)</b>	----- <b>OPEN</b> -----	-----	-----
<b>CT (203)</b>	Mike Loukides, W1JQ	(203) 458-2545	<a href="mailto:MikeL@oreilly.com">MikeL@oreilly.com</a>
<b>RI (401)</b>	Charlie Morrison, N1RR	(401) 742-7240	<a href="mailto:n1rr@n1rr.com">n1rr@n1rr.com</a>
<b>NNY</b>	John Corini, KE1IH	-----	<a href="mailto:John.Corini@gmail.com">John.Corini@gmail.com</a>
<b>NYC/LI (718)</b>	Tom Carrubba, KA2D	(631) 422-9594	<a href="mailto:ka2d@arrl.net">ka2d@arrl.net</a>
<b>SNY/NJ/PA (914)</b>	Hank Kiernan, KF2O	(914) 235-4940	<a href="mailto:hankkier@aol.com">hankkier@aol.com</a>
<b>NVT (802)</b>	Jason Garneau, K1LOL	-----	-----
<b>QUEBEC</b>	Guy Lemieux, VE2BWL	-----	<a href="mailto:guy@guylemieux.com">guy@guylemieux.com</a>
<b>CAPE &amp; ISLANDS</b>	----- <b>OPEN</b> -----	-----	-----

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*(Captain's Log continued from page 1)*

Looking forward, the Club will have quite the representation at the WRTC held in Italy this year. The officers have repeatedly asked how the Club can help and the most common response was “get on the air and work the contest”. OK!

Our IT specialists have been working on the super secure random number generators that feature NSA compliant entropy to prepare for the 2023 BIC Challenge drawing. A database has been compiled of all members that worked 20 or more hours in the chair in each of the CQWW DX, ARRL DX and CQ WPX contests held this past season. Only one entry per event, so you could conceivably have earned up to 6 entries (only a few of you managed that). The drawing will be held the week of June 17<sup>th</sup> and the winner will be announced at the YCCC Cookout.

Speaking of which, the WISRG team, has extended an invite to hold the annual Club cookout at the Southborough Rod & Gun Club again for this year. We have settled on Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>. 11 AM to 3 PM. They have an onsite club shack and a covered pavilion that can seat up to 100. We hope to see you there. Watch the reflector for more detail.

It's that time of year again, dues are up! Brian, NJ1F has been keeping the website roster up-to-date. If you see your dues date as 12/31/2022 or earlier, you are up for renewal. Those that haven't paid your dues since 12/31/2017 have been removed from the online roster. Dues are \$15/year and are payable via PayPal. You only need to pay for the current year to get active again. There is no need to pay for past years.

Club officer vacancies need motivated testers to step up. Please volunteer.

73,

Ken – WO1N

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## ELECTION RESULTS

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club annual election of officers was conducted during the April in person meeting.

The results are....	President	Ken Caruso, WO1N
	Vice President	Paul Young, K1XM
	Secretary	Brian Szewczyk, NJ1F
	Treasurer	Chet Slabinski, N8RA
	Activities Manager,	<b>OPEN</b>

Congratulations to all of the officers.

Note that the club is still in need of an Activities Manager for this year.

The duties of the Activities Manager as defined by the Club's Constitution:

Sec. 5 – The Activities Manager shall plan and manage meeting programs and similar activities and perform other duties as agreed upon with the President.

If you are interested in becoming the Activities Manager please contact any of the officers.

Kick Butt

Brian NJ1F

YCCC Secretary

## CQ Contest Hall of Fame Inductees – 2023

Ken – WO1N

The YCCC would like to recognize the 2023 CQ Contest Hall of Fame inductees.

Ken Claerbout - K4ZW, Kirk Pickering - K4RO and Ben Buettner - DL6RAI (SK) joined the field this year upon nomination by their peers.



*Ken, K4ZW and Kirk, K4RO at the CQ Contest Hall of Fame Ceremony (K2UA photo)*

Ken – K4ZW was first licensed in 1977 as WD9DEE while attending high school in Cedar Grove. Ken is Vice-President, Secretary and Director of the YASME Foundation. His professional career included stints in the Diplomatic Telecommunications Service supporting a secure global network of US Embassies and facilities around the world. He currently enjoys contesting and chasing DX on the lowbands, both from his home station and overseas. Congratulations, Ken.

Kirk – K4RO was first licensed in 1976 and moved to Tennessee in 1980. After the inevitable few low activity years his activity and interest was rekindled in the late 80's and in October 1991 he purchased

a hilltop QTH. Kirk was tuning across the 160M band in January 1993 and stumbled across the CQ160 contest in full swing. He was hooked and has been a regular on the bands and in contests since then. Kirk joined the Tennessee Contest Group in 1994 and has been involved with them ever since. He is the current President.

In the March/April 2008 issue of NCJ, Kirk began the column, Contesting 101. Kirk wrote this for four years and then became the next NCJ Editor. Kirk has been a force in the contesting committee for years. Congratulations, Kirk.

Ben – DL6RAI (SK) was first licensed in 1980, Ben was a prolific operator from both his home stations and DX locations.



*DL6RAI (unattributed internet photo)*

In the late 1990s he collaborated with DJ0ZY to develop and maintain a Packet Cluster like software package, CLX.

Ben was heavily involved with the Bavarian Contest Club, President 2007 - 2019. He was the WAE DC Contest Manager 2002 – 2005 and a member of the CQWW Contest Committee.

Ben was heavily involved in the WRTC 2018 organization responsible for providing the online score reporting black boxes.

Ben tragically lost his life in a tower accident on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The contesting community has lost a major contributor and he will be sorely missed.

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## Revised WPX Presentation

(Ray's - NM2O presentation regarding WPX Prefixes from the Wednesday Zoom Meeting)  
Ray, NM2O

The tables added in the Appendix show the number of entrants per prefix.

To answer the question posed more fully about how rare the 2x calls are.

Some thoughts about selecting an inactive prefix:

- Remember that only ½ of the FCC issued prefixes were active last year.
- Pick a prefix highlighted in yellow. It has zero entrants last year.
- Pick a prefix with one entrant. So, you can work your own prefix.
- Possibly sign portable if you are out of home district. NM2O/4.
- Sign portable with an inactive prefix. e.g. K1XYZ/WZ3.

The file is available in the Files area of the yccc@groups.io group.

[/Contest-Operating-Tips-Cookbooks/WPX-Prefixes-2023-NM2O.pdf](#)

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# YCCC Dominates in the 2022 CQ WPX Club Competition

Ken - WO1N

This arrived recently:



How on earth did we do that?

Well, we are looking at the data at the moment but it was clear even from the 3830 reports that we had this one well in hand:

2022 CQ WPX Club Competition - 3830 View						
	SSB		CW		Totals	
	Entries	SSB Score	Entries	CW Score	Entries	Score
YCCC	48	140,967,827	58	112,544,693	106	253,512,520
PVRC	73	108,110,325	86	101,229,780	159	209,340,105
FRC	44	62,179,134	58	82,187,066	102	144,366,200

These scores held up through the final adjudicated results:

2022 CQ WPX Club Competition - Official						
	SSB		CW		Totals	
	Entries	SSB Score	Entries	CW Score	Entries	Score
YCCC	70	147,313,813	79	117,827,846	149	265,141,659
PVRC	92	104,439,161	95	89,216,761	187	193,655,922
FRC	51	74,461,902	73	70,881,935	124	145,343,837

You can see, however, that the PVRC folks have made this contest a priority over the years. They get a lot of operators on for the WPX events.

I tried to get to the bottom of the ~2.6M discrepancy between the plaque total and the downloaded data but was unable to...

Can we repeat?

2023 CQ WPX Club Competition - 3830 View						
2023 <sup>1</sup>	SSB		CW		Totals	
	Entries	SSB Score	Entries	CW Score	Entries	Score
YCCC	49	123,189,225				
PVRC	82	134,650,046				
FRC	52	76,119,464				
1. 2023 Data based on Claimed Scores analysis performed by NG1M						

Looks like PVRC has the lead!

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### With The Crew:

- **Bob, KQ2M and XYL:** Took a trip to Baltimore, MD for the Graduate school Graduation of their daughter Melissa, who received Graduate degree in Applied Math and Statistics from Johns Hopkins, Krieger School of Engineering. She received her Undergraduate degree with honors last year - a double major in Applied Math and Statistics and Computer Science, with a 3.92 GPA. She is moving to Washington, DC to live and work.
- **Jack, W1WEF: A word of caution...Weller Soldering Guns,** I posted this once before but it happened again so I thought I'd repost. For the second time on my trusty OLD D440 heavy duty gun, the switch shorted in the on position and could have started a fire. It was not apparent that it was on because it still clicked normally as if on or off. I suggest you not leave your gun plugged in if not in use.
- **George VA2EBI:** In college I once took an Alfa Romeo Giulia out for a test drive. I watched several Ferrari Formula One cars at the 1964 U.S. Gran Prix at Watkins Glen, N.Y. And I acquired my own fine piece of Italian machinery at the 2023 Dayton Hamvention—a Begali Contour paddle. The red finger pieces are definitely the proper color.
- **Mark, K1RX:** Mark is looking for hole patterns/diagrams for all Amateur Rotors (Rotor shelf Mounting Dimensions, Hole Diameters etc.) Will appreciate receiving pdf's of manuals/layouts via email (mpridesti@yahoo.com).

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# YCCC Cookout - Saturday, June 17, 2023

## Directions to Southborough Rod & Gun Club

**NOTE: FRUIT STREET BRIDGE IS CLOSED**

### From the South, via Rte 85

1. North on Rte 85
2. LEFT on Cedar St Extension (before Carbone's restaurant)
3. LEFT Wedgewood Dr
4. RIGHT Stoneybrook Dr
5. RIGHT Edgehill Rd
6. RIGHT Saddle Hill Rd
7. RIGHT Fruit St
8. RIGHT SRG

### From the North, via Rte 85

1. South on Rte 85
2. RIGHT Southville Rd
3. LEFT Bridge St
4. LEFT Cedar St Extension
5. RIGHT Wedgewood Dr
6. RIGHT Stoneybrook Dr
7. RIGHT Edgehill Rd
8. RIGHT Saddle Hill Rd
9. RIGHT Fruit St
10. RIGHT SRG

### From the East via Rte 135

1. RIGHT after "Learning Center" onto Proctor Rd
2. RIGHT at stop sign onto Saddle Hill Rd
3. RIGHT at stop onto Fruit St
4. RIGHT SRG

### ---- OR ----

1. Stay on Rte 135W past Proctor Rd, go through Woodville
2. RIGHT on Fruit St (after the Woodville Rod & Gun Club)
3. RIGHT SRG

### From the South West

1. From Upton State Forest on Westboro Rd
2. RIGHT Southboro Rd
3. Road turns into Spring St
4. Continue straight at stop sign
5. Cross Wood St (Rte 135) to Cunningham St
6. LEFT Fruit St
7. RIGHT SRG

### From the North West

1. Find Westborough
2. Take Rte 135 East towards Hopkinton
3. LEFT North St
4. LEFT Fruit St
5. RIGHT SRG

For map, see: <https://www.southboroughrodandgun.com/contact>



# Open Positions in the YCCC

Ken – WO1N

## Activities Manager

The Activities Manager roles and responsibilities, as outlined in the Club constitution “shall plan and manage meeting programs and similar activities and perform other duties as agreed upon with the President”. This is a core position and candidates would be expected to support every Club meeting and the roughly twice per month Board meetings.

## Area Manager Openings

Recently we have had two Area Manager resignations and we have one position that has been open for a few years now.

## Eastern CT Area Manager

### Cape and Islands Area Manager

The Area Manager role is described in Section 5 of the Club bylaws. “Area Managers shall be appointed for such areas deemed appropriate by the President. These Managers shall be responsible for serving the interests of members in their area, which may include assisting in antenna projects, helping procure transportation to Club meetings, and recruiting new members.” In practical terms, Area managers are called upon to organize local area meetings, either live or Zoom, define resources within the area that can be called upon should Club members put out a call for assistance with antenna projects. Additionally, Area Managers do some recruiting at area get togethers (hamfests, flea markets etc.). Finally they are asked to report back on a regular basis to the Club as to activities within the area.

We are encouraging Area Managers to be a bit more active. We think it is a good approach to engage new members in developing a sense of belonging to the Club other than the few live meetings we have each year.

If you think you can fulfill any of these roles, please drop me a note at [President@yccc.org](mailto:President@yccc.org)

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## NT1K New WMA Area Manager

Ken – WO1N

Just wanted to pass along, Jeff Bail – NT1K has stepped up to take on the Western Mass Area Manager role.

Jeff has been a YCCC member since 2011 and currently resides in West Springfield.

Like many of us Jeff occasionally gets busy with real life but you can see he has been an active ham with a decent home station in various stages of repair and rebuilding.

Jeff heads up the Pioneer Valley VE Team, maintains his own web site ([www.nt1k.com](http://www.nt1k.com)) and is a moderator on the Reddit group Amateur Radio ( <https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/> ).

Welcome Jeff!

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# Dayton Hamvention 2023 Presentations

## Contest University 2023



Contest University (CTU) is a great resource of current best practices- from antennas to operating- from top contesters. If you didn't have a chance to attend 2023 CTU, a recording of the entire days sessions is available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/dm3LtGdvbZg?feature=share>

Presenters shown in the video include Doug Grant, K1DG; Bob Wilson, N6TV; Philipp Springer, DK6SP, and Joel Harrison, W5ZN. Thanks to Tim Duffy, K3LR; Icom America, and DX Engineering for providing the video of the event.

Individual 2023 presentations are available at the following URLs along with presentations from previous years:

Contest University 2012 thru 2023 PDF Files are at: <https://www.contestuniversity.com/files/>

Contest University 2013 thru 2023 Videos are at: <https://www.contestuniversity.com/videos/>

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## 2023 Dayton Antenna Forum

Tim Duffy, K3LR

The slides from all four 2023 Dayton Antenna forum presentations are available at:

<http://www.k3lr.com/Dayton/Dayton2023/>

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## Dayton Contest Forum

### Link to K1LZ/K1ZM Speech

### "The HYBRID Approach to Multi Multi Contesting"

Jeff, K1ZM

If you were unable to attend Dayton and would like to watch the speech made by K1LZ Krassy at the Contest Forum, you can watch it on YOU TUBE using the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAdmjVU-RX0>

The speech appears at about the 6:03 hour point in the video and lasts just under 30 mins. K1DG was the moderator of the forum.

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## DRONE Footage From at K1LZ During 2023 CQ WPX CW

Jeff, K1ZM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ld5Ga1heoaE>

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## **Rhode Island (401) Activity Report**

Charlie Morrison, N1RR, RI (401) Area Manager

WA1BXY / KC1BXY / NC1CC is always looking for remote operators for his nearly weekly contest efforts on CW, SSB or RTTY. (Full or part-time) Contact Don at his QRZ email address to find out what their next contest effort will be. Don is off 160M currently.

50MHz is the current operating focus of several YCCCs in R.I. along with some EMA members using a cellphone text group for alerts.

Several in R.I. were active in NEQP: KS1J, AJ1DM, NC1CC, NG1M, W2DAN and others.

Daily Active R.I. HF stations: N1NK, WA1BXY/NC1CC, K1TZQ, KI1G

Some recent HF activity: N1KM, W1WBB, KB1OHC.

WB2VVV has been active in K1WHS's 222 activity nights along with WZ1V.

NG1M has been putting in extra hours recently having taken over YCCC score collection duties. Thanks Mike !

N1RR removed some branches near his small tower and the mast/yagis (10M/6M) mis-aligned from those previous branches has been corrected thanks to local ground crewman Doug-N2RDF. Still having an issue with G-1000 (450degs) and GH RT21 trying to turn it 360degs and getting inconsistent headings in each direction. GH calibration doesn't seem to solve it.

KB1OHC has a new puppy at home.

73 to W1YM / K1UQT who are preparing to retire back to the mid-west. GL to Mike & Lisa.

A few local area hams became SK: Paul-W1HY and Frank-W1YIF. Each was active on H.F, and located less than 2 miles from N1RR.

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### **Pleased to Announce**

Mark, K1RX

As probably all of you know, I've been doing fee-based tower work for the northeast ham community for over 30 years. It's been a pleasure to help you with your antenna farms in various ways.

Now I'm reporting that I have a well experienced person joining me, as I work my exit plan and transition my tools, resources, skill set and those 60 years of ham knowledge over to Nik who is the son of my very long time friend, Vytas (Al) WA1T. Although Nik is not licensed, he plans to get that done shortly. Having done lots of antenna work with his Dad and now with me, he is off to the races!

I will continue to stay in this game too but serving as his knowledgeable ground crew and as necessary, be his 3rd and 4th hand on the tower. I will remain your principle point of contact.

Availability: Nik has a full time job and currently is only available Friday Saturday and Sunday. Not yet retired LOL. I plan to do select jobs on those other days but the goal is to fill his weekends (weather permitting).

Been putting off a project? Contest season is coming (like every year) bands are getting hotter, time for that upgrade?

Separately, Nik and I are developing a product for the ham community that will make the hobby even more fun with your tower mounted antennas. More details to follow. Looking to leverage his skills with his full time job experience.

Mark, K1RX - 603-231-8965

## **LOST CREW (Silent Keys)**

### **William (Bill) Gioia – K2EK – Grant, FL, February 01, 1950 ~ May 31, 2023**

William V. Gioia, 73, passed away on May 31, 2023, at his home in Grant, Florida.

He was born February 1, 1950, in Queens, NY and had been a resident of Grant since 2013, coming from Bushnell, FL after moving down South following 9/11.

Bill received his bachelor's degree from New York University. He started his career in New York City with the Depository Trust Corporation and later retired as data processing manager at their location in Tampa, FL. Bill managed the database systems supporting the NASDAQ Stock Exchange and was in charge of their relocation to Florida in the aftermath of 9/11.

At the age of 12, Bill was introduced to the world of HAM Radio. Throughout his life, he received numerous awards, held world records and was a member of many radio clubs.

A little something from his QRZ page:

"A crystal radio kit sparked my first interest in radio. I would spend hours tuning the AM broadcast band for new stations. My next step was building a KT-135 Explor-Air super-regen receiver kit.

Listening to foreign broadcast and AM signals in the ham bands got me interested in amateur radio. I was originally licensed as WN2DZZ in 1962. My first rig was the venerable DX20, a Lafayette HE30 receiver and a dipole. I obtained K2EK in 1976.

Bill at one time held the single band record on 40M in ARRL DX CW and was an active 160m DX'er for many years when he lived in Hopewell Jct, NY in the Hudson valley. He was a superb contest op with a mega station near Stormville, NY in the 70's and 80s. He held quite a few records and awards in his time including:

DXCC Mixed Honor Roll; DXCC on 9 bands; Digital DXCC 235/221 (all FT8); DXCC Challenge 2089; WAZ CW; WAZ SSB; WAZ Digital (all FT8); 5BWAS 250/242 (all FT8); 160 WAS 50/50; 30M WAS 50/50; 17M WAS 50/50; 12M WAS 50/50.

Bill was a former YCCC member, CWop 2072 and 10-10 #4796.

Bill, and his wife Jackie, both enjoyed riding motorcycles and made many cross country trips together. He was also an avid diver, enjoyed snow skiing, photography and target shooting. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his wife of 14 years, Jackie Ladd Gioia; step-son, Stephen Pridemore of Bristol, TN; mother, Frances Gioia of Queens and sister, Margaret Gioia of Queens.

He was predeceased by his father, Frank Gioia.

*Thanks to K1ZM, K1NY & Millennium Cremation Service*

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## No AM Radio in New Vehicles or Maybe Not

Last year, Ford said it was going to remove AM radio from its 2023 model year F-150 Lightning electric trucks as "the frequencies involved in AM radio tend to be directly affected by the electromagnetic noise in EV propulsion systems," according to The Wall Street Journal.

Ford spokesman Wes Sherwood confirmed the development in a statement to the Detroit Free Press.

"We are transitioning from AM radio for most [new and updated 2024 models](#)," he said. "A majority of U.S. AM stations, as well as a number of countries and automakers globally, are modernizing radio by offering internet streaming through mobile apps, FM, digital and satellite radio options.

"Ford will continue to offer these alternatives for customers to hear their favorite AM radio music, news and podcasts as we remove amplitude modulation -- the definition of AM in this case -- from most new and updated models we bring to market," he added, noting that commercial vehicles will still retain AM radio features because of contract language.

Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, penned a letter to 20 EV manufacturers in December 2022 asking about the future of AM radio in their vehicles. According to Sen Markey's office in March:

- Eight companies: BMW, Ford, Mazda, Polestar, Rivian, Tesla, Volkswagen, and Volvo -- have removed broadcast AM radio from their electric vehicles,"
- Ten automakers -- Honda, Hyundai, Jaguar/Land Rover, Kia, Lucid, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Stellantis, Subaru, and Toyota -- still maintain access to broadcast AM radio in their vehicles.
- Mercedes-Benz and General Motors refused to provide individual responses.

Markey said "Broadcast AM radio is an essential part of our emergency alert infrastructure, but the responses to my letter show that far too many automakers are ignoring the critical safety benefits of AM radio.

"Although many automakers suggested that other communication tools — such as internet radio — could replace broadcast AM radio, in an emergency, drivers might not have access to the internet and could miss critical safety information," he continued. "The truth is that broadcast AM radio is irreplaceable. As the auto industry rightfully replaces the internal combustion engine with electric batteries, I will continue to work to ensure that automakers maintain access to broadcast AM radio in all their vehicles."

### **Ford reverses course - AM radio will stay!**

Ford CEO Jim Farley announced on Tuesday May 23, that the automaker is reversing its previous plan to remove AM radio from vehicles, both electric and gasoline operated, in 2024.

Farley, in a post on his LinkedIn professional page and a tweet on Twitter, said:

"After speaking with policy leaders about the importance of AM broadcast radio as a part of the emergency alert system, we've decided to include it on all 2024 Ford & Lincoln vehicles. For any owners of Ford EVs without AM broadcast capability, we'll offer a software update. Customers can currently listen to AM radio content in a variety of ways in our vehicles –including via streaming – and we will continue to innovate to deliver even better in-vehicle entertainment and emergency notification options in the future. Thanks to our product development and manufacturing teams for their quick response to make this change for our customers."

*Thanks to foxbusiness.com (April 5, 2023 9:21am EDT) and Detroit Free Press*

These two NAB websites present additional information regarding the importance of AM radio from the broadcaster's perspective:

<https://www.nab.org/amtoolkit/amEas.asp>

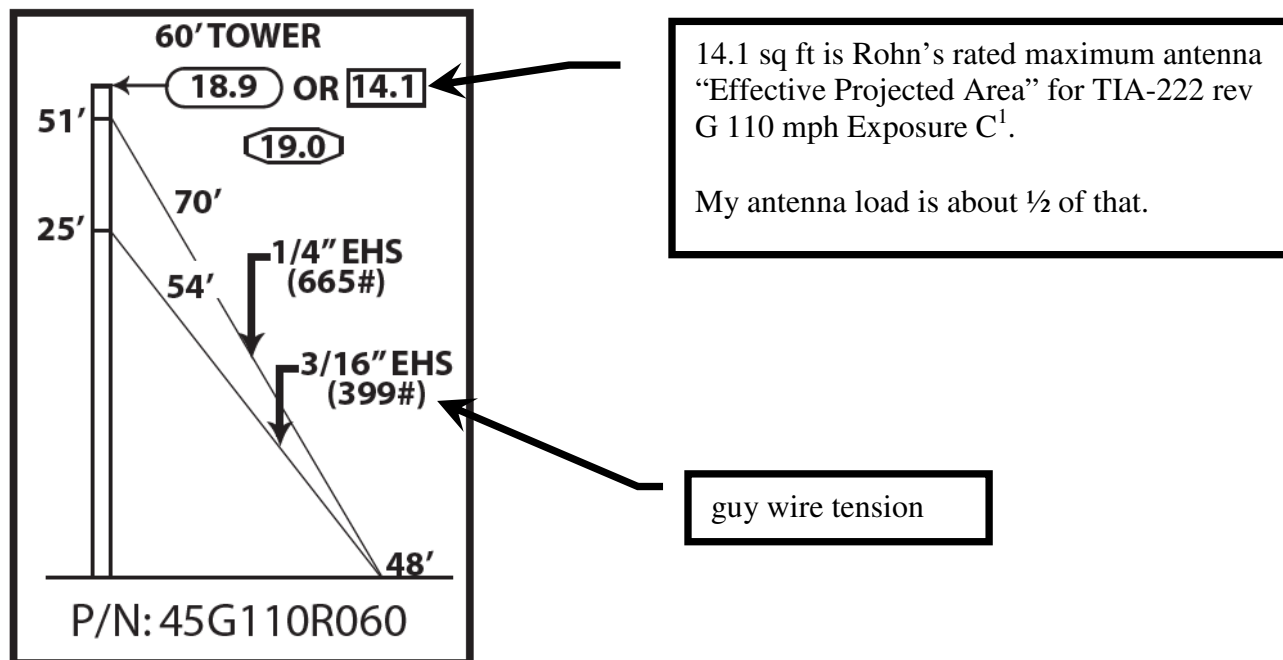
<https://www.nab.org/amToolkit/default.asp>

## Guy notes

Chet, N8RA

As we enter antenna season, I suggest checking that your tower guy wires are in good shape, including being properly tensed.

About 6 years ago I built two ~60' tall Rohn 45 towers following a plan from the Rohn catalog for a 110-mph max wind speed requirement:

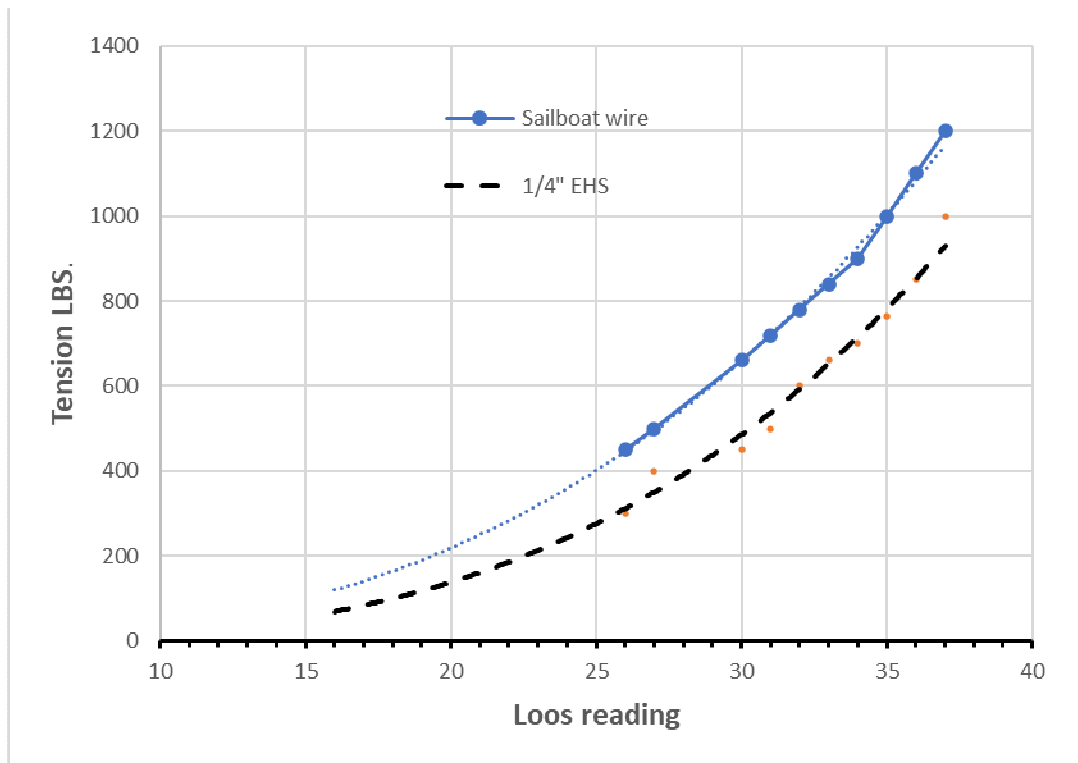


The guy wire tensions were first set in the winter using a Loos PT-2 gauge. The tensions were rechecked the following summer and needed only minor tweaking.

A week ago, I checked the tensions again. The “VHF tower” readings were virtually unchanged from 5 years ago. For the “HF tower”, the top guy tensions were unchanged, but the mid-level guy tensions were noticeably lower. Hmmm? My guess is that the larger HF yagis on this tower made for higher wind stress and perhaps one of those middle guys had twisted a little at one of its connections, or maybe a thimble, turnbuckle, equalizer plate or torque bar had shifted slightly. Or... maybe a deer rammed it one night. To readjust, the turnbuckle of one wire was turned to take it half way toward its target tension. The other two wire’s tensions had then increased a bit too and it only took a half turn on them to get them back to their target tension reading, The first tension was at its target after that, so all was good again. The tower looked plumb.

A Loos gauge is an easy-to-use tool for adjusting sailboat rigging (19 strand stainless steel), and is calibrated for that, not galvanized EHS guy wire, so can we trust its readings? The Loos site had no info for use with other wire types. I next went to “Tower-Talk” where I found this question had been discussed by many, and, indeed, some had run tests of it when used on tower guy material (EHS, phillystran, ...).

K4KYV had posted some test results that I used to make this calibration curve for 1/4" EHS guy wire.



The Loos gauge tensions for 1/4" EHS are about 20% lower than the value on the gauge's label at the high-end. The low-end readings are off by 50% but 1/4" EHS would not be used at this low a tension anyway.

I did not find data for 3/16" EHS wire but expect a similar result.

On Tower-Talk the effect of temperature on the tension due to expansion/contraction was also mentioned but was not quantified or alarmed.

I've altered my adjustment tensions to take into account the graph above when done at a mid-temperature for my location. If it is a colder or warmer day, I'll target a slightly higher or lower gauge reading. If the actual tension then varies by +/- a hundred pounds or so throughout the year that does not seem like a big deal, as the typical tension setting is usually around 10% of the wire breaking strength. I believe the tower can stand it too.

Chet, N8RA

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## Amazon Book Prices to Increase

Amazon has announced big price increases for printed books effective June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Might be a good time to purchase that Amazon book that you've been craving.

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## W6NL\_MOXON

In response to discussions on Dave Leeson, W6NL's 40M Moxon yagi, he posted on TowerTalk (<http://lists.contesting.com/archives/html/Towertalk/2023-05/msg00026.html>)

Date: Sat, 20 May 2023 16:03:21 -0700  
From: Leeson <leeson@earthlink.net>  
To: marsh@ka5m.net, 'BRUCE FORD' <ks9u@aol.com>, "towertalk@contesting.com" <towertalk@contesting.com>  
Subject: Re: [TowerTalk] Xm240 to moon - Link to W6NL\_Moxon104.pdf  
Message-ID: <[afdcee94-99d7-c768-99a0-5a2c07143a35@earthlink.net](mailto:afdcee94-99d7-c768-99a0-5a2c07143a35@earthlink.net)>

From W6NL: The history of this antenna begins with my 2003 antenna with 27-foot boom, designed for our 125 mi/h (200 km/h) winds.

See <https://www.kkn.net/dayton2004/dayton-2004-antenna-forum.html> This antenna is still in use here. Copies were built by K5MR, K6KR, KZ1W and others. The K5MR antenna is now at N4BAA.

In 2007, K3LR asked me to modify the design for less wind load than we have here, for convenience to be built with available parts of the Cushcraft XM240. See

[http://www.kkn.net/dayton2007/w6nl\\_ant.pdf](http://www.kkn.net/dayton2007/w6nl_ant.pdf) and  
<http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/>

The first try [www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NL\\_Moxon104.pdf](http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NL_Moxon104.pdf)  
<[http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NL\\_Moxon104.pdf](http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NL_Moxon104.pdf)>  
was not quite strong enough for the winds there, so a modified design was made in 2010 as  
[www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NL\\_Mox\\_100.pdf](http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NL_Mox_100.pdf)  
<[http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NL\\_Mox\\_100.pdf](http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NL_Mox_100.pdf)>

In 2012, W2SC asked me to provide an updated design to use at 8P5A, see  
[www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NL\\_Mox\\_Tube\\_100.pdf](http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NL_Mox_Tube_100.pdf)  
<[http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NL\\_Mox\\_Tube\\_100.pdf](http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NL_Mox_Tube_100.pdf)>

For a discussion of modeling this type of antenna, see  
[www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NLMoxonModeling.pdf](http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NLMoxonModeling.pdf)  
<<http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/moxon/W6NLMoxonModeling.pdf>>

These have been built by W1UJ and K1KP in a project of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, for their own use and for W2SC/8P5A. See <https://w1uj.net/Moxon/> Here you will find many files describing their work to build these antennas. See particularly K1KP's Dayton talk  
<https://www.kkn.net/dayton2012/DaytonAntennaPaper05102012.pdf> and  
[https://www.yccc.org/Scuttlebutt/2011/butt2011\\_10.pdf](https://www.yccc.org/Scuttlebutt/2011/butt2011_10.pdf) Also see  
<https://w1uj.net/Moxon/K1KP/readme.html>

In 2014 I was asked by WE9V to update the design to account for some minor errors he found in the wind calculations. Also, he wanted to make his antenna from 6-foot (2-meter) lengths of tubing. The antenna was finished in 2015, see <https://www.we9v.com/antennas.htm> The element dimensions for this antenna are in WE9V Moxon 100 mi.pdf and Visio-Moxon Cushcraft XM240 40M.pdf The dimensions from WE9V are here, from an email from me to him near the end of his project:

"So in summary, an antenna making good use of XM-240, especially the expensive bigger sections, has 99 mi/h survival and should have the same electrical performance as the other W6NL-Moxons. The elements, all with 0.058" wall, are as follows for the reflector, which is the more stressed element:



1-1/2"x72" EH and EA used as reinforcement, add new 1-1/4"x24" inside  
 1-3/8"x72" 42" exposed, with reinforcement inner 24"  
 1-1/4"x48" 45" exposed, EB  
 1-1/8"x48" 44" exposed, EC  
 1"x16" 13" exposed, half ED  
 7/8"x18" 14" exposed, new part  
 3/4"x6" Reinforced, new, to mount cross element  
 1/2"x48" 39" exposed , EF (could be more or less)  
 3/8"x36" 13.25" exposed, half EJ, for proper tip length

**For the driven element:**

1-1/2"x72" EH and EA used as reinforcement, add new 1-1/4"x18" inside  
 1-3/8"x72" 42" exposed, with reinforcement inner 15"  
 1-1/4"x48" 45" exposed, EB  
 1-1/8"x48" 44" exposed, EC  
 1"x16" 2" exposed, half ED  
 7/8"x18" 2" exposed, new part  
 3/4"x6" Reinforced, new, to mount cross element  
 1/2"x48" 39" exposed, EF (could be more or less)  
 3/8"x36" 32.5" exposed, EG, for proper tip length

I hope this is what you were looking for. My grandkids always tell me "TMI."

There are also commercial versions of my design, such as W3JK's JK402T

<https://jkantennas.com/jk402t.html>,

see also [https://ac0c.com/main/page\\_acc\\_towersantennas\\_40m\\_stack.html](https://ac0c.com/main/page_acc_towersantennas_40m_stack.html)

The JK402T has several clever mechanical features, such as the mounting bracket for the cross elements. But it is expensive, so many hams prefer to build from scratch. DX Engineering has been rumored to be considering offering a kit based on my design, but nothing concrete at the moment.

73 de Dave, W6NL/HC8L/P40Q

*Thanks to Dave Leeson W6NL for the above and his many other contributions to ham radio.*

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**“In The Doghouse” Presentation**  
**With Follow-Up**  
 Rudy Bakalov, N2WQ

Some of you followed up asking how I did the BIP/BOP stacking. Easy- I used 3 off the shelf stack match units (one per band) from RemoteQTH: <https://remoteqth.com/one-to-two-stack-match.php>

For those who didn't attend, the file is available in the Files area of the yccc@groups.io group.

- [/Station Design/In The doghouse YCCC.pdf](#)

**Description:** Rudy - N2WQ describes his VE3 station

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