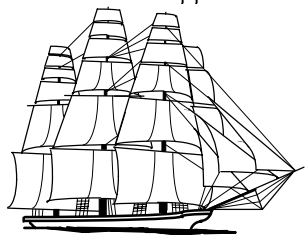


Yankee Clipper



Contest Club

Scuttlebutt

October 1997

FLASH: Triple digit solar flux!!!

Issue 131

Captain's Cabin

Dean Straw, N6BV

I'm sad to report the obvious: Summer is over! The leaves are already turning color. I hope all you YCCers have finished your antenna work already, or are planning to fix and upgrade things outside soon, before the weather turns cold and blustery. Last weekend, several friends helped me put my 80-meter quad back in good shape. While I was up there, I checked all the other antennas on the tower and tightened all the rotator bolts too. Better to do these chores now in September than during a snowstorm in February!

If you've been listening to WWV, you've no doubt noticed that recently the solar flux went over 100 -- for the first time since November 1996, when it briefly spiked to 100 and then tumbled for another 10 months. This time, however, we're really on the upslope of Cycle 23, rather than in the death throes of Cycle 22. Last week there were lots of strong signals coming through on 15 meters from Europe. I am optimistic that we'll see "Medium" conditions during the CQ Worldwide contests this fall. Maybe even 10 meters will open, although very weakly, for the fall contests!

You'll soon be receiving copies of the *1997-1998 YCCC Contest Cookbook* [it will be available only at the October and December meetings, or by Email - 'NU']. Included with it will be my propagation prediction tables. I'm also offering -- only to YCCC members -- the detailed data behind the tables. For the upcoming fall and winter contest months, these show predicted signal levels and elevation angles from New England for each and every one of the 40 zones in the world. There is a lot of information there, and you dedicated YCCC propagationists will want to pore over this to ferret out unusual openings. The extra multipliers can help put YCCC over the top, finally vanquishing that pesky FRC club to the south! I expect New England to have the advantage in propagation now that the sunspot cycle is rising. E-mail me at n6bv@arrl.org and I'll send you a zipped file containing all four of the ASCII data files, which you can read with your word processor.

Our hard-working Awards Chairman Mark Wilson, K1RO, has outlined the YCCC awards program for this contesting year in a separate article in this *Scuttlebutt*. A new item has been added for you dedicated YCCC hard chargers: a "YCCC Top Gun" pin. This pin recognizes an individual who really goes all out for the club by operating at least 16 hours each of the four major contest weekends. Why hours instead of points? Because we feel that this levels the playing field for everybody. For an equal number of hours,

a super operator using a small station with tribander and wires will obviously generate far fewer points than an equally talented operator using a super station with stacked monoband Yagis and four squares on the low bands. However, the level of effort and commitment from each of these two operators would be the same, even if the frustration level of the fellow using the tribander and wires might be a little higher!

If you've been on a long trip to outer Slobovia for the last month and accidentally deleted all your e-mail and packet messages when you returned, your Area Manager has been trying to get hold of you! He wants you to share your contesting plans for this year's CQ Worldwide contests.

I looked back over the last nine years of CQ magazine, hoping to use history as a predictor of what my own station should be producing in points for YCCC. I came up with the following table. I suggest that you construct a table of your own. You may find some interesting things there.

Year	SSB Score	Oct. SSN	CW Score	Nov. SSN
1988	4.51 meg	125	3.25 meg	130
1989	4.56 meg	157	3.99 meg	158
1990	at M/S	142	at M/M	142
1991	3.09 meg	142	3.21 meg	138
1992	5.06 meg	76	4.11 meg	74
1993	4.78 meg	45	4.94 meg	41
1994	2.22 meg	27	2.79 meg	26
1995	3.67 meg	12	4.26 meg	11
1996	3.18 meg	9	4.21 meg *	10
1997	?	31**	?	34*

* = claimed score for 1996 CQWW CW

** = predicted sunspot level

(see CABIN, page 10)

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1997-98 Officers and Staff**

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DXAC Hudson	Bill Hellman, W2UD (914) 528-6845 w2ud@njdx.org

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club (an ARRL affiliated club) holds five general meetings per year in Sturbridge, MA and various special meetings throughout club territory. Attendance at a meeting is required to become a member.

Articles in the **Scuttlebutt** (except for those separately copyrighted) may be reprinted, provided proper credit is given. The editorial deadline for the Scuttlebutt is the 10th of every odd month.

For any club-related questions, contact your area manager or any officer.

1997/1998 YCCC Awards Program

Mark Wilson, K1RO and Glenn Swanson, KB1GW

For the upcoming contest season, we'll be offering awards to club members who contribute toward our club score. We'll be offering certificates the 1997 CQ WW DX Contest, the 1998 ARRL DX Contest, and the 1998 CQ WPX Contest. We'll also have mugs for CQWW and ARRL DX. In addition, we'll have a special pin for each YCCC member who contributes a minimum score for all four weekends of CQ WW and ARRL DX.

As reported elsewhere, YCCC scorekeeper K1HT will be working hard to ensure that each and every YCCC score is submitted to the contest sponsors and properly credited to YCCC's aggregate score. Likewise, YCCC awards are only for scores that count for the club's effort. To be eligible for the awards described here:

- The operator must be a current YCCC member at the time of the contest (must pay dues and make meeting requirements for ARRL contests). If you haven't taken care of this already, come to the September 28 meeting and learn about our plans for CQWW.
- Logs must be submitted to the contest sponsors, with a copy to YCCC Scorekeeper K1HT, on or before the log due date. Awards will be based on K1HT's score summaries published in the 'Butt or on the YCCC Web site.
- Your score must be submitted for YCCC. (Examples: If you belong to YCCC and Murphy's Marauders, your summary sheet must indicate YCCC. If you operate at a multiop, the operation must meet the contest sponsor's eligibility requirements and the summary sheet must indicate YCCC. In cases where score splitting is allowed – for example CQWW DXpeditions -- the summary sheet must clearly indicate that your portion of the score counts for YCCC.)

Here are the requirements for the various awards:

Certificates

YCCC will award one certificate per operator per mode for the CQWW, ARRL DX, and CQ WPX contests.

To qualify for a certificate, single ops must make at least 300 QSOs. All operators at multiops with 1 meg or more will receive certificates (if the score is less than 1 meg, 300 QSOs per operator is required).

Endorsements for 250k, 500k, 750k, 1 Meg, 2 Meg, 3 Meg, 4 Meg or 5 Meg+.

Mugs

YCCC will award one mug per operator per contest (regardless of mode) for the CQWW and ARRL DX contests.

To qualify for a mug, single ops must make at least 600 QSOs on either mode, or 1000 QSOs combined between the two modes. All operators at multiops with 1 meg or more will receive mugs (if the score is less than 1 meg, 600 QSOs per operator is required).

“YCCC Top Gun” Pin

For the 1997/1998 contest season, we're introducing a new award – the YCCC Top Gun pin. This award is for YCCC members who go the extra mile and make a significant contribution to our club score in all four weekends of the 1997 CQWW and 1998 ARRL DX contests.

To qualify, single ops must operate a minimum of 16 hours each weekend (1/3 time), or contribute a minimum of 500,000 points to the club effort each weekend. Operators at multiops qualify if the score is 500,000 points or more per operator.

We'll do our best to have awards ready as soon as possible after K1HT has compiled and verified the final club score submissions. If you have any questions or suggestions, please give us a shout. ☐

Flotsam & Jetsam

"Barnacle Jack" Schuster, W1WEF

Please keep those cards and letters coming with your tips to share with fellow YCCers! My current Email addresses are w1wef@juno.com, or w1wef@snet.net, and I still monitor packet as well. This month's tips:

- Doug Grant, K1DG found a handy alternative to a tower bucket at Home Depot. Under the "Bucketboss" brand name. They sell a tool bag for cordless tools and accessories called "Gatemouth Jr" about a foot long, 8 or 9 in deep, 8 or 9 in wide. It has pockets on the outside and inside, sturdy handles, and a zipper to keep it closed while climbing. Doug added a couple snap hooks to attach it to his belt and to hang it on the tower. Price about \$18. Surf to www.fisker.com/bucketboss/ to find a local source. (HD has some other bucketmaster products that look interesting as well...BJ)
- AK1N, Joel, recently facilitated the pulling of coax thru his underground PVC pipe by spraying the coax with silicone first.
- Working on your 3-500 amplifier? Don't power it up with the tubes positioned horizontally! I recently saw that done; the grid sagged, hit the plate, and the grid choke went up in flame! If you ever lose the grid chokes in your grounded grid SB220, just ground the grids directly. You will get a few more watts out....and you'll never burn up grid chokes again!
- Be careful subscribing to too many reflectors at once on the Internet. I recently made that mistake, and after less than a day my server was hung up with mail overload, and I could not access any of my mail. I had to talk to tech support, and they had to delete all my mail (over 100 messages). There might have been something important in there !
- Kurt, W6PH/1, finds that when a multiconductor cable is too short, it's easier to splice a piece in the middle than to deal with the connector at either end. (especially if it's a DIN connector! ...BJ)
- Ever been troubled by birds flying at your windows, trying to chase away their reflection? We've had both cardinals and robins do this. There's a Ham radio solution! Go get one of those CQ magazines you've been saving...one with a big picture of an FRCer sitting in his shack (any one will do). Prop it against the window on the inside, and the picture is guaranteed to scare the birds away!
- Unsoldering a small component from a circuit board? Avoid overheating and do a clean job using "solder-wick" or desoldering braid. Just lay it on the spot you're desoldering, heat it with your iron, and it sucks up the solder. Available from Radio Shack and other fine stores everywhere.
- Document your station! Do you know what size wrenches you need when you go up the tower next time, without bringing your whole tool box? Do you have a schematic of that gadget you added before the last contest? Do you know whether you tuned that yagi for the low, high, or middle of the band, and what dimensions you used? I once got a look at W2PV's documentation, and it was a work of art and a lesson for us all! Wish I did as I say...hi ! (continued over here →)

1996 CQWW and 1997 ARRL DX Contest Awards

Mark Wilson, K1RO

We still have a whole bunch of mugs and certificates for the 1996 CQ WW DX Contest and the 1997 ARRL DX Contest to distribute. Glenn, KB1GW, and Mark, K1RO, will bring them to the September 28 meeting. Please come and claim your awards. You earned them!

CQWW mugs were ordered for single ops who made at least 600 QSOs or a score of 500k or more on either mode. For multiops, 600 QSOs per operator is required.

ARRL DX Contest mugs were ordered for single ops who made at least 600 QSOs on either mode. For multiops, we have mugs for all operators if the score is 1 Meg or more; for less than 1 Meg, 600 QSOs per operator is required.

For both CQWW and ARRL DX, certificates were prepared for any single ops with 300 QSOs or more. For multiops, we have certificates for all operators if the score is 1 Meg or more; for less than 1 Meg, 300 QSOs per operator is required. Note that we will have ARRL DX Contest certificates available for the first time at the September 28 meeting.

A bunch of awards were picked up at the April and June meetings, and at summer picnics. We still have mugs or certificates for the following ops (some of you have changed calls):

AA1AA, AA1CE, AA1EY, AA1HB, AA2MF, AA1ND, AA1ON, AA1QL, AA1V, AA2DU, AA2MF, AD1C

K1AE, K1AM, K1AR, K1ART, K1BG, K1BV, K1CA, K1CC, K1DW, K1EA, K1EBY, K1EFI, K1EPJ, K1FWE, K1GQ, K1GW, K1HMO, K1HQ, K1HT, K1IU, K1KI, K1KP, K1LL, K1LZ, K1MBO, K1MO, K1MY, K1NG, K1OA, K1OZ, K1PI, K1RM, K1RV, K1RX, K1SD, K1SM, K1TI, K1TO, K1TR, K1TTT, K1TWF, K1VR, K1VSJ, K1VW, K1VWL, K1WD, K1XM, K1XX, K1YDG, K1ZE, K1ZM, K1ZR, K2AJY, K2KQ, K2LE, K2ONP, K2SS, K2SX, K2TE, K2TR, K2WR, K2XA, K5MA, K5ZD, K8JLF, KA1CB, KA1CZF, KA1DWX, KA1O, KA1R, KA1YKW, KA1ZNX, KB1AWE, KB1H, KB1SO, KB1W, KB2HUN, KB2R, KC1F, KD1NE, KD1NG, KD1YN, KE2NL, KF1V, KF2ET, KF2FB, KF2O, KG1D, KM1D, KM1P, KM3T, KQ1F, KS1L, KS9Z/1, KV1W, KY1H, KZ1M

N1AFC, N1BB, N1CC, N1DG, N1IWW, N1MD, N1NQD, N1NYD, N1OEK, N1OPZ, N1PGA, N1RD, N1RR, N1RWM, N1SNB, N1SP, N1TM, N1TT, N2FF, N2LBR, N2TX, N2UN, N4XR, N6RFM, NA2M, NB1B, NB1U, NU1F, NQ1K, NU1P, NY1L, NZ1Q

W1AX, W1BIH, W1BWS, W1CSM, W1EQ, W1ES, W1EYT, W1FJ, W1IA, W1IX, W1KM, W1MD, W1MK, W1NG, W1OJ, W1RH, W1RM, W1RV, W1RY, W1RZF, W1SU, W1TE, W1TQ, W1VE, W1WEF, W1WFZ, W1XK, W1ZZ, W2EQ, W2GDJ, W2SC, W2SF, W2XX, W6PH, WA1FCN, WA1HYN, WA1IML, WA1KKM, WA1KSY, WA1QGC, WA1RLV, WA1S, WA1ZAM, WA1ZFS, WA2GO, WA2STM, WA3TXR, WA4VKD, WF1B, WF1L, WG2E, WM1K, WO1N, WR2I, WS1E, WS1M, WS1Y, WT1O, WT2Q, WT1T, WV1M □

- We should be checking our stations out thoroughly NOW for the contest season ahead. Look back at last year's results and plan what you can do to improve your personal effort. Perhaps you wrote some notes..."Next time do this...". Make sure everything is working, there's no RFI from or into the new computer/radio on any band or mode, etc, etc, etc. See last year's Contest Cookbook ..still has plenty that applies. This should be a good year, more fun with improving condx, and a bigger effort to beat the other club by everyone! □

IARU HF Claimed Scores

Dave Hoaglin, K1HT

YCCC Scores in BOLD

(Other East Coast scores from the Contest Reflector - thanks to WA4ZXA)

CALL	SCORE	QSO's	ZONES	HQ
<u>Single Op CW</u>				
K3ZO	1,032,327	1495		171
K1VUT	767,040	1421		141
AA3B	718,028	1318	84	62
K1NU (@K1KP)	503,217	1113	69	48
K4RO	449,934	1203	78	40
WC4E	408,409	1135		107
K4BAI	393,250	1107	72	38
WD4AHZ	212,630	623	66	44
N3NT	206,648	587		104
W4AU	197,410	552	51	44
W1WEF	137,904	534	49	19
K4OGG	126,526	489	52	30
W4ZYT	77,161	307	40	33
WA8YRS	64,064	333	41	23
N4XR	58,900	203	51	25
W3CP	43,296	226	37	23
W1HIJ	42,600	264	34	16
W1BIH	34,496	157	33	31
NY3M	24,304	150		49
K1WD	22,896	152	33	21

Single Op Phone

K1YR	700,084	1268	93	61
N2QT	500,292	923	93	63
WA4ZXA	407,289	929	77	50
KK1L	401,375	959	75	50
AA4NU	283,575	1015		95
KQ4HC	272,867	811		119
W8KKF	170,460	574	58	32
W3CF	169,353	557	61	32
K1SD	144,000	488	40	40
NB1B	134,064	386	55	43
KD1YN	48,683	151	49	40
N1KWF	31,734	222	29	14
WV3B	27,785	169		49
AE4RG	24,843	131	32	17
KB1GW	22,010	107	31	31

Single Op Mixed

K3MM	1,320,880	1957	123	53
AA4NC	890,000	1670	157	
N4AF	735,521	1297	88	63
K4AB	684,315	1631	89	46
N2PP	677,103	1345	84	49
K4MA (@K4HA)	500,640	1302	70	50
AA4GA	479,808	1250	77	49
K5ZD	447,760	846	76	69
KZ1M	282,069	725	56	37
W1TE	273,768	626	70	62
K3PP	178,680	399	75	45
K8GT	160,989	489	54	49
N1TM	76,456	318	43	33
N1RJF	72,562	336		
K1MY	60,990	252	32	25
NI2P	58,575	257	43	32
K1HT	55,176	228	33	33
W1EQ	23,290	184	28	18
N8YYS	51,150	256	37	25
W4WS (N4VHK)	36,900	240	33	17

Multi-Operator (includes Single Op Assisted)

K8AZ	1,213,818	1547	122	80
N1BB @W1KM)	1,179,232	1674	102	70
W4AN	1,080,869	1137	191	
KC1XX	950,000	1550		
W8AV	850,542	1488	93	54
K4FCC	609,460	1232	94	61
K3WW	456,960	1074	74	38
AA1ON	396,400	1116	62	38
K3MD/1	201,000	814	54	46
KB1GW	22,010	107	31	31
N3WZR	20,104	129	38	18
WO1N	10,160	70	27	13

HQ Stations

S50HQ (ZRS)	8,179,401	8539	181	140
R3HQ (SRR)	7,325,610	7413	180	130
NU1AW (IARU)	7,154,292	7157	172	120
PA6HQ (VERON)	5,317,038	5600	153	114
W1AW/7 (ARRL)	2,832,138	5616	179	
OH3C	2,700,000	4200		
SK0HQ (SSA)	2,406,654	3287	99	87
5N0HQ (NARS)	861,880	1258	83	62
ZL6A (NZART)	374,920	778	78	25
VR2HK (HARTS)	368,386	1163	72	22
VE7RAC (RAC)	329,736	1191	71	17

OPERATORS AT MULTIOPS

N1BB N1BB W1FJ
 AA1ON AA1ON W1RH N1TYF N1ZPE(T93M)
 NU1AW K1ZZ K1RO K1CC N1RL KA1T K1KI
 K1TO K2KQ WA2GO KG1D W1OD

Submitting Logs for CQWW

Dave Hoaglin, K1HT

Summer has sped by, and the fall contest season will soon be upon us. I hope everyone has gotten all the antennas in tip-top shape for CQWW and the events that follow. Procedures for submitting logs for CQWW have changed a bit in the last year or so, and I'd like to discuss them.

Use E-mail. The easiest way to send in your log is by electronic mail (the CQWW Committee announced this mechanism for the 1996 contests, and they prefer it -- it's easier for them, too). You send an e-mail message to ssb@cqww.com (SSB logs) or to cw@cqww.com (CW logs). Your message should include two files: your summary sheet (a plain-text ASCII file) and your log file. The log file may be either a plain-text ASCII file or a binary file. Acceptable formats for an ASCII file include the .ALL file from CT, the .DAT file from TR Log, and other fixed-column formats. For a binary file the main example of an acceptable format is the .QDF file from NA. (If you're using CT, please note that they no longer want your .BIN file; now they want the .ALL file.) In any event, the name of the log file should be your callsign, followed by the appropriate extension; for example, K5ZD.ALL or K1HT.DAT. You may name your summary file in a similar way, using SUM as the extension (e.g., K1HT.SUM).

A binary file must be encoded before it can be sent via e-mail. The CQWW Committee accepts all the popular encoding schemes, including UUENCODE, BASE64, and BinHex. Please check whether your e-mail software automatically encodes binary files before attaching them. If you have to send the summary sheet and log in separate messages, the subject line of the message should contain your callsign and the mode (SSB or CW).

In return you'll receive an automatic message acknowledging receipt of your log.

IMPORTANT. Please send me a copy of your e-mail message -- for example, by putting dave_hoaglin@abtassoc.com in the "cc:" field. Then I can help to make sure that all our logs are submitted on time and credited to YCCC. (If you want to send me a preliminary claimed score earlier for the list that I post on the YCCC Reflector and on packet, that's fine.)

Diskette and Paper Log. As in the past, you may send in (via U.S. mail to CQ Magazine, 76 North Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801) hard-copy versions of your summary sheet, your log, and your dupe sheets (by band). Instead of a paper log you may submit an MS-DOS-compatible diskette containing your log file; the acceptable formats are the same as for logs submitted by e-mail. (A paper summary sheet must accompany the diskette.) The CQWW Committee would like to have all log files in electronic form, and it requires them for entries that are potentially high-scoring.

Formerly the CQWW Committee required that a suitable paper log accompany the diskette. These logs were helpful to the log checkers because the available software could not answer all the questions that they often asked. Apparently the software has advanced to the point that paper logs are no longer required.

If you're submitting a diskette or a paper log, please send me a copy of whatever you send in (including the diskette): 73 Hickory Road, Sudbury, MA 01776.

The Club Score. We need your cooperation in making sure that your score counts toward the YCCC club score. The Secretary sends in a list of Club members who are eligible to have their scores counted, and you must indicate on your summary sheet that you want your score credited to YCCC. If you don't assign your score to YCCC (either on the summary sheet or in a subsequent e-mail message or letter), the Club doesn't get your points.

If you're a single-op entry, that's all it takes. For multi-op entries the CQWW Committee requires more information. The summary sheet must (as usual) list all the operators. It should also indicate which operators are members of YCCC (and are assigning their share of the score to the Club). Importantly, the summary sheet is supposed to allocate the score (by fractions or percentages) among the clubs to which the participating operators belong. This last step is essential if most of the operators belong to some other club -- if the summary sheet doesn't show the allocation, YCCC won't get credit for your share of that big expedition score! (If you're in doubt about this, it's all right to let the CQWW Committee know that your share of the score goes to YCCC. You may send an e-mail message to Bob Cox, K3EST: k3est@netcom.com.)

Deadlines. SSB entries must be postmarked no later than December 1, 1997; and CW entries, by January 15, 1998. Please get your log in early!

Rules. Before the contest and again before you send in your log, you should review the rules in the September issue of CQ Magazine (pages 110 and 111).

Single-band Entries. Finally, a tip. If you're competing as a single-band single-operator entry in CQWW, you may still operate on other bands and contribute your all-band score to the Club. Show both your single-band score and your all-band score on your summary sheet, and request that your log on the other bands be considered as a check log. This way you can maximize your contribution to the Club score. □

K1TTT Fall Schedule

David Robbins, K1TTT

The fall contest season is almost upon us, and once again I am looking for someone to help organize contest operators here. I would really like to find someone who can take charge of arranging for operators for multi-multi efforts for the major contests (CQWW SSB and CW for this fall anyway). This involves finding operators, getting commitments, making sure there are enough operators to man all the open bands, finding last minute replacements for cancellations, etc... Use your call, my call, or a club call. If you use my call I handle the QSLs and send in the logs, otherwise it's up to you.

If you are interested in doing other contests that is also possible. We have done multi-op's for the ARRL SS, 10m, and 160m tests in the past, but single operator's are welcome also. And any of the other contests that don't conflict with other things are open also. And of course if there is no operation in progress you can come and work DX, everything needs to be exercised and tested some more. Contact me by Email at k1ttt@berkshire.net or robbins@berkshire.net. □

Already committed are:
 CQWW RTTY = KE1FO ARRL SS SSB = WA1ZAM
 CQWW CW = K1TWF CQP = KE1FO

More Beverage Notes

Glenn Swanson, KB1GW

[Copyright Aug. 1997 by Glenn Swanson, KB1GW.]

This is a follow-up to my previous "Beverage Notes" article that appeared in the YCCC Scuttlebutt, April 1997; issue No.128. Back issues of the Scuttlebutt are archived on the YCCC web pages at <http://www.yccc.org/Butt/Scuttlebutt.html>. Enjoy!

A Midwest Contester: Lew Gordon, K4VX

Recently, I had an opportunity to chat with well-known contester (and ARRL Midwest Division Director), Lew Gordon, K4VX, about antennas. (What else would a couple of active contesters talk about?) For those that are not aware of Lew's accomplishments in the contest world, let me briefly introduce him as an active contester who owns a 10-tower antenna farm in the "Show Me" state of Missouri. In addition to turning in impressive scores, Lew always seems to be building upon and improving his own station: An active contest-antenna experimenter, his wire and Yagi-Uda antenna designs have been featured in *QST* and *NCJ* and field-tested throughout the world.

A Conversation with K4VX

Once Lew updated me on his current antenna-farm projects, we got around to the subject of Beverage antennas. After a quick read-through of my previous article, Lew offered some additional comments on the subject of Beverage's. I've asked him to elaborate here for the benefit of YCCCs. Here in a "Q&A" format is a summary of our Beverage-notes conversation held in July 1997:

KB1GW: First, Lew, can you provide a short rundown on your Beverage setup?

K4VX: My Beverage system consists of five Beverage wires. Two 1000-foot wires at 45 and 135°; one 700-foot wire at 320° (JA); and two 500-foot wires, one 90° and one 260° (used mainly for SS and domestic contests). All of my Beverages are in the woods.

In the shack I have independent selection of the Beverages between 80 meters and 160 meters. HI/LO pass filters divide the energy. Miniature relays make the selections remotely. I use W3LPL RX filters at both 80 and 160 meter positions.

The wires are suspended from insulated nails driven into trees. Most average about 6 feet off the ground to keep the deer from hitting them. Also, I can't reach any higher! I now use #18 galvanized wire which can be soldered. This removes the dissimilar metal problem which happens over time. I buy #18 galvanized wire which is sold as electric fence wire for \$8.99/quarter mile at a local farm supply store. The resistance of 1000' of zinc covered wire at 1.8 MHz should be about 25 Ω. In a circuit that exhibits an impedance of 400-600 Ω, 25 Ω is trivial. Also one could be fancy and use those orange or red plastic insulators instead of nails if aesthetically inclined.

KB1GW: Lew, you mentioned something about Beverage feed line placement in regards to any nearby towers. Can you run that by me again?

K4VX: Beverages should never be fed from a grounded tower. Since the tower acts as a vertical energy-capturing device, noise collected by the tower is directly fed into the Beverage. A test I made between the same Beverage wire fed at the tower and then fed 30 feet away from the tower indicated about one S unit more noise at the tower. The test was made midday using a preamp to allow usable S meter readings. This was sky noise, as I have no manmade noise at my location.

KB1GW: Did you say you *don't* house your Beverage matching transformers in weather-proof enclosures? What's up with that?

K4VX: I like to see the transformer! I use ferrite toroids about 1.25-in diameter trifilar wound with about 10 turns. I series connect the three windings feeding 50-Ω coax at the first winding and connecting the Beverage at the top. This produces a 9:1 impedance transformation.

KB1GW: You mentioned something about this helping in lighting-hit detection, too.

K4VX: Very small toroids are known to vaporize from lightning. The bigger ones wound with #18 wire seem to hold up much better. But if someone operating says they don't hear anything in some direction during the middle of the night, I don't want to have to open up a box and try to determine if the toroid or connections are OK. Let's face it at 1.8 and 3.5 MHz using a toroid core what difference does it make sealed or left to the weather?

I also terminate with 470-Ω, 2-W carbon resistors. The 2-W jobs hold up better against lightning than smaller ones. I use a 4-foot ground rod from Radio Shack at the feed and termination. My soil has good conductivity so longer rods are not necessary. I recommend soldering braid to the copper flashed rods when they are new instead of the cheap clamps supplied.

KB1GW: Anything else you'd like to share on the subject with us YCCCs, Lew?

K4VX: The real test is this: If you are able to hear more signals than hear you, "fancying up" the Beverage system won't help! Height is also unimportant. Err on the low side. In fact a Beverage at 5 feet performs better than one at 25 to 30 feet when it comes to SNR [signal to noise ratio]. The S-meter may read higher, but the very weak ones (ESP) will escape in the additional noise pickup.

Why am I telling you guys on the East Coast this?????

KB1GW: Thanks for sharing some of the things you're doing at your impressive station in Missouri, Lew. It's been fun and let us know if you come up with any other interesting insights on the subject on the "growing and feeding" of Beverage antennas. We'll look for you in the contest wars--providing you can get through the East-Coast "wall" of YCCCs--that is! Seriously, it was a pleasure to chat with Lew: If you ever want to talk about contest antennas, I'm sure you'll find a willing participant in K4VX!

(continued)

Beverage Induced Foldback?

As I mentioned in my previous article on Beverages, we operated from the QTH of Peter, KB1HY, in the last ARRL DX (SSB) contest. Here are some things we learned at that time of initial checkout and operation of his ("short") 580-foot Beverage.

At the time, we were using an ICOM radio that has a receive-antenna-input port (RCA-type jack) built into its rear panel. The radio also has a front-panel button that allowed us to select the receive antenna port (as opposed to receiving on the transmitting antenna), when desired. We used that receive antenna jack to feed the output of Peter's 580-foot Beverage into the radio.

In the process of using this setup, we made an interesting observation: When we transmitted into a 1/4-wavelength 160 meter antenna via the radio's SO-239 jack, and were receiving via the Beverage port, the radio began to fold back its output--and the front-panel SWR meter indicated a 3:1 SWR.

"Hmm, what's going on here?," we thought. We knew the transmitting antenna was resonant on 160, and the Beverage was at least 150 feet away from--and perpendicular to--the transmitting antenna. Finally, it dawned on us that the Beverage must have been picking up RF from the transmitting antenna and feeding it into the radio (via its receive-antenna port). The radio reacted to this stray RF by reducing its output power--just as if we'd had a mismatched transmitting antenna!

Our next thought was, "How much power is coming from the Beverage into the radio?"

Peter grabbed his Daiwa Model 720B (cross-needle-type) wattmeter, set it to its 20-W range and put it in line with the Beverage feedline. That is, the Beverage was hooked up as the RF source, and a dummy load connected to the antenna port on the meter (a different spin on using a wattmeter, to be sure). This way, the meter would read RF coming *from* the Beverage and going into the dummy load.

At 100 W output into the transmitting antenna, Peter measured 0.5 W to 0.75 watts of RF feedback. This minuscule power level, when fed into the receive-input port (via the Beverage feedline) was enough to cause the radio to react by folding back its transmitted power.

When I related this story to Randy, K5ZD, he told me that he'd measured up to 3 W of RF on his Beverage feedline when running 1.5 kW output. (Randy says he uses a relay to isolate his Beverage feedline from his radio while transmitting.) And, if you recall, my earlier Beverage article noted that Dave, K1ZZ, had reported that his keyer "went crazy" when he switched his Beverage in line while transmitting.

To illustrate that this is not a brand-specific scenario, I tried the same setup (same 160 transmitting antenna, same Beverage), with my Kenwood TS-850. (I've modified this radio to allow for a direct path into its receive line--via its internal T/R relay--from a rear-panel BNC jack.) My '850 reacted to the RF feedback from the Beverage and did not operate properly. The display flashed and the radio seemed to basically "go crazy" (not unlike K1ZZ's keyer) from the RF floating around inside it. So although it's annoying, and possibly harmful to your radio, this phenomenon is apparently not unusual, nor does it seem to be limited to any one radio brand or model.

With the '850, I solved the problem by tapping into the 12 V dc that appears during transmit (on an 8-pin DIN plug) on the back of the '850--and used it to fire an external relay that sends the Beverage output to ground during transmit. With this relay in line, the radio works fine.

Interestingly, the "transmitter foldback" phenomenon did not occur with any radio when transmitting on an 80-meter, ground-mounted, vertical, or with a 40-meter rotatable dipole (at the top of Peter's 55-foot tower), and receiving with his Beverage. And, both the 40- and 80-meter antennas are no further than 40 feet from the 160 meter transmitting antenna.

Lew Gordon, K4VX, adds: "As far as transmitted energy being picked up by a Beverage, my 160M vertical is 500-600' from my Beverages, and my 80M dipole at 160' is also far away so it's a non-problem at my place. For those that may have a coupling problem I would suggest placing a 12V 25ma bulb (Available from Radio Shack) in series with the Beverage input on the RX. Mount two RCA plugs on a Radio Shack minibox and solder the bulb leads in between. The bulb will light with less than 1/2 watt of power which is usually not enough to do damage, but gives an indication something needs to be done such as grounding the Beverage during transmit. The bulb should burn out before RX damage would occur (hopefully)!"

The lesson learned here is that if protection is not built-in to a radio with a receive antenna input port, that in some installations at least, such radios need some sort of "protection" from RF feedback. An external relay like I used, would do the trick. Or perhaps, you could wire up an internal relay to isolate the Beverage (or other type of receive antenna) feedline during transmissions.

Conclusion

To prevent Beverage users from finding out there's a problem during a contest (like we did!), measuring for RF on your receive antenna feedline might be an item to add to your pre-contest checklist: This will help to insure that you enjoy multiplier hunting--as opposed to hunting gremlins--during the contest! □

Poop Deck

New Crew

Please welcome the following new crew that joined at the Albany special meeting:

Jay Freud, K2QNU
69 Carriage Road
Clifton Park, NY 12065
518-383-3421

Shirow Kinoshita, KE1EO/JF6DEA
Hollandale Apts #28E
Clifton Park, NY 12065
518-371-7897
jf6dea@ja6ybr.org

Sam Stack, N2WR
20 Sheldon Ave
Latham, NY 12110
518-385-1005

Seymour Miller K2XF
15 Miller Road
Rensselaer, NY 12144
k2xf@aol.com

John Naberezny K2SIG
PO Box 73
Averill Park, NY 12018

Movers & Shakers

New Email address for **Jack, W1WEF:**
w1wef@juno.com.

Come to Sturbridge and get your 1997 Contest Cookbook!!

Be sure to plan on attending either the October or December meeting, if for no other reason (I hope you have other reasons) than to get your copy of the brand new (well, partially recycled) 1997 Contest Cookbook!

As with last time, to minimize costs, the Cookbook will be copied, not printed (yes, blue paper) and available only at the next two meetings to save postage.

NEDXCC Dinner and YCCC Meeting

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP, and Bill Bithell, N1BB

In cooperation with the Patriot DX Association, the **NE DXCC Dinner** will also be an officially sanctioned local meeting of YCCC. New members can join YCCC; existing members can make attendance requirements.

Here's the details:

The New England DXCC Convention and dinner will be held on October 12, 1997 at the Elks Hall, Rt 110, Chelmsford Mass. (near the junction of I-495 and Rt 3).
Talk-in: 147.12+

Doors open at 8:00 AM with a busy schedule through 5:00PM:

- Coffee and Danish all morning
- CY9AA by K7BV
- DXCC Card Checking with NC1L
- DX quiz by K1MEM
- J3 - A number of people join Paul and Charlotte for CQWW and a DX holiday
- VK0IR - Heard Island by N6EK
- Spratley 1997- K1XM and KQ1F do it again
- Prizes, Raffle, More

For Tickets: \$25.00 at door \$22.50 advance (Order early-seating limited!) Send SASE and check payable to: Patriot DX Association
P.O. Box 8
Prides Crossing, MA 01965
Ticket info: Mel Cole WZ1Q,
508-927-1953

New Webmaster

Doug, K1ZO, will be taking the reins at our web site <http://www.yccc.org>, effective 1 October. He replaces Randy, K5ZD, who is stepping down after many months of dedicated service.

The 'Butt: 10 And 20 Years Ago

Leonard Kay, K1NU

October 1977 (Issue 4) 96 YCCC members show up at the first official convention meeting, at the NE Division Convention in Hartford. We hosted a hospitality suite which kept going until 3:30 AM Sunday!! 35 new members were recruited.

Lots of people have been getting new calls from the 1x2 pool, and a New Call / Old Call list appears in this issue. Considering the flurry of vanity calls lately, I thought it worth a few laughs to repeat it here (good stuff to know for the next trivia contest): Where are some of these guys now?

W4SYL is N4ZC	WB2WOI is K2WR
W1DKU is W1ZT	K1JHX is K1RM
K1RQF is K1RQ	K1GMW is K1AO
K1VBL is K1OX	W1UUK is W1GG
W1MDO is N1XX	W1HKH is K1SB
W1GYE is W1PM	WA1MRJ is N1CW
W1HFB is N1GL	WB2MZE is N2RX
W1GPK is K1WB	WA1NZT is K1RU
W1NJL is K1VR	W2HHC is W2YV
K1IHK is K1IK	WB2CKO is K2XA
K1KRY is W1XK	W1YZL is W1RQ
K1GUD is K1BV	WA1USW is K1YL
WA1IQJ is K1DH	K1LPA is K1IU

October 1987 (Issue 70): The front page says it loud and clear: "Yankee Clipper Contest Club Wins ARRL DX Contest!!!", beating out FRC by a score of 42.7M to 40.8M. !!

Let's do it again this year!! ☐

Guidelines for Use of Club Callsigns

Glenn Swanson, KB1GW and Leonard Kay, K1NU

Thanks to the efforts of several people, the YCCC has two great club callsigns - AJII and W2PV - chosen in memory of two of our Silent Keys. Recently it has been discussed among the club members that it might be a good idea to have a clear set of guidelines for using these club callsigns. After several revisions, the guidelines below have been approved by the YCCC membership.

The following guidelines shall govern the use of YCCC club call-signs:

The YCCC club President and callsign trustees are hereby charged with adhering to these guidelines, to the best of their abilities, on behalf of the membership of the YCCC.

I. Definition of terms:

- A) 'Big 6' contest: Any one of CQWW CW, CQWW SSB, ARRL DX CW, ARRL DX SSB, WPX CW, WPX SSB.
- B) 'Minor contest': Any contest other than a 'Big 6' contest.
- C) 'Contest year': April 1 to following March 31
- D) 'Multi-operator group': A group of YCCC members that worked a contest under a single callsign and submitted a valid log in a multi-operator category.
- E) 'Big gun' station: A multi-operator group that has submitted at least 1 valid log of 2.0 Meg points or greater, in any of the 'Big 6' contests, of the previous contest year. (*'Big gun' status is dependent only on operating results and must be reviewed each year.*)
- F) 'Coordinator': The YCCC member responsible for processing the applications and for granting the use of the club callsigns. Nominally, the 'trustee' of the callsign in question.
- G) 'Station manager': The station owner, or person representing a station owner, that has requested, and was granted, permission from the 'coordinator' for the use of the callsign.
- H) 'Trustee(s)': The trustee of record (with the FCC) for a given YCCC club callsign.

II. Rules for use of W2PV and AJII:

- A) Only 'Big gun' stations may apply for use of W2PV for use during a 'Big 6' contest.
- B) Any multi-operator group may apply for AJII for any contest, or for W2PV for a 'minor' contest.
- C) A 'Multi-operator' group is ineligible for use of W2PV / AJII for a given contest if they used that call in that same contest in the previous year -- unless no other group asks to use that call for the contest. See below. (The purpose of this is so that one station *doesn't hog the same call for the same contest 2 (two) years in a row.*)
- D) The 'Trustee' of a club callsigns is ultimately--and legally--responsible for its "proper" use--per FCC Rules. In addition, the party requesting use of the callsign, in the view of the club, will be responsible for using the callsign within the bounds of any contest rules. Misuse of a club callsign shall render a group/person ineligible for either call for 1 (one) year from the date of the contest in question.

III. How to apply:

- A) A request can be made by a representative of a multi-operator group to the coordinator/trustee no sooner than 3 (three) months before the desired contest. Such requests are to be handled on a first-come, first-served, basis.
- B) If the requesting multi-operator group meets the criteria in (II) above, and the call is still available, then the request must be granted.
- C) Once notified, the coordinator must respond to a written or verbal request within 7 (seven) calendar days.
- D) Those who have used a callsign in the previous contest year (as defined above) will be given "last priority" if there is more than one person or group seeking the use of the same callsign during the current year. If no new group has claimed the call within two weeks of a contest, a group who used the call in the last year's contest may then use the call.

IV. QSLing:

- A) Each W2PV / AJII station manager for a particular contest would be responsible for seeing that the QSLing gets taken care of (perhaps, using a master list posted on the YCCC Web Page), of who operated under the callsign, what year, what contest, etc.
- B) Each Station Manager is required to QSL only to QSLs received:
- C) The club will provide special W2PV / AJII YCCC QSL cards for this purpose.
- D) The callsign trustee shall have the ultimate responsibility for QSLing tasks. □

(from CABIN, page 1)

The peak years in my own single-operator unassisted scores occurred in 1992 and 1993, when sunspots were still reasonably favorable (although not at peak), and after I had made upgrades to my station. In 1996, even with the lowest level of solar activity in Cycle 22, my claimed CW score was still above 4 megapoints. This came about because of the spike in solar activity to a solar flux of 100 that I mentioned above. Note that in 1994, when solar activity was well down on the declining slope, we were suffering from a "recurring coronal hole" and that helped depress scores even more than the lower overall smoothed sunspot number would have implied.

So, what do I expect to happen in 1997? I hope that the solar levels will turn out a little higher than the low thirties predicted. This year there is much less possibility of a nasty coronal hole goofing things up for several days each month, since these usually happen during the declining part of a cycle. And compared to the peak in 1991-1992, there is less possibility of big solar flares during this rising part of the new solar cycle, since solar flares occur more regularly at the peak of a cycle.

Statistically, on the basis of predicted solar activity, it would seem that the scores for CQWW 1997 should be about what they were in 1994. However, scores could actually be closer to what they were in 1993 because of the absence of a recurring coronal hole. Thus, I am telling my Area Manager that I'm shooting for about 4 meg on SSB and about 4.5 meg on CW.

This is about 10% higher than my history would indicate, but what the heck, if I don't set higher goals for myself, I might not "go that extra mile" for YCCC! Although the final postings for the CQ Worldwide CW contest aren't available as I write this column, it appears that FRC beat us by about 5%. A little extra effort from each and every YCCCer, maybe 10% more from everyone, should put us over the top!

For you "little pistols" without a lot of history to go with, or for those of you who have upgraded your station significantly since the last rising solar cycle, I suggest that you look at the following table, showing the kind of scores possible for various levels of activity in the Single-Operator Assisted category. Then, once you've figured out a goal to shoot for, get hold of your Area Manager by e-mail, packet or telephone.

See you all at Sturbridge September 28. Let's have a great meeting to kick off the 1997 contesting season. Let's have this be the year we whip FRC! ☐

Total			SSB Total	Total			CW Total
Qs	Z	C	Score	Qs	Z	C	Score
435	56	109	200,970	435	57	107	199,752
500	95	262	499,800	610	90	204	502,152
900	106	291	1,000,440	1007	103	252	1,000,958
1201	115	331	1,499,809	1265	116	308	1,501,808
1450	122	370	1,997,520	1555	124	336	2,002,840
1700	126	400	2,503,760	1845	127	357	2,500,344
1900	130	435	3,005,800	2085	133	381	3,000,732
2330	133	480	3,999,212	2580	139	415	4,002,096
2800	140	497	4,994,080	3095	141	436	5,000,282

The YCCC needs you!

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

One of the successful techniques used this past year to increase the club score used the telephone, not ham radio! Yes, we made zillions of phone calls, (well actually, 100's) both in recruiting new members and organizing operating plans for the major contests. The technique was tremendously successful, but very time-consuming for the area managers. So in order to continue using this technique, without burning out area managers, we're looking for volunteers to help out with the job.

Ideally, enough volunteers could be found to bring down the total number of calls made from over 100 to just 10-20 per person. We made two types of calls in 1996:

1. Recruiting Calls: These were cold calls to hams in the area who, by being subscribed to CQ, CQ-Contest, or NCJ, or by having submitted a score in a CQ or ARRL sponsored contest, had already shown some interest in contesting. I called these folks and just told them that the YCCC would be interested in having them join. The calls were timed to occur just prior to a YCCC meeting, local meeting, or other event that would offer an opportunity to join. Of course, not everybody I called was ready to join right then. Many had time constraints or other things going on in their lives (birth, death, divorce, etc) which meant they weren't interested. But a large number of folks were interested, and did join and contribute points! We need to continue this strategy.

2. Operating Plans Calls: Starting about a month before CQWW SSB weekend, we started calling members in the area. We'd just ask "how are your plans for the contest season coming along"? This would give us a chance to subtly remind folks about the upcoming contest, and YCCC's interest in points. We'd ask if the callee needed any help, or operators, etc. This served as a starting point for organizing stations and operators, as well as bringing a few old moss-backs and operators out of the woodworks for CQWW. I can think of one good station, which was going to go unmanned for CQWW SSB, which was successfully matched with a good single op, and generated 1.6 Meg unexpected points! I did this before CQWW, but I think it should have been done prior to ARRL DX as well.

If you think you would have the time or interest to help out, please contact a club officer or your Area Manager! Remember, you joined YCCC because you wanted to become involved in contesting. This is a chance to really help out your club. In terms of points, this is time really well spent! ☐

YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF Dues (currently \$20) are payable as of the April election meeting, which begins our club "contest year", with a grace period until the end of June, at which time your membership lapses if dues are not paid up. In order to rejoin, a lapsed member must attend a meeting, like any new member, or may simply 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 February meeting are credited with dues for the year beginning the following April. You can tell if you owe dues by checking your 'Butt mailing label. Only paid-up members are eligible to contribute to the club score in contests. **Mail your dues** to the club treasurer, Ric Plummer, KV1W, 195 Highland Street, PO Box 1158, Berlin, MA 01503-2158. **FAMILY MEMBERS** Members of the same family living at the same address may elect to receive only one copy of the Scuttlebutt. One member of the family must pay full dues, enabling the rest of the family to join as family members, which is free. **STUDENT MEMBERS** Full-time students are eligible for dues at half the regular rate. **SCUTTLEBUTT SUBSCRIPTIONS** Anyone may subscribe to the club newsletter, the *Scuttlebutt*. The subscription year begins in April. Subscribers who sign up between December and April are considered paid-up for the upcoming year. 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, Leonard Kay, K1NU, preferably by E-mail at lkay@tiac.net, or on 3½" disk (in MSWord format or text file) by snail mail to YCCC Scuttlebutt, Box 1297, Burlington, MA 01803. The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month. **CONTEST SCORES** should be sent to the club scorekeeper, Dave Hoaglin, K1HT, preferably by packet or by E-mail at dave_hoaglin@abtassoc.com. Please include details such as numbers of QSOs, QSO points (if appropriate), and multipliers (all types); entry category; and power.

CLUB GOODIES **BADGES** YCCC badges are available from Ric, KV1W. Send \$2, name and call desired on the badge, and your mailing address to: Ric Plummer - YCCC Badge, 195 Highland Street, PO Box 1158, Berlin, MA 01503-2158. **APPAREL** Len, K1NU, has stepped down after four years as Apparel Coordinator. We need someone to take over this important position. Contact K1NU if interested. **QSL CARDS** are ordered through John Dorr, K1AR. To order, send John packet mail, or E-mail at k1ar@contesting.com, detailing exactly what you want the card to say. There are 2 lines of text available for awards, etc. You will receive a proof by return mail. Approve the proof, making any corrections, and return to John *with payment* (make checks out to John, not YCCC). Current price is \$54 for 2000 cards. Normal turnaround is 30 days after approving proof. **MEMBERSHIP ROSTER** is mailed annually with the August issue of the Scuttlebutt, and to new members when they join. Updates are published in 'Movers and Shakers' when members move or change callsigns. If you want a new copy of the club roster, contact the Scuttlebutt editor, Len, K1NU. **INTERNET REFLECTOR** There is an Internet mailing list for YCCC members. To subscribe, send mail to yccc-request@yccc.org. Include the words "subscribe yccc" in the body of the mail message. **WWW HOME PAGE** Come visit us at <http://www.yccc.org>.

CT CONTEST LOGGING SOFTWARE is available from Matt, KC1XX. Orders: 603-878-4600. Support: 603-878-4200 CT-BBS: 603-878-1900 (28.8k, 8,N,1). As of this writing there is no E-mail address, but Matt says something is coming. There is an Internet mailing list for CT users. To subscribe, send mail to ct-user-request@ve7tcp.ampr.org, and include the single word SUBSCRIBE in the body. The CT reflector is also the best way to get CT country file updates. These updates may also be obtained from the CT BBS, or send a blank formatted disk and \$1.00 for postage to Jim Reiser, AD1C, 181 Littleton Road #324, Chelmsford, MA 01824.

W1 QSL BUREAU is sponsored by the YCCC. Keep your account up to date with SASEs, or send a check. Stamps are sold at face value, envelopes are 10 cents each. Address: W1 QSL Bureau, YCCC, PO Box 80216, Springfield, MA 01138. Email address: w1qsl@yccc.org. **ARRL LIAISON** is Tom, K1KI. **PACKET NETWORK** information is available from Charlie Carroll, K1XX, Candlelight Rd., Ringe NH 03461.

Packet Etiquette

Tom Hurley, K1TH

With the contest season upon us and conditions improving, it's a good time to quickly review your packet setup. Here is an essay that I wrote for users of my KA-Node (PILGRM) in Plymouth, MA which links to K1AJ in Boston:

With the coming of increased sunspots and, happily, even more activity thru PILGRM and the YCCC Network, PLEASE observe the following courtesies:

1. Turn off your beacon. Beacons are throwbacks to the early 80's when packet stations had to search for other stations. Beaconing causes unnecessary channel loading, slower thru-put and disrupts AX.25 timing protocols for other stations. Trust me. No DXers are tuning 2 meters searching for your packet beacon.

2. Check your parameters. The out-of-the box default parameters in most TNC's are not suitable for the multi-user environment. Default parameters will allow you to connect giving you that warm (but false) sense that all is ok. During heavy network use time on weekends - especially contest weekends - your default parameters become a real problem for everyone. To discover how to optimize your parameters type HELP PARMS when connected to YCCC [or download the YSA Packet User's Guide from the club Web site -

NU]. All the info is there including an excellent essay on the topic.

3. Monitor, don't stay connected. Ever take your lunch away from the counter in a fast food joint and can't find a place to sit because people are taking up seats just reading the newspaper? That happens to PILGRM when its limited number of channels are occupied by ops who stay connected but may not even be at their radio. **Please** - ..especially on weekends - stay connected only when you are actively using the system. Remember, there are a number of great programs like DXC-MON.EXE available that mimic a live connection. Just load them in monitor mode and your TNC/computer will show spots, WWV reports, etc just like you are connected. Except you won't be ACKing back to the node and taking up a seat that somebody else needs.

4. Use a vertical antenna for packet whenever possible. Stations on the network must hear each other as well as the node. Packet collisions at the node are the unfortunate norm, especially on weekends when users connect with directional arrays. Pileup/DXing techniques are for HF, not multi-user packet networks!

Please accept these comments in the spirit they are intended...to make PILGRM most useful for the most ops. As, always your comments and signal reports are welcome. ☐

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
Sep. 28 (Sun)	General	Sturbridge, MA
Oct. 12 (Sun)	Special	NEDXCC Dinner (EMA)
Dec. 7 (Sun)	General	Sturbridge, MA
Feb. 7 (Sat)	General	Sturbridge, MA

For more information about a special meeting, contact the Area Manager of the indicated section.

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The next general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be held on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 1:00 PM at the Host Hotel in Sturbridge, MA, near the intersection of I-84 and I-90. To get there, exit I-84 onto Route 20 West. Go through two sets of stoplights and turn right just before the Burger King into the hotel parking lot. C U there!

Inside: This year's awards program - IARU scores
Come to the meeting and get your 1997 Contest Cookbook!! Not available in stores!!

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
 Box 1297
 Burlington, MA 01803

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