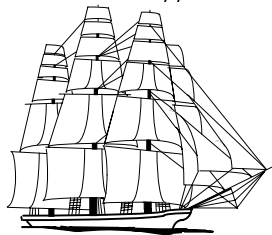


Yankee Clipper



Contest Club

Scuttlebutt

August 1998

Issue 137

Zulu Musings

Jeff Briggs, K1ZM

As this is being written, I am fondly remembering my recent trip to Ham Radio1998, which is held annually in Friedrichshafen, Germany at the end of June. I have always wanted to check out this European hamfest and I must say it was worth the trip. While not quite as large as Dayton, I think it is still Europe's largest and it was great fun meeting and chatting with many of the boys we usually work in the major Dx contests and also on Topband.

My wife, daughter and I arrived on Wednesday after a drive up from Zurich and enjoyed a pleasant meal overlooking Lake Konstanz with our hosts Peter, DJ8WL and Hardy Buettig, DL1VDL. Peter is Germany's top 160M DX'er and Hardy is involved with the DARC HF referat and was responsible for getting me a chance to speak at the convention on Saturday afternoon.

On Thursday the hamfest opened officially and it was interesting listening to Peter's speech on his one-year long experimentation with Dx'ing on 137Khz. So far, Peter has been heard in much of Europe with reception reports as far away as Southern England. Not bad when you understand that a wavelength on 137 Khz is over 2 miles long and that Peter is transmitting with a negative 18DBi gain antenna! (Actually, Peter's low speed CW signal was SEEN not heard in England and was plotted visually on

paper as the output of sophisticated DSP acquisition.)

A few words are in order about the F'haven fleamarket. First of all, it is indoors! Secondly, I noticed TONS of East European military gear - much of it which I couldn't even begin to recognize - but the fleas were out in force scarfing this stuff up in order to get on the air!

I hooked up early-on with Walter, DJ6QT, who hosts with the Rhein-Ruhr Dx & the Bavarian Contest Club two DX/contest dinners - just East of F'haven on Thursday and Friday nights. This was a real blast and I enjoyed meeting with DK6WL, DL3DXX, G3ZEM, G3KMA, G3SXW, HA0DU, OE2VEL, S56A, S57NW, DJ4PT, DJ2YA, DK7YY, DL3KDV, TA2BK, YB1AQS, 9H1EL and many, many others. K5FUV and K1ZZ also attended and we together with our hosts enjoyed a fine evening of good food, plenty of German beer and chat sessions that lasted well into the AM.

An interesting distinction between the typical Dayton suites and the two Ailingen sessions, however, is that here in the USA we mingle and move around from group to group throughout the course of an evening. In DL, most guys just stayed put seated in the same spots for not only dinner but also thereafter for most of the night. So, if you wanted to talk with someone you had to make a real effort by going over to a specific table, introducing yourself and then trying to join the conversation

- standing up! I think I like our format better as it is more conducive to getting to know people.

There were some good forums although, as expected, these were conducted in German. One exception was the 9MOC presentation which was in English and it was packed - so much so that they closed and locked the hall doors shortly after it had begun. I was late and missed it arriving about 10 minutes after it had commenced.

F'haven bears another distinction which I thoroughly enjoyed. This convention is organized such that an entire hall is dedicated to display booths representing the various IARU member societies throughout Europe. For example, one could roam about and meet amateurs from all over Europe, the Middle East and North Africa - at dedicated booths representing each country. I especially enjoyed several including the Moroccan booth, the Romanian booth (where I was treated to some homebrew schnapps that rivals the best sourmash made in the mountains of Tennessee) and even the Iraqi booth where there were some folks who spoke excellent English. At the Slovenian booth, of course, all the talk centered on WRTC 2000 and it was nice seeing Mario S56A (ex YU1PCF/YU1EA and a former YCCC member) again. This was the first time the Eastern European countries were invited to the convention formally and I suspect they will be back.

(See Zulu Musings, p 10)

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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.

New Crew

Please welcome these new members who joined at the Sturbridge meeting on June 7th:

Ted Demopoulos, KR1G
5 Woodland Road
Dover, NH 03820
home phone: (603)335-7209
work phone: (603)742-6072
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Boston, MA 02115
home phone: (617)432-9250
work phone: (781)862-6742
email: jhandwer@student.med.harvard.edu
home page: http://web.mit.edu/jason_h/www/index.html

Movers and Shakers

New email address for Jim, K1OZ, is K1OZ@aol.com.

W1QSL Bureau

Burt Eldridge, W1ZS
Manager

The W1 Incoming QSL Bureau is grateful for those who have volunteered personally or with a club to help in the sorting of incoming QSL cards. However, the Bureau is in need of a group or a club who would be interested in doing some pre-sorting during the months of December, January and February. If your group or club could help please contact me. Your help is very much appreciated by all of us! Also stop by at the W1 QSL Bureau table at Boxboro.

Rhode Island QSO Party

After several years of inactivity, the Rhode Island QSO Party will be back on the air again beginning October 10th and 11th, 1998, Columbus Day weekend. The CTRI Contest Group, WA1RR, is sponsoring the reactivation of this QSO Party. This is a great chance to work the smallest, and some say the rarest, state on many of the HF bands.

Classes: Single or Multi-Operator, all modes, all HF bands (except WARC), QRP and DX.

Exchange: Rhode Island stations send RS(T) and County (five total). Non-Rhode Island stations send RS(T) and State, Province or DXCC Country.

Frequencies: Phone - 25 kHz up from the bottom edge of the General class bands and Novice 10 meter phone band. CW - 40 kHz up from the bottom edge of the General class bands and 20 kHz up from the bottom edge of the Novice bands.

Scoring: Credit 1 point for each Phone QSO and 2 points for each CW or Digital Mode QSO. Non-Rhode Island stations multiply total QSO points by number of Rhode Island counties worked. A one-time bonus of 100 points will be given for a contact with the CTRI Contest Group club station, WA1RR. Rhode Island stations follow a similar format with the addition of State, Province and DXCC Country multipliers. Stations may be worked up to three times per band (i.e. Phone, CW, Digital Modes).

Awards: Special certificates will be awarded to the three highest scoring Rhode Island stations. Certificates will also be awarded to the highest scoring station in each State, Province and DXCC Country. Additionally, a certificate will be awarded to the highest scoring station in the QRP category.

Log submissions: Send your postmarked logs (in plain text, if on disk) no later than 15 November, 1998 to:

CTRI Contest Group / RI QSO Party
Bob Rogers KB1LN
PO Box 995
Charlestown, RI 02813

Be sure to include a legal size SASE if you want a printed copy of the final results. Any additional information and the final results of the QSO Party will be posted on the club's Web Page at: <http://www.99main.com/~ctri>.

On-The-Air Meeting

Jeff Briggs, K1ZM

We had 22 club members show up on 3830Khz Thursday, June 18th for the "drawing" of the 26 YCCC Challenge Teams.

These are posted on the reflector along with a PROSPECTING LIST to be used for expansion to 20 members before CQWW.

As was done years ago in YCCC, we conducted a "minisprint" contest, 3 minutes long from 3825 - 3850Khz with the contest exchange being CALL/NAME and # of YEARS of membership in YCCC.

Scoring leaders after three minutes were:

K1AR - 10	KA1GJ - 9
K1NU - 8	K1VV - 8
K1ZM - 6	K1ZO - 5
K1OZ - 4	KA1CLX 1
K2XA - 3 (VIA PACKET)	

Checkins included:

K1AR, AA1QD, KA1GJ, K1ZO, KA1CLX, K1MBO, WT2Q, KB1H, K1NU, WA1S, K1VV, W1CSM, NB1B, K1OZ, W3TB, K1ZM, K1EPJ, K1KI, N1KWF, K2XA (VIA K1NU PACKET RELAY).

I wonder if there is any interest in reviving the YCCC on the air meetings once a week over the summer months on say Monday nights - to give us a chance to stay in touch and sharp over the summer?

Please let me know and 73 for now.

YCCC Challenge Team Changes

Team 1 - Delete WA2SPL - Add WE1F

Team 4 - Delete NX1T - Add N1TYH

Team 5 - Delete K1DW - Add N8RA/1

Team 6 - Delete WA2GO

Team 7 - Delete WN1G

Team 9 - Leave As Is - Still No Word On Exact Status Of KA1KRT

Team 10 - KA1WIG is now K1GRJ

Team 11 - Delete K1EFI

Team 12 - Delete K1PI

Team 15 - Delete N1CC

Team 19 - Delete WB1DFI, KA1MDG - Add KE1IH

Team 20 - Keep N1KB - Delete KA1NCN

Flotsam & Jetsam

"Barnacle Jack" Schuster, W1WEF

Thanks to those who responded to my plea for input! Keep it coming.

Pete, W1RM, offers this: It's not too early to think about your packet setup for the fall contest season. The real power of packet comes in conjunction with CT or other logging programs which allow automatic spotting of stuff you work with just the press of two keys. If your computer doesn't have the provision for connecting your radio to packet, an inexpensive serial card can provide you with the additional com ports you need to have both the radio and packet connected. Don't wait until the last minute to get the card and connect. There is some trial and error involved when it comes to setting IRQ's (all depends on your computer), getting the settings correct for your TNC and radio. Once done, it's a real powerhouse. YCCC definitely needs more spots from everyone during contests. Regardless of your status as single op, single assisted, multi, you can post the spots...you just can't use them if you're single op unassisted. Need more help? Just sing out on packet or the YCCC reflector!

From Chris, N1XYS: In the May/June 98 issue of NCJ there was an article on a 6 element ten meter yagi with a rope boom, written by K4TMC. Here's a neat way to put up a big antenna without a tower or a real boom. Note...if you're not familiar with NCJ, National Contest Journal is a great bimonthly publication dedicated to contesting. published by ARRL.

Dave, K1HT used a "TOWERJACK" on field day for separating Rohn tower sections. Sold under that name, it has been advertised in NCJ and CQ Contest (another contesting publication, published by CQ magazine 10 times a year). An alternative is a scissors jack and two pieces of 5/8 plywood cut to fit between horizontal members of Rohn sections.

Consider renting a trailer from a camper/RV supplier for your next Field Day as the Falmouth Radio Club did this year. Perhaps the RV dealer will give you a good deal in return for his advertising and exposure to the crowds that visit your site!

W3TB, Ted, reminds us that if everyone got on and operated from their home station with a decent effort, scores can add up to more than a big MM or MS. However, multis are great for those who have no home station.

Has everyone heard about the new "Q" signal, "QNQ"? It means "PLEASE DO NOT QSL".

K1ZM reminds us that an inexpensive way to make a high voltage fixed capacitor is to use lengths of CATV hardline in

parallel. The inner conductors are soldered together, and the outer shields paralleled using hose clamps. This can be handy for making a gamma capacitor to feed a shunt fed tower or inverted L once the value needed is determined. About 4 or 5 two foot pieces gives you 100 pf at more than 4KV.

K1VR, Fred, finally got around to labeling all his cables! He bought a roll of yellow tape, and used a "Sharpie" indelible marking pen. He finds it easier than using commercial labels, and one roll of tape goes a long way.

Don, K2KQ, has had great success with vertical half wave antennas with the tops bent over for 80 and 160. He feels that putting current into a ground system is a waste of power. Proof that his antennas work can be seen in his 80 country total with 100 watts in one year on 160, and his 200k score in CQ160 matching K1KI who has a four square on that band (Tom had a JA guest op). Don promises an article in the Butt with more on his bent verticals.

Ever try to find 5/16 x 5 inch SS bolts for HyGain boom to mast clamps? K5MA Jan, used threaded stainless rod stock, with nuts and lockwashers (credits Mitch WA1YKN with the idea).

For all those of you who read far enough last issue to learn that Dell Dot D = Rho, and were afraid to ask, that's one of Maxwell's equations that I had to memorize in college an eon ago, and that's all I remember about it! hi

Send your ideas to w1wef@snet.net, or packet or snail.

1998 DC Dayton Report

Doug Grant, K1DG

Getting to Dayton was a different story this year, and got the weekend off to a rough start. After I had my frequent-flier award ticket in hand, I was informed by my employer that my presence was required at a meeting in Greensboro, NC on Thursday. I found out that the air fare from Boston-to-Greensboro-to-Dayton-to-Boston was cheaper than the simple Boston-Greensboro trip, so I got the company to pay for the ticket, and will use the frequent-flier award next year. That was the good news. The bad news was that I had to get up at 4:30 AM to get the early flight to Greensboro in time for the meeting, and I was tired before I got to Dayton.

(see Dayton Diary, p 5)

(Dayton Diary from p 4)

When I arrived in Dayton, I wandered around the rental car area looking for a familiar face who could give me a ride downtown. It's kind of like hunting for a multiplier. The first familiar face I spotted was K5ZD, who was also multiplier-hunting. Further hunting found a business acquaintance who I never knew was a ham before Thursday. He was happy to give Randy and me a ride downtown (please listen for my friend who will ask you for a ride now...).

The Crowne Plaza lobby was quiet when we arrived, but we found K4OJ and his parents (W1CW and W1YL), and headed off to dinner at the Chinese place across the street from the CP. Turns out W1CW was in town to be inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame. As it turned out, the K3LR team was also there, along with Dr. Bafoofnik (W9XR).

Dinner conversation was more about computers and the Internet than contesting. Bafoofnik started a comment with "I wrote something stupid on the contest reflector today", at which point K4OJ interrupted somewhat incredulously "Not you, Spike!". W1YL suggested that Internet Email reflectors serve a useful purpose...they've saved untold kids, dogs, and spouses from being kicked out of frustration. It's much easier to pound out a few lines of flamage and hit the send key.

The whole discussion led Randy and me to wonder if the computer vendors would outnumber the radio vendors at the Hamvention (the answer is no, by the way...more on that later). It was then time for the Final Episode of Seinfeld, and we left to see what all the hoopla was about. K1AR returned to the room during Seinfeld. The only funny line in the show was when George admitting cheating in "the contest". I didn't even know he was a ham! (Note - in reality, the contest he was referring to had nothing to do with ham radio contesting - ask your local Seinfeld junkie to explain it).

Friday morning I went up to the restaurant in the CP for breakfast, and the first guy I saw thought I was WJ2O. Then I had breakfast with N1DG (that's the OTHER DG, thank you very much). I noticed that Don, a Compaq employee, was also dining with Digital employees KQ1F and K1XM; obviously negotiating details of the acquisition. K1AR joined us, and various people stopped by the table and called me "Don", and called John "Doug". Maybe I should get one of those new "vanity names".

In the flea market, I recalled an article by the Boston Globe automotive editor, who noted recently that a lot of car manufacturers have lost the art of naming their products, using numbers and letters instead of names. For example: 733i, 900S, 300D, versus Bearcat, Esprit, or even Beetle. I saw similarities in the flea market; Warriors, Sky Riders and Sky Champions vs. FT-1000 and TS950.

Saw some strange stuff out there this year, including a "Resusci-Annie" CPR training dummy and a cellular propagation analyzer (did not see an HF version, though). Bought a few coax relays (you can never have too many of them...). Bumped into old college buddy K8GN, who lives in the Dayton area. He was looking for K1AR, and I told him that AR would be in the Contest Forum at the High School Saturday afternoon. Turns out Steve's been using the parking lot at the school for years, and it's not far at all from the Hara Arena. Maybe the new Forum QTH will be OK after all.

Out of curiosity, I went to the old Room 1 area, where the contest and DX Forums have been for 20 years (until this year, when we were moved offsite). If we were moved to make space for more exhibitors, the exercise was a failure. Only about half the space was occupied, and the vendors included some PC books, one or two PC sellers, a furniture place, CD storage racks, and a weather station.

While I was in the flea market, I missed the Antenna Forum. From what I heard, there were fewer speakers than usual, but the quality made up for the quantity. Our own K1ZM and K1VR gave talks on low-band antennas, K9AY described low-noise receiving antennas for the low bands and limited space, and K7LXC gave some results of the tribander comparisons he and N0AX have been conducting recently.

There was some interesting stuff in the exhibit areas. No new contest-grade radios. But lots of accessories. International Radio is now owned by W2VJN, who apparently got tired of going trout fishing every day in his retirement. George, who is an excellent engineer, and his wife, who is committed to customer service, are doing a great job getting IR back together. He has expanded the line of filter products to include some for TenTec radios, and improved installation methods for some of the older products. He is also offering some new things - for example, he is selling 6-pole receiver front-end filters for 40M (7007.5 +/- 7.5 kHz at 1 dB points) and 20M (14010 +/- 10 kHz). If these work out, he may offer other frequencies and bands. Contact him at inrad@rosenet.net or (541) 459-5623.

Several people have noted the absence of TIC (the ring-rotor guys) from the advertising pages of the ham magazines and wondered if they were still in business. Well, a few weeks before Dayton, Bill, N3RR, started his own company to be the sales rep for TIC. He reported a lot of interest at Dayton, and says he'll be happy to hear from prospective customers. Contact him at n3rr@erols.com, or (301) 424-2707.

(see Dayton Diary, p 6)

(Dayton Diary from p 5)

Been wondering how to handle the switching for a 2-radio station? Wonder no more! WX0B has developed the "SixPak" 6-band 2-radio relay switch box. \$365 will get you the whole thing, ready to go, with the relay box and one control box, or \$415 for the relay box and two controllers. It can also be controlled by 12V band decoder boxes (like the Top Ten models). Isolation is measured at 80 dB radio-to-radio and 55-60 dB radio-to-unused-antenna. The relay box is designed with stripline techniques, includes interlock, and looks very rugged. Contact wx0b@arraysolutions.com or (972)-203-8810.

After I visited the WX0B booth, I noticed W2VJN, who designed the Top Ten relay boxes come over, so I eavesdropped on the two of them comparing design notes and construction techniques.

C.A.T.S. is now the "Rotor Doctor", selling and repairing most brands and models of rotators. craig@rotodoctor.com, or 1-800-3-ROTORS (376-8677).

Some of the boys said that there was a nice new wattmeter from Daiwa, but I didn't see it. Guess I'll need to stop by HRO one of these days.

Ten-Tec has a new desktop amplifier - the Titan II, for \$2,990. It offers full QSK, solid construction, and a Svetlana 4CX1600B tube. Svetlana's warrantee is good for free replacement during the first 500 hours, then prorated up to 5000 hours or 2 years, whichever comes first.

G3SZA/AA0RS and K0HM have left Alpha/Power and formed Frontier Engineering. They're available for customer projects for accessory boxes, tuners, amplifiers, etc., and equipment repair. One current product is an automatic 9-band antenna switch for \$359, compatible with Icom and Yaesu radios (manual operation with Kenwood). They also had a big military-surplus remote antenna tuner for about \$1000. Contact them at frontier@LanMinds.net or (970) 785-2897.

Speaking of Alpha/Power, new owner W0UN was there and seems very happy with the business. I am not quite sure how he managed to work the booth and still make it to the suites. Maybe he's getting ready to do some single-op action when he gets all his mega-antennas back together.

Friday night I had dinner with a big crowd organized by W3LPL at a very nice Italian place. Then it was time for the action in the suites. I met with Ivor, GI0AIJ, who related the tale of how he almost missed Dayton. It seems he has a false front tooth (as the result of a saxophone accident when he was a kid), and it fell out a few days before Dayton. He superglued it back in, only to find it wasn't in quite right.

His dentist then drilled it out, and apparently a replacement was going to take a while to arrive, so Ivor took the tooth to work and milled it out for a better fit and superglued it back in place. And he made it to Dayton. Next time you work him in a contest, ask him about his tooth.

DL2CC had a copy of the RUFZ CW practice program running, and had a competition going. This is a really cool program. It works from a data file of callsigns, and sends one. If you type it in correctly, the next callsign is sent a little faster. If you make an error, it sends the next one slower. Faster callsigns are worth higher point values, and faster responses score higher. Contestants' scores are saved and ranked.

K1AR sat down at it, and immediately topped the list. A few minutes later, K5ZD sat down and beat him. Then I did it and beat them both. DL2CC (who demonstrated last year that he is from another planet) promised not to take the test, and my score held up all night Friday. AR's score slowly sank to about 8th place. Saturday night, AR couldn't stand it, and kept taking the test over and over until he finally ended up 4th, behind N6TV, K5ZD, and K8GL. I ended up 8th. You can download your own copy of RUFZ at the following: www.qth.com/ka9fox/links_software.shtml

At one point, K4ZA (who is videotaping a series of interviews with top testers) told me to tell N2AA that he's a part of history. So I told N2AA he was history. Close enough.

WA4DAI and VK5AI bumped into each other and someone asked for the "last two". One of the KP4 guys (I don't recall if it was KP4Z or WP4G) shook hands with W2SC and someone told Tom he'd been "touched by an Angel".

I stopped by the Sultans of Schwing Suite to say hello to some of the boyz, then back down to the Super Suite for a while. At that point I was getting tired (about 1:30 AM) and I went to bed. Remember, I was up at 4:30 AM. And this was just Thursday night.

Saturday, AR and I drove out to the High School to park the car, and caught the shuttle bus to the Arena, a quick trip. I stopped in to see a few of the inside booths then went back by bus to the High School to get the Contest Forum started.

(See Dayton Diary, p 7)

(Dayton Diary from p 6)

The High School venue worked out pretty well. I heard that the DX Forum (in the morning) had problems, mostly due to last-minute re-scheduling of speakers. I found another banquet going on down the hall, and managed to grab a hot dog and a coke before opening the Forum.

It was a good program, if I do say so myself! First up was the K2GL video - we had hoped to have the re-mastered version, but it wasn't ready in time, so we showed the "Classic". It was a real kick seeing N2AA with red hair (N6KT said it must have been colorized), and all those paper logs and analog-readout rigs. Next up was the travelog of the VP5FXB ARRL DX CW operation, in memory of G3FXB. This was followed by the African Italy (IG9 - Zone 33) presentation - one of the newest multipliers in the CQWW. Lampedusa Island has 4500 residents, and is reached by a 6 hour ferry trip from Sicily, which in turn is a 22 hour ferry trip from Italy. The 160 M operator worked 102 countries in the CQWW last year, with 101 of them calling in! The excellent videotape used the Toto song "Down in Africa" for a score.

The next talk, and best of the Forum, was the 6Y4A ("All you need is verticals on the beach, mon") show by K2KW and N6BT. They posted the highest ever 40M QSO total using a pair of 15-foot tall verticals. All the antennas were carried in a couple of golf bag carriers. The biggest problem they encountered was when the salt-spray-coated guy ropes caught fire and melted from the high RF voltage (insulators and more judicious guy placement cured it). This multi-multi had 224 6-band QSOs and 231 5-banders. A great talk about a great operation.

NJ2L described the design and installation of his station. His excellent presentation discussed the issues he encountered in building a 16-band (!) contest station on a budget. His single 100-foot rotating tower sports 189 elements total, and he spent \$1600 to put it all together. Rus also gave a talk in the microwave Forum earlier in the day.

K3EST and some members of the CQWW Contest Committee talked about the new log-checking process, and some of the interesting bugs in electronic submission. The log-checking process consumes approximately 2000 man-hours, with a fair-market value in the range of \$300,000. This works out to \$42 per log. In 1997, 1100 logs were received by Email, and 700 more came in on disk. There were 50 "dupes", where people sent both (which screws up the database, so don't do it!). Of the 1100 received by Email, about 800 were received perfectly. 150 or so came from various home-brew logging programs and required additional processing to untangle. 50 more needed a lot of processing (for example, QSOs in 2 columns per page). One guy sent 16 copies of his log. Another had to break his log

up into 13 pieces to send due to limitations of his mailer. About 30 were so mangled that replacements were needed. A huge number of guys named their log files "CW97.BIN". It's easier if you name it K1DG.BIN (assuming your call is K1DG!), and send separate files or disks for each mode. Some guys used special calls, but forgot to change their .CFG files, so their logs did not match their call sign! About 30 guys sent logs from the wrong contest. But it's definitely better than the mountain of paper logs we used to get!

The finale of the Forum was the Single-op Panel, organized by K1AR and K5ZD, and including N6KT, W2SC, and W9RE. The interplay between the panel members was interesting as the answers to audience questions. For example, someone asked if a top gun competes against himself or other ops. K5ZD said "I only have to beat K1AR once. On the other hand, he needs to beat me every time!" W9RE said he'd gotten stagnant, but since WB9Z is getting active from the same area, he's starting to push himself again.

Sleep strategies, 2-radio operation and the value of getting experience in multi-multis all came up. And the secret of winning was also disclosed, but we were all sworn to secrecy, so if you didn't attend the Forum, you missed it. Sorry.

After the Forum, I overheard this gem:

W2GD (to NJ2L): "Nice presentation in the Microwave Forum"

NJ2L: "Er...thanks...I didn't know you were interested in microwaves, John!"

W2GD: "Oh, I'm not...but the room was air-conditioned!"

Then it was back to the CP to get ready for the Contest Banquet. On the way to the room, I noticed another group meeting on one of the nearby rooms. The sign said it was the "International Training in Communication" group. I couldn't resist, and stuck my head inside and asked what it was all about. It seems that this group is affiliated with the Toastmasters organization, and helps its members with leadership training and speech improvement. Their pledge includes the following:

"...hoping through better communication to achieve greater understanding throughout the world". I told them that our banquet just down the hall had similar goals. Maybe some of them will become testers some day.

(See Dayton Diary, p 8)

(Dayton Diary from p 7)

At the banquet, I was fortunate to find myself seated at a table with N6AA, N6TJ/ZD8Z, N6TR, and K2MM - good company. I think my CQWW score went up 10% just by sitting with them. The dinner program included the annual CQ Contest Hall of Fame induction of new members. First was WA2AAU, the first hard-core VHF/UHF contester to be inducted. Dick has been the force behind the Mount Greylock operation for about a million years, and has spawned generations of VHF contesters. Next was Glenn, K6NA, who has been a consistent high scorer and the foundation of the San Diego area contest community. You've worked him from his home-away-from-home at 9Y4H.

Next was Roger, G3SXW, one of the finest operators in England. He's operated contests from such exotic spots as EP, YA, KP2, CN, 5V, XX, ZD9, 9G, and ZC4. Last, but certainly not least, was Gene, N2AA. From his early operations as 5A1TW through the K2GL multi-multi years, a few years in the QRP category, and trips to PJ1B and KP2A, he has done it all. Gene is a veritable legend in contesting, for his encyclopedic knowledge of propagation and call signs, and complete mastery of 20 meters. Not to mention his technical skill and outrageous sense of humor.

The keynote speaker was G3SXW, who described his early years in contesting, with his mentor G3LHJ. Roger emphasized that the key to success in contesting lies in Fun and Focus. Trying to have fun will force you to focus on your operating. And that focus will result in higher scores and more fun. Sounded good to me.

Then it was off to the Suite-hopping. The KCDXC had their annual CW pileup competition. At midnight, the winners were announced: W9WI at 59 calls, then a tie between K3ZO and K5ZD at 56, then a three-way tie at 55 among WRTC96 gold-medal teammates N5TJ and K1TO and aging WRTC90 gold-medalist K1DG, followed by Contest Hall-of-Famers G3SXW and N2AA at 54 and 53, respectively. W1MA commented that he'd like to submit his age instead of his score. Tapes from previous years can be found at <http://ns1.qsl.net/kcdxc>. They're great fun.

The rest of Saturday night went by pretty quickly, and I faded well before the pizza arrived. Sunday morning I had an early flight out, and bumped into KC1XX and W3LPL at the airport. And Dayton 1998 was over.

So what was Dayton 1998 all about? I expected this year to be the end of ham radio, with the Internet declaring victory. Didn't happen. It seems to me that the Internet has found its natural penetration into ham radio, and will co-exist. Most active hams have Net/Web access, and most of them seem to use it primarily for ham-radio-related stuff. Personally, I

have not made more than a handful of HF QSOs since Dayton, but I check my Email every day. And most of it is from hams. Did you notice that nearly every manufacturer I mentioned in this article has a Web page? I read recently that when the Internet first got started (the original goal was file-sharing among researchers in universities), the first people who figured how to talk to each other on it were the hams. Give us a medium, and we'll figure out how to communicate on it.

I think the hobby is in pretty good shape overall. The manufacturers need to start thinking about new high-end contest-grade radios. I'm not sure I want to switch to a radio-in-the-computer just yet. The Kachina radio seems to have been successful enough that they were there again this year. Previous radio-in-the-PC guys (Softwave, Comer...) have not made it past the first year. Maybe Kachina will be the one who gets it right. I dunno. Tuning with a mouse button instead of that great big knob in the middle of the radio will take some getting used to. The accessory people (amplifiers, filters, switch boxes, etc.) are in good hands. I don't think the ham market is making anyone rich at this point, but the worst days are probably over. And settling back down from the "imminent demise of ham radio caused by the Internet" is what Dayton 98 was all about.

And then there are those two guys. I've only missed Dayton twice in the last 23 years, both for the birth of a child. But pretty much every year, there are two Boston-area guys who I've seen on the plane, then at the Hamvention. I don't know who they are, but I know they're VHF guys. And that's enough for me. I really don't want to know their calls. Anyway, one of the two guys has disappeared. Haven't seen him in about 4 years now. I think he has either moved, or spends his time on the Internet. But the other guy is still in the game. He's kind of skinny, has strawberry-blond hair and carries a distinctive bag over his shoulder. And I spotted him twice this year - once in the flea market, and once inside. He's still carrying the same bag, which was good, because his hair has gotten a bit gray at the temples and at first I wasn't sure it was him, but it was. I guess he's getting older, unlike some of us. But "that guy" was at Dayton, and all's right with the world.

Note: This article may be reprinted or posted on Web sites, provided K1DG and the YCCC Scuttlebutt are credited.

Economical Bandpass Filters

Whitey Doherty, K1VV

After suffering through a number of FD operations with interference between the various stations we decided to try to do something about it. Looking back through QST we came upon an article in the Sept 1988 issue by K4VX¹. The article described simple bandpass filters using three wound torroids and three silver mica caps. The wound torroids are set up as a parallel circuit and tweaked to frequency by removing or spreading turns. This can be done with any grid dip meter and an HF receiver.

We made the boxes from double sided circuit board with PL259s on input and output. The approximate size of the boxes is 6 1/2 L x 2 1/2 w x 2 H. We found that after we had assembled the boxes and soldered in the components we put a 50 ohm dummy load on the output and checked the input with an MFJ259 antenna analyzer. The bandpass frequency was a MHz or two low !! On the 40 meter filter this required unsoldering the torroids one by one and removing turns until we walked it onto the low end of the 40 meter band. It is suggested that the 40 meter filter be made first. In the article it states that you can use various size torroids, we recommend the T-80-6 cores as we cooked a couple of the early filters with smaller cores. Also use the largest wire you can fit on the cores, the article states you can use #24 or smaller, don't, use a minimum of #20 or you will also cook the filter.

The double sided board can usually be found in the junk box, and you will need double sided to be able to solder the boxes from the outside. If not too thick the board material can be cut with sheet metal hand shears. Once assembled the tops are left loose and 4 holes are drilled in the corners of the box and the cover and machine screws can be passed through the bottom box and extend through the cover to bolt the cover in place. It is not recommended to solder the covers in place as if you do cook the filter you will not be able to remove the cover to inspect it.

If you happen to run the filter on the wrong band you may cook the unit. I can't recommend enough that you final check the filters with the MFJ259, you can get it right on the correct frequency. For the 15 and 10 meter filters you can use air wound coils but there should be partitions between the coils.

As for the cost per band :

Dans Small Parts (www.fix.net/~jparker/dans.html)

Torroid Cores - 3 @ \$1 each

Silver Mica Cap - 3 @ .40 each

Radio Shack

SO239 Coax Recpt - 2 @ \$1 each

Double sided Board - Scrap box

TOTAL \$6.20 per band

August 1998

As a final note... the Filters work SUPER, as can be attested to by the Capeway RC FD 3A operation with W1AA. There was not one bit of interference experienced between the HF stations.

¹Band-Pass Filters For HF Transceivers. Lew Gordon
K4VX

QST September 1988

YCCC Website Guest Log

Thanks To Bill Santelmann, N1AU

Bob Marston, K1TA

k1ta@earthlink.net

Hi All Yes this is the same K1TA that was a member of YCCC when it was founded way back when in 1977. I've been out in California for the last 18 years, SoCal for the last 9. I've been away from Ham Radio for the same length of time. Just got back into it a couple of years ago. Things sure have changed. Needless to say contesting out here is not the same as back east. It's more difficult in obvious ways and NOT so obvious ways. The obvious ways are the poorer conditions. The not so obvious are the excellent weather conditions. It not very easy to couple up inside and operate a DX contest on a bright sunny weekend when the Mercury is pushing 90 and everyone is heading for the beach. Yes I am a member of SCCC. Totally different organization from YCCC. And speak of YCCC wow has it grown. That sure is a tribute to the perseverance of its leader- and the strong sense of direction they possess. That's it for now. Will keep in touch. 73s

Ted Demopoulos, KR1G

ted@null.net

Hi nice site!

Been inactive for about 10 years, currently homeless (currently traveling in New Zealand), and planning to get back on the air soon. Planning on purchasing a good sized plot of land in New Hampshire in a few months and putting together, for the first time ever, a moderately competitive contest station. Maybe 4 Squares for 160 and 80 and a 90' tower or so with yagi for 40 up in the first couple of years. Anyone have any info on zoning or the like?? I am clueless, as I've never bought property before. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

(See Guest Log, p 10)

(Guest Log from p 9)

Richard Everitt, G4ZFE
richard@babbage.demon.co.uk

Nice to read about some of the people I work in every contest!

May I also advertise my freeware Windows 95 CW trainer (called "Pile Up!") which requires a SoundBlaster compatible sound card. It's available from:
<http://www.babbage.demon.co.uk/pileup95.html>

Wayne Mueller, W1QC
waynemueller@compuserve.com

Nice web page. just got back into ham radio after 5 yrs. just begun using k1xx dx packet cluster - great machine! love 160 (just applied for 160m WAS). Am QRV 160-10 and 2. thinking about some kind of phased vert for 80m. have 80ft tower in a 150x200ft area (partial woods). do you guys sponsor any dxpedition - would like to go on one next year or later am willing to help organize. 73

(Zulu Musings from p 1)

Soon it was Saturday afternoon and time for my talk about 160M. This went off pretty well and was delivered in German with a few English words thrown in now and then - (technical vocabulary is the first to go after 29 years out of the country!) There was a good group of 160M Dx'ers and contesters in attendance including W7SE whom I had never before met.

It was all too soon over ending around 5PM Saturday afternoon. After a final goodbye dinner with DJ8WL and DL1VDL, Miriam and I spent two days touring HB9 and HB0 (which is nothing but one BIG mountain!) We also visited two castles in nearby Fuessen (which is a delightful little town on a lake just North of the Austrian border.)

All in all, this is a lovely part of Europe and the weather at the end of June is usually pretty fair. We had only one day of rain - the rest of the time was around 80F. Should you be looking to plan a family vacation with a little ham radio thrown in on the side, I would recommend this one highly to you.

YCCC Challenge Update

A few quick words are in order here. First, Randy/K5ZD has now added the team rosters and the prospecting list to the YCCC webpage. The prospecting list is indeed useful as I myself and K1KI have managed to recruit a few possibles from it already. So go for it!

As of this moment a few club members including W1RZF and W2AX have been very active with their various teams. So far, I think W2AX has named Team #21 "The 21 Club". N1DG has named Team 17 "The Buccaneers". Are there any other teams named thus far?

Now is the time to be thinking about this as we will be spending some time at the Boxboro meeting reviewing the progress within the various Challenge teams. So pse pick a Captain and a team name and kindly let K1HT know when you do. Tks.

On the Air Meetings

There seems to be interest within the Club to begin holding "On the Air Meetings" once again on 75SSB.....Let me recommend that we start doing this again on Monday nights starting at 8PM local time (0000Z) on or about 3.830Mhz +/- QRM. Each week we will run a mini-contest (known previously as the "DASH"). K1AR won the last one held in June and it was fun. (If you don't know what a dash is, you need to check it out - it is fun and last 3-5 minutes usually!) Hope to CU there on Monday nights if you have the time to join us.

Boxboro Meeting Agenda

We are planning an exciting agenda for Boxboro, so you won't want to miss this one. Here is an early-bird look at what's in store from 1-5PM on Saturday August 29th:

YCCC Challenge Team Reports
Newbie Presentation (Topic TBD)
WRTC 1996 Video
Black Magic from the Black Hole - The K0HA lowband success story...
Winning the World on 160M - The WW2Y Superstation in action..
NP4A Dayton Redux (Another look at this REAL 80M antenna)
(More likely to be added as always!)

I hope you will come on out and support your club. We need to get everyone ELIGIBLE by attending their two meetings and by paying their dues - Boxboro is a great time to see the convention and help YCCC at the same time. Are you QRV?

73 Jeff K1ZM

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, 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, Doug Scribner K1ZO, preferably by E-mail at thecomshop@monad.net or on 3½" disk (in MSWord format or text file) by snail mail to Doug Scribner, 52 Manchester Street, Keene, NH 03431. 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, 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.

COMPUTER STUFF **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>. Our Webmaster is Doug Scribner, K1ZO. **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 email to CT-USER-REQUEST@contesting.com, and put only the word SUBSCRIBE in the message 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 Reisert, AD1C, 7 Charlemont Court, North Chelmsford, MA 01863-2306.

ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF **The 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. **PACKET NETWORK** information is available from Charlie Carroll, K1XX, Candlelight Rd., Rindge NH 03461. **ARRL COMMITTEE REPS** are **CAC New England** Kurt Pauer, W6PH; **CAC Hudson** Rich Gelber, K2WR; **DXAC New England** Jim Dionne, K1MEM; **DXAC Hudson** Bill Hellman, W2UD. **ARRL LIAISON** is Tom, K1KI.

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Saul Abrams, K2XA

Section two (2) of the Bylaws currently reads as follows:

2. MEMBERSHIP. New members shall be enrolled after attendance at a Regular meeting, presentation of an application to the club Secretary, and payment of current dues. [as amended 12 April 1980]

The proposed amendment to this section is (added text is in bold print):

2. MEMBERSHIP. New members shall be enrolled after attendance at a Regular **or Special** meeting, presentation of an application to the club Secretary, and payment of current dues. [as amended 12 April 1980]

It is proposed that the following section be added to the August 1998

Bylaws:

7. HONORARY LIFE MEMBER. Upon nomination by any active member and approval by a two-thirds vote of the members attending a Regular meeting, an individual may be granted Honorary Life Membership. This membership would be non-voting but would entitle the individual to the benefits of a subscription-only membership.

These proposals have been submitted to the Club Secretary and will be voted on at the next Regular meeting, Saturday August 29th in Boxboro, MA.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
August 29 (Sat)	General	Boxboro, MA
October 11 (Sun)	General	Sturbridge, MA
December 5 (Sat)	General	Sturbridge, MA

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

Ship's Log	August, 1998	Issue 137
Zulu Musings	Jeff Briggs, K1ZM	1
New Crew		2
Movers and Shakers		2
W1QSL Bureau	Burt Eldridge, W1ZS....	2
Rhode Island QSO Party Rules		3
On-The-Air Meeting	Jeff Briggs, K1ZM.....	3
YCCC Challenge Team Changes		4
.....		
Flotsam & Jetsam	Jack Schuster, W1WEF	4
1998 Dayton Diary	Doug Grant, K1DG ...	4
Economical Bandpass Filters	Whitey Doherty, K1VV	9
WebSite Guest Log	Bill Santelmann, N1AU	9
Proposed Amendments	Saul Abrams, K2XA	11

The next meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be held on Saturday August 29th, at 1:00 PM at the New England ARRL Convention in Boxboro, MA, near the intersection of I-495 and Route 111. To get there, take I-495 to Exit 28 (Route 111) and follow the signs.

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
 Box 1297
 Burlington, MA 01803

FIRST CLASS MAIL