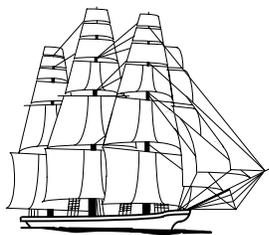

Yankee Clipper



Contest Club

Scuttlebutt

December 1999

Issue 145

Captain's Cabin

Don Toman - K2KQ

Contesting is fun.

It's an open-ended endeavor that is always a challenge. The goals are always in sight but never reached. Enjoying contesting in the company of like-minded people enhances the experience. Sharing war stories, exchanging technical and operating tips and just plain schmoozing and bragging is all part of it. A great club is a facilitator that builds on these activities.

What a great club this is!

We compete aggressively and we are ready to help one another out in the process. Talk with almost anyone who has been around the club a little and you will hear examples that illustrate the point.

Here's a war story that makes the point. Members K1XM, AE2F, WA1ZYX, KM1P and K1BD are part of this particular story. There were others, too. Don't be slighted, guys and gals. Memory is the second thing to go and I don't remember what's first.

Back around August, in planning for my favorite multi-multi DXpedition (J3A), I found that the CT loop network cables and junction boxes we used last November couldn't be counted on to be in Grenada for our CQ WW operations in October and November this year.

I put out a plea on the reflector and in an on-the-air meeting for help. Joel, WA1ZYX and Joe, KM1P came to the rescue. Both built a set of cables and junction boxes within a matter of a few weeks and had them shipped to me at home. It turned out that we needed both sets for the SSB contest, and they now both reside in Grenada for future operations.

For a while, we thought we would be able to add a close-by second site to the J3A site (which is pretty small, about 100 x 150 feet) dividing it into two operational centers. That would make it necessary to find a way to connect a CT network

over a total distance of about 500 feet. We would put 40, 10 and 160 on a site about 300 feet south of and about 75 feet above the existing site. Dynamite!

The first thought was to connect the two sites via fiber optics. Another was to connect the sites via a packet radio link. Paul, K1XM offered a pair of F/O transducers and power supplies, but we were hard pressed to find a way to get 500 feet of suitable fiber to Grenada and get it strung. We then turned thoughts to packet radio. Thoughts and some experiences from a few people who had used packet in a similar way brought home the realization that it had to be done with a 9600 Baud connection. In another club, that might be a problem, but in YCCC a short plea on the reflector brought a brand-new, never out of the box KPC-9612 from Bill, K1BD. Added to my own 9612, we had a shot at doing it via that method. I bought a 9600-Baud capable 2M radio (Alinco DR-150TQ, by the way) and added it to my own IC-207H and prepared to set it up in Grenada. A bunch of people offered 1200-baud-capable TNCs and radios as well.

At a local VE session here in ENY, I mentioned the problem to Gene, AE2F who suggested that a better way would be to string a pair of twisted pair links and to drive them in RS-422 mode. Within a week, Gene had built, tested and delivered the slickest pair of isolated RS-232/RS-422 converters you could imagine. He even went out and found where I could buy a 1000-foot roll of suitable wire for about \$40 (Home Depot).

With luggage limitations being what they are, I decided to go with the twisted pair solution and abandon (for the time being) the packet radio answer, so off I went to Grenada, armed with a 1000-foot spool of data wire and Gene's marvelous transducers.

Of course, constraints being what they are, and with things never turning out exactly the way you plan, the split site wasn't realized this trip and the hardware and wire await another chance, residing at J39AL's house.

(See Captain's Cabin – p. 2)

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(Captain's Cabin from p. 1)

Ed Parish, K1EP set up and maintained a loop-mode CT network plus a telnet link (seven computers in all) for the SSB contest that used the junction boxes and cables we acquired back in early September.

We are committed to continuous improvement at the J3A site and we now have the cooperation of the Royal Grenadian Police Force and the US Army liaison officer in making it happen. There is little doubt that we will eventually be able to split the site and improve 40, 10 and 160 performance. I hope that this little story illustrates the depth of technical expertise and the willingness to use it we have in this great club.

Thanks!

Kick Butt, gang. We have a dynasty going here!

GET ON THE AIR CQWW CW NOV 27 -28

You gals and guys in YCCC did a great job in the CQWW SSB contest. Preliminary score is 380mil vs 217 mil last year. The conditions were great, club participation was great, and it sure was a lot of FUN. Records were set for MS,MM, and SO-LP. Many members set new personal bests. Congratulations to you all. Thanks to all of you that went on dx-peditions, a big adder to our score, and it was sure fun trying to work you on six bands. Many members have put significant effort into upgrading their stations and the results really showed it.

We can't rest on our laurels, FRC had the same conditions, and listening on 3830 after the contest they had some super scores also. If we are to beat them, it will be because we did better and we outnumbered them. Everybody get on the CQWW CW contest and contribute to our winning team. You can be part of team#1 and a record setting team. Kick Butt.

Secretary's Report

Charlotte Richardson – KQ1F

The October, 1999, general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club was held on Saturday, October 9th, 1999, at Worcester State College. Coffee, donuts, and cookies were served before the meeting. This year's Contest Cookbooks were available for pickup. The meeting was called to order by club President Don, K2KQ. He noted that the Monday night on-the-air meetings have been very successful, with between thirteen and twenty checkins every week. Don noted that we beat FRC in the CQ WW last year by only about 6%. The key to last year's win was getting lots of people on the air. Don also noted that J37VG was last year's multi-multi winner in the SSB ARRL DX Contest from Grenada. The meeting continued with introductions and CQ WW plans of the one hundred members present and their guests. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$7548.89. Team coordinator Art, W1RZF, had team eligibility information lists for this year as well as team participation data from last year for the team captains and members.

The club voted in two new members: Joseph Natale, K1JN, and Les Peters, KA1DZV. Joseph was snapped up by team 19 and Les by team 17.

Don noted that there are many regional meetings coming up, giving members lots of chances to ensure that they have attended two meetings and so will be eligible for club participation in next spring's ARRL DX Contests. He also noted that several YCCC or partially-YCCC DXpeditions are planned for the CQ WW contests: J3A (both modes), W1WFE operating from YV on CW, ZX0F on SSB, PJ9B (partial club participation) on both modes, H44 on CW, etc.

Jeff, K1ZM, then led a victory celebration, with free champagne, sodas, and pizza. He then handed out the 1998 CQ WW Team Challenge Awards, promising to have the ARRL Team Challenge Awards at the December meeting. The 4th place honorable mention award, YCCC club hats, went to Team 8, the Aces and Eights, under captain Tom Walsh, K1TW, with 21M. The third place award, bronze medals, went to team 19, the Yankee Clipper Spinnakers, with 22M and 87 1/2 % participation. The first runner-up award, silver medals, went to Team 5, under captain Bill Santelmann, N1AU, with 25M and 68% participation. The coveted first place award, gold medals and YCCC plaques, went to team 17, the Buccaneers, under captain Scott Bullock, KA1CLX, with 42M and 65% participation.

The YCCC representative for the WRTC Challenge 2000, to be held in Slovenia next year, was selected by lot. The position went to K1ZM, with K1KI and K5ZD as runners-up.

Don noted that several other club members would likely also participate, either as partners of other representatives or as wildcard team members.

Next was a contesting round-table, with Ann, WA1S, Tom, K1KI, and Randy, K5ZD. First, Tom was asked to describe inter-station interference efforts at his multi-op station. Tom replied that his antennas are more than 500 feet apart, and he uses ICE filters between the rigs and the amplifiers. He also recommends the K2TR article on building coaxial stubs, and that you put your dirtiest amplifier, if you must use it, on the highest band. Next meeting, Ira, K2RD, will give a talk on interference reducing techniques, and he recommends the recent article by W2VJN on using a second coaxial stub.

The second question was the panelists' opinions on Heil headsets. Everyone liked them, and likes Heil's customer service. The #4 element is recommended to boost the highs.

The next question was how Randy selected his new QTH. Randy replied that it is indeed on the top of a hill, but not especially planned that way since he needed to find a new home quickly. He looked around when buying the house. He has a 100 foot drop on all sides. Randy uses the YT program to compute what he needs for antennas and towers.

Next, Ann was asked what her strategy was for winning low power last year. She has an FT1000D and a TH7DX at 100 feet, with a ground elevation of 525 feet and a clear shot to the northeast. She uses one radio, and does a lot of search-and-pounce to maintain a rate of 50-60 per hour. She notes that it is tough to compete as a low-power run station. Run up high in the bands. If this does not work after about 10 to 15 minutes, she goes back to S&P. She uses dual receive with two VFOs, S&Ping from both ends of the band towards the middle.

Next, Ann was asked how long she waits for a station before giving up. She puts the pileup in the second VFO and tries it again later. She notes that if it is late in the contest, you may need the multiplier more.

Does Ann try to pass multipliers to another band? She replied that she doesn't from home, but does when on a DXpedition. Randy said that he seldom does this, but notes that a lot of casual operators will in fact move for you if you ask them. Tom says his station does only 15 to 25 passes a weekend, and notes that people will move on the low bands. Some multi-ops even move non-multipliers near the end of the contest when things get slow.

(See Secretary – p. 4)

(Secretary from p. 3)

What did Randy learn going to PY for the CQ WW CW, and what can he tell a newbie? Randy says that the beaches in Rio are awesome! He did not have too many pileups from Brazil, but could watch the packet spots go from area to area. He likes to call slightly off frequency to sound different. Fast is good.

Does Randy move if asked when he is on a DXpedition? He does not if he does not need the other station on the requested band. He says you can tell the station when you are going to be on the other band, if you know, since it pays to advertise, especially if you are a multiplier. K2KQ noted that you can grab another station's pileup if the station goes away briefly, and then relinquish the frequency when the original station reappears. This might be one source of bad call signs for packet pileup QSOs, however.

What happens if you copied the call correctly, but the other station copied yours wrong? These exchanges are not deducted from your score if the other station logged something close to your call (off by one character).

Should you log all duplicate QSOs? Yes.

On the members-only web page, can we post a list of club DXpedition calls? Yes, that will be there.

As a single-op, how do you decide what band to start on? Go to the highest band that is open, or the highest band where you can run Europe. It usually is not productive to try to run Japan at the beginning of a contest.

As a single-op-assisted entrant, how long before the official start of the contest do you stake out your frequency? Randy says that this idea always backfires on him. He says there is no point in settling in more than 10-15 minutes before the start of the contest unless you are a big multi-multi.

How do you ask a QRMing station to move on CW? Randy says PSE QSY or QRL. Randy usually ignores the QRM, or addresses the QRM station by name ("Bill, go away!").

Early in the morning, do you slog it out on 40, or go to 20? As a single-op, Ann says she stays on 40 for a while, since 20 is usually open. Randy says that high-power stations should go to a band they can run on. Stay on 40 if you need the multipliers or if you can't get a run frequency. This year, expect 20 to open at European sunrise, around 0700 or so.

How frequently should we be putting up spots? Tom says any time you are sure you have the call sign right. There is no harm in spotting everything. Multis are filtering out stuff they have already worked. If you have a spare receiver or are at a multi, tune around and spot stuff. Two things to note about spots: a single op can send spots. This is desirable since single ops are probably tuning the band more and so

find new stations. Second, small stations can stay off packet and just receive spots, filtered by CT, keeping the congestion down. Use CT's band map. K1XM noted that if you don't see a station in your band map, or it is wrong in your band map, you should spot it.

How hard is it to go to two radios as a single op? How necessary is it? Randy said that if you are good with one radio, it is not much harder to go to two. But it's easier to make mistakes. The second radio can add 15-20% to your score. If your run rate is high, ignore the second radio. The second radio can fill idle time while you are CQing.

Will there be a concerted effort to make sure that all packet cluster stations are running at full capacity? K2KQ recommends that you use W2XX's parameters instead of what the YSA manual uses.

When does Ann sleep? She picks the best time based on propagation, usually 2am to 5/6 am local time. She sleeps an hour and a half or so the first night. Randy sleeps the second night from 0100 to 0500Z, noting that the Europeans are asleep then. Ann says to sleep for a full sleep cycle, 90 minutes or multiples.

After this discussion wound up, Don received the 1996 CQ WPX US Club Championship plaque on behalf of the club.

Doug, K1DG, then presented N6AA's Dayton talk on log checking and sources of errors.

Art, W1RZF, then held a meeting of the team captains present to allocate 11 new and returning members who joined over the summer to the teams.

Movers and Shakers

New address for Grant, N0ICI/1:
Grant Kesselring, N0ICI/1
68 Overlook Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403

Flotsam and Jetsam

“Barnacle Jack” Schuster – W1WEF

Once again, I have to wonder if I'm just taking up space or if anyone gets anything worthwhile out of this column. I sure don't get a lot of input or feedback, but do try to pass along hints from my own experiences or contacts.

Prior to WW SB I rebuilt my 4Sq on 80 to use 4 sloping dipoles driven by my Comtek box mounted on the tower. K8UR described this approach in a Dec '89CQ article, and it was visited more recently by K3LR and ON4UN. By doing this, my feedpoints are as high as the tops of my top loaded verticals were before. A big advantage over verticals is you don't need radials! I got rid of 24 elevated radials, which I laid down on the ground with my 160 Inv L radial field.

I feel that the 4 sq performance is better than ever, and will someday try bringing in the bottom end to the tower in a "lazy Vee" configuration. My tower is 108 ft high, and the top end of the dipoles is about 4 ft from the tower.

I finally got around to burying a 4" PVC conduit in front of my garage, and ran a bunch of coax and control cables thru it. After getting the bundle of cable almost all the way thru, I couldn't pull it any further. AK1N's suggestion to spray the bundle with silicone where it entered the PVC worked wonders! The cables were temporarily running above the garage doors for about 20 years!

Aside from looking better, I think burying helped to eliminate RFI problems, which occurred, especially when I pointed antennas toward the shack. Another measure I took was to wind coax chokes where the cable entered the cellar, and I got rid of excess lengths of coax that I always resisted cutting.

Ted, KR1G had a problem driving his ACOM 2000 Amp with his IC706, because of a power spike that the 706 apparently puts out. Most amps with slower response don't see the spike. The solution recommended by ACOM was to put a small negative DC voltage, eg 6V, on the ALC connector. (I think it was Randy who told me that ALC stands for "Assures Less Contacts")

There was a lot said on the club reflector about diet before the WW fone contest. Dave, NT1N, went on the Atkins diet two days before the contest and felt great during the whole thing. The proof is in his score...second place US (wonder what John Dorr eats?). I told my wife I was going to do that before CW, but she reminded me about Thanksgiving!

Joel, AK1N took a lightning zap which wiped the direction pot out in his G1000SDX rotor. (I love my Yaesu G1000SDX rotors...WEF) Giving Joel a hand, replacing the rotor was a piece of cake until Murphy visited. I was up on the tower, and all I had left to do was plug in the cable, so

I told Joel to go in and turn it. As he entered the house, I discovered they had changed the connector from seven pins to six pins! Always take your estimated time and multiply by three!

About a year ago, after finishing up a job on my tower, I threw down a piece of rope that landed in a tree. After the recent hurricane wind remnants that hit us, I discovered that the piece of rope had blown horizontally and tied itself in a knot you wouldn't believe around a top hat on my lower 40-2CD, with the other end knotted in the tree. The tree was unclimbable, and the end of the 40 was mangled. There was no way to reach the rope because the rope kept the antenna away from the tower. The solution to free it finally was a long pole with a tree pruner lashed to it. It barely reached the rope from 60 ft up the tower, but I did manage to cut the rope with the pole pruner. (Tnx AK1N for another good idea) Every serious ham should have a long pole on hand!

The best tape I've ever used for sealing connectors is sold at Home Depot. 3M-2242 is similar to 130C, which I've used before, but this stretches and sticks better. The way I just sealed some barrel splices on the tower today was to start wrapping at the lower end (sticky side out) overlapping and stretching as I worked my way to the top. I then taped over that with 3M Tartan tape (from Lowes...no longer carried by Home Depot and the Frost King they carry now is NG), overlapping as I went up and finishing off with a few inches without stretching tight. By not stretching the end it will not unwrap itself with time.

Ever have the problem of reaching for a caribeaner on your belt and finding it's always the OTHER end that opens? I finally got some fluorescent paint to spray the end that opens!

As you read this, CQWW CW is history. Be sure to credit YCCC on your summary sheet, or specify which ops in multis were YCCC. I hope everyone exceeded their goals and had fun!

New Crew

Please welcome the following new members who joined at various YCCC General and Area Meetings

K1RX's QTH – 9/11

Dick Green, WC1M
190 Lyme Road
Hanover, NH 03755-6602
home phone: (603)643-8558
work phone: (603)643-4451
email: dick.green@valley.net

Ned Swartz, K1SOP (new call pending)
44 Williams Road
Lexington, MA 02420
home phone: (781)861-1710
work phone: (781)981-2145
email: nswartz@earthlink.net

Erik Stromsted, W1ZBT
36 Mt. Lebanon St.
Pepperell, MA 01463
home phone: (978)433-2124
work phone: (978)433-3636
email: eriks@net1
home page: <http://www.microwaveadvances.com>

October General Meeting

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33 Haynes Rd.
Townsend MA 01469
home phone: (978)597-5370
email: lpeters@tiac.net

Joseph Natale, K1JN
46 Hatch St.
Mystic, CT 06355
home phone: (860)536-2021
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home page: <http://www.99main.com/~k1jn>

Maine Area Meeting – 10/12

Greg Finch, N1GF
18 Poplar Ridge
Falmouth, ME 04105
work phone: (207)839-2862
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WNH/SVT Area Meeting – 10/12

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Rhode Island Area Meeting – 10/17

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New Hampshire Area Meeting – 10/21

John G. David, KB1T
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Long Island Area Meeting – 10/99

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(See Crew – p. 7)

(Crew from p. 6)

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SE Mass Area Meeting – 10/99

Andrew Ferranti, AB1BX
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208 Dawson St.
New Bedford, MA 02745

Speech Therapy For Improved Phone Contest Scores

Scott Babb - KE1KD

I used to think that DX stations would start recognizing my callsign as I operated more big contests. To some extent this is true, but when I heard K1AR and W3LPL repeating their phonetics over and over to DX stations, I realized that I will always have problems getting people to understand my call. So what's a contester to do?
In the 1999 CQWW Phone Contest, I tried out several ideas

I've had regarding phonetics. I was quite happy with the results. Only a couple of stations accused me of being VE1KD, and I was often able to crack huge pileups without benefit of a beam antenna. Here's what I found:

USE STANDARD PHONETICS

I know, you've heard this one dozens of times before, but it's true. "Keeping Every One Kinda Drunk" might get my call remembered on a 75-meter net, but it's lousy for contests. The DX stations have read the same "Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, ..." list that we have, and they're familiar with those phonetics.

USE GEOGRAPHIC PHONETICS AS ALTERNATES

If you tell them that you're "whiskey alpha one victor hotel tango" and they come back with "...victor hotel echo," switch to "Tokyo" or "Texas." "Terrapin" and "turpentine" are useless here. Chances are the DX station has heard of "Honolulu" or "Denmark," but "handball" and "ding-a-ling" probably aren't in their vocabulary.

WATCH YOUR PRONUNCIATION

Welcome to New England, home of the wandering "R!" Yes, we have a regional accent, and it can make things rough on DX stations. If your call is WA1... and the DX calls you "whiskey oscar one," then you may need to listen to how you're pronouncing that "alpha." If it sounds like "al-furr," then that's the problem. Also watch for the disappearing "R" on the end of words like "oscar."

An important one is "kilo." This is a standard word in everyday usage in most countries. The problem is that we don't pronounce it the way that they do! "Kill-oh eck-oh one" was often heard as "victor echo one" until I realized that people in other countries pronounce it "key-low." Switching to the "key-low" pronunciation almost eliminated the problem.

END YOUR WORDS – DON'T RUN THEM TOGETHER

This was a big problem for me, and I hear it from many other stations during contests. I was trying to complete contacts as quickly as possible, so I was sending my callsign as something like "kill-oh-weck-oh-won-kill-oh-dell-tah." That's fast, but hard to understand on the other end. When I started ending my words, the DX stations magically started understanding them. You'll score more points sending your call clearly and distinctly once than you will sending it as a high-speed slur five times. End each word before you start the next. Especially words that end in vowels.

(See Speech – p. 8)

(Speech from p. 7)

USE ONLY ONE PHONETIC FOR EACH LETTER

If I tell them I'm "kilo echo one Kentucky delta," then they're likely to get confused by the two different words being used to represent "K." Stick to one word and they'll have an easier time. Again, "kilo six California condor" is memorable on the nightly net, but in a contest it should be "charlie charlie." There may be one exception to this, and that is:

ONLY CHANGE THE PHONETIC THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND

If the DX station is only missing one letter of your call, then only change the phonetic for that letter. If he calls me "kilo echo one kilo tango" and I respond with "Kentucky Ecuador one Kentucky Denmark," then he has to figure out which one of the letters he had wrong and I've given him no clues. Far better to send "kilo echo one kilo Denmark."

When the DX station calls me "victor echo one kilo delta," I'll usually come back with "Kentucky echo one kilo delta." Sometimes I'll use "Kentucky" for both instances of "K." I seem to have reasonable results with both approaches.

USE SMALL PAUSES TO CREATE A RHYTHM

This is the pileup-buster for me, and it took a little time to work it out. It's probably only effective if you're doing everything else right regarding pronunciation and ending your words. I think that you'll find that you need to work out the most effective rhythm for your callsign, but my little Cushcraft R5 and I cracked through some ugly pileups by making each word stand distinctly on its own and putting a small pause after the "One" and an even smaller pause before the "delta."

I'm not sure if the brain just hears this better, or if the timing makes the last two letters stand out in the pileup or what, but I kicked butt with "kilo echo one <small pause> kilo <smaller pause> delta." My main problem was trying to hear the DX station coming back with, "The 'kilo delta' station go" through all the QRM. Experiment with rhythm and tiny pauses in your phonetics and you may find a winner!

LEARN NUMBERS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

This is something to do after you've worked on everything else, but I did manage to complete a few contacts in the CQWW Phone contest solely because I was able to make the exchange or parts of the exchange in Japanese, French, and Spanish. Fortunately, Spanish numbers are close enough to Portugese for the Brazilians and Portugese stations to understand. If I'd found a bunch of DL stations who couldn't quite hear me, I was ready with German, too.

If you learn the ten digits ("hello," "goodbye," and "thank you" are nice, too,) in French and Spanish, then you'll have a leg up on lots of stations when it comes to working the Caribbean, Central and South America, lots of Pacific islands, several African nations, and (of course) Spain and France. Italian is next on my list to learn, since I seem to find lots of "I" stations in contests. Japanese is great if you work lots of JAs.

Sayonara for now, Key-low. Echo. One... Key-low.. Delta!

YCCC Challenge CQWW SSB '99

Reported As Of 11/09/99

Art Holmes – W1RZF

Team	Score
19	21,959,380
17	20,230,287
20	17,474,128
9	17,233,935
6	16,683,273
26	16,478,738
12	16,411,569
14	14,814,210
5	14,601,745
2	13,625,478
7	13,302,872
16	13,250,816
25	12,775,300
3	12,158,346
18	12,004,350
24	11,638,263
15	11,412,126
4	11,399,534
1	11,378,907
21	10,842,386
10	10,144,802
22	9,307,307
8	9,261,200
23	8,526,314
13	7,495,691
11	6,859,125

Area Meeting Notes

Over the past weeks and months, area meetings have certainly been in abundance throughout the YCCC territory.

Here are the “stories behind the stories”

Northern Vermont Area Meeting – 8/7/99

Paul Gayet – AA1SU

A YCCC Regional Meeting was held on 08/07/1999 at Knight's Point State Park in Grand Isle, Vt. The meeting was held in conjunction with our local club meeting/picnic. The club is Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont or RANV, for short. Combining the two meetings helped assure a good turn out. The weather was just perfect and the propagation good, also. After we fired up the coals, we fired up a couple of HF rigs with wire antennas in the trees. We handed out a few VT contacts for the Ten-10 SSB Contest. The other radio was looking for DX, but we found EU calling EU and the County Hunters net had a long waiting list, so we never did get to hand out the rare county of Grand Isle. But, we all had a good time smoozing, cooking, eating, and ragchewing.

It's always nice to get hams from out of the area to attend your meetings, and we were blessed we the presence of W1WFZ & K1FTA, Ted & Carol Perry from CT. I called the YCCC portion of the meeting to order at about 1:50 pm at a picnic table under the shade of a nearby tree. I went over the some of the objectives of the club and encouraged everyone to get on the air for the CQ WW and ARRL DX Contests. I told everyone about the Monday night on the air meeting, the great website, the YCCC e-mail reflector, and the October 9th meeting. When I mentioned the upcoming YCCC DXpedition to Grenada, Ted was very helpful and told us how great the hospitality, food, drink, and bands all were in Grenada. Soon, we were all drooling and wishing that we could go there. We had 14 hams in attendance, including 8 members and 6 guests: 2 of whom joined the club. Here's the breakdown:

MEMBERS PRESENT

AA1SU , N2YHK, KK1L, AB1T, W1SJ, W1ZK , N0ICI, W1WFZ and New Members W1EAT and N1PEA

GUESTS ATTENDING

K1HD, K1FTA, WN1HJW and N1SRC

By the way, Grant has a unique VT call sign license plate. After getting his first plates with no slash thru the zero, he sent them back and got new plates with a backward slash. He now says that it looks very Russian. New member Tom likes QRP CW Contesting and Ed likes SSB search and pounce contesting. With these guys on board, what chance does FRC have?

Area Meeting at K1RX – 9/11/99

Glen Whitehouse – K1GW

15 YCCCers met at the QTH of Mark Pride, K1RX, last Saturday morning. Three new members (Eric - W1ZBT, Dick - WC1M, Ned - K1SOP) were inducted into the club.

A tour of the K1RX multi-multi was enjoyed by all. Much of the time was spent discussing the antenna farm. It seems that everyone learned something different from this tour.

A highlight of the gathering was a roundtable of station descriptions and activities that are planned in order to win the fall contests.

Several code and logging practice programs were demonstrated. Some were available for distribution on diskette.

A generally good time was had by all.

The following were in attendance:

K1GW, NM1W, K1VV, W1SU, N1TO, W1RZF, K1SOP, K1RX, AA1SI, KR1G, WC1M, KA1UQ, KF1V, K1EPJ, and WA1S

SNY/NJ Area Meeting – 9/20

Hank Kieman - KF2O

The SNY/NJ area of YCCC held a local meeting on Sept. 20 at Nat's Place in Elmsford, NY. To our chagrin, Nat's Place had been badly flooded by Hurricane Floyd rains, and the group decided to adjourn to the nearby El Dorado Diner instead. This venue prevented any formal agenda, but did not dampen the spirits of the attendees, who continue to be determined to REPEAT over FRC this year.

In attendance were KF2O, K1ZM, AA2DY, W1CU, K2RD, WR2I, AE2F, K2SX, W2AX, K2DO, N2GA, N3MV (who made the trip from Pennsylvania!) and Pres. K2KQ.

(See Meetings – p. 10)

(Meetings from p. 9)

Maine Area Meeting – 10/2/99

Mike Russo – K1EU

We held an authorized regional meeting of the YCCC on Saturday Oct 2, 1999 at the home on Steve K1MV. The following members attended and one new member signed up and paid his dues for the year.

K1EU, NT1R, W4ZGR, K1JB , N1RJ, KA1PRD, N1AO, K1MY, NY1E, KT1O, N1RLI, K1MV, W1SDR, W1DEO and New Member N1GF

Don N1AO and Tom KT1O showed off the finer points of Write log which will be used by K1MV, K1JB and K1EU from zone 2 as VE2CSI once again this year for CQWW. A hard copy of this e-mail will be sent to all the e-mail recipients as well as a copy of the attendance list , application and a copy of the check for N1GF.

WNH/SVT Area Meeting – 10/12/99

Doug Scribner – K1ZO

The following were in attendance:

K1ZO, N1SP, AE1B, WA1ZYX, N1KWF, K1KU, W1ZS K1BV, KK1DX and WR1X

K1KMD - New Member (Assign to Team 8 - XYL of AE1B)

WK1P - New Member (Assign to Team 21 - Recruited by N1KWF)

A variety of topics were covered throughout the evening:

1) CQWW - The group is looking forward to the end of this month...but also knows we have our work cut out for us this year.

Paul - WR1X may be looking for a seat for SSB weekend. He was advised to get his request to K1GW.

2) A discussion was held concerning one of the local hams who, although he only holds a General Class license, operates in all parts of the bands. He is very active during contests. Many complaints have been filed about this individual and it is frustrating that nothing can be done to remedy the situation.

3) Show and Tell - N1KWF showed one of his two new bandpass filters that will be installed before CQWW. K1ZO showed the newly wired Array Solutions SixPak that will be used for WW SSB.

Two membership applications were presented and accepted:

December 1999

Kathy Dould - K1KMD Kathy is AE1B's XYL and she may do a M/S with John

Paul Hebert - WK1P Paul's membership puts the K1ZO M/S at 100% YCCC

The meeting broke up about 9 PM. The locals seemed to agree that it was nice to have a short commute to attend a meeting.

Another gathering will be held in January.

NYLI – 10/16/99

Mike Anderson - N2TX

I'm happy to announce that we had 5 new members join.

Ted K2QMF- Ted has been a long time FRC'er. Ted and his son AA2FB have turned in some very nice scores over the last few years operating M/S in most contests. 5.0 Mill after UBN for last year's cqww (cw) and 3.2 mill in the ARRL cw contest.

Tony AA2FB- Tony also a long time FRC'er. Along with his Dad (K2QMF) They have contributed some great scores in the M/S category the past few years. Tony and Ted operated from the qth of AA2FB which is in Lindenhurst, N.Y. He has a 55 foot tower with a Tri-bander and a 2 element 40 cc.

Ted indicated they would contribute 10 million points to the YCCC. That's almost like sending out a dx-pedition. 10 Million to YCCC Minus 10 Million from FRC That's a 20 Million point swing in favor of YCCC. Thanks guys for coming aboard!

Jerry WM2V- Jerry has been a long timer in the results of many contests over the years. He has a single 55 foot tower with a few interlaced Force 12 Yagi's 4 on 10, 4 on 15 interlaced on a 30 foot boom, and 4 on 20 and 2 on 40 interlaced on a 30 foot boom. Jerry compliments these antennas with an Alpha 87a and A Yaesu 1000mp.

Bob N2DVQ- They say there isn't a broken radio Bob can't repair. He has helped us perfect some of the backbone links from W2XX and was instrumental in providing multiple user inputs to the W2XX node. Bob has a 1000mp and is awaiting his new Force 12 C3.

(See Meetings – p. 11)

(Meetings from p. 10)

Angelo W2ASS- In last years CQWW phone contest I came across W2ASS running one of the biggest pile-ups of Italian's I have every heard. I'll never forget one saying are you sure that's your call" WHISKEY 2 ASS!" Angelo has a 1000mp an AL-80 amp and a tribander at 55 feet.

It was a pleasure to host this meeting and look forward to more. I still think there's lots of room to bring new blood into the YCCC down on Long Island. Thanks to all that made this such a success.

Rhode Island – 10/17/99
Ted Perry – W1WFZ

James Setzler, K1SD, hosted a RI area meeting at his QTH in East Greenwich, RI. Nine local area contesters were present, including Ray, WF1B, Rick, KI1G, Dave, AA1CE, Max, N1LYA, Howie, K1VSJ, Ted, W1WFZ, Mark, NB1U, and Bob Rogers, KB1LN, who made application, paid his dues, and was voted in by the members present before he could make it to the door.

Afterward, James showed us his station infrastructure, including two towers, 80 and 120 feet, which were erected in his back lot. He had lots of Cordwood lying around, which N1RR had promised to come by and pick up. James has a FT1000, and likes to make his own gadgets, such as antenna switching assemblies. It's a really nice station, but.....I don't remember seeing a bug or for that matter, any kind of key lying around.

It was a great meeting, and we certainly will have more in the future

NH Area Meeting – 10/21/99
Glen Whitehouse – K1GW

We had 7 active contesters in attendance. They were WA1S, K2TE, K1HI, KB1T, W1JCC, KW1DX, and K1GW. KB1T was welcomed back to the club as a "new" member after several years of absence.

This spirited meeting included a wide range of topics ranging from which spots we would like to see on the packet network to the problem of logging accuracy, and more ---

KW1DX, Dave, described the installation of his first tower at his new home in Hollis, NH. K2TE, Ed, discussed the

nitty gritty of TVI and how to be a ham radio ambassador. K1HI, Rex, related the pressure that can be felt when your 100 foot tower is only up 60 feet, you have a used antenna and wonder how to assemble it, and it is only 9 days to the start of the contest. W1JCC, Craig, portrayed the thrill of working Illinois and Indiana on 160 M. KB1T, John, wondered if inducing bacteria into his septic system would make it a better ground system. WA1S, Ann, assured us that JAs could be loud. You just have to be in the right place to hear them. K1GW, Glen, showed how to have fun with good friends without having a meeting agenda.

On a serious note, we remembered our friend Jim, K1MEM.

SE Mass – 10/23/99
Greg – W1KM

A hungry contingent of 21 YCCers attended the Middleboro breakfast meeting, including 4 new members. The new members: W1LP, W1SBD, AB1BX and N1ZE. Also attending: K1VUT, KZ1A, K1TH, N1IUN, AA1V, NB1B, W1MA, K1DC, K5MA, N1TB, K1WCC, K1TEX, W1AY, N1BSO, W1CC, W1KM, and WA1QGC and WA1ECF. Jan, K5MA, deserves credit for recruiting 3 new members (for team 10!).

Also encouraging were some multi-single plans for next weekend in the Plymouth area.

NH Area Meeting – 11/11/99
Glen Whitehouse – K1GW

Nine Members and one prospective ham attended tonight's YCCC Regional dinner at the Coyote Cafe in Nashua, NH. In attendance were K1GW, KV1J, K2TE, KB1SO, KW1DX, WA1S, and WW1Y.

Topics included:

The upcoming J3A CW operation. Two of our group will be part of that team.

To pros and cons of the various 40 M add on kits.

To the ins and outs of the VE program.

To a wide variety of Y2K issues.

And general contesting banter.

It was a very enthusiastic group all of whom had just come off an exciting weekend and are looking forward to the next one.

(See Meetings – p. 12)

(Meetings from p. 11)

YCCC/CARA – 11/12/99
Jeff Briggs – K1ZM

On Friday, 11/12/99, a joint YCCC/CARA (Candlewood Amateur Radio Association) meeting was held in Brookfield, CT.

This is the second annual joint meeting which has been held to date - and a special opportunity for YCCC members in SW Conn and ENY to get a local meeting credit for ARRL DX sponsored events.

CARA runs the W1QI YCCC Cluster in SW Conn and there are a number of members in both clubs. This is somewhat a symbiotic relationship as CARA usually participates only in FD - and joint membership in YCCC (for some of its members) gives those who wish to participate in contesting an outlet for this interest.

The new CARA President is Jeff Cantor, WB3DLG, who lives in Danbury, CT and YCCC was given a warm welcome at the door by Jeff and his staff.

The meeting began with local business matters - the most interesting of which was a discussion of pending tower by-law legislation in both Bethel and Danbury Conn. The group intends to attempt to secure exemptions for amateur structures, if possible, by attending the local hearings to be held at month's end. ARRL volunteer counsel NA1L is assisting with some guidance in the preparation of arguments to be made at the hearings.

After these discussions, the GUEST SPEAKER of the evening, Don Toman, K2KQ gave a two-part presentation on the recent 4U1ITU and J3A dxpeditions of 1998/1999. This was followed by an introductory presentation on YT - the yagi terrain analysis program offered by ARRL and prepared by former YCCC President N6BV, Dean Straw.

Both presentations were well received.

Don then asked if any CARA members were interested in joining YCCC - and two applications were accepted from Jeff Cantor, WB3DLG and Ken Weith, KD1DD.

Jeff, again, is the PRESIDENT of CARA and Ken maintains the CARA repeater sites including the W1QI packet system antenna/xmtr.

There were (7) seven existing YCCC members in attendance who then welcomed Ken and Jeff into the Club.

Applications and dues will be sent to KQ1F and KV1W respectively.

W1QJ, Lou Parascondola, an existing YCCC member, also

paid his 1999-2000 YCCC annual dues at the meeting.

YCCC members in attendance were: K1ZM, N1GS, AA1MY, K2KQ, W1QK, W1QJ, W2YG and New Members KD1DD and WB3DLG

Lastly, the concept of a symbiotic local club/YCCC relationship is a good one. YCCC also shares a similar relationship with the WCDXA (Western Conn DX Assn) and it is a model worth considering. The YCCC/AARA (Albany Area Radio Assn) fostered by K2ONP is another fine example. The YCCC/RANV (Radio Assn of Northern Vermont) coordinated by Paul AA1SU (who is the YCCC N. Vt. Area manager) is yet another.....

We should definitely encourage the creation of more of these linkages - as they are GOOD for YCCC. YCCC helps the local club by providing a PROGRAM/SPEAKER or advice on contest/Dx related matters. The local club helps YCCC with additional contesting members and SCORES! Both benefit and it is a good thing for YCCC in the end... We agreed to continue the CARA relationship and perhaps expand the joint meeting concept to two meetings per year going forward.

YCCC Challenge CQWW 1998

From Published Totals

Dave Hoaglin – K1HT

Team 17	42,358,206	The Buccaneers
Team 5	25,725,050	F Troop
Team 19	22,526,449	Yankee Clipper Spinnakers
Team 8	21,567,498	Aces & Eights
Team 9	21,480,363	Number 9
Team 21	21,390,381	The 21 Club
Team 20	20,547,394	The Roaring 20's
Team 3	18,936,620	Mainly Lids
Team 23	18,823,589	The 599'ers
Team 4	18,744,175	Freddie & the Whizzers
Team 11	17,462,535	The Pi-Squares
Team 16	16,914,355	AR's Aces
Team 24	16,743,380	The X-Ops
Team 18	16,237,615	Tom's Tigers
Team 12	15,331,677	The Keystone Breakers
Team 14	15,065,221	Rainbow Warriors
Team 13	14,977,533	Lucky 13
Team 10	14,963,620	Clam Diggers
Team 26	13,613,854	The Megawatts
Team 1	13,602,085	Team One
Team 25	12,631,931	The Two-Bit Contesters
Team 2	12,271,329	The Spice Boys
Team 7	12,136,462	Lucky 7
Team 6	10,344,311	Team CT
Team 15	9,144,985	The Wire Weirdos
Team 22	3,467,115	The Crushers

YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF Dues are payable as of the April election meeting, which begins our club "contest year". The YCCC has adopted a multi-tiered membership format as follows: Please note that payment of dues IS NOT a prerequisite for contributing scores to the Club aggregate, but IS for the various YCCC Awards Programs

Full Member - \$20 (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper delivery of Club newsletter)

Full Member - \$15 (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and electronic "Ebutt" delivery of Club newsletter)

Family Member - \$0 (Grants full membership to all amateurs residing at one domicile on payment of one member's "Full Member" annual dues and entitlement to one Club Newsletter sent to one domicile or email address. All members of said family are eligible for YCCC awards programs.)

Student Member - \$10 (Grants full membership to students at a reduced level. Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper or electronic delivery of the Club Newsletter.)

Subscription - \$** (A "friend of YCCC" - not a member but a possible candidate for future membership. Receives club newsletter only in paper or electronic form. Fee basis is \$20 for overseas paper delivery, \$15 for domestic paper delivery and \$10 for electronic "Ebutt" delivery domestically of overseas.)

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. **Mail your dues to the club treasurer, Ric Plummer, KV1W, PO Box 1158, Berlin, MA 01503-2158**

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Doug Scribner K1ZO, preferably by E-mail at k1zo@arri.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** Contact Brad, W1NT bradld@sprynet.com
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 \$62 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 word "subscribe" 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** Dave Hoaglin, K1HT; **CAC Hudson** Rich Gelber, K2WR; **DXAC New England** Jim Dionne, K1MEM; **DXAC Hudson** Rich Wujciak-K2RW. **ARRL LIAISON** is Tom Frenaye, K1KI.



(Photo Courtesy of Warren - W1LO via Scott - N1SP)

Okay all you "Old Timers"...Real Hams Did What?

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
Dec 5 (Sun)	General	Worcester, MA
Feb 6 (Sun)	General	Worcester, MA
Apr 1 (Sat)	General	Worcester, MA
Jun 4 (Sun)	General	Worcester, MA

Ship's Log	December, 1999	Issue 145
Captain's Cabin	Don Toman - K2KQ	1
Secretary's Report	Charlotte Richardson -	3
KQ1F		
Movers and Shakers		4
Flotsam and Jetsam	"Barnacle Jack" - W1WEF	5
New Crew	Charlotte Richardson -	6
KQ1F		
Speech Therapy	Scott Babb - KE1KD	7
Challenge 1 st Round CQWW '99	Art Holmes - W1RZF	8
Area Meetings Notes		9
Challenge Finals CQWW '98	Dave Hoaglin - K1HT	12
Real Hams...		13

The next general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be held Sunday December 5th, at 1:00 PM at the Student Union on the campus of Worcester State College in Worcester, MA

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
 48 North Avenue
 Mendon, MA 01756

FIRST CLASS MAIL