

Scuttlebutt

August 2000

Issue 149

Captain's Cabin

Don Toman - K2KQ

Congratulations to Jeff, N5TJ and our very own Dan, K1TO, who have won the 2000 World Radio Team Championship (WRTC-2000) in Slovenia, a very convincing repeat performance following their win of WRTC-1996. John, K1AR and Doug, K1DG, were third, behind RA3AUU and RV1AW. Jeff, K1ZM, officially representing YCCC with teammate N2NT finished tenth, and Randy, K5ZD with his teammate K6LA were twelfth. A number of our people were referees and spectators (K1KI, W1FJ, N2GA, K1VR, K1ZZ, K3BU, K1CC, K2DO, KA1ZD). We had both great presence and performance in this increasingly prestigious international event, in which 53 two-man teams operating well-matched, randomly-assigned 100W stations compete during the IARU HF Championship. The next one will be in 2004.

Funny about that...

Shortly before the June meeting, I received an inquiry from Bob Cox, K3EST, (via Dave, K1HT), asking whether YCCC would be interested in being the host for WRTC-2004. I brought the subject up at the June meeting and received a positive but not overwhelming response.

I then put out a couple of probes on the reflector; the first was as an advocate and the second as a skeptic. While not all comments coming back were positive, most were, and with the increasing interest shown, it has become evident that YCCC is interested in being the host club for WRTC-2004.

Among all the above, a conversation with Steve (K7LXC) the chairman of the WRTC Organizing Committee, revealed that the Contest Club of Finland is also considering taking on the job. They will discuss it at a customary August retreat. I told Steve that YCCC will put together a tentative operational organization and then endeavor to ratify our interest at the Boxboro meeting on August 26.

I've compiled a list of about 30 who have expressed strong

interest in being part of running WRTC-2004. That's led to an e-mail list that's evolving. If you are not on it but want to be, let me know. If you don't do e-mail, drop me a fax number by mail or drop in on a Monday night on-the-air meeting and let us know about your interest.

By the time you read this, we will have had one organizational meeting (on July 16) and we should have a better handle on the skill mix available to us as well as some tentative task assignments. Assuming that we have a ratifying vote at the Boxboro meeting on August 26, we will then formally make our bid to the WRTC Committee.

Between now and the Boxboro meeting, we will have our picnic party in New Jersey with FRC (July 29 at Old Troy Park, Parsippany, NJ). Check the YCCC web site for details or the special MSN Communities site set up at <http://communities.msn.com/YCCCFCParty>.

This party will count as a special meeting.

To spice things up, we expect Frank Donovan, W3LPL and a vanload of PVRC guys to appear. If we can muster up the enthusiasm to have a softball game, we can have a free agent/wild card draft of PVRCers.

As we look past August, we should see some regional picnics and meetings in September, leading up to our victory celebration and awards party on October 14 at Worcester Polytechnic. We weren't able to find a clear date for our usual meeting spot at Worcester State, and are fortunate that John Ruggiero (N2YHK) has been able to make an arrangement with WPI for us. Details will appear on the web site.

(See Captain's Cabin – p. 2)

Yankee Clipper Contest Club

President	Don Toman, K2KQ (914)769-7838 toman@ibm.net
Vice President	Paul Young, K1XM (978) 562-5819 k1xm@underwater.org
Activities Manager	Ann Santos, WA1S (603) 673-9217 wals@arrl.net
Secretary	Charlotte Richardson, KQ1F (978) 562-5819 KQ1F@underwater.org
Treasurer	Ric Plummer, KV1W (978) 838-0368 ric@kv1w.com
Scuttlebutt Editor	Doug Scribner, K1ZO (603)352-0931 k1zo@arrl.net
Scuttlebutt Publisher	Art Holmes, W1RZF (508)478-2286 w1rzf@qnci.net

Area Managers

ME	Mike Russo, K1EU (207) 883-9524 k1eu@juno.com
ENH	Glen Whitehouse, K1GW (603) 673-6290 glenw@xtdl.com
WNH/SVT	Doug Scribner, K1ZO (603) 352-0931 k1zo@arrl.net
NE MA (978)	Henry Wilson, W1AAX (978) 927-6258 hwilson@nii.net
SE MA (508)	Greg Cronin, W1KM (508)-428-4205 w1km@aol.com
Boston (617/781)	Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P (617)-524-6370 jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu
CT (860)	Jack Schuster, W1WEF (860) 633-2756 w1wef@snet.net
CT (203)	Ira Stoler, K2RD (203) 254-3084 stoler@erols.com
RI	Ted Perry, W1WFZ (401) 397-8865 w1wfz@aol.com
NNY	George Wilner, K2ONP (518) 279-4025 k2onp@aol.com
NY	Rich Gelber, K2WR (212) 580-1075 k2wr@njdx.org
LI	Mike Anderson, N2TX (516) 666-0668 n2tx@ws.quik.com
SNY/NJ/PA	Hank Kiernan, KF2O (914) 235-4940 hankkier@aol.com
NVT	Paul Gayet, AA1SU (802) 860-1134 AA1SU@email.msn.com

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.

(Captain's Cabin from p. 1)

With all that stuff on the table, don't forget to prepare for another big winning season. CQ WW 'phone is October 27-29 and CW is November 24-26. Sunspots should be about the same as 1999 for these contests and will be as high as they are going to get until 2011! Mark your calendar, make your arrangements and let your families know. Get those antennas up or repaired. Improve your station or find one you can operate. Find someone to mentor or from whom to learn. Find a potential new member for introduction at Boxboro or in October. Remember that the margin of victory for us over FRC came from numbers and not big scores. Our big scores are less than theirs, but our small scores are better than and more numerous than theirs...and our newcomers accounted for our margin of victory last year.

If you have an interest in joining a YCCC operation in Grenada this year and you have not so indicated, let me know. We need to get you on the list, get your license materials started and point you in the right direction to get reservations.

Last, but still important, remember to pay your dues. The fiscal year started on April 1. If you joined after April, 1999, you are off the hook until April 2001. Of course, donations are accepted. See Ric, KV1W. Better still...send him money!

We're in the spotlight now, but that's to be expected. After all, we *are* the best, aren't we?

Have You Paid Your Dues?

If not, then there is no better time than the present.

Sit down and write a check payable to YCCC.

Send it to:

**Ric Plummer - KV1W
PO Box 1158
Berlin, MA 01503-2158**

June Meeting Minutes

Charlotte Richardson – KQ1F

The meeting was called to order by club president Don, K2KQ, and began with introductions of the 46 (check this) members present and their guests. Don passed out YCCC baseball caps to those in attendance. Members who did not attend the meeting but did contribute scores in both ARRL DX contests and both CQ WW contests, a total of 109 members, will also receive club hats.

Don announced that YCCC has been asked to host WRTC in either 2004 or 2008. Hosting WRTC would be a great honor for the club, but would involve a lot of work and so needs careful thought. Don reminded members that the joint YCCC-FRC club picnic will be held in New Jersey on July 29th. We have a liquor license for this event. FRC will bring and prepare the food. The park has a softball field, horseshoe pits, bocce, charcoal pits, and a covered pavilion in case of rain. It is at the intersection of interstates 80 and 287 about a 3 1/2 hour drive from Worcester.

The club welcomed three new members: Bill Droese, W1DYH, Andrew J. Clark, KA1VMG, and Tad Danley, K3TD. Club treasurer Ric, KV1W, reported that we have a healthy balance of \$8012.04. Don noted that we are hosting a meeting at Boxboro this year. The main technical presentation will be a talk by WX0B on stacking antennas. Don would like to have a WRTC-2000 slide show by the WRTC participants, as well as slides of YCCC-FRC picnic. There will also be a contesting forum, a demo of the new ICOM 756-PRO, N2TX demoing AR Cluster, and K1VV running PED during breaks in the meeting.

Art, W1RZF, then talked about the YCCC challenge teams. Four teams have new captains this year: K1IR for team 13, WC1M for team 15, K2BX for team 21, and N3MV for team 17. Art has deleted 78 members who did not contribute a score in either ARRL or CQ for the past two years from the team rosters. These members have been added to the pool of people team captains can recruit. Art then re-equalized the teams, resulting in 40 people changing teams, so that each team has 15 or 16 members and an average aggregate score last year of 44M points. Art also assigned today's new members to teams.

Last year, 454 people were on the 26 teams. For CQ WW SSB, 264 of them contributed 394M points, and on CW 209 contributed 360M. 154 people did not contribute any score. Last year, the average team had eleven active participants. Art wants to set this year's goal at 1 Billion points claimed score.

Don noted that the October meeting will be a victory party. It will probably need to be held at Worcester Polytech due to scheduling conflicts, and will probably be on October 14th. The meeting will be

a celebration of our CQ win and an awards ceremony for the club challenge round.

Don noted that he has 15 operators lined up for the CQ WW SSB contest from J3. For CW, he believes he now has 10 ops.

The Contest Cookbook needs volunteers to write columns. Don would like to add an article this year on VHF contesting.

Seab, AA1MY, then talked about kite-borne antennas. He brought several large kites he built out of Tyvek. His 9' x 10' model has three ribs made of wooden screen-door molding, with vent holes to stabilize the kite. See his article in QST. Seab noted that if you live near an airport you need permission to fly a kite over 500' in elevation if it weighs more than 5 pounds and contains metal. If so you need to notify the FAA 24 hours in advance. Seab puts streamers on the flying line. His 9'x10' kite has broken 225-240 lb line in a 20 mph wind. He recommends wearing leather gloves if your kite pulls more than 50-60 pounds. Seab noted that at higher altitudes winds tend to be much steadier than at ground level, and he routinely has antenna-bearing kites stay up for days at a time.

After the break, Don, K2KQ, talked about shortened vertical antennas and dipoles. He noted that end-loaded dipoles give the most radiation for a given length and are much better than center-loaded antennas. His talk was followed by a transceiver roundtable discussion covering the TS-850, TS-870, IC-765, IC-775, IC-756-PRO, FT-1000MP, and FT-1000D.

2000-2001 Calendar

August 26	Boxboro convention/YCCC meeting
September 9-10	WAE SSB
October 14	YCCC meeting/awards - Worcester
October 27-29	CQ Worldwide DX SSB
November 4-5	ARRL Sweepstakes CW
November 18-19	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
November 24-26	CQ Worldwide DX CW
December 1-3	ARRL 160 CW
December 3	YCCC meeting - Worcester
December 8-10	ARRL 10M
January 26-28	CQ WW 160 CW
February 3	YCCC meeting - Worcester
February 16-18	ARRL DX CW
February 23-25	CQ WW 160 SSB
March 2-4	ARRL DX Phone
April 1	YCCC meeting/elections

Want To Be A Billionaire?

Art Holmes – W1RZF

That is just what the club signed up for CQWW this coming season.

In 1998 the YCCC claimed score was 519 million points

In 1999 the YCCC claimed score was 751 million points

IN 2000 the YCCC goal is 1 billion points!

At the June meeting I showed the club that this is achievable and the club signed up for the goal. Many of you were not at the meeting, so let me share with you how it can be done.

Use CQWW Phone as an example:

The claimed score for 1999 CQWW Phone was 394 million points, contributed by 264 members
An average score of 1.49 million. In 2000 that score must increase to 522 million points An additional 128 million points

Here is a way it can be done.

First, we have had 28 members join the club since CQWW last year.

Second, if each team reactivates an inactive member prior to CQWW, that is 26 additional contributors.

Third, if each team recruits an additional member prior to CQWW, that is 26 additional contributors

If these 80 people contribute 750k points each that is 60 million points.

Then if the 264 members who made it happen last year increase their score by 257k points the goal has been met.

What can you do to help?

Lock in the CQWW weekends on your calendar

October 27-29 CQWW DX SSB

November 24-26 CQWW DX CW

Get on both modes

Last year 298 members participated in one or more CQWW contests

268 participated in SSB

213 participated in CW

If you did not operate both modes, this is an easy way to contribute more points to the club. If the 85 members that missed a contest last year had got on and scored 250 k

each, that would have been 21 million more for the club.

Stay in the seat longer

Everyone should strive to operate a minimum of 20 hours or 10% greater than last year, which ever is greater.

Improve your skills

We all need to practice.

Upgrade your station

Better do it pretty soon as time flies

Help your team and club members

Help with upgrades

Challenge other members. One on one competition

Challenge another team i.e. pizza to the winner

Do you need a place to operate?

It is unlikely that you can be a billionaire, but YCCC can be a billionaire if we all pull an oar

A New Addition!

Russ Healy – K2UA

We've expanded our house . . . by two feet!

Nancy, Gwen and I welcomed the arrival of Trevor James Healy on Tuesday, July 4, 2000, at 9:04 PM. He weighed in at 8 lb, 1 oz, and was 21 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great, as is big sister Gwen!

The city of Rochester kindly welcomed Trevor with a fireworks display within minutes of his birth. We thought that was very thoughtful of them!

I hope this finds you all well and look forward to talking (or keyboarding) with each of you soon!

TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3	TEAM 4	TEAM 5	TEAM 6	TEAM 7	TEAM 8	TEAM 9
K1JE	K1AE	AD1C	K1AJ	K8CH	AA1SU	AA1AA	AE1B	AA1MY
K1KD	K1AM	K1EU	K1TH	KC1F	AE2F	K1MY	K1ST	K1EO
K1MBO	K1EP	K1MV	K2ONP	KS1L	AK1N	K1YR	K1TW	K1KMD
K2XF	K1HI	K1VA	K2TR	N1AU	K1DC	K3BU	K1YT	K1XM
KC1YR	K2EK	K1WD	KD1KI	N1KRT	K1DX	KS1J	K2WR	K1XX
N2TU	KM1P	K5ZD	KE1KD	N1NY	K1EA	KW1DX	KE1FO	K1ZO
NT1N	KR1G	KG1D	KU4BP	N1TT	K1OA	N1SOH	KF2O	K2BHX
W0MHK	N1LYA	KM2P	N1MEZ	N1XS	K1TTT	NM1W	KK1DX	K2KQ
W1ES	N1UVA	KT1O	N1RR	N2LBR	KB1W	W0AD	N3KCJ	K2ZP
W1LLU	N1ZRO	N1AO	N6RFM	N8RA	N1DG	W1FM	N4XR	KB1EKJ
W1LRY	W1BHL	N1GF	NF1A	NA2M	N1IUN	W1TQ	NC1N	KQ1F
W1MK	W1DEO	N1RLI	NK1F	W1EK	N1XYR	W1VE	NY6DX	KZ1A
W1NT	W1HI	NT1R	T93M	WA1KKM	N2UN	W2XX	W1AZ	N1RL
W1SDR	W1MD	W1AX	W1IA	WA2SPL	NT2A	WC1D	W1NG	NN1D
W1ZT	W1RH	W1KT	W1ZK	WS1A	W1BK	WT1O	WM2V	NY1E
WA1QGC	W1TE	W1UK	W2ZU	WZ2T	WA1LIR	KD1DD	WW1E	WA1ZYX
TEAM 10	TEAM 11	TEAM 12	TEAM 13	TEAM 14	TEAM 15	TEAM 16	TEAM 17	TEAM 18
AA1IZ	K1BV	AB1T	K1IR	K1BD	K1EC	AA1CE	K1LZ	K1HT
AB1BX	K1EPJ	AI3E	K1RO	K1MO	K1JB	K1AR	K2RD	K1KI
K1GU	K1FTA	K1EBY	K1TEX	K1RM	K1PTF	K1LD	KA1DZV	K1KU
K1OZ	K1RV	KA1O	K1ZZ	K1TR	K1RX	K2LE	KE1GQ	K1VUT
K1WCC	KE4GI	KD2TT	K2LS	K1VW	K2ZZ	K2WE	N1CX	K2EP
K5MA	KV1J	KE2TR	KA1ZD	K2DO	KM1A	KA1UQ	N1EZC	KA1CI
N1HOQ	N1BSO	N1IXF	KD6YYW	KM3T	N1BB	KB1AWE	N1NQD	KB1H
N1TB	N1EDM	N1PGA	KV1W	N2DVQ	N1GA	KD1HN	N1TO	KB1LN
W1LP	N1ZE	N1TVL	N1ND	N2GA	N1JP	KD2RD	N1UJV	KC2FEE
W1LW	N2QW	W1FV	NW2J	NA2NA	N2FF	KF1V	N3MV	N1DD
W1OHM	W1CC	W1JR	W1CU	NB1B	W1AAX	N1DS	NZ1Q	N1GS
W1RZF	W1KM	W1RM	W1US	W1BIH	W1FJ	W1EQ	W1PL	N1TXM
W1SBD	W1WFZ	W2WB	W3TB	W1JCC	W1NA	W1XK	W6PH	N2YHK
W1TO	WK2H	WA1S	W6FC	WK1O	W1RY	W2ASS	WQ1H	N9KAU
W2GDJ	WR2I	WB2UMF	WB2KLD	WO1N	W1ZBT	WB1S	WR1P	W1NR
WA1OFR	W1ZC	W1DHY	K3TD		WC1M			W1SJ
TEAM 19	TEAM 20	TEAM 21	TEAM 22	TEAM 23	TEAM 24	TEAM 25	TEAM 26	
K1GE	K1MD	K1CC	AA1ON	AA1V	AA2FB	AA1QD	K2AJY	
K1JN	K1MOM	K1RU	AA2DY	K1VSJ	K1GQ	K1DG	K2YR	
K1SF	K2XA	K1VR	AA2MF	K1ZR	K1NG	K1LOM	KI1G	
K1ZA	KA1GJ	K1VV	K1CN	K2TE	K1TI	K1RWS	KI6EZ	
KE1IH	KA1PRD	K2BX	K1GW	KX1X	K1TS	K1TWF	N1MD	
N1BU	KD1EA	K2CIW	K1MK	KZ1M	K1TXH	K2SIG	N1TM	
N1RHY	N1EU	KB1SO	K1NU	N1SNB	K2QMF	K2SX	N2MG	
NB1U	N1PEA	KK1L	K1ZM	N1SP	K2SS	K7CTW	N2ZX	
W1CSM	N1TPY	N1KWF	KB1T	N1TZW	K2UU	N1FIY	NB1Y	
W1GDW	N2TX	W1GQ	KT1M	NC1I	KB1DFB	N1PFC	NJ1F	
W1JI	W1DAD	W1UF	N1NVX	NR1DX	N1SR	N1TMG	NT2X	
W1QJ	W2PS	W2AX	NQ1K	W1ZS	N1TIV	NY1L	W1AO	
W1QK	WB3DLG	W2II	W1AY	W3SM	W1QA	W1EAT	W1XF	
W1WEF	WF2B	WK1P	W1ZZ	W4ZGR	W2LK	W1MA	W2YG	
WA1FCN		WM1K	WR1X	WV1M	WF1B	WS1M	WB2CUH	
WT2Q								
KA1VMG								

New Crew

Please welcome the following new members:

Bill Droese, W1DYH
4 Carver St.
Amesbury, MA 01913
phone: (978)388-4459
email: WDroese@earthlink.net

Andrew J. Clark, KA1VMG
93 Boombridge Rd.
North Stonington, CT 06359
home phone: (860)599-4905
email: andyc@99main.com

Tad Danley, K3TD
PO Box 387
Burlington, MA 01803
home phone: (617)839-1616
work phone: (617)999-7950
email: TadDanley@earthlink.net

Frederick Butts, NG1A
63 Division St.
Quincy MA 02171
home phone (617)328-4869

NNY Area Meeting – 6/24

Bill – K2BX

A local meeting of YCCC members was held at the Field Day Site of the Albany Amateur Radio Association located at Thatcher State Park in the Heldeburg Mountains on June 24. There were 17 members attending. A discussion on the upcoming contest season and antennas to help maximize the effort were the main topics. Field Day was a great time to get together and discuss club contest activities and try to recruit new YCCC members.

Flotsam and Jetsam

“Barnacle Jack” Schuster – W1WEF

Seems like I just got back from Dayton and it's almost time for Boxboro! This year was about my 15th Hamvention, and I'm already looking forward to next year more than ever. I have to give a lot of credit to those who organize that huge undertaking every year. It's easy to complain about the things we don't like, but we should recognize all that goes well and the many organizers and volunteers working for little or no reward (including YCCCer's K1DG and K1AR who run the Contest forum

and the Contest banquet each year!).

I arrived so early this year that there was noone around to go to lunch with on Thursday. As I finished my lone lunch and was halfway out the door, in came G3ZEM (now living in 5B4) and DL7AKC. I went back in for another ice tea and a nice eyeball with Bob and Jens. As we were ready to leave, in came N1DG just back from his Bhutan DXpedition. We all stayed with Don, and got filled in first hand on all the details!

Ever hear of Paul Kangus? He's the guy on Nightly Business Report on Public TV. He's also W4LAA, and when it's raining on the golf course in Miami, I'm told he can be found on 14208. I learned this in an eyeball with another contester who I had never met before but worked many times in SS.

Probably the neatest thing I saw in Dayton this year was a demo by Paul Young, K1XM, of his log of the CQWW contest last Nov from his operation in the Pacific. Paul has the whole contest on his laptop, recorded as he was working the contest. He can type a call into the computer, and you can hear the QSOd signal as heard and worked from H44! I hope Paul will bring it to a future meeting for those who issued it!

For me, meeting contesters from all over the world who I've worked numerous times in contests are the best part of Hamvention. I hope those Daytonians who organize it don't decide that 50 years is enough and throw in the towel. Next year is the 50th year for the Hamvention. The camaraderie among contesters is something special we have, not the same for all hams in general. If you've never gone, start thinking about it now for next year!

Here's a great tip passed along by James, K1SD who saw it on "Towertalk". When taping up coils of coax or other cable, to avoid getting the tape goo all over the cable, start wrapping the tape with sticky side out, and after making one or two wraps that way, make a half twist and finish with a few wraps backside out. (Tnx K0FF)

By the way, if you haven't checked out the towertalk reflector, it's one of the most active and interesting. To subscribe, email majordomo@contesting.com, in the body say subscribe towertalk-digest (-digest gets you a summary each day of all the day's messages)

I keep running into YCCC members who are not subscribed to the club reflector. Just send an email to majordomo@contesting.com and in the body say "subscribe yccc" You can get the digest form here too by saying "subscribe yccc-digest" (For all that he does you'd think he would be generaldomo by now!)

(See Flotsam – p. 7)

(Flotsam from p. 6)

I just learned of a real neat URL which lets you access your email at your home provider from wherever you may be. You can go to a library and do it, or in a situation like mine where I have an ISP on Cape Cod and one in CT I can read my mail from both without dialing long distance. Go to mailstart.com, enter your email address at the provider you want to access email from, and put in your password.

Speaking of long distance, I had a phone call this afternoon from someone I recently sent one of my IC706 amplifier interfaces. He was dismayed to find that the pigtail I put on it was so short and that it Didn't reach his amplifier. I provide a phono jack to interface to the amp relay, and I let the user furnish whatever length cable he needs to reach his amplifier. I told Elmer that he could get a cable with RCA plugs on both ends in Radio Shack, or even in KMart or a Walmart. Elmer said "You don't understand...I'm way out in the bush in Papua New Guinea,...there are no Walmarts or Radio Shacks here...I'm 3 hours from the capital!" I offered to mail him a cable, but he was going to Australia in a few days and will be able to get it sooner there. Elmer is P29DX.

John Devoldere, ON4UN gave us a very interesting presentation in Newington the day after the Hamvention. He gave us the same talk he presented to an overflowing crowd in Dayton, and also showed us pictures of his station. He is not only a good engineer, but he does very neat work. One point of interest...John has a quarter wave vertical on 160 with tons of radials...I forgot how many exactly. Surrounding his single 160 vertical is his 80M 4 square. His 80 meter verticals each have only one elevated radial. In my several variations of my own 80M 4 square, I once took down all my radials and replaced them with one on each, based on what I read that John was using. The nice thing about one radial was that you could tune the antenna by just adjusting the length of that one radial. I never felt that the 4 sq worked as well as it did with the 6 elevated radials I had before. What I hadn't read, but John pointed out in his talk...was that the reason his works so well is because of the ground screen under the one radial provided by his 160 radial field! (I currently have 4 sloping dipoles phased with my Comtek box but am thinking about going back to another variation of verticals)

Send me any stories or tips you'd like to share in this column...or write it up for the Butt as a separate article!

A Worry-Free Mast Installation

Jim Idelson – K1IR

Two years ago, when installing my 80-foot Rohn 25 tower, I recognized a number of potential structural and maintenance issues related to mast selection and mounting methods. They were:

Mast bending – I wanted enough strength to eliminate the possibility of a bending under the weight of the antennas.

Stressing the tower – had to make sure that the stresses on the mast are transferred to the strongest part of the tower structure.

Stressing the rotator – avoiding excessive lateral forces on the rotator, which can cause serious damage.

Complex maintenance – repair of the rotator and antennas can be eased if the mast installation is designed with maintenance in mind.

I decided to address these issues head-on. The final design is very commonly used, but I thought it would be useful to present it here, with several photos, for those who have never seen this type of installation.

Mast Selection

A strong mast that won't bend under the maximum anticipated load was used. For me, this was a Chrome Molybdenum steel tube. It is 2 inches in diameter with ¼ inch thick wall. You can get this tube with thicker wall and in lengths up to about 24 feet. Mine is 25 feet long and weighs nearly 100 pounds.

Thrust Bearings

I use two Rohn TB-3 thrust bearings to hold the mast in place. One bearing is mounted on the top plate of the tower top section. The second thrust bearing is mounted about six feet down into the top section. A standard Rohn rotor shelf is used, but must be re-drilled for the TB-3 bolt pattern. There are two main reasons for the two thrust bearings. First, this allows for easy maintenance of the rotator. This solution allows the rotator to be completely removed while the mast remains centered in the tower. Second, the lower thrust bearing takes the bulk of the lateral forces generated rotator. This should help prolong the life of the rotator.

(See Mast – p. 8)

(Mast from p. 7)

Rotator Location

The rotator is mounted at the junction of the top section and the next section down from the top. I used a custom rotor shelf, but a standard Rohn rotor shelf is fine. The rotator is a Ham IV [soon to be upgraded to a TailTwister.]

Guy Wire Attachment

We attached the guy wires to the center of the top section. This allows most of the bending and rotational forces transferred to the tower from the mast to be absorbed into the guy wires. Some space was left on the tower above the guy wires to allow for a possible future ring rotor.

I am very satisfied with this arrangement, so far. I have yet to lower the mast to add anew antenna. However, I expect that this will not be too bad a job. I will use a come-along to ratchet the mast down after removing the rotator. It will go right through the hole in the center of the rotor plate. Of course, the two thrust bearings will keep the mast centered all the time. See photos for details of the installation.

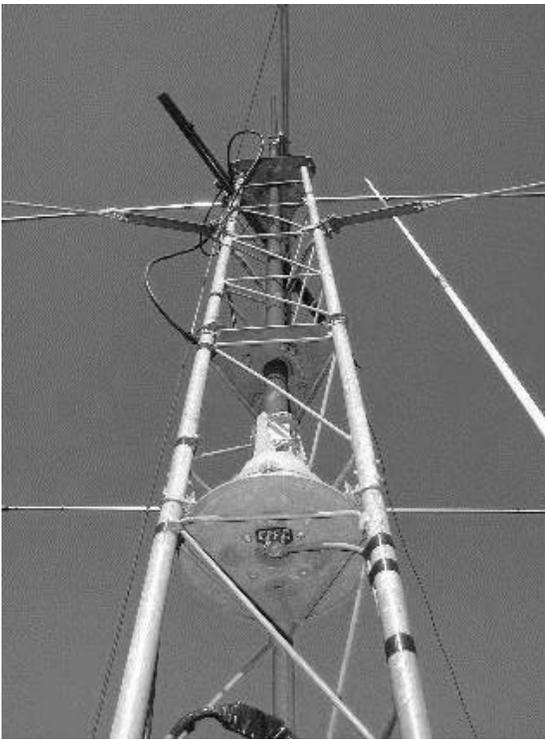


Figure 1 View of mast installation method from below, showing rotator, lower thrust bearing and top-mounted thrust bearing.



Figure 2 Detail view of lower thrust bearing mounted on standard rotor shelf. Note the Z-braces were cut to allow shelf to be mounted at this spot in the tower section



Figure 3 Detail view of thrust bearing mounted on top of tower top section.



Figure 4 Detail view of rotor mounted on custom rotor plate.

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@arrl.net or on 3½" disk (in MSWord format or text file) by snail mail to Doug Scribner, 661 Park Avenue #4, 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@bellatlantic.net **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 Internet: <http://www.k1ea.com>. 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 web site is the best way to get CT country file updates, which are regularly announced on the reflector. These updates may also be obtained by sending 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** Ken Bolin, W1NG **DXAC Hudson** Rich Wujciak-K2RW. **ARRL LIAISON** is Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
Aug 26 (Sat)	General	Boxboro MA
Oct 14 (Sat)	General	Worcester MA
Dec 3 (Sun)	General	Worcester MA
Feb 3 (Sat)	General	Worcester MA
Apr 1 (Sun)	General	Worcester MA

Ship's Log	August 2000	Issue 149
Captain's Cabin	Don Toman - K2KQ	1
Pay Your Dues!		2
June Meeting Minutes	Charlotte Richardson – KQ1F	3
2000-2001 Calendar		3
Want To Be A Billionaire?	Art Holmes – W1RZF	4
A New Addition!	Russ Healy – K2UA	4
2000 – 2001 Challenge Teams		5
New Crew		6
NNY Area Meeting – 6/24	Bill – K2BX	6
Flotsam and Jetsam	“Barnacle Jack” – W1WEF	6
Worry Free Mast Installation	Jim Idelson – K11R	7

The next general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be held Saturday August 26th,
 at 1:00 PM at the ARRL New England Convention – Boxboro, MA

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
 48 North Avenue
 Mendon, MA 01756