



# Scuttlebutt

December 2004

Issue 175

**CQWW-CW 0000Z Nov 27 - 2400Z Nov 28**  
**NEXT MEETING: - Saturday - December 4<sup>th</sup>**

## Captain's Cabin

*Jim McCobb, WILLU*

[WILLU@verizon.net](mailto:WILLU@verizon.net)

Well we are into another contest season---one leg each of the CQWW and the SS are now behind us and the members of YCCC appear to be doing quite well. Even yours truly did better this year than I have done in awhile.

I don't know about you guys, but this is a waiting time of year for me---waiting for the seasons to go into full change. Not that I am rushing them mind you, but I do have snow on my mind and thus hopefully ski season is within weeks away. And of course, the CQWW-CW is even closer at hand on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Hope everyone is getting ready for that.

The reflector has been buzzing along with all kinds of stuff. It's interesting that the SteppIR has gotten a lot of attention of late. It was just weeks ago that Dave Jordan suggested that we get someone from that company to come to our December meeting, then we decided against it at least temporarily. I want to thank you all for adding to my SteppIR 4 element file. Who knows, it may be my first antenna project in the spring of 05.

I don't know if you guys worked C6AVV in the contest, I did a few times. Jesse, KB1GWT the winner of our first DXpedition Program award was an operator. I was very pleased to hear him at the mike at least one of the times that I worked them. Want to thank Joe, K1JB, Mike, K1EU, and Steve, K1MV for taking him along. I am sure that he had a great time and learned a lot.

Just want to remind you that the ARRL Foundation (ARRLF) has opened its filing period for applications for scholarships for the 05/06 academic year. And as you will probably recall, the YCCC now has a program being administered by ARRLF that will award a \$1,500.00 scholarship to the chosen candidate. Applications and

related information can be had at the ARRL site. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know.

We now have a new publisher for the Scuttlebutt, effective early in November. John, KO1H had to resign for personal reasons. Thanks John for your work. Ken, KB1DX stepped forward to take over. I look forward to working with him in the coming months. Thanks Ken.

As indicated above, our next meeting will be on December 4<sup>th</sup> and after that we will as usual have meetings in February (maybe in CT) and in April, more likely than not at WSC. For future meetings we are trying to line up some out-of-area speakers with names and calls that you will recognize. We will keep you posted.

At this time we do expect to have another raffle this upcoming year similar to the one we had earlier this year. We have not worked out and approved the details yet, but I am looking to mail out to you raffle tickets with a return envelope during the first quarter of 05. It will probably be designed to permit you to pay your 05/06 dues (and any that might be in arrears) and buy a raffle ticket, paying for it all at the same time. Again I will keep you posted.

Don't forget Jack, W1WEF, is looking for material that be can be included in his column in the BUTT. You should feel free to e-mail (W1WEF (at) ARRL (.) Net) him anything that you might want to contribute to Flotsam and Jetsam column. And by the way, if you would like to have an article that you have written included in the BUTT, please don't hesitate to send it along to our Editor. You may first want to check with him about things like number of words, pictures, etc., but otherwise I want to encourage each of you to contribute to the Scuttlebutt.

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Yankee Clipper Contest Club	
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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 10<sup>th</sup> of every odd month.

We were all saddened to hear about the loss of one of members, Charley Schwartz, W1TE, who I did not know well. As a group we will be less of a force without him. If anyone of you knew him and feel up for the task, you might consider writing an article about his life as you knew it and submit it for inclusion in the next (or whenever your ready) issue of the Butt.

By the time you read this, the WW-CW and SS-PH will have passed. I hope you all had a great and successful time. Hope to bump into many of you in one or the other, if not both. Drop in on our next meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> if you have the time. We'd love to see you.

Contesting is truly a great part of a great hobby. May we all have many more contests ahead.

For now, 73 and have an enjoyable Thanksgiving.

73, Jim W1LLU

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## YCCC Meeting Agenda Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004 Quality Inn, Sinclair Room Sturbridge, MA 1pm to 4pm

Presentations:

K1MK - Understanding propagation

W1JQ- Low power contesting

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## UPCOMING CONTESTS

CQWW-CW	0000Z, Nov 27 to 2400Z, Nov 28
ARRL 160M Contest	2200Z, Dec 3 to 1600Z, Dec 5
ARRL 10M Contest	0000Z, Dec 11 to 2400Z, Dec 12
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 18
Stew Perry Topband Chal	1500Z, Dec 18 to 1500Z, Dec 19
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 8 to 2400Z, Jan 9
NA QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 8 to 0600Z, Jan 9
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jan 9
NA QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 15 to 0600Z, Jan 16
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 22 to 1200Z, Jan 23
ARRL January VHF SS	1900Z, Jan 22 to 0400Z, Jan 24
CQ 160-Meter CW	0000Z, Jan 29 to 2359Z, Jan 30

## Flotsam & Jetsam

Jack Schuster W1WEF [w1wef@arrl.net](mailto:w1wef@arrl.net)

Ahoy Maties!

Got some great input this month. Keep it coming!

Randy, K5ZD says get a bigger soldering iron.

"I had a 40W iron that I used for doing PL259s. It worked, but was always a hassle. Went to Home Depot and got a 70W (biggest they had that day) for \$25. What a difference! Can do a connector in half the time and it gets the solder flowing better. Why didn't I think of this before?"

From Bruce, W1CSM:

"I refurbished my 3 element quad this year, using solid #12 wire for wraps on the corners this time instead of UV resistant tie wraps. I hope to get a couple extra years out of it before it needs reworking again. I did find that a couple of the spreaders had developed cracks near the spider hubs where the maximum stress point is and replaced one spreader. During this past SS CW weekend, after the flare on Sunday morning, the 10m quad seemed dead, and signals were much stronger on the 20m quad. In fact I worked a couple of new sections using the 20m quad on 10 because I assumed I had a wire break somewhere.... a few minutes later, things were back to normal. I suspect that the arriving signals had a very high angle, and that the 20m quad was shielding the 10.

I find running QRP in the SS really sharpens my CW contesting skills because it forces me to do a better job of zero beating the station being worked, improves my call timing, and really points out the benefit of running QSK. I was able to be the successful caller several times because I knew someone else was in there and was able to drop my call in a second time in the clear. Surprisingly, it also helps with running. If you are working most everything you hear easily, try starting a run, even QRP. They may not last as long, and you may lose the frequency earlier, but it's a good way to learn how to find a clear frequency."

Mark, K1RX passes this along:

"A few new concepts here - 40 M antenna farm - I added a 2 el. delta loop (apex at 70 ft.) pointed West. Why? Good for domestic contesting but even better, great front to back and during the peak of the EU opening, when signals are really loud, you can still catch some Pacific mults that are just starting to show up on the band but are normally tough to hear with all that QRM from Europe. Did not want to rotate the antenna from Europe during this time only for one or two mults. The 2 el. delta loop gave me tremendous front to back to knock down the EU guys and give me an ability to listen to the West. Also works well on the BC stations, where before I could not even tell there was a Midwest or West coast QSO in progress due to the BC crud level, now it is easy to copy these guys. Most of us think, something fixed NE but I think this is a useful addition to the rotary

antenna and the fixed South antenna.

Another great revelation here - I use a 3 el. Force 12 on 40 M pointed South (fixed). Had been changing the feed point with jumper cables to move from CW to SSB for the various contests (manually adjusting the linear loading short) - this summer, took down the driven element and replaced it with a wire dipole (inverted vee) and now it covers the whole band and actually works better. The director and reflector remain as linear loaded elements on the boom. Since the antenna is only 55 ft, up on the tower, there were plenty of trees to hold up the ends of the wire and keep it reasonably horizontal. Not sure why I did not think of this sooner! Better front to back so when I switch to that antenna, about the only signals I hear on the band are stateside and SA. Sure, could have built up a relay box to remotely change from the phone end of the band to CW but now I get the best of both worlds - good SWR response across the band and a better pattern.

Antenna erection work - a couple of years ago, I purchased an electric 110VAC wench (I think he bought a winch...JACK), mounted it on a flat aluminum plate (like a large boom to mast plate) and drilled holes to accommodate u-bolts around Rohn 25 and 45 tower legs. Mounts flush to the face of the tower with two U-Bolts. Also added a couple of hooks that allow me to hang the winch on a tower rung prior to securing the U-Bolts. Removed the original rim that only held about 50 ft. of 1/4-inch cable and made a larger rim to hold about 250 ft. of smaller steel cable. A few days before the WW SSB test, I used it to haul up the new 4 el. 40M yagi at K1IR using a tram system. Worked flawlessly!"

From W1KM:

"I've been doing a lot of tower work and I've found cycling gloves--the ones where your finger tips are exposed--are perfect for climbing (so long as it's above 45 or 50 degrees). Protection and comfort without sacrificing dexterity. I prefer the ones with extra padding for tower work. And one indispensable tool that I don't leave the ground without these days is a small (6") vice-grip. It can do so many things in a pinch. I'm looking for suggestions on how to better organized my bucket of tools and parts when I climb. It seems I spend too much time rummaging around the bucket."

Here are a few tips from W3TB:

" Get a cheap plastic glass for cold drinks in the shack. Cold drinks in glasses get condensation on them and can slip out of your hand or leave your keying fingers wet -- the plastic ones don't sweat. I use one that came with the kid's cereal with drawings about the Lion King movie.

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Flotsam & Jetsam  
(Continued from Page 3)

Great contesting snack food is mixed nuts. Good energy, available right there with you, and nourishing. I like the mixed nuts without peanuts -- my preference only.

Take advantage of Dean's propagation forecast charts to write an hour-by-hour operating plan -- with a primary band and a secondary choice; scheduled sleep, too."

N1IK reports that his 4 element SteppIR antenna is a real winner. A recent thread on SteppIR antennas sure has a lot of happy campers using them.

Another recent thread on the club reflector talked about using guy insulators to support wire antennas. Barnacle JACK had always used "egg" insulators on wires with no problems. The day after I read this, my 160 Inverted L came down, not for the usual reason that a rope broke, but a porcelain insulator broke! I replaced it with a small porcelain "guy insulator" and don't expect it to ever break!



My 160 wire is 10 AWG, and the photo shows how I keep the wire from sliding in the insulator where it goes from vertical to horizontal.

73 KB Barnacle Jack W1WEF

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**YCCC  
Technical Assistance (TA) Team**

Requests for assistance go to  
YCCCTA\_at\_YCCC\_dot\_ORG  
More information is on the website under "Resources".

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October Meeting Minutes  
(Continued from Page 5)

Mark KF1V led a pep rally to get in the chair and on the air to regain our rightful #1 position ahead of FRC in the 2004-05 contest season. Kick Butt!

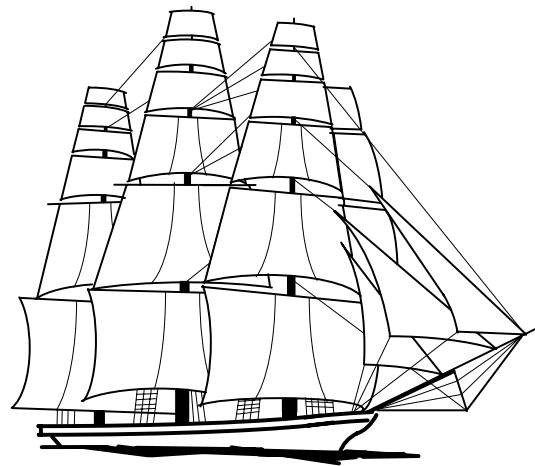
Dave K1NQ announced the new YCCC Technical Assistance (TA) team, previously announced on the reflector. Requests for assistance go to ycccta\_at\_yccc.org. More information is on the website under "Resources".

The program continued with Dave K1TTT, in full dress regalia, giving a show-and-tell seminar on all you wanted to know about working on towers. Dave brought some of his key safety items—hard hat, boots with steel toes and steel shanks, safety belt, two-ways for air-to-ground comms, handy tools, rust-busting spray, and various ropes and pulleys.

Next was a pre-season Contest Roundtable with solid information and advice on motivation, station design, and physical fitness by Mark K1RX on multi-multi, Jack W1WEF on single-op, and Jerry K0TV on multi-single and multi-two. Sadly, with so much good information being offered, time did not allow Q&A after the roundtable.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Harlem W1EBI



## YCCC Regular Meeting October 9, 2004 Worcester, MA

The October 2004 meeting at the Student Center of Worcester State College was called to order at 1:14pm by Jim WILLU. Jim welcomed the 42 attendees and reviewed the agenda. A plentiful lunch with cold cut platters, pizzas, soda, coffee and apple pie was enjoyed prior to and during the meeting, thanks to Dave K1NQ and Mark KF1V.

George W1EBI gave the secretary's report. As of October 1, YCCC had 439 licensed active members, of which 405 were ARRL members. The current bylaws consider a member "active" if dues are paid up not more than two years in arrears. Of the 439 total, 91 are paid up to 4/1/2003, 98 are paid up to 4/1/2004, and 250 are current with dues paid up to 4/1/2005. George pointed out that being current with dues is a prerequisite, per the bylaws, for receiving Scuttlebutt, although the club's practice has been to send the 'butt to members who are not more than one year in arrears. Bottom line: get your dues up to date, current to 4/1/2005.

Ed K1EP gave the treasurer's report. In a typically succinct two-slide presentation, Ed announced that the club bank account had a balance of \$10,350.91, and net income for September was \$35.76.

Jim announced that the YCCC Youth DXpedition winner, originally announced at the Boxboro 2004 meeting in August, was Jesse Cottingham KB1GWT, a 15-year-old General class ham from Otisfield, ME. Jesse will apply the \$1,500 prize toward the cost of his trip to the Bahamas in K1JB's private plane to join Joe and two other YCCCers from Maine as part of the C6AVV team in CQWW SSB later in the month. Jim also said that the club will conduct another raffle in 2005.

Ted KT1V gave a preview of a planned member survey he will be developing, along with Mill K1IB and Jim K1IR, all experienced professionals in this field. The intent of the survey is to measure member attitudes regarding the club, its current policies and interest in possible future policies (e.g., same contest focus?), provide a benchmark against which future measurements can be compared, and to provide a strategic planning tool for club administrations. Ted fielded questions about the expected percentage of participation, the method to be used (email, web, etc.) and anonymous vs. open responses. Note: there may be a token "prize" for completing the survey (like an FTdx9000?).

Paul K1XM announced his personal plans for CQWW and added that he is committing to donate \$20 to the United Nations Sudan Fund for any single op who beats his score on either side of CQWW. Paul will be at W1KM for cw and at VP9I for phone. Jim WILLU proposed that YCCC also match Paul's contributions. Jim's motion was seconded and

passed.

Jim WILLU summarized a series of proposed amendments to the YCCC Constitution and Bylaws. The purpose of the changes includes deleting redundancies, clarifying the duties of the club officers, deleting reference to an "Advisory Committee", renaming "local coordinator" as "area manager", and adding the ability to hold meetings by electronic means. Other potential changes include a reduction in the number of meetings per year, voting procedure changes, creation of a Board of Directors, creation of meeting quorums, creation of a nominating committee, and several other steps to streamline the operation of YCCC. Jim's plan is to disseminate the proposed changes in the December issue of Scuttlebutt and on the email reflector and put forth the changes for a member vote at the December regular meeting. A motion from the floor to publish the changes and bring them to a vote at the December meeting was seconded and passed.

After a break to refuel at the chow tables, Jim kicked off the second half of the meeting with a special note of thanks to Mike W7OT and Lisa K1UQT for an outstanding job of publishing the 65-page 2004-05 Contest Cookbook, copies of which were made available at the meeting.

Dave K1HT presented the final results of ARRL DX 2004. The tale of the tape:

	<u>Points</u>	<u>Entries</u>
<b>FRC</b>	261.8 Meg	164
<b>YCCC</b>	256.7 Meg	231
<b>cw</b>	171.5 Meg	114
<b>phone</b>	85.3 Meg	117

Of the total of 410 members eligible on each mode, the club fielded (including members of multi teams):

<b>CW</b>	157 participants, or 38.3%
<b>Phone</b>	159 participants, or 38.8%
<b>Either</b>	203 participants, or 49.5%

Dave reviewed the features of log checking in ARRL DX, including dupe check, callsign check and crosscheck. Predictably, Dave reminded all contesters to:

- Send in your log before the deadline
- Enter the operator callsign if different from entry callsign
- Always list "Yankee Clipper Contest Club", no abbreviations, as club score

The attendees gave Dave a hearty round of applause for his continuing and tireless efforts as the club scorekeeper.

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## PROFILES

by Jerry Woodworth N1DD

This issue we profile George Harlem, W1EBI, of Acton, MA. George is Secretary of YCCC. The most important of the Secretary's duties is maintenance of the club's official roster and submission of the member list to contest sponsors for club competition. This is the reason for all of us members to make sure George has all of our current information. The Secretary also keeps attendance records and minutes of meetings, as well as external club correspondence.

The story of George's ham radio career spans nearly 50 years with 40 of those years inactive. He was first licensed in Pennsylvania in 1955 as WN3CMN while in grade school. George built a Johnson Adventurer and later a Heath VFO and received on an NC88 which he still owns. In 1956 he made the 70 mile trip to Philadelphia for his General class license. As W3CMN, George was active in cw traffic handling but dx and contests were strictly secondary. During the 50's, a Johnson Viking II and then a Johnson Valiant became station mainstays.

Then it was on to MIT for BS and MS degrees in EE. He operated from W1MX from MIT but interests changed, and he was inactive after 1962. He received the call W1EBI in 1969, but that call never made the airwaves. Marriage, career, and family did not leave time for ham radio.

Most of his career was in international sales and management, notably with Motorola and Cisco. However, he was never cured of the ham radio bug. On long flights to more than 40 countries, George passed the time by describing some of the sights to himself in Morse code.

After raising two daughters now married with one grandson, his wife, Rosina, was sure she knew him well. George described her total surprise when her globe-trotting husband decided in 2002 to once more become a self-styled ham radio nerd, not to mention a career change that kept him close to home.

After taking the latest General class license exam, George requested his old call W1EBI as he thought it was a good cw call sign. After upgrading to Extra in January 2003 he jumped into operating in a big way with more than 14,000 contact in two years. Contesting and dxing are now his major interests, with a preference for cw, although he participates in phone contests. George likes dx contests for the competition and to build up his number of dx counters. In addition to the big two dx contests, he can be found in the cw sides of IARU, WAE, and the NCJ Sprint.

The present station is an FT920 with a TL922. Antennas are a pair of Carolina Windoms at 50 feet. He has tried a G5RV, but says the Carolina Windom is better. George has

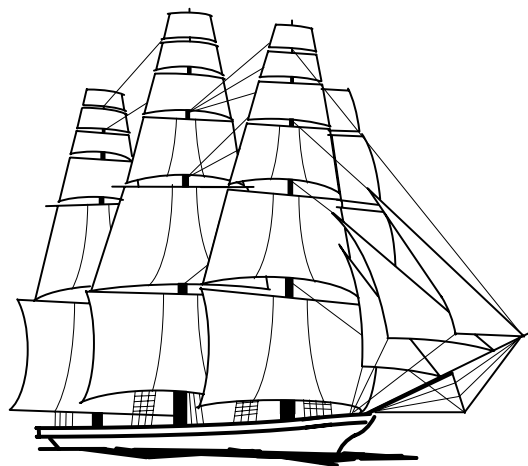
gradually built up his contest scores and in recent contests has gotten to the 1 meg point level. (N1DD-his recent scores are really good for a wire antenna station.) Only simple antennas are possible due to family considerations and Acton's 40-foot height limit on towers.

Shortly after getting back on the air, W1EBI found the YCCC website which looked interesting, went to a meeting and joined. He became "energized" by the YCCC-FRC rivalry. George enjoys YCCC for the opportunity to learn from experienced contesters and to gain technical knowledge. He is also a member of the New England DX Century Club (formerly Patriot DXC).

George is currently a real estate agent covering Acton and other nearby towns. He is also active in international real estate for U.S. residents who want to invest abroad, and foreigners who want to invest here. (Hmmm George, any more property available on PEI for another super station?)

George's other interests are reading, jazz music, and golf. In his words, "All these are pastimes, Ham Radio is a passion with me".

That's all for this time. If anyone wants to see a member profiled, please contact me at [jerry.woodworth@comcast.net](mailto:jerry.woodworth@comcast.net).



## 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 or 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, Ed Parish, K1EP, 9 Spoon Way, N. Reading, MA 01864**

**SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES** should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Steve Rodowicz N1SR, preferably by E-mail at [n1sr@arrl.net](mailto:n1sr@arrl.net) or on 3½" disk (in MS-Word format or text file) by snail mail to Steve Rodowicz, 809 Pendleton Avenue, Chicopee, MA 01020. 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](mailto:dave_hoaglin@abtassoc.com). Please include details such as numbers of QSOs, QSO points (if appropriate), and multipliers (all types); entry category; and power. **Advertising in Scuttlebutt:** Nominal Business Card sized ad, \$50 per year (6 appearances)

**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 Bob Rogers [KB1LN@yahoo.com](mailto:KB1LN@yahoo.com)

**QSL CARDS** are ordered through John Dorr, K1AR. To order, send John packet mail, or E-mail at [k1ar@contesting.com](mailto: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 \$68 (delivered) for 2000 cards. Normal turnaround is 30 days after approving proof.

**MEMBERSHIP ROSTER** is posed on the YCCC website. 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](mailto:yccc-request@yccc.org). Include the word "subscribe" in the body of the mail message. (Do not send messages to the reflector that have file attachments, HTML formatting, use boldface or other fancy fonts, etc.)

**WWW HOME PAGE** Come visit us at <http://www.yccc.org> Our Webmaster is Mike Gilmer, N2MG.

**ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF The W1 QSL BUREAU** is sponsored by the YCCC. Keep your account up to date by sending a check. Stamps are sold at face value, envelopes are 10 cents each. Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. Email address: [w1qsl@yccc.org](mailto:w1qsl@yccc.org). **PACKET NETWORK** information is available from Charlie Carroll, K1XX, Candlelight Rd., Rindge NH 03461.

**ARRL COMMITTEE REPS** are:

**CAC:** New England Dick Greene, WC1M **Hudson** John Crovelli, W2GD **Atlantic** Rus Healy, K2UA

**DXAC:** New England Jim Reisert, AD1C **Hudson** Angel Garcia, WA2VUY **Atlantic** Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

**ARRL LIAISON:** Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

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The YCCC Scuttlebutt

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## Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="http://www.yccc.org">http://www.yccc.org</a>	Quality Inn, Sturbridge, MA

Ship's Log	December 2004	Issue 175
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## Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club

**Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> – 1:00PM - 4:00PM**

**Quality Inn, Sinclair Room**

**Sturbridge, MA**

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The YCCC Scuttlebutt  
20 Chestnut Ave  
Burlington, MA 01803

FIRST CLASS MAIL