



Scuttlebutt

February 2005

Issue 176

ARRL DX-CW 0000Z Feb 19 - 2400Z Feb 20

ARRL DX-PH 0000Z Mar 5 - 2400Z Mar 6

NEXT MEETING: - Saturday - February 5th

Captain's Cabin

Jim McCobb, WILLU

WILLU@verizon.net

Contesting

The middle of the contest season is upon us and I assume you are all getting ready for the upcoming ARRL DX contests. Hopefully the propagation will be better than was the case for the CQWW CW, which was to say the least, very disappointing. The prop gods were out to lunch that weekend. The dates are February 19th and 20th for CW and March 5th and 6th for SSB. Please don't forget to put "Yankee Clipper Contest Club" on your log submission. And of course, good luck and hope you meet your goals whatever they might be.

Speaking of CQWW, it looks like we came up short as compared to FRC. As previously mentioned, if they are to beat us, it will be done on SSB---our CW efforts seem unbeatable. Here's the preliminary numbers:

	Phone	CW	Total
FRC	246M	138M	383M
YCCC	214M	153M	367M

If you guys are looking to pick it back up in "05" we'll need more SSB operators---for you closet phone op's, the time to come out will be October of this year.

On Sweepstakes, YCCC'ers were very visible among the winners and they did a really great job of it.

Meetings

The December meeting worked out very nicely---good attendance level, nice location (Quality Inn in Sturbridge, MA), price was reasonable and just about every one was pleased with it. So looks like we will be returning for our next meeting, which will be February 5, 2005, at 1pm. We will have one presenter, a buffet lunch, plenty of time for eye-ball conversation and we will ask you to act on a set of Constitutional amendments. And for those of you that like them, we will have a couple of door prizes.

Raffle

Speaking of meetings, lets jump ahead to April for a minute. During the past week, I commenced the process of contacting retailers and manufacturers regarding the RAFFLE that we will have in April. You guys are well known by the retail world and the manufacturers as well. As a matter of fact a couple of them that I talked with mentioned YCCC members are a "Prime Target Group" for their products.

It looks like we are in the process of lining up some very good prizes again this year---the big item has been acquired and is sitting in its box (unopened of course) behind me. Other prizes are on the way being either donated or purchased at a discount.

By the time you read this we may very well have formally announce the Raffle and start the process of selling tickets, which will be the same as last year; that being, \$25 per. More details on this will be supplied during the next few weeks via the web site. Our goal is to raise about \$7,000. We expect that about half that amount will be split between the Youth Scholarship Program and another program to be announced.

Elections

And don't forget, the April meeting will be important for another reason as well. April starts a new year so the election of officer's will be on the agenda. Those of you that might wish to nominate someone, don't forget to check in with that person ahead of time to be sure they are interested. And if you would like to serve YCCC in an official capacity, all you have to do is line up someone to nominate you---simple and painless.

Net

I noted that that the 3830(+/-) net started back up again in early January. That's really great! Also, sounded like a few celebs checked in and of course a lot of members. Look forward to checking in some time soon and hopefully many of you that didn't make it to the first run will make it to future sessions.

(Continued on Page 2)

Yankee Clipper Contest Club	
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(Continued from Page 1)

ARRL

For those of you that are members of ARRL, it has been announced that a new Chief Operating Officer will be coming on board in mid February to replace Mark Wilson, K1RO. His name is Harold Kramer, and call---WJ1B. Harold first joined the amateur ranks in 1962 as KN1ZCK. He comes out of Public Broadcasting, the cable industry and teaching (electronics).

Flotsam & Jetsam

Don't forget Jack's request for material for his column. You can send your material to him at W1WEF@ARRL.net. On the other hand, if you have something of a lengthy nature and want to see it in the Butt, please don't hesitate to send it along to our Editor, Steve, at Editor@YCCC.org.

Dues

April starts the new dues year, your dues will be due as of April 1, 2005, for the period April 1 through March 31, 2006. Also, if your dues are behind, this would be a good time to bring yourself up to date. My plan is to send each of you a dues reminder along with a return envelope, which I hope will make the process more convenient for all of us.

My hat is off to you, the Members of YCCC

Since becoming your President 10 months ago I have had to monitor the reflector much more closely than I did in the past, reading every e-mail directed to me and the reflector. To say the least, I have done a lot of reading (and a lot of printing). It has been very interesting and educational. And as I mentioned to someone recently, the sheer breadth of knowledge that is displayed day in and day out on the reflector among our members is just unbelievable. No it's not unbelievable, its wonderful, no strings attached---just ask a question and like Ivory Snow, you'll get an answer 99.9% of the time and guess what, it's free and quick too. I am not talking just about amateur radio stuff, it's about many (and any) subjects that really expose the amazing quantity, quality and depth of skills and experience of all sorts that is so easily accessible to us. This is truly *the major resource* available to us as members---and what is it? It's you *the members*.

Thanks and 73, Jim W1LLU

YCCC Regular Meeting
Saturday, February 5th, 2005, 1 - 5 PM
Quality Inn - Sturbridge, MA
I-84 Exit 1
<http://www.sturbridgequalityinn.com/>

Jerry, KOTV will present his talk on 4 Square antennas

Flotsam & Jetsam

Jack Schuster W1WEF w1wef@arrl.net

Ahoy Maties!

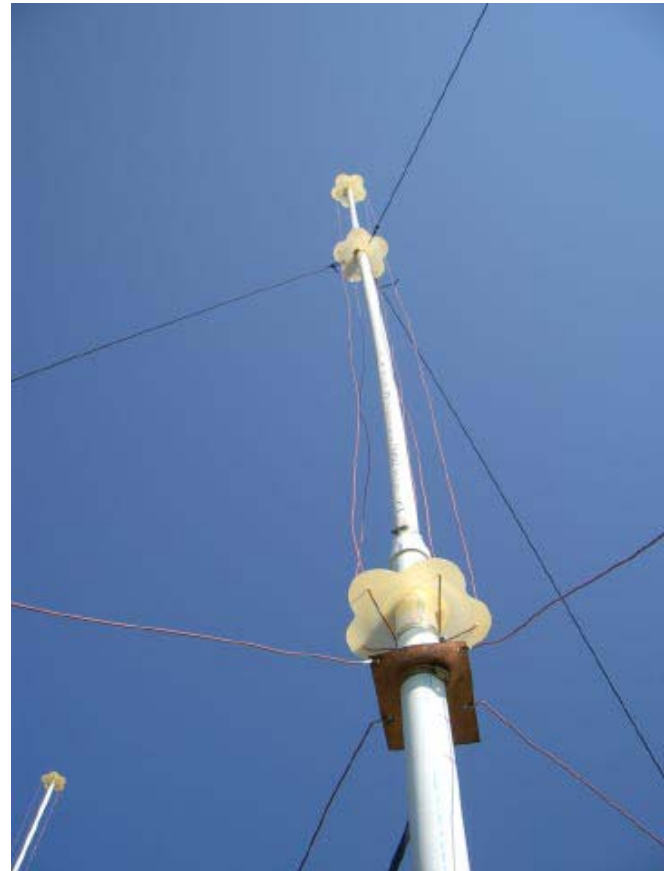
Hope everyone's 2005 is off to a great start. I'm writing this before Christmas, because we have a heavy schedule ahead. While on the road, I never know when we'll be able to get on line, and we leave in a few days for our 14th year of winter RVing. We generally head South as fast as we can, usually going West to Scranton and then down 81 thru the Shenandoah Valley...beautiful country anytime of year. I think we then will head West thru Tennessee and South from Memphis. Maybe I'll stop and say hello to Scott at Tentec again... or even return to MFJ to tour their Engineering Div and sheet metal plant that I missed last year. Both were very accomodating but if I keep visiting Scott I'm going to feel guilty if I don't buy an Orion! We don't plan to cross the Mississippi this year, because we leave on a Western Carribean cruise Jan 30 out of Port Canaveral Fl. After that We'll head North for ARRL DX CW before going to Colorado for our son's wedding in Steamboat Springs.

I won't make the February meeting, but had a chance to review Jim's suggested revisions of the Constitution and Bylaws, and made a few suggestions. Jim spent a lot of time on that task, and we should be grateful for his efforts. I hope by the time I return it will be all set.

I had high hopes for CQWW CW in November, but after a discouraging start, way down from 2003, and poorer conditions, I kind of threw in the towel and gave up on my quest for a top ten spot. Even after comparing scores with Doug Grant a few hours into it, and seeing I was ahead of him, it just wasn't that much fun. I think that the further North you were, condx were worse...and I probably encouraged Doug to push harder. I could say that a lesson learned here was to stick with it no matter what, because it aint over 'til it's over, but you still have to be doing it because you're liking it and I wasn't. In the end, Doug beat me (he usually does), and although the last 3830 posting had me in tenth place, a certain score from a 2M station was missing, and I know Bob just edged me out.

KE1FO reports good results from W1CX's portable "LISPA" antenna array which he borrowed for CQWW. Al lives in a restrictive zoning area, but can get away with a temporary antenna for a weekend. Here are some comments from Loyd on his array:

“The antennas I've been building are known locally as lispas (Loyd's Incredibly Simple Antenna System) and are pairs of portable quarter wave vertical radiators. They are made entirely from materials from the local Walmart and Home Depot, with the possible exception of the SO-239 cable connector. They transport easily at about 11 feet long and set up very quickly as the PVC support mast telescopes into itself. A "modified Lewellan" (ON4UN) phasing method is used. They are broadband and seem to be very efficient. There is no pretense that the front-to-back is perfect as no on site effort is made to 'tweak' the antenna. In the two field days that they have been used at wlmoo, they have displayed a highly effective and broad directivity.”



K1IR has his neat shack in the basement. Because of some rotor problems, he could not be sure his antennas were headed where he thought they were, so he rigged up a TV camera and monitor to be able to view the antennas. It works great in daytime!

W1JQ makes a simple dipole center insulator by epoxying an SO239 to a Budwig insulator. Sorry I don't have the full details, but I just accidentally deleted Mike's message!

Joel, AK1N, reduces dust intake on his AL1500 amp by taping a piece of filter material over the inlet holes on the side. Be sure not to reduce airflow with too dense a filter. Not a bad idea to occasionally take the cover off and clean the amp out.(Caution...as always when working on any amp, be sure it is unplugged and that the HV is discharged. BJ)

My good friend, John Thompson, W1BIH, has moved to an assisted living place in Kingston Ma and is on the air with a G5RV. The only entity on the current list that he needs at this time is 3y0, because it didn't count for his DXCC when worked from Curacao during the last expedition. I hope he was able to nab it this time! FYI, W1BIH is in third place on the all-time Mixed DXCC list with 389 countries.

73 Barnacle JACK W1WEF
w1wef@arrl.net

YCCC Regular Meeting

December 4, 2004 - Sturbridge, MA

The December 2004 meeting inaugurated a possible new general meeting venue, the Quality Inn in Sturbridge, MA. The meeting, with 33 attendees signed in, was called to order by Jim WILLU at 1:35pm, primarily to allow more time for club member socialization after the intensity of both sides of CQWW. Following the traditional callsign introductions, Mark KF1V was voted in as secretary pro-tem to fill in for George W1EBI. One objection to the pro-tem appointment was raised by Kurt W6PH on the grounds that KF1V was slow-copy, but Kurt immediately withdrew his objection when offered the opportunity to record the meeting minutes. The secretary's report and the treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Next, several members who competed in CQWW from a DXpedition site gave outstanding reports on their activities. Presenting contest experiences were ops from GJ2A, NP3U and VP9I.

Ken Hawes, AK1Q, of Sudbury, MA, was voted in as the newest member of YCCC. Welcome aboard, Ken!

Dave K1HT and KF1V gave an update on the CQWW contests. Based on claimed scores, there is very serious competition from FRC. After five consecutive years of being runner-ups to YCCC, the Mid-Atlantic guys are getting serious. Their SSB claimed scores appear to be much higher than ours, and the propagation during CQWW CW was not favorable for us New Englanders. We made up some ground in the CW weekend, but at the moment it looks as if it was not enough. However, to paraphrase a famous Yankee, "It ain't over till it's over." We can hope the log checkers will be tougher on them.

Mike K1MK gave a fascinating talk on propagation, accompanied by a slide presentation with very impressive graphics. We hope to put Mike's PowerPoint slides on the website, but meanwhile anyone interested can contact K1MK directly for a copy. Next, Rich K2WR gave a brief presentation on the 3B9C Rodrigues Island DXpedition awards, which YCCC and Joe W1JR received.

Connecticut Yankees Mike W1JQ and Dave W1CTN provided a comprehensive presentation on low power contesting, which was very well received. This tag team showed us the inner workings of successful LP efforts, which included preparation, antenna selection, band strategy and pileup busting techniques.

After a Q&A period the meeting was adjourned shortly after 5:00pm. Member QRM on the email reflector after the meeting was quite positive about the meeting facility at the Sturbridge Quality Inn.

Respectfully submitted (with thanks to Mark KF1V)
George Harlem W1EBI

Movers & Shakers

New Email:

W1RZF
N1DS

w1rzf@comcast.net
N1DS@arrl.net

Slashed-Zero

Folks, please do not use the "cute" character that you think makes the number Zero in a call look like a "slashed zero". They two characters are not the same and are not interchangeable. Computers read them as two separate things, which means they get sorted and stored as a different call and may get overlooked. If you can, please help spread this to other reflectors and newsletters. It will help us serve you better.

Thanks and 73

Dan Henderson, N1ND

ARRL Contest Branch Manager

Holiday Ambassador to NCCC

K1IR joined about 80 people at the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) for their holiday party in the Bay area in mid-December. Jim delivered seasons greetings and best wishes for a great new year from YCCC, and NCCC responded with wishes for the same to all of us in YCCC.



Rusty W6OAT

Jim K1IR

Jack W6ISQ

NY Local Meeting

There will be an informal local meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club at Nat's Place in Elmsford, NY, on Thursday evening January 27, 2005, at 7 P.M. We especially invite local Dxers and contesters who are not members to come and see what the YCCC is all about! All are welcome, and you may join the YCCC at this meeting if you wish to do so.

Please let me know if you plan to attend, so I can let Nat's Place know how many to plan for. Email to HANKKIER@AOL.COM...packet to KF2O > K2LSS...or phone (914) 235-4940. Nat's Place is a bar and grille with a separate dining area, at 257 Saw Mill River Road (Rte 9A), Elmsford, NY. There is parking in the rear (and across the street).

Directions to Nat's Place:

From So. Westchester, CT and L.I.: Take I-95 or the Hutchinson River Parkway to I-287 in Rye. Go West on I-287 to Exit 2, which is Rte 9A, Elmsford. Go right (north) off the exit on 9A 0.4 miles to Nat's Place, on your left, across the street from a "BAGEL/DELI/PIZZA" shop.

From NJ, Rockland: Cross Tappan Zee Bridge, then take Exit 8 off the Thruway onto I-287. Get off at the first exit, Exit 1, marked Rte 119 and Saw Mill Parkway. The exit ramp divides; take the right fork to Rte 119 Elmsford. Go left on Rte 119. At the first light make a left onto Rte 9A. Go 0.7 miles to Nat's Place on your left, across from the BAGEL/DELI/PIZZA shop. About 7 minutes drive from the bridge.

From NYC: Take Deegan/Thruway north to I-287 East (not toward the Tappan Zee Bridge!). Get off Exit 1 on I-287 and follow directions above (NJ/Rockland).

>From No. Westchester - From either the Taconic or Saw Mill Parkways, get onto the Sprain Parkway southbound. Get off the Sprain at the Eastview exit, Rte 100C. Go right on Rte 100C 0.7 miles to Rte 9A South. Take Rte 9A South 0.9 miles to Nat's Place, on your right, just past the Sam's Club store and KFC.

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YCCC YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Final notice regarding the ARRL Foundation Scholarship application period which ends February 1, 2005.

YCCC is offering a \$1500.00 scholarship in memory of past and future Silent Keys. As currently configured, applicants must among other things reside or be planning to attend college within the YCCC membership territory. The territory is within a radius of 175 miles of Erving, MA.

Applications for and information on all the scholarships offered by the ARRL Foundation are available at www.arrl.org/arrlf/scholgen.html

If you or an applicant has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jim, WILLU or Mary Hobart, Secretary of the Foundation, at ARRL - email mhobart@arrl.org

Contest of Contests Feb. 5 and 6th

Here's the idea: work as many stations in as many *legitimate* contests as possible. (No made up contests, unless they're particularly clever.) You need to know enough about the contest to compute your score. This weekend is chosen because, as far as I can tell, it's got more contests than any other.

Score:

Sum of your claimed scores in all contests, computed per each contest's rules TIMES contest multiplier, equal to the number of contests with a non-zero claimed score.

Contests:

I'll accept any contest for which you can point to some online documentation. QST lists eleven distinct contests this weekend, and I think they missed a couple. Here's what's in QST:

- * NA Sprint, SSB.
 - * Minnesota QSO Party
 - * Northern New York QSO Party
 - * New Hampshire QSO Party
 - * Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party
 - * XE International RTTY Contest
 - * Delaware QSO Party (Remember, only have to work one!)
 - * Vermont QSO Party
 - * YL International QSO Party (Not sure males are allowed)
 - * QRP ARCI Fireside Sprint
 - * FYBO (Freeze Your Butt Off) Winter QRP Field Day
- FYBO is fun--it has an additional multiplier based on the temperature (or lack thereof) at your operating position.

Check Bruce Horn's list and other sources for more. Last year, I heard a couple of real oddball contests on the air. A few of them I never figured out.

So--plenty of options to choose from. Seriously, it's been fun to poke around with this the last couple of years. I'm willing to tally up the entries, if there's more than one. I can usually work 7 or 8 contests.

Anyone up to the challenge?

Mike, W1JQ

W2AU At K3LR

By YCCC Member Daniel Bradke W2AU

I was given the opportunity to speak at the contesting forum at the Dayton Hamfest last year about the all expense paid trip I had won which was sponsored by David Kpocz, KY1V and the experiences I had while Operating as part of the VP5X team in 2003 during the CQ WW DX CW contest. Later that night I met Tim Duffy at the contesters' suite in the local hotel. Tim approached me just like many other hams had that night, and was very interested in my presentation. I couldn't believe that I was actually talking with the real K3LR, the guy that had won so many contests, the guy who I always heard in those huge pile ups when I was operating at K1TTT. We had talked for quite a bit of time, and he asked me if I would like to come down to his place in Pennsylvania to operate in a contest and what's more he wanted to make this another all expense paid trip!!

I couldn't believe that I had been asked to be part of a team that had a good shot of winning first place in whatever category they enter. I agreed to his invitation to operate in CQ WW CW and couldn't wait until the day I sat in the chair at the K3LR super station.

It was that time of year again, contest season and after Thanksgiving when the CW contest would begin. My family and I had traveled from Albany to North Carolina so that we could all spend Thanksgiving with my Grandparents. A couple weeks prior to this trip Tim made arrangements for me to fly from North Carolina to Pittsburgh where I would meet other members of the Contest team and make the hour long drive to Tim Place. The morning of my flight, I woke up nice and early, and packed my bag with the clothes and accessories I would need. As soon as I hopped on the plane, my family was beginning their long drive back home

As soon as I arrived in Pittsburgh, I met up with the operators I would be spending the next few days with. One of them was Chris KL9A who is a few years older than I am (I'm 15 he's 21) I had also met Chris in Dayton and was glad there would be another young operator on the team. Chris is from Alaska, and is truly a great operator to team up with, in fact all the operators at Tim's house were truly amazing in their friendliness, their willingness to accept and help someone less experienced and in their contesting ability. Chris and I were assigned to Ten Meters and as soon as the contest began we were both heating up the band and stayed at it until the band died. The next morning Chris and I were up very early and as soon as ten opened we were there running and chasing those much sought after multipliers. The overall atmosphere at K3LR was all business with a little fun thrown in to make things interesting along with LOTS of great food! This was very different then any other place I had been because we were able to operate two stations on the same band using an interlock. We had extremely tense and tiring shifts, however, the hospitality and the overall atmosphere that Tim

had provided kept the team sharp, and attentive on the air all weekend long.

One of the highlights of the contest came at the end as Tim was talking on 3830 and comparing scores. We ended up with 16,168,677 points (of which I was able to claim approx 1.45 M for the YCCC) We were right behind W3LPL that reported 16,511,040 Man this is going to be real close I am keeping my fingers crossed until the final official results are in and we'll see what happens.

Operating K3LR was by far one of the best contesting experiences ever. Thank you Tim, and all the rest of the team that weekend for making that contest truly unforgettable.

I have recently been invited back to K3LR for the ARRL DX CW contest in February and again I am counting the days until I am back in the chair..Don't worry Fellow YCCC members you know where my share of the points will be going to!!

73/ kb
Daniel W2AU

YCCC Dxpediton Program 2004



15 year old Jesse Cottingham, KB1GWT, winner of the YCCC 2004 DXpedition program operating at C6AVV for CQWW-SSB. He went there with Mike, K1EU, Steve, K1MV and Joe, K1JB.

New Publisher

Congratulations to Ken Miller, WB1DX in his new position as Publisher of the Scuttlebutt and apologies for "busting" his call to KB1DX (also a member, at least still within YCCC).

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 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. 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 KBILN@yahoo.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 \$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. 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. **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** Tony Gargano, N2SS

ARRL LIAISON: Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
Feb 5 th	http://www.yccc.org	Sturbridge, MA

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Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Saturday, February 5th – 1:00PM - 5:00PM

Quality Inn Conference Center, Sturbridge, MA

(I-84 Exit 1 - in Massachusetts)

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
177 Upper North Row
Sterling, MA 01564

FIRST CLASS MAIL

