



Scuttlebutt

February 2010

Issue 202

**Next Meeting:
Sunday February 7th, 2009 – 1PM to 5PM
Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA**

Captain's Cabin

Ahoy Maties!

Are we having fun yet? Hope so. Lots of nice contests of late that are really bringing out the crew from those state QSO parties to the NA QSO Party and plenty of low band action on Top Band. We are planning a great February meeting – Announcing the YCCC Youth Scholarship Program that delivers some pretty nice raffle prizes, like the K3. The YCCC officers do love to focus on getting some nice prizes for this very good fund raiser that supports our youth heading off to college. Getting a college degree today could not be any more valuable given the economy. Our headliner this month is none other than Ward, N0AX that brings a unique spin on contesting. Trust me, if you have never heard Ward speak, you won't want to miss this portion of the February 2010 agenda. I have met Ward at Dayton and he is one entertaining dude! In the past, he managed to get yours truly to write up a portion of the ARRL DX Contest results on the web for the ARRL – so he has some serious motivational skills.

I trust all of your antennas are hanging in there for the next round of slugfests – next up, ARRL CW DX Contest this month (Feb. 20-21) and right after that, the SSB weekend March 6-7. We need each and every one of you to make an effort – large or small amount time in the chair is valuable to us. Put in the amount of time you can, but BE PRODUCTIVE. If you are time limited, pick carefully the best times to leverage your station's attributes. Big on 20 M, then plan to hit that band hard at the EU openings, JA openings; big on 80 M, then of course hit that band when EU is pounding in; or if 10 M is your killer band, well have a nice weekend (and go look at doing the other bands)!!

I will now give you a brief note from the CQ WW CW event (yes, K1HT will be delivering his score total info for the club at the Feb. meeting) – was originally planning to go SO2R in that one – getting ready to do battle with Doug, K1DG and Randy, K5ZD BUT things changed at the last minute. My local buddies were on the hunt for a place to hang for the weekend (KF1V and N9NC). Ended up going M2 for that event and did pretty well except, my 20 M antenna switching got a little screwed up having a single wire break at a terminal connection point. Ever use all your antennas at the same time and wonder why signals are coming in from all sorts of directions? We could not figure out that why when we switched to individual antennas, we saw no big difference in signal level. Well that got fixed too late – did not figure out the problem until 20 started to fold Sunday late afternoon – ouch! Lesson learned and now QRV for ARRL.

See you all at the February 2010 meeting in Sturbridge, MA – Host Hotel. Just like the last time – cake and coffee for all! Oh, you think this meeting will be good – the April meeting (date TBD) will be even better – Ergonomics for the Contester, Elections, and the YCCC Raffle Drawing are planned!

73 and good contesting!

Mark, K1RX
President, YCCC 2009-2010

Yankee Clipper Contest Club

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Directions to Sturbridge Host Hotel

Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center is located on Route 20.

- From the North, East and West, take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) to Exit 9, Route 20 West.

- From the South, take either Interstate 84 or Route 131 to Route 20 West.

Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center is located on the shore of Cedar Lake, just past the first set of traffic lights.



New Crew

At the Dec 12th General Meeting in Sturbridge, MA:

N1IL	Leszek Lechowicz	Bridgewater, MA
NB1U	Mark Johnsen	West Greenwich, RI
NM1J	Jack Dion	Malden, MA

Area Managers

ME	Mike Russo, K1EU	(207) 883-9524	k1eu@maine.rr.com
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SNY/NJ/PA (914)	Hank Kiernan, KF2O	(914) 235-4940	hankkier@aol.com
NVT (802)	Al Frugoli, KE1FO	(802) 893-8388	frugoli@worldlinkisp.com

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The editorial deadline for the Scuttlebutt is the 10th of every odd month.

Flotsam & Jetsam

Barnacle Jack (BJ) Schuster, W1WEF

w1wef@arrl.net

Ahoy Maties!

A belated happy New Year to all. As I sit here looking out the window from the shack, the snow is almost gone, and it's 40 degrees outside. It's the annual January global warming thaw, but last Friday was a terrific day of skiing in the Berkshires with my grandkids who had the day off from school. So how does this relate to ham radio?

Google K1TTT. You will want to bookmark Dave's website if you haven't already. We were skiing at the Butternut ski area, a nice little mountain in Great Barrington Ma, not far from Dave's QTH in Peru. One of the features on his site is his weather station that has more weather info than the National weather service. I was sorry to see that it rained in Peru, so Butternut most likely didn't get the snow I had hoped they would.

Dave keeps a computer record of log of everything that goes on in his station, from maintenance to his new 18KW backup generator installation to the contest results for every contest operated from K1TTT. He also has an excellent library of technical references, four live webcams that let you watch the guys operating, as well as access to the W1VE Live Scoreboard. Take a look...it's a terrific website.

Greg, W1KM sent this great idea: Greg puts different color tape on different size wrenches in his tool bag, so he doesn't have to fumble around looking for the right wrench. For example, 1/2 in sockets and end wrenches are red, 7/16 another color etc.

In the last CQWW CW contest Barnacle Jack (BJ) seemed to have an inordinate number of stations calling him M1WEF. Of course he corrected them, but it had me wondering if I was dropping the first dit in my call (and the last dah in "first"...hi). When N1JW told me after the contest that he was monitoring with his CW reader, and IT copied M1WEF I knew I had to do something.

I was using my homebrew Logikeyer, with an FT1000D and an Ameritron AL1500. I had addressed this problem years ago with a clever K1KP designed relay speed up circuit, and a PTT control circuit that allows enough time for the amp relay to fully pull in before code from the computer commences. The PTT delay however does nothing for the CW that is sent from my keyer, only from the computer, because the computer establishes the delay time. (come to think of it, one of my interfaces allows me to plug the paddle into the interface, and CT software serves as the keyer. I wonder if the PTT delay will work for the paddle CW if I do that? Hmmm)

At the last YCCC meeting, Rich, K2WR mentioned this generic problem, not specifically with M1WEF but suggested that a solution was a K1EL Winkeyer which establishes a delay for both paddle sent CW and computer sent CW. BJ is getting closer to ordering one, but first has to figure out if his relay speedup circuit has failed. By the way, the K1KP circuit can be found in K1TTT's technical reference library.

Matt, WV1K passed along a couple hints. Ameritron now offers replacement LED meter lamps for most of its amplifiers. BJ noticed a wide variety of bright LEDs offered at Cables and Connectors in Newington, CT. Radio shack might have what you need as well. The next time you lose a meter lamp might be the last time. That reminds me...back in my working days I had a group responsible for maintaining a system with thousands of 28V switch and indicator lamps. We were constantly being called to replace lamps, until we came up with an LED replacement. Never another lamp failure! Matt also found ceramic or porcelain standoff insulators at Home Depot that could be used for beverage support.

Today is January 18 and I've operated in 5 contests already toward my goal of 58 contests in my 58th year of ham radio! OK...I'm counting contests that I just hand out a few Qs in, without submitting a log. I did operate NAQP CW semi seriously, and had a ball. At one point I had a run going on 40 that was as fun as it gets (to use the vernacular). I sign my call after every Q most of the time. I love it when another station calls in when I just sign my call. It gets even better when 5 or 6 call in at the same time and you have to pick one...if you can. Sometimes, I go back to the last letter or two ? If they're all on the same frequency and I can't pick one out, I sometimes just pause and one will usually sign again and I nab him.

Sometimes, the savvy guy in the pileup intentionally calls a bit off frequency to get thru. On the other hand there are some who don't know how to get on the same frequency as the station they're calling. If you use a filter too narrow, you miss him. If too wide, you might think you're working someone who is actually working another station, but his timing is just right to fake you out. If you're not sure he's working you, ask for a fill, or ? What has happened more than once is you work a guy you thought was calling you off frequency, then a minute later he calls you on your frequency! What a great game we play!

I wish I could be at the upcoming February meeting. Ward Silver, N0AX was one of the most entertaining speakers I ever heard. I hope someone records his presentation!

73 BJ W1WEF

Next Meeting Sunday, February 7th, 1 - 5PM Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA

- Agenda: Welcome
 Secretaries Report
 Treasurers Report
 Old Business
 New Business
 YCCC Raffle - \$25.00 per ticket, drawing to be at the April meeting.
 Elecraft - K3 (100W)
 Heil - Noise canceling headphones
 Vibroplex Key
 New Members
 Updated Score Report
 Speakers Ward Silver - N0AX - Guest Speaker on Contesting
 Gerry - W1VE - Update on the "Get Scores" Website

Coffee and Cake will be served.

Treasurer's Report February 2010

Checking Account Balance as of January 31, 2010:	\$7485.71
Savings Account Balance as of January 31, 2010:	\$6985.32
PayPal Account Balance as of January 31, 2010:	\$0.00
Total assets as of January 31, 2010:	\$14,471.03
During the period of April 1, 2009 to January 31, 2010:	
INCOME	
Dues:	\$3350.00
Scholarship:	200.00
Interest Income:	110.63
Gifts:	8.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$3668.63
EXPENSES	
Meeting Expenses:	\$1746.53
Non-YCCC Plaques:	350.00
Newsletter:	238.67
ISP:	209.55
PAYPAL Charges:	35.80
PAYPAL Charges:	35.80
Scholarship:	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$2580.55
NET BALANCE April 1, 2009 to January 31, 2010	\$1088.08

As you can see from the above report, the only scholarship income so far this fiscal year has been a \$200 gift. The \$1746.53 for meeting expenses included the picnic, Dayton pizza, and the April, October, and December meetings. Also notice that we now incur Paypal charges as we have upgraded our account to accept credit card payments. We now incur charges on all transactions. Also note that our ISP charges have been reduced as we now are hosted by QTH.com.

Respectfully submitted,
 Ed Parish, K1EP - Treasurer

K2KQ "Double L" Antenna Simplified

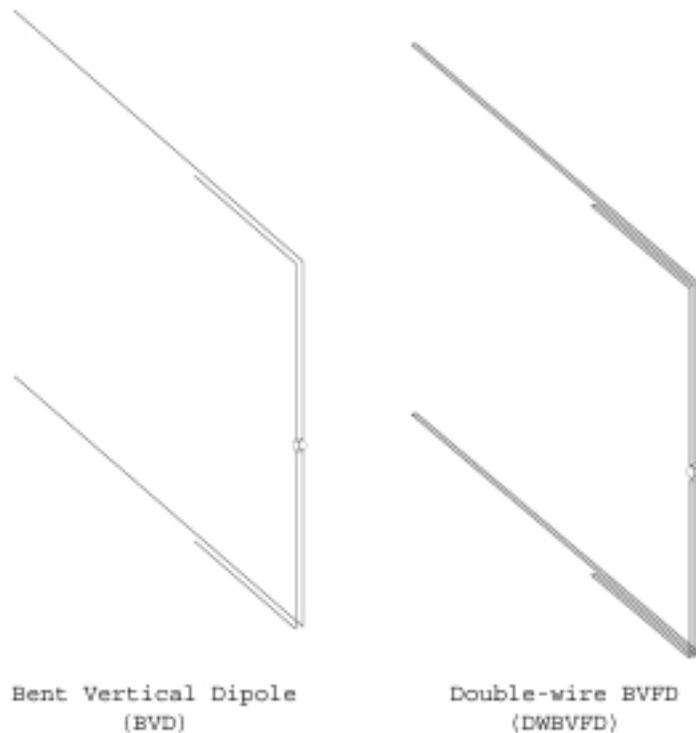
Brian Machesney – K1LI

I would like to put in a plug for a simplification of the K2KQ "double L" antenna - which I call the BVD (bent vertical dipole). Don's drawing indicates that the ends of the 160m and 80m "elements" should be run in different directions for the two-band version of the antenna. I don't have adequate supports for that configuration, so I made what amounts to a BVFD - a bent, vertical fan dipole. I used insulators leftover from a KT34XA rebuild to add an 80m element, in parallel with and spaced about 6-in from the 160m element.

The antenna continues to work great on 160 - though conditions lately have been so good that you could use a bedspring. I get about 50kHz of 2:1 SWR bandwidth on 80m, which is narrower than I would like. NEC2 modeling correlates well with the observed behavior and indicates, as K2KQ already prescribes, that spreading the ends of the wires increases the SWR bandwidth (and raises the resonant frequency). Thirty degrees of angular separation nearly doubles the SWR bandwidth.

In an effort to combat the BVFD's SWR bandwidth narrowing, I modeled a BVFD with "double-wire" elements a la W4RNL, with the 160m and 80m elements still running in parallel. The "double-wire" elements comprise parallel wires spaced 8-in apart, joined at both the driving end and the open end; this is not a folded dipole, although that might also prove to be an interesting alternative. This model produced about a 50% increase in the 80m SWR bandwidth.

Lesson: dream what you can, build what you must - especially when it comes to getting on the "low bands!"



Radio Antenna Engineering – Edmund Laporte Available

Interesting story about one ham's frustration and ultimate success in obtaining a copy of the antenna design classic "Radio Antenna Engineering by Edmund LaPorte" can be found at: <http://snulbug.mtview.ca.us/books/RadioAntennaEngineering/>

The book can be downloaded from there or: <http://cowboys.homeip.net/Files/RadioAntennaEngineering-printer.pdf>
<http://www.lulu.com/content/159004>

YCCC Regular Meeting December 12, 2009 Sturbridge, MA

The meeting was called to order by K1RX at 1:20 pm at the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center with the traditional round of self-introductions by the large group of 66 attendees.

K2WR reported on his CQWW SSB operation from KH6 and his CW operation from NJ.

W1UE reported that the initial lot of SO2R boxes had been delivered, and a second production run was planned for early 2010.

N1IW spoke on his November trip with N1EMC to Tarawa, Western Kiribati. Mike and Dave operated for one week as T30IW on CW and T30KI on SSB, respectively, making 7,088 QSO's in comfortable, if somewhat rustic, conditions as illustrated by Mike's slide presentation. QSL's are now in LoTW.

K1XM described his last-minute operation in CQWW CW as JY6HQ from the Royal Jordanian Radio Amateurs' Society (RJRAS) station, JY6ZZ, in Amman. Paul made 1,200 QSO's to set a new SOAB low power record from JY.

K1RX launched a round table discussion on station design strategy, with the first offering from W1ZT on contesting from a downtown urban location. Topics branched into towers, station layout, cabling, switching, choice of contest category, SO2R and others. Participants joining in the round table from the bleachers included K1KP, W1UE, K2WR, W1WEF, K1AE, K1VR, K1HT, W1TR and K1RX.

Three new members completed the daunting application process and were introduced for consideration by the voting members:

N1IL	Leszek Lechowicz	Bridgewater, MA
NB1U	Mark Johnsen	West Greenwich, RI
NM1J	Jack Dion	Malden, MA

All three were voted in as YCCC members by acclamation.

W1EBI gave the secretary's report. Membership stood at 384 Active members, of whom 280 are current with dues and 104 are paid up to March 31, 2009. Three area meetings occurred since the October regular meeting—Western MA, Southeast MA and Eastern NH—which yielded seven new members. The report was accepted.

There was no treasurer's report as K1EP was not in attendance.

During the break for eyeball QSO's the attendees enjoyed coffee and a huge birthday sheet cake, delivered by K1SFA, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of YCCC.

Following the break, W1MAW gave an update on several initiatives which Mark introduced at the October meeting. The slate includes club sponsored awards, including mugs, an annual club dinner or brunch during the summer, a kit-building project (Mark needs a resource to work with him), and an active program to match operators with multi-op stations. An award program to recognize long-time membership in YCCC has been suggested for further consideration.

The bi-annual ARRL New England Division Convention, affectionately more familiar as "Boxboro 2010", will convene this year from August 26-29 in Boxborough, MA. WO1N is program chairman.

Scorekeeper K1HT gave an update on YCCC claimed scores for CQWW 2009:

SSB	119,956,410	
CW	<u>145,536,697</u>	
	265,493,107	vs. 270,775,044 in 2008

Dave reminded all of the log submission deadline for CW, and pointed out that he has seen members posting scores to the YCCC email reflector and to 3830, but not getting logs in to CQ by the deadline, thereby preventing the club from adding their points to our aggregate total for the Unlimited Club competition.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
George Harlem, W1EBI, Secretary

Upcoming PVRC/NCCC Webinar: CW Sprint

Dean – N6DE

The NCJ CW Sprint is approaching. Get ready by attending this webinar!

There's something in this webinar for everyone: people who have never operated the Sprint before, beginners looking to improve their scores, and Sprint veterans who want to get an extra edge.

Presenter: Bob Wilson, N6TV

Topic: How to Operate the CW Sprint

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 10:00pm-11:00pm EST [*February 3, 03:00Z - 04:00Z*]

Agenda:

Beginner:

1. The special Sprint QSY Rule
2. Sending your call at the right time to indicate that you are leaving (or keeping) the frequency
3. Using your A/B VFOs effectively

Advanced:

1. Proper tail-ending
2. Pulling a mult off frequency
3. SO2R

How to attend this webinar:

Step 1: You need to register to attend this webinar at: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/384075706>

Step 2: You'll need:

- 1) Your web browser to view the presentation
- 2) Your speakers or headphones plugged into your sound card to hear the audio. If you plan to ask a question, you'll need to also plug a mic into your sound card. You cannot call in to this webinar by telephone.

Previous NCCC Webinars

- July 8, 2009: "How to set up a Microham keyer", Ira (K2RD) -- Recording available [here](#) (Lo Res, 58 MB) or [here](#) (Hi Res, 140MB)
- July 22, 2009: "Homebrewing a micro based (SO2R) station controller", Jack (KF6T) -- Recording available [here](#) (Lo Res, 46 MB) or [here](#) (Hi Res, 173MB)
- August 12, 2009: "N1MM: How To Configure And Operate", John (K6MM) -- Recording available [here](#) (173 MB)
- August 26, 2009: "WriteLog: How To Configure And Operate", Mark (K6UFO) -- Recording available [here](#) (108 MB)
- September 2, 2009: "A 160m Helically Wound Vertical", John (K6MM) -- Recording available [here](#) (50 MB)
- September 24, 2009: "Hints and Kinks for Using HFTA", Dean (N6BV) -- Recording available [here](#) (137 MB)
- October 14, 2009 (NCCC/PVRC Joint Webinar): "A 160m Helically Wound Vertical", John (K6MM) -- Recording available [here](#) (95 MB)
- December 9, 2009: "RTTY For Newbies", (K6DGW, K6MM, N6DE, N6ML) -- Recording available [here](#) (115 MB)

2010 NYC-LI YCCC Area Meeting

The 2010 New York City - Long Island YCCC meeting will be held Tuesday, March 16, 2010, at 8PM at the new Town of Oyster Bay-Ice Skating Center, Community Room 1 in Bethpage. Sponsored by Long Island DX Association (LIDXA).

This is a new meeting location. ALL Welcomed

Meeting Agenda:

- Short LIDXA meeting
- Introductions
- Why contest? by Tom KA2D, LIDXA member and YCCC NYC/LI Area Manager
- YCCC and LIDXA dues can be collected
- New Membership info and applications for LIDXA and YCCC

Check out LIDXA web goto: <http://www.qsl.net/lidxa/>

YCCC web goto: <http://www.yccc.org>

The Center is just a short drive from Briarcliffe College-down Stewart Ave and across the street from Bethpage H.S. The address of the Center is 1001 Stewart Avenue-but you can't miss it as it is a very large brick building just down the road from Briarcliffe (on the same side of the street and all lit up). This indoor ice skating center is located at Bethpage Community Park, Stewart and Cherry Avenues, Bethpage. Parking in the rear.

By the Stewart and Cherry Avenues traffic light, enter the Ice Skating Center parking lot through the road on your left (the other road-Aerospace Blvd-leads into Northrop/Grumman) and park in the large rear lot. Enter the Center by the main doors and walk straight down the hallway about 200 feet. Community room #1 will be the first one you come to on your right (the skating rink will be visible on your left).

Remember to check-in at the LIDXA weekly nets on Sunday night at 9 PM local time on the Grumman Hauppauge repeater at 145.330/144.730 MHz (with 136.5 Hz PL).

CU -Tom KA2D
ka2d@arrl.net

WC2L Node Update

Mobile/Smart Phones: <http://dxc.wc2l.com/mc>

WEB Cluster: <http://dxc.wc2l.com/webcluster>

Telnet: dxc.wc2l.com

RF Link : 144.93

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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 (\$35/2 yr) (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper delivery of Club newsletter)

Full Member - \$15 (\$25/2 yr) (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..

Scuttlebutt Advertising: Nominal Business Card sized ad, \$50 per year (6 appearances)

CONTEST SCORES should be sent to the club scorekeeper, Dave Hoaglin, K1HT, preferably by E-mail at scores@yccc.org. 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 Bob Rogers KB1LN@yahoo.com

YCCC LOGO ITEMS <http://www.cafepress.com/n1ik>

QSL CARDS are ordered through Burt Eldridge, W1ZS. To order, send Burt an email at w1zs@arrl.net, detailing card information per "QSL Request" form available at http://www.yccc.org/members/yccc_qsl.htm. You will receive a proof by email. Approve the proof, making any corrections, and return to Burt *with payment* (make checks out to Burt, not YCCC). Current price is \$50 (delivered) for 1,000 cards. Also available is the glossy version for \$70/1000.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER is posed on the YCCC website. Updates are published in 'Movers and Shakers' when members move or change call signs.

COMPUTER STUFF INTERNET REFLECTOR There is an Internet mailing list for YCCC members. To subscribe, send mail to yccc-REQUEST@yccc.org. Insert only the word "subscribe" in the subject 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 20 cents each. Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. Email address: w1qsl@yccc.org.

ARRL COMMITTEE REPS are:

CAC: New England Dick Green, WC1M Hudson George Wilner, K2ONP Atlantic Michael Gilmer, N2MG

DXAC: New England Bob Beaudet, W1YRC Hudson John Sawina, NA2R Atlantic Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

VUAC: New England Ed Parish, K1EP Hudson Frederick Lass, K2TR Atlantic Joe Taylor, K1JT

ARRL LIAISON: Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
February 7	General	Sturbridge, MA
April TBD	General	TBD

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Next Meeting:
Saturday, February 7th – 1PM to 5PM
Sturbridge Host Hotel – Sturbridge, MA

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
18 Bancroft Tower Road
Worcester, MA 01609

FIRST CLASS MAIL