



# Scuttlebutt

August 2012

Issue 216

**Next Meeting- ARRL New England Division Convention  
August 25<sup>th</sup> – 1pm till 5pm.....  
Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA**

## Captain's Cabin

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

### YCCC Wins 2012 ARRL DX!!

Congratulations to all who contributed scores in the 2012 ARRL DX Contest! YCCC has won it again, this time by a healthy margin of 31 Meg! YCCC put on a terrific show, utilizing the great conditions and the YCCC CW advantage to push us all over the top!

Here's what Ward Silver, N0AX had to say in the September, 2012 issue of QST (now available online):

<i>“Yankee Clipper Contest Club</i>	<i>245,487,258 201</i>
<i>Frankford Radio Club</i>	<i>214,570,917 150</i>
<i>Potomac Valley Radio Club</i>	<i>187,702,503 192</i>

#### **Club**

*They're up! They're down! They're up again! The knock-down, drag-out slugfest between the Frankford Radio Club (FRC) and Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) reversed again this year, scrambling the Club Competition table score card. YCCC was edged out of the top Unlimited club position by the slimmest of margins but jumped back up off the mat and delivered a slobber-knocker of 245 Mpoints to FRC's 214 Mpoints. YCCC's log totals jumped from 184 last year to 201 this year and those 17 extra logs made a lot of difference”.*

We'll be looking for a repeat again in a couple of months. Hopefully the snow and ice will miss us but the great conditions on ten meters will repeat this spring as we go for 2 in a row!

In another contest, the rules have changed a bit, as the CQWW DX Contest administrators have shortened the deadline for log submissions to **five days!** Personally I welcome this change, as I hated the concept of spending time after the contest to scrub logs anyway. And with the shortening of the submission deadline comes the promise of quicker results processing. We need to get this word out and make sure that no one misses the new submission deadline!

### Boxboro Convention

Vice President Dennis, W1UE has a great meeting teed up for us at the ARRL Boxboro Convention coming up in a week or so! The program includes an update on WRTC 2014 from the organizers, and a special visit by Eimac the Magnificent! Lee, N1BA will give an update on the the YCCC 6BPF filters, and Dennis, W1UE will give a presentation on building your own triplexer.

(Captain's Cabin continued on Page 4)

<b>Yankee Clipper Contest Club</b>	
<b>President</b>	Tony Brock Fisher, K1KP <a href="mailto:President@YCCC.org">President@YCCC.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Dennis Egan, W1UE <a href="mailto:VicePresident@YCCC.org">VicePresident@YCCC.org</a>
<b>Activities Manager</b>	Jim Ussailis, W1EQO 413-585-8645 <a href="mailto:W1EQO@Shavsnet.com">W1EQO@Shavsnet.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Brian Szewczyk, NJ1F <a href="mailto:Secretary@YCCC.org">Secretary@YCCC.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chet Slabinski, N8RA <a href="mailto:Treasurer@YCCC.org">Treasurer@YCCC.org</a>
<b>Scuttlebutt Editor</b>	Steve Rodowicz, N1SR (413) 593-6554 <a href="mailto:Editor@YCCC.org">Editor@YCCC.org</a>
<b>Scuttlebutt Publisher</b>	Ken Miller, WB1DX <a href="mailto:Publisher@YCCC.org">Publisher@YCCC.org</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Lyn Glagowski, WB1CCL <a href="mailto:wb1ccl@gmail.com">wb1ccl@gmail.com</a>
<b>Scorekeeper</b>	Alec Berman, W2JU <a href="mailto:Scores@YCCC.org">Scores@YCCC.org</a>
<b>W1 QSL Bureau Manager</b>	Art Holmes, W1RZF <a href="mailto:W1QSL@YCCC.ORG">W1QSL@YCCC.ORG</a>
<b>Technical Assistance Manager</b>	Dave Jordan, K1NQ <a href="mailto:YCCCTA@YCCC.ORG">YCCCTA@YCCC.ORG</a>
<b>New Members</b>	Mark Pride, K1RX (603) 778-1222
<b>Media Manager</b>	Tom LeClerc, W1TJL <a href="mailto:W1TJL@arrl.net">W1TJL@arrl.net</a>

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## Directions

**From the North:** I-93 South, to I-495 South. Take I-495, Exit 28 to Route 111 towards Boxborough. Hotel driveway (Adams Place) will be after the first light on the right.

**From the South:** I-95 North to Exit 6B, I-495. Take I-495, Exit 28 to Route 111. Turn left; Hotel driveway (Adams Place) will be on your right.

## Area Managers

<b>ME</b>	Mike Russo, K1EU	(207) 883-9524	<a href="mailto:k1eu@maine.rr.com">k1eu@maine.rr.com</a>
<b>ENH</b>	Jerry Muller, K0TV	-----	<a href="mailto:k0tv@arrl.net">k0tv@arrl.net</a>
<b>WNH/SVT</b>	Ed Sawyer, N1UR	-----	<a href="mailto:sawyered@earthlink.net">sawyered@earthlink.net</a>
<b>NE MA (978)</b>	Scott Andersen, NE1RD	(978) 263-9617	<a href="mailto:bsandersen@mac.com">bsandersen@mac.com</a>
<b>SE MA (508)</b>	Eric Williams, KV1J	-----	<a href="mailto:kv1j@arrl.net">kv1j@arrl.net</a>
<b>Boston (617/781)</b>	Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P	(617) 325-6767	<a href="mailto:jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu">jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu</a>
<b>WMA (413)</b>	Tom Homewood, W1TO	(413) 743-7342	<a href="mailto:w1to@arrl.net">w1to@arrl.net</a>
<b>CT (860)</b>	Rich Cady, N1IXF	-----	-----
<b>CT (203)</b>	Dave Arruzza, W1CTN	-----	<a href="mailto:Darruzza@adelphia.net">Darruzza@adelphia.net</a>
	& Mike Loukides, W1JQ	(203) 458-2545	<a href="mailto:MikeL@oreilly.com">MikeL@oreilly.com</a>
<b>RI (401)</b>	Nat Henrickson, NG1Z	(401) -----	<a href="mailto:ng1z@nsradio.org">ng1z@nsradio.org</a>
<b>NNY</b>	John Bradke, W2GB	-----	<a href="mailto:W2GB@N2TY.ORG">W2GB@N2TY.ORG</a>
<b>NYC/LI (718)</b>	Tom Carrubba, KA2D	(631) 422-9594	<a href="mailto:ka2d@arrl.net">ka2d@arrl.net</a>
<b>SNY/NJ/PA (914)</b>	Hank Kiernan, KF2O	(914) 235-4940	<a href="mailto:hankkier@aol.com">hankkier@aol.com</a>
<b>NVT (802)</b>	Al Frugoli, KE1FO	(802) 893-8388	<a href="mailto:kelfo@arrl.net">kelfo@arrl.net</a>

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The editorial deadline for the Scuttlebutt is the 10<sup>th</sup> of every odd month.

# **Yankee Clipper Contest Club Meeting Minutes Kensington, NH June 2, 2012**

President Tony K1KP called the joint meeting of the YCCC and WRTC2014 volunteers to order at 12:45 pm.

Tony K1KP thanked Mark K1RX and his family for once again hosting the June meeting. Due to the rain the BBQ was changed to deli plates inside the K1RX QTH.

A roll call of the members and guests was followed by the Secretary's report, which the March meeting minutes were published in the Scuttlebutt. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the Scuttlebutt by K1XM, Seconded by WA1ZAM, the motion carried. Next K1KP presented the treasurer's report as Chet N8RA was unable to attend. K1XM made a motion to accept the report, which was seconded by K1RX, the motion carried.

Tony K1KP asked if there was any old business. There was none.

Tony K1KP then went on to new business and announced that the officers want to add a section to the clubs constitution to make sure the Yankee Clipper Contest Club Hall of Fame which was created at the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting is a lasting tradition of the Club. Tony did read the proposed wording of the addition to those present, noted that it is posted on the Website and was published in the June Scuttle Butt. A formal discussion and membership vote on this will happen at the August meeting.

Tony K1KP then asked if there was anyone wishing to join the YCCC. Wayne KB1WXR told the group about himself being a newly licensed and interested in learning about contesting. Wayne was welcomed aboard.

K1XM and WW1M gave an update on the two club projects, the compact receiving array and the antenna switch box controller.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by K1XM and Seconded by K1DG the motion carried at 1:05pm.

Tony introduced Doug K1DG for the WRTC 2014 portion of the meeting, demonstration of the Falling Derrick tower and antenna system.

Submitted  
Brian NJ1F  
YCCC Secretary

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## ***YCCC Hall Of Fame Award - PLEASE REVIEW!***

### **Proposed Amendment to YCCC ByLaws**

This amendment is intended to make the YCCC Hall of Fame Award a permanent part of the clubs culture. Awards programs have come and gone, but by creating a new ByLaw to describe the Hall of Fame Award, YCCC can have a permanent Award in place for those who should be recognized for their long term contributions.

This ByLaw change will be brought before the membership for a vote at the Boxboro General Meeting.

#### **11. Hall of Fame Award**

Upon nomination by a member in good standing and unanimous approval by the current Officers, Awards Manager, and Advisory Council of YCCC, another present or past member may be inducted into the YCCC Hall of Fame to recognize that member's superior long-term achievements and contributions to the club and contesting.

The nominating member shall provide a biography of the candidate to support the nomination. If approved, the induction shall be announced at the next General Meeting where the nominator shall be asked to present the biography of the inductee.

The award will include a wood plaque presented to the inductee, Honorary Life Membership, and posting of the inductee's biography and other relevant accomplishments on the YCCC Hall of Fame listing on the YCCC website.

(Captain's Cabin continued from Page 1)

Behind the scenes, your officers and Area Managers have been putting on a recruiting drive to increase the ranks of YCCC, aiming to vote in many new members as possible at the Boxboro Meeting. So please wear your YCCC apparel and give a friendly welcome to any newcomers looking to join YCCC.

Finally, there will be a vote on the proposed Hall of Fame ByLaw amendment.

## WRTC2012 (no, not a typo)!

Thanks and congratulations to all our YCCC/WRTC2014 volunteers who helped out with the 'pilot run' of 15 WRTC stations around New England during the IARU weekend. After a rain-soaked training session on the Falling Derrick Tower Demo at K1RX in June, the teams did a great job of setting up and operating Field-Day style (complete with 100+ degree heat and mosquitoes) during the IARU contest. Much was proven and learned that weekend, and we will need to literally double our efforts to support the fielding of 30 such stations next year – stay tuned for details on how you can get involved and help out (if you are not already signed up)!

Finally, summer is the time for those major antenna upgrades and repairs. At K1KP, we have one repair job behind us and a major rotor upgrade still to go. Hopefully we'll all get our work done before the cold weather sets in – although the colder the weather, they better that new skyhook performs! As always, *think twice for safety* – we need all the logs we can get!

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

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<b>2012-2013</b>		
<b>YCCC MEETING SCHEDULE</b>		
<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>August 25, 2012</b>	<b>ARRL NE Div Convention Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>October 6, 2012</b>	<b>Kickoff for CQWW Tests Sturbridge, MA</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 2, 2012</b>	<b>Holiday Banquet? Auburn, MA</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 2, 2013</b>	<b>Full Meeting Enfield, CT</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 6, 2013</b>	<b>Fuul Meeting + Elections Sturbridge, MA</b>

## New HF Rigs Introduced at Dayton

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

There were several new introductions in HF radios, including a high end rig from Kenwood, called the TS-990. Yaesu has new mid-range rig, the Ftdx-3000. And for you SDR freaks, FlexRadio has introduced the 6000 series. The really convenient thing is that the manufacturers now seem to give the rigs a product designation that indicates the price - \$3k for the Ftdx-3000, \$6k for the flex 6000. When pressed for pricing information on the TS-990 the Kenwood rep said that they think that \$10k is too much to pay for a premium radio, and the TS-990 would be priced between five and ten thousand dollars. My bet is you have to multiply the product number by 10 for this one!

Seriously, the TS-990 hails a return to offering a premium, flagship rig for Kenwood, and gives me the sense that they will continue in the ham market, which is quite different from what I would have said a few years ago. The 990 is a complete dual rig, and they claim the sub receiver is exactly identical to the ts-590. The main receiver is down conversion on all bands and should exhibit excellent performance. One surprising aspect is the size; this rig is larger than it appears in the magazine ads! It is actually close to the size of a moderate linear amplifier, presumably to provide room for the 200 watt PA and built-in supply. Finally, it looks like Kenwood has given in to pressure from Icom in that it has a built-in display with buttons around it, a la every Icom rig since the 756.

The next new rig I came across was the Yaesu FTdx-3000. This looks to be a mid price range rig (nowadays three grand is mid-range price!) with performance set to rival the FTdx-5000. The big drawback is it single receiver only; no dual watch like Icom (but yes, like the IC-7700). This rig has a very clean front panel layout and does include a spectrum scope. If it performs as expected, it should give the k3 s a run for your money!

Finally, for you SDR freaks out there, FlexRadio has come out with it's 6000 series. This is a true connect-an-A/D-to-the-antenna design. The 6000 comes in two versions, a single capture version for \$4k, and a dual capture for \$6k. The term capture refers to an antenna and A/D input channel. Each capture can be further processed with 4 'slices' or outputs to the SDR software. Claiming 110db imd3 range across the full input bandwidth and super low phase noise due to no mixing, this rig should provide more in the numbers game than any contester might need. The transmitter is also a simple D/A driving a 100 watt PA. As for me, I need a rig with knobs and buttons!

So, if you have tons of cash and want to try something new, there's plenty to choose from in new HF rigs. Just remember – Ansel Adams is known as one of the greatest photographers in history – and it wasn't his camera that made him great – it was his knowing *when* to push the button!

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OFFICIAL DASH! THE DOG-FACED HAM  
**LUCKY CONTEST MUG**

JEFF KINSS ©2012

**PROPRIETARY  
4 MUG ARRAY  
BY JEFF K1NSS**

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MORE Qs\*  
MORE BUZZ\*  
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# A Yankee Clipper in Her Majesty's Commonwealth Contest 6Y0A - 2012

by Allen Singer N2KW/6Y0A

It happens every year, in mid-March. I would turn on the radio, and hear everyone having fun in something called BERU, but couldn't join in, because my location is a few hundred kilometers too far South.

I have watched this enough times to pique my interest. "What would it be like, to actually compete in the Commonwealth Contest?" As far as THIS op is concerned, there is no longer any reason to wonder. I spent most of March, 2012, as 6Y0A, and entered the Commonwealth Contest in the 12-hour category.

Josh, 6Y5WJ, and I, have discussed this possibility many times. I almost went in 2011, but a last-minute booking made it difficult. As it turns out, 2012 was my year! I bought my tickets, packed my bags, and hoped for the best.

New York City is a strange place. It is very difficult to get out of town. Invariably, something "comes up" that prevents leaving. You promise yourself all Summer, that you will go to the beach next weekend, or go fishing in Montauk...but when it's actually time to go, something prevents it. The Jamaica trip was no exception.

With one week to go, prior to departure, I slipped on a Steel-lined curb, and fell on my left hip, HARD. Visions of a broken hip, of confinement to bed, of cancellation of my plans, all floated through my head. I limped away. With demands on my time right up to the night before departure, I guess I was a little surprised to find myself at the airport, about to embark upon my first real vacation in a dozen years.

Josh, and his lovely wife Jenny, met right outside the terminal. We recognized each other at the same instant, Jenny brought the car 'round, and off we went! It was a longer ride than I had anticipated, but passed pleasantly...with conversation and scenery fully occupying the time. I finally allowed myself to believe that I had successfully gotten away from NYC! It was a good feeling. The air smelled sweet, the sunshine felt good on my skin. My smile was a grin.



"The view from 6Y5WJ ....  
that is the ocean in the distance."

Then we started climbing. And climbing. (and CLIMBING!) Josh and Jenny live over 2200'ASL, with a view to die for (see photo.) The ocean in the distance is actually three miles away, but it takes well over a half-hour to get there, because no road can descend at such a steep angle. The climate is far more pleasant at 2200', no need for air conditioning, and some nights require a sweatshirt. The breeze must keep the mosquitos away, as I didn't get bitten once, in a 17-day stay. It wasn't as extreme as, say, San Francisco ....but in that genre'.

Mr. Murphy must have sneaked into my carry-on, as everything didn't go exactly as planned. I planned to use N1MM, with it's canned messages, and automatic frequency/mode readout from the IC-706 for logging. I brought the Icom, a laptop, a Rigblaster, a docking station, and a parallel port CW adaptor. The installation was complete, and working all OK, when the Computer mysteriously shut down. After a restart, the radio no longer "talked" to the

Rigblaster, or to the Docking Station (when the Rigblaster was removed.) Later investigation found it to be a failure of the CI-V port on the IC-706. (No more computer-generated CW either.)

I ended up logging with the laptop, in N1MM, which insisted I was on SSB, and only read a frequency if it was manually typed into the logging window. At least the time was right, and hopefully, I entered the correct call signs! The paddle got a good workout! (Good thing I brought a spare, I wore one out!) Josh fixed both the paddle, and the radio! (But well after the contest.)

My game-plan was to be competitive in the 12-hour class, which is a bit more challenging than simply chasing rate. My idea was to pick the 12 hours OFF time correctly. An "OFF" period must be 60 minutes or greater in duration, but there is no minimum "ON" period. This worked both FOR me, and AGAINST me, during the contest period. I heard Nigel, ZD7XF, only once. It was on 10 metres, and it was 50 minutes into an "OFF" time. If I had called him, the QSO would have been certain, and we might even have tried 15...but when my time came, he was nowhere to be found! Nigel did, however, manage to contact over 1100 other stations during the contest.

Then again, having no minimum "ON" time, allowed me to glean VK and ZL multipliers during the middle of my night, and then shut down, to save precious "ON" time for a more productive shift. I think I was on the air for 20 minutes, and off for a few hours.

Dave Cree, G3TBK (J88DR) was kind enough to give me a few pointers on BERU tactics. He should know the contest well by now, having participated from home and abroad in this event some 40-odd years. He pointed out that the outcome is often determined by the "edges" ...that is to say, the highest and lowest band with propagation. This information would prove itself invaluable during the contest, as well as the short Caribbean openings he has noted over the years. His observations were incorporated into bandplanning done by Dave Robbins, K1TTT, and they both contributed a great deal to my final score. (J88DR finished with 961 QSO's.)

Martin Platt, G4XUM scored over a thousand contacts, from ZF1UM, and exceeded 10,000 points in his very first try at BERU, and he says he is "already looking forward to next year." Bob Whelan, G3PJT/VP9 almost didn't make it to Hamilton. Some sort of flap with the airline, but evidently he got it squared away, as he opened on time. Bob managed 760 contacts from Bermuda.

Nigel, Dave, Martin, and Bob were my team-mates in this year's Commonwealth Contest (Team Atlantic and Caribbean Islands) and I consider myself fortunate to have my 12-hour entry as an excuse for being low man on the totem pole. (6Y0A had just over 600 QSO's for 12 hours operating.) Had my entry been a 24-hour effort, I would likely still end up at the bottom, but perhaps a bit closer to the pack.

The N1MM software worked flawlessly, and correctly identified needed multipliers. Even with no Packetcluster, I was able to utilize the bandmap to log callsigns and dupes, as I spent 30% of my time tuning and 70% "running." I feel it is essential to "comb out the band", particularly before a band-change ...but that's just me.

My trip to Jamaica was much more than just the contest. Josh and Jenny are the consummate host and hostess. They have learned to co-exist with the land, instead of trying to tame it. The result is that they grow almost everything that they eat. In Jamaica, this is not as difficult as it sounds. The soil in the mountains is a rich brown, almost red, and is so fertile that (in the words of Busta Prendergast, a local) "You could eat a tomato and spit the seeds on the ground. Tomorrow, you'll see more tomatoes." The place is a paradise ....Hawaii East. There may be poverty in Jamaica, but there is no hunger. "Hand go .....paki come!"

Josh took me to Negril. I rode in a glass-bottomed boat. He took me to the Appleton Rum Plantation, which serves samples of all of their products at the end of the tour. We went to Mandeville, to Black River, to Kingston. I met Nadine James, who is a Licensing Representative at Jamaica's Spectrum Management Authority. She was the one who talked me through the application process. (If you go, allow three months for the paperwork.) In my spare time, I managed 6000 CW QSO's that were OUTSIDE of the contest.



"Germaine and Allen, with some of the land's bounty."

For many years, Josh and Jenny lived in England. He still runs a highly successful draughting business in the West Midlands. They had all of the trappings of an upper-middle-class life, but moved to Jamaica 12 years ago, and never looked back (well.....maybe once or twice....but not recently!) They loves where they live, and the enthusiasm is infectious. I am already looking forward to my return next year. For more information on their operation, see the website:

<http://www.infochan.com/~joshwa/> They have a steady stream of visitors, so if you have a particular contest in mind, make your enquiry early.



Josh and Princess Lali, xyl of George (VE3NZ) another satisfied guest.

Something we all tend to forget, when we don't get to travel far from home...is that each area has it's own customs....it's own traditions ....it's own ways. In a place like Jamaica, where there is a constant stream of tourists, you are from one of two places. Either you are from Jamaica, or you are "FarIN." You will get a lot further by showing reSPEK, than by demanding it. A smile, and the greeting WHOPPUM? will get you a long way. Having a local teach you the nuances has a tremendous influence on the quality of your experience. It seems that everyone who visits wants to return!

*"This article was originally published on the BERU.ORG.UK website, <http://www.beru.org.uk/2012%206Y0A/6Y0A.html>, and is reproduced here through the courtesy of Bob, G3PJT."*

## 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, Chet Slabinski, N8RA, 462 W. Hill Rd, New Hartford, CT 06057.**

**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..

**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](mailto: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 Tony, K1KP. Send \$3, name and call desired on the badge, and your mailing address to Tony.

**APPAREL** Contact Richie, W1STT. Email: [richd1313@aol.com](mailto:richd1313@aol.com)

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

**QSL CARDS** are ordered through Dennis Egan, W1UE. To order, send Dennis an email at [egan.dennis88@gmail.com](mailto:egan.dennis88@gmail.com), detailing card information per "QSL Request" form available at [http://www.yccc.org/members/yccc\\_qsl.htm](http://www.yccc.org/members/yccc_qsl.htm). You will receive a proof by email. Approve the proof, making any corrections, and return to Dennis *with payment* (make checks out to Dennis, 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](mailto: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 Lyn Glagowski, WB1CCL.

**ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF The W1 QSL BUREAU** is sponsored by the YCCC. Keep your account up to date by sending a check, or pay via Paypal. 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](mailto:w1qsl@yccc.org). (See: <http://www.yccc.org/Resources/w1qslburo.htm>)

**ARRL COMMITTEE REPS** are:

**CAC:** New England Dennis Egan, W1UE 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.

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