



Scuttlebutt

April 2016

Issue 236

Next Meeting: Sunday: April 10th – 12:30 – 4:00 pm
Joseph P Keefe Technical High School
750 Winter St, Framingham, MA 01702

Captain's Cabin

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

Well the contest season is (mostly) behind us – and I'm proud of how the club has performed, win or lose. It's too soon to count the chickens on ARRL DX, so I will refrain from commenting, other than to say how impressed I was by the number of folks 'taking one for the team' this time around, working longer hours and less-favored modes. There are other contests coming along, and I hope you all enjoy the lesser competitions.

This is a great time of year to fire up the antenna modeling software. Planning the bigger and better antennas starts now if you want to get the project completed in time for fall! Think of ways to improve your signal, by making changes at the far end of the coax. Can you put up a bigger beam for the high bands? Add a two-element 40? Try a new wire antenna for the lower bands? (But don't take down the old ones). Make some plans now for the summer's antenna improvements. Receiving antennas are a good opportunity to increase your scores as well – You can't work 'em if you can't hear 'em!

And speaking of changes, if you have a decent station and are facing increasing extracurricular commitments, maybe you should consider going Multi-something. While the club thrives on single-op scores, our number of Multi-something stations has decreased with the untimely passing of KB1H and K0TV. Are you ready to step up and fill these vacancies? It doesn't take much – just a bit of switching and filtering design – to transition from a single op station to two operating positions. It's even easier if you've already done some of the work to implement SO2R. You'd be surprised at how much the score can increase with a second operating chair. And it's always more fun to have some guest ops join in!

The WX has definitely turned, and with a bit of luck we will see very little snow from here on out. While there are a few exciting DXpeditions on the air, our thoughts now turn from operating to station/antenna building and other fun good-weather projects. Just as the crisp autumn leaves of October are the harbinger of CQWW, so the daffodils of March are the prognosticators of great times at the flea markets and conventions!

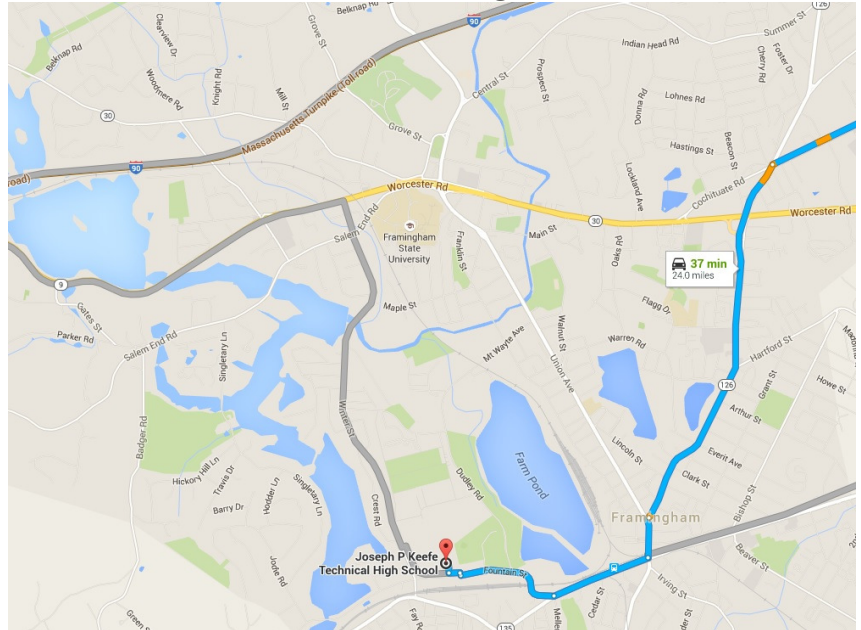
Speaking of flea markets, we have a terrific meeting event lined up for April 10th. This is an experiment, or more precisely, two experiments on the same day. We will be combining our April meeting with the Framingham Amateur Radio Association Spring flea market. I think this has a great likelihood of being a Win-Win for our two clubs. I'd encourage all YCCC members (and prospective members) to come early on Sunday and take a look at the flea market. You'll have a chance to find some bargains and socialize with local area hams. It's the first flea market of spring, which means the deals and the friends will both be fresh! They say there's something for everyone at a flea market. Last year, Dennis and I manned a table selling YCCC raffle tickets, and I came home with about a case of LED floodlights, purchased at the bargain price of \$5 each. (Not too much RFI either)!

(Continued on page 7)

Yankee Clipper Contest Club	
President	Tony Brock Fisher, K1KP President@YCCC.org
Vice President	Dennis Egan, W1UE VicePresident@YCCC.org
Activities Manager	Jim Ussailis, W1EQO 413-585-8645 W1EQO@Shavynet.com
Secretary	Brian Szewczyk, NJ1F Secretary@YCCC.org
Treasurer	Chet Slabinski, N8RA Treasurer@YCCC.org
Scuttlebutt Editor	Steve Rodowicz, N1SR (413) 593-6554 N1SR@arrl.net
Scuttlebutt Publisher	Will Liporace, WC2L Publisher@YCCC.org
Webmaster	Lyn Głagowski, WB1CCL wblccl@gmail.com
Scorekeeper	Alec Berman, W2JU Scores@YCCC.org
W1 QSL Bureau Manager	Eric Williams, KV1J Dennis Egan, W1UE W1QSL@YCCC.ORG
Technical Assistance Manager	Dave Jordan, K1NQ YCCCTA@YCCC.ORG
New Members	Mark Pride, K1RX (603) 778-1222
Media Manager	Tom LeClerc, W1TJL W1TJL@arrl.net

Ship's Log	April, 2016	Issue 236
Captain's Cabin	Tony Brock Fisher - K1KP	1,7
Directions to Meeting		2
Wires in Trees	Barnacle Jack – W1WEF	3
Framingham ARA Fleamarket & YCCC Meeting		4
Youth Scholarship Raffle		5
Discover the HF Experience		6
WRTC-2018 Additional Donation Thanks		7
YCCC Resources		8

Directions to Keefe Technical High School 750 Winter St, Framingham, MA



From East: Take Mass Pike (I-90) West to exit 13. After toll booth, merge onto MA30W/Cochituate Road toward Framingham. Turn Left onto Concord St/Rte 126, At the Traffic Circle, take 2nd exit and stay on Concord St. Turn Right onto Waverly St, then bear Right onto Fountain St. Follow Fountain St to entrance to Keefe Technical High School on the Right.

From West: Take Mass Pike (I-90) East to exit 12. Follow signs to Worcester Turnpike/Rte 9. Follow Rte 9 to Winter St. Turn Right onto Winter St, Follow Winter St to entrance to Keefe Technical High School on the Left.

-.-.-/-.-.-/-.-.-/-.-.- Area Managers

ME	Mike Russo, K1EU	(207) 883-9524	k1eu@maine.rr.com
ENH/NEMA	Ken Caruso, WO1N	-----	woln@arrl.net
WNH/SVT	Craig Clark, K1QX	-----	k1qx@arrl.net
SE MA (508)	Eric Williams, KV1J	-----	kv1j@arrl.net
Boston (617/781)	Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P	(617) 325-6767	jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu
WMA (413)	Tom Homewood, W1TO	(413) 743-7342	w1to@arrl.net
CT (860)	Rich Cady, N1IXF	-----	nlixf@arrl.net
CT (203)	Mike Loukides, W1JQ	(203) 458-2545	MikeL@oreilly.com
RI (401)	Nat Henrickson, NG1Z	-----	nglz@nsradio.org
NNY	John Bradke, W2GB	-----	W2GB@N2TY.ORG
NYC/LI (718)	Tom Carrubba, KA2D	(631) 422-9594	ka2d@arrl.net
SNY/NJ/PA (914)	Hank Kiernan, KF2O	(914) 235-4940	hankkier@aol.com
NVT (802)	Joe Vanat, K1VMT	-----	k1vmt@arrl.net

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WIRES in TREES

Barnacle Jack (remember me?) - W1WEF

After the recent discussion on the Reflector about putting antennas up in trees, I thought I'd add my two cents here, mostly for the benefit of newbies who haven't seen it all before. It just so happens that I am in the midst of reworking my 4 square on 80, and one of the reasons is that trees have grown taller since I first put up this version years ago, so I now can have the vertical wires go straight up without bending over the treetops. Another reason is because it hasn't worked right for a few years...mainly because I found two cable failures resulting from the half baked way I put PL259's on CATV hardline.

First let me tell you about the CATV connector fix. In order to reach the hybrid box in the middle of the 4 square, it is necessary to use foam dielectric 70 ohm cable with the right velocity factor so the quarter wave cables come out long enough. I first considered buying premade cables from DXE but changed my mind on seeing the \$400 or so price tag. I already had CATV cable which has a copper clad center conductor with a non copper braided shield over bonded foil. The solution was a crimp PL259 which required a crimp tool that I didn't have. Looking on line, I found the same tool from different sources ranging from about \$28 to \$55. I used silver-plated connectors and crimp sleeves that worked out great. Be careful you don't leave any wire hairs inside the crimp that can short the cable. I tape the back end of the connector sleeve where there might be a few wire hairs sticking out with my favorite tape, Scotch 700.

Now to the wires in trees. In addition to my 4 square I have had an 80M dipole supported with one end at 108 ft on the tower, and the opposite end with nylon rope over a tall treetop. I don't use pulleys...I just replace the rope after 5 years or so. In fact, I now have 7/16 braided nylon instead of 3/16 polyester that stood up well in the past, and I expect the nylon rope to last longer than the smaller polyester.

When I decided to replace the ropes at both ends of the dipole last year while rebuilding my whole station, I also decided I don't think I should be climbing this tower much any more. I happened to have some 1/8 phyllistran left over that I had used for boom trusses. I used two parallel 8 ft lengths between the insulator and the tower. I tied bowlines in the phyllistran, and taped up the knots. The two pieces of phyllistran fit nicely through the hole in the insulator; but the opposite end of the antenna was another story. 7/16 braided nylon doesn't fit through my insulators so I needed another solution.

My old friend, retired Navy WW2 radio op and a sailor, W2EUA (SK) introduced me to a great knot for tying two different diameter ropes together. I used a Sheep Bend (<http://www.animatedknots.com/sheepbend/#ScrollPoint>) to tie a short piece of phyllistran to the end of the 7/16 rope, and doubled it with a second piece just in case. I really think one piece of phyllistran would have been sufficient. I then taped it up with my Scotch 700 (I get royalties every time I say Scotch 700...just kidding).

OK...you ask how do I get the rope over a 80 ft tree. I credit Jim Parise, W1UK for coming up with the slingshot idea in an article published in QST when Jim was still a kid (hi Jim). I use a closed faced Zebco reel mounted on one arm of a slingshot with small hose clamps (I think you can still buy slingshots in CT Walmarks). I just got a new Zebco 202 reel for under \$6. It came loaded with 10lb test nylon monofilament line, but I wasn't sure how much they had on the reel. On the first shot with the new reel and line, I shot a 1 oz lead fishing sinker exactly where I wanted it, higher up the tree than ever before, and it came down to the ground.



The next step is to find where the sinker came down on the other side. Sometimes it actually falls freely to the ground and sticks into the ground, so you have to be careful not to reel it back too hard or you might break the line. I spray my sinkers with fluorescent orange paint to make it easier to find. In case it doesn't make it all the way to the ground, pull the line gently and release it a bit at a time, being careful to avoid having it wrap around a branch.

Once I have the sinker in hand, I tie the line to a loop in the end of a spool of brightly colored mason line, before I cut the sinker free. With the spool just lying on the ground, I reel in the line, pulling the mason line back to the reel. I next tie the mason line to the braided nylon rope using a sheep bend knot, and again tape the whole length of the rope loop and mason line knot with Scotch 700. It's important to tape it up as tight as possible, so it doesn't get caught when you pull it back over the tree. A nice thing about nylon and polyester rope is that you can keep the end from unraveling by melting it with a match or lighter. Don't touch that melted end before it cools off!

In more than 30 years of putting ropes over trees like this, I think I only had a rope break from abrasion once, before I got around to routinely replacing the rope. It takes a bit of practice with the slingshot, and sometimes more than one shot to get it where you want it. Whatever you do, if it doesn't go where you want it, let the sinker drop to the ground and cut it free, or guaranteed it will wrap around a branch when pulling it back.

**Framingham ARA Annual Spring Flea Market
Sunday, April 10, 2016,
9:00 AM to 12:00 noon**

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**Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC)
“Discover the HF Experience”
Sunday, April 10, 2016, 12:30-4 pm
Keefe Technical School, Framingham, MA**

The Framingham ARA Annual Spring Flea Market will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2016 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the Keefe Technical School in Framingham. Buyer's admission is \$5.00 and tables are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

This year, the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) will join the Framingham ARA Annual Spring Flea Market by holding an Open Meeting from 12:30-4 pm at the Keefe Technical School the day of the flea market. The YCCC program will be 'Discover the HF Experience', and we will hold the annual ARRL Youth Scholarship Raffle. All are welcome!

Contact Eric, KB1PJN, at 508-310-5913 to reserve tables, or go to fara.org/flea to reserve tables on line and for more general information. There will be refreshments, a VE session, and door prizes; the grand prize is a dual band HT!!

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YCCC ARRL Youth Scholarship Raffle!

Prize: Elecraft K3S/100 Kit !

Street value: \$2650 !

Tickets are \$25 per chance (cash or check)

Tickets ONLY sold at meetings

Drawing at April meeting (assuming enough tickets are sold)

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“Discover the HF Experience”
Sunday, April 10, 2016, 12:30-4 pm
Keefe Technical School, Framingham, MA

Fellow YCCCers,

Next weekend, in place of our regular April open-house meeting, we are doing an outreach event called "Discover the HF Experience". This is an outreach to non-hams, new Technician-level hams, or anyone who needs an HF refresher.

The schedule for the event will be quite tight -- as Tony will speak to, we need to elect officers, and we will hopefully hold the drawing for the Electcraft K3s.

We have a slate of speakers who will give 15-to-20 minute presentations on subjects such as:

- Bands and Propagation
- Building an HF Station
- Building effective, simple antennas
- Award Chasing on the HF Bands
- How the Internet enhances your HF Experience
- An Introduction to RadioSport

After each speaker completes, they will head for the location of the remotes, and offer to answer any questions the audience might have (while the next speaker continues.)

A BIG part of the event will be four internet remotes. We hope the attendees will each have an opportunity to make a memorable HF QSO. We will have access to the following HF stations:

K1TTT
W1KM
K2LE
VY1AAA
VE4EA
SK3W
KC1CWF
K6ND (possible)
W7RN (possible)

We will pick which remotes work best and stick with them. Marty, KC1CWF's station is a beginner's station with wires. We want to show that even a simple station can work well.

We have the presenters and remote-station-gear personnel all set. What we need are Elmers, Ops to come sit with a newbie and help them make a memorable HF QSO. Most contacts will be on SSB; Dennis, W1UE may do some RTTY.

We will set up in the large auditorium at the Technical High School in Framingham. The auditorium has a large walkway in the middle of the seating area. We will be setting up the remotes, as well as tables for the presenters to have interactive displays.

We need all hands on deck for this one - YCCC has received great exposure on this. ARRL has asked me to present a version of this, with the remotes, at the ARRL Expo @ Dayton 2016.

Our meeting begins at 12:30. We are not clear when we will have access to the building, so things might have to get set up very quickly.

I have been contacting vendors, and we will have some exciting door prizes for the attendees, including gift certificates, books, and Heil Headsets.

Please contact me if you can help next weekend! gerry@w1ve.com.

THANKS FOR ADDITIONAL WRTC-2018 DONATION

Worldwide Radio Operators Foundation, Inc
P O Box 10424
Midland, TX 79702
Tax ID: 27-1435449

Donor: Yankee Clipper Contest Club, Inc.
Date of Receipt: February 18, 2016
Type of Contribution: Cash
Amount of Contribution: \$1,000.00 U.S.
Purpose: WRTC-2018 Sponsorship

Dear Yankee Clipper Contest Club, Inc.:

On behalf of Worldwide Radio Operators Foundation, Inc., thank you for your generous donation as noted above.

WWROF is dedicated to improving the skills of amateur radio operators around the world, utilizing education, competition, advancement of technology and scientific research, promoting international friendship and goodwill, and preparing them to better serve society in times of communication need.

Donations are tax deductible under IRS 501 (c) (3) provisions. No goods or services were provided to you for this donation.

Sincerely,

Worldwide Radio Operators Foundation, Inc.

(Captain's Cabin: Continued from Page 1)

Then after the flea market closes down, we will be holding our meeting. Save for some minor official business (election of officers), the program will be dedicated to experiment #2, the first run of our 'Discover the HF Experience' program, aimed at getting all hams to take a taste of the HF spectrum. We're hoping that this program reaches the newly licensed, shack-on-the-belt types, and 'parked on VHF' Technicians, to get them to give HF a try. As contesters, we know that HF brings the magic of propagation and long-haul QSOs to the radio experience.

My thanks to Gerry, W1VE, for proposing and then taking ownership of this concept. We may not get it all right the first time, but with any luck we should make a difference and get some new-to-HF folks up and QSOing. Thanks also to those of you who will be participating in the production of this event, by making presentations and operating and demonstrating the HF remotes that are planned. If you haven't yet volunteered and want to help out, contact Gerry. See his article about the event in this issue for more information.

But why? Why should YCCC, a contest club, care about introducing hams to HF operation? Because, as I keep saying, sooner or later, most hams will become contesters. It is part of the inevitable, evolutionary journey through the various sub-facets of ham radio, via local rag-chewing, on to DXing, and ultimately Contesting. As the operator interest increases, skills are improved, new challenges are sought, and Contesting is where it all ends up.

So I guess you might think that we think this is a recruiting opportunity for the club. Well, if it is, it is a very long-ranged plan. No, we do not expect to sign up a dozen new members on Sunday. That would be great, but what would be greater is if we get a dozen hams who have never experienced HF operation to give it a try. When I think back on my own ham career, licensed at 14, Tech-parked on 6 meters, it was the lure of HF at age 23 that provoked me to accept the challenge of upgrading to Advanced Class. It was my desire to work long distances and experience the ethereal magic of propagation that gave me cause to take on the hard work of theory and CW preparations for the trip to the Customs House for the FCC Examination. This was a trip I have never regretted.

HF-neophyte hams who come to our program will hopefully be challenged and intrigued enough to give HF a try. While the barriers to entry are present in terms of station construction, certainly the licensing situation has eased quite a bit since many of us made our first QSO on HF. I believe it is part of our responsibility as a major radio club to serve the hams in our local area, and to provide more than just a haven for the hard-core contesters. If we can give a helping hand to an HF-neophyte, and show them a new side of ham radio they have not experienced before, that can only be in our best interest. And later on, when that ham runs his course through the sub-genres of ham pursuits, they will arrive at Contesting. And they will remember where HF began for them. At 'Discover the HF Experience', sponsored by YCCC, FARA, and the Port City ARC. They will return to YCCC as Contesters!

We will wrap up the afternoon's festivities by (hopefully) giving away a new K3S/100 kit to some deserving ham. While we reserve the right to postpone the drawing until enough tickets have been sold, I am optimistic we will reach that magic number and be able to hold the drawing at the April meeting. So be sure to bring some more money (cash or check) and buy some (more) raffle tickets to increase your chances of winning this great HF rig. What a great way that would be for someone to make their first HF QSO!

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Phonetics and Foreign Languages

Dave, K1NYK

I've occasionally wondered about changing the phonetics for my call, particularly the "N".

I generally use November but have also used Nancy and Norway.

One day, rather than being productive, I was playing with Google Translate. I wondered what each of those N letter phonetics sound like in other European languages.

Many know this app will speak the translation so off I went. First, Spanish, German, Norwegian and other languages were tried to see what Norway sounded like.

If you travel or speak more than English you already know the result. "Norway" sounds nothing like Norway. Nancy actually sounded pretty close in other languages so it might be a good choice. Except phonetics for K1NYK would have too many long E sounds: (K1 Nancee Yankee Kee-lo). In the end, November won out.

I mention this in case others are curious about how their callsign phonetics sound in other languages. Google Translate is available for Apple and Android phones.

YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF Dues for the year are payable as of January 1st. 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 - \$15/yr (Eligible for YCCC member benefits and electronic "Ebutt" delivery of Club newsletter)

Full Member - \$30/yr (Eligible for YCCC member benefits and paper 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 member benefits.)

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 "supportive friend of YCCC" - not a member but a possible candidate for future membership. Only receives club newsletter in paper or electronic form. \$10 for electronic "Ebutt" delivery domestically or overseas or \$25 for domestic paper delivery.)

Club members who move out of club territory and so are not eligible to contribute to club aggregate scores can continue to participate in the Club's e-mail reflector and receive the electronic "Ebutt" delivery of newsletter at no cost.

You can tell if you owe dues by checking your 'Butt mailing label or the Club roster in the Members Only section of the website.

NOTE: If your dues are paid to a March 31 date, then you now need to synchronize to the calendar year. Please see the "Dues" area on the Members Only section of the website for the pro-rated dues amount for a partial year.

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, by E-mail at n1sr@arrrl.net 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, Alec Berman, W2JU, 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 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

YCCC LOGO ITEMS <http://www.cafepress.com/n1k>

QSL CARDS are ordered through Tom, W1TO. To order, complete the QSL form from the YCCC website, send it to W1TO who will verify all information is included and send to UX5UO after resolving any issues. You will receive a proof copy directly from UX5UO. Approve the proof after resolving any issues with UX5UO. Email acceptance to UX5UO with copy to W1TO. Current price is \$45/thousand (matte) and \$49/thousand heavy matte. Payment to UX5UO representative, KD4POJ at Mr David Lipscomb, KD4POJ, 4201 13th Street NE, Minot, ND, 58703. eMail: kd4poj@srt.com

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 Lyn Glagowski, WB1CCL.

QSL BUREAU – The W1 QSL BUREAU is sponsored by the YCCC. For more information at: www.w1qsl.org Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 73, Marlborough, MA 01752-0073. Email address: w1qsl@w1qsl.org

ARRL COMMITTEE REPS are:

CAC: **New England** Dennis Egan, W1UE **Hudson** George Tranos, N2GA **Atlantic** Charles D Fulp Jr, K3WW

DXAC: **New England** Bob Beaudet, W1YRC **Hudson** Leslie P. Kalmus, W2LK **Atlantic** Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

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