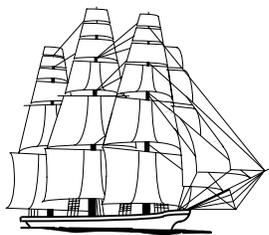


Yankee Clipper



Contest Club

Scuttlebutt

February 2001

Issue 152

Captain's Cabin

Don Toman - K2KQ toman@ibm.net

Happy 2001 everybody.

I was originally going to devote this column to a sort of *State of the Club* message, but since such a message traditionally contains a plan of action, I'll modify the goal and call it an inventory. I'll try to include what we do well and what we don't.

A couple of years ago, we discussed an informal club process model. It speaks of improving amateur radio in general and contesting in particular, through competition. Our contest performance is one measure of effectiveness. Others are yet to be determined and a lot harder to measure:

How many technical innovations have we introduced? How many young eyes have we lit up? What have we done to advance the cause of amateur radio? How many tower cases have we won? Better than that, how many tower cases have we helped others to win? See? It's hard to find good measures outside of contest performance, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try.

It looks as though we are in good shape for a third consecutive win of CQ WW. Our 2-mode total as of mid-January was 673 Meg to FRC's 504 Meg for a margin of 169 Meg. If we take an ordered sum of our scores and count from the low sum score to the high, we pass FRC's total at number 260 out of 280 scores. That means that we would have reached a winning total without the top 20 scores. YCCC's small stations count!

Are we ready to win ARRL DX again? Activity, hardware, determination and a little talent aren't enough. In order for scores to count for ARRL DX we need contributors to be eligible. To be eligible, a contributor must attend the ARRL required two meetings within the contest year and have dues in good standing before the end of the YCCC year on March 31. Art Holmes and Jeff Briggs have been chasing the dues and meeting requirements along with area managers. If you need to pay dues, do it. If you need a meeting or two, get to an area meeting and, by all means, come to the regular meeting at Worcester on Sunday, February 4, 2001. Even if you don't need a meeting, come anyhow. We will be happy to see you.

A point that may be lost in all this frenetic pre-contest activity is that *even if you are not going to operate in these contests, we want to see you!* Sometimes, we lose sight of the fact that YCCC is about friendship, kinship and development as much as it is

about making scores and winning contests. The open-ended pursuit of the elusive goal ties us together, but it shouldn't stop there!

A few examples of activities outside the big four contests might serve to illustrate.

Some of our number have been very busy promoting amateur radio (through the medium of contesting) among youngsters. In particular, Peter and Jeanne (WIDAD, and K1MOM), Ron, KK1L, Michael, K1JE and Jim, K1IR have opened up their homes and stations in connection with the kids' day activity.

Diane K2DO has been helping to develop interest in amateur radio among a group of Girl Guides in Grenada. She's written an article about her work that will appear in February QST.

One can only imagine the number of sparks that have been struck in the minds of the youngsters lucky enough to have interacted with these good people. Keep going. You're on the right track. Even if these people contributed zero score, they have been of immense help to the club.

On another front, I would like to highlight and thank the people who sort and distribute QSLs for the New England (first district) QSL bureau...especially the indefatigable Burt, W1ZS. YCCC sponsors the activity, but only about a dozen members of the club are actively involved in it. Have you ever tried to lift 50,000 QSLs? Can you imagine how much work is involved in picking up, pre-sorting and distributing that volume of QSLs every month?

(See Captain's Cabin – p. 2)

ARRL DX Contest Dates

CW – February 16-18

SSB – March 2-4

Yankee Clipper Contest Club

President	Don Toman, K2KQ (914)769-7838 toman@ibm.net
Vice President	Paul Young, K1XM (978) 562-5819 k1xm@underwater.org
Activities Manager	Ann Santos, WA1S (603) 673-9217 wals@arrl.net
Secretary	Charlotte Richardson, KQ1F (978) 562-5819 KQ1F@underwater.org
Treasurer	Ric Plummer, KV1W (978) 838-0368 ric@kv1w.com
Scuttlebutt Editor	Doug Scribner, K1ZO (603)352-0931 k1zo@arrl.net
Scuttlebutt Publisher	Art Holmes, W1RZF (508)478-2286 w1rzf@qnci.net

Area Managers

ME	Mike Russo, K1EU (207) 883-9524 k1eu@juno.com
ENH	Glen Whitehouse, K1GW (603) 673-6290 glenw@xtdl.com
WNH/SVT	Doug Scribner, K1ZO (603) 352-0931 k1zo@arrl.net
NE MA (978)	Henry Wilson, W1AAX (978) 927-6258 hwilson@nii.net
SE MA (508)	Greg Cronin, W1KM (508)-428-4205 w1km@aol.com
Boston (617/781)	Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P (617)-524-6370 jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu
WMA (413)	Tom Homewood, W1TO (413) 743-7342 w1to@arrl.net
CT (860)	Joe Natale, K1JN (860) 536-2021 k1jn@arrl.net
CT (203)	Ira Stoler, K2RD (203) 254-3084 stoler@erols.com
RI	Ted Perry, W1WFZ (401) 397-8865 w1wfz@aol.com
NNY	George Wilner, K2ONP (518) 279-4025 k2onp@aol.com
NY	Rich Gelber, K2WR (212) 580-1075 k2wr@njdx.org
LI	Mike Anderson, N2TX (516) 666-0668 n2tx@ws.quik.com
SNY/NJ/PA	Hank Kiernan, KF2O (914) 235-4940 hankkier@aol.com
NVT	Paul Gayet, AA1SU (802) 860-1134 AA1SU@email.msn.com

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(Captain's Cabin from p. 1)

Burt is about to retire from at least the heavy lifting part of the activity. More of YCCC should get involved. Distributing the workload will make it much easier for everyone. We certainly have the numbers to do it and, considering that YCCC accounts for about 90 percent of the bureau's volume, the club really has a responsibility. Let's see how many we can draw in to this important activity.

Here are a few statistics to ponder with regard to club participation:

- A typical regular meeting draws 50-75 people...about 15-25 percent of the membership.
- A typical area meeting draws about 15-20. Depending on the area, that's anywhere from half to about a quarter of the *area* membership.
- An on-the-air meeting attracts up to 20 (3-6%), but the total number of members who have checked in to at least one is close to a third.
- A typical J3 operation draws 1 to 3 percent of the membership and contributes about 8 percent of the club score. Other multi operations contribute about the same percentage for twice the participation. The average member contributes about 0.3 percent of the total score. The largest single scorer contributes 2 percent.

From all that (and you can make up your own measures), you can see that this is really a large collective enterprise. Our Yankee spirit is that we tend to operate best from the bottom up as distinct from top down.

A good way to herd cats is to sound like a can opener and stand back. We are you, you are us, and we need every one of you

SNY/NJ Meeting – 1/15/01

Hank Kiernan - KF2O hankkier@aol.com

The SNY/NJ Area held a meeting at Nat's Place in Elmsford, NY, on Monday Jan. 15. 18 people attended: KF2O, K1ZM, N3MV, K2KQ, AE2F, N2KIM, WA2RF, AA2MF, K2WR, WR2I, N2FF, K2SX, K2LE, NA2M, N2UN, W2LK, W2AX and W2GLA (a guest).

With this meeting credit, the Area can now challenge all the other Areas to match our 100% ARRL eligible status! Every active member from the area is dues paid and meetings eligible!

Nat's Place supplied the usual good food and beverages, albeit a bit slowly. Don, K2KQ gave an update on the CQ WW contest, pointing out that our apparent victory margin exceeded our 20 largest scores. Jeff, K1ZM, had his A61AQ tapes to listen to. And N2FF, Frank, posted us on current happenings at the ARRL Board, especially on the no-CW battlefield, as well as some thoughts about WARC 2003 and the NY state PRB-1 law prospects. The meeting concluded with the usual resolution, to KICK BUTT.

December Meeting Minutes

Chris Terkla - N1XS cterkla@ici.net

The regular meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest club was called to order by President Don Toman, K2KQ at 1:10 PM on December 3, 2000. There were 44 members present. Don opened the meeting recognizing that the World Champion YCCC was looking good in its bid for a third consecutive win with 300 M plus entered for SSB and a current total over 290 M for CW.

All present introduced themselves. There were no new people present wishing to join. One person re-joined after several years of absence. Art, W1RZF had many handouts on the performance of the teams and individuals as well as copies of the contest cookbook.

Don announced that he had news from Charlie, N1RR, that member Tom Tiniski K2CIW had become a SK and also on the passing of Doug Grant's (K1DG) father.

Hats, Pins and mugs were available for those who had earned them for participation last contest season. Hats for those who had participated in the four major contests, pins for anyone with at least one contest and mugs for the top 50 contributors.

Don then took a deserved moment to brag about the outstanding job the J3A team did this year for the YCCC. Comparing the numbers and band breakdowns from last year vs. this year, he highlighted the performances of the crew there. In the final analysis in 1999, 8 of 10 ops for SSB were YCCC members, and 4 of 6 for CW were YCCC. The net for 1999 was 36 M for YCCC. In 2000 ALL of the score went to YCCC (all our operators) and the net total is a whopping 53 million points!

Awards for the ARRL Team competition were handed out. Team 15 (The Wired Weirdos) came in first. Members were: WC1M, W1CU, W1FJ, W1AAX, WM1K, N1JP, K1VV, W1NA, W1RY, K1JB, and K2WR. All members received a gold medal and a plaque for their efforts. Second place silver medallists were Team 20 whose members included: K1MOM, N1PEA, WF2B, W2PS, W1DAD, K1TR, K1NU, N2TX, N1EU, K2XA. And finally the bronze medals went to Team 17 (The Buccaneers). Team 17's members were: N1CX, K2RD, K1LZ, K1IR, W1VE, K1HT, N3MV, NZ1Q, N1NQD, W6PH, WQ1H, KA1DZV, W1PL, WR1P, KE1GQ.

Congratulations to all the winners. These three teams really stood well out in front of the rest of the teams. With a spread of just over 2.2 million between them, and then a drop of 6 million to the fourth place team. K2KQ mentioned that his share from J3A was 10M already so he is looking forward to a big score for his team (number nine).

A question was posed as to who J3G was. Don answered that it was a team of 3 operators from G-land. They operated from the highest point on Grenada, and they put in a 7M m/s effort.

Ann, WA1S made a presentation on the K5K Kingman Reef DX-Pedition. The 15 operators met in Hawaii and continued on to Christmas then Palmyra and finally KH5K; Kingman Reef. The reef is 700 feet long by a maximum of 55 feet wide (only 35 feet average). The picture did not make it look that big! With 11 days spent on the reef, of which 9 days were operating due to

delays setting up in rough weather, the DX-Pedition turned in a total of 80,841 QSOs. This placed them #3 in the all time list, behind ZL9CI and A52A. This was done in less time than either of the other two! Ann answered that she had to twist a few arms, but was able to convince them to operate in the contest. She said the key factor was that it would be a good way to increase the QSO count. Ann also mentioned that there were about 17,808 unique stations that had worked the K5K DX-Pedition. Ann fielded several questions on what programs were used to log, what rigs etc. Bottom line was that all logging was done with CT, not networked for RFI reasons. Rigs were ICOM 756 PROs (that worked very well). Antennas were all verticals, which in the salt water environment outperformed at least the A3 tribander that was tried, hands down. In fairness to the A3...it was only 15 feet up.

Don, introduced the subject of the legislation recently enacted that will allow local city and town governments to adopt laws regarding interference from CB radios running high power. This is an area of concern since enforcement will fall into the hands of a local police department that may not have knowledge or experience in this area. Don suggests that a proactive introduction the local authorities may be a solution. Sort of a hello, I am K2KQ and here is my licensed station...and so on. This could be scary. Also we may need to keep alert as to how some of the recent cellular phone legislation (prohibiting use in a car in motion) may have repercussions to Amateur radio mobile use. Brookline, MA was specifically mentioned. Please be alert to local legislation at Town meetings etc. Tom K1KI, added that the CB enforcement legislation started in Wisconsin some three years ago. The authors were receptive to working with and excluding "Amateur Operations" but the final wording at this moment is unknown, and the bill again is pointed at empowering local authorities to enact rules on this topic. Again the word is be alert and proactive to any local efforts that may arise.

Tom, K1KI also presented the official gavel to Don for the official winning of the ARRL DX 2000 competition. It is official 2 years running!

Don announced a brief break at 2:45 PM. Oddly enough, Jack W1WEF announced that he had CW keying interfaces for sale. Art W1RZF would also take any dues from anyone willing to pay them.

After the break, Don K2KQ made his half of the presentation on what DVKs, DVPs are and how they interact with CT and Writelog. The main point is that these devices can save a lot of effort and fatigue during the SSB contests. Don reviewed the pros and cons of each. In short, there really is no reason to not use these devices. DVKs offer the ability to give you prerecorded messages played back, and need no software or computer to run. They cannot be controlled by a computer or keyboard and cannot record from the contest. DVPs require a PC but offer keyboard control, recording and in general are more flexible. Also in the realm of DVPs there are DVPs like K1EA's and then some programs that use the computer's soundcard. The sound card models can be more tedious and

(See Minutes – p. 4)

(Minutes from p. 3)

complex to set up, and may be susceptible to RFI and hum, but offer much more flexibility in the areas of RTTY, PSK-31, SSTV and DSP functions.

Don then played a professionally-produced tape of the WRTC 1990 competition. It was an interesting tape highlighting the first World Radiosport Championship. Many familiar faces were present and some familiar call signs were heard! This competition was won by our own K1AR and K1DG. These operators in this contest overcame what were some unique blocks to getting all of the competitors here in the US for this test. In 1990, the competition was done in conjunction with the Goodwill Games. It is now done using the IARU contest in July. Also noteworthy was the phrase Martti Laine (OH2BH) used in the tape citing amateur operators as being "Unique Diplomats to our planet".

After the tape was finished Don made a plea for someone to step forward to take the reins of a YCCC hosting of WRTC 2004. No one has stepped forward to date, and a decision needs to be made soon. There seems to be support for the idea, but there must be a person to take charge. Ideally it should be a New England resident that is recognized around the world in Ham Radio. Don has approached several people so far, but none have accepted. Don asked for some enthusiasm in finding out who we might have in the ranks to handle this task. Don read an essay he wrote that he hopes will encourage someone, and it will be posted to the website. It highlights how our geographic location can contribute towards the YCCC hosting a first rate WRTC-2004 competition. Don urges every member to consider who in the club may be a capable person for this task and to discuss it with them and hopefully bring this forward so that the #1 contest club in the world can show it!

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM. The next meeting will be in February at Worcester State College.

CT Area Meeting – 1/13/01

Joe Natale – K1JN k1jn@arrl.net

A regional meeting of the YCCC was held at 1:00 P.M on January 13, 2001, at the QTH of Dick Pechie, KB1H in East Killingly, CT. The following members were in attendance: KA1VMG, K1EBY, N1XS, KB1H, N1YLA, KB1LN, AA1CE, KB1DFB, N1MD, N1JW, W3TB, N4XR, AK1N, NB1U, N1BU, and K1JN. Many of those in attendance were part of the KB1H "Barnstormer" multi crew.

After a period of informal conversation, attendance was taken, KB1LN and N1JW paid dues for the upcoming year, participation pins were given out, and several members took the opportunity to check their eligibility status. Copies of the Contest Cookbook and the latest Scuttlebutt were made available.

The first timers to KB1H made a tour of the operating area and impressive antenna farm. There was a lot of interest in the 80 meter four square array. KB1H and crew provided much information on the building and performance of the various

antennas. W3TB found the plans for vertical arrays that he had been looking for in the extensive library. KB1LN climbed the 10 meter tower despite the cold to repair the mount on a 440 beam.

After more informal discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M. I'd like to thank KB1H and crew for their hospitality and an insight into what goes into building and operating a multi-multi station.

A New Contest Entry Class?

Tom Hurley – K1TH TOMHURLEY@aol.com

I see a new class of operator in the YCCC emerging that, if organized, could bring the club to even higher point totals.

I'd call it SOA-dbC, and I'm just one of many in that group who participated in last weekend's CQWW CW Contest.

Old timers categorize ops by the length of a gun; or by attitude, either 'serious' or 'casual.' I suggest a new group exists. In politically correct terms we'd be Single Op Assisted - db Challenged.

We're serious when we operate, but we don't run much. We use tribanders and wires. We use the cluster and we S&P a lot. And we sign our call after EVERY QSO when we do run.

My suggestion for improved scores is for all SOA-dbC'ers to help each other, and the multi-ops as well, by spotting every station we work while tuning up the band. Spot the big guns for the umpteenth time and the weak European who is struggling with a slow run. Spot your dupes as well. If you hear it, spot it! It takes only a split-second keystroke if your radio talks to your computer. The goal is to keep every assisted station's bandmaps populated with info on what's happening NOW.

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This becomes extremely important late on Sunday when an SOA arrives on a new band and hears lots of signals, but must wade through lots of his/her own dupes to find a new station or mult. There's always new stations to work. Why aren't they on the bandmap?

(See Contest – p. 5)

(Contest – p. 5)

How many times have we SOA-dbc'ers waited for a super-strong EU powerhouse to FINALLY ID only to discover it's a dupe? Or slipped over a weak station? We waste too much time.

To improve scores with db-Challenged stations means we have to go faster....improve that q rate/hour.

One answer is a bandmap that's as full as possible. And only we can help each other go faster.

Just my thought. How about yours?

By the way, I operate a KA-Node linked to the YCCC RF network and know about channel loading. On contest weekends, I post a respectful, but dire, warning inviting only ACTIVE contest stations to connect. We stayed up all weekend.

When I suggested SOAdbc to a local YCCCer, Don, AA1V, came up with a truly practical solution to keeping bandmaps populated. Keep six to twelve "listen-and-spot-only" stations going for the whole contest. These ops don't need fancy contest stations. Their job would be to perform the re-con mission of simply roving the bands and spotting everything they hear. Of course, they won't appear in the listings with a score, but they would be the unsung heroes for the multi-op and assisted stations. I'm sure the YCCC could come up with a special award for this service. And it might appeal to a special kind of op.

Contesting On A Clip

Dave Jones - W2GDJ

wb2ylr@worldnet.att.com

After spending a successful weekend in this years CQWW Phone contest I became somewhat disappointed knowing that such a commitment of time would not be possible for the CW weekend in November. My XYL and I had already made plans to spend Thanksgiving weekend with our son in South Carolina. I pondered the possibility of trying to find a contest station in South Carolina. After tossing that idea out the window I was on my own to create a situation where I could at least get on the air and put together some kind of log for the club. The thought of a big goose egg next to my call for the CW weekend was scary. At that point I began to create my contest strategy.

The night before leaving for South Carolina I packed my Radio Shack HTX-100, dipole antenna for 10 meters, computer and keying interface. We headed south and had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Friday morning came and I had to string my 10 meter dipole on my sons second floor balcony out of the neighbors view. Having done this sort of thing before my covert operating practices were put to the test. I connected the coax and RF flew to the far reaches of the universe. Soon my 15 or so watts were being heard on SSB in Europe and Africa. Wow, now this is Ham Radio at its best, now the clip.

I dug into my bag only to find that my CW keying interface was no here to be found. Well it was safe at home and never made the trip to South Carolina. No problem, I'll run to the mall and

pick up a straight key at Radio Shack and I'll be ready to make some Q's . Well I found out pretty quick that was a mistake. I didn't see any keys in the store and the guy behind the counter gave me a funny look when I asked for one. Must have been that weird New York accent that did it. Now my creative genius would have to be pressed to its maximum. I've heard of people homebrewing keys but I always thought it was not my cup of tea, unless I was desperate and I was.

I went to my car to see what I could use to make a key. On the dashboard was the clip, aka paperclip that is. Under the seat was a piece of wire with a fork connector on it. My hard drive started to spin and creative juices started to flow. I taped the connector to a mouse as a keyer platform and the paperclip was adjusted for the correct spacing and action . Wires were connected and I was ready to punish myself and the DX stations in the contest. I was able to send with a fairly good rhythm and the stations on the receiving end were most kind in struggling through it all. Thanks to all those who worked me during the contest your patience was very much appreciated. In all I made 100 QSO's in the 3 hours I could put in and 52 countries. I came home and hugged my tower, amplifier and radio and promised never to say anything bad about them again.

If the recent Presidential Election is any example it could be that the paperclip could put the YCCC over the top if the contest results are close.



J3A The Second Time Around

Ed Deichler – K2TE k2te@aol.com

Don, K2KQ, has written a couple of articles about the club's expeditions to Grenada to operate J3A in the recent CQ Worldwide contests and asked that some of us who operated to share our experiences. Last year, I was fortunate to participate in a major contest expedition for the first time as part of the J3A CW team. I operated mostly on 160 and 80 meters during the 1999 contest, content to dig Qs out of the constant noise on those bands. With 5 other operators, all veterans of previous contests and DXpeditions, I was the rookie of the bunch. I worked about 1300 Qs to contribute to the effort as we managed to rack up just under 22M points for the club.

This year, as Don went about organizing the 2000 expeditions, I had the opportunity to make the trip again to operate for a second time. The initial survey of the YCCC members indicated that we would have 9 operators, which would make for a relaxed contest. As things began to firm up, however, the list of operators shrank to 4, making it questionable to operate anything more than a multi-single effort. After consulting with other club members experienced with DX and contest operations, we decided to bite the keyer and go with a multi-multi effort. To make it more interesting, we set a goal of 20M points for the effort. We'll worry about sleep when the time comes.

Don anchored our crew that included Ann, WA1S, a veteran of many DXpeditions (K5K being the most recent) and several J3 operations; Dennis, NB1B, who recently operated VB9R, and me. I've been hamming for 37 years and contesting for 12 years yet I still felt like a newbie. Most of my contesting modus operandi has been to do search and pounce, running a frequency for a few hours usually during the second half of the contest. I knew that with no operating slack time for the contest that I needed to hone my operating skills for running pileups. To get ready, I downloaded the Ped contest simulation program to practice handling pileups. One of the club's veteran contesters said the program is not easy which is an understatement. I used the program set for 4 stations at a time and found myself tensing up badly trying to keep a rate up. I did manage to get the rate meter up to 140 to 170 during the sessions that I operated. Well, I thought, this is a lot more practice than I did last year and I am planning to operate a lot more before the contest as J3/K2TE than I did last year.

Once in Grenada, it didn't take Don and I long at all to get set up since the 40-meter beam is permanently installed and a Cushcraft A3S and 80-meter inverted V were installed on the new 40-foot tower near the kitchen. Setting up 4 stations was also an easy task. The plan was to have 3 TS-570DG transceivers and a FT-1000MP. Using the FT-1000MP was no problem since I own one so I concentrated on getting comfortable with the TS-570. This may sound like a small thing but it can be a very big problem when a contest starts and the operator is unfamiliar with the rig. I found this out the hard way last year when I started out on 160 using a TS-990. I did not work one station for the first 2 hours of the contest although I could hear plenty of them. I switched over to another band while Don tried his luck. After several fruitless minutes, Don hooked up another rig and began working stations barefoot, squarely pointing a finger at the rig. Grabbing a flashlight – the lights not working due to a previous power failure – Don discovered that

the RIT control was all the way over to one side, resulting in my receive frequency being off by 2+ kHz. Thus was my inauspicious debut to J3A!

With last year's fiasco still in my mind, I kicked off J3/K2TE about 2000Z on 15 meters to catch the European after-dinner crowd. As expected, the pileup grew quickly and I went split a couple kHz up. I became engrossed in knocking down stations rapidly, becoming more relaxed as I passed 50, 60, and up to 100 stations in the log during the hour. I was so busy working stations that I did not bother to check my rate meter. Somewhere after 2 hours Don waved a hand in front of my face to force me to check the time (I mean REALLY look at it) to tell me it was time to QRT and go eat. I nodded with a satisfied grin and over 350 Qs in the log in 2 and ½ hours. Not bad, I thought, considering I had only worked 170 stations before the contest last year.

The next day I had the chance to get on earlier in the afternoon and decided to jump on 40 meters. My rate was not as high as 15 meters based on the time I operated. I managed to get 123 Qs in the log in about 2 hours of operation. After a meal break I switched to 17 meters with the 40 meter beam which worked fine without the tuner. It didn't take long to realize the JAs desperately needed J3 on 17 as I had a big pileup going. I logged 70 Qs in 50 minutes when Don's amused look and my stomach growling told me enough for the day. Although my rate was not as good as the day before, I was more comfortable working the pileups on different bands and in different parts of the world.

My last stint before the contest found me on 10 meters during Friday afternoon. This time I made a point of working stations on my transmit frequency so that I could get used to contest operation. I was overjoyed to find myself running nearly 130 stations/hour during the time I was on 10. Altogether, I logged 992 stations as J3/K2TE with a fairly even split on 4 bands.

The start of the contest found me ready to do battle on 40 meters. As something of a MHz bottom feeder, this was fine with me. Ann was poised to run on 15 meters while Dennis would tackle 20. Don was going to start on 10 meters then switch to 80 and 160 as time and propagation changed. The plan was for Dennis and I to operate all night taking turns to catch multipliers on 80 and 160. Don and Ann would take a sleep break about 1 or 2 in the morning to be ready to tackle 10 and 15 meters at daybreak.

I found the contest to be an extension of my warm-up of the past few days, exactly as I wanted it to be. The nice thing about being a needed multiplier is that I didn't have to go looking for the multipliers that came across packet. It didn't take long to fill the log with plenty of multipliers from big gun operations to the rare countries calling me. At one point, I glanced at the rate meter and discovered that it was over 800! I can't possibly be working stations THAT FAST, I thought, before I realized that it was the total of our 4 stations. I did notice that after 9 hours of operation I had put 930 Qs in the log on 40 meters. Not a bad rate I thought given the noise level on 40 compared to the higher bands and the beginnings of fatigue. When Don arrived about sunrise, I was ready to hand it over to him to fire up on 10 while I took a short nap. (See J3A – p. 7)

(J3A from p. 6)

I got up a few hours later to relieve Dennis on 20 meters while he crashed. I wasn't on 20 very long when I noticed the SWR suddenly going infinite. The weather did not appear to be a concern with the antenna so it was time to poke around. After a while the problem went away, apparently a loose connection between the FT-1000MP and the Henry 2K. I worked a few hundred stations until late in the afternoon when it was time to switch over to 40 meters. Don moved over to the 10/80/160 position to continue running 10 while Dennis and I resumed our runs on 20 and 40 respectively.

The second half of the contest was similar to the first with the exception of the infamous flare Sunday afternoon. When the computer clock rolled over to Monday, there were 4 very happy fat cats (just an expression, gang) leaning back and savoring the moment. We had amassed 11,980 Qs and 24.7M points shattering our goal of 20M for a phenomenal performance. Our only misgiving was that we did not move 40 meters over to the 15 meter station once 15 died and run 80 meters at the 40 meter desk so that 3 ops could have cranked through the night. Given our performance, it is a small misgiving.

For my part, I still find it hard to believe I worked 2109 stations on 40 and several hundred more on the other bands. My personal best during CQ Worldwide from K2TE was over 1600 Qs. Granted I was on the DX end as a needed multiplier but running almost constantly had a lot to do with it. There have been many threads here regarding the virtues of running which is a no-brainer for running up a score. Pileup operating techniques are another thread that I don't need to continue here. I thoroughly enjoyed the operating high point of my hamming life and look forward to doing it again in 2001 using the skills and tricks I picked up from the J3A 2000 CW team!

New CT Area Manager

Joe Natale – K1JN k1jn@arrl.net

Effective January 2001, I will be assuming CT area manager duties currently held by Jack Schuster, W1WEF. I'd like to say thank you to Jack for the time and effort he put into a job well done!

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Joe Natale and I live in Mystic, CT. I was first licensed as a novice in 1979 as KA1DLL. In 1980 I upgraded to general and then advanced and got the call KA1MH. I returned to the hobby in 1994 after an 11 year absence. I became friends with the members of the CTRI contest group and operated at their multi-single contest station in North Stonington for several seasons. In June '96 I passed my Extra exam and in September of '96 I got my present call, K1JN.

In 1998 I was able to put up a 72' freestanding tower at home and I have been operating single op assisted since. I joined YCCC in the fall of '99 and became a member of Team 19.

Membership in the club has helped my contesting efforts

dramatically.

Preliminary plans are to hold area meetings every other month beginning in January. I'm looking at possible meeting sites and will post the date and place as soon as arrangements are finalized. I look forward to meeting as many club members as possible. Suggestions and feedback are always welcome. My home phone number is 860-536-2021 and my email address is k1jn@arrl.net

I hope your holidays are joyous and wish everyone a successful contesting season in 2001.

ARRL Eligibility...A Primer

Jeff Briggs – K1ZM k1zm@aol.com

A couple have written on this topic. ARRL rules differ from CQWW eligibility rules and they bear repeating from time to time - so we all know them and can follow them.

Here again are the eligibility requirements for participation in ARRL DX 2001:

- 1) You must be a member in good standing within YCCC (that means that you joined at a general or local meeting and were voted into the Club)
- 2) You must be "current" with your dues (we do allow a one-year grace period with dues - but we ONLY offer that as a "safe-harbor" rule with YCCC. You are ****expected**** to pay ur dues each and every year to KVIW. This goes for ALL members.)
- 3) You must attend any combination of two (2) general or local meetings during our current contest year - which for this year is 1 April 2000 – 31 March 2001. (Meetings in 1999 do not count - sorry!) You can, however, operate the contests and still round out your meeting requirements AFTER the contest by attending one/two of the various local/regional meetings that may be announced for your area. If you fall into this situation, pse watch this reflector - 3 local meetings have already been announced in NH & one in CT at KB1H. Get to a local meeting if you can....

Former YCCC members (who may have been inactive for a few years) can become eligible again by:

Paying their current dues

Attending their two meetings within the contest year period above (It is NOT necessary to re-join the Club and be voted in formally again - KQ1F keeps extensive records of former YCCC members going back into the 1980's and beyond - so we know pretty well who our historical membership base has been over time. Quite a few inactive members have again made the jump to active status over the years - so keep this in mind if you happen to know a local ham who was once a member of YCCC! We are always glad to welcome them back.....)

(See ARRL Eligibility – p. 8)

(ARRL Eligibility from p. 7)

4) For MULTIOperator entries - 2/3 or 67% of the ops comprising the TEAM must be ELIGIBLE members of YCCC. Example: If there are 6 ops at a MULTI-SINGLE or MULTI-MULTI, 4 of the 6 ops must:

- A) Be members of YCCC
- B) Be dues current (or safe-harbored)
- C) Have made 2 meetings between 1 April 2000 - 31 March 2001

If you have a 9 person crew at a multi, then 6 of the 9 ops must pass this test.

Don't GET CAUGHT NAPPING with an ineligible operator percentage!!!! Station owners at multis have the burden of checking the eligibility of their crews before letting them in the chair. Otherwise, your team might make 10MEG in ARRL CW but YCCC would not get the score - so pse be VIGILANT!!

As a reminder, if you have a 6 man crew and 4 ops are fully ARRL-eligible, the remaining 2 ops can be:

- 1) Non-YCCC members (you might use your operation as a training/recruiting ground for new YCCC members!)
- 2) YCCC members who for some reason (usually missed meetings) may NOT otherwise be eligible.

So, this means to say that while an ineligible YCCC member may NOT submit a single op entry HE OR SHE CAN PARTICIPATE AT A MULTI - as long as the overall 67% ARRL eligibility rule test has been passed by virtue of the REST OF THE TEAM.

So here is a simple guide for ARRL :

- 1) With 6 ops - 2 can be non-members or YCCC members who are not eligible
- 2) With 9 ops - 3 can be non-members or YCCC members who are not eligible
- 2) With 12 ops - 4 can be non-members or YCCC members who are not eligible

So, the point here is that you can still find ways to help YCCC - if you yourself are ineligible - but you have to do it at a MULTI and the multi has to pass the ARRL 2/3 rule test by virtue of its OTHER ELIGIBLE YCCC member ops.

If anyone has any questions, pse write to me and I will be glad to help further.

And, pse ****get eligible**** if you can - pay ur dues and make those two meetings while there is still ample opportunity to do so!

The following very important items were received after Jeff submitted his article...KIZO

From Charlotte – KQ1F

1) Handicapped Members DO NOT have to make meetings. Charlotte knows who these members are and tracks their eligibility accordingly.

2) New Members who join YCCC are only required to make ONE meeting in the year they first join YCCC. Thereafter, they must make two meetings during the period 1 April - 31 March each year like everyone else.

3) A former YCCC member (inactive for more than 12 months) who re-activates himself/herself by paying dues and coming to a meeting (general/regional) is treated as a NEW MEMBER for the purposes of eligibility.

Note: In good faith we ****don't**** abuse this one. Usually, what really happens is that someone goes inactive for 2-3 years or MORE - then comes active again. In such cases, the application of this special dispensation is appropriate. It should not be abused.

From Dave – K1HT

I'd like to bring up two more issues that affect eligibility of scores in ARRL DX.

If a YCCC member operates, single-operator, as a guest operator at a non-DX station, the owner of that station must also be an eligible member of YCCC.

This rule does not apply when the operation is a DXpedition, but it does mean that any non-DX operation must be from a station within the YCCC club territory. For example, if I go back to West Virginia and enter ARRL DX as a single operator from W8AH, my score will not count toward the YCCC club score. Similarly, an operation in Canada would not count.

These rules for ARRL DX are different from the rules for CQWW DX. So much for the "lecture." The "quiz" will be next month.

Member Eligibility List

Thanks to K1XM, K1ZM and W1RZF

The following two pages list member eligibility data for the upcoming ARRL DX Contests. This list is current as of January 9, 2001. If you see any errors or have any questions contact either Charlotte – kq1f@underwater.org or Ric – ric@kv1w.com.

PLEASE CHECK THIS LIST!!

- 2001 Calendar -

February 4	YCCC meeting - Worcester
February 16-18	ARRL DX CW
February 23-25	CQ WW 160 SSB
March 2-4	ARRL DX Phone
April 1	YCCC meeting/elections
June 2	YCCC Meeting

OK

NG1A
 N1AO
 W1AO
 K1AR
 NB1B
 WF1B
 N1BB
 K1BD
 W1BIH
 K1BV
 AD1C
 AG1C
 N1CPC
 W1CSM
 W1CU
 N1CX
 KG1D
 NF1D
 W1DAD
 W1DAR
 N1DD
 W1DEO
 K1DG
 N1DG
 KK1DX
 NR1DX
 W1DYH
 NY1E
 KD1EA
 K1EBY
 W1ECT
 KB1EKJ
 W1EL
 K1EO
 K1EP
 K1EPJ
 W1EQ
 W1ES
 K1EU
 N1EU
 KC1F
 KQ1F
 NJ1F
 WA1FCN
 W1FJ
 W1FM
 K1FTA
 KI1G
 KR1G
 W1GF
 N1GR
 K1GU
 K1HI
 W1HI

N1HKO
 N1HRA
 K1HT
 N1IC
 KE1IH
 K1IR
 KE1IR
 N1IUN
 KS1J
 KV1J
 NI1J
 K1JB
 W1JCC
 K1JE
 K1JN
 N1JP
 N1JW
 NQ1K
 WM1K
 K1KI
 KA1KIX
 WA1KKM
 W1KM
 W1KT
 K1KU
 N1KWF
 KK1L
 K1LD
 KE1LI
 KB1LN
 K1LOM
 N1LW
 K1LZ
 WC1M
 K1MA
 K1MBO
 W1MD
 K1MK
 N1MM
 K1MOM
 K1MV
 K1MY
 AK1N
 NT1N
 WO1N
 W1NA
 N1ND
 K1NU
 KT1O
 K1OA
 W1OHM
 AA1ON
 K1PTF
 AA1QD

W1QK
 NT1R
 N1RC
 N1RL
 W1RM
 K1RO
 K1RQ
 K1RV
 K1RX
 N1RY
 W1RY
 W1RZF
 WA1S
 K1SD
 K1SG
 W1SJ
 N1SP
 N1SR
 AA1SU
 N1SV
 K1TEX
 K1TH
 W1TO
 K1TS
 K1TTT
 K1TW
 K1TWF
 N1TZ
 W1UK
 K1UM
 K1UQ
 AA1V
 KF1V
 W1VB
 W1VE
 N1VI
 KA1VMG
 K1VR
 K1VSJ
 K1VUT
 K1VV
 KA1VWX
 KB1W
 KV1W
 W1WAI
 K1WCC
 K1WD
 W1WEF
 N1WEZ
 W1WFZ
 WR1X
 K1XM
 N1XS
 K1ZA

K1ZM
 K1ZO
 N1ZRD
 W1ZS
 W1ZT
 WA1ZYX
 K1ZZ
 N1ZZN
 KC2AIY
 WF2B
 K2BX
 K2DO
 K2EP
 AE2F
 WE2F
 KC2FEE
 N2FF
 N2GA
 N2GC
 W2GDJ
 N2KIM
 WB2KLD
 K2KQ
 N2LBR
 W2LK
 NA2NA
 N2NI
 KF2O
 K2ONP
 K2RD
 WA2RF
 K2TE
 K2TR
 W2WB
 K2WR
 NT2X
 K2XA
 K2XF
 W2XX
 K2ZP
 K3BU
 N3KCJ
 W3SM
 W3TB
 N4XR
 K5MA
 K5ZD
 W6FC
 W6PH
 N6RFM
 KD6YYW
 N7NG
 N7PRD
 WB8IMY

N9KAU
 K0TV

Need 1 Meeting

AA1AA
 W1AAX
 N1AU
 W1AY
 W1AZ
 AE1B
 N1BSO
 N1BU
 AB1BX
 W1CC
 AA1CE
 NN1D
 K1DC
 KB1DFB
 N1DS
 K1EA
 W1EAT
 KB1FJ
 KE1FO
 W1FV
 K1GW
 KB1H
 W1IA
 N1IXF
 W1JAD
 W1JR
 K1KD
 KE1KD
 K1KMD
 K1KP
 N1KRT
 KS1L
 K1LI
 W1LLU
 W1MA
 N1MD
 W1MK
 K1MO
 AA1MY
 NC1N
 N1NQD
 W1NR
 W1NT
 KM1P
 NZ1Q
 W1RH
 N1RR
 W1SBD
 N1SNB

N1SOH
 KB1T
 N1TB
 W1TJL
 N1TM
 NB1U
 W1UQ
 W1US
 N1UVA
 WN1V
 K1VW
 N1XJA
 K1XX
 N1XYU
 K1YL
 K1YR
 KC1YR
 WA1ZAM
 KA1ZD
 K2AJY
 W2AX
 WK2H
 K2LE
 NA2M
 AA2MF
 N2MG
 KM2P
 K2SX
 WZ2T
 N2UN
 W2UV
 W2YG
 N2YHK
 W2ZU
 N3MV
 KM3T
 NY6DX
 N8RA

Need 2 Meetings

K1AE
 KB1AWE
 W1AX
 W1BK
 K1BW
 K1BX
 K1CC
 K1CN
 WC1D
 KW1DX
 N1EDM
 KA1ERF
 W1GDW

Need 2
(cont.)
 K1GQ
 W1GQ
 N1GS
 KK1H
 KD1HN
 N1HOQ
 NC1I
 K1KRY
 W1LRY
 N1LYA
 WS1M
 WV1M
 K1MD
 KA1NCN
 W1NG
 W1NHS
 KA1O
 WT1O
 WA1OFR
 K1OZ
 N1PEA
 W1PL
 K1PVT
 W1QA
 WA1QGC
 W1QJ
 KA1R
 K1RM
 K1RU
 N1RWM
 K1SF
 K1ST
 AB1T

W1TE
 N1TO
 K1TR
 K1TXH
 N1TXM
 N1UEQ
 W1UF
 K1VA
 NM1W
 W1XF
 W1XK
 WW1Y
 W1ZC
 W1ZK
 W1ZZ
 NT2A
 AA2FB
 W2II
 W2PS
 K2QMF
 N2QW
 K2SS
 N2TU
 K2UU
 KF2XK
 K2YR
 AI3E
 K3UU
 LU9AY

2000
Dues Late
 KM1A
 NF1A
 WS1A

W1ABC
 K1AJ
 K1AM
 K1BB
 W1BHL
 W1BR
 K1CA
 W1CB
 KA1CI
 KD1DD
 WW1E
 K1EC
 N1FIY
 WA1FJ
 KA1GJ
 KE1GQ
 WB1H
 WQ1H
 N1HKO
 K1IK
 N1IO
 AA1IZ
 W1JI
 KA1JJR
 W1JK
 N1KO
 NY1L
 N1LJA
 W1LP
 W1LW
 W1MKM
 N1NVX
 AK1O
 WK1O.
 WK1P

WR1P
 N1PGA
 N1QMM
 W1RE
 K1RQ
 WB1S
 W1SDR
 KB1SO
 N1SP
 W1SU
 K1TEV
 K1TO
 N1TT
 N1TZW
 KX1X
 WR1X
 NB1Y
 W1ZBT
 N1ZE
 K1ZN
 K1ZR
 W2ASS
 K2BHX
 N2DVQ
 AA2DY
 K2EK
 WR2I
 N2IX
 NW2J
 K2LS
 N2QW
 K2RPM
 W2SC
 KE2TR
 KD2TT

N2TX
 WB2UMF
 WM2V
 KU4BP
 W4ZGR
 KI6EZ
 K7CTW
 K8CH
 K8LT
 W9WBA

**Paid Thru
 1999**

KZ1A
 WA1AES
 W1CWU
 K1DX
 W1EK
 NK1F
 N1GA
 K1GE
 K1GRS
 N1IWW
 W1IX
 N1KB
 KT1M
 KZ1M
 K1NG
 N1NY
 K1NYK
 W1OD
 W1OG
 W1OJ
 K1OX
 N1PFC

K1PI
 K1PR
 N1RHY
 K1RWS
 K1SM
 K1TI
 W1TQ
 N1TVL
 N1UJV
 KA1ULN
 WK1V
 KB1WH
 KA1YED
 K1YT
 KA1YTR
 N1ZRO
 KE2DX
 KB2HZI
 K2LUQ
 WT2Q
 KD2RD
 W2RE
 W2SF
 WA2SPL
 K2WE
 N2ZX
 K2ZZ
 W3IQS
 W6ZEN
 T93M
 W0AD
 K0TF

Northern Vermont Area Meeting

Paul N. Gayet - AA1SU aa1su@arrl.net

There will be a YCCC Northern Vermont Area Meeting at the Northern Vermont Winter Hamfest on Saturday February 24. The Hamfest is in Milton, Vermont and runs from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The YCCC/Contesting Forum will be at 11:00 AM. At press time, we did not have a topic picked out, but it will be announced on the YCCC reflector, as soon as it is known.

The event is "still the best little hamfest in the world", and admission is still only \$3.00 (Under 18 Free). It is put on by my local club: Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont, or RANV. There will be plenty to keep you busy, while you wait for the Forum to start.

Flea Market: With vintage radios, electronic parts, computer parts, connectors, tubes, etc.

Forums: Include Ed Hare W1RFI coming to give a talk on radio interference TO hams. Plus he will be building an antenna with a torch again. There will be a great QRP Forum, to be put on by the newly formed Northern Vermont QRP Society. Plans for VHF/UHF, and Digital topics are also in the works.

People: Meet hams, SWLs, Scanner buffs, collectors, hobbyists, and more - all under one roof!

You are all invited to attend and bring prospective new members. This will be the 3rd YCCC Meeting at this hamfest, and we acquire new members each time. Please come out for a good time, and shake off some of that "Cabin Fever". Directions can be found on the RANV web site: WWW.RANV.ORG.

Please note: we are in the middle of a web site provider transfer. If you can't get in to the site, please e-mail me for more directions and info at aa1su@arrl.net.

YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF Dues are payable as of the April election meeting, which begins our club "contest year". The YCCC has adopted a multi-tiered membership format as follows: Please note that payment of dues IS NOT a prerequisite for contributing scores to the Club aggregate, but IS for the various YCCC Awards Programs

Full Member - \$20 (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper delivery of Club newsletter)

Full Member - \$15 (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and electronic "Ebutt" delivery of Club newsletter)

Family Member - \$0 (Grants full membership to all amateurs residing at one domicile on payment of one member's "Full Member" annual dues and entitlement to one Club Newsletter sent to one domicile or email address. All members of said family are eligible for YCCC awards programs.)

Student Member - \$10 (Grants full membership to students at a reduced level. Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper or electronic delivery of the Club Newsletter.)

Subscription - \$** (A "friend of YCCC" - not a member but a possible candidate for future membership. Receives club newsletter only in paper or electronic form. Fee basis is \$20 for overseas paper delivery, \$15 for domestic paper delivery and \$10 for electronic "Ebutt" delivery domestically of 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, Ric Plummer, KV1W, PO Box 1158, Berlin, MA 01503-2158**

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Doug Scribner K1ZO, preferably by E-mail at k1zo@arrl.net or on 3½" disk (in MSWord format or text file) by snail mail to Doug Scribner, 661 Park Avenue #4, Keene, NH 03431. 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.

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 Brad, W1NT bradld@bellatlantic.net **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 mailed annually with the August issue of the Scuttlebutt, and to new members when they join. 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. **WWW HOME PAGE** Come visit us at <http://www.yccc.org>. Our Webmaster is Doug Scribner, K1ZO. **CT CONTEST LOGGING SOFTWARE** is available from Matt, KC1XX. Orders: 603-878-4600. Support: 603-878-4200 Internet: <http://www.k1ea.com>. There is an Internet mailing list for CT users. To subscribe, send email to CT-USER-REQUEST@contesting.com, and put only the word SUBSCRIBE in the message body. The web site is the best way to get CT country file updates, which are regularly announced on the reflector. These updates may also be obtained by sending a blank formatted disk and \$1.00 for postage to Jim Reisert, AD1C, 7 Charlemont Court, North Chelmsford, MA 01863-2306.

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, YCCC, PO Box 80216, Springfield, MA 01138. 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** Dave Hoaglin, K1HT; **CAC Hudson** Rich Gelber, K2WR; **DXAC New England** Ken Bolin, W1NG **DXAC Hudson** Rich Wujciak-K2RW. **ARRL LIAISON** is Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

It's Not Too Late To Pay Your Dues!

Send Your Check Today To: Ric Plummer - KV1W, PO Box 1158, Berlin, MA 01503-2158

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
Feb 4 (Sun)	General	Worcester MA
Apr 1 (Sun)	General	Worcester MA
Jun 2 (Sat)	General	Worcester, MA

Ship's Log	February 2001	Issue 152
Captain's Cabin	Don Toman - K2KQ	1
SNY/NJ Meeting	Hank Kiernan - KF2O	2
December Meeting Minutes	Chris Terkla - N1XS	3
CT Area Meeting	Joe Natale - K1JN	4
A New Contest Class	Tom Hurley - K1TH	4
Contesting On A Clip	Dave Jones - W2GDJ	5
J3A The Second Time Around	Ed Deichler - K2TE	6
New CT Area Manager	Joe Natale - K1JN	7
ARRL Eligibility Primer	Jeff Briggs - K1ZM	7
2001 Calendar		8
Member Eligibility Data		9
N. Vermont Meeting - 2/24/01	Paul Gayet - AA1SU	10

The next general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be held Sunday February 4th, at 1:00 PM in the Student Union on the campus of Worcester State College.

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
48 North Avenue
Mendon, MA 01756