



Scuttlebutt

April 2002

Issue 159

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY - APRIL 7th

Captain's Cabin

Jim Idelson – K1IR k1ir@designet.com

The ARRL meeting requirements are gone. Now what?

By now, most of you are aware that, beginning next year, the ARRL has eliminated meeting attendance requirements for club members to submit scores eligible for club competition. What does this mean to YCCC?

First of all, it means nothing for this contest season! If you have not attended two meetings this year, you need to get those meetings in by March 31, 2002. Check this issue of the Scuttlebutt and the website for meetings near you.

But, what about next year, and beyond? In terms of score eligibility, it means that any member of YCCC in good standing will be able to submit a contest score for an ARRL contest with the points counting toward the YCCC club effort. To be a member in good standing, all you have to do is pay your dues.

The impact of this change goes beyond that, though. For one thing, club officers will be relieved of the very difficult and time-consuming task of tracking meeting attendance and checking individual score eligibility for our 450+ members. You may not know it, but this effort consumes a huge amount of time – time that your officers might otherwise spend on different kinds of club activities. Now, that time will be available. This is great news.

There seems to be a downside to this turn of events, though. I have heard some of our members say that the elimination of meeting requirements leads YCCC towards being more of a “paper club.” This is troubling to me. Most of the people who make this claim are those who live in distant locations and have a hard time justifying attendance at the club’s general meetings in Worcester, MA. These people feel that the club’s value is mainly in meetings, and that without meetings, there’s little reason to be a member and to contribute a score.

In the past year, we’ve seen the emergence of several new local/regional clubs whose focus is contesting. They join some of the stalwarts – like the Order of the Boiled Owls [a group that’s been around a long time, and has many

members in common with YCCC]. All of these clubs currently maintain close relationships with YCCC. Why? They enjoy the ability to participate in the highly competitive Unlimited Club category. They develop relationships with contesters outside their immediate area. They also recognize that the larger organization brings some benefits of scale that would be too difficult to produce as a smaller organization. These include the website, the Scuttlebutt, the Contest Cookbook, etc.

But, these clubs exist to serve important local needs – the need to meet close to home, to develop relationships with others nearby, to be able to develop a support system for local contesters, and to recruit new blood.

In my view, local clubs and a larger YCCC organization are completely compatible. I see YCCC as serving several important purposes. It’s a large organization, with many diverse groups within it. This diversity allows members to find a “place” that’s comfortable and enjoyable. It’s also a kind of umbrella organization for local groups – an organization that can provide a wealth of experience and resources to benefit all.

So, how should we react in the way we run YCCC? Not much differently, in my opinion. We need to continue to offer great meeting programs, and to encourage lots of local meetings. We need to continue to develop exciting resources like Contest Universities, etc. But, we can also try to be more responsive and supportive of local groups all over the club’s territory. We should move general meetings to different locations – all over YCCC’s geography. We should offer resources and assistance to local contest clubs. We should welcome their successes.

I learned a long time ago that change is inevitable. I’m certain that, if we welcome it, and if we transform ourselves accordingly, we will become a better organization as a result.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the April meeting!

73,
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April Meeting Agenda

Tom Frenaye, K1KI

- Election of Officers
- Contesting from Zone 2 - VB2V (Jim/N1NK)
- Presentation of Team Challenge and recognition awards (Len/K1NU)
- Update on this year's Clipper/Schooner awards standings (Dave/K1HT if he has the info ready)
- New testers and the New England QSO Party (Tom/K1KI and Bob/W1RH)

Possible additions if nothing better comes along:

- Pictures and audio from HC8 (K1KI - and KM3T)
- Contest quiz
- K1IR Video of ARRL CW & SSB operations.

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Minutes of the Worcester General Meeting, February 10, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Club President Jim, K1IR. Ann, WA1S, sold raffle tickets to win a Heil ProSet II headset. Minutes of the December meeting were approved. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$7074.38. Art, W1RZF handled the meeting as acting treasurer in the absence of Ric, KV1W. Copies of the most recent Scuttlebutt and printed rosters of the club membership were available (both can also be obtained from the club web site). Jeanne, K1MOM, announced the "Guides on the Air" weekend event for Canadian and U.S. girl scouts. Several club members were still looking for operators for the ARRL DX Contests.

Club scorekeeper Dave, K1HT, then presented an update on the CQ WW club competition score results for the 2001 contests. Currently his list of claimed scores gives us 272.4M on SSB with 211 members participating and 227.2M on CW with 165 members participating, for a total of 499.5M. Dave noted that the participation is down about 15% from the 2000 contests, but the scores are not down by that much. Last year, he totaled 302.8M on SSB from 250 participants and 380.9 on CW from 165 participants. FRC's claimed scores are 270.0M on SSB and 211.9M on CW, for a total of 481.4M. This is close enough that the winner is likely to be determined by the UBNS. Last year, YCCC's published score was 661.0M, a 3.3% score reduction from Dave's numbers, and FRC's published score was 452.2M. The FRC web site has FRC score details.

Tom, K1KI, presented the club gavel for the ARRL DX Contests for the year 2001 in the unlimited club category to Jim, K1IR, who passed it around the room. Introductions of the eighty members present and their guests followed, with each member describing their plans for the ARRL DX Contests.

Tom then gave an update on changes to the ARRL club competition rules that will take effect on November first this fall. For a multiop score to count towards the club aggregate score, only 50% of the operators must be club members, down from 2/3 of the operators under current rules. The meeting attendance requirement will be dropped, though of course a club could still require meeting attendance by its own bylaws. Canadian clubs were added back into the club competition, as they used to be. The "club territory" is currently defined as a 175-mile radius circle around a point selected as the "club center". Under the new rules, it will be either this circle or a full ARRL section if that is larger.

Ken WO1N, then talked about plans for the ARRL New

England Division Convention at Boxboro, which is scheduled for August 23-25 this year. There will be banquets on both Friday night and Saturday night, with the Friday night banquet held in conjunction with the Patriot DX Club. YCCC has traditionally held an extended meeting at the convention and will do so this year. Ken is looking for speakers to round out the program. There will be courses given during the day on Friday.

A discussion followed about whether YCCC should amend its bylaws to require meeting attendance for a member to remain a "member in good standing". Following this discussion, the club voted in two new members: Doug, KB1HJW, and Jim, N1HTS (see "New Crew" for details). The raffle was won by Don, K1DC. Following the raffle drawing, Rich, K2WR, and Doug, K1DG, afforded some comic relief with their "Contest Weekend Update".

After the break, Len, K1NU, handled the awards presentation for the 2000-2001 Team Challenge awards. The CQ WW gold medal went to team 15, the silver medal to team 2, and the bronze medal to team 3. Team 15 members present also received their plaques. Len will bring uncollected medals to the April meeting. For the ARRL DX Contests, the gold medal went to team 2, the silver medal to team 15, and the bronze medal to team 6. Len also reported on progress towards the 2001-2002 individual cumulative awards for score contributions of 10M and 5M points. Nineteen members have passed the halfway point with current total point contributions of 5M or more, and sixty-three members have currently contributed 2.5M or more.

Jim then introduced the featured speaker of the afternoon, Fred, K1VR, to talk about legal aspects of moving your station to a new QTH. Fred was first licensed in 1956 as WN1NJL, and is a lawyer with lots of experience in ham radio cases. Good advice for selecting a new QTH can be found as long ago as a QST article by W3AFM in the September, 1966, issue. The advice boils down to this: try to not have anything in the way blocking the prime directions. Now you can do this kind of terrain analysis much easier using N6BV's software. When you are looking for a location, choose the larger plot of land. This is the one thing you cannot fix by spending money later. Three kinds of laws apply to your proposed tower installation at your new QTH. First there are federal laws, for example, PRB-1, which says that the municipality must accommodate the amateur radio service.

Second, there are state laws, which may be more or less helpful than PRB-1. Finally, there are town bylaws, as interpreted by the town building inspector. Buy a copy of the town bylaws and read the whole thing. The relevant points may be in several places. For example, you will

need to know how the town defines a "structure". There are several ways to own property as well. First, there is "fee simple absolute", where you simply own the property. Then there is "fee simple subject to CC&Rs", where there are limitations on your ownership of the land. If you are buying into a new housing development where there are CC&Rs, there are three strategies that may help you. First, you can buy one of the first properties to go up for sale and negotiate the deed restrictions with the builder, who is probably eager to sell the first house in the development. Secondly, you can buy the last property in the development, where the builder is probably eager to complete the sales and may be convinced to grant you an exemption. Or thirdly, you can buy the "worst" property in the development, where you may gain additional leverage because the builder is glad to rid himself of the least desirable lot. If you are buying into an existing housing development, first read the CC&Rs and find out who pays for litigation. Commonly it is the losing party. Then learn the current status of the homeowners' association's finances. If it is broke or comatose, it may not want to fight a legal battle and possibly get stuck with the bill. Thirdly, look hard at the possibility that the CC&Rs have been legally "abandoned" and so are no longer in effect. Be careful here: finding a horse or other "farm animal" or a junk car on one of the properties in the development does not necessarily indicate that the CC&Rs are no longer in force, because that property may have an exemption. The third kind of land interest is a lease, where you rent the property from the owner. If you must rent in an apartment building, you are probably out of luck. Usually the result of fighting your landlord is that your lease will not be renewed. Given Fred's book on the subject, you can memorize his pre-written answers to the most common questions you will be asked. Fred's advice for talking to the press is: don't cite PRB-1, which will cause the reporter's eyes to glaze over. Keep what you say to reporters simple, short, favorable, punchy, and civil. Fred had a few copies of his book for sale after the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte L. Richardson, KQ1F, secretary
11 February 2002

Introducing the New England QSO Party May 4-5, 2002

We hope you'll join us for an exciting new operating event - the New England QSO Party. It will take place on the first weekend of May (4th and 5th) and we'd like to ask for your help in making it successful. The contest starts at 4pm on Saturday and goes until 10pm, then on Sunday it runs from 7am until 8pm. The NEQP web site at <http://www.neqp.org> has the full set of rules, plus maps and other related tools.

With the cooperation of the groups sponsoring individual state QSO parties in New England, we've combined our efforts to build one event that has the potential for a lot more activity and fun. Thanks to the following groups: Candlewood ARA (CT), Framingham ARA (MA), NH-ARRL (NH), CTRI Contest Group (RI), Central Vermont ARC (VT) and the Yankee Clipper Contest Club.

We are looking for clubs or individuals to sponsor plaques for the top scorers, perhaps you might want to sponsor one? We're estimating the cost to be \$60/plaque but that may drop as we finalize the design and vendor.

One of our prime goals is to make sure that all New England counties (67) are active in the contest. YCCers live in about half of the 67 counties - but mostly those that are fairly populated. Overall, there are 7 counties with less than 100 hams, and 38 more with only 100-500 hams.

We do expect to have several mobiles out during the contest trying to get to as many counties as possible. If you can help us identify people who will be active in the smaller counties it will help us a great deal - and if you have the capability to go HF mobile, we'd love to add you to our list of planned mobile operations.

Please contact us (info@neqp.org) if you have any questions or suggestions on how we might boost activity in the NEQP, and especially if you'd like to help out in any way. Hope to hear you on during the NEQP!

-- Tom Frenaye, K1KI frenaye@pcnet.com
-- Bob Hess, W1RH bhess@boston.cbs.com

New England QSO Party
P O Box 3005
Framingham MA 01705-3005

New England QSO Party - May 4-5, 2002
<http://www.neqp.org>

New Crew

Please welcome these new members who joined at the February general meeting and since at local area meetings:

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Node Updates

K1XX

Finally, some progress comes to the sticks of Rindge. I now have cable modem service. This will necessitate a change for anyone that telnets into my node.

The new address is: dxc.k1xx.com port 7300

You will also have to use port 7300 if you currently do not do so. I am disabling the port 23 telnet connects until a future time.

Charlie, k1xx
<k1xx@rindge.nh.ultranet.com>

NA2NA

I have configured my node for connection via telnet on port 7300 (DXSPIDER default) and port 23.

This is so that CT Win can connect to my node. There is always the RF node :-)

na2na.homedns.org
144.93

William Liporace NA2NA
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Flotsam & Jetsam

Jack Schuster - W1WEF w1wef@arrl.net

Just returned from our second winter RV trip a few days ago. Since my score wouldn't count for the club if I operated from there, I just did a lot of listening and gave out a few points but didn't keep a log. Conditions sounded so good, I was wishing I was home! Next year I'll have to plan our travels better so I can operate both ARRL CW and Phone.

One enjoyable part of RVing (for me, not necessarily for Natalie although she doesn't object) is getting to visit contest stations around the country. A few of those visited in the last ten years are K1TO, N2IC, W3LPL, N4AR, W4AN, K5NA, N6BV, N7BG, W9RE, K0RF, and W0UN. (I need an 8!) On this trip we visited W4MYA in Goochland, Va. (Really!) Bob's impressive station was bigger than I expected; seven towers, twelve operating positions (not counting the UHF/VHF position), lots of yagis in the air (I counted about 30) and lots more on the ground that can still go up! There were two operating positions on each band, with good separation between antennas. The main position on ten for example had six over six over six on one tower, and the secondary position had another six element yagi on another tower. Bob lamented the same theme that seems to be common among multis difficulty in getting enough operators.

One tip from W4MYA regarding a common Yaesu rotor problem. As mentioned here previously, there are feedthru bypass capacitors inside the rotor near the motor which are prone to failure. They can result in the rotor turning slower in one direction than the other, or not turning at all. Bob found that he could get the rotor to turn again by lifting the third wire ground at the AC plug... much easier than climbing the 140 ft tower and taking the rotor down to replace the filter module! At least it's a good temporary solution.

Tom Frenaye, K1KI reminds us of a similar problem common in HyGain rotors. If your Tailtwister or Ham series rotor sticks at one or the other stop, and you can't rock it free with the control box, jumper the limit switches at the control box terminals. I remember having a tailtwister that did this so often, I wired two toggle switches to make it easy to do this whenever it stuck. The pins to jump are 4 & 6, and 5 & 8.

Speaking of rotors; want to go into the repair business? I saw recently that Norm's Rotor Service is available.

I noticed an interesting strategy while listening to a BIG multi station in Mason NH during ARRL phone. The operator would watch his "check call" list, and when he

would work ANY station that wasn't worked yet on another band, he would ask to please work us now on (frequency). What was interesting was that he wasn't moving just new multis, but everyone!

I moved more stations than I ever did in my life in ARRL CW. I was amazed at how many would move for me; plenty didn't; but still can't believe I moved a 3w! Another thrill that I'll never forget was being called by YA5T, and having him say "hi, Jack". We have more camaraderie as contesters than in any other part of this wonderful hobby.

Ira, K2RD recently told me he resolved a longstanding powerline noise problem. Whenever I visit Ira I learn something new and interesting. He had pinpointed the source of noise to a certain pole using a portable two element two meter quad with his 706 or FT817 on AM. After a lot of grief from the power company, they agreed to check out that pole, and changed some hardware but to no avail. The noise remained. Ira finally hired K3RFI (I think that was his call) who is like the ghost-buster of RFI. Ira was very impressed with this guy, who pinpointed the problem to the exact component on the same pole! The problem turned out to be a CATV power supply on the cable line, something the power company doesn't even see! I related this story to Vinny, K1RM today at lunch, and he said he found the exact same noise source a few years ago.

Keep those cards and letters coming! Send me anything you think would be worth passing along to fellow club members; or write an article for the Butt yourself!

Everyone is welcome to contribute articles.

73 JACK W1WEF

CQWW-CW Top 20 Scores SOAB-HP

Compiled by Dave Patton, NT1N

USA 1st District.

Call	Score	QSOs	Zones	Ctrys	Year	Op
K5ZD/1	8756568	4484	161	531	00	
K1AR	8559474	4573	157	522	00	
K1ZZ	8307600	4345	167	521	00	NT1N
K1AR	8046695	4177	166	519	99	
KQ2M/1	8023296	4397	158	516	00	
K1AR	7681280	4047	158	522	97	
W1KM	7583360	4019	165	491	99	
W1KM	7379711	4027	155	488	98	
K1DG	7199169	4033	153	494	00	
K1ZZ	7099542	3777	158	499	99	
W1KM	6871806	3812	155	484	00	
K5ZD/1	6570312	3935	152	452	99	W2SC
KQ2M/1	6500892	3671	161	481	99	
KQ2M/1	6112282	3424	149	500	98	
K1DG	5942552	3535	150	466	99	
W1WEF	5718249	3407	152	451	99	
KM1H	5675756	3053	163	483	92	KQ2M
K1KI	5603364	2867	153	523	93	
K5ZD/1	5569200	3027	146	484	93	
K5ZD/1	5461830	3061	144	469	96	

USA 2nd District.

Call	Score	QSOs	Zones	Ctrys	Year	
K1ZM/2	7119308	3837	169	517	98	
N2NT	6527500	3777	155	470	00	
N2NT	6086220	3461	152	493	98	
K2UA	6075104	3763	143	449	00	
N2LT	5831100	3290	147	480	98	
N2NT	5705000	3140	153	472	92	
K1ZM/2	5579164	2920	155	497	93	
N2LT	5574974	3404	138	439	00	
N2LT	5490882	3119	156	465	99	
N2NT	5207938	3256	145	444	97	
N2NT	5132415	3097	139	438	90	
N2LT	5054070	2978	148	467	97	
N2NT	5019948	2758	155	481	93	
K2UA	4921488	3132	137	435	99	
N2LT	4892272	2727	153	463	93	
N2NT	4794086	2763	137	470	96	
N2LT	4723894	2682	157	445	92	
N2NT	4682752	2956	146	392	89	
N2BA	4618074	2892	142	449	98	
N2LT	4344384	2673	132	429	96	

Top 20 scores for all CQWW-CW categories as compiled by Dave - NT1N
can be found on the YCCC website.

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, Steve Rodowicz N1SR, preferably by E-mail at n1sr@arrl.net or on 3½" disk (in MSWord format or text file) by snail mail to Steve Rodowicz, 809 Pendleton Avenue, Chicopee, MA 01020. The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month. **CONTEST SCORES** should be sent to the club scorekeeper, Dave Hoaglin, K1HT, preferably by packet or by E-mail at dave_hoaglin@abtassoc.com. Please include details such as numbers of QSOs, QSO points (if appropriate), and multipliers (all types); entry category; and power.

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. (Do not send messages to the reflector that have file attachments, HTML formatting, use boldface or other fancy fonts, etc.)

WWW HOME PAGE Come visit us at <http://www.yccc.org>. Our Webmaster is Mike Gilmer, N2MG.

ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF The W1 QSL BUREAU is sponsored by the YCCC. Keep your account up to date by sending a check. Stamps are sold at face value, envelopes are 10 cents each. Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. Email address: w1qsl@yccc.org. **PACKET NETWORK** information is available from Charlie Carroll, K1XX, Candlelight Rd., Rindge NH 03461.

ARRL COMMITTEE REPS are **CAC New England** 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.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
Apr 7 1 - 5 PM	General Meeting http://www.yccc.org	Worcester, MA

Ship's Log	April 2002	Issue 159
Captain's Cabin	Jim Idleson - K1IR	1
April Meeting Agenda	Tom Frenaye - K1KI	2
Movers & Shakers		2
Meeting Minutes	Charlotte Richardson - KQ1F	3,4
New Crew		5,6
Flotsam & Jetsam	Jack Schuster - W1WEF	7
CQWW-CW Top 20 Scores	Dave Patton - NT1N	8

Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club**Sunday April 7th - 1PM to 5PM**Student Union on the campus of Worcester State College.

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
44 Williams Road
Lexington, MA 02420-3232

FIRST CLASS MAIL