



Scuttlebutt

October 2002

Issue 162

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY - October 5th

Captain's Cabin

Hi Team! It has been a busy couple of months on a lot of fronts. Boxboro, CQWW preparations, the meeting at the Nautilus, and just a whole bunch of things in general.

I hope that you are all diligently whittling away at your lists or perhaps helping others with their lists. Having everything done and ready before the contest is one of the keys of winning, and it certainly goes a long way towards keep Murphy out of the shack. If you have not made a list of the things you need to do yet, please do. Maybe the big stuff is done, but there are many little things...remembering to synchronize your PC's time with WWV, updating to the latest country files. You might check to see if there is a newer version or updates to your logging program. It is wise to see if the updates are needed for your needs however before just running off to install the upgrade. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Regardless, it is wise to get any updates done in advance so you can test them out before the contest. Your lists should also be including all of those things that perhaps the spouse or family need. Get them done in advance so that you can have a nice weekend of undisturbed contesting.

WOW, have you visited the new website? Randy, Jim, and Mike have done an outstanding job. If you haven't stopped by and reviewed the new page, please do at <http://www.yccc.org> it is worth the time to go there. Thanks to all who helped.

The Boxboro meeting was well attended, and it was good to see Dean, N6BV again. His presentations are always worth the time to listen. Some of the improvements are great, and the ability now, with a little help from some outside web available applications to make terrain filed in a flash! From what I hear from those who have created them in the past, creating these to hours, and days to do. Dean showed us how it can happen in seconds. Tom,

YCCC Wins

2001 CQ WW Club Competition

4 in a row!

YCCC	431,776,382
FRC	425,406,537
Margin of Victory	6,369,845 (<1.5%)

New goal: "Drive for Five!"

N1MM gave a good presentation on his N1MM freeware logger. Everyone who uses the program has rave reviews and future enhancements are always coming through. Harry, W1AAX presented a nice slide show showing how various YCCC-ers have implemented four squares and some considerations about some of the options. And what can you say Rich, K2WR 'rebroadcast' Dr. Schmendrick's 'Tools for Contester's'. There were some wonderful products here serving all facets of contesting. A must see.

Many folks paid their dues, and we took in about 10 new members, A good turnout in general.

(Continued on Page 2)

Yankee Clipper Contest Club

President	Chris Terkla, N1XS cterkla@mindspring.com
Vice President	Art Holmes, W1RZF w1rzf@qnci.net
Activities Manager	Don Toman, K2KQ K2kq@weca.org
Secretary	Dennis Egan, NB1B NB1B@attbi.com
Treasurer	Ed Parish, K1EP K1EP@arrl.net
Scuttlebutt Editor	Steve Rodowicz, N1SR (413) 593-6554 n1sr@arrl.net
Scuttlebutt Publisher	Ned Swartz, K1GU (781) 861-1710 nswartz@earthlink.net
Webmaster	Mike Gilmer, N2MG (315) 829-5291 n2mg@contesting.com
Area Managers	
ME	Mike Russo, K1EU (207) 883-9524 k1eu@juno.com
ENH	Glen Whitehouse, K1GW (603) 673-6290 glenw@pinnaclewireless.com
WNH/SVT	Doug Scribner, K1ZO (603) 352-0931 k1zo@arrl.net
NE MA (978)	Henry Wilson, W1AAX (978) 927-6258 w1aax@msn.com
SE MA (508)	Greg Cronin, W1KM (508) 428-4205 w1km@aol.com
Boston (617/781)	Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P (617) 325-6767 jffitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu
WMA (413)	Tom Homewood, W1TO (413) 743-7342 w1to@arrl.net
CT (860)	John Corini, KE1IH kelih@arrl.net
CT (203)	Ira Stoler, K2RD (203) 254-3084 stoler@erols.com
RI	Bill Champagne, N1HRA (401) 377-2512 bille230@cox.net
NNY	George Wilner, K2ONP (518) 279-4025 k2onp@aol.com
NLI	Rich Cariello, AA2MF (718) 980-0266 aa2mf@arrl.net
SNY/NJ/PA	Hank Kiernan, KF2O (914) 235-4940 hankkier@aol.com
NVT	Ron Rossi, KK1L (802) 288-9490 kk1l@arrl.net

The Drive for Five, are you ready?

What can we say; CQWW SSB is slightly more than a month away. Are your dues current? If you have a question please feel free to email the Treasurer, Ed K1EP or myself. We will reply and let you know. To all those who have already paid your dues, Thanks! If you still need to pay them, please get them to the Treasurer ASAP. You must be a member in good standing to have your score count for the YCCC. To be a member in good standing all you need is to have your dues paid! Pretty simple eh? Once your dues are paid, the rest is pretty simple. Get your list done, sit in the chair for as many hours as you can squeeze in, work anyone and everyone you can, SPOT everyone hear, and submit your score for the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. Pretty simple in almost anyone's book; but a simple formula to lead the YCCC to a fifth championship. Everyone needs to do it though, not just the big guns, but each and everyone of us. The YCCC wins when we all work together? Is everything ready for the Drive for Five?

I hope that you can all plan to spend the entire weekend on the air, but if you cant please try to spend the maximum time you have. And if that time is limited, maximize your effort by trying to get on during the best times for your station. Use the high times to EU as a guide if you can, use packet to maximize your effort as well. If your operating skill allow, try to run the boys, if not use packet to work everything spotted. Every QSO and point will make a difference. And EVERY score no matter how small, will contribute to the total.

The FRC is resolved to defeat us. We must not let that happen and you all can make a difference. Everyone's participation in the Drive for Five is needed to leave the FRC Model-T in the dust. Are you ready? Let's Do It!

Kick Butt everyone!

73 Chris N1XS

Articles in the **Scuttlebutt** (except for those separately copyrighted) may be reprinted, provided proper credit is given. The editorial deadline for the Scuttlebutt is the 10th of every odd month.

Flotsam & Jetsam

Jack Schuster W1WEF w1wef@arrl.net

New this issue...operating tips. Send in a tip to pass along. Here's one to start it off:

Before the recent CW Sprint, I worked ON4UN with a watery aurora signal. I then looked at WWV and saw an A index of 26 and K of 6, 3 hours before the start of the Sprint. I knew we were in for disturbed conditions, and I never felt loud during the 4-hour contest. I just wasn't having fun yet... As my old buddy Dean Straw, N6BV always says, you're not supposed to have fun DURING the contest. That's when you work. The fun is after the contest when you see how well you did! Although I don't completely agree with him, I should have worked harder, knowing that others in New England at least had the same conditions I had. Instead I just let myself become discouraged, looking forward to it being over. In the end, I wasn't that far behind a lot of guys I sometimes beat, and a little more effort might have had me smiling.

NEVER SADDLE A DEAD HORSE. Thanks Tom K5RC for embedding that thought in NCJ about 15 years ago. I just finished replacing about 50 rusty guy clamps on my tower here on old cape cod in the salty air. There's a right and a wrong way to put one on...the saddle goes on the wire that goes up the tower, not the dead end. Yeah...I know...if I were to start over I would have used big grips! The Rohn cable clamps cost about half the price of big grips, and if I had used grips to begin with I wouldn't have had to replace them.

I was pleasantly surprised recently to hear from an ex YCCC president who had disappeared from the scene for a few years. Bill Pedersen, KM1C gave me a shout on 2M from his sailboat on Martha's Vineyard. He seems to be getting interested again in Ham Radio...has an FT817 as well.

Speaking of 2M, have you worked any 2M DX lately? I mean real DX...like VK or ZL! On the local repeater here on the Cape, you never know if one will call you. The repeater on 146.955 is tied into the Internet using Echolink. You can download it free on the WWW <http://www.synergenics.com/el/>, plug a mic into your computer, and call any of the 500 stations you might see listed on your monitor at any given time. The stations are all over the world, many with novice licenses. You can have a QSO just like on the air, but free of QRM and Q5 all the way! It's one of those things I tried, thought it was neat, and haven't touched since.

Just had an interesting problem with my Hustler mobile antenna. (I do give out points from the car in many contests so this is contest related!) I have two 20M high

power Hustler RM-20-S loading coils. I found that after a good rain the SWR went to pot with both of them. I removed the plastic jacket around one of the coils to see what was going on. With no jacket, it was fine! Taping it up again with duct tape and then electrical tape, and spraying with clear acrylic it seems fine. Apparently the jacket was absorbing water and putting a leakage path across the coil. (no...I don't have phased Hustlers. I use one at a time).

Stay awake during contests with Tic Tacs! A prominent contester in our club finds that it works for him. I do the same to stay awake while driving.

Contest QSLs threatening to snow you under? "OfficeMax currently sells a plastic 6-drawer IRIS "Mega Chest" with drawers that are 5 1/2" high and 13" wide, just enough for two rows of QSLs. Each drawer holds almost as many QSLs as a two drawer file-type cabinet which is much more expensive. To complete this system, Dennis, K2SX uses red or orange 4"x6" file cards (two cards per divider, to give some strength to the divider) between each country and sometimes within the same country, if there are a lot of cards, e.g. DL, UA, F, EA, JA, I, etc. OfficeMax also has some stick on label tabs that he puts on top of the divider cards. (Thanks, Dennis, K2SX and K1KI for suggesting we use it)

Speaking of QSLs, I just received another ten pounds to do an initial buro sort. Doing it a few times a year isn't a big burden. Let Art, W1RZF know you'd like to help! YCCC still runs the W1 buro.

73 Barnacle Jack W1WEF

MatchMaker 2002

CQWW SSB October 26 & 27, 2002

K1TTT, Peru MA needs ops.
Contact Dave at K1TTT@arrl.net

K0TV, Hudson, NH needs ops.
Contact Jerry at K0TV@adelphia.net

K3NA Needs a Station
Contact Eric at eric@k3na.org.

YCCC Awards 2002

At the Boxboro YCCC meeting we announced the individual awards competition for the coming season. The purpose is to increase fun, participation and scores. This is in support of achieving a club goal of being number ONE in both CQWW and ARRL DX . Lets make it five in a row!

The competition:

- Must be YCCC eligible –dues paid
- Awards for each of the 4 contests
- Based upon published scores
- Awards for 1st and 2nd place with 10 or more competitors in a category.
- Award for 1st place with less than 10 competitors in a category
- Special recognition within a category (selected by awards manager scorekeeper) i.e. 3rd or 4th place

Must meet all rules of the contest sponsor.

The awards: YCCC operating certificates

The categories:

- Single op high power
- Single op low power
- Single op assisted high power
- Single op assisted low power
- Single op triband/single element assisted high power
- Single op triband/single element assisted low power
- single op qrp
- Single op rookie assisted low power
- Multi single
- Multi two
- Multi multi

Definitions:

- High Power greater than 150 watts output
- Low power Max of 150 watt output
- QRP Max of 5 watts output
- Triband/Single
- Triband – any single mutiband antenna.
I.e., trap yagi, quad, Log periodic
Stacked arrays excluded
- Single - single long wire, dipole, loop or vertical
- Rookie - First season of HF contesting
4/1/02 –3/3/03
Must operate from home qth
- Multi op - The multi op score must count for the club
Certificates to each YCCC individual

Many of our members have modest stations and/or are just starting out. The Rookie and Triband/single awards are
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being introduced to give recognition and incentives to these members who contribute a major portion of our clubs score.

We won the CQWW by a very small margin. As an incentive to do better than last year, we are going to have a “100k” award to be given to all members who exceed last seasons score by 100k points. This would be a separate award for each CQWW and ARRL DX contest. The award will be a nice certificate suitable for framing. This award belongs in every members shack .

Art W1RZF
Awards Manager YCCC

New Apparel Manager

Congratulations to Bob Rogers KB1LN for being appointed the new YCCC Apparel Manager.

Contact Bob at KB1LN@YAHOO.COM for the latest in YCCC "Drive for Five" wear.

Movers and Shakers

New Email Address

Bob - KB1H
KB1H@myeastern.com
(Old Email rpechie@snet.net good till about October)

Jim - K1OZ
jimspear@worldpath.net

HG54HD Tower for Sale

Bill, K1CN is selling his Woodstock VT QTH and is selling his 10 year old HG54HD crankup tower. .

Contact: Bill for more info at wrwelch@partners.org

A Very Special Topband Occasion..

I have just returned to NY from up North on VY2 and wish to report on something from a couple of week's ago....

I was outside doing antenna work in the yard on the morning of the 20th when a car came down the laneway. I wasn't paying particular attention at the time as I was busy with some coax, but when the driver got closer to me he called out: "So how's DX?!!"

Now, lots of cars come down the laneway, but few of their driver's ask about DX - so I took a closer look at this one.... I couldn't make out the driver of the car as he was wearing a baseball cap and he was still too far away from me to see without my glasses. So, I did what I often do when I don't wish to embarrass myself and replied "And, who might that be over there coming to pay me a visit?"

The driver said "It's "ZZ" - but it still didn't register fully with me...

But, then he got out of the car and I glanced at the license plate and it said Nova Scotia and I knew in a moment it was Jack Leahy, VE1ZZ!

Well, I can tell you that from that moment forward (and for the next several hours) we had some great fun talking about good times on 160M, about some of the rarest of the very rare countries that Jack has managed to work that no-one else has logged and just exchanging the kind of 160M camaraderie that only 160M diehards enjoy talking about.

Jack was interested in the new 160M layout and shared experiences between some of the differences between his QTH on the head of Jeddore (near Halifax) and my new place on the Gulf of St Lawrence. Jack's place looks out to the South over salt water across the harbor (which probably explains why he continues to do so well compared to my signal in that direction) - and my place has an edge compared to his when looking into Europe (which he spent a LONG time gazing at.....)

We went inside and had a cool drink and it seemed like only minutes - but soon nearly two hours had passed. We did a tour of the shack inside and then enjoyed a lunch together down the lane at a local seafood spot I frequent occasionally.

At the end of our time together, I could only marvel at some of the stuff Jack has worked on Topband that most of us in North America can only dream about:

EP2BK

EP2BQ

DS4CNB (on the SE path at Sunset)

YB5ASO (same path)

FR/T

9U5D (Gus when he was there several year's ago).

There were many more he mentioned but I cannot recall them all.....

Jack commented about my place on Cape Cod saying "Well, that's a pretty good spot Jeff - but it ain't like it is ***UP HERE!***..... I guess you finally figured that out EH?"

We both got a good chuckle out of that one.....

At the end of our visit, I asked Jack if I might return the visit NEXT summer and drive down to see his place. We set a date to do it and I fully intend to make the trek next summer - it's on my calendar for sure.

As Jack was leaving driving up the laneway, my daughter Lucy leaned over and asked me "Dada, just who was that guy? Why did you tell him it was an HONOR to have him come to visit us today?"

I replied "Lucy, Jack Leahy is the fellow I have always told you and Mama about. He was working stuff on 160M that no one else could hear long before I could even send my call correctly on a straight key..... He drove over several hours of dirt road in Nova Scotia yesterday, then took the ferry over here to the island - and then drove two hours more just to find where we lived. And, he wasn't even sure we would be home either once he got here....Now that's a REAL honor..!

Lucy added, "So, he is one of the really special people on 160M Dada?"

I noted, "Yup - I'll say - he's the BEST and today was a really special occasion that we both can remember for a long time Lucy.....!"

73 JEFF

K1ZM@aol.com

Local / Regional Meetings

Please advertise the dates and places at your local clubs, we want to attract prospective new members. The area managers are encouraging joint meetings with local clubs

Western Mass

--29 September 2002 (CQ-RJ RTTY Test)

Building on the success of last year's meeting during the CQ-RJ RTTY Test, there will be a Regional Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club on Sunday, September 29, 2002. The meeting will be held at the station of K1TTT, Dave Robbins, in Peru, MA. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. local time. This will be an official meeting; an YCCC Officer will be present. You can pay your dues and new members can join.

The purpose of the meeting is to introduce RTTY contesting to those unfamiliar with digital contesting or just to introduce digital ham radio.

The meeting will include a tour of Dave's multi-multi position contest station and antenna farm. There will be a live contest in progress, the CQ-RJ RTTY Test. The defending North American multi-single low power champs will be operating. The team is dedicated to being World Champs this year.

--25 October 2002 (CQWW-SSB)

There will be a Regional Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club on Friday October 25, 2002. The meeting will be held at the station of K1TTT, Dave Robbins, in Peru, MA. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. local time. This will be an official meeting; an YCCC Officer will be present. You can pay your dues and new members can join.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss preparations for the upcoming contest. A primary focus of the meeting will be discussing the increasing importance of low bands as the sunspot cycle falls off. Strategies for operation this season and differences from the past two year will be discussed and operational plans outlined.

If you know anyone that would like to learn more about YCCC or to join the club please pass this information on to them, all are welcome.

Please let Dave or me know if you plan to attend. Directions to K1TTT are located on Dave's web site:
<http://k1ttt.net/overview.html>

email k1ttt@arrl.net or w1to@arrl.net

Dave is always looking for operators for contests, for the 4 major contest each year and well as many others. If you have an interest in participating, this would give you an excellent preview of all that is involved.

Tom Homewood, W1TO
Western Mass. Section Manger YCCC

Elmsford NY Area Meetings

Informal local meetings of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club are periodically scheduled at "Nat's Place" in Elmsford, NY. We especially invite local Dxers and contesters who are not members to come and see what the YCCC is all about! All are welcome, and you may join the YCCC at this meeting if you wish to do so.

Please contact Hank KF2O for information on the next meeting and directions.

Email to HANKKIER@AOL.COM
Packet to KF2O > K2LSS
or phone (914) 235-4940

Nat's Place is a bar and grille with a separate dining area, at 257 Saw Mill River Road (Rte 9A), Elmsford, NY. There is parking in the rear (and across the street).

YCCC / Patriot DX Club Meetings

Joint meetings of the YCCC and Patriot DX Club are held periodically at the First Baptist Church, 221 Cabot Street, Beverly MA.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Contact the PDXA directly at dennis1ds@juno.com
(781-593-5095) Web Site: www.5x9.com/dx
or Mel, WZ1Q at mel@shore.net

MatchMaker 2002

CQWW CW November 23 & 24, 200

K1TTT, Peru MA needs ops
Contact Mike - K1TWF at K1TWF@arrl.net

K0TV, Hudson, NH needs ops.
Contact Jerry at K0TV@Adelphia.net

K3NA Needs a Station
Contact Eric at eric@k3na.org.

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 or overseas.)

Club members who move out of club territory and so are not eligible to contribute to club aggregate scores automatically become subscribers. New members who join at the February meeting are credited with dues for the year beginning the following April. You can tell if you owe dues by checking your 'Butt mailing label. **Mail your dues to the club treasurer, Ed Parish, K1EP, 9 Spoon Way, N. Reading, MA 01864**

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Steve Rodowicz N1SR, preferably by E-mail at n1sr@arrl.net or on 3½" disk (in MS-Word format or text file) by snail mail to Steve Rodowicz, 809 Pendleton Avenue, Chicopee, MA 01020. The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month. **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 Bob Rogers KB1LN@yahoo.com

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 posed on the YCCC website. 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
Oct 5, 1PM - 5 PM	General Meeting http://www.yccc.org	Worcester, MA
Dec 7 1PM - 5PM	General Meeting http://www.yccc.org	TDA

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Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Saturday October 5th – 1PM to 5PM

Worcester State College Student Union

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL