



Scuttlebutt

October 2010

Issue 205

Next Meeting October 2, 2010 - Plimoth Plantation Plymouth, MA - Noon to 4 PM

Captain's Cabin

Next meeting Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, MA – Saturday, October 2, 2010 Noon to 4 PM

Hello fellow maties and welcome to another BIG contest season! The YCCC took a serious hit in 2009 losing to our long time rivals, the FRC based in W3-land. The most painful thing about this loss is what appeared to be a close win for us, turned out to be a CLOSER loss after scores were checked, credit was given where credit was due and the like – losing by less than 1 Million points! Ouch!

Now let's gather ourselves together and think about what may have led to this defeat. Was it possible we had members that submitted scores but failed to indicate Yankee Clipper Contest Club on their summary sheet? Or made a score but failed to submit the file to CQ? Or did the log checking cause a reduction in score as a result of too many errors? Or did we fail to just get every member on the air for whatever length of time they could offer? Or mount more DXpeditions? My guess – all of the above! And this is where we all need to put forth that extra effort in this upcoming CQ WW competition. Conditions ARE improving over last year, your station is a bit more prepared for all the work you did this summer, perhaps a new rig on the table, and a number of improvements have been implemented.

Our meeting location and date is not a coincidence that we are meeting just ahead of the CW Ops Dinner scheduled for the same day starting at 5:30 PM. Our meeting will start at 12 noon (yes, 12 noon) and will end at 4 PM. The time following can be used to get acquainted with your "roots" and thinking the basics of contest operation. Back in 1627, they worked hard, put the time in the chair and maximized their time over the target area – we can do the same and bring home the WIN in 2010. Following that, we all can enjoy a nice Thanksgiving celebration (just prior to the CQ WW CW weekend)!

This will be my first time visiting the Plimoth Plantation (funny spelling) – so I am looking forward to a time of walking the place and taking in a little history. Please join us for this meeting. The plan is to have one or two guest speakers from Europe (that are planning to attend the dinner) give us their view on contesting from EU – it should give us a little different perspective on the dynamics. We will also concentrate on how any station can produce a nice score with a little attention to some key details.

Full information on this meeting is available at the YCCC web site.

Details about the meeting location can be found at <http://plimoth.org/>

And some wonderful news was received in our region – the World Radiosport Team Championship for 2014 will be held HERE in W1-land as based on the proposal submitted by Randy, K5ZD and Doug, K1DG. Congratulations to their team for a VERY BIG WIN for all of us! Watch for details at <http://www.wrtc2014.org/> and volunteer your time and money – there is much to be done over the next few years.

73 and good contesting this fall,
Mark, K1RX
President, YCCC 2010-11

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New Crew

At Summer Meetings: KA1CTR, Lane Bickford, Windham, NH
K1ZR, Shane Mattson, Sandown, NH
W1MJB, Marty Bowen, East Longmeadow, MA
W1MSW, Matt Wilhelm, Northampton, MA

At Boxboro General Meeting
AJ1E, Charles D'Amico, Cambridge, MA
KB1TBU, Scott Larose, Hudson, NH
NG1R, Roger Mitchell, Danbury, CT
N1QD, Joseph Harris, Quincy, MA
WA1DRQ, Robert Zylinski, Sandwich, MA

Have you gotten an OO report lately?

They're not all bad. A friend of mine received a new kind of OO report
...for being an outstanding operator in FD

+..BJ

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The editorial deadline for the Scuttlebutt is the 10th of every odd month.

Flotsam & Jetsam

Barnacle Jack (BJ) Schuster, W1WEF w1wef@arrl.net

Ahoy Maties!

It's been a while since I started this column, and we have many new club members in the intervening years, so time I restated what was the original intent. Flotsam & Jetsam is anything that can be thrown overboard to keep the ship from sinking. This column was intended to be bits of news, tips, hints, anything of interest that can be thrown overboard to members that might not have warranted a long article, but that I could put together in one place to pass along to the club. With the Club reflector available to everyone in realtime, it's understandable that there's not much left to pass along that hasn't already been mentioned. If you have anything to contribute, please send it to Barnacle Jack for the next Butt. Everyone is invited to write articles anytime, and they can be sent directly to Steve Rodowicz, N1SR@arrl.net, or if you would like me to review an article for you I'd be happy to.

One thing I'm never short of is talk about what I've been up toyeah, I know...

Early this summer I was faced with having to do an antenna repair at the top of the mast, at 116 ft. This required removing the rotor, loosening the TH6 just above the thrust bearing on the flat top plate, and lowering the mast so I could reach the XM240. Since my rotor shelf is only a foot and a half below the top, my come-along is too long to fit between a top plate ear and the bottom of the mast. Although I've come up with ways around this same situation many times before, I thought that the scheme I used this time was my best yet.

I inserted a piece of pipe as an extension of about a foot into the bottom of the mast. I could have used a piece of pipe over the outside of the mast, but had a piece that fit loosely inside and went up about a foot. A bolt thru the extension prevented it from going any further. With the extension, the come along fit between the mast extension bottom and the "ear" at the top of the tower, and lowering and raising the mast and antenna could be done easily. The job went very smoothly until I had to remove the last U Bolt, when the SS nut seized on the SS U Bolt! That meant I had to go down the tower again for a hacksaw, and back up again. Anyway, the fix has been holding up FB.

Congrats again to Doug and Randy on landing the next World Radio Team Competition in New England for 2014. As you have read on the Reflector, this will be a tremendous job and will require loads of volunteer help, especially from YCCC members. Since this is a contest event, and we're a club of some 400 members, I would hope that everyone who is able to help in some aspect will volunteer. One of my most memorable Ham Radio experiences was meeting the contesters from around the world who I had worked but never met, after the first WRTC in Seattle. Let Doug, K1DG know if you'd like to help.

During the summer I get together with a group of non-contesters for breakfast on Wednesday mornings. Last week, AE1TH brought an HT I had never heard of, made in China by "WOUXON". They sell a dual bander for \$107. Check out www.wouxon.us.

When I looked at my 2009 CQWW CW log on-line recently, I thought something was wrong because in the first ten minutes I saw that I only made three Qs, and one was a W8. I couldn't find my saved log in my computer, but finally figured out that I had used an old DOS computer for the last time before the hard drive crashed a few weeks after the contest. I had no backup of the log, but I found notes that told me CT DOS worked flawlessly, and during the first hour I could only S&P and wound up with a 98 hour despite the terrible start. In the end, the published results show that I made my top ten goal (9th place SOHP) and I was happy, especially knowing I was probably the only SO1R and operated 6 hours less than any of those who beat me.

Congrats to everyone in the club who placed well, but this year more than ever proved that every vote counts...every log counts. Our loss to FRC could have been made up by one medium effort, or a few smaller efforts. Get in the chair and operate if you can ... after all we're contesters and we do it because it's fun! Submit your log no matter how small, and credit Yankee Clipper Contest Club!

You may have read about my disastrous CW Sprint experience in September. At least I wasn't tired as I usually am by the end of the third hour. I drank a bottle of Five Hour Energy an hour before the contest started, and was not only wide awake thru the whole contest, but all night afterwards! I'll restock before WW this year.

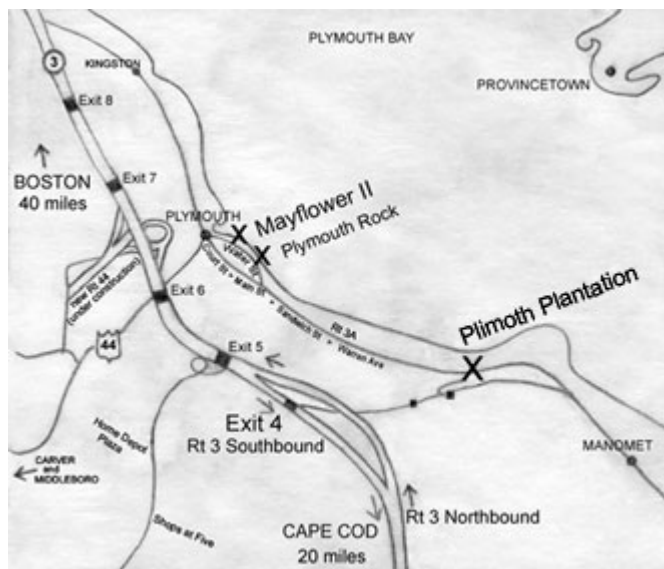
One last mention...if you haven't heard of the new worldwide CW operators club, take a look at the CWOPS.org website. Many YCCers are already among the 800 or so members, and our first annual dinner is being held in Plymouth Plantation after the Oct 2 YCCC meeting at the same site. Everyone is welcome to attend, CWOPS member or not. It will be a fun dinner...send a check to Don, N1DG right away and let him know you're joining us. Read details at <http://www.cwops.org/cwopsdinner.html>

73

Barnacle JACK - W1WEF

Directions to Plimoth Plantation

Plimoth Plantation, 137 Warren Avenue, Plymouth, MA 02360



From Boston and Points North:

Take Route 93 South to Route 3 South. Take exit 4 (Plimoth Plantation Highway) off Route 3. **This is a left exit.**

From Cape Cod:

Note: there is no direct exit to the museum from Route 3 North. You must reverse direction at exit 5 to go on Route 3 SOUTH. Take Route 3 North to exit 5. At the bottom of the exit ramp go left (under Route 3). Make a right onto Route 3 SOUTH. Immediately take exit 4 (Plimoth Plantation Highway). **This is a left exit.**

From Providence and Points Southwest:

Take 95 North, to 495 South (exit 6) to Route 44 East (exit 6). After entering Plymouth, take Route 3 South to exit 4 (Plimoth Plantation Highway). **This is a left exit.**

From Points West:

Take the Massachusetts Turnpike East to 495 South to Route 44 East. After entering Plymouth, take Route 3 South to exit 4 (Plimoth Plantation Highway). **This is a left exit.**

From All Points:

Continue on Plimoth Plantation Highway for approximately 1 mile and take the exit for the museum. At the end of the exit ramp turn right, and proceed up the street for 20 yards. Turn right at the sign for the museum into the driveway. At the stop sign at the end of the driveway, cars and campers should turn left and park in our main lot or overflow lot. Buses, RVs or visitors with handicapped plates should turn right and park in the bus parking lot.

Approximate Travel Times:

Boston:	1 hour
Falmouth, MA:	40 minutes
Manchester, NH:	3 hours, 15 minutes
Mystic, CT:	2 hours
New Bedford, MA:	1 hour
Portland, ME:	3 hours, 30 minutes
Providence, RI:	1 hour, 15 minutes
Sturbridge, MA:	2 hours, 30 minutes

CW Operators' Club Meeting at Plimoth Plantation 2 October, following YCCC Meeting

The CW Operators' Club is having its annual dinner at the Plantation following the YCCC meeting.

Their dinner is welcome to all and details are at: www.cwops.org/cwopsdinner.html

Door prizes include a Begali Key, \$600 Alpha linear discount coupon and 1/2 price Vibroplex Coupon.

The dinner speaker is N1NS, Barbara Dougan of the National Park Service speaking on the historic Marconi sites on the Cape.

GETTING SET FOR THE CONTEST

Jack Schuster - W1WEF

You've all seen these suggestions before, but perhaps this will serve as a reminder in preparing for a serious effort in any contest. The following is a checklist that I try to follow.

1. Give the family as much advanced notice as possible. Suggest a visit to Mom that weekend, especially if it's a phone contest.
2. Start checking out the station as early as possible. Are the antennas still pointing where they're supposed to? Are the rotors still turning all the way? Are the antennas still working with the same SWR as before?
3. Walk the beverage; check the elevated radials.
4. Check the backup gear (if you have any). Is that radio or amplifier that you haven't turned on in a year still working?
5. Check out the computer with the software you will use. Download the latest SCP or Master Data files. Run the software simulating the contest with the amplifier on (if you're using one), to be sure there isn't any new RFI problem when you turn the antennas toward the shack on any band, and that there's no new RFI to or from the computer as a result of changes you made since the last contest. Load the F-key memories as well as the outboard memory keyer or DVK if you're using one. Put a fresh battery in the Logikeyer (my homebrew keyer is battery powered).
6. Don't forget to unplug that TV set in the shack that generates RF noise even though it's turned off!
7. Review the contest rules not only to refresh your memory, but also to see if anything has changed.
8. Dig out that zone map (where applicable) and refresh your memory as to where the CQ or ITU zones are.
9. Get as active on the bands the week before the contest as you can. Get a feel for propagation, and see what expeditions are around. Review the NG3K contest expedition list to see who is traveling for the contest and what calls they might be using.
10. Keep an eye on the club reflector so you know about YCCC expeditions! Working them counts twice for the club!
11. Review your old logs, and published or online contest results, and set a goal for yourself, but don't get hung up on it. Conditions might be better or worse than expected, so just keep plugging, and figure everyone else has the same conditions. Keep a copy of your previous best .brk file on the desk for reference. Print the N6BV propagation predictions from the Club web site.
12. If you're REALLY serious, peruse the logs available online from other stations, not only your competition but others around the world to see when they had propagation to you the last time, where they were operating when. Study your competitions logs (or K5ZD's) to try to learn what you could have done better.
13. Make sure everything in the shack including keyboard function keys are clearly labeled so that you have a chance of doing the right thing when you have to troubleshoot a problem or hit the right key when you can't keep your eyes open!
14. During the week before the contest cut down on your normal caffeine dosage. Get as much extra sleep as you can. Plan what you'll need in the cooler chest beside you for food and drink during the contest. Mountain Dew is loaded with caffeine, and works well with a straw in phone contests (Tnx Dean Straw...no pun intended).
15. As far in advance as possible, if you're not already on an exercise program, try to get in as good physical shape as you can. Take a good walk every day if you can. Cut down on the junk food. [Good advice even if you aren't planning to operate a 48 hour contest! - ed]
16. Start checking the bands an hour before the start, and decide what band to start on. Write down the good multipliers you hear and the frequencies. As it gets closer to the start, you can start putting calls in the band map.
17. Although I don't use packet or telnet, be sure to check them out if you are assisted or multi-op.
18. If it's a phone contest, be sure to use compression and check that you have the microphone gain and compression levels set properly. Check out the voice recorder, and load the memories.

Remember--do as I say, not as I do! **KB**

TIPS FOR LITTLE GUNS & CONTESTERS WITH LIMITED TIME

Jeff Briggs – K1ZM with updates by C. Morrison - N1RR

So you don't have a lot of time to get into the contests, or you have a small to medium station. No need to get on in the contests, right? **WRONG!**

It is a fact (proven again and again) that it is not the K1ARs and K1KIs of contest clubs who enable a club to win it all. Sure they are a necessary part of the mix, but it is the LITTLE GUNS who enable a club to win a contest at the super club level.

The small and medium guns and contesters with limited amounts of operating time are an equally important part of the mix, and YCCC will never win a major contest without getting nearly ALL of its members, large and small, on the air this contest season.

If you have a small station

If you don't have a powerhouse station, or if you have only dipoles and wires, contests can still be fun by picking your shots and strategically selecting times and bands where you can maximize your contribution to the club.

Here are a few **DOs** and **DON'Ts**:

DON'T expect to call CQ very often and maintain a high rate...

DON'T expect to crash through big pile-ups easily, if at all...

DON'T expect too much out of 20m at sunrise on Saturday morning...

DON'T work too hard at sunset on the low bands--you will not likely be heard...

DO expect far better results Sunday morning as 20m and 15m open into Europe...

DO push hard on 10m (even CQ high in the band) if 10m opens to Europe either day...

DO answer CQs anywhere on Sunday since most other stations have already worked the larger stations...

DO check the low bands, 80m, 40m and even 160m on Saturday night from 0300z-0800z
AFTER they have worked the big guns on Friday night...

DO chase all the Caribbean mults and expeditions on Sunday afternoon when they will be begging for Qs and are likely to be listening for any signal they can hear...

You will be surprised what you can do if you follow this game plan.

And remember the old adage: "There is no meters like 10 meters."

If it opens, you will do very well by CQing high in the band--even up as far as 28.900 MHz. Good luck and please do the best you can to help YCCC this time out!

If you have little time

If you are limited by time but have a good signal, then these suggestions will help you maximize your score to help the club score points.

4 hours operating time

Saturday - 20m at around 1200z

15m around 1300z

You will work bunches of Qs and multipliers.

Sunday - 20m at 1300z

15m at 1400z

On both days, check if 10m is opens at 1300z.

6 hours operating time

Saturday - 20m at around 1200z

15m around 1300z

On both days, check if 10m is opens at 1300z.

20m/15m/10m around 2000z

And watch for South America + Pacific on the high bands

Sunday - 20m at 1300z

15m at 1400z

On both days, check if 10m is opens at 1300z.

20m/15m/10m around 2000z and watch for South America + Pacific on the high bands

8 hours operating time

Saturday - 40m at around 0600z – EU Sunrise

20m at around 1200z

15m around 1300z

On both days, check if 10m is opens at 1300z.

20m/15m/10m around 2000z and watch for South America + Pacific on the high bands

Sunday -80m at around 0600z – EU Sunrise

20m at 1300z

15m at 1400z

On both days, check if 10m is opens at 1300z.

20m/15m/10m around 2000z and watch for South America + Pacific on the high bands

10 hours operating time

Saturday - 40m at around 0600z – EU Sunrise
20m/15m/10m -- 3 hours

On both days, check if 10m is opens at 1300z.

20m/15m/10m around 2000z and watch for South America + Pacific on the high bands

Sunday - 80m at around 0600z – EU Sunrise
20m/15m/10m -- 3 hours

On both days, check if 10m is opens at 1300z.

20m/15m/10m around 2000z and watch for South America + Pacific on the high bands

Add an hour each day to either 20m or 15m in the morning running Europeans.

Make sure to select the band you get out BEST ON. Milk it for all it is worth!

12 hours of operating time

Operate as described above but begin nightly operations on the low bands at 0500z each night and go for 2 hours instead of just one.

14 hours of operating time

Operate as described above with an additional hour of operating time to work multipliers and call CQ each morning on 10m/15m/20m bring this up to 3 hours each morning.

16 hours of operating time

Operate as described above with an additional hour each afternoon for chasing multipliers on 10m/15m/20m.

18-24 hours of operating time

Extend all of the above as you see fit according to where you think your station plays best. Do hit 160m at European sunrise as this will be the time when it will be easiest to work people even in the Caribbean and even with modest antennas and power levels.

So, the words are simple: GO FOR IT and do your best to help YCCC! Hope to CU in the pile-ups!

New England selected to host 2014 WRTC

<http://wrtc2014.com/>

<http://wrtc2014.org/>



After studying and discussing two thorough proposals to host WRTC 2014 by a team from New England, USA and a team from Bulgaria, the WRTC Sanctioning Committee (WRTC SC) has granted the organization of WRTC 2014 to **New England, USA**. All members of the WRTC SC were convinced that either group would provide competent and trustworthy sponsorship. Making the decision to award the organization of WRTC 2014 was very difficult. We also thank both teams for their interest and for sharing their vision for WRTC - it is a pity that only one could be selected.

The Committee will work closely with the New England group to help find solutions for questions and problems as they arise. Further, the Committee encourages the Bulgarian team to pursue its interest in future WRTC events and support WRTC 2014 with suggestions and ideas from the European perspective.

Source: Tine Brajnik S05A WRTC SC Chairman

YCCC Regular Meeting, August 28, 2010—Boxborough, MA

The August meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm by Mark, K1RX, at the Holiday Inn Boxborough Woods, following the club's traditional open session at the bi-annual ARRL New England Division Convention. After a brief review of the meeting agenda and self-introductions by the attendees, George, W1EBI, presented the secretary's report. Active membership stood at 341, with 242 members current with dues paid to 31 March 2011. Two informal meetings during the summer, at the QTH's of K1RX and K1TTT, yielded four new members:

KA1CTR, Lane Bickford, Windham, NH

K1ZR, Shane Mattson, Sandown, NH

W1MJB, Marty Bowen, East Longmeadow, MA

W1MSW, Matt Wilhelm, Northampton, MA

Ed, K1EP, presented the treasurer's report, showing a current bank balance of \$13,742. As of 30 June, expenses during 2010 have exceeded income by \$72.

Dennis, W1UE, reported that five SO2R kits were still available and are being offered to interested YCCC members before being promoted outside the club. Dennis indicated another run of the 6BPF kits was being considered.

Dave, K1HT, presented a scores update. YCCC soundly outscored FRC in ARRL DX 2010 (CW plus Phone) by 234.1 million (203 logs) to 197.7 million (140 logs). This compared to the club's total of 172.9 million in 2009. The claimed scores for CQWW 2009 were too close for comfort: 294.56M for YCCC vs. 292.04M for FRC. Sadly, the published results turned the other way, with FRC shading YCCC in the final totals by only 800K points.

Mark, K1RX, was able to offer some soothing words by announcing two members receiving plaques for great results in CQWW RTTY 2009, with Dennis, W1UE, taking the #1 spot in North America, and John, K1FWE, taking the #1 spot in USA.

Doug, K1DG, announced that a bid to host WRTC 2014 in the New England area has been submitted to the WRTC sanctioning committee by a team chaired by Doug and Randy, K5ZD. This is an endeavor that has been under consideration since 2005, and this is the first time there have been multiple bids to host the competition, with another proposal offered by a team from Bulgaria. Doug said a decision was expected soon, and he handled a number of questions from the attendees regarding budgets, contest format and implementation.

Six attendees submitted applications for membership, and the following new members were voted into the club by acclamation:

AJ1E, Charles D'Amico, Cambridge, MA

KB1TBU, Scott Larose, Hudson, NH

NG1R, Roger Mitchell, Danbury, CT

N1QD, Joseph Harris, Quincy, MA

WA1DRQ, Robert Zylinski, Sandwich, MA

Following a break in the meeting, K1RX screened a new video, "Elements of SO2R Operation", produced by Geoff, KA1IOR, showing Randy, K5ZD, demonstrating two-radio operation at his station during the 2010 WPX SSB contest.

The first regular meeting of the 2010-11 contest season will be in Plymouth, MA, on Saturday, October 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

George Harlem, W1EBI, secretary

YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

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

Full Member - \$20 (\$35/2 yr) (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper delivery of Club newsletter)

Full Member - \$15 (\$25/2 yr) (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and electronic "Ebutt" delivery of Club newsletter)

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

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

Subscription - \$** (A "friend of YCCC" - not a member but a possible candidate for future membership. Receives club newsletter only in paper or electronic form. Fee basis is \$20 for overseas paper delivery, \$15 for domestic paper delivery and \$10 for electronic "Ebutt" delivery domestically or overseas.)

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

Scuttlebutt Advertising: Nominal Business Card sized ad, \$50 per year (6 appearances)

CONTEST SCORES should be sent to the club scorekeeper, Dave Hoaglin, K1HT, preferably by E-mail at scores@yccc.org. 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

YCCC LOGO ITEMS <http://www.cafepress.com/n1ik>

QSL CARDS are ordered through Burt Eldridge, W1ZS. To order, send Burt an email at w1zs@arrl.net, detailing card information per "QSL Request" form available at http://www.yccc.org/members/yccc_qls.htm. You will receive a proof by email. Approve the proof, making any corrections, and return to Burt *with payment* (make checks out to Burt, not YCCC). Current price is \$50 (delivered) for 1,000 cards. Also available is the glossy version for \$70/1000.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER is posed on the YCCC website. Updates are published in 'Movers and Shakers' when members move or change call signs.

COMPUTER STUFF INTERNET REFLECTOR There is an Internet mailing list for YCCC members. To subscribe, send mail to yccc-REQUEST@yccc.org. Insert only the word "subscribe" in the subject of the mail message. (Do not send messages to the reflector that have file attachments, HTML formatting, use boldface or other fancy fonts, etc.)

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