



Scuttlebutt

February 2012

Issue 213

**Next Meeting-
Saturday: February 4th - Noon till 5PM
Holiday Inn
1 Bright Meadow Rd
Enfield, Connecticut**

Captain's Cabin

**Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP
President**

Well, the holiday season is now behind us – did you receive all the great gifts you were hoping for? The Yankee Swap at the December meeting was great fun, and provided this author with a nice winter project, that of rebuilding a Bencher paddle into workable condition. It will come in handy, considering the last-minute dash (pun intended) to get a second set of paddles for CQWW CW!

Speaking of CQWW, the FRC website has published their list of scores for the SSB side on their website – and it looks challenging! From the face of it, it would appear that they did not suffer as much disruption during SSB as we did – so we must hope that our strength in CW is enough to overcome any deficit. I want to thank everyone who made an extra effort in CW to put out the maximum activity and help the club distinguish itself despite the blow delivered by Mother Nature!

Speaking of WX, after that first 'shot across the bow', the weather this winter has actually been very mild in 1-land. As I sit in the shack writing this, it is bright sun outside with temperatures nudging the 50's – perfect for touching up the wire antennas, walking the beverages, etc. Expatriate member Paul, W0AD, has had so much good weather and enthusiasm that he was able to install a 4-element Steppir and 2-element 40m Moxon with a prop pitch rotator in Minnesota between Thanksgiving and New Years! So take a minute to think ahead for you ARRL DX plans, and while the weather permits, let's get everything in order for a great showing! This contest presents a unique opportunity for little pistol stations by putting the US in favored QSO status – this should make it much easier for smaller stations to work the juicy DX! Add to that the fact that 10 meters will likely be open, and this really expands to possibilities for moderate stations. So whatever size your station is, be sure to get on the air and send in your logs!

In the coming months we have some great programs set up for members to enjoy! The upcoming February 4th meeting will feature some technical talks by Ed Hare, W1RFI, and Mike Gruber, W1MG on 'RFI for Hams', and yours truly will present a talk on antenna modeling versus real world results. Les, N1IL will present slides from his Dxpediton to JX50, and we will have an update on CQWW scores from Dave, K1HT. Paul, K1XM will present a slide show on his Dxpediton to Bonaire. This meeting has been set in central Connecticut to favor the members to the south and west portion of the territory, so be sure to take advantage of the location. Plus, we will be selling raffle tickets for the YCCC Youth Scholarship – bring your cash/checkbooks!

In order to get properly educated and motivated for the ARRL DX contests, we have planned our final Contest University for the 2011-12 season, which will be held at the ARRL facilities in Newington on February 9th from 6:30-9:30pm. Don't miss this opportunity to pick up tips, tricks, and techniques to build your score! Plus, we will be selling raffle tickets for the YCCC Youth Scholarship – bring your cash/checkbooks! (Continued on Page 4)

| Yankee Clipper Contest Club | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| President | Tony Brock Fisher, K1KP President@YCCC.org |
| Vice President | Dennis Egan, W1UE VicePresident@YCCC.org |
| Activities Manager | Jim Ussailis, W1EQO 413-585-8645 W1EQO@Shaysnet.com |
| Secretary | Brian Szewczyk, NJ1F Secretary@YCCC.org |
| Treasurer | Ed Parish, K1EP Treasurer@YCCC.org |
| Scuttlebutt Editor | Steve Rodowicz, N1SR (413) 593-6554 Editor@YCCC.org |
| Scuttlebutt Publisher | Ken Miller, WB1DX Publisher@YCCC.org |
| Webmaster | Lyn Glagowski, WB1CCL wb1ccl@gmail.com |
| Scorekeeper | Dave Hoaglin, K1HT (978) 443-3603 Scores@YCCC.org |
| W1 QSL Bureau Manager | Art Holmes, W1RZF W1QSL@YCCC.ORG |
| Technical Assist Manager | Dave Jordan, K1NQ YCCCTA@YCCC.ORG |
| New Members Manager | Mark Pride, K1RX (603) 778-1222 |
| Media Manager | Tom LeClerc, W1TJL W1TJL@arrl.net |

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DIRECTIONS to YCCC February Meeting:

Feb 4, 12 Noon-5pm
 Holiday Inn
 1 Bright Meadow Rd
 Enfield Connecticut
 (Exit 49 off Interstate 91)

From East or West: Take Mass Pike (I-90) to exit 6. After toll booth, take a left on 291 To Interstate 91 South. Take exit 49 (the first exit in Connecticut). Take a left at the lights at the end of the ramp. Go through one set of lights. Take a right at the next set of lights onto Bright Meadow Blvd. The hotel will be on your left.

From North: Take Interstate 91 South. Take exit 49 (first exit in Connecticut). Take a left at the lights at the end of the ramp. Go through one set of lights. Take a right at the next set of lights onto Bright Meadow Blvd. The hotel will be on your left.

From South: Take Interstate 91 North to Exit 49, bear right at the end of the ramp, and take your immediate right onto Bright Meadow Blvd. The Hotel will be on your left.

Area Managers

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| ME | Mike Russo, K1EU | (207) 883-9524 | k1eu@maine.rr.com |
| ENH | Jerry Muller, K0TV | ----- | k0tv@arrl.net |
| WNH/SVT | Craig Clark, K1QX | (603) 899-6957 | jcclark@myfairpoint.net |
| NE MA (978) | Scott Andersen, NE1RD | (978) 263-9617 | bsandersen@mac.com |
| SE MA (508) | Eric Williams, KV1J | ----- | ----- |
| Boston (617/781) | Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P | (617) 325-6767 | jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu |
| WMA (413) | Tom Homewood, W1TO | (413) 743-7342 | w1to@arrl.net |
| CT (860) | Rich Cady, N1IXF | ----- | ----- |
| CT (203) | Dave Arruzza, W1CTN | ----- | Darruzza@adelphia.net |
| | & Mike Loukides, W1JQ | (203) 458-2545 | MikeL@oreilly.com |
| RI (401) | Nat Henrickson, NG1Z | (401) ----- | nglz@nsradio.org |
| NNY | OPEN | ----- | ----- |
| NYC/LI (718) | Tom Carrubba, KA2D | (631) 422-9594 | ka2d@arrl.net |
| SNY/NJ/PA (914) | Hank Kiernan, KF2O | (914) 235-4940 | hankkier@aol.com |
| NVT (802) | Al Frugoli, KE1FO | (802) 893-8388 | kelfo@arrl.net |

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 The editorial deadline for the Scuttlebutt is the 10th of every odd month and as announced on the YCCC Reflector.

Flotsam & Jetsam

Jeff Demers, N1SNB
jbdemers@gmail.com

Flotsam & Jetsam has long been a part of the YCCC and our beloved Scuttlebutt. With Jack, W1WEF hanging up the keyboard after an extensive trip at sea, it's my pleasure to continue on with his work. I don't think I can live up to the quality of his technical insights or his panache for inking a great contest tip or story - but I do hope to keep F & J interesting and anticipated as it has been for more than 15 years.

The New F & J

In discussions with Tony, K1KP - I see several new directions for the column that I will be pursuing, including:

- Regular Profiles/Interviews with YCCC Members - Many clubs, like CWOps, greatly enhance their newsletter with member profiles. I've already profiled several members and will be presenting their stories in coming newsletters.
- Additional Focus on Smaller Contests - With so many YCCC'ers on the air every weekend in non-Major contests and RTTY contests, this represents an exciting angle to keep us amped up in between the main events.
- Club Polling & Stats - Who's making the most QSOs each month in club? What is the most common 80m antenna amongst club members? The internet gives us the ability to gather information quickly and effectively and disseminate it amongst the club membership.
- The Best of Jack - With so much ink written by W1WEF, I'll regularly be bringing back some of those evergreen tips that have been in the column over the years.

If you've got additional ideas or comments or would like to assist, please email me at jbdemers@gmail.com. With this kind of variety planned, Flotsam & Jetsam seems like a column name that will continue to stand the test of time.

The Contest Calendar (It's Busy!)

We're heading into one of the busiest times of the year on the contest calendar. The months of February and March feature 220 hours of major contesting (including the 48 hours WPX RTTY) and a total of five WRTC qualifying events.

Foreign contests worthy of mention include the growing and important Russian DX Contest and the mixed mode SP DX contest and the CQ Manchester Mineira (CQ MM) contest. CQ MM is a 36 hour CW event with special emphasis on working South America. The SP DX and CQ MM contests are opportunities for even modest stations to make a few hundred contest QSOs on otherwise quiet contest weekends. Both contests have a growing base and featured high levels of activity last year (the SP DX had over 2,000 entrants last year!). For smaller contest aficionados, I haven't included either the REF SSB contest or the UBA CW contest - participation seemed light in both in 2011 with limited opportunity to make more than a few hundred QSOs in either event.

For the RTTY-minded, the CQ WPX RTTY contest is a great opportunity to assist the YCCC in our march towards RTTY dominance. Last year's event had 24 YCCC entrants, net net, we were about 21 million points off winning the US Club Competition and finished in 3rd place.

Of course, the major events represent a serious get-on-the-air opportunity for all of us. Even for smaller stations, the ARRL events are great opportunities to sit back and really bask in some great rate.

Given the active schedule for the next two months, stake out your radio time and enjoy the great conditions. Try and get on in some of the minor events as well and hand out some QSOs - you'll hear many YCCCs very active in some of the smaller contests. The callsigns K1BV, K1GQ, AE1T, W1FJ, N1IW and many others are some of the many YCCCs you are liable to bump into in some of these smaller events. I enjoy putting the equipment through the paces without the self-inflicted pressure to stay in the chair and grind it out.

Majors

NA Sprint CW, February 5[^]
ARRL DX CW, February 18-19[^]
ARRL SSB, March 3-4[^]
Russian DX, March 17-18[^]
CQ WPX SSB, March 24-26[^]

[^] WRTC 2014 Qualifying Event

Minors

CQ 160 CW, January 27-29
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest, February 11-12
NA Sprint SSB, February 12
CQ 160 SSB, February 24-26
NAQP RTTY, February 25-26
NA Sprint RTTY, March 11
BARTG HF RTTY, March 17-18
SP DX, April 7-8 (Top US QSO Total: 700)
CQ Manchester Minería DX Contest, April 21-22
(Top US QSO Total: 550)

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Captain's Cabin (Continued from Page 1)

Finally, it's important that everyone check their calendars to make sure they take note of a date change for the April meeting. In order to avoid a conflict with Palm Sunday, as well as eliminate the conundrum of holding elections on April Fool's Day, the April meeting will be held on March 31 at the Sturbridge Host. Plus, we will be selling raffle tickets for the YCCC Youth Scholarship – bring your cash/checkbooks! If we sell enough tickets, we will hold the drawing at this meeting.

Speaking of elections, YCCC has need of one dedicated person to take over the job of Treasurer. After ten years of faithful service to the club, Ed Parish is ready to step down as Treasurer, and hand over the financial reigns to a successor. HUGE thanks to Ed for his years of service in this important role. If you are interested in serving the club in a role that has one of the highest importance/recognition ratios, please contact me! In all seriousness, the Treasurer's job is very important in terms of the strategic direction of the club, as it carries with it the opportunities of setting the club's annual budget, in cooperation with the President.

In other transitions, Ric Plummer KV1W is retiring as Official Badge Maker for YCCC. Seeing as I already own a high-quality laminator and business has been slow, I will take over this important phase of club operation. Thanks to Ric for his years (solar cycles) of service to the club in this role!

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YCCC Youth Scholarship Raffle!!

The YCCC is raffling off a K3/100 kit (value \$2K) to support the ARRL Youth Scholarship program. Tickets are only \$25! This is your chance to own a top quality HF rig and support the promising young ham college students of our area at the same time.

Tickets CANNOT BE SOLD BY MAIL; WE CANNOT ACCEPT PAYPAL PAYMENTS FOR TICKETS!!

Therefore we will be selling tickets at ALL CLUB MEETINGS – this includes the general meetings of Feb 4 and Mar 31, as well as the Contest University on Feb 9.

Please bring your cash/checkbooks and support this cause!!

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NOTE DATE CHANGE!

The April Meeting date has been changed to April -1, 2012 (That's right, March 31st)!

Location: Sturbridge Host, 12noon-5pm.

| 2011-2012 | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| YCCC MEETING SCHEDULE | | |
| Day | Date | Location |
| Saturday | NEW DATE! March 31, 2012 | Sturbridge Host, Sturbridge, MA |

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SK's – YCCC Crew and Friends

- W2AX Larry Amodeo Nov 28, 2011
- K1BU James E. Power Dec 2, 2011
(Father of K1NA & KA1R)
- WV1K Matt Cassarino Dec 14, 2011
- W2YV Dave Horbachuk Dec 27, 2011

FINAL YCCC Contest University of the 2011-2012 Season!!

YCCC WILL HOLD a Contest University at the ARRL Facilities in Newington, CT on Thursday, February 9th from 6:30-9:30pm.

'Professors' K1VR, W1WEF, W1UE and K1XM will lecture on tips, tricks and techniques to improve your contest score:

- Maximizing score with limited station
- Maximizing score with limited operating time
- Specific strategies for your entry class (SO, Assisted, MS, M2, MM)
- CW Operating & Pileup techniques
- Propagation - what's expected this year
- Operating tips for running, S&P, DO's and DON'Ts
- Sleep strategy

This will also serve as a local meeting, so new members can join YCCC.

If you are interested in attending, please send an email to K1KP at president[at]yccc.org

Thanks to Rich, N1IXF, Eastern CT Area Manager, for setting up this venue!

We will also be selling Raffle tickets for the YCCC Youth Scholarship – 25\$ per chance for a K3/100! Bring your cash/checkbook!

We will probably meet for dinner somewhere close by. Watch the reflector for details!

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February Meeting Information

Feb 4, 12noon-5pm,
Holiday Inn
1 Bright Meadow Rd, Enfield Ct
Exit 49 off Interstate 91

Program: Interference TO Amateur Radio: The issues, the solutions and a practical demonstration

Ed Hare, W1RFI and Mike Gruber, W1MG, of the ARRL Lab are going to tag team a presentation that will help YCCC members and guests deal with the interference many of us have experienced at our stations. This starts with a PowerPoint presentation by Ed on RFI issues and the FCC rules about them. Mike then follows with a discussion on how to track down interference from a unknown source. Ed will then describe the program ARRL has worked out with the FCC on the handling of power-line noise cases, followed by a practical demonstration by Mike on the use of Radar Engineers power-line noise locating equipment. This will be followed by an open-end Q&A and discussion session, where people can ask questions or share information of their own.

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP will present a talk 'A Tale of Two Models', about where Antenna Modeling programs DID and DID NOT correctly predict important antenna behaviors.

Dave, K1HT will present an update on 2011 CQWW DX Contest scores.

Les, N1IL will present talk about his trip to Jan Mayen with JX50 team last summer.

Paul, K1XM will present a slide show on his trip to Bonaire for CQWW.

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Logbook of The World to Now Support CQ Awards

01/24/2012 - The ARRL and CQ Communications, Inc have signed an agreement to begin providing support for CQ-sponsored operating awards by the ARRL's Logbook of the World ([LoTW](#)) electronic confirmation system. The agreement was announced jointly today by ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, and CQ Communications President Richard Ross, K2MGA.

CQ's awards will be the first non-ARRL awards supported by LoTW and will be phased in beginning with the CQ WPX award, with additional CQ awards to follow. The ARRL's LoTW system -- an interactive database recording contacts between radio amateurs -- was created in 2003 and has been adopted by 47,500 radio amateurs worldwide. It already has records of 400 million contacts and is growing weekly. The target date for beginning LoTW support for WPX is April 1, 2012. Amateurs will be able to use LoTW logs to generate lists of confirmed contacts to be submitted for WPX credit. Standard LoTW credit fees and CQ award fees will apply.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed that this step gives radio amateurs throughout the world an inexpensive and convenient means of gaining credits toward CQ's popular operating awards: "LoTW has significantly increased interest and participation in the ARRL's DXCC, Worked All States and VUCC awards programs. We anticipate a similarly positive response to the addition of the CQ WPX award. Amateurs will be able to spend more time operating and less time chasing QSL cards."

CQ President Richard Ross, K2MGA, said he is very pleased to be able to move forward with LoTW support for CQ awards. "We have had excellent results with electronic confirmations for several years," he explained. "I am glad that we are now able to begin expanding that convenience to those participants in our award programs who use Logbook of The World. We look forward to a smooth launch for WPX and to the expansion of LoTW support to include the rest of our award programs, as well."

Yaesu is the Principal Sponsor of the LoTW website.

Thanks to ARRL.

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Aruba Calling

Andy, K2LE will be QRV from Aruba from Feb 1st to Feb 28th as P40LE operating primarily CW with a little SSB on all bands. Sorry, no RTTY.

He'll also be operating as part of the ARRL DX Multi-Single effort from P49V.

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Congratulations to Scott NE1RD

2010 Top score in 2010 CQ WPX SSB for 15m QRP with 639,086 points, 778 QSOs, and 382 prefixes.
2011 Top score in 2011 CQ WPX SSB for 10m QRP with 129,762 points, 355 QSOs, and 178 prefixes.

Both years he was on the island of St. Thomas with the call KP2/NE1RD.

Looks like the "100 pound Dx-Pedition" idea is a winner.

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YCCC Regular Meeting December 4th 2011 Auburn Mass

The Meeting was called to order at 1:15pm by President Tony K1KP after the 35 members and guests enjoyed a holiday luncheon.

Tony K1KP started a roll call of those present

The Treasurers and Secretary's reports were read and a motion was made by K1XM to accept them, Seconded by K0TV

Tony K1KP then announced that Ham Test Online <http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com/> has offered YCCC members a free subscription for an online upgrade course. Thank you to K1RV for making this offer to the club members. If you are interested in this offer to upgrade Email Pi, K1RV, [k1rv\[at\]hamtestonline.com](mailto:k1rv[at]hamtestonline.com) for details. Some statistics about the license class of our membership, Novice 1, Technician 13, General 27, Advanced 10 and Extra 316. Make a New Year's resolution to become an Extra!

Tony K1KP then announced the kickoff of the annual fund raiser for the YCCC Scholarship. This year the club is raffling off a K-3 and tickets cost \$25 each which are available at meetings only! This is due to postal and state regulations. The YCCC Scholarship awards \$1,200 to a Student Ham that holds a general class or higher license to help with their higher education expenses. Those in attendance watched a multimedia presentation put on by AB1LG, last year's winner, about his studies.

Tony then gave the floor to Dennis W1UE and Paul K1XM who made a \$400 contribution to the YCCC scholarship fund from the proceeds of the SO2R YCCC project. Stay tuned for another new club project.

Tony K1KP then announced a 30 minute socialization and raffle ticket break.

The meeting was again called to order by K1KP and he asked if there was anyone in attendance who wanted to join the YCCC. There were none.

Tony then asked if there was any new business. Jack W1WEF made brief presentation and a motion that the YCCC donate \$500 to the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation www.wwrof.org to show the YCCC's support of their programs, which include support for and enhancements to the log submission / processing infrastructure, Contest Awards Management and Young contesters to name a few. The motion was seconded by NF1O and the motion carried.

Tony K1KP then introduced Dave K1HT who gave an update on the CQWW scores that he has received so far it looked like 178 Million for CQWW SSB and 298 Million CQWW CW. The early snow storm definitely negatively impacted the SSB scores.

Tony then introduced Brian NJ1F who ran a Yankee Swap with a slight twist.

Tony K1KP then called for another socialization break for 20 Minutes

Tony Then Introduced Al KE1FO who gave a presentation on the Awards program and awarded more participation award Hats. If you have operated in both modes of CQWW and submit a score to the YCCC then you are half way to your hat. This can be combined with your entries from last year (2010 CQWW and 2011 ARRL DX) to earn a hat.

Tony K1KP then announced that there was a bit of sad news that after 15 years of dedicated service to writing the Flotsam & Jetsam Column in the Scuttlebutt, Barnacle JACK announced his retirement. The Club presented Barnacle JACK with a very special YCCC hat at the meeting and a standing ovation by ALL at the meeting. Thank You Jack.

Tony K1KP then Introduced Dennis W1UE. Dennis gave a presentation of his adventures operating CQWW RTTY from 6Y6U.

The meeting Adjourned at 4 pm

Also at the meeting, five copies of the YCCC Contest White paper were signed by the club officers at the meeting. They were sent to the following on Tuesday December 6, 2011. Richard Green WC1M, CAC President, Frank Fallon N2FF CAC Liaison, Dave Sumner K1ZZ, CEO ARRL, William Edgar N3LLR, PSC Chair ARRL and David Patton NN1N, HQ Staff Member on PSC

Submitted

Brian
NJ1F
YCCC Secretary

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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, at n1sr@arrl.net preferably in MS-Word format or text file format. Other formats can be accommodated by arrangement. 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 Tony, K1KP. Send \$2, name and call desired on the badge, and your mailing address to: Tony Brock-Fisher - YCCC Badge, 15 Webster St, Andover, MA 01810.

APPAREL Contact Richie, W1STT. Email: richd1313@aol.com

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

QSL CARDS are ordered through Dennis Egan, W1UE. To order, send Dennis an email at egan.dennis88@gmail.com, detailing card information per "QSL Request" form available at http://www.yccc.org/members/yccc_qsl.htm. You will receive a proof by email. Approve the proof, making any corrections, and return to Dennis *with payment* (make checks out to Dennis, 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.)

WWW HOME PAGE Come visit us at <http://www.yccc.org> Our Webmaster is Lyn Glagowski, WB1CCL.

ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF The W1 QSL BUREAU is sponsored by the YCCC. Keep your account up to date by sending a check, or pay via Paypal. Stamps are sold at face value, envelopes are 20 cents each. Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. Email address: w1qsl@yccc.org. (See: <http://www.yccc.org/Resources/w1qslburo.htm>)

ARRL COMMITTEE REPS are:

CAC: New England Dick Green, WC1M **Hudson** George Wilner, K2ONP **Atlantic** Michael Gilmer, N2MG

DXAC: New England Bob Beaudet, W1YRC **Hudson** John Sawina, NA2R **Atlantic** Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

VUAC: New England Ed Parish, K1EP **Hudson** Frederick Lass, K2TR **Atlantic** Joe Taylor, K1JT

ARRL LIAISON: Tom Frenaye, K1KI.
