



# Scuttlebutt

April 2012

Issue 214

**Next Meeting- Saturday: March 31st - Noon till 5PM  
Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center  
366 Main Street - Sturbridge, Massachusetts 01566  
Election of Officers!**

## Captain's Cabin

**Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP**

Round the Horn!

This month marks the end of our first year long passage together! While it seems like only a moment ago that I accepted the skipper's gavel from Mark, we have weathered the calm winds and easy tides as well as a few good blows through the contest season! Now that the four majors are behind us, it's time to reflect a bit and then look ahead to plans for next year. As the weather gets (even) warmer, we can venture out into the back properties and see what needs to be cleaned up, repaired, or redesigned and replaced during the coming antenna months. Now's the time to fire up the antenna modeling programs and see where your station can add a few db here and there. Ten meters gave us a nice taste of things to come in CQWW, even though it did not hold up for ARRL DX. Fifteen was definitely a money band, so maybe it's a good time to think about boosting performance on the higher bands. Also, it's probably worth taking a look with some of the terrain-modeling programs like HFTA to see if simply adjusting the height of some antennas might make a difference. I'd urge everyone to get out when the weather permits and get some exercise as well – make sure you are in shape for antenna work, and as always, be careful up there!

There are three really important reasons why YOU need to attend the upcoming April meeting!

First, even though we are calling it the April Meeting, it's actually being held in March to avoid holding elections on April Fool's Day! Humor aside, we need a Superquorum attendance to hold the elections. As you know, Ed Parish K1EP will be retiring from the Treasurer's role this year – with huge thanks and gratitude for his ten years of service, we will be electing a new Treasurer.

Your next reason to attend is to see if you will be going home with a new K3! Yes, that's right folks, we anticipate holding the drawing for the YCCC Scholarship Raffle. Just in case you have been living on Scarborough Reef without a rig, we will be selling the last tickets at \$25 per chance to win a brand new K3/100 kit from Elecraft! We must sell a minimum number of tickets in order to hold the drawing, so be sure to bring cash or a check for ticket purchase. If you haven't bought a ticket yet, here's your chance to own the most popular contest radio today! If you already have a ticket or two, then fatten up your chances by buying more! We may also have some nice door prizes to give away.

Your third and best reason to come to the meeting is that we will have a great program on tap to fill the time between the elections and the Raffle. This will include an update on the 9-circle array from John, K1FV as well as a report on WRTC progress from Doug, K1DG. Brian, K1LI will give a talk on his J7Y Dxpedition, and we'll have a few special guests who have traveled *great distances* to join us. The Officers, Advisory Council, and Awards Manager will also be rolling out a special new YCCC Award.

In closing, I'd like to thank everyone who has pitched in to make this a great year for YCCC. I have been very fortunate to have had the dedicated help of a great team of Officers W1UE, NJ1F, K1EP, W1EQO and Advisory Council K1RX and W1WEF. Add to that the Local Area Managers who have done their best to extend the club's impact out to the membership. And finally, thanks to each and every member that put in time for the club – behind a radio in a contest or in some other role. It sure makes for smooth sailing when everyone pulls together!

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

<b>Yankee Clipper Contest Club</b>	
<b>President</b>	Tony Brock Fisher, K1KP <a href="mailto:President@YCCC.org">President@YCCC.org</a>
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<b>Media Manager</b>	Tom LeClerc, W1TJL <a href="mailto:W1TJL@arrl.net">W1TJL@arrl.net</a>

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## DIRECTIONS to YCCC April Meeting:

Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center  
 366 Main Street  
 Sturbridge, Massachusetts 01566  
 Saturday, March 31, 2012  
 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.



Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center is located on Route 20. From the North, East and West, take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) to Exit 9, Route 20 West. From the South, take either Interstate 84 or Route 131 to Route 20 West. Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center is located on the shore of Cedar Lake, just past the first set of traffic lights

## Area Managers

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<b>CT (203)</b>	Dave Arruzza, W1CTN	-----	<a href="mailto:Darruzza@adelphia.net">Darruzza@adelphia.net</a>
	& Mike Loukides, W1JQ	(203) 458-2545	<a href="mailto:MikeL@oreilly.com">MikeL@oreilly.com</a>
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**WRTC 2014 Falling Derrick Tower/Antenna System  
Demonstration and Cookout!  
June 2, 2012  
K1RX QTH  
120 South Road Kensington, NH**

Mark Pride, K1RX is hosting another cookout at his QTH. The featured entertainment for the event will be a "hands on" demonstration of the WRTC 2014 Falling Derrick tower/antenna system.

Mark, as one of the organizers and a director for WRTC 2014, is looking for volunteer teams that can erect these structures (approximately 15 systems) in advance of the IARU HF Championship contest this summer in preparation for the WRTC 2014 in July 2014. Current plans call for 15 sites to be on the air for this years IARU Championship contest. In 2013, more sites will be activated and then, by 2014, a large army of experienced people will be ready to be deployed at the various WRTC 2014 operating sites in New England.



A minimum of 5 people per team needs to be established that are familiar and experienced with the Falling Derrick system and the antennas and it is the primary reason for hosting the cookout. Mark is to the YCCC and other nearby radio clubs to enlist in this effort. His plan for June 2 (aside from the food) is to setup a "round robin" style of training at each area of the installation and take down process. Groups will be organized around different locations at the installation site i.e. tower base/tilt base; winch, anchors, pull rope locations, etc. All will be done safely and in an organized fashion. The assembly, installation and take down will be conducted several times during the day to give everyone experience at every step in the process.

The basic concept is to use 40 ft. of Rohn 25 tower, on a special tilt base with a derrick mast, rope/pulley system and guy ropes that will support a triband yagi, two inverted vee dipoles (40 and 80 M), rotor, mast - and no tower climbing is required or encouraged. In fact, the WRTC 2014 organizers will not allow any tower climbing during any phase of the event(s). Pretty cool! More details on the design will follow.

In addition, the WRTC 2014 triband yagi will be on display at the cookout and assembly practice for it will also be conducted.

It will be an action packed day and a wonderful way to gain some experience with this novel tower system and a new antenna.

Contact Mark for more details on the demonstration and cookout or for directions to his QTH at 120 South Road, Kensington, NH.



Typical WRTC Station (WRTC-2010)

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**Maine Area Meeting Report  
Portland, Maine February 24, 2012**

A local meeting of the YCCC was organized and held by Maine Area Manager Mike K1EU on Friday February 24, 2012 at G&R Dimillo's restaurant in Portland Maine. Six members and guests attended. Many contesting and DX war stories were exchanged, Raffle tickets were sold, Plans for station improvements and plans for the upcoming SSB contest were discussed.

Submitted  
Brian Szewczyk NJ1F  
YCCC Secretary

## SILENT KEY

### John Thompson, W1BIH / PJ9JT



Plymouth, MA- J. Headen Thompson, 96, formerly of Torrington, CT, died Thursday, March 8, 2012, at the Newfield House, Plymouth, MA. He was the beloved husband of 67 years of the late Mary Engler (Pierson) Thompson who passed away on March 16, 2008.

Mr. Thompson was born in Winsted, CT, on March 28, 1915, son of the late John Headen Thompson, Sr., the editor ("Tomp") of the Torrington Register for many years, and Christina Lavinia (Danvers) Thompson and was a lifelong Torrington resident before he and Mary moved to Massachusetts in November of 2004 to be close to their daughter, Beverly. He earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in 1936 and was a retired Corporate Chief Plants Engineer with the Torrington Co., retiring in 1979 with forty-three years of service. Mr. Thompson was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, a corporator of the Torrington Historical Society which his father founded, a member of the Torrington Club, the YMCA, local and state planning commissions, and former president of the Torrington [Rotary Club](#) which recognized him as a Paul Harris Fellow. His life-long hobby and love was Amateur Radio-he was a member of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame (number 14), the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, First Class Operators Club, the Connecticut Wireless Association and the Quarter Century Wireless Association. Mr. Thompson attended a long-time weekly poker game with a group of friends in Torrington.

Headen and Mary enjoyed traveling and had a winter home for many years on the island of Curacao, Netherlands Antiles. Survivors include a daughter, Beverly Thompson Gardner, and her husband, George B. "Bernie" Gardner, of North Pembroke, MA, a grandson, Alan Thompson Gardner, and his wife, Nora Bethany (Allsup) Gardner, of East Falmouth, MA, three great-granddaughters, Elanor Eowyn Gardner, Lucy Sophia Gardner and Tessa Helen Gardner, four nieces and nephews and many grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Mr. Thompson was predeceased by his wife, 5 year old son, John H. Thompson, III, his sister, Priscilla Danvers (Thompson) Ketchum, and his great-grandson, Ewan Carroll Gardner.

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### C6ANM Wins

## Second Place–World & First Place–Bahamas Multi-OP Unlimited Phone 2011 ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX SSB

Bill (NE1B), Tom (N1GN), Karney (W2AFC) & Mike (N1IW) did it all running 200 watts to wires and a Cushcraft A4 tribander at 18 feet. Congratulations to all!

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## Western Massachusetts Area Meeting Report

### February 18 & 19, 2012

The Western Massachusetts Area of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club held a regional meeting as part of an open house at K1TTT during the weekend of February 18 and 19, 2012. The Open House's purpose was to allow anyone interested in learning more about contesting to see a multi-multi cw contest in operation, ask operating or hardware questions, try out multi-multi operating, or other general questions. The group operated as W2PV; a YCCC club call.

A local Yankee Clipper Contest Club meeting was held on Saturday at 1pm to consider applications interested in joining, rejoining, paying dues, etc.

In addition to the group operating, one guest attended.

YCCC Attendees: K1TTT, NW2Q, N2KW, K1MK, and W1TO

Guest: Jonathan Smith former Navy cw operator and potential ham.

Tom Homewood  
Western Mass. Area Manager



# Contest University Report

## February 9, 2012 - ARRL HQ

A YCCC Contest University and Local meeting was held on Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> at the ARRL HQ in Newington CT which was attended by 27 members and guests. The Professors were K1KP, W1WEF, K1XM, K1VR, W1UE and N1MM. One new crew member Mike AB1OD was welcomed aboard.

Before the presentations Sean KX9X presented Tony K1KP with a Gavel for the Yankee Clipper Contest Club for winning the Club Competition in the 2010 ARRL 160 Meter Contest. Sean also invited attendees to stop by his office as the ARRL DX Contest Certificates were hot off the printer.

Some highlights of the professors presentations:

**W1WEF: Contesting should be FUN!**



W1WEF sharing his contest knowledge

K1KP offered contest sleeping and eating strategies.

K1VR talked about things that multi op stations owners need to consider like sleeping, eating, parking arrangements and interactions between the host family and guest ops.

K1XM Rule One: Run Europe, Rule Two: Be on the band that allows you to (refer to Rule One)

W1UE shared with the group the highlights of W1HIS propagation presentation, as well as using N1MM logger and spot filters to maximize your score. N1MM joined W1UE and showed off some gems in his logging program, like sorting spots to allow a SOA op to systematically pick off spots in a beam heading.

There was also a lot of discussion about using Telnet / Packet as well as [WWW.getscores.org](http://WWW.getscores.org) to add to the fun of contesting. Getscores allows for a contest within a contest for the casual operator and a huge motivation to stay in the chair. It is also possible to make a large score by pointing and shooting on spots and never calling CQ as several attendees pointed out.

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club wishes to thank the ARRL, KX9X, N1IXF and the presenters for making this Contest University meeting possible.

Submitted  
Brian Szewczyk NJ1F  
YCCC Secretary

# YCCC General Meeting Minutes

## February 4<sup>th</sup> 2012 Enfield CT

The Meeting was called to order at 12:15pm by President Tony K1KP.

Tony K1KP started a roll call of the 53 members present asking each to tell the group about their ARRL DX contest plans

The Secretary's reports was given and Tony K1KP gave the Treasurers Report for K1EP and a motion was made by K1XM to accept them, Seconded by WC2L.

There was no old or unfinished business.

Tony then made the following announcements:

Ed K1EP who has served as the treasurer of the YCCC for the past Ten years would like to "Retire" at the end of his current term. So Tony announced that the club is looking for a volunteer to run for Treasurer at the April meeting. Tony K1KP also thanked Ed for all his guidance and invaluable help during the past year bringing all the new officers up to speed.

There will be a local meeting of the YCCC hosted by Hank KF2O on Monday Feb 13 at 7PM at the El Dorado diner in Elmsford, NY. Please contact Hank KF2O at [hankkier@aol.com](mailto:hankkier@aol.com) if you plan on attending.

Tony K1KP asked if there was any new business. There was none.

Tony K1KP moved onto the presentation portion of the meeting and Introduced Ed Hare from the ARRL Lab who gave a talk about ARRL's EMC Program. Ed provided many good tips and defined Interference, and many of the terms that the FCC uses. Plus gave some real world examples about exactly how strong the interference has to be before it surpasses the current FCC specifications. Ed recommended that everyone spend some time at the ARRL RFI Webpage <http://www.arrl.org/radio-frequency-interference-rfi> which has many resources on Identifying RFI sources as well as some remediation tips. Some of the common Ferrite mixes that Ed has had good results with are 31, 41, and 75, 77 for lower bands. Ed recommends that if you ID a source of the RFI to contact the company's customer service number or email to report it, before calling the League. Ed then ended his presentation with a funny joke.

Tony K1KP then introduced Paul K1XM who gave a presentation on the next YCCC project "The Antenna Switch Box". This is a controller which can perform many switching tasks in the complex SO2R shack to ensure that the proper antenna, band pass filter gets selected and provides protection against hot switching or as Paul said "doing something stupid at 3 am". Paul showed a prototype board of the project which the hardware and board design is pretty much complete. Jose N4BAA is designing the enclosure and packaging. Paul has been "Stress Testing" and proving the design performance. Paul said that he could use some help in developing a GUI for configuring the unit. Paul reported that one of the tests that he has conducted on the unit is simulating 10,000 antenna switches per second! He measured the latency at 80 us. Paul had a slide which showed the tracking information for some parts he recently ordered to complete the prototype that he had shipped via the United States Postal Service. The package was picked up in California and eventually made it to Paul in Massachusetts; however it did spend two days in Hawaii! The cost for a Switch with 16 outputs is hoped to be around \$150 and each additional 8 outputs to cost about \$15. Availability is targeted for summer 2012.

Tony the announced a 20 minute break for socialization and raffle ticket sales.

Tony K1KP reconvened the meeting at 2:45 with a couple of additional announcements

K1RX is looking for operators for both modes in the ARRL contest.

K1KP also has openings for anyone that is looking for a place to operate.

Tony K1KP introduced two prospective members, KB1USG Adam and KI1U Mike. Both were unanimously voted into membership YCCC.

Tony K1KP introduced Dave K1HT YCCC Score Keeper. Dave gave a presentation on the preliminary YCCC score for CQWW. The YCCC had a total combined score for both modes of 504,062,841. Dave has been in contact with the Frankfort Radio Club Score Keeper who has indicated that the FRC combined score is 462,000,000. Things look very good for the win!

Tony K1KP gave a presentation titled "The Tale of Two Models" about a real world case study of the interaction of a KT-36XA and the 40-2CD and the journey to harmony. Tony showed how the antennas were mounted and explained how the VSWR on the 40-2CD would vary wildly as it or the KT-36XA was rotated. Thru modeling Tony discovered that the KT-36XA's boom and elements were resonate at 7 MHz and the 40-2CD had limited bandwidth. Tony using computer modeling discovered that reason the KT-34XA was resonate on 7 MHz was largely due to the reflector being electrically connected to the boom. Tony designed a scheme for electrically isolating the reflector of the KT-36XA from the boom which moved the resonance to above 9 MHz. Now how to increase the bandwidth of the 40-2CD? Turns out that W6NL has come up with a

Moxon-type modification to get rid of the coils and improve bandwidth. Tony did extensive modeling of this design but seemed to always come up with an antenna that resonated well below 7 MHz! After talking to K3LR and K1GU both who said yea we got the same modeling results “Just Build It and Put It Up”. Tony did build the 40-2CD MOXON and had the modifications to the KT-36XA installed by K1RX and other YCCC members. The results are that the modeling of the KT-34XA was accurate but the modeling of the 40-2CD MOXON not so accurate. Tony reported that the MOXON does perform across the 40 meter band and interaction of the KT-36XA is nonexistent.

Tony then introduced Les N11L who gave a presentation about his DXpedition to JX50 Jan Mayen, a volcanic island above the arctic circle. The weather on the island is largely influenced by the Gulf Stream and high temperatures during their early July visit was in the 40’s F. There is not a lot of vegetation on the island, and it is mostly cloudy. After seeing several pictures of the campsite which looked Black and White someone asked if the pictures were color? While JX is currently not very high on the most wanted list, that will most likely change during the coming years as both ECO tour operators have not been able to secure landing rights on the island in the 2012 summer season. Because of winds on the island volcanic dust was an unexpected problem which could have damaged their rigs and generators during a longer stay. A few things that they would have done differently were to bring less gas as they only used about half of what they brought. The other was to bring more Whisky and less Beer !

Tony K1KP introduced W1IHS who gave an updated presentation on propagation and techniques to maximize ones score the upcoming ARRL contests. Chuck posted his presentation to the YCCC reflector prior to the meeting for all members to see.

Tony K1KP adjourned the meeting at 5:25

Submitted  
Brian Szewczyk NJ1F  
YCCC Secretary

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## Western Massachusetts Area Meeting Report

### March 3&4, 2012

The Western Massachusetts Area of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club held a regional meeting as part of an open house at K1TTT during the weekend of March 3 and 4, 2012. The Open House’s purpose was to allow anyone interested in learning more about contesting to see a multi-multi SSB contest in operation, ask operating or hardware questions, try out multi-multi operating, or other general questions.

A local Yankee Clipper Contest Club meeting was held on Saturday at 1pm to consider applications interested in joining, rejoining, paying dues, etc.

The group was operating using the club call W2PV.

The club secretary NJ1F sold YCCC Scholarship Raffle tickets for the K3 Prize.

Attendees: K1TTT, N1TA, K2WR, K1MK, NJ1F and W1TO

DX Hound: Pablo

Tom Homewood  
Western Mass. Area Manager

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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, preferably by E-mail at [n1sr@arrl.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 1103, Westborough, MA 01581-6103.

**APPAREL** Contact Richie, W1STT. Email: [richd1313@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:egan.dennis88@gmail.com), detailing card information per "QSL Request" form available at [http://www.yccc.org/members/yccc\\_qsl.htm](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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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