



# Scuttlebutt

December 2012

Issue 218

**Next Meeting- Holiday Buffet  
Sunday, December 2th - Noon till 5PM  
Auburn-Webster Elks Lodge 2118  
754 Southbridge Street (Route 12)  
Auburn, Massachusetts**

## Captain's Cabin

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

By the time you read this CQWW 2012 will be in the books. (There might still be time to get those CW logs in – don't forget – only 5 days!) At the time of writing, things are looking good for YCCC, as we have a great claimed score from the phone weekend. Compared to last year, we had much better conditions – both at ground level and in the ionosphere! 10 meters delivered on it's promise with such great rates that it distracted many operations away from higher multiplier counts. This year the bad weather waited until after the contest to hit us - probably over half of the logs were submitted by the time Hurricane Sandy blew in on Monday. We lost power in Andover, Ma. for only a few hours, and only one wire antenna came down. I'm sure Sandy's impact was much greater on the stations to our south. Despite the competitive juices, we wish them a quick recovery, as we don't want to win by default.

I experienced an all-time first in the SSB weekend: About an hour before the end of the contest, I received an *email* complaining I was on a net frequency! I guess they thought that while I was running Europe on 40 meters, I would also be checking by inbox! Of course, I had made the courtesy 'QRZed-is-this-frequency-in-use?' call before firing up the F1 key. The noise level, with QRM, was probably 20 over. So I guess it's questionable as to whether I should be expected to hear a response off the back of my beam from a 100 watt station in the Midwest. If there had been no contest, and no one else on frequency, I might have expected to be able to hear signals down to the noise floor. But due to the actual conditions of the moment, the threshold of detection was probably well over S9. The whole concept of frequency use being arbitrated by first-come-first-served seems to depend on reciprocity of communication, which as we now recognize, may not always hold true, if noise levels (QRN and QRM) are different at either end of the loop.

A major contest weekend never seems to pass without some sort of frequency conflict. I'm not talking about the usual short-lived exchanges with fellow testers. We usually recognize each other's callsigns, and make a quick decision to fight or flee – and the decision is usually dictated by rate. However, there now seems to be an obligatory unpleasant exchange with some disgruntled hams who claim to have been using the frequency continuously since a week ago Thursday. Personally, it puts me in a quandary as to the legitimacy of the claim. This doubt is further deepened when the hams making a claim on the frequency resort to intentional QRM and foul language. I strongly suspect that major contests bring out the crackpots among the contest-hating crowd for their venting of distaste for contesting. The last thing I want to do is cause someone else discomfort – but in truth, did these folks just get their license last week? Don't they know the contests fire up during the last weekends of October and November? What is the appropriate time constant for sharing of the ham bands? Out of 8,760 hours in each year, I use the bands less than 200 hours total annually. This amounts to less than 32 minutes per day! I just pile it all up into 4 weekends, along with 8000 other stations, and that seems to be a problem for some folks. Oh well, I'll get off my soapbox now... (I do feel better though)!

*(Continued on Page 3X)*

| Yankee Clipper Contest Club         |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>President</b>                    | Tony Brock Fisher, K1KP<br><a href="mailto:President@YCCC.org">President@YCCC.org</a>             |
| <b>Vice President</b>               | Dennis Egan, W1UE<br><a href="mailto:VicePresident@YCCC.org">VicePresident@YCCC.org</a>           |
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| <b>Scorekeeper</b>                  | Alec Berman, W2JU<br><a href="mailto:Scores@YCCC.org">Scores@YCCC.org</a>                         |
| <b>W1 QSL Bureau Manager</b>        | Art Holmes, W1RZF<br><a href="mailto:W1QSL@YCCC.ORG">W1QSL@YCCC.ORG</a>                           |
| <b>Technical Assistance Manager</b> | Dave Jordan, K1NQ<br><a href="mailto:YCCCTA@YCCC.ORG">YCCCTA@YCCC.ORG</a>                         |
| <b>New Members</b>                  | Mark Pride, K1RX<br>(603) 778-1222  |
| <b>Media Manager</b>                | Tom LeClerc, W1TJL<br><a href="mailto:W1TJL@arrl.net">W1TJL@arrl.net</a>                          |

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## DIRECTIONS to YCCC Holiday Lunch & December General Meeting:

Auburn-Webster Elks Lodge 2118  
754 Southbridge Street (Route 12)  
Auburn, Massachusetts



**From points east & west, via Mass Pike Interstate 90,** take exit 10 onto Route 12 South.

Travel 7/10 of a mile, pass through one set of traffic lights, pass by Waterman Road and Warren Road on the right. Take a right into the Lodge before Jiffy Lube.

**From points east, via Interstate 290 West, exit 8 in Auburn.**

**Or From points north,** via interstate 190 South onto Interstate 290 West, exit 8 in Auburn.

Then From Interstate 290 take exit 8 in Auburn onto Route 12 South.

Travel 9/10 of a mile, pass through one set of traffic lights, pass by Waterman Road and Warren Road on the right. Take a right into the Lodge before Jiffy Lube.

## Area Managers

|                         |                       |                |  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>ME</b>               | Mike Russo, K1EU      | (207) 883-9524 | <a href="mailto:k1eu@maine.rr.com">k1eu@maine.rr.com</a>               |
| <b>ENH</b>              | Jerry Muller, K0TV    | -----          | <a href="mailto:k0tv@arrl.net">k0tv@arrl.net</a>                       |
| <b>WNH/SVT</b>          | Ed Sawyer, N1UR       | -----          | <a href="mailto:sawyered@earthlink.net">sawyered@earthlink.net</a>     |
| <b>NE MA (978)</b>      | Scott Andersen, NE1RD | (978) 263-9617 | <a href="mailto:bsandersen@mac.com">bsandersen@mac.com</a>             |
| <b>SE MA (508)</b>      | Eric Williams, KV1J   | -----          | <a href="mailto:kv1j@arrl.net">kv1j@arrl.net</a>                       |
| <b>Boston (617/781)</b> | Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P  | (617) 325-6767 | <a href="mailto:jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu">jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu</a> |
| <b>WMA (413)</b>        | Tom Homewood, W1TO    | (413) 743-7342 | <a href="mailto:w1to@arrl.net">w1to@arrl.net</a>                       |
| <b>CT (860)</b>         | Rich Cady, N1IXF      | -----          | -----  |
| <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>               |
| <b>RI (401)</b>         | Nat Henrickson, NG1Z  | (401) -----    | <a href="mailto:nglz@nsradio.org">nglz@nsradio.org</a>                 |
| <b>NNY</b>              | John Bradke, W2GB     | -----          | <a href="mailto:W2GB@N2TY.ORG">W2GB@N2TY.ORG</a>                       |
| <b>NYC/LI (718)</b>     | Tom Carrubba, KA2D    | (631) 422-9594 | <a href="mailto:ka2d@arrl.net">ka2d@arrl.net</a>                       |
| <b>SNY/NJ/PA (914)</b>  | Hank Kiernan, KF2O    | (914) 235-4940 | <a href="mailto:hankkier@aol.com">hankkier@aol.com</a>                 |
| <b>NVT (802)</b>        | Al Frugoli, KE1FO     | (802) 893-8388 | <a href="mailto:kelfo@arrl.net">kelfo@arrl.net</a>                     |

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 10<sup>th</sup> of every odd month.

*(Captain's Cabin continued from Page 1)*

On the other hand, there's no doubt that major contests are disruptive to the usual weekend activities on the bands. Consider how difficult it is for us, with our highly capable antennas and maximum legal power, to find anything resembling a clear frequency on a major contest weekend. Folks who are used to being able to hold a round table or net with 100 watt exciters and dipoles are going to be disappointed when they tune to their usual frequency and find several very loud stations occupying it. It just seems impractical to me that the usual gentleman's approach to finding a frequency would be workable under major contest conditions. The best advice we can give them is to plan ahead – know when the contests are going to occur (especially on phone) and move their nets to WARC bands for those times.

To fulfill part of my mission as an amateur, I volunteer for communications support and traffic control for the annual Thanksgiving road race in town. Every year it gets published in the papers and appears in the TV news. Literally 10 thousand runners show up to run a 5K or 5 mile race around the downtown section. Of course, the police shut down traffic along the route. It never ceases to amaze me how citizens show up insisting that they be allowed to drive through the route. These folks have lived in town for years – don't they know yet that the roads will be closed for alternate use for a few hours on Thanksgiving morning? I guess it all boils down to communications, planning, and acceptance of others using a limited resource.

We're halfway through the 2012-2013 Contest season, with ARRL DX contests coming up in February and March. We're planning another Contest University to provide a tune-up for these important battles! Take advantage of the occasional warm day to do some light antenna maintenance, and here's hoping that someone was good to you this gift-giving season!

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## ***Next Meeting***

The holidays are coming at us faster than DL's in a pileup! We have the next meeting set up for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, returning to the Auburn Elks' Hall for our Holiday Buffet and Yankee Swap! If you are interested in participating in the Yankee Swap, you must bring a gift.

The requirements for the gift are:

- MUST be Ham Radio Related (No Bedpans!)
- Not more expensive than \$15 (Hamfest pricing applies).
- Can be something actually useful, or a gag gift.
- Must NOT weight more than 20 pounds and MUST be brought into the venue before the Swap starts!
- Must be wrapped in some manner to conceal contents.
- As tempting as it may be, don't bring back last year's gift! Try to be original!

The program will include an update on the recent CQWW contest from Scorekeeper Alec Berman, and a presentation on this great contest by it's new Director, Randy, K5ZD. Paul and Charlotte will tell us of their travels and troubles at 6Y this fall. We will also be kicking off the YCCC Youth Scholarship Raffle, so please bring cash or checks to purchase tickets!

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## **"Tower Work--Tips & Techniques, & Some Tools" Webinar: Wednesday, December 12**

A webinar featuring John Crovelli W2GD & Don Daso K4ZA will be held on December 12th. They will discuss some of the things they have learned from almost 100 years of combined experience, focusing on safety, cost-savings, & problem-solving.

Date: Wednesday, December 12

Time: 9 PM EST (Thursday, December 13 - 02:00 UTC)

Registration (free): <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/761813138>

# WMA Area Joint Meeting Friday, October 5, 2012

A joint meeting of the Hampden County Radio Association (HCRA) and YCCC was held on Friday, October 5, 2012, in Holyoke, MA. Approximately fifty people attended the meeting.

The Western Mass Area Manager, Tom Homewood, W1TO was the guest presenter. The topic of the presentation was RTTY and RTTY Contesting. A brief overview of YCCC and the many advantages of membership were presented.

YCCC is happy to welcome three new members and two returning members.

Please welcome:      AB1RN, James Saccento  
                             K1MAZ, Nicholas Maslon  
                             WB1ACE, Chris Erickson  
                             N1KXR, Richard Wheeler (Returning)  
                             WA1JAE, John Bachand (Returning)

Dues were collected from these members and will be forwarded to the Treasurer.

Tom Homewood, W1TO  
Western Mass Area Manager

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## WRTC 1990 Video

You may already be aware of this but if not take a look at <http://www.wrtc.info/> .

A video documentary of the 1990 WRTC was posted a few weeks ago...great tuff!

Thanks to Shane, K1ZR

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## Auld Mariner's Doggerel:

- 1 - The call of the person who said "Bronze Figleegee with Oak Leaf Palm"?  
Extra Credit: His Favorite Tube? (Not for high power)
- 2 - Who sold QSL Cards for 100 for \$1.00?  
Extra Credit: What Postage was required?
- 3 - What is a common characteristic on about 30% of mid to late 1950's QSLs?  
Less frequent in later years.
- 4 - Address of FCC Field Office office in Boston where you took your pre-VEC ham test?

Answers elsewhere in this issue

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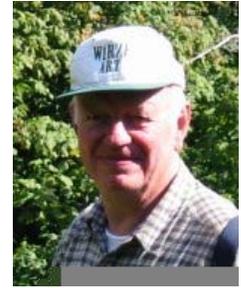
## Art Holmes – W1RZF



Art was an active YCCC member for many years, unselfishly contributing his time, energy and skills to whatever needed to be done. He was also active in VHF/UHF weak signal work. Art also managed the “W1” QSL Bureau, where he modernized and streamlined it’s workings when it’s administration was transferred to the YCCC.

From the Milford Daily News

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/milforddailynews/obituary.aspx?n=arthur-w-holmes&pid=160319056#fbLoggedOut>



Arthur W. Holmes, 74, of Mendon, passed away at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center in Worcester on Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. He was the loving husband of Catherine (Murphy) Holmes, with whom he was married for 53 years. Mr. Holmes was born in Natick, a son of the late Arthur W. and Nellie (Reid) Holmes, and had lived in Mendon for 25 years. A graduate of Northeastern University, where he was in ROTC, he served briefly on active duty with the Army in Fort Monmouth, NJ. He worked in engineering management at IBM from 1960 to 1986 and then at Data General until retiring in 1991. While at IBM in Hudson Valley, NY in the 1970s, he developed the computer micro-chip. He was an avid ham radio operator W1RZF since he was a teenager, as was his father, and whose call he adopted. He was a member of ARRL and many other ham radio associations. Very active in Mendon town government, he had served on the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Nipmuc School Building Committee, and as Town Moderator. He was also active in the United Parish of Upton and enjoyed playing bridge at the Mendon Senior Center. He was the loving father of Thomas M. Holmes and his wife Paula of Sturbridge, Susan M. Kaufman and her husband John of Columbus, OH, and Nancy A. Severs and her husband Sheldon and his sons Harris and Spencer of Woodstock, CT. He also leaves one brother, John G. Holmes of Worcester, and a sister, Mary Belanger and her husband Fred of Paxton. He was also the brother of the late Thomas Holmes of CA. He will be very missed by his animals, dog Mayzie, cat Patches, and grandpup 'Boo.' If desired, the family suggests memorial donations be made to the Mendon Senior Center, 62 Providence Rd., or the Taft Public Library, 18 Main St., both Mendon, 01756, or to the Visiting Nurses Association of Greater Milford, 37 Birch St., Milford 01757.

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## YCCC Contest University Meeting Minutes Sturbridge, MA October 9, 2012

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club held a contest university at the Sturbridge Host Hotel on Tuesday October 9th 2012. The university was called to order at 6:30 pm by Tony K1KP. There were 21 members and future members in attendance. The professors were K1VR, K1XM, K1DG, W1WEF, and W1UE. They shared their knowledge of topics including things to do before the contest, during the Contest, and the all-important must do's after the contest.

Before the contest topics included, station prep, setting goals, propagation and band planning, and getting on the air as much as possible in the weeks leading up to the contest.

During the contest, staying in the chair, exploiting propagation advantages of W1/2, breaking pileups, staying motivated, adjusting replanning to real conditions, and tips on making sure Skimmer spots you.

After the contest, MOST IMPORTANT Email the Log in ASAP because the CQ deadline is now 5 days after the contest, Send your score to 3830 and the clubs reflector, and make notes about what worked and didn't right after the contest.

There was a lot of interaction between students and the professors. A new member was welcomed aboard Paul K1VK. The contest university was adjourned at 9:50

Brian  
NJ1F  
YCCC Secretary

## Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (SK)

Former QST "How's DX?" Conductor

Rod Newkirk, W9BRD/VA3ZBB, of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada -- who penned the *QST* column "How's DX?" from 1947-1978 -- passed away on Monday, November 19 after a long illness. Newkirk was credited with coining the term "Elmer," as well as for his humorous take on DX in his column, especially with limericks in his DX Hoggery and Poetry Depreciation Society and the accompanying cartoons of Jeeves by Phil "Gil" Gildersleeve, W1CJD (SK).

The term "Elmer" -- meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams -- first appeared in *QST* in Newkirk's March 1971 "How's DX?" column, where he wrote that "[t]oo frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.' Sure, the guy could have burned through on his own, maybe, but he, like others, wound up an almost-ham. No more Elmer. We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give *you* a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh." Newkirk was probably not trying to coin a term at the time, but the name stuck, becoming a general term for the mentors Newkirk called "the unsung fathers of ham radio."

First licensed in 1937 as W9BRD at 14, Newkirk was involved with radio all his life. After graduating from high school, he became a civilian radio operator in Washington, DC with station WAR; when World War II broke out, he joined the US Army as a member of the Army Signal Corps where he served in Florida, Papua-New Guinea and the Philippines. He remembered these times in his first *QST* article, "Christmas, 1944," which recounted a "heart-warming yarn involving the combination of the Amateur and the Christmas Spirit in far-off Hollandia."

After a stint as a radio operator with the Illinois State Police, Newkirk moved to Connecticut in 1947 where he worked at ARRL Headquarters as a W1AW Station Operator with a new call sign, W1VMW. It was while Newkirk was in Newington that then-ARRL Communications Manager Ed Handy, W1BDI, asked Newkirk to take over the "How's DX?" from Byron Goodman, W1JPE. A few years later, Newkirk returned to his home state of Illinois to go to college. While in Illinois, he regained his W9BRD call sign and resumed his job with the Illinois State Police. He continued to write "How's DX?" from Illinois. Newkirk's last "How's DX?" column was published in February 1978. Newkirk retired from the State Police in 1986. In 1984, he was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame as its 23th member, and in 2002, he was the 87th inductee into the CQ Hall of Fame.

Newkirk was a former member of the ARRL and a member of the Radio Amateurs of Canada, the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, FISTS, the Morse Telegraph Club and the Quarter Century Wireless Association and QCWA Chapter 70. In May 2007, he was presented with the QCWA "70 Years Licensed" Golden Certificate and lapel pin, and in May 2010, with the QCWA Century Certificate.

In 1997, Newkirk married Betty, VE3ZBB, and moved to Canada, where he got the matching Canadian call sign VA3ZBB.

Thanks to ARRL

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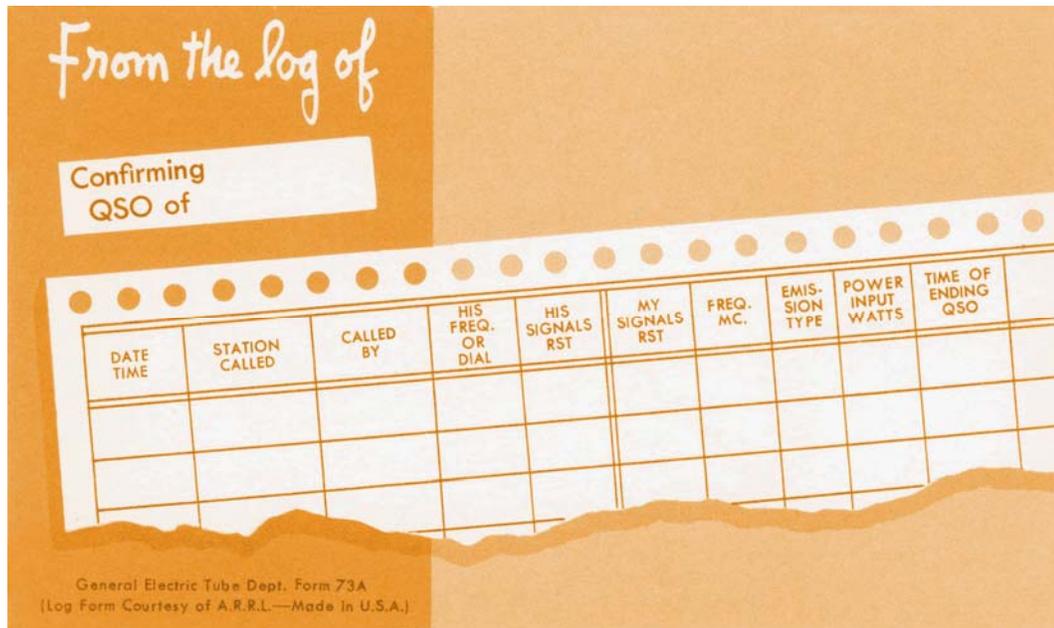
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## Auld Mariner's Doggerel Answers:

- 1 - Jean Shepard, K2ORS  
6SJ7 – Used when he couldn't think of, or want to mention another component.
- 2 - General Electric Tube Department; Postage was 2 cents.



- 3 - Many QSLs give a tube lineup for the "TX".  
This indicated a homebrew transmitter, something of a rarity in later years.
- 4 - 1600 Custom House, Boston, Mass.

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| 2012-2013             |                  |   |
|-----------------------|------------------|---|
| YCCC MEETING SCHEDULE |                  |   |
| Day                   | Date             | Location                                      |
| Sunday                | December 2, 2012 | Holiday Banquet<br>Auburn, MA                 |
| Saturday              | February 2, 2013 | General Meeting<br>Enfield, CT                |
| Saturday              | April 6, 2013    | General Meeting & Elections<br>Sturbridge, MA |

# 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, Chet Slabinski, N8RA, 462 W. Hill Rd, New Hartford, CT 06057.**

**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 Tony, K1KP. Send \$3, name and call desired on the badge, and your mailing address to Tony.

**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 Dennis Egan, W1UE 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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