



Scuttlebutt

December 2013

Issue 223

Next Meeting- Holiday Buffet
Sunday, December 8th – 12:30PM – 4:30PM
Auburn-Webster Elks Lodge 2118
754 Southbridge Street (Route 12)
Auburn, Massachusetts

Captain's Cabin

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

Wow! What a contest season it has been! Conditions have been nothing short of terrific, since CQWW RTTY and Phone. Sweepstakes, both CW and phone, were excellent as well, with the Solar flux at 175 for the latter. Have you ever noticed that the different contests are like listening to different pieces of music? For example, while CQWW SSB is definitely a lot like listening to heavy metal all weekend, it's CW counterpart is definitely a more civilized Bach concerto! And then, Sweepstakes phone is definitely a country music festival. The great thing is there's something for everyone's taste.

No matter what your favorite music might be, YCCC has done a terrific job of generating points in CQWW. By the time you read this, the logs will be submitted, and it's all over but the counting. So it's time to take a breath, enjoy the holidays, and make those minor modifications to get ready for ARRL DX in February and March.

We held a great Contest University in conjunction with the Billerica Amateur Radio Society in mid-November. Once again, it turned out to be an excellent recruiting event, with six new members voted into the club. Thanks very much to Profs Randy and Dennis for taking on the crazy 495 traffic to attend. We're hoping to hold another Contest University in February, just in time for the next big contests. Mark your calendar for February 12th, 2014 at the ARRL HQ for the YCCC Winter Contest University!

Skimmer

While the contest was a blast with excellent conditions up until midday Sunday, one aspect of it was disturbing to me. That is the impact that Skimmer is having on contesting. Now, the merits of Assisted Contesting have long been debated well before Skimmer showed on the scene. And when Skimmer appeared, it reignited the debate about the value of all that cyber-assistance. But there was always the fall back that, "If you don't like it, you don't have to use it". But all that has changed. Now, if you want to work a CW (or RTTY) contest, you cannot compete without Skimmer impacting your contest experience. I noticed that now with Skimmer operating in the background, any time K1KP fired up calling CQ on a new frequency, we were spotted on Skimmer by the second call. Now you may think this is a good thing. However, by the third call, the instant pileup was 6 deep with signals all zero-beat. Not much skill involved here; just keep picking at the pile, catching tail-enders and late callers. With no frequency spread to the pile, bad calling practices are now rewarded with contacts. Even though the 'in-crowd' of knowledgeable testers know to slide in some XIT, most of the masses don't, and all call on the spotted frequency, plus or minus 3 parts per million. Also, it used to be that we had to work to get a pile going. Now it's instantaneous. Almost feels like cheating, even if you have Skimmer and packet turned off. The point is that Skimmer is now changing the game, *even for those*

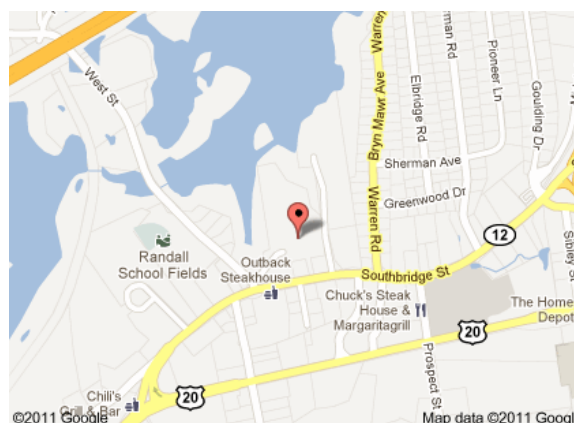
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Yankee Clipper Contest Club	
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DIRECTIONS to YCCC Holiday Lunch & December General Meeting:

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

ME	Mike Russo, K1EU	(207) 883-9524	k1eu@maine.rr.com
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Fourth Annual YCCC Holiday Buffet and Yankee Swap!

Date/Time: December 8, 2012 12:30-4:30

Location: Auburn Elks Hall, Auburn, MA

The Buffet Menu will be:

American Special	Hot Roast Beef
Hot Oven Roasted Chicken	Hot Rigatoni and Sauce
Garden Salad, Oven Roasted Potato	Rolls, Coffee and Dessert

The price of the buffet tickets is \$20 per person.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE BANQUET, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO DENNIS W1UE at: egan.dennis88@gmail.com. Be sure to indicate how many banquet tickets you would want.

The Program includes a presentation by Lee Imber, WW2DX, and Raymond Higgins, W2RE, on RemoteHamRadio. RemoteHamRadio is a service which allows individual licensed ham operators to rent the use a remotely operated, well equipped, station in several different locations. Currently, they have 4 stations Eastern New York, 1 in Nevada and 1 in Italy. Additional stations are planned in North Carolina and coastal Maine. See their webpage at <http://www.remotehamradio.com/> and the May 2013, QST review. Or better yet, attend the meeting!.

The Program will also Include:

Fourth Annual YCCC Yankee Swap
YCCC Youth Scholarship Kickoff

Email Dennis, W1UE at egan.dennis88@gmail.com if you are planning on attending. Indicate how many tickets you need.

Plan to be there!

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CW Tone – Are You High or Low?

Tony, K1KP, recently conducted an improptu survey on the YCCC reflector asking what your preferred CW receiving tone (pitch) and the preferred Wide and Narrow CW Bandwidth selection.

Preferred CW Receive Tone/Pitch	
Freq Range	%
100-200	0
200-300	0
300-400	6.7%
400-500	20%
500-600	23%
600-700	27%
700-800	10%
800-900	13%
900-1,000	0

So the conclusion is that most responding CW operators operate with a pitch between 400-700 cycles. This seems to defy 'conventional wisdom' that a lower CW pitch is preferred by many of the "more experienced" CW operators. Maybe, as a club, we're not as old as the statistics indicate.

Preferred CW Receive Tone/Pitch			
Bandwidth	Narrow	Wide	Note
50	5.5%	0	
100	0	0	
150	5.5%	2.7%	
200	2.7%	0	
250	30%	2.7%	Common Filter BW
300	5	5.5%	
350	2.7%	2.7%	
400	25%	25%	Common Filter BW
450	0	0	
500	4	30%	Common Filter BW
550	0	0	
600	2.7%	4	
650	0	0	
700	0	2.7%	
750	0	0	
800	0	5.5%	
850	0	5.5%	
900	0	0	
950	0	0	
1000	0	5.5%	
2000	0	5.5%	

Yankee Clipper Contest Club Meeting Minutes

Sturbridge, MA - October 5 2013

Tony K1KP called the October 5th general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest club to order at 1:12 with a roll call of members and guests present, he requested that everyone let the group know about their plans for the upcoming CQWW contest.

Brian NJ1F gave the secretary's report and Chet N8RA gave the treasurers report. Paul K1XM made a motion to accept the reports, which was seconded by Chuck W1HIS.

Tony K1KP asked if there was any unfinished business, there was no unfinished business.

Tony K1KP then made the following announcements. The YCCC was again victorious in the CQWW and ARRL contests! 91 YCCC members took part in the WRTC 2013 testing this past July. IF you are looking for a station to operate from or need some extra operators please let Tony K1KP know. The FRC is looking to give the YCCC a run for our money in this year's CQWW and ARRL contests and has a campaign to get as many of their members on the air as possible.

Tony introduced Randy K5ZD who gave a report on WRTC 2013, this was the second year of testing and they had 25 station setup and active. Many of the improvements implemented did work out as planned and they uncovered several areas that will be further improved on over the winter. The WRTC needs your help even if you can only spare a few hours. The WRTC website has a volunteer form and complete information about WRTC 2014 <http://www.wrtc2014.org/> One of the goals of WRTC is to raise awareness of Amateur Radio to the general public.

Randy also announced that there is going to be a CQWW webinar on Sunday October 6th to cover the rule changes.

Tony K1KP announced that he is in the process of planning a couple of Contest Universities, one in November inside of the 495 / Boston area and one in February possibly at the ARRL HQ

Tony K1KP then announced that this year the YCCC did receive a nomination for the Hall of Fame and asked Jack W1WEF, Gerry W1VE and Brian NJ1F to please come forward and read the nomination of David Robbins K1TTT. Gerry read the nomination to the group and shared a few facts about Dave K1TTT. Dave has hosted over 250 hams from around the world at his station, His station has an open door policy and operators of all abilities are welcome, and in addition to the big four contests his station is active in one or more contests most weekends of the year. (Dave was not at the meeting but Tom W1TO and Brian NJ1F delivered the plaque to him. He was hosting his Neighbors for a dinner party and N1RR was operating a contest.)

Tony K1KP then introduced Dr. Beldar L1AR who gave a hilarious presentation on Radio Sport. Dr. Beldar introduced N0AX Ward Silver who gave a presentation titled Contesting in the Second Century of Ham Radio.

Tony K1KP then announced a 20 minute break.

Tony K1KP called the meeting back to order.

Tony K1KP asked if there were any new prospective members. There were none.

Chet N8RA gave a Video Station Tour of his station.

Tony K1KP then introduced Alec W2JU who gave a presentation on the scores in the past contests. Remember to make sure you spell out Yankee Clipper Contest Club in the club name of you Cab file. Also be aware the log deadlines are November 1st for CQWW SSB and November 29th for CQWW CW.

Tony K1KP then introduced Al KE1FO to announce winners of the annual YCCC Participation, Achievement and Improvement awards. The Mugs and pins were given to those members present. Lists of all the members winning, as well as the certificates for download are posted under the Awards Program tab on the Website.

Tony K1KP introduced Chuck W1HIS who gave a presentation on the propagation for the upcoming CQWW SSB contest. This presentation is available for download at <http://www.hightail.com/download/OGhmMWZKQk50d0ZvSWNUQw>

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by W1TO ad Seconded by W1WEF.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45

Submitted
Brian Szewczyk NJ1F
YCCC Secretary

(Captain's Cabin, Continued from page 1)

who choose not to use it. This brings up the point that major contest thought leaders (like maybe, YCCC) need to weigh in on such paradigm shifts. I'd look forward to hearing from members on this subject.

(Not to mention that the sheer volume of spots now chokes many computers, logging programs, and servers during the contest. Just ask K1TTT! But that's a different problem, which can be solved simply with better hardware and software).

Cockroaches & Contesters

OK, so I know I'd get flack for this comment outside of the Contest Community; but I still know it's got to be true. Between the efficiency with which 'real contesters' transfer the Sweepstakes exchange, and the incredibly deep comments about Propagation that I see on the reflector, I know that contesters have PhD level knowledge and skills when it comes to HF radio communication. Nothing builds communications skills like the Sweepstakes exchange! God forbid, if the real crap ever hits the fan, it will be the cockroaches and the contesters who are left communicating...

Are Desktops becoming Dinosaurs?

Have you been to a Best Buy store lately? If so, no doubt you have noticed the small number and poor quality of the desktop computers they have for sale. Now the shelf space is allocated to tablets and 'Surface (TM)' type computers; even laptops are being edged out. It makes me wonder what a contester's station will look like in 10 years? Will we all be running our current machines, searching for extinct hardware to keep them going? Anybody have a 4-port serial card? How about a dual parallel port? Even now, it seems we need to run many of our specialized interfaces through USB-serial converters, with varying degrees of success. In 10 years, will we all be using these mini touch-tablets for contest logging? If so, how will they interface to our stations? One thing I can envision is that it will all be through Wi-Fi. Maybe someone can build a WiFi box that has conventional interfaces on it, such as serial and parallel ports, to control legacy hardware. Or here's an idea (published here and now in the public domain, so that it becomes unpatentable): WiFi control interfaces built into our HF radios – no more CI-V interface cables! No more USB rig control! And how about auto-tune amps that interface wirelessly to those rigs?

So how soon will we see versions of N1MM, Win-Test, Writelog in the 'App Store'? Certainly this will be a boon to the Dxpeditors – but when will the disruptive technology make it to the main stream contester's shack? As for me, I gotta have a real keyboard at least...

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YCCC Meeting Schedule 2013-2014	
Date	Location
December 8, 2013 Start: 12:30 pm	Elks Lodge #2118 Auburn, MA
February 2, 2014 Start: 1pm	Holiday Inn, Springfield-Enfield Enfield, CT
April 5, 2014 Start: 1pm	Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center Sturbridge, MA



The Yankee Clipper Contest Club is a proud sponsor of
World Radiosport Team Championship 2014

YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF Dues for the year are payable as of January 1st. 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 - \$15/yr (Eligible for YCCC member benefits and electronic "Ebutt" delivery of Club newsletter)

Full Member - \$30/yr (Eligible for YCCC member benefits and paper 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 member benefits.)

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 "supportive friend of YCCC" - not a member but a possible candidate for future membership. Only receives club newsletter in paper or electronic form. \$10 for electronic "Ebutt" delivery domestically or overseas or \$25 for domestic paper delivery.)

Club members who move out of club territory and so are not eligible to contribute to club aggregate scores can continue to participate in the Club's e-mail reflector and receive the electronic "Ebutt" delivery of newsletter at no cost.

You can tell if you owe dues by checking your 'Butt mailing label or the Club roster in the Members Only section of the website.

NOTE: If your dues are paid to a March 31 date, then you now need to synchronize to the calendar year. Please see the "Dues" area on the Members Only section of the website for the pro-rated dues amount for a partial year.

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, by E-mail at n1sr@arri.net 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, Alec Berman, W2JU, 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 \$3, name and call desired on the badge, and your mailing address to Tony.

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. More information at: www.w1qsl.org Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. Email address: w1qsl@yccc.org

ARRL COMMITTEE REPS are:

CAC: New England Dennis Egan, W1UE Hudson George Wilner, K2ONP Atlantic Charles D Fulp Jr, K3WW

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: Sean Kutzko, KX9X