



# Scuttlebutt

August 2016

Issue 237

**Next Meeting: Saturday: September 10<sup>th</sup> – 2:00–4:00pm**  
**Boxboro ARRL Convention**  
**Holiday Inn Boxborough Woods**  
**242 Adams Place, Boxborough, Massachusetts 01719**

## **Captain's Cabin**

**Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP**

Well, the results are officially out in the September QST, and YCCC has won the 2016 ARRL DX Unlimited Club competition, with a decent margin over Frankford Radio Club. Congratulations to all who submitted scores in support of this effort! It's nice to see that our narrow defeat of 2015 was not repeated. Let's hope that we can continue this momentum into the upcoming contest season! Before you know it, CQWW will be upon us, and it will be butts back into the chairs as we venture into the fray for another great season of contesting. Is your station ready? There's still some excellent weather left to get those antennas up higher, bigger, faster, stronger, shinier, whatever!

Seriously, it's not too early to start making plans for the fall contests. CQWW SSB weekend is October 29 and 30; and CW weekend is November 26 and 27, so this is *not* one of those odd years when the CW contest is before Thanksgiving. Maybe get those dates on the calendar, and start to build some walls around your availability to reserve those weekends for some 'me-time' in front of the radio.

And there's still time to plan some indoor improvements as well. Ask yourself what went well and what needed improving from last season – you did make some notes, right? Do you need a new chair, which given the BIC factor, could make a big improvement in your score? Is it time for a radio upgrade? While \$\$ spent on antennas is usually my highest priority, if shiny things in the air are maxxed out, and the credit limit is not, maybe it's time for a rig upgrade. Unless you are running a 7851/9000/990, there's always room for an improvement there. Just don't wait until the week before the contest to make that purchase, or you will be spending the entire first weekend on the learning curve.

Has anyone in the club tried the new IC-7300? Sounds like its ergonomics would make it a fun radio for single ops on DXpeditions, but maybe not well suited for multi-transmitters due to front end overload...

And speaking of DXpeditions, what plans are shaping up to send our emissaries to places far way, seeking rare multipliers from far-way continents?

### **The Hammond Museum of Radio**

As this column is being written while the author is on a college-apartment-moving trip to VE3, at first it seemed like there would be a scarcity of content as well as time to write additional fluff for this column. However, the apartment moving went quicker than expected, and KB1NOW and K1KP found themselves with a bit of time on their hands. What to do in Guelph, Ontario? Visit the Hammond Museum of Radio, of course! It turns out this *amazing* museum of radio is located only minutes from the new apartment, so off we went.

*(Continued on page 4)*

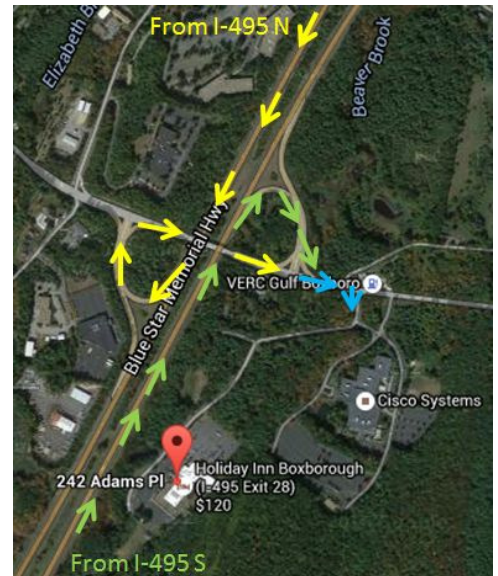
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<b>Ship's Log</b>		<b>August, 2016</b>	<b>Issue 237</b>
<b>Captain's Cabin</b>	Tony Brock Fisher - K1KP		1,4
<b>Directions to Meeting</b>			2
<b>April Meeting Minutes</b>			3
<b>ZACH Key Review</b>	George Harlem, W1EBI		5
<b>Area Meetings</b>			6
<b>Boston FCC Office Remains Open</b>			7
<b>YCCC Resources</b>			8

## Directions to Holiday Inn Boxborough, Massachusetts

**From the North:** I-93 or I-95 South to I-495 South to Exit 28, turn right at end of exit ramp onto Rte 111, take first right to hotel convention hall.

**From the South and West:** I-95 North to I-495 North to Exit 28, turn left at end of exit ramp onto Rte 111, take first right to hotel convention hall



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## **April 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Tony K1KP called the April 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest club featuring the Discover the HF Experience at the Framingham Hamfest to order at 12:30. Tony announced that in the interest of giving the maximum amount of time to our guest speakers that we would not be doing the usual roll call of members.

Brian NJ1F gave the secretary's report and the treasurer's report. Paul K1XM made a motion to accept the reports, which was seconded by George W1EBI. The motion Carried.

Brian NJ1F then conducted the club's annual elections. Brian announced that the current slate of officers were all willing to continue in their present offices, and then asked if there were any further nominations from the floor. There were none. Paul K1XM made a motion to close the nominations which was seconded by Mike N2MG. The Motion carried. Brian then conducted a verbal poll of them members present, the result was unanimous and all were reelected. Alec W2JU made a motion to close the elections which was seconded by Paul K1XM. The motion carried.

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

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

Tony K1KP announced that raffle tickets were still for sal, see Brian NJ1F if you want to get in on the K3 raffle.

Tony K1KP announced that if there is anyone interested in joining the YCCC to see Brian NJ1F for a membership application.

Tony K1KP then introduced Gerry W1VE who gave an over view of "Discover the HF Experience" which was taking place in the rear of the room during the meeting. This allowed those who had never operated on HF the opportunity to get on HF by using one of the many remote controlled stations via the internet.

Gerry W1VE then introduced Dave Sumner K1ZZ who gave a wonderful presentation on his amateur radio experiences.

Dave K1ZZ then introduced Mark K1RX who gave a presentation on HF propagation.

Mark K1RX then introduced George W1EBI who talked about his antennas that he uses at his station in a deed restricted neighborhood.

George then introduced Tony K1KP who presented how to setup and effective HF station.

Tony Introduced Marty KC1CWF, His presentation was on resources and getting help as a newbie to HF.

Marty Introduced Charlie N1RR who gave a presentation on HF awards via Skype.

Gerry W1VE then gave a presentation on HF remote operating, what's required and how to set one up as well as an overview of the stations that were in use at the meeting.

Gerry then introduced Doug K1DG who gave a presentation on Radio Sport. The presentation included many tips for first time testers and how to have fun operating in contests.

Tony K1KP asked the 4 new members to tell the club a little about themselves, K1XM made a motion to welcome them aboard. Seconded by Ed WA1ZAM and the motion carried.

Tony K1KP then announced that enough raffle tickets were sold for the K3 and the winner of the K3 this year was Rich K1CC.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paul K1XM and Seconded by Doug K1DG, the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35

Submitted

Brian Szewczyk NJ1F

YCCC Secretary

(Captain's Cabin: Continued from Page 1)



Founded by Fred Hammond, VE3HC, in 1982, the museum is shares space at the commercial location of Hammond Power Systems, and is easily spotted by amateurs who notice the tower and yagi attached to the building. The museum is open during normal business hours, Monday through Friday (weekends by appointment) and admission is free!

On entering the museum, the first clue to your thrilling voyage down radio memory lane will be the unmistakable scent of ancient electronics. They say memories are triggered by smells, and there's no doubt that the aroma of ancient Bakelite and cotton-covered wiring will take you back to your radio roots, whatever they may be. The collection is by far the most complete aggregate of examples of radio technology from spark to early transistor. If you are of the characteristic age of the bulk of today's ham population, I'd say there's a better than even chance that your novice rig is on display here. The list of well-represented brands includes Collins, Heath, Hammarlund, Hallicrafters, Johnson, RCA, McMurdo-Silver, to name just a few. In any case, words cannot adequately describe the experience, so I will not attempt to.

The bottom line is that if you are anywhere within a 2-hour drive of Guelph, Ontario (and that includes Toronto), you *must* make the effort to go and see this fine collection.

The gracious curator Noree, VE3AQZ offers guided tours. There is a donation box by the door – be sure to bring some cash to support this collection. More info online at:

[www.hammondmuseumofradio.org](http://www.hammondmuseumofradio.org)

### Boxboro

We have a great program on tap for the Boxboro meeting! Instead of running the travel-worn Contest Universities this year, we're going to cut to the good part – the interactive exchange of questions and answers with the experts! So bring your contest-related questions for the experts to our 'Ask the Experts' panel discussion. I'm sure you will get more than one great answer to your question, along with quite a few humorous, irreverent responses as well!

This summer, an intrepid band of YCCers (N1YX, K1RX ) and members of the Port City ARC made a Dxpedition to activate the Isle of Shoals (IOTA-217) for the IOTA Contest. Operating from White Island, they put a fairly rare IOTA on the air. Igor and Mark will be making a presentation on their low-budget, high fun DX operation.

You may recall from the previous issue of the Scuttlebutt that the club cosponsored an activity called 'Discover the HF Experience' (DHFE) at the April meeting. This was a huge success as well as a learning experience for us, and was continued at Dayton 2016 under the ARRL banner. This effort to inspire hams to get on HF and learn about the true fun of the long-distance communications was inspired by Gerry Hull, W1VE. Gerry will be on hand to give us an update on DHFE at the meeting, telling us where it's been, what he's learned, and where DHFE might be headed next.

It should be a great meeting – bring your friends – you know, the ones that have been wanting to join YCCC! See you there!

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ID THIS HAM & YEAR



HB TX using pr 6146's with HB VFO, S40 RX  
(Answer on page 7)

# ZACH Key Review

George Harlem, W1EBI

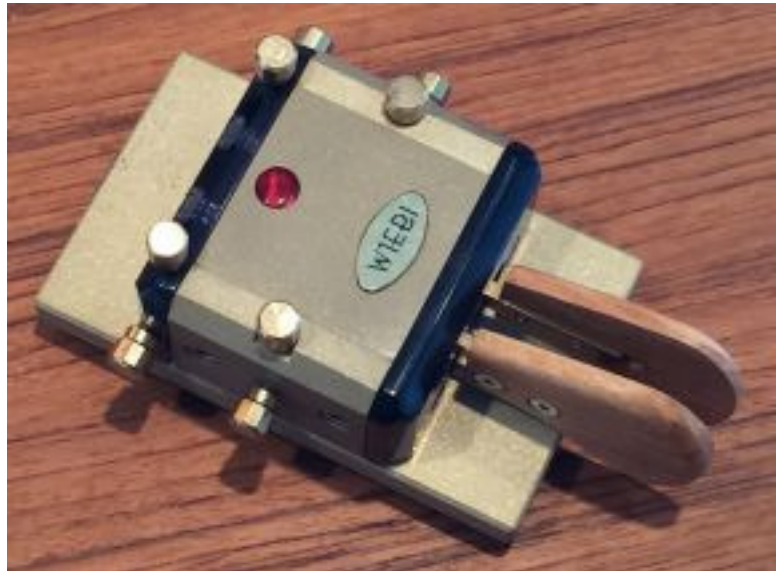
After antennas and radios, CW keys are the third most controversial and conversational components of a ham's station. OK, I haven't verified that. But I had no idea that there were so many models of straight keys, bugs, sideswipers and paddles floating around when I got back into the hobby fourteen years ago after a forty year hiatus (aka, "The Great Hiatus"). When I assembled my original W1EBI station in 2002, I had already decided to use the integral keyer in my FT-920.

Even though I had not sent Morse code in anger for four decades, I never forgot it and spent idle time flying in airplanes (which is what I spent a lot of time doing during..."The Great Hiatus") reading books and magazines and "thinking" Morse in my head. And since I always wanted an electronic keyer, I surreptitiously pretended I was using one by moving my hand in my lap while sending CW. On reflection, that may not have been a great idea on a crowded airplane, but let's not go there.

So of course I included a Bencher BY-1 as my first paddle. The price at HRO was right, and I don't remember if they carried any other options. I used the BY-1 for three or four years with no regrets, but since I have a heavy hand I tended to push it around on the desk unless I held it down with my free hand. By then I had read about other nice paddles from Schurr, Begali, N3ZN and others. They were a heck of a lot pricier than the BY-1. So for my next paddle I chose a nice model made by K8RA (SK) that sat on a 2.3 kg hunk of brass. Heavy and only half the cost of a Begali.

Fast forward to 2016. I added one more key to my collection, a nice chrome base Vibroplex Original Deluxe that I had been negotiating with a local merchant for years. He was not a ham, but had been a military comms officer during the Korean War era and had kept the bug. He finally decided to give it to me since his grandkids had no interest in it, and he felt that I would give it a good home. After some emails with Scott W4PA I found that two binding posts were not insulated from the base. I fixed those problems, but I have not put it on the air yet, mainly because I don't think I can actually send decipherable code with it.

This past February I read a review by OK1RR of a new paddle, the "ZACH", manufactured by fellow Czech ham OK1TN. The photo on his website looked interesting, very modern, sleek, small but only moderately heavy at 1 kg. Like the K8RA years earlier, it is far less costly than the high end Italian and German machines. It was time to treat myself, so I ordered my paddle and, after Slavek produced a new manufacturing run, my ZACH arrived in May. It arrived in a very handsome wooden box that is so nice I want to find another use for it! The paddle comes with a connecting cable with a USB connector for the paddle end. After reversing the dot/dash inputs in my venerable CMOS-IV keyer I was on the air.



So how do I like it? This is, after all, a product review, not a biopic. Full disclosure: I have never used a paddle with magnetic contacts before. I also do not use squeeze keying; I bought the dual lever BY-1 without even knowing what the word "iambic" meant. Suffice to say that I like this paddle very much. I use a piece of thin rubber carpet mat under the paddle to keep it from moving around the desk. I have made only slight changes to the factory settings on the contacts, but in three months of regular use I find this paddle to be somewhat lighter to the touch compared to the spring contact paddle I had been using. Keying action is smooth and precise with, as OK1RR commented, very nice tactile feel. The mechanism is fully encapsulated in its own integral dust cover. Without duplicating the technical specs that were in OK1RR's article that appeared in FOCUS, the magazine of FOC, I can say that, although I have used fewer CW keys than probably 99.44 percent of YCCC members (OK, I haven't verified that either), OK1TN has produced an outstanding dual lever paddle that operates beautifully, and looks that way as well.

Web address: [www.lc-variable.eu](http://www.lc-variable.eu)

# WMA Area Meeting Minutes

## July 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

Tom Homewood  
Western Mass. Section Manager

Two regional meetings of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club were held on July 2 and 3, 2016 at the station of Dave Robbins, K1TTT in Peru, Massachusetts. The meetings were being held in conjunction with K1TTT's celebration of his retirement, 60th birthday, and 32 years station building. A special event call, K1T, was being used by all from Dave's station to add to the fun. A brief business meeting began at approximately 2:00 p.m. on each of the two days to vote on several new member applications.

Tours of towers and antennas were conducted for those new to the station. These included discussions of construction techniques, grounding, stack design and switching. Many took the opportunity to operate as K1T and generated some pileup.

K1TTT's friends presented him with several gifts to commemorate the occasion. A RigExpert Antenna Analyzer AA-230-ZOOM will make antenna analysis work much easier. In addition a silver tray with the calls of those contributing to the retirement gifts and a large banner with the calls of all the hams that have operated from Dave's station with a QSL card design for the K1T operation in the center. I believe 260 calls were identified.

Our goal to attract new members was successful. Six completed applications for membership/returning members were received and all voted into membership.

New members are: K1GJY (YO9GJY), Stefania Watson; KC1FLN, Carl Curtin; and KW2T, Dan Pedtke.

Returning lapsed members are: K1MK, Mike Keane; K1SFA, Khrystyne Keane; and KB1HNZ, Tim Watson.

Completed application and dues will be forwarded to the secretary and treasurer.

K1TTT donated a 2 meter hand held radio to be given to one of the new members, K1GJY was the lucky winner of the Icom radio.

There were at least 50 people that attended one or both days that the meetings were held. The list of all those who signed in has been forwarded to the secretary.

There will be follow up pictures and accounts on K1TTT's Superstation Facebook page.

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## YCCC Area Meeting

### Milford MA 11 July 2016

KM1P Joe

We had a nice meeting with special DL guests Irina, Ralf and Robert Stieber visiting New England.

We heard about various adventures such as fixing rotor pots (multiple times) under the Jamaican sun, where K1ZZ was when everyone else was at Dayton, and that Irina chose not to operate IARU from a tent this time.

Attendees:	KM1P	DL8DYL	DL9DRA	DN4DRO
	W3UA	K1VR	K5ZD	K6ND
	K6NDV	K3JO	K1ZZ	KA1ZD

## SO2R Box – Feature Requests? Paul, K1XM

I've made some minor enhancements to the YCCC SO2R Box program and plan to release a new version. If there is anything you would like to see added please let me know.

Note: The new version will probably not run on Windows XP or Vista. I don't own any computers which run them. The existing version will continue to work with them and I'll keep it available. If someone finds a bug with Windows XP I can probably fix it but I'll need help with testing.

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### The Man Who Networked the World

A hundred years before iconic figures like Bill Gates and Steve Jobs permeated our lives, 60 years before Marshall McLuhan proclaimed media to be “the extensions of man,” an Irish-Italian inventor laid the foundation of the communication explosion of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

See full article at: <http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/the-man-who-networked-the-world/ar-BBvWyto?li=AA4Zoy&ocid=spartandhp>

Thanks to Ed Stratton, W1ZZ

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*Ham ID: Jack, W1WEF circa 1954/55*

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### FCC Boston Field Office to Remain Open

Thanks to Fred Hopengarten, K1VR

The Federal Communication Commission is confirming to Radio World that it will begin closing field offices in January 2017. Offices in Anchorage, Alaska, Buffalo, N.Y., Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Mo., Norfolk, Va., Philadelphia, San Diego, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Seattle, and Tampa, Fla., will be closed as part of the agency's modernization plan.

The FCC announced in July 2015 it was closing the offices and trimming up to 44 positions to better reflect technological advances and in the face of budget reductions. The modernization plan creates rapid response teams to handle special enforcement issues. The FCC says the so-called Tiger Teams, based out of Columbia, Md., and Denver, will be dispatched within 24 hours of an interference crisis.

The restructuring plan has the National Association of Broadcasters and the Society of Broadcast Engineers worried that the cuts in the field will limit the FCC's ability to mitigate interference complaints and leave potential holes in the enforcement fence.

Before the plan could be implemented the FCC had to reach an agreement over the projected job losses with the union representing FCC Enforcement Bureau field employees. The National Treasury Employees Union has been a vocal critic of the overhaul plan, openly questioning the commission's ability to safeguard radio spectrum going forward. An FCC spokesperson confirmed on Thursday that the displaced FCC agents will have the opportunity to apply for vacancies in the remaining field offices if a vacancy exists.

FCC field offices will remain open in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Columbia, Md., Dallas, Denver, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Portland, Ore., and San Francisco.

See more at:

<http://www.radioworld.com/article/fcc-confirms-field-office-closures-begin-in-2017/279516#sthash.7e4RzU15.dpuf>

# YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

**DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF** Dues for the year are payable as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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@ar1.net](mailto:n1sr@ar1.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](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 Tom, W1TO. To order, complete the QSL form from the YCCC website, send it to W1TO who will verify all information is included and send to UX5UO after resolving any issues. You will receive a proof copy directly from UX5UO. Approve the proof after resolving any issues with UX5UO. Email acceptance to UX5UO with copy to W1TO. Current price is \$45/thousand (matte) and \$49/thousand heavy matte. Payment to UX5UO representative, KD4POJ at Mr David Lipscomb, KD4POJ, 4201 13<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Minot, ND, 58703. eMail: [kd4poj@srt.com](mailto:kd4poj@srt.com)

**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.

**QSL BUREAU – The W1 QSL BUREAU** is sponsored by the YCCC. For more information at: [www.w1qsl.org](http://www.w1qsl.org) Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 73, Marlborough, MA 01752-0073. Email address: [w1qsl@w1qsl.org](mailto:w1qsl@w1qsl.org)

**ARRL COMMITTEE REPS** are:

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**DXAC:** **New England** Bob Beaudet, W1YRC    **Hudson** Leslie P. Kalmus, W2LK    **Atlantic** Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

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

**ARRL LIAISON:** Bart J. Jahnke, W9JJ