



Scuttlebutt

February 2018

Issue 245

**YCCC General Meeting
February 4th, 2018, Noon - 4:00pm
Enfield Holiday Inn,
One Bright Meadow Boulevard, Enfield, CT**

Captain's Cabin

Dennis Egan, W1UE

Before I get into this, let me state that the opinions I'm going to voice are my own, and only my own. I'm not a political figure; I'm one that hates the phony political discourse. I'm also not very good at it, but too much has gone on for it to be ignored at this point.

A couple of months ago, it seemed like the entire governance of the ARRL was being renegotiated at the Board of Directors level, with seemingly no input from the membership. Radical, IMHO, proposals were being floated that would change the way that the ARRL has governed for the past 100 years. It seems that NY2RF felt that these changes were needed to more rapidly push through what he (being from the corporate world and, thus, more advanced than the rest of us) felt needed to be done. The Code of Conduct, the N6AA censure, the N2YBB proposals, and the K5UZ proposals all made the blood curl on longtime ARRL members. The response from the amateur community, from what I could tell, was loud and strong. IMHO, the membership made it clear that they did NOT want these ARRL changes to happen.

So, on to the January Board Meeting. None of the above-mentioned proposals were even considered. The Code of Conduct was softened somewhat, and was going to be subject to a more thorough review at the July BOD. The N6AA censure wasn't rescinded, but its not dead yet. NY2RF, apparently knowing that his agenda wasn't going to pass, resigned the day before the BOD meeting.

Thanks to all the members that took the time to let the ARRL Board, and their directors, know how they felt about the proposals. I'm not sure any of the officials were quite ready for the barrage of emails, letters, etc. that they received on the topic. What is clear is that, for the moment, the proposals have not been adopted, and the Board is well aware of the membership's feelings about those proposals. I'm also sure that all the shoes have not yet dropped on this.

Enough political discourse! On to Contesting!

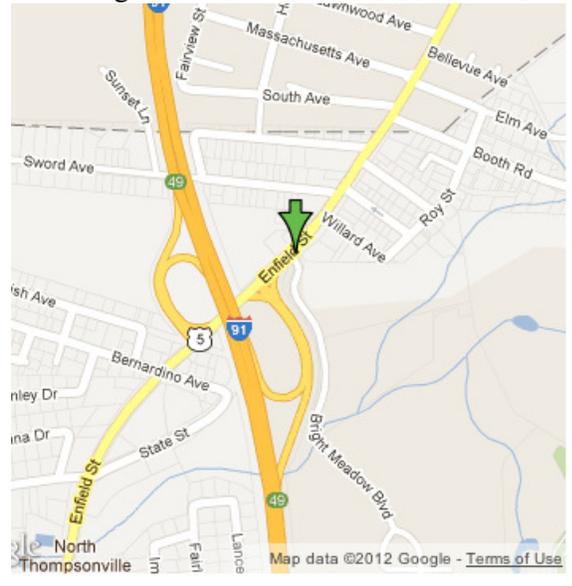
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Directions to Enfield Holiday Inn

One Bright Meadow Boulevard, Enfield, CT



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

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

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

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"A Few Things You Never Knew About Me"

Jack Schuster W1WEF

George, W1EBI, gave me this idea at lunch the other day. I remarked that I had just seen the obituary for a SK friend who I had worked with for 32 years, and it was there that I learned more about him than I ever knew. Most contesters are not ragchewers between contests, and we sure don't learn much about each other from 59905! I thought it might be interesting to share some of our other interests in the Butt, not necessarily related to Ham radio, just to learn a little more about each other.

I'll be happy to be the editor, so anyone who would like to share, send your story to me and I'll pass it along to Steve, N1SR for the Butt. I'll start it off in this issue, and we'll see how much Steve can fit in each future Butt.

I used to be an avid skier in my younger days. I started skiing in my early working years with friends from work, skiing just about every weekend. I spent the first few years at Mt Snow, then at Stratton, and then Killington where I met my wife riding up a chair lift with her. It turned out we were both members of ski clubs with ski lodges across the road from one another, and the two clubs shared a beautiful heated indoor pool with saunas. Some of us would take a sauna, go out and roll in the snow, and then jump in the pool. After we were married, we bought a little farmhouse in Pittsfield Vt, and brought our two kids up on skis from the time they were 4 years old.

One of my dreams was to build a house. When Pittsfield decided to vote out all their zoning regulations, we subdivided our lot and I got to build my chalet. I did just about everything single-handedly except for the masonry and a little help framing the roof. I started in May, worked on it every weekend and it was finished that December. I also built an addition on our Ct house that doubled the size, and finished the interior of two houses on the Cape. I always enjoyed at least attempting to do whatever I could myself, be it building, car repairs, radio repairs etc...

My interest in radio evolved from building a crystal set (with a catwhisker...not a 1N34!), and many one tube and five tube AM radios. My Dad had a radio and TV service business, and I couldn't wait until I was 13 when I started going into his store after school where I repaired radios and TV sets. Dad was not a ham, but another Boy Scout and I studied for our novice licenses together, and I became WN1WEF in 1952. I started with a homebrew 6AG7 crystal oscillator, a 3749 crystal and an S40B that landed me my first DX QSO with VE1II after two weeks of calling CQ! I went on to build VFO rigs with 807's and 6146's, and single band 813 amps for 80, 40 and 20, but I operated mainly on 80 in the National Traffic System which was a great place to develop CW skills. During my college summers I worked for Vic, N4XR (SK and YCCC Hall of Fame) as a troubleshooter in a factory that built TV tuners for all of the American TV manufacturers. To keep the job interesting I made it a contest to see how many tuners I could repair in a shift...which really irked the full timers!

I took a hiatus from ham radio from about 1960 to 1977 after I graduated with a BSEE from U Mass and started working and bringing up a family. Since becoming active again I've loved this great hobby more than ever.

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(Captain's Cabin: Continued from Page 1)

Upcoming real soon is the ARRL DX CW contest! February 17-18. This is a fun one, since WE are now the hunted! Two weeks later, ARRL DX SSB contest March 3-4! Get those DVKs out, loosen those tonsils, get ready to blast-off!

Our February 4 meeting will feature Gerry W1VE talking about his Pollyanna speech synthesizer. I used it totally during NAQP SSB, and it was a lot of fun! Marty KC1CWF, will show how he uses a simple Arduino to utilize N1MM+ to activate the DVK on an Icom rig. Rich K1CC, will talk about his recent To2SP Dxpediton. For you non-Super Bowl watchers, it will be something to do. For you Super Bowl watchers, it will be a good lead-in to the game. We will be done plenty early enough to get everyone home in time for the game! Go Pats and Sizzle for Six!

Dennis Egan W1UE YCCC President

December 3, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Dennis W1UE called the December 3, 2017 general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club to order at 12:50 pm.

Dennis W1UE called for a roll call of the members present and asked to include what they did for the recent CQWW SSB and CW contests.

Dennis W1UE announced the agenda for the meeting.

Dennis called for the Secretary's Report which Brian NJ1F gave. A motion to accept the report was made by Barry NF1O and Seconded by Dave K1ZZ. The Motion Carried.

Dennis then asked for the Treasurer's Report which was given by Chet N8RA. A motion to accept the report was made by Charlie N1RR and Seconded by Barry NF1O. The Motion Carried.

Dennis W1UE introduced Alec W2JU the clubs score keeper. Alec gave a presentation on the scores that have been reported by the YCCC and FRC. The race is close and will come down to log checking. Alec Thanked Paul K1XM for helping identify stations active in the CW contest to make sure that they submit their logs for the club.

Dennis W1UE then announced a break as the Holiday Buffet was ready.

Dennis W1UE reconvened the meeting at 2:05 pm and asked if there were any new members. There were none.

Dennis W1UE then introduced Eric KV1J who gave a presentation on the W1 QSL Bureau activities for the past year. Several changes were implemented is to the program that K1TTT wrote to keep track of Bureau member's accounts. Some of the changes will allow the program to be used by other QSL Bureaus. Coming soon W1 QSL Bureau members will be able to check their account balances on line. This will go live in January 2018.

Dennis then presented the yearly awards for contest participation and improvements to those earning them who were present.

Dennis W1UE then introduced Brian NJ1F who conducted the Yankee Swap.

Dennis then conducted a drawing for several "Door Prizes"

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dave K1HT and Seconded by Don K2KQ. The Motion Carried.

Meeting "officially" adjourned at 3:03. However many members stayed, swapping contest stories, operating strategies, planning travel for WRTC2018, implementing SDRs / software to make operating more enjoyable, and general conversations.

Submitted

Brian Szewczyk NJ1F
YCCC Secretary

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YCCC Members Selected as WRTC2018 Referees – Congratulations!

K1CC, Richard Assarabowski
K1RX, Mark Pride
N2GA, George
W1UE, Dennis Egan
W1VE, Gerry Hull
W6PH, Kurt Pauer

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The ZM tradition goes back a long way.....

(From the YCCC Reflector, with permission)

I suppose it all began around 1972 when Gerry Scarano, ex-W3MVB (then W3DA/1) - having retired to Gales Ferry, CT applied for a First District callsign and his friend A PROSE WALKER, W4BW (SK), at the FCC - became involved.

Prose wrote to Gerry saying "I think you are going to like this one Gerry....it will remind you of Hiram Percy Maxim who once held the callsign 1ZM after WWI. Gerry did not know exactly what that meant until he opened his FCC license envelope and found his new callsign was W1ZM. So that's when it all started (except for the fact that Gerry's longtime friend Ed "Red" Reddington (now SK) down in PVRC territory happened to hold the callsign W4ZM at the time. Gerry and Ed were good friends and both had kindred spirit callsigns.

In 1977, when the FCC opened up the VANITY CALLSIGN process - it was a form of "tiered pools" based upon when you had first been issued your EXTRA class ticket. Those who had achieved their extras first were given first whack at it - and the rest of waited for our turn based upon which tier we happened to fall into. Most of us in YCCC territory were eager to trade in our 3 letter callsigns in favor of a preferred 2 letter call and could hardly wait for our turn in the cycle so we might try for a vanity callsign!

At the time Gerry Scarano suggested I apply for K1ZM and, in the second wave of the process, my choice was granted. There were now two "ZM" callsigns on the airwaves in Gales Ferry.

My brother George was in the 4th wave of the FCC cycle and applied for K2ZM - but it happened that my high school friend decided he liked the ZM callsign and since he was in the 3rd wave of the cycle, he aced George out and was issued K2ZM. George had to settle for his second choice which was K2DM - a callsign that he holds to this day.

In 1978, my youngest brother Peter decided to trade in his WB2JAM callsign in favor of a vanity call and secured K3ZM at his home in Virginia.

It was quite a moment when we all operated the 1978 CQ WW SSB contest together as a MULTI MULTI signing W1ZM - with an operator complement that included:

W1ZM

K1ZM

K2ZM

K3ZM

along with K1VR and AE1C.

Some years later, my son Patrick renewed his interest in amateur radio and was initially licensed as KJ6CWP and later K6AAX. One day he called me on the phone and told me that he was all excited to have been assigned his new call - KK6ZM. Wow!

So where are we today? Well - as the title of this email states - "the tradition continues" because Miriam recently traded in her US KC1HHH callsign and is now the holder of callsign KK1ZM. (Can it get any better than this???)

So now we have in the FAMILY:

K1ZM

K3ZM

KK6ZM

KK1ZM

VY2ZM

(old friend K2ZM - John Moody of NY)

and the 160M Contest Club of PEI callsign - VY2ZMM

Wow - that's pretty neat.

Hope you enjoyed the story....

73

JEFF K1ZM/VY2ZM

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. **Mail your dues to the club treasurer, Chet Slabinski, N8RA, 200 Mount Parnassus Rd, East Haddam, CT 06423.**

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Steve Rodowicz N1SR, by E-mail at n1sr@arrrl.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/nlik>

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 13th Street NE, Minot, ND, 58703. eMail: 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. 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 Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 73, Marlborough, MA 01752-0073. Email address: w1qsl@w1qsl.org

ARRL COMMITTEE REPS are:

CAC: New England Dennis Egan, W1UE **Hudson** George Tranos, N2GA **Atlantic** Charles D Fulp Jr, K3WW

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