



# Scuttlebutt

December 2018

Issue 250

**YCCC General Meeting  
Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018  
Noon to 4:00 pm  
Auburn Elks Club  
754 Southbridge St, Auburn MA 01501**

## CAPTAIN'S CABIN

As I write this, we're on the cusp of another CQWW CW contest, probably my favorite contest. This year I'll be stateside; work on the station is mostly done, with only last minute prep left. In less than 12 hours, we'll be at it!

I try to use every contest not only as a competition in itself, but as a constant evaluation of the station. I keep notes as to what worked, what didn't work, what pitfalls I encountered, what equipment did or didn't work, which antenna I used to work which station, and so on. I keep a notepad on the desk, and take notes as things happen; if I wait until the contest ends to make the note, I won't remember. Its gone probably forever.

Well, its about time for my pre-contest nap #1. There will be several pre-contest naps. Science says you can't "sleep load", but I find being well rested helps me make it through the first night (at least until Europe closes).

Dennis W1UE  
YCCC President

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## Yasme 2018 Excellence Award Recipients

*Brian Machesney, K1LI and Michelle Guenard*



In recognition of their extraordinary efforts on behalf of Commonwealth of Dominica communities in the wake of the 2017 hurricane season. Their efforts included fund-raising, delivery of communications supplies, on-site support, and application of amateur radio technologies to support the relief efforts, which continue today.

<b>Yankee Clipper Contest Club</b>	
<b>President</b>	Dennis Egan, W1UE 508-202-8373 <a href="mailto:President@YCCC.org">President@YCCC.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Charlie Morrison, N1RR 401-742-7240 <a href="mailto:VicePresident@YCCC.org">VicePresident@YCCC.org</a>
<b>Activities Manager</b>	Gerry Kersus, W1GD
<b>Secretary</b>	Brian Szewczyk, NJ1F <a href="mailto:Secretary@YCCC.org">Secretary@YCCC.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chet Slabinski, N8RA <a href="mailto:Treasurer@YCCC.org">Treasurer@YCCC.org</a>
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<b>Scorekeeper</b>	Alec Berman, W2JU <a href="mailto:Scores@YCCC.org">Scores@YCCC.org</a>
<b>W1 QSL Bureau Co-Managers</b>	Eric Williams, KV1J Dennis Egan, W1UE <a href="mailto:W1QSL@YCCC.ORG">W1QSL@YCCC.ORG</a>
<b>Technical Assistance Manager</b>	Dave Jordan, K1NQ <a href="mailto:YCCCTA@YCCC.ORG">YCCCTA@YCCC.ORG</a>
<b>New Members</b>	Mark Pride, K1RX (603) 778-1222
<b>Media Manager</b>	Tom LeClerc, W1TJL <a href="mailto:W1TJL@arrl.net">W1TJL@arrl.net</a>

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## Directions to Auburn Elks Hall

754 Southbridge St, Auburn, MA 01501



**From East & West via Mass Pike Interstate 90;** take Exit 10 onto Route 12 South. Travel 7/10 of a mile, pass through twosets of traffic lights, pass by Waterman Road and Warren Road on the right. Take a right into the Lodge before Jiffy Lube.

**From East, via Interstate 290 West;** Exit 8 in Auburn onto Route 12 South. Travel 9/10 of a mile, pass through two sets of traffic lights, pass by Waterman Road and Warren Road on the right. Take a right into the Lodge before Jiffy Lube.

**From North, via interstate 190;** South onto Interstate 290 West. Then take Exit 8 in Auburn onto Route 12 South. Travel 9/10 of a mile, pass through two sets 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/NEMA</b>	Ken Caruso, WO1N	-----	<a href="mailto:wo1n@arrl.net">wo1n@arrl.net</a>
<b>WNH/SVT</b>	Craig Clark, K1QX	-----	<a href="mailto:k1qx@arrl.net">k1qx@arrl.net</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:j Fitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu">j Fitzgerald@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	-----	<a href="mailto:n1ixf@arrl.net">n1ixf@arrl.net</a>
<b>CT (203)</b>	Mike Loukides, W1JQ	(203) 458-2545	<a href="mailto:MikeL@oreilly.com">MikeL@oreilly.com</a>
<b>RI (401)</b>	Charlie Morrison, N1RR	(401) 742-7240	<a href="mailto:n1rr@n1rr.com">n1rr@n1rr.com</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>NY Capital Region (518/838)</b>	John Corini, KE1IH	-----	<a href="mailto:john.corini@gmail.com">john.corini@gmail.com</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>	Joe Vanat, K1VMT	-----	<a href="mailto:k1vmt@arrl.net">k1vmt@arrl.net</a>
<b>QUEBEC</b>	Guy Lemieux, VE2BWL	-----	<a href="mailto:guy@guylemieux.com">guy@guylemieux.com</a>

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**Ninth Annual YCCC Holiday Celebration**  
**Sunday, December 2, 2018**  
**12:00 - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Dinner begins at 1PM**

Where: Auburn Webster Elks Lodge #2118 (directions on website)  
754 Southbridge St, Auburn, MA 01501  
Phone: (508) 832-9303

The access road/driveway to the Elk's Lodge is between the Hampton Inn & a Jiffy Lube. See photo of the Auburn Elk's Lodge sign shown below.



Program: Meeting & CQWW Recap, Dinner, Yankee Swap and other surprises.

RSVP to N1RR with names & callsigns. [Phone: 401-742-7240 (8AM - 9PM), E-mail: n1rr@n1rr.com]

Charlie, N1RR, needs a count of PAID attendees in to the Elks Lodge by November 26<sup>th</sup>.

Cost: \$20/person Send via \*PAYPAL\* to: n1rr -at- n1rr.com  
PLEASE use Friends & Family to avoid fees.

**Buffet Menu**

Hot Baked Ham Carved on the line  
Hot Oven Roasted Chicken  
Hot Italian Meatballs in Red Sauce  
Hot Rigatoni and Sauce  
Hot Roast Beef  
Garden Salad  
Oven Roasted Potato,  
Rolls, Coffee, Sheet Cake dessert.  
All other drinks from cash bar.

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**Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, Elected ARRL New England Division Director**

Congratulations Fred!

And thanks to Tom Frenaye, K1KI, for his many years of service as New England Division Director.

# October 13, 2018

## General Meeting Minutes

President Dennis, W1UE called the October 13, 2018 general meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA to order at 1:19 pm.

President Dennis, W1UE then announced the agenda for the meeting.

President Dennis, W1UE then asked for a roll call of the members present and what their plans are for the upcoming CQWW contests.

President Dennis called for the Secretary's Report which was given by Brian NJ1F

President Dennis, W1UE then gave the Treasurers Report.

### ACTIVITY: Sept 5 thru Oct 9, 2018

<b>Initial Balance</b>	\$7,022	September 4, 2018
Membership Dues (+)	\$ 615	
MA State Filing (-)	\$ 15	
<b>Final Balance</b>	\$7,622	October 9, 2018

A motion to accept the reports was made by Bob KQ2M and Seconded by Ed N2HX. The Motion Carried.

President Dennis, W1UE asked if there was any old business. There was no old business.

President Dennis, W1UE then asked if anyone had new business.

Ed, N2HX announced that Ed, NT2X is looking for operators for both modes of the CQWW contest from the K1TTT superstation

President Dennis, W1UE asked the members present for input on a couple of items that the CAC has been working on.

First the RTTY Roundup will allow FT-8. However they will not allow "Fox and Hound" mode all participants that plan on using FT-8 must use version 2.XX or newer so that the contest exchange information can be correctly logged. There was discussion about this change with some members feeling that the RTTY Roundup should be limited to only RTTY.

Topic number two, Dennis asked how many members participate in the November Sweepstakes contests. Dennis then asked for input from everyone as what should be changed to increase participation? Ideas mentioned included: Allowing contacts made with a previously worked station on a different band. Change the exchange. Shorten the length of the contest or have a 12 hour only category. Adding a RTTY, FT-8 or digital weekend. W1PY said that the ARRL needs to market the contest better and get rid of the mugs. KQ2M suggested moving the dates of the contests to a different month and allow stations to work DX for QSO points only. KV1J suggested a last 12 hour category to increase activity in the final hours. KM1P suggested that the ARRL wrap the scores for all ARRL contests operated in a year added together like the international grid chase.

President Dennis, W1UE announced that KC1CWF was recording the meeting and it will be available on the YCCC YouTube channel.

President Dennis, W1UE asked if there was anyone wanting to join the club. Former member Howie, WB2CPU told the group about his contesting activities. Jeff, WC4E made a motion to welcome them aboard. Seconded by Paul, K1XM the motion carried.

President Dennis, W1UE announced that at the local meeting the evening before John, W1JMA and James, AJ1MJ were welcomed aboard.

President Dennis, W1UE announced that the raffle was at the half way point to reaching the goal and tickets would be sold during the break.

President Dennis, W1UE then introduced Guy, VE2BWL, His presentation was titled YCCC members in Canada.

President Dennis, W1UE gave a presentation and demonstration on what he uses a DVK for.

President Dennis, W1UE called for a 10 minute break to buy raffle tickets, pay dues and socialize.

President Dennis, W1UE called the meeting back to order at 3:15

President Dennis, W1UE chaired a panel discussion with Tom, N1MM, Paul K1XM, Tom, K1KI and Bob, KQ2M on tips to use in the upcoming contests. The “Auto Hot Key” utility was demonstrated. This utility allows you to program a sequence of keystrokes and assign it to a single key or external trigger. Paul, K1XM suggests inviting a newly licensed amateur to your Multi-op and let them operate. Because they are licensed and you are the control operator even if they have a technician license they can operate HF and work DX without third party issues. Tom, K1KI shared his experience of starting the CQWW contest on 160 meters at the bottom of the sunspot cycle and having a nice run of 60 plus. Bob, KQ2M said that late in the afternoon when everyone is pointing antennas to the south he will point his antennas east or west and often finds mults.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eric, KV1J and Seconded by Paul, K1XM. The Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Submitted

Brian Szewczyk NJ1F  
YCCC Secretary

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## Tower Leg Grounding Notes

Chet, N8RA

Ward Silver, N0AX, in his book: “Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur” states:

*“use proper techniques for connecting dissimilar metals when connecting the (grounding) radials to the tower. Most towers are zinc-coated steel (galvanized). Connecting a copper wire or strap directly to the tower leg will cause the zinc to erode, allowing the base steel to oxidize (rust). This in turn will increase the resistance of the connection and over time may threaten the mechanical strength of the tower segment. One solution to this problem is to use a buffer layer of stainless shim stock between the zinc and the copper. ...stainless steel shims also work when connecting copper to aluminum, such as tower legs. Copper should not be connected directly to galvanizing or aluminum.”*

In the past I had used a tinned crimp lug on a leg bolt; but to get enough contact force for the high transient current it might have required tightening the bolt to the point of distorting the tower leg tubing.

In my new tower installation, I used grounding clamps as shown in the photo. For the shims I purchased a 0.024" thick 6" x 12" 304 stainless steel (SS) sheet from McMaster Carr (P/N 8983K121) for about \$5. Though I could cut it into the right size pieces with hand shears, it was close to the limit of that tool. 304 stainless steel also tends to tarnish a little out in the weather. Smear a very thin coat of dielectric grease on the inside of the shim and the clamp's teeth to protect the contact areas from the environment.



If I were to do it over, I'd try thinner 316 stainless.

McMaster Carr offers convenient 2" wide strips:

2" x 12" 0.015" thick 316 stainless, enough for 3 legs (P/N 9090K3 for about \$6.00), or a 2" x 24" piece for \$11.

Round out your order with some SS U-clamps, machine screws, or boxes of lock washers, flat washers and nuts for your antenna projects to spread out the shipping and handling costs.

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# Silent Keys

R. Jan Carman - K5MA – West Falmouth MA: November 13, 2018

Rev. Paul Bittner – W0AIH – Fall Creek, WI: Dec 25, 1933 – Oct 31, 2018

John William Leahy – VE1ZZ - Head of Jeddore, NS, Canada: December 24, 1933 – October 18, 2018

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## K5MA – R. Jan Carman, West Falmouth, MA

R. Jan Carman, K5MA (ex-W5SBX, W3JXS), who was a member of the ARRL Headquarters staff from 2001 until 2003 died on November 13. An ARRL Life Member, he was 76.

Carman's career spanned the fields of aerospace, oil-field equipment, industrial control and instrumentation, underwater acoustics, communication systems, manufacturing automation and consulting. Carman held bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania, and he was active with the University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club (W3ABT).

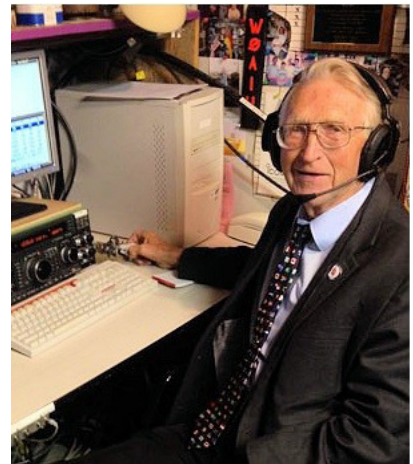
His Amateur Radio interests included contesting, DXing and VHF/UHF weak signal work. He is a member of the DXCC Honor Roll and the First Class CW Operators Club (FOC). He also was a member of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. He was a past president of the Texas DX Society.

(Thanks to ARRL)

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## W0AIH - Paul E. Bittner, Fall Creek, WI

The Reverend Paul Bittner, W0AIH, of Fall Creek, Wisconsin, died doing what he loved on October 31, when a tower-climbing mishap claimed his life at his well-known antenna farm. The ARRL Life Member and Maxim Society member was 84. A member of the CQ Contesting Hall of Fame and retired Lutheran pastor, Bittner was a well-known and respected figure within the Amateur Radio community and a prolific contester and DXer. His call sign was nearly always present in most major operating events, and even in a few lesser-known contests, and news of his tragic death and condolences and accolades quickly spread among those who knew him best.



"No one was more generous, loving, and encouraging to others than the Reverend Paul Bittner," said Mike Lonke, W4AAW, in a post to the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC). "He called me last week to chat about what he and Mary were up to, like getting material together for their always long and hilarious Christmas newsletter. He also knocked me out with the latest of his funny experiences in his Rent-a-Rev sideline." Bittner officiated at the June 2 wedding of two well-known midwestern contesters.

Bittner was licensed in 1949 and held the same call sign ever since. He and his wife, Mary, WBØPXM, moved in 2000 to 'The Farm', a 120-acre spread in west-central Wisconsin. The first of the more than 50 towers began sprouting there before their arrival in 1982. As a ham, he enjoyed multi-multi contesting and DXing. His favorite band was 160 meters, and his favorite contest was the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest. Bittner's son-in-law - Paul Husby, WØUC - operated VHF contests from The Farm and was a multi-multi regular as well.

"His station stands as a great monument to a selfless man of great grace and remarkable achievements," Lonke said. "Paul once told me that AIH stands for 'already in heaven'."

Contester and former ARRL staffer Dave Patton, NN1N, described Bittner as "such a good man and truly great ham." W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, noted that Bittner had volunteered to operate as W1AW/9 as a headquarters station in the 2019 IARU HF Championship to celebrate his decades in ham radio.

NCJ Editor Scott Wright, KØMD, said that Bittner helped to build stations for many midwestern hams. "He was a mentor to hundreds of hams, and his enthusiasm for contesting was infectious," Wright said. Bittner had said he wanted to be buried with a bible, a telegraph key, and a climbing belt.

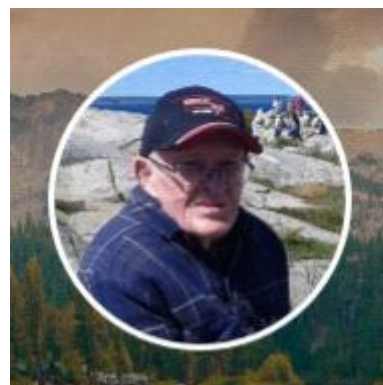
"Thank you for giving so much of yourself to me and the rest of the ham community," said contester Scott Neader. "We will never forget you."

(Thanks to QCWA & QRZ.com)

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### **VE1ZZ – John “Jack” William Leahy, Head Jeddore, NS Canada**

John “Jack” William Leahy, VE1ZZ, aged 85, of Head Jeddore, passed away peacefully Thursday, Oct 18 surrounded by family at Twin Oaks Hospital. Born in Tufts Cove to the late Mabel (Gibson) and John Leahy. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years Opal (Isenor); his children Betty Smith (Dave), John, Karen Thomas (Roger), Keith and Carl (Michelle); sister Barbara Adams; 12 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews and in-laws. He was predeceased by his brothers Roy “Buddy” and Robert “Bob” and infant grandson John.



Jack worked at Defence Research Establishment Atlantic (Department of National Defence) for 34 years. Throughout his life, and more so after retirement, he devoted much of his time to his life-long passion of Ham Radio. Jack, VE1ZZ, was a legend in the Ham Radio community for almost 70 years.

When he earned his license in 1948 he was the youngest person in Canada to do so. He made friends and contacts from around the world, many of whom visited Head Jeddore to see his extensive communication towers and system. Jack loved to talk “Ham” to anyone with an interest and was always eager to share stories and his vast knowledge on building better “rigs” and making radio contact to difficult regions. He won numerous awards and certificates over the years, was featured in books, magazines and local television on his accomplishments in the Ham Radio world.

When not “on the air” Jack was also an avid hunter, fisherman and trapper into his senior years. He enjoyed many trips to Duck Lake and Mooseland, with his brother-in-law and later with sons and grandson. Jack also loved to drive and put hundreds of thousands of miles on his many vehicles. When he could no longer drive, sons and daughters took the wheel covering many more miles across Nova Scotia.

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# 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. **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@arri.net](mailto: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](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/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 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, go to <https://groups.io/g/yccc/join> and enter your email address.

**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:

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

**DXAC:** New England Bob Beaudet, W1YRC    **Hudson** OPEN    **Atlantic** Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

**ARRL LIAISON:** Bart J. Jahnke, W9JJ    **Hudson** Frederick Lass, K2TR    **Atlantic** Joe Taylor, K1JT

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