

February 2025

Issue 277

YCCC General Club Meeting Zoom Meeting – Check Your eMail for Sign-In Info Saturday, February 1st, 2025 – 9:00am to 12:00pm

CAPTAIN'S LOG

Hi All,

It has been a few months since the last newsletter. I am paying the dues, for being unable able to focus on the Club versus a freight train of personal live events that 2024 offered until know. Framed in terms of a 2024 wrap-up, here are some items that need to be discussed.

Scholarship. The ARRL Foundation awarded the YCCC Scholarship to a young woman, originally from California, who currently lives in Massachusetts attending MIT, KN6OQK. Her selection fully complies with our Terms of Reference. Check out her blog and her amazing artwork at <u>https://mitadmissions.org/blogs/author/kn6oqk/</u>. Look for her post "Radio Nerd Shenanigans".

We have \$175 on deposit with the Foundation. This is insufficient to fund a scholarship for 2025. Without an active fundraising effort, a scholarship cannot be offered for the foreseeable future.

Since my call for scholarship donations in the October 2023 Scuttlebutt #271 we have received \$110 in donations through the Club treasury. KQ2M has deposited these into the ARRL Foundation account. If you have done this per the instructions published in 'Butt #271, and repeated in this issue, please let us know.

Funding a regular scholarship is something we need to figure out as a Club.

Budget. Actual expenses have outpaced income for 7 out of the last 11 years. KQ2M did a midfiscal year review and it looks like we will deficit spend again this year. We ended the calendar year (halfway through the fiscal year) with ~\$4000 in the Club treasury. See the article later in the newsletter that outlines the need for a dues increase.

Membership. As of 1/19/2025 the Club roster included 15 life members, 2 paid thru 2031, 1 paid thru 2028, 4 paid thru 2027, 20 paid thru 2026, 71 paid thru 2025 and 114 paid thru 2024. This gives us a participating roster of 227 active members. This includes 16 new members on-boarded over the course of 2024.

If we consider members that were paid through 2023, another 70, we can reasonably claim a potential contest participating roster of 297 members. This is considerably down from our peak of 333 that I stated in the April 2024 Captain's Log. That point-in-time analysis included 2022 members. Our retention efforts have been lacking with 52 - 2022 members and 70 - 2023 members failing to renew. This is an area of concern.

2024 saw the passing of current or former members, W1FV, N1AP, N1MD, K2WR, N2HX, and K1BV. May they rest-in-peace and I apologize for any others that I may have missed.

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CAPE & IS	SLANDS	OPEN		

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(Captain's Log continued from page 1)

IT Footprint: The year saw yet another database requiring Club management/administrator support popup out of the ether. It turns out we have a Club DXCC competition going on using ClubLog. An administrator is needed for approvals to join the DXCC league. Brian, NJ1F and I are now administrators. See <u>https://clublog.org/league.php</u> You do need to have a ClubLog account and be regularly uploading your contacts here (DXLab Suite does this automatically if you choose to do so).

Go to the League Tables tab and use the pulldown list to select the YCCC Club competition. So, who is in the lead? It looks like AA1QD has top honors for current entities, confirmed and W1RM is #1 if you look at current and deleted entities confirmed.

Otherwise, status quo on the other database/sites. We have 63 members registered with Google Workspace, 497 on groups.io and ~681 in the ARRL competition list. Fortunately, groups.io, YouTube, ClubLog and Google Workspace remain as free rides.

We worked with Jim, K1IR to take over the Zoom account going forward. Jim was very gracious in working out a deal where he gets some cash reimbursement and life membership in the Club. Yes, he had put that much into it!

The above pretty much covers the nuts and bolts of the Club, so now we get to turn our focus to that arcane practice sometimes known as Contesting!

CQWW 2024 turnout for the Club was in the 45% range. Provisionally, it looks like we roll-up 2^{nd} in both the SSB and CW legs. So, probably 2^{nd} overall in the Club competition with FRC taking top US honors. The table recaps some of the year events that have published final results.

Contest	Club Results	Comments
CQWW 2023	#2 US Clubs	8 th consecutive #2 result. FRC top honors
CQWPX 2024	#1 US Clubs	Plaque wasn't sponsored this year
CQ160 2024	#4 World	#3 US. PVRC topped US scorecard
CQWW RTTY 2023	#1 US	Congrats! Totally missed this
CQ WPX RTTY 2024	#9 World	BCC Tops
WW Digi Contest 2024	#1 World	With only 10 entries! K1SFA and W1UE rule
ARRL DX 2024	#2 US	7 th consecutive #2 result. FRC top honors
ARRL Sweeps	#4 US	PVRC Top Honors
ARRL10M 2023	#2 US	NCCC Top Honors
ARRL 160M 2023	#4 US	PVRC Top Honors
ARRL Digital	#3 US	PVRC Top Honors
WAE	#2 DX	PVRC Top Honors
Oceania DX 2023	1 st Place NA	Most Club Entries
State QSO Party Club 2024	9 th Place	Enduring those wacky reminders for nothing

Participation is the cornerstone of competition. It is well understood that not all members can partake in every event due to various time commitments and personal decisions regarding the level of involvement. However, any level of participation, no matter how small, significantly contributes to our club's overall success in competitive events.

Every log, every contact, and every effort counts towards success in the Club competition category. We are experiencing some of the best conditions in decades, making it an opportune time to participate in the upcoming ARRL events. Setting personal goals for the number of contacts, such as 100 or 200 Qs, can help the Club towards reclaiming the top spots in the club competition category.

Consider the K2KQ axiom that "any antenna is better than no antenna". We think "any log is better than no log". Please get on the air and contribute to the Club effort. You might enjoy it!

73, Ken – WO1N

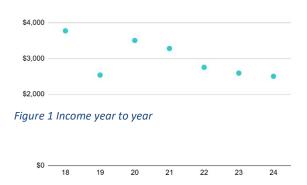
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State of the Treasury KQ2M and WO1N

KQ2M and I have been looking at Club income and serious alarm bells have been going off.

We had forecasted about \$2500 in income based on recent membership levels. To date, six months into the fiscal year, we have only collected \$975 against our \$2500 forecast. Chet, N8RA had been tracking income for the past several years and saw it continuously declining year over year. See the graph below.

The decline continues as can be seen with the addition of 2023 data to the graph. 2024 data is our budget estimate.



Every newsletter has included a call for members to pay their dues in some form or another.

Root causes include declining membership levels through the failure to retain Club members year to year and a passive recruiting effort. Some 23 members didn't renew in 2021, 52 in 2022 and then 70 from 2023.

We have heard the message that we should not be reluctant to send out individualized dunning notices but have failed to do anything here. It is a

lot of work to send individual messages. In a letter to Club officers written by K1LU/W1LLU, Jim McCobb's (SK) he addressed the "2004 Dues Crisis". In the letter he noted how difficult it was to contact everyone individually. We will continue to explore efficient ways to do this.

In the meantime, consider where your dues are going. Funding the Club IT resources will take larger and larger bites. The Club has assumed the Zoom expense which had previously been borne by a Club member. Website hosting and domain name costs have increased. Fortunately, we remain on the free ride programs offered by Groups.io, ClubLog, YouTube and Google Workspace but these are expected to become cost programs imminently.

The Club sponsors 13 Contest plaques. Costs for these have gone from \$50/plaque to \$65/plaque, recently. While insurance costs have been level, these costs will continue to rise.

We are fully committed to helping fund the WRTC events and the WWROF. We believe these to be essential to the contesting community.

We maintain a presence at the Hamvention through our Pizza night funding. This cost has gone up in recent years.

Steps to reign in expenses include reducing our Northeast HamXposition footprint going forward. We have eliminated all live meetings. We have pulled back on Club awards.

Given all of this we are still looking at a deficit of around \$2500 for the year if the current dues income stream does not improve.

As such we reluctantly propose a dues increase. This will require a change to the Club constitution, so tighten your belts, here we go.

Proposed Bylaw change:

6. Dues

An annual dues assessment covering the calendar year is hereby levied pursuant to Article VI of the Constitution to meet current Club operating expenses.

The dues assessment schedule may be modified from time to time by a majority vote of the membership, with a super quorum present and voting, resulting in the automatic amendment of the applicable By-Laws.

The dues assessment schedule is as follows:

Full Member (FE)

\$15 \$25 (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and electronic delivery of Club newsletter, Scuttlebutt, here on referred to as E-butt.)

Family Member (FM)

\$0 (Grants full membership to all amateurs residing at one domicile on payment of one member's "Full Member" annual dues and entitlement to electronic delivery of the Club Newsletter. All members of said family are eligible for YCCC awards programs.)

Student Member (ST)

\$10 (Grants full membership to students at a reduced level. Eligible for YCCC awards programs and electronic delivery of the Club Newsletter.)

Subscription (SU)

\$10 (A "friend of YCCC" not a member but a possible candidate for future membership. Receives Club newsletter in electronic form.)

A former member who has moved out of the Club area may continue to participate in the Club's e-mail reflector and receive the electronic newsletter at no cost.

Implementation Plan

- Publish 1st announcement in the February 2025 newsletter
- Take first vote at the April meeting (vote requires 30-day notice)
- Contact former members who are not dues current
- Take 2nd vote at any and all meetings between April and July
- Once a super quorum has voted, presumably in favor, announce
- Increase dues July 1st, 2025 target

Membership in and support of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, Inc., a premier contest Club in the US, if not the world, provides access to the use of the groups.io reflector where some of the world's best operators and station designers hang out. Membership in the YCCC provides you access to a suite of business class tools in the Google Workspace, owning the coveted <u>username@yccc.org</u> email address and daily interaction with a likeminded social group. Your membership fee supports the entire contesting community through our support of the WWROF, WRTC and similarly focused organizations and events. Please prioritize those half dozen mouse clicks to get your dues paid now before the rates go up!

NE/SE/BOS/WCT Area Meeting December 12, 2024

WO1N

Several Club members gathered at Ted's Montana Grill, Westborough, Ma. on Dec. 12, 2024.

Included in the group, K1VR, AK1MD, KD1MF, WK1O, KM1P, K5ZD, WO1N, K1DC, KM1T, N1PGA, AA1ON, KQ2M and W1VE. KQ2M won the award for the longest drive. The



prize was the longest drive home. No Club business transacted, and no dues were collected. Just good conversation and food. Ted's is a favorite gathering spot as they do tolerate individual checks allowing some members to enjoy Prime Rib while others enjoy the pickled cucumbers they offer.

All attendees took tries at working over K5ZD to convince him to abandon his family and stay in Massachusetts to no avail. Though

there may be an ally in our cause, his daughter, we will continue to apply pressure here. It was all in good fun! We wish Randy the best.

The meeting wrapped up at approximately 9:30 PM. I thank Martin, AA1ON for making the arrangements and tracking the attendees.

----/----NNY (Albany) Area Meeting January 16, 2025 KE1IH

We had a YCCC local area meeting on Thursday January 16th.

The following members attended:

KE1IH - John	N1JP – JP	K2TR - Fred
NJ1F – Brian	WC2L-Will	K2XA - Saul
K2EP – Ernie	K2ZX – Curtis	

We had general discussion about contesting and DXing, most of our discussion centered around NJ1F's recent house fire. The fire was caused by an outlet in a bedroom that caught fire, the cause of the fire was the outlet was wired using "Speed wiring/Stab wiring". Speed wiring is where a stripped conductor is inserted into the rear of a wiring device. Unfortunately speed wiring connections can become high resistance connections that lead to wiring devices overheating and causing fires. So, don't use speed wiring/stab wiring!

No new members were installed and dues were collected from N1JP.

Thanks and 73 John - KE1IH

Note: As of the 1990 edition of the National Electric Code (NEC), Speed wiring (also known as push-in, stab or Quickwiring) was limited to use with #14 AWG solid copper wire, stranded wire use is prohibited.

YCCC Scholarship Donations

Ken - WO1N

The Club is asking for direct donations to the ARRL Foundation, Yankee Clipper Contest Club Scholarship fund. Response here will determine if we are able to support awards in 2025 and beyond.

Our scholarship fund is managed by the ARRL Foundation following our Terms of Reference that include the applicant being a General Class (or higher) amateur, 22 years old or younger, and living or attending a learning institution that is located within the Club circle.

We worked through an issue with the Foundation and having been resolved to our satisfaction, for the 2024 cycle, the Club donated \$300 from the general fund to round up the current endowment to \$2000. We informed the Foundation to advertise the availability of one \$2000 award for 2024, which was awarded.

Funding Methods

In the past we held a yearly raffle to fund the scholarship. With the demise of required meeting attendance and further, the lack of live meetings, it became very difficult to sell the requisite number of tickets for the raffle. Some members also raised concerns about the raffle process with respect to Massachusetts raffle laws.

Your donations to the Yankee Clipper Contest Club Scholarship Fund are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law as the ARRL Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) entity. All direct Foundation contributions will be acknowledged with a tax receipt letter.

How to Make a Contribution

There are several options to donate:

Option 1

Navigate to the ARRL Foundation web page, <u>http://www.arrl.org/ways-to-support-the-arrl-foundation</u>

and download the Donation Form. Check the box "For a specific Scholarship" and in the Field Scholarship Name, include "YCCC Yankee Clipper Contest". Fill out the rest of the form as appropriate, please list your callsign. Submit the form and your donation as directed on the webpage. Note they do not accept electronic fund transfers at this time.

Option 2

Send your contribution to the Club Treasurer via PayPal or check and note the donation is for the Scholarship Fund. We will roll up the contributions and send them to the Foundation as they become available. We are not in a position to issue a tax receipt letter using this method.

Option 3

If you are required by the IRS to take annual RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) withdrawals from your IRA(s), you can shelter RMDs from taxes and increased Medicare premiums by making donations direct from your financial institution to qualified charities such as the YCCC Yankee Clipper Contest fund administered by the ARRL Foundation. RMD distributions to such qualified organizations are called Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs). These must be made directly from your financial institution to the charity. Consult with your financial institution for full requirements and eligibility.

If you have used either Option 1 or Option 3, please inform the Club directors. The visibility of direct to the Foundation donations is currently lacking.

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Directors Meeting – December 2024

WO1N

Directors WO1N, NJ1F, KQ2M, N2WQ and member NG1M met via Zoom on 12/10/2024.

The officers decided the next general Club meeting would be Saturday February 01, 2025 via Zoom. Discussions took place to identify speakers for the meeting.

The officers discussed the recent Silent Keys and the aging trend of the Club.

Treasurer KQ2M raised concerns about the continuing deficit spending by the Club. We agreed that a plan is needed to lobby for a dues increase. WO1N to prepare the plan.

A long discussion regarding the disappointing Club turnout in the major contests took place. The officers encouraged the Club President to issue more cheerleading messages prior to the majors.

Other than Mark, K1RX, there doesn't appear to be a lot of mentorship efforts in place. A proposal to increase the onboarding requirements was tabled with no decision. The consensus was we do a poor job at emphasizing the competitive expectations for new members. The President was encouraged to communicate these more effectively.

The meeting concluded after approximately 90 minutes. Executive board meeting minutes are provided for informational purposes only and do not require a membership vote.

----/----Directors Meeting – January 2025 WO1N

Directors K1XM, KQ2M, NJ1F, WO1N and member NG1M met via Zoom on 1/21/2025 to address Club issues and future plans.

WO1N led a discussion regarding the Club support/sponsorship of the DX Dinner at the New England HamXposition. WO1N reviewed the history and how we ended up being the sponsor of this event. WO1N reviewed the costs of prior events. WO1N explained the change in direction of the FEMARA organization to be a membership driven club. As such, in the opinion of WO1N, the nature of the event has changed from the collective contribution of the region's clubs to a focused club driven event. The timing appeared to be right for us to relinquish the sponsorship.

WO1N presented a motion to inform the HamXposition committee of intention to pause our participation. The motion was seconded and passed.

WO1N updated the group on the K1KI New England Division cabinet meeting he attended on 1/11/2025. Some 40 New England Division members were in attendance. WO1N noted 10/40 were active YCCC members.

WO1N reviewed some potential speakers for the February 1st meeting.

A plan to petition the membership for a dues increase was discussed. Dues adjustments require a membership vote per the Club constitution. The goal is for the proposal to be presented at the April Club meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the Contesting Hall of Fame process and the new web page announced by the WWROF. WO1N was encouraged to invite a WWROF director to update the Club at a future meeting.

The meeting concluded after approximately 90 minutes. Executive board meeting minutes are provided for informational purposes only and do not require a membership vote.

YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF Dues for the year are payable as of January 1st. Please note that payment of current dues IS NOT a prerequisite for contributing scores to the Club aggregate but IS required for participation in the Club's e-mail reflector and the Club's awards programs. The YCCC has a multi-tiered membership:

<u>Full Member</u> - \$15 (Available to amateurs residing within the Club territory for all YCCC member benefits and e-mail delivery of the Club newsletter.)

Family Member - \$0 (Grants full membership benefits to all family amateurs residing at one domicile upon payment of one member's "Full Member" annual dues. The Club Newsletter will be sent to the full member's email address.)

<u>Student Member</u> - \$10 (Grants full membership to students at a reduced cost.)

<u>Subscription</u>- \$10 (A "friend of YCCC", not a member, but a possible candidate for future membership and receives club newsletter in e-mail form.)

Former Member - \$0 (A former full member who has moved out of the Club territory may continue to participate in the Club's e-mail reflector and receive the e-mailed newsletter at no cost.)

You can tell if you owe dues by checking the Club roster on the website. (<u>https://yccc.org/roster/</u>) A lapsed member can reinstate lost privileges by paying current year dues. PayPal is preferred to <u>yccc@yccc.org</u> or mail a check made out to the YCCC to the Treasurer, Bob Shohet, KQ2M. Please include your callsign, family callsigns, and year(s) being paid. Note: If paying by Paypal; PayPal no longer allows the Club to receive dues from "family or friends" so you will not have that option.

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Steve Rodowicz, N1SR, by e-mail at n1sr@arrl.net The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month or as announced on the YCCC e-mail list.

Scuttlebutt Advertising: Nominal Business Card sized ad, \$50 per year (6 appearances)

CONTEST SCORES should be reported on 3830Scores.com. Additionally, post your scores to the Club Reflector. Include the 3830 Scores formatted output or the output from your favorite contest logger.

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.

YCCC APPAREL & LOGO ITEMS: To be updated at a future date.

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 callsigns.

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 Mike Gilmer, N2MG.

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:

CAC: New England Rudy Bakalov, N2WQ Hudson Zev Darack, N2WKS Atlantic Charles D Fulp Jr, K3WW RAC Samuel A Ferris, VE5SF

DXAC: New England Bob Beaudet, W1YRC	Hudson Saul Abrams, K2XA	Atlantic Chris Shalvoy, K2CS
ARRL LIAISON: Bart J. Jahnke, W9JJ	Hudson Frederick Lass, K2TR	Atlantic Joe Taylor, K1JT

YCCC Scuttlebutt