



# Scuttlebutt

**August 2021**

**Issue 260**

**YCCC General Meeting  
Saturday September 11th, 2021, 1:00-5:00 pm  
New England Division Convention  
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center  
181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough, MA**

## **CAPTAIN'S LOG**

Hi All,

The winter contest results keep rolling in. I've got 3 top 10's so far to show for it. ARRL DX CW (SOULP, 7<sup>th</sup> in US), CQ160 CW (SOALP, 1<sup>st</sup> in Mass & 1 call area, 7<sup>th</sup> US) and RAC (MSLP 1<sup>st</sup> in 1 call area, 9<sup>th</sup> in US overall, though the sponsor doesn't really report US only results). Always good to see those certificates. How did you do?

Despite these results, not a lot of contesting going on at the WO1N QTH, the NAQP took a back seat to prepping my 1966 Pontiac Grand Prix for a car show that took place on Sunday after the test. I did do a few Q's in the WAE. I really need to deal with a balky rotor before the leaves start turning colors. I've also got a pile of unknown aluminum sitting behind the shed that might have been some sort of 40M beam in the day. Really need to figure that out.

The end of June / early July saw one of the weirdest weeks in my short tenure at the helm. We entertained a request from a YCCC member to help out M0DXR with his recent fire. A week long debate ensued surrounding issues with a donation like this. Ultimately the officers agreed to a modest contribution to the Go Fund Me page set up by his family. Only then to wake up Saturday morning and read of Dave's, W1CTN, aka Radio Ansonia, misfortune. Thank you to all of the YCCC members that stood up to help out there and check out the note from M0DXR published here in the newsletter.

Speaking of contributions, thank you to the anonymous contributor to the ARRL Fund under the name of YCCC.

Membership renewals keep rolling in, Thank You! 230 members are now current with their dues.

Moving on, I am happy to announce, Jason, K1LOL, has stepped up to fill the role of the Northern Vt. Area Manager. Thank you, Jason!

We have settled on a final budget forecast for the upcoming fiscal year. It does forecast deficit spending, but I'd be surprised if it turns out that way.

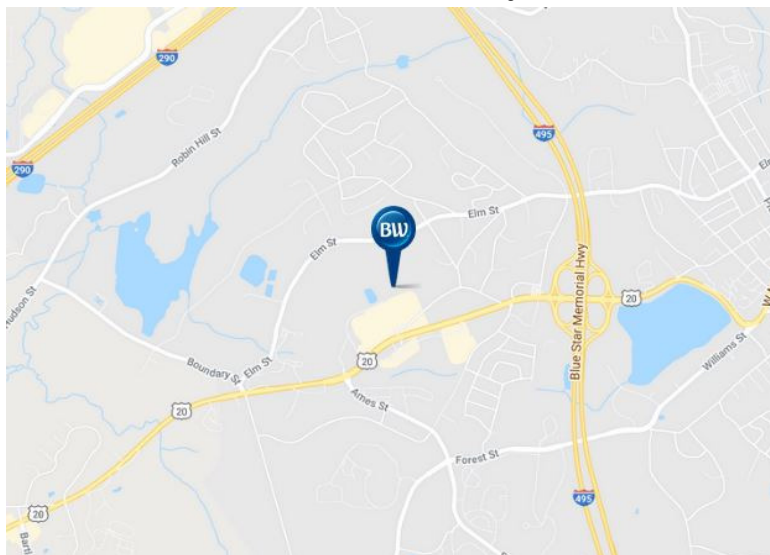
### **Northeast HamXposition Update**

I have been involved with the Northeast Division Convention (aka Boxboro, now Northeast HamXposition, <https://hamxposition.org>) since the early 90's. No different this year. We are in the final preparation phase, these efforts have consumed a lot of my cycles in the past month or two. (Continued on page 13)

Yankee Clipper Contest Club	
<b>President</b>	Ken Caruso, WO1N <a href="mailto:President@YCCC.org">President@YCCC.org</a>
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<b>Media Manager</b>	Tom LeClerc, W1TJL <a href="mailto:Content@yccc.org">Content@yccc.org</a>

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## Directions: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel



**From the North - (NH and ME):** Take I-93 or I-95 South to I-495 South

**From the West - (NY & WMA):** Take the Mass. Pike (I-90) to I-495 North or Rt. 2 West to I-495 South

**From the Southwest - (CT):** Take I-84 to I-90 or I-395 to I-290 then I-495 North

**From the South - (RI):** Take I-95 North to I-495 North

All exit off of I-495 at Exit 63B (old exit 24B) for Rt. 20 West.

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## Area Managers

<b>ME</b>	Mike Russo, K1EU	(207) 883-9524	<a href="mailto:k1eu@maine.rr.com">k1eu@maine.rr.com</a>
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<b>NVT (802)</b>	Jason Garneau, K1LOL	-----	-----
<b>QUEBEC</b>	Guy Lemieux, VE2BWL	-----	<a href="mailto:guy@guylemieux.com">guy@guylemieux.com</a>
<b>CAPE &amp; ISLANDS</b>	----- <b>OPEN</b> -----	-----	-----

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# YCCC September 11, 2021 - Meeting Agenda

**Hosts:** Charlie, N1RR and Ken, WO1N

**1:00 - 1:10** Intro and greeting - WO1N

**1:10 - 1:20** Club Business as required - N1RR

- Secretary's Report

- Treasurer's Report

- New Members

  - o Intro

  - o Vote

- Other Club Business

**1:20 - 1:25** Transition

**1:30 - 2:55** **Contesting Activities for Young People, Helping to Create the Next Generation of Contesters**, Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC

Fred will share some contesting activities he has employed that have helped to get young people to begin participating in Amateur Radio Contests. He will share activities that have proven successful and use this forum and panel discussion as a place to exchange ideas to encourage young hams to try contesting, have fun, build their skills and beat the old timers at their game. The panel of youth testers will be available for questions and answers and offer their opinions on what has worked for them to improve their contesting skill and the future of contesting as they see it.

## **Youth Testers Panel**

**Moderator:** Marty Sullaway, NN1C

**Testers:** Abby Finchum, AB1BY, Brayden Ebare, KC1KUG

**2:55 - 3:00** Transition

**3:05 - 3:50** **Building an entry level, multi radio contest station** - Jeff Demers, N1SNB

Jeff describes his quest to build a HF contesting station that is stealthy and capable. Jeff's station goals included SO2R capability, mode flexibility, high power capable and covering all HF bands. Join Jeff's talk to hear of some of the lessons from his journey and how this effort enhanced his enjoyment of the hobby.

**4:00 - 4:50** **Why Join the YCCC?**  
Ken Caruso, WO1N

Ken will talk to the YCCC value proposition. What does joining the YCCC have to offer? Ken will review its community presence, activities and history. Membership applications will be entertained during the entire meeting. Stop by and join up!

**4:50 - 5:00** Wrap up

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# HamXposition DX Dinner

By: Ken Caruso, WO1N

Join your fellow hams for a delicious DXCC/Contest dinner on Friday, the first night of the convention!

The Friday evening DX Dinner will feature YCCC member, Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA. He will talk about his recent DX expedition which included operations in the IARU Contest and activations from the Market Reef and Aland Islands.

Adrian has been licensed since 1990, when he was still in high school, as YO8SCA. After finishing his university studies in computer science he moved to the United States where he obtained the vanity call KO8SCA. He currently lives in New York City where he works as an IT consultant.

Adrian is a keen DXer with DXCC 317, 9BDXCC, IOTA, as well as being a passionate contester. He also competed in WRTC 2018 in Wittenberg, Germany. He usually operates in the large contests as a guest operator from various superstations such as K1LZ, LZ5R, K2LE, K1TTT and NR4M.



During Field Day, Adrian is part of the WECA radio club team using the N2SF callsign.

Adrian has taken part in DXpeditions to destinations including A5, ZK3, V8, TX0M/TX0A, 6O, 9M0, FJ, FM, J3, J8, VK9C, VK9X, VP5, VP9, and Z2. Recently he has been a guest operator at 4U1UN and HV0A. Adrian operated from some new and rare IOTAs, such as NA-211, EU-191, 183, OC-113, 297.

His preferred operating mode is CW, but he is also active in SSB and digital modes. Adrian is a member of several amateur radio DX and contesting clubs, namely, NCDXF, INDEXA, YCCC, FOC, CWOPS, LIDXA, Order of Boiled Owls of New York, LICWC, NYCDXA, WECA, Araucária DX Group, RRC.

The technical aspect of ham radio and the lure of the DX expeditions are what first attracted Adrian to the hobby, and now he is able to travel extensively and, at the same time whenever possible, to indulge his love for ham radio.

Watch the HamXposition Web site [www.hamXposition.org](http://www.hamXposition.org) for ticket sales to go live any day now.

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## Hamlog.online Award Tracking Site

Evgeny, R4AS is the creator of HAMLOG online which is used to facilitate the RUSSIA award in addition to over 175 other awards from SRR, Russia Federation clubs and groups as well as other nearby areas which are available to DX stations. Clubs and groups include Russian Robinson Club RRC, Miller DX Club, Fifth Ocean and awards sponsored by various regions of the Russian Federation.

It's very easy to sign up and includes linking to LoTW Logbook of the World. <https://hamlog.online/>

The RUSSIA Award is issued for working up to all 85 regions of the Russian Federation since June 12, 1991. The first achievement level is 50 regions. Band and mode certificates and stickers are offered.

Info: <https://hamlog.online/srr/russia/> <https://hamlog.online/store/rwab/>

The R-150-C (P-150-C in English characters) is also available from HAMLOG.ONLINE to DX stations. This award is similar to DXCC with a Russian twist that includes 45 regions.

Achievement levels are 150, 200, 250, 300, 350. The award is available by MODE or by BAND

Full country list: <https://hamlog.online/srr/r150c/ref.php>

An ALL-BAND award is also available with achievement levels beginning at 250, 500, 750, 1000 etc.

Info: <https://hamlog.online/srr/r150c/> <https://hamlog.online/store/r150c/>

# Creating a Strong Future for Amateur Radio as ARRL New England Division Director



Hello. I am Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, and I am hoping to become your ARRL New England Division Director. I have a long history of helping individuals to become licensed, learn new skills, and become active in the Amateur Radio Service. I have also served as the President of the Nashua Area Radio Society, a club that has provided many hams licensing and development programs over the past six years.

Like most Hams, I love Ham Radio and all that it enables. As your Director, I will work hard to protect our hobby and I will work hard to create and promote activities and programs which will maximize our ability to participate in and enjoy Amateur Radio.

Amateur Radio changes people's lives for the better. It certainly has had a huge positive impact on my life and I want to become Director so that I may work with clubs and individual Hams across New England to help them to bring positive life experiences through Amateur Radio to more people in our division and across the ARRL.

## What I Want to Accomplish as New England Director

There is much that needs to be done to create a strong future for Amateur Radio and the ARRL. The following are major areas that I plan to focus on as Director:

- Bring new people into Amateur Radio by working collaboratively with clubs across New England and the ARRL
- Create opportunities for STEM learning in schools and colleges through Amateur Radio
- Create positive public and agency awareness and support for Amateur Radio
- Ensure effective, open, 2-way communications between the ARRL and its members
- Establish the New England Division as a leader in providing world-class Amateur Radio programs

It is also very important that we create an environment within New England and the ARRL that promotes and protects on-air activities such as DXing and Contesting that so many Hams (including this one) enjoy. To this end, I will work closely with our DX Advisory Committee and Contest Advisory Committee members to promote and expand Amateur Radio operating activities.

We need a Director who is **Collaborative**, **Innovative**, and **Action-Oriented** to accomplish these and other important goals. I believe that I can bring the right Amateur Radio and professional experience and collaborative leadership skills to accomplish these goals and more. I hope that you will support me as your choice to fulfill this important mission.

## Action-Oriented Leadership

It is important that we take immediate action on issues that are important to ARRL members. To this end, I have published a plan for my first 100 days as ARRL New England Division Director that includes specific actions to improve 2-way communications between the ARRL and New England members. My plans include outreach to members of the ARRL Board and Senior Leadership to find common ground to take action on issues that matter to ARRL members. I also plan to appoint several Assistant Directors to focus on promoting programs in important areas such as:

- New Ham Development
- Youth Outreach
- Emergency Communications, and Public Service
- Spectrum Use and Protection

You can see the details of my plans at [elect.ab1oc.org/first-100-days](http://elect.ab1oc.org/first-100-days).

## Walking the Talk

I believe that Amateur Radio clubs play an essential role in bringing new hams into the Amateur Radio Service and in helping hams to develop new skills.





Helping a School Contact an Astronaut on the ISS

I serve as an ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) Mentor and Ground Station, helping schools around the world to participate in STEM learning based upon Amateur Radio. I will help groups and individuals in New England to create projects and programs to bring Amateur Radio to young people across the division. Amateur Radio provides a tremendous opportunity for young people to learn about technical topics and to develop valuable skills that they can use throughout their lives.

I continue to spend time in local schools teaching classes and providing activities that bring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning opportunities through Amateur Radio. In addition to inspiring young people to pursue STEM careers by becoming Hams, this work also serves to improve the public's understanding of the importance and value that Amateur Radio provides.

I am devoting considerable time and energy to license new hams and help all hams to upgrade their licenses and get on the air. I've had the pleasure to lead a team of hams who have taught license classes, enabling over 350 people to earn a license or upgrade over the past five years. I have worked with a team of folks to create some innovative approaches to new ham development and getting hams on the air. We created a very popular program called Ham Bootcamp, designed to help both new and experienced hams get on the air, build their stations, and participate in new operating activities. The last Ham Bootcamp drew over 450 participants from across the United States.

As New England Division Director, I will work with clubs and individuals in New England to help them expand their role as mentors and create a world-class environment for learning based upon Amateur Radio.

### **I Need Your Support**

There are currently three candidates for the position of ARRL New England Director. Ballots for the election will be mailed to all New England ARRL Members on October 1st.

I am asking you for your help and your vote in making our plans a reality to benefit Amateur Radio folks across New England and the ARRL.

If you are not already an ARRL Member, please consider joining the ARRL and participating in the upcoming New England Director election.

Your vote means a great deal to the future of Amateur Radio.

### **Additional Information**

I have been widely endorsed by members of the Amateur Radio community for my work. You can see what Hams such as Dr. Bob Heil, *K9EID*, Gordon West, *WB6NOA*, and others are saying about their support for me as ARRL New England Division Director at [elect.ab1oc.org/endorsements](http://elect.ab1oc.org/endorsements).

You can learn more about what I am hoping to accomplish as ARRL New England Division director at [elect.ab1oc.org](http://elect.ab1oc.org).

I welcome everyone's comments and questions. You can reach me at [ab1oc@arrl.net](mailto:ab1oc@arrl.net).

# YCCC Summer Cookout

By: Ken Caruso, WO1N

Gene, W3UA and XYL, Inna hosted a large gathering of YCCC members and other guests at the W3UA contesting QTH on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Some 32 YCCC members were present reflecting a pent-up demand for in person gatherings. Joining us were Eugene, R4AS and Anna, RQ4A, principals behind the HamLog Online application (<https://hamlog.online/>).

A brief YCCC membership meeting was called to order by Ken, WO1N at approximately 1:00 PM. Ken thanked Gene and Inna for hosting the gathering. Ken called for perspective members to step forward, of which there were none. Ken provided a 3-4 month recap of some behind the scenes club activities. Looking forward, Ken talked to the upcoming HamXposition (<https://hamxposition.org/>) and the activities associated with that.



The YCCC meeting was wrapped up at which point Gene, W3UA talked to the Ham scoring site he is involved with, World Amateur Radio Contesting Association (WARCA, <https://www.warca.org/>). He talked to the score compilation and ranking methodology. He showed a sort that showed that some 347 score entries from YCCC members were made cumulatively over the past year.

Gene's talk wrapped up after a brief question and answer session. All were invited to check out the new K4 that K1EP brought along.



At some point we realized that the three candidates for the ARRL New England Director position were present, so they were asked to line up for the perfunctory photo shoot. It was like a scene out of the Emmy Awards with camera phones galore.

The candidates took mercy on us, no campaign speeches! With that behind us, we all enjoyed a relaxed get together.

Additional Picnic Photos can be found at: [http://yccc.org/Recent\\_Events/index.html](http://yccc.org/Recent_Events/index.html)

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## International Reply Coupons (IRC)

Ray Conrad, NM2O

Remember that the current IRC series will expire on Dec. 31, 2021.

A new series will be issued next year. The artwork has not been shown on the UPU site yet.

Their point of contact told me that the artwork was to be announced at the UPU Congress in Abidjan in August. So, stand by for new art. Here's the link to UPU. This is a sister United Nations organization to the ITU. [https://www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union/Activities/Philately-IRCs/International-Reply-Coupons-\(IRCs\)/Latest-IRC](https://www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union/Activities/Philately-IRCs/International-Reply-Coupons-(IRCs)/Latest-IRC)

If anyone is successfully redeeming their IRCs in the US Postal System, please ask about the redemption transition sequence. My postmaster wrote it down once, but it's been lost. The sequence is down a few layers, under exchanges. USPS doesn't sell them but does redemptions.



## Lost Crew (Silent Key)

**James Stewart Ussailis – W1EQO/VA1TM - Sept 09, 1939 - June 14, 2021**



James Stewart Ussailis, 81, of Florence, MA., passed away peacefully, June 14, 2021 in the Center for Extended Care in Amherst.

Born in Boston, Mass., on September 9, 1939, he was the son of the late James Ignatius and Myrtle Thelma (MacQuarrie) Ussailis.

Jim was an early achiever; he was a Radio Repair Diagnostician for a Boston area radio repair shop while still in High School. After graduating from High School, he leveraged that experience into a job at Automatic Radio as a development technician where he built product line test equipment and prototypes including one of the first automobile FM radios.

Jim attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst from 1967 to 1972 completing an M.S. and the coursework for a Ph.D. in Physics while teaching astronomy as a grad student.

For 15 years, he worked as a senior engineer in optics, antenna design and microwave radar engineering including research on Polarization Radar.

In 1987, he started his own company, consulting and later on designing and manufacturing small wireless components and antennas.

Jim taught physics for a time in the 90's at the University of Hartford and American International College.

From the age of 14, he enjoyed amateur radio, participating in many contests throughout the years. Jim was an active member of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, serving as Activities Manager from 2010 thru 2020. In the last decade he was particularly proud of his accomplishments participating in contests with fellow radio operators. He particularly enjoyed operating on 160 and 40 meters.

Jim was a member of Golden Rule Lodge A.F. & A.M., Wakefield, Mass.

In later years he enjoyed the company of his beloved cat, Lucky-Kat, who he had rescued from a local shelter.

Surviving are his daughter, Catherine E. Ussailis; son, James S. Ussailis Jr.; grandchildren, Julia and Ella.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Carolyn May (Marchant) Ussailis

A graveside service was held on August 23, 2021 in Greenvale Cemetery, Greenvale, NS.



W1EQO operating 40M Station at K1TTT during  
2007 CQWW-RTTY

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## R4AS presents 1st in USA RUSSIA Award All-Mixed to N1RR-Charlie



Evgeny-R4AS, RUSSIA AWARD Diploma & Award Manager of SRR (Soyuz Radiolyubitelei Rossii) presented Charlie-N1RR with the first ALL-Regions Mixed-Mode RUSSIA Award plaque issued to a USA station.

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### *With the Crew*

**George, VA2EBI** - George has an Expert 1.3K-FA amp on order to add a few more dB to his remote signal from southern Quebec, QTH thanks to Donald VE2IR.

**Dennis, W1UE**: "Not much going on here. Had a knee replacement at the end of July, so just surviving the pain of Physical Therapy each day is my current goal. No plans yet for the fall contest season- still don't know how much I'll be able to do."

**Larry, W1DYJ** - has sold their second home in Harpswell, Maine and is back to one QTH in Woburn.

**Tony, K1KP** - is upgrading his aging TIC ring rotator with a new Alfa Ring-01. Mark, K1RX will be doing the tower work. Tony is looking forward to contest season and hopes to get back to in-person Multi-Ops.

**Jack, W1WEF - Key Clix** - At the last Dayton Contest University, Rob Sherwood finished his presentation saying the next thing manufacturers have to work on is Key Clicks. You might think we got rid of that issue years ago, but I recently (in the past year) was told I had key clicks, once in my IC7300 and once in my IC7610. I appreciated being told and would not have known otherwise.

The problem in both cases was corrected simply by a couple menu settings I had overlooked. In both cases I had the keying rise time and the transmit delays set too short...set as they were when I got the radios. Rise time should be 6 or 8 ms. Transmit delay 15 ms. If set at less in either case you can be pretty sure you'll have clicks...in ANY radio.

Why do manufacturers even ALLOW settings that cause clicks?

**Chuck, WS1L** - is swapping out his 33 foot vertical for a Butternut HF6V. At the same time he is replacing the ground radials, which were hastily put down as the first snow was falling last year. Here's hoping for a good low band season!

## R4AS Evgeny & XYL-RQ4A Anna visit YCCC Post-IARU Dinner July 14, 2021 at Ted's Montana Grill, Westboro, MA



As guests of Gene- W3UA for the month of July, Gene R4AS and his XYL-Anna RQ4A attended the recent social dinner at Ted's Montana Grill in Westboro, MA on July 14, 2021.

Also in attendance were: AA1ON, K1EP, K1KI, K5ZD, KM1P, N1RR, N1SNB, W3UA, WO1N.

President Ken-WO1N gave our visitors YCCC hats and mugs. Other gifts were brought by YCCC'ers too.

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## Yankee Clipper Contest Club YouTube Channel

Link to Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOZDgRPZQ5lvtry1OjNWBYYQ/videos>

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# **A Vacation Visit to SVALBARD and JW5E**

By Jeff Briggs, K1ZM/VY2ZM

As most of my FOC and DX friends know, my wife Miriam and I live on Prince Edward Island in Maritime Canada and we operate as VY2ZM and VY2HH. We have a house that faces due North to the rear and we are at 46'28" North. This is actually far enough North to be able to see visible aurora when the SFI A/K are off the charts but each time this has happened, we have cloud/rain/fog to the North. Thus in 17 years, we have never seen aurora from VY2ZM. It does happen but, so far, not for us!

This past summer we decided to plan a visit to Norway in order to see some of the Northern lights and, initially, a cruise was planned from Oslo to Tromsø and return. I cannot remember exactly why but Miriam in the end decided against the cruise and we started thinking about a stay on JW (Svalbard) instead. We figured that if you cannot see aurora from there – well you are never going to see it – but it is actually a bit too far North for reliable aurora we learned later. Oops!

I have a 6M friend in JW7QIA and I wrote to him inquiring about a visit to include some time in the chair at JW5E which is the club rental station there. It was lucky indeed that Peter is one of the trustees of the club. I also wrote to Sander JW4PUA who is the curator of the museum on Svalbard and Miriam and I have worked him on FT8 several times over this past year.

Peter made some inquiries on my behalf and a date was set to rent JW5E for one night during a six day visit to Longyearbyen that was planned for late January 2019. We made a reservation at the BASECAMP Explorer Lodge for our stay and booked our flights. The trip was ON!

By way of background, I really did not know much about Svalbard except that the global seed vault is there tucked into a bunker inside a hill. Apart from that, I had not done too much homework about the place. So my expectations were incomplete thinking that I might find a few quanset huts and not many services – eg: just go to see the aurora so to speak.

Well boy was I ever wrong....After touching down and on the bus ride from the airport to my amazement I spotted a Toyota automobile dealership. Whoa! What a surprise to see that there.

Soon I learned that Longyearbyen is a thriving city of 2,200 full-time residents who (except for the perpetual darkness at this time of year) lack for nothing in terms of lifestyle and creature comforts. It surely was not a Spartan lifestyle with the following services and amenities observed:

- o The place is at 79 degrees North but it is warmer than VY2ZM at this time of year.
- o There was a giant supermarket with fresher produce than I can usually find on PEI
- o There were high-end boutiques and shops along the walking mall outside our hotel – enough to occupy any woman's shopping cravings – if your pocketbook could stand the expense.
- o There were at least 7-8 top restaurants within a 5 minute stroll from our hotel – with some great entrees around \$40 apiece (which is similar to prices on Nantucket these days).
- o For those with lesser appetites we found several places which had some great burgers and pizza.
- o Our hotel had a restaurant called KROA where I had a wonderful pepper steak one evening. The Bullmers hard cider was great also – along with the local craft beers.
- o There was a hospital, a university, and a museum to explore. JW4PUA is the curator of the museum and gave us a wonderful tour while we were there.
- o There was a local bank and when we went inside we found an ATM machine that had a flashing banner which said

“WELCOME TO THE NORTHERNMOST ATM MACHINE IN THE WORLD”.

Now how neat is that!!!!?



- o We also discovered the Performing Arts Center and were treated to a jazz festival the last night we were there – with seating for about 500 patrons – and the entertainment and venue was first rate – with some dancing, Broadway show songs and even some rock for our listening pleasure.
- o We took a tour inside a coal mine which is the means they use to heat the city – and to provide steam and hot water.
- o As with most cities, there were gradations in housing and neighborhoods. We learned that the “upper crust” residents lived up on a ridge aptly named “BEVERLY HILLS”!
- o In spring and summer one can visit Isifjord Radio which is about 2 hours away by zodiac boat – or 3 hours by snowmobile. There is a wonderful hotel there from which JW7QIA often operates on 6m in the summer – complete with a 5 star restaurant and great chef.

Polar night is a bit weird – it was always dark while we were there but the town was lit up like daytime by streetlights and home lighting. Around 10-13 hours local time, if you looked to the South one could see some white nights type of sky as the sun will break the horizon by March I believe.

We took a tour to a “trappers lodge” for a great supper one evening and after were treated to some spectacular aurora which was why we came! I am providing a few photos so you can see what we were lucky enough to see firsthand – up close and personal.

#### **A number of interesting facts were learned while we were there:**

- o The locals are among the friendliest people you will ever meet – and they love talking to visitors in order to learn where you came from
- o Svalbard and Bear island are loosely affiliated with Norway and as such anyone can go to live there. Visitors and non-Norwegian citizens cannot vote in LA elections. Jan Mayen (JX) is a true part of Norway. JW is not....
- o There are two Russian outposts to the North that are also inhabited on JW – one of them is less than 90 minutes to the North
- o Women in their last 6 weeks of pregnancy must return to the mainland part of LA to give birth – after which they may return.
- o Elderly people usually return to the mainland also – so this place is for younger folks who are healthy and really want to make a living and lifestyle there. I asked a guide how he liked it there and he said “If I did not like it here, I would not stay” and we heard that from a number of residents.
- o There was little snowfall while we were there – some drifting along the permafrost roads. Studded tires are “de-rigueur” on all the vehicles!

#### **Operating from JW5E**

I had timed our visit to include one night’s operations in the CQ 160m CW contest from JW5E. Unfortunately there was a solar storm going on and condx were really marginal.

Late in the afternoon I was tuning around and heard OK7K at about 349. I knew things were awful because this station is usually 599+40db all the time at VY2ZM.

As the contest unfolded for me, all I could hear was UA4M and UA1OMS. In fact for almost the whole night, that was all I usually heard.

After perhaps an hour of just “hiss” occasionally it would open for 5-7 minutes and some really interesting contacts were made. I heard KV0Q in Colorado, worked Pat N9RV in Montana – and managed to work Eric NO3M and Peter N0FW.

I was especially looking for my brother Peter K3ZM but I never heard ANYONE from the east coast of the USA. No K1DG/no AA1K/no RHR Maine node stations/ no W2GD/no N5DX nothing at all!

I operated for 14 hours and worked about 25 stations – with almost nothing from central Europe either – no G/DL/I/EA – it was all UA4M and UA1OMS all night long! With a JW5E rental cost of 100 Euros, that works out to 4 Euros per QSO.

(I just came back from V84SAA and we usually managed 25 qso's on 160m in less than 10 minutes from there by way of comparison!)

During the night things would revert back to hiss for an hour or so – then a quick 5 minute opening would again occur with only super weak esp-level stations and then the band would close again for another 45 minutes. So this was not a high rate contest for me – HI!

In all I worked 12 DXCC countries and only 6 stations in NA – all not on the East coast.

If any of you reading this piece want to visit a surprisingly interesting place, I recommend it. There is perpetual sunlight for 6 months of the year and that is when the cruise ships all go to JW – and one can also book time at Isifjord radio during the summer months. In summer the usual high temperatures observed top out at about 9 degrees Celsius which is not all that bad. We experienced temperatures of about minus 7-8 C while were there – but it does go lower from time to time – to around -15/-20C.

Thanks for reading and good Dx'ing to all. Cu soon from VY2ZM I hope – and/or VY2HH (Miriam) on FT8 most of the time!

73 JEFF VY2ZM/K1ZM

Email: K1ZM@aol.com

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## Captain's Log (Continued from page 1)

For example, I was reviewing a draft of the program booklet being prepared by YCCC member Larry Banks, W1DYJ. I was struck by how many YCCC members in addition to Larry, are making significant contributions to the event this year.

First off, as you will see later in the newsletter, is the DX Dinner feature speaker, YCCC member Adrian - KO8SCA. I've already got my tickets for that one!

YCCC members Fred - AB1OC and Jeff - N1SNB answered my call for speakers for the YCCC meeting on Saturday, Thank You!

I also see YCCC members Bruce - K1BG, Brayden - KC1KUG, Joe - W1JR, Anita - AB1QB and George- K1IG who have stepped up through other contacts and will be either putting on a talk or involved in some other way.



Figure 1 - WA6TQT towers, Anza, California aka N6A

YCCC members, Gerry - W1VE and Marty - NN1C are running the W1A/N6A special event station. Plans are still in development but it looks like 2 remote and 1 local station will be turned up for the weekend. Check out the N6A station to get a taste of what propagation can be like from a west coast powerhouse!

Finally, I will be doing triple duty this weekend (DX Dinner emcee, YCCC meeting and Flea Market chair) only possible through the help of YCCC member Jim - N1HTS along with Peter – N1ALO who will be keeping an eye on the Flea Market while I'm inside with the YCCC meeting.

I hope to see you around the convention. I will be spending most of my time in the Flea Market area, please stop by and say Hi.

73, Ken – WO1N

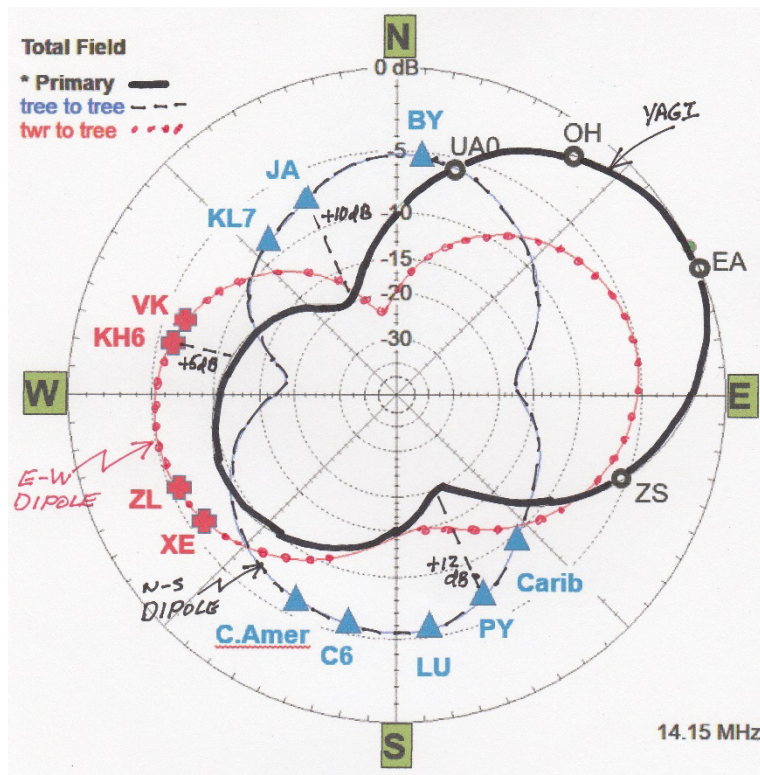
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## Improving the 20M multiplier count at N8RA

Here at my QTH, my only 20M antenna had been a 2-element yagi side-mounted on a tower and pointing toward Europe. This has worked well for all of Europe, but I knew that multipliers in other directions were not getting good coverage. A couple of years ago I strung a sloping dipole to see if that would help those other directions, and it did. While doing S&P it was nice to do an instant switch to the multiplier antenna and back as needed.

This winter I had time to look at that situation more closely. An EZNEC analysis showed that the sloper was indeed useful in some directions, but not all. A vertical was not too good anywhere, as expected, but dipoles were looking promising. Here is the analysis of the chosen placement (based on likely trees for support) showing the potential improvement at a 17 deg takeoff angle. (EZNEC run on flat terrain for 20 deg corrected by 3 deg because of my actual sloping site.) The 2-el. yagi pattern is in heavy black, and the dipoles are in dots and dashes. I believe the distortion of the dipole patterns is due to them only being about a wavelength away from the yagi. Predicted improvement in many desirable multiplier directions is 1 to 2 S-units. Nice!

Now all that remained to do were the simple steps of building them. Hah!

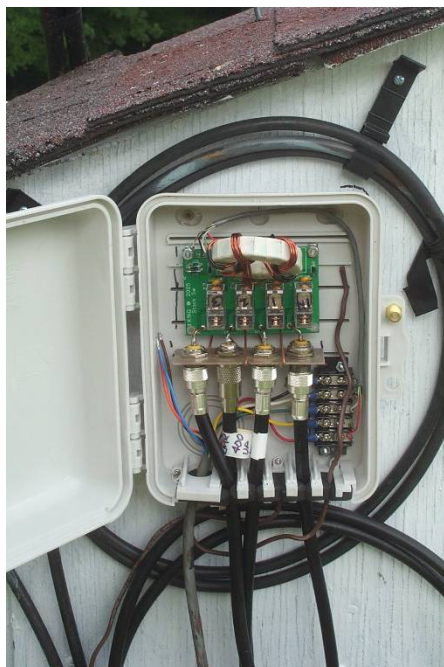


I had a pneumatic antenna launcher but had not yet used it. The tree branches to be used were only about 40' up so I thought I'd skip the recommended first step of using fishing line and jump to using a heavier tag line right away. Some trials in an open area indicated that would probably work if I pressurized the launcher to the max of my little compressor, about 30 lbs. After lots of trials and misses, rope loops with a pulley attached made it into position and the dipole wires were raised and are invisible from the house.

Next came routing their feedlines to the base of the tower to connect back to the shack. Initially I was going to suspend them above deer antler height, but that might look rather ugly, so I decided to bury them. Well, that was not as easy as I thought but it got done. Two new DB LM-400's plus a spare coax and a control cable I had laying around went in the ground with them.



The woods end is a 10' 4x4 buried about 3 feet. The feedlines from the dipoles come to the top of this post which keeps them well above ground.



At the tower end the dipole and yagi feedlines terminate to a K1NQ stack switch, rather than a simpler coax switch because I wanted to play around with possible phasing combinations in the future. The feedline connection from the stack switch went to the 20M position of an RCS-4 that uses a run of hardline back to the house.

Once connected, I was anxious to see how well it would work. It didn't!! Checked and rechecked the wiring between the control box and the stack

switch but was not seeing any difference when selecting antennas. Eventually I suspected the RCS-4 so removed it and opened it to find lightning had blown off some relay connections and welded one set of contacts on another relay. It was not correctly selecting 20M. Aha! Replaced the relay and voila, it was now working. First trials showed very noticeable improvement on signals from DU, TI, and KP4 using the favoring dipole. I've not had time to explore much further.



For this stackmatch's controller I decided to build the alternate K6XX design that has just 3 toggle switches to select which antenna or antennas are in use. K1NQ included a PCB for this when he made the main boards available. This controller is much different than what I am used to with a rotary switch and diode matrix to set specific combos. I'll need to use it more before deciding if I like it. Having something new to try always makes a contest more interesting.

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## M0DXR-ThankYou

Hi YCCC,

I do hope this email finds you well and that you and your family are healthy during these challenging times.

My wife Georgina and I would like to write to thank you immensely for your kind contribution to our family following the awful house fire we encountered. Amazingly, it's been nearly 2 months since the event, which occurred around 02:35am on 25th June. The night is one I will never forget. Georgina and I were woken by the sound of the smoke alarm. I went to investigate and on reaching the landing could smell a strong odor of what I can only describe as burning plastic. I couldn't find the source, which I initially thought was on the landing, so went downstairs. As I approached the kitchen I could increasingly tell we had a serious issue developing. The kitchen was very smoky and hot. I turned the corner to find flames in our utility area, which were already very mature as they were at this point from floor to ceiling. I immediately ran back and shouted up to get everyone up and out. I went upstairs and the two older children were already being ushered out by Georgina. I went to get Chloe, our youngest at 2 years old, and we all exited the front door. It was all very scary. Our neighbors very amazing and it wasn't long before the street was full of people and 4 fire trucks. We went to hospital to get checked as we had breathed in smoke and our faces were rather sooty.

Since this awful night, we have been overwhelmed with the help and support we have received not only locally but from all over the world. The contributions have allowed us to start to build a new home in our temporary house which is located in Epping - about 5 miles from our house. We will likely be here for 9-12 months whilst the rebuild activities take place. The contents removal is mostly done now. The entire contents of the house has been written off by the insurance company, but we were able to save a few items. We did lose a cat to the fire - she was named Anna. She was lovely and we miss her very much.

The forensic investigations have identified that the most likely cause of the fire was our tumble dryer, which was located in the utility area beyond the kitchen. It was plugged in at the wall with the switch 'on' but the tumble dryer itself was not 'on'. We can only conclude from this that there was a problem with the circuitry where power immediately enters the dryer which perhaps caused it to short circuit and trigger the fire. We are awaiting further details as they become available regarding this.

Life throws its challenges at all of us. We have been able to stay strong and work through it. We encourage everyone to check your smoke alarms regularly and that they are sensibly located. We would hate for this to happen to someone else.

Once again, thank you, and we all wish you a happy summer.

Mark Haynes, (M0DXR)

Georgina Haynes (M6YGL)

The girls: Rebecca, Francesca, Olivia, Chloe



Figure 2 M0DXR at the controls

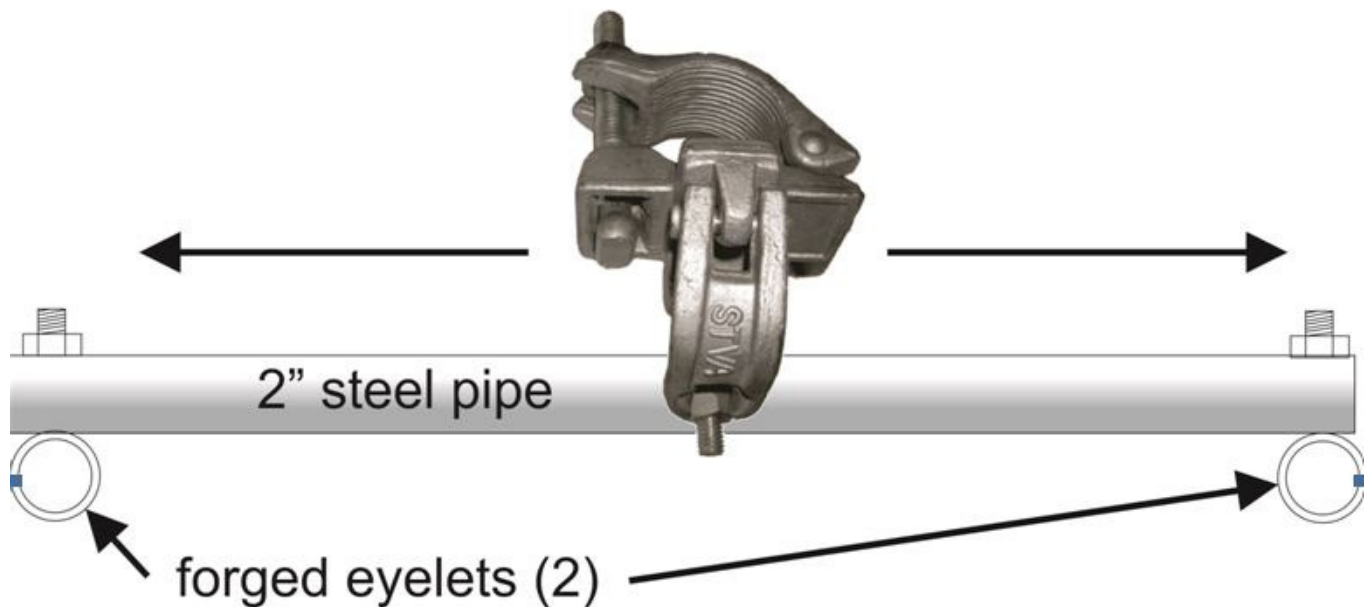
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# A Simple Derrick System for Tower Work

By Dave Olean K1WHS

I have been accused of spending a lot of time on towers. Occasionally, while up in lofty spots, an idea will pop into my head that makes my work a bit simpler. One of those ideas was for a simple tower derrick suitable for hauling materials up a big tower. Usually, the item being hauled up has pointed parts that stick out and can get caught in the tower rungs. Delicate VHF yagi elements come to mind, but many other items of interest fall into the same category. An obvious solution is to have a real nice derrick fabricated and welded up, but I wanted a simple and cheap solution.

I had to swap out a big Prosistel rotator, a PST-61. They weigh a lot! I was working alone and came up with this plan to make the job easy. I made a horizontal derrick. The secret to the simple design is a T-bolt scaffolding 2" bracket, easily ordered on the internet.



Use one eyelet to hang a pulley away from the tower side. Adjust position of T-bolt scaffold clamp for proper position. Then hang a come-along or a ratchet strap on the far end and tie it off to a tower rung to apply a uniform load to balance the horizontal derrick arm.

The horizontal arm can be clamped to your main mast on the tower. I suppose you could also clamp it to a gin pole mast if that is all that is up there.

The T-Bolt scaffold clamps are quite rugged and the one I have is made of forged steel with 1/2-13 steel hardware for clamping.

I used a 1 1/2" sched 40 pipe with a 1.9" OD about 4 ft long. It seems rugged enough for a few hundred pounds of lifting weight. By hanging a pulley away from the tower, you can simplify many tower tasks.

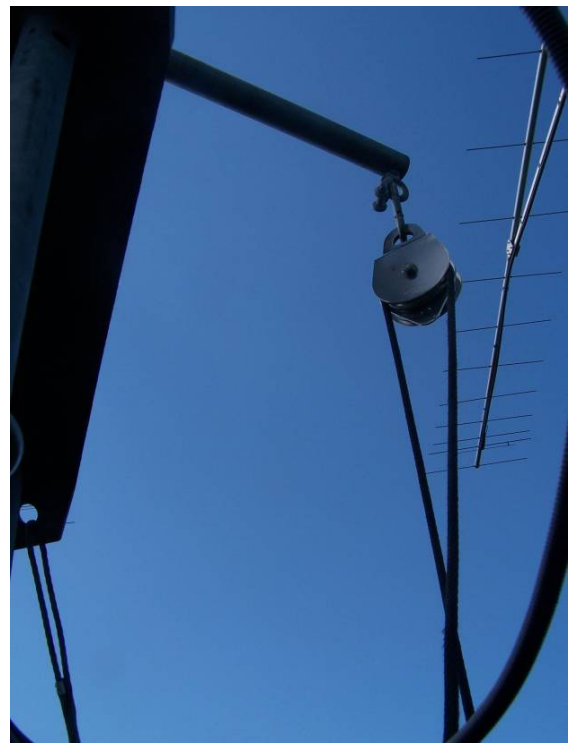
See this typical product: [https://www.scaffoldexpress.com/2-x-2-Swivel-T-Bolt-Scaffold-Clamp-p/psv-900t.htm?gclid=CjwKCAjwyIKJBhBPEiwAu7zll6jMSz1J138ZebL4FUgRDhvvEOslooW0zcrQiDpF-uYs9wNDIdgBhoCQ00QAvD\\_BwE](https://www.scaffoldexpress.com/2-x-2-Swivel-T-Bolt-Scaffold-Clamp-p/psv-900t.htm?gclid=CjwKCAjwyIKJBhBPEiwAu7zll6jMSz1J138ZebL4FUgRDhvvEOslooW0zcrQiDpF-uYs9wNDIdgBhoCQ00QAvD_BwE)

Using this derrick fitted with a nice pulley, allowed me to haul up a new and heavy rotator without having it bang against the tower legs. Not having a ground crew, I tied off the new rotator to the lifting rope on the ground, while the rope end at the top of the tower got attached to the old rotator. The two rotators balanced each other and pulling the new rotator up required almost no effort as the old unit provided a counterweight. Here are a few pictures of my alleged plan.





Note that the horizontal pipe can be positioned to adjust the distance of the rope and pulley from the tower. Note also the come-a-long attached to the left side eyelet. It provides tension to counteract the weight of whatever you want to haul up. While I am sure that the forged T-bolt scaffold clamps are pretty rugged, balancing the load to eliminate any offset weight which will make for a secure and rugged installation. The good news is that it is simple to install and tear down.





The old rotator is tied off to the derrick line and ready to be lowered.

You simply slide the rotor out off the shelf and it will swing out about 2 ft away from the tower, all ready to be lowered.



Here is the new rotator tied off on the ground and ready to be hauled up by the horizontal derrick.

73 Dave Olean K1WHS

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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@arrrl.net](mailto: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](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 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](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** Zev Darack, N2WKS      **Atlantic** Charles D Fulp Jr, K3WW

**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

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