



# Scuttlebutt

**December 2016**

**Issue 239**

**Seventh Annual YCCC Holiday Lunch & Yankee Swap**  
**Sunday: December 4<sup>th</sup> – 12:30pm–4:30pm**  
**Auburn Elks' Hall,**  
**754 Southbridge St, Auburn, MA 01501**

## **Captain's Cabin**

**Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP**

### **CQWW**

By the time you read this, CQWW CW weekend will be fading in the rearview mirror. (I have to write this column, as if I know how it was, before it has happened)! It was a great weekend, with decent propagation and great participation by all YCCC members! Even further in the rearview is the tough sledding of the phone weekend; we had to believe that CW was going to be better, and more fun. Certainly the civilized behavior of CW operation made up for any lack of propagation. CW has traditionally been where YCCC makes up ground over that Pennsylvania club – we will be needing it more than ever this year to stay ahead in CQWW.

### **Seventh Annual Holiday Buffet & Yankee Swap**

We will continue the tradition started by my predecessor Mark, K1RX, and have a holiday social gathering for our December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Following the Buffet Lunch, we will have great presentations on SDR Contesting by W1TR, and Contest DXpeditioning to T48K by K1EP. Also on hand will be an update on CQWW by Scorekeeper W2JU, the 2017 YCCC Scholarship Kickoff, and last but not least, the Yankee Swap. See notes elsewhere in this issue for details on the Buffet, the Scholarship Raffle, or the Yankee Swap.

### **Thanksgiving**

Fall. The pungent smell of rotting leaves. A light covering of slushy snow on the roadways. For your author, the Thanksgiving holidays, and the contests that surround it, are a nostalgic time of year, ham-radio-wise. Operating in the phone sweepstakes reminds me, with every QSO, that it was at Thanksgiving of 1967 that I got my first 'ticket' as WN1IKP. It seems I'd worked so hard for it, and it was finally on its way to me from the FCC.

I was always interested in electronics, and radios, even from a very young age. Some of my earliest memories include watching my older brother and father put together a Heathkit AR-3 shortwave receiver. When they first powered it up, without the cabinet on, it looked like pure magic, with the tube filaments glowing a warm red, and the #47 pilot lamps burning brightly. And the sounds that came out of it were enchanting. Too young for serious soldering, I built my first radios out of cardboard boxes and string. There must have been a special form of ham radio opium in those Heathkit catalogs - as it got me started on what seemed like an eternity-long quest to save up \$3.95 so I could buy a Heathkit of my own - a Morse key with buzzer.

*(Continued on page 4)*

<b>Yankee Clipper Contest Club</b>	
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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 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 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.

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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>CT (203)</b>	Mike Loukides, W1JQ	(203) 458-2545	<a href="mailto:MikeL@oreilly.com">MikeL@oreilly.com</a>
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<b>NYC/LI (718)</b>	Tom Carrubba, KA2D	(631) 422-9594	<a href="mailto:ka2d@arrl.net">ka2d@arrl.net</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>

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# Seventh Annual YCCC Holiday Buffet and Yankee Swap!

Date/Time: Sunday, December 4, 2016 12:30-4:30

Location: Auburn Elks Hall, Auburn, MA

The Buffet Menu will be:

## **American Special:**

Hot Roast Beef  
Hot Oven Roasted Chicken  
Hot Rigatoni and Sauce  
Garden Salad, Oven Roasted Potato  
Rolls, Coffee and Dessert

The price of the buffet tickets is \$20 per person.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE BANQUET, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO ME, K1KP, barockteer@aol.com. Be sure to indicate how many banquet tickets you would want. I will need a final headcount just before CQWW CW.

## **The Program Will Also Include:**

Seventh Annual YCCC Yankee Swap  
CQWW Scores Update – W2JU  
Dxpedition and Technical presentations

Plus of course there is the Holiday Buffet and Yankee Swap!

For the Yankee Swap, bring a wrapped ham-radio-related gift, value under \$15 and under 15 pounds. Gifts should be original (please don't recycle last year's gifts; no bedpans or boatanchors please)!

And last but not least, we will be kicking off the 2017 YCCC Scholarship Raffle – Tickets will be \$25 for a chance to win a great prize! Tickets are \$25 – bring cash or checks!

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<b>YCCC GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE</b>	
December 4, 2016	Auburn, MA
February 4, 2017	Enfield, CT.

*(Captain's Cabin: Continued from Page 1)*

When I got a bit older, I found myself being sent off to boarding school in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. There was little in the way of distractions like TV, video games, and the Internet; but there was a radio club. The radio club met one afternoon each week, for maybe an hour. Mostly, the kids who went to radio club were just trying to get out of an hour of study hall - but there were a few of us who were really interested in the magic sounds of radio. The radio club was run by a young teacher who had his Technician Class license. The club room had mostly military surplus gear - some HF and UHF, plus a Gonset Communicator for 6 meters. The teacher would call CQ on the Gonset and work a few locals for us, while the hackers would try to see how fast they could spin the main tuning crank on the military surplus aircraft receiver.

The teacher noticed that there were a few of us actually interested in radio - and provided us with some ARRL license manuals. If you were licensed many years ago, you'll remember the red and black league publications that were mostly questions and answers, with some schematic diagrams thrown in. I threw myself into those manuals - and in a few months had memorized them from cover to cover. I can still draw a Colpitts, Hartley, and Pierce oscillator on a blank piece of paper.

There was Morse code to be learned too. This was a particular struggle for me - I started off on the wrong foot, by drawing dots and dashes on my lined notebook paper. (A definite no-no by today's techniques). The radio club teacher helped us with the code. I particularly remember one weekend when he introduced us to another ham friend of his who had his General class license. This would be the ham who would administer our novice exam - by mail - according to the regulations of that time. With a real code practice oscillator, I learned to tell the difference between 4 dits and 5. After the code practice he gave me a box of radio parts - which oddly seemed to be exactly what I needed to build the 2-tube regenerative receiver that caught my eye in the 'Getting Started' league publication.

I finally passed the code test (barely, on the second try), and took the Novice and General Class theory. After the longest 6 weeks of my life, my new licenses and I arrived at home for Thanksgiving on the same day.

Although I have had periods of inactivity due to life circumstances, I have never let my license lapse. Ham radio is a part of me, my identity, and would be with me for life. Later that year I graduated from that school, went on to another boarding school, then college. My interest in radio and electronics had kept me constantly learning and teaching myself. When I went through college, there wasn't much in electronics or circuit theory that I hadn't already taught myself.

All of this I relate, because I really believe that it has a lot to do with a certain teacher ham and his General class friend, who took it upon themselves to do some extra teaching and mentoring, and be an elmer to me and others. If you had an elmer to help you along the path to a novice license, a lifelong hobby, and maybe even an entire career, then take a minute to pause and thank him.

So this Thanksgiving, like so many that have passed, I am thankful for amateur radio, the life skills it has taught me, the friends I have met along the way, and the Elmers who helped me discover it all.

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## **Western Connecticut Area Meeting**

The Western Connecticut area of the YCCC had a joint meeting with the Candlewood ARA (CARA) in Bethel CT on November 11.

It was an excellent meeting. We had 10 current YCCC members in attendance, and received 6 new members:

New Crew:	Sam Dick NV1P	James Ritterbusch KD1YV	Jay Albano N1NRP
	Marcus Swearingen AB1WV	Tom Coury WX1T	Dan Wright KC1BLR

Welcome and Congratulations!

Dan can give you the total attendance, but it was 25-30.

At the meeting, Dan Fegley W1QK and Roger Mitchell NG1R presented the "Introduction to Contesting" slides developed by K1KP and W1UE. Then we had an "Ask a Contester" round-table with Pete W1RM, Ken W1NG, Mike W1JQ, and Dan W1QK. It was an excellent discussion; we talked about propagation, operating strategy, antennas, and many other topics. Great questions.

Thanks to CARA, to Dan and Marcus, and to all the panelists for participating!

Mike Loukides W1JQ (Western CT Area Co-Manager)  
Dave Arruzza W1CTN (Western CT Area Co-Manager in absentia)

## Silent Keys

Paul Timothy Obert – K8PO: March 13, 1944 – October 21, 2016

Dana Gregory Cobb – K1RQ: May 28, 1945 - November 18, 2016

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### Paul Timothy Obert – K8PO

Paul was the husband of Jackie Merrick, father to Ryan (Amanda), Nicole, Deen (Calvin), Cameron; grandfather to Mason, Caleb, Brooks, Grace, Gavin, Darcy, brother to Mary Ellen and Nora.

From an early age, Paul was curious and an inventor. His dad set him up with a workbench and equipment that led to a lifetime interest in electronics. As a ham radio operator he connected with people worldwide and made lasting, life friendships with fellow operators. An avid and accomplished golfer, he liked nothing better than a round or two on a sunny day. He had many professional successes and travelled to over 100 countries in his lifetime. In the past few years his circle expanded, including many in the Midcoast area. He and Jackie had busy lives with family, friendships and travel.

Paul was immensely proud of their children, and was grateful that they could spend time with him in recent months. He spoke about the wonderful adults and parents they had become. He beamed when he spoke of his grandkids.

Jackie is grateful for the overwhelming support of her family, friends and community over the past weeks. From meals to visits, to prayers, she never felt alone in caring for Paul.

73 K8PO; all the airwaves are yours now.

*From ARRL Website:*

An operator who provided the Maine multiplier for many participants in the [ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) and other operating events has gone silent. Paul T. Obert, K8PO, of Union, Maine, [died](#) on October 21. He was 72. An ARRL member, Obert held No. 1 DXCC Honor Roll.

"I'd gotten to know Paul well in the last few years as a guest operator at his Maine station," said noted DXer and contester Scott Redd, K0DQ, who had operated from K8PO on several occasions. "He was a true gentleman, thoughtful and of high integrity."

Redd said Obert was a perfectionist who had engineered "a superb station" as well as a gracious, generous, and unassuming person, who "was quick to praise others and recognize their skills." DXer Fred Laun, K3ZO, called Obert "a contest giant."

Operating from K8PO, Redd was the first US operator to log more than 5000 contacts in a 48-hour event (2013 CQ WW CW) as a single operator, unassisted entry.

K8PO was among the Maine stations taking part in the 2014 W1AW Centennial portable operations. His extensive antenna system, including a quarter-wave broadcast-style vertical for Top Band, ensured a strong signal from 160 through 10 meters. Obert also was an enthusiastic and accomplished golfer. — *Thanks to [The Daily DX](#), CQ-Contest Reflector & ARRL*

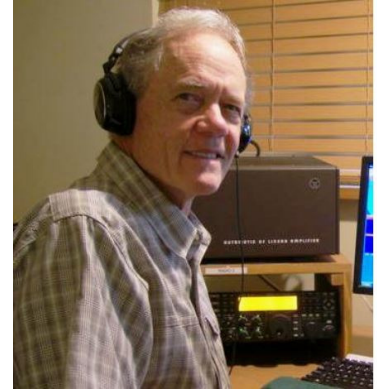
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### Dana Gregory Cobb – K1RQ

Dana G. Cobb, born May 28, 1945, in Portland, passed away Friday, Nov. 18, 2016, at Manatee Memorial Hospital in Ellenton, Fla. He was the son of Harvey B. Cobb and Winona G. Smith.

Dana grew up in Portland, in what is now the Deering area. He attended and graduated from Deering High School in 1963. He was a post graduate of Portland High School in 1964, where he met his wife, Theresa Jane Sawyer.

Dana joined the Maine Air National Guard in 1965 in South Portland. He went to Biloxi, Miss., for basic training, then to Lakeland Air Force Base, Texas, for schooling in communications. Dana, a ham radio operator (his call sign was K1RQF) since his early teens, fit right in. He earned his extra class license and was able to change his call sign to K1RQ. While serving in the reserves, Dana worked for Theresa's dad at Hanson Plymouth. He met Theresa in 1964 at Portland High School. They were married Jan. 21, 1967, in Portland. Just before their marriage, Dana had the opportunity to go to work for "Old Ma Bell," aka American Telephone and Telegraph Company in a radio relay communication station in Peru, Mass. Theresa and Dana



moved to Hinsdale and Peru, Mass., area where he spent 17 years inside plant. They had two children, Susan and Stephanie. They stayed in that area until he transferred to outside plant in Chesterfield, Mass.

In 1987, the opportunity arose for him to move back to Maine after 21 years of outside plant. Dana transferred to Manchester, N.H., and lived in East Raymond, Maine.

There he was in charge of the new fiberoptic cable from Manchester to Portland, which he patrolled until his retirement from "Ma Bell" in 1999. He drove one million miles, accident free, while driving for the phone company and never had his fiber optic cable dug up. He covered five states in his travels, always on call, never knowing if he would be home at night or sitting at a job site for days, out in all kinds of weather going where ever they needed him on the job. Total time with "Ma Bell" was 34 years. He retired in 1999 after his first heart attack and moved to Florida.

Dana's hobbies were many. Ham radio was his first as a contester for several radio groups, working contest phone and CW all around the world. He helped found North East Contest Club, which became the YCCC, Yankee Clipper Contest Club, in Worcester, Mass. He also enjoyed hunting, boating, camping, and Civil War reenactment.

He and his wife Theresa joined the Civil War reenactment group, the 3rd Maine Company, out of Bath, and have been members for 30 years. After moving to Florida, they transferred to F Company, Third Maine infantry history group in the Orlando area. His father-in-law always joked that Dana was born 150 years too late, for his love and knowledge of the Civil War history.

Dana and his wife also loved to travel, and went to 48 of 50 states with their travel trailer, always going back to Maine as much as possible.

Dana and Theresa have two children, Mrs. Susan D. Szewczyk, of Saratoga Springs, New York, and husband Brian James; and Stephanie Jean Christman, of Athol, Idaho, and husband, Raymond Arthur; two grandchildren, Brooke T. Rushton, in college in Moscow, Idaho; and Katherine M. Szewczyk, in college in Fairfield, Conn. Both are to graduate in May 2017. Dana leaves behind his wife of 49 years and 10 months, high school sweethearts. Through all their travels, Maine always has been home to them.

Dana was laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery in Raymond, with his parents.

*Published in Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram on Nov. 23, 2016*

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## THANKS FOR SPONSERING ARRL-DX PHONE & CW PLAQUES

Subject: Many thanks for Plaques ARRL IDXC, JA7ZFN  
Date: Mon, 10 Oct 2016 01:50:27 +0900  
From: Miyazawa Satoshi <[nh2mnh2m@gmail.com](mailto:nh2mnh2m@gmail.com)>  
To: [president@yccc.org](mailto:president@yccc.org)

Dear Tony K1KP President, Yankee Clipper Contest Club,

This is FUBO Ham club, JA7ZFN, plaque winner of the ARRL International DX contest both CW and PH M/S HP category Asia in 2016.

I'd like to express our special thanks to you and all members of YCCC who donated the plaques.

We are very happy because we could win the ARRL DX plaques for the first time, and beat JA0QNJ who beated us in 2015, as a result that we improved some equipments especially low bands.

We are planning next improvement. These plaques will be our motivation.

Thank you indeed. See you in the next contest.

73!

Satoshi 'Sam' Miyazawa JP7DKQ also NH2M  
Treasurer of FUBO Ham Club JA7ZFN  
[nh2mnh2m@gmail.com](mailto:nh2mnh2m@gmail.com)



October 13, 2016

Yankee Clipper Contest Club, Inc., AJ1I  
c/o Chet Slabinski, N8RA  
462 W Hill Road  
New Hartford, CT 06057-2416

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the ARRL Foundation, thank you so much for your 2016 contribution of \$1627.08 to support the Yankee Clipper Contest Club Youth Scholarship Fund.

The ARRL Foundation is very pleased to offer this scholarship to deserving young hams from the YCCC region pursuing higher education. Recipients are always very appreciative of their scholarships to help with the financial burden of higher education. This year's recipient will be selected soon.

Thank you again for your generosity.

73,

Tom Frenaye, K1KI  
President  
The ARRL Foundation

*The ARRL Foundation is an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) organization holding federal tax identification # 23-7325472. Accordingly, your contribution may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services have been provided for this contribution.*

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ARRL Foundation ■ 225 Main Street ■ Newington, CT 06111-1494 ■ 860-594-0200 ■ [foundation@arrl.org](mailto:foundation@arrl.org) ■ [www.arrl.org/arrlf](http://www.arrl.org/arrlf)



# YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

**DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF** Dues for the year are payable as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. The YCCC has adopted a multi-tiered membership format as follows: Please note that payment of dues IS NOT a prerequisite for contributing scores to the Club aggregate, but IS for the various YCCC Awards Programs

**Full Member** - \$15/yr (Eligible for YCCC member benefits and electronic "Ebutt" delivery of Club newsletter)

**Full Member** - \$30/yr (Eligible for YCCC member benefits and paper delivery of Club newsletter)

**Family Member** - \$0 (Grants full membership to all amateurs residing at one domicile on payment of one member's "Full Member" annual dues and entitlement to one Club Newsletter sent to one domicile or email address. All members of said family are eligible for YCCC member benefits.)

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

**Subscription** - \$\*\* (A "supportive friend of YCCC" - not a member but a possible candidate for future membership. Only receives club newsletter in paper or electronic form. \$10 for electronic "Ebutt" delivery domestically or overseas or \$25 for domestic paper delivery.)

**Club members** who move out of club territory and so are not eligible to contribute to club aggregate scores can continue to participate in the Club's e-mail reflector and receive the electronic "Ebutt" delivery of newsletter at no cost.

You can tell if you owe dues by checking your 'Butt mailing label or the Club roster in the Members Only section of the website.

**NOTE:** If your dues are paid to a March 31 date, then you now need to synchronize to the calendar year. Please see the "Dues" area on the Members Only section of the website for the pro-rated dues amount for a partial year.

**Mail your dues to the club treasurer, Chet Slabinski, N8RA, 462 W. Hill Rd, New Hartford, CT 06057.**

**SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES** should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Steve Rodowicz N1SR, by E-mail at [n1sr@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/n1ik>

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

**MEMBERSHIP ROSTER** is posed on the YCCC website. Updates are published in 'Movers and Shakers' when members move or change call signs.

**COMPUTER STUFF INTERNET REFLECTOR** There is an Internet mailing list for YCCC members. To subscribe, send mail to [yccc-REQUEST@yccc.org](mailto:yccc-REQUEST@yccc.org). Insert only the word "subscribe" in the subject of the mail message. (Do not send messages to the reflector that have file attachments, HTML formatting, use boldface or other fancy fonts, etc.)

**WWW HOME PAGE** Come visit us at <http://www.yccc.org> Our Webmaster is Lyn Glagowski, WB1CCL.

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

**ARRL COMMITTEE REPS** are:

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

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

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

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