February 2016

Issue 235

Next Meeting: Saturday: February 6th – 1:00 – 4:30 pm Enfield Holiday Inn One Bright Meadow Boulevard, Enfield, CT

Captain's Cabin

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

Once again we find ourselves getting ready with a big contest coming up. The question that has been rattling through my mind is, 'How do we get the participation of the club up to the high level needed to win this one'? Well, I haven't heard a lot of answers from the echoes of my mind, so I'm going to look to club members to come up with a few. Just as a reminder, we lost ARRL DX 2015 by a fairly small margin, No, it was not as small as a 'moderate single op score', but it was also not an insurmountable margin either. I think the final gap was around 5.5Meg. A couple good single op scores, or maybe one decent M/S or M2 score would have pushed us past those FRC folks to our south. Our annual strategy has been to get the most butts in seats as we can, and I can see no better way to pile up the points we will need to win this year.

Propagation plays a big part in all of this too. When I contemplated accepting this job 5 years ago, I took a look at the scores for the past solar cycle, and noted that when propagation is excellent, YCCC holds a strong advantage over FRC. But when the propagation begins to slip into the inter-cycle valleys, FRC finds an opportunity. YCCC won both majors in the glory years of 1999-2003, and also on the recent peak, winning both majors from 2011-2014. FRC picked up five wins between the two contests in the years from 2004-2009, so they seem to do better when propagation is lacking. I don't know if there's any scientific basis for this observation, but it does tell me that like Avis, we'll need to try harder when the numbers are down.

Based on propagation I saw for the weekend of January 23, I think the bands will be in fairly good shape, although we may not see many real openings on 10 meters. It will likely be very short openings, reflections off of airplanes and blimps, or skew path on 10. This will make for more crowded conditions on 20 and 15 during the daylight hours. I expect these bands will be in excellent shape, with propagation bolstered by high levels of participation. The cold weather will keep the noise levels down on the nighttime bands, so they should be more fun than usual as well!

Imagine for a moment what it's going to be like on Saturday morning, February 20, about sunrise. It's cold and crisp outside, maybe the sun is just beginning to come up. You come into the shack with a cup of hot coffee, ready to take over your shift from the night operator. He looks at you as if you are about to swallow Goliath! You settle in, and get into a nice rhythm of punching the F-keys the way the OTs pounded brass. CW is music in your ears and you're knocking them off one by one; nice, crisp, even exchanges, with no fills needed. Europeans are at your doorstep. Then a VU2 calls in, only a bit weaker than the rest of the crowd, but making up for it with his Zone 22 callsign. Off to the side, you can hear an FRCer on the edge of your passband. And you subconsciously copy his exchanges too, and get a boost when he busts one you just worked! (<u>Do you want to miss this? I don't think so)!</u>

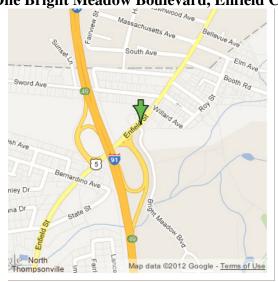
I'm looking for ways to increase excitement, and therefore participation in this year's ARRL DX contest. Compared to CQWW, this is the one where we US hams are the hunted! I'm looking forward to hearing your suggestions for ways to get more folks on the air for this one. I have asked the Area Managers to make a special effort to hold Local Meetings in their areas, for the purpose of exchanging operating plans and tips, matching operators with seats, signing up new members, and selling those Scholarship Raffle tickets! If you can't get to a General Meeting, you can still get your chance to win a new K3S by buying your ticket from your area Manager.

(Continued on page 5)

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Directions to Enfield Holiday Inn One Bright Meadow Boulevard, Enfield CT



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

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

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

Area Managers

ME	Mike Russo, K1EU	(207) 883-9524	kleu@maine.rr.com
ENH/NEMA	Ken Caruso, WO1N		woln@arrl.net
WNH/SVT	Craig Clark, K1QX		klqx@arrl.net
SE MA (508)	Eric Williams, KV1J		kv1j@arrl.net
Boston (617/781)	Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P	(617) 325-6767	jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu
WMA (413)	Tom Homewood, W1TO	(413) 743-7342	w1to@arrl.net
CT (860)	Rich Cady, N1IXF		nlixf@arrl.net
CT (203)	Mike Loukides, W1JQ	(203) 458-2545	MikeL@oreilly.com
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NVT (802)	Joe Vanat, K1VMT		k1vmt@arrl.net

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General Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2015

Tony K1KP called the December 6th General Meeting, Holiday Luncheon and Yankee Swap of the Yankee Clipper Contest club to order at 12:50.

Tony announced that Chet N8RA was collecting money for the Luncheon and Dues.

Tony then asked for a moment of silence for K0TV, KB1H and W1OO who became silent keys during the year, before announcing that the Buffet lunch was ready.

Tony K1KP reconvened the meeting at 1:20 with a roll call of members and guests present.

Brian NJ1F gave the secretary's report and Chet N8RA gave the treasurer's report. K1XM made a motion to accept the reports, which was seconded by W1FM.

Tony then announced that again this year the YCCC Scholarship Raffle grand prize is a K3s-100 kit and tickets were for sale during the break.

Tony K1KP asked if there was any unfinished business, there was no unfinished business.

Tony K1KP made an announcement that the officers of the Yankee Clipper Contest club would entertain two motions; one for a \$1000 donation to the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation WWROF and the second \$1000 matching donation to WRTC2018 from the floor.

Tony K1KP made the motion that the YCCC make a \$1,000 donation to the WWROF which was seconded by Paul K1XM. Tony opened the floor for discussion. Chet N8RA said that our current treasury balance shows that the club can afford to fund both donations. Tony K1KP explained that the WWROF is an organization that pays for the computer costs of processing logs and maintaining the results databases for the CQ contests, puts on Webinars on contest operating, advancing the technology of Amateur radio and encourages amateurs worldwide to get on the air. At the conclusion of the discussion a vote of the members present was taken and the motion carried with unanimous support.

Tony K1KP made a motion that the YCCC to set aside \$1000 as matching gift to WRTC2018, with the matching to be coordinated with WWROF (all US donations go through WWROF anyway) YCCC funds to match donations 1:1 made by individuals via WWROF through February 28, 2016 unless extended at the February General Meeting. The motion was seconded by K1BG. Tony opened the floor up for discussion which included if there should be a time limit on the match or if the YCCC simply match donations until the \$1,000 allocated it depleted. At the conclusion of the discussion a vote of the members present was taken and the motion carried with one vote of dissension.

Tony K1KP made the following announcements. The club is looking for a ENH/NEMA area manager, there is going to be a local meeting in Bloomfield CT on December 11th.

Tony K1KP then introduced Eric KV1J who gave an update on the W1 QSL Bureau. They are looking for local clubs to help with the initial sorting. The Bureau handled over 180,000 cards last year, 43,000 were for W1AW and 3000 were from WRTC2014. There is a new PO Box number, 73 starting on January 1, 2016. The cost to the YCCC for operating W1 QSL Bureau is zero.

Alex W2JU gave a presentation on the scores for the just completed CQWW contests. While it appears the YCCC is going to again be victorious. Alec pointed out a trend that the FRC is closing the gap by getting more members on.

Bob WA1Z gave a presentation on operating at VP9I with fellow YCCC member Curt W6PH during the CQWW SSB contest.

Tony K1KP announced the Kickoff of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club Youth Scholarship Raffle for a K3

Tony K1KP announced a 15 minute break for purchasing tickets and socialize

After the break Tony asked if there was any one present who wanted to become a member of the YCCC. There were no new members.

Tony K1KP reconvened the meeting and gave a presentation on his experience with Arc Fault Circuit breakers.

Fred K1VR gave a presentation on the prefect traveler and contest headset. Fred's presentation was very interactive and hands on. Fred had asked members to bring their headsets to the meeting so that members could actually try them on.

Tony K1KP than gave a presentation on how he is using the MOASII switch.

Brian NJ1F then conducted the Yankee Swap.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by K1XM and Seconded by K1QX.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35

Submitted Brian Szewczyk NJ1F YCCC Secretary

THANKS FOR WRTC-2018 DONATION

Worldwide Radio Operators Foundation, Inc P O Box 10424 Midland, TX 79702

Tax ID: 27-1435449

Donor: Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Date of Receipt: December 7, 2015

Type of Contribution: Cash

Amount of Contribution: \$1,000.00 U.S.

Dear Yankee Clipper Contest Club:

On behalf of Worldwide Radio Operators Foundation, Inc., thank you for your generous donation as noted above.

WWROF is dedicated to improving the skills of amateur radio operators around the world, utilizing education, competition, advancement of technology and scientific research, promoting international friendship and goodwill, and preparing them to better serve society in times of communication need.

Donations are tax deductible under IRS 501 (c) (3) provisions. No goods or services were provided to you for this donation.

Sincerely,

Worldwide Radio Operators Foundation, Inc.

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WRTC-2018 DONATIONS

Donations can be made via PayPal to: WRTC2018@wwrof.org

Or via check (including a note in the memo area that it is a designated donation for WRTC2018).

Mailing address is: WWROF Inc.

P O Box 10424

Midland, TX 79702-7424

(Captain's Cabin: Continued from Page 1)

Before I talk about the next General Meeting coming up, I'd like to announce our plans for the April meeting. Like last year, we are going to try to make our club more accessible to the local ham population by making the April meeting into an 'Open House'; appealing and welcoming to all hams, not just contesters. This year, we have worked out an arrangement with the Framingham Amateur Radio Association to hold our April General Meeting in conjunction with their annual Spring Flea Market. The YCCC meeting will run from 12:30-4pm at the Keefe Technical School in Framingham, MA, on April 10, after the flea market winds down. It's my hope that YCCC members come early to enjoy the Flea Market, and Flea Market patrons hang around afterwards to attend our General Meeting.

As for the content of the April meeting, Gerry, W1VE has come up with a great suggestion for a program designed to 'On-Board' hams to the fun of HF communications. To this end, Gerry writes:

"We are at an incredible growth point in Amateur Radio. The number of new hams is at an all-time high. However, many of these new hams are V/UHF-only hams. Their experience is typically with other-like minded amateurs. Many leave the hobby or never go beyond local communications. HF is the true lifeblood of the hobby, and is as exciting today as it was 100 years ago. Who understands HF amateur radio better than contesters? I'm trying to put together a program for our April meeting called "Discover HF Amateur Radio". It will be sponsored by YCCC, the Port City ARC (NH), and the Framingham ARC (MA). The goal? To get some of these new hams excited about HF Amateur radio. We will have live, remote stations and talks about all aspects of HF operation. I'll disclose more at our Feb meeting and on the reflector. I hope to enlist the aid and support of many YCCC members. Email wive@yccc.org if you are interested in helping out"!

But lest we get ahead of ourselves, back to the February meeting:

We have a great meeting coming up, featuring the Past, the Present, and the Future! Paul, K1XM will be giving a presentation on the ED8X operation in CQWW CW 2015. This operation was truly unique, with the operating positions being built into a cargo container and shipped over as a ready-to-go contest in a box! Also, K1LI and K1KP will be carpooling to the meeting in their tricked-out DeLorean, with a fully charged Flux Capacitor! Brian and I will be giving a *live* demo of a bit of technology we have brought 'Back from the Future' on one of our recent sojourns. The talk is titled "PolEx -The Road to a Better Kilowatt; The SSB Transmitter of the Future - Cheap, Clean, Efficient"! Seriously, if you've ever dreamed of where technology might take the SSB transmitters of the future, to finally catch up with the recent advances in receiver technology, this presentation will tell you how it can happen. If you are into radio hardware, this talk is for you. We will include a demonstration of CESSB as well. This is one of those talks you will remember when you say "I saw it first at a YCCC Meeting"!

And speaking of advances in receiver technology, there's nothing newer than our annual Scholarship Raffle prize, the Elecraft K3S! I remind you that tickets can only be purchased in person at a General or Local meeting, so remember to bring your cash or checkbook and buy your chances to win this year!

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YCCC ARRL Youth Scholarship Raffle! Prize: Elecraft K3S/100 Kit!

Street value: \$2650!
Tickets are \$25 per chance (cash or check)
Tickets ONLY sold at meetings
Drawing at April meeting (assuming enough tickets are sold)

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Framingham ARA Annual Spring Flea Market Sunday, April 10, 2016 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon Keefe Technical School, 750 Winter St, Framingham, MA 01702 Framingham, MA

&

YCCC Open Meeting 12:30-4 pm

The Framingham ARA Annual Spring Flea Market will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2016 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the Keefe Technical School in Framingham. Buyer's admission is \$5.00 and tables are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

This year, the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) will join the Framingham ARA Annual Spring Flea Market by holding an Open Meeting from 12:30-4 pm at the Keefe Technical School the day of the flea market. The YCCC program will offer presentations of general interest to local Hams, as well as holding their annual ARRL Youth Scholarship Raffle. All are welcome!

Contact Eric, KB1PJN, at 508-310-5913 to reserve tables, or go to fara.org/flea to reserve tables on line and for more general information. There will be refreshments, a VE session, and door prizes; the grand prize is a dual band HT!!

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NEW AREA MANAGERS

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

ENH/NEMA

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Ken Caruso, WO1N, has volunteered to become the YCCC ENH/NEMA Area Manager. Ken has stepped up to fill the spot left very empty by the passing of Jerry, K0TV. I look forward to joining Ken and other area members at a Local Meeting soon! As a reminder, the ENH/NEMA territory is New Hampshire east of route 93, and the 978 area code.

NVT

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Joe Vanat, K1VMT, has volunteered to become the YCCC NVT Area Manager. Joe has stepped up to fill the spot left vacant when Al Frugoli, KE1FO, moved to Massachusetts. Thanks to Al for his service to the club. Please join Joe and other area members at a Local Meeting soon! As a reminder, the NVT territory is the 802 Area Code, north of 89.

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NEW OWNERSHIP FOR TEN-TEC

Effective January 1, 2016 the Ten Tec assets for RKR Designs, LLC were acquired by Dishtronix, Inc.

There are many things in transition at this time such as the telephone numbers and website. We ask you to be patient and not overload us with questions and email.

At this time we are fully occupied with our commercial business and restructuring and moving some things around. There are no plans at present to leave the Knoxville area.

(See http://www.tentec.com/)

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WESTERN MA REGIONAL MEETING JOINT MEETING WITH HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOC January 8, 2016

A joint meeting of the Hampden County Radio Association (HCRA) and YCCC was held on Friday, January 8, 2016, in Holyoke, MA. Approximately fifty people attended the meeting.

The major presentation at the meeting was a viewing of the K1N Dxpedition DVD.

The Western Mass Area Manager, Tom Homewood, W1TO, made a brief presentation about YCCC and the many advantages of membership.

YCCC is happy to welcome five new members and two returning members. Please welcome:

W1AST, Larry Krainson KC1BDF, Brian Mullarney

NV1Q, Juergen Malner (DK1TM) AB1XW, Alan Dove

W1ZRT, Rick Thibault KC1V, George Collins (Returning)

K1VOI, John Plaster (Returning)

Dues were collected from these members and will be forwarded to the Treasurer. Dues were also collected from N1AW.

Three YCCC raffle tickets were sold.

Tom Homewood, W1TO Western Mass Area Manager

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WRTC-2014 Book Release

Contact Sport:

A Story of Champions, Airwaves, and a One-Day Race Around the World

J.K.George, N3BB

"SUSPENSE *and* CONTROVERSY *in* RADIO'S BIGGEST COMPETITION. In the woods of Massachusetts, pairs of contestants huddle in tents filled with communications equipment. Their voices soar through the air, riding waves into the atmosphere, as they comb through static and noise for a response from the other side of the world. They're searching for loot in the form of other voices in the sky. The rarer their contact, the more valuable their treasure.

A major new book describes the exciting world of amateur radio competition and the intriguing characters of the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship. The competitors hail from across the planet, from youthful challengers to veterans with decades of radiosporting experience. Meet fascinating personalities as they battle computer malfunctions, getting lost, and staying at the top of their game for 24 hours in a hot, stuffy tent. The final scores bring surprises, disappointments, even a recount, and decades-long friendships will be stressed in the fight for the crown of amateur radio, the ultimate "contact sport." Follow the action as the teams dance upon the radio waves. See who will be crowned champions of their sport.

Contact Sport is a wonderful book, written not only for knowledgeable amateur radio operators, but also for their children and grandchildren, to open the wonders of science and radio magic to all ages."

available Feb. 1 at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc. (see link below) source: http://authorjkgeorge.com/books/#

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YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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@arrl.net** The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month..

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

CONTEST SCORES should be sent to the club scorekeeper, Alec Berman, W2JU, preferably by E-mail at **scores@yccc.org**. Please include details such as numbers of QSOs, QSO points (if appropriate), and multipliers (all types); entry category; and power.

CLUB GOODIES

BADGES YCCC badges are available from Tony, K1KP. Send \$3, name and call desired on the badge, and your mailing address to Tony.

APPAREL Contact Richie, W1STT, Email: richd1313@aol.com

YCCC LOGO ITEMS http://www.cafepress.com/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 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, send mail to yccc-REQUEST@yccc.org. Insert only the word "subscribe" in the subject of the mail message. (Do not send messages to the reflector that have file attachments, HTML formatting, use boldface or other fancy fonts, etc.)

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

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

ARRL COMMITTEE REPS are:

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

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