February 2014

Issue 224

Next Meeting-Sunday, February 2nd – 1pm till 5pm Holiday Inn, Enfield-Springfield 1 Bright Meadow Boulevard (off Route 5) Enfield, Connecticut

Captain's Cabin

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP

2014 – A Very Exciting Year for YCCC!

On the day I was elected your president, in April of 2011, Doug Grant came to the meeting to speak about WRTC2014. I was aware that New England would be hosting the competition, but it seemed very, very far away. It was on that day, after the club voted to support WRTC with two operating tent sponsorships, that I began to come to grips with the interaction between WRTC and YCCC. It still seemed years away – not something to worry about too much about at the time. I was a bit concerned at how easy it was for YCCC to spend 20% of it's treasury in one vote!

Now it is 2014, and WRTC is upon us. Not only that, but it is also the ARRL Centennial, which will include the Centennial Convention in Hartford, Connecticut the week after WRTC2014. Its going to be a busy summer! Both WRTC and the Centennial Convention will draw a tremendous number of ham visitors to New England. With both activities, YCCC members will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet our DX Contesting friends in person.

YCCC is planning a meeting to be held at the Centennial Convention – and I'd like our members to be part of that planning process. I think our goal should be to welcome as many 'out-of-town' contesters to our meeting as possible – and to celebrate their presence in some special way. So I'm soliciting suggestions on how best to do this – please get in touch with me or Activities Manager Jim Ussailis with your ideas for the meeting program.

Upcoming Contests – ARRL DX CW & Phone

The club has acquitted itself quite well in the fall contests, with excellent scores reported for the CQWW CW and Phone weekends. As a club, it is now time to turn our attention to finishing the job, and attack the two weekends of ARRL DX coming up in February and March. Recently, the Solar numbers have gone bananas! It looks like we are on the second of a double-peak in Cycle 24. While CQWW weekends are usually the magic four weeks apart, meaning that solar conditions tend to repeat on the CW weekend similarly to what occurred on the Phone weekend, the ARRL contests are usually two weeks apart, which means they can be quite different conditions from each other. It will be very interesting to see what's in store for us this winter – but by all measures, it should be some excellent propagation. Ten should be open at least part of the day – so enjoy it before it vanishes! Chuck, W1HIS will be preparing an update to his propagation charts to help us know what to expect. As always, there is no log too small – and we need as much participation as we can muster on the air. If you need a spot to operate, check the reflector or send an email to your Area Manager – we'll find you a seat!

(Continued on page 5)

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DIRECTIONS to YCCC General Meeting:

Holiday Inn, Enfield-Springfield 1Bright Meadow Boulevard (off Route 5) Enfield, CT

From the East: Take Mass Pike (I-90) West to exit 6. After toll booth, take a left on 291 To Interstate 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.

From the South: Take Interstate 91 North to exit 49. Bear right at the end of the ramp, take your immediate right onto Bright Meadow Blvd. The hotel will be on your left.

From the North: Take Interstate 91 South. Take 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.

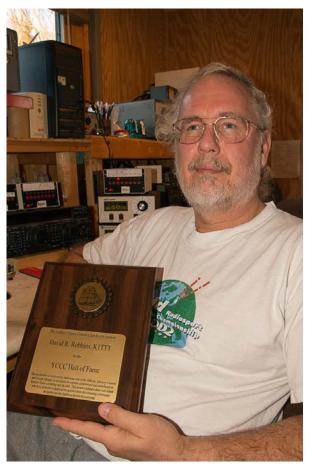
YCCC Meeting Schedule - 2013-2014			
Date Location			
February 2, 2014, Start: 1pm Holiday Inn, Springfield-Enfield			
	Enfield, CT		
April 5, 2014, Start: 1pm Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center, Sturbridge, MA			

Area Managers

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Yankee Clipper Contest Club Hall of Fame 2013 Inductee



K1TTT David Robbins

In 1984, David Robbins moved to Peru, MA. He was very interested in contesting, and became very active in the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. The Amateur Radio contesting world has forever been changed by the generosity and ingenuity of Dave, K1TTT. For those of us who know Dave well, we understand he does not like to do things small. In fact, his first tower was 150 feet of Rohn 45. Dave became infected with the contest bug and quickly set out to build his superstation. That work continues today.

The focus of many multi-multi station owners is building the best possible station and crew. The paradox for many inexperienced operators is they cannot get a seat due to lack of experience. Through Dave's generosity and open-door policy, countless numbers of operators have been able to hone their skills and to learn technique from experienced operators while operating a topnotch station. Many of these ops have gone on to become great single-ops or members of other multi-op teams. Many continue to return to the station they love.

The life blood of any contest is activity. Dave's generosity has led to many #1 repeat finishes in many contests outside the Big Four – such as the CQ and ARRL 160 Contests, WPX both Modes, ARRL and CQ RTTY Contests, the Russian DX Contest , the New England QSO party and ARRL Sweepstakes, to name just a few. Pick any weekend when a contest is on, and there's a good chance someone will be operating from Dave's place.

One could measure the success of Dave and the station simply by the number of trophies and plaques on his walls – too numerous to count – but a far better measurement would be the number of guest operators he has hosted and the friendships he has made.

During the course of building a superstation, you learn quite a lot of tricks. Dave's generosity extends to the internet, where he has

chronicled the ups and downs and all the neat tricks he has come up with on his web site, K1TTT.net. He has compiled the story of his station into a book, which is available for free from his site. Judging from the number of hits it receives, Dave's work is used by thousands around the world.

Many of us around the world know Dave though his station. However, that station is just one piece of Dave's contribution to this hobby and our sport. Not only does Dave have a passion for contesting, he has a passion for software. Dave has written his own software and contributed to many popular packages. How many of us used his CT TCP networking gateway? He has contributed countless hours to some of the larger free amateur radio applications, such as N1MM Logger. Dave was instrumental in getting real-time scoring up and running, helping with both the N1MM support as well as with the getscores website. Packet Spotting, in all its forms, from VHF links to internet DX Clusters to the RBN, has been greatly influenced and supported by Dave.

Dave served YCCC as President in 1990 and Webmaster in 1995. Always a supporter of YCCC, Dave has hosted many regional meeting at his place. Dave has been known to pay the membership dues for new contesters operating at the station to ensure his ARRL DX Contest operations were 100% YCCC.

A relentless supporter of Amateur Radio, Dave has taught classes, hosted the Boy Scouts many times, and actively watched for intruders to our frequencies. He is always happy to share his wealth of knowledge. We are a lucky club to have such a ham and outstanding individual in our midst. For these reasons, we nominate David Robbins, K1TTT, to the YCCC Hall of Fame.

Nominating Members: W1VE, NJ1F, W1WEF

Yankee Clipper Contest Club Meeting Minutes Auburn, MA December 8, 2013

President Tony K1KP called the Holiday meeting of the YCCC to order at 1:10 pm.

Tony then asked for a roll call of the 42 members, and guests which was followed by the Treasurers report by Chet N8RA, and Secretary's Report by Brian NJ1F. A motion was made by K1XM and Seconded by KV1J to accept the reports which carried.

President Tony asked if there was any old or unfinished business. There was none.

President Tony K1KP made the following announcements.

On February 12th there will be a contest university at the ARRL HQ in Newington CT

Participation and other operating awards were available from Tony at this meeting.

Due to an increase in the cost of postage the cost for a YCCC name badge that is mailed to you with a clip is now \$5.

K1DG gave an update on the WRTC 2014. Currently 118 top level contesters from around the world will be participating in the event. The committee is planning many tours and "Friendship Events" for the participants and their guests. The plan is to setup 65 stations for use during the event. The committee is going to be announcing the list of referees. More than 150 applications from highly qualified operators for the 59 plus 6 alternate positions. Funding the WRTC 2014 is currently at 70 percent of its goal. The committee has just opened up a "Team Village Sponsorship" which cost \$1,000. There some complete stations hardware for sale at \$1500. These are great for any group that does field day. However there are only a couple left. The WRTC 2014 is in need of more volunteers for various duties, including beam team members, drivers, and workers for work parties. If you are interested please sign up on the WRTC website. Remember the goal of WRTC 2014 is to increase publicity for amateur radio to the general public.

Paul K1XM made a motion that the YCCC sponsor one of the WRTC Team Village Sponsorships which was seconded by Will WC2L. During discussion K1NYK made a motion to revise the motion to make the total number team village sponsorships to three. This was seconded N1UR. This motion was voted on and carried. Paul K1XM revised his original motion to increase the number of sponsorships to three. This was seconded by Will WC2L and the motion was voted on and carried.

Alec W2JU then gave an update on the CQWW club scores. The YCCC had a total for both modes of 557 million vs the FRC at 433 million.

Tony K1KP then introduced Ray W2RE and Lee WW2DX from Remote Ham Radio who gave a very interesting presentation and demo on their business of remote controlling their stable of large stations located around the world.

Tony K1KP then announced the kickoff of the annual YCCC scholarship raffle. The prize again this year is a K3 and tickets are \$25 each. Remember because of postage regulations the tickets are only available at YCCC meeting and the Contest University.

TonyK1KP then called for a break.

Tony K1KP then resumed the meeting and asked if there were any new member applications of which there were five. The new members told the group about themselves, their stations and contest experience. A vote was taken and all were welcomed aboard.

Tony then gave a presentation on how he built and uses a TDR to keep his station in top condition.

Brian NJ1F conducted the always fun Yankee Swap. Rumor has it that at least one participant when home with their own gift.

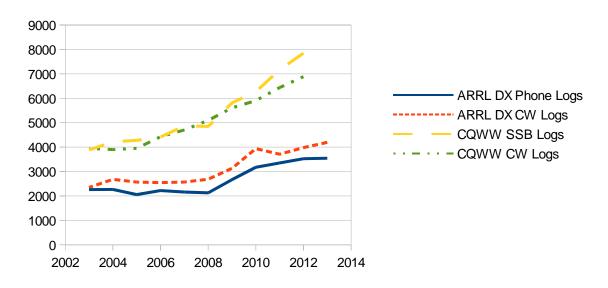
A motion was made by K1XM to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by K1QX and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned 4:02~pm

Submitted Brian NJ1F YCCC Secretary

Is Contesting the Fastest Growing Segment of Ham Radio?

An interesting question came to mind as I was writing this column: Is Contesting the fastest growing segment of ham radio? To get just a small amount of data on this, I looked up the number of logs submitted in the Big Four contests for the last ten years:

Contest Logs by Year



(from ARRL.ORG and CQWW.COM)

The results are very interesting! The short answer is that for all of these contests, log submissions have almost <u>doubled</u> in the last ten years! Some interesting subconclusions that can be gleaned from the chart are that in the ARRL DX contests, CW is the favored mode, with CW logs consistently outnumbering Phone logs by about 17%. The reverse is true for CQWW, with Phone logs outnumbering CW logs by an average of 5% over the ten years, but by an increasing margin in the most recent contests. The average growth rate per year is around 5-6 per cent per year for ARRL contests, and around 6-8 per cent per year for CQWW contests. I would challenge anyone interested in this phenomenon to see if similar growth exists anywhere else in the hobby! Maybe someone with friends inside the ARRL could find similar data on other aspects of Amateur Radio, such as VHF, EmComm, DXing, Hamfest attendance, etc.

Maybe the growth in contesting results from the maturation and general progression of hams through the hobby. I suspect that many other contesters came into contesting along the same path that I followed: While I was licensed at a young age, things like college, marriage, divorce, careers, etc got in the way, resulting in a 'blackout' period of about 10 years. Then when the smoke cleared, a ham friend invited me to a Hosstraders, and I was bitten by the old bug again. At first, the goal is just to 'get back on the air'. But that is never good enough, so with a stable home and career and a few bucks, the station grows steadily in capability. The old TS-520 gives way to an IC-735, which then becomes the backup rig to an IC-765, and so on. Amplifiers demand room on the operating table. Antennas get bigger and higher. With each expansion of capabilities, the operator needs a way to validate the most recent acquisition, and justify the next! Competitive juices flow, and at first, the best way to test all this equipment is through DXing. The station becomes effective enough to break through bigger and bigger pileups. The operator's identity shifts from ragchewer to DXer! Rapidly the QSL cards come in, the DXCC total runs up through the 200's, and lot's of fun is had. Along the way, it is noticed that quite frequently several 'new ones' can be worked on a contest weekend. The bands are busy, but as a DXer, pileups and QRM are no obstacle. But then, an interesting thing happens: the number of new countries starts to dwindle. The DXer now finds him/herself waiting for DXpeditions for new ones. But Contests come around like clockwork, and offer just as much opportunity for competitive outlet as DXing, without having to wait for a DXpedition. So gradually, almost unknowingly, the DXer becomes a contester, and one day finds himself looking forward to CQWW in October more than the next DXpedition. By now the station is really first rate, able to work the world and break most pileups handily. The Contester has arrived!

Could the huge growth in contesting be the result of thousands of hams around the world realizing that they have worked them all (or at least have only 6 left)? If so, welcome aboard ye olde DXer's!

Upcoming Meeting

Be sure not to miss the upcoming General Meeting in Enfield, Ct! This is our 'westward swing' of the seasonal meeting road trip, and we hope that many members from the 'southwest territories' can make this one! We expect a great program, which will include an update on the YCCC operation of the W1 QSL buro. Also on the agenda is an update of the latest club project, the MOAS Antenna Switch. (I built one of these; it was a very easy build and works great)! We will also have some DXpedition slides from Mark, K1RX, on his recent trip to D4C for CQWW. This is a good chance to get caught up on dues, which now run on the calendar year, and <u>BUY YOUR RAFFLE Tickets</u> for the ARRL YCCC Youth Scholarship!

Winter Contest University

For the third year in a row, we will be holding a YCCC Contest University at the ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT. The Contest University will be held Wednesday evening, February 12th, from 6-9:30PM. If you want to pick up some great Contest tips and hints, or just get some face time with club members, please join us! We will be holding a Local Meeting (so new members are welcome to come and join YCCC) and we will be selling the ever-popular ARRL Scholarship Raffle Tickets!

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Treasurer's Note

The Club is now on a calendar dues year (Jan-Dec), so 2014 dues are due.

Your dues support a lot of radiosport beyond our meeting rooms. This includes our own awards program, sponsorship of many plaques in CQWWDX, ARRLDX, WPX and NEQP, the Dayton contest suite pizza, WRTC2014, the website, the Club e-mail reflector, and this newsletter.

Check your dues status on the Club website (YCCC Web Links then Member Links then Members Only, use yccc for the password and then Roster, whew!!). If the date listed is March something, then you are still on the old dues year that ran Apr-Mar. You should first pay the partial year to get in sync with the calendar year. After that, full year's dues apply. Full details about amounts and how to pay your dues are found on the Dues link from that first member page.

If you think your website date is in error, drop me a note and I will check the payment ledger records for you.

73, Chet, N8RA YCCC Treasurer treasurer@yccc.org <mailto:treasurer@yccc.org>

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Open Seat at KB1H Barnstormers

We have a big seat to fill this ARRL DX CW contest at KB1H. Major operator W1UJ will be at NP2N so we need to replace about 2000 QSOs.

Anyone interested?

73, Dick

Dick Pechie - KB1H
The Barnstormers Contest Group - NZ1U
www.qsl.net/KB1H

DXC.KB1H.COM 7300 DxSpider Node
DXC.KB1H.COM 7303 CW Skimmer

"Be On The Lookout For"

Upcoming YCCC Dx-Peditions!

ARRL-DX CW February 15-16			
Call	QTH	Operators	Comments
C6ANM	Bahamas	N1GN, NE1B,	Possibly ARRL CW
		K1VK, W1ZZ	
NP2N	St Croix	W1EQ K1ZE	Look for KP2/homecalls during the week before the contest.
	USVI	W1UJ	
PJ4	Netherlands	W1MD	YCCC and FCG filters have been realigned
	Antilles	K1QX & XX	
VP9/W6PH	Bermuda	W6PH	This is my 14th consecutive year of operating from VP9GE
			in the ARRL DX Contests. 100 per cent YCCC

CQ 160 SSB – February 21-23						
Call	ll QTH Operators Comments					
C6ANM	Bahamas	N1GN, NE1B,	Possibly ARRL CW			
	K1VK, W1ZZ					

ARRL-DX SSB - March 1-2			
Call	Call QTH Operators Comments		
C6ANM	Bahamas	N1GN, NE1B,	Possibly ARRL CW
		K1VK, W1ZZ	
J7Y	Dominica	K1LI	
PJ4	Netherlands	W1MD	YCCC and FCG filters have been realigned
	Antilles	K1QX & XX	-
VP9/W6PH	Bermuda	W6PH	This is my 14th consecutive year of operating from VP9GE
	in the ARRL DX Contests. 100 per cent YCCC		

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The Yankee Clipper Contest Club is a proud sponsor of World Radiosport Team Championship 2014

YCCC Score Update - CQWW 2013

Alec W2JU, YCCC Scorekeeper

SSB (CLAIMED)		CW	(CLAIMED)		
Year	YCCC	FRC	Year	YCCC	FRC
<mark>2013</mark>	<mark>229,697,399</mark>	<mark>206,985,557</mark>	<mark>2013</mark>	<mark>327,818,890</mark>	233,695,242
2012	225,872,375	199,919,789	2012	278,523,441	214,345,443
2011	211.489.629	188,063,221	2011	314,304,438	250,580,131

2013	(CI.A)	\mathbf{IM}	(ED)
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Mode	YCCC	FRC
SSB	229,697,399	206,985,557
$\mathbf{C}\mathbf{W}$	327,818,890	233,695,242
Total	<mark>557,516,289</mark>	<mark>440,680,799</mark>

2013 Entries

YCCC		CCC]	FRC	
Mode	Entries	Operators	Entries	Operators	
SSB	135	184	84	126	
CW	141	174	96	117	
/ /					

New "Super Check Partial" Database 5 Feb 2014 Get Your Logs In!

I will be releasing a new version of the Super Check Partial database files on Wednesday 05 February, 2014. I am requesting your logs for input to the database files.

If there is a new contesting callsign you want added to the database for activity in the next few months, let me know before the February update.

The following update will be sometime in early May.

At any time, please attach in an email the same Cabrillo format log that you submitted to the contest sponsor and send it to logs at supercheckpartial.com.

My most recent request for logs was on 06 November, 2013. If you have already sent me your logs, there is no reason to send them again.

Logs from any contest within the last 24 months are always appreciated. Some of the more commonly submitted logs are from:

CQ WW DX - CW	V, Phone, RTTY	CQ WPX - CW, Phone, RTTY		CQ 160M - CW, Phone
ARRL DX - CW,	Phone	ARRL Sweepstakes	- CW, Phone	ARRL RTTY Roundup
ARRL 10M	ARRL 160M	IARU Radiosport	Russian DX Contest	WAE - CW, Phone, RTTY

More info on SCP at http://www.supercheckpartial.com

Thanks for your help!

73, Bob WA1Z

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 Dennis Egan, W1UE. To order, send Dennis an email at **egan.dennis88@gmail.com**, detailing card information per "QSL Request" form available at http://www.yccc.org/members/yccc_qsl.htm. You will receive a proof by email. Approve the proof, making any corrections, and return to Dennis with payment (make checks out to Dennis, not YCCC). Current price is \$50 (delivered) for 1,000 cards. Also available is the glossy version for \$70/1000.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF *The W1 QSL BUREAU* is sponsored by the YCCC. More information at: www.w1qsl.org Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. Email address: w1qsl@yccc.org

ARRL COMMITTEE REPS are:

CAC: New England Dennis Egan, W1UE Hudson George Wilner, K2ONP Atlantic Charles D Fulp Jr, K3WW

DXAC: New England Bob Beaudet, W1YRC Hudson John Sawina, NA2R Atlantic Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

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

ARRL LIAISON: Sean Kutzko, KX9X



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