



Scuttlebutt

February 2004

Issue 170

NEXT MEETING: - SUNDAY - February 1st

Captain's Cabin

Chris Terkla, N1XS

We are yet a few days away from the final deadline for CQWW and Joe, K3NM and I have had several chats about the expected results. They whooped our butts in WW-SSB Team! The FRC score appears to be about 208M and ours was a distant 193M. We clearly did not do the right things and we gave them hope for the win! At last report Joe said they had about 207M for CW! They certainly had hopes for a win, but Joe was concerned about the short turnout he got from his guys in CW, which made me a little happier, but their total is 415M+. We have currently about 270M+ in CQWW CW, combined with our 193 puts us in somewhere around 460M pre-UBN. Last year we claimed 38M more than FRC, this year it appears to be about a 45M lead. I hope we are all improving and our UBN is about what it was last year. We may have done it, but again we need to wait till we have the final results. Thanks to everyone for getting on, staying in the chair, and pushing harder than you ever have before. Specially in CW! It is you who will have put us over the top. Good Job Team!

We now turn our sights to the ARRL DX contests. Many have made posts about damage from the elements, and many have posted as they continue to make improvements as we go forward. Last year FRC beat us in ARRL SSB and this year they have started out with a win in WW SSB. We need to make sure we get on in force for the ARRL tests Team. Like never before. K3NM has rallied his troops, they can taste a win. We must not let this happen! Set these dates aside: February 21-22, 2004 for ARRL DX CW, and March 6 and 7 for ARRL DX SSB. There is 96 more hours left in the Blitz for Six Team. I ask you again, "Are you QRV?" We have made a decent stab at the first half, and even though we gave up the SSB portion, we did a major YCCC KB job in CW. Keep it going, you can do this! We can do this. Set those dates aside and plan on getting on for the contest where the world needs to work us, the good old USA (sorry Canada)! We have the advantage in this one, no reason to not get on and run and run and rack up the Q's. The world will be calling us, and we need to be there to answer them. Sort of

the balance of power given that the world needs to work EU predominantly in CQ WW now it is our turn.

Trust and believe that the FRC is out for us, they have the taste of victory in their mouths. Like a good wine, let us rinse it from their palettes and get on and do what we do in ARRL DX. Please make plans to put a maximum effort in both modes of ARRL DX.

And please accept thanks from every one on the Team for your outstanding efforts in CQWW CW! Conditions were good, and the folks were on! Some records fell, and many Team YCCC stations outperformed their wildest expectations. KM3T commented that who expected these conditions on the downhill side of the solar cycle? That is an amazing question. K1TTT, who is one of the eternal atmosphere watchers certainly called it right. WOW! The efforts that have been posted were outstanding, especially all the little scores. You little guns out there were able to get on and rack up some Q's in the time you had available and make great contributions no matter how small that contributed to the Team total. To everyone who put their butt in the chair and made the effort for the Team, THANKS!

The Club has purchased an Orion with Tuner, and your officers have decided that we shall hold a raffle. We have solicited and bought more 'stuff' and we are going to have the drawing at our April meeting. The Orion will be the top prize, and as I write this we have additional equipment on the way. There will be more radios, a Heil Proset, a Bencher BY-1 paddle, Kenwood apparel, and much more! The drawing will be at the April meeting, and attendance will not be mandatory as long as you have your tickets in and paid for. Tickets will be \$25.00 each, and there will be a maximum of 600 tickets sold. The extra funds raised from this raffle will be set aside to use for sponsoring or helping to sponsor young hams on DX-peditions, perhaps a scholarship fund for young hams, and other such purposes.

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It will not be for general operation of the club or other general club expenses. This is a great opportunity for us to give back to the ham community and show our ability to be the best not only in the chair but in the community. Please support the effort and buy your ticket! The prize pool will include some awesome and functional prizes for a contester and DXer. The industry is supporting us in this. Let's KB!! The officers will each have tickets to sell, the money must be back to an officer by the drawing time at the April meeting in Worcester. Tickets will be printed as soon as we know the entire prize pool probably by the time you get this issue of the Butt they will be available.

The February meeting will have Scott, W4PA demo-ing an Orion for us. This will be a great opportunity to see the rig in action, and to ask question of Scott. The meeting will be at the Howard Johnson's in Milford CT. This is easy access from the highway and the meeting should be over well in time for you to get home for the Super Bowl. Raffle tickets will be available and the meeting will start early to accommodate travel for Scott. This is a great opportunity to have Scott demo this rig, and answer any questions. Don't miss out on this opportunity! The time and directions are printed elsewhere in the Scuttlebutt.

For what it is worth I sent a mail to the Super Bowl folks asking them to please consult with us before scheduling another Super Bowl on the first Sunday in February again. I did hint at the end of a rather nicely worded mail that my comments had my tongue firmly planted in my cheek, and I did receive a response from them stating how much I made them laugh since they do receive several mails a day from people who are serious about asking them to reschedule the Super Bowl!

We are also approaching the April meeting, and we do need to get a slate of officers up for next year. Are you thinking about it?? Feel free to ask any questions you may have, and please do not be concerned about being out there alone. All of the past officers and the membership is available to offer advice at an email or phone call. There is a huge infrastructure of folks who will step up and assist with advice and experience. Please think about stepping up to the plate for the YCCC and be an officer. You have time to get together a team and plan for the upcoming year. The YCCC needs you!

I hope to see you all in Milford in February and in Worcester in April. Please buy a raffle ticket and support the club and get a chance at winning a new rig or other great merchandise and look for some good stuff that will be available for the attendees at the April meeting.

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Articles in the **Scuttlebutt** (except for those separately copyrighted) may be reprinted, provided proper credit is given. The editorial deadline for the Scuttlebutt is the 10th of every odd month.

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We are also in need of a Scuttlebutt Publisher. We have someone who is filling in for the moment but has truly squeezed it in to help us get the Butt out to you. The duties are really to handle the printing and mailing, the editor handles the layout and content. It is a very important position and we really need to get someone who will help out here. Please consider stepping up to the plate on this one. If you are interested please contact any one of the officers.

73 Team es KB
Chris N1XS

Ten-Tec Orion

For those still contemplating purchasing a new Orion, the following information sites may be of assistance:

Ten-Tec Orion Page: <http://www.tentec.com/TT565.htm>

ARRL Review

<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/prodrev/pdf/pr0401.pdf>

ARRL Expanded Review:

http://www.arrl.org/members-only/prodrev/pdf/lab/orion_etr.pdf

Review by ON4UN:

<http://lists.contesting.com/archives/html/Topband/2003-10/msg00006.html>

K3BU Contester's Orion Ergonomics Review

<http://www.K3BU.us>

Orion Manual: <http://www.tentec.com/565manual.PDF>

Optimal Settings: <http://www.tentec.com/565optimize.htm>

Technical Description: <http://www.doug-smith.net/orion.htm>

Order of Boiled OWLs of NY (OBO) 50th Anniversary

2004 marks the 50th anniversary of the Order of Boiled OWLs of NY (OBO), a club consisting of DXers and Contesters in the metropolitan NYC area. In honor of that birthday, the OBO is sponsoring a special award for working five different members of the club. For details on this award and for more background on the OWLs, please go to <http://reallybig.com/obo/default.htm>

YCCC Regular Meeting December 7, 2003 Worcester State College

The regular December meeting suffered extremely heavy QRM from a weekend snowstorm, causing many members (including, unfortunately, your secretary) in the towns east of Worcester and particularly south of Boston to cancel plans to drive to Worcester, where ironically the snow was much less of a problem. However, nine members braved the pileup (sorry, poor choice of metaphors...) and managed to make the meeting: N1XS, K2KQ, K1DG, K5ZD, KD1EA, KD2RD, N2MG, K1VR and an unrecorded attendee who traveled down from NH with Doug.

A brief discussion of CQWW scores was first on the agenda. Although K1HT and N1XS have not yet merged their records, Chris said that our YCCC scores appear so far to be just shy of 190 million for SSB and about 246 million for CW. We don't know much about how FRC fared as they seem to have removed their newsletters from their website. Chris re-emphasized for the nth time the need to get all our logs in to CQ as well as to K1HT.

Plans for the upcoming two meetings were discussed, with the Orion presentation by Scott Robbins, W4PA, of Ten-Tec being the prime topic for the February 1 meeting in Milford, CT.

K1VR did a "dry run" of his planned presentation on photographs for antenna permit applications. Fred is the acknowledged expert in this area, and he will be at the April meeting to reprise his very interesting presentation when we hope to have a far larger attendance. Fred made several excellent points on the do's and don'ts, and even with a small audience fielded many questions.

K1DG and K5ZD conducted a Q&A on the mental processes around contesting. It was a long and pointed discussion on the things that need to be done by a contester to be ready for the contest. Being mentally prepared prior to and during a contest is vital. The small audience enjoyed holding these two great contesters captive, and a great session ensued. Most interesting was when Doug and Randy asked those present several questions to point out the need to be prepared for the contest in so many ways. Understanding the types of callsigns that you may encounter from the various countries, when bands open to what zones, how you are doing compared to the rates in previous years, knowing what to expect from other operators and more. Both Doug and Randy agreed to return for the April meeting to hold this forum again.

Respectfully submitted (in absentia, with thanks to K5ZD and N1XS),

George Harlem W1EBI

February Meeting

Sunday - February 1st
12 Noon - 4 PM

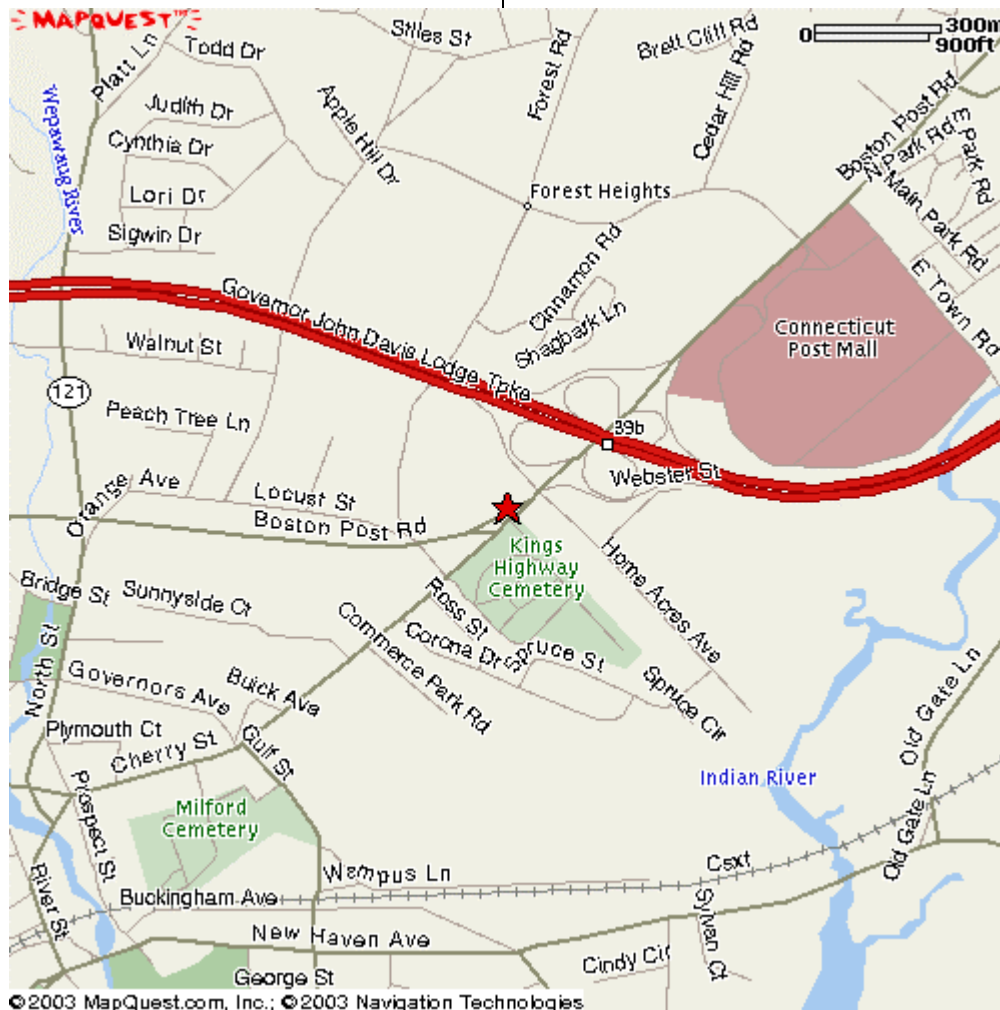
Where: Howard Johnson Hotel,
1052 Boston Post Rd, Milford, CT
Directions: (I-95 exit 39A onto US-1 South)

Contact: Don Toman, K2KQ

On the agenda:

Scott, W4PA, will demonstrate the wonders of the TenTec Orion

Note: Scott, W4PA has been soliciting questions for his talk on the Orion. Email Scott if you have any questions you would like addressed.



Ticket Sales

The details of the raffle are finalizing now and will be announced at the February meeting. Ticket sales will commence then and last until the next general meeting in April. Between the meeting times, you will be able to purchase tickets (pursuant to the rules outlined at the meeting) in the same general manner that you have been paying dues, except for a detail or two. At the meetings, Ed (K1EP) will accept check (preferred) or cash. Checks should have your

callsign on them and mail out to YCCC or Yankee Clipper Contest Club. If you want to obtain a ticket by mail, you will have to send to the Treasurer (Ed, K1EP) the money by check WITH an SASE. Sorry, no IRCs. Remitting funds via PayPal, can also be done, but it must be by cash; no credit card transactions. If done electronically, you will be told the ticket number and the ticket will be held for you at the April meeting.

Flotsam & Jetsam

Jack Schuster W1WEF w1wef@arri.net

Yo ho ho Maties! I'm writing this before we hit the road again for our 13th year of winter RVing since retiring in 1992. Time SURE flies when you're having fun. As usual, Ill be active while we're parked, in the early AM and in the evenings, so hope to catch many of you RV/mobile. I generally hang out around 14025, but with the auto-tuner and ladder antenna, I can QSY in 2 seconds anywhere from 80 to 6M. What's a ladder antenna you ask? It's the ladder on the back of my RV!

There was a thread recently on Tower Talk about an easy way to clean tarnished copper so that you could solder to it. While there were several products mentioned, and acid solutions you could risk your clothing on, I found the most interesting to be offered by W2UI. "Any high school kid can tell you how to make a tarnished copper penny shine." He said all you have to do is make a paste of salt and vinegar. I took a tarnished penny out of my pocket, and found an oxidized piece of copper wire and tried it. Worked great! I now have a good connection between a penny and a wire...soldered using my Bernzomatic torch mentioned in the last Butt! Now, if I could just find a more practical application for copper pennies. (Of course I unsoldered it so it is not defaced!)

Prior to CQWW, I went up the tower to reorient my antennas which had twisted slightly in heavy winds. I happened to notice that the five year old LMR400 coax that was feeding all three TH6's had crumbling insulation on the splayed center conductor where it attaches to the antennas. I assume that the insulation further back, under the jacket is OK, and that sunlight was the culprit. I'm not sure if this flexible LMR uses what is considered to be foam insulation, but I also noticed that on my 40-2CD I had RG213 with polyethylene, and that looked fine. I guess I should have covered the LMR center conductor with black shrink tubing. Ill do something different in the Spring when I am thinking of rebuilding the whole antenna system...replacing the Rohn 25 with 45.

Speaking of Rohn...as most of you have heard, Rohn was bought by a Canadian company and the US plant is apparently being shut down. Makes me wonder why they bothered buying the company. I haven't heard whether they will continue to produce 25 and 45 tower sections in Canada, but it is rumored that a couple of US companies are starting to produce copies, and that WX0B is carrying one of them. I haven't confirmed this with Jay yet.

I recently installed an optical mouse on my computer. I frankly didn't find that it was any better than the old ball mouse. After making about 250 Qs in the ten M contest, just playing around, I thought I may as well submit my score. I had used CT, and discovered I had forgotten to set the clock to GMT. Although I didn't really want to edit the Cabrillo

file line by line to change the times on 250 Q's, I finally sat down and did it... edit w1wef.log, use the up-down-sideways keys to move to the right place in the field...I think it took about half an hour. When I grabbed the mouse to SAVE and EXIT, guess what happened? The optical mouse didn't work with the DOS program!!! I knew of no way to save that editing or to even get out of the Cabrillo file, so I did a control- alt- delete and shut down in disgust. Later, I loaded the driver for the old mouse and am back in business...but you wont see my TEN M contest score submitted!

Who was in Antarctica in the 70's? WB6KIL (now K1KI) was a radio operator working for a contractor to the National Science Foundation at Palmer Station (64S/64W) from Nov '75 to Dec '76. Tom was very active as KC4AAC.

I met my wife in 1964 at Killington VT where we were both avid skiers and members of Ski clubs with lodges across the street from each other. In the mid 80's I was listening to a new ham on 2M talking about his experiences in Antarctica where he served as a dentist. I recognized Paul's voice as someone I had met and skied with from Natalie's ski club 20 years before! Paul Sheldon, N1LJA, was also a member of YCCC for a while before he moved out of the area.

What member of YCCC held the W1 Sweepstakes record in the late 40's and early 50's, and placed in the top ten US ? (I guess Randy wasn't the first to do it after all!)

Wishing everyone a belated Happy 2004 and bigger scores! Please add to your resolutions..."I will contribute some Flotsam and Jetsam this year!"

73, Barnacle JACK
w1wef@arri.net

NEW VK 75M SSB-DX WINDOW
3776 to 3800 / (3779 to 3799.5 on your dial)

http://www.aca.gov.au/aca_home/legislation/radcomm/acts/radcom/amateur_2of03.pdf

Thanks to VK2CZ

CT Release 10.0 Available Now

www.k1ea.com

* NAQP & NA Sprint are now supported

Major release because the binary format of the .bin files has changed. Includes extra 14 bytes of name information for contests such as NAQP and NA Sprint. New conversion utilities available.

Contest Club On-Line Newsletters

“BlackHole” (The Society of Midwest Contesters)
<http://www.w9smc.com/newsletters.htm>

“Contest Gazette” (Florida Contest Group)
<http://www.floridacontestgroup.org/newsletter.html>

“Der BCC Rundbrief” (Bavarian Contest Club)
<http://www.bavarian-contest-club.de/internals/bccnl/index.html>

“The Flash” (Mad River Radio Club)
<http://www.mrrc.net/>

“The FRC Newsletter” (Frankford Radio Club)
<http://www.gofrc.org/newsletter.shtml>

“The JUG” (Northern California Contest Club)
<http://www.nccc.cc/newsletter.html>

[“PVRC Newsletter”](#) (Potomac Valley Radio Club)

“ScuttleButt” (Yankee Clipper Contest Club)
<http://www.yccc.org/Scuttlebutt/index.htm>

YCCC/CARA Joint Meeting Feb 14 Brookfield, CT

There will be a joint meeting of the YCCC and CARA in Brookfield CT. Friday February 14th at St. Paul's Church in Brookfield CT. Directions to this meeting are available on the CARA web site at: <http://www.danbury.org/cara/stpauls.html>

CW SPRINT - 1 February

CW Sprint has been moved to 1 Feb (the evening of 31 Jan). See <http://www.ncjweb.com> for complete details

Movers and Shakers

New Email Address: K1VV@comcast.net

YCCC Local Meeting Nate's Place, Elmsford, NY 1/26

There will be an informal local meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club at Nat's Place in Elmsford, NY, on Monday evening January 26, 2004, at 7 P.M.

We especially invite local Dxers and contesters who are not members to come and see what the YCCC is all about! All are welcome, and you may join the YCCC at this meeting if you wish to do so.

Please let me know if you plan to attend, so I can let Nate's Place know how many to plan for. Email to HANKKIER@AOL.COM...packet to KF2O > KE2AYY...or phone (914) 235-4940. Nate's Place is a bar and grille with a separate dining area, at 257 Saw Mill River Road (Rte 9A), Elmsford, NY. There is parking in the rear (and across the street).

Directions to Nate's Place:

From So. Westchester, CT and L.I. - Take I-95 or the Hutchinson River Parkway to I-287 in Rye. Go West on I-287 to Exit 2, which is Rte 9A, Elmsford. Go right (north) off the exit on 9A 0.4 miles to Nate's Place, on your left, across the street from a BAGEL/DELI/PIZZA shop.

From NJ, Rockland - Cross Tappan Zee Bridge, then take Exit 8 off the Thruway onto I-287. Get off at the first exit, Exit 1, marked Rte 119 and Saw Mill Parkway. The exit ramp divides; take the right fork to Rte 119 Elmsford. Go left on Rte 119. At the first light make a left onto Rte 9A. Go 0.7 miles to Nate's Place on your left, across from the BAGEL/DELI/PIZZA shop. About 7 minutes drive from the bridge.

From NYC - Take Deegan/Thruway north to I-287 East (not toward the Tappan Zee Bridge!). Get off Exit 1 on I-287 and follow directions above (NJ/Rockland).

From No. Westchester - From either the Taconic or Saw Mill Parkways, get onto the Sprain Parkway southbound. Get off the Sprain at the Eastview exit, Rte 100C. Go right on Rte 100C 0.7 miles to Rte 9A South. Take Rte 9A South 0.9 miles to Nate's Place, on your right, just past the Sam's Club store and KFC.

YCCC CLUB RESOURCE INFORMATION

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF Dues are payable as of the April election meeting, which begins our club "contest year". 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 - \$20 (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and paper delivery of Club newsletter)

Full Member - \$15 (Eligible for YCCC awards programs and electronic "Ebutt" 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 awards programs.)

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 "friend of YCCC" - not a member but a possible candidate for future membership. Receives club newsletter only in paper or electronic form. Fee basis is \$20 for overseas paper delivery, \$15 for domestic paper delivery and \$10 for electronic "Ebutt" delivery domestically or overseas.)

Club members who move out of club territory and so are not eligible to contribute to club aggregate scores automatically become subscribers. New members who join at the February meeting are credited with dues for the year beginning the following April. You can tell if you owe dues by checking your 'Butt mailing label. **Mail your dues to the club treasurer, Ed Parish, K1EP, 9 Spoon Way, N. Reading, MA 01864**

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, Steve Rodowicz N1SR, preferably by E-mail at n1sr@arrl.net or on 3½" disk (in MS-Word format or text file) by snail mail to Steve Rodowicz, 809 Pendleton Avenue, Chicopee, MA 01020. The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month. **CONTEST SCORES** should be sent to the club scorekeeper, Dave Hoaglin, K1HT, preferably by packet or by E-mail at dave_hoaglin@abtassoc.com. Please include details such as numbers of QSOs, QSO points (if appropriate), and multipliers (all types); entry category; and power.

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

CLUB GOODIES BADGES YCCC badges are available from Ric, KV1W. Send \$2, name and call desired on the badge, and your mailing address to: Ric Plummer - YCCC Badge, PO Box 1158, Berlin, MA 01503-2158.

APPAREL Contact Bob Rogers KB1LN@yahoo.com

QSL CARDS are ordered through John Dorr, K1AR. To order, send John packet mail, or E-mail at k1ar@contesting.com, detailing exactly what you want the card to say. There are 2 lines of text available for awards, etc. You will receive a proof by return mail. Approve the proof, making any corrections, and return to John *with payment* (make checks out to John, not YCCC). Current price is \$68 (delivered) for 2000 cards. Normal turnaround is 30 days after approving proof.

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. Include the word "subscribe" in the body 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 Mike Gilmer, N2MG.

ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF The W1 QSL BUREAU is sponsored by the YCCC. Keep your account up to date by sending a check. Stamps are sold at face value, envelopes are 10 cents each. Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 7388, Milford, MA 01757-7388. Email address: w1qsl@yccc.org. **PACKET NETWORK** information is available from Charlie Carroll, K1XX, Candlelight Rd., Rindge NH 03461.

ARRL COMMITTEE REPS are:

CAC: New England Dave Hoaglin, K1HT **Hudson** John Crovelli, W2GD **Atlantic** Rus Healy, K2UA
DXAC: New England Ken Bolin, W1NG **Hudson** Rich Wujciak, K2RW **Atlantic** Tony Gargano, N2SS
ARRL LIAISON: Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Type	Place
Feb 1 st Noon – 4:00PM	http://www.yccc.org	Howard Johnson's Milford, CT

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Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club
Howard Johnson Hotel, Meridan, Connecticut
Sunday February 1st – Noon - 4:00PM

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
PO Box 995
Charlestown, RI 02813

FIRST CLASS MAIL