



Scuttlebutt

April 2003

Issue 165

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY April - 6th

Captain's Cabin

Chris Terkla, N1XS

It has been a year already; I cannot believe it myself.

We have achieved (at least with claimed scores) a fifth consecutive CQWW Team Championship. This is a major achievement for this Club. It is not something that I can claim responsibility for, but something that you as a Team have done with the leadership of Jeff, K1ZM who lead us to the first one, Don K2KQ who followed up with two more, and Jim K1IR who led us to the fourth. I have only tried to inspire you to get I the chair, on the air, and to submit your score for the club! It is you folks, each of you who did just that to which we owe the honor of the fifth championship should it indeed come our way. And it should.

We are still chasing the ARRL scores and submissions, and the deadline for the SSB logs will be just the week before the April meeting and well after this newsletter is published. As this is being written the CW deadline has not yet arrived either. So I do not know the final tallies. I see our participation is down by a large percentage based on what we have been presented for scores. This concerns me and we will need to discuss this more. But I hope that if this 'Butt gets to you before the SSB log deadline and you haven't submitted your score yet, that you will. The address for email log submissions is dxph@arrl.org and if you need assistance converting to Cabrillo format, please let me know and we can assist you in that area from almost any file format. Participation seemed down a little even for the FRC guys, and conditions were certainly off in ARRL DX SSB but we still need to put our butts in the chair if we are to succeed.

Why was participation down? There are many reasons, and some of them I think we need to look into. The one that we can perhaps do something about is this: I received many mails from folks who chose not to support the YCCC because they felt that we have become a paper club since the meeting requirement was abolished along with the ARRL's removal of the same requirement. We have seen the reduced meeting attendance at all of our meetings this year. While we strived to provide good content at each meeting, attendance was down. While I disagree with the basic statement that we have become a paper club with this change, I cannot ignore the fact that many of our

membership (or past membership in some cases now) feel otherwise and have given their scores to other clubs. What do you feel? Let's discuss this in upcoming meetings and on the reflector. Send me a note describing what you think, perhaps on either side of the issue. Let your feelings or thoughts be known. There is such a large core of this club that does get on the air, strives to exceed personally and as a member of the Team, that the "paper" statement seems off center to me. I do wonder however if a requirement for meeting attendance might serve to increase participation, and if it does, that can only be a good thing. I don't suspect it will bring back those who have opted to give their support to other club's but it might serve to improve the membership's participation as we go forward.

This past year we have moved the meetings around some, and that has certainly been well received, it has been good to see some of the faces that we might otherwise not see at meetings. We had meetings in Vernon, CT; Milford, CT, and a special meeting in Groton, CT at the Nautilus Museum. We also have a meeting scheduled for June in Southern NH. Our idea was to make some of the meetings more accessible to the membership, and still maintain meetings in the central location. While we had hoped that some of the NLI folks might have come over on a ferry to the Milford or Groton meetings, both were still attended well. I can't thank everyone who helped organize the meetings enough for their efforts. They were all great.

This coming year it is my hope to see meetings in Way-WMA perhaps Springfield or Pittsfield area, maybe also one favoring the NLI folks in some manner. Please remember that we need to keep the general membership in consideration so we can't fall completely to one edge of a region of the club. I have tried to make as many of the regional meetings as I could, and have traveled to some of the reaches of our territory in doing so. Please consider trying to organize an area meeting in your neck of the woods. If you don't have a regional manager, please let me know and I will try to arrange to be there. All of these regional meetings have served the club well, I would hope that we try to continue with them as much as practical in addition to the core general meetings.

(Continued on Page 2)

Yankee Clipper Contest Club

President	Chris Terkla, N1XS cterkla@mindspring.com
Vice President	Art Holmes, W1RZF w1rzf@attbi.com
Activities Manager	Don Toman, K2KQ K2kq@weca.org
Secretary	Dennis Egan, NB1B NB1B@attbi.com
Treasurer	Ed Parish, K1EP K1EP@arrl.net
Scuttlebutt Editor	Steve Rodowicz, N1SR (413) 593-6554 n1sr@arrl.net
Scuttlebutt Publisher	Ned Swartz, K1GU (781) 861-1710 nswartz@earthlink.net
Webmaster	Mike Gilmer, N2MG (315) 829-5291 n2mg@contesting.com
Scorekeeper	Dave Hoaglin, K1HT (617) 443-3603 Dave_Hoaglin@ABTASSOC.com

Area Managers

ME (207) 883-9524	Mike Russo, K1EU k1eu@maine.rr.com
ENH (603) 673-6290	Glen Whitehouse, K1GW glenw@pinnaclewireless.com
WNH/SVT	O P E N
NE MA (978)	O P E N
SE MA (508) (508) 428-4205	Greg Cronin, W1KM w1km@capecod.net
Boston (617/781) (617) 524-6370	Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P jfitzgerald@alum.wpi.edu
WMA (413) (413) 743-7342	Tom Homewood, W1TO w1to@arrl.net
CT (860) (860) 738-3713	John Corini, KE1IH kelih@arrl.net
CT (203) (203) 254-3084	Ira Stoler, K2RD stoler@erols.com
RI (401) 377-2512	Bill Champagne, N1HRA billc230@cox.net
NNY	O P E N
NYC/LI (718) 980-1104	Rich Cariello, AA2MF aa2mf@arrl.net
SNY/NJ/PA (914) 235-4940	Hank Kiernan, KF2O hankier@aol.com
NVT (802) 288-9490	Ron Rossi, KK1L kk1l@arrl.net

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.

(Continued from Page 1)

As we approach the April meeting our focus needs to turn to the elections of the officers for 2003-2004. From the current slate of officer's will for the most part be seeking re-election for another term. At this moment there is a need for someone to fill the slot of Vice President. Art, W1RZF will be stepping down from the position for personal reasons. Art has done a great job for the Team over the last year and will be missed. Of course anyone is encouraged to run for any position they may wish to. Nominations will be opened from the floor for anyone wishing to run for any of the positions. Please support your club by being present to vote at the April Meeting.

The April meeting will be at Worcester State College on Sunday, April 6, 2003. The meeting doors will start at 1:00 PM, and the doors will be open around Noon. Refreshments will be available.

As those of you on the reflector have read already, Jeff, K1ZM has retired from the ranks of the YCCC. Jeff has been a mainstay in this organization for longer than I and I would suspect most have known him. He leaves the ranks to fulfill some personal goals that he has set his sights on. I am sure anyone who knows Jeff can understand his drive. He will be missed for sure, and his scores leave a hole that we will need to strive to fill! He has a good portion of his new station on Prince Edward Island built, and has more to do. Please join me in wishing K1ZM (VY2ZM) the very best 73 and DX, and best wishes that he achieve his goals. Good Luck Jeff!

Another very good thing that the YCCC has been involved with is the support of some computer equipment for the computer-learning center being assembled by the owners of the hotel where our J3A operators typically stay. The gang came back from Grenada this year and asked for donations on the reflector and at meetings. As of this date all of the packages have been sent to Florida where another party will put it all in a container and ship it to Grenada. As I understand it there are 30 +/- boxes containing monitors, working pc's, miscellaneous hardware and software all from the ranks of the YCCC membership. Thanks to all who donated to this most worthy cause. It is sure a great reflection on the club!

Well that is it for now. I hope to see you all at the April meeting.

73, Chris N1XS

Flotsam & Jetsam

Jack Schuster W1WEF w1wef@arrrl.net

KAIZEN! That's what the Japanese call it. It's time to review what went right and what went wrong in the recent contests, and document what needs improvement. "KAIZEN", Continuous Improvement makes for bigger scores and keeps it all interesting. I sure have a few things on my list after a couple of disastrous experiences this contest season.

It started with the North American Sprint, a couple weeks before ARRL CW. I had downloaded the latest NA software, practiced using it, was all set for my favorite contest when an hour before the start my computer crashed. In a panic, I called Tom, K1KI to see if he had any ideas, and I learned that he was using paper logs for the Sprint. Apparently this is one contest where many feel they can do better with paper than computer logging. I found a couple of old log blanks, ran out to make copies, and used paper logs to turn in my best QSO total ever! In case you aren't aware, the record for the most Qs Single Op, some 11,000, was set by Rich, N6KT with paper logs. Rich always uses paper ...and Trey, N5KO puts it in the computer for him afterwards. In my case...NEVER AGAIN! I spent at least as much time after the contest putting it into a new computer, and editing the times line by line!

At lunch yesterday Jim, W1UK mentioned a recent thread that talked about hams spending more time chasing computer-related problems than hardware problems. That's certainly the case for me. When my Cabrillo submission for ARRL CW bounced, I realized that although I was careful to set the time to the nearest second, the date was wrong in this new computer I had just set up, and I had to edit every one of the 1300 Qs to correct the date! After a bunch of other problems that discouraged a serious effort, I think I finally have this new computer working right. Unfortunately it wasn't until after the contest that I straightened it all out

George, W1EBI, recently had audio problems which he isolated to audio cables being too close to his computer power cable. I don't know if it was just AC hum or not, but I wouldn't be surprised if switching power supply noise was coupled as well. Many computers have inadequate power line filters, which can result in computer QRM from the switchers. As I mentioned previously in this column, the solution for me in my last computer was to install an outboard line filter removed from an old DEC computer or peripheral.

Contesting and Ham radio in general make the world a smaller place. In our RV travels in January, we decided to

visit Quartsite AZ, as it wasn't really out of the way heading from Lake Havasu to Tucson, and I knew there was a big hamfest that gathers there every January. Quartsite is an enormous desert area with literally thousands of RV's camped in the dessert free of charge with no hookups. Not knowing exactly where the hams gathered, I got on 2 meters by hooking my VHF output on the 706 to my HF antenna and asked if anyone could steer me to the area. A station came back and said, "is this the W1WEF I hear in Brewster on the Cape"? This is W1JCD". I had never worked him before, but he monitors 2M and had heard me in his hometown on Cape. He told us where the hams gathered, and when I met Jim on arrival, he immediately reminded me of an old friend, K1MMX who I rarely see except at an occasional hamfest in CT. When Jim introduced himself, I found he had the same last name as K1MMX. Upon telling him that he reminded me of Angelo, Jim told me that he had looked up hams with the same last name, and his mother told him that Angelo's family was related, but they had never met! Small world, isn't it?

Barnacle JACK W1WEF

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

I have been the publisher of the Scuttlebutt for the past two years.

The job is one of those hidden activities like QSL sorting with great pay and you get to read the 'Butt ahead of everyone else. I would gladly continue serving as your Publisher but for our family decision to put the old homestead on the market and look for a new farm to raise antennas. In fairness to all, the next (June) issue of the 'Butt should be my last. We might be homeless or in the midst of moving around the time of the following issue in August. If you are looking for a new adventure or a way to bring your family together around the dining room table every other month, consider becoming the Publisher. If interested in becoming a print and electronic media magnate, please give me a call or send me an email.

73, Ned, K1GU

10 Years of Contests and QSLs

Randy Thompson, K5ZD

I moved back to Massachusetts in February 1993. My first log entries from the new station were in the ARRL DX Phone contest of that year. I think I was barefoot to a Hygain multi-band vertical strapped on to a chain link fence in the back yard. Station building commenced in May and the station was fully operational by CQ WW in October.

I decided that the move to the new QTH would also be a great time to convert to full computer logging. I purchased DX4WIN and it became the collection point for all QSOs made in and out of contests.

Of course, we all know that if you make lots of contacts, you will receive lots of QSL cards. I see no need to clutter the QSL bureau system with unwanted cards, so I decided I would only answer QSLs. This enabled me to conduct two long-term experiments: study error rates and study what could be achieved just from incoming cards. The tenth year anniversary seems like a suitable event to present some results.

I love contests. I am not much of a DXer, but I will chase the occasional big expedition and make random DX QSOs around the bands. I do operate lots and lots of contests; the major ones such as CQWW, smaller country contests, and even state QSO Parties. The table below lists the QSO totals by band and mode from March 1, 1993 to March 1, 2003.

		CW	Phone	RTTY	Other
160	14,520	11,479	3,041	-	-
80	19,569	11,147	7,080	1,342	-
40	40,448	30,866	7,119	2,462	1
20	68,087	36,796	28,051	3,207	33
15	45,083	23,320	18,506	3,253	4
10	27,715	13,332	12,597	1,786	-
Other	231	88	143	-	-
Total	215,653	127,028	76,537	12,050	38

I didn't really get into RTTY until 1999, but it offered another fun set of contests to play around in. The other column would be a few PSK31 QSOs and some 6 meter activity with a borrowed radio. I just never got interested in the WARC bands because there were no contests there!

99.9% of my QSL cards come in through the W5 QSL Bureau. At one point near the bottom of the sunspot cycle, bureau manager WF5E said I received more cards than anyone else in the bureau! He made me a separate "letter" and shipped cards to me by UPS on a quarterly basis. This still occurs and is a great way to lower the cost.

When a batch of QSLs was received, I would check them against the computer and mark them for printing a label. If a call could be matched with something in the log, I would note the error in the comments field. This was the main goal of my effort – to determine my call copying error rate. If I couldn't find anything close enough to match, I threw the card away. In retrospect, I wish I had kept statistics on these as well. I suspect many of them were people who confused my call with KZ5D.

The results of the QSL error study are presented below. These include both my operation and those of various guest ops. They correspond extremely well with the typical error range of the contest log checking (UBN or LCR) reports. This clearly demonstrates just how good the computerized log checking process has become.

	QSLs	Errors	% Error
Mix	26184	351	1.3%
Phone	11843	125	1.1%
CW	12909	214	1.7%
RTTY	1415	12	0.8%

Note: Since I was only looking at incoming cards where the other station had my call correct, the experiment is only measuring a portion of the possible errors. Errors made in the other station's log are not discovered.

Since I was already in a QSL counting mode, I looked at some other interesting statistics from of this process.

Did you know you could get to 5BDXCC if you work enough people and have enough patience? I am only 3 cards short on 80m. My DXCC totals just from cards received are shown below.

	Worked	Confirmed
Mixed	315	186
Phone	289	149
CW	299	156
160	145	61
80	196	97
40	270	130
20	289	148
15	283	144
10	243	104

I don't receive many cards from the USA, so 5BWAS is not doing as well.

	Worked	Confirm
Mix	50	48
Phone	50	39
CW	50	40
RTTY	50	29

The YCCC Scuttlebutt

160	50	27
80	50	24
40	50	31
20	50	34
15	50	18
10	50	18

Another thing I have always wondered about is how long does it take before you have received all the cards you are going to get? The table below shows the QSOs made and corresponding QSL receipts for each calendar year.

Year	QSOs	QSLs	% Cfmd
1993	9,870	1,388	14.1%
1994	15,845	2,407	15.2%
1995	22,518	4,012	17.8%
1996	21,347	3,279	15.4%
1997	21,846	3,108	14.2%
1998	20,669	3,024	14.6%
1999	20,529	2,834	13.8%
2000	22,883	2,901	12.7%
2001	26,906	2,253	8.4%
2002	27,119	973	3.6%
2003	6,121	5	0.1%
Total	215,653	26,184	12.1%

The average QSL rate is steady around 14 to 15%. It drops in 2000 and beyond because there are still incoming cards for this period that have not been received yet. Does this constant represent an approximation of the new participants in contesting each year?

About 5000 to 8000 of the contacts each year were made by guest ops. There are 4000 QSOs made with the YCCC club call AJ1I in WPX CW contests that are also not included.

So where do these cards come from? What countries are the most prolific QSLers? The answers, at least for my log, are below. These 33 countries represents over 87% of the total QSLs received.

Country	QSO	QSL	% Cfmd
EA	5238	1852	35.4%
JA	4852	1630	33.6%
ON	2751	894	32.5%
I	11427	3265	28.6%
DL	20493	5668	27.7%
HB	1663	354	21.3%
PA	2665	540	20.3%
S5	4115	719	17.5%
LA	1380	229	16.6%
OH	3585	593	16.5%
CT	824	127	15.4%
F	6606	995	15.1%

HA	4285	639	14.9%
OK	8073	1198	14.8%
SP	6448	954	14.8%
9A	2310	334	14.5%
PY	1200	157	13.1%
SM	3248	378	11.6%
UA	8416	929	11.0%
OM	2396	204	8.5%
YU	3586	302	8.4%
UA9	2431	163	6.7%
LU	1941	128	6.6%
EI	718	45	6.3%
YO	1369	75	5.5%
G	9661	514	5.3%
UR	6378	317	5.0%
LY	2076	93	4.5%
GM	1296	53	4.1%
LZ	1993	71	3.6%
VE	4415	154	3.5%
K	50633	437	0.9%

Japan and Germany are expected, but Spain and Belgium were surprises. I think Belgium is helped by the 100% contest QSLing of ON4UN under all of his OT*T calls. Spain and Italy show the QSL rate that a country with lots of new hams can generate.

At the lower end of the list, we see countries that are less affluent or that don't find another USA QSL that compelling.

Now we can determine the cost benefit ratio of preemptive QSLing. On one hand, you print out the labels and the QSL responsibility is dispatched in one shot. On the other, you waste about 85% of your QSLs (i.e., the other guy didn't want one).

Of course, it takes time to check the incoming cards against the log, but I find that a fun way to appreciate each card and to learn more about the kinds of errors I am making.

The numbers above also give a small indication of what the new ARRL Logbook of the World (LOTW) concept is going to provide. We will have access to a much higher level of instant confirmations, but with 1.5 to 2% (or higher!) error rates in the data.

I can't wait to see what the next 10 years will bring!

YCCC MULTI-OP AWARDS

The YCCC officers want to recognize outstanding contributions to the Club. At the April meeting awards will be presented to the owners /developers of the top Multi-op stations which have contributed so much to the club over the years.

The Criteria for the awards are:

- *Operation in the CQWW CW, CQWW PHONE, ARRL DX CW, & ARRL DX PHONE CONTESTS*

- *Participation 1996 –2001. A minimum of 10 of 24 possible contests.*

- *Development of a top notch multi operator /multiband station*

- *Produce high scores for the club*

- *Providing a training ground for skill development*

We are recognizing sustained performance so some of the new fine multi op stations are not being recognized at this time.

Our score keeper, K1HT, provided a list of 16 stations/members that met the participation requirement. They all deserve honorable mention:

Station	Contests
KB1H	24
K1RX	23
K1TTT	23
N2LBR	19
K1KI	18
N1AU	17
KV1W	17
W1KM	16
W1BK/W1NR	15
KB1SO/W1QQ	14
K1GW	13
AA1ON	13
W1SRG	12
K1ZZ	11
K1EA	10
N1RR	10

We have studied, debated, and in the end selected the cream of the crop to receive awards at the April Meeting. To all that have contributed in the multi op categories, Thank you, Keep improving your stations, keep improving your operators, and Kick Butt.

Art Holmes - YCCC Awards Manager

Thanks for the memories....

Hi Gang

I am writing today to respectfully announce my "retirement" from YCCC. This is a matter which stems from an ever-increasing migration to my station in VY2 - which, as you know, will no longer allow me to credit my scores to YCCC for ARRL contests. This is troubling to me, of course, because I *choose* where I compete these days - and since my focus is increasingly moving "up North" - this decision cuts directly against the grain of my natural loyalties to YCCC - and I have to take cognizance of how this looks to my peers within YCCC.

A related consideration is that, going forward, my station will, most likely, be staffed (and perhaps even be operated exclusively) by operators from other clubs which compete directly with YCCC. Allowing this to occur while ostensibly remaining a member "IN GOOD STANDING" within YCCC is something I cannot do (certainly not with a clear conscience).

In that I was one of the FOUNDERS of YCCC, I cannot reconcile these two positions in any way that makes sense to me and, rather than create situations which might be frowned upon or otherwise questioned by my friends within YCCC, it is simplest for me to consider these moves from a position OUTSIDE the club.

A related matter, of more than some concern to me also, is the fact that I have been intimately involved within YCCC for over 25 years now - and while it may not have been immediately obvious to some members, I have often played a role behind the scenes within the club - and it is time to establish a clean departure from these aspects of my "radio life" as well. I suppose it is like getting pregnant - you either are or you are NOT - and for me, it has always been 1000% dedication - no in-between role - and it is time for me now to really "let go" and leave it to others within the club to take it upon themselves to do what they know is right anyway.

Why now? Well, apart from the above mentioned factors - the Club now has an OUTSTANDING President in N1XS and it has been my distinct pleasure to work with Chris behind the scenes during the DRIVE FOR FIVE campaign, for example. Chris knows what to do to win, he knows how to execute and, quite simply, he GETS THE JOB DONE - no matter how much work it may require.....And, Chris and I have discussed my taking this step a number of times - a few others knew of it as well including K2KQ. My intention all along was to take this step AFTER the preliminary results of CQWW were known and my timing was discussed with Chris - and that time has now arrived...

Our announced 38MEG margin (claimed) over FRC in CQWW was wonderful news to us all and we all owe a

The YCCC Scuttlebutt

huge "thank you" to Chris and his team for their collective efforts as LEADERS getting our guys & gals on the air, getting the scores in and making sure people knew when the deadlines for submission were.....

For me to "quietly fade from the scene" now is a really GOOD TIME - and I can do so full-well knowing the Club is in excellent hands.

Now - for a little reminiscing, if I may - and a few THANK YOUS....

It has been a distinct honor to be a member of YCCC and to have been its first President in 1977-78 and again in 1978-79. It was great fun working with all the old guys to form the club in 1977 - and here I am speaking of K1AM, K1XX, WA1TAI(N1TZ), K1OME and W5UDK (N4ZC). It was also my honor to lead the club to its first-ever win in CQWW in 1998. I shall be forever grateful to the members of this club who followed me and supported me in that effort - together we learned what it takes to win, how to execute and we proved, once and for all, that we could beat our arch-rivals down in FRC. I hope we never lose the "fire in our bellies" to beat those rascals - time and time again - the Club can of course, but that part is UP TO YOU - the assembled members - and whether you really WANT TO - or instead get tired of winning and just get LAZY - that choice is yours to make - HI. And, even if I am not involved anymore with the club's fortunes on a direct basis, I'll be hoping that YCCC never loses its way again and forgets what it takes to win.....

I also want to thank those officers who served with me in 1998 - KQ1F, K1XM, Bill Santelmann, K1VW, Doug Scribner, K1ZO as Awards Manager - all of whom worked very hard to secure our first win. All of these folks were so supportive of me during the time when I really needed their support and help - and not to forget K1KI - whose help and advice behind the scenes made my life a whole lot easier as well.

Lastly, I am grateful to the many members of the old Murphy Marauders Club - most of whom decided, some sooner - some later, to come on over and join YCCC in order to cement our foundation as a unified contest club representing what would logically become the biggest and best contest club in New England. Having served as the LAST President of the original MM club, it was difficult indeed trying to blaze a new trail to rejoin forces with the old Northeast Contest Club - but what was created out of the two former clubs - eg: the new YCCC - has proven itself to have been worth the effort as we are still around 26 years later - and a realistic possibility of "five in a row" victories over FRC in CQWW surely has a **nice** RING TO IT!

So, gang. I am penning my last as a YCCC member with this email. Let me again thank all those folks who have contributed to this fine club over the years - and even though I'll be "retired" from contest clubs in general,

you'll no doubt find me on the bands calling CQ contest for many years to come, God willing.

Hope to CU in the pileups - go YCCC - and here's hoping to many more successes in whatever areas of competition the club may seek to enter in the year's ahead.

KICK BUTT forever - and as I said - thanks for the memories.

73 JEFF
K1ZM@aol.com

PS: Ooops! As usual, I always manage to forget to recognize someone - and boy, I am guilty once again.

I should note the excellent contribution of K1HT over these many years and during my term as President in 1998. Dave and I have probably exchanged more emails over these past five years than I have with my WIFE - in order to know who scored what, what our running totals have been - and without someone as dedicated as he, we could never have been as successful managing our statistics as we have been under his direction.

So, please accept my apologies for that oversight Dave - I am going to miss our regular dialogues by email after the major contests.

73 JEFF

Movers and Shakers

New Email Address

Charlie Reed, N1VI N1VI@arrl.net

Rick Pendleton, N1DC n1dc@arrl.net

CQP 2002 Non-CA Club Competition

Please accept my personal thanks for your club participating in CQP. I hope your club members had as much fun as I did in the CQP. Hope to see you again in October 2003.

The CQP 2002 results are posted:

<http://www.cqp.org/Results-2002.html>

From Al, AD6E at

<http://www.cqp.org/results/2002/results.pdf>

"Wow! What a contest! This was a banner year for the "California Sweepstakes". I don't think activity has ever been higher or the competition stiffer than in the 2002 CQP.

This year, we received a total of 597 logs, which is a whopping 21% increase over last year. I only wish the stock market had been this good."

- Marc, W6ZZZ

2003 New England QSO Party

Just few more weeks until the 2003 New England QSO Party... May 3-4, 2003...

The rules for 2003 (a few changes) have been posted to the NEQP web site at <http://www.neqp.org>

Last year (the first year) we had great participation with 130 logs from New England stations and 130 from those outside New England. All 67 counties were on the air (at least two stations) and one person (N4PN) managed a clean sweep. There were logs from ten New England mobiles and a bunch of portables.

An important thing to remember about state QSO parties - they are often the stepping stone to more serious contests like ARRL DX and CQWW contests. If you know anyone in New England that participated in the NEQP and who is not a YCCC member (there were about 80 of them), bring them to the next meeting!

Contest certificates and plaques will be mailed out in the next few weeks, timed to arrive a few weeks before this year's contest (the results have been posted on the web site since early December). Thanks to YCCC for sponsoring three plaques for last year's contest!

As we get started for this year, once again we're working hard to make sure that all New England counties are on the air. If you can help us out, either by operating from home, or portable or mobile, we'd appreciate it. Let us know what you plans are, even if they are preliminary, with a message to info@neqp.org. Make sure to mention the NEQP in your local club as well.

Tom/K1KI and Bob/W1RH

New England QSO Party - May 3-4, 2003

<http://www.neqp.org>

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.

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
Apr 6 1PM - 5PM	General Meeting http://www.yccc.org	Worcester, MA

Ship's Log

April 2003

Issue 165

Captain's Cabin	Chris Terkla – N1XS	1
Flotsam & Jetsam	Jack Schuster – W1WEF	3
Publisher's Note	Ned Swartz – K1GU	3
10 Years of Contests and QSLs	Randy Thompson – K5ZD	4-5
YCCC Multi-OpAwards	Art Holmes – W1RZF	6
Thanks for the Memories	Jeff Briggs - K1ZM/VY2ZM	6,7
Movers and Shakers		8
CA QSO Party - Non-CA Club Competition		8
New England QSO Party	Tom, K1KI / Bob W1RH	8

Next General Meeting of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Sunday April 6th – 1PM to 5PM

Worcester State College, Worcester MA

The YCCC Scuttlebutt
44 Williams Road
Lexington, MA 02420-3232

FIRST CLASS MAIL