

# THE YARN

*Yankee Amateur Radio Club*



DECEMBER 2009 EDITION

## Prez Says

Well what do you know, another month has passed. Where does the time go? The Christmas Party was a great success and we had a good crowd. The food was very good as usual and there were plenty of laughs to be had. There was about 20 of us there. I do not have the actual count as that was given to Marty to give to Dan.

We held a meeting at the party and it was decided that we would have our December meeting on the air. This will be held on Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. This is usually the Elmer Net but George, KB1AQE, has given us the opportunity to us this time slot. He has plans so will not be around. We are working on getting a place for the January meeting and this looks to be in the Waterville area. As soon as we have a place nailed down I will let everyone know.

I hope everyone is ready for Christmas. It seems like it has snuck up without letting us know it was there. Seems like it was just fall.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bob Gould - N1WJO



## New Years' Resolutions

It is that time of year again where people make promises that usually end before the week of the first year is out... Lose more weight, eat healthier, stop smoking, etc. Perhaps these dreams come to an end so quickly because they are not enjoyable. Why not make resolutions that aren't so painful!? Elmer a new ham, maintain a cleaner radio shack, operate more, pass more traffic, volunteer to act as a net control, experiment with a new mode, join a discussion group and actively participate, host an antenna party or perform a civic duty by becoming involved in emergency communications. Whatever part of amateur radio conforms to your own liking, make it a New Years' resolution of being radioactive and

keep the resolution going throughout the whole year!



*Seasons Greetings*

## Mode of the Month: Slow Scan Television (SSTV)

Slow Scan TV is the transmission of still images over airwaves. While considered a digital mode, SSTV is transmitted in the phone portion of the bands, this is because hams usually chat in between sending pictures. While in HF, Single Sideband is used for SSTV images, whereas FM is used on 2-meters. Popular frequencies for SSTV include 3.845, 3.857, 7.171, 14.230, 14.233, 21.340, 28.680 and 145.50 MHz. To send and receive SSTV you must have a digital interface (such as a Rigblaster, Rascal GLX, etc), radio and computer with a sound card. I recommend using MMSTV software because it is free and widely used by hams who can easily talk you through any problems you may encounter. The software can be downloaded at <http://mmhamssoft.amateur-radio.ca/mmsstv/>

Upon installing the software, you must calibrate the settings so that the picture will view properly. You can either align the software by receiving an actual SSTV image or you can listen to WWV on 5, 10 or 15 MHz for a few minutes and calibrate using the tic marks as a guide. MMSSTV allows you to auto adjust (using the yellow smiley face icon) or by using the manual slant adjust (where you click the top and bottom of the line to synchronize the image).

Within SSTV, there are a number of modes that you can choose to send your picture depending on the circumstances. Time frames for various modes are as follows, listed by seconds: Robot36 – 36 seconds, Robot72 – 72 seconds, AVT90 – 90 seconds, Scottie1 – 110 seconds, Scottie2 – 71 seconds, Scottie DX – 269 seconds, Martin1 – 114 seconds, Martin2 – 58 seconds and SC2 180 – 180 seconds. On HF, you may want to send a picture using Scottie DX depending on band conditions and the distance that your picture must travel; Scottie DX takes about 4 ½ minutes to send versus 36 seconds for Robot 36, the reason being that spreading the picture of a longer time will help maintain better quality in adverse conditions.

If you are interested in learning more about SSTV and have a digital interface, try joining in, or monitoring the KQ1L linked repeater system on Friday night at 7:30 PM for the Central Maine Slow Scan net.



**Getting Started on CW, Part II**

By Bill Crowley, K1NIT

Last month, we talked about how and where to get on the air with CW. This month, we'll have a look at what to say.

The usual exchange after the contact is first made is pretty much the same whether you are making your first ever CW QSO or have been doing it for 20 years. Start by telling the other station his report (RST), your name, and your QTH, and then turn it back to him. Something like this: KB1XXX de K1NIT BT GE and trx fer call BT Ur RST 589 589 BT My name is Bill Bill es my QTH is Farmingdale, ME Farmingdale ME BT So how copy? AR KB1XXX de K1NIT KN

With this exchange, you have let the other station know that you are copying well enough for a longer QSO, plus you have given him your basic information. If the other station sends you a similar transmission (that is, a good signal report plus the personal information), then you can move on. If you missed anything, now is the time to ask for a repeat. But if you got everything, then try this:

R R KB1XXX de K1NIT BT Solid copy Jack BT Nice to meet you BT Rig hr is Icom 7000 at 100 w to G5RV at 45 ft BT Wx is clear and 20 deg F BT Had some snow yesterday BT So back to u in Boston Jack AR KB1XXX de K1NIT KN

Notice I have reinforced the "solid copy" by using his name and QTH in my reply, which also makes the QSO a little less mechanical, although they will probably seem this way until you get more experience on the air. Also note the use of "AR" letting Jack know that I have reached the end of my data transmission.

Next you can pass on other things, like your age, how long you have been a ham, where your QTH is relative to a bigger city or town (Let's face it, there are lots of small towns in Maine that folks "from away" probably never heard of!), and maybe even what you do for a living.

At 10 to 12 words per minute, you have probably been in this QSO at least 20 minutes at this point, and maybe even longer, and unfortunately, this is where most contacts end. To wrap it up, you can use something like this: R R KB1XXX de K1NIT BT FB Jack on all info BT Ur job in computers really sounds interesting BT Will let u go now BT Tnx fer FB QSO es hope to c u agn BT 73 AR KB1XXX de K1NIT SK

And there you have it, instant QSO. An easy way to do it is to print out the basic QSO format on a piece of paper; this way you won't forget anything, and you won't have to keep sending BT while you try to think of something else to say. Before you know it, the exchanges will be

a natural flow, with more and more information between the two of you.

There is an exception to all of this that concerns DX stations. If you break a pileup and land a "rare one," normally all you will exchange is RST and state, unless of course the other station asks for more. Something like: 9N1XX de K1NIT BT 579 in ME K

Let the DX station set the tone for the QSO. If he wants to chat, then chat. But if he is just giving out signal reports and occasionally QSL information, don't offer all the other information. The DX station won't appreciate it, nor will your fellow DXers in the pileup.

One additional note on where to look for a QSO: The Straight Key Century Club (you can join this at no cost and get an SKCC number from their website <http://www.skccgroup.com/>) has suggested using 7116 KHz on Wednesdays and Fridays as a place where new CW ops can get their feet wet without fear of "getting in the way." In actuality, it's a good place to try any day of the week

## Amateur Radio Survey

Usually, if you are involved in a conversation with somebody whom you have never met, after exchanging your name, location and signal report, people typically send how long they have been an amateur radio operator. I would like to know how long people have been a ham, include other dates if you let your license lapse and retested. Also, include what primarily interested you in becoming a ham radio operator. You can send information [cory.m.golob@gmail.com](mailto:cory.m.golob@gmail.com) or contact me on the air with the info.

### Answers to November's Crossword

**Across:** 5)SPRINT 6)COAX 7)DELTA 8)PULSE 9)STANDING 12)HARMONIC  
14)APRS 17)AURORA BOREALIS 18)AUSTRALIA 19)CRONKITE

**Down:** 1)WROUGHT 2)FIFTY 3)DIODE 4)FOX 7)DESOTO 10)GAP 11)LIMA  
13)FARNSWORTH 15)STREAKED 16)OUT

### DECEMBER WORD SCRAMBLE

- |                |       |                |       |
|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| 1. RPEEMA      | _____ | 2. IRADO       | _____ |
| 3. YGAI        | _____ | 4. TRTY        | _____ |
| 5. NOPSEHREIO  | _____ | 6. GINA        | _____ |
| 7. QUDA        | _____ | 8. HNDDEAIMEA  | _____ |
| 9. EORTW       | _____ | 10. TCUCDAINEN | _____ |
| 11. AVT        | _____ | 12. MOH        | _____ |
| 13. INCMDEEAP  | _____ | 14. BIIACM     | _____ |
| 15. LAILCSGN   | _____ | 16. FIRACFT    | _____ |
| 17. NEROCIMOPH | _____ | 18. PEAERTR    | _____ |
| 19. QSECLHU    | _____ | 20. TOGEVLA    | _____ |

## December Contests

### December 2009

ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 4 to 1600Z, Dec 6
TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 5
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0600Z, Dec 5
TOPS Activity Contest	1800Z, Dec 5 to 1800Z, Dec 6
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 12 to 2359Z, Dec 13
AGB-Party Contest	2100Z-2400Z, Dec 18
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 19
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 19
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 19 to 1400Z, Dec 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 21
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 26 to 1500Z, Dec 27

## Special Event Stations

**Dec 1-Dec 16, 1800Z-0400Z**, Sevierville, TN. Sevier County Emergency Radio Service, W4W. Sevier County Emergency Radio Christmas QSO Party. 28.350 14.260 7.250 3.840. QSL. QSL direct to amateur operating, the W4W special event station. **n4jttq@live.com** or [www.freewebs.com/aresradio/index.htm](http://www.freewebs.com/aresradio/index.htm)

**Dec 4-Dec 7, 1400Z-1100Z**, Fredericksburg, TX. Hill Country Amateur Radio Club, N5P. Opening of the George H. W. Bush Gallery at the National Museum of the Pacific War, and commemorating the hams that served in WWII. 14.255 21.275 7.275 3.940. QSL. Nimitz Foundation, 328 E Austin St, Fredericksburg, TX 78624. Also sponsored by the amateurs of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County, TX. **info@NimitzFoundation.org** or [www.kerrhams.org](http://www.kerrhams.org)

**Dec 5, 0000Z-2359Z**, Lubbock, TX. South Plains Storm Spotting Team, WX5LBB. Skywarn Recognition Day. 14.300 7.275 28.400. QSL. National Weather Service (WX5LBB), 2579 South Loop 289, Suite 100, Lubbock, TX 79423. [hamradio.noaa.gov](http://hamradio.noaa.gov)

**Dec 5, 1400Z-2300Z**, Granite City, IL. The Egyptian Radio Club, Inc, W9AIU. 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Egyptian Radio Club. 14.275 14.035. QSL. Egyptian Radio Club, PO Box 562, Granite City, IL 62040-0562. Operating from our mobile van. [www.w9aiu.org](http://www.w9aiu.org)

**Dec 5, 1700Z-2359Z**, San Deigo, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Operations Room, NI6IW. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. SSB 14.320 7.050 PSK-31 7.070 CW 14.060 7.055 D-STAR 2m/70cm SOCAL rep. QSL. USS Midway Museum Radio Station, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. [kk6fz@arrl.net](mailto:kk6fz@arrl.net)

**Dec 5-Dec 6, 1400Z-2200Z**, Baltimore, MD. ARC of the National Electronics Museum, W2W. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. 14.241 14.041 7.187 7.041. Certificate. ARCNEEM, Box 1693 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21230. QSL and certificate available. [k3nem.org](http://k3nem.org)

**Dec 5-Dec 6, 1600Z-2000Z**, Gates Mills, OH. Gilmour Academy Amateur Radio, ND8GA. Opening of new \$18 million Gilmour Athletic Center. 14.265 7.265. Certificate. Gilmour Amateur Radio, ND8GA, 34001 Cedar Rd, Gates Mills, OH 44040. [ganet.gilmour.org/faculty/kanek/AmateurRadio.aspx](http://ganet.gilmour.org/faculty/kanek/AmateurRadio.aspx)

**Dec 7, 0000Z-2359Z**, Wilmington, NC. Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club, NI4BK. Pearl Harbor Day from Battleship *North Carolina*. 14.255 14.030 7.255 7.030. QSL. Azalea Coast ARC, PO Box 4044,

Wilmington, NC 28406. *Will be usin restored original WWII CW equipment.* [www.ac4rc.org](http://www.ac4rc.org)

**Dec 7, 1500Z-2245Z**, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge and USS Kidd Amateur Radio Clubs, W5KID. Pearl Harbor Day. SSB: 15 20 40 m Gen & above RTTY subband CW: QRP sub bands. QSL. W5KID, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. *Primary frequency is 20 meters.*  
[www.lsu.edu/brarc/uss\\_kidd.htm](http://www.lsu.edu/brarc/uss_kidd.htm)

**Dec 12-Dec 13, 1400Z-0200Z**, Nazareth-Bethlehem, PA. Christmas City and Delaware-Lehigh ARCs, WX3MAS. Annual Christmas greetings from the Twin Christmas Cities. 28.465 21.365 14.265 7.270 3.970. Certificate. CCARC/DLARC WX3MAS, Greystone Building Gracedale Complex, RR 8, Nazareth, PA 18064. *Times are daily.* [www.dlarc.org](http://www.dlarc.org)

**Dec 12-Dec 13, 1700Z-0300Z**, Fort Lauderdale, FL. Broward Amateur Radio Club, W4AB. Fort lauderdale Winterfest Boat Parade. 14.250 7.200. QSL. Steve Adams, 1017 SW 4th Ter, Pompano Beach, FL 33060. [n4jrw@comcast.net](mailto:n4jrw@comcast.net)

**Dec 16-Dec 26, 1300Z-0500Z**, Granite Peak, MT. Beartooth Climbers, W7G. Radio and Science at the Summit of Montana. 146.52 14.280 3.920 20 m and 80 m weather permitting. QSL. Coordinator, 20 Tai Ln Apt 5, Bozeman, MT 59715.

**Dec 18-Dec 20, 1700Z-2200Z**, Wheeling, WV. Northern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club, W8ZQ. Festival of Lights Oglebay Park. 75 40 20m Gen bands. Certificate. Joe McCready, WB8CTC, PO Box 192, Blaine, OH 43909.

**Dec 19, 1400Z-2100Z**, Belen, NM. Valencia County Amateur Radio Association, KC5OUR. Christmas from Bethlehem (Belen, New Mexico). 28.373 21.37 14.273 7.273. QSL. VCARA, PO Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042. [www.qsl.net/kc5our](http://www.qsl.net/kc5our)

**Dec 19-Jan 3, 1500Z-0300Z**, Cookeville, TN. The Upper Cumberland DX and Contest Group, W4T. Tennessee Christmas. SSB CW all bands. QSL. Bob Raymer, N2BR, 772 E Jere Whitson Rd, Cookeville, TN 38501.



# Yankee Amateur Radio Club, INC. Membership Application

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

RENEWAL \_\_\_ NEW MEMBER \_\_\_  
FULL(\$20) \_\_\_ FAMILY(\$30) \_\_\_ ASSOCIATE (non-voting)(\$15) \_\_\_

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CALL SIGN \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CALL SIGN \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CALL SIGN \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL

ADDRESS(ES) \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU AN ARRL MEMBER? (The Yankee Club is an Affiliate Club)\_\_\_\_\_

*Please make your check payable to:*

**Yankee ARC, Inc.**

**Then mail the completed form with your enclosed check to:**

**MARTIN D ENGSTROM, JR**

**227 West Fryeburg Road**

**FRYEBURG ME 04037-9603**