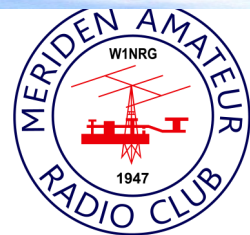


KEYKLIX

MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PRES W1KKF BILL WAWRZENIAK VP N1API AL KAISER
SECT KC1AXJ STEVE ALLEN TRES KB1HCC HAGGIE WINSLOW
S.A.M.WA1TRY RICH AUBIN

EDITOR DAVE SWEDOCK K1WJL
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APRIL 2015

Business Meeting Thursday April 8, 2015, 7:30 pm,
Activity Meeting Thursday April 23, 2015, 7:30 pm,
ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 7:30PM ON THE 2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH,
UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED,
AT THE COOK HILL FIREHOUSE/MEDICAL RESERVE BLDG, 37 HALL ROAD, WALLINGFORD

Activity Night – April 23

This month's activity will be a "Hints & Kinks" night. We'll discuss and demonstrate how to use various solder and crimp connectors (both the right way and wrong way) Some tips on soldering and differences between soldering a PL-259 and crimping one. And if you have a bunch of coax cables needing to be terminated with PL-259 connectors, I'll show you a different way to solder them.

Just about everyone now uses those Andersen Power Pole connectors, and I'll show you the right way to use them and what to look out for when crimping a Power Pole. We'll also show how to make a good crimp to the old-fashioned Molex type connectors. These are what are generally used for the power connection on many HF and VHF/UHF transceivers.

Of course since Spring has sprung (I hope) we will also discuss tower, antenna and feed line maintenance. It's time to remove and clean up all those ground connections. And while we are at it we have tips on how to make a "good" ground for your tower. At this show and tell, we will have an electronic microscope and will be showing some common failures of connections blown up to the projector screen so everyone can see the small details. No need to crowd around the desk to get a good look at the tiny components. At least that is the plan <grin>

So don't miss this activity night. I'll have about a half hour to 45 minutes of stuff to show and talk about and then we can open up the discussion and get YOUR ideas and comments.

73, Rich WA1TRY



How I restored a classic D-104 microphone

Perched high on a table at the Southington hamfest, sat a vintage Astatic D-104 microphone, the very one I was looking to mate with my TS-520s. “Does it work?”, I asked. “Absolutely.” While driving home I began to wonder how I should have interpreted the vendor’s one word answer. A quick call to John, K1VDF provided some relief about how to go about rewiring it to a four-pin plug. After some testing and with schematic in hand, John gave me his verdict: In this case, ‘absolutely’ meant absolutely not. Now we needed to find out if the problem was in the amplification section or the mic element itself. A fellow on eBay designs and sells a modified amplifier board for this mic. I told him that my mic keys the rig and causes some kind of oscillation, but no audio out. He said that the mic element went bad, as they cannot tolerate extremes in temperature or any kind of rough handling (as in mobile use.) He also said that the original mic element is known to deteriorate even while sitting idle. “Try RBmicro.” I ordered the element from RBmicro and then discovered that the wires running through the mast were not the same colors as shown in their instructions. Long ago, someone else had a go at fixing this mic. When I reach a certain level of quandary I throw caution to the wind (along with instructions) and fire up the soldering iron. I mixed and matched the colors, soldered, and insulated with shrink-wrap. While cleaning up the work area the instruction sheet fell to the floor revealing a cautionary note printed on the back side. “This mic element, unlike the original, has polarity. Failure to observe polarity will damage the element.” Why wouldn’t that statement be emblazoned on page one for folks who have no use for instructions once they get bogged down in a quagmire? I wasn’t going to take it all apart again because I had a 50/50 chance of having it right. Also, there are more colored wires zigzagging in the base than anyone would care to count. As luck would have it, even with mixed wiring and unknown polarity, I now have a working classic, thanks to K1VDF. I also owe thanks to John, WA1JKR who showed me how to wire a variac while at the hamfest. I’m saving that for another project after I restock more fuses.

Bob WB1GYZ

Station Activities

I guess it's finally going to get a little warmer. I don't know about you, but I'm about through with Winter. It's time to start thinking about Spring maintenance of our Ham equipment. Enough snow has now melted so I can finally get to my tower base and check out the cables and grounds. Meanwhile there is a lot of work waiting for us (note I said "us") up at the club station. Any day now we should be seeing the poles for our antenna being put in. Much planning and development has been done during the Winter.

We are hoping to have three 40 foot or so telephone poles in back of the fire house installed very soon. Those poles will be the structure that will hold up our wire dipole. There will be a center pole and the two end poles about 60 to 70 apart, each spaced from the center. That center pole will have a fiberglass mast extension in the area of about 20 feet or so. The ends of the di-pole will drop down to the end poles (about 20 feet lower) which will give us a semi inverted Vee with its apex at 60 plus feet. As of right now, it looks like a G5RV is most likely the antenna we will end up installing. But once the poles are sunk into the ground, we should have some leeway with the antenna type. The poles will be running in a North to South direction which will give our dipole a good bi-directional signal to the East – West. I'm researching what else we can do to fit a 10 through 80 meter dipole type antenna using those poles. It would be great if we could use something that we can feed directly with Coaxial cable instead of ladder line. I think it is also time to start working on the equipment that is going into our new shack. Much of the larger radio related stuff that is presently stored in one of those two metal cabinets will end up being installed and operational in the new shack.

Next month I will have drawings and more finite details about the actual station operating position. When the shack is done and operational, I will set up a schedule where either I, or a volunteer will open up the shack for operation for an hour before the meetings. That's for both the business and activity meetings. I will also be available to keep the shack open for a couple hours after the meetings. AND with a little help from you members, I would also like to have the shack opened and available most Saturday mornings. Maybe something like from 10 am to 2 pm. We can do a "coffee and" thing and operate the station. OH .. no food or drink in the shack BTW. I will post a schedule in this column with every month's Key Klix with the dates on Saturday openings. Also look for those shack open dates on the forum. I'll try to keep this column going on a monthly basis.

Lastly, I have to apologize for not being around much. As some of you know, I've been very busy doing a whole house renovation for the last 12 months. I'm doing all the work myself with a little help from my kids. Rebuilt the furnace and had to replace a lot of plumbing. Also upgraded and fixed a lot of electrical problems. Put in new flooring and re-furnished all the windows, interior wood trim and doors. So I'm usually up at the "new / old" house 4 or 5 days a week. Oh yes, in my spare time up there I am building my "ultimate" shack.

See you here next month with more

Rich WA1TRY – Station Activities manager.

INFORMATION PAGE

MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT—W1KKF BILL WAWRZENIAK
V.P.—N1API AL KAISER
SECT.—KC1AXJ STEVE ALLEN
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203 235-8582

CLUB NETS

6 MTR NET MONDAYS 8PM
50.175MHZ N1ZN JIM

2 METER NET TUESDAYS 7PM
147.36 /RPT K1TDO TODD

10 METER NET TUESDAYS 8PM
28.375MHZ K1VDF JOHN

10/10 CASTLE CRAIG CHAPTER
CONCURRENTLY WITH CLUB NET
28.375MHZ TUESDAYS 8PM N1API AL



WEBSITE:

WWW.W1NRG.COM

FORUM/BBS:

GO TO WWW.W1NRG.COM
AND FOLLOW THE LINKS

CASTLE CRAIG 1010 WEBSITE:

GO TO WWW.W1NRG.COM
AND FOLLOW THE LINKS

CLUB REPEATER W1KKF/R
147.36MHZ +600 OFFSET
NO PL TONE (OPEN REPEATER)

MARC MEMBERS

AB1HB	Charlie Dudac	N1BF	Patrick Dionne
AF1HS	Art Fregeau	N1GNV	John Bartscherer
K1LHO	Mike Ash	N1GY	Geoff Haines
K1LYP	John Yusza	N1HCA	Susan South
K1MVM	Mike Macri	N1LGH	Barbara Stone
K1PU	Mark Mokoski	N1NAN	Helen Spokes
K1SEZ	Paul Ciezniak	N1OKF	Bob Parisi
K1TDO	Todd Olsen	N1VTE	Sarah Kaczor
K1TG	Roger Kuchera	N1ZN	James Savage
K1THP	Dave Karpiej	NY2HF	Dennis Lane
K1VDF	John Blevins	W1ATV	Walt Yatzook
K1WJL	Dave Swedock	W1CTN	David Arruzza
KB1CIW	Bob Stevens	W1DMM	Dan Murphy
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KB1SIT	Teresa Stevens	W7FUR	William Spokes
KB1TJD	Gianne Jenkins	WA1JKR	John Rogus
KC1ACN	Rob Cichon	WA1TRY	Rich Aubin
KC1AXJ	Stephen Allen	WA1VXH	Chris Sievert
KC1BAQ	Joseph Hamm	WB1GGP	Jerry Sheppard
KE1AU	Robert Kaczor	WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur
KE1AY	Donald Mitchell	WB8IMY	Steve Ford
KJ4PV	Gary Bleasdale	WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann
N1API	Al Kaiser	WY1U	Timothy Mik