



KEY KLIX



The Monthly Newsletter of the Meriden ARC August 2012

Connecticut Hams and Distracting Driving

Hooray for us! For your edification. This revised bill will take effect October 2012.

Public Act No. 12-67

AN ACT EXEMPTING AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS USING HAND-HELD RADIOS FROM THE PROHIBITION ON USING HAND-HELD MOBILE TELEPHONES AND MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHILE DRIVING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 14-296aa of the 2012 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2012):

(b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and subsections (c) and (d) of this section, no person shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway, as defined in section 14-1, while using a hand-held mobile telephone to engage in a call or while using a mobile electronic device while such vehicle is in motion. An operator of a motor vehicle who types, sends or reads a text message with a hand-held mobile telephone or mobile electronic device while such vehicle is in motion shall be in violation of this section, except that if such operator is driving a commercial motor vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, such operator shall be charged with a violation of subsection (e) of this section.

(2) An operator of a motor vehicle who holds a hand-held mobile telephone to, or in the immediate proximity of, his or her ear while such vehicle is in motion is presumed to be engaging in a call within the meaning of this section. The presumption established by this subdivision is rebuttable by evidence tending to show that the operator was not engaged in a call.

(3) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed as

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authorizing the seizure or forfeiture of a hand-held mobile telephone or a mobile electronic device, unless otherwise provided by law.

(4) Subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply to: (A) The use of a hand-held mobile telephone for the sole purpose of communicating with any of the following regarding an emergency situation: An emergency response operator; a hospital, physician's office or health clinic; an ambulance company; a fire department; or a police department, or (B) any of the following persons while in the performance of their official duties and within the scope of their employment: A peace officer, as defined in subdivision (9) of section 53a-3, a firefighter or an operator of an ambulance or authorized emergency vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, or a member of the armed forces of the United States, as defined in section 27-103, while operating a military vehicle, **or (C) the use of a hand-held radio by a person with an amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission**, or (D) the use of a hands-free mobile telephone.

MARC to Sponsor 10-10 International Convention.

AI, N1API has reported that we are going to sponsor the 2013 10-10 International Convention. The date is yet to be set, but it will be in 2013 and the site will be at a hotel in the greater Hartford area. Here are some of the details.

This will be a three day event, held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There will be a banquet, along with a convention area with tables where participating 10-10 chapters will greet attendees. There will also be guest speakers and ongoing forums as well as an HF 10 meter station on site. For the ladies, plans are to offer transportation to the West Farms Mall where they can shop, and check out the local restaurants. Also a shuttle will be provided so attendees can tour the ARRL headquarters, and W1AW. This is no small event as hams from around the

world will be in attendance. Normally there are large contingents of amateur radio operators from the British Isles and Germany.

This event is totally "pre-registered" which means the attendees will pay Ten-Ten in advance and all costs will be taken care of by the Ten Ten organization. Our job is mostly leg work and organization. This is a great opportunity to get some good exposure for MARC.

So we need volunteers to direct people at the event, help with the itinerary and make sure everything runs smoothly. Committee chairman AI,N1API has been in contact with several club members who are all evolved in the behind-the-scenes work as of late. We are working on logistics with the hotel and ARRL, and setting up airport shuttles to the hotel. We are also getting the tour buses in order for the trips to West Farms Mall, ARRL HQ, and other places of interest in and around Hartford.

MARC Assists Two Towns During SET.

This year's SET was a busy one. We were asked to help out with two towns during the official state emergency exercise. That exercise was separate from the ARES SET that was also run on the same weekend.

The Saturday and Sunday ARES SET was set up to duplicate the devastating hurricane of 1938. We were told we would be experiencing a category 3 to 4 hurricane and that ALL communications would be destroyed with a huge loss of property and lives.

On the commercial end of things, many of the the state's emergency operation centers were activated on Monday and Tuesday under the same scenario. The event was termed as a "doomsday event". That is, one where there is wide spread destruction.

MARC was able to set up and man both the ham SET exercise and then help out the towns.

by providing emergency back up communications. This proved to be a VERY busy weekend and Monday and Tuesday for our small crew of MARC volunteers.

Our work started Saturday morning. This was no "normal" emergency exercise by any means. Our existing communications set up, radios, antennas and equipment was still packed up for moving from the old OEM site to the new site at the Cook Hill shelter. So most of the day Saturday was used to move the station console parts and all the remaining equipment to the new site at the old Cook Hill Volunteer Fire Station. It took us all day be we got the entire station console set up and built a couple of tripod mounted portable antennas for VHF and UHF communications.

Our small crew consisted of John - N1GNV, Chris - WA1VXH, Haggie - KB1HCC, and Rich - WA1TRY.

All the extra coax that was removed from the old building was checked and new connectors were put on. We used the OEM's town truck to haul everything. KB1HCC and WA1TRY spent the rest of Saturday re-assembling the station console. We did not install any radios other than a few VHF units for FM communications. KB1HCC set up a couple portable dipoles for 75 and 40 phone, and used his HF mobile radio for our HF SSB work.

This year's SET was set to mirror the Monday and Tuesday emergency test in that both were run as a (pre) land fall on the first day and a (post) land fall on day two. Pre land fall evolved setting up and getting ready for the impending onslaught of a category 4 hurricane. Post land fall on the second day would simulate the actual hurricane having hit us.

On Sunday, KB1HCC and WA1TRY established connections with ARES AREA II HQ on 147.505. We also made several tests via VHF simplex and on 40 and 75 meters HF SSB. All went well, as the HF antennas did work and

were tested before the event. But when it came time to check into the ARES HF nets, we could not make contact. A vertical might have worked better but what with having to devote so much time to the move and re-installing everything, we had to make do with a temporary set-up.

We were able to test communications between the new Cook Hill Shelter and the main EOC at the Wallingford Police Department. We used both simplex and the W1KKF/R repeater.

Our new club FM Dual band radio was a big hit with everyone. It turned out to be the perfect setup for use as the primary emergency radio. (more on that later)

Our antenna set up was a 2m Ringo Ranger set up on a portable tripod at about 25 feet. It took all of five minutes to get the antenna and station fully functional. We closed up shop late Sunday afternoon.

Monday morning at 7:30 AM we were back at the Wallingford site on Cook Hill and were ready to work with the town officials as they did their emergency exercise. At that time were designated as the primary shelter for the event. If needed we had room for at least 30 cots in both the meeting room and in the garage bays. Everything worked well.

Next we packed up coax, radios etc. and prepared to be called out to assist the town of Meriden on Tuesday.

Haggie, Rich and Mike - KB3IXO (the EC for Meriden) were on site at 7:00 AM and the first order of business was to set up Ham Radio communications to back up the Meriden OEM EOC also in the town police department building. We were given a separate room with direct access to the situation room on the second floor. We started setup at 8:00 AM and had a fully operational station ready in about 15 minutes. The station consisted of 2 vertical 2m Ringo Rangers on two portable tripods set up in

the police parking lot. We were provided with a coned off parking space that was directly below our operating position on the second floor. All we had to do was to drop a couple coax cables to the ground near the antennas, hook them up and we were ready to go.

Mike provided a laptop along with a handheld transceiver set up for APRS packet communications. We also had set up the club's 2m handheld tuned to monitor the local 147.36 W1KKF repeater, as well as the club's 2m Alinco mobile for backup. The star of the show was the new Kenwood dual band mobile rig. We had programmed all the ARES repeaters in AREA II, as well as the tactical calls and frequencies for every town in AREA II. This radio has dual receive capability for both cross band (2m and 70cm) as well as dual receive on one band. We set the channels up in blocks so we could manage each block separately. See the Station Activity column in this issue for more detailed information.

Suffice to say, we were able to have the radio simultaneously monitor the ARES II HQ repeater on 147.505, while we scanned all the area II town simplex frequencies as well as keeping an ear on the local 36 repeater..

We were connected everywhere.

The highlight of our day was when David Bowen (Asst. FD Chief Meriden) came to us with an emergency message to pass. Normally during these drills we hams "do our own thing" and test our capabilities by sending test messages to and from within our ham radio system. But here was an actual town official who wanted us to pass important traffic to another non-ham agency using only ham radio equipment and frequencies.

Mike formatted the message to proper NTS format and presented to Chief Bowen in the situation room for him to sign and okay it. We then sent our message, originating from the Meriden EOC situation room by Chief Bowen, via the

ARES II HQ on the 147.505 repeater. The message was concerning the flooding of Lewis Ave in Meriden and was to be sent to the C.L. & P. emergency operation center in central Connecticut.

It was a good test and was supposed to test our ability to accurately pass important information when all the other commercial communications were down.

Several minutes later, Chief Bowen (with a big smile on his face), came into our room, and confirmed the message was received and verified by C.L. & P. This was the Chief's first experience using ham operators and he was impressed with our NTS format messaging.

Mike KB3IXO, and Rich WA1TRY bounced back and forth from our Ham communications room to the town situation room where we were privy to the command center and structure of emergency operations for the town of Meriden.

We were able to monitor all departments and proceedings which was a good learning experience.

KB1HCC - Haggie was everywhere for the entire weekend including Monday and Tuesday.

During our tests in Meriden Haggie drove to the two shelters in other parts of the town. There he tested our ability to provide radio coverage between the Meriden EOC and each shelter.

Our points of contacts were Asst Chief David Bowen - Meriden Fire Dept., and Lt. Thomas Cossette, Meriden Police Dept.

Thanks to all who made the exercises in both towns a success. A special thanks to our own KB1HCC who was everywhere and did everything, including keeping Rich WA1TRY happy by feeding him bagels for four days.

de Rich WA1TRY

Activity Night

The activity meeting for August will be a discussion all about buying and selling on the Internet with the emphasis on Ebay and ham radio equipment. Our tutor for the evening will be Mike - K1MVM.

Don't miss this one. See how easy it is to clean out all that ham radio "vintage junk" and get more money to buy more ham radio new junk. Mike will give you all the tips and what to watch out for when dealing with the various forms of buying, selling and bartering.

7:30 Thursday August 23. We might even have the coffee machine working by then.



April 2012 marked the centennial of the maiden voyage of the RMS Titanic and its sinking after four days at sea in the northwestern Atlantic. Many activities and remembrances have focused on the events of this historic week. In the fifteen years since the wreckage of the Titanic has been found, the scientific community continues on its forensic analysis and archeological evaluations. The initial fact findings and there were many fell short of a definitive answer because of the lack of direct evidence and the large amount of finger-pointing. As the dust settled or as the ice melted in 1912 there were many resulting changes made to the maritime industry, especially in ship building methods, maritime communications, shipboard safety, the start of the North Atlantic iceberg patrol and warnings, and many other areas.

In 1912, the wireless radio was still in its infancy and considered more of a technological marvel than a reliable and standardized piece of shipboard equipment. Radio manufacturers and wireless companies, dominated by the Marconi

Company, often provided a vessel with a fully equipped radio shack along with one or two qualified operators this included the British White Star Lines, owners of the RMS Titanic. The real purpose of this shipboard equipage was to provide a new technological toy for the first class passengers who could afford it and a revenue stream into the coffers of the wireless provider. (A ten word cable cost about 12s6p or about \$60 in today's money). The radio officers had a dual allegiance, to their companies and to the ship's captain; but their duties put the passenger paid traffic first and any navigation activity including iceberg warnings -- on an 'as available' basis.

The Marconi wireless room on the Titanic was the best available for the time. Supplied from the ship's lighting system, a 5 kilowatt motor-generator fed a rotary spark transmitter. The transmitter in turn was connected to a four wire horizontal antenna between the bow and stern masts about 250 feet above the water line. A battery powered emergency transmitter provided emergency communications. The station transmitter room and adjacent operator room were on the boat deck just behind the ship's bridge. The Marconi Company guaranteed coverage for 250 miles, but in actuality covered about 400 miles during daytime hours and up to 2000 miles at night. The Titanic had full transatlantic coverage for its passenger cable messages using mainly Marconi land stations at Clifden, Ireland and Cape Race, Newfoundland. The Titanic was operating within the 1908 international guidelines of normal traffic on 600 meters (500 kHz) moving off to 300 meters or 1600 meters for long message interchange.

A discussion of the Titanic communications must focus on, or at least incorporate, its two radio officers; First Officer Jack Phillips and Second Officer Harold Bride. Phillips, 25, from Surrey, England and Scotsman Bride, 22, were on their own maiden voyage. Although both had several years experience with Marconi wireless operations, this was their first voyage as seaborne radio officers. These young lads were

considered excellent radio operators with-Phillips reliably handling 39 WPM and Bride comfortable at 25 WPM. The two radio officers split the night time watches and both worked during the day giving the White Star liner around-the-clock coverage. The pair probably felt quite satisfied in securing a coveted position on a momentous voyage earning about £5 and £3, respectively, per voyage.

Radio logs from almost a dozen nearby ships and North American land stations plus recollections from the surviving Bride provide an accurate dialog of the Titanic radio room activities during those final fateful hours. Thirty minutes after the collision ship's Captain John Smith, a position report in hand, burst into the radio room directing a distress signal sent. At 12:15 AM, Titanic broadcast **CQD de MGY position 44.44N 50.24W** several times. In 1904, the international maritime community agreed on the use of SOS as the standard distress signal, but Marconi stations continued to use their own non-standard CQD (Come Quick Distress/Disaster) until the early 1920s. MGY was the ship's radio call sign. The distress call was received and confirmed almost immediately by a number of steamships in the area; La Provence, Frankfurt, and Mount Temple; and the coastal station at Cape Race. MGY continued to broadcast the distress signal adding information on their dire conditions and pleas for immediate assistance. By 12:25 the Cunard Liner, RMS Carpathia, was in communication with Titanic and started to sail to the site being the closest vessel available. Phillips even told Carpathia that the steam boilers were being bled to prevent an over-pressure explosion of course this meant that ships power would soon be gone. Other vessels within a 200 mile radius also turned towards the Titanic site.

About an hour after the collision and many frantic radio distress calls, Bride joked to Phillips that he might try the standard SOS kidding that it may be his last chance to use the international standard. At 12:45 RMS Olympic, sister ship of the Titanic, was 500 miles east and headed

to England received a call **SOS de MGY**. The Olympic turned towards the Titanic. Two hours after the collision at 1:45 AM Titanic sent its last complete message **MKC (Olympic) de MGY Come quickly as possible OM. Engine room is filling up to boilers**. For the next dozen minutes ships reported hearing unreadable and weak signals. Finally at 2:05 Captain Smith came to the radio room saying, "You have done your duty. Now it's every man for himself." At 2:07, the vessel Virginian copied a very weak **CQ** then silence it is assumed it was Phillips last **CQD de MGY**.

Harold Bride made his way to a small life boat on the boat deck and was one of the 800 survivors rescued by the Carpathia. Jack Phillips never made it to the lifeboat and perished at sea. *GD*

Station Activities

I'm happy to say that the console is now assembled and ready to populate with radios. After conferring with Chris WA1VXH and Ernie, KB1UDY we decided the best place for the radio console was in the garage against the back wall. The meeting area was going to be the new area for the console, but after hearing how bad the acoustics were and realizing that the station would be sharing the same room that would be housing people using the shelter, we decided it would be better to put us in a place more isolated. Also, the meeting room now has a large new flat screen TV. This could be used to entertain youngsters and others who might using the room when it's being used as a shelter or to monitor the commercial TV stations when a disaster strikes. Of course it would not be to our advantage to have the TV hung on the wall right above the radio operators trying to handle emergency radio communications.

Ergo, we are now in the garage. And that turns out to be the best place after all. We have easy access to our stored "stuff" and there is a outside door three feet from our console. That will

make it easy to run coax cables out to the adjacent parking lot if we ever need to put up some temporary antennas. Oh and yes, the garage has it's own heater if needed. In fact if the building needs to be used for a shelter, the overflow of available sleeping cots will be take up a couple of the bays in the garage. When that happens, we have portable walls we can put in place to isolate us from the sleeping area if needed.

Also, outside is a new diesel powered generator. A BIG one. This unit will come on automatically if power is ever lost. In fact it is set to turn on by itself once a week and run in an off-line mode to insure it is always working properly.

There are two large locked filing cabinets in the main hallway entrance. One is the club "candy store" where we stock our hats, pins and other club items. We will be storing all the removable equipment from the console in those cabinets. That would be the mics, switches, radios, laptop, flat screen etc. Everything that is not permanently installed into the console will be stored in the locked cabinet. This will help us in two ways. First it will keep items from disappearing. Second it will make the console always looking neat and ready to use. When are not using the console everything will be stored in one safe place.

A word about our new Kenwood dual band radio. Well maybe more than just a word. We gave it good work out during the four days of the recent SET. And everyone who saw it in operation was impressed. KB1HCC liked it so much he ordered one for his own use. There are too many features to talk about here, so I am planning on having it available after this month's business meeting to show off it's capabilities.

At that meeting the console will be ready for everyone to check out. Now to build the radio mounts.

73, Rich WA1TRY MARC SAM

From the Editor

After a long fought battle with a new desktop publisher program I finally gave up and am back to using my old trusty DTP application. The old application was originally made to work with Windows 95 !! And yet it still works pretty good with my 64 bit version of Win 7. Go figure.

I've been wanting to switch to a more modern DTP that would allow me to do some fancier layouts and mail merge and embedded Internet links. . But I'm afraid the new program has a steep learning curve and I just don't have the time to figure it out. I must have lost a few brain cells because I don't remember having so much trouble with figuring out new software.

So for now we will be using the old standard you've hopefully come to know and love. I'll be paying more attention to content for the near future. Plans are to include member's pictures of their shacks, and antennas. Yeah, I've been meaning to that for some time now ..

See ya next month .. **Rich WA1TRY editor KK**

Lark in the Park lots of fun

Last month we held our annual club picnic at Hubbard Park. It was touch and go .. and then touch and go again ... And then finally club president John Bee, N1GNV said, "Damn the impending thunderstorm. To heck with the tornado warnings ... Full speed ahead .. There WILL be a picnic! And there WAS a picnic. After we almost set one of the picnic tables on fire, our band of intrepid party people ended up having a pretty good time. We had to leave at dusk of course and right about that time Bill, W1KKF's wife called him to warn us about the impending maelstrom. As the last of us left the park the sky opened up with a dazzling display of lightning and blinding rain. Everyone made it home safe and dry. Score MARC 1 weather 0.

IS ANYONE ELSE IN THE M.A.R.C. RANKS PURSUING THE NEW ARRL “DIAMOND DXCC CHALLENGE” THIS YEAR?

Last December, a new DXCC award was announced in the pages of QST magazine: “**The ARRL Diamond DXCC Challenge**”, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the DXCC award. To make things interesting for the DXers in the hobby, this award is solely based on the 237 countries that were originally used in 1937; also, no QSL cards are required to claim the award. This keeps the Challenge moving right along by not having to wait for QSL cards or even LotW verification. The league has prepared a nice Excel file for your use, available on their website of the original listing with current crossovers for today's geographic realities.

You can find it at... <http://www.arri.org/ddxcc-scorecard> Look for the DXCC Scorecard box on the page and click on the **GO NOW** html for a download of the Excel file.

The Excel file prints out on 11 pages of paper, in alphabetic order of the old country names, and shows the current entity name, along with the original callsign prefix and new prefix... simple! For an example, the original **Belgian Congo** with the prefix ON is now represented in today's political world by three entities: **Dem. Rep. of the Congo** (9Q), **Burundi** (9U), and **Rwanda** (9X). Working any one of the three today will earn you credit for the oldie **Belgian Congo** entry!

You can claim credit for the United States and Canada to get you started toward your goal of 100 rather quickly! In the spreadsheet, there are columns for **Call Sign, Date & Time, Band, Mode,** and **Point**. The file will automatically tally up your “points” as you record them to indicate your progress.

Until I had accumulated about 50 points (mid-March), I just kept opening up the Excel file in my PC daily to confirm if I had worked a “needed” entity. To make it easier for me to focus on the ones that I still needed, I finally printed out the file and put it in a 3-ring report cover that I kept at my operating table. I'd be glad to show you this process at a future MARC meeting for anyone interested. This allowed me to indicate newly-worked countries without having to open up the Excel software every time.

If you're a fervent DXer and think this Diamond DXCC Challenge is “easy” to accumulate the 100 oldie entities, think again! Many of the current European countries did not exist as separate entities back when... but were under one “flag”, such as Yugoslavia... now represented by Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Serbia, and Macedonia! Working any one of them will net you a single “point” for Yugoslavia in the file. Of course, there's a lot of ham radio activity in these new entities, but you only get to “claim” Yugoslavia once!

As the month of May wound down for me, I was in the mid-90s of points, and anxious to finish this Challenge before the end of the month (just my own personal goal). Lucky for me, the Solar Flux Index was cooperating and hovering in the low 100s much of the last few months; 20, 17, and 15 meters were “hot” well into the evening hours many nights.

Finally, with number 99 logged the previous night, I came across **4X5MU**, Israel, on May 25th on 17m CW. Since his signal was pretty weak, I threw on the AL-811 with 300 watts and in a few minutes heard his reply after a few tries... DONE!

Only after I logged him in and checked the printed version of the Challenge listing did I realize that it counted for Palestine... Israel didn't exist yet back in 1937! How appropriate that should be my final one...

Since I use a computerized logging program that incorporates several web-based spotting networks, I had been keeping an eye out for those still needed countries through March and April... I even put a highlighter mark on my printout to indicate which ones I thought would be possible for my non-pointable antenna system (the G5RV dipole) hahaha...

If you're a HF op with inclination towards chasing DX, there's still a lot of time left in this 75th anniversary year of the DXCC award. As mentioned above, a QSL card or LotW confirmation is not needed to claim a certificate. All that's necessary is to send your Excel file with your 100 or more listings indicated to ARRL HQ (see their website for explicit instructions). The DXCC staff in Newington will eyeball your submittal for accuracy and validity. My file had a mistake on the listing of the contact I made with Yemen, 7O6T, earlier in May. I should have listed it under the Socotra Island line, not the Yemen one! It still counted, but in the corrected position!

BTW, just this week I saw the Logbook of the World QSLs arrive in my on-line file for the Yemen/Socotra Island DXpedition QSOs. How nice to not have to wait for a half-year on the QSL card's arrival!

My cool, new Diamond DXCC Challenge award certificate was issued in early June, and now hangs proudly on the shack wall. Good luck in your own pursuits... the SFI should continue in the 100s for quite a while!

73..... de KISEZ, Paul Ciezniak

Late Breaking Club News !

Brother's Restaurant was recently closed for business (after we made a deposit to use the place for our holiday party in December). Bill, W1KKF has contacted them and they have assured us that although they will no longer be having walk in restaurant business, they will be continuing to be available for privately booked events. Our December party is still on.

The Nutmeg Hamfest LIVES! We have a signed contract with the Four Points by Sheraton hotel on Research Parkway in Meriden, CT. This is going to a nice place for us. Lots of tailgating room and nice digs. More next month.

The W1KKF/R repeater seems to have fixed itself. No problems to speak of for the last few weeks. Looks like the offending interference was taken care of at the source. Fingers are crossed.

Secretary Report & Minutes of Meriden Amateur Radio Club

July 2012

The business meeting opened at 1937 on July 12, 2012 with approximately 13 people in attendance. A quorum was present.

Ken Harmon K1IEQ a director of Ten-Ten International made a presentation on the requirements if MARC/Castle Craig Chapter is willing to be the host chapter for the 2013 Ten-Ten convention in Connecticut. The requirements are: securing a hotel location with a convention meeting venue, a BOD break out room, a chapter meeting room, and banquet room. The dates are somewhat flexible, during July or August, usually running from Thursday to Saturday. There are normally 75-100 attendees and 20-25 chapter tables. Many questions and answers by the members to get a better feel for the requirements.

Announcements -

- Introductions
- Activity meeting MARC picnic at Hubbard Park. Starts at 6:00 PM.

Secretary's Report -

- Previous minutes accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report -

- Treasurer's report accepted as presented.

Contributions

- None

Correspondence

- Sympathy card sent to John N1GNV on the loss of his mother. Thinking of You card sent to Dan WX1D.

Scholarship (KE1AY)

- Letters out. \$300 scholarship planned. No applications received to date.

Club Station & Facilities - (WA1TRY-SAM)

- WA1TRY starting to install consoles for shack equipment.
- Antennas in limbo - Discussion on moving tower with Dir. Emer. Manager Ernie and town DPW.

Club Activities & Program (KB1CIW & KB1FYL-P&E Co-Chair)

- Upcoming activity meetings
 - July Picnic at Hubbard Park.
 - Aug Internet/eBay selling with K1MVM
- Potential future activities: LOTW by ARRL, trip to W1AW, and Tune-Up Night by K1VDF
- Upcoming contests
 - ARRL Sept VHF QSO party and Ten-Ten Spirit of 76, 10/10 SSB QSO Party in August.

Nets - All nets are doing well. Reports in Key Klix & MARC forum.

- HF-SSB 28.375 Tuesdays at 8:00 PM, Primary NC John K1VDF.
- VHF-FM 147.36R Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, Primary NC Todd K1TDO.
- VHF-SSB 50.175 Mondays at 8 PM, Primary NC Jim N1ZN.

Castle Craig - (N1API-CM & CP)

- 10/10 QSO parties: SSB Aug 4-5, 2012; Digital Apr 28-29, 2012 & Nov 10-11, 2012; CW May 5-6, 2012 & Oct 20-21, 2012.
- Much discussion, questions and ideas continued after the presentation by K1IEQ on hosting the

Ten-Ten convention. A general consensus appeared positive.

- N1API, N1ZN, and W1DMM (also K1PU post meeting) agreed to be on a hosting committee.
- Motion by W1DMM second by N1ZN that the committee return an up/down report on or before the September business meeting. Passed.

Membership - (KB1HCC)

- Fifty-one (51) 2012 members more or less.

Interference and Technical - (WA1TRY)

- The repeater has a virtual continuous desensing on the input (147.960), especially during after noons and early evenings. Had at work trying to identify and correct.

Instruction - (VE-KE1AY, Instruction Facilitator - Open)

- Next VE session at Nutmeg Hamfest in October.
- Additional testing and classes will be announced.
- We need a training coordinator/facilitator. Step up and help!!

Candy Store - (N1ZN)

- See Jim N1ZN for availability and details.

Key Klix - (WA1TRY & staff)

- Will publish this week.

Field Day (June 23 & 24)

- Submission details not available.
- Motion by W1KKF second by N1GNV to provide \$40.00 (half repair cost) to Haggie KB1HCC, whose Icon Xcvr went south in the SSB tent during Field Day. Passed.

EmComm - (WA1VXH)

- Next event is the Fishbien 5K/10K race in September 17th 6:30-7:00 AM start till about noon. Contact Chris WA1VXH to help.
- There will be a statewide SET July 28 & 29 sponsored by CT-DEMHS, CT ARES will be active in the comms areas. Wallingford ARES will operate from the MARC location. The Meriden ARES will operate from the Meriden FD/PD EOC.

Nutmeg Hamfest (October 7, 2012)

- With the purchase of Mountain Ridge by a non-profit group New Life Church, the availability of the site for the 2012 Nutfest is no longer an option. A new site is being looked into, but size, cost, volunteer needs are all considerations for a venue selection.

Miscellaneous

- A deposit has been sent to Brother's of Wallingford for the Christmas Party in December.

50/50 None

Meeting Adjourned about 21:05

Submitted: Dan Murphy W1DMM, Secretary

Rogus Electronics

**New & Used
Ham Radio Gear
Service / Repairs**

**250 Meriden Waterbury Road
Southington, CT 06489
Phone: 860-621-2252**

**Business Meeting
August 9**

**Activity Meeting
August 23**

**How to buy, sell and barter using
Internet tools and Ebay**

**Check club forums for
new information**

**Meriden Amateur Radio Club
Post Office Box 583
Meriden, CT 06450**

First Class