





MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 1947 - 2020

DECEMBER 2020



THIS IS A TOUGH TIME TO BE FESTIVE BUT WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.... LOOK AT THE POSITIVE SIDE, A VACCINE IS COMING ALONG WITH MORE SUNSPOTS..









KB1JL



N4 PDI



1W II



PRES W1YSM ED SNYDER VP KB1JL ERIC OLSSON SECT N1BRL BART TOFTNESS TRES K1WJL DAVE SWEDOCK S.A.M. K1RCT ROB CICHON

ALL MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY AT THE EOC HOPE HILL FIREHOUSE, 143 HOPE HILL ROAD, WALLINGFORD HOWEVER THEY ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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Dec 10, 7:30pm ZOOM Meeting The Year in Review with President Ed W1YSM

This is more of a look in the rear view mirror as we speed out of 2020 (with a sigh of disbelief) and we enter a new year with a promise of a vaccine, increasing sunspots and a hope for a better economy. The year was not a complete loss as we maintained a strong club with weekly Fox Hunts, multiple On-The-Air Nets, VE sessions, and much more.... Pres. Ed will discuss this and make some announcements for Ham of the Year and Elmer of the Year....

Get Well Wishes.....

To John K1LYP and Jeff N1AKN who are recovering from a bout with the Covid-19 virus. John K1VDF is back home from a brief rehab stint at the Masonic and Steve K1llG who is home recuperating from a recent illness.

Congratulations

Bart N1BRL on being elected to the Secretarial Post of the MARC and We thank Anne K1STM for her service as our past secretary..

It is essential to properly prepare for a Zoom meeting







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The President's Podium

Washing Co.

Ed Snyder W1YSM, President

2020 a Year to Forget or Remember?

This year, 2020, has been disappointing in many ways. The Virus and the death it has left in its wake will having a lasting impact on MARC members. Covid-19 sickened a few of our members but thanks to careful attention to CDC and Town guidelines – not to mention a lot of prayers, we have not only survived as individuals but as a Club, we have grown. We have found ways to stay in touch. Necessity is the mother of invention as the saying goes. Although today it would be better phrased as "necessity is the parent of invention". Regardless, in response to isolation we learned all about Zoom. Zoom used to be the word to describe the exhaust sound made by a fast-moving race car – not anymore. If not for Zoom we would be severely isolated. A club member noted recently that during the pandemic of 1918, people were encouraged to buy phonographs and radios to pass the time in isolation. Today we surf the Net and try to avoid scams and phishing.

Many MARC members are outdoorsmen and women. Hmmm, what can combine the love of the outdoors with the love of amateur radio? - did someone say Fox Hunt? Now, some 37 (give or take) hunts later – thanks to Dave NZ1J, not only do we hunt weekly (weather permitting) but we have hunts with other clubs, often with members' wives and children joining in the hunts together with their husbands and fathers. New hams need a license. Accordingly, MARC managed to devise a system for VE Examinations that kept us safe and also provided an environment which hatched or upgraded about 10 new hams. We lost our Saturday morning session at the OEM – but it morphed into the Coffee Cup Net which garners about 20 check-ins each Saturday morning. Yes, necessity is the motivation for change. Of course, we miss the face to face meetings, the sight of Al N1APN walking around with the carafe asking if anyone wants more coffee; we miss seeing John N1GNV sitting at a table saying "Nay" to almost every vote; we miss seeing Rob K1RCT walking hurriedly in and out of the Sievert (WA1VXH [SK]) Radio Room with a purposeful and determined look on his face, his thousand keys – jangling on the key ring on his hip; and of course, the joy of eating bagels and rolls on Saturday morning at the OEM while we watch John K1LYP compulsively vacuuming the rug and aligning the chairs under each table—just so. With Zoom, we can still capture some of these things (save for the vacuuming).

While the Coffee Cup net is likely to disappear once we are Covid-free, Zoom and Fox hunts are here to stay. We will meet in person, but the option to Zoom into a meeting will not disappear, much like cell phones are now a fixture of our daily lives. Zoom will help Handi-hams participate in club meetings more easily and allow better interactions among members should inclement weather occur, etc.

MARC, too, is here to stay. Entering the new year, we hope to be together soon – face to face like we should be. Take comfort as we look to 2021, that MARC is strong and vibrant – its future is bright. New and alas, younger members will join, and we will grow and indeed thrive. Soon we will be face-to-face and look back on this nightmare and thank the Lord for MARC and the friendships our beloved hobby has provided – despite it all.

It has been an honor to be your President and a pleasure to work with the other officers and all the club members – even those who may occasionally disagree with my desire to form some new Committee.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and stay safe. Face-to-Face Field Day may be just around the corner.

Ed W1YSM



Tales of the Non-Sanctioned Fox Hunts





AN INVITATION FROM PAUL N1TUP.....NOT FOR THE NOVICE WITH A BAOFENG... 20 MILE RADIUS

Keeping with tradition, I will be hosting a Foxhunt on New Years Day at 1pm.

This hunt will be conducted in the same manner that we have previously conducted live foxhunts. The hunters will assemble at the 91 Ayers Road in South Windsor, CT, home of the old Wapping Elementary School, be set up and ready to start by 1pm. The fox will take a roll call at 1pm on the BEARS repeater, 145.110 MHz, PL tone is 77.0 Hz. This hunt will be conducted using the repeater for all communication and information sharing. I encourage communication between participants and any base stations that can supply helpful information to the hunters. Once you have spotted the fox you should stop all transmissions. Pay attention, if someone says they are going to check an area and you never hear from them again, that might be a clue. Remember not to hunt the repeater output frequency as that will just lead you to the repeater. I will not be there. You will want to listen on the repeater input frequency. 144.510MHz. That is the frequency the fox will be transmitting on. The fox will be located within 20 air miles of the starting point and not within Hartford or Springfield. The fox will be on publicly accessible property that will not require anything other than a standard passenger car for access. The fox will host a "tailgate" party at the end of the hunt at the "den". This year all food and drinks will be prepackaged. Don't forget your mask.

If this is your first hunt, I would recommend riding along with someone who has done this before. Dress warmly as you will be outside at the end for the party, the rest of the time you will be in and out of the car taking bearings etc. Experience has shown that hunters will start arriving in the den about 1 hour after the start. The event has a two hour time limit not including socializing in the den at the end. Current information regarding this and other foxhunts in Connecticut are on Yahoo. If you are not already a group member, you may want to consider signing up for the Yahoo group CTFOXHUNTER so that you do not miss any important foxhunt related news.

73, Paul, N1TUP



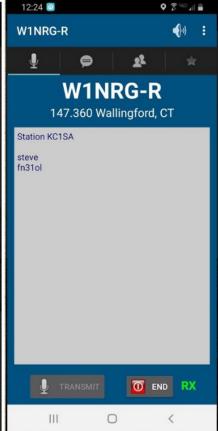
W1NRG-R

The 147.360 repeater (W1KKF) can be accessed via Echolink, the Echolink node is 624952 with a station id of W1NRG-R. With an internet connection and a PC or smartphone you can communicate with the W1KKF repeater. If traveling out of the area you can participate in nets held on our 2m repeater.

If unfamiliar with Echolink, basically it's VoIP for ham radio; connecting ham radio to TCPIP packets over ethernet and internet. Learn more at www.echolink.org. Take the tour and try it out. Testing phase started about the middle of November and since we've had 17 different users access the box and one international QSO from Japan!

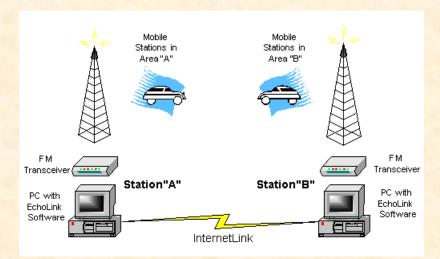
The hardware is a small (12 x 8) Intel based SBC, interface box (audio isolation transformer and PTT opto-isolator) and a Baofeng HT. Having 24 x 7 access to the box at my QTH allows for easy tweaks and remedying any problems quickly.







ECHOLINK VIA KC1SA



I've had the echolink box connected up now for a week that connects to the W1KKR (147.360) repeater here in Wallingford. Having our repeater accessagle via Echolink certainly opens up our club footprint considerably. For those unfamiliar with Echolink, QST (Steve Ford) wrote an article nearly 20 years on VOIP and repeater use which is a good backgrounder. I've included links to the Echolink site if you need to learn about the technology. The software operates on three platforms; Windows, Android and iOS. Running on a Windows platform (your PC) is doable but does require opening two UDP ports on your broadband/dsl router while running the apps on your phone is very straightforward.

https://secure.echolink.org/

I'm still working through some audio and connection issues, but I think the link is ready to move out of it's beta testing stage and into a more public phase. So I am sending this message out to the Meriden ARC club membership (and to those folks I captured using the Echolink node) so you're all aware that the node is live.

Echolink old setup

- Active November 14, 2020 until November 22, 2020 at noon.
- Current Name on Echolink KC1SA-R
- Current Node on Echolink 621257

Maximum number of Echolink users - 10 (may need to be adjusted)

This system will change its Name and Node number about November 22, 2020 at noon local time. The new name and node will be:

Current Name on Echolink - W1NRG-R

Current Node on Echolink - 624952

Interruptions (scheduled and not)

Early in December the node may be down since I have to make a couple hardware and installation changes and that may take the node down for a half day (maybe). Unscheduled outages would be internet or power related and I don't anticipate that to happen too often.

If you see (hear) issues with the node, drop me a note (<u>sallen48@gmail.com</u>) and I'll look into it. 73.

Steve - KC1SA



Secretary Report & Minutes of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club Anne West K1STM, Secretary

Meriden Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes

Business meeting November 5, 2020 via Zoom videoconference

Meeting called to order by President W1YSM at 1932 local

Attendees (via zoom) (32) KC1DOY, KB1JL, K1STM, WV2LKM, W1DQ, K1LHO, W1YSM, N1BRL, K1RCT, N1LES, WA1FFT, W1EDX, K1WJL, KB1IFZ, KB1EHE, KE1AY, KC1SA, WA1TRY, KC1HDB, N1KGY, N1API, KC1KQH, AB1DQ, N1GNV, K1JCF, N1ZN, K1LYP, WB1GYZ, NZ1J, W1KKF, KE1AU, WA1ZVY

Announcements (W1YSM) The recent passing of member Greg Ploski N1POP was recognized. Covid restrictions remain at 10 people or less congregating at the OEM building, with masks required inside. The Year in Review will be December 3 at 1930 via Zoom. The CQ Santa and the Christmas party have been canceled.

Secretary's Report (KB1JL) The October 2020 minutes as published in Key Klix were voted on and approved. Membership is at 88 with no new members this month. No new correspondences.

Treasurers Report (K1WJL) was read by Dave. Details available from Dave upon request. There were no requests for disbursement,. Due to Covid there is no Christmas gathering and members should send 2021 dues directly to Dave K1WJL at club's PO Box with checks addressed to "MARC"

Station Managers report (K1RCT) Routine maintenance continues at OEM club station. The red shed will not be available for Winter Field Day, Sweepstakes is upcoming. A discussion ensued regarding the on line schedule for W1NRG operation and the updating of serial numbers.

Elections(KC1SA): Nomination of Officers and Ham of the Year and Elmer of the Year were held. HOY and EOY will be done by email via survey monkey, with ballots sent only to members attending the November 5 meeting. The existing slate of officers was put forth for election:

Ed W1YSM --- President

Bart N1BRL --- Secretary

Dave --- K1WJL

Eric KB1JL --- Vice- President

Rob K1RCT -- Station Manager

and the floor was open to anyone else who wanted to run for any officer position. No one came forth and nominations were closed. The current slate will be voted on next Thursday(11/12) via Zoom with current Secretary K1STM casting one vote for the unanimous slate. A quorum will be necessary.

Committees

Entertainment/Activities (W1YSM) January activity meeting TBA.

Saturday Morning (KB1JL/K1LYP) No change in status. In person gatherings are being missed.

Fox Hunt (NZ1J) Dave noted some drop off of in participation due to weather and anticipates January through March to have no hunts, resuming in April.

Website Update (NZ1J) the site is being maintained as current. A discussion ensued regarding the SSL site encryption (Https) was not working, although it has been paid for. This will be investigated and rectified with current status due to provider not implementing it properly. The welcome letter to new members on the website is out of date and needs to be made current.

Contest Activation (K1RCT) More discussion of Sweepstakes club participation.

Club Nets (W1YSM) All nets are functioning with participation, with the Saturday Coffee net getting close to 20 check ins. The Wednesday night chat sessions on 28.375 MHz are drawing about 4-8 members per week.

Castle Craig (N1API) Al reports increased sunspot activity will help 10 meter propagation, and a February 10-10 QSO party will be upcoming.

Scholarship (N1ZN) no activity

Membership (W1YSM) Discussed previously.

continued on next page

Interference/Technical (K1RCT) Rob is requesting repeater PL activation on both sides to be investigated by the Repeater committee due to propagation interference and also so he can proceed with an Echolink set up, which will assist homebound and facility bound members access to the repeater. The PL is needed for Echolink. A discussion of interference ensued centering on the W1LJO repeater in Newton Mass. Occasional propagation interference also occurs from The NYC 36 repeater on Rockefeller Center. W1KKF stated the committee will meet and look into PL and get back to Rob.

Instruction/VE (KE1AY) The October VE session produced one license upgrade and one new technician licensee. Another session will be held November 22. It was decided that exams could be offered monthly with walk ins welcome, starting in January. K1RCT will purchase a club IR thermometer for Covid screening. Currently we have been using W1YSM's thermometer.

Key Klix (K1WJL) KK continues with positive comments on the recent AB1DQ article on mobile installations. More of this type articles are solicited from the membership.

EMCOMM (KB1JL) no recent activity or news.

Candy Store (N1ZN) Nothing new.

Community Outreach (W1YSM) Two news articles are being worked on by WB1GYZ and W1YSM Old Business

W1YSM will discuss By law changes to include W1WRG call sign inclusion into the bylaws. This will occur in the January 2021 meeting.

New Business

KB1JL announced that a clean out procedure for surplus club radio equipment will be formulated in concurrence with K1RCT and K1LYP and presented to the club in January. This will not include radios, which will be kept to be shared with new members who are entering the hobby. Other essential equipment will also be kept but surplus will be offered to members to buy or bid on.

Ron K1RCT stated that he maintains and inventory of all club equipment and asks that anyone loaning equipment report this to him. Some members inquired as to the list and are encouraged to contact Rob, rather than keep a list on the website or forum.

W1YSM reported on his recent ARRL appointment as Affiliated Club Coordinator. He explained the position and expectations, and is asking for input from membership to make this a group project to support and exchange with other clubs in CT.

Meeting was adjourned at 2133 hours

Respectfully submitted, Eric Olsson, KB1JL

continued on next page

FROM STEVE K1IIG:

OVER THE NEXT YEAR I WILL BE SELLING A LOT OF MY HAM STATION EQUIPMENT DUE TO HEALTH REASONS. RIGHT NOW I HAVE A NEW IN THE BOX A CUBEX 6M "KILLER BEE" QUAD FOR SALE AT HALF PRICE. IT GOES FOR \$365 PLUS SHIPPING.

I AM ASKING \$180.

I CAN BE REACHED AT 203.786.0052 OR K1IIG@ARRL.NET.

THANKS STEVE

6 Meter 6 Element Quad (17+ dbi Gain)

- FG= 17dbi, @ 40ft; F/B > 30db
- Direct feed with 50 Ohm coax; 50.2 MHz.
- · Rugged all weather construction.
- · Adjustable feed point to change resonance.
- Aluminum mast to boom coupler.
- 16 ft. rugged aluminum boom
 Handles >1 KW PEP.
- · Horizontal or vertical polarization.
- > 500 KHz; bandwidth.
- Turning radius 12.5'
- weight 34 lbs.



Meriden Amateur Radio Club Special Business Meeting via Zoom video teleconference Annual Election of Officers November 12, 2020

Attendees: (27) K1RCT, KB1JL, KC1SA, KC1DOY, N1LES, N1BRL, W1YSM, W1KKF,W1EDX, K1JCF, KC1NQE, KB1EHE, KB1IFZ, KC1HDB, N1ZN, W1DQ, N1API, K1STM, AB1DQ, KC1ISI, KE1AU, K1LHO, N1GNV, KE1AY, WA1TRY, K1LYP, WB1GYZ.

Meeting was called to order at 7: 33 PM by president W1YSM.

W1YSM yielded the floor to KC1SA who announced the voting process, that the Secretary K1STM would cast one vote for the current slate of officers that were presented on the November 5, 2020 business meeting. The slate ran unopposed and nominations were closed.

- President Ed Snyder W1YSM
- Vice President Eric Olsson KB1JL
- Secretary Bart Toftness N1BRL
- Treasurer Dave Swedock K1WJL
- Station Manager Rob Cichon K1RCT

A motion for the floor was put forth and seconded that the above slate be elected. The motion was passed with one dissent. A quorum was present.

KC1SA yielded the floor and Secretary Anne West K1STM cast one vote for the slate presented above. Following the election a discussion ensued regarding the Ham of the Year and Elmer of the year vote, which was done via email through Survey Monkey. Three members who were present at the November 5 meeting and eligible to vote had not received the ballots and could not vote. The awards will be announced in December.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM Respectfully Submitted Eric Olsson KB1JL



BIRTH OF AN ANTENNA FARM AT W1UFO QTH









RIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLI

OFFICERS OF MARC

PRESIDENT.....W1YSM ED SNYDER VICE PRES.....KB1JL ERIC OLSSON SECT.....K1STM ANNE WEST TRES......K1WJL DAVE SWEDOCK STATION A.M...K1RCT ROB CICHON

MEETINGS: NORMALLY 7:30PM ON THE 2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH, UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED, THE HOPE HILL ROAD FIREHOUSE / EOC 143 HOPE HILL ROAD, WALLINGFORD ALL MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

> MAILING ADDRESS: MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB POB 583, MERIDEN CT. 06450

CLUB NETS

6 MTR NET 50.175MHZ **MONDAYS 8PM N1ZN JIM**

TUESDAYS 7:30PM 2 METER NET 147.36 /RPT NO PL K1TDO TODD

10 METER NET 28.375MHZ

TUESDAYS 8PM K1VDF JOHN

10/10 CASTLE CRAIG CHAPTER (CONCURRENTLY WQITH CLUB NET) 28.375MHZ TUESDAYS 8PM N1API AL

2 METER TECH NET Thursdays 7:30PM 147.360+, no PL(on non-MARC meeting nites) **WEEKLY NET MODERATED BY VARIOUS AMATEURS WITH DIFFERENT TECHNICAL TOPICS AND Q&A SESSION**

2 METER COFFEE CUP NET SAT 9AM 147.36+ NO PL W1YSM ED (THIS HAS ALSO A SIMULTANEOUS SECONDARY NET OF SORTS THROUGH THE VIDEO TELECONFERENCING W1NRG JITSI SITE)

WEBSITE: (USE LOWERCASE) www.w1nrg.com

FORUM / BBS:

www.w1nrg.com/forum/ or go to website and follow links

CASTLE CRAIG 10-10 WEBSITE: go to www.w1nrg.com and follow the links

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

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

	14121412	
AB1DQ	James Surprenant	22R
AB1HB	Charlie Dudac	205
AF1HS	Art Fregeau	20S
K1IIG	Steve Tripp	208
K1JCF	Joe Farrell	208
K1LHO	Mike Ash	208
K1LYP	John Yusza	215
K1MMK	Mike MacKennedy	20R
K1MVM	Mike Macri	208
K1RCT	Rob Cichon	20R
K1SCI	Stuart Isaac	20R
K1STM	Anne West	215
K1TDO	Todd Olsen	20R
K1TGX		228
	Jerry Molaver	
K1VDF	John Blevins	205
K1WJL	Dave Swedock	208
KB1CIW	Bob Stephens	205
KB1EHE	Eric Knight	20R
KB1FYL	Bob Carruthers	208
KB1HCC	Jonathan Winslow	208
KB1IFZ	Elsie Mathews	20R
KB1JL	Eric Olsson	215
KB1MFU	John Ramadei	21R
KB1SIT	Teresa Stephens	208
KB1SSN	Alex Dills	20R
KB1TJD	Gainne Jenkins	208
KB1TMC	Clare O'Lena	20R
KB1YFJ	Glen Couture	20R
KC1DOY	Ted Renzoni	20S
KC1GMD	Ralph Ring	20R
KC1HDB	Jeff Martin	28R
KC1HFO	John Stoidis	20R
KC1IIK	Scott Mowerson	20R
KC1IIL	Matt Mowerson	20Y
KC1ISI	Kristin Olsson	21R
KC1KQH	John Kasinskas	205
KC1MBG		21R
	Robert Luby	
KC1NQE	Shawn Warren	21R
KC1NXP	Andrew Paolillo	21R
KC1PU	Bob Woodtke Jr.	21R
KC1SA	Stephen Allen	21R
KE1AU	Robert Kaczor	
		205
KE1AV	Dave Sanford	20R
KE1AY	Donald Mitchell	208
KR1U	Bob Eslinger	208
N1AKN	Jeff Dwyer	20R
	Al Kaiser	
N1API	AI Naisei	208

	U 	
N1BF	Patrick Dionne	21R
N1BRL	Bart Toftness	208
N1GNV	John Bartscherer	208
N1GY	Geoff Haines	215
N1HCA	Susan South	20R
N1IBE	Wade Martell	218
N1KGY	Chuck Ayers	20R
N1LES	Joe Murray	21R
N1MOB	Dan David	20R
N1NAN	Helen Spokes	208
N10KF	Bob Parisi	20R
N10KR	Frank Ciccone	205
N1QYB	William Wilecki Jr.	208
N1YLN	Edward O'Lena	20R
N1ZN	James Savage	205
NZ1J	Dave Tipping	22R
W1AJK	Andrew Kazimer	20R
W1DQ	John Elengo	208
W1EDX	Paul Stasieluk	208
W1KKF	Bill Wawrzeniak	L
W1KPS	Kevin Shields	20R
W1LV	Steve Morley	20R
W1NHS	Fred Ring	208
W1NNZ	William Kosche III	208
W1POP	Fred Liedke	215
W1ST	Stephen Stimpson	20R
W1UFO	Mike Cei	20R
W1XK	Stan Kugler	208
W1YSM	Ed Snyder	22R
WA1FFT	Ray Irwin	208
WA1JKR	John Rogus	215
WA1SFH	Douglas Sharafanowich	20R
WA1TRY	Rich Aubin	L
WA1ZVY	Jim Martin	208
WB1GGP	Jerry Shepard	208
WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur	215
WB8IMY	Steve Ford	20R
WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann	208
W3APC	James Cook	215
W9OTW	Debbie Foss	20R
	Ron Rogers	208
3 3 3 3 3		

MEMBERSHIP STATS TOTAL MEMBERS......88 REGULAR(UNDER65)......42 SENIOR(OVER 65)......43 STUDENT(UNDER 18)......1

CLUB DUES STRUCTURE (JAN-DEC) UP TO 64 YRS OF AGE--\$20/YR SENIOR DISCOUNT 65 & UP--\$15 ANY MEMBER WHO IS A LICENSED HAM, 18 & UNDER WILL BE GIVEN FREE DUES.

KEY KLIX EDITOR DAVE SWEDOCK K1WJL CONTACT DSWEDOCK@GMAIL.COM 203 235-8582





