



W1NRG.com

KEY KLIX

Monthly Newsletter of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club



February 2013



Border Blaster cures Erectile Dysfunction

Before the Internet brought the world together, there was border radio. These mega-watt "border blaster" stations, set up just across the Mexican border to evade U.S. regulations, beamed programming across the United States into Canada and as far away as South America, Japan, and Western Europe.

The term border radio, often nicknamed border blasters, refers to the American broadcasting industry that sprang up on Mexico's northern border in the early 1930s and flourished for a half century. Border radio was founded in the early 1930s by a quack doctor and endured through the 1960s with the glory years of personalities such as Wolfman Jack. Along the way, border broadcasters pioneered direct sales advertising, helped prove the power of electronic media as a political tool, aided in spreading the popularity of music genres from country to blues to rock, and laid the foundation for today's electronic churches.

The 1920s were known for their extravagance, flappers and flaming youth. But alas some (males) felt they were missing out, having their own mid-life crisis. J.R. Brinkley MD had just the solution for this testosterone down turn. A simple "goat gland transplant" as a sexual rejuvenation treatment was the cure. An easy out patient procedure to transplant a snippet of a goat's testicles into an adult male scrotum and you will be ready to join the fun loving youngsters.

In the post 1912 Titanic era, control and use of the radio airwaves was a major area of contention. The Department of the Navy claimed it for its sole use while the commercial proponents, mostly newspaper owners, vied for a more open ownership. During World War I there were major restrictions on wireless usage, but these legislative battles started anew following the Armistice. The Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) arm of the Department of Commerce; the FCC did not come into existence until 1934; became the regulating agency and found one of their tasks was to reach international agreements with bordering countries since the transmission of wireless signals know no borders. A "band plan" accord was reached between the

United States and Canada, but no such agreement was reached or even offered with Mexico. Middle America, the Great Lakes and Prairie States, were a radio wasteland. No major commercial media group wasted their financial efforts on these backwoods consumers. The stage was set for a new type of entrepreneur.

Dr. Brinkley built a substantial empire on his rejuvenation treatment and in 1923 began a series of infomercials on his newly acquired radio station, KFKB the first broadcast station in the state of Kansas. Listener letters began to pour in, the station's audience increased and Brinkley's wallet fattened. By 1929, KFKB was being called the most popular radio station in America. When Brinkley tried to get the station's power boosted to 5,000 watts, he met with some opposition from a rival station, owned by the Kansas City Star, which started to run a series of exposés on the good doctor. But the Supreme Court of Kansas brought him down, calling him an organized charlatan. Not dissuaded, Brinkley started a write-in campaign to support himself for Governor of Kansas. He received the highest number of intended votes for the governor's office; he even carried some counties in adjacent Oklahoma. However a great number of the ballots were invalidated or simply lost.

Being critically looked at by the ICC and medical community, Dr. Brinkley sold his interest in KFKB for \$90,000 and headed south to the Rio Grande. Brinkley set up his operations in Del Rio Texas and began construction of a commercial radio transmitter across the border in Mexico. The station was licensed in 1931 by the Mexican government as XER, later becoming XERA; and sported 300 foot towers with a power output of 75,000 Watts.

Brinkley continued his clandestine rejuvenation practices in Del Rio and expanded into several other quackery medical areas. The inflow of cash and his high living life style made him quite a local personality. Brinkley even made another run for the Kansas governor's seat from his now plush quarters in south Texas where his broadcast studio was located. He connected his studio to the transmitter site over telephone lines and expanded into a daily talk radio show where the good doctor was the main feature. It did not take very long for authorities, medical and communication, on both sides of the Rio Grande to mount a case against the doctor. Civil and criminal suits began to pile up, and at the time of his death in 1942, Brinkley was completely debunked and penniless.

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Happy Valentine's Day

Within a year of its beginning, Brinkley's pioneering station was joined by a dozen more border blasters aimed at middle America. XER (XERA) boosted their output to a megawatt and operated on 840 kHz-AM, often masking and interfering with legitimate US or Canadian stations. Eventually, agreements were reached between Mexico, Canada and the US to coordinate and regulate the broadcast frequency bands throughout North America. But in their short existence, these border blasters had a major impact on many areas well beyond the technical allocation of RF communications. A running Kansas area joke of the early 1930s was; "What is the fastest animal on four legs?" "A billy goat running past Dr. Brinkley's office." **GD**

Dues are due now !

Have you paid your 2013 club dues yet? If not then next month (March) will be your last newsletter. Stop by at one of our club meetings or send your dues to the attention of club treasurer, Haggie, KB1HCC at Meriden ARC, PO Box 583 Meriden, CT 06450.

February Business Meeting Canceled

Due to the bad weather and the fact that our meeting place was not going to be plowed by meeting time, MARC VP Jim, N1ZN canceled this month's meeting. He suggested that we have an informal on-the-air meeting on the club repeater, W1KKF/R. (147.36) in place of the February meeting. Jim, acting as net control called the members to join us at 7:30 PM Thursday 14th of February. We had a nice turnout and a round table discussion ensued. Announcements and general information was followed by a general rag chew session. Current committee and other club business will be discussed at the March business meeting.

This Month's DX

AI, N1API has been updating the club DX Forum each month. There you will find late breaking news and tips about the hottest DX stations and Dxpeditions.

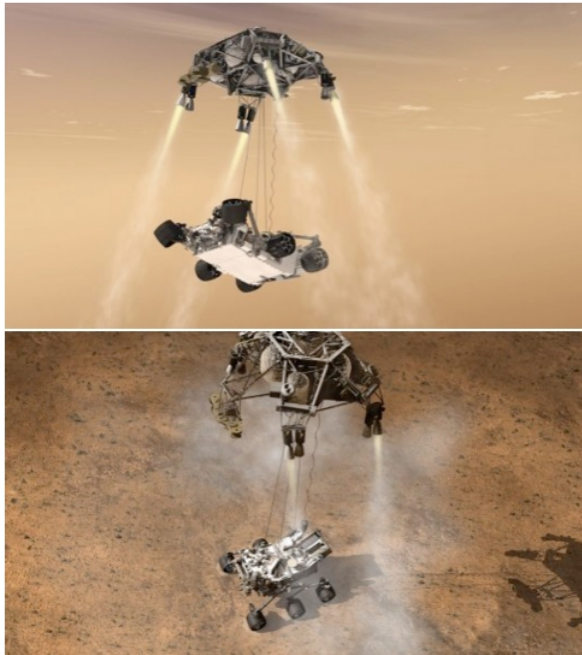
9U4U Brundi is on the air from 14 Feb. 2013 to 23 Feb. 2013. 9 operators from Belgium and the Netherlands have 4 stations on the air 10 to 160 Meters, (including the WARC Bands), SSB, CW and RTTY. They have a nice web page at: <http://www.9u4u.be/> with some good information pictures and comments from the team.

XT2TT, Burkina Faso will be active 21 Feb. 2013 to 6 March, 2013. This is the same Italian DXpedition team that has done 600CW from Somalia, TT8TT from Chad and others. Their main area of interest seems to be the needed African Countries. Check them out here: http://www.i2ysb.com/idt/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=101

TK5K Clipperton Island is announced for March 2013. Here is the announcement from the expedition page at: <http://www.cordell.org/CI/index.html>

February Activity Meeting

The last time Andy Poniros visited MARC he wowed the members with a presentation all about NASA's deep space probes. Andy is a NASA Solar System Ambassador Volunteer and he will be our guest speaker again at this month's MARC activity meeting on February 28.



Andy's last presentation was filled with many pictures, many of which were not generally published. This time he will talk all about the Mars rovers, with the emphasis on the latest rover to land on Mars last year. You don't want to miss this meeting. Thursday February 28, 7:30 PM.

Station Activities

Things have been quiet this Winter around the club shack. I did get some information on the TS-450 town HF rig. Unfortunately it isn't good. It seems that the memory back up battery leaked and damaged a circuit board nearby. I had removed the old battery and installed a new one, but did not notice anything that looked like your typical battery leaking.

I brought the radio to Rogus Communications and John, WA1JKR found that the battery, being a lithium ion type leaked a clear looking substance onto a circuit board. He is trying to fix the circuit board without having to purchase a new one, which because of the age of the radio may not be available. The club still has our TS-690 Kenwood which is still in fine shape. Both radios are getting pretty old, at around 15 years. I will be talking with the Wallingford Office of Emergency Management director Ernie, KB1UDY to see where we need to go from here.

Bill, W1KKF has been talking with Ernie about another matter regarding an HF antenna. Recently we checked out the location we are now using for our meeting place and emergency communications, looking to find the best place to set

up something permanent for HF communications. We should have more on that by next month.

Also, thanks to Jim N1ZN we have a nice vertical antenna that we will be able to use on 10 meters at the upcoming International 10-10 convention later this year. MARC is sponsoring the event this year. It's been temporarily assembled and tested and it should work fine. This will allow us to run a special event station at the event. Let's hope that meters is open for that weekend.

Lastly, I am making a cover for the shack station. This will be a heavy fabric custom fit cover that will snap in place and cover the entire station when it is not in use.

73, de WA1TRY - SAM

MARC Forum Up and Running

Al, N1API and Rich WA1TRY have been working a lot on the new club forum. It is our wish that all our club members join the forum and support it. It has too many features to list here, and we will be doing a live presentation all about the MARC forum at next month's activity meeting.

You can subscribe to any of the forums you are interested in. All club members should subscribe to at least the forum named "Important Club Announcements". That is where you will find important and late-breaking news regarding

Important Club Announcements
Activity Meetings
Nutmeg Hamfest 2013

If you subscribe to that main forum or any of the three sub-forums listed above, then any time a new post is entered the forum will send you an email with a link to that latest post immediately. It's an easy way to keep on top of the latest club news.

Of course if there are other forums that you want to monitor, you can also add those to your subscribed list. Or you can of course subscribe to none. As a MARC member you have full access to all areas of the forum and the main club link page. Link page? Our goal is to make everything easy to find. So we've set up a single page web that is easy to find and has only links to the various club web entities. That page is simply www.w1nrg.com. Yes, that is the club callsign which will never change. Just type www.w1nrg.com into your browser and you'll be able to find anything in the world of MARC.

On page 4 you will find a screen capture of the single page web site for w1nrg.com. (In case some of you don't yet have a computer) <grin>

Also on page 7 you will see two screen captures of the main page for our forum. The top blue page is one way you can view the forum, and the bottom brown page is another view of the same page. Yes, we will be adding more "views" and you can switch to your favorite view or change it at any time. De admins WA1TRY and N1API

Welcome to the Meriden Amateur Radio Club

MARC (established 1947)

You are at W1NRG.com



Links: [Club Web Page](#)
[Forum](#)
[Newsletter](#)
[Castle Craig Chapter 10-10](#)

Secretary Report & Minutes of Meriden Amateur Radio Club January 2013

The business meeting opened at 1934 on January 10, 2013 with approximately 14 people in attendance. A quorum was present.

Announcements -

- Introductions – none needed.
- Activity meeting – Jan 24th, WA1L on auto racing communications.

Secretary's Report -

- Previous minutes (November and December) accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report -

- Treasurer's report accepted as presented.
- An audit committee with KB1HCC, N1ZN and one other will be formed.

Contributions -

- Presentation by W1KKF and WA1TRY representing the Nutmeg Hamfest Alliance of \$1516.15.
- Motion by N1GNV second by KE1AY to use \$500.00 of Nutfest contribution for 2013 scholarship. Passed.

Correspondence –

- Letter of thanks to Tom Bernacki (son of WX1D) for memorial contribution to MARC.
- QSL cards.

Scholarship – (KE1AY)

- No 2012 award due to lack of applicants.
- Letters and application information to be sent out in the spring.

Club Station & Facilities - (WA1TRY-SAM)

- All is well and quiet.
- Town radio (TS-450) at Rogus to look into a keypad/memory problem.
- Added new bulkhead coax connector to avoid cable chaffing.
- W1DMM presented information on commercial multi-band verticals available. Much discussion. Consensus points to GAP or Cushcraft. Nothing can be done until discussions are held with town officials for permission, placement, size, location, etc first.

Club Activities & Program (KB1FYL-P&E)

- Upcoming activity meetings
 - Jan – John WA1L Communications in auto racing.
 - Feb – Andy on MARS vehicle Curiosity and landing techniques.
 - Mar – Haggie KB1HCC on sailing a square rigger in the North Atlantic.
 - April – Rich WA1TRY on the new MARC Forum
- Potential future activities: LOTW by ARRL, trip to W1AW, and Tune-Up Night by K1VDF
- Always looking for ideas and presenters.
- Upcoming contests
 - ARRL Intl DX CW (Feb 16-17) & SSB (Mar 2-3).
 - 10/10 Phone QSO Party. February 2-3
 - ARRL VHF Jan 19-20
 - CQ 160 CW Jan 26-27
 - Several state QSO parties. Boost your WAS or 5BWAS standing.

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 in 2013: SSB Feb 2-3 & Aug 3-4; Digital Apr 27-28 & Nov 9-10; CW May 4-5 & Oct 19-20
- N1API will be running a jump start net for the Feb QSO party starting at 6:45 ET on Friday Feb 1st.
- Motion by N1API second by N1BF for \$60 for a 10/10 convention door prize and rent a Castle Craig chapter table. Passed.
- Convention committee needs to meet with hotel personnel to set up a 10/10 station during the convention.

- Castle Craig and Ten/Ten Int'l web pages now reflect the 2013 convention hosted by MARC. Some details remain (W1AW trip and convention station setup still open).
- Member help will be needed during the event with the station, as greeters and as ombudsmen.

Membership - (KB1HCC)

- Fifty-six (56) 2012 members more or less.

Interference and Technical - (WA1TRY)

- No reported problems.

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

- Next VE session at Nutmeg Hamfest in October.
- No additional testing and classes scheduled.
- We need a training coordinator/facilitator. **Step up and help!!**

Candy Store - (N1ZN)

- See Jim N1ZN for availability and details.

Club Media -

- See January Key Klix for several articles on the MARC media happenings.
- Key Klix (WA1TRY) back in business after problems with publishing software. See Key Klix article.
- Key Klix is now an electronic only vehicle.
- MARC Forum (WA1TRY) is back with a new platform.
- MARC Web (W1DMM) MeridenARC.ORG is designated hospice and will not be updated.
- MARC Reflector (N1GNV) has been started. Members can receive and send short messages among the group with no archiving. Meant for quick comments, updates and notices.
- MARC Web (N1GNV) MeridenARC.COM is designated as the new MARC web page. N1GNV is webmaster.

Field Day (June 22 & 23)

- Chris WA1VXH has submitted an application to the town for Marcus Cooke Park June 22-23.
- Motion by W1KKF second by N1GNV to rescind the November motion on Field Day Class and site and consider Field Day as either Class 2A at Cooke Park or 2F at the MARC/EOC site. Passed.
- More discussion on Field Day will appear in Key Klix and the MARC Forum.

EmComm - (WA1VXH)

- Chris WA1VXH will be stepping aside as EC for Wallingford. FB job Chris.
- Anyone interested in being EC contact Chris and/or DEC Douglas WA1SFH.

Nutmeg Hamfest (October 7, 2012)

- It's over and a reported success.
- Bill W1KKF gave a summary. Gate was lower than in the past, but the reason is not yet understood. Lower costs lead to increase in net gain. Details will be available after Alliance BOD meet and close out the event year details.
- Club table made \$530.00.
- Thanks to those volunteering to make this a success.

Miscellaneous

- The Christmas Party was a success. FB and thanks to Bill W1KKF for doing the leg work and hounding down the details.

50/50 - None

Meeting Adjourned about 20:57

Submitted: Dan Murphy W1DMM, Secretary



These are partial screen captures of two of the available forum layouts.

Search Member List Calendar Help

Welcome back, WA1TRY. You last visited: Today, 21:00 (User CP — Mod CP — Admin CP — Log Out)
View New Posts | View Today's Posts | Private Messages (Unread 0, Total 65)

Current time: February 24th, 2013, 22:57
Open Buddy List

Meriden ARC Forums

Latest news: February 28th Activity meeting. Andy Poniros from NASA Talk on the new Mars rover and

Ham Radio Only ☰			
This is devoted to Ham Radio			
Forum	Threads	Posts	Last Post
<p>Information about this web forum. Announcements, Information, pertaining to this web forum Sub Forums: • Forum Announcements, • Suggestion box</p>	11	26	Selectable Styles now ava... February 13th, 2013 02:27 by WA1TRY
<p>Important Club Announcements / MARC Special Events / Hamfests / Activity Meetings Listings of MARC special events, hamfests including MARC Activity Meetings, and important club announcements. Sub Forums: • Important Club Announcements, • Activity Meetings, • Nutmeg Hamfest 2013</p>	2	2	February Activity Meeting Today 22:52 by WA1TRY
<p>Nets Net Logs are here Sub Forums: • 10 Meter Net, • 6 Meter Nets, • 2 Meter Nets</p>	5	13	2m Net Logs February 20th, 2013 09:44 by KITDO
<p>Key Klix Discussion Key Klix - The monthly newsletter of The Meriden ARC. Discuss articles in Key Klix, make suggestions and comments.</p>	0	0	Never
<p>Castle Craig Chapter Of 10-10 Discussion Discuss anything about the Castle Craig Chapter of 10-10 (sponsored by Meriden ARC). Get the latest news here. Sub Forums: • 10-10 International</p>	3	8	WInter 10-10 QSO Party Ki... February 13th, 2013 13:34 by W1DMM
<p>DX Post information about DX, DXpeditions, brag about your catches or alert others to upcoming DX activity.</p>	4	4	TX5K Clipperton Island Yesterday 17:44 by N1API
<p>Contests Contests - Check our calendar for Dates and information.</p>	2	8	ARRL DX Contest CW February 18th, 2013 17:19 by K1MVM



Search Member List Calendar Help

Welcome back, WA1TRY. Log Out

User CP Mod CP Admin CP

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<p>Key Klix Discussion Key Klix - The monthly newsletter of The Meriden ARC. Discuss articles in Key Klix, make suggestions and comments.</p>	0	0	Never
<p>Castle Craig Chapter Of 10-10 Discussion</p>	3	8	WInter 10-10 QSO Party Ki...

Club Information Page

Meriden ARC PO Box 583 Meriden, CT 06450

MARC 2011 Officers

President - John Bee - N1GNV - N1GNV@arrl.net
Vice President - Jim Savage - N1ZN - james.savage@snet.net
Secretary - Dan Murphy - W1DMM - w1dmm@arrl.net
Treasurer - Jonathan Winslow - KB1HCC
Station Activities Manager - Rich Aubin - WA1TRY waltry@cox.net

Committees

Key Klix Editor - Rich Aubin - WA1TRYWA1TRY@COX.NET
Key Klix Staff - Dan Murphy - W1DMM, John Bee - N1GNV
Program & Entertainment - Bob Carruthers - KB1FYL
Interference & Technical - Rich Aubin WA1TRY
Club QSL Manager - Bob Kaczor - KE1AU
VE/Education - Volunteer needed
Membership - "Haggie" Winslow - KB1HCC
Castle Craig - AlKaiser - N1API

Club Nets

50.175 mhz	SSB	Mondays	8:00 pm (NC N1ZN)
28.375 mhz	SSB	Tuesdays	8:00 pm (NC K1VDF)
147.360 mhz	FM	Tuesdays	7:00 pm (NC K1TDO)

Membership/ Dues: regular \$15 Senior \$10 Family Member \$5.00

Business Meetings - 2nd Thursday
Activity Meetings - 4th Thursday
All meetings start at 7:30 PM

Location of meetings: Wallingford Office of Emergency Management 37 Hall Road, Wallingford, CT

WWW.W1NRG.COM