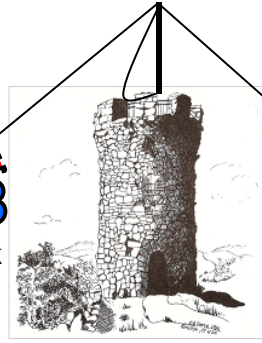




KEY KLIX

MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT—N1ZN JIM SAVAGE V.P.—N1API AL KAISER SECT.—K1SEZ PAUL CIEZNIK
TRES.—KB1HCC HAGGIE WINSLOW S.A.M.—WA1TRY RICH AUBIN



June 2014

June Meetings

**Business Meeting Thursday June 12, 7:30 pm @ the Cook Hill Fire House
(Medical Reserve Corp Headquarters) 37 Hall Road, Wallingford, CT 06492**

**Activity Meeting Thursday June 26, 7:30pm —Field Day Prep at the Firehouse...
Field Day June 28 to June 29 at Marcus Cooke Park, 287 Old Rock Hill Road, Wallingford
on the East Side, very close to I-91 but in that very typical New England style, you cant get
there from here. Directions will be in the next KK.**

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!!!!

WELL OK MAYBE NOT BUT.....

There once was a time when 30 or so die hard MARC Field Day fanatics planned for months for that one weekend a year. We designed a V- antenna with 750 feet on each leg and stretched it out on Godek's farm in South Meriden to tree's far in the woods. Ask Bill W1KKF on his encounter with some cows (or Bulls according to his version). That antenna would pick up lightning static charge from storms miles away and zap your fingers while you were trying to get it off the tuner. My VW Bus was a perfect operating station, comfortable seats and a table slid in for ease and comfort. Plus when it was over, I just turned the key and drove off. Then there was the Killer Coffee from the coffee maker that we did not realize drew 1000 watts from the generator while perking, so Every time two or more rigs transmitted the same time, the voltage dropped resetting the pot and keeping it brewing all night long.....didnt sleep for two nights after a cup of that. We were all younger then with more energy and a contest mode philosophy and also in direct competition with the CWA (Conn. Wireless Assoc.) in the 2a class. Actually beat them one or two years. We used Frank Darmofalski's Call one year, W1FD..... that was very confusing as everyone kept asking us what our call was, Whiskey One Field day...they usually got it on the second or third try...

Field Day 2014

Marcus Cooke Park 287 Old Rock Hill Road, almost next to Church where we had many a Christmas Party.

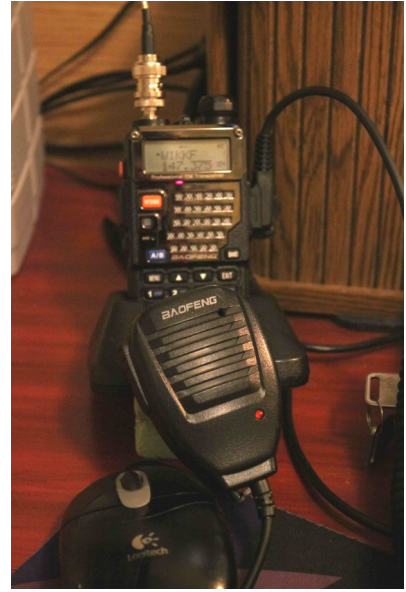
Thursday June 26 activity meeting is not cancelled as previously reported, it is a work session to get equipment ready for the weekend..... Time is 7:30pm at the firehouse.

Saturday..work crews arrive early to get stations together for 2pm start time. Really good news is John N1GNV is back doing the food concession stand.....he also has the pepto-bismol rights for the entire event.....

John K1LYP will be doing the VHF station, Moon Bounce and 24ghz frying hot dogs at 100'.

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

STEVE ALLEN KC1AXJ



Steve Allen KC1AXJ, is an Extra Class licensee who was first licensed in December 2013 as a Technician and passed his Extra Class in March of this year. He lives in Wallingford with his XYL Ruth, He has two daughters Samantha and Carrie. Steve is a Senior Field Applications Engineer With the Avnet Electronics Company and is very knowledgeable with remote control devices such as a fairly good sized RC Helicopter and now into Drones. He gave an excellent presentation on Drones at the last activity meeting. His Elmer into Ham Radio was Andrew Tedds (KB1UIF & G6JVS). He is experimenting with all bands but not too much luck on 160 and little on 80. 40, 20, 17 with voice. 10 through 80 JT65. Steve has a neat station built around he Kenwood TS-2000 and also his two mtr Handheld. Steve is currently either running wire antennas or is loading up the gutters and aluminum siding on the house.



What Is Ten-Ten (Or) 10-10 All About

The club has seen a nice influx of new members since we started back up in January this year. We've done a lot. There's a new web page, new forum and new chat area on the web. There has been much interest and talk about different activities and areas that The Club participates in. We've had some different activities this year and many of the members have shown interest in the subjects that have been presented. Also individuals have mentioned their personal interests and involvements in ham radio. There have been new members and non members checking into our nets. Due to this there are probably a few that are not quite sure what we are talking about when we talk about Castle Craig at the meeting or John calls the Meriden Amateur Radio Club - Castle Craig Chapter of 10-10 Net Tuesday on 28.345 at 8 PM local time. I'm going to do a series of articles about 10-10, Castle Craig, Win10-10 and the many different things that we can do as a Club or you can do as individuals. I would also like to do a presentation at an activity meeting on the programs used for 10-10 perhaps combined with an activity covering digital, contesting and other logging programs but we are getting ahead of ourselves. Therefore here is the first part.

What Is Ten-Ten?

10-10 has been around since about March of 1962. It was started by a number of hams in California and the name comes from "I'll meet you on 10 at Ten", thus 10-10. At first it was just a group of hams who got together to chat on 10 meters. But as the band opened other hams from different states and countries joined in and the group got bigger and bigger. The name became The 10-10 Net of Southern California and the frequency of choice, (still used today for a daily net), was 28.800 MHz. They met everyday but "never on a Sunday", still true for the daily nets.

Somewhere along the way it was decided that everyone should "have a number", the first numbers were given out by lot and K1RAW, Richard Gregorio in Massachusetts was lucky enough to get 10-10 number 1. He is still active and you may hear him if the backscatter to the Boston area is good. He always draws a big pile up when he gets on, everyone wants the number 1 in their logs.

Over the years 10-10 has grown, changed some. It is now The 10-10 International Net and runs like a business with elected officers and directors, committees, volunteers and such. It now has given out over 75,000 numbers and is second in size as an organization only to The ARRL. There is much more on their newly redesigned web page at <http://www.10-10.org/>. I'm not going to go much more deeply into the 10-10 Organization itself. There is much on the web about it if you need to know more, but the way to get your own 10-10 number is simple. Work 10 other 10-10 members, record their log information and submit it to the Business Manger with at lease one years dues either by mail or on the web and you will be issued a your own number which is good for life and beyond.

So what is 10-10 to the club. First of all I have to explain the difference between having a 10-10 number, 10-10 and Castle Craig. The club's 10-10 number, 29560 was issued by someone working the qualifying contacts and submitting that information on an application to The Organization with at least one years dues. W1NRG was issued 29650 which is good for life, (and beyond). That number will never be issued to another person or club. If W1NRG should QRT and disband as a club, even if someone decided to take W1NRG as a vanity call they will not be authorized to use 29650, only the Meriden Amateur Radio Club can own that number. You can change calls, if the club want to be W1MERIDEN, (yea right), the number could transfer to that call but never to another club or person.

10-10 is The Organization that the club belongs to having a number 29650 and with it the members have voted to keep our membership active by paying dues. It is the same as a member paying dues to our club. Because we are "paid up" we have all the rights as an individual, except voting. Clubs never vote in elections. Other than that we are eligible to participate as a club, (more on this later), in all activities and are eligible to receive all 10-10 awards, (now FREE of charge). We could also receive the newsletter but because we don't but we get more bang for our buck by getting a longer membership time. (I always have PDFs of all the newsletters past and present for those that want a copy emailed to them or to put your stick to read later, or I can put them on a CD or DVD if you give me one).

So what is Castle Craig? Castle Craig is a Chapter of 10-10. A chapter is a group of local 10-10 members who have decided to group together because they are interested in one of the functions of 10-10, be it the QSO Parties, Paper Chasing or just to be socialize. The only requirements of a 10-10 chapter is that there are a minimum of 5 people to start. Once they have been recognized their only other requirements is that they hold a weekly net and report their activities at least once a year to the Director in charge of chapters. As the Chapter Head and Certificate Manager I make the reports and add the club's activities to the reports as The Meriden Amateur Radio Club is the sponsoring organization behind the Castle Craig Chapter if 10-10. Many go beyond that and we'll discuss this later.

Next month the Club's involvement with 10-10.. Stay tuned.

Boy, has solar activity declined this week, and the near term outlook weakened as well. Average daily sunspot numbers for May 29 through June 4 dropped from 103.3 (for the previous seven days) to just 60.1. Average daily solar flux declined from 110.3 to 104.1. Last week the predicted solar flux for Field Day weekend was 108 and 110, and on June 2 that changed to 95 and 110. Predicted solar flux for the near term is 110 on June 6-7, 115 on June 8-11, 110 on June 12-13, 120 on June 14-15, 115 on June 16-17, 110 on June 18-20, 105 on June 21-23, then dipping below 100 to 95 on June 26-28, then peaking at 120 on July 6-12. Predicted planetary A index 8, 10 and 8 on June 6-8, 5 on June 9-17, 8 on June 18-19, 5 on June 20-24, 8 on June 25-26, 5 on June 27, 8 on June 28, 5 on June 29, and 8 June 30.

OK1HH predicts geomagnetic conditions will be quiet to active June 6, quiet to unsettled June 7-8, mostly quiet June 9-10, quiet to unsettled June 11, quiet on June 12, mostly quiet June 13, quiet June 14-17, quiet to active June 18-19, quiet on June 20-24, mostly quiet June 25-26, quiet June 27, quiet to unsettled June 28-29, and quiet to active June 30. Randy Crews, W7TJ, has been thinking about where we are in this sunspot cycle, and what we might see in the near future.

He wrote, "It is now common knowledge that Cycle 24 is the lowest cycle in 100 years, and also being one of the slowest starts of any cycle in our radio lifetime. (Historically - with no exceptions - cycles that begin slowly are very low in peaks; the opposite of cycles that get off to a fast start.) Of the double peaked cycles (Cycle 22 and Cycle 23) this is the first cycle where the second peak has been higher than the first. November 2011 SF=153, February 2014 SF=170.

"The second peak has also afforded us a higher extended elevated solar flux, averaging 150 for the six months from November 2013 through April 2014. Quite a performance to say the least, and finally igniting 10 and 12 meters.

"However, prior to making plans to put up 10 and 12 meter stacked Yagis, we all need to be aware we are probably past the peak of Cycle 24 because we are approximately 70 months into this cycle from the low of the lows set in August of 2008. (The official low is booked as December 2008, however whatever date is used, it is late in this cycle.)

"What is really behind the recent surge we had last spring and winter is not only the great combination of consistent monthly sunspots, but most importantly - the size and magnetic complexity was the largest of this cycle and mirrored many of the 200+ Solar Flux days we saw in Cycle 23 and 22." This trend is now on the decline, and aligning with Penn and Livingston's studies and measurements citing a steady decline in magnetic strength and complexity of sunspots since 1995. (We basically experienced a pause in a downtrend.) Livingston projects a continuation of the trend will result in virtually no sunspots by 2016, and Cycle 25 being even lower than Cycle 24. "NASA says we may be heading into a mini Maunder Minimum. Putting all this together, we will be hard pressed to see good 10 and 12 meter DX propagation going forward. 15, 17 and 20 meters will most likely be the workhorse high-bands." May is done, so let's look at our 3-month moving average of sunspot numbers. Centered on October 2013 through April 2014, the average daily sunspot number was 102.9, 123.7, 123.3, 138.5, 146.4, 148.2 and 129.6. This is just a simple arithmetic average for three months of activity. As we complete a new month and add that data in, an old month falls off.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at,

<http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see

<http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at

<http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Sunspot numbers for May 29 through June 4 were 55, 56, 55, 68, 56, 61, and 70, with a mean of 60.1. 10.7 cm flux was 102.7, 101.6, 103.7, 103.3, 105.3, 107, and 105.4, with a mean of 104.1. Estimated planetary A indices were 7, 9, 4, 5, 5, 7, and 5, with a mean of 6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 8, 8, 4, 5, 5, 5, and 6, with a mean of 5.9.

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