

KEY KLIX KW

JUNE 2020 MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 1947 - 2020

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

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

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NUTFEST – TO HOLD OR NOT TO HOLD – THAT IS THE QUESTION

The Meriden Amateur Radio Hamfest & Convention (aka the 'Nutfest') is also the ARRL Connecticut State Convention. It has a proud and long history. Currently it is held in Meriden at the Sheraton Four Points on a Sunday in October – this year on October 11. There is a flea market in the parking lot, a series of 4 talks on amateur radio, a VE session, an Exhibitor Hall, a series of raffles, and lately a contest for the best go-kit. Importantly, it provides an opportunity for Hams from around the state and near-by areas, to get to know more about our club, mingle with like-minded hams and put a face to a name. The revenue generated is put back into MARC programs and activities. The Nutfest does not impact the financial health of our club. We hold it because we are proud of the State Ham Convention designation, because we love amateur radio and because we want to meet other hams with whom we share the hobby. Sounds good to me – so why not hold the Nutfest in 2020, like always? Other than cold weather, hey, what could happen?

Everything changes however, when COVID-19 joins the party as an uninvited guest. The Corona virus is noted for two major aspects – it is incredibly easy to transmit, and it kills. We are just recovering from Wave 1 of the pandemic and are returning to the “new normal”. We do not want to foster, Wave 2. The question is, will October 11, be too soon to return to the crowded good old days of prior Nutfests?

Factors in favor of holding the Hamvention: Tradition – “We have always had one”; it’s good visibility for Club, for the ARRL and for CT amateur radio; it supports MARC activities and programs; it brings the club together; we generate a few new licensed hams; we are educated by the talks and find a few new “must have” pieces of radio gear at the exhibit hall and flea market.

Factors against holding the Nutfest Hamvention: The State might not look fondly on 500 folks crowding into the Sheraton. Some attendees likely won't be wearing masks for one reason or another. If some of them are asymptomatic carriers they could unknowingly be spreading the virus. The Hotel would also be concerned about this. We might have to socially distance and limit attendance in the lecture rooms and at the VE session. In the exhibit hall, we might have to impose limits on the number of hams to say, just 10 people in the room at a time. Maintaining compliance with social distancing and requiring use of masks and gloves could annoy attendees, hotel staff, vendors and MARC volunteers, as well.

Why not just have a flea market in the parking lot? We could socially distance, but who would sign up for the “Mask Police” to enforce a “No mask – No purchases” policy. Such a dictum, if enforced, can escalate very quickly and could cause big problems. If we wait to make a “go- no go” decision closer to the event date, we risk annoying the lectures and/or the exhibitors due to the need for last minute changes in plans. Also, could any legal actions be taken against the Club if we hold the Nutfest and become a State-wide focus for having started a Covid-19 hot spot. Consider, too that we could hold the Nutfest and no one would come due to fears of spreading the virus among their families.

A final decision has not yet been made as the Nutfest BOD (I am Board Chair) needs to vote. All in all, however, I am in favor of cancelling the Nutfest for 2020. I have spoken with Fred Hopengarten the ARRL NE Division Director. He understands the issues and is supportive of a decision to cancel the Nutfest for all the reasons addressed above. Public health and safety are the most important considerations.

As the car commercial says: “Cancelling the Nutfest,it’s the right thing to do!”. Stay tuned.
73,

Ed W1YSM, President MARC

Longtime MARC member Dave Karpiej K1THP Silent Key



David A. Karpiej, 72, of Farmington, died on Tuesday, June 2, 2020. Born in New Britain to the late Alphonse and Martha Karpiej, he attended local schools and graduated from E.C. Goodwin Tech then from Ward Technical College. Dave proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force. Prior to retirement he was employed as an electronic technician for Coherent Laser. In his leisure time, Dave was an amateur radio operator (K1THP), and also enjoyed spending time with friends at Winding Trails. He was a member of the Bristol Fish & Game Club as well as the American Legion Bristol Post #2. A friend to all, Dave will be greatly missed. He is survived by Libby (Sapelli) his loving wife of 47 years; his sisters, Barbara Banasiewicz and husband James, and Mary-Ann Varga and husband Stephen; his brother-in-law, Jim Sapelli and wife Mary; his best friend and evil twin, Bob Albrecht, and several nieces

and nephews. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Dave's name to: ARRL Lab, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. He will be laid to rest with military honors beside his parents in Sacred Heart Cemetery, New Britain on Wednesday, June 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Our condolences also go out to Paul Stasieluk W1EDX on the recent loss of his sister.

Mike K1MVM is back in Ct., temporarily in Bristol... We wish a healthy and speedy recovery to Lori who is recovering from an illness.

FROM STEVE KC1SA

Figured I'd make some mask ear protectors. Works well, completely customized with call sign. Put some wires in it and a connector to your HT and you have a fox hunting antenna.

73,

Steve



THE ERIC & ELSIE PAGE

E & E Laced 'Em Up for Charity

Eric KB1EHE and Elsie KB1FZ used one of their training runs to participate -- virtually -- in the "RACE 4-CT VIRTUAL 5K" to raise money for COVID-19 charities. They're long-distance runners, veterans of various marathons (26.2 mile races). So they like to DX in the air...and on the ground. :-)



Heads up: Some 70's hair from KB1EHE & KB1FZ during their UConn days. Eric says this photo was taken in his dorm room in 1979. He said, "Elsie and I might have been studying. But, most likely, we were probably making a list for the next run to the package store."



A long and winding (in this case, zigzagging) road.

As many of you have seen, Eric KB1EHE's antenna was featured in this month's QST. If you haven't, here's a snapshot. Eric said that it's taken 17 years from the initial spark of the idea to bring it to market.

In 2003, while on a flight to Europe with Elsie KB1FZ, Eric said he was fidgeting with a twist tie and unconsciously bent the twist tie into a zigzag shape. He wondered if a full-size dipole antenna made this way would work. When he got back from the trip, he took 130 feet of wire, bent it into triangles, and ended up with 65-feet of zigzagged wire. He draped the zigzags over a taunt length of rope, split the wire in the middle, tacked on some ladder line, and tried the contraption on the air. Eric said it performed better than he expected.

Eric kept working on the technique with his long-time friend Rod Lane N1FNE. After a few years of trying and tweaking various configurations, they filed for a patent in 2007. Their first patent on the design was granted by the U.S. Patent Office in 2011.

Over the years, Eric and Rod received thoughts and advice from fellow hams who saw the antenna. Their ham colleagues experimented with the construction, too. Eric and Rod kept trying and testing various iterations -- including right here at MARC on a few occasions.

Eric mentioned that the final "hybrid" design -- incorporating the original wire zigzags with various straight pieces of wire -- was the result of over 10,000 4NEC2 simulations to "get it truly dialed in."

Eric said to say "thank you" to everyone at MARC for the suggestions and advice. He also said that John N1GNV really kept him on his toes with challenging -- but always constructive -- thoughts and what-ifs. All in all, Eric said it is great to help out the ham community with a new antenna design -- even if it "almost took two decades to get it across the finish line."

New Products

The HybridDX Antenna

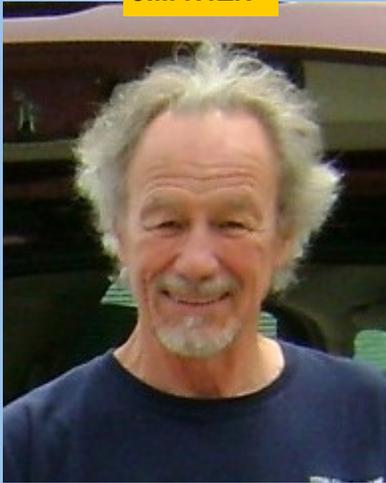
The new HybridDX antenna offers 160- through 6-meter coverage in a unique wire dipole design that occupies just 79 feet. The HybridDX combines horizontal, vertical, and

efficient linear loading for performance superior to a G5RV design within a much smaller footprint. The antenna is center fed with 450 Ω ladder line -- 75 feet of line is provided -- and includes UV-stabilized polymer spreaders. For more information, see www.hybriddx.com. Price: \$99.95. Available from Quicksilver Radio at www.qsradio.com.



Give me a head with hair, long beautiful hair, Shining, gleaming, steaming, flaxen, waxen, give me down to there hair, shoulder length or longer

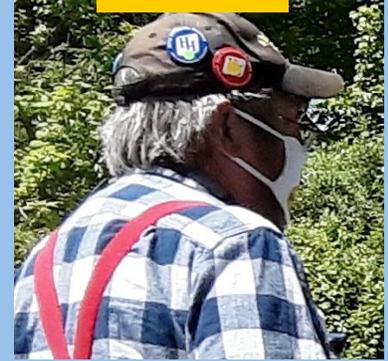
JIM N1ZN



AND THE WINNER IS ED N1YLN



JOHN N1GNV



ERIC KB1JL



STEVE KC1SA



CONSOLATION PRIZE JAMES AB1DQ FOR SELF INDUCED HAIRCUT!!!!



BOB KE1AU



JOHN K1LYP



BOB N1OKF



DAVE K1WJL





Tales of the Non-Sanctioned Fox Hunts



COMMENTS FROM THE FOXHUNTERS PAGE

We had Foxhunt #10 on Saturday, 30 May 2020. It was a beautiful day, weather-wise, and everyone seems to have (eventually) found the fox.

John K1LYP tried out his truck mounted foxhunt antenna, complete with rotor! The rotor is good for those small areas where you can't drive in a full circle.

Jeff N1AKN let's his shirt ask the questions. Is there anyone among us who can stump him?

While we're on the subject of questions, why is the alphabet in alphabetical order? Send in your answer to KeyKlix!

Ted KC1DOY

We had 14 hunters, several wives/drivers, one daughter (Kristen), and one grand daughter (Aubry). Jim, N1ZN, had his grand daughter Aubry join him on several hunts. John, K1LYP, tried out his beam antenna and working rotor in the bed of his truck. Steve, KC1SA, uses a Software Defined Radio (SDR) as part of his arsenal. Jeff, KC1HDB, is the latest to get an offset attenuator.

Our equipment is getting better and we're continuing to attract new hunters. This week's 14 hunters is a record for us. After some weeks of temperatures that we wished were warmer, we now need to remember to use sunscreen.

Dave NZ1J





Secretary Report & Minutes of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club

Anne West K1STM , Secretary

MAY 14, 2020 BUSINESS TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Meeting held on Jitsi Meet video conference.

Attendees: W1DQ, WV2LKM, KC1DOY, KC1KQH, WA1FFT, KC1SA, WA1JKR, KC1GMD, K1LHO, K1RCT, W1YSM, N1BRL, W1KKF, N1GNV, KE1AU, K1WJL, WA1SFH, N1API, NZ1J, N1KGY, WB1GYZ, KB1JL, KB1MFU, N1ZN, K1JCF, K1LYP, KB1EHE, KB1IFZ, W1EDX, W1AJK, WA1ZVY. K1STM and K1VDF were unable to dial in.

Meeting called to order 1933 hours by President W1YSM.

Announcements

Serafino's Restaurant Christmas dinner December 10, 2020 still scheduled.

July outside activities include Lark in the Park

Secretary Report-(K1STM) Minutes of April meeting posted in Key Klix and accepted.

New members -K1SCI Stew, from East Harford application accepted and approved.

Treasurers Report (K1WJL) read by Dave. Income included \$300 in dues, one member paid \$200, 8 years forward.

Station Activity Manager (K1RCT) - No activity occurring at OEM Club station. Rob proposed a commitment of approximately \$1000 to search for and purchase software and hardware to remotely control and operate the 3 club stations. This was discussed as new business and the club voted (27-1 with one abstention) to approve Rob moving forward. A club commitment to approve the disbursement of funds as needed, up to \$1000, will be voted on, as per the By-Laws at the June Business Meeting.

Committees

Entertainment (W1YSM) May 28 activity will be on Jitsi with a presentation on digital modes by Scott N3NFP. Speaker for the June activities talk is TBA. Saturday morning coffee cup net on repeater continues to see 15 or more check ins.

Contesting (K1RCT) Possible SOTA activation, Field Day 2020 and 13 Colonies in July were discussed. Fox Hunting continues on Saturdays as a non sanctioned club activity with 8-12 participants.

350 Jubilee (K1LYP) Event had been moved to September and is now canceled until 2021. Club reaffirms commitment. W1W temporary special events call will still operate during designated period. All other community events planned are either on hold or canceled.

VE (N1ZN): KB1JL stated club has received permission from the town to hold a VE session on June 13, 2020, with COVID restrictions to apply. This will be limited, and by prior registration.

Club Nets- club maintains 10-meter, 6-meter, 2-meter weekly nets and a tech net on Wednesday and a "coffee cup net" on Saturday mornings on the club repeater.

Castle Craig (N1API) 10-meter activity continues mostly sunspot dormant with a 6/29 to 7/5 contest scheduled.

Scholarship (N1ZN) Club still committed to award scholarship in 2020. KB1IFZ asked regarding the awarding of money if colleges are not in session. N1ZN stated any money would go directly to the school, not the student, per established procedures.

Key Klix (K1WJL) continues to be published 1-2 issues per month. Contributions always welcome. An informal exchange of newsletters was established with ECARA.

Nutmeg Hamfest(N1GNV) - still scheduled for October, although cancellation may become necessary.

EmComm (KB1JL) Club was updated on FD/OEM position on use of 143 Hope Hill Rd. Presently any use of the main room is temporarily off limits due to town Health Dept occupancy. Any club use must receive prior approval from Fire Chief Heidgerd, with COVID restrictions in place.

Old Business

None discussed

New Business

More discussion on the software hardware to remote control the club station

W1YSM has expressed an interest in Satellite communications. He raised the possibility that there could be a satellite club participation event during the Covid quarantine.

Next Activity Meeting is May 28, 2020 and next Business Meeting is June 11, 2020

Meeting was adjourned 2050 hours.

Respectfully submitted, Eric KB1JL, VP MARC (for Sect Ann K1STM) May 20, 2020

WHO ARE THESE MARC HAMS ????

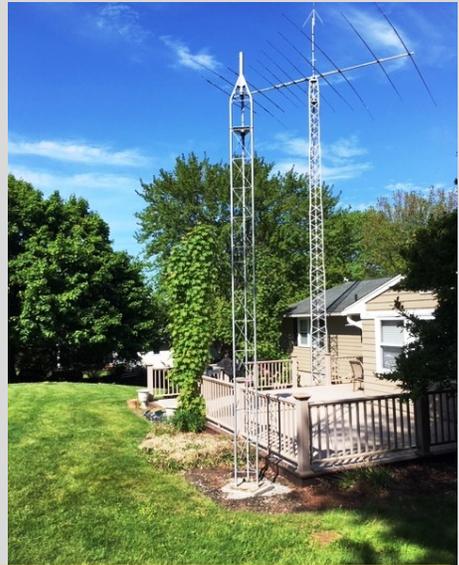
THIS COLLEGE PHOTO FROM THE 1960'S HAD TO RETOUCHESED EXTENSIVELY..



THIS 1974 PHOTO JUST WORKS PERFECTLY WITH JOHN DENVERS "TAKE ME HOME"



ANSWERS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES



K1LYP'S NEW ADDITION TO THE ANTENNA FARM, ROHN SEEDS CAME WITH A N1AKN SEED ALSO..



ED N1YLN INSTALLING HIS NEW ANTENNA & THE FINISHED PRODUCT

**IT'S MIKE K1LHO AND.....
TRUTH BE TOLD, THIS PHOTO COULD
USE A LOT OF PHOTOSHOP ALSO.**



IT'S TED KC1DOY



I mentioned adding a "when we had hair" category to the list. That's a picture of me (yes, that really is me) taken on a hiking trip about 1974. It was about a year after I got out of the army. My friend Tom took the shot when we took a break after a trek up a steep hill.
DE KC1DOY

FROM ED W1YSM—— THE SATELLITE HUNTER



So there I was at 12:33am this morning (AOS time) sitting in my chair in front of my TS2000, headphones on, tuned to 145.960 MHz - squelch off —waiting for Bird AO-91 to come over the horizon at a 30 degree elevation not believing anything would be heard over the constant loud hiss of background static. I was using my UHF/VHF Diamond X-50 omnidirectional on my roof. What the heck. Not likely, but worth a shot. At 12:34a I hear nada aka static.

But 12:35am what do I hear but - *“Whiskey Two Uniform Fox- Fox November 32.”*

I followed his call for 5 minutes changing frequency as a good Doppler doobee should.

No pile-up- but alas I was not set up to transmit. No QSO, just SWL. Good enough for a first ever attempt.

I was instantly back in Jr High SWL listening to HCJB in Quito Ecuador at 1am on my Hallicrafter S-38E. Headphones on the avoid waking my parents. I couldn't respond since I was not able to transmit but tonight AO 91 will be at

Azimuth 3 and Elevation 83 degrees! I will try to get my radio set to transmit. This could be another “Mr Watson come here I need you” or “What hath G-d wrought” moment. It will be right over my head!!! Stay tuned and stay awake.

Next stop MARS!!! I have to call Captain Video. Anyone remember the name of his robot?

Ed W1YSM FN31nl

(P.S. the robot was "Tobor" ---- didn't realize Tobor was Robot backwards -- until I was in college!)

De Ed W1YSM

An Alabama miracle: Two men are alive after a rigging failure collapses the 349-foot tower they were on



A 349-foot guyed tower collapsed Monday in Seale, Alabama while two tower techs were tied off to it at around the 225-foot level. Miraculously, one man literally walked away bruised and his co-worker was hospitalized with injuries to his leg. Individuals knowledgeable of the accident, and as can be seen in the above photograph obtained by Wireless Estimator, are in awe that anyone could have survived the torrent of steel that collapsed in the Multi-tenant compound. The structure, located off of Highway 431, was constructed in 2001 and was acquired from Optasite Towers LLC by SBA Communications in 2007. Sources have informed Wireless Estimator that the tower crew was decommissioning an AT&T mount when their rigging failed, dropping the mount on a guy wire and collapsing the tower.

10-10 Spirit of 76 QSO Party De N1API

This is a week long event that runs the Fourth of July week. The object is to work as many stations as possible on 10 meters with or without a 10-10 number on 6 modes. Score two points for each 10-10 QSO and one point for each non 10-10 QSO. A total of 12 points are available if you work a member on all modes. Here is a good chance to test your stations and antennas to see how it performs on modes and on frequencies you may not normally use it for.

The modes are SSB, CW, AM, FM, PSK31, and RTTY. (Note: Because of the difficulty of exchanging 10-10 numbers via FT8 it has not been added in replacement of PSK).

The dates this year are from June 29th 0000 UTC to July 5th 2359:59. The 10 meter net can be used to exchange numbers for the party and this is about the only weekly net we ask members to give their 10-10 numbers on the net. The full information for this QSO party with all the details can be found at: <https://www.10-10.org/Forms/Spirit.pdf>

FROM LAST MONTHS KK THE QUESTION WAS....WHAT TYPE TREE WAS THIS ??

THE CORRECT ANSWER WAS FROM TED KC1DOY

If I'm not mistaken, that is a beautiful specimen of *Arboretum Celltowrium*. A relatively new species, they do not grow close together like normal trees. In fact, none has ever been seen closer together than the next nearest hilltop.

While not always easy to pick out at a distance, one can usually spot them against the other trees on a windy day as they do not sway in the breeze since they are quite rigid.

For those interested, there is more information to be found in my book, *Strange facts, random musings and fever dreams*. Pick up a copy in the vaporware section of your local bookstore



MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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 MONDAYS 8PM
 50.175MHZ N1ZN JIM

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

10 METER NET TUESDAYS 8PM
 28.375MHZ K1VDF JOHN

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

2 METER TECH NET Weds 7:30PM
 147.360+, no PL
 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)

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

AB1DQ	James Surprenant	22	N1GNV	John Bartscherer	20
AB1HB	Charlie Dudac	20	N1GY	Geoff Haines	21
AF1HS	Art Fregeau	20	N1KGY	Chuck Ayers	20
K1IIG	Steve Tripp	20	N1MOB	Dan David	20
K1JCF	Joe Farrell	20	N1NAN	Helen Spokes	20
K1LHO	Mike Ash	20	N1OKF	Bob Parisi	20
K1LYP	John Yusza	20	N1OKR	Frank Ciccone	20
K1MMK	Mike MacKennedy	20	N1POP	Greg Ploski	24
K1RCT	Rob Cichon	20	N1QYB	William Wilecki Jr.	20
K1SCI	Stuart Isaac	20	N1YLN	Edward O'Lena	20
K1STM	Anne West	20	N1ZN	James Savage	20
K1TDO	Todd Olsen	20	NZ1J	Dave Tipping	22
K1TGX	Jerry Molaver	22	W1AJK	Andrew Kazimer	20
K1VDF	John Blevins	20	W1DQ	John Elengo	20
K1WJL	Dave Swedock	20	W1EDX	Paul Stasieluk	20
KB1CIW	Bob Stephens	20	W1KKF	Bill Wawrzeiak	L
KB1EHE	Eric Knight	20	W1KPS	Kevin Shields	20
KB1FYL	Bob Carruthers	20	W1LV	Steve Morley	20
KB1HCC	Jonathan Winslow	20	W1NHS	Fred Ring	20
KB1IFZ	Elsie Mathews	20	W1NNZ	William Kosche III	20
KB1JL	Eric Olsson	20	W1POP	Fred Liedke	21
KB1MFU	John Ramadei	21	W1ST	Stephen Stimpson	20
KB1SIT	Teresa Stephens	20	W1UFO	Mike Cei	20
KB1SSN	Alex Dills	20	W1XK	Stan Kugler	19
KB1TJD	Gainne Jenkins	20	W1YSM	Ed Snyder	22
KB1TMC	Clare O'Lena	20	WA1FFT	Ray Irwin	20
KB1YFJ	Glen Couture	20	WA1JKR	John Rogus	21
KC1DOY	Ted Renzoni	20	WA1SFH	Douglas Sharafanowich	20
KC1GMD	Ralph Ring	20	WA1TRY	Rich Aubin	L
KC1HDB	Jeff Martin	28	WA1ZVY	Jim Martin	20
KC1HFO	John Stoidis	20	WB1GGP	Jerry Shepard	20
KC1IIK	Scott Mowerson	20	WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur	20
KC1IIL	Matt Mowerson	20Y	WB8IMY	Steve Ford	20
KC1ISI	Kristin Olsson	20	WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann	20
KC1KQH	John Kasinskas	20	W9OTW	Debbie Foss	20
KC1MBG	Robert Luby	20		Ron Rogers	20
KC1SA	Stephen Allen	21			
KE1AU	Robert Kaczor	20			
KE1AV	Dave Sanford	20			
KE1AY	Donald Mitchell	20			
KR1U	Bob Eslinger	20			
N1AKN	Jeff Dwyer	20			
N1API	Al Kaiser	20			
N1BF	Patrick Dionne	21			
N1BRL	Bart Toftness	20			

MEMBERSHIP STATS

TOTAL MEMBERS.....82
 REGULAR(UNDER65).....39
 SENIOR(OVER 65).....40
 LIFE.....2
 STUDENT(UNDER 18).....1

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)

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.

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