



# KEY KLIX



*The Monthly Newsletter of the Meriden ARC March 2012*

## Club Activity Night Schedule

The March activity meeting will be on March 22, 2012 at the Wallingford OEM building. (next to the Wallingford Senior Center). This will be a continuation of last month's Penny Auction. This time we will be cleaning out the garage and there are some bargains to be had. Antennas, hook up wire, cables, and even a Rohn 25 tower section or two are up for auction. Don't miss this .. 7:30 PM

In April will have our own Ebay Guru Mike, K1MVM who will show us how to set up your own Ebay auctions as well as the ins and outs of Ebay selling and buying. Rich, WA1TRY will also have some hand outs on the best way to find things on Ebay and some tips on winning that elusive item you are looking for.

Our May activity meeting is going to be a show and tell all about message handling and the different forms of moving traffic and emergency communications. Bob, KB1FYL will have more details on the speakers and subject matter in the June issue of Key Klix

In June, the emphasis will be Field Day! We are building a historical compilation of MARC Field Day pictures including some never seen pictures that will be put into a PDF format slide show and saved on disk. This presentation will be shown at this year's June activity meeting. Also during that meeting we will be discussing Field Day setup and doing our "loading the truck for FD" drill. We will have copies of the archived MARC Field Day photos and other MARC events on CD available for \$2.00 each. Proceeds will go to the club scholarship fund.

Bob, KB1FYL will be updating the next several months of activities as they are firmed up after June. Popular activities being considered are, A trip to the ARRL, Check out your HT and/or mobile radios, Fox hunt, In house verbal DX contest,

## In This Issue

---

### Club Activity Schedule

### Cheshire MS Walk

### Grid Dipper

### Dues Are Due

### From the Editor

### As the Key Klix

### February Business Meeting Minutes

types of RF, Power, and A/V connectors, Contesting with computers, and many more. Watch for Club Activity Night articles every month in Key Klix. Bob will be updating the time and dates each month here in Key Klix.

## Cheshire MS Walk Volunteers Needed

This year the annual Cheshire\_MS\_Walk will take place on April 22, 2012. We are looking for volunteers. Chris, WA1VHX is asking that we sign up on the [club reflector](#). Look under "Club events\ (non-contest)" Or contact him directly. We will need at least six people.

Please arrive for duty between 6:30 and 7:00 AM and we should be done by 1:00 PM. This is an easy, short event and it's your chance to help the community. All you need is your HT. We will be using the W1KKF club repeater on 147.36 - tone squelch 162.2 and no PL. There may be a spare HT or two to loan. See you there !



**You've come a long way, baby!** The ARRL sanctioned the use of YL (young lady) in 1920 as the standard telegraphy shorthand for female wireless operators. The directors felt the use of OL (similar to OM for male operators) might be derogatory. Although they represent only 15% of today's US amateur community, YLs have been involved in the Amateur Radio Service from the outset.

During World War II, many US females joined the WACS, WAMS, WAVES and SPARES to perform statewide and rear echelon administrative duties including wire and wireless telegraphy functions, thereby freeing up their male counterparts for overseas duties. In Canada, as in the US, women were summarily released

from sea duty when the merchant and passenger fleets were taken over by the naval forces. Transatlantic duty during the Battle for the Atlantic was considered a war zone primarily due to the U-Boat threat on convoys. Several of the Allied nations, particularly Norway and Russia, did not have these chauvinistic regulations. Several dozen of these newly shore bound seafarers enrolled in commercial radio schools, obtained their radio operator licenses, and signed on to these foreign merchant fleets. Little is documented of their exploits other than a list of names, but many served long maritime careers often the only radio officer on these vessels. A few were awarded meritorious recognition for their exploits during those treacherous years on the Atlantic.

But the history of women in the radio services actually precedes World War II by many years. In an article in the October 1916 issue of Electrical Experimenter the editors stated, "Just because a man, Signor Guglielmo Marconi by name, invented commercial wireless telegraphy does not mean for a moment that the fair sex cannot master its mysteries. To prove that the girls and women of the country are rapidly awakening to the fact that radio operating is a worthwhile accomplishment, both vocationally and intellectually, we have the pleasure of presenting herewith a number of [passages] showing the Radio activities of our fairer sex." The article went on to provide several thumbnail sketches of contemporary women in the new radio technology as either amateurs or commercial licensed operators.

Miss Kathleen Parkins of California, one of the youngest at 15, was licensed as a first class commercial operator and held the amateur call 6SO. The editors described Miss Parkins as "an expert radio operator and mechanic" using her portrait as the cover piece for the magazine issue. In an interview she stated, "It seems to me that every one should at least know the code, as cases might easily arise of a ship in distress, where the operators might be incapacitated, and a knowledge of the code might be

the means of saving the ship and lives of the passengers. But the interest in wireless does not end in the knowledge of the code." She was equally proud of her homebrew 250 watt transmitter.

Miss Graynella Packer of Florida had the distinction of being the first female radio officer on a commercial steamship. As a result of her career, she had several unique and humorous sea-stories to relate and maybe some salty language to recount them in. Miss Parker had expressed a desire to go beyond the new technology world of wireless and explore the phenomena of atmospheric electricity aboard passenger ships.

Two women, Mmes. Craw and Hamilton, set up a training camp in Rowayton Connecticut for young ladies in the art of wireless telegraphy. There was an increasing demand at the time for radio operators at department stores, especially in the New York area. This, of course, was a time that landline telegraph connections were expensive and before the advent of FAX or internet store-to-store communications. Training camps for young girls blossomed throughout the country and Allied world with the onset of World War I and the availability of stateside male operators decreased.

This year is a presidential election year and we are already flooded with campaign news, ads and information. The use of electronic media, i.e., the radio airwaves, is not a new development. During the summer of 1915, Mrs. Alexander MacKenzie used her son's wireless outfit in their apartment in Yonkers, New York to broadcast a "Votes for Women" message three times a day. More often than not, she received replies from both land stations and ships at sea some positive replies and some negative replies. The Yonkers Suffrage Party women used wireless in their 24-hour demonstration during the November election night activities. They made speeches in Manor House Square and a wireless station above the platform received messages from various celebrities and prominent suffrag

ists.

The 'young ladies' of amateur radio have truly been active for a long time. Today the world is more tolerant to equal opportunity, so it is of little surprise to hear of females in commercial, military or maritime radio activities. None are astonished today to hear a YL in a pile-up as they are operating individually, active in local YL and mixed member clubs, and even have several large area YL nets. In the past century of wireless radio, "You've come a long way, baby!" **GD**

## Dues are Due !

Have you paid your 2012 dues yet? Next month will be your last Key Klix if you haven't done so and you will be dropped from the roster. See our Treasurer Haggie, KB1HCC or send in your dues via snail mail. Send payment to: Meriden Amateur Radio Club Post Office Box 583 Meriden, CT 06450.

**THE NEW P & H LA-400-C  
800 WATTS PEP SSB  
LINEAR AMPLIFIER**

**NOW 800 WATTS PEP  
FOR ONLY \$164.95  
THE "BEST BUY" YET**

**What \$164.95 got you in 1960 !**

## From the Editor

I have a few changes in the Key Klix that I will be rolling out over the next couple issues. Most of you are now enjoying the full color downloaded PDF versions which is saving the club a lot of money. But there are other reasons to have your club newsletter available electronically. The most obvious is of course that the electronic version is in full color while the printed version is only in black and white.

There are other advantages too. Some you may have not realized. For example if your eyes are a little old and tired (like mine) it's very easy to blow up the page size while viewing the newsletter on your computer. For viewing the PDF format of this news letter, (as well as all the other PDF files out there) I use a third party PDF reader called [Foxit Reader](#). It's quick and easy to use and yet still full featured. I also have the Adobe Acrobat reader, but I find Foxit Reader to be much quicker loading and less of a resource hog.

I also like the various viewing options available .. my favorite view for publications like newsletters and magazines is to use "facing" pages which gives you a two at a time, side by side view of the pages. Just like having a book opened up in front of you. The right or left key on your PC keypad will flip the pages back and forth.

One of the new additions starting with this month's Key Klix is that in the PDF format version we will have hyper-links activated. For example now when you see something underlined and in a different font color, that will be an active link. While you are viewing the article, you can just double-click on that text and you will be taken directly to that URL. In the above text, double clicking on "Foxit Reader" will bring you to the Foxit web site. I'm still working out the bugs but it looks promising. Think of the advantages. Now you'll have a monthly source of club information, with highlighted links to relevant items.

Also on tap is a long over-due revamp of what is being covered. I'll try to get the "ol sock" to show up more often. Having an article in our newsletter covering member activity is a great way to keep with what's going on in the MARC. Watch for it every month.

<edit> The aforementioned links may or may not be working .. I'm working on it.

## de WA1TRY Editor Key Klix



**The cover of the FIRST Issue of 73 Magazine  
October 1960 ... 37 cents !**

## As the Key Klix

Newly retired (and loving it) Al, N1API is burning up the airwaves. If it's on the air, Al will work it. Guaranteed. Rumor has it that his three year battle with a 20 over S9 line noise is soon to be resolved. Just imagine if there were no noise !

Just like the tree growing in Brooklyn, so does the tower grow in N1ZN's backyard. We are awaiting the day he actually gets antennas up on it. Hang in there Jim, Spring is coming.

MARC members Chris WA1VXH, Lenny KB1TJC, and Rich WA1TRY attended the Packet Radio seminar held recently in Guilford. Many thanks to ARES volunteers Wayne N1XLV and Bill W1GTT for a hands on demo event. It was a chance for at least those who attended to actually get their Packet radios up and running along with WinLink and APRS. Oh and WA1TRY won one of the door prizes .. the latest book from our own Steve Ford, WB8IMY - "VHF Digital Handbook". Rich was heard to comment later, " Good thing N1GNV wasn't there, or I would have never won the prize". Kinda makes up for all those lost 50/50 raffles Rich lost to John over the years.

Mike, K1MVM can be found on Ebay these days. But he still has time to work DX and check in to the club nets.

Speaking of nets, our two meter FM talk and information net is being run by Todd, K1TDO who does a great job keeping things organized. Long time club net control ops Jim N1ZN and John K1VDF are racking up quite a few years as net control operators. Our six meter net is several years old already and the 10 meter net .. is well .. uh I guess has been around forever.

The lack of the white stuff this Winter hasn't kept Bill W1KKF from doing some skiing this year.

It must be the year to do house remodeling.

Paul K1SEZ and Fred W1POP both have gone the kitchen re-do route. Yep .. got to keep those XYLs happy.

Sometimes you have to be thankful to have been born in this era. About 150 years ago, John, N1GNV would have been using a horse and buggy to travel up and down the East coast selling pots, pans and wash boards. Instead he now has the fun job of attending Hamfests and selling "*everything but the radio*". However the other day while the ol' sock was visiting Johnny Bee, he could have sworn to have seen something resembling a wash board fall out of the back of the truck. Left over NOS ? (new old stock)?

Haggie KB1HCC has been doing some traveling lately. Must be nice to take your mobile "home" to where the weather isn't cold and damp.

Lenny KB1TJC has been exploring local 220 repeaters lately. His 140/440 dual band DIY J-Pole is looking for company. Time to get more copper for the 220 version eh Lenny?

To say that Al, N1TJQ likes old radios is an understatement.

We heard that Dan W1DMM is waiting for better weather to resurrect his G5RV. Maybe he will get it up by Saint Patty's Day.

Skip W1SKP recently recently put the wheels in motion to get a Ham Radio presence at the West Haven VA hospital. The VA will soon have an operating ham radio shack running under the callsign KB1WON.

Bob, KB1FYL can be seen put-putting around on his scooter a lot these days. With today's high gas prices, going "*scooter mobile*" sounds like a good idea. This ol' sock has never seen a scooter outfitted with a mobile ham radio. Now THAT would would something to see at an up and coming club show and tell meeting.

*de The Ol' Sock.*

# Secretary Report & Minutes of Meriden Amateur Radio Club

## February 2012

The business meeting opened at 1930 on February 9, 2012 with approximately 15 people in attendance. A quorum was present. Jim N1ZN presided.

**Announcements** - A MARC Shack moving preparation day is scheduled for Saturday Feb 11th in the early afternoon. See February Key Klix for more details.

Activity meeting - Thurs, February 23rd at 7:30 PM – Message Traffic Handling by WA1TRY.  
(Post meeting note: changed to Surplus Equipment Auction by WA1TRY)

**Secretary's Report** - Previous minutes accepted as presented and published.

**Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer's report not available

**Contributions** – None

**Correspondence** – None.

**Scholarship** – (KE1AY) Letters to schools out end of January. Applications due end of April.

**Club Station & Facilities** - (WA1TRY-SAM) Preparing to move all MARC possessions to the new location. Other SAM report in February Key Klix.

Move to the Fire House building is still under development. Stay tuned to Key Klix and the MARC forum for evolving details.

**Club Activities & Program** (KB1CIW & KB1FYL-P&E Co-Chair) - February Activity – Message Handling forms and operation by Rich WA1TRY. Potential future activities: LOTW by ARRL and Tune-UP Nite by K1VDF. Upcoming contests CQ 160 meter weekend February 24. ARRL International DX-CW February 18-19.

**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 Bob KB1CIW.

VHF-SSB 50.175 Mondays at 8 PM, Primary NC Jim N1ZN.

**Castle Craig** - (N1API-CM & CP) 10/10 QSO parties: SSB Feb 4-5, 2012 & Aug 4-5, 2012; Digital Apr 28-29, 2012 & Nov 10-11, 2012; CW May 5-6, 2012 & Oct 20-21, 2012. AI N1API held 10/10 net 6:45 (EST) Friday Feb 3rd to kick off QSO party.

**Membership** - (KB1HCC) Thirty-five (35) 2012 members more or less.

**Interference and Technical** - (WA1TRY)

Nothing to report.

**Instruction** - (VE-KE1AY, Instruction Facilitator - Open) 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) Back to normal.

**EmComm** - (WA1VXH) There will be an MS walk-a-thon in Cheshire on April 22nd. We seem to be the only or one of the very few clubs supporting these activities. Chris WA1VXH has submitted a request to the town for use of Marcus Cooke Park for Field Day.

**Nutmeg Hamfest** (October 2012) With the likely purchase of Mountain Ridge by a non-profit group – New Life Church, the availability of the site for the 2012 Nutfest is in question. Additional sites are being looked into, but size, cost, volunteer needs are all considerations for a venue selection.

**Miscellaneous 50/50** – None

Meeting Adjourned about 20:10

**Submitted: Dan Murphy W1DMM, Secretary**

***Dont forget to pay your dues !***

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

Business Meetings - 2nd Thursday Activity Meetings - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.  
All meetings start at 7:30 PM

Location of meetings: Wallingford Office of Emergency Management  
284 Washington Street, Wallingford, Connecticut  
*(next to the Wallingford Senior Citizen Center)*

Web site: <http://www.meridenarc.org/> BBS/Forum: <http://www.w1nrg.com/forum/>

**Meriden ARC PO Box 583 Meriden, CT 06450**

## **Rogus Electronics**

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

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

**Business Meeting  
March 8th**

**Activity Meeting  
March 22nd  
Penny Auction Part II**

**Check club forums for  
new information**

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

**First Class**