

MARCH "THINK SPRING" 2016

KEYKLIX



Meriden Amateur Radio Club



ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 7:30PM ON THE 2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH, UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED,
AT THE COOK HILL FIREHOUSE / MEDICAL RESERVE BLDG 37 HALL ROAD, WALLINGFORD

OFFICERS

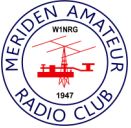
PRES W1KKF BILL WAWRZENIAK

VP N1API AL KAISER

SECT KC1AXJ STEVE ALLEN

TRES K1WJL DAVE SWEDOCK

S.A.M. KC1ACN ROB CICHON



Business Meeting, Thursday March 10, 7:30pm Club House

Activity Meeting, Thursday march 24, 7:30pm Club House
Activity to be determined / We are still looking for an Activities Chairperson, please contact
Pres Bill W1KKF if interested.....

Two New members being voted in this Business meeting(So far!)

Steve Morley W1LV has said he will attend, we have had his application on board for some time...
Ed Snyder KC1FCJ who has been attending while studying for his exam and has now passed
& been assigned the Call KC1FCJ Congrats Ed.....

Club News

Bob WB1GYZ is enjoying a relatively noise free QTH after some detective work and assistance
from Wallingford Electric.....

Todd K1TDO has a new Two Meter Antenna complete with new coax at his QTH and is working out
really great at last report...He reminds everyone to check in to Two meter net on Tuesdays on
147.36 (W1NRG) at 7pm EST

The Exotic "Kontest" Bug has bitten a few MARC members by the tone of activity on the air
lately...lets keep this going...

Field day was voted on by the Club to continue on at the Club House(MR Building) as we did last
year.....

Dont forget EASTERN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME starts this Sunday March 13th.....

John N1GNV is down South "Trump"ing the land while hitting a flea market or two.....

John W1DQ has a nice article on ADIF format in this issue

Paul K1SEZ came across this link FOR "73 Magazine Archives" on the YCCC reflector this
morning and thought of the "old timers" in the club! <https://archive.org/details/73-magazine>

**Annual American Radio Relay League DX SSB contest
KC1AXJ perspective – March 2016**

(Ernie St. Amant asked for a write up about this past weekends ARRL DX event, this is the article)

Each year in late winter the ARRL holds two DX (distance) contests, one for CW (Morse code) and one for SSB (voice). Contesting, also known as Radio Sport, provide the opportunity for Amateur Radio operators to practice message handling and radio operating skills used for routine or in emergency communications events. This event was no different, allowing operators the chance to polish skills in the event we are needed for emergency communications situations. This event was held on March 5th and 6th and radio propagation conditions were quite good. Typically MARC likes to operate these contests at the Cook Hill Firehouse but due to some personal circumstances we didn't operate the event at the Firehouse but some members did participate in the event from their homes (in Amateur Radio Q codes, known as your QTH). Sadly we missed out on the comradery and Pizza by not holding the event at the Firehouse, but many members still had a go of it from home.

This contest information exchange rules (what information is given out when you make contact with another station) was simple; give a signal report to the calling station, also referred to as RST, and your location (State). The signal report is given as Readability, Strength and Tone which is a two digit number in SSB contests. Generally everyone gives out '59' as the RST (Strong Signal, Perfect Readability), but it's refreshing to hear the occasional true RST of a '45' or '46'. Connecticut is generally given out as "Charlie Tango", so my exchange was "59 Charlie Tango". This contest is somewhat unique in that most DX (distant) Amateur Radio stations are calling "CQ" and we in North America are answering those "CQ" calls (CQ is short for "Pay Attention" and derived from the French word sécurité).

The contest started at 7PM local time Friday, which was 0 hours UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) Saturday March 5th. Conditions on 20, 40 and 80 meters was excellent, something that I've not heard in a few weeks. I was unable to participate in the contest most of Saturday but did have a good run at it on Sunday. Operating conditions on Sunday were terrific. I started on 10 meters and ran through band hitting countries in South and Central America and a few in Europe such as Germany, Spain, England and Ireland. To the West I worked Hawaii and easily heard Japan, and even with 100W of transmit power Japan stations could easily hear me. Working 15 Meters the Caribbean and South America was very active. Similar conditions prevailed on 20, 40 and 80 meters. It was rather neat hearing some club members on the air working the same folks I was. A few times I ran into N1API during the event and several other "Charlie Tango" participants. I beat my 2015 score by 20% so I felt good about working the contest. After several coffees and sitting in my radio chair for several hours on Sunday I was ready to call it a day at 6PM and shut down operation with an hour still left in the contest. I've only been an Amateur Radio operator for a little more than two years so I'm still a true Amateur at Radio Sport. I had many firsts for me during this event logging more than 200 contacts (QSO's), a first for me to break 200 in one contest, a confirmed SSB Antarctica contact and on. Other MARC members (KC1ACN) logged in 2x my numbers so congratulations KC1ACN and to all those members who participated in this event.

The following was added by your editor from reflector/ email and general scuttlebutt.
Rob KC1ACN operating in the 1-H mode (Hurting with a broken Toe) writes

Had many 5 band completions (I have no 160M antenna) including New Zealand. Worked several JA Ops, ALL of Caribbean and S. America. Worked several QRP guys too. Many ATNO's as well. DXCC in a weekend! About 22 Hours BIC. My best effort to date. Worked out 80M again and it saved early this morning for me. 10, 15 20 wide open, 20 was the money band though. 40M Op's (Split) to Europe worked well Saturday evening to Sunday AM. Many operators on 80 but my internal tuner does not tune up 80 well. Used the Ten-Tec 229A to tune 80M and bang, 80M was open. Basically a SLUG-FEST THIS WEEKEND!

DX Contest Continued

KC1ACN --Single Op assisted / low power / All band / N1MM Logger + / TS-450SAT /Windom OCF

Band	QSOs	Pts	Cty
3.5	15	45	12
7	79	237	43
14	155	465	58
21	103	309	53
28	71	213	38
Total	423	1269	204

Score : 258,876



KC1AXJ(Steve)---Single Op/ Assisted/Low power/All band/N1MM+ Logger

Band	QSOs	Pts	Cty
3.5	3	9	3
7	23	69	19
14	83	249	55
21	87	261	50
28	37	111	25
Total	233	699	152

Score 106,248

Steve Comments: I didn't have the time this weekend to commit to the contest but did reasonably well and beat my score from last year.



KB1JL Eric----Single Op/Assisted/low power/All Band/ Xlog software

Band	Qsos	Cty
80:	09	08
40:	12	11
20:	18	14
15:	56	40
10:	08	05

Score 24,102



K1PU Mark----Single Op/Assisted/Low Power/All band/

232 Qso's Claimed Score-----90,480

Marks comments:I got chair time here and there. Mostly Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday after 3PM.



N1API AL-----Single Op Assisted/low power/all band/ N1MM+ Logger

Band	QSO's	CTY
14	214	78
21	273	79
28	129	48
Totals	616	205

Score: 378,840

AI Comments: most of the work was done on Saturday. Sunday was spent looking for fills and new multipliers. At some points it had seemed that I had worked out the band so I did spend more off time than on time Sunday. Total time off was 29:47 time on was 18:13, boy it sure seemed longer than that! Again 15 meters was packed Sunday. Stations seemed to be no more than 1 kHz apart. How the big guns separate them out I do not know. There were some I could hear the call but just too much QRM to get who they were calling and / or their power. I skipped by them, some I got later some I missed.

Lost a few Multipliers because of this. I also listened to D4C work 3 minutes over the contest time as stations kept telling him "it's over" and he kept insisting that there was three minutes left. It will be interesting to look at his score when the results come out. 10 meters opened but not as well as Saturday but still provided a few new ones. 20 meters performed well both days. In checking your log be cautious to make sure the received report has the correct power. Sometime in typing a "K" and your fingers are off you could hit the "L" or "J" key. Another problem could be when entering 400 or 1000 you enter an extra zero. Typos are counted as an incorrect contact, I did find a couple myself. There was one station giving his report as 1500, I had to listen twice to make sure that was what I was hearing.

K1VDF John

Reports making abt 300 QSO's but has problems with logging program

K1WJL Dave

Was on for abt 30 minutes and made 15 Qso's on ten meters
Had problems with logging software Pen-Cil version 1.0

MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CQ WPX RTTY DX CONTEST RESULTS

KC1ACN Rob reports: After a two-hour wrestling contest, I finally got FLDigi to work within N1MM+ and my Signalink TNC. No more logging issues with Digimodes! Thanks go out to John W1DQ. Our conversations helped!

Meriden ARC

K1PU	29,505
N1API	13,608
KC1ACN	10,824
Team Total:	53,937

Paul K1SEZ reports:

I started on Saturday afternoon, and saw a lot of signals on 10 m, so after working a couple using the 60 watts output from the TS-2000 barefoot, I turned on the AL-811 and promptly popped the line fuses as I tuned up... ratz! Replacing the two 12 amp line fuses on Sunday morning, I stayed away from 10 m but worked 55 QSOs on 20 m in a couple of hours. That resulted in 21 different entities worked, according to my DXLab Suites' Logger. Normally I like to use about 200 watts for RTTY.



Secretary Report & Minutes of Meriden Amateur Radio Club (M.A.R.C.) February 2016

The business meeting opened at 7:30 PM EST on February 11, 2016 with 13 people in attendance plus two guests.

Officers present: Bill (W1KKF), Al (N1API), Dave (K1WJL), Steve (KC1AXJ), Rob (KC1ACN).

The meeting was opened and chaired by President, Bill (W1KKF).

Announcements – Next meeting is February 25th, it is an activity meeting. Program and Entertainment chairman is still needed by the club.

Introductions – All in attendance introduced themselves plus two guests

Secretary's Report – The January 2016 Secretary's Report was published on the W1NRG site and is recorded as read. There were no questions.

Treasurer's Report – A report was given by Dave (K1WJL) and accepted.

Contributions – None

Correspondence – Membership applications from KB1EHE and KB1IFZ with payment, change of mailing address for N1HCA, Vanguard statements and HRIA insurance bill. The insurance bill is due March 1, 2016 for \$75 (one year of insurance coverage). This is the equipment insurance not the liability insurance. Dave (K1WJL) will pay this bill.

Program & Entertainment – M.A.R.C. is still looking for someone to take this vacant Chairman spot.

Scholarship – Accepting applications from the Town of Wallingford (even years are Wallingford, odd years are Meriden). Don has sent letters out to the high schools in town.

Club Station & Facilities – Rob (KC1ACN) reported that the club operated NAQP 2016 SSB we had about 3900 points with 5 operators operating at the club house with no log errors. The N1MM+ clinic for the next activity meeting is coming together nicely. There haven't been any takers for the ARRL CW DX contest which is 2/21 & 2/22, please see Bill (W1KKF) or Rob (KC1ACN) if interested. A discussion was held about how to interface CW/RTTY into N1MM+ and we'll need to either build or purchase an interface. There is a simple interface from W3YY and Rob will try to get this to work with the club's rigs. Rob also has a new sign out log for members that want to check out club equipment.

Club Activities & Program (the 4th Thursday of the month) – The February 25th Activity meeting will N1MM+ use presentation / discussion by Rob (KC1ACN).

Nets –

10M – John (K1VDF) reported 10 to 12 check in's this week, good consistency since Christmas time

6M – Jim (N1ZN) reported this past week was down to 3, but usually 6 to 8.

2M – Todd (K1TDO) this past week there were 6..

Castle Craig – Winter QSO party was this past weekend, thanks for those that operated.

Castle Craig –

Hamfests -

Key Klix – Dave reported a slow month. Next month will have an interview section.

Membership – KB1IFZ and KB1EHE applications were voted on and accepted as new members into M.A.R.C. Welcome!

Interference and Technical – Rich (WA1TRY) was not present so nothing discussed.

Repeater – Not discussed

Instruction & Testing – Not discussed

Candy Store – Hat, \$10.

EmComm – KC1AYL was not present. No information from Ernie on the shack status.

Misc Old Business –

The club is changing the last line on the Elmer of the year award (the printed award). The bottom line will be changed to "By the Meriden Amateur Radio Club for providing guidance in advancement of Amateur Radio."

New Business – Field Day operating location was raised of either having the event at the club house or at Marcus Cooke Park. A vote was held and Field Day 2016 will be held at the club house. Chris (WA1VXH) will verify the club house is available that day.

Having a secure area on the W1NRG server for documents for officers was discussed. Mark (K1PU) will set up a secure test area for us to try out. The intent is to have a common document storage that all club officers can have access to.

Having the club roster on the web site was brought up. The current club roster which will have the Name, Call Sign and Email address will be on the members area of the website, if members want more details than these three items (Name, Call Sign, Email) then see Dave (K1WJL) for a paper copy.

The question came up about if W1NRG club call sign participates with LoTW, QSL Cards, eQSL, etc. Steve (KC1AXJ) will investigate with Bob (KE1AU) on getting W1NRG on LoTW and report back at the March business meeting. Bob (KE1AU) is the club QSL manager and takes care of the QSL card correspondences.

Al (N1API) let us know that Radio Amateur Callbook is installed on the club laptops.

Meeting was closed at 8:25 PM

Meeting Attendees on February 11, 2016 K1LYP, K1PU, K1VDF, K1WJL, KB1JL, KC1ACN, KC1AXJ, N1API, N1ZN, W1DQ, W1KKF, WA1VXH, WA1ZVY, PLUS 2 GUESTS

THE WB1GYZ FILES

JOHN YUSZA K1LYP



Layout from Top Row: assorted scanners, 2nd row, power supplies and recorders for 2m and 6m rigs. 3rd row 2m and 6m rotator controls and amps, 4th row: Yaesu FT736R for 6, 2, 220, and 430, and at right John's pride and joy, a Yaesu DX3000 with 75 amp PS.

John W. Yusza, Jr., K1LYP is a Wallingford native and long time ham radio operator. His first exposure to the hobby came from his father, K1ASQ. John was first licensed in 1958 as KN1LYP while under the tutelage of his Elmer, Bill Spokes W7FUR.

As a novice class operator he recalls pounding brass with a 20 watt rockbound Heath-Kit AT-1 transmitter and a BC-312D military surplus receiver. John advanced to higher classes of licenses in an unusual way. One day he arrived very early for a business meeting in lower Manhattan. As it happened, he noticed the FCC examining office directly across the street from where he was standing. Not one to waste time, he walked over and was told that a ham radio exam session was about to begin. He took a seat and passed the General, then sat for the Advanced, and passed both exams. Realizing he still had more time on his hands, he asked if there were any other exams to take. John left the center with the Advanced class license, 3rd class commercial radio license, and still had a few minutes to spare for his business meeting.

And speaking of business, John used to work for a company that made specialized military parts. His boss was concerned that the company was too reliant on a narrow niche of manufacturing, and wanted to branch out. John took up the challenge and helped the company expand in another direction with security related devices. He was quickly promoted to VP. When his secretary asked him what he would do first as VP, he startled her by saying he needed to fire someone. He then announced his resignation and started Monitor Controls, Inc. When he arrived home that day and informed his wife of what he had done, she responded: "We're going to starve." That was 46 years ago and he hasn't looked back since.
dit dit, WB1GYZ.

Front antenna: TH11DX at 41 feet, above that is a Diamond 3000 for 430 - 220 at 50 feet.



Back antenna: Hygain 6 element 6 meter beam at 52 feet, 2m at 58 feet. QTH is 330' ASL.

ADIF Files Simplified

De W1DQ John Elengo

ADIF stands for Amateur Data Interchange Format and is a specification that has been adopted as a standard for interchanging data between amateur radio programs; for example, transferring QSO data from one electronic logbook system to another. See: www.adif.org.

With technological advancement, paper logbooks and postal confirmations are being displaced by electronic means. ARRL now accepts electronic confirmations for awards such as WAS and DXCC, other award agencies have followed suit. It is now common practice to periodically upload your own ADIF log file to LoTW, QRZ and eQSL; this is accomplished in a few minutes time and at no cost.

What is an ADIF file?

An ADIF file is a text file having the extension ".adi" that is arranged according to ADIF specification protocol. It can be viewed and edited with a text editor such as Notepad or WordPad. At first sight, it might appear complicated but with a little understanding it becomes more clear. An ADIF file begins with a header ended by a End of Header tag - [EOH]. This is followed by a series of individual QSO records, each ended by a End of Record tag - <EOR>. The header is optional so it may be non existent; it contains identification information relating to the file and its creator. The QSO records are your log entries - either your entire log or those specific to a date period or whatever query criteria you may have used to segregate them.

A simple ADIF file having two QSO records, one with WN4XXX and the other with W1NRG, might look like this:

```
ADIF file created by W1DQ March 2, 2016
[EOH]
<qso_date:8>20150513 <time_on:4>1305 <call:6>WN4XXX <band:3>20M
<mode:3>SSB <EOR>
<qso_date:8>20150620 <time_on:4>1113 <call:5>W1NRG <band:3>20M
<mode:2>CW <EOR>
```

Note that the QSO records contain fields such as qso_date, time_on, call, band, and mode. The available field names are as specified in the ADIF specification. Additional characters further identify the data provided in a field, for example:

< [field name] : [length of data in number of characters] > [the data itself]

the callsign W1NRG is coded as <call:5> W1NRG
the date of the QSO March 1, 2016 is coded as <qso_date:8>20160301

The allowable field names and data enumerations must be as listed in the ADIF Specification, for example:

the state of Connecticut is coded as "CT" <state:2>CT
the DXCC entity for USA is coded as "291" <dxcc:3>291

How do I transfer my data using an ADIF file?

One should select an electronic logbook system that has ADIF handling capability. If the exported file name is not already descriptive then rename it, such as W1NRG-Oct 2015.adi. The file should be stored as a backup file as well as imported (uploaded) to the next logbook system. If to LoTW, log on to your LoTW account and use their TQSL software. If to eQSL, log into eQSL and select Upload. If to QRZ, log into your QRZ logbook and select Settings/Import.

What is an API?

API stands for Application Program Interface that is a set of tools that allow one system's programs to interact with another's. Some logbook systems provide a specific API to enable software developers to directly access their system and transfer data with the "click of a button." This feature supplants manual export/import of ADIF files.

INFORMATION PAGE

MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT....W1KKF BILL WAWRZENIAK
 VICE PRES.....N1API AL KAISER
 SECT.....KC1AXJ STEVE ALLEN
 TRES.....K1WJL DAVE SWEDOCK
 STATION A.M...KC1ACN ROB CICHON

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KEY KLIX EDITOR DAVE SWEDOCK K1WJL
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 POB 583, MERIDEN CT. 06450

CLUB NETS

6 MTR NET MONDAYS 8PM
 50.175MHZ N1ZN JIM

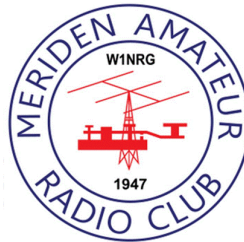
2 METER NET TUESDAYS 7PM
 147.36 /RPT K1TDO TODD

10 METER NET TUESDAYS 8PM
 28.375MHZ K1VDF JOHN

10/10 CASTLE CRAIG CHAPTER
 CONCURRENTLY WITH CLUB NET
 28.375MHZ TUESDAYS 8PM N1API AL

CLUB DUES STRUCTURE (JAN-DEC)

UP TO 64 YRS OF AGE--\$15/YR
 SENIOR DISCOUNT 65 & UP--\$10
 ADDITIONAL FAMILY MBRS---\$5



WEBSITE:

WWW.W1NRG.COM

FORUM/BBS:

GO TO WWW.W1NRG.COM
 AND FOLLOW THE LINKS

CASTLE CRAIG 1010 WEBSITE:

GO TO W1NRG.COM
 AND FOLLOW THE LINKS

CLUB REPEATER W1KKF/R

147.36MHZ +600 OFFSET
 NO PL TONE (OPEN REPEATER)

MARC MEMBERS

AB1DQ	James Suprenant	16	KE1AY	Donald Mitchell	16
AB1HB	Charlie Dudac	16	KJ4PV	Gary Bleasdale	15
AF1HS	Art Fregeau	16	N1API	Al Kaiser	17
K1IIG	Steve Tripp	16	N1BF	Patrick Dionne	15
K1JTH	John Hart, Jr.	16	N1GNV	John Bartscherer	16
K1LHO	Mike Ash	16	N1GY	Geoff Haines	19
K1LYP	John Yusza	17	N1HCA	Susan South	16
K1MVM	Mike Macri	16	N1LGH	Barbara Stone	16
K1PU	Mark Mokoski	16	N1NAN	Helen Spokes	17
K1RJC	Rick Castaldo	16	N1OKF	Bob Parisi	16
K1SEZ	Paul Ciezniak	16	N1VTE	Sarah Kaczor	16
K1TDO	Todd Olsen	16	N1ZN	James Savage	16
K1TG	Roger Kuchera	16	NY2HF	Dennis Lane	15
K1THP	Dave Karpiej	15	W1ATV	Walt Yatzook	16
K1VDF	John Blevins	17	W1CTN	David Arruzza	15
K1WJL	Dave Swedock	17	W1DMM	Dan Murphy	L
KA1NXX	Jan Rogus	15	W1DQ	John Elengo	17
KA1SE	Luke Laurentano	15	W1KKF	Bill Wawrzeniak	L
KB1EHE	Eric Knight	16	W1LV	Steve Morley	**
KB1FYL	Robert W. Carruthers	16	W1NHS	Fred Ring	16
KB1GWP	Joseph Rish, Sr.	16	W1POP	Fred Liedke	18
KB1HCC	Jonathan Winslow	17	W1SKP	Skip Paquette	15
KB1IFZ	Elsie Mathews	16	W1VCU	Nelson Denison	L
KB1JL	Eric Olsson	16	W7FUR	William Spokes	17
KB1MMS	Ronald Slack	15	WA1JKR	John Rogus	16
KB1SIN	Bill Brooks	15	WA1TRY	Rich Aubin	L
KB1TJD	Gaianne Jenkins	16	WA1VXH	Chris Sievert	16
KB1ZMK	Dan Busa	16	WA1ZVY	Jim Martin	17
KC1AYL	Mike Meadows	16	WB1GGP	Jerry Sheppard	15
KC1ACN	Rob Cichon	16	WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur	16
KC1AXJ	Stephen Allen	16	WB8IMY	Steve Ford	16
KC1BAQ	Joseph Hamm	15	WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann	16
KC1EVI	Gerard Carrieria Jr.	16	WY1U	Tim Mik	15
KC1FCJ	Ed Snyder	16			
KE1AU	Robert Kaczor	16			