

# MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# KEY KLIX



1947 - 2021

# MARCH 2021



**CONGRATULATIONS & WELL DONE TO AL KAISER N1API AND HIS TEAM OF JIM N1ZN AND RICH WA1TRY FOR THEIR IMPRESSIVE SHOWING IN THE 2021 10/10 WINTER QSO PARTY.. N1API TOOK #1 WORLDWIDE, W1NRG(N1API) #1 IN CLUB ENTRY, CASTLE CRAIG CHAPTER #2 IN CHAPTER ENTRIES.. JIM N1ZN AND RICH WA1TRY TOOK #3 AND #5 IN CALL AREA 1.**



## 2021 WINTER SSB QSO PARTY

Feb 6 - 7

### TOP TEN

CALL	10-10#	CTX W	CTX WO	TOTAL
1 N1API	25468	107	101	315
2 DL8YBM	36109	47	182	276
3 NC0B	74875	63	126	252
4 KM4ODS	77504	75	84	234

### CLUB ENTRIES

CALL	10-10#	CTX W	CTX WO	TOTAL	OPS
W1NRG	29650	107	101	315	N1API
DF0IA	68914	47	182	276	DL8YBM
NZ4FF	77686	60	47	167	N3GTY
NM5H	68588	53	20	126	N5MT
DL0BIC	77526	28	21	77	DL6DK
W5RRV	42114	25	8	58	KD5DE

### CALL AREA 1

CALL	10-10#	CTX W	CTX WO	TOTAL
N1API	25468	107	101	315
N1DFD	65460	42	39	123
W1RPG	45128	37	17	91
N1ZN	73599	36	18	90
W1AST	31324	28	18	74
WA1TRY	76786	26	6	58
N1JW	8993	12	2	26
AI1G	77223	9	2	20
W1IG	43006	4	1	9
N1YKH	70147	4	0	8

### CHAPTER ENTRIES

CHAPTER	LOGS	PTS
POSSUM TROT	18	1547
CASTLE CRAIG	6	812
HANSE	2	552
STEAMBOAT	6	440
CATT	3	387
LOUISIANA PELICAN	2	252
BRANDING IRON	2	154
MLB	1	134
CITY OF LIGHTS	2	115
GATEWAY	4	102
ARIZONA DESERT	1	66
NM MUD DUCKS	1	17
HOUSTON SHOT	1	10
CHIEF SEATTLE	1	8



**PRESIDENTIAL COLUMN – MARCH KEY KLIX  
What if You Gave a Party --- and Everyone Came?**

Thanks to my Elmer, AB1DQ James, I have been a member of MARC for 5 years. Over this half-decade, I have seen the membership number slowly grow. After I became President, with the COVID-enforced isolation, I was faced with how to keep the Club together and maintain a sense of *esprit*. As a Club, we succeeded, in large part due to the multiple amateur radio activities we had made available for our members, fostering participation with other club members and even with other clubs. These include Nets, Fox Hunts, Zoom meetings, Lectures, etc. We also ran several VE sessions initially at the OEM and currently at a nearby storage facility, thanks to John K1LYP, who offered W1NRG use of his space. The last two sessions hatched about 12 new hams.

So initially, what did we do with the new hams, wish them luck and send them off with a cheery, “Congrats, see you down the log”? Well, sadly, that’s exactly what we did. Now, however, at the end of the last session, thanks to MARC Secretary, Bart N1BRL, we handed out a Welcome Package full of ham info and of course, – a W1NRG membership application. So far, this welcoming maneuver has resulted in several new Club members, with several more on the horizon. Our Club’s membership is now close to 100. What now?

I felt strongly that we needed to provide exciting opportunities for prospective members looking to become a ham and for a club to join and also for many of our new members. They were all enthusiastic but generally clueless as to how get OnAir and become active. While initially, we were not doing a very good job in this area, all that seems to be rapidly changing now. I brought forward the idea that we needed to provide additional radio-activities for new club members. And as usually happens in MARC, after several discussions among the membership, lights go on and ideas begin to roll in. Why not it was said, don’t we --: -

**Publicize a list of MARC activities** – *A Table showing these opportunities is published in this March Key Klix. We have activities every day of the week – except Friday.*

**Host a net just for new hams** – *“Elmer’s Shack” is now on Zoom every Sunday at 1930 ET. Anyone can Zoom-in and ask radio-related questions of Club members. We have had about 15 members check in, each of the first two weeks. Several new hams joined, as well. See the Table for Zoom info.*

**Offer new Baofeng radios to recently licensed technician hams?** *It is being discussed*

**Hold classes in OnAir (hands-on, how-to) activities and review exam questions?** *It is under discussion*

**Hold entry-level fox hunts** – *being planned*

**Consider having COVID- Compliant, in-person, Saturday morning sessions** for new hams and new club members at K1LYP’s facility on Saturday’s for 2-3 hours. These can shift to the OEM when it is again available, and Saturday am sessions resume. – *being planned*

**Encourage experienced MARC members to become Elmers** and be either assigned 1:1 to a new ham/member, or act as a subject matter expert – (SME) and attend Elmer’s Shack on Sunday night, as an expert in their area of expertise to help answer those questions. *In progress*

**Hold NHOTAs – (New Hams On The Air) sessions** -- *being planned*

Hold remote controlled radio exercises where new hams and veterans can, in a COVID-responsible manner, learn a new aspect of our amateur radio technology. *Thanks to Steve KC1SA, (it was his idea) this is likely to start soon.*

When COVID wanes and the weather improves – more ideas will doubtless arise. So, due to our activity, our membership ranks are swelling, and our Club name and our exploits are being recognized Connecticut-wide. Indeed, MARC is becoming viewed as a leader among the 6 states in the NE Division of the ARRL. Importantly, as we adapt to our growing membership and integrate these new additions into our family, we become a stronger and even more exciting club. Indeed, MARC is becoming THE Club to join. While we can’t make amateur radio flourish nationally by ourselves, we can help it grow in our little corner of the world – one ham and one VE session at a time.

As a Club, MARC is on the rise, its members engaged, helpful, knowledgeable, innovative, creative and welcoming. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and look forward to what we have to offer new hams, and to each other. Little did I (W1YSM) know that such opportunities were waiting for us when as KC1FCJ, I walked into the Cook Hill Fire House that 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening in April 2016 and said to then President Bill, W1KKF, “Hi, I’m Ed – KC1FCJ, I’m a new ham, how can I join the Club?” .

## MARC MEETINGS

MARC Business meeting——Thursday March 11, 2021 7:30pm on ZOOM, meeting credentials sent out by email before the meeting....

MARC Activity meeting.....Thursday March 25,2021 7:30 on ZOOM.... Bob Heil from Heil microphone & headset will present a session..... Meeting credentials are posted in this issue of KK.

RASON(Radio Society of Norwich) has invited us to a zoom session on Arduino computers in the Ham Shack...Tuesday March 9, more details elsewhere in this issue of KK.

## GOOD NEWS ON THE RETURN OF THE MARC TO THE OEM

From: Leonard Guercia

Date: March 6, 2021 at 4:44:48 PM EST

To: Pres Ed Snyder

Hope Hill Station

Prior to our budget meeting with the mayor last week the Chief and I and Steve discussed a return to Hope Hill Operations for the radio team. We will shoot for mid April for Saturday use in limited capacity. The final nod will come from Public Health as the building is still a Covid call center. The Chief asked me to pass on the Thanks of the Town for the support of the Radio Team thru this Pandemic

## MARC VE SESSIONS PRODUCE NEW HAMS

On the Feb 13 VE session, we had 8 Hams sit for FCC exams, 5 passed Tech , 2 up-graded to General , 1 did not pass , 1 applied to join the club and paid \$20 dues. Thanks to: K1LYP John for lending the space/help , N1AKN Jeff for helping N1ZN Jim for being VEC - good job KE1AY Don for helping , KC1SA Steve for being Coffee Cup NCS, N1BRL Bart for making welcome kits, W1YSM for taking temperatures, Also K1LYP reported N1URO has filled out an application and paid dues.

W1NRG is on the rise!! Ed W1YSM President MARC

Next VE session will be Saturday March 13 at the K1LYP remote headquarters....Please contact Don KE1AY or Jim N1ZN for details....

## MARC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS, CLOSING IN ON 100 MEMBERS....

In 2021 we have already welcomed in Karl KC1OCF, Guy KB1MZG, Lou KC1OMR, Damian KC1OMP, Ron KC1ONB, Jon KB1TTV (returning member) and Kenth.W1JKP .

At this March 11th business meeting, we will be voting in Bryon KC1OST, Brian N1URO, Bob W1BOB and Harold WJ1B (returning member). This will be 98 until we start dropping members for non payment of dues, please pay your dues if your call is in **RED** on the club roster on the last page of this KK. If you have any concerns about your dues, please give Dave K1WJL an email at [dswedock@gmail.com](mailto:dswedock@gmail.com) or a landline at 203 235-8582.....

Dues can now be accepted on-line through PayPal (on our website)...

## MEMBER NEWS

**John K1VDF** continues to improve at the Masonic Care Center and may possibly planning an escape this week. He is looking for donations of bed sheets tied together (lots of them as he is on 5th floor) and lots of pillows just in case.....

**Todd K1TDO** is back home and doing well, even assuming net control duties, welcome back.....

**Bobcat KB1FYL** is looking at some surgery in the immediate future and we all are offering prayers and support.....

**Mike K1MVM** is in Florida, travelling around with the VAN community...

**Rich WA1TRY** is the undisputed Murphies Law champion of MARC....ask him about his fight with his entertainment center...

**AI N1API** says his rotator went south (not direction).. Beam stuck in bi-directional pattern, he has a stepper.

**Paul W1EDX** is enjoying contesting, he did very well on the 160 meter contest and is usually asking for any other scores on the MARC reflector....



# Secretary Report & Minutes of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club

**Bart Toftness N1BRL , Secretary**

## **FEBRUARY 11, 2021 BUSINESS MEETING**

Business meeting February 11, 2021 via Zoom videoconference

Meeting was called to order by President W1YSM at 1930 local

Normal introductions were omitted as all attendees (35) are self-identified in 'Zoom', AB1DQ, N1GNV K1JCF, K1LHO, K1RCT, K1STM, K1WJL, KB1FYL, KB1JL, KC1DOY, KC1HDB, KC1KQH, KC1NQE, KC1OMP, KC1OMR, KC1ONB, KC1SA, KE1AU, KE1AY, N1API, N1BRL, N1LES, N1YLN, N1ZN, NZ1J, W1DQ, W1EDX, W1KKF, W1YSM, W3APC, WA1TRY, WA1ZVY, WB1GYZ, WV2LKM, K1LYP

**Announcements** (W1YSM), the members will continue to follow strict Covid-19 regulations for all MARC activities. W1YSM will chair the upcoming ARRL NE Division Meeting of the Affiliated Club Coordinators. MARC will have an open mic strategic planning session later this month for members to provide their input into what club related business they like and don't like. There will be presentations by Gold Medal to update the members on what's available and in March Bob Heil will talk about microphones and how to make your station sound better. The Treasures report during meetings will become a short summary with complete details available to members by request to K1WJL. Nutfest 2021 vs 2022 is still being discussed by Nutfest. Revision of the Constitution & By-laws slotted to be reviewed by the club officers and KC1SA. Any suggested revisions will be brought to the full membership when ready for discussion and a vote.

**Secretary's Report** (N1BRL) The February 2021 minutes as published in KeyKlix were approved by vote.

N1BRL presented 5 applications for new or reinstated membership, KC1OMR Lou Caruso, KC1OMP Damian Fries, KC1ONB Ron Isaac, KB1TTV Jonathan Martin and W1JKP Kenth Astrom which were each approved by a show of hands on Zoom and there were no objections. Welcome Lou, Damian, Ron, Jonathan and Kenth. Membership applications have been sent to a couple others. K1LYP is Elmering one person in preparation to take his Technician Exam soon.

There was no new correspondence to report. The New Membership application Entry Portal process is working well. Members should continue to forward membership inquiries to [N1BRL@ARRL.NET](mailto:N1BRL@ARRL.NET) it is recommended that members update their email contact information annually.

**Treasurer's Report** (K1WJL) was read by Dave. Details are available from Dave upon request. There was 1 request for reimbursement to K1RCT for miscellaneous items which were credited toward his club dues. The club PayPal account will soon be ready with an announcement to follow when it's available.

**Station Manager's Report** (K1RCT) Some of the items in the SAM Report were: EOC continues to be unavailable to the club due to COVID-19 restrictions; website revisions are proceeding; Winter Field Day Activation was cancelled because of limited interest with only 2 sign ups.

### **147.36 Repeater**

KC1SA reminds the membership to program their transceivers for the upcoming activation of the PL tone of 162.2 Hz on 1 March. Currently the repeater makes a PL tone reminder announcement every 90 minutes. W1KKF pointed out the 3 reason for the lack of PL tone in the past. Strangers passing through our coverage area will find it harder to use our repeater, old rigs don't have PL tone capability and won't be able to use the repeater and finally the PL tone will not eliminate the interference but simply mute it until a PL tone user activates the repeater.

The SAM report is available upon request.

### **Committees**

Entertainment/Activities, Gold Medal Ideas will make a presentation at an upcoming activities meeting. In March, Bob Heil will visit and tell us everything we need to know about microphones and how to make our stations sound better. N1GNV plans to contact other manufactures such as Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu to make presentations. W1YSM will coordinate announcements to other CT clubs so they may attend.

Tech – Net Plans for 2021. AB1DQ said the Tech Nets are doing well and are well attended. He has promoted the nets to area clubs and we see a good response. With the help of K1RCT, past Tech Nets are available on the W1NRRG YouTube page.

AB1DQ is looking for additional volunteers for May.

Saturday Morning Activities The Saturday morning Coffee Cup Net at 9:00 AM on the repeater continues to be well attended. In addition to a general get together it has drawn the attention of newly licensed hams in our area that were unknown to us. This gives us an opportunity to showcase the club and invite new members. Also it's an early morning warmup for those who go on to the fox hunt that follows.

Fox Hunts A solid core of about 10 hunters go out every Saturday to find NZ1J's foxes in spite of the winter weather. This is usually followed by the chase for K1RCT's fox in a box hunt on Sunday. The hunters look forward to better weather conditions and the opportunity to team up to show new hunters the ropes.

Website Update Committee chaired by NZ1J continues to make improvements to the club website. NZ1J reports many more members are contributing to the updates and the new focus is to appeal to new hams and visitors while maintaining content for members.

Contest Activation Winter field was a 'wash' with no sign ups. COVID seems to be the deterrent and not a lack of club interest. ARRL DX contest will be in March and members will be able to operate from home and assign their scores to Meriden ARC.

Club Nets All the club nets continue to be well attended. The Wednesday evening 'no net' net has moved from 10 meters to 6 meters, 50.175 at 7:00 PM by popular demand.

Castle Craig N1API reports the 10-10 winter QSO party was very good this year with many openings on ten meters during the contest.

Continued on next page

Interference/Technical, nothing new to report.

Instruction VE KE1AY reports he expects 8 candidates for the VE session. Most are for Technicians while 2 are for General. It may be standing room only outside due to COVID occupancy limitations.

KeyKlix K1WJL continues to produce the hobby's best monthly newsletter along with the ever interesting QRP editions.

Scholarship, WARG/EMCOM/Aux Com, Candy Store Gold Medal Ideas and Community Outreach/Social Media have nothing new to report.

**Old Business** Nothing to report

**New Business**

W1YSM opened a discussion about how the club can elmer prospective, new and existing hams. Many ideas were presented by several members and the discussion finally settled on a new "Elmer's Net". This new net will be held on Zoom so as to be easily available to non-hams. Those members who want or feel capable of elmering are encouraged to attend. It will be an open discussion forum for all questions of inquiry. This net will be scheduled for Sunday evening 1930 to 2030 on Zoom.

Clean out/management of OEM items will be handled by the SAM K1RCT. SAM reports he is working on the details of the inventory/classification and will report next month with specifics.

**Voting Summary for the February meeting**

New members KC1OMR, KC1OMP, KC1ONB, KB1TTV and W1JKP were affirmed by majority without dissent.

January minutes were approved

Meeting was adjourned at 21:16

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# DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS SUNDAY MARCH 14

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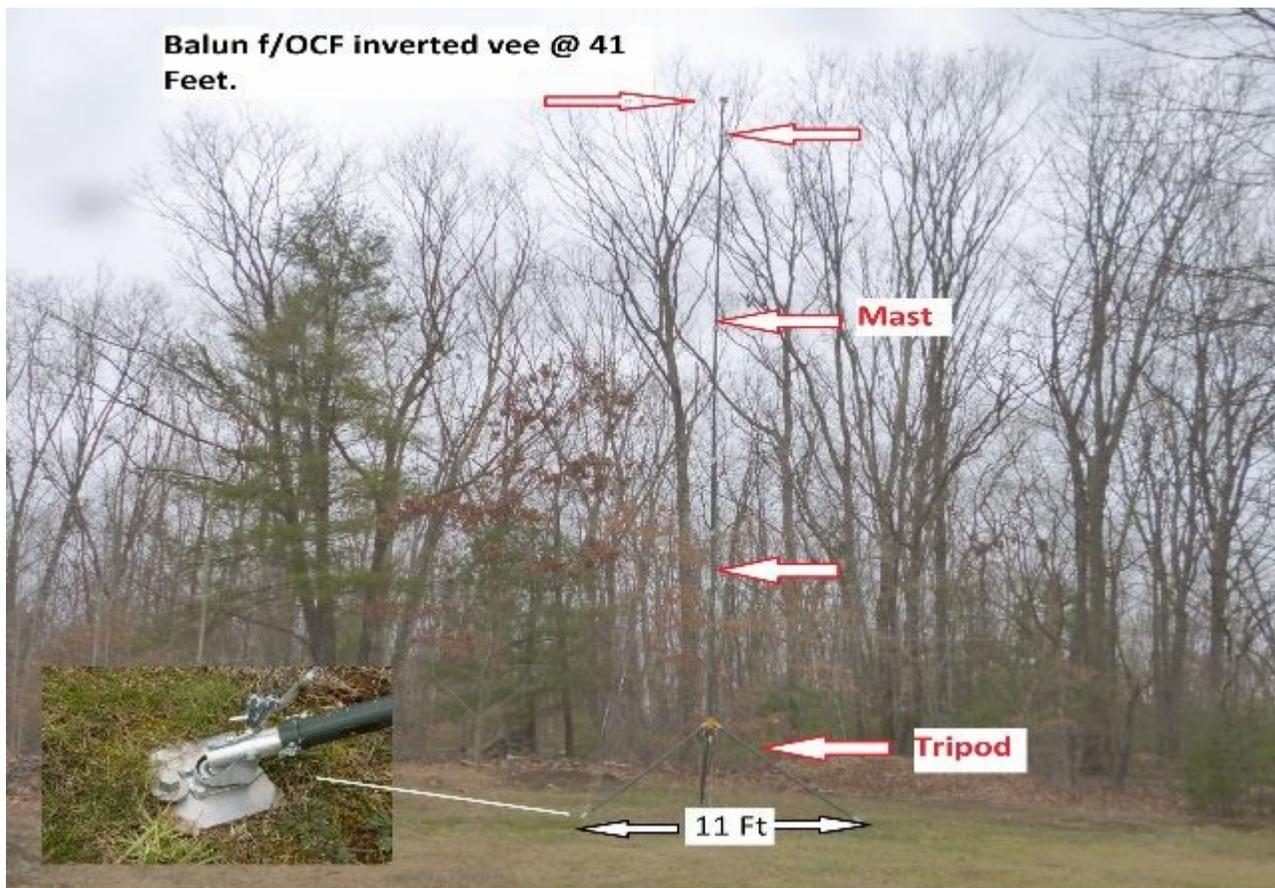




**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR /K1WJL.....A FRAGMENTED VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE WAS IN LAST MONTHS KEY KLIX. DUE TO THE WONDERS OF THE INTERNET, DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF WINDOWS, OFFICE ETC ETC, THE ARTICLE WAS MISSING A PAGE OR TWO. I HAVE DECIDED TO USE MY MANAGERIAL DISCRETION AND PROVIDE THE COMPLETE PROCESS AS AFTER READING THIS A FEW TIMES , I AM TRULY IMPRESSED WITH THE SCOPE OF THIS PROJECT....**

***Try This (Part One)***

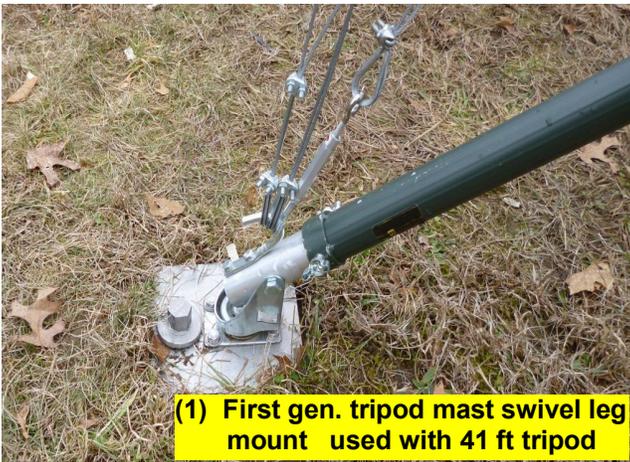
41 ft Aluminum Tripod (Mast is dark green and hard to see in photo taken on a dark over-cast Winter day)



I'm a big fan of those Army surplus masts (fiberglass and aluminum) that were made for tent poles and other structures used by the armed forces. Coupled with one of the available tripod mounts, they are excellent for use as portable or temporary antenna masts.

This will be a multipart article on the evolution of the TRY version, using those aluminum masts for various antenna supports with heights from 20 to 41 feet tall.. This month we will discuss the beginning of my quest to build the ultimate tripod antenna mounting fixture. All the masts and other accessories in this article will be dealing with the aluminum masts.

The top picture is the 41 foot tripod setup in my back yard. It is holding up an HF OCF inverted Vee dipole. I have a great location just under 1,000 ASL BUT all the land within 2 to 3 hundred feet of my home is comprised of a mix of granite bedrock and soapstone rock. Average depth of soil at most is only 18 inches. So it's not suitable for a concrete tower base. I found an area about 80 feet from the back of the house where there was enough undisturbed soil to use some heavy duty screw type earth anchors for the tripods.



In the above left picture (1) is the "tilt over swivel" leg mount that I devised. It is a 1/4 inch aluminum plate, with a hole drilled to accommodate the earth anchor. The plate has a Harbor Freight 4 inch heavy duty swivel caster with the wheel removed. The bottom end of each leg has a 1 9/16" solid aluminum rod about 8 inches long inserted into it. When fully assembled each leg length can be adjusted to level the entire thing by sliding that leg mast up and down on the inserted solid rod. Two set screws are socked down to hold the leg in place. There are enough extra inches of rod protruding from each leg end to attach a heavy J-hook for the guy lines that is fastened with bolts. Normally the set screws in each leg are loose while the whole structure is laid over horizontal with the end of the mast being held up on a step ladder. Antennas are then assembled at the top while horizontal and when ready it's walked up to vertical.

The loose fit of the extended rod in the end of each leg in the swivel mount (1), allows the leg to turn and swivel and twist as you walk it up. I usually assemble the tripod with just a couple mast sections to level it. Then mark each position on the rod extensions. Later when finished walking it to vertical, I have those leveling marks already marked. At that point I just tighten up all the set screws, and start pushing up mast sections, one by one. (it's a lot easier to level the whole thing before you start adding the extra masts and antennas) The entire setup can be assembled by one person. The 41 foot mast started out as a tilt over tripod with 20 feet of mast. On a whim I started adding sections to see how high I could go. The ultimate 41 foot height ended up being just right for my HF OCF Inverted Vee.



The above picture to the right, (2) is a new and improved super duty tripod leg mount. That version does not tilt over.. Rather it's designed to use two joined masts for each leg which extends the legs from about 44 inches to 88 inches. This increases the footprint of the tripod. It also helps to get the guy wires spread a little more so you can increase the number of poles used to increase the over all height. The use of double length legs also allows me to push the 44 inch mast sections up through the center of the tripod mount, one section at a time. The three sets of three guys per leg ends up making the whole structure into one big solid tripod. Properly anchored and guyed at 2 or 3 levels makes it very solid and free standing. What makes it so strong are the earth screw "anchors". The leg mount pictured above on the right (2) and below (3) are what I used on the smaller but much heavier loaded VHF-UHF antenna tripod (4). The aluminum plate for that system is 3/8 inch thick. And the custom made leg brackets are made of 3/8" aluminum.



A 1/2 Inch electric impact wrench drives the anchors easily

The earth anchors are cast aluminum and I have one holding down each leg with a custom built swivel mount on a heavy aluminum plate. The leg screw in anchors are 10 inches long and pull out force in good packed soil is about 700 lbs per anchor. Those leg anchors are primarily to hold the legs in position. Most of the hold down force is provided by a single 26 inch long earth anchor under the center of the tripod that is holding the center of the tripod mount down with a heavy duty turnbuckle and 3/8 inch stainless cable. That center anchor is rated at 3,100 lbs of pull out force. Does it work? So far it's survived 70+ mph winds during last year's hurricane.



Guy rings by TRY made out of T-6061 - 1/4" Aluminum.



Mast joint clamp with aluminum guy ring

The above photos show the heavy duty guy rings and mast joint clamps I used. Each mast section is 44.5 inches long (not including the slightly smaller diameter telescoping tip which is 3.5 inches long). I have 10 masts pushed up thru the center tripod mount. That puts the mast length at 37 feet with the bottom mast extending below the center tripod mount about a foot. The extended tripod legs raise the mast an additional 5 feet which puts the height of the balun at the top of the mast at 41 feet.

on the rod extensions. Later when finished walking it to vertical, I have those leveling marks already marked. At that point I just tighten up all the set screws, and start pushing up mast sections, one by one . (it's a lot easier to level the whole thing before you start adding the extra masts and antennas)  
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( 3 ) Fixed tripod leg fixtures



( 4 ) VHF Tripod Base



**( 5 ) Tripod w/ 5 element 6m Yagi, 10m Moxon, 2m/70cm yagi at 22 feet.**

I found that with a little creativity and a bit of "creeping excellence" I could ultimately end up with two functional, permanently installed free standing tripods. One to hold up the center of a 160 thru 10m OCF at 41 Feet. And a second one, (still a work in progress) that will end up as a 28 foot free standing tripod with a caged rotor and beams for 10m 6m 2m and 70cm. (5)

The tripod mast on that UHF/VHF system, seen in (5) is currently nested at 22 feet with a top mast section fixed in one direction (no rotor yet) and an additional 8 foot top mast extension for the 3 beams. Both tripods are free standing and have guys fixed only to the tripod legs. So far the 41 footer has weathered several storms and a hurricane with 70+ mph winds. The VHF/UHF tripod (5) pictured, is currently set up without the rotor and the antennas are pointed to the SSW. This Spring the VHF tripod will be raised another 10 feet and a caged rotor mounted.

Next month in Part 2, we will look at "rotor cages" for mast mounted antennas, and how I push up long and heavy 40 foot masts (the try way) You wouldn't believe how heavy 40 feet of mast along with all the guy wires and coax cables and antennas can be. Try pushing all that up by yourself. I do it regularly .. I'll show you how next month along with some accessories more suited for portable or temporary use.

73, Rich – WA1TRY

# ***Years Past - MARC Activities from the archives of Rich WA1TRY***

## **March 2011 -----**

·March Activity meeting - Thurs, March 24th at 7:30 PM – Homebrew demonstration by N1GNV  
Noted that SAM WA1TRY will have the station open 1 hour before all meetings so members can operate the Station.

Noted that N1API and N1ZN were awarded 1st and 2nd place in area 1 for the February QSO party.  
Chris WA1VXH reported the town approved the use of Marcus Cooke Park for Field Day.

## **March 2001 -----**

Next meeting on March 22nd is an activity meeting on Digital Modes demonstration

Ed N1WKT donated a dozen of his famous Arucana eggs

Membership - (N1RMA) 70 members (68 paid 2001, 2 life)

W1FD will construct an RF Finder (136MHz receiver/DF antenna) as described in the March QST to aid in tracking AC line noise Cost is \$29.95

Key Klix – (N1RMA - Editor) Smooth running

Field Day - It is approaching in June. New rules are available. Do we operate as 2A or 1A or something else? Few to none Tech Pluses in MARC almost preclude a Novice station and may restrict the opportunities as a 2A station.

## **1990s -----**

### **From 1998**

Geoff N1LGI is selling his trailer - the one used during several of the last Field Days for the VHF station.

Club SAM (KE1AV) 1) Motion by N1LGI second by KE1AV for CW filters for Kenwood \$242.25. Passed unanimous

Membership - (WA1TRY) 80 paid members (75-paid 1998, 2 paid 1999, 3-life)

Nutmeg Hamfest - The Alliance has negotiated a contract with Mountain Side for a new venue for the 1998 event

## **1970s -----**

### **From 1976**

### **For Jamboree**

## **Scouts to take to waves again**

It will be Boy Scouts on the air this weekend in Meriden and throughout the world.

The 19th annual Jamboree on the Air will be held today and Sunday as radio amateurs (HAMS) open their stations to scouts. The purpose of the program is to acquaint scouts with the hobby of ham radio and also allow them to share experiences with their peers in other areas.

According to Frank Darmofalski, president of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club, the jamboree locally will be set up at Bicentennial Headquarters, 39 W. Main St., from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. today and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

“For the first time here, we are opening the program to all the scouts in the Central Connecticut Council. We believe this effort to communicate with other scouts promotes goodwill and fellowship and allows the young men an op-

portunity to gain knowledge and experience about radios,” Darmofalski said.

Chairman for the event is Bill Wawrzaniak, who said he hoped to set up special contacts with hams and scouts in Central and South America during the two-day jamboree. “We hope that many scouts from the council will stop by and talk to their brothers in far-away locations.”

Last year, 30 scouts from two organizations — Troop 8 of Meriden and Troop 4 of Wallingford — participated in the jamboree. It was also the first year of the Meriden club's involvement, which saw operations based at St. Joseph's School.

“Last year, one of the highlights of the Jamboree on the Air was one troop's establishing a pen-pal relationship with scouts from Cold Lake, Alberta,” Wawrzaniak said.

**1960s** -----

**From 1967**

PA0MDG, Martin DeGortmer of Netherlands, (left) meets MARC Club member W1OWD, Alan Borden

The Morning Record, Meriden, Conn. Mon., Oct. 9, 1967—19



AFTER 10 YEARS, Alan Borden (right) of Yale Avenue, Wallingford, meets Maarten C. DeGortner of the Netherlands. The two, both amateur radio operators, have carried on for more than 10 years a conversation and correspondence, but they had never met. When DeGortner came to this country Friday for the first time since World War II, the first place he came was Meriden, to visit the Borden.

(AP Wirephoto)

## Two Ham Radio Operators Meet For First Time Here

## Officials Make Inspection Tour

Mayor Houston and members of the Recreation Commission toured the list of Meriden's recreational facilities yesterday afternoon for three hours.

Included in the inspection was Baldwin's Pond, North End Field, golf course, Washington Park, Ceppa Field, Dossin Beach and Columbus Park.

The officials paid special attention to the bathhouse at Dossin Beach which has been requested for use as a clubhouse by the Meriden Amateur Radio Club. Mayor Houston said it was decided to ask for more information and to reach a decision at the next regular board meeting.

Though most of what the commissioners saw was satisfactory, the mayor said they were concerned with conditions at Baldwin's Pond bathhouse.

Long on the city's agenda for replacement, the present structure has been deteriorating while ways and means for a new one are being explored. The city was stalled last year when a proposed bond issue ran afoul of charter restrictions.

**1940s** -----

**From September 13, 1948**

**1940s** -----

**From September 13, 1948** MARC works on leasing Dossin Beach Facility for clubhouse. Later that year the new lease was approved and the Meriden ARC moved into it's first "home".



### Transmitting Pointers & Reminders

I could have titled this one as Repeater Etiquette but transmitting pointers & reminders is more appealing to me since some of us use RF beyond repeaters. So here are some pointers & reminders for those of us new to the hobby and the rest of us not so new.

Before transmitting, listen, listen, listen. Many new Hams will have no issue doing this since the mic may be a 'little heavy'. This is normal and healthy. Listen and learn how others handle themselves. You will begin to understand what is right and what is wrong. For you, remember that no-one has wings yet and don't be intimidated into not keying-up!

What the rest of us should remember is to leave some space before we key-up. On a net, remember that there may be EchoLink attendees. These Hams need some additional time to engage the repeater. So too for portable & mobile Hams for similar reasons.

Follow the Net Control Station (NCS) protocol. If she asks for phonetics, use phonetics with your callsign. If he asks for mobile only, do not key-up if you're at home. If he asks for callsign, name and location, give yours in that order with no omission. If they ask for EchoLink.... well, you get the idea.

Different Nets have different rules. Get to know them by listening. Don't be intimidated into not asking questions during the net. Again, wait until it's your turn.

If you are listening to a Weather Net or an ARES Net, listen first. If you have pertinent information that seems relevant to the topic, then make your callsign known when it's apropos.

Sometimes Hams simply hold down their mic for a second and let go, just to see if they are able to access the repeater. This is known as *kerchunking*. It's bad practice to kerchunk a repeater. If you want to see if you're hitting the repeater, simply say your call: "KC1ACN testing." If you hear the repeater tail when you let off your mic, you're making it into the repeater. And by giving your call, you may spark a conversation with another Ham!

Try not to interrupt an ongoing conversation until an opening occurs. If there is a conversation, TechNet or Traffic Net and you'd like to engage then make your callsign when called upon. If you simply want to make your presence known for casual conversation, wait until the Net has concluded. It's not pleasant to be interrupted in real life, so please avoid it on the repeater as well.

Remember the #1 Rule in Ham Radio: Listen, listen, listen.

### **Hints & Kinks**

#### **Some tried and true stuffs.**

**If you use a Baofeng: speak directly and in a moderately loud voice into the mic. You'll need it! Baofeng radios are known for low audio on transmit.**

**You can and should use a speaker-mic with a Baofeng. Very convenient.**

**Speaker-mics may work better than the stock microphone in Baofengs. Read that to mean you are probably more legible with a speaker-mic.**

**MIKLOR has a great website for Baofeng radios. Web-search "MIKLOR".**

**Baofeng is pronounced "po-FUNG". Similar to another Chinese manufacturer, Pofung. No coincidence.**

**Baofeng radios may be programmed for Amateur (Ham), Family (FRS) and General (GMRS) & Multi Use Radio Service (MURS) frequencies. Be very careful programming Baofengs as there are no lockouts preventing an illegal mode or type of transmission. Read the rules.**

**You can also program other VHF & UHF frequencies without transmit lockouts so again, be very careful. That is why some of these radios are not Type Accepted by FCC rule.**

### **Final go-around:**

Our W1NRG callsign is a Memorial Club Station callsign. It is available to operate by all Business Members of the Meriden ARC. By Constitution, The Station Trustee is the sitting Station Activity Manager – currently Rob, K1RCT.

There are some things you should know if you'd like to operate the W1NRG callsign during any activation.

**What FCC rules say about station license responsibilities?-**

Part 97 says: §97.103 Station licensee responsibilities.

(a) The station licensee is responsible for the proper operation of the station in accordance with the FCC Rules. When the control operator is a different amateur operator than the station licensee, both persons are equally responsible for proper operation of the station.

(b) The station licensee must designate the station control operator. The FCC will presume that the station licensee is also the control operator, unless documentation to the contrary is in the station records.

(c) The station licensee must make the station and the station records available for inspection upon request by an FCC representative. When deemed necessary by an EIC to assure compliance with FCC Rules, the station licensee must maintain a record of station operations containing such items of information as the EIC may require in accord with §0.314(x) of the FCC Rules.

What does the FCC say about control operator duties? Part 97 says: §97.105 Control operator duties.

(a) The control operator must ensure the immediate proper operation of the station, regardless of the type of control.

(b) A station may only be operated in the manner and to the extent permitted by the privileges authorized for the class of operator license held by the control operator.

One may operate the W1NRG callsign ONLY with the express consent of the Station Licensee. If anyone does so, they will risk the reduction of any log submitted as nullified or 'limited as a Check Log'.

73! de K1RCT - S.A.M.



*Tales of the Non-Sanctioned Fox Hunts*

**DAVE TIPPING NZ1J**



**While the winter has been a bit of a deterrent to organized large scale Fox Hunts, Both Dave NZ1J and Rob K1RCT have had mini hunts and have been creative in the placement of the Fox.....in this case a mini transmitter was wrapped in an old mask which gave the appearance it was used and discarded, good Thinking and also helps to prevent theft.....**



# MARC ACTIVITIES PAGE

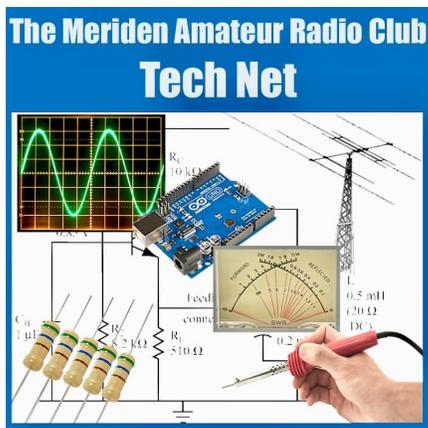
## MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB/W1NRG CLUB ACTIVITIES

WWW.W1NRG.COM

DAY	TIME (ET)	BAND	FREQ (MHz)	NCS	NAME	TYPE	WHEN
MONDAY	2000 – 2100	6M	50.175	N1ZN - JIM	6M NET	RAG CHEW*	EVERY MONDAY
TUESDAY	1930 -2000	2M REPEATER	147.36 PL=162.2	K1TDO - TODD	2M NET	RAG CHEW*	EVERY TUESDAY
	2000 – 2100	10M	28.375	K1VDF - JOHN	CASTLE CRAIG 10-10 INTL.	RAG CHEW*	EVERY TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY	1900 – 2000	6M	50.175	VARIABLE	W1NRG OPEN DISCUSSION NET	RAG CHEW*	EVERY WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	1930 – 2030	2M and ZOOM	147.36 ID: 932 2963 4252 Passcode: 123456	AB1DQ - JAMES	2M TECH NET	TECHNICAL/ LECTURE	1 <sup>ST</sup> & 3 <sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY EACH MONTH
	1930 – 2100	-	ZOOM	W1YSM – ED	MARC BUSINESS MTG	BUSINESS MEETING	2 <sup>ND</sup> THURSDAY EACH MONTH
	1930 – 2100	ZOOM	ID: 910 6770 6626 Passcode: 727460	W1YSM – ED	MARC ACTIVITIES MTG	TECHNICAL/ LECTURE	4 <sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY EACH MONTH
FRIDAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SATURDAY	0900 – 1000	2M REPEATER	147.36 PL=162.2	W1YSM – ED	COFFEE CUP NET	RAG CHEW*	EVERY SATURDAY DURING COVID
	1100 - 1300	VAR	VAR	NZ1J – DAVID	FOX HUNT	HIDDEN Tx Hunt	EVERY SATURDAY DURING COVID
SUNDAY	1930 – 2030	ZOOM	ID: 956 5400 8348 Passcode: 842063	OPEN	ELMER'S SHACK	NEW HAM SUPPORT	EVERY SUNDAY
	AT LEISURE ~ 0800 – 1600	VAR	VAR	K1RCT- ROB	FIAB (FOX IN A BOX)	HIDDEN Tx Hunt	EVERY SUNDAY

\* RAG CHEW = OPEN DISCUSSION

2/20/21 Rev 3



1st & 3rd Thursdays of every month ON ZOOM & 147.36 RPT

ID 910 6770 6226  
PASS... 727 460

MARC ADMIN is inviting you to a  
MARC - Activities Meeting Zoom meeting.

07:30 PM Local Time (0030Z)  
Every month on the **Fourth Thursday**  
Until Dec 23, 2021

Mar 25, 2021 07:30 PM  
Apr 22, 2021 07:30 PM  
May 27, 2021 07:30 PM  
Jun 24, 2021 07:30 PM  
Jul 22, 2021 07:30 PM  
Aug 26, 2021 07:30 PM  
Sep 23, 2021 07:30 PM  
Oct 28, 2021 07:30 PM  
Nov 25, 2021 07:30 PM  
Dec 23, 2021 07:30 PM

Meeting ID: 910 6770 6626  
Passcode: 727460

MARC ZOOM ACTIVITY MEETING

THURSDAY MARCH 25TH

BOB HEIL  
HEIL MICROPHONES/ HEADSETS

SUNDAY NIGHTS

ELMERS SHACK ON ZOOM  
FOR NEW OR PROSPECTIVE  
HAMS TO GET ANSWERS

ID 956 5400 8348  
PASS.... 842063

# MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

KEY KLIX EDITOR DAVE SWEDOCK K1WJL  
CONTACT DSWEDOCK@GMAIL.COM  
203 235-8582

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  
TONE 162,2 (IF ACTIVATED)

## MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

AB1DQ	James Surprenant	22R	N1IBE	Wade Martell	22S
AB1HB	Charlie Dudac	21S	N1KGY	Chuck Ayers	20R
AF1HS	Art Fregeau	21S	N1LES	Joe Murray	21R
K1IIG	Steve Tripp	21S	N1MOB	Dan David	20R
K1JCF	Joe Farrell	23S	N1NAN	Helen Spokes	20S
K1LHO	Mike Ash	21S	N1OKF	Bob Parisi	21R
K1LYP	John Yusza	21S	N1OKR	Frank Ciccone	21S
K1MMK	Mike MacKennedy	23R	N1QYB	William Wilecki Jr.	20S
K1MVM	Mike Macri	21S	N1URO	Brian Rodgers	21R
K1RCT	Rob Cichon	23R	N1YLN	Edward O'Lena	21R
K1SCI	Stuart Isaac	20R	N1ZN	James Savage	20S
K1STM	Anne West	21S	NZ1J	Dave Tipping	22R
K1TDO	Todd Olsen	21R	W1AJK	Andrew Kazimer	22R
K1TGX	Jerry Molaver	22S	W1BOB	Bob Lobley	21R
K1VDF	John Blevins	21S	W1DQ	John Elengo	22S
K1WJL	Dave Swedock	22S	W1EDX	Paul Stasieluk	21S
KB1CIW	Bob Stephens	20S	W1JKP	Kent Astrom	21R
KB1EHE	Eric Knight	21R	W1KKF	Bill Wawrzeiak	L
KB1FYL	Bob Carruthers	20S	W1KPS	Kevin Shields	20R
KB1IFZ	Elsie Mathews	21R	W1LV	Steve Morley	21R
KB1JL	Eric Olsson	21S	W1NHS	Fred Ring	20S
KB1MFU	John Ramadei	21R	W1NNZ	William Kosche III	20S
KB1MZG	Guy Allard	21S	W1POP	Fred Liedke	21S
KB1SIT	Teresa Stephens	20S	W1ST	Stephen Stimpson	20R
KB1SSN	Alex Dills	20R	W1UFO	Mike Cei	20R
KB1TJD	Gainne Jenkins	20S	W1XK	Stan Kugler	20S
KB1TMC	Clare O'Lena	21R	W1YSM	Ed Snyder	22R
KB1TTV	Jonathan Martin	21S	WA1FFT	Ray Irwin	21S
KB1YFJ	Glen Couture	21R	WA1JKR	John Rogus	21S
KC1DOY	Ted Renzoni	21S	WA1SFH	Douglas Sharafanowich	20R
KC1GMD	Ralph Ring	20R	WA1TRY	Rich Aubin	L
KC1HDB	Jeff Martin	28R	WA1ZVY	Jim Martin	21S
KC1HFO	John Stoidis	20R	WB1GGP	Jerry Shepard	20S
KC1IIK	Scott Mowerson	20R	WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur	21S
KC1IIL	Matt Mowerson	21Y	WB8IMY	Steve Ford	22R
KC1ISI	Kristin Olsson	21R	WJ1B	Harold Kramer	21S
KC1KQH	John Kasinskas	21S	WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann	20S
KC1MBG	Robert Luby	21R	W3APC	James Cook	21S
KC1NQE	Shawn Warren	21R	W9OTW	Debbie Foss	20R
KC1NXP	Andrew Paolillo	21R		Ron Rogers	20S
KC1OCF	Karl Polak	21S			
KC1OMP	Damian Fries	21S			
KC1OMR	Lou Caruso	21S			
KC1ONB	Ron Isaac Jr.	21R			
KC1OST	Bryon Heath	21R			
KC1PU	Bob Woodtke Jr.	22R			
KC1SA	Stephen Allen	21R			
KE1AU	Robert Kaczor	21S			
KE1AV	Dave Sanford	20R			
KE1AY	Donald Mitchell	21S			
KR1U	Bob Eslinger	21S			
N1AKN	Jeff Dwyer	21S			
N1API	Al Kaiser	21S			
N1BF	Patrick Dionne	21R			
N1BRL	Bart Toftness	23S			
N1GNV	John Bartscherer	21S			
N1GY	Geoff Haines	21S			
N1HCA	Susan South	20R			

MEMBERSHIP STATS

TOTAL MEMBERS.....	98
REGULAR(UNDER65).....	43
SENIOR(65 & UP ).....	45
LIFE.....	2
STUDENT(18 & UNDER).....	1

## MARC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT



W1YSM ED

VICE PRESIDENT



KB1JL ERIC

SECRETARY



N1BRL BART

TREASURER



K1WJL DAVE



K1RCT ROB

STATION  
ACTIVITIES  
MANAGER

### 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.