

# NOVEMBER 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**

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

### Special Business Meeting & Club Election Format

There will be a special Business Meeting on Thursday Nov 5th at 7:30pm on ZOOM as usual during the Covid crisis..

The normally scheduled AB1DQ Tech Net will be rescheduled to Thursday Nov 12..

If there are any challengers to the proposed slate of officers then a special election will have to be held on Thursday Nov 12th at the EOC where members would have to come , physically hand in ballots and then leave immediately. The Tech Net would go on as planned....

Please go to Page for a detailed explanation and chart.....  
Voting for Ham of the Year and Elmer of the Year will be via an online voting program called Survey Monkey or an equivalent program... You must be logged on to the Nov 5th meeting in order to vote. If this sounds confusing, Thank Covid and wear a mask.

### CONDOLENCES

MARC Member N1POP Greg Ploski passed away in June. We extend our condolences to his XYL Linda and his family. His obituary is listed inside the KK.

Loni O'Donnell finance to Mike Macri K1MVM passed away recently and we extend our condolences to Mike and their families...

### Get Well soon wishes to :

John K1VDF who is at the Masonic Care facility for some rehab after a bout with pneumonia. He is expected to return home soon.  
Anne K1STM who is home recovering from recent surgery....



# The President's Podium



**Ed Snyder W1YSM, President**

## HOW BIG IS TOO BIG?

The Meriden Amateur Radio Club has grown quite a bit since I first became a member. I remember walking into the Cook Hill Firehouse one Thursday evening in 2016 and having Bill W1KKF, Eric KB1JL, Rob K1RCT and Al N1API staring at me wondering who I was. It was James AB1DQ who encouraged me to join and introduced me around. I agreed to become Activities Committee Chair, and as usually happens, one thing led to another --- and now I have the honor and privilege of being your President. So far, things seem to be going well.

I have actively tried to grow the Meriden Amateur Radio Club as regards its membership, as well as its activities. Thus far, membership is teetering at 90 and our various activities have been well documented in this column multiple times. I hope MARC will attain 100 members sometime this coming year –I guess I like round numbers. The strength of a club lies in its diversity and the multiplicity of its activities – running or participating in Nets, building antennae, repairing radios, contesting, fox hunting, learning CW, holding VE sessions, providing code plugs, elmering, reaching out to other clubs and the ARRL, etc. We have so many activities to choose from, a mere 100 members likely will not be an impediment to expansion,

Central to our success is the collegiality and genuine friendship we offer to each other in all these endeavors. It is apparent to anyone who is observant, that we actually like each other. The interactions among members at all levels of Club activities is done with a respect for our fellow Ham and a desire to work together for the enjoyment of all. I am proud to foster such an environment and I am dedicated to preserving it. Importantly, this degree of friendship among members is readily visible to others who consider this fact when deciding whether or not to join our Club. I am especially pleased at the number of hams who have come back to MARC after a period away. I viewed such activity as a sign that all is well at 143 Hope Hill Road. The level of collegiality, cooperation and respect that we show each other, also extends to our relationship with the Town and the folks who run the Wallingford Fire Department, Medical Reserve Corp, CERT and other administrative offices. They appreciate our cooperation and the Town's interactions with, and their support of, our Club reflects this fact.

As 2020 winds down and we look forward to 2021 with hope in our hearts for a better year, please be assured that MARC's potential for growth, involvement and influence in our chosen hobby is bright – thanks to all of you. I never imagined how my life would change that evening in 2016 when I walked into the Cook Hill Fire House and met you all – but, it was the start of big things. I anticipate MARC will continue to grow bigger and stronger. By doing so we not only help keep MARC, as well as ourselves vital, healthy and relevant, it helps to keep our beloved hobby, Amateur Radio, alive and well at the same time.

73, and stay safe  
Ed W1YSM  
President MARC



# Secretary Report & Minutes of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club

**Anne West K1STM , Secretary**

**OCTOBER 8, 2020 BUSINESS MEETING**

Meeting on Zoom video. 28 Attendees: N1LES, KB1JL, KC1DOY, K1RCT N1BRL, W1DQ, KC1SA, W1EDX, N1GNV, WB1GYZ, KE1AY, K1VDF, KC1HDB, K1WJL, NZ1Z, W1YSM, KE1AU, KC1KQH, K1LYP, W1AJK, WA1TRY, N1API, N1ZN, K1JCF, N1YLN, W1KKF, K1LHO, KC1NXP

Meeting called to order 1930 hours by President Ed Snyder W1YSM

## **Announcements (W1YSM)**

W1YSM went over his Key Klix column emphasizing mask compliance at the OEM building.

CQ Santa and XMAS Party cancelled

Year in Review meeting will be December 3, via Zoom

Officer voting process will be reviewed tonight

## **Secretary's Report (KB1JL)**

Secretary K1STM in hospitalized, recovering from surgery. Anne will not be running for 2021 Secretary.

Minutes of September 2020 meeting voted and approved.

No correspondences

New Member KC1NXP Andy Paolillo was introduced, and voted into membership

## **Treasurers Report (K1WJL)**

A treasurers report was read by K1WJL, and a hard copy was submitted

Expenditures of \$70 were announced for SSL on the club web site and Domain insurance.

## **Station Manager (K1RCT)**

Egg Beater VHF/UHD antenna parts are in. Assembly and installation forthcoming.

A Work party will be needed for Saturday to reduce club equipment at the OEM, per Fire Chief Heidgerd, as space is needed for pandemic PPE and MRC equipment storage. W1YSM has investigated a temporary storage solution but at \$100/month it is too expensive.

Corrections have been made by K1RCT regarding club email reflector performance.

SSL has been implemented on club website and domain insurance procured.

A password was added to the club open zoom room to facilitate member use.

A sanitary protocol has been developed for the radio room. Protective equipment has been stored there to be used to decontaminate after use.

## **Committees**

Entertainment (W1YSM) ARRL New England Vice Director K9HI Phil Temples will speak at the next activity meeting and field questions.

Saturday Mornings - The room is open for up to 10 members at a time. There is a VE session this coming Saturday October 17.

Fox hunts continue on Saturdays and Sundays

Website update- (NZ1J) Dave says that people are finding the website as a gateway to the club. The dynamic calendar shows updated activity and is a useful tool

Contests (N1YLN) - A discussion took place over scheduling members the W1NRG call sign for upcoming Sweepstakes, so they can operate from home,.

Nets -All club nets are active and healthy

Castle Craig (N1API) This Saturday is a 10-10 sprint contest.

Scholarship - no activity

Membership- (W1YSM) Club Membership currently at 89.

Interference- WB1GYZ requested possible solutions to unwanted spam texts.

Volunteer Examiner (KE1AY) Don states there are at least 3 definite for the October 17 session so far. Club PR packets/flyers will be offered to test takers at VE sessions.

Key Klix (K1WJL) KK continues its twice monthly publishing schedule.

EMCOMM (KB1JL) Eric reiterated need to masks on site and explained the upcoming public safety space needs at the firehouse.

A reduced and shortened YMCA road race took place this month without club/WARG participation.

Candy Store -KC1DOY displayed a T shirt he had printed locally with his name and call.

Community Outreach (W1YSM) Ed and Bob WB1GYZ continue to work on articles, one for local media and another for QST, on club activity in a pandemic, including the fox hunting.

## **New Business:**

W1YSM and NZ1J will go forth with outreach to RASON, the Norwich Radio club for possible commonality and guest Speaker from ARRL K9HI will be approached about possible CT club association to promote radio clubs in CT.

November voting process was announced and questions fielded by KC1SA and officers. **The next Business meeting will be November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 when in addition to Club Business, Nominations for Club Officers will be entertained.** Due to Covid, an uncontested slate will be voted on by the Secretary casting one vote, otherwise in person voting by ballot will take place November 12 at the OEM, per constitution requirements. **Elmer & Ham of the Year also will be voted on Nov 5<sup>th</sup> via Survey Monkey.**

**Meeting adjourned at 2122 hours.**

Respectfully submitted Eric Olsson KB1JL, acting secretary



# *Tales of the Mini Cooper* de James AB1DQ

It became a long running joke with my wife, Ellen, and her best friend Naomi, who has been coming over for socially distant weekend visits ever since lockdown began in March. When Nay would arrive most Saturdays around noontime, she'd find me outside with my head stuck under the dashboard of my 2012 MINI Cooper and she'd ask Ellen if I was ever going to finish my car project. Truth be told, it really wasn't 'one' car project that I undertook during my summer of Covid, but several that included adding driving lamps, upgrading the horns and installing a backup and dash cam among other things. (I could go on, but in Key Klix we focus on radio!)

It all started when I decided to replace a blown factory speaker in the front door. Well, speakers are sold in pairs and why upgrade the front speakers only? Soon a package arrived from Crutchfield with a complete set of replacement premium speakers. Replacing the speakers took me back to my teen years when I installed that Kraco AM/FM/MPX stereo that I bought at K-Mart for \$30 in my Ford Pinto along with the set of Roadmaster 6x9 speakers mounted to the cardboard rear deck. That Christmas mom & dad made my holiday by getting me the Realistic 40-watt amplifier and graphic equalizer complete with 13 sliders and flashing LEDs that I 'needed' to complete my ride! (You can bet your figgy pudding that I was outside right after Christmas dinner in the subfreezing weather with my wire cutters and electrical tape racing to complete my hi-fi upgrade before sundown!)

So feeling nostalgic, I didn't stop at the speakers and soon a reasonably priced Kenwood double-DIN stereo had also arrived from Crutchfield with bells & whistles that I couldn't have imagined in my Kraco crankin' days – SiriusXM, Pandora, Spotify, Alexa, Bluetooth, USB, a CD player and of course good ole AM/FM.

The second-generation MINI Cooper features a big ole Speedometer in the middle of the dashboard and the bottom half of that speedometer is where MINI incorporated the factory radio display and memory buttons. The aftermarket stereo dash kit came with a blank out panel for the factory display and buttons, but this left sort of an unfinished empty look right in the middle of the dash. And this my friends, is where the inspiration came in. That big empty space looked like prime territory for a transceiver faceplate. A couple of years ago I purchased a Yaesu FT-891 with the intention of building a Go-Box that I hadn't done anything with. (Do you remember when Go Boxes were the rage?) I saw that the Yaesu remote head and mounting bracket could neatly be attached to the speedometer blank out plate and this would be an excellent use for the space. The 'bug' bit hard and before you knew it, I was all in on making this happen. I decided to install not only the HF rig, but also my Alinco dual band UHF/VHF DR735 and I began the project by bolting both radios to the back of the rear passenger seat, with plenty of cable so the seat could be folded down, and I routed the control head cables under the edge of the carpeting up to the dash. So far, so good.

To power the radios, I ran a 10 AWG direct line from the battery, through the firewall and under the center console back to the trunk area. The MINI has a nifty little carpeted access panel for access to the taillights so I used that space to mount a PowerPole distribution block at the back of the car to not only power the two rigs, but to provide a convenient place to plug in any other 12VDC gear I might want for a future outdoor radio event, say Field Day. One concern that arose was that both radios had speakers built into the radio bodies, which were now in the trunk. Not so good for this old fart with failing hearing. I thought about adding an accessory speaker on the dashboard, but in such a small car, space comes at a premium and I've already cluttered things up with two new remote heads and microphones.

I decided to try a creative solution and bought one of those cheap-O FM modulators that let you transmit audio from your MP3 or CD player to your car stereo. I mounted the tiny modulator above the PowerPole block, connected it to the radio audio output jacks, and tuned it to 89.3 MHz, an unused frequency in my area. I programmed one of the FM memory buttons on the new stereo to that same frequency, and now I get my ham radio audio through the stereo speakers.

For antennas, I went with the Yaesu ATAS-120 screwdriver antenna for HF and installed a lip mount on the rear tailgate. I was fully prepared to drill through the roof for a better mounting position with a much better ground plane, but my car has dual sunroofs – so that wasn't a very viable option. On the other side of the tailgate you will find the 2M/70cm dual band antenna attached by another lip mount. The last time I had a mobile installation was about a dozen plus years ago when I installed a Yaesu FT-857D in my 2002 Ford Focus sedan and used a four-magnet trunk lid mount with interchangeable mono band ham-sticks. I did have a lot of fun in those days working into Europe on 20 and 40 M after work while stuck in the parking lot that is rush hour on Route 128 outside of Boston.

When I did the Focus install, I took the matter of bonding seriously and used copper braid to bond the doors, hood, hood, and rear hatch to the main body. However, realizing that all of the doors should have a good ground by means of being bolted to the body, I haven't yet bonded the doors on the MINI This SEEMS logical, but I don't know – I welcome your insight and feedback here. I did add a beefy ground cable from the antenna mount to the rear hatch sheet metal for a better ground.

**HOW DOES IT WORK YOU ASK?**

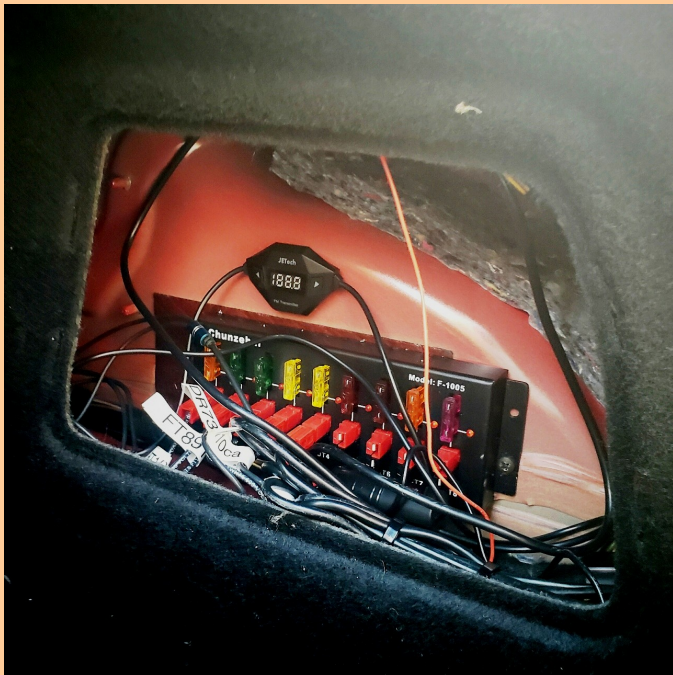
So far, so good – I have made some initial HF contacts on 40M along the east coast, and I participated in the MARC 10M net while out mobile a couple weeks ago. I'm quite pleased so far and look forward to making any necessary tweaks going forward as I make more contacts with my motorized MINI go-kit!



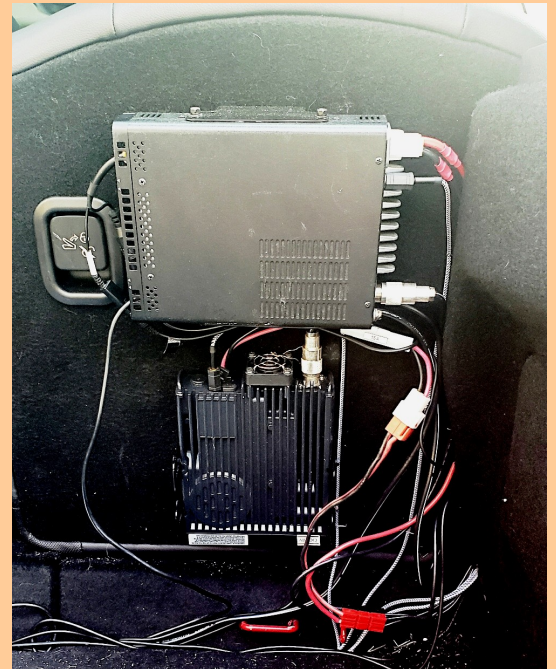
**AB1DQ MOBILE OPERATING POSITION**



**MY MINI ANTENNA FARM!**

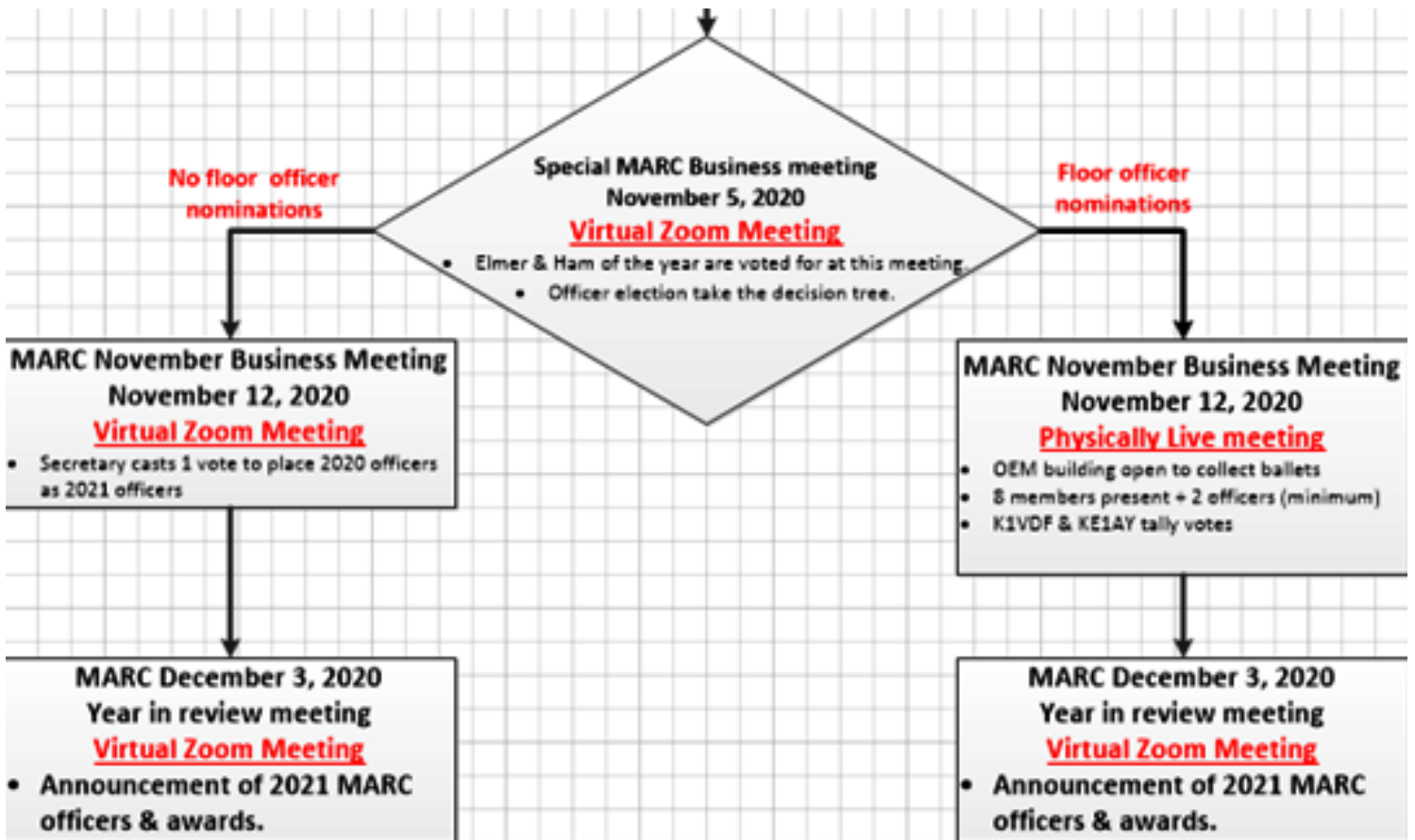


**POWERPOLE DISTRIBUTION BLOCK AND FM MODULATOR**



**YASEU FT891 & ALINCO DR-735 TRANSCEIVERS BOLTED TO BACK OF REAR SEATS**

## SPECIAL ELECTION PROCESS FOR THE 2021 OFFICERS



### FROM STEVE KC1SA

November 5th voting will be via Survey Monkey for HOY and EOY.

Only those attendees of this November 5th meeting will get the Survey for HOY EOY.

I will send that Survey out to the member who attended from the list that Rob (RCT) gives me.

John (VDF) and Don are the Survey Monkey counters (in the event VDF is unable I will volunteer to assist Don).

If there are officer nominations from the floor on 11/5/2020 then a ballot election for officers will be held on 11/12/2020 BUT HOY and EOY is still via Survey Monkey on 11/5/2020.

If there is a 11/12/2020 vote by ballot, only those members attending the 11/5/2020 are allowed to vote.

If there are officer floor nominees on 11/5/2020, ballots will need to be printed up and delivered to the OEM building for the 11/12/2020 potential vote meeting.



**PROSPECT** — Gregory Ploski, 71, of Prospect, passed away at St. Mary's Hospital after a brief illness on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, surrounded by his loved ones. He was the beloved husband of Linda (Kelly) Ploski. Gregory was born June 8, 1948, in Waterbury, the son of the late Adolph (Murph) Ploski and the late Wanda (Niestemski) Ploski. Gregory was a graduate of Post University and received a bachelor's degree in business administration. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, an avid pilot, a Certified Flight Instructor, firearms expert, inventor, and animal lover. He was involved in several businesses over the years including Dyno-Time Racing Engines of Prospect, the venture that inspired his first patent for a motorized engine stand. His greatest talent was his mechanical aptitude and ability to analyze, repair or build anything. He regarded loyalty as a person's most important asset. He had a profound interest in science and scientific theories. Whenever he took on a task, he educated himself with every bit of data available. At the time of his death he was a member of the Prospect Planning and Zoning Commission, the Prospect Democratic Town Committee, and the Prospect Gun Club. Besides his wife, he leaves a son Gary Ploski, a sister Donna Ploski, a brother Kevin Ploski, nieces and nephews and other extended family members and many friends. A memorial service will be held at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Naugatuck when restrictions are lifted. Memorial contributions can be made in Gregory's name to St. Michael's Episcopal Church Memorial Fund, 210 Church Street, Naugatuck, CT 06770. Naugatuck Valley Memorial (Fitzgerald Zembruski Funeral Home) is charged with arrangements. Please check the website to share a memory or to register for memorial service notifications.

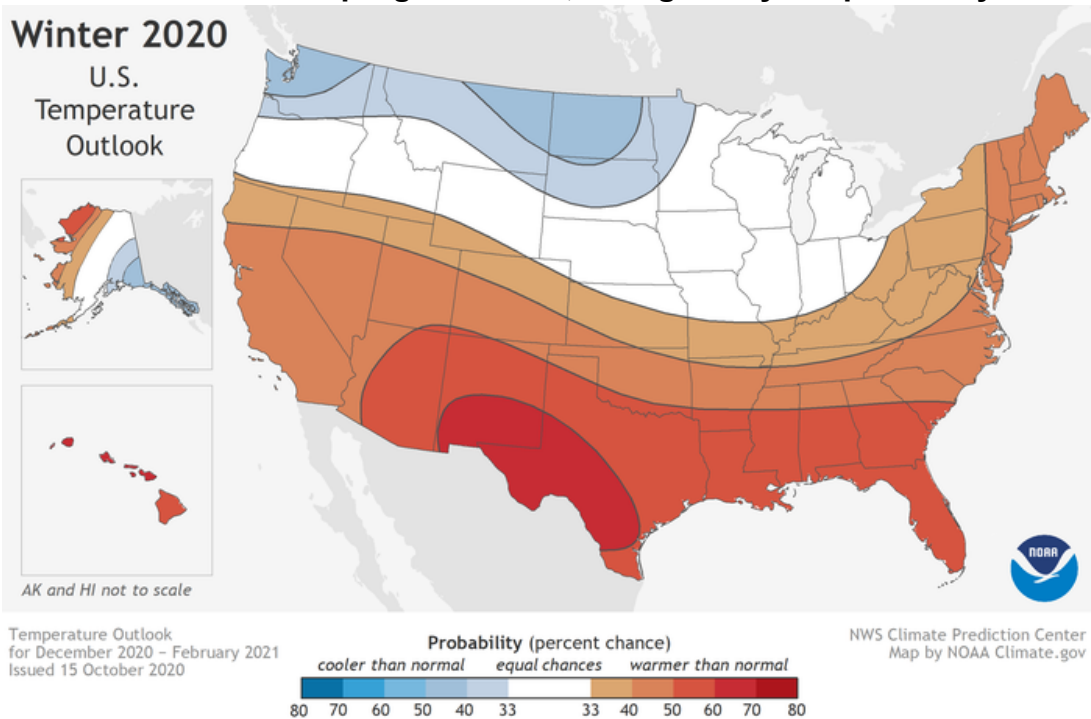
**FROM ERIC KB1EHE**

As many of you know, I've been working on an innovation to treat Alzheimer's disease for almost 11 years. My company Remarkable Technologies, Inc. is collaborating with NeuroEM Therapeutics regarding an Alzheimer's disease treatment. A big step just occurred. The following is the headline from yesterday's press: "First-Ever Treatment Shown to Reverse Alzheimer's Earns NeuroEM Therapeutics FDA Breakthrough Device Status." Check out the news here:

<https://finance.yahoo.com/finance/news/first-ever-treatment-shown-reverse-120400208.html>

Thank you for continually rooting for me in the mission to conquer this horrific disease.  
73, Eric KB1EHE

The secret formula used by the Farmers' Almanac is based on **sunspot activity**, tidal forces resulting from the moon's gravitational pull, planetary alignment and other factors. It's known only by the almanac's weather prognosticator, who goes by the pseudonym Caleb Weatherbee.



# 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 Thursdays 7:30PM  
 147.360+, no PL (on non-MARC meeting nites)  
 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)

WEBSITE: (USE LOWERCASE)  
[www.w1nrg.com](http://www.w1nrg.com)

FORUM / BBS:  
[www.w1nrg.com/forum/](http://www.w1nrg.com/forum/)  
 or go to website and follow links

CASTLE CRAIG 10-10 WEBSITE:  
 go to [www.w1nrg.com](http://www.w1nrg.com)  
 and follow the links

CLUB REPEATER W1KKF/R  
 147.36MHZ +600 OFFSET  
 NO PL TONE (OPEN REPEATER)

## MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

AB1DQ	James Surprenant	22R	N1BF	Patrick Dionne	21R
AB1HB	Charlie Dudac	20S	N1BRL	Bart Toftness	20S
AF1HS	Art Fregeau	20S	N1GNV	John Bartscherer	20S
K1IIG	Steve Tripp	20S	N1GY	Geoff Haines	21S
K1JCF	Joe Farrell	20S	N1HCA	Susan South	20R
K1LHO	Mike Ash	20S	N1IBE	Wade Martell	21S
K1LYP	John Yusza	21S	N1KGY	Chuck Ayers	20R
K1MMK	Mike MacKennedy	20R	N1LES	Joe Murray	21R
K1MVM	Mike Macri	20S	N1MOB	Dan David	20R
K1RCT	Rob Cichon	20R	N1NAN	Helen Spokes	20S
K1SCI	Stuart Isaac	20R	N1OKF	Bob Parisi	20R
K1STM	Anne West	20S	N1OKR	Frank Ciccone	20S
K1TDO	Todd Olsen	20R	N1POP	Greg Ploski	24S
K1TGX	Jerry Molaver	22S	N1QYB	William Wilecki Jr.	20S
K1VDF	John Blevins	20S	N1YLN	Edward O'Lena	20R
K1WJL	Dave Swedock	20S	N1ZN	James Savage	20S
KB1CIW	Bob Stephens	20S	NZ1J	Dave Tipping	22R
KB1EHE	Eric Knight	20R	W1AJK	Andrew Kazimer	20R
KB1FYL	Bob Carruthers	20S	W1DQ	John Elengo	20S
KB1HCC	Jonathan Winslow	20S	W1EDX	Paul Stasieluk	20S
KB1IFZ	Elsie Mathews	20R	W1KKF	Bill Wawrzeniak	L
KB1JL	Eric Olsson	20S	W1KPS	Kevin Shields	20R
KB1MFU	John Ramadei	21R	W1LV	Steve Morley	20R
KB1SIT	Teresa Stephens	20S	W1NHS	Fred Ring	20S
KB1SSN	Alex Dills	20R	W1NNZ	William Kosche III	20S
KB1TJD	Gainne Jenkins	20S	W1POP	Fred Liedke	21S
KB1TMC	Clare O'Lena	20R	W1ST	Stephen Stimpson	20R
KB1YFJ	Glen Couture	20R	W1UFO	Mike Cei	20R
KC1DOY	Ted Renzoni	20S	W1XK	Stan Nugler	20S
KC1GMD	Ralph Ring	20R	W1YSM	Ed Snyder	22R
KC1HDB	Jeff Martin	28R	WA1FFT	Ray Irwin	20S
KC1HFO	John Stoidis	20R	WA1JKR	John Rogus	21S
KC1IHK	Scott Mowerson	20R	WA1SFH	Douglas Sharafanowich	20R
KC1IIL	Matt Mowerson	20Y	WA1TRY	Rich Aubin	L
KC1ISI	Kristin Olsson	20R	WA1ZVY	Jim Martin	20S
KC1KQH	John Kasinskas	20S	WB1GGP	Jerry Shepard	20S
KC1MBG	Robert Luby	20R	WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur	20S
KC1NQE	Shawn Warren	21R	WB8IMY	Steve Ford	20R
KC1NXP	Andrew Paolillo	21R	WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann	20S
KC1PU	Bob Woodtke Jr.	21R	W3APC	James Cook	21S
KC1SA	Stephen Allen	21R	W9OTW	Debbie Foss	20R
KE1AU	Robert Kaczor	20S		Ron Rogers	20S
KE1AV	Dave Sanford	20R			
KE1AY	Donald Mitchell	20S			
KR1U	Bob Eslinger	20S			
N1AKN	Jeff Dwyer	20R			
N1API	Al Kaiser	20S			

## MEMBERSHIP STATS

TOTAL MEMBERS.....89  
 REGULAR(UNDER65).....42  
 SENIOR(OVER 65).....41  
 LIFE.....2  
 STUDENT(UNDER 18).....1

## 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.

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

