KEY KLIX

MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

1947 -- 2023

MARCH 2023

OFFICIAL MAILING ADDRESS, MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, POB 583, MERIDEN CT 06450
PRES W1YSM ED SNYDER VP KB1JL ERIC OLSSON SECT N1BRL BART TOFTNESS
TRES KC1OYN RICK BECKER S.A.M. K1RCT ROB CICHON
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Meriden Amateur Radio Club Group | Facebook MeridenARC@groups.io | Messages W1NRG Forum

ALL BUSINESS & ACTIVITY MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON ZOOM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE…..
HYBRID EVENTS(ZOOM & IN-PERSON MEETINGS) WILL RESUME AS TECHNICAL ISSUES ARE RESOLVED.
THEY WILL BE ANNOUNCED VIA OUR CLUB'S VARIOUS INFORMATION NETWORKS

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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.

WEBSITE:
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 W1NRG/R
147.36MHZ +600 OFFSET
TONE 162.2

Wallingford Amateur Radio Group
Emergency Communications

MARC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	VICE PRES.	SECRETARY	TREASURER	STATION ACTIVITIES MANAGER
				
W1YSM ED	KB1JL ERIC	N1BRL BART	KC1OYN RICK	K1RCT ROB

The President's Podium Ed Snyder W1YSM President

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, MARCH 2023 KEY KLIX

BACK TO THE FUTURE – WITH FIELD DAY

Field Day is not your usual contest. According to the ARRL website, it is an annual event that the League holds, to encourage hams to contact as many other radio stations as possible and to learn to operate radio gear in abnormal situations and under less than optimal conditions. There are various categories assigned to locations in a building, in a field, with various sorts of power – commercial, generator, solar, etc., points are awarded for passing and deciphering traffic, making satellite contracts, involving local politicians, having a GOTA station for young people to get on the air with a licensed control operator, having an educational demonstration table, arranging coverage in a local newspaper, etc. Most bands and modes can be utilized. There is also a winter variant of Field Day. MARC has participated in Field Day for years and it has provided all participants with a fun-filled weekend of amateur radio. It is always held on the 4th full weekend of June.

In the good olde days, we actually and literally participated in the aforementioned field. With the passage of time and its inevitable ravages, the "field" has transformed into the OEM. The latter having sought after amenities including better food, chairs, running water, electricity, and highly valued potties. The absence of insects and the like, which come at you by land, sea, and air is another desirable benefit. For a time, this was our preferred venue. Members would sit in lounge chairs, eat N1GNV's roadkill stew while reminiscing about the good olde days when they went by boat to a field with radios in tow, and lugged amplifiers up hills to the camp site.
Slowly the drum beat to return to those thrilling days of yesteryear grew louder. Now with almost 150 members, many of whom still have functional backs, knees, and internal organs, have lobbied for a return to the prairies of our ancestors to run Field Day, the way the Lord intended it to be. So, this year we will make the move and have MARC run Field Day at dual sites – at the OEM for those who wish to be able to get out of bed the next morning, and in the field for those who awake early in the morning and bound out of their sleeping bag, bright of eye and bushy of tail. Nary an ibuprofen in sight!

In 2023, we have enough gear and members to run both sites. We really need to provide the opportunity for younger and not so young members who wish to go back to our roots, to do so. This is emblematic of the current Meriden Amateur Radio Club. MARC has the capacity to--- administratively chew gum and walk across the street. We can have a Field Day in the OEM and at Marcus Cook Park; enjoy the luxury of having competent and savvy members who can set up Field Day in either venue and have both sites provide an experience that would appeal to different types of members. We have come together and grown – more than doubling our membership in the past 5 years – despite Covid. We have become well-known for being a busy club with **over 30 events** appearing on the List of W1NRG Activities for 2023. We can now make that 31, with the addition of an actual in-field version of Field Day. MARC is big and can do big things. So, in June, please consider all the activities that MARC provides to you as a member—and all that you, in return, provide for your fellow member of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club. We look forward to seeing many if not all of you at one of the venues this June.
So come hungry, I am sure John N1GNV will have more than enough roadkill for both sites –in fact, I saw him just last week scouring the highways and byways of CT for the needed victuals for his gastronomic masterpiece. Some things never change.

BTW, rabies shots are not needed to enjoy the repast – just a knife and fork -and an FCC license.

Ed W1YSM
President W1NRG

You Have Questions, We Have Answers
Sunday Evening Elmer's Shack
John B. N1GNV @ *THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE*

As you know, Ham Radio is in part a technical hobby. Like any specialized field, it also has some of its own jargon that may not be clear to new licensees. That's why The Meriden Amateur Radio Club sponsors "Elmer's Shack" every Sunday night at 7:30PM local time on Zoom. An "Elmer" is a teacher – someone who can give you advice, explain technical topics, and in general give you the benefit of his/her Ham
experiences. A "Shack" is simply the place where your Amateur Radio station is set up.
Elmer's Shack is a place to bring your questions and get them answered by people who have been there and done that.

We have a few guiding principles:
1. There is no such thing as a stupid question
2. There is no place for "You should know that, it was on your test"
3. There is no definition of a Real Ham – as in "A Real Ham can copy 1,000 wpm CW" or similar. You have a call sign, you're a Real Ham. Or you'll soon get your license, and from Day One you'll be a Real Ham.
4. None of us was born knowing all this stuff. We all had to learn. And we're happy to share our knowledge and experience.

You don't need to be a MARC Member to join us. You don't even need to have your ticket yet.
(More jargon – a "ticket" is a Ham Radio License). All are welcome.
Please join us, and bring your questions. Or join us and learn from others' questions.

Here's the link info:
Hint -- Most online calendars will let you paste the link into a reminder so you always have it handy. This is especially convenient since the club uses different Zoom Rooms for different meetings.

Join Elmer's Shack Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93256679514?pwd=T1RSSzlyZlkwNVFJc0djK1BDSWsrdz09

Meeting ID: 932 5667 9514
Passcode: 686029

MARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS
MARCH 2023

MAR 9……..MARC BUSINESS MEETING 7:00PM AT THE ZOOM…
MAR 11……...VE SESSION AT THE OEM
MAR 23…….ACTIVITIES MEETING 7:00PM THE ACTIVITY IS HIGH ALTITUDE BALLOONS WITH RAY CIRMO KC1QLS

SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE OEM FROM 9AM (+/-)
SUNDAY MORNINGS FOX HUNTS VIA NZ1J & K1RCT...

Secretary Report & Minutes of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club

Bart Toftness N1BRL , Sect.

BUSINESS MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2023 ZOOM

Business Meeting February 9, 2023 via Zoom videoconference
Meeting was called to order by President Ed Snyder, W1YSM at 19:00 EDT

Normal introductions were omitted as most attendees (43) are self-identified in 'Zoom' K1LHO, AB1DQ, KB1MFU, N1GNV, WB1GYZ, WA1MAC, W1DQ, KC1KQH, KC1QWH, K1STM, K1LYP, W1IG, K1VDF, KB1JL, KC1ISI, WA1ZVY, K1WJL, KC1OCS, WV2LKM, K1JCF, N1ZN, KE1AU, N1API, N1BRI, W1IKW, W1BJG, NA1L, WA1EXA, KC1DOY, KC1OYN, W1EDX, KC1OWD, WA1TRY, NZ1J, W3APC, W1YSM, WA1FFT, N1LES, WJ1B, KS1WK, N1BRL, K1RCT, and Spencer Rygiel.

Announcements (W1YSM), business meetings will continue on Zoom at least until spring, our Special Service Club Status with the ARRL has been updated and recertified. Our lawn sign at the OEM may not be replaced, the Nutmeg Hamfest has been approved as the CT State Convention in 2023 with a VE session on 8 Oct., the Cub Scout Tour of the OEM was a success, name badges with call signs is being investigated.

Secretary's Report (N1BRL), the January Business meeting minutes were approved by a majority vote. Three new members were each approved for membership, Bob Munro W1IG, Dale Clift NA1L, and Robert Bartha WA1RAB. There was no correspondence to report.

Treasurer's Report. was read by Rick KC1OYN. The complete Treasure's report is available to members upon request to the Treasurer. Our website has arrangements to use PayPal for dues.

Station Manager's Report (K1RCT), The Station Activity Manager reported sustained Saturday morning activities at the OEM. The computers, operating systems and software were updated. Winter Field Day operation was indoors in category 3I with several operators making 235 QSO's.
The full SAM report is available upon request.

Standing Committees, The activity for February could be Bud Kozloff W1NSK the new ARRL Section Manager but if not Ian W1IKW will talk on tools and test instrumentation. The March activity meeting will be a presentation on a balloon launch by Ray KC1QLS. Rich WA1TRY has even more history for April.
The scholarship committee updated their handout information and visited a local high school Scholarship Fair.

Other Activities, A new CW class will form when there is interest. The OEM radio room is available for member use on request to an officer. All of the club's on the air nets continue to be active.

New Business, The "Education Initiative" approved last month is moving forward. The "Welcome to MARC" component is led by N1BRL, The Licensing/Upgrade component is led by AB1DQ with classes in coordination with the Wallingford Park and Rec Department this fall. KC1QWH would like to get more youth and schools involved as part of the initiative.
The "Communications Initiative" concerning the reflector, web page, forum and social media is led by N1GNV along with KC3UKG.
The MARCONI Project with its 7 components is moving forward with some parts more advanced than others. KB1MFU is developing a tethered weather balloon project to evaluate its ability to raise a vertical antenna to 200 feet. KC1QLS will make a presentation about a project to launch a high altitude weather balloon with a payload.
The Hole In The Wall Gang has asked us to help again with their bike event this year.
A spring ham flea market event is being considered.

Voting Summary for the June meeting
January meeting minutes were approved.
3 new members were each approved, W1IG, NA1L and WA1RAB.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:52
Respectfully submitted,
Bart Toftness, N1BRL

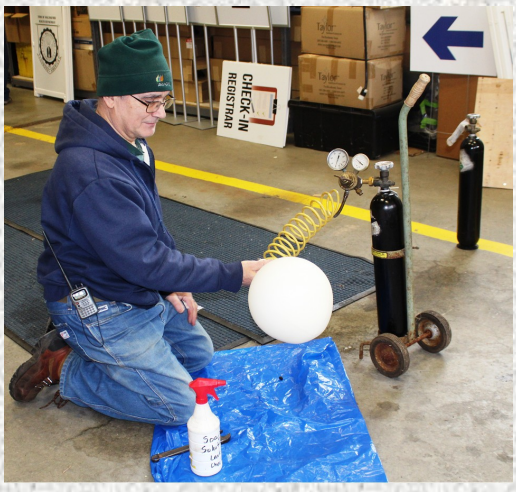
SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE OEM

The club currently has two balloon projects in the works. On Saturday, 25 February, John, KB1MFU tested his balloon to see if it would meet specifications. The balloons were supposed to inflate to 3 feet in diameter which would hold a specific amount of helium allowing him to calculate the amount of lift it would have.

For the test, John used nitrogen gas to save on the more expensive helium. He set up the test in one of the garage bays at the firehouse and began to slowly inflate the balloon. The homebrew inflation nozzle that he made fit perfectly into the balloon allowing the gas tank to be connected. The Balloon filled to 1 foot in diameter then on to 2 feet. At about 2 1/2 feet the balloon burst. Not good for a 3 foot rated balloon.

Undaunted, John said that he would get replacement balloons, probably rated 3 1/2 to 4 foot diameter. Another test is in the works. They like to say that failure is not an option but having this test balloon fail now is better than having it fail on launch day. Without testing, failure is always an option.

Once the balloon itself passes the test, other components will be tested as well. Carry on, John. You have no where to go but up! Ted KC1DOY

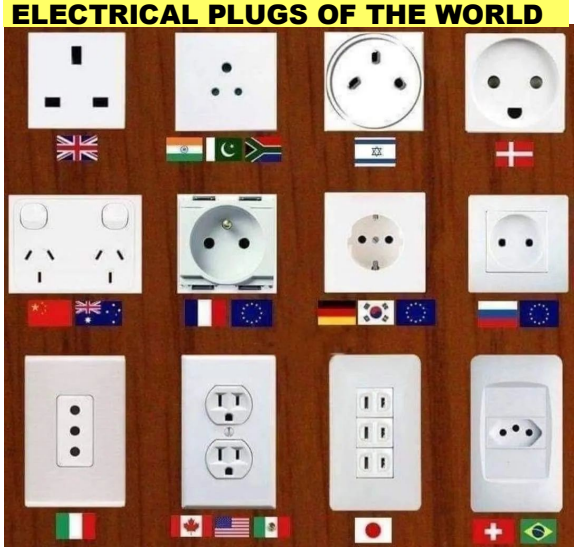


New member Dave Laliberte KB1TBL brought his communications trailer to the Saturday morning OEM session on 2/25. NR1B and WB1GYZ check it out.

GERMAN SPY DEVICE

Dear Miss Smith, 4th Grade Science Instructor:
Please excuse Jimmy for his lack of a science project, it was shot down by a sidewinder missile this weekend.
(more believable than his computer crashed)

ELECTRICAL PLUGS OF THE WORLD

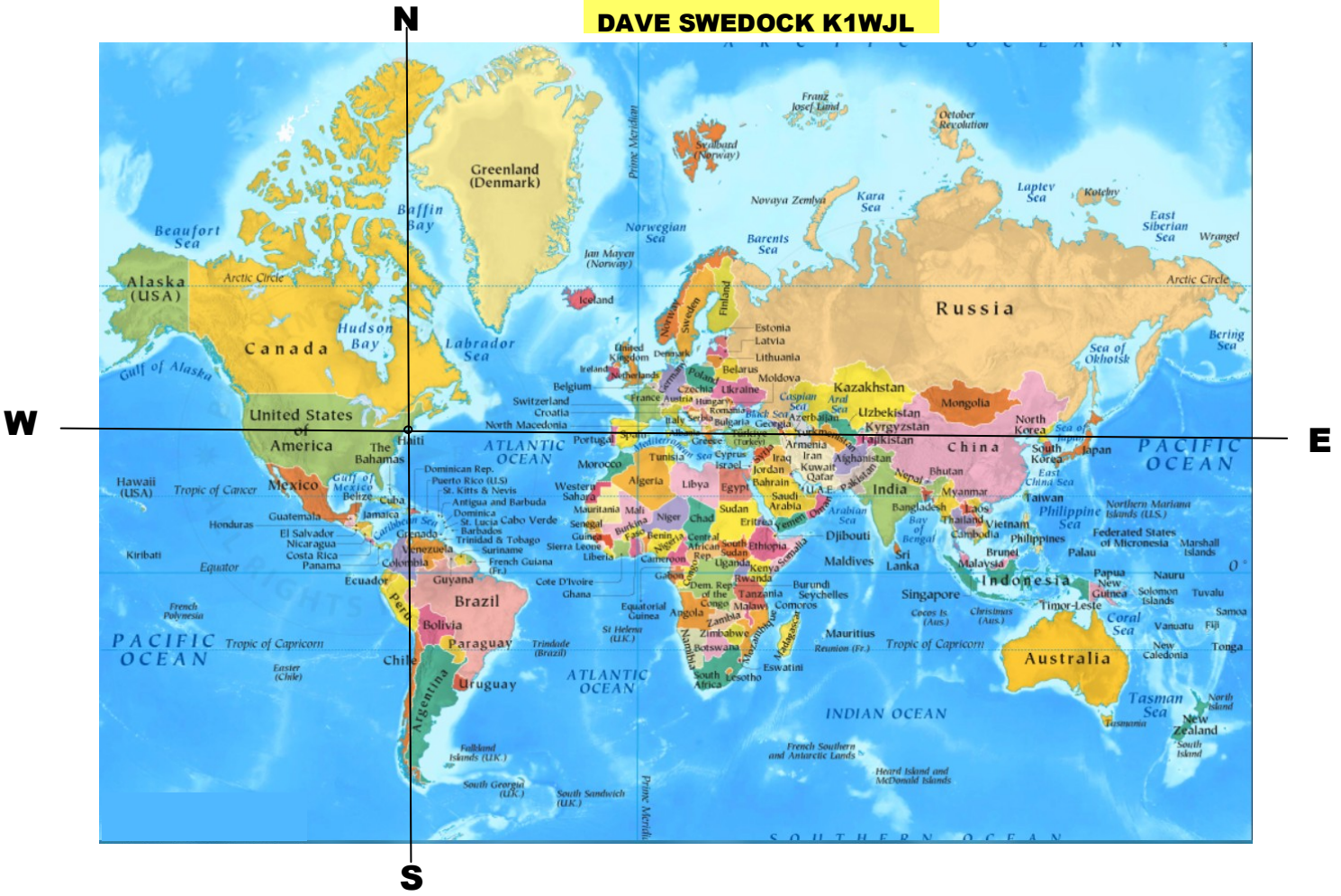


DAY	TIME (ET)	BAND	FREQ (MHz)	NCS	NAME	TYPE	WHEN
MONDAY	2000 – 2100	6M	50.175	N1ZN - JIM	6M NET	OPEN DISCUSSION	MONDAY
TUESDAY	1930 -2000	2M REPEATER	147.36 PL=162.2	K1TDO - TODD	2M NET	OPEN DISCUSSION	TUESDAY
	2000 – 2100	10M	28.375	K1VDF - JOHN	CASTLE CRAIG 10-10 INTL.	OPEN DISCUSSION	TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY	1900 – 2000	6M	50.175	VARIABLE	W1NRG OPEN DISCUSSION NET	OPEN DISCUSSION	WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	1930 – 2030	2M and ZOOM	147.36 PL=162.2 *ID: 973 7062 5198 *Passcode: 889386	AB1DQ - JAMES	2M TECH NET	TECHNICAL/ LECTURE	1ST & 3RD THURSDAY
	1900-2030	-	ZOOM	W1YSM – ED	MARC BUSINESS MTG	BUSINESS MEETING	2ND THURSDAY
	1900-2030	ZOOM	*ID: 925 1153 2783 *Passcode: 000377	W1YSM – ED	MARC ACTIVITIES MTG	TECHNICAL/ LECTURE	4TH THURSDAY
FRIDAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SATURDAY	0900 – 1000	2M REPEATER	147.36 PL=162.2	W1YSM – ED	COFFEE CUP NET	OPEN DISCUSSION	SATURDAY
	1100 - 1300	VARIABLE	VARIABLE	NZ1J – DAVID	FOX HUNT POTA/SOTA/OTA's	Tx Hunt Activations	SATURDAY
SUNDAY	1930 – 2030	ZOOM	*ID: 932 5667 9514 *Passcode: 686029	OPEN	ELMER'S SHACK	NEW HAM SUPPORT	SUNDAY
	OPEN SCHEDULE ~ 0800 – 1600	VARIABLE	VARIABLE	K1RCT- ROB	FIAB (FOX IN A BOX)	HIDDEN Tx Hunt	SUNDAY

* values subject to change, see http://www.w1nrg.com/website/index.html for current values
7/4/21 Rev 6

SO IF YOUR CHASING DX, IS THE EARTH FLAT?????

DAVE SWEDOCK K1WJL

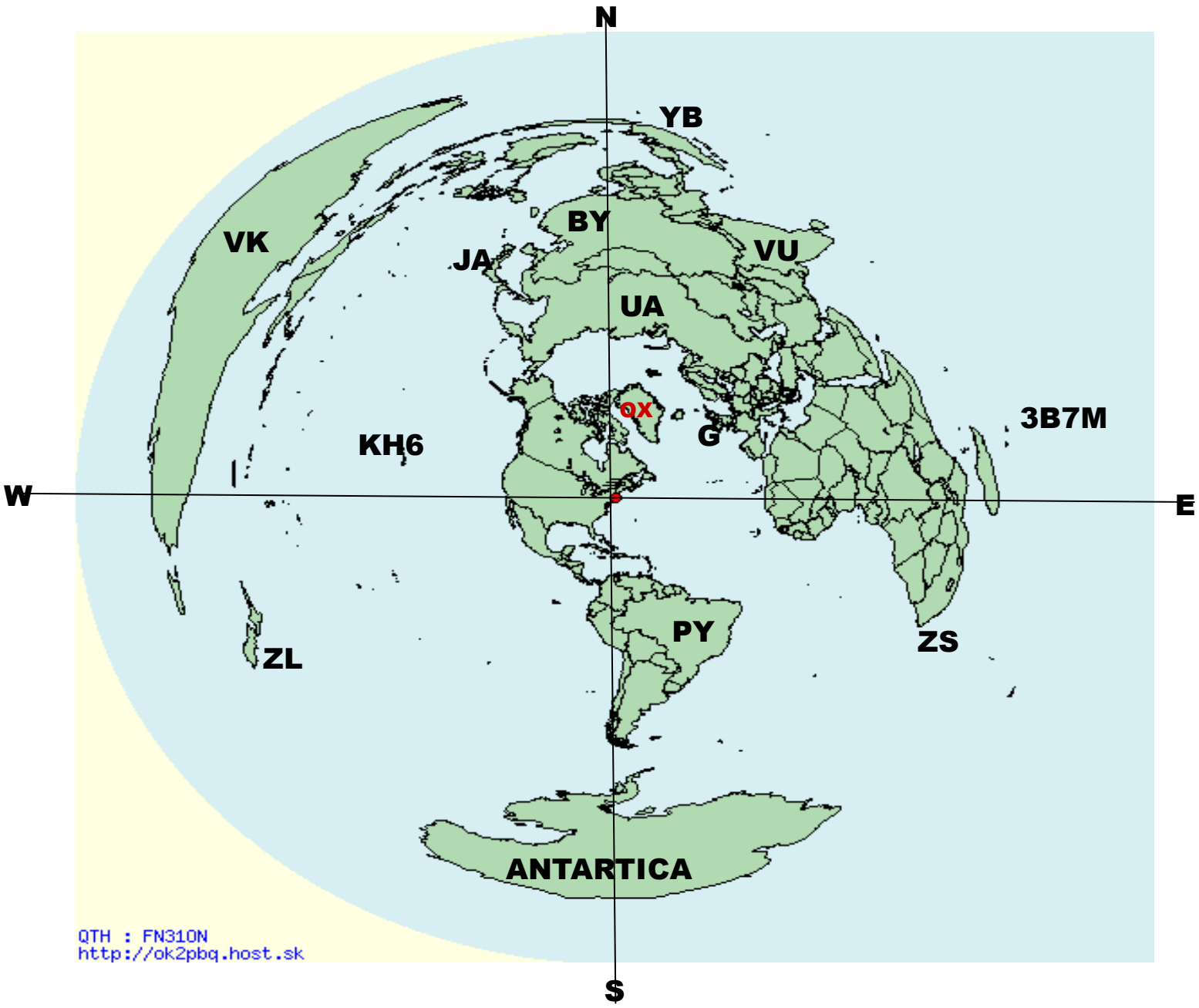


It was 1964 or thereabouts, I had passed my novice and general exams and was experimenting with Beam antennas(yes that's right, Quads came later). Back then, aluminum tubing was very cheap and a local hardware store (Church & Morse) had tons it it. I constructed a 5 element Ten Meter beam and took a small tv rotator and placed it on the garage roof. I was amazed at how the signals went up and down as I rotated it. I then obtained a really nice CQ Radio map of the world, taped it onto the wall much to my mothers surprise and started to chase DX on ten.

It is often said that the things you learn by making mistakes are the best teaching tools, well I made a ton of them.. Number one was a misconception that the antenna radiated off the sides (off the ends of the elements)...ok that was a mental correction… # 2 was the placement of true North, being a previous boy scout with a super duper magnetic compass, I aligned with magnetic north. And I figured that out after a while, no big deal as it was only 8-10 degree's at the time…. But the major snafu which lasted a few years was the fact I was pointing my antenna while looking at the "Flat Projection" of the world map and rotating the beam to where I thought China, Australia and a lot of countries were, but in reality no where near that….

The earth is round and as such you need to use a special projection map called the Azimuthal projection. Or simply an Azimuth map. The easiest way to demonstrate how they are constructed is to take that rotating globe of the earth we all have had at one time or another that rotates on the axis of the earth through the north and south poles and remove it from that axis. Drill a new hole into Connecticut and exactly where it would come out on the opposite side of the world and now place that back into the frame and everything rotates around Connecticut. Place the globe with CT. in the center facing you so it rotates either clockwise or CCW. This is the only true way of pointing your antenna accurately to a specific point and also will give an accurate distance measurement if you want a distance.

The azimuth map is on the next page and shows the distortions in countries the farther from CT. These maps are available commercially with amateur radio prefixes shown… I also have a rotator display showing the LEDS Rotating around the map as the antenna is rotating.



The azimuth map is centered on Meriden CT. or more specifically on my QTH at 41 31 59 N and 72 47 54 W and grid FN31om. The azimuth locations are available for your QTH at QRZ.COM when you enter your call and then check the DETAILS tab. Note on the previous page due east went straight through Portugal, Spain, Italy ,and then through China Japan and out to the Pacific ocean. Where in reality, due east puts your antenna facing the western coast of Africa, through the lower coast of Madagascar. The DXpedition to 3B7M, Saint Brandon Islands, which is closed by the time you read this, looks like southeast on a flat map, yet it is at a beam heading of 75 Degrees (north of east) on the azimuth map. Most of Africa is between +/- 20 degrees of due east.. The biggest distortion is the continent of Australia which stretches from a few degrees west of north to a few degrees south of due west..

Now that the sunspots are growing again, Ten is hot, 15 and 20 are sizziling. Some useful terms for DXing to remember are “long path and short path.” Short path is when you point your antenna at the shortest path to the DX station like straight north to China, it is very possible to hear and work the Chinese station on lomg path sometimes louder when conditions are right. Don’t be afraid to turn your antenna around when the band is open to Europe to hear Asian or South Pacific stations also. DXing is fun, enjoy the high sunspots years..

QUESTION FOR THE DAY..WHY IS ARTICA (ARTIC CIRCLE)MISSING?????

There is a very nice write-up of MARC member Ray Irwin, WA1FFT, in this week's North Haven Courier

Person of the Week

Raymond Irwin: Ready for When All Else Fails

By Aaron Rubin • 02/21/2023 10:09 AM EST • 02/21/2023 10:09 AM EST

In times of crisis, the new Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in North Haven will be prepared to solve any issues that may require their assistance. That is what the new radio unit will do for residents, according to its newly appointed Emergency Coordinator, Raymond Irwin. ARES, which is a part of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), offers support for communities during times of need, and the new North Haven unit is looking for volunteers interested in using ham radio equipment to provide communications emergencies when natural disasters damage critical communications infrastructure such as cell towers and wireless networks. For Raymond, it proves that radio is still vital in disaster relief efforts.

"When Hurricane Ian hit Florida, both commercial radio and internet communications were severely compromised, and ARES volunteers helped bridge the gap," Raymond explains.

There may seem like no more optimal time to sign-up, as 2023 has been declared by ARES' principal organization ARRL as the "Year of the Volunteers." As North Haven's first ARES coordinator, gathering volunteers is Raymond's initial priority.

"The first thing I have to do is get some members. It looks like we're almost up to five people. They say they have joined or will join," Raymond says. "I'd like to get up to about eight because when an emergency happens, it can easily be 24 to 48 hours before the normal emergency systems the town has your first aid squad. If the first aid squad gets over-tasked…we supplement, we don't replace. We supplement when the need outdoes the capability of the town." Radio communications have been a defining part of Raymond's life since childhood, building and learning from his family members.

"When I was kid, I had a church member that was a ham radio operator; my uncle had a shortwave set, it was just something interesting," he says. "I built crystal radios. My dad's mother's sister had married somebody who had a TV shop, and we'd go over there, and it was, like, big eyes seeing all this stuff. He'd give me old TVs, and I'd cut up the resistors and the capacitors." In Raymond, volunteers will find a resourceful and knowledgeable leader with striking experience. During his military career, where he rose to the rank of captain in the United States Army, Raymond was a supportive figure in communications units in disparate parts of the world, all with the goal of helping others in times of emergency. "After finishing the radio systems officer course at Fort Monmouth [New Jersey], I decided to go voluntary indefinite and was offered to select an assignment," he says. "I chose the electronic warfare laboratory located at the Evans Area, Fort Monmouth where I worked on countertop attack and aircraft protection."

As American involvement in the Vietnam War was dwindling, Raymond was awaiting deployment somewhere. A newly christened first lieutenant, he was ordered to take his talents to South Korea, where he was the Officer in Charge, overseeing quite a broad area of coverage. "I was in charge of all the communications from the very tip of Korea, up to Seoul, with exception of some sections of the south," he says. Paramount among the problems Raymond helped to solve was the construction of a new communications system for a new underground command post in Seoul.

"I was working with a captain, he was taking the granite out of a mountain, and I was putting communications in," he says. "There's a lot of technical issues I got involved in, and it was quite a bit of fun; I learned a lot."

Raymond's career made him the decorated communications expert he is today., and the recipient of numerous awards, including those from the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, the Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance community, and is an inductee of the Communications-Electronics Research, Development, and Engineering Center (CERDEC) Hall of Fame.

Even with his many accolades, he has continued to work at the Electronic Warfare Laboratory for the past 45 years. Communication systems have found their way back to his home as well. He has antennas in the back of his home, which can reach contacts across the Atlantic and into Europe.

In his induction letter for the CERDEC Hall of Fame, Raymond gave some words of wisdom to those looking to make a difference in the communications field. "One person who is willing to innovate, lead, and take those risks that he and she knows are the right thing to do, can and will make a difference," he stated. "It Takes a Village is a truth that has special meaning to me. Everyone can make a difference, even the smallest of actions, such as a smile as you pass a co-worker in the hallway…can change their day and their life for the better.

He adds a simple yet reliable position that may be the motivation for anyone looking to volunteer.

"For me, it's the satisfaction you get out of helping people.".

10-10 WINTER QSO PARTY RESULTS

2023 Winter PH QSO Party
February 4 - 5

Top Ten

CALL	10-10#	CTX W	CTX WO	TOTAL
N5XZ	4530	391	1240	2022
NC0B	74875	210	343	763
KE6GFI	72985	238	265	741
K7QXG	5956	176	158	510
N5MT	24949	110	185	405
F6IRG	39399	128	144	400
AB6QM	63114	136	126	398
NA9A	31121	124	117	365
K8DEL	2978	99	159	357
N1API	25468	100	105	305

CALL AREA 1

Call	10-10#	CTX W	CTX WO	TOTAL
N1API	25468	100	105	305
N1DFD	65460	57	100	214
WA1LAD	67155	56	54	166
N1ZN	73599	18	12	48
AI1G	77223	10	6	26
W1IG	43006	10	2	22
NZ1I	72759	9	1	19
N1RLR	76619	4	0	8
WE1M	59183	3	0	6

PAUL W1EDX AND SOME OF HIS FAVORITE ANTENNA'S

THE MARC EXTENDS IT'S CONDOLENCES TO JIM N1ZN ON THE RECENT PASSING OF HIS MOTHER WHO WAS 100 YEARS OLD .

THE MARC WISHES A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO RAY KC1QLS WHO IS RECOVERING AT HOME FROM A RECENT SURGERY.

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WHO WERE VOTED IN AT THE FEBRUARY BUSINESS MEETING:
NN1DX (EX W1IG) BOB MONRO WATERBURY
NA1L DALE CLIFT PLANTSVILLE
WA1RAB BOB BARTHA MILFORD

MARC BUSINESS MEETING THURSDAY MARCH 9TH AT 7PM(1900Z) ZOOM
Zoom SIGN IN 96670990175 PASS 157710

Activating K-0071 Yosemite National Park

By James M. Surprenant, AB1DQ

This past February, I had the opportunity to glom onto a business trip my wife was taking to San Francisco for the cost of a plane ticket – not too shabby! We decided to take a side trip to Yosemite before the day of her board meeting, so we planned on taking the scenic four hour drive and spending a couple of nights in the legendary park.

Realizing this could be a good opportunity to practice my POTA activation skills, test some of my new gear and notch a distant POTA activation state, I decided that it would be feasible and worth the effort and hassle to pack an HF go-bag if I chose my gear carefully and took certain care.

Preparation & Packing

My Xiegu G90 was the logical choice to pack as it is compact and although it only puts out 20 watts, it should perform well at some of the higher altitudes in Yosemite.

I packed the G90 in its original box, to provide protection for the rig and found I had enough space to tuck in a mini un-un, power cables, the manual, my mini log book, and a pencil. I also included an official copy of my FCC license in the G90 box and, using a Brother label maker, I labeled the outside of the box with my call sign, name and address. Based on my research, I didn't anticipate difficulty going through TSA with my shack-in-a-bag, but I felt a professional packing job might be useful if any TSA agent started asking the hard questions.

I also packed a 12Ah 12.8v LiFEPO4 battery and charger I purchased on Amazon for less than $60. I made a short jumper cable terminating in PowerPole connectors which I pre-attached to the battery and ike the rig, I kept the battery in its original packaging in my go-bag, and again labeling the box with my callsign and contact information. The battery did catch the attention of the TSA agent at Newark, but after a careful visual inspection, she returned it to its box and handed it back to me.

My antenna plan was an End Fed Half Wave. This seemed to be a good opportunity to test out the pair of 49:1 un-uns I built this winter and I packed both along with 60′ length of basic hookup wire to use as the radiating element.

I have been one who has always struggled with launching lines into trees for my wire antennas, so after some YouTube research, I thought I'd try something new. – an arborist throwline with weight. Given the altitude of the park's rim from where I planned to operate, I didn't need too much height for the antenna, The 20-30′ or so I could get the high end up in a sloping configuration should suffice, so the throwline seemed like a promising option.

I used a couple of gallon size Ziplock bags to pack the miscellaneous items I would need, including my Morse key, 60′ of antenna wire, power cable extension cords, etc. All items, aside from the throw line and its flattening storage cube which I packed in my checked suitcase, all fit nicely in a small duffel bag along with my laptop, a couple of books and a few other carryon items for the trip that would stow nicely in the overhead bin.

Operating Yosemite

We were staying at the Yosemite Valley Lodge which was situated deep at the canyon floor so it made sense to find a spot from which to operate that was higher up and less obstructed by mountains. While I'm aware that a big part of the POTA program is to promote ham radio to the public, and as much as I love being that goodwill ambassador for our hobby, I tend to get nervous when I'm being watched, especially when I'm not completely familiar with a configuration I haven't tried before. So, I was also looking for an operating site that was a bit more remote with less foot traffic.

I found an ideal spot near Toulumine Grove on the west end of the park at 37.706250 N, -119804167 W which provided both altitude and minimal foot traffic.

I found deployment of the throw line to be about as easy as it seemed in the YouTube videos. I got it over the desired branch in a tree on my 3rd try and connected the end of the 60′ wire to the rope and hoisted it up to the branch and then tied the throw rope to the trunk of the tree. I stretched the antenna wire out as a sloper to my parked vehicle and attached the un-un which was then connected to the rig via a 25' stretch of RG58. The antenna was sturdy and up high enough that any passersby should not run into it.

I was pleased that the G90's auto tuner was able to obtain a 1.8:1 SWR on my previously untested antenna and I was quickly on the air. I began calling CQ POTA on SSB on 14.324 and over the hour I had available to operate, I made 11 contacts. Fewer than I had hoped for, but enough to make my activation successful.

With my 20 watts and a wire, I worked as far north as NL7V in Fairbanks AK who gave me a 53, as far east as K9ICP in Greenwood IN who reported my signal 59, and as far south as W5NM in Las Cruces NM who gave a 55 report. Included in my 11 contacts was a single Park-to-Park contact with K7CAN who was activating Minidoka Internment National Historic Site, Park K-0849 in Idaho. We swapped 59 reports.

Lessons Learned & Conclusions

I mentioned due to our compressed travel schedule, I only had about an hour of operating time, but it didn't matter as I had a great deal of fun. This was only my sixth activation in over two years, so I'm still very much green and learning.

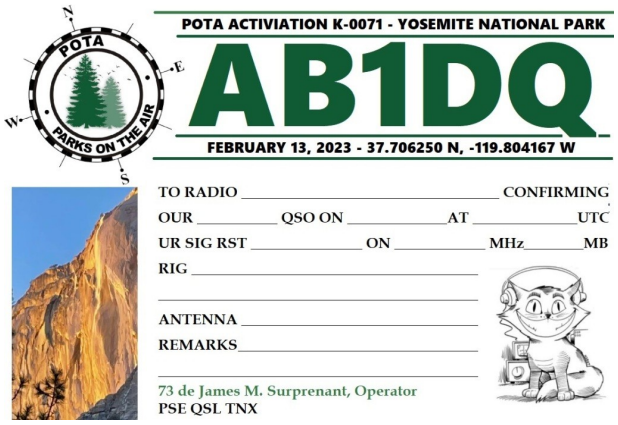
The positive takeaways from this trip were I learned how to effectively and efficiently pack an HF go-bag for air travel, and while I will need more practice, I did successfully and quickly deploy my EFHW antenna with the arborist throw line.

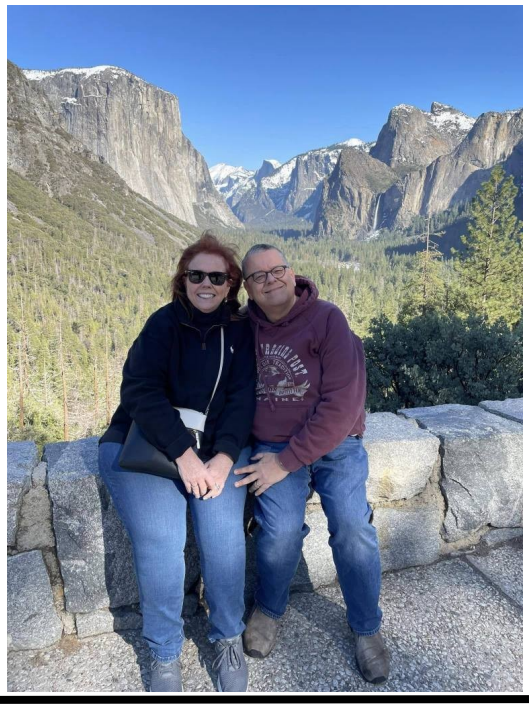
Despite the entire station fitting comfortably in my go-kit duffel bag as carry -on luggage, the bag was heavy and given my chronic shoulder pain, it was a bit uncomfortable to lug through the airport and stow in the overhead bin. Thus, I stopped at a UPS store later that week in Sausalito to have the radio and battery shipped home to me. That splurge ran me about $60 for packing and shipping, but the convenience and comfort were worth it – the gear did arrive home safely a few days after we di..

Finally, I'm planning on issuing QSLs to all stations I worked during my POTA activation. I still love collecting cards and am one of those old -school hams who hangs wallpaper and I have sent out cards for some of my previous activations, primarily to ops who indicated on their QRZ page that they were welcoming of receiving cards and would reciprocate.

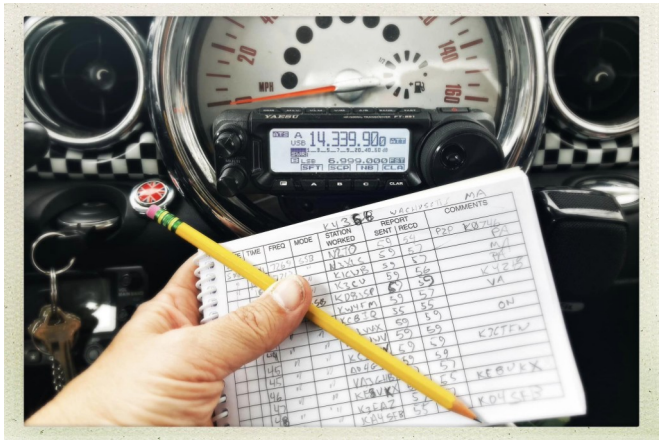
My ham resolution for 2023 is to get on the air much more than I have in recent years and I'm planning on making POTA activations a major part of that goal. The Yosemite trip was a great start that helped me build confidence in my portable skills.

AB1DQ, James & XYL Ellen, at the Tunnel View Scenic Overlook in Yosemite National Park, February 2023. This photograph was taken by a charming young Ukrainian woman we met at the overlook. She shared some of her story of the affect the Russian invasion has had on her and her family and we had the opportunity to express our heartbreak and our support for her people.

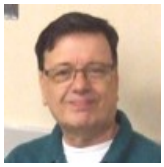




RECENT ACTIVATIONBY JAMES AB1DQ RIGHT AFTER A MAJOR SNOWSTORM



AL N1API



KK Editors notes: Recently Al N1API sent out an email explaining how to accomplish "SPLIT" operation when working a pileup. Anyone spending time on the bands chasing DX has to know how to transmit on a different frequency while listening to a DX station.
I am publishing his reply here as a public service because it is a very important tool to use as the sunspots start to heat up the bands.

Your radio should have a button marked "SPLIT" I am not sure which Yaesu OR Kenwood you have but most of the modern radios have a button marked "SPLIT" Usually in the menu you can tell the radio how much to split when you push that button. The standard is 5 KHZ UP but you can probably set more or even down, (Not common except for maybe 75 or 40 meters).

When you press the "SPLIT" button what happens is your radio activates the "B" VFO and your "A" VFO becomes the receive VFO. So you listen to the DX or running station on the "A" VFO and when he calls QRZ and you give your call you are transmitting on the "B" VFO. Releasing the mic key or going back to receive in CW if you are not using Break-in goes back to the "A" VFO where you hope the station you want calls you. When you answer you answer still on SPLIT because that is where he (or she), is listening. The reason to do this is two-fold. First there is not a big pile of calls on one frequency to try and pick one out of. Second the station can say listening 5 to 10, (or more), up and you can move your transmit VFO up to find a clear transmit frequency and the pile-up is spread out more. (This take some skill listening to two VFOs at once and remembering which one is the station you are chasing). When you transmit if you have only one readout then the frequency on the radio should change by the amount of SPLIT that you choose.

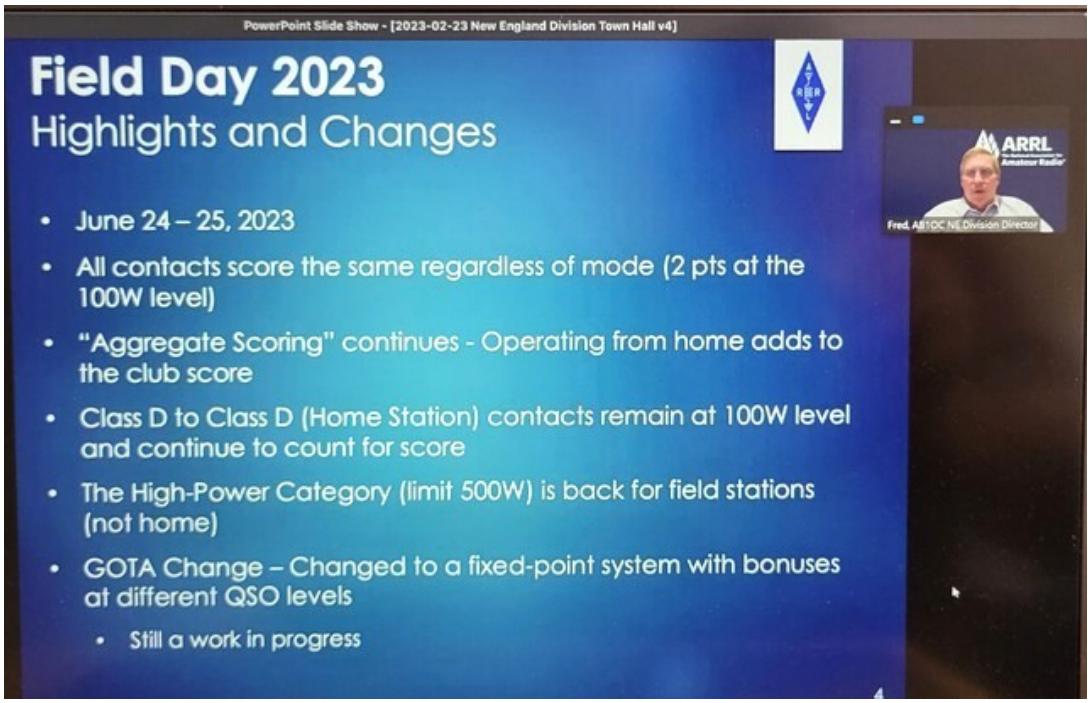
By the way SPLIT works for SSB, CW and RTTY, (and some other digital operations but not for WSJT modes because the software is taking care or that, to confusing to get into here).

Now, what happens if you have an older radio that does not have an A and B VFO? Well that is where your RIT comes in, (or clarifier if you have one), You turn on your TRANSMIT RIT and set the amount of split. You can check the amount by looking at your readout and the VFO frequency should change to the transmit frequency. So if the DX is on 28.500 and he says UP 5 that means that when you transmit you are transmitting on 28.505 or higher.

So what happens if have an old radio no transmit clarifier or both the receive and transmit move at the same time, (like the old CB radios), well that's when I tell you to get a new radio... SORRRY!!!

Hope this helps and maybe some of the other old hands at this has some other or better information.

SOME QUICK POINTS OF UPCOMING CHANGES FOR 2023 FD FROM ERIC K1EHE



MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

EDITORS COMMENTS:
WE HAVE BEEN REVIEWING THREE DIFFERENT FILES IN THE PROCESS OF TRANSFERRING AN ACCURATE MEMBERSHIP LIST TO OUR NEW TREASURER RICK KC1OYN. WE BELIEVE THE FOLOWING ROSTER IS A VERY UP TO DATE VERSION, HOWEVER IF YOU FEEL WE ARE IN ERROR, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT RICK KC1OYN OR MYSELF(DAVE K1WJL) FOR A FURTHER REVIEW.

AB1DQ	James Surprenant	26R
AB1HB	Charlie Dudac	23S
K1BTR	Brian Ragaini	23
K1DMS	David Sack	23S
K1JCF	Joe Farrell	24S
K1LHO	Mike Ash	23S
K1LYP	John Yusza	23S
K1MMK	Mike MacKennedy	24R
K1MTD	Mary Duval	23S
K1MVM	Mike Macri	23S
K1PET	Debbie Purchia	23R
K1RCT	Rob Cichon	23R
K1SCI	Stuart Isaacs	23R
K1SOX	Brian Freeman	22R
K1STM	Anne West	22S
K1TDO	Todd Olsen	23R
K1TGX	Jerry Molaver	24S
K1VDF	John Blevins	23S
K1WJL	Dave Swedock	23S
K4AVM	Andrew Olsson	23R
K0OZ	Brian Boccuzzi	23R
KA1BED	Bill Green	23R
KA1KJV	Bob Trussell	23S
KB1EHE	Eric Knight	23R
KB1HAX	Bill Reyor III	23R
KB1IFZ	Elsie Mathews	23R
KB1JL	Eric Olsson	23S
KB1KTZ	Carl Fosse	23S
KB1LWS	Jeanne Gherardi	23S
KB1MFU	John Ramadei	23R
KB1PZS	Robert Delgreco	23R
KB1TBL	Dave Laliberte	23R
KB1TJD	Gainne Jenkins	22S
KB1TMC	Clare O'Lena	23R
KB1TTV	Jonathan Martin	26R
KB1YFJ	Glen Couture	23S
KC1DOY	Ted Renzoni	23S
KC1GMD	Ralph Ring	22R
KC1HQX	Preston Byrne	23R
KC1ISI	Kristin Olsson	23R
KC1KQH	John Kasinskas	23S
KC1MEB	Bean LeFebvre	23R
KC1MJZ	Michael Berube	23R
KC1NLE	Jose Rodriguez	22R
KC1NQE	Shawn Warren	23R
KC1NRD	John Lujic	22S
KC1NXP	Andrew Paolillo	23R
KC1OCF	Karl Polak	23S
KC1OCS	Richard DeWick	23S
KC1OGL	Paul Randazzo	23R
KC1OMP	Damian Fries	22S
KC1OSR	Gunnar Steinle	22R
KC1OST	Bryon Heath	22R
KC1OWD	Kevin VanKeuren	23R
KC1OYN	Rick Becker	23R
KC1OYR	Brent Moyer	22R
KC1PBQ	Randy Rivest	22R
KC1PEN	David Henry	23R
KC1PHK	Lincoln Nichols	Y
KC1PSK	Todd Dibiasi	22R
KC1PSM	Elizabeth Van Nostrand	23R
KC1PU	Bob Woodtke Jr.	23R
KC1PXX	Dave Alfredson	23R
KC1QHO	Mike Beaudry	23R
KC1QLS	Ray Cirmo	23S
KC1QQV	Gary Getrost	23R
KC1QQW	Randy Whitehouse	23R
KC1QWH	Steve Ryglel	23R
KC1RBY	Sergio Frutuoso	23R
KC1RHB	Jared Martin	23R
KC1RLQ	Eric Barbour	23
KC1SA	Stephen Allen	23S
KC1SLV	Joshua Wrinn	23R
KC1TAD	Tom DiPinto	23R
KC2MLH	Adam Castracane	23R
KC3UKG	Storm Murrell	23R
KE1AU	Robert Kaczor	23S
KE1AY	Donald Mitchell	23S
KO4EEL	Tom Williams	23S
KR1U	Bob Eslinger	23S
KS1WK	Seth Kolasinski	22R
KX1USA	Rob Messercola	23R
N1AKN	Jeff Dwyer	23S
N1API	Al Kaiser	23S
N1BRI	Brian Beegan	23R
N1BRL	Bart Toftness	25S
N1FNE	Rod Lane	23R
N1GNV	John Bartscherer	23S
N1GY	Geoff Haines	25S
N1HCA	Susan South	22R
N1IBE	Wade Martell	23S
N1JEO	Joel Curneal	23S
N1JMX	Jeff Martin	28R
N1LES	Joe Murray	23R
N1MOB	Dan David	22R
N1OKF	Bob Parisi	23R
N1OKR	Frank Ciccone	23S
N1QYB	William Wilecki Jr.	22S
N1XXU	Andy Purchia	23R
N1YLN	Edward O'Lena	23R
N1YLO	Andy Fiertek	22R
N1ZN	Jim Savage	23S
N2RTS	Tyler Schroder	23R
N2TAG	Dave Taglianetti	23R
NA1L	Cliff Dale	23R
NN1DX	Robert Munro	24S
NR1B	Bill Huggins	23S
NZ1J	Dave Tipping	23R
UT3UY	Anatoly Kirilenko	23R
W1AJK	Andrew Kazimer	23R
W1BJG	Judy Wilkins	23R
W1BOB	Bob Lobley	23R
W1DQ	John Elengo	23S
W1EDX	Paul Stasieluk	23S
W1IKW	Ian K. White	23R
W1LV	Steve Morley	23S
W1POP	Fred Liedke	23S
W1PRK	James Procaccini	23S
W1RCI	Ron Isaac Jr.	23R
W1TK	Ron Wakefield	23R
W1UFO	Mike Cei	23R
W1UKX	Greg Gherardi	23S
W1YSM	Ed Snyder	24R
W2OFR	Marc Dickson	22R
W3APC	James Cook	23S
W90TW	Deb. Foss	22R
WA1EXA	Mark Petruzzi	22S
WA1FFT	Ray Irwin	23R
WA1JKR	John Rogus	24S
WA1K	Jack Chapman	23R
WA1MAC	Paul Clark	23S
WA1RAB	Bob Martha	23S
WA1SFH	Douglas Sharafanowich	23S
WA1TRY	Rich Aubin	L
WA1ZVY	Jim Martin	28S
WB1CLT	Steve Duess	23S
WB1DQT	Bill Bacon	22R
WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur	23S
WB8IMY	Steve Ford	25R
WJ1B	Harold Kramer	23S
WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann	22S
WY1U	Tim Mik	22R
Ex KB1HEA	Loreen Heavens.....	22R
	Spencer Rygiel.....	Y
	Dave Devito.....	23R