

# MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# KEY KLIX

# OCTOBER 2022

PRES W1YSM ED SNYDER VP KB1JL ERIC OLSSON SECT N1BRL BART TOFTNESS  
TRES K1WJL DAVE SWEDOCK S.A.M. K1RCT ROB CICHON

WEBSITE WWW.W1NRG.COM OFFICIAL MAILING ADDRESS,  
MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, POB 583, MERIDEN CT 06450

ALL "IN PERSON" BUSINESS AND ACTIVITY MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY POSTPONED AT  
THE EOC HOPE HILL FIREHOUSE, 143 HOPE HILL ROAD, WALLINGFORD,  
ZOOM MEETINGS CONTINUE UNTIL AT LEAST SEPTEMBER AND THEN HOPEFULLY  
WILL BE OFFERED IN A HYBRID MODE.(CONCURRENTLY).

**THE SATURDAY MORNING SESSIONS ARE BACK IN FULL OPERATION.**

KEY KLIX EDITOR DAVE SWEDOCK K1WJL  
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## GET WELL SOON THOUGHTS & WISHES....

Bobcat WB1FYL is home, recuperating from a serious illness , he can be heard on the Saturday Morning Coffee Cup Net. We all wish him a speedy recovery....

Ted KC1DOY our resident photographer and all around good guy missed the Nutmeg Hamfest due to being ill and we hope to see him soon as well.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MARC

RETURN TO THE ANNUAL NUTMEG HAMFEST  
A full story will appear in the November Key Klix

A VERY SUCCESFUL AMATEUR RADIO PRESCENSE AT THE BIG E  
Story & Pixs inside

75TH ANNIVERSARY W1N SPECIAL EVENT STATION IS IN PROGRESS  
Full story next month

MARC BUSINESS MEETING & ELECTION NOMINATIONS THURSDAY OCT 13 7:30 PM ZOOM



## **Nutmeg Hamfest**

MARC has just closed the door on the 30<sup>th</sup> Nutmeg Hamfest. The "Nutfest" is the State ARRL Convention, and it is a jewel in our Amateur Radio Club's Crown. We needed to get it right and ensure that we did not drop the ball. In the past the Nutfest was very well attended and brought in a not-insignificant amount of money into the MARC treasury to support the Scholarship. The separate governing BOD of the Nutmeg Alliance was humming along, and all was well. Birds were singing, bees were buzzing, and flowers were blooming. And THEN, Covid hit, the hotel we were using was no longer available for use, there were changes Club leadership, in member health, and member interest. Hams were being isolated and more globally, interest in amateur radio as a hobby – especially among a younger age group was waning and becoming a serious concern. We cancelled the Nutfest in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID quarantine issues.

In 2022, it was felt that it was time to return to an in-person Hamvention. It became clear to the two Club members who were the heart and soul of the Nutfest, John N1GNV and Rich WA1TRY that things were not the same. Regardless, these two stalwart members plus myself pushed on to reinvigorate this event. We were aware that a group of the club's members would not attend due to lingering COVID concerns despite masking and vaccination. We also realized money was tight and prices had increased. We secured a new venue, searched for several speakers, and set out to secure vendors and other groups with whom we worked over past years.

What transpired on Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Best Western Hotel in North Haven as the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the Nutmeg Hamfest was, for me, remarkable. Many of the Club's Members had once again, pulled together and holding its collective breath, re-launched the event. It was done hoping --- in a framework of collegiality and camaraderie---- to achieve success in multiple areas, educationally, financially, and socially, all while projecting an image of Club leadership in amateur radio in Connecticut. I believe we were successful.

Educationally we had three talks – one the ARRL Forum – attended by about 55 hams and featuring four senior leaders: ARRL CEO Dave NA2AA, NE Division Director Fred AB1OC, Vice-Director Phil K9HI, and Field Services Manager Mike W8ZY. We next had a session from Anita AB1QB, NE Division Asst. Dir. For Mentoring and Ham Development, on capturing and training new hams. Lastly there was a session that was the CT ARES Annual Meeting run by George AB1GL, CT ARES SEC. This meeting normally was held at the Southington (SARA) Ham Convention in the early Spring but was cancelled this year due to Covid. I invited the ARES group to meet at our event in the spirit of amateur radio collegiality and to show MARC's support of other clubs. We also had a highly successful POTA demonstration run by Dave NZ1J and Shawn KC1NQE. They made over 50 contacts with the event attendees. AB1DQ had a display of many of the Cigar Box Radios he has built and for which he is gaining much national recognition.

The tailgating was not up to pre-covid levels, but was well populated and hopefully fulfilled many attendees wishes for a new treasure. The vendors inside seemed to have much traffic and hopefully also fared well. As to how well we did financially, I estimate we hosted about 300 attendees at a \$10 admission plus the tailgating charges. It will be a little while before we tally all the information. Multiple attendees happily received the many door prizes we raffled off using a squirrel cage (to mix the tickets) built by Dan Biernacki (SK) WX1D/ WA1MYX a previous MARC member.

Financial considerations aside, the Meriden Amateur Radio Club acquitted itself very well. The ARRL Senior Leadership saw that amateur radio is alive and well in Wallingford, CT and that MARC is indeed a premier Club well-able to promote our beloved hobby. Attendees appeared to be satisfied that they spent their time at the event wisely, learned a few things, found some needed electronic gear, and enjoyed talking with old friends and fellow hams. And even if only for a while, enjoyed discussing amateur radio and being with like-minded hams, – just like in pre-Covid days of yore. Can you put a price on that type of a feeling? Not a bad way to spend a Sunday morning.

I was very proud to see how many MARC members worked together to pull this event off as professionally as they did. I believe we furthered our position and stature as a leader in the field of Amateur Radio in the State of CT. It is a tribute to those who worked so hard to make this event successful. We should all take a moment to reflect on our success. I for one am grateful to our volunteers and look forward to learning from the few bumps we had and making the 31<sup>st</sup> Nutmeg Hamfest, in 2023, even better.  
After all was said and done, not a dropped ball in sight.

Ed W1YSM  
President MARC

From Ed W1YSM, the EC of SKYWARN for New Haven/Middlesex Counties.

Effective and starting OCTOBER 11,

THE WEEKLY SKYWARN NET WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY AT 1900 ET (7pm EDT)  
INSTEAD OF ON THURSDAY AT 1900.

The frequencies and repeaters will remain the same:

W1SPC 147.505 MHz, -1M offset, PL 77 – linked to W1BCG 145.20 MHz, PL 110.9

The **ONLY** change is the day, TUESDAY INSTEAD OF THURSDAY.

VE SESSIONS AT THE OEC, 143 HOPE HILL ROAD, WALINGFORD.  
EVERY 2ND SATURDAY, NEXT ONE IS SATURDAY NOV 12TH

THE NEXT BUSINESS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 13TH AT 7:30PM ON ZOOM.

NEXT ACTIVITY MEETING IS ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 27TH ,  
7:30PM ON ZOOM TYLER N2RTS TALKS ON  
**WY4RC YOUNG AMATEURS RADIO CLUB**  
and community-led special events/projects

#### **FRED KEMERRER AB1OC NEW ENGLAND ARRL DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES TOWN HALL MTNG**

Phil Temples K9HI, our Assistant Directors, and I will hold our next NewEngland Division Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, October 19th, at 7 pm . The purpose of the meeting will be to provide you with an ARRL update, get your thoughts on what we should be focusing on, and answer any questions you might have about the ARRL and what we are doing on behalf of ARRL members here in New England.

We plan to spend a good deal of our time together answering your questions. If you'd like to send us a question in advance, you can do so via an email to [ab1oc@arrl.org](mailto:ab1oc@arrl.org), or you can just plan to ask your questions During the Town Hall Meeting.

We will hold our Town Hall Meeting via a Zoom Webinar. You can get yourpersonal link to join the Town Hall Meeting via the following link(paste the link in your browser to register) –

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CGyR0dsJTZu9dqO1LXqtpg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CGyR0dsJTZu9dqO1LXqtpg)

We hope to see you on October 19th!

ARRL New England Division  
Director: Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC  
[ab1oc@arrl.org](mailto:ab1oc@arrl.org)



# Secretary Report & Minutes of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club

## Bart Toftness N1BRL , Secretary

### BUSINESS MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 ZOOM

Meeting was called to order by President Ed Snyder, W1YSM at 19:30 EDT

Normal introductions were omitted as all attendees (40) are self-identified in 'Zoom', AB1DQ, K1STM, N1BRL, WB1GYZ, K0OZ, N1BRI, K1BTR, KC1KQH, NZ1J, W1YSM, KB1JL, W1IKW, WA1K, N1ZN, W3APC, WA1ZVY, K1JCF, N1LES, N1GNV, K1LYP, KB1MFU, K1VDF, K1LHO, K1WJL, KC1QWH, KC1SA, KC1OWD, N1API, KC1PBQ, KC1QLS, WA1TRY, KC1OCS, KC1OYN, K1RCT, KC1NQE, WV2LKM, KC3UKG, KC1DOY, W1DQ, W1EDX.

Announcements (W1YSM), Business Meetings will be on Zoom through November. The order for the second round of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coffee Cups has been submitted. Cost will be around \$13 each. Contact N1BRL for Business Cards/Membership Certificates.

#### Secretary's Report (N1BRL)

July business meeting minutes were approved by majority vote with one vote in opposition. We welcomed 3 new members to the club, Brian Ragaini K1BTR, Kevin Van Keuren KC1OWD, and Elizabeth VanNostrand KC1PSM. One email item of correspondence was received from a ham in Southington who was interested in our club but wasn't enthused with our meetings only on Zoom. Rob K1RCT sent a reply to him as did I. I explained the reason for the zoom meetings and told him about all of our club activities along with inviting him to our usual Saturday open house at the OEM.

Treasurer's Report (K1WJL) was read by Dave K1WJL. The complete Treasurer's Report is available to members upon request. Dave also announced that he will step down from the treasurer position at the end of his current term. Last month's request by K1RCT for a budget of \$450 to complete the Eggbeater Antenna installation was approved by majority vote with one nay vote.

Station Manager's Report (K1RCT) The Station Activity Manager reported sustained Saturday morning activities at the OEM. On 19 & 20 Aug. there was brief fallacious interference on the repeater which was addressed by a control operator. Our Special Event Call-sign will become effective 1 Oct through 15 Oct. Members will be able to operate from the club station or from their own home stations using the W1N call-sign. The sign up/time slot reservation sheet will be made available by email along with logging information. A Diploma/Certificate for stations that work our Special Event Station W1N during its activation Oct 1 -15 will be available for self-completion by way of an email following the activation. Steve KC1SA provided information about the RF Radiation Exposure Measurements. This information is included in a PDF file on the Forums under Interference. The full SAM report is available upon request.

Nutmeg Hamfest, The state convention will return on October 9 at the Best Western in North Haven. The associated VE Session will be held the day before (8 Oct.) at the OEM. MARC will co-sponsor the ARES Annual Symposium with SARA during the Nutmeg Hamfest. Club members should contact Jim, N1ZN at [N1ZN@ARRL.NET](mailto:N1ZN@ARRL.NET) to volunteer their help at the Nutmeg Hamfest.

Big E, Sept 21 will be Connecticut Day at the Big E and MARC will coordinate staffing of the Amateur Radio Booth in the Better Living Center for the day. Contact Rick, [KC1OYN@ARRL.NET](mailto:KC1OYN@ARRL.NET) for details of volunteering and scheduling. Shifts are available on Sept 19, 21, 25 and Oct 6. Parking and entrance fees will be reimbursed for volunteers.

WARG / EMCOM The CERT team will support Celebrate Wallingford (1 and 2 Oct.) at aid stations and communications at the OEM. Contact Eric, [KB1JL@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:KB1JL@OUTLOOK.COM). CERT will also support the Fischbein 5K Road Race on 2 Oct. The fall CERT Classes will begin on Wednesday evenings 5 Oct. The classes will be at the OEM from 6:30 to 8:30 PM for 9 weeks.

MARCONI ARRL GRANT Our grant application has been funded. The funds will be used for the 7 covered areas, POTA, Fox Hunts, CW Training, Satellite Coms, VE Licensure, Shared Agencies and NCS / Traffic.

Web Presence, Social Outreach & Publicity Committee This newly formed committee will be led by Storm, KC3UKG. W1YSM has provided her with an initial list of members to contact for input about the various areas. She may schedule Zoom meetings to collect concerns and ideas perhaps followed by a survey to see what works. Interested members may contact Storm at [KC3UKG@gmail.com](mailto:KC3UKG@gmail.com)

Elections Oct /Nov-Officers, EOY and HOY Steve KC1SA presented a detailed description of how the election process along with HOY and EOY selections will be conducted. The key dates are; Oct 13 current officers are ask if they will serve again and officer nominations are solicited; Nov. 3 additional officer nominations are accepted and closed, Elmer and Ham of the Year suggestions are made. ONLY members at this meeting will be issued voting ballots; Nov. 10 after the normal meeting business the Secretary will cast one vote to place the unopposed officers as the 2023 officers, election 'officials' will announce the winning candidates for offices up for election. The president will announce all of the 2023 officers; Dec 1 Current president welcomes the new 2023 officers and makes the awards for Ham of the Year and Elmer of the Year.

Education Elmer Module W1YSM opened a discussion about creating a series of YouTube videos on subjects as 'Welcome to MARC', 'Licensing and upgrading' along with various 'Elmer Programs'. Al, N1API suggested we move to monthly recognition of outstanding members instead of just the Ham of the Year and Elmer of the Year.

Year in Review will be an in person / hybrid activity meeting at the OEM with Pizza and soda on 1 Dec.

Xmas Party will be on 8 Dec. at Sarafino's. Capacity is limited to around 75 so sign up soon for yourself and significant other.

CQ Santa will be 10 Dec. at the OEM with support for Master Manna.

Entertainment/Activities, Sept. 22 will be the History of MARC Part 2, Tyler N2RTS will present the Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative on 27 Oct. Topics for next year may include the Long Island CW Club and a walk through on how to complete the FCC RF Exposure Evaluations.

Repeater Committee met on 27 Oct. to codify the standard operation procedures to deal with repeater interference.

Other Activities Saturday morning activities continue at the OEM with new Technician Class operators getting some HF air time under the guidance of the Extra Class Control Operators. The CW class has started a slow CW net and plans to begin another class. The Diamond & Gold Challenge results for the past month were posted on the club forums. Upcoming contest and activations include the Special Event call sign W1N from 1 to 15 Oct, CQ World Wide Phone contest and ARRL Sweepstakes. 24 Sept will be the Masonic Lodges On The Air activation.

Voting Summary for the June meeting

July meeting minutes were approved.

Votes to approve each of 3 new members, Brian Ragaini K1BTR, Kevin Van Keuren KC1OWD, and Elizabeth VanNostrand KC1PSM were unanimous.

Last month's request by K1RCT for a budget of \$450 to complete the Eggbeater Antenna installation was approved by majority vote with one nay vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:18

Respectfully submitted,

Bart Toffness, N1BRL

Interest in the MARC Sunday foxhunts hasn't faded as can be seen in all of the smiling faces who went out on September 18th. It was a perfect day for an outdoor activity. The signals led us to a spot just down the road from the Butterfly Park. The participants were KC1ISI Kristin (fox), KB1JL Eric and XYL, NZ1J Dave, K1JCF Joe, KC1DOY Ted, N1BRL Bart, WB1GYZ Bob and XYL, N1NIS Noah, and KC1EUM Derek. It was nice to see "out of towners" Noah and Derek joining us. Maybe next time the ladies won't be camera shy!

Ted KC1DOY



**A POTA REQUEST FROM SHAWN KC1NQE**

The weekend of Oct 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 2022 is the Autumn support your parks week for POTA. During the Spring and Summer events MARC members met up at a park and we all activated amongst ourselves via 2m HTs. I would like to purpose something a bit different this go around- Instead of everyone meeting at one park, I would like to organize MARC to activate several CT parks. Anyone interested in joining the fun, email me directly – [KC1NQE@gmail.com](mailto:KC1NQE@gmail.com).

As done before, once I have a list of those interested I will create a group email for us to coordinate locations and times. After the activators are squared away, I will post a follow up to this reflector so that members have a rough idea as to who will be where. I encourage anyone wishing to hunt that day to watch the pota.app spot page for the most up-to-date information.

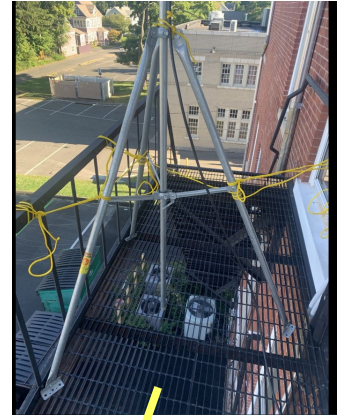
Shawn Warren  
203 509 2399



**DAVE NZ1J & SHAWN KC1NQE  
ON A POTA ACTIVATION**



# MASONIC LODGES ON THE AIR



On Saturday September 24, 2022 Members of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club (KC1QWH, KC1OYN, N1AKN, & WA1ZVY) met up at Compass Lodge No. 9 located at [50 North Main Street](#) in Wallingford and took to the airwaves for an event called Masonic Lodges on the Air (MLotA) in only its second year of existence.

The idea for the MLoTA grew out of the realization that many Freemasons have a love for Amateur Radio. Fulton County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC) in association with Fulton Lodge No. 248 Free & Accepted Masons, Grand Lodge of Ohio started and continues to champion this event. In MLoTA's first year (2021) they only received around a dozen log submissions.

The stated purpose for the event is *"To promote public awareness of ham radio and Freemasonry; to promote fraternal bonds within the ranks of Free & Accepted Masonic Lodges and its many Amateur Radio operators who are also brothers in the fraternity; and to encourage contact with other Amateur Radio Operators around the state, country, and world. You do not need to be a Mason to participate, but do get permission from your local lodge to contest from their property."* with the Objective of *"To have competing stations operating from as many of Masonic Lodges as possible. Making contacts from a Masonic Lodge to other Masonic Lodges is the goal all stations should strive for."*

*Note: stations not located in a Masonic Lodge may only contact stations operating from inside a Masonic Lodge."*

A lot of planning and coordination was required to bring Ham Radio and Masonry together between MARC and Compass #9. Stephen Rygeil KC1QWH was the driving force that made this noble event a rousing success. Stephen obtained a Special Event Call sign, "W9C". The 9C is alluding to Compass 9, produced fliers that were distributed to local businesses, posted on Facebook and other social media, arranged for MARS net to give us a shout out, in hopes that the general public would visit the station at Compass #9 and learn a bit about both Amateur Radio and Freemasonry. A delicious lunch and dessert was provided by Stephen and his wife BreAnna, greatly appreciated by all participants.

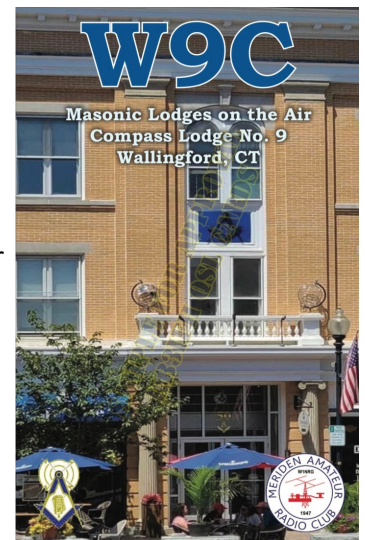
"We set up a 30 foot Comet CHA-250B vertical antenna on the buildings second floor fire escape and used a Yaesu FT-991A to operate as "W9C" for the day." Stephen said. "We made 17 contacts over the 8 hour period, not a bad haul for our first time." The bands were dead for the first several hours of the event, the Solar Weather conditions weren't the greatest, but opened up near the end of the 8 hour event.

One of those contacts was, ZL1YR, a station in New Zealand. Another highlight of the day was a POTA contact which added four more stations to our list and four to theirs also.

"It's no wonder both Amateur Radio and Freemasonry go so well together." Stephen commented. "You seldom find such great people as you do in both these organizations. I would like to thank Rick KC1OYN, Jeff N1AKN, Tony WA1ZVY, and Rob K1RCT for all they did to make this event a success."

There has been some chatter, and one of our hopes for next year, is that they add CW and a spotting page to the contest. You can learn more about this event by visiting [cqmorelight.com](#) Mark your calendars for next year's 3rd Annual MLoTA on September 23, 2023. We would be beyond excited for you to work us or even see you in person at the lodge. Remember this event is for everyone, you need not be a Freemason to participate.

--  
73,  
KC1QWH  
Stephen Rygeil



# WALLINGFORD FISHBEIN / YMCA ROAD RACE



Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> was the Fishbein / YMCA 5k road race that coincides each year with Wallingford's Celebrate Wallingford festivities. Each year MARC participates in the road race by providing radio communications to the road race crew. The morning was chilly, overcast with some drizzle but we had 10 or so MARC member's participate in helping with communications. The start of the race was 9AM and everything was all wrapped up by 10AM, so it didn't require a lot of time from the crew. With all these types of activities it gives the MARC / WARG team the chance to practice setting up communications and learning from what could be improved. This was just that kind of training event.

Thanks to the MARC members who helped out with the event. Many thanks to KC1SA, K1LYP, N1AKN, N1GNV, W1YSM, N1LES, NZ1J, K1RCT, KC1RBY, KC1ISI for their participation in communications for the 2022 YMCA 5K Road Race yesterday. Thanks also to those who offered to be there but weren't needed. The race went smoothly and was uneventful. Members staffed intersections and start/finish lines and reported first and last runners. There were no logistical or medical incidents that needed to be reported. Some of us finished in time to participate in the Sunday morning fox hunt.

Eric KB1JL & Steve KC1SA

**MARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2022**

OCT 13.....BUSINESS MEETING....NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR OFFICERS    ZOOM  
OCT 27..... ACTIVITY MEETING.....  
NOV 3.....MARC OFFICIAL    NOMINATION MEETING  
NOV 10.....NOV BUSINESS & ELECTIONS  
NOV 12.....VE SESSION  
DEC 1.....YEAR IN REVIEW at the OEM  
DEC 8 .....XMAS PARTY at SERAFINO'S    DETAILS BELOW  
DEC 10.....VE SESSION

**W1YSM ANNOUNCES 2022 MARC CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Thursday December 8, 2022

6:00p to 9:00p

Serafino's 72 South Turnpike Road, Wallingford (across from Oakdale Theatre)

Cash Bar

\$33.00/person - ALL IN (includes tax and tip)

Max attendees N= 75 (Minimum = 50) by November 25th cash, check or PayPal

Entertainment by AB1DQ ---James (Show TBA)

The Facilities deposit has been paid - Reservations are open cost is \$33 per person  
Secure your seat(s) by sending payment to Dave K1WJL to clup POB or PAYPAL-

Buffet Dinner    Salad; Stuffed Sole w/Lobster Sauce; Penne ala Vodka;  
Chicken Parmesan; Roast Potatoes; Veggies/Bread;  
NY Cheesecake; Chocolate Fudge Cake

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25      CASH; CHECK; OR PAYPAL



**EST /DST CLOCK**



## Work the world on a rectangle of wire and a few watts



In all my years of ham radio, I have never been more excited than these last few years of focusing on QRP and creative wire antennas. The simple ~ 9' x 25' rectangle of wire (laid out on a sidewalk so you can see it) has allowed me to work the world on five watts using my QRP rig on 20m SSB.

Elsie KB1FZ and I were over at John N1GNV's shop the other day and he encouraged me to do a write up on this ultra-simple, but high-performing, wire beam antenna.

I've simplified the antenna to the point that you can just drape it over some poles, tree branches, whatever you have. I've been using the antenna in the picture at my QTH. It's attached in two corners to my back deck and the other two corners connected by rope to two trees in my yard. The antenna is only 12' off the ground. That's it. And I've made a ridiculous number of global QRP contacts. It amazes me, every day.

As we showed John at his shop, the whole shebang coils up into just a handful of wire. And it deploys in minutes. Its simplicity belies its durability. I made it from my absolute favorite wire: 16 gauge, 252-strand, silicone-jacketed, ultra-limp wire. Rated to 392 degrees F, 600 volts. It is the most durable and easy-to-work-with wire that I have ever used. And it rarely gets tangled. You can ball it up -- and just spread it back out. Presto. Instant antenna. Here's a link to the amazing wire on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08KXW6BBL/?coliid=I3969PQGOSG3IE> The durability of the design allows it to be used for permanent home installations. It's also perfect for emergency deployments, Field Day, etc.

I've dubbed the antenna the "Instant Moxon". From a technical standpoint, it performs nearly as well as a three-element Yagi.

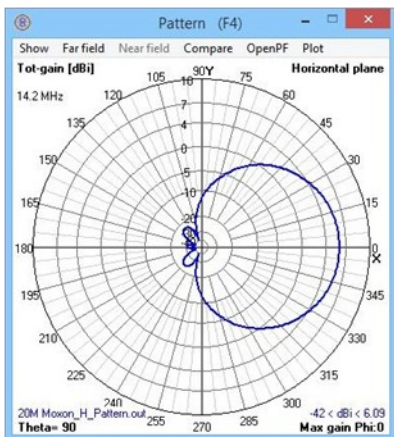
In fact, for a number of reasons, I much prefer it over my three-element Mosely TA-33-JR.

The gain on my Mosely is 7.94 dBi. The gain on my Instant Moxon (or any properly built Moxon, as I used a standard design

formula) is 6.13 dBi. So in the same ballpark. (By the way, the gain is almost identical to a two-element Yagi. The difference is only 0.2 dBi.)

The three big advantages of the Instant Moxon over a traditional Yagi:

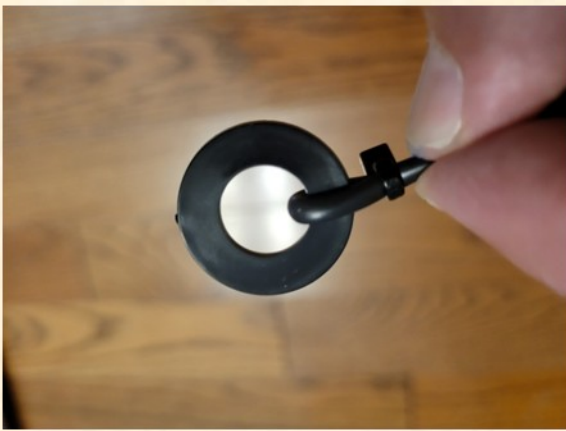
- (1) It has broader beamwidth -- a whopping 3 dBi beamwidth of 70 degrees. As commented by antenna guru L. B. Cebik, W4RNL (SK): "-3dB beamwidth = 70 degrees, usable beamwidth = nearly 180 degrees forward." So it's perfect as a fixed antenna. I just have it aimed in the general direction of Europe and that does the trick.
- (2) It has superb front-to-back ratio. The Mosely is 20 dB. The Instant Moxon is 30 dB. The antenna's "cardioid" pattern nulls out the other U.S. stations trying to work Europe.



In the four corners of the antenna wire I have come up with the perfect retainer / insulators: beefy (2.5mm thick), UV-resistant, black, M12 nylon washers. They're nearly indestructible. And they cost just pennies. You can tie antenna rope right to them. Or use them to hook the antenna over retaining cross members (like criss-crossed fishing poles as I have used in another construction). Cinch the antenna wire to the washers with a zip tie. Bingo. Done. Here's a picture of the simple wire-retaining technique:

ON NEXT PAGE

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Another key element is the spacer (two needed) between the two halves of the rectangle. You can make them out of just about any insulator -- strips cut from a soda bottle, other plastic you may have kicking around, or my favorite: zip ties. I use heavy duty 5/16" wide x 24" long zip ties. I cut them into 10.5" lengths and use a leather punch to make the holes for the antenna wire. NOTE: For the antenna to tune and perform properly, the antenna holes need to be precisely 9.75" apart. Take a look here:



And, finally, to connect the Instant Moxon to feedline, I eschew fancy strain-relief center insulators (that weigh things down) and go really simple. My favorite way is to use 3/32" double-braided Dacron rope and make simple loops in an SO-239 chassis mount connector. Take a look here (with a length of coax feedline attached):



I get these SO-239s on eBay for about \$1.50 each. Nice Delrin center insulator, too. The antenna's SWR is flat at all heights tested and requires no tuner. Here are SWR measurements that I have taken when the antenna is in the air:

SWR			
@ 12' AGL		@ 35' AGL	
14.000	1.00 : 1	14.000	1.02 : 1
14.050	1.00 : 1	14.050	1.05 : 1
14.100	1.01 : 1	14.100	1.09 : 1
14.150	1.02 : 1	14.150	1.11 : 1
14.200	1.03 : 1	14.200	1.12 : 1
14.250	1.03 : 1	14.250	1.12 : 1
14.300	1.05 : 1	14.300	1.13 : 1

The described Instant Moxon construction is not only fine for QRP, but would also easily handle full legal limit. So as not to make this Key Klix article too long, I purposely didn't get into all of the specific wire dimensions and a variety of construction tricks that I have learned from making these antennas. I would be happy to talk with anyone about those particulars. The antenna's fun, easy, and really quick to make. And you'll be stunned at the performance.

I believe the Instant Moxon would be a wonderful antenna for just about any ham. It's perfect for permanent installations (fixed and rotating), for mobile, POTA, emergency, Field Day, etc., etc. -- the uses are endless. A few miscellaneous thoughts: If MARC would like to make and sell them as a fundraiser, that would be perfectly fine with me. Or, perhaps, some could be constructed as a team project with new hams. I'm not patenting or licensing this antenna design. I'd just like to see it get into the hands of as many hams as possible. Also, if someone would like to make them as a "side hustle" business endeavor, I'd be happy to chat about that, too. Well, there ya go. The Instant Moxon. If you'd like additional construction details, just let me know.

73, Eric KB1EHE



## From playing radio to playing guitar and harmonica

Did you know that our resident contesteer and antenna designer, Eric Knight KB1EHE, is also a rocker? Eric's been in a rock 'n' roll band since high school, and still enjoys playing out. "I really enjoy playing the music that many of us grew up with. Aerosmith. Stones. Doobies. Even some fun Chuck Berry, like *Johnny B Goode*. Mostly now I'll play at charity events. Not too long ago we did a fundraiser for the food pantry in my hometown of Hamden. It felt great to play for an important community cause."

"My favorite song to play? Well, it has to be *Last Dance with Mary Jane* by Tom Petty. I get to play both guitar and harmonica on that one. Pretty cool." Here's a YouTube link to Eric playing this song at the Hamden fundraiser he mentioned: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhzDHG\\_8i5g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhzDHG_8i5g)

"Our band has had a variety of names since high school. A little bit of trivia: In high school we were *Slayer* -- a few years before the heavy-metal band *Slayer* came on the scene. We were *Infinite Passion* for a while. Now we pretty much play under the name *Aranci & Sons*, as Arnold Aranci, our lead singer, superb guitarist, and one of my best friends from childhood, has woven his very talented sons into the picture. Talk about full circle."

"I particularly enjoy writing music. From 2007 - 2010, our band came out with a variety of singles. Some are just silly songs that we recorded on simple equipment, literally in a basement. One was a more significant production -- a tribute to a band member who passed away. I enjoy the process of taking a song from the spark of an idea to a recorded piece." MARC members can listen to the band's singles here: <https://www.infinitepassion.com/music/>

"During our high-school years, I especially enjoyed being the band's sound engineer. I loved the technology even more than playing. I remember cobbling together a 'talk box' for our band after seeing Peter Frampton use his at a concert at the New Haven Coliseum."

Here are some photos of Eric and his bandmates in the 70s: <https://www.infinitepassion.com/photos/>

**ONLY THE OLD GUYS WILL APPRECIATE  
ALFRED E. NEUMANN  
(OR A VERY YOUNG AB1DQ)**

**73**



APRIL 1967  
our price  
**60c**  
CHEAP  
**AMATEUR RADIO**

**So technically Moses was the  
first man to download files  
from the cloud using a tablet.**



# BIG "E" BIG HIT FOR HAM RADIO

AND THE MARC IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF IT.

KC1OYN

AB1DQ

K1LYP

KC1QWH

N1AKN



## My XYL Gets Acculturated to Ham Radio

My wife, Coleen Boyd, was visiting friends in Connecticut recently, and she told me that they were taking her to the Big E, apparently the largest agricultural fair in New England. I just happened to read in the weekly ARRL Letter for Sept. 15 that there would be a ham radio exhibit there, so I suggested she check it out.

Sure enough, she found the hams, who were from the Meriden ARC(W1NRG), and enthusiastically announced that she is the XYL of W3WHK, the president of the Holmesburg ARC. She found out that one of the ops was primarily CW, and the other two SSB. They were all looking forward to hosting Boy Scouts the next day, when they would make contact with the International Space Station(see "Announcements" in the Sept. 22 ARRL Letter).

Before leaving, Coleen, a loyal member of HARC's Ladies' Auxiliary, asked if anyone had a talk he could present to our club. When she said "Be sure to keep the art of CW alive", she received a hug in return.

How proud can a husband be?!! Earlier on she could never even remember my call letters. If this keeps up, she may even let me bring an HF station up from the basement to the first floor.

Saul W3WHK

Philadelphia, PA

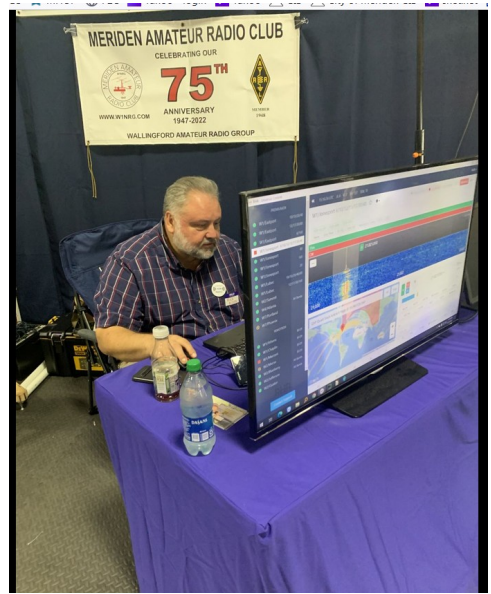
I asked the sweet lady in the wheelchair if she would like to learn about ham radio. A huge smile broke across her face. A smile of recognition and understanding, awareness of a hobby that provides both delight and satisfaction.

We chatted for a good long time. Quite a bit about amateur radio, being the XYL of a Ham, CW, and life in general. Her name is Coleen and she is an absolute joy to have a conversation with. At the end of our short time together, she said "be sure to keep CW alive". I said I will and I asked Coleen if I could give her a hug. She immediately threw her hands out and we shared a sweet moment.

This encounter was, without a doubt, my favorite memory of Project Big-E. I will always be grateful for the opportunity of sharing my favorite avocation with the multitude of visitors to the ham radio booth. I had many great conversations, but none as significant as the one I had with Coleen.

73

Rick Becker KC1OYN



**ISS LIVE** to International Space Station Pilot Bob Hines

**ISS Position**

LONGITUDE -20.5956

LATITUDE 50.6987

LAST REFRESHED: Nov 27 2022 08:22:04 GMT

**Bob Hines - KI5RQT**  
**Pilot - International Space Station**

**Harish**

How would you feel, if we find signs of life on another planet?

Theater mode (t)

# MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

AB1DQ	James Surprenant	22R	KC1OMP	Damian Fries	22S	N1YLN	Edward O'Lena	22R
AB1HB	Charlie Dudac	22S	KC1OSR	Gunnar Steinle	22R	N1YLO	Andy Fiertek	22R
AF1HS	Art Fregeau	22S	KC1OST	Bryon Heath	22R	N1ZN	Jim Savage	22S
K1BTR	Brian Ragaini	23	KC1OWD	Kevin VanKeuren	23	N2RTS	Tyler Schroder	22R
K1DMS	David Stack	22S	KC1OYN	Ricky Becker	22R	N2TAG	Dave Taglianetti	22R
K1JCF	Joe Farrell	23S	KC1OYR	Brent Moyer	22R	NR1B	Bill Huggins	22S
K1LHO	Mike Ash	22S	KC1PBQ	Randy Rivest	22R	NZ1J	Dave Tipping	22R
K1LYP	John Yusza	23S	KC1PEN	David Henry	22R	UT3UY	Anatoly Kirilenko	22R
K1MMK	Mike MacKennedy	23R	KC1PHK	Lincoln Nichols	Y	W1AJK	Andrew Kazimer	22R
K1MVM	Mike Macri	22S	KC1PSK	Todd Dibiasi	22R	W1BOB	Bob Lobley	22R
K1PET	Debbie Purchia	22R	KC1PSM	Elizabeth Van Nostrand	23	W1DQ	John Elengo	22S
K1RCT	Rob Cichon	23R	KC1PXX	Dave Alfredson	22R	W1EDX	Paul Stasieluk	22S
K1SCI	Stuart Isaacs	22R	KC1PXX	Mike Beaudry	22R	W1IKW	Ian K. White	22R
K1SOX	Brian Freeman	22R	KC1QHO	Ray Cirno	22S	W1BJG	Judy Wilkins	22R
K1STM	Anne West	22S	KC1QLS	Gary Getrost	22R	W1JKP	Kenth Astrom	23R
K1TDO	Todd Olsen	22R	KC1QQV	Randy Whitehouse	22R	W1LV	Steve Morley	22R
K1TGX	Jerry Molaver	23S	KC1QQW	Steve Rygel	22R	W1POP	Fred Liedke	22S
K1MTD	Mary Duval	22S	KC1QWH	Jared Martin	22R	W1RCI	Ron Isaac Jr.	22R
K1VDF	John Blevins	22S	KC1RHB	Eric Barbour	23	W1RPN	Seth Kolasinski	22R
K1WJL	Dave Swedock	22S	KC1RLQ	Sergio Frutuoso	22R	W1TK	Ron Wakefield	22R
K4AVM	Andrew Olsson	22R	KC1RBY	Tom DiPinto	22R	W1UFO	Mike Cei	23R
K0OZ	Brian Boccuzzi	22R	KC1TAD	Bob Woodtke Jr.	22R	W1UKX	Greg Gherardi	22S
KA1BED	Bill Green	23	KC1PU	Stephen Allen	22R	W1YSM	Ed Snyder	22R
KA1KJV	Bob Trussell	22S	KC1SA	Adam Castracane	22R	W2OFR	Marc Dickson	22R
KB1EHE	Eric Knight	22R	KC2MLH	Storm Murrell	22R	W3APC	James Cook	23S
KB1FYL	Bob Carruthers	22S	KC3UKG	Robert Kaczor	22S	W90TW	Deb. Foss	22R
KB1HAX	Bill Reyor III	23	KE1AU	Donald Mitchell	23S	WA1EXA	Mark Petruzzi	22S
KB1IFZ	Elsie Mathews	22R	KE1AY	Donald Mitchell	23S	WA1FFT	Ray Irwin	22S
KB1JL	Eric Olsson	22S	KR1U	Bob Eslinger	22S	WA1JKR	John Rogus	22S
KB1LWS	Jeanne Gherardi	22S	KO4EEL	Tom Williams	22S	WA1K	Jack Chapman	22R
KB1MFU	John Ramadei	22R	KX1USA	Rob Messercola	22R	WA1SFH	Douglas Sharafanowich	22S
KB1PZS	Robert Delgreco	23	N1AKN	Jeff Myser	22S	WA1TRY	Rich Aubin	L
KB1TJD	Gainne Jenkins	22S	N1API	Al Kaiser	22S	WA1ZVY	Jim Martin	28S
KB1TMC	Clare O'Lena	22R	N1BF	Patrick Dionne	21R*	WB1CLT	Steve Duess	23
KB1TTV	Jonathan Martin	26R	N1BRI	Brian Beegan	22R	WB1DQT	Bill Bacon	22R
KB1YFJ	Glen Couture	22S	N1BRL	Bart Toftness	23S	WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur	22S
KC1DOY	Ted Renzoni	22S	N1FNE	Rod Lane	22R	WB8IMY	Steve Ford	22R
KC1GMD	Ralph Ring	22R	N1GNV	John Bartscherer	22S	WJ1B	Harold Kramer	22S
KC1HDB	Jeff Martin	28R	N1GY	Geoff Haines	22S	WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann	22S
KC1HQX	Preston Byrne	22R	N1HCA	Susan South	22R	WY1U	Tim Mik	22R
KC1ISI	Kristin Olsson	22R	N1IBE	Wade Martell	22S		Greg Ravizza	22S
KC1KQH	John Kasinskas	22S	N1JEO	Joel Curneal	22R		Spencer Rygiel.....	Y
KC1MEB	Bean DelFebrve	23	N1LES	Joe Murray	22R		Ex KB1HEA Loreen Heavens.....	22R
KC1MJZ	Michael Berube	22R	N1MOB	Dan David	22R			
KC1NLE	Jose Rodriguez	22R	N1OKF	Bob Parisi	22R			
KC1NQE	Shawn Warren	22R	N1OKR	Frank Ciccone	23S			
KC1NRD	John Lujic	22S	N1QYB	William Wilecki Jr.	22S			
KC1NXP	Andrew Paolillo	22R	N1XXU	Andy Purchia	22R			
KC1OCF	Karl Polak	22S						
KC1OCS	Richard DeWick	23						
KC1OGL	Paul Randazzo	22R						

### MEMBERSHIP STATS

TOTAL MEMBERS..... 141

Including blue candidates