



THE MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
P.O. Box 583, Meriden, CT 06450

Welcome Guide

This document is a guide for newly joined MARC/WARG members welcoming you to the club. The club's official name is the Meriden Amateur Radio Club Inc.; however in 2015 the club adopted "Wallingford Amateur Radio Group" as a name to show synergy with the Town of Wallingford. In 2023 the club filed a Certificate of Trade Name with the Wallingford Town Clerk to formalize doing business as (d/b/a) the Wallingford Amateur Radio Group.

Club NETs

There are several Club NETs held weekly. The NETs are chat nets or ragchew nets, as opposed to traffic nets and open to all MARC/WARG members and licensed amateur radio operators. Technicians can operate on 6 and 10 meters ssb as well as 2 meters and are welcome on all of these nets. The NETs are:

- 6 meter net – 50.175 MHz, held each Monday evening at 8PM. Current net control – Jim - N1ZN.
- 2 meter net – Using W1NRG repeater (147.360 MHz, + 0.6 MHz offset, PL 162.2), held each Tuesday evening at 7:00PM. Current net controls – Shawn - KC1NQE and Mike - KC1MJZ
- 10 meter net – 28.375 MHz, held each Tuesday evening at 8PM. Current net control John - K1VDF with Al - N1API as the backup.
- Activity Meeting/ Tech Net – offering many interesting topics for both new and veteran hams. This 'net' has frequently become a 'Zoom' event on Thursday, 7:00PM
- 2 meter 'Coffee Cup Net' – Using W1NRG repeater (147.360 MHz, + 0.6 MHz offset, PL 162.2) starts at 9AM on Saturdays. Current Net Control Ed - W1YSM.
- Elmer's Shack – is a Zoom net on Sunday evenings at 7:30 PM, Meeting ID: 932 5667 9514 Passcode: 686029

Club Repeater

MARC/WARG operates a 2m FM repeater W1NRG on a frequency of 147.360, +0.6 MHz, PL 162.2. The repeater is located on the water tank next to Gaylord Hospital and covers greater central CT. The repeater can also be accessed via "Echolink" node 624952. Club members are encouraged to use the repeater.

Official Club Website

The club website's URL is www.w1nrg.com. It is currently undergoing a complete re-write and update but there continues to be a lot of useful information and resources for members and visitors alike.



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Club meetings/Grounds/Building

Meetings

MARC/WARG holds two meetings each month on Zoom. The second Thursday is the club's business meeting while the fourth Thursday of the month is an Activity/Tech meeting. The November business meeting is the annual election of MARC/WARG Officers and includes suggestions for Elmer of the Year and Ham of the Year. In December we have our annual Christmas Party and a Year in Review Meeting when awards are announced and new officers introduced. Business Meetings start promptly at 7:00PM and are usually over by 9PM. Every Saturday morning from 8:30 until noon we have a general open house for members and visitors to gather and exchange ideas or operate any of the four operating positions in the Chris Sievert Radio Room. The open house is preceded by a Volunteer Examiner Session on the second Saturday of each month.

Open Houses are held at:

**Hope Hill Road Firehouse
143 Hope Hill Road,
Wallingford, CT. 06492**

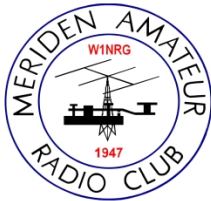
Club membership is open to any Amateur Radio licensee (or non-license holder) with interest in Amateur Radio or in Emergency/Disaster Communications.

Parking at the Firehouse (OEM)

The firehouse serves as the **Office of Emergency Management** for the town of Wallingford. It is used not only by MARC/WARG but also the Office of Emergency Management, Fire Department, the Medical Reserve Corp and the Health Department. When attending meetings or events at the OEM, parking is allowed next to the building and at Moran Middle School which is next to the OEM. Please do not park in front of the garage doors of the OEM.

OEM House Keeping

The OEM is a building shared by several Wallingford Emergency Management organizations. Members using the OEM should respect the cleanliness of the building. The club membership is a tenant of this building and as such each member must keep the facility clean. Please don't leave coffee cups or water bottles behind. Food and liquids are not allowed in radio room. All food should be discarded or taken home. At the end of each event, the kitchen and radio room garbage must be put in the dumpster outside by the small wooden building.



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If you bring things to share on Saturday please make sure to take them with you after the session. Nothing should be left behind. If you wish to donate equipment, see the Station Activities Manager.

OEM Access

Deputy Emergency Management Director for the town of Wallingford, Leonard H. Guercia Jr., oversees the operation of the OEM. Currently in 2024 all MARC club officers have access to the building and the radio room (shack). CERT members also have access to the building.

Communication with Membership

E-mail communication

There is an e-mail reflector maintained by the Station Activity Manager, Rob K1RCT. New members should automatically get added to the list by Rob. If you send an email to the reflector address then all members of the reflector will receive the email. This is a great announcement vehicle for club members. Use your best judgement when using the reflector and remember to **reply to the sender and not to the reflector email address** if you are sending a reply that you don't want the entire reflector membership to see.

The reflector email address is:

members@W1NRG.com. (members@w1nrg.com).

The official club email address is mail@w1nrg.com

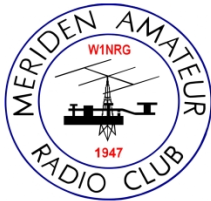
All official club announcements and notifications will always go out on the main reflector and may also go out on the other social media outlets.

Social Websites

The Facebook page located at <https://www.facebook.com/MeridenARC/> is another MARC/WARG place to find posts of club activity, contesting and general Amateur Radio posts.

There is a second, less formal email reflector on **Groups .io**. MeridenARC@groups.io, used for club chit chat and informal conversations.

There is also a **Discord channel**, with several topics for sharing pictures and information. **Discord** also allows for text chat, video chat, and audio chat. Contact Shawn KC1NQE, Mike KC1MKZ, or Kristin KC1ISI for an invite.



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EMCOMM/AuxCom

MARC is closely linked with the Wallingford CERT organization. The Hope Hill Road Firehouse is home to both the Wallingford CERT and MARC/WARG. MARC/WARG has use of the facility for our club meetings and radio events. MARC/WARG currently has a permanent radio shack room whose primary use is EMMCOMM and secondary use as the MARC 'shack' for contesting and general communications by members. Folks with additional interest in EMMCOMM are encouraged to join the ARES Region 2, or take the CERT course and join the CERT team.

(<http://www.ctaresregion2.org/>) Wallingford Emergency Coordinator is Eric (KB1JL) ARES. Region 2 District Emergency Coordinator is Douglas (WA1SFH) ARES.

WARG (Wallingford Amateur Radio Group) provides staffing, logistics, and communications to the town through CERT. We have been activated to provide shelter for disaster victims at the OEM. We also receive training, and support the Wallingford Health Dept. in their emergency needs. Emergency Management, CERT, and DPH work as a team. We also work several public events throughout the year, 5K races, bicycle races and town events such as parades and celebrations.

Chris Sievert Memorial Club Radio Station

The club's radio room is named in memory of the long time beloved member Chris Sievert WA1VXH (SK). The MARC/WARG Station Activities Manager (SAM) is the **Trustee** of the **Memorial Club Callsign, W1NRG** and maintains the club's Chris Sievert Radio Room at the Hope Hill Firehouse. There are four operating positions available for use by club members and visitors. The HF phone station is served by a Yaesu FT-950 while the CW station uses a Yaesu FT991A. Both have access to multiple antennas to operate on all HF bands. The 6 meter position utilizes another Yaesu FT-991A connected to a beam antenna. The fourth position is for 2 meters using a Kenwood TM-V71. Dunestar Bandpass filters and external tuners are installed at each position as needed. The SAM maintains an additional variety of equipment including additional transceivers, tuners, filters, amplifiers, antenna analyzers, and antennas.

Contesting

MARC is active with several contesting and amateur radio events during the year. Notably the ARRL Field Day (last weekend in June), ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW and SSB), and The ARRL 10 Meter QSO Party are some events the club typically works as a club. The SAM or a group committee typically works up a list of volunteers that will operate shifts. Both SSB and CW modes are supported and operated based on interest level. Club members are urged to participate in these events, typical schedule times vary by contest but a typical "shift" is for two hours. Contesting as a club is a great way to learn DX'ing techniques.



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Many members also belong to Ten-Ten International which sponsors 10 meter contesting events during the year.

Several members participate in other notable on the air activities including POTA (Parks On The Air), SOTA (Summits On The Air) and the 13 Colonies Special Event in July.

Licensing testing and training

MARC/WARG holds a testing sessions for Amateur Radio licensing on the second Saturday of each month at the firehouse. The club has had good response to Technician License Classes held in conjunction with the town Park and Rec Department with many new licensees becoming members. Classes for the General License are held at the firehouse and on Zoom. For those interested in learning CW there are nightly CW classes on Zoom. All members are encouraged to learn new modes or operating techniques through less formal learning opportunities during the Saturday open house.

Trustee, QSL manager, Station Activity Manager

Rob Cichon (K1RCT) is the club W1NRG license trustee. The club QSL manager is Robert Kaczor (KE1AU). The Station Activity Manager is Rob Cichon (K1RCT). Rob oversees all club equipment. During contesting Rob ensures equipment is set up correctly, Robert maintains the database for all QSL's and the club currently logs to Logbook of the World (LoTW).

Yearly events, Miscellaneous and other reminders

Membership dues is paid annually (January 1) to the Treasurer in cash, check or via PayPal, Venmo, or credit card using the link on our website. Any member who is a licensed ham, 18 and under will be given free dues. Any member unpaid on April 1st will be removed from Master Member List.

The Nutmeg Hamfest and ARRL Connecticut State Convention is a part of MARC. The Nutfest is held each October and has a very good following of vendors and attendees. Members of MARC are encouraged to attend and volunteer at the event and to assist in making the event a success.

The MARC Christmas Party is held each December for members and their significant other. The Elmer of the Year and Ham of the Year awards are presented and the year's new officers are announced.

An annual scholarship is awarded by MARC/WARG to a local high school senior student from Meriden or Wallingford. Member's children and grandchildren are eligible even if not



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in the Wallingford or Meriden schools. Details of the Frank Darmofalski Scholarship can be found on the MARC website.

The annual MS walk in Cheshire is an event that MARC helps out with by providing communication during the event. MARC is always looking for volunteers to assist at this event held each May.

The Fishbien 5k/10k road race in Wallingford is another event that MARC participates in. Each September this race is held and MARC provides communication support for the event. MARC is always looking for volunteers to help with this event.

KeyKlix is a monthly news bulletin that includes event recaps, short stories, member interviews, tips, trivia, etc. Dave - K1WJL is our editor and publisher of KeyKlix, all members receive this via email from Dave a few days prior to each business meeting. If you aren't getting your copy, let Dave know. A few members don't have email access and Dave makes special delivery arrangements for those folks.

Meeting minutes are published by the club secretary in KeyKlix. Since not every member can attend meetings, the membership is encouraged to read through the minutes to stay abreast of news in the club.

Club Who's Who (2024)

2024 MARC Officers

President: Ed – W1YSM	W1YSM@arrl.net
Vice-President: Eric – KB1JL	KB1JL@outlook.com
Treasurer: Rick – KC1OYN	KC1OYN@arrl.net
Secretary: Judy –W1BJG	W1BJG@proton.me
Station Activities Manager: Rob – K1RCT	K1RCT@arrl.net

Club Librarian

Mike – K1LHO

QSL Manager

Bob – KE1AU – Logbook of The World (LoTW) and Bureau



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Call Sign Trustees

W1NRG

Rob – K1RCT

W1FD

John – N1GNV

W1WRG

John – K1LYP

CW Training

Bob – WB1GYZ

Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Jim – N1ZN

Club Committees

Technical and Interference

John – K1VDF and Rob – K1RCT

Communications and Community Outreach

Kristin – KC1ISI- chair

Entertainment/ Activities

Brian – N1BRI - chair

Scholarship

Jim - N1ZN- chair

WARG/EMMCOM

Eric - KB1JL

Welcome New Members

Bart – N1BRL

Membership Integration

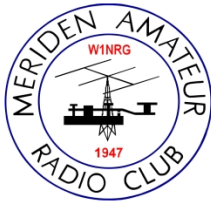
James – AB1DQ

Contest Activations

Mike – K1LHO

Castle Craig Chapter of 10-10 International

Ten-Ten International is an organization promoting use of the ten meter band. The local chapter is “Castle Craig” led by Al – N1API



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Web Information

Kristin – KC1ISI

Webmaster

Kristin – KC1ISI

Administrators

Rob – K1RCT (Station Activities Manager)

Hope Hill OEM

Emergency Management Director - Fire Chief Czentnar

Deputy Emergency Management Director - Leonard H. Guercia Jr. (len@guerciagroup.com)

What the Heck is.....

10-10 or Ten Ten International is an organization dedicated to encouraging use of the 10 meter band. **Castle Craig** is the local chapter of 10-10.

13 Colonies is an on the air special event activity in July each year enjoyed by many members.

A Bug is a semi-automatic device for sending Morse code as compared to a traditional straight key.

Activities Table shows each week at a glance for most of the clubs' scheduled activities.

ARES the **A**mateur **R**adio **E**mergency **S**ervice consists of Amateur Radio licensees who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

A Double R L is the **A**merican **R**adio **R**elay **L**eague. **ARRL**. In conversation it may sound like **ARL**.

Candy Store is not heard much lately but it is a euphemism for the Gold Medal Ideas website where you can purchase jackets, hats, shirts and more with the club logo.

Castle Craig see 10 10 above.

CERT is the **C**ommunity **E**mergency **R**esponse **T**eam. See EMCOMM/AuxCom above for details.

CQ Santa is an annual MARC event when children come to talk to Santa and use a radio to talk to elves at the north pole to confirm their request.

Discord is an instant messaging and VoIP social platform which allows communication through voice calls, video calls, text messaging, and media and files.



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Echolink software allows licensed Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the internet, using streaming-audio technology. It is enabled on our repeater.

Egg Beater is a particular type of antenna used for working satellites, so named because it looks like a kitchen egg beater.

Elmer, Elmer's Shack, Elmer Net "Elmer" is the ham radio term for a mentor who personally guides and tutors a new ham, both before and after earning a license. In MARC we have an open Zoom meeting (net) on Sunday evenings which we call Elmer's Shack. Everyone licensed or not is invited to bring their ham radio questions to the shack to get answers.

EOC is a misnomer for the firehouse, **Office of Emergency Management** on Hope Hill Rd. where we meet and properly call the **OEM**.

Field Day, Winter Field Day, 13 Colonies, Sweeps or Sweepstakes are the names of several on the air activities that many club members enjoy.

FT8 is a digital mode of communication that requires the use of a computer, a specialized software program, and a radio.

Fox hunt is searching for a hidden transmitter using various radio direction finding (**DF**) methods. Usually on but not limited to the 2 meter band.

Fox is technically the hidden transmitter but we also use it to refer to the person hiding the fox.

Groups.io is an email groups and collaboration platform.

In and Out is an expression used when someone checks into an on the air net but isn't going to stay to participate but immediately checks out. (ie I'm here and good bye)

IOTA, This is Islands **On The Air**, another way to get out in the field with your portable station and have some on the air fun.

KeyKlix is the club's monthly newsletter which members receive via email.

Kerchunk is the act of keying up a repeater without identifying your station. Usually done by poor operators just to see if they can reach the repeater. It is a poor practice that is not only rude but illegal to transmit without identifying your station.

LoTW Logbook of the World (LoTW) is a tool to confirm ham radio contacts and use the confirmations as credit toward awards.

MARC., The full legal name of the club is the **Meriden Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

MARCONI stands for Motivating Amateur Radio Clubs to Open New Initiatives. It describes a grant received from the ARRL and the Amateur Radio Digital Communications. The intent of the MARCONI program is to have the MARC act as an Elmer or tutor to



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reinvigorate radio clubs that have low activity and low member involvement. There are eight (8) parts to the MARCONI Program. They include: POTA; Fox Hunts; CW Training; Satellite Communications; Supporting Served Agencies; Net Control Operations/Traffic Handling; Running VE Sessions; Balloon Launch/Digital Communications Events. The grant provided funds to buy equipment needed to support these eight programs.

Net is traditionally an on the air activity where each station in turn has an opportunity to contribute to the discussion. A **Directed** or **Controlled** net has one designated station to control the order of station transmissions. In MARC we also sometimes use 'net' in reference to 'Zoom' meetings.

Nutmeg Hamfest, is the name of the corporation that conducts the Nutmeg Hamfest and the Conn. state convention each year. You might also hear "**Nutfest**".

OEM is the **Office of Emergency Management** and the correct name of the firehouse on Hope Hill Rd where we meet.

'OTA's are various On The Air activities such as BOTA, MLOTA, JOTA and others already listed here.

POTA, Parks On The Air involves both activators and hunters. The activator sets up his portable station in a listed park and makes contacts with hunters. Many club members participate in POTA.

QRZ qrz.com is an amateur radio website listing almost every callsign in the world.

RACES is the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (town-appointed volunteer operators)

SAM Who is this Sam person anyway? SAM is the Station Activity Manager sometimes simply Station Manager.

Scholarship The Frank Darmofalski (W1FD) Memorial Scholarship of \$1000 is awarded each year to a local school graduating student. Club member's children or grandchildren are eligible even if not in a local school.

Simplex Operating point to point on a single frequency without using a repeater.

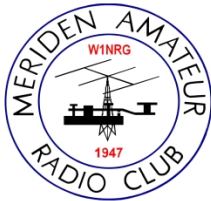
SOTA, Summits OnThe Air is much like POTA but the activator operates from a listed summit to contact hunters.

Sweeps or Sweepstakes is another on the air event for members to participate in.

The Reflector is how we refer to the mailing list server that 'reflects' incoming email to the club members.

The League refers to the American Radio Relay League.

US Islands is an annual on the air event similar to IOTA.



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VE is a licensed amateur radio operator who is certified as a **V**olunteer **E**xaminer to give license exams.

WARG, The **W**allingford **A**mateur **R**adio **G**roup is MARC's doing business as (d/b/a) name as registered with the town of Wallingford for doing business in Wallingford.

Winter Field Day is a communications exercise held the last full weekend in January, similar to **Field Day**.

List of Abbreviations found in ARRL Publications

https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Abbrev_AWE.pdf

Club Information:

[http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club Information/Club Information.html](http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club%20Information/Club%20Information.html)

History:

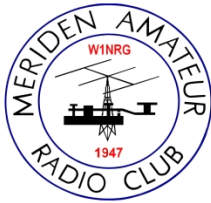
[http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club Information/MARC History/MARC History.html](http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club%20Information/MARC%20History/MARC%20History.html)

Constitution and By-Laws

[http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club Information/Constitution/Constitution.html](http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club%20Information/Constitution/Constitution.html)

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