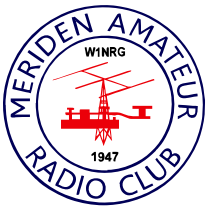


KEY KLIX

NEWSLETTER EST 1947

JANUARY 2025





2025 CLUB OFFICERS

President - Ray KC1QLS
Vice Pres - Dave NZ1J
Secretary - James AB1DQ
S.A.M. - Rob K1RCT
Treasurer - Rick KC1OYN

ACTIVITY MEETING

Antenna Basics - IN PERSON
Thursday, Jan. 23 at the OEM
7pm until 8pm
Presenter: Dave, NZ1J

MEMBER DUES

CLICK HERE to pay your \$25 dues through the website. Or mail a check made out to Meriden Amateur Radio Club to: **PO Box 583 Meriden, CT 06450**
Contact Rick KC1OYN with questions at treasurer@w1nrg.com

NEW YEAR: PIZZA SPRINT

BY TED, KC1DOY

MARC rang in the New Year with two fantastic events organized by the incoming President, Ray KC1QLS, and Vice President, Dave NZ1J, that brought members together for both operating and socializing. The day began with the 2 Meter Sprint, a lively 30-minute challenge to make as many simplex QSOs as possible. This well-attended activity was a chance to test the limits of 2-meter rigs without relying on repeaters. Members enjoyed the thrill of direct communication and the opportunity to learn more about their equipment's capabilities.



Rick, KC1OYN



Ray, KC1QLS

Following the Sprint, the festivities moved to the OEM, where 25 members gathered for a pizza and party sub feast. In addition to the savory spread, cookies were available for dessert, rounding out the delicious offerings. The event wasn't just about food—it was also about connection. As Dave put it, "One of the most important things to most club members is to socialize, and today was more evidence of that." Ray had plenty of opportunities to chat with attendees, and the room buzzed with friendly conversation.

Gatherings like these strengthen the bonds within the MARC community, with many members expressing a desire to make such events a regular tradition, rekindling the true spirit of being part of a club. If this first celebration is any indication, 2025 promises to be an exceptional year for MARC!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Feature: Pizza Sprint

- At the Club House 3
- WARG / CERT 6
- Announcements 7
- In the Community 8
- Member Spotlight 9
- W1NRG on the AIR 10
- Field Day 12
- Legacy Klix 13
- President's Msg 14
- Editor's Page 15

Special Reports

Antenna Projects see page 16

Happy New Year 2025



Brian, N1BRI

Kristin, KC1ISI



Jordan, AB2T



Eric, KB1JL



Bill, NR1B

Mike, K1LHO & Roberta, XYL



Joel, N1JEO - Rob, K1RCT - Steve, WB8IMY - John N1GNV



John, WA1JKR - Jeff, N1AKN - Bill, NR1B



Al, N1API

Dave, NZ1J



Mike, KC1TSX

Jim, KC1TSG



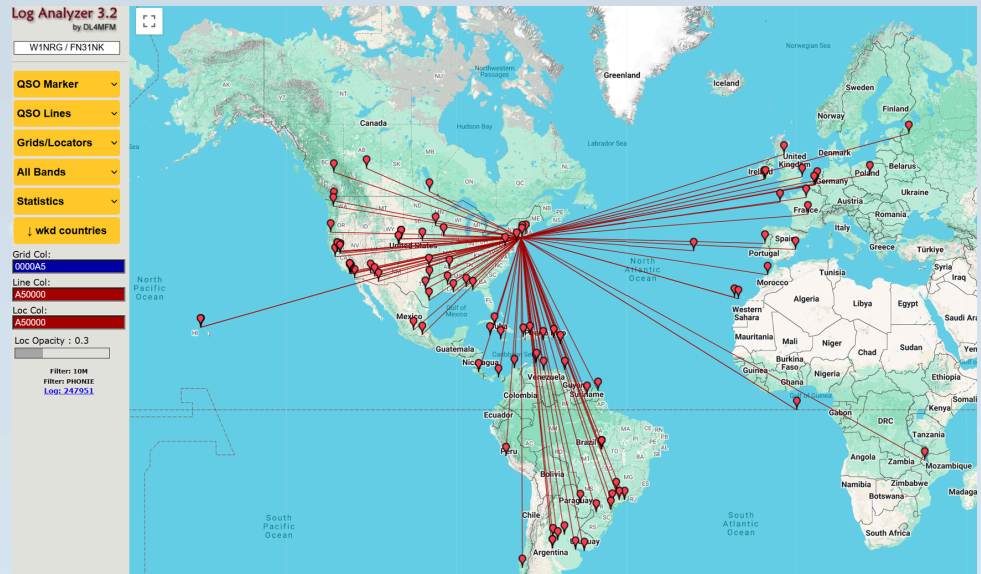
CONTEST FROM W1NRG

BY ROB, K1RCT/W1NRG

The weekend of Dec 14 & 15 was a whirlwind of activity, with Saturday and Sunday dedicated almost entirely to contesting. The ARRL 10M Contest was busy, and I spent most of my time chasing multipliers, logging 100 QSOs in total. It was a productive run, and while there was still some time left at 15 minutes, I'd decided to call it done for this one.

Hawaii was a highlight. There was plenty of activity from the islands. On the other hand, I only managed to catch one station each from Alaska & Mexico. Antarctica and Ecuador were exciting additions to the log, with Ecuador feeling particularly new-ish for me. I even heard a station from New Zealand but couldn't quite make the contact.

The Antarctica contact threw me for a loop. It came through N1MM as "Antarctica," but digging into the details, the station appeared to be based in Argentina. Not sure what happened there, but I'll let the contest organizers weigh in when the dust settles. Regardless of the technicalities, it was still a lot of fun working that station!



Our club score is already up on 3830 & ARRL: 12,600 points from the club. I also managed to work Steve KC1SA. There were three (3) other Club Members operating their own callsigns, contributing their score to our club:

- KC1UJP - Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power - CT - Meriden ARC, 2,552 points**
- N1API - Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, Low Power - CT - Meriden ARC, 191,052 points**
- W1TK - Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power - CT - Meriden ARC, 1,924 points**

SO SSB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
EC5AN(@EA5RC)		x	590	133	24	156,940	EACC
YV5SSB			272	62	12	33,728	4M5DXgroup -FRV
KM2RF			200	71		28,400	
KC9GLR			202	70		28,280	
W0CN			202	58		23,432	MWA
K0NR			136	106	6	14,416	Grand Mesa
W1NRG(K1RCT)			100	63	6	12,600	Meriden ARC
W4YVA			107	47	4	10,058	PVRC
SP4SHD			97	42	8	8,148	
N7AME			73	40	3.5	5,840	Snohomish County Hams Club

ON THE REPEATER

BY JOE, N1LES



The new repeater has been on the air for about seven months now, and as a member of the Repeater Committee, I – along with other committee members – frequently monitor its use. I’ve been a licensed operator for 30+ years, worked in the two-way radio industry for 20 years, and have extensive experience tuning and repairing radio systems. Here is a friendly refresher for using the W1NRG repeater. The experienced hams passing on good ham practices and club traditions and some helpful advice for our newer members.



MIC TECHNIQUE

When speaking into your microphone, it should be held about 2-3 inches from your mouth, and you should speak in a normal voice. If you’re using an HT (handheld transceiver), the same applies. Keep in mind that some Baofeng portables have notoriously low audio output, so you may need to speak a little closer – *not louder*.

Speaking too loudly can cause distortion or "clipping" of the audio. Remember: Talking loudly on an FM radio will not make your signal go farther; it will only degrade your audio quality.

NET CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

When checking into a net, say, "This is," drop your carrier, wait, then give your call sign, name, and location.

The "drop your carrier" part is important. It means you should unkey your mic briefly and listen to ensure you’re not doubling (transmitting over someone else) before rekeying to transmit. Some operators – new and experienced – are skipping this step and immediately proceeding with their info. Taking that moment to pause will help keep the net smooth and orderly.

TERMINOLOGY

Avoid using non-ham terms from the CB days; they don’t belong on the amateur bands.

Calling CQ is not standard practice on repeaters, simply state your call sign and status, e.g., mobile, listening, requesting signal report.. The simplex frequencies are more commonly used for local contacts, 146.52 is the national CQ calling frequency.

SATURDAY OPEN HOUSE

BY TED, KC1DOY



Winter may have slowed some of the outdoor activities at MARC, but it opened up an opportunity to spend more time building fun electronic circuits. Dave, NZ1J, demonstrated several interesting circuits and provided club members with schematics and parts so that they could build their own.

The astable multivibrator was a big hit. With a few parts, Dave showed how to build one that would cause 2 LEDs to flash alternately. The circuit could be used in any application where one action would trigger another then return to its original state and start over.



Another project had a variable pot control 3 LEDs, lighting each one in sequence as the voltage increased.



While all of this was going on, someone discovered a Moxon antenna that had been built to detect RFI sources. A schematic for the device was also found that indicated it had been built some time ago. No one, however, knew who built it or when. It was, it would seem, a club project from the past.

FOXING AROUND

BY DAVE, KC1PEN



I was looking to build a new fox hunt antenna, something small and handheld and wanted it to be small enough to fit in the car door pocket or easily in the crowded back seat. The typical tape measure Yagi was too big, and the tape measure elements have shown previously that they are subject to bending fatigue and breaking at attachment points.

In my research, I came across an [article in QST](#) and saw a Yagi design with small enough elements and spacing to meet my goals. I did not like the lack of good grip or HT mount and decided to draft up a structure to hold my elements and HT.

I 3D-printed (on my home printer) the structure out of PLA and made elements out of scrap copper pipe I had lying around.

Initial testing showed the concept works but needs refinement on grip size, angle, and offset from the elements and slightly better tuning of the receiving element spacing. That being said, this winter I should have plenty of time to do that.

Once refined further, the STL (even the Fusion 360 CAD file) of the 3D printed portion and dimensions of the elements can be made available to club members.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2024



KC1NQE, KB1JL, NA1L, KC1PEN, WB1GYZ, K1MAL, K1RCT

SUNDAY DECEMBER 22, 2024



K1RCT, N1GNV, NZ1J, KB1JL, NA1L, KC1NQE, WB1GYZ



SUNDAY DECEMBER 29, 2024



N1NIS, K1MAL, WB1GYZ, NZ1J, KC1NQE, N1GNV, KC1PEN & CUB

SUNDAY JANUARY 5, 2024



WB1GYZ, NA1L, K1MAL, N1NIS, KB1JL, KC1EUM, KC1NQE, WA1JKR, N1ZN, K1RCT



NEW MEMBER TRAINING CLASS STARTING FEBRUARY 5, 2025

The Wallingford Amateur Radio Group (WARG) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue and team organization. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event based on the training they ave received. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.



February 2024 CERT class



CERT members gather at the Wallingford Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

WALLINGFORD CERT BASIC CLASS Winter 2025

CLASS TIMES: 6:30 p.m. (Sharp) - 8:30 p.m.

CLASS LOCATION: Wallingford OEM, 143 Hope Hill Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492
Unless otherwise noted

February	5th -	INTRODUCTION & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
Unit 1		Scott Maguder/Len Guercia
February	12th -	CERT ORGANIZATION/RADIO OPERATION
Unit 2		Scott Maguder/Eric Olsson
February	19th -	DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY
Unit 5		Holly McNabola
February	26th -	CERT TERRORISM & ELECTRICAL SAFTEY
Unit 8		Eric Olsson/John Yuza
March	8th -	*****Saturday March 8th 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM*****
Unit 3		MEDICAL OPERATIONS 1 All Instructors & CERT Team
Unit 4		MEDICAL OPERATIONS 2 & PRACTICAL All Instructors & CERT Team
Unit 6		FIRE SAFTEY & UTILITY CONTROLS All Instructors & CERT Team
Unit 7		LIGHT SEARCH & RESCUE All Instructors & CERT Team
March	12th -	6:30-8:00 PM REVIEW, FINAL EXAM & PRACTICAL
Unit 9 & Graduation		All Instructors & CERT TEAM 8:00-8:30 PM GRADUATION/ADMINISTRATION OF OATH All Instructors, Fire Chief, Wallingford Town Officials, OEM Teams Members, Town Council Members

- CLICK -
**APPLY
NOW**

S.A.M. ANNOUNCEMENTS

DXCC, CONTESTS & QSO PARTIES

BY ROB, K1RCT

THIS MONTH->

Solar Flux

PREDICTED SOLAR FLUX IS 180 ON DECEMBER 25 AND 26, AND 180 ON DECEMBER 30 THROUGH JANUARY 2, 2025.

PREDICTED PLANETARY A INDEX IS 5 ON JANUARY 13 AND 14, 8 ON JANUARY 15 AND 16, 5 ON JANUARY 17 TO 20, THEN 8 ON JANUARY 29.

CONTEST CALENDAR

Club Activity

WINTER FIELD DAY 1600Z, JAN 25 TO 2159Z, JAN 26

ARRL KIDS DAY JANUARY 1800Z-2359Z, JAN 4

ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP - 1800Z, JAN 4 TO 2400Z, JAN 5

WORLDWIDE SIDEBAND ACTIVITY CONTEST 0100Z-0159Z, JAN 7

ARS SPARTAN SPRINT - 0100Z-0300Z, JAN 7

NORTH AMERICAN QSO PARTY CW 1800Z, JAN 11 - 0559Z, JAN 12

DARC 10M CONTEST 0900Z-1059Z, JAN 12

4 STATES QRP GROUP SPRINT 0100Z-0300Z, JAN 13

AWA LINC CUNDALL MEMORIAL CW CONTEST (2300Z, JAN 15 TO 2300Z, JAN 16 TO 2300Z, JAN 18 TO 2300Z, JAN 19)

NORTH AMERICAN QSO PARTY SSB 1800Z, JAN 18 TO 0559Z, JAN 19

ARRL JANUARY VHF CONTEST 1900Z, JAN 18 TO 0359Z, JAN 20

WINTER FIELD DAY 1600Z, JAN 25 TO 2159Z, JAN 26

AUSTRALIA DAY CONTEST 2200Z, JAN 25 TO 1000Z, JAN 26

ARRL CONTEST UPDATE

ARRL AWARDS (SEARCH WINRG OR YOUR CALLSIGN)

WA7BNM: The next 5 Weeks of contesting



Parks on the Air | POTA | Parks program for amateur radio.

Parks program for amateur radio, also known as Parks on the Air (POTA), including a map and list of...

POTA



Dx News

DX News. Preferred source of Ham Radio News, DX Peditions, video, articles, images for DXers.

dxnews.com

SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHT

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMATEUR RADIO STAMP AND THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARRL
12.01.24 - 01.31.25

WORK K7S IN WEST JORDAN, UT TO EARN A COMMEMORATIVE QSL W. SASE

THE FIRST 200 CONFIRMED CONTACTS RECEIVE A USED AMATEUR RADIO STAMP.

W7WES@YAHOO.COM, WWW.UDXA.ORG OR
WWW.QRZ.COM/DB/W7WES



DXPEDITIONS

ON AIR



MARC VE Sessions

MARC hosts a VE License Exam Session on the second Saturday of each month starting at 9:00 AM local time at the OEM at 143 Hope Hill Road, Wallingford CT.

Appointments are not necessary.

For more information, contact Jim Savage N1ZN at

N1ZN@arrl.net



ARRL
VEC

WINRG Weekly Net Schedule

MON	NEW HAVEN/MIDDLESEX SKYWARN NET 7:00 PM, W1NRG/R 147.360 + 162.2 HZ CTCSS 6 METER SSB NET 8:00 PM, 50.175 MHZ USB
TUE	2 METER FM NET 7:00 PM, W1NRG/R 147.360 + 162.2 HZ CTCSS 10 METER 10-10 CASTLE CRAIG NET 8:00 PM 28.375 MHZ USB
WED	JUST PUSH THE BUTTON NET 7:00 PM, W1NRG/R 147.360 + 162.2 HZ CTCSS
SAT	COFFEE CUP NET 9:00 AM, W1NRG/R 147.360 + 162.2 HZ CTCSS
SUN	ELMER NET 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM. LOG IN CREDENTIALS IN WINRG WEBSITE MEMBERS AREA.

COME TO THE OEM AT 143 HOPE HILL ROAD ON SATURDAY MORNINGS FOR THE CLUB WEEKLY OPEN HOUSE. JOIN US STARTING AT 9:00 AM AND MEET FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS IN A SOCIAL SETTING AND PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS RADIO ACTIVITIES.

SPONSOR A VET

In 2024, our club proudly hosted two groups of veterans from the West Haven VA (WHVA) and conducted additional one-on-one sessions at their facility. These visits were part of the VA's special 6-to-8-week program designed to help blind, PTSD, and other disabled veterans adjust to civilian life. During these events organized by Ray WA1FFT, MARC volunteers presented briefings with handouts, explained what it means to be an amateur radio operator, discussed the licensing process, and offered demonstrations in the radio room.

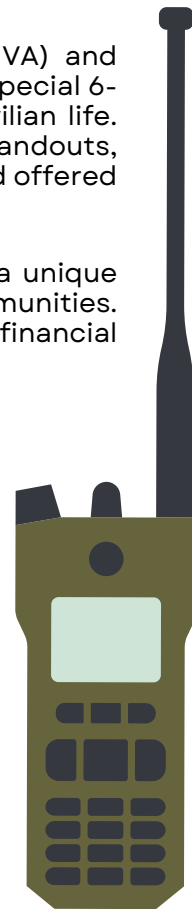
The impact of these sessions was clear: for many of these veterans, amateur radio offers a unique opportunity to rebuild a sense of mission, make new friends, and engage with their communities. However, it also became apparent that some of the recently discharged veterans are facing financial challenges and have not yet found work.

To help these veterans take the next step toward becoming licensed amateur radio operators, we're seeking donations of ARRL Technician Study Guides. These guides, priced at \$32.95, are essential for those pursuing their technician license. The 5th edition of the ARRL Technician Study Guide remains valid until July 1, 2026, making it a valuable resource for veterans who are eager to learn.

We're asking MARC members who no longer need their Technician or General Class Study Guides to consider donating them to a veteran. Your contribution can make a significant difference in helping someone gain the skills and confidence to enter the amateur radio world.

The WHVA has its own amateur radio club, the VA Radio Group (VARG), which is currently being rebuilt after the pandemic reduced its membership. The club, led by President Kevin KB1YCA and Vice President Ray WA1FFT, operates out of a small, secured equipment room. VARG is prepared to host one-on-one or small-group briefings and demonstrations for veterans on short notice. This flexibility is invaluable as we work to support those who express a strong interest in amateur radio.

As we continue to learn how to best serve our veterans, we are forming a planning team of volunteers to develop and enhance this program. Whether you can assist with briefings, demonstrations, outreach, or simply have ideas to share, we welcome your participation.



HOW YOU CAN HELP



Volunteer: Assist with briefings and demonstrations.

Donate: Provide an ARRL Technician Study Guide (5th Edition) or make a financial contribution to purchase new guides.

Share Ideas: Help us refine and grow this program to better serve our veterans.

Your support can make a lasting impact on the lives of veterans, giving them a sense of community, purpose, and accomplishment.

Let's work together to show them what the MARC family can do!

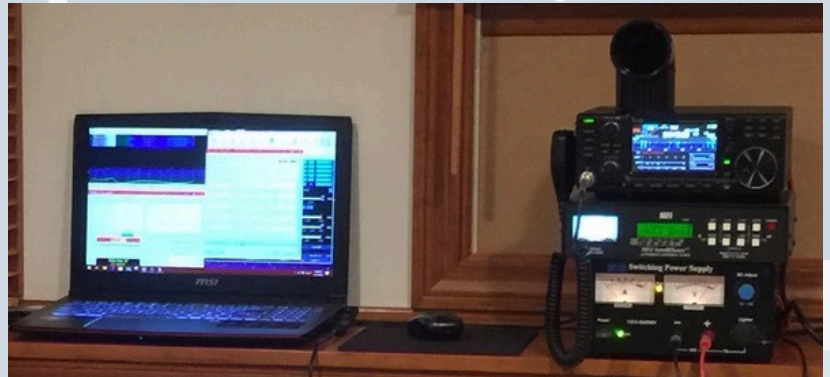
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING OR DONATING, PLEASE CONTACT

Ray WA1FFT by email: WA1FFT@gmail.com

BY BOB, WB1GYZ

Bill NR1B was introduced to amateur radio by his dad W1OCN, a decorated [Purple Heart recipient] member of the Signal Corps, having served in European and Asian theaters of war. Though Bill's dad gradually lost interest in ham radio, Bill's interest was kindled at an early age and has remained so with the exception of going QRT for a number of years to focus on work and raising a family.

As it happened, a high school baseball teammate visited him one day and noticed radio equipment stored in his basement. Bill explained the nature of that equipment and they both decided then and there to get licensed to use it. With help from W1OCN, they learned CW while studying for their Novice license. Bill's dad administered the test, and they both became licensed hams. Bill's friend Bob became WN1LOT, and Bill obtained WN1LHK.



Back in the sixties, they joined a startup club called the Shoreline Amateur Radio Club (W1BCG) where they quickly became president and vice president ... while still in high school. If that weren't enough, they then joined Navy MARS, where Bill was assigned the callsign NOTNU, the "N" at that time being a Navy designation, and zero was not associated with a geographical area. They became fully immersed passing MARS ship-to-shore traffic during the Vietnam War. Their most requested relay messages were about baseball and football scores, and of course, personal family matters. News was so sparse during the war that many GIs learned of the moon landing after the fact. Bill recalls that passing traffic was a good morale booster for the troops and that he and Bo enjoyed offering that service. Bill was quick to note that ham radio can offer communities a valuable resource during emergencies, as well as more mundane social communication services.

Bill also enjoys operating and introducing new hams to POTA. He feels that POTA is an excellent way to prepare for real communication emergencies using Winlink, a communications protocol used by Amateur Radio Emergency Services. He built his own gateway (an internet access point for hams) where Winlink operators connect and pass information using a program designed to send FEMA forms. Occasionally, he runs disaster emergency trials transmitting emergency forms for other hams to respond. He feels that hams should be familiar with the same program that FEMA uses, as the internet is very vulnerable. As technical and efficient as ham radio has become, Bill admits that his favorite mode is still CW. He has about 150 countries confirmed using 135 foot doublet fed with 600 ohm open-wire, which loads 160 thru 6 meters, and also a modified wolf-river vertical.

Bill feels that radio clubs in general don't present their services to the public very well though he makes exception for MARC, crediting MARC's outreach and exposure as main reasons he joined W1NRG.

Bill graduated from UConn with a degree in engineering and finance. He worked as a manufacturing engineer and became VP of that company. After 25 years, he gravitated to IT and is now a network engineer. Bill and his wife, Patty, live in Wallingford, and enjoy world travel.

WHY NOT POTA

BY DAVE, NZ1J



Dave NZ1J & Harold WJ1B

Why not get involved in POTA? Many hams will say that POTA is the best thing to ever happen in amateur radio. I'm one of the hams who says that. POTA doesn't cost anything and provides lots of opportunities to get on the radio.

On an average day, how many QSOs do you make? Here are some statistics that illustrate how much you could be doing through POTA:

Paul W1EDX, Shawn KC1NQE, and I have all made more than 12,000 QSOs each while operating POTA. Three relatively new club members, none of whom own an HF radio, have joined other club members in a park and made about 100 QSOs each. Some of those QSOs were to the West Coast, and others were to Europe.

With the current level of sunspot activity, 10 meters is very active. Technician class operators can work California, the Caribbean, and Europe on 10 meters. By joining other club members in the park, you won't need any equipment of your own. POTA is a chance to have some fun, spend time with other club members, improve your operating skills, and earn awards.

Along the way, Paul W1EDX, known as "The Great POTA Hunter," has made contact with more than 7,000 parks. Shawn KC1NQE, has made QSOs from every POTA park (about 150 parks) in Connecticut.

So, again, why not get involved in POTA? Several club members, including Bill NR1B, Shawn KC1NQE, and me, will be happy to have you join us in a park. And, Shawn is the host of a quarterly POTA meetup and picnic.

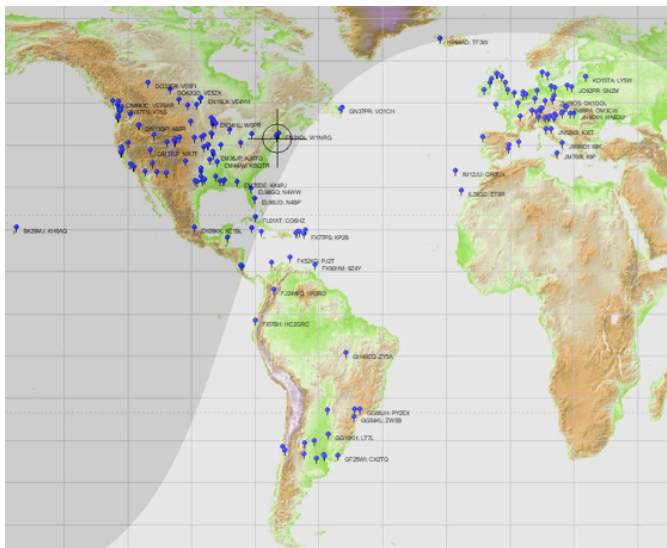


Contact me or any other club member who is involved with POTA, and let's get started.

RTTY WITH ME

BY STEVE, KC1SA

The world of RTTY has always intrigued me. It's not quite as fast-paced as FT8, but there's something uniquely satisfying about the mode. For the Czech RTTY Contest on Dec. 21st, I decided to dive in and give it a shot. The contest itself looks fairly simple – just an exchange of your zone and signal report – but as any seasoned ham knows, getting set up for RTTY can be a whole adventure.



For me, RTTY always starts with a bit of frustration. It's not a mode I operate frequently, so every time feels like starting from scratch: configuring N1MM+, ensuring MMTTY is talking to the radio, setting the right mode (FSK or A-FSK) and then fine-tuning everything until it works. It usually takes me at least an hour to sort it all out, but once it's running, the magic of RTTY contests begins to take over.

Looking back, one of my recent mixed CW/SSB contests reminded me why I enjoy this hobby so much. Running unassisted, high power, I logged 253 QSOs and a score of 85,728. Conditions on 10m were especially fantastic during the day, and I was thrilled to work Iceland, Paraguay, and Ecuador. It's moments like these that make the hours of setup and effort feel entirely worth it.

But RTTY contests have their quirks, and the Czech contest was no exception. Operators were packed tightly together, and unfortunately, some were running less-than-ideal setups, causing splatter that wiped out adjacent signals. I suspect one of them, running a KPA500 amp with a K4D, was using true FSK instead of A-FSK. While FSK used to be seen as the gold standard, modern software-driven A-FSK offers far more flexibility and fine-tuning.

Despite the hiccups, I spent about 90 minutes in the contest and logged nearly 60 QSOs. I even caught a contact in Hawaii on 15m just as the sun was setting. It was rewarding, challenging, and a great reminder of the joy of calling CQ and hearing that response.

I hope MARC members take advantage of contests like these. They're not just about the points or the score; they're about the thrill of the contact, the challenge of the mode, and the shared camaraderie of the ham radio community. And who knows? Maybe this year will be the one where we really get back into contesting mode as a club.

Until then, I'll keep tinkering with my setup, muttering at N1MM+, and chasing those signals. After all, that's half the fun.

10-10 WINTER QSO

BY AL, N1API

The 2025 Winter 10-10 QSO Party runs from 0000 UTC February 1st, 2025 to 2359:59 February 2nd, 2025.

If you are a paid up 10-10 member your support of our chapter would be appreciated. Please make as many contacts as you can, and submit your log for credit. Remember to mention that you would like to credit Castle Craig Chapter of 10-10 with your score.

Log submission must be made by 2/9/25 by email to tentencontest@ten-ten.org you can also mail your log to the contest coordinator Dan Morris KZ3T, 3162 Covington Way, Lenoir, NC 28645.

As you talk to local, (Connecticut), stations on 10 meters and also on the different bands please mention this QSO party and ask them to check 10 meters at times during the weekend to participate. Please remind them that if they are in the local ground wave area and members of 10-10, that The Castle Craig Chapter of 10-10 is their local chapter and we would appreciate their support for the QSO Parties.

If you have your collected 10-10 numbers sitting now is the time to send them in or go to the 10-10 web page at <http://www.ten-ten.org/memship.html> and either use the online shopping cart to join or fill out a paper application and mail it in. There is a special three year incentive plan for \$40.00 or you can join for the basic \$15.00 a year. 10-10 has a membership plan with electronic delivery of the 10-10 News and there are special rates for new and rejoining members of \$10.00 for one year and a three year incentive for \$25.00.

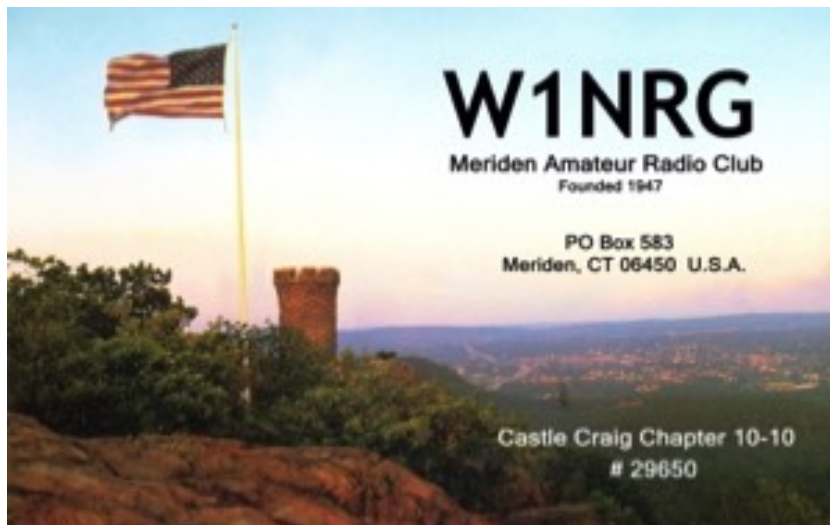
There are also family rates for members available too. It takes about three weeks to get your number back via mail but if you apply online your new number will come via email in just a few days. Remember you need to be a paid up member for your log to count for awards and also toward the club score. A good incentive for joining is that ALL 10-10 awards are FREE, and do not require QSL cards and can be applied for via email. You will receive award certificates by return mail, (or), for many, you can ask for a PDF certificate to put in your computer or post on your web pages.

Even if you've decided that you are not interested in becoming a 10-10 member, you can still get on and give contacts out to those who are working the QSO Party. Your point will be welcomed. The 10 meter band is hot in the expected peak of the solar cycle and who knows what you may hear during the QSO Party.

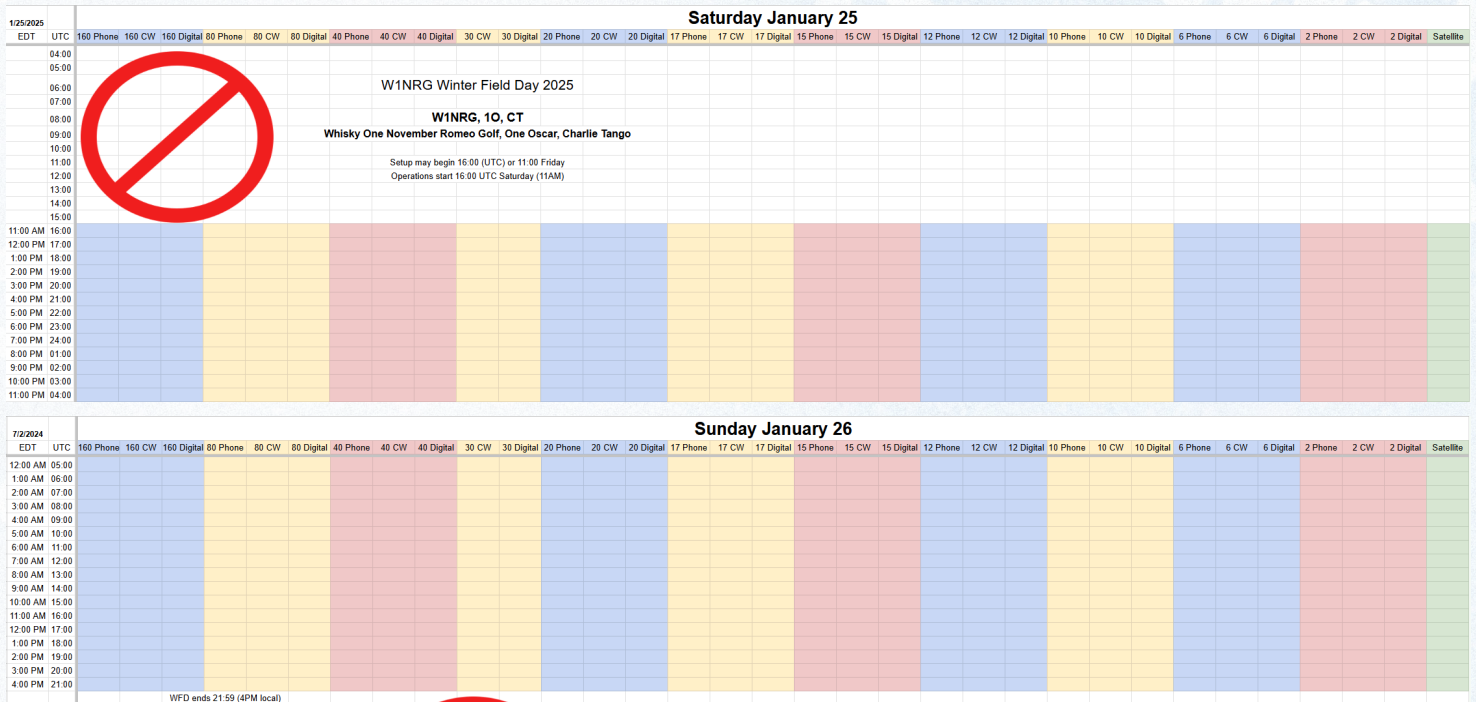
Also, you can submit your log as a checklog if you are not a paid up 10-10 member, (though I stress this would be good time to take advantage of the 3 year incentive offer). If you still decide that 10-10 is not your cup of tea but get on and pass your information to others, you can submit a log as a check log. 10-10 was formed to keep 10 meter band active so that it is not lost to other services and that idea is still paramount in the organization's concepts.

-73-

Al - N1API
Castle Craig Chapter
Chapter Head and Certificate Manager



W1NRG Winter Field Day 2025 Signup link



Greetings,

The goal of the Winter Field Day Association is to help amateur radio operators improve their preparedness for disasters and enhance their operational abilities. The winter months present unique challenges for operating, including shorter days, the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards.

Our annual Winter Field Day Exercise is not a contest but a practical field exercise designed to push your emergency preparedness skills to the limit and test your capabilities in diverse and demanding conditions. By setting up a station away from the comforts of home, you can significantly enhance your readiness for disasters and improve your operating skills in challenging environments.

The lessons learned during Winter Field Day and the ability to adapt and overcome sudden obstacles can be invaluable during unexpected emergencies. We aim to boost your confidence and make you a better operator during adverse conditions.

While the purpose of WFD is to practice our skills in unfavorable weather, safety must remain our top priority. We advise all operators to take extra care when working in extreme conditions. While many operators in the south enjoy mild weather, those in the north should exercise caution around snow and ice. Stay alert by monitoring weather forecasts for sudden changes and have a plan to relocate or cease operations if conditions become unsafe. These considerations are crucial for the effective planning and execution of your operations.

This year, we have issued a safety bulletin to reinforce these important reminders and to promote a culture of safety throughout the amateur radio community.

Please carefully review the event guidelines in this packet, and feel free to reach out via our website if you have any questions. As we embark on another year of the Winter Field Day exercise, we encourage you to use this event to hone your skills as an amateur radio operator. Above all, remember to enjoy Winter Field Day, stay safe, have fun, make new friends, and create lasting memories! We wish you the best of luck and eagerly anticipate hearing you on the air during this exciting event.

Sincerely,

WFDA

[For more WFD information, click here!](#)

Preparing to fill the position of club president for 2025, I began making a list of the many things that needed to be done. One on my to-do list is filing to be a member of the ARRL's Special Service Club for 2025. As defined by the league:

"Special Service Club Agenda Participation in the SSC program means a more ambitious program for your club. By taking an active role in coordination with the ARRL Field Organization, you will create a stronger, more effective Amateur Radio presence in your area. The SSC program was designed to be flexible – there's room for a host of creative ideas, and regardless of your club's size, if the members are willing, there's a place for your club."

I am happy to say that for many years MARC has been a proud member of the ARRL's Special Service Clubs. I think it is important for all our members to be aware of this filing and what it means.

As I started to fill out the application, it was as if it were custom-designed for our club!



- ✔ NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT Including beginner-friendly programs, community outreach and mentorship programs.
- ✔ COMMUNITY BUILDING Including social events, online platforms and diverse activities.
- ✔ EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT Including license preparation courses, technical workshops and guest speakers.
- ✔ COMMUNITY SERVICE Including emergency communication and public service events
- ✔ ENGAGEMENT/PROMOTION Including club website and newsletter, social media promotion and contests and competitions

These are the things that define our club and define who we are as individuals. These things have been fostered and grown over the many years that MARC has been in existence. It is important that we take a moment and thank the hard work and dedication of all those club members who came before us and brought us to this point. It has taken the club decades to get here, and this is who we will continue to be as we move forward. And key to all of this is each of you, the members of MARC.

As we continue on the path of the great work done by others before us, I want this to be a year of great internal growth. A year that gives members the opportunity to not only enjoy those aspects of the hobby they already love, but also the opportunity to explore, learn, and be mentored in areas of the hobby they have yet to try

Making this happen will depend on feedback from all the membership. Just the other day a member came to me saying that they wanted to try Radio Fox Hunting but did not know where to start. From that feedback we are now setting up a session to explain and train members who are interested, as well as pairing up new and seasoned fox hunters to go on the hunt together.

There is a lot this hobby has to offer and we will make every effort to offer a myriad of opportunities to those that want to take advantage of them. With each thing we do our involvement helps to grow the love and enjoyment of the hobby, all while learning and sharing with others. Additionally, it enhances all of the things that qualify MARC as a Special Services Club.

When you see one of the club officers, make it a point to reach out and give them feedback. Your comments and ideas are what will help us focus the direction of the club. Every member has an equal say/vote in what you want the club to be

I want to thank you for the honor of being elected president of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club. All of the officers are here to serve as caretakers of the club. We are looking forward to a year of growth, filled with lots of opportunities to enjoy the ham radio hobby.

As I like to say, this hobby is all about fun, education and camaraderie. This is what it should be - after all, it is a hobby

As we traverse into 2025, let us take a moment to marvel at the extraordinary era we are living in. We are witnesses to the birth and rise of the digital and artificial ages, surrounded by a wealth of tools, technologies, and ideas reshaping the world at an unprecedented pace. From the vast reaches of the internet to the transformative power of AI, we stand on the shoulders of innovation with the opportunity to shape the future.

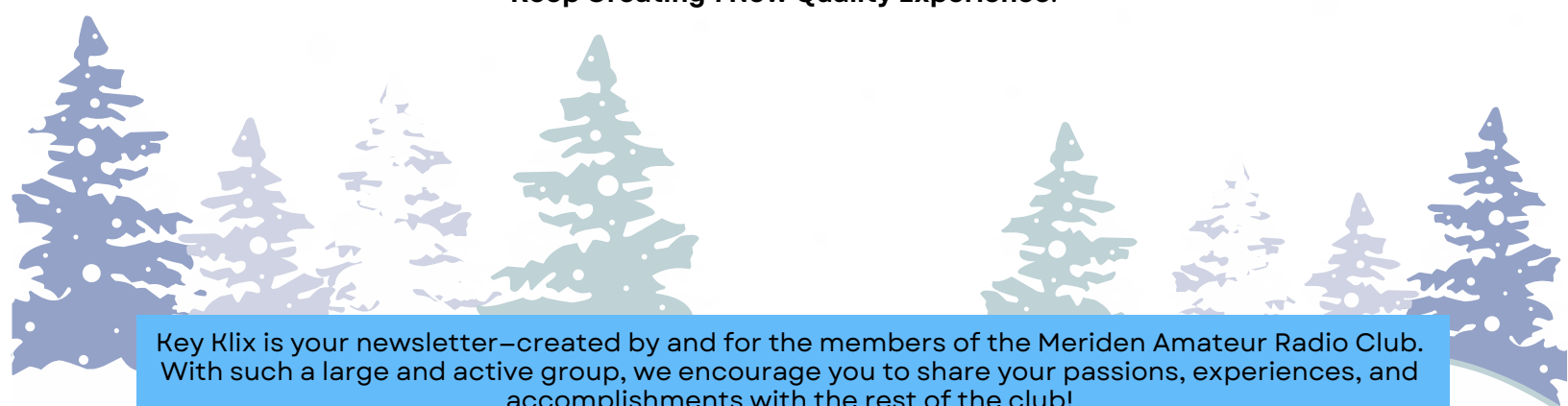
Yet, as new advances in technology and society emerge, it is clear that the scope of knowledge has grown beyond the capacity of any single human mind to grasp it all. This is where passion becomes our guiding light. Those who are driven by their love for a subject have the determination not only to learn but to accomplish, to dive deep and make meaningful contributions.

As members of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club, we embody this passion. Rooted in the timeless joy of communication and exploration, we are also adaptive to change, embracing innovations that enhance our ability to connect and grow. The tools of this era offer us endless possibilities, but the question remains: how will we use them?

Will we harness these advancements to learn more, teach more, and share more with our community? Will we inspire others to take their first steps into amateur radio or push the boundaries of what our club can achieve? Will we use our knowledge and skills to build bridges, create understanding, and foster kindness in an ever-changing world?

Let us move into 2025 with open minds, warm hearts, and the resolve to support one another in our passions and pursuits. Together, we can embrace the challenges and opportunities of this remarkable time, making our club a beacon of learning, respect, and friendship.

Here's to a year of discovery, inspiration, and meaningful connections. May our shared passion continue to drive us forward as we write the next chapter of our story together. Stay curious, stay kind, and
Keep Creating 1 New Quality Experience.



Key Klix is your newsletter—created by and for the members of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club. With such a large and active group, we encourage you to share your passions, experiences, and accomplishments with the rest of the club!

Please ensure your submissions are relevant to MARC activities or your personal ham radio journey. Including pictures is always a great idea—they help bring your story to life and engage readers.

Send your articles and photos to KeyKlix@w1nrg.com

EDITOR

SHAWN, KC1NQE

EDIT STAFF

Dave, K1WJL | Mike, KC1MJZ
Kristin, KC1ISI | James, AB1DQ | Rob, K1RCT

BIOGRAPHER

Bob, WB1GYZ

PHOTOGRAPHER

Ted, KC1DOY

CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH

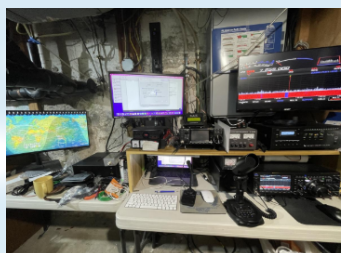
Steve, KC1SA | Dave, KC1PEN | Al, N1API | Ray, KC1QLS
Dave, NZ1J | Joe, N1LES

BY JAMES, AB1DQ

Autumn in New England means shorter days, cooler weather, gorgeous fall foliage and the lauded and lampooned return of everything pumpkin spice. In the world of ham radio, the fall season brings the start of contest season, and, with the trees bare of leaves, makes for an ideal time to raise new wire antennas or repair damaged antennas before the bitter cold days of winter set in. MARC members have been busy once again tweaking their antenna farms this fall.

Here's a brief look at what's been happening!

Constantino KA1BMF, newly licensed this August quickly upgraded to General Class in November. Constantino, with the help of his two sons, put up a Comet CX-333, 1090Mhz ADS-B, and 978MHz UAT. He reports he is leaving room for an AIS antenna that will point at New Haven Harbor.



Kevin N1NGV in Milford wrote to share that his HF antenna is an Ultimax Skywaver Loop. Kevin has been licensed since 1992 but recently upgraded from Tech to Extra and has caught the HF bug big time!. Kevin's biggest antenna limitation is that he lives on a small lot and also has an XYL that is very picky about what is visible to the world.

Kevin installed the Ultimax antenna that is rated for 5KW, so he can run his amp without fear of smoking the Balun. Kevin notes that at \$199, the Skywaver Loop is within reach of many hams' budgets.

Al N1API with several fellow hams who heeded his request for help, got his StepIR beam on his tower back on the air after dealing with vexing issues starting back in 2016 when Al was experiencing significant RFI and had to deal with the driver chips in his antenna controller blowing several times. In November 2023, Al decided to take the antenna down for repair and sent the controller out for repair for a second time.

This summer, Al and his antenna crew cranked down the tower and inspected the StepIR, the cables, the EHUs and other hardware to find that the beam was in good shape and there was no need to replace any EHUs.

The team carefully raised the tower pulling the fiberglass elements to their full lengths and installing heat-shrinking boots over each joint while standing the tower up. A final ground test proved the antenna to be functioning flawlessly with a very low SWR. Al has made many fine contacts in the log and expresses his gratitude to his antenna crew.





James AB1DQ spent his fall building and erecting a new EFHW antenna at his home QTH with the help of Rob K1RCT and his spud gun.

James hand-wound a 70uH loading coil that allows the antenna to resonate on a 200 kHz portion of the 80M CW band, in addition to the usual 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter coverage. He previously built a 49:1 un-un from a HFkits kit that was appropriated to this project



James has been on the air every day and has been enjoying making QSOs up and down the HF bands. James, who had been plagued with RFI woes lately, reports reduced noise with this new iteration of his EFHW, which also includes a Common Mode Choke made from 5 turns of RG8X through ferrite toroids mounted in a Davidoff cigar box where the feedline exits the shack.

FINALLY, A BLAST FROM THE PAST

During a recent thread on antenna projects on the club Groups.io page, **John N1GNV** reminisced:

Waaaayyy too many years ago, I seem to remember a strapping young lad (a relatively new ham and also in the bicycle business) who took two old bike frames, hoisted them up on a mast and fed them as a dipole.

He actually made some contacts with it, too! This was at MARC Field Day, early '90s, at Godek's Farm. I imagine that by now the strapping young lad has turned into a crusty old curmudgeon.

Rich WA1TRY located the evidence and provided us with a photo that is all the proof we need.



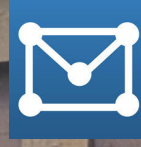
W1NRG MEMBERS

AA1EM	Kas	KC1DOY	Ted	KC1TSZ	Deb	N1YLN	Edward	WA1MAC	Paul
AB1DQ	James	KC1HFO	Johannis	KC1TTP	Jeff	N1YLO	Andrew	WA1RAB	Bob
AB1HB	Charlie	KC1HQX	Preston	KC1TWA	William	N1ZN	Jim	WA1SFH	Douglas
AB2T	Jordan	KC1IIK	Scott	KC1TYO	Ken	N2TAG	Dave	WA1TRY	Rich
AC1SK	George	KC1ISI	Kristin	KC1UJP	Jason	N7VGA	Dennis	WA1ZVY	Jim
AF1X	James	KC1KQH	John	KC1UJQ	Mark	NA1L	Dale	WB1DMK	William
K0OZ	Brian	KC1MJZ	Michael	KC1UJT	Michael	NA2AA	David	WB1DQT	Bill
K1BTR	Bryan	KC1NQE	Shawn	KC1VCU	John	NN1DX	Robert	WB1GFI	Stan
K1DMS	Dave	KC1NRD	John	KC1VJS	Anthony	NR1B	Bill	WB1GYZ	Bob
K1JCF	Joe	KC1NRQ	Bruce	KC1VQY	Michael	NT1S	Tyler	WB8IMY	Steve
K1LHO	Mike	KC1NUX	Steven	KC1VRG	Robert	NZ1J	Dave	WJ1B	Harold
K1LYP	John	KC1OCF	Karl	KC1VRL	Andrew	UT3UY	Anatoly	WV2LKM	Steve
K1MAL	Chris	KC1OCS	Richard	KC1VSO	Patricia	W1AJK	Andrew	WX1W	Mary
K1MMK	Michael	KC1OGL	Paul	KC1VUM	Matthew	W1BJG	Judy	WY1U	Tim
K1NEG	Nelson	KC1OWD	Kevin	KC1VVC	Joel	W1BRY	Donald		John B.
K1PET	Debbie	KC1OYN	Rick	KC2MLH	Adam	W1EDX	Paul		Michael C.
K1RCT	Rob	KC1OYR	Brent	KC3UKG	Storm	W1IKW	Iain		Bill F.
K1SCI	Stuart	KC1OYS	Jim	KD0BMW	Marty	W1LV	Steve		Lucas M.
K1SMD	Silas	KC1PBQ	Randy	KE1AU	Bob	W1NDT	Robert		Spencer R.
K1STM	Anne	KC1PEN	David	KE1AV	Dave	W1PRK	James		Michael R.
K1TDO	Todd	KC1PXX	Dave	KE2ECC	Phillip	W1RCI	Ron		
K1TGX	Jerry	KC1PYT	Jeff	KF6LU	Andrew	W1RWW	Bob		
K1UD	Butch	KC1QHO	Mike	KK7NLS	John	W1TK	Ron		
K1VDF	John	KC1QLS	Ray	KO1J	Randy	W1UFO	Mike		
K1WJL	Dave	KC1QWH	Steve	KO4EEL	Tom	W1UKX	Greg		
K1XJ	Kevin	KC1RBY	Sergio	KR1U	Bob	W1YSM	Ed		
K2RPM	Bruce	KC1RLQ	Eric	KS1WK	Seth	W2OFR	Mark		
K4AVM	Andrew	KC1SA	Stephen	KX1USA	Rob	W2TT	Ross		
K5ATA	Steve	KC1SDA	Richard	N0HIO	David	W3APC	James		
K5CYN	Cyndi	KC1SEN	Nicholas	N1AKN	Jeff	WA1BAR	Michael		
KA1BED	Bill	KC1SLV	Joshua	N1API	Al	WA1CCQ	Norman		
KA1BMF	Constantino	KC1STF	Julian	N1BRI	Brian	WA1CJA	Matt		
KA1JTG	James	KC1SYU	Jim	N1FNE	Rod	WA1EXA	Mark		
KA1YZC	Paul	KC1TAD	Tom	N1GNV	John	WA1FFT	Ray		
KB1APO	Jim	KC1TCO	Dee	N1GY	Geoff	WA1INC	Roland		
KB1CXK	Joseph	KC1TEV	Mark	N1HCA	Susan	WA1JKR	John		
KB1EHE	Eric	KC1THU	Mike	N1IBE	Wade	WA1K	Jack		
KB1FEX	Ken	KC1TKH	Bill	N1JEO	Joel				
KB1FGC	Rich	KC1TKY	Bob	N1JMX	Jeff				
KB1HAX	Bill	KC1TKZ	Mark	N1JRC	John				
KB1IFZ	Elsie	KC1TOV	David	N1LES	Joe				
KB1JL	Eric	KC1TPN	Rick	N1MOB	Dan				
KB1LWS	Jeanne	KC1TSG	Jim	N1NGV	Kevin				
KB1MFU	John	KC1TSK	Richard	N1NIS	Noah				
KB1RLF	Steve	KC1TSL	Charlie	N1OKF	Bob				
KB1TBL	Dave	KC1TSM	Ellen	N1OKR	Frank				
KB1TGS	David	KC1TSN	Chuck	N1OQC	Mike				
KB1TMC	Clare	KC1TSP	Dale	N1PHI	Patricia				
KB1TTV	Jonathan	KC1TST	Mike	N1PQQ	Greg				
KB1YFJ	Glenn	KC1TSW	Charles	N1QYB	Bill				
KC1BQP	Paul	KC1TSX	Mike	N1WCL	David				
KC1CAB	Frank	KC1TSY	Daniel	N1XXU	Andy				

WELCOMING THIS MONTH

KC1NRQ BRUCE
KC1VSO PATRICIA

CLICK THE ICONS BELOW TO JOIN FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE CLUB ACTIVITIES



MARC EMAIL FORUM
MeridenARC@groups.io
MeridenARC+subscribe@groups.io