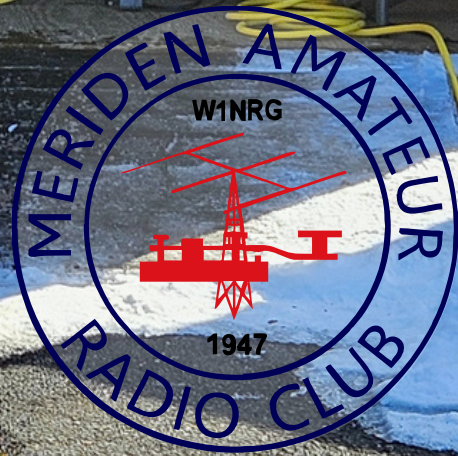
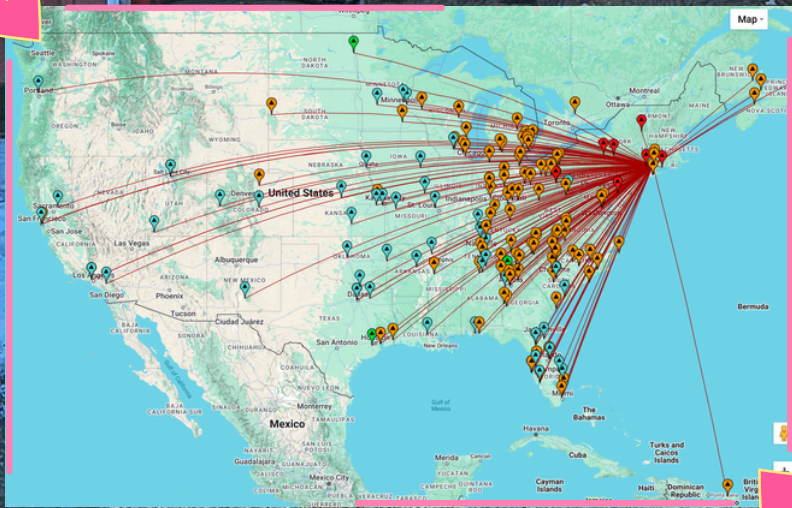


# KEY

# KLIX

Newsletter EST 1947

## FEBRUARY 2025







# KEY KLIX

Newsletter EST 1947

FEBRUARY 2025

[www.W1NRG.com](http://www.W1NRG.com)  
[KeyKlix@w1nrg.com](mailto:KeyKlix@w1nrg.com)

## 2025 CLUB OFFICERS

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

## ACTIVITY MEETING

Basic Electronic Circuits - On Zoom  
Thursday, Feb 27 7pm - 8pm  
Presenter : Dave, NZ1J  
Meeting ID: 925 1153 2783  
Passcode: 000377

## MEMBER DUES

[CLICK HERE](#) to pay your \$27 dues through the website. Or mail a check of \$25 to Meriden Amateur Radio Club at: PO Box 583 Meriden, CT 06450  
Contact Rick KC1OYN with questions at [treasurer@w1nrg.com](mailto:treasurer@w1nrg.com)

## WINTER FIELD DAY

Winter Field Day 2025 was a resounding success, even with the cold weather! The event kicked off with a review of the radio stations and general discussions led by Rob K1RCT, our Stations Activities Manager.

A big shout out to our fantastic operators this year: AB1DQ, K1DMS, K1LHO, K1LYP, K1RCT, KC1ISI, KC1NQE, KC1RLQ, W1BRY, N1XXU, K1PET, KC1QWH, and WA1JKR.

Special thanks to Rick KC1OYN and Jeff N1AKN for their help in setting up the event, ensuring everything ran smoothly.



Andy N1XXU

Deb K1PET



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Mike K1LHO, Joel KC1VVC, Bill NR1B

John K1LYP, Dave K1DMS, Don W1BRY





# WINTER FIELD DAY

No one went hungry, thanks to Ray, KC1QLS, and Dave, NZ1J, who kept everyone fueled with pizza, soda, cookies, and brownies. Their hospitality made the cold day feel a little warmer!

Together, the team logged an impressive **188 QSOs**. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making Winter Field Day 2025 a memorable and successful event. Here's to more great times on the air!



Dave K1DMS

Don W1BRY



Mike K1LHO

Dave NZ1J



Jeff N1AKN

Charles KC1TSL



Chris K1MAL

Eric KB1JL



Mike KC1THU, Ted KC1DOY, Dave NZ1J,  
Bob KE1AU, Bob WB1GYZ



## Saturday Mornings

January and February brought engaging and educational sessions to MARC, with hands-on demonstrations and exciting projects keeping members busy.



Bob KE1AU, George AC1SK, Dave NZ1J

On January 18, Dave NZ1J introduced his NanoVNA, explaining calibration, memory setup, and testing capabilities such as SWR, phase, and Smith Chart displays. Members were impressed by this powerful tool. Dave also continued guiding members through building two-transistor AM radios, helping improve confidence in circuit assembly, breadboarding, and soldering techniques.

The morning's show-and-tell featured Jeff N1AKN's classic 1940s rotary dial phone—sparking the question of whether modern kids would know how to use one—and Bob WB1GYZ's sextant, a historical navigation tool requiring skillful celestial sightings.



Bob KE1AU, Dave NZ1J



John KB1MFU, Dave NZ1J

February 1 continued the focus on the NanoVNA, with Dave demonstrating SWR testing and memory functions, further increasing interest in this pocket-sized device. AM radio projects also progressed, with new variable capacitors arriving for testing. Despite minimal instructions, members worked together to determine values and pinouts using Dave's capacitance meter.



Meanwhile, members in the radio room listened on 14.243 MHz, hoping to contact Eric KB1EHE and Elsie KB1IFZ on their DXpedition to Antarctica. Though no connection was made, anticipation is high for their return and stories from their adventure.



Dale NA1L

MARC's hands-on activities and live demonstrations continue to bring valuable learning experiences, and we look forward to more exciting projects in the months ahead!



**2025 IS SHAPING UP TO BE ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR MARC!**



## Activity Meeting Returns to In Person

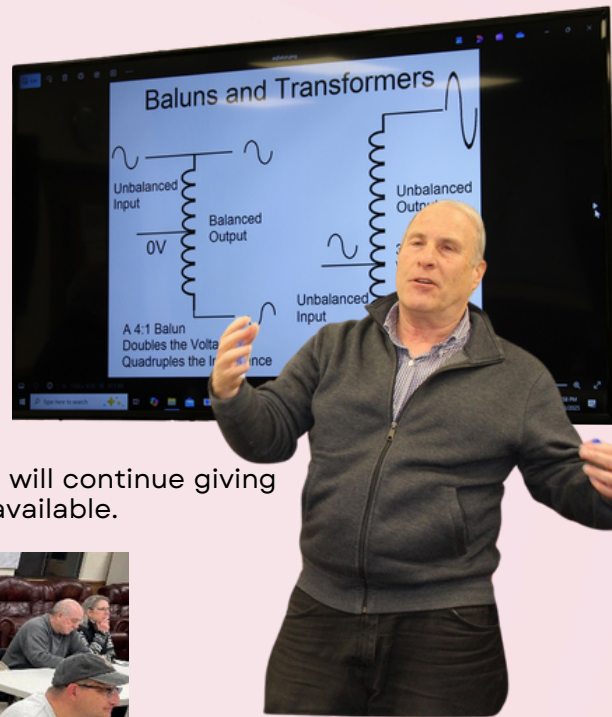
By Ted KC1OY

On Thursday, January 23, Dave NZ1J delivered a live presentation on antenna basics, covering the key considerations for designing, building, tuning, and understanding antenna operating characteristics. He emphasized the complexity of the topic, referencing the 1,000-page ARRL Antenna Book and other resources, yet provided a clear and accessible explanation of fundamental concepts.

Dave excelled at simplifying complex aspects of antenna operation, making the topic approachable and easier to follow for everyone in attendance. His ability to break down the material was a highlight of the session.

The live format proved particularly effective for this presentation. It allowed the discussion to flow dynamically, with questions from the audience answered in real time. When prepared slides were unavailable, Dave utilized the whiteboard to illustrate concepts, making the session interactive and engaging.

The attendees expressed enthusiasm for Dave's expertise and hope he will continue giving presentations on this topic whenever an activity meeting slot becomes available.



Dave NZ1J



## Donations to MARC

**We want to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who's recently donated to MARC.**

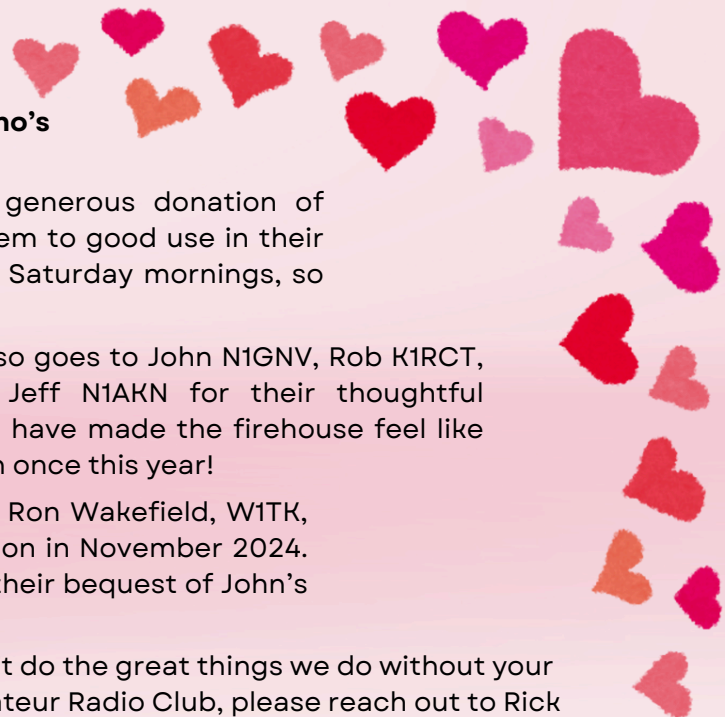
Special thanks to George, AC1SK, for his incredibly generous donation of electronic parts— several members have already put them to good use in their projects! Parts are usually available at the firehouse on Saturday mornings, so swing by, chat about circuits, and grab what you need.



A huge thank-you also goes to John N1GNV, Rob K1RCT, John WA1JKR, and Jeff N1AKN for their thoughtful contributions, which have made the firehouse feel like Christmas more than once this year!

A heartfelt thanks to Kate and Ron Wakefield, W1TK, for their generous \$500 donation in November 2024. Also to the family of W1DQ for their bequest of John's equipment.

Your kindness keeps our club thriving, and we couldn't do the great things we do without your support. If you'd like to contribute to the Meriden Amateur Radio Club, please reach out to Rick KC1OYN, for financial donations, or Rob K1RCT, for equipment contributions. Thank you!

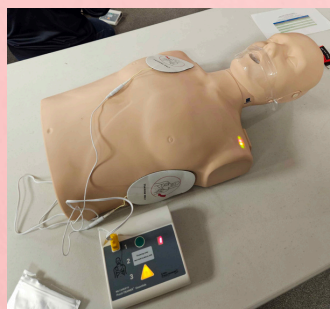




## HAM RADIO SIGNALS, CPR LIFELINES: WARG/CERT HAS GOT YOU COVERED



On January 8th Wallingford CERT held a CPR training for existing and soon to be WARG and CERT members. Taught by the Community Health Coord., Nina and Public Health Nurse, Anne.



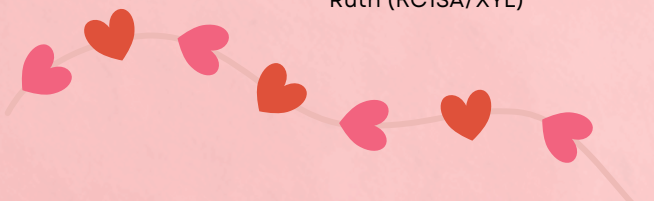
A student prepping to take the Tech exam



Chief Heidgard,  
Ruth (KC1SA/XYL)



Ruth & Steve, KC1SA



On January 8th Wallingford CERT held a Stop the Bleed training taught by Mike KC1VQY, along with instructors Lou Faugno, Greg Klaus, and Keith Schafer.



Mike, KC1VQY



Ruth & Steve, KC1SA





## DXPEDITIONS, CONTESTS & QSO PARTIES

### SOLAR Flux THIS MONTH->

Predicted solar flux at 165 and 160 on January 31 through Feb. 1, 155 on Feb. 2-3, 150 on February 4-6, 145 on February 7-8, 150 on February 9, 145 on February 10-12, 150 on February 13, 155 on February 14-15, 160 on February 16, and 165 on February 17-20.

#### SKCC Weekend Sprintathon

1200Z, Feb 8 to 2400Z, Feb 9

#### ARRL School Club Roundup

1300Z, Feb 10 to 2359Z, Feb 14

#### ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW

0000Z, Feb 15 to 2400Z, Feb 16

#### CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB

2200Z, Feb 21 to 2200Z, Feb 23

#### South Carolina QSO Party

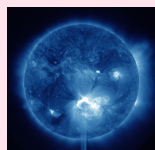
1500Z, Feb 22 to 0159Z, Feb 23

#### North Carolina QSO Party

1500Z, Feb 23 to 0100Z, Feb 24

#### North American QSO Party, RTTY

1800Z, Feb 22 to 0559Z, Feb 23



#### BIG SUNSPOT ALERT:

A sunspot complex more than 500,000 km wide is crossing the solar disk and crackling with solar flares. In the past 24 hours alone there has been one near-X flare and a half-a-dozen shortwave radio blackouts. This sets the stage for a week of potentially high solar activity.

Full Story as of 02/03/2025

#### YLRL YL-OM Contest

0000Z, Feb 13 to 2359Z, Feb 14

#### Our own Eric & Elsie in Antarctica!



More info in this link: [DXCC-All things DX](#)



#### SKCC - Straight Key Century Club

The SKCC Group is the fastest-growing straight-key Morse code club for CW enthusiasts worldwide.

[skccgroup.com](#)



#### Dx News

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

[dxnews.com](#)



#### 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](#)

#### 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 N1ZN at [N1ZN@arrrl.net](mailto:N1ZN@arrrl.net)



#### W1NRG Weekly Net Schedule

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



By Kristin KC1ISI



Vanessa Bautista, Director of Health

"To work in **partnership** with the community to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Wallingford...." This is the mission of the Wallingford Health Department (WHD) led by Vanessa Bautista, Director of Health.

When asked about how WHD relies on WARG Vanessa highlighted the role of this club in WHD's Emergency Management mission. "In emergencies, reliable communication is essential, and that's where WARG shines," she said. "Amateur radio operators provide a critical backup communication system when traditional methods fail. They ensure seamless coordination during emergencies, support shelter operations by maintaining communication between sites and responders, and enhance preparedness through participation in (CERT) drills and exercises."

Vanessa explained, "The relationship between WHD and the club started with Eloise Hazelwood and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Eloise, who was previously the Director of Health, recognized the need for comprehensive emergency management, the WARG and CERT were engaged to strengthen our communication and sheltering capabilities."

All the training and exercises were put to the test when WHD, the Red Cross, CERT and WARG worked together to open the OEM as a shelter after a fire displaced 40 residents 5 days before Christmas on December 20, 2023. "By pooling resources, expertise, and communication systems, we successfully ensured the safety and well-being of Wallingford residents," she recalled. It's clear that WARG will continue to be apart of Wallingford's emergency preparedness plans. "Together we're building a resilient and unified community ready to face any challenge," she affirmed.

As someone who has worked in local public health for 12 years, its clear to me that many people don't fully understand the role of their local health department. While this list isn't all inclusive, some of their key programs include:

- Environmental Health Services which consist of inspections of local food establishments, public swimming pools, child day cares, personal body care services and even your septic system to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations. They also respond to public health complaint and nuisance reports.
- Community health initiatives that consist of reportable disease surveillance and prevention, community education and outreach on topics such as food safety, environmental risks and health promotion. They are also involved in the investigation and remediation of elevated lead levels in children within the communities they serve.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response by developing and maintaining Public Health Emergency Plans and leading drills and exercise for emergency communication, sheltering, and vaccine/medicine distribution



If you'd like to contribute to the purchase of ARRL Technician Class Study Guides for veterans, you can donate in the following ways:

- PayPal: Use the club's [PayPal account](#).
- Check: Mail a check to MARC at P.O. Box 583, Meriden, CT 06450.
- In-Person: Hand cash to Rick KC1OYN at a club meeting.

Please be sure to indicate that your donation is for the Technician Study Guides so we can allocate your contribution accordingly. If you need a receipt for tax deductions one will be provided on request.

Thank you for helping us support our veterans!



The Meriden Amateur Radio Club (MARC) is pleased to announce its 2025 Frank Darmofalski Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was created in 2006 to honor one of the club's founders, Frank Darmofalski (W1FD), and awards a deserving club family member, or a Meriden or Wallingford High School senior who will be attending an institution of higher learning upon graduation. The amount of the scholarship in 2025 is \$1,000.00.

Visit [W1NRG.com](http://W1NRG.com) - [Click Here](#) - for more information and application





By Bob WB1GYZ

**Harold WJ1B**, was first licensed as KN1ZCK at 14, having been influenced by his grandfather, who was well-versed in early television electronics. He took and passed the Novice exam at the Waterbury Amateur Radio Club, acquired an EICO 723 and a Hallicrafters S-40 receiver, and was soon on-air. Harold's first VHF Radio was a Heathkit "Twoer," a 2-meter AM rig, which became known as the Benton Harbor Lunch Box.

Harold is an ardent contester and holds a number of operating awards e.g. First Place Sweepstakes Ct. Section, seven-band DXCC, seven-band WAS, and DXCC Challenge - 1,000 DX entities across all bands. He has also attained VUCC, the VHF-UHF Century Club, having worked 100 grids on 6 meters... and, Harold can also claim having worked 2600 parks.

Harold worked professionally at the League for eleven years as its Chief Operating Officer and publisher of QST. He still volunteers there and he is a member of the ARRL Board's Historical Committee.

When asked about his favorite mode of operating Harold was quick to mention that CW still is and has always been his favorite mode. He has a substantial collection of American straight keys, paddles, and bugs, having a special appreciation for McElroy telegraphic instruments.

His home station equipment consists of an Icom 7610 transceiver, an Elecraft KPA500 amplifier, and an Elecraft KTA500 tuner. Antennas consist of a Hexbeam on a 40-foot tower, an 80 / 40 dipole, and a Diamond VHF-UHF vertical.

Harold was a pioneer (1972) in Connecticut's fledgling cable industry, becoming VP of Valley Cable Vision, which became Telemedia. He was then recruited by SNET to help start SNET Americast. When Americast became SBC, Harold joined Connecticut Public Broadcasting as VP and CTO. Harold credits his ham license for "getting him in the door" at many of his jobs

Harold has been retired for eight years and now devotes more time to his favorite hobby. He feels the hobby will continue to grow using digital communications, especially through software implementation and experimentation. He also believes that emergency communications will continue to play a prominent role in Amateur Radio's future.

Even with his busy schedule, Harold found time for local politics. He is Chairman of the Cheshire Public Library Board and was previously elected to Cheshire's Planning and Zoning Commission. He is also a past president of Temple Beth David in Cheshire

Harold also taught electronics as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Hartford, Ward School of Engineering. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from UConn. He and his wife make their home in Cheshire.





## SUPPORT YOUR PARKS

By Mike KC1MJZ



I set out to reach the peak of Mt. Carmel for my first Summits On The Air (SOTA) activation, aiming to pull off a ham radio hat trick by also participating in the ARRL January VHF Contest and activating Sleeping Giant State Park for Support Your Parks weekend.

Unfortunately, the weather had other plans. A cold drizzle with steady wind forced me to pivot to a backup plan suggested by one of the club members who joined me. I set up my VHF cloverleaf array at the pavilion and attempted to activate the park from the slopes of Mt. Carmel. While I didn't get any QSOs on 2m SSB, I was able to work 2M FM with all the other club members in the park, including John, WA1JKR, who braved the cold drizzle to hike to the peak.

Bringing the VHF cloverleaf array with the intention of hauling it to the peak turned out to be overly ambitious—understandably so, as I had never visited the park before and wasn't familiar with the trails. Next time, I'll plan to take a lightweight, packable antenna for a proper SOTA activation.

As for the park itself, I found it to be perfect for group activities like ours. The club members who joined me made the day enjoyable, helping with setup and breakdown of antennas and masts and sharing great conversations about our shared hobby. The event flew by far too quickly, though it did take me a day and a half to fully warm up afterward!

Despite the challenges, the day was a success in its own way. I look forward to more adventures like this with M.A.R.C. club members and to finally reaching the peak of Mt. Carmel with a radio in hand.



K1RCT, NA1L, KC1EUM, NZ1J, N1ZN, N1NIS,  
KB1JL, NR1B, AB2T, KC1NQE



NU1U, KC1NQE, KC1STF, KC1MJZ, KC1QWH, K1RCT

On Sunday Jan 19th members gathered at Wharton Brook State Park (US-1728) to support the park by activating with each other on 2m simplex.



## TRACKING KC1SA

By Steve KC1SA



### KC1SA

Ruth and I have been all consumed with seeing the US in our Class C motorhome. The 'coach' was a new addition to us in 2023 and throughout 2024 we ventured out to see the USA. Our 2024 travels brought us to the Badlands, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse memorial, Devils Tower, breweries, distilleries, wineries and farms along the way. The coach was new to us so I did not bring any radio gear with us since there was just too much to learn about the motorhome. We had our mishaps including brake loss, so amateur radio really was not on my mind with our 2024 travels. 2025 will be different and with the year planned out the Kenwood TS-2000 and 2m radios are tagging along for the ride.

In 2025 travels have us traveling south to Georgia in the spring, followed by a few months off while some scheduled maintenance is done on the coach. A Maine trip will follow and then to upstate Vermont. Our trips will take up March, April, July and August with times varying from 1 to 3 weeks.

So what does this have to do with MARC? I am challenging members of MARC to hunt us down in the spirit of POTA. This will be like a QSO party but you don't have to do any logging, I will log contacts I make on my end. This should make things much easier for folks tracking us down and you just make a QSO if you hear us. As the dates get closer I will publish expected air times at locations. On multiday stops I will have the HF gear deployed while the overnight stops may just be a MARC repeater contact via Echolink (on my end, you listen on Echolink or the repeater).

A downloadable certificate will be made available for all club members making a QSO with us via HF or Echolink. Additional certificates will be awarded for; Most locations contacted, and Most number of contacts. Identifying the names of our location stop during the QSO (as a hint, the first stop will be at Cracker Barrel in Mt. Laurel New Jersey) will help resolve any ties. If you know the location name don't let that information out over the air; just send me an email at [KC1SA@arrl.net](mailto:KC1SA@arrl.net) the same day as our QSO. The town and state is not an ID, the name of the establishment is the ID. This will require you to hunt down on the internet our possible stop names. Hopefully this will be a fun and perhaps a challenging event to get MARC members on the air.



## FOLLOW

<https://kc1sa.com/w1nrg-tracking-kc1sa/>

### MARCH - APRIL

Mt. Laurel, NJ	This is a famous eatery
Franktown, VA	A defuncted horse farm
Kitty Hawk, SC	Multi-day stop at RV park
Mabane, NC	This is a brewery
Greenville, SC	Multi-day stop at RV park
Fountain Inn, SC	Niece's home on a golf course
Toccoa, GA	Multi-day stop at RV park
Hamptonville, NC	This is a Winery
New Market, VA	Multi-day stop at RV park
Mechanicsburg, PA	This is a brewery
Readington, NJ	This is a brewery

### JULY

Sturbridge, MA	This is an eatery
Lyman, ME	This is an eatery
Bar Harbor, ME	Multi-day stop at RV park
Lancaster, MA	Multi-day stop at RV park

### AUGUST

Charleston, NH	French-Indian War Historic Site
Newport, VT	Multi-day stop at RV park
Meredith, NH	This is a brewery





## KEY KLIX



The Monthly Newsletter of the Meriden ARC June 2009

### In This Issue

Report on May Activity

The Prez Sez

Sweepstakes SSB Pin

Striking Back at Lightning Stikes

Grid Dipper

The Big Move

Station Activities

CT Tour de Cure

Solar Activity or lack of same

Club Information page

### May Activity Meeting Well Attended

The May 28th activity meeting had a larger than average turn-out of club members. The subject was all about home electrical grounding. An excellent presentation was put on by Art Dutra from the Town of Wallingford Electric division. Art provided handouts to everyone, which included 60 pages covering home electrical wiring and grounding as well as Ham Radio related information regarding RF grounding and lightning protection.

Although not an Amateur Radio operator himself, he proved to be quite knowledgeable in the area of ham shack wiring, RF grounding and lightning protection. And his presentation was filled with many tips that most of us had never thought about.

For example, we should inquire at our local town's electrical division to insure that we actually do have on record an actual town inspection from it's electrical division. That is just one thing we take for granted. Should you have some kind of damage to your home that may be electric related like a fire, the first thing your insurance company will do is to check with you town to make sure your home was inspected and it's electrical system up to spec.

We were also treated to some interesting things regarding new and upcoming electrical requirements. One topic was "Inter-system" bonding. With today's proliferation of electronics, many of the IEEE requirements are being changed. Art went into detail about this soon to be required rules, where various systems, (Radio, Computer, and other electrical sub-systems) will need to be inter-connected (bonded) to a common ground.

And we found out how best to ground your antennas and shack. Did you know that it is best to provide at least two driven grounds rods? Probably so. However Art filled us in on the "proper" way to do it. For example, the multiple rods have to be a certain distance from each other, based on how deep they are into the ground. For example if you had three ground rods, each four feet long, they should be spaced from each other at about eight feet.

If you missed this activity, you missed a great one. Thanks Art.

### Secretary Report & Minutes of Meriden Amateur Radio Club May 2009

The business meeting opened at 1930 on May 14, 2009 with approximately 19 people in attendance. A quorum was present. VP Jim N1ZN presiding.

#### Announcements -

- Introductions.
- Next meeting is on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM - An activity meeting.

#### Secretary's Report -

- Accepted as published.

#### Treasurer's Report -

- Accepted as presented.

#### Contributions

- Scholarship \$22 from VE activity.
- Scholarship Jack Selmecki<sup>(99)</sup> donated a mechanical bug key. Funds realized to the scholarship fund.

#### Correspondence

- QSL cards

#### Scholarship (KE1AY)

- Application date is closed.

#### Reviewing for award.

#### Club Station & Facilities - (WA1TRY-SAM)

- See May Key Klix for SAM report.

#### In preparation for Field Day.

#### Club Activities & Program (KB1CIW-P&E Chair)

- A Boy Scout Jamboree will be held at the Orange Fairgrounds on May 15 to 17, 2009. A HF station will be set up but also use 147.36R if condx is not good. Listen to the repeater for contacts. About 3000 scouts are expected.

- May activity will be a talk by Art Bultra of Wallingford Electric on grounding. See May KK.
- June activity will be final prep Field Day. July activity will be on ARES.
- November SS-Phone pins and mugs are in and distributed.
- Please add your ideas and suggestions for activity meetings to the MARC Forum or contact KB1CIW.



You can find the full edition in our archive on W1NRG.com

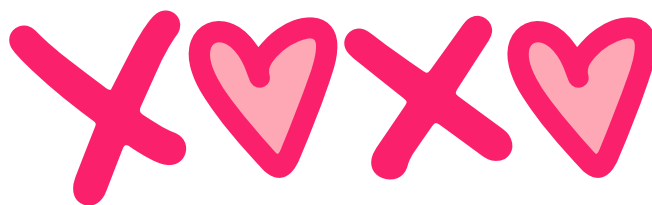


Key Klix - June 2009

This June 2009 KeyKlix edition covers the club's relocation from the second floor to the first floor of the OEM building on Washington St., due to financial constraints and legal compliance requirements. The move provided improved accessibility, including wheelchair access and handicapped-compliant restrooms, but came at the cost of significant downsizing. The new space was smaller, resulting in reductions to the radio shack, kitchen, storage, and library. Stricter security measures were implemented, requiring designated keyholders to oversee building access during events.

Despite the challenges, the club maintained access to vital resources such as the town truck, generators, and park for field days. The transition was framed as a necessary compromise, with gratitude expressed for the continued support of the town and OEM manager Ernie Frattini. Further updates were promised in subsequent editions of Key Klix.

We are lucky to have a great home in the Hopehill OEM!



THE MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB HAS A LONG, VAST, AND GROWING HISTORY. EACH MONTH A HISTORIC ARTICLE FROM OUR KEY KLIX ARCHIVE WILL BE FEATURED.

ORIGINAL EDITOR OF THIS EDITION BY RICH WA1TRY  
SELECTION OF THIS MONTH'S LEGACY BY DAVE K1WJL



By Ray KC1QLS



The seasons come and go, and as I sit to write this column, we will soon be counting the days till the start of spring. Like so much of what we experience each day, everything is relative.

- **Astronomical Winter** is based on the winter solstice, which is the shortest day of the year. In 2024 winter began on December 21 and will end on March 20, 2025.
- **Meteorological Winter** is based on the Gregorian calendar. It begins on December 1st and ends on February 28th, or February 29th in a leap year.
- **Thermological Winter** is based on average temperatures, making it earlier than the solstice definition but later than the daylight definition.

Quite honestly when I am standing outside in the cold with a shovel in my hand, winter is just winter, and I really could care less how it is defined.

But in terms of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club (MARC), it makes a big difference how we are defined. I like the following definition, but I apologize I do not know the source:

*“A ham radio club, also called an amateur radio club, is a community of individuals with ham radio licenses who gather to share knowledge, skills, and experiences related to amateur radio operation, often including activities like learning new techniques, participating in contests, organizing emergency communication drills, mentoring new hams, and socializing with other enthusiasts; essentially acting as a hub for the local ham radio community to connect and develop their hobby further.”*

MARC is comprised of both active and inactive members. I think it is safe to say that like most organizations, there are a larger number of inactive members than active members. The good news is that every member that has joined the club must find some benefit in doing so. Being a member is important to all of us. And as we all know, life's demands sometimes make it difficult, if not impossible, to find time for some of the more enjoyable hobbies that we might have.

What is important is that the club offer enough activities so when time allows, a member can look to the club and engage in an activity that interests them. Activities such as hands-on workshops, social events, community outreach projects, field day participation, and opportunities to learn new skills like digital modes or contesting, are just a few of the opportunities to keep us all engaged. Strategies to keep both the active and inactive membership engaged should include reaching out and listening to the membership (effective communication), providing a variety of accessible activities, and promoting learning and membership.

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.

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. Become involved or more involved than you might already be. Take part in an activity and/or volunteer to mentor a member or lead an activity.

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.**



## Happy Valentine's Day, MARC!

Valentine's Day has its roots in ancient Rome, evolving over centuries from a festival celebrating fertility and love into the modern tradition of expressing appreciation for those who matter to us. While it's often associated with romance, at its core, Valentine's Day is about connection –something we, as hams, should understand well.

Just like a well-tuned antenna or a solid QSO, a strong club is built on good connections. Whether testing equipment, troubleshooting a build, or just sharing ideas on any or all of our Social medias, every effort helps MARC stay active and engaged.

**Let's keep the momentum going 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](mailto:KeyKlix@w1nrg.com)

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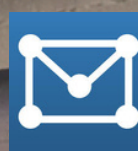
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K1TGX	Jerry	KC1PYT	Jeff	KE2ECC	Phillip	W1RCI	Ron		Craig S.
K1UD	Butch	KC1QHO	Mike	KF6LU	Andrew	W1RWW	Bob		
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K1XJ	Kevin	KC1RBY	Sergio	KO4EEL	Tom	W1UKX	Greg		
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KB1APO	Jim	KC1TCO	Dee	N1GNV	John	WA1FFT	Ray		
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KB1EHE	Eric	KC1THU	Mike	N1HCA	Susan	WA1JKR	John		
KB1FEX	Ken	KC1TKH	Bill	N1IBE	Wade	WA1K	Jack		
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KB1IFZ	Elsie	KC1TOV	David	N1JRC	John				
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KB1MFU	John	KC1TSK	Richard	N1NGV	Kevin				
KB1RLF	Steve	KC1TSL	Charlie	N1NIS	Noah				
KB1TBL	Dave	KC1TSM	Ellen	N1OKF	Bob				
KB1TGS	David	KC1TSN	Chuck	N1OKR	Frank				
KB1TMC	Clare	KC1TSP	Dale	N1OQC	Mike				
KB1TTV	Jonathan	KC1TST	Mike	N1PHI	Patricia				
KB1YFJ	Glenn	KC1TSW	Charles	N1PQQ	Greg				
KC1BQP	Paul	KC1TSX	Mike	N1QYB	Bill				
KC1CAB	Frank	KC1TSY	Daniel	N1WCL	David				

## WELCOMING THIS MONTH

KC1VZI BRUCE  
LEONARD G.  
LLOYD S.  
CRAIG S.

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



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