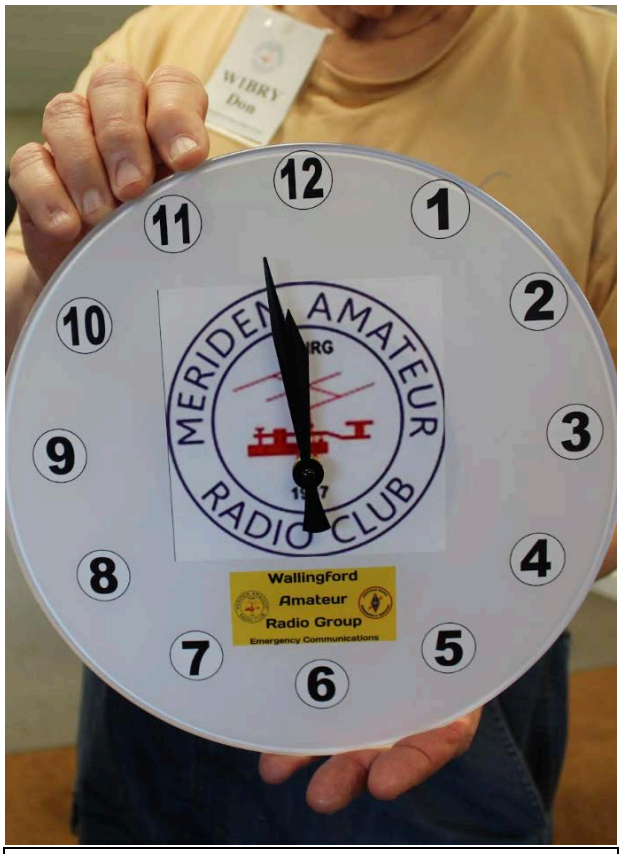
Key Klix June 2025

The Monthly Q-S-T *de the*

MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB & WALLINGFORD AMATEUR RADIO GROUP

"It's the Radio News that's fun to use"



HEY KIDS, WHAT TIME IS IT? It's time to 'play radio' at the OEM, of course! Don, W1BRY displays his MARC/WARG Clock. See more on page 19

INSIDE THIS *TIMELY* ISSUE:

Your 2025 Club Officers are:

President	KC1QLS	Ray Cirmo
Vice President	NZ1J	Dave Tipping
Treasurer	KC1OYN	Rick Becker
SAM	K1RCT	Rob Cichon
Secretary	AB1DQ	Jimmy Surprenant

WallingFord Amateur Radio Group
Emergency Communications

THE PRESIDENT'S POST

by Ray, KC1QLS

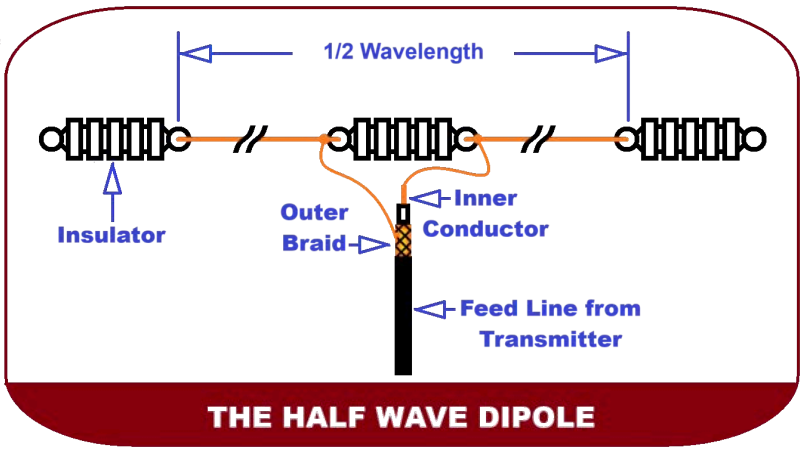
I remember getting started in amateur radio and passing the Technician exam. With that milestone behind me, I chose to dive right into the General and Amateur Extra exams and start dreaming about my first rig. Looking at radios on the internet was great fun, but I found the task of choosing an antenna somewhat overwhelming. When choosing an antenna, take the time to understand your specific needs.

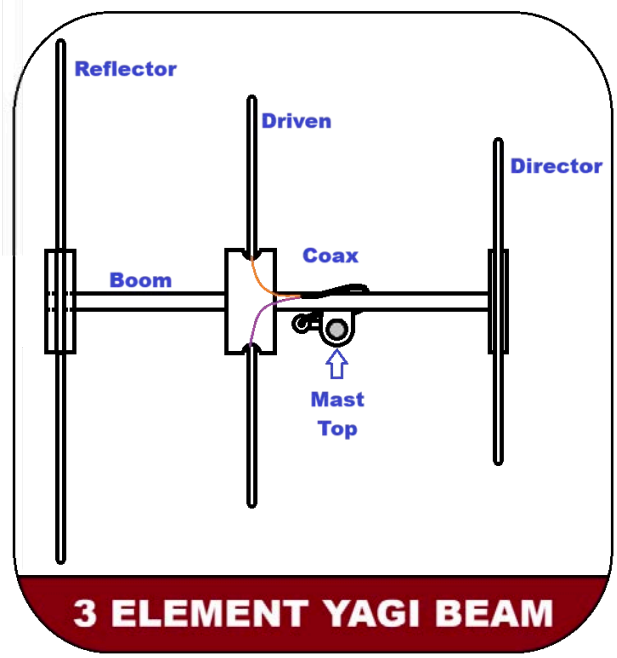
Key points to consider should include:

- **Frequency bands you want to use** - Different antennas are designed for specific frequency bands (HF, VHF, UHF).
- **Space constraints** - How much space do you have to mount an antenna,whether it's horizontally or vertically?
- **Gain** - Higher gain antennas provide better signal strength, but may be more directional.
- **Radiation pattern** - Consider the direction you want to focus your signal.
- **Mounting options** - How will you mount the antenna (on a roof, tower, or vehicle)?
- **Durability** - Choose an antenna that can withstand weather conditions.

Common antenna types for ham radio include:

- **Half-wave dipole** - A simple, versatile antenna that works well for most HF bands, good for beginners.
- **Vertical antenna** - Useful for mobile operations or when a good ground plane is available.
- **Beam antenna (ex., Yagi)** - Offers directional control, allowing you to focus your signal towards a specific location. A Yagi is a high-gain directional antenna, good for long-distance communication.
- **End-fed half-wave antenna** - Can be easily mounted in limited space, often used for multiple bands.





With all that said, if you have the space, starting with a simple half-wave dipole might make the most sense. It is easy to build and provides good performance on multiple bands. Quite honestly, you may find it to be the only antenna you will ever need.

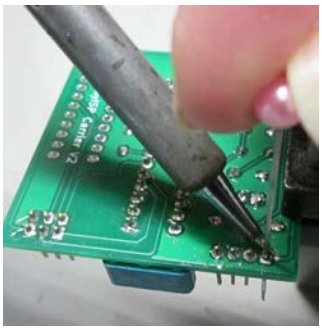
There are lots of club members who have been on the air for quite a long time. Seek their advice to choose an antenna that would best suit your needs and operating conditions.

All of the officers are here to serve as caretakers of the club. When you see one of the club officers, make it a point to reach out and give them your comments and ideas to help focus the direction of the club. Every member has an equal say/vote in what you want the club to be.

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 seen on the Interwebs...

Tips & tricks for the budding kit builder



Do you enjoy time at the workbench assembling kits, scratch building, or perhaps modding/servicing or repairing your radio gear?

Bob WB1GYZ recently came across the personal ham radio blog of John Clements, KC9ON, an Extra Class Op from Michigan where he posted 15 must-know tips & tricks for the builder. John also has some basic DIY kits available for sale on his site, 3rd Planet Solo.

Check it out: https://kc9on.com/ham-radio/tips-and-tricks

***Resistance** may be futile,*
*but **capacitance** has potential.*

Minutes of the May 8 Business Meeting

The following minutes of the May 8, 2025, MARC Business Meeting will be moved for approval at the June 12 Meeting.

Club secretary AB1DQ Jimmy confirmed a quorum:
Membership per May 2025 Roster: 198
Minimum for Quorum: 20 = 18 members + 2 Officers
Attendance: 33 = 28 members + 5 Officers

In Attendance:

- **Officers:** KC1QLS, Ray Cirmo [President]; NZ1J, Dave Tipping [Vice President]; KC1OYN, Rick Becker [Treasurer]; K1RCT, Rob Cichon [Station Activity Manager]; AB1DQ, Jimmy Surprenant [Secretary]
- **Members:** AC1TY, Andy Rudczynski; K1LHO, Mike Ash; K1LYP, John Yusza; K1TDO, Todd Olsen; K1VDF, John Blevins; KB1EHE, Eric Knight; KB1IFZ, Elsie Mathews; KB1JL, Eric Olsson; KC1DOY, Ted Renzoni; KC1KQH, John R Kasinskas; KC1TSG, Jim Drexler; KC1TSM, Ellen Cosgrove; KC1TSX, Michael J Barile; KC1VRG, Robert E Shemo; KE1AU, Robert E Kaczor; N1API, Al Kaiser; N1BRL, Bart Toftness; N1GNV, John Bee; N1LES, Joe Murray; NR1B, Bill Huggins; W1BRY, Don Chepurna; W1EDX, Paul J Stasieluk; W1YSM, Ed Snyder; W3APC, Jim Cook; WA1VY, Jim Martin; WB1GFI, Stanley C Hiriak; WB1GYZ, Bob Biancur; WV2LKM, Steve Waldmann.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. EDT by Club President KC1QLS, Ray.

Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: AB1DQ, Jimmy, moved that the April business meeting minutes emailed to the club membership be approved without changes.
SECONDED **DISCUSSION:** None **VOTED:** Approved.

Secretary's Report, by AB1DQ Jimmy

- There are no new applicants for membership this month.
- Membership Report: The club now has 198 members.
- Correspondence: None.
- Questions for the Secretary: None.

Treasurer's Report by KC1OYN, Rick:

MOTION: KC1OYN, Rick moved that the April Treasurer's Report emailed to the club membership be approved.
SECONDED **DISCUSSION**: None **VOTED:** Approved.

Rick highlighted several items from the Treasurer's Report, including:

- A correction was made to last month's reporting of Donations in support of the Technician License Manuals for Disabled Veterans program, when it was erroneously reported that KC1TYO, Ken, donated $25. His generous donation was $50, and we regret the error.
- Additional donations from W1YSM Ed, N1PHI Trish, and WA1FFT Ray were also noted. To date, we have received $175 towards the manuals for disabled veterans.
- A reminder that members changing their callsign or contact information should notify Rick so he may update the club member database he maintains as Treasurer.
- K1RCT Rob, as station activity manager, has purchased two VHF/UHF mobile mounts and antennas for $90 against his monthly SAM allotment. The antennas will be installed on the OEM trailer to serve the Town of Wallingford CERT Team and MARC during deployments per Joe Murray's request.

(Continued, next page...)

- Rick is waiting for receipts from KC3UKG Storm and K1RCT Rob for the Dreamhost Website Hosting package and annual Zoom contract.
- A request for help, looking for someone to compile and maintain a list of leftover supplies from any event, and whatever excess supplies we currently have that we can use for future events (ie, coffee, tea, soda, napkins, stirrers, etc). These items would need to be made available as events occur. Such a list would help prevent repurchasing things we already have on hand.

Questions for the Treasurer:

Q: To whom should checks be made out for donations? [de K1EHE]
A: MARC, The Meriden Amateur Radio Club [de KC1OYN]

Station Manager's Report by K1RCT, Rob:

Rob highlighted several items from the Station Activities Manager's Report, including:

- NZ1J Dave has assisted in getting the HF gear aligned and set for digital modes for both stations.
- ARRL Engineering Manager W1GKS George Spatta loaned the League's Yaesu FTM-400 control head to us on April 24 for adjusting our repeater parameters to reduce the deviation previously observed. K1MAL Chris and N1LES Joe visited the repeater site on April 25 and adjusted the repeater parameters successfully. The control head was returned to George at ARRL on April 28.
- Two VHF/UHF mobile mounts & antennas were purchased from QuickSilver for $45 each, using the SAM discretionary fund. The mounts will be used on the OEM trailer as requested by N1LES Joe. These will serve the Town of Wallingford CERT Team & MARC during deployments.
- Participation in weekly MARC nets was noted.
- The BuddiPole System donated by the estate of Paul Ciezniak K1SEZ-SK, which was loaned to KC1SA Steve for the Great Outdoors Event (Rove) in February 2025, was returned in April.

Questions for the S.A.M.:

Q: What is the availability of Yaseu FTM 400 control heads? [de N1GNV]
A: While you can buy the complete radio from some sources, Yaseu no longer makes or sells the radio. The control heads are not available as a separate item [de K1RCT]
Q: Are there alternatives to the FTM 400 control head, and will we regret not buying one now? [de N1GNV]
A: We are on the lookout for one [de N1GNV]
It needs to be the FTM 400, it's the only hardware that will work [de N1LES]

Standing Committee Reports - No reports given

Old Business

MARC License Review Class Update [de AB1DQ]

MARC's 2nd General License Review Class wrapped up last week. Our class of 8 Techs is ready to sit for Element 3 at this Saturday's VE session. Congratulations & good luck to our students: KC1VUL Elizabeth, KC1VUS Barry, KC1VZI Joe, KC1VUM Matt, KC1TSY Dan, KC1VVC Joel, KC1NRD John, and KC1QWH Steve.
Thanks to our teachers and volunteers: AB1DQ Jimmy, K0OZ Brian Bocuzzi, K1LYP John, KB1EHE Eric, KB1IFZ Elsie, NR1B Bill, and NZ1J Dave

New Business

Technician Class – Fall Dates 2025 [de AB1DQ]

The confirmed dates for the fall Technician license class are the Tuesday nights starting on 09/09/25 and running through 11/18/25. Classes will be held at the OEM from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. We are working on enhancing our curriculum by incorporating more hands-on activities. Members interested in teaching or volunteering to support the class should email james@ab1dq.com.

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Nutmeg Hamfest Updates [de WB1GFI &, N1GNV with AB1DQ]

- This year's hamfest will be held at Maloney HS on Sunday, 10/12/25, and volunteers are sought to help out. If interested, email Ed at W1YSM@arrl.net or Stan, W1GFI@arrl.net.
- Nutfest continues to contribute to MARC, recently donating $1,000 to the 2025 Scholarship fund and up to $1,000 to purchase Chromebooks for digital VE sessions.
- The planning committee is currently working on lining up speakers for the Nutfest. Planned programs include POTA, Winlink and ARES, and the Technician Symposium.
- Volunteers who wish to present are sought. Possible topics of interest include satellites, digital modes, and fox hunting. Contact Stan if there is a topic you are knowledgeable in and wish to present.
- Exhibits from last year included POTA, a GO-KIT! Competition, CW demo, and the ARRL CT Region update.
- This year, we are planning a featured "Technicians' Symposium," a 2-hour, 4-session program intended to help newer hams get on the air and to get the most out of their licenses. Planned sessions currently include 10 Meters for the Technician, Getting the most out of local repeaters and nets, VHF/UHF Satellite ops, and Why upgrade to General.
- Anyone interested in volunteering or sharing ideas for the Tech Symposium should email james@ab1dq.com.

Field Day Planning [de NZ1J]

- There are seven weeks to go, and there is a distinct energy observed in recent weeks as club members are gearing up for Field Day. Several members have been upgrading their licenses, purchasing radios, and getting their stations configured for FT8. There has been much activity on Saturdays at the OEM as members are learning and becoming comfortable operating digital as well as voice modes from the club station.
- The stated goal is to reverse the trend of dwindling FD participation observed in recent years. Previously, MARC would see @ 20 members participating and making 2,000 contacts, but in recent years, we've only had @ 7 ops making about 200 contacts.
- Now is the time to hone your skills for Field Day so you don't show up unprepared. All members are invited to participate and are encouraged to come to the OEM on Saturdays or show up at a club POTA activation in the weeks leading up to FD. Dave NZ1J will gladly meet you and help you get on air.
- We will be operating as 2F, with a GOTA station and VHF-FM simplex, providing plenty of space for members to operate around the clock throughout Field Day.

Questions:

Q: Can we operate DMR on Field Day? [de K1TDO]

A: Yes, in simplex mode. However, we are focusing on preparing for and scheduling operators for the traditional modes first. [de NZ1J]

Announcements

- Communications Committee [de KC1QLS]

  Changes have been made to the Outreach and Communications Committee. Please note that NZ1J Dave will be sending out weekly club email communications, AB1DQ James will be editing KeyKlix, and KC3UKG Storm will be maintaining the website.

Ham Radio Club Activities [de NZ1J]

- The club's sole focus is on preparing for Field Day, as previously discussed.

Open Forum

- NZ1J Dave suggested the possibility of having a club auction, including the sale of duplicate books in the club library, and having a tag sale for members to participate in. There was expressed interest in the idea, and discussion included when a good time to schedule a sale event, whether at Field Day set up, or another time. [de NZ1J, K1RCT, others]
- KB1EHE Eric shared that UT3UY Anatoly, our member in Kyiv, Ukraine, writes saying he enjoys following the club activities, particularly our democratic process of choosing our new leadership during the election last November. Due to the time zone difference between Kyiv and CT, he regrets not being able to participate in regular club events. [de KB1EHE].

Adjournment

MOTION: KC1QLS, Ray moved at 7:51 PM EDT that the club, now having completed our business for the month, the May 2025 business meeting should adjourn.

SECONDED **DISCUSSION**: None **VOTED**: Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM EDT.

Report from the first MARC paperless VE Session

On Saturday, May 10, MARC held its first paperless VE session when nine individuals looking to earn their Technician ticket or upgrade their existing license served as our VE Team's 'guinea pigs.'

MARC is affiliated with the ARRL VEC, which has mandated that all organizations administering license exams through their office go paperless by the end of 2025. The technology for secure online testing has been available for recent years, and offering exams and processing license applications online can save an immense amount of paper, which is good for the planet and good for the budget.

Bill Huggins, NR1B, and Jim Savage, NZ1N, did an exceptional job laying the foundation for MARC to make the switch. By all accounts, things went smoothly at our first digital VE session despite a few minor hiccups encountered as we all jumped in feet first for the inaugural digital exam session.

When asked his opinion about the first digital VE session and the benefits of moving to digital testing, Jim N1ZN commented, "It went well. It eliminated about six separate pieces of paper and multiple signatures from the VEs. Everything was generated by the software and uploaded to the ARRL, which eliminated my mailing the paperwork and speeding up the process."

The new process requires both VEs and examinees to register online at ExamTools.org. Once registered in the system, persons looking to take a license exam can search for and register for an upcoming local VE Session. Candidates are issued a PIN, which they need to bring to the VE session along with their ID and $15 examination fee.

Once checked in at the VE Session, each examinee is given a Chromebook tablet on which they take the exam, doing away with No. 2 pencils, paper exam booklets, and answer sheets. MARC is grateful to the Nutmeg Hamfest for donating six Chromebooks to the club for use in our VE Sessions.

While the examinees are taking their tests, the VEs are able to monitor their progress on their laptops. After a candidate completes their exam, they route it for grading, which is done automatically by the software, and once graded, 3 VEs certify the passing grade. The license applications are electronically batched and transmitted to the ARRL VEC after the VE session concludes.

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AB1DQ, N1BRL, K0OZ, K1LYP, and N1API joined Jim and Bill as VEs. After the session concluded, Bill led a debriefing session so the VE team could share thoughts and impressions on what went well and where we can improve.

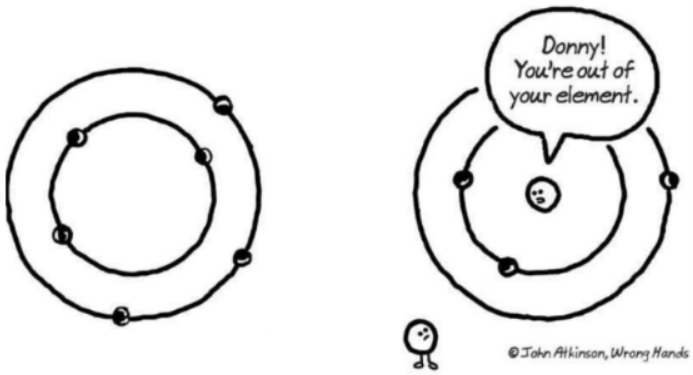
Jim encourages all accredited VEs in the club who wish to participate in future VE Sessions to "Get registered on ExamTools. This is the only way you can participate as a Volunteer Examiner."

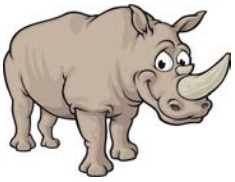
Our next VE Session is scheduled for Saturday morning, June 14 at 9:00 AM at the OEM.

LEFT: VEs Jim N1ZN & Bill NR1B. CENTER: VEs John K1LYP & Bart N1BRL. RIGHT: Examinees Dan KC1TSY & Joel KC1VCC

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. Exams are now paperless and require obtaining a PIN from www.examtools.org prior to the test date.
For more information, contact Jim N1ZN at N1ZN@arrl.net





10 Parks in One Day

MARC *members bag a* POTA *Rhino!*

A first-hand account by NR1B, NZ1J and KC1TSG

Parks on the Air, or POTA, has become a global phenomenon and remains extremely popular with club members, and more than ten MARC members are very active participants. One element that contributes to its popularity is its award program. Shawn, KC1NQE, has earned an award for activating every POTA park in Connecticut. Paul, W1EDX, has earned an award for making contact, or 'hunting', more than 7,000 parks. For this feat, Paul is sometimes known as the Great POTA Hunter.

This May, a group of members activated 10 different parks in one day, earning the POTA Rhino class Rover award. Inspired by South African operator, Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE, POTA Rover is a series of awards for activating a specific number of unique parks in a single UTC day.

MARC member, Bill, NR1B, explained, “Named for animals indigenous to the African continent, the six defined POTA Rover award levels, and the number of parks needed to be activated in a single UTC day are:

Warthog	5 activations	**Ostrich**	20 activations
Rhino	10 activations	**Leopard**	25 activations
Cheetah	15 activations	**Lion**	30 activations”

Several club members had earned the 'Rover Warthog Award', and Bill challenged them with the idea of stretching a rove to ten parks, earning them the 'Rover Rhino Award'.

Bill, NR1B, Dave, NZ1J, and Jim, KC1TSG, set out for a ten-park rove on May 19th. The team used Bill's station, which has worked well and has proven to be quick to assemble and disassemble. In short order, the team was organized and could efficiently (quickly) get to a park, set up the station, spot the activation on the POTA website, make the required ten QSOs, break down, and move on. In one final nod to efficiency, Bill asked that the team all pack lunches, rather than stop to get lunch along the way.

The day turned out to go very smoothly and was a lot of fun. A few hunters followed the team on their travels and called them at several of the parks they activated. Other club members followed the rovers as well, and team members Andy, N1XXU, and Debbie, K1PET, made park-to-park QSOs with the team. Ray, KC1QLS, got in under the wire and was the final QSO of the day.

Recently licensed new ham and club member Jim, KC1TSG, said, “This was the highlight of my relatively brief ham experiences. I'm now motivated to hit the road again for more multi-park rove.”

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When asked more about his impressions of the day's activity, Jim further shared that "it wasn't just the act of activating 10 parks in less than 8 hours. The camaraderie of the all-day event with the two other activators, Dave NZ1J and Bill NR1B, also played a huge part in the overall experience."

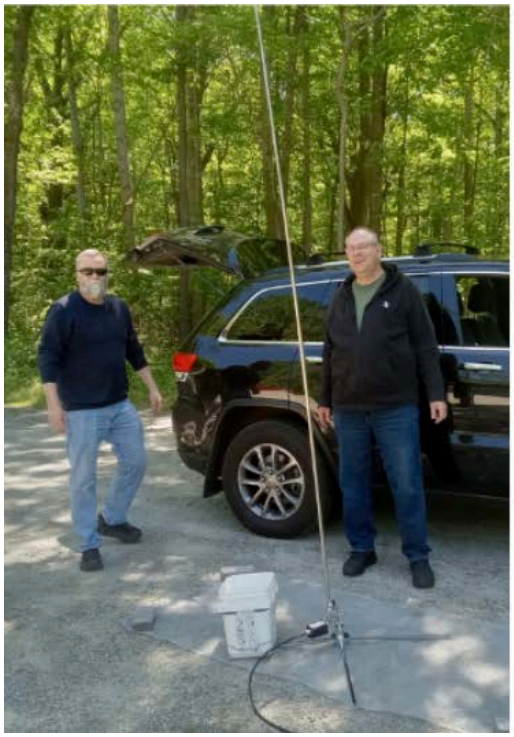
Jim also shared two pieces of advice for other prospective Rover Award seekers regarding antenna choices and prior planning. Regarding antenna choices, Jim emphasized that the choice of a proper antenna is a definite consideration for those thinking about doing the 10 park rove.

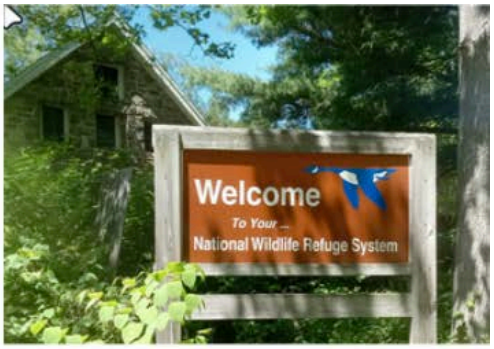
"The 17-foot telescoping whip with some kind of tri or quad pod mount set on an aluminum screen as a counterpoise would likely be the fastest to deploy and break down, as time is at a premium. Ideally, you should be in and out of each park in no more than 30 minutes."

He also recommends that mapping out a realistic route in advance, choosing a good weather day, and getting an early start will all contribute to a successful rove. Jim says, "As with any other POTA activation, choose an open frequency, spot yourself, and have fun!"

The statistics for the day were: 10 parks and 147 QSOs per team member, in under nine hours.

According to Dave, NZ1J, "This adventure seems to have sparked some interest. More park activations, by more club members, and more roves, seem quite likely."





After earning the Rhino achievement, when asked what was next, Bill, NR1B, stated he has his eyes on putting together Team Ostrich. **GOOD LUCK, MARC POTA ROVERS!**

MARC at Dayton 2025

W1YSM, NA1IL & N1GNV *share some impressions*

Club member and former president, Ed Snyder, W1YSM, was asked to speak at the ARRL donor recognition reception at the National amateur radio convention in Xenia OH on Thursday, May 15.

ABOVE:L-R Phil Karn, KA9Q, Founder, Director & President, Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC); Ed Snyder, W1YSM, MARCONI founder and director; David Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL District Director; and Kevin Beal, K8EAL, ARRL Director of Development stand before the plane that served as Air Force One that brought the slain body of President Kennedy back to Washington from Dallas on 11/22/63.

Ed spoke about his journey through amateur radio and specifically the development of the MARCONI program to support higher activity clubs acting as an Elmer to a lower activity amateur radio club, in the hopes of increasing the number of active amateur radio clubs.

Approximately 150 people attended the reception made up primarily of individuals who had made philanthropic contributions to the ARRL Foundation in support of scholarships and other ARRL member services. The reception was held at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum in Dayton.

The historic aircraft that served as Air Force One on 11/22/63 (see photo) and many many other aircraft are housed in that museum. Ed remarked, “It was an honor and a privilege to speak to this group and to discuss the MARCONI program which the Meriden Amateur Radio Club has fostered and is continuing to use to enhance amateur radio club activities around the state of Connecticut.”

Ed will be presenting at an activities meeting on the MARCONI program in the future because it is as he puts it “still a work in progress.”

Member Dale Clift, NA1L, was also at Dayton 2025 where he was asked to participate in the Ham Radio and the Law Forum, where he addressed current issues involving nonprofit status for clubs.

Dale admitted his contribution was “not as “sexy” as the latest litigation and legislative efforts to address restrictive zoning limiting towers and antennas,” but was well received. One of his co-presenters claimed that Dale had his audience “in the palm of his hand.”

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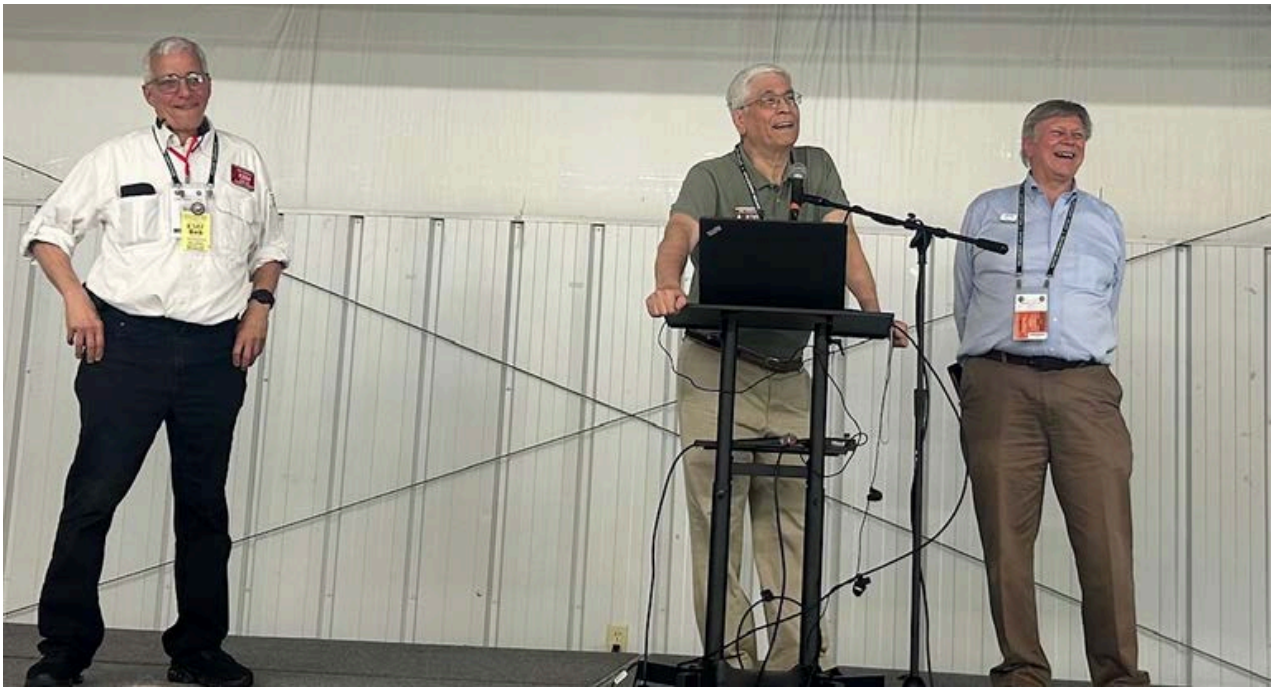
Dale did say that he enjoyed the forum and he allowed “no one needed to be revived from a coma and I got a slew of questions - especially from a few ham accountants after the presentation.”

Asked for his observations, Dale shared “Dayton Hamvention is like no other. The one criticism is that if you have been to Dayton, every convention attended thereafter pales in comparison.” Dale shared the following photos from the national hamfest…

ABOVE LEFT: “Anyone want to buy a classic cw bug? ABOVE RIGHT: This guy has a travel trailer that was RF amazing! No room for amenities though so he must sleep in his car! BELOW: Three “ham attorneys” - Bob Famiglio K3RF; Fred Hopengarten, K1VR; and yours truly sharing a lighter moment at the legal forum. *Photo credit: NA1L*



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What happens in Xenia stays in Xenia?

From early accounts, Hamvention 2025 delivered the goods for those who made the pilgrimage this year. But for some of us who didn't make it to Xenia, we are left a bit curious about what ***"Old Timer Dirty Dog"*** N1GNV had going on at the QuickSilver Radio booth. The Smokin' Ape's recent post-hamfest live YouTube stream raises more questions than it answers. Click HERE to go directly to the relevant commentary.

When reached for comment, John shared that "as always, Dayton was busy, busy, busy – we were going pretty much non-stop all day Friday and Saturday, and still hopping on Sunday.

"The weather turned out much better than predicted, and I'm sure that helped with turnout. In fact the Hamvention just reported record attendance this year of 36,814. It's far and away the biggest Hamfest in the US.

"Like every year, we were so busy that I barely managed to sneak out for a minute to "return the rental coffee", so I really had no time to actually walk around the show. But in talking with some other vendors, it was generally agreed that it was a wonderful show. Lots of folks are really excited about, and having fun with, Ham Radio.

"Every Ham should make the trip at least once. Start planning now to attend next year's show on May 15-16-17 2026!"

And, to put your curiosity to rest, below is the Quicksilver 2025 Dayton team… congrats on a great show John & company!

Cigar Box Radio by AB1DQ

A Recap of the May Activity Meeting

AB1DQ explains how he used shallow standoffs to fit an accessory board to the Bayou Jumper main PCB to fit in a chosen cigar box.

The MARC Activity Meeting for Thursday, 22 May 2025, was one of the best yet. Jimmy Surprenant AB1DQ displayed his collection of cigar box radio projects and gave a very interesting talk about them and about radio project building in general. Cigar boxes make great enclosures for any type of project.

His presentation covered a number of "how-to" topics and emphasized the importance of planning and documentation both before and during the build process. On display were a number of his project builds, both homebrew and kits. Another interesting aspect was where to obtain empty cigar boxes for your projects. Wink wink. Jimmy has a surplus of boxes and is willing to share with members interested in having one for their project.

The presentation was dedicated to his grandfather Matthew, whom he regarded as his first 'elmer.' Though he never held a ham ticket, his grandfather had studied radio & TV repair via a DeVry correspondence course and kept all of his workbooks in his basement electronics workshop along with his tools, test equipment, and boxes of salvaged parts. Jimmy recalled, "That workshop was a great place to waste time while growing up, as I was neither good at sports nor was I confident enough to speak to girls." He added, "My grandfather was a cigar smoker and kept hundreds of cigar boxes, which provided an abundant source of chassis for my earliest scratch builds."

This was a fun and interesting way to spend a rainy night at the OEM. Monthly activity meetings are one of the best parts of belonging to a great club like MARC. I encourage everyone to take the time to seek out club activities that you find interesting and to support our fellow members who give presentations. Don't hesitate to share your interests and expertise by hosting an activity meeting. I hope to see you at the next meeting! *Article & photos by Ted KC1DOY*

LEFT: Some of Jimmy, AB1DQ's cigar box radio creations.

BINARY SUDOKU SOLUTION

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Sources for Radio Kits

Jimmy, AB1DQ, highlights some of his favorite kits as showcased at the May activity meeting:

FOUR STATE QRP GROUP https://www.4sqrp.com/kitIndex.php

- **BAYOU JUMPER** Designed by Jim Giammanco, N5IB, and David Cripe, NMØS
  This kit owes its genesis to the imagination of Jim Giammanco, who envisioned this project in homage to the classic 'Paraset' transceiver, http://www.paraset.nl/, the legendary spy radio from World War II.
  AB1DQ sez… I've built two Bayou Jumpers, and both were a great experience. My second BJ ended up not in the Hobby Lobby wooden box, but in a modified cigar box. This is not a kit for the first-time builder, but it is an outstanding kit; the documentation is excellent, and the final radio is beautiful and functional.
- **OZARK PATROL** Designed by David Cripe, NMØS
  Many current hams and radio enthusiasts were introduced to the hobby by building and listening to such classics as the Radio Shack Globe Patrol or the Knight Ocean Hopper. The Ozark Patrol is offered so that the builder of today can relive the excitement of tuning in the world on a simple receiver circuit.
  AB1DQ sez… Everything it claims to be - a great BCB/SW regen radio kit truly worthy of its lineage going back to the Ocean Hopper or Globe Patrol. Not too complicated and a very hot receiver that you will have fun pulling in the evening signals.
- **MURANIA BOY'S RADIO** Designed by David Cripe, NMØS
  At the dawn of the solid state era, radios having one or two transistors were untaxed, considered toys, and given the classification,' Boys' Radio.' Designers employed creative design techniques to maximize the performance of these minimalist circuits. Inspired by the Boy's Radio, the Murania is an ideal kit for a beginning builder and can provide years of listening fun.
- **AB1DQ sez…** An ideal 'first kit' for the new builder. Clear instructions, minimum parts, and a large and clear PCB layout. Once you become accustomed to tuning the regen circuit, dialing back feedback at the point of self-oscillation, you'll find yourself picking up AM broadcast stations coast to coast on the skywave, particularly on winter nights.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Bayou Jumper, Ozark Patrol, and Murania - all by 4SQRP!

(Continued, next page…)

PACIFIC ANTENNA https://qrpkits.com/

EASY RECEIVER

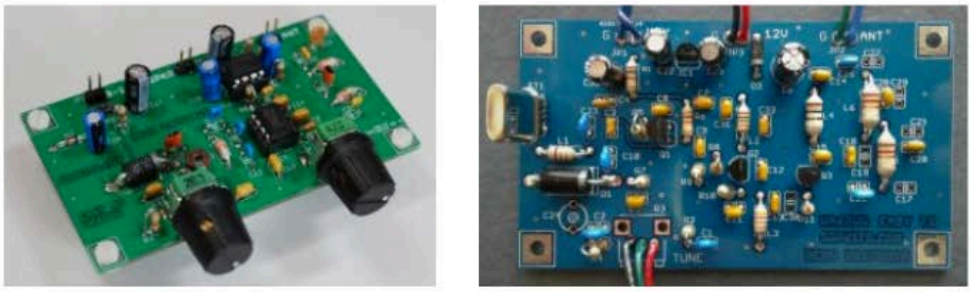
Direct conversion design with a bandpass filter, NE602 mixer, and LM386 audio amplifier. Easy to build and use with no toroids to wind and only one adjustment to set the receive frequency. Assembles in 1-2 hours and covers approximately 75 kHz of the 40M band.

AB1DQ sez… An absolute favorite - inexpensive, straightforward through-the-hole construction, goes together quickly, and works great. I have built a couple of these that have made it into cigar boxes and once led a group build at the Yale CEID where 20 non-engineering students who never held a soldering iron before paired off and built 10 functioning receivers in less than 3 hours.

EASY TRANSMITTER

VXO tuning range of approximately 1 KHz on 40M and powered from 9- 15V, it puts out approximately 2 W. Designed for use with our Easy RX (above) and Easy Bandpass Filter Kits. No toroids or coils, and can be built in 2 hours or less.

AB1DQ sez… Indeed - an exceptional kit, as described above. Highly recommended.



LEFT: The EZ Receiver, RIGHT: The EZ Transmitter. Both by Pacific Antenna, they pair nicely together.

HECKITS www.heckits.com

QRP MILIWATT METER

From Darrel Heckendorf, WA7OIB, in Austin, Texas, whose goal is to provide simple-to-build and easy-to-use small test equipment for radio amateurs.

- 10W, 1W, 100mW scales
- Left knob REF/FWD
- Right knob Off, 10W, 1W, 100mW Select.

AB1DQ sez… Superbly engineered, high precision meter, easy to build and calibrate - Heckits is a well-kept secret for the QRP builder/operator - check them out.

A Field Day Primer -

Everything you wanted to know about Field Day, but were afraid to ask...

Field Day, the premier annual ham radio on-air event, is upon us, occurring on the last full weekend in June. Led by our vice-president, Dave, NZ1J, MARC has been gearing up to make Field Day 2025 memorable, fun, and successful with the stated goals of getting a large club turnout to participate and to achieve a score worthy of MARC's history as a high-scoring club at the national level.

Realizing we have many new hams in the club who may be overwhelmed or not clear on what Field Day is all about, here is a primer on what you can expect.

FAQ:

What is Field Day?
Field Day is organized by the ARRL and originated in 1933 as a way to test the emergency communications preparedness of the growing amateur radio community. Since then, it has become the largest on-the-air operation during the year, showcasing amateur radio's capabilities in public service, emergency preparedness, and community outreach.

Who participates?
Field Day is a highly anticipated event, drawing thousands of amateur radio clubs, groups, and individuals across the US and Canada. In 2023, almost 4,500 entries reported participation by over 30,000 individuals and over 1.25 million contacts.

Is it a contest?
Technically, Field Day is *not* a radiosport contest, but the event does have a competitive aspect, encouraging participants to maximize their contacts and points, while at the same time promoting the use of alternative power and unique communication modes.

When does it start & when does it end?
Field Day is ALWAYS the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2059 UTC Sunday. This year, Field Day begins at 2:00 PM EDT on Saturday, June 28, and ends at 5:00 PM EDT on Sunday, June 29.

What bands are allowed during Field Day?
160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, and all bands about 50 MHz. NOTE: Contacts are NOT allowed on 2200, 630, 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters.

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What are operating classes?
Field Day entries are classified by the number of simultaneously operating transmitters plus a letter designator describing the type of participant. The designators are:

- **Class A:** A club or non-club group of three or more persons.
- **Class AB:** A class A station running less than 5 watts for all contacts and operating on non-commercial (battery) power.
- **Class B:** A one or two-person portable station.
- **Class BB:** A class B station running less than 5 watts for all contacts and operating with non-commercial (battery) power.
- **Class C**: Mobile stations operated from a vehicle, including aeronautical and maritime mobile stations.
- **Class D:** Home stations running on commercial power.
- **Class E:** Home stations running emergency power.
- **Class F:** Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
  NOTE: Class A & F stations may also operate in addition to their regular transmitters, a VHF Station and a GOTA (Get On The Air Station)
  MARC plans to operate as 2F this year - running 2 transmitters simultaneously from the OEM, a valid EOC, and plans to also have a GOTA and VHF station.

What is the Exchange?
Stations in ARRL or RAC sections will exchange their Field Day operating Class and ARRL / RAC section.
Example: We send "2F CT" on CW or digital, or "2 FOXTROT CONNECTICUT" on phone.

Stations not located in the US or Canada (DX stations) will send their operating class and the term DX - ie, 2A DX.

How is my score calculated?
Scores are based on the total number of QSO points times the power multiplier corresponding to the highest power level under which any contact was made during the Field Day period, plus the bonus points.

- **QSO Points:**
  - Phone contacts = 1 point each
  - CW & digital contacts = 2 points each

- **Power Multipliers:**
  - The power multiplier for an entry is determined by the maximum output power used by any transmitter used to complete any contact during the event.
    - If all contacts are made using a power of 5 watts or less and if a power source other than commercial mains or motor-driven generator is used, the power multiplier is five (5).

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- If all contacts are made using a power of 5 watts or less, but the power source is from a commercial main or from a motor-driven generator, the power multiplier is two (2).
- If batteries are charged during the Field Day period using commercial mains or a motor-driven generator, the power multiplier is two (2).
- If any or all contacts are made using an output power of up to 100 watts or less, the power multiplier is two (2).
- If any or all contacts are made using an output power greater than 100 watts, the power multiplier is one (1).

What's this about "bonus" points?
There are eighteen categories for a club to earn bonus points during Field Day, and we are targeting several of these bonus categories as a club. You can learn the specifics by referencing Section 7.3 of the Field Day Rules at https://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules.
Want to be a BONUS POINT CAPTAIN? Help needed - Email james@ab1dq.com

How can I get involved?
Sign up for your on-air time slot here. There are plenty of openings, and we need your support as a club member to help us reach our goals.

What's a Field Day without food?
Be sure to make plans to be at the OEM Saturday afternoon for our traditional Field Day cookout as well as on Sunday will also be looking for volunteers to help participate in organizing, setting morning for our annual pancake breakfast.

Watch the www.w1nrg.com website and the weekly Monday evening club email for more details. Reach out to Dave, NZ1J, with any questions or to volunteer at davetip100@gmail.com.

JOIN THE FUN AT FIELD DAY 2025!
June 28 & 29, 2025

Operate:

Sign up for your On Air Shift here: https://tinyurl.com/MARC-FD-2025
Plenty of SSB, CW, FT8, GOTA & FM VHF slots available.

Feast:

Saturday afternoon cook-out served by KB1MFU & W1BRY
Sunday morning pancake breakfast served by AB1DQ & KC1TSM

Promote ham radio in our community:

Operate the GOTA station or staff the Information table.

Socialize:

Get to meet and know other club members in a fun-filled setting.

Sharpen your skills:

If you are new to HF or contesting, join us to observe & learn more about the excitement of HF ops & contesting firsthand.

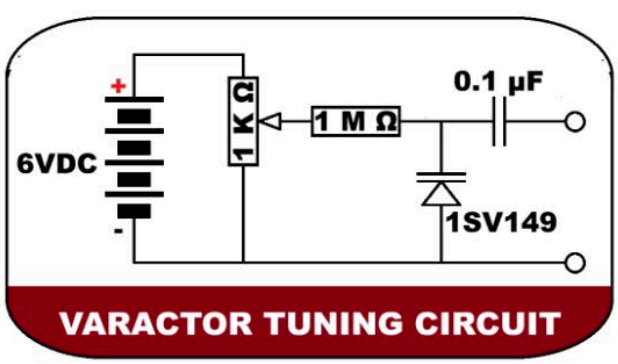
Join the Club Challenge to Operate 24 hours!

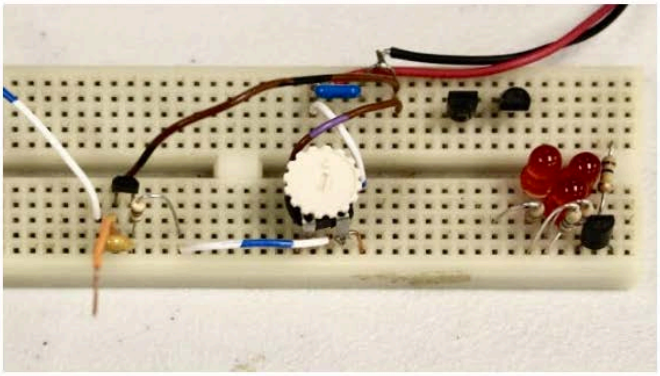
As we've done in past years, we aim to operate 24 hours, right through the night. All that's needed are operators. Operations don't stop when the sun sets, and there will be Field Day stations on the air across the nation overnight. The red-eye shift is an experience all its own.
Contact Dave, NZ1J, if you're interested in operating overnight.

At the Clubhouse May 2025 *with Ted,* KC1DOY

Saturday, May 3rd, was a productive day at MARC. Dave NZ1J was very busy coordinating the day's activities, all centered around the New England QSO Party.

Jeff N1AKN kicked off things when he brought in a WWII tank telescope, model M75D, to add to the display case. It now rests next to the vintage military walkie-talkie. It was used with the 37mm gun on the M5 Stuart tank and the M8 Greyhound armored car. We all took a peek through it and were surprised that it was still in good working condition.





ABOVE: The useful varactor tuning circuit that can be used to eliminate a variable capacitor in a radio circuit. Variable capacitors have become increasingly scarce and pricey on the used market.

Dave NZ1J demonstrated an improved tuning system for the AM radio that several members have built. It replaces the standard variable capacitor with a varactor diode. By varying the voltage applied to the varactor, the capacitance can be adjusted, which in turn tunes the radio. This simplifies the radio and eliminates a moving part that can wear out or be affected by dirt and dust.

Much of the day was spent working QSOs from the radio room. To that end, Dave NZ1J not only explained how to operate using WSJT-X for FT8 and FT4, but he also took the time to assist several members, including me (Ted KC1DOY), in finding the right settings for their particular radios. Since each model of radio requires its own settings, this can be a big hurdle to overcome. Once again, the advantages of belonging to a ham radio club have been proven in practice.

This was the longest day we've spent at MARC in a while. It started early, before 9 AM, and didn't close until around 8 PM. I have a feeling that Summer Field Day is going to be another big one.

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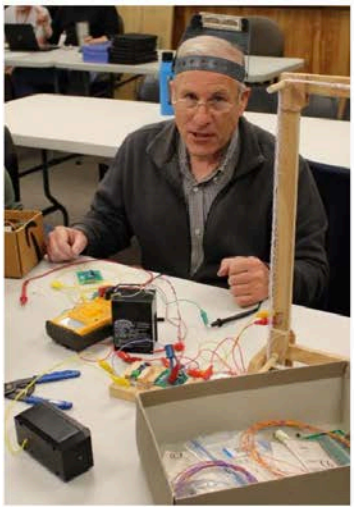
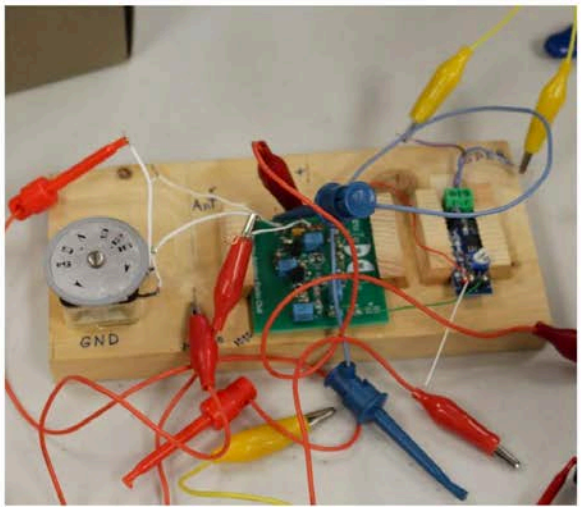
Saturday, 10 May 2025, was notable for the VE session, which was the first one held under the new digital format. As could be expected, there were a few issues, this being new to everyone involved. The testing went well nonetheless.

Dave NZ1J assisted Charles with his AM radio project and found a transistor that needed adjustment to its input voltage. He loaned his AM radio to Charles so that he could run comparison testing at home. No ground source was available that day, so neither radio was performing at its best.





No one can doubt the club loyalty of Don W1BRY after seeing the clock he had specially made for his ham shack. It has a large, easy-to-read dial and sports the logo for the Meriden Amateur Radio Club as well as the Wallingford Amateur Radio Group. I'm sure that there will be a few members interested in getting one of their own.

LEFT: KC1QLS studies NZ1J's superhet receiver, loop antenna, and the most recent mod-varactor tuning.
RIGHT: NA1L was one of the many members getting hands-on experience with FT8 at the OEM.

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Sunday, May 11th, was a beautiful day for a foxhunt, as can be seen in the faces of the participants. Left to right: Ted KC1DOY, Jim N1ZN, Bob WB1GYZ, Rob K1RCT, Dave NZ1J (the fox,) and John N1GNV.

MARC activity on **Saturday, May 17th,** was concentrated on Field Day preparations. The radio room was the center of activity as all of the equipment that was expected to be in use on Field Day was tested, cleaned and, where necessary, set up for operation on various modes such as CW and FT8.

There has always been a good turnout for Field Day at MARC, and this year promises to be no exception. Recent rule changes should also help to increase participation so check it out. https://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules

Last year, a group of club members operated remotely at Wharton Brook State Park, camping out to operate on both days. Due to cost considerations, Wharton Brook may not be an option this year, but hopefully, a new location can be found for those who wish to continue the success of last year's activation.

In addition to all of the ham radio preparations, Len Guercia, KC1WEX, Director of Emergency Management for the Town of Wallingford, and a group of men from the Wallingford Fire Department spent Saturday morning planting flowers and shrubs at the Wallingford OEM. Since the building will be open to the public on Field Day, this will help to present a welcoming atmosphere to all who come to see what MARC and Field Day are all about. Many thanks to the town and the Wallingford Fire Department for their support!

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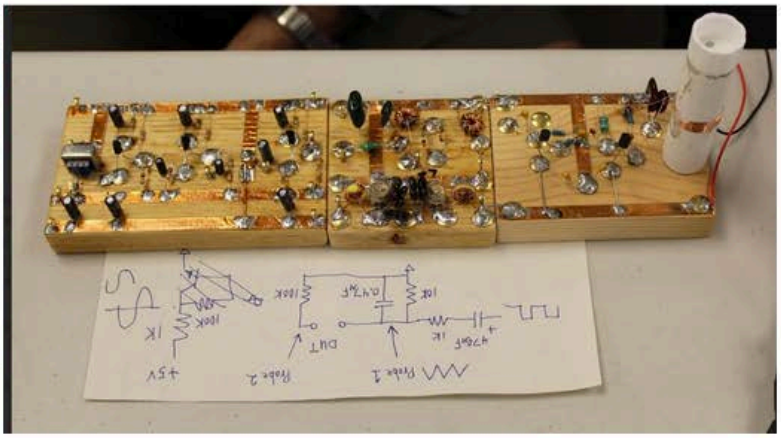
ABOVE LEFT: The flower planting team RIGHT: Their fine handiwork.

Saturday, 24 May 2025, saw a good turnout at MARC with a lot going on. Paul WA1MAC brought in his 40 home-built meter direct conversion receiver. It is mounted on three individual pieces of wood, using brass thumb tacks as contact points and a tunable coil wound on an old glue stick. The three sections each contain a separate module so that they can be removed and used in future projects. An interesting concept, to say the least, and something to keep in mind for all of you kit and scratch builders.



LEFT: WA1MAC explains to NZ1J about his breadboard building techniques, featuring brass tacks as contact points and stained glass copper foil tape for buses. RIGHT: WA1MAC'S DC receiver consisted of 3 distinct modules and glue stick variable inductor.

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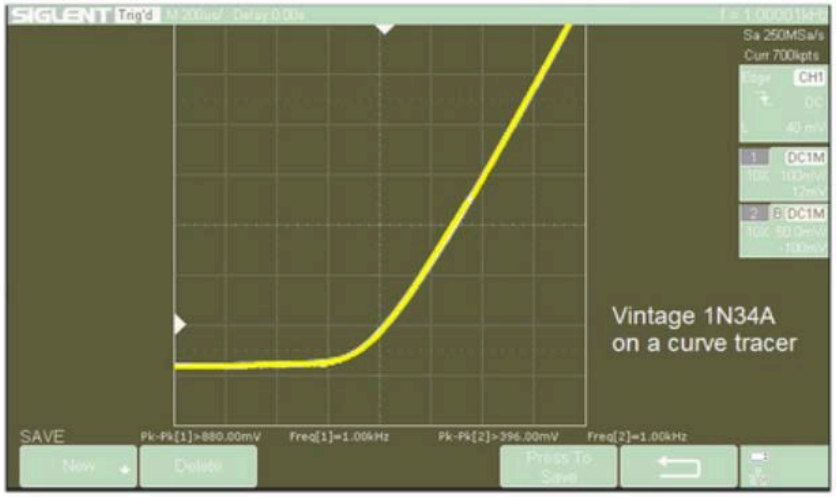
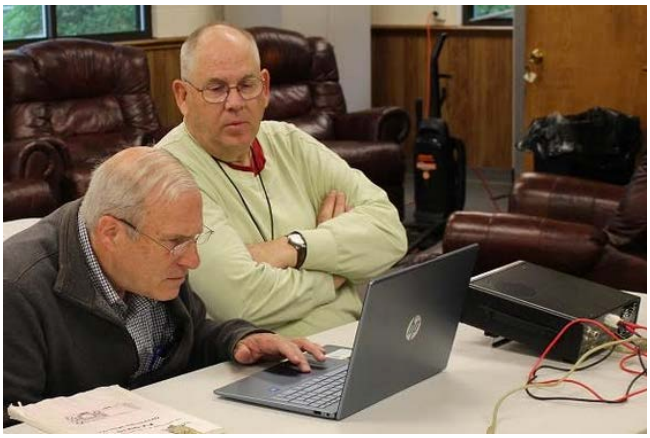


ABOVE: O-scope output depicting the performance curve of a bonafide vintage 1N34A connected via the NZ1J curve tracer.

A “That’s Mighty Slick" award goes out to Dave NZ1J for his curve tracer circuit. When connected to an oscilloscope, it can be used to test certain components, such as a diode, to determine exactly how well it functions. Dave demonstrated its usefulness by testing an "old school" germanium diode and comparing it to a Chinese knock-off ordered from a company named after a South American rain forest.

The germanium diode outperformed the other significantly. Considering how many "made overseas" parts are available, it could be a valuable tool to make sure that the part you have meets the required specs for your project.



Saturday, May 31 was another busy Saturday at MARC only more so. Preparations were already underway for the OEM's new carpet installation when club members began to arrive. Wallingford Director of Emergency Management Len Guercia KC1WEX took the lead ensuring that everything would be ready.

Paul WA1MAC brought in an antenna module for his 40 M direct conversion receiver. He and Dave NZ1J tested it with other radios to assess its performance.

Dave NZ1J assisted several members with programming their radios for FT8 operation. After installing the appropriate interface port software a radio must be configured for FT8 digital mode. Dave's assistance in this area has been a tremendous help to many grateful club members, myself included.

Jeff N1AKN, MARC's go-to guy for any radio gear with a problem, discussed his diagnosis of an Anytone VHF/UHF transceiver belonging to another club member with Don W1BRY and myself. The radio had an overheating issue due to the radio being mounted on a car dashboard in direct sunlight for too long.

ABOVE: May, a month of busy Saturdays at the OEM, came to a close with another full house on the 31st

It's not too late... there is still time

My journey into the world of FT8 *by Ted,* KC1DOY

I'd like to take a moment to tell everyone about my journey into the land of digital modes, specifically FT8. I've been operating FT8 for a few weeks now, after Dave NZ1J figured out what settings were needed on my Yaesu FTDX10.

I had wondered if I'd like FT8 since it is completely digital and, unlike SSB, there is no verbal communication between stations. FT8 utilizes a set of preset messages that contain the necessary information for a QSO. Call sign, location by grid square, signal strength in dB and acknowledgements after each step of the QSO. If you are accustomed to operating phone, it may seem strange to allow the computer to send and receive your call information. Is that really ham radio?

I soon realized that so very many of my phone QSOs were no more than that anyway so it really isn't, or shouldn't be, an issue. Unlike SSB phone, FT8 has the advantage of cutting through the noise and reaching more hams and allowing me to work countries and regions that I couldn't on SSB. It also works with much lower power levels. Using FT8 I've successfully made QSOs with only 20 to 30 watts.

It didn't take long to convince me that this was not only a valid way to communicate with other hams but it was a lot of fun as well. Field Day will be here soon and there will be an FT8 station available at the club for member use. If you'd like to try FT8 but are having problems with the setup, MARC has the know-how to help. As they used to say on an old TV show, "Try it, you'll like it"!

Tech Talk, Part 2:
You Can Tune an Antenna, but You Can't Tuna Fish

a continuing KeyKlix *feature from Quicksilver Radio*

Welcome Back!

Last month, we talked about what SWR is. This month, we'll explore why we care about it and what we do about it. If you need to refresh or are new to the series, the previous installment can be found in the May 2025 issue of **Key Klix** archived here.

Modern transmitters are designed to operate into a 50-ohm resistive impedance. We use 50-Ohm coax, a 50-Ohm antenna, all of our power radiates, and the transmitter is happy. But when the load is something other than 50 Ohms (in other words, the SWR is greater than 1:1, problems can arise. If the mismatch is bad enough, our solid-state final amplifier stage can easily overheat and self-destruct. So our radios include a protection circuit that lowers the output power as SWR increases. The circuit generally kicks in at somewhere between 1.5:1 and 2:1 SWR.

ABOVE: The author rendered as a popular copyrighted children's public television program puppet.

So, how do we lower the SWR and regain full output power? There are several ways.

(1) As noted last month, find a spot along the feedline where the SWR is at a minimum. Tedious, good (at best) on a single band, and not very practical.

(2) Add an appropriate resistor in parallel with the antenna system. Easy to do, works like a charm, and gets your SWR darn close to 1:1 on all bands. One slight problem with this approach -- nearly all of your power is dissipated in the resistor, and just about none radiates. Can you say "Dummy Load"? Sure, you can.

(3) Adjust the antenna length until the SWR is acceptably low. In theory, a very good solution. Good in practice as well, if we're looking at a single band antenna, or can set up separate antennas for each band. Not all of us are blessed with enough real estate for that. We want to use one antenna on multiple bands and so (drum roll!)...

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(4) Use an antenna tuner. How does a tuner (sometimes called a Transmatch or Matchbox) work? Quite simply, by putting various values of inductance and capacitance in series or parallel with our antenna system. Some combination of these values, plus those of our antenna system, results in a 1:1 SWR at the input

of the tuner (Note this... we'll come back to it). As most of us have found, not all antennas can be matched on all bands. That's because our tuner has a finite amount of inductance and capacitance. Given a tuner with infinite values, you could tune a thumbtack on 160 meters. No, it would not work very well... losses in the tuner and feedline would eat up most of the power. But we'd have a 1:1 SWR.

From this, it should be obvious that by itself, a low SWR does not mean that we have a good antenna. Neither does a high SWR mean that we have a bad antenna. We need to look at the entire antenna system -- essentially everything going out from the antenna port on the radio. That includes (principally) the tuner, the feedline, and the antenna; secondarily, it also includes nearby objects and structures, especially metallic ones. Later on in this series, we'll delve further into this topic.

Actually, "antenna tuner" is somewhat of a bad name for this device. It does nothing to improve the antenna. All it does is make the radio happy so that it can safely generate full power. A more correct term is "impedance matching network". But most folks call it a tuner, so we'll stick with that for That's it for this month. Next time, we'll take a look at how and why yousimplicity. Just keep in mind what it does (and does not) do.

Your SWR meter may well be lying to you. And we'll have some facts and figures that may shock and amaze you.

73 for now,
John Bee, N1GNV
Quicksilver Radio

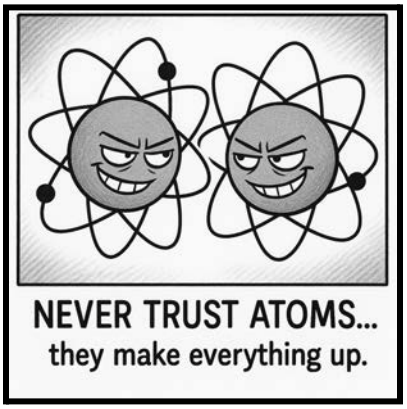
IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT...

The engineer's wife asked her husband, "Would you please go to the store and buy one pint of milk, and if they have eggs, get a dozen!"

He returned a half hour later with 12 pints of milk.

His wife stared at him and asked, "Why on earth did you get 12 pints of milk?"

"Well... they had eggs," he replied.



Meet Charles Vossbrinck, KC1TSL

a WB1GYZ Railroad Bob member profile

Charles Vossbrinct, KC1TSL, was born in Merrick, New York (Long Island), and recently joined MARC after discovering our local club. He now enjoys studying electronics and kit building under the guidance of Dave NZ1J and is a CW student in MARC's code class.

During his childhood, Charles was influenced by his uncle Henry, an electrical engineer who oversaw the wiring of Radio City Music Hall. Having encouraged him to study radio and electronics from a young age, Charles later discovered that the Wallingford Senior Center was hosting an introductory course in ham radio. Reflecting on his uncle Henry's advice, Charles now constructs radio projects at the Meriden Amateur Radio Club.

Charles is also actively involved in constructing HF wire antennas across his spacious yard. However, he acknowledges that his operating time will be shared with other interests, such as astronomy and conducting biological research and experiments in soil ecology in his basement laboratory.

Charles believes that valuable research can be conducted in a modest basement laboratory and may need to be done so until the government's sudden reduction in funding is addressed. He is certainly qualified for such endeavors, as he holds a doctorate in entomology, has worked in molecular biology, and was employed as a soil scientist for the state.

Charles's interest in astronomy extends beyond mere curiosity. He admits to a lifelong fascination with celestial phenomena and would welcome the opportunity to engage with others who share his interests.

Charles resides in Wallingford with his wife, Bettina, son Henry, and their pampered cat, Weasley.

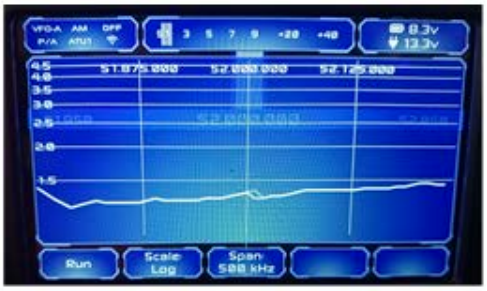
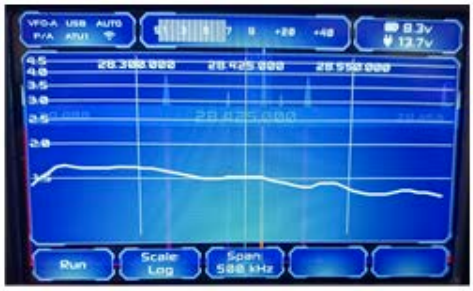
~ Bob - WB1GYZ

Measure twice, cut once, troubleshoot thrice.

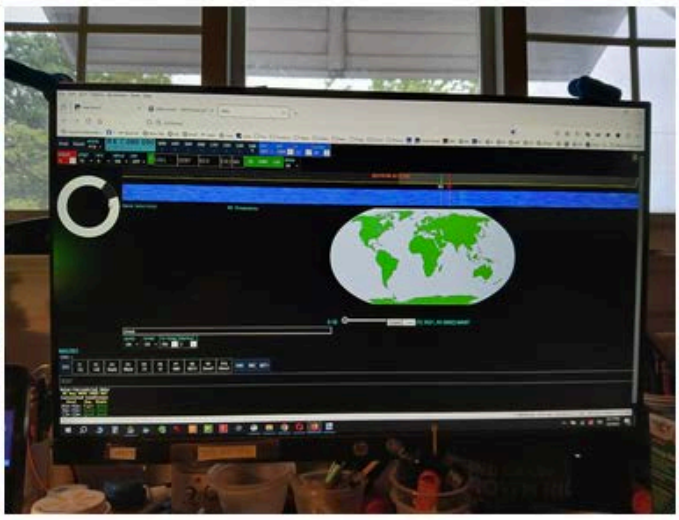
Radio Active Members - May 2025

A look back at what our members were up to last month.

Jeff Katz KC1UER reports that he decided to add a counterpoise wire to his 40m EFHW at home. The feed point and end of the radiating element are about 15 feet off the ground, and the center is about 25 feet. The wire is run in what he likes to call a slanted L. The counterpoise runs perpendicular to the radiating element and ends about 10 ft high. He has 80 ft of RG8x run and a common mode choke before his radio/amp, and reports the radio seems to be very happy with the SWR-40 through 6, and even 80m is tunable. He thanks Eric John, KD2HWD, for the amazing antenna.

Paul Clark, WA1MAC, has been keeping busy with his zBITX, a compact and complete FT8 station that fits in his hand. On May 11 he took a field trip to Silver Sands to try out all the new hardware, with a 20m sloping dipole, a compact very thin new KYY 15.6" HDMI/USBC monitor (powers nicely with a small USB power station and the carrying sleeve folds into a screen stand) and a USB keyboard-mouse combo. Paul reports making some FT8 contacts and getting to see how the built-in FT8 and logging work (quite nice). Of his first run with it at Silver Sands, he says, “a lot to learn and sort out, but all in all a fun day!”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Constantino Tobio KA1BMF shared that his first foray into HF was installing a MyAntennas EFHW-8010-2K-Plus in his backyard to pair with a Yaesu FT-891. After spending several months agonizing over the best course of action, he decided that an EFHW would be well suited for his property.

The transformer for his antenna is located outside his home office window, which is also "The Shack". From about 20 or so feet up, the antenna slopes upwards with the terrain some 30 feet off the ground, with the end of the wire about 30' higher than the feedpoint, ending in a tree fitted with a pulley system and a counterweight. He has no counterpoise, just a ground wire running from the lightning arrestor.

Constantino reports that the system has been remarkably effective, and he is getting great performance out of it. He has made FT8 QSOs as far as South Africa and Dubai with ease and is still trying to get QSOs with Antarctica and Australia, although it's only been less than 3 weeks since he went on the air with this configuration.



ABOVE: Three detailed views of KA1BMF's EFHW installation - fine work, Constantino!

Lloyd Saberski, KC1WFB, got a 17-foot telescoping antenna, a solid performer for POTA, and put it on the air at Wharton Brook in May with Dave NJ1B for a test run. Lloyd's station used four ground radials for the test, but he is likely to use a ground screen for future activations. KC1WFB is another MARC call sign to take note of and watch for on the POTA spot page.

RIGHT: KC1WfB's POTA Station at Wharton Brook on 5/22/25. FAR RIGHT: Lloyd with his 17-foot telescoping antenna. He plans to swap out the ground radials for a mesh grid.

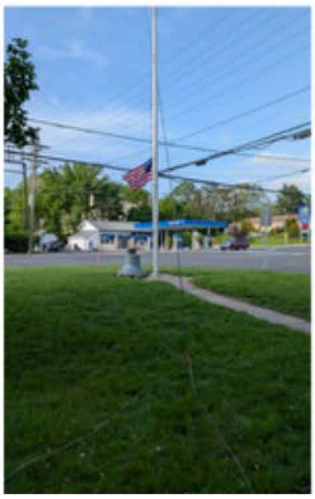
Andrew Purchia, N1XXU, received a new FTM 510D from **Debbie, K1PET**, as an early birthday gift. He reports having fun with the new rig, making contacts on the repeater using Fusion. “The digital audio sounds amazing. … I guess you can teach an old dog new tricks. I encourage anyone thinking of getting a Fusion radio to do it.” Happy Birthday indeed, Andrew!

ABOVE: One Sweet Station! Andrew's new FTM-510D looks right at home atop his Yaseu SP-30.

Jim Drexler, KC1TSG, posted the photo to the left of his homebrew 10 M inverted V dipole antenna on the club Facebook page and reported a favorable SWR of 1.2 to 1. A ham’s ham, Jim constructed the antenna repurposing items he had on hand. He made the center support from a 5-foot PVC pipe mounted in an artificial Xmas tree stand. He used a pair of Arizona tea bottles for anchors and incorporated a pair of dog bone insulators and a mini 1:1 balun.

Mike Easter, K1MRE had a successful QRP outing on May 19, reporting “Nothing like a little low buck low effort QRP. I packed the zBitx and my 18 foot stainless whip, I didn't want to bring the window screen with me so I just set up the ribbon cable radials.”

Based on the spotting map he posted, it’s clear Mike did quite well for himself.



Linux and Ham Radio

The Clock is Ticking for Windows 10

First in a series by Jimmy, AB1DQ

We hams are thrifty folk, renowned for our ability to often make the most out of old gear, innovating, repairing, modifying, and squeezing the last bit of life out of 'obsolete' tech. With that as a preface, let me ask you - Are you running Windows 10 on an older PC in your shack? If you are, heed my warning - ***YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED!***

Biggest Brother, Microsoft, has announced it is ending support for Windows 10 this October 14, and as of that date, there will be no new updates or security patches, and over time, continuing to use this unsupported operating system may increase the risk of virus and malware attacks or data breaches.

While Microsoft is providing a free upgrade to Windows 11 for existing Windows 10 users, there is a catch. If your current hardware configuration is old enough to be deemed "obsolete" by Microsoft due to an inadequate processor speed or limited memory, you will be prohibited from installing Windows 11.

Planned obsolescence is a funny thing, and nothing new. In the 1920s, leading lightbulb manufacturers GE, Phillips, and Osram notoriously created the Phoebus Cartel to intentionally reduce the lifespan of light bulbs by over 50%, reducing it from @ 2,500 hours to a mere 1,000 hours so people would need to buy replacements more often.

GM CEO Alfred Sloan is regarded as the father of planned obsolescence, marketing annual updated versions of automobiles with "innovative new features," prompting drivers to purchase a new car every year or two.

This strategy was profitable for Phoebus and GM, and by the 1950s, many manufacturers had planned obsolescence programs, prompting consumers to upgrade their appliances and other durable goods frequently.

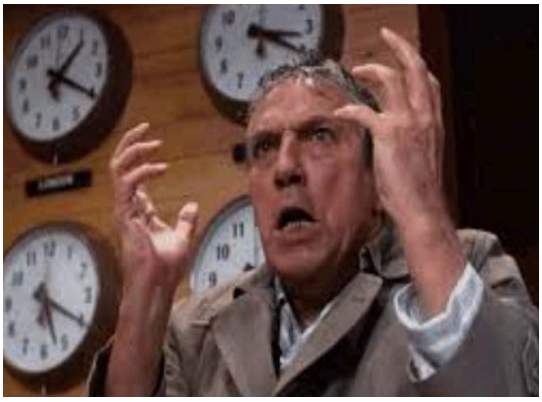
Today Microsoft and Apple combined control 83% of the personal computer OS market worldwide and both firms continue to develop new "improved" editions of their OS

(Continued, next page...)

software, leading us to believe that our older PCs are no longer accomplish the tasks they were originally bought to do and we need to purchase new machines.

Over the years, PC operating systems have become bloated containing non-essential features that do nothing to enhance how well standard applications like spreadsheets, word processors or web browsers run but do allow for the collection of user personal data, which can be sold to 3rd party corporations and used to push targeted advertisements to your desktop.

I don't know about you, but **I'm as mad as...** *well, you know the rest* >>>---------->



There is a viable alternative out there called Linux. It's versatile and is widely used, serving as the foundation for many desktops, servers, and embedded systems worldwide. Linux stands out due to its open-source nature, allowing for community-driven development and customization, and also has a reputation for security and stability.

There are many different 'distros' (distributions, or 'flavors') of Linux available, offering the user a custom desktop GUI experience that is every bit as elegant and user-friendly as Windows and MacOS. The most popular applications needed by the average computer user, such as word processing, spreadsheets, email, and web browsing, have been developed for Linux. Not only does Linux run on older hardware, but it also doesn't collect and sell your data. It's also (brace yourself) - completely free to download and use.

We hams use our PCs for many radio-related applications, such as rig control, logging, digital modes, to name a few, and members of the wider ham radio community have developed many Linux applications for these needs. How good are they? I can't tell you for sure yet, but I've begun a journey into Linux for ham radio and plan to share my experiences in these pages in the months ahead.

AB1DQ's $85 Linux Box-a 10 year old MacBook with the Linux Mint installed

I have just purchased a 10-year-old 13" refurbished MacBook Air for $85 and have installed Mint Linux. Out of the gate, I have installed and successfully used CHRIP and Echolink, and next will be working on configuring my Linux box for FT8.

Please join me for the journey, and I encourage any members who are already using Linux on their shack PC to please write to me to share your experience so we don't have to invent the wheel twice!

Watch for Part 2 in the July issue

ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS, & OPPORTUNITIES

Get On the Air...

CONTESTS: ***Click on hyperlink for more info...***

10-10 Int'l Open Season PSK Contest	0000Z, Jun 07 to 2359Z, Jun 08
ARRL Digital Contest	1800Z, Jun 07 to 2359Z, Jun 08
ARRL June VHF Contest	1800Z, Jun 14 to 0259Z, Jun 16
SKCC Sprit A Thon	1200Z, Jun 14 to 2359Z, Jun 15
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Jun 15 to 0100Z, Jun 16
ARRL Kids Day	1800Z-2359Z, Jun 21
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	1200Z, Jun 28 to 1200Z, Jun 29
Field Day 2025	1800Z, Jun 28 to 2059Z, Jun 29
RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	0800Z, Jul 05 to 1100Z, Jul 06
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 8
SKCC Sprit A Thon	1200Z, Jul 12 to 2359Z, Jul 13
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 12 to 1200Z, Jul 13
QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2300Z, Jul 13

STATE QSO PARTIES:

Atlantic Canada QSO Party	1200Z, Jun 7 to 0200Z, Jun 8, 2025
Kentucky QSO Party	1300Z, Jun 7 to 0100Z, Jun 8, 2025
West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 21 to 0400Z, Jun 22

SPECIAL EVENTS:

W2W D-Day Commemoration	1300Z, Jun 1 to 2200Z,Jun 14, 2025
Commemorate Crash of B24 TM44LIB	0000Z, Jun 2 to 2359, Jun 16, 2025
17th Annual 13 Colonies	1300Z, Jul 1 to 0400Z, Jul 8, 2025

Hamfests...

- New England Wireless & Steam Museumm Amateur Radio Tune-Up
  07/12/2025 East Greenwich, RI
- Northeast HamXposition, ARRL New England Division Convention
  08/21/2025 - 08/24/2025 Marlboro, MA
- Nutmeg Hamfest, ARRL Connecticut State Convention
  10/12/2025 Meriden, CT

Weekly W1NRG Nets... On the Air all week long!

ELMER NET
SUN 7:30 pm VIA ZOOM
See the MEMBERS AREA of the website for access

NEW HAVEN/MIDDLESEX SKYWARN NET
MON 7:00 pm W1NRG/R 147.360+ PL 162.2Hz

2 M FM NET
TUE 7:00 pm W1NRG/R 147.360+ PL 162.2Hz

JUST PUSH THE BUTTON NET
WED 7:00 pm W1NRG/R 147.360+ PL 162.2Hz

COFFEE CUP NET
SAT 9:00 W1NRG/R 147.360+ PL 162.2Hz

6 METER SSB NET
SUN 8:00 pm 50.175 MHZ USB

10 M 10-10 CASTLE CRAIG NET
TUE 8:00 pm 28.375 MHZ USB

OEM Saturday Open House... It's the place to be!

Come to the OEM at 143 Hope Hill Road on Saturday Mornings for the MARC Weekly Open House.

Join us starting at 9:00 AM to meet fellow club members in a social setting and participate in various radio activities.

And, remember… Sometimes we also have donuts!

The MARC Monthly Puzzler

Binary Sudko No. 1

1	

HOW TO PLAY:
Fill in the grid using only the numerals between 0 and 1.

GOAL:
To complete each row and each column so they contain all of the numerals between 0 and 1 without repeating any numbers. There is only one solution to a Binary Sudoku puzzle and when solved, the totals of every row and column will be equal.

Check you answer - **SOLUTION ON PAGE 14**

You can lead a horse to water,
but you can't make it understand fluid dynamics.

EDITORIAL PAGE

Letters to the Editor

Want to comment on something you read in KeyKlix? We welcome all feedback, good, bad and ugly (but civil). Write to keyklix@w1nrg.com with your comments with "LETTER TO THE EDITOR" in the subject line. All letters acknowledged and messages deemed to be of communal interest and that advance the conversation shall be printed in this space.

Desperately seeking an Editor

Key Klix has a long and storied history, renowned for consistently providing informative and entertaining content for the local ham radio operator for decades. Now at a crossroads, and to keep this tradition alive, we are actively seeking the right person to take on the duties of Editor permanently.

Are you a bona fide radio cuckoo? Do you relish MARC, and are you active in club events? Do you have a creative vision and possess the mad skills to implement your aspirations? Are you willing to make an earnest commitment to serve in the editor's role for a sustainable period?

IF SO, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Submit your letter of interest to president@w1nrg.com

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Key Klix is *your* newsletter, and we rely on our fellow members to share their latest radio news to provide engaging content for all. Contributing is a great way to connect with other members who may share or want to learn more about your particular areas of radio interests. Please drop us a line with articles, logs, news of what is happening in your shack, and photos are always most appreciated. Keep Key Klix Kool by sending your news, updates, articles, and photos to KeyKlix@w1nrg.com,

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Key Klix June 2025

Has been brought to you by

INTERIM EDITOR	-	**JIMMY SURPRENANT, AB1DQ**
PHOTOGRAPHER	-	**TED RENZONI, KC1DOY**
BIOGRAPHER	-	**BOB BIANCUR, WB1GYZ**

Thank you to all of this month's contributors, including...

AB1DQ - KC1DOY -- KC1TSG - KC1OYN - KC1QLS - N1GNV
NA1L - NR1B - NZ1J - W1BRY - W1YSM - WB1GYZ

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

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AB1DQ	Jimmy Surprenant 26
AB1HB	Charlie Dudac 25
AB2T	Jordan Zarembo 25
AC1SK	George Bucci 25
AC1ST	Louis Brenner 25
AC1TY	Andrew Rudczynski 25
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K0OZ	Brian Boccuzzi 25
K1BTR	Bryan Ragaini 25
K1DMS	Dave Sack 25
K1JCF	Joe Farrell 25
K1LHO	Mike Ash 26
K1LYP	John Yusza 29
K1MAL	Chris Altieri 26
K1MMK	Michael MacKennedy 27
K1MRE	Mike Easter 25
K1NEG	Nelson Goewey 26
K1PET	Debbie Purchia 25
K1RCT	Rob Cichon 25
K1SCI	Stuart Isaac 26
K1SMD	Silas Moeckel 25
K1STM	Anne West 25
K1TDO	Todd Olsen 25
K1TGX	Jerry Molaver 30
K1UD	Butch Chatfield 25
K1VDF	John Blevins 26
K1WJL	Dave Swedock 25
K1XJ	Kevin Buchanan 25
K2RPM	Bruce Torello 25
K4AVM	Andrew Olsson 26
K5ATA	Steve Goodgame 25
K5CYN	Cyndi Goodgame 25
KA1BED	Bill Green 26
KA1BMF	Constantino Tobio 25
KA1JTG	James Hartzell Jr 25
KA1YZC	Paul Patnoad 25
KB1APO	Jim Sintay 26
KB1CXK	Joe Clarizio 26
KB1EHE	Eric Knight 25
KB1FGC	Richard Guerrera 25
KB1HAX	Bill Reyor III 26
KB1IFZ	Elsie Mathews 25
KB1JL	Eric Olsson 25
KB1LWS	Jeanne Gherardi 25
KB1MFU	John Ramadei 25
KB1RLF	Steven Chapman 25
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KB1TGS	David Robinson 25
KB1TMC	Clare O'Lena 25
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KB1YFJ	Glenn Couture 25
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KC1ISI	Kristin Olsson 25
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KC1RLQ	Eric Barbour 26
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KC1SYU	Jim Cosgrove 25
KC1TAD	Tom Dipinto 26
KC1THU	Mike Zelladonis 26
KC1TKY	Bob Hourigan 26
KC1TKZ	Mark Bonitatebus 25
KC1TOV	David Tomlinson 25
KC1TPN	Rick Foster 25
KC1TSG	Jim Drexler 25
KC1TSK	Richard Pagano 25
KC1TSL	Charlie Vossbrinck 27
KC1TSM	Ellen Cosgrove 25
KC1TSN	Chuck Caron Jr. 26
KC1TSP	Dale Fortin 25
KC1TST	Mike Boccuzzi 25
KC1TSW	Charles Caron III 25
KC1TSX	Mike Barile 26
KC1TSY	Daniel Gessner 25
KC1TSZ	Deb Caron 26
KC1TWA	William Caron 25
KC1TYO	Ken Williams 25
KC1UJP	Jasy Polaski 25
KC1UJQ	Mark Kirschner 25
KC1UJT	Michael Carfi 25
KC1VCU	John Mandeville 25
KC1VJS	Anthony Lockery 25
KC1VQY	Michael Granoth 26
KC1VRG	Robert Shemo 25
KC1VSO	Patricia Lentz 25
KC1VUM	Matthew Erff 25
KC1VVC	Joel Helfer 25
KC1VZI	Joe DePaolo 25
KC1WEX	Len Guercia 25
KC1WFB	Lloyd Saberski 25

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KD2TLD	Patrick Lacombe 25	**N1PHI**	Trish Nitshke 25	**W2TT**	Ross Lambert 25
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KE1AV	Dave Sanford 25	**N1QYB**	Bill Wilecki Jr 25	**WA1BAR**	Michael Barr 25
KE2ECC	Phillip Gallanti 26	**N1WCL**	David Blasko 25	**WA1CCQ**	Norman Bliss 25
KF6LU	Andrew Buza 25	**N1XXU**	Andy Purchia 25	**WA1FFT**	Ray Irwin 25
KK7NLS	John Condon Jr 25	**N1YLN**	Edward O'Lena 25	**WA1INC**	Roland Hamel 26
KO1J	Randy Whitehouse 25	**N1ZN**	Jim Savage 25	**WA1JKR**	John Rogus 29
KO4EEL	Tom Williams 25	**N2TAG**	Dave Taglianetti 25	**WA1K**	Jack Chapman 25
KR1U	Bob Eslinger 27	**N7VGA**	Dennis Hanlon 26	**WA1MAC**	Paul Clark 25
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KX1USA	Rob Messercola 25	**NA2AA**	David Minster 25	**WA1TRY**	Rich Aubin L
N0HIO	David Koerner 25	**NR1B**	Bill Huggins 25	**WA1ZVY**	Jim Martin 28
N1AKN	Jeff Dwyer 26	**NZ1J**	Dave Tipping 26	**WB1DMK**	William D'Agostino 25
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N1BRI	Brian Beegan 26	**W1AJK**	Andrew Kazimer 25	**WB1GFI**	Stan Hiriak 25
N1FNE	Rod Lane 26	**W1BJG**	Judy Wilkins 25	**WB1GYZ**	Bob Biancur 25
N1GNV	John Bartscherer 25	**W1BRY**	Donald Chepurna 27	**WB8IMY**	Steve Ford 25
N1GY	Geoff Haines 27	**W1EDX**	Paul Stasieluk 25	**WJ1B**	Harold Kramer 27
N1HCA	Susan South 26	**W1IKW**	Iain K White 29	**WV2LKM**	Steve Waldmann 25
N1IBE	Wade Martell 25	**W1LV**	Steve Morley 26	**WX1W**	Mary Duval 25
N1JEO	Joel Curneal 25	**W1NDT**	Robert Lombardo 25	**WY1U**	Tim Mik 25
N1JMX	Jeff Martin 28	**W1PRK**	James Procaccini 27		Lucas Molloy Y
N1LES	Joe Murray 25	**W1RCI**	Ron Isaac Jr. 25		Spencer Rygiel Y
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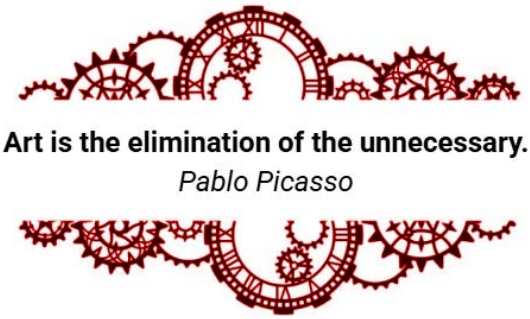
N1NGV	Kevin Gallagher 25	**W1TK**	Ron Wakefield 25		



Art is the elimination of the unnecessary.

Pablo Picasso