



Key Klix January 2026

The Monthly Q-S-T de the
MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB & WALLINGFORD AMATEUR RADIO GROUP
"The Radio News that's fun to use"

Happy New Year!



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YOUR 2026 OFFICERS

President



DAVE TIPPING
NZ1J

Vice President



BILL HUGGINS
NR1B

Treasurer



GEORGE BUCCI
AC1SK

Secretary



JULES LORUSSO
KC1STF

Station Manager



ROB CICHON
K1RCT



Continuous Improvement

The President's Post, by Dave, NZ1J

In my last job before retirement, I spent more than ten years at a manufacturer that used the 'Six Sigma' quality system. Six Sigma is essentially a broad set of tools that can be employed to achieve continuous improvement. I saw continuous improvement in action, first-hand. Over a period of a few years, we were delivering better quality products, produced at a lower cost. And, as a side benefit, employee morale improved. Just about anyone would be more satisfied with their job when things are going well.

Six Sigma is not a magic wand, and there have been failures with it, as well as many successes. However, the concept of continuous improvement is a good one.

Continuous improvement can be applied to MARC, and it can make the club even more successful. By any measure, MARC is doing well. We're a big club, the Town generously lets us use a great facility, we have a good supply of radio equipment, our newsletter, Key Klix, is world-class, and we have a large number of skilled and active members.

So, what is there to improve? In business, there's often a drive to do more with less. MARC can also find ways to do more with less. We can have more radio activities, share more knowledge among club members, and have more social activities, while experiencing less stress.

One of Six Sigma's important tools is DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control). We can simplify that a little. If we can Define our goals, Measure how well we're achieving those goals, and Improve our methods to achieve our goals, we'll be using continuous improvement to make MARC an even better club than it already is.

Something that can help us define our goals is a mission statement. For instance, ARRL has declared 2026 to be The Year of the Club. That might be considered a mission statement, at least for 2026.

Microsoft says this: "Microsoft's mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more." MARC's mission is likely not as lofty as Microsoft's.

I think we all know that there is very little that will appeal to every club member. But, I think that if we concentrate on "the most good for the most members," we can develop a mission statement for 2026 that helps us focus our efforts in productive ways.

Though it's an aggressive schedule, it would be a nice way to begin the year if we can approve a 2026 mission statement at the January Business Meeting. If you have some time between now and then, give some thought to what MARC's mission statement for 2026 might be.

~Dave NZ1J

New Year's Day Events

by Dave, NZ1J

Similar to last year, we'll have half-hour-long "sprints" on New Year's Day, primarily to say hello to fellow club members.

The first sprint will run from 9 am until 9:30. We'll meet on 3.860 MHz LSB. That frequency will most likely be available. If not, we'll move to a nearby frequency.

The second sprint will run from 9:30 am until 10 am. We'll meet on 7.260 MHz LSB. There's a bit more activity on 40 meters and a greater chance that we will need to move to a nearby frequency.

Harold, WJ1B, has come up with an idea to add a little sizzle to the sprints. You can treat the sprints as a rag chew and be pretty low-key. Or, you can get competitive and see if you are the club member with the most QSOs in a sprint. When conditions are good, it's possible to make more than 30 QSOs in 30 minutes. The rules for the competition are that all QSOs must be made within the 30 minutes of the sprint and on the same band. But you can work any station, on any mode. For instance, you might work all the SSB stations you can in 15 minutes and then switch to FT4 for the rest of the half hour.

Results will be listed in Key Klix. And, to steal an idea from SKCC, there will be a "soap box" along with the results. You can submit a short write-up, along with your results. Email to NZ1J@JUNO.COM

In addition, we will be meeting at the OEM from 11 am until at least 2 pm. Some code practice will be available. Club members can participate in ARRL Straight Key Night, and can hunt POTA activations and special event stations. It will also be an opportunity for all other typical Saturday-type morning activities at the OEM.

We will plan on having an optional \$10 pizza lunch at 1 pm. If you would like to have pizza, get your name on the list, either via email or in-person, by noon on January 1st, and please try to have exact change.



On a loosely related note, QRZ.com is offering the "12 Days of QRZ award," an easy award to work toward. Just make at least one confirmed QSO on each of the twelve days between now and February 28th. There are also endorsements for specific bands and modes.

~Dave NZ1J

Minutes of the December Business Meeting

The following minutes of the December 11, 2025, MARC Business Meeting will be moved for approval at the January 8 meeting.

2025.12.11 MARC BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
7:00 - 7:49 PM EDT via Zoom
Submitted by AB1DQ, Jimmy Surprenant, MARC Secretary

Quorum: Club secretary AB1DQ Jimmy confirmed a quorum:
Membership per 11/2025 Roster: 211
Minimum for Quorum: 21 = 19 members + 2 Officers
In attendance: 30 = 26 members + 4 Officers

In Attendance:

Officers:

NZ1J	Dave Tipping	President
KC1OYN	Rick Becker	Treasurer
K1RCT	Rob Cichon	Station Activities Manager
AB1DQ	Jimmy Surprenant	Secretary

Members:

AC1SK	George Bucci	KC1KQH	John Kasinskas	NR1B	Bill Huggins
AC1TY	Andy Rudczynsk	KC1OYS	Jim McAuliffe	W1BRY	Don Chepurna
K1LHO	Mike Ash	KC1TSG	Jim Drexler	W1YSM	Ed Snyder
K1TDO	Todd Olsen	KC1TSX	Mike Barile	WA1ZVY	Jim Martin
K1VDF	John Blevins	KC1WFB	Lloyd Saberski	WB1GFI	Stan Hiriak
KA1YZC	Paul Patnoad	N1API	Al Kaiser	WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur
KB1JL	Eric Olsson	N1BRL	Bart Toftness	WJ1B	Harold Kramer
KC1DOY	Ted Renzoni	N1LES	Joe Murray	WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann
KC1ERO	Jason Pintek	NA1L	Dale Clift		

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. EST by NZ1J, President Dave Tipping.

Secretary's Report de AB1DQ, Jimmy Surprenant

- **Acceptance of the November Minutes**

MOTION: That the November 11, 2025, business meeting minutes be accepted.
de AB1DQ

SECONDED: de KB1JL

DISCUSSION: N1BRL says we can not approve incorrect minutes that contain an error. Specifically, on page 5 of the November minutes distributed this week, the tally of the roll call vote on the motion made by AB1DQ, Bob Biancur's vote was recorded twice, once in the Yea column and once in the Abstain column. Bob, present at the December meeting, clarified that his vote was yea. AB1DQ amends the report as follows:

ORIGINAL MINUTES:

VOTE: AB1DQ, called for a roll call vote. The votes were recorded:		
<u>Yea (15, 46.9%)</u>	<u>Nay (9, 28.1%)</u>	<u>Abstain (8, 25.0%)</u>
AC1SK	AC1TY	AB1DQ
KC1DOY	K00Z	KA1YZC
KC1STF	K1RCT	KB1EHE
KC1TSG	KB1JL	KB1IFZ
KC1TSM	KC1NQE	N1BRL
KC1TSX	KC1OYN	NZ1J
KE1AU	KC1QWH	W1YSM
N1API	N1LES	WB1GYZ
NA1L	WB1GFI	
NR1B		
N1ZN		
W1BRY		
WB1GYZ		
WJ1B		
WV2LKM		
The motion passed. Jimmy, AB1DQ, acting as Secretary, recorded a single vote on behalf of the club, electing Dave, NZ1J, as Interim President through 12/31/25.		

REVISED MINUTES:

VOTE: AB1DQ, called for a roll call vote. The votes were recorded:		
<u>Yea (15, 48.4%)</u>	<u>Nay (9, 29.0%)</u>	<u>Abstain (7, 22.58%)</u>
AC1SK	AC1TY	AB1DQ
KC1DOY	K00Z	KA1YZC
KC1STF	K1RCT	KB1EHE
KC1TSG	KB1JL	KB1IFZ
KC1TSM	KC1NQE	N1BRL
KC1TSX	KC1OYN	NZ1J
KE1AU	KC1QWH	W1YSM
N1API	N1LES	
NA1L	WB1GFI	
NR1B		
NZ1N		
W1BRY		
WB1GYZ		
WJ1B		
WV2LKM		
The motion passed. Jimmy, AB1DQ, acting as Secretary, recorded a single vote on behalf of the club, electing Dave, NZ1J, as Interim President through 12/31/25.		

AMENDMENT: That the November 11, 2025, business meeting minutes be accepted contingent upon the above correction to page 5 being made.
de AB1DQ

SECONDED de N1API **DISCUSSION:** None **VOTED:** Approved

• New Members:

There are three new candidates for membership.

Name	Call Sign	License Class	Home QTH	
Carl Gross	KC1YPA	Technician	North Haven, CT	.
Jason Pintek	KC1ERO	Amateur Extra	Southington, CT	
Bob Munro	W4FMM	Amateur Extra	Waterbury, CT	

MOTION: That the three above-named candidates be accepted as members.
de AB1DQ

SECONDED de N1API **DISCUSSION:** None **VOTED:** Approved

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP = 211.

• Questions for the Secretary: None

Treasurer's Report de KC10YN, Rick Becker

- Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report

MOTION: That the November Treasurer's Report previously emailed to the club membership be accepted.

de KC10YN

SECONDED

de AB1DQ

DISCUSSION: None

VOTED: Approved

- Rick spoke to the following items included in the Treasurer's Report:

1. We have received another donation from Benevity on behalf of Elizabeth Carpenter. Elizabeth donated \$300 this time, which was matched by Benevity at 2 to 1 for a total of \$900 with a \$72 processing fee.
Thank you very much, Elizabeth Carpenter; Rick deposited the \$ 828 check
2. As discussed at the July Business Meeting, the membership approved a recurring expenditure of \$600 per year to help with cleaning supplies for the OEM, as requested by the Town of Wallingford. It was estimated to cost \$50 per month.
Rick reports that we have spent exactly zero dollars after the initial purchase of the mop and reminds everyone to submit your receipts in support of cleaning the OEM to your treasurer for reimbursement.
3. Our station activity manager, Rob Cichon K1RCT, has purchased \$1,037.78 worth of computers and associated paraphernalia. The club has proactively funded this clubhouse enhancement for \$ 1,200, and there may be some ancillary equipment to come. Additional receipts may follow for additional hardware, after which either a return of excess funds or a request for additional funds will ensue.
4. Our W1NRG.com domain has been renewed for \$19.99 through the Dreamhost Domain Renewal Service.
5. Our Equipment Coverage Insurance has been renewed using the ARRL insurance program with coverage through The Hanover Insurance Group for \$134.78; there was no increase in the premium.
6. Update on the uncollected VE monies. On November 13th, the ARRL collected the \$45 charge from the VE session we held at the Nutfest.
7. We have received the invoice for our Post Office Box and, as expected, the cost did rise from \$200 to \$210.
8. The MARC annual report with the Connecticut Secretary of the State is due soon; the filing fee remains at \$50.
9. Dues are Due! Membership dues for next year are due now. Members renewing are encouraged to submit their dues payment expeditiously, helping George AC1SK, our new treasurer, as he takes over.
The favored method for dues payment is to use PayPal.
(1) Go to W1NRG.com, hover over the ABOUT tab, then click on MEMBERSHIP.
(2) Halfway down the page is a convenient Pay Dues with PayPal link.
You can also send a check to the club, P.O. Box 583, Meriden, or you can hand cash or a check to me or any officer.
10. Next Sunday, December 14th, the MARC, in conjunction with the Town of Wallingford, in presenting "North Pole On-The-Air" AKA "CQ Santa".
With Santa's help, children will talk to Bernard the Elf, who is at the North Pole, using Ham Radio. Everyone is encouraged to come down to the OEM from 10 am until 1 pm with your children and grandchildren for this very special experience.
11. Eric, KB1JL, has submitted receipts for reimbursement for the North Pole on the Air program, covering supplies such as tablecloths, glue, and decorations.
MOTION: That the club compensate Eric for supplies totaling \$29.47.
de KC10YN
SECONDED: K1RCT
DISCUSSION: None
VOTED: Approved.

12. In November, the MARCONI program funded the acquisition of two T-deck Pro Meshtastic devices and two RAKwireless WisMesh Repeater Minis in support of an effort spearheaded by Eric Olsson, KB1JL. The Meshtastic devices enhance emergency communication, and MARC can use them for show and tell and to demonstrate the various technical aspects of mesh to adults, scouts, students, and any other interested individuals or groups. Ask Eric if you have any questions about why this is a good thing.
13. We have received a Thank You letter from MARS, the Middlesex Amateur Radio Society, in appreciation of the MARCONI program. Rick read the letter, and it is attached to the minutes as Addendum No. 1.

- Questions for the Treasurer:

Station Activities Report de K1RCT, Rob Cichon:

Questions for the SAM: None.

Old Business / New Business:

MOTION: That the club rename the Ham of the Year award for John B. Barscherer, N1GNV/SK, who passed away in October.
de AB1DQ **SECONDED**

WITHDRAW: The motion to rename the Ham of the Year award shall be withdrawn, with the intent to move the motion again in January.

[illegible]

- **Giving the 2025 Ham of the Year Award to the Barscherer family.** de NZ1J
Dave sought the club's opinion on whether we should send John Bee's HOY award to his family, and if so, how we would get it to them. Discussion included a proposal that we do so and display a duplicate of the award at the OEM.
No motions made.

- **Changes coming to Key Klix promoting contesting** de AB1DQ
In 2026, KeyKlix will contain more focused content on operating, particularly emphasizing three areas: Contesting, POTA, and SKCC.

Contesting:

- Steve Allen, KC1SA, an avid contester, has agreed to take on the mantle of KK Contesting Editor.
- In addition to publishing a list of the new month's contest calendar, we will add a regular column devoted to contesting.
- We intend to solicit and publish member contest results along with club contest achievements. Members are encouraged to submit their scores, awards, and interesting contest soapbox comments to keyklixaw1nrg.com for publication in the Contesting section of KK.

POTA:

- POTA was one of the most popular on-air activities at MARC in 2025, and we encourage MARC members to continue to share their POTA news - both activation and hunter achievements by emailing keyklixaw1nrg.com or by posting your POTA news on the MARC Facebook page, where it will be picked up by the KeyKlix editors.
- We particularly love to run your activation photos.

SKCC:

- MARC will emphasize and promote Straight Key Century Club events and contests in 2026.
- SKCC is a large, dynamic global CW club that emphasizes and promotes the art of CW Morse Code operating using straight keys, bugs, and cootie keys.
- Twenty-five MARC members currently have their SKCC number, and MARC itself has a club SKCC number.
- Joining SKCC is free and easy, and once a member, you can begin working on achieving various awards and achievements.
- SKCC holds monthly sprints and various other on-air events that attract widespread participation, such as "Straight Key Month," which is coming up in January.
- SKCC is a friendly and forgiving group that focuses on CW education, building individual skill, and encourages slower-speed CW QSOs.
- Watch for news in KeyKlix each month, and to learn more or apply for membership, go to the SKCC website - <https://www.skccgroup.com/>.

- **Reminder: Our 2nd holiday party next Saturday** de AB1DQ
All MARC members are invited to come to the OEM on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at 12:30 for pizza and a potluck holiday gathering.
Donate \$10 for pizza or bring and share your favorite dish [SIGN UP HERE](#)

Adjournment

MOTION: That we adjourn the meeting.
de NZ1J

SECONDED de AB1DQ

DISCUSSION: None

VOTED: Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM EST.



MIDDLESEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
W1EDH 147.090 147.030 449.625
DMR 449.125



November 17, 2025

Dear Mr. Richard Becker,

The officers and members of the Middlesex Amateur Radio Society would like to thank you and the Meriden Amateur Radio Club for your support in our upgrade to our VE sessions. As a small club our finances can get a little tight at times and your donation through the MARCONI program is of great assistance. Our VE team has recently began overseeing a second VE testing site and the new equipment will allow them to provide the best service possible.

Sincerely,

John Devine

KC1KYH

MARS Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Devine", is written over the printed name.

Key Klix *Klassified* - Buy, Swap & Sell...

ITEMS FOR SALE

Yaesu FT-8800R Dual Band Transceiver
with Antenna Kit **\$300**
Email LENNY GUERCIA: len@guerciagroup.com
*** STOCK PHOTO - Not actual item ***



MFJ-870 Wattmeter 1.6-60 MHz **\$50**
Email JIMMY SURPRENANT james@ab1dq.com
*** ACTUAL ITEM DEPICTED ***



**DO YOU HAVE HAM RELATED ITEMS TO SELL, OR
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SPECIFIC HAM RELATED ITEM?**
List your items for sale or what you are looking for here in KeyKlix for FREE!
Email keyklix@w1nrg.com with your details price and contact information.

An Invitation for MARC Members from the Bartscherer Family

A flea market will be held exclusively
for MARC members at Quicksilver Radio at
47 Billard Street, Meriden, Connecticut, on
Thursday, January 8, from 3PM to 6PM
& **Friday, January 9, from 4PM to 7PM.**

Quicksilver Radio has been sold and will
continue under new ownership.
(See the announcement to the right.)

Ralph Hess, of New Holland, PA, has been a
presence at the hamfests, owns a Radio Shack,
and has purchased the store's inventory.

Ralph is eager to expand his business keeping
Quicksilver Radio open and continuing John
Bee's work serving the ham community.

Items to be offered at the flea market for MARC
members will include radio equipment and
parts personally owned by John, N1GNV/SK,
and the detritus of a small business
hollowed out.



**In memory of John, please spend time over
the holidays with your closest love ones.
Make sure they truly
know what they mean to you.**

**The Quicksilver Radio team is pleased to
announce that the business will
NOT BE CLOSING!**

**While our location has changed, our
dedication to the hobby and commitment
to the Amateur Community has not.**

**We have been busy moving the inventory to
New Holland Pennsylvania, where it will become
a division of New Holland Radio Shack.
The website - qsradio.com is back up, and as
inventory is processed daily, is being added.
Look for us at Hamcation in February!**



THE W1NRG NEWSLINE

*"Providing Continuous Waves
of Useful Club Information"*

Making Merry at Not One, but Two MARC Holiday Parties!

by Ted Renzoni, KC1DOY, featuring the photography of Al Kaiser, N1API

PARTY ONE: PACIFIC BUFFET, DEC 06

After the club's usual weekly gathering at the OEM on Saturday, December 6, all left for the MARC Holiday/Christmas Party. This year, it was held at the Pacific Buffet in Wallingford.

Our group numbered about 20, and from all of the smiling faces, it was quite a success. The food was good, and the selection was excellent - everything from breakfast to dinner was available from the buffet, along with a nice dessert selection.

The venue, on Ives Road, was within easy driving distance of the OEM, about 2 miles away. The 2025 party was a casual event, unlike what we had previously, and everyone seemed very happy with the arrangements.

IMHO, holding the event in the afternoon this year was a big plus too, meaning no one had to drive to and from the party in the dark.

~ de KC1DOY, Ted



MARC members and spouses enjoying the first 2025 club holiday party at the Pacific Buffet. See the expanded photo gallery, courtesy of N1API on page 13.

PARTY TWO: OEM POT-LUCK, DEC 20

On Saturday, December 20, MARC held a second fabulous holiday party at the OEM. Like the first one at Pacific Buffet, the festive gathering was well attended, generating smiles all around.

The day's menu included pizza, giant subs (one ham and cheese, one turkey), and a savory smorgasbord of potluck items, including saurkraut and kielbasa, baked beans, mac and cheese, assorted chips, and N1API's justly world-famous clam dip.

There was also a make-your-own-sandwich bar with everything you need for all of the "Dagwoods" out there. Did you want dessert? How about not one, but two cakes - one white and one chocolate.

Thanks to all those who brought in main dishes and sides to complement the menu, a fine lead into what we hope was a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Kwanza, and Festivus had by all!

~ Ted KC1DOY



**We had a sizeable turnout for the Holiday Party Pizza & Potluck at the OEM.
See our expanded photo gallery on page 14 .**



N1API Al's Holiday Party Photo Galleries

(WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY AB1DQ & KC1DOY)



DEC 6 - PACIFIC BUFFET



DEC 20 - WALLINGFORD O.E.M.



North Pole on the Air

by *Ed Snyder, W1YSM*



On Sunday, December 14, while 1-3" of snow was semi-gently accumulating on the landscape, the Meriden Amateur Radio Club held its annual children's North Pole on the Air Christmas event. There was concern that, due to the weather, attendance would be low, but the snow added to the ambience of the event, resulting in a great turnout. In all, 21 children and their families visited our event.

Rick KC1OYN reprised his role as Santa, complete with a real white beard (cultivated since May) and an authentic red Santa suit. As Santa, KC1OYN's job was to also act as the control operator, as the children who came with their parents contacted the elves at the North Pole over a live amateur radio. Specifically,

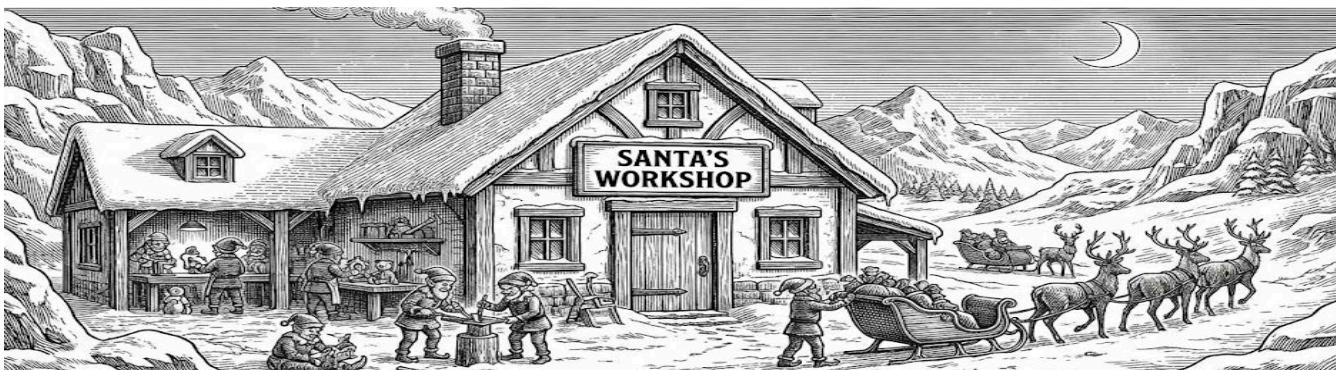
they contacted the Elf-in-Chief, "Bernard," whose voice bore an uncanny resemblance to that of our own **John K1LYP**. (Bernard was actually located in a room next to the W1NRG Chris Sievert Radio Room, a mere length of a reindeer's antler right down the hall.)

Parents were greeted by members of the Wallingford Health Department, members of Wallingford CERT, and several volunteer assistant elves, including **Iain W1IKW**, who traveled all the way down from Southwick, MA, in his sleigh, **Eric KB1JL**, **Jeff N1AKN**, **Ed W1YSM**, **Bart N1BRL**, and the Chief Elf, without whom none of this would have been possible -- **Kristin KC1ISI**.

The children were given treats to eat, crafts to play with, and once they talked with Santa and his North Pole Elf, they received the Official Holiday QSL Certificate (see insert) to memorialize the meeting with Santa and their QSO with Bernard. Courtesy of the Wallingford Fire Department, the children were also able to see a real fire truck parked on the OEM apron for the occasion.

MARC collected a sizable amount of food for [Master's Manna](#) to help feed the hungry during this Christmas season. All in all, it was another well-run MARC event, and organizers thank all those who participated to help make this event a great success. We look forward to next year and even more children -- perhaps we can even Rent-a-Reindeer? Hi-Hi!

~Ed, W1YSM



W1NRG Calling the North Pole on the Air...



TOP LEFT: Santa Claus, mic in hand, is ready to receive the good little girls and boys for radio check ins at the North Pole. **TOP RIGHT:** Bernard the Elf, busy at the Workshop radio bench at the North Pole, taking calls from Santa and the kiddos. **ABOVE LEFT:** Constantino, KA1BMF, and his son enjoying the festivities at the OEM on December 14. **ABOVE:** A sample of the handsome certificate, suitable for framing, signed by Santa and given to all our young guests.

2025 ARRL International DX Contest Results

The ARRL has published the 2025 International DX Contest Results. The CW contest was held on February 15 - 16, and the phone contest was held on March 1 - 2.

KeyKlix congratulates the following MARC members for their achievements in the contest:

CW RESULTS

CT	Rank	Call/-Op	Name	Score	QSOs	Multi	Hours	Category
	18	N1API	Al Kaiser	324,156	466	238	17.6	Single Op Unlimited Low Power
	24	NA2AA	David Minster	205,320	296	232	11.0	Single Op Unlimited QRP
	32	KC1SA	Steve Allen	30,129	125	83	4.0	Single Op Low Power
	35	K1LHO	Mike Ash	7,245	73	69	6.2	Single Op Unlimited Low Power
	38	WA1K	Jack Chapman	630	17	14	0.9	Single Op Low Power

PHONE RESULTS

CT	Rank	Call/-Op	Name	Score	QSOs	Multi	Hours	Category
	19	N1XXU	Andy Purchia	120,132	292	142	9.2	Single Op Low Power
	22	KC1SA	Steve Allen	98,670	255	130	7.3	Single Op High Power
	32	W1NRG	Meriden ARC	12,960	81	54	3.7	Multi Op 2 Transmitter
	"	-K1RCT	-Rob Cichon	-	-	-	-	" " " "
	"	-KC1SYU	-James Cosgrove	-	-	-	-	" " " "
	"	-KC1TSG	-Jim Drexler	-	-	-	-	" " " "
	"	-KC1VVC	-Andy Purchia	-	-	-	-	" " " "
	"	-N1API	-Al Kaiser	-	-	-	-	" " " "
	34	N1API	Al Kaiser	12,054	83	49	1.8	Single Op Unlimited 10M
	36	N1ZN	Jim Savage`	5,400	46	40	2.8	Single Op Unlimited Low Power
	39	KC1UJP	Jason Polaski	4,257	44	33	3.1	Single Op Low Power

Source: <https://contests.arrl.org/scores.php>



**PLAN NOW TO JOIN IN
THE FUN THIS YEAR!**

**The 2026 ARRL International
DX Contest Weekends are:**

CW: February 21-22, 2026
(0000 UTC Sat to 2359 UTC Sun)

SSB: March 7-8, 2026
(0000 UTC Sat to 2359 UTC Sun)

MARC Member Wall of Fame

2025 ARRL DX Contest



Looking for ARRL Contest Certificates to adorn the walls of your shack?

Search and download PDF versions of your League awards for free here: <https://contests.arrl.org/certificates.php>

MARC & SKCC, a *Great* Combination!



MARC & SKCC - a great combo for classic ham radio fun!

The Straight Key Century Club exists to preserve the art of manual Morse code. Members earn awards, participate in sprints, receive mentorship, and enjoy relaxed, slow-paced "ragchew" style operating with other straight key enthusiasts. Membership is free and open to all skill levels.

Currently, twenty-seven members of MARC are also members of the Straight Key Century Club, and MARC as a club, holds SKCC number 20945...

SKCC	Call	Name	Last	City	SPC	Mbr Date
14595C	AB1DQ	Jimmy	Surprenant	Cheshire	CT	11/08/15
15842	K1LHO	Mike	Ash	Meriden	CT	07/10/16
25915	K1SMD	Silas	Moeckel	Watertown	CT	04/05/22
20925	K1TGX	Jerry	Molaver	Cheshire	CT	08/18/19
28411	KB1CXK	Joe	Clarizio	Wethersfield	CT	02/22/24
21047S	KB1FGC	Rich	Guerrera	Prospect	CT	09/21/19
28237	KC1ISI	Kristin	Olsson	Meriden	CT	01/14/24
26033	KC1KQH	John	Kasinskis	Cheshire	CT	05/06/22
25602	KC1OYN	Rick	Becker	Wallingford	CT	02/08/22
26283	KC1QLS	Ray	Cirno	Cheshire	CT	07/18/22
30276	KC1WFB	Lloyd	Saberski	Cheshire	CT	08/25/25
3761	KE1AU	Bob	Kaczor	Meriden	CT	12/10/07
25787	N1BRI	Brian	Beegan	Meriden	CT	03/12/22
26048	N1ZN	Jim	Savage	Wallingford	CT	05/07/22
26605	NA1L	Dale	Clift	Plantsville	CT	10/06/22
10947	NA2AA	David	Minster	Wayne	NJ	07/27/13
30567	NR1B	Bill	Huggins	Wallingford	CT	12/11/25
17841S	NZ1J	Dave	Tipping	Northford	CT	11/25/17
11037T	UT3UY	Toly	Kirilenko	Kyiv	UKR	08/20/13
29872	W1BRY	Don	Chepurna	Waterbury	CT	04/12/25
20945	W1NRG	MARC	-	Wallingford	CT	08/23/19
20981	W1LV	Steve	Morley	North Haven	CT	09/03/19
23458	W2TT	Ross	Lambert	Loveladies	NJ	12/11/20
11183	WA1K	Jack	Chapman	Cromwell	CT	10/02/13
30579	WA1MAC	Paul	Clark	Milford	CT	12/15/26
16311	WA1INC	Roland	Hamel	Waterbury	CT	12/02/16
17400	WA1ZVY	Jim	Martin	Hamden	CT	08/05/17
7101T	WB1GYZ	Bob	Biancur	Wallingford	CT	09/29/10

There are many great reasons for joining SKCC, like improving your CW skills, earning Centurion, Tribune, Senator distinctions and various awards, and participating in monthly Sprintathons and other on-air events. SKCC is beginner-friendly, too!

MARC encourages its members to join the SKCC and rediscover the simple elegance of using a traditional straight key. Visit the [SKCC website](#) to learn more!

January is Straight Key Month

Can you earn your K3Y Clean Sweep?



In January, members of the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) will be operating special event CW stations using only straight key, bug, and cootie keys - the original instruments of radiotelegraphy, which this event celebrates.

Event stations in the US will operate from 13 regional call areas as K3Y/0 through K3Y/9, plus K3Y/KH6, K3Y/KL7, and K3Y/KP4.

Additionally, SKCC members from various countries in six IARU continental regions will participate as special event stations using their own call signs and sending "CQ SKM". All event stations are listed on the Operator Map and in the [Op Schedules](#) on the [SKCC website](#).

SKCC members and non-members can try to complete the following goals and earn a special event QSL "Sweep" Card:

- **BASIC SWEEP :** Contacts with K3Y/0 through K3Y/9 stations.
- **FULL SWEEP :** The above plus KH6, KL7, and KP4.
- **GRAND SWEEP :** The above plus the six IARU Continent regions: AF, AS, EU, NA, OC, and SA.

For more fun, try working as many stations as you can in these categories:

- US States
- DX entities
- Canadian Provinces & Territories
- Band-area Combinations (more than 100)
- Event Station Operators (more than 200)

Your progress toward all of these goals is automatically recorded in the Sweeps & Stats section (see Index link). As this is not a contest, you can enjoy working event operators all month long in easy-paced exchanges. You don't need to be an SKCC member or use a straight key. SKCC Members can join the team of event operators! Refer to the [Operator Guide](#) and contact the K3Y-1 Coordinator, [NE10. Barry L Whittemore](#), for more info.

We hope you'll help us celebrate the original instruments & art of radiotelegraphy in this special event. Have fun, and please share your experiences in **KeyKlix** by dropping a line to keyklix@w1nrg.com

Meet Ellen Cosgrove, KC1TSM

A Featured WB1GYZ "Railroad Bob" Member Profile



Ellen Cosgrove, KC1TSM, originally from Queens, has also resided in Manhattan, Chicago, Bergen County, New Jersey, and Boston. She was introduced to Amateur radio by her husband, **Jimmy, AB1DQ**, early in their relationship. She agreed to pursue the radio hobby in earnest after retiring from her position as Dean of Students at Yale Law School. When that day arrived, he surprised her at first light with a gift-wrapped Yaseu FT-65 and the Technician's study guide. Ellen often accompanies Jimmy to ham fests, and it was in Marlboro that she discovered the YLRL (Young Ladies Radio League), where she attended a presentation on women in ham radio, which spurred her interest to pursue the hobby.

Ellen graduated from Mount Holyoke College and moved to New York to be an investment banker. She left banking to attend law school at the University of Chicago. After practicing in a large law firm in NYC for several years, she returned to the University of Chicago as Dean of Students. A decade later, she moved to Harvard Law School, and that's where she met her future husband. They were happily living in Lexington and working at Harvard, but as Ellen's parents' health declined, she wanted to move closer, so they relocated to Cheshire and began working at Yale (Ellen at the Law School and Jimmy at the Med School).

Ellen admits to being passionate about travel. She has been on an African safari and toured much of Europe and the Far East. Ellen was inspired by **Eric, KB1EHE**, and **Elsie's KB1IFZ** recent Antarctica journey, and now has her sights set on doing something similar.

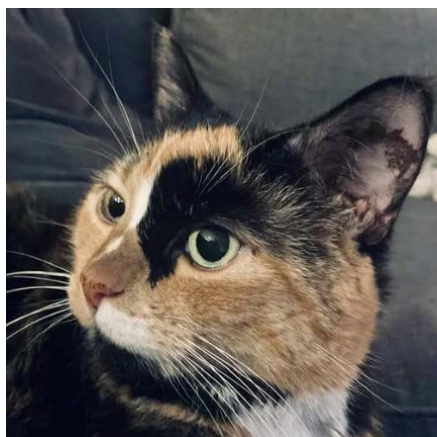
Ellen appreciates ham radio more as a tool than as a hobby. In her career, she was very involved in emergency planning and was frustrated with how much of the university planning assumed working cellphones and the internet. She recalled that on 9/11, her brother worked a block from the World Trade Center and was unable to communicate via cellphone for long periods of time, so she appreciates the power of ham radio. That interest in ham radio as a tool led her to join CERT. Ellen and Jimmy took the course together and have enjoyed volunteering for road races and practicing emergency response. She and Jimmy both assisted at the Gaylord Gauntlet, an intense five-mile obstacle course with a series of challenges along the route. Ellen also participates in the New Haven County Skywarn nets.

Ellen also enjoys the behind-the-scenes aspects of the radio hobby. For instance, she has worked with **Ed Snyder, W1YSM**, as an advisor on the MARCONI project and will be serving on the board of The Nutfest Alliance in the coming year. At MARC, Ellen has chaired the election committee for the past two years, co-taught a Tech class with Kristen Olsen, KC1ISI, and has helped out with North Pole on the Air.

Ellen hopes to see more women in the hobby. She drafted a chapter for the MARCONI User's Guide on women in ham radio. The guide is available on the ARRL website: <https://www.arrl.org/marconi-program>, and she organized a panel on women in ham radio for Nutfest. She hopes to get more involved with YLRL in the upcoming year.

While she is less active in the social aspects of the hobby, she has enjoyed participating in the Shore Point Amateur Radio Club's weekly Talk Net as well as the MARC Saturday morning Coffee Cup net.

When asked for a memorable QSO, Ellen recalled one that she and Jimmy had with a Cuban station about ten years ago. At that time, they were planning a trip to Cuba and had been in correspondence with Arnie Corro, C02KK, host of the popular "DXers Unlimited" program on Radio Habana. Arnie had invited Jimmy and Ellen to tour the Federación de Radioaficionados de Cuba (FRC), the Cuban equivalent of our ARRL, in Havana, among other points of interest. It was unfortunate that they had to cancel that trip at the last minute, but Ellen recalls the warmth and sincerity of that special relationship developed over QSOs. Unfortunately, Arnie became a silent key, passing away in January 2023, so they were unable to meet when Ellen and Jimmy finally made it to Cuba this year.



Ellen has also accompanied Jimmy on some POTAs when they travel and was particularly excited when they operated in a remote area of Yosemite following a significant snowfall that closed many of the roads. They used an arborist rope launcher to raise an end-fed half-wave antenna in the trees (climbing snowmounds) and were able to make contacts from western Canada to the Southeast US. Ellen's current equipment consists of the gear Jimmy acquired over his years in the hobby that is in their now shared shack (where both Ellen and Jimmy's licenses hang together), plus her Yaesu FT-65 dual-band handheld that first appeared when she opened her eyes on the first day of retirement!

In retirement, Ellen has taken on some consulting projects with law schools and is serving on a few boards, including The Practicing Law Institute, a non-profit continuing legal education organization which provides CLE programs around the world, The Connecticut Community Empowerment Foundation, a non-profit which operates as ReRead Books & More to provide job training and independent living opportunities for individuals with special needs. She also serves on an ABA committee, a Connecticut Bar committee, remains very active as a volunteer at Mount Holyoke, and serves as a judge at her granddaughter's debate tournaments.

Ellen and Jimmy make their home in Cheshire, with Nessie, their cat, and spend a lot of time with their step-daughter, son-in-law, and two granddaughters in RI. In addition to their two granddaughters, they enjoy time with their two nieces and three Godchildren (collectively known as The Wee Seven).



PHOTOS: PREVIOUS PAGE - Ellen KC1TSM at the 2025 Cheshire Road Race. ABOVE LEFT - Nessie, Ellen & Jimmy's "Radio Cat": ABOVE RIGHT - His & Hers Licenses hang in the shack.

Remembering the Radios of Buchenwald

*Reprinted with permission from
Making It Up, Enjoying Radio, and Maker Hobbies*

Guest Article by R.B. Sturtevant AD7IL



One man's ham radio ingenuity and desperation built the radios of Buchenwald and saved lives. Let's look back.

In April 1945, the Allied armies were pushing their way through what was left of Hitler's Thousand-Year Reich. At the time, the Allies had no knowledge of what the Concentration Camps were or what was going on inside them.

Buchenwald was one of the first concentration camps. It was set up, not for people of any special ethnicity. Rather, it interred people with strong anti-Nazi political feelings and a long record of violence against the Nazis. The prisoners had met the Nazis in the streets with fists, clubs, knives and heavy boots. They were political street fighters and some pretty tough customers.

One of the Polish prisoners was Gwidon Damazyn, an Electrical Engineer and Ham Radio operator with a pre-war call sign of SP2BD. He had been a prisoner in Buchenwald since March 1941. In the summer of 1942 Damazyn and some friends built a secret radio receiver. He started with a DKE 38, shown above left. (DKE 38 stood for Deutscher Kleinempfänger 1938, which translates as German small radio model 1938.) The radio had been created at the order of Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels to provide education and entertainment for the German people, and as a tool of indoctrination. The radio was sold cheaply, and as a model which eliminated the possibility of listening to foreign radio stations, particularly shortwave stations.

Damazyn modified the tuning circuit to receive shortwave and was able to pick up stations from as far away as London and Moscow. Listening to the news from the Allies, the prisoners found out about D-Day and the Allied progress moving toward Germany. In 1944, Damazyn and his friends "found" another radio and converted it into a transmitter.

Now, they needed an antenna, power supply, and amplifier. These were found in the camp's movie theater, shown above right. The sides of the two-story theater supported lightning rods which were quietly turned into antennas. The audio system from the projector was "borrowed" to beef up the modulator. (More information)

Radios of Buchenwald Call for Help

At noon on April 8, 1944 the conspirators sent out the message, likely on 8 MHz. "To the Allies. To the Army of General Patton. This is the Buchenwald concentration camp. SOS. We request help. They want to evacuate us. The SS wants to destroy us." The message was sent out three times each in English, German, and Russian. Shortly after, a reply was received: "Kz Bu Hold out. Rushing to your aid. Staff of the Third Army."

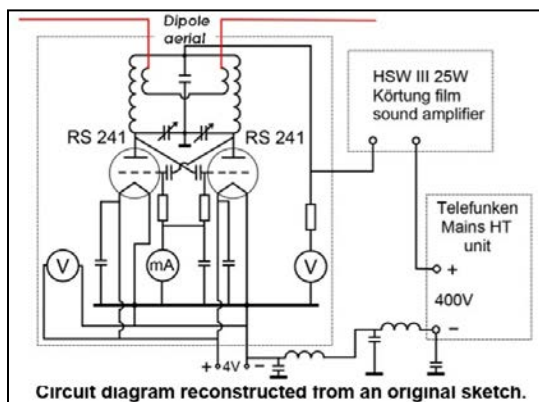
When Damazyn heard the reply, those with him reported that he fainted dead away. The prisoners jumped to work. They took the 91 rifles and the machine gun they had stolen from the camp guards over the years and drove all the Nazis out of the camp.

On April 11, 1944, the Allies, at full strength, arrived at the camp and found nobody there but ex-prisoners. It was the first concentration camp that the Allies had seen, and the news was front page for weeks to come. Following the war, Gwidon Damazyn was elected to the Board of Directors of the Polish National Association of Radio Amateurs. He passed away in 1972.

~originally published December 03, 2022

<https://play.fallows.ca/wp/radio/shortwave-radio/remembering-the-radios-of-buchenwald/>

EDITOR'S NOTE - *Want to learn more?*



KeyKlix is grateful to MARC member Eric Olsson, KB1JL, for suggesting this feature, feeling it is an inspiring story of the importance of radio and the value of Morse Code, even today, and it was timely to share given MARC's ongoing focus on encouraging members to become familiar with and to become active CW operators.

If you wish to learn more about the technical specs of the transmitter at the Buchenwald concentration camp, we recommend *Wireless for the Warrior, Volume 4, POW Radio No. 8, "Buchenwald Transmitter" Country of Origin: Germany* available online [here](#).



RE M I N D E R :

ARRL Straight Key Night

Starts Thursday @7pm EDT

(January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC)

FULL DETAILS AT:

<https://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>



At the Clubhouse *with Ted, KC1DOY*

On **6 December 2025**, **Paul WA1MAC** brought his Maxpeedingrods MXR-2Y air heater in for a show-and-tell. It is designed as a vehicle heater but can be adapted for indoor use.

It runs on diesel fuel and has an adjustable power range of 1 to 8 kW output. It has an LCD control panel, a remote control, and can also be controlled via a Bluetooth app. Intake and exhaust ports are located underneath the unit so that fresh combustion air and diesel exhaust lines can be routed to the outside of the vehicle or structure. It requires 12V DC to power the internal fuel pump and glow plug.

Paul plans to use it for heating an outdoor shed.

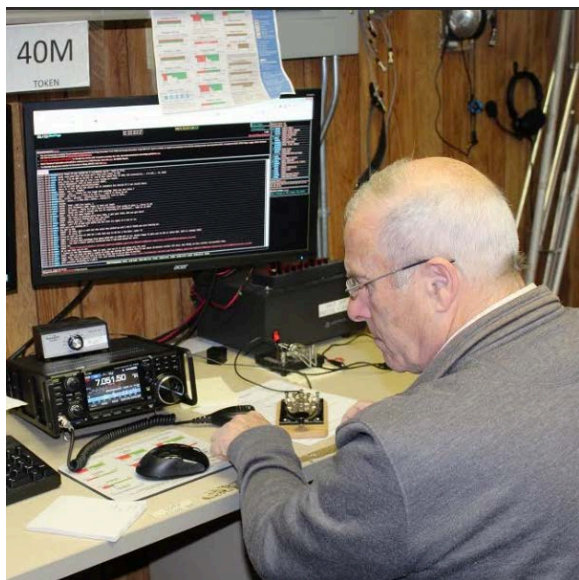


LEFT: PAUL WA1MAC SHOWS JOHN K1LYP HIS DIESEL FUEL-POWERED HEATER. RIGHT: THE MXR-2Y HEATER

As usual, a lot was happening at the club on **Saturday, 13 December 2025**. The VE session took place even though there was only one testee. One or one hundred (or up to the room's capacity, whichever comes first), the MARC VE's are always ready. **Dave NZ1J** managed to **MAKE** some December SKCC Weekend Sprintathon contacts with a straight key at the club station that morning. The straight key event is coming up soon, so it doesn't hurt to get in some practice ahead of time.

Joe N1LES brought in the transmitter board from a Motorola XPR 8400 repeater that needed a lot of TLC to get back into operation. **Bill NR1B**, **Dave NZ1J**, and **Jeff N1AKN** put their collective knowledge together and, after a lot of discussion and some disagreement, came up with a plan. Bill and Jeff managed to finally remove the heat sink that covered the failed power transistor, which seemed to be the problem. Bill will now continue to work on the board, which hopefully can be brought back to life when a new transistor can be installed. Fingers crossed that this is the only problem. Stay tuned.

Ted KC1DOY



LEFT: DAVE NZ1J POUNDS BRASS FOR SOME SKCC WES POINTS. RIGHT: MANY HANDS ON THE XPR 8400

2025 may be nearing its end, but activities at MARC haven't slowed down a bit. On Saturday **20 December**, we had another very good turnout at the OEM.

Paul WA1MAC brought in his diesel heater once again, this time mounted to his vehicle. He fitted a wooden pass-through into the passenger side window opening to mount the hot air duct. The heater and battery pack sit outside. The unit does a good job of heating the car without having to run the engine. This is a perfect setup for a Winter POTA activation or for Winter Field Day operation.



Paul plans to install a hookup to the car battery, allowing the heater to run for longer periods.

Who knows, maybe he can rig up an external mount for the heater so it won't have to sit on the ground at all. Hamgenuity!

Interest in code practice is still going strong, as seen by the number of hams who are participating in code sessions. New students are joining all the time. CW, the original digital mode, is far from dead and is certain to continue for a long time to come.

The highlight of the day was Holiday Party #2, see coverage starting on page 11.



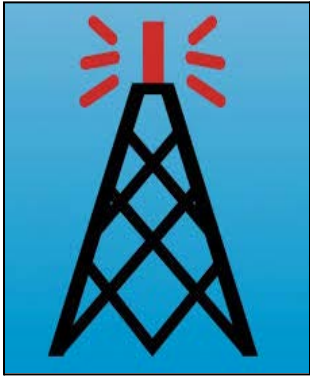
ABOVE: Code practice continues to be a popular activity at the OEM as it was on December 20. We have no shortage of CW Elmers including WB1GYZ, NZ1J, and K1LYP around on Saturday mornings to help you learn the code and improve your fist.



The month of December and the year of 2025 wrapped up on the final Saturday with no scheduled activity at the OEM due to the overnight storm that left 6-9 inches reported throughout the area. W1YSM held a Skywarn net at 10:00 AM following his weekly *Coffee Cup* net on the W1NRG/R repeater.

Echolink 101

by Steve Allen, KC1SA



Most of you folks who use Echolink often may already know this, but I wanted to restate the information. For more technical details about Echolink, please visit the Echolink site or the groups.io section dedicated to Echolink.

These are the things I've uncovered/learned since launching the W1NRG/r node on Echolink about 5 years ago. Since its launch, the node has been up and active more than 98% of the time, with one hardware swap-out (PC) and one radio swap-out. The node is currently running on a Windows XP Lenovo T30 laptop connected to a Kenwood TH-F6 HT using a ground plane 2m antenna in a line-of-sight path to the repeater antenna.

Using your phone as a hotspot and using that internet connection for a PC or phone to connect with Echolink will not work. Reviewing the Echolink log file, I've seen more denied access for iPhone users than Android users.

Is your Echolink application up to date?

You can not have two computers running the Echolink software (phone/tablet/PC) all connected to the same IP address (like using your home internet)

For me, testing if Echolink works or not, I have to disconnect my phone from my home WiFi and use my Cell Phone provider service (AT&T)

If you are having difficulty using Echolink, drop me a message, and I can try and help.

In your message, provide:

- Access method - PC, iPhone, Android, Tablet.
- If PC, what OS?
- If Table, specify Apple or Android?
- Connection method - Broadband (Comcast, Cox, Frontier, etc.) via home network through router?
- Connection method - Cell phone provider - Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, etc.?
- If through a Router, what router model and brand?

I hope to help those who are having issues. Send me a directed email to sallen48@gmail.com.

73,
Steve
KC1SA

--'--'--'--



Contesting with Steve, KC1SA

The ARRL 160-meter CW Contest *Weekend of December 5th*

This was one of those tough contests. The 160-meter band is a band that not a lot of hams hang out on.

Considering a good antenna has to be pretty high up off the ground and about 250 feet long, it is no surprise most hams ignore this band. My 160m antenna has been a Balun Design 9135 since 2015, and this 9:1 Unun works perfectly from 1.5 MHz through 6m as an end-fed antenna. This antenna has been my everyday antenna for 160m, 80m, and 40m bands. The compromise for me is that the feed point sits at 20 feet and the end is at about 35 feet (and continues to grow yearly).

This year, I used a bit of power for this contest, so I tuned up my AL-811 amp for 160m with the antenna. With about 300W, I was able to make QSOs to the Carolinas, Western New York, and Nova Scotia. Not the best performance, but good enough to score 69 QSOs in less than 4 hours. The highlight for me was making a QSO Sunday morning with K1KI, a local Connecticut Ham and ARRL Foundation director.

My 'success' is always measured by past performances. This year I scored much better than 2024, but my highlight year was 2019 with 120 QSOs all with 100W. When CW contesting, I never call CQ. I get nervous and fumble fingers and usually mess up the exchange badly. This event was no different, and with the help of N1MM+, I made all QSOs via the S&P method. Clear the band out (only one band), wait an hour or so and start over again. 160 meters is a nighttime band, so once the sun is up, it's time to shut down.

...and another contest out of the way:

The ARRL 10-meter Contest *Weekend of December 13th*

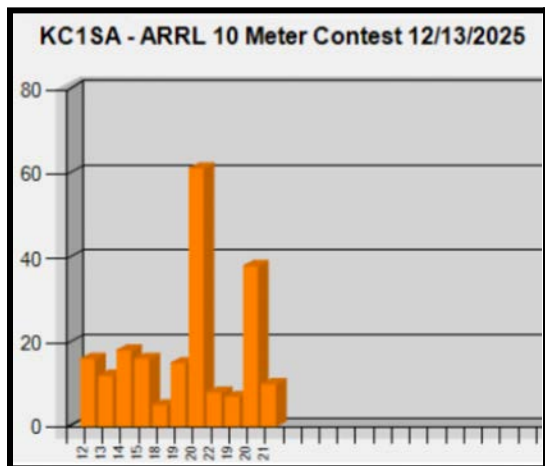
The weekend of December 13th was the ARRL 10m contest, and lately 10m has had very good operating conditions during the day and mixed results once daylight left us for another day. With N1MM+ configured, PC booted, the Amp tuned up, I was ready to participate. But like every weekend, family commitments come first, so my on-air time was limited mostly to Sunday and a bit on Sunday. The contest held true to good band conditions from about 6 AM to about 8 PM (for me). Once night really settled in, it was time to shut down the radio and spend time with family. This contest allows participants to make QSOs via SSB or CW, and for me, I did about a 50/50 mix.

Hawaii and Cape Verde were the highlights for me, but a lot of folks were participating in this contest. And it's always exciting to hear a club member when you're calling CQ (N1XXU), but I didn't hear any other MARC folks on the air. While S&P (search and pounce) will get you contacts, Run mode (calling CQ) can quickly get overwhelming with other hams trying to reach



you. I seldom run in CW mode; I get flustered and make all kinds of mistakes, but in SSB mode, if I can find a slice of the band to call CQ, I will.

Below is a chart of my logging. Can you notice where I was in Run mode? Also, CW, for this contest, counts 2x over SSB contacts.



Upcoming ARRL contesting events include

- ARRL CW Rookie Roundup - December 21, 2025
- ARRL RTTH Roundup - January 3, 2026
- ARRL CW DX Contest - February 21, 2026
- ARRL SSB DX Contest - March 7, 2026

Upcoming DARC contests

- DARC 10-Meter Contest - January 11, 2026
- DARC Christmas Contest - December 26, 2026

73,
Steve, KC1SA

**Hey Old Man...
The weekend is coming!**



**Do you know which
contests will be on the air?**
*See page 16 for our list
of January Contests
& Special Event Stations!*

The best hams know ... It's the most wonderful time of the year!



**JANUARY IS SKCC K3Y
STRAIGHT KEY MONTH!**

2006 - 20th Anniversary - 2026

See page 24 or go to

<https://skccgroup.com/k3y>

SK CC
Straight Key Century Club

**Amateur Radio
Winter Field Day**

January 24th and 25th 2026



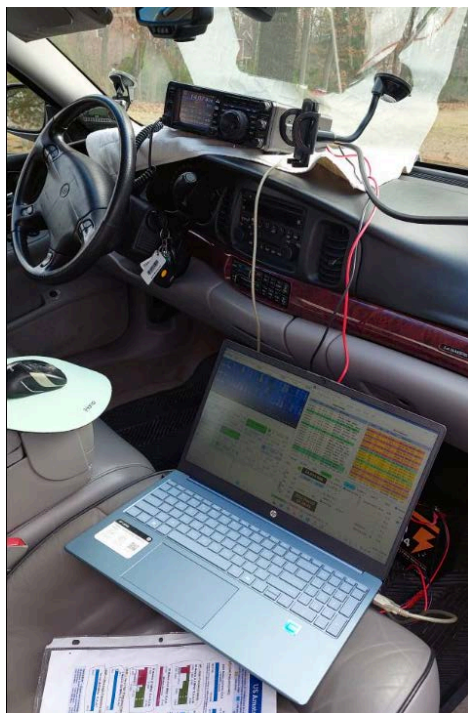
CQ, CQ, CQ...

Learn more and
plan your
operation at:

www.winterfieldday.org

Report from the Parks

Highlights from last month's MARC POTA activities.



On December 7, Jim Drexler, KC1TSG, enjoyed another afternoon at Wharton Brook making a total of 54 QSOs, 16 of which were FT8.

Jim reports one new DX on FT8, the island of Jersey and that his first SSB contact of the day was a P2P with Andy AC1TY, who was activating Sleeping Giant, and later stopped by for an eyeball QSO after wrapping up at the Giant.

Andy N1XXU and Deb Purchia K1PET also activated a new CT Park for them, Babcock Park, US-10962, where they logged 110 QSOs across 20 United States and 3 Canadian provinces and the Dominican Republic on 20, 2, 1.25 M and 70 cm.

The warm days may be behind us, but MARC members are not letting the colder weather slow down their POTA fun. Witness Scott Martin, who made 30 QSOs in 26 minutes during his 32-degree POTA activation in the rain on December 2. Operating outdoors on a picnic table, Scott reported that his hands were 'officially frozen!'



- TOP LEFT:** Jim's mobile POTA station at Wharton Brook in December.
- ABOVE:** Scenes from Andy & Deb's Babcock Pond activation.
- RIGHT:** Scott's rainy cold set up at Wharton Brook on December 2.



Radio Active Members - December 2025

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



Jimmy Surprenant, AB1DQ, earned his SKCC Centurion Award in December... finally.

Jimmy, who admits to being a world-class procrastinator, has been a member of SKCC since 2016 and has had the required 100 QSOs with other SKCC members in his logbook for years now, but he never previously took the initiative to send in his application.

Spurred on by the club's reinvigorated focus on contesting, POTA & SKCC, he mustered the energy to submit his logs. Now he begins working for the next level award, the Tribune award.

Want to learn more about the Straight Key Century Club and participate in their frequent sprints, contests, and special events, earning awards while improving your fist? See pages 14 & 15 or visit the SKCC website at <https://skccgroup.com/>.

Jay Polaski, W1IHS, shared his recent PTT project. He asks, "What do you do when you love a boom mic, but love a desk mic switch? Bust out the soldering iron and go parts shopping!"

The big silver button is the PTT, which Jay says feels wonderful to click. The black button is the PTT lock, and the red is wired to the CW switch for transmitting a carrier for tuning, giving him the best of both worlds!

Constantino Tobio, KA1BMF, replied to Jay's Facebook post, complimenting his work and sharing his recent project, cobbling together a PTT and headphone adapter for a K-connector. He used the red version of the same button on a 3D printed pickle.



LEFT: Jay's PTT button. RIGHT: Constantino's 3D printed PTT trigger.

Several MARC members reported operating in the ARRL 10M contest on the weekend of December 13 & 14.

Andy N1XXU shared the photo to the right of him operating the 'test - he planned to have a casual contest setting a personal goal of 100 QSOs.

New MARC member **Bob Munro, W4FMM**, mentioned that despite having to work on Saturday, he still managed to have a little fun in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest.

Operating CW only QRP, Bob logged 111 QSOs for a raw score of 444 x 48 multipliers for a reported score of 21,312.

Al N1API reported good band conditions and plenty of activity on 10 M as well..." pretty good into Europe, and South America was good, along with Central America on Sunday. The US was good to the west, along with some surprise close-in states."

Al stated he focused on multipliers and went for the CW contacts to start, as they are worth twice an SSB contact, 4 pts vs. 2 pts, before switching over to SSB on Sunday afternoon when the CW contacts were running thin. He had a couple of "backscatter" contacts on the East Coast. DE was a surprise.

If you worked the contest, please be sure to upload your log for Meriden ARC to help the club's total score. And, watch for a complete wrap-up of how MARC fared after final results are published by ARRL.



IRIS & VIV'S 2026 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS: No. 6: NO MORE DOOM SCROLLING



MARC VE Sessions

MARC holds a VE Session on the second Saturday of the month at 9 AM at 143 Hope Hill Road, in Wallingford.

Exams are paperless and require a PIN from www.hamstudy.org/ prior to the exam date.

For more info, contact

Jim at N1ZN@arri.net, or

Bill at zz717818@hotmail.com



**ARRL
VEC**

ON AIR EVENTS - January 2026

CONTESTS: Click on hyperlink for more info...

- [ARRL RTTY Roundup](#) 1800Z, Jan 3 to 2359Z, Jan 4
- [ARS Spartan Sprint](#) 0100Z-0300Z, Jan 6
- [YB DX Contest](#) 0000Z-2359Z, Jan 10
- [SKCC Weekend Sprintathon](#) 1200Z, Jan 10 to 2359Z, Jan 11
- [UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest](#) 1200Z, Jan 10 to 1200Z, Jan 11
- [North American OSO Party, CW](#) 1800Z, Jan 10 to 0559Z, Jan 11
- [NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB](#) 0630Z-0830Z, Jan 11
- [NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW](#) 0900Z-1100Z, Jan 11
- [DARC 10-Meter Contest](#) 0900Z-1059Z, Jan 11
- [4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint](#) 0100Z-0300Z, Jan 12
- [NTC OSO Party](#) 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 15
- [Hungarian DX Contest](#) 1200Z, Jan 17 to 1159Z, Jan 18
- [PRO Digi Contest](#) 1200Z, Jan 17 to 1159Z, Jan 18
- [North American OSO Party, SSB](#) 1800Z, Jan 17 to 0559Z, Jan 18
- [ARRL January VHF Contest](#) 1900Z, Jan 17 to 0359Z, Jan 19
- [Run for the Bacon QRP Contest](#) 2300Z, Jan 18 to 0100Z, Jan 19
- [CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW](#) 2200Z, Jan 23 to 2200Z, Jan 25
- [REF Contest, CW](#) 0600Z, Jan 24 to 1800Z, Jan 25
- [BARTG RTTY Sprint](#) 1200Z, Jan 24 to 1200Z, Jan 25
- [Winter Field Day](#) 1600Z, Jan 24 to 2159Z, Jan 25
- [SKCC Sprint](#) 0000Z-0200Z, Jan 28
- [UBA DX Contest, SSB](#) 1300Z, Jan 31 to 1300Z, Feb 1
- [Marconi Club Slow CW OSO Party](#) 1300Z-2300Z, Feb 1
- [ARS Spartan Sprint](#) 0200Z-0400Z, Feb 3

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS:

NI6IW Jan 10 1700Z-2359Z

[Operation Desert Storm](#)

FREQ: 14.320 7.250 14.070 PKS31 DSTAR on
Papa System Repeaters.

QSL: USS Midway CV-41 Museum Ship

W4LX Jan 16-17 1600Z-1800Z

[Fort Myers ARC Hamfest & ARRL Sec. Meeting](#)

FREQ: 14.060 14.270.

QSL: Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club



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

Sunday:

ELMER NET

SUN 7:30 pm VIA ZOOM

See the MEMBERS AREA of our Website for access information.

Monday:

NEW HAVEN/MIDDLESEX SKYWARN NET

MON 7:00 pm W1NRG/R 147.360PL 162.2Hz

6 METER SSB NET

MON 8:00 pm 50.175 MHZ USB

Tuesday:

2 M FM NET

TUE 7:00 pm W1NRG/R 147.360PL 162.2Hz

10 M 10-10 CASTLE CRAIG NET

TUE 8:00 pm 28.375 MHZ USB

Wednesday:

JUST PUSH THE BUTTON NET

WED 7:00 pm W1NRG/R 147.360PL 162.2Hz

Saturday:

COFFEE CUP NET

SAT 9:00 W1NRG/R 147.360PL 162.2Hz

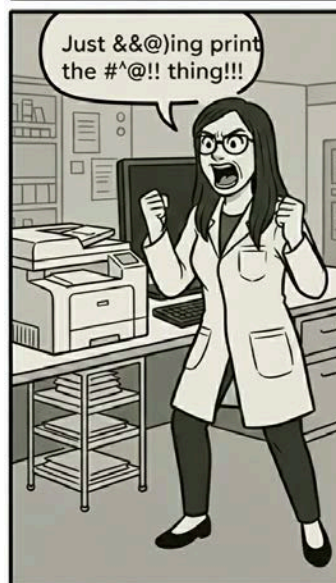
Saturdays at the OEM is the place to be!

Join us starting at 9:00 am at 143 Hope Hill Road for our weekly Open House. Meet fellow club members in a fun social setting and participate in various radio activities.



Sometimes we have doughnuts!

IRIS & VIV'S 2026 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS: No. 17: STOP YELLING AT PRINTERS.



Coming in February...

Drive away your winter blues
with our first ever

KeyKlix Swimsuit Issue!

Available everywhere February 2nd



EDITORIAL PAGE

From the Editor... Welcome 2026!

I'm excited to call your attention to some new features in **KeyKlix**, starting with this issue, as we begin a brand new year. Beyond a minor stylistic refresh, we are adding new features and changing the presentation of some old favorites to make KeyKlix a more useful companion for the active ham and to more closely support **Dave NZ1J's** and the club's new leadership in their ongoing mission to promote "doing more radio" as a club.

We welcome **Steve Allen, KC1SA**, to the newly created role of Contest Editor. Steve, a seasoned and dedicated contester, will be providing content on recent results, news of upcoming contests, and will share some of his proven tips and tricks to help make you a better contester. See page 29.

POTA activations and hunting remain one of our club's strongest areas of interest, and starting with this issue, club park activations and news will be presented in a regular "Report from the Parks" feature. See page 31.

We will also be highlighting SKCC news and events in the new year. The Straight Key Century Club is an outstanding broad organization that promotes CW operating by use of a straight key, bug, or 'cootie.' The group has several monthly on-air events to encourage hams to develop their fists and enjoy code. MARC currently has well over 25 members with SKCC numbers, so this seems like a good fit for our ongoing emphasis on CW that we began in 2025. See page 19.

HNY ES 73 DE AB1DQ "JIMMIE"
Your **KeyKlix** Editor in Chief

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 interest. 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 sharing what's going on in your shack by writing to KeyKlix@w1nrg.com.

Key Klix January 2026

Has been brought to you by

EDITOR IN CHIEF..... **JIMMY SURPRENANT, AB1DQ**
FOREIGN EDITOR..... **JULES LORUSSO, KC1STF**
CONTEST EDITOR..... **STEVE ALLEN, KC1SA**
BIOGRAPHER..... **BOB BIANCUR, WB1GYZ**
PHOTOGRAPHERS..... **TED RENZONI, KC1DOY**
AL KAISER, N1API

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

AB1DQ - AD7IL - KC1DOY - KC1SA - KC10YN
KC1STF - N1API - NZ1J - W1YSM - WB1GYZ

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

The Meriden Amateur Radio Club is

AA1MH	Robert Hurlbut 26	KC1OYR	Brent Moyer 25	N1IBE	Wade Martell 25
AB1DQ	James Surprenant 26	KC1OYS	Jim McAuliffe 25	N1JEO	Joel Curneal 25
AB1HB	Charlie Dudac 25	KC1PEN	David Henry 26	N1JMX	Jeff Martin 28
AB2T	Jordan Zarembo 25	KC1PXX	Dave Alfredson 25	N1LES	Joe Murray 26
AC1HK	Kevin Hulse 26	KC1PYT	Jeff Gazso 25	N1MOB	Dan David 26
AC1SK	George Bucci 25	KC1QHO	Mike Beaudry 25	N1NGV	Kevin Gallagher 25
AC1ST	Louis Brenner 25	KC1QLS	Ray Cirno 25	N1NIS	Noah Ludecke 25
AC1TY	Andrew Rudczynski 26	KC1QWH	Steve Rygiel 25	N1OKF	Bob Parisi 25
AF1X	James Elliott 25	KC1RBY	Sergio Frutuosa 25	N1OKR	Frank Ciccone 27
K0OZ	Brian Boccuzzi 25	KC1RLQ	Eric Barbour 26	N1OQC	Mike Johnson 26
K1BTR	Bryan Ragaini 25	KC1SA	Stephen Allen 25	N1PHI	Trish Nitschke 25
K1DMS	Dave Sack 25	KC1SDA	Richard McHugh 26	N1PQQ	Greg Cartier 26
K1JCF	Joe Farrell 25	KC1SEN	Nicholas Worroll 25	N1QYB	Bill Witecki Jr 26
K1LHO	Mike Ash 26	KC1STF	Julian LoRusso 27	N1WCL	David Blasko 25
K1LYP	John Yusza 29	KC1SYU	Jim Cosgrove 25	N1XXU	Andy Purchia 25
K1MAL	Chris Altieri 26	KC1TAD	Tom Dipinto 26	N1YLN	Edward O'Lena 25
K1MMK	Michael MacKennedy 27	KC1THU	Mike Zelladonis 26	N1ZN	Jim Savage 25
K1MRE	Mike Easter 25	KC1TKY	Bob Hourigan 26	N2TAG	Dave Taglianetti 25
K1NEG	Nelson Goewey 26	KC1TKZ	Mark Bonitatebus 25	N2YCH	Conrad Trautmann 26
K1PET	Debbie Purchia 25	KC1TOV	David Tomlinson 25	N7VGA	Dennis Hanlon 26
K1RJC	Rick Castaldo 27	KC1TPN	Rick Foster 25	NA1L	Dale Clift 25
K1RCT	Rob Cichon 25	KC1TSG	Jim Drexler 25	NA2AA	David Minster 25
K1SCI	Stuart Isaac 26	KC1TSK	Richard Pagano 25	NR1B	Bill Huggins 25
K1SMD	Silas Moeckel 25	KC1TSL	Charlie Vossbrinck 27	NZ1J	Dave Tipping 26
K1STM	Anne West 25	KC1TSM	Ellen Cosgrove 25	UT3UY	Anatoly Kirilenko 25
K1TDO	Todd Olsen 25	KC1TSN	Chuck Caron Jr. 26	W1AJK	Andrew Kazimer 25
K1TGX	Jerry Molaver 30	KC1TSP	Dale Fortin 25	W1BJG	Judy Wilkins 25
K1UD	Butch Chatfield 25	KC1TST	Mike Boccuzzi 25	W1BRY	Donald Chepurna 27
K1VDF	John Blevins 26	KC1TSW	Charles Caron III 25	W1EDX	Paul Stasieluk 25
K1WJL	Dave Swedock 25	KC1TSX	Mike Barile 26	W1HLP	Scott Martin 25
K1XJ	Kevin Buchanan 25	KC1TSY	Daniel Gessner 25	W1IHS	Jason Polaski 25
K2RPM	Bruce Torello 25	KC1TSZ	Deb Caron 26	W1IKW	Iain K White 29
K4AVM	Andrew Olsson 26	KC1TWA	William Caron 25	W1LV	Steve Morley 26
K5ATA	Steve Goodgame 25	KC1TYO	Ken Williams 25	W1NDT	Robert Lombardo 25
K5CYN	Cyndi Goodgame 25	KC1UJQ	Mark Kirschner 25	W1PRK	James Procaccini 27
KA1BED	Bill Green 26	KC1UJT	Michael Carfi 25	W1RCI	Ron Isaac Jr. 25
KA1BMF	Constantino Tobio 25	KC1VCU	John Mandeville 25	W1RWW	Bob Woodtke Jr. 25
KA1JTG	James Hartzell Jr 25	KC1VJS	Anthony Lockery 25	W1TK	Ron Wakefield 25
KA1YZC	Paul Patnoad 25	KC1VQY	Michael Granoth 26	W1UFO	Mike Cei 25
KB1APO	Jim Sintay 26	KC1VRG	Robert Shemo 25	W1UKX	Greg Gherardi 25
KB1CXK	Joe Clarizio 26	KC1VSO	Patricia Lentz 25	W1YSM	Ed Snyder 25

KB1EHE	Eric Knight 25	KC1VUM	Matthew Erff 25	W2OFR	Mark Dickson 25
KB1FGC	Richard Guerrero 25	KC1VVC	Joel Helfer 25	W2TT	Ross Lambert 25
KB1HAX	Bill Reyor III 26	KC1VZI	Joe DePaolo 25	W3APC	James Cook 25
KB1IFZ	Elsie Mathews 25	KC1WEX	Len Guercia 25	W9OTW	Deborah Foss 26
KB1JL	Eric Olsson 25	KC1WFB	Lloyd Saberski 25	WA1BAR	Michael Barr 25
KB1LWS	Jeanne Gherardi 25	KC1WHD	Craig Scully-Clemmons 25	WA1CCQ	Norman Bliss 25
KB1MFU	John Ramadei 25	KC1WNJ	Joe Capuano 26	WA1FFT	Ray Irwin 25
KB1RLF	Steven Chapman 25	KC2MLH	Adam Castracane 25	WA1INC	Roland Hamel 26
KB1TBL	Dave Laliberte 25	KC3UKG	Storm Murrell 25	WA1JKR	John Rogus 29
KB1TGS	David Robinson 26	KD0BMW	Marty Crandall-Grela 25	WA1K	Jack Chapman 25
KB1TMC	Clare O'Lena 25	KD2TLD	Patrick Lacombe 25	WA1MAC	Paul Clark 25
KB1TTV	Jonathan Martin 26	KE1AU	Bob Kaczor 26	WA1SFH	Douglas Sharafanowich 25
KB1YFJ	Glenn Couture 25	KE1AV	Dave Sanford 25	WA1TRY	Rich Aubin L
KC1BQP	Paul St.Amand 25	KE2ECC	Phillip Gallanti 26	WA1ZVY	Jim Martin 28
KC1CAB	Frank DiTerlizzi 26	KF6LU	Andrew Buza 26	WB1DMK	William D'Agostino 25
KC1DOY	Ted Renzoni 27	KK7NLS	John Condon Jr 25	WB1DQT	Bill Bacon 25
KC1HFO	Johannis Stodis 25	KO1J	Randy Whitehouse 25	WB1GFI	Stan Hiriak 25
KC1IHK	Scott Mowerson 26	KO4EEL	Tom Williams 25	WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur 25
KC1ISI	Kristin Olsson 25	KR1U	Bob Eslinger 27	WB8IMY	Steve Ford 25
KC1KQH	John Kasinskas 25	KS1WK	Seth Kolasinski 25	WJ1B	Harold Kramer 27
KC1MJZ	Michael Berube 25	KX1USA	Rob Messercola 25	WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann 25
KC1NHE	Reed Hansen 25	NOHIO	David Koerner 25	WX1W	Mary Duval 25
KC1NQE	Shawn Warren 25	N1AKN	Jeff Dwyer 26	WY1U	Tim Mik 25
KC1NRD	John Lujick 27	N1API	Al Kaiser 30	0	Eran Netkin 26
KC1NRQ	Bruce Childs 25	N1BRI	Brian Beegan 26	0	Lucas Molloy Y
KC1OCS	Richard Dewick 26	N1FNE	Rod Lane 27	0	Spencer Rygiel Y
KC1OGL	Paul Randazzo 25	N1GNV	John Bartscherer 25		
KC1OWD	Kevin Van Keuron 25	N1GY	Geoff Haines 27		
KC1OYN	Rick Becker 25	N1HCA	Susan South 26		

MARC Welcomes Our Newest Members...

KC1YPA Carl Gross

KC1ERO Jason Pintek

W4FMM Bob Munro



**Pale January lay
In its cradle day by day
Dead or living, hard to say.
~Alfred Austin**