



Key Klix February 2026

The Monthly Q-S-T de the
MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB & WALLINGFORD AMATEUR RADIO GROUP

MARC 2026 MISSION STATEMENT

To create an engaging space for members to explore the science and enjoyment of amateur radio, to support the community's emergency needs (Town OEM) and to provide hands on training for members and prospective radio amateurs.



KC1TSX, NZ1J and W1HLP operating CW as 1M on Winter Field Day inside the trailer at OEM
Read Ted's coverage starting on page 15.

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"The Radio News that's fun to use"

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



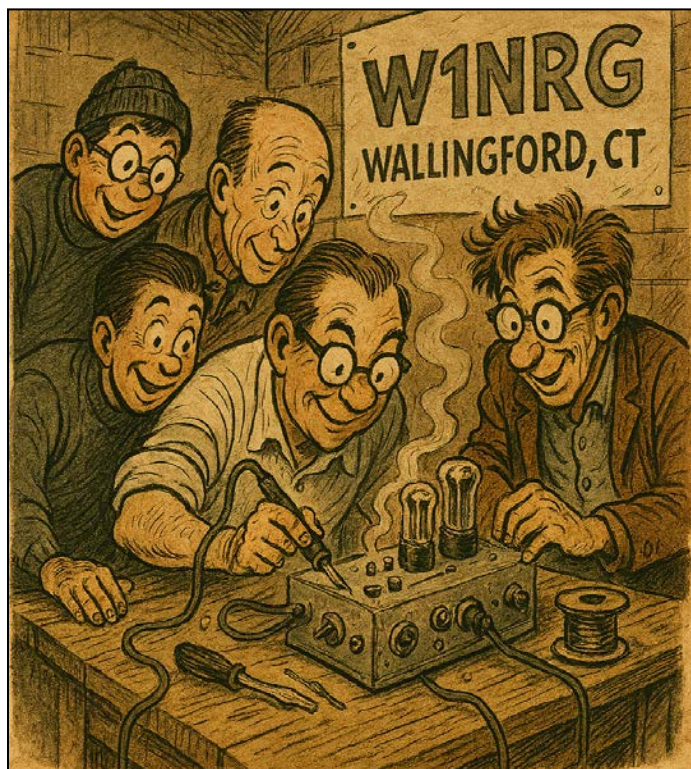
Where will Ham Radio Take You?

The President's Post, by Dave, NZ1J

Amateur Radio is such a big field that no one can do it all. Modern technology makes a lot of things easier, but some things still require a lot of time, skill, and money. Earth-Moon-Earth communication comes to mind as one of the difficult avenues that can be pursued. There are others.

Knowing that we will never do it all, each of us makes some choices about what we'll try to do. I think we can divide our choices into two categories. There are things that we are pretty comfortable with and do regularly. As far as I know, Al, N1API, has worked every county in the United States. But, he still hunts counties. New goals can be achieved, such as maximizing results on particular bands or modes. Jimmy, AB1DQ, operates in SKCC's Straight Key Month every year. Quite a few club members activate POTA parks regularly. Some members have been on hundreds of Fox Hunts.

The other category involves new things to try. Last year, some club members upgraded their licenses, some bought their first HF radio, some started learning CW, some got active in POTA, and some got set up for FT8. There are plenty of other things to try. Slow Scan Television (SSTV) and Radio Teletype (RTTY) are relatively easy to get started with. Bill, NR1B, has helped dozens of hams get started with Winlink and VarAC. And, there are lots of awards to pursue. POTA has literally hundreds of awards available. QRZ also offers quite a few. SKCC has awards as well.



Here's where MARC comes in. It's possible to get a lot out of ham radio without joining a club. Especially now, with an incredible amount of information available via YouTube, one can often find motivation and learn what is needed without the aid of a club. However, a local club, like MARC, can provide unique opportunities. When FT8 was relatively new, I first heard about it from a club member. When I got serious about improving my HF antenna, I went with a fiberglass mast similar to one MARC has. When I made my first attempts at SOTA and POTA activations, most of my QSOs were with club members.

Now, here's the sales pitch. If you haven't visited the OEM in quite a while, find 90 minutes in your schedule some Saturday morning. That's time for the round trip and a short visit. Come and say hello to some of the 20 or 30 members who will be at the OEM. I'm guessing that you will be glad that you did.

~Dave NZ1J

Minutes of the January Business Meeting

The following minutes of the January 8, 2026, MARC Business Meeting will be moved for approval at the February 12 meeting.

Quorum: Club secretary KC1STF Jules LoRusso confirmed a quorum:
Membership per 11/2025 Roster: 212
Minimum required for Quorum: 21 members + 2 officers, one being the President or Vice President
In attendance: 30 members + 4 officers

In Attendance:

Officers

NZ1J David Tipping (President)
NR1B Bill Huggins (Vice President)
AC1SK George Buccì (Treasurer)
K1RCT Rob Cichon (Station Activities Manager)
KC1STF Jules LoRusso (Secretary)

Members

AB1DQ	Jimmy Surprenant	KC1TSG	Jim Drexler	W1BRY	Don Chepurna
K1LHO	Mike Ash	KC1TSM	Ellen Cosgrove	W1EDX	Paul Stasieluk
K1LYP	John Yusza	KC1TSX	Mike Barile	W1HLP	ScoE Martin
KA1YZC	Paul Patnoad	KC1WFB	Lloyd Saberski	W1YSM	Ed Snyder
KB1JL	Eric Olsson	KD2TLD	Patrick Lacombe	WB1GFI	Stan Hiriak
KC1DOY	Ted Renzoni	KE1AU	Bob Kaczor	WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur
KC1ERO	Jason Pintek	N1API	Al Kaiser	WJ1B	Harold Kramer
KC1OYN	Rick Becker	N1LES	Joe Murray	WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann
KC1PEN	Dave Henry	N1ZN	Jim Savage	KC1NHE	Reed Hansen
KC1SA	Steve Allen	NA1L	Dale Clift		

Reports

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. EST by NZ1J, President Dave Tipping.
2. Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was delivered by KC1STF, Jules LoRusso
 - o November 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - o Motion to accept November 2025 meeting minutes as published in the recent email by Dave Tipping on 1/6/26:
 - o Discussion: none
 - o Motion passed by club membership
 - o Candidate for Membership:
 - o Kevin Murphy, KC1YSF, Technician, North Branford, CT
 - o Motion was passed to approve Kevin's membership unanimously w/o discussion.
 - o Welcome, Kevin!
 - o Correspondence: None
 - o Questions to the Secretary: None
3. Treasurer's Report: The December 2025 treasurer's report was delivered by KC1OYN Rick Becker (2025 MARC Treasurer)
 - o Please refer to the report submitted by Rick and published in the email by Dave Tipping on 1/6/25
 - o Contained in the January 2026 Treasurer's report are financials for:
 - o Operating funds, including expenses
 - o Marconi-II funds
 - o Nutmeg Hamfest
 - o Vanguard Mutual Funds
 - o Expenses and reimbursements (see table below):

From	Description	Motions 1st & 2nd	Discussion/Clarification	Motion Approved for Payment?
Rick Becker KC1OYN	\$50 fee to file 2026 annual report w/CT Secretary of State	Yes	None	Approved
Rob Cichon K1RCT	\$1200, replacement of club PCs, \$1037.78 spent so far	Yes	None	Approved
Eric Olsson KB1JL	\$29.47, CQ Santa expenses	Yes	None	Approved
Ellen Cosgrove KC1TSM	\$29.00, Election Buddy expenses	Yes	None	Approved
Rick Becker KC1OYN	\$210, 2026 PO Box expense	Yes	None	Approved
John Yusza K1LYP	\$21.06, 2 extra keys for equipment cabinet	Yes	None	Approved
Eric Olsson KB1JL	\$109.97, 3 rd Meshtastic device	Yes	From Marconi project	Approved

o Other comments

- o Rick made a motion to accept the December 2025 report; 2nd'd, passed by membership
- o Rick is working on adding George Bucci as an authorized user for the Vanguard account
- o Rick is the treasurer for the Nutmeg Hamfest Alliance (NHA). The board of NHA requested all NHA funds at Webster Bank be moved to Connex Credit Union; the Webster account was closed. Going forward, George AC1SK will not need to report on the NHA
- o 59 members have paid annual dues in December and January. There are 87 members who need to renew.
- o Mike Ash K1LHO completed the audit of MARC's financial records. No issues with the financial records were found; everything in outstanding order from Rick.
- o Rick's closed with thanking the membership for their support over the past 3 years, and it was an honor serving the Meriden Amateur Radio Club as their Treasurer.

4. Station Manager's Report - The December 2025 station manager's report was delivered by K1RCT Rob Cichon (Station Activities Manager)

- o Please refer to the report submitted by Rob and published in the email by Dave Tipping on 1/6/25
- o Report contains updates on equipment for the OEM, Important details for Winter Field Day (WFD). Thank you, Rob and N1API Al Kaiser, for all the organizational details.
- o Installed 1st of new PCs in OEM trailer for our mobile activation planned for WFD.
- o WFD is proposed to be Class 1M: 1 mike; 1 mobile transceiver.
- o Questions - When will Wires-X be implemented
 - o Response: Wires-X room will be implemented after WFD and commissioning of new PCs.

Old Business

1. Ham of the Year Award - In honor of our silent key and dear friend John Bee, the future Ham of the Year award will be renamed as follows:
 - o "The John 'Bee' Bartscherer Memorial Award" in honor of John Bee.
 - o Motion passed to approve.

New Business

1. Standing committees need to be reauthorized - The list below presents the 6 standing committees authorized in the MARC constitution that need to be reauthorized. An additional known committee is also listed. Members voted to re-authorize the 6 standing committees as documented below with present members listed. The additional committees were also recognized.

Scholarship Committee – Coordinate solicitation of scholarship candidates and issue award for Wallingford and Meriden High School Seniors (see <https://w1nrg.com/scholarship/>)

- N1ZN Jim Savage – Chairperson
- KC1ISI Kristin Olsson – plans to resign for 2026 (thank Kristin for your time last year)
- K1LHO – Mike Ash
- K1RCT – Rob Cichon
- KC1NQE – Shawn Warren
- KC1OYN Rick Becker (new member as of 1/6/26)

Repeater – Maintain the 147.36 W1NRG repeater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K1LHO Mike Ash – Chairperson • N1LES Joe Murray • K1VDF John Blevins • K1RCT Rob Cichon • KB1JL Eric Olsson • K1MAL Chris Altieri
Entertainment – Coordinate entertainment activities for the club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NZ1J David Tipping – Chairperson • NR1B Bill Huggins
Technical Interference – Address issues w/club repeater; something generating QRM affecting station equipment; also per AL N1API, committee to assist members with station issues, directing to Elmers in club to assist. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K1RCT Rob Cichon – Chairperson • K1VDF John Blevins
WARG/EMCOMM – Wallington Amateur Radio Group/CERT; also ARES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KB1JL Eric Olsson – Chairperson • N1LES – Joe Murray
Additional recognized committees:
Audit Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K1LHO Mike Ash – Chairperson • N1ZN Jim Savage

2. Mission Statement

- o A motion was made to accept the mission statement proposed by our leadership team.
- o Discussion. After discussion, one word was revised from the original statement.
- o The following proposed mission statement with one modification was submitted to membership for approval: "To create an engaging space for members to explore the science and enjoyment of amateur radio to support communities' emergency needs (Town OEM) and provide hands-on training for members and prospective radio amateurs."
- o A motion was made to accept the mission statement proposed by our leadership team.
- o The new mission statement was approved by the membership.

3. Activity Meeting Day Discussion

- o The bylaws state: "Activity meetings shall be held on the 4th Thursday of each month at such place as the President shall designate, or as agreed upon by the membership."
- o A motion was proposed to supersede the constitution to allow activity meetings on Saturday
- o Discussion:
 - o NA1L Dale Clift, our MARC legal consultant, stated the original wording, which was in the bylaws, not the Constitution, stated "or as agreed upon by the membership," offered flexibility to change the day w/o the need for a motion to be passed.
 - o After discussion on a number of different versions, the following motion was passed by the membership:
 - o "For the remainder of 2026, activity meetings shall be allowed on Saturdays in place of of or in addition to the 4th Thursday of the month called out in the bylaws."

4. (empty content)

5. Winter Field Day – Rob Cichon K1RCT

- o The plan is to run one mobile unit in the garage inside the OEM trailer. Will erect a vertical antenna and an option to use a dipole in the back. The least contested of all the modes. Never operated mobile, will be a good experiment for everyone. [sic]

- o To members (from David NZ1J, even if you don't operate, visit the club members and observe, learn from who is operating the station.
- o Remaining details in the station manager report delivered to members in an email from NZ1J David on 1/6/26.

6. Nutmeg Hamfest Alliance (NHA) Report - The Nutmeg Hamfest Report was delivered by KC1TSM Ellen Cosgrove (Nutmeg Hamfest Alliance Secretary)

- o KC1OYN Rick Becker provided a written summary of the Nutmeg Hamfest financials, which was distributed to

club members on 1/6/26 in an email from David NZ1J. Content pasted here for completeness.

The Nutmeg Hamfest and ARRL Connecticut State Convention

Event Accounting - 2025

October 12th 2025 from 8am-1pm at Maloney High School in Meriden

Date	Description	Income	Expense	Method
10/12	On-Site Ticket Sales/Tailgating/Indoor Table	\$ 2,280.00		Cash
10/13	Indoor Vendor Sales	\$ 590.00		Checks
5/13	Venue (Maloney HS)		\$ 1,622.50	Check
5/14	Insurance		\$ 500.00	Check
7/18	Domain Renewal		\$??.??	?
8/23	State of Connecticut Annual Report filing fee		\$ 50.00	Check
Various	Meeting/Tickets/Misc		\$ 316.92	check
Various	Projectors/screens/cords		\$ 570.92	check
10/12	QS Crimp Kit		\$ 120.00	~check
10/12	KJ1 Yaesu/Gift Certificate		\$ 200.00	Check
Totals		\$ 2,870.00	\$ 3,380.34	
Profit/Loss		\$ 510.34		

10/28/25
Rick Becker
Treasurer

- o W1YSM Ed Snyder thanked the club leadership for allowing the Nutmeg Hamfest report to be delivered. Ed deferred to KC1TSM Ellen Cosgrove (NHA Secretary) for the report with the following highlights:
 - o Each fall, the Nutmeg Hamfest Alliance (NHA) reports out to MARC membership on status and plans for the Nutmeg Hamfest.
 - o The history and relationship between MARC and the Nutmeg Hamfest Alliance was first described
 - o Many members of MARC have volunteered to support and participated in the past.
 - o Each organization is separately incorporated as a not-for-profit organization with no legal connection to each other.
 - o The NHA was incorporated in 1996, originally affiliated w/3 amateur radio clubs: Middlesex, Meriden and Shoreline Amateur Radio Clubs
 - o Subsequently, the amendment removed all reference to the 3 clubs.
 - o Presently, NHA is not an official committee of MARC; MARC assumes no financial liability for the Nutmeg Hamfest, and it was largely run by John Bee for decades.
- o Other Comments:
 - o Throughout the fall, the NHA board of directors worked to clarify NHA's governance structure w/assist from Dale Clift, NA1L.
 - o An updated Certificate of Incorporation was amended to more accurately reflect the present "reality" of the organization and was filed with the CT Secretary of State in September 2025.
 - o Created was a 5-member board of directors: W1YSM Ed Snyder (president), WB1GFI Stan Hiriak (Vice president), Rick Becker (Treasurer), John Yusza (Sgt of Arms), and Ellen Cosgrove (Secretary).
 - o Even without a legal relationship, there has been a long-standing history of collaboration between MARC and the NHA, which NHA wishes to continue. Examples:
 - o MARC members volunteer for general event support and guest speakers.
 - o NHA contributes \$1000 annually to the MARC scholarship fund, which presently totals ~\$21,000.
 - o NHA contributed \$1000 to MARC to cover the cost of Chromebook tablets for the VE exams.
 - o Plans for 2026 are to not only run the 2026 Nutmeg Hamfest but also create a stand-alone website to support dissemination of details for the event and all governing documents.
 - o Rick presented the financial summary shown above.

- o This past year, the NHA took in less money than expenses, mainly due to the weather (Nor'easter)
- o Question on the domain name - John Bee formerly provided the domain; this will be handled on the new website for 2026.
- o Discussion important for 2026
 - o Looking into alternate locations for 2026, including Sheehan High School in Wallingford accepted/waiting for approval of principal.
 - o Question on liability - NHA has purchased liability insurance and is covered for the day of the event.
 - o Applied to ARRL to host the ARRL state convention
 - o Ed will solicit assistance from club members for potential vendors and guest speakers for the 2026 Nutmeg Hamfest, including securing the new Quicksilver radio as one of our vendors.
 - o Per N1API Al Kaiser, the central call sign for Hamfest needs to be revised. Also, if securing Sheehan High School is not successful. Al has some alternate HS proposals.

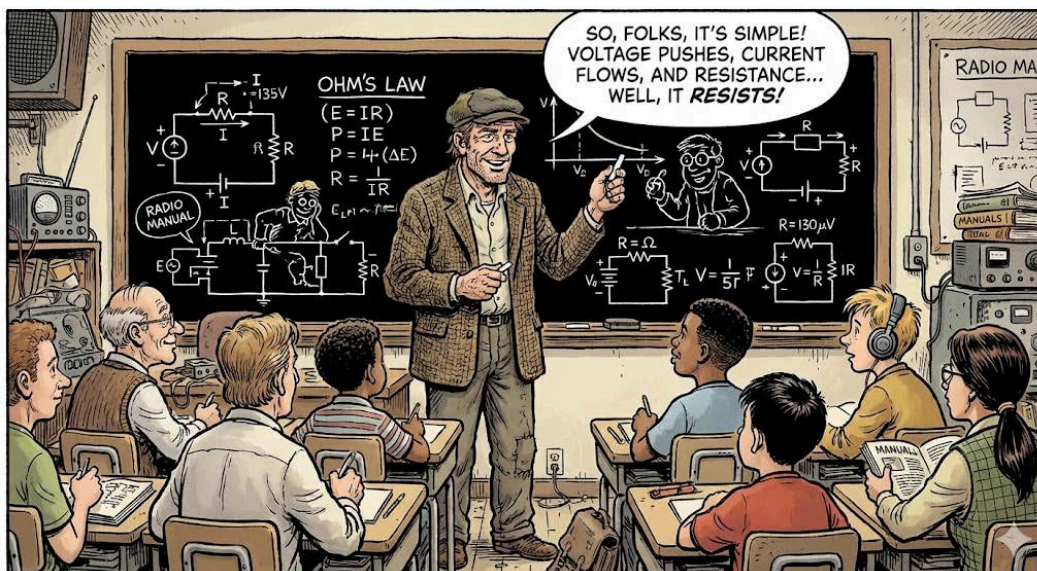
Adjournment

- o A motion was raised and passed to adjourn the meeting.
- o Meeting was adjourned at ~7:45 PM.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

for the 2026 Meriden Amateur Radio Club

SPRING TECHNICIAN CLASS



Classes start on March 3, run for 12 consecutive Tuesdays, and conclude with a VE Session on May 19
6:30 - 8:30 PM at the OEM - 143 Hope Hill Road, Wallingford

VOLUNTEER TO TEACH!

Members are needed to present single chapter topics from the ARRL Manual each week. Teaching is easy & fun!

USEFUL LINKS:

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)
[ARRL ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

To learn more or volunteer,
Email: james@ab1dq.com

SPREAD THE WORD!

Let family and friends that may be interested in earning their ham ticket that seats are limited and now is the time to register to join our class.



THE W1NRG NEWSLINE

*"Providing Continuous Waves
of Useful Club Information."*

A Final Visit to Quicksilver Radio *by Ted Renzoni, KC1DOY*

On **January 10, 2026**, I made a final visit to Quicksilver Radio, owned and operated by our good friend and fellow ham, John Bee N1GNV SK. On John's passing, the business was sold to Billard Street in Meriden just before 9 AM and went inside. a Pennsylvania company, and will no longer be operating in Connecticut. I arrived at 47 Billard Street in Meriden just after 9:00 am to discover most of the stock had already been removed. What was left was made available to John's friends.

I noticed the emptiness of the building compared to its previous state. Whenever I visited Quicksilver Radio in the past, the shop was alive with activity, and John would always greet me with a "Hi Ted" and a smile. Whatever I was looking for, whether it was a piece of ham radio gear or an answer to a question, John could always be counted on to have whatever I needed. John prided himself on selling quality gear at a fair price. His knowledge and experience will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Not only did John build and operate a successful business, but he was a fixture at hamfests every year and was widely known and respected by all those he came in contact with. He travelled from state to state, setting up at hamfests all season long. I'm sure that we will all miss his setup at NEARfest and HamXposition. The Quicksilver tables were always the centerpiece among all of the commercial vendors. Here's hoping that the new owner will keep John's legacy alive by continuing to attend the New England hamfests going forward.

73 John...see you down the log!
Ted KC1DOY



LEFT: John's familiar red van parked outside QuickSilver Radio on Billard Street, Meriden, the place of many fond memories for MARC members (Photo: Google Maps). RIGHT: Chris K1MAL, Reed KC1NHE, Rick KC1OYN, and Jim N1ZN at the Members Only Flea Market. (Photo: NR1B)

Winter POTA in a Tent

by Jules LoRusso, KC1STF



This past year, many of our club members enjoyed several Parks on the Air (POTA) adventures in many of our fine Connecticut state parks, and one national park on the Washington Rossenbeau trail.

Being out in the parks has been a great experience, making contact with other radio operators all over the world. Beyond the satisfaction of making contacts, earning POTA Rover awards such as the "Warthog" award for activating 5 parks in a single day, or the more challenging "Rhino" award for activating 10 parks in one day, has been a satisfying achievement for MARC members this year.

As the fall approached, our regulars realized that the nice warm days in the parks were limited, and once the winter weather arrived, we would be restricted to operating out of our vehicles with 1-3 club members supporting the activations.



I have always wanted to assemble a winter tent POTA station. Last winter, it didn't happen because I spent most of the winter working on a customer-adjustable loading coil antenna setup, which I had used during my summer activations. It was fortuitous that I did not proceed with the tent set up last year, as I came to realize I was considering the wrong type of tent, and I also wasn't clear on what to use for a heater. I was originally considering a 10x8 foot Kodiak csbing tent heated by a Buddy style heater or perhaps a wood stove. I estimated that such a configuration would accommodate 3 or 4 club members.

Having done more research before winter arrived this year, I came to consider an inflatable tent, which was a suggestion I had received this year. An inflatable tent would help with my objective to set up my POTA station and be on the air within half an hour of arriving at a park.



Turning to the heating issue, I concluded that there was no practical way to employ a wood stove. That would take forever to get a fire started, as well as giving the stove time to cool down, and then there was the issue of disposing of the ash.

Fellow MARC member, **Paul Clark, WA1MAC**, recommended trying an external combustion-type heater that ran on diesel fuel, a type of unit I did consider last winter. The combustion-type heater is a better option than a



Buddy heater because the Buddy heater produces a good deal of water as a byproduct of the combustion. Having water vapor condensing on top of the tent would create storage issues, as the moisture could lead to mold and mildew. So the diesel-fueled external combustion heater seemed ideal as the burner transfers heat to the air stream through a heat exchanger, and the warm, dry air enters the tent without the water vapor.

I purchased several accessory items to complete my winter shack tent. These included a separate carbon monoxide (CO) monitor to verify that no CO was entering the fresh air port to the heat exchanger, a battery-operated air pump that can inflate the mattress to the required pressure of 4.5 PSI in less than 5 minutes, a 12x10 foot tarp to keep the bottom of the tent clean from snow and mud, and an inexpensive duffel bag to allow for quicker and neater storage of the tent for taking home once deflated. I verified everything worked at home before going to the park for my first activation.



The photos are from my first POTA activation with the new inflatable tent. Note the picture of the radio rig, and the one of me, were taken inside the tent, which was well-lit due to a huge skylight on the roof - check out the glorious view of the trees through the skylight!

I hope this new addition helps support our POTA activations, offering continued opportunities for fellowship in radio activations with our club members. Any questions on this setup, please contact me.

~ Julian (Jules) LoRusso / KC1STF@icloud.com

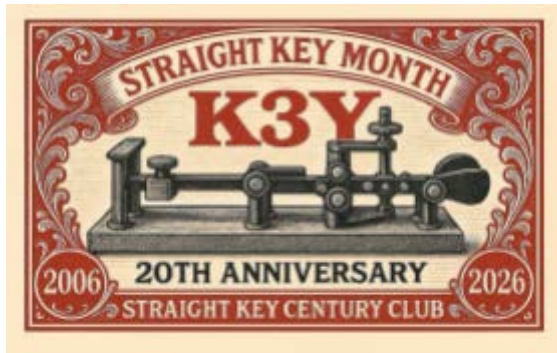


LEFT TO RIGHT: NB1R, Bill; NZ1J, Dave; Andy, AC1TY; and KC1STF Jules with the winter tent deployed at Wharton Brook on January 14th.

Jules & Andy made 41 QSOs on SSB and Dave contributed an additional 22, split evenly between CW & SSB with 11 QSOs in each operating mode.

SKCC Straight Key Month Wrap Up

by *Jimmie Surprenant* AB1DQ



Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Straight Key Month, this year's SKCC K3Y QSL card was designed by Michelle KC1UML SKCC# 28553S

One of the cool things, I think, about ham radio is the seasonal events that fill our calendar year-in and year-out, such as Field Day, 13 Colonies, and November Sweeps. Like national holidays, these contests and on-air events are traditions that help us mark time through the changing seasons.

The Straight Key Century Club's Straight Key Month, which occurs all month long every January, is a personal favorite. Each year, I try for a US clean sweep, working a K3Y station in each of the 10 US call districts. Beyond that, the US Possessions, continents, and DX stations provide nice bonuses.

As a member of SKCC who is 'good in the buro,' it's always a thrill when my QSL card arrives with my successful contacts verified on the back each spring.

I have a decade's worth of K3Y QSLs in my collection. This year was the first year I worked the K3Y Australia station, so you better believe my 2026 SKCC QSL will be a real keeper.

Here's how our members fared in this year's Straight Key Month. Congratulations to all who participated - and kudos to NZ1J and KB1FGC who each earned a clean sweep of all US States & Possessions. NR1B and I earned a basic US 10-zone Sweep, and W1BRY came up just short with 9 US zones, missing only K3Y-6, California. CONGRATS, all!

OPERATOR	CALL	SKCC #	K3Y/																			SLOTS WORKED
			0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	KH6	KL7	KP4	AF	AS	EU	NA	OC	SA	
D Tipping	NZ1J	17841S	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X			38
D Chepurna	W1BRY	29872	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X						X				28
J Surprenant	AB1DQ	14595C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X					X		26
B Huggins	NR1B	30567	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X		X	26
R Guerrero	KB1FGC	21047S	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	20
D Clift	NA1L	26605		X		X	X					X										4
M Ash	K1LHO	15842				X		X											X			3
J Savage	N1ZN	26048					X				X	X										3
P Clark	WA1MAC	30579		X																		1
B Biancur	WB1GYZ	7101T		X																		1

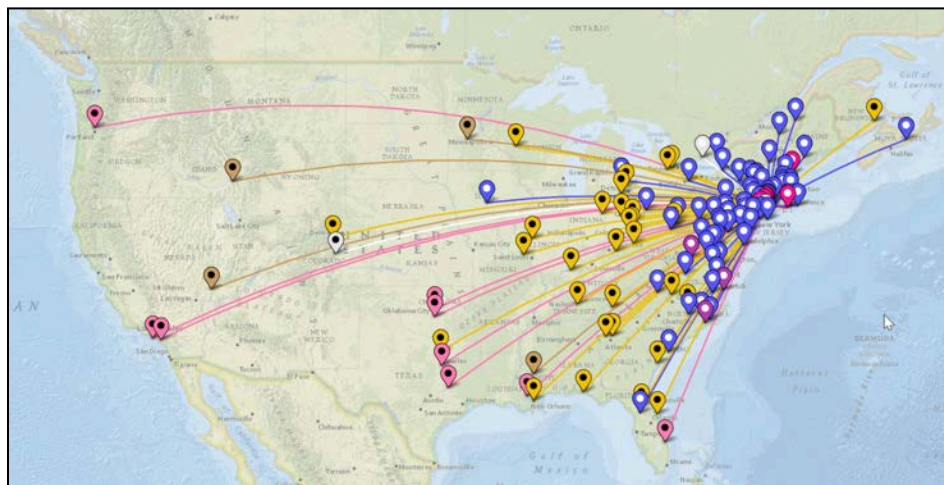
CLEAN SWEEP KEY: US & Possessions (10 districts + 3) US Sweep (10 districts) Close Runner Up (9 Districts)

I hope everyone had as much fun as I did, and I invite all MARC members to consider learning the code, getting your SKCC number, and joining in the fun. MARC continues to encourage all members to try Morse Code. Stop by the OEM on any Saturday for code instruction, or check into WB1GYZ Railroad Bob's nightly Morse Code practice sessions on Zoom.

The Code may seem daunting, but take it from this "5 WPM Extra Lite" that learning it, is not only doable, but it's also fun, and the feeling of accomplishment can't be beat. Like MARC, SKCC is a very welcoming group, and slow-code operators (like yours truly) are welcome.

~ 73 de AB1DQ/Jimmie
SKCC 14595C

MARC 2026 Winter Field Day Results



Total QSOs: 126 - Multipliers: 16 - Final Score: 2,784

As recorded on the official Winter Field Day Website:

<https://winterfieldday.org/results.php>

General Information:

Callsign: W1NRG
Category: Mobile / Mobile Stationary
Class: 1
Club Name: MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
ARRL Sect: CT:
Pwr Source: Battery
Max Power: 3

QSOs by Band:

80M: 04 40M: 47 20M: 32 15M: 05
10M: 10 2M: 07 70CM: 01

QSOs by Mode::

PHONE: 78 CW: 42 DIGITAL: 06

Sections Contacted:

46:	AL	AZ	CO	CT	EMA	ENY	EPA	GA	GH	ID
	IL	IN	LA	LAX	MDC	ME	MI	MN	MO	MS
	NB	NC	NFL	NH	NLI	NNJ	NTX	OH	OK	ONE
	ONN	ORG	QC	RI	SC	SFL	SNJ	STX	TN	VA
	VT	WI	WMA	WNY	WPA	WWA				

Objective Completion:

Operate 100% on alternative power
Operate away from home
Send & receive at least one Winlink email
Copy the Winter Field Day Special Bulletin
Operate on at least six different bands
Use multiple modes
Operate six continuous hours during the event.

Submitted By:

Robin Randall Cichon (K1RCT) on 2026-01-26 16:24:08

Submission Id:

2EF9E62F-36AB-48DC-9D83-AA97D3660890

CHASE AWAY YOUR WINTER BLUES WITH THIS **EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW**
OF THE **HOTTEST** SWIMWEAR FASHIONS YOU'LL SEE AT THE SHORE THIS SUMMER!

This is your **KeyKlix**
2026 SWIMSUIT ISSUE



**SLAP MY SUSPENDERS -
HERE'S A CORKER OF DELIGHT!**

Miss Vera Langford and Miss Odette Carling of the Broadway Figure & Form Studio look the bee's knees in their *Nautical Nymph* bathing costumes with matching caps by **Riverton Apparell** as they give the (fecal bacteria) infested waters of Wequatuck Cove a pass to tune the bands on their Atwater Kent Model 20 Big Box Receiver.



THE TIDE IS HIGH... AND WE'RE MOVIN' ON?

Mister Milton Z. Fizzlebach of the Empire City Talent Registry tickles the cat's whisker on his Swedish built Radiola Crystal Receiving Set wearing his fashionable *Harbor Jumper* bathing outfit by **Pioneer Clothiers** at Misquamicut Beach in Rhode Island.

BUTTER MY BANJO, 'TIS SUCH A THRILL!

Mister Elwood "Sparks" Vanderbyte of the Astoria Agency sports his new *Boardwalk Striper* bathing suit by **Empire Outfitters** whilst tuning his battery operated 3-tube homebrew receiver. With variocoupler regeneration control, this set has sufficient output to drive a 4 ohm speaker and will receive the local stations without an external antenna.



2026 SWIMSUIT ISSUE

GOOD GRAVY ALL OVER GRANDPAPA'S GRAMOPHONE!

Miss Sylvia Arden of the Astoria Bureau tunes the waves on her DeForest Model D-7a receiver by the waves at Slaughter Beach, Delaware.

Her *Aurora Surf Dress and Cap* is by **Liberty Fashion House** of Schenevus, New York.



BLAZING BEE'S BISCUITS... IT'S A FISTFUL OF VALVES!

Mister Milton Appleby of the Astoria Bureau holds a pair of Western Electric 300B audio valves and looks sporty in his 73 emblazoned suit from *Dapper-Dunk Swimwear* of Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey.



At the Clubhouse *with Ted, KC1DOY*



LEFT: Bill, NR1B, works W2JSJ in PA. RIGHT: Dave, NZ1J works NE2U in NJ Photos courtesy WB8IMY

2026 at MARC started on **New Year's Day**, with a 40-meter and 80-meter Sprint event starting at 9 AM until 10 AM. From 11 AM until about 2:30, we met at the OEM for discussion, code practice, and (drum roll please) a lunch break with pizza, party grinder, chips, soda, and dessert (cake and cookies).

While code practice and discussions were held, I decided to try to hunt some POTA stations from the radio room, but conditions weren't very good on 20 meters by that time. Oh well, that's propagation for you. No problem since we all have a full year of ham radio ahead of us. Dave NZ1J had better luck while working CW from the other station.

Our monthly Activities Meeting occurred on Saturday, **17 January**, when **Dave NZ1J** and **Bill NR1B** gave a well-received presentation on Antenna Impedance, shedding light on a fundamental radio principle that continues to vex hams with all levels of experience and expertise. We had a full house, and the presentation sparked some excellent questions. As usual, the camaraderie was top-notch, and we all went home knowing a bit more than when we came in - all in all, the definition of a good day.



On **24 January**, we all met for **Winter Field Day**. It was the coldest day we'd seen in years, beginning with a temperature of 1 degree when I left for the OEM. That didn't encourage outdoor operating, but **Jules KC1STF** was hearty enough to set up his heated tent to work the contest for several hours.

I stopped to bring donuts, and upon arrival at the OEM, I got the Mister Coffee rig going. Lots of takers on a frigid day! **Dave NZ1J** got the code practice session started for our many members worked on getting their code speed up and improving their CW proficiency.

Dale NA1L, **Don W1BRY**, and **Reed KC1NHE** worked on learning more about the NanoVNA, an increasingly popular and versatile 'must-have' piece of test gear for today's ham shack.

Bill NR1B set up for Winlink operation and kept in communication with **Jules KC1STF** at his outdoor station. Not only was this great Winlink practice, but it also helped ensure that Jules was OK in the cold in his heated tent. We enjoyed pizza for lunch - thanks, Dave!

Primary contest operations occurred in the trailer, qualifying W1NRG as a mobile, M, station. 20 and 40 meters were the most productive bands. **Scott W1HLP**, **Jimmie AB1DQ**, **Rob K1RCT**, **Mike KC1TSX**, **Dave NZ1J**, and **Reed KC1NHE** were the stars of the show, and I even contributed making a QSO or two.

Despite the bitter cold and weekend snowstorm curtailing Sunday ops, we had a very good turnout. 25 members participated at the OEM, making this a very successful Winter Field Day. See MARC's official results on page 12.



TOP: (L) Coffee & Donuts made folks feel warm and happy on an icy morning. (C) KC1WFB pounds brass (R) NR1B on his laptop.
BOTTOM: (L) K1RCT, AB1DQ & KC1TSX operating WFD, (C) KC1TSX, KC1NHE & NZ1J, (R) NA1IL & W1BRY with the Nano VNA. Photos courtesy KC1DOY

After the previous weekend's major snowfall and a week of single-digit temps, the OEM drew a sizeable crowd on the last day of the month. On **31 January 2026**, there was goodwill, and the usual Saturday morning activities, including CW practice led by **Bob, WB1GYZ** **Dave NZ1J** and **Jimmie AB1DQ** made a few last minute SKCC Straight Key Month contacts in the station and **Paul WA1MAC** distributed some metal boxes gotten cheaply at the Dollar Tree to be repurposed as QRP chassis, along with some tech tips for the makers in the club.

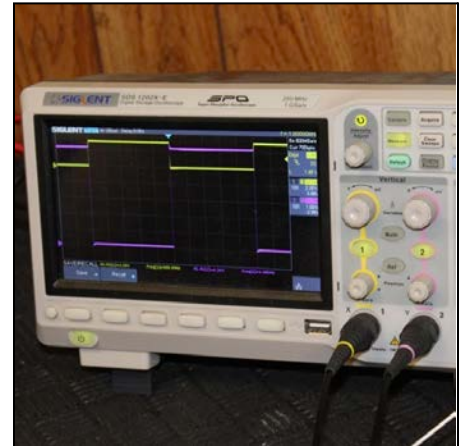
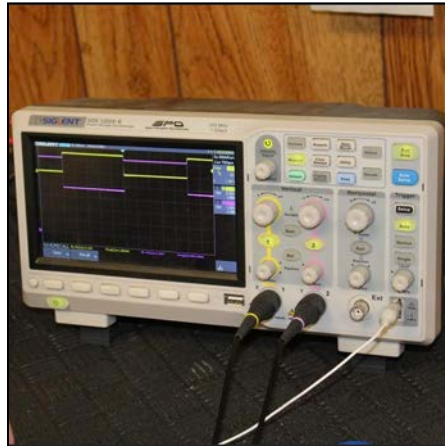
Dave NZ1J and **Bill NR1B** picked up where they left off with the Motorola repeater that **Joe N1LES** brought in for repair. The problem was a defective transistor located beneath an almost impossible-to-remove heatsink.

A long search was made, and a replacement transistor was ordered. Dave tested the old transistor and found that it was no longer working correctly, although it was still putting out minimal power. To be safe, the new transistor was also tested and was found to be working perfectly.

The next step falls to Bill to install the new transistor, apply some thermal paste, and then reattach the almost-impossible heat sink. They both can't be soldered; Bill will need all his rework skills, Kapton tape, solder paste, liquid flux, and a hot air tool to get this done. I noted that this repeater seemed to be manufactured without much thought, if any, to future repair.

Once all of the reassembly is complete, the real test will be to see if the repeater will come back to life. If not, it was still a praiseworthy effort on the part of all involved. Dave and Bill are true hams, that's for certain!

~Ted KC1DOY



ABOVE LEFT: Dave & Bill at the OEM workbench on Saturday, January 31. CENTER: The old FET on the 'scope, RIGHT: The replacement transistor is checked out before being installed in the repeater. BELOW: A few OEM Cands, Jan 31, 2026...



Contesting with Steve, KC1SA

ARRL RTTY Roundup

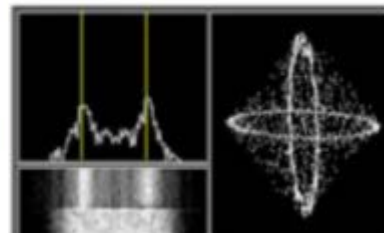
Jan 3-4, 2026

The first weekend of the year ushered in the ARRL RTTY Roundup contest. Getting RTTY to work with your HF gear can be tricky, but persistence will pay off, and soon you'll be making QSOs in this digital mode. This year's event had six MARC participants (obtained from the ARRL contest site), so the club thanks the members who operated during the ARRL event. Drop a message to kc1sa@arrl.net if you want to catch up on RTTY or learn how to contest with Meriden ARC.

MERIDEN ARC ARRL RTTY RU PARTICIPANTS



KC1SA	Meriden ARC	2026-01-06 14:25:28
N1API	Meriden ARC	2026-01-05 16:35:05
N1ZN	Meriden ARC	2026-01-05 20:58:45
W4FMM	Meriden ARC	2026-01-05 01:02:18
WA1K	Meriden ARC	2026-01-05 21:47:38
WB8IMY	Meriden ARC	2026-01-04 21:01:16



ARRL VHF Contest

Jan 17 - 18, 2026

A snowy January weekend kept me hovering close to the radio and PC for this event. My VHF setup isn't so good. I have an end-fed that tunes up on 6m and a hex beam that also tunes up well on 6m, but both are horizontal. My 2m setup is a Ringo antenna, and my 70cm antenna is just a small ground plane antenna sitting in a closet. So how do you think I fared? Not well at all!

Analysis of your uploaded log:

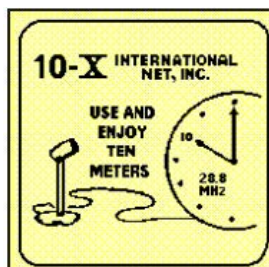
Contest: **ARRL-VHF-JAN**
Call Sign: **KC1SA**
Category: **Single Operator, Low Power**
Operator: **SINGLE-OP**
Mode: **ALL**
Power: **LOW**
Band: **ALL**
Transmitter: **ONE**
Station: **FIXED**
Location: **CT**
Club: **Meriden ARC**
E-mail: **sallen48@gmail.com**
QSOs in Log: **6**

Raw Score: 6 Qpts x 4 Mults = 24

W4ZTH	10	8		80 FCG
KA2KON	10	8	1	80 YCCC
K9SAT	12	6		72 AOCC
KM4KMU	14	4	7	56
WA3AAN	20	2	1	40 FRC
KC1SA	6	4	1	24 Meriden ARC
K5VG	2	1		2 WVDXC
KI4KEZ	1	1		1

<https://www.3830scores.com/editionscores.php?arg=Rv7uYizV77n07U>

NEXT UPCOMING CONTEST: [Feb 7-8: 10-10 Winter Contest](#)



Two Contests - One Weekend *Jan 24-25, 2026*

January 24th and 25th was an eventful weekend and more than just snow-related. After digging out on Monday and realizing 12 inches of snow is tough to move around, I sifted through the rubble of the two contests from this past weekend.

WFD was Saturday and Sunday, and as in the past year, s MARC participated as a club operating as 1M CT (1 Mobile Station, Connecticut). I dropped into the OEM and filled my slot from 5 PM to 6 PM and added about a dozen QSOs to the W1NRG log. The setup was nice, especially with a radio that I somewhat knew how to use (IC-7300). The snowstorm put a damper on club operation on Sunday, but that didn't stop me from adding a few more QSOs to the contest. I worked from home and added about 50 QSOs on Sunday.

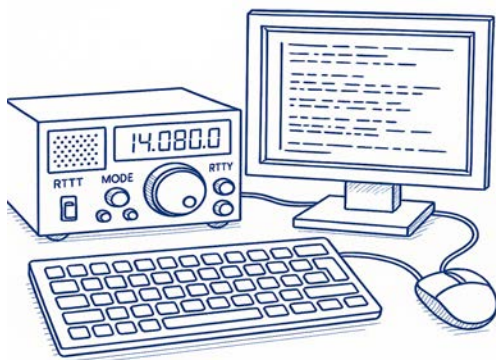
Saturday and Sunday were also the CQ 160-meter CW contests. Mostly a nighttime contest, but I did work on this for about an hour on Saturday night after leaving the OEM. Always a challenging band for me to operate with my end-fed antenna only sitting up about 25 feet or so. I think I captured all the New England states and VA, DE, MI, QC, ON and the Cayman Islands (that surprised me).

Contesting isn't everyone's cup of tea; for me, the challenge is always improving my score from the previous contest. MARC has several seasoned testers who will share their knowledge if you are interested in becoming a tester.

"MARC" *your calendar and plan to join your club mates for a back-to-back 2-weekend February RTTY Event!*

WEEKEND ONE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21: Our monthly activity meeting will cover everything you need to set up your station for RTTY operations with FL Digi. Dave NZ1J & Bill NR1B will cover the basics of what RTTY, the venerable grandpop of digital modes with a live demonstration.
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

WEEKEND TWO: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21: Return to the OEM to apply what you learned the previous week, as MARC operates in the NCJ 2026 RTTY CONTEST as a club from W1NRG. We will enjoy a pizza lunch at noon, and the contest begins at 1:00 PM EST.
Starting at Noon



*Plan now to join us for
another fun event of
"doing more radio"
as a club!*

FT4 Contesting – the “English Way”

by Steve Ford, WB8IMY

Even if you already operate FT8 – the most popular digital mode in amateur radio today – you may not be aware of its cousin: FT4. It’s fair to consider FT4 as simply a much faster form of FT8, and it is part of the same WSJT-X software suite (you’ll find it in the Mode menu). The operating procedures are exactly the same as FT8.

The key difference is that FT4 allows you to rack up contacts at a significantly higher rate. With FT8, each transmission/reception period is 13 seconds in duration; with FT4, it is only 5 seconds.

FT4 was purposely created for contests and DXing, where speed is key. There is no such thing as a free lunch, though. FT4 sacrifices gain in exchange for speed. Depending on the type of equipment you’re using at your station, you’ll likely notice an appreciable difference in decodable signal strengths. For instance, at my station, I can routinely decode 20-meter FT8 signals down to -24 dB. Switching to FT4 on the same band, I typically decode signals down to -18 dB. Since I’m not a weak signal hunter, though, I can live with the difference.

The RSGB FT4 Contest Series



The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) is one of the few organizations that has embraced FT4 contesting. Their FT4 Contest Series is, as the name suggests, a series of contests that take place once each month on Monday afternoons. These are sprint-style events, lasting only two hours from 2000 to 2200 UTC. That’s a convenient time for those on the East Coast of the US. You can enjoy the competition and still finish up in time for dinner!

The contest takes place on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters at the usual FT4 “watering holes” at 3576, 7047.5, 14080, 21140, and 28180 kHz. Complete rules are available online at www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2026/r80m_ft4.shtml.

You make contacts in the same way you would on FT8. You do not exchange serial numbers or any other special information.

Every contact counts toward your total score, regardless of whether the other station is taking part in the competition. The RSGB suggests that participants change their CQ messages to read “CQ RSGB” or “CQ TEST.” I don’t do this, primarily to avoid confusing other operators. If they see me sending “CQ RSGB,” they may assume that I only wish to contact British stations. As a result, if they are not in the UK, they probably won’t respond. “CQ TEST” can be equally confusing, albeit for different reasons. So, I just use the standard CQ format and happily reply to everyone!

Hints and Tips

- As with all contests, you can search and pounce, or call CQ repeatedly at one frequency in the hope that stations will come to you. Since I have a low-profile

station, my tendency is to search and pounce. But if activity starts to become sparse, I'll pick a clear spot on the waterfall and start calling CQ. It is important to point out that you can only work a station once on each band. In contest parlance, a station you've already worked on a given band is known as a dupe. WSJT-X does not flag dupe call signs, so if you use WSJT-X by itself (as I do), you'll need to avoid dupes by keeping a list, or by having a good memory! It is possible that contest logging programs such as N1MM Logger+ will integrate with WSJT-X and provide automatic dupe checking, but I've yet to try it.


- Beware of shifting propagation. When this article was written (January), daylight began to wane within the first hour of the contest. I often start on 15 meters to take advantage of the remaining long-haul propagation, but the band soon begins to fade, forcing me to jump down to 20 meters. Twenty meters usually stays productive until the end of the contest, although you may find yourself making the transition to 40 meters by the end.
- You must submit your log within 24 hours after the conclusion of every contest. WSJT-X will generate the required Cabrillo log, but I quickly learned that its version of the Cabrillo format is not compatible with what the RSGB log robot is expecting. The RSGB provides an example of the acceptable format here: www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/Cabrillo/Cabrillo-Information.shtml#80m_ft4. My approach is to use the KD9MJV online converter at adif2cabrillo.kq4mhe.com/. It has worked well for me so far.

- Here are the 2026 RSGB FT4 contest dates:

Jan 19	Feb 23	Mar 16
Apr 27	May 18	Jun 15
Jul 27	Aug 17	Sep 28
Oct 26	Nov 16	Dec 14

- The RSGB maintains an extensive leaderboard, and you can check a couple of weeks after each contest to see how well you did. Downloadable certificates are available, too.

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



**Do you know which
contests will be on the air?**
*See page 28 for our list
of February Contests
& Special Event Stations!*

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**

A FRUGAL HAM'S TECH TIP *as recommended by WA1MAC*

Saving money with XT90 DC connectors

While Anderson PowerPoles (APP) are the undisputed "gold standard" for ham radio interoperability, they can be a bit hard on the wallet—especially once you factor in the specialized crimping tools. XT90 connectors offer a robust, high-performance alternative that punches way above its weight class. Here's why...

1. Superior Power-to-Price Ratio

XT90s are significantly cheaper than authentic Anderson PowerPoles.

- Because they are mass-produced for the high-demand RC drone and vehicle market, a 10-pack of XT90s can be found for the price of a few APP sets.

2. No Expensive Specialized Tools




A dedicated ratcheting crimp tool for PowerPoles can run anywhere from \$40 to \$60. XT90s are designed for soldering, and most ham operators already own a decent soldering iron. The large, hollow "cup" terminals on the XT90 make it easy to flow solder and secure heavy-gauge wire for a low-resistance connection without the extra tool investment.

3. Massive Current Handling

The standard PowerPole is rated for 15A, 30A, or 45A; the XT90 is rated for a continuous 90A. For a standard 100W HF rig that draws @ 20A on transmit, the XT90 "over-spec" nature means less heat buildup and a much lower risk of voltage drop during high-duty cycle modes like FT8 or RTTY.

4. Physical Integrity and Safety

XT90s have a high-temperature nylon casing and gold-plated "bullet" connectors, and the shrouded, asymmetrical shape provides polarity protection. Also, the XT90 S version adds a built-in resistor for spark protection.

		
FEATURE		
Connection Type:	PowerPole (30A/45A) Crimp (recommended)	XT90 Solder
Current Rating:	30A / 45 A	90A +
Tooling Cost:	High (\$40+ for crimp tool)	Low (Soldering Iron)
Interoperability:	Universal in Ham Radio	Common in RC/Battery Tech
Gender:	Genderless	Male/Female Keyed

In Conclusion - a "Reality Check"

The only real downside? Perhaps **Interoperability**.

If you go to a Field Day or a public service event, everyone else will be using PowerPoles. If you decide to make the switch, it's a good idea to build a few "XT90 to PowerPole" adapters so you can still interface with the rest of the world when needed. Thanks for this Tech Tip, **Paul, WA1MAC!**

So, what do you think? Write to KeyKlix@w1nrg.com and tell us your methods for delivering DC to your station gear!

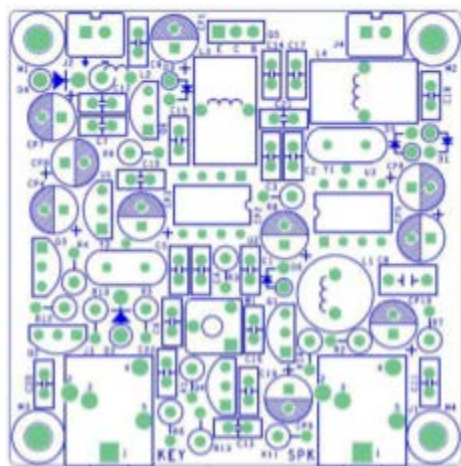
Building a ~~NORCAL~~ Chinese Counterfeit 49-er Transceiver

by Jimmie Surprenat, AB1DQ

The 49-er is a simple classic QRP CW transceiver kit, originally designed by Elecraft founder Wayne Burdick, N6KR, for the 1996 Dayton Building Contest, and was sold by the NorCal QRP Group with an assembly manual written by Doug Hendricks, KI6DS. The name "49-er" references California, of course, as well as the fact that the radio operates on the 40-meter band and is powered by a single 9-volt battery.

Although NorCal no longer sells Wayne's 49-er as a kit, documentation, including the original construction instructions and a lengthy FAQ of mods, can still be accessed on the NorCal online archive, and like so many other iconic designs, it's possible to purchase a new kit from Chinese retailers on AliExpress, Banggood, and even [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), which was the source of my kit.

I have a weakness for these simple all-in-an-evening projects, and for \$20, I couldn't resist ordering a "Chinese counterfeit" version myself.



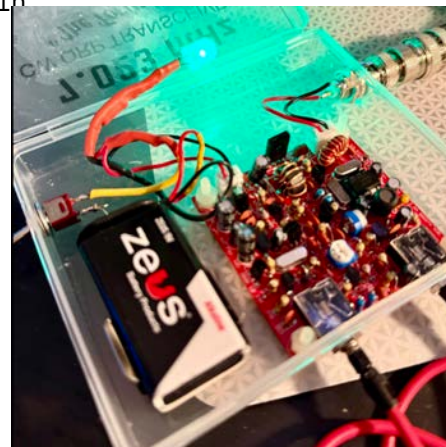
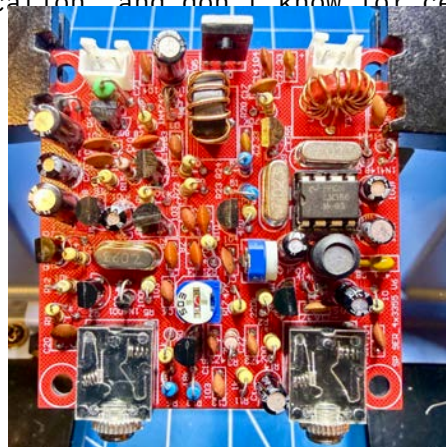
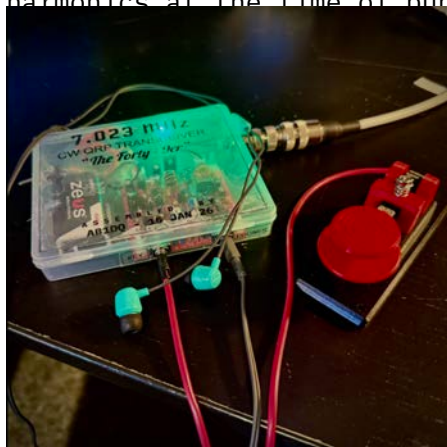
The double-plated PCB has detailed silk screening helping guarantee the correct placement of parts.

The kit came with a high-quality multilayer PC board, 3 pages of documentation, including a parts list, schematic, and PCB layout diagram (left), and 3 pages of Chinese writing that is all Greek to me (HI-HI). It was easy enough to inventory the components against the parts list, and between the printed parts layout diagram and the silk screening on the PCB, there was no need for step-by-step instructions. I supplemented the provided documentation by viewing YouTube videos and confirmed the number of turns required for the two toroids (11 for T4 and 16 for T3) on various websites, thanks to an easy Google search.

The entire kit went together in a single evening in well less than 2 hours, and there were no missing parts. To the contrary, there was an insane number of extra parts left over in my kit. I don't know if the manufacturer did that deliberately, perhaps assuming wholesale parts are cheap and as many builders lose or accidentally destroy parts, providing a surplus up front eliminates the need to mail replacements at additional cost, or maybe the employee who packaged my kit was simply feeling overzealous or generous. As a lifetime builder, I maintain a very well-stocked supply of common components, but it's always nice when I don't have to descend the 2 flights to the basement to retrieve a replacement part for something missing in a kit.

The kit is unusual as it requires a pair of crystals for the intended operating frequency - one for transmit, and one for receive, and my kit, like most originating in China, came with crystals for 7.023 MHz, within the Extra class portion of the band. Many US builders opt for swapping out the crystals for a frequency in the General class portion of the 40-meter band, but I went with the provided 7.023 MHz crystals, as I didn't have any pairs of 7.040 or 7.050 MHz crystals on hand.

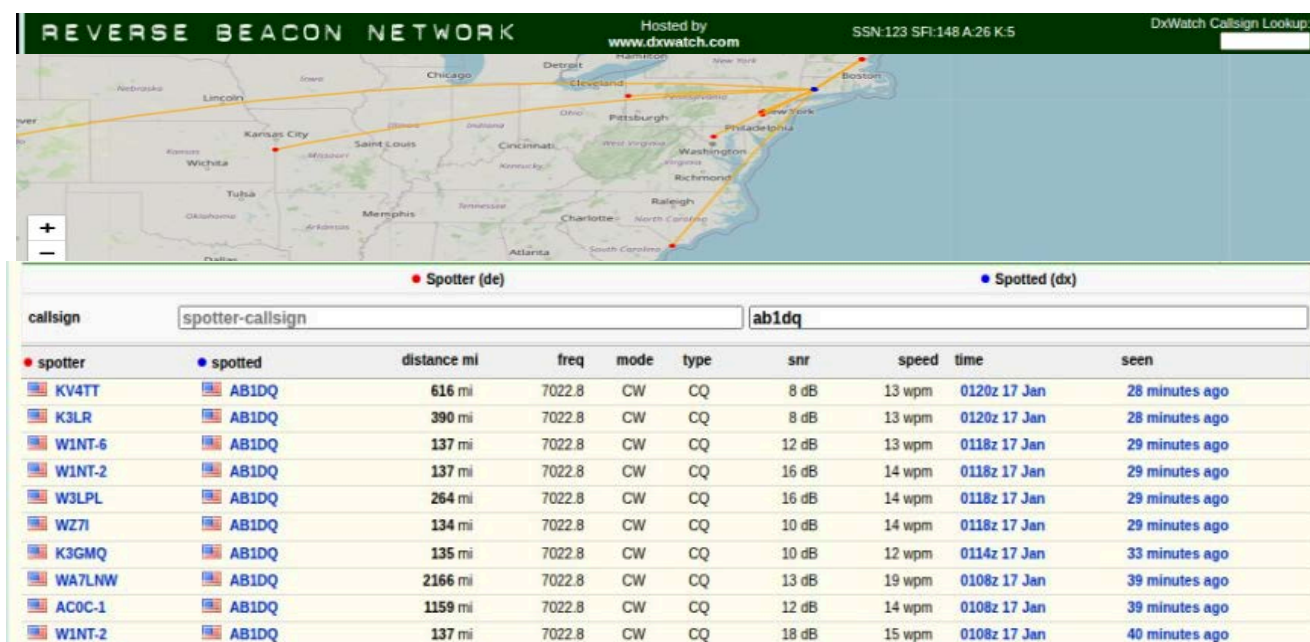
Notable differences between the Chinese circuit and the original Burdick design are that the import version includes 6 transistors vs. 3; it has an LM386 instead of the LM380 for an audio amplifier; it also has a built-in side-tone (very nice!), and is specced for higher power output - reportedly around 3 watts, vs. the original advertised 0.5 watts. Many reports from builders are still only seeing QRPp power, something I suspect is the case with my radio, although I have yet to completely test it for power output and harmonics at the time of publication, and don't know for certain.



The completed 49er project. Although based on the PIXIE transceiver, this version of the 49-er is a smidge too large for Altoids tin housing. I repurposed a translucent plastic box that some components or small hardware came in. I printed the cover design on an old inkjet transparency sheet, and added the unmounted jumbo green power on LED as quirky feature that exploited the clear plastic case.

Upon completion, the 49er passed the initial smoke test. The receiver, hooked up to a dummy load on the bench, clearly picked up a 5W test signal I transmitted on 7.023 from the FT-891 in my shack, and the signal appropriately dropped off as I tuned my transmitter up and down from the spot frequency.

To test the transmit function, I pulled up the Reverse Beacon website, entered my call in the DX field, and called CQ and saw my signal picked up by 10 monitoring stations across the continental US - all confirming reception on 7.0228 MHz - not too shabby!





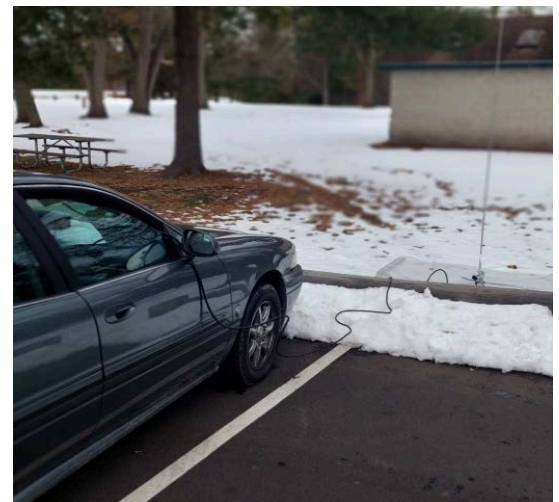
MARC in the Parks

Highlighting member POTA activations in January

Happy New Year! **Deb K1PET** and **Andy N1XXU Purchia** started the New Year off with a bang, hitting Black Rock SP on January 1st, making an amazing 175 contacts, and allowing Deb to earn her Kilo there! The snow made the park look amazing.



On January 5, **Jim Drexler, KC1TSG** (below), continued working on his POTA Kilo award for Whaton Brook with 34 more QSOs on this cloudy 28-degree day, bringing his total up to 768. He was certain to activate before 1/7 to earn the New Year's Activator Award.



MARC in the Parks

On January 22, **Paul Clark, WA1MAC**, activated US-1716, Silver Sands State Park and shared some of his thoughts on his no-frills, affordable POTA equipment he used on 20 & 40 meters with a 50/50 mix of SSB and CW. His portable station included:

- Xiegu G106 \$249 (his was \$199 on Black Friday)
- Radioddity HF-008 80 through 6 meters Antenna \$99
- Radioddity mag mount for whip \$25
- AliExpress Z-Match Antenna Tuner with LED SWR indicator \$31
- ONN Bluetooth Speaker (Old Ears!) \$15
- 10/\$2 microswitch for key
- 5200 ma/hr RC Car battery \$35 (you can get a 5a/hr for \$18 now)

Paul uses XT90 RC power connectors (90amp), which are less than \$1 each, rather than Powerpoles ([SEE PAGE 12 for more info](#)). The Z-Match saves you on the cost of an SWR meter, and for less money, you can get the QRP T-Match kit from Ali-Express for \$11, which also has the LED SWR indicator.

Paul says he could skip the tuner, but claims he's too lazy to adjust the length between CW and SSB on 40 meters. He has really been impressed with the G106, which has a very easy-to-use menu system (great for newbies) and is, overall, a superb CW rig.

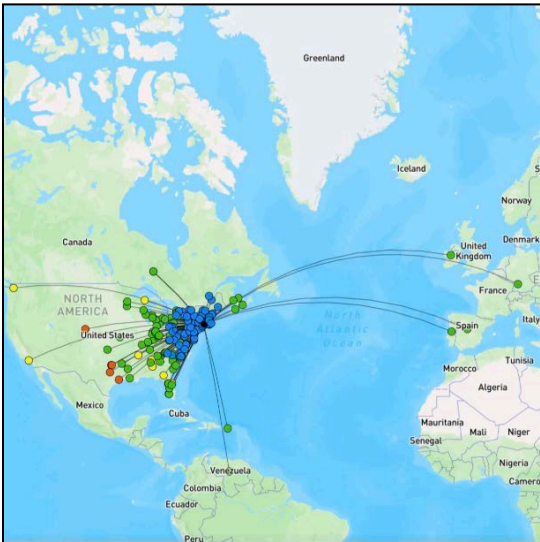
Paul has had no problem making contacts with the little 56" whip and notes, of course, that his big van roof makes a great ground plane for it.



WA1MAC, Paul shared these photos of his frugal POTA shack during his January activation of Silver Sands. He has gotten exceptional results both CW and phone with his Xiegu G106 and Radioddity mag mount whip antenna. For everyone who has a beautiful Go-Box, Paul shares the last photo of his version.

MARC in the Parks

Andy N1XXU and Debbie K1PET were back at it, out in the cold on Winter Field Day, January 24, at US-1726, Wadsworth Falls State Park, logging another 191 phone contacts in the park. They reported wanting to put up a better antenna, but we used an EFHW leaned on a pole in a pine tree. They also had the hamsticks and observed there were definitely some sad hams on the air. 😊 The happy ones drowned them out!



Operation Stats

189 QSOs in 4h 15m
96 Q/h for last 10 • 65 Q/h for last 100

Saturday January 24th, 2026: 189 QSOs

📌 POTA: 9 hunted QSOs

Operation Totals: 189 QSOs

❄️ Winter Field Day

188 Points × 49 Mults × 7 OM = 64,484 Total Points

188 PHONE QSOs

40 ARRL Sections

AK AL AR AZ CO CT DE EB EMA ENY EPA EWA GA IA ID IL IN KS KY
LA LAX MDC ME MI MN MO MS MT NC ND NE NFL NH NLI NM NNJ NNY
NTX NV OH OK OR ORG PAC PR RI SB SC SCV SD SDG SF SFL SJV SNJ
STX SV TN UT VA VI VT WCF WI WMA WNY WPA WTX WV WWA WY

8 RAC Sections

AB BC GH MB NB NL NS ONE ONN ONS PE QC SK TER YT

1 Other

MX DX

🌐 8 DXCC Entities

🇺🇸 United States (163) 🇨🇦 Canada (20) 🇮🇪 Ireland 🇩🇪 Germany 🇵🇹 Portugal 🇪🇸 Spain
🇻🇪 Venezuela 🇵🇷 Puerto Rico

★ 33 US States

AL AK AZ AR CA CO CT DE FL GA HI ID IL IN IA KS KY LA ME
MD MA MI MN MS MO MT NE NV NH NJ NM NY NC ND OH OK OR
PA RI SC SD TN TX UT VT VA WA WV WI WY

🍁 5 Canadian Provinces

AB BC MB NB NL NS NU
NT ON PE QC SK YT

📻 4 Bands

40m - 95 SSB
20m - 77 SSB
15m - 10 SSB
10m - 7 SSB

Wadsworth Falls, near Middletown, remains a very popular park for MARC POTA activators. The POTA site indicates Andy & Deb made other visits in January. Here's a glance at Park Activation Leaders on February 2, 2026:

ACTIVATIONS

1	NZ1J	Dave Tipping	28
2	KC1NQE	Shawn Warren	22
3	KD1JT	Dennis Collin	17
4	N1XXU	Andy Purchia	16
5	NR1B	Bill Huggins	12

ACTIVATOR QSOs

N1XXU	Andy Purchia	1708
NZ1J	Dave Tipping	1472
KC1NQE	Shawn Warren	1165
K1PET	Debbie Purchia	1061
KD1JT	Dennis Collin	906

NOTE: MARC members highlighted in GREEN.

SELECTED ON AIR EVENTS - February 2026

CONTESTS: Click on hyperlink for more info...

- [Adventure Radio Society Spartan Sprint](#)
- [10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB](#)
- [Mexico RTTY International Contest](#)
- [European Union DX Contest](#)
- [Arizona ScQRPions "FYBO*" Winter QRP Sprint](#)
- [Activity Group CW Straight Key Party](#)
- [ORCA DX British Columbia OSO Party](#)
- [NCJ North American Sprint, CW](#)
- [4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint](#)
- [ARRL School Club Roundup](#)
- [CO WW RTTY WPX Contest](#)
- [PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint](#)
- [Dutch PACC Contest](#)
- [SKCC Weekend Sprintathon](#)
- [Keymen's Club of Japan Topband Contest](#)
- [Flying Pigs Run for the Bacon QRP Contest](#)
- [ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW](#)
- [High Speed Club CW Contest](#)
- [SKCC Sprint](#)
- [CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB](#)
- [NCJ North American QSO Party, RTTY](#)

0100Z-0300Z, Feb 3
0001Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
1200Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
1200Z, Feb 7 to 1200Z, Feb 8
1400Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
1600Z-1900Z, Feb 7
1600Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
0000Z-0359Z, Feb 8
0100Z-0300Z, Feb 9
1300Z, Feb 9 to 2359Z, Feb 13
0000Z, Feb 14 to 2359Z, Feb 15
0000Z-2359Z, Feb 14
1200Z, Feb 14 to 1200Z, Feb 15
1200Z, Feb 14 to 2359Z, Feb 15
1200Z, Feb 14 to 1200Z, Feb 15
2300Z, Feb 15 to 0100Z, Feb 16
0000Z, Feb 21 to 2359Z, Feb 22
1400Z-1700Z, Feb 22
0000Z-0200Z, Feb 25
2200Z, Feb 27 to 2200Z, Mar 1
1800Z, Feb 28 to 0559Z, Mar 1

CLUB ACTIVITY! See pp. 19

*FYBO = "Freeze Your Butts Off"

STATE OSO PARTIES:

- [Vermont OSO Party](#)
- [Minnesota OSO Party](#)
- [South Carolina OSO Party](#)
- [North Carolina QSO Party](#)

0000Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
1400Z-2359Z, Feb 7
1500Z, Feb 28 to 0159Z, Mar 1
1500Z, Mar 1 to 0100Z, Mar 2

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS:

W0JH Stillwater ARA Frozen Minnesota Lake Portable
URL: www.Radioham.org
CERTIFICATE: 1618 Pine St W, Stillwater, MN 55082

DATE: Feb 14-Feb 16, 1600Z-2300Z
FREQ: 21.360 14.260 7.260 3.860.

AB5ER Valentine's Day Special Event

URL: <http://www.ncaars.org/>
CERTIFICATE: PO Box 166, Searcy, AR 72145-0166

Feb 14, 1700Z-2300Z
FREQ: 14.260

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 the Zoom 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

Saturday mornings at the OEM *is the only 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 relaxed social setting and participate in various radio activities...

- Learn & practice Morse Code with NZ1J & WB1GYZ
- Work some DX from our club station.
- Have your wonky gear checked out on N1AKN's workbench.
- Bring your current projects in for show & tell.
- Relax and socialize with a wicked cool group of friendly radio fanatics!

**REMEMBER... SOMETIMES
WE HAVE DONUTS!**



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

ITEMS FOR SALE

BELOW ITEMS FOR SALE BY K2RPM, BRUCE TORELLO

Email: btorello@sdaoc.com

- **ICOM ID880H with Manual and RT Systems Windows Cloning Software and Mobile Bracket** - Original Owner Good Working Condition - Analog and D-Star capable \$ 200.00
- **Ameritron AL-80B w/ Manual** - Hardly used since purchase. I'm the original owner. It's in new condition electrically, physically, and operationally with full output - and, no scratches whatsoever. It's currently wired for 240VAC, but can easily be changed to 120VAC. Comes with all original documentation and manual. Due to its size and weight, I will NOT ship - Pick-Up only. Cash preferred, but I will accept a bank cashier's check or USPS postal money order. \$1,200.00
- **Drake R8 Receiver w/ Matching Speaker** - Original Owner Good Working Condition Manual Included \$ 450.00
- **Uniden BCD996T Scanner w/ digital PDF manual** - Analog and digital trunked public safety systems receiver \$ 150.00
- **Icom IC38A 220 MHz Mobile Radio** - Working Condition w/ Manual and antenna (Need NMO mount) \$ 100.00
- **Diamond SX-100 SWR/Power Meter 1-6 to 60 mhz** - Original Owner Good Working Condition \$ 100.00
- **Coaxial Dymatics Directional RF Wattmeter** - Model 81000-A with 2 - 30mhz and 400 - 1000mhz slugs and N to PL-259 adapters \$ 150.00
- **Heil Classic 4 Microphone** - Original Owner Good Working Condition S/N 3757 \$ 50.00
- **Yaesu MD-100 Microphone - Mic Only** - Original Owner Good Working Condition \$ 50.00
- **Heil HM-10 Microphone with case and windscreen** - The HM-10 dual microphone has both the HC-5 full range and the HC-4. 'Dx Dream Machine' elements. The Narrow - Wide switch is used to select the HC-4 in the Narrow position or the HC-5 in the Wide position. \$ 50.00
- **Yaesu MH-31B8 Mobile Microphone** - In Box Never Used \$ 25.00
- **Heil Mic Interface Cables** - For Kenwood Radios \$ 25.00
- **Icom IC-W2A Dual Band Hand Held Radio** - With BP-84 and (1) additional battery and plug in charger - With Manual Make Best Offer B.O.
- **220 MHZ - Beam Antennaco 223-11 -11 Element Long John 220 mhz Beam** - Like New \$ 100.00
- **144-146 Mhz (2 meter SSB) Beam** - 4 Element Antennaco Model 146-4 7 db gain \$ 50.00
- **50/144/430mhz Handheld** - Yaesu VX-7R w/ Base and mobile chargers and extra battery \$ 100.00

Tytera MD-380 UHF only DMR HT \$25

Email DAVE TIPPING NZ1J@JUNO.com

*** ACTUAL ITEM DEPICTED ***



Yaesu FT 991a Mini Manual \$ 25

*** Never Used***

Shark OpenSpot 4 Pro (Hotspot) \$270

*** Never Used***

Email ANDY RUDCZYNSKI abrud2033@gmail.com

*** ACTUAL ITEMS DEPICTED ***



**DO YOU HAVE HAM
RELATED ITEMS TO SELL,
OR ARE YOU LOOKING
FOR A SPECIFIC ITEM?**

*Advertise your sale items or wants
in **KeyKlix** for FREE!*

Email keyklix@w1nrg.com with your
Details price and contact information.

EDITORIAL PAGE

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 February 2026

Has been brought to you by

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

AB1DQ - AC1SK - K1PET - K1RCT - KC1DOY - KC1SA
KC1STF - N1XXU - NR1B - NZ1J - WA1MAC - WB8IMY

A KeyKlix Valentine's Day Bonus: **SNIP & SEND** these hammy greetings to your true Valentine & get a reaction like never before.
YOUR BODACIOUS RESULTS OF SIZZLING ROMANCE 100% GUARANTEED!



MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

The Meriden Amateur Radio Club is

AA1MH Robert Hurlbut	26	KA1BMF Constantino Tobio	26	KC1OYS Jim McAuliffe	26
AB1DQ James Surprenant	26	KA1JTG James Hartzell Jr	25	KC1PEN David Henry	26
AB1HB Charlie Dudac	26	KA1YZC Paul Patnoad	26	KC1PXX Dave Alfredson	26
AB2T Jordan Zarembo	25	KB1APO Jim Sintay	27	KC1PYT Jeff Gazso	25
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AC1SK George Bucci	26	KB1EHE Eric Knight	25	KC1QLS Ray Cirno	25
AC1ST Louis Brenner	26	KB1FGC Richard Guerrera	26	KC1QWH Steve Rygiel	25
AC1TY Andrew Rudczynski	26	KB1HAX Bill Reyor III	26	KC1RBY Sergio Frutuosa	25
AF1X James Elliott	25	KB1IFZ Elsie Mathews	25	KC1RLQ Eric Barbour	26
K0OZ Brian Boccuzzi	26	KB1JL Eric Olsson	26	KC1SA Steve Allen	26
K1BTR Bryan Ragaini	25	KB1LWS Jeanne Gherardi	25	KC1SDA Richard McHugh	26
K1DMS Dave Sack	26	KB1MFU John Ramadei	27	KC1SEN Nicholas Worroll	25
K1JCF Joe Farrell	25	KB1RLF Steven Chapman	26	KC1STF Jules LoRusso	28
K1LHO Mike Ash	26	KB1TBL Dave Laliberte	25	KC1SYU Jim Cosgrove	25
K1LYP John Yusza	29	KB1TGS David Robinson	26	KC1TAD Tom Dipinto	27
K1MAL Chris Altieri	27	KB1TMC Clare O'Lena	25	KC1THU Mike Zelladonis	26
K1MMK Michael MacKennedy	27	KB1TTV Jonathan Martin	26	KC1TKY Bob Hourigan	26
K1MRE Mike Easter	25	KB1YFJ Glenn Couture	25	KC1TKZ Mark Bonitatebus	25
K1NEG Nelson Goewey	26	KC1BQP Paul St.Amand	26	KC1TOV David Tomlinson	25
K1PET Debbie Purchia	26	KC1CAB Frank DiTerlizzi	26	KC1TPN Rick Foster	25
K1RCT Rob Cichon	25	KC1DOY Ted Renzoni	27	KC1TSG Jim Drexler	26
K1RJC Rick Castaldo	27	KC1ERO Jason Pintek	26	KC1TSK Rich Pagano	26
K1SCI Stuart Isaac	26	KC1HFO Johannis Stodis	26	KC1TSL Charlie Vossbrinck	27
K1SMD Silas Moeckel	25	KC1IHK Scott Mowerson	26	KC1TSM Ellen Cosgrove	26
K1STM Anne West	25	KC1ISI Kristin Olsson	25	KC1TSN Chuck Caron Jr.	26
K1TDO Todd Olsen	26	KC1KQH John Kasinskas	25	KC1TSP Dale Fortin	25
K1TGX Jerry Molaver 30	30	KC1MJZ Michael Berube	25	KC1TST Mike Boccuzzi	26
K1UD Butch Chatfield	25	KC1NHE Reed Hansen	25	KC1TSW Charles Caron III	26
K1VDF John Blevins	26	KC1NQE Shawn Warren	26	KC1TSX Mike Barile	26
K1WJL Dave Swedock	25	KC1NRD John Lujick	28	KC1TSY Dan Gessner	26
K1XJ Kevin Buchanan	25	KC1NRQ Bruce Childs	26	KC1TSZ Deb Caron	26
K2RPM Bruce Torello	25	KC1OCS Richard Dewick	26	KC1TWA William Caron	26
K4AVM Andrew Olsson	26	KC1OGL Paul Randazzo	25	KC1TYO Ken Williams	26
K5ATA Steve Goodgame	25	KC1OWD Kevin Van Keuron	25	KC1UJQ Mark Kirschner	26
K5CYN Cyndi Goodgame	25	KC1OYN Rick Becker	26	KC1UJT Michael Carfi	25
KA1BED Bill Green	27	KC1OYR Brent Moyer	25	KC1VCU John Mandeville	26

KC1VJS Anthony Lockery	25	N1IBE Wade Martell	25	W1RCI Ron Isaac Jr.	25
KC1VQY Michael Granoth	26	N1JEO Joel Curneal	25	W1RWW Bob Woodtke Jr.	25
KC1VRG Robert Shemo	26	N1JMX Jeff Martin	28	W1TK Ron Wakefield	26
KC1VSO Patricia Lentz	25	N1LES Joe Murray	26	W1UFO Mike Cei	25
KC1VUM Matthew Erff	26	N1MOB Dan David	26	W1UKX Greg Gherardi	25
KC1VVC Joel Helfer	25	N1NGV Kevin Gallagher	25	W1YSM Ed Snyder	26
KC1VZI Joe DePaolo	25	N1NIS Noah Ludecke	25	W2OFR Mark Dickson	25
KC1WEX Len Guercia	25	N1OKF Bob Parisi	25	W2TT Ross Lambert	25
KC1WFB Lloyd Saberski	26	N1OKR Frank Ciccone	27	W3APC James Cook	27
KC1WHD Craig Scully-Clemmons	25	N1OQC Mike Johnson	27	W4FMM Bob Munro	26
KC1WNJ Joe Capuano	26	N1PHI Trish Nitshe	26	W9OTW Deborah Foss	26
KC1YPA Carl Gross	26	N1PQQ Greg Cartier	26	WA1BAR Michael Barr	25
KC1YSF Kevin Murphy	26	N1QYB Bill Witecki Jr	26	WA1CCQ Norman Bliss	25
KC1YUY Joe Symcak*	26	N1WCL David Blasko	25	WA1FFT Ray Irwin	26
KC2MLH Adam Castracane	26	N1XXU Andy Purchia	26	WA1INC Roland Hamel	26
KC3UKG Storm Murrell	25	N1YLN Edward O'Lena	25	WA1JKR John Rogus	29
KD0BMW Marty Crandall-Grela	25	N1ZN Jim Savage	26	WA1K Jack Chapman	26
KD2TLD Patrick Lacombe	26	N2CKD Lovji Hakim*	26	WA1MAC Paul Clark	27
KE1AU Bob Kaczor	26	N2TAG Dave Taglianetti	25	WA1SFH Douglas Sharafanowich	25
KE1AV Dave Sanford	25	N2YCH Conrad Trautmann	26	WA1TRY Rich Aubin L	
KE2ECC Phillip Gallanti	26	N7VGA Dennis Hanlon	26	WA1ZVY Jim Martin	28
KF6LU Andrew Buza	26	NA1L Dale Cliff	26	WB1DMK William D'Agostino	25
KK7NLS John Condon Jr	25	NA2AA David Minster	25	WB1DQT Bill Bacon	26
KO1J Randy Whitehouse	25	NR1B Bill Huggins	25	WB1GFI Stan Hiriak	25
KO4EEL Tom Williams	25	NZ1J Dave Tipping	26	WB1GYZ Bob Biancur	27
KR1U Bob Eslinger	27	UT3UY Anatoly Kirilenko	26	WB8IMY Steve Ford	26
KS1WK Seth Kolasinski	25	W1AJK Andrew Kazimer	25	WJ1B Harold Kramer	27
KX1USA Rob Messercola	26	W1BJG Judy Wilkins	25	WV2LKM Steve Waldmann	26
N0HIO David Koerner	25	W1BRY Donald Chepurna	27	WX1W Mary Duval	25
N1AKN Jeff Dwyer	27	W1EDX Paul Stasieluk	26	WY1U Tim Mik	25
N1API Al Kaiser	30	W1HLP Scott Martin	26	- Eran Netkin	26
N1BRI Brian Beegan	26	W1IHS Jason Polaski	26	- Lucas Molloy	Y
N1FNE Rod Lane	27	W1IKW Iain K White	29	- Spencer Rygiel	Y
N1GNV John Bartscherer	25	W1LV Steve Morley	26		
N1GY Geoff Haines	27	W1NDT Robert Lombardo	25		
N1HCA Susan South	27	W1PRK James Procaccini	27		



**"If we had no Winter, the
Spring would not be so
pleasant."**

~Anne Bradstreet