



Key Klix August 2026

The Monthly Q-S-T of 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.



Reed, KC1NHE operates under hazy skies due to the Canadian wildfires at the club activation of US-1728 on July 16. See page 11. Photo by Paul Clark, WA1MAC

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"It's 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



Free Stuff

The President's Post, by Dave, NZ1J

Amateur Radio has a long history of hams freely sharing things with other hams. It can cost thousands of dollars to build and maintain an FM repeater. But, most repeaters are available for anyone to use at no cost. License exams are administered by Volunteer Examiners. YouTube videos can help you select a radio or an antenna and can help explain just about any radio related topic.

There's free software available for logging, operating digital modes, tracking satellites, decoding CW, and simulating circuits. Large, well established organizations, such as POTA, SOTA, and SKCC, offer free membership. And, it's not uncommon for a ham to offer electronic components, wire, and even antennas and radios to other hams for free. In my experience, this sort of generosity isn't very common outside of ham radio.

I think that we all should take advantage of some of these offers. Watch a [Salty Walt YouTube video](#). Sign up for a free [POTA](#) account. (You may earn awards without even knowing it.) Download [ADIFMaster](#). Visit [MorseCode.world](#) and have a look around. These are just common examples. There's lots more free stuff available.

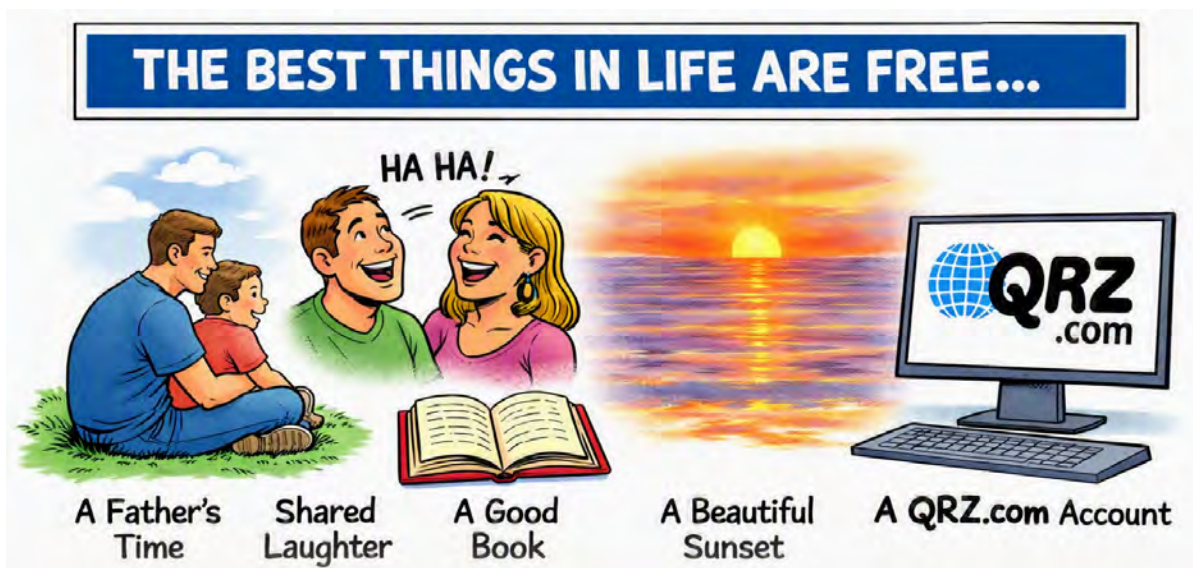
And, I want to make a pitch for <https://www.qrz.com/> QRZ does offer some subscription services, but it is very useful with a free account. QRZ can be your logbook. It provides an easy way for other hams to confirm QSOs with you. It offers a wide variety of operating awards, such as Worked all 50 States and Worked 100 DX Countries. It offers you a place to share some photos and a biography. And, you can share your email address with other hams there.

Sign up for a free account with QRZ.com, if you haven't already. Then, search for a few other club members' call signs. A lot of active hams have a logbook there, have a biography, and share an email address. If you're concerned about sharing your email address, create a ham radio email, such as your call sign at gmail.com or at yahoo.com

An email address on QRZ is a good way for other club members to get in touch with you. You may also get some electronic QSL cards.

Here's what I think is a compelling anecdote. A few years ago, I was with two other hams as we tried to make our first satellite contacts. The three of us did each make at least one QSO. Of course, what we really wanted was confirmation for those QSOs. Before we had even finished packing away the equipment, one of us got an electronic QSL card via email. That was a bit of icing on the cake.

So, please give some thought to taking advantage of some free offers that may help you get more out of the hobby.





THE KEY KLIX KUDOS AWARD

The Meriden Amateur Radio Club celebrates the personal achievements and contributions to the world of Amateur Radio of the following members as recognized and nominated by their peers.

August 2026

Bill Huggins, NR1B

For activating 15 parks in a single day and earning the POTA Cheetah Award.
Nominated by Dave Tipping, NZ1J

Bob Biancur, WB1GYZ

For organizing the Bumble Bee event and getting eight members on the air with QRP CW.
Nominated by Dave Tipping, NZ1J

John Yusza, K1LYP

For repairing the club's log periodic antenna.

Nominated by Dave Tipping, NZ1J

Steve Ford, WB8IMY

For regularly providing interesting articles for Key Klix's "The More You Know" features.

Nominated by Jimmy Surprenant AB1DQ

Jules LoRusso, KC1STF

Recognizing a great Colorado POTA Adventure and your write-up on it for Key Klix.

Nominated by Jimmy Surprenant AB1DQ

THE KEY KLIX KUDOS KORNER - is NEW and a great way for you to recognize a peer member who has recently done something notable for the good of the hobby or had a noteworthy personal achievement. Send your nominations to keyklix@w1nrg.com and be sure to include a brief sentence explaining why they are worthy of the award!

Minutes of the July Business Meeting

The following minutes of the July 9, 2026, MARC Business Meeting will be moved for approval at the August 13 meeting.

Meriden Amateur Radio Club (MARC) BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

June 09, 2026

7:00 – 8:00 PM EDT via Zoom

Submitted by KC1STF, Julian LoRusso, MARC Secretary

Quorum: Our Secretary, Jules KC1STF, confirmed a quorum:
Membership from the June 2026 Roster (G. Bucci provided): 185
Minimum required for Quorum: 18 members and at least 2 officers, one being the President or Vice President.
In attendance: 20 members were present at start of meeting, and of those members, there were 4 officers. As the meeting progressed, 28 total members were present.

In Attendance:

Officers

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

Members

K1LHO	Mike Ash	KC1WFB	Lloyd Saberski	W1EDX	Paul Stasieluk
K1LYP	John Yusza	KC1TSG	Jim Drexler	W1HLP	Scott Martin
K1MAL	Chris Altieri	KE1AU	Bob Kaczor	W1YSM	Ed Snyder
KA1YZC	Paul Patnoad	N1API	Al Kaiser	W2PEU	Mike Toftness
KB1MFU	John Ramadei	N1BRL	Bart Toftness	WB1GFI	Stan Hiriak
KC1DOY	Ted Renzoni	N1LES	Joe Murray	WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur
KC1OYN	Rick Becker	N1ZN	Jim Savage	WB1DQT	Bill Bacon
K1TSX	Mike Barile	W1BRY	Don Chepurna	WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann

Agenda:

- Secretary's Report (Approval prior month's minutes, New Members, Correspondence)
- Treasurer's Report (Summary, Needed Business)
- Standing Committee Reports (Repeater Committee and Scholarship Committee)
- Station Activities Report
- Old Business / New Business
 - Vote to approve revised constitution and bylaws
 - Walk-ins
- Adjournment

Discussion/Meeting Results

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. EDT by NZ1J, President Dave Tipping. z
2. **Secretary's Report:** The secretary's report was delivered by KC1STF, Jules LoRusso. The version sent by Dave NZ1J prior to the meeting on 7/7/26 was updated for additional details on correspondence.
Membership voted to approve June 2026 business meeting minutes.
No new members for July 2026
Correspondence (updated – see report) :
 - Numerous follow-up conversations between Bill NR1B, Dave NZ1J and the Town of Wallingford to finalize arrangements for the use of the field adjacent to the OEM. A visit from the mayor was also arranged
 - Two QSO [sic] cards were received.

Comments during secretary report:

- Bill NR1B and Dave NZ1J prepared a thank you letter to send to Town of Wallingford officials for permission to use the field next to the OEM for 2026 Field Day.
- \$300 was allocated for food for Field Day, \$67 in donations were received. Not enough bottled water. Next year should allocate more funds for food.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was created by AC1SK, George Bucci (see report) and published in email by Dave Tipping on 7/7/26 prior to the meeting.

MOTION TO APPROVE the report was approved by membership.

Received a communication that payment was due for the MARC PO Box. Rick KC1OYN, our 2025 Treasurer, stated PO Box has been paid to end of December 2026 (must have been an error). Dave NZ1J will follow up.

4. **Repeater Committee Report** - Presented by Mike Ash, K1LHO

Background: Issue was noted with repeater, signal not as strong as normal. Decision was made to shut-off repeater to avoid further damage.

As of July 9, the repeater is switched on again and will be monitored.

There was no discussion on the repairs to the repeater system that were discussed in the June 2026 business meeting (hiring climber, replacing antenna, feedline and mounting system).

5. **Scholarship Committee Report** - Jim Savage N1ZN

No report for July 2026.

6. **Station Manager's Report** - The station manager's report was delivered by K1RCT Rob Cichon (see report) and published in email by Dave Tipping prior to the meeting. Some details that were discussed are below:

- Issue with repeater losing signal strength seemed to be due to the heat in the last 2 weeks.
- Plans are in place to repair the log periodic antenna.
- Details in the Station Manager's report emailed by Dave NZ1J on 7/7/26.

New Business:

7. **Approval of Updated Constitution and Bylaws**

Background:

Over the past three months, four changes to the constitution and bylaws to help MARC conduct their business more efficiently have been discussed, voted on and approved in past business meetings. Our MARC president Dave NZ1J championed these proposals (thanks Dave) and hopefully club membership will benefit from the more efficient procedures from the updated constitution.

The revised updated constitution, the list of changes, and prior versions of the constitution were emailed to members by David Tipping NZ1J on 7/7/26

Revisions were in the following four areas:

- More flexibility for the requirement for a December business meeting.
- More flexibility for scheduling of activity meetings.
- Repeater committee membership requirement changed from 5 members to no fewer than 4 members. Simplification of club dues for a single amount regardless of payment method.

Dave NZ1J made a motion to approve the updated constitution; Rob K1RCT 2nd the motion.

Discussion:

Dave NZ1J noted the new signed version will be searchable. Prior signed version was scanned and not searchable.

Updated constitution was approved by membership:

- Yes - 21 members
- No - 3 members
- Abstain - 1 member

8. **Wall of Fame**

In the prior business meeting, Dave NZ1J and Al N1API proposed we should find a way to honor our club founders and review our life membership policy. We presently have one life member at MARC. Al N1API suggested a Hall of Fame maybe adding 2-3 members per year. Al proposed 50 years of MARC membership should automatically qualify for Life Membership. Others like Eric KB1JL and John K1LYP think there should be more qualifications than just being a member for 50 years.

Ed Snyder W1YSM noted he has archives, mostly in paper format (4-5" of paper), for 75 years of MARC history containing old Key Klix issues, pictures of MARC members, and other artifacts. Ed will coordinate with Dave NZ1J to see who to hand off the information for archive purposed which

should be helpful for the Hall of Fame discussion and plans. Thank you Ed!
More discussion needed on this topic in future meetings.

9. Walk-ins

8.1) [SIC] MARC related social media pages

Dave NZ1J raised the issue again of the two Facebook forums, one, a Facebook Page, and the other, a Facebook Group.

There are 10 administrators for the Facebook Page and there should be fewer.

Should the club be in control of these forums, that was the topic of discussion.

There's also a Discord page associated with MARC and our weekly NETs on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday AM

There's 3 official means of MARC communication:

- The MARC Website
- Key Klix
- Emails from the President containing:
 - Business Meeting Minutes
 - Secretary Report
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Station Manager's Report

More discussion needed on the social media pages.

8.2) [SIC] Scott, W1HLP, brought up the topic of the cost some rare DX operators are charging to confirm QSOs. QST recently had a column devoted to this topic. Due to our meeting running long, this topic was tabled until next month.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at ~8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Jules LoRusso
KC1STF

MARC VE Sessions

MARC holds a VE Sessions on the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM at the Office of Emergency Management at 143 Hope Hill Road in Wallingford.

License exams are paperless and you will need a PIN from www.hamstudy.org/ prior to the exam date.

For more information, contact Jim, N1ZN at N1ZN@arrl.net, or Bill, NR1B at zz71818@hotmail.com.



WARG's 4th Technician License Review Class

Starts on Tuesday, September 22, 2026
And will run for 12 weeks to December 6.

Spread the word...

Enroll on the Wallingford Adult Ed website:
<https://www.wallingfordadulthood.org/>

Volunteers needed too!

Help promote the future of Amateur Radio by volunteering to join our teaching team. It's easy, fun & rewarding. Volunteers work in pairs to present two chapters of their choice from the ARRL License Manual. It's a great way to give back to the hobby!

***Email Jimmy, james@ab1dq.com
for more info or to sign up to volunteer!***

The More You Know...

All About HamX – New England's Premier Hamfest!

by Jimmy Surprenant, AB1DQ

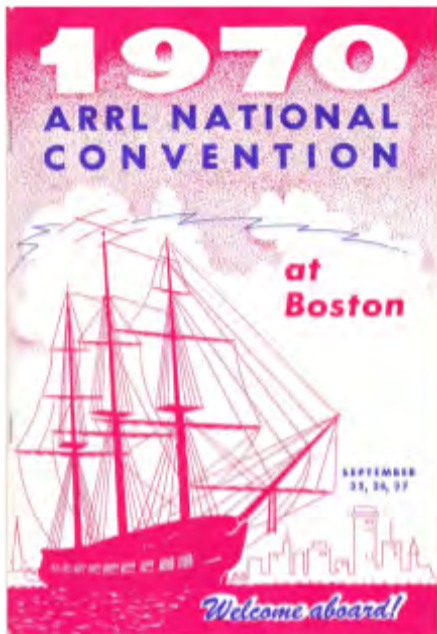
This month, from Thursday August 13 - Sunday, August 16, the 43rd ARRL Northeast HamXposition (or HamX for short) will take place at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center in Marlboro, Massachusetts. HamX is the longest running and largest ARRL hamfest in the region and offers much for the New England ham radio operator from three days of forums, a large outdoor flea market, indoor vendor space, build-a-thons, banquet dinners, nationally known keynote speakers, buildathons, and evening entertainment programs. If you have never been, why not consider taking the 90 minute drive this year to see what it's all about?

For the completely uninitiated, a hamfest is a convention of amateur radio enthusiasts, often featuring a trade show, flea market, and various activities related to amateur radio. These events provide opportunities for socializing, buying and selling equipment, and attending workshops or forums.

A Little History of the New England Division Convention.

New England Division conventions have been held for over one hundred years, New England's first ARRL-sponsored Division convention was held in Springfield, MA in 1924 and moved around the region in the following years, being hosted in Worcester (1925), Providence (1926), Hartford (1927), and Boston (1928).

Throughout the twenties and thirties, Boston-based Massachusetts State conventions were typically held in combination with the Boston Hamfest. Division and State (Section) conventions filled the average ham's social calendar from the 1920s to the 1960s. There were a few "conventionless" years along the way.



**Program booklet from the 1970
New England Conference
which hosted the ARRL
National Convention.**

Today the ARRL New England Division Convention is sponsored by FEMARA, Inc., since first being held on May 1, 1960 at the New Ocean House in Swampscott, MA. The event was held annually each spring at the Ocean House throughout the 1960s, except for 1966 when it was also the ARRL National Convention and held at the Prudential Center in Boston and in 1969 when it was held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston.

In 1970, the New England Division again hosted the national ARRL convention, as the event moved from springtime to the autumn, being held at the Statler Hilton in Boston from September 25-27. The next conference was held in Hyannis in 1973 and there was no New England conference in 1971, 72, 74 or 75.

Starting in 1976, the New England Conference began running on a two year biannual cycle, occurring in even years. In 1978, the conference was moved to Boxboro where it continued to be held every two years until 2012.

There was no conference in 2014 and starting in 2015, HamXpo began being held annually. In 2020 during the COVID-19 Pandemic, a virtual free conference was held. Starting in 2021, HamX moved to the BestWestern in Marlboro where attendees enjoy more function rooms, better amenities, and a larger flea market space.

You can learn more about the history of the New England Convention by checking out K1NKR Skip Youngberg's excellent article online [here](#). Get your tickets for HamX 2026 [here](#).



HamX - The Northeast HamXposition

August 13-16, 2026

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center
181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough, Massachusetts

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: Details online at <https://hamxposition.org/>

*Come Support Your Fellow MARC Members
Presenting 6 Great Programs at HamX...*

- 1. Technician Toolkit - Getting the most out of Ham Radio with Tech Class Privileges**
Ten Meters for the Technician, Morse Code for the Technician, Satellite Ops, VHF/UHF Digital Voice, Getting the Most of 2 Meter Repeaters, HT Programming with Net Directory
Jimmy Surprenant, AB1DQ, with Mark Noe KE1IU and Rob Jackson, N1WRJ
Friday 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Wayland Room W1 & Sunday 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Marlboro Room W9
- 2. Two Tower Zoning Permit Cases: CT and MA, Plus Your Questions**
W. Dale Clift, Esq., NA1L, with Fred Hopengarten, Esq., K1VR
Friday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, Wayland Room W1 & Saturday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, Sterling Room W2
- 3. Club Track - The "New" ARRL MARCONI Program**
Dr. Edward L. Snyder, MD, W1YSM
Friday 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM, Salon A E2
- 4. ARRL Connecticut Section Manager's Meeting**
Douglas Sharafanowich, KC1SFH
Saturday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Sudbury Room W4
- 5. Connecticut POTA Activators Group**
Shawn Warren, KC1NQE, with Conrad Trautmann, N2YCH, Peter Cimino, K1PCN, and Brian Horne, N1BAM
Saturday 11 AM - 12 PM, Seminar Room E3
- 6. Foxhunting on a Budget - a Springboard to Club Activity & Growth**
David Henry, KC1PEN
Saturday 2 PM - 3 PM, Wayland Room W1

NOTE: Times & Rooms subject to change - refer to the final conference program at HamX to confirm.

A few glimpses of what HamX has to offer... you shoulda oughta take the drive!



HamX in Marlboro - quite possibly the finest local Hamfest ever - see you there, amigos!



THE W1NRG NEWSLINE

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

MARC's Coffee Cup Net Turns 326 whilst America Turns 250!

by Ron Wakefield, W1TK

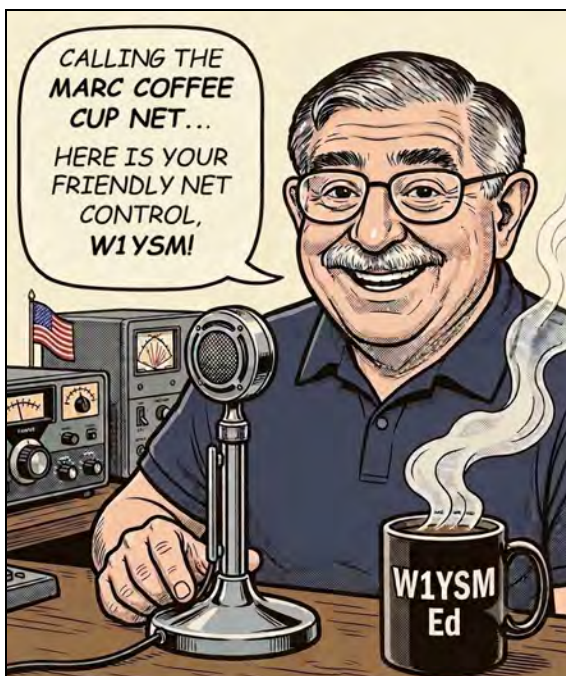
Saturday, July 4th, marked the eighth day after having a total knee replacement of my left knee. As I sat icing after yet another session of exercises, my trusty HT reminded me that it was time for the 326th iteration of the MARC Coffee Cup Net.

Operating "recliner portable" was my only ham radio option at that point so I decided to check in. There wasn't anything particularly different about the net; the usual robust turn out, the familiar list of call signs, etc.

It didn't occur to me until close to the end that this net was different. It was special because it fell on the day of America's 250th Anniversary.

I felt that some type of commemoration was in order. Before knowing what that would be, I asked Ed, W1YSM, net control, for the final list of check-ins. What I decided to do was to create a certificate to celebrate and commemorate the concurrence of these two events. The call signs of all those who checked in are displayed on the certificate. Any club member can download it via the link below. It prints nicely on 8.5 x 11 paper. Happy 250th America, and Happy 326th MARC Coffee Cup Net!

Get your copy, suitable for framing and display in your shack - [here](#)
& 73 to all ~ Ron, W1TK



Summer Evening POTA at Wharton Brook Continues in July

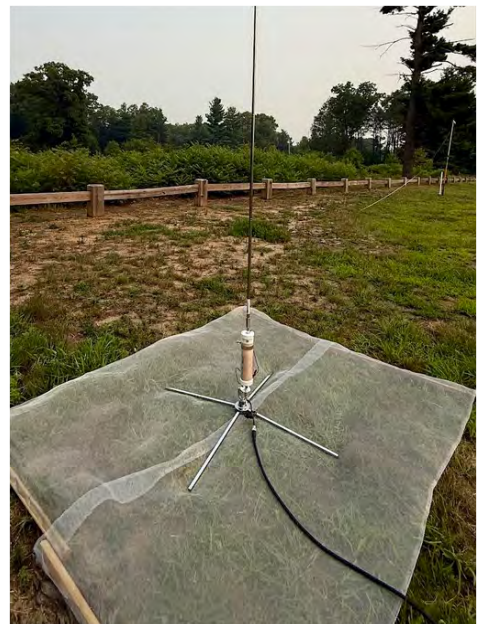
by Dave Tipping, NZ1J

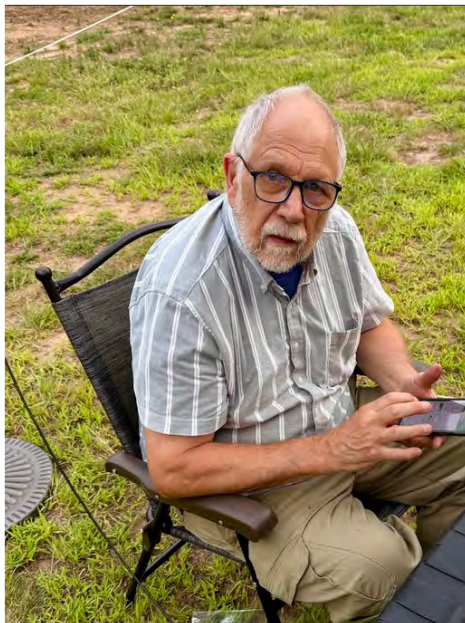
When the spring Technician class wrapped up, several of the newly licensed hams were looking for opportunities to learn about HF operation and to get more experience on the air. More than twenty of us met one evening in May at Wharton Brook to provide some of that experience. The large turn-out in May led to more evening meet-ups in June and July.

At the July meet-up, we had nine HF stations on the air. Two relatively new club members built their own HF antennas and had a chance to try them out. We also had a chance to compare stations, analyze antennas, get on air experience, talk about logging, and complete POTA activations.

We've been fortunate these past three months to have sunset times after 8 pm. We'll try to have similar meet-ups in August and September, but we will need to be out of the park before sunset, which will be a lot earlier by September.

Join us if you can for an evening meet-up at Wharton Brook before the warm temperatures and late sunsets disappear.





MARC Receives Donation from Cheshire Half Marathon Foundation



On June 24, **Lloyd, KC1WFB**, President of the Cheshire Half Marathon Foundation, presented MARC with a generous \$500 donation, in recognition of MARC's support of the Cheshire Half Marathon.

The Half Marathon raises money for local charities, including The Lion's Club and Abilities Without Boundaries.

Eric, KB1JL, led a team of two dozen volunteers who provided communication for the race. See more complete coverage of the race in the May issue of Key Klix.

What's Happening with the UConn Radio & Electronics Club?

by Mike Berube, KC1MJZ

I am excited to report that the UConn Radio & Electronics Club, W1HUS, is back on the air! After many years of inactivity, a dedicated group of undergraduate students has successfully revitalized the club with the support and encouragement of the amateur radio community.

The 2025-2026 academic year was an exciting one for the students. They began as a small group of radio and electronics enthusiasts and, through months of hard work, completed the university recognition process, restored the club callsign W1HUS, and welcomed several new General Class licensees. I was honored when the students asked me to serve as the club trustee, allowing me to mentor them through weekly online meetings and meet with them at events throughout the year.

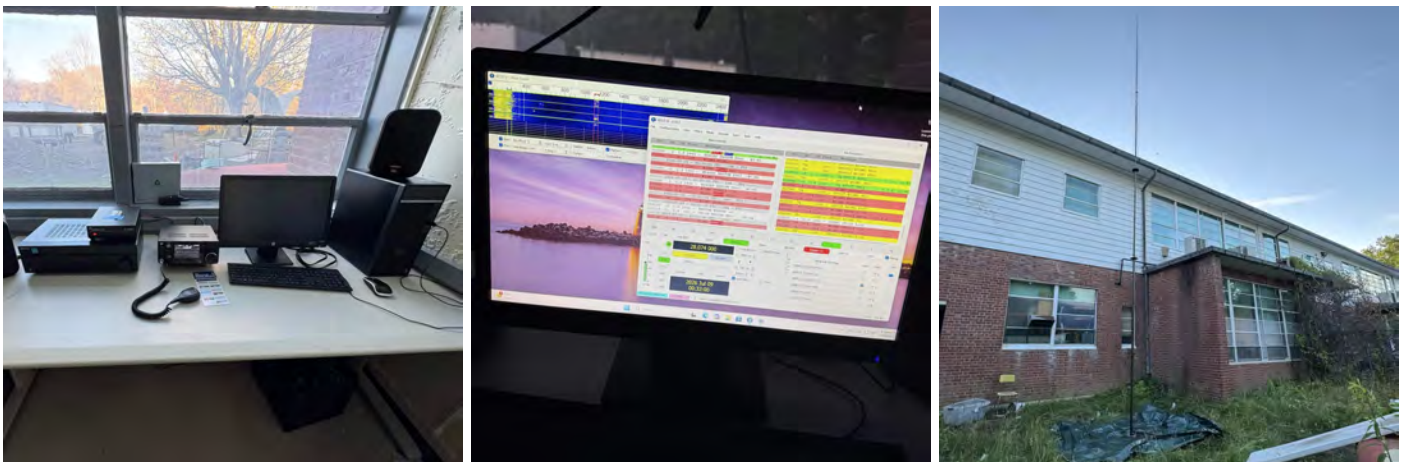
The students also enjoyed visits to the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut and the Nutmeg Hamfest, where many experienced firsthand the enthusiasm and fellowship that make amateur radio such a rewarding hobby.

Thanks to the friendships and resources available through the Meriden Amateur Radio Club, I introduced the students to the Marconi Grant Program. With invaluable guidance from **Ed Snyder, W1YSM**, and **Rick Becker, KC1OYN**, the club successfully secured funding to build its first permanent amateur radio station on campus.

Special thanks also go to Pete Menard of the University of Connecticut, who secured space for the new radio shack at Depot Campus. Over the summer, students installed the antenna, set up the station featuring an Icom IC-7300, configured the shack computer, and completed successful HF on-the-air testing.

Looking ahead, the club plans to expand into VHF/UHF, satellite communications, mesh networking, and hands-on activities such as fox hunts. We hope you'll listen for W1HUS during the 2026-2027 academic year.

The accompanying photographs show the new UConn radio shack, including the Icom IC-7300 transceiver, power supply, and DX Commander antenna system purchased through the Marconi Grant Program.



ABOVE: Photos of the rejuvenated legendary college station W1HUS at UConn (photo credit: KC1MJZ)

Tally-Ho! A Hunting We Will Go!

by *Ted Renzoni, KC1DOY*

Sunday 19 July 2026 saw us back on the fox hunting trail, and for me, it was a case of the early bird finding the fox early. I had set up my starting position in the parking lot at Parks & Rec, a nice high spot for taking a bearing. The hunt starts, as usual, at 09:30 but at 09:15 what do I see but the "fox," Dave NZ1J, driving up the hill. He went right past me and set up his transmitters a bit farther up the street from my position.

I waited a while thinking that he must have seen me and would relocate. When he didn't come back down I realized that he hadn't seen me so I drove up to meet him as he was getting ready to start. I guess that doesn't actually count but I got on the radio and sent out a TALLY HO! anyway.

After that he and I set up our chairs and waited for the other hunter to arrive. Might as well take the win since that isn't likely to happen again. As Tom Weller was fond of saying, "Fortune favors the lucky."

~Ted KC1DOY



And now for something completely different...



ROCK & ROLL WITH MAYOR VINCENT CERVONI!

Local band **Peaches & Diesel**, featuring good friend of WARG, Wallingford Mayor Vincent Cervoni, will be performing at the ReRead 2026 Summer Concert Series on Saturday, August 29.

Bring some friends and have a blast listening to this outstanding Eric Clapton tribute band!

When: Saturday Aug 29, 2026 · 7pm – 9pm

Where: The Watch Factory Shoppes 122 Elm St, Cheshire, CT

July Contesting Inputs

by Steve Allen, KC1SA

KeyKlix Contesting Editor

It's been a few months since I contributed to the Contesting Corner of KK and I still have a couple months left of my radio sabbatical of sorts, but thought I'd give a bit of input. When I spotted this generator used to power Boothbay Brewery; RV Resort during power outages I thought what a great addition for Field Day?

My Icom 7610 has been mostly idle since April, but when we do get back to the real QTH I fire it up and make a few contacts. I'll be off the road traveling when contesting activity picks up in the fall and unlike last year my TS-2000 stayed at the QTH keeping the 7610 company during our 2026 travels.

Our travels this season kept us local in New England unlike past years where we headed off to Wyoming or Georgia and a dozen stops along the way. Our country has so much to offer; Heritage, Diversity, Scenery, Cuisine, well the list could go on for a while.

While traveling I do keep my ears on the Echolink node from time to time. I did get a bit worried when the repeater was taken off line last month. I do have the ability to remotely shut down the EL node but an internet glitch occurred during one of the electrical storms Wallingford had and locked the disconnect switch in the ON position. Luckily no issues, but I did remedy the problem when we got back home. During our many stays along the way on our trip,

I made an eyeball QSO with N2MBX out of Greenfield Center, New York. Tim and his XYL were traveling with their large Class A and staying just outside of Lowell, Massachusetts. Interesting guy, retired out of GE in Schenectady some years back and now spends 50%+ time on the road.

Well, that's my Contesting Corner update for now. Although nothing much about Contesting, Ham Radio and Contesting is much like real life: Making connections with folks and try to make a lasting impression.

73,
Steve
KC1SA



Contest QTCs

by Steve Ford, WB8IMY

If you're a traffic handler, you are already familiar with QTCs, but you may be wondering how they apply to contesting. Sit tight and all will be revealed!

For the rest of us, it helps to first define the term. QTC is a "Q signal" that means "I have traffic (messages) for you." Follow it with a question mark and it becomes, "Do you have traffic for me?"



The contest angle comes into play when we discuss the popular Worked All Europe DX Contests, the first of which take place next month. Sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club and better known as WAEDC, the contest comes in three flavors: CW (August 8), SSB (September 12), and RTTY (November 14). These contests are pretty much the same as any other – with one glaring exception.

Upon the completion of a standard exchange (RST and a serial number), you may be asked, "QTCs?"

Translation: The other station is extending an invitation to exchange traffic. The QTC exchange is one of the features that makes the WAEDC unique—and a little intimidating the first time you encounter it.

You are not required to exchange QTCs during these contests. You can simply respond by saying (or sending) "No QTCs." However, by turning down the invitation you'll be missing out on a significant number of bonus points.

How the QTC Exchange Works

For the purposes of WAEDC, a QTC exchange consists of a list of several contacts (up to 10) that you have made during the contest. During the exchange, you list the selected contacts including the times you made them, the call signs of the stations, and the serial numbers you received from the stations.

Suppose that earlier in the contest you worked the following three stations:

Time	Call Sign	Serial Number
1307	DA1AA	431
1310	F5XYZ	212
1315	G3ABC	178

In response to the QTC invitation, you'd send:

QTC 1/3

This means:

- QTC series number 1
- containing 3 QTCs

You would then send:

1307 DA1AA 431 1310 F5XYZ 212 1315 G3ABC 178

If everything is copied correctly (the other operator may ask for repeats, just to be sure), those three QTCs count toward bonus points for both of you.

Important Rules

- In the CW and SSB WAEDCs, stations outside Europe are restricted to working European stations for contest credit. In addition, only non-European stations can send QTCs and only European stations can receive them. In other words, when you copy "QTC?" from a European station, the operator is asking for traffic from you – don't expect the station to send traffic in return. This also means that you can only send QTC exchange invitations to European stations. In these contests, when you send "QTC?" you are asking if the station would like to receive QTCs from you.
- Each QSO can be reported as a QTC only once. So, if you receive another invitation, you'll have to find other contacts to report.
- You cannot send a QTC back to a station you may have contacted previously. For instance, let's say you worked HA1TM on 15 meters earlier in the contest, but now you are working him again on 20 meters. If you send QTCs to HA1TM, you can't include that previous contact you made with him on 15 meters.
- A maximum of 10 QTCs may be exchanged between any two stations.

If this sounds complicated, it is. The WAEDC QTC exchanges aren't meant to be easy. The reward, on the other hand, can make it worthwhile.

Today, most WAEDC competitors use contest logging software such as N1MM Logger+. The software keeps track of which QSOs have already been sent as QTCs and assists with the exchange.

QTC exchanges are somewhat easier during the RTTY WAEDC, although the rules are different from the CW and SSB competitions.

In the RTTY WAEDC:

- Stations may both send and receive QTCs and you swap QTCs with almost anyone, not just Europeans (see the exception below). You can also work anyone; you aren't limited to contacting Europeans.
- QTCs can also be exchanged between stations on different continents. For example:
 - North America ↔ Europe
 - North America ↔ Asia
 - Europe ↔ Africa
- However, stations on the **same continent** cannot exchange QTCs with each other.

This makes WAEDC RTTY much more flexible. A station in Connecticut could exchange QTCs not only with Europe but also with Asia, South America, Africa, Australia, or Antarctica. Being able to work any station you can hear is a nice touch as well – you aren't limited to Europeans only.

Many contesters consider WAEDC RTTY the easiest way to do QTC handling. Specialized contest software such as N1MM Logger+ and WriteLog can automate much of the sending and logging of QTCs.

Remember: QTC exchanges are not mandatory in WAEDC contests. If the challenge doesn't appeal to you, just follow the rules and enjoy the contest as you would normally. But if you want to put your traffic handling skills to the test, the Worked All Europe DX competition is hard to beat! You'll find complete rules at www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/wae-dx-contest/en/.

At the Clubhouse *with Ted, KC1DOY*

Saturday, JULY 4, 2026

Even the 4th of July couldn't keep MARC members from gathering at the OEM to socialize, get on the air and check out vintage radio gear.

Reed Hansen KC1NHE brought in his Yaesu FT-101ZD transceiver for a check-up. Jeff N1AKN opened it up and found that it didn't seem to have any real problems despite being decades old. As it turned out, the only real issue was in understanding how the controls needed to be set and adjusted as they were "back in the day."

An interesting discovery was learning that the 10 meter control had A, B, C and D positions. These turned out to refer to crystals set to fixed frequencies. One of them appeared to be for 11 meter CB which would have been a more likely addition back in the 60's. It was really fun to see this historic radio still working and ready to go.

Sunday July 5th was no less fun as a group of us set out on another MARC foxhunt. **Dave NZ1J** was the fox and tucked himself away behind the library building. It took a while but we finally tracked him down. Thanks for a good time again Dave. Can't wait to get back to some POTA action soon.



The more things change, the more they stay insane.
Credit to Tom Weller from his book MINIMS

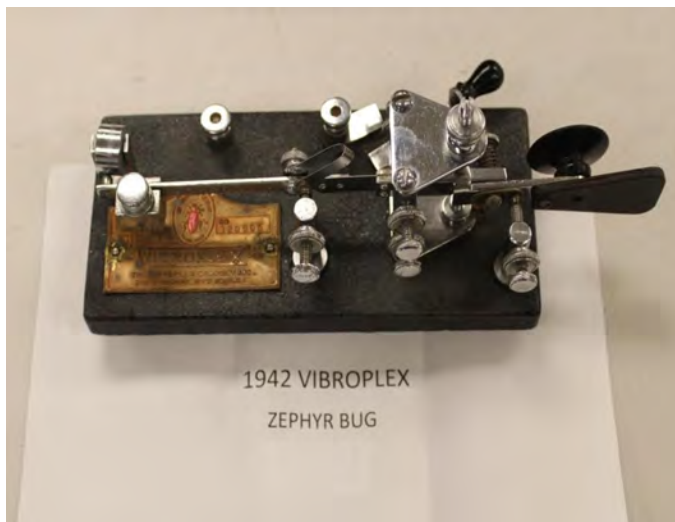
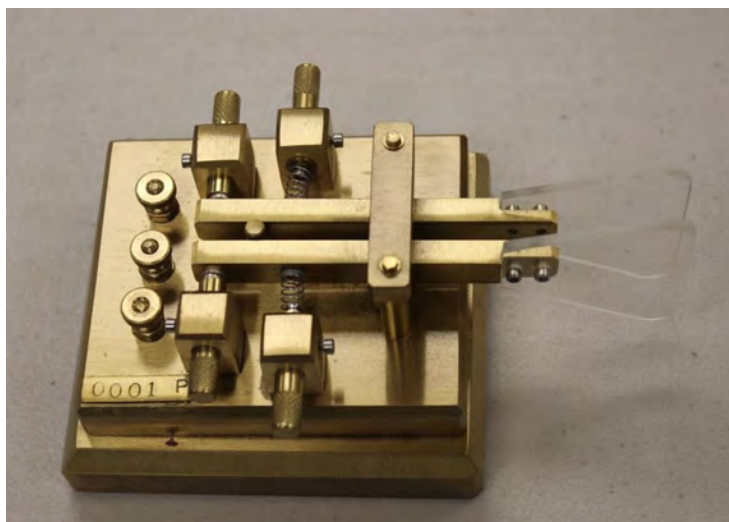
~Ted KC1DOY

Saturday 18 July 2026 was another interesting day at MARC with some great show and tell.

Paul, WA1MAC brought in his zBitx v2 radio for an unboxing. It's a 5 watt, all band, all mode SDR radio that is pocket size. It covers 80 to 10 meters on USB/LSB with CW/AM/FreeDV/FT8/SSTV. It has a built-in speaker and microphone and most interestingly, it also has an on-board matching transformer for use with an EFHW antenna, meaning no need to bring an external unit when going portable. Since Paul just got this radio we can't wait to hear his report about how it actually performs at home and in the field. For \$269.00 including shipping I wouldn't be surprised if we see a few more of these at POTA and other events.

Dale, NA1L brought in 2 very interesting keyers for show & tell. One was a beautiful solid brass key, with a prototype serial number, #0001 P. Apparently very few were ever made, and the key never went into production. Dale bought the key at a flea market along with a vintage WWII Vibroflex bug from 1942. He got a very good deal on it which also included a fine wooden box to store it in. Members of WB1GYZ "Railroad" Bob's CW class had a chance to examine both keys at the OEM this Saturday.

~ Ted KC1DOY



TOP L: Dale's Brass Prototype Key. R: The 1942 Vibroplex Zephyr
BOTTOM L: Paul's new compact Marvel, the zBITX. R: Bob's CW Class pounding brass.

The MARC Activity Meeting on **Saturday 25 July 2026**, presented by **Dave NZ1J**, covered BJT transistor amplifiers using a 2N3904 NPN transistor. This session covered negative feedback in the bias circuit to control gain and the use of inductors to replace resistors for greater efficiency while being careful to avoid excessive voltage that could damage the transistor.

Dave went on to explain how transformers are used to match impedance and how the input and output impedances of the amplifier should be matched to the source and the load. Finally, common emitter and common collector circuits were compared. Thanks Dave, for another highly informative session that served as both an introduction to new hams as well as a refresher to others.

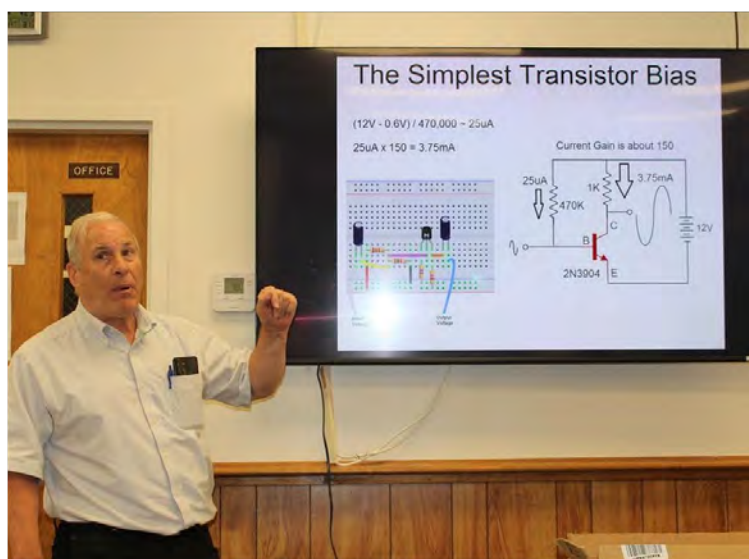
Reed KC1NHE brought in the 10 GHz dish antenna that he acquired at the MIT flea market. His plan is to eventually try his hand at SHF communications. 10 GHz sits in the center of the X band at a 3 centimeter wavelength. Reed acknowledged that he will need a lot more equipment before he can work SHF but, as we all know, every station begins with a first purchase of equipment.

Along with the dish antenna, Reed also brought in an ammo case that could make a very good POTA box. You can see the box peeking out from behind his backpack on the table. It opens from both ends so access to radio controls would be easy from one end while power and antenna leads could be run from the other. The box is made from heavy duty plastic and a similar one appeared in an episode of Star Trek TNG (Thine Own Self) with a "radioactive" label on it. Reed plans to label the box similarly as "Radio Active". I hope to get a picture of the box once it is cleaned up and the new labels are applied.

While all of this was going on inside, **John K1LYP** was outside in the bucket truck making repairs to the damaged beam antenna. This took the entire morning and a few steps remain to complete the job but John did a ton of work and we all owe him a very big "thank you" for taking on this project.

The MARC weekend continued with a fox hunt on Sunday. **Dave NZ1J** was the fox once again and gave us a fun hunt which led us to the Rock Hill School after a few false turns. Fox hunting along with POTA continue to be the major outdoor activities that are most popular with our club members.

~Ted KC1DOY





ABOVE & LEFT: John, K1LYP in the bucket truck, making repairs to the OEM beam antenna on July 25.

BELOW: The foxhunting crew & a pair of foxes on a sunny Sunday morning, July 26.

Photo credits: KC1DOY & N1AKN



The More You Know...

Slide Deck: BJT Transistors, Part III

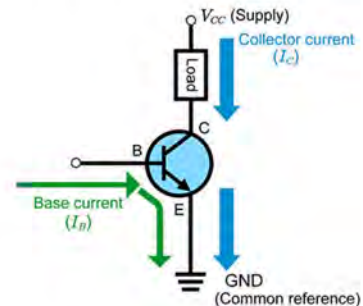
by Dave Tipping, NZ1J

KeyKlix is pleased to publish NZ1J Dave's slide deck from the July 25 Activity Meeting on Bipolar Junction Transistors.

Have a question or need more information? Drop Dave a line, or better yet, drop in to the next OEM Saturday morning open house and ask him in person!

BJT Transistor Amplifiers - Part 3

Dave NZ1J



Transistors are DC Devices

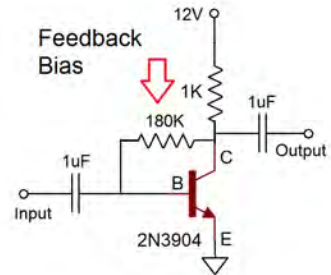
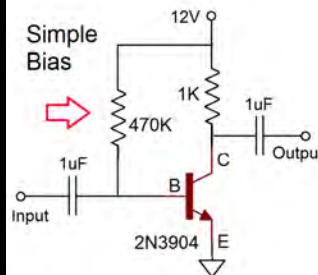
NPN transistors use one positive power supply. One transistor cannot produce true AC current.

Using capacitors and resistors, an AC input signal can get amplified by a transistor and be returned to AC at the output.

This process relies on 'transistor bias'

Bias causes current to flow when there is no input signal.

Using negative feedback in the bias circuit, the gain is lower, but the circuit is more tolerant of variations in transistor gain.

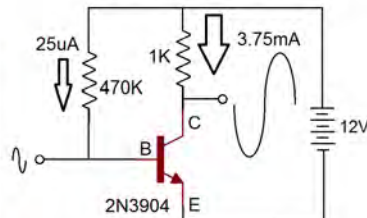
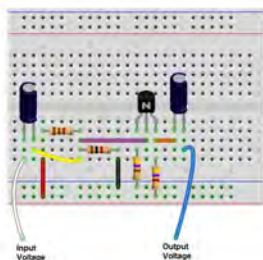


The Simplest Transistor Bias

$(12V - 0.6V) / 470,000 \sim 25\mu A$

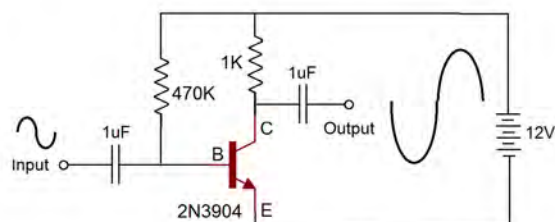
$25\mu A \times 150 = 3.75mA$

Current Gain is about 150



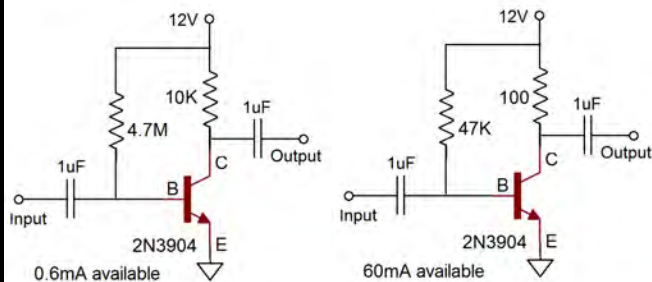
AC Coupling

A capacitor is used to add a DC offset to the AC input signal. A second capacitor is used to remove the DC from the output.



What values for the resistors?

The amplifier must have enough current to send to the load. Depending on the load, 1mA may be enough or much more may be needed.



Impedance and Loading

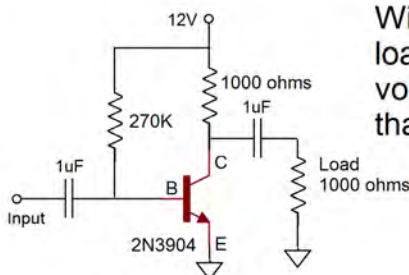
Like any source or load, amplifiers have an input impedance and an output impedance.

The amplifier we've been considering has an input impedance of about 1000 ohms. The output impedance is just determined by the value of the resistor connected to the transistor's collector. In our example, that is also 1000 ohms.

If a low impedance, such as an 8 ohm speaker, is connected to the output of the amplifier, the voltage gain will be decreased a lot.

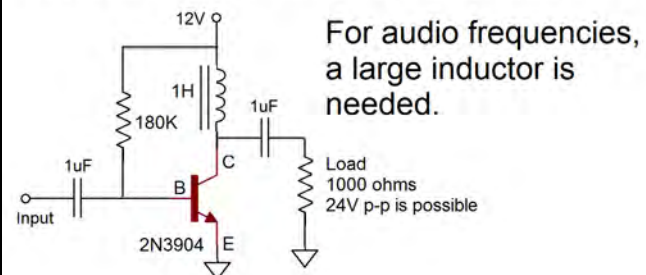
'Impedance Matching' maximizes the circuit's gain.

With no load, the output voltage can be 12V p-p. With a load, the output voltage is less. And, the 'quiescent' voltage needs to be reduced. With no load, 6V is the best quiescent voltage. With this load, 4V is best.



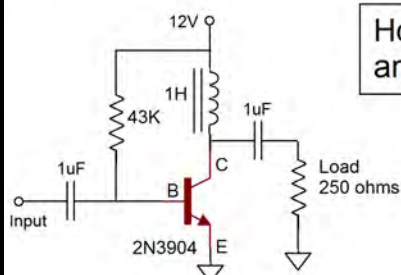
An Inductor in place of the Resistor

The resistor connected to the collector terminal takes a lot of the output power. An inductor is more efficient. However, there is a risk of excessive voltage damaging the transistor.



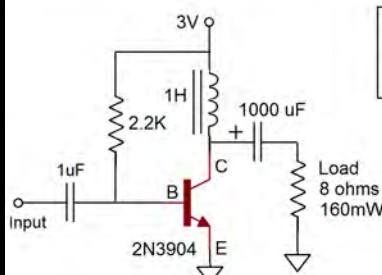
How much power can it make?

The 2N3904 is limited to 40V, 200mA, and 625mW. Setting current to 50mA meets these requirements.



Less Voltage Means Less Power

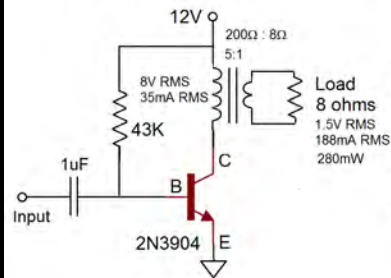
Reducing the supply voltage to 3V, allows more current. The lower voltage and higher current are a better match for the 8 ohm load.



What if 12V is all that's available?

Transformers match Impedance

So far, all amplifiers have been Class A, which have a maximum efficiency of 50%. A transformer or an inductor can yield 50%. A collector resistor will not do as well.



Transformers were commonly used in transistor radios to match the 8Ω speaker to the 9V circuit.

Going Further

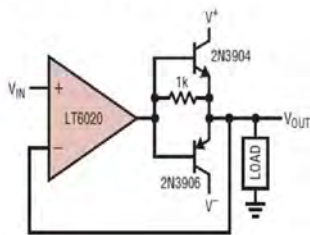
The input and output impedances of the amplifier should be matched to the source and load.

The transistor can be configured to have different impedances. The example we saw is called the Common Emitter configuration. There are applications for Common Collector and Common Base.

This example is also called 'Class A'. There are class B, C, and D amplifiers.

The PNP Transistor

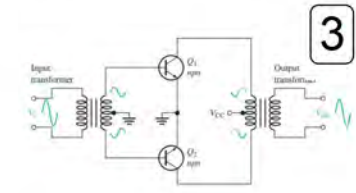
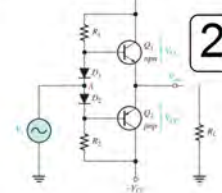
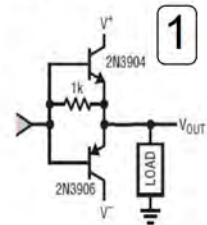
PNP transistors are not as popular as NPN types, but they can be useful for Class B amplifiers. The 2N3906 works well with the 2N3904. All polarities are reversed on PNP transistors.



This example uses the LT6020 chip in the circuit. Without that chip, the transistor circuit will need to be a bit more complex.

Class B and AB Details

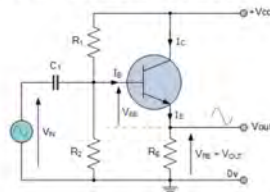
Circuit 1 is from the last slide. It is nonlinear and needs detail. Circuit 2 adds the detail. Circuit 3 is a second approach to Class B. Both are good. Class AB has higher fidelity.



Common Emitter and Common Collector

A Common Emitter circuit uses the emitter lead in both the input and output circuits.

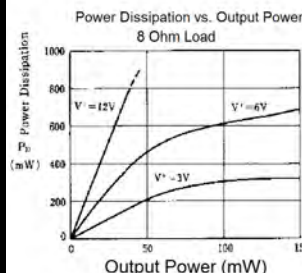
A Common Collector circuit uses the collector lead in both circuits.



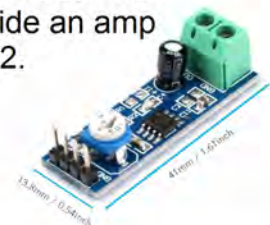
The Common Collector circuit has no voltage gain, but does have current gain and a high input impedance.

The NJM2113 Audio Amp

This amplifier chip uses no inductor or transformer. It works a lot better at 3V or 6V than at 12V. Sometimes, it's better to use a chip like this than to build an amplifier.



Or, Amazon can provide an amp for \$2.



My Colorado POTA Adventure

by Jules LeRusso, KC1STF

Trip Summary

I had the opportunity to vacation in Vail Colorado this past month between Monday 7/27/26 and Thursday 7/30/26 in coordination with a trip my wife had to teach a class. On all days including my day of arrival, I completed five POTA activations making 165 contacts over a wide area of the US and Canada. The trip was a great experience getting out to State and National Parks I would have never visited if I was on a normal vacation endeavor at Vail. That's one of the points of Parks on the Air (POTA), not only offering an opportunity to get on the air but also bring oneself to beautiful parks in the US and worldwide in very picturesque and serene environments.

Preparation

About a year ago, I began designing a small, compact go-box for my Yaesu FT-891 transceiver and LDG Z100A tuner that I could take on trips to remote operating locations. The goal was to build a portable station that could fit into carry-on luggage for remote Parks on the Air (POTA) outings, contain everything for the activation including the batteries, and simple enough to set up quickly once I reached an activation site. Battery transport was an important design consideration. The TSA limit for lithium iron phosphate batteries was 100 watt-hours, so each battery in the power system had to remain within that limit while still being capable of supporting the FT-891 during transmit and receive mode. Two Bionno Power 6 amp hour batteries with 72 watt-hr capability and 12a peak current were selected and connected in parallel inside the go-box for peak 20a transmit power requirement for the FT-891. The final design is shown in Figure 1, details on wiring are available to anyone interested.



Fig. 1 - Compact HF Go-Box for POTA Activations via Air Travel

For typical POTA outings, the station has proven efficient, usually consuming only about 2-3 Ah of battery capacity during an activation. On a recent trip to Vail, Colorado, the go-box successfully passed through airport security. Before the trip, TSA advised removing the batteries from the go-box for inspection, and that approach worked smoothly both on departure from Bradley International Airport and on the return trip through Denver.

In addition to the compact HF go-box, I also transported my loading coil antenna with faraday cloth ground plane and radials, empty sandbags to secure the tripod which I filled with dirt from the side of the road on the way to Vail, my Comet Mark II antenna analyzer, two coax cables, bug spray, my sun hat, a portable backpack stool in the event I had to activate from my car, battery chargers, my laptop for FT8. The only thing missing was the kitchen sink!

Activation Summary

The following were the POTA activation sites on the trip:

Sun 7/26/27: Officer's Gulch Pond inside the White River National Forest, US-4410
Mon 7/27/26: Rifle Gap State Park, US-1237, West Rifle Creek State Wildlife Area, US10535 (2 fer)

Tue 7/28/26: Sylvan Lake State Park, US-1247
Wed 7/29/26: Golden Gate Canyon State Park, US-1219
Thu 7/30/26: Stagecoach State Park, US-1242

Except for my day of arrival, the routine was to pack the radio box in the car, bring some snacks and drinks, head to the park, set up for activation, then head home. All logs were loaded into the POTA website, Logbook of the World and QRZ databases.

Officer's Gulch: White River National Forest US-4410

The POTA activations began Sunday 7/26/26 at Officer's Gulch, off I-70 in the White River National Forest, Park US-4410. Officer's Gulch is a scenic pond at the foothills of the mountains and less than a mile from the highway. Many visitors go there to hike, walk dogs, and fish. I set up my rig late in the afternoon, and band conditions were not ideal. I also used my quick-setup Chameleon MPAS Lite antenna, which may not have been as optimal as my loading-coil vertical. Even so, I managed to make 10 contacts—barely—and then continued on to the hotel in Vail. Figure 3 shows the rig at the back of the rental car, Figure 2 is a picture taken today on the way back to the airport of the pond, and Figure 4 shows the QSO map.

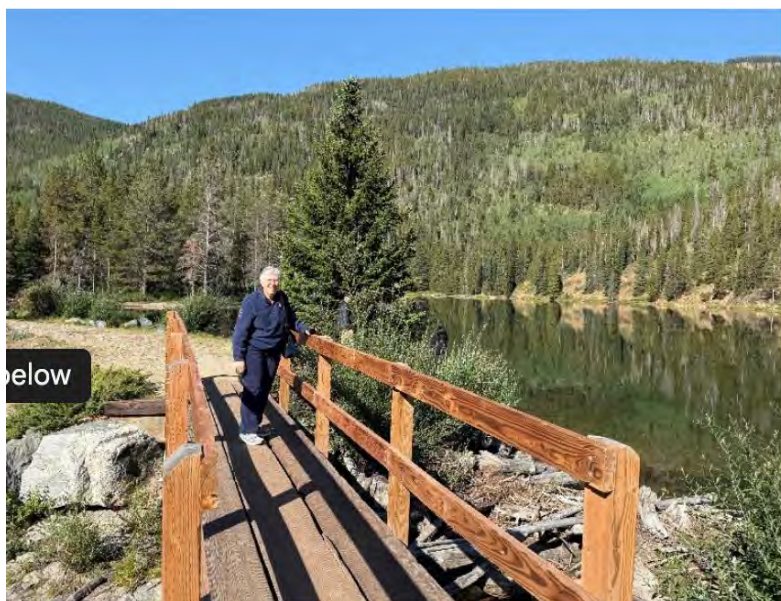


Fig. 2 – Scenic Pond at Officer's Gulch (with my wife Pat on bridge)



Fig. 3 – Radio rig when activating in back of rental car

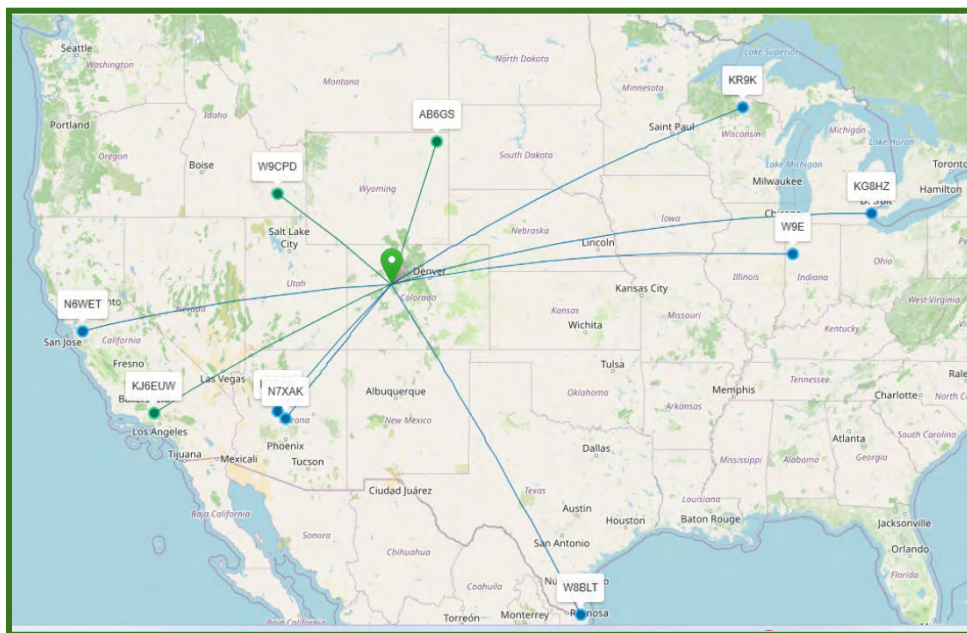


Fig. 4 – QSO Map, US-4410

Rifle Gap State Park, US-1237

On Monday, July 27, 2026, I completed my first official Colorado state park activation. I drove west on I-70 to Rifle Gap State Park, US-1237, which was also part of US-10535, the West Rifle Creek Wildlife Area. Two observations stood out on the way to the park. The first was the drive through Glenwood Canyon, where the I-70 highway is considered an engineering marvel, with one direction of traffic stacked above the other to squeeze through the spectacular mountain peaks. The second was the drive to Rifle Gap State Park on state roads. I was truly in the middle of nowhere, with long stretches of no cell coverage and intermittent navigation on my phone. Fortunately, I had one bar of service at the park and was able to activate with cell coverage. The park itself was nearly uninhabited except for about 5 campers, and I was the only person at the picnic area adjacent to a beautiful small lake. During the activation, one kayak crossed the lake, and I made 22 contacts through hunting and spotting. Photos of the activation site are shown in Figures 5, 6, and 7, and the QSO map appears in Figure 8.



Fig. 5 – Activation Site



Fig 6- Lake in background



Fig 7 – Loading Coil Antenna w/Faraday cloth ground plane w/4 radials

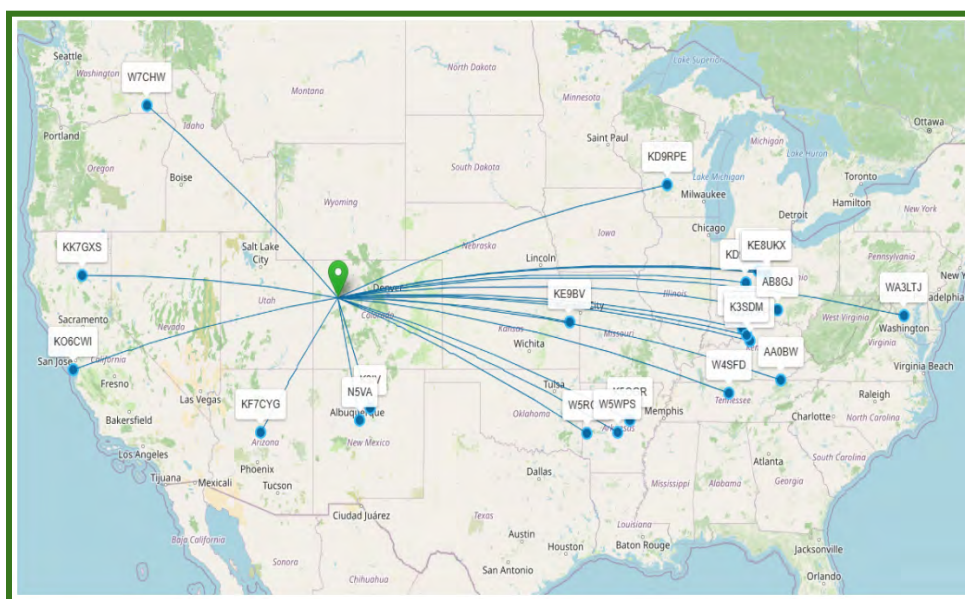


Fig. 8 – QSO Map, US-1227/US-10535

After leaving Rifle Gap, I drove to Rifle Falls State Park, US-1236, hoping to activate there as well. The site was not well-suited for a picnic-area activation, and I did not find parking areas that would support an antenna setup.

Sylvan Lake State Park, US-1247

Tuesday, July 28, 2026, was a day to remember. En route to Sylvan Lake State Park, US-1247, there was no cell coverage and I had to drive 5 miles on a rough dirt road to get to the park. Like the other Colorado state parks I visited, Sylvan Lake had a visitor center, and the staff directed me to a picnic area right on the shore of the lake. I was not sure whether the weather would bring sun, rain, or thunder, but I stayed out there anyway. Once the clouds cleared, I activated without cell coverage, the old-fashioned way: turning the dial and finding stations on the air, including nets and other POTA activators. I was able to spot, and made 23 contacts which included 6 FT8 contacts to make sure I was well beyond the 10-contact minimum for a POTA activation.

One of the highlights at Sylvan Lake was the visitors. About four or five people stopped by my picnic table to ask questions about amateur radio and Parks on the Air. I really enjoyed those conversations. One visitor, pictured with me in Figure 9, was a log cabin builder from Eagle, Colorado, just west of Vail. Later in the afternoon, he brought me a smoked trout lunch with cucumber salad, watermelon, and a piece of cheese. We promised to keep in touch after returning home. POTA activations can bring new friends!

My most distinguished visitors of the week were three prairie dogs (properly called Richard's ground squirrels) that climbed out of their holes near my picnic table, shown in Figures 10 and 11. They stood upright and proud for about 20 minutes, watching as I made contacts on the air. Do you think they are interested in getting their license? The QSO map is shown in Figure 13.



Fig. 9 Sylvan Lake activation & new friend



Fig. 10 Distinguished visitors to our site



Fig. 11 3rd distinguished visitor to the activation site.

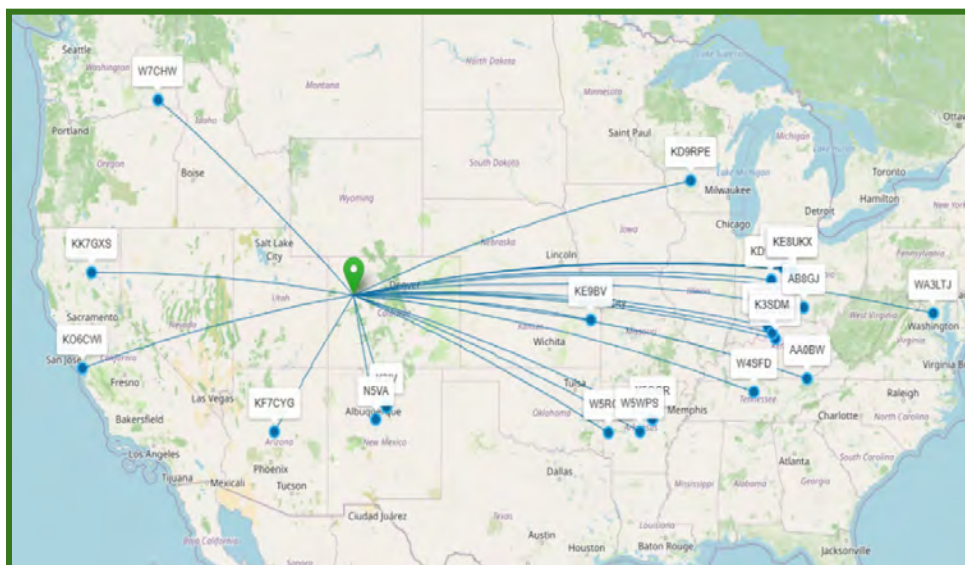


Fig. 12 – Sylvan Lake State Park, US_1247 QSO Map

Golden Gate Canyon State Park, US-1219

On Wednesday, I traveled to Golden Gate Canyon State Park, US-1219, east of Vail and west of Denver. The drive was spectacular, climbing through the mountains and including about five miles of dirt road to reach the park, similar to the road into Sylvan Lake.

I activated from a small parking lot overlooking the mountains. During the activation, I briefly heard Dave, NZ1J, but the band changed before we could complete the contact. Later, I met a friend in Denver for lunch. We had worked together for the past two to three years on an EMCOMM group focused on protocols including JS8Call and Vara AC.

Stagecoach State Park, US-1242

Thursday was the landmark activation of the trip at Stagecoach State Park, US-1242, a state park northwest of Vail and about a 1.5-hour drive away. The scenery was spectacular. As on previous trips, I lost cell coverage along the way and had no cell coverage in the park. Photos of the activation site are shown in Figures 13 and 14. I had to find contacts the old way by turning the dial. Eventually, one POTA contact offered to spot me on his frequency because he was wrapping up his own activation for the day. I made 74 contacts, resulting in an impressive QSO map shown in Figure 15.



Fig. 13 Activation site, Stagecoach State Park



Fig. 14 Activation site



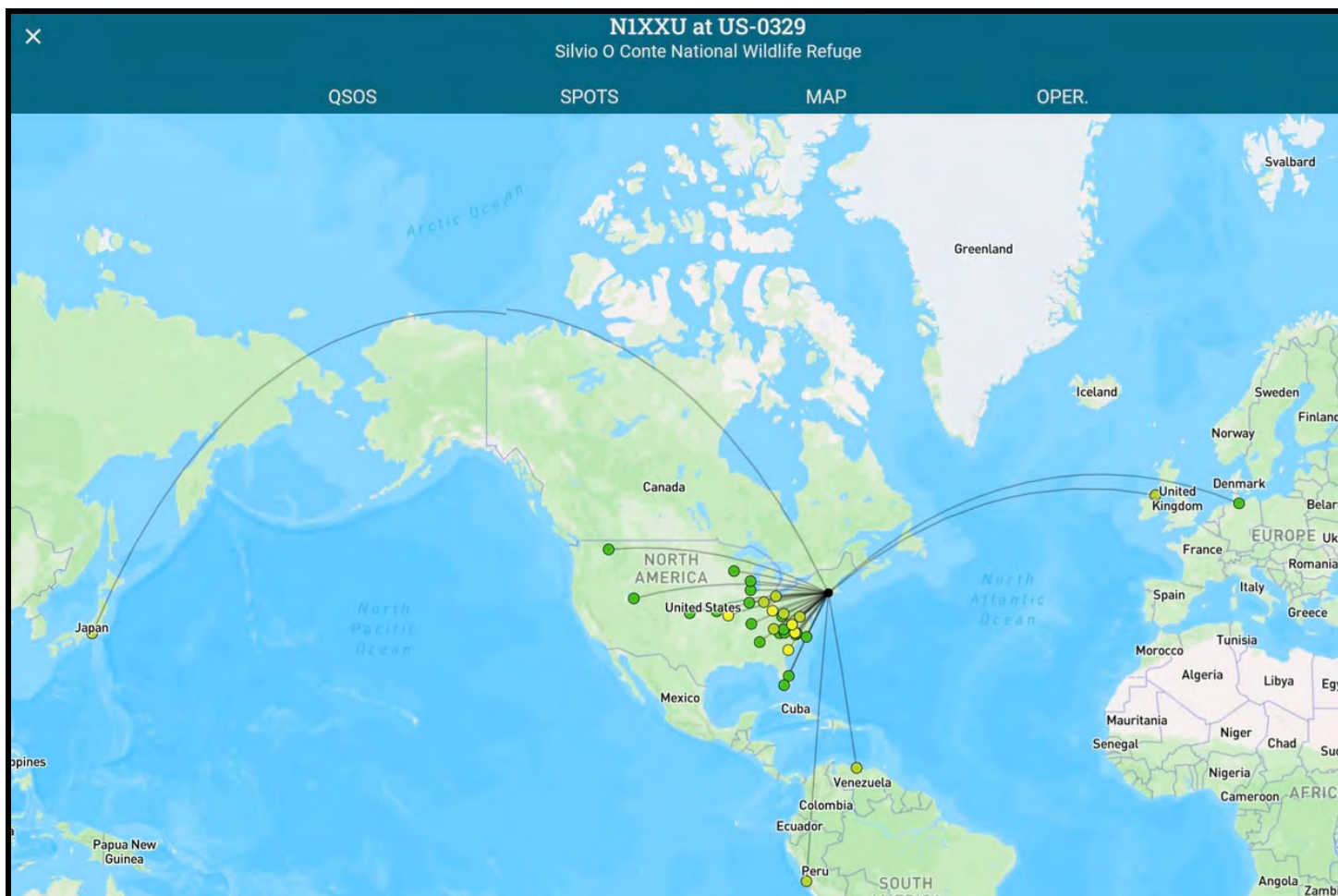
MARC in the Parks

Highlighting member POTA activations in April

On July 14, **Andy N1XXU** had a successful activation of **US-0329, Silvio O Conte Wildlife Refuge** in New Hampshire. Andy logged 41 QSOs, including some remarkable DX working two stations in Germany and one each in Northern Ireland, Germany, Peru and Japan!



LEFT: Andy and his 25' whip POTA Challenger OCF Vertical.
BELOW: A most impressive DX-packed POTA activation!
WTG Andy!



Jimmy Surprenant AB1DQ & Ellen Cosgrove KC1TSM brought their POTA station with them again this year for their annual 4th of July week trip to Ogunquit, Maine. **US-8448 Mt. Agamenticus Wildlife Management Area** is a short drive from their hotel, making an activation there an annual tradition. It was the location of AB1DQ's very first POTA activation back in 2021. This year they gave the Xiegu G90 a pass and opted for their FT-891. Operating CW from the 900' peak, it didn't take long to complete the activation with 18 contacts.

A few days later, they went to **US-2338, Ferry Beach State Park** in the Saco/Old Orchard Beach area. There they met up with Alan, their friend from their Boston days, along with his wife and three children (who are also Jimmy & Ellen's godchildren!). After being nagged by Jimmy for almost 20 years, Alan sat for his license exam in June and passed both his Tech & General and is now KC1ZUZ.

While Ellen and Alan's wife took the kids to the beach, Jimmy and Alan set up the FT-891 and JPC12 antenna in the picnic area. It was a great opportunity for Jimmy to provide a little Elmering for Alan as he made his very first HF contact. Band conditions however were lousy that day. Jimmy struggled to make 5 phone contacts on 20 M, and Alan ended up with only 3. To hit the minimum 10 contacts for the day, Jimmy swapped over to CW for an additional 6 QSOs.

In addition to being there for his bestie's first QSO, the other memorable moment came when a group of about a dozen middle school aged summer day campers appeared around the picnic table to ask the question every POTA activator gets every so often, "Hey Mister, what are you doing?"

The children were intrigued to learn about ham radio, Morse Code, two concepts they had never heard of before that day. At least one young fellow was fascinated by another ancient 20th century technological artifact, pointing to a small red plastic device on the picnic table that he didn't recognize. No, dear reader, it wasn't the Morse key, the tuner or the SWR meter that caught his attention, but something just as unfamiliar to an 11 year old today - my pocket pencil sharpener!

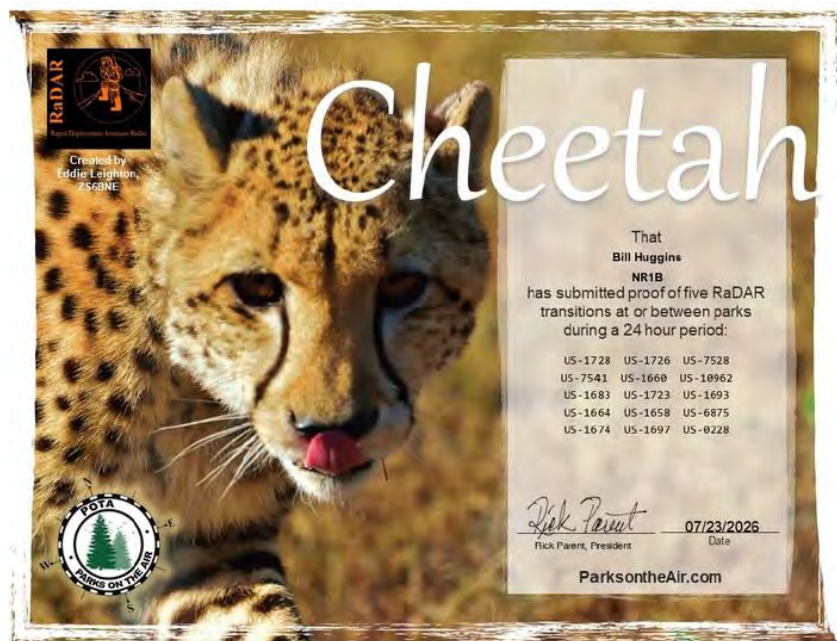
Another fun summer day playing radio in the parks and a great opportunity to spread the ham radio gospel to the next generation - sure beats another day at the office!



ABOVE: LEFT - AB1DQ's FT891 & MFJ tuner in the late afternoon atop Mt. Agamenticus.

CENTER - AB1DQ smiles and waves from the 'operating desk' while KC1TSM keeps an eye on the JPC12

RIGHT - KC1ZUZ makes his very first QSO as a newly licensed ham from Ferry Beach State Park, working K5SWF P2P at US-0042 Fort Gaines National Historic Site in Alabama.



MARC Veep **Bill Huggins, NR1B** earned his Cheetah award in July, working a remarkable 15 different parks in a single 24 hour period on July 23.

The rove took Bill to the following parks:

1. US- 1728 Wharton Brook State Park
2. US- 1726 Wadsworth Falls State Park
3. US- 7528 Air Line State Trail
4. US- 7541 Salmon River State Forest
5. US- 1660 Day Pond State Park
6. US-10962 Babcock Pond WMA
7. US- 1683 Hurd State Park
8. US- 1723 Sunrise State Park
9. US- 1693 Machimoodus State Park
10. US- 1664 Eagle Landing State Park
11. US- 1658 Conn. Valley Railroad SP
12. US- 6875 Essex Land Trust SP
13. US- 1674 Haddam Meadows State Park
14. US- 1697 Millers Pond State Park
15. US- 0228 Stewart McKinley Natl WR

Jim Drexler, KC1TSG reached the commendable milestone of completing 75 unique park activations to earn the Sapphire Activator Award last month.

On July 23rd, while NR1B was roving like a wild cheetah, Jim picked up four activations in the vicinity north of Torrington to put him over the top for the Sapphire.

The parks activated were:

1. US-7539 PLATT HILL
2. US-1722 SUNNY BROOK
3. US-1720 STILLWATER POND
4. US-1753 BURR POND

Jim operated 40M SSB at the first 2, and switched to 20M SSB for the last two. He reported rough band conditions at Burr Pond where he struggled to make the 10 QSOs. Fortunately he got there before his battery died after logging number 11. Well done Jim!



Radio Active Members

...a look at what some of our members were up to last month



Left, **Debbie Purchia, K1PET**, activating special event station K2D in the annual 13 Colonies Event celebrating American independence at the start of July.

The 13 Colonies Special Event is a unique amateur radio activity where operators aim to contact special event stations representing each of the original thirteen colonies. Additionally, three bonus stations – WM3PEN in Philadelphia, representing the Liberty Bell, TM13COL in France, and GB13COL in the United Kingdom—are also active during the event.

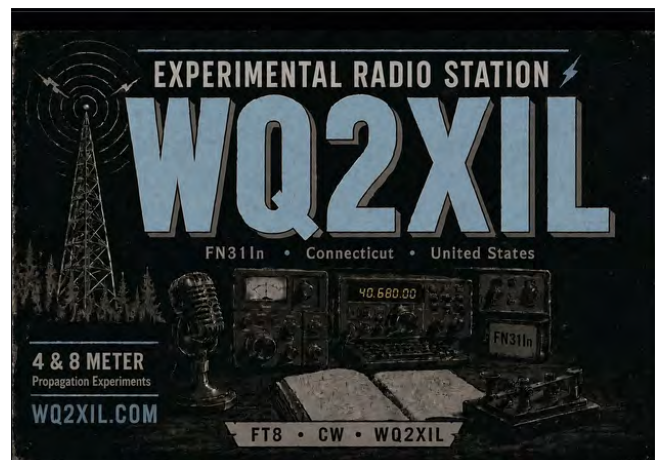
If you participated this year, don't forget to request your souvenir QSLs or clean sweep certificate - [13colonies](http://13colonies.com).

In July, **Bob Munro** was on the air as an FCC Part 5 experimental station **WQ2XIL** on the 4 and 8 meter bands operating FT8 and beaoning a CW signal.

Bob is running experimental transmissions on the 4 and 8 meter bands and collecting propagation data from reception reports received to see where his signals are being heard.

For 4 Meters, Bob's station consists of a European Yaesu FT-710 transceiver and an MFJ-464 CW keyer for beaoning. A modified FT-891 is used for 8 Meters. Both transmitters are 40 watt. The WQ2XIL antennas include a discone for vertical work and 1/4 wave rigid dipoles.

Bob is seeking reception reports which can be submitted from the WQ2XIL website, <http://wq2xil.com/>, or via PSK Reporter. Bob publishes a list of the reception reports received on the website and you can learn more about his experimental station on the WQ2XIL Facebook page [here](#).



Paul Clark, WA1MAC continued to modify and enhance his POTA vertical antenna. He brought his latest version to the club POTA evening activation of Wharton Brook on July 1 to try it out with the internal tuners on the X6100 & G90.

Having had pretty good results with a 29 ft random wire thumbtacked to the 2nd floor ceiling he figured it might be worth a try as a vertical for POTA so he taped 29 ft of wire to his 10 meter DX Commander mast fed into the Reliance EFRW 9:1 UNUN with (4) 5 meter radials held with anchored by his spare tire/brake rotor mast support.

Fed with 25 ft of RG58, 30M thru 6M saw SWR below 4:1 and 40M and 80M were below 6: and saw similar results with the LDG 9:1 and a homemade 9:1.

On July 26, a MARC COLONY OF BUMBLEBEES gathered at **WB1GYZ**, **Bob Biancur's** QTH to participate in the summer Flight of the Bumblebees sprint.

The 4 hour CW sprint is sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society and is held twice a year - on the last Sunday in July then again on the third Sunday in September.

The event is open to all QRP CW stations and participants need to obtain a Bumblebee number prior to each event. The bumblebees are the QRP Field stations and they append their call sign with /BB. Ops looking to work bumblebees call "CQ BB."

Joining in the fun at the **WB1GYZ** hive were **KA1YZC Paul**, **KC1WFB Lloyd**, **N1BRL Bart**, **N1ZN Jim**, **NA1L Dale**, and **W1BRY Don**. **Dave NZ1J** buzzed over for a visit too! Learn more about FOBB [here](#).



ABOVE, left to right: **KC1WFB** copying and awaiting his turn at the key, **N1BRL**, **N1ZN**, **NA1L**, **W1BRY**, & **KA1YZC**. **LEFT**: **NZ1J**, stops by to visit as **WB1GYZ** looks on with pride as the MARC CW class buzzes along in the sprint.

Paul Clark, WA1MAC, enjoyed some excellent operating conditions whilst traveling in July, setting up his portable station on the dock at Keaton's Lake, Lake of the Woods in Virginia. Using his 29' vertical he made quick work hunting, "clearing the board" hunting POTA on 40 M. In his travels he also paid a visit to the Cold War Museum in Vint Hill Farms, VA and took in lots of cool vintage radio exhibits. Some guys really know how to live, eh? :)



SELECTED ON AIR EVENTS - *August 2026*

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

[ARS Spartan Sprint](#)
[WAE DX Contest, CW](#)
[SKCC Weekend Sprintathon](#)
[SARL HF Digital Contest](#)
[4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint](#)
[SARTG WW RTTY Contest](#)
[ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest](#)
[Keyman's Club of Japan Contest](#)
[North American QSO Party, SSB](#)
[CVA DX Contest, CW](#)
[NJQRP Skeeter Hunt](#)
[ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY](#)
[Run for the Bacon QRP Contest](#)
[NTC QSO Party](#)
[YO DX HF Contest](#)
[CVA DX Contest, SSB](#)
[SARL HF CW Contest](#)
[SKCC Sprint](#)
[ALARA Contest](#)
[World Wide Digi DX Contest](#)
[U.S. Islands QSO Party](#)
[All Asian DX Contest, Phone](#)
[Wake-Up! QRP Sprint](#)
[SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest](#)
[AGCW Straight Key Party](#)
[IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB](#)
[IARU Region 1 145 MHz Contest](#)
[PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80m Sprint](#)
[CWOps CW Open](#)
[MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint](#)

0000Z-0200Z, Aug 4
 0000Z, Aug 8 to 2359Z, Aug 9
 1200Z, Aug 8 to 2359Z, Aug 9
 1300Z-1600Z, Aug 9
 0000Z-0200Z, Aug 10
 0000Z, Aug 15 to 1600Z, Aug 16
 0900Z, Aug 15 to 0759Z, Aug 17
 1200Z, Aug 15 to 1200Z, Aug 16
 1800Z, Aug 15 to 0559Z, Aug 16
 1800Z, Aug 15 to 2100Z, Aug 16
 1700Z-2100Z, Aug 16
 1800Z-2359Z, Aug 16
 2300Z, Aug 16 to 0100Z, Aug 17
 1900Z-2000Z, Aug 20
 1200Z, Aug 22 to 1200Z, Aug 23
 1800Z, Aug 22 to 2100Z, Aug 23
 1400Z-1700Z, Aug 23
 0000Z-0200Z, Aug 26
 0600Z, Aug 29 to 0559Z, Aug 30
 1200Z, Aug 29 to 1200Z, Aug 30
 1200Z, Aug 29 to 0300Z, Aug 30
 0000Z, Sep 5 to 2359Z, Sep 6
 0600Z-0800Z, Sep 5
 0800Z, Sep 5 to 1000Z, Sep 6
 1300Z-1600Z, Sep 5
 1300Z, Sep 5 to 1259Z, Sep 6
 1400Z, Sep 5 to 1400Z, Sep 6
 2000Z, Sep 5 to 2000Z, Sep 6
 2000Z-2359Z, Sep 5
 2300Z, Sep 7 to 0300Z, Sep 8

STATE QSO PARTIES:

[Maryland-DC QSO Party](#)
[Hawaii QSO Party](#)
[Ohio QSO Party](#)
[Kansas QSO Party](#)
[Tennessee QSO Party](#)

1400Z, Aug 8 to 0400Z, Aug 9
 1600Z, Aug 22 to 0200Z, Aug 24
 1600Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 23
 1400Z, Aug 29 to 2000Z, Aug 30
 1700Z, Sep 6 to 0300Z, Sep 7

FEATURED SPECIAL EVENT STATION:



Indiana State Fair
1600Z-2359Z, Aug 7 - Aug 23
 Indianapolis State Fair ARC
 7.240, 14.240, 21.300,d 28.400

QSL via BUR0 or w. SASE:
 Ken Bandy
 7405 E County Road 900 N
 Brownsburg, IN 46112
ken.kj9b@gmail.com



Upcoming Regional Hamfests

NoBARC

*Northern Berkshire
Amateur Radio Club
Hamfest*

AUGUST 23, 2026

Adams Agricultural Fairgrounds
371 Old Columbia St.
Adams, MA 01220

*Large Pavilion - Tailgating
VE Session - Hot Food & Coffee*

FREE PARKING!

<http://www.nobarc.org>

The 34th annual
**NUTMEG HAMFEST &
ARRL CT STATE CONVENTION**



*Sunday October 11th, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
at the Maloney High School, Meriden*

Free HT Programming!

Plus: Free Parking-Hot Food- Vendors-Tailgating
Admission = \$10 & Under 18 get in free
Tailgating = \$15 per outdoor space
Indoor Vendor Tables = \$25 per 6 feet

Learn more: www.nutmeghamfest.org



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 AM at 143 Hope Hill Road for our Saturday Open House.

Hang with fellow club members in a non-structured social setting and participate in various radio activities such as:

- Code practice
- Operate W1NRG, our club station and work some DX
- Radio repair clinic
- Bring in your projects For a Maker's show & tell



Come relax, learn & socialize with a phaztastic group of gnarly hams!

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

ITEM FOR SALE

Xiegu G90 HF Transceiver

Complete in orig. box w. CE-19 digital interface, USB programing cable, microphone, accessory fan base. Firmware ver. 1.81



Used, not abused - works 100%

\$250.00 FIRM!

Contact: Jimmy james@ab1dq.com

ITEM FOR SALE

Bioenno 12Ah battery



Never used

\$23

Contact: .Andy AC1TY,
abrud2033@gmail.com

ITEM FOR SALE

Buddi Stick

Complete with all accessories



In good shape!

\$125

Contact: Rich marzo7088@yahoo.com

ITEM FOR SALE

Nifty FT991 Guide



Never used

\$5

Contact: .Andy AC1TY,
abrud2033@gmail.com

ITEM FOR SALE

Shark openSPOT Pro 4



Never used

\$240 or B.O.

Contact: .Andy AC1TY,
abrud2033@gmail.com

Sell your ham related items in
KeyKlix for FREE!

Email keyklix@w1nrg.com with your
details, price, and contact info.

ITEM FOR SALE

Heil Pro 6 Elite Dynamic Headset



Never used

\$170 or B.O.

Contact: .Andy AC1TY,
abrud2033@gmail.com

ITEM FOR SALE

Heil FS-3 Foot Switch



Never used

\$30

Contact: .Andy AC1TY,
abrud2033@gmail.com

FREE ITEMS AVAILABLE!

2 TRIPODS

intended for speakers,
Fairly heavy duty @4' tall.
Great for POTA

New New New !!!

Free Free Free !!!

Contact: Tony WA1ZVY tonymartin@snet.net

Key Klix August 2026

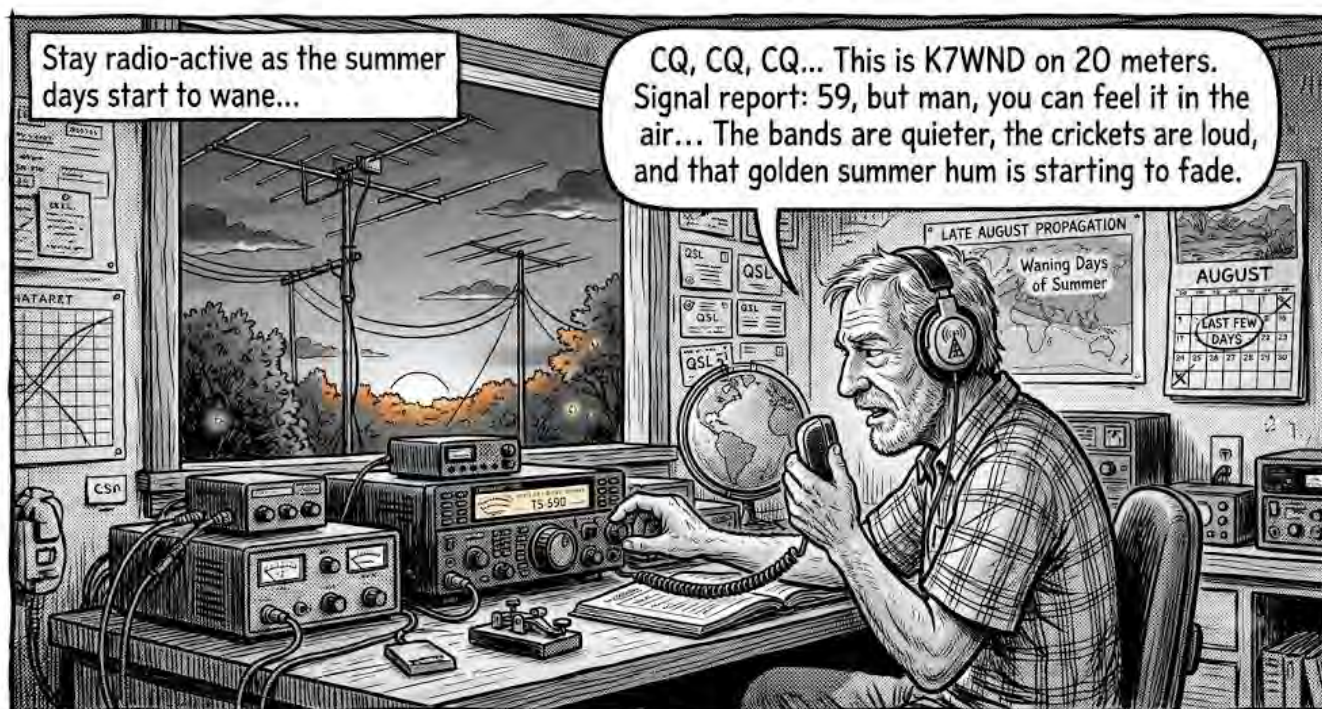
Has been brought to you by

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BIOGRAPHER..... BOB BIANCUR, WB1GYZ
PHOTOGRAPHERS..... TED RENZONI, KC1DOY
AL KAISER, N1API

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

**AB1DQ - KC1DOY - KC1MJZ- KC1SA - KC1TSM - NA1L
NZ1J - W1TK - WA1MAC - WB1GYZ - WB8IMY**

Key Klix is your newsletter, and we rely on you to share your latest radio news so we can 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. Drop us a line at keyklix@w1nrg.com with articles, logs, news of what is happening in your shack, and photos, which are most appreciated.



MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

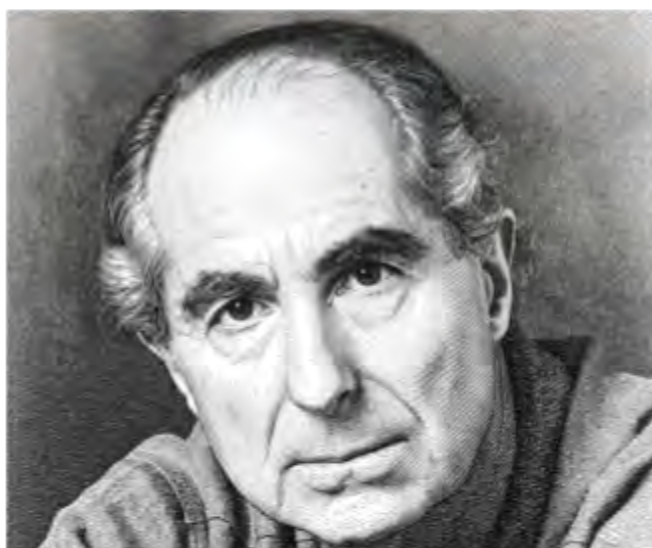
The Meriden Amateur Radio Club is...

AA1MH	Robert Hurlbut	26	KC1NRQ	Bruce Childs	26	KD2TLD	Patrick Lacombe	26
AB1DQ	James Surprenant	26	KC1OCS	Richard Dewick	26	KE1AU	Bob Kaczor	26
AB1HB	Charlie Dudac	26	KC1OGL	Paul Randazzo	26	KE2ECC	Phillip Gallanti	26
AB2T	Jordan Zarembo	26	KC1OWD	Kevin Van Keuron	26	KF6LU	Andrew Buza	26
AC1HK	Kevin Hulse	26	KC1OYN	Rick Becker	26	KK7NLS	John Condon Jr	26
AC1SK	George Bucci	26	KC1OYR	Brent Moyer	27	K04EEL	Tom Williams	26
AC1ST	Louis Brenner	26	KC1OYS	Jim McAuliffe	26	KR1U	Bob Eslinger	29
AC1TY	Andrew Rudczynski	26	KC1PEN	David Henry	26	KS1WK	Seth Kolasinski	26
K00Z	Brian Boccuzzi	26	KC1PXX	Dave Alfredson	26	KX1USA	Rob Messercola	26
K1DMS	Dave Sack	26	KC1PYT	Jeff Gazso	26	NI1AKN	Jeff Dwyer	27
K1LHO	Mike Ash	26	KC1QHO	Mike Beaudry	26	NI1API	Al Kaiser	30
K1LYP	John Yusza	29	KC1QWH	Steve Rygiel	26	NI1BRI	Brian Beegan	27
K1MAL	Chris Altieri	27	KC1RBY	Sergio Frutuosa	26	NI1BRL	Bart Toftness	26
K1MMK	Michael MacKennedy	27	KC1RLQ	Eric Barbour	26	NI1ERR	Paul Benedetto	26
K1NEG	Nelson Goewey	26	KC1SA	Steve Allen	26	NI1FNE	Rod Lane	27
K1PET	Debbie Purchia	26	KC1SDA	Richard McHugh	26	NI1GY	Geoff Haines	27
K1RCT	Rob Cichon	26	KC1SEN	Nicholas Worroll	26	NI1HCA	Susan South	27
K1RJC	Rick Castaldo	27	KC1STF	Jules LoRusso	28	NI1IBE	Wade Martell	26
K1SCI	Stuart Isaac	26	KC1SYU	Jim Cosgrove	26	NI1JEO	Joel Curneal	26
K1SMD	Silas Moeckel	26	KC1TAD	Tom Dipinto	27	NI1JMX	Jeff Martin	28
K1STM	Anne West	26	KC1THU	Mike Zelladonis	26	NI1KGP	Martin Staffa	26
K1TDO	Todd Olsen	26	KC1TKY	Bob Hourigan	26	NI1LES	Joe Murray	26
K1TGX	Jerry Molaver	30	KC1TPN	Rick Foster	26	NI1MOB	Dan David	26
K1VDF	John Blevins	26	KC1TSG	Jim Drexler	26	NI1OKF	Bob Parisi	26
K1WJL	Dave Swedock	27	KC1TSK	Rich Pagano	26	NI1OKR	Frank Ciccone	27
K2RPM	Bruce Torello	26	KC1TSL	Charlie Vossbrinck	27	NI1OQC	Mike Johnson	27
K4AVM	Andrew Olsson	26	KC1TSM	Ellen Cosgrove	26	NI1PHI	Trish Nitshe	26
KA1BED	Bill Green	27	KC1TSN	Chuck Caron Jr.	26	NI1PQQ	Greg Cartier	26
KA1BMF	Constantino Tobio	26	KC1TST	Mike Boccuzzi	26	NI1QYB	Bill Witecki Jr	26
KA1YZC	Paul Patnoad	26	KC1TSW	Charles Caron III	26	NI1XXU	Andy Purchia	26
KB1APO	Jim Sintay	27	KC1TSX	Mike Barile	26	NI1ZN	Jim Savage	26
KB1CXK	Joe Clarizio	26	KC1TSY	Dan Gessner	26	N2CKD	Lovji Hakim	26
KB1FGC	Richard Guerrera	26	KC1TSZ	Deb Caron	26	N2TAG	Dave Taglianetti	26
KB1HAX	Bill Reyor III	26	KC1TWA	William Caron	26	N2YCH	Conrad Trautmann	26
KB1JL	Eric Olsson	26	KC1TYO	Ken Williams	26	N7VGA	Dennis Hanlon	26
KB1LWS	Jeanne Gherardi	26	KC1UJQ	Mark Kirschner	26	NA1L	Dale Clift	26
KB1MFU	John Ramadei	27	KC1VCU	John Mandeville	26	NR1B	Bill Huggins	26
KB1RLF	Steven Chapman	26	KC1VQY	Michael Granoth	26	NZ1J	Dave Tipping	26
KB1TBL	Dave Laliberte	26	KC1VRG	Robert Shemo	26	UT3UY	Anatoly Kirilenko	26
KB1TGS	David Robinson	26	KC1VUM	Matthew Erff	26	W1AJK	Andrew Kazimer	26
KB1TTV	Jonathan Martin	26	KC1VVC	Joel Helfer	26	W1BRY	Donald Chepurna	27
KB1YFJ	Glenn Couture	26	KC1VZI	Joe DePaolo	26	W1EDX	Paul Stasieluk	26
KC1BQP	Paul St.Amand	26	KC1WEX	Len Guercia	26	W1HLP	Scott Martin	26
KC1CAB	Frank DiTerlizzi	27	KC1WFB	Lloyd Saberski	26	W1IHS	Jason Polaski	26
KC1DOY	Ted Renzoni	27	KC1WNJ	Joe Capuano	26	W1IKW	Iain K White	29
KC1ERO	Jason Pintek	26	KC1YPA	Carl Gross	26	W1LV	Steve Morley	26
KC1HFO	Johannis Stodis	26	KC1YSF	Kevin Murphy	26	W1NDT	Robert Lombardo	26
KC1IIK	Scott Mowerson	26	KC1YUY	Joe Symcak	26	W1PRK	James Procaccini	27
KC1ISI	Kristin Olsson	26	KC1ZAO	Wayne Brooks	26	W1RCI	Ron Isaac Jr.	26
KC1KQH	John Kasinskas	26	KC1ZNP	Andrew McLaren	26	W1RWW	Bob Woodtke Jr.	26
KC1MJZ	Michael Berube	26	KC1ZNQ	Joseph Connolly	26	W1TK	Ron Wakefield	26
KC1NHE	Reed Hansen	26	KC1ZPM	Richard Geissler	26	W1UFO	Mike Cei	26
KC1NQE	Shawn Warren	26	KC1ZPN	Marc Grandpre	26	W1UKX	Greg Gherardi	26
KC1NRD	John Lujick	28	KC2MLH	Adam Castracane	26	W1YSM	Ed Snyder	26

W2PEU	Michael Toftness	26	WA1MAC	Paul Clark	27	WJ1B	Harold Kramer	27
W3APC	James Cook	27	WA1TRY	Rich Aubin	L	WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann	26
W4FMM	Bob Munro	26	WA1SFH	Douglas Sharafanowich	26		Eran Netkin	26
W9OTW	Deborah Foss	26	WA1ZVY	Jim Martin	28		Laurie Mallette	26
WA1FFT	Ray Irwin	26	WB1DQT	Bill Bacon	26		Lucas Molloy	Y
WA1INC	Roland Hamel	26	WB1GFI	Stan Hiriak	26		Spencer Rygiel	Y
WA1JKR	John Rogus	29	WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur	27			
WA1K	Jack Chapman	26	WB8IMY	Steve Ford	26			

KEY: **L** Lifetime Member **Y** Youth Member

**“Life is just a short period of
time in which you are alive.”**



Philip Roth
1933-2018