Key Klix October 2026

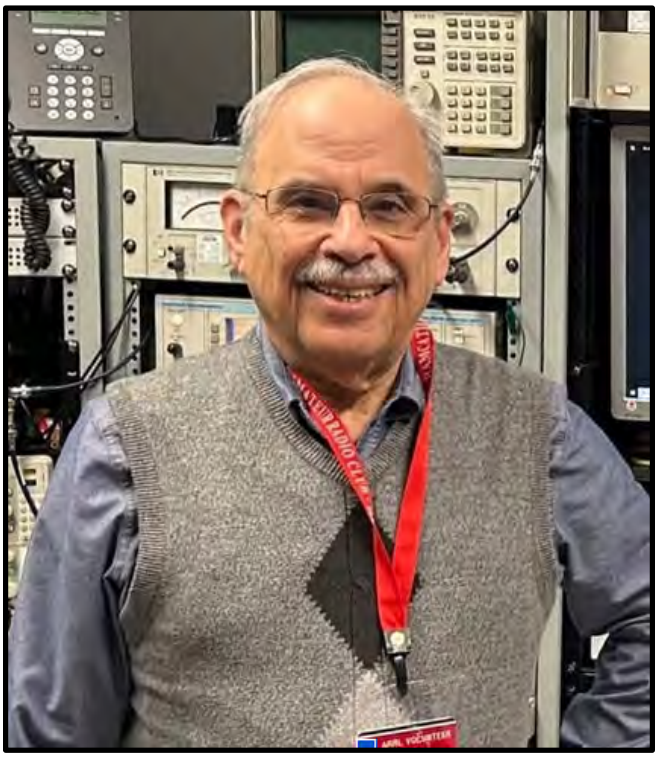
The Monthly Q-S-T de the

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.

HAROLD KRAMER, WJ1B/SK REMEMBERED



Amateur Radio lost a great advocate and good friend on August 31, when former ARRL COO, Harold Kramer passed away. MARC took time to memorialize our friend and active member on September 5. Our expanded coverage begins on page 9.

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It's the Radio News That's Fun To Use!

YOUR 2026 OFFICERS

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Station Manager
				
DAVE TIPPING	BILL HUGGINS	GEORGE BUCCI	JULES LORUSSO	ROB CICHON
NZ1J	NR1B	AC1SK	KC1STF	K1RCT

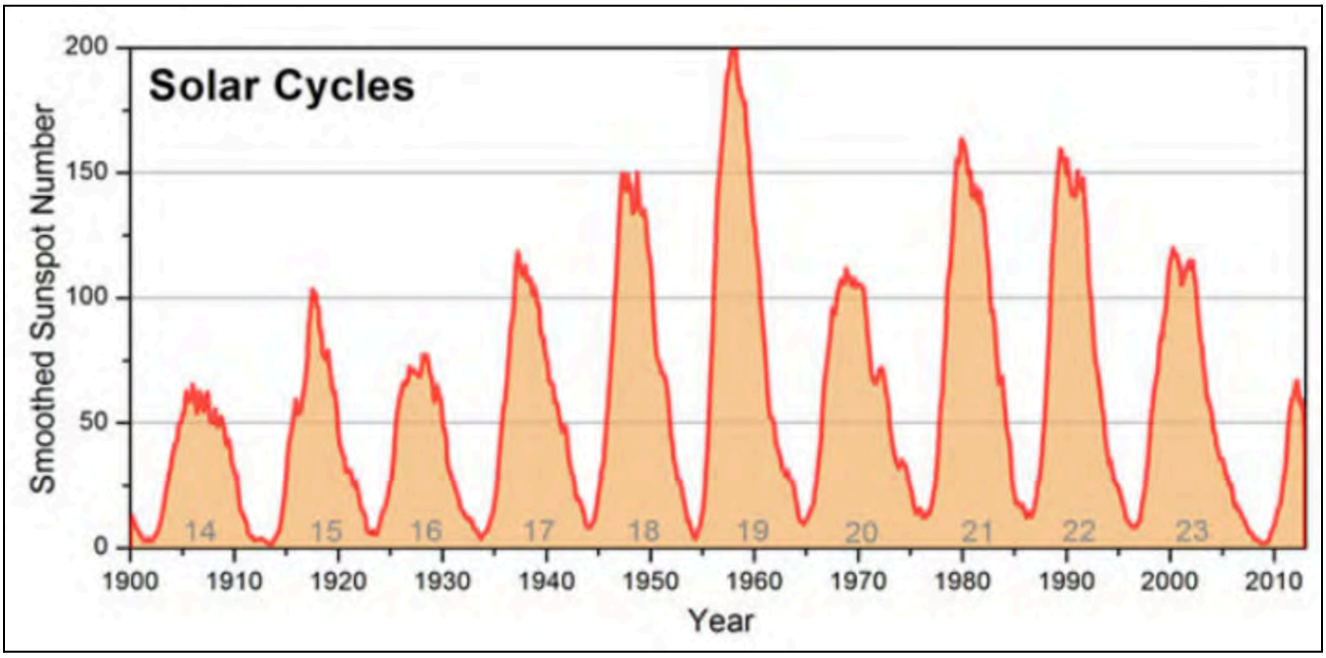


The President's Post

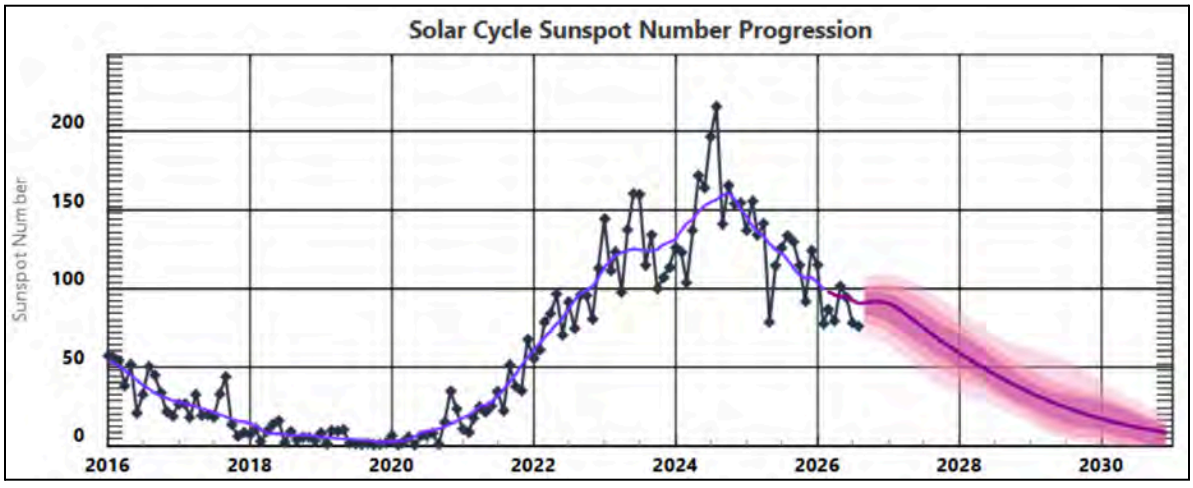
A Change of Seasons

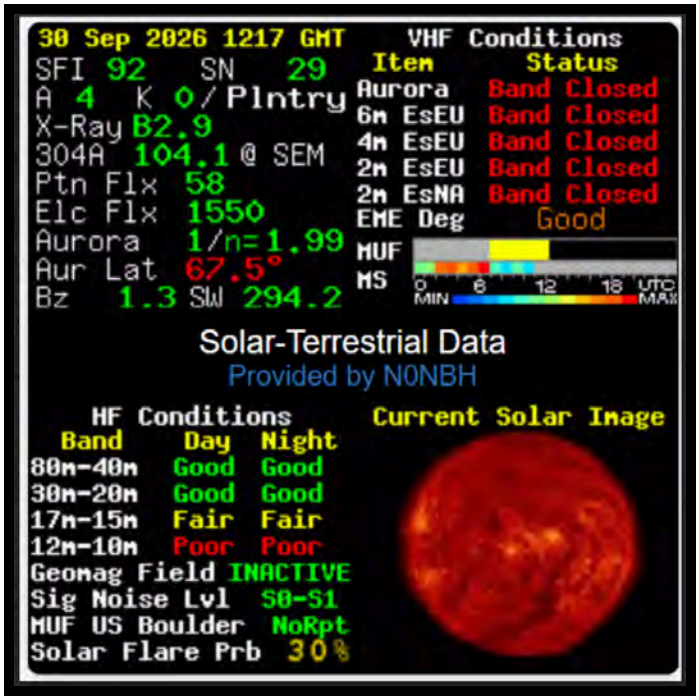
by Dave Tipping, NZ1J

Overall, we hams spend quite a bit of time talking about and thinking about the sunspot cycle. During the years of few sunspots, we speculate about what the next cycle might be like and when it might arrive. The NOAA has a Space Weather Prediction Center that can provide us with a long range forecast. And, the most seasoned among us might reminisce about cycle 19 in 1960, which had a maximum smoothed sunspot number of 200.



Today, as the graph below shows, we're well past the peak of cycle 25. Al, N1API, pointed out that on September 19th there were no sunspots. That looks like the bad news. Solar Cycle 26 is predicted to peak in about 2034. That's a bit of a wait.





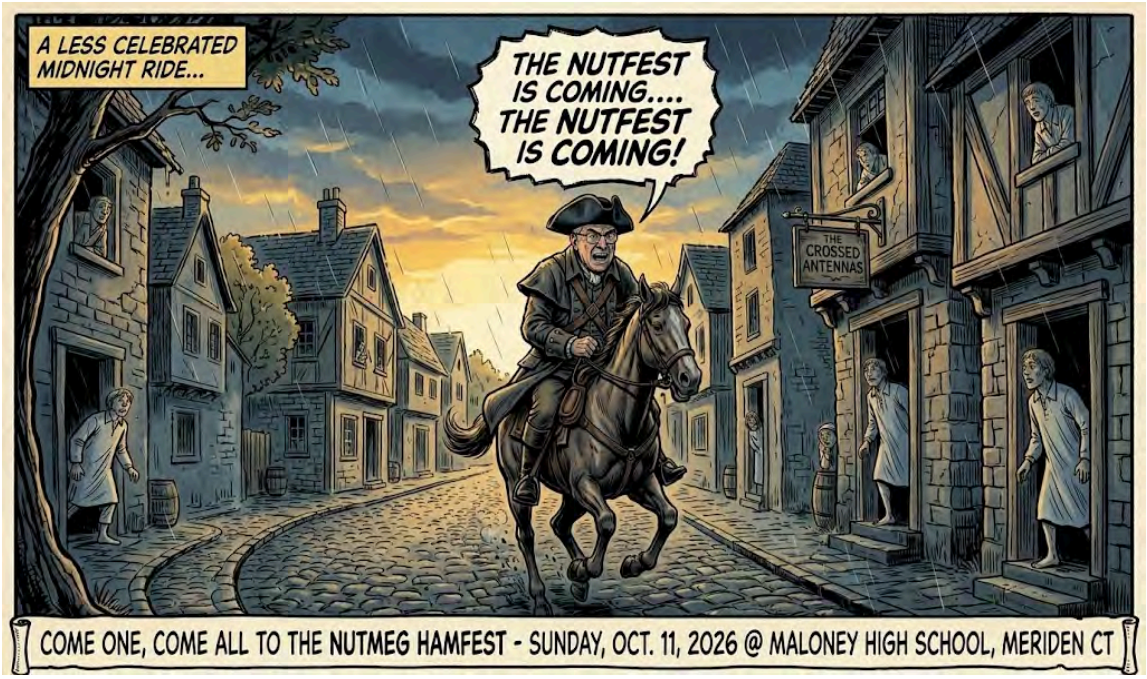
Along with the solar cycle, we have our own seasons. Some good things can be said about autumn and winter. Summer usually has the greatest D region absorption and the greatest noise due to thunderstorms. Though fewer sunspots mean that the higher HF bands will be less productive, autumn and winter favor the lower HF bands. The chart from September 30th shows good conditions from 80 meters through 20 meters. That's where we need to focus our attention.

It's true that the lower bands present some challenges. Good antennas can be large. The noise level is typically higher on the lower bands. Often, the best propagation is at night. But we can meet those challenges. More than 9,500 hams have earned DXCC on 80 meters. Within POTA, 40 and 20 meters are the most active bands, regardless of the sunspot numbers. Short antennas can be made to work on the low bands.

For now, 10 meters, and along with it, 6 meters and 12 meters, won't be very productive. Let's make good use of what we've got. As the POTA community has learned, 20 and 40 meters can be very good. Consider 80 and 160 meters to be optional. And consider some weak signal modes to create opportunities. CW, RTTY, and FT8 can all get through in many cases when SSB can't. A brand new mode, JTTY, has just been released. It is essentially RTTY, but with a much better signal-to-noise ratio.

Don't let the sunspot cycle or the onset of winter get in your way. We may not be doing much on 10 meters, but there are still a lot of opportunities on HF.

See page 31 for a Nutfest preview and find the program schedule on page 32 - a KeyKlix exclusive!



Minutes of the September Business Meeting

by Jules LoRusso, KC1STF

Meriden Amateur Radio Club (MARC)
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 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 August 2026 Roster (G. Bucci provided): 188
Minimum required for Quorum: 18 members and at least 2 officers, one being the President or Vice President.

In attendance: 29 members were present at start of meeting, and of those members, there were 5 officers.

In Attendance:

Officers

- NZ1J David Tipping (President)
- K1RCT Rob Cichon (Station Activities Manager)
- NR1B Bill Huggins (Vice President)
- AC1SK George Bucci (Treasurer)
- KC1STFJules LoRusso (Secretary)

Members

AB1DQ - James SurprenantKC1ZNN - Eric Granoth		W1YSM - Ed Snyder
AC1TY - Andy Rudczynski	KC1TSG - Jim Drexler	WB1GFI - Stan Hiriak
K1LHO - Mike Ash	KC1WFB - Lloyd Saberski	WB1GYZ - Bob Biancur
K1LYP - John Yusza	KE1AU - Bob Kaczor	WB8IMY - Steve Ford
KB1JL - Eric Olsen	N1API - Al Kaiser	
KC1DOY - Ted Renzoni	N1BRL - Bart Toftness	
KC1NHE - Reed Hansen	N1LES - Joe Murray	
KC1OYN - Rick Becker	N1ZN - Jim Savage	
KC1TSM - Ellen Cosgrove	W1BRY - Don Chepurna	
KC1TSX - Mike Barile	W1EDX - Paul Stasieluk	

Agenda

Call Meeting to Order
Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report
Station Activities Report
Standing Committee Reports (Repeater Committee)
Old Business / New Business
- Lark at the MARC - September 19th
- Equipment Donation facilitated by Steve, KC1SA
- Christmas Party

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.
2. Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was delivered by KC1STF, Jules LoRusso. August 2026 Business meeting minutes distributed by Dave Tipping NZ1J via email prior to the meeting were approved by membership.
   Two new members for September 2026 approved by membership (welcome Richard and Eric!):
   - Richard Merck, KC1NTK, Technician, North Haven
   - Eric Granoth, KC1ZNN, Technician, Hamden

   No Correspondence for August 2026
3. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was created by AC1SK, George Bucci (see report) and published in email by Dave Tipping prior to the meeting.
   MOTION TO APPROVE the report was approved by membership.
4. 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:
   - 40M Dipole installation pending John Yusza's availability.
   - Repeater antenna and hardware procured, awaiting Climber's availability.
   - Log periodic antenna repair will be completed along with the dipole installation.
   - New PC's are up and running!

   A discussion followed the Station Manager's Report:
   Bill NR1B assisted installing W11 Computers at the CSRR (see special report comments below - thanks Bill!!).
   - Software on 3 new Dell Optiplex 7050 mini PC's configured by Bill NR1B.
   - Windows 11 , 64 bit
   - Now controlling the clubs FTDX3000 and IC7300 transceivers
   - Most software used in club is on the new PCs
     - New version of WSJT-x to run FT8, FT4, FT2
     - N1MM+ Logging software - Telnet configured for K1TTT server with Bandmap
     - Flrig and Fldigi for RTTY
     - Grid tracker
     - MMSSTV
     - WSJT-X 3.1+ and Grid Tracker 2.0 for FT8,4,2
     - SKCC Logger v.2 per Mike Ash request
     - AVG Antivirus
     - QRZ shortcut for quick view of band conditions and callsign lookups
     - Macrium Reflect v8.0 for backup\restore of minis (recommendation from Dell)
   - Welcome screen, same as VE Tablets
   - The W1NRG station license that is posted in the radio room shows an expired date. A new copy needs to be posted.

   Eric - Status of Winlink on club station?
   - Bill - Not loaded yet
   - Mini-PC can be configured with Winlink

   Would like input to Bill NR1B on software; inform Bill on any new software needs

Joe N1LES - Nobody should load software on PCs except Bill and Rob
Rob K1RCT plans to rework the wiring to the PCs for general clean-up
The two old Windows 7 desktop computers have been powered off and are ready for removal. The owners of these pcs have until 10/10 to remove them from the club station or offer them to anyone interested in taking them. If the pcs are not removed by 10/10 the pcs hard drives will be erased and the computers will be disposed of.

5. Repeater Committee Report - Presented by Mike Ash, K1LHO and Joe Murray N1LES
   - Repair - what is estimated timeline for repair of repeater?
   - Per Joe N1LES, supposed to be July, then August, then September. Contractor is overbooked.
   - Repeater did go off the air Tuesday PM due to power failure.
   - Hopefully repairs will be completed prior to winter.
6. Scholarship Committee Report - Jim Savage N1ZN
   No report for September 2026.

New Business/Old Business:

1. Harold Kramer - WJ1B / SK
   Our club members, family members and many friends mourned the passing of Harold Kramer WJ1B on August 31, 2026. There was a funeral service on Friday September 4, and a special memorial ceremony at the OEM for club members, family and friends on Saturday September 5. A card was signed by many club members during that Saturday memorial ceremony, and many club members shared their remembrance of Harold. Ed W1YSM held the silent key ceremony and remembrance at the 9:00am coffee club net on September 5.
   Harold was first licensed in 1962 and has been very active in amateur radio, making tens of thousands of QSOs. He was an accomplished CW operator and a collector of Morse Code keys. He served as Chief Operating Officer of ARRL and was publisher of QST. Harold was a role model and Elmer to us all. His obituary is noted in the weblink below:
   https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/nhregister/name/harold-kramer-obituary?id=62336208
2. Discussion on club practices for deceased club members and their family members
   - Some discussion was held on what should be done for deceased club members and their family members who have deceased. Card passed at OEM, 25 signatures, couple club members spoke, Ed did silent key on Coffee club net Saturday morning. Many club members felt the card was appropriate and appreciated by the family. Other options like flowers or donations to charity are also an option. These are always available for club members to exercise individually per information in the obituaries.
   - It was also felt the SK at the coffee club net was most appropriate vs. at the business meeting. Thanks Ed W1YSM for conducting.
3. LARC at the MARC Summer Picnic Event
   - The Lark at the Mark summer/fall picnic will be held at the OEM on Saturday 19, 2026 at noon.
   - Bill, NR1B, has created a sign-up sheet. Please sign-up so the proper amount of food and drinks can be purchased
   - Use the link below to sign up for Lark at the MARC:
     https://docs.google.com/document/d/13lzD1Dhf0-FrVC3RtAHX8m3eXala-dY4plRZrgZJEHs/edit?usp=sharing

- Club will cover hot dogs, hamburgers, ~85% lean burgers, chips, potato salad, desserts, drinks.

4. Equipment Donation
    - An equipment Donation was facilitated by Steve, KC1SA
    - An electrical engineer, one of Steve's close friends, retired and needs to get rid of a number of very technical equipment, and wants to donate the equipment to our club.
    - Dave NZ1J agreed to take all this equipment
    - Any of this equipment donated to any organizations would be on behalf of the club (Steve's friend is OK with this).
    - All of these units will be offered to club members.
    - John Yusza suggested anything not given away could bring to Nutfest for sale.
    - Part numbers available; 14 pieces of equipment
    - Dave NZ1J will make special contact with Jeff who's always fixing stuff for the club and others.
5. Christmas Party
    - The format for the Christmas party was discussed.
    - As with last year, no one option pleases everyone.
    - The best option we seem to be agreeing on is one party at the OEM. The club will purchase pizza and grinders, and our club chefs will bring in their special dishes pot luck if they wish.
    - Anyone interested in organizing an evening party somewhere at a restaurant is welcome to do so.
6. VHF Contest This weekend
    - Per Jim N1ZN, VHF contest is this weekend, 6m, 2m and up
7. Nutmeg Hamfest
    - Per Ed W1YSM, the Nutmeg Hamfest will be held on Sunday October 11, 2026.
    - Ed and the Nutmeg Hamfest committee will be soliciting for volunteers to assist.
    - Ed is grateful to Jim N1ZN and Bill N1RB for conducting the VE session and Bill for the special session on Winlink/Vara C
    - There are also a number of other interesting sessions plus the vendor displays and flea markets.
    - The weblink for the Nutmeg Hamfest is listed below: https://nutmeghamfest.org/
8. Elections
    - Ed W1YSM inquired on plans for the elections.
    - Per Dave NZ1J, nominations for 2027 officers will be held at the October 2026 business meeting.
9. Adjournment
    - Meeting was adjourned at ~7:56 PM.

Key Klix Kudos Korner

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



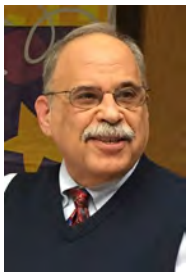


THE W1NRG NEWSLINE

"Providing Continuous Waves of Useful Club Information."

Harold Kramer, WJ1B/SK

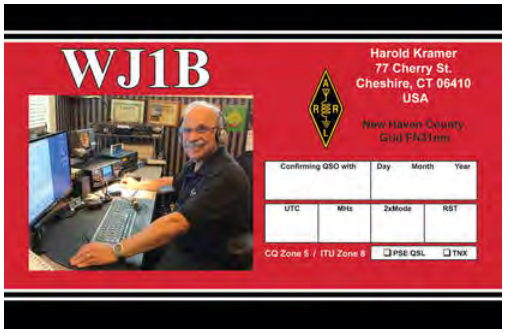
by Jimmy Surprenant, AB1DQ



Long-time and active member of MARC, **Harold Kramer, WJ1B,** became a Silent Key on August 31.

Born in Waterbury in 1948, Harold was first licensed as KN1ZCK in 1962 and later held the call sign WA1JLY before becoming WJ1B when upgrading to Extra Class. As president of the KW Amateur Radio Club, a group dedicated to the memory of fellow amateur radio operator Kevin Webster of Cheshire, who passed away at the age of 49 from pancreatic cancer, Harold was trustee of the club's call sign, N1EPU, which previously belonged to Kevin.

In addition to his Amateur Radio Extra Class License, Harold also held an FCC GROL Commercial License. He was an ARRL Life Member and an ARRL Volunteer Examiner and served as an Emergency Coordinator (EC) in South Central Connecticut.



Harold received an AAS degree in electronics engineering from the University of Hartford in 1968, a BA from the University of Connecticut in English in 1972, and an MA in Education also from the University of Connecticut in 1983.

After a professional career spent entirely in the broadcast and cable television industries, including serving as the Chief Technology Officer of Connecticut Public Broadcasting, Harold joined the ARRL in 2005, where he served as both Chief Operating Officer and publisher of QST. Notable accomplishments during his tenure there included upgrading the ARRL website and the League's launch into digital publishing, including the development of the digital edition of QST and publication of ARRL books in the digital Kindle format. At the time of his retirement in 2016, Harold reflected, "One of the things that I am most proud of was being the co-chairman of the Centennial Convention — one of the best-ever ham radio conventions, and the centennial QSO Party — the largest operating event in ham radio history."

After retiring from the ARRL, Harold remained active within the organization, continuing to write articles for both QST and NCJ and continuing to volunteer in the ARRL Lab. Harold also served as a member of the ARRL Historical Committee.

One of Harold's fond interests within the hobby was collecting telegraph keys and other telegraphic apparatus. You can see Harold's collection of keys online at: https://www.wj1b.com/telegraph-keys.html and his collection of other telegraph apparatus here: https://www.wj1b.com/telegraphic-apparatus.html.

On the air, Harold was an avid POTA activator & hunter. He logged 3,070 QSOs during 78 POTA activations at 24 parks, and as a hunter, he made 8,643 QSOs to activators in 4,081 different parks. Harold was one of the authors of the ARRL Parks on the Air book, an achievement he was particularly proud of.



Harold operating GB3RS in 2013 at the RSGB National Radio Centre in the Bletchley Park Museum in the UK.

Beyond radio, Harold was deeply engaged in his community, serving as a member of the Cheshire Democratic Town Committee, an elected member of the Planning and Zoning Committee, and the chair of the public library board. He served for decades at Temple Beth David in a variety of leadership roles, including serving as president from 2021 to 2022.

An avid researcher of family history and genealogy, Harold loved reading, music, and walking around Cheshire, often stopping to greet friends and get coffee at Main Street Cafe.

Funeral services were held on Friday, September 4, 2026, at Temple Beth David in Cheshire.

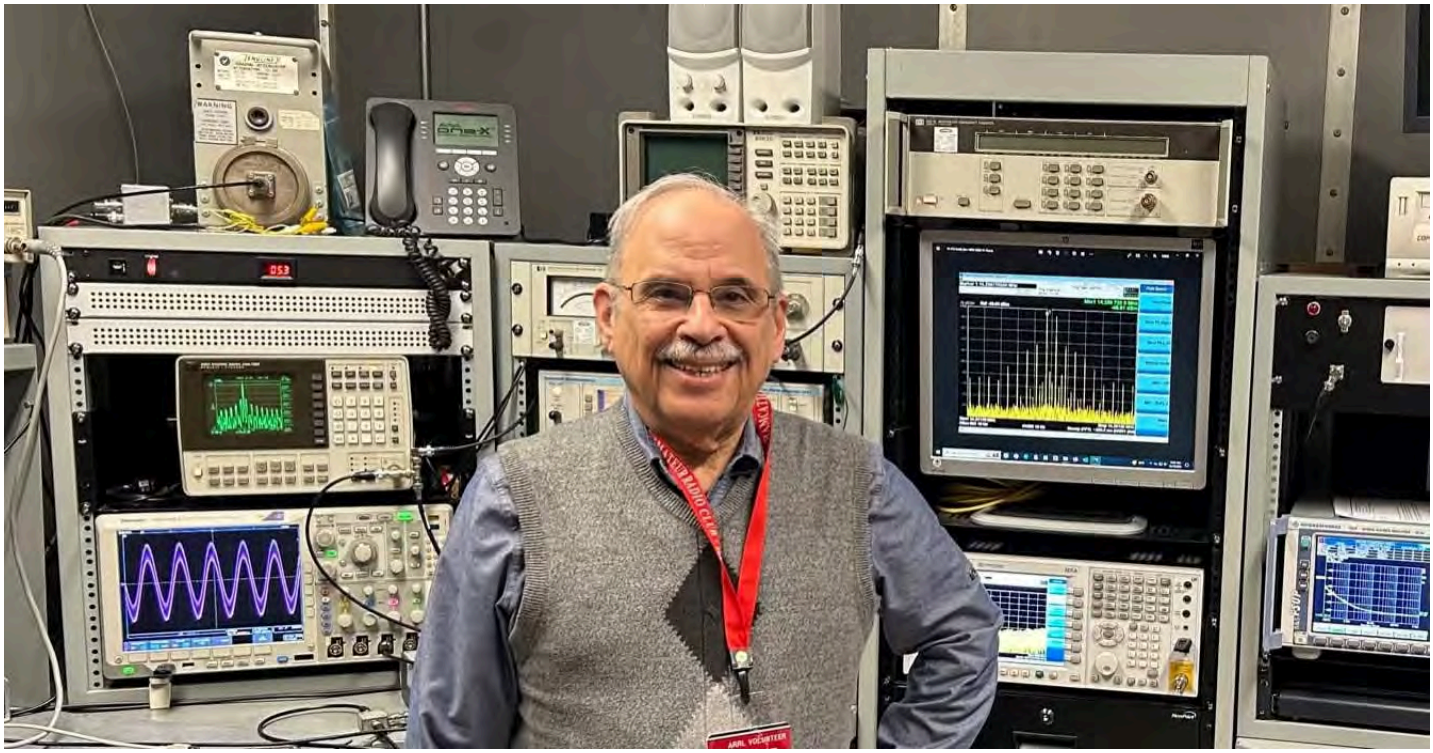
On Saturday, September 5, MARC honored the life of Harold first with a Silent Key observance on **W1YSM, Ed Snyder's** Saturday morning Coffee Cup Net, then at the OEM open where members gathered to celebrate the life of WJ1B. After opening remarks by club president, **Dave NZ1J**, in which he described Harold as a true "ham's ham" and noted that his passing is a huge loss to our community, several other members shared memories.

Joel, KC1VVX, shared how he first met Harold back in the 1970s when he moved to Cheshire, many years before Joel earned his license. **Dale, NA1L,** shared his appreciation for Harlod's curious mind and mentioned his Woodstock journal recounting his experience at the famous 1969 music festival. Readers can find the blog online here - it's recommended reading.

Bill, NR1B, shared a pair of humorous stories about POTA activations with Harold and Joel that went awry. One involved testing a new commercial antenna that Harold was evaluating for a QST review. The day went sideways when the trio not only didn't make a single contact, they didn't hear a single station on 20 or 40 M or even on FT8. Bill wondered whether the antenna was either a dummy load or even a practical joke. The second noted activation occurred at Black Pond in Meriden, where their activation was interrupted when a couple of pickup trucks tore into the lot, driven by locals who frequented the park for enjoying their favorite brewed barley and hops beverage (evidenced not only by their slurred speech, but the hundreds of empties in the beds of their trucks).

Ted, KC1DOY, allowed that while he didn't know Harold particularly well, he remarked on Harold's trademark smile and friendly, outgoing personality. **Conrad, N2YCH,** who knew Harold from his time in the ARRL lab, and **Jerry, K1TGX,** also shared their fond memories. A card for Harold's family was passed and signed by all present.

Memorial contributions may be made to Temple Beth David (the Richard Fiske Capital Fund), Ball and Socket Arts, Friends of the Cheshire Public Library, or MidState Medical Center.







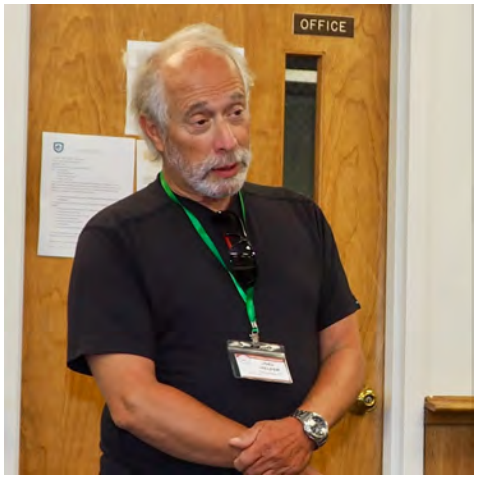
ABOVE TOP: Harold in the ARRL Lab. BOTTOM LEFT: Testifying before the U.S. House Committee Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. RIGHT: Recording an ARRL podcast.

At the OEM, September 5, 2025

Remembering Harold Kramer, WJ1B/SK

Photographs by KC1DOY, AB1DQ & WB1GYZ



















Autumnal Antenna Work at the OEM

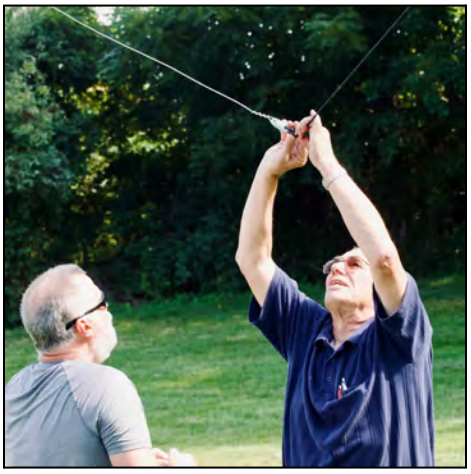
John Yusza, K1LYP, in his trusty bucket truck, and **Bill Huggins, NR1B**, were at the OEM on Wednesday, September 16, completing necessary repairs and upgrades to the MARC antenna farm.

The dynamic duo did repairs to the Yagi and installed an 80 M / 40 M dipole, getting the W1NRG ready for contest season. MARC expresses its gratitude for their time and good work and invites all members to come to the OEM to get on the air. Remember, the radio room is open every Saturday morning starting at 9:00 am during our weekly Saturday open house, and all members are welcome to take up the mic or paddles as they are so inclined.








LARK at the MARC

by Ted Renzoni, KC1DOY

with photographs by Al Kaiser, N1API & Jimmy Surprenant, AB1DQ

This year's Lark at the MARC was one of the best, with great weather, good food, and great company. It was a perfect example of the social aspects of ham radio, bringing us all together in a fun, non-technical setting.

The food was the best yet, with Hummel's hot dogs and Bubba Burgers on the menu along with a variety of side dishes and potluck items. Dessert items rounded out the meal with something for everyone. No one went hungry, that's for sure. The entire event was staged in the garage bay, which gave us plenty of room and made the setup and cleanup much easier. Having the grill close by made serving everyone quickly a breeze.

It was my pleasure to take on the cooking once again and to continue the tradition set by John Bee (SK), who handled it for so many years. The only thing missing was John's legendary roadkill stew. He took the recipe with him when he passed.

As always, this event will help improve the process next time. I'd like to thank everyone who attended for coming and also recognize all those who volunteered to make this such a successful Lark at the MARC.

~ Ted KC1DOY





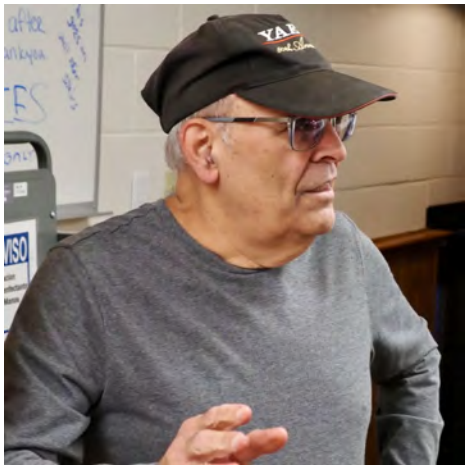








Lark at the MARC 2026















Equipment Donations

by Dave Tipping NZ1J

Due to the generosity of **Steve, W1KF, Steve, KC1SA, George, AC1SK,** and **Scott, W1HLP,** MARC has received an incredible amount of electronic test equipment and electronic components. About half of that equipment is depicted in the photos that follow on the next page.

A small amount of that equipment will be retained by MARC. **Jeff, N1AKN**, has already put a high-end spectrum analyzer to use to evaluate spurious emissions on a few HTs. That spectrum analyzer can serve as a diagnostic tool and as a teaching aid.

The rest of the components and equipment will be offered to MARC members. Already, on several Saturday mornings, components that number in the dozens, hundreds, and even thousands have been given to MARC members. There are still many components available - primarily capacitors.

In contrast, a lot of the test equipment is one-of-a-kind and a little is two-of-a-kind. Every MARC member needs to have the same opportunity to get some of that equipment. A fair way to give every member an opportunity is a sealed-bid auction. Details of the auction will be sent to MARC members via email. The auction is not intended as a fundraiser for MARC. The intent is twofold: to give each member an equal opportunity and to get the equipment into the hands of people who will make use of it. Expect minimum bids to be set low.

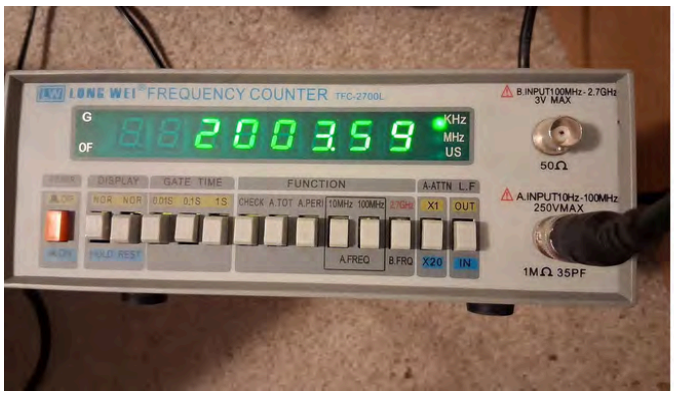
I'd like to thank W1KF, KC1SA, AC1SK, and W1HLP for their generosity, and I hope that every member with an interest in this equipment and these components takes advantage of this rare opportunity.

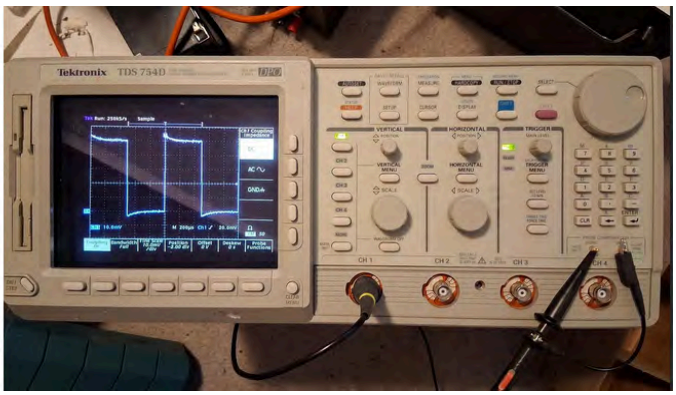
~Dave NZ1J

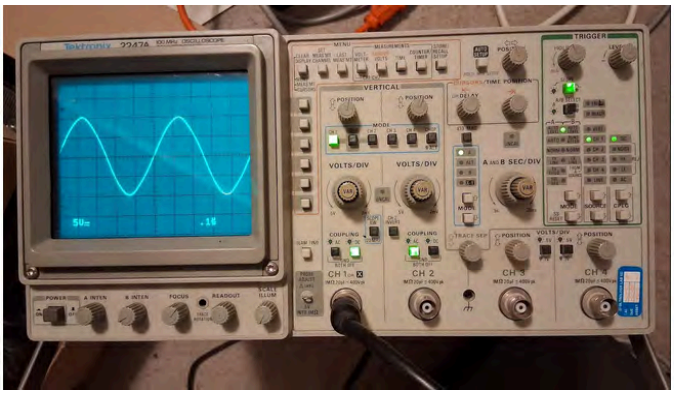
Donated Equipment Photos





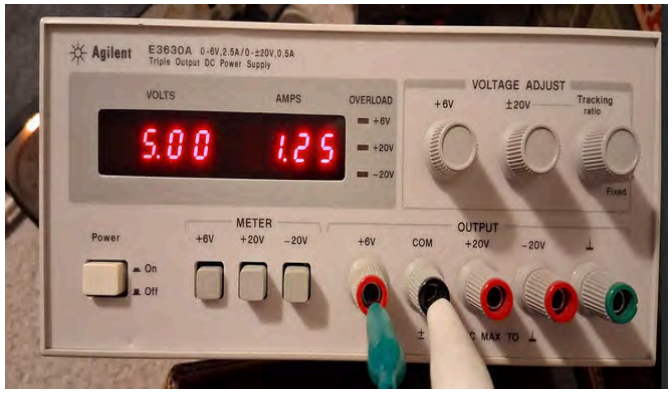












A 1954 MARC Fox Hunt... almost formal by today's standards!

by Dave K1WJL *with Rich* WA1TRY



Meriden Radio 'Hams' Uncover Hidden 'Illegal' Transmitter

ONCE A MONTH the mobile amateur radio operators of Meriden track down an "illegal" hidden radio station just for practice.

It's a game of hide and seek, with a portable civil defense radio transmitter being hidden somewhere in the city, and the two-way radio cars of the Meriden amateurs doing the seeking.

A three-man team loads the portable station and its gasoline-powered generator into a car and drives to some previously selected location, usually off a dirt road somewhere, in the woods, though within city limits. The team sets up the station, starts the generator, and goes on the air, usually within 15 minutes of the time they leave the clubhouse of the Meriden Amateur Radio Club in South Meriden.

The mobile operators, two or three to a car, wait until

The original newspaper article - a very decent piece!

This Fox Hunt took place in 1954, when the MARC was fully entrenched at the Dossin Beach facilities and operated under the original club call of W1SBF. Both Rich WA1TRY & I (K1WJL) were only about 10 or 11 at the time, so we do not claim any firsthand knowledge; however, Rich has this passion for researching the web and found these great newspaper articles and pictures.

Actually, a round of applause to the newspaper industry that sent out a reporter and photographer to cover a story like a MARC Fox Hunt. If we tried that today, without a great deal of explanation, chances are PETA would show up, and the article would have a much different twist.

The photo below on the left on this page needs some explanation because it looks like three guys are loading furniture in the trunk of a car. In fact, the three Hams are loading a 1954 version of a GO-BOX, plus a gas generator, which was also required.

The fully operational Fox was somewhere in the woods of Meriden and was manned by the team that transmitted for only a few seconds (15 or less) at a time. However, a major question in my mind is just how they masked the noise of the generator. Unless they utilized a very efficient muffler, could the hunters just get out of the car and listen for the noise?

Meanwhile, in the other photo below, the hunters were exchanging notes at Dossin Beach, ready to start. All decked out in their "Formal Fox Hunting" attire, suits, ties, bow ties, polished shoes, etc etc. I really love this photo……. Frank W1FYG (W1FD) kneeling bottom right, all set to comb his hair, straighten his tie, and position his directive finding antenna to find the fox (or the photographers).

In the first photo on the next page, Frank W1FYG exits the car to compare notes with Ed W1FUW, who has a telephone handset to his ear...??? Getting close in the second photo on page 19, the fox hunters switch to a Field Strength meter complete with earphones(?) to home in on the fox; it looks like Vinny W1OOC and Haywood Watts W1RCI are getting close. In the second row, we see Nick Zadrick W1UCA and Paul Lambert W1HJK triangulating a map with a rotatable loop antenna and the winners are Vinny W1OOC and Haywood W1RCI, who receive a victory Stein; their calls will be engraved on the trophy Stein…

Wow, can you imagine today's Fox Team dragging out that GO-BOX every Sunday?





MARC Fox Hunters
1954



FRANK Darmofalski (W1FYG), Edward Mierz (W1FUW) use meter on car receiver to show strength of signal. It usually gets stronger as they near location; sometimes hills, tall buildings reflect waves, upset trail.



Close to the hidden fox, hunters switch to a hand held radio frequency Field Strength Meter to sniff him out !



NICHOLAS Zadrick (W1UCA) and Paul Lambert (W1HJK) use directional antenna to learn general direction of hidden set. Readings a mile apart are drawn on map. Intersection of lines is focal spot.



First to find the Fox, the team of Vinny Sadlowski W1OOC & Haywood Watts W1RCI won a Stein and their calls will be engraved upon it at a later date



AT hidden locations. In five minutes station W1SBF/1 is set up, generator started and operators rib hunters but give no clues to their location.

Keep reading

KeyKlix

in the months ahead as Club Historian **Rich Aubin W1TRY** & KeyKlix Editor Emeritus **Dave Sweedock, K1WJL** continue to bring us buried treasures from the MARC archives!



Featured Ham Radio Events at 2026 Camp Sikorsky

by David Henry KC1PEN

On September 19th, Scouting America's Connecticut Yankee Council and the Girl Scouts of Connecticut returned for the 24th annual Camp Sikorsky scouting event, hosted by Sikorsky Aircraft. The event saw almost 400 scouts, leaders, and council reps and nearly 120 volunteers. I was one of the event's leaders/planners, serving as the campmaster and a radio badge counselor.

I obtained permission to use the 1X1 special event callsign W1Y for Camp Sikorsky, both to make contacts easier and to make the teaching point that the event was special and those they talk to would recognize that.

Perhaps even more special was the location of the station, which was visible from Route 15 Southbound immediately adjacent to the helipad at the front of Sikorsky Aircraft. The station was equipped with 3 HF antennas (2 verticals and 1 multiband inverted-V fan dipole), a mini mobile dual band radio, a mesh repeater, mesh node, POC DMR radio, and a plethora of FRS, GMRS, and ham HTs along with over a half dozen foxes (not all deployed), totalling something on the order of 3 dozen radios or more.

Kevin Van Keuren, KC1OWD of Oxford, CT, joined me in hosting 2 radio merit badge sessions, each with about 14-16 scouts. During the sessions, scouts learned about radio (amateur, FRS, GMRS, and mesh), radio direction finding, CERT, emergency preparedness, and the ways radio and other communication methods tie in. Fellow MARC member **Shawn Warren, KC1NQE,** assisted as a guest speaker and discussed CERT and furthered the emergency preparedness discussion.

While the bands didn't cooperate (and being located at low-level in a bowl didn't help on HF), we still gave the scouts the chance to try out radio, and they had opportunities on HF, VHF, and UHF along with a POC DMR connection. As in prior years, the scouts heavily preferred the hunt, and the foxes were successfully found, earning each scout a commemorative 3d printed coin.

A few scouts indicated interest in getting licensed, a few adult leaders had great interest in learning more about the ARRL Teacher's Institute, and we hope to see some of the participants at the Nutmeg Hamfest.

~73 David/KC1PEN



ABOVE: Scouting at Camp Sikorsky, 2024 & 2025

2026 MARC Elections

by Jim Savage, N1ZN & Dale Clift, NA1L

The Meriden Amateur Radio Club elections for the 2027 officers will take place on the day of the annual business meeting per Article V of the MARC Constitution. That date is November 12. We will use Election Buddy for balloting, as we did last year. Jim Savage (N1ZN) and Dale Clift (NA1L) will serve as your election committee. You can reach us at N1ZN@arrl.net with any questions throughout the process.

The election process will be essentially the same as last year, with nominations taking place at the October 8 business meeting on Zoom starting at 7:00 PM. Nominations will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on October 31 by emailing W1NRGelection@gmail.com. Nominees for officer positions must be a member of MARC in good standing and have consented to run. You cannot just nominate someone unless they have consented to serve if elected.

A list of candidates running for all officer positions will appear in November Key Klix before the annual business meeting. Voting eligibility in the election will be based on the list of members in good standing as of the October 8 business meeting. Ballots from Election Buddy will be sent by email to all eligible members at 12:00 am on November 12, the day of the business meeting, and will remain open until 6:00 pm that day. Results will be announced at the November Business Meeting later that day.

The ballot will also include a place to vote for Ham of the Year and Elmer of the Year. These awards do not require a nomination, and you may vote for any member you feel deserving of the award. Therefore, no members' names will appear on the ballot.
The John A. Bartscherer (N1GNV) Ham of the Year Award honor is to recognize standout members for their dedication, public service, and contributions to the club and the amateur radio community. The Adolph Goodsell (W1ICQ) Elmer of the Year Award honor is to recognize a member who provides exceptional guidance, mentorship, and technical instruction to newer radio operators or helps others advance their amateur radio license classes.

Ham of the Year and Elmer of the Year will be announced at the November Business Meeting. If you have any questions, please contact us at W1NRGelection@gmail.com.

We will see you at the October Business Meeting.
~73, N1ZN & NA1L

A CALL TO SERVICE...

MARC **needs good leadership** to continue to thrive.

Do you have the ability & the time to serve?

If so, please consider running for a 2027 officer position:

PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
TREASURER
SECRETARY
STATION MANAGER

Your club needs YOU!



Doug Hendricks KI6DS/SK

by Jimmy Surprenant, AB1DQ



Hams who are QRP aficionados are most likely familiar with the name Doug Hendricks, KI6DS.

Doug was a trailblazer helping shape the low-power world for years and was involved in the creation of the radio that eventually led to the formation of Elecraft. Truly a giant in the genre. He owned multiple QRP kit businesses through the years and introduced thousands of amateurs to some of the most well-known and usable radios of the last few decades. Sadly, Doug went Silent Key, shuffling off this mortal coil on September 18, 2026.

Globally known as a passionate visionary at the heart of the low-power radio movement, Doug dedicated decades of his life to making ham radio accessible, educational, and, above all, fun.

Whether through his tireless Elmering, his legendary kit-building businesses, or his always welcoming presence at major hamventions, he inspired thousands of operators to discover the magic of making global contacts with just a few watts of power and a radio they built themselves.

Douglas Eugene Hendricks was born on 12/02/1947 in Sterling, Kansas, and grew up in Raymond, Kansas, which had a population of 100. He graduated from Raymond High School and attended Pittsburg State University.

Throughout his years, Doug held many diverse jobs in varying fields. He worked in construction before moving on to his passion, teaching. He also worked as a broadcast radio DJ and became the manager of KULY Radio in Ulysses, Kansas. He was a basketball coach and an avid Kansas State Jayhawk fan. In addition to his passion for radio, his other recreational pursuits included beekeeping, refereeing baseball and softball games, and singing and playing guitar. In all of these pursuits, he is remembered as a mentor to all.

In 1984, Douglas returned to school, attending Fort Hays State University to finish his education, earning his Bachelor of Science Degree. Upon graduation in 1985, he, along with his first wife, JoAnne, and two daughters, moved to Dos Palos, California, where he taught biology and chemistry for 27 years at Dos Palos High School. There he coached girls' and boys' basketball at DPHS and holds the record for the winningest coach at the school.

Doug retired from teaching in 2011, when JoAnn became ill with cancer. One of Doug's greatest joys was family. He loved to travel across the country with JoAnn, and he took special pleasure in being a Popa to their many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Honoring Doug's enduring legacy, here is a look at some of the extraordinary achievements and contributions Doug made to our hobby:

- **Co-founded the NorCal QRP Club (1993):** Alongside Jim Cates (WA6GER), Doug co-founded the legendary NorCal QRP Club, built on the principle of making low-power operating fun, accessible, and completely free of membership dues.

- **Pioneered Affordable Kit-Building:** Driven by a passion to keep the hobby educational and affordable, his initiatives and his business, Hendricks QRP Kits, were responsible for producing and distributing well over 20,000 radio kits to hams globally.

- **Collaborated on Classic Transceiver Designs:** Doug partnered with prominent builders like Steve Weber and Wayne Burdick (N6KR) to bring iconic, highly accessible QRP rigs like the PFR-3, the NorCal 40, the 49er, and the Ft. Tuthill series into the hands of operators everywhere.
- **Inducted into the QRP Hall of Fame:** His monumental impact on homebrewing and low-power operations earned him one of the highest honors in the community—induction into the QRP Hall of Fame.
- **Co-founded QRPGuys:** He was a driving force behind the creation of the QRPGuys website, continuing his lifelong mission to offer inexpensive, innovative, and easy-to-build kits for transceivers, tuners, and antennas.
- **Fostered Community through Events:** Doug regularly served as the long-time Master of Ceremonies for OzarkCon and was a major organizer and welcoming presence at high-profile ham gatherings like FDIM (Four Days in May) and Pacificon.
- **Championed the Next Generation:** A teacher by trade, he dedicated decades to mentoring newcomers and grandchildren, providing them with their first hands-on look at electronics and the joy of creating things from scratch.

Doug's passing leaves a void in the amateur radio world that will be deeply felt, but his spirit lives on every time a homebuilt QRP rig crackles to life on the bands. He didn't just design and market kits; he built a global community anchored by generosity, patience, and a shared love for the art of radio.

As we mourn the loss of KI6DS, we also celebrate a lifetime of profound service to our hobby. His legacy will endure in the thousands of radios still broadcasting around the world and in the hearts of the many operators he mentored along the way. May he rest in peace.



The Wilderness Radio variant of the ubiquitous NorCal 40. The circuit has been enhanced, kitted and sold by various QRP retailers.



The QRP Hendricks PFR-3, a popular 3 Band 20/30/40 M Portable Field Radio



A Select KeyKlix Regular Feature

At the Clubhouse & In the Field with Ted Renzoni, KC1DOY



L-R: MARC VP Bill, NR1B, new Techs Lincoln, KD1ABX, his dad, Dave, KD1ABW, and club president Dave, NZ1J.

The VE session on Saturday **12 September 2026** didn't have very many test takers, but we did get a visit from 2 new hams, **Dave, KD1ABW,** and his son **Lincoln, KD1ABX**. They both had passed their Technician exam about two weeks previously, and both had plenty of questions to ask.

Dave, NZ1J, not only answered any questions they asked but also took them on a tour of the station and let Lincoln sit in at the HF station so that they both could get an idea of ham radio below VHF/UHF.

Dave explained propagation and how solar activity affects it, and explained the different ham band allocations and the various modes of operation (FM, SSB, CW, Digital, etc.).

Repeater operation and satellite communications were discussed along with all of the things you can do with your Technician license. I jumped in occasionally so that Dave could attend to club business.

It is also worth mentioning that Dave and Lincoln are the first hams with the new KD prefixes to visit our club. I hope that they left with a good impression of MARC as a club worth joining and that we'll see them again soon. Congratulations on passing your exams Dave and Lincoln!

~ Ted KC1DOY

Saturday 19 Sep 2026 was our annual club picnic, LARK IN THE MARC… see my extended coverage starting on **page 14.**

~ Ted KC1DOY

Saturday 26 Sep 2026 might have been a rainy day outside, but it was sunny and bright inside at MARC as everyone gathered to look over several items that were up for grabs to members.

Jeff N1AKN checked out a Hewlett-Packard spectrum analyser on the bench. This would be a fine addition to anyone's shack. Another piece of equipment available was a Tektronix TDS 754D oscilloscope.

For the builders and makers in the club, there were boxes of electronics parts, connectors and adapters galore. Maybe it's time for another round of Dave's well-received learn-by-building sessions.

In the show and tell department, **Reed KC1NHE** brought in his vintage REMCO crystal radio set, complete and in the original box. This brought back fond memories for me. My brother and I had one of these when we were kids, and I always loved to get up early on snowy winter mornings to check to see if school had been cancelled. It might have been too snowy to go to school but never too snowy to go sledding!

Dale NA1L brought in his NLS model MS-15 miniscope. It measures about 2.9" x 6.4" x8" and weighs about 3 pounds. It runs on 3 internal 2V rechargeable lead-acid D-size cells. Not bad considering the fact that so many scopes are bigger and heavier than this. Dale also brought in his newly acquired Radioddity DB40-G GMRS radio, still in the box and ready for unpacking. It runs 40W, is repeater-capable, has 199 channels, and supports CHIRP programming. It is priced at $179.99 on the manufacturer's website but is probably available elsewhere for less. While this is not a ham radio, it would be very useful in a disaster situation to monitor emergency calls since so many people have FRS/GMRS radios. The club already has
its own GMRS repeater for that purpose.

Jimmy AB1DQ popped in later in the morning and brought the compact Zum-SPOT USB Multi-mode hotspot, which he configured the night before for his MacBook Pro. **Dale NA1L** and **Eric KB1JL** watched as **Reed KC1NHE** used his FT-70D to key up the Zum-Spot and put out his call on the YSF East Coast Reflector, receiving a response and a solid signal report. Ever since attending a workshop on digital voice modes at HamX, Jimmy has been experimenting with different hot spot configurations, including the Open Spot 4 Pro, which he brought in to share previously.

Stay tuned because **George AC1SK** has a lot more goodies to be put up for adoption to a good ham home.

~ Ted KC1DOY





SATURDAY SEP. 26 AT THE OEM. LEFT: Jeff N1AKN checking on the O-scope on the bench; CENTER: Mike N1LHO & Reed KC1NHE; RIGHT: Reed with his vintage REMCO crystal receiver.






LEFT: Jeff's vintage crystal radio; CENTER: NLS MS-16 Mini-Scope; RIGHT: MARC members check out the lab equipment up for grabs whilst John K1LYP munches on a cookie.

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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.

ARRLVEC
Volunteer Examiner Coordinator®



The more you know with Steve Ford, WB8IMY

Is RTTY Still a "Thing?"

Radio teletype, better known as RTTY, is among the oldest operating modes still used by amateurs today. RTTY also has the distinction of being the first true digital mode, transmitting text by generating signals that shift between two so-called Mark and Space frequencies according to a code known as Baudot.

Back in the day, RTTY operators relied on "terminal units" to handle the tasks of creating and decoding Mark and Space signals. Hams read the received text on rolls of paper and replied by pounding on cumbersome mechanical keyboards.

RTTY operators enjoyed casual keyboard-to-keyboard chats on the HF bands, and sometimes even on VHF. They were also active contesters and DX chasers.

When the personal computer revolution took off in the early '80s, PCs soon rendered electromechanical teletypes obsolete. Less than 20 years later, computer sound devices (functioning as analog/digital converters) and software replaced terminal units as well.

The flood of software brought new digital modes to the amateur community. The first of these new modes, PSK31, offered superior HF performance. Within a year of its debut, PSK31 became the most popular digital mode for casual operating. Other high- performance digital modes would follow.

And then came FT8.

FT8 took the amateur community by storm. It offered weak-signal performance that no other digital mode could match. For DX chasing in particular, FT8 supplanted every other mode, including RTTY, in short order. It also became the mode of choice for many amateurs who were hunting contacts for various awards. And when the JS8 variant of FT8 came along, hams discovered that they could converse with it as well.

Did this mean RTTY was destined for the scrap heap of history? Not quite.

Contesting — The Last Refuge of RTTY

As RTTY ragchewing and DXing rapidly faded, only one activity remained: contesting. When it comes to contesting, RTTY can't rival FT8 in terms of weak-signal performance, but it handles interference quite well, which is a good quality to have in busy contest environments. RTTY is also faster than FT8 when it comes to exchanging information (although FT8's less-popular cousin FT4 offers comparable speed).

There are RTTY contests scattered throughout the year and they still attract significant participation. The 2026 ARRL RTTY Roundup, for example, saw more than 1700 stations submitting logs.

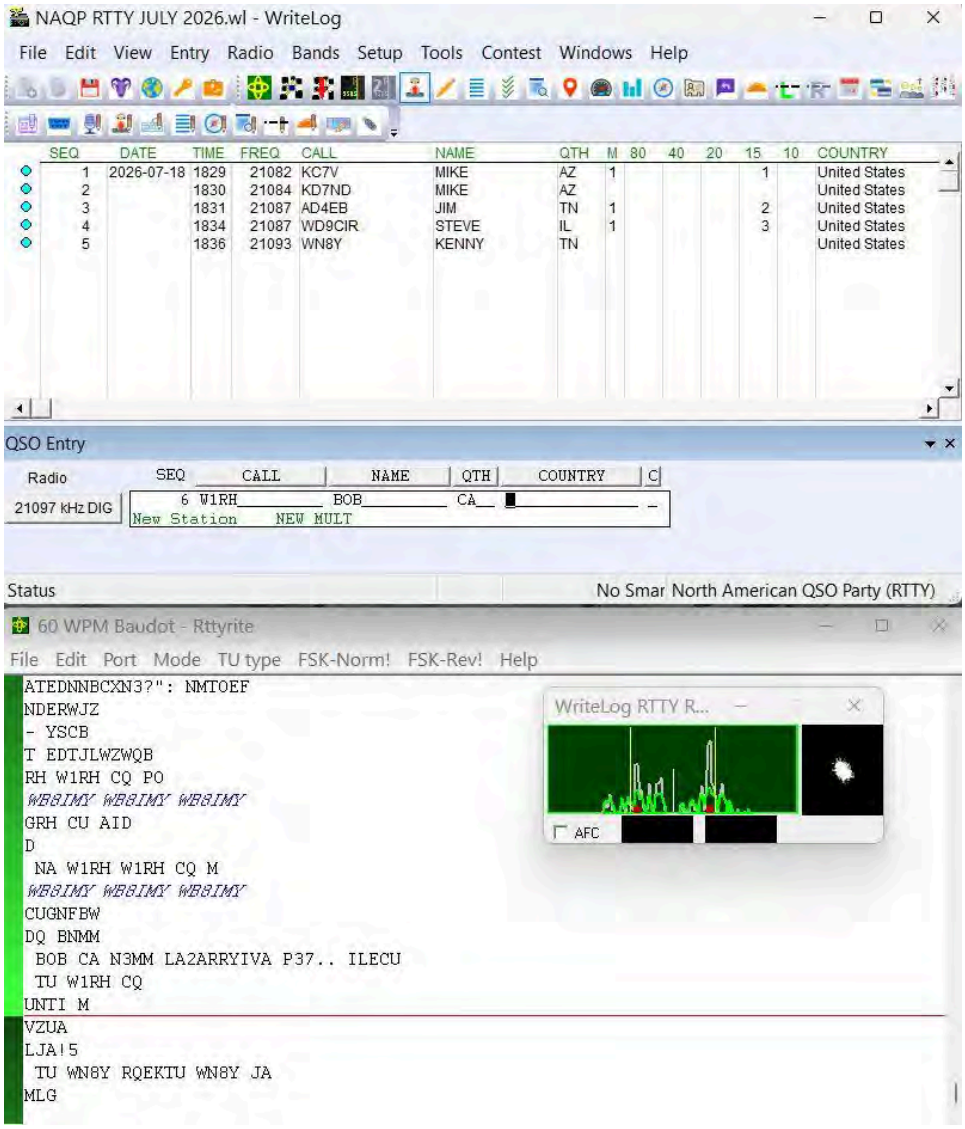
In October, there are two RTTY contests that see a fair amount of activity. One is the Makrothen RTTY Contest on October 10 (www.pl259.org/makrothen/makrothen- rules/) and the other is the JARTS Worldwide RTTY Contest on October 17, 2026 (jarts.jp/rules/2024_rule_en.htm). JARTS RTTY has an interesting exchange — a signal report and your age. Going through my post-contest logs, I've found the ages of most American JARTS participants range between 65 and 85, while Europeans tend to be younger.

Listen for RTTY contest activity in the following frequency segments: 3580 - 3600 kHz, 7040 - 7100 kHz, 14082 - 14150 kHz, 21082 - 21120 kHz, and 28080 - 28150 kHz.

RTTY Hardware and Software

If you'd like to give RTTY contesting a try, you'll find that the hardware and software requirements aren't onerous. Of course, there is a bit of a learning curve, so it is best to do your research and testing well in advance.

If you already operate FT8, all you need is RTTY software such as the venerable MMTTY (hamsoft.ca/pages/mmtty.php) or Fldigi (www.w1hkj.org). I highly recommend using contest logging software that is capable of incorporating RTTY functionality. N1MM Logger+ (n1mmwp.hamdocs.com) can support integration with MMTTY or Fldigi. WriteLog (my personal favorite) has its own built-in RTTY program, which eliminates the integration hassle completely. You'll find WriteLog at writelog.com.



ABOVE: WriteLog in action during the North American RTTY QSO Party contest.

Many modern HF transceivers have USB ports and built-in sound devices, which makes it quite easy to connect your PC and put it to work as a RTTY contest machine. If you don't own such a rig, you'll need an external interface to link your radio and computer.

Tigertronics interfaces (tigertronics.com) are popular and affordable, but there are others.

MARC in the Parks

Highlighting our members' POTA activations

Jimmy, AB1DQ, celebrated his birthday this year the POTA way, as the date fell in the middle of the Rhode Island POTA Activator's Group, Activate All RI weekend, held September 11 - 13, 2026. He learned of the event from Rob Jackson, N1RWJ, who he first met earlier this year while preparing their joint program for HamX. Rob is from Hope, RI and is an obsessed advocate for CW operations, a member of LICW and CW Ops.

Jimmy noticed that while the state-wide map for the event was already mostly filled in with activators claiming time slots at all 61 RI POTA parks, **US-2869, Blackstone River State Park** was unclaimed. It occurred to him that perhaps the POTA planets were aligning and fate was calling, as the park was one he knew well from years ago when he lived in nearby Manville, RI, and spent many weekends cycling on the linear trail that ran through the riverside park. And, as if activating a familiar and well-loved park on his birthday wasn't enough of a draw, Jimmy's daughter, son-in-law, and grandkids lived nearby; he quickly booked the slot.

The weather was absolutely picture perfect, and the only hitch was finding where parking and motor vehicle access could be found, since for every previous visit occurring nearly 20 years ago, he always pedalled to the park. He found a parking lot under the Route 116 bridge over the Blackstone in Lincoln and set up nearby. The folding table and chairs he brought were useful as there were only benches, but no picnic tables nearby.

Jimmy's station consisted of his FT-891, MFJ-949 manual tuner, and the homemade memory remote control for the FT-891 (see page 33). Operating CW primarily on 20M, Jimmy made 18 QSOs mostly across the continent, and an SSB phone P2P QSO with a father/daughter (W5MMW/K4CAT) team activating in Tennessee. All this and dinner with KC1TSM, and Merry and Collin, their daughter and son-in-law, made for a heckuva fun way to mark another spin around the sun!







LEFT: W1HLP's familiar tailgate POTA operating bench featuring his FT-891, paddles and manual tuner.

CW wizard and POTA expert, **Scott, W1HLP,** continued to rack up the POTA QSOs in September, making 29 QSOs in just 30 minutes at his favorite park for activating, **US-1705, Osborndale State Park** on Thursday, September 10.

Scott is far and away the leading activator of the park, according to the POTA website, with 2,000+ QSOs and 90+ activations there to date as of this writing.

Scott continued to activate US-1705 throughout the month, reporting some fabulous POTA DX on Tuesday, September 22, having "a great time on 20m this afternoon! 25 QSOs in 30 minutes, but what was really fun was working SM5ATP, RA4ACX, SM6CNX, IK6BAK, and IN3KLQ with great signal reports! Along with many others! Super time today as we move into some nice fall propagation!!"

Dave, NZ1J, noted during the first week of September that in the past two weeks, he had bumped into another POTA activator in three different parks. Twice, the other activator saw Dave's station, and once, the other activator heard his S9 + 40 dB signal and came looking for him.

Observed Dave, "There's no doubt that POTA is popular, but I think it's still a little unusual to run across that many other activators. Of course, I worked all of them on 2 meters and got credit for hunting the parks."





LEFT: KB1CRN, Glen from Uncasville, by Dave's familiar POTA station. RIGHT: K1NW, Brian from Wakefield, RI with Dave.





Our Intrepid Trio's Sept. 29 Rove took them to US-7534, US-6866, US-7540, US-7520, US-6873, US-6772 and US-6872.... Quite the trek!

To close out September, on the 29th, **Dave, NZ1J, Jim, KC1TSG,** and **Ted, KC1DOY,** went on a seven-park POTA Rove. reporting that the weather and the propagation were very good. They stopped at parks, forests, and wildlife management areas between East Lyme and Willimantic. We made 114 QSOs, including Sweden, Italy, and Alaska. As is usually the case for POTA activations, sez Dave, "It was a very good day."

Nutmeg Hamfest 2026 – This Sunday, October 11, 8 am – 3 pm

by Ellen Cosgrove, KC1TSM

One final pitch: The Nutmeg Hamfest is this Sunday, and we would love to see you there.

As a reminder, Nutmeg Hamfest, Connecticut's State Amateur Radio Convention, takes place at Maloney High School (121 Gravel Street, Meriden) from 8 am to 1 pm. The program schedule can be found below and also on our webpage.

Following our inaugural **John B (N1GNV/SK)** lecture, we'll host lectures on POTA, Fox Hunting, WINLINK & VaraC, Mesh Networking, Satellites, and Scouting in Amateur Radio, as well as a VE Session, the annual Connecticut Regional CERT/EMCOMM meeting, and the annual ARRL State of the Organization presentation. We have free code plug programming, prizes, hot food, and All 50 indoor tables have been sold!

Admission is $10; kids under 18 are admitted free.

As you know, Nutmeg Hamfest and MARC have been intertwined since Nutfest was established by John B N1GNV/SK and others. MARC members will head several presentations, including **Dale Clift NA1L, Dave Henry KC1PEN, Bill Huggins NR1B, David Minster NA2AA, Jim Savage N1ZN, Douglas Sharafanowich WA1SFH, Conrad Trautman N2YCH**, and **Shawn Warren KC1NQE.**

Thanks to so many of you who have already volunteered to help. We are always looking for additional volunteers. Please contact John Yusza K1LYP at 203-228-0495 or K1LYP@frontier.com or nutmeghamfest@gmail.com to volunteer.

Please continue to help spread the word on social media (please add a link to our website on any posts).

If you have any questions, please contact us at our email address: nutmeghamfest@gmail.com. We hope to see you Sunday!





The 34th annual

NUTMEG HAMFEST & ARRL CT STATE CONVENTION

Sunday October 11th, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

at the Maloney High School, Meriden

THIS YEAR'S SPECTACULAR PROGRAM !

TIME	ROOM TBA	ROOM TBA	ROOM TBA
8:00a-8:30a	REGISTRATION/VISIT VENDORS	REGISTRATION/VISIT VENDORS	REGISTRATION/VISIT VENDORS
8:30a-9:00a	VE SESSION J. Savage, N1ZN B. Huggins, NR1B	REGISTRATION/VISIT VENDORS	REGISTRATION/VISIT VENDORS
9:00a-9:50a		ARRL FORUM State of the ARRL 2026 D. Sharafanowich, WA1SFH --- John Bee N1GNV/SK Memorial Lecture David Minster NA2AA (ARRL CEO)	INCORPORATION OF RADIO INTO SCOUT PROGRAMS D. Henry, KC1PEN
10:00a-10:50a	FOX HUNTING D. Clift, NA1L D. Henry, KC1PEN	SATELLITE COMMUNICATION FOR HAMS: BEGINNER TO MASTER J. Walker, NV1U	CT-POTA ACTIVATORS GROUP S. Warren, KC1NQE P. Cimino, K1PCN B. Horne, N1BAM C. Trautmann, N2YCH
11:00a-11:50a	THE CONNECTICUT MESHCORE PROJECT P. Cimino, K1PCN	WINLINK/VaraC B. Huggins, NR1B	CT REGIONAL CERT/ EMCOMM FORUM P. Crombie, Jr., K1XFC (CT ARES SEC)
12:00p-12:30p	RAFFLE PRIZE DRAWINGS	RAFFLE PRIZE DRAWINGS	RAFFLE PRIZE DRAWINGS

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

Discover more details online...

https://nutmeghamfest.org/

Build it and $ave!

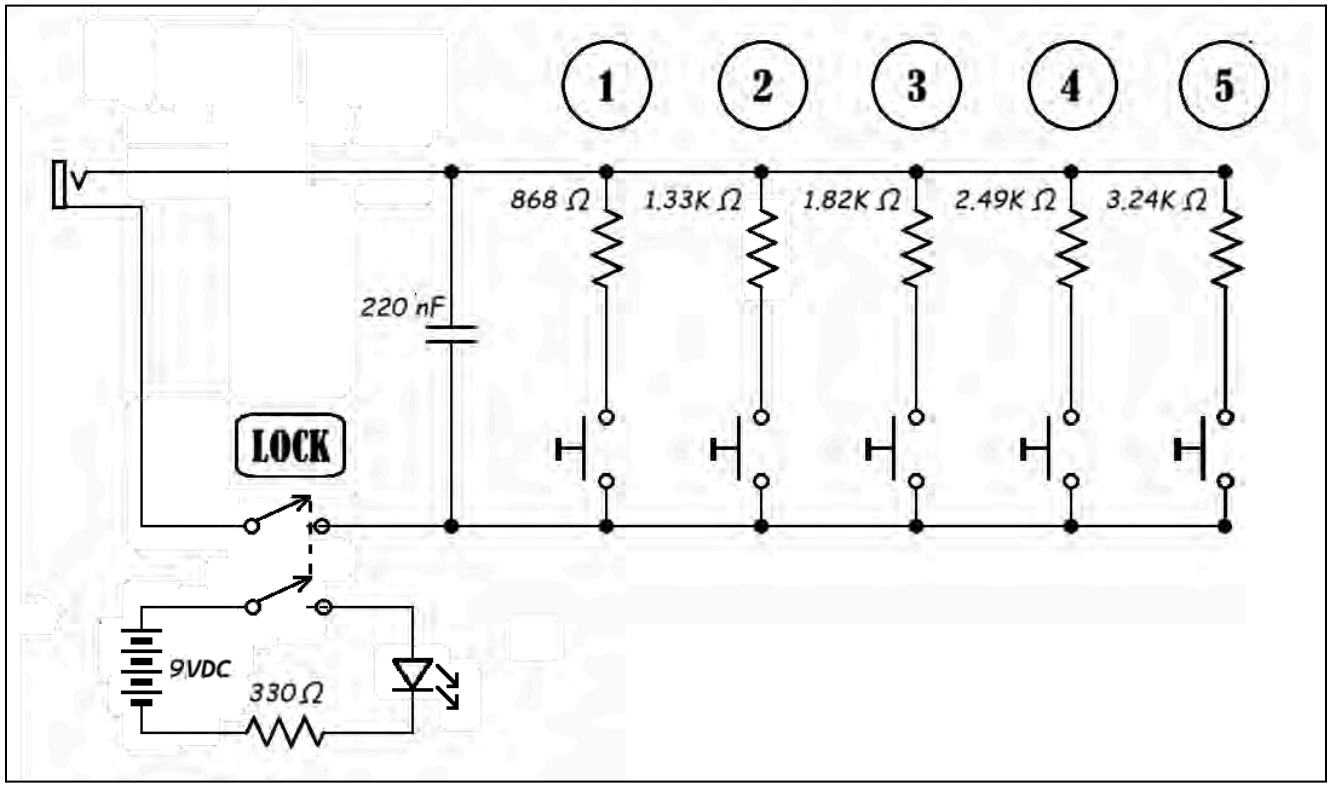
A Quick & Easy Remote for the FT-891

by Jimmy Surprenant, AB1DQ

After recently deciding to start using my Yaesu FT-891 as my primary POTA activation rig, I have spent the past several weeks making myself more familiar with its capabilities, and I'm surprised at the things I'm learning about the compact HF all-mode radio that I had been unaware of. One of the things I learned about this month was that Yaesu sells a plug-in remote control, the FH-2, that can be used to transmit the 5 recorded messages without having to go into the REC menu first.

What a nifty accessory! - but the $120 retail price tag made it a non-starter for a cheapskate like me. The schematic for the remote control is easily found on the internet, and I was surprised to discover what a simple design it was. It consists of nothing more than a dozen push-button SPST switches, twelve resistors, a single capacitor, another SPST switch to lock the remote, and a 3.5mm mono audio plug. Suddenly that retail markup seemed even more ridiculous. Realizing I already had all of the necessary parts on hand in my junk-box (junk-basement?) I set out to build my own remote for the FT-891.

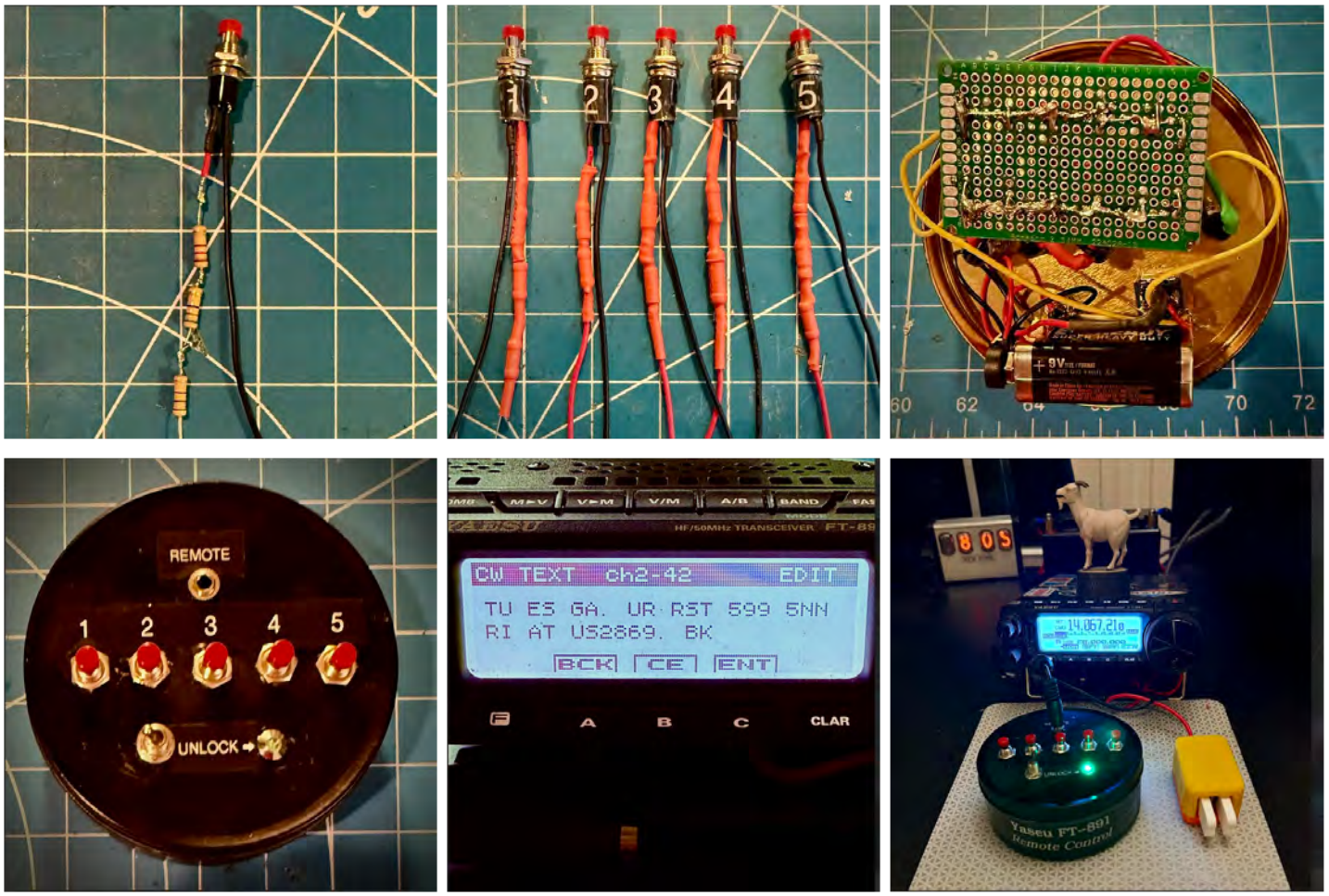
The FH-2 has, in addition to buttons to play the five recorded messages, an additional seven buttons to access the record menu and edit the messages from the remote. I decided to build my remote with only the playback buttons as I don't change the recordings that often. Here's what I came up with…



I built my remote control into a circular hard candy tin - I scored a box of a dozen tins from a FREE table at HamX in August. I needed to solder two or three resistors in series to come up with the correct resistance for each memory and I soldered them together point-to-point to one terminal of the push button switch and the other end to a perf board where I also mounted the capacitor.

You will notice that I added an LED 'unlock' indicator to my version too, adding a 9-volt battery and a dropping resistor and connecting it to the other pole of a DPST switch.

I am pleased with my little project, and it works great. And instead of dropping $120, mine didn't cost me a cent - WOOT!



TOP L: RESISTORS SOLDERED IN SERIES TO PUSH-BUTTON C: SHRINK-WRAPPED RESISTORS TO PREVENT SHORT CIRCUITS. R: BOTTOM OF THE PERF-BOARD.
BOTTOM L: THE FINISHED REMOTE CONTROL IN THE PAINTED CANDY TIN. I USED MY BROTHER LABEL MAKER FOR A NICE FINISHED LOOK. C: RECORDED MEMORY NO. 2, A 599 SIGNAL REPORT ON MY FT-891. R: CONNECTED AND 'ON THE AIR' IN THE SHACK.

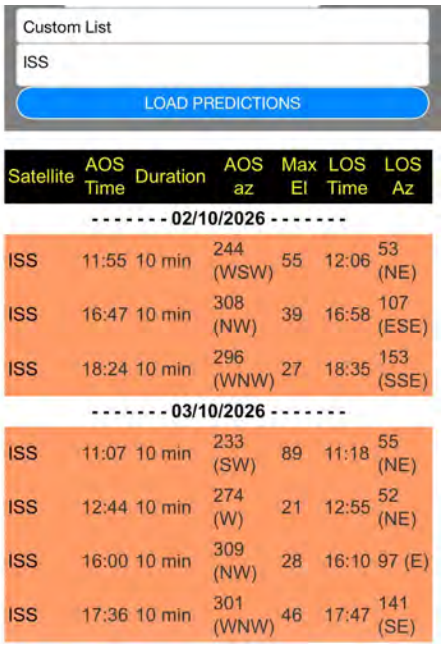
Radio-*Active* Members

A look at what some of our members were up to last month…

John Kasinkas, KC1KQH, continued his pursuit of copying satellite transmissions in September, sharing on the club's Facebook page,

> "Here we go again. ISS SSTV with 30-second transmissions on 70 cm have always been difficult for me. But if it were easy, everyone would do it. I have added the ISS passes for FN31mm, which is Cheshire. But they should still be pretty accurate for anywhere in Wallingford. Also, I use CQ SSTV, a free app on the Apple Store for picture decoding. Good luck and have fun."





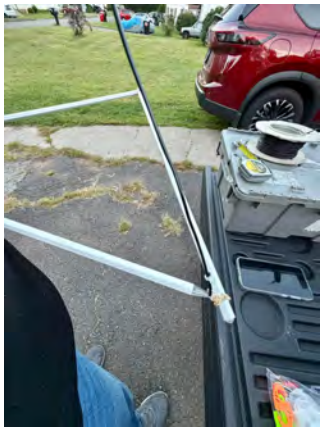
Satellite	AOS Time	Duration	AOS az	Max El	LOS Time	LOS Az
------- 02/10/2026 -------						
ISS	11:55	10 min	244 (WSW)	55	12:06	53 (NE)
ISS	16:47	10 min	308 (NW)	39	16:58	107 (ESE)
ISS	18:24	10 min	296 (WNW)	27	18:35	153 (SSE)
------- 03/10/2026 -------						
ISS	11:07	10 min	233 (SW)	89	11:18	55 (NE)
ISS	12:44	10 min	274 (W)	21	12:55	52 (NE)
ISS	16:00	10 min	309 (NW)	28	16:10	97 (E)
ISS	17:36	10 min	301 (WNW)	46	17:47	141 (SE)

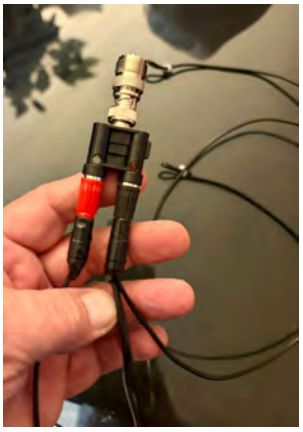


Check out **K1TDO, Todd's** episode of the *Todd Olson Show* on MARC Field Day that was broadcast on FOX 15 Cable TV in Glastonbury, now available on YouTube here: https://youtu.be/PZvcdKkj1tY?si=26IJusASOsBWtORV.

Todd's YouTube channel, Silent Flute Productions features ham radio and local community and music videos - be sure to visit, "like, comment & subscribe!" (Thanks to **Jeff N1AKN** for sharing this on the MARC Facebook page!)

Andy, N1XXU, whilst bored one day in September, alleviated his ennui by constructing a Jungle Antenna for 2 meters. Sez Andy, "I used parts that I had on hand and 3 old window blind rods. The hooks on the ends came in handy to hold the radials. I did a mock-up using rubber bands and will switch them out with Bongo Ties. After tuning, I put banana plugs in the ends and heat-shrinked the end loops. SWR was great across the band."
Nice work, Andy...never stop making!






Scott Martin, W1HLP, was hoping to do a POTA activation in Vermont while I was there recently but had many projects that needed tending to at his Green Mountain QTH. He shared that he got his dipole back up to height after a terrible wind storm. It's back up to 60 or 65 ft at the apex, and he brought a good supply of Mastrant line from DX Engineering. Sez Scott, "This stuff is rated at 968 lbs. So I'm very hopeful that I can get through a severe Vermont winter again 🙏."





Recent Contest Results



Congratulations to Al Kaiser, N1API, and the Castle Craig Chapter for their fine results in the 2026 Summer Phone QSO Party.

Al's 24 SSB QSOs on 10 meters the weekend of August 1 & 2nd earned him first place for individual ops in Call District 1, and placed W1NRG in second overall for club entries.

Good job, Al!

You can learn more about 10-10 International and the Castle Craig chapter online at: https://1010castlecraig.org/

Congratulations to **Bob Munro, W4FMM**, for his participation in the ARRL VHF Contest as well ast the ARRL CQ RTTY Contest. Bob shared his results and comments for the VHF Test:

OPERATOR: W4FMM
NAME: BOB MUNRO
ADDRESS-CITY: Waterbury
ADDRESS-STATE: CT
ADDRESS-COUNTRY: USA
GRID-LOCATOR: FN31LN
CLUB: Meriden ARC
CLAIMED-SCORE: 70

"Think everyone was Digital. I ran Analog only. 73 Bob

Bob's final RTTY score was 365 QSOs for 164,901 Points.



Selected On-Air Events – October 2026

Contests, State QSO Parties & Special Event Stations

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

ARS Spartan Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 6
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 10 to 1559Z, Oct 11
QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Oct 10
10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0600Z, Oct 10 to 0600Z, Oct 11
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Oct 10 to 1200Z, Oct 11
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Oct 10 to 2359Z, Oct 11
PODXS 070 Club 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint	2000Z, Oct 10 to 2000Z, Oct 11
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 12
NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Oct 15
JARL WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 17 to 2359Z, Oct 18
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 17 to 1459Z, Oct 18
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 17 to 1500Z, Oct 18
Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Oct 18 to 0100Z, Oct 19
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 19 to 2359Z, Oct 23
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Oct 21
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 24 to 2359Z, Oct 25
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 28
High Speed Club CW Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Nov 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100-0300Z, Nov 3

STATE QSO PARTIES:

Arizona QSO Party	1500Z, Oct 10 to 0500Z, Oct 11
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 10 to 2200Z, Oct 11
South Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 10 to 1800Z, Oct 11
New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 17 to 0200Z, Oct 18
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 18 to 0100Z, Oct 19

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS:

3rd Annual Nat'l Sasquatch Awareness Day	0001Z, Oct 12 to 2359Z, Oct 21
W7B, W7I, W7G, W7F, W7O, W7T & **W4S** Radio Club of Tacoma	All Bands - CW, SSB, FT-8/4, RTTY Certificate & QSL.
Chuck Berry 100th Birthday	0000Z, Oct 17 to 2359Z, Oct 18
W0B % Jim Briggs KX0K 19429 Quarry Rd,Warrenton MO 63383	7.180, 14.250, 28.350 Certificate & QSL
National Mashed Potato Day, Plover WI	0917Z, Oct 17 to 1207Z, Oct 18
W9P % Phil Schobert,KL1US 300 Polk St, Stevens Point WI 54481	14.320 Certificate







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 and socialize with an unobjectionable group of hams!

The Editor's Page

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 always most appreciated.



Key Klix October 2026

Has been brought to you by

EDITOR IN CHIEF	**JIMMY SURPRENANT, AB1DQ**
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	STEVE FORD, WB8IMY
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS	**TED RENZONI, KC1DOY**
	AL KAISER, N1API
	PAUL CLARK, WA1MAC

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

AB1DQ - K1WJL - KC1DOY - KC1ISI - KC1KQH - KC1PEN - KC1STF - KC1TSM - N1AKN - N1API

N1XXU - NA1L - NR1B - NZ1J - W1HLP - W4FMM - WA1TRY - WB8IMY - WB1GYZ

MARC Member Roster

The Meriden Amateur Radio Club is...

AA1MH	Robert Hurlbut	26	KC1NQE	Shawn Warren	26	KC1ZNN	Eric Granoth	28
AB1DQ	James Surprenant	26	KC1NRD	John Lujick	28	KC1ZNP	Andrew McLaren	26
AB1HB	Charlie Dudac	26	KC1NRQ	Bruce Childs	26	KC1ZNQ	Joseph Connolly	26
AB2T	Jordan Zarembo	26	KC1NTK	Richard Merck	28	KC1ZPM	Richard Geissler	26
AC1HK	Kevin Hulse	26	KC1OCS	Richard Dewick	26	KC1ZPN	Marc Grandpre	26
AC1SK	George Bucci	26	KC1OGL	Paul Randazzo	26	KC1ZYS	Bryan Wysong	28
AC1ST	Louis Brenner	26	KC1OWD	Kevin Van Keuron	26	KC1ZZT	John Mayo	28
AC1TY	Andrew Rudczynski	26	KC1OYN	Rick Becker	26	KC2MLH	Adam Castracane	26
AC1VS	Bryan Suhr	28	KC1OYR	Brent Moyer	27	KD2TLD	Patrick Lacombe	26
K0OZ	Brian Boccuzzi	26	KC1OYS	Jim McAuliffe	26	KE1AU	Bob Kaczor	26
K1DMS	Dave Sack	26	KC1PEN	David Henry	26	KE2ECC	Phillip Gallanti	26
K1LHO	Mike Ash	26	KC1PXX	Dave Alfredson	26	KF6LU	Andrew Buza	26
K1LYP	John Yusza	29	KC1PYT	Jeff Gazso	26	KK7NLS	John Condon Jr	26
K1MAL	Chris Altieri	27	KC1QHO	Mike Beaudry	26	KO4EEL	Tom Williams	26
K1MMK	Michael MacKennedy	27	KC1QWH	Steve Rygiel	26	KR1U	Bob Eslinger	29
K1NEG	Nelson Goewey	26	KC1RBY	Sergio Frutuosa	26	KS1WK	Seth Kolasinski	26
K1PET	Debbie Purchia	26	KC1RLQ	Eric Barbour	26	KX1USA	Rob Messercola	26
K1RCT	Rob Cichon	26	KC1SA	Steve Allen	26	N1AKN	Jeff Dwyer	27
K1RJC	Rick Castaldo	27	KC1SDA	Richard McHugh	26	N1API	Al Kaiser	30
K1SCI	Stuart Isaac	26	KC1SEN	Nicholas Worroll	26	N1BRI	Brian Beegan	27
K1SMD	Silas Moeckel	26	KC1STF	Jules LoRusso	28	N1ERR	Paul Benedetto	26
K1STM	Anne West	26	KC1SYU	Jim Cosgrove	26	N1FNE	Rod Lane	27
K1TDO	Todd Olsen	26	KC1TAD	Tom Dipinto	27	N1GY	Geoff Haines	27
K1TGX	Jerry Molaver	30	KC1THU	Mike Zelladonis	27	N1HCA	Susan South	27
K1VDF	John Blevins	26	KC1TKY	Bob Hourigan	26	N1IBE	Wade Martell	26
K1WJL	Dave Swedock	27	KC1TPN	Rick Foster	26	N1JEO	Joel Curneal	26
K2RPM	Bruce Torello	26	KC1TSG	Jim Drexler	26	N1JMX	Jeff Martin	28
K4AVM	Andrew Olsson	26	KC1TSK	Rich Pagano	26	N1KGP	Martin Staffa	26
KA1BED	Bill Green	27	KC1TSL	Charlie Vossbrinck	27	N1LES	Joe Murray	26
KA1BMF	Constantino Tobio	26	KC1TSM	Ellen Cosgrove	26	N1MOB	Dan David	26
KA1YZC	Paul Patnoad	26	KC1TSN	Chuck Caron Jr.	26	N1OKF	Bob Parisi	26
KB1APO	Jim Sintay	27	KC1TST	Mike Boccuzzi	26	N1OKR	Frank Ciccone	27
KB1CXK	Joe Clarizio	26	KC1TSW	Charles Caron III	26	N1OQC	Mike Johnson	27
KB1FGC	Richard Guerrera	26	KC1TSX	Mike Barile	26	N1PHI	Trish Nitshke	26
KB1HAX	Bill Reyor III	26	KC1TSY	Dan Gessner	26	N1PQQ	Greg Cartier	26
KB1JL	Eric Olsson	26	KC1TSZ	Deb Caron	26	N1QYB	Bill Witecki Jr	26
KB1LWS	Jeanne Gherardi	26	KC1TWA	William Caron	26	N1SIA	Thomas O'Hare	28
KB1MFU	John Ramadei	27	KC1TYO	Ken Williams	26	N1XXU	Andy Purchia	26
KB1RLF	Steven Chapman	26	KC1UJQ	Mark Kirschner	26	N1ZN	Jim Savage	26
KB1TBL	Dave Laliberte	26	KC1VCU	John Mandeville	26	N2CKD	Lovji Hakim	26
KB1TGS	David Robinson	27	KC1VJS	Anthony Lockery	27	N2TAG	Dave Taglianetti	26
KB1TTV	Jonathan Martin	26	KC1VQY	Michael Granoth	26	N2YCH	Conrad Trautmann	27
KB1YFJ	Glenn Couture	26	KC1VRG	Robert Shemo	26	N7VGA	Dennis Hanlon	26
KC1BQP	Paul St.Amand	26	KC1VUM	Matthew Erff	26	NA1L	Dale Clift	26
KC1CAB	Frank DiTerlizzi	27	KC1VVC	Joel Helfer	26	NR1B	Bill Huggins	26
KC1DOY	Ted Renzoni	27	KC1VZI	Joe DePaolo	26	NZ1J	Dave Tipping	27
KC1ERO	Jason Pintek	26	KC1WEX	Len Guercia	26	UT3UY	Anatoly Kirilenko	26
KC1HFO	Johannis Stodis	26	KC1WFB	Lloyd Saberski	26	W1AJK	Andrew Kazimer	26
KC1IIK	Scott Mowerson	26	KC1WNJ	Joe Capuano	26	W1BRY	Donald Chepurna	27
KC1ISI	Kristin Olsson	26	KC1YPA	Carl Gross	27	W1EDX	Paul Stasieluk	26
KC1KQH	John Kasinskas	26	KC1YSF	Kevin Murphy	26	W1HLP	Scott Martin	26
KC1MJZ	Michael Berube	26	KC1YUY	Joe Symcak	26	W1IHS	Jason Polaski	26
KC1NHE	Reed Hansen	26	KC1ZAO	Wayne Brooks	26	W1IKW	Iain K White	29

W1LV	Steve Morley	26	W4FMM	Bob Munro	26	WB1GFI	Stan Hiriak	26
W1NDT	Robert Lombardo	26	W9OTW	Deborah Foss	26	WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur	27
W1PRK	James Procaccini	27	WA1FFT	Ray Irwin	26	WB8IMY	Steve Ford	26
W1RCI	Ron Isaac Jr.	26	WA1INC	Roland Hamel	27	WJ1B	Harold Kramer	27
W1RWW	Bob Woodtke Jr.	26	WA1JKR	John Rogus	29	WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann	26
W1TK	Ron Wakefield	26	WA1K	Jack Chapman	26	-	Laurie Mallette	26
W1UFO	Mike Cei	26	WA1MAC	Paul Clark	27	-	Eran Netkin	26
W1UKX	Greg Gherardi	26	WA1SFH	Douglas Sharafanowich	26	-	Lucas Molloy	Y
W1YSM	Ed Snyder	26	WA1TRY	Rich Aubin	L	-	Spencer Rygiel	Y
W2PEU	Michael Toftness	26	WA1ZVY	Jim Martin	28			
W3APC	James Cook	27	WB1DQT	Bill Bacon	26			

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

