



## **Welcome Guide**

This document is a guide for newly joined MARC members welcoming you to the club and for existing members to be used as a reference reminder about the club. The club's official name is the Meriden Amateur Radio Club; however in 2015 the club adopted "Wallingford Amateur Radio Group" as a name to show synergy with the Town of Wallingford.

## **Club NETs**

There are three MARC Club NETs held weekly. The NETs are open NETs (talk about anything). The Nets are open to all MARC members and all licensed amateur radio operators. The NETs are:

- 6 meter net – 50.175 MHz, held each Monday evening at 8PM. Current net control – N1ZN.
- 2 meter net – Using W1KKF repeater (147.360 MHz, + 0.6 MHz offset, no PL), held each Tuesday evening at 7PM. Current net control – K1TDO
- 10 meter net – 28.375 MHz, held each Tuesday evening at 8PM. Current net control K1VDF.

## **Other NETs**

Other nets of interest to members can be found here:

[http://www.af1hs.com/CT\\_nets.html](http://www.af1hs.com/CT_nets.html)

This site also has good links to linked repeaters throughout CT.

WESCONN is an excellent training NET for mastering the passing of Radiogram messages.

<http://www.wescontraffic.net/>

## **Club Repeater**

MARC operates a 2m FM repeater W1KKF at a frequency of 147.360, +0.6 MHz, no PL. Club members are encouraged to use the repeater. Check out [www.qsl.net/wra](http://www.qsl.net/wra) for an interesting background on repeaters. The Wallingford Repeater Association is no longer a standalone organization since it was folded into the MARC a few years back. The site offers good etiquette tips and proper repeater use.

## **Official Club Website**

All members are encouraged to register on the MARC club web site using your call sign.

Registration request is located at the following URL:

<http://www.w1nrg.com/forum/member.php?action=register>

Once your request is seen by the site administrator (N1API) you will have access to the site's club areas. This site is updated often and contains Club Announcements, contesting information, latest meeting minutes and a forum section ( [www.w1nrg.com/forum/](http://www.w1nrg.com/forum/) ) where members can post questions for community responses. Additionally there is a chat room where registered members can Instant Message each other that are logged into the site.

The club website's URL is [www.w1nrg.com](http://www.w1nrg.com). If you change your call sign make sure you let the site administrator know so that your login credentials match your call sign. There also



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## Meriden Amateur Radio Club

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is a BBS-FORUM area where folks can list various items of interest ranging from contest scores, interference, radio issues and recommendations, etc. When replying to posts on the BBS-FORUM it's best to use the NEW REPLY key rather than the REPLY key.

### **Club meetings/Grounds/Building**

#### **Meetings**

MARC holds two meetings each month except for November and December. The second Thursday of each month is the club's business meeting while the fourth Thursday of the month is an activity meeting. The November business meeting is the MARC annual officer elections meeting and nomination meeting for Elmer of the Year and Ham of the Year. The December meeting is our annual Christmas Party. Business Meetings start promptly at 7:30PM and are usually over by 9PM. Activity Meetings generally start at 7:30PM and starting in 2017 there is a 'technology' pre-meeting before the 7:30PM Activity Meeting. Topics ranging from Packet Radio to how to operate N1MM+ are typical topics of these pre and regular Activity Meetings. It is highly recommended you review the Business Meeting minutes and KeyKlix to determine the topics for the Activity Meetings. Additional information can also be found on the club website ([w1nrg.com](http://w1nrg.com)) and by getting connected to the MARC reflector (read on)

Meetings are held at:

**Hope Hill Road Firehouse  
143 Hope Hill Road,  
Wallingford, CT. 06492**

Club membership is open to any Amateur Radio licensee (or non-license holder) with interest in Amateur Radio or in Emergency/Disaster Communications.

#### **Parking at the EOC**

The correct name for the building our club uses is the Wallingford Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This building is shared with other Emergency Services for the Town of Wallingford, such as the Medical Reserve Corp. When attending meetings or events at the EOC, parking is allowed next to the building and at Moran Middle School which is next to the EOC. Please do not park in front of the garage doors of the EOC.

#### **EOC house keeping**

The EOC is a shared building by several Wallingford Emergency Management organizations. Members using the EOC should respect the cleanliness of the building. The club membership is a tenant of this building and as such each member must keep the facility clean. At the end of each event, the kitchen and radio room garbage must be put in the dumpster outside by the small wooden building.



## **EOC Access**

Deputy civil Defense Director for the town of Wallingford, Leonard H. Guercia Jr., oversees the operation of the EOC. Currently in 2017 all MARC club officers have access to the building and the radio room (shack). Len's goal is to have card key access and each MARC member to gain access to the building. As of this writing (early 2017) card key access readers are not installed.

## **Back Ground Check**

In 2017 Wallingford instituted background checking for all tenants (using town equipment/buildings). This policy came with some resistance from the membership; however Len addressed the membership in January 2017 to explain the situation. All club members will have to submit the background check form to the Assistant Fire Chief (Steve Alsop). Forms are available from the MARC club secretary.

In some cases club members may not wish to go through the vetting process for a variety of reasons;

- Don't wish to participate in EMCOM events.
- Don't plan on operating during contest or ARRL events at the EOC.
- Don't anticipate needing or desire to use town equipment.
- Don't regularly attend club meetings

For folks falling in to such categories (or others), background check form completion is not a requirement for membership to the club. Folks falling into this category will be 'guests' at the EOC when attending club meetings and will not operate equipment in the building.

## **Communication with Membership**

### **E-mail communication**

There is an e-mail reflector maintained by N1GNV that MARC members, and others, can subscribe to and use. You can gain access to the reflector by sending an email to [N1GNV@ARRL.NET](mailto:N1GNV@ARRL.NET), sending an email to the reflector email address or via the form located at: [http://mail.meridenarc.com/mailman/listinfo/marc\\_members\\_meridenarc.com](http://mail.meridenarc.com/mailman/listinfo/marc_members_meridenarc.com) (this site also has historical access to postings to the reflector). Once approved by N1GNV, your email address will be added to the reflector list. The reflector is not limited to MARC members and N1GNV maintains this service. If you send an email to the reflector address then all members of the reflector will receive the email. This is a great announcement vehicle for club members. Use your best judgement when using the reflector and remember to reply to the sender and not to the reflector email address if you are sending a reply that you don't want the entire reflector membership to see.

The reflector email address is:



[marc\\_members@meridenarc.com](mailto:marc_members@meridenarc.com). (marc\_members@meridenarc.com).

The official club email address is [mail@w1nrg.com](mailto:mail@w1nrg.com)

## **Social Websites**

There is a Facebook page maintained by Steve (KC1SA) located at:

<https://www.facebook.com/MeridenARC/>

The Facebook page is another MARC place to find posts of club activity, contesting and general Amateur Radio posts.

## **Emergency Communication /Auxiliary Communication**

### **EMCOMM/AuxCom**

MARC is closely linked with the Wallingford Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). The Hope Hill Road Firehouse is home to both the Wallingford MRC and the MARC (The Cook Hill Firehouse is the MRC building). MARC has use of the facility for our club meetings and radio events. MARC currently has a permanent radio shack room whose primary use is EMMCOMM and secondary use as the MARC 'shack' for contesting. Folks with additional interest in EMMCOMM are encouraged to join the ARES Region 2

(<http://www.ctaresregion2.org/>) group. Wallingford Emergency Coordinator is Mike (KC1AYL). Region 2 District Emergency Coordinator is WA1SFH.

### **Equipment**

MARC has a Kenwood TS-690S for CW, Kenwood TS-450S radio for SSB, Kenwood TMV71A VHF/UHF radio, Alinco VHF radio, power supplies, Ten-Tec 238B antenna tuner, Ameritron AL-811H amplifier, a G5RV and 2 meter antenna installed at the club house, and an MFJ-259 HF/VHF antenna analyzer. The club equipment is not permanently set up but rather stowed until needed; however the plan is to have a station set up at the club house for member use. The MARC Station Activities Manager (SAM), currently KC1ACN, is responsible for all club equipment.

### **Contesting**

The MARC is active with several contesting and amateur radio events during the year. Notably the ARRL Field Day (last weekend in June), ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW and SSB), and The ARRL 10 Meter QSO Party are some events the club typically works as a club. Recently MARC operated the US Islands event in August as a club and qualified Islands CT035L and CT037R for our club call sign (W1NRG). The SAM or a group committee typically works up a list of volunteers that will operate shifts. Both SSB and CW modes are supported and operated based on interest level. The MARC has hosted Kids Day at the club site in the past. A goal of the club is to participate as a club (W1NRG) in 8 to 10 contests yearly. Club members are urged to participate in these events, typical schedule times vary by contest but a typical "shift" is for two hours. Contesting as a club is a great way to learn DX'ing techniques.



In addition to the MARC website ([www.w1nrg.com](http://www.w1nrg.com)) the following site is an excellent source of information of upcoming contests:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

### **Licensing testing and training**

MARC will hold testing for Amateur Radio licensing. Currently the MARC chair for VE testing is KE1AY. If interested in testing for license upgrading, send an email to our VE ([KE1AY@ARRL.NET](mailto:KE1AY@ARRL.NET)) requesting a testing session. The club encourages members to learn new aspects of the hobby such as CW and digital operating modes. In the past the club has held CW teaching sessions to help members master this mode of operation.

### **Trustee, QSL manager, Station Activity Manager**

Chris Sievert (WA1VXH) is the club W1NRG license trustee. The club QSL manager is Robert Kaczor (KE1AU). The Station Activity Manager is Rob Cichon (K1RCT). Rob oversees all club equipment. During contesting Rob ensures equipment is set up correctly, Robert maintains the database for all QSL's and the club currently logs to Logbook of the World (LoTW) and Chris is the trustee of the license.

### **Yearly events, Miscellaneous and other reminders**

The Nutmeg Hamfest and ARRL Connecticut State Convention is a part of the MARC. The Nutfest is held each October and has a very good following of vendors and attendees. Members of MARC are encouraged to attend and volunteer at the event and to assist in making the event a success.

The MARC Christmas Party is held each December for members and their significant other. The annual membership dues should be paid at this event and your dues are the member's entrance to the Christmas Party. Spouses/Significant Others can attend the Christmas Party as guests for \$15.

An annual scholarship is awarded by the MARC to a local high school senior student from Meriden or Wallingford. Details of the Frank Darmofalski Scholarship can be found on the MARC website.

The annual MS walk in Cheshire the MARC helps out with ARES region 2 by providing communication during the event. ARES and MARC are always looking for volunteers to assist at this event held each May.

The Fishbien 5k/10k road race in Wallingford is another event that ARES region 2 and MARC participate in. Each September this race is held and the MARC and ARES provide communication support for the event. MARC is always looking for volunteers to help with this event.



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KeyKlix is a monthly news bulletin published by club member K1WJL. This bulletin includes event recaps, short stories, member interviews, tips, trivia, etc. Dave (K1WJL) is our editor and publisher of KeyKlix, all members receive this via email from Dave a few days prior to each business meeting. If you aren't getting your copy, let Dave know. A few members don't have email access and Dave makes special delivery arrangements for those folks.

Meeting minutes are published by the club secretary soon after each business meeting and posted to the club website for members to review. Since not every member can attend meetings, the membership is encouraged to read through the minutes to stay abreast of news in the club. KeyKlix also will have these minutes included in that document as well.

### **Club Who's Who (2017)**

#### **2017 MARC Officers**

President: Bill – W1KKF

Vice-President: Al – N1API

Treasurer: Dave – K1WJL

Secretary: Steve – KC1SA

Station Activities Manager: Rob – K1RCT

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#### **Hope Hill EOC**

Emergency Management Director - Rich Heidgerd ([rheidgerd@wallingfordfd.com](mailto:rheidgerd@wallingfordfd.com))

Deputy Fire Chief: Stephen Alsup

Civil Defense Director: Ernest St. Amant

Deputy civil Defense Director - Leonard H. Guercia Jr. ([len@guerciagroup.com](mailto:len@guerciagroup.com))

Fire Department HQ – 75 Masonic Ave, Wallingford

#### **Club Committees**

**Technical** aka Technical and Interference

Rich – WA1TRY

#### **Publicity**

Jim – N1ZN

#### **Program and Entertainment**

Ed - W1YSM

#### **Scholarship**

Don - KE1AY - Chair

Jim - N1ZN

Rob – K1RCT

Bill - W1KKF

Dave - K1WJL

Steve - KC1SA

*Find and error? Want to have useful information added to this document? Send and email to the current MARC secretary (currently [KCISA@ARRL.NET](mailto:KCISA@ARRL.NET)) with suggestions*

*Rev 7, 3/2017*



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## **Education**

Steve – KC1SA – Chair  
Ed- W1YSM  
James – AB1DQ  
Rob – K1RCT  
John – K1LYP  
John – N1GNV

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## **QSL Manager**

Robert Kaczor – KE1AU – LoTW and Bureau

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## **Call Sign Trustees**

### **W1NRG**

Chris – WA1VXH

### **W1FD**

John – N1GNV

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## **Club Librarian**

Steve – WV2LKM

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## **Web Information**

### **Webmaster**

Mark – K1PU

### **Administrators**

Mark – K1PU  
Rob – K1RCT (Station Activities Manager)

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**Club Information:** [http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club\\_Information/Club\\_Information.html](http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club_Information/Club_Information.html)

### **History:**

[http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club\\_Information/MARC\\_History/MARC\\_History.html](http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club_Information/MARC_History/MARC_History.html)

### **Constitution and By-Laws**

[http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club\\_Information/Constitution/Constitution.html](http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club_Information/Constitution/Constitution.html)

### **Become a member**

[http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club\\_Information/join\\_us/join\\_us.html](http://www.w1nrg.com/website/Club_Information/join_us/join_us.html)



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