



# KEY KLIX



*The Monthly Newsletter of the Meriden ARC April-May-June 2011*

## **New Meeting Place**

Our first official meeting at the Cook Hill Fire House will be held on June 14th, 2012. All meetings from that date on will be at that location. All meetings will start at 7:30 PM. Please attend this meeting and check out the new meeting room, kitchen and facilities.

You will find a map with directions on page two. The map and directions are also posted on the club forum .

## **Operation Operate 2012**

As we head into the summer season with comfortable outside temperatures and facing the challenges of cutting another season's worth of New England grass, I plan to spend a lot of time staring out my front window in the home office / radio room at K1SEZ. Although it's not uncomfortable being inside the house even in the hot summer days and nights thanks to Dr. Carrier's wonderful invention of air conditioning, we humans tend to stay outside more in the sunny, warm weather, and it's good that we do, needing the vitamin D from the sun. That's a good thing.

I propose that we encourage our MARC folks to blow the dust off the rigs, check the antenna connections, and power up on the HF bands! We could call it "OPERATION OPERATE" or "OO" for short.

Recently at an MARC activity night, I was amazed to overhear some comments from well-known, old timer MARC guys about how long it's been since they had a ragchew on the air (other than the 2 meter local repeater) or even operated on the HF bands! I always hear about needing a new antenna or fixing up the old rig...The other discouraging words I hear occasionally is how poor the bands are ... even with the new solar cycle 24...but, like the bumble bee that theoretically can't fly according to aerodynamic theory, it's still very easy to work DX or have

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**Op. Ed.  
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**From the Editor**

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**Station Activity**

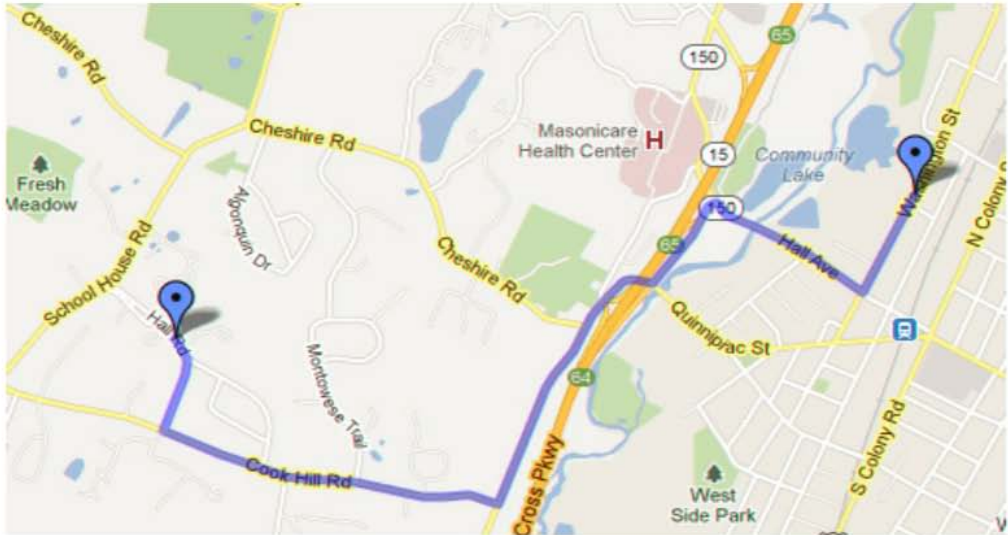
**Nutmeg Hamfest**

**Castle Craig**

**The Prez Sez**

**The Old Sock**

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Driving directions to new meeting place (Cook Hill Fire Station)

Leaving old place (next to senior citizen building) 284 Washington St Wallingford, CT 06492

1. Head southwest on Washington St toward Silk St 0.3 mi
2. Take the 3rd right onto CT-150 N/Hall Ave 0.4 mi
3. Take the 2nd left onto River Rd 0.2 mi
4. Take the 1st right onto Quinnipiac St 0.2 mi
5. Continue onto S Turnpike Rd 0.5 mi
6. Turn right onto Cook Hill Rd 0.8 mi
7. Turn right onto Hall Rd Destination will be on the left 0.2 mi

If you know the area, Cook Hill Road runs West off South Turnpike Road next to the Oakdale Theater. Cook Hill Road also runs East off Rte 10 in Cheshire. Easy on and off the Merritt Parkway (Rte 15)

## **NOTE !! This month's Activity (June) will be on June 21**

This will be our Field Day “Load the truck” activity  
FD is on the last FULL weekend this year .. which  
is the 23rd and 24th of the month.

We are moving our activity date up a week!

MARC ... your calendars

## *(Operation Operate)*

wonderful rag chews all around the world with a 100 watts and a simple dipole (G5RV) antenna even though the Solar Flux Index is under 100!

For fun a few weeks ago, I stumbled across an SKCC (Straight Key Century Club) CW sprint contest around 14.050 MHz, and decided to see how many Q's were possible. (For the newbies, a Sprint ham radio contest is rather short in time from start to finish, as few as a couple of hours to perhaps 12 hours, compared to a 24 hour activity like Field Day or the 48 hours of the ARRL Sweepstakes contests.) At the end of the contest, I had recorded 31 Qs and finished about half way up the national SKCC scoreboard of submitted logs, while having a lot of fun doing CW at about 10 - 12 wpm with the old 1940's J-38 key.

Last week, Friday was a kind of slow morning for me and external commitments, and I noted that I did not have many recent SSB QSOs in the log, so I tuned up on 20 meters in the SSB portions, stuck the mike boom in front of my face, called CQ and recorded 3 quick contacts, the last of which went for 25 minutes with a guy in Iowa. Then to round out the day, I moved into the RTTY area of 20 (14.080 to 14.090 MHz) and worked a couple of DX stations running just my Kenwood TS-2000 at 50 watts! So much for low sun spots or lack of a rotating yagi! For some unexplainable reason, many of us are reluctant to call CQ. If enough ops did that, the bands would truly be "dead"! Last year, I added the MFJ Voice Keyer to my shack, which allows me to record a verbal CQ message that will repeat itself, saving me from having to make the effort myself. It's very handy when SSB contests come up, and easily doubles your score by using it!

That MFJ Voice Keyer has "enabled" me to get onto a SSB frequency, call "Is this frequency in use?" a few times, and then hit the CQ button. Usually, I get a response back within less than 10 CQ transmissions! I don't think I can remember ever calling CQ and not getting a response!

This is with only 100 watts to my G5RV dipole in the back yard... on 20, 17, or 12 meters.

Check out your own logs...and your ideas of what you'd like to be doing in ham radio. If getting into CW is on your schedule, then I urge you to check out the SKCC website at <http://www.skccgroup.com/> and see how easy it is to find slow, manual keying CW contacts. There is an erroneous belief that to work CW, one needs to operate at 25 wpm. NOT TRUE! The vast majority of ops will always drop to your speed and exchange signal reports and the weather at 10 wpm. They are pleased as punch to encourage you with nice, slow CW.

Most of my CW rag-chewing, casual contact QSOs is done at 18 to 20 wpm. To me, a good CW op at 18 wpm is like poetry, or a Bach string quartet ensemble... with the CW guy most wanting to be clean and consistent in his sending.

If you're a committed SSB voice guy, perhaps adding a Voice Keyer will leverage you into calling CQ more frequently!

During several recent SSB contests, I've been surprised to hear a few local guys on the air, chasing the same station that I'm after... and then if you slid up a KC or so, you can say HI briefly on 20m or 10m.

To wrap up this suggestion, perhaps our club's president can ask for verbal reports or anecdotes just before closing the business meeting, and many of us can give a quickie verbal "report" on our Operation Operate activities during the monthly business meetings in "New Business" and how much enjoyment on the "dead" HF bands we had! You know, ham radio "life" is alive and well beyond the local 2 meter repeater!

***CU on the air... 73, K1SEZ, Paul Ciezniak***

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## Dial

### Dash-L for DX

One of the Local QRPers came by the other day, and he was carrying a laptop computer and a pair of handie-talkies. "I've found the perfect way to work DX!" he proclaimed. It's so much easier than chasing HF propagation, or listening to Red-Eyed Louie's reports on the DX he's heard lately. Besides, Louie's job has been replaced with packet clusters. Who needs him anymore, for that matter?" "How are you going to work DX without understanding propagation?" we asked carefully. "Simple!" the QRPer began, "And I'm here to show you how it's done." We just looked on as he opened up his laptop and started plugging in cables and hooking up adapters. "Shouldn't you bring that into the shack?" we asked, "That's where all the HF gear is, and all the antenna connections are." The QRPer grinned and simply said, "Don't need it. I'm working on 2-meter DXCC. I want to be the first in the world to do it, too!"

"How are you going to work DX without radios and antennas? And you and I both know you can't work 2-meter DXCC without repeaters or satellites. Repeater assisted contacts don't count for DXCC, and if you do it by satellite, it's a Satellite DXCC, not 2-meters. "

"Just watch me." He said mysteriously, reaching down and unplugging our phone from its wall jack and plugging in a line from his computer. We shoved our cap back on our head, scratched a bit, and pulled the cap back forward. "What are you doing with the phone lines?" we asked, wondering if he was up to something illegal. The QRPer looked up at us in consternation. "Don't be so foolish." He said, "I know better than that. I'm hooking the laptop up to my ISP." We didn't know exactly what an ISP was, but we thought back to the wisdom of the quote "Better to remain silent and be

thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt."

As soon as he had things set up to his satisfaction, he typed in a few lines and the computer squawked and squealed for a few seconds. "There", he said, "I'm connected." We said quietly, wondering what was he was connected to. "Here's how it works." he began, "I'm dialed into the Internet with my laptop, and I've got my 2-meter handie-talkie connected to the computer with a RigBlaster. Follow me?" We nodded, for although we still weren't sure on the ISP part, we knew what a RigBlaster was, and we knew what the Internet was. We were just as happy that the QRPer was content to stay out of my shack.

"Now, here's how it works", he said, stepping back and holding the second 2-meter handie-talkie. All I do is key up the EchoLink node number of the station I want to work on my DTMF keypad here. I've got this radio on the same simplex frequency as the one connected to the laptop with the RigBlaster. Just using 250 milliwatts, too! That will select the DX station from the EchoLink list and connect us by VoIP. Then I just talk to them and bingo! I've got a DX QSO. I can connect to anywhere in the world! This is pretty slick, right."

We didn't know what to say. We decided to ask for clarification, in spite of our previous decision to not remove the doubt of our being thought a fool. "What's an EchoLink and VoIP?" The QRPer gave us a pained look and answered "EchoLink is the controlling software that runs on my laptop, and VoIP is Voice Over Internet Protocol. Where have you been the last year or so?"

We decided not to argue and simply replied, "OK, we understand. So where's the DX?" The QRPer's look of exasperation increased and he blurted out, "Where it's always been, in those far away lands over the horizon like VK, ZL, and in all of Europe and Asia and in the Caribbean and the like. Where did you think it

would be? On my laptop?"

At this point we still weren't sure, so we just nodded and the QRPer punched a few codes into his handie-talkie. Then he called a GM station. We jumped back as the Scottish accent called him right back. Son of a Gun! We were impressed, but not convinced this was DXing. The QRPer exchanged a few more words with the GM station, ending it all by saying, "And be sure to QSL by the bureau, 73s." Up until the "73s" we had managed to take things in stride, but enough was enough. "What kind of foolishness have you dreamt up this time?" we roared! "Every time you start playing with computers, you come up with some way to cheat your way into more DXCC points, or to bend the rules, or to keep acting like you just were licensed last month! You know better than this!"

The QRPer took a step backwards and then glared right back into our eyes. "Look Buster, just because you didn't think of it doesn't mean it isn't right. It's not just my idea, either! There are almost 1000 EchoLink users around, maybe even twice that many. This is the wave of the future, and it's time you threw away that CW and SSB technology from the last century and joined us modern DXers! There is nothing illegal or immoral about this. It's new technology, and just because I'm smart enough to figure out how to get my 2-meter DXCC with it doesn't mean it's cheating!"

"Isn't DXCC supposed to use a radio?!" we belted back at him. "You're talking into a computer with a handheld! It's going through our phone line somehow and connecting to another computer in Scotland. Where's the 2-way radio QSO?"

"Right here in my hand and in the GM's hand in Edinburgh!" he screeched back, getting beet red and shaking his handie-talkie at us. "It's a good contact!" We took a deep breath and counted to 10. "How do you know he has a radio in Edinburgh?" we asked slowly, trying to bring the conversation back down to a civil lev

el. "Because he has a Dash-L after his call sign. That means he has a link to a radio, the same as I have! And if he didn't have a Dash-L, there'd just be his call, and I'd know he was just using his computer microphone and speakers. But this fellow has a Dash-L, so it's a good contact!"

"How does the Dash-L get stuck after his call?" we asked quietly. "He typed it there when he set up his EchoLink software." was the quick reply. We leaned over and looked at the computer screen. A few of the calls had Dash-R after them, and a few more had Dash-L, but most had nothing but the call. "What does the Dash-R mean?" we asked. "Repeater!" the QRPer snapped back at us. "I can't use those for DXCC because they are connected to repeaters, but the Dash-L ones are good."

We looked a bit more and said, "That station in Hong Kong, if he were to stick a Dash-L after his call, or if that LZ or GD were to do the same, and if they still used their computer microphone and speakers, how would you know?"

"How would I know? How would I know!! I'd know because Hams are honest, especially DXers. No True Blue DXer would ever think of doing something like that." He looked at us for a moment, then snapped off his 2-meter rigs, unplugged his computer from the wall and began packing things up in their case. "There is no sense talking to people like you." he said as he stomped out the door, "I try to show you how DXing will be in the new millennium and you're still in the dark ages."

There is no point trying to explain the Eternal Enigmas of DXing or the Mysteries of the Ages to someone who isn't ready to understand them. So we just watched him trudge down the hill with his laptop and handie-talkies under his arm. DX IS!

***(Tnx to Paul VE1DX) GD***

# Secretary Report & Minutes of Meriden Amateur Radio Club

## March 2012

The business meeting opened at 1933 on March 8, 2012 with approximately 10 people in attendance. A quorum was present. Jim N1ZN presided.

### Announcements -

- Introductions
- Activity meeting - Thurs, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 PM Surplus Equipment Auction by WA1TRY.

### Secretary's Report -

- Previous minutes accepted as presented and published.

### Treasurer's Report -

- Treasurer's report accepted as presented.

### Contributions

- None

### Correspondence

- None.

### Scholarship (KE1AY)

- Letters to schools out end of January.
- Applications due end of April.

### Club Station & Facilities - (WA1TRY-SAM)

- New Kenwood TM-V71A 2 meter 440 FM rig has been received and will be installed as part of relocated MARC shack.
- Preparing to move all MARC possessions to the new location.
- Move to the Fire House building is still under development. Stay tuned to Key Klix and the MARC forum for evolving details.

### Club Activities & Program (KB1CIW & KB1FYL-P&E Co-Chair)

- Upcoming activity meetings
  - § March Penny Auction of accumulated MARC equipment.
  - § April Setting up Ebay auctions with Mike K1MVM
  - § May Message handling and NTS forms with WA1TRY
  - § June Field Day preparation and history slide show.
- February Activity Message Handling forms and operation by Rich WA1TRY.
- Potential future activities: LOTW by ARRL, trip to W1AW, and Tune-UP Nite by K1VDF
- Upcoming contests
  - § CQ WPX-Phone weekend March 24-25. MARC shack will available.
  - § New England QSO Party May 5-6.

### Nets - All nets are doing well. Reports in Key Klix & MARC forum.

- HF-SSB 28.375 Tuesdays at 8:00 PM, Primary NC John K1VDF.
- VHF-FM 147.36R Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, Primary NC Bob KB1CIW.
- VHF-SSB 50.175 Mondays at 8 PM, Primary NC Jim N1ZN.

### Castle Craig - (N1API-CM & CP)

- 10/10 QSO parties: SSB Aug 4-5, 2012; Digital Apr 28-29, 2012 & Nov 10-11, 2012; CW May 5-6, 2012 & Oct 20-21, 2012.
- Band has been up and down. Certificate activity moderate.

### **Membership - (KB1HCC)**

- Forty-four (44) 2012 members more or less.

### **Interference and Technical - (WA1TRY)**

- Nothing to report.

### **Instruction - (VE-KE1AY, Instruction Facilitator - Open)**

- Additional testing and classes will be announced.
- We need a training coordinator/facilitator. **Step up and help!!**

### **Candy Store - (N1ZN)**

- See Jim N1ZN for availability and details.

### **Key Klix - (WA1TRY & staff)**

- See March Key Klix for additional information.

### **EmComm - (WA1VXH)**

- There will be an MS walk-a-thon in Cheshire on April 22nd. We seem to be the only or one of the very few clubs supporting these activities. Be sure to contact Chris WA1VXH to help.
- Chris WA1VXH has submitted a request to the town for use of Marcus Cooke Park for Field Day.

### **Nutmeg Hamfest (October 2012)**

- With the likely purchase of Mountain Ridge by a non-profit group New Life Church, the availability of the site for the 2012 Nutfest is in question. Additional sites are being looked into, but size, cost, volunteer needs are all considerations for a venue selection.

### **Miscellaneous**

- The First United Methodist Church may not be available for the Annual Party in December due to a change in directors. A new venue and/or format will be considered before it becomes a last minute crisis.

### **50/50 None**

Meeting Adjourned about 20:20

***Submitted: Dan Murphy W1DMM, Secretary***

## Op Ed.

REMARKS FROM PAUL CIEZNIAK, K1SEZ, REGARDING THE SUGGESTION TO LABEL THE MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (MARC) AS "MIDSTATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB"...

Last week, I put a question and suggestion on our on-line BBS whether we should change the name by which we are known. My thought was to update the identification with a wider geographic area, and has nothing to do with how our club is considered by the town of Wallingford.

In my opinion, a more generic, mid-state name identification may be more inviting to hams who live in this area, and as already suggested on the BBS site, we don't have to legally change our incorporation papers or other legal entities, but simply identify ourselves differently when advertising on flyers, newspapers, or the ARRL website of clubs.

I recognize that the club was founded in 1947, which was 65 years ago, and has stood the test of time for organization and sustainability. It has provided leadership in ham radio circles in contesting, making new hams with educational workshops, and supporting emergency communications for area activities.

Here in the 2<sup>nd</sup> decade of this new century, we can offer the ham radio hobby to our local geography with a slightly amended name, keep our monogram MARC, and create a newer image for new members throughout the region.

I would like to make a motion that a committee of 3 members from the general club roster be nominated by the president to consider this new club label and report back to the club for the July 2012 Key Klix edition.

***Submitted by Paul, K1SEZ***

## From the Editor

As usual your disorganized editor is behind the eight-ball once again. Sorry about the delay.

I'm finally getting caught up after spending a lot of time trying to figure out a new desktop publishing program. Ah .. I guess it's true that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. After two months of frustration I reverted to the old program. In the mean time though, while comparing the new editor to the old one, I was able to fix a few bugs in the old software that is actually making it even easier to compile each issue..

This all started with my wanting to be able to use a "merge print" function. Having to print and apply labels is a pain. Even for the few that we mail out via snail mail. Alas, this old desktop publisher just can't do it. Truth be told, this old application is a throw back to the days of Windows 3.11. Yeah, before 95 in fact. And it really works well in my Windows 7 64-bit system. Incredible and hard to believe.

The bad news is that I'm still not up to speed with the new software yet. But the good news is that I've fixed a few things in the old software that should save me more time.

If only I could get the merge print to work I would be a happy camper.

OR .. maybe everyone in the club could sign up for the electronic PDF version ?? Wow, no more printing, folding, labeling, and sealing. Those are the things that take all the time. And this month's issue (April, May, and June combined) is going to take a lot of printing, folding, labeling and sealing.

Now that the current, past, and future issues of the Key Klix are all available on the club forum, I wonder if we really need to keep sending out snail mail versions. The price of postage is going up, and delivery is getting worse.

***73, Rich WA1TRY Editor***



# Secretary Report & Minutes of Meriden Amateur Radio Club

## April 2012

The business meeting opened at 1933 on April 12, 2012 with approximately 16 people in attendance. A quorum was present.

### **Announcements -**

- Introductions
- Activity meeting - Thurs, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM NTS Handling and Forms by WA1SFH.

### **Secretary's Report -**

- Previous minutes accepted as presented.

### **Treasurer's Report -**

- Treasurer's report accepted as presented.

### **Contributions**

- None

### **Correspondence**

- None.

### **Scholarship (KE1AY)**

- Applications due end of April.

### **Club Administration**

- Motion by Paul K1SEZ second by WA1TRY to form a committee looking into a "label of The Meriden Amateur Radio Club as Midstate Amateur Radio Club" Motion passed after long discussion. The committee to report back in July 2012. (Aye 11, Nay 4, NV 1)
- Committee members are: Paul K1SEZ, Dan W1DMM, and John N1GNV.

### **Club Station & Facilities - (WA1TRY-SAM)**

- Preparing to move all MARC possessions to the new location.
- Move to the Fire House building is getting closer. Stay tuned to Key Klix and the MARC forum for evolving details.

### **Club Activities & Program (KB1CIW & KB1FYL-P&E Co-Chair)**

- Upcoming activity meetings
  - § April NTS Handling and Forms by WA1SFH
  - § May Setting up Ebay auctions with Mike K1MVM
  - § June Field Day preparation and history slide show.
- Potential future activities: LOTW by ARRL, trip to W1AW, and Tune-UP Nite by K1VDF
- Upcoming contests
  - § CQ WPX-Phone weekend March 24-25. No interest.
  - § New England QSO Party May 5-6.

### **Nets - All nets are doing well. Reports in Key Klix & MARC forum.**

- HF-SSB 28.375 Tuesdays at 8:00 PM, Primary NC John K1VDF.
- VHF-FM 147.36R Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, Primary NC Bob KB1CIW.
- VHF-SSB 50.175 Mondays at 8 PM, Primary NC Jim N1ZN.

### **Castle Craig - (N1API-CM & CP)**

- 10/10 QSO parties: SSB Aug 4-5, 2012; Digital Apr 28-29, 2012 & Nov 10-11, 2012; CW May 5-6, 2012 & Oct 20-21, 2012.
- Band has been up and down. Certificate activity moderate.

### **Membership - (KB1HCC)**

- Forty-six (46) 2012 members more or less.

### **Interference and Technical - (WA1TRY)**

- Nothing to report.

### **Instruction - (VE-KE1AY, Instruction Facilitator - Open)**

- Additional testing and classes will be announced.
- We need a training coordinator/facilitator. **Step up and help!!**

### **Candy Store - (N1ZN)**

- See Jim N1ZN for availability and details.

### **Key Klix - (WA1TRY & staff)**

- April issue delayed.

### **Field Day (June 23 & 24)**

- Marcus Cooke Park has been approved for the 2012 site.
- Gurus: CW W1KKF, SSB N1ZN, Sat W1KKF/KB1FYL, Food N1GNV, Power WA1VXH/WA1TRY.
- Need Gurus: VHF & GOTA stations.

### **EmComm - (WA1VXH)**

- There will be an MS walk-a-thon in Cheshire on April 22nd. We seem to be the only or one of the very few clubs supporting these activities. Be sure to contact Chris WA1VXH to help.
  - There will be a statewide SET July 28 & 29 sponsored by CT-DEMHS, CT ARES will be active in the comms areas. More details forthcoming. Nutmeg Hamfest (October 2012)
  - With the purchase of Mountain Ridge by a non-profit group New Life Church, the availability of the site for the 2012 Nutfest is no longer an option. A new site is being looked into, size, cost, volunteer needs are all considerations for a venue selection.
- but

### **Miscellaneous**

- The First United Methodist Church may not be available for the Annual Party in December due to a change in directors. A new venue and/or format will be considered before it becomes a last minute crisis.

**50/50 None**

Meeting Adjourned about 20:46

**Submitted: Dan Murphy W1DMM, Secretary**

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## **Secretary Report & Minutes of Meriden Amateur Radio Club May 2012**

The business meeting opened at 1933 on May 10, 2012 with approximately 12 people in attendance. A quorum was present.

## **Announcements -**

- Introductions
- Activity meeting - Thurs, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

## **Secretary's Report -**

- Previous minutes accepted as presented.

## **Treasurer's Report -**

- Treasurer's report accepted as presented.

## **Contributions**

- None

## **Correspondence**

- None.

## **Scholarship (KE1AY)**

- Letters out. \$300 scholarship planned. No applications received to date.

## **Club Station & Facilities - (WA1TRY-SAM)**

- Preparing and loading possessions for move to the new location.
- Move to the Fire House building is getting closer. Stay tuned to Key Klix and the MARC forum for evolving details. (Post meeting note: Looks like move will be by the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.)
- Discussion on moving tower with Dir. Emer. Manager Ernie and town DPW.

## **Club Activities & Program (KB1CIW & KB1FYL-P&E Co-Chair)**

- Upcoming activity meetings
  - April NTS Handling and Forms by WA1SFH
  - May Packet and PSK.
  - June Field Day preparation and history slide show. **A week early on June 21<sup>st</sup>.**
  - July Picnic at Hubbard Park.
  - Aug Internet/eBay selling with K1MVM
- Potential future activities: LOTW by ARRL, trip to W1AW, and Tune-UP Nite by K1VDF
- Upcoming contests
  - ARRL June VHF QSO party.

## **Nets - All nets are doing well. Reports in Key Klix & MARC forum.**

- HF-SSB 28.375 Tuesdays at 8:00 PM, Primary NC John K1VDF.
- VHF-FM 147.36R Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, Primary NC Bob KB1CIW.
- VHF-SSB 50.175 Mondays at 8 PM, Primary NC Jim N1ZN.

## **Castle Craig - (N1API-CM & CP)**

- 10/10 QSO parties: SSB Aug 4-5, 2012; Digital Apr 28-29, 2012 & Nov 10-11, 2012; CW May 5-6, 2012 & Oct 20-21, 2012.
- Band has been up and down. Certificate activity moderate.

## **Membership - (KB1HCC)**

- Forty-nine (49) 2012 members more or less.

## **Interference and Technical - (WA1TRY)**

- Nothing to report.

## **Instruction - (VE-KE1AY, Instruction Facilitator - Open)**

- Additional testing and classes will be announced.
- We need a training coordinator/facilitator. **Step up and help!!**

### **Candy Store - (N1ZN)**

- See Jim N1ZN for availability and details.

### **Key Klix - (WA1TRY & staff)**

- May issue delayed.

### **Field Day (June 23 & 24)**

- Marcus Cooke Park has been approved for the 2012 site.
- Will be loading and transporting on Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Gurus: CW W1KKF, SSB KB1HCC, VHF - N1ZN, Sat W1KKF/KB1FYL, Food N1GNV, Power WA1VXH/WA1TRY.
- Need Gurus: GOTA station.
- All stations are looking for ops. Contact the respective Guru to schedule your slots. EmComm - (WA1VXH)
- Next event is the Fishbien 5K/10K race in September 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:00 AM start till about noon. Contact Chris WA1VXH to help.
- There will be a statewide SET July 28 & 29 sponsored by CT-DEMHS, CT ARES will be active in the comms areas. More details forthcoming. Nutmeg Hamfest (October 2012)
- With the purchase of Mountain Ridge by a non-profit group New Life Church, the availability of the site for the 2012 Nutfest is no longer an option. A new site is being looked into, but size, cost, volunteer needs are all considerations for a venue selection.

### **Miscellaneous**

- The First United Methodist Church may not be available for the Annual Party in December due to a change in directors. A new venue and/or format will be considered.
- Venues are being explored. W1KKF checked Viola's; all seem to be in \$18 plus tax & gratuity range.

### **50/50 None**

Meeting Adjourned about 20:29

**Submitted: Dan Murphy W1DMM, Secretary**

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## **Station Activities**

Over the last couple months I've been packing up things and getting ready for the big move. Recently I started pulling out all the coax cables and rotor lines from the old building. All that is left is to cut the cables at the antennas and pull those last few coax cables down.

I still have a ton of coax that was routed through out the building. Some will be left in place but most will be re-purposed. All of the

coax is relatively new and in excellent condition. I'll be labeling all the coaxes with dates and lengths. These will be special industrial strength labels that (hopefully) will not fall off. Next up is the actual moving of all the equipment and field day stuff (presently stored in the garage) to the new location. I've purchased three nice sturdy carry cases that will hold our three station "go kits" for Field Day. These have nice handles, and locking hasps and a padlock can be used to secure them. The old boxes are being used to store other equipment

like the club's history documents and other things that need to be in a sealed container . Just before or after Field Day I will start to disassemble the station console. That will be installed in the back of the new meeting room. We are still looking at antenna options. At a minimum we need a dual band 2m and 70cm vertical for our emergency communications with ARES and others. Also, I'm incorporating a packet station in the VHF/UHF section of the console. If needed, we could put those antennas in the attic. We have gone from sea level to a few hundred feet above sea level, and the Cook Hill site is going to be a great place to operate an emergency station. Coverage is surprisingly good.

Long ago, when I was the EC for Wallingford, we had an exercise where we sent a few teams of operators to various spots in the town. This was to check communications from the radio emergency site to those remote sites. We had a "plan" showing all the major roads in and out of Wallingford and the various town shelters and other town offices and tested communications with various transmitter power levels. We will need to do this again for the new site. From our experience years ago when we were using the site for the repeater, we had very good coverage, throughout the town of Wallingford as well as the neighboring towns. Setting up an emergency communications station in the old Cook Hill Fire Station will be a valuable asset for the town.

Myself and Chris WA1VXH are at the old place every "off meeting" Thursday evening. We welcome help. There will be someone there by 7 to 7:30 PM on those Thursdays. I plan to work there for a couple hours and would welcome any help. There is still a lot to do. So for now, remember the club meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays every month at the NEW meeting place. And on "non-meeting" Thursdays, I will be running a work party at the old place .. around 7 PM. I'll be monitoring 36.

***See you there, Rich WA1TRY - SAM***

## **Nutmeg Still Looking for a Home**

It's getting down to crunch time. At present we are looking at Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford,, the Four Points Sheridan in Meriden and the Oakdale Theater in Wallingford. The Oakdale is a tad out of our budget, and so far we haven't been able to wrangle a deal. The School would be a great spot .. plenty of parking for patrons and tailgaters and lots of room for inside vendors. But the paper work and red tape are a hassle. Still it looks like a good deal financially for the Nutmeg Hamfest and it's sponsor, MARC. There are insurance issues which we are checking out.

The Four Points Sheridan Hotel is somewhat smaller and poses some minor complications, none of which are deal breakers.

The School seems to be the ideal set up. We would have the place to ourselves, and could set up tailgating etc. without any problems. I'm pretty sure by having the Meriden Amateur Club sponsor the event, our club liability policy could come into play. And that would save us a ton of money in the long run.

We will be needing more volunteers this year, as some of the workers at the old Mountain Ridge complex were provided by Mountain Ridge. They handled traffic and parking for us. They also provided a food venue and a PA system (that sort of worked), tables, chairs and also had their own insurance. We paid a lot but they provided a lot and of course it was a great place for a hamfest.

The Oakdale Theater would be great and of course they would be providing a lot of things like Mountain Ridge did. But they are talking about 6 or 7 thousand bucks. Pretty much out of our budget I'm afraid.

More later after we have another Nutmeg BOD meeting.

## Castle Craig News

Today, (Tuesday the 4th), I got a call from Ken, K1IEQ one of the directors of 10-10. He asked me if I was interested in Castle Craig being the host chapter for the next 10-10 International Convention to be held next year in the Summer sometime, (date to be determined as described below). I did not commit to anything, but I did tell Ken that I would talk about this in the Newsletter and on the BBS and also at a meeting just to see "what happens"

Ken is going to a Board of Directors Meeting next month in Atlanta, Ga. He is the Director in Charge of finding a chapter to host the bi-annual convention. He would like to see another convention on the East Coast. The last one he put on was in Worcester, MA in 2001 and it was one of the best ever done. He said they "pulled it off" with the help of only 5 people. Ken said that the chapter that hosts the convention would be in charge of finding a place to hold it, which would be a hotel that could handle a group of about 75 to 150 people. (Rough estimate based on last two or so conventions).

Now he did not go into a lot of detail, but from previous conventions and a little help that I did when I was at them, I know that the hotel would need to be able to reserve a block of rooms at a set price for a few days before, during and after the convention. Usually the days would be like a Tuesday to a Tuesday maybe a two week reserve may be best. The reason being that the Board of Directors usually meet at least one day and possibly two before the convention, so they and possibly the some from the sponsoring chapter would be arriving early and staying a day after. So may some of the convention attendees, some may be making a big vacation of it. You should know that there will probably be a good attendance from hams of foreign countries, especially Germany. Over 90% of the attendees were from Germany, (they are the chapters staunchest supporters) at the previous three conventions. But you can also expect people from Great Britain, Canada, and

possibly some South American, Australian and New Zealand members.

These next few paragraphs are from what I know from attending conventions and what was told to me by different directors. What is needed is that the place has to have a meeting room large enough for about 30 people for the board meeting, Wednesday and Thursday I'll say. The reason so large is so that people who want to drop in and attend who are members of 10-10 can have a place to sit, (most of the time it is along an one of the walls in back or beside the board table, but can be like a gallery). Also a place with free Wi-Fi at least in the public areas is not a requirement but a big advantage. If the rooms have free Wi-Fi that is a big draw.

The Chapter does not run the actual convention, that is done by 10-10 as far as meetings, chapter activities or nets. There is a big commitment from them in other areas though.

Required would be a room for the chapter activities large enough to hold about 150 people at a time with tables for maybe 35 or so chapters. This is usually Friday and Saturday. The tables would need to be able have electricity wired by extension cords or plugins in back if they are around 3 or 4 walls. Not all tables would need electricity some in the center of the room if needed would just be tables and chairs. Also the room should have an area that can seat people who want to "rest" and don't have rooms in the hotel and also could be used as a general meeting area, PA system may be needed, maybe rented or supplied by the hotel. There may also be a need for some small areas like meeting rooms for small forums. Finally a 10 meter station needs to be set up. The equipment needs to be loaned from someone either attending or by the sponsoring chapter. They would need to set up the station and an outside antenna of some type. This is for the Saturday "parking lot net". and also for anyone that wants to work the convention while it is going on the station would be up at least Friday and Saturday.

The chapter would also need to find and possibly book a place for a Saturday night banquet and also a Sunday morning buffet breakfast, if the hotel can handle that it would be best so that a lot of transportation to them would not be needed, (PA again possibly). I not sure if they need to set the menu, (more about this later).

Lastly there should be at least one off campus activity planned maybe for a Saturday but there can also be something done on Friday too, maybe a shopping trip. This is usual planned as being for the spouses and children of those attending who are not hams and wish to "site-see" and should be for 25 to 50 people, (could be more). I myself have found it to be part of the convention that I look forward to as usually when I go it's someplace that I've never been to and probably would not visit on my own again, (the area not the activity), the last two conventions did not have any group trips planned and was a big disappointment to the people that went.

As an aside when I went to Florida, we were near Disney and also Cape Kennedy and those would have been just great, especially the Cape, in St. Louis I went out the the train museum on Monday.

I have not been involved in the finance but I believe that the sponsoring chapter is given "seed money" to start and then receives reimbursement for any monies spent, I strongly believe that the chapter donates only time. As I said I am not sure of all the exact things needed this is just a quick, (yea right), article about what I know off the top of my head. There is a "guide" that is written about giving conventions and Ken, K1IEQ said that he would be willing to come down to the club and give a presentation about 10-10 conventions, what is required and all that is involved. He would do this with no commitment needed to agree to do a convention by the club.

Any interest in this at all I would like to hear from members, (10-10 or otherwise), also if we are interested in a talk by Ken I would like to

know. The time frame is a little more than a year to go before the next convention, but I would think that if there is an interest Ken needs to know by the end of June. He can come most anytime for either an activity or special or even a regular meeting. I don't think that this has to be in the next few weeks if the club says, let's do this on a whim, but once we commit is it written in stone, we can't back out, if we do then 10-10 has to pick the ball up and that won't make for happy people as you can guess. Dates as I mentioned are not set they can be in July or August to take advantage of summer vacations for families.

**AI - N1API**  
**CH / CM Castle Craig Chapter of 10-10**

## **The Prez Sez:**

Hi Friends:

This classic was first published nearly 20 years ago in a Virginia Club's newsletter. It's time for a refresher course for many of us. I've heard at least 18 or 20 of these on our own '36 repeater in the past few days. Please take a minute and think "does this apply to me?"

### **HOW TO SOUND LIKE A LID**

by Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

In many areas I have noticed a tendency of people making a distinct effort to sound like a "LID" on the local repeater. Since this appears to be the new style in Amateur Radio, I thought I would present this incomplete guide to radio LID-dom. The following is what I call: "How to sound like a Lid in one easy lesson."

1) Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for two-meter FM, but they're fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant. For example, "I'm going to QSY to the kitchen." Can you really change frequency to the

possible to mean “I am acknowledging receipt,” but now it appears to mean “yes” or “OK.” I guess I missed it when the ARRL changed the meaning.

2) Never laugh, when you can say “hi hi.” No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW ragchewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on since the days of Marconi.

3) Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like “destinated” and “negatory.” It's OK to make up your own words here. “Yeah Bill, I pheelbart zaphonix occasionally myself.”

4) Always say “XX4XXX” (Insert your own call) “for I.D.” As mentioned in Step One, anything that creates redundancy is always encouraged. That's why we have the Department of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with “for license preservation purposes” instead of “for I.D.” While taking longer to say, it is worth more “LID points”.

5) The better the copy on the repeater, the more you should use phonetics. Names should be especially used if they are short or common ones. I.E. “My name is Al... Alpha Lima” or “Jack.. Juliet Alpha Charlie Kilo.” If at all possible use the less common HF phonetics “A4SM... America, Number Four, Sugar Mexico.” And for maximum “LID points”, make up unintelligible phonetics. “My name is Bob... Billibong Oregono Bumperpool.”

6) Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a great memory test. You may also use “and the group” if you are an “old timer” or just have a bad memory. Extra points for saying everyone's call and then clearing in a silly way - like “This is K2xxx, Chow, Chow.”

7) Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use “modulation” when you mean “deviation”, and vice-versa.

And even if the amplifier you're using is a Class C type amp, and thus not biased for linear amplification, be sure to call it your “linear.” Heck, refer to all FM-style amplifiers as “linears.” You'll be king of the “wrong terminology” hill. Or better yet, refer to them as “lin-e-yars.”

8) If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, taking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker, and if it is an emergency, encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.

9) Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.

10) The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject.

11) If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least four out of six of the following: (1) His mental state; (2) His family; (3) His intelligence, or lack of same; (4) His sexual preference; (5) His relationship to small animals, his mother, or both; (6) His other methods of self entertainment.

12) If you hear two amateurs start a conversation on the repeater, wait until they are 20 seconds into their contact, and then break-in to use the patch. Make sure that it's only a simple routine phone call. It's also very important that you run the autopatch for the full three minutes. This way, once the two re-establish contact, they won't even remember what they were talking about.

13) You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the



directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternate route but better way to get their" version. This is most effective if several other Lid trainees join in, each with a different route. By the time the amateur wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have mobiled out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get back out of town later.

14) Use the repeater for an hour or two at a time, preventing others from using it. Better yet, do it on a daily basis. Your quest is to make people so sick of hearing your voice every time they turn on their radio, they'll move to another frequency. This way you'll lighten the load on the repeater, leaving even more time for you to talk on it.

15) See just how much mobile flutter you can generate by operating at handheld power levels too far from the repeater. Engage people in conversations when you know they won't be able to copy half of what you're saying. Even when they say you are uncopiable, continue to string them along by making further transmissions. See just how frustrated you can make the other amateur before he finally signs off in disgust.

16) Give out wacky radio advice. When a newcomer's signal is weak into the repeater, tell him he can correct the problem by adjusting the volume and squelch knobs on his radio. Or tell people they're full quieting except for the white noise on their signal. Or....well, you get the idea.

17) Use lots of radio jargon. After all, it makes you feel important using words average people don't say. Who cares if it makes you sound like you just fell off of Channel 19 on the Citizen's Band? Use phrases such as "Roger on that," "10-4," "I'm on the side," "You're making the trip," and "Negatory on that."

18) Use excessive microphone gain. See just how loud you can make your audio. Make sure

the audio gain is so high that other amateurs can hear any bugs crawling on your floor. If mobile, make sure the wind noise is loud enough that others have to strain to pick your words out from all the racket.

19) Be as verbose as possible. Never say "yes" when you can say "He acquiesced in the affirmative by saying 'yes'." (No kidding, I actually heard that one.)

20) Start every transmission with the word "Roger" or "QSL." Sure, you don't need to acknowledge that you received the other transmission in full. After all, you would simply ask for a repeat if you missed something. But consider it your gift to the other amateur to give him solace every few seconds that his transmissions are being received.

21) When looking for a contact on a repeater, always say you're "listening" or "monitoring" multiple times. I've always found that at least a half dozen times or so is good. Repeating your multiple "listening" IDs every 10 to 15 seconds is even better. Those people who didn't want to talk to you will eventually call you, hoping you'll go away after you have finally made a contact.

22) Give out repeater FM signal reports using the HF SSB R-S system ("You're 5 by 9 here"). Sure it's considered improper for FM operation and you may even confuse some people, but don't let that spoil your fun!

23) Always use a repeater, even if you can work the other station easily on simplex -- especially if you can make the contact on simplex. The coverage of the repeater you use should be inversely proportional to your distance from the other station.

24) If you and the other station are both within a mile or two of the repeater you are using, you should always give a signal report. ("I'm sitting under the repeater and I know you can see it from there, but you're full quieting into the repeater. How about me?")

("Yep, I'm right under the repeater. You've got a whopping signal. You're S-9 plus 60. That must be a great rig.")

26) On repeaters with courtesy tones, you should always say "over." Courtesy tones are designed to let everyone know when you have unkeyed, but don't let that stop you. Say "over," "back to you," or "go ahead." It serves no useful purpose, but don't worry -- it's still fun.

27) Think up interesting and bizarre things to do to tie-up the repeater. The goal here is not to facilitate communications, but to entertain all the scanner listeners out there. Do something original. Try to hum CTCSS (PL) tones. Sing pager tones. You're getting the idea.

28) Use the repeater's autopatch for frivolous routine calls. While pulling into the neighborhood, call home to let them know you'll be there in two minutes. Or call your spouse to complain about the bad day you had at work. After all, the club has "measured rate" service on their phone line, so they get charged for each autopatch call. Your endeavor is to make so many patches in a year that you cost the club at least \$20 in phone bills. That way you'll feel you got your money's worth for your dues.

29) Never say "My name is....". It makes you sound human. If at all possible, use one of the following phrases: A) "The personal here is...." B) "The handle here is...." Normally, handles are for suitcases, but it's OK to use them anyway. Don't forget, this has worked just fine for CBers for years. The best retort I ever heard: "My handle is pink, my name is..."

30) Use "73" and "88" incorrectly. Both are already considered plural, but add a "s" to the end anyway. Say "best of 73's" or "88's". Who cares if it means "best regards" and "love and kisses." Better yet, say "seventy thirds"! Or be funny and say "seventy turds." Or talk like a 1960s CBer and sign off with "Threeeeeeees to ya!". (By the way, 70 thirds equals about 23.3, the average CBers IQ.)

31) Make people think you have a split personality by referring to yourself in the plural sense. When you're in conversation and are alone at your radio, always say "We're" or "We've" instead of "I'm" or "I've" (i.e. "we've been doing this...", "we're doing that...", "we're clear"). Everyone knows you're by yourself, but when they ask you who is with you, make up somebody important like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Bill Clinton.

32) Always attempt to use the higher functions of the repeater before you have read the directions. Nothing will work, but you'll have great fun and get lots of people to give you advice.

33) Test repeater functions repeatedly (that's why they call it a repeater). Test your signal strength from the same location several times every day. Concentrate on testing the things that really matter, like the number of time the repeater has been keyed-up. That stuff is fun to track. Test the outside temperature, or the transmitter heat sink temperature as often as possible. The farther the temperature goes from the norms, the more often you should test it. Also, if you get a pager set to the repeater's output frequency, as soon as you receive it set it off every 30 seconds or so until the battery runs down. Better yet, interrupt conversations to test it.

34) If the repeater is off the air for service, complain about the fact that it was off the air as soon as it's turned back on. Act as though your entire day has been ruined because that one repeater wasn't available when you wanted to use it. Even though you have never donated a penny to help out with the upkeep of it, and despite the fact that you have all 42 local repeaters programmed into your mobile radio.

35) Find ways to get around the "no business" rule on autopatches. Your plan is to try and fool the repeater control operators. Invent code words your secretary at work will understand to disguise any business talk so it sounds like personal chatter. Or get to be friends with the local Domino's Pizza manager. Make it so that when

you call him on the patch and ask him to bring over the “floppy disk” you need to your house, he shows-up 30 minutes later with a piping hot large pepperoni and sausage pie. The possibilities are endless....

36) Always make sure you try to communicate with only a handheld and a rubber duck antenna. Also, make sure you work through a repeater that you can hear very well, but it cannot hear you. This will put out a kind of “LID mating call”: “Well, Joe, I can hear the repeater just fine here. I wonder why it can't hear me?” You will score maximum LID points if you are mobile, and with the radio lying in the passenger seat.

37) If an annoying station is bothering you, make sure your other “LID” buddies have a “coded” frequency list. Even though “CODES” are strictly forbidden on Amateur Radio, it's really neat to practice “James Bond” tactics.

38) Always use the National Calling Frequency for general conversations. The more uninteresting, the longer you should use it. Extra points are awarded if you have recently move from an adjacent frequency for no reason. Make sure when DX is “rolling” in on 52.525 that you hang out there and talk to your friends five miles down the road about the good old CB days!

39) Make sure that if you have a personal problem with someone, you should voice your opinion in a public forum, especially a net. Make sure you give their name, call, and any other identifying remarks. For maximum points, make sure the person in question is not on the repeater, or not available.

40) Make sure you say the first few words of each transmission twice, especially if it is the same thing each time. Like “roger, roger” or “fine business, fine business”. I cannot stress enough about encouraging redundancy.

41) If you hear a conversation on a local repeater, break in and ask how each station is

receiving you. Of course they will only see the signal of the repeater you are using, but it's that magic moment when you can find a fellow “LID”, and get the report. Extra points are awarded if you are using a base station, and the repeater is less than five air miles from you.

These easy steps should put you well on your way to “LID-Hood”. I hope these helpful hints will save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect “LID”. I should also note that these steps can also apply to simplex operation, but nobody really cares because that pawnshop HTX-202 isn't going to get out too far with just a rubber duck.

### **73, Rusty Bumpers, N4LID**

P.S. “Rusty Bumpers” is a pen name. He maintains anonymity so he can sit peacefully at club meetings and avoid the wrath (and breath) of the uninformed.

### **As The Key Klix**

Good news from AI, N1API. The town is “going to town” on his noise problem. Seems like he has them putting new poles all around the whole neighborhood. Reports are that with each new power line pole replaced, his noise goes down a few db. Fred, W1POP is STILL waiting for a finished kitchen remodel job to be finished. What's an Antenna Tube Talon? Walt, W1ATV knows .. check out the Hint and Kinks column in August QST. Club FM net handler Todd, K1TDO has the 2 meter Tuesday night net running well. Timing out the repeater during the net will incur the wrath of the N.C. I know .. this old sock has done it often. Haggie, KB1HCC is here and there and everywhere with his mobile “house”. Howdy to Toby, KB1YAQ who recently became a new ham at the age of 11. He has been active on the 36 repeater lately. John, N1GNV had some eye-candy at his Dayton Booth this year. I believe they were three model 36-24-36's.

Well, this old sock has run out of room. More next month .. **73 - The Old Sock**

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