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# AUGUST 2017







BUSINESS MEETING THURSDAY AUG 10 / ACTIVITY MTNG THURSDAY AUG 24\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 7:30PM\*\*\*\*\* ON THE 2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH,

AT THE HOPE HILL FIREHOUSE 143 HOPE HILL ROAD, WALLINGFORD

\*\*\*\*WHEN SPECIFICALLY ANNOUNCED, A SPECIAL ACTIVITY MAY START AT 6:30PM\*\*\*\*

OFFICIAL MAILING ADDRESS, MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, POB 583, MERIDEN CT 06450 PRES W1KKF BILL WAWRZENIAK VP N1API AL KAISER SECT KC1SA STEVE ALLEN TRES K1WJL DAVE SWEDOCK S.A.M. K1RCT ROB CICHON

KEY KLIX EDITOR DAVE SWEDOCK K1WJL CONTACT DSWEDOCK@GMAIL.COM OR 203 235-8582

#### **Business & Activity Meeting / Event**

The Business Meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 10, 7:30pm at the Club House.
The Activity meeting will be a presentation on Fox Hunt Theory, Fox Hunt 101, or how to hunt down a mysterious RF signal using the triangulation method, various types of antenna design, null vs max signal, etc ....plus a few great stories on previous fox hunts in Wally world.

#### **SKYWARN Net on the air**

Ed W1YSM reports The New Haven/Middlesex County SKYWARN Net is on the Air EVERY THURSDAY AT 1900 ET ON W1WPD Repeater, 442.5-00 (DCS 073) LINKED TO 145.29 repeater in Killingworth. You do NOT need to have a SKYWARN Spotter Number to check in, This follows up on the SKYWARN training held at the Club in May.

#### **Front Cover**

Courtesy of Mike K1MVM returning home from a trip from Ohio, saw this antenna farm belonging to K3LR in West Middlesex, Penn. It is a huge contest station operation and uses a ton of Miracle Grow to keep the towers from wilting over..... Check it out at www.K3LR.Com

#### Islands on the Air

Its back to Fireworks Island on Saturday August 26th (or Saturday August 27th using the Bartscherian Calendar) for the Islands on the Air. We had a great time last year so it was decided to repeat the fun. Time is from 8am to 2pm( 3pm or 5pm??)......John N1GNV is the coordinator. We will try to get more detailed info available, as there are some really unique rules that apply here as to access the location (ride don't walk, <u>and that's not an error!</u>).

#### **NUTMEG Hamfest**

The date for the NUTMEG Hamfest has been rescheduled to Sunday October 22nd, more info to follow...

#### Scholarship Winner Presentation.....

The MARC at its July Business Meeting welcomed Alan Chen, the 2017 Frank Darmofalski W1FD Memorial Scholarship recipient. Don (KE1AY) awarded the check to Alan, who is a 2017 Wilcox Tech graduate with a 4.0 GPA. Alan will be attending UMASS at Amherst, Massachusetts this fall studying Electrical Engineering. While at Wilcox Alan was a scholar athlete, a member of Key Club, Tennis team, Volleyball team, a Literacy volunteer, and also worked with the Head Start program. Alan enjoys chess, plays tennis and computer games. Best of luck to Alan in his career path. Pictures are on Page 6.

### **ACTIVITY NIGHT & EVENTS, DE W1YSM**

Thursday August 24 7:30PM – 8:30PM Fox Hunt Theory
Saturday August 26 Fireworks Island—Islands on the Air 8am to 3pm

Thursday Sept 28 APRS KC1GLM will lead this
Thursday Oct 26 QSL manger from ARRL to speak
Thursday Nov 23 cancelled due to Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday Dec 28 cancelled due to Christmas Holidays



#### An update from Joe Hamm KC1BAQ via Steve KC1SA

Fiona and I have four daughters now (5yr, 3yr, 2yr, and one month old). We also recently got a new boxer puppy. So life is busy here in the home. Ha! We are still living in downtown Philly. Last year, we purchased a row home built in 1905 at an auction and completely gutted it down to the brick and studs. My father in law and I did much of the work ourselves. We put in all new systems (plumbing, electrical, ventilation, lots of insulations). We refinished the original heart pine floors throughout which had been covered with carpet and in some places several layers of linoleum tile. I also saved all of the original woodwork (doors, trim, etc). I still need to reinstall the window and door trim. We have been living here a couple months already. We are located very close to downtown and public transit (train and bus) which is convenient for me to get to my bible studies around town. The church continues to grow and everyone is like a big family. We are meeting on the campus of UPenn in their student union building. As you may know, UPenn is located in downtown Philly so it is very centrally located.





ANTENNA RAISING PARTY AT K1TDO'S QTH WITH W1KKF, KB1FYL, K1TDO & KC1GLM BEHIND THE CAMERA.







### **Secretary Report & Minutes of Meriden Amateur Radio Club (M.A.R.C.) JULY 2017**

The MARC July business meeting opened at 7:30 PM EDST on July 13, 2017 at the Hope Hill Road EOC. There were 26 members in attendance and two guests.

Officers present: Bill (W1KKF), AI (N1API), Steve (KC1SA), Dave (K1WJL), Rob (K1RCT)

The meeting was opened and chaired by President, Bill (W1KKF).

#### Announcements -

- Our next meeting is July 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at Marcus Cooke Park for Lark in the Park picnic
- Club will provide Hotdogs, Hamburgers, water &soda

Bring your favorite dish to share, chips, dips, etc.

#### W1FD Scholarship Award

The membership welcomed Alan Chen, the 2017 Frank Darmofalski W1FD Memorial Scholarship recipient, at the start of our Business meeting where Don (KE1AY) awarded the check to Alan. Alan is a 2017 Wilcox Tech graduate with a 4.0 GPA. Alan will be attending UMASS at Amherst, Massachusetts this fall studying Electrical Engineering. While at Wilcox Alan was a scholar athlete, a member of Key Club, Tennis team, Volleyball team, a Literacy volunteer, and also worked with the Head Start program. Alan enjoys chess, plays tennis and computer games. Best of luck to Alan in his career path.

- Islands on the air August 26<sup>th</sup> on Fireworks Island 8AM to 3PM
- Taste of Wallingford October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> We will have a booth downtown or perhaps the trailer.
- Fishbein Road Race October 8<sup>th</sup>
- October 21st Jamboree on the air

October 22<sup>nd</sup> – Nutmeg Hamfest
 December 14<sup>th</sup> – Serafino's – 6PM-7PM cash bar, 7PM dinner

**Introductions** – All in attendance introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report - The June Secretary's Report was reviewed at the meeting and published on the W1NRG site and was recorded as read.

Treasurer's Report – Dave (K1WJL) gave a treasurers report and was accepted as reported.

Contributions - none.

#### Correspondence -

- Received Vanguard the check for the Scholarship recipient.
- Received several quarterly Vanguard reports and prospectuses

Received a request for donations to a Deer Lake Boy Scout Reservation in Killingworth

Program & Entertainment – Ed (W1YSM) reviewed upcoming activity meeting dates and topics.

July 27th 6:00PM -Marcus Cooke Park – Lark in the Park picnic

August 24<sup>th</sup> 7:30PM – 8:30PM Fox hunt theory (Fox hunt 101)

26<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM – 3:00PM **US** Islands August

Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> 7:30PM - 8:30PM APRS (KC1GLM will lead this)

QSL manger (Eric Williams - KV1J) from ARRL to speak October 26th 7:00PM – 8:30PM

#### Scholarship -

Alan Chen was awarded the 2017 scholarship. (See announcements). N1ZN will write an article to be placed in the Record Journal. .

Club Station & Facilities – Rob (K1RCT) presented status for the month.

- PCV conduit is in place. Hazelwood excavating (Steve Hazelwood) was very helpful in making short work of this.
- Coax and control cable are in place and a pull line was left in the conduit.
- A fan-dipole is installed, so we now have three antennas for HF.
- Most work outside is complete, next job is re-working some of the shack cabling.
- Club voted and approved a \$50 check to Steve Hazelwood to show our appreciation for the excavation work.

Received electronically interlocked RF A/B switches.

#### Nets -

- 6M AI (N1API) reported for Jim (N1ZN) reported, 8 to 10 or so check-ins at the last net. This Net is on 50.175 MHz each Monday at 8PM local time.
- 10M John (K1VDF) reported the net has been very active with half a dozen check-ins. This Net is on 28.375 MHz each Tuesday at 8PM local time.

2M – Rob (K1RCT) reported for Todd (K1TDO) and reported about 5 checked in to the 2M net this past Tuesday. This Net is on the 147.360 MHz repeater each Tuesday at 7PM local time.

Castle Craig – AI (N1API) stated summer QSO party is coming up in the first weekend in August, starting August 4<sup>th</sup> at 8PM local time and ending Sunday August 6th at 8PM. A check-in net will be held August 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:45PM local time. Al will be letting us know if a second net will be held sometime that weekend. Key Klix – Dave (K1WJL) is always looking for articles from members so keep the information rolling into Dave.

Membership – Club membership stands at 85. Three new members, a result of visits during Field Day, were voted into the club tonight N1AKN - Jeff Dwyer KA1TMN – Steve Hull, KC1HDB - Jeff Martin Interference and Technical – Nothing to report.

Repeater - Not discussed.

**VE Sessions** – Don will try and work up a quarterly schedule of VE sessions.

Hamfest – Event is October 22, 2017 at the Four Points in Meriden. This is a new date. Looking for volunteers to help at the event, see Jim (N1ZN) if you can give an hour or two during the event. Assisting at the event gets you free admission. Lend a hand and help support the club. We have one speaker for high altitude balloon launches and looking for a second speaker on antennas. If you have something to sell, AI (N1API) handles the club table. So you can sell 'stuff' at Nutfest by using the club table.

Candy Store – Gold Medal Ideas now has several types of shirts and a hat has been added to our landing page for Meriden ARC on their web page.

Here's the link to Gold Medal Ideas: http://stores.goldmedalideas.com/ygs

AuxComm – Chris (WA1VXH) reported, as a reminder, folks wanting to participate in Emergency Communication should complete:

• The Core 4 (IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800)

These can be taken at your own pace at the following site: https://training.fema.gov/is/

Send PDF of your certification to KC1SA to keep on file

In addition to the above trainings, taking First Aid and AED/CPR training must be completed if you wish to participate in the simulated training exercise in September 2018. The First Aid and AED/CPR trainings are held by the MRC and are free of charge. Swearing in will occur at the Taste of Wallingford/Celebrate Wallingford on October 7<sup>th</sup>. As the date gets closer we'll have more details.MRC will have a CPR/AED training September 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM to 8:30PM at the OEM.

#### **Old Business:**

#### Field Day

- 3529 was our final score, this is about 400 points lower than 2016 Field Day
- Attended by 62 people
- Submitted to the league July 6<sup>th</sup>

Report was presented at the meeting for folks to review if they'd like.

**Technician Class** 

K1LYP is holding training sessions on Tuesday evenings for the next few weeks Christmas Diner

- Date is set for December 14, 2017 at Serafino's in Wallingford
- Shawn Kutzco KX9X, ARRL Media & Public Relations Manager will be the guest speaker
- \$25 / person

6PM Cash Bar / 7PM Buffet Diner

#### 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- Open format much like the 13-Colonies
- Announcements have went out to QST and CQ
- o Will be in the October QST (which we get in September)
- W1NRG is the call sign we will use.
- o Must sign up if you are going to operate Mark (K1PU) is the coordinator

#### **New Business**

- .\$50 Check to Steve Hazelwood, appreciation check for excavation, Voted on and approved
- Need to purchase Yaesu software to back up the CW 991A radio \$25 (RT Systems)Voted on and approved
- Need a COAX crimper \$35Voted on and approved
- o Letter to RJ about scholarship awardN1ZN to write and submit.
- o Skywarn, Ed (W1YSM) donated to the club a DTMF mic for club use.
- o General / Extra study manuals KC1GLM and KC1HDM will donate current versions to the club
- o ATT donated Transworld transceiver and 1kW amplifier.

Let K1WJL know of disposition if the club decides to not need this.

Boy Scout letter Shawn (KB1ZNT), Deer Lake Boy Scout Reservation Amateur in Killingworth shack build / radio equipment., Asking for donations, Tabled until next business meetings Need clarifications on Control operator Event of CO leaving, who oversees the station What happens to the equipment in the event the station is shut down.

#### Meeting was closed at 9:00 PM.

Meeting Attendees on July 13, 2017

Two guests: Seth Kolansinki (recently passed Tech license exam) & Alan Chen (Scholarship recepiant) KA1TMN, KC1HDB and N1AKN were voted into membership this evening.





MARC 70th Anniversary On Air Event

Starts .... September 30, 2017 @ 0000 UTC (8PM Friday 9/29 local time) Ends ... October 1, 2017 at 2959 UTC (8PM Sunday 10/1 local time)

Location - Clubhouse and member stations



DON KE1AY PRESENTS ALLAN CHEN WITH A CHECK FOR \$1000 FROM THE W1FD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AT OUR JULY BUSINESS MEETING.



## The Shack S.A.M. Rob K1RCT

The Shack - July 2017

Fourth in the Series, an update on Operating Conditions at our Club Station. And some other stuff.

#### 1) Improvements.

Since last installment, there have been many improvements to The Shack at the OEM. Two new HF rigs (VHF capable), two new VHF/UHF rigs for EMCOMM/AUXCOMM, power supplies, five (5) antennas, desk mic's. Go-Kit construction, HF antenna raising (now there's three; G5RV, T6 Log Periodic and a Fan Dipole 10M-80M). Next steps are to figure out how to make best use of the Amplifier and Tuner, looks like we'll need a new interface for the Yaesu FT-991a's. As of last weekend (7/22/2017) We replaced the internal coax runs with new RG-213u coax. Everything is connected and each antenna loads-out as they should. I'll be coming up with a "Check-Out Procedure" soon for anyone wanting to operate our New Gear. Also, some gear we have may become available to check out for New Amateurs that do not have HF capability, much like checking out some of our new Library books.

#### 2) We.

I mentioned We above. Every weekend and sometimes during the week, I'd see the same faces at the OEM, ready to work or more accurately, already working by the time I got there. These Amateurs have been responsible for raising antennas, coordinating services, seeking that extra inch, trenching conduit and populating those conduits with coax and control lines, testing transceivers, configuring the shack, operating the rigs, reprogramming radios, moving furniture, printing labels, making coax connectors... I could go on but I think you get the picture. These friends basically do what's needed to get the job of Station Building done.

Sometimes I'd get up there and they'd ask, what's next? Sometimes they'd say, 'bout time you got here, come here and hold this. Sometimes we'd sit and discuss plans and progress, strategy and tactics, the abstract and tangible. And sometimes we'd drink coffee, eat Neils Donuts or Amore pizza & discuss just what kind of doorbell we want! Work flows when we are together. Everyone assists and when one or more of us cannot be there, everyone else picks up tasks to ensure carry-through.

These Amateurs know who they are and would probably much rather remain in the background but I am here to boast their commitment and work ethic. John Yusza Jr., Eric Olsson, Chris Seivert, Steve Allen, Bob Biancur, John Blevins. There are others as this list is not exclusive however I want to recognize these people that are there every time I have ever asked them to be available, those that show up when I don't even realize I need help, those that have offered or responded with technical expertise but mainly to those that continued work when I could not be there due to Home or Work commitments. You have my sincere thanks, appreciation & admiration in this fantastic endeavor that is Station Building at The Meriden Amateur Radio Club.

Special shout-out to John Elengo, Ed Snyder, Al Kaiser, Dave Swedock, Eric Knight & Elsie Mathews, Steve Waldmann, James Suprenant, Bob Kaczor, Mark Mokoski, Frank Ciccone, Jim Tony Martin, John Bartscherer.

#### 3) Hints & Kinks - N1MM+

#### 4.1. Stored Voice Messages in a Multi-Op (Any multi-op)

If you are using stored voice messages in a phone contest and you change operators while using the same stored voice messages, the voices heard over the air could vary during a single QSO between recorded messages and live voicing. This can be very confusing to the other station. To avoid this, it is best to have each operator record a separate complete set of voice keyer messages. To do this, create a separate subfolder for each operator within your wav files folder, labeled with that operator's call sign. Make sure the paths to your wav files in your function key messages includes the {OPERATOR} macro, as in "{OPERATOR}\CQ.wav". Before the contest, have each operator enter his or her call sign with Ctrl+O or OPON and then record all of the voice keyer messages in his or her own voice. Once the messages are all set up, the Logger will use the operator call sign entered during the contest with Ctrl+O or OPON to select which set of recorded messages to use. If your multi-op uses multiple computers, and if any individual operator will use more than one of these computers during the course of the contest, that operator will need to create and populate a subfolder with his personal wav files on each of the computers that he or she will be using.

73!

de K1RCT, S.A.M., Meriden A.R.C.







## LARK IN THE PARK





















# CENTRAL 1 West 1 Central 2 Central 3 East 2

# WHEN ALL PERSON AMATEUR RADIO

#### **CT-ARES REGION 2**

# **Douglas Sharafanowich – WA1SFH**District Emergency Coordinator, Region 2

WA1SFH@optonline.net

#### Confucius say:

August is here! Can there be a better time to prepare for the approaching Hurricane and Winter Storm Seasons? **Skywarn News** 

I am pleased to report the appointment of Ed Snyder W1YSM as CT SKYWARN Emergency Coordinator (EC) for New Haven County / Middlesex County. He replaces Bud KC1EKA who was part of the group that restarted the New Haven/Middlesex County Weather Net after Glen N1HAW became a Silent Key (SK).

#### By the Way...

The combined New Haven County / Middlesex County Skywarn Weather Net welcomes your participation. You need not be an official SKYWARN Spotter to Check-In. Tune-In, Check-In, and see what it all about.

Date: Thursdays Time: 7pm QTH: Linked Woodbridge and Killingworth Repeaters

#### John Thomas (K1VW)

became a Silent Key on Saturday, July 29, 2017, In addition to being the ARES EC for Madison, he was a fine CW operator and contester. His antenna farm is a joy to behold and is situated on the edge of a salt marsh of Long Island Sound. John had a great relationship with the Emergency Management Director of Madison and had been working on getting a working station installed and on-the-air at Town Hall prior to his illness. I stopped at his home on Sunday afternoon to say hello and spoke with his lovely wife. She would very much like some help in taking down the THREE towers and ONE mast and get them temporary stored on saw-horses as a first step. They comprise: 1 crank-up/tilt-over tower, 1 tilt-over tower, 1 fixed base tower, and 1 multi segment crank-up military mast ("Radio Moscow"). There are also the wire antennas that are strung over the marsh that need to be taken down. I am forming a work party to perform this service for his widow. Please contact me if you have some experience in this activity and/or would like to be part of our volunteer team. When we have enough volunteers signed up, we can then set a Saturday morning date to get this done... SAFELY. - Thank you.

#### 3 Hamfests

Here are 3 up-coming Hamfests where you can find parts you need, radios you want, and other equipment (new and used) that you may be lacking at good prices. HINT: Make a Shopping List - Bring Cash - Caveat Emptor

Newtown Hamfest 2017 Date: Sunday, August 27 Time: 8 am - 12 QTH: Town Hall, Newtown

Info: http://cararadioclub.org/activities/83-activities/123-hamfest

Boxboro Hamfest 2017 Date: Sept 8 - 10 (Fri - Sun) QTH: Boxboro, MA (Right off I-495)

Info: www.Boxboro.org

Nutmeg Hamfest 2017 Date: Sunday, October 22, 2017 QTH: Meriden

Info: http://nutmeghamfest.com/index.html

#### **ARES Nets (Analog and DMR)**

<u>Sundays</u> Join the 40+ ARES Team Members each Sunday night on the statewide analog ARES Net at 8 pm Check-In on either a) Woodbridge Repeater (W1WPD: 442.500 MHz, +, 073 DCS) linked to the KB1AEV Repeater Network.or b) Any of the repeaters on the KB1AEV Repeater Network (e.g. Vernon)

<u>If you are DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) equipped</u>, join the growing number of our ARES Team who check-in each Sunday night at 8:30 pm on the CT ARES DMR Network using the CT Statewide Talk-Group.

**Mondays** Our Region 2 ARES Nets meet as follows **FM Analog** 7:45 pm Linked Repeaters:

Woodbridge (442.500) and Killingworth (145.29)

**FM Digital Mobile Radio (DMR)** 8:15 pm CT ARES DMR Network CT TAC-2 Talk-Group **73** 

**Douglas WA1SFH** 

#### Message from Eloise via Steve KC1SA

our next CPR/AED is Sept 13th, Wed from 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

Thanks for spreading the word!

Eloise Hazelwood, RS, MPH, Director of Health, Wallingford, CT

203-294-2065 health@wallingfordct.gov 45 South Main St. Wallingford CT 06492



#### TRY THIS! A monthly blurb about PC and Ham Radio Stuff

#### This month: a trip down memory lane.

Everybody has stuff right? I probably have more stuff then the average person. I think the top ten percent of people who have the most stuff are arguably those who have and use computers. Also in that top ten category you'll find the Ham Radio enthusiast. And if you're a person with a passion for BOTH computer stuff and Ham Radio stuff, well that most likely puts you at the very top of the "people who collect stuff" list. I'll start this column with a look back to my history of stuff and how I got to where I am today.

The other day I was looking through one of my book collections (book **stuff**) and came across an old "Wolf Den" Cub Scout manual. Wow, the last time I browsed that book was in the 1950's when I was a Cub Scout. I was surprised because hand written inside the back cover was a list of the alphabet letters and numbers with their corresponding dots and dashes. That brought back my earliest memories when my **stuff** collection was in its infancy. As a young lad, one of my favorite things was listening to the radio after dinner every night. We had a five foot tall old Philco radio that was in what we used to call the pallor. (Living room to you youngsters out there) The radio had a big circular tuning dial with several band selections and a really cool "magic eye" tuning device. I used to listen to the popular radio shows every evening. But only if I had my homework done. Remember Fibber McGee and Molly? The Shadow? Gangbusters? Jack Armstrong – The All American Boy? I laughed out loud every time McGee opened that closet door! It wasn't long before I found other radio bands on that big dial. These were short wave bands where I found international broadcasts from many different countries. Many had English speaking broadcasts later in the evening.

A long with those broadcasts I kept hearing strange blips of hissing and had no clue what they were. My curiosity was piqued which resulted in a two mile walk to the local library where I looked up "Radio". Yes, back then the library pre-dated **Google** and was the place to go to find information on almost anything. I came home with several books about "Radio". For the next week I devoured everything I could, reading all about radio and learned about different forms of communication, like AM and CW. That resulted in my first electronics project, building a BFO. Around that time my father came home one night with a TV which replaced the old floor model radio. We were one of the first families on our block with one of those new video things they called TV.

Our new Dumont TV had a huge double door black cabinet. And it housed a diminutive round back and white CRT screen!! Wow! I have to mention the TV because not only did it replace the old radio, it ushered in a new regular visitor to our home. We already had the mailman, milkman and a guy who delivered pastries and bread I called the "Bond bread man". Our new weekly visitor was soon to be the television repair guy. Dad always complained about "putting the TV repairman's kids through college". That old TV was a great source of income for the repair guy and a great source of consternation to my father. Being a young inquisitive youth already fascinated by electrical "stuff" I quickly befriended the TV repair guy. I got my first job (non-paying) helping the TV repair guy. My job was usually to hold a mirror so the repair guy could watch the screen while he tapped various tubes with the eraser end of a pencil. But he also let me peak inside the TV box while he did repairs. Later in my life I would find his repair shop a good source for electrical **stuff** for my various projects.

So our family now had a new TV and I gave the old radio a new home in the basement where I removed the chassis and turned it into a dedicated short wave listener's radio. I installed my home built tube BFO and could finally listen to actual Morse code! For a long time I looked for the slowest CW transmissions and tried counting dots and dashes. Of course after a lot of frustration I gave up and was content to listen to the few AM ham radio stations I could find along with Radio Moscow and others. I quickly realized that I needed a better antenna. Although the old radio had a small built in antenna it did have a screw connection for an external wire antenna. My parents gave me permission to drive a couple stakes about 60 feet apart next to the house to hold a random wire. It was only a couple feet high but it was to be a big improvement over the radio's internal antenna which was now below ground in the basement.

And that was when I was introduced to the *hot chassis* of a typical commercial radio of the 40's. Back then most of the commercial radios had plugs that could be plugged in two ways. One way the chassis was hot with 110v AC. The other way the chassis was on the neutral side of the 110. Because the radios of those years had mostly wood cabinets along with insulated plastic and Bakelite knobs it didn't matter how you plugged it into the old 110 AC outlet. That is, unless you were holding on to the "hot" antenna lead while kneeling on the ground.

Yup, I must have missed that chapter in the radio books that were now over-due at the library. While knelling on the ground, hooking up the antenna, I got zapped with 110v AC. This was to be the first of many "ouch" experiences with electric stuff over the ensuing six decades. And overall I'm happy to say that with age **DID** come some knowledge if not burned fingers. Later my interests meandered to sports, girls, and cars which were a bigger part of youthful life at the time. But always, I was drawn to the mystery and magic of radio waves and electronics.

One thing I remember about our first TV was how bad the reception could be when the bands were open during the height of a particular sun spot cycle. It might have been in the late 50's or early 60's when we would see a TV channel 2 in Florida coming in with the local TV channel 2. And then there was that "damn ham radio operator" as my father would put it. One day while collecting his money for the paper delivery the paperboy mentioned to me that he saw my antenna next to the house, (the 60 foot long 2 foot high random wire). He asked, "How is that working out for you?" It was then that I found out that "Russ" our paper boy was the ham radio operator who was "possibly" getting on the air in the middle of one of my dad's favorite TV shows, Sid Caesars "Your Show of Shows" in the 50's.

Now for the best part ... Fast forward from the 1950's to around 2012. I was tending my tables at the Nutmeg Hamfest (trying to sell vast quantities of **STUFF**) when a guy approaches me commenting on my name tag and asks if I ever lived in Stratford. I lived in Stratford for most of my earlier years. He then says his ham call sign and says,

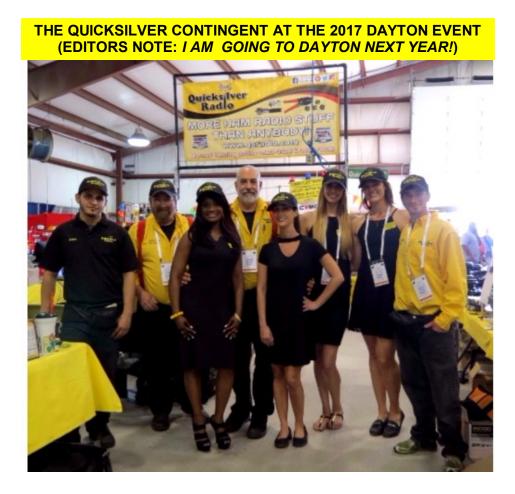
"I'm your old paperboy who used to deliver the paper to you". He was the Ham who was the brunt of Dad's ire for a few years. Wow, no kidding? I never saw his shack and we never really connected except for a couple times when he was delivering papers. While it was nice to see him and remember old times, he didn't buy any of my **STUFF**. <grin>

However I do remember soon after our first eyeball QSO back in the 50's that the Saturday afternoon TV Interference stopped. I guess he must have been observing quiet hours during Dad's TV time. Unfortunately there wasn't much we could do about the over the air TV skip that was also prevalent at that time.

I dropped out of college in my 2<sup>nd</sup> year to pursue a more hands on career. I wanted to build things and work with things physically. I worked in a marina, in a garage as a mechanic's helper, a machine shop, a radio TV repair shop, as a home appliance repair guy, and finally the owner of a computer repair shop. And those are just a few of the areas I've had the pleasure to experience for most my life. Of course I've collected an eclectic amount of **stuff** as well as many people related anecdotes.

What's the point of all this? In upcoming issues of the Key Klix, I hope to give you some insight and tips into a few things in the PC and Ham Radio world that I think you might find interesting and informative if not unusual. I'll preference each article with a short trip down memory lane in a segment I call, "Hams I have known". Next month. W1OWD my Elmer. In future months we will talk about Junk Files in your PC, and what to back up and why. And as always some **little known and maybe forgotten ham radio stuff**.

73, Rich WA1TRY



#### INFORMATION PAGE

PRESIDENT....W1KKF BILL WAWRZENIAK VICE PRES.....N1API AL KAISER SECT.....KC1SA STEVE ALLEN TRES.....K1WJL DAVE SWEDOCK STATION A.M...K1RCT ROB CICHON

KEY KLIX EDITOR DAVE SWEDOCK K1WJL CONTACT DSWEDOCK@GMAIL.COM 203 235-8582

#### MEETINGS:

7:30PM ON THE 2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH, UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED. AT THE HOPE HILL ROAD FIREHOUSE 143 HOPE HILL ROAD, WALLINGFORD

**MAILING ADDRESS: MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** POB 583, MERIDEN CT. 06450

#### **CLUB NETS**

6 MTR NET **MONDAYS 8PM** 50.175MHZ N1ZN JIM

**2 METER NET TUESDAYS 7PM** 147.36 /RPT K1TDO TODD

TUESDAYS 8PM **10 METER NET** 28.375MHZ **K1VDF JOHN** 

10/10 CASTLE CRAIG CHAPTER CONCURRENTLY WITH CLUB NET 28.375MHZ TUESDAYS 8PM N1API AL

CLUB DUES STRUCTURE (JAN-DEC) UP TO 64 YRS OF AGE--\$15/YR SENIOR DISCOUNT 65 & UP--\$10 ADDITIONAL FAMILY MBRS---\$5 **NEW DUES STRUCTURE AS OF 1/2018** 

UP TO 64 YRS OF AGE—\$20

**SENIORS 65 & UP—-\$15** 

AB1DQ **James Surprenant 17** KC1AYL **Mike Meadows** 17 **Charlie Dudac** Harry Shaefi 17 AB1HB 17 KC1CYC Art Fregeau Gerard Carriera Jr. 17 AF1HS 18 KC1EVI **Steve Tripp** K1IIG 17 KC1FJJ Rich Nagy 17 K1JCF Joe Farrell 17 KC1GEV Carl Nilson 17 John Hart, Jr. **Robert Speers** K1JTH 17 KC1GLM 17 K1LHO Mike Ash 17 KC1HDB **Jeff Martin** 18 K1LYP John Yusza 17 KC1HFO John Stoidis 17 Mike MacKennedy 17 KC1SA Stephen Allen K1MMK 17 **Robert Cartier** K1MVM Mike Macri 17 KD1JG 17 K1PU Mark Mokoski 17 **KE1AU** Robert Kaczor 17 **Rob Cichon** 17 **KE1AV Dave Sanford** 17 K1RCT K1RJC **Rick Castaldo** 17 KE1AY **Donald Mitchell** 17 K1SEZ **Paul Ciezniak** 18 **KE4EYA** Ralph Ring 17 **Anne West** 17 N1API Al Kaiser 17 K1STM K1TDO **Todd Olsen** 17 N1AKN **Jeff Dwyer** 18 Roger Kuchera N<sub>1</sub>POP **Greg Ploski** K1TG 17 17 **Patrick Dionne** Jerry Molaver 17 N1BF 17 K1TGX Dave Karpiei K1THP 17 N1GNV John Bartscherer 17 K<sub>1</sub>VDF John Blevins 17 N1GY **Geoff Haines** 19 K1WJL **Dave Swedock** 17 N1HCA **Susan South** 17 KA1TMN Steve Hull 18 N1JRC John Collin Jr 17 **KB1CIW Bob Stephens** 17 N1LGH **Barbara Stone** 17 17 **KB1EHE Eric Knight** 17 N1NAN **Helen Spokes Bob Carruthers Bob Parisi** KB1FYL 17 N<sub>1</sub>OKF 17 **KB1GWP** Joseph Rish, Sr. N<sub>1</sub>OKR **Frank Ciccone** 17 17 KB1HCC **Jonathan Winslow 17** N1VTE Sarah Kaczor 17 KB1IFZ **Elsie Mathews** 17 N1ZN **James Savage** 17 KB1JL **Eric Olsson** 17 NY2HF **Dennis Lane** 18 Theresa Stephens 17 Dave Tipping KB1SIT NZ1J 17 **Gaianne Jenkins** W1ATV Walt Yatzook **KB1TJD** 17 17 **KB1TTV Jonathan Martin** 17 W1DMM **Dan Murphy** L **KB1YFJ Glen Couture** 17 W1DQ John Elengo 18 Dan Busa 17 W1KKF **Bill Wawrzeniak KB1ZMK** L

(USE LOWERCASE) WEBSITE: www.w1nrg.com

#### FORUM/BBS:

www.w1nrg.com/forum/ or go to website and follow links

#### CASTLE CRAIG 10-10 WEBSITE:

go to www.w1nrg.com and follow the links

W1KKF/R CLUB REPEATER 147.36MHZ +600 OFFSET NO PL TONE (OPEN REPEATER)

W1LV Steve Morley 17 W1NDT Bob Lombardo 17 W1NHSFred Ring 17 18 W1POPFred Liedke W1SKPSkip Paquette 17 W1UFOMike Cei 17 W1VCU Nelson Denison L W1YSM Ed Snyder 17 W7FUR William Spokes 17 WA1FFT Ray Irwin 17 **WA1JKR John Rogus** 17 WA1SFH Douglas Sharafanowich 17 **WA1TRY Rich Aubin** L **WA1VXH Chris Sievert** 17 **WA1ZVY Jim Martin** 17 **WB1GGP Jerry Sheppard** 17 WB1GYZ Bob Biancur 17 WB8IMY Steve Ford 17 **Harold Kraemer** WJ1B 17 WV2LKM Steve Waldmann 17 WY1U Tim Mik 17