



KEY KLIX



The Monthly Newsletter of the Meriden ARC July 2012

Lark in the Park 2012

THIS Thursday the MARC will be holding what as become our annual club picnic at Hubbard Park, Meriden. Mark your calendars. July 26th. We will get together at our usual spot, behind the band shell. Plan on showing up around 6 to 6:30. Our guest chef from this years Field Day, Bob KB1FYL will be doing grill duty and there will be plenty of hot dogs and hamburgers available. Please bring any fixin's or drinks with you. We might have some soda left over from FD. Remember no alcohol is allowed in the park.

The park closes at sundown. Come and enjoy an eye-ball QSO with old friends and enjoy this year's "Lark in the Park".

The Nutfest is ON !

Late breaking news: The Nutmeg Hamfest and ARRL Connecticut State Convention is moving! After many great years at the Mountain Ridge Resort we have moved to the Four Points by Sheraton Meriden Hotel in Meriden. The Mountain Ridge facility was recently sold to a local religious group who will be converting the property to church related activities. The last public event event there under the old owners took place in June.

The good news is that we found a place that will be a great fit for our hamfest. The new spot is the Four Points by Sheraton Meriden which is on the East side of Meriden, CT and has off ramps from both Rt 15 and 91 less than a mile from the hotel. We have lot's of out door tailgating and plenty of vendor indoor tables as well as separate conference rooms and VE testing facilities. The contract is being signed this week. Remember the Nutmeg Hamfest is always on the Sunday of the Columbus holiday.

Check the club forums and future issues of Key Klix and:
<http://www.w1nrg.com/forum/> or
<http://www.nutmeghamfest.com/>

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Statewide Exercise/ SET 2012 – A Quick Overview:

Scenario:

A Category 3 storm (like the 1938 hurricane) hits Connecticut.

Pre-Landfall” Saturday

Please reserve this 2 hour block of time (0800 – 1000 hrs) for this Saturday session. We may run a bit longer (more to follow).

This “Pre Landfall” day will consist of the opportunity to:

- Visit the EOC assignment location(s).
- Check into the “CTARES-Region 2 Pre-Landfall Readiness Net” from that location.
- If requested, go visit another EOC location and repeat the check in process.
- With permission, check out of the Net and go home.

Post-Landfall” Sunday (and Tuesday for open EOCs) will be our BIG ACTIVITY days.

Please reserve this 6 hour block of time (0800 – 1400 hrs) on Sunday. We may close operations earlier.

We do not anticipate operating at EOCs on “Pre-Landfall” MONDAY.

We will do our best to support “Post-Landfall” Tuesday at EOCs which are open and have requested ARES assistance.

at the Cook Hill Shelter this weekend.

During the State Wide Emergency Test and the 2012 SET we plan on operating from the new facility at the Cook Hill Fire House. We hope to have a presence there on Saturday and Sunday and set up a ham station to use during that ARES SET exercise. Keep an ear to the 36 repeater for any activity on those two days.

We will running a net operation to contact and pass and receive information. The net will be in operation during the morning hours (from 8 AM to noon) and maybe a little longer on one day and afternoon hours on the second day from 12 noon until 4 PM. Since this is a test you won't know exactly when we will be active, and it's hoped we can have a good turnout for the net in what would be more like a real “unscheduled emergency”.

One thing we need from everyone is to check into the net, and report your name, callsign location, RF being using and whether or not you have commercial and/or emergency power capabilities. Mobil operators are encouraged to check into the net if possible. I would encourage everyone to test both their home fixed stations and mobile stations (Just going outside and operating the mobile rig or checking in with a walkie talkie would be great)

I would like to see a “spur of the moment” influx of all kinds of information that will give us a good idea of our capability. Of course if you do hear the net (on the 36 repeater) in session, you can also stop by the EOC/Shelter and visit.

On Monday I will need one or two helpers to help with inter-city communications in Wallingford. The Cook Hill facility will be on-line Monday for a few hours starting at 8 AM. We should be there for only a few hours. That will be part of the State wide commercial town test. There may or may not be ARES participation at that time as the emphasis will be the actual towns communications via commercial means. On Tuesday, I will be assisting Mike, KB3IXO

New Communications to be activated

(EC Meriden) to set up and operate the EOC in Meriden.

For us in Wallingford and Meriden, the ARES SET will be happening on Saturday and Sunday. The statewide town commercial communications will be happening on Monday and Tuesday.

By the way .. this test exercise will involve a Category 3 to 4 hurricane. A Cat 3 event will result in nearly total outages, very much like the infamous Hurricane of 1938 which saw widespread devastation and loss of life.

A Cat 4 hurricane is typically referred as to a "Doomsday Scenario". The worst possible situation. Like the whole state being wiped out by mass destruction caused by nature OR man. No passable roads, no cell phones no utilities food or water. It might just be you and your amateur radio being the ONLY line of communications in many places.

Are you ready ?

MARC to host the 2013 Ten-Ten state convention.

We are working on details as this is being written. In 2013 the MARC Castle Craig Chapter of 10/10 International will be the host for the Connecticut State Convention. Al, N1API is heading up a group of volunteers to set this up. This will be THREE DAY event at an area hotel. There will be tables set up for each Connecticut chapter where you can sign in or join and generally get to know the various chapters. There will be hams from several countries who normally attend these conventions. There will be a banquet and lots of activities. Check out the club forum for details. See other article this issue of Key Klix. .

http://www.w1nrg.com/forum/view_topic.php?id=760&forum_id=22

10-10 QSO Party

There will be a Castle Craig Chapter Net on Friday August 2nd 2012 on the club net frequency of 28.375. The purpose of this net is to kick off the 10-10 Summer QSO Party. I hope that all club members will join in. Even if you do not have a 10-10 number you are worth 1 point to the rest of us who do and are submitting logs. The QSO party runs from 0000 UTC August 3rd 2012 to 2359:59 August 4th 2012.

I would like to ask everyone to help listen for stations that I may not be able to hear.

If you are a paid up 10-10 member your support of the club, and our chapter would be appreciated. Please make as many contacts as you can, and submit your log for credit. Remember to mention that you would like to credit Castle Craig Chapter of 10-10 with your score. Also if you talk to any area 10-10 members before, during or after the contest please remind them that Castle Craig is their local 10-10 chapter and their support would be appreciated if they will be submitting a log.

We will start taking check ins at 7:45 PM local time, (23:45 UTC), and I will be the Net Control. I would like a station to help with relays if needed. The procedure is simple. At 8 PM local time, (0000 UTC Sat Aug. 2nd), we will start from the top of the list, (myself), and I will give my 10-10 information, that is Call, Name, QTH (state), and 10-10 number. The next station will be called and that person will give their information and then stand by. We will proceed to the bottom of the list.

The procedure is then repeated from the top to bottom of the list, except you will call all stations that you heard and QSL their information. If you need a repeat on any information this is the time to ask for it.

Once the last station is called they should have no calls to make because everyone has called them. I expect that this net should last no more than about 20 minutes.

Please plan to attend and get the Summer 10-10 QSO party off to a rousing start!

http://www.w1nrg.com/forum/view_topic.php?id=772&forum_id=22

**-73- AI N1API
Castle Craig Chapter Chapter Head and Certificate Manager**



Enhanced Splatter or Advancement?

Single Side Band (J3E) is a refinement of amplitude modulation (AM) that more efficiently uses electrical power and bandwidth by suppression of either the upper sideband or the lower sideband as well as suppression of the carrier, resulting in only a single sideband (SSB). Amplitude modulation (AM) produces a modulated output signal that has twice the bandwidth of the original baseband signal. Therefore, single-sideband modulation avoids this bandwidth doubling, and the power wasted on a carrier. Typical SSB audio bandwidth is less than 3 kHz in audio frequency response and is designated by the ITU as J3E mode.

Extended Single Side Band (eSSB) is any J3E SSB mode that exceeds the audio bandwidth of traditional 2.9kHz SSB J3E modes (ITU 2K90J3E) in order to support the fidelity required and desired for relative high fidelity, full range clean and articulate vocal audio. eSSB is also a refinement of amplitude modulation (AM) that more efficiently uses electrical power and bandwidth as opposed to AM, but can still exhibit the same audio frequency response of broadcast AM if desired. As this eSSB definition states, it is an "Extended" ver

sion of SSB. The radio frequency and audio frequency footprint (bandwidth) is extended as a result of several factors; I.F. filter modifications, and/or Digital Signal Processing, and external audio pre-emphasis processing via Equalizing, Compressing, Peak-Limiting, etc. of the source audio input.

The early years of eSSB some experimenters tried to improve the quality and intelligibility of single side band transmitted speech to that of natural sound. In the early 1990s, experimentation mostly consisted of spreading out the audio response bandwidth to be more aligned with broader fidelity of human speech. These experimenters mostly used equalizers and microphone preamps from the commercial music and film recording industry. Most of the off-the-shelf transceivers of the time only had an audio pass-band of 100 to 2800 Hz, so the early attempts of eSSB were limited. One exception was the Kenwood TS-950 which had an audio pass-band of 0 to 3000 Hz. With the dawn of the 21st century, modifications on several Kenwood transceivers (TS-940, TS-950 and TS-850) coupled with the Kenwood DSP-100 extended the span of audio response to the area of 4500-5000 Hz.

The ITU does not recommend or demand any bandwidth specifications for single side band phone transmissions. However, the ITU does recognize the technical aspects of the audio response bandwidth in their mode designations. The full designator for the traditional, 2.9 KHz wide with an audio response covering 100 Hz to 3.0 KHz, SSB is 2K90J3E. There are four designators used by the ITU for the more traditional SSB mode; 2K00J3 E through 2K90J3E covering response bandwidths of 2.0 KHz through 2.9 KHz. The ITU also lists six eSSB mode designators; 3K00J3E through 6K00J3E covering response bandwidths of 3.0 KHz through 6.0 KHz. It can be seen that all these technical specifications fall within the general SSB designator J3E and vary only in the audio response bandwidth of xKxx. The technical acceptance of eSSB is here to stay. The ITU, of course, deals with more than just amateur radio

interests. In some cases, eSSB has been embraced by the international commercial stations using HF or MF bands to bring more fidelity to their worldwide broadcasts.

As with all changes or advances in amateur radio, eSSB has its share of naysayers. "Standard SSB has worked well for over 50 years", "eSSB is illegal (it is not)", "eSSB causes splatter", and so on and on. The ARRL is among the many that have petitioned the FCC (2003, 2005 and 2007) to limit the bandwidth of SSB to 3.0 KHz and AM to 6.0 KHz. All of these petitions were rejected by the FCC in its finding that the fundamental philosophy of amateur radio was not violated and the FCC continues to support such operational experimentation. But who are the benefactors of eSSB? Even eSSB proponents agree it is not the answer for better contesting, better DXing or even the short quick QSO. eSSB seems to shine when you are in a long ragchew contact that would be improved with a more life-like audio.

eSSB has seen a constrained, but growing, audience since its inception. This is largely due to the limited equipment, especially receivers, which can handle the wider audio bandwidth and the need to apply external audio signal enhancement. As newer transceivers with better internal DSP capability and wider, user selectable, audio sections hit the market, eSSB will be readily available to many more. As eSSB grows, so will the need for operator awareness and cooperation. To operate in the eSSB mode both operators must be aware of the other operator's filtering setup and equalization. This may be akin to an operator choosing a filter and adjusting for a zero-beat frequency under current CW operations. Maybe the largest need for cooperation is from those not using eSSB. Like a wide load on the highway, it is sometimes better to just move over a little and give them space. On the other hand, eSSB enthusiasts should probably avoid experimenting during a major contest weekend.

For more than one-hundred years, amateur radio has been on the forefront of many commu-

nication advancements. eSSB appears to be another one of the milestones. **GD**

Station Activates

All the coax has been removed from the old club station. Most recently the station console was disassembled and prepared for shipping to the new site at the Cook Hill FD.

For the upcoming emergency test this weekend, I will try to get at least one of the console sections set up and operational. Also we will be using a portable tripod with a dual band antenna for temporary communications on the 2 and 70cm bands.

As soon as we are done with SET we will be adding the rest of the console. In addition to the two HF radios, Amp, and tuner, there will be one section set up with VHF and UHF communications.

We are still looking at various options for antennas.

Before the end of this Summer I will also be testing and adjusting all the antennas (G5RVs), mobile rigs and other equipment.

At Field Day we discovered that the Kenwood TS-450 became non-operational after only operating for a an hour or two. Nothing worked except the display frequency. And that was stuck on 20 meter SSB. NOTHING else worked. No transmit, receive or any other function. After FD I opened up the rig and found that it's internal battery backup battery was dead. (a little coin cell that kept the internal memory and other settings alive). I've already ordered a new battery and the rig should be fixed and ready to go later this month..

73, de WA1TRY - Station Activities Mang.

Secretary Report & Minutes of Meriden Amateur Radio Club June 2012

The business meeting opened at 1931 on June 14, 2012 with approximately 17 people in attendance. A quorum was present. First business meeting in our new digs.

Announcements -

Introductions

Activity meeting - Field Day preparation. **A week early on June 21st.**

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

Club Station & Facilities - (WA1TRY-SAM)

Preparing and loading possessions for move to the new location in progress.

Moving equipment console is a big job. WA1TRY needs some help.

After WA1TRY pointed out the locations of the meeting and shack spaces, there was a discussion on the noise level while operating. The areas are block faced and tile floored with no noise abatement. Several ideas were put forth, such as area rugs and fabric partitions.

Antennas in limbo - Discussion on moving tower with Dir. Emer. Manager Ernie and town DPW.

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

Upcoming activity meetings

- June Field Day preparation and history slide show. **A week early on June 21st.**
- 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 Sept VHF QSO party and Ten-Ten Spirit of 76, 10/10 SSB QSO Party in August.

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 Todd K1TDO.

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.

N1API was asked and put forward the idea of MARC hosting (details of his proposal were in the last issue of Key Klix) for the summer 2013 Ten-Ten convention. A presentation will be made at the July meeting by Ken K1IEQ a Ten-Ten director to the assemblage.

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)

Consolidated April, May and June issue released. KK back on track.

Field Day (June 23 & 24)

Marcus Cooke Park has been approved for the 2012 site.

Will be loading and transporting on **Thursday June 21st**.

Gurus: CW W1KKF, SSB KB1HCC, VHF - N1ZN, Sat W1KKF/KB1FYL, GOTA KB1FYL, Food N1GNV/KB1FYL, Power WA1VXH/WA1TRY.

Need Gurus: GOTA station.

All stations are looking for ops. Contact the respective Guru to schedule your slots.

Reviewed all items necessary for a successful event.

EmComm - (WA1VXH)

Next event is the Fishbien 5K/10K race in September 17th 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.

Wallingford will sponsor a CPR class Tuesday June 19th. Contact Chris.

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 Violi's; Brother's and FUMC all seem to be in \$18 plus tax & gratuity range with FUMC at \$700 flat fee. Menus are available on line.

Motion N1GNV second by K1SEZ to assess a fee of \$10 per person for those attending the Christmas Party to defer some of the rising expenses. Passed after lengthy discussion. .

50/50 None

Meeting Adjourned about 21:58

Submitted: Dan Murphy W1DMM, Secretary

Rogus Electronics

**New & Used
Ham Radio Gear
Service / Repairs**

**250 Meriden Waterbury Road
Southington, CT 06489
Phone: 860-621-2252**

**Business Meeting
August 9**

**Activity Meeting
Club Picnic**

**Check club forums for
new information**

**Meriden Amateur Radio Club
Post Office Box 583
Meriden, CT 06450**

First Class