

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

May 2014

The business meeting opened at 7:36 EDST on May 8, 2014 with 13 people in attendance. See call sign listing on next page. A quorum was present. The meeting was opened and chaired by Vice President, Al N1API, who also brought in some coffee and donuts for everyone to enjoy. Jim, N1ZN, the President joined the meeting later at around 8:15 pm.

Announcements – none

Introductions – All present at the meeting announced their name and call sign and signed the log sheet.

Secretary's Report – The April 2014 meeting minutes were announced and accepted as shown on the MARC website with no changes.

Treasurer's Report – No report.

Contributions - None

Correspondence – No correspondence received. We're not sure if anyone went to the club post office box to check for new correspondence.

Scholarship – nothing discussed. Don, KE1AY, remarked that only one applicant has submitted a scholarship request this year. The name of the applicant will be announced and the 2014 award finalized at our next meeting in June.

Club Station & Facilities – Chris, WA1VXH, commented that the two transceivers used by the club seem to be ready to go for this year's Field Day exercises. Also, he mentioned that he intends to call the Wallingford Public Works for repair of an electrical light and switch at the Cooke Hill Fire House station that we use for meetings.

Club Activities & Program (the 4th Thursday of the month) –

- **May**, Steve, KC1AXJ and Paul, K1SEZ will present information on the JT65-HF digital mode and logging software, in addition to a discussion (and demo?) of RC quad copters.
- **June**, the club's 2014 Field Day preparation

Nets - All nets are doing well

- 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

Hamfests – Casual remarks about the upcoming ARRL Centennial celebration on July 17th through July 19th were made by several members in attendance. It was noted that advance registration for the Hartford and Newington celebration venues is now available on the internet; a large turnout crowd is expected. If you're planning on going, please register on-line early!

Key Klix- Dave K1WJL said the May issue of Key Klix will be published shortly on the MARC website, and apologized for the delay.

Castle Craig – Al, N1API requested anyone interested in helping to staff the national 10-10 Club's booth for a few hours should contact him for a scheduled time.

Membership – no report

Interference and Technical – no report

Repeater - nothing to report.

Instruction & Testing – No comments.

Candy Store – no report

Club Media – no report

Field Day – This year the 2014 Field Day exercise will be **June 28, 29th** at Marcus Cooke Park on the east side of Wallingford. As usual, the club will complete our final preparations for FD at the Thursday activity meeting just before the event on June 26th. Setup will start on that Friday, June 27th. Comments were expressed about staffing the SSB tent more completely and interest was noted to set up a VHF tent in addition to a GOTA rig, since we have several new members who would qualify under the GOTA rules. Also, we are seeking an experienced contest SSB voice op to work with us.

Bill W1KKF mentioned that the CW tent will be staffed for the full FD time with operators similar to previous years. Beginners or anyone interested in the CW side of ham radio were invited to join the CW tent operations at any time during the event to get a taste of the popular mode.

Haggie is expected to contribute an electrical generator for the event.

Field Day cooking duties are still up in the air.

EmComm – no report.

Nutmeg Hamfest – Bill W1KKF remarked that we still need to identify and contact guest presenters for this event. Paul K1SEZ is contacting several ARRL HQ speakers with results expected soon.

New Business – none

Jim N1ZN joined our meeting about 8:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned by voice vote about 8:14 to continue informal discussions around the coffee and pastries.

Submitted: Paul Ciezniak, K1SEZ, Secretary

PJC

Meeting Attendees on May 8, 2014

1. K1PU, Mark
2. K1SEZ, Paul (secretary)
3. K1WJL, Dave
4. KB1MMS, Ron
5. KC1BAQ, Joe
6. KE1AU, Bob
7. KE1AY, Don
8. N1API, Al (vice president)
9. N1ZN, Jim (president)
10. W1KKF, Bill
11. WA1VXH, Chris
12. WB1GYZ, Bob
13. WV2LKM, Steve

Meeting Attendees on May 22, 2014 – ACTIVITY EVENING

1. K1LYP, John
2. K1PU, Mark
3. K1SEZ, Paul (secretary)
4. K1VDF, John
5. K1WJL, Dave
6. KA1LAM, Anbu (new member applicant)
7. KC1ACN, Rob
8. KC1AXJ, Steve
9. KE1AY, Don
10. N1API, Al (vice president)
11. N1BF, Pat
12. N1ZN, Jim (president)
13. W1KKF, Bill
14. WA1VXH, Chris
15. WB1GYZ, Bob

Tonight's activity meeting was led by Steve, KC1AXJ, focused on the growing hobby of quad-copters with on-board video cameras. The control signals for flying the copter are done on the HF/VHF/UHF amateur radio bands, in addition to broadcasting the video and audio signals from the video camera.

Steve discussed the needs of this expanding area of RC battery powered airplanes and quad-copters, with the video capabilities and the impact and awareness of the general public to these "drones", with all the quasi-military publicity these have currently. There are state and federal regulations covering not only the safety concerns but also the private / public photography rules.

With the development of new lithium polymer batteries of small size and large current capability, the quad copter controlled by radio will become a growing hobby outlet with ham radio overtones. One of the most intriguing aspects of the RC drones is employing the on-board video camera to "put the operator into the drone by using small, lightweight headphones and monitors that the operator wears". This is called FPV or First Person View capability.

There were many questions from the group assembled and a demonstration of a home-built quad copter designed and built by Steve, KC1AXJ.

Some questions centered on the quad copter's capability to place an antenna wire, or string, into a tree exactly where it was desired.