



Secretary Report & Minutes of Meriden Amateur Radio Club (M.A.R.C.) August 2016

The business meeting opened at 7:30 PM EST on August 11, 2016 with 19 people in attendance.

Officers present:

Bill (W1KKF), Al (N1API), Dave (K1WJL), Steve (KC1SA), Rob (K1RCT)

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

Announcements – The next meeting is an activity meeting on 8/25/2016. The topic is Quad Antennas, Dave (K1WJL) will be presenting. As a reminder WAE CW is this weekend.

Introductions – All in attendance introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report – The July 2016 Secretary's Report was published on the W1NRG site and is recorded as read. There were no corrections or questions on the minutes.

Treasurer's Report – A report was given by Dave (K1WJL) and accepted.

Contributions – None reported

Correspondence – A letter from Sid Miller (WA1DOU) stating he has a tower, rotor and a Mosely tri-bander that needs to be taken down.

Program & Entertainment –

Ed (W1YSM) went over our upcoming schedule:

August activity meeting - Quad Antenna discussion

September activity meeting -- Raspberry PI discussion

October activity meeting -- Antenna Making

November activity meeting - no meeting

December 8th – Holiday dinner at Brother's Restaurant with Tom Gallagher (NY2RF) giving a 10-15 minute talk.

Need ideas from January moving forward, anyone with topics please email Ed (w1ysm@arrl.net).

Scholarship – Nothing to report.

Club Station & Facilities – Rob (K1RCT) stated nothing to report.

Club Activities & Program (the 4th Thursday of the month) – August 25th is our next activity meeting. Dave (K1WJL) will discuss his Quad Antenna. Meeting will be at the current clubhouse.

Nets –

6M – Jim (N1ZN) wasn't present but folks mentioned usually 6 to 7 check-ins. This Net is on 50.175 MHz each Monday at 8PM local time.

10M – John (K1VDF) gave a report of recent activity. This Net is on 28.375 MHz each Tuesday at 8PM local time.

2M – Todd (K1TDO) usually has between 4 to 8 check in's for the 2M Net. This Net is on the 147.360 MHz repeater each Tuesday at 7PM local time.

Castle Craig – The summer 10-10 QSO party was August 6 and 7th and was more or flop (band was in bad shape).

VE session – Nothing to report

Key Klix – Excellent job Dave (K1WJL). Dave is always looking for articles and pictures. Keep them coming.

Membership – We had one application submitted but waiting for the check. We will vote on this membership application at the next business meeting provided the check is received.

Interference and Technical – Rich (WA1TRY) was not present. If anyone has issues with Interference and Technical issues let Bill (W1KKF) know and he'll let Rich know about the problem.

Repeater – Not discussed.

Hamfest – We have speakers! Steve Ford will discuss "Work the World with JT65" and Steve Williams will discuss "How your weatherman gets his facts". John (N1GNV) will work on getting the Nutmeg Hamfest website updated with this information. The Nutfest committee will meet in early September to finalize the event.

Steve Williams' title is: ARRL CT Section ARES DEC SKYWARN.

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. Mark (K1PU) will update our website to add a link to our page linking to the merchandise on the Gold Medal Ideas web site. Here's the link:

<http://stores.goldmedalideas.com/ygs>

AuxComm – No news other than Emcomm name change to Auxcomm.

Misc. Old Business –

Elmer of the Year certificate – Rob (K1RCT) completed the work on this. The corrected certificate was passed around for folks to review. Nice job Rob.

Field Day – The W1NRG 2016 Field day score was 3954 points, last year we scored 3580 and in 2014 we scored 5028.

US Islands QSO party – W1NRG will be operating from Fireworks Island in Wallingford. The event starts August 27 at 1200Z and ends August 28 at 0300Z (that's 8AM to 11PM Saturday August 27th local time).

John (N1GNV) is putting together schedule, if interested in operating then email John. A prominent radio supplier is offering up a nice plaque for 1st place (last year W1NRG came in 3rd place). We need to make 25 contacts in 2 DX entities (minimum) during this QSO party. Read more here:

<http://www.usislands.org/>

Floor Fans – N1API didn't get a chance to price out fans for review at this evening. We voted on putting a \$50 budget for two fans. It was passed, so AI will go purchase two fans.

Wi-Fi hotspot – The Wi-Fi committee (K1RCT, K1VDF, and KC1SA) presented justification and pricing information to the club. Having this will allow the club to have internet access for contesting / QSO party events.

The recommendation for measuring if Wi-Fi is a justified expense:

- * Add a calendar to the club web page with a spot to sign up for a given contest
- * Station activity manager reviews and when interest we have a real contest “event”
- * K1PU will add this to the W1NRG page

Hold minimum of 8 contests each year

- * If less than 8 events are held, then Wi-Fi isn’t a justified expense.
- * If 8 or more events are held then Wi-Fi is a justified expense.

The recommendation for Wi-Fi service and cost.

Costs for Wi-Fi access

- * Several companies and their plan options were presented
 - * T-Mobile (current)
 - * Freedom Pop.
 - * Internet on the Go
- * Recommend Internet on the Go
 - * This is a pay as you – purchase 1G at time for \$19.
 - * Must purchase hardware – roughly \$30
 - * Must use at least 1M in a 60 day period, else you lose the data you’ve purchased
 - * No contract and no termination fees.

- A vote was taken and passed to go with Internet on the Go provided there is no early termination fee.

{Steve – KC1SA had a discussion on 8/13 with IOTG and confirmed no contract or termination fees. The company is Internet on the Go and they use Sprint Towers (they are not associated with D-Link)}.

Title for Steve Williams talk – K1LYP will give N1GNV the title for Steve’s talk.

New Business –

Holiday party – Brothers prices have gone up about 10% from last year. Tom Gallagher (NY2RF - CEO of the ARRL) will be our guest speaker. The club would like to have Betsey Doane (K1EIC), Section Manager and retiring at the end of September, attend the party. A discussion was had about raising cost of guests attending the Holiday party.

- A motion was made to increase the cost to significant others attending the Holiday party to \$15. The motion was voted on and passed.
- A motion was made to increase the number of people attending to 50. The motion was voted on and passed.
- A motion was made to have Betsy Doane and Chuck Motes (K1DFS), who is replacing Betsy, to attend our Holiday party and we would pay for their admission. The motion was voted on and passed.

Equipment – The equipment that Sid Miller said he would like to part with was entered into discussion. John (K1LYP) and Rob (K1RCT) will look at the equipment to see its value. We will offer to take the equipment down and take it away at no cost. Storage would be at the current club house until we can install it. The motion was made to do this, the motion was passed.

Moving – Bill (W1KKF) spoke with the Fire Chief and we are moving but the room at the new location is not ready finished. The Fire Chief mentioned that it would be ok for the club to start putting up antennas now.

Meeting was closed at 8:39 PM

Meeting Attendees on August 11, 2016

Call Sign	Name
AB1DQ	James Surprenant
K1LYP	John Yusza
K1PU	Mark Mokoski
K1VDF	John Blevins
K1WJL	Dave Swedock
KB1JL	Eric Olssen
K1RCT	Rob Cichon
KC1FOK	Matt Huskes
KC1SA	Stephen Allen
KE1AY	Donald Mitchell
N1API	Al Kaiser
N1GNV	John Bartscherer
W1DQ	John Elengo
W1KKF	Bill Wawrzeniak
W1YSM	Ed Snyder
WA1VXH	Christian Sievert
WB1GYZ	Bob Biancur
WV2LKM	Steve Waldmann
KE4EYA	Ralph Ring