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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

January - 2012

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## ***This Month's Meeting***

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, Jan. 20th at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave. (Rte. 4), Farmington, CT. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

## ***Last Month's Meeting***

## **ICRC Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date:</b>	12/16/11
<b>Time Started:</b>	7:30 PM
<b>Time Ended:</b>	8:40 PM

**Minutes taken by:** Dan Wall – W1ZFG

### **Attendees (Callsign):**

AB1NH	KB1SNL	N1JWF	KA1NDE	KB1TFU
K1WMS	KB1VNT	WA2PNB	N1RMF	WY1O
N1JGR	W1ZFG	K1DFS		

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<b><i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i></b>
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**Presidents Report:**

Introduction of new president.

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

**Secretary report:**

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	W1ZFG
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

unanimous

**Treasurer Report:**

Treasurer report was presented by the treasurer. Account balances were read.

Motion to Accept:	N1RMF
Seconded by:	N1JWF
Abstain:	

unanimous

**Tech. VP Report:**

Machines are running. The Ider on the K1WMS machine is still too loud.

The Low Voltage Detector has been set up and is running at the .15 site. It will disconnect the load from the batteries when the battery voltage drops to 10.8V and restore power to the load when the battery voltage returns to 12.8V. This will protect the battery bank from being depleted, as happened previously.

The solar project is basically complete. The solar array is capable of putting out 60A in full sunlight. We will need to build a box around the batteries made of 2" Styrofoam. This will be added after the batteries are moved into place.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1RMF
Abstain:	

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<b><i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i></b>
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**Admin. VP Report:**

Nothing to report.

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

**Webmaster Report:**

The website is up to date, including the events calendar. The new website will be online soon.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1JGR
Abstain:	

**Elmer's net:**

Chairman not present to give report. The club decided to pay the cost of creating the certificates for all participants and to pay for the mailing of them.

**Old Business:**

There was a decision made on the coffee situation. The coffeemaker will be kept upstairs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. The machine takes the popular K-cups. You may use the existing ones or bring your own.

**New Business:**

Klondike Derby: We need more operators for the event: At least 15 for Saturday and 8 for Sunday. Training for the event will be held at the January meeting. If you are planning on helping out, please attend the January meeting.

It was decided that George – N1RMF and Chuck – K1DFS would represent the ICRC at the ARRL New England Division Cabinet Meeting to be held on Saturday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> in Springfield MA.

Motion to have club do Winding Trails race in April: K1DFS, seconded N1JWF. Motion passed.

Motion to have club do Boateaters race in May: K1DFS, seconded N1JWF. Motion passed.

There was discussion on whether to do the Winstead bike race. If sponsor doesn't commit by February, we won't be able to schedule properly. Motion by K1DFS to table: seconded by N1RMF. Motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn:	W1ZFG
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

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## ***Presentation on Emergency Power Systems***

After the business meeting was concluded, our Tech VP, Rick – NIJGR made a very interesting presentation about how to set up an Emergency Power System using 12 volt batteries. Also covered were the different types of batteries available and the pros and cons of each. Great job, Rick!

## ***President's Message***



It's January already - and in comes the New Year 2012 and I wish that all of us and our friends, family and colleagues do have a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** On a personal note, let us have hope for our well being, success, prosperity and good health in the coming times of 2012.

We are in a month named after the Roman god Janus, certainly an appropriate representation of the launch of this new year. Janus had two faces so that he could look ahead toward the future and back at the past at the same time. As we get rid of an old year and look forward to a new one, let us all try to be a little like Janus. We know through experience what we did wrong and what we did right, and hope to do better this year.

This goes for our club's mindset as well. We might be able to determine things we did in which we might do better, and as a very active club in terms of community service projects - we have much opportunity to do this. Last year, we were able to incorporate three new activities, setting the stage for our first official participation in the Quartette Club Charity Motorcycle Ride, seriously considering the Fat Tire Classic Bicycle Race in Winsted, and for having created an exceptional educational resource of new hams - with our "Elmer's Net. What an exciting schedule mapped out for us this year!

As we start to approach the new year's scheduling of activities, as well as plan for the Klondike weekend, just around the corner; I find myself trying to interject some sense of providing some assistance to the overall project, yet find that there is a cadre of folk who are very much experienced at knowing what needs to be done; and are doing it! It's been a valuable lesson for me, to know that the club still is able to depend on that strong and committed leadership.

But to look at the other face of Janus, looking rearward, the ICRC needs to know that there is some untapped resources in the general membership. If, dear reader, you think that you might be one of these - do step forward, and let us know what you may offer. Sometimes what you think is on no consequence on a matter, it turns out to be one of those momentous "earth-shattering" ideas!

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## ***President's Message – cont'd***

On a final note, many people make ambitious new year's resolutions; only to fail. I'd like to propose a new year's resolution that would be easy and fun. If you enjoy our ICRC club meetings and the activities, why not invite a friend to join you? I know if I find a favorite movie, restaurant, etc that I usually get the word out to my friends of that exceptional place or event.

Let's do the same for our club. Bring a friend along, and see if he or she may also enjoy what we have become to enjoy over the years.

Perry Green, WY1O

## ***APRS Trackers for Klondike***

Time is growing short. By now everyone should have their APRS Trackers completed, with battery, radio, GPS, and antennas all installed in a sturdy metal enclosure. Batteries should be charged shortly before the day of the event (Feb 4<sup>th</sup>). Bring your completed boxes with you on the morning of the event.

## ***Elmer's Net Committee***

A meeting of the Elmer's Net Committee was held on Tuesday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. The schedule for the Second Semester of Classes was finalized. There are some changes from the first semester. First of all, the second semester classes will be held on Mondays at **7:00 PM**. The new earlier time will prevent any conflicts with existing traffic and public service nets. The other change is that each topic will be covered on only one week, instead of the two weeks as previously done. The class schedule is as follows:

- 1/30 1. SKYWARN
- 2/06 2. ARES
- 2/13 3. Emergency, Municipal, & Other Government Services (RACES/MARS)
- 2/20 4. Propagation/Sunspots
- 2/27 5. Contesting
- 3/05 6. Vanity & Club Calls, Renewals
- 3/12 7. Working with the ARRL Radiogram Form
- 3/19 8. Open Session/Roundtable

The second semester begins on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM on the linked repeater system, 146.88, 147.15, 442.85, and the 220 K1WMS link. Come and join the fun! Tell your friends.

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## ***Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary***

Section Leadership: K1EIC SM: ASMs W1FXQ emeritus, KD1YV, K1HEJ; OOC K1DFS; PIC KA1WPM; SEC N1CLV: ASECs N1FNE, K1BRF, AF1HS, K1VSC; SGL K1MK; STM K1STM; TC N1KHB.

On behalf of the Section leadership, I want to wish each of you a wonderful holiday and a safe and happy New Year! As I get older, the years just seem to go faster and faster! Let's hope that the weather holds through the holidays so travel becomes easier than last year. Maybe the early storms we had in late October means that we have less snow at this time of year. We can hope for that anyway.

I just received word that Bob Schulte, WK1N became a silent key on Christmas Eve. Bob was our first Nutmeg Hamfest Chair. He was active in the Shoreline ARC for many years and mentored many hams. Paul Lombardo, KA1GDX became a silent key this month. He provided assistance during the Halloween storm but became ill soon after. He was the Wethersfield ambulance assistant chief and several local radio clubs. I remember Paul—he will be missed. Leon Goolsby, KB1CQ became a silent key recently. He was a member of the Bloomfield ARC and their VE team. Our sympathy to all friends and families. Our SEC Wayne Gronlund N1CLV had the opportunity to speak at the Governor's two storm panel Wednesday that dealt with backup communications issues. Wayne had a well-prepared Power Point presentation that was very well received. He and others from DEMHS and National Guard participated in a Q&A session as well. Many thanks to ASEC Rod Lane, N1FNE for the following info: You can see the presentations at the CT-N site.

<http://ct-n.com/ondemand.asp?ID=7257>

Or go directly to the video at:

[http://ctnv1.ctn.state.ct.us/G/gov\\_2storm\\_am\\_12-14-11.wmv](http://ctnv1.ctn.state.ct.us/G/gov_2storm_am_12-14-11.wmv)

Wayne's part starts at 33:33 into the video. You won't want to miss it! Soon after the talk, Wayne accepted an invitation from John Gustafson, Emergency Telecommunications Manager for CT DEMHS who called Wayne on behalf of Bill Hackett, State Emergency Management Director and Mike Varney, our Statewide Interoperability Coordinator to join the Connecticut Public Safety Interoperable Communications Executive Committee as a non-voting member representing Amateur radio. The CT Section very much appreciates the opportunity to have Amateur radio represented in this way. Wayne will be a wonderful representative for ARES and for Amateur radio's ability to provide quality emergency communications. Congratulations Wayne and thank you!

Want to take the ARRL Level I Emcomm course? Edwin, WA1LEI is teaching a class on Saturday, January 28 at the Hampton Inn and Suites, 510 Sawmill Lane, West Haven.

Schedule:

Registration and coffee 8am to 8:30

Class 8:30 to 12pm

Lunch Break 12pm to 12:30

Class 12:30 to 4:00pm

Testing and Certificates 4:00 pm to 5pm

Prerequisites : ICS- 100 and IS-700 Must Bring Cert to take test.

Lunch / Coffee / Muffins, Donuts / Soft drinks will be provided

Cost: Class Size 30 Students / \$60 per student includes Book / Test /Lunch

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## **Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd**

DEC Douglas, WA1SFH Region 2 is announcing the first all-members training session to be held on Saturday, January 14 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Guilford Fire Department training room, 390 Church St. Guilford. All members are strongly encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Douglas [wa1sfh@arrl.net](mailto:wa1sfh@arrl.net).

Check out the new ARES Region 2 Web Site created by Douglas at <http://www.ctaresregion2.org> where you will find the chance to participate in a forum with many categories shown. Go ahead and register!

Eric KB1EHE and Andrew KB1UTT tried something a bit different during the storm. The following was reported to me by Eric: "I live in a lake association of about 450 homes. In conjunction with our recent SET drill, I conducted a parallel "mini drill" in which the Board of Directors of the lake association were kept informed of the SET drill scenario using Family Radio Service "walkie talkies". The Board of Directors tuned in via FRS on Channel 1, and I relayed the SET drill scenario to them at 10am on the morning of the SET drill. The combined ham radio and public FRS radio system worked wonderfully.

But that's just for starters. The role of ham radio and FRS radio became even more critical when the storm hit. Me and another ham radio operator who lives in the lake association (Andrew Strupinski, KB1UTT) continued to use our FRS radio network to keep the 450 homes in my lake association informed of emergency-relief efforts. We ran continuous, around-the-clock, on-the-hour updates until power was restored to the community. I provided the lake association members with updates on the even hours. And Andrew provided updates on the odd hours. Both of us have emergency generator power, so we were able to keep up the eight-day informational updates.

We were relaying emergency info; shelter info; summaries of the Governor's messages; locations of open gas stations; where the line crews are; provided educational do's and don'ts regarding generator and heater use; provided info regarding neighbors that are welcoming in other neighbors because they have fireplaces and / or generators, etc. We also used our combined ham radio and FRS radio network to keep track of the elderly in our community. Because there are no FRS restrictions on "broadcasting" -- we replayed the Governor's radio updates as well as town bulletins that were being sent over phone lines.

The bottom line: This communication system worked fantastically. Hams are the conduit to emergency information and assistance in my community. And non-hams -- the public at large -- are playing a role in their own health and safety. It's a wonderful combination.

For further information, you can contact either Eric or Andrew by email, [kb1ehe@arrl.net](mailto:kb1ehe@arrl.net), [kb1utt@arrl.net](mailto:kb1utt@arrl.net).

Congratulations to the Section CW Traffic Net CN on their high checkin count for the month of November—53 stations! Net Manager Dan Shine A1GGN reports that he hasn't seen that count in many years. I'm quite pleased that we have enough interest to keep our CW NTS net running—it's important because it feeds into the national system. Region and area nets are very active on CW and handle a good deal of traffic. So if you are interested in practicing your CW skills and handling traffic, check in on 3.533 each night at 1900 local. Give it a try in the New Year!

It's great to hear our STM Anne K1STM back on the air taking reports again after her move. Congrats to the following who earned Public Service Honor roll in November: NM1K 160, KB1RGQ 140, KB1NMO 110. Keep up the great work on the nets.

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## ***Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd***

Club officers are reminded to update club records on the ARRL Page. It's real important that we know who your officers are and have current information in order to provide you with services and give you the latest information.

Your SM plans to join club presidents and attend the New England Division cabinet meeting in January. This regularly occurs before the ARRL Board meeting so that the Director and Vice Director can get good input from Sections within the Division for their meeting.

Attention sysops of digital systems: You will be contacted by me and John Perelstein WA2RYV to update your information about your system. John has offered to do this update for our ARES web site and write some new training material! Many thanks John.

Check out ARRL's new video: The Magic of Do It Yourself. See it at <http://www.arrl.org/diy> where you will also find supplementary material that can be used for presentations. Many other hobby groups get together in DIY groups to create new items that relate to their hobby or to repair or to discuss ideas. The goal is to promote Amateur radio to other hobbyists who might well be quite interested in what we do and become a ham. So, this is another activity that perhaps some of your clubs may be interested in organizing. Why not get a subgroup together to make presentations! Check it out! !

Now enjoy this special time with friends and family. Play radio and take some time for yourself.

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ARRL Connecticut Section  
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*For the latest information, visit our website at <http://www.icrcweb.org>*