
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

February - 2007

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, February 16th 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

Date:	January 19, 2007
Time Started:	7:40 PM
Time Ended:	8:35 PM

Minutes taken by: Rick Johnson – N1WGK

Attendees (Callsign):

N1WGK	K1HEJ	W1ZFG	K1WMS	K1DFS
N1JGR	KB1KZC	KB1JYX	KB1KNV	N1JWF

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	KB1KNV
Abstain:	

unanimous

<i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i>

Treasurer Report:

Previous Balance:		837.41
Checks and Payments	4 Items	-372.25
Deposits and Other Credits	2 Items	480.00
Service Charge	0 Items	0.00
Interest Earned	0 Items	0.00
Ending Balance of Bank Statement:		945.16

Motion to Accept:	KB1KNV
Seconded by:	KB1JXX
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP report...

88 is running well... 15 is running fine, too. Packet is running fine

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

unanimous

Old Business:

Feb 2, 3 and 4th, KLONDIKE! Get hold of Rick, N1JGR, if interested in helping. Bring warm clothes, socks, boots, batteries, radios, etc. We need around 15 hams to make this work, more if possible. We especially need people for Saturday...Friday night is setup. N1JGR@snet.net or via phone at 860-276-7101.

SETUP for Klondike: January 27th, 8AM, meeting at Dunkin Donuts on Rt. 44 in Avon/Canton line. The more the merrier for this!!! It would also be helpful to do this because you will know where the stations are. It's a fun time!!! Please consider helping...

Discussion regarding linking the 15 repeater.

New Business:

General class training and the new FCC rules were discussed

Motion to Adjourn:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

Unanimous

SKYWARN Training Class

Below, is information for the Skywarn training class in Canton, CT. We are working on a location in Manchester, and details will follow in the next few weeks.

Skywarn Training Class
Wednesday May 9, 2007, 7:PM to 10:PM
Canton Community Center
40 Dyer Ave Canton, CT

Basic weather spotter training open to all, taught by NWS from Taunton, MA
No prior registration needed

73 from Roger - K1PAI Skywarn Co-ordinator for Hartford and Tolland Counties

Note to all ICRC Members: I recommend this one night course if you can make it. Skywarn is one of the most often activated emergency service that hams are called upon several times a year to do. While Roger indicates no prior registration is needed, please let Roger know if you can attend so NWS can know the size of the room they need. Larry - K1HEJ, ICRC Pres.

Walt Styslo - Farmington Red Cross HQ Volunteer of the Quarter

CONGRATULATIONS to our CHARTER OAK CHAPTER
Volunteers of the Quarter
Third Quarter, 2006

WALTER STYSLO
Emergency Services

Working on his own, and through others, Walt has contributed scores of hours rebuilding and improving the emergency communications system in Farmington to a crisp, businesslike and technically professional level. This has been technically difficult and it has benefited from his years of experience as an extra class amateur radio operator K1WMS. This is not work done in a spotlight to applause; sometimes it involves solo work for hours and very few people know and appreciate his contributions. Because of his unstinting work and his dedication to the American Red Cross, the Chapter has voice and digital communications capability for local, regional or even global reach on a variety of frequencies.

Walt has also been instrumental in involving the ICRC Radio Club in chapter activities during tests and emergency drills. This is a series of remarkable achievement and a major contribution because when it is needed, this work could, indeed, contribute to saving lives and allowing the American Red Cross to bring a higher level of service to its volunteers and assist casework.

Nominated by Emergency Services

KB1KIX District Emergency Coordinator - Region 3

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

A very Happy and healthy New Year to you all.

Some of you have seen this on the local news. We in the CT Section send our profound sympathy to Don Moore K1QPN of Bloomfield and his family on the loss of their sawmill and other valuables from fire. The mill has operated in the family for many generations; this is a significant loss. Don was active for many years in ARES as an EC. Don, please know that the CT Section ARRL wishes you and your family all the best in dealing with this very unfortunate incident.

Several of us operated W1AW during the operating event commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first voice transmission over radio. What fun! Many thanks to Media and Public Information Manager Allen Pitts W1AGP and to Joe Carcia, NJ1Q Chief Op at W1AW for their wonderful accommodations. Your SM K1EIC, K1EIR, N1BDF, K1SFA, W1KRB, K1RfD, KB1KIX, WV1X and others whose calls I do not have at this writing operated the event. This event officially closed the Hello Radio campaign focused at new hams, although the Hello-Radio Web Site will still be up. The next focus for the recruiting of new hams will be to explain our emergency communications capability in a crisis. New brochures are ready--go to <http://www.arrl.org/pio>. I will personally see to it that all club presidents, DEC's and EC's will receive a few brochures which can be used to facilitate your communicating with town officials. Let's get the word out, welcome newcomers and either participate as an elmer or refer one to an elmer. I will be in contact with clubs asking for elmers on various operating specialties with the goal of putting a list together which can be shared. So please begin thinking about the possibility of your participating in this important work. Remember, we all need to be doing something new. Another goal for us this year is the training of more operators on digital modes. Here are some words that should clarify this Section's position on the use of various modes in emcomm from DEC Chuck, Rexroad, AB1CR and CLIDE: CT Leaders in Digital Emcomm. Packet radio is a vital communication technique for digital communication. While CLIDE continues to evolve the technologies available to Connecticut served agencies, we recognize that packet radio will be one of the user links into any digital data radio system for many years to come. The current Flexnet/FBB system is the only 100% RF system we have today. It provides coverage of much of Connecticut and its coverage is expanding. The Flexnet/FBB system can handle text-only messages, NTS traffic, and bulletins. The Winlink2k system is more e-mail based, allowing for attachments of status reports and other small attachments. Today, all state Regional offices can access the Winlink2k server on Box Mountain through 100% RF links. This means they can exchange messages with each other, even if all Internet connections are down. We plan to provide more 100% RF links into the Winlink system during 2007. This means that all the State offices will have two 100% RF systems for exchanging digital messages, each system providing digital communications support and serving as a backup to the other. If a user station is configured for Flexnet/FBB that station can use Winlink2k. If a user station is configured for Winlink2k that station can use Flexnet/FBB. While the two systems work somewhat differently, the underlying user technology is the same. We encourage users to become familiar with both. As CLIDE continues to work towards a goal of providing one megabit or higher data speeds for state regional offices and key Red Cross offices, we realize that even if that were in place today there will still be many people who have 1200 baud packet as their user station. Our long-term plan includes 1200 baud packet as one way of entering any digital data system. We have also been experimenting with 9600 baud packet and that mode shows promise as another technology for state regional offices, EOC's and anyone who wants to buy 9600 compatible packet equipment. In short, the Flexnet/FBB system is vital to the plans for digital data communication in Connecticut today, and for many years to come. Newer, faster technologies such as Winlink2k are being developed to provide additional capabilities for our served agencies. Both systems will be used for many, many years. Please see <http://www.ctares.org/clide>.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

And now, on a personal note, your SM had the pleasure of attending the club meeting of The Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association while in Florida recently. It was a wonderful meeting but very different! You see, the person who was to open the meeting place was not there and so it was decided to move the cars relatively close to each other and sit on tailgates and a few chairs that were available and have the meeting outside anyway! We were in a lighted parking lot. This is one thing that in CT, we would not be able to do! It was a privilege for me to be there; I was invited by Rose WA1VOP formerly a very active member of The Candlewood ARA. Many thanks to all at DBARA for their hospitality and welcome.

I also had the happy occasion to attend the holiday and recognition dinner for members of The Newington Amateur Radio League. At the NARL Dinner, the club recognized the following:

NARL Ham of the Year (2006) -- Paul Gibson, N1TUP two NARL "Decade": Awards: Charles Griffen, W1GYR, and Steve Ewald, WV1X; special Recognition to John Di Sarro, KA1HQK, for his service as the NARL Club Historian; 25 Year Club Member Recognitions to John Di Sarro, KA1HQK, and to Al Cohen, W1FXQ; life Achievement Award was presented to Al Cohen, W1FXQ. NARL Certificates of Merit were presented to Al Gerke, N1JWF, and Steve Ewald, WV1X.

N1TUP was specially recognized for participating in several activities and for his many hours teaching and mentoring new hams. The life achievement award was the first of its kind given to Al W1FXQ for his continuing efforts to help others, coordinate speakers, recruit volunteers, share his experience gained from Amateur Radio and other personal experience. He is currently president of QCWA. Warm and hearty congratulations to you all--I'm proud to be among you.

TO: ALL ARES AND CARA MEMBERS FROM Oscar, KB1LQV: As you all know there is growing emphasis on training that will allow us to participate in support of our served agencies and communities using the Incident Command System. Many of us have already completed several on-line FEMA courses.

We have a rare opportunity to get some advanced training for emergency service and support. With the support of ARES Region 5 south and the Brookfield Police Department we are able to present two advanced courses to better prepare ourselves to operate should we be deployed to support served agencies during / after a general emergency. There is NO cost for these courses: Course title - IS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents; IS-400 Major / complex incident management Both courses are targeted toward the management of the large or expanding incidents and would provide hams with a better understanding of how larger incidents are handled so we could provide better communications coverage.

The focus of the course is on Operation / Logistics / Planning Location - Stony Hill Fire Department - 59 Stony Hill Rd - Bethel, CT 06801 Date / Time - February 3, 2007 / 8:30AM sharp (Doors will open and coffee and doughnuts will be available at 8:00AM) There are NO prerequisites for these courses -open to all regardless of whether or not you are IS-100 trained. Both courses are covered in about 8 hours. This will be an all day event so there will be a short break for lunch. There are several alternatives for lunch in the immediate area ranging from sit-down restaurant to familiar drive-through The instructor is Officer Jared Turner of the Brookfield Police Department. Please confirm back to me by January 27, 2007 if you can attend and to reserve your seat. Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions. Email is opfullerjr@comcast.net or KB1LQV@arrl.net. Phone is 203-744-8062 or 914-841-4896

ARRL Connecticut Section
Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC
k1eic@arrl.org

Connecticut Yankee Digital Net

The Connecticut Yankee Digital Net has been meeting on Sunday nights at 8:30 PM on the .88 machine for several months now. Though participation has been sparse, the few die-hards that show up each week have had an enjoyable time conversing on AMTOR FEC mode. The purpose of this net is to experiment with the latest digital modes using sound card based software. At this point, the net is more of an informal training net where people can get practice setting up and using the software and have any questions they might have answered by our “resident experts”. Eventually the net will transition to more of a traditional traffic net, with the intent of practicing the passing of emergency traffic using digital modes.

If you are at all interested, come and join us! You need not have any elaborate interface equipment to participate. Simply download the software you like (readily available on the Internet), connect the audio output of your radio, HT, or scanner to the audio input of your sound card and you will be able to “read the mail”. In order to transmit, you will need a sound card to radio interface. There are many simple home brew circuits available on the Internet, or commercially made units are available from Buxcomm and West Mountain Radio. Hope to “see” you next Sunday.

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