
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

February - 2008

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, February 15th 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:	1/18/08
Time Started:	7:49 PM
Time Ended:	8:53 PM

Minutes taken by: Dan Wall, W1ZFG

Attendees (Callsign):

K1DFS	N1JGR	N1RMF	KB1KNV	W1ZFG
K1HEJ	N1JWF	K1WMS	N1JGR	KA1NDE
KA1KRP	N1HQX	KB1KZC		

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	KA1KRP
Abstain:	

unanimous

<i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i>

Treasurer Report:

Previous Balance:	\$828.40
Checks and Payments	\$0.00
Deposits and Other Credits	\$250.00
Service Charge	\$0.00
Interest Earned	\$0.00
Ending Balance of Bank Statement	\$1,078.40
Cleared Balance:	\$1,078.40
Checks and Payments	-\$63.59
Deposits and Other Credits	\$0.00
Register Balance as of 1/15/2008	\$1,014.81

Motion to Accept:	N1RMF
Seconded by:	KA1KRP
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP report...

88 machine: Running.
440 machine: Work is in progress.
15 machine: Running.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	KB1KNV
Abstain:	

unanimous

Old Business:

KLONDIKE DERBY – The annual Klondike Derby is happening Feb 2nd and 3rd. Friday Feb 1 is Stew Night. Location is still undetermined. Alternate sites are being investigated. We need as many people as possible. For more information, contact Rick, N1JGR. Reminder to check out the website, icrcweb.org

New Business:

None.

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Motion to Adjourn:	NIJGR
Seconded by:	KA1KRP
Abstain:	

Unanimous

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Today, January 16, 2008 is a special day: it is the ninetieth birthday of Alexander Cohen, W1FXQ of Newington! This issue of the Section News honors Al and all ops in CT who have reached this age; we all benefit from their wisdom and unique perspective on life.

Al was born in Hartford and has always lived in this area. In 1932, he and several classmates decided to study for the Amateur license. They practiced CW chatting with each other (in CW of course) going to and from school! At the age of 14, he and other school friends took the FCC exam in Hartford. At that time, the operator's license and station license were two different documents. Now all of his other friends received both licenses together in December of that year but poor Al only got the operator's license. It was not until March when he got his station license showing the call W1FXQ! You can imagine how he must have felt, anxiously waiting for that magic piece of paper! Of course, he was able to operate from other stations which he did often when visiting his friends! Just think of it: one document received at age 14 and the final license at age 15.

Al operated CW using a transmitter and receiver that he built. His first transmitter was a 171A Hartley oscillator; the receiver was a regenerative receiver which used UX199 tubes; Al built it on an inverted pie pan. He remembers cutting socket holes with a sharp knife and having ruined tubes when a screw driver slipped! Tubes were a dime apiece but tough to come by for a boy his age. But he was successful and spent many hours operating CW during those first few years. He had to wait until he could afford to upgrade his station and operate phone!

Al currently holds an Amateur Extra Class license; he was mentored by Fred W1CKV. Al and Phil W1KSC (SK) studied together! He operates an Icom 757 transceiver as well as 2 meter mobile and handheld transceivers.

Al enjoys public relations. He continually disseminates the news about Section activities both within and outside the Amateur radio community. His most recent article about the NARL Holiday Party was published in the Newington Town Crier. He has served on my cabinet continuously since 1991 as PIC and currently ASM. He said "he wanted to slow down" a few years ago so he resigned his post as PIC and presently is one of our public information officers. I continue to enjoy his unique perspective on various issues and activities. It's great to have Al on board!

Believe me, Al has not slowed down at all. He is presently president of the Nutmeg Chapter of QCWA, handles the PR for NARL, is a member of NARL, GNARC, Middlesex Amateur Radio Society, and the Insurance City Repeater Club. He has served in several community organizations: The Newington Kiwanis Club, American Legion and The Jewish War Veterans to name a few. Mary K1MMH president of NARL, presented Al with a plaque for 75 years as a licensed radio amateur at NARL's holiday party earlier this month. At this writing, I

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

am inquiring about Al's ARRL membership; your SM will surely celebrate his many years as a loyal, contributing ARRL member at some occasion in the near future.

Al credits Amateur radio for his diverse skills which led to an interesting and varied career. Today, with so many different technologies offered by our service, young people have a terrific opportunity to use their new skills offered by this many-faceted service we know as Amateur radio to motivate and enhance careers.

While in high school, Al, like many others, had a paper route. Ah, but his was unique: he repaired radios for his customers! Before finishing high school, he worked part time at The Hartford Times radio station whose call was WTHT. He really wanted a job there fulltime but he needed the first class radiotelephone license. Again, he studied and was successful! After high school, he worked at Hub Stores on State Street. Hub stores was one of the bigger radio stores after the flood of 1936. People traded radios and it was al's job to make one good radio out of a few, challenging to say the least. He later worked at WTHT as an engineer and really enjoyed that experience. Radio stations at that time typically had live programs with mayors, governors, poets, philosophers, educators and the like. Al delighted in telling me about the days he worked at the FM transmitter site where he put up a 20 meter dipole and worked 20 meters whenever he could while monitoring the station equipment.

Intermixed with his career, Al served in the Air Force as a communicator where he traveled to the Arctic, Okinawa and Africa.

Al later worked in sales at WTHT where he became regional sales manager where he learned to write commercials and work with people to solve conflicts. Al said, "the key to solving conflicts is to always look for the good in the other." Some years later, he and a partner formed a very successful electronic supply company called Signal Electronic Supply.

I haven't included every detail of his career but I'm sure you get the idea--W1FXQ took advantage of opportunities that were afforded him because of his skills he gained as an Amateur Radio operator.

Have you met Al's wife Myra? Well, she's also amazing--she's been elected to her eighth term on the Newton Town Council. Congratulations Myra!

Al, this really comes from the heart. From all of us in CT, happy birthday and best wishes for many years to come. You can email Al by writing w1fxq@arrl.net.

Next month, I'll tell you about the NARL Holiday Party at which Mary K1MMH was installed as NARL president, where we heard from George Hart, W1NJM by telephone, we enjoyed a fine talk by ARRL CEO Dave Sumner about the latest state-of-the-art computer-related technologies being applied by radio amateurs worldwide, and where several exciting awards were presented.

And now, I'll close with an invitation that was distributed by our SEC Brian, K1BRF and comes from Mario Bruno, Senior Director, Preparedness and Response & Information Technology Connecticut State Relations Disaster Liaison: The Charter Oak Chapter of the American Red Cross will be receiving a national Emergency Communications Response Vehicle (ECRV) next week. This vehicle will be the only one with these capabilities

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

in the Northeast at this point, greatly increasing The Red Cross capacity and readiness to respond to large disasters in the area. Two of these vehicles will be in Farmington for a few days as we train twenty responders who will be ready to deploy it during large disasters. This note is an invitation for anyone interested in taking a tour of the vehicle, learning about what it can do and what the Response Technology Team accomplishes during large disasters. Instructors from all over the country will be available to talk about these matters. The vehicles and trainers will be available for anyone interested on Saturday January 19th from noon to 1 pm. Our office is located on 209 Farmington Avenue. Farmington, CT 06032. We are looking forward to seeing you.

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

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