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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

February - 2012

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

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 17th 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>	1/20/12
<b>Time Started:</b>	7:40 PM
<b>Time Ended:</b>	8:15 PM

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

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

N1RMF	WY1O	W1ZFG	K1DFS	AB1NH
KB1TFU	KB1VNT	WA2PNB	KA1NDE	N1JWF
N1QLN	K1WMS	KB1TBL	KB1UIS	KB1WBW
KB1IXQ				

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

Nothing to report.

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

**Secretary report:**

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1JWF
Abstain:	

unanimous

**Treasurer Report:**

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

Motion to Accept:	N1QLN
Seconded by:	KB1TFU
Abstain:	

unanimous

**Tech. VP Report:**

All repeaters are working well. All the links between machines are good and functioning well.

Motion to Accept:	N1QLN
Seconded by:	KA1NDE
Abstain:	

**Admin. VP Report:**

Nothing to report.

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

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## ***Last Month's Meeting – cont'd***

### **Webmaster Report:**

Changes to the website will be coming soon. This requires the learning of a new programming language, which is in process.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1QLN
Abstain:	

### **Elmer's net:**

A meeting of the Elmer's Net Committee was held in January. It was decided to start the second semester on January 30<sup>th</sup> and that each lesson will last only one week instead of two weeks as was done last year. The schedule of classes and dates is posted on the website.

### **Old Business:**

Several ICRC members attended the ARRL New England Division Cabinet Meeting. A report of the results will be made at this month's meeting.

### **New Business:**

The ICRC will be sponsoring a Technician License class on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. See next section for further details.

There was a review of upcoming events that the ICRC will be providing radio communications. A motion was made to not support the Quartette Club Motorcycle Ride if it happens on Field Day weekend, as the club is planning its own Field Day activities. Motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn:	W1ZFG
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

## ***Feedback Requested on Newsletter Format***

How do you read the monthly ICRC newsletter? Do you read it on your computer or do you print it out and read the printed copy? If most of you read it on your computer, I am considering changing the format to add some color and other more interesting items. But if most of you prefer to print it out, I will leave it in its current black and white format, which is easier to print and doesn't use up those expensive color print cartridges.

Drop me a note at [walldan54@att.net](mailto:walldan54@att.net) as to which format you prefer. Thanks!

Dan Wall – W1ZFG – Newsletter Editor

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## ***ICRC Sponsors Technician License Class***

The ICRC will be sponsoring a Technician Class License class to be held on Saturday, March 3 at the K of C Hall, 2533 Main St. in Glastonbury at noon. The cost of the class is \$55, (\$30 for the book, \$15 for the test and \$10 for tax, coffee, etc). If you are interested in attending, or know someone else who would, contact George – N1RMF ([n1rmf@arrl.net](mailto:n1rmf@arrl.net) or 860-205-0761). Pre-registration IS required. Mail checks to George Carbonell, 16 Crescent Court, East Hartford, CT 06118 by Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> to insure that your book will arrive by the first day of the class.

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

"Being Prepared"

As residents of Connecticut, we expect snow every winter. When there isn't any, I think we instinctively miss it. We certainly missed it for the Klondike Derby held this past first weekend in February. We did have bitter cold, yet warm ham radio operators to assist in communications support for the 178 Scouts and 80 adult Scout leaders participating in the Mark Twain Klondike Derby at Camp Barbour in Norfolk. Norfolk, as the town with the highest elevation in Connecticut, doesn't have to do much to justify its nickname as "Connecticut's Icebox" except to just provide those cold temperatures which dipped to 14 degrees overnight. Our ICRC workforce consisted of Klondike [Event Chair](#) Rick, N1JGR; with Nick, KB1SNL; [Chuck](#), K1DFS; Dan, W1ZFG; George, N1RMF and they were joined by Mike Adams, AB1OD and Charles Pomeroy, KB1WBW. I extend to Mike and Charles, our thanks for rounding off a much needed team.

[In addition to heading up the Klondike for the ICRC](#), Rick does all the "leg work" contacting the Scouts, he is the interface from the Club to the Scouts for the entire weekend as well.

This event is also a historical mark for the ICRC; it was the first time we got to use our new club station call sign of **K1CRC** !

Being prepared, is not only the well-known motto of the Boy Scouts of America (who sponsors the Klondike event) yet it is also the catchphrase for which the ICRC employs in every event that it chooses to support. This year, no exception, there was much "pre-preparation for the use of our APRS systems – to be able to track down where everyone is at any point in time, including the ones who stray from the course. This year that expected snow didn't make itself known. The Scouts had an alternate plan for transporting their food, water, bedding and shelter -- backpacking it in. Those heavily stuffed packs, just wouldn't take the extra ten pounds of our APRS transmitting units (or at least we didn't have the heart to suggest it) !

However, as the harsh wind and cold were present, it was certainly beneficial for our ICRC personnel to be reminded of dressing for, and gearing up for the bitterness at the Club's mandatory prep (and monthly business) meeting held on January 20.

"Planning is the pits!" It's the dirty work before the support and fun can begin. Often tedious and exhausting, it's become the nature of our Club's intent on every event that we choose to take on. It is good, however to see the fruits of our labor at the successful events.

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## ***President's Message – cont'd***

We have a good cadre of dedicated members who do plan out every minute detail, so that Murphy's "If anything can go wrong, it will" gets brought to a standstill. A salute to George, N1 "Radios Mean Fun" who diligently and meticulously gets in communication with event leaders for the planning parts. Events for this coming year has been a bit difficult with the Root 66 folk who are having difficulties arranging their mountain bike race "skeds" - two of which we will be participating in - the Fat Tire Classic at Winding Trails on Saturday, April 22, 2012, and the Fat Tire Classic in the woods behind The Gilbert School in Winsted on Saturday, July 29, 2012. [The latter still needs to be voted on by the Club] Although we return to the Boateater's Challenge on the Farmington River on Saturday, May 12 2012; and there may not be much in the ways of changes - there is still that constant preparation communications going on.

Have you ever noticed that when we support an event, and go to our assigned stations or positions, that everything seems to be mapped out for us? Have you noticed that there is no fear as to will I be able to reach the portable repeater from here?. There is no anxiety about personal safety or comfort? That calm and order is because of our planning cadre . . . . who are they . . . . Rick, N1JGR - our repeater specialist, George, N1RMF "the great communicator", and Chuck, K1DFS our seasoned club member who just seems to add the "common sense" for us when things may start to go awry. Give them a special "thank You" the next time you see them. I know I will!

For those of you reading this, who are not ICRC members, please know that we currently meet monthly at the American Red Cross in Farmington Connecticut on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:30PM. Our next meeting will be on February 17th. Please consider attending, you'll be welcomed.

Perry Green, WY1O  
President, Insurance City Repeater Club (ICRC)

## ***Klondike Derby***

Once again, members of the ICRC supported the Boy Scouts with their annual Klondike Derby. The event was held at the Barbour Scout Reservation in Norfolk, CT on Saturday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. ICRC members were also on hand on Saturday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> to assist with the layout of the course. Communications were conducted on a 2M simplex frequency. Due to the lack of sufficient hams to man all the stations, communications were also conducted on FRS frequencies. Due to a lack of snow, we were unable to use our APRS tracker boxes, as the sleds were not used and the boxes were too heavy to put in a scout's backpack. We will try to use the tracker boxes again next year, with the possible modification of a lighter unit that could be carried in a backpack if necessary. Participating on the course setup from the ICRC were: Rick – N1JGR, Nick – KB1SNL, Chuck – K1DFS, George – N1RMF, Dan – W1ZFG, and Chris – KA1NDE. Participating with the main event on both Saturday and Sunday were: Rick – N1JGR, Nick – KB1SNL, Chuck – K1DFS, and George – N1RMF, with Dan – W1ZFG on Saturday. Also assisting were: Mike – AB1OD and Charles – KB1WBW on both Saturday and Sunday. Many thanks to all who participated in this worthwhile event.

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## **Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary**

### Section Leadership

SM K1EIC ASMs W1FXQ, KD1YV, K1HEJ  
OOB K1DFS SGL K1MK  
PIC KA1WPM APIC KA1TCH  
SEC N1CLV ASEC K1BRF, N1FNE, K1VSC, AF1HS  
STM K1STM TC N1KHB

The New year has started off busier than ever. Usually the winter months are quiet but this year, there is lots of activity, more than I've seen in this season.

Many of us in CT attended the Division director's cabinet meeting in Springfield. Twice per year, Director Frenaye, K1KI invites club presidents to attend a meeting at which the Director gets input from the group before each Board meeting. There were several from CT who attended: Betsey Doane K1EIC Section Manager

CT, Rod N1FNE President, Southington ARA, Jonathan K2KKH Bears of Manchester, Jon WB2RYV president Stamford ARA, Vlad W1ZP president Greater Norwalk ARC, Steve Ewald WV1X outgoing President Newington ARL, Vinnie Alianiello W1VJA current President Newington ARL, Paul N1TUP President Bears of Manchester, George N1RMF vice president Insurance City Repeater Club, Chuck Motes K1DFS Treasurer ICRC and OOB on Section cabinet, Chip N1MIE President Radio Amateur Society of Norwich, Liz N1MLG RASON, Mike W1MCT President Tri-City ARC, and Larry K1KRC President SCRAMS.

The next weekend, as many of you know, I received a wonderful call from Director Frenaye informing me that I am one of two recipients of the George Hart Distinguished Service Award. Of course, I am grateful to those who nominated me and humbly appreciate their nomination. I would like to publicly thank the Programs and Services Committee for bringing this nomination forward and I thank the ARRL Board for conferring this award. This is very special to me as I really enjoy working in the ARRL Field Organization. Hearty congrats to OES Fritz, W4NTO of SC who is the other recipient this year!

I had the occasion to speak directly with George Hart W1NJM who is now 98 years of age and who is looking forward to his 100th birthday! We had a wonderful conversation! George was a mentor to many of us and a real friend to so many in this Section and throughout the country. You can learn about this award in honor of George which the Board established in July, 2009 by going to <http://www.arrl.org/news/nominations-now-being-accepted-for-the-george-hart-distinguished-service-award>. Read about all the awards, which the Board recently announced at <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-bestows-awards-at-2012-annual-meeting>.

On January 14, Region 2 had a very productive training session with about 35 attendees from the ARES and NTS programs. DEC Douglas, WA1SFH coordinated the workshop which was attended by newcomers and long-time ARES members alike. SEC Wayne N1CLV spoke about ARES and showed various creative "go kits". We were pleased to have Jim N1DIO, net manager of the Section NTS net, the Connecticut Phone Net also in attendance. DEC Douglas introduced the ARRL radiogram. It was a lot of fun and there was good discussion. Many thanks to PIO Peter W1AMJ for the press coverage of this event which you can read at <http://www.examiner.com/hobby-radio-in-hartford/shoreline-ham-operators-learn-about-emergency-communications>. The next Region 2 training will occur on February 11 which will feature SEC Wayne N1CLV and technical specialist (TS) Bill W1GTT who will lead the training on digital communication.

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

The next week was supposed to be a PIO summit. Public information officers planned to coordinate plans for the year. Unfortunately, the snow storm got in the way but PIC Dana KB1WPM will be rescheduling this event.

Peter wrote another fine article about D-Star and the work that Dana KB1AEV and Fran W1FJM are doing in Connecticut, both with D-star and FM repeaters. You can read this at <http://www.examiner.com/hobby-radio-in-hartford/d-star-radio-has-loyal-ham-following-ct>.

Thank you Fran for the following related CT info: There are over 15 D-STAR repeater gateways in CT which have been provisioned and are supported by various groups. Dana KB1AEV and I support/administer six of those including; the PVRA D-STAR repeater in CT (AA1HD), KB1TMO in Mystic, the SARA repeater (W1ECV) in Meriden . In addition, the CT D-STAR Group, (me, Dana (KB1AEV) and Bob LaFlamme (our Linux guru, W1SQ) have provisioned D-Star repeaters in both Salem (KD1STR) and Torrington (N1GAU). We also have two more on the bench that we are getting ready to deploy to other areas in CT as soon as we have confirmation for site use. We also lend assistance to the GNARK (W1NLK) and SARC (W1BCG) on their D-STAR repeaters. We also administer three systems out of state, in Ma and RI. All of these repeaters have one of their repeater modules linked to the New England D-STAR reflector, thanks to N1CNV, which provides for a very nice D-STAR network that covers most of Connecticut, and parts of Ma, and RI. As you can tell D-STAR is very much a happening thing in Connecticut.—W1FJM

Remember, support your repeaters that you use regularly. These systems cost money to maintain and demand the time of dedicated volunteers so do give them your support please. Write once in a while and thank the repeater trustees and system operators of digital systems.

Congratulations to OOC Chuck, K1DFS on his retirement as Director of Health for the Plainville-Southington Health District. Chuck has worked in the health administration area for more than 45 years—best of luck to you Chuck and have fun playing radio!

George N1YAE will soon be retiring from 44 years working in the area of radiation and laser safety at Yale. George will serve on the ANSI standards laser safety committee and do some consulting. He is looking forward to helping out with the Yale University Radio Club. We'll be looking for both you and Chuck on the air! Congrats!

Are you a new ham, or one who would like to learn more about this wonderful hobby and service? Try out the eight week Elmer Net sponsored by the Insurance City Repeater Club beginning this coming Monday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. on the following repeaters: 146.880/147.150/442.850 MHz. All with the PL 77Hz. Also 224.600 PL 123.0 Hz. Roger, K1PAI Sky Warn Coordinator for Hartford/Tolland County will be the featured speaker for January 30 and DEC Jonathan KB1KIX will be the trainer for the second week who will talk about the ARES program and ARES in Region 3. February 13 will feature discussion about emergency, municipal and other government services; February 20 will focus on propagation with OOC Chuck K1DFS; contesting will be the topic for February 27; Chuck will talk about the ARRL radiogram on March 5; learn all about vanity calls and club calls and renewing your license on March 12 with their current president Perry WY1O and the last week will be an open session and roundtable. So come aboard—you can still make your other nets. Each session will run about 45 minutes in length. For further information, contact George [n1rmf@arrl.net](mailto:n1rmf@arrl.net).

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

Congrats to the following ops who earned Public Service Honor Roll in December: KB1NMO 120, KB1RGQ 110, NM1K 110. ARES ops, remember—you too can qualify for PSHR. Read all about it at <http://www.arrl.org/files/media/Group/PSHR.htm>

The Valley Amateur Radio Association enjoyed a demonstration of commercial fall protection gear given by Joe W1EKA who had some great stories! Most had never seen anything like this so it was quite interesting. Joe also showed us the “cootie key” which is really a side swiper. It was lots of fun trying our hand at “side-swiping”.

The Meriden ARC gave out their awards at their Christmas party. Congrats to Todd K1TDO on receiving the Ham of the Year Award and president John N1GNV who received the elmer of the year award! Terrific!

The club plans to move its meeting location to the Cook Hill Firehouse in the spring and move the station soon after. Brian K1SOX gave a talk entitled All About Echo Link at their January meeting.

Check this out: The Greater Norwalk ARC is now on Facebook! This just might be the tool you are looking for to recruit new members! This idea was mentioned at the Division cabinet meeting and there was some concern that too much information would fill up a club's Facebook page. Well, here's a note from Richard N1KXR of Northampton, MA who has started a “Facebook clearance page: “It's with this in mind, that I'd like to invite you (and your organization) to "like" a page that already exists on Facebook to serve this purpose. That page is called "Nearcom - New England Amateur Radio Communications". This page may be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/NEARCOM>. Please take a moment to check it out, and I hope you, and your organization will "Like" it and begin to share with the group.”

QCWA will hold their winter luncheon on Saturday, February 11 at Paradise Pizza Restaurant, 10 East Street, New Britain. For further information, contact Gary K1MQ email [gary@qcwa149.org](mailto:gary@qcwa149.org).

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ARRL Connecticut Section  
Section Manager: Betsey M Doane, K1EIC  
[k1eic@arrl.org](mailto:k1eic@arrl.org)

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