
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

March - 2009

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, March 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

Date:	2/20/09
Time Started:	7:30 PM
Time Ended:	8:49 PM

Minutes taken by: Rick Johnson, N1WGK

Attendees (Callsign):

N1WGK	KB1KZC	N1JGR	K1HEJ	K1DFS
KA1NDE	N1RMF	K1WMS	W1ZFG	KB1RRR

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1RMF
Abstain:	

unanimous

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Treasurer Report:

Started with \$600
Paid out \$50
Paid out \$25
Paid out \$100
Balance, \$406.81
Deposit \$80 Dues

Motion to Accept:	N1RMF
Seconded by:	KA1NDE
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP Report:

Rick, N1JGR, was giving Larry, K1HEJ, a **snap** of thanks for taking care of the problems with some of the handling of Nutmeg.

Discussion on 15 and 88 machine and some issues that may be happening. 88 is having some noise mixing from the 88 input.

15 has a little bit of noise but it's working okay. Soon, there will be a new machine up there, hopefully in a month or so. There was also some discussion about linking some of the systems together soon.

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

Old Business:

Recommended changes to by-laws: There was a discussion regarding last month's discussion of increase of the dues to \$50/year, as well as a change in the required number of directors from 15 down to 10 and changing the full membership including family, Life membership and complimentary memberships. Also, new hams get up to 1 full year of free membership to the ICRC, as long as they join within 6 months of getting their license. The cost is \$75/month just to run the repeaters, so we have to increase our membership, costing over \$900/year to keep everything running.

Motion to take it as it is, K1DFS, Pete seconded, effective April 1st 2009. Unanimous

Race discussion: We don't know if the race is happening, so far it's not on the website. Rick will be dropping Scott an e-mail to let him know that we would be willing to assist with other races in CT as well as Farmington. (See **Race Update below**)

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

KLONDIKE: Klondike, 182 kids, 63 adults, for the entire weekend. There were approximately 14 hams. They were able to put radios at all the day stations, all the overnight stations and even at the start. The event went off without a hitch. The area was very rugged and severely damaged by the ice storm and pretty snowy. They thanked us for us. The food was excellent.

Brochures: There was a discussion of the brochures. We need to have more written documentation for the brochure.

New Business:

None:

Motion to Adjourn:	KB1KZC
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

Bike Race Update

The mountain bike race at Winding Trails – The Fat Tire Classic – is definitely on! It is scheduled for Sunday, April 26th. Once again, hams from ICRC will be assisting with radio communications at various spots along the course. We could always use a few more hams. So come on out and join us! It's a fun day – and the lunch is free!

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section Leadership: K1EIC SM; ASMs: K1STM, KD1YV, W1FXQ; OOC K1DFS; PIC KA1TCH; SEC N1CLV; ASEC N1FNE, AF1HS; SGL K1MK; STM K1HEJ; TC N1KHB.

Spring Training--Don't Miss It!

Region 5 ARES® is presenting a fantastic training event called Spring Training. This all day event on March 28th will feature a selection of workshops and special demonstrations that will enhance and refresh skills in emergency communications.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Your SEC Wayne N1CLV and SM Betsey K1EIC strongly encourage you to come on out to Region 5 DEMHS Headquarters at 2130 Purchase Brook Road in Southbury on Saturday, March 28 from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Trust us, you will not want to miss this event. All radio Amateurs are welcome but space is limited so be sure and register early.

This event is FREE to all attendees -- the only cost to you is your time!

Below are details of the workshops, you'll be able to attend four workshops of your choice (also choose one alternate as well) when you register. Please direct any questions to EC Oscar Fuller, KO1F, DEC Dave Hyatt, K1DAV and ADEC Harlan Forde W1QH. Any questions contact Oscar email ko1f@arrl.net, Home: 203-744-8062 Cell: 914-841-4896.

Workshop Selection

#1 NVIS - Chuck Rexroad (AB1CR) will be discussing the ins and outs / pluses and minuses of the NVIS techniques. He'll give us the latest information of how we can use this technique to our advantage during emergencies or just when it's needed for field work.

#2 STOCs Box in Connecticut -- Dave Brown (DEMHS Region 5 Training Manager) will be there to take us through the set up and use of the State Tactical On-scene Communications System. He'll also update us on ITAC / ICALL. As part of this workshop, we've invited the State Civil Support Team's communications system. This is an important part of the State of Connecticut's emergency response planning.

#3 Data Communications - The team from West Mountain Radio has agreed to join us and run this workshop on data communications. They'll have the latest toys from West Mountain and demo their use.

#4 RF Safety / RFI - The guy who literally wrote the book on RFI Ed Hare (W1RFI) - will be there to run this workshop - always interesting and filled with useful, practical information.

#5 Emergency Power - This is a triple play - First, we'll hear from Bill Thoren (N1TIW) on how to capture the power of the sun to charge batteries and run your station. Rosty Slabicky (N2FEX) will follow with very useful information on managing your battery back-up power in your shack. Finally, they will be joined by West Mountain Radio with the latest on their power gates / power-poles.

#6 Wi-Fi / APRS - How much do you know about Hams using Wi-Fi in the field? Ken Weith (KD1DD) will give an update on how this works and how to take advantage of this technology and technique. Included in this workshop is a discussion / update on APRS - Bill Covey (W1GTT) will deliver an update on the hardware / software required and how we can use APRS during emergencies.

#7 D-Star -- We have a representative from ICOM - Scott Honaker (N7SS) an expert on D-Star to explain the technology / hardware and capability of this emerging technology. He will bring a display of ICOM D-STAR products to show.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

#8 Propagation and Space Weather - Peter Kandefer (KB1PCK) will be there to help us better understand how to get a better signal out and how "space weather" will affect how well we can communicate over short and long distances.

Go Kit Competition

Attendees are invited and encouraged to bring their jump-kits and enter in the fun and competition of showing what they have done to build portable communications stations for emergency deployments. During our working lunch time, jump-kit owners will have the opportunity to demonstrate their kits and capability. It's all in good fun and everyone will have an opportunity to learn and take away the best ideas to improve or build their own go-kits. There are 4 Categories: HF, VHF/UHF, digital and best in show!

See <http://ct.arrl.org> in a few days for more details.

Thanks to the support of Connecticut's Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, lunch will be provided to all attendees. During this lunch period, you'll have the opportunity to learn about other attendees' jump-kits / go-kits. In addition, we expect to have on display several state-of-the-art mobile units, including the Red Cross ECRV, Region 2 Mobile Communications Vehicle, and the Connecticut National Guard Civil Support Teams Communications Vehicle. These vehicles will be open for display and will have operators available to answer questions and show you around.

REGISTER NOW! Either fill out the form below and email it to KB1QXN tom@wilsonstudios.com, go to <http://www.ctares.org> and fill out the PDF form or find a Microsoft Word form with an article giving details in a few days at <http://ct.arrl.org> . See you there!

Name: _____ Call _____
Are you participating in the go-kit competition (y/n)
Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

List 4 workshops you would like to attend.

List one alternate workshop.

Email tom@wilsonstudios.com

Don't forget the Eastern CT Amateur Radio Association Hamfest on Saturday, March 21 and the Southington Hamfest March 22. ECARA Hamfest will be held at Pomfret Community School, 20 Pomfret Rd. See <http://www.qsl.net/k1muj/> Contact Paul kelli@arrl.net for more info.
Talk-in 147.225+ PL 156.7

The very next day Sunday, March 22 is the 26th annual Southington Hamfest and ARES meeting at the Southington High School 720 Pleasant Street. Contact Chet KA1ILH chet@chetbacon.com for more info. See <http://www.chetbacon.com/sara.htm> . Talk-in 147.345+ PL 77.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

All events promise to be exciting so come on out folks, join the fun and let's get together, swap stories, equipment and good ideas after this long, cold winter.

ARRL Connecticut Section
Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC
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For the latest information, visit our website at <http://www.icrcweb.org>