
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

March - 2010

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, March 19th 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:	2/19/10
Time Started:	7:43 PM
Time Ended:	8:43 PM

Minutes taken by: Rick Johnson – N1WGK

Attendees (Callsign):

N1WGK	K1HEJ	N1RMF	W1ZFG	N1JWF
KA1NDE	N1JGR	KB1SNL	K1DFS	KB1RRR
K1BKZC	K1WMS	KB1TBL	K1EXE	

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1RMF
Abstain:	N1JWF

unanimous

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Treasurer Report:

1/1/10 Balance \$2873.41
1/27/10 Check CL&P \$100
2/1/10 Balance \$2773.41

Dues are coming due on April 1st, 2010. Dues are \$50. Although dues are higher than some other groups, you get commercial grade repeaters and commercial grade amplifiers. You also get a wonderful group of people. Consider keeping your membership active and also consider giving a tax deductible donation.

Motion to Accept:	N1W GK
Seconded by:	KB1RRR
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP Report:

.15 and .88 are playing very nicely together. There are some issues with the 220 repeater that's linked. It's working today but yesterday it was having some issues.

440 is working okay. It's putting out 18 watts, but it's working great

There was a problem with the repeater system with the Klondike because of interference with the portable and the existing .15 machine. We are considering re-crystal the portable repeater for the emergency frequency.

Not that anyone cares, but Packet is working fine.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1W GK
Abstain:	

Old Business:

KLONDIKE – disappointed with the number of people that showed up for the Klondike. 309 Scouts during the weekend. 19 day patrols and 14 overnight patrols. There weren't enough operators for each station. We need to make sure that the hams covering the stations are there by 7AM to go out with the Mayors. Also, prior to the KLONDIKE, we have to meet to discuss who will be where and what needs to be covered. We need to bring up the KLONDIKE early (October meeting) to try and get members to sign up. Another thought was the possibility of using CERT teams as well.

We should consider a KLONDIKE newsletter and a special section on the website. We also need to be prepared for cold weather and realize that people would be outdoors.

Brochures have been updated and printed and passed out.

We haven't yet had discussions regarding the Nautilus...

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

The new controller is ready but not yet in place.

Discussion of 88 repeater being moved.

New Business:

Bike Race: Looking for at least 12 hams. We don't have much information at this point, but we will soon.
The date is April 18th, 7:30AM

We are considering promoting and working the June 12th bike circuit race in Simsbury up through Mass and back. Hams are needed. If interested, contact Area 3 and Area 5 ARES leaders to volunteer.

We are looking for VE's, General or higher class to help administer exams. Contact Walt K1WMS if interested.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	KB1KZC
Abstain:	

Klondike Derby Update

In last month's newsletter, the names of ICRC members who participated in the Klondike Derby were listed. One of our members name was accidentally left off the list. Ed – WA1LEI participated on both Saturday and Sunday. Thanks go out to Ed for helping out and sorry for the oversight.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

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

The explosion at the Kleen Energy Power Plant site on River Road Middletown on Sunday, February 7 was a real tragedy. Response to this tragic explosion was coordinated using the Incident Command System (ICS). The Fire Chief of Middletown South District wherein the disaster occurred assumed the role of Incident Commander. As more agencies became involved, a Unified Command was established. Unified command allows for responding agencies and/or jurisdictions with responsibility for the incident to share incident management. The Region 3 Incident Management Team (IMT), augmented by Region 4 IMT personnel, has been actively supporting the ongoing operation to gather evidence as part of the investigation to determine the cause of the explosion. The role of the IMT is to provide extra personnel to assist in filling out the Command and General Staff functions within the Incident Command System. The IMT's do NOT take over the incident, but instead provide direct and indirect support for the Incident Commander.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

While the nature of this event did not require CT ARES activation per se, both IMT3 and IMT4 have a number of hams who are trained volunteer emergency communicators within their ranks. Hams have been serving in a wide range of ICS positions on the IMT at the incident site, including Planning Section Chief, Communications Unit Leader, Incident Dispatcher, Resource Unit Leader, Documentation Unit Leader, Check-In Coordinator, etc. Hams known to be assisting the Kleen Energy response from Feb 7-Feb 14 are listed below. Most of these hams are members of CT ARES or Manchester EmCom or both: SEC Wayne N1CLV, Don N1DAJ, Rich W1RGC, Holly KB1QJO, Chris KB1QJM, Scott KB1QJC, Paul KB1SOY, Dan KB1MLC, Kate KB1OSU, Andy N1ORK, Kurt KB1IXQ, Kevin WH6SW, and Bob KB1FBT. SEC Wayne N1CLV served in several different roles in the two days he was there: Communications Unit Leader, Situation Unit Leader, and Planning Section Chief.

I know you read in the ARRL Letter that we had the terrible misfortune of losing one of our fine operators and volunteers Chris Walters, N0HVK. Chris was a victim of the recent explosion of the Kleen Energy Power Plant in Middletown. Chris W1HVN, Brian K1SOX and Glenn N1HAW each shared their memories and thoughts about Chris. He was a member of The Shore Point ARC, active in Sky Warn, participated in special community events with SPARC, and a valued member of CT and Missouri ARES. He was enthused and always had a smile on his face. He leaves behind a wife and three children. Brian K1SOX was interviewed by WTNH Channel 8. He did a truly fantastic job. You can view the interview and read about the collection SPARC is organizing to help his family at <http://sparc.us>. We all send our sympathy to his family and to SPARC. Again, many thanks to Chris Burns, Brian Freeman and Glenn Krieger for caring enough to do so much for a fellow op. I received several comments from ops throughout the Section; it is this caring and sharing that makes the Connecticut Section the fine Section it truly is and one which I am proud to lead.

Now this past Wednesday was sure tough for weather forecasters! My SEC Wayne N1CLV along with the entire ARES cabinet and I want to thank so many of you who stood by for the "several feet of snow" which never came! But you were all ready to be deployed if needed and that's what really matters. A special thanks to all of the Sky Warn Coordinators who ran nets every few hours to update NWS.: KB1DGY, N1HAW, KD1LD and K1PAI. And as always our DEC Sky Warn K1SJW provided us with current weather info. Thank you to all repeater owners throughout the Section who provided their systems for the use of ARES and to owners of the various digital systems for providing their networks. Many thanks to Van W1WCG for putting out the leadership bulletins on packet and for continuing to provide his Winlink Classic system for the transmission of through traffic. Thank you everyone!

ARES Region 5 held a very informative workshop. Here's EC KO1F's report. On Saturday, January 30 - 25 hams gathered at the Sandy Hook Fire Department to learn and participate in Region 5's first workshop of the new year. The topic was "Cables and Connectors". This workshop was sponsored and organized by Region 5 ARES with support from Amphenol RF. It was an excellent combination of "Theory" and "Practice". Three representatives from Amphenol RF, including senior RF engineers provided detailed theory on cables and the importance of proper connections for amateur radio applications. The engineers presented information on design and configuration that the audience had never seen or appreciated before at this level of detail. We all learned something new from this presentation. But it was not just the theory - when the lecture was over, we all went to work with hands on practice installing PL-259s on coax.

Soldering stations were set up and everyone had an opportunity to melt some solder and receive expert coaching from the Amphenol team on the proper way to install, then test each connection. For those who were new to soldering, a beginners table provided basic instruction on how to solder.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Once the beginner felt comfortable with their new skill, they moved on to one of the cable / connector tables to try their hand with PL-259s. It was an excellent program with everyone leaving with a new or improved skill with RF connectors, and a diploma to display for their investment in time and energy to attend the program.

A very special thanks to the team from Amphenol RF - Bernie Neill (Account Manager), David Weinstein (Principal RF Engineer) and Troy Coverstone (RF Engineer) for their excellent presentation, coaching support and providing program materials. By the way, both David and Troy are licensed hams (WB2GOS and KB1MBH respectively). Thanks again to the Sandy Hook Fire & Rescue for the use of their facility - John Will KB1LYP for making arrangements for the use of the firehouse.--KO1F

I want to publicly thank DEC Dave Hyatt, K1DAV and EC Oscar Fuller, KO1F for planning and coordinating the event. I personally spoke with several who participated and they were especially excited about the new theoretical perspective about cables they gained from the workshop. Congrats to you all!--K1EIC

Training such as this is very important to me; teaching is my life's work. And so I am going to sponsor some webinars for this Section on various Amateur radio-related topics for a few months of the year. If the response is positive, I will continue this project as my resources permit. I have come across some Web conferencing software which is accessible to many operating systems and to screen readers. We will be able to accommodate interactive audio, text chat, Power points, video and desktop sharing if that were needed. The plan is to offer you the chance to do some training and share what you know. Hopefully, we can get some exciting speakers! I am interested in your ideas! I'd like to start the first webinar on Thursday, March 4 at 8:00 p.m. on the topic of the ARRL Field Organization. Many of you newer ops have asked about what an SM and other appointees do so I thought I would start out with this topic. Understand that I am new at giving webinars so please bear with my blunders, hi. If you wish to participate, please send me an email, put Register Fieldorg Webinar in the subject line and I will email you log in instructions. If you are interested in giving a webinar on some topic, please let me know. March and April will be two months during which webinars will be available to you. Then I plan more in the Fall.

I had a cabinet meeting recently and outlined two more initiatives for 2010: a speakers' bureau and a Section-wide Elmer database and referral program. But I'm running out of space here so I'll continue on these topics next month.

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