
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

March - 2011

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, March 18th at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave. (Rte. 4), Farmington, CT. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

There will be a special training class for those who signed up for the Boat Race on April 3rd immediately following the regular business meeting.

Last Month's Meeting

ICRC Meeting Minutes

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Date: | 2/18/11 |
| Time Started: | 7:18 PM |
| Time Ended: | 9:05 PM |

Minutes taken by: Rick Johnson – N1WGK

Attendees (Callsign):

| | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| N1WGK | W1ZFG | N1JGR | K1DFS | N1RMF |
| AB1NH | KA1NDE | KB1SNL | KB1UIK | KB1PCK/AG |
| KB1TBL | N1QLN | N1NKO | KB1SNM | K1WMS |
| KB1KZC | KB1RRR | N1KGY | | |
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Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

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| Motion to Accept: | N1RMF |
| Seconded by: | AB1NH |
| Abstain: | N1JGR |

unanimous

Treasurer Report:

The club is financially solvent until April, when this year's dues become due.

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| Motion to Accept: | N1WGK |
| Seconded by: | KB1TBL |
| Abstain: | |

unanimous

Tech. VP Report:

.88 by itself and .15 by itself works great but when linked, it gets some noise between the links. Tonight sounded okay, but during the day 2 days ago, it was happening. N1JGR is investigating.

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| Motion to Accept: | N1WGK |
| Seconded by: | K1DFS |
| Abstain: | KB1TBL |

Presidents Report:

Nothing to report.

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| Motion to Accept: | |
| Seconded by: | |
| Abstain: | |

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| <i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i> |
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Admin. VP Report:

Nothing to report.

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| Motion to Accept: | |
| Seconded by: | |
| Abstain: | |

Webmaster Report:

Website updated and pictures from Klondike up there. There are also some upcoming events. The website is www.icrcweb.org

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| Motion to Accept: | N1WGK |
| Seconded by: | K1DFS |
| Abstain: | |

Old Business:

Klondike went well. We had 124 boys, 56 adults and 3 feet of snow. APRS, ½ worked but not all. The program has some bugs but it was very favorable and a great learning experience. NOBODY got lost and a lot was learned. The battery packs worked extremely well. There was an extended discussion.

Boat Eater race discussion for April 3rd. Eric Jones discussed the concept in the Farmington River. It's a canoe race, running Sunday, April 3rd, hopefully between 11 and 11:30AM. They are looking to have communicators for safety, Punchbrook Slalom race communication for timing and keeping track of people on the course. The boats will be clearly numbered. We would need to set up at 9:30AM and in place ready to go for 10AM and will probably be out of there by 2PM. We would like a minimum of 16 people and hope to have around 20 if possible. This is part of the public service function of the club. Recommend binoculars as well. This is a rain or shine event but it will be cancelled in a very high water event. Talk this up to all the clubs, etc.

Discussion on the installation of the solar panels also happened as well. We are looking for the end of March for this to happen.

New Business:

Bike Race, Sunday April 17th. Be there no later than 7:30AM. Bring a couple radios, one for race control and the other for chatting. More information can be found on Winding Trails. This is an all day affair and they do provide lunch. We need at least 14 people for the bike race. Talk it up with other clubs, too.

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Issues with .15 mobile repeater. It had some water damage and the range was limited. The repeater is over 30 years old and the discussion was whether or not to fix it. At this point, we need to get a replacement mobile repeater. The replacement repeater would be \$1200. There was a motion on the floor, made by Chuck, seconded by George, to get a replacement repeater. We now need to raise the funds to pay for the new repeater. Donations that are made are tax deductible.

Discussion on the 440 repeater.

K1HEJ resigned from the presidency. Temporarily, Dan is the President but we need to fill the Admin VP or we can have someone take the presidency. N1KGY is nominated for President of the club and he accepted. Motion made and seconded to close. N1QLN made a motion and seconded by W1ZFG for the secretary to put in one vote. N1WGK put in the one vote.

Board member nomination from N1WGK for KB1SNL. He accepted. K1DFS moved, seconded by George. Motion by N1KGY seconded by N1QLN for secretary to cast one vote. N1WGK cast one vote.

George discussed the VE session information. Mike is a new VE, making 5 VE's now. If interested in becoming a VE, talk with George or Mike.

Discussion about Official Observers...interested in becoming an OO, contact Chuck, K1DFS for more information.

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| Motion to Adjourn: | K1DFS |
| Seconded by: | N1QLN |
| Abstain: | |

Changes to ICRC Leadership

Our long-time President, Larry Buck – K1HEJ has decided to step down due to personal reasons. We wish to thank Larry for his many years of service to the club and we will miss him at the monthly meetings.

To fill the vacancy at President, Chuck Ayers – N1KGY was nominated from the floor and accepted the nomination. Chuck has also been a long-time member and is active in the on-going upgrade to the .15 site in Burlington.

Also nominated to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors was Nick Castrogiovani – KB1SNL. We would like to wish Chuck and Nick best wishes on their new positions.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section Leadership

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

Larry Buck, K1HEJ has decided to resign his position as Section Traffic Manager due to time constraints with personal and family commitments. Larry has been an STM in this Section since June 1, 1996 and has served us admirably. His loyalty and concern for this Section is unparalleled. The good news is that he will be staying on the cabinet as an Assistant Section Manager and will continue to work with new hams and train ops in packet operation.

ASM Anne West, K1STM assumed the role of Section Traffic Manager effective February 15. Anne is a longtime NTS operator both on HF and VHF. She has served as net manager at the Section and local levels, has served as a TCC operator and net control on local, Section and area nets. The NCS position on an area net is no easy task. Anne is well qualified for this position and is approaching it with enthusiasm as she learns about this new leadership role. Thank you Larry. Thank you Anne. Welcome to you both in your new positions. Please give them your support as they take their new posts on the Section cabinet.

STM Anne, K1STM has appointed Mike N1QLN as net manager of the Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net. Mike has been very busy recruiting net controls and updating the net roster. Congrats Mike; thanks for taking on this task; it is appreciated.

Just in case you're looking for something to do as it continues to snow this winter, here's something special. Eric Knight, KB1EHE, has authored and published a book on the adventure to launch the first civilian rocket into space. It's called "The New Race To Space." In 2004, as you probably saw on the news (from CNN, to the Discovery Channel, to ARRL news stories), Eric, along with about two dozen friends and colleagues, many of them also hams, were successful in their multi year quest. ASEC Rod Lane, N1FNE, Chet Bacon, KA1ILH and Don Skinner N1HWR were some hams who were absolutely instrumental in the mission. Rod designed the avionics (electronics) systems that were the "brains" of the rocket. The book is essentially Eric's diary of the years of the project culminating in the spectacularly successful flight into space. To this day, they are still the only civilian group in the world that has accomplished this amazing feat. The book includes 90 full-color photos. You'll see Rod, and many other hams from the Section that you'll recognize, as they worked to build various rocket systems. And since amateur radio played a large role throughout the project, it is also an important theme throughout the book from cover to cover! In fact, Eric wrote a specific chapter about amateur radio. Not coincidentally, it is Chapter 88. The book is available on Amazon. You can also save \$2.00 if you go to the Web site Eric created for the book and use the Discount Code that's on the home page. Why not check it out at <http://www.TheNewRaceToSpace.com>.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Congrats to the following ops who have made Public Service Honor Roll during the month of January: N1QLN 170; K1EIC 114; K1HEJ 110; KB1NMO 110; NM1K 100; KB1RGQ 80. Congrats to you all—it's nice to see so many making PSHR this month.

The public service Honor Roll is for ARES ops as well as NTS so check out the categories at <http://www.arrl.org/public-service-honor-roll> and get your report to K1STM by the 5th of the month. I really want to see more ARES members on the PSHR list because it recognizes your hard work as well. A sample message will be provided soon on the ARES reflector discussion@connares.org.

The Meriden Amateur Radio Club had a Talk given by Andy Poniros about NASA's mission to the moons of Saturn as well as the deep space network that allows radio communication between the earth and space probes. Andy Poniros is a NASA Solar System Ambassador Volunteer and an avid astronomer and telescope designer and maker, working mainly in public outreach. By day he is an electrical engineer and works with x-ray and other imaging equipment.

At the MARC Christmas party, president John N1GNV gave the presidential unit medallion to the Sweepstake team captains Bill W1KKF (CW and Bob KB1FYL (phone); the club harvested a “clean sweep” in both contests! Congrats! The group recognized Rich WA1TRY for his extraordinary effort in building their new club station. The project is indeed a team effort.

N1GNV presented a new award, one to a new ham who has successfully gotten on the air. This years award, called “rookie of the year” went to Gaianne - KB1TJD. Hearty congrats Gaianne!

Their “ham of the year” award went to Rich WA1TRY and the elmer of the year award went to Don KE1AY. Great work!

The Insurance City Repeater Club again supplied comms to the Boy Scouts Klondike Derby. They have two public service events scheduled in April: April 3 9:00-3:00 the Boateater Challenge Race, a five mile boat race Farmington River; April 17 The Fat Tire Bike Classic, 50 Winding Trails Farmington. If interested in helping out at the boat race, contact Chuck k1dfs@arrl.net or George n1rmf@arrl.net. The contact for the Fat Tire Bike Classic is Rick N1JGR rwc02@snet.net.

The Candlewood Amateur Radio Association is beginning to make plans to celebrate their 80th anniversary as a club! I'll tell you more about it as the time approaches!

The club had a presentation on VHF antenna construction given by Mark - N1MG. The topic was certainly timely as Spring will actually arrive one day soon.

How do I know? Because the ECARA and Southington Flea Markets are coming up: ECARA at St. Joseph's Church Dayville March 19 and Southington March 20 at Southington High School! These are typically the first Hamfests in Spring so you won't want to miss them! More details to follow as the time approaches in a separate email.

And while we're talking about hamfests, mark your calendars for the Berkshire Hamfest June 4 Goshen and the NARL Hamfest June 18 at St. Mary's High School Newington.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Congrats to Vlad - W1ZP who has just become president of The Greater Norwalk ARC and Dan N1ZZ who is now Vice President. Many thanks to Toy - K1WYQ who has served that club as president for many years and Allan - NN1H who has served as vice president and repeater trustee. They have both done a tremendous amount of work for the club—a huge thank you! Allan plans to move out of Section unfortunately and Toy will be taking on other responsibilities soon.

Congrats to Chuck -N1KGY who will serve as president of the Insurance City Repeater Club and many thanks to Larry K1HEJ who has also worked lots of hours as president. Larry attended many of the Division cabinet meetings in that capacity. Thanks to you all.

The Stamford Amateur Radio Association and the Candlewood ARA are announcing their dates for VE sessions. The next session sponsored by Stamford ARA will be on March 26 9:30 a.m. until noon at the 4th floor cafeteria Stamford Government Center, Tressor and Washington Blvd's. Secure parking is available. Contact John, WB1GRB wb1grb@hotmail.com for further info.

CARA will hold a VE session on March 5 at the Stony Hill Fire Station, 59 Stony Hill Road (rt. 6) Bethel. Registration begins at 11:30, walk-ins welcome. Pre-registration is not required. For further info, contact Frank Sileo, N1PE email frsileo@att.net.

Here's something some of you might find useful from John, N1OLO: "I was putting some events for February on Google Calendar and discovered an interesting thing. If you put in a time in the event description it will convert and schedule it to your local time. e.g.: I entered "FYBO Contest 1400z to 2400z" and it entered the event on the calendar starting at 0900EST! Useful indeed for the math/clock challenged!"

Don't forget to write those letters regarding HR 607, "The Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011" as discussed in my letter you should have received earlier this week. The weekend is coming up so please take some time to write. Sample letters and other tools can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters>. Thank you in advance for your help.

See you next month.

ARRL Connecticut Section
Section Manager: Betsey M Doane, K1EIC

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