
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

March - 2013

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, March. 15th at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave. (Rte. 4), Farmington, CT. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

The topic of this month's presentation will be: D-Star – presented by Bill Unghire – N1CNV.

Last Month's Meeting

ICRC General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date:	2/15/13
Time Started:	7:30 PM
Time Ended:	8:20 PM

Minutes taken by: Dan Wall – W1ZFG

Attendees (Callsign):

N1QLN	N1RMF	W1ZFG	N1JGR	KA1NDE
KB1TBL	KB1VPY	KB1SNL	KB1RRR	AB1NH
K1NKS	KB1YYG	Shawn	KB1WEZ	KB1RGQ
N1JWF	WY1O	K1DFS	K1WMS	N1NKO
KB1IXQ				

<i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i>

Special Election: Before the meeting continued, a special election was held for the members of the Board of Directors. This was necessary to fill the vacancy for Admin. VP created last month when the current Admin. VP became President following the resignation of the current President. The vote was 5 votes for Mike Sanders and 4 votes for Steve Paradis.

VE Session: Every month before the regular meeting, the ICRC sponsors a VE session for people to get their first license, or to upgrade an existing license. The results of last month's VE session were as follows:

There were no results to report, as the club is still in the process of building a new VE team to replace the previous team, which withdrew itself from ICRC support at the January meeting.

Presidents Report:

Our new President, George Carbonell – N1RMF, gave a short greeting to the membership, including how he was going to handle the position of club president.

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:		
Seconded by:		
Aye: 20	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer's report was tabled to the next meeting, due to the absence of the treasurer.

Motion to Accept:		
Seconded by:		
Aye:	Nay:	Abstain:

Admin. VP Report:

Nothing to report.

Motion to Accept:		
Seconded by:		
Aye:	Nay:	Abstain:

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Tech. VP Report:

It was reported that the club is going to lose the .88 site in Bristol by this summer. The tower is old and rusted and will be taken down. The club will have to look for a new site for the .88 repeater.

The Tech VP then allowed the various members of the Tech Committee to report on the projects that they were working on as follows:

- New Batteries for .15: Pete - KB1KZC – Absent.
- Wind Power for .15: Steve – KB1RRR – Looking into marine units due to their smaller size and cost. Initial observations indicate sufficient wind at the .15 site to be effective. Also looking into remote control of the AC powered DC supply to keep batteries charged in case of extended periods of lack of sunshine.
- Battery Monitoring at .15: Dan – W1ZFG – Currently the system is monitoring the net amp-hour flow thru the battery bank. Readings are being accumulated. No work on next level upgrade to monitoring system, due to extensive work on bylaw update.
- Wi-Fi: Jim – AB1NH – No activity. Will contact Bill – KB1KBV for assistance.
- 6m Repeater: Rick – N1JGR – Dependant on resolution of .88 situation. Need to have split location transmit and receive to eliminate need for costly duplexers for 6 meters.
- New 440 MHz Amplifier: ???

Motion to Accept:		
Seconded by:		
Aye: 20	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Webmaster Report:

The website is operational and up to date. Time-Outs are now available from 2004 thru the current issue.

In the event of the change in status of a posted event, please notify the Webmaster, George – N1RMF, so that he can update the website accordingly.

Motion to Accept:		
Seconded by:		
Aye: 20	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Old Business:

The Klondike Derby for this year has been cancelled. The original date of the 9th and 10th was previously postponed due to the blizzard on the 8th. The proposed back-up date of the 23rd was cancelled due to lack of availability of sufficient troops to run the event. There is the possibility of a one-day event on foot in late March/early April. Details to follow.

The updated versions of the club brochure and membership cards were presented.

New Business:

- Since the ICRC is an ARRL Affiliated Club, the ICRC will receive \$15 for each member who joins the ARRL for the first time (or a membership that has lapsed for 2 or more years.) The ICRC will also receive \$2 any member who renews (including lapsed members of less than 2 years.) Contact George – N1RMF for information when its time for you to renew.
- A committee was formed consisting of Nick – KB1SNL (chair) and Chris – KA1NDE to investigate possible sites for this years Field Day activities. Committee to report by the April meeting.
- A committee was formed consisting of Al – N1JWF and Rick – N1JGR to organize our effort for this years Winding Trails Fat Tire Classic mountain bike race.
- A committee was formed consisting of Al – N1JWF and Perry – WY1O to look into the possibility of getting new t-shirts for the club.
- It was decided that we will be using a repeater for the Bike Race in April as usual.
- It was also decided that the repeaters will be kept in their current locations for the Boateaters Race in May. We will have three radios with cross-band repeat capabilities available for use at the beginning, middle, and end of the course. Final prep for the race will be conducted at the April meeting.
- The following people have expressed interest in participating in the ICRC sponsored VE Team: Jack – K1NKS, Jim – AB1NH, and Dan – W1ZFG.

Motion to Accept:		
Seconded by:		
Aye: 20	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Monthly Presentation

Last month after the meeting, a presentation on Repeater Etiquette – Operating Legally, Safely and Courteously was given by Mike – N1QLN. There was a lively discussion by the membership on various aspects of the topic. Great job – Mike! The following section was prompted by some of the discussion.

Question on Repeater Operation

This was extracted from the OOC monthly report from ARRL:

Laura Smith (FCC Counsel for Enforcement) at a recent Forum on FCC and the amateur radio community:

"A question was received regarding how to ban someone from using a repeater. The best way is to draft a simple letter by the owner/trustee of the repeater stating that directive, no specific reason need be given, perhaps something of a general nature is appropriate however. Then mail it to the individual by a method that requires he sign for it to assure you that it was received. Should the individual continue to use the repeater notify us and we can forward it on to the FCC." (From the ARRL Coordinator for the OOCs.)

"When the topic came to the Amateur Auxiliary (Official Observers) she became even more emphatic about her reliance and the FCC's reliance on them. They are extremely important and she has an ear for them. Someone mentioned the occasional abuse that the "OO" receives which she acknowledged and forcefully said that (underline) if you ever, ever threaten an "OO" she will literally put you on her list and will monitor you in detail for the rest of her career. "You really would much rather get a note from an OO than from me", she says. The OO is there to help you prevent that note."

President's Message

The Insurance City Repeater Club (ICRC) activities for the coming months will keep us all busy. Now is the time to check out your portables, spare batteries and supplies for The Fat Tire Classic and the Boateaters Race. The FAT Tire classic is a fun event and even more fun if each position has two people. The bikes come fast and furious and it nice to switch off from writing numbers to telling someone the number of the riders as they go by. The Boateaters Race is a much slower pace race and you have time to watch the kayaks and even a board surfer going by. We watch to make sure that if someone goes into the water, we notify the rescue people, what and where something has happened.

The night of April 19th meeting will be spent on a safety briefing for the Bike and Boat race. Safety is our number one important part. Passing information is number two. If we become part of the problem, then we as group are not doing our part to keep the bike and boat race safe and fun.

President's Message – cont'd

We may need some additional assistance with these two events. The Bike race, the second person does not have to be an operator. Same information applies for the Bike race as for the Boat Race. It would be better. This can be an excellent training event for new hams or people that have not done these types of events. The bike race you are sitting in the car, so if it is inclement weather you will be warm and dry. The Boat race is standing next to the water. So, proper clothing and boots are required.

The Board of directors will have it's bi-monthly meeting March 21st at Vito's Restaurant in Newington at 7PM. - Members are welcome to come and listen. Top of the List – New Site for our repeater 146.88, the current site is going to be disassembled. When I use the word disassemble, I think of the movie Short Circuit about the robot Number 5 – no disassemble Number 5 – Number 5 ALIVE. HI HI

Mike N1QLN the Admin VP, will be the person in charge of the March General meeting. I must be out-of-state and will be back in time for the board meeting.

If you have a friend, ham or not, bring them the general membership meeting to help promote Amateur Radio. It will benefit both of you.

George Carbonell – N1RMF
President

SKYWARN Presentation

There will be a presentation about the Skywarn Weather Spotting System given by Nation Weather Service personnel on Friday, April 5th at 7:30 PM in the City Council chambers at City Hall, 111 North Main St, Bristol, CT 06010. This presentation will be part of the Chippens Repeater/Bristol Radio Club's regular membership meeting, but they have graciously extended an invitation to all ICRC members to also attend. (Originally, both clubs had requested presentations, but the Skywarn folks schedule worked out better with their meeting date than ours, so it was decided to combine the two presentations into one with both clubs attending.)

The council chambers are on the first floor of the City Hall building, just south of the Police/Court complex. There is plenty of free parking across the street on the site of the former shopping mall.

For anyone interested in becoming a Skywarn spotter, this would be an excellent opportunity to get some basic information about the program and its relationship with Amateur Radio.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section Leadership: K1EIC SM: ASMs Emeritus W1FXQ, KD1YV, K1HEJ; OOC K1DFS; PIC KA1WPM; SEC N1CLV: ASECs N1FNE, K1BRF, AF1HS, K1VSC, W1GTT; SGL K1MK; STM K1STM; TC N1KHB.

I have two items to share: a message from SEC Wayne Gronlund N1CLV and an operating opportunity.

Message from our SEC:

Greetings!

Jonathan KB1KIX, DEC for Region 3, has asked to be temporarily relieved of his leadership duties because of extraordinary work commitments.

Fortunately, George AB1GL, ADEC Region 3 East, is well versed on ARES activities in Region 3 and has agreed to be the Acting DEC for at least the next six months.

Thanx to George for stepping up! His email is AB1GL@arrl.net if you need to contact him. Please give him your full support in his new role!

73, Wayne Gronlund, N1CLV

Connecticut Section Emergency Coordinator Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

Home: 860-739-6384 Work: 860-271-2777 Cell: 860-917-6472

email: N1CLV@mac.com or Wayne.R.Gronlund@uscg.mil When all else fails ... Amateur Radio!

Many thanks Jonathan for all the work you've done over the years—the latest figures shows 701 ARES members with region 3 having a slight lead in count. George, thank you for your willingness to assist us in this important work. Welcome aboard! I need to remind every single ARES member to please go to the database and click Update to update your member record. Make sure it is correct. Even if it is the same with no change, your clicking "update" will tell us it's current because the date of that update will be showing. Remember, we want and absolutely need good data. It's a new year so let's all do it—please pass the word. If you need help, write to our database administrator Art AF1HS, email af1hs@arrl.net.--Thanks.--K1EIC *****

An Operating Opportunity

Tom WA8UNS and his dad Chris NQ8Z will be operating a portable HF rig set up at the AMC Appalachian Mountain Club Northwest Camp which is a small, rustic cabin located on the northwest slope of Bear Mountain in Salisbury, CT Feb 4-6. They will be operating HF CW and Olivia 8/500+ USB 750 mhz audio center and also SSB.

NQ8Z's plan is as follows: "With correct tree placement I hope to get out on 160, 80, and 40 m, mostly on CW and Olivia 8/500. CW operation will be at or near the QRP calling frequencies, Olivia near the Olivia calling frequencies. I hope to be operating, off and on, from the evening of 4 Feb through the evening of 6 Feb. I'm carrying about 42 Ah of battery capacity so I'll be on for a limited time at best with a particular goal of participating in the Michigan Digital Traffic Net (MIDTN) at 3,583.25 kHz at 2000 hr ET (0100Z) on Tuesday, 5 February."

During the period of 4-6 February, operation will take place on c.w. at 0700 ET (0000 Z) 3.540 MHz or Olivia 8/500 at 0730 ET (0030 Z) 3.58325 MHz. This is meant to be a fun trip during which Tom and Chris would like to make as many contacts as possible. So if you can, please look for NQ8Z or WA1UNS.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Last weekend's blizzard was certainly an event we will all remember. I'm sure you each have your own stories to tell. "Murphy" hit me just before the storm on a couple of fronts but I managed to clear the problems just in time. Had to have a quick repair of some hardware that supports my internet connectivity here although I had backup and of course I had radio comms. But like all of you, I sure wanted connectivity as long as I could have it! It all worked out but it just seems like sometimes these things occur at the wrong time.

Let me express my real thanks to all of you who helped out in any way during the blizzard last weekend. Sky Warn net managers and net controls did an outstanding job scheduling nets. DEC's, EC's and their assistants were very attentive and responsive to whatever was requested by the leadership and by served agencies. There was lots of radio activity; the operating I heard was excellent. Much thanks to all of you for being available to assist.

Condolences to the Greater Norwalk ARC on the loss of another one of their members N2LU who was apparently just back from Florida. He was active at one time.

GNARC member John N1OLO attended the Puerto Rico State Convention. Here's his report. I had a great time in Puerto Rico this past weekend at the PR ARRL State Convention. My good friend Bobby KP4CI and his father Robert "Sambo" WP4WS were my hosts and guides to the island. Thursday afternoon Sambo and his wife, Joan, picked us up at San Juan Airport and brought Bobby and me to their home in Ponce on the south side of the island.

On Friday, we took a ride through the mountains and jungle to the north side of the island to Hatillo. Along the way we stopped to see Pedro, NP4A. The sign on the gate to his property states "The Home of DX and rightly so. Pedro's QTH is located on top of a mountain with commanding views of the surrounding country side, 4 towers and 440MHZ repeater that covers most of the island. Missing is full size 80M beam that came down during hurricane Hugo. Pedro was being honored by the local clubs for his achievements as a DX and contest op.

We arrive in Hatillo, quickly unloaded and left for the Arecibo Radio Observatory for a private VIP tour of the facilities. On Friday night we were invited to a reception given in honor of Kay Craige, N3KN, the president of the ARRL. Kay treated us all to a surprise as she addressed the crowd with a speech given in Spanish!

The hamfest itself was on Saturday and Sunday. It was small but well attended. It differed from hamfests here in the States in that there were no local dealers. In fact, there are no ham radio dealers on the island at all. I gave a presentation on Saturday that was well received where I preached the gospel of the Anderson PowerPole.

Late Sunday brought us back to Ponce to a home cooked meal at Sambo's house and then out to a local ice cream palace in the old quarter of Ponce.

One more thing. The high point of the convention was a teleconference by Gordon West, WB6NOA. Gordo addressed the group and had a question and answer session with some of the attendees. I'm looking forward to going back to Puerto Rico on a future date for another ham adventure as well as more time for me to poke around!

John Kalotai
N1OLO

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

PIC Dana KA1WPM reports that Urgent Communications Magazine is doing a story about Amateur Radio response during Hurricane Sandy. The art director is looking for photos of deployments especially to the American Red Cross. If you have photos, please contact ka1wpm@arrl.net immediately, as the deadline is Monday, February 18. Thank you.

Douglas WA1SFH DEC Region 2 ARES invites you to a series of workshops on data communications in Amateur radio each to be held on a Saturday morning from 8:30-11:30 at the Guilford Fire Department, exit 58 off I-95, one block north on left. Schedule: February 23 packet radio; mid to late March (date to be announced) Winlink, Airmail, RMS Express. Please contact Douglas wa1sfh@arrl.net for further information and registration.

Here's a note from Jim Cross WI3N, SM MDC Section about scholarships for fulltime students. These scholarships range from \$500 to \$5,000. The Foundation for Amateur Radio (F.A.R.) is now accepting applications for scholarships for 2013. The application deadline is April 15 for regular F.A.R. Scholarships and May 15 for the Chichester and QCWA Scholarships. Here is the link to the F.A.R. website
<<http://www.farweb.org/about>>.

The application can be downloaded at
<<http://www.farweb.org/2013-scholarship-application>>.

Also see

<http://www.farweb.org/appreview/wp-content/uploads/2013_FAR_Scholarship_Application_v3_enabled.pdf>.

Quentin KB1UME wants info on specialty clubs—for example, contest, DX, QRP, etc. He is putting together a flier for CT hams to make available to new hams. If you have info, email kb1ume@arrl.net.

A primer on the latest digital narrow band voice technology being used by commercial two-way systems and its application in amateur radio was presented at the NARL February meeting by Cliff, K1IFF. Cliff is a great speaker who really gives pro presentations. Everyone I spoke to really enjoyed his presentation.

At the Stamford Amateur Radio Association, Jon WA2RYV demonstrated D-star. There are several D-star repeaters in CT, mostly in central CT. George N1YAE spoke at the last meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association on the topic of Amateur radio and scientific research. The talk was fascinating. One could point to numerous examples but I just picked out a few. Amateur radio has been used in the study of ecology, medical science, space communication, several communications techniques including the development of single sideband, and propagation studies such as the one associated with Carlsbad Caverns. In that study, researchers looked at propagation between caves and between caves and the surface.

Fred KA1CCY a member of the Middlesex ARS is continuing his CW classes—he has seven signed up! This class is attracting many new members! The club held their elections. Congrats to these elected officers: Jonathan WF1H president, Mac W1FYM Vice president, Don N1XTJ secretary, Leo WB1ENI treasurer, Don KA1CMM trustee/agent/procurement officer! Gary WE1M is announcing a 11-week Tech class March 1 through May 10. 6:30-9:30 PM instructors Larry AB1JC, John KA1JXW, and Gary WE1M. Location Bridgeport emergency management operations center, 581 N. Washington Ave. Bridgeport. Contact any of the instructors.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Bill N1TIW member of CARA presented a program at the Bethel Library called F. B. Morse, Artist and Inventor! Bill's presentation underscores that Morse was more than the inventor of the electromagnetic telegraph system. He was also a gifted painter and sculptor.

Debra Johnson K1DMJ, Manager Educational Activities Department ARRL reports that there will be an ARISS contact direct with students on February 25 with the Talcott Mountain Science Center and Academy. Bob Greenberg, W2CYK is the ARISS Technical Mentor coordinating the contact with the school. Here is some background info provided by the school. Talcott Mountain Science Center is one of Connecticut's premier informal science education institutions. The Center has been an initiator and catalyst in providing enrichment science education to students throughout the Northeast and a leader in teacher in-service education, including special programs for girls in science. TMSC is recognized for its innovations in gifted and talented programs, for its earth and space, alternative energy, atmospheric and environmental science activities for students, with ongoing science and technology in-service education for teachers as well as its one-of-a-kind k-8 model school for intellectually excited students, Talcott Mountain Academy for Mathematics, Science and Technology. Since 1985, Talcott Mountain Science Center has been nationally recognized as a pioneer in the development of interactive video programming in math and science education. For further information go to <http://www.tmsc.org>.

ASM emeritus Al W1FXQ has sent the following info: "The Man Who Wouldn't Give Up" RESCHEDULED FEB. 25 A near-dramatic story narrated by its main character, John Ellsworth, who parlayed a vision into an outstanding Connecticut attraction, the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut (www.vrcmct.org). located in Windsor. Mr. Ellsworth narrates a sometimes heart-breaking, often dramatic story of a triumphant rescue of his struggle to create what is now a world acclaimed museum with imposing exhibits and artifacts that celebrate and honor the pioneers of today's almost magical communication marvels. Live museum exhibits include an on-the-air station W1VCM. Some of the exhibits mentioned above are interactive! The talk will be held Monday FEB.25 7:00 PM at the Paradise Pizza Restaurant, 10 East Street, New Britain. Walk-ins welcome—sponsored by The Newington Kiwanis Club.

Congratulations to the following ops who received public service honor roll status in January: Bill KB1UAU 155, Rusty NM1K 120, Ethel KB1NMO 110, Bob KB1RGQ 110, and Chris just recently licensed KB1YNE 93! ARES and NTS ops alike are invited to report PSHR totals to the STM Anne K1STM email k1stm@arrl.net or on the traffic nets.

The QCWA Nutmeg Chapter 149 winter lunch has been rescheduled for March 9 at Tommy's Restaurant 845 Saybrook Rd., Middletown. Contact k1mq.gary@qcwa.org for further info.

Exam sessions: Thanks to PIC KA1WPM for getting this info to you in this venue. Unless otherwise indicated, walk-ins are welcomed.

02/15/2013 | Enfield CT 06082-6218
Sponsor: BEARS of Manchester
Location: Enfield Fire Station #2
Time: 8:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

02/15/2013 | Farmington CT 06032-1955

Sponsor: Un-sponsored

Location: American Red Cross

Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

02/19/2013 | Portland CT 06480-1841

Sponsor: Middlesex ARS

Location: Portland Senior Center

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

02/20/2013 | Milford CT 06460

Sponsor: SCTG

Location: CARA Clubhouse

Time: 7:00 PM (No walk-ins)

02/28/2013 | Hebron CT 06248-1554

Sponsor: BEARS of Manchester

Location: RHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Time: 2:30 PM (No walk-ins)

02/28/2013 | Washington Depot CT 06794-1201

Sponsor: Northville ARA

Location: Washington Volunteer Fire Station

Time: 6:30 PM

See you next month and on the air. Think spring!

ARRL Connecticut Section

Section Manager: Betsey M Doane, K1EIC

k1eic@arrl.org

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