
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

April - 2013

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, April 19th at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave. (Rte. 4), Farmington, CT. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

The meeting will be held on the 3rd floor in the Charter Oak Room (also called the Disaster Op Center). If you are NOT taking a VE exam, please do not arrive for the meeting before 7:15 P.M. , as the VE session will be taking place in the same room as the meeting.

At this month's meeting, there will be final preparations for both the Bike Race at Winding Trails on April 21st and the Boat Race on May 11th. Everyone who is planning on participating in one or both events needs to be present at this month's meeting for the safety review, location assignment and other final preparations!

President's Message

Spring is here or the calendar says it is at least. This month is more preparation for the FAT Tire Classic at Winding Trails in Farmington, CT on April 21st, 2013. The race committee usually has us at 8 to 10 spots along the course to act as Marshalls, track racers and to advise safety personnel when assistance is needed. It is a fun time and even more fun when 2 people are at each of the checkpoints. What do I need to bring? Radio(s) and spare batteries, if using a portables, some food snacks, water or other non- alcoholic beverage, The frequencies that will be used will be supplied in the ICS-205 Communication Plan. After last years race, we talked about providing our own forms that would be uniform for recording numbers to make it easier to review the race if needed. This also helps when multiple laps race of who is leading and who is last to aid in clearing the course for the next or last race of the day.

Al Gerke - N1JWF, our Race liaison, will get the maps for the meeting and that will expedite the process on Sunday, the day of the race. The need is for (10) two persons teams and to sign up early plus attend the April 19th meeting for the briefing. After the Bike race briefing will be the Boateaters with Eric doing the water safety briefing. That event takes place on May 11th the day before Mothers Day. There will be waivers to be signed and that event has 12 checkpoints that includes the start and finish positions. Some of the positions once cleared will go toward the end of the 5.5-mile race to cover other positions, if we do not have the necessary number of people. For both events, there is a need for 1 person that is a ham and the other person does not have to be. It will be good exposure for a person to learn about a facet of the hobby.

That is some of the excitement that will take place in April and May 2013.

President's Message – cont'd

April is also the month we collect dues from our membership \$50.00 for Individual and \$50.00 family membership includes other ham(s) in the same household. There is a student membership that is at a reduced rate. Bills will be mailed, please reply with your payment once you get the bill. Also the club offers a special to hams that earn their 1st ticket. One year free membership by joining us within their 1st year of being licensed. The second year will be prorated as to when they joined in their first year of being a licensed amateur.

If you have any thoughts of what you would like to see for the club to do as project, or a class, or a presentation, please and yes I am pleading with you to lets us know. I will be carrying a can of oil or a spray can of silicone spray to lube the squeaky wheel!

Many small changes are happening within the club and some of these projects your help would be appreciated. I would like to see someone be an historian to review the minutes of old meeting and document what happened over the years. Our newsletters starting in July 2004 were published in a PDF format and they are currently on our web site. It would be great to have the ones prior to July 2004 converted into PDF's. I do not think they are stored on disk. Need to ask Dan Wall our current secretary, if they are just paper or disk. If paper would like to get them scanned for others to see. If interested, please contact me.

Other projects are going on and watch the newsletter for reports from those groups. There is no reason if any of you are interested to can get involved just lets us know.

See you on April 19th at the general meeting.

The web site has the meeting locations and there is a VEC session for new licensees or any ham wanting to upgrade to a General or Extra. The club is looking for General and Extra licensees to become a VE's. Contact me if you are interested. Visit the VEC session prior to the meeting at 6PM the same day of the meeting to learn more.

George Carbonell – N1RMF – President ICRC.

Last Month's Meeting

ICRC General Membership Meeting Minutes

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Date: | 3/15/13 |
| Time Started: | 7:30 PM |
| Time Ended: | 8:20 PM |

Minutes taken by: Dan Wall – W1ZFG

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Attendees (Callsign):

| | | | | |
|--------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|
| AB1LZ | KB1WEZ | N1AUD | N1QLN | W1ZFG |
| KB1TBL | AB1NH | K1NKS | WY1O | KB1RRS |
| KA1NDE | K1WMS | N1JWF & guest | KB1ZIU | N1JGR |
| KB1SNL | KB1KZC | KB1RRR | | |
| N1CNV | W1JJA | | | |

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.

The following statement was read into the record by Pete – KB1KZC. It was taken from the meeting minutes from October 19, 2001.

“KA1DFH wants to be the VE Team leader. He would represent the ICRC as the Team leader. K1DFS moves that we put him in that position for a period of 1 year, renewable annually at the will of the Board of Directors. N1IKM seconds. Unanimous. K1DFS suggests that if he uses our name as part of his VE Team, we have no problem with it.” (For clarification purposes, KA1DFH is now K1WMS.)

A motion was made by Pete – KB1KZC, seconded by Steve – KB1RRR, that club sponsorship of the VE team be voted on annually during the normal election period in November. Motion passed unanimously. Further discussion was tabled to the upcoming Board of Directors meeting.

Presidents Report:

No report given – President was on vacation.

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|------------|
| Motion to Accept: | | |
| Seconded by: | | |
| Aye: 18 | Nay: 0 | Abstain: 0 |

Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer's report was read, and will be emailed to the Secretary for inclusion in the records.

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|------------|
| Motion to Accept: | KB1RRR | |
| Seconded by: | KB1WEZ | |
| Aye: 18 | Nay: 0 | Abstain: 0 |

| |
|---|
| <i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i> |
|---|

Admin. VP Report:

The Admin VP reported that he would conduct the meeting and had arranged for the D-Star presentation.

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|------------|
| Motion to Accept: | | |
| Seconded by: | | |
| Aye: 18 | Nay: 0 | Abstain: 0 |

Tech. VP Report:

All repeaters are up and running. The “kerchunking” problem still exists. Steps will be taken using RF fingerprinting software to identify the guilty party or parties. Data collected will be given to the OOC for further action. It was mentioned that the PVRA club may have had the same problem and that will be looked into.

Reports on the Inventory, New Batteries, and New .88 Location Projects were tabled to the Board meeting.

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|------------|
| Motion to Accept: | WY10 | |
| Seconded by: | KB1RRR | |
| Aye: 18 | Nay: 0 | Abstain: 0 |

Webmaster Report:

No report given – Webmaster on vacation with President.

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

Old Business:

- The Field Day Committee is still looking into possible locations for this year's Field Day activities. A site in Essex was mentioned. Further discussion was tabled to the Board of Director's meeting.
- Fat Tire Classic Bike Race: Since the race sponsors did not provide us with marshalling sheets last year, Dan – W1ZFG volunteered to create one. Steve – KB1RRR volunteered to make copies for the participants.
- Club T-Shirts: No action taken at this time.

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

New Business:

None.

| | | |
|--------------------|--------|------------|
| Motion to Adjourn: | W1ZFG | |
| Seconded by: | KB1RRR | |
| Aye: 18 | Nay: 0 | Abstain: 0 |

Monthly Presentation

Last month after the meeting, a presentation on D-Star digital communication techniques was given by Bill – N1CNV and Jim – W1JJA. Various aspects of the technology were presented, from stand-alone operation to connection with the Internet. A live demonstration was given, which made several contacts.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

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

This just in. I am deeply saddened to report that George Hart, W1NJM is a silent key. He passed away Sunday at age 99 at Avery Heights. A memorial service is planned late April. George founded The National Traffic System and managed the Communications Department at ARRL for many years. We'll share many memories in another letter. May he rest in peace.

I must also report that Emil KB1KMW is a silent key. I remember him so well; he was just licensed right before TopOff and spent his time doing whatever he could to participate at the staging area which was at the Colchester Firehouse. I saw him at other hamfests and at the Region 4 leadership meeting. He will be missed.

It's holiday time again so let me first wish all of you a happy Easter/Passover season.

The annual Southington Hamfest is just a couple of weeks away. April 7 is the date so come on out and say hello. Place: Southington High School, 720 Pleasant St. 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Reserve tables early—6ft \$15 in advance; \$20 on the day of the flea market. If you bring your own table, there will be a discount of \$5. Those helping you are responsible for the general admission fee. Admission \$5. There is no charge for children under 12. Exams for all classes will be given at 10:00. The ARES forum is scheduled which I think is at 11:00. See <http://www.chetbacon.com/flea2013.pdf>.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

The 39th annual Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave Conference will be held April 26-28 at the Baymont Inn and Suites, 20 Taylor Street, Manchester CT. Advance room rates start at \$69.99. The meeting is sponsored by the North East Weak Signal Group (NEWS). The program will include presentations, a banquet, swap 'n sell, auction, test lab and more. For further info go to <http://www.newsvhf.com> or contact K1MAP map1@mapinternet.com.

The Members of Region 4 ARES supported the 2013 O'Niantic 5K race in mid March coordinated by ASEC Bill W1GTT.

Tom WA2RYV is holding hands-on mentoring sessions for new hams at Waterford Red Cross. They are going well—between 11 and 15 participants come monthly to learn about procedures on 2 meters, practice message traffic handling, antenna building and more. Tom is having a good time too! Contact tscottwa2ryv@gmail.com for info.

DEC Douglas WA1SFH gave two digital workshops—one on packet configuration and operation and another on Airmail, RMS Express and Winmore. The more versatile an operator you are, the more fun you'll have and your ability to respond in an emergency will be greatly enhanced.

In club news, Jon WB2RYV gave a presentation to the Greater Bridgeport ARC on NBEMS and its use in emcomm. March 30 is the date for The Stamford Digital Boot camp which will be attended by members of Stamford and Norwalk clubs.

Roger NG1R gave a talk at CARA on various logging programs. Many present use more than one program so there was a good lively discussion about the various features of each. It was noted that most programs run under Windows but MacLogger runs under Macintosh and Ubuntu Xlog runs under Linux. There is lots of software out there so find the one you like and enjoy the technology. How nice it would have been many years ago when we were all required to log every contact! Anybody remember that?

The Valley Amateur Radio Association enjoyed a great presentation on tower safety presented by Steve W1SMS. He had real interesting pictures of antenna raisings. Since he does a lot of his own antenna work alone, he described some of the tricks he uses to accomplish it all! For those of you who are more recently licensed, putting up antennas is a real art in itself—get out to antenna raising parties and learn the tricks. I'm sure you will have memorable stories to tell because no two such events are alike!

Chuck K0BOG and Steve WV1X gave a presentation at the meeting of NARL on the Amateur Auxiliary program through which official observers are appointed. You can read about this appointment at <http://www.arrl.org/official-observer-1> If you are interested in this program, contact our OOC Chuck K1DFS k1dfs@arrl.net. We especially need official observers in Fairfield County. Ed Hare W1RFI will be giving a presentation at the Newington Amateur Radio League entitled The ARRL Lab: Trials, Tribulations and (tall) Tales at the next meeting on Monday April 1 at 7:00 Newington Senior Center. Ed is a wonderful speaker so if you have the chance, come on out!

I will be speaking at the meeting of the Stamford Amateur Radio Association on Thursday April 4 8:00 PM Stamford Government Center. Members of Greater Norwalk ARC and Fairfield ARA will be attending as well. I will talk about the ARRL Field Organization and related topics.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

WECA (Westchester Club) has announced that they are going to hold a General Class training course starting April 16. It will be a nine week course meeting every Tuesday night (except that the 4th class in the series will be Weds 5/7 instead of Tues 5/6). The class meets at the Westchester Fire Training Academy, 4 Dana Avenue in Valhalla, and meets from 7-9pm. WECA has been very successful with their classes. They just finished an Extra Class training session and wound up with seven new extra class hams (including our own W3EIC). If you're interested, please contact Larrie Sutliff, W2UL at W2UL@WECA.org.

Paul N1II is looking for volunteers to support the upcoming Norwalk Regional Tree Festival. Norwalk and the surrounding towns of Wilton, Westport and Darien are all participating. Hams (with handi-talkies) are needed to guide people where to go, point them to parking and most important - hams would be the first friendly face visitors see - families and kids when they enter. If you don't have a radio, we will supply you with one. The event is at Cranbury Park on May 11. Task briefing would be at approximately 9:30 and the event lasts till 3. For those not familiar with Cranbury Park, it is located about a mile east of the Wal-Mart on Main Avenue (old Route 7) near the Norwalk-Wilton border. Please reply to pdanzer@optonline.net or N1II@arrl.net (with your name, call and telephone number). He still needs a few more ops so do it today if interested.

After this winter, we all need something to invigorate us. Here's a note about something new from Eric KB1EHE. "If there is one thing that is an absolute constant in ham radio is that we all like to tinker, create, and innovate. It was the combination of this build-it-from-scratch mentality, and the passion for community service, that inspired me to become a ham in the early 70's.

As a youngster, I had wonderful Elmers teaching me the ways. And now we're opening the doors to statewide Elmer-ship (I just made up that word) and tinkerer's paradise. It will be open nearly 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. It is the "Makerspace" in downtown Hartford. If you are new to the Makerspace concept, it is a national (in fact, international) movement to build, create, explore, and invent – just about anything you can imagine. It is an all-ages, all-genders participatory movement. As described at www.makerspace.com: "A Makerspace is a learning environment rich with possibilities. As new hardware and software tools for making, digital design, and fabrication are emerging, we're working together -- with teachers and community leaders -- to place those tools into the hands of a wider audience. We're building the infrastructure for more kids and adults to connect to a future in which they can personally change, modify or 'hack' the physical world, creating things that were nearly impossible to do on their own just a few years ago. Making is about getting hands-on, using these new technologies and basic tools, to do real and personally meaningful work."

I've been part of the working group to start a Makerspace in Hartford. The doors are about to open. And it will be located in one of the neatest places you can imagine: the lower floor of the historic City Steam building. The location was chosen because it is central to all residents of Connecticut, has easy highway access, has secure parking, and offers street-level 24/7 accessibility. (For historical reference, the building was designed by the architect H.H. Richardson, opened in 1877, and housed the largest department store in Connecticut: Brown Thomson and Company.) The paperwork is currently being filed to make it a 501(c) "non profit" organization. It is designed as a public service for the citizens of the entire region.

If you want to play, engage, create -- or even just socialize – with your fellow hams and creative citizens and artisans, I encourage you to keep up to date on developments via the recently launched Web site: www.makehartford.com. And, for the very latest developments, sign up on the home page for e-mail updates.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

This is a ham radio operator's paradise. And, even more so, I believe it can be a great way to inspire a whole new generation of hams. (There's no better way to excite a young mind than to demonstrate -- hands-on -- the magic of radio.) Be part of the community. And please help spread the word to our fellow hams!"

Now here's this month's exam schedule. Good luck if you're taking a test! See you next month.

Milford CT 06460-3308

Sponsor: Coastline ARC VEC: ARRL/VEC
Date: Apr 07 2013 Time: 10:00 AM (No walk-ins)
Contact: Richard S. Williamson (203) 877-5020 walyqe@aol.com
Location: CARA Clubhouse, Eels Hill Rd, Milford
Pre-registration required!

Thomaston CT 06787-1744

Sponsor: Northwest Amateurs VEC: ARRL/VEC
Date: Apr 09 2013 Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Lawrence S. Polowy (860) 283-4089 lspolowy@snet.net
Location: Thomaston Town Hall-Senior Citizen Center (Level 1), 158 Main St.

Trumbull CT 06611-1944

Sponsor: CT Regional Testing Center VEC: W5YI VEC
Date: Apr 11 2013 Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Kevin W. Cellini (203) 209-6495 kevin.cellini@gmail.com
Location: <http://441700.org/CRTC/crtc.htm>
VE's Residence 49 Sunrise Ave., Trumbull CT 06611-1944

Newington CT 06111-1400

Sponsor: Newington Amateur Radio League ARRL/VEC
Date: Apr 13 2013 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Steven R. Ewald (860) 594-0265 sewald@arrl.org
Location: ARRL Headquarters 225 Main St, Newington

Washington Depot CT 06794-1201

Sponsor: Northville ARA ARRL/VEC
Date: Apr 13 2013 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Gary Michael. Walters (860) 938-2030 w8zy@outlook.com
Location: Washington Volunteer Fire Station, 109 Bee Brook Rd, Washington Depot, CT

Portland CT 06480-1841

Sponsor: Middlesex ARS ARRL/VEC
Date: Apr 16 2013 Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Paul Lux (860) 635-1742 k1pl@arrl.net
Location: Portland Senior Center-1st Bldg on Right
Across Portland Bridge, Next Right After 3rd Light 7 Waverly Ave., Portland

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Milford CT 06460

Sponsor: SCTG

W5YI/VEC

Date: Apr 17 2013

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

Contact: Peter J. Keyes n1goj@softhome.net

Location: CARA Clubhouse, Eels Hill, Milford; (repeater site)

Pre-registration required

Farmington CT 06032-1955

Sponsor:

Date: Apr 19 2013

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

Contact: Walter M. Styslo (860) 529-8474 k1wms@hotmail.com

Location: American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave., Farmington

ARRL Connecticut Section

Section Manager: Betsey M Doane, K1EIC

k1eic@arrl.org

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