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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

May - 2006

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## ***This Month's Meeting***

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

**\*\*\* SPECIAL ACTIVITY MEETING \*\*\***

At this month's meeting we will have the long-awaited explanation of the latest in 802.11 technology given by Bill, KB1KNV. Perhaps you heard us talk about installing 802.11 equipment at the Bristol repeater site for our own private high speed digital network with Internet access. Well, come to this month's meeting to find out what it's all about!

## ***Last Month's Meeting***

## **ICRC Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date:</b>	4/21/2006
<b>Time Started:</b>	7:30PM-8:30PM (special), 9:00PM
<b>Time Ended:</b>	

**Minutes taken by:** Rick Johnson, N1WGK

### **Attendees (Callsign):**

N1WGK	K1HEJ	K1DFS	N1JGR	W1ZFG
KB1KNV	K1WMS	KB1JYX	KB1KZC	N1KGY
N1FNE	N1JWF	N1URO	K1EIC	

**Due to the fact that we have esteemed guests here, the normal meeting is put on hold to discuss the FlexNet network changes, etc.**

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## ***Last Month's Meeting – cont'd***

### **Secretary report:**

E-Mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	KB1KNV
Abstain:	

unanimous

### **Treasurer Report:**

4/21/2006

#### Reconciliation Summary

#### BANK STATEMENT -- CLEARED TRANSACTIONS:

Previous Balance:		792.65
Checks and Payments	1 Item	-100.00
Deposits and Other Credits	2 Items	75.00
Service Charge	0 Items	0.00
Interest Earned	0 Items	0.00
Ending Balance of Bank Statement:		767.65

#### YOUR RECORDS -- UNCLEARED TRANSACTIONS:

Cleared Balance:		767.65
Checks and Payments	0 Items	0.00
Deposits and Other Credits	1 Item	115.00
Register Balance as of 4/21/2006:		882.65
Checks and Payments	0 Items	0.00
Deposits and Other Credits	0 Items	0.00
Register Ending Balance:		882.65

Motion to Accept:	N1WGH
Seconded by:	KB1KNV
Abstain:	

unanimous

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## ***Last Month's Meeting – cont'd***

### **Tech. VP report...**

88 machine is having troubles. It is keying on it's own

15 has some noise right now...

88 will be moved from Burlington for the Bike race and placed in Bristol...15 will be switched into Burlington after that.

The bike race was discussed and how to handle it

We discussed the repeaters that George was working on...way too much to keep up with...if you were interested, you would be here!

Web page...Bill will be putting stuff on it...www.icrcweb.org, check it out! He will also be putting up a technical mailing list

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

unanimous

### **Admin. VP report...**

Nothing to report

### **Old Business:**

Discussed the bike race

### **New Business:**

Digital modes...we will be putting a course of study together for on-air digital modes...discussing a digital net once a week for purpose of training...Chuck will be wanting to talk to people about this...especially those with digital experience

Motion to Adjourn:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

unanimous

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## ***Telecoms Bill***

### **ARLB007 House Committee Okays Telecoms Bill with BPL-Interference Study Amendment**

The US House Energy and Commerce Committee's version of the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006 includes an amendment requiring the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. The panel voted April 26 to send the much-talked-about "telecoms rewrite" bill to the full House for its consideration. "Outstanding news!" was the reaction of ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "This is a major victory for the ARRL," he exulted, noting that the amendment "received significant opposition" from utility companies. Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), proposed the amendment, and, with the support of Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX), the committee agreed by voice vote to include it in the bill. "This puts the House Energy and Commerce Committee on record as having concerns about BPL interference," Sumner said. A year ago, Ross sponsored House Resolution 230 (H Res 230), which calls on the FCC to "reconsider and revise rules governing broadband over power line systems" based on a comprehensive evaluation of their interference potential to public safety and other licensed radio services. "Hundreds of ARRL members who wrote their congressional representatives in support of Rep Ross's H Res 230 helped to achieve this week's success with the COPE Act amendment," Sumner observed. A statement released by Ross's office notes that his amendment, which received unanimous committee support, "would guarantee that valuable public safety communications and Amateur Radio operators are not subject to interference." One of two radio amateurs in the US House, Ross said infrastructure-free Amateur Radio, "often overlooked in favor of flashier means of communication," can maintain communication in disasters that bring more vulnerable technology to its knees. Ham radio operators "are often the only means of communication attainable in a devastated area," Ross said. "I believe it is imperative that the interference potential of BPL is thoroughly examined and comprehensively evaluated to ensure that deployment of BPL, which I do support, does not cause radio interference for Amateur Radio operators and first responders who serve our communities," Ross added.

## ***Amateur Rule Changes Now In Effect***

### **ARLB008 FCC WRC-03 amateur rule changes now in effect**

Several FCC Part 97 Amateur Radio rule revisions to implement changes agreed to at the international level during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) now are in effect. The FCC Order, released in January, affects 97.111, Authorized transmissions; 97.113, Prohibited transmissions; 97.115, Third party communications, and 97.117, International communications. The Federal Register published the changes May 3. "These amendments will ensure that the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules conform to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference, and will further the Commission's ongoing efforts to streamline its Amateur Service Rules," the FCC Order said. "The overall effect of this action is to update the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules in the Code of Federal Regulations to conform to now-effective international agreements." The FCC Order revises: \* 97.111(a)(1) to permit "transmissions necessary to exchange messages with other stations in the Amateur Service, except those in any country whose administration has notified the ITU that it objects to such communications. The FCC will issue public notices of current arrangements for international communications." The old language permitted communication among amateur stations in different countries

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## ***Amateur Rule Changes Now In Effect – cont'd***

"except those in any country whose administration has given notice that it objects to such communications." The FCC said the change does not prejudice its proposal to amend 97.111(a)(2) to clarify that amateur stations may, at all times and on all authorized channels, transmit communications necessary to meet essential needs and to facilitate relief actions.

\* 97.115(a)(2) to facilitate the transmission of international communications on behalf of third parties in emergency or disaster-relief situations, whether or not a third-party agreement is in place between the US and the countries involved. The revision now permits communication with any non-US station "when transmitting emergency or disaster relief communications" as well as with any non-US station "whose administration has made arrangements with the United States to allow amateur stations to be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties." The revised rule further provides that no station may transmit third-party traffic other than emergency or disaster relief communications to a station in a country lacking a third-party arrangement. Still excepted from the prohibition is any third party eligible to be the control operator of an amateur station.

\* 97.113(a)(4) to prohibit amateur stations exchanging messages with amateur stations in other countries from making transmissions that are encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, except for control signals exchanged between Earth command stations and space stations in the Amateur-Satellite service, something Part 97 already provides for. The old rule referred to the use of "codes and ciphers." The same rule also already prohibits transmitting music, communications intended to facilitate a criminal act, obscene or indecent words or language and false or deceptive messages, signals or identification.

\* 97.117 to state that amateur stations may transmit communications incidental to the purposes of the Amateur Service and to remarks of a personal character. The FCC also revised 97.3 and 97.309 to update the definition of International Morse code and of various digital codes in the amateur rules to reflect changes in the international Radio Regulations.

## ***New – Digital Mode Net***

Starting on May 14, (or maybe May 21) Members of the Insurance City Repeater Club will hold a digital mode net at 8:30 PM Local Sunday each week on the 146.88 Bristol CT voice repeater (Down 600 no PL) . The net will operate in Amtor FEC mode and will use the standard CW "Q" signal and Net format. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A ICRC MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE. The 146.88 repeater has good coverage in much of ARES Area 5 and Area 3. If you have a TNC which operates in that mode, here is a chance to dust it off and get some experience. If you have a "Rascal" or "Mix W" here is a chance for you to get on that mode as well.

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## ***Bike Race***

On Sunday, April 23, members of the ICRC once again provided radio communications for the 2006 Fat Tire Classic Mountain Bike Race at Winding Trails in Farmington, CT. Despite the terrible weather conditions, a steady downpour all day which turned the race course into a muddy mess, there were no injuries to report. Net control duties were handled by Chuck - N1KGY, and Bill - KB1KNV. Chuck - K1DFS was assigned to the EMT squad. Al - N1JWF was stationed at the start/finish line. Stationed at various key locations around the course were Larry - K1HEJ, George - KB1JYX, Rick - N1JGR, Dan - W1ZFG, and Pete - KB1KZC. A good time was had by all.

## ***SKYWARN Training***

On Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup>, the National Weather Service from Taunton, MA held it's annual SKYWARN Weather Spotter Training Class at the Glastonbury Town Hall. There were 102 people in attendance, and more than 50 were licensed amateurs. There was a very interesting presentation by two meteorologists from NWS Taunton, along with many informative handouts. Several members of the ICRC attended the class. They were: Anne - K1STM, John - N1IWT, Walt - K1WMS, Alan - W1LOZ, Rick - N1JGR, and Dan - W1ZFG. There has been interest expressed by the SKYWARN people in having access to our repeaters in the event of a severe weather emergency.

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