
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

May - 2012

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, May 18th 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:	4/20/12
Time Started:	7:33 PM
Time Ended:	8:45 PM

Minutes taken by: Dan Wall – W1ZFG

Attendees (Callsign):

N1RMF	WY1O	W1ZFG	N1JGR	KB1SNL
K1DFS	AB1NH	KA1NDE	KB1VPY	KB1TFU
K1WMS	WA2PNB	KB1VNT	N1QLN	KB1RGQ
K1HEJ	KB1WYE	KB1WTE	N1JWF	KB1SNK
KB1IXQ	KB1YDH			

<i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i>

Presidents Report:

Refer to last month's Timeout.

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	NIQLN
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

unanimous

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer report was presented by the treasurer. Account balances were read.

Motion to Accept:	KB1VPY
Seconded by:	N1JWF
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP Report:

Report postponed to allow time for Bike Race and Boat Race Training.

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

Admin. VP Report:

Nothing to report.

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Webmaster Report:

The website is up and running and is currently up to date.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	KA1NDE
Abstain:	

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

The rest of the meeting consisted of training for participants in the Fat Tire Classic Bike Race and Boateaters River race.

See separate sections on both these events.

Motion to Adjourn:	W1ZFG
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

Fat Tire Classic Mountain Bike Race

Once again, members of the ICRC participated in the annual Fat Tire Classic Mountain Bike Race, which was held on Sunday, April 22nd at the Winding Trails Recreation Center in Farmington. After rallying at the Dunkin Donuts on Rt. 4, members drove over to Winding Trails where they were assigned to the various checkpoints throughout the race course. After a cloudy start which allowed us to get set up under dry conditions, the rain began around noon, which made for a slippery track. Despite the weather, a good time was had by all.

Participating this year for the ICRC were Al – N1JWF, Jim – AB1NH, George – N1RMF, Marie – KB1TFU, Chris – KA1NDE, Bob – KB1RGQ, Rick – N1JGR, Nick – KB1SNL, Chuck – K1DFS, Dan – W1ZFG, Larry – K1HEJ, Walt – K1WMS, Perry – WY1O, Pete – KB1KZC, Steve – KB1RRR, and Mike – N1QLN.

Special thanks go out to our Tech VP Rick – N1JGR for disassembling the .15 repeater at the Burlington site, transporting it to the race, reassembling it for the event, disassembly, transport, and reassembly at .15 after the event was over. Here is a group photo of the participants, taken by Rick – N1JGR.



Erecting the Antenna – taken by Perry - WY10

2012 Boaters Canoe/Kayak Race

On Saturday, May 12, members of the ICRC provided radio communications for the 2012 Boaters Race on the Farmington River. Volunteers were located along the 5 mile course running from Burlington to Farmington. Although the river level was low due to lack of rain, the rest of the weather was perfect – sunny and in the 70's. There were no incidents that required our intervention, but we were there just in case. Participating from the ICRC were: Perry – WY1O, Chuck – K1DFS, Rick – N1JGR, Nick – KB1SNL, George – N1RMF, Mike – N1QLN, Al – N1JWF, Jane – KB1SNK, Walt – K1WMS, Dan – W1ZFG, Dave – KB1WYE, Kurt – KB1IXQ, and Chris – KB1YDH.



Photo by Rick – N1JGR

President's Message

Greetings From the Beehive!

ICRC, in addition to being the acronym for the Insurance City Repeater Club, must also be another term for “beehive”! There has been so much going on within the leadership of the club, on behalf of our communication support for the May events. It has been a “beehive of activity”. So many members – and non-members have rallied together to prepare for the two races. As we get closer to the actual event dates, one can sense a definite sense of urgency and exciting determination in all concerned. Among the added bustle were the addressing of our Field Day exercise – a rare time where the communications support is given to ourselves –

President's Message – cont'd

and with a lot of fun! We still have some workers reviewing the Constitution and Bylaws revision, others working on having the band-pass filters up to snuff for FD, some initial arrangements for the second Root 66 mountain bike race in Winsted. I want to pass my personal thanks to all of the participants in these events – without their being there – we would not be enjoying the success that is there!

By the time you read this, we will have completed our second time with the Boateaters Challenge on the Farmington River. As of this writing, the WX forecast is foretelling sunshine, clear skies and warmer temperatures. This will be a welcome relief in consideration for the wet rainy time we spent at Winding Trails a month ago!

For our upcoming ARRL Field Day, always held on the last full weekend in June, some of you may very well know what it is and have been full participants in it over the years. Others who have recently joined our Club may not be aware of this oddly named event which actually combines an emergency ion the field set-up with “heavy-duty” contesting, and is not only a lot of fun – yet (as is at ICRC) an opportunity to have some great grilled food! The idea is to create an exercise that gets ham radio operators to take their radios, (maybe go-kits) generators, antennas and camping equipment to local or remote locations “in the field” for world-wide communication operations. The ICRC usually chooses a local but still remote-type area, easily accessed by our cars, s that we may also be able to demonstrate to the public as to what “Amateur Radio” is – or what is all about. If you haven't participated – this is a wonderful event to give a try.

In last month's Presidents Message “Inventing a New Normal” – I mentioned that this month I would be addressing some issues about ICRC presidential communications, and the policies of our Club's Board of Directors. I find that I'll need to run my message on that topic through the Board of Directors – and time and calendar is just not on our side at this time. I'm shooting for June's Time Out issue.

Membership attendance seems to up at the meetings, even the ICRC repeater system seems to have a little more activity than normal on it, and is very much alive and working well.

Just a final word about our Club repeaters. In addition to the services that we provide though our club repeater system, these FM voice repeater are available for enjoyment by all Technician class licensees and above, regardless of club membership. They are open to all; 24 hours / 7 days a week.

The frequencies are:

- 147.15+ (N1JGR) PL 77Hz located in Burlington
- 146.88- (K1DFS) PL 77Hz located in Bristol
- 442.85+ (K1DFS) PL 77Hz located in Bristol

All repeaters are to be regarded as “open” repeaters, with CTCSS sub-audible squelch control set at 77.0 Hz

The following 224.60 repeater is not owned, supported or controlled by the Insurance City Repeater Club; but is linked to the ICRC system, by special permission.

- 224.60- (K1WMS) PL 123Hz K1WMS (affiliated) repeater located in Vernon, CT

President's Message – cont'd

Did I once mention that I listen to the ICRC repeaters habitually from 6:45 to 7:30 AM, on my way to work, Monday through Friday. Occasionally, I'll join another conversation somewhere else on another system. But basically, I'm looking for some action on our ICRC repeaters. If you're up and about - please give me a call!

Perry WY10

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

SM K1EIC ASM's W1FXQ, KD1YV, K1HEJ
OOC K1DFS SGL K1MK
PIC KA1WPM APIC KA1TCH
SEC N1CLV ASEC K1BRF, N1FNE, K1VSC, AF1HS, W1GTT
STM K1STM TC N1KHB

This just in: I have received information that two hams have been stopped while driving in the Winstead area of Connecticut because the police have a new computerized license plate reader. Apparently the system cannot tell the difference between the lightning bolt impressed into a ham's plate from a number 1. The computer system misreads the tag and sends an alert to the officer. We are not yet sure just how many other police units have or will receive these new readers with this flaw. Until there is a resolution to this issue, hams are reminded of the need to keep copies of their license and auto registration handy. Now today we have managed to get word to the vendor who makes these plates that there is a problem. Hopefully, this issue will be resolved very soon. Just be sure and carry your licenses with you.

I have been pleased to receive some of your letters to your senators supporting Senate bill SB61, a bill that would exempt Amateur radio operators from the prohibition of using hand-held mobile telephones and mobile electronic devices while driving. The bill can be found at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2012/TOB/S/2012SB-00061-R00-SB.htm> Keep up the support—the legislative session ends on May 9.

Congratulations to Mario Bruno, KB1DAV on his appointment as CEO of The American Red Cross CT and Rhode Island Region. This was announced by Northeast Division Vice President Gail DeNicola. Her announcement continues: "Mario has served the region in many roles over the past 15 years. He has volunteered and worked as a national and local Red Cross employee in roles that have touched on nearly every area of service in the Red Cross. Mario began his career with the American Red Cross as a Disaster Action Team responder, Blood Services volunteer and Health and Safety instructor for the Central Massachusetts Chapter, where he became Disaster Services Chair after two years. After joining the former Greater Hartford Chapter, Mario served as leader of the Chapter's emergency response function and soon became a statewide resource for the Connecticut chapters, helping to coordinate and standardize services. He took on increasing responsibility at the Chapter as it merged with other chapters in Connecticut. Mario took on the Health and Safety programs at the former Charter Oak Chapter, helping to improve service delivery. He became Chief Operating Officer for the Connecticut and Rhode Island Region in 2008. Mario has proved to be a great advocate for the Red Cross and a strong leader, helping us all to embrace and thrive in the environment of change that this region has undergone in recent years. I look forward to working with him, and with all of you, to help build a strong Red Cross in Connecticut and Rhode Island."

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

CT ARES has had the pleasure of working with Mario for many years in various capacities at the American Red Cross. So of course, we're all excited about this appointment! His appointment was unanimously endorsed by the Board of Directors! Congratulations Mario!

Congrats to Paul Danzer on his QST article pp. 46-47 April QST: Balanced Line SWR Measurement.

We have a new D-star repeater! Here are the details: A new D-STAR repeater/gateway has been installed in Durham, CT, via the cooperative efforts between the Connecticut D-STAR Group (CDG) and the Pioneer Valley Repeater Association (PVRA). Its call sign is KB1UHS. It is a 440 repeater with a frequency of 444.550+. This repeater should provide coverage along the RT 95 and RT 91 corridors, especially toward New Haven, CT where coverage has been limited. The repeater will be permanently linked to reflector 10C. Along with all the other local repeaters linked to reflector 10C, D-STAR coverage should be available to the RT 84, 91, and 95 corridors. The repeater is still in shake down mode. Please send coverage reports as you can to W1FJM@W1FJM.com

Three events are coming up this weekend, April 28. The RASON Auction at the Gales Ferry Firehouse, the Region 2 ARES training, and a VE Session sponsored by the Bloomfield Amateur Radio Club. See the calendar at the bottom of this newsletter for location and contact details. You sure don't want to miss the fun!

Ed WA1LEI is holding an ARRL Emergency Communications course EC001 in West Haven on Saturday, May 19. Pre-registration is required. Cost: \$60. Prerequisite: IS100, IS700. For further information, contact wallei@yahoo.com.

Both the ECARA and Southington hamfests were attended by many ops. It was much fun to see you all and give you the ARRL materials you needed. There are several PR events coming up this summer so I was delighted to be able to answer your questions and learn about your events. I hope to attend some of them. Congratulations to the chairs Paul KELI ECARA and Norm W3IZ Southington for very fine events. A big THANK YOU!

The ARES annual meeting was very well attended. Our SEC gave everyone an update about ARES and about his involvement in emcomm planning at the State level. DEC's Douglas WA1SFH and Steve W1SJW were on hand to give reports.

The SCRAMS Club with coordinator president Larry K1KRC sponsored the Amateur radio exhibit last week at the Mystic Aquarium at the same time as their Titanic exhibit. Many of us operated CW because Morse code was a key component in the rescue effort 100 years ago in that tragedy. I was there one day and I can tell you firsthand that Larry really organized this event well; there was lots of interest in what we were doing. Over the weekend, ASEC Bill W1GTT and SEC Wayne N1CLV brought the Region 4 Mobile Command trailer which brought many visitors to the display. Ops who participated were: Joe Carcia NJ1Q who you see at W1AW, Doris Spencer KF6KQL, Mark Spencer WA8SME who instructs many teachers about wireless communication at ARRL and other locations throughout the country, Bruce KB1KHC, Dave WA1IKN, James W1WFE, John WA1QDX, Larry KB1QQM, Larry K1KRC president of SCRAMS, ASEC W1GTT, SEC N1CLV, Ross KB1TNP, Tom WA2RYV, and SM Betsey K1EIC. Many thanks for all your work. This was truly a big effort. Amateur radio was exhibited in front of crowds of visitors! Congratulations Larry and SCRAMS!

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Club news: The Greater Norwalk ARC enjoyed a “do-it-yourself” session led by Dan N1ZZ on building dipoles! The Middlesex Amateur Radio Society is making plans to hold classes on antenna construction and other technical topics. DEC Jonathan KB1KIX is hoping to hold similar classes for NARL. Great! This is all good elmering—nothing like “hands on” experiences to learn new skills.

The Bristol Radio club had as their speaker one of their members, Dave, WA1CVN who presented an overview of the three main types of digital cameras, and a guide to help users select a camera.

Members of the Newington Amateur Radio League enjoyed a talk by QST Managing Editor Joel Kleinman N1BKE who, among other things, spoke about the new digital edition of QST! Joel is an honorary life member of NARL!

EC Armando KB1PRP and NARL president Vinny W1VJA are setting up an Amateur radio demo at the Kiwanis Big K flea market in Newington. They're still looking for volunteers. If you can help, contact w1vja@arrl.net

Members of ICRC did communications for the Winding Trails bike race and plan to participate in the Boateaters race which takes place on the Farmington River next month.

The Valley Amateur Radio Association enjoyed a talk entitled “What is Radiation” given by George, N1YAE.

Attention ARRL members in Fairfield County: OOC K1DFS is looking for volunteers who would be willing to become appointed as official observers. This appointment is different from other appointments in that you need to study the training material supplied by ARRL and take a test on that material. All candidates are recommended to the Section Manager for appointment as specified by the guidelines of the Field Organization. A candidate must be a full ARRL member and hold a Technician class license or higher for at least 4 years. For further information and to apply, go to <http://www.arrl.org/official-observer-1>. Of course, you are welcome to write OOC Chuck K1DFS k1dfs@arrl.net or me k1eic@arrl.org if interested.

I regret to inform you of the following silent keys:

Frank Guphill, WO1Z East Hartland

Donna Magee, KB1RPP Waterford

Our prayers are with their families and friends, particularly their ham radio friends.

Donna was a newer ham who was very active in the CT Field organization. She was net manager for the Eastern CT Traffic Net, an active net control on the Sky Warn Net held in Eastern CT, an active member of ARES and a member of SCRAMS. She participated in the NTS Eastern Area picnic at my home two years ago and would often call to ask questions and learn as much as she could. She was learning digital modes and was thoroughly fascinated with many aspects of Amateur radio. Our thoughts are with Larry, KB1RPK at this difficult time.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Mark your calendars, details to follow as the time approaches. Here are some events listed through August.

- April 28: RASON auction Gales Ferry Firehouse, 1772 RT 12, Gales Ferry; contact Chip n1mie@arrl.net.
April 28: VE Session Bloomfield Amateur Radio Club; contact Don k1in@arrl.net.
April 28: 8:30 a.m. Region 2 ARES meeting; contact Douglas walsh@arrl.net.
May 5-6: New England Division QSO Party; <http://www.neqp.org>.
May 16: The Skywarn Basic Spotter Training Class for Hartford /Tolland area 7:00 pm the Canton Community Center 40 Dyer Ave Canton, CT; contact kb1sjw@arrl.net.
May 19: Goshen Hamfest, Goshen Fair Grounds contact Lee k1lee@arrl.net.
May 19: ARRL EC001 class contact Ed WA1LEI@yahoo.com.
May 26-27: Angel Ride; contact n1clv@arrl.net.
June 9: VE Session sponsored by CARA; walk-ins welcome; contact Frank N1PE frsileo@att.net.
June 16: NARL Fest St. Mary's School Newington; contact Vinny w1vja@arrl.net.
June 23-24: Field Day!
July 28-30: Simulated Emergency Test statewide; contact your DEC for information.
August 18: Eastern Area NTS picnic details to follow; contact k1eic@arrl.net.
August 19: Rookie Roundup; see April QST, <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>.
August 24-26: New England Division Convention Holiday INN Boxboro, MA <http://www.boxboro.org>.

Don't forget—we have a Section calendar at <http://ct.arrl.org>. Please ask someone in your club to post your events. Contact Webmaster and ASM Jim KD1YV, kd1yv@arrl.net to get registered.

ARRL Connecticut Section
Section Manager: Betsey M Doane, K1EIC
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For the latest information, visit our website at <http://www.icrcweb.org>