
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

August - 2005

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, August 19th 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:	15 July 2005
Time Started:	7:49PM
Time Ended:	9:25PM

Minutes taken by: Rick Johnson, N1WGK

Attendees (Callsign):

N1WGK	K1HEJ	N1JWF	WA1PAT	N1IKM
K1DFS	N1KGY	KB1KNV		

Secretary report:

E-Mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	WA1PAT
Abstain:	N1IKM
unanimous	

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Treasurer Report:

ICRC July 2005

BANK STATEMENT -- CLEARED TRANSACTIONS:

Previous Balance:		571.29
Checks and Payments	4 Items	-271.50
Deposits and Other Credits	2 Items	605.00
Service Charge	0 Items	0.00
Interest Earned	0 Items	0.00
Ending Balance of Bank Statement:		904.79

Knowing where we stand with money, N1KGY was very kind in offering to foot the bill for Q3 2005...thank you very much!

Motion to Accept:	N1IKM
Seconded by:	N1JWF
Abstain:	K1DFS

unanimous

Tech. VP report...

On July 4th weekend, tried to replace the antenna but minor medical issues made it impossible to do it. They are aiming for July 23/24 for trying again.

There are a number of things that are going to happen:

- The 440 stick will be brought down.
- Take down the VHF high antenna, that's tilted. It doesn't have anything to do with our station but the station host would like it removed...we will do it as a courtesy.
- 4 bay dipole array will come down with the hopes to rebuild it.
- We would also like to recycle the super station master at the 88 site.
- We will also be putting up the new antenna, with both the top and bottom of the antenna supported, in the 4 bay dipole slot.
- Tom has also agreed to allow us to put up a couple of other antennas. One will be the 2.4Ghz stick on the position formerly occupied by the 440 stick. The second antenna will be a 2.4 GHz dish pointing in the direction of Rattlesnake Mountain.

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

There was some extensive discussion about wireless communication, which you would probably find very interesting if you were there. More to come next month...

NIURO Packet Notes – packet in Burlington has an expired date but Brian will get a new one. Lots of bulletins have been going through NIURO packet...there were several other items discussed regarding this particular mode from Brian. There were also notes regarding signal strength and possible future links to strengthen the links between nodes.

Motion to Accept:	N1W GK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

unanimous

Old Business:

Old business was taken up in the tech report.

New Business:

N1JWF mentioned that we are invited to the NARL picnic...thank you NARL. Check out our web site for date, time and location.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1W GK
Seconded by:	N1IKM
Abstain:	

unanimous

The Tour of the Litchfield Hills Bike Tour

The CQ Radio Club is looking for Help on August 7th Sunday The Tour Of the Litchfield Hills Bike Tour. We need Radio Op's to help out

Any questions about it please contact me at kldav@arrl.net or Call me at home 860 482-9653

Thanks for all you can do'''

73"S
K1DAV
DEC AREA 5
David Hyatt
Torrington, CT

Volunteers Needed for Radio Booth at Big E

I attended the New England ARRL Directors meeting with club Presidents Sunday July 10th in Putney VT. Less than 2 % of the 20 + Club Presidents had received my Jan. NTS message and my April Message to clubs describing this years Ham Radio Booth at the Eastern States Fair Sept 16 thru Oct 2, 2005 and requesting volunteers to staff the booth. Those Presidents attending requested that all future communications go to both the Club President and the Club Contact. They also requested that I resend the note and info.

One other important issue came from this meeting regarding the Big E Booth. One area Club sends volunteers each year to man the booth (usually they take a full day) and each year they pick up the list of people who have requested more info on how to become a ham, From that contact info, that club fills a license class (around 20 people). Of last years group 18 passed their license exam and the club gives their "new bees" 1-year free membership, as well as provides follow up to help "New bees" get on the air.

Your club can have the same advantage by sending volunteers to man the booth.

Follows a copy of the release sent out to club contacts back in April. There are still opening for booth volunteers. Because I am trying to avoid postage costs using e-mail as a contact medium I am sending this out as single messages to avoid Spam trapping.

Even if your club is not in a position to provide volunteers please send me a note confirming receipt. The April e-mailed call for Volunteers. This year, as in the past, the Eastern States Exposition, or "Big E", in West Springfield Ma. is offering Amateur Radio a most visible and fun-filled opportunity. The Northeast's biggest Exposition and Fair will again provide a booth for hams to demonstrate our unique hobby and public service activities to the more than 1.3 million members of the general public that attend this 17 day event.

The Big E runs from September 16 - October 2, 2005! We need ham radio volunteers from the Northeast region to man the booth daily from 10 AM to 10 PM during this period. In return for generous space to set up our gear and antennas, the Exposition organizers ask only that the booth be manned and operating each day. Six (6) hour operating shifts are planned for weekdays and 4 hour shifts for weekend days.

This year, as before, we will set up and operate an HF Special Events Station W1E from the booth area, for making and logging amateur radio QSO's with hams worldwide. We will also maintain a traffic handling capability via HF and VHF-UHF, including a packet node and BBS, for sending NTS messages. The general public will be afforded the opportunity to send free ham radiograms from the Fair to demonstrate our public service message handling skills and readiness. In keeping with our expanded role as emergency communicators, the public service stations will be set up EOC-fashion, as we would in anticipation of a call to duty in an actual emergency.

A Booth Committee, chaired by Al Gerke, N1JWF (aln1jwf@yahoo.com), will coordinate station setup and operations at the site. A Week Captain will be on duty each morning to make sure that the demonstration activities are proceeding smoothly and that the booth is covered per the fair requirement. The Week Captain will also help familiarize new volunteers with station equipment, operating procedures and assist in solving problems that might arise.

Support for volunteer operators will be available during all shifts. Written operating guidelines and instructions will be located at the station, and will consist of such items as how to activate and operate each station, logging information, NTS message protocols and a listing of voice net frequencies on which to relay NTS messages, etc. As well as on-site information, The Booth committee will have one or more "live" ham volunteers monitoring a wide-area FM repeater in the Fair area throughout the day should questions arise.

Volunteers Needed for Radio Booth at Big E – cont'd

I am again actively seeking volunteers from amateur radio clubs to man the station. Word has gone out via NTS radiogram to all ARRL-listed groups and SM's as far south as the border of the NNJ Section. I will begin sending the attached invitation by e-mail to club points of contact this week to formalize and broaden the request for volunteers.

Because the Big E public service ham radio station will be configured as an EOC, this event also provides an opportunity for your Section ARES members to practice ARES Mutual Assistance Team (ARESMAT) emergency out-of-area response procedures. In order to participate, your ARESMAT team members MUST register before June 15 with Al, N1JWF. Al can be contacted by phone at 860-747-1925. or by e-mail at aln1jwf@yahoo.com. If you need additional info you can contact me by e-mail at klhej@yahoo.com. Maps and additional info will be sent to hams that are scheduled. SM's please relay the attached invitation to your SEC and ask him to pass it on to each EC in your section to stimulate interest in a larger ARES response this year. If it is more convenient for your SEC and you, the SM, approve, he/she may also send me the e-mail addresses of his EC's in your section and I will get this information directly to the EC. This would need to be done no later than June 1.

The scheduling POC (point of contact) for the Big E ham radio event is Al, N1JWF Please have volunteer group leaders send an NTS message or e-mail to Al to schedule participation time. That communication MUST have either a phone number or an e-mail address where the applying group leader may be contacted.

Please note that Al needs to hear from volunteers ASAP due to paperwork deadlines that the Fair has imposed that are well in advance of opening day.

Shift information:

Shifts run 9:45 AM to 4 PM and 4PM to 10 PM week days. Weekend shifts run 9:45 AM to 2 PM, 1:45 PM to 6 PM, and 5:45 PM to 10 PM. we often can accommodate those who can't quite make these times if we are told at the time of sign up.

Those Amateurs who are scheduled to participate will receive Fair admission and parking.

If you desire more info on the Eastern States Exposition itself, go to <http://www.thebige.com/>.

Thanks for your assistance in spreading the word and for your anticipated help in making this ham radio demonstration a resounding success.

Larry K1HEJ

Phone 860-223-0778

Packet klhej@nluro

E-mail klhej@yahoo.com

US Postal: 262 Winthrop St.

New Britain, CT 06052

Please note: The Booth Committee only received enough tickets for 4 volunteers a weekday and 6 on weekend days.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section Leadership: ASMs: K1STM, KY1F, NK1J, N1FNE, K1BRF; Bulletin Manager KD1YV; Official Observer Coordinator W1GC; Public Information Coordinator W1FXQ; Section Emergency Coordinator AB1CR; Section Traffic Manager K1HEJ; Technical Coordinator N1KHB.

ARES Area 4 members participated in the MS 150 Bike Tour under the direction of DEC Wayne, N1CLV who recently took the helm from Hank, K1WTS. Hank resigned as DEC to attend to other duties within the community that relate to emergency preparedness. A hearty thank you to Hank who did a terrific job as DEC and as leader at Top Off! Hank isn't going away though; he is an active OES and I'm sure will be very helpful to Wayne in his new role. Many thanks to Wayne for his willingness to serve as DEC.

Dave, K1DAV, DEC Area 5 is still looking for help with the Tour of Litchfield Hills event that will take place on August 7. Contact kldav@arrl.net if you want to get some good ARES experience and have some fun!

Thanks to the efforts of Randy, W1IN and Joe N1KHB, we were able to hold a field day this year on the lawn of the Capitol. The QRP setup was impressive. Randy provided us with the following equipment:

Transceivers: (2)SGC 2020 ADSP2 160-10 meter QRP SSB/CW Transceivers;
ATV: (2) Homebrew 1.2 GHz Video transceivers, (1) 200 mW commercial video transmitter (Modified for 1.2 GHz ham band operation); 1 5" TFT video display
Antennas: (1) Cushcraft R7 40-10 meter vertical; (1) EndFedz 40/20 meter end fed half wave Antenna Supports; (2) 48' Fiberglass interlocking mast systems in 4' sections (28' used for each end of half wave and 12' used for base of R7, 28' in reserve).
Power: (1) 135 amp hour starved electrolyte battery; (1) 20 amp hour starved electrolyte battery (back up); (1) 14 amp hour NiCad battery (computer power and back up). All of the above were charged by solar energy using photovoltaic panels.
Computers: (1) Sony Viao Mini notebook; (1) HP Tablet PC Networked via Bluetooth PAN Running N3FJP FNet Software.

Many thanks to the operators who came to participate: Mark WA8SME and Doris KF6QKL who brought Sean KB1LUZ, a 9-year-old member of The Ct Amateur Radio League of Youth, Richard KB1DMX, Rose Anne KB1DMW, John KB1KKV, Randy W1IN and Joe N1KHB. Many other ops stopped by which of course included your SM and SEC to lend support and offer congrats on their fine setup. Randy and Joe did a superb job. TC Joe had an impressive array of handouts available to the public.

SEC AB1CR and I enjoyed visiting many of you on Field Day weekend. The Northville Amateur Repeater Association held its very first Field Day – see photos on their Web site: <http://www.nalra.com>. Many other club Web pages have photos of Field Day so check them out.

Due to a last minute cancellation, it became possible to do the Community Education Program in CT. This program will be facilitated by Bill, W1WJB. A number of emergency officials from a wide variety of organizations including CERT, Red Cross, public utilities, PD, FD, EMT have been invited. The purpose of the program is NOT to recruit new hams but to better explain how our services fulfill their needs when all else fails.

This meeting will be held on Saturday, July 30 at 10:00 a.m. in the New Canaan Number One Firehouse. Attendance is by invitation only. Call 203-894-8978 to get information on how to invite your favorite emergency official.

Keep cool in this humid weather--73--Betsey Doane, K1EIC

July CT NTS & Packet Notes

1. All should be aware that W1HAD is forwarding once again and is linked into the system temporarily using 145.07. IF you have sued W1HAD on 145.05 in the past please note that w1had is now on 145.07 temp. This was a last resort after a couple of equipment failures in the network and once those are corrected we will route forwarding again via the 220 and 440 networks. WX1CT-4, W1HAD-4 and W1WCG-4 had been isolated from the northern CT nodes prior to this temporary change. Thanks to K1EIC (SYSOP W1HAD-4) and N1URO (SYSOP N1URO and ICRC Packet trustee) for coming to the rescue by reprogramming their routes. Each CT Section Sysop needs to review how their forward files are written and how they can be changed for just this type of emergency. It may become necessary to reroute messages in a power out emergency where we lose out of Section links. It may also be necessary for some ARES and NTS ops to manually relay information needed in an emergency should the network lose a path. Each NTS Operator who uses packet and each DEC should have someone who can quickly train ops on how to do this.

2. Any one who participated in Field Day is entitled to submit a PSHR Report. That's a Public Service Honor Roll report.

There are 6 categories plus the total in the PSHR report.

Category 1 is number of times participating in a net - any mode. (Maximum reportable 40)

Category 2 is handling (send or receive) formal NTS message radiograms) 1 point each - maximum 40.

Category 3 serving in an ARRL sponsored position such as TC, STM, SM or NTS official (NM)

Category 4 participating in a short-term public service event includes off the air meetings and meetings with served agencies. 5 points per hour or any part of the hour.

- No limit

Category 5 - 5 points per hour directly involved with an emergency operation no limit

Category 6. Providing and maintaining either a RF Digital BBS that handles NTS messages or a web page or an email server that is orientated toward Amateur Radio.

The total is the sum of the points you earned in each category.

You can file a PSHR report by sending a NTS message to me as follows

Larry Buck, K1HEJ

262 Winthrop St.

New Britain CT 06052

860 223 0778

For those on packet, you can send the message in NTS Packet format by typing at the BBS's prompt line ST 06052@NTSCT and then do a return. At the BBS's Subject line you type QTC New Britain 860 223 and return/. You then type the entire message starting with the message preamble. Sending these reports to me by NTS message serves two purposes 1, it gives you practice in composing and sending a formal NTS Message and two, it get your activity into the record books,

3. On the NTS side, Net Managers please remind your NCS's that it is the NCS responsibility to obtain fill in NCS's while your regulars go on vacation.

4. Bike race August 7th 2005

Dave Hyatt, DEC area 5 is looking for help in covering the Litchfield Bike Race on Aug. 7th. IF you can help them out please contact Dave at David Hyatt

iamdogman@optonline.net, NET MANAGERS PLEASE ANNOUNCE AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK during your nets. Thanks

The temp 2-meter link to W1HAD is no longer as I was at N4GAA yesterday and fixed the pc routing on the backend. Now W1HAD links in via N4GAA and the 2-meter link is now taken down.

***** 73 de Brian N1URO *****

FCC Proposes Dropping Morse Code Requirement

The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission included the provision in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, but it declined to go along with any other proposed changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. Dropping the Morse code requirement or any other changes to Part 97 would not become final until the Commission gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any new rules and concludes the proceeding with a Report and Order specifying the changes and an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said. The NPRM&O consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community. Several petitioners simply asked the FCC to drop the Morse requirement, but some--including the ARRL--also proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on what the FCC calls "our tentative conclusions" in its NPRM&O.

The Commission said it believes dropping the 5 WPM Morse examination would encourage more people to become Amateur Radio operators and would eliminate a requirement that's "now unnecessary" and may discourage current licensees from advancing their skills. It also said the change would "promote more efficient use" of amateur spectrum.

To support dropping the code requirement, the FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements for HF access.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised to see the FCC propose scrapping the code altogether, although the League and others had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner also expressed dismay that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road."

Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors will closely study the 30-page NPRM&O and comment further once they've had an opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's NPRM&O, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest. The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees will easily be able to upgrade to General once the code requirement goes away. The Commission also said it already addressed some other issues petitioners raised in its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140.

FCC Proposes Dropping Morse Code Requirement – cont'd

The NPRM&O is on the FCC Web site

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf>

A 60-day period for the public to comment on the NPRM&O in WT 05-235 will begin once the notice appears in the Federal Register. Reply comments will be due within 75 days.

ARRL Board Adopts Modified Regulation - By Bandwidth

Following considerable discussion and debate, the ARRL Board of Directors has approved a modified set of recommendations to regulate the use of amateur spectrum by emission bandwidth rather than by emission mode. Last April, the ARRL Executive Committee reached consensus on a set of regulation-by-bandwidth proposals

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/04/13/1/>> to serve as the basis of an FCC Petition for Rule Making. Following additional fine tuning based on hundreds of comments from the amateur community, the Board formally adopted a further-modified plan at its July 15-16 meeting. The revised plan stipulates that the League "will promptly undertake a procedure to establish a band plan to be utilized with the proposed subband allocation petition." Until that happens, existing band plans will remain. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, remarked after Board's 12-3 vote that improved band planning is critical to the success of the League's regulation-by-bandwidth proposals and will require the support of the amateur community at large.

"I think it's fair to say that the Board recognizes that regulation by bandwidth is not going to work without a spirit of cooperation among amateurs pursuing different interests," he said, "any more than current regulations would be adequate without a spirit of cooperation." As one example, Sumner pointed out that under the current rules, RTTY and data enthusiasts may, by rule, operate in the low end of the CW subbands. "They don't, because to do so would disrupt amateur CW," he said. Sumner said that if the FCC ultimately implements the modified ARRL recommendations, there's no reason to believe that amateurs will operate right up to the absolute limit of what the FCC says they may, any more than they do now. The regulation-by-bandwidth issue dominated the Board's second meeting of the year in Windsor, Connecticut. After a great deal of give and take among its members, the Board ultimately okayed raising the maximum bandwidth the EC had proposed for frequencies below 29 MHz from 3.0 kHz to 3.5 kHz. A provision permitting the continued use of double-sideband AM with bandwidth of up to 9 kHz was retained. Significantly, the Board also agreed that maximum permitted bandwidth should be defined in terms of necessary rather than occupied bandwidth. In addition, the modified proposal removes the exception for independent sideband (ISB) emissions--apparently not used in the Amateur Service--and drops certain mode restrictions on Novice and Technician class operators.

The ARRL proposal would leave two important FCC rules unchanged. §97.307(a) says: "No amateur station transmission shall occupy more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice." §97.101(a) reads: "In all respects not specifically covered by FCC Rules each amateur station must be operated in accordance with good engineering and good amateur practice."

Per the Board's motion, the ARRL Executive Committee will review the final rule making petition, which will be filed with the FCC at the Committee's discretion. The Board began work on the bandwidth concept in 2002.

ARRL Board Adopts Modified Regulation - By Bandwidth – cont'd

In other action, the ARRL Board adopted a resolution to establish an ARRL VHF/UHF Advisory Committee (VUAC) to address contesting issues over a period of no more than three years. The new panel, to be comprised of "exceptionally qualified and recognized members of the VHF/UHF community, "will seek input from VHF/UHF contesting "public," identify important issues and "seek the sense of the 'public'" on those issues.

The Board also adopted five strategies to include in the League's 2006 Operational Plan. These address improvements in the ARRL advocacy program and members-only features of the Web site, and review and analysis of ARRL programs.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, chaired this month's Board meeting. Radio Amateurs of Canada President Earle Smith, VE6NM, was a guest of the Board.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station in Repeater Mode

NA1SS aboard the International Space Station is now operational as a Mode U/V (Mode B) FM voice repeater. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, said July 20 that the system appears to be working well following a week of silence during an initial attempt to activate the repeater. "John Phillips, KE5DRY, gave it a second try after a scheduled contact with Goddard Space Flight Center," Ransom told ARRL. "On the next pass, I was able to work four stations." Just how long the repeater mode will be active remains to be seen, and it could be switched off after the next ARISS school group QSO or because of the space shuttle's arrival (NASA plan to launch Discovery on Tuesday, July 26).

Phillips and crewmate Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, can step in and talk to Earth stations if they wish; otherwise, the system acts as a crossband repeater when the ISS is within range. "Enjoy it while it lasts," Ransom remarked, "because we don't know when they're going to shut it off." The uplink frequency is 437.800 MHz; the downlink is 145.800 MHz. The RS0ISS packet system is off the air while the voice repeater is in operation. Since the ISS equipment is channelized, it cannot correct for Doppler shift, which can be significant at 70 cm.

For more information, see "Success Tips for Using the ISS Voice Repeater," by Emily Clarke, W0EEC
<<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2004/10/06/1/>>.

Emergency Contact Information - ICE

While I don't normally send out e-mail that has been forwarded to me, this one actually makes sense...

A campaign encouraging people to enter an emergency contact number in their mobile phone's memory under the heading ICE (In Case of Emergency), has rapidly spread throughout the world as a particular consequence of last weeks terrorist attacks in London. Originally established as a nationwide campaign in the UK, ICE allows paramedics or police to be able to contact a designated relative / next-of-kin in an emergency situation. The idea is the brainchild of East Anglian Ambulance Service paramedic Bob Brotchie and was launched in May this year. Bob, 41, who has been a paramedic for 13 years, said, "I was reflecting on some of the calls I've attended at the roadside where I had to look through the mobile phone contacts struggling for information on a shocked or injured person. Almost everyone carries a mobile phone now, and with ICE a rescuer would know immediately who to contact and what number to ring. The contact person may even know of their medical history. By adopting the ICE advice, your mobile will help the rescue services quickly contact a friend or relative, which could be vital in a life or death situation. It only takes a few seconds to do, and it could easily help save your life. Why not put ICE in your phone now? Simply select your person to contact in case of emergency, enter them under the word ICE and the telephone number of the person you wish to be contacted. Please will you also email this to everybody in your address book, it won't take too many 'forwards' before everybody will know about this. It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest. For more than one contact name ICE1, ICE2, ICE3 etc.

ICRC Antenna Parties

On Sunday, July 3rd, members of the ICRC assembled at the Bristol repeater site to perform some long-needed maintenance on our various antennas. As listed in the Tech VP Report, there were several items that we planned on accomplishing that day. Unfortunately, our intrepid climber, Chuck – N1KGY, developed a serious leg cramp. So in the interest of safety, the day's planned activities were cancelled. However, we did manage to have a nice cook-out, thanks to Chuck – K1DFS and Rick – N1JGR. (Who would have thought that a Tech VP could also be such a great cook on the grill!) Also participating in the ground crew were Larry – K1HEJ, Bill – KB1KNV, and Dan – WA1PAT.

On our second attempt on July 24th, we had much better success. Chuck – N1KGY was able to remove our old 440 MHz control receiver antenna. It was in really rough shape. The fiberglass coating was all but worn off. Next, Chuck inspected the high band commercial antenna that had broken loose from one of its mounts and was banging into our main repeater antenna. The original plan was to remove the high band antenna as a courtesy to the site owner, but upon further discussion it was decided to abandon that idea due to time and safety considerations. Chuck was able to secure the base and top of the wayward antenna to prevent any further damage to our antenna. Chuck was also able to install the 2.4 GHz dish antenna on the tower, to be used for our future 2.4 GHz project. Unfortunately, we ran out of time and daylight before we got the new dual bander up. This will be accomplished at our next party in a couple of weeks.

Special thanks go to Chuck – N1KGY who stayed up on the tower for more than 6 hours! (He even ate his lunch at 75 feet! Now that's what I call dedication). Hope the sunburn has healed by now, Chuck.

Also, special thanks to Bill – KB1KNV and his friend Louis who provided the Subways for lunch. Also participating in the ground crew were Rick – N1JGR, Chuck – K1DFS, Larry – K1HEJ, Rick – N1WGK, George – KB1JYX, and Dan – WA1PAT.



Our intrepid climber, Chuck - N1KGY, in position on the tower.



Chuck - N1KGY positioning the new 2.4 GHz dish.



Part of our intrepid ground crew: Bill - KB1KNV on belay and Larry - K1HEJ running the down line.

Thanks to George - KB1JYX for the great photography!

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