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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

August - 2010

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## ***Special Announcement!***

Due to popular demand, Dan – W1ZFG will repeat last months on-the-air demonstration of the Open Tracker APRS Position Encoder, which is the clubs up-coming group project, after this months meeting. (See paragraph later on in this newsletter.)

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

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, August 20th 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

<b>Date:</b>	7/16/10
<b>Time Started:</b>	7:42 PM
<b>Time Ended:</b>	8:47 PM

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

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

K1HEJ	N1WGK	W1ZFG	KB1TXP	N1QLN
KA1NDE	KB1TBL	N1JWF	KB1ULW	K1WMS

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<b><i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i></b>
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**Secretary report:**

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	KB1TBL
Abstain:	

unanimous

**Treasurer Report:**

Dues are due on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Dues are \$50. Although dues are higher than some other groups, you get commercial grade repeaters and commercial grade amplifiers. You also get a wonderful group of people. Consider keeping your membership active and also consider giving a tax deductible donation.

Treasurer's report was tabled to next month, due to the absence of the Treasurer.

Motion to Accept:	N1JWF
Seconded by:	KB1TBL
Abstain:	

unanimous

**Tech. VP Report:**

Tech VP's report was tabled to next month, due to the absence of the Tech VP.

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	KA1NDE
Abstain:	

**Website:**

Webmaster's report was tabled to next month, due to the absence of the Webmaster.

**Old Business:**

Field Day, score 1324. Last year was 1624. Fun was had by all. Most of the 1300 points was from Fred – W1CKV on CW...thanks, Fred! Pictures will hopefully be on the website soon, if not already there.

**New Business:**

Looking to get a General class going. N1JWF is having trouble getting a room, to run it 6-9PM on Thursdays. Any help would be appreciated...hoping to run it from September-early November. The day is negotiable.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	KA1NDE
Abstain:	KB1TBL

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## ***Upcoming ICRC Group Building Project***

Here are the details about what you need to get to participate in the upcoming Group Building Project. Information is available on the Argent website. [www.argentdata.com](http://www.argentdata.com).

As a bare minimum, you will need to buy the Open Tracker Plus: (Kit is \$32, Assembled & Tested is \$46), the ADS-GM1 GPS receiver (\$53), and a cable to connect the OT+ to your radio (Buy for \$17 or built yourself).

Also available is the Open Tracker Plus Bundle (\$99) which includes the OT+, the ADS-GM1, GPS receiver, and a radio cable of your choice. The OT+ Bundle has the options of getting the OT+ assembled & tested for an additional \$10, and substituting an Anderson PowerPole connector for the cigarette lighter plug on the power cable for an additional \$1.50. The Open Tracker + Bundle is cheaper than buying the parts individually, so that is what we are recommending.

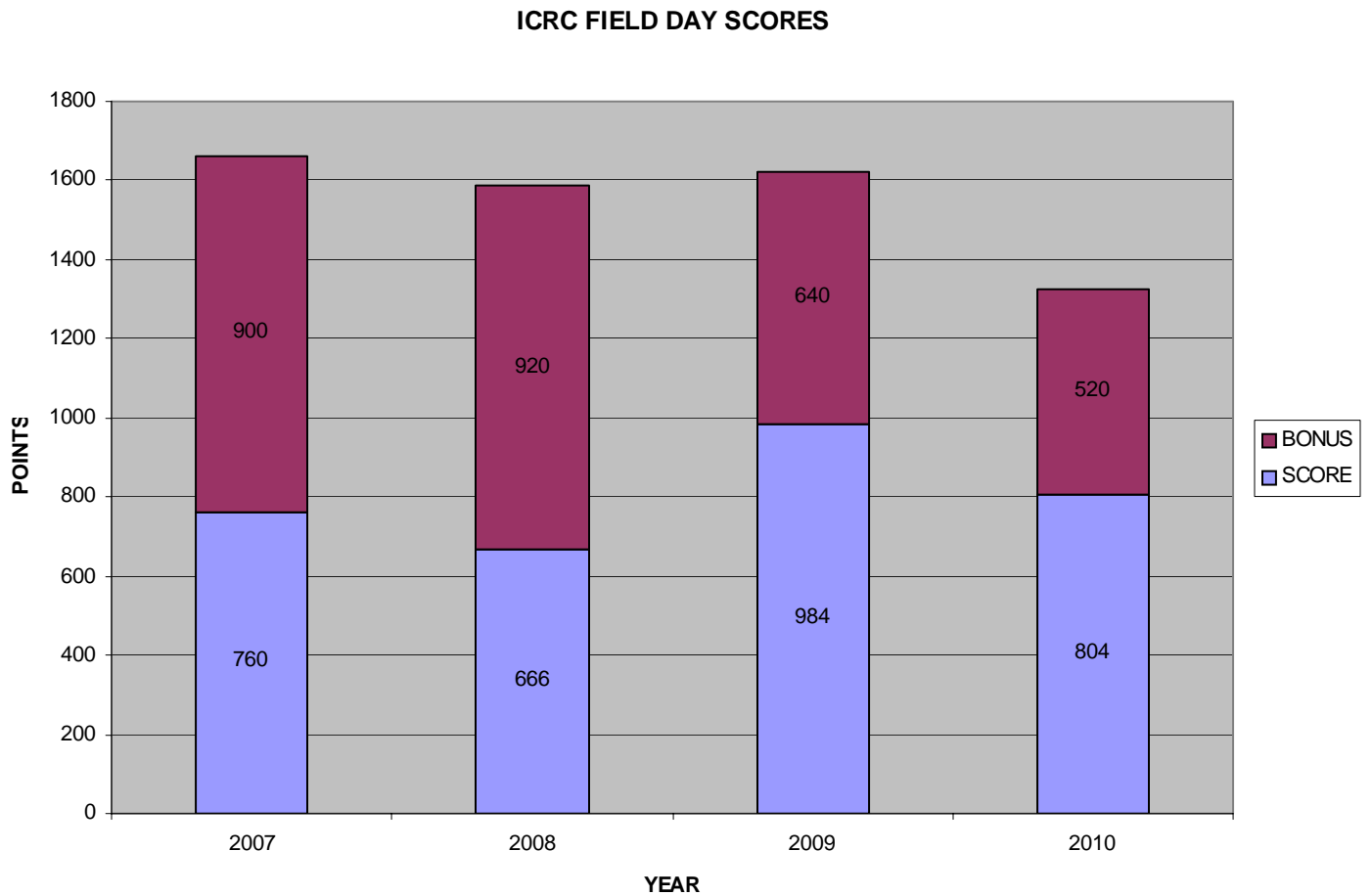
**Kit or Assembled?:** One of the purposes of building it from a kit is to get the group together for a fun day of kit building, either some Saturday or instead of a monthly club meeting. A word of warning: the circuit board and the parts are very tiny! This is not to be considered a beginners project. Unless you have some experience soldering dense pc layouts, perhaps you should consider buying the assembled and tested version. If you do get the kit and run into trouble, experienced club members will be available to assist you with the assembly and configuration of the device.

The other purpose for choosing this device as our club project is that after we get the fun of building them, the finished products can be used in some of the club's public service activities, such as the Klondike derby. Just because you participate in the building project does not obligate anyone to participate in any future public service events. If you are not available to participate in a given event, we hope that you would at least let the club borrow your OT+ for the weekend for someone who is participating. (This technology was used in this year's Jim Calhoun Bike Race for Cancer event and worked quite well.)

We would like to have the final number of people interested and the checks collected by the September club meeting so the order can be sent out. Right now we are tentatively scheduling the group building for late October-November timeframe, before everyone gets busy for the holidays.

Make checks payable to ICRC and write OT+ in the memo field and mail to Chuck Motes – Treasurer ICRC, 22 Woodside Lane, Plainville, CT 06062 or bring check to the September meeting. If we get enough people interested, the price goes down. Any extra money collected will be returned or may be donated to the club treasury if you so desire.

## Recent ICRC Field Day Scores



In 2007 and 2008, we were located at Winding Trails in Farmington.

In 2009 and 2010, we were located at Pete's in Bethlehem.

## Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

SM K1EIC    ASMs W1FXQ, KD1YV, K1STM  
OOC K1DFS    STM K1HEJ  
PIC KA1WPM    APIC KA1TCH  
SEC N1CLV    ASEC N1FNE, K1VSC  
TC N1KHB

Greetings to you all! Sure hope you all had a terrific Field Day. SEC Wayne and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit to ICRC, CQ Radio Club, Northville Amateur Radio Association, Candlewood Amateur Radio Association and

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## **Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd**

the Waterbury Amateur Radio Club. It seems like lots more of us are operating from EOCs; I operated some from the house as 1E and heard lots of class F operations. Glad to see so many EOCs active.

All of your reports were wonderful. John KB1QBZ, President of the Stamford Amateur Radio Association had a different twist to his report. I particularly liked the stats. Here's part of it. The Stamford Amateur Radio Association (SARA), operating 3A, scored a record number of phone, CW, and digital QSOs for the club during Field Day 2010. They logged 1,939 phone QSOs, 530 CW QSOs, and 58 digital QSOs using HF SSB, HF CW, VHF SSB, PSK, RTTY, Olivia, MFSK-16, Throb, Domino, and Packet. We sent and received NTS-formatted messages via HF NBEMS and via VHF Winlink.

During the course of Field Day, 18 different individuals operated the 3A HF stations as compared to 14 for last year. Five of the General class (or higher) hams who operated 3A HF this year had not operated Field Day in the last two years. Just over 52% of our non-GOTA QSOs came from operators under 40 yrs old. A full 79% of our non-GOTA QSOs came from operators 50 and under.

Eleven different visitors operated in the GOTA tent, including a representative of a served agency and four people under 18. Well over 60% of our GOTA QSOs came from women.

And this coming weekend, July 24 is the Yankee Peddler Hamfest at Holiday Inn North Haven sponsored by N1GNV. Vendor and tailgater setup 6 a.m.; doors open to the public at 8:00am. Confirmed major vendors include KJI Electronics, Battery Tech, Hambroidery, CW Touch Keyer, Radio Oasis, and Quicksilver Radio. Plenty of tailgaters are expected, too. Directions and information at [www.yankeehamfest.com](http://www.yankeehamfest.com).

On a sad note, the CT Field organization lost a very loyal member, Anna Godrie, KA1GWE of Fairfield who became a silent key on Sunday, July 11. Anna was the Net Manager of The Western CT Traffic Net since December, 1988 and appointed as an Official Relay Station in 1975. In addition, she was active in the Connecticut Phone Net and CN, our CW Section net. Anna often checked into the first Region net both on phone and CW as well as the Empire Slow Speed Net and the Clearing House Net. She was a member of The Greater Fairfield Amateur Radio Association and was active on their weekly net. Anna's ham radio friends meant a lot to her; ham radio was her passion. Your friendship to her was special. We will all miss her.

Howard McAuliffe, N1IVQ unfortunately is another silent key. Howard ran a two-way communications business for many years and was very active in his community participating in a real versatile set of activities. He was an active member of the MARS/CARES Club and a member of CT ARES. He will be missed both among his Amateur radio friends as well as his local community.

The summer has just started and CT ARES is pretty busy. On June 6, the Stamford Amateur Radio Association (SARA) provided communications support to over 300 riders in the Bennett Cancer Center charity bicycle ride, which extends from downtown Stamford up into the Salem Center/Croton Falls area of Westchester County, NY. SARA provided communications between the event organizers and three rest stops, two rider support vehicles, and a supply vehicle. In addition, they provided event organizers and Stamford PD with regular situation reporting on the location of riders, including individual tracking of riders back into Stamford. Eleven SARA members participated in providing support. As part of their effort, the group deployed two battery-operated temporary digipeaters to enhance APRS coverage along the route, and also deployed a battery-operated temporary voice repeater to fill in coverage in rough terrain along the route. SARA would like to

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***Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd***

thank the Westchester Emergency Communications Association (WECA) which allowed them to use their repeater for communications in Westchester, the Westchester Parks Dept which allowed us vehicle access to restricted areas of Westchester County parks in order to set up the temporary digipeaters and the temporary voice repeater, and Jonathan (K1RFD) for making his APRS station available.

Many ARES volunteers participated in comms for the Jim Calhoun Cancer bicycle ride in Simsbury coordinated by leaders in regions 3 and 5. This was a charity bicycle ride to raise money for children's cancer research. Sure hope it was cooler then than it has been these last few weeks!

During the month of June, SEC Wayne N1CLV reports 32 drills and training sessions along with participation in 15 public service events. Great work everyone! Special thanks to the ECs and DECs working with you who lead these events. SEC Wayne N1CLV spoke at the July meeting of The Greater Norwalk ARC on emcomm in CT and his plans for the program. Congrats to NM1K on earning BPL for the month of June and to the following stations for earning Public Service Honor Roll: KB1NAL, K1HEJ, and KB1NMO.

Are you coming to Boxboro? Don't forget—the weekend of August 28-29 will find many of us at the New England Division Convention. For tickets and more info, go to <http://www.boxboro.org>. It's a great show so get away for the weekend and join in the fun! Now if you're not going, you might want to volunteer for the MS Bike Cardio Express Ride in Region 4. If interested, contact SEC N1CLV.

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ARRL Connecticut Section  
Section Manager: Betsey M Doane, K1EIC  
k1eic@arrl.org  
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*For the latest information, visit our website at <http://www.icrcweb.org>*