
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

October - 2006

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, October 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

Date:	September 15, 2006
Time Started:	8:05 PM
Time Ended:	8:58 PM

Minutes taken by: Rick Johnson, N1WGK

Attendees (Callsign):

N1WGK	K1HEJ	KB1KNV	K1DFS	N1JGR
N1IKM	W1ZFG	KB1KZC		

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	KB1KNV
Abstain:	N1IKM

unanimous

Treasurer Report:

Beginning balance: \$829.15 Ending balance: \$837.41

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	N1IKM
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP report...

Preamp didn't get installed yet. Waiting to get several jobs going at the same time.

88 working fine.

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	N1IKM
Abstain:	

unanimous

Old Business:

Bike Race: Sunday, Sept 24th. Email the other day asking if we will be supporting them. Rick-N1JGR will be bringing up the repeater and some other equipment. 8AM on station! Show up around 7AM. If interested in helping, contact Rick - N1JGR. We will be meeting some folks at 6:30AM at the Dunkin Donuts on Route 4 in Farmington.

New Business:

Elections...need to compose the slate for elections this month.
Slate same as last year...

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Motion to Adjourn:	N1WVK
Seconded by:	N1IKM
Abstain:	

Unanimous

Connecticut Yankee Digital Net

The Connecticut Yankee Digital Net has been meeting on Sunday nights at 8:30 PM on the .88 machine. for several months now. Though participation has been sparse, the few die-hards that show up each week have had an enjoyable time conversing on AMTOR FEC mode. The purpose of this net is to experiment with the latest digital modes using sound card based software. At this point, the net is more of an informal training net where people can get practice setting up and using the software and have any questions they might have answered by our "resident experts". Eventually the net will transition to more of a traditional traffic net, with the intent of practicing the passing of emergency traffic using digital modes.

If you are at all interested, come and join us! You need not have any elaborate interface equipment to participate. Simply download the software you like (readily available on the Internet), connect the audio output of your radio, HT, or scanner to the audio input of your sound card and you will be able to "read the mail". In order to transmit, you will need a sound card to radio interface. There are many simple home brew circuits available on the Internet, or commercially made units are available from Buxcomm and West Mountain Radio. Hope to "see" you next Sunday.

Nominations for Officers/Board Members

The slate for the Officers and Board Members was created at the September meeting and will be presented at the October meeting. The slate will also be e-mailed to all nominees. Anyone not wishing to be on the slate will have until the November meeting to notify me to be removed. The finalized slate will be voted on at the November meeting.

Dan Wall – W1ZFG

Chairman – Nominating Committee

walldan@att.net

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section Leadership: ASMs: N1FNE, K1STM, KY1F, NK1J, W1FXQ; Bulletin Manager KD1YV; Official Observer Coordinator W1GC; Public Information Coordinator K1SFA; Section Emergency Coordinator K1BRF; State Government Liaison K1MK; Section Traffic Manager K1HEJ; Technical Coordinator N1KHB. Five years after the terrorist attacks on our nation, nothing is the same. How real is the threat of another attack and what is the probability of Connecticut being targeted? Over 14 billion dollars a year is being allocated to homeland security nationwide -- find out how Connecticut is spending its portion. Learn how the job of protecting us has changed, and what role you play in helping law enforcement keep us safe.

On Tuesday, September 26 at 8 PM, Connecticut Public Television has been working in association with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on a documentary entitled Connecticut: On Alert that outlines how the approach to public safety has changed since September 11th and how citizens can be involved. A live Town Meeting will follow the show. SEC Brian Fernandez, K1BRF, and DEC Wayne Gronlund, N1CLV will participate, representing the Connecticut Section of the ARRL.

Here's your chance to be part of CPTV's studio audience for our live broadcast. On Alert: Connecticut's Response will be moderated by Anita Ford Saunders. Panelists will include: Murray Pendleton, Chief of Police, Waterford, James Thomas, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Management Homeland Security, Leonard Guercia, Chief of Operations, Department Public Health, and FBI Special Agent in Charge in Connecticut. So mark your calendars and be sure to watch!--K1SFA PIC

Connecticut now has some new digital communication capabilities, through the work of Dana - KB1AEV, Paul - N1TUP, Rod - N1FNE, and Chuck, AB1CR and with the support of Bruce - N1XG and the PVRA. We now have a Winlink 2000 hub for Connecticut. What does this mean? It means that we now have the capability to use Winlink communications between stations in Connecticut, even during an Internet failure. It also puts us on a course to connect our hub with others, via RF, so that Internet failure does not reduce our capabilities.

Our served agencies are repeatedly telling us that they need digital communications, so we need to practice with these new technologies whenever we can. K1EIC used Winlink 2000 to e-mail me the other day when her Internet Service Provider had failed. This is an excellent way to stay up to speed on using the system (but you don't have to wait for a real Internet failure!) Through the existing FBB/Flexnet packet system and the new Winlink 2000 packet capabilities, we are now able to provide this communications from most locations in the state of Connecticut. The Packet Quick Start guide at <http://www.ctares.org> will guide you through the use of the existing packet system. Information on using Winlink 2000 can be found at <http://www.winlink.org>. The free airmail software package is the quickest and easiest way to get into the Winlink 2000 system. To connect you need to access a TelPac node (Telnet to packet gateway) which serves as a gateway between your station and the Winlink 2000 hub. Call signs and frequencies of current TelPac nodes are listed below. The AB1CR-10 TelPac node covers much of the state, so please try it if there is not a local TelPac node.

Thanks to Bruce - N1XG and the PVRA, the Connecticut Winlink 2000 hub (also known as a PMBO) is located in a hardened facility with battery backup and automatic generator support, about 10 miles east of Hartford. There is sufficient fuel to run quite a few days without resupply and due to the nature of the commercial 2-way equipment there, the site is high on the list for fuel re-supply. The AB1CR-10 TelPac node is also located there.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

The callsigns of those who are already using the new system are listed below.

Who's next?

AB1CR, K1CCT, K1EIC, KA1EOU, KA1RPM, KB1AEV, KB1ILY, KB1JDX, KB1JDY, KR1COM, N1DBF, N1HUI, N1MD, N1TUP, W1EO, W1HSR, W1WJB.--73, Chuck, AB1CR DEC Digital Communications

Connecticut TelPac Nodes: (all 24 hrs except where noted) KR1COM-10 145.51 Ridgefield EOC week days and 24 hrs weekends; W1AW-10 145.51 Newington; W1GTT-10 145.03 East Lyme; AB1CR-10 145.53 Vernon (wide coverage); AB1CR-11 145.53 Bolton; N1BDF-10 145.05 Shelton (Also via W1HAD-2 digi); W1WJB-10 145.53 Ridgefield (as needed - mobile). Remember--"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."--Charles Darwin.

Thanks Chuck and congratulations to you and your local team as well as the telpac system operators and the CLIDE committee on tremendous progress over the last few months. To all of you, I urge your support in getting on board with digital communications. The packet network is also being revitalized; a special edition of the SM news will be sent to all of you detailing our entire digital capability. Coverage maps of all these systems will also be made available. So stay tuned.--K1EIC

Are you a video enthusiast? If so, contact Al KA1TCH because he is really interested in leading an ATV working group in CT. Al has had a great deal of experience with video transmissions and is excited about getting some good ATV activity going. So do contact him--email: a@petruni.com.

CHANGE OF FREQUENCY.--The Connecticut Phone Net is meeting week days Monday-Saturday on 3.973 at 1800 local and on Sunday 3.965 1000 local. This change was made because of continuing interference problems from foreign broadcast stations in the evenings. There is no change in the emergency plan: tune to 3.965 as usual to stand by for instructions in the case of pending or immediate emergencies. The interference has only been known to occur during a couple hours so there is no change to the usual procedures in the event of an emergency. ARES nets will commence on that frequency if needed.

Be sure to mark your calendars for October 28, the date of our simulated emergency test. A committee appointed by the SEC has been working on the design of this test; anyone interested in public service communications is encouraged to contact their DEC or EC and plan to participate. Write to k1brf@arrl.net or k1wmq@arrl.net if you need assistance finding the DEC or EC. Thank you in advance.

ARRL Connecticut Section
Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC
k1eic@arrl.org

ICRC Members Provide Radio Communications for Bike Race

On Sunday, September 24th, members of the ICRC provided radio communications for the Smashing Pumpkins Mountain Bike Race held at the Winding Trails Recreation Area in Farmington, CT. Net Control was handled by Al - N1JWF. Rick - N1JGR, Bill - KB1KNV, Dan - W1ZFG, Larry - K1HEJ, and Pete - KB1KZC were set up in mobile stations at various key locations around the course. Also lending a hand was Alan - W1LOZ. He brought his entire family - all licensed amateurs! Wife, Del-Lor - KB1MYM and daughters Brenda - KB1MYK, and Lori - KB1MYL. (The family that plays together, stays together.) Our Tech VP, Rick - N1JGR, brought the .88 machine down from the Burlington site and set it up at the Net Control station. This was a big improvement over using the .15 machine from the Bristol location. It really filled in the dead spots. There were no major medical emergencies this time and a great time was had by all. At least the rain held off until after the last race was over, unlike the spring race where it poured the whole day.



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