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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

October - 2011

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

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, October 21st 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>	9/16/11
<b>Time Started:</b>	7:37 PM
<b>Time Ended:</b>	9:02 PM

**Minutes taken by:** Dan Wall – W1ZFG

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

N1JWF	KB1SNK	KA1NDE	AB1NH	WA2PNB
KB1RGQ	N1QLN	K1DFS	N1JGR	KB1SNL
W1ZFG	K1IDN	KB1VNT	KB1VNS	K1WMS
KB1UTT				

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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:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1QLN
Abstain:	

unanimous

**Treasurer Report:**

Report read to attendees.

Motion to Accept:	N1QLN
Seconded by:	N1JWF
Abstain:	

unanimous

**Tech. VP Report:**

.88 and .15 are both working. The 440 machine and the link between the two are also working.

Solar Panel Project – The work on the roof was completed by Chuck – K1DFS and Dave. All that remains is some inside work (completed the following day by Rick – N1JGR) and the arrival of the Low Voltage Disconnect. It is on order and should arrive soon.

A discussion was held as to the various methods of establishing a remote connection to the solar panel controller.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	KB1SNK
Abstain:	

**Presidents Report:**

Nothing to report.

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

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<b><i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i></b>
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**Admin. VP Report:**

Nothing to report.

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

**Webmaster Report:**

The system is operational, meeting dates have been updated and new articles as needed are placed in the different topics on the side menu.

DO not to keep scrolling down and down on the main page.

IF you have an article that would aid members, Please send it to me so we can share it with others. If you are looking for an answer to a problem we can post that as well and see who could help.

Thanks to Dan KB1VNT for his contribution of pictures of the installation at 15 site.

George C - N1RMF webmaster

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

**Old Business:**

- Elmer's Net – There was a good turnout for the first meeting. 16 total checkins, 5 new hams. Reminder – you must check in at the beginning of the net and stay for the whole net to get credit for attending.
- Quartette Club Ride – Mike, N1QLN made a report on the event. The lack of Internet made APRS unusable, but all the repeaters worked flawlessly.

**New Business:**

Quartette Club – A letter was received from the organizers of the Bike Ride. They would like the ICRC to take over the race next year. A motion was made to do so. Motion passed.

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

Rick – N1JGR gave a recap of upcoming club events for next year. They are as follows:

- Klondike Derby – 1<sup>st</sup> full weekend in February, probably at Camp Barber in Norfolk.
- Boat Race – beginning of April.
- Winding Trails Bike Race – end of April.
- Winstead Bike Race – early May.
- Field Day – last weekend in June.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1QLN
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

## ***APRS Trackers for Klondike Derby***

It's not too early to think about dragging out your APRS Trackers. Do you remember where you parked it after last year's derby? Have you been keeping the batteries charged over the summer? In an upcoming meeting, we will be discussing what worked and what didn't. This year we will be checking out each unit and the station equipment before the event to avoid any last-minute surprises. Stay tuned for future info.

## ***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, [walldan54@att.net](mailto:walldan54@att.net)

## ***Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary***

### Section Leadership

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

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

Did you get to Wallingford this year? If not, you sure missed a great Hamfest. Many thanks to the Meriden ARC for all their work sponsoring this nineteenth State Convention and flea market. Special thanks to the committee: N1GNV president, W1KKF, K1SEZ, KE1AY, WA1TRY, KB1HCC, W1DMM, WA1VXH, and N1ZN. Others of you worked hard that day too so thanks! Many thanks to all of the forum speakers: Director Tom Frenaye K1KI, DEC Jonathan KB1KIX, ADEC George AB1GL, DEC Steve K1SJW, ARRL staff Norm Fusaro W3IZ and Steve Ford WB8IMY for giving their time and sharing their skills with us. Thanks, too, to all other ARRL staff who came out and supported our State Convention. Sure hope the weather is as good on our 20th!

Lots going on this coming weekend.

The Microwave Update and Eastern VHF Conference sponsored by The Northeast Weak Signal Group is scheduled for this Thursday, October 13 through Sunday, October 16 at the Holiday Inn, formerly Crown Plaza in Enfield. The Conference lists a full program of technical talks, socializing, family activities and more. Check it out at <http://www.microwaveupdate.org/>. Dave Sumner, K1ZZ will speak at their banquet on Saturday evening; Dave will focus on the positive attributes of the microwave community and how to use them to expand the community. They're still accepting registrations via PayPal so there's still time to participate. CT committee members include WZ1V, W1SMS, N2GZ, and W1RT. Other committee members include operators from Pennsylvania, Eastern and Western Mass., Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire—I think I got them all. Anyway, the lineup is impressive and believe me, their technical presentations are always terrific.

NEAR-Fest is also this weekend Friday, October 14 9:00 a.m. through Saturday, October 15 3:00 p.m. Location as usual: the Deerfield Fair Grounds Deerfield, NH. Get all the info at <http://www.near-fest.com>.

There is no ticket charge for guests under 18 years of age. The schedule looks fantastic—some of you older hams will love it—just take a look. One talk is entitled Disappearing Ham Radio History: Hope for the Future with Professor Tom Perra, W1TP which will be given on Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. And there are talks on aligning the Collins R-390!

But that's not all. Their mission is really to attract younger people and so there will be demos of various aspects of Amateur radio in the hope that school age students will take a serious interest. Guests under 18 get in free of charge. Yes, there's something for everybody—NEAR-Fest is a premiere flea market and lots more!

From our DEC Region 2 Douglas WA1SFH: This Saturday is the Boy Scouts annual "Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) event.

The "NEW" Region 2 will be sponsoring an Amateur Radio Station at the Wepawaug Valley District's Camporee, held at Eisenhower Park in Milford. It just so happens that the theme for this Camporee is "Emergency Preparedness". JOTA is a spectacular opportunity to introduce Scouts to amateur radio. He needs one more volunteer so if you can help, contact [walsfh@arrl.net](mailto:walsfh@arrl.net). Let's get some of our young people licensed!

CQ NYQP! The New York QSO Party is this coming weekend October 15, 2011 1400 UTC thru Oct. 16, 0200 - 12 Hours 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM EDST. This year, there are a record number of 44 plaque award sponsorships! Check out <http://nyqp.org/sponsorship-information>. And for all the details on this QSO party, go to <http://www.nyqp.org>. There you will find all kinds of assistance for old timers and newcomers alike including how to set up the N1MM logging software: [http://nyqp.org/downloads/N1MM\\_for\\_NYQP\\_Tutorial.pdf](http://nyqp.org/downloads/N1MM_for_NYQP_Tutorial.pdf). Have fun!

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

DEC Toy K1WYQ reports that on Sunday, October 16 the Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club and the Stamford Amateur Radio Association will provide communication coverage for the Cystic Fibrosis Bike Ride at Luciano Park in Westport. The GNARC 2 meter repeater will be used for this event until mid afternoon.

The Candlewood Amateur Radio Association had as their speaker DEC Steve Williams, K1SJW who spoke about Skywarn in CT.

For those of you interested in Skywarn, there is an advanced class on October 17 at the firehouse in Sharon given by NWS Albany. For full info see <http://cstar.cestm.albany.edu:7775/skywarn/Talks.htm>.

Another note from Dec K1SJW: This year's Southern New England Weather Conference will be held on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011 at Meditech Corp., located near the base of the Blue Hill, in Canton, MA. The facility is very nice and the catered lunch will be in an atrium which has palm trees, etc.

The purpose of the conference is to enhance professional development and communication among private and public sector meteorologists, teachers, emergency management officials, and weather enthusiasts. Each year we aim to present a wide variety of interesting topics. This year we are thrilled to have Chris Darden, the Meteorologist in Charge of the Huntsville, Alabama National Weather Service Forecast Office to discuss their tornado outbreak. (Chris was a summer intern here way back!) We will also have Dr. Mike Hayes, the Director of the National Drought Mitigation Center coming from Nebraska and Bill Murtagh from the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colorado (discussing solar flares)! We will be having a multi-faceted discussion on the Winter Storms of Dec., 2010 and Jan., 2011 from meteorological, emergency preparedness, and media perspectives. We are pleased to have Joe Bastardi and Joe D'Aleo teaming up to discuss the winter weather outlook and how long-range forecasts benefit commercial customers. Gary Conte, from NWS-Upton, NY will explain what it was like to conduct a tornado damage survey in the heart of New York City during Yom Kippur in 2010. We will have other talks, including weather requirements for the Cape Wind project; basics of Dual Polarization Doppler Radar; examination of a winter storm forecast from 2010 that was quite a bust; Mount Washington weather; choosing weather instruments for home and school; and some talks geared for educators regarding bringing weather into the classroom and forming interactive relationships with the media.

Jonathan, K1RFD spoke at CARA's September meeting on internet linking in Amateur Radio.

Harlan W1QH, Dan W1QK and CARA president Roger NR1G were awarded certificates and QSL cards for their initiative and participation in operating a special event station last May to celebrate CARA's 80<sup>th</sup> year. This event took place on the same weekend as the New England QSO Party! It's good to see that club spirit!

VARA president Barb K1EIR reports that Bob KB1FYL will speak to the Valley Amateur Radio Association on small scale solar systems. Thanks to Mark KB1SIX for arranging this talk. It will be very interesting. The club will meet on October 26 at the Pine Rock Firehouse Long Hill Avenue Shelton.

From DEC Jonathan KB1KIX: NARL will be holding another buildathon at ARRL HQ in Newington. We have a few spots filled and will open some more to anyone else who would like to attend. The project this time, is back by request, OpenTracker APRS trackers. We use them more in public service now and they are a really neat project that includes soldering, digital modes and GPS satellites! Our target build date is October (but we

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

are going to wait until we reach our minimum group order price on parts). Kit costs, relatively inexpensive with almost no increase in price from two years ago! \$81.00 for both the GPS and OpenTracker kit (all you need to do is make a cable for your radio, only \$4.00 increase from two years ago).\$45.00 for the USB tracker, \$51.00 for the GPS for this kit.The USB kit is surface mount, so no real assembly. But it is a breakthrough in getting us away from the dreaded USB/serial cables!!! First come, first served. As soon as I have our minimum, I plan on ordering the kits. Checks can be sent (and made out) to: NARL, Attn: W1VJA, P.O. Box 310133 Newington CT 06131-0133. Hope to see you at our buildathon!—KB1KIX

If you are interested, suggest you contact Jonathan [kb1kix@arrl.net](mailto:kb1kix@arrl.net) for date information.—K1EIC

Don't forget that on October 29, we have the annual Simulated Emergency Test taking place. I'm sure we'll all hear more about it as the time approaches. Please know that every single Amateur operator reading this and your friends are welcome to participate. So please mark your calendars now and look for info from our SEC Wayne N1CLV. I'll get out a bulletin before the event. ARES members are urged to update their information on the ARES database even if there is no change. Simply click the update button so the date of your current info gets recorded. Thanks. Let's all be prepared—the winter is coming you know; sure hope it's milder than last year.

K2HQ reports that there's a new ham radio auction site available: [www.HamRadioHQ.Com](http://www.HamRadioHQ.Com). Go check it out.

Luiz KB1TJM reminds everyone that HAM Nation is the new TWIT show about ham radio. Bob Heil, with various co-hosts and guests will cover the excitement and importance of ham radio - from tossing an antenna wire in a tree allowing you to talk to the world, to the importance of ham radio operators in time of disasters. HAM Nation airs live each Tuesday at 6:00pm PT/ 7:00pm MT/ 8:00pm CT/ 9:00pm ET on <http://live.twit.tv>.

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