
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

November - 2005

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, November 18th at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave. (Rte. 4), Farmington, CT. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

***** SPECIAL ACTIVITY/DEMONSTRATION MEETING *****

At this month's meeting we will have an explanation/demonstration of the latest in 802.11 technology given by Chuck, N1KGY and Bill, KB1KNV. Perhaps you heard us talk about installing 802.11 equipment at the Bristol repeater site for our own private high speed digital network with Internet access. Well, come to this month's meeting to find out what it's all about!

Last Month's Meeting

ICRC Meeting Minutes

Date:	October 21, 2005
Time Started:	7:36 PM
Time Ended:	8:15 PM

Minutes taken by: Rick Johnson, N1WGK

Attendees (Callsign):

N1WGK	N1IKM	WA1PAT	KB1JYX	KB1JYY
K1HEJ	KB1KZC	N1JWF	N1KGY	

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	N1KGY
Seconded by:	N1JWF
Abstain:	

unanimous

Treasurer Report:

Not present today.

Motion to Accept:	N1IKM
Seconded by:	KB1KZC
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP report...

Not present today.

Motion to Accept:	N1IKM
Seconded by:	KB1KZC
Abstain:	

unanimous

Old Business:

We need to look at the facilities at the 15 site because there are some problems with the site.

New Business:

There is an educational trip coming up to determine the best location for an antenna for Alan, KB1JYY. If you are interested in coming by to learn a bit about it, contact Larry, K1HEJ. Don't mention his RV, though...something tells me it was severely flooded this past rain storm...

Interim TECH VP Mini Report for 802.11 project

The radios are set up and Bill and Chuck are going to set up a couple of servers for each site. They will be responsible for verification that the users have proper access. The discussion was very interesting and we have done more discussing regarding this...if you were interested, you would be here! There will be a demonstration next meeting on this, as well. Please feel free to show up.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	N1KGY
Abstain:	

unanimous

Antenna Party – Burlington Site

On Sunday, October 30th, our intrepid work party was at it again. This time, the .88 site in Burlington was the scene of the action. The old 6M antenna was taken down from the right side pole and replaced with the new 6M antenna that was currently attached to the chain-link fence between the buildings. The new antenna now has a much better location than before!

Also accomplished was the repositioning of one of the packet antennas on the left side pole to fill in a gap in the packet network. Contact our packet network expert, Larry – K1HEJ for details of what went on there.

There is still a lot of tree damage at the Burlington site, mostly from the November ice storm of a few years ago. Several large limbs are leaning in places where they shouldn't be leaning and need to be removed. There are also a lot of limbs and brush near the buildings that needs to be removed. A major work party is being planned for the spring. Stay tuned for further details.

Given the age and condition of the poles at the Burlington site, we would not be surprised if one or both of the poles were to come down during the next major storm. The club should begin considering what needs to be done in order to replace those poles with towers sometime in the future. Can you say "fund-raiser"?

Once again, thanks go out to our intrepid ground crew: Chuck – K1DFS, Rick – N1JGR, Larry – K1HEJ, and Dan – WA1PAT, and of course, our fearless climber Chuck – N1KGY (Towers, poles, he does it all folks!!)

Election of Officers/Board Members

The slate for the Officers and Board Members was presented at the October meeting. The slate was also 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 (except Rick). The finalized slate will be voted on at the November meeting.

Dan Wall – WA1PAT
Chairman – Nominating Committee
walldan@att.net

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section Leadership: ASMs: K1STM, KY1F, NK1J, K1BRF; Bulletin Manager KD1YV; Official Observer Coordinator W1GC; Public Information Coordinator W1FXQ; Section Emergency Coordinator N1FNE; Section Traffic Manager K1HEJ; Technical Coordinator N1KHB. Congrats to the Meriden ARC on a very fine ham fest once again. Chairman Bill W1KKF and everyone in the club did an outstanding job. There were more vendors than ever! Everyone I talked to said they had a terrific time. The prize winners were: Third John W1ECI; second Hope WB1BPV; and first prize went to Art W1GSS! Have fun with your new radios!

Congratulations and welcome back to the following ARES members and volunteers who took part in the Amateur Radio operation in the Katrina disaster: Asst. DEC Chris KB1FUO, DEC Dave K1DAV, EC Bob N1OCM, EC Dave, K1DJW and Oscar KB1LQV. K1DAV and K1DJW gave a talk at The Newington Amateur Radio League and at the ARRL Forum Nutmeg Ham Fest about their experiences. All of these ops have been participating in PR efforts and have been very enthused about relating their experiences. A big thank you to all of you and also to all members of the ARRL staff who participated; I do not have that list at this writing.

The Nutmeg Chapter of the QCWA will have their next quarterly meeting on Saturday, November 12 at the Guilford Tavern. Send \$18 with your reservation to Gary Awsiukiewicz, K1MQ, 261 Woodfield Crossing, Rocky Hill, CT 06067. Remember that if you have been licensed for 25 years, you can join The Quarter Century Wireless Association. The Nutmeg Chapter is very active so why not join--it's fun and you can bring your non-ham guests to luncheons! Program topics are geared for everyone to enjoy.

Hearty congratulations to EC Mark WALZEK and wife Karen on the birth of their firstborn Lauren Marie, our youngest YL in the Section!

The Meriden Amateur Radio Club just started a new tech class which is running on Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m. Contact Joel N1JEO, N1JEO@JONAL.NET for info.

The Central CT ARC is also sponsoring a tech class to be held at The Farmington Red Cross, 209 Farmington Avenue, Farmington to be taught I believe by Mike KB1CTC our former SEC. Contact EC Walt Styslo, K1WMS, k1wms@arrl.net for further information. Classes will meet on Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00-2:00 November 12 through December 14. Put the word out!

SEC Rod, N1FNE has started a weekly ARES Net on Sunday evenings at 8:00 p.m. on the linked repeater systems. Your SM will once again start up the SM Net on the first Sunday of each month at this time and place on Sunday evenings. So put Sunday evenings, 8 p.m. on your calendars and don't miss out!

Winter is coming and I bet you'll have more time in the ham shack. So why not try something new and check into CN, the CT NTS CW traffic net which meets nightly at 7:00 p.m. on 3.640. It is the oldest traffic net in CT and needs members and support, otherwise it will dwindle.

Read some comments by Bill, W1WJB who is new to this net.

Yeah. I know. The "Hundred-Years-Old Mode". In a day of packet and(coming) digital voice and other advanced modes, the question instantly arises, "Why!?" What does The Oldest Mode have to offer us today?

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Surprisingly, some useful things from both a practical and a traditional viewpoint. "Even for emergency communications?" you ask. Yes. Even so. CW is faster than you think. I was amazed at the speed of basic transactions. I don't mean the raw words-per-minute speed, I mean the rate at which the pace of the net moves---how fast checking in is, how efficient the whole process of moving the information is. Let me tell you, it all comes at you pretty fast, even at ten words a minute! It's often faster than voice! (Yeah, that stretches your credibility, I know. But if you try it you'll see for yourself that it's true.) A CW net moves at writing speed. An FM voice net, when sending a message, moves at writing speed, too. Not much difference as far as sending or copying a message down is concerned. But in a CW net, all other transactions are reduced to the minimum possible. A single dot, sent in total isolation by you, for example, can stop a message for a repeat instantly---while it's still being sent---or that same single dot (or a single letter) will answer the NCS when he asks, "are you there?" You can't really appreciate the pace of the thing till you've experienced it firsthand. CW is efficient. Full power goes into every character, and bandwidth can be very slim, indeed. Books have been written on this; so, that's enough on that for here and now. Check out <http://www.StudioOne-CT.com/JobPocket/CWNets.doc> For a full briefing on how to do it and join veteran CW op Barb, K1EIR on Thursday nights for a slow speed session. NCS will slow down anyway so join on other nights, too.

Many of you have asked about the effect the new Cell Phone bill which is now law, will have on Amateur Radio mobile communications. SGL Mike Keane, K1MK writes the following:

There is this new law. Stay calm; it's not the end of the world... It remains to be seen what has been written in the statute gets translated into practice. Section leadership and HQ are monitoring how this develops. If for any reason a ham is stopped be respectful, be non-confrontational and above all let us know the details. A Connecticut bill, HB 6959, now Public Act 05-220, is effective October 1. In most cases, this would not apply to Connecticut Amateur stations. The Act is concerned with mobile telephones and mobile electronic devices. The legislature added language on "mobile electronic devices" to say "Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other portable electronic equipment capable of providing data communication...I know as hams we think of our radios as being highly capable, but a run-of-the-mill HT cannot provide data communications without first being augmented with additional equipment, specifically a TNC, keyboard and screen. Thus, for the vast majority of hand-held and portable users, their radios are incapable of providing data communications, and would not be considered to be mobile electronic devices as such are defined in Sec. 2(a) (8) of PA 05-220. The exception would be an APRS-capable HT.

The Connecticut law will prohibit a driver from "using" a packet/APRS station while in motion. A reasonable interpretation would be that simply leaving one's packet/APRS station powered-on and active while a vehicle is in motion is permissible. However, should a driver take his/her attention off the road while moving in order to read the screen or type at the keyboard of their packet station, he/she would then be in violation of the provision of Sec. 2(b)(1) of PA 05-220."

John Hennessee N1KB, Regulatory Information Specialist ARRL has indicated to your SM and SGL that ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay stated "the Bill clearly is not intended to apply to anything but telephones. It is not entirely clear that a "mobile electronic device" excludes Amateur Radio transceivers, but there is a good argument that they are in fact excluded." For the Act, see <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/act/Pa/2005PA-00220-R00HB-06959-PA.htm>.

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