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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

December - 2004

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

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at **7:00 P.M.** at the Just Java Coffee Shop, 284 Farmington Ave. (Rte. 10), Plainville, about a mile north of the intersection of Routes 10 and 372. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Note the new starting time, one half hour earlier to accommodate the new earlier closing time at the coffee shop.

## ***Last Month's Meeting***

## **ICRC Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date:</b>	19 November 2004
<b>Time Started:</b>	7:09 PM
<b>Time Ended:</b>	8:09 PM

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

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

N1WGK	N1JGR	KA1KRP	KB1KNV	N1IKM
K1HEJ	K1DFS	WA1PAT	KB1KZC	KB1JYX

### **Secretary report:**

E-Mailed report to committee for perusal.

<b>Motion to Accept:</b>	K1DFS
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KA1KRP
<b>Abstain:</b>	
unanimous	

## Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

### Treasurer Report:

Register Report  
10/1/04 Through 11/11/04

11/19/04

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Date	Account	Num	Description	Memo	Category	Clr	Amount
			BALANCE 9...				796.64
11/8/04	ICRC2003		DEPOSIT	new m...	DUES		25.00
11/1...	ICRC2003	734	Lentini	6 met...	SUPPREPT		-148.35
			TOTAL 10/...				-123.35
			BALANCE 1...				673.29
			TOTAL INF...				25.00
			TOTAL OUT...				-148.35
			NET TOTAL				-123.35

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	KB1JYX
Abstain:	N1IKM (tip hat to Fred)

unanimous

Tech. VP report...

Lot's of stuff happening at the sites...

15 machine:

N1JGR, K1DFS and KB1JYX went to the site and re-tuned the 15 machine...looks perfect!!! There wasn't much to do...it was right on. Congrats, folks!!! There is still some antenna work that needs to be done, though. We are looking into having Chuck Ayers to do the climbing and secure antennas on the 15 site.

There was some discussion regarding the persistent interference from an adjacent un-coordinated repeater. Chuck et al have a couple of ideas that they will be implementing to try and get the matter resolved.

Tom Young, F&T Communications, George's third cousin, donated 2 Yeasu UHF repeaters, 2 UHF 50W Amps, 2 UHF duplexers and 2 repeater tone controllers to the club...thank you very much, Tom!!!

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

We are going to try and make one of the repeaters work with our 442.850 frequency.

88 machine:

Cleaned up the shack, mounted stuff in the rack, the TV station is up there and it's a lot cleaner...took out some junk, migrated the repeater from the cabinet on wheels to the other rack. It's still pretty easy to move the unit for portable use. Everything is terminated and grounded. Looks much nicer, now...

They also did a test...with everything transmitting, it was 18A...

The 6M antenna has slid down in the brackets. We don't know without climbing if the cables are damaged. This weekend, they will have to take down a couple of trees because they were too close to one of the poles.

We have also put in the 6M link back into the slot and they are going to set it up with the remote switch. Programming is already done.

Sunday, 11AM, need people...in Burlington...bring coffee. ☺

Fancy topo maps were passed around, showing our locations vs. Betsey's, etc., and it was discussed that there should be a digipeater between us and Betsey...it's being discussed at this point.

Motion to Accept:	KBIJYX
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

unanimous

### **Old Business:**

Election of officers...there was a couple of changes but we all agreed as a write in.

#### Executive Board

President: Larry K1HEJ  
Admin. VP: Dan WA1PAT  
Tech. VP: Rick N1JGR  
Secretary: Rick N1WGK  
Treasurer: Chuck K1DFS

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

### Board of Directors

Rodgers, Brian	N1URO
Motes, Chuck	K1DFS
Paradis, Pete	KB1KZC
Andrew, Les	KA1KRP
Buck, Larry	K1HEJ
Johnson, Roy	N1IKM
Wall, Dan	WA1PAT
Castrogiovanni, Rick	N1JGR
Johnson, Rick	N1WGK
Gerke, Al	N1JWF
West, John	N1IWT
West, Anne	K1STM
Carbonell, George	KB1JYX
McLaughlin, Jack	WK1S
Reyor, Bill	KB1KNV

K1HEJ makes a motion to add the 2 names in place of the 2 people asking not to be on the list.  
N1WGK seconds the motion. N1IKM abstains...

K1DFS motions that the nominations be closed  
KB1JYX seconds motion  
K1HEJ motions for Secretary to cast one vote for each  
Cast one vote for each...N1WGK.

KB1JYX motions to close nominations  
K1DFS seconds motion  
K1HEJ motions for Secretary to cast one vote for each  
Cast one vote for each...N1WGK

### **New Business:**

Newsletter, 2 rejects...need to get it updated.

Klondike is coming up soon...Feb 5-6<sup>th</sup>...first weekend. We need everyone that can go, to go...the location is TBD. We are thinking it will be in GS Camp, Tolland, MA. There will be updates on the web site.

[www.icrcweb.org](http://www.icrcweb.org) is the new website. It is officially available for everyone...check it out.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	KB1JYX
Abstain:	

unanimous

## ***Work Party at Burlington Site***

On Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, a small work party was held at the Burlington site. The purpose of the day was to put up the new 6 meter antenna on the left pole. But before any antenna work could be done, several large trees needed to be cut down because their higher branches were interfering with the placement of the antenna. The trees were quickly dispatched by the skillful efforts of Pete - KB1KZC with an assist by Dan - WA1PAT. This allowed the antenna to be assembled and put up by Chuck - K1DFS, Rick - N1JGR, and Chuck - N1KGY. A special thanks goes out to Chuck - N1KGY for volunteering to climb up those shaky poles! Here are the results of Rick's efforts to tidy up the equipment racks. Nice job Rick!



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## **Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary**

Subject: Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Date: Thursday, November 18, 2004 8:40 AM

ASMs: NK1J, KY1F, K1STM, N1FNE, K1BRF, W1AGP, N1YAE; BM KD1YV; OOC W1GC; PIC W1FXQ; SEC AB1CR; STM K1HEJ; TC N1KHB.

A Call for ACTION! In January, legislation will be introduced in the General Assembly to incorporate the Federal limitations on local regulation of amateur antenna structures (PRB-1). If enacted, this legislation will help current and future Connecticut amateurs erect legal antennas and antenna support structures. This presents each of us with an opportunity to help in giving back something lasting and significant to Amateur Radio.

Having broad, bipartisan support and co-sponsorship is vital for a relatively obscure piece of legislation in its first time before the legislature. Many members of the General Assembly will not even consider co-sponsorship of a small, technical bill such as an amateur antenna bill without concrete evidence of support from their own constituents. So, if you'd like to help Amateur Radio make a statement in Hartford, consider composing and sending letters to your legislators. It takes very little time--please contact k1mk@arrl.net or your Amateur Radio club for further details. Please send Mike a copy of your letter for tracking purposes. Please do it today--there is no better time than the present! Thanks. --Mike, K1MK SGL and Betsey, K1EIC SM

Register now for the "How To" course, which will be held on January 22. This class, specially designed for licensed hams, is devoted to the practical side of ham radio. Among the planned topics: soldering, installing connectors, adhesives and sealants, homebrew methods for metals and plastics, antenna analyzers, choosing and obtaining materials and parts, and review of basic electronics with practical applications. Experienced instructors provide everything at no cost all in a helpful and non-threatening atmosphere. Date is January 22 with a snow date of January 29 from 9-1. Reservations are advised. Contact Technical Coordinator Joe N1KHB at 203-457-9770 evenings, 203-785-2998 weekdays, or n1knb@aol.com. Location is Hale Propeller, 4 Center Road, and Old Saybrook 06475 near I-95 exit 66. Talk-in is 145.68 simplex.

Time is running out--get those toys to The United Way in Stuart, Florida before Thanksgiving! Media relations and public information manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP has announced this effort to bring toys to children of victims of the hurricane for the Holiday Season. I just sent a big box down and to tell you the truth, I had a blast picking out the toys! Come on folks, it's fun, really fun! Send your unwrapped toys or donations to Ham Radio, United Way White Doves Project, 50 Kindred St., Suite 207, Stuart, FL 34994.

Several members of The Bristol Radio Club / Chippens Repeater Association participated at the Bristol Mum Festival Parade helping out with communication. It happened that a spectator with Alzheimer's disease got separated from her husband; this of course, caused real concern. The hams were helpful communicating information to the police to affect a happy rescue. Those who participated will receive a Public Service Commendation Certificate, which will be presented to them in person by either me, or SEC Chuck AB1CR soon. There was a nice article in The Hartford Courant--Richard WB1J was interviewed. Congrats--keep up the good work!

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

Jon, N1BDF gave an APRS demonstration to The Valley Amateur Radio Association at their November meeting; KD1YV spoke to the CARA meeting on the subject of QRP; Jonathan, K1RFD spoke to the Greater Norwalk ARC on the EchoLink registered system. Jonathan is the developer of this popular software for which he has received technical awards from ARRL and from The Dayton HamVention.

The Greater Norwalk ARC provided communications for about 800 participants in a walk a thon sponsored by The American Diabetes Association Fairfield Chapter. Several GNARC members were on hand to help out--and the weather even cooperated! (Did WX1CT have anything to do with the weather?) Many thanks to all for a very fine job.

December 4th will be the annual Skywarn Recognition Day. Most NWS offices across the country will be on the air, try and work as many as you can! If anyone is interested in operating from WX2OKX at NWS Upton, please contact Phil, WX1CT wxlct@arrl.net.

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

## **On the Lighter Side**

In case you missed it, here is a reprint of the article that appeared in the Hartford Courant several weeks ago about our very own Anne and John West.

The Sound Of Their Voices Was Music To Their Hearts  
November 28, 2004  
By KORKY VANN, SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Call the romance between Anne Knickerbocker and John West "When N1IWT Met K1STM."

Amateur radio operators - or hams, as they are better known - identify themselves by "call signs," designations they receive when they're licensed to operate two-way radios. Back in July 1992, Knickerbocker, or K1STM, an amateur radio enthusiast living in Willimantic, talked regularly with other hams in Connecticut and across the country. Divorced, with a son in his mid-20s, she enjoyed the companionship of fellow operators but wasn't looking to meet a special someone on the radio.

"I'd had my license since I was 16 and was very active in the American Relay Radio League, a national organization of amateur radio operators based in Newington," says Knickerbocker, who was then 46. "I enjoyed `traffic handling,' a method of relaying messages, public service information and emergency communications. I talked with dozens of people regularly during `traffic nets.' But I never considered the possibility of romance. I just wasn't interested."

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## ***On the Lighter Side – cont'd***

That is, until John West, or N1IWT, started signing on to a nightly traffic net group.

Knickerbocker, who is blind and translates business documents into Braille, found she enjoyed chatting with the Southington resident - so much so that the two got into the habit of talking every evening after the organized part of the traffic net ended. She also kept an ear out for any other times he might sign on.

"As time went on, I started watching for him more and more," Anne says.

West, a free-lance journalist who'd only been involved in amateur radio for about a year, also had noticed K1STM, - even though the 37-year-old bachelor says he wasn't really looking for a relationship either.

"I'd heard her on the scanners, and we'd started talking," he says. "We just seemed to hit it off. But I was a homebody and not actually thinking about getting involved."

One evening in December, that all changed. While John was speaking with another radio operator, Anne interrupted the exchange. When they finished talking, K1STM and N1IWT finally exchanged phone numbers.

"She horned in on a conversation," says John, laughing. "I thought, 'I'm in trouble now.'"

Anne called John later that night. A conversation that began at 11 p.m. was still going at 1:30 a.m. They decided they wanted to meet in person. Anne invited John to lunch the next day. When he arrived, it was as if they'd known each other for years. The pair found they shared a number of interests and hobbies besides radio. Each enjoyed country music, shows and theater. They ordered in pizza for dinner and kept talking.

"I was thinking that this was too good to be true. It felt like love at first sight," says Anne. "My head was saying, 'Slow down.' I didn't know if he was feeling the same way."

He was. From that day on, they were a couple in love. John, who has mobility problems, wasn't fazed by Anne's blindness. Anne wasn't concerned by John's physical limitations.

"We'd fallen in love with each other's voices over the radio," says John. "Love is not what you see, it's who you are. We understood each other. Very quickly we were a team.."

A week and a half later, as they sat by the Christmas tree listening to music, John proposed.

"It was happening with the speed of light," says Anne. "John said, 'Will you marry me?' And I immediately said yes. I knew what we had, and I knew it was real."

"I realized this meant we'd be merging radio equipment," says John. "I'd be losing a radio station but gaining a wife."

Family and friends, though, had no idea any of this was happening. The holidays seemed a good time for introductions.

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## ***On the Lighter Side – cont'd***

"First, I introduced John to my son," says Anne. "They hit it off well from the start."

Next, they headed off for a Christmas dinner with John's family. John wanted to announce their engagement during the festivities.

"I said, no, it's too soon," says Anne. "I wanted them to get used to me. He said, OK, we'd keep it a secret for the time being."

That agreement lasted about an hour. While the family was making a video for one of John's nieces who wasn't able to get home for the holidays, John sprang the news.

"They got it on tape," says Anne. "It was official."

"I was going for it," says John. "I'd found the perfect person for me, and that was it."

Luckily, the family approved. Over toasts and congratulations, Anne and John set a date for October 1993.

"We spent the next 10 months having fun and getting to know each other," says Anne. "Everything had happened so fast. And along the way, we discovered that we'd made exactly the right decision."

A month before the wedding, Anne went off to New York to get her new guide dog. She was gone for 3½ weeks. While Anne was away, John handled the details for the ceremony and the wedding. They'd decided to be married in the private function room at a favorite restaurant. The pair invited about 50 relatives and friends for a simple celebration. Somehow the small gathering turned into a seven-hour reception and an 11-course meal.

"The restaurant owners kept bringing out food. People kept dancing and partying. It was magical how it happened," says John. "Just like our relationship."

This fall, N1IWT and K1STM celebrated the 12th anniversary of those first shared radio conversations. Still active in amateur radio, the couple says their love has never wavered. The two hams are more in love than ever.

"For us, it was a case of our voices, hearts and heads colliding," says Anne. "Our hearts won out, and we're glad they did."

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