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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

December - 2011

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

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 16th at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave. (Rte. 4), Farmington, CT. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

Also at this month's meeting, there will be a special presentation given by our Tech VP Rick Castrogiovanni entitled "Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Batteries, But Were Afraid To Ask." Don't miss it!

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

## ICRC Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	11/18/11
<b>Time Started:</b>	7:31 PM
<b>Time Ended:</b>	8:40 PM

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

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

WY1O	W1ZFG	N1WGK	N1JGR	K1DFS
KB1UIK	KB1SNL	N1QLN	K1WMS	N1RMF
KA1NDE	N1JWF	Barb		

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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:**

Treasurer report was presented by the treasurer.

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	N1QLN
Abstain:	

unanimous

**Tech. VP Report:**

Machines are running. Rick was on vacation. 15, 88 and 440 are all operating within acceptable parameters. The solar project is basically complete. The next step will be to shut down the AC power and see how it works.

We will need to build a box around the batteries made of 2" Styrofoam.

There was additional discussion of the site, but if you were interested, you would be here.

Interesting info on [www.windsun.com](http://www.windsun.com)

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

**Presidents 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:**

We will be voting on the slate for the next year later in the meeting.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1WGK
Abstain:	

**Webmaster Report:**

Starting to play with the updated website, which is in development. The only change in activity is the Boat Eaters race.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1WGK
Abstain:	

**Elmer's net:**

Going very well, but would like to have more ICRC members joining in. Trying to get more hams involved and get them excited about public service.

Start spreading the word. Currently 9:15 PM on Monday nights, but considering an earlier time slot/day to try to get more people involved.

**Old Business:**

There was some discussion regarding the refreshments...coffee \$1, doughnuts \$1, please remember to reimburse them if you partake. We discussed the ability to make our own coffee.

**New Business:**

Motion to have Secretary cast 1 vote for Directors: N1QLN, seconded K1DFS.  
N1WGK cast 1 vote.

Motion to have Secretary cast 1 vote for Executive Board: W1ZFG, seconded K1DFS.  
N1WGK cast 1 vote.  
Congratulations!

Echolink discussion will be happening at a later date with KB1UTT, and a flash mob discussion ensued.

Boat Eaters discussion. March 31<sup>st</sup> will not work for them. They are looking at March 24, May 12, June 2 or June 9<sup>th</sup>. Our suggestion is June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

April 15<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> bike race?

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If Winsted bike race is not on the 13<sup>th</sup>, we should reconsider the May 12 date for Boat Eaters.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

### ***Election of Officers/Board Members***

The following were elected at the November meeting:

#### **Board of Directors:**

Perry Green, WY1O  
George Carbonell, N1RMF  
Al Gerke, N1JWF  
Chuck Motes, K1DFS  
Walt Styslo, K1WMS

Nick Castrogiovanni, KB1SNL  
Rick Castrogiovanni, N1JGR  
Rick Johnson, N1WGK  
Pete Paradis, KB1KZC  
Dan Wall, W1ZFG

#### **Executive Board:**

President: Perry, WY1O  
Tech. VP: Rick, N1JGR  
Treasurer: Chuck, K1DFS

Admin VP: George, N1RMF  
Secretary: Dan, W1ZFG

Dan Wall – W1ZFG  
Chairman – Nominating Committee  
[Walldan54@att.net](mailto:Walldan54@att.net)

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

Time is growing short. By now everyone should have their APRS Trackers completed, with battery, radio, GPS, and antennas all installed in a sturdy metal enclosure. If you need to test the operation of your Tracker Box, bring it to this month's meeting where we will have equipment available to test your box.

### ***Feedback on Elmers Net***

Now that the first semester of the Elmers Net has been completed, we are looking for some feedback from the club members and participants. We are looking for input on things like: what you liked about it, what you didn't like about it, how we can make it better, how we can attract more participants, would a different night or different time be more likely to get you to participate. Send any comments to: [walldan54@att.net](mailto:walldan54@att.net)

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## ***Congratulations to One of Our Own***

Congratulations to Bill Reyor – KB1KNV on his new position as a senior network engineer at ForeSite Technologies in East Hartford. Bill created our current website and continues to host it on his system. Good luck with the new job, Bill!

## ***President's Message***

First up, I would like to thank all club members and Nominating Committee who have given me this opportunity to serve the ICRC as your club president.

I was also the only person to be elected to the Board of Directors for 2011-2012, so it is comforting to know that the ICRC will continue to have the dedicated leadership with which we have enjoyed in the past. Our club is very active, and demands us to have the dynamic planners and organizers in this group.

I joined this Club many years ago in the early 90's, but given distance from home, and newly married other "stuff" got in the way. Just last year, I rejoined the group, somewhat being prodded by George Carbonell, N1RMF who I knew from his volunteer work at the ARRL. I don't think either of us knew that a year later we would be President and Vice-President.

I really feel honored and privileged to be able to serve the I.C.R.C. in a special way.

That invite from George emphasizes what can happen with a simple invite to the club, and what might happen if other of us also invited a friend who may be interested in becoming a part of this very welcoming organization.

I first became interesting in ham radio in the early 60's, but couldn't get past the Morse code. In those days, we didn't have as much resources for learning as we do now. Part of my learning (or not learning) of the blasted code, was renting an instructograph (from "Corky" at Hatry of Hartford [for you vets who may recall the days of yore])

The instructograph was like a reel-to-reel tape recorder, whose reels passed a paper tape across a reading device that actuated a set of contacts which changed state dependent on the presence or absence of hole punches in the tape. The machine was heavy, bulky - and the paper fragile. And I was not learning anything.

Citizen's band came along to satisfy the communal chit-chat need, but it too was lacking possibilities, and one also got the sense that the band was lawless, and you were a part of that lawlessness. (Trivia: my CB call sign of KMA3505 appears in the current Technician question pool - as question number T1C02)

Still had an interest in radio, mostly taken up by short-wave listening, and listening to the local scanner frequencies, which would also include the 2-meter repeaters. In chatting with some of the folk who I knew from town, and having heard on those local repeaters - came the invite to get my ham ticket, and join the local club in Winsted.

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## ***President's Message – cont'd***

Shortly after ARRL VE Chuck Motes, K1FDS, (along with long-time ICRC VE's Jack and Sue) signed my Extra Class exam paperwork in 1991, I became secretary, treasurer and president of the Wireless Operators of Winsted for many years.

Well, sorry to talk about myself, but I'm sure that most of you don't know me very well yet - and hopefully that may be changing in the very near future. I hope to meet with each of you, and learn how to make our club more enjoyable for you.

Last, (and not the least) my Congratulations to Rick Castrogiovanni, N1JGR in having been awarded Life Membership status with our club at the October meeting. The grant was made so that in some small way the ICRC could say thanks to Rick for his commitment and dedication in proving our great repeater communications, regardless if at the main site - or at our temporary field operations locations.

Perry Green, WY1O

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

Section Leadership: K1EIC SM: ASMs W1FXQ emeritis, KD1YV, K1HEJ;  
OOO K1DFS; PIC KA1WPM; SEC N1CLV: ASECS N1FNE, K1BRF, AF1HS, K1VSC;  
SGL K1MK; STM K1STM; TC N1KHB.

This month has been full of unexpected events. We had the big winter storm during which many of you lost power and I was hospitalized twice with some sort of infection. But we're all getting back to normal as the holidays approach and that's good news. You'll read about the Amateur radio activity during the storm from our SEC later in this letter. Many thanks to Brian K1BRF for his willingness to act as SM while I was unavailable.

Longtime assistant Section manager and former Public Information Coordinator Al Cohen, W1FXQ has asked to retire from the ASM spot. Al has served on my cabinet since I was first elected in office almost 20 years ago. His ideas and insights have been invaluable. Now of course, Al I know will continue to call me with nifty ideas and he will continue to get the cabinet updates. My plan is to list him on the ARRL Section page as ASM emeritus. Al, a huge thank you for your encouragement and support! Those of you who work with Al in your clubs know how much fun it is! He and Myra have an attitude about life we can all learn from! Thanks Al!

Congrats to Ed WA1LEI on recruiting and successfully licensing seven new hams! He plans to run another class in the Spring.

Some of you look for VE tests around the holidays. The Candlewood ARA will be giving tests on Saturday, December 3 at The Stony Brook Fire Station in Bethel. Registration starts at 11:30. For further info, contact Frank Sileo N1PE [frsileo@att.net](mailto:frsileo@att.net). Although walk-ins are welcome, the group would appreciate notice that you plan to come so that they can have enough materials on hand.

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

Various members of The Stamford Amateur Radio Association and The Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club participated in communications support for the New York Marathon in early November. There were a few collapsed runners who were assisted by the communicators who communicated the need for medical help to the race authorities. This effort has, for over 35 years, been organized by former ARRL Vice President Steve Mendelson, W2ML. It's really become a fine tradition. Thanks to all those who participated.

Your SM gave a talk at the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association entitled "How do you do All This Stuff Without Lights!" I demonstrated the speech output of software that aids people who need it to efficiently operate the K3 transceiver, showed the Braille display on which I routinely read traffic, briefly demonstrated how people with visual impairments navigate the Internet and my helper and twin Barb K1EIR demonstrated how we tell the difference between a can of coke and a can of beer using a special bar code scanner! And yes, it was indeed coca cola I brought to the meeting!

The Valley Amateur Radio Association enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Larry Reed, AB1JC and Mike K1MJM who made a presentation tonight of the Discovery Balloon Project. This involves sending a balloon to the edge of space with on board Amateur Video Camera and various other sensors. The video will be shown on Cable Channel 59. The project is being done by Larry and Mike, K1MJM. Dan Gravereaux N1ZZ, Adam Borawski W1ASB and Gus Hedlund W1BV participated in the CQ World Wide contest in Curacao at the PJ2T contesting station. There were 8 operators and as many as 4 stations running at a time. The team made over 12,770 contacts in the 48 hours of the contest. Prior to the contest there was considerable work in getting the station ready including antenna repairs. The tropical salt air contributes to major corrosion of not only the antennas but to all the equipment in the station including the radios. A good time was had by all.

And now I saved this news about the storm for last because it's most likely the last thing you want to think about! Of course, there was significant Amateur radio activity that occurred during the weekend of October 29. Here is a summary from our SEC Wayne, N1CLV.

If you are part of CT ARES and want to have an exciting time, just participate in the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) scheduled for an "available" fall weekend! This year's SET was scheduled for Saturday, 29 Oct 2011 - the same day an historic storm pummeled the state with up to 20 inches of snow! We shortened the SET operational period to just three hours on Saturday morning in anticipation of REAL emergency operations in the wake of the storm. Our SKYWARN folks logged long hours on Saturday afternoon into the night gathering wind/snow/rain data for the National Weather Service. On Sunday morning a large percentage (>70%) of the state's CL&P electrical customers awoke to no power - a condition that would persist in some areas for as long as 12 days! Many repeaters went down, but some stayed up on emergency power and provided critical communications. CT ARES members throughout the five Regions assisted their local municipalities, the American Red Cross, and their neighbors!—N1CLV

From all of us on the leadership team, a huge thank you to all who helped out in any way. Now don't forget to thank and help out your repeaters and digital systems—there were unexpected costs this year; fuel costs alone for generators were huge. In this season of Thanksgiving, why not drop a note to repeater owners and digital sysops and if you can, give them some monetary or personal support.

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

Now, have fun preparing for the holidays and pray that we all stay well and avoid huge storms that task our resources. See you next month!

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