
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

December - 2012

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 21st at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave. (Rte. 4), Farmington, CT. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Unless the Mayan calendar is correct – then forget the whole thing!

Also at this month's meeting, there will be a special presentation given by our Tech VP Rick Castrogiovanni about the various aspects of APRS and how it is used for the Klondike Derby.
Don't miss it!

Last Month's Meeting

ICRC Meeting Minutes

Date:	11/16/12
Time Started:	7:30 PM
Time Ended:	9:00 PM

Minutes taken by: Dan Wall – W1ZFG

Attendees (Callsign):

WY1O	KB1VNT	AB1NH	KA1NDE	KB1TFU
KB1RRR	KB1SNL	N1JGR	W1ZFG	Shawn
Collin	N1QLN	KB1KZC	KB1TBL	K1NKS
N1RMF	KB1YDH	KB1IXQ	K1WMS	

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

VE Session: Every month before the regular meeting, a VE session is held for people to get their first license, or to upgrade an existing license. The results of last month's VE session were as follows:

1 upgrades to General Class, 2 new Technician Class

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	KB1TBU
Seconded by:	K1WMS
Abstain:	N1JGR

unanimous

Treasurer Report:

A motion was made to appoint an interim treasurer to process outstanding business until a new treasurer could be elected. The Board of Directors went into executive session and appointed Pete Paradis.

Motion to Accept:	KB1KZC
Seconded by:	KB1SNL
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP Report:

All machines are running. The amount of "kerchunking" has been greatly reduced since last month. Thanks to all who are not doing it any more.

The storm knocked out power at the .15 site in Burlington. The sun did not shine brightly for about 9 days. The AC power supply was turned on to recharge the batteries.

In anticipation of the upcoming storm, an additional 600 Ah of battery power was brought up to the site and wired in. Since the sun has been out, the AC power supply can be turned off again.

The repeater serves the Town of Burlington as an emergency back-up for their communications if necessary.

Motion to Accept:	N1QLN
Seconded by:	KA1NDE
Abstain:	

<i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i>

Presidents Report:

None presented.

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

Admin. VP Report:

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

Motion to Accept:	KB1IXQ
Seconded by:	KB1TBU
Abstain:	

Webmaster Report:

Dan – KB1VNT is learning the WordPress program to make website updates easier.
There is nothing in the Members Area at this time.

Motion to Accept:	KB1VNT
Seconded by:	KB1TFU
Abstain:	

Committee Reports:

Constitution Revision Committee: No activity at this time.

Elmer's Net: The following is a letter received from one of the Elmer's Net's listeners:

Hi Mike - Just wanted to drop you a quick note to thank you and all those responsible for putting together the Elmer's Net. I've been wanting to get involved in amateur radio ever since I was a youngster but one thing or another always seemed to get in the way. Finally I decided now's the time and I'm in the process of brushing up to take Tech test. I'm picking up a lot of useful information from the net in all aspects of the hobby.

I monitor the Elmer's Net from a PRO-95 scanner (as well as other nets and many of the area repeaters on my commute between Manchester and Wallingford). I can't wait until I can actually get on the air!

Thanks again!

(Name withheld to protect the innocent)

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

- The Klondike Derby will be held on Sat/Sun, February 9-10, 2013. It will be held at the June Norcross Webster Boy Scout Camp in Ashford, CT. The ICRC will once again be supporting this fine activity. We are looking for at least 15 amateurs to cover both days. The course will be set up on the Saturday before the event. We will try to use our APRS trackers again, if Mother Nature provides us with enough snow!
- We have already been contacted by the sponsors of the Boat Race to be held on May 11 along the Farmington River. It will be our third year assisting with communications for this event.
- We will also attempt to re-establish communications with the Winsted Bike Race people to see if they want our assistance with that event.
- The scheduling of future presentations at the monthly membership meetings was discussed. Future topics will be SKYWARN, D-Star, and Fox Hunting.
- The use of the ICRC club callsign was briefly discussed, but was tabled to next month's meeting.

Motion to Adjourn:	Printed Agenda needs no motion to adjourn.
Seconded by:	
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
Steve Paradis, KB1RRR
Walt Styslo, K1WMS

Nick Castrogiovanni, KB1SNL
Rick Castrogiovanni, N1JGR
Mike Sanders, N1QLN
Pete Paradis, KB1KZC
Dan Wall, W1ZFG

Executive Board:

President: Perry, WY1O
Tech. VP: Rick, N1JGR
Treasurer: Pete, KBKZC

Admin VP: George, N1RMF
Secretary: Dan, W1ZFG

Welcome to New Officers/Board Members

We would like to welcome Pete Paradis – KB1KZC to the office of Treasurer. Also, Mike Sanders – N1QLN and Steve Paradis – KB1RRR who were elected to the Board of Directors. Mike has been a member for several years and has made a great contribution to the club by running all three semesters of the popular Elmer's Net. Pete and Steve, also long-time members, have also made significant contributions to the club on the Solar Panel project at the Burlington repeater site. These contributions included physical as well as financial contributions in the areas of brush clearing, antenna work, and roof construction. They have also hosted the club's Field Day operations at their home in Bethlehem for several years.

We wish Mike, Pete, and Steve good luck on their new positions with the club.

A Special Thank You!

The club would like to express its appreciation to Chuck Motes – K1DFS who has decided to step away from the Treasurer's position after 38 years of loyal and dedicated service. We won't say that Chuck has held that office for a long time, but when we went to transfer the financial records, we found the documents were carved on stone tablets! All kidding aside – Chuck, we would like to thank you for your many years of service to the club and for a job well done! Now maybe you will have a chance to enjoy some of the more fun activities of the club without having to worry about all the details.

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.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

CT amateur radio ops were very busy during Hurricane Sandy. Here's a report from SM Betsey Doane, K1EIC and SEC Wayne Gronlund, N1CLV.

Approximately eighty stations checked into the SM/SEC net held on Sunday night before the major start of the hurricane in CT. The SM and SEC each presented some brief reminders to all. SM Betsey K1EIC spent the day facilitating where needed. She helped recruit volunteers to fill gaps where needed and took calls from served agencies to fill their quests. All requests and problems were solved quickly by SM Betsey, SEC Wayne, and the CT ARES team. SEC Wayne worked from the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 4 Headquarters all day Monday and half the day Tuesday. SM Betsey, ASEC Rod N1FNE, DECs Toy K1WYQ, Douglas WA1SFH, ADEC Richard KB1ONM, ASEC Bill W1GTT, DEC Dave K1DAV, ADEC Jim KD1LD, STM Anne K1STM, ASM and ASTM Larry K1HEJ, PIC Dana KA1WPM, assistant

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Region 1 Richard K1CYR, and Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike KI1U from ARRL HQ were active on the SEC's leadership nets which met every two hours on the KB1AEV linked repeater system. Some members of this group were operating from their respective DEMHS Region Headquarters stations. All participated, giving reports of current conditions. Skywarn was very active. Assistant DEC Skywarn Jim KD1LD kept all of us updated about current conditions and did a great job working with our very dedicated Skywarn ECs who coordinated activity in their counties. Roger K1PAI coordinated 10 Skywarn nets for Hartford County.

Other Skywarn nets were run by Roger NG1R in Fairfield County, Christina KB1QFM and her husband Rick N1DWM in New London County, and Bernie KB1DGY in Windham County. We needed a fill in for New Haven County so Craig W1MHZ volunteered even under his own emergency conditions. He ran a net while camped out at his neighbor's home, as I understand he had to be evacuated. ASEC Art AF1HS made sure appropriate alerts were posted on the CTARES Web site <http://www.ctares.org>; ASM Jim KD1YV and John NI1WT kept track of the ARES Discussion email reflector making sure that that server was operational. We use those internet capabilities to inform all whenever we can.

DEC Toy K1WYQ reported the following for Region 1: We had some unfortunate mishaps like the loss of power to the Norwalk 2m and 70 cm machine on the AT&T tower for 45 minutes as well as malfunctioning equipment that could not work in a shelter. But the group quickly recovered. A backup repeater was put into service for the short duration, while a call to AT&T had emergency power started at the site.

Operators were deployed in the following areas:

- Greenwich ARC in conjunction with the White Plains NY arm of the ARC that governs this section of the ARC. A last minute call for assistance was accommodated and one operator from Region 1 ARES was deployed.
- Stamford: All operators were recently CERT trained and were under the umbrella of the City of Stamford and were asked to provide backup comms for the city. They were under the leadership of EC Jon Perelstein, WB2RYV. Ops were deployed to the shelters as needed. They also provided valuable support to the Stamford OEM, manning phones; they had over 700 evacuees.
- The town of Darien had one operator deployed at the ARC.
- City of Norwalk: The shelter was staffed around the clock by ARES one operator was an evacuee. Comms from this area was difficult from inside the building. Noiseless comm. was possible from outside the school (shelter) 3 ops were on standby for the Norwalk Hospital.
- Town of Wilton: One operator was on site at the EOC.
- Town of New Canaan: one operator was on standby.
- Town of Westport one operator was deployed and sent home because he was not needed at that time.
- Fairfield: one op on standby.
- Bridgeport: Greater Bridgeport Amateur Radio Club was at the EOC. They established comms with the DEC in Norwalk. They had over 800 evacuees in three evacuation centers.
- Stratford OEC was staffed by ARES ops who were eventually told to stand down.

Many other shelters throughout the Section were supported by Amateur radio operators, some of whom are also CERT trained. EC Jon Perelstein WB2RYV of Stamford reports that eight volunteers and two Red Cross disaster leaders, most of whom are members of The Stamford Amateur Radio Association, supported the three Stamford shelters, manned the City's Citizen Service Line, provided backup communications for Red

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Cross between the shelters, the EOC, and the Darien Red Cross chapter house. Those manning the shelters did everything from intake to cooking to support for the elderly and infirm. Those who manned the Citizen Service Line were the City's direct communication to residents as they called for information about whether and where to evacuate. They also took reports of downed trees and power lines for dispatch of CL&P and City work crews. Those who participated were Andrew KB3CZA, AT KK1R, Donna KB1TGW, Chris KB1QXR, Jonathan W3EIC, Tina KB1UOB, Terry W1TSM and EC Jon Wb2RYV. Frank KB1IFX and Franklin KB1QZH participated as disaster team leaders for American Red Cross. They ran shelters during and after the storm. While backup communications were not needed this time around, we had operators at all the shelters, at the EOC, and at the Darien Red Cross chapter house. Our ham volunteers also became involved as "expeditors" in dealing with various problems such as untangling a (non-radio) communications issue that was interfering with food deliveries to the Stamford shelters. While all of the hams did exemplary work, two people went "above and beyond": KK1R spent a full 24 hours at the Darien Red Cross chapter house, and Tina (KB1UOB) magically scrounged up coffee for 450 shelter residents on Tuesday morning. In the aftermath of the storm, the Mayor was careful to single out SARA participants to various visiting politicians, including U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal. Both the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety made specific mention of amateur radio in thanking the various volunteer groups who helped the City. TV Channel 8 WTNH reported on this team's activities: http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/weather/severe_weather/stamford-shelters-busy#.UI8P4W_BGbs and understand that there was a report on WSHU Public Radio.

In Region 2, DEC Douglas WA1SFH operated for two days from DEMHS Region 2 Headquarters and ran nets every hour on Monday. Eric KB1WCO and Mark N1LUF operated from the Seymour EOC. EC Al N1QEX was at the Orange EOC; Ed WA1LEI was at the Orange shelter, EC Sid N1MVM operated from the Guilford EOC, Doris KB1VCL was at the New Haven Chapter of the American Red Cross, EC Phil KB1UVK operated from the Westbrook EOC, Dan KB1MMR was at the Durham EOC and Mike N1MWU covered the Killingworth EOC and shelter. This region is more recently reorganized. DEC Douglas and his team deserve congrats on getting so many trained people out in the field! In Eastern Connecticut, the following towns in Region 4 opened shelters that were supported by ARES and/or Red Cross ham radio operators: East Lyme, New London, Groton, Stonington, Norwich, and Colchester and the Area 4 Waterford Office of the Red Cross (K1ARC).

The East Lyme Regional Shelter was opened on Sunday, Oct 28, 2012 by the American Red Cross. Amateur radio assistance was requested on Monday morning October 29, to provide the amateur radio link to the Waterford American Red Cross Headquarters. Bill W1GTT, who is an ARES ASEC and the town of East Lyme's OEM Radio Officer, activated the amateur radio operation using the shelter radio, go-box, and antenna that had been assembled by ARES from a Homeland Security Grant. Ken KB1MAM, Nancy N1QKY, Dave W1RED manned the shelter during the mornings and afternoons into the early evenings...and Gabe W1GAP was the overnight radio operator. Bill W1GTT provided relief as needed while the shelter was operational. Ken KB1MAM, because of his involvement in this event, became a member of ARES.

ADEC Chip N1MIE reports that in Norwich, the Kelly Middle School shelter was manned by Dave N1WPK shelter manager and radio op Kevin KA6PDG. The Griswold Shelter was manned by several who are currently in Chip's tech class so they got firsthand knowledge of what happens in an emergency and the role of Amateur radio, a valuable lesson it seems to us.

NTS NM Mike W1MCT ran the Region 4 Resource net and 31 different stations checked in—thank you all!

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Here's some news from Region 5. DEC Dave K1DAV was at the Torrington EOC for many hours. EC Mark Hertzberg WA2IZQ, Region COG EC KO1F and Al KB1SOQ were at the Danbury EOC. ADEC Harlan W1QH and Tony KB1YNB and Jim KB1SPA were at the War Memorial Shelter. Although not all tasks were comms-related, each contributed to assessment efforts in their areas of responsibility. The Newtown EOC was covered by EC John KB1LYP, Bernard KB1OBQ and Peter WA1SOV; EC Paul KB1TOR and Frank W1LCR were at Goshen EOC; Ridgefield was covered by Tom WA8UNS and Paul K3SOC; Harwinton had at their EOC Chris KB1SLN and Angela KB1NZV; Prospect EOC was manned by EC Bill W7YY and EC Richard N1UIL. Bethel EC Jim KD1YV reported that Ken KD1DD, Bill N1PJQ and Barry KA1JDD were at Bethel EOC helping the Danbury group with technical issues relating to their repeater. Herb N1KWV managed Red Cross operation in Bethel.

The Region 5 resource net run by DEC K1DAV had 17 towns checking in.

On the digital front, ASM Larry K1HEJ reports that the Flexnet packet nodes maintained connectivity. One node went down but was back up the next day. There appeared to be a good deal of use of Winlink gateways. Larry further reported that before the storm, 29 nodes were connecting to the W1HAD packet network but sometime on Monday, this number was reduced to 14. But only two of those stations that serve CT were impacted.

NTS nets ran as scheduled but stood by to handle only emergency record traffic to accommodate repeaters on backup power. Many operators stood by; lots took part actively. Those at shelters supported communication when asked and helped out with other related tasks. We all had very long days.

To every single one of you, thank you. Remember to also thank your leaders. Special thanks to my SEC Wayne N1CLV. We're a team!

The CT Section sends deepest sympathy to Paul K1PL and Pat WB1EOS on the loss of their daughter Sherry Dobrynski due to cancer <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary.aspx?n=sherry-dobrynski&pid=160889996#fbLoggedOut>. Our thoughts and prayers are with Paul, Pat, their family and friends.

Since I wrote last, we have a few additional reports. In Region 2, DEC Douglas WA1SFH operated for two days from DEMHS Region 2 Headquarters and ran nets every hour on Monday. Eric KB1WCO and Mark N1LUF operated from the Seymour EOC. EC Al K1QEX was at the Orange EOC with EMD Fred KB1SWH and Deputy EMD Tino NF1Y; Ed WA1LEI was at the Orange shelter, EC Sid N1MVM operated from the Guilford EOC, Doris KB1VCL was at the New Haven Chapter of the American Red Cross, EC Phil KB1UVK stood by for the Westbrook EOC, Stu KB1QLL and Bill AB1MS were at Essex EOC, Dan KB1MMR was at the Durham EOC and Mike N1MWU covered the Killingworth EOC and shelter. Ec Al K1QEX was later in the Orange shelter with a 2 meter simplex link to the EOC. The hams who are also CERT-certified were at the Orange shelter for several days. Those participating were: Al K1QEX, Ed WA1LEI, Lenn KB1QEW, Lynn KB1SWI and Joe KB1SWK. This region is more recently reorganized. DEC Douglas and his team deserve congrats on getting so many trained people out in the field!

Now I hope that today's storm isn't too bad folks.

Stay safe.

73.

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