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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

February - 2015

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

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, February 20th at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave. (Rte. 4), Farmington, CT in the First Floor Meeting Room. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

There will also be a VE Test Session held by the ICRC sponsored VE team starting at 6:00 P.M, also in the First Floor Meeting Room.

After a *short* business meeting, there will be a presentation by Peter – KB1KZC and Rick - N1JGR about the latest club project – a DC power distribution box with Anderson Powerpoles similar to the RigRunner made by West Mountain Radio. See article further on in this newsletter for more information.

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

Hi All,

The start of our radio season has begun. The club worked it's first radio event of the 2015 season, the event for the Boy Scouts, the Mark Twain District Klondike Derby, at the June Norcross Scout Reservation in Ashford Connecticut. We previewed our new repeater system the Yaesu Fusion System DR-1X and our members that helped out got to see it and use it firsthand.

We had a great showing of radio operators, twenty club and non club members. It's the first time in many years that we had enough operators on both days that showed up on time which made it easy for Rick, N1JGR, to get all scout points covered both Saturday and Sunday. This is our fourth year using our APRS units on the sledges of the overnight Boy Scouts and they proved their worth in helping us locate some lost patrols!

I'd like to thank all of our members that came out. Our weekend group grew thanks to Colin, KB1YYG. He was with us for the weekend and manned a check point for both days as well as helping us set up and take down all of our gear. Nick, KB1SNL, Steve, KB1RRR, Rick, N1JGR, and myself rounded out the weekend group, Chris, KA1NDE, and Paul, W1PMD, Chris, N1JQQ, and Phil, KB1SET, rounded out the crew that was there for the weekend. Coming in on Saturday and staying through Sunday, as well was Ed, WA1LEI. Let's not forget our day groups, Saturday saw Sue, KC1CLK, Chris, KB1YNE, Dan, W1ZFG, Scott, N1EZY, Matt, KC1CQO, and Greg, KC1CNN. Sunday saw Dave, KB1TBL, and Tom, KB1WEZ, join the crew.

## ***President's Message - cont'd***

The weather was a light snow fall all day Saturday and a great sunny Sunday morning that got cloudy as the day went on. The Klondike had over a hundred boys overnight with over a hundred boys in twenty-one patrols for Saturday. The scouts took an interest in the APRS boxes and NIJGR gave a group a short course in their construction and contents.

The debrief session with the Scout Leadership was constructive and they were very complimentary on our set up and execution of the communications as well as the ability of our APRS units to help out at this very challenging event. The I.C.R.C. did another outstanding job at an event that was challenging to the boys as well as their leaders in conditions that had plenty of snow and low temperatures. Not too shabby for over twenty years helping the Boy Scouts of America. Again a big THANK-YOU to all club members and non-members that helped the club have a great showing for such a worthwhile activity!

Thanks and 73,

Peter Paradis/KB1KZC

I.C.R.C. President

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

**Date: 1-16-2015**

**Time Started: 7:32 PM**

**Time Adjourned: 8:42 PM**

### **Attendance**

KA1NDE	KB1TBL	KB1RRR	KC1CRO	N1JWF	KB1YNE
AB1NH	W1ZFG	KC1BZL	KC1CLK	KC1BHV	KB1WEZ
N1EZY	KB1KZC	KB1YYG	KC1CWN	KB1SNL	N1JGR
Linda	Paul D.				

**Minutes taken by: Tom Chapman – KB1WEZ**

### **President's Report:**

Following the roll call the Pete (KB1KZC) reported that the club was doing very well. The new digital repeaters are coming - one has already been received – and ICRC will be the first club in CT to use the new Yaesu digital repeaters. Pete and Chris (KB1YNE) attended the ARRL cabinet meeting and got insight on what is happening in Connecticut amateur radio. Information on this year's Boxborough (August 21-23) and NEAR-Fest (May 1-3) events were presented.

<b>Motion to Accept:</b>	N1EZY	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KA1NDE	
<b>Aye: All</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>

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

### **Secretary Report:**

The minutes from the December meeting were emailed by Dan (W1ZFG) to all members as part of the *Time Out*.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	KB1RRR	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KC1CLK	
<b>Aye:</b> All	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer reported that the bills are getting paid and the finances are in good shape, but we still need to save more money to purchase new batteries for the .15 site.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	KB1TBL	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KB1RRR	
<b>Aye:</b> All	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

### **Admin VP Report:**

The Admin VP will send out an email to all to invite members to join the new Historical Committee. Chris also discussed the recent cabinet meeting that he attended with Pete, particularly their focus on getting younger people interested and licensed.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	KA1NDE	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	N1JWF	
<b>Aye:</b> All	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

### **Tech VP Report:**

All repeaters are running normally and are within specs. The noise is still on the 146.88 repeater. Rick will work on finding the source. Last week the batteries ran out of power because there was no wind for the turbine and very little sunshine for the solar panels. Rick had to turn on the main power to charge the batteries back up. We are now back on the wind turbine and solar panels. We received the first Yaesu repeater last Wednesday and Rick bench tested it on the 147.15 MHz frequency. Very good audio quality. Even though testing was through a dummy load, the new repeater interfered with the Burlington machine. Rick and the tech committee are working on how to integrate the new repeaters into our current linked system so that both digital and analog communication can be used. An interfering signal has been detected on our Burlington machine, being caused by the 147.135 Plymouth repeater due to a wide signal. We may need to communicate with the owner of that repeater to have them correct the problem.

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***Last Month's Meeting – cont'd***

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	KA1NDE	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KC1CLK	
<b>Aye: All</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>

**VE Report:**

There were 3 candidates: two for Technician license and one for an upgrade to General license. All 3 candidates passed. All three then tried for the next license class but none passed. At least one candidate filled out an ICRC Membership Form.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>		
<b>Seconded by:</b>		
<b>Aye: 0</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>

**Web Master Report:**

We have 36 “likes” on Facebook. All *Time Out* editions have been uploaded to the ICRC website. The website calendar is not currently working, but either Chris or Bill will get it fixed.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>		
<b>Seconded by:</b>		
<b>Aye: 0</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>

**Old Business:**

The upcoming February 7 and 8, 2015 Klondike was again discussed. The initial course layout will be Saturday January 31, with the event setup on Friday February 6. Hams should bring HT's, spare batteries, wear layered warm clothes, and a pack a lunch.

Chris (KB1YNE) will chair the new History Committee and will solicit volunteers to gather information on the ICRC club which is over 40 years old.

Dan (W1ZFG) will chair the By-Laws Committee which will evaluate that document to make some much needed changes and revisions. ICRC members will get to make suggestions on By-Law changes, so please let Dan know. Also please volunteer for the committee.

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

### **New Business:**

Chris (KB1YNE) presented two events for the Club to assist (one new and one repeat): The BSA 2015 ConnJam to be held May 15-17 at the Orange, CT fairgrounds – Chris requested the use of the tower for that event. Pete is in favor of helping out with the event and will give Chris an answer about the tower. The second event is the March 21, 2015 Bristol Shamrock Run, which the Club helped out with last year.

Field Day 2015 and its various committees were discussed along with a new prize to be awarded for the most contacts made (last year that honor went to Dave - KB1TBL). The prize, to be announced, will be a subscription or gift card.

The Calhoun Run will be held in the spring (May) this year and will start at the West Hartford Northwest Catholic High School.

<b>Motion to Adjourn:</b>	KA1NDE	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KC1CLK	
<b>Aye:</b> All	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

## ***Monthly Presentation***

The meeting was followed by a detailed discussion of the upcoming Klondike event and demonstration of the APRS boxes. A topographic map of the Klondike area was shown, and the various stations and locations were shown and discussed.

## ***Klondike Derby***

Once again this year, members of the ICRC assisted the Boy Scouts of America with their annual Klondike Derby, which was held at the June Norcross Webster Boy Scout camp in Ashford, CT.

On Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, ICRC members braved the frigid temperature and high winds to provide radio communications for the Scouters who were laying out the course for the Derby to be held the following week. Assisting from the ICRC were: Rick – N1JGR, Nick – KB1SNL, Dan – W1ZFG, Steve – KB1RRR, Dave – KB1TBL, Chris – KA1NDE, Greg – KC1CNN, Paul – W1PMD, and Colin – KB1YYG.

On Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, ICRC members returned to Ashford to provide radio communications for the actual event. The course consisted of ten predetermined locations throughout the scout camp property. Each location or “town” was staffed by two adult scoutmasters. A licensed amateur radio operator was assigned to each “town” to provide communications back to the scout leadership thru the Net Control station.

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The object of the exercise was for each scout patrol to navigate from the Start area to find as many of the “towns” as they could. The scouts were required to navigate the course using only a compass and a topo map. (No GPS allowed.) Once they arrived at a “town”, the scouts were required to perform various skills on which they were rated. The scores for these skills were relayed from the field back to Net Control by the amateur operator stationed in that “town”. There were a total of 19 patrols on the Day Course and 9 patrols on the Overnight Course. (Yes, these hearty souls did camp out overnight in the snow and returned on Sunday morning.)

As night began to fall on Saturday, one of the patrols became lost between two of the towns. But fortunately for them, their sled had been equipped with one of our APRS tracking boxes. Their exact position was determined by Net Control and a scoutmaster was quickly dispatched to their position to get them back on track to the nearest “town”. A potentially dangerous situation was averted, again thanks to Amateur Radio!

Participating from the ICRC on BOTH Saturday and Sunday were: Rick – N1JGR, Nick – KB1SNL, Steve – KB1RRR, Chris – KA1NDE, Colin – KB1YYG, and Peter – KB1KZC.

Participating from the ICRC on Saturday were: Dan – W1ZFG, Chris – KB1YNE, Sue – KC1CLK, Scott – N1EZY, Greg – KC1CNN, Matt – KC1CQO, and Paul – W1PMD. Also participating were: Dave – KB1HRW, Ed – WA1LEI, Chris – N1JQQ, and Phil – KB1SET(paramedic).

Participating from the ICRC on Sunday were: Dave – KB1TBL and Tom – KB1WEZ.



Net Control station (new digital repeater on left.)



Antenna set-up.



Scout patrols ready to set out with their sleds.

Photos provided by Tom – KB1WEZ

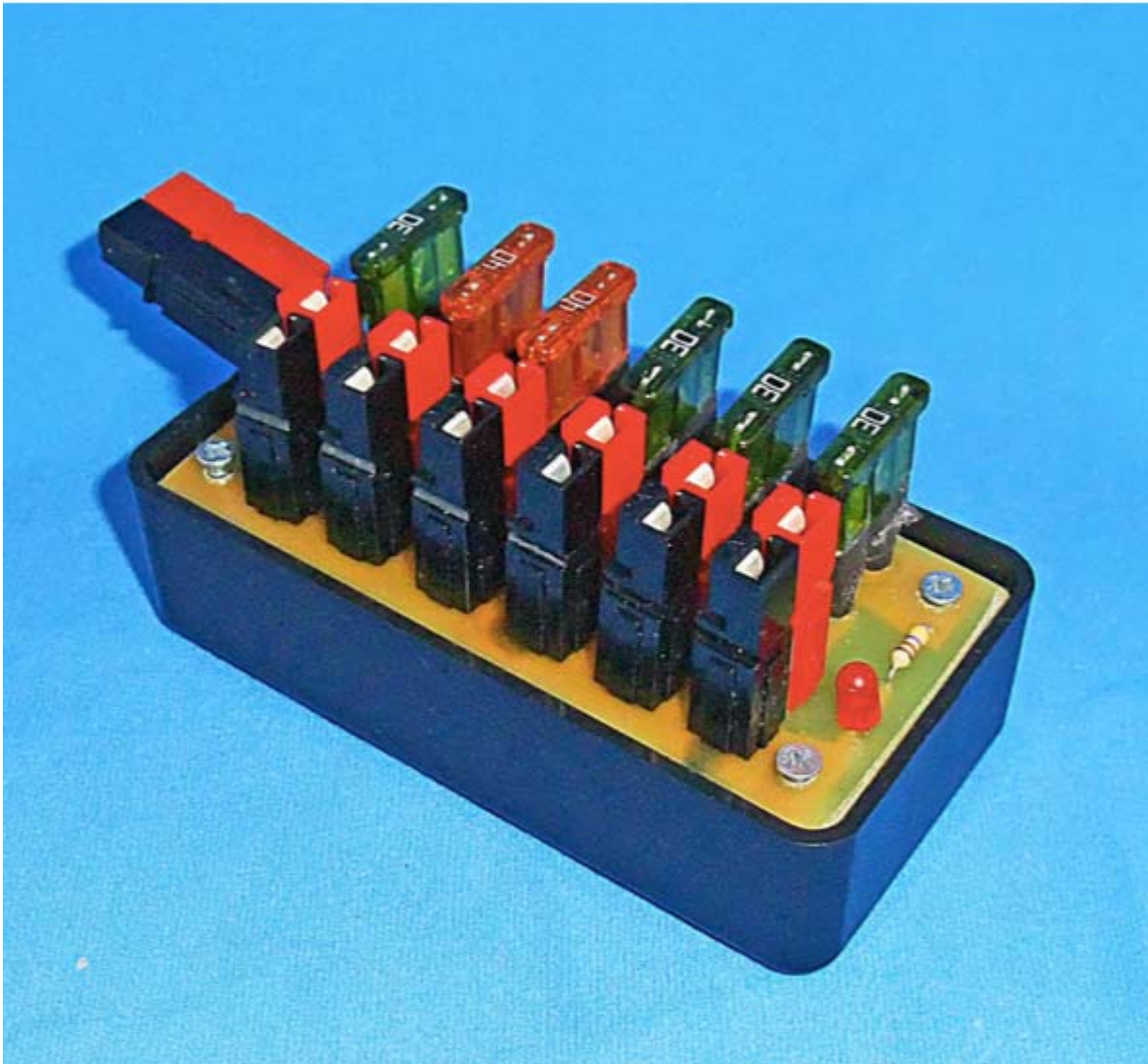
### ***Latest Club Project***

The club is considering a new group building project. It will be for a DC power distribution box using the popular Anderson PowerPole connectors. This device is similar to the Rig Runner made by West Mountain Radio. The Anderson PowerPole has become the standard for connecting radios to DC power sources.

Complete details on this project can be found at the following link:

<https://k8jk.wordpress.com/2015/01/06/the-livingston-amateur-radio-klub-lark-powerpole-distribution-box-project/>

Below is a picture of the finished project.



### ***ICRC Sponsored VE Team***

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month beginning at 6pm, the Insurance City Repeater Club sponsors amateur radio exam sessions at the American Red Cross in Farmington, CT. Walk-in examinees are welcomed. There is no need to pre-register. Examination fee is \$15 cash or check made payable to **ARRL VEC**. Please visit this link for information on what you need to bring to the exam session: <http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>. More information is available by emailing our VE Liaison (Jim, AB1NH) at [AB1NH@mindspring.com](mailto:AB1NH@mindspring.com) Good luck!



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## ***A.R.R.L Club Commission Program***

Are you an ARRL member whose membership is about to expire? Are you a former ARRL member whose membership has lapsed for more than two years? Are you interested in joining the ARRL for the first time? If you can answer yes to any of those three questions, then you are in a position to help the ICRC. Since the ICRC is an ARRL Affiliated Club, the ARRL will pay us a commission for every member who joins or renews their ARRL membership thru the ICRC. Here is how it works: If you are a brand new member or your membership has lapsed for 2 years or more, the club will get to keep \$15 of your ARRL dues. If are renewing a current membership or if your membership has lapsed for less than 2 years, the club will get to keep \$2 of your ARRL dues. It will not cost you a penny more to participate in this program. It's a great way to get the club some extra money for doing something that you were probably going to do anyway. Just see Dan or Pete for a membership application or download one from the ARRL website, club section. Make checks payable to the ICRC and include "ARRL Dues" in the comment line. It's that easy!

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

For the latest Connecticut Section News, please go to the CT Section Web Page at: <http://ct.arrl.org/>

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