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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

May - 2016

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

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, May 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 several topics discussed: There will be a review of the Fat Tire Classic Mountain Bike race held in April and the Boateaters Race held in May. There will also be a discussion of the upcoming MS Bike Race to be held on June 5th. Also, plans for our upcoming Field Day operation will be discussed. Also, Rick will discuss our next club building project - the 1:1 and 4:1 baluns.

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

Hi All,

We have a club meeting this Friday, the twentieth. The meeting is important because we will be going over the up coming MS Bike Ride and Field Day. These two events offer the club recognition and extend club participation in our community. The MS event on Sunday June 5th allows us to play radio, sample good food, meet people, and have a good day over all. There are booths to check out when we are done, and let's not forget the tee shirts and medals!

Then there's Field Day 2016, June 25-26. This is always a great time. We set up antennas, computers, radio stations, and this year we will be camping overnight. This means running on the power we are able to generate, operating different modes, cooking, setting up shelter for the equipment and ourselves. Winding Trails in Farmington will be the site of this year's Field day. We will be using Alan's, N1ITT, portable tower along with antenna wires and whatever club member's would like to try. This June event allows us the opportunity to operate radios that we look at in the magazines. We can work the different frequencies of the contest, and have a chance to try making a digital contact. Arnie, K1NFE, the CRA/BRC liaison, is working to get some of our members that do CW to come this year and operate. This would be a great time to meet the members of our merged club and play radio! Dave, KB1TBL, says he's going to defend his "most contact title" from 2015. We will see, Dave. This event starts at ten o'clock Saturday and will end around two o'clock Sunday. So mark your calendars for June, come to the meeting this Friday to get and give ideas on Field Day and the MS Ride.

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## ***President's Message – cont'd***

Mother's Day weekend saw the club in action on the banks of the Farmington River providing Safety check points for the Annual Boateaters 2016 Boat Race. The club had a great showing of club members and a volunteer not yet in the club. A small glitch in our communications network put the club in plan B, and our member's responded quickly and the event went off with no other problems. Not to be said about a couple of racers that went for an unexpected swim in the river. This gave a chance for one of our check points to be involved and it was a situation in which the Burlington Volunteer Fire Department put two fire fighters into the river to assist the over turned racers. No one was in danger and both finished the race.

The I.C.R.C./B.R.C. is waiting for delivery of the new Yaesu Fusion DX-1 repeater. We have a tracking number and it should be here soon. So in the near future all our repeaters will offer digital, C4FM, and analog capabilities. The Sunday I.C.R.C./B.R.C. Information Net runs a digital talk after the evening net so the hams that have the digital radios can check the mode out and operate in it. Jon, KC1ECT, runs the net and the digital talk. So listen and join in on Sundays at seven-thirty on the 147.150 repeater.

I thank all of our members and non-members that have helped out on all the last events, and look forward to working with all of you at the next events!

Peter/KB1KZC

President - I.C.R.C./B.R.C.

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

**Date:** 4-15-2016

**Time Started:** 7:32 pm

**Time Adjourned:** 8:20 pm

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### **Attendance**

KB1KZC	W1ZFG	N1JGR	KB1TBL	KA1NDE	KC1CLK
AB1NH	KB1YYG	KC1ECT	KB1SNL	KB1WEZ	KB1VPY
KC1CWN	KB1YNE	KB1RRR	K1NKS	N1PRP	WY1O

Minutes taken by: Tom Chapman - KB1WEZ

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

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

The BRC merger paperwork has been completed and submitted; we are waiting on the State confirmation. The trustees for the two call signs have been changed. We will need to discuss a Club name change, which will be voted on by the membership. The Club has applied for a third Yaesu Fusion repeater for the .685 site. The wind turbine at the .15 site is being repaired with a new concrete base, tower, and parts (blades and nosecone).

<b>Motion to Accept:</b>	KC1CLK	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KC1CWN	
<b>Aye: All</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>

### **Secretary Report:**

The minutes from last month's meeting are in the *Time Out*, which each month is emailed to all members by Dan (W1ZFG). Volunteer sign-up sheets for the Fat Tire Classic and Boateaters Race radio events on the front table for those interested.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	KC1CWN	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KB1RRR	
<b>Aye: All</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>

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

Financially the Club is in good shape, and all bills are being paid. Dues are due April 1. We received the treasury from the CRA/BRC and it has been deposited to the club account to be used for the Fusion repeaters, BRC merger fees, the treasury in general, and battery fund.

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

### **Admin VP Report:**

Jim (AB1NH) would like to do license classes and asked for those interested in instructing. No immediate response was received.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	KA1NDE	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KC1CWN	
<b>Aye: 0</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>

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

### **Tech VP Report:**

Rick (NIJGR) has upgraded the software for the .15 machine and the long tail has been eliminated. A software upgrade for the .88 machine will be done soon. When we receive our third new Fusion repeater, it will be installed at the .685 site.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	KC1CWN	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KA1NDE	
<b>Aye: All</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>

### **VE Report:**

There were 6 candidates for the Technician license and 5 passed the test. Four of the 5 new Technicians tried for the General license and one passed. There was also a candidate who took the General test, but did not pass.

### **Web Master Report:**

Facebook now has 63 “likes”. A possible new logo was emailed out to the membership for consideration. Anyone who wants to submit a new Club logo should do so.

### **Old Business:**

The Fat Tire Classic is April 24<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) at Winding Trails in Farmington and there are no issues with volunteers bringing vehicles to the checkpoints. Field Day also will be at Winding Trails and Steve (KB1RRR) needs help with the Food Committee. Michelle is now the coordinator for the MS Windsor Bike Ride.

### **New Business:**

Rick (NIJGR) will provide details during the May member meeting about a new Club project – building 1:1 and 4:1 baluns.

<b>Motion to Adjourn:</b>	KB1TBL	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KC1CWN	
<b>Aye: All</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>

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## ***Monthly Presentation***

Prior to the meeting, Eric Jones gave a short presentation on the Boateaters Farmington River race, for which the Club will provide radio assistance.

## ***Annual Dues Time***

Once again, it is that time of year to begin sending in your dues payment for the coming year – April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. Dues are necessary to support the operation of our *four* repeaters in Bristol and Burlington. Individual emails with renewal forms attached will be sent out to each member shortly. Mail the form, along with your check made payable to ICRC, to the address shown on the form. Or bring your check to the next meeting, forms will be available there.

Dan Wall – Treasurer, ICRC

## ***Fat Tire Classic Mountain Bike Race***

On Sunday, April 24th, members of the ICRC/BRC once again provided radio communications for Fat Tire Classic Mountain Bike Race held at Winding Trails in Farmington, CT. There were no emergencies that required our assistance, but the checkpoint marshalling forms we fill out provided valuable information to the race operators. The weather started out a little chilly, but it turned out to be a beautiful spring day to spend in the woods. There were no bear sightings this year.

Participating this year were: Sue - KC1CLK, Ron - KC1CWN, Colin - KB1YYG (& father Shawn), Rick - N1JGR, Nick - KB1SNL, Dan - W1ZFG, Tom - KB1WEZ, Chris - KA1NDE, Barb - KB1RRS, Peter - KB1KZC, and Steve - KB1RRR.

There was no group photo taken this year - oops!

## ***Boateaters Canoe/Kayak River Race***

On Saturday, May 7th, members of the ICRC again provided radio communications for the annual Boateaters Canoe and Kayak race held on the Farmington River between Burlington and Farmington. This was the 6th year in a row that the club has assisted with this event. The weather was cloudy and overcast with periods of showers, but the racers didn't seem to care. All the racers made it safely through the course, without the need for any intervention from us.

Participating from the ICRC this year were: Rick - N1JGR, Tom - KB1WEZ, Steve - KB1RRR, Nick - KB1SNL, Jim - AB1NH, Peter - KB1KZC, Colin - KB1YYG, Sue - KC1CLK, David - KC1CWP, Jon - KC1ECT, Perry - WY1O, Ron - KC1CWN, and Dan - W1ZFG.



Pre-event set-up



Non-participants



Actual participants



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## ***Bike MS: Praxair Ride***

The ICRC will once again be providing radio communications for the Bike MS: Praxair Ride to be held on Sunday, June 5th at the Griffin Center Business Park, 5 Waterside Crossing, Windsor, CT. The 100 mile race goes off at 7:00AM, so we would need to be there by 6:00 AM to get people assigned and deployed to their locations. We will need 15 - 20 hams to support this worthwhile event. More details will be presented at this month's meeting.

## ***Field Day***

Plans are still being made for this year's Field Day exercise to be held on Saturday, June 25th and Sunday, June 26th. The location has been determined to be Winding Trails in Farmington. We still need more people to volunteer for the various committees, such as Bonus Points, and most importantly - Food! If you don't have a lot of experience operating HF radio equipment in a contest/emergency drill atmosphere, this is an excellent opportunity to gain some. Plus there will be the usual good people and good food to enjoy. More information will be available at this month's meeting.

## ***ICRC/BRC Net***

On 8/23, a new net was started by John - KC1ECT on the 147.15 Burlington machine. The net meets on Sunday nights at 7:30 PM. The purpose of this net is to provide information about ICRC/BRC activities, Elmer advice and information, amateur equipment swap-meet, and general rag chewing. If you have any questions about ICRC/BRC activities, equipment you want to buy or sell, or anything about amateur radio in general, check in to the weekly net.



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## ***National Parks on the Air***



Following 2014's extremely successful Centennial QSO Party and W1AW Portable operations, the ARRL has announced its latest operating event. During 2016, the National Park Service will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. To commemorate this event, the ARRL is sponsoring a year-long operating event. All amateurs are encouraged to contact various stations who will be operating from nation parks, national historic sites and monuments. Not only can you work these stations from your home station, anyone can go out and "activate" any of these sites themselves and become the station that everyone wants to contact. A complete list of sites is available on the website. There are several hundred locations listed, even some in the New England area. The event began on 1/1/2016 and will end on 12/31/2016. Already there have been numerous stations activating various sites around the country. The pile-ups have been sometimes quite large, showing how many people are interested in this latest operating event.

There are even several locations in the state of Connecticut. The Board of Directors will be looking into the possibility of having the club activate some of those sites a little later in the year (after it warms up). If you are interested in participating, let us know at an upcoming meeting.

For complete details, check out: [www.arrl.org/NPOTA](http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA).

## ***ICRC/BRC Sponsored VE Team***

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month beginning at 6pm, the Insurance City Repeater Club/Bristol Radio 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/BRC. Since the ICRC/BRC 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/BRC. 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/BRC 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>*