
Time Out

Publication of the *NEW* ICRC, Inc.

February - 2014

The Radio Club with More "Radio" & Less "Club"

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, February 21st 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 new ICRC sponsored VE team starting at 6:00 P.M, also in the First Floor Meeting Room.

After a *short* business meeting, two short videos will be shown. The first one will show a behind-the-scenes look at the old ARRL headquarters on Lasalle Rd in West Hartford in 1935. The second one will be the brand new video "ARRL at 100: A Century of Ham Radio". Produced by the ARRL, it shows a brief history of the events that have shaped amateur radio over the last 100 years. Bring your own popcorn and enjoy the show!

President's Message

February finds our club in great shape! We just finished providing communications for the Boy Scouts forty-second annual Klondike Derby that was held at the J.N. Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford Connecticut. We had experienced and new members that came out for the two day event and all went very smoothly. We had the use of Alan's, N1ITT, crank up tower and we put four antennas up. A two meter, four forty, for voice communications, a ringo ranger for FRS, and another for the APRS that we are still experimenting with. We also ran a G5RV antenna in an inverted V to "play" HF radio at night. N1JGR was able to check into his Navy MARS net on Friday and I made contacts on Twenty Meters all over the country, my furthest to San Diego Ca.! Steve, KB1RRR was able to talk to his buddies on 3.910, and we were able to talk to Scott, N1EZY at his shack in Watertown, and well we had a great time just playing radio. We were able to monitor and talk on the club's repeaters so we were very happy campers.

The I.C.R.C.'s sponsored VE Team is doing well with exams being given each month, and they keep getting more people at each session. The club is starting a teaching team to give classes to people wanting to become hams and is being put together by Jack, K1NKS, so anyone interested in helping out please give Jack a call. The club has put together a Field Day committee to work on that weekend coming in June, and we will be discussing the up coming bike and boat races to get volunteers to man the radio check points.

Don't forget the membership meeting on Friday the twenty-first, and I hope to see all of you there. 7-3, Peter/ KB1KZC

Last Month's Meeting

ICRC General Membership Meeting Minutes

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Date	Jan 17, 2014
Time Started	7:36pm
Time Ended	8:33pm

Attendance

KB1YNE	KB1VPY	KB1SNL	KB1YYG	WY1O	N1PRH
AB1NH	W1ZFG	KB1KZC	N1JWF	N1EZY	KA1NDE
KB1WEZ	N1JGR	K1NKS			
			GUEST-KC1AYY	GUEST -SHAWN	GUEST-BILL

President's Report: -- club in good shape, working on projects, time to sign up for Klondike. New England Section Cabinet Meeting: attended w/K1NKS, met other club presidents, met with ARRL on education. ARRL National convention is in July: 17th-19th.

Motion to Accept:	KB1WEZ	
Seconded by:	KB1VPY	
Aye: 15	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Secretary Report: -- Meeting minutes being stored online, introduced a self-sign in attendance sheet for meetings (don't sign in, you don't get counted!) Transition to position completed.

Motion to Accept:	KB1VPY	
Seconded by:	N1EZY	
Aye: 15	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Treasurer Report: -- We have money, all is well. Pete and Dan still working on transition.

Motion to Accept:	KB1WEZ	
Seconded by:	N1PRH	
Aye: 15	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Admin VP Report: -- Met with ARRL Education person and the club is looking to have K1NKS be an ARRL instructor. As such the club would like to offer a Technician class but is keeping an eye on the June reset of the Tech pool questions for the exam and how that plays into the timing of when to offer a class. At this time it looks to be an 8-session class.

Motion to Accept:	KB1WEZ	
Seconded by:	N1EZY	
Aye: 15	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Tech VP Report: -- Repeaters are in good shape hardware wise but there has been some jamming going on, the cause of which is being pursued.

Motion to Accept:	KB1WEZ	
Seconded by:	KA1NDE	
Aye: 15	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

VE Report: -- had one person take the general exam and passed it with zero wrong.

Motion to Accept:	KB1WEZ	
Seconded by:	KB1VPY	
Aye: 15	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Web VP Report: 28 likes on Facebook, folks encourage to share and like items on Facebook to spread the word about the club and ham radio in general. The website can always use member feedback and contributions, so if anyone is interested please get in touch.

Motion to Accept:	KB1WEZ	
Seconded by:	AB1NH	
Aye: 15	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Old business: Klondike Derby revisited: looking for people to help out on Feb 8th and 9th. A signup sheet was passed around and an email will go out with details on the event to help those on the fence decide they want to attend.

New Business: Talked about upcoming events, MS walk/bike events, possible requests to assist Bristol CERT again at Bristol's half Marathon in August, and possible Shamrock Race assistance in March. Field Day Committee was formed, comprised of K1NKS, KB1WEZ, KA1NDE, AB1NH, N1EZY, N3BEB, and W1ZFG. The following signed up for the Klondike Derby at tonight's meeting: KB1KZC, KB1RRR, W1ZFG (Sat Only), KB1YYG, KA1NDE, KB1SNL, N1JGR

Motion to Adjourn:	KB1WEZ	
Seconded by:	N1PRH	
Aye: 15	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Monthly Presentation

This month, members participated in a building project. Portable J-pole antennas for 2 meters were built from 300-ohm TV twin lead. Thanks to Rick – N1JGR and Chris – KB1YNE for getting the materials and conducting the project.

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!

Klondike Derby

Once again, members of the ICRC and others assisted the Boy Scouts with their annual Klondike Derby by setting up the course on Saturday, Feb 1st and providing radio communications for the event on Saturday, Feb 8th and Sunday, Feb 9th. Assisting with the course set-up were: Rick – N1JGR, Nick – KB1SNL, Dan – W1ZFG, Steve – KB1RRR, Peter – KB1KZC, Chris – KA1NDE, Jack – K1NKS, Pete – N1PRH, and Colin – KB1YYG. Providing radio communications for the two-day event were: Rick – N1JGR, Nick – KB1SNL, Dan – W1ZFG, Steve – KB1RRR, Peter – KB1KZC, Chris – KA1NDE, Scott – N1EZY, and Jim – AB1NH. Also helping out with communications were Ed – WA1LEI, Chris – N1JQQ, and Phil – KB1SCT as Medic. Thanks to all who participated in this worthwhile event.

We also equipped several of the sleds with APRS tracking units. Real time position of the sleds on a topo map were continuously on display at the Communications Center. The original design of the units resulted in a weight that only allows them to be used on sleds. This year, the Tech Committee will be looking into re-designing the units to decrease their size and weight, so they may be carried in a backpack in the event of insufficient snowfall to allow sled use.



Communications Center – Net Control



APRS Tracking Display



Portable Antenna Setup

In addition to performing his duties at one of the stations, Ed – WA1LEI also set up a portable Special Event station. Ed was active on 20 meters and made many contacts to commemorate the event.



Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section Leadership: K1EIC SM: ASMs W1FXQ Emeritus, KD1YV, K1HEJ; OOC K1DFS; PIC KA1WPM; SEC N1CLV: ASECs N1FNE, K1BRF, AF1HS, K1VSC, W1GTT; SGL K1MK; STM K1STM TC W1SMS.

Happy New Year! Here we are already at the end of the first month; it doesn't seem possible. This year is really special for us as we celebrate the ARRL centennial! Throughout the year in these pages, I will write some historical articles. You are invited to submit material. I'm no historian—don't look for anything exhaustive; there's lots of material out there. But I will take a few minutes once in a while to write some of what I know.

The cold and the snow sure has not stopped activity. The Candlewood ARA is running two classes concurrently, with 20 students in each. Everyone will be prepared to take their tech tests at their VE session in early March!

DEC Douglas WA1SFH conducted a digital workshop for ARES members.

A week ago, Douglas WA1SFH, his son and I witnessed the ARISS contact between the international space station and students at the STEM Academy in Wallingford. Al - N1API has provided pictures, which you can view on our Section web page http://ct.arrl.org/CT_STEM_ISS_2014.html. You can watch a 30-minute YouTube video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuEUSnaVQGA>. These contacts are always exciting events—if you ever get the chance to attend one, I strongly recommend you take the time because each is special. You will never forget the excitement of the children. There's just something very special about the whole experience—I've been to a few.

Remember folks that all of these activities take lots of hard work and volunteer time so start off the New Year by saying “thank you” to your fellow ops.

The winter lunch of the QCWA will be held at Tommy's Restaurant on Saybrook Ave. in Middletown on February 8. Their guest speaker will be the founders of FM radio station WMNR John Babina WA1OOT and his wife Carol. Spurred on by their love of radio and classical music and a dedication to public service, John and Carol co-founded a 330 watt, non-commercial, local community and high school FM station, WMNR in Monroe, CT.

Now serving 60,000 listeners daily and countless thousands more on line at WMNR.org it is Connecticut's only full-time Classical music radio station without commercials and an endless source of pleasure for its large and growing audience.

They'll show a fascinating slide show as John Babina narrates a remarkable story of WMNR's growth and service, adding listeners and feature programs, boosting power and expanding around CT and New York State with almost 20 added translators and outlets. Their story is truly a worthy contribution to CT culture of which they can be proud. So mark your calendars for Feb 8 and contact k1mq@arrl.net if you can come. Your spouses and friends are welcome.

The Stamford ARA will have a presentation about RASPBERRY PI at their February meeting given by Fred, K1FC and George K1GTT. This device is a very small, simple, and inexpensive computer that can be used to build special purpose equipment. In the ham world, people have used it to develop CW keyers, CW decoders, digital signal encoder/decoders, beam control boxes, and DSP boxes.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

NARL held their annual holiday party and installation of officers in January. Quentin KB1UME was installed as their new president. Paul KB1QQI was awarded the 2013 ham of the year and the George Hart leadership award. Plaques were also given to outgoing president W1VJA and secretary Ellen KB1PCU for their fine service to the club. Congrats all!

Congratulations to Ted WA1NXC on having recently achieved 7-band DXCC.

Registration for the ARRL National Centennial Convention July 17-19 is now available at <http://arrl2014.org>. This event promises to be unique and exciting! The ARRL staff is working very hard to make this convention very special so you won't want to miss it.

Here's my promised historical note. In the mid 50's and early 60's, we were all on AM and public service was done using HF. The CT Phone Net was on 3.880 MHz and met at the same times we do today. The preamble included a 10-second unmodulated carrier for people to zero beat their transmitters to the frequency of the net control. Another 10-second pause took place to allow everyone to tune their transmitters. During this time, one heard a real cacophony of tones as people adjusted their transmitters!

Emergency work was done through Civil Defense; most areas had CD drills on Monday evenings. I remember W1EOR as our State radio officer. John ran a very active net each Sunday after the CT Phone Net. He handled a lot of traffic too for his station. In those days, NTS handled literally hundreds of messages to the ARRL. It was common to handle 75 or 80 pieces in an hour on phone, over a hundred on CW. The messages came from military facilities including The US Naval Training Center, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Westover AFB. Book traffic was counted differently; every 3 addresses counted as one message. CN, the Section CW net, met on 3.640 MHz. at 1845 and 2200. The region nets were only on CW; it wasn't until much later that we had the daytime region and area nets established. There were no local nets—we just had the two Section nets that liaised with the CW region net. There was no STM—just two net managers. At one point, my twin Barb K1EIR was “route manager” (CW net manager) of CN and I was net manager of the phone net. For many years, the CW net folks met in the Fall in the evening over coffee and a dessert-type snack and in the spring, there was the Section traffic handlers dinner at which some 60 people attended. That was an event everyone looked forward to. Former Division directors Milt Chaffee W1EFW, John Sullivan W1HHR and Robert York Chapman W1QV along with Dave Sumner K1ZZ then K1ZND, former managers of ARRL's communications department George Hart W1NJM and Ed Handy W1BDI, , several other ARRL staff and Barb Lombardi K1EIR were active on the nets and attended these dinners. I was primarily on the CT Phone Net. Bill Cushman W1YBH was net manager and my mentor for many years of the phone net. I have a need at this point to specially remember Bill Baldyga K1YGS who was NM of CPN who became a silent key at a young age in a plane crash. Bill was instrumental in starting The Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net. I'll talk more about VHF and the field org in another issue. I'll write more of what I remember next month. If you have a couple of paragraphs you'd like to write for this column, feel free to send it along.

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