
Time Out

Publication of the *NEW* ICRC, Inc.

September - 2013

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

This Month's Meeting

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

After a *short* business meeting, there will also be a presentation by Rick – N1JGR on one of the more interesting aspects of Packet Radio – APRS, which stands for Automatic Packet Reporting System. Come and see how this mode can be used for the Klondike Derby and other public service events where the actual real-time position of participants is desired to be known.

President's Message

Radio Fun - Community Service

Hi All. You can't have a better day than playing radio and servicing the community. The I.C.R.C. Club was asked by a good member, KB1VPY, to help out at one of her charities that she volunteers for. It seems that they needed to have better communications than they have had in the past and wanted our club to help. We were given the contact people at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in Connecticut, Rebecca Schulman, and a great opportunity to show case the Club's communication abilities happened.

The Club membership committed itself to do the event as best as it's abilities, and experience allowed. We got the routes to the event, Bike MS, a twenty five, fifty, and seventy-five mile bike ride in the Hartford area did everything, well almost everything right. A group of club volunteers went out the weekend before and tested our repeater system to see what we could operate on. We were able to put together an operating plan for the event, and then went and performed as we had planned! Ten Club members, three Bristol CERT Team members, and two NARRL members made up the final crew and we were able to man an HQ, three SAG Wagons and all the check, refreshment points as well as a shadow for the event's leader. A lot of fun, and great food when the ride finished. You all did a great job.

President's Message – cont'd

The Club did a good job, and we provided some good suggestions to make it better for the next time. The I.C.R.C. was asked to provide the communications for next year for this event and they have asked us to help out at a local MS event next June. The debrief on the event was upbeat and we all agreed it was a good day to play radio! So again thanks to all that turned out you made our club look good helping out at such a good cause, and it is great to help at a community event.

73,

Peter F. Paradis KB1KZC

Interim President

Last Month's Meeting

ICRC General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date:	8/16/13
Time Started:	7:31 PM
Time Ended:	8:21 PM

Minutes taken by: Dan Wall – W1ZFG

Attendees (Callsign):

KB1KZC	W1ZFG	N1JGR	N1JWF	KB1YNE
KB1KNV	KB1RRR	KB1VPY	KB1SNL	KA1NDE
Linda	K1NKS	AB1NH	KB1WEZ	N1PRH
KB1RGQ	KB1TBL	N3BEB		

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

There were no results to report this month. The VE Team was in place and ready to go, but there were no students present to test.

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Presidents Report:

The membership list for the club has been posted on the club website: <http://www.icrcweb.org>

The ICRC has re-established its meeting place at the Farmington Red Cross in time to celebrate its 40th anniversary of partnership serving the Red Cross.

The two open positions on the Board of Directors have been filled by Jack – K1NKS and Tom – KB1WZE until the elections in November. The possibility of creating a Member At Large position was discussed.

Secretary report:

Meeting minutes were emailed to all members.

Motion to Accept:	Sue	KB1VPY
Seconded by:	Dave	KB1TBL
Aye: 17	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer reported that the club is financially stable. There is currently \$350 in the battery fund.

The solar panels at the .15 site are helping the budget by reduceing electricity costs.

Motion to Accept:	Bill	KB1VNT
Seconded by:	Sue	KB1VPY
Aye: 17	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Admin. VP Report:

Nothing to report.

Motion to Accept:		
Seconded by:		
Aye: 0	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Tech. VP Report:

All repeaters are up and running well. There was one morning of interference that appeared to be deliberate, but it has not re-appeared again.

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

The possibility of doing Fox Hunts again was discussed. This would serve the dual purpose of giving the club a club building exercise to build the direction finding equipment, then creating a club activity to use the equipment in the Fox Hunt.

Motion to Accept:	Tom	KB1WEZ
Seconded by:	Bob	KB1RGQ
Aye: 17	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Webmaster Report:

The website has had no changes in 10 years. It is time to modernize it. Work is in progress. We will also be reaching out to prospective members via social media like Facebook.

Club email addresses will be created. A committee for web development was formed. Chris – KB1YNE volunteered to assist with web development.

Motion to Accept:	Bob	KB1RGQ
Seconded by:	Dave	KB1TBL
Aye:	Nay:	Abstain:

Old Business:

The Bristol CERT Team will be using the .88/.15 repeaters to provide communications for the Bristol Half Marathon on Sunday, August 8th.

The club will also be providing communications for the MS Bike Ride in the greater Hartford area on Sunday, September 8th. We will need about 16 hams to staff this event.

New Business:

T-Shirts: Normal cost is \$10 each, but the club can get them for \$8.75 each if we buy a minimum of 24. More info to follow at next club meeting.

Just a heads-up: The Klondike Derby will be held on February 8th and 9th, 2014. Start pulling out your warm clothes.

Motion to Adjourn:	Tom	KB1WEZ
Seconded by:	Chris	KA1NDE
Aye: 17	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Monthly Presentation

A presentation was made by Dan – W1ZFG about an introduction to Packet Radio. Topics discussed were: definitions, uses, and equipment required.

Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net

The Board of Directors decided in an email vote to extend an invitation to Anne – K1STM, Section Traffic Manager and Bob – KB1RGQ, Nutmeg Net Manager to see if there was any interest in returning the nightly Nutmeg VHF NTS Traffic net to repeaters of the ICRC. In a response from Anne, she stated that there no plans to move the net at this time. She also asked us if they could use our repeaters as a back-up in case either of their primary repeaters were to have problems. The Board agreed to allow them do so.

So if you hear some unusual activity on our system any night between 9:30 PM and 10:00 PM, do not be concerned, they have permission to be there. In fact, you might even want to join in the fun. Passing NTS traffic is a great way to make new friends on the air and learn a valuable emergency communications tool at the same time.

Board of Directors Meeting

A Board of Directors meeting was held on September 12th. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Remember: Board meetings are open to any members interested in attending.

Bristol Half Marathon

On Sunday, August 18th, the ICRC allowed several CERT teams from the area to use the.88 repeater for radio communications to support a half-marathon that ran thru Bristol. The event was run to raise money for the Fisher House Foundation.

The Fisher House Foundation builds and maintains long term residential facilities near military hospitals nationwide. The families of seriously injured soldiers need a place to stay during the long rehabilitation process. Net control was handled by Chris – KB1YNE, Bristol CERT co-captain and ICRC member. Also helping out from the ICRC were Rick – N1JGR, Dan – W1ZFG, Chris – KA1NDE and Pete – KB1KZC.

MS Bike Ride

On Sunday, September 8th, members of the ICRC were up before dawn to provide radio communications for the MS Bike race run thru the greater Hartford area. There were three races run, a 25 mile loop, a 50 mile loop, and a 75 mile loop. Assisting from the ICRC were Rick – N1JGR, Dan – W1ZFG, Chris – KB1YNE, Steve – KB1RRR, Tom – KB1WEZ, Jack – K1NKS, Jim – AB1NH, Nick – KB1SNL, Chris – KA1NDE, and Pete – KB1KZC. Also assisting the ICRC members were local CERT members Bill – KB1UAU, Harley – KB1VFN, Billy – N1HUZ, and Tom – KB1KOS.



Photos by Tom – KB1WEZ

Elections for Board of Directors/Officers

Once again it is time to think about elections for next year. The Nominating Committee is preparing a slate of proposed Board Members and Officers, which will be presented at the October meeting. The elections will be held at the November meeting, where the proposed slate will be voted on. Any member may challenge any of the positions by nominating another person and the selection between the two candidates shall be determined by secret ballot.

Dan Wall – W1ZFG
Chairman – Nominating Committee
walldan54@att.net

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.

Joe, N1KHB has resigned as technical coordinator, which is a position on the Section cabinet due to health reasons and illness in the family. I'd like to publicly recognize and thank Joe for his loyalty on the cabinet over the last 10 years. He authored several articles in QST: An Ideal Plastic for Amateur Radio Projects, Oct 2009 p. 42; Keeping and Labeling a Supply of All Sizes of Hardware, (Hints and Kinks), September 2007 p. 62; Radio Shack VOX with the Alinco DJ-850 H-T (Hints and Kinks), Mar 1997 p. 79; Antenna Analyzer Tips, Tricks and Techniques: Locating Shorted Coax Connectors, Sep 1996 p. 40; Transceiver Operating Voltage Considerations (technical correspondence), Dec 1995 p. 79; and in correspondence, True Confessions August 1993 p. 79. Quite a list! Joe will continue as a tech specialist. Thanks Joe and best of luck.

The next hamfest is in two weeks: the Western CT hamfest sponsored by The Candlewood Amateur Radio Association to be held at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main St. (rt. 6) Newtown on Sunday, September 8 from 8:30 to 12:30. Admission \$6; children under 10 free. The table charge is \$15 which includes one admission; tailgaters pay \$10 which also includes one admission.

Don't miss the raffle—you might win a new mobile rig! Bill N1TIW will give a talk entitled Samuel F.B. Morse, Artist and Inventor! There will be ham radio equipment, computer gear, great food and prizes so come on out and say hello and make plans with your friends as Fall approaches. For further info, go to <http://www.hamfest.cararadioclub.org>. The club had great PR on cable television and in the newspapers about the hamfest!

The PVRA Superfest scheduled for September 21 has been postponed due to lack of warehouse space and parking as a result of tower construction at the site. In its place, the PVRA will host a VE session at 10 am, Marcus Communications, 33 Mitchell Rd., Manchester. Reservations and walk-ins accepted. See current list of exams at <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Following the VE session, at noon, DEC George AB1GL is holding the Region 3 quarterly meeting. So ARES members in region 3, come on out, and participate on your ARES team. Remember, public service takes teamwork!

Mark your calendar—October 13 is the date for the well-known 21st Nutmeg Hamfest to be held at the Sheraton Four-Points Hotel, 275 Research Parkway, Meriden. See <http://www.nutmeghamfest.com> for details—more next month.

EC Oscar KO1F coordinated an amazing presentation. As you know, Oscar served as DEC for Region 5 for a few months while Dave K1DAV was otherwise occupied. Oscar worked with the Region 5 ESF2 committee and they sponsored an absolutely wonderful video presentation about ARES narrated by Jim KB1ABC with trainer Paul KB1TOR. The first part talks about ARES and is geared for emergency managers and other leadership officials. Part 2 teaches operators how to set up and operate the IC7000 transceiver. Each EOC in region 5 has this transceiver. Part 3 speaks to all Amateur radio operators and talks about operating your station in an emergency. Folks, the training and narration are absolutely brilliant! Contact your DEC if you wish to view the CD. Really, it is outstanding. Oscar wrote the script and that alone must have taken hours. Congratulations Oscar, Jim and Paul! Well done!

Here's more good news. ADEC Dave K1DJW will be honored on September 4 with the first ever Community Preparedness Hero Award at the 6th Annual Citizen Corps Conference to be held in Manchester. Dave is credited with saving the life of a co-worker! PIC KA1WPM reports: "Indeed Dave is being honored for saving a life. Fortunately he was right nearby a colleague at work who had collapsed, suffering from a heart attack. Dave sprang into action using CPR training that he had previously received. He instructed co-workers to call 911 while he administered chest compressions to the victim, continuing until EMTs arrived on the scene. Dave and his XYL, Sandi K1SLW, recounted this at the last CQ meeting in Torrington." Wow! Congratulations Dave and thank you. Your work is indeed special. Did you notice? Paul K1SEZ is shown on the cover of September QST with his "go kit" ready for response in an emergency! Paul is a very active member of the Meriden ARC and many years ago a member of The Shelton Emergency Radio Association. His skills in Amateur radio are wide ranging--congrats Paul!

And did you read Oscar, KO1F's article on p. 66 title: Taking the Mystery Out of ARES – The Role of the PIO Subtitle: Educating your community about the capabilities of your ARES group can lead to a scenario where everybody wins." Well done—congrats!

A VHF/UHF contester and leader has just become the EC of Clinton! Yes, Ron WZ1V who, by the way, started the Northeast Weak signal Group, began in ARES a few years ago. At that time, he told me he wanted to help out in a small way. Well, before we knew it, he took the appropriate ICS courses and has just been appointed EC of Clinton! Welcome aboard Ron—your unique background will be a real asset to the ARES program.

Here's exciting news from our SEC Wayne N1CLV. A statewide system of RMS packet gateways has just been activated. They are all remotely connected to a central computer via the CT State Police microwave network (think of it as eight RS232 data cables that are tens of miles long connecting the master computer and the eight TNCs!).

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Initially there will be eight (8) nodes -- one in each of the eight Connecticut counties. If any gaps in coverage are identified, future plans are to add a few more nodes as needed. This network should allow us to effectively utilize the Winlink 2000 (WL2K) system to handle data/digital traffic around the state -- and beyond! If you haven't tried WL2K because you couldn't connect with an RMS Node, get on the new network and send a message to W1GTT thanking him for his efforts!

LOTS of info on getting started can be found on the winlink.org website!

ASEC Bill W1GTT tested and set up all the nodes and has been working with Paul N1RHN, Ed K1ZE and for a couple of years on this effort. Bill explains further: "The project is a joint venture between CT DEMHS, CT State Police Radio Club, W1SP and CT ARES. I have been working almost three (3) years to get the project completed. Please use it and report any problems you encounter. The two (2) sites that are not active will be." To find out the frequencies and locations of these nodes, go to <http://www.ctares.org> and click on the digital tab. W1SP-8 and have yet to be activated.

Bill, Paul, Ed and Matt KA9CRG have worked really hard on this project—understand that there was a significant amount of behind-the-scenes field work to do to make this a reality in CT. This is commendable work! Congratulations to you all and Wayne, thanks for encouraging this effort.

Thanks, too, to system operators of the current RMS nodes on the air—you are also doing fine work. We always need resources. Understand that those resources are also available.

I'm really proud of what we get done in CT! See you at the hamfest and see you next month.

ARRL Connecticut Section
Section Manager: Betsey M Doane, K1EIC
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For the latest information, visit our website at <http://www.icrcweb.org>