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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

December - 2014

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

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, December 19th 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 social hour. Cookies and drinks will be provided. Feel free to bring along your favorite snacks to share.

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

Hi All, well the holiday season is upon us, the Thanksgiving to New Years run is on. My congratulations to all the directors and officers on their reinstatement's. The club held a work day at the .15 repeater site, we cut back a lot of brush, took stock of the area so we can plan a spring work day and trim back some of the larger trees, and installed the wind turbine to supplement our solar charging system.

The club, thanks to our Tech Committee, will be heading us into the digital age. We have been awarded two of the new Yeasu DR-1X Fusion repeater systems. This system, allows users to access the repeaters with digital, the C4FM format, and their present analog radios. There will be more on this in the New Year!

The I.C.R.C. is ending it's year on an up note, our membership meetings are finding new faces each month, and these new members are adding new resources to our club. Our work day saw new faces and the work went well and quickly with all the hands doing the tasks that were needed, and many good ideas to help us down the road. Our future looks busy with many opportunities to work with solid organizations that provide good things for their communities. This allows our club members to play radio as well as an inside look at how these various organizations actually work. We provide them with reliable communications, and because of our proven abilities to provide them this service we have actually helped them with positive input to make changes that help them run their events in a more efficient way. When an established group seeks our input into how the event went, and we provide them with positive feedback that they utilize, you know we are making a difference that is positive and rewarding to our club.

Congratulations to all our members, it was a very productive year filled with good times, fun, and information. We all should be proud to be members of the Insurance City Repeater Club, a progressive, fun, and very active group. I look forward to seeing and playing radio with all of you in the next year!

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

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year.

73,

Peter Paradis/KB1KZC

President I.C.R.C.

**Last Month's Meeting**

**Date:** 11-21-2014

**Time Started:** 7:30 pm

**Time Adjourned:** 8:26 pm

**Attendance**

KB1KZC	KB1WEZ	N1JGR	KB1RRR	W1ZFG	KB1TBL
KB1YYG	KB1RRS	KB1SNL	KB1RVU	KA1NDE	N1JWF
K1HEJ	KC1BZL	Ron	Jan	Linda	

Minutes taken by: Tom Chapman – KB1WEZ

**President's Report:**

The President reported that this November's meeting was election night. The work party at the 147.15 repeater site was a success with several club members participating. The work party cut brush around the two buildings and around the trees that will be trimmed in the spring. A wind turbine electric generator was also installed, which immediately began working to supply power to the batteries.

<b>Motion to Accept:</b>	KA1NDE	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KB1RRR	
<b>Aye:</b> All	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

**Secretary Report:**

The minutes from the October meeting were emailed by Dan (W1ZFG) to all members as part of the "Time Out". The minutes from last meeting included discussions of the upcoming Klondike Boy Scouts event (February 2015) and the work party at the 147.15 site, and also presented the slate for the November elections.

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***Last Month's Meeting – cont'd***

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer reported that the bills are getting paid and the finances are in good shape. There is approximately \$1,900 in the treasury, which includes \$600 for the battery fund.

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

**Admin VP Report:**

The Admin VP reported that the Bristol CERT has been using the 146.88 repeater to run a weekly net for one year now with good participation – up to 16 call-ins.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	KB1RRS	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	N1JWF	
<b>Aye: All</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>

**Tech VP Report:**

All repeaters are running normally and are within specs. As anticipated, the noise is back on the repeaters and will probably be with us until next spring. However, the noise is not affecting the repeater voice communications. The work party installed the wind turbine which is already generating power for the batteries. There will be another work party in the spring to cut brush and tree branches, which will provide more sunlight to the solar panels and also may provide more wind for the turbine. An exciting piece of news is that Pete (KB1KZC) and Dan (W1ZFG) have been approved by Yaesu for the purchase of 2 of the new DR-1X digital repeaters which operate in the C4FM mode. These repeaters will be installed next year to give the club full digital repeater capabilities, while still allowing full analog communications.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	KB1RRS	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	N1JWF	
<b>Aye: All</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 1</b>

**VE Report:**

There were 4 candidates: 3 for Technician license, and 1 for General license, and all 4 candidates passed. One of the new Techs tried for General Class, but did not make it.

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***Last Month's Meeting – cont'd***

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	KB1VPY	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KB1SNL	
<b>Aye:</b> All	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

**Web Master Report:**

The web site is up and running. We have 34 likes on our Facebook page. Anyone who wishes to offer a news article please contact Chris (KB1YNE). Also, if you are on Facebook, stop by our page and “like” us.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	N1EZY	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KB1VPY	
<b>Aye:</b> All	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

**Old Business:**

The success of the Calhoun Ride was again discussed. A good job by everyone who attended.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	N1EZY	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KB1TBL	
<b>Aye:</b> All	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

**New Business:**

The 2015 Boateaters race is scheduled for May 19, which is the Saturday before Mothers Day.

The 2015 Klondike Derby was discussed, which will be held at June Norcross on Route 44 in Ashford, CT on February 7 and 8. We discussed the setup (the previous weekend for the layout, and the Friday before the event for the radios), the Scout's one-day and overnight races, skill sets and stations, the use of radios and APRS on the sleds, and the need for warm clothing and a noon meal for hams. Bring snacks, water, and a lunch. Snow shoes and skis may also be appropriate. For Saturday, be there at 7 am to be able to get to your checkpoints (10 checkpoints to man). We need 16 radio operators for the event, which finishes at noon on Sunday. It is important to keep your HTs warm or the battery may quickly die.

<b>Motion to Accept</b>	KB1RRR	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KB1SNL	
<b>Aye:</b> All	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0
<b>Motion to Adjourn:</b>	KB1RRR	
<b>Seconded by:</b>	KA1NDE	
<b>Aye:</b> All	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

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

The meeting was followed by elections. The following slates were offered:

### **FIRST SLATE – FOR DIRECTORS**

Nick Castrogiovanni – KB1SNL

Rick Castrogiovanni – N1JGR

Tom Chapman – KB1WEZ

Dave Laliberte – KB1TBL

Jim Livermore – AB1NH

Pete Paradis – KB1KZC

Steve Paradis – KB1RRR

Chris Perreault – KB1YNE

Bill Reyor – KB1KNV

Dan Wall – W1ZFG

### **SECOND SLATE – FOR OFFICERS**

President: Pete Paradis – KB1KZC

Administrative VP: Chris Perreault – KB1YNE

Tech VP: Rick Castrogiovanni – N1JGR

Secretary: Tom Chapman – KB1WEZ

Treasurer: Dan Wall – W1ZFG

As there were no further nominations for either slate, the Secretary (Tom – KB1WEZ), cast one vote for each slate.

## ***Monthly Presentation***

There was no presentation scheduled this month due to the election of Officers and Board Members.

## ***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!

## ***Work Party at the Burlington Repeater Site***

On Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, eleven hearty souls braved the cold weather to do some much needed maintenance at the .15 repeater site in Burlington. Some of the brush near the building was removed and some of the overhanging limbs were trimmed. Removal of additional limbs that are blocking the solar panels is planned for another work party in the spring, which will require the rental of a lift. Additional work on the antenna poles is also planned at the same time.

The main reason for the work party was to install a wind turbine. This will supplement the charging of the battery bank during the winter months when the efficiency of the solar panels drops off.

Braving the elements were: Rick – N1JGR, Dan – W1ZFG, Chris P. – KB1YNE (a.k.a. -"Sparky"), Jim – AB1NH, Steve – KB1RRR, Tom – KB1WEZ, Dave – KB1TBL, Nick – KB1SNL, Chris A. – KA1NDE, Colin - KB1YYG, and Peter – KB1KZC.

Here are some of the photos of the activity taken by Tom - KB1WEZ.



The wind turbine - some assembly required.



How Chris got his new nickname - "Sparky".



Ready for installation.



Up it goes!



Almost there!



Made it!



The boys in the band.

## ***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>*