
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

February - 2016

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, February 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 presentation by our President, Peter - KB1KZC on the proper procedures to communicate with a Net Control station during a Special Event. With the new season of Special Events that our club supports coming up, this will be a good chance for new folks to learn how to participate in these fun events. It will also be a good refresher for even veteran participants.

President's Message

No message this month.

Last Month's Meeting

Date: 1-15-2016

Time Started: 7:31 pm

Time Adjourned: 8:305 pm

Attendance

KB1KZC	KC1CWN	AB1NH	KC1ECT	W1ZFG	KC1EWG
KB1WEZ	N1EZY	KB1RRR	N1JGR	KB1RRS	KC1CLK
KA1NDE	KB1TBL	KB1YNE	KC1CQO	KB1SNL	KB1YYG
KC1EOJ					

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Minutes taken by: Tom Chapman - KB1WEZ

President's Report:

The Boy Scouts Klondike Derby is coming up next month as our next radio event. Rick will do a presentation on the Klondike Derby after the meeting. We have assumed the BRC call sign – W1DHT – and will soon acquire the balance of their funds which will be used for a new digital Fusion repeater for the 146.685 location. BRC will soon dissolve their corporation and we will be one larger club. Our now larger member list is on the website. We are seeking suggestions for a new logo and Chris (KB1YNE) can draft it up. We had a successful and fun Power Pole project build/Christmas party last month.

Motion to Accept:	KA1NDE	
Seconded by:	KC1CWN	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Secretary Report:

The minutes from the December 2015 meeting were emailed by Dan (W1ZFG) to all members as part of the *Time Out*, and additional copies were available for those in attendance. Color photos of the Power Pole project build are included in the *Time Out*.

Motion to Accept	KC1CWN	
Seconded by:	KA1NDE	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Treasurer's Report:

Financially the Club is in good shape, and all bills are being paid. Donations for the battery fund would be greatly appreciated.

Motion to Accept	KB1RRR	
Seconded by:	KB1TBL	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Admin VP/Web Master Report:

Our newly elected Admin VP, Jim (AB1NH), did not have a report.

Motion to Accept	N/A	
Seconded by:	N/A	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Tech VP Report:

The 147.150 and 146.685 repeaters are working well, as is the 440 repeater. The 146.880 repeater has a small tail and there is some new firmware available that may correct some of the issues. [A discussion followed concerning use of the repeaters by various nets and issues that were reported]. The 147.150 site has been operating solely on solar panel and wind turbine power since last April.

Motion to Accept	KC1CWN	
Seconded by:	KC1ECT	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

VE Report:

There was 1 candidate for upgrade to General Class who passed that test and then tried unsuccessfully for the Extra license. The newly licensed ham signed up for the free one year membership.

Web Master Report:

We have 57 likes on our Facebook web page, but since our member list is larger than that, we would like to see more participation. Information about the Klondike Derby will be added to our Club website.

Old Business:

The Field Day location has been confirmed for Winding Trails; however, we still need to resolve the issue of not being able to bring vehicles up to the site. Steve (KB1RRR) will be calling the Winding Trail folks to discuss this. The Field Day Location Committee is currently looking for alternative sites in case the Winding Trails vehicle issue can't be resolved. We are in need of a Field Day Food Committee Chairman – please volunteer your cooking expertise.

Eric Jones will be visiting an upcoming meeting to discuss this year's Farmington River Boat Eaters Race (May 7).

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

New Business:

We are looking for volunteers to teach classes for Technician or General class amateur radio licenses. We will look into the financial aspect of the classes (how much to charge and how the money is allocated).

We will be looking to have a work party to clear brush and tree limbs at the 147.150 site in Burlington to allow more sunlight to reach the solar panels. More information to follow.

Motion to Adjourn:	KA1NDE	
Seconded by:	KC1CWN	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

The meeting was followed by an informative presentation by Rick (N1JGR) on the BSA Klondike Derby – including details about the property, what clothes to wear and equipment to bring, how the derby works, and the general schedule of the one-day and two-day events. The courses will be set up on Saturday January 30. If you would like to participate, be at the Wooden Spoon Family Restaurant located on Route 44 in Ashford (at the intersection of Routes 44 and 74) at 9:00 am for pre-setup breakfast. Dress appropriately, and bring a GPS if you have one.

Monthly Presentation

A presentation on the Boy Scout's Klondike Derby was presented by our Tech VP, Rick - N1JGR.

Klondike Derby

On Saturday, February 13th, the ICRC/BRC once again provided radio communications for the Boy Scouts annual Klondike Derby. The event was held at the June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford, CT. Normally, this is a two-day event, with overnight camping on Saturday night and more activities on Sunday morning. But given that the weather was predicted to be 12 below zero with a 35 below zero wind chill factor for Saturday night and Sunday morning, the Scout leaders decided to only run the Day Course on Saturday and cancel the overnight camping and Sunday morning activities.

There were 20 patrols on the course Saturday, with around 100 scouts participating. The weather was cold, but tolerable on Saturday morning. As the scouts were completing the course by early afternoon, the cold front and the wind moved in and it became a little chilly. However, there were no issues requiring medical attention as a result of the cold weather. A good time was had by all -both scouts and radio operators.

Klondike Derby - cont'd

Participating from the ICRC/BRC were: Rick - N1JGR and Dan - W1ZFG at Net Control. Colin - KB1YYG at the Dining Hall. Peter - KB1KZC shadowed the scout leaders. Nick - KB1SNL manned the Start/Finish line. Staffing each of the "towns" were: Chris - KA1NDE, Kurt - KC1EJE, Chris - KB1YNE, Chris - KC1AFT, Ed - WA1LEI, and Ron - KC1CWN. Steve - KB1RRR was our floater.

Also assisting with the course set-up on Saturday, January 30th were: Rick - N1JGR, Nick - KB1SNL, Ron - KC1CWN, Chris - KA1NDE, and Barb - KB1RRS.

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.

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.

ICRC/BRC Sponsored VE Team

On the 3rd 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 Good luck!

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>