
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

September - 2016

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, September 16th 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 various members on the design and building of Go-Boxes. Later in this newsletter, there is an announcement about a Go-Box competition to be held at the Nutmeg hamfest in October. This presentation will be helpful for anyone wishing to enter the competition.

President's Message

There is no President's Message this month.

Last Month's Meeting

Date:	8-19-2016
Time Started:	7:30 pm
Time Adjourned:	8:30 pm

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Attendance					
KB1KZC	KB1TBL	N1JGR	N1EZY	KA1NDE	W1ZFG
KC1CWN	N1JWF	KC1ECT	KB1SNL	KB1WEZ	KB1VPY
K1JMC	Linda				

Minutes taken by: Tom Chapman - KB1WEZ

President's Report:

Pete has not heard from the Bristol Mum Festival committee concerning radio coverage for the parade. We will discuss this during Old Business. Not sure if the replacement wind turbine blades that were ordered by Pete have come in.

Motion to Accept:	N1JWF	
Seconded by:	KA1NDE	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

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). A volunteer sign-up sheet for our next event, the September 25, 2016 Bristol Mum Parade, was placed on the front desk.

Motion to Accept	KA1NDE	
Seconded by:	KB1VPY	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Treasurer's Report:

Financially the Club is in good shape, and all bills are being paid. Dan has not received any money from the Winding Trails people yet.

Motion to Accept	KB1VPY	
Seconded by:	KC1CWN	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

<i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i>

Admin VP Report:

Jim (AB1NH) was not present at the meeting. (Son's birthday.)

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

Tech VP Report:

The 440 repeater is working great – transmitting 70W. The .88 machine has quieted down and Rick will be changing it's tail to 1 second. The .15 machine is also doing excellently – working off of solar/batteries, which are keeping up due to abundant sunshine. We would like to get a new set of batteries (six 2-volt/500 Ah AGM batteries) for the .15 site when we have enough money in the battery fund. The .15 machine currently has a 700ms tail which will be changed to 1 second to bring it in line with the other repeaters. The .685 machine is doing great but occasionally something will wipe out a weak signal (on analog only, not on digital mode). The 141.3 PL for this machine will be changed to 77.0 on 9/17/16. The newest repeater is still on the bench at his house along with the link radio. [A discussion on digital/analog coordination and linking followed]

Motion to Accept	KC1CWN	
Seconded by:	N1JWF	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

VE Report:

There were 2 candidates for licensing:

One candidate passed the Technician exam, but failed a try at General. A Technician-class candidate failed to pass the General exam.

Web Master Report:

The webmaster was not present.

Old Business:

The 2016 Bristol Mum Parade is Sunday September 25, and we need at least 5 or 6 volunteers to man the starting line marshalling areas and the reviewing stand. The Boxboro ham fest is September 9, 10, and 11. The best day to attend is Saturday September 10. NEAR-Fest is October 14 and 15 – with the best day being Friday October 14. Both ham fests are a lot of fun with good ham radio equipment bargains.

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

New Business:

The official club name is still the Insurance City Repeater Club (ICRC), although we have been referring to the club as ICRC/BRC. A discussion followed on possible name changes (such as Central Connecticut Radio Association); however the ICRC and BRC name may also continue in some form. The name change discussion was tabled for future input from more members.

Motion to Adjourn:	KC1CWN	
Seconded by:	N1JWF	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Monthly Presentation

There was no activity/presentation this month.

PL Change on the .685 Bristol Repeater

On Saturday, September 17th, the PL tone on the 146.685 repeater on Chippens Hill in Bristol will be changed to 77.0 Hz. This change will make the PL tone the same on all four of the club's repeaters.

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!

"Go-Box" Competition

We were asked by Douglas Sharafanowich – WA1SFH, District Emergency Coordinator, Region 2 ARES to pass along the following information:

ANNOUNCEMENT...

WHAT: The Great 2016 "GO BOX" Competition
ALL Hams Welcome to Enter!

DATE: Sunday, October 16, 2016

Hours: 8:30 am – 10 am

WHERE: NUTMEG HAMFEST 2016
Sheraton Four-Points Hotel, 275 Research Parkway, Meriden, CT

Get organized to "Go Portable"!

- Eliminate the last minute hunting for gear before leaving.
- Banish the frustration of not having what you need at the operating site... because it is still back at the home QTH.

The "Go Box" is probably the best way to organize your radio equipment for those times when you want to (or need to) "Grab-'n-Go" for Portable Operations such as:

- Day Trips
- Weekend Get-Aways
- Vacations
- Public Service Events
- ARES Drills/Exercises
- Real World Disasters

DETAILS, ENTRY RULES and OTHER THOUGHTS

<http://www.ctaresregion2.org/forum/getting-equipped-for-ares/574-the-great-2016-go-box-competition>

Don't have a "Go Box"? Get Started and Build one! - You'll be glad you did. ;-)

Sponsored by: CT ARES – Region 2

73,
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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.

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!

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.

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>