
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

January - 2023

This Month's Meeting

***** NEW MEETING LOCATION! *****

The Red Cross is still not available to us for our monthly meetings. But thanks to the efforts of Harley – KB1VFN, we were able to get the use of the Second Floor Conference Room in the Police Complex next to City Hall in Bristol. We will have an in-person meeting from **7:00 PM to 8:30 PM** this Friday, January 20th. (The new times are due to the limited availability of the custodial staff on Friday evenings.)

Parking is available in the lot across from the Police Complex/City Hall at the site of the former Bristol Center Mall. Enter the Police Complex thru the door on the left marked “City Hall West” on the North Main Street side. Take the stairs or the elevator inside the front doors to the second floor. Follow the signs to the Conference Room.

Final preparations for the upcoming Klondike Derby will be discussed. Our resident Klondike expert Rick – N1JGR will have a short presentation and be available to answer any questions about this event. This is the last club meeting before the event on February 11th and 12th.

President's Message

No message.

Last Month's Meeting

Date: 12/16/2022

Time Started: 7:05 pm

Time Adjourned: 8:09 pm

Attendance

KC1CWN	AB1NH	W1ZFG	KB1TBL	KA1NDE	KC1OZK
N1JGR	W1JJD	KC1QMH	KC1RBY	KC1RIM	

Minutes taken by: Ron Lavoie - KC1CWN

President's Report:

It's nice to see more people attending the meeting.

It's the end of the year, and covid is slowly going away.

The Klondike Derby is in February, with more info to follow.

Motion to Accept:	KA1NDE	
Seconded by:	KB1TBL	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Secretary Report:

No report.

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

Last Month's Meeting - cont'd

Treasurer's Report:

Electric bill was paid for .15.

No major bills yet.

Account is in good shape.

Motion to Accept	KA1NDE	
Seconded by:	W1JJD	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Admin VP Report:

No report.

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

Tech VP Report:

All is good.

Motion to Accept	KA1NDE	
Seconded by:	W1JJD	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

VE Report:

We had one for testing. He had his Extra lapse and took the Technician test. He passed. Congratulations.

Last Month's Meeting - cont'd

Web Master Report:

No report.

Old Business:

Fox hunt project on hold.

Move of .88 repeater on hold.

Boy Scouts Klondike Derby this year will be held at Camp Workcoeman February 11th, and 12th, in New Hartford. This year will be different in that it will require 15 stations plus several other support positions, and will require 26 radio operator on Saturday. Sunday will require 5 stations plus several other support positions, which will require 9 radio operators. Saturday the time to meet, and get on station is 6:30am., and Sunday is 9:00am. To sign up you can contact Ron- kc1cwn@icrcweb.org. If you have already signed up, thank you.

New Business:

Email will be sent to Winding Trails to see if event will be held this year.

Email will be sent to Boateaters Challenge to see if event will be held this year.

Motion to Adjourn:	KB1TBL	
Seconded by:	W1JJD	
Aye: All	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Monthly Presentation

There was no presentation or club activity this month.

The meeting was followed by a general discussion of the upcoming Klondike Derby.

Klondike Derby

On Saturday, February 11th and Sunday, February 12th, the ICRC/BRC will once again provide radio communications for the Boy Scouts annual Klondike Derby. The event will be held at Camp Workcoeman in New Hartford, CT.

What Is A Klondike Derby?

Many years ago, men raced across the Alaskan frozen wilderness by means of dogs and sleds. Scouting has taken this idea and came up with the idea of the Klondike Derby as an activity for Boy Scouts.

Each patrol builds a sled, collects materials and equipment, and prepares to embark on the Klondike and participate as a team in the derby.

Each team will act as a separate expedition, following a course to various Alaskan Cities. Each patrol leader will be handed a sealed envelope with a map and instructions on reaching the various "cities". Teams line up at the starting line, and at the roar of the cannon are away down the trail. A certain distance down the trail, the patrol leader opens the orders and leads his patrol onto their first city, where they will encounter a situation in which they must use various Scouting skills and sometimes ingenuity to solve the situation. Each city is run by its Mayor, a leader from different troops, who run the city and assist the patrol in solving their problem. After the patrol completes the event, their tally card is marked by the mayor. A number of "gold nuggets" are given to the patrol, depending on how successful they were in solving their problem.

You might be wondering where amateur radio and the ICRC/BRC fit into all this. An ICRC/BRC member equipped with 2M FM radio equipment is stationed at each of the "cities" for the duration of the event. They provide information back to the Command Post about the activity going on at each of the cities. They relay information about the location of each of the patrols that arrive at their city and the score each patrol received for the completion of their situation.

Several members have assembled GPS based tracker boxes that are put on some of the sleds. These boxes use the APRS system to relay real-time position information to the Command Post. At a previous year's event, one of these tracker boxes was used to locate a patrol who had gotten off the trail. With darkness falling and the temperature dropping, a potentially dangerous situation was averted.

If you would like to become involved in this activity, our Klondike Derby expert Rick - N1JGR will be available to answer questions after this month's meeting. Here you will learn everything you need to know about how to support this worthwhile activity.

VOTA - Volunteers on the Air

The latest year-long operating event for 2023 from the ARRL is the ARRL Volunteers On the Air Operating Event. The idea is to work as many of the ARRL Leadership, Staff, and Volunteers as possible throughout the year. Each contact is worth a different number of points. Every ARRL member is worth at least one point. But the point values go up from there, depending on their position in the organization.

For example: If you work someone who was a Volunteer Examiner (VE), that contact would be worth 5 points. If you work someone who was a Net Manager (NM), that contact would be worth 7 points. If you work a Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) or a District Emergency Coordinator (DEC), those contacts would be worth 30 points. HQ Staff Members and Volunteers are worth 50 points. The ARRL HQ Station W1AW is worth 100 points. ARRL Directors are worth 225 points. The ARRL Vice President is worth 250 points and the ARRL President is worth 300 points! For a complete listing of how many points everyone is worth, see the Volunteer QSO Points Table at <https://vota.arrl.org>

Just as it was during the ARRL's 2014 Centennial QSO party, there will be W1AW Portable stations on the air from each of the 50 states. Each state will be on the air for two one-week periods throughout the year. Each state will operate from Wednesday to the following Tuesday. Each W1AW Portable Station is worth 5 points. For a schedule showing each weeks operations, refer to the ARRL website at <https://vota.arrl.org>.

Points will be automatically collected from the LoTW uploads of these contacts. You do not need to upload your contacts to LoTW to receive the points from your contacts, as long as the other person uploads their contacts with you. All of the W1AW Portable operations and most of the other ARRL folks will be uploaded to LoTW. But if you work one of the lower value or 1 point stations, you should consider uploading your contacts with them to be sure you get the credits you deserve. (At least one of the stations in the contact must upload to LoTW for either person to get credit). There is a Leader Board on the VOTA webpage for you to monitor your progress.

For more information about this event, refer to the January 2023 issue of QST (page77-78) or go to the VOTA website at <https://vota.arrl.org>

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 Police Complex in Bristol, CT. Due to the small size of the meeting room, we are unable to accommodate walk-in examinees at this time. Please email our VE Liaison (Jim, AB1NH) at AB1NH@mindspring.com 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>.

AmazonSmile Program

The ICRC is now able to participate in the AmazonSmile program. This program allows anyone who makes purchases on Amazon.com to designate 0.5% of the purchase price to go to the club. (This is a charitable donation from Amazon.com and does not increase the purchase price to you.) Our Treasurer, Dan - W1ZFG, recently completed all the necessary paperwork to enroll the ICRC in this program.

To use this program, do not log into the normal Amazon.com website. You must log into a special website:

smile.amazon.com.

There you will be asked to select the organization that you want the donation to go to.

Search for: "Insurance City Repeater Club" and continue to shop as you normally would.

The donation is automatically deposited to our club checking account on a quarterly basis.

A.R.R.L Club Commission Program Changes

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 **\$5** 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. Make checks payable to the ARRL for the full amount of your membership. Mail your check and the renewal form that you received from the ARRL to: Dan Wall – Treasurer, ICRC, 94 Rowe Place, Bristol, CT 06010. Better yet, bring the check and the renewal form to the next club meeting on the third Friday of every month.

Once the proper forms are submitted to the ARRL, they will send us a check for whatever commissions we qualify for.

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>