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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

February - 2023

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## ***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, February 17th. (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.

Preparations for our annual Field Day operation will begin this month. If you plan on setting up and operating a station this year, please bring the laptop/desktop computer you will be using for logging your contacts to this month's meeting so that we can install the logging software and network share drive on it. For more information, please refer to the article later on in this month's newsletter.

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

No message.

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## ***Last Month's Meeting***

**Date:** 1/20/2023

**Time Started:** 7:04 pm

**Time Adjourned:** 8:40 pm

### **Attendance**

|        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| AB1NH  | KC1CWN | W1ZFG  | KB1TBL | KA1NDE | N1JGR  |
| KC1QMH | W1JJD  | KC1RBY | KC1RIM | KC1OZX | KB1KZC |
| KB1SNL |        |        |        |        |        |

**Minutes taken by: Ron Lavoie - KC1CWN**

### **President's Report:**

Another month has gone by, and Covid is trying to make a comeback, but it should not be a problem.

Klondike is next month.

Weather is nice this far through the season.

|                          |               |                   |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <b>Motion to Accept:</b> | KA1NDE        |                   |
| <b>Seconded by:</b>      | W1JJD         |                   |
| <b>Aye: All</b>          | <b>Nay: 0</b> | <b>Abstain: 0</b> |

### **Secretary Report:**

No report.

|                         |             |                 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>Motion to Accept</b> |             |                 |
| <b>Seconded by:</b>     |             |                 |
| <b>Aye:</b>             | <b>Nay:</b> | <b>Abstain:</b> |

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

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The account is still good.

Electricity bill for .15 was paid.

Amazon is stopping the Amazon Smile program on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>.

|                         |               |                   |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <b>Motion to Accept</b> | KA1NDE        |                   |
| <b>Seconded by:</b>     | W1JJD         |                   |
| <b>Aye: All</b>         | <b>Nay: 0</b> | <b>Abstain: 0</b> |

### **Admin VP Report:**

No report.

|                         |             |                 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>Motion to Accept</b> |             |                 |
| <b>Seconded by:</b>     |             |                 |
| <b>Aye:</b>             | <b>Nay:</b> | <b>Abstain:</b> |

### **Tech VP Report:**

No report.

|                         |             |                 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>Motion to Accept</b> |             |                 |
| <b>Seconded by:</b>     |             |                 |
| <b>Aye:</b>             | <b>Nay:</b> | <b>Abstain:</b> |

### **VE Report:**

We had 3 for Technician, and they all passed. Congratulations.

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

### **Web Master Report:**

No report.

### **Old Business:**

Fox hunt project on hold.

Move of .88 repeater on hold.

Klondike Derby at Camp Workcoeman February 11/12

### **New Business:**

Field Day committee in planning stage.

Peter will contact Winding Trails for Fat Tire event.

Jim will contact Eric for Boateaters.

Field Day server is being built.

Field Day contest network is being built.

|                           |               |                   |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <b>Motion to Adjourn:</b> | KC1RBY        |                   |
| <b>Seconded by:</b>       | KA1NDE        |                   |
| <b>Aye: All</b>           | <b>Nay: 0</b> | <b>Abstain: 0</b> |

## ***Monthly Presentation***

There was no presentation or club activity this month.

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

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## ***Klondike Derby***

On Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, the ICRC/BRC once again provided radio communications for the Boy Scouts annual Klondike Derby. This year's event was held at Camp Workcoeman in New Hartford, CT.

The weather was sunny and in the 40's with a slight breeze. Unfortunately, there was no snow on the ground this year, so the scouts were not able to use their sleds in true Klondike fashion. But that did not stop the many participants from having a good time anyway.

There were 20 patrols on the Juneau Day Course, and 24 patrols on the Anchorage Day Course. There were also 6 patrols that camped out overnight on the Fairbanks Course. There were over 400 scouts and adults present.

Participating in the Course Setup from the ICRC were: Rick – N1JGR, Nick – KB1SNL, Peter – KB1KZC, and Steve – KB1RRR.

Participating in the event on both Saturday and Sunday were: Rick – N1JGR, Nick – KB1SNL, Peter – KB1KZC, Steve – KB1RRR, Jim – AB1NH, Chris – KA1NDE, Andy – KC1RIM, Sergio – KC1RBY, and Dan - KA1YTI.

Also participating in the Saturday event were: Dan – W1ZFG, Dave – KB1TBL, Jay – W1JJD, Sue – KC1CLK, David – KB1HRW, and Greg – N1WLA.

## ***Al Gerke, N1JWF - SK***

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of another longtime ICRC member, Al Gerke.

Al was always active in the club. He provided the food for us on many of our Field Day operations over the years. He also arranged for those nice club T-shirts and sweatshirts that you see many of the club members wearing at the events we participate in. He was also a volunteer at ARRL headquarters.

Al moved to Arizona after his retirement, so we have not seen him in a while, but he will be missed by all that knew him.

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## ***Field Day***

It is not too early to start thinking about this year's Field Day operation in June. Last year, the old XP laptop that we were using as a server for the logging program network died in the middle of Saturday afternoon. After a lot of scrambling around, Rick was able to get it back running again, but there were some contacts lost. This year we have decided to upgrade the server to a newer machine. We will also be upgrading the logging software to the latest version of the N3FJP program that we have been using for many years.

So if you plan on setting up and operating a station at Field Day this year, you must bring the laptop/desktop computer that you plan on using for contact logging to this month's meeting so we can load the logging software and the network share drive on it.

You must be running Win 7, Win 10 or Win 11 operating systems.

## ***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>

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### ***ICRC/BRC Sponsored VE Team***

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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>.

### ***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>*