
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

April - 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, April 21st. (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 Fat Tire Classic Mountain Bike Race to be held on Sunday, April 23rd at Winding Trails in Farmington will be made tonight. For more information, please refer to the article later in this month's newsletter.

Preparations for our annual Field Day operation will also continue this month. If you had the Field Day logging program loaded on your laptop at the February meeting, please bring it again this month so we can check on how it works on the network, which we were unable to do last month. For more information, please refer to the article later in in this month's newsletter.

President's Message

No message.

Last Month's Meeting

Date: 3/17/2023

Time Started: 7:04 pm

Time Adjourned: 7:51 pm

Attendance

KC1CWN	AB1NH	W1ZFG	W1JJD	KB1TBL	KA1NDE
Shawn	N1JGR	KB1KZC	KB1SNL	KC1RBY	KC1CLK

Minutes taken by: Ron Lavoie - KC1CWN

President's Report:

Well another month has gone by, and the weather is starting to change.

We have the Shamrock Race tomorrow, Fat Tire Race next month, and Field Day is coming soon.

Motion to Accept:	KA1NDE	
Seconded by:	W1JJD	
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:

No bills to be paid.

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

Admin VP Report:

No report.

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

Tech VP Report:

No report.

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

VE Report:

We had 1 for upgrade to General who passed, and 1 for Tech, but failed.

Last Month's Meeting - cont'd

Web Master Report:

Added a member sign in, which requires to register.

Time Outs are on member side.

Like to have 2 people to have access to calendar to input information, and events.

Old Business:

- Fox Hunt: On hold
- Move .88 repeater: On hold.
- Field Day June 24- 25: Committee formed. Jim- chair, Rick, Dan, & Dave.
- Field Day server is built.
- Field Day server network needs a final test.
- Bristol CERT members interested in obtaining their ham license. Another class in the planning stage.

New Business:

No new business

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

Monthly Presentation/Activity

Due to unforeseen technical issues, we were unable to test the laptops with the Field Day logging software installed on the network.

Shamrock Run & Walk

On Saturday, March 18, members of the ICRC assisted Bristol CERT members with radio communications for the annual Shamrock Run & Walk held at the Chippens Hill Middle School in Bristol. The weather was good for running/walking: sunny but a little cool.

Participating in this event for the ICRC were: Harley – KB1VFN, Steve – KB1RRR, Rick – N1JGR, Peter – KB1KZC, Sergio – KC1RBY, Dan – W1ZFG, Jim – AB1NH, Ron – KC1CWN, and Nick – KB1SNL.

Fat Tire Mountain Bike Race

On Sunday, April 23rd, the ICRC will again be providing radio communications and marshalling duties for the annual Fat Tire Mountain Bike Race to be held at the Winding Trails Recreation Area in Farmington, CT.

Members of the ICRC will be positioned at various locations around the 5-mile mountain bike course thru the woods and trails to provide safety communications and to record the bib numbers of the riders as they pass each location.

This is an all-day event, as there are many races of different lengths held throughout the day. Some of the locations require a vehicle with 4WD to access them. But if you don't have one, there are many locations that can be reached with a normal vehicle.

Participants should plan on bringing a mobile radio with an external antenna for the farther out locations. A 5-watt HT with extra batteries will be adequate for the closer in locations.

Lunch will be provided by the race sponsors (hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and soda), but you should bring your own water and snacks and any other items you will need for the day.

We will all meet at the Dunkin Donuts on Route 4 in Farmington at 7:30 AM. Then at 8:00 AM, we will all enter Winding Trails as a group. There we will be deployed to our assigned areas by the race people. We need to be in our positions by the time the first race kicks off at 9:00 AM. There is some down time between the races so bring along a book or just enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings. There is plenty of wildlife to observe. We have seen all kinds of birds, small animals, deer, and the occasional black bear.

The last race kicks off at 2:00 PM, but we remain at our stations until the last rider has finished and the course has been verified to be clear of riders.

This is one of the club's favorite events, so if you have never done it before, come out and enjoy a nice day spent in the woods playing radio for a good cause. The event goes on rain or shine. (These bikers are crazy!)

Further information about this event will be available at this month's meeting on Friday, April 21st.

Field Day

At the February meeting, several people had the latest version of the N3FJP Field Day logging program loaded on their laptops. We are asking that everyone bring their laptops back again this month, so we can see how it works on the single router network and the new server pc, which should be ready.

While several people have volunteered for key positions, we still have the need for more volunteers to handle additional responsibilities, especially in the areas of Radios and Equipment and in Bonus Points. Every year we allow many easily obtainable Bonus Points to go unclaimed, simply because nobody stepped up to get them.

Planning and executing a successful Field Day operation requires the work of many volunteers. It is not fair that the same few people get stuck with all the responsibilities every year. If you are interested in helping with the planning for this year's Field Day, please contact Jim – AB1NH, Field Day Chairman.

New ICRC Logo

The ICRC is considering updating the club logo, possibly to include a reference to the former Bristol Radio Club, which we acquired when we took over the former Chippens Repeater Association.

If you have any graphic arts talents or just some ideas as to what we should do, bring them to this month's meeting where they will be discussed.

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>.

VOTA - Volunteers on the Air – cont'd

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 (page 77-78) 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>.

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>