
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

January - 2006

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, January 20th at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave. (Rte. 4), Farmington, CT. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

***** SPECIAL ACTIVITY/DEMONSTRATION MEETING *****

At this month's meeting we will have an explanation/demonstration of the latest in 802.11 technology given by Chuck, N1KGY and Bill, KB1KNV. Perhaps you heard us talk about installing 802.11 equipment at the Bristol repeater site for our own private high speed digital network with Internet access. Well, come to this month's meeting to find out what it's all about! (Postponed from November meeting.)

Last Month's Meeting

ICRC Meeting Minutes

Date:	December 16, 2005
Time Started:	7:47 PM
Time Ended:	8:40 PM

Minutes taken by: Dan Wall, WA1PAT

Attendees (Callsign):

KA1KRP	N1JGR	WA1PAT	KB1JYX	KB1JYY
K1DFS	KB1KZC	N1JWF	N1KGY & XYL	K1WMS

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	KB1JYX
Abstain:	

unanimous

Treasurer Report:

Check to Secretary of State has cleared.

Motion to Accept:	KB1JYX
Seconded by:	KB1JYY
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP report...

Rick, N1JGR, our Tech. VP, unveiled his Technical Committee consisting of George, KB1JYX, Chuck, N1KGY, and Chuck , K1DFS.

George, KB1JYX, reported on the Yaesu 440 MHz radios that were donated to the club. There are (4) full repeaters which are scheduled to go to the .15 system.

Chuck, N1KGY, reported on the 802.11b demonstration to be done at the January meeting.

Chuck, K1DFS, reported that the .15 machine is dying from age and long service. It is experiencing de-sensing and overload problems. George will begin searching for a replacement machine.

There are also problems being caused by the .135 machine, which is not on a coordinated frequency. The .88 machine also has noise problems. We received some copper ground rods and copper braid from Les, KA1KRP to address the problem

Motion to Accept:	N1KGY
Seconded by:	KB1JYY
Abstain:	

unanimous

Old Business:

The annual Klondike Derby will be held on the first weekend of February (3rd- 5th) at the Girl Scout camp in Tolland, Mass. On Saturday, January 28th, the 10 operating stations will be set up. Anyone interested should meet at the Dunkin Donuts on Rt. 44 in Avon at 8:00 AM. We will need 15 operators for the event on Saturday and 8 or 9 operators for Sunday. Contact Rick, N1JGR for information.

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

New Business:

Interest was expressed in doing a Field Day operation this year at some place other than the Red Cross EOC. The discussion on where to look for a suitable sight was tabled to next month's meeting.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1KGY
Seconded by:	KB1JYY
Abstain:	

Unanimous

Demonstration:

Following the business meeting, a demonstration of digital communications over 2M was presented by Chuck, K1DFS. Two stations, consisting of soundcard equipped laptops and 2M HTs were set up on opposite sides of the room. Various digital modes, such as PSK31 and MT63 were successfully demonstrated. Nice job, Chuck!

President's Message

Speakers on Ham Radio High speed digital Mode

Nov. 12, 2005

The recent acceptance of Wifi by the general public has made ready to use equipment for the 2.4 GHz ham band economical and plentiful. The Wifi band actually co shares a portion of the 2.4 GHz Ham band. A recent QST article told of a experimental system using this band and equipment that was able to provide useful high speed ham radio communication with internet compatible programs over 75 miles point to point running 1 or 2 watts. The Directors of the Insurance City Repeater Club, a Technical club in Central CT. voted back in the summer to install such a node at our Bristol site. The Club has asked Chuck, N1KGY and Bill, KB1KNV to co chair the committee that is exploring, designing and installing this system. Both Chuck and Bill work on systems integration and have a great deal experience in linking such an RF Network into systems. They have agreed to be our club speaker this upcoming Fri evening 730 PM at the American Red Cross on Farmington Ave in Farmington CT. Their talk will follow our normal business meeting. This mode offers possibilities in emergency communications, general high speed communications, voice and all other data communications and, from what I have seen so far, even remote control. Come and learn how easily it is to get on this band today and how far we have already seen it will cover. Find out how you also may join in a network now forming to cover, hopefully in the near future, all of Connecticut.

Larry Buck, K1HEJ

ICRC President.

Email K1HEJ @ Yahoo.com

Packet K1HEJ @ N1URO

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section Leadership: ASMs: K1STM, KY1F, NK1J, K1BRF; Bulletin Manager KD1YV; Official Observer Coordinator W1GC; Public Information Coordinator W1FXQ; Section Emergency Coordinator N1FNE; Section Traffic Manager K1HEJ; Technical N1KHB. On behalf of the entire Section cabinet, I wish all of you peace and joy in this holiday season and throughout the New year. Take time to enjoy this wonderful hobby and stay safe!

Annual Christmas Eve Net: Why not share the peace and joy of a special evening with family and friends across southern New England and around the world? The Sixth Annual Southern New England Christmas Eve Net will convene at 2200 hours Eastern Standard Time on the TIPS linking system and via an undetermined number of Echo-Link portals. The net has established a reputation for being a wonderful addition to the holidays for thousands of amateur radio operators, their friends and families. It is relaxed and upbeat, and all licensed hams are welcome to check in. If your club or repeater group has not linked up with us before, and would like more information about getting hooked in for this exciting on-air gathering, please contact Dana, KB1AEV; Mike, N1HFX; or any TIPSNET repeater trustee. The net is scheduled to run for no more than 75 minutes. I am thrilled that you all have asked me to be your Christmas Eve net control once again this year. We will provide more particulars about this year's net as the big night draws near. May peace and good will abound throughout this most treasured of seasons. Best 73- H. Kevin Harkins - KA6PDG (860-886-0762)

Break Tags: The initiative described below was begun by then SEC Chuck AB1CR about a year ago. SEC Rod, N1FNE is asking us to reacquaint ourselves with the following procedures.--K1EIC SM

Some of our DECs and other leadership are drilling their crews on a new method of getting attention on a net called "Break Tags". When net communication gets heavy, someone may have a quick solution to a problem that is taking up too much valuable airtime for discussion, but can't break into the net to share it. We came up with "Break Tags"; to deal with such a scenario. There are currently seven one-word Break Tags. They are: "answer"; "question"; "info"; "priority"; "medical"; "emergency"; and your call sign. Most of these tags have been used with great success in large public/emergency services nets. Here is how they work: Instead of saying "break"; between transmissions during a directed net, the operator uses the word specified as a Break Tag without a call sign. They are to be used only when the operator's traffic will be appreciated by net control and results in more efficient communication. They are to be used wisely, as net control is directed to stop and turn over the net to the breaker. The message that follows a break should be as short as possible.

Definitions and use: "Answer": To be used when you have the definitive answer to a question currently being discussed on the air. "Question": To be used when the answer of a question can't wait; for example, when the mayor is standing next to you and requesting you to get information using your radio. "Info": To be used when information needs to be transmitted rapidly but is not related to what is being said on the air; for example, if an event that net control needs to know about is going to happen in the next few seconds or if waiting for the end of an exchange will negate the value of the information. "Priority": To be used to report an important but non-life threatening situation such as a fender-bender that just happened. "Medical": To be used to report a minor medical incident that affects the operator in some way; for example, having to leave his/her post for a few minutes to walk someone with a minor cut over to a med tent. "Emergency": Only to be used to report an ongoing life or property threatening or damaging incident. You're Call Sign: An indication that the operator has traffic that can wait and does not require the cessation of the ongoing exchange. This tag is an expectation to be put on hold and in queue for transmission. "Break Tags" takes little training. Its use is contagious and comes very naturally. I hope that everyone adopts it. I would like to hear if other groups try it and how it works. It will be a part of our communications from here on in.-- Rod Lane, N1FNE, Section Emergency Coordinator, Connecticut Section n1fne@arrl.net

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

I know I say it every year but let's all of us try this year to do something we haven't done before in Amateur radio. Try a new mode--try a new ARRL program or try a different band. Here's one idea.

Got CW? Thursday is Newbie Night! A reminder that Thursday is "newbie" night for amateurs interested in checking in to Connecticut's oldest continuously operating Amateur Radio net--the CW Connecticut Net on 3.640 MHz. Check-ins begin at 7 p.m. And Bill W1WJB assures all that the process is painless and fun! The CW Connecticut Net is conducted nightly and is an element of the National Traffic System (NTS) -- and as such is a part of ARES when emergency operations are underway. Messages go "at writing speed" on CW, just as fast as on a voice net. Another benefit: CW confers a valuable degree of "data denial" to casual public eavesdroppers. Check-ins is really simple. For a full briefing on the how-to's and what-next's click on this link:

<http://www.StudioOne-CT.com/JobPocket/CWNets.doc>. You say you'd like to join in but you don't have a code key? Not to worry. Bill's thought of that too. Click for photos of a simple home-made key (what enterprising amateurs do best) at <http://www.StudioOne-CT.com/Images/KeyA.jpg> and <http://www.StudioOne-CT.com/Images/KeyB.jpg> Remember: CW CT Net: 7 p.m. DAILY and, Thursday is "Newbie Night" usually conducted by Barb, K1EIR, "a real pro on CW," says her twin sister K1EIC. We're twins for sure but not when it comes to CW!

ARRL Connecticut Section
Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC
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For the latest information, visit our website at <http://www.icrcweb.org>