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# Time Out

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## ***This Month's Meeting***

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave. (Rte. 4), Farmington, CT. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

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

## **ICRC Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date:</b>	December 15, 2006
<b>Time Started:</b>	7:37 PM
<b>Time Ended:</b>	8:28 PM

**Minutes taken by:** Dan Wall – W1ZFG

### **Attendees (Callsign):**

KB1KNV	K1HEJ	N1JWF	K1WMS	KB1KZC
KB1JYX	N1IKM	W1ZFG	KA1KRP	N1JGR

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

### **Secretary report:**

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	KB1JYX
Seconded by:	KB1KNV
Abstain:	

unanimous

### **Treasurer Report:**

No treasurer's report was given, due to the absence of the treasurer.

Motion to Accept:	KB1JYX
Seconded by:	KB1KNV
Abstain:	

unanimous

### **Tech. VP report...**

There was a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of linking our repeaters to the KB1AEV linked system. The most important benefit to us would be to increase repeater usage which would stimulate new membership.

Rick reported that the cavities on the .88 machine had been re-tuned.

Motion to Accept:	N1IKM
Seconded by:	KA1KRP
Abstain:	

unanimous

### **Old Business:**

None.

### **New Business:**

Rick – N1JGR reported that the club will once again be providing radio communications for the annual Boy Scouts Klondike Derby to be held on the first weekend in February at the Tunxis Gun Club. Bring your own lunch for Saturday and your warm clothes and boots. For further information, contact Rick – N1JGR.

Motion to Adjourn:	KA1KRP
Seconded by:	N1IKM
Abstain:	

Unanimous

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## ***Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary***

My warmest wishes to each of you and your families for a wonderful holiday season and safe and happy New Year. Thank you for your support and for all you do to enhance our service.

We will be meeting the New Year with many changes. Indeed, Amateur radio is receiving a lot of thought and attention and there are all sorts of changes and reactions. Reflectors are active with talk about these changes: operating privileges, the elimination by FCC of the code requirement, and Red Cross background checks to name a few. So this month, I will shorten this column and give you my position endorsed by the Section cabinet about how I think together we ought to proceed on some issues. There's lots more news on the ARRL Web Site CT Page so please go to <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=CT> . Thank you.

The following statement is adapted from one written by George Lillenstein, AB1GL, president of NARL. He has written what I think is a wonderful statement of policy for his club which I know he will be posting shortly. I liked it so well that with his permission, I have adapted it to fit Section needs. I hope you will all use it as a framework for discussion and move forward to implement the suggestions here.

### **CT SECTION STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY:**

Although the FCC has eliminated code tests, I encourage all operators to learn and use Morse Code regularly, even though it is no longer a prerequisite for licensing, for the vital reasons stated below.

**BACKGROUND:** The FCC has at long last announced the elimination of the requirement to pass the element one Morse Code exam. This will go into effect when it is published in the Federal Register. As this goes to press no one knows what the exact date will be. Operators holding Technician licenses will automatically be entitled to the same privileges as the former "Technician Plus" licensees. This includes the 10-meter SSB window from 28,300 to 28,500 MHz, and CW windows in the 10, 15, 40 and 80-meter bands. Those taking General and Extra exams no longer need to hold an Element One (Morse Code) certificate. While the Code is no longer required to obtain a ham license, the band plan still limits Technicians to transmitting only Morse Code on their newly allowed HF openings on 15, 40 and 80.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Our collective mission is to create a pool of skilled radio operators. I consider "skill" to include many areas not included in the FCC exams. I encourage all hams to take the ARRL emergency communications courses. I encourage hams to participate in traffic nets, to use digital modes, to practice building home-brew antennas and to participate in other technical projects such as the new 1750Hz tone alerting unit for emergency notification described at <http://www.ctares.org>. And I encourage all operators to learn and use Morse Code regularly, even though it is no longer a prerequisite for licensure. Morse Code is still the best way to get a signal through in adverse conditions. It can be sent using minimal equipment. It can be received and interpreted directly by the human ear, with no electronic or computer decoding required. It is useful in many other situations besides radio. If you are hospitalized with a stroke and can't speak, are trapped under rubble, or trying to signal a search plane with a mirror -- Morse Code is your best bet. Morse Code is useful for the handicapped. And learning Morse Code is a character-builder. It is a challenge nearly everyone can overcome, and feel good about. I encourage those who teach to plan to continue teaching Morse Code and encourage all to use it. I encourage you to implement a beginner's code net on the air, and discuss code operating techniques at your meetings and classes along with the other modes. The code is not going away -- it's just not required for the license any more.

Betsey Doane, K1EIC, Section Manager

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## **Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd**

Next month, I will talk about this Sections goals in the New Year and show you the statement that clarifies CLIDE's position on the use of various digital modes. In the meantime, check out <http://www.ctares.org/clide>.

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ARRL Connecticut Section  
Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC  
k1eic@arrl.org  
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## **Connecticut Yankee Digital Net**

The Connecticut Yankee Digital Net has been meeting on Sunday nights at 8:30 PM on the .88 machine for several months now. Though participation has been sparse, the few die-hards that show up each week have had an enjoyable time conversing on AMTOR FEC mode. The purpose of this net is to experiment with the latest digital modes using sound card based software. At this point, the net is more of an informal training net where people can get practice setting up and using the software and have any questions they might have answered by our "resident experts". Eventually the net will transition to more of a traditional traffic net, with the intent of practicing the passing of emergency traffic using digital modes.

If you are at all interested, come and join us! You need not have any elaborate interface equipment to participate. Simply download the software you like (readily available on the Internet), connect the audio output of your radio, HT, or scanner to the audio input of your sound card and you will be able to "read the mail". In order to transmit, you will need a sound card to radio interface. There are many simple home brew circuits available on the Internet, or commercially made units are available from Buxcomm and West Mountain Radio. Hope to "see" you next Sunday.

*For the latest information, visit our website at <http://www.icrcweb.org>*