
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

February - 2011

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 18th 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

Date:	1/21/11
Time Started:	7:33 PM
Time Ended:	8:43 PM

Minutes taken by: Dan Wall – W1ZFG

Attendees (Callsign):

N1KGY	KB1KNV	N1JWF	W1ZFG	N1JGR
KB1TBL	K1DFS	AB1NH	KA1NDE	N1QLN
N1RMF	K1WMS	W1CKV	KB1KZC	KB1SNL
KB1SNM	KB1RGQ	WB1FNK	KB1PRP	N1HUZ

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	N1KGY
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

unanimous

Treasurer Report:

The club is financially solvent until April, when this year's dues become due.

Motion to Accept:	N1RMF
Seconded by:	N1KGY
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP Report:

The machines are working fine, as usual.

Motion to Accept:	N1KGY
Seconded by:	KB1KNV
Abstain:	

Presidents Report:

Nothing to report.

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

<i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i>

Admin. VP Report:

Nothing to report.

Motion to Accept:	
Seconded by:	
Abstain:	

Webmaster Report:

Website is up and running. Looking good. It is being updated as new material is received.

Motion to Accept:	N1KGY
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

Old Business:

The ICRC has accepted a request to supply radio communications for a boat race to be held on the Farmington River on April 3rd, 2011. There will be 12 checkpoints and 4 safety spots that will need to be manned with radio communications. We are looking for about 25 operators for this event. Plans will be finalized and training will be presented at the regular March meeting.

The date for the annual Fat Tire Classic at Winding Trails in Farmington has been finalized for April 17th, 2011. The ICRC will be again providing radio communications, marshalling, and safety operations for this event. More details to follow at the March meeting.

The work party at the .15 site in Burlington scheduled for January had to be postponed again. There was just too much snow on the ground to get the equipment in. The work party is now re-scheduled for some time in March, or whenever the snow melts enough to get in there.

New Business:

None:

Motion to Adjourn:	KB1KZC
Seconded by:	N1QLN
Abstain:	

Boy Scouts Klondike Derby Update

On Saturday, January 29th, members of the ICRC, along with scout leaders, braved the knee-deep snow to set up the course for the Klondike Derby to be held at the June Norcross Reynolds Scout Reservation in Ashford, CT. the following weekend. The weather was warm and sunny, but the snow was deep! Participating from the ICRC were: Pete – KB1KZC, Steve – KB1RRR, George – N1RMF, Rick – N1JGR, Dan – W1ZFG, Chris – KA1NDE, Dave – KB1TBL, and Billy – N1HUZ.

On Saturday, February 5th, members of the ICRC once again volunteered their time and energy to man the various stations for the Klondike Derby. Despite some initial predictions of bad weather, most of the day turned out fine. There were some periods of light snow flurries in the morning, which turned into sleet by mid afternoon. As temperatures continued to rise, the sleet gradually changed to all rain by late afternoon as the overnight campers were settling into their campsites for the night. More than 100 scouts participated in the two day event.

Something new was added this year. The APRS Trackers that were built earlier as part of an ICRC club project were attached to some of the sleds that the scouts used. This allowed real-time location information for each sled to be automatically displayed on a map screen at the command center. While there were a few initial bugs that needed to be resolved, the overall feasibility of the concept was proven to be successful. Wait till next year!

Participating in the event both Saturday and Sunday were: Pete – KB1KZC, Steve – KB1RRR, George – N1RMF, Rick – N1JGR, Chuck – K1DFS, and Dave – KB1TBL. Also participating on Saturday were: Dan – W1ZFG, Karl – WB1FNK, Reade – KB1UIK, and Dave – KB1HRW.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section Leadership

SM K1EIC ASMs W1FXQ, KD1YV, K1STM
OOO K1DFS SGL K1MK
PIC KA1WPM APIC KA1TCH
SEC N1CLV ASEC K1BRF, N1FNE, K1VSC, AF1HS
STM K1HEJ TC N1KHB

Well, have you warmed up yet? Except for the cost to your electric bills, maybe some of you ought to fire up those amplifiers—some of the older ones used to give off a lot of heat!

Happy New Year to you all! On behalf of the Section leadership, I wish you all the best.

It's been an interesting month for sure with lots of weather-related challenges for all of us. A huge thank you to all the Sky Warn ops for checking into the nets to give reports to NWS. We all sure appreciate KD1LD's stepping up to assume the lead for this program while Steve K1SJW recuperates. Many thanks Jim and get up to full speed soon Steve.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

ADEC Harlan has recruited Roger, NG1R as NCS for Fairfield County Sky Warn. Once Steve gets approval from NWS, I will appoint Roger as EC Sky Warn; he will be coordinator for Fairfield County. A huge thank you to Roger for stepping up and leading this important effort—this is much appreciated. Roger opened his first net during the blizzard.

Thanks to all of you who stood by, went out to EOCs and shelters during the blizzard of 2011 which BTW, I missed. I was in the mountains of North Carolina where it was snowing heavily and barely made it down to Florida just missing the closure of Atlanta Airport! But I was on board by email, on Echo Link and in touch with our SEC which made me fully aware of all the activities and the preparations. Many thanks to you all. GBARC got some PR in the CT Post for their work at the Bridgeport EOC:
<http://www.ctpost.com/default/article/Taking-charge-Finch-other-town-leaders-try-to-953733.php>.
Thanks everyone!

Even in the cold, hams were busy helping hams. Here's a note from the Southington Amateur Radio Association newsletter: "Hams helping hams There was a run of hams helping hams toward the end of the year – trees and limbs being cut down and to manageable sizes so antennas could go up. So far even with all the winds and icing all seemed to have survived! Everything from 2 meters all the way down the freq to the 160 meter band, were repaired or made new and put up. Parts from donated pieces of junk turned into FB antennas." Great work—keep it up!

There has been much work done behind the scenes on our Section web site and calendar. We've had to change servers and ASM Jim has spent hours on handling the details. In particular, the calendar was upgraded and migrating the data was not an easy process. Many thanks to ASM Jim and KA1TCH for hosting the site. The Section calendar is again available so contact KD1YV to post your events. Let's get as much as we can on one calendar so we can all plan effectively.

Dave, WA1CVN and Bill, W1GY will be holding a VE session on February 1, the last class of their technician license course. Anyone is welcome as long as you pre-register. The class is sponsored by Bristol CERT. The exam will be held on February 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bristol Library, 5 High St., in the lower level meeting rooms. To register, email wa1cvn@aol.com (Dave) or w1gybill@aol.com (Bill). If you want to take a test to upgrade on that night, you are welcome to come but you must pre-register so they'll have the materials. If you're going to take the test, please do it right away because time is getting short.

The Chippens Repeater Association / Bristol Radio Club will hold their next meeting on February 4 at 7:30 p.m. at which broadcaster John Ramsey will be guest speaker. Here's a preview: "It will be a power point presentation focusing on Hartford area broadcast history with an emphasis on the technology used by broadcasters over the years. Presenter bio: John Ramsey is General Manager of WWUH Radio at the University of Hartford and Chief Engineer of WCCC AM/FM. President of Ramsey Communications, a broadcast engineering consulting firm, John is also the webmaster of hartfordradiohistory.com and coldwar-ct.com. He was first licensed in 1978 as N1AKB and currently holds the call sign W1JNR. He is writing a book for Arcadia Publishing on the area's broadcast history. John is an excellent speaker and the presentation should be a real treat."

I was pleased to attend the holiday party at NARL at which awards were presented. The ham of the year was awarded to Armando KB1PRP; distinguished service award went to DEC Jonathan KB1KIX; a 25-year award to Chris KA1NDE; public service award to Ethel KB1NMO and Mike N1QLN and Carmen, wife of KB1PRP who did some wonderful photography. Congrats to you all!

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Eric KB1EHE writes the following: “I'm stunned at the rapid growth in popularity of my free public-service HF Propagation tool. Because of the volume of traffic, I've created a short 'n' sweet domain / URL for it:

www.HFpropagation.com

To handle the traffic volume, I've moved the service onto a separate hosting server.

With some creative programming, it all operates in just 3K of code. So it will even come up in a blink on your Smartphone. Please update your current bookmarks and use the above link to access the service. I'm glad everyone is finding the service of value. Happy HF'ing.” So, try it out!

Here's another idea passed along by Chuck K0BOG and QCWA Chapter 149: “On Feb 24th QCWA Chapter 154 in West Palm Springs is celebrating Leo's 100th birthday. For those that don't remember Leo owned and operated World Radio Laboratories in Council Bluffs, IA for many years.

So here's the plan, take a QSL card, write 'Happy 100th Birthday Leo' on it and send it to:

Leo Meyerson, W0GFQ
19 Park Lane
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Gene Pentecost, President of Chapter 154 will make sure they get to the party so everyone that attends can enjoy them.

One last thing, tell every ham you know to do the same thing, QCWA member or not. Spread the word, at every radio club meeting you attend, at every net you check into.” Sounds like a great idea!

The traffic handlers want to get together—we used to do this each year with a dinner in the evening. This year, Bill KB1UUAU and Ethel KB1NMO are coordinating a brunch at The Hometown Buffet West Hartford April 30—more to follow as time approaches. Great—glad to see the interest.

Donna, KB1RPP is stepping down as NM of The Eastern CT Traffic Net—thanks Donna for doing a terrific job in this post. She is going to be NCS of ECTN on Saturday nights and she's also doing NCS duty for Sky Warn. Donna is real interested in digital modes and will be active soon. She has just been appointed Official Relay Station.

Mike W1MCT has agreed to take over as net manager for ECTN. Thanks Mike and congrats. Mike is a longtime member of that net.

Congrats to Ken Bailey, K1FUG on his new staff position as the Emergency Preparedness Assistant at Headquarters. I've known Ken in Guilford for many years.

Mark your calendars now:

March 20 Southington Hamfest sponsored by the Southington ARA.

April 30 Traffic handlers brunch at the Hometown Buffet West Hartford coordinated by Bill KB1UUAU and Ethel KB1NMO.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

May 28 Natchaug Hamfest Vernon CT sponsored by the Natchaug ARC.

June 4 Berkshire Hamfest Goshen CT sponsored by the Southern Berkshire ARC.

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