
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

May - 2005

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, May 20th 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:	April 15, 2005
Time Started:	19:36
Time Ended:	20:45

Minutes taken by: Rick Johnson, N1WGK

Attendees (Callsign):

N1WGK	K1DFS	N1JWF	N1JGR	N1IKM
K1HEJ	KB1JYX	WA1PAT	KB1KZC	

Secretary report:

Due to the fact that Just Java is now closing at 6PM, we will need to move the meetings back to the Farmington Red Cross at 7:30PM on the 3rd Friday of the month...please stop by and join us.

E-Mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	KB1JYX
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	N1IKM
unanimous	

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Treasurer Report:

3/1/2005 Through 4/14/2005

4/14/2005

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Date	Account	Num	Description	Memo	Category	Cl	Amount
	BEGINNING	BALANCE					516.29
3/12...	ICRC2003	738	F & T COM...	F&T			-79.50
3/16...	ICRC2003	739	Postmaster...	POSTAGE	R		-37.00
3/25...	ICRC2003	DEP	... DEPOSIT	DUES	R		605.00
3/25...	ICRC2003	740	CL&P	POLL...	CL&P	R	-100.00
	ENDING	BALANCE					904.79

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	N1IKM
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP report...

The repeater and cans look great...the antennas don't look as good as they should. One of the antennas are bent over. The noise is in a burst after people transmit but nothing during the day. An idea is to change the input antenna from the output...to see if this is going to solve the "mixing" problem.

Upstairs during TOPOFF, a second antenna was run on the roof. The low one for packet and the high one for voice. The reason is for Occam could be hit with the low antenna, running mid range power.

At the moment, KA1OXQ has problems. His UHF link to Mt. Tom is down. WB1CHU-4 in Worcester Red Cross. Standard NTS will be going there. He just put an 07 on his path.

Bob, K1UOL, was a major player in Packet. He is now a silent key. It looks like his packet station may be brought back on line by his son. We shall see what happens.

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

unanimous

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Old Business:

Fingers, don't fail me now...

TOPOFF III:

Introduction – it was a Federal Emergency Preparedness exercise. The first was a disaster, the second was a disaster and the third was the biggest and most expensive TOPOFF to date. It involved Canada, Great Britain, CT, NJ, and others.

There was a rather active discussion regarding TOPOFF. It was very interesting! Unfortunately, I can't keep up with the ongoing discussion and not all of it was officially released yet. You got it...if you were here, you would hear it **FIRST!**

New Business:

Newsletter looks good, according to George.

September 25th, 2005, we will have another bike race in Farmington's Winding Trails. We will be manning it and will need radio operators. Be there at 8:30am, show starts at 9 and goes to 4pm...be prepared to stay there the whole day. It's a LOT of fun...consider going.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	
unanimous	

Mountain Bike Race

On Sunday, April 12th, members of the ICRC assisted members of the Central Connecticut ARC with radio communications for the 2005 Fat Tire Classic mountain bike race held at the Winding Trails Recreation Area in Farmington, CT. Operators with mobile set-ups positioned their vehicles at strategic locations along the race course to record the numbers of the racers as they passed by and also to act as safety operators.

The group successfully dealt with several situations, ranging from the minor to the more severe. A small child was lost on the course. After being located by other bike riders, she was brought to one of our check-points where she was picked up by race officials and returned to her worried mother. The position of another racer who was reported to have a cut on her leg was monitored by the group. (She ended up needing several stitches from the paramedics at the end of the race.) Another racer was reported to have crashed in a densely wooded part of the course and sustained a broken ankle. The operator from the nearest check-point set out on foot with an HT to locate her and radio her location to the paramedics, who extracted her from the woods and brought her to a waiting ambulance for transportation to a local hospital. Never a dull moment! Participating from the ICRC were Rick - N1JGR, Chuck – K1DFS, Dan – WA1PAT, Pete – KB1KZC, and John – KA1WVM. Participating from the Central CT ARC were Rose – KB1DMW, Richard – KB1DMX, and our own Al – N1JWF, who also served as Net Control Operator. A good time was had by all!

As mentioned earlier, we will be doing this again for the September 25th race. This time we had just enough operators to cover the major positions, but for next time we could use several more operators to cover additional positions. Come on out and join the fun!

Amateur Radio Emergency Communication Courses

Greetings from ARRL HQ.

As you have likely heard in recent months, ARRL is now well into the final year of the grant-sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Communication Courses. With this grant, the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. At this time, it's only available to ARRL members.

Students need to enroll during the May or the June registration periods to be eligible for reimbursement under the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grant. That also means that students will need to have completed their course work, and their Mentor/Instructor must upgrade their student status at the ARRL Mentor/Instructor Site to "Passed" by August 31, 2005, to qualify for reimbursement from the CNCS grant.

Registration for the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level I on-line course (EC-001) opens Monday, May 2, 2005, at 12:01 AM EDT. Level II (EC-002) registration opens the same time on the following Monday, May 9. Level III (EC-003) will also open at the same time, but on Monday, May 16. On-line registration (and further information about the courses) is found at

<<http://www.arrl.org/cce>> <http://www.arrl.org/cce>.

ARRL members will be able to register for the remaining on-line course seats at the ARRL EXPO area of the ARRL National Convention at Dayton. Applications and payment via credit card, check or cash will be accepted there.

Registration by mail is also an option. Make the check or money order out to ARRL, and mail it to 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

Please mark the envelope "ATTN: CCE." In the comment segment of the check or money order, write "CCE EC-00# Registration." # means the course number such as 1, 2, or 3.

Include your call sign, current mailing address, preferred e-mail address, age, gender and veteran status, and complete telephone number with your check or money order. Missing information will cause delays in registration, and there is no time left for delays.

For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, 860-594-0340 or send your query to cce@arrl.org. Thank you.

73, Steve Ewald, WV1X

ARRL Field Organization/Public Service Team
sewald@arrl.org

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Two clubs are to be congratulated: The Southern Berkshire ARC on its 40th year as an ARRL affiliated club and The Southington ARC on its 50th year! Certificates will be presented to both clubs in the near future.

Spring is here--we know this for sure when the Southington Ham Fest comes around! Don't forget--it's this coming Sunday at Southington High School. So do that Spring cleaning and bring your goodies to the flea market. ARES members will be able to greet each other and swap tales about their experiences at Top Off at the annual ARES meeting Sunday 11:00 a.m.

And now some words from our SEC Chuck, AB1CR: I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to all of you who made ARES such a successful presence at TOPOFF III! By my calculations, we provided over TWO THOUSAND hours of service to the Red Cross and Connecticut Office of Emergency Management. This time was, by and large, well spent in providing service to our served agencies. Hundreds of tactical messages were handled, as well as some formal message traffic. Packet was used to send reports from the Tactical NCS to the CT OEM Area 4 office, to exchange messages between CT OEM Rocky Hill (which handles messages for OEM Headquarters in Hartford) and the ARES Marshaling Area. Packet and HF (3.965) were used to send some of the formal NTS traffic. APRS was used to track the shuttle vans that were too small to take up capacity with an actual operator. We used a significant number of technologies to make all this happen.

We worked through a number of difficult issues, ranging from the TrackNet repeater going down (we simply switched to the UHF side of that system and kept going) to difficulties mounting radios in ERVs, to issues getting appropriate power to radios, and the ever-present "where do I put my magnetic mount antenna on this fiberglass vehicle? (Answer: Use one of the steel plates provided by K1DAV and GAFFERS TAPE - no duct tape please - to tape it to the vehicle and remove it without damaging the vehicle). There are a significant number of people who deserve special thanks, and anytime one makes a list of this nature some deserving person is sure to be left out. I hope I have recognized the key players, but if I missed someone, please let me know! Hank, K1WTS, DEC for Area 4 - who not only kept things together throughout the planning and the drill, but also arranged for the incredible resource of the Chesterfield Fire Station to serve as our ARES Marshaling area. Wayne - N1CLV - for proving to be the smoothest Net Control Station many of us had ever heard, for setting up the Coast Guard Academy Amateur Radio Station to serve as a relay for the Coast Guard Kitchen (an RF black hole), for making the Recon Rally fun and productive, and for an incredible number of hours spent organizing and preparing for the event. Betsey - K1EIC - Our Section Manager who spent days at the ARES Marshaling Area, handling Net Control duties, handling NTS traffic, and serving as our media liaison. Rod - N1FNE - for setting up the system that allowed an operator in the middle of a hotel to hit the repeater without difficulty, for handling too many technical issues to mention, for taking the overnight shift at Unified Command (and serving as Net Control during that time so the rest of us in the Marshaling Center could get some sleep), and for proving that a positive attitude always wins. Brian - K1BRF - for spending an enormous number of hours before and during Top Off working directly with the Red Cross attending to the many details necessary for our proper credentialing and participation. There were several days during which Brian left his home before most of us woke up to represent us at critical planning meetings. Bill - W1WJB - for inspiring his team and for the "Gang-of-Four" who took the reigns in Area 1 since W1WJB was away on ARRL business during the actual event. Art - K1WMO for his steadfast support and for setting up an opportunity to address his local Ham Radio club where seven people signed up that very night! Mac - W1FYM for all of his work at CT OEM Rocky Hill and OEM Hartford. For all his efforts to ensure a good packet system, Dave - K1DAV for providing the type of leadership that

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

many of organizations can only dream of. For providing the metal plates for the magnetic mount antennas, for leading an ARES MAT (ARES Mutual Assistance Team) and for providing countless hours of service. Rob - KD1CY - Section Emergency Coordinator for Eastern Massachusetts for pulling together an ARESMAT team that provided a significant amount of support for the event: Mike - W1MPN - Section Manager for Eastern Massachusetts for leading the ARESMAT team and taking several long-duration assignments. Harold - WJ1B - for leading the ARRL support of TOPOFF, for setting up the time and space for me to brief ARRL on the event, and for leading by example and taking a shift on one of the Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles. Dana - KB1AEV - for spending the entire weekend before TOPOFF working on 147.345 and when it finally decided it was going to die in spite of all he had done for it, he had a backup machine ready and installed in under two hours. Joe - K1IKE - for the UHF repeater we used for our command net that ran flawlessly 24 hours a day for the duration of the event. This repeater allowed the ARES leadership to keep our planning off of the main radio frequencies and out of the way. All of the repeater trustees and technicians who provided rock-solid communications for us throughout the drill, including the gang at W1EDH who climbed the tower on a cold holiday weekend morning to make sure packet was available to us as well. Above all else, to each and every one of you who kept a positive attitude even when things were clearly not going as we had planned or hoped. In over thirty years of public service, I have never seen 150 people who ALL kept a positive attitude throughout all the trials, tribulations, and successes! This was truly the most impressive group of people I have ever had the privilege to serve with. Thank you all! If you have any comments or suggestions, please write ablcr@comcast.net.

And now from your SM: Wow! What a superb team of dedicated volunteers! Words cannot tell you how proud I am to lead a Section which is responsive, operationally wonderfully competent and thoroughly capable in every other way. Your leaders and I personally know the effort that many of you put forth--your concern for doing the right thing was evident at every stage of preparation and throughout the event. New ops were intent on observing and some were trained well enough to go out and be active in the field. Thank you and congratulations! Dave Sumner K1ZZ visited us on site and complimented this Section on its unbelievably-professional-sounding tactical net and further complimented CT ARES. Thanks to all of you at home who were standing by. In particular, thanks to Van, W1WCG and ASM Dan, KY1F who were monitoring throughout the event ready to handle traffic. See the CT Section Page ARRL Web for more details. More news in upcoming letters. See ARRL Letter Vol. 24 No. 14 April 8, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/04/04/101/?nc=1>. <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/04/06/2/?nc=1>. and <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/04/08/4/?nc=1>

Exciting news: NARL Ham Fest Weekend June 11-12--\$8.00 for the entire weekend-- includes \$1 for ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund! Free admission for all under 16. Featured Guest -- Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement. Dinner Banquet: 5:30 Saturday \$30 (\$25 before May 20) [Reservation Cutoff 6/5]. Send Checks to: Dan Miller, K3UFG 29 Douglas St, Bloomfield, CT 06002 (860) 206-3379. BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY -- Indoor and Outdoor Flea Market Activities at Newington High School, exciting forums, Tours of ARRL HQ and W1AW Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station all from 8:45-3:00. VENDOR SETUP: Outdoor setup begins at 5 AM Saturday & Sunday. Indoor setup begins at 6 AM. ICOM will be an indoor vendor. See <http://www.narl.net> and Section Page for more details. ARRL Connecticut Section Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC kleic@arrl.org

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