
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

June - 2006

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, June 16th 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 MEETING *****

At this month's meeting we will have a presentation about the proper use of Emergency Power Sources given by Rick, N1JGR. With Field Day right around the corner, now would be a good time to find out how to safely set up and operate your batteries and generators for your portable Field Day operations.

Last Month's Meeting

ICRC Meeting Minutes

Date:	5/19/2006
Time Started:	7:32 PM
Time Ended:	8:32 PM

Minutes taken by: Dan Wall, W1ZFG

Attendees (Callsign):

K1DFS	K1HEJ	N1JWF	K1WMS	N1IKM
W1ZFG	KB1KNV	N1JGR	W1LOZ	

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Secretary report:

E-Mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	KB1KNV
Abstain:	

unanimous

Treasurer Report:

No Activity

Register Ending Balance: \$767.65

Motion to Accept:	KB1KNV
Seconded by:	N1JWF
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP report:

Everything works OK

Motion to Accept:	N1IKM
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

unanimous

Admin. VP report...

Nothing to report

Old Business:

The next bike race that ICRC will support will be on September 24th. Mark your calendars!

Field Day plans were discussed. (See section later on in the newsletter.)

New Business:

The purchase of a 6 X 12 trailer for transporting the portable repeater for emergency site communications was discussed. While everyone agreed in principle, the major concern was how to pay for it. More to follow.

Our resident MARS operators, Chuck, Alan, and Rick presented some information about the recent MARS Armed Forces Day operations by the Aux Radio Team using Essential Elements of Information format.

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Motion to Adjourn:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1JWF
Abstain:	

unanimous

Following the regular business meeting, Bill – KB1KNV did a very interesting presentation about the basic concepts of communications over the 802.11b network that the club is beginning to set up. Great job, Bill!

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; State Government Liaison K1MK; Section Traffic Manager K1HEJ; Technical Coordinator N1KHB. The NARL Ham fest this year will be held on Sunday, June 11 at Sphinx Shriners Hall, at 3066 Berlin Turnpike CT Routes 5 and 15. Access is only from the northbound lane of the Turnpike. From South of Newington, go North on I91 to Meriden. Look for signs to Berlin Turnpike, Rt. 15 North. Ham fest is on the right, just past Lowes and Walmart. Remember this is a new location for the ham fest this year. Doors open at 6 a.m. for vendors; 8:00 a.m. for the general public. Admission is \$6; an indoor vendor table is \$20.00; an indoor round dining table is \$15.00; outdoor space is \$10.00. To reserve a table, call Al W1FXQ at 860-667-2864. There will be three seminars including an Introduction to ARES, an orientation to ham radio for the newly-licensed op and a third seminar to be announced. There will be a walk-in VE session at 11:00 a.m.

From the NARL Newsletter:

Roger K1PAI and Gregg K1GMG are leaders in the CT segment of the US National Weather Service's Skywarn program. They are County Coordinator and Assistant County Coordinator, respectively for Hartford and Tolland Counties for Skywarn, the official volunteer amateur radio arm of the government's Weather Service. They spoke at the May meeting of NARL about how they manage a large network of dedicated volunteer weather spotter radio hams who act as on-site spotters. They supplement Doppler radar by reporting actual direction and movement of storms, hail size as coins, like a dime, quarter, etc., and wind velocity such as ripping branches, to meteorologists who can then more accurately predict storm paths. Roger Jeanfaivre, in spite of being sightless, joined CT Skywarn when it began in April, of 1994. He was State Co-coordinator until 2003, when he found it necessary to step back to the County position. Roger's interest in weather dates back to the 1960's. Being sightless, Roger has created a talking weather station, to help gather local information, for the government and to local TV and radio stations. Greg also has built a computerized weather station, and has recently created a two-county weather web page. www.hartford-tollandskywarn.org

At a recent NARL meeting, Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, ARRL Sales & Marketing Manager Discussed and showed a DVD he made of his 2000 Expedition to East Timor. If you missed it, you'll surely want to see it!

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

Chuck, K1DFS is willing to come to your club and talk about his experience working with health officials in the Hurricane Katrina devastation. Contact Chuck by writing cimotes@southington.org and hear his point of view as a health director.

On May 20, W1AA will Activate 3 Sisters Lighthouse Located at Nauset Beach near the Nauset Lighthouse Cape Cod, MA. Members of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society reported the following:

Don N1DT and I will be activating USA975, 528 and 976 on Cape Cod Massachusetts on Saturday May 20, 2006. Operation will start about 7:30 AM EST (1130 UTC) and end about 2:00 PM EST (1800 UTC) We will start on 75 phone above 3980.... we have used 3997 in the past. The next band will be 40 phone tune for us between the nets most likely below 7270...down to 7225.. We also will use 20 phone later in the morning above 14310..... or 17 above 18150. We will return to 40 phone about 1530 to 1600 UTC about noon local time. CW operation will be approximately on the half hour... 7035 10116....14035 18080 plus or minus QRM Stateside QSL via W1AA ... Appreciate a SASE....OK in any callbook or on QRZ.COM... DX QSL via the W1 bureau.

SEC N1FNE and SM K1EIC have made the following announcement about how they will organize ARES in CT: As you know, ARES is a huge program which needs all the support it can get. In order to improve support to you and to the entire membership, Brian Fernandez K1BRF will serve in the capacity of a general Assistant SEC. Thank you Brian! Each week, the SEC, SM and ASEC will have a leadership call which will provide an opportunity to coordinate the activities of the ARES organization Section-wide. DECs and the Section Traffic Manager will once again participate in monthly conference calls to give everyone the opportunity for their needed input and dialogue. Understand that the line of authority does not change: the SEC is in charge. When the assistant SEC speaks on behalf of the SEC, that will be made clear. Once Dayton is over, your SM will be working with the NTS community to plan an NTS drill this summer. An ARES/NTS meeting and picnic following would be nice to see--any ideas? Know that the Section Managers are getting together in Dayton and one thing that is on the agenda is the annual Simulated Emergency Test. Many of us want to see this country return to the former policy of having a single date or weekend for SET in the Spring so as to encourage more options for the NTS community to participate. Some of you remember that years ago, we had a single date in the winter; but then because of real emergencies that came up, that was changed to the Fall. Then the Board changed that policy to allow for flexibility. Many leaders want to return to the former one-day scenario. Clearly, this could be extended to a weekend event like we used to do. That's our news. Thank you for your time and your support.

Speaking of emergency organization and preparedness, Field Day is just around the corner! Please be sure and get your FD plans to TC Joe, N1KHB who, every year, collects the FD locations of clubs and other individuals. Really, let's make this a complete list this year--write n1khb@arrl.net.

The Candlewood Amateur Radio Association has a new home! Ken KD1DD was instrumental in getting their new meeting location at The Stony Hill Fire House where they have been invited to set up a station! The club will be moving in July.

ARRL Connecticut Section
Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC
k1eic@arrl.org

US HOUSE OKAYS TELECOMS BILL WITH BPL STUDY LANGUAGE INTACT

On a 321 to 101 vote, the US House of Representatives on June 8 passed the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006. The House-passed bill, HR 5252, leaves intact language that would require the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), one of two radio amateurs in Congress, sponsored the BPL study requirement, "Study of Interference Potential of Broadband over Power Line Systems," contained in Title V, Section 502 of the complex bill. HR 5252 now goes to the US Senate, where a separate--and very different--telecoms bill, the Communications, Consumer's Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006 (S 2686) is still in committee. "We were concerned that a representative might be persuaded by BPL interests to introduce an amendment to delete or dilute Section 502," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "As it turns out that didn't happen, although we had taken steps to counter it if it had. So for now our focus returns to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee." Sumner says that if similar language were introduced on the Senate side, it would be more likely to remain when and if the House and Senate versions go to a conference committee. Section 502 calls on the FCC to "conduct, and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a study of the interference potential of broadband over power line systems," within 90 days of the bill's enactment. Ross proposed including the study wording while the bill was still in the Energy and Commerce Committee. With the support of Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX), the panel agreed by voice vote to include it when it reported the bill out. The BPL study requirement reportedly has received significant opposition from electric utilities. The United Telecom Council (UTC), a bulwark of BPL support and administrator of the Interference Resolution Web site, last month referred to the study requirement as a threat and urged its members to contact their members of Congress regarding its inclusion in the House measure. A year ago, Ross sponsored House Resolution 230 (H Res 230), which calls on the FCC to "reconsider and revise rules governing broadband over power line systems based on a comprehensive evaluation of the interference potential of those systems to public safety services and other licensed radio services." That non-binding resolution has eight cosponsors. In an April 27 statement, Ross said including the FCC study requirement in the House bill "would guarantee that valuable public safety communications and Amateur Radio operators are not subject to interference." He said infrastructure-free Amateur Radio, "often overlooked in favor of flashier means of communication," can maintain communication in disasters that bring more vulnerable technology to its knees. Ham radio operators "are often the only means of communication attainable in a devastated area," Ross said. "I believe it is imperative that the interference potential [of BPL] is thoroughly examined and comprehensively evaluated to ensure that deployment of BPL, which I do support, does not cause radio interference for Amateur Radio operators and first responders who serve our communities," Ross added. The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will consider S2686 in a markup session later this month. The ARRL has e-mailed members in the 22 states with Senators on the committee, urging them to write seeking support to include similar BPL study language in the Senate bill.

FCC CITES FLORIDA UTILITY FOR INTERFERENCE TO RADIO AMATEUR

The FCC has issued a Citation to Lakeland Electric, a municipally owned utility in Lakeland, Florida, for violating Part 15 rules by interfering with a local radio amateur. §15.5(c) of the FCC rules requires that the operator of an "incidental radiator" must cease operating the device after an FCC representative notifies the operator that the device is causing harmful interference. The "incidental radiator" in this case is overhead power lines.

FCC CITES FLORIDA UTILITY FOR INTERFERENCE TO RADIO AMATEUR-cont

Under an agreement, the ARRL and the FCC cooperate in resolving cases of line noise interference to Amateur Radio licensees. "Power line noise continues to generate the bulk of interference complaints that ARRL receives," says ARRL Electromagnetic Compatibility Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG, who says the League reviews hundreds of such complaints each year. About half of them are resolved promptly by the utilities, in some instances with assistance from the ARRL Laboratory. Gruber says he believes this is the first time the FCC has issued a Citation to a utility in a case involving power line interference to ham radio. The radio amateur involved, J. C. Flynn, W4FGC, told ARRL that Lakeland Electric has been good about fixing routine problems, but he doesn't think the utility personnel know how to resolve cases of power line noise. "I have been 10 years trying to get something done," he said, adding that the noise affects all HF bands. "It is terrible!" Flynn first noticed the power line noise around 1995. Subsequent complaints, assurances from the utility that it was addressing the problem--or that it couldn't find one--and even some FCC warnings followed before the FCC issued its Citation to Lakeland Electric on May 16. Flynn, who's now 84, told the League that as of June 7, nothing had been done to fix the severe line noise at his location, which he demonstrated over the telephone on several bands. He said he especially enjoys getting on 40 meter SSB with a large roundtable of friends. Commented Gruber: "There has been no activity by the utility in resolving this problem in over a year, and Mr. Flynn's noise case now appears to be at a standstill." The League's involvement in the case goes back to January 2001, when Flynn requested the League's assistance. Gruber says the League's role is to provide technical information and guidance to utilities "to keep a complaint from reaching the point of a Citation." In late 2005, Gruber had a chance to check the line noise at Flynn's QTH firsthand. He had taken RFI gear to a Florida ham radio convention for a talk and demonstration. Afterward, on his own time, Gruber--with help from ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager Dee Turner, N4GD--took some noise measurements of his own. Gruber submitted the results of his on-site inspection to the FCC. Personnel from the Commission's Tampa field office followed up with their own inspection before issuing the Citation, which lays the groundwork for a possible Notice of Apparent Liability proposing to fine the utility if the interference problem is not resolved. "I hope this case serves as a precedent for FCC enforcement, where appropriate, in power line noise cases," said Gruber, who's compiled various reports and correspondence relating to the Lakeland Electric power line interference case into a booklet of approximately 60 pages. "While the League will work with amateurs in such cases for as long as it takes," he added, "we hope the FCC Citation will serve as a warning to electric utilities that it's not acceptable to take months or years to fix the problem causing the interference."

HUGE CUBESAT LAUNCH SET FOR JUNE 28

In what AMSAT-NA is calling the largest deployment ever of Amateur Radio satellites, 13 "CubeSats" carrying ham radio payloads are set for launch June 28. If all goes according to plan, a Dnepr-1LV rocket will carry the CubeSats into space from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. A fourteenth satellite in the package will not carry an Amateur Radio payload. The CubeSat project is a collaboration between California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo and Stanford University's Space Systems Development Laboratory. All of the CubeSats set to launch this month were designed and built by students at various universities in the US and elsewhere in the world. Cornell University, Cal Poly, and the University of Arizona each will send two CubeSats into space. Other US schools participating in the mass CubeSat launch are the University of Illinois, the University of Kansas, Montana State University and the University of Hawaii.

HUGE CUBESAT LAUNCH SET FOR JUNE 28 – cont'd

In addition, schools in Norway, S Korea and Japan have built CubeSats for this month's launch. One of the CubeSats, known as SEEDS, was built by students at the Nihon University in Japan. It contains a CW beacon, Digi-Talker and other experiments. The CW beacon will be on 437.485 MHz and use the call sign JQ1YGU. The Digi-Talker experiment will be activated later. All 13 CubeSats will identify using Amateur Radio call signs. According to AMSAT-NA, the satellites will be put into a 500-by-566 km (310 by 351 miles) orbit with a 97-degree inclination. Each tiny satellite is a 10 cm (4 inch) cube weighing just 1 kg (2.2 lbs) into which the battery, transmitter and various experiments are packed. Twelve of the satellites have downlinks in the Amateur Radio satellite allocation between 435 and 438 MHz, and one will operate on 145.980 MHz, so there will be lots of signals to listen out for after launch. None of the spacecraft will carry a transponder. Transmitter power outputs range from 10 mW to 2 W. Handling the complex job of frequency coordination was International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Amateur Satellite Advisor Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, and a panel of experts who assist in frequency coordination and advise satellite builders.

Ralph Wallio, W0RPK, maintains a Web page <<http://showcase.netins.net/web/wallio/CubeSat.htm>> with up-to-date CubeSat status (scroll down).--AMSAT News Service

Full US House Okays Telecoms Bill with BPL Study Language Intact

On a 321 to 101 vote, the US House of Representatives on June 8 passed the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006. The House-passed bill, HR 5252, leaves intact language that required the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), one of two radio amateurs in Congress, sponsored the BPL study requirement, "Study of Interference Potential of Broadband over Power Line Systems," contained in Title V, Section 502 of the complex bill. HR 5252 now goes to the US Senate, where a separate--and very different--telecoms bill, the Communications, Consumer's Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006 (S 2686) is still in committee. "We were concerned that a representative might be persuaded by BPL interests to introduce an amendment to delete or dilute Section 502," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "As it turns out that didn't happen, although we had taken steps to counter it if it had. So for now our focus returns to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee." Sumner says that if similar language were introduced on the Senate side, it would be more likely to remain when and if the House and Senate versions go to a Conference committee. Section 502 calls on the FCC to "conduct, and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a study of the interference potential of broadband over power line systems," within 90 days of the bill's enactment. The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will consider S 2686 in a markup session later this month. The ARRL has e-mailed members in the 22 states with Senators on the committee, urging them to write seeking support to include similar BPL study language in the Senate bill.

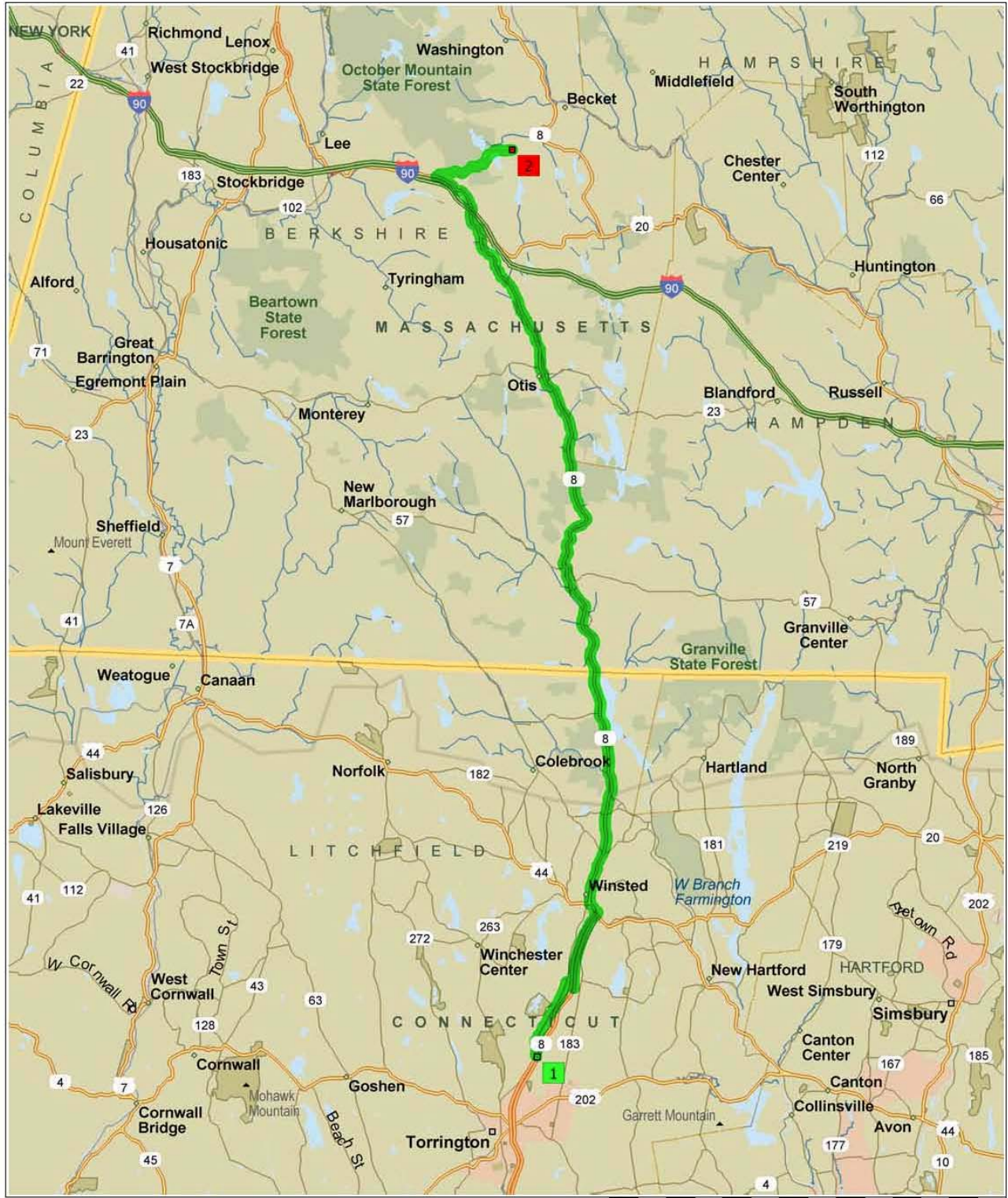
CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, QRZ ICRC?

The ICRC will be participating in Field Day again this year on June 23 thru 25. In previous years, we operated from the Farmington Red Cross EOC with little success (or participation). This year, we are trying something a little different. One of our members has graciously donated the use of a family member's property out in the woods in Becket, MA for an actual out-in-a-field Field Day operation. Plans are to have several transmitters running on HF and VHF using voice, CW and perhaps some digital modes, depending on available equipment and operator participation. For more information, contact one of the board members or better yet, come to the meeting this Friday where plans will be discussed and finalized. See the following maps for directions. NOTE: Because this is private property, the owner has asked us to limit participation to ICRC members only. Stop up and join the fun!

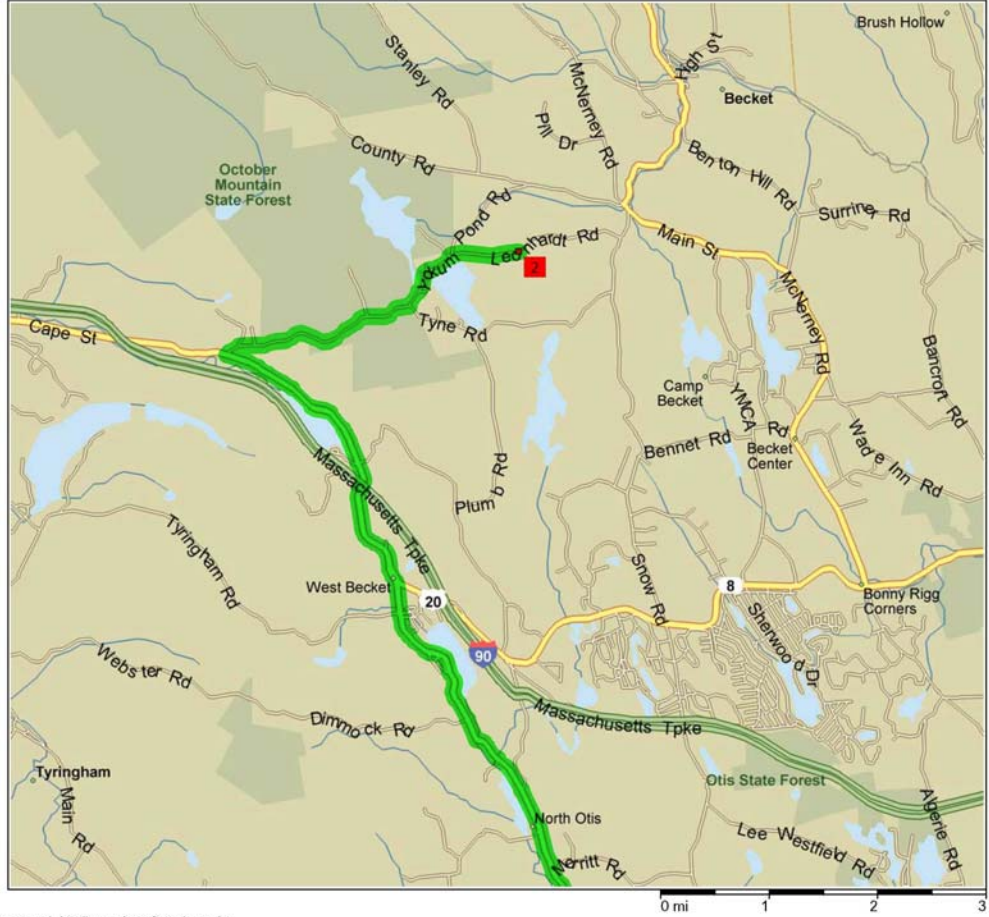
9:00 AM	0.0 mi	1 Depart SR-8 on Local road(s) (West) for 0.1 mi
9:00 AM	0.1 mi	Turn RIGHT (North) onto Winsted Rd for 2.9 mi
9:06 AM	3.0 mi	Turn RIGHT (South-East) onto Pinewoods Rd for 0.3 mi
9:06 AM	3.3 mi	Take Ramp (LEFT) onto SR-8 for 2.8 mi towards CT-8 / Winsted
9:09 AM	6.1 mi	Turn off onto Ramp for 0.2 mi
9:10 AM	6.3 mi	Turn RIGHT (North) onto US-44 [SR-8] for 0.3 mi towards US-44 / CT-183 / Winsted
9:10 AM	6.6 mi	Turn RIGHT (North) onto SR-8 [Park Pl] for 12.7 mi
9:20 AM	15.2 mi	Entering Massachusetts
9:25 AM	19.3 mi	Bear LEFT (North-West) onto SR-57 [SR-8] for 174 yds
9:25 AM	19.4 mi	Turn RIGHT (North) onto SR-8 for 7.8 mi
9:35 AM	27.2 mi	Bear LEFT (North) onto SR-23 [SR-8] for 0.2 mi
9:35 AM	27.5 mi	Bear RIGHT (North) onto SR-8 [N Main Rd] for 5.6 mi
9:42 AM	33.1 mi	Keep STRAIGHT onto US-20 [Jacobs Ladder Rd] for 2.7 mi
9:45 AM	35.8 mi	Turn RIGHT (North-East) onto Becket Rd for 0.3 mi
9:47 AM	36.1 mi	Road name changes to Tyne Rd for 1.5 mi
9:50 AM	37.7 mi	Turn LEFT (North) onto Yokum Pond Rd for 0.7 mi
9:52 AM	38.3 mi	Bear RIGHT (East) onto Leonhardt Rd for 0.6 mi
9:53 AM	39.0 mi	2 Arrive 497 Leonhardt Rd, Becket, MA 01223

SR-8 to Becket, MA

39.0 miles; 53 minutes



SR-8 to Becket, MA



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