
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

July - 2011

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, July 15th 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:	6/17/11
Time Started:	7:54 PM
Time Ended:	9:16 PM

Minutes taken by: Dan Wall – W1ZFG

Attendees (Callsign):

W1ZFG	N1JGR	N1QLN	WY1O	AB1NH
N1ITT	KB1KZC	KA1NDE	KB1SNL	KB1RRR
KB1UTT	KB1DFS	N1RMF	K1WMS	N1JWF
N1KGY	KB1TBL	N1VFZ	KB1VNT	N1LRB
KB1VPY				

<i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i>

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1QLN
Abstain:	

unanimous

Treasurer Report:

Report read to attendees.

Motion to Accept:	N1QLN
Seconded by:	KA1NDE
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP Report:

All repeaters are up and running. The Solar Panel Project has yet to be completed, due mostly to bad weather and tight schedules. We decided to try again on Saturday, July 16th.

The subject of a wind turbine was brought up, but after some discussion it was decided not to pursue it any further, since it would need to be above the tree line to be effective, which would require removing antennas from one of the poles.

Motion to Accept:	N1ITT
Seconded by:	N1JWF
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:

The website is up and running. The new Elmer's net and the current membership list are posted. And as always, we are looking for more content to be posted to web page.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	N1JWF
Abstain:	

Old Business:

- Several members of the club participated in the Jim Calhoun Cancer Challenge Ride in June. Radio communications were provided at various rest stops and SAG vehicles. Participating from the ICRC were Rick – N1JGR, Nick – KB1SNL, Dan – W1ZFG, Mike – N1QLN, and Bob – KB1RGQ.
- The Elmer's Net will begin on Monday night, September 12th at 9:15 PM on the .88 Bristol machine. The course will consist of 6 topics spread over 12 weeks. The first week will be the lesson and the second week will be Q & A for the previous week. The first lesson will be on Repeater Etiquette. The series of lessons is primarily intended for new hams, but will also serve as a refresher for older hams as well. A certificate will be presented to anyone who completes 75 – 80% of the course.

New Business:

- There was some discussion about the club participating in the Dr. Petit bike race on July 17th, but again there would not be enough time to adequately prepare for this year. Other similarly sized events were discussed as possible events for the club, but it was decided that they were too big to be supported by our small group.

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

- It was discovered that the recent changes made to the club's bylaws were never updated into the actual documents. Dan – W1ZFG and George – N1RMF volunteered to update the documents. (Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws have been updated and e-mailed to the Board for review and approval.)
- The club now has a club callsign – it's KB1VWI. But don't get too used to it, it won't be around for long. Before having it tattooed on any body parts, you should know that we are in the process of trading it in for a vanity call. We are shooting for K1CRC. Whatever we end up with, that is the call we will all use when operating at special events like the boat race and the bike race, and of course – Field Day. Thanks to Chuck – K1DFS and Perry WY1O for their efforts to get this going.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1QLN
Seconded by:	KB1RRR
Abstain:	

Think You Have Too Many Radios? – Think Again!

Is your wife always complaining that you have too many radios? If so, show her this. Last month, George – N1RMF and I were doing some on-the-air testing of Walt's new software defined radio in preparation for Field Day. George made contact with a gentleman in the Midwest who was also using the same radio. His call was W9EVT. Go to www.qrz.com and enter his call in the Search box. Allow all the pictures to load (about 40 of them). It's worth the wait. Check out his inventory of radio equipment. Your wife will never again complain that you have too many radios.

Field Day!

On Saturday, June 25th thru Sunday, June 26th, members of the ICRC participated in Field Day activities. We set up three stations for HF SSB and CW. We also had two more stations set up for VHF and digital mode operation. All of our CW operators were unable to attend this year, but we made up for it with almost the same score using PSK31. The star of the show was George's (I mean Walt's) new FLEX-5000A Software Defined Radio. For those of you not familiar with software defined radios, it's a big box with no knobs connected to a computer. All controls and functions are displayed on the computer screen and controlled by the mouse. There was always a crowd around that radio all weekend. We had a beam on 40M and several G5RV dipoles for the other bands, in addition to 2M and 6M beams on top of a portable tower. (2M was dead all weekend, but 6M opened up for a couple of hours on Saturday afternoon.) 40M was open day and night all weekend, which is

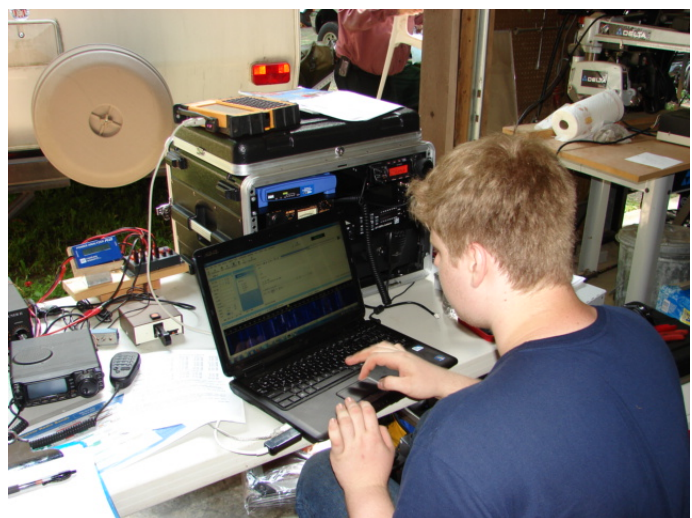
Field Day! – cont'd

where most of our contacts were made. 20M was open during the day and 80M was open during the night. 15M was dead all weekend. 10M was open at the same time 6M was open. Except for a quick shower on Saturday afternoon, the weather held up pretty good, allowing the solar panels to keep the battery bank charged up.

Special thanks go out to Pete – KB1KZC for allowing us to invade his home in Bethlehem again. Also to Pete, Mary, and Rick – N1JGR for preparing and cooking all those great meals and desserts. Also to Andrew – KB1UTT for staying up all night to make all those PSK31 contacts to keep our score up and to Allan – N1ITT for the use of the portable tower. A great time was had by all!

Also participating in the event were: Chuck – K1DFS, George – N1RMF, Dan – W1ZFG, Mike – N1QLN, Walt – K1WMS, Dan – KB1VNT, Steve – KB1RRR, Sue – KB1VPY, Al – N1JWF, Jane – KB1SNK, Jim – AB1NH, and Kurt KB1IXQ.

Our final score was 1456.



Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section News K1EIC SM: The NARL Hamfest and the ARES Annual meeting at the Fest is this coming Saturday, June 18 at St. Mary's School, 652 Willard Ave., Newington. Time: 8 to 2. The time of the ARES meeting is 11:00. Admission \$5 children under 12 free. You can reserve an 8ft table for \$10 by calling Steve Ewald WV1X President 860-594-0265 daytime or email wv1x@arrl.org. Tailgaters also pay \$10. Inside vendor setup is scheduled for 6:00 a.m. Quicksilver Radio and Lentini Communications will be there! .

Narl will have their "drop and shop" table where you can drop off equipment; NARL will sell it for you for a nominal percent of the price.

Here is the program chaired by DEC Jonathan KB1KIX:

9:00 The NTS Radiogram message for Beginners—ADEC George Lillenstein AB1GL

10:00 Situational Awareness and Disaster Intelligence with regards to weather and SKYWARN—DEC Steve Williams K1SJW

11:00 CT ARES Section Meeting—SEC Wayne Gronlund, N1CLV

12:00 New Ham Town Hall (or now I have my license, now what?)—DEC Jonathan Hardie, KB1KIX

The program looks great so come on out and support the Hamfest—the proceeds help support the NARL scholarship fund.

Here's another opportunity for involvement this Saturday: From Paul Iltchenko WF1G: Fellow Radio hams,

We are in need of some volunteers to assist in communications for the Pat Griskus Triathlon on June 18th. The start time is at 7:00 A.M. Volunteers are required to check in at the parking area of the Quassi amusement park in Middlebury at 6:45. You will be assigned a strategic spot on the cycle route. You proceed to that spot and assist in giving feedback of the event, riders and if necessary emergency traffic during the cycling portion of the event. End time is around 10:30 AM. You will be given a volunteer T shirt and can participate in the food and drinks offered. We have been doing this event for over 5 years now and the group of volunteers is getting less and less. Please give up your time and pass this on. You need to be equipped with an HT or a mobile radio that you can use during the event. We use the 147.180 repeater. Please let me know if you can assist. Call or email me with your confirmation. Thanks and 73

Paul Iltchenko WF1G

Waterbury, CT

President East Coast Motorcycle Amateur Radio Club 2001/11 MSF and
CONREP Motorcycle Instructor

The CT Section sends its sincere sympathy to EC Roger Jeanfaivre, K1PAI on the death of his father Roger, K1QPM. K1QPM was a member of the Bloomfield ARC and the CT DX Association since 1961. I know many of you will want to send K1PAI a note: k1pai@arrl.net.

Congratulations to the CT Section on the activity in the Simulated Emergency Test. The Section earned 4393 points in the ARES category and achieved second place in the country in this category. The Section placed third in the country for NTS activity in the Section/local net category with 1792 points. Ct placed first in the New England Division in both categories. My personal congratulations to all operators who participated in this important test. A special thank you to our SEC Wayne N1CLV, past STM Larry K1HEJ, to the DECs, ECs and net managers for your strong commitment and dedicated leadership. Although SET is certainly not a contest, these figures give us a measure of performance with which you can all be proud.

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

SEC Wayne N1CLV and I would like to thank each of you who participated in communications for Angel Ride this year. The organizers were well pleased with your work on this ride which benefits children with life threatening illnesses at The Paul Newman Hole In The Wall Gang Camp. It is a 2-day ride covering 85 miles of countryside ending up at the Camp in Ashford covering 3 of the 5 DEMHS Regions. I need to recognize Wayne for his careful attention to detail and the many hours he spent on communications planning and volunteer recruiting. Thank you everyone!

Congrats to Don Izzo, W1FYG on his recent appointment as emergency management director for Westbrook. Don has worked in emcomm both on the Amateur radio and professional environments for many years. He was a former DEC and SEC in the Ct Section. Good luck Don!

Two special announcements:

(1) The Yankee Peddler Hamfest scheduled at the Holiday Inn North Haven July 23 has been cancelled due to unforeseen problems with the site. This announcement has absolutely nothing to do with the Nutmeg Hamfest in Wallingford scheduled for October 9.

(2) Microwave Update 2011 - October 13 - 15, 2011 -Joint Conference Announcement and Call for Papers: Microwave Update 2011 & the 37th Eastern VHF/UHF Conference. Both events are sponsored by the North East Weak Signal Group at Holiday Inn, 1 Bright Meadow Blvd, Enfield, CT, 06082 USA - This year the premier amateur radio microwave conference and the Eastern VHF/UHF conference will include tours, hospitality, swap session, equipment for measuring and tweaking, banquet and of course technical presentations. Please visit <http://www.microwaveupdate.org/> for the latest updates, registration and hotel information. Contact Paul Wade W1GHZ w1ghz@arrl.org.

Here's some news from EC Stamford and president Stamford Amateur Radio Association Jon WB2RYV: On Sunday June 5, the Stamford Amateur Radio Association (SARA) and members of the Greater Norwalk ARC provided communications support for the Bennett Cancer Center "Hope In Motion" charity bicycle ride. The event is a 50 mile ride from downtown Stamford up through Pound Ridge NY and into North Salem NY.

Fourteen (14) SARA members participated in the coverage, with hams stationed at three rest stops, stationed in SAG vehicles to provide support and/or transport for bicyclists needing help, and hams driving scout/chase vehicles to track progress and look for riders needing aid. Net control was co-located with the Stamford Police Dept mobile command post (at the request of the Stamford PD) so that we could provide them with real-time information on the progress of the ride. Four of the hams participating had not previously participated in public service events. The exceptional turnout allowed us to provide these hams with field training under the supervision of experienced hams.

Our coverage used both the SARA 2 meter repeater (W1EE) and the WECA 2 meter repeater (WB2ZII) to provide direct coverage through the entire route. We would like to thank WECA for its generosity in allowing us to monopolize their repeater during this event for the fourth year in a row. In addition, we also made use of their WB2ZII-15 digipeater near Yorktown Heights and we would like to also thank WECA for use of the digipeater.

This year, we did not use the SARA repeater (a portable 2/440 cross-band repeater that we developed a few years ago) because it was sent north to Springfield with SARA members who deployed there with the Red Cross. Although we did not use the SARA repeater this year, we had made arrangements with the Westchester

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

County Parks Dept for access to non-public areas of one of their parks for setting up the SARA repeater, and we would like to thank them for their cooperation.

This year, we were able to use APRS to track the scout/chase vehicles over the entire course. This was made possible by the WB2ZII-15 digipeater plus receivers set up for us by Jonathan (K1RFD) and James (KC2DHU). We would like to thank them for their assistance. The event organizers and Stamford PD were more than a little impressed at our ability to show them real-time views of vehicle locations.

Great work SARA and GNARC—Betsey

Field Day is almost here. Clubs and others organizing FD efforts, don't forget to post your site on the FD locator <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator> so you can be found by others who wish to join you! As usual, SEC Wayne and I will be visiting some sites throughout the Section. We wish you good luck in FD—stay safe and have fun!

Here are some ideas from our PIC Dana KA1WPM. There are many opportunities to give your FD some PR. This year, you can order a pack of 20 posters to put in strategic places around the community to tell everyone about your event. And at the event itself, you know that you can create a PR table and have someone at that table to explain the operation. Now here's the challenge. Take a picture of your table, get it to KA1WPM ka1wpm@arrl.net. He will create a survey so you all can vote on the best picture. Then we'll give recognition to your group or club and come up with some kind of nice certificate. Are you in? Go for it!

Want more ideas? Don't miss the current issue of Contact, the excellent newsletter authored by Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. Check it out: <http://www.arrl.org/current-contact-issue>.

There are loads of tools available to you at <http://www.arrl.org/media-and-public-relations>.

Don't miss out!—Dana KA1WPM PIC

Your SM has spent some time investigating the resources we have on the ARRL Web site as well as on other sites and accessible software that can be used to produce quality training material. Some of you perhaps listened to my audio bulletin on the Ct Section page of the ARRL site regarding my appointment of Rod Lane, N1FNE as Section training coordinator. The idea is to put short topics together in various categories that pertain to both operating and technical aspects of Amateur radio. I figure we can use different formats: some audio, some audio and video, perhaps some podcasts etc. Of course, I'd like to see some in-person training done as well. Time is limited for many these days so the more flexible we can be about presenting material, the better access you all have to it. I've added some handy links to pertinent material on the Section page on the ARRL Web site. This is a project I'm very interested in working on so we will move forward as our time and resources permit. We won't be perfect, but we'll have fun and give it our best shot! We'll surely be calling on some of you to share your expertise on special topics.

Looking forward to seeing you this Saturday.

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

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