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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

August - 2007

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

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, August 17<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>	7/20/07
<b>Time Started:</b>	8:03 PM
<b>Time Ended:</b>	8:50 PM

**Minutes taken by:** Rick Johnson, N1WGK

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

N1WGK	N1JGR	N1KGY	K1WMS	N1RMF
K1DFS	N1JWF	W1ZFG	W1LOZ	KB1KBV
N1IKM				

### **Secretary report:**

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

<b>Motion to Accept:</b>	N1KGY
<b>Seconded by:</b>	N1JWF
<b>Abstain:</b>	K1WMS

unanimous

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<b><i>Last Month's Meeting – cont'd</i></b>
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**Treasurer Report:**

Previous Balance:		982.66
Checks and Payments	1 Item	-1,060.00
Deposits and Other Credits	2 Items	820.00
Service Charge	0 Items	0.00
Interest Earned	0 Items	0.00
Ending Balance of Bank Statement:		742.66

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	N1RMF
Abstain:	

unanimous

**Tech. VP report...**

The new repeater for 88 is up and running as a standalone right now. The test went very well. 15 is about the same as usual. Discussion on how to hook up both 88 and 15 to work together...

Motion to Accept:	N1RMF
Seconded by:	N1JWF
Abstain:	

unanimous

**Old Business:**

Field day was AWESOME! It was at Winding Trails and everyone had a wonderful time...maybe next time you will go too!

**New Business:**

Bike race, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Winding Trails. Keep your calendars open! If you are interested in helping, contact Rick, [n1jgr@snet.net](mailto:n1jgr@snet.net)

Klondike will be coming up, the first weekend in February

Work party tentatively planned for August 25/26 weekend in Bristol. Please come help if you can.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	N1JWF
Abstain:	

Unanimous

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## **Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary**

Section Leadership: ASMs: N1FNE, K1STM, NK1J, W1FXQ, KD1YV; OOC W1GC; PIC KA1TCH; SEC K1BRF; SGL K1MK; STM K1HEJ; TC N1KHB. I hope this finds all of you having a refreshing summer. I traveled to Minneapolis and during my visit, I visited my twin friends Janet and Janice K0JA and K0JE and had the chance to see Sister Alverna WA0SGJ, formerly director of Handi Hams. While in MN, I attended a convention of The American Council of the Blind and each year, we have our meeting of radio amateurs. This year, we were pleased to have Pat Tice, Director of Handi Hams, WA0TDA speak to the group. It was special to see so many of my ham friends while vacationing!

DEC Jonathan, KB1KIX needs volunteers for Friday, July 27 for a multi-town/jurisdictional exercise. This exercise will cover more than a half dozen towns in Central CT. Volunteers are needed from 7:45 AM to about noon. This is a chance to also test NIMS/ICS compliance. If you can help, please contact Jonathan immediately [kb1kix@arrl.net](mailto:kb1kix@arrl.net).

On Saturday, July 28, N1YAE is coordinating a seminar on Amateur Radio and Public Preparedness at Great Hill Hose Company, Seymour. Time: 8:00am to 12:30pm. "There is concern that we may be facing a very bad hurricane/storm season this year. Although we cannot predict the weather, we can prepare for it. That is the purpose of this symposium. Our keynote speaker will be Frank Krasnicki, K1CRU who will speak about Connecticut weather history." Invited speakers include: DEC Region 2 Art K1WMQ, Sky Warn coordinator New Haven County Glenn, N1HAW, OEM directors from Shelton, Derby, Ansonia and Seymour, SM Betsey Doane, K1EIC, leaders from The Naugatuck Valley Health District, American Red Cross, Griffin Hospital, and Salvation Army. Each of the agency speakers will provide a brief presentation on preparation and communication needs. Those representing amateur radio will present what amateur radio offers and how we can help.

There will be a panel discussion: "How Can We Prepare For the Coming Storm" with all the invited speakers and CTARES staff. A Q&A session will follow. Come on out and support this effort--this is a good chance to meet leaders in our served agencies. RSVP today email [n1yae@arrl.net](mailto:n1yae@arrl.net).

Don't miss the current issue of Connected, our Section ARES Newsletter edited by Bill W1WJB. Download the PDF edition at <http://tinyurl.com/2c52ps> or read it on line at <http://tinyurl.com/34rf8h>. Congrats Bill and to all the writers for a very fine issue.

Nutmeg Chapter QCWA August meeting will be held on August 11 at The Paradise Restaurant, corner of East and South Streets, New Britain. Social hour starts at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30. Contact President Al Cohen, W1FXQ if you are coming: [w1fxq@arrl.net](mailto:w1fxq@arrl.net).

The next weekend, August 18 is the NARL picnic at Churchill Park—you are invited! Bring a salad or desert to share. Contact President AB1GL if you are coming, [ab1gl@arrl.net](mailto:ab1gl@arrl.net). Starting time: 11:00am. I'm hoping that many of you will attend.

August 18 and 19 are the dates for International Lighthouse Weekend. The Greater Norwalk ARC will operate from Sheffield Island. This event is not a contest--it's a chance to get QSL cards toward various certificates. In addition to the lighthouse award programs Sheffield Island qualifies for the following awards: US Islands, Islands On The Air (IOTA), and Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society. GNARC has operated this event for

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

several years and has found it to be a whole lot of fun and very active on the air! Last year, they sent out 500 QSLs! They will operate for 24 hours and will camp out on the island. N1OLO is coordinating this effort which involves quite a bit of detail—they need transportation to the island so they need the cooperation of boat owners in addition to the usual equipment coordination we all know about. Good luck to GNARC--more details as they become available.

Mark your calendars for The Western CT Ham Fest September 16 at Edmond Town Hall Newtown. The RASON Ham Fest is September 29 at The Gales Ferry Firehouse, 1772 Route 12, Ledyard. I'll have more details for you next month.

For all the digital enthusiasts out there, don't forget the ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference September 28-30 in Hartford. This is an international forum for radio Amateurs to meet, publish their work and present their ideas and techniques. Newcomers to the digital arena are welcome! Those who attend will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results and practical applications. For more information and conference details see <http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>.

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ARRL Connecticut Section  
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## **ARRL Board of Directors Acts on Background Checks, Digital Issues at July Board Meeting**

The ARRL Board of Directors took action on two pressing matters -- background checks and emerging digital technologies -- at its [second meeting](#) of 2007, held July 20-21 in Windsor, Connecticut. Invited guests included [IARU](#) Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and [Radio Amateurs of Canada](#) President Earle Smith, VE6NM.

### **Background Checks**

A major concern at this Board meeting was the topic of served agencies and background investigations. The Ad Hoc Background Investigation Committee agreed that pursuing federally recognized credentialing for Amateur Radio volunteers was critical for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service ([ARES](#)) to function. The Committee chairman, ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, proposed that the Board adopt a policy with regard to *Memoranda of Understanding* with the various served agencies.

The Board adopted a policy that "communications volunteers participating in ARRL-sponsored programs should not be required by served agencies to undergo background investigations of any kind," but notes that criminal background checks -- performed by law enforcement agencies -- are "generally acceptable." The policy continues, "It is not reasonable for a served agency to require these volunteers to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports. In negotiating or renegotiating *Memoranda of Understanding* that commit the League to provide volunteer emergency communications support, the League must be assured that these volunteers will not be required by the partner organization to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports."

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## ***ARRL Board of Directors Acts on Background Checks, Digital Issues at July Board Meeting – cont'd***

### **Digital Technologies**

Digital communication was another topic up for discussion at the Board meeting. One question was the extent to which [D-STAR](#) systems fall within the FCC definition of "repeater." Some repeater coordinators do not consider D-STAR to be a repeater.

The Board also thanked existing VHF/UHF frequency coordination groups for their efforts "to promote orderly use of amateur frequencies." The Board requested that such groups "extend their efforts to coordinate digital systems such as D-STAR" and consider the bandwidths actually required for successful operation.

In a related action, the Board thanked those involved in digital networks that serve ARES and specifically the Winlink 2000 development team for creating a system facilitating Amateur Radio's ability to serve society's emergency communication needs. The League affirmed its desire to work with developers of digital systems including Winlink 2000 to improve efficiency, address control issues and enhance compatibility with other users of the Amateur Radio bands.

### ***New Manual Available for MixW***

A lot of us are using MixW for digital mode communications. A relatively new 170 page very comprehensive manual has become available for download. It's in PDF, and runs about 3.5 megabytes.

Copy this link into your browser window: <http://k6ix.net/MixW/> and click on [MixW Manual.pdf](#).

### ***More Info from Field Day***

*The following is a description of the ICRC's Field Day Operation written by Chuck – K1DFS*

Insurance City Repeater Club --- 2007 Field Day, June 23-24, 2007

Where: Winding Trails Recreation Complex, Farmington, CT

When: 10 am Saturday June 23, 2007 to 4:00 pm Sunday June 24, 2007

What: Setup "Off the Grid" (Emergency power) and work whole bunches of fellow hams in the US and Canada.

Exchange: Callsign, Class of Operation, Area

We were: K1DFS, 4A, Connecticut.

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## ***More Info from Field Day – cont'd***

Stations: In the trailer (Rick's) HF, VHF 2 meters, wire antennas  
In the camper (Al's) HF, the BEAM!  
Under the shelter (George's) HF, wire antennas  
In the screen house (Walt's) HF, wire antennas, rotatable dipole

Antennae: G5RV Senior on 160, 80, 40  
3-Band Cushcraft Beam (brand-new) on 20, 15, 10  
G5RV Junior on 40, 20, 15, 10  
Rotatable dipole on whatever (80 – 10)  
Ringo Ranger on 2 meters  
400 ft end fed random wire on 160 and 80.

Tower: Boat trailer fit with 52' foldover, crankup tower and outriggers (Al's)  
With 3-band beam and 2 meter vertical on it. Extra guys when fully extended.

Hams present: Chuck M., Chuck A., Rick, Al, Jeff, Walt, Pete, Bill, Wayne, Dan, George and a cast of 1,000 walkons (non-hams).

Most Valuable Player: Jeff "Speed-Key" Gross, M.D., who racked up the most individual points using Morse Code! "Plans" call for "Speed-Key" to lead the charge from an all-CW rig next year, with the assistance of a "logger" to help him go even faster. Thanks, Jeff!

New Member: Judy W. from Bristol. Judy is a Biologist, Naturalist at Winding Trails and was our Hostess for the weekend. Judy has developed an interest in ham radio and has been awarded an Honorary Membership. Ask her about water bugs, tadpoles, Fishers and Orioles!

Newest setups:

We went with solar panels feeding storage batteries. We had 3 solar panels which kept the rigs going all the time. No time spent on even the generators (3 of them) that we had. We did run the coffee pot on a generator, though, Sunday am. We do like our amenities!

Alan's newly fabricated crank-up, tilt-over, 52 foot tower mounted on a recycled boat trailer was a hit. The tower, fully extended puts the new 3 or 4 band (10, 15, 20 and 40!) up at 56 feet. We put a US flag up on top of the camper for the weekend. Next time it goes up on top of the tower! The new beam was assembled and put up just at dusk on Saturday (The STEALTH Beam).

Walt - The League and Amateur Radio educational handouts!

Food: (This is half the reason for this activity)

Saturday lunch: hot dogs and chips

Saturday dinner: Venison Steaks, Venison Sausage,

Sunday breakfast: Rick's famous Egg Jumble with most of the supermarket thrown in!

Sunday lunch: Pete's famous chicken wings, potato salad, peas and stuff.

How we did:

We did earn some points..... 1660!

Alan supplied the software....

My muscles are killing me!

73,

Chuck, K1DFS



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