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# Time Out

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Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

September - 2005

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

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, September 16<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>	August 19, 2005
<b>Time Started:</b>	19:38
<b>Time Ended:</b>	20:30

**Minutes taken by:** Dan Wall – WA1PAT (substituting for the vacationing Rick Johnson – N1WGK)

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

K1WMS	K1DFS	N1JWF	N1JGR	N1IKM
K1HEJ	KB1JYX	WA1PAT	KB1KNV	

### **Secretary report:**

Secretary was not present to make a report, but e-Mailed report to committee for perusal.

<b>Motion to Accept:</b>	KB1JYX
<b>Seconded by:</b>	K1DFS
<b>Abstain:</b>	

unanimous

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## Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

### Treasurer Report:

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Reconciliation Summary

BANK STATEMENT -- CLEARED TRANSACTIONS:

Previous Balance:		904.79
Checks and Payments	3 Items	-333.14
Deposits and Other Credits	1 Item	105.00
Service Charge	0 Items	0.00
Interest Earned	0 Items	0.00
Ending Balance of Bank Statement:		676.65

Motion to Accept:	KBIJYX
Seconded by:	NIJWF
Abstain:	

unanimous

### Tech. VP report...

Our Technical VP, Rick – NIJGR (a man of few words) reported that the .88 machine will be designated for multimode experimentation purposes. If you wish to experiment with some of the new digital modes such as packet, RTTY, or PSK31, please use the .88 machine.

It was brought up that the audio level on the .88 machine was not quite as high as the .15 machine. Rick will mount an expedition to the Burlington site to make an adjustment at his earliest convenience.

Motion to Accept:	NIJWF
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

unanimous

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## ***Last Month's Meeting – cont'd***

### **Old Business:**

Al – N1JWF is still looking for volunteers to man the radio booth at the Big E this year. Contact him at [aln1jwf@yahoo.com](mailto:aln1jwf@yahoo.com) if you are interested in helping out. All volunteers receive free parking and free admission to the fair.

### **New Business:**

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005, there will have another bike race at Farmington's Winding Trails. We will be manning it and will need 6 or 8 radio operators. Be there at 8:00am, show starts at 9 and goes to 4pm...be prepared to stay there the whole day. It's a LOT of fun...consider going.

Walt – K1WMS will be having a new license class in November for anyone interested in obtaining a Technician Class license. Contact Walt for details.

In an effort to recruit new members to the club, Larry – K1HEJ suggested that we mail information about the club to new licensees. After a short discussion, it was decided that in order to keep the costs down, mailings would be limited to 10 per month in the local area only.

In another effort to boost attendance at club meetings, it was decided to start having activities/speakers after the business meeting. Scheduled so far : At the October meeting, Chuck – K1DFS will be giving a demonstration of Packet Radio using the latest in Sound Card software. Bring your laptops and your TNC's so we can bounce some packet signals around the room to each other. At the November meeting, Bill – KB1KNV will be giving a demonstration of the latest in WiFi technology using 802.11 equipment. Anyone interested in using our soon-to-be installed WiFi 2.4 GHz radio network should plan on attending.

Motion to Adjourn:	KB1JYX
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	
unanimous	

## ***Nominations for Officers/Board Members***

Once again it is time to think about elections for next year. I will be accepting nominations for officers and board members at the September meeting and up until the October meeting, where the slate will be presented. Anyone who would like to nominate someone (or themselves) for any office or board membership may do so either at the September meeting or by e-mailing me the information.

Dan Wall – WA1PAT  
Chairman – Nominating Committee  
[walldan@att.net](mailto:walldan@att.net)

## **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; Section Traffic Manager K1HEJ; Technical Coordinator N1KHB.

AB1CR Stepping Down.--SEC Chuck, AB1CR wrote the following to the CT ARES reflector: "It is with great sadness that I tell you that I am unable to continue in the SEC position due to health reasons. I had hoped a leave-of-absence would suffice, but I really just cannot carry the SEC position any longer. I plan to keep my Official Emergency Station status and would like to continue to work on interoperability with our served agencies. I will certainly continue to participate in ARES activities as my health and schedule allow. I appreciate the support and friendship of all of you, and look forward to seeing you soon. Thank you for all you have done to support me and to support ARES in Connecticut. A lot has been accomplished in the last twelve months, and I appreciate all of the work that everyone put into making these accomplishments happen.--73-Chuck"

I wish Chuck, AB1CR a full and speedy recovery of his current illness. He asked for a leave of absence from the SEC position until September and I had hoped that he could come back and continue the fine work leading the ARES program. Chuck's need to resign saddens me very much; illness is unpredictable and sometimes difficult. I would like to publicly thank Chuck for serving as our SEC. I really had fun working with him this past year on many very successful projects. Thank you for your time, energy, creativity and enthusiasm Chuck. Take care of yourself and please keep in touch.

Until I can appoint a new SEC, Rod, N1FNE has agreed to serve in this capacity. Please address mail to Rod Lane, n1fne@arrl.net. Contact info: 78 Loper Street, Southington, CT 06489-1812; (860) 621-9967 Home; (860)302-1060 Cell; (860) 766-2281 Work. Thank you all for the work you do for Amateur radio in CT.--Betsey K1EIC SM

Test Your Emergency Power Capability. -- AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC AWARENESS DAY EMERGENCY POWER OPERATING EVENT SET FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 - Amateurs will participate in a 15-hour operating event on emergency power. On that day, amateurs make contacts with others who are also using only emergency power to demonstrate preparedness for emergency communications for the public. Emergency power can be any source that is completely separate from commercial mains: solar panels, generators, storage batteries, alternators powered by bicycles, battery packs in HTs, and wind power, for examples. Operation can be from home or field. Times: 9 AM Eastern (6 AM Pacific) on Saturday, September 17, 2005, until 12 AM Eastern (9 PM Pacific). All bands and modes included. The exchange is up to the individual operators but can include the traditional signal report, location, and the type of emergency power being used, for examples. W1AW will be QRV on generator power. A special QSL card will be available to those stations using emergency power that contact W1AW. (A regular QSL card will still be available to those stations that wish to contact W1AW, but who are not using emergency power). Please include an SASE with your card request, and please indicate the power source that was used (if applicable). (See Sept. QST, p. 49.)

New Electronic Newsletter on Emergency Communications Published by ARRL. -- Any ARRL member with an interest in emergency communication or public service activities can sign up online to receive The ARES E-Letter via e-mail as it is issued. League Members sign up for e-mail delivery of the newsletter by way of their member data page. [<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>]. A member would click on this selection: "The ARES E-Letter (monthly public service and emergency communications news)" among the several e-mail notification options.

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

Non-ARRL members can go to the ARRL Web site to read the current and past issues, but can't actually sign up for it to be delivered via e-mail. The Web site address is: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/>. The editor is Rick Palm, K1CE who I know many of you remember as the former Manager of The Field and Educational Services Dept. Rick retired to Florida and believe it or not is a full-blown RN working in the critical care unit of a big city hospital!

ASM Brian, K1BRF reports that there's another letter worth reading as well and you can check out the latest at: <http://www.emcomm.org/em/july2005.htm>.

In other news, OES Hank, KA1WTS, reported at the recent RASON meeting that on September 16, at New London's Boat, Books, and Brushes festival, ARES will have a special event station on board the boat the Coast Guard ship the Eagle. Contact DEC Wayne, N1CLV@arrl.net, if interested in operating.

Attention Club Leaders.--STM Larry, K1HEJ attended the New England Division Cabinet Meeting in Putney, VT. In discussing our annual booth at the Big E, he learned that one area club sends volunteers each year to man the booth (usually they take a full day) and each year they pick up the list of people who have requested more info on how to become a ham. From that contact info, that club fills a license class (around 20 people). Of last year's group, 18 passed their license exam. The club gives their "new bees" 1-year free membership, as well as provides follow up to help "New bees" get on the air. Your club can have the same advantage by sending volunteers to man the booth. This year's exhibit runs from September 17-October 2.

This year, as in the past, the Eastern States Exposition, or "Big E"; in West Springfield Ma is offering Amateur Radio a most visible and fun-filled opportunity. The Northeast's biggest Exposition and Fair will again provide a booth for hams to demonstrate our unique hobby and public service activities to the more than 1.3 million members of the general public that attend this 17 day event. We need ham radio volunteers from the Northeast region to man the booth daily from 10 AM to 10 PM during this period. In return for generous space to set up our gear and antennas, the Exposition organizers ask only that the booth be manned and operating each day. Six (6) hour operating shifts are planned for weekdays and 4 hour shifts for weekend days. This year, as before, we will set up and operate an HF Special Events Station W1E from the booth area, for making and logging amateur radio QSO's with hams worldwide. We will also maintain a traffic handling capability via HF and VHF-UHF, including a packet node and BBS, for sending NTS messages. The general public will be afforded the opportunity to send free ham radiograms from the Fair to demonstrate our public service message handling skills and readiness. In keeping with our expanded role as emergency communicators, the public service stations will be set up EOC-fashion, as we would in anticipation of a call to duty in an actual emergency. A Booth Committee, chaired by Al Gerke, N1JWF ([aln1jwf@yahoo.com](mailto:aln1jwf@yahoo.com)), will coordinate station setup and operations at the site. A Week Captain will be on duty each morning to make sure that the demonstration activities are proceeding smoothly and that the Booth is covered per the fair requirement. The Week Captain will also help familiarize new volunteers with station equipment, operating procedures and assist in solving problems that might arise. Support for volunteer operators will be available during all shifts. The Booth committee will have one or more "live" ham volunteers monitoring a wide-area FM repeater in the Fair area throughout the day should questions arise.

One final note: tnx to Brian, K1BRF for keeping us thoroughly updated on the progress of Irene and thanks to all of you for preparing in advance.

ARRL Connecticut Section  
Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC - [kleic@arrl.org](mailto:kleic@arrl.org)

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## ***Hurricane Katrina – What we can do, what we can't do.***

As you all undoubtedly know, the disaster that is Hurricane Katrina has devastated a considerable area of the southern United States. Think carefully and see what you can contribute. It's a time for all of us to pull together, in Connecticut and the nation.

I've already received several calls asking what can be done by ARES members to help with the recovery. Be sure to read both the do's and the don'ts.

### ***The Do's***

First of all, as citizens, we can contribute financially to the relief efforts. There are a number of agencies that are capable of getting aid to the disaster victims. You can check out a list at <https://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=18473>

It is likely that the disaster recovery operations will last for some time. Multiple groups of volunteers will be needed to cover the needs in many affected areas. This will have to be on a rotating basis. Volunteers will have to be spelled to return to their jobs and lives. This may go on for some time and it's likely that amateurs closer to the areas of need may be called first.

(1) Get involved. If you not currently an ARES member, sign up! We can't find you unless we know who and where you are. Go to <http://www.ctares.org/> and fill in a membership form. List your capabilities. Get it to your EC or DEC. Their callsigns and emails are on the web site.

(2) Stand by on NTS local and Section nets for possible traffic coming into Connecticut from the affected area. If you haven't done much (or any) traffic handling, get trained now. The NTS nets are a great example of how traffic is passed, and listening and participating to them is a great way to learn and get familiar with the pace, terminology, and the skills necessary to be an effective traffic handler. A list of some of these nets are available on the CTARES web site under the heading of Net Information. Again, <http://www.ctares.org/>

(3) If you haven't taken the EMCOMM courses offered by the ARRL, do it as soon as you can. Only qualified personnel will be able to assist, and training is a necessity. For those of you who have taken some of the ARRL training, FEMA also has courses that will familiarize you with the Incident Command System and the National Incident Management System. IS-100, IS-200 and IS-700 are recommended. They can be seen at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/crslist.asp>

(4) Preparations other than training include personal preparation. If you plan to travel, you will absolutely need to be very self-sufficient. You'll need to have everything you need for your own personal maintenance. Clothing, toiletries, medications, materials like pens, paper, NTS forms, batteries... well, the list goes on. Get these items together and double check your "GO Kit". Set it up and operate it. That's how you'll find out what does and doesn't work. Test everything.

(5) Get to your EC and DEC and make sure they know when you're willing, ready and able.

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## ***Hurricane Katrina – What we can do, what we can't do. – cont'd***

(6) Get other hams you know involved. Lead by example. I'm sure you know quite a few hams. Don't assume they know about what training is necessary or how to obtain it. Pass this message along and get them signed up with Connecticut ARES. Study and learn together. It makes the job easier, more fun, and a group that learns together will make a more cohesive and efficient unit when they operate together.

(7) Once you're trained, if you really want to offer your help immediately, and completely feel up to the task, go to the web site in the insert below and read the text at <http://katrina.ab2m.net/viewinfo.php> It's very sobering and will give you the situation "on the ground."

*From the ARRL web site.*

Hurricane Katrina Volunteer Signup Database Now Open (Aug 31, 2005) - The Hurricane Katrina Disaster Communications Volunteer Registration & Message Traffic Database <<http://katrina.ab2m.net/>> now is open. Site Administrator Joe Tomasone, AB2M, set up the database, and South Texas ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Reimer, KK5CA <<mailto:jerryreimer@charter.net>> ,is handling volunteer coordination. This site is intended for Amateur Radio volunteers to sign up for communication support duty on behalf of Hurricane Katrina relief and recovery efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi. <http://katrina.ab2m.net/>

### ***The Don'ts.***

(1) DO NOT SELF ACTIVATE. This means don't try to just show up at a disaster area and try to deploy. This will only frustrate you and probably ensure that any help you try to provide will be rejected. Civil authorities will take a dim view of someone they don't know showing up all "gung ho." There is a process and chain of command. It can't be circumvented. It's for your and everyone else's safety. These wildcards may not help at all, and just add to the list of people needing assistance.

(2) Don't think that just because the call hasn't already gone out, that it won't. Rotating teams of volunteers will be needed to support the relief operations. Those closer to the event will determine what they need and when.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP has put out an inspiring statement outlining our upcoming challenges and opportunities. I encourage you to go to the ARRL web site and read the message. <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/09/01/2/?nc=1> If for some reason you can't get it, I'll be glad to email it to you.

You'll be seeing a lot of information on the reflectors and on the news. Information will be coming out of the disaster areas and once the civil authorities decide what's needed and when, we'll hear it.

The mission of amateur radio is to be ready to assist when called. Besides, every preparation we make now can only ready us for disasters closer to home.

Now is the time to prepare. A huge disaster has struck our fellow citizens, and for some, our friends and family. Our opportunity to serve is upon us.

Rod Lane - Amateur Callsign N1FNE - ARESR Section Emergency Coordinator  
ARRLR Connecticut Section - 78 Loper Street, Southington, CT 06489-1812  
Grid:FN31no (860) 621-9967 Home, (860) 302-1060 Cell, (860) 766-2281 Work

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### ***Antenna Party – Part 3***

Once again, on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, our intrepid band of volunteers assembled at the .15 repeater site to do some more work on the repeater's antenna system. Initially it looked like we might get rained out, but the rain stopped early enough to get everyone up to the site. Eventually, the sun came out and it turned out to be quite a nice day. With one eye fixed on the sky, Chuck – N1KGY ascended the tower to try and formulate a plan of how to remove and lower the old antenna system without putting a hole in the roof of the house (or any of the ground crew, either). After inspecting the antenna, Chuck discovered that the hardware was either too rusted or made inaccessible by subsequent installations of other antennas to safely remove our antenna. After several hours of discussion between climber and ground crew, a feasible plan was formulated. Unfortunately, by that time, the sky began to darken and the wind picked up to the point where it was no longer safe to have a climber on the tower. So the mission was postponed to a future date, possibly the weekend after Labor Day. Thanks go to the members of the ground crew: Rick – N1JGR, Chuck – K1DFS, Dan – WA1PAT, Larry – K1HEJ, George – KB1JYX, and Al – N1JWF for giving up another day out of their weekend and of course, to Chuck – N1KGY for spending another 5 hours up on the top of the tower.



The day starts out clear and calm.





Then the winds and clouds came up.



Our intrepid ground crew keeping a sharp eye on our climber.



Views from the top of the tower.

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