

Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

September - 2007

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, September 21st 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:	8/17/07
Time Started:	7:40 PM
Time Ended:	8:50 PM

Minutes taken by: Rick Johnson, N1WGK

Attendees (Callsign):

N1WGK	K1HEJ	W1ZFG	K1WMS	KB1KZC
N1IKM	KB1KNV	W1LOZ	N1RMF	N1JWF
Judy (not yet a ham)	K1DFS			

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	N1RMF
Seconded by:	KB1KZC
Abstain:	

unanimous

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Treasurer Report:

Previous Balance:		742.66
Checks and Payments	1 Item	-100.00
Deposits and Other Credits	2 Items	175.00
Service Charge	0 Items	0.00
Interest Earned	0 Items	0.00
Ending Balance of Bank Statement:		817.66

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	N1IKM
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP report...

New repeater is in place, looking to tie them together soon on VHF and maybe Micro?

Packet is stand-alone, Larry is not recommending that we tie in with anything.

Other discussion ensued about Packet and possibly connecting to other machines around the area

Red Cross has some backup plans for packet and data transmission, etc.

Alan offered to climb both towers (☺) but we are doing a Burlington climb next weekend.

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	N1IKM
Abstain:	

unanimous

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

NARL picnic tomorrow Churchill Park, Newington
Welcome, Judy...it looks like she will be joining us.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

Unanimous

FCC Issues Two Citations in Longstanding Power Line Noise Case

The Federal Communication Commission's Dallas Field Office issued Citations on July 25 to two utilities in a longstanding power line noise case in Lubbock, Texas. Bryan Edwards, W5KFT, of Lubbock, first reported the interference concerning the two involved utilities, Lubbock Power & Light (LP&L) and Xcel Energy, as early as 1994. The record shows that the FCC Dallas Field Office clarified the FCC rules with regard to power line noise for LP&L as early as 1998, and issued three letters to LP&L in 2003 and 2004. Xcel Energy was first issued an FCC letter in 2004. The Citations to the Lubbock utilities said that due to an investigation conducted by the FCC's Dallas office on May 22-25, 2007, they found that both LP&L and Xcel "caused harmful interference to the reception of amateur communications to amateur licensee W5KFT in Lubbock, Texas." The FCC directed both LP&L and Xcel, pursuant to the Commission's Rules, to provide documents and information within 10 days of their respective Citations. In its undated Response to the FCC's Citation, LP&L stated that it "does not admit to and specifically denies any violation of the [Communications] Act [of 1934] or any rule pertaining thereto," but "in order to comply with the...Citation, the City of Lubbock files this response." As a result of the Citations issued by the FCC, LP&L's Response stated that representatives from "Lubbock Power Light met with Paul Leonard, P.E., Area Engineer with Xcel Energy to discuss the alleged findings regarding harmful interference to the reception of amateur communications by amateur licensee W5KFT in Lubbock, Texas." Xcel's Response, submitted via their attorney, pointed out that the Citation acknowledges "that the source of harmful interference to amateur licensee W5KFT is emanating from more than one power company." Xcel also alleges that it "has been working with amateur W5KFT for a number of years in an effort to identify the source of, and a possible resolution for, the harmful interference he is experiencing. Xcel Energy has a good working relationship with the licensee and has coordinated with him on numerous occasions in attempting to resolve his interference problems." Xcel goes on to assure the FCC that it will "retain an outside technical consultant to provide an unbiased assessment of whether the harmful interference to W5KFT is attributable to Xcel Energy's power system and if so, what corrective measures would be required." Edwards reported that on Thursday, August 30, he received a phone call from Paul Leonard, head of Xcel Energy in West Texas. Edwards said he was told that Xcel has contracted with Mike Martin, K3RFI, to come out to Lubbock in October to work on the line noise. "Leonard said they tried to get LP&L to participate with them and Mike, but they refused to do so," Edwards said. Martin owns and operates RFI Services, a firm dedicated exclusively to RFI locating and training. He has been locating interference sources for more than 25 years, solving an average of 500 complaints a year, according to the ARRL Lab. Martin has also given power line interference workshops at ARRL Headquarters. ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, said, "I am pleased to see the FCC taking a strong enforcement step in this case. It has gone on for a long time, and this Citation should serve to finally get things resolved. It is unfortunate that some of the power line cases the ARRL is handling can't be resolved without the FCC taking formal action, but I expect that electric utilities across the country will now take notice of this case."

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 – W1ZFG, Chairman – Nominating Committee, walldan54@att.net

Burlington Site Work Party

On Sunday, August 25th, a work party was scheduled at the Burlington repeater site. The plan called for some antenna work on the poles, removing defective batteries from the west blockhouse, replacing them with good batteries from the east block house, and a general clean-up of the site and buildings. However, only four people bothered to show up. This meant that the tower work was left un-done, and no batteries were moved. (Four middle-aged guys, all with bad backs, could not move 500 pound batteries around without proper equipment or at least a lot more hands.) A general clean-up of the two buildings was accomplished (after Rick evicted the two snakes who had taken up residence in the west blockhouse.) Participating in the event were Rick – N1JGR, Larry – K1HEJ, George – N1RMF, and Dan – W1ZFG.

We all know that ham radio is just a hobby and we all have busy lives to take care of, but a small amount of work is occasionally required of the membership. If you want those machines to be up and running when you need them, especially in case of an emergency, then a little more response is going to be needed for the next work party. Those batteries need to be swapped before the first snow, otherwise the machine won't make it through the winter.

Editors Note: My apologies to Rick for calling him "middle aged". But when you average him together with Larry, the whole group came out to "middle-aged".