
Time Out

Publication of the ICRC, Inc.

December - 2006

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, December 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:	November 17, 2006
Time Started:	7:35 PM
Time Ended:	9:00 PM

Minutes taken by: Rick Johnson, N1WGK

Attendees (Callsign):

K1DFS	N1KGY	K1HEJ	K1WMS	KB1JYX
KB1KZC	W1ZFG	W1LOZ	N1WGK	N1JWF

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

Secretary report:

E-mailed report to committee for perusal.

Motion to Accept:	K1DFS
Seconded by:	W1LOZ
Abstain:	

unanimous

Treasurer Report:

Register Ending Balance: \$1,117.41. Dues for the 2006/2007 year were due this past April. If you have not yet paid your dues for this year, please send them to Chuck as soon as possible.

Motion to Accept:	KB1KZC
Seconded by:	KB1JYX
Abstain:	

unanimous

Tech. VP report...

Reported by K1DFS for the vacationing N1JGR: The .88 machine is still operating OK without a preamp and with a bad can in the duplexer. Kudos to the tech crew from Pete – KB1KZC. “The repeater sounds better than ever.” It was decided to send out both defective preamps for repair, given the low cost of the repairs (\$25 each). There followed a discussion of gain versus duplexer trade-offs. There also needs to be some work done on the battery packs at the .15 site.

440 is functioning as a standalone. The amplifier needs to be tuned and once tuned will get us 70 watts.

PACKET: The 07 node is back up. There was also a rather heated discussion about packet and it's future here at the club. George-KB1JYX made a motion that we cease any further development energies on packet as a club, seconded by Al-W1LOZ. There was further discussion...it seems like we don't want to completely abandon it. We want to continue the ability to use it, but not put a lot more effort into it. Unanimous.

Motion to Accept:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

unanimous

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Al-W1LOZ motioned to discuss the possibility of linking repeaters and put a 77.0 PL to match the PL of the rest of the system, seconded by Pete-KB1KZC. The Technical Committee will deal with Dana. The hardware is ready to go, just adjust the antenna. Unanimous.

Last Month's Meeting – cont'd

ELECTIONS:

Motion to close nominations,

W1LOZ motions that the secretary cast one vote for the entire slate. K1DFS seconds for board members...N1WGK votes for entire group, done...

K1DFS moves to keep the same officers, N1KGY seconds. N1KGY motioned to have secretary cast one vote to elect all officers, seconded by K1DFS. N1WGK cast one vote for officers, done.

All officers and board members are now voted in, as per N1WGK's 2 votes.

Motion to Adjourn:	N1WGK
Seconded by:	K1DFS
Abstain:	

Unanimous

Election of Officers/Board Members

The following were elected at the November meeting:

Executive Board

President: Larry K1HEJ
Admin. VP: Dan W1ZFG
Tech. VP: Rick N1JGR
Secretary: Rick N1WGK
Treasurer: Chuck K1DFS

Board of Directors

Andrews, Les	KA1KRP	Castrogiovanni, Rick	N1JGR
Motes, Chuck	K1DFS	Johnson, Rick	N1WGK
Paradis, Pete	KB1KZC	Gerke, Al	N1JWF
Ayers, Chuck	N1KGY	West, John	N1IWT
Buck, Larry	K1HEJ	West, Anne	K1STM
Johnson, Roy	N1IKM	Carbonell, George	KB1JYX
Wall, Dan	W1ZFG	Lisitano, Alan	KB1JYY
Reyor, Bill	KB1KNV		

Dan Wall – W1ZFG

Chairman – Nominating Committee

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section Leadership: ASMs: N1FNE, K1STM, KY1F, NK1J, W1FXQ; Bulletin Manager KD1YV; OOC W1GC; PIC K1SFA; SEC K1BRF; SGL K1MK; STM K1HEJ; TC N1KHB.

Nothing can come before a wish from me and the entire leadership team for each of you to have a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday. We indeed have a lot to be thankful for and in CT Amateur Radio, we are very blessed with many excellent resources, talented volunteers, very active clubs and ARRL programs, a committed leadership team and wonderfully enthused, skilled mentors and operators. This month, I have special messages from both the SEC and the STM.

SEC Brian Fernandez, K1BRF has this exciting new project to share: Prepare yourself for instant emergency notification and have fun building a new project at the same time! Connecticut ARES is going to adopt a 1750 Tone Alert System. Using this system we will be able to activate and alert all ARES personnel (and other hams) across the State instantly even if the telephone and internet systems are down. I'd like to thank DEC Chuck Rexroad AB1CR and ASEC Rod Lane N1FNE who developed this small, simple and very inexpensive system that you can build which will sound an alarm, light a light or turn on a speaker whenever this special tone is broadcast over the Linked Repeater System. So when ARES changes activation levels or something important occurs you will know immediately. The description and utility of the system, construction directions, the schematic and a parts list has been put on the CT ARES website

www.ctares.org . It is based on a \$9.95 TD-1 kit from Ramsey Electronic which takes about 30 minutes to put together just by following their very clear and well-illustrated directions. Anyone from beginner up can build this. I urge you to visit <http://www.ctares.org>. Go to the tabs on the left. Click the seventh one down labeled "ARES Tone Alerting System"; it has a special new red-flagged tab in the left column (thanks, Art!), The pdf file frame will open on the right. On the PDF toolbar on top, click the second icon to print the project. We want to have this capability in as many hands as possible --- so have some fun and prepare for an emergency at the same time. Get started building this today!

Have fun!--Brian, K1BRF SEC CT

If you wish to download the file to your own hard drive, just right click the link, click on to "Save Target As"; and follow the prompts. I urge you to not delay and make this an important winter project. Why not make it a club tech night project!--K1EIC SM

And now a note from our STM Larry K1HEJ: 1. NM Greg N1AEH announces that the CT Section CW Net Connecticut Net or CN will move to 3.533 MHz on Dec. 15. due to the new FCC regulations change on the CW sub band on 80 meters. 2. W1WCG has advised he and his HF forwarding partners will also be moving to the new Digital sub-band on 80 Meters. Van will be moving his Winlink classic 80-meter operation from 3.622 to 3.592 with back-up frequency 3.594.

Our clubs continue to be real active as the holidays approach. The ICRC in the Hartford area operates a digital net thru a voice repeater every Sunday at 8:30 p.m. local on the 146.88 machine. The object of the net is to allow those interested in digital modes that can be used thru voice repeaters to gain experience in doing so. The net opens on voice to get check-ins and to take questions and then switches to one or more of the error correcting digital modes to give participants a chance to test their equipment and to get practice sending and receiving files. Several members of the net can also send and receive RTTY if someone is interested in testing that mode. The capability to operate digital modes through voice repeaters can be useful for simplex operation should the need arise. Join the fun!--K1HEJ President ICRC, and STM CT

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary – cont'd

NARL members participated in JOTA at W1AW. A couple of Scouts completed the requirements to earn the Radio Merit Badges. All Scouts attending were able to make one or more contacts. One call sign contacted was W9BSA. All Scouts were not surprised to find out this call sign belong to a fellow Scouter. The call sign belonged to the Northwest Suburban Council Boy Scouts of America Amateur Radio Club. The Operator was Art, WB9JKZ. When he learned we were a group of Scouts operating he was in heaven. He talked to several of the boys and one who had attended the recent National Jamboree held at camp Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia last year. Art had been attending the National Jamboree since 1980, helping with the Amateur Radio station K2BSA and the Radio Merit Badge. He also said to say high to Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, a long time Scouter, awarded the Silver Beaver a few years ago, and an employee of ARRL. Larry also has been attending many of the Jamborees. This turned out to be a great thrill for the Scouts. Next year is the 50th JOTA. We should plan for a large group of Scouts. Hope the cycle cooperates just a little. Your SM concurs; let's make this a big Section operating event next year--I'll recruit a coordinator. Hearty congrats to Larry WR1B on that prestigious award!

Don't miss George AB1GL's report of his first experience doing the Goblin Patrol with NARL on Halloween night--it's on the Section News Page ARRL site; it's special--thanks George!

There is a CW practice net on the W1AW 2M repeater at 7:30 PM. On Sunday's. This is a very informal net meant to tutor CW/morse code. It is hoped that participants will have a code practice oscillator so each can participate in 2 way study. If you do not have a CPO, why not ask a mentor at your club to help you build one or write to TC Joe, N1KHB for some guidance. The cost is very inexpensive -- less than 8 or 10 dollars. If you need a morse code key, one can be obtained for as little as \$15.00. So come on, give it a try.

CARA members operated the November Sweepstakes Phone contest from the firehouse and invited some Scouts to participate! Thanks to Joe AB1DO for a very informative October program on Radio Mobile and how effective this software can be in plotting the coverage and potential interference areas of radio mobile repeater systems. Joe's presentation included a plot of the coverage area for the club's 6m repeater. ARES members from CARA helped provide support and assistance as needed during the high winds and heavy rains of the late fall storm.

The Meriden Amateur Radio Club will be starting a 6-meter net on Mondays at 8:00 EST on 50.275 USB. This is the same time as the old slow cw net. Interest in that has diminished so we will be trying something new. The focus of the net will be to introduce hams to 6 meters. Remember that you only need a Technician License to operate on 6 meters SSB. This is a fun band in that at times it is as dead as a door nail and there are times when it suddenly comes alive with propagation across the country and even DX. Because of it's unpredictability it is often referred to as the "Magic Band". Since the focus of the net will be to introduce hams to 6 meters it is expected that those who join in the net may not be familiar with 6 meters and want to learn more about the band. Questions about operation on 6 meters will be one of the main focuses. antennas, procedures, contests, etc, are the questions that we will try to answer, but as always with MARC nets, it will be a ragchew net with no primary purpose except educate and have some fun.

Two VE sessions before end of year:

Dec. 2 - Stoney Hill Fire Dept. Contact Frank, N1PE email frsileo@att.net.

Dec. 12--VE session Wallingford; Contact Joel, N1JEO email n1jeo@arrl.net.

ARRL Connecticut Section

Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC

k1eic@arrl.org

Connecticut Yankee Digital Net

The Connecticut Yankee Digital Net has been meeting on Sunday nights at 8:30 PM on the .88 machine for several months now. Though participation has been sparse, the few die-hards that show up each week have had an enjoyable time conversing on AMTOR FEC mode. The purpose of this net is to experiment with the latest digital modes using sound card based software. At this point, the net is more of an informal training net where people can get practice setting up and using the software and have any questions they might have answered by our "resident experts". Eventually the net will transition to more of a traditional traffic net, with the intent of practicing the passing of emergency traffic using digital modes.

If you are at all interested, come and join us! You need not have any elaborate interface equipment to participate. Simply download the software you like (readily available on the Internet), connect the audio output of your radio, HT, or scanner to the audio input of your sound card and you will be able to "read the mail". In order to transmit, you will need a sound card to radio interface. There are many simple home brew circuits available on the Internet, or commercially made units are available from Buxcomm and West Mountain Radio. Hope to "see" you next Sunday.

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