

NEWPORT COUNTY RADIO CLUB



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Minutes from July 14, 2014 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by President Willy MacLean. 23 members and 2 guests were present.

John King and Willy gave an update on Field Day “The Best Field Day Ever”, stating that the large number of NCRC volunteers at setup and takedown were greatly appreciated, as was the wonderful food and camaraderie. Willy noted that 1.5 hours after the last QSO, all four towers, the big white tents and the GOTA station were down (it did take multiple trips to pick up all the equipment and transport it off site). When asked if there could be a way to involve more operators, it was pointed that operating solo in the CW or SSB tent was somewhat daunting for new operators, and that by allowing new operators to log or dupe check might be a way to introduce them to contesting. It was also pointed out that communication to the membership could be improved so that many folks, not just a few, know what the equipment setup plan is. While the total number of QSOs was down this year, due in part to reduced solar activity and some issues with the CW-tent antenna (coax appears to have broken), with 2815 QSOs worked in 2014 vs 3354 QSOs in 2013, the actual score was almost the same due to an increase in GOTA activity bonus points.

Two guests were present, one of which indicated a desire to join the club (Mike, K1CW). Two new members, Dave Neal, W2DAN, and Bruce Manning, NJ3K were voted into membership, which puts our membership in the mid-60s.

An update was given on the Narragansett Bay Island activations going on this summer, after an excellent activation of Gould Island over the weekend. There were a total of 314 QSOs over about 11 hours of operation. Willy reports excellent results with the 30 AAH LiFePO4 battery “Perfect for a day’s activation and much easier to lug around than a generator”. QSL cards are pouring in, and Jim Sammons is working hard to get the entries logged (along with recently discovered logs from the Rose Island activation, and America’s Cup Qualification Races). A reminder: Hope will be activated on July 26, along with Prudence Island. Other islands are coming in August. Club members were

advised that equipment such as batteries, masts, and rigs were available to borrow for short “activation” events.

John Mills is exploring purchasing a used Electronic News Gathering van for use in EmComm if he can find someone to partner with.

Members are advised that Julian Plowright’s health is rapidly declining. Julian just updated to Extra this summer, and despite felling unwell, was able to rack up many contacts at the GOTA station during Field Day. Please call or send letters expressing hope and best wishes to his home in Newport (see the membership directory for details).

NCRC through its NCECT group of trained communication will be participating in a multi-agency communication drill during the July 26th Middletown and Jamestown Shelter Drills.

The next Technician Class will begin sometime around the middle of September. The Portsmouth FD has graciously agreed to allow us to use their facilities for classes (the ARC facility in Middletown is now closed). The start date remains uncertain as the question pool has recently been updated, rendering our teaching materials obsolete. The final date will be determined after the presentation material has been revised.

The meeting was closed at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Bob Beatty – Secretary
July 29, 2014