

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, April 2016

Your Help is Needed

The ARISS contact is an unprecedented opportunity for NCRC, and Amateur Radio in general, to stand tall before the public. The opportunity is great, but so too are the requirements to insure a smooth event. The sheer number of attendees demands extensive logistical planning.

Mike and company need many volunteers in multiple capacities. Some of these are technical, but especially needed are volunteers to assist with people management:

- Parking guides.
- Hall/room guides.
- Message carriers.
- Shadows for key persons.

Ideally we will be able to establish a 2-meter simplex network to coordinate these people managers. In addition to the actual contact time, volunteers should be prepared to attend at least one training session:

Saturday April 23 - 08:00

Saturday April 30 - 12:00

Sunday May 1 - 09:00

Your help would be invaluable and we urge you to lend your time to this unique opportunity. Contact a club officer or e-mail the Editor to sign on.

editor@w1sye.org

Big Space Station Day Coming to AS²A

Home Team Effort

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station—ARRIS—is coming to town in a big way in May!

Led by our Mike Cullen, K1NPT, with assistance from Bob Beatty, WB4SON, Mike Thombs, W9DAD, Steve Rys, KB1VYD, Rob White, KB1ZZU, and critical gear from Jeff Greer, KA1NGP, and Dave Neal, W2DAN, All Saints STEAM Academy has been chosen to be one of the few schools to be scheduled for a ham radio contact with the International Space Station.



The International Space Station

How did such a prestigious event come to be right here? First and foremost through the effort of Mike and helpers. Additionally the educational climate was favorable.

AS²A is actively pursuing science and technology at part of their STEAM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Mathematics) initiative. We already have a ham station and growing antenna farm on site and six NCRC-licensed hams among the student body.



Growing antenna farm.

People and Equipment

State dignitaries have been invited and broadcast and print media have expressed interest in the event. The expected guests will fill the assembly room and overflow into nearby St. Lucy's Church where they will be connected via closed-circuit TV. As you can imagine, there will be multiple support equipment vans parked on site.

ARRIS Contact Times

The contact time will be announced soon, and will be one of the following:

- May 3rd 13:44:58-13:55:40
Assembly at 13:00
- May 4th 12:52:26-13:03:09
Assembly at 12:00
- May 5th 13:36:27-13:46:41
Assembly at 13:00
- May 6th 12:43:47-12:54:26
Assembly at 12:00
- May 7th 11:51:12-12:01:56
Assembly at 11:00

Cranberry Island Activated

Our club's collection of first activations continues to grow with the successful expedition to Cranberry Island by Rich Russel, KC1ARO, Paul Silverzweig, N1PSX, and Mike Martin, KA1IOO. Cranberry is RI-022R on the US islands list. Rich, Paul, and their colleagues have earned themselves the sobriquet of "The Upland Team" for their many ventures into the brush and upper reaches of Narragansett Bay.

Although a neap tide, the morning low of Saturday, April 2nd, allowed them to reach the island without a boat. The weather was clear but cold, and the site exposed. Fortunately the wind was bearable.



Cranberry Island station

With no tall vegetation on the island, the team had to set up their dipole using telescoping masts. You can see that their set up was solid and effective with 62 contacts, including 7 DX stations now in the W1SYE log.

Cranberry marks the seventh W1SYE first island activation of the 21 Rhode Island islands currently listed on the US Islands web site. Well done gentlemen!

Activations Summer 2016

So What's an Activation?

Think portable with a destination. You pack up a station (The portable part) and head off to somewhere that fascinates you (The destination part). Clearly that covers a wide range of stations and places, all of them adventures waiting for you.

Are you a hiker/backpacker? How about setting up a station on a mountain? You're a candidate for Summits on the Air. Find out about it at:

<http://www.sota.org.uk>

Or maybe you like National Parks. The Upland Team has already activated Parker Woodland, part of the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail. Find out about this year's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service at:

<http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA>

In 2014 Willy, W1LY, (his XYL actually) encouraged NCRC island activations. NCRC has been heavily involved in maritime operating ever since.

Activations Planning

Several of our regular maritime activators met on March 30th to plan for this summer. Maritime operations can be demanding, so we decided:

- We would avoid Field Day (June 25-26) and International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (15-16 August).
- We will operate only one day of any weekend, Saturday

will be the prime day with Sunday reserved as a weather day.

- We will avoid multiple simultaneous island operations.

Please note that these are not guidelines for others, but only choices made among those present. As always, you're welcome to join us in any activation.

We reviewed our vessel availability and island candidates to schedule three activations:

- July 2nd Hog Island in upper Narragansett Bay.
- Mid-July West Island off Sakonnet Point.
- August 21st East Island off Sakonnet Point.

Other island activations will be scheduled as we go along. Others include:

- Patience island, off Prudence Island.
- Gooseberry Island, off Hope Island.
- Gooseberry Island, off Newport.
- Gould Island, at the head of Sakonnet River.

There are other Narragansett Bay Islands, more than can be engaged in one summer, but permissions are more complicated. And what next? How about the Elizabeth Islands between Buzzards Bay and Martha's Vineyard? And then there are the islands off the North Shore of Massachusetts. Anyone up for a run to the Isles of Shoals?

Proposed budget for 2016

- \$200 ASA (Cash to fulfill their application for NCRC support.)
- \$500 Field Day (material/labor)
- TBD Field Day (amount to cover food costs that exceed revenue from 50/50 drawings.)
- \$200 JOTA (Materials and sanitary toilets)
- TBD W1SYE repeater (There are issues with the duplexers and cables. It is unclear how much is needed, but might approach \$2000.)
- \$200 Winter Field Day (Although will be held in January 2017, should be included in this year's budget)
- \$150 Tri-fold brochures (To support NCRC and ham radio before the public.)

Budget Process

1. The Executive Committee will prepare a budget for the following year to be approved by a majority of the members present at the November Business Meeting.
2. The treasurer may issue checks for all expenses approved by this process without further authorization.
3. The Executive Committee may authorize expenditures up to \$200 without further authorization, but must report such expenditures to the membership at the next Business Meeting.

Executive Committee Business

Your Executive Committee met on April 6th to examine several issues that have arisen in recent months.

NCRC Tax-Exempt Status

A discussion about our bank account balance raised questions at the March 14th Business Meeting. At issue was whether our modest, but stable, balance in any way jeopardizes our tax-exempt status.

Secretary Bob Beatty, WB4SON, reviewed the relevant rules in IRS 4221 and provided a summary to the Executive Committee. As Bob points out, although we are not tax lawyers, the wording is clear and the conclusions obvious. After considering Bob's report, the EC agreed that we are well clear of any questionable practices. It is also clear that we may augment the Field Day picnic budget from club funds if necessary.

You will find the relevant regulations at:

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4221pc.pdf>

Club Equipment

The EC recognizes that equipment held by NCRC needs attention. Our equipment falls into three categories:

1. Permanent equipment that serves on-going purposes.
2. Equipment that is held for anticipated use, e.g., HF and VHF transceivers for school club support.
3. Equipment that is accepted for resale.

In recent months we have been consolidating our holdings to the first two categories. We are now working toward an accurate inventory of remaining equipment.

This is where you can help. As we do not have a storage facility, our equipment is distributed among the membership. If you are holding any items of club equipment, would you please send a list of those items to the Editor.

Budget and Process

Our Constitution and By-Laws are silent regarding club funds and their management. It happens that our dues income closely matches our continuing expenses. Any additional expenses have been dealt with as separate pieces of new business.

To improve this process, the EC has prepared several items for your consideration and approval at the April Business Meeting. The budget and process are detailed in the left column.

- A budget of anticipated expenses for the balance of this year.
- A budgetary process that presents for approval the following year's budget at the November meeting.
- Authority for the Executive Committee to approve unanticipated expenses up to \$200 with a report of such action at the next Business Meeting.