

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, August 2016

National Parks on the Air

The National Parks Service, together with ARRL, are celebrating their 100th anniversary by promoting activations of selected National Parks.



Touro Synagogue, Newport, RI

Touro Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in America, is a National Park and part of the NPOTA program.



Forrest working the pileup

Junior member, Forrest Ficke, W1Mee, and Vic Farmer, WW4OK, with assistance from Mike Cullen, K1NPT, and his son, Mac, KC1CZW, pre-activated the synagogue on July 26th, making 187 contacts. The full activation will be this Sunday, August 7th.

<http://www.newportthisweek.com/pageview/pages/2016-08-04>

Have Station, Will Travel

Narragansett Bay Islands

Our island activators continue their portable station setups around the Bay. Since last month's Patience Island activation, we qualified three more in the US Islands program in quick succession.

Fox Island, July 16th

Just outside of Wickford harbor lies Fox Island.



Fox Island Southwest Beach

Among its many former owners was a dentist. He'd pick you up in Wickford, whisk you out to the island to get drilled, then run you back in a daze. The current owners maintain a very dignified stately retreat.



Fox Island on 20 meters

Wickford Harbor Islands



Rabbit (left) and Cornelius (right)

Evan Bowen, K1GEA, was lead op for the activation of Cornelius Island and solo op of Rabbit Island on the weekend of July 23rd and 24th.



Evan setting up on Cornelius Island
US Islands Awards Program

Unlike Island on the Air (IOTA), which recognizes eleven Rhode Island islands collectively as NA-031, the USi awards program allows activators to list and qualify islands that meet their criteria. The USi Rhode Island page currently lists 25 islands. NCRC W1SYE has qualified (first activation) eleven of those 25!

Tuesday Meeting

The August meeting will be this Tuesday, the 9th, not Monday the 8th. The meeting program will be a potpourri of mixed vegetables, so please bring any and all of the following. This is your opportunity to air that niggling thought in the back of your mind.

How well shielded is your HT? We've had trouble with HTs on fox hunts because of inadequate shielding. Please help us out by bringing your HT and shielding materials—cardboard boxes, aluminum foil, copper foil or screen, tin cans—anything that we can test. Also bring any HT-to-antenna pigtailed that you may have.

Got an innovative device or construction that we might enjoy seeing? Bring it along for show and tell! It may not be portable or exist anymore, so tell us about it instead.

Questions—who doesn't have a question? We'll try answering all comers.

In short this will be a mixed bag, so dig out that Wouff Hong and let's have some fun.

Meeting Schedule

There are two Monday meeting nights that require a change because they fall on holidays. Here are the meeting dates for rest of 2016:

August 9th (Not the 8th)

September 12th

October 11th (Not the 10th)

November 14th

December 12th

Fox Hunt Update

Our fox hunting members got together on July 26th to plan a multi-club fox hunt at Beavertail State Park on Conanicut Island.

September 25th
(Rain date October 23rd)

This activity is intended to serve three purposes:

- Provide a fun radio activity for our members.
- Encourage members to build antennas and support electronics for use with their HTs.
- Serve as a first meeting among southern New England radio clubs.

The hunt format will remain essentially the same as the trial run at Beavertail last fall. Five low-power 2-meter transmitters—foxes—will be hidden in camouflaged cylinders south of the park entrance. No fox will be hidden so that bush whacking through brush, nor climbing on the rocks will be necessary.

Each fox will transmit on its own announced frequency. Each transmission will begin with a fox identifier: MOE, MOI, MOS, MOH, or MO5. The identifier will be followed by a continuous tone, then by an equal length varying tone, and end with the FCC call of the fox owner.

At the sign-in table, each two-member team will receive an instruction sheet listing these details and a number unique to that team. Each hidden fox will have a card attached with a series

of reporting numbers. On finding a fox, a team will locate their team number and the corresponding reporting number for that fox. They will then call the sign-in table on the declared 2-meter simplex frequency and send the reporting number and the call of the reporter.

Using the reporting number, the sign-in table will be able to post the team, time, and fox found so that spectators can follow hunt progress. Bob Beatty, WB4SON, has volunteered to man Hunt Control (the sign-in table) at parking lot 4.

Registration will open at 0930 and the hunt will begin at 1000. The hunt will end at 1100. A test range will be set up prior to 0930 and hunters will be encouraged to arrive early enough to verify their equipment on this range before the 1000 start.

Radio clubs from Rhode Island, southern CT, and SE MA (Dartmouth) will be invited and mix and match teaming will be encouraged, but not required. A formal announcement will be published soon.

Missing in Action

An MFJ 259-C antenna analyzer went missing during Field Day. This unit was in a black nylon bag-style case and was last seen around the GOTA station and the 6-meter station. Please send any news or sightings to the Editor.

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