

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, April 2015

J-Pole Build Night

Plans for a build night at the May 11th Business Meeting are moving along. This is a nifty project because for a fraction of the commercial price, you will leave with an "I built it!" significant improvement for your hand-held 2-meter radio.



Middletown, RI (April 1, 2015)—Jack, N1JK, enjoys a 2-meter VK (Australia) QSO using a taped-on-window J-Pole antenna.

Currently nine members are registered. Although we will have some parts for "walk-ins", they are limited, so why not sign up?

Send the following to:
editor@w1sy.org

Name and call, type of antenna connector -or- make and model of your radio, and any optional adaptors, \$5 each:

- SMA to male BNC
- SMA to male PL-259

Growing Youth Ham Presence

All Saints Academy

Last month's *Modulator* highlighted Mike Cullen, K1NPT, and the students of All Saints Academy effort in School Club Roundup during the week of February 9th.

And that was just the beginning! Harnessing the enthusiasm created by SCR, Mike prepped his students to sit for their Technician's license. After the mid-March VE session, Jack, N1JK, announced four new hams:

- Paula - KC1DLD
- Xavier - KC1DLS
- Robert - KC1DLT
- Kevin - KC1DLU

These new ops join Mac, KC1CZW, from the December VE session.

Bob Beaudet, Rhode Island Section Manager, was one of the VEs

and, impressed with the group, broke with habit and mentioned them in his monthly newsletter.

ARISS

Mike and Rob White, KB1ZZU, are now in the application process to set up an ARISS contact, *Amateur Radio on the International Space Station!*



Astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, IZ0UDF on the air with students from the ISS.
Samantha Cristoforetti, I0UDF, talks with students from the International Space Station.

In the mean time back here on Earth, eyes are turning toward the moon - how about an EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) contact?

MET School

Next up will be another of Bob Beatty's well-received TECH classes. This time the focus will be students from the MET School.

Rogers High School

Last but not least is Forrest Ficke's, KC1CWX, Rogers HS club to go active in May.

March VE Session

Jack's VE Team had another productive session this spring. Joining the young hams above, three other examinees went home with a spring in their steps:

- Dermid Gray - General
- Rick Hertzler - Technician
- Randy Walters - Technician

Rock Island Special Event

Veteran special event operator Russell Richard, KC1ARO, is getting a jump on this summer's Narragansett Bay Islands series of special events stations. He's planning a day's operation from Rock Island in the lower Providence River.



Rock Island (on right) in the Providence River off Pawtuxet Village.

As Rich says, "It's connected to the mainland by a crude causeway, breached in 2 places...so its a bit of a hike with a couple of 25 foot water crossings...But, with short pants and waders and gear in backpacks its certainly doable."

Rock Island has been listed with the US Islands Awards Program, *but not yet qualified*, so Rich and his ops may earn the first to qualify certificate. He'll use the club call sign, W1SYE, but the certificate will name the actual operators. Check out other club firsts in Narragansett Bay at:

<http://www.usislands.org/directory/directory.html#RI>

NCRC Field Day 2015, Part I

The Biggest Weekend in Amateur radio

Please mark Friday, June 26 through Sunday June 28, on your calendar. That's the weekend of ARRL Field Day. The Newport County Radio Club will be setting up a large Field Day operation in Portsmouth's beautiful Glen Park, joining 30,000 other Amateur operators across North America participating in ARRL Field Day. Thanks to the excellent participation from our members, the NCRC Field Day operation has become a well-oiled machine and a world-class contender in the friendly competition among ARRL Field Day groups. Last year we finished *third in the most-competitive Class 2A!*

NCRC Field Day is a family-friendly event that offers something for everyone. On-the-air operations begin at 2:00 PM Saturday and run continuously through 2:00 PM Sunday. The highlight of the weekend for many is our sumptuous Family Picnic Dinner on Saturday afternoon. Picnic Master Ed Gosling, W1NQH, will preside in the Glen Park pavilion.

As you can imagine, there are a lot of moving parts in planning and executing a safe, successful and enjoyable Field Day event. Planning for this year's NCRC Field Day actually began in June 2014. Our success in 2015 depends on the participation of our club members. Everyone can help out with NCRC Field Day regardless of radio experience, technical knowledge, or physical ability.



Field Day offers our newly licensed hams an opportunity to enjoy HF operation in our well-equipped Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station. Radio operators, especially newly licensed operators, are needed during the 24 hour operating period. Experienced General and Extra class operators are needed to serve as GOTA coaches and control operators. Cooks, bottle washers, and servers are needed to prepare and serve the picnic dinner. Hungry club members and their families are needed to consume the picnic dinner. In summary, everyone will enjoy the camaraderie of Rhode Island's most active Amateur radio group in a pastoral outdoor venue.



Did you find the Easter Egg in this issue of the Modulator?

NCRC DXCC

What is DXCC? DX is a short-hand way of describing long *distance* communication. Pitcairn Island of *Mutiny on the Bounty* fame is an example of an exotic, distant, and difficult DX contact. The CC part refers to Century Club - you have made at least 100 contacts from the ARRL DXCC list. In 2009 there were 338 DXCC entities on the list.

Recently our section manager, Bob Beaudet, observed that "In checking the Navassa Island (a DXCC entity) logs, I saw that four of our RI club stations had worked K1N: W1SYE (Newport), W1OP (Providence), W1AQ (East Providence), and W1DDD (Blackstone Valley). I guess these are the four more active clubs in RI."

Note that W1SYE is a *club*, not a single operator; how is that possible? Clubs, once set up, can qualify for the prestigious DXCC award too.

Your editor is a pokey CW rag chewer and not too likely to wait until three in the morning for the gray line to be just so. But hey, should the forces of nature align, I'll be happy to make a list contact with the club call - W1SYE. You can too! Three caveats:

- You must request permission from John Mills, K1JSM, to use the W1SYE call.
- You may use only the band privileges of your license class.
- Forward your contact information to me, editor@w1sye.org.

Happy hunting!

CTRI Contest Group

In our geographically small state, many hams belong to more than one gathering. The Connecticut-Rhode Island Contest Group Club is an example; many of our contesters belong to both CTRI and NCRC.

Following are excerpts from Jim Setzler's, K1SD, notes of their last meeting:

"Contesting update was the next subject seeing as the ARRL DX Phone contest had just ended. John, W1XX, entertained us all with his story about a post-contest email he received that complimented him on his selection of contesting frequencies—well, "compliment" may be a stretch.

Following up on a question from Don, KW2G, Pat, NG1G, then reviewed the basis for this year's intra-club contest competition. Using complex mathematical formulae derived from our brethren in the bowling world, Pat with the immense help from Ken, K3IU, has added a great twist to the competition by handicapping the scores. The latest spreadsheet shows how club members fared using the raw score and handicapped score methods—great job Pat and Ken!!

Mike, KB1RFJ, then updated everyone on his sojourn to Newington for the Contest University last February. He showed some great shots of the W1AW antenna farm and office buildings. Regrettably it was pitch black, so the photos lack some detail. The Contest University presented a lot of good information. Some of it seemed geared to big guns, but there was enough

for everyone. The presentation focused on Pre-Contest, Contest, and Post-Contest Activities. Mike's talk generated a lot of participation from the club members as we shared our individual thoughts and experiences. Thanks Mike for a great presentation!

John, W1AN, then followed up with a really great demo of remote operating. John has spent some time on this and it was evident. He had a remote K3 hookup back to the mother ship and showed how to build a remote box using components and templates readily available off the internet. (He referenced www.remoterig.com.)

John's work on building the remote rig was really impressive. This is a new technology and not everyone is on board with it, but both the ARRL and CQ have accommodated remote operations in their major contests. Personally I think it's great, but I get uncomfortable with the sales pitches I see in the ham mags as the words "no pecuniary interest" keep echoing in my mind."

Next meeting:

Date: Saturday, April 4, 2015

Time: 1000-1230

Location: N. Kingstown Public Library, Wickford, RI.

Thank you Jim for forwarding your news to NCRC members.

Following is the announcement from the Yankee Clipper Contest Club of their April Open House. NCRC members are welcome.

Announcing...



The Yankee Clipper Contest Club Open House

Sunday, April 12, 2015
1-4:30pm

Sturbridge Host Hotel
366 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566

Yankee Clipper Contest Club, one of the largest Ham Radio clubs in the Northeast, is proud to open it's doors to the general Ham population of the area! We invite all hams to come and experience one of our meetings. We will be presenting special material, of interest to all hams who operate the HF bands, relating to design and construction of your ham radio station.

Presentations will include:

**"Whats the Best HF Transceiver for Me? -A Radio Selection Strategy"
– by Brian Machesney, K1LI and others**

“Antenna Selection and Design- What's Important” – by Joe Reisert, W1JR

YCCC is a club of over 350 members who are interested in Contesting. As such, we have developed a high level of expertise in station and antenna system design and HF transceiver selection, and would love to share this with the general ham community in the region. Whether you are just starting to put together your first station, or are well on your way, we're certain you will pick up some great tips from these talks!

Please come and meet with our members, and hear some presentations that can have an immediate impact on the performance of your station!

We will also be selling raffle tickets to support the YCCC ARRL Youth Scholarship. Tickets will be sold for \$25 per chance to win an Elecraft K3/100 Transceiver. We expect to hold the drawing at this meeting* - a lucky ham will go home with a new Elecraft K3/100 kit!

* Cash or checks accepted, no credit cards. YCCC reserves the right to delay the drawing until sufficient tickets have been sold to cover the prize and the donation.