

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, August 2015

August 11th Meeting Agenda

No, that's not a typo. Our usual meeting time, second Monday of the month falls on VJ Day, so we will meet at our usual place, the cafeteria at KVH Industries at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 11th.

Introduction to Fox Hunting

Fox Hunting is the search for hidden low power transmitters. This can be a lot of fun and the best part is that you probably have the most important piece of equipment—your 2-meter HT!

The main trick is to determine the direction of the received signal using radio direction finding (RDF) techniques. We will use the lawn area beside the cafeteria to investigate using your body and several aluminum foil shields to produce a null. There will also be some simple dedicated antennas to try.

We will have some feed lines with alligator clip ends so that you can attach an antenna to your radio. Why not build a basic antenna of your own to try? Simply Google "2-meter RDF antenna" and you'll find a wealth of ideas. Here are some examples:

- http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm
- <http://kd7ptn.blogspot.com/2011/09/fox-hunting-bidirectional-loop.html>

Field Day 2015—a Test of Mettle

After the Field Day successes that NCRC has enjoyed in recent years, we might have been lulled into Great Expectations for this event. John King, WA1ABI, and Willy, W1LY, along with their dedicated volunteer crews, assemble and run a Best in Class operation year after year.



But this year's effort added a new dimension to our record—depth and resilience.



Here is how things looked before Saturday's start. Note that all beams are pointed westward.

Things were going along swimmingly through Saturday evening, all stations up and humming, contacts and multipliers adding up...

But Wait—Enter Murphy

Feeling good? Just before dawn on Sunday it began to rain. Then some form of local wind effect swept the Glen field threatening to rip tents, towers, everything down.



You can see that the far tower is now pointing south and the director of the near tower is titter-tottering on the end of its boom.



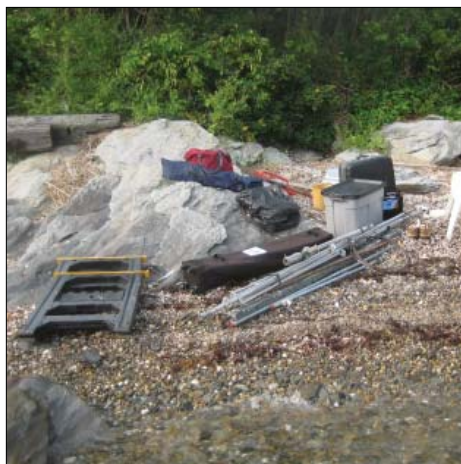
Note puddles on the tent floor.

In spite of this disaster, we managed an excellent score thanks to the depth of planning and preparation by John and Willy. For example, the CW tent lost its beam, but the GOTA station was near max points so their beam was shifted to the CW tent and the GOTA station finished on a 40-meter dipole. This is the stuff that makes for consistently good results.

Got a Hankering to be Gilligan?

Perhaps you've followed some of the island activation discussions and thought, "I bet that'd be fun" but shied away because you aren't familiar with it. It's not hard to do, but your trepidation is well-founded because there are a bunch of details that can be "gotchas."

The club owns the essential equipment and the load is not so bulky that one person can't manage it.



Complete station with art show tent and folding chairs.

The best way to become "gotcha" proof is to join in with one of the experienced teams. Activations are announced in advance in the *Modulator* and at meetings—give it a try.

Welcome aboard newest members

Mac Cullen, KC1CWZ
Paul Fredette, K1YBE
RJ White, KC1DLT

Field Day 2015 Log Summary

Our FD 2015 entry and supporting documentation have been received and accepted by ARRL. They agree with our final score calculation of 11,760 points.

Datestamp: 2015-07-17 18:45:11 PDT
Confirmation: e2127dba78855fae

Call Used: WILY GOTA Station Call:
WISYE ARRL/RAC Section: RI
Class: 2A
Participants: 72 Club/Group Name:
Newport Co Radio Club Sakonnet 49ers
Power Source(s): Generator, Battery,
Solar Power Multiplier: 2X

Bonus Points:	
100% Emergency power	200
Media Publicity	100
Set-up in Public Place	100
Information Booth	100
Formal message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
WIAW Field Day Message	100
Satellite QSO completed	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Youth participation	100
Youth operators=5	
Youth participants=11	
GOTA Bonus	840
Submitted via the Web	50
Educational activity	100
Total Bonus Points	2,090
Score Summary:	

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	1652	0	1531	
Total Points	3304	0	1531	4835
Claimed Score = 9,670				

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW	Digital	Phone	
160m	0	0	0	
80m	298	0	114	
40m	645	0	379	
20m	598	0	451	
15m	110	0	0	
10m	0	0	14	
6m	0	0	73	
2m	0	0	0	
1.25	0	0	0	
Other				
Satellite	1			
GOTA				500
TOTAL	1652	0	1531	
All QSOs at 100W except Satellite, 35W				

GOTA Bonus: GOTA Coach - Double Bonus Points

Name/Call	QSOs	Bonus Points
Forrest Ficke, KC1CWX	136	200
Rob White JR, KC1DLT	125	200
Alex Watrous, (NONE)	23	40
Sean Morrissey, (NONE)	20	40
Paul Mankofsky, KC1AQP	116	200
Evan Bowan, (NONE)	20	40
Paul Silverzweig, N1PSX	40	80
Hayden Maclean, (NONE)	20	40

Accepted Final Score 11,760

All Saints Academy Moves Closer to ISS Contact

Mike Cullen, K1NPT, reports that the planning and development effort to make contact with the International Space Station has reached an important milestone.

Mike was recently notified that the Equipment Plan has been approved and that now they are moving into the scheduling phase that will give them their week and

month of contact. Next they will be given some day and time options to mesh with the realities of school life.

Well done Mike! We can only imagine the excitement building at ASA.

Radio Trivium Answers

The dog is *Nipper* and he's listening to "His master's voice", the trademark that originally belonged to the British company, Gramophone.

Unsung Heroes of the Bay Island Activations

If you go to the Rhode Island page of the US Islands Awards Program, you would be impressed by the number of W1SYE first activations. Why is NCRC so prominent among Bay activators?



Pete, Marshall, and their rib, Gobin.

Simple answer—Pete Lawson, W1LAB, and his XYL Marshall. Pete has made his rigid inflatable boat, *Goblin*, available for most of these island activations. Shoal draft, easy to maneuver, fast, and good carrying capacity—we could not find a better vessel for these isolated island landings.



Marshall takes a book break

Marshall is also a master mariner with extensive brown and blue water experience. Together with their two black labs, they make landing our gear easy.

Many thanks Lawsons for your generous support!

More Narragansett Bay Island Activations

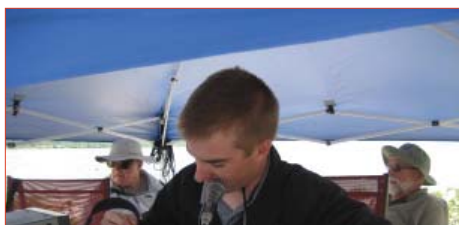
Dyer Island

John Mills, W1JSM, Willy, W1LY, and Pete Lawson, W1LAB, activated Dyer Island on July 25th and made well over 200 contacts. This was another First Activation, US Islands number RI 019S and as is often the case, the scene of a non-stop pile-up.



Southern tip of Dyer Island with totem next to station tent

Evan Bowan, a High School graduate, stopped by the Field Day GOTA tent to see what was going on. He sat down at the mike and became a natural. Evan signed on for both the Dyer and Hope Island activations and was a big help logging a good portion of the QSOs.



Evan Bowan On Dyer Island

Despair Island

Pete Lawson, W1LAB, and Jim Sammons, KA1ZOU, made another First Activation on Despair Island, RI 020S, a week later on August 1st. Again this caused another

non-stop pile-up.

You can see from the photo at high tide why we call this Kingman Reef North.



Water water every where, nor any place to sit.



Fortunately this was a Spring Tide and the water fell away soon enough. In spite of its small size, this was the most comfortable island site to date! And hey—Bob Beaudet, W1YRC, RI Section Manager, checked in with a warm 73!

Hope Island

Another Pete and Jim show, this time a return to Hope Island the day after Despair. “Don’t Despair, there’s Hope tomorrow!”

Evan and his dad, Ike, joined us for another non-stop pile-up.

