

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, July 2016

Patience Island

Our Island activators completed the Roger Williams gift islands project by activating Patience Island on July 2nd.



Looking across the cove to Prudence Island.

These islands were presented to Roger Williams by his friend, Miantonomi, Chief Sachem of the Narragansetts. Williams, a religious man, named four of them after human emotions. School children learned the gift names with the ditty, "*Patience, Prudence, Hope, and Despair, little Hog Island right over there.*"



Evan Bowan, W1GEA.

After 64 contacts and 4 DXCC entities, Patience is now RI-024S in the US islands awards program.

Field Day 2016—Best Ever?

Fine Weather

This year's Field Day has been put to bed and the logs sent to ARRL. We won't have the final results for many weeks yet, but initial impressions are very favorable.



Loading the towers.

First, the weather was in the Goldilocks Zone all weekend—not too hot, not too cold. Willy, W1LY, proclaimed this was the easiest set up and tear down ever. That's no small statement considering the size of our antenna farm!

Funky bands



Willy, W1LY, and the QSB

At several points it became clear that we were well down the curve of Solar Cycle 24, especially

early Saturday. SSB contact rates would be running well and then things would get spotty.

On the other hand, the CW ops reported steady contacts and called CQ only occasionally.



John, WA1ABI, working CW.

Again the GOTA station added a big piece to our score, aided by points from 8 GOTA operators, 5 GOTA coaches, 5 loggers and other bonuses. Bob Beatty, W4SON, again added points by making a satellite contact.



John Haefele, AB1YI, working GOTA

Other Pluses

Bob Beaudet, W1YRC, ARRL Section Manager for RI, stopped by Saturday with Baxter, his multi-

legged logger to wish us well.



The Night Watch

Saturday's picnic supper was another grand banquet thanks to Ed Gosling, W1NQH, his bride Faye, and Brian Cottle, N1TBT.

New this year was a superb presentation about astronaut training by Dan Barstow of Center for the advancement of Science in Space.



Dan Barstow of CASIS.

Best Ever?

From John King, WA1ABI:

A sincere *Thank You* goes out to everyone who helped make NCRC FD 2016 a huge success. Many comments were received in the After Action Review remarking that the teamwork displayed was outstanding from start to finish. Our 2016 final score will be the best we have ever achieved. Everyone who participated in FD 2016 should be rightfully proud of our achievement.

Fox Hunt Postponed

It became clear several weeks ago that we were in danger of spreading ourselves too thinly to warrant a quality Fox Hunt in late spring/early summer. The intention is to invite multiple clubs to participate. As Vice President Paul Silverzweig, N1PSX, correctly pointed out, other clubs would need more time to prepare. A new schedule will be drawn up with the intent to hold this hunt in the fall.

New Hunters Wanted

We have a core group of ten or so members who make these hunts work. If you find this activity intriguing, join us to give it a try. In addition to searching for a hidden transmitter with a 2-meter hand-held, there are other activities:

- Planning hunt related activities for NCRC.
- Building antennas and other equipment.
- Setting up and running a hunt.

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

Monday Meeting

Monday night's regular business meeting (July 11th) should prove to be a bit out of the ordinary. During Field Day, Dave Brown, an IT guy from Brown University, stopped by to ask if his drone might interfere with our operations.

One thing led to another and Dave gave us a demonstration of high end drones today.



Dave Brown's Stupendous Drone

This thing blew our socks off! Full HD video sent back LIVE to the control station as you fly it. It was like having an eyeball on the end of a tentacle!



Controller and Video Screen

Dave will describe drone evolution and fly his drone at the meeting inside the KVH building. You will be amazed at the precision and control of this device.

See Dave's Field day video at:
<https://youtu.be/Sezd7gkSQsk>