

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, June 2016

Radio Operator Plates

An unfunny thing happened on the way to the Department of Motor Vehicles recently. Having fatigued of Rick's, N3RWB, and Willy's, W1LY, razzing about my bride's political stickers, I decided to transfer my Type 18 Radio Operator registration to my car.



Type 18 Registration Plate

You will recall that members have commented in the past about difficulty obtaining Type 18 plates at the standard registration fee. So I was prepared for some back pressure, but not for a blowout. Instead of a simple swap, I had to cancel one registration and re-register that car! It turns out that Type 18 registrations have been discontinued and no new ones are being issued. *Current* Type 18 registrations fortunately will be renewed as before.

The moral of the story is that if you allow your Type 18 to lapse, you will lose it. If you change your call, you will not be able to get a Type 18 registration for the new call. Your only option now is to pay (generously) for a vanity plate.

Standing Tall on Winter Field Day

A New Activity

The February Modulator reported our first effort at Winter Field Day—think Field Day in January. Fortunately the mild winter allowed us to ease into this unknown territory.



Setting up on green grass.

At the end of the weekend, our ops thought they had done well. Were they right?

The VP Reports

Winter Field Day 2016 scores are published! And with 15,624 points, the W1SYE Winter Field Day team placed 2nd in the MO class (Multi Operator) this past January... that is also the 3rd highest overall score. We did a fabulous job on our first ever effort in this event, and I am deeply proud of our team! I again want to thank each of you for your gallant efforts, and for putting up with frustrations that were sometimes brisk, but never the less coming through in such grand fashion and representing our club so fabu-

lously well.

Next up is the premier event, summer Field Day. But I do hope I can convince you all to practice up for yet another great showing next January as well. Hope to see you all for summer Field Day in a few short weeks.

Paul Silverzweig, N1PSX



Dave Neal, W2DAN.

Sharing The Good Times

Hobby clubs wax and wane; it wasn't that many years ago that NCRC was in the depths with only seven members attending meetings!

Clearly things are very different today. Why not share this abundance among ourselves and other clubs? If you know a member who is not active, talk up the club and its many activities. Ditto for non-members. Our fox hunting crew is planning a hunt with invitations to Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Southern Massachusetts clubs. Imagine a network of radio clubs all helping each other.

Amazon Smile

We recently received the following e-mail:

This e-mail is to notify you that Newport County Radio Club has been issued a \$11.72 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between January 1 and March 31, 2016.

This is not an endorsement of Amazon or its marketing, but it is worth noting that NCRC receives a modest donation whenever a club member makes an Amazon purchase as a participant in the Smile program. The price paid is the same as that paid by a non-participating shopper.

The e-mail continues by pointing out that *"You can increase your organization's donation potential by spreading the word about AmazonSmile."*

Whether you choose to participate is entirely up to you. If you wish to, use the following link to find out more and to link your purchases to the Smile program.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0497680>

Welcome New Member

Charles Estabrooks, K1ECU

Charlie is from Pawcatuk, CT, and is a sailor and photographer. Charlie has already jumped into club doings by helping the ARISS crew last month.

Narraganset Bay Island Activations

Island Activations

This will be our third summer of multiple scheduled island activations. These portable operations have proven to be a lot of fun for our members and very popular among island hunters on the air. Typically the action is continuous with well over a hundred contacts and multiple DX entities in an easy six-hour operation. Our biggest hazard is the sun, so we bring plenty of sun block and stay under an art festival style canopy.



Despair Island

Station power is provided by high energy LiFePo batteries, so set-up is quick and we're on the air at 10:00. Our contact maker is a Cushcraft vertical antenna, but not the antenna itself. Rather, we use a section of copper baseboard heater element thrown in the seawater to provide a tremendous ground plane for the vertical. Our signal reports are consistently excellent and the few requests for fills suggests this is unexaggerated.

Activations are usually scheduled on Saturdays with Sunday reserved for weather cancellations. We avoid simultaneous operations whenever possible because

it stretches our resources too thin.

New Vessel in The Water

Our Island Activators have a second RIB (rigid inflatable boat) available. John Mills' new vessel joins Pete Lawson's *Goblin*. The two boats are nearly identical and very capable for moving people and equipment to sites in and outside of the Bay.



Goblin

Scheduled Activations

Three activations have been scheduled so far:

- Hog Island June 18th
- East Island July 16th
- West Island July 17th

Hog Island is in the upper bay off Bristol. East and West Islands are off Sakonnet Point on Rhode Island Sound.

More activations will be scheduled later. You are encouraged to join in by contacting any of us. Contact information is at:

www.w1sye.org.

- John Mills, K1JSM
- Pete Lawson, W1LAB
- Jim Sammons, KA1ZOU

Ready, Set, Field Day!

The biggest operating event of the year runs in three weeks, June 24th through 26th. We will be operating at our usual location, The Glen, in Portsmouth.



It takes a lot of hands to make all of this radio happen, and then there is the picnic on Saturday. John King will describe this in detail at the meeting June 13th. In the mean time, early volunteers make life easier for all.

Set Up And Tear Down

Contact:

- Willy MacLean W1LY
w1ly@cox.net
- John King WA1ABI
wa1abi@cox.net

Operators

Contact:

- John King WA1ABI
wa1abi@cox.net
- Willy MacLean W1LY
w1ly@cox.net

Hospitality

Contact:

- Ed Gosling W1NQH
edward.gosling@cox.net

NCRC Logo Facelift

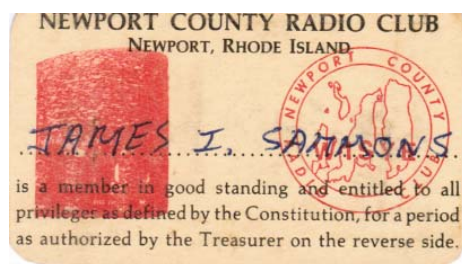
Back in The Day

Ever notice that graphic styles change over time? Remember this one? If so, you have some serious mileage under your shoes.



Bell logo from 1900

NCRC has used several graphics over the years. Here is my 1993 membership card with both the islands logo and the Viking Tower.



But all of these early graphics were created and reproduced for print. As electronic publication became standard, we ran into trouble because we didn't have a clean copy that we could create a scalable image from.



Blurry NCRC logo

Secretary Bob Beatty, WB4SON,

was the first to point this out, but it came to a head when the Executive Committee was notified at the beginning of the year that we would need to prepare some advertising material for the ARISS project.

Willy MacLean, W1LY, stepped to the plate and produced the first working sketch of a new logo.



QUICK SKETCH BY WILLY
MAYBE PUT IN SOMETHING LIKE
COMMUNITY SERVICE - BELL ANTIQUE RADIO

The Executive Committee thought this was on course, using elements that were appropriate to our club while maintaining a modern clean look.

Paul Silverzweig, N1PSX, enlisted the help of a graphics artist friend and through several minor tweaks, a final design was crafted.



The new NCRC logo