

The

# Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, January 2016

## Year's End Celebration

The 2015 Christmas Party was held again at the Mainstay Inn in Middletown. This is the fourth time that we've celebrated year end at the Mainstay and from all accounts, this venue continues to please.

Our out-going officers received a well-earned round of applause and Certificates of Appreciation for their service:

Rick Brendlinger, Vice President  
John Mills, Treasurer  
Sam Sanborn, Director

Our incoming officers were introduced and properly welcomed:

Paul Fredette, Director  
Paul Silverzweig, Vice President  
Ted Wrobel, Treasurer

The Executive Committee then presented a special award to John King for his many contributions to NCRC. This award included a replica of the commemorative brick that has been placed in the Diamond Terrace at ARRL headquarters.



John King, WA1ABI

## 2015—and a Good Time Was Had by All

The books are closed and a new chapter begins for NCRC. By any measure, 2015 was a successful year for our club.

### Outreach

Bob Beatty, WB4SON, ran two Technician classes, the first at the MET school in Newport for 14 students. The second in Foster, RI, for 24 students. This second class is noteworthy because Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club graciously provided the VE exam services at the end of that class.

Mike Cullen, K1NPT, continues with his successful introduction of ham radio and electronics in general at All Saints Academy.



ASA School Club Roundup

This fall's Jamboree On The Air was the best one yet with Troop 1 from Wakefield joining our mainstay Portsmouth scouts. By NCRC visiting the troops before the JOTA weekend, more scouts successfully completed their Radio Merit Badges.



Willy, W1LY, the consummate coach

### New Activities

We developed an efficient hosting procedure for Fox hunting, the search for hidden transmitters using radio direction finding skills. We anticipate hosting several relaxed competitions this year.

And then there was the successful J-Pole antenna build night at KVH Industries. J-Poles can be tricky to tune, but all checked out.

### Continuing Activities

We began activating Narragansett Bay Islands in 2014. We now have over a thousand QSOs in the logs and more members going portable. Our first portable operation of 2016, National Parks On The Air, went out last weekend!

### Membership

Good things beget good things—NCRC membership continues to grow. We added 27 new members in 2015. This is more than the total NCRC membership in past years.

## National Parks On The Air

To celebrate the National Parks Service Centennial, ARRL is sponsoring the National Parks On The Air year-long program. This promises to be popular with both operators and activators.

At present there are over 480 NPOTA sites and increasing, but not all NPS sites meet the criteria to be considered. Although QST recommends searching the NPS list to check this, finding the list is much easier at the ARRL web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/npota-list>

## Dues Reminder

It's that time of year, dues are due.

Regular members \$25.00

Junior members \$10.00

Our dues cover the continuing cost of operation and we usually break even at year's end. That leaves any costs associated with classes, youth outreach, or any other service activity unfunded. Would you consider an additional \$10, \$25, or other amount to donate toward these activities? You can make a donation via the *Contribute* button along with your dues payment on the club web site.

David Sagamang SK

NCRC member Dave Sagamang, AC0CQ, passed away suddenly in December. Dave was the second of three generations of Sagamang club members. Jason, KC1CWQ, and his wife Kathryn, KC1CVZ, are currently members.

## New Team pushes to the fore

Activating islands and other remote sites is a solid summer activity for several NCRC teams. Although these teams are fluid and intermix among each other and with other members, in recent summers a new team has emerged:

Chuck Kesson N1CTK

Rich Russel KC1ARO

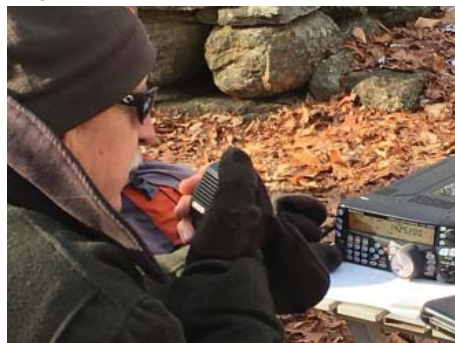
Paul Silverzweig N1PSX

Perhaps *summers* is misleading—in December they went to Acadia State Park for a Winter Solstice activation! Now they've just returned from Parker Wilderness Audubon Park in Smithfield.

This site is on the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Historic Trail TR23, and part of this year's ARRL National Parks On The Air.



Initial reports are that this will be a popular event and we can expect more activations.



## Tiverton Boy Makes Good

Every once in a while we are reminded that although we tend to take our day to day for granted, there are great things, people, and events in our midst.

Thus it is that mild-mannered cub hardware clerk John Mills, K1JSM, jumped into a telephone booth and popped out as—

## Teletype Man

(You have to imagine the trumpet *Ta-Daaa!*)

Nothing mild mannered about First Place Rhode Island Section in RTTY Roundup!



RTTY is the acronym for Radio Teletype and was originally the main means for transmitting text.

RTTY Roundup amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs on the first full weekend of January. In addition to the original Baudot RTTY, other digital modes are now included (ASCII, AMTOR, PSK31, PSK63, and Packet). The contest runs on the HF bands.

RI Section manager, Bob Beaudet, W1YRC, sent John a nice congratulations.