

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, January 2015

The Modulator returns

It has been a while since members have received the Modulator, the club newsletter, but here it is again, at least for a trial run. Whether this can be sustained will depend on member interest and participation.

Here's how you can help - if you have a thought, anecdote, radio items wanted or for sale, or any other tidbits that might be material for the Modulator, send them to *The Editor* at:

modulator@w1sye.org

What's in a Name?

Our newsletter name was cleverly chosen "back in the day"; here's the back story: The first section of a transmitter creates a uniformly alternating wave form. This carrier wave travels efficiently, but contains no information. In the early days of wireless, all one could do was turn it on and off. On and off pulses of carrier wave are like smoke signals—code by another name.

Wireless communication got a huge lift when a voice signal was combined with a carrier wave. The result is a wave form that is no longer uniform; the now-varying wave, stylized in the banner at top, includes voice information. The process is called modulation. Similarly this newsletter, *The Modulator*, carries information for our membership.

2014 - A Very Good Year for NCRC

Well dang, where to start? How about our new meeting space, the lunch space at KVH industries in Middletown? Plenty of room, good lighting, sound system for speakers—all good!

Field Day—the most popular operating event of all hamdom. John King, WA1ABI, led the club to—drum roll—third place in the most competitive category in *the whole United States!* This accomplishment can not fully be appreciated until you realize that our 71-member club is playing in the league of multi-hundred member clubs in the South and West.

Then there is Bob Beatty,

WB4SON, whose two Technician classes graduated 20 licensed Technician Class operators and added 22 members to our club.

But hey, there's more! Willy MacLean, W1LY, led the Narragansett Bay Islands project (Although

there is a rumor that it was his bride, Linda, who whispered in his ear.) Six activations on bay islands, some drive up, others boat and tent operations, all great fun.

NCRC added two new islands, Hope and Dutch, to the US Islands program, along the way to a total of 1,728 US and International station contacts.



Christmas Party 2014

Another fine end of year gathering at the Mainstay Inn. This venue has proven to be popular with members—good food, good drink, and good friends.



Mr. & Mrs. Travers and Bolla enjoy a clever remark.

As always, the Yankee Swap produced many chuckles as the *Gift of the Night* passed around.

After the installation of new officers, Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Willy MacLean, W1LY, outgoing President, and Ed Gosling, W1NQH, outgoing Vice President. A special Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Rich Travers for his service as the longest serving officer, Treasurer, of the NCRC.

New Station Elmers

Experience hams who help newcomers traditionally have been called *Elmers*. Our membership now includes twenty new Technicians, many of whom will likely wish to set up HF stations in addition to their VHF radios. We would like to assist them by forming a group of volunteers who would be willing to be on call as needed for this assistance.

That assistance might be in choosing a radio, deciding on an antenna type and location, setting up a station layout—just about any question related to hamming. If you would be willing to become a *New Station Elmer*, please e-mail newstationelmers@w1sye.org.

Also needed is an *Elmer* who would keep the list of volunteers and serve as the contact person for help requests. If that person is you, please e-mail me at modulator@w1sye.org

The Modulator Banner

The banner wave form in *What's in a Name* is described as stylized because its shape is not realistic for a real radio frequency carrier modulated by an audio frequency signal.

Can you see why? If you can, send an explanation or a description of what it would look like if it were realistic to *The Editor*.

Be aware that there is no monetary prize here, but you will gain a knowing nod from the Executive Committee.

Psst—Dues are due. Pass it on.

January Business Meeting January 12, 2014

Agenda

- Roll Call.
- Reports.
- Election of New Members.
- Who are You?
- New Station Elmers.
- Repeater discussion.

Detail

Who are You? At each meeting, three members, a mix of long-time and new comer hams, will give a two-minute bio—who they are, what they do, and their connection to ham radio. The intent is to allow us to better know each other.

Repeater Discussion. Since our last Business Meeting in November, a committee of four members, John King, John Mills, Ted Wrobel, and Rich Travers, have been

formed to review our repeaters. This will not be a technical discussion, rather, it is an opportunity for you to pass along your thoughts about the repeaters to the committee. For example, is 1900 the ideal time for the daily 2-meter net?

Presentation

We are most fortunate to have Ms. Allison Phillips, a working electrical engineer to show us how electronic design is done in today's world of tiny electrobits.

Allison will walk up through the design and production of a simple circuit using Express PCB, a CAD program that allows you to design and then export for manufacture whatever you might conceive.

Here is the web site for the program:

<http://www.expresspcb.com/index.htm>

NCRC Contact e-mail Addresses

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