

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, June 2015

New England Wireless and Steam Museum

NCRC members are in for a treat at our June 8th meeting to be held at the New England Wireless and Steam Museum. Bob Merriam has gathered a world class collection of steam engines and wireless technology on a multibuilding campus in East Greenwich. K2TQN, John Dilks, has written about the museum several times in his Old Radio column in QST; it is truly a gem! One of the highlights of our visit will be the Massie spark gap station, PJ, that was rescued from Point Judith and restored at the museum. For a preview of the museum, see

www.newsm.org

We will meet at the usual time, 7:00 PM at the Meeting Hall building on the campus at 1300 Frenchtown Road. You may choose to drive directly, or carpool from the usual KVH parking lot to depart at 6:15 PM. Once over the Jamestown Bridge, follow Rte. 4 north to Exit 6, Rte. 2 - East Greenwich. Follow Rte. 2 north about a mile to Frenchtown Road. Turn west, left, onto Frenchtown Road. Cross Tillinghast Road and look for the entrance on your left about 100 yards further west.

NB: The buildings are not heated—dress accordingly. Admission, normally \$15, will be \$10 for us. Please have the exact amount.

The Mystery of the J-Pole Antenna

Our May 11th meeting was given over to building J-Pole antennas to improve the signal from hand-held 2-meter transceivers.

We had thought that this construction project would be straight-forward because the club did a similar project several years ago without incident. But after W1LY, Willy, WB4SON, Bob, and KA1ZOU, Jim, spent considerable effort testing different variations, we could not produce consistent results with either of the two designs that had tested well initially! Sometimes the SWR was unacceptable, other times the SWR was good, but out of band.

The results remained inconsistent. Time was running out and a final design had to be chosen.

What's Going On?

We knew that the placement of the notch in the twin lead section was critical—to a sixteenth of an inch—and had prepared measuring boards to insure accurate cutting. But this had not been a problem in the earlier build, what

had changed?

In the past few years, TV twin lead has all but disappeared. We were reduced to gathering scraps from kindly donors. The scraps had different cross sections and probably different velocity factors, but it's not a transmission line, so no problem—or so we thought at the time!



As the build session wound down, Doctor Antenna, KC1SD, Jim Kyle, observed that yes, it's not a transmission line, but the different velocity factors probably shift the placement of that critical notch!

At this point we were in the

chute. The twin lead had been distributed, the notches cut... Willy murmured "Uh-oh" as I put the first creation on an antenna analyzer.

We need not have worried, all but one antenna tested well and that one was OK, just a bit high in the band. Apparently our design matched the remaining scraps of twin lead that builders used. All's well that ends well—whew!

Field Day Final Notes

Setup and Tear down

John King and Willy MacLean will begin setup at 0800 on Friday. This operation will run until sunset. Tear down will begin at 1400 and end around 1800. Please remember that everyone on site during these operations must wear a hard hat.

Get On The Air Station (GOTA)

This station is intended as an introduction to ham radio and is open to:

- Anyone who has been licensed within the past year.
- Anyone who has upgraded their license within the past year.
- Non-licensed visitors.

An experienced operator will serve as control operator and coach.

Picnic and Hospitality

Ed Gosling needs a few more helping hands for Saturday picnic and Sunday breakfast. Contact Ed at his NEW e-mail address:

edward.gosling@cox.net

Many Thanks

John King thanks the many volunteers who have signed up for setup, tear down, food unit duty, and operating.

Final Reading and Amendment Vote

The continuing Constitution and By-law amendment process will conclude at the Business Meeting, Monday, June 8th. At that time:

1. The proposed amendments will be read (See below).
2. A motion to adopt the proposed amendments will be solicited.
3. A second to the motion will be solicited.
4. Discussion will be entertained.
5. If no amendments to the motion are offered, a vote

will be taken. Adoption requires a 2/3 majority of the members present.

6. If an amendment to the motion succeeds with a simple majority vote, the amendment clock will be reset and the newly amended proposed amendments will be read and voted on at the July meeting.

This probably sounds tedious, but it is a clear and measured procedure designed to insure that all members understand and have a voice in altering our governance.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution

1. Add new to Article 2—Membership:
(b) Youth Member – Those members who hold a current FCC Amateur License of any class and who will be less than 18 years of age on July 1st of that membership year.
2. Add new in Article 2—Membership:
The word “Adult” to existing references to members to differentiate between the two memberships.

Proposed amendments to the By-Laws

1. Add new to Article 4—Dues:
Section 2) Dues for youth members shall be not more than one half of the current adult full voting member dues.

New Members

Congratulations and welcome aboard to our newest elected members:

Vic Farmer, WW4OK
Mike Seil, AA1XQ

It happens that Vic is a former NCRC member who is returning to the club.