

The

# Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, March 2016

## March Opportunity

Have we got a bargain for you! Beyond your wildest expectations, the March 14th meeting will feature free gifts for everyone!

The above paragraph is an example of *hyperbole*— exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally. The real truth is that Willy, W1LY, John Mills, K1JSM, Bob Beatty, WB4SON, and a handful of other members have been sorting, processing, and otherwise reducing the amount of surplus equipment held by the club.

Some items are of sufficient value that they deserve to be tested, repaired as necessary, and sold. Next are the to be sold “as is” items. Finally are those bits of radio gear that are too attractive to be tossed, but not attractive enough to justify the eBay sale process.

What to do with this last category? We decided to put these items on tables at the March meeting for members to pick over and take as they like. There are three tubs that include coax switches and speakers among other bits.

You are invited to add your not-quite treasure to the tables too. OK to put a fire sale price tag on something, as long as everyone understands that nothing is to be left behind. You are responsible for removing your leftovers.

## Plague in the 21st Century?

### The Black Death

The Black Death of the 14th century was one of the most devastating pandemics known. Many factors contributed to its virulence, but the cause was a bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*. Could such a pandemic occur today?

Probably not; our understanding of disease and its spread is widely known, so many of the then contributing factors are greatly reduced. We also have highly effective medical countermeasures against *Yersinia*.

But this raises a question: Should a large-scale public health emergency occur, how do we inform the public and then distribute treatments rapidly and on a population-wide scale?



Medical personnel briefing  
MEDS-POD and EMCOMM

The Rhode Island Department of Health has a Medical Emergency Distribution System (MEDS) plan to provide medical countermeasures to the public. In such

an event, Points of Dispensing (PODs) would provide medical countermeasures to everyone.

On February 27th a multi-jurisdictional MEDS-POD Exercise was held. For the first time a Multi-POD was staffed on Aquidneck Island and our EMCOMM team was asked to provide communication support for the exercise.

The team set up 2-meter stations in the Command Center at Middletown High School and at the Middletown EOC.

John King, WA1ABI, and Chuck Kesson, N1CKT, staffed the Middletown EOC.



Dirmid, K1UFD, and Ted, W1GRI.

The High School station was staffed by Ted Wrobel, W1GRI, Dirmid Gray, K1UFD, Paul Mankofsky, KC1AQP, Dave Brown, KC1AAA, and Cory Thibault, KE1AK.

Ted reports that the exercise was orderly and successful, but with an “at-risk population” of only 20 volunteers, demands on the EMCOMM team were modest.

## Winter Field Day Thanks

Paul Silversweig, N1PSX, was the lead for organizing and implementing January's Winter Field Day and extends his gratitude to the following for making it possible:

John King, WA1ABI, for helping to arrange access to the Glen, which was closed for the season, and for guidance in directing me toward making it happen.

Rich Russell, KC1ARO, for his continual support and for providing a tent and station for use during the event.

Dave Neal, W2DAN, for his endless time and energy in networking the two laptops that he provided as logging systems, for the generator (along with Roland of the HamCow), for providing the second station, and for dealing in large part with the logs post event.

Willy Maclean, W1LY, for working to get the antennas up and operational as only Willy can do.

Paul Mankofsky, KC1AQP, for accepting my plea to take on the thankless role of Safety Officer and for executing that role with great care and professionalism.

Bob Beatty, WB4SON, for continuous back board support, and for the gear he provided.

And the operators for performing extremely well under winter weather conditions to deliver a score and performance well beyond expectation:

- Bob Beatty, WB4SON
- Chuck Keason, N1CTK
- Willy Maclean, W1LY
- Paul Mankofsky, KC1AQP
- Dave Neal, W2DAN
- Rich Russell, KC1ARO
- Rob White, KB1ZZU

[Including Paul—Editor]

## Coming Attractions

### DX Century Club

You probably know that DXCC is Amateur Radio's premier award that hams can earn by confirming on air contacts with 100 countries. But did you know that clubs like NCRC also can earn the DXCC award?

Bob Beatty, WA1SON, reminds us that the ARRL DX contest will run this weekend. This is a great opportunity for you to jiggle the atoms in your antenna and at the same time, perhaps add a missing entity to our log.

W1SYE already has 61 confirmed countries. Check Current Activities/Current Year Activities on the club web site to see a list of all 338 DXCC entities. If you don't see a call sign next to a country name—it's one that would count for us! Here's a direct link to that list:

<http://w1sye.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/W1SYE-DXCC.pdf>

The contest exchange is easy—from us, signal report and state, e.g., 59 RI. The DX station will respond with signal report and transmit power.

No worries about multiple transmitters/operators using W1SYE on the same or different bands -- that's OK per the contest rules (its called "Multi-Multi"). Here's the link to the complete rules:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

Bob will upload your contributions to LotW if you will send him your ADIF logs or even your paper logs.

### Planning Meetings

We have great expectations for this coming summer and planning for those activities will begin soon. If you would like to be included in any of these, contact the Editor and I will put you in touch with the right people.

[editor@w1sye.org](mailto:editor@w1sye.org)

### Fox Hunters

Last fall we ran a proof of concept fox hunt at Beavertail State Park and concluded that a full-scale invitational hunt in spring/early summer was feasible. This might include RI and SE Mass clubs. We had great success with the Handi-Finder kits and that or other designs may lead to another build night.

### Special Event Stations

We're looking forward to activating another bunch of Narragansett Bay islands, many for the first time. As the low-hanging fruit has already been pressed, most of these will involve significant logistical planning. But if standing before the mast is not your cup of tea, consider that part of this group is the Upland Activators who specialize in woods and steams. And then there is SOTA—Summits On The Air...

### Field Day

No mention of future planning would be complete without mentioning Field Day. John King will be bringing that forward soon.