

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, March 2015

NCRC at the Crossroads

Thanks to the interest and efforts of many of our members, NCRC is in the midst of a renaissance. We have multiple fascinating projects underway and more in the works. These include operating events like the Narragansett Bay Islands project and outreach efforts like Forrest KC1CWX Ficke's Rogers High School radio club.

However we find ourselves at a crossroads—plenty of opportunities, but not enough hands. We simply don't have enough people to properly administer all of the requests before us.

Is There a Place for me?

Our projects need people to move them along. Perhaps you are thinking that you would like to sign on, but feel you might not have the experience needed. Certainly experienced ops are needed, but each project also needs the same hands-on support as any non-radio project. Might this be an opportunity for you to learn more about amateur radio while working along side an old hand? The benefits go both ways; the project gets the help needed and you learn new skills.

If this sounds right for you, get in touch. Meetings are good for this and contact information for members is on the club web site. Watch the *Modulator* for future announcements.

School Club Roundup at All Saints Academy

CQ school club roundup, CQ school club roundup...

Using the special event call *Kilo One Delta*—"KID"—All Saints Academy students went "radio-active" each afternoon for School Club Roundup during the week of February 9th.

With our Mike Cullen, N1NPT, as Control Op, these middle schoolers, grades 3 through 8, contacted 34 US States and five countries via SSB and PSK on 20 and 10 meters. An excellent re-

sult, especially with an inverted -V antenna strung across the snow-covered playground.

School Club Roundup is an ARRI-sponsored event that runs twice each year, in February and again in October, that encourages contacts among and with school

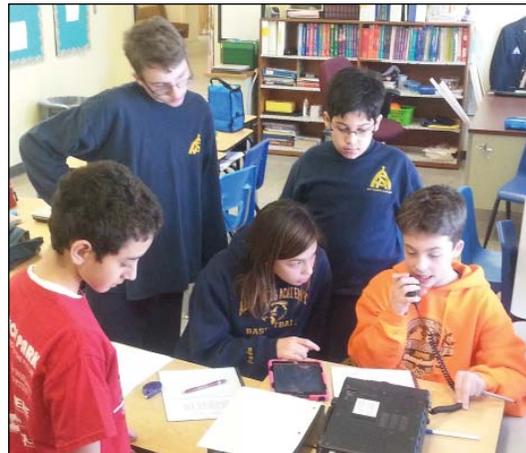
radio stations. Although there is a scoring system, SCR is a friendly, relaxed event that enjoys great popularity.

As participants in All Saints' STEAM program (Science Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math),

the student ops were impressed that their station performed so well on a 12-volt power supply and a simple wire antenna. The point that ham radio is a viable alternative to sometimes fragile infrastructure was clearly

demonstrated, especially in this record-setting winter.

Significantly eight ASA students are studying with Mike and Rob White, KB1ZZU, for their Technician license. Perhaps we'll see a permanent student station at All Saints!



Get his QTH...

All Saints Academy/Mike Cullen photo, used with permission.

Postponed, but not Forgotten

Looking back over the past month, it's hardly surprising that the February meeting was cancelled. Fortunately Rob Vincent

was able to reschedule and will be our featured presentation for the March 9th meeting. See the February *Modulator* for details.

Business Meeting Agenda March 9, 2015

- Roll Call.
- Reports.
- Election of New Members.
- Who are You?
- Member's new business.
- Presentation: Distributed Load Monopole Antennas.

February QST

The February issue of QST hit the long ball for articles relevant to new and not-so-new hams. Here are a few that stand tall:

- A Prototyping Technique, p. 51. *How to get started with home brewing.*
- Deconstructing the Tower of Babel, p. 55. *How to identify all those odd-sounding signals.*
- Grounding and Bonding Systems, p. 68. *Required reading for any station.*
- Analog FM Repeaters—an Overview, p. 82. *How do repeaters send and receive at the same time?*

If you have not done so already, check these out.

Logging in at Meetings

As a secure government contractor, KVH is required to maintain records of all visitors. On arriving for NCRC meetings, please find near the door both our club log book and the KVH sign in page and complete both. Thanks in advance for this courtesy.

Build Night at NCRC

The Plain Sister who Never Gets a date

Transceivers get all the pomp and circumstance because they have nifty buttons and lights. But that fanfare is misplaced. It's the quantum mechanical goings on in the antenna that gets that electromagnetic wave rolling. That old oxidized aluminum or green copper is the business end of your station; the transceiver is just an electron pump. After all, in the old days, they used miniature lightning machines to crank those electrons.

And This has to do With What?

Your VHF hand-held is a marvel of miniaturization, but it still needs an antenna to pump into. And there's the rub: The antenna that came with your hand-held, the rubber ducky, is nearly useless—a bit better than a hot-dog, but not as good as a coat hanger! So what's a ham to do?

The Twin Lead J-Pole

Your rubber ducky has one great advantage—it's very portable. But imagine an arm's spread

length of TV-style twin lead wire, cut and soldered at just the right places, that you could roll up in your pocket, but unrolled would put out a very much bigger signal. Tape it to a wall or window and you are into repeaters or simplex stations that you would never touch with your ducky!

Sounds Good, How?

NCRC is planning a build night that will allow you to construct your own 2m/70cm roll-up J-Pole. Your finished antenna will come with a ten-foot lead-in terminated with a Male SMA connector to attach directly to modern Icom/Kenwood/Yaesu radios. We'll include a Female-to-Female SMA adapter for use with the BaoFeng radios supplied by the club.

We will assist you, supply the tools, and partially subsidize the cost. Your price will be \$10—such a bargain! Optional adapters (BNC, PL259) will be available at cost.

If this sounds good to you, please send the following questionnaire information to me:

editor@ncrc.org

subject: Jpole

J-Pole Build Night Questionnaire

1. Name and Call _____
2. Would you like to participate as described above _____ (Y/N)
3. What type of antenna connector do you need? _____
-OR-
- 3a. What is the make and model of your radio? _____
4. Add an SMA to male BNC adaptor for \$5? _____ (Y/N)
5. Add an SMA to male PL256 adaptor for \$5? _____ (Y/N)