

The

# Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, November 2016

## Rogers HS Radio Club

Largely as a result of his own energy and commitment, Forrest Ficke, W1MEE, has forged a radio club at Rogers High School. Its signal achievement in recent months has been activating Touro Synagogue three times as part of this year's National Parks On The Air program.

Recent renovations at the High School caused the original club operating space to be changed. Forrest is now in the process of setting up a new home station. The best option for an antenna appears to be a building-attached tower standing about 10 feet above the roof line.

## The Challenge

As a condition of approval for this antenna, the Newport School Committee required Forrest to speak to all the abutting home owners to describe this antenna and its purpose. Because of a recent controversy involving a commercial cell tower, this task was delicate to say the least.

The School Committee is scheduled to vote on the antenna proposal this Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM in the Colonial Dining Room of the Newport Area Career and Technical Center, 15 Wickham Road. If you have a moment, please consider attending the meeting to support Forrest and the Rogers HS Radio Club.

## Jamboree On The Air 2016

### Another Beautiful Weekend

October 16-18 saw NCRC and Portsmouth Troop 1 once again hosting a successful Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Camporee at the Glen in Portsmouth, RI.



The Glen

This was our biggest JOTA yet with Troop 1 Wakefield returning. Attending for the first time were Troop 1 Richmond, RI, Troop 3 Newport, RI, and one Scout from Troop 1 Kingston, RI. Rounding out the field were seven WEBELO Scouts for a total of 45 boys.



Stations in the stables

The intent of JOTA is to connect scouts around the world via ham radio. Our members set up two

HF stations, a 2M VHF station and, new this year, a D-STAR station, along with the requisite antennas.

Additionally, NCRC runs a concurrent Radio Merit Badge session. Other club members manned the W1SYE and W1AAD repeaters to ensure all Scouts would fulfill their 10 minute "rag-chew" merit badge requirement.



On the air with Chuck, N1CKT

This introduction to radio and electronics effort continues to grow. Last year we began the practice of visiting troops before JOTA. This year Paul, K1YBE, joined the instructional team, leading the merit badge class.



Paul, K1YBE, with oscilloscope

JOTA Continued p. 2

JOTA, *continued*

Paul brings his considerable experience working with girls at U. Mass Dartmouth's Kaput Center for STEM education to the merit badge class.



Why is this man smiling?

### Sweet Success

Rob White, KB1ZZU, can take pride as leader of the JOTA weekends. This year 45 scouts operating 4 stations contacting 19 states and 5 DXCC entities. Rob was assisted by 15 ops and introduced 16 visitors to ham radio. The Radio Merit Badge class produced 16 completed and 3 pending merit badges.

### Next Year

Word of the jamboree/camporee weekend appears to be spreading among Rhode Island scouts and the NCRC membership. Participation among both groups continues to grow. There is plenty of space at the Glen for more campers and plenty of opportunities for adult volunteers to join in the many weekend activities. If this sounds interesting, why not contact Rob? Next year:

October 20-22, 2017

## Winter Field Day 2017

*Paul Silverzweig, N1PSX, describes planning for this year's Winter Field Day. The event, co-sponsored by the Newport County Radio Club and the Portsmouth RI Emergency Management Agency will be held January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of the coming year.*

### Last Year

Last year was the first year that NCRC participated in this growing event. The 8-degree temperature for our pre-event practice run was bracing, but the Winter Field Day weather cooperated with 40 degree daytime temperatures.

We ran 2 stations, both with wire antennas mounted in the trees at Glen Park in Portsmouth, the same site that we use for Summer Field Day. We picked up points by having generator/battery power and Bob, WB4SON, come through with several CW and Digital contacts for multipliers. When the dust settled, NCRC came in 2nd in our class, and turned in the 3rd highest overall score. Noteworthy is the fact that the team that came in first is the event sponsor and they "own" it! So despite being our first year, and our somewhat ad hoc organization, we had quite a good showing. [That's an understatement,—Ed.]

### This Year

I would like to have 2 stations again this coming year, set up in tents somewhat similar to what we had last year, although I am open to discussion as to antennas, station equipment, etc.

Willy, W1LY, has suggested that we might fare better using a Moxon antenna. We will explore in more detail this option and antennas in general as the availability of ops and equipment becomes clearer.

This year marks a significant change to Winter Field Day scoring. CW contacts now count 2 points compared to 1 point for Phone contacts. Clearly we will need CW operators to come close to our performance last year.

So far, I have commitments from Willy, W1LY, Bob, WB4SON, Chuck, N1CKT, Mike, AA1XQ, Rob, KB1ZZU, Dave, W2DAN, and myself N1PSX.

Want to get out of the house? Looking for some radio fun? Like to be on a winning team? Contact me and join the fray!

I offer no forecasts as to what the weather will be like this year, but last year's practice run taught us the value of heated tents, so we'll be prepared.

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### Important Bits

- The election of club officers will take place at the November 14th meeting.
- Be ready to respond to a call asking if you will be attending the Christmas Party **December 5<sup>th</sup>**. The October *Modulator* listed the date incorrectly.
- This is the last *Modulator* for 2016. The next issue will be January, 2017.

*Following is an excerpt from Pete Lawson's, W1LAB, presentation to be given at the November 14th meeting. It should be stunning!*

In 1892, Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, a young doctor working for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, arrived from England on the coast of Labrador. His task was to visit the coastal settlements, including those of the northern peninsula of Newfoundland, to report on the living conditions and health needs of the resident cod fishermen and their families. The people were aboriginal Inuits that we used to refer to as Eskimos. What he witnessed changed his life.



An Inuit Village

The harshness of their existence and the total absence of any form of health care so moved him that he resolved to dedicate his life and make it his mission to address their welfare needs. Under the auspices of the RNMDSF he raised funds to build hospitals, the first situated at Battle Harbour on the Labrador coast, near the Strait of Belle Isle, as well as to purchase sailing vessels for travel up and down the coast and to recruit staff to help him.

Ahead of his time he recognized that health was more than just the absence of disease. The mission sought to make other so-

## The International Grenfell Association

cial changes, specifically in the areas of education, agriculture, and industrial development. To this end, mission workers built schools and helped establish lumber mills, community farms, cooperative stores, and a commercial handicraft industry to create alternative sources of income.



By 1901 the mission established a presence on Newfoundland's Northern Peninsula, where it opened a year-round hospital at St. Anthony. The community became mission headquarters and Grenfell opened an orphanage and nondenominational school there in 1904 and 1909, respectively. A string of hospitals also opened at various other Labrador communities.

Sixty years ago, during the summer of 1956 as a junior in high school, I applied for and was accepted as a volunteer to work without pay as a crew member on board M/V Nellie A Cluett, which was the supply boat for the Grenfell Mission. Each summer Cluett transferred enough supplies, include heating oil, food, medicine, maintenance items, and other necessities, to each of the Mission stations in Labrador and Northern Labrador to last for a 12 month period. The boat could

only navigate the coast of Labrador between late May and early November as the rest of the time the sea is blocked with ice.



In the following years Dr. Grenfell's fame grew and his exploits entered the stuff of legend. He became a household name and enjoyed what might now be termed celebrity status. He was knighted by the Queen and received many other accolades. Gradually he and his wife spent more time at their retirement home in Vermont where he died in 1940.

During the last decade of Grenfell's life the leadership of medical services on the coast lay in the competent hands of Dr. Charles Curtis who was in charge during my time there. During his tenure, efforts were focused more on providing high quality health care and less on the social reform agenda inspired by Sir Wilfred. Legions of young doctors and nurses came to the coast to contribute their skills. Many stayed and took over key positions up and down the coast.

This talk will encompass stories and photos taken during my visit to each of the settlements along the coast including Nain, the northernmost permanent settlement on the eastern coast of Canada.