

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, February 2018

The Best of Both?

Last month we learned that while Paul Silverzweig, N1PSX, remains on EmComm duties in Puerto Rico, John King, WA1ABI, and Willy MacLean, W1LY, would lead this year's Winter Field Day effort. Further, that they would make new operator participation a top priority.

At 08:00 on Saturday it became abundantly clear that the leaders' effort to encourage new participants was to be a success! Many hands made light work of assembling the stations, antennas, and support materials.



Ashley Quintal, KC1ITC trims an antenna guy wire

John King's summary

WFD wrapped up on schedule just as the rain stopped. Demob was quick and efficient, with more



20 Meter propagation

than a dozen people helping. We conducted a hotwash (debrief) and were clear of the site by 15:30.

A sense of how things went: We did approximately the same number of phone QSO's as last year (850-ish), approximately the same number of digital QSO's (around 50) and about 100 more CW QSO's than last year (304 vs. 202.)

But the numbers aren't the big story. I think the very best thing about WFD 2018 was the turnout from new hams and new club members. I had a father-daughter team helping me build the lean-to for the generator on Saturday morning. I wish I had been thinking quickly enough to get a picture of the young hardhat-wearing daughter knocking in the guy stakes with Percy, my venerable 2-pound sledge. I didn't get that picture, but it will live in my mind forever. We had many new hams young and older in the phone tent making contacts. About half of the demobilization crew was made up of new hams. They also participated in what was probably their first hotwash and exposure to the



40 Meter propagation

Winter Field Day

AAR process.

So... it went well. Very well. Better than numbers on a score sheet will ever reflect.



The Mid Watch

Yes, the Best of Both!

New members, new operators, and a competitive score. Thanks to everyone including members who checked in from their home stations for making a great WFD.

NCRC WFD Contacts

Band	QSOs
80 M	286
40 M	591
20M	214
15 M	1
2 M	1
Total	1093



80 Meter propagation

Suffolk RED Update

As originally conceived in Suffolk, England, a RED Event was an opportunity to share radio and electronics interests and to build inter-club connections. Eventually NCRC may organize a multi-club event like the original, but in the near term, we are working toward an event focused on our many new members.

Imagine a science fair-like gathering where members can visit tables, each promoting some activity or interest of the table's sponsor. Visitors would have a sampling of many possibilities and sponsors would have an opportunity to gather names for future contact.

We will have four of these samplers set up at the February meeting as a test of concept:

- Jamboree on the Air
- Island Activations
- Fox Hunting
- Using a vector analyzer

Our interest is in what works and what needs improvement. This test should give us some good ideas.

We also need to rename this activity, RED Event is just too cryptic. One suggestion is:

NCRC Radio Expo

Give this some thought, if you have an idea, pass it along. Also be thinking about an idea, activity, or perhaps a piece of equipment, that you'd like to demonstrate at the full show sometime in the spring.

School Club Roundup

School Club Roundup is sponsored by the ARRL, its Hudson Division Education Task Force, and the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC). Although SCR has run in a quasi-contest format for many years, it is still a new and unique experience for most students and teachers.

As such, SCR is a unique opportunity to introduce youth to Amateur Radio. Here's Paula at SCR 2015 coaching another student. She went on to become the student host for our first ARISS contact and is now a licensed TECH.



Paula before she became KC1DLR

School Club Roundup 2018

Mike Cullen has been instrumental in most of our youth outreach efforts, and this year has organized Winter SCR at the Pell School in Newport.

As you can imagine, the logistics involved in putting a new school on the air is significant. Not to downplay that, but Mike has done this before and starts with a wealth of well-earned experience.

Further, several of our experienced operators have volunteered to serve as Control Operators for

the afternoon sessions.

Winter SCR runs during the week of February 12-16. Mike's ops will be on the air from 1500-1700, Monday through Wednesday, February 12-14.

Monday - Paul K1YBE
Mike AC1DV
Mike K1NPT
Forrest W1MEE

Tuesday - Paul K1YBE
Mike AC1DV
Mike K1NPT
Forrest W1MEE

Wednesday - Mike AC1DV
Mike K1NPT
Forrest W1MEE

How Can You Help?

Mike's emphasis is to get kids on the air and exposed to radio and electronics in general. If you have a moment while mobile or at home, listen around and give them a call. Having lots of on-air action for the students is the best way to insure success.

You'll find them at the following HF frequencies:

40 Meters - 7.225-7.255 MHz
20 Meters - 14.250 - 14.280 MHz

On 2 Meters you'll hear them on simplex and the W1SYE repeater.

Pell School is an elementary school, so Mike is promoting a relaxed, encouraging, atmosphere for these five to nine-year-olds. So put on your best Santa Claus voice and see if you can find the next KC1DLR.