

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, January 2018

A Fine End of Year—2017

Christmas Party

NCRC returned to Middletown's Main Stay Inn for another fine end-of-year gathering.

The Christmas party is probably the most relaxed and convivial social event of our year. The evening began with easy conversation among members and guests during cocktails.



Then followed the usual excellent buffet.

After dinner, the outgoing Executive Officers were acknowledged and the officers for the new year introduced.

- President Paul Fredette
- Vice President Jim Sammons
- Secretary Bob Beatty
- Treasurer Ted Wrobel
- Director John King
- Director Willy MacLean
- Director Paul Wynn

Special Award

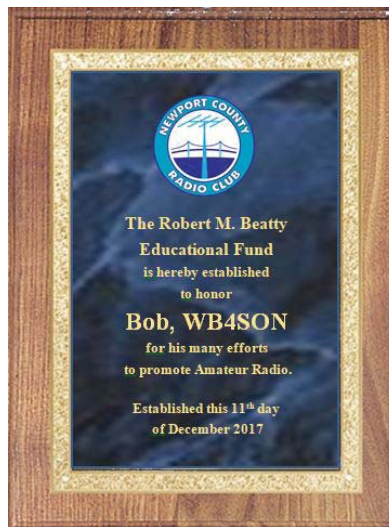
The high point of the evening was the announcement of the

Bob Beatty Educational Fund in



honor of Bob, WB4SON, for his many services to NCRC.

Bob received a standing ovation



for this well-deserved award.

One of Bob's pleasures is teaching Technician licensing classes, something that he has been doing for some seven years. Bob estimates that he has added a bit more than 200 new Rhode Island Technician licensees during that

time, but here's the thing: there are about 1,900 hams in the state. *Bob has trained about 10% of the total Rhode Island ham population!*

Yankee Swap

Linda MacLean returned to lead the traditional Yankee Swap, a frivolous activity marked by outrageous banter.



Who's your friend Gary?

Silent Keys

The Morse Code characters S and K sent together form the prosign indicating the end of a contact. A moment of silence was observed for three of our members who became Silent KeyS this past year:

Rich Brendlinger N3RWB

Dermid Gray KB1ZZY

Sam Sanborn N1SRV

Rich, Dermid, and Sam will be missed.

Field Day Results

Although Field Day takes place in June, as the most popular operating event in hamdom, it takes time for the final results to come in. John King, WA1ABI, reports that NCRC yet again put its stamp on this event with first place in Rhode Island and fourth place in the most competitive contest nation-wide, Division 2A! And this from a club that is miniscule compared to the multi-hundred member clubs of the South and West.

How does a modest club produce nationally competitive results year after year? Visitors to our field site in Portsmouth's Glen are amazed at the multiple towers of our antenna farm, but there's more to it than that.

Having crack operators is a big boost, and we press every score enhancement. For example, our *Get On The Air* tent is a busy place where new, returning, and upgraded hams are joined by non-hams all looking to make contacts. Bob Beatty, WB4SON, adds a satellite contact for an additional score bonus. And we actively engage non-ham visitors in our activities. Like a well-oiled machine, NCRC purrs along to the top of Division 2A year after year.

O Tannebaum, How RF Are Your Leaves

NCRC members know that John King, WA1ABI, is a Black Belt Antenna Wizard. What do you suppose John does with his Christmas lights at this time of year? Why, put it on the air of course!



The 80 meter CW Christmas Tree

This comes under the heading of "Why not, let's see what happens?" and has been a holiday challenge for some years.

John is particularly interested in CLA-to-CLA (Christmas light antenna) contacts and has worked several trees in this mode.

Each successive year sees improvements; here is John's description of this year's mods:

Until this year, the RF from the matching network was fed to the bottom of one of the light strings via a shorted AC plug. The purpose of the shorted AC plug was to prevent feeding the light string

in differential mode, wasting RF power lighting up the lamps. But - having a shorted plug at the end of a light string meant that the lights couldn't be plugged in to AC when they were used as an antenna.

This was unsatisfactory, for it deprived the neighbors of Christmas cheer and it meant that I had to go outdoors to plug in the shorted AC plug from the tuner. I added an AC Line Coupler to allow the lights to be used at all times as both illuminated Christmas lights and as an antenna.

The two radials are also new for 2017. They are each 30 feet long, laying on the ground opposite each other.



The CLA Committee has ruled that the two radials are permissible as long as they are less than 90 degrees in length.

Christmas 2018

Your editor has set aside two strings of mixed bag lights and some other odds and ends for next season. Does this pique your interest? Don't toss that ragged string just yet, there may be a CLA QSO party in the making here. More on this unique communication mode next fall.

Nationwide Class 2A									
#	Call	Score	Categor	QSOs	Power	GOTA	Call	Section	Partic Club
1	KS0MO	16,554	2A	4,164	2	KC0MO	KS	14	Kansas City Contest Club
2	W1NVT	14,794	2A	4,671	2	W1PU	VT	18	Radio Amateurs of Northern
3	K5UZ	14,664	2A	4,434	2	K5BRC	AR	16	Batesville ARC / Brock Mtn
4	W1LY	14,370	2A	3,880	2	W1SYE	RI	87	Newport Co RC Sakonnet 4
5	K5CM	12,274	2A	3,001	2	N5KK	OK	7	Muskogee ARC
6	N4TP	10,086	2A	2,787	2		WCF	45	Tampa ARC
7	W8DXA	9,944	2A	2,860	2		OH	30	Northern Ohio DX Assn
8	W2ZC	9,192	2A	2,412	2	W2AXR	WNY	11	Salt City DX Assn
9	N9AU	9,106	2A	2,297	2		WI	7	MM Expeditionary Force
10	N0AT	8,704	2A	1,876	2	K0AUG	MN	14	Blue Lake Brothers

Record New Members

The January meeting saw a record number of new members inducted into the club. This brings our membership to 110 members. Many have been on the Portsmouth repeater, so give a welcome call if you hear them.



Member chair Jim Sammons, KA-1ZOU, introduces new member candidates

Lisa Armstrong	KC1IPL
Richard Bainco	KC1IPJ
Ross Bohenski	KC1IPP
Stephen Currey	KC1IPO
Steven Day	N3VHI
Denise Dulac	K1WIN
David Emond	KC1IPA
Pat Emsellem	KC1IPT
Charlie Fitzpatrick	KC1IPR
Hayden MacLean	KC1IPM
Robert Marro	KA9CAT
Raymond Perry	KC1IPC
George Primmer	KC1IPN
Allan Quita	KC1IPK
Ashley Quintal	KC1ITC (jm)
Heather Reynolds	N1HJK
Matthew Ruggiero	KC1IPD
Esme Sammons	KC1IPI
Jack Wohl	KC1ITD (jm)
Robert Wohl	KC1IPQ

Welcome to the Newport County Radio Club everyone!

What is Suffolk RED?

RED is the acronym for Radio, electronics, and Development and is a concept from Suffolk, England.

A RED event is like a show and tell fair of all things radio and electronic. As developed in Suffolk, members from multiple local radio clubs prepare small, table-sized demonstrations highlighting some aspect of radio and electronics of personal interest.



At the time of the annual event, the memberships of these clubs come together to explore the offerings. Here's a UTube video that highlights Suffolk RED:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wum1HqPE4bE>

Multiple benefits

Suffolk RED produces solid returns. First, it provides an efficient way for hams to see areas of ham radio that is unfamiliar and/or new, and it engenders inter club cooperation and camaraderie.



The recent growth of NCRC makes a Suffolk RED event very attractive as a way to introduce our new members to our many activities and interests. Here are just a few possible table themes:

- D-Star radio.
- Operating events.
- QRP radio kits.
- Island activations.
- Fox hunting.
- Emergency communications.

Imagine a meeting devoted to an internal RED event; there are more possible topics than there are tables in our meeting space. Do you have a new radio that you'd like to demonstrate? Have you built a kit or two that you're proud of? Maker projects, photos of an activation, a magnetic loop antenna... The possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

Such an evening would be invaluable to our new members and perhaps serve as the starting point for a state-wide version in the spirit of the original Suffolk RED.

Give it some thought: What might you demonstrate, what would you need to do it? Do you want to work with a partner? An NCRC event would provide valuable experience in preparation for a state-wide outreach event. Imagine a Rhode Island RED event hosted by one of our school partners, say Bishop Hendricken...

Winter Field Day

In The Beginning

Two years ago, Paul Silverzweig, N1PSX, decided to give the new Winter Field Day a try. Like spring Field Day, Winter Field Day is an exercise in emergency communications, but with the added burden of potentially difficult weather conditions.



Paul Silverzweig, N1PSX

Paul organized an NCRC crew and took them to The Glen, where we run spring Field Day, and set up on the last full weekend of January, 2016.

No one had any grand expectations, the weather was unseasonably mild, no snow, and so our ops had a fine time. The fun thing is that Paul's team came in

2nd Place Nationally!



"Well dang" says he, let's try it again. So last year Paul again took an NCRC crew down to The Glen on the last full weekend in January. This time Paul's team came in

1st Place Nationally!

At minimum, these impressive finishes dispel any thought that NCRC is a small club that gets lucky from time to time.

Its January Again

This year Winter Field Day falls on weekend of the 27th and 28th of this month, about two weeks from now. Several things are new this year, most of all, that Paul remains in Puerto Rico with the emergency communication teams. John King, WA1ABI, and Willy MacLean, W1LY, have stepped up to take on the leadership of this year's effort.

John and Willy reviewed the club's record in competitive operating and decided that NCRC does not need to secure yet another national place finish and that this year the Winter Field Day emphasis would be on getting any operator who would like to participate seated at the table.

If you would like to try your hand at running a contest station, contact John or Willy. There will be seasoned operators on hand to guide you, so you need not be concerned about your experience level.

The weekend will begin at 08:00 Saturday with station and



antenna set-ups.

The stations will go on the air at 14:00 and run for 24 hours until 14:00 on Sunday. Tear down will begin immediately after the stations go QRT with everything gone by 16:00.

The stations are reasonably comfortable in their tents with good light and an electric heater. Logging will be done on paper, so there is no software to be mastered.



Typical station tent

One unknown is the weather. Will the snow cover be gone by then? Will fresh snow have fallen? Snow will complicate set up, so extra helping hands will be most welcome.

Many would say that High Frequency operations are the heart and soul of Amateur Radio. Have you wanted to give it a try? Here's a golden opportunity with everything in place including willing helping hands—why not take a walk on the HF side?

