

The

# Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, June 2018

## Vineyard Sound

Continuing our press into the Cruising Grounds of Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts, the NCRC Island Activators will return to Vineyard Sound July 22nd through July 26th.

Our support vessels, Goblin and Barbara E will again work out of Cuttyhunk.



Morning on Cuttyhunk

We've taken rooms at the historic Cuttyhunk Fishing Club and one of these rooms includes twin beds for visiting NCRC members who wish to try their hand at working an island qualification.

Cuttyhunk is a tiny island and short on support services, yet we manage to eat well and enjoy a fine cocktail hour at day's end. The unhurried natural beauty of the island accounts for its magical appeal.

After a sumptuous breakfast, the Activators will board the boats and set course for the island of the day. A few dinghy runs will get our gear ashore and a half hour or so later, we'll announce a new island on the air.

## Island Activations 2018



Heading down Vineyard Sound

Now at the bottom of Solar Cycle 24, we don't expect the multi-hundred contact days that were typical of a few years ago, but we always handily meet the US Islands qualification requirements. Most of all, each evening is filled with outrageous tales that happen to be true. For example, the day last year that a line of bulls sauntered along behind our station on Nashawena Island.



Whadda ya looking at hammy?

Each day's island is chosen the evening before, largely based on wind and weather. This year we've obtained permission to activate Gosnold and Slade Islands, both islands within an island—Cuttyhunk in this case, and Weepecket Island. We are seeking permission to activate Pasque and several of

the cluster of islands that surround Woods Hole.

Does this sound like an adventure that you would like to join? It would be easier than you think because there is ferry service from New Bedford to Cuttyhunk; you would not have to stay the whole time.

M/V Cuttyhunk leaves New Bedford at 9:00 AM and arrives at Cuttyhunk about an hour later. The return trip leaves at 4:00 PM. More information is available at: [www.cuttyhunkferryco.com](http://www.cuttyhunkferryco.com)

If we were operating near the lower Sound (closer to Falmouth) we would make arrangements for transfer at Woods Hole.

### Other Activations

Vineyard sound will likely be our most complex activation project this summer and so is the first off the planning board. Undoubtedly we will activate additional islands closer to home, so if this one seems a bit beyond your comfort level, take cheer, more are forthcoming.

That said, this is an adventure that only those who have cruised the pristine waters of the Sound can truly appreciate, why not step up? Contact:

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

## Field Day, The Biggest Weekend in Amateur radio, June 23-24

Field Day is a multi-faceted round-the-clock radio festival. It is Amateur radio's largest and most popular annual event. Over the course of the Field Day weekend, over 30,000 hams will operate more than 2,000 off-grid field stations in fifty states and Canada.



Conceived as an emergency communications drill, the goal is to work as many stations as possible on the amateur radio bands. NCRC will operate in the most popular and competitive category, 2A. Typically there are some 400 entrants in 2A,—many of whom are long-time perennial competitors. For a modest-sized club, NCRC fares exceedingly well, typically we rank in the Top Ten of the 2A category.



Glen Park on the Sakonnet River

Our Field Day site is beautiful Glen Park in Portsmouth on the

Sakonnet River. We are grateful to the Town of Portsmouth for the use of this site with its open spaces and support facilities. We have tables under a pavilion, a full kitchen, and rest rooms.

Our Phone and CW stations will be staffed primarily by experienced high-speed operators, but our Field Day is not limited to experienced hams. We've shown repeatedly that NCRC can keep up with the best of them and now we are more interested in helping new and returning hams find a home in Amateur Radio. New comers will be at ease with the relaxed pace at the VHF and Satellite stations. And then there is the Get On The Air—GOTA—station that is specifically dedicated to introducing new and prospective hams to operating HF.



GOTA Station with new operator and coaches

You don't even have to be licensed to try HF operating in the GOTA tent and you'll have experienced operator coaches with you all the time.

Field Day is also a social event with something for all members of the family. Saturday evening is the Field Day picnic with a sumptuous

spread orchestrated by Ed and Fay Gosling.



The yum-yum table

John King, WA1ABI, is the Ring Master of this complex operation of many moving parts. He is very clear that there are two goals:

- Safety is our Number 1 priority.
- There is something for everyone. This is a family-friendly event.



Safety briefing before setup begins

John points out that planning for this year's Field Day began as last year's event ended. Further, the operations are based on Incident Command System principles.

Field Day is only two weeks away and schedules are beginning to be drawn up. Take a look at the following summaries and consider joining the fun. Contact information is provided with each description.



## Field Day, The Biggest Weekend in Amateur radio, June 23-24

### Get On The Air (GOTA ) Station

This is a High Frequency phone station dedicated to introducing or reintroducing people to HF operating. You are eligible if you:

- Earned your first license within the past year.
- Upgraded your license within the past year.
- Don't have a license at all.

Coaches will be on duty at all times to guide you.

**Contact Dave Brown, KC1GPA**

### VHF Station

This is a relaxed station for any licensed hams. Primary operations will be on 6 meters (50 MHz), however operation is permitted on any band above 50 MHz. The operator may choose SSB phone, CW, and possibly digital modes. Seats will be available for anyone wishing to operate.

**Contact Chuck Kesson, N1CKT**

### Satellite Station

This is also a relaxed station, but it is different in that it will operate for only a short time, time enough to make a satellite contact. If you wish to work with this station, contact Bob to make arrangements.

**Contact Bob Beatty, WB4SON**

### Phone Station

This is a primarily SSB Voice plus CW shift (HF) operation. This is a rapid-fire contest operation for seasoned contest operators. Some

seats may be available. Previous contest experience is required.

**Contact John King, WA1ABI**

### CW Station

This is a CW-only (HF) station. This is a rapid-fire CW contest operation for seasoned CW contest operators. There are no remaining seats.

### 👉 How you can Help 👈

Following are descriptions and contact information for the many moving parts that make Field Day work. See more information at:

[http://w1sye.org/?page\\_id=3917](http://w1sye.org/?page_id=3917)

### Set up and breakdown

Thursday Staging: 2 or more Volunteers needed. Lifting and bending tasks staging tower sections.

Friday Setup: Many tasks, some light duty. Something for everyone. All antennas and shelters will be set up. Lunch will be provided for people who work both morning and afternoon shifts on Friday.

Saturday Setup: Many tasks, some light duty. Something for everyone. Final station setups. Generator setups.

Sunday Demobilization: Many tasks, some light duty. Something for everyone. Everything must go.

**Contact Willy MacLean, W1LY**

### GOTA Tent

Experienced hams are needed as coaches and loggers to assist

and encourage first timers at the mike.

**Contact Dave Brown, KC1GPA**

### Picnic Prep

Ed and Fay do a great job with the Saturday picnic and would appreciate assistance in the kitchen and at the tables.

**But most of all, please sign up with the number in your picnic party as soon as possible so Ed can plan his menu.**

**Contact Ed Gosling, W1NQH**

### Field Day Schedule

Thursday June 21

Staging. Large items delivered to site.

Friday June 22

08:00 –Dusk:

All antennas and towers assembled and erected.

All tents set up.

Transmission lines run from tents to antennas. RF testing.

Kitchen stocked. Food prep (off site.)

Saturday June 23

09:00 –12:00: Final Setup (Radios, generators, power cables.)

14:00 - Commence 24-hour FD operations (Four stations.)

15:00: Educational Activity

18:00: Family picnic

Sunday June 24

Conclude FD operations at 14:00  
Demobilize and return site to better than as-found condition.  
Clear of site by 18:00