

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, July 2018

*Following are excerpts from the
Portsmouth Times coverage of NCRC
Field day.*

Getting the Message: Amateur Hams Hold Annual Field Day

By Kristen Ray

Members of the Newport County Radio Club gathered at Glen Park in Portsmouth for a weekend of education, camaraderie and fun as they competed in the 85th annual Field Day event on Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24.

Beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, amateurs, or "hams," of the NCRC joined nearly 40,000 others in the United States and Canada as they worked to contact as many amateur radio stations as possible within a 24-hour period.

Paul Fredette, current president of the NCRC, hopes that this year's festivities showcased the endless possibilities that amateur radio offers and has inspired more people to get involved. "We've got engineers and veterans, women and students operating as licensed hams. I'm extremely impressed with the varying skill-sets of our club members."

Newport County Radio Club has members from Middle School to Senior Citizens with diverse backgrounds and interests.

Field Day 2018

Last year, Field Day Master of Ceremonies, John King, WA1ABI, decided that we had spent enough time on the winner's podium and that this year the emphasis would be on getting our members on the air.



Ava, WB1BOS, working GOTA

By any measure, Field Day 2018 met that goal and even so, we appear to have remained competi-

tive at the national level. It takes some time before all the scores are tabulated and published, but by John's reckoning, our estimated score this year is 13,770 points. That's only slightly lower than last year's all time best of 14,360 points.

This past year has been a turning point for NCRC; our membership has become much more diverse in age and gender than it has ever been in the past. With this comes broadened interests and activities.



Heather, N1HJK, with a greenstick.



And a good time was had by all, just ask Dick Bianco, KC1IPJ

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

Set-up

As John King says, "Field Day has a lot of moving parts." Wizard of all things moving is Willy MacClean, W1LY. Willy is a master at Physics 101, making large objects move with a few people and a lot of planning.



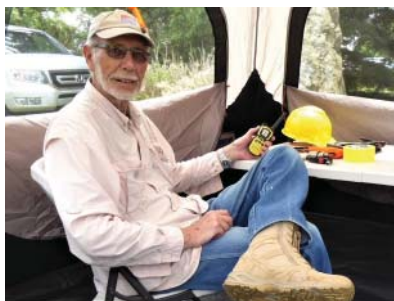
Getting ready to hoist.

In the end, it looks pastoral with multiple towers gleaming in the afternoon sun.



Operating

Before the official 1400q start, station chiefs begin to talk informally on the bands to get a feel for conditions and to establish a presence.



Chuck, N1CKT, 6-meter chief

Get On The Air

To paraphrase the opening lyric from *Sound of Music*, The bands are alive with the sound of contacts.



Denneese, KC1JRX, working.

This year the GOTA station saw more operators than ever before. The intent of this station is to get new, non, returning, and up-graded hams into the fray. By that standard, this year's station was the best ever.



Sisters working.

Seminars

We try to have a ham-related presentation as part of the weekend. This year, Mac Cullen, K6MAC, told us about his Eagle Scout service project, the establishment of a mesh network in the Newport area.



Mac Cullen, K6MAC.

This is a very sophisticated project and will have impact beyond Mac's scouting.

Family Picnic

And then there is the family picnic Saturday evening. Ed and Fay Gosling head up a team of helpers to provide a dandy end of day.



Ed and Fay Gosling on right.

Entertainment

You can never know what delights to expect at Field Day. New this year, the skip-a-thon was won by an unknown challenger.



Unknown master wins the rope skipping contest by a huge margin.

Are You Interested in Emergency Communication?

This is one of several questions that new member applicants are asked when they apply online for NCRC membership. In the past year, nearly all applicants have responded affirmatively.

Recently a new member reaffirmed that interest, adding "...but I don't know where to start."

What is EmComm?

The ARRL byword, *When all Else fails* implies a ready reserve communication service. A closer look reveals that there are two branches of this service, Public Safety Communications and Public Service Communications.

Public Safety Communications

This is the most demanding EmComm activity and includes working with Emergency Operations Centers, Incident Command Posts, disaster shelters and other agencies where human life is at risk. The critical nature of Public Safety Communications requires training, vetting, and credentialing of operators. The Newport County Emergency Communication Team (NCECT) maintains a corps of trained, credentialed, and disciplined Emergency Communications Technicians.

John King, WA1ABI, runs ECT-100 classes that prepare hams for this service. This level of participation should be viewed as a goal to be reached after gaining experience with other communication activities that are less demanding in training and performance. You

can find more about NCECT under the tab of the same name on the club web site,

www.w1sy.org

Public Service Communicators

Next time you see a public event that involves a lot of people, like a bike or road race, look around for a ham with a 2-meter radio, usually wearing a distinctive vest. These are event communicators that allow event headquarters to keep track of everyone. These hams may ride in a vehicle and be directed to a broken down bicycle, or perhaps provide communications between resources and someone in need. I've served as a check station in long distance cross country ski events and reported skiers as they passed our milestone.

This service begins with training and on-the-job experience. Although clear and accurate messaging remains essential, the training is considerably less formal than ECT classes. Public service communication is a good way to begin as an emergency communicator.

Ted Wrobel, W1GRI, has offered to run a class for Public Service Communicators. This month will see the first of our Hands-On meetings (Third Thursday of the month). A class for beginning Public Service Communications would make an ideal topic for a future Hands-On if there is sufficient interest. Indicate your inter-

est with an e-mail to,

editor@w1sy.org

The Basic Skill

Regardless of the level of participation, the basic skill of an Emergency Communicator is the ability to receive and send messages clearly, accurately, and in accordance with the operating procedure in place.

All EmComm messaging is net controlled and that is the essential starting place for any ham wishing to become an EmComm Communicator. Fortunately you can get started right here at Newport County Radio Club by checking into any of our nets. The Monday through Friday net at 1900^h is ideal for this because you can use your hand-held 2-meter radio, our W1SYE repeater has good range, and you will soon become familiar with the net controllers, the regulars, and controlled net procedures.

ARES

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is an ARRL emergency communicator program. ARES consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in service of the public. This is another training avenue. You can find out more about ARES on the ARRL web site,

<http://www.arrl.org/ares>

NCRC member Paul Silverzweig, N1PSX, is the Rhode Island SEC for ARES.