

The

Modulator

Newsletter of the Newport County Radio Club, January 2019

John King

It would be unthinkable to describe our successes in Field Day and Winter Field Day without recognizing NCRC's John King. John was the long-time Emergency Management Director for the Town of Portsmouth and guiding figure in our field operations.



John A. King 1953-2018

John led many of our Field Day operations to the top of Class 2A, the most competitive class nationally. He was also a crackerjack CW operator and his fist added to our scores. His style was exemplified by holding a "hotwash" (review) session for the coming year as soon as the current year gear had been stowed.

We are fortunate that John was not a one man band and that most of the key people who worked with him are still a part of NCRC. They are carrying on in the same can-do spirit.

Winter Field Day

Knock-knock

Who's there? Winter Field Day! It's January and NCRC is getting ready to get on the air again in the winter version of the biggest ham radio operating event, June Field Day.



Like Field Day, Winter Field Day emphasizes communications in a simulated emergency situation, but with the added burden of winter conditions. Generators that run well in early summer stumble and even drinking water freezes in its containers.

X Factor—Weather

Our previous Winter Field Day exercises have enjoyed mild weather and clear ground. But Bob Beatty, WB4SON, reports that the long-range forecast suggests that we could have very different conditions this year—significant snow on the ground and cold winds!

Willy MacLean, W1LY, reports that the set up teams and opera-

tors are pretty much set to go and are looking forward to another successful exercise regardless.



Setting up for WFD 2018

Computer Logging

New this year will be the debut of the club's new hardened lap tops all running networked AC Log. The new QSL Management team has been working toward a standardized logging procedure for all events. The idea is for club members to be able to use these lap tops for small portable operations and have their event logs added to the club's master log.

Come On Down

NCRC does very well in all of its operations, among the top few nationally, so why not stop by The Glen in Portsmouth, Saturday and Sunday, January 26th and 27th, to see a well-oiled machine in operation? Each station will be in a tent, usually with three people: the operator, logger, and coach. You won't be able to talk to the operator or logger, but the coach may be able to answer questions.

Good Tidings

Amateur radio has a proud tradition of extending a helping hand. Bob Beatty, WB4SON, has a young neighbor, Ryan, who became interested in Amateur Radio and so it follows that Bob mentored Ryan as he worked toward becoming a Technician. What makes this story special is that Ryan is blind and so Bob had to modify his Elmering style to fit Ryan's strengths.



New Technician Ryan and Bob

After some months of after school study sessions, Ryan was ready to tackle the Technician exam.

One of the benefits of having a broad membership is that we have Jack Garforth's, N1JK, VE team. Jack mustered his team to provide a VE session in Ryan's home. It is unclear who was more happy with the outcome, Ryan, his parents, or the team.



Smiles all around for Ryan

Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party is a relaxed gathering and this year was not an exception. The cocktail hour was pleasant and the buffet dinner tasty. Everyone seems to agree that the Mainstay Inn in Newport does a good job hosting the club.



Awards

The US Islands Awards Program is an organization that encourages hams to set up portable stations on US islands. US Islands tells us that our NCRC Island Activators are the most active qualifiers of new islands on the East Coast!

Certificates for first time qualifiers of ten islands were presented to Pete Lawson, W1LAB; Willy MacLean, W1LY; John Mills, K1JSM; and Jim Sammons, KA1ZOU.

NCRC has maintained a Volunteer Examiner program led by Jack Garforth, N1JK, for many years. Jack organizes four VE sessions plus special sessions each year. He trains new VEs and handles all ARRL and FCC paperwork. All the while "the coffee pot is on." Jack was presented with an honorary brick in the ARRL Headquarters Diamond Terrace in recognition of his service as head of our VE team.

New Officers

The final formality was the official installation of officers for

2019. Vice President Jim Sammons, KA1ZOU, thanked outgoing president Paul Fredette, KB1YBE, and introduced the new officers.

President Dick Bianco, KC1IPJ
Vice Pr: Jim Sammons, KA1ZOU
Secretary: Bob Beatty, WB4SON
Treasurer: Ted Wrobel, W1GRI
Past Pr: Paul Fredette KB1YBE
Director: Paul Wynn, KC1HEP
Director: Willy MacLean, W1LY

Tom Foolery

Christmas party guests are invited to bring a wrapped gift to enter in a Yankee Swap. Led by Willy's XYL, Linda. With her sharp wit, this is always a crowd pleaser. Usually there is a "most favorite" gift revealed and that leads to vigorous horse trading.



Rob gets a bassoon, or what???

But some gifts are true treasures. How about this antique Heathkit single sideband transceiver?

