



Newport County Radio Club

Post Office Box 3103, Newport, RI 02840 www.w1sye.org

The March 11, 2019 NCRC meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Dick KC1IPJ. There were 34 members and a guest present.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved by the membership, as posted on the website.

Jim, KA1ZOU, gave the membership report which stood at 128. A new member applicant, Tim Cashman, KB1UZD, from Wakefield, was voted into membership, bringing our latest membership count to 129.

Mike K1NPT reported on his STEAM efforts. Bob announced that the next Tech Class is starting April 23 (Tuesday) at 5:30 at St Lucy's. Signeups have been lite so far. Paul K1YBE announced his General Group will be held at the same time/location. Paul also said he is looking for volunteers for the STEM4girls event at UmassD March 30.

Ted W1GRI reported that the club has \$10,145 in the bank + PayPal \$1791. He mentioned that donations had been pledged to offset the cost of the swapout of the CF-30 Toughbooks to newer CF-31 models. Dues collection are somewhat slower than normal with 28 of our 129 members yet to pay.

Jim KA1ZOU mentioned that the QSL uploads are pending the new laptops, and he is in the process of generating some potential QSL designs.

Ray Perry, KC1IPC, described the Portsmouth EMA EmComm Needs. Ray will begin a series of Thursday night training sessions at the Portsmouth EOC. The first is planned for March 28th at 6:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend.

Ted W1GRI, described his plan for the Hands On Event scheduled for March 21st at ASA. He indicated that ARES has changed to recognize that there are three levels of training (basic, more advanced with several ICS requirements, and high-end which includes E911 handoff). His event will cover the basics of message passing and forms. He highly recommends people obtain a copy (PDF) of the AUXFOG: <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/AUXFOG%20June%202016%20-%20508%20Reviewed%20-%20Final%20%282-16-17%29.pdf>

Willy W1LY summarized the Florida Island Activations, showing a nice video of the Spoil Island chain where the events happened. He discussed the equipment used and how it was left setup as they traveled from island to island. Members are directed to the website news post for photos.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

A presentation was given on the Ham Shack Hotline by Dave Neil, W2DAN, and Ken Reynolds KA1EZH. This is a free VoIP telephone system that is managed by volunteers. Some rather extensive back-end hardware is in use (four servers in various locations). It was intended to be used by hams as an augmentation for Public Service and Safety communications. It was pointed out that it requires both an active internet connection as well as power to operate, although they did demonstrate the use of a cell phone as a hotspot to allow the phones to work. They also mentioned that there is a DMR talkgroup that can connect into the phone system, as well as dedicated & private teleconference groups.

Respectfully Submitted
Bob WB4SON - Secretary