



Newport County Radio Club

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

The September 9, 2019 NCRC meeting was called to order by Dick KC1IPJ at 7:03 PM. There were 35 members and one guest present.

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

Jim KA1ZOU gave the membership report which stands at 131 after voting in Peter Bartram, KQ1X, from East Greenwich. Badges for new members dating back to April of this year are on order.

Mike K1NPT gave an update on his education and STEAM outreach activities. On Sept 23 a 60 foot tower with beam will be moved to ASA. Mike has applied for another IBM Grant, and intends to launch 4 Helium Balloons (about 3' diameter) designed to reach about 30,000 feet. The school is working with WSPR, and the effort to expand the Mesh Network continues. The FD is going to assist with a bucket truck to locate the proper elevation for line of site between Portsmouth Middle School and the fire tower. There is also some interest in adding a node to the Raytheon ARC.

Ted W1GRI reported a balance of \$10,873. He also reported on the Surftown half-marathon that was completed last Sunday, and described the upcoming Cystic Fibrosis race.

John K1JSM and Jim KA1ZOU described the successful Pomham Rocks & Ruth Island activation on Aug 18th. Richard read a letter of thanks received from the preservation society following our donation.

A new activation is planned up in Cundy's Harbor, Maine for later in September. Details will be forthcoming.

Paul K1YBE described the two upcoming build nights. The first on October 7th will be a soldering skills class followed by building a offset-mixer/attenuator used for Fox Hunting (\$5 cost for the board). The second build night will be on October 21st and will cover construction of a tape-measure yagi and measuring its characteristics with a VNA. Paul also mentioned a goal to develop CW operators in the future.

Mary KC1NEB discussed the tri-city (Newport/Middletown/Portsmouth) Preparedness Event scheduled for November 9th. She has a T-Shirt design (Black) that will be printed by Blowfish in Middletown with the club logo on the front and "Newport County Radio Club" on the back. This will appear for sale on the club website.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM

Following the meeting, Dr Adria Updike, KC1LOK (club member) and her student Jenna Lowe, gave a fascinating presentation on a high-altitude balloon experiment that they conducted this summer. Tracking data was gathered. The balloon traveled a bit further than expected, and wound up in a river right at the southern CT shoreline. On the technical side, a COTS transmitter was used to send APRS beacons. The entire payload (instruments, radar reflector, etc) weighed 1600 grams, and the helium provided about 200 grams of positive lift (77 cubic feet). An onboard camera recorded some images along the way. Additional data was gathered but did not survive immersion in salt water. Much was learned about how difficult it is to notify the FAA as required by federal law.

Respectfully Submitted
Bob WB4SON - Secretary