

NCRC Committee Reports for October 2022

Membership Report (Paul K1YBE)

- 3 new member applicants
 - Andy KC1OKI Staub - Barrington, Bill Lacross - Barrington, John Pudloski n0swo
 - Total new members this year: 21
- 157 current paid members
- You can easily pay the \$25 annual membership fee on the w1sye.org website [here](#).

Education: (Bob WB4SON, Paul K1YBE, Mike AA1XQ)

- Classes canceled due to low signups. Please contact k1ybe@yahoo.com if you need assistance with upgrade material.
- Quarterly exam on Dec 10 is the next VE session. (Mike AA1XQ)

Nets: (Rich N1ZSR, Ted W1GRI, Bob WB4SON, Scott WX1X)

- NCRC builds lifelong community-connecting through lively daily and weekly nets. Join in! Times and frequencies are on the w1sye.org website [here](#).

- **REPEATER STATUS**

The W1SYE Repeater was replaced by Dave W2DAN and Mark W1MBF on Saturday October 8th. Initial testing indicates RX performance is better than the original GE MASTR II.

Events this month:

- **October 10, 1022: The Monthly Meeting** will be a hybrid in-person meeting at St. Barnabas Parish Hall in Portsmouth. (Zoom for those that can't attend in person.) The short business meeting will be followed by a summary of the PLOA event, a review and request for additional volunteers for JOTA at Camp Champlin in Cranston on Saturday October 15, (KC1KOO, John Vecoli)
- JOIN w1sye@groups.io for the full NCRC Calendar

Pete Lawson Outdoor Adventure at the Fort Getty Pavilion held on Sunday Sept 18: (John K1JSM, Willy W1LY, and Jim Sammons KA1ZOU)

- See detailed report at the end of this
- [https://nediv.arrl.org/2022/09/19/adventures-celebrating-silent-key s-with-new-keys/](https://nediv.arrl.org/2022/09/19/adventures-celebrating-silent-key-s-with-new-keys/)

Treasurer's Report (Ted W1GRI)

Bank \$16,963.06

Paypal \$2,285.46

Total \$19,248.52

Designated funds

IBM \$890.15

Lawson (See John Mills Report)

Community Outreach and Engagement

ARTEN (1-10 GHz) Amateur Radio Training Experiment Network (Paul K1YBE)

- \$8K ARRL Grant request for a 6GHz VNA and sensor nodes with Mesh radios is being prepared.
- The new AREDN Mesh software revision should be loaded into neo

ARRL NE section: Spectrum Protection and Use group happenings (Paul K1YBE)

- Meeting held Oct 6
 - Test Equipment (e.g 705 spectrum analyzer) has been procured for use by the NE section team. If you suspect a radio interference (RFI) problem exists, file a request for assistance.
 - Plenty of RFI guidance is available at
 - Opportunity to have the test equipment demonstrated at a club event. Suggested Late Feb/Mar hands on event to include direction finding antenna build in anticipation of Fox hunting events

Scouting (John KC1KOO) Please let John (john.vecoli@gmail.com) know if you are interested in helping for one or both events. We will need radio gear and operators along with people to help with the Radio Merit Badge training/education!

I HAVE TWO RADIO STATIONS, LOOKING FOR ANOTHER STATION.

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

WHEN - Friday, October 14th - Sunday, October 16th, 2022, with our focus on **Saturday October 15th**.

PURPOSE - Provide a HAM/Radio experience to the scouts and interface with the community. Provide an opportunity for the Scouts BSA to earn the Radio Merit Badge.

WHERE - Camp Champlin, 223 Scituate Ave., Cranston, RI

WHO - Operators who can come out to camp and operators to answer "CQ JAMBOREE." There will be three radios operating in a cabin with a wood stove. The goal is to have 4-6 operators throughout Saturday, Oct. 15, 0800-1800. John will be camping Friday through Sunday. Could use some help Friday to setup and Sunday to breakdown. Please coordinate with John (KC1KOO) if you are interested.

The Radio Merit Badge will be offered in two sessions, morning and afternoon. We have two instructors but if you are interested in helping please contact John (KC1KOO).

For more information about JOTA please visit the event website:
www.world-jotajoti.info

Adventure at the Fort (Jamboree)

WHEN - Friday, October 21st - Sunday, October 23rd, 2022

PURPOSE - Provide a HAM/Radio experience to the scouts and interface with the community.

WHAT - Join Narragansett Council at Fort Adams this fall for the first Council Jamboree in 20 years! The Narragansett Council is excited to bring Scouts and families together for a weekend of fun and adventure. Join thousands of Scouts from across New England, for an event like no other! Stay for the weekend with your troop or join us for the day on Saturday. The programs will be non-stop, highlighting unique scout activities, and opportunities you will only find at the 2022 Adventure at The Fort. We'll be joined by program partners including youth programs, colleges, universities, military, historical groups, environmental organizations, nautical clubs, and so many more! You won't want to miss the scout-led activities, food trucks, Sunday Services, trading post, and a full-scale Saturday Night stage show!

The Narragansett Council Jamboree is open to the public for day programs on 10/22, Scouts will not want to miss this chance to bring their friends. Adventure at The Fort is a can't miss event for every Scout.

- Weekend Camping for Scouts BSA Troops (11-18 years old)
- All-day programs for Cubs on 10/22 (6-10 years old)
- Public welcome on 10/22

Troops registered to camp will arrive on Friday evening, participate in all Saturday programs and depart on Sunday. Troops are responsible for their own meals, propane stoves are allowed, food trucks are available all-day Saturday. No fires.

Setup antennas prior to the event. Operated through the weekend (Scouts BSA) with a focus on activities on Saturday for Scouts BSA, Cubs, families, and the community!

Make it FUN!

WHERE - Fort Adams State Park - 90 Fort Adams Drive, Newport, RI 02840

WHY - Adventure at the Fort is the largest, most exciting, Narragansett Council event in years. Scouts will participate in activities not offered at summer camp or a typical scout Camporee! Meet scouts from across New England, camp in a one-of-a-kind 19th-century coastal fort located on the shore of beautiful Narragansett Bay. Bring your friends and family, show them all the awesome things that Scouts do. Join us Saturday Night for a stage show celebrating the fun and fellowship of Scouting. Food trucks! Sailing! Climbing! and More!

Pete Lawson Outdoor Adventure

- Report as of 10/8/2022
- Pete Lawson Outdoor Adventure RECAP
 - Event date: Sept 18,2022
 - 57 total attended
 - 33 members attended
- Revenue total: \$5,201
- Expense total: \$2,378
- In the kitty for next year: \$2,823
- Revenue recap:
 - Sale of W1LAB gear: \$1,415
 - Registrations: \$1,294
 - Add'l donations totaled: \$2,492
 - includes Dave Cain's \$800 paid to Town of Jamestown
- Thanks to all our donors.
- Thanks to all that attended.
- Thanks to all who helped out.

After Action Report October 5, 2022

SIGN UP - Registration

The \$20 deposit was a good fund raiser, but a burden on families. Next time make the deposit for the member only and maybe optional for spouse.

The default was "refund my deposit". Too many left the default in place.

Next time require the member to indicate yes or no to a refund. In other words, no default.

Paypal is difficult. Finding out who registered and how much they paid was a PITA.

Several members registered twice which was confusing. Were they bringing addition family or did they forget that they already registered? Need a way that a member can see that he has already registered and the amount he/she paid.

DOOR PRIZE

The door prize was not compelling. Needs to be more promotion or a larger prize, such as a HF radio. Also need to sell raffle tickets with registration and at the venue so members have a vested interest. The legal ramifications of raffles needs to be considered.

DATE

Mid September is a good time for this event.

VENUE

Ft. Getty was good, but very windy. Now that members know where it is, continued use might be a good thing. Also covered event space hard to find.

FOOD

Scratch Kitchen & Catering did a good job.

SERVICE

The concept of do it yourself, i.e. table cloths, servers, beverages, ice, coolers, clean up, PA systems etc. places too much work on too few. This worked this year only because the event committee were Pete and Marshall Lawsons friends. They were determined to make it a success.

This DIY is not sustainable. Next year's committee should consider a full service venue such as Kempenaar's Clambake Club in Middletown.

GAMES and EVENTS

Morse code key - big hit.

Fox Hunt - Big hit. Perhaps the club should build antennas in advance, a members' build night, with use and testing at next years PLOA.

HF Radio - not so good, because venue too noisy, radio's screen hard to read in bright daylight, radio would not tune the antenna, and little interest.

Need additional thought about the fun aspect. Maybe have some electronic/radio-active games.

ATTENDANCE

For the 1st event, attendance was good but could be better. Need to focus on the 2/3's of the members who did not attend. How can we draw them in?? Need to show that hams are interested in doing things and having fun. Need a way to survey members.

OTHER

Next year, how to honor other SK's? We can't put up a big picture board because we don't have photos. Also how many SK's can you honor? Depending on how far one looks back, there are many. Perhaps focusing in NCRC's history and accomplishments is a better or more appealing emphasis.

Recommendations from others:

Have a looped video of NCRC photos.

Have a presentation on some interesting facet of amateur radio, such as moon bounce, or satellite comms.

Use a phone tree to generate interest and to remind members to sign up.

Recap event at monthly meeting.

Pre-build events (antennas, keys, etc.).

Pete Lawson Outdoor Adventure Report

Comments by Jim Sammons

SIGN UP - Registration

As has pointed out, there were multiple execution difficulties with the pay and get refunded operation. I suggest that a member signs up and pays a fee for him/herself and that member indicates the number children and if spouse will attend. We pick up the cost of those additional guests.

My thinking is that by admitting the guests for free, we impart a greater sense of value for signing up than the convoluted pay-refund approach. Skip the yes-no refund option; simplifies the process.

Door Prize

Some of our debrief conversation touched on more, but less expensive, door prizes. Here is a thought that may address two concerns at once: Rather than spending big bucks on a single prize that offers scant chance of winning, why not buy "some" prizes, count to be determined. This clutch of booty might be augmented by member donations of unneeded gear. Here's the second concern: the awarding of the prizes would become a celebrated part of the show rather than the somewhat anticlimactic award we saw this time. There are lots of possibilities here, for example, a big box with strings hanging out. Pick a string – see what you get. Or perhaps something like the Yankee Swap that we've had at the Christmas parties.

Venue/Food/Service

Unless you talk to those who did the heavy lifting and you arrived at the pavilion early to discover how unprepared the site was, it's hard to get a comprehensive sense of the hassle (not work) that pulling this event together required. It didn't come out in the debrief, but remember that Dave Cain paid for the pavilion, \$800 I think. Were we to return would we have to add the reservation fee to the budget? My personal opinion is that if we were to replicate this year's event next year, that would be the last time a crew would volunteer to run another PLOA event.

That said, going to a full service venue is probably incompatible with the family guests for free concept that I outlined above if the full service venue charges on a per-head basis. To evaluate this full-service venue approach, we would need to have some specific conversation with potential candidates.

Games and Events

These are the potential backbones of the event. We need to put a lot more thought into what we can do and who/how they will run. Here's an off-the-cuff suggestion, a hybrid letter boxing course. Clues for the next station (from the station where one is currently) would be tailored to observable features of the venue site. There would be a rubber stamp at each station and participants would stamp a card created for this purpose. A full card would earn acknowledgement and perhaps a small prize. The course would be arranged as a loop so that participants could be started at any station.

I think the Fox Hunt participants were suitably entertained, but my take away is that hunting without a directional antenna equipped with an attenuator is frustrating. With all the tricks in play, the signal was either too strong or non-existent. Unless we come up with a building program that produces such antennas, I suggest that we come up with an alternative use of the HTs.

Another off-the-cuff: Several licensed members with HTs team up with 4-6 others who are blindfolded. Each licensed member and others are a team. The licensed member directs the others with turn and step counts to assemble a shape provided on a card – square, triangle, etc. First to complete wins another small prize.

Ideally everyone would have an HT, but even if only two or three of a team have HTs, they can call out/relay to the non-HT team members. We have five fox frequencies, plus a sixth in reserve, in the simplex subband plan and these would accommodate that many teams. Each of these frequencies is separated by 30 KC, so in-close crosstalk would not be a problem.

Submitted by the PLOA Committee, including

J Mills, K1JSM

W Maclean, W1LY

J Sendrak, KC1LYG

J Sammons, KA1ZOU