

Newport County Radio Club (NCRC) Meeting Minutes, 14 JUL 2025

Attendees: Jim Sendrak, Willy MacLean, Brian Cottle, Mike Rousseau, Dave Emond, Rene Martel, Rich Townson, Jay Nuzum, John Vecoli, Joe DeMarco, Keith Henry, Crystal Thibault, John Brewer, Ellen Vadney, Rob White, Paul Fredette, Alan Schwartze, Bruce Braga, Bill Bagwill, Bob Matose, Brian Cook, Bob Beatty, Scott Nacey, John Jackman, Ed Gosling, Bill Corbin, Bruce Manning (Z), Dave Quinn (Z), Nolan Byrne (Z), Chuck Kesson (Z), Mike Seil

-Projector & Parish Hall WiFi Issues: The screen projector used to display the prepared meeting slide deck was problematic and we were unable to utilize it during the meeting. In lieu of this the meeting was run from the floor by Club president Jim Sendrak.

In addition to the projector difficulties, the parish hall WiFi was inoperable and an iPhone HotSpot was used to support a Zoom link for remote meeting attendees.

-New Members: Jim Sendrak welcomed two new members to the Club. Both hail from Newport. Brian Cook, KC1EQB, has been licensed as a Technician for roughly ten years and is interested in becoming more active in the hobby. Alan Schwartze, WA1YDT, is a General class operator originally licensed in the late 80s. Alan, like Brian, is planning to become more active in the hobby and is looking to the Club to enhance knowledge and interest in amateur radio.

-NCRC June Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the June meeting minutes was adopted.

-POTA Instruction: Willy MacLean, W1LY, is providing Parks-on-the Air (POTA) instruction to interested hams in the Club via hands-on park activations. This involves a plethora of how-to items from preparing a portable station with rig, power supply, antenna, logging method and perhaps a computer to establishing an account on the POTA website at;

<https://parksontheair.com/index.html>

From the POTA website one can view parks currently activated, spot themselves while at a park or when planning an activation and upload logs post-activation. This is a great way to enjoy ham radio and a day outdoors at a POTA park!

A schedule of Club POTA activations planned for the remainder of the year will be published on the Club website.

-Treasurers' Report: John Jackman, NCRC Treasurer, submitted his monthly report but this was unable to be scrutinized owing to projector issues. However, John's report is available for viewing on the W1SYE.org website.

John mentioned that the Club actually made money via donations from the Field Day Picnic. FB!!

John has prepared an updated membership roster that will be published, again on the Club website, based on annual dues received to date. We request that all members review their information on the roster to ensure all is correct.

- Member Moments; This is a new meeting segment where members are encouraged to bring to the fore items of interest to the Club at-large.

Jay Nuzum, N1CFY, asked if the Club is planning to have a table at the upcoming Northeast HamXposition, August 21st – 25th in Marlborough, Massachusetts. We have no plans at this time but Club members are encouraged to attend. There will be a flea market, major vendor booths and many interesting presentations, e.g. “Curiosity, Inclusiveness, and Mentoring Will Propel Amateur Radio Forward” by Thomas Witherspoon, K4SWL, “HAMSCI: Space Weather We Can Do Together”, by Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, “Remote DXpeditioning” by Ned Stearns, AA7A and “Successful POTA” by Don Dickey, WV1W. More information at;
<https://hamxposition.org/>

Bruce Manning reported on an unfortunate incident that points up the need for safety first in ham radio. A POTA operator was killed recently when his antenna kit touched a power line. The exact circumstances are not entirely clear as the ham was operating alone. But, suffice it to say that antennas should *never ever be erected near power lines!*

Scott Nacey, KK6IK, is a new member of the Club who participated at Field Day in the CW shack. He is a visitor to Rhode Island during the summer months and enjoyed the W1SYE FD experience. He was quite impressed with the entirety of our operation and we hope he can join us again next year.

It turns out that Scott has done quite a bit of portable operating, joining the W1SYE 2m net from second beach in Middletown and extensive DX ops in Europe. He talked a little bit about how to obtain a reciprocal agreement license via the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT). This agreement allows Advanced and Extra class US amateur license holders to operate in many European countries without the need for an individual license for each country. More information at;

<https://www.arrl.org/cept>

Scott uses a collapsible whip similar to the HamGeek PAC-12 300W 5M/6.4FT purchased through AliExpress, currently listed under \$40.00, for portable ops.

-Field Day HotWash; The W1SYE 2025 Field Day HotWash will be published soon on the Club website. Important takeaways include the following;

>>> Better signage and community outreach

>>> FD ambassadors

>>> Fresh tear down crews

>>> Younger hands for setup/teardown

>>> Checklists for FD responsibilities, e.g. Station Manager checklist

>>> Plans for log/computer/rig collection post FD

Field Day photos at;

<https://w1sye.org/?m=202507>

KC1LPV Field Day Video at;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtvbEMsGK70>

-License Advancement Effort: The Club is in the initial stages of talks with the principals at Ham Radio Prep, an organization that has developed curricula for all amateur license classes. Their fees are relatively modest and they guarantee individuals who participate will pass their exam(s) or their money back. More information via the W1SYE website as it becomes available. Also see;

<https://hamradioprep.com/>

-Bob Beatty, WB4SON, Presentation, "Tech on HF – 10m FT8 Fun"; Presentation available for download (only) at;

https://w1sye.org/?page_id=1538

