

Newport County Radio Club (NCRC) Meeting Minutes, 11 AUG 2025

Attendees: Jim Sendrak, Willy MacLean, Brian Cottle, Mike Rousseau, Rene Martel, Rick Townson, Evan Bowen, Joe DeMarco, Keith Henry, Ellen Vadney, Rob White, Paul Fredette, Alan Schwartz, Bruce Braga, Bill Bagwill, Bob Matose, Bob Beatty, John Jackman, Ed Gosling, Dave Quinn, Kim Hanna, Paul Recupero, Mike Cullen, Ted Wrobel, Sean Baker, John Conte, Nolan Byrne (Z), Chuck Kesson (Z), Crystal Thibault (Z), John Mills (Z), Chris Carruba (Z), Stephen Crawford (Z), Jacqueline Day (Z), Brian Cook (Z), Nicole Gotovizh (from RI Information Network – RIPIN), Mike Seil

-Common Fence Point (CPF) Treasure Hunt: Nicole Gotovizh, from the Rhode Island Information Network and representing Common Fence Point, was a guest speaker at this month's NCRC meeting. On Saturday AUG 23rd from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. they (CFP) will conduct a children's pirate-themed treasure hunt. Children will have an opportunity to explore around the Common Fence Point Community Center in search of pirate treasure while chatting via walkie talkie, being supervised by adults. Nicole requested volunteers from the Club to oversee the children and supply clues to the pirate hidden gems via FR/GMRS/2m HT radio. Ray Perry, KC1IPC, of the Portsmouth Emergency Management Agency will supply safety vests and Greg Lavoy, KB1FSQ, and Mike Rousseau, KC1NEJ, will provide walkie talkies. More information at;

<https://www.commonfencepoint.org/events-activities-calendar/#!event/2025/8/23/cfp-apos-s-1st-pirate-day-lower-level>

-NCRC July Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the July meeting minutes was approved.

-New Members: Jim Sendrak welcomed two new members to the Club. Chris Carruba, KC1WZV, is a Tech currently residing in Middletown. He spent six years in the Airforce and has dabbled in radio for many years. Kim Hanna, K1KLH, is also a Tech living in Tiverton in Rhode Island by way of south Texas. Kim worked extensively in radio and TV thus whetting his appetite for ham radio. We welcome both of these gentlemen to NCRC!

-Treasurers' Report: John Jackman, NCRC Treasurer, reported that no new expenditures have been incurred by the Club over the course of the last month. June's financials were approved. As always, John's report will be available for viewing on the W1SYE.org website.

-Club POTA Events: To date the Club has conducted three successful group POTA events at the Eisenhower House at Fort Adams, at Sachuest Point and at Beavertail. We had nine participants at the Beavertail event including one of our newest Club members, Bill Bagwill, (KC1YBQ). Bill did a great job working 2m SSB through the course of the day.

To carry on with POTA activations, John Mills, K1JSM, has volunteered to host (a) POTA activation(s) on 17, 24 or 31 AUG, parks(s) TBD. He currently uses an iPad for his POTA logging running an application called HAMRS. This program is especially convenient for POTA operations as it shows POTA spots directly and has the ability to self-spot, among other features. HAMRS also runs on Windows, MacOS, Linux and Android platforms.

John has also suggested forming a POTA Club. More details to follow on the Club website. See also;

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

-Ham Radio Online Classes; A number of NCRC members have enquired about licensing and upgrade classes. To this end, Jim Sendrak, KC1LYG, has reached out to James Cribbs, NOWRL, the President/CEO of Ham Radio Prep. James presented a brief overview of this ham radio licensing application to the NCRC Executive Committee (EC) on 05 AUG. They have courses at all amateur radio license levels as well as on ancillary topics such as satellite and space operations.

Their approach is quite methodical. For example, their Technician course is made up of 22 lessons rather than the 10 subelements on the actual exam. Practice tests are used to gauge student progress and a consistent grade of 80% is necessary before Ham Radio Prep advises taking an exam.

The fees for each course are nominal and they have a money-back guarantee if a student does not pass a test. They are offering a 10% discount to all NCRC members and will also contribute 20% of the monies they collect from Club members back to the NCRC. Scholarships are available. Ellen Vadney, N1ELN, used this app to study for her Tech and endorses it wholeheartedly.

Ham Radio Prep has a mobile application as well that many students find useful. All are encouraged to peruse the website to see if this is something useful for NCRC. Please see;

<http://hamradioprep.com>

In addition to HRP James also provided a brief demonstration of their World Radio League application. The app has a QSO Manager, a live Contesting scoreboard, a spotting network and a logbook map share among other features. See;

<http://worldradioleague.com>

- 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.

Sean Baker, K1SDB, mentioned that the Scouting Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) will be held the first week in August but that the Narragansett Council does not intend to support. Willy MacLean, W1LY, stated that in his experience they never have.

The Club has a portion of the website dedicated to equipment available for sale and for the taking. This list is quite stale and members are encouraged to update to list any equipment they

no longer want or need. A new member of the Club, John Conte, KC1VXL, enquired about obtaining ham gear from that available from this source. Another source for used equipment is also the RI Swap and Sell for Amateur Radio. The Rhode Island Swap & Sell net runs on Saturday Mornings at 9:00 am on the NB1RI repeater network. For details see;

<https://riswap.net>

as well as their FaceBook page;

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1230771830721692/>

There are a variety of extremely inexpensive 2m/70cm Handie Talkies (HTs) on the market from Chinese manufacturers, most notable Baofeng. These are knock-offs of Japanese manufacturer's products and in general not particularly user-friendly. Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu are Japanese makers that cost more but are more reliable/user-friendly. For HF, the aforementioned Japanese manufacturers are also in play. In particular, the Icom 7300 and the Yaesu FT7-10 and FT-991A are worth considering.

-Pete Lawson Outdoor Adventure (PLOA); This year's PLOA will once again be held at Colt State Park on 07 SEP, in pavilion 1. We plan to use the same caterer located in Bristol for food service. The Executive Committee have allocated \$1700.00 for this purpose. They have also earmarked \$300.00 for door prizes. In addition, equipment from the estate of Jack Garforth, N1JK (SK), may also be made available.

Ideas for what else to do at the picnic have yet to be agreed upon. One suggestion is to conduct a POTA at the park. Consult the W1SYE website for more details as they become available.

-Club Projector; Issues with St. Barnabas Parish Hall video system have plagued our ability to project our meeting slide decks for some time, most recently last month when a lightning strike wreaked havoc with video and WiFi. Jim Sendrak, KC1LYG, meet this issue head-on with the unilateral purchase of an Epson EX9240 projector. He paid \$691.26 on Amazon but found that it was subsequently listed on sale for \$50.00 less. Calling about a rebate, Jim found that he was actually eligible for a \$172.82 refund to bring the actual cost of the projector to \$518.44. The projector worked flawlessly and the Club members voted to allocate funds for this purchase.

-Presentation – Aquidneck Island FRS/GMRS Networking; Mike Cullen talked to his efforts to establish a robust cadre of FRS/GMRS stations throughout Aquidneck Island.