

## *Newport County Radio Club (NCRC) Meeting Minutes, 13 OCT 2025*

**Attendees:** Jim Sendrak, Willy MacLean, Brian Cottle, Mike Rousseau, Evan Bowen, Joe DeMarco, Keith Henry, Ellen Vadney, Bruce Braga, Bob Matose, Ed Gosling, Dave Quinn, Kim Hanna, Paul Recuperero, Mike Cullen, Crystal Thibault, Corry Thibault, Bill Corbin, Tom Kaiser, John Brewer, Bill Boyes, Chris Lirakis, Zachary Murtishi, Nolan Byrne (Z), Rich Travers (Z), Ted Wrobel (Z), Steve Figella (Z), John Conte (Z), Ted Wrobel (Z), Paul Fredette (Z), Chuck Kesson (Z), Mike Seil

**-NCRC August Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the August meeting minutes was approved [There was no formal September meeting in deference to the Pete Lawson Outdoor Adventure (PLOA)].

**-New Members:** Jim Sendrak welcomed several new members to the Club, including Zachary Murtishi, Salim Hameed, Fazal Hameed, Mahmudah Hameed, Patricia Emsellem and Mark Stenning. A motion to approve these memberships was seconded and agreed upon.

**-Treasurers' Report:** John Jackman, NCRC Treasurer, was not present at the 13OCT2025 meeting. We will take his report at our November meeting.

### **-Club Events:**

-PLOA; This year's Outdoor Adventure was held at Colt State Park per usual at the park pavilion and was well attended and enjoyed by all despite inclement weather.

-Christmas Party; Keith Henry, Crystal Thibault and Linda MacLean are planning our December Christmas Party to be held at the Hometown Tavern in Warren, R.I. on December 8<sup>th</sup>. More information to follow regarding this event. Check the W1SYE.org website for the most up-to-date details.

-Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA); JOTA is an annual world-wide scouting event to encourage scouts to become "radio-active." It is always held on the third weekend in October. This year Troop 1 from Jamestown has expressed an interest in participating. Members of the Club are planning to set up a station at Fort Wetherill in Jamestown beginning at 1100 hours on Saturday 18OCT. We will set up at the Fort Getty pavilion in the event of rain. We will operate from approximately 1200 – 1500 hours. More information about JOTA at;

<https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/>

Hams from the Club are encouraged to assist with station set up and mentoring of the Scouts.

**-2026 Elections Slate;** Club bylaws dictate that a slate of next-year's Officers and Executive Committee (EC) be presented to the membership at the October meeting to be voted on at the November meeting. Nominations from the floor may also be entertained at this time. Please see the Club bylaws *Article Eight – Nominations and Elections*. The nominations put forth at the October meeting are as follows;

President >>> Jim Sendrak

Vice President >>> Joe DeMarco

Treasurer >>> John Jackman

Secretary >>> Mike Seil

Executive Committee >>> Bob Beatty, Willy MacLean, Keith Henry, Bob Matose, Evan Bowen

No nominations from the floor were received and the slate of officers and EC members will be voted upon at the November meeting.

**-Coordinator Programs;** Jim Sendrak introduced the idea of Coordinator Programs to the membership to include a variety of categories, many of which still require a leadership coordinator. Joe DeMarco has agreed head up a POTA Program, Bill Boyes will assist with Mentoring, Chris Lirakis is the Projects/Builds Program Coordinator, Ellen Vadney will be the Education Program Coordinator and Willy MacLean is the Club Merchandise Program Coordinator.

Meeting Presentations, Fund Raising, JOTA and Field Day [Antennas/Tents/Radios] are all Programs requiring a coordinator.

**- Member Moments;**

**POTA** >>> Joe DeMarco has conducted a number of Club POTA events most recently at Goddard Park where the Hameed family participated. Salim, N8LI, is father to a son Fazal, KC1YGL, and a daughter Mahmudah, KC1YIH. [Mahmudah is just 11 years old and passed her Tech exam at our September VE session.] The kids and Salim did a FB job getting on the air with the help of Joe and Willy MacLean. Joe emphasized that POTA gets hams more involved in the hobby, that it is a great way to socialize and that it also increases operator proficiency.

**Education** >>> Ellen Vadney, N1ELN, talked to her plans for augmenting educational opportunities for Club members. She is developing a survey to determine what training topics are of interest to members. She circulated a quick paper survey to allow members to jot down tentative training topics.

Ellen has a Master’s degree in Education with an emphasis on workforce development.

Mentoring >>> Bill Boyes, KB1G, has been licensed since 1979 and works as an electronics technician. He has delved into a multitude of ham radio pursuits including CW, SSB, digital, SkyWarn, public service and traffic handling. Members of the Club are encouraged to take advantage of his expertise as an Elmer.

Projects and Builds >>> Chris Lirakis, W1QIS, holds a Ph.D. in Physics and has been a ham for many years. Recently retired and moved back to R.I., he is once again becoming active in the Club. He gave a short presentation to acquaint the membership with, and to solicit ideas for, Club projects – Chris “Likes to build stuff.” To this end he distributed a survey with a variety of suggested topics from soldering, antennas, schematics, amateur radio software, crystal radios and propagation, etc. See survey below and contact Chris directly with any project activities you would like to see the Club engage in.

## 1 Introduction

In an effort to better understand what the membership would like to do could you please answer a few questions? We will use this to get the best projects going for the group.

You do not have to put your name on the paper.

Should you feel uncomfortable with filling this out you can feel free to talk to me in person or contact me at [clirakis@gmail.com](mailto:clirakis@gmail.com).

What is your interest in doing projects as part of a club activity? (Check all that apply)

- As part of a social community project.
- To learn a skill, such as how to build an antenna.
- To learn details of how the project works.

Are there specific projects that you would like to participate in? (Check all that apply and write in your own where provided.)

- Soldering
- Antennas
- Notation, introduction to a schematic, component identification
- Available software: Modeling or operational like WSPR
- Crystal Radio - Radio basics, passive receiver
- Make a simple active Receiver
- Transmitter - simple transmitters (low power)
- Propagation - how to monitor

Any additional ideas, comments on projects that you would like to see?

Are you aware of other potential work spots?

- Meeting people on the air?
- Regular Nets?
- POTA?
- Contesting or Field Day?

Other?

Any additional comments?

*GMRS/FRS Drumbeat* >>> Mike Cullen, K1NPT, continues efforts to enhance Aquidneck Island and surrounding areas emergency preparedness and resilience by growing a network of General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and Family Radio Service (FRS) users. GMRS and FRS require no examinations or prior knowledge of radio fundamentals, only the price of an HT radio and the \$35.00 FCC licensing fee. This makes it an attractive alternative to ham radio licensing. Mike conducts in-person meetings on the second Tuesday of each month from 1800 to 1930 hours at the Middletown Public Library. Also, a Wednesday evening GMRS/FRS net on Channel 3 [462.6125 MHz] at 1930 hours. Please see;

<https://www.gen4ai.org/home>

for more information.

*Club Merchandise* >>> Only a few orders have been received to date for Club merchandise. More are needed before we can place an order with the vendor. We have baseball caps, and jackets available all with the NCRC 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. Member callsign may also be included.

*Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) Contacts* >>> Bill Corbin, W3CJK, is the lone EME operator in the Club and perhaps in the entire State of Rhode Island. He recently worked an EME contest where he was able to work 31 stations on 1296 MHz using the Joe Taylor, K1JT, Q65 digital mode. This is a relatively large number of contacts for a contest of this type. He attributed this to two factors, first is the close proximity of the Moon to Earth and second, the number stations

on the air as a result. Small dishes [1.0 – 1.5 meter diameter] and low power stations were in play.

Bill also mentioned that enterprising hams are re-purposing inexpensive solar cooker panels available for under \$100.00 to fabricate antenna dishes for 1296 MHz and above. This is an inexpensive way to get on EME and are also attractive for apartment dwellers and in HOA-restricted areas.

Bill is willing to Elmer any in the Club interested in this aspect of the hobby. He may be contacted at;

[N46jenny@gmail.com](mailto:N46jenny@gmail.com)



The W3CJK EME dish!

Club Repeaters >>> Jim Sendrak announced that the W1AAD D-Star repeater will be disconnected from the internet starting 01NOV2025, but discussions are underway to keep it member-funded up and running. Current internet costs are approximately \$120.00/month. Stay tuned for more developments on D-Star repeater status.

Bill Boyes mentioned that our W1SYE analog repeater is seldom used for anything only the weeknight 2m nets. Apparently, part of the issue may stem from the somewhat annoying canned messages that over-ride user transmissions. Corry Thibault suggested that we simply have a CW ID broadcast on an hourly basis that users can over-ride with their transmissions. This might encourage more in the Club to monitor the repeater 24/7. Chris Lirakis suggested we use the repeater as a resource to ask questions, discuss problems, etc. In any event, the W1SYE repeater is currently under-utilized.

Community Outreach and Support >>> Mike Rousseau, KC1NEJ, is among a number of the hams in the Club who stay in-touch with the various community events needing Club member support. Two such events are upcoming;

-The Third Annual Sakonnet Coastal Bike and Stroll to take place Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup> from 0900 – 1200 hours in Island Park. This event is sponsored by the Island Park Preservation Society, Bike Newport, R.I. and Island Park. Please see;

<https://www.facebook.com/events/park-ave-portsmouth-ri-02871-united-states/sakonnet-coastal-bike-stroll-2025-%EF%B8%8F%EF%B8%8F/25687739840815522/>

for more information on this outing.

-The L'il Rhody Runaround Trail Run at Burlingame State Park, 23 Sanctuary Road in Charlestown, Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup>. Please see;

<https://runsignup.com/Race/RI/Charlestown/LilRhodyRunaround>

for more information on the race.

Contact Mike Rousseau if you can support either of these events. [Please see NCRC 2025 member roster on the Club website for Email/phone number.]

W1OP 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ham Radio & Electronics Flea Market >>> John Brewer, N1SXB, is the ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator for the State of Rhode Island. He interacts with all the ARRL affiliated clubs in the state and mentioned that the Providence Radio Association, W1OP, will be holding a flea market this Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 0900 – 1300 hours at the Smithfield Sportsman Club, 14 Walter Carey Road, Smithfield. Admission is free with donation of a canned good item or \$5.00 to benefit the R.I. Food Bank. Talk-In on the W1OP repeater on 146.835 MHz/146.235 MHz, PL Tone 192.8 Hz.