

# Newport County Radio Club



**February 9, 2026**

**Club Meeting**

# Approval of January 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes



## Newport County Radio Club (NCRC) Meeting Minutes, 12 JAN 2026

**Attendees:** Jim Sendrak, Willy MacLean, Mike Rousseau, Joe DeMarco, Keith Henry, Ellen Vadney, Bob Matose, Ed Gosling, John Vecoli, Kim Hanna, Paul Recupero, Stephen Crawford, Crystal Thibault, Chris Lirakis, John Jackman, Bill Bagwill, Bill Cameron, Bill Boyes, Rene Martel, Alan Schwartze, Rich Townson, Jeff Frederick, Brian Maynard, Jon Zerbus, Paul Fredette, Alan Klein (Z), John Conte (Z), Bob Beatty (Z), Chuck Kesson (Z), Mike Seil (Z)

**-Club I.D. Badges Available:** NCRC I.D. badges are available for Mark Stenning, AA1AC, Paul Recupero, W1NWX, Bill Bagwill, W1VRA, Bill Cameron, KC1YHK, Pat Emsellem, KC1IPT, Jeff Frederick, KC1YHY, Salim Hameed, N8LI, Fazal Hameed, KC1YGL, Mahmunah Hameed, KC1YIH and Zach Murtishi, KC1YIG. These items are available for pickup at regularly-scheduled Club meetings, outings and breakfast get-togethers [i.e. Chelsea's/Middletown every THU and monthly at Old Mountain Lanes/Wakefield].

### **-Meeting Start; 1903 Hours**

**-NCRC 2025 Accomplishments:** Club President Jim Sendrak did a brief review of salient activities through the course of 2025. These included a successful Christmas Party, a J-Pole antenna build night, the Pete Lawson Outdoor Adventure, Jamboree-on-the-Air at Fort Wetherill State Park with scouts from Troop 1, Jamestown, R.I. and a third place finish in ARRL summer Field Day in the two-transmitter, alternate power category.

[Secretary's Note; The Club also finished first in the Winter Field Day 1 Transmitter/Outdoor category in January 2025 and licensed or upgraded 20 individuals during six Volunteer Examiner sessions through the course of the year.]

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

**-Treasurers' Report:** John Jackman, NCRC Treasurer, presented the December [year-end] financial report. The Club began the year with ~\$16k in the treasury and ended the year with roughly \$9.8k. The lion's share of the year's expenses is accounted for with purchase of a refurbished Club repeater, a Motorola MTR3000, and ancillary cabling and software as well as our annual Christmas party. Dave Neal, W2DAN, is working to get the repeater asset on the air.

A motion to approve the December financials was approved.

**-New Members:** NCRC Vice President Joe DeMarco welcomed three new members to the Club. Jonathan [Jon] Zerbus, KC1YTA, is a former ham who like many of us, attended to family priorities and had his ticket expire. Jon was re-licensed during the Club's December VE session and is looking forward to participating in Club activities.

Jeff Frederick, KC1YHY, is a retired Navy Captain having commanded a number of destroyers. Jeff received his Tech license during the NCRC September VE session and is interested in all aspects of EMCOM, including GMRS/FRS.

Brian Maynard, K1NW, is a former Club member now re-activated. Brian is a retired URI professor who enjoys POTA as a CW op. In fact, Brian is the Administrator for the POTA-RI Groups.io. To subscribe see;

[RI-POTA+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:RI-POTA+subscribe@groups.io)

In addition to the POTA-RI Groups.io, Brian is also moderator of the Elecraft-K3 Groups.io. They run an SSB net every Sunday at 1800 hours UTC [1300 hours local] on 14.3035 MHz. To subscribe see;

[Elecraft-K3+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:Elecraft-K3+subscribe@groups.io)

We welcome Jon, Jeff and Brian to the Club and look forward to having them participate in Club activities.

**-Parks-on-the-Air (POTA):** Joe DeMarco, WA1VEE, has been mentoring individuals on POTA activations at various parks around the State. This has been a very successful venture thus far with strong participation amongst newer hams in the Club. This includes instruction on how to spot on the POTA website and hunt stations, how to setup a portable station, call "CQ POTA", log contacts and submit logs. POTA activations are an excellent tool to increase operator proficiency and all in the Club are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn from a POTA Elmer. As previously mentioned, new Club member Brian Maynard is Administrator for the POTA-RI Groups.io. where members post interesting factoids about their experiences with various activations.

**-Coordinator Programs:** Jim Sendrak introduced the idea of Coordinator Programs to the membership at the October, 2025, meeting. Meeting Presentations, Fund Raising, JOTA and Field Day [Antennas/Tents/Radios] are all Programs requiring [a] coordinator[s].

After the successful J-Pole antenna build night Chris Lirakis has suggested USB software-defined radio [SDR] and digital modes may be a suitable follow-on project.

John Vecoli mentioned that he would like to apply for an ARRL grant to purchase 10 – 12 high quality soldering stations to facilitate Club projects. The Club has been successful in similar endeavors in the past where we were able to secure funding for purchase of iPad tablets for, among other things, use during VE sessions. Chris Lirakis mentioned that AS220 in Providence may be a resource for the desired soldering stations.

According to Wikipedia:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AS220>

"AS220 is a non-profit community [arts center](#) located in [Downtown, Providence, Rhode Island](#), United States. AS220 maintains four dozen artist live/work studios, around a dozen individual work studios, six rotating exhibition spaces, a main stage, a [black box theater](#), a dance studio, [a print shop](#), [a community darkroom](#), [a digital media lab](#), [a fabrication lab](#), an organization-run bar and restaurant, a youth recording studio, and a youth program (AS220 Youth; formerly named the Broad Street Studio). AS220 is an unjuried and uncensored forum for the arts, open to [all ages](#)."

**-Winter Field Day:** Winter Field Day [WFD] will take place on 24-25JAN2026 with setup starting on 23JAN. The Club have secured permitted use of Glen Park for these dates and preliminary planning for the event has begun. We will operate two stations, one for CW and the other strictly SSB. Operator who cannot find a slot in the SSB station may roll-over to the CW station if a slot is free. The schedule in its current form is published on the Club website. Note that it is not set in stone. The idea will always be to encourage member participation.

### **-Meeting End: 1935 Hours**

**-Virtual Winter Field Day:** After the regular meeting was adjourned Willy MacLean conducted a virtual field day exercise where one table represented a Club and one of these Clubs was working a pile-up. It was interesting and informative where the less-experienced hams learned the jargon and the cadence required to effectively work a pile-up. Important takeaways as follows;

-Hold the Frequency – No dead Air

-CQ WFD de W1SYE

-20 RI QSL?

-73 QRZ?

# Treasurer's Report



Newport County Radio Club Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Capital At January 31, 2026	
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash.....	8,513.52
PayPal.....	1,563.85
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>10,077.37</u>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Capital</b>	
Liabilities.....	-
Club Equity.....	(10,077.14)
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Capital</b>	<u>(10,077.14)</u>

Newport County Radio Club Change in Capital 12 Month Period Ending January 31, 2026	
Beginning Capital.....	9,762.02
Prior period adjustment.....	-
Net Income (Loss).....	315.12
<b>Ending Capital</b>	<u>10,077.14</u>

Newport County Radio Club Statement of Income 12 Month Period Ending January 31, 2026	
<b>Income</b>	
Grants.....	-
Dues.....	720.00
Donations.....	-
Education.....	-
Misc.....	-
<b>Total Income</b>	720.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Grants.....	-
Paypal.....	-
Supplies.....	40.58
Education.....	-
Utilities.....	(419.00)
Insurance.....	-
Banking.....	(26.46)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	(404.88)
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<u>315.12</u>

Newport County Radio Club Statement of Cash Flow 12 Month Period Ending January 31, 2026	
<b>Cash at January 1, 2026</b>	9,762.25
<b>Cash Inflows</b>	
Grants.....	-
Dues.....	720.00
Donations...	-
Education...	-
Misc.....	-
<b>Total Cash inflows</b>	720.00
<b>Cash Outflows</b>	
Grants.....	-
Paypal.....	-
Supplies.....	40.58
Education...	-
Utilities.....	(419.00)
Insurance...	-
Banking.....	(26.46)
<b>Total Cash Outflows</b>	(404.88)
<b>Cash at January 31, 2026</b>	<u>10,077.37</u>
Notes:	
Unrestricted cash	\$5,361.01
Restricted ARRL Grant	\$2,962.31
Restricted Pete Lawson Fund	\$1,363.90
Restricted IBM Grant	\$390.15

# New Members



- **“Jed” Arthur Potts** Middletown, RI
- **KC1NFW Jared Lazor** Newport, RI **General**
- **Ed Stewart** N. Kingstown, RI

# Winter Field Day – 2026

## WFD Video



# Winter Field Day – 2026

## *Twenty [20] Objective Multipliers*

- Operate 100% on alternative power: OM X 1
- Operate away from home: OM X 3
- Deploy and make at least one contact on multiple antennas: OM X 1
- Make a SSB or CW satellite contact: OM X 3
- Send and receive at least one Winlink email: OM X 1
- Copy the Winter Field Day Special Bulletin: OM X 1
- Make three contacts on at least six (6) different bands: OM X 6
- Use multiple modes: OM X 2
- Operate six continuous hours during the event: OM X 2

# Winter Field Day – 2026

## **Total Contacts by Band and Mode:**

<u><b>Band</b></u>	<u><b>CW</b></u>	<u><b>Phone</b></u>	<u><b>Dig</b></u>	<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>%</b></u>
80	0	19	0	19	3
40	164	108	6	278	37
20	129	280	0	409	54
15	37	0	0	37	5
10	0	5	0	5	1
2	0	3	0	3	0
<u><b>Total</b></u>	<u><b>330</b></u>	<u><b>415</b></u>	<u><b>6</b></u>	<u><b>751</b></u>	<u><b>100</b></u>

# Winter Field Day – 2026

Total Score:

$$\begin{aligned} & \underline{330 \text{ CW} \times 2} + \underline{415 \text{ SSB}} + \underline{6 \text{ Digital} \times 2} = \underline{1087} \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \times \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \underline{[20 \text{ OM} + 1]} \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad = \\ & \underline{23,914 \text{ Points}} \end{aligned}$$

*Thank You!*

Mike Seil AA1XQ Number Crunching

**Old Biz**

# W1SYE Repeater Update



- Upgrade Equipment Installed
- Ready For Use
- Fine Tuning and Adjustments

***Dave Neil – W2DAN***



# Winter Field Day Hotwash & Member Discussions



# W1SYE Build Nights

Christopher Lirakis  
W1QIS

February 9, 2026

# Build Nights



Goal: Get the membership together to learn and build about the technology surrounding amateur radio.

- Make build night a regular event. (Perhaps 3rd Monday of each month)
- Next build night is March 23
- Introduce some modern tools to attract younger people.
- After the next build night the build nights will focus on techniques for a common project.

Take away - Have fun and **learn** something new about the hobby!

# 1970 ARRL Handbook

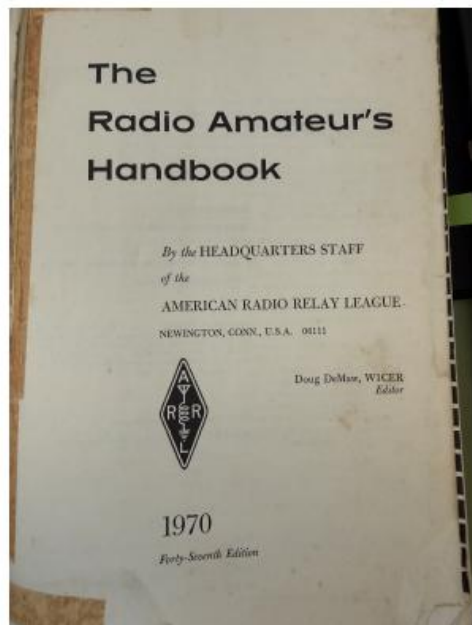


Figure: ARRL Handbook

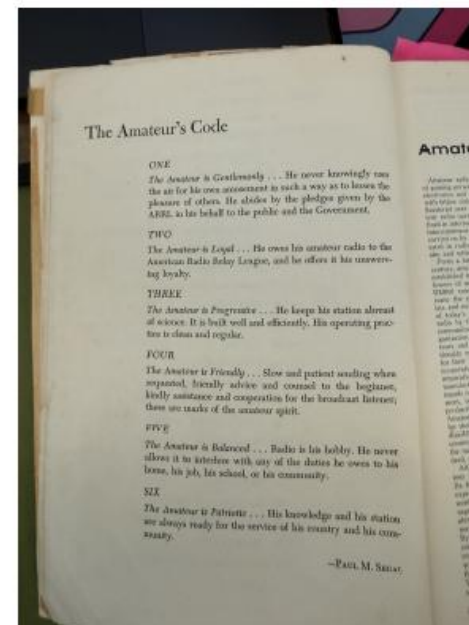


Figure: Amateur's code of conduct.

The Amateur is progressive - Amateur radio was born of people wanting to learn and experiment.

# March 23 Build Night



Not quite ready to roll out the big plan. Next build night will be a continuation of the previous one.

- Another chance to build a 2m J-Pole out of ladder line
- Build a two band J-Pole 2m and 70cm
- Have soldering stations setup for those who want to practice.
- Bring in your previous antenna build for characterization
  - ▶ Bring your handheld and do an SWR measurement
  - ▶ use the VNA to run a characterization and compare with SWR

Not everyone needs to participate at every build night or station.

# Collaboration Tools



One of our goals is to attract younger members, this means we should be willing to adopt/learn some of their interests as well. Kids are really into gaming, can we riff off of that?

Objective: how to share and ask questions about the projects?

- The nightly 2m net is good for quick feedback but it isn't preserved
- The existing email server is quite an old concept
- A lot of people today use Discord as a platform for sharing
  - ▶ AMSAT field day server
  - ▶ Meshtastic
- there should be a tab on the W1SYE page where I will upload any files
- Happy to use other tools such as Slack

These tools tap into the generations to come.

# Preview



Amateur radio can be approached in a number of ways, but there are still basic things you should know.

You can choose to buy and assemble as modules, but it is likely that you will do a hybrid of making as well as buying.

- You will always need an antenna - which suits your needs?
- You will need coax to get the signal from your transceiver to the antenna?
- impedance, radiation resistance, gain and so on are how you evaluate this.
- how are these metrics determined and measured?
- What kind of connectors are used when and where?

All of this can be brought out by building antennas. This can be HF, VHF or higher. We should do an interesting antenna like a Yagi.

# Radio Basics



To do any of these evaluations, it helps to have a basic understanding of how radio actually works.

You can choose to buy and assemble as modules, but it is likely that you will do a hybrid of making as well as buying.

- You will always need an antenna - which suits your needs?
- You will need coax to get the signal from your transceiver to the antenna?
- impedance, radiation resistance, gain and so on are how you evaluate this.
- how are these metrics determined and measured?
- What kind of connectors are used when and where?
- You will always need to solder.

I find it useful to make simple modules like transmitter, simple receivers (crystal radio) to see how they actually work.