

## *Newport County Radio Club (NCRC) Meeting Minutes, 09 MAR 2026*

**Attendees;** Willy MacLean, Mike Rousseau, Joe DeMarco, Ellen Vadney, Bob Matose, John Vecoli, Chris Lirakis, John Jackman, Rich Townson, Paul Fredette , Jim Sendrak Bill Cameron, Keith Henry, John Brewer, Mike Cullen, Ed Gosling, Jay Nuzum, Greg Lavoy, Dave Quinn, Dave Fredette, Jim Sammons, Chuck Kesson (Z), Scott Nacey (Z), Rich Travers (Z), Howie Naugle (Z), Bruce Manning, (Z), Brian Cottle, (Z), Mike Seil

**-February Meeting Minutes;** A motion to approve the February 2026 NCRC meeting minutes was approved.

**-Treasurers' Report;** John Jackman presented the NCRC Treasurer's report for February 2026. All required financial State, Federal and local filing have been submitted. The ARRL liability insurance premium has also been paid.

A motion to approve the February 2026 financials was approved.

**-New Members;** Extra class operator Don Messier, KW1DON, has applied for NCRC membership. He was not in attendance at the meeting. Joe DeMarco has Emailed to request a short biography. Other Club members mentioned that he is active as a check in/out on the 2m repeater.

He has not yet paid 2026 membership dues.

We have also received applications for membership from Arthur Potts and Edward Stewart. These individuals were not in attendance at the 09 MAR Club meeting and have also not paid their 2026 membership dues.

**-The W1SYE 2m Repeater Upgrade;** Dave Neal, W2DAN, has installed the Motorola MTR3000 repeater and the unit is on the air. The usable range of the repeater has been enhanced substantially but there still seems to be noise issues that need to be addressed. Dave will use a service monitor, when time permits, to attempt to make improvements to the machine.

**-POTA Brochure;** Bob Beatty has created a POTA brochure suitable for distribution to inquisitive individuals who happen by while Club members conduct POTA operations. This will serve to explain the POTA program and present a positive calling card for NCRC. TU Bob fr FB pamphlet!!!

**-DX Club;** Members of the Club are encouraged to share details of their more exciting DX contacts. Bob Matose, KC1RFM, mentioned that 10m SSB was/is open to South America. Willy MacLean, W1LY, also pointed out that a very rare DXpedition is operating on Bouvet Island, 3Y0K, [54.4208° S, 3.3464° E]. Several hams in the Club have worked the station on SSB and FT8.

See DX spots at, for example;

<http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>

And various DXpedition calendars, e.g.;

<https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxod.html>

***-Field Day Preparations:*** In the coming weeks we will circulate a summer field day [FD] survey to enumerate areas of FD participation of the membership. The size of the commitment is immaterial. What matters is that a commitment once made be followed through. We will also assemble a FD committee to address various aspects of the tasks to be accomplished. These will include items such as antenna farm setup/tear down, station equipment, picnic, etc. Any who can assist in any of these areas are encouraged to help out.

***-ARRL RI Section Affiliated Club Coordinator, John Brewer, N1SXB;*** Michael Corey, KI1U, is the newly appointed ARRL RI Section Manager replacing Nancy Austin, KC1NEK, as of 01JAN2026. Currently, there are also three Section positions that need filling as well. Assistant Section Manager, Public Information Coordinator and State Government Liaison.

The ARRL is sponsoring a WAS-250 Worked All States Award. See;

<https://www.arrl.org/america250-was>

and the attached Portable Document File for details. The Rhode Island operating periods will be 22JUL – 28JUL and from 02DEC – 08DEC. John Brewer will be responsible for coordinating the operator schedule.

***-Member Moments:*** Scott Nacey, KK6IK, Zooms into our meetings from San Jose Ca. He mentioned that All Star Link allows him to access our 2m repeater to participate in our weeknight nets.

Mike Cullen, K1NPT, discussed a bit about EmComm check-ins during our recent blizzard. Spotters on Aquidneck and Conanicut Islands reported snowfall totals and other pertinent information to various emergency centers using Meshtastic protocol.

Mike is scheduled to brief the Westerly PD and Ham Club in the near future on his EmComm efforts.

Scott Nacey stated that many in the San Jose area are using MeshCore. Mike is also using a MeshCore node. But he added that he is probably the only individual in the State.

Paul Fredette, K1YBE, mentioned that the ARRL just published a volume on Digital Networking.

***-Meeting Close 1943 Hours***

**-Follow-On Presentations;**

**-Club Build Nights;** Chris Lirakis talked build night plans, with the next event scheduled for Monday 23MAR at St. Barnabas Parish Hall at 1900 hours.

He has put together an impressive agenda for upcoming build efforts. The interesting thing about Chris's approach is that it is low key and will be tailored to individual learning. For example, on 23MAR Chris will assist any who feel they need help with soldering, finishing their J-Pole antennas or characterizing the antenna with the ultimate goal of producing a 2m/70cm antenna.

Follow-on projects are planned as a series of modules; Antennas, Receivers and Foxhunt [Directional] antennas. Construction of a Quadrifilar antenna for use in satellite work.

A space has been created on the W1SYE website as a placeholder for all things build night-related;

[https://w1sye.org/?page\\_id=9038](https://w1sye.org/?page_id=9038)

**-Survey of Logging Programs;** Joe DeMarco, WA1VEE, spoke briefly about his experiences with the N1MM, N3FJP, SmartLogger and HamRS logging programs. All have their pros and cons. The overwhelming choice of the contesting CW op is N1MM. N3FJP is used because of its simplicity, and FB tech support. SmartLogger supports multiple platforms [i.e. Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, Linux] and the interface has a modern look and feel. HamRS is what Joe uses for POTA ops.