Newport County Radio Club

April 20, 2026

Club Meeting

Approval of March 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

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 operationg 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

-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.

Treasurer's Report

Newport County Radio Club
Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Capital
At March 31, 2026

Assets	
Cash	8,202.07
PayPal	2,833.67
Total Assets	11,035.74
Liabilities & Capital	
Liabilities	-
Club Equity	(11,035.74)
Total Liabilities & Capital	(11,035.74)

Newport County Radio Club
Change in Capital
3 Month Period Ending March 31, 2026

Beginning Capital	9,762.25
Prior period adjustment	-
Net Income (Loss)	1,273.49
Ending Capital	11,035.74

Newport County Radio Club
Statement of Income
3 Month Period Ending March 31, 2026

Income		
Grants	-	
Dues	1,960.00	
Donations	125.00	
Education	33.00	
Misc	-	
Total Income		2,118.00
Expenses		
Grants	-	
Paypal	-	
Supplies	(59.87)	
Education	-	
Utilities	(473.00)	
Insurance	(222.00)	
Banking	(89.64)	
Total Expenses		(844.51)
Net Income (Loss)		1,273.49

Newport County Radio Club
Statement of Cash Flow
3 Month Period Ending March 31, 2026

Cash at January 1, 2026		9,762.25
Cash Inflows		
Grants	-	
Dues	1,960.00	
Donations	125.00	
Education	33.00	
Misc	-	
Total Cash inflows		2,118.00
Cash Outflows		
Grants	-	
Paypal	-	
Supplies	(59.87)	
Education	-	
Utilities	(473.00)	
Insurance	(222.00)	
Banking	(89.64)	
Total Cash Outflows		(844.51)
Cash at March 31, 2026		11,035.74

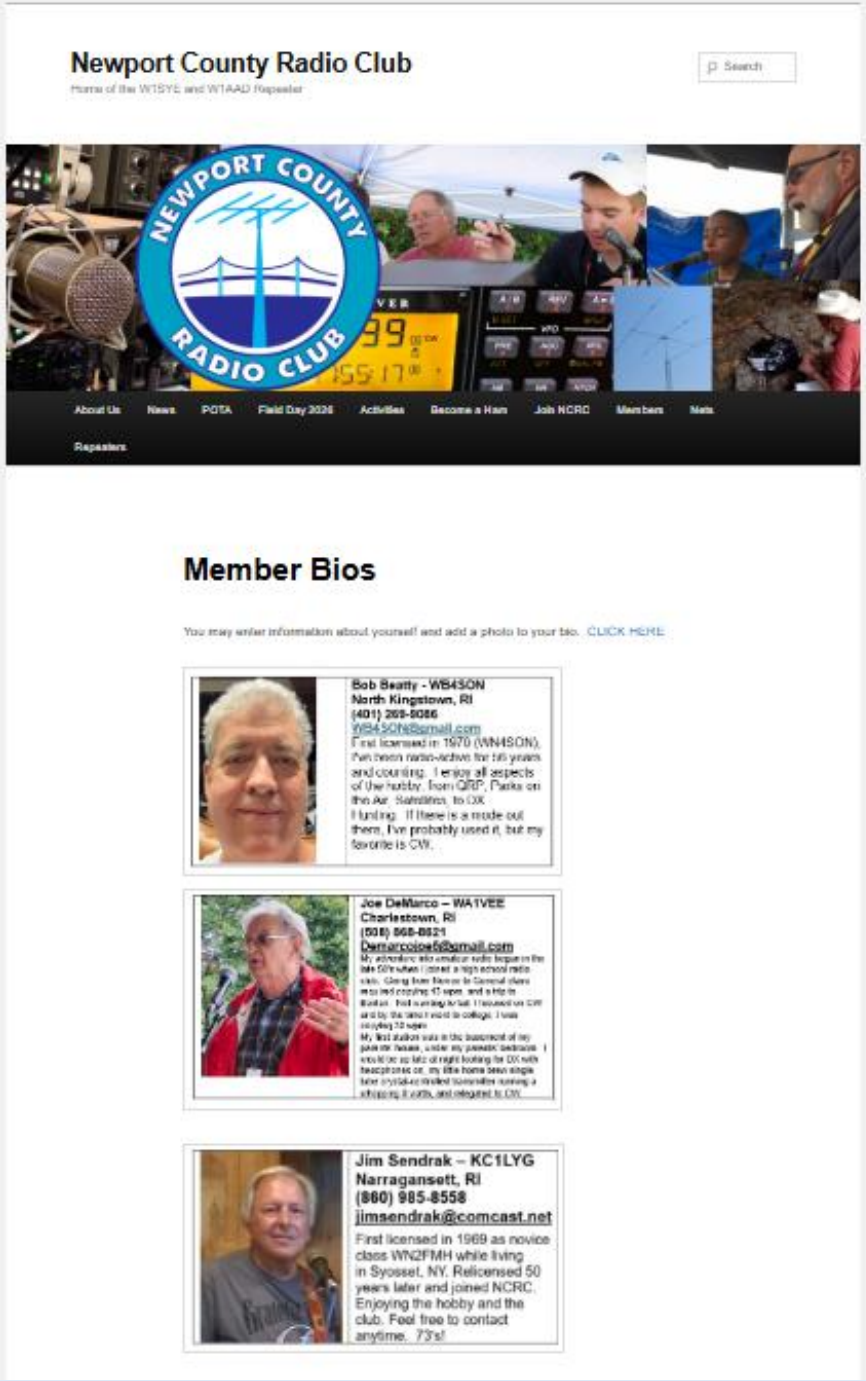
Notes:	Unrestricted cash	$6,319.38
	Restricted ARRL Grant	$2,962.31
	Restricted Pete Lawson Fund	$1,363.90
	Restricted IBM Grant	$390.15

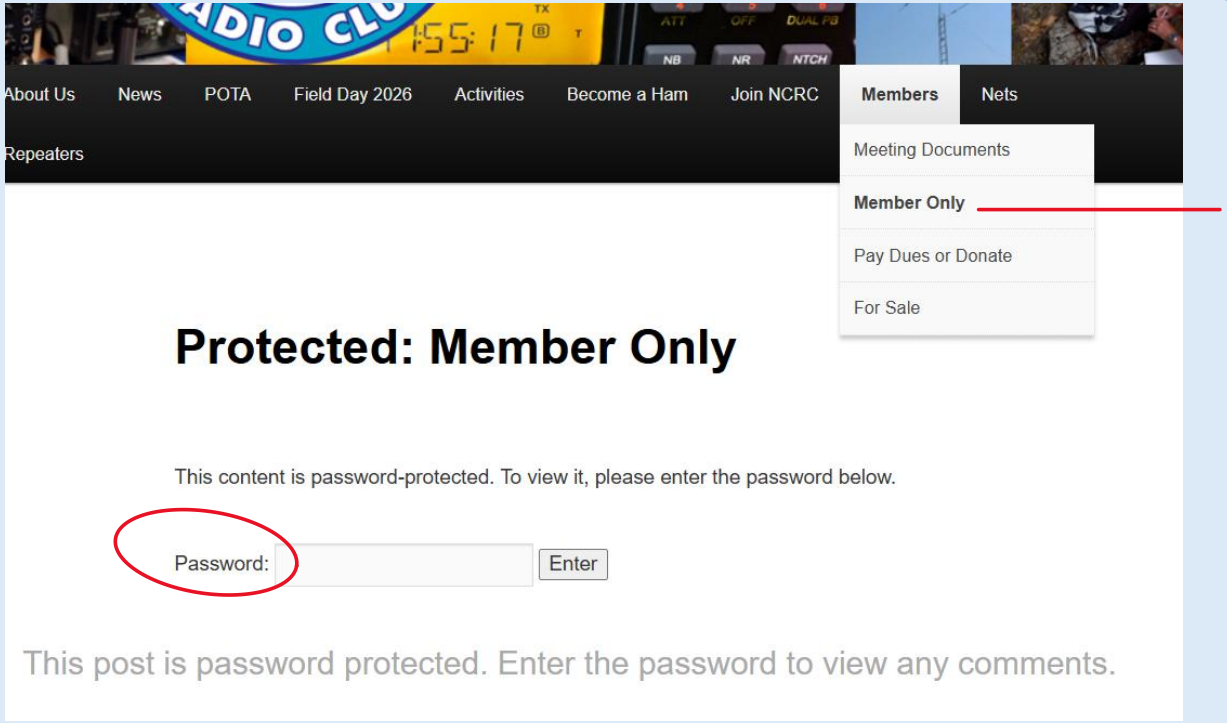
New Members

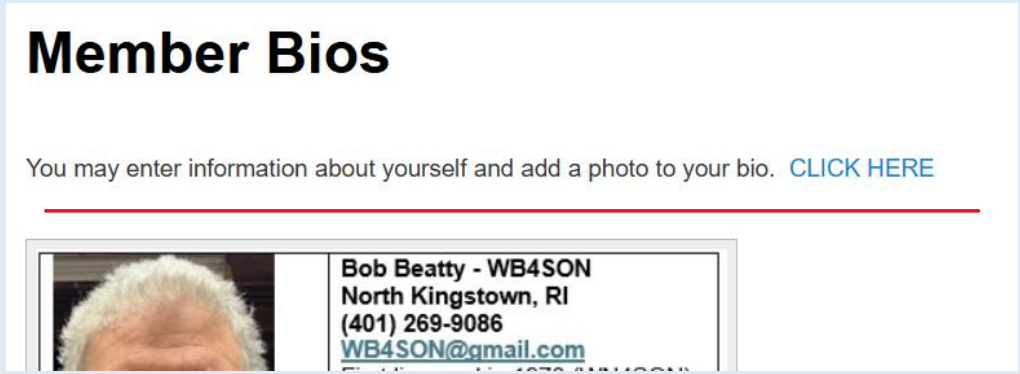
- Chad Costa Fall River, MA Not licensed
- Scott Hayes Portsmouth, RI Not licensed
- Joe Griego North Kingston, RI KC1ZEP Technician

New Website Feature

Member Bios!







POTA Challenge

Why interest in POTA?

- POTA is field day without stress
- POTA gets people out of the house
- POTA is practice for emergency communication
- POTA allows for socialization among club members

POTA Challenge

Goals

- More POTA activations by club members
- Get other members involved with POTA
- Socialize with other members

POTA Challenge

How it Works

- Activate a park
- Upload your activation to the POTA website
- At the end of the challenge period, submit a snapshot of your activations for the period from POTA website. Note who you went out with if you took out another member.

POTA Challenge

NCRC W1SYE POTA CHALLENGE

May 1 - Oct 31, 2026

Member Name: Joe DeMarco **Member Call:** WA1VEE

	Date	Park Name	Park #	Contacts	Bonus Points*	Other Call*
1	5/1/2026	Fishermen's Memorial State Park	US-2873	16	50	KC1LYG
2	5/20/2026	Beavertail State Park	US-2868	22		
3	6/14/2026	Brenton Point State Park	US-2870	19	50	WB4SON
4	6/27/2026	John Chafee National Wildlife Refuge	US-0514	12		
5	7/11/2026	Fort Phoenix State Reserve	US-8409	31	50	W1LY
6	9/19/2026	Snake Den State Park	US-2880	20		
7	10/21/2026	Hopeville Pond State Park	US-1681	28		
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						

*** BONUS POINTS**
Conduct POTA outing with at lease 1 other member and receive 50 bonus points.

Activations	X	Contacts	+	Bonus Points	TOTAL POINTS
7	X	148	+	150	1186

POTA Challenge

NCRC W1SYE POTA CHALLENGE

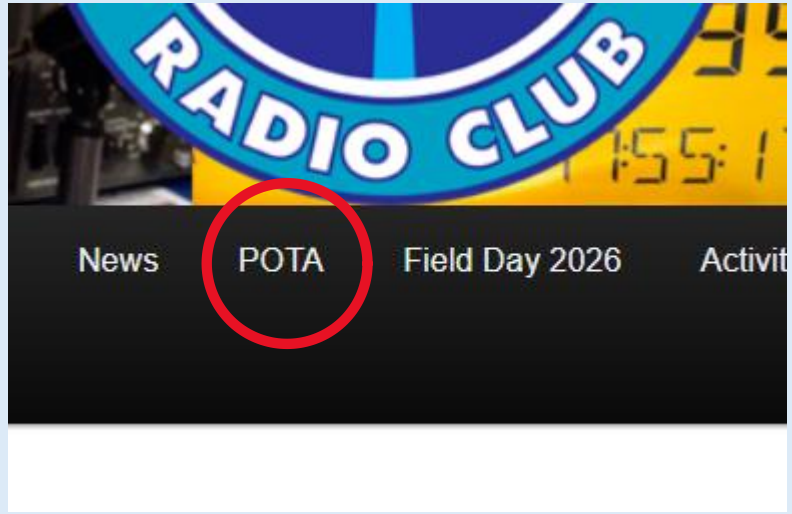
May 1 - Oct 31, 2026

Member Name: _____ **Member Call:** _____

	Date	Park Name	Park #	Contacts	Bonus Points*	Other Call*
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						

*** BONUS POINTS**
Conduct POTA outing with at lease 1 other member and receive 50 bonus points.

Activations	X	Contacts	+	Bonus Points	TOTAL POINTS
	X		+		



Field Day

June 26, 27, 28, 2026

2:00pm Saturday thru 4:59pm Sunday

Recognition

Newport County Radio Club

April 20, 2026

QRP Corner

QRP Corner is a short monthly discussion of things related to QRP

QRP is “Low Power” and is usually defined as 5 watts or below

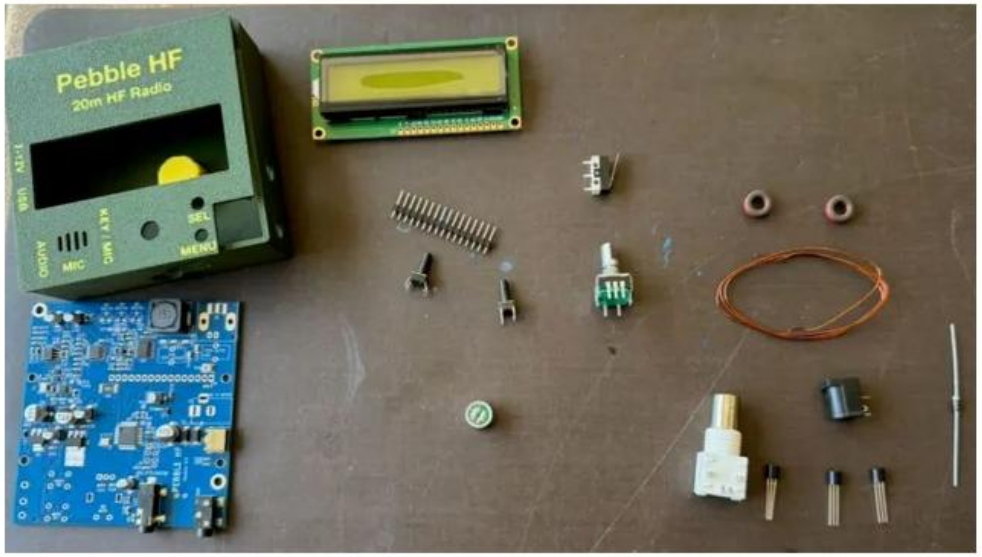
Why QRP?

- Relatively inexpensive (kit $50+ assembled $200+)
- Usually small and light weight
- Small battery powered
- Usable for POTA/SOTA/IOTA, etc.
- Challenging!

Pebble HF

www.pebblehf.com

- 5 Watts Output
- 20-meter band CW or SSB
- Simple 14 soldered components
- Built-in Mic and CW Key
- Can power from USB-C for 1 watt

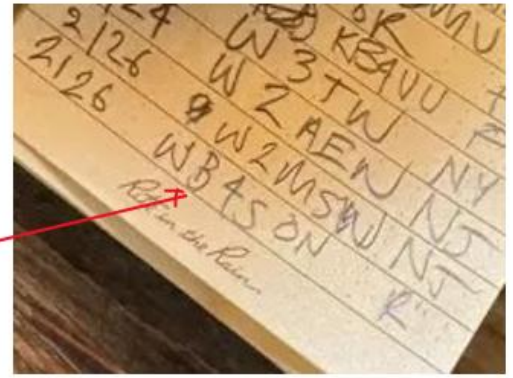


Great first-time kit

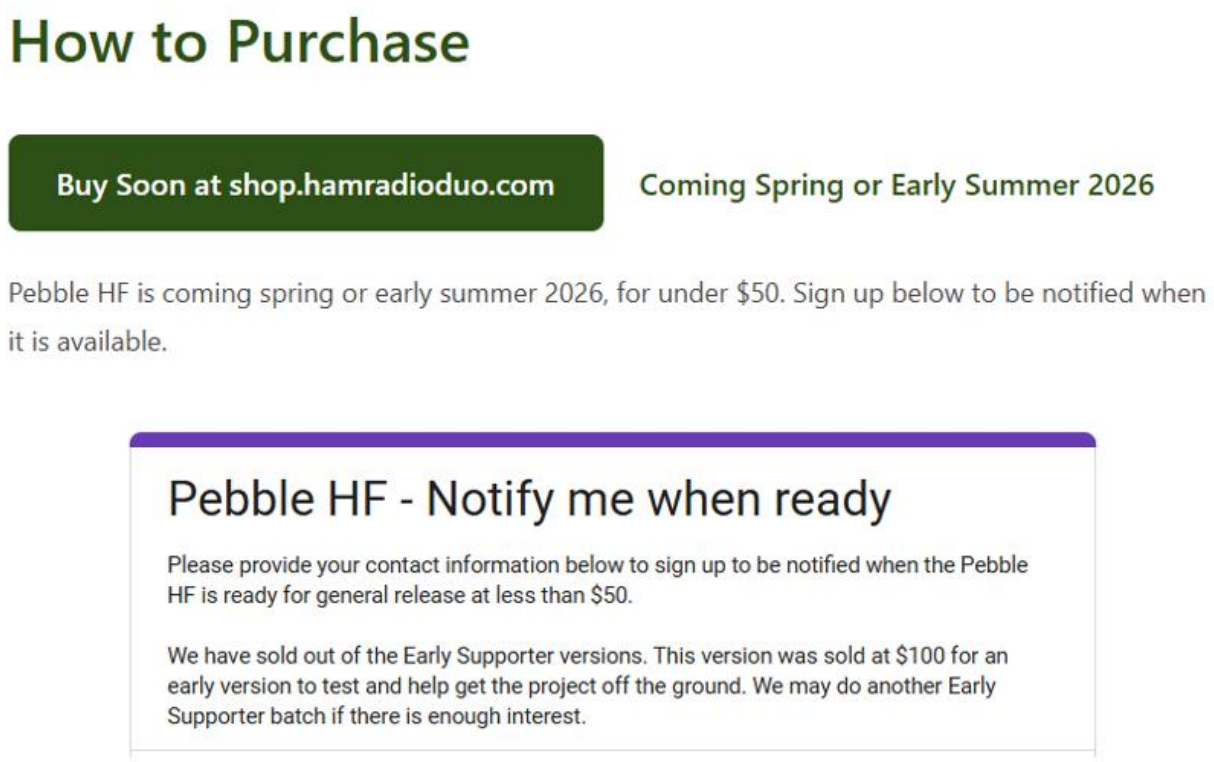
50 Min build time!

K4SWL on-air tests

Who's in his log???



Go to www.pebblehf.com, scroll down, and look for “Pebble HF – Notify Me when ready”



Credits and References

- Pebble Website: www.pebblehf.com
- Excellent QRP Field Radio Reference
- www.qrper.com (Thomas K4SWL)
- YouTube of POTA Activation using Pebble: www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhSSjHlPPkc
- Photo Credits: Thomas K4SWL

NEWPORT COUNTY RADIO CLUB
75
1949-2024

W1SYE 2026 Builds

Christopher Lirakis
W1QIS

April 20, 2026

Antenna Build

Goal: Build a satellite antenna and HF antenna for Field Day.
Build your own HF antenna and learn all necessary Skills.

Primary Goals and Dates

- April 27 Initial design, connectors and coax
- May 18 Balun and feedpoint and endpoint support build. Add wire
- June 22 testing prior to field day.
- Field Day, conclusion: June 27-28 - put up and use antennas.
  - Dipole - by far the simplest
  - Zepp - I'd like to fly it on a kite.
  - Quadrafilar Helix: uplink/downlink for satellite comms.

Choose Antenna

If you want to build one for home use. Choose from the following:

- Dipole - Need to know band, and distance to tranceiver
- Zepp - End fed and can be multiband

For planning:
Where you want to put up the antenna and what will support it.
What is the length of the feedline?
What band do you want to use?

Cavets

All antennas have their issues.

- Height above ground - capactivie coupling
- Proximity to noise sources and metal structures
- Impedence matching

Objective:
Maximize the power transfer to the antenna.
Best match of feedline impedance to antenna.

Things to learn.

- Layout and planning.
- Choosing and terminating your own coax.
- Building a Balun or Ulun for matching,
- a 1:1 balun for center fed dipole can use an air wound balun
- an offset dipole may use a 1:1 or 4:1 balun
- testing

Center Fed Dipole

Single Band - but can feed multiple dipoles from single feed point.

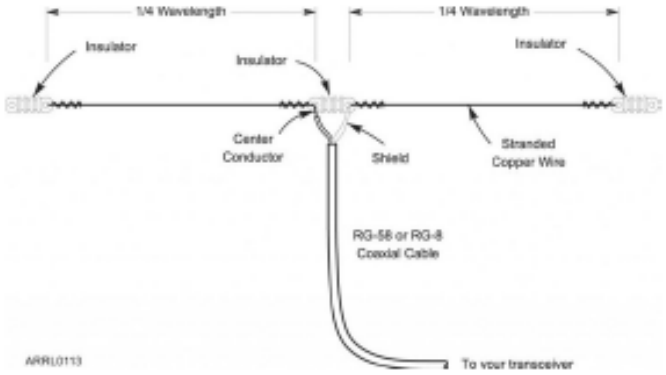


Figure: Dipole Characteristics

- Typically a half wavelength which may introduce some constraints.
- Naturally has a impedance match $\approx 50\Omega$
- Low angle of radiation - but depends on height above ground.
- It is advisable to do a 1:1 Balun on a dipole at the feedpoint to minimize the feedline radiation.

This is usually the simplest and best choice.

Dipole Dimensions

Roughly speaking $L = 468/f(Mhz)$ feet.

Band	Frequency	Total Length (Feet)	Each Leg (Feet)
160m	1.850 MHz	253'	126.5'
80m	3.750 MHz	124' 10"	62' 5"
60m	5.350 MHz	87' 6"	43' 9"
40m	7.150 MHz	65' 6"	32' 9"
30m	10.125 MHz	46' 2"	23' 1"
20m	14.175 MHz	33'	16' 6"
17m	18.118 MHz	25' 10"	12' 11"
15m	21.225 MHz	22'	11'
12m	24.940 MHz	18' 9"	9' 4.5"
10m	28.500 MHz	16' 5"	8' 2.5"
6m	50.100 MHz	9' 4"	4' 8"

Figure: Dipole Dimensions

Zepp - End fed

Can be multiband

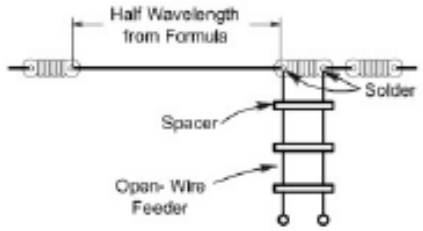


Figure: End Fed Zepp

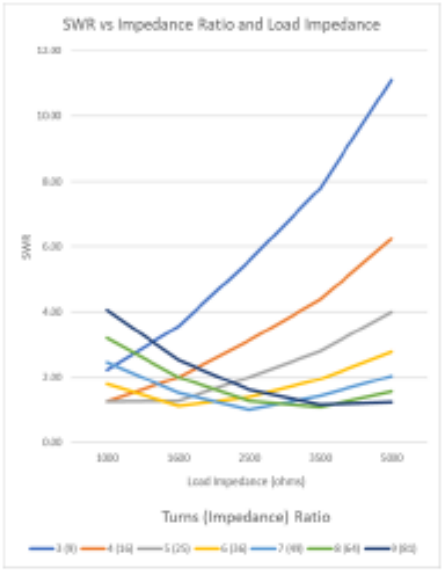


Figure: SWR and feedpoint reactance

- use an ULUN to match the feedpoint resistance to $\approx 50\Omega$
- Have the longest wire possible to cover as many bands as possible.
- Easy to have feed near mount point.

Example: I'm using a 64:1 ULUN with 134 feet of wire and I can do all bands with approximately 2:1 SWR except 20 Meters.

Balun and Support

Can be multiband

- Balun - balanced feed but can transform with ratios 1:1, 4:1, 49:1
- Wind the core
- terminate the lines into a coax feed
- terminate the lines into the antenna feed
- seal up in a PVC housing with support on it.
- characterize its response.

For the helix antennas, have wire in hand to bend and place in pre-drilled PVC form.

Understand and make the appropriate matching network for the antenna.

Manifest

Parts needed and approximate cost.

- insulators x 2 - $6
- wire - (depends on λ) $40
- coax -
- PL259 x 2 - $3.40
- BALUN/ULUN Kit $30
- paracord $5

Total Cost: $\approx$ 85 per unit