

Newport County Radio Club (NCRC) Meeting Minutes, 20 APR 2026

Attendees: Willy MacLean, Mike Rousseau, Joe DeMarco, Ellen Vadney, Bob Matose, John Vecoli, Chris Lirakis, Paul Fredette, Jim Sendrak, Brian Cottle, Keith Henry, Crystal Thibault, Mike Cullen, Ed Gosling, Ed Lallo, Evan Bowen, Bob Beatty, Scott Hayes, Joseph Griego, Ted Wrobel, David Emond, Mark Mueller, Kim Hanna, Jim Sammons, (Z), Bruce Manning, (Z), Nolan Byrne, (Z), Mike Sei, (Z)

-March Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the March 2026 NCRC meeting minutes was approved.

-Treasurers' Report: John Jackman, NCRC Treasurer, was not present at the meeting as he was volunteering at the Boston Marathon – FB!!! He will review our financials at the May Club meeting. However, Club President Jim Sendrak did show John's latest report. Please consult the W1SYE website for details.

A motion to approve the March 2026 financials was tabled until our next meeting.

-New Members: Joe DeMarco introduced Scott Hayes, KC1ZJU, and Joseph Griego, KC1ZEP. Both of these individuals have paid their 2026 membership dues and have recently passed their Tech exams. A third individual, Chad Costa, is unlicensed and was not present at the meeting but has paid dues for 2026. A motion to admit all of these gentlemen to the Club was approved.

-Member Biographies: NCRC Vice President Joe DeMarco also introduced the idea of member bios aimed at increasing camaraderie and achieving synergy in Club activities.

One simply navigates to the *Members Only* portion of the W1SYE.org website and from there the *Member Bios* page is available.

-POTA Challenge: NCRC is instituting something it is calling the *POTA Challenge*. Parks-on-the-Air [POTA] is a amateur radio initiative that took off during the Covid pandemic Operators began operating portable from various State Parks and entire enterprise developed around POTA. More information is available at;

<https://parksontheair.com>

The POTA website contains the POTA rules, POTA Spots, a list of Parks, etc. POTA enhances operator proficiency and simulates emergency comms situations much the same as Field Day but without the stress. One can participate with other hams or with family for a relaxing day at a State Park.

But now NCRC proposes to go one step further by encouraging the membership to vie for top activator honors in the Club. The goal is to encourage POTA participation amongst Club members and to socialize in the process.

A challenge period is established. When a Club member activates a park logs are uploaded to POTA website per usual and at the end of the challenge period the member with the highest number of activation points is winner. Total activation points are computed as [Activations] X [Contacts] X [Bonus Points]. By taking another individual out an activation an operator accrues 50 bonus points.

All in the Club are encouraged to become Radio-Active via the NCRC POTA challenge.

-Field Day Registration; A Field Day survey has been circulated to sign up members of the Club for FD activities. We can always use more help in the areas of antennas farm construction and tear down. Operating positions are also open. This is an opportunity to learn the ins and outs of contesting and emergency preparedness. This is our premier team-building event and all in the Club are encouraged to participate in some way shape or form.

-2026 Beacon AuxComm Drill; Mike Cullen, K1NPT, has invited members to participate in the BEACON Exercise 2026 (Building Emergency Area Communications Operations & Networks), a statewide functional communication systems exercise scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2026. Play runs from 1300-1600 [Local]. It is designed to test and strengthen multi-agency emergency communications. The exercise involves local Emergency Operations Centers, their non-gov't organization partners, and the general public in working through a disaster scenario from initial response through resource coordination. Participants are not required to operate radios; communication methods include amateur radio, Winlink, GMRS, FRS, SMS text messaging, and Meshtastic, allowing all to participate using their existing equipment.

Pre-registration through

k1npt@arrl.net

is required to support exercise planning.

Please also see;

<https://w1sye.org/?p=9450>

<https://www.beaconexercise.org/>

-Follow-On Presentations;

-QRP Corner – WB4SON; Bob Beatty, WB4SON, talked up QRP [< 10W] for POTA activations in particular using a simple to build Pebble HF rig with a nominal power output of ~ 5W. The

Pebble comes in kit form with 14 solder components and works exclusively on 20m in CW or SSB modes. The Pebble costs less than \$50.00. See;

<https://pebblehf.com/>

for more information.

-Club Build Nights; Chris Lirakis talked build night plans, with the next event scheduled for Monday 27APR 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, during the recent 23MAR build night Chris assisted any who felt they needed 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. Also, 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