

Newport County Radio Club (NCRC) Meeting Minutes, 11 MAY 2026

[These minutes prepared using the KC1LYG slide deck and AA1XQ meeting notes]

Attendees; Mike Rousseau, Joe DeMarco, Ellen Vadney, Jay Nuzum, Bob Matose, Paul Fredette, Jim Sendrak, Brian Cottle, Keith Henry, Karl Richards, Brian Maynard, Crystal Thibault, Corry Thibault, John Jackman, Paul Recupero, Nathan Quaintance, Ed Gosling, Rene Martel, Rich Townson, Bob Beatty, Joseph Griego, Jim Sammons, Bruce Manning, (Z), Nolan Byrne, (Z), Howie Naugle, (Z), Dave Quinn, (Z), Steven Crawford, (Z), Mike Seil

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

-Treasurers' Report; John Jackman, NCRC Treasurer, presented his report summaries. We have received two IBM grant checks over the course of the last two months.

A motion to approve the March and April 2026 financials was approved.

-New Members; Joe DeMarco introduced Nate Quaintance, KC1ZBU, as a prospective Club member. Nate is a General class op in the Navy who is stationed at the War College. Nate has paid his 2026 Club membership dues. A motion to accept Nat as a member was approved.

-Member Biographies; The Member Bios portion of the W1SYE website is being augmented little by little. NCRC Vice President Joe DeMarco encouraged all members to add their profiles to the site. 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 we are calling the *POTA Challenge*. Parks-on-the-Air [POTA] is an amateur radio initiative that took off during the Covid pandemic when hams began operating portable from various State Parks. An entire enterprise has 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 the 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 on an activation an operator accrues 50 bonus points.

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

-Club-Wide POTA Ops: The Club is planning two upcoming POTA operations and all members of the Club are encouraged to participate. First is Saturday 16 MAY, 1000 hours at Ft. Adams State Park behind the Eisenhower House. On Saturday 13 JUN we plan a West Bay POTA at Goddard State Park to commence again at 1000 hours near the park entrance.

As a reminder too, please have the FB brochure, put together by WB4SON, available when operating POTA. This is wonderful way to introduce the public to a popular aspect of ham radio and to further the reputation of the Club.

[Secretary's Note; 13 JUN is also the W1SYE Q2 VE session.]

-Field Day Registration: Bruce Manning, Mike Rousseau, Bob Beaty, Jim Sendrak and Mike Seil are the Club FD station managers for CW, GOTA, Satellite, SSB and VHF/UHF, respectfully. Please contact these individuals if you are interested in scheduling an operating slot at any of these stations. We can always use more help in the areas of antennas farm construction and tear down. Field Day 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. Indeed, there are multiple ways to contribute to the Club's FD efforts simply by helping garner Bonus Points as shown on the page from the FD 2026 supplement in the JUN issue of QST below. [The complete FD 2026 guide is found on pp. 57-68;]]

BONUS POINTS ADD UP!



Use this Bonus Points Calculator to keep track of your Field Day Bonus Points (see Rule 7.3 for details). Some bonus points require submission of proof and will be verified before being added to your score. Maximum bonus points are listed unless otherwise noted.



POINTS	ACTIVITY	AVAILABLE CLASSES
	100% Emergency Power. 100 bonus points per transmitter; max. 20 transmitters, max. 2,000 points. Bonus stations (such as the GOTA station and satellite station) do not count toward determining the number of transmitters for the class and do not qualify for transmitter bonus points.	A, B, C, E, and F
	Media Publicity. 100 bonus points. Bonus points may be earned for obtaining publicity from the local media. A copy of the media publicity received (newspaper article, news website post, etc.) must be submitted to claim the points.	All
	Set Up in Public Place. 100 bonus points.	A, B, and F
	Public Information Table. 100 bonus points. Bonus points may be earned for making information about amateur radio available to the public at your Field Day site.	A, B, and F
	W1AW Field Day Bulletin. 100 bonus points. Copy, via amateur radio, the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW or K6KPH. An accurate copy of the message must be included with your Field Day entry to claim the bonus.	All
	Message Handling NTS/ICS-213. 0 to 100 points max., calculated by taking the Number of Messages (max. 10 messages): _____ × 10 bonus points for each formal message originated, relayed, or received and delivered during the Field Day period. Copies of each message must be included with the Field Day entry. The message under Rule 7.3.5 does not count. All messages claimed for bonus points must leave or enter the Field Day operation via amateur radio RF.	All
	Message to ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator. 100 bonus points. See Rule 7.3.5 for message format. This message is separate from the messages handled in Rule 7.3.6 and may not be claimed for bonus points under that rule. A copy of the message must be included with the Field Day entry.	All
	A Satellite QSO. 100 bonus points. Satellite QSOs also count for regular QSO credit. List these contacts separately on the summary sheet as a separate "band." The QSO must be between two Earth stations through a satellite. Stations are limited to one (1) completed QSO on any single-channel FM satellite.	A, B, and F
	Alternate Power QSOs. 100 bonus points. Complete at least five QSOs without using power from commercial mains or a petroleum-driven generator. A separate list of alternate power QSOs must be submitted with your entry.	A, B, E, and F
	Site Visit by Invited Elected Official. 100 bonus points.	All
	Site Visit by Invited Served Agency Official. 100 bonus points. Visits from ARRL officials (SM, SEC, DEC, EC, etc.) do not qualify for this bonus.	All
	Educational Activity. 100 bonus points.	A, D, E, and F
	Youth Participation. <input type="checkbox"/> For Class A, C, D, E, or F groups: 20 bonus points per participant age 18 or younger who completes at least one QSO; max. 100 points. <input type="checkbox"/> For a one-person Class B station: 20 bonus points if the operator is age 18 or younger; max. 20 points. <input type="checkbox"/> For a two-person Class B station: 20 bonus points for each operator age 18 or younger; max. 40 points	All (see specific points per class)
	GOTA. See Rule 7.3.13 for the bonus point breakdown.	A and F
	Use the Field Day Entry Web App. 50 bonus points. Submit your entry using the web app at https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php .	All
	Safety Officer. 100 bonus points. Include a statement with the supporting documentation for your entry, verifying that a designated Safety Officer completed the ARRL Field Day Safety Check List.	A
	Social Media. 100 bonus points. Promote your Field Day activation to the general public via social media (Facebook, X, Instagram, etc.). Individual participants do not qualify for this bonus. Club websites do not qualify as social media. Available to all classes who welcome visitors to their operation.	All
	Field Day Site Responsibilities. 50 bonus points. Include a statement with the supporting documentation for your entry, verifying that a designated individual completed the Field Day Site Responsibilities Check List.	B, C, D, E, and F
	TOTAL BONUS POINTS CLAIMED	

To encourage Club member participation for FD 2026 Keith Henry, KC1LPV, has developed a FD Merit Badge that will be a handsome addition to a cap, shirt or jacket [See swag discussion below].



Mike Rousseau, GOTA station manager, pointed out that Technicians licensed within the past year are eligible to operate at the GOTA station where more experienced hams will serve as control operators and mentors. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with operating on the HF bands and accrue bonus points for the Club.

Also note that we will be setting up a GOTA station at the St. Barnabas festival on 20 JUN where all comers can take a turn in front of the mic.

-2026 Beacon AuxComm Drill: The BEACON Exercise 2026 (Building Emergency Area Communications Operations & Networks), a functional communication systems exercise was held Thursday, April 30, 2026, 1300-1600 [Local]. The BEACON exercises are 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. Mike Cullen, K1NPT was the NCRC point man for this very successful BEACON 2026 effort. Those who participated are listed in the figure below;



BEACON Exercise 2026 *Thank You!*

- A complex auxcomm exercise - 400+ groups
- Good NCRC participation - across RI, CT, MA

BILL KC1YHK	MIKE K1NPT
BOB WB4SON	MIKE KC1NEJ
BRIAN N1TBT	NICOLE (FRS - COMM FENCE)
CORRY N1OI	PAUL K1YBE
ELLEN N1ELN	SCOTT KC1ZJU <i>(just licensed!)</i>
ERIC KC1OUF	STEVE KC1TJG
JIM KC1LYG	TIM WSAB318 (GMRS)
MARK KB1RYX	

-Salty Walt, K4OGO, Zoom Presentation: Willy MacLean has corresponded with Walt Hudson, K4OGO, after reading Walt's FB publication titled "***Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Sketchbook.***"

Willy was impressed both with the Sketchbook and in his conversation[s] with Walt. This is saying quite a lot when Willy, who has done so much in amateur radio, reports in glowing terms regarding Salty Walt. He [Willy] has arranged to have Walt present to the Club via Zoom at our 13 JUL meeting. Should be FB!!!

Also see Walt's article in the JUN issue of QST, pp. 62-63 on portable NVIS ops.

-NCRC Swag: A quick reminder that NCRC swag is available for order on the W1SYE website and includes items such as ball caps, jackets and shirts. All items may be embroidered with an individual's callsign. See;

https://w1sye.org/?page_id=4948

-Build Nights: Our next Club build night is 18 MAY at St Barnabas Parish Hall. The Club will construct a fan dipole for 80m and 40m, coax fed for use at the GOTA station on FD. There are a number of advantages of the proposed fan dipole over the non-resonant ladder line fed antenna we have used in the past. The fact that the feed line does not have to be elevated and will not require the Johnson Match Box are just two.

-QRP Corner – WB4SON; Bob Beatty, WB4SON, discussed the ins and outs of powering QRP rigs for portable ops. There is an amazing assortment of devices and battery types available depending on the QRP rig one plans to use. Bob's complete presentation is available in the 11 MAY slide deck;

https://w1sye.org/?page_id=1538

-Group Photo; Keith Henry, KC1LPV, is the Club photographer. He has taken Club photos as far back as 2022. A photo from the 11 MAY 2026 Club meeting is shown below;



Back Row [L-R]; Bob Matose, Nate Quaintance, Joe Griego, Corry Thibault, Rich Townson, Mike Seil

Middle Row [L-R]; Jim Sammons, Mike Rousseau, Ed Gosling, Paul Recuperero, John Jackman, Rene Martel, Jay Nuzum, Crystal Thibault, Keith Henry, Bob Beatty

Seated [L-R]: Brian Maynard, Joe DeMarco, Paul Fredette, Jim Sendrak, Ellen Vadney, Brian Cottle, Karl Richards