

Newport County Radio Club (NCRC) Meeting Minutes, 08 JUN 2026

Attendees: Jim Sendrak, Brian Cottle, Mike Rousseau, Joe DeMarco, Keith Henry, Bob Matose, Paul Recupero, Jim Sammons, Bob Beatty, Jay Nuzum, John Vecoli, Nate Quaintance, John Jackman, Rene Martel, Rich Townsen, Jeff Frederick, Paul Fredette, Kim Hanna, Greg Lavoy, Ed Gosling, Dave Quinn, Willy MacLean (Z), Crystal Thibault (Z), Vincent Cruz (Z), Bruce Manning (Z), Ted Wrobel (Z), Mike Seil

-NCRC May Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the May meeting were approved. [Also note that the Club photo from our last meeting, courtesy of Keith Henry, is available on the W1SYE.org website.]

-Treasurers Report: Please see the John Jackman report [slide 3 in the NCRC June meeting presentation deck.] We received donations to the tune of \$523.00 and receipts from equipment sales of \$190.00 in the month of May. We also made our annual donation to St. Barnabas for the use of their parish hall in the amount of \$250.00.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

[Secretary's Note; The St. Barnabas Festival is scheduled for the weekend of 19 – 21 JUN. We will host a Get-on-the-Air station as we have done for the last several years. Festival goers are encouraged to try a stint at the mic. Recommend we also encourage those attending the festival to make a visit to Glen Park 27 – 28 JUN to check out W1SYE Field Day operations.]

-Club POTA Events: On Saturday 06 JUN Joe DeMarco, WA1VEE, led a Club Parks-on-the-Air outing at Goddard Memorial State Park [US-2876] in Warwick. Salim, N8LI, and his children, Fazal, KC1YGL and Mahmunah, KC1YIH, participated. Mary, KC1ODO, Keith, KC1LPV, Jim, KC1LYG, Vince, K5VCS and Randy, K8ZFJ also were on the air.

-Club POTA Challenge: We are trying to get traction with our Club POTA Challenge. Be sure to keep track of your activations and the points you garner in the process. We will tally the results in SEP.

-Club Build Night: We hosted another build night on MON 18 MAY to fabricate a fan dipole for 40m/80m, tentatively earmarked for Field Day use at the GOTA station. In the past at the GOTA tent we have used a ladder-line fed multiband antenna and a Johnson Matchbox. The fan dipole will provide a resonant antenna on two bands. This with the triband Yagi for 10m/15m/20m will give resonant antennas on all five bands – all antennas coax fed.

-500 Hundred Miles and an Ace CW Op: Bruce Manning, NJ3K, is a top-notch CW operator living in Western Pennsylvania. He became a member of the Newport County Radio Club through his association with John King, WA1ABI [SK] while both were stationed at Quonset

Point during their stints in the Navy. Every year he makes the 500 mile trek to the Ocean State to join NCRC for Field Day ops. For the trip he packs up Elecraft K3s XCVR and Panadator, power supply, computer, etc. That is, everything needed for the CW station setup in addition to coordinating the CW operating schedule. Also, several gallons of his wife's FB chili!

So why go to such trouble???

Bruce's response as follows;

- Club leadership is strong.
- NCRC is a FB Club and we do a FB job on Field Day. We are competitive!!!
 - Staff GOTA, SSB, VHF, CW and Satellite stations.
 - Tower and antenna setup second to none.
 - Garner all bonus points.
 - Beautiful FD location with FB amenities – full kitchen, pavilion, rest rooms.

Bruce also had a few words of operating advice – operate running vice search and pounce. That is, pick a frequency and call CQ. Let other stations find you. Only go to search and pounce when a band is worked out.

If we can get an internet connection use it to get to the telnet spots.

At this point John Vecoli reminded all to turn off automatic Windows updates on the ToughBook computers. Will MacLean also pointed out that we are one of the most competitive clubs in the country in large part because our FD ops are a well-coordinated team effort.

-Other Field Day Considerations: A discussion ensued regarding how to minimize congestion and distractions at the GOTA and SSB stations. Perhaps some sort of a sign-in system with ambassadors to escort members of the public and visiting dignitaries will be one way to lessen distractions and reduce mic fright among those new to HF contesting ops.

Our tower setup has been shifted farther North this year to increase the fall zone distance from the CW shack. This is also with a mind to use the fan dipole for the GOTA station and to locate the GOTA tent inside the horse show ring.

[Secretary's Note; A decision was made at the meeting, by vote of the members there present, to maintain the GOTA tent setup on the concrete pad outside show ring. This may result in an inordinately long coax run and thereby reduce the utility of the fan dipole. Recommend we utilize the ladder-line fed multiband dipole and matchbox.]

Our FD Picnic is scheduled for Saturday 27 JUN from 1600 – 1800 hours. Hot dogs, hamburgers and sides will be provided free of charge. Donations graciously accepted.

Thank you to John Vecoli, Keith Henry, Crystal Thibault and Brian Cottle for organizing this event.

Keith Henry also spoke up to emphasize the importance of signage to inform the public regarding FD. He was allocated \$200.00 to produce two sandwich-board signs to advertise this year's Field Day.

-Salty Walt Hudson Zoom Presentation; Walt Hudson, K4OGO, the author of *Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Sketchbook* will be our featured speaker for our 13 JUL meeting. This promises to be an informative evening and all are encouraged to attend.

-Pete Lawson Outdoor Adventure; Our next PLOA is scheduled for 13 SEP at Colt State Park in Bristol.

-W1SYE Analog Repeater; Dave Neal, W2DAN, recently made tweaks to the W1SYE repeater that seemed to improve performance to some degree. We still notice noise associated with transmissions but also find that this can be minimized by finding a sweet spot in front of the mic depending on one's voice, e.g. W1LY farther away than AA1XQ. We also note that the levels of the courtesy tone and the CW ID are much reduced to more tolerable levels. Thank you, Dave!