

Newport County Radio Club (NCRC) Meeting Minutes, 24 AUG 2026

Attendees; Brian Cottle, Mike Rousseau, Joe DeMarco, Vincent Cruz, Keith Henry, Bob Matose, Jay Nuzum, John Vecoli, Nate Quaintance, John Jackman, Paul Fredette, Kim Hanna, Ed Gosling, Dave Quinn, Willy MacLean, Evan Bowen, Ellen Vadney, Corry Thibault, Joe Griego, Tom Mackie, Walter Schneider, Vince Cruz, Mike Cullen, Brian Maynard, Crystal Thibault (Z), Bob Beatty (Z), Bruce Manning (Z), Jim Sendrak (Z), Jim Sammons (Z), Nolan Byrne (Z), Chuck Kesson (Z), Bill Boyes (Z), Mike Seil

-Ancillary Matters; Bill Corbin, W3CJK, has donated a number of radios to the Club, mostly marine rigs, including an Icom IC-M600, IC-M700, a Furuno FS-1501 and an Alinco 2m rig with problematic audio. The marine radios are setup for channelized operation but may be operated in VFO mode on the amateur bands. None of the aforementioned rigs found new homes at the 24 AUG meeting. We will take them to the SEP PLOA to auction off or give away there. We also have a Kenwood TS-440 radio for sale, with a 30A power supply, a Yaesu amplifier and an LDG tuner available as well.

Four name tags remain unclaimed for John, KC1WOC, Colin, KC1UZL, Ethan, KC1VLJ and Ron, N1JPP. We hope these individuals pickup their name tags soonest.

-Joe DeMarco Introduction; In lieu of Jim Sendrak, Club Vice President Joe DeMarco ran the meeting from the floor. But Jim was online via Zoom and indicated that he is on the mend from a recent medical emergency. With proper rest, supervised physical and occupational therapy, he expects to make a full recovery. Good news indeed!!!

Meeting minutes from the JUL meeting were approved.

-Treasurers Report; John Jackman's Treasurer's report was approved. John noted that we had deposits totaling \$280.00 from sales of Club swag and dues payments.

Expenses from Field Day will likely be charged later this month or early in SEP.

-W1SYE Change of Trustee and License Renewal; The W1SYE Club station callsign is due to expire on 12 DEC 2026. This means that we may submit our renewal application any time after 11 SEP. It turns out that the current trustee, John Mills, K1JSM, wishes to relinquish this responsibility. Please see Email correspondence below;

From: JOHN MILLS <jsmills63@mac.com>

Sent: Friday, August 21, 2026 9:07 AM

To: Mike Seil AA1XQ <aa1xq@cox.net>

Subject: Re: W1SYE Change of Trustee

I approve the change of W1SYE trusteeship from me to another member of the Club.

73, John, K1JSM

This matter was discussed extensively during the 20 AUG Executive Committee meeting and Bob Matose, KC1RFM, has agreed to assume the trusteeship. Our next step is to get Club approval for these meeting minutes and have them signed by the Club officers. We will then submit these signed minutes to the FCC via the ARRL along with ARRL Club Form 605C and remit the \$35.00 license renewal fee to the FCC.

-Pete Lawson Outdoor Adventure; The PLOA is scheduled for Sunday 13 SEP 1130 – 1500 hours at Colt State Park in Bristol, R.I. at Pavillion #2. The Club remembers our Silent Keys [SKs] including Pete Lawson, W1LAB, John King, WA1ABI and Jack Garforth, N1JK. This year we will remember and recognize Dr. David Brown, KC1AAA [SK]. A snippet from his biography below;

Dr. David William Brown, MA, PhD of Middletown, Rhode Island, passed away on February 9, 2026, at 94, having lived a good, long life dedicated to education, agriculture, conservation and service. Dave Brown grew up on farms and apple orchards in Connecticut and Rhode Island during the Great Depression and World War II. Stories about the Dust Bowl, the displacement of his own family, and scenes of the ravages of war led to his interest in soil conservation and his commitment to fighting rural poverty and world hunger.

As a young man, Dave was active in the 4-H and the American Baptist Church. After graduating from Lyman High in Wallingford, CT, he went on to study agronomy at the University of Connecticut, agricultural economics at Cornell, and earned a Ph.D. in agricultural production and land economics, advanced economic theory, and statistics at Iowa State University.

As a young professor with the University of Tennessee in the mid-1950s, Dave taught agricultural extension staff how to use local surveys and practical socio-economic analyses when shaping recommendations for farmers. He then worked as a visiting professor in Singapore and Malaysia helping urban students do studies in rural villages. He was also part of a team that assessed early methods used for the Green Revolution in Asia, which sought to improve family farm productivity, earnings and nutrition.

Other pioneering roles included leading Texas A&M University programs, encouraging attention for small farms and to Black and Hispanic rural populations. With the Iowa-USAID team in Peru

in the 1960s, he also led work by economics and law faculty to help shape land reform, regional development and national policy.

Returning to the University of Tennessee in 1968, he worked for more than a decade as an international professor of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. There he provided opportunities to returned Peace Corps volunteers with interests in improving the lives of the poor, seeding a network of students and colleagues that continue to exchange ideas today about agriculture and economics.

Then in 1982, he went to Rome for a post with the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, where he fostered analyses of development issues including drought and hunger in Africa through the eyes of rural and displaced people. Later he went on to work on USAID-funded projects supporting food-crops diversification in Indonesia and helping to establish stronger roles for women in rural studies and university outreach programs in Pakistan.

Dave retired to Newport in 1993, where he brought his experience to many roles in Rhode Island. He served on the Newport Planning Board, the Newport Tree Commission, the Eastern RI Conservation District Board, and was a founding member and later co-chair of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for environmental cleanups of nearby Navy sites. In 1993, he was presented a US Senate Citation for his conservation efforts and service to the community from Senator Jack Reed. Locally, Dave taught at Salve Regina University and was active with the Newport Council for International Visitors.



Dave supported the Club for many years as summer field day photographer. A link to his photos below;

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/8ARCvS4BAfKYmAYw9>

The Executive Committee voted to procure a W1AW brick in Dave's honor to be installed at ARRL headquarters with a scaled down commemorative copy for the family.

The Club is in the process of making final arrangements for menu items with the caterer for the PLOA. Please sign up as soon as possible on the W1SYE.org website to allow us to get an accurate head count to order enough food for the event.

The Club authorized a sum Not-to-Exceed \$500.00 to cover any PLOA costs not covered by donations and equipment sales.

-Activate All Rhode Island; In addition to recognizing Silent Keys, we will also conduct a POTA activation of Colt State Park, US-2872, as the last of a plan to activate all 61 Rhode Island POTA entities from 11 SEP – 13 SEP. Activators may sign up to work a park at;

ripota.org/activate-ri-2026/

There are only three parks, at the time of this writing, not scheduled for activation. Please try to fill this void. But this does not preclude one from activating any of those parks already covered. Please try to participate to make this event successful.

Brian Maynard, N1NW is the RI-POTA Groups.io administrator. He is in contact with POTA activators throughout the country and has promulgated a blanket Email to inform of this event. We expect activators from all over the country to participate as well as hunters looking to work Rhode Island parks.

-Club Calendar;

- FRI 11 SEP – SUN 13 SEP; Activate All Rhode Island
- SAT 12 SEP – NCRC Q3 Exam Session, 10:00 a.m., Middletown P.D. Kempenaar Room
- MON 14 SEP – NCRC Build Night >>> RF Traps [See Below] >>> 7:00 p.m. St. Barnabas Parish Hall
- SAT 19 SEP – POTA Event >>> Our next scheduled Club POTA event is to be conducted at Hillsdale Preserve Management Area in Richmond, POTA entity US-10545.
- MON 12 OCT – Nominations for Club Officers and Executive Committee members
- MON 09 NOV – Club Elections

-MON 14 DEC – Club Christmas Party

-Ham Radio Prep; Ellen Vadney, N1ELN, discussed the merits of using this learning aid to study for amateur radio licensing exams. Ellen used Ham Radio Prep and was able to pass both General and Extra exams on the same day.

Fees for these online classes are minimal and they will guarantee a passing grade or money back. They have a special price for all three license classes and discount this price for NCRC members. Furthermore, the Club receives a 20% commission from Ham Radio Prep whenever a Club member signs up for a class.

HRP have also developed other course curriculums such as POTA, EMComm and SatCom and a logbook application – World Radio League.

-Be An Elmer, Help a Tech; Bill Boyes, KB1G, took the floor to underscore the critical role the more experienced hams must play in mentoring those new to the hobby. This includes using our Club repeater to encourage them to monitor and participate on 2m, how to program an HT, how to talk on a Net, helping with their station set up [Not surprising you do not hit the repeater with a 2m vertical at 20' running 5W through 50' of RG-58 with BNC connectors]. Yes, HF is great but so is 50MHz and higher. Let's show them how.

We also need to make sure we have the repeater active at all times for talk-in during Field Day. Yes, we have a great location but it can be hard to find.

-Build Night Turns to Build Day; We recently undertook to refurbish the CW Cushcraft A3S tri-band Yagi that was acting erratically on 10m during summer Field Day. This involved disassembling the antenna to remove the traps and testing each of these to determine whether they were, firstly, not shorted and secondly, resonant at the proper frequency. One sees various schemes to measure trap resonance on the web, the easiest being a coil connected to an antenna analyzer to inductively couple a signal to the analyzer. But this does not work unless the aluminum can surrounding the coil is removed and this is typically easier said than done. The cans on the A3S traps are peened on to a nylon collar and not easily removed. Willy MacLean arrived at a method to carefully drill out these peened on sections to allow removal of the aluminum housing but Joe DeMarco, WA1VEE, found a method to evaluate the traps without the need to remove the aluminum housing using a Nano VNA connected as a two-port network to the trap. The coil is resistively coupled to the VNA and a sweep is conducted. We believe we identified a defective trap in this way and were able to replace it with a W1LY replacement.

The FD GOTA and SSB A3S Yagis remain to be evaluated. To that end we will conduct a Build Night, MON 14 SEP, 7:00 p.m. focusing on RF trap theory and design. We will disassemble two

different style traps, demonstrate measuring the dip frequency using the Nano VNA method, and discuss how trapped antennas work.

-Common Fence Point Pirate Day, SAT 29 AUG 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.; Mike Rousseau, KC1NEJ, is soliciting NCRC volunteers for the Second Annual Common Fence Point Pirates Day scavenger hunt. NCRC members will use FRS/GMRS and 2m HTs to provide direction and oversight for children as they navigate the Common Fence Point neighborhood in search of pirates hidden treasure.

Contact Mike via phone at [401]714-4544 or via Email at;

TheRousseaus@cox.net

Also see the link below;

<https://www.commonfencepoint.org/events-activities-list/#!event/2026/8/29/cfp-pirate-day>

-QRP Corner; Bob Beatty, WB4SON, presented another installment of his QRP corner segment, this evening highlighting the significance of FT-8 operation for QRP. It turns out that minimum detectable signals using FT-8 are 1 to 2 S-units below even CW levels and that the ARRL estimates that 60% - 70% of HF activity currently is on FT-8.

Willy MacLean, W1LY, mentioned that he initially was completely against using this mode [as was AA1XQ], but that it became something that was an enjoyable way to operate.