



THE PROVIDENCE RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

W1OP – W1OP/R

1 LUDLOW STREET

JOHNSTON, R.I. 02919

PRA ANNUAL SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2021

This past year has been a good one for the PRA despite the continued fight with the COVID epidemic. First, we are happy to recognize the rise in membership this year to 38 members. This is a high point for many years.

Activities and Operating

In 2021 the PRA celebrated its 100th year of affiliation with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) on December 9th. In recognition of this milestone the club held multiple events the period of December 3rd thru the 11th which included:

- W1OP's participation in the ARRL 160 Contest with W1GS, N1DM and KA3WLV operating.
- A very well attended dinner at the Atwood Grille on December 7th which had many special guests and good friends of the PRA from the ARRL in attendance including ARRL 1st Vice President K1TWF, Division Director K1VR and Section Manager W1YRC.
- We culminated the celebration with a visit to the ARRL in Newington on December 9th the official date of our affiliation anniversary. This included participation by ARRL Field Organization Team Supervisor Steve Ewald WV1X, Field Services Manager Mike Walters W8ZY, and PR Director Bob Inderbitzen NQ1R. ARRL CEO David Minster NA2AA presented the PRA with a certificate in recognition of our 100th year as an ARRL club. We also had a tour of W1AW and opportunity to operate the station which was hosted by our good friend Joe Carcia NJ1Q who is the Chief Operator at W1AW. The ARRL Club News for December 21st made special note of the visit and its significance. They stated "It was noted that even though there are several clubs around the country at the 100-year mark they are still rare and ARRL wants to recognize them for their continued hard work."
- In addition, N1DM and AJ1S were invited by W1AW chief operator NJ1Q to represent the PRA in participating in the leagues December 11th on-the-air celebration commemorating 100 years since the historic transatlantic tests of 1921. This coincided with the ARRL 10M Contest. They managed over 400 QSO's from W1AW on CW, SSB and FT8 despite poor conditions including 6 hours of operation for the 10 M Contest. The league staff were very supportive of this effort and both had a marvelous time.
- NE1Y has W1OP's FTx stations signing W1OP/100RI for the anniversary.

We want to especially recognize our President K1DT for all his efforts in arranging these events to recognize what is literally a once in a lifetime anniversary.



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As in past years during 2021 W1OP became many hams RI contact for WAS. These added to the over 116,000 QSO's W1OP has in its LOTW account. Despite COVID restricting the clubs contesting efforts for the first half of 2021 W1OP still managed notable activity with over 22,000 QSO's this year, most using the remote stations.

Of special note is that NE1Y and helpers have completed over 75,000 FTx QSO's since January 21, 2019 which has resulted in the PRA having 197 DXCC entities (digital) confirmed along with a digital Worked All Zones and Digital WAS on all bands from 80 thru 10M, including the WARC bands. FTx operation also occurred on 160 and 6 M with notable totals piling up on those bands. The club currently has a mixed DXCC total of 314.

Contests operated from W1OP in 2021 both remote and in person included the ARRL RTTY Roundup, ARRL DX Phone Contest, New England QSO Party, ARRL Field Day, ARRL 160 Test and the FT Roundup in December, along with token appearances in the ARRL CW and Phone Sweepstakes and CQ World-Wide CW in November.

Starting off the year with a first for the PRA, NE1Y managed a 1st place in RI and 4th place in the New England Division in the 2021 ARRL RTTY Roundup operating W1OP remotely from his winter QTH in Naples, FL.

NE1Y also operated W1OP remote from FL for the ARRL DX Test in SSB amassing 89 QSO's with 48 multipliers with 37 DX for 10,512 points. Several other members operated their home stations and submitted Club Aggregate scores. We should note that W3LPL was FIRST in the world for the Multi/2 transmitter class from his Maryland superstation.

NE1Y and KA3WLV did a casual operation for the New England QSO Party.

On May 8, K1DT activated the Club station for the Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test, using the original "NAVRADSTA(T) Newport" callsign NAF. This is significant as our club's Collins 237B-1 Log Periodic Antenna was originally in use at this station in Beavertail. NAF operated SSB transmitting on 4013.5, 7542.0, and 14383.5, listening on the adjacent Amateur bands. The callsign and permission was secured by the help of Frank, W3LPL.

The club's annual participation in the ARRL Field Day this year from the clubhouse resulted with W1OP as 1st in the 3D class with 6942 points earned by 22 members and 9 guests participating. This was a result of 1047 CW QSO's, 1044 Phone QSO's and 54 Digital QSO's.

W1GS, KA3WLV and N1DM did a one night effort for the ARRL 160 test in December. Despite this limited operation they managed 377 QSO's. They ended the contest morning by meeting



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with K1MD, who operate from his home QTH, at Homefires Restaurant in Johnston for a well deserved Saturday morning breakfast.

Also, in December NE1Y and KA3WLV participated in the FT Roundup amassing 536 QSO's with 86 multipliers including 38 DX resulting in a 5th place in the world for Multi-Ops stations (along with 1st in RI and 3rd in North America).

On Dec 11, W1OP participated in the 160-Meter Transatlantic Centenary QSO Party, earning certificates from the ARRL, RSGB, and the Radio Club of America.

In addition K1MD, K1VSJ, N1DM, W1ER and W3LPL (obviously) among others have been active contesting from their home and winter stations.

As we move into our second year of the club's weekly DMR net we are having great success with in excess of 9 check-ins a week from throughout New England, Florida and Arizona on Sunday evenings.

We cannot forget our members who were elated be able to participate in-person for Near-Fest this year along with the New England Division Convention. The rebooting of these events after shutdowns due to COVID was welcomed by all. The PRA was represented by 7 members at the New England Division Convention which was held for the first time in a new venue in Marlborough, MA. Near-Fest saw participation by 16 PRA members along the 'Boulevard of Broken Dreams'.

No PRA year is complete without our annual pilgrimage to the famous Olyneyville New York System restaraunt. Twenty of us gathered in October for award winning "Hot Weiners".

Sadly, due to a COVID spike in RI in late December we were forced to cancel the in-person Holiday Party, but most members showed up on Zoom to tip a glass of their favorite adult beverage.

House Committee

This year many members have participated in multiple work parties at the club. This has resulted in removing encroaching trees and also refurbishment of the ground radials used on our two inverted L type antennas. Also, wire antennas that were damaged in storms and by falling branches have been repaired and located back in their original locations.

Among those participating in work parties this year were: K1DT, N1BBM, WA1WEE, W1EYH, KC1OPN, KC1MSH, AC1GE, W1OSP, KZ1K, AC1IJ, NE1Y, KA3WLV and W1ESQ.



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Donations

The very generous donation by W1IUP to start our New Member Fund was much appreciated, along with his donations of a new laptop to the club and the replacement of the TV damaged by lightning.

Among the other donations received this year are from NE1Y for his continued support of our internet service and loan of equipment for the remote FTx station and W1ESQ for providing Zoom access for our meetings along with K1DT for numerous items. N1DM donated a power supply to restore one of the PC's damaged by lightning and also arranged for donation of a commercial UPS to the PRA.

Many other members have donated material to projects in the club this year.

Publicity

K1DT has been invited to discuss amateur radio twice this year on the TV show "White House Chronicles" including once from the clubhouse. Dave did a great job representing amateur radio on a program that airs on 200 plus PBS stations nationwide and on SiriusXM radio.

Technical Committee

The lightning strike in the middle of the year did considerable damage to TV's, monitors and PC's at the club. W1IUP was kind enough to replace the TV that did not take well to the lightning. He also donated a new Microsoft Surface PC to the club. In addition NE1Y, KA3WLV and N1DM had to perform some PC repairs and replacements to get things back to normal. K1DT has obtained the material to add some lightning protection to the building power system that will be installed in the near future.

This incident reminded us of the need to have emergency power on-site for our internet connectivity and the two repeaters. With that in mind N1DM was able to obtain a surplus 2200 VA commercial UPS. Once its batteries are replaced in should provide a adequate backup for the internet gateway, remote station PC's and repeaters.

KA3WLV has done a great job of keeping the two remote stations running including performing antenna repairs and keeping the PC's operating correctly when remote resets do not work. Thanks to Bob for all his efforts.

Included in the multiple work parties this year were restringing antennas that had been damaged and other such projects to keep our multiband capability where we need it to be.



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K1DT has rebuilt the selsyn box for the Log Periodic and when the spring comes it is ready to install on the tower.

In December K1DT realigned the duplexer on the DMR repeater and added a High Pass Filter to the input of the 220 repeater. The result was greatly improved performance of the DMR repeater and also resulted in less HF QRM getting into the 220 repeater.

N1DM and K1DT made some improvement to our RF ground system over the year including making the RF ground available in studio A.

Licensing and Upgrades

In the licensing area, KA3WLV has successful run through a couple of exams to get to his Extra license after many years as a ham. Congratulations to Bob for his accomplishment.

Other items

The club since its inception has supported the technical education of our members and the 2021 Zoom technical series has been very successful with a wide ranging group of presentations from W1CA, W1PRA, W1IUP, AJ1S, W1ER and N1DM. In addition NE1Y has explained the use of the remote system at various meetings. We thank these members for their sharing their expertise.

Being an election year for the ARRL New England Director, the PRA hosted individual ZOOM meetings and Q&A sessions with each of the 3 candidates; Fred Hopengarted K1VR, Tom Frenaye K1KI and Fred Kemmerer AB1OC. At these well attended sessions we learned a lot about each candidate, gained insite into the ARRL field organization, and had stimulating discussions on the future of Amateur Radio.

The club has a new newsletter, "The Old Professor", under the editorship of W1ER. The quality of the newsletter is great and it is eagerly anticipated each quarter by the membership. This years three issues show a considerable amount of activity and articles contributed by members on their ham radio experiences and knowledge.

AC1GE had recommended the PRA form a New Products Committee to develop a gadget that the club could market to other hams. Rachel was appointed chairperson for this committee and held a start up meeting in November at which many ideas were brought up and some issues that need to be resolved were discussed.



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NE1Y continues updating our website and adding valuable content to it making it a go-to site for all members. Vic also manages our popular PRA Facebook Group.

KA3WLV has figured out a solution to the hotspot issues with CAN-TRBO that many of us have suffered with this past year and helped many of our members and a few friends get their hotspots running under the newest server configuration for CAN-TRBO on the NEDECN DMR and other DMR systems.

We are very happy to announce that this year the Board of Directors conferred honorary membership status on Frank, W3LPL and Rick, K1DS. Both are known worldwide for their accomplishments in the hobby and bring great credit to the association. It would be hard to find two hams who have given more to our hobby.

Respectfully submitted,

Domenic M. Mallozzi, N1DM

Secretary