Our plans for a group Parks on the Air (POTA) activation and Winter Field Day (WFD) activation from Rocky Point State Park on Sunday, January 30 were curtailed by the greatest Nor’easter to hit the area in many years. While disappointed, W1OP took to Plan B, taking turns operating from the W1OP station remotely on SSB, and from the K1DT home station on CW, submitting 226 QSOs for a Club Home Indoor score.

With the weather soon improving our PRA Program and Special Events Committee chair, David, W3DRE will be organizing several POTA activations for us to participate in. David has over 130 POTA activations from 80 different parks under his belt from his extensive RV travels across the country. He will also be presenting a POTA primer to introduce all to this very popular Amateur Radio activity.

Field Day is without question the most popular and enjoyed activity in Amateur Radio, and certainly a favorite of the PRA since its inception in 1933. With Field Day only 4 months away, these POTA exercises will not only help us hone our operating skills, but also provide opportunities for us to participate together in group Amateur Radio field activities, learn new skills, and have fun!

See you at our next POTA activation!

Dave Tessitore, K1DT, President

Frank DePetrallo W1EYH (R) with brother Anthony (L) operating an early POTA activation in 1962
On December 9, 1921, the PRA joined the ranks of a small handful of amateur radio clubs in the United States to become affiliated with the ARRL. Amateur radio was still relatively young and had only recently recommenced activity after being forced to go QRT due to the United States involvement in World War I. It was a time for amateur radio to again stand up on its two feet and start the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

One Hundred years later, the PRA celebrated the monumental achievement of a century of dedicated affiliation. On Tuesday evening, December 7th, members of the Club along with distinguished guests including Bob Beaudet W1YRC, Rhode Island Section Manager; Fred Hopengarten K1VR, then New England Director; Mike Raisbeck K1TWF, ARRL 1st Vice President; and Nancy Araway NK1A, 1st Vice President YL celebrated with a fine meal at the Atwood Grille in Johnston, RI.
On the exact day 100 years later after that historic commencement of affiliation, members of the Club ventured to League Headquarters in Newington, CT where we met with ARRL staff and were presented a plaque of commemoration by ARRL CEO David Minster NA2AA. A tour of the station was held and members had a chance to operate and sign as W1AW.

Finally, to end the week of festivities, on Saturday, December 11th, Andy Stenberg AJ1S and Dom Mallozzi N1DM had the privilege of representing the PRA at W1AW to operate the Trans Atlantic Test 100th Anniversary Special Event Station.

All in all, a fantastic week for the members of the PRA. We look forwards to doing it again on December 9th 2023. What will your favorite operating mode be?

On December 12, 1921, Paul Godley 2ZE received signals from more than two dozen amateur radio operators in North America from a receiving station in Ardrossan, Scotland. This successful first transmission and reception of radio communications across the Atlantic Ocean in the uncharted spectrum below 200 meters would usher in the age of world wide radio communications.

During the month of November and December, the ARRL and Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) celebrated the 100th anniversary of this historical accomplishment with several special events stations.
When the novice license was at its peak in the 1970’s there was a huge amount of activity. In the PRA alone at one point in late 1972 and early 1973 there were 8 novices in the club. Three of those are still active today at the PRA, K1DT who was WN1QOG, KZ1K who was WN1RKL and N1DM who was WN1RFT.

All this activity and licensing attracted the attention of manufacturers including Drake, E.F. Johnson, World Radio Labs, Eico and Heathkit who all fielded rigs that were aimed at the novice market. In 1973 the PRA published the ‘PRA Novice News’ which was a mimeographed single sheet that had DX tips and included a very interesting survey run by WN1POJ (now N1RI) that listed the rigs used by 100 active novice stations he had contacted. The list was broken up between transmitters and receivers as at the time prior to the popularity of the transceiver many hams ran what was referred to as “separates”. This list read as like this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transmitters</th>
<th>Receivers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heathkit HW-16</td>
<td>Heathkit HW-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heathkit DX-60/DX-60B</td>
<td>Heathkit HR-10/HR-10B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drake 2NT</td>
<td>Drake 2C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heathkit DX-40</td>
<td>Radio Shack DX150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRL Globe Scout/Chief</td>
<td>Drake 2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eico 720/723</td>
<td>Hallicrafters SX-110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson Viking Adventurer</td>
<td>Allied A2516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson Viking Valient</td>
<td>Hammurland HQ-110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homebrew</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Looking at the list you see a lot of Heathkits as at that time buying a kit was a considerable savings over a factory-built rig. E.F. Johnson Company offered many of their products as kits or factory wired in the 60’s through 1970’s and they discounted kits between 12% to 30% versus their factory wired rigs. In the case of more expensive rigs that could mean $100 or more savings.

The most popular rig by far was the Heathkit HW-16 Transceiver, which was only available as a kit. It was not a transceiver as we think of it today as it had a receiver which tuned the first 250 KHz of 80, 40 and 15 M. This band segment included the HF Novice Bands. It also had a crystal-controlled transmitter capable of 50 to 90 watts (input) on those bands. It also offered full break-in (QSK) operation which was only available on very expensive rigs at the time. Novices were limited to 75 watts input with crystal control so the HW-16 was a perfect first rig.
ON THE AIR:  THE HEATHKIT HW-16 NOVICE RIG AND OTHER REMNANTS OF THE NOVICE LICENSE  CONT’D

In the picture the two brown sockets on the left hand side of the rig are where you plugged in the crystals that gave you a single transmitting frequency. To make it more friendly when Novices upgraded their licenses it was compatible with the Heathkit HG-10B VFO to make the transmitter more ‘frequency flexible’. All this for only $99.50 (which is about $830 in 2022 dollars). Add an antenna, a key, some headphones and a couple of crystals and you were on the air. The HW-16 was very popular, Chuck Penson’s book “Heathkit -A Guide to Amateur Radio Products” reports that in 1972 alone they sold 1,818 kits. It was available from 1967 through 1976. At least three PRA members had them as their first rigs.

I still have the HW-16 that was my Novice rig and yes it still works. The receiver had a crystal filter and worked pretty well in the CW bands. The transmitter was great on 80 and 40 but on 15M had lower power output than on the other bands, which was a result of some design compromises in the tank circuit but that was fine it still worked. I was able to make my first QSO’s with Venezuela and Japan using a HW-16 on 15 M with a 40M dipole. In the eighties after getting my Extra license I worked Bora-Bora with a dipole in my apartment in Watertown, MA using the HW-16 with a HG-10B VFO. Interestingly, there were articles published in various ham magazines over the years on modifications to make it a true transceiver and improving the power output on 15M. Even today it is hard to go to a major flea market and not see at least one for sale as there were so many made. Heathkit with its new owner is in theory still in business but is a shadow of its old self offering only a few limited products.
On N1RI’s list some will see the Radio Shack DX-150 receiver and shake their heads. This was a shortwave listener’s receiver and despite the attempts by Radio Shack to convince hams it was a ham receiver, no one really believed them. Being designed for listening to AM and shortwave broadcast stations it was not particularly selective at 4.5 KHz IF bandwidth and dial calibration was a bit hit or miss. A further and longer list of deficiencies can be found in the QST review printed in March 1968 on page 39.

I used one for a ARRL 160 CW contest in 1974 from the URI ham club W1KMV and could only tolerate 26 QSO’s using it. The receiver calibration was so bad on 160 that to stay within the 160 band splits at the time I had to use a very expensive Monsanto frequency counter from the electrical engineering lab to monitor the Johnson Ranger transmitter I used for that contest. This was because there was no way I could tell where I was in the 160 band from the DX-150 dial. That contest convinced me I did not need a DX-150.

For those of you who see The World Radio Labs “Globe” series radios under transmitters and are not familiar with them look at QST for February 2022 on page 94 for a nice article discussing this fine series of radios.

Sadly, the list shows many US companies such as Hallicrafters and Hammurland that are long gone or no longer in the ham radio business, like E.F. Johnson and Drake. You will notice the Asian companies of today are not on the list. The only rigs on the 1973 list that were made in Japan were the Radio Shack DX-150 (made by GRE who produced Patrolmen police scanners for Radio Shack) and the Allied A2516 receiver (which was a re-labelled Kenwood rig). The list of major US ham radio companies today is Flexradio, TenTec and Elecraft. Other than Elecraft, which still offers some nice kits, the kit business is mostly relegated to very small mom and pop companies.
W.H. Edwards Co. was always the ham radio store of my memory. Early on, my Elmer, Charlie Kenyon, W1AEI, directed me to Edwards for parts. I remember somehow I had a card that was usually given only to Radio-TV shop voc students at Central H.S. whereby students could buy radio and electronics parts, and tubes especially, at wholesale. I am sure that courtesy was extended to all “hams”. I remember buying my first “telegraph” key there, a surplus Lionel J-38. I still have it. Edwards was an Authorized Collins Radio dealer. Four salesmen I remember especially at Edwards were Bill Edwards, of course, W1EZW a P.R.A. member though inactive at the time; Herbie Hodgeman, W1ZPH; Ed Godin, W1DAH; and Sal Infantolino. W1GS

Dandreta’s at 28 Wolcott Street in Providence. I started going their around 1969 and in 1971 started working for them on and off for 10 years until I graduated from URI. When I got there they had a limited ham inventory of parts and books. They also carried QST and 73 magazine. Their business was split between trades people and original equipment manufacturers and their service departments. They also had a AV department for schools and the state organizations. Sales for AV was run by Tony - W1LDI and K1DT was a tech there for a bit. W1EYH and W1GS had worked there prior to Dave and I. They carried B&W coil stock and roller inductors. They also carried EF Johnson parts and National variable caps. They also carried some common Bliley and Peterson Radio crystals for 2 M and 6 M AM. When I started in 1971 they still sold Johnson bugs but never replenished stock for what they sold at that point. N1DM
I have a Young's Engineering story I'll never forget. During one of my rare visits I discovered a dusty box containing dozens of Jennings RB-1A vacuum relays. I needed just a few, but I decided to inquire about the price if I bought the entire box. The clerk described to me that those glass insulators were originally very expensive and told me he'd have to get five bucks for each of them. Before anyone had a chance to inform him, I paid more than a hundred bucks for the box, then sold each of the relays for $75. That visit paid for my entire senior year at URI. But that was a rare bargain at Young's, they were almost always well informed about the market value of their items. W3LPL

My grandfather, “Grandpa Tess” had an old wooden short-wave table radio by Pacific Radio, and a beautiful EMUD (Grundig) with which he listened to Italian news and opera regularly. He also had several AM radios, a couple Webcor reel-to-reel tape recorders, cameras, movie cameras and a workshop. But the short-wave radios were the most fascinating to me. In 1970 I had saved up enough lawn and paper route money to buy a Micronta 22-022 multimeter advertised on-sale at Radio Shack, something I really wanted to help with my radio repairs. But I was $1 short, and the sale was ending that day. My father said to explain what I want to do with it to Grandpa and ask him for $1. So, I showed Grandpa Tess the ad and explained to him that with that meter I would fix all his equipment for him, always. He gave me the dollar. Dad drove me to the only Radio Shack around, on Reservoir Ave across from the Calart Tower and we got it. It was one of the happiest days of my life. The clerk at the radio shack was a bit of a wise guy, and he challenged my knowledge of resistor color codes, including the silver and gold bands. I got everyone right. My dad was impressed. The clerk tossed me a cardboard color code wheel as a prize. I used that meter to fix hundreds of things. I kept my word and maintained all my grandfather’s equipment for him till the day he died. I still have the meter, and the color code wheel which I never used, and his short-wave radios. K1DT
HAPPENINGS

Congratulations to Bob Simoneau KA3WLV who from now on shall be known as N1ET.

Did you catch Meg Wilson’s presentation Remote Sensing of Geophysical Data from Earth and Mars? Presented by Meg Wilson, Brown University Graduate Student. Meg describes her work with remote sensing data from Earth and Mars, and turning raw data from Landsat and AVIRIS into actual useful units. Meg also explains how each of us can access this trove of collected geophysical data. If you missed it, it can be found at: [link]

Did you catch Rick Rosen’s presentation Earth-Moon-Earth, Changes over the Years? Presented by member Rick Rosen, K1DS, QST VHF and EME contest author. Rick is one of the leading experts on EME communications. Rick discusses recent advances in EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) technology which now makes it feasible for most any Amateur to be involved in this fascinating activity. Gone is the need for massive antenna arrays and kilowatt VHF amplifiers to communicate long distances by using our Moon as a passive reflector! If you missed it, it can be found at: [link]

Did you catch Frank Donavan’s presentation Selecting, Constructing and Maintaining High Performance 6 Meter Yagis? Frank is a leading expert on high performance station design. Frank reveals some surprising facts about 6M antennas. This presentation provides a wealth of information, much previously unknown to Amateurs. Learn how with just a 3 to 5 element Yagi you can have fun and be competitive on 6M Es (Sporadic E-layer propagation). In Frank’s words, “Big towers and huge Yagis do not rule 6 meters!”. If you missed it, Frank’s presentation to the Potomac Valley Radio Club can be found at: [link]

Congratulations to Team PRA on their phenomenal performance during Field Day 2021. The PRA placed first in the 3D category with 2145 QSO’s. To see the full results visit: [link]

Elections were held at the PRA’s annual meeting on January 11, 2022. For 2022 our officers are as follows:

Dave Tessitore K1DT—President
John Good W1GS—Vice President
Dominic Mallozzi N1DM—Secretary
John Winman KZ1K—Treasurer
Frank DePetrillo W1EYH—Board of Directors
Neville Bedford W1ESQ—Board of Directors
Gilbert Brown N1BBM—Board of Directors

Please support our club officers

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Our Happenings section is the place to list member accomplishments and other short notices pertaining to club members and other items of member interest.

If you think there is an item of interest or event that should be listed in our Happenings, please let our Club President know and we will do our best to get it included.
**Entry Level Licensing**

**ZOOM**

1 March

Bruce Blain, K1BG, will speak on recruiting new people into amateur radio and clubs

**ARRL International DX Test - Phone**

1 Ludlow St

5-6 March

DX stations may only contact W/VE stations. And the DX all want to work RI!

http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

**Stew Perry Top Band Challenge**

160 Mini Stew Contest- Point value of QSOs depends on the distance between the two stations.

12-13 March

https://www.kkn.net/stew/

**NEAR-Fest XXXI**

Deerfield State Fairgrounds, NH

29-30 April

New England Amateur Radio Festival and Flea-Market

http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

**NE QSO Party**

1 Ludlow St

7-8 May

Operate W1OP

https://neqp.org/rules/

**Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test**

1 Ludlow St and/or Beavertail Pt.

14-May

Using the original Beavertail "NAVRADSTA(T) Newport" callsign NAF

1 Ludlow St and/or Beavertail Pt.

**ARRL VHF Contest**

1 Ludlow St

11-13 June

Operate at Clubhouse, shakeout of 6M FT8 station for Field Day

http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf

**FIELD DAY!**

Fort Burnside, Beavertail Pt, Jamestown, RI

25-26 June

Calling all hands for ARRL Field Day, reach out to every member on our list of friends and family to come to FD 2022

http://www.arrl.org/field-day

**Northeast HamXposition**

Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough, MA

26-28 August

Attend ARRL Forum and Grand Banquet if COVID guidelines allow. Not too early to make Hotel Reservations!

https://hamxposition.org/

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Our **Calendar** section is the place to list events either sponsored by the PRA or of general interest to the PRA membership and including its participation.

Events take place year round, be it contests, conventions, flea markets, or just casual get togethers.

If you think there is an event that should be listed in our **Calendar**, please let our Club President know as soon as possible and we will do our best to get it included.

Also, don’t forget we meet weekly every Tuesday evening on the web. Members should watch your email for meeting announcements.
LAST MINUTE NEWS  VISIT TO NEWSM
DAVE TESSITORE, K1DT

Following up on conversations with the New England Wireless and Steam Museum, and a visit to the Museum two weeks prior by our Senior Member and President Emeritus, Frank DePetrillo W1EYH, arrangements were made for a group from the PRA to visit the Museum on Thursday, 24 February 2022.

A dozen members and friends were warmly greeted by NEWSM Director Randy Snow, along with Ken Carr KE1RI, Chris Prada KB1SNJ, Mike Thompson and Len Arzoomanian. PRA President Dave Tessitore K1DT remarked that the Museum is truly a historic treasure, and recalled past joint cooperation between our two organizations, such as the NEWSM 25th/PRA 70th in 1989, and other times when called upon by Bob Merriam to “man the wireless”. He vowed to keep our organizations connected and continue to strengthen the relationship between our two premiere historical wireless and educational groups.

PRA members were given an in depth and behind the scenes private tour of the NEWSM Wireless building and collections, the historic Massie Wireless Station “PJ” relocated from its original location at Point Judith, and the extensive radio collection archive in the basement of the Mays building. We were encouraged to help ourselves to NEWSM’s collection of excess QST magazines, of which we are missing a few in our PRA collection.

K1DT thanked NEWSM for their kind offering of QST magazines needed to complete our own collection, in turn offering the resources of the PRA in any projects where we may be of assistance and welcomes the opportunity to operate NEWSM’s N1EPJ Amateur station for a special event, such as their Annual Steam-Up.

Members and friends in attendance included:

Neville Bedford  W1ESQ
Jack Butler       WA1WEE
Ron Cameron      WA1FOS
Frank DePetrillo W1EYH
Larry DePetrillo NiQGO
Dan Harrington  AC1IJ
Bob Hart         KC1NAB
Bob Hart Sr.
Dominic Mallozzi N1DM
Jim Meltzer      WA2TNX
Dave Tessitore  K1DT
Mike Umbricht   W9GYR

Want to learn more?  https://newsm.org/

This is Your Newsletter !!  Forward your items of interest, short articles, and photos to  W1ER@ARRL.NET We will make every effort to include your submission.

73 AND SEE YOU IN JUNE