



ARRL Rhode Island Section



Section News

May 2026

[ARRL Rhode Island Section](#)

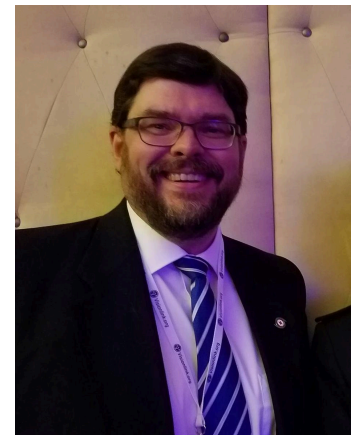
Please feel free to send ideas for content, news, or general feedback to ki1u@arrl.org. ARRL Rhode Island Section News is published the first week of each month. Section Coordinator reports and other content must be received by the first of each month to be included in that month's news.

Section Manager Update

The busy summer season is coming up! Dayton hamvention is just a couple weeks away, hurricane season starts the first of June, New England will soon be all abuzz about the World Cup, and then Field Day.

Field Day 2026

If your club or local group will be on the air for Field Day, please let me know. I plan to visit sites, so be sure to get the info into the ARRL Field Day Mapper or contact me and let me know the details.



Field Day has long been one of my favorite Amateur Radio activities. No matter what your interest in Amateur Radio may be Field Day offers something. It can have the on air feel of a contest or QSO party, the logistics of an expedition or big POTA operation, plenty of opportunity for eyeball QSOs, and no shortage of troubleshooting to test our technical skills. There's even something for DXers! At a Field Day site in Indiana many

years ago a station came on 20 meters CW in the middle of FD action from Wake Island. Many folks at our site logged the /KH9 station for an all time new one and then went right back to "CQ FD W9PC".

A word of advice for the veteran operators, don't forget the new hams. I know you like to work the phone and CW pile ups, but also take the time to give the new ham the mic, key, or keyboard and be a mentor to them in this wonderful Amateur Radio event.

I hope to see many of you on my Field Day journeys this year!

73,

Mike Corey, KI1U

ARRL Rhode Island Section Manager

ki1u@arrl.org

Section Traffic Coordinator Update

Greetings All,

It is great to see spring finally arrive. Daffodils, forsythia and flowering trees abound with color and tree leaves begin to sprout green. While winter has yet to give up entirely, as evidenced by recently reported snow in the western part of the state, I'm reminded to make note on my calendar of upcoming ham radio events this summer, and I encourage you to do the same before those calendars become filled with other activities.

The annual traffic handlers picnic will again be held in Concord MA on Sunday afternoon, August 2. More details will be forthcoming as the date draws nearer.

Also make note that the annual Northeast HamXposition will be held a week earlier this year, returning to Marlboro MA August 14-16. Among the activities will be our usual Traffic Handlers Meet and Greet, an opportunity to see traffic handlers from all over the Northeast and possibly beyond.

Meanwhile all our traffic nets have kept busy, handling traffic and training in the skills of message handling and net operation. Of particular note is the Central Mass 2 Meter Net (CM2MN) on the Paxton repeater at 9 PM. Thanks to Corwyn, KN1OBI for helping to fill NCS slots so the net can now meet nightly. They do need traffic as well as operators to handle it so that the folks in central Mass can get some training and practice in message handling and net operation.

We are fortunate to have in our midst some creative folks with expertise in software/app development. Dave Marcucci, KC1TLF, is one who has been working on a web-based app for traffic handlers for logging and radiogram management. He posted information on the MA-NTS group at groups.io, and has been looking for others to help him test this app he has named Radiogram Register. If you are interested check it out at <https://RadiogramRegister.com>, or <https://rgreg.app> (a short URL, easier to type on a mobile phone), or contact Dave at dmarcucci@gmail.com

My traffic tip of the month is a refresher on the use of prowords and introductory phrases. Our traffic handlers do quite well with these thanks to our excellent trainers, but I have noticed on occasion an absence of important ones as well as use of some unnecessary and time-wasting ones.

Why do we use prowords or introductory words? The Methods and Practices Guidelines (MPG) states "doing what the receiving station expects minimizes errors and confusion", saving time and providing better accuracy. (Remember the ABC's of traffic handling are Accuracy, Brevity, and Clarity.)

The only proword to be used in the preamble is NUMBER which is important to alert the receiving station the next word is the beginning of the radiogram they are to copy. He/she knows what comes next in the preamble so no need to introduce the other fields (think brevity).

In the address, there is NO need to point out "To" or "Going To" as once the date has been given in the preamble, the receiving station understands the next thing he/she will hear (outside of a possible "OP NOTE") is the addressee and contact information. If you need to spell unusual names always introduce the spelling with the words, I SPELL. This alerts the receiving station that what is coming next is a clarification and not a continuation of the radiogram. This phrase applies to all parts of the radiogram where spelling is recommended.

The proword "BREAK" is always used immediately before and immediately after the text. This not only gives the receiving station a chance to ask for a needed fill, but also alerts him/her to the beginning and the ending of the text or the originator's desired message . This could be compared to stuffing a letter into an envelope.

The proword "FIGURE(S)", and not the proword NUMBER, introduces numbers appearing in the text (not the preamble or address, as noted above). The word NUMBER, as a proword, is used only in the preamble. If the proword FIGURES is not

heard, the receiving station will assume those numbers you are sending should be spelled out. For example, if you are sending the figures 123 but forget the word "FIGURES" the receiving station will copy "one two three" thus changing the number of word groups in the text. Similarly introduce a non-word group, such as ARRL, as "INITIALS" or "LETTER GROUP", Alpha Romeo Romeo Lima.

At the end of the signature (or OP NOTE if there is one), the next word is END followed by MORE or NO MORE. The receiving station then knows to either respond with "ROGER" (I copied 100%) or request needed fills or confirmation.

To recap, here are ten of the most commonly used prowords or introductory phrases used in voicing radiograms, all designed to minimize error or confusion: NUMBER, I SPELL, BREAK, FIGURES, INITIALS or LETTER GROUP, END, MORE or NO MORE, and ROGER. Leave out "Message number", "handling instruction is", "the check is", "going to", "zip code is", "break and the text", "break and the signature", all unnecessary and time-wasting as the receiving station knows what is next. One exception: "phone figures" should be used to introduce the phone number only if there is no zip code given, so the receiving station doesn't think the numbers following the state are part of the zip code.)

Thanks to all for a great job, and for your participation and support. The March report is attached.

73, Marcia KW1U
STM EMA/WMA/RI

Vacant Section Level Positions

Are you interested in serving in a volunteer leadership position in the Rhode Island Section? There are a few positions we're looking to fill. Click the link for a description of the position. If you are interested, please reach out to [Mike, KI1U](#)

Section Youth Coordinator - The Section Youth Coordinator maintains a current assessment of active youth amateur radio operators in the section including those involved in clubs, Scouting and other youth organizations and schools.

[State Government Liaison](#)

[Public Information Coordinator](#)

In addition to these field organization positions, we're also looking for a newsletter editor. If you would like to lend a hand getting ARRL Rhode Island Section news out, please let Mike know.

New Hams and Upgrades

Congratulations to the following on earning your Amateur Radio license:

Joseph Griego, KC1ZEP - North Kingstown, RI

Spencer A Barton, KC1ZEJ - Lincoln, RI

Christian Burnett, KC1ZFT - Portsmouth, RI

Ryley Pincince, KC1ZFB - Slatersville, RI

Russell A Bertrand, KC1ZCY - Wakefield, RI

Geoffrey J Carney, KC1ZEW - Westerly, RI

Andrey Kevorkov, KC1ZCL - West Warwick, RI

Guy Shisko, KC1ZGA - Rumford, RI

Nathan A Bretanha, KC1ZEF - Johnston, RI

Scott A Hayes, KC1ZJU - Portsmouth, RI

Railly Velez, KC1ZIY - Woonsocket, RI

Tobia Brewer, KC1ZIZ - East Providence, RI

Congratulations to the following on upgrading your license:

Eric Christopher, KC1RDC - E Greenwich, RI

Robert Jackson, N1RWJ - Hope, RI

David E Vannier, KC1ZAQ - Tiverton, RI

Geoffrey J Carney, KC1ZEW - Westerly, RI

Nathan A Quaintance, KC1ZBU - Middletown, RI

Alex Taylor, KC1ZBR - Providence, RI

(New license reports issued in April and May 2026)

Get Involved

13 Colonies Special Event - K2C

13 Colonies
Special Event Station

K2C

Rhode Island

250th Anniversary
1776 - 2026

SIMULATION
Reading of the Declaration of Independence, by Major John Handy at the Colony House, Newport, RI July 20, 1776

RADIO	DATE			UTC	BAND	MODE	RST
	Day	Month	Year				

PSE QSL TNX **73 Hope you enjoyed the Special Event**

Rhode Island and the Providence Plantations were the smallest colony of England in America, and was founded in 1636. It was the first colony of England that declared independence and separation from the English rule.

In 1636 the English clergyman Roger Williams (c.1603–1683) established a colony at Providence seeking religious freedom for a group of nonconformists from the Massachusetts Bay colony. Others followed, settling Portsmouth (1638), Newport (1639), and Warwick (1642). In 1644 Williams journeyed to England, where he secured a legislative grant uniting the four original towns into a single colony, the Providence Plantations. Williams secured a charter for Rhode Island and the Providence Plantations from King Charles II (1630–1685) in 1663,

The 13 Colonies Special Event is an annual amateur radio operating event held from July 1st - 7th (1300 UTC July 1 to 0400 UTC July 8) that celebrates American Independence. Radio operators worldwide attempt to contact special 1×1 callsign

stations (K2A-K2M) representing each of the original 13 British colonies, plus bonus stations in Philadelphia (WM3PEN), England (GB13COL), and France (TM13COL). For more information about the 13 Colonies Special Event please go the website:

<https://www.13colonies.us/>

For more information about the Rhode Island Station - K2C:

<https://www.qrz.com/db/K2C>

If you are a Rhode Island resident and would like to operate as K2C from your RI home or from the Providence Radio Association Clubhouse. Please email

president@w1op.com

73

Dave Steussie

Rhode Island Coordinator

13 Colonies Special Event

ARRL 250th W1AW/1 **Rhode Island**

This summer, from July 22 through 28, Rhode Island radio amateurs have an opportunity to be part of the ARRL's 250th celebration by being part of the W1AW/1 activation. We are looking for volunteers who want to take a turn operating during the event.

For more information, please reach out to Rhode Island Section Club Coordinator [John Brewer, N1SXB](#).

For more information about the ARRL 250th event [click here](#).



My Winter Field Day Adventure

Kaushik Satheesh Kumar, KC1WNO Youth Member of W1OP and Youth Outreach Coordinator at Patriot Radio Club (K1PRC) in Arizona

Forty voices hit my headphones at once. I'd just called "CQ Winter Field Day" on a quiet 20-meter frequency, and suddenly hams from across the globe were piling up to reach a high school sophomore sitting in a back room at the W1OP ham club in Rhode Island. Managing that pileup for over an hour straight was one of the most exhilarating things I've ever done.

How I Got There

After my first encounter with the club at their booth at the Northeast HamXposition, which inspired and supported young hams like me, I was intrigued by the long history and tall antennas of the W1OP. During Christmas break, as one of the best Christmas gifts ever, I took the adventurous trip down to W1OP and met a room full of experts. I officially became a proud member of W1OP.

PRA President Mr. Dave (W3DRE) then invited me to their Winter Field Day operations. I was ecstatic: I would finally have the opportunity to experience real-time emergency communications! So on January 24, 2026, Day 1 of Winter Field Day, my dad and I made the 45-minute drive down to the W1OP club in Rhode Island. I was greeted by PRA President Mr. Dave (W3DRE), Mr. Ted (NE1U), and Mr. Rocco (WQ1Q). They led me to a back room with a Kenwood transceiver wired up to a 40-meter antenna, and I immediately felt the excitement of what was coming.

Finding the Right Band

My elders spent about fifteen minutes walking me through the radio and the logging software. Then they handed me the mic. I made a handful of contacts on 40 meters, but the band went quiet surprisingly fast. Since 40 meters loses its skip propagation during daylight hours as the D-layer absorbs the signal, midday contacts get much harder. So, I politely asked if we could switch to 20 meters, which holds up much better during the day thanks to stronger F-layer reflection. The difference was immediate. The band was alive with signals, and I started logging contacts quickly as stations came in from across the country.

The Pileup

The true magic happened when I found a clear frequency and called CQ. Within seconds, 40 to 50 hams were responding simultaneously. Working through it meant

listening carefully, pulling out partial callsigns from the noise, sometimes repeating the CQ, and keeping a rhythm so nobody waited too long. It's a skill that took real focus, and honestly, it's the moment I understood what operating discipline actually means in practice. I logged a solid 100 contacts before I finally had to pack up and head home.

What I Took Away

Beyond the contacts, what struck me most was how genuinely welcoming the W1OP club members were to a new ham. Experienced operators answered every question I had without a hint of impatience. Ham radio has a reputation for being technical and serious, and it is, but it's also one of the friendliest communities I've encountered. It's not just a hobby; it's an emergency communications infrastructure, a technical experiment, and a diverse global social network all wrapped into one. Huge thanks to Mr. Gene McDole and Mr. Bill Poulin (Patriot Radio Club) for being my first elmers. Plus, thanks Mr. Ted for introducing me to the club at the Northeast HamXPosition and to Mr. Dave for inviting me and coordinating this invaluable opportunity. Additionally, thanks to all of the W1OP members who helped and guided me along the way. Summer's almost here, and with America's 250th Anniversary bringing special event stations onto the air, I'm ready to keep logging QSOs and seeing how far this hobby takes me.

“Every QSO is a step into a bigger world — one connection at a time.”

Bravo Zulu!



We want to recognize the accomplishments of radio amateurs in the ARRL Rhode Island section. Want to brag about an accomplishment? Want to recognize another ham for something? Please let us know, email the Section Manager with the details - ki1u@arri.org.

ARRL Rhode Island Section Leadership			
Name	Callsign	Position	Email
Mike Corey	KI1U	Section Manager	ki1u@arrl.org
Jeremy Taylor	K1JST	Section Emergency Coordinator/Assistant Section Manager	k1jst@taysol.net
John Brewer	N1SXB	Affiliated Club Coordinator	n1sxb.jb@gmail.com
David Neal	W2DAN	Technical Coordinator	w2dan@cox.net
Marcia Ford	KW1U	Section Traffic Manager	kw1u@comcast.net

If you have something to contribute to the Rhode Island Section newsletter, please send it to Mike Corey, ki1u@arrl.org