



N.E.W.S. LETTER



The Publication of the North East Weak Signal Group

JULY 2004

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President: WA1MBA, Tom Williams
V P: Stan Laine, WA1ECF

CURRENT OFFICERS

Secretary: N1GJ George Jones
Treasurer: N1DPM Fred Stefanik

NEXT MEETING

THE JULY PICNIC, SATURDAY THE 17TH OF JULY
AT THE SAME GREAT SPOT - THE K OF C PAVILION.
BRING YOUR 10GHZ PORTABLE STATION!

DIRECTIONS TO THE NEXT MEETING

Exit 48 (East) on Route 220. Take a left turn at the 9th traffic light (Washington Road)
The K of C is about a mile on the left.

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MEMBERSHIP in the N.E.W.S. Group is \$15 per year. Apply to Fred Stefanik, N1DPM, 50 Witheridge St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 (413) 786-7943 You may download an application from our web page <http://www.newsvhf.com>

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PREZ SEZ **DE WA1MBA**

Wow, what a conference! I hope you had as good a time as I did. Not only did we have great talks and band sessions, but discussions about the future of our contests and the problem of getting new blood onto the VHF and above bands. We may have come and left with a variety of opinions, but many of us had our say, reviewed the survey results, and heard the League's view and reasons.

The auctions produced \$225 for the club to help offset our expenses - thanks to the Eastern VHF/UHF Conference for their generous support of the club, and special thanks to Bruce N2LIV for making the conference a big success.

Summer has arrived, and along with it the June contest. By the time you read this the contest will have come and gone. Sorry that the legacy of my lightning strike of almost a year ago still persists, leaving me crippled on some of the upper bands.

Of course, the next big event for the club is the July picnic. This year it is on Saturday the 17th of July, at the same great spot - the K of C pavilion. As is our custom, we will be bringing our 10 GHz portable rigs for MDS checking. Some of us crazies will probably bring 24, 47 and 78 GHz projects again.

If you have a favorite dish (food, not parabola), bring it along. We can always use some additional foods to add to our burgers and dogs that Ron WZ1V grills up, and that great 3D bean dish that Dottie, Tom W1NWE's wife makes for us. We usually start arriving around 11 AM to set up the grill and RF equipment, and typically eat sometime after noon.

The picnic is a NEWS group official meeting, and we have an important agenda - ELECTIONS! Yes, this is the first year that we are holding our elections at the July picnic instead of the older schedule of trying to hold them in November. We have several positions open. If my records are correct, Stan KA1ZE's board-of-director term is up - it is a two year term, and Mark K1MAP's board-of-director term is also up, it is a 1 year term. Our secretary of many years, George N1GJ is retiring from this position, and we will be nominating and electing a new Secretary at the meeting. Also, our treasurer of many years, Fred N1DPM is retiring from his position, and so we will also be nominating and electing a new Treasurer. Both of these positions require some minimal work, much of which is accomplished at the meetings with some follow up in writing of minutes and maintaining of the membership database, respectively.

Whether or not you have served, and even if you have not thought of serving in the past, please consider your call to help your club with some (not much) of your time, and participate as an officer.

My position and Stan WA1ECF our VP's terms will be up this time next year because we can only serve a maximum of 2 years. I have found my service to be a valuable experience. Without new thoughts and new people running the show, our club will wither.... You are most certainly encouraged to nominate yourself if you choose to serve, so please speak up at the election meeting at the picnic.

SECRETARY'S REPORT OF THE NEWS **BOARD MEETING OF 13 MARCH** **2004.**

President Tom Williams, WA1MBA, called the meeting of the NEWS Group Board to order at 11:38 AM, in the meeting room of the Radisson Hotel in Enfield, CT. All Members of the Board were present, as well as several other club members. Treasurer Fred Stefanik, N1DPM, reported that he is now sending e-mails out to remind members that their dues are due. He also puts the dues notice on mailing labels of all NEWS Letters that et sent out through the mails. Del, K1UHF, reports that of the NEWS Letters that get sent out via e-mail every month, 10 or more bounce due to incorrect e-mail addresses. If you have changed your e-mail address for any reason, send Fred, N1DPM, the new one at freddpm@Juno.com.

A short discussion was held on the NEWS Group Worked All Bands Award. It was decided that no changes would be made in the rules at this time.

Stan, WA1ECF, reported that prizes are coming in for the Conference Drawing to be held in April. If anyone has a prize or prizes to be donated, or knows of someone who might donate, please contact Stan ASAP.

Del, K1UHF, brought up the subject of the NEWS Group officially becoming a non-profit organization. Several members spoke of the benefits that are available and the risks involved in not doing so. We will have to look into the matter to determine costs and effort required. The matter was brought to the main meeting later.

Ron, WZ1V, reported on the April Conference. The Conference Chair, Bruce, N2LIV, did not attend the NEWS meeting due to illness. The Conference is moving along and all session chairmen and speakers are lined up. Ron reported that NEWS received a check back from the Radisson Hotel. Apparently, the bill for a prior meeting was paid twice. Stan, KA1ZE, said it was probably an error in his company business office and the check should be deposited in the NEWS treasury as a gift from him. Jerry, K3MKZ, will not be available to run the noise figure measurements this year but other arrangements have been made to have this interesting and valuable service at the Conference. Ron reported that he has a video of a BPL test for anyone to see. You shouldn't miss it.

Art, W1RZF, presented a proposal to the NEWS Group for increasing participation in VHF/UHF activities. It is a program of awards given for operating on the bands above 50 MHz. ARRL would help in the administration and the results would be published on the NEWS web site and possibly other places. Tom, K1KI, said that the League might be interested in such an activity. The idea would be discussed at the main meeting.

The Secretary, George, N1GJ, reported an error in the minutes of the January 2004 NEWS meeting. The dates of the Northeast VHF Conference should be 16, 17, and 18 April rather than 23, 24 and 25 April.

Marc, K1MAP, opened a discussion of the official NEWS Group position on the ARRL proposed rule changes for future VHF, UHF and Microwave contests. It was moved and seconded that the NEWS Group form a committee to meet and establish our position. A list of our position points will be voted on at the NEWS meeting held in conjunction with April Conference and the results forwarded to ARRL. The motion passed. The committee members will be selected at the main meeting.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT OF THE NEWS GROUP MEETING OF 13 MARCH 2004.

The regular meeting of the NEWS Group was opened by President Tom Williams, WA1MBA, at 1:04 PM at the Radisson Hotel in Enfield, CT. Tom opened a discussion of club officers. The NEWS Group will be holding elections at the July meeting. There will be two Board members, a Treasurer and a Secretary voted into office at that time. Anyone interested in holding a club office should start thinking about it soon.

Stan, WA1ECF, announced the need for prizes for the April Conference. Contact him if you have any prizes or know of any sources of prizes. He also announced that a group interested LINUX and LINRAD would be getting together immediately after the main meeting.

Tom, WA1MBA, opened a discussion of making the NEWS Group an official non-profit organization. He will look into seeing a lawyer about the official requirements and expenses involved, and report back on what he finds out.

Ron, WZ1V, gave his report on the April Conference. He announced that a free ticket to the Banquet would be given to anyone sending in a registration prior to the Conference meeting date.

A discussion developed concerning BPL and the problems it holds for HF operating. Ron, WZ1V, announced his offer of viewing the BPL video sometime during the meeting. Lee, AA1YN, suggested that the NEWS Group or individuals could contribute to the ARRL BPL Fund. It will be brought up at the April Conference and any funds collected, sent to the ARRL.

Marc, K1MAP, brought up the need to appoint a committee to review and establish an official NEWS Group response to the ARRL proposed changes in VHF, UHF and Microwave contests. Based on the motion passed at the NEWS Board Meeting, the following volunteers were appointed-K1MAP, Chairman, AA1YN, WA1ECF, KJ1K, WA1HHN, WA2AAU and N1DPM. Marc will start off the work of the committee via e-mail. Committee members are urged to contact Marc at map@map.com.

Marc, K1MAP, started a discussion of a band plan for 902/903 operation. He suggested reasons for a uniform nation-wide operating frequency band at 902 MHz. Tom, WA1MBA reported that noise and interference measurements that he has made indicate that 902 is clearly better.

Art, W1TDS, has been doing some experiments using the MIMICs passed out to everyone at the last Conference Banquet. He suggests that the NEWS Group should encourage everyone to come up with new and novel circuits using these MIMICs. Results would be presented at club meetings.

Art, W1RZF, read his proposal for increasing VHF and UHF activity. Awards would be given to operators with the most contacts on various bands over a given period of time. The program would be run by ARRL and regional clubs. Art commented that the proposal needs work but would be a good start. Mentoring should be a part of the overall effort. Art suggested that an ADHOC committee flesh out the program. He made a motion that was seconded, that a committee of NEWS members be formed to pursue this idea. Motion passed. The committee will be composed of the following volunteers-K1UHF, WA1ECF, W1RZF, AA1YN and W1TDS.

A duct-tape auction was held. There was the usual collection of "good stuff" that Tom, WA1MBA, found ready buyers for. Everyone had a good time and passed along most of the usual comments.

Tom, WA1MBA, called for a break from 2:00 to 2:30 PM to be followed by the main talk of the day by Tom Frenaye, K1KI, ARRL New England Division Director. Tom spoke on the history behind and reasons for the changes recently proposed by the ARRL for their VHF, UHF and Microwave contests. The second half of his program consisted of a very lively question and answer period. The session lasted for over one and a half hours.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 PM.

THE VHF & UP ONLINE SCHEDULER AND REGISTER. LEE SCOTT, AA1YN

As a member of the North East Weak Signal Group sponsored VHF Activity committee, I was asked to put together an online scheduler. This scheduler is now available on the Internet as part of my VHF & Up register. It is an interactive web page where you can talk to others who are online and schedule contacts. Since the Scheduler requires some information from the Register, you must register in the VHF & Up Register.

Before describing the VHF Online Scheduler, I'd like to describe some of the workings of the VHF & Up Register first. This register is open to the International community and currently there are over 1000 hams registered. The first step is to register yourself. Go to <http://www.aa1yn.com/vhf/> and click on the first link "Please register here first" and fill out the form. The web site will email you a registration number. Barring any Internet problems, you should receive your registration number in less than 1 minute. If you haven't received it within two hours, contact me. This process is to keep the "less than totally honest" people from swamping the database.

The second step - click on "Please login for changes here", enter your call, your password, and the registration number you were emailed. Now complete the rest of your QTH information. There are a couple of points to note here. First, just below your callsign, you will see a field labeled "Require Registration Number". If you enter "N" in this field, you will not have to remember your registration number. Second point - for privacy concerns, there is a field next to your email address labeled "Publish". If you enter an "N" here, your email address will not be published on either the register web site nor the schedule web site. At the bottom of the page, you will find two buttons, "Post Update" and "Station Data". Click on the Post Update button to save your QTH Information. Verify your information and if you see a mistake, click on the General Info button at the bottom and make the corrections.

Once you've verified your information, click on the Station Info button at the bottom. If you've never entered any station info, you will see three buttons on the station page. "Add New" is the one we are interested in. Click on it. This will bring up the Station Information Form. Select the mode and band from the pull-down list which best describes a portion of your station. The Station Number is only to make the above two unique so if you have two general purpose 6m stations, the second one would be #2. You can enter a description of this station and at the bottom you can enter some bragging rights such as States/Grids worked, DXCC, Distance, and Initials. Once finished, click on the Post Update button, verify the info and click on the Station Info button. This brings you back to your station list. Repeat this for the station con-

figurations you have.

It may take a few minutes to fill out all your information but it will be worth it to both yourself and others. For Instance, if I wanted to find out who is in FM29 on 1296, I could Search the VHF database by Station information and find Bill Lentz, AA2UK. I could then email him and set up a schedule.

Now for the new and exciting part. The Online scheduler page for VHF Weak Signal work is up and running. I have more to do on it but the main page and the Who's Online page is pretty much complete. By the time this article is published, it will have been announced via some of the email lists. You will find it at <http://vhftalk.aa1yn.com/>. You must first set some cookies on your pc by logging in. The information for the cookies are taken from the VHF and Up register. The 5 cookies which are set consist of your call, name, email, state and grid. The only web site which can either set these or read these is the vhftalk.aa1yn.com web site.

If you are familiar with PingJockey - the online scheduler for WSJT, you will find the VHF scheduler much the same except you must be registered in the VHF & Up register. One immediate benefit is on the Who's Online page where you can click on the callsign link and pull up the individuals QTH and Station information.

The scheduler page allows you to enter a line of text to communicate with everyone who is monitoring the page and if you type the callsign of the person you are directing your conversation to, that line will be displayed in red only on that persons browser. This feature you should find helpful as a conversation could get lost in the noise of other conversations. At least this adds a couple of dB to your conversation. The scheduler page refreshes every 90 seconds. If for some reason it gets stuck, there is a refresh link at the top of the page. If you use your refresh button and have posted information already, the browser will repost the same message so try not to hit the browser refresh button.

There is also a "Who's Online" page which will display who's been monitoring or talking within the past 30 minutes. This page will not refresh itself. On this page, each callsign will have a link to the individuals web page on the VHF & Up Register which describes their QTH and Station information.

Enjoy and feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions. I have a contact page linked off of the scheduler home page so my email address is not published.

Lee Scott - AA1YN
Home of the VHF & Up Register <http://www.aa1yn.com/vhf>
Hooksett, NH
FN43gc52

2004 EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE

I would like to thank all the attendees at this years conference in April, you are the ones that help make it a success. To all who participated in the auctions either through donating items, bidding or winning some of the fantastic "stuff" you helped to raise \$225. This in turn was donated by the conference committee to the NEWS Group as a small token of our thanks for the support of all members who helped make the conference a great success and worked so hard to see it through.

Please reserve the following dates for the next three (3) years on your calendar 2005 - April 8, 9 & 10. 2006 - April 21, 22 & 23. 2007 - April 20, 21 & 22 for the upcoming EASTERN VHF/UHF Conferences. It will continue to be held in the Radisson Hotel in Enfield, CT.

Bruce Wood - N2LIV Conference Chairperson & Proceedings Editor

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME IN COMING

Many have asked where FN-30 has been for several years now. Well it was a long struggle with feedline and switching problems and then health problems for both my wife and I, but I think it may almost be there. The new UHF/Microwave tower; a motorized, crank up, tilt over 72' US Tower is up and several of the antenna arrays have been tested and appear to work. Several bands still need to receive the test of fire or RF that is. This tower replaces a much lighter duty 40' crank up which had been up for 10 years or so, well below the tree line. The 72' just clears the trees in all directions.

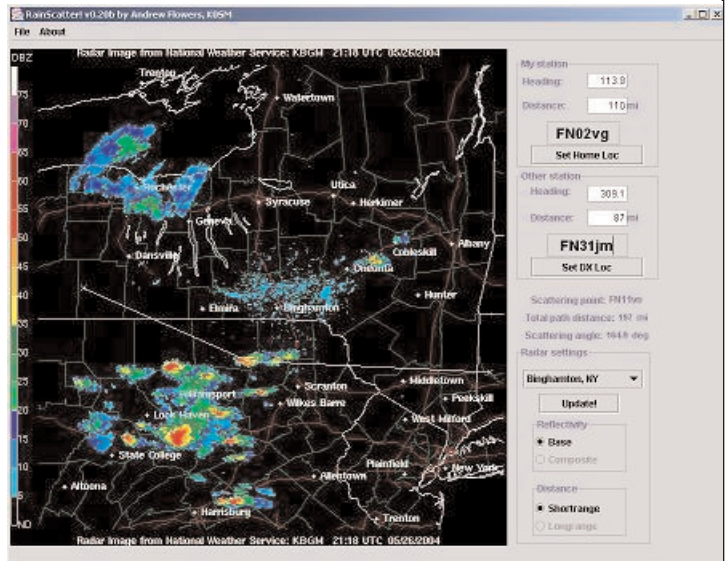
The arrays as seen in the picture with the tower cranked down at 23' has (4) FO-22 22 elm yagis, (4) C3i 33 elm 903 yagis & (4) C3i 45 elm 1296 yagis all fed with 90' of 7/8" Andrews hard line and a Transco switch to select the proper antenna. A pair of Directive Systems 76 elm blow torches for 2304 and a pair of 112 elm blow torches for 3456 top off the arrays. The 2/3 GHz mast mounted transverter box needs to be completed and tested in the basement for a while before installing it on the tower. It consists of an Ovenaire 10 MHz TCXO oscillator, 2 JMW PLL LOs, 2 & 3 GHz DB6NT transverters and a 120W DL6AM 2.3 GHz and and 40W Toshiba amp all in a water proof box with 12V switching power supply and controls. Once that is completed my 400W cellular 903 amp and 240W DK6FD amp will be mast mounted with HEMT preamps for 432, 903 & 1296. If I get real lucky this may be up by the September contest.

Then on to the VHF tower, which is a motorized crank up, tilt over 70' Will Burt (new Tri-X company) tower which is cur-

rently installed and ready to receive the rotator and mast and 6, 2 & 222 yagis later this year and 10 & 24 GHz rigs next year.

Well, I'll be back as the Terminator once said and good health prevails.

Bruce N2LIV



RAINSCATTER! BY ANDREW FLOWERS, K0SM

RainScatter! is a program designed to aid Radio Amateurs in making rainscatter contacts on the microwave bands. It automatically downloads the latest NWS radar images to calculate beam headings and distances to storms for two stations. It is hoped that this this program will eliminate some of the guesswork in identifying potential scattering regions and in pointing antennas with very narrow beam widths. Latest Version: 0.52 (6 June 2004) Andy K0SM/2 aflowers@frontiernet.net

Editors note: I am glad to see that Andy did this program. I had a successful contact on 10 GHz with Marc, K2AXX using the weather maps. After many previous direct heading attempts I worked him first try with this billiards technique. Using the Internet with ham radio may not be for purists but it works quite well. 73 Del, K1UHF

DON'T FORGET
THE NORTH EAST WEAK SIGNAL GROUP
2 METER VHF AND ABOVE NET
EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT AT 8:30 p.m. LOCAL
144.250
W1COT, WZ1V, OR K1PXE NET CONTROL

JUNE 2004 VHF QSO PARTY, NEWS GROUP RUMORED SCORES

CALL	GRID	* CLS.	POINTS	6M	2M	222	432	903	1.2G	2.3G	3.4G	5.7G	10G	24G	47G	75G	120G	145G	240G	LAS
W2SZ	FN32	N U	1954260	745/92	562/54	220/46	340/45	119/40	140/37	95/34	78/27	73/22	72/11	29/8	7/7	-	-	-	-	-
W3CCX	FN21	N U	1018695	679/89	499/66	156/39	269/42	60/23	79/28	42/14	28/12	24/12	27/10	4/2	2/1	-	-	-	-	13/1
K3EAR	FM19	N U	1004705	714/118	541/74	165/47	215/48	44/20	54/22	27/14	22/12	12/8	23/9	2/2	1/1	1/1	-	-	-	1/1
W2FU	FN13	N U	428736	303/92	275/60	82/33	104/40	24/17	38/22	20/14	11/10	10/8	14/8	5/3	-	-	-	-	-	4/1
K7CW	CN97	N U	202982	350/128	156/26	58/17	79/18	4/3	34/9	4/3	3/2	3/2	5/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/1
N2NK	FN21	N U	166599	333/54	270/44	60/29	66/29	13/7	23/10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K1MUJ	FN31	N U	130011	150/36	217/34	68/25	91/23	20/12	24/11	7/6	-	-	4/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4C2X	DM11	N U	91680	242/69	96/15	80/15	55/9	-	32/8	-	-	-	15/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K8GP	FM08	N L	752587	902/171	553/75	145/45	231/50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K9NS	EN52	N L	614532	728/173	475/75	146/44	178/40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K3YTL	FN11	N L	317142	559/64	393/45	136/39	227/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W3SO	FN00	N L	315520	433/86	381/59	112/43	161/44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W3DOG	FM28	N L	307710	585/122	382/50	88/34	86/28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W4IY	FM08	N L	277078	438/96	341/49	97/34	149/39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K5TR	EM00	N L	213962	690/192	101/25	20/10	34/11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K8CC	EN82	N L	191940	447/115	173/39	51/24	96/32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KB1DFB	FN41	N L	110908	259/39	277/32	88/25	110/23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W4MYA	FM08	N L	99820	440/115	180/46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W2EV	FN03	N L	84700	137/51	128/39	58/28	68/29	-	11/7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ZF1DC	EK99	N L	62625	500/124	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K1TEO	FN31	Y H	632370	284/64	364/58	126/45	161/45	57/26	67/27	38/21	21/13	16/11	19/11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WB9Z	EN60	N H	202436	333/108	161/43	67/27	84/27	-	40/16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K3DNE	FM19	N H	177415	229/57	176/37	54/23	82/28	32/14	38/16	18/10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K0GU	DN70	N H	139104	421/158	62/24	20/13	44/16	-	11/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K1GX	FN31	Y H	126542	107/29	121/27	56/22	65/23	28/14	28/14	13/9	9/7	7/5	13/7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KE8FD	EM84	N H	104346	241/108	97/27	35/20	55/22	6/3	7/5	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K8EB	EN73	N H	103544	149/51	112/35	45/24	60/28	19/15	18/14	5/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AF6O	DM14	N H	99528	225/101	127/26	31/16	46/17	4/4	18/10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W3SZ	FN20	N H	81072	116/34	82/24	35/18	42/19	17/12	20/13	10/9	6/6	5/5	3/3	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-
K5AM	DM62	N H	74028	386/177	12/9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K2AXX	FN12	N H	71574	91/42	69/30	29/21	41/23	11/11	16/14	7/7	2/2	5/5	4/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W3UUM	EL29	N H	65667	352/139	29/11	5/3	11/6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K9EA	EN71	N H	62729	158/63	74/32	29/19	43/22	-	15/13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W6KBX	CM98	N H	46726	123/61	68/20	28/15	38/18	-	20/8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W1RZF	FN42	Y H	41882	116/23	145/25	53/19	60/19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NG4C	FM16	N H	26880	127/62	41/22	16/13	20/15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W1XX	FN53	N H	26811	77/27	112/23	29/13	42/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W1ZC	FN42	N H	15235	50/12	85/20	-	62/20	-	6/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K1TOL	FN44	N H	11456	179/64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K2UOP	FM09	N H	9504	22/11	29/15	16/9	21/10	4/2	9/5	3/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N1BUG	FN55	N H	5124	10/6	56/20	19/10	9/6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K5LLL	EM10	N H	2914	10/4	23/10	5/3	12/8	1/1	4/3	2/1	-	-	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N1MT	FN31	Y H	1900	100/19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N7LQ	DM09	N H	192	16/12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K2DRH	EN41	N S	242760	214/86	165/47	67/29	97/29	40/17	51/21	10/9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W4SHG	FM18	N S	87768	161/46	91/21	49/20	57/19	21/12	23/12	7/5	3/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K9MU	EN44	N S	82488	193/96	82/32	22/10	47/19	11/4	15/7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NJ2F	EL96	N S	67080	420/113	32/9	13/2	19/6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K8MR	EN91	N S	65416	179/66	91/35	38/24	48/23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AI3Z	FM19	N S	41943	121/27	97/22	43/17	45/17	11/7	8/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KC6ZWT	CM98	N S	32218	77/36	83/21	42/16	59/16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WB2SIH	FN31	N S	24180	51/19	66/19	38/16	39/15	5/4	8/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AA1YN	FN43	Y S	23625	61/22	47/15	28/12	32/12	9/5	12/5	6/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N2FKF	FN30	N S	22557	62/26	129/28	-	59/19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T49C	EL83	N S	22386	287/78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K1IM	FN32	N S	17220	87/28	44/15	22/11	22/9	5/4	4/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WB2VVV	FN41	N S	12992	40/18	37/14	25/13	22/13	4/2	4/3	2/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K1PNQ	FN42	Y S	12210	72/21	62/20	14/6	30/8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KF6KDA	DM06	N S	11340	75/34	47/15	10/6	19/8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K2KJ	FN31	N S	10034	44/20	45/15	20/11	16/9	-	4/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KA1MDA	FN32	N S	9844	103/25	55/13	1/1	24/5	-	2/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W8RU	EN82	N S	8640	46/26	35/18	11/9	16/11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W9RAY	EN44	N S	7568	30/15	34/13	14/6	19/6	6/2	8/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N2YEV	FN34	N S	7205	45/22	40/19	-	23/14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W1UZ	FN42	N S	5180	38/10	37/11	14/8	17/7	-	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WA3BZT	FM29	N S	4816	25/15	87/28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WE9Y	EN82	N S	3813	-	5/26	-	18/12	-	4/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K1WVX	FN31	Y S	3772	27/14	23/12	12/9	9/6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KF6CNV	DM07	N S	3441	38/15	35/8	9/4	10/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K1LPS	FN34	Y S	2640	10/5	30/11	10/5	8/5	3/3	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AB2NT	FN30	N S	2080	10/2	40/12	2/1	25/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K8KFJ	EM98	N S	1617	49/33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WA8GMT	EN91	N S	1584	66/24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K8WW	EN81	N S	1032	8/5	11/9	7/6	5/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CALL	GRID	* CLS.	POINTS	6M	2M	222	432	903	1.2G	2.3G	3.4G	5.7G	10G	24G	47G	75G	120G	145G	240G	LAS
WA3EOQ	FM09	N S	861	-	9/8	7/6	6/5	-	2/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K1VU	FN42	Y S	748	18/7	14/7	-	6/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NN5DX	DM80	N S	740	4/4	11/7	5/4	6/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N1RR	FN41	N S	702	24/12	15/6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WA6LMZ	CM98	N S	600	20/13	10/7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N3HKQ	FN00	N S	476	-	14/11	-	7/6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WV2ZOW	FN20	N S	360	24/15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N0QFV	EL09	N S	195	15/13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KQ6NO	DM04	N S	102	12/5	5/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VE5SIX	DO70	N S	42	7/6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W4NEZ	FM18	N S	24	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KB5YNG	FM18	N S	24	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W3IY	ROVE	N R	321600	171/34	263/24	1	43/20	168/23	96/11	94/16	44/7	14/4	11/4	27/6	-	-	-	-	-	-
W0AMT	ROVE	N R	88271	87/24	134/18	73/12	83/14	24/6	40/8	17/4	16/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K3UHF	ROVE	N R	57772	89/29	174/18	48/12	63/15	2/2	27/11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K2QO	ROVE	N R	44805	81/29	74/22	37/17	42/15	-	26/8	-	-	-	11/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N8UM	ROVE	N R	41912	103/46	67/29	31/20	32/18	7/4	7/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WA2IID	ROVE	N R	39427	56/15	53/17	29/14	40/13	10/3	14/6	8/4	8/4	7/3	8/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N1XKT	ROVE	N R	36865	53/11	45/10	32/8	29/8	14/5	17/5	10/4	11/4	11/4	13/5	3/2	-	-	-	-	-	-
N1JEZ	ROVE	Y R	30415	28/7	43/15	22/11	34/14	14/7	22/9	7/3	1/1	2/2	10/4	6/1	-	-	-	-	-	-
K1DS	ROVE	N R	28288	29/6	34/8	26/7	26/8	14/4	15/5	9/4	11/4	10/4	14/5	3/2	-	-	-	-	-	-
KJ1K	ROVE	N R	22320	38/12	37/11	21/9	22/10	12/5	11/5	7/4	6/3	3/3	4/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K3LFO	ROVE	N R	20748	104/23	96/14	-	52/9	-	20/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KB1EKZ	ROVE	N R	19875	30/7	62/12	10/4	35/7	12/3	15/3	11/3	10/3	7/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KB1EAA	ROVE	N R	18676	108/18	67/12	26/8	25/8	6/3	9/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N1JFU	ROVE	N R	16848	47/9	63/16	39/9	38/9	6/3	10/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N2MH	ROVE	N R	15840	49/16	52/15	25/14	28/12	- 1	1/6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W1AUV	ROVE	N R	13511	33/15	92/21	-	42/13	-	-	-	-	-	5/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KT1VT	ROVE	N R	9359	29/9	50/13	23/9	33/12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N6ZE	ROVE	N R	5289	29/10	46/13	-	27/11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W2RG	ROVE	N R	2856	26/11	30/7	-	9/2	-	-	-	-	-	7/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N2SLN	ROVE	N R	1275	22/10	29/13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W3BBO	ROVE	N R	1248	11/5	25/11	-	8/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KC2HQF	ROVE	N R	858	11/6	26/14	-	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AE7DX	ROVE	N R	840	17/10	10/2	4/1	1/1	-	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N7IR	DM44	N Q	17550	130/65	20/10	3/3	15/9	-	3/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K9AKS	EM49	N Q	6664	54/32	14/11	8/5	10/5	-	5/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W9SZ	EN50	N Q	2144	-	18/12	7/7	10/8	2/2	3/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N0JK	EM08	N Q	1280	31/27	7/4	-	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CLASSES: U=UnlimitedMulti, L=LimitedMulti, H=SingleOp Highpower, S=SingleOp Lowpower, R=Rover, Q=QRPPortable

* Y= NEWS group member

BPL: ALREADY OBSOLETE?

(reprinted from The WashRag, June 2004)

Is the entire Broadband Over Power Line brou-ha-hah going to end up being a big deal over... nothing? It may turn out to be that way, as technology appears to be passing over BPL as obsolete before it is ever implemented. Just pick up the June 7th issue of Newsweek. The cover story is on "The Next Frontiers" and includes a discussion of the "10 Hot Wireless Cities." That's right — wireless, as in Wi-Fi, or for those who prefer the technical terms, 802.11b and 802.11g systems.

The promise of BPL is that (if it actually works) the end user can just plug their computer into a wall outlet for broadband access, rather than look for a phone plug. But the next obvious step is that instead of a BPL router located on the utility pole, it will be a Wi-Fi router... and that means that you don't have to plug the computer in anywhere, just turn it on and let it's Wi-Fi antenna make the connection! And more and more areas are being hooked up for Wi-Fi, either by utilities, or just

by people hooking up their own wireless routers and leaving them open for the public (which is a whole 'nother story for another time). So if this is the case... why the big push for BPL? Money. Pure and simple. The people who have invested in BPL want to make their money back, even if they now know they've backed a bad investment. So they're hoping to get BPL implemented, the systems sold, and then can walk away and leave others to take the loss when the system is finally mothballed... not them.

Oh wait, isn't BPL supposed to be more cost effective than Wi-Fi for rural areas? Isn't that one of the original premises of BPL? Problem is, none of the testing is actually taking place in those remote areas, and it's starting to come out that the BPL providers aren't actually interested in providing Broadband to those areas because they can't make any money at it! It's all a con game to get the systems in place, whatever it takes.

So why is the FCC pushing BPL? Why is President Bush behind it? Have they too been sold a bill of goods? Or is this

a political pay off in an election year? (And the real cynic will wonder if there's any other kind of pay off, but without proof, that's just speculation...) Still, never forget that they're politicians, not technicians, so the technical problems and difficulties can be explained away (to them) on paper. After all, they don't have to actually make the systems work, just believe that they can (and will) work. The bottom line remains that BPL systems as proposed will cause massive RFI problems to current spectrum users, who will be left to deal with the mess when the utilities involved wash their hands of it.

Getting more access to Broadband is a noble and worthy goal. But BPL is already obsolete — and I think it's backers know it. Greater Wi-Fi access is state of the art and makes better sense, and that is what the FCC should be supporting.— Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor

30TH EASTERN VHF-UHF CONFERENCE PHOTOS

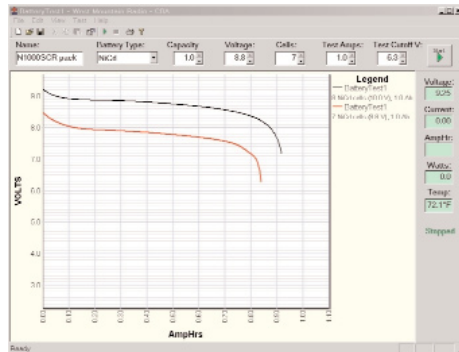
Conference photos are on-line on our web page thanks to Ron, WZ1V at: <http://www.newsvhf.com/04conf.html>

Here are a few of them.



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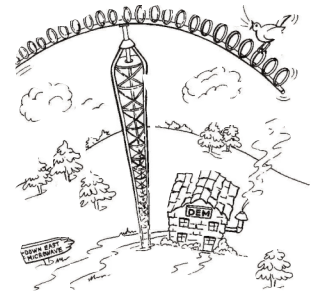
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