

N.E.W.S. LETTER

The Official Publication of the North East Weak Signal Group – <http://www.newsvhf.com/>

November 2016

Volume 25

Issue 6

NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2016

Meeting Program

PIN Switches – A Diode Not Always Just a Diode
Dick Frey, WA2AAU

In This Issue

Officer's Reports:	page 2-3
Conference Call for Paper & Presentations:	page 3
K1FO 1296.287 Beacon Upgrade:	page 3
Buy, Sell or Trade:	page 3
Antenna Project - An Update from N1BUG:	page 4
Upcoming Events:	page 5

BOARD MEETING - 11:00 AM at Lulu's, 151 Hazard Ave. Enfield, CT
Phone: (860) 763-2377 I-91 Exit 47 Rt. 190E 1 Mile on Left
<http://luluspizzeria.com>

GENERAL MEETING - STORRS LIBRARY - from 1 PM to approximately 3:45 PM.
693 Longmeadow St, Longmeadow, MA 01106
<http://longmeadowlibrary.wordpress.com>

DON'T FORGET

The North East Weak Signal Group 2 Meter Net
Every Thursday at 8:30 PM local 144.250 MHz
W1COT, WZ1V or K1PXE Net Control

MEMBERSHIP in the N.E.W.S Group is \$15 per year.
Apply to John Crawford, N2OY. E-mail: n2oy.vhf@gmail.com.
You may download an application from our web page: <http://www.newsvhf.com>

The N.E.W.S. LETTER is the publication of the North East Weak Signal Group.
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Send articles by e-mail to George Collins, KC1V at kc1v@arrl.net

President's Report

Just like last year's column, it's BEAUTIFUL today, but don't get used to it! Fall is marching on and colder weather is coming. I hope everyone is finishing up last minute outdoor work on their stations rather than waiting until January to fix the 432 feed line! As usual the last couple of months were full of activities for folks interested in weak signal work. We had the ARRL September VHF QSO Party 2 months ago and sadly I must say I was very disappointed in the activity level here in the Northeast. Just like last year. We really need to all try harder to GET ON THE AIR.

Then came the second weekend of the 10 GHz and Up Contest. Hopefully many of you will have stories about the 10 GHz and up contest especially news about the AND UP bands. And then there was the Moonbounce contest. I hope to hear what amazing things happened at the meeting. Bring your stories and experiences during the recent operating events.

There were also several major Hamfests and meetings. In mid-October, Microwave Update 2015 was held in St Louis this year. It was great to see several NEWS members at MUD 2016. W1GHZ and WA1MBA gave papers. Not bad for the middle of the country!

Keep in mind... Plan to come to the Eastern VHF Conference in Connecticut next April. Come to the conference! How about giving a paper! There is still time to prepare one for next April.

Regarding talks and programs for our meetings... I really could use some help in finding interesting topics for the meeting. This month I will talk about something I find very interesting, and I hope many of you will also find interesting. PIN diodes! Yeah, they are kind of weird! In some ways they behave like a diode but in other ways like a current controlled resistor. Unlike other diodes, they don't generate harmonics when used correctly... at least not very much harmonic energy. They can be used in low level switches, high-level T-R switches, and even as attenuators. In working with them, I have learned a few little tricks that I haven't seen documented before that I will talk about at the meeting. Maybe you will give them a try in one of your projects sometime.

R. L. Frey – WA2AAU
rifbauer@gmail.com

Secretary's Report

- NEWS Meeting 24 September 2016 at Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA.
- Called to Order by President, WA2AAU, at 1330 EDT.

TREASURERS REPORT – N2OY

- Balance \$4762
- 98 paid up members, 114 total

OLD BUSINESS

- Website - Should include list of current members with 6 digit grid
- MOTION by K1MAP: website list should include current members list with: NAME, CALLSIGN, 6-DIGIT GRID, BANDS. APPROVED, 1 opposed.
- MOTION by K1AEP that the member email address list be Password protected on website: NOT APPROVED
- N1JEZ – Mt. Washington 10 GHz K1FO beacon status: W1IMD no longer has contacts at observatory, trying to return to previous location

NEW BUSINESS

- Conference April 20-23 Baymont Manchester, CT.
- Registration (Ron retiring) volunteer needed.
- Roughly \$12K balance in conference account.
- MOTION by K1MAP to suspend dues for two years: TABLED
- MOTION by K1MAP - donate \$100 from conference accounts to Cape Hatteras 10GHz beacon for electricity: APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- WZ1V - WA2LTM is donating power amplifier for 1296 beacon.
- W1LE has source for beacon stuff.
- W1FKF Lime SDR another beacon possibility.
- K1IIG working on 10 GHz beacon in CT

Meeting adjourned 1436 EDT

Paul Wade – W1GHZ

Treasurer's Report

It's that time of year where membership renewals are coming to be due! Around the time that this newsletter is distributed, I will be sending e-mail renewal reminders to the members with membership expiring at the end of this year. I also plan on having a large-format printout of the membership database at the November meeting, so if you have any questions at the meeting about when your membership expires or need to update

an address or contact information, we can take care of that at the meeting.

If you won't be able to make it to the meeting or want to check ahead of time when your membership expires, feel free to e-mail me at:

treasurer@newsvhf.com and I will be glad to let you know when your membership is due to be renewed. Hope to see you at the meeting!

73, John – N2OY

First Call for Papers and Presentations

2017 Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave Conference April 21-23, 2017 Baymont Inn, Manchester, CT

Papers sought on all VHF and up activities: Operating, Contests, Propagation, Antennas, Amplifiers, Low-noise Preamps, Homebrewing, Microwaves, EME, or Arduinos, whatever you've been doing. Plenty of time to write up your winter projects - just take some pictures as you go. Inquiries to: w1ghz@arrl.net

K1FO 1296.287 Beacon Upgrade

We recently received a very generous donation from Doug Moser, WA2LTM for our club's FN31th beacon: A continuous duty 25 Watt PA. This was installed at the Old Saybrook, CT beacon site last month.

73, Ron WZ1V

There are pictures at:

<http://www.newsvhf.com/1296beac.html>

For Sale:

Icom IC-7200 - Clean, never mobile. Solid performing receiver. I performed the TX audio mods in the radio and in the hand mic. In original box with accessories. **\$700 firm**, can bring to meeting. 73 Ron WZ1V

For Sale:

Kenwood TS-60 - 6-Meter all-mode transceiver with 500-HZ CW filter, original manual, microphone and power cord and Kenwood.

TM-255A - With original manual, mike, mobile bracket, power cable, accessory PG5A cable and 8-pin mike conversion cable. **Asking \$400 for each.** Prefer meeting for sale if possible.

Questions please e-mail: dick.bean@verizon.net
Thanks! Dick, K1HC

Free VHF Newsletters and Proceedings:

Conference Proceedings, 1984-2004:

(a few missing years)

Eastern VHF/UHF (1984-2004)

Central States VHF (1992-2001)

Microwave Update(1988-2002)

South Eastern VHF (1997-2002)

Free VHF Newsletters and Proceedings (cont.):

Newsletters, 1987-2012:

(mostly complete runs)

N.E.W.S. Letter (1997-2003)

50 MHz DX Bulletin (1990-2012)

VHF/UHF and Above Info. Exch (1984-1986)

Club & VHF Society Newsletters from Outside New England, 1992-2002:

Of interest from England (1987-2002)

Microwave Newsletter (1992-2002)

Six Meter and Up DXer (1987-1990)

VHF-UHF DXer (1992-1993)

Older VHF Magazines, 1960-1965:

(70 issues, no complete runs)

6 Up: The VHF Magazine (1963-1965)

VHF Horizons (1962-1963)

VHF Amateur (1960-62)

All free, pick up in Lebanon, CT. Make arrangements with W3EP at: EmilPocock@gmail.com

Progress in FN55 – An Update from N1BUG

On September 30 we took down the very short 7-element yagi I had been using on 2 meters since my return in June. We installed the new 13-element YU7EF at 110 feet. The new antenna is working great! Unfortunately my efforts to get the old amplifier going again have been less fruitful. With any luck 222 and 432 should be up and running with low power in the Spring with 1296 and more power, for some or all bands, to follow eventually. It is good to be back! I feel as though I have come home.

73, Paul, N1BUG FN55mf



Upcoming Events

2016 Events

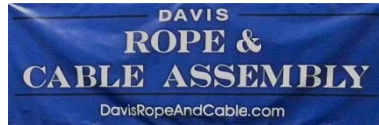
Nov 19	NEWS Lunch & Board Meeting - Lulu's, Enfield, CT - 11:30am
Nov 19	NEWS General Meeting - Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA - 1pm
Nov 24	Thanksgiving
Dec 25	Christmas

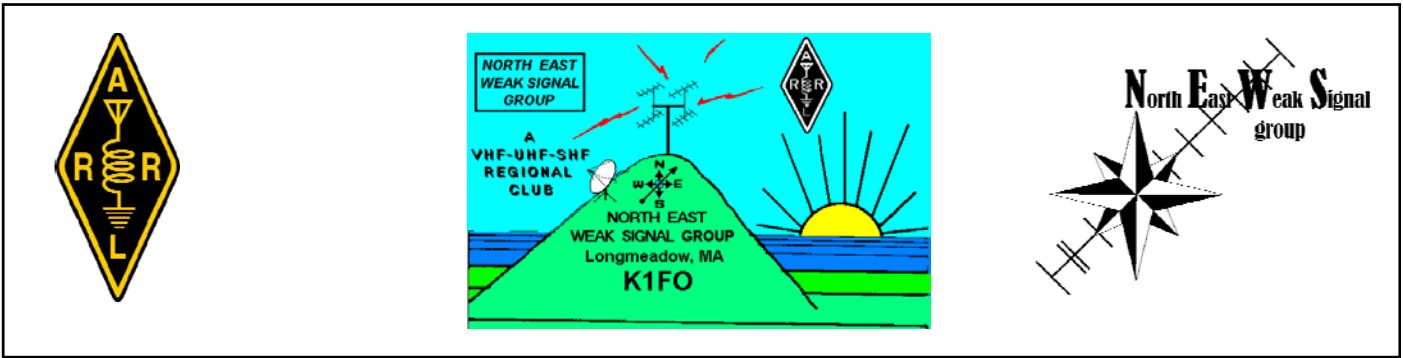
2017 Events

Jan	NEWS Lunch & Board Meeting - Lulu's, Enfield, CT - 11:15am
Jan	NEWS General Meeting - Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA - 1pm
Jan 21-22	ARRL VHF Sweepstakes - 2pm EST Sat. to 11pm EST Sun.
Feb 10-12	Hamcation - Central Florida Fairgrounds, Orlando, FL
Mar	NEWS Lunch & Board Meeting - 11:30am, Enfield, CT
Mar	NEWS General Meeting - 1pm, Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA
Apr	Spring Sprint - 144MHz
Apr 20-23	Eastern VHF Conference - Baymont Inn, Manchester, CT
Apr	Spring Sprint - 222MHz, Tues 7-11pm local
Apr	Spring Sprint - 432MHz Weds 7-11pm local
May 5-6	NEAR-fest - Deerfield, NH
May	Spring Sprint 902MHz & Up
May	Spring Sprint 50MHz
May	SBMS 2.3 GHz & up contest
May	Dayton
May 29	Memorial Day
June 10-11	ARRL June VHF QSO Party - 2pm EDT Sat. to 11pm EDT Sun.
June 24-25	ARRL Field Day
July 15-17	CQ WW VHF Contest - 10:00pm EDT Sat. to 1:00am EDT Mon.
July	NEWS Picnic & Meeting - Knights of Columbus Grounds, Enfield, CT
July	Central States VHF Society Conference
Aug	EME Conference-Texas
Aug 5-6	ARRL 222MHz & Up Distance Contest - 2pm EDT Sat. to 11pm EDT Sun.
Aug 19-20	ARRL 10 GHz & Up Contest Weekend #1 - 8am EDT Sat. to Midnight EDT Sun.
Sept 8-10	ARRL EME Weekend #1 - 8pm EDT Fri. to 8pm EDT Sun. (2.3GHz & Up)
Sept 9-10	ARRL Sept. VHF QSO Party - 2pm EDT Sat. to 11pm EDT Sun.
Sept 16-17	ARRL 10 GHz & Up Contest Weekend #2 - 8am EDT Sat. to Midnight EDT Sun.
Oct 7-8	ARRL EME Weekend #2 - 8pm EDT Fri. to 8pm EDT Sun. (50MHz - 1296MHz)
Nov 4-5	ARRL EME Weekend #3 - 8pm EDT Fri. to 8pm EDT Sun. (50MHz - 1296MHz)
Dec 1-3	ARRL 160-Meter Contest

Dates will be added as they become available

N.E.W.S. Group Supporters





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Call sign: _____ Grid: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (home) _____ Optional (work) _____

Email _____

ARRL member: Y N

Electronic Newsletter Delivery: Y N

Operational Bands (circle)	50 MHz	144 MHz	222 MHz	432 MHz	903 MHz
	1.2 GHz	2.3 GHz	3.4 GHz	5.6 GHz	10 GHz
	24 GHz	47 GHz	76 GHz	Light	Other (list)

The North East Weak Signal [N.E.W.S.] Group is being established to form a camaraderie among fellow VHF-UHF-SHF enthusiasts and support a convenient means to exchange technical information. We currently have six meetings per year, held at a centrally located facility and provide a "NEWSLETTER" that is distributed two weeks prior to each meeting. Any contributions to this publication are appreciated and can be sent to: George Collins, KC1V by e-mail to kc1v@arrl.net. Dues are \$15/year. Remember, this group is formed by VHF'ers for VHF'ers.

Mail to:

North East Weak Signal Group
 c/o N2OY, John Crawford
 PO Box 1112
 Latham, NY 12110

North East Weak Signal Group

c/o N2OY John Crawford, PO Box 1112, Latham, NY 12110

Check your membership
Expiration date on your mailing label!