

N.E.W.S. LETTER

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

March 2017

Volume 26

Issue 2

NEXT MEETING: March 11, 2017

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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.
Articles may be reprinted with proper credit given to the author and the N.E.W.S. LETTER.
Send articles by e-mail to George Collins, KC1V at news.kc1v@gmail.com.

Secretary's Report

- NEWS Meeting 7 January 2017
at Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA
- Called to Order by President, WA2AAU,
at 1316

TREASURERS REPORT – N2OY

- Balance \$4286
- 101 paid up members

OLD BUSINESS

- VHF Conference
Website will be up soon
Registration help needed
KI2L volunteered

NEW BUSINESS

- AF1T suggests club sponsor contest plaque
MOTION by W1FKF to sponsor ARRL
Contest Plaque for rover or New England,
Cost ~ \$75. UNANIMOUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Greylock 10GHz beacon off until reset
- WA2AAU has RF reference CD available \$1

Meeting adjourned 1330 EDT

SHOW and TELL

- W1FKF
eBay power meter
Lime SDR case
- W1GHZ
New 10GHz Transverter
Programmable Fool-Resistant Sequencer

SHOW and TELL (cont.)

- N1JEZ
Recording of K1IIG 2304 beacon received
at FN44ar
piHPSDR Raspberry Pi controller for Anan
openSDR radio
- KI2L
WSPR beacon board from QST, good from
VLF to 2 meters

TESTING SESSION

- Test equipment brought by KI2L and
WA2AAU: Network Analyzer and Noise
Figure Meter

Treasurer's Report

We've had a handful of new members join the club since this year's moratorium on dues took effect, and the club's treasury remains strong.

As voted upon at the January 2017 meeting, NEWS will be sponsoring the plaque for the top New England Division Rover in the June 2017 ARRL VHF Contest.

Registration for the 2017 NEWS VHF Conference is now open. You may register online via PayPal at

<http://newsvhf.com/regpayp.html>

or print a registration form from

<http://newsvhf.com/regmail.html>

and mail it to the address on the form to register. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting in March and conference in April!

73, John – N2OY



43rd EASTERN VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE CONFERENCE
APRIL 21-23, 2017
BAYMONT INN & SUITES (860)-643-5645
20 TAYLOR ST. (OFF I-84 at exit 63)
MANCHESTER, CT 06042



4/21/17 FRIDAY LODGING

2:30-5pm -- Afternoon Workshop
6:00pm 'til -- SUPER HOSPITALITY ROOM (Food & Refreshments)
& Indoor SWAP/SELL & VENDORS.
(You may want to re-think going out to eat on Fri. Nite!)

43rd EASTERN VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE CONFERENCE

4/22/17 SATURDAY REGISTRATION, TALKS, AUCTIONS, TEST LAB, VENDORS & MORE

- 7:30am -- REGISTRATION BEGINS
- 8:15am -- OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 8:30am -- TALKS BEGIN (see SCHEDULE below):
- 10:00am -- AUCTION/BREAK
- 10:25am -- TALKS RESUME
- 12:00pm -- LUNCH (Pizza & Grinders included with Registration)
- 1:15pm -- TALKS RESUME
- 1:00 - 5pm -- TEST LAB to 50 GHz: Greg Bonaguide, WA1VUG of Rohde & Schwarz
- 3:05pm -- BREAK
- 3:15pm -- TALKS RESUME
- 4:15pm -- AUCTION
- 4:20pm -- TALKS RESUME
- 5:20pm -- NEWS MEETING - WA2AAU
- 5:30pm -- Pre-Banquet Hospitality Room
- 7:00pm -- BANQUET BUFFET (7 PM - 8:30 PM)
- 8:20pm -- Tom Kirby Award Presentation
- 8:30pm -- VHF - MICROWAVE TRIVIA QUIZ, Dale Clement AF1T
- 9:00pm -- DOOR PRIZE EXTRAVAGANZA, Michele Clement
W1MKY and Don Twombly W1FKF

There will also be over a dozen additional papers on the Proceedings CD

Be sure to check the Web site for the latest schedule and speakers at:

<http://newsvhf.com/vhfconf.html>

4/23/17 SUNDAY

- 8:00 - 11am -- VHF+MW SWAP/SELL & VENDORS - Included with Registration
(Please contact Mark Casey K1MAP for details)

EVERY REGISTRANT RECEIVES THE PROCEEDINGS ON CD
AND IS ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZE DRAWINGS.

DIRECTIONS & RESERVATIONS

FROM HARTFORD: I-84E TO EXIT 63. LEFT AT FORK, RIGHT ON TAYLOR ST.

FROM WORCESTER: I-90W EXIT 9 TO I-84W EXIT 63, RIGHT OFF RAMP, RIGHT ON TAYLOR ST.

HOTEL Overnight Rates \$79 DBL or \$99 Suite,

by March 20, 2017 MENTION "VHF CONFERENCE"

FREE Continental BREAKFAST for those staying at the Baymont Hotel

CALL (860)-643-5645 for BAYMONT INN RESERVATIONS

YOU MUST CALL HOTEL TO GET CONFERENCE RATE

43rd EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

April 21, 22 & 23, 2017 BAYMONT INN, Manchester, Ct.

Online Registration at <http://newsvhf.com/vhfconf.html#registrationpage>

Please fill out & return with payment:

Name & Call: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

REGULAR MAIL REGISTRATION _____ @ \$20 = _____

(Includes Proceedings CD, flea market, Saturday lunch)

(Price after April 10 or at the door will be \$30)

DINNER BUFFET (not available at door) _____ @ \$30 = _____

TOTAL = _____

****MAKE Checks or M.O. PAYABLE To: North East Weak Signal Group****

Dinner tickets available in advance only through April 10

SUNDAY FLEA MARKET:
BUYERS & SELLERS FREE

****MAKE Checks or M.O. PAYABLE To: North East Weak Signal Group****

Mail to Registration Chairman Postmarked NO LATER THAN APRIL 10:

John Crawford, N2OY
PO Box 1112
Latham, NY 12110
treasurer(at)newsvhf.com

* Sponsored by the North East Weak Signal Group

* ARRL-Affiliated

* Official Webpage: <http://www.newsvhf.com>

For Eastern VHF/UHF Conference latest news updates and Registration forms.

Building a 2-Meter Horizontally Polarized Liaison Antenna

Steve Jones, N1JHJ

I am a very amateur, Amateur Radio operator who enjoys building antennas and is fortunate enough to have Dale, AF1T, as my mentor.

I was working my first 10-Gig Contest on Mt. Kearsarge, NH and there were about four stations operating, including mine. One of the operators was Dave Sumner and his liaison antenna was a small 2-meter HO antenna made by M Square Antenna Systems. Years ago Cushcraft made a similar one called the Squalo. I was intrigued because Dave was getting good results with it.... Obviously not as good as the 4 element beam I use, but good results, and omnidirectional to boot. I decided to build one for myself.

My antenna stands 19-inches or more above the roof of a vehicle. It is mounted on 1/4-20 threaded rod. The rod is screwed into a 3/8-24 threaded stud which screws into a large mag mount made to accept the 3/8-24 thread.

The antenna (Fig. 1) is about 11-1/4" square. The rod is 3/16" aluminum, made in two identical pieces. The prototype (not shown) used a similar diameter solid copper ground wire. It was #6 copper. It was much easier to use for experimentation because you can re-bend the copper and adjust, but you cannot re-bend the aluminum because it will crack.

My design used parts smaller than the manufactured versions; they use 3/8" hollow aluminum tubes. They also use 1/4-20 set screws, but I chose 6-32 set screws which really should be made of stainless steel. The set screws are tapped into each piece of 3/8" thick aluminum stock, cut into little squares, according to the basic design.

The first two blocks (mounted on an acrylic insulator) serve two functions. They provide a place for the coax to attach to the antenna and they slide back and forth to shorten or lengthen the antenna, as needed. Each block has the holes for the rods and two set screws for rigidity. The shortening or lengthening is also done by adjusting the gap between the tips of the rods that face each other. The ideal gap is between 2-1/4" and 3". This gap must be centered on the previously described acrylic block. The other piece is

designed to slide back and forth to adjust the SWR. It also has 2 set screws, tightening on each aluminum rod to prevent unwanted movement and strengthen the design.

The antenna is designed to tune somewhere around 144.2 MHz. The antenna is rather narrow banded. I have used it, sitting on a metal table in the house, and can easily work local repeaters, (cross polarized) but I do not recommend it since the SWR rises to 3:1 or more.

The coax was kept short (6 feet) to reduce variables and a choke was added for the same reason. Likewise, the coax was taped to the rod in a few places also to improve repeatability in tuning.

All in all the antenna was fun to build and tune, but patience is an absolute requirement. It will never be right the first time you try to put it on a meter for adjustment, but a 1:1 match can be obtained.



Fig. 1 The N1JHJ 2-Meter Halo



Fig. 2 Feed-point Details

New Lunar-Link Amplifier Web Site

Steve Simons, W1SMS, wrote to let us know that there is a new Lunar-Link Amplifier Web site. Steve has added Troubleshooting and Spare Parts pages. The link is:

<http://manitousys.com/home/products/communications-amplifiers/series-la-amplifier>

You can contact Steve at:

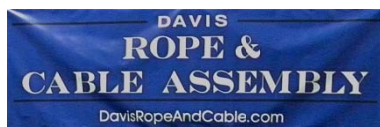
w1sms@manitousys.com

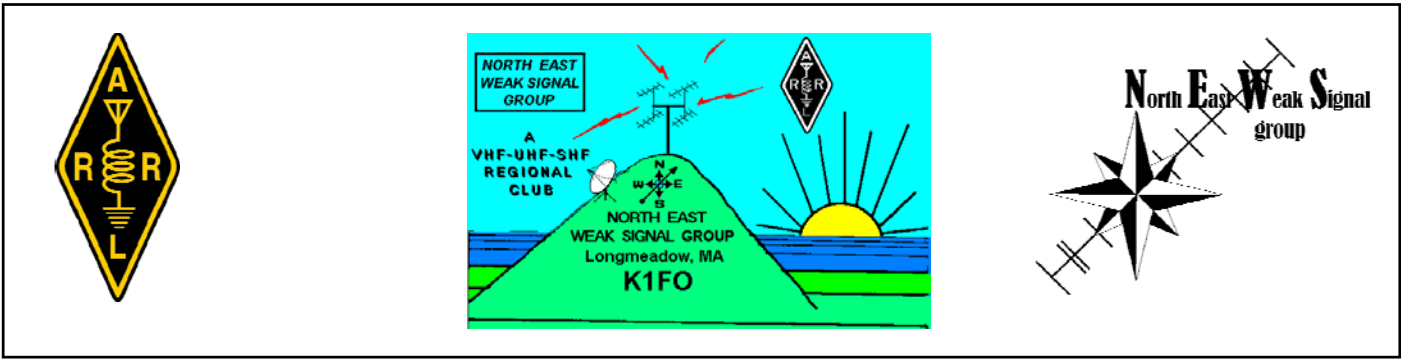
Tel. [203.733.2110](tel:203.733.2110) Fax. [203.746.1459](tel:203.746.1459)

33 Ball Pond Road Danbury, CT 06811

Mailing Address: PO Box 8066 New Fairfield, CT 06812

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

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

Check your membership
Expiration date on your mailing label!