

# ***N.E.W.S. LETTER***

The Publication of the North East Weak Signal Group

October, 2013

Volume 22

Issue 5

## **Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference: September 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>**

### **Microwave Update: October 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>**

## **Next Meeting: October 5<sup>th</sup>**

**From Backpack to Bluebird Bus  
By Harry Ingwersen – KT1J**

**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://www.luluspizzeria.com/>**

**GENERAL MEETING - STORRS LIBRARY - from 1 PM to approximately 3:45 PM.**

### **Remaining 2013 Meeting Dates**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

#### **DON'T FORGET**

**The North East Weak Signal Group  
2 Meter VHF and Above 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 Tom Williams, WA1MBA. Email tomw(at)wa1mba.org You may download an application from our web page:**

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

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(All terms expire 2015)

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ACTIVE ON: 6, 2, 432, 1296

## 2013 NEWS CALENDAR:

September 27-29 - [Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference](#)

October 1, 1900-2300 Local - [222 MHz Fall Sprint](#)

October 5, 1PM - 4PM - [N.E.W.S. Group Meeting](#)

October 9, 1900-2300 Local - [432 MHz Fall Sprint](#)

October 11-12 - [New England Amateur Radio Festival - Deerfield, NH](#)

October 12, 0700-1300 Local - [Microwave Fall Sprint](#)

October 13, 8AM-2PM - [Nutmeg Hamfest & ARRL CT State Convention](#)

October 18-19 - [Microwave Update - Morehead, KY](#)

November 23, 1PM - 4PM - [N.E.W.S. Group Meeting](#)

November 17 - Leonids meteor shower

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## **Presidents Report – September 2013**

### **NEWSletter**

**R. L. Frey – WA2AAU**

#### **October 5<sup>th</sup> NEWS Meeting Program From Backpack to Bluebird Bus**

**By Harry Ingwersen – KT1J**

Our program during the October 5<sup>th</sup> NEWS meeting will be presented by Harry Ingwersen, KT1J with the title: "From Backpack to Bluebird Bus". Operating in comfort: An update on the more recent developments of a contest facility by the team of AK1H, K1PJM, K1ZK, KT1J and WE1P, operating on 50–5760 MHz and 10, 24 and 47 GHz. Experiences, results, and remaining issues. Harry tells me his Power Point presentation will take about a half hour. SOOOoooo....

Also, bring your stories of what you did this summer to the meeting to share with the group. If you have a video, bring that too. We can put it up on the screen. I'll be bringing some video of some W2SZ 47 GHz contacts made in the September contest.

Well, here we are again, coming to the end of summer here in the northeast. For many of us, the good weather has given us the chance to use our VHF, UHF and microwave gear portable from nice high locations without being blown away by a snowstorm. For the first time this year, the NEWS group was required to get a permit to use Wachusett Mt. for the 10 GHz and Up Contest and George Vaccaro, W1JHR – took care of pushing the application through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Getting the proper forms from our "new" insurance company turned out to be a bit of a last minute issue, but George got the permit in time for the August weekend of the 'test. We could not have received a permit if the club didn't have the liability insurance we purchased last December. I am interested to hear how things went (administratively) on Wachusett from any members who operated from there. Were there any problems?

Summer also features the two major ARRL VHF

QSO "Parties" in June and September... yeah I know the June contest really isn't in the summer but it is usually hot enough to make it feel like it's summer! I went up Mt Greylock again this year with the MGEF crew like I always do, and got thoroughly SOAKED in June. September was a little better, but still on the wet side. June scores were low this year without 6 meters very doing much at least in the northeast. And September also didn't feature very much enhanced propagation on the higher bands as it sometimes does. We did see a bit of an opening late Sunday, but certainly not huge or wide spread. So it was back to basics... making contacts with anybody and everybody you could on all the bands they had, even if they were "only locals". We had good success with 47 GHz this September, working 6 grids with good signals, even through the fog and mist. That was fun!

I guess I need to beat my favorite drum again... Please move from 903.1 to 902.1 MHz. It is LOTS quieter. We were able to convince one rover to make the move this September, with much improved results, mostly because we could hear much better on Mt. Greylock... 10 to 20 dB better! That's a lot; a whole LOT.

### **Secretary's Report**

Minutes of NEWS meeting 13 July 2013 (Picnic) at Knights of Columbus, Enfield, CT

President WA1AAU called meeting to order at 1314Z

Treasurers Report

-Dues are due in July - \$15

-Currently 107 paid members plus 14 permanent

-Balance \$3428

-Excess income over expenses

ELECTION

The following officers were re-elected:

-President WA2AAU

-Vice-President N1JFU

-Secretary W1GHZ

-Treasurer WA1MBA

-NEWSletter Editor W1WSO

The following Directors were elected:

W1ZC - 2 year term

K1MAP - 2 year term

K1WHA - 2 year term

OLD BUSINESS

-W1MKY Thank You letters from Conference have not gone out

+N1DPM will mail them

-Audio from 2013 Conference is available

NEW BUSINESS

-2014 Conf

+Need prize chairperson; W1MKY will help

+Date (Easter is April 20)

+Consensus April 12

-Conference Account balance \$7685

-Designated club center for contests

+175 mile circle

+FN32pi includes all known members & mountains

K1MAP motion to designate FN32pi as club center - UNANIMOUS

-K2DLL beacons moving need support

KJ1K motion \$300 donation when ready - UNANIMOUS

-AMSAT new satellite Project Fox

W1LE motion \$500 donation - APPROVED

-September NEWS meeting conflict with PackRats Conference

K1MAP motion move to October 5 - UNANIMOUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Mt. Washington 10 GHz beacon - W1IMD working on permission

-Gore Mt. 5760 beacon in progress

-2 meter beacon: N1BXC donated power supply needs site

-Channel 3 Burlington scrapping Harris Platinum transmitter N1JEZ for details

-PackRats Conference September 28

-NEWS received the Gavel for September VHF Contest, Medium Club Category

Adjourned 1432

Followed by MDS testing at 10 and 24 GHz

Special thanks to KA1NKD and N2OY for operating the equipment and recording the results.

- Paul, W1GHZ

## Treasurer's Report

So far this new 2013/2014 club year we have 62 members with paid-up dues and 14 permanent members. Normally, our paid-up membership reaches the low nineties by January. This means we have over twenty who normally renew but have not yet. Normally each year we loose about 10 members and gain about the same number of a mix of new and those who have lapsed for more than a year.

If you get your NEWS Letter by hard-copy, your dues date is printed next to your name and call sign. If it says "7/13" then its time to renew. I will be sending out reminders to the remainder by email. Send your check to me, my address is the return (last page) of the NEWS Letter. Make the check out to "N.E.W.S. Group" or you can spell it out if you can squeeze the full name onto your check. Dues are still \$15 a year, or life membership is \$400 for members 65 and younger (\$300 if you are over 65 - that will probably be my choice next year). Next meeting is after the September VHF and both 10 GHz weekends. Hopefully you all had a great time.

- Tom, WA1MBA

### FOR SALE:

Gonset 903 2 meter amplifier with original manual. Separate schematic for its working relay system (but Heil foot switch excluded from sale), spare 4CX250B ceramic triode. 5 watts input for 350 watts out. \$350 or best offer. Can demonstrate as working at my QTH. Pick up in Westwood, MA. Dick, K1HC email [dick.bean@verizon.net](mailto:dick.bean@verizon.net)

# NEWS Group MDS Test

13-Jul-13

K of C, Enfield, CT

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Last Heard</u>	<u>No Signal</u>	<u>First Acquired</u>	<u>TX</u>	<u>Antenna / TX Power</u>
<b>10 GHz</b>					
K2AEP	?	?	-80	-19	43inx40in dish / 110mW
W1IMD	-93	-94	-91	-11	DEMI dish / 2-3W
W1FKF - Prime	-89	-90	-87	-9	18-inch dish / 3W
N1JEZ	-89	-90	-87	-6	.5m dish / 4W
W1GHZ	-85	-87	-82	-10	18-inch dish / 3W
K1MJM	-87	-88	-84	DNT	DNT
KA1OJ	-92	-93	-89	-2.5	24-inch dish / 8W
WW1Z	-70	-75	-71	-27	horn / 1W
WA1MBA	-80	-85	-74	DNT	DNT
W1JHR	-90	-91	-74	-26	18-inch dish / 4W
AF1T	-93	-94	-89	0	24-inch dish / 10W
KJ1K	-80	-85	-77	DNT	DNT
<b>24 GHz</b>					
W1FKF - Prime	-88	-89	-86	1	18-inch dish / 1.5W
W1FKF - Sony	-85	-86	-77	0	18-inch dish / 0.5W
N1JEZ	-85	-86	-77	2.5	.5m dish / 1.75W
W1GHZ	-82	-83	-75	-4	
KA1OJ	-89	-90	-85	0	24-inch dish / 2W
WA1MBA	-65	-68	-60	-14	18-inch dish / 2W



# Mt Washington 10 GHz beacon

9/13/2013

Soon, (and hopefully before the snow flies) there will be a new 10 GHz beacon on Mt Washington. It is nearing completion. It will have the NEWS Group callsign - W1RJA. Other particulars are:

- 2 Watts into a 2 x 12 slot antenna - pressurized waveguide fed
- 10368.400 MHz
- GPS Locked
- DTMF remote control

This has been a major project. Paul, W1IMD has been instrumental in securing a site on the mountain. Tom, W1EX supplied the RF parts and controller and built the beacon. Paul, W1GHZ supplied waveguide pieces and the 12 slot antenna. Mike, N1JEZ supplied and assembled the GPS lock and remote control. Don, W1FKF was pressed into service for some of the assembly (10G amplifier).

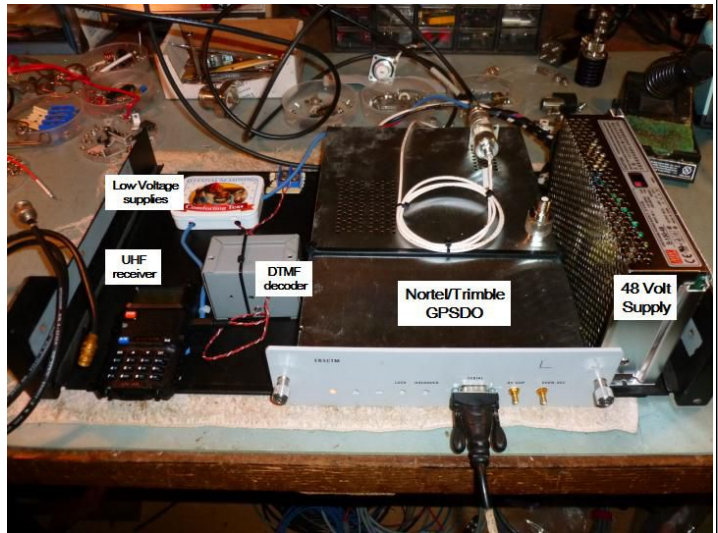


Auto Road Building (radomes sticking out the top) Mt Washington FN44ig

Yes, those are chains holding the building down - a necessary precaution given the winds on top.

Here's the GPSDO and DTMF remote control shelf. We are using a Nortel/Trimble GPS unit. It has similar performance to the Thunderbolts we all use, but it's less expensive. We will use a Trimble timing antenna also located in the radome.

The DTMF control receiver will be plugged into a port on a UHF multi-coupler that is already on site. It provides a narrow 2 MHz wide receive window.

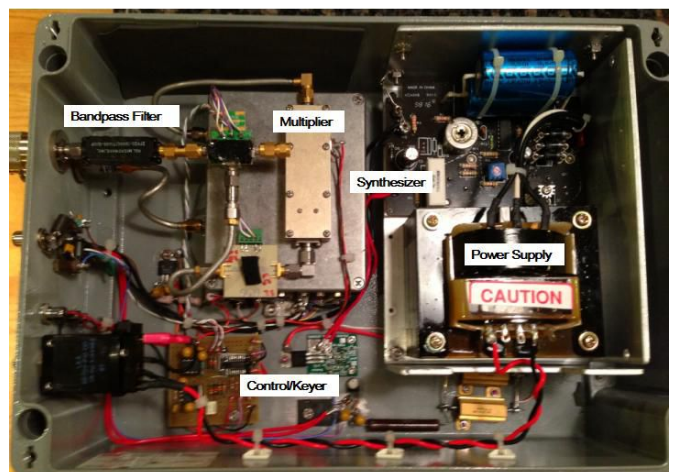


GPSDO/DTMF Remote control shelf

The beacon itself is below. This will be mounted in a rack along with the GPSDO/Remote control.



Connections on the Beacon

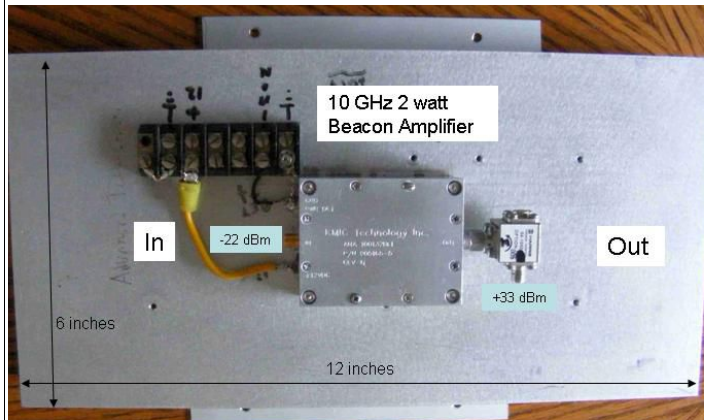


Inside the Beacon

The waveguide and slot antenna are shown here. It has an SMA input.



The power amplifier will be mounted right below the antenna/radome. We will run coax from the beacon chassis to the amplifier. The amplifier has a tremendous amount of gain, so we can easily do this. In fact we will most likely have to add an additional inline pad.



## Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference



<http://www.packratvhf.com/Conference/vhf%20conf.html>

Hosted by The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club (Pack Rats)

Friday, Saturday, Sunday September 27,28,29 2013

**InnPlace Hotel\***  
**3327 Street Road**  
**Bensalem, PA 19020**  
**215-639-9100**

### Friday September 27, 2013

6:30PM-10:30PM Hospitality & Registration & LIMITED TABLE-TOP SELLING NESHAMINY ROOM

### Saturday, September 28, 2013

7:30AM Registration Hallway Greenwood & Skuykill

8:00 Welcome & logistics Greenwood & Skuykill Conference room

8:15 AM Ken KA2LIM The K2LIM Contest Station (45 min)

9:00-4PM Greg Bonaguide Board Room Rohde & Schwarz Technical Testing

9:00 Elliott K3JJZ Multi-op Contest Log Networking (20 min)

9:20 Break (15 min) NESHAMINY ROOM



COFFEE BREAK FOR CONFERENCE  
ATTENDEES

9:35 auction (5 min) Greenwood & Skuykill  
Conference room

9:40 Steve N5AC SDR for VHF, UHF &  
Microwaves (45 min)

10:30 Roger W3SZ Aircraft Scatter: New  
Software and New Horizons (45 min)

11:15 Phil K3TUF Tower Safety (45 min)

12:00PM Lunch break (60 min) NESHAMINY  
ROOM PIZZA LUNCH FOR CONFERENCE  
ATTENDEES

1:00PM auction (5 min) Greenwood & Skuykill  
Conference room

1:05 Chip W1AIM 10GHz and Up  
contesting-"Good, Bad & Ugly" (with Dale AF1T)  
(45 min)

1:50 Paul K4MSG Early Navy EME (45 min)

2:35 Paul WA3GFZ Unique Antenna Mounting  
Solution (15 min)

2:50 Break (15 min) NESHAMINY ROOM  
SNACK BREAK FOR CONFERENCE  
ATTENDEES

3:05 auction (5 min) Greenwood & Skuykill  
Conference room

3:10 Steve W1SMS VHF Amplifiers: Tubes or  
Solid State (45 min)

3:55 John KB3XG Solid State 2KW Amplifiers for  
6m & 2m (45 min)

4:40 Ray N3RG Antenna Homebrew Workshop  
(20 min)

5:15PM Cash bar Lobby

6:15 Banquet Buffet Lobby

7:15 Rick K1DS Lobby Love to Rove (30 min)

7:45 Door Prize Drawing Lobby

**Sunday, September 29, 2013**

8:00AM-11AM Mini-HAMFEST OUTDOOR  
PARKING LOT. Free to all sellers and buyers.

## Microwave Update 2013

<http://www.microwaveupdate.org/>

Space Science Center

Morehead State University

Morehead, Kentucky

October 18-19, 2013

\*\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTICE \*\*\*\*\*

It will soon be time for the conference. We are asking that anyone planning on attending to complete their registration and make necessary hotel accommodations. The hotels will only hold the block of rooms until October 1st. Also the cost of registration and the banquet will increase after October 1st. Details on the registration page. So please complete your registration prior to October 1st.

Microwave Update (MUD) is an annual event held since 1985. MUD is a conference dedicated to microwave equipment design, construction, and operation. It is focused on, but not limited to, amateur radio on the microwave bands.

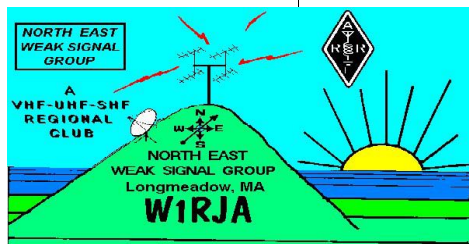
The Space Science Center (SSC) at Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky, will be the location for conference sessions on October 18 and 19. A pre-conference picnic is being planned for October 17th. Location details to follow. A Friday night Flea Market at 7pm at the Hampton Inn is also planned. A small hamfest is tentatively planned for Sunday, October 20. A ladies program is being constructed.

For more information, please visit the Microwave Update website at:

<http://www.microwaveupdate.org/>

### **ESTATE SALE:**

Woody K2UU is helping out N2LIV's XYL dispose of Bruce's extensive VHF+ antenna farm and other items - If interested in any of these items - all located on Long Island - please contact Woody K2UU directly at [k2uu@optonline.net](mailto:k2uu@optonline.net).



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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 6 meetings per year, held at a centrally located facility, and provide a "NEWSLETTER" that is distributed 2 weeks prior to each meeting. Any contributions to this publication are appreciated and can be sent to: Tom Filecco, W1WSO via email – w1wso@comcast.net. Dues are \$15/year. Remember, this group is formed by VHF'ers for VHF'ers.

Mail to:

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c/o WA1MBA Tom Williams PO Box 28  
Shutesbury, MA 01072



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**North East Weak Signal Group**

c/o WA1MBA Tom Williams, PO Box 28, Shutesbury, MA 01072

Check your membership  
expiration date on your mailing label!