The N.E.W.S. Group is $10 per year. Apply through Frank Potts, NC1I, at 65 Hastings Road, Southwick, MA. 01077 (413) 569-0314 You may download an application from our web page http://uhavax.hartford.edu/newsvhf

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**SECRETARY’S REPORT**  
**JULY 24, 1996 MEETING**

We had a near perfect, though windy day, for our third Annual Mid-Summer "parking lot" meeting. Activity, as in past years focused on 10GHz equipment. Paul, N1BWT and Bruce, N2LIV were the ringleaders of a sun noise measurement exercise, during which about 10 members compared 10GHz dish performance.

Our turnout was 46 members and guests. Many came with some tailgate items as well as fully operational Microwave Stations. Activities started at noon and lasted until after 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marc Casey, N1LZC  
Secretary

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**  
**AUGUST 24, 1996 MEETING**

Our annual VHF Conference meeting was held on Saturday at 5:00 P.M. just after talks and bandsessions concluded from the day.

Bruce, N2LIV brought the meeting to order and announced solicitation of nominations for two Board of Director positions. Ron, WZ1V, nominated K1WHS to continue on the board. Anyone who has an interest or prospective nominee should contact Bruce Wood, president of NEWS before our next meeting to be held November 9th.

Lewis Collins, W1GXT proposed a merger of the Northeast VHF Association with NEWS. Walt, WA2ALV seconded the motion. The Northeast VHF Association was unanimously accepted into NEWS and memberships will be prorated.

Mark, N1LZC suggested that our group should make our band space and plan be known to the various Northeastern U.S. frequency co-ordinators. The New England VHF Association has been the weak signal co-ordinator in the past, so it was suggested that NEWS should take interest in this area.

Bruce closed the abbreviated meeting at about 6:00 P.M. Approximately 30 members were in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marc Casey, N1LZC  
Secretary

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**  
**CONTESTS, CONTESTS & MORE**

If you are into VHF and above contests, the period from our last main meeting in July and this newsletter represents an intense period of activity. The August UHF contest, the first weekend of the 10 GHz contest, the September VHF contest and finally the second weekend of the 10 GHz contest. We all need a lot of caffeine just to keep up.

For the August UHF contest I had the privilege and excitement of joining the W2SZ/1 group on Mt. Greylock. Sure wish I owned that piece of real estate. The first weekend of the 10 GHz contest saw a lot of activity but flat band conditions. I operated from another rooftop location (LI mountain) and in eastern Long Island for the second weekend.

Many of our NEWS Group members and others throughout the northeast region spend considerable time and energy to operate at portable locations and to be competitive from home. This ranges from the large multi-op efforts to single ops packing their cars beyond capacity and comfort levels to activate sometimes rare grids. Many times not to find many of the local stations on. We in the luxury of our home, often due not have time available to operate a complete contest period. However, we should all make a concerted effort to devote some time to activate those bands available to us and work especially those portable and serious home stations. This is even more important on the higher microwave bands. Much of the fun derived from contesting is in working stations and we can all help keep these efforts alive.

The first weekend in October once again brings us Boxboro, Hosstraders and the Packrats conference and flea markets and Microwave Update in Phoenix. What a trip I had to attend both the Hosstraders and Packrats in one long weekend. Several of our members that I know of were speakers at several of these events, namely N1DPM, KD1DU and N1BWT.

Our November NEWS meeting will bring us our first annual (we hope) homebrew meeting. Please bring all of your recent homebrew projects for display to our club members. This includes kits and adaptations of equipment for our amateur use. As a club we do a lot of building and should be proud to show it off, no matter how complex or simple it may be. So please load up your car. In addition, November brings us our annual elections. Slots are open for:

- President - 1 year  
- Vice President - 1 year  
- Secretary - 1 year  
- Treasurer - 1 year  
- Board #1 - 2 years  
- Board #2 - 2 years.

Two of our present board members N2MSS and K1LXD have 1 year to go.

See ya all in November.
SEPTEMBER VHF CONTEST RUMORED SCORES

BY STEVE K0OU/Q

Single Operator

CALL: WA8WZG  K9PW  K1RZ  K1DU  WB2DNE  W3IP  K2UOP  VE3KDH  WB2VVV  N8UM  K5MA  WA0BWE  KA2RDO
GRID: EN81  EN52  FM19  FN31  FN19  FN09  FN03  FN21  EM85  FN41  EN34  FN12

50 138/41  134/43  127/33  91/18  92/27  63/22  56/21  85/25  56/17  81/30  113/22  37/12  38/15
144 178/48  282/50  279/49  318/39  189/38  171/33  130/37  155/37  185/24  144/40  166/28  82/24  113/35
222 95/34  78/32  75/31  74/21  57/22  54/21  40/15  38/20  54/17  27/19  60/20  28/17  66/17
903 58/21  33/18  33/17  26/13  21/12  23/11  6/3  7/5  15/10  5/4  14/19  10/7
1296 71/22  46/21  43/19  32/12  32/16  41/16  24/11  5/3  20/11  9/7  22/10  16/7
2304 41/13  10/8  8/6  7/4  3/2  2/1
3456 23/9  8/6  6/5
5760 23/9  10/6  1/1
10G 15/8  6/4  1/1  2/2
SCORE  380295  280370  202078  113875  105696  88494  57040  54127  53016  52125  51210  40514  40290

CALL: KD0DW  WQ0P  KH2CY  KD4UPF  N0LL
GRID: DN70  EM19  FM19  FM08  EM09

50 47/18  14/8  63/17  50/18  38/26
144 96/35  113/38  159/28  93/30  87/30
222 21/13  22/20  16/6  39/19  20/14
432 61/26  54/28  63/18  56/22  30/20
903 4/3  3/3
1296 245/104  218/106  311/73  238/89  134/24
3456 2/1
5760 1/1
10G 3/2  4/1
TOTAL  245/104  218/106  311/73  238/89  134/24
SCORE  38480  34768  29930  29637  23862

CALL: WB9AJZ  WA5TKU  NB2T  KC2QF  WA2ZFH  KE8RO  WB4ZUG  K4CPK  VE7SKA
GRID: CM87  EM13  FN30  FN31  FN30  EN81  EN91  CN88  DM24  DM07  CM14

50 12/2  19/11  24/10  113/14  21/10  40/8  16/2  16/6  11/2
144 50/3  18/9  6/4  22/13
432 78/13  26/15  120/9  27/11  45/11  25/14
926 7/5
3456 1/1
TOTAL  241/51  150/60  260/28  119/44  141/36  107/41  97/44  118/40  132/32  257/12  174/55  36/12  117/36  109/26
SCORE  12291  11580  7280  7216  6912  5412  5236  4720  4448  13310  4284  3796  3216
## SEPTEMBER VHF CONTEST RUMORED SCORES

### Multi-Limited

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<tr>
<th>CALL</th>
<th>K3MQH/AA4ZZ WB1GQR K2AA/1N1GPY/No2T WB1FLD K1MUJ/0 N0EQ/0 WB7DMC **K00U/7 W5EHM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRID</td>
<td>FM19/EM96 FN33/FN21 FM09/ZN30 FN42/ZN41 EM24/CN97 FN42/EM10</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>409/66 158/44 190/23 150/33 95/28 146/16 109/17 31/24 47/9 17/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>647/64 244/45 367/29 312/33 182/41 304/26 200/26 109/21 38/20 66/12 48/13 52/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>222</td>
<td>167/52 56/27 92/17 70/17 37/19 31/10 46/15 32/12 2/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>432</td>
<td>277/53 101/31 143/18 75/19 60/21 74/15 63/17 47/16 9/6 15/5 35/13 2/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>903</td>
<td>64/4  [6/4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1296</td>
<td>11/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1500/230 559/147 792/87 607/92 374/109 555/67 418/75 199/54 80/52 128/26 83/26 71/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE</td>
<td>447120 105252 89349 69184 51339 44220 39525 16200 4732 3718 3068 1460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALL</td>
<td>K3MQH/AA4ZZ WB1GQR K2AA/1N1GPY/No2T WB1FLD K1MUJ/0 N0EQ/0 WB7DMC **K00U/7 W5EHM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**

* Scores in brackets will not be submitted for contest credit  ** Single Op plus Net

### Multi-Unlimited

| CALL      | W2SZ K3YTL W4IY/4K PC4/0X W0UC/9 KBO2Q/0 N5UYI/0 W2CRS/0 W3X0/0 AE6E |
| GRID      | FN32/5 FN11/5 FM08/5 EM84/5 EN44/5 EN34/5 DM06/5 DM78/5 EM00/5 EL79/5 |
| 50        | 406/59 245/42 225/46 160/55 93/37 77/30 56/14 61/29 30/16 38/20          |
| 144       | 515/45 539/59 425/60 203/57 186/47 169/51 130/19 72/34 89/28 63/26        |
| 222       | 146/32 118/32 81/37 40/25 42/24 38/21 35/12 9/5 12/6 9/6 62/26            |
| 432       | 166/29 151/38 118/36 70/39 64/26 67/26 67/13 41/20 26/12 16/10           |
| 903       | 57/21 38/13 28/17 8/7 8/6 15/10 1/1 7/4 7/5                            |
| 1296      | 72/20 49/15 38/17 10/6 17/11 15/7 13/3 3/3 2/1                         |
| 2304      | 42/19 14/8 7/5 3/3 10/4                                                 |
| 3456      | 28/14 6/4 1/1 1/1                                                       |
| 5760      | 24/14 4/3 1/1                                                          |
| 10G       | 22/8 1/1 1/1 1/1                                                       |
| 24G       | 13/6 1/1                                                               |
| LIGHT     | 1/1                                                                     |
| SCORE     | 653616 361845 277732 120393 92040 27532 22908 15477 11524               |
| CALL      | W2SZ/1 K3YTL W4IY/4K PC4/0X W0UC/9 KBO2Q/0 N5UYI/0 W2CRS/0 W3X0/0 AE6E |

### QRP-Portable

| CALL      | KH6CP N9T2L No0Y |
| GRID      | FN33/5 FN52/5 EM18 |
| 50        | 43/12             |
| 144       | 138/20 38/22 16/9 |
| 222       | 69/16             |
| 432       | 82/14             |
| 903       | 18/11             |
| 1296      | 28/14             |
| 2304      | 12/9              |
| 3456      | 5/3               |
| 5760      | 5/3               |
| 10G       | 4/3               |
| 24G       | 1/1               |
| TOTAL     | 405/106 38/22 16/9 |
| SCORE     | 77274 836 144     |
| CALL      | KH6CP N9T2L No0Y  |

### Rovers QSOs

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<th>Grids A.</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>K9JK</td>
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<td>97</td>
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<td>KA7QZ</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>69</td>
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<td>WA3WJD</td>
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<td>WA2VOI</td>
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<tr>
<td>KC4ZRH</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1ISB</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>N3RKM</td>
<td>190</td>
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<td>KF4AJO</td>
<td>137</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>KA7YOU</td>
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<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL7CO</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### NB2T REPORT

Lou worked W4MYA FM07, N4KWX FM08, K4QIF, FM06, on 144 and KC4WFU FM18 on 144 and 432 (8/20/96). Heard K00U/7 on cw on 432 very weak in FN42 (8/21/96) worked WA1HYN FN41 ON cw. Also worked WB3F FM19 on cw. Also worked on cw W1COT FN31, WA3GYU FM19 on cw. Lou has been hearing the W3VD/B again very well anso daily W3CCX/B on 432 MHz. On 9/1/96 Lou worked W4FSO FM14, N3JDR FM19, K4QIF FM06, W4MYA FM07, WD4WTC EM95, N3THJ FN10 on 144 also K4QIF and W4MYA on 432 for two new grids on 144 and 1 on 432. Lou also reports hearing W3CCX/B 28 days out of 31 during August and W3/VB for 10 days.
UNUSUAL 2M ES SCATTER PROPAGATION!

I want to share the results so far, of an experiment I have been working on this Es season. These tests are ongoing and are to investigate the relationship between intense 6m Es openings and long haul openings on 2 meters. It is my opinion that during a very intense 6m opening that long haul contacts can ALWAYS be made on 2 meters if CERTAIN CONDITIONS exist. Some of you may already be aware of this.

I classify long haul contacts on 2 meters as contacts in the 1,000-1,600 mile range or greater. The conditions that have been common may be mere coincidence but they are worthy to note nonetheless.

Here are the conditions that have existed when successful long haul 2m contacts and “heard reports” were achieved:

1- Very intense 6m openings were in progress. Signals on 6m were extremely strong. (upwards of 20-30db over S9 on my Icom 740 and DEM 6m transverter) These intense openings are part of a general 6m opening but signals are at their maximum strength during this time of the opening.

2- All contacts and “I was Heard” reports were achieved between the hours of 1600-1900 Local (EDST) I have never been successful at other times.

Here are the conditions that have existed when successful long haul 2m contacts and “heard reports” were achieved:

2- All contacts and “I was Heard” reports were achieved between the hours of 1600-1900 Local (EDST). I have never been successful at other times.

When the intensity of the 6m opening dropped markedly there have never been any successful 2m contacts and any “residual” scatter signals that were present have disappeared.

3- All paths were direct via the great circle bearings headings. During occasions when there was enough time to turn the beams to other directions while listening to the 2m signal the signal strength weakened or disappeared only to reappear when the yagi was reoriented straight at the target signal.

4- All contacts were with stations North East, South East, and North West. I have been unable to locate a station with good 2m capabilities to my South West to test with. I have had many “heard” reports from stations in the NW that weren't able to call me for various reasons. Any attempts at Due North, South, or West contacts have been unsuccessful up until this point. Not even a single Ping was ever heard with any stations in these directions.

5- No shortened 6m conditions were evident. I have yet to hear 6m signals from distances less than 500 miles when a successful 2m contact or “heard” report was achieved.

6- The 6m opening has always been a longer term 6m opening. I have made numerous attempts during the occasional intense 5-15 minute opening on 6 without success. The longer the 6m opening is to a particular direction the greater the chances of a successful 2m contact(s). The recent 2m contacts between the East coast of the US and V47KV, the recent 2m contact between W3ZZ (FM19) and KP4A (FK68), and my (em84) recent contact with KP4EIT (FK68) have all been on days when the Caribbean was being heard throughout the day on 6 meters. The intensity of the opening on 6m peaked at various times around the hours of 5-630pm local time. A recent 2m contact with VE9PA (FN65) and myself occurred at 5:15 PM local time with a sustained 6m opening that was in progress for an hour and a half to the North East before the 2m contact was made. KP4EIT informed me that he was hearing W3ZZ during W3ZZ’s 2m contact with KP4A. Jose (KP4EIT) was hearing Gene, W3ZZ, on and off for quite awhile while Gene was calling away at V47KV. Signal at KP4EIT was S1.7. The 6m opening to that particular direction usually dies with 90 minutes of the 2m opening and closer to 1 hour after the 2m opening.

These are the characteristics of these signals as heard on 2 meters:

1- Usually very weak with signals S1 or less. There has been exceptions with one particular signal peaking at S7 at one time.

2- Often the signals are being heard on 2m for the duration of the intense 6m opening. They are extremely weak and unintelligible and pop out of the noise for brief periods of time ranging in duration from milliseconds to as long as 30-45 seconds but more often 2-5 seconds. This sounds identical to how 6m sounds in the early morning hours during random meteor scatter periods except that the signals are much weaker.

Remember that the times that these contacts have occurred have been between 4pm and 7pm. These are times when it is LEAST probable to complete random meteor contacts according to published Random Meteor Scatter theory. I was hearing Numerous LOUD pings from many stations during the timeframe I made my recent contact with VE9PA. I was also called numerous times by VE1RG but the rapid qsb kept me from getting his grid. His signal was heard, in and out, for at least 20 minutes. I was also informed by VA1AG in FN35 that I was being heard by him. All this happened while the 6m opening was at its intensity peak. During a recent conversation with Emil, V3EP, he mentioned that meteors often times appear to be enhanced by E-skip. Could we have this backwards? Could Es be enhanced by meteors?

3- Rapid QSB from copyable to noise level. This occurs throughout the intense 6m opening on 2 meters.

4- The openings on 2m always happen in the same direction as the openings on 6m. The possible distances to be worked are up to and including the extreme end of the single hop 6 meter circuit path.

Requirements for successful contacts:

1- As usual, the higher the power the better. I am running 1kw and 13/13 elements at 35 feet. Both ends need to have very quiet RF locations and a good Weak signal station.

2- Meteor scatter techniques will increase the chances of success. The signals rise and fall out of the noise quickly. Information exchange at a rapid rate is vital.

3- You must be persistent! When the aforementioned 6m conditions exist, pray yourself away from 6 meters and start calling on 144.200 in the same exact direction as the 6m opening. At some point during your calling (assuming that someone in that direction is listening in your direction) you will be heard or a contact will be made. A recent contact with VE9PA (FN65) was made after 15 Minutes of non-stop calling on 144.200.

It would really help to prove or discount this method of achieving long haul 2m contacts by trying 2 meters when the above conditions exist on 6 meters. Don’t give up the ship too easily. Keep calling while the intensity on 6 meters is present. You can quit when 6 dies down as, so far, it has been fruitless here. Distances up to 1600 miles have been achieved! I need to locate a serious 2m operator in the Eastern half of the DN field or Northern Minnesota/Southern Manitoba areas. I would like to give you a phone call during the next 6m opening we have to the North West so we can try on 2 meters. The more of you that try to make contacts in this manner the better. Let’s see how often this really happens.

This is not your normal 2m E-skip opening. These are rises in and out of the noise and do not stay around at S9 levels for long periods of time like a normal 2m E-skip opening. My best guess as to why this is happening is that the so-called sporadic E cloud is being whipped into a frenzy by extremely strong and sudden wind turbulence which increases the density of the cloud, allowing brief interludes with 144 Megahertz. If you are pointing the right way and listening at the right time you will catch one of the brief forays of E ionization into 2 meters! Let us know of attempts and successes!

73 Ken KP4XS/W4 EM84
TO ETCH OR NOT TO ETCH

BY BRUCE N2LIV

In 1992 Zack, KH6CP developed a 10 GHz preamp with a noise figure below 1dB. As time progressed, many of us had acquired HEMPT devices for this preamp as "door prizes" from local area conferences. This device was a great find for our "Junkboxes" but usually sat there lonely without a PC board to mate with. I too was in this predicament. But alas, why not simply etch a quantity of these boards for everyone to use. With the artwork available and the assistance of Steve Kostro of DEM, 100 or so of the boards were professionally prepared. I purchased a large quantity of the boards for distribution to members of the NEWS Group and other Northeast clubs. This worked well, allowing many of us to build 1 dB NF preamps.

A similar scenario is now developing in another area, the 903 MHz band. In 1995 at the Packrats conference and now in 1996 at the Eastern VHF/UHF Conference a large quantity of 100-150 watt solid state devices have been distributed as "door prizes" only to once again end up in junkboxes. If sufficient interest exists we will have the opportunity to develop and etch a run (100) boards to supply our needs. However, its not quite as easy as the 10 GHz preamp project.

A generic PC board design doesn't currently exist since we all have devices by different manufacturers with slightly different parameters. If a small group is willing to work on the development of a PC board layout based upon the manufacturers application notes, I have located an amateur who is willing to help consult on the layout and test several prototypes. Many of us use these devices in work and have significant experience with them.

If a generic design is developed and the need exists, I will then have the boards etched and distribute them at cost to those interested. This seems like a good way to populate the band with high power.

If you are interested in helping with the design and/or would be interested in a PC board please contact me at (516) 265-1015 (h), 225-9400 (w) or at bwood@wnis.com to get things moving. If you must - Bruce Wood, 3 Maple Glen Lane, Nesconset, NY 11767.

10 GHZ CUMULATIVE CONTEST SCORES

TO DATE: DE N1BWT

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</table>

GPS VERSUS CD ROM BY N2LIV

For the past year I have been using a 6 channel GPS unit with hours with USGS topographic maps. Recently at a TEN-X (10 GHz-X Band) Friday night marathon session with Dick, K2RIW, Ron - N2NKJ demonstrated a mapping program entitled PRECISION MAPPING Ver. 2.0 by Just Softrworks, Inc in Leamont, Ill. The program is contained on a CD ROM and provides street maps for the entire US. You can locate areas by Zip Code, Area Code, Street name, etc. The nicety, I found was that you can develop a map area on the screen, automatically add 500' grid lines, point and it gives you latitude and longitude. These values compared almost exactly (within 100') to my GPS readings (for whatever there worth).

I think the program is available for about $40.00 and I'm going to see about purchasing one. This sure could save a lot of driving to locations at the last minute. We have a program in work called Street Atlas USA Ver. 3.0 by Delorme it also displays latitude and longitude and is in the $50.00 range.

ARRL NEW ENGLAND DIRECTOR

BALLOTS ARE DUE

Tom Frenaye, K1KI ask that I remind the N.E.W.S. group that ballots have been sent for us to vote on. We are an affiliated club and we should cast our individual votes in this election.

Tom also wanted to mention that he has a new web site: http://www.akorn.net/k1ki
(The following is the lead-in to my August column in "CHEESEBITS" - the newsletter of the "Mt.AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB", "PACK-RATS"

JANUARY 96 VHF SS TOP TEN GO TO THE MOVIES:

WA8WZG "UNCHOOSEABLES"
I WANT WA2TEO DEAD, I WANT AA2UK DEAD, I WANT WA3AXV DEAD, I WANT WZ1V DEAD.'

WA2TEO "GODFATHER"
'BILL AND RON NEVER ASK ME ABOUT MY CONTEST BUSINESS. JUST ONE TIME, JUST ONE TIME I'M GOING TO LET YOU ASK'

AA2UK "TAXI DRIVER"
'YOU TALKING TO ME? YOU TAKING TO ME?' I DON'T SEE ANYONE ELSE AROUND MOVING AS FAST AS ME. YOU TALKING TO ME?

WA3AXV "BRAVEHEART"
'YOU MAY TAKE AWAY MY CONTEST DOMINANCE, BUT YOU WILL NEVER TAKE AWAY MY PREVIOUS AWARDS'

WZ1V "DILLINGER"
'PHIL, GARY, DEL, ED, PAUL, SOME OF THE MOST FEARED VHF+ CONTESTERS OF THEIR DAY; THEY SAID THEY WOULD NEVER BE TAKEN ALIVE, AND I DIDN'T TRY HARD EITHER'

WA3NUF "DIRTY HARRY"
'I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD THIS POSITION. I'M A MEMBER OF THE PACK-RATS, THE MOST POWERFUL VHF+ CLUB IN THE COUNTRY; SO YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF DO YOU FEEL LUCKY? WELL, DO YOU?'

KE8FD "RAGING BULL"
'WHAT DO I GOTTA DO TO WIN OHIO? MY GRIDS KNOCKED TOM DOWN. WHAT DO I GOTTA DO?'

KD1DU "THE HIGH AND THE MIGHTY"
'I AM NOW HIGH AND MIGHTY IN MY NEW QTH DA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA...

WB2DNE "TALE OF TWO CITIES"
'TT IS A FAR FAR BETTER CONTESTING! DO THAN I HAVE EVER DONE BEFORE, IT IS A FAR FAR BETTER POSITION I AM GOING TO GET, THAN I HAVE EVER GOTTEN BEFORE

WB3JYO "ROOTS" 'BEHOLD, THE ONLY NINE CONTESTERS GREATER THAN THYSELF'

73,
Jerome - K3GNC FM29KX

GOODBYE BBS, HELLO NEW WEBSERVER
BY RON KLIEMAS WZ1V, FN31

September 13 marked the end of an era for me: Six wonderful years of employment with the University of Hartford. What a marvelous hideaway this was for me to play mad scientist, student, and yes, even get real work done. It was even the home of our Eastern VHF Conference back in 1992, thanks to the efforts of Tom Kirby W1EJ who was quite successful in convincing the Dean and myself to open our doors to the public that year. Painfully true, I'm afraid, that all good things must come to an end.

The bad news is that the WARD College BBS is SK forevermore. A victim of homelessness, since I could not find anywhere else there to care for and nourish it as I had for the past four years. I did manage to take a full backup of it's entire contents. The good news is doubly good, however. My fear that we would lose our Webserver privileges provoked me to sign up to a new internet provider and mirror our entire contents there. After all that effort, I find that we get to keep the uhavax site after all. Since I'm still a student at the University, I get to keep the accounts there! Now we've got two high speed servers for the club's internet webpages: http://uhavax.hartford.edu/~newsvhf AND the new mirror at http://www.connix.com/~wz1v/

And yes, as far as I can tell so far, my new job as a radio maintainer for Amtrak Corp. was a gamble worth taking! It's good to be back in the radio biz!

73, Ron WZ1V, internet email: wz1v@connix.com

VHF TIP FROM THE "REFLECTOR"

I've been using Scotch #23 Splicing Tape for my antenna cable connections for many years. I first learned of it 30 years ago while in the Navy. I had to waterproof RF Cables in the periscope towers in the submarines. That area is in saltwater, and under pressure!

This Splicing tape comes in 3/4 inch wide rolls that are 30 feet long. Other widths are available also, so I'm told. It is a self-fusing (vulcanizing) insulating tape that is stretched before application until it is about 2/3 of it's original width. It is also rated to 130 deg Centigrade. The connector is wrapped with a 1/2 wrap overlap, and the tape bonds (fuses) to itself. It is about the consistency of a gummy rubber band when applied, but sticks and seals VERY well. Extra weather protection can be provided with an overwrap of regular vinyl electrical tape if needed. The manufacturer recommends Scotch #33+, or #88 or #22 of course!

It is available at most major industrial electrical supply houses for $7 to $9 per roll

It is so much easier to use than Coax Seal and you don't have to scrape it off your fingers! Another place where is is easier to use, It doesn't bond to itself on contact. It takes a little time and the action of the stretching to vulcanize to itself; but then it is Waterproof!

Try it, I'm sure you'll like it.

Rod Johnson KA7YOU NWQR#120
A six meter opening to Europe in mid-August? August 13 provided an opening to CT7FT IM13, EH8BPX IL18, and GW4VEQ I073 from about 2100 to 2230Z. Meanwhile the hurricane season blew in some tropo openings on the higher bands. August 31 through September 2 were pretty good, I logged W4FSO FM14 on both 2 and 432, also AD4DG FM16, KE8FD EM89, W4VHH EM95, WB4WTC EM95, N4BG EM97, and KP4XS EM84.

I missed the September contest due to new work commitments, but look elsewhere in this issue for score rumours from KO0U/1.

October started off with some pretty good tropo on the 2nd with N4KWX FM08, and K4QIF FM06 59+ on 432, while Dan N3OPM FM19 pinned my S meter on 2 meters (I had the pleasure of meeting Dan just a few days later at the Pack Rats VHF Conference near Philadelphia). This tropo stayed with us through Oct. 7. NB2T FN30 reported working WB4WTC EM95 on 2 and W4MYA FM07 on 432 for new grids. WI7DS FN32 reported working several North and South Carolina and Georgia stations on the same opening. I managed to snag W4VHH EM95 on 432, and I understand KD1DU FN31 worked KP4XS EM84 on 432.

Well, that's all I have to report this time. Most of my antennas have been grounded around the past few months, and I still haven't found the time to do any tower work. It sure is hard to stay active without antennas! I hope to get everything back up and running on 50 - 2304 with new antennas and feedline soon.

See you at our November meeting, and Please Send your reports of DX with new antennas and feedline soon.
FOR SALE OR SWAP

1. JPS NIR-10 DSP. Good condition with manual and box. $125
2. 18 element 432 Yagi. (RIW 19 with 1 reflector) $50
3. 8 element HB 222 MHz Yagi, computer designed. $50
4. 12 element 2.2 W/L 2 meter Yagi. (mod C.C. 214B) $50
5. Drake station, R4C, T4XC, AC4, MS4. Late serial numbers, R4C has all XTAL filters, noise blanker, all accessory xtals, ps mods, product det mods, audio amp mods. T4XC has DX Engineering speech processor. Also have TC-6, TC-2, CC1, SC6, SC2, GaAs FET preamp for 2 meters. 6 meter rx conv has GaAs FET front end and HL DBM. 100+ Watts on 6, 80 watts on 2. D104 Microphone is included. All equipment is in good condition both physically and working. Everything for 160 through 2 meters!! $700 takes it all.

BIG HARDLINE FANS... Approximately 50 feet of cablewave 3 inch size air heliax. This is in good condition. The first to haul it away gets it!!! FREE!!
Contact Fred, N1DPM at 413-786-7943 or FREDDPM@aol.com

ULTIMATE TVI FILTERS FOR WEAK SIGNAL OPS AVAILABLE AT THE NEXT MEETING!
Commercial CATV quality 75ohm 6 pole traps for 50.125 and 144.200. These filters are weatherproof and temperature compensated with typical loss at the tuned freq. of >90 dB and loss across the VHF/UHF TV channels of <3 dB. The have a male F conn. on one end and female on the other and are 4” by .75” dia. They are $12.00 each plus $3.00 shipping and handling per order. I will bring them to the next meeting and will be offering at the meeting for $10.00 each, cash. Del Schier, KD1DU

WANTED: SYSTRON DONNER / KRUSE-STORK RF SWEEP PLUG IN MODULE FOR MODEL5000 (ANY BAND)
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At the Central States VHF Society Conference there was a meeting under the auspices of SMIRK to discuss a wider DX window for six meters. Emil, W3EP was present at that meeting and brought this to my attention and the NEWS Group. Emil sent a copy of a letter that is being circulated to active six meter operators and clubs which outlined the proposal.

Six meters and especially the DX window can become very crowded during good conditions and will only be getting more so with new rigs available (IC706's) and the Sunspot cycle peaking again. The letter essentially suggests that the DX window be 50.100 to 50.200. The DX calling frequency may stay at 50.110 or move to 50.125. The rest of the stateside and local activity should move up the band with a new domestic calling frequency of 50.200.

It sounds like a good idea to me and I think that our club's stand should be known with this and any band planning that effects VHF and above operation weak signal operation. At future meetings we should put this out for discussion and publicly let our group's opinion be known. If we are not influential with issues like this our area of the hobby may become less enjoyable or nonexistent, it can only be to our benefit to take an active role in planning operation not only six meters but perhaps two meters as well.

See you at the next meeting.
Del, KD1DU