



N.E.W.S. LETTER

The Publication of the North East Weak Signal Group



April 2009

Volume Eighteen

Issue 3

President: N1JEZ, Mike Seguin
Vice President: KA1OJ, Mark Foster

Current Officers
NEWSLetter Editor: W1FKF, Don Twombly

Secretary: W1GHZ, Paul Wade
Treasurer: WA1MBA, Tom Williams

Next Meeting 4:30

35th EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE:
APRIL 17-19, 2009
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL (860)-741-2211
1 BRIGHT MEADOW BLVD. (OFF RT.5)
ENFIELD, CT 06082

SUNDAY

8:00am-11am VHF-SHF SWAPnSELL

(bring your VHF-SHF goodies and lots of money)

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Don't Forget

The North East Weak Signal Group
2 Meter VHF and Above Net
Every Thursday at 8:30 PM Local 144.250

MEMBERSHIP in the N.E.W.S Group is \$15 per year. Apply to Tom Williams, WA1MBA.

Email mw@wa1mba.org You may download an application from our web page <http://www.newsvhf.com/>

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The President's Corner

Spring in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. I'm up at my camp in FN44ar as I write this. I gaze out the window at the 'snow stake' and it shows 30" still on the ground. I ran the snow-blower for an hour yesterday to dig out. I know spring is coming soon. The local sugarhouses are boiling and the roads are starting to show signs of mud season.

This weekend is the annual open house for the local sugar makers, so I'm heading down off the mountain to visit and sample some of this year's early crop. Also on tap is the annual 'Pond Skim' at Burke Mtn. As with most ski areas, Burke has a pond near its base that it uses as a reservoir for snow making. Each year brave souls come screaming down the mountain hoping they have sufficient momentum in an attempt to try and 'skim' across the pond and reach the far side before sinking into its icing water. I guess it's a rite of passage or something...

Our April conference is just around the corner. The presentations look excellent and we'll have the usual plethora of prizes at the banquet Saturday night. I hope to see you all there.

Once again, we will hold our Picnic at the K of C Pavilion in July. As usual, we will have MDS and power testing on 10/24 GHz. This is not a formal contest, but more of a test session so we all can see how our equipment is performing. This is also an excellent place to pick up ideas on equipment packaging and performance improvements. Ken, W1RIL and I plan to try 122 GHz this year! I'm working on getting my LO reflocked to GPS in time for the test.

Also at the Picnic, we'll have our election of officers. This will include a full slate from President through the BOD's seats. Please consider stepping up and helping support our club by running for office.

We have changed the date of our September meeting to October 3rd. This was done so that we wouldn't conflict with the PackRats conference being held over the September 26th weekend.

A big thanks to all that participated in the 'show and tell' at the last meeting. From what I heard, everyone really enjoyed the program!

I just arrived back from the Gray's Sugarhouse at High Meadow Farm in Burke. They're one of the few sugar makers in Vermont whose evaporator runs on LP gas. The burners put out 2.7 million BTU's and they consume 30 gallons of LP per hour.... Fortunately, they run reverse osmosis on the sap to reduce water content before boiling. From the time they touched off the burners until maple syrup was running off the pan was only 15 minutes. I'm pretty full of sugar on snow, raised doughnuts and sour pickles. Could be time for a nap....
Mike N1JEZ

From our Treasurer

We continue to have a fairly constant membership level as we lose a few members and gain some each year. Our treasury is in good shape, but as mentioned at the last meeting we have to be aware that a growing fraction of us have paid our dues ahead. Because of this the treasury is somewhat larger numerically this year than it has been in previous years.

With this recently warming weather, my thoughts are moving towards both dreams of hitting hill tops and the reality of the broken stuff up on the tower. Spring is a great time to plan for all the things we can do in the warm months. One way I enjoy welcoming in Spring is the Eastern VHF conference. Hope to see you there.

Tom WA1MBA

From our Secretary

NEWS Meeting 7 March 2009, Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA

Next meeting 18 April 2009 at the Eastern VHF/UHF Conference

Board of Directors meeting convened 1220 at Royal Buffet, Enfield, CT

Agenda for NEWS meeting:

- Tom has RSGB books
- President and VP open for election
- show and tell
- new NEWSletter software

Board meeting adjourned 1231

NEWS Meeting , Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA

Called to order by President, N1JEZ, at 1315

TREASURERS REPORT

- 93 paid members + 13 permanent members
- current balance \$3211

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- RSGB Backscatter books available from WA1MBA
- 1 person noticed NEWSletter software change
- N2LIV VHF conference announcement: for reservations - ask for in-house reservations => NEWSgroup
- N2LIV and WZ1V updating website
- 2M interference - W1RIL filed formal complaint with FCC
- President and VP are open for nominations at July picnic

TREASURERS REPORT

- 93 paid members + 13 permanent members - current balance \$3211

OLD BUSINESS none

NEW BUSINESS none

Meeting adjourned 1335

PROGRAM - Show and Tell session

Contributions by

- N1JEZ - W1RIL -K1WHS - WZ1V -W1FKF - K1OR and K1CA
- W1GHZ - anyone I forgot?

Secretary's Note - Several members told me that they liked this program.

EVE ! - Radio Amateurs bounce a signal off Venus
Radio Amateurs have achieved the very first reception of amateur signals bounced off the planet Venus, over 50 million km away - EVE (Earth-Venus-Earth) <http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=198334>

**35th EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE:
 APRIL 17-19, 2009
 CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL (860)-741-2211
 1 BRIGHT MEADOW BLVD. (OFF RT.5)
 ENFIELD, CT 06082**

4/17/09 FRIDAY LODGING

6:00pm 'til HOSPITALITY ROOM Socializing, Photo displays
 Snacks, Refreshments and More.

4/18/09 SATURDAY REGISTRATION, FORMAL TALKS, BANDESESSIONS, LABORATORY TEST SESSION, EQUIPMENT VENDORS & MUCH, MUCH MORE.

7:30am REGISTRATION BEGINS

8:30am TALKS BEGIN We have the following set up:

8:45 am ANNOUNCEMENT more to come soon

9:00am Dale Clement, AF1T - Basic Antenna Theory

9:15am Ron Klimas WZ1V 6,2 & 222 BANDESESSION,

10:00am Paul Wade, W1GHZ, author of QST MicroWavelengths column - WaveGuide Filters

10:00am Jeff Klein K1TEO 432, 903 & 1296 BANDESESSION,

10:45am AUCTION/BREAK,

11:00am Brian Skutt, ND3F - Backpack Rover - Updated

11:00am Someone Goode W1 2304 & up BANDESESSION,

12:00pm LUNCH (on your own)

1:00pm AUCTION,

1:15pm Paul Drexler W2PED - 24 GHz Updates

2:00pm Phil Theis, K3TUF - Digital Station Enhancements

2:00 - 5pm Test Lab to 50 GHz - Greg Bonaguide, WA1VUG Rohde & Schwarz America

3:00pm Ken Schofield, W1RIL - 60 Years of Building

4:00pm BREAK

4:30pm NEWS MEETING - N1JEZ

7:00pm BANQUET (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, Art Holmes W1RZF and Michele Bergh W1MKY

4/19/09 SUNDAY

8:00am-11am VHF-SHF SWAPnSELL - Mark Casey - K1MAP
 (bring your VHF-SHF goodies and lots of money)

DIRECTIONS & RESEVATIONS

FROM SPRINGFIELD, I-91 TO EXIT 49, LEFT OFF RAMP, TAKE 2ND RIGHT.

FROM HARTFORD, I-91 TO EXIT 49. RIGHT OFF RAMP, TAKE FIRST RIGHT

EACH REGULAR REGISTRANT RECEIVES A COPY OF THE PROCEEDINGS ON CD AND IS ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZE DRAWINGS.

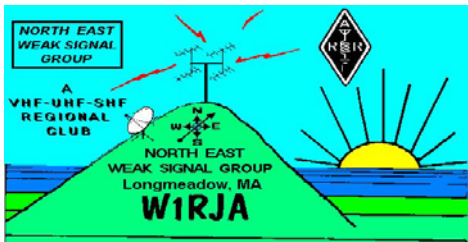
OVERNIGHT RATES \$99, MENTION NEWS GROUP BY MARCH 17, 2009

CALL (860) 741-2211 for CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL IN-HOUSE RESERVATIONS

The aim of the Conference is to share with our fellow VHFer's and above technical achievements in the field of communication and experimentation. You are all invited to participate by presenting a technical paper or submitting one for publication in the Conference Proceedings CD. Just your attendance is also welcome and we have a full program scheduled once again this year. If you are interested in presenting a paper at the conference or submitting one for the Proceedings please contact: Bruce Wood, N2LIV at N2LIV@ARRL.NET

For the technical presentations, PowerPoint presentations are preferred, but not required. The conference will provide an LCD projector, screen and wireless microphone for use by its participants. If your presentation requires a different format such as a slide projector, please contact me prior to the conference and I will arrange for it. A Conference Proceedings will be published on CD. You do not need to be a speaker to have your material included in the proceedings, just interested in sharing with your fellow radio enthusiasts, so please send it along by MARCH 15, 2009. In addition to our technical presentations and world famous Bandsessions we'll have a new LAB Session with Noise Figure, Gain and Power Measurements and a Manufacturers Demo area which will be open Saturday afternoon. We encourage you to bring equipment to test. We'll also have Greg Bonaguide, WA1VUG of Rohde & Schwarz America to manage the preamp noise figure and gain measurement Lab Session (0MHz-50GHz), and Mark Casey, K1MAP and Art Needham W1TDS to head up the Sunday morning flea market. Art Holmes W1RZF and Michele Bergh W1MKY will head the Prize Donations. This years' VHF-SHF Trivia Quiz will be hosted by Dale Clement, AF1T. The Proceedings CD with the event schedule and many interesting articles is included with your conference registration fee and will be presented to you when you arrive. Hope to see you soon!

<p><i>Conference Chairman and Proceedings Editor:</i></p> <p align="center">Bruce Wood, N2LIV 3 Maple Glen Ln. Nesconset, N.Y. 11767-1711 631-265-1015 Home 516-928-0698 Ext 210 Work</p>	<p align="center"><i>Door Prize Coordinators:</i></p> <p align="center">Art Holmes - W1RZF and Michele Bergh W1MKY</p> <p align="center"><i>Ship Door prizes to:</i></p> <p align="center">Hampden Hardware, Mark Casey, 480 Main St, Hampden, MA 01036.</p>	<p align="center"><i>SWAP n SELL INFO:</i></p> <p align="center">MARK CASEY, K1MAP 303 Main Street Hampden, Mass 01036 (413) 566-8118 (work)</p>
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N.E.W.S. Group Membership Application

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ 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 comradely 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: Don Twombly, W 1FKF 23 Maura Dr. Woburn, MA 01801 Email: donw1fkf-news (at) yahoo (dot) com. Dues are \$15/year. Remember, this group is formed by VHF'ers for VHF'ers.

Mail to:

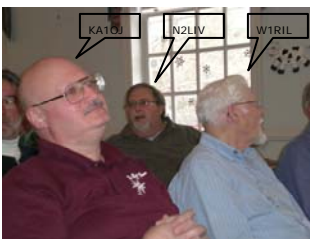
North East Weak Signal Group

c/o WA1MBA Tom Williams PO Box 28

Shutesbury, MA 01072

Email: tomw (at) wa1mba (dot) org

Meeting March 2009

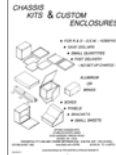




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**N.E.W.S Hats will be available at the next meeting!
\$12 each - cash (bring some singles please) or check.
See Mark, KA1OJ**

***Don't Forget*
The North East Weak Signal Group
2 Meter VHF and Above Net
Every Thursday at 8:30 PM Local 144.250
W1COT, WZ1V or K1PXE Net Control**

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!