

N.E.W.S. LETTER

The Publication of the North East Weak Signal Group

April, 2013

Volume 22

Issue 3

SPECIAL CONFERENCE ISSUE

2013 Eastern VHF-UHF-MW Conference

April 26-27-28, 2013

Baymont Inn-- 20 Taylor St., Manchester, CT Hotel Tel# 860-643-5645

2013 Meeting Dates

April 27 (VHF Conf!!!), July 13 (Picnic!!!), Sept 28, Nov. 23

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](mailto:tomw(at)wa1mba.org) 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 to Tom Filecco W1WSO, via email to w1wso@comcast.net.

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2013 NEWS CALENDAR:

April 16, 1900-2300 Local - [222 MHz Spring Sprint](#)

April 21 - Lyrids meteor shower

April 19-20 - [Southeastern VHF Society Conference](#)

April 24, 1900-2300 Local - [432 MHz Spring Sprint](#)

*** April 26-28 - [Eastern VHF-UHF Conference](#) ***

May 3-4 - [New England Amateur Radio Festival - Deerfield, NH](#)

May 4, 0600-1300 Local - [Microwave Spring Sprint](#)

May 11-12, 2300-0300Z - [50 MHz Spring Sprint](#)

May 17-19 - [Dayton Hamfest](#)

June 8-10, 1800Z-0300Z - [ARRL June VHF QSO Party](#)

June 29 - [Rochester NY RARA Hamfest](#)

*** July 13, 11AM - 4PM - [N.E.W.S. Group Picnic](#) ***

July 20-21, 1800Z - 2100Z - [CQ Worldwide VHF Contest](#)

August 3-4, 1800Z - 1800Z - [ARRL UHF Contest](#)

August 10, 2300-0300 UTC - [50 MHz Fall Sprint](#)

August 12 - Perseids meteor shower

August 17-18, 6AM - 11:59:59PM - [ARRL 10-GHz & up Cumulative Contest](#)

September 7-9, 1800Z-0300Z - [ARRL September VHF QSO Party](#)

September 14-15, 6AM - 11:59:59PM - [ARRL 10-GHz & up Cumulative Contest](#)

September 16, 1900-2300 Local - [144 MHz Fall Sprint](#)

September 24, 1900-2300 Local - [222 MHz Fall Sprint](#)

September 28, 1PM - 4PM - [N.E.W.S. Group Meeting](#)

September 29 ? - [Mt. Airy \(PackRats\) Hamarama](#)

October 2, 1900-2300 Local - [432 MHz Fall Sprint](#)

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

October 12, 0600-1200 Local - [Microwave Fall Sprint](#)

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

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

November 17 - Leonids meteor shower

December 12 - Geminids meteor shower

Secretary's Report

NEWS Meeting 9 March 2013, Storrs Library,
Longmeadow, MA

Preceded by a Board of Directors meeting at Lulu's
Restaurant

President WA2AAU called meeting to order at 1308

TREASURERS REPORT by WA1MBA

- 99 paid members to date + 14 permanent members
- Balance \$4648
 - Report Approved unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

-Eastern VHF/UJF Conference April 26-28

* Registration help needed.

* Additional speakers needed. Volunteers:

= W1TR - Whole House Backup Generator

Installation

= KI2L - Schematic to PCB using Eagle CAD

NEW BUSINESS

- NEWS Group won the first place gavel for the 2012 June
VHF contest

- 10 GHz contest: W1JHR is applying for a club permit for
Mt. Wachusett

MOTION by W1AIM to reimburse up to \$100 for permits,
and to make the 10 GHz contest an official club activity.
UNANIMOUS.

- K1BXC suggested club 6 meter net. No volunteers
to coordinate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- K1MAP - new Beacon W4FWS FN14ux 10368.130
- WA1MBA - 78 GHz amps almost complete
 - WZ1V described new W1RJA 2 meter beacon and
showed hardware; will be 144.275

PRESENTATION

KI2L - Makerspaces

-
- Shop skills not taught in schools
 - Community of folks who want to build things
 - Incubator for innovation - start business
 - Inspire people
 - Learning environment
 - Tool library
 - 3D printers
 - Welding is popular
 - Public Libraries - 3D printer - tinkerspace

Makerspace.org

What do you need?

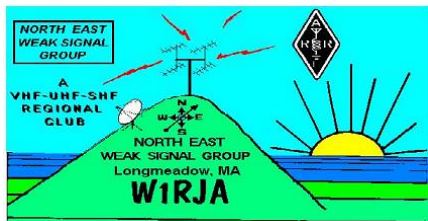
- Space
- Interested people
- Website
- Equipment
- A little funding
- Sharing resources
- Safety and education
- Lawyer to set up 503c corporation

Not expensive

- Old equipment
- Subscription or co-op
- Sponsor and grants

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1545

<http://www.w1ghz.org/>



39th EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE

APRIL 26-28, 2013
BAYMONT INN (860)-643-5645
20 TAYLOR ST. (OFF I-84)
MANCHESTER, CT 06042

For our friends Everywhere.....
We'd love to have you enjoy our Conference!
Come for the Interesting Talks, Swap-Buy-Sell,
Food & Good Company!

Only 3 weeks away! For Registration Just Go To: <http://www.newsvhf.com/vhfconf.html>

Call NOW, The Discounted Room Rate has been extended to April 15! \$69dbl, \$99suite Baymont Inn: 860-643-5645. Tell them "VHF Conference" to get the discounted rate. There is still a limited amount of rooms available—many have been sold already

Bradley International Airport (Hartford, CT), is close by the site (less than 1/2 hr) The New York and Boston airports are only a 2-3 hour drive.

Check out this link to see who is coming! - <http://www.newsvhf.com/whoscoming.html>

FRIDAY

6pm to ?--SUPER HOSPITALITY ROOM & INDOOR SWAP

(You will want to re-think going out to eat on Fri. Nite!)

SATURDAY

7am--FREE Continental BREAKFAST for those staying at the Baymont Hotel

7:30am-- Registration Opens

8am to 5pm--Welcome & Talks/Presentations & Indoor Vendors

10:30am-- AUCTION Break

12noon--Lunch (many nearby eateries)

1pm--Talks & Presentations resume, Indoor Vendors & TEST LAB by Greg Bonaguide of ROHDE & SCHWARZ

3pm--AUCTION & Afternoon HOSPITALITY BREAK

5pm--NEWS Group Meeting, all are welcome

5pm--Pre-Banquet HOSPITALITY ROOM

7pm-- BANQUET BUFFET,

Tom Kirby Award Presentation

Banquet Speaker – Someone Goode

VHF-Microwave Trivia Quiz, Paul Wade W1GHZ

DOOR PRIZE EXTRAVAGANZA

Here's a Preliminary List of Saturday's Presentations:

- Terry Glagowski, W1TR Whole House Backup Generator Installation
- Sigurd Kimpel, KJ1K Homebrew Yaesu Rotor Controller
- Rick Rosen, K1DS Rover Redux
- Steve Hicks, N5AC Flex SDR Performance
- Wayne Getchell, VE3CZO Power Amplifier for 23 cm - Concept to Prototype
- Paul Wade, W1GHZ Locked VCXO for Microwave Local Oscillators
- John D'Ausilio W1RT 3D printing for Microwave Horns
- John Seney WD1V Modern Oscilloscopes
- Bob Bownes KI2L Schematic to PCB using Eagle CAD
- Dick Frey, WA2AAU Elevated Antenna Range

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

SUNDAY

7am--FREE Continental BREAKFAST for those staying at the Baymont Hotel.

8am--(NO Earlier Please!) SWAP/TAILGATE in Parking Lot

On-Line or Mail-in Registration ONLY \$25 if registered by April 10, \$30 after April 10 and at the door

"Newcomers" Special Registration--for those who've NOT been to any VHF+Conference before and not ever been a member of NEWS or Packrats or any Weak Signal Group...Must Register by Email/Mail Only (Prepay by Mail Only) - \$10 if registered by April 10, \$15 after April 10 and at door

Mail to: Steve Simons, W1SMS, PO Box 8066, New Fairfield, CT, 06812

Saturday Night Dinner Banquet. \$28 -- must register for banquet before April 17.

Special Discounted Rates!!!!Double \$69.00, Suites \$99.00 You CAN reserve your room NOW! Rates in effect until April 15th. To Reserve for Friday or Saturday night, Call the Baymont Inn at 860-643-5645 and tell them you are with the "VHF Conference"

The suites are really SUPER and sure to sell out soon, (your YL will approve!) Hotel has FREE continental breakfast & FREE WiFi. Check out TripAdvisor great reviews!!

SwapN'Sell (Flea Market or Tailgate) Info:

Indoor Table Swap for Registered Guests only--no extra charge

Friday 7pm to 10pm & Sat 8am to 5pm --limited table space

Sunday 8am--Outdoor Tailgate--no charge for Registered Guests &

Non-registered Buyers--Non-Registered Sellers, \$10 space at gate

For SwapN'Sell Reservations, contact Mark Casey, K1MAP:

map1@mapinternet.com 413-566-8118 or 413-222-9292

Extra Proceedings CD's available (\$5) with online Registration

Sponsored by: North East Weak Signal Group (NEWS)

Questions? Contact K1MAP, WZ1V, W1GHZ, or N1JFU

or Email Mark, K1MAP: map1@mapinternet.com

Check: www.newsvhf.com for updates--MORE TO COME!

If you interested in presenting a talk or preparing a paper for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings please contact Paul Wade, W1GHZ Conference Co-Chairman.

DIRECTIONS

From Hartford: I-84 East to Exit 63, Stay Left on ramp, then Left on to Rt. 30 & 83 North, 2 blocks to Taylor St.on the Right.

From Boston & Worcester: I-90 West to I-84 West at Sturbridge. I-84 West to Exit 63, Keep Right on ramp, then Right on Rt 30 & 83 North 1/2 mile to Taylor St. on the Right.

From Springfield, Mass., Upstate New York & Vermont: I-91 South to Windsor, Ct, exit 35A to I-291 West to End at I-84. Then take I-84 East to Exit 63, Stay Left on ramp, then Left of to Rt. 30 & 83 North, 2 blocks to Taylor St. on the Right.

Nearby Eateries:

Shea's American Grille--Rt.30 (1/8 mile or walk to from hotel-NE)

Misaki Buffet & Sushi--Rt.30 (1/8 mile S or walk to)

Rein's NY Style Deli--Rt. 30 (2 miles NE)

Mitchell's Restaurant--1239 Rt.30, Vernon (4 miles NE)

Angelino's--Kelly Rd, off Rt 83 near TriCity Plaza(1.5 miles NE)

99--Rt. 30(2 miles NE)

Elmo's Dockside---Rt.30 (1/2 mile NE)

McDonalds---Rt. 30 (1/2 mile SW)

Subway--Rt. 30 (1/2 mile SW)

Applebees--Rt. 30 (1/2 mile SW)

Chipotle Mex Grille--Rt. 30 (1/2 mile SW)

Panera Bread--Rt. 30 (1/2 mile SW)

.....and MANY, MANY MORE!!

Nearby Attractions:

New England Air Museum at Bradley Int'l Airport, Windsor Locks, CT

Radio TV Museum, Windsor, CT

ARRL Headquarters, Newington, CT

Trolley Museum, East Windsor, CT

Basketball Hall of Fame, Springfield, MA

Springfield Quadrangle Museums, Springfield, MA

Yankee Candle, South Deerfield, MA

Old Sturbridge Village, Strubridge, MA

Old Deerfield, Deerfield, MA

Eastern States Exposition (The Big E), West Springfield, MA

Foxwoods Casino, Mashantucket, CT

Mohegan Sun Casino, Montville, CT

Mystic Seaport, Mystic, CT

Mystic Aquarium, Mystic, CT

Buckland Mall, Manchester, CT

Nearby Colleges:

Amherst, Yale, UMass, UConn, Smith, Trinity, U of Hartford, Springfield, AIC, Western New England Univ, and many more.

Boston and New York are each, 100 miles. Southern Vermont and New Hampshire are about 80 miles. The Connecticut coast is only about 50-60 miles south.

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Classifieds

Please send all classified ads to w1wso@comcast.net.

For Sale:

All radios are in perfect operating condition, except where noted, and come with original manuals and some with boxes. Pick up in Lebanon CT or will deliver to April 27 VHF Conference in Manchester CT. Emil Pocock, W3EP@ARRL.net - 860 642-7271

TS-790A 144/432/1296 CW/SSB/FM, with 1296 (UT-10) module. Transmit on one band, listen on the other. Designed for satellite work, but ideal for general VHF operating and contesting. \$1100

FT-817ND with Collins CW filter and some accessories. \$500

IC-706 \$350

Tempo 2002 2m KW amplifier (2x 8874) \$500

TR-9130 2m 25W CW/SSB/FM mobile. Nice for transverter IF or beacon. \$100

Elecraft XV144 and XV432 transverters, professionally built. \$300 each

DEM 23LNA 1296 premap, never used. \$75

Maha MH-A103 2m amp, 5W in, 50W out, never used. \$100

Ask about 144, 432, 1296 Yagis and 4-way power dividers.

WA1ZMS Update

The WA1ZMS Trans-Atlantic transmitter on 144.285MHz did suffer some ice damage to the antenna system, but all has been repaired and any reports are welcome.

An application for a 2013 Trans-Atlantic beacon on 4m has been submitted to the FCC, but I do not know if they will grant yet again this year. The goal is NOT to establish a 4m ham band in the US. Transmissions are only one-way, and no QSOs are allowed.

I am VERY fortunate to have a site where there is very little TV Ch4 operations and I can be accommodated by the Society of Broadcast Engineers.

So I am grateful to them for their allowing me to try Eskip to Europe again this year if the FCC gives the OK.

-Brian, WA1ZMS/4

From The Mailbox:

From: "Ken Kent - KA2LIM" <ka2lim@stny.rr.com>

Subject: grid locator to 10 digit

Type in your 4 or 6 digit grid, click the (show) button, zoom in the map to your exact location, put the cursor on the spot and left click it and your 10 digit grid will show plus your exact Lat. and Long. The K2LIM contest station is FN12mg02jr.

<http://no.nonsense.ee/qthmap/>

Ken

From: "Ron WZ1V" <wz1v@arrl.net>

Subject: 6 digit grid lookup by Callsign

Handy tool to help figure where to point. When you hear a callsign, enter it here and you'll get the station's 6 digit grid and exact location on a map:

http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php

-73, Ron WZ1V

Editorial

By Tom Filecco, W1WSO
w1wso@comcast.net

At the end of the month our club will be having our annual VHF/UHF Conference. It's a time for us radio amateurs in the Northeast Weak Signal community to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow hams, share our hobby accomplishments from the past year, and engage in a little hamfest horse-trading. I've found our club's conferences to be one of the more enjoyable amateur radio events I've attended, and I know that those of you who have also attended them have had a similarly positive experience.

Our last month's distribution for the NEWS Letter was 93 email addresses, plus a few members who continue to receive a hardcopy via USPS. In comparison, the number of amateur radio licenses in the New England ARRL region is roughly 34,000. The Atlantic ARRL Region, also in our clubs coverage area, has around 54,000 hams in it.

With figures like that, I'm certain that you have some friends in the amateur radio fraternity who are not club members. Perhaps they may be interested in VHF/UHF and microwave weak signal operation? All of the weak signal bands are available to even an entry-level license, and it is easy enough for any ham to start working weak signal on 50, 144, and 432 MHz.

This year we have a special reduced rate for hams who have never been to our conference. It opens up a golden opportunity to introduce fellow amateurs to one of best communities of our hobby.

If you are attending the conference this year, bring a friend. They can either be a ham who has not been introduced to weak-signal operating, or even a non-ham who has an interest in the hobby.

If you are attending the conference this year, consider bringing a small folding table and a box or two of weak-signal ham gear or parts that are excess to needs. There will be mini-swap/sell Friday night, and a hamfest on Sunday. Your old "junque" might get another new weak-signal operator on the air.

We have one of the best communities in the amateur radio fraternity, and introducing more of our fellow hams to weak-signal work will only make it better.

See you at the conference!

73,
Tom, W1WSO

2013 VHF/UHF Conference Supporters



Directive Systems.



Fred Stefanik



Warren Stone 222 MHz amplifiers

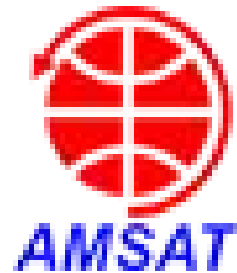
<http://members.renlist.org/warren/larcanamps.html>

Paul Wade, Dick Frey

If we missed any Supporters
Contact Mark K1MAP

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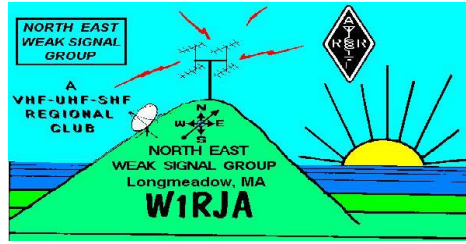
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ARRL member? Y N Electronic Newsletter Delivery? Y N

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:

North East Weak Signal Group
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!

