!!!Club Picnic!!!

Saturday July 13, 2013 -- 11am to 3pm or later.
N.E.W.S. Group PICNIC-Rain or Shine:
Knights of Columbus, Picnic area and Pavilion,
371 Washington Rd., (or George Washington Road) Enfield, CT 06082
(20 mi N of Hartford, 8 miles S of Springfield)

2013 Meeting Dates
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 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
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Filecco W1WSO, via email to w1wso@comcast.net.
N.E.W.S. GROUP OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
WA2AAU, Dick Frey
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Delanson, NY 12053, FN22vs
Home: 518-895-2798
rlfbauer @ gmail.com
ACTIVE ON: 6, 2, 222, 432, 903, 1296, 2304, 3456, 5760, 10 GHz, 24 GHz.

VICE PRES:
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80 Walnut St.
West Bridgewater, MA 02379 FN42la
Home: 508-345-3742
smeuse @ gmail.com
ACTIVE ON: 6, 2, 222, 432, 10 GHz.

SECRETARY:
W1GHZ, Paul Wade
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Cell: 802-498-4797
w1ghz @ arrl.net
ACTIVE ON: 6, 2, 222, 432, 10GHz, more to come.

TREASURER:
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w1wso @ comcast.net
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K1MAP, Mark Casey
303 Main Street,
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map @ mapinternet.com
ACTIVE ON:6, 2, 222, 432, 903, 1296, 2304, 3456, 5760, 10 GHz

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
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Lebanon ME 04027, FN43mj
Home: 207-658-7758
k1whs @ metrocast.net
ACTIVE ON: 6, 2, 222, 432, 903, 1296, 2304, 3456, 5760, 10 GHz, 24 GHz.

N1DPM: Fred Stefanik (1 yr)
50 Witheridge St,
Feeding Hills, MA. 01030, FN32qb
Home: 413-786-7943
n1dpm @ verizon.net
ACTIVE ON: 6, 2, 222, 432, 903, 1296, 2304, 3456, 5760, 10 GHz.

W1COT: Bob Leiper (1 yr)
47 Diane Dr,
Vernon, CT 06066, FN31st
Home: 860-649-6690
releiper @ ix.netcom.com
ACTIVE ON: 6, 2

W1ZC: Dick Wilborg (2 yr)
791 Brookline Rd,
Mason, NH. 03048, FN42dr
Home: 603-878-3680
w1zc @ myfairpoint.net
ACTIVE ON: 6, 2, 432, 1296
2013 NEWS CALENDAR:

*** 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
Minutes of NEWS meeting 27 April 2013 at the
39th Eastern VHF/UHF Conference at the
Baymont Hotel, Manchester, CT
President WA1AAU called meeting to order at 1714Z
NEW BUSINESS
K3TUF described changes to VHF Sprints
• Rule 7 scrapped
• PackRats have been asked to sponsor Sprints. He suggests 4 VHF groups sponsor 1 sprint each, every other year
• Consensus of meeting to consider
Meeting adjourned 1730
- Paul, W1GHZ

Treasurer's Report
We’re coming up to the end of our club and fiscal year which occurs at the July picnic annual meeting. If you have not renewed your dues for 2014 yet, let this be your first reminder. If you attend the picnic you can review the database which I will print, provide for corrections, and see whether you are paid up for 2014 yet. Bring your checkbook or cash. Annual dues are still $15. If you are not attending, I will be sending out a reminder via email and by post to those who do not get email to those who are not prepaid for 2014.
Meanwhile, the treasury is in pretty good shape. We have spent as predicted and kept ahead of our needs so that we are in good shape to fund the good works we want to accomplish in the upcoming year. Our membership is holding steady as we continue to gain just as many members as we lose. Thanks to all our members who have encouraged others to attend and join!

Looking forward to seeing you at the picnic.

- Tom, WA1MBA

N.E.W.S. Picnic MDS/ERP Testing

At the annual N.E.W.S. picnic, we usually have MDS (Minimum Discernable Signal) and ERP testing on 10 GHz and 24 GHz.

To test for MDS, we set up a distant signal source. After everyone has a chance to peak up on the signal, the signal level is reduced one dB at a time - when you can no longer hear it, then you have found the MDS for your system. You decide how well it works, and whether you can hear as well as Don and Dale.

As a double check, the frequency is moved a few KHz, then the signal level is increased one dB at a time. If you weren't kidding yourself, you should be able to find it at the same level as before.

Finally, we also check relative ERP, transmitting one at a time and recording the relative power received at the distant point.

This year, we will be doing 10 GHz and 24 GHz, and possibly higher bands. Tune up your rigs now, then bring them to the picnic to check out so you will be ready for upcoming contests and activity.

- Paul, W1GHZ

From Our Readers:

Brian, WA1ZMS reports:

1) I have WG2XPN running as a 4m, 70.005MHz Trans-Atlantic Eskip radio science beacon running this summer from the same QTH as WA1ZMS on 144.285MHz, FM07fm. Reports are welcome and please spot on the DX cluster. This project is *NOT* to carve a 4m band in the US.

As in years past, it is to help act as beacon for the EU to start to listen for possible 2m TA which is my personal goal.

Also for 2m TA efforts......a new UK beacon is QRV!

2) Press release:

New GB3WGI 144MHz transatlantic beacon goes live with G2FKZ legacy funding.

The GB3WGI Transatlantic 144MHz beacon went live at 1600 GMT on the 4th of June in time for the peak of the 2013 Sporadic E season. The beacon runs 100 Watts EIRP in CW and JT65b modes on 144.487MHz and is located in the West of Northern Ireland (IO64bl). The plan is to apply for an increase in EIRP in due course.

The beacon's function is to provide an early warning of 144MHz Transatlantic propagation on the Europe to USA path as a complement to the existing 144MHz Transatlantic beacon network in the USA which provides alerts on the USA to Europe path. It also aims to encourage participation in the IRTS Brendan Trophy and to further study the propagation path using weak signal digital modes (WSJT) developed by Nobel Laureate Professor Joe Taylor K1JT. It is hoped that the project will benefit amateurs interested in 144MHz long distance weak signal working as well as those generally interested in digital modes, and could provide the first real evidence of transatlantic propagation from the US to North West Europe.

Current 144MHz European transatlantic beacons are much further to the South and/or East in Cornwall, France and the Azores. GB3WGI has a clear sea takeoff to the eastern seaboard of the USA.

The beacon was supported by a number of amateur donations including The City of Belfast Radio Amateur Society, but the major donation of £500 was made by the RSBG Propagation Studies Committee from the legacy left by the late Charlie Newton G2FKZ. The bulk of this went on the beacon, the remainder to fund beacon driver development for future beacons. Charlie Newton, wrote the definitive book on radio auroras, and was acknowledged as one of the


leading experts on the topic of VHF propagation. He was for many years a leading light in the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) Propagation Studies Committee.

Acknowledgments also go to Brian WA1ZMS who inspired the concept of GB3WGI, Andy G4JNT who designed and built the driver, Powabeam Antennas and The DX Shop who supplied parts for the antenna system, to James G3RUH who provided a GPSDO reference, to Murray G6JYB for Ofcom liaison, to John GI4BWM and Dave G14SNA and of course to beacon keeper and site manager Gordon Curry GI6ATZ who really drove the project through to completion.

John Worsnop, G4BAO
7th June 2013

Ron WZ1V sent the following picture:

New W1RJA 144.275 FN41CU 20 Watt beacon

NEWS Picnic
To All of our NEWS members, Packrats, and all other Weak Signal Friends!!
Please Come!
Saturday July 13, 2013 -- 11am to 3pm or later.
N.E.W.S. Group PICNIC-Rain or Shine:
Knights of Columbus, Picnic area and Pavilion,
371 Washington Rd., (or George Washington Road) Enfield, CT 06082
(20 mi N of Hartford, 8 miles S of Springfield)

Featuring:
• Social Gathering
• Swap-Sell-Tailgate
• Meeting
• Elections
11am to 3pm or later
BARBECUE - Noon to 1:00pm
The club will be providing the burgers, hot dogs, chips, and cold drinks.
If anyone would like to bring a side dish, like a salad, or dessert, please do! (Please e-mail me what you are bringing--if possible)
Please bring any items of VHF+ interest that you would like to sell, swap, or just show off.
Your stories and experiences--True or Not-- are all welcome.
Show-Off Items with No VHF+ interest, but with Entertainment Value may also be appreciated or ridiculed--take your chances, just keep it clean.

All members, spouses, guests, and anyone interested in VHF+ operations, are welcome to attend.

Here’s the directions:
Knights of Columbus, Picnic Area
371 Washington Rd, Enfield, CT 06082
>From the South or North:
I-91 exit 48 onto Rt 220 East (Elm St), then 9 lights.
Keep Left at light before Walgreens
Left At 9th traffic light from exit 48, (GiGi's vegetable stand on your right)
On to 371 Washington Rd., K of C is 1 mile on left.
Lost going that way? Try this:
I-91 exit 49, go south on Enfield St Rt.5
Drive 1/2 mile, take a left on Brainard Rd. (at North Thompsonville Fire Station)
Drive 2 miles, take right on Washington Rd.
K of C will be less than 1/2 mile on the right.
See You There!!
73 Mark K1MAP
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 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

http://www.flexradio.com/
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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!