

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

The Publication of the North East Weak Signal Group

July, 2013

Volume 22

Issue 4

## **!!!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/>

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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 doublecheck, 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 GI4SNA 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

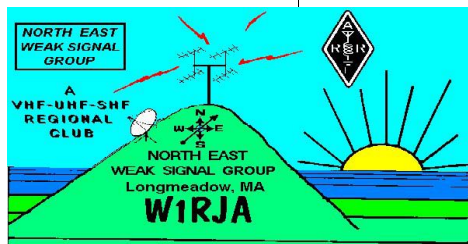
Drive 1/2 mile, take a left on Brainard Rd. (at North Thompsonville Fire Station)

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  
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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!