



N.E.W.S. LETTER



The Publication of the North East Weak Signal Group

MAR 2007

VOLUME SIXTEEN

ISSUE TWO

Pres: KA1OJ, Mark Foster
V P: N1JEZ, Michael Seguin

CURRENT OFFICERS

Secretary: W1GHZ Paul Wade
Treasurer: WA1MBA Tom Williams

NEXT MEETING

SATURDAY MAR 10TH AT

THE LIBRARY IN LONGMEADOW, MA

**WZ1V, WILL SHARE HIS THOUGHTS REGARDING THE JANUARY CONTEST,
AND PAUL, W1GHZ, WILL HOST A POWER METER CALIBRATION WORKSHOP**

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PREZ SEZ
DE KA10J

Greetings all, the next meeting date is March 10 at the Longmeadow Library.

I would like to announce that I now have more NEWS Group shirts. The new shirts (maroon) are a 50/50 Cotton/Poly blend which is considerably softer than the previous 100% cotton shirts. There are a limited number (8-L, 8-XL, 2 XXL) so we will give the first shot to the members that don't already have a shirt, then all others. The price is \$12 each. Please try to bring \$ones with you if you intend to buy.

On the agenda we have the "Worked All Bands Award" working group's recommendations. For the technical program Ron, WZ1V, will share his thoughts regarding the January contest, and Paul, W1GHZ, will host a Power Meter calibration workshop. This will be a prime opportunity to find out just how accurate are your HP432/435/etc chassis and power-heads.

The 2007 EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE is sooner than you think, April 20-22, consider making your arrangements now.

<http://www.newsvhf.com/vhfconf.html> -
N2LIV@ARRL.NET

I just received my March QST, which contains the 10GHz Contest results. It appears that on a regional basis, we got smoked by the W6 and W0 areas. Looking at their numbers it appears that they are getting many more QSOs out of fewer unique callsigns. In other words, they move a lot ! Another problem is that people are forgetting to submit their logs. Let's try to make a better showing this year !

73
Mark KA10J

SECRETARY'S REPORT OF THE NEWS
BOARD MEETING 6 JANUARY 2007

Board meeting convended 1200 at Friendly's, Enfield, CT
Agenda for NEWS meeting:

- * W1LE - proposed constitution change
 - * KT1J - Worked All Bands award - proposed rule change
 - * WA1MBA- NEWSletter distribution
 - * duct tape auction
 - * show and tell
 - * N1JEZ presentation
- board meeting ended 1210

SECRETARY'S REPORT OF THE NEWS
MEETING 6 JANUARY 2007

Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA

Called to order by President, KA10J, at 1317
Announcements

- * N2LIV -Eastern VHF/UHF Conference April 20-22
- * W1LE - AMSAT needs \$ for new satellite
- * N2LIV - MUD 2007 will be in Philadelphia in October
- * KA1SUN - Mt. Greylock road will be closed for the next two years

N1MJD motion: NEWS to donate \$250 to AMSAT NA - PASSED, with 1 opposed
WA1MBA Treasurers report - current balance \$2046

New Business

- * WA1MBA - Treasurer maintains club database - will send NEWSletter to expired members with offer to renew for 1/2 year
- * N1EKV motion: to move Directors meeting March 10 to Home Town Buffet - PASSED 4-3 - directions in NEWSletter
- * W1LE motion: to amend club constitution to include weak signal operation at VLF, etc, by deleting words "on the bands above 50 MHz" from preamble - FAILED - 1 in favor
- * KT1J reported on enhanced Worked All Bands award - proposal to have incremental awards Commitee appointed to develop motion - KT1J, WA1AAU, W1LE, WA1MBA, N1JFU, K1WHS, N1JEZ

Visitors: K1ISR, W1OUN
A donation from W1RIL was auctioned.

Meeting adjourned 1520

Show and tell session - W1AUV, W1GHZ, N1EKV, KA10J

Presentation by N1JEZ on HD radio and TV on Mt. Mansfield, VT

Respectively submitted,
Paul Wade, W1GHZ

NEWS 2007 CALENDAR IS UP AT

<http://www.newsvhf.com/events.html>

THE LOCATION OF THE DIRECTORS MEETING WAS CHANGED

Here are the directions courtesy of Byron:
Home Town Buffet, Enfield CT, Brookside Plaza, 14 Hazard Ave., 860-741-8087 It is at the third CT exit on the interstate, Rte 190, (the first exit is the hotel), then turn left (East). The Buffet is in the first shopping mall on the right, at the extreme right end. It is open all day, but the lunch items replace breakfast items at 11:30, so it isn't a good idea to arrive too early. The salad bar is impressive. The food is very good and the price is right at \$7.50.

Byron had a limited number of discount cards. Check with him at the restaurant.

thanks
-Mark KA1OJ

MICROWAVE UPDATE 2007--CALL FOR PAPERS

Any topics related to microwave theory, construction, communication, deployment, propagation, antennas, activity, transmitters, receivers, components, amplifiers, communication modes, LASER and practical experiences welcome. Abstracts should be submitted by June 1 and completed papers and articles by August 15 Please submit your papers, articles and abstracts to W2PED pdrexler@hotmail.com or N2UO lu6dw@yahoo.com in MSWord or as a PDF. Diagrams, photos and illustrations preferred in black & white (color accepted). Hard copies may be mailed to: PAUL E DREXLER, 28 West Squan RD, Clarksburg NJ 08510

MICROWAVE UPDATE 2007 OCTOBER 18-19-20

Historic Valley Forge Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Thursday sightseeing or possible surplus tour Conference Fri & Sat; Flea Market Fri night Vendors on site; Banquet Sat night; Door prizes and raffles Hosted by the Pack Rats--Mt Airy VHF Radio Club Spouses, friends and family invited; hospitality room Alternative family/spouse programs available \$79 early-bird registration until 9/1 includes Conference, proceedings, and banquet. \$89 from 9/1-10/1; \$99 thereafter. Extra banquet Tickets \$39. Special hotel rate \$92 per night Full info and registration at www.microwaveupdate.org

Abstracts, papers and presentations may be sent to W2PED pdrexler@hotmail.com or N2UO lu6dw@yahoo.com

Questions to chairpersons K3TUF Phil@k3tuf.com
Or KB3HCL@arrl.net

CUSHCRAFT HAS BEEN SOLD !!

The well known manufacturer of Amateur Radio antennas has been sold to the British based Laird Group . Laird Technologies manufactures commercial products and antennas focused on the Security , RFID and WIMAX markets . CushCraft sold out for a reported \$89 Million. There is no word or information that shows if the new owners will continue the long standing Amateur Product line .

I can provide references : The article was first reported in The Journal of New England Technology on Feb. 27

Walt,
WA1HHN

K1UHF MAY BE QRV AGAIN

Some of you may know I broke my tower folding it over about three years ago. I hadn't been folding it over for most maintenance but finally it was time as two of my loop yagis had detached themselves, a year before I had noticed a slight increase in the two meter array's SWR and 2304 had no transmit.

My tower is a 80' Rohn fold over, one with a hinge at 40' using a big cantilever arm. The tower's fold over load was over limits but I thought I could get away with it. Turns out that when I had had the used tower re-galvanized they plugged up the drain holes in the bottom of the fold over arm. This filled with water and froze cracking one of the tubes at a critical point, thus causing the failure. I was lucky that more damage was not do when it failed. The crash bent the H frame uprights, busted the rotor and smashed my deck railing. Fortunately the deck absorbed the impact and the rest of the tower was OK.

Besides having to fixing the damage from the tower failure there was much work to be done that took the better part of two years. The tower's fold over arm was removed with the help of Russ N1EMF and a local ham welder did a good repair job and made a king post brace. The loop yagis were re-installed, this time, with nylock nuts instead of lock washers. The 2304 amp got dismantled and I found and replaced a blown transistor that switched the drains on for the RF FETs. While the tower was folded over the 12 volt supply failed on the 10 GHz transverter but the only damage that did was to fry the sequencer. While working on that transverter I found that the mixer was blown and with the help of the Microwave Reflector I got a replacement. The two meter array had a vaporized center pin on one of the four yagis and that got replaced. While working on the antennas to clean all the driven element connections I found that for years I had one of the home brew K1FO two meter yagis with a driven element a cm longer than the other three, oops. Just happened to be that one that had the melted connector. The rotor was un-repairable

and had to be replaced along with some new chain on the elevation rotor gear. Also I had to get new tubing and replace the uprights on the array and straighten the mast and cross boom.

The fold over arm is now cable braced with a king post (like the cable bracing on a construction crane). Trees had grown interfering with the tower but finally I had everything ready to go back up. With the help of Steve, KF6AJ I finally got it cranked back up.

The first thing I did was to check the SWR on two meters. Much to my disappointment the array had an infinite SWR. I was very discouraged and didn't get back to the problem very soon. To make matters worse, during all the tower work I had to move my entire station in the basement to make room for a new oil tank installation. Eventually I got around to doing some tests with a TDR and an ohmmeter but everything looked perfect. The only thing I could think from the testing was there was a short near the input to the power divider causing an infinite SWR. When the tower was folded over water got inside mast mounted preamp but I checked the preamp and relays but suspected the problem may have been a relays.

This February there was a warm Sunday and I got up the tower to remove the relays and preamp. Also shortly after the tower went back up a wind storm caused the mast to slip in the new rotor almost 180 degrees. I fixed the mast and removed the relays but the SWR was still infinite. I did think it was odd that I could receive the WA1ZMS beacon 415 miles away S 5-

9 24/7. At this point I was very puzzled and thought the tower would have to come down again: BUT..... I realized that I was using my IC746 Pro to check the SWR but with this radio that I had purchased used I had never made a contact on two meters. Sure enough I measured the SWR with another rig and it was dead perfect, not even a pointers width of reflected power.

Looks like I may be back in business once I finish moving the ham station in to the new basement room at the base of the tower. Things are going well and I may actually be on all the bands that I used to have again.

73, Del
K1UHF

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Henry 2004A 432 amplifier using (1) 3cx-800 at 1KW with less then 50hours of use. It is in pristine condition with no dents, dings or scratches. It has been extensively modified by Steve, K1FO which include gear reduction tuning, new output filter increasing harmonic rejection to 60db, new air flow design for better cooling and many other improvements. It can run in SSB or FM and is a very clean and stable amplifier. I also have a spare RF deck for this amp. All of this for just 1 dollar per watt.

I have (1) Am-6154 and (1) AM-6155 amps. Both have been modified, with the first on 2m which ran 500w out and the other for 432 which ran 400w out. Both are now not working. The 6155 is in mint shape and has one capacitor which that came disconnected and that maybe all that is wrong with the amp. I have spare tubes and an anode adapter ring allowing the use of a 4cx-250. I also have a spare chassis for misc parts.

All for \$150 or best offer.

Please contact me at K1IIG at ARRL.NET or 203-269-5777. If these units are not sold prior, I will bring them to the meeting in March.

Steve Tripp K1IIG



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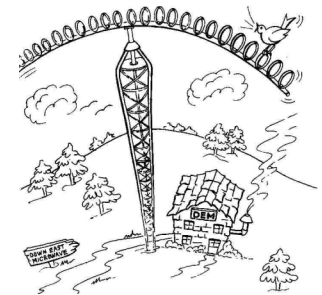
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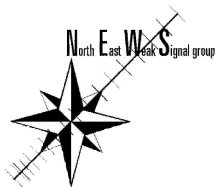
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