



N.E.W.S. LETTER

The Publication of the North East Weak Signal Group



March 2010

Volume 19

Issue 2

President: K1WHS, Dave Olean
Vice President: WZ1V, Ron Klimas

Current Officers
NEWSLetter Editor: W1FKF, Don Twombly

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

Next Meeting March 6, 2010

Presentation by
Gordon W1OUN

Coherent Radar Mapping of the Moon and Planets

The President's Corner.....	2
From our Secretary.....	2
From our Treasurer.....	3
Cabrillo submission for 10 GHz Contest	3
Arrl International EME Contest Rule change	3
36th EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE.....	4
NEWS Calendar & Comments	5
Comments January 2010 VHF/UHF Contest.....	7
Membership Application.....	8
Directions to Board meeting and Meeting.....	8
Our Sponsors.....	9

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**

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/>

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The President's Corner

I missed a great meeting in January, but the March meeting promises to be spectacular, with a presentation by Dr. Gordon Pettengill on radar mapping of the planets. Gordon was a driving force behind obtaining the first radar echoes from Venus. I believe the official title of his talk is "Coherent Radar Mapping of the Moon and Planets". Dr Pettengill will long be remembered as the fellow who figured out how to radar map the planets with precision and detail that is amazing. Do not miss the next meeting! He will tell us how it is done.

I am looking forward to the spring VHF season. The snow seems to be receding in Maine. I can drive up the hill, and it will not be long before the weather warms up enough that I can bring some of the gear back up there. The Spring Sprints usually are a good goal for me for "hooking up" the bands. The upcoming NEVHF Conference in mid April is another event that gets the VHF blood flowing. I spent much of the winter repairing and modifying gear.

The NEWS Group received the January Sweepstakes gavel for 2009. It is a handsome thing and along with other gavels in our possession, really needs a permanent home. At the moment the club president maintains the collection in a cardboard box.

I spent the January Contest in FN20BD at N3NGE. I had a great time working New England stations on the higher bands. I wish I could operate at a multi station that contributes to the NEWS club score. Len and crew did a bang up job with a score of 735 K. The QSO totals were very high. Some nice signals from the north included N1DPM in the low power category. NC1I on 432 was super loud with his huge EME array. It was great working the likes of AF1T, AC1J, W1RZF, and many others. Join us at the March meeting for a contest post mortem, and we can tell war stories about the January contest and the ones that got away. I might mention my new 160 meter amplifier!

From our Secretary

Minutes of NEWS meeting 9 January 2010

Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA

Directors meeting 1225

Old Business

- is Knights of Columbus reserved for picnic
- VHF Conference Apr 16-18
- MUD October 2011
- 900 MHz bandplane

New Business

- Light coherence rules
- Contest discussion

Vice-President WZ1V called meeting to order 1318

Next meeting March 6, 2010, Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA

Treasurers Report: 89 paid members, balance \$3514, projected expenses \$809

- W1NWE will reserve Knights of Columbus for picnic in July
- Microwave Update October 2011

NEW BUSINESS

K1EP, VUAC representative, led group discussion of some contest rules

- **light coherence rule** - precludes new LEDs - WA1MBA to gather club input
- **EME contest** - revisiting assisted class - N1DPM to gather club input
- **10 GHz contest log format**- N1JFU to gather club input
- more awards and VUCC submissions thru Logbook of World
- UHF contest

CONTEST DISCUSSION

NEWS Group was 1st in medium category in January 2009 and January 2008 by small margin - every entry counts ~ 17 said they will be on in January

- publish activity hours in NEWSletter

Duct Tape Auction was successful in redistributing some treasures

SHOW & TELL

W1FKF- IR digital thermometer

N1JEZ— attenuators and terminations:

<http://www.rflabs.com/microwavepassivecomponents-s3.html>

K1AE - Parametric Amplifier book by Jim Fisk with foreword by Wayne Green

Meeting adjourned 1538

From our Treasurer

Wow, its meeting time again already. The club was donated over \$50 during the duct-tape auction, and a few more dues were collected since the last report. Membership remains strong as does the treasury. I see that Bruce has sent out preliminary info about the upcoming conference, so Spring is around the corner. See you all at the March meeting.

73s Tom WA1MBA

Cabrillo submission for 10 GHz Contest

Steve Meuse N1JFU

I got a reply from Sean, KX9X. He said he would accept Cabrillo, so long as it contained all the same information that is required on the Summary page. Since the Cabrillo format doesn't specify many of those fields, I asked him if it would be ok to use the Soapbox: field, he said that was acceptable.

So, the end result is that the logs will still be processed by hand, but you can use Cabrillo if it's convenient for you.

I was successful in getting Tom, N1MU, to add distance based scoring to Roverlog, but it's not working 100% right now. The distance calculation is working fine, but the 100 points for each unique call isn't Tom said he would fix it, I just need to provide him with some data to work with. I've got half of my last years log entered, I just need to spend the time to do the rest. So, for next contest, we'll have at least one program that you can use for logging, if that's what you prefer (what I'll be doing).

-Steve

For Sale: Hilltop ranch home w/ horse barn in Bristol CT on 5A.950' asl excellent contesting site with 60' tower, multiple feeds. See details and photos <http://www.wz1v.com/ranch.html>

Serious inquiries only, thanks.

-73,
Ron



International EME Rule Change

Discussion

I volunteered to put together a position paper on behalf of the NEWS group . I have spoken with the active EME'ers in the club and tried to fold in their concerns as best as possible. I have done that and have sent it to the BOD of the NEWS group for comments and inclusion in the next NEWSLETTER. I have received no comments back from the BOD. As I recall this was to be re-discussed at the March meeting and then modified and voted on. So I am prepared to modify it appropriately at the meeting (during the break / on the fly) and get a consensus via a vote. We did not discuss publishing the draft on the NEWS reflector as this is an open reflector and this is a position paper from the club and it's members and not everyone on the reflector.

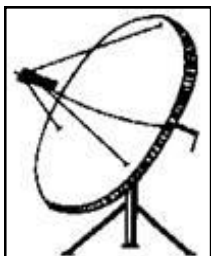
I suggest that we think about these questions and have an effective discussion at the club meeting.

Fred N1DPM

International EME Rule Change

(abbreviated Draft)

A number of our members past and present are, and or were, actively involved in EME operation. Some of these amateur operations date back to the early days of EME. This controversy is centered on the use of the Internet to allow communication between stations attempting to have an EME QSO. These QSO's can be on any band and mode that has EME activity and not just WSJT on the 2-meter band. Currently, the ARRL International EME Competition rules forbid the use of "non-amateur" communications for active coordination of QSO's during the contest period. Because of this, a number of stations that would normally and eagerly submit a score in this contest are not able to as they have used the internet for QSO coordination as is commonplace in everyday EME operations. There are many in the EME community that do not believe in the use of the Internet for this purpose. However, this is 2010 and these Internet pages such as the NOUK EME Logger page or Ping Jockey are a simple common modern "tool" available to amateurs to help foster activity in this mode on these bands. There are very clear guidelines on these pages for their use. It is stated they are not to be used once a QSO is underway or this activity voids the QSO. We agree this is proper and reasonable. We believe these Internet pages to simply be an "open channel" of communication that is being used to coordinate these EME QSO's around the world. This is openly visible communications between amateurs that anyone can view in virtual real time, without any special tools in this day and age We feel this is akin to doing the same thing on an amateur frequency that easily supports worldwide communications such as 20 or 40 meters, as it is not a "private communication" between 2 amateur stations and can be openly received by anyone. (Continued on Page 6)



**36th EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE:
APRIL 16-18, 2010
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL (860)-741-2211
1 BRIGHT MEADOW BLVD. (OFF RT.5)
ENFIELD, CT 06082**

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

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@optonline.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, 2010. In addition to our technical presentations and world famous Band sessions 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 (0 MHz-50GHz), and Mark Casey, K1MAP to head up the Sunday morning flea market. Art Holmes W1RZF and Michele Clement W1MKY will head the Prize Donations. This years' VHF-SHF Trivia Quiz will be hosted by Dave Olean, K1WHS. 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!

73,

Conference Chairman and Proceedings Editor:

Bruce Wood, N2LIV

3 Maple Glen Ln.

Nesconset, N.Y. 11767-1711

631-265-1015 Home

[Email N2LIV](mailto:N2LIV@optonline.net)

Door Prize Coordinators:

**Art Holmes - W1RZF and Michele Clement
W1MKY**

Ship Door prizes to:

**Art Holmes, 48 North Ave, Mendon, Ma
01756.**

[Email W1RZF](mailto:W1RZF@optonline.net) [Email W1MKY](mailto:W1MKY@optonline.net)

36th EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:

Registration: Pay Pal <http://www.newsvhf.com/regpayp.html> form

Print Mail in registration Form: <http://www.newsvhf.com/regmail.html>

2010 North East Weak Signal Group VHF

CALENDAR:

Tentative 2010 dates:

March 6, 1PM - 4PM - [N.E.W.S. Group Meeting](#)
April 5?, 1900-2300 Local - [144 MHz Spring Sprint](#)
April 13?, 1900-2300 Local - [222 MHz Spring Sprint](#)
April 16-18 - [Eastern VHF-UHF Conference](#)
April 21?, 1900-2300 Local - [432 MHz Spring Sprint](#)
April 22, ?????Z - Lyrids meteor shower
April 23-24 - [Southeastern VHF Society Conference](#)
April 30-May 1 - [New England Amateur Radio Festival - Deerfield, NH](#)
May 1?, 0600-1300 Local - [Microwave Spring Sprint](#)
May 8?, 2300Z-0300Z - [50 MHz Spring Sprint](#)
May 14-16 - [Dayton Hamfest](#)
June 5 - [Rochester NY RARA Hamfest](#)
June 12-14, 1800Z-0300Z - [ARRL June VHF QSO Party](#)
July 10, 11AM - 4PM - [N.E.W.S. Group Picnic](#)
July 17-18, 1800Z - 2100Z - [CQ Worldwide VHF Contest](#)
August 7-8, 1800Z - 1800Z - ARRL UHF Contest
August 12, ?????Z - Perseids meteor shower
August 21-22, 6AM - 11:59:59PM - ARRL 10-GHz & up Cumulative Contest
September 11-13, 1800Z-0300Z - [ARRL September VHF QSO Party](#)
September 18-19, 6AM - 11:59:59PM - ARRL 10-GHz & up Cumulative Contest
September 20?, 1900-2300 Local - [144 MHz Fall Sprint](#)
September 25-26? - [Mt. Airy VHF PackRats Conference and Hamarama](#)
September 28?, 1900-2300 Local - [222 MHz Fall Sprint](#)
October 2, 1PM - 4PM - [N.E.W.S. Group Meeting](#)
October 6?, 1900-2300 Local - [432 MHz Fall Sprint](#)
October 15-16? - [New England Amateur Radio Festival - Deerfield, NH](#)
October 16?, 0600-1200 Local - [Microwave Fall Sprint](#)
October 21-24? - [Microwave Update](#)
October 23?, 2300-0300 UTC - [50 MHz Fall Sprint](#)
November 13, 1PM - 4PM - [N.E.W.S. Group Meeting](#)
November 18, ?????Z - Leonids meteor shower



Southeastern VHF Society Conference

Morehead State University
Space Science Center
Morehead, Kentucky
April 23 - 24, 2010
Jeff Kruth, WA3ZKR
Conference Chair

<http://www.svhfs.org/conference.html>

Coherent (or not so Coherent)

Discussion

We decided to collect our thoughts so that we might have a club position to submit to the ARRL regarding contacts in the band above 275 GHz which is mostly active with lasers.

The present rule for contest qso's is Above 300 GHz, contacts are permitted for contest credit only between licensed amateurs using coherent radiation on transmission (for example, laser) and employing at least one stage of electronic detection on receive.

After quite a bit of discussion and clarification, we focused our discussion to consideration of just a few questions

- 1) **keep it the way it is.**
- 2) **drop the coherent part but leave the electronic detection.**
- 3) **devise a way to accommodate LED sources without permitting carbon arc or flame communication.**
- 4) **require that all contacts be at least one kilometer.**
- 5) **remove frequencies above some limit from contest qso's (no more lasers or lights for qso's)**

One example of a new rule which accommodates ideas 2 and 3 could be:

Above 300 GHz, contacts are permitted for contest credit only between licensed amateurs, capable of communicating greater than 1 km, employ at least one stage of electronic detection on receive, source bandwidth 10% or less of center frequency, legal governing rules about light and lasers will always apply.

I suggest that we think about these questions and have an effective discussion at the club meeting.

Tom WA1MBA

222 MHz Activity

Know that 222 Tuesday is *ON* every Tuesday. It's a nationwide effort to promote more activity on/near 222.100 SSB/CW and 223.500 FM simplex for the FM-only guys. Get on, call CQ, swing beams around, spread the word. Most folks have been getting on between about 0100-0300. Some use the 222 Propagation Logger. <http://dxworld.com/220prop.html>

The guys from the Dakotas down thru Texas have really been having fun with 222 Tuesdays, and I know of consistent activity in FLA, the area surrounding MI/OH, and on FM out toward CT. I hope others are spreading the word in their own area. Kc9bqa

I suggest we support this effort to get activity on 222. lets try 222.1 MHz at 8pm local time

art W1RZF

Conference Registration Help Needed

. Last minute organizational activities for the conference such as creation of the hand out packets, pick up of on-site supplies, creation and printing of the badges & meal tickets. Typically, this activity is done the Friday of the meeting as 95% of those who preregister have already done. I have most of the formats on the computer in Word so it is primarily a cut and paste activity. I will continue to maintain logging in of attendees and their payments

The candidate should also plan on attending the event to help with registration.

Call any time at 203.733.2110

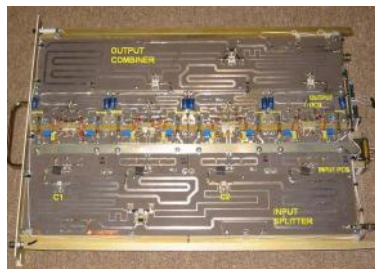
W1SMS

(Ex KF6AJ, WA3WAS)

Steven M. Simons ssimons@manitousys.com

6 Meter Larcan Conversion to 2 Meter - 1000 watts

MMRA - Larcan 6 Mtr. Power Amplifier <http://www.mmra.org/larcan/>



Conversion to 2 Mtrs.

By WA1ZMS

(Continued from page 3 EME Discussion)

The only difference being, is using amateur means or the Internet, however, both are "open" communications. We also feel that it fosters activity as it allows stations to find other stations, that once found can complete a QSO Finding these stations otherwise would be a challenge for some, a struggle for more, and, an impossibility for most, especially the newcomers to this mode of operation. Yes there are software-defined radios that make it possible to view a wide bandwidth of received signal at one time, but these are still far less common than the typical transceiver, especially for a newcomer trying to make their first EME QSO. What better time to do this than during the ARRL International EME Competition when there's an abundance of activity?

The NEWS Group would like to go on record of supporting the typical and proper use of these Internet pages during the ARRL International EME Competition. This is the typical use that is seen on a daily basis such as posting a CQ frequency (self spot) and/or letting someone else spot you, and a post after the QSO saying thanks for the QSO, as is typical and courteous in the normal use of the logger. The rules as outlined on these Internet pages work fine as is.

We would also like it to be included in the current contest structure as is and not made as a separate activity time. A separate activity time would dilute the activity not enhance it. We would also be open to supporting an assisted category in this competition, however, there are concerns. If this were done there is currently no way to police the non-assisted stations from "viewing" these pages without anyone knowing but them. Yes this is cheating, but, if the rules can be written to eliminate, or at the least reduce the possibility of this happening, it would be best. An example of this is...W1ABC posts on the EME logger page calling CQ on 144.123, 2nd, and he is operating in an assisted category. K7XYZ calls him back on his CQ. No one but K7XYZ has any idea if he just "found" W1ABC calling CQ, or he saw the post on the logger and is cheating without anyone knowing. Again this is "cheating", however there is no way to tell, so simply making assistance "legal" eliminates this possibility and keeps everyone honest.

We wholeheartedly agree with not allowing use of any "private communications". Examples of these are as follows, but are not limited to; private Internet communications such as SKYPE, email, telephone, cell phones, text messaging, etc. This is essentially any communication that is not "open" for the amateur community, or general public to see / hear.

Making of set skeds before the competition by any means is also a positive means of fostering activity and should remain as being allowed.

Thank you for taking the time to read, understand, and consider our position and views on this topic when reviewing the rules for future ARRL International EME Competitions.

Fred N1DPM

[n1dpm\(at\)verizon.net](mailto:n1dpm(at)verizon.net)

World Moon Bounce Day
echoesofapollo.com
April 17th
2010



<http://echoesofapollo.com/moon-bounce/>

Comment January 2010
VHF/VHF Contest

Just a reminder to all that the club is officially listed as:
 "North East Weak Signal Group"

I spent most of the weekend in the workshop, working folks here and there with my low power, small antenna setup on 2,222 and 432. Best DX was FN20 on 25w on 222 to N3NGE. I think I recognized the operator :)

Total score was just over 4.1K.

-Steve

N1JFU

Hi all,

Just posted my log to the ARRL Robot. For about 8 hours operating, I made:

50 -- 46 Qs, 10 grids (kw)
 144 -- 46 Qs, 10 grids (kw)
 432 -- 24 Qs, 6 grids (30 watts)
 Score: 3640

Category: single op, high power

Club: North East Weak Signal Group

Conditions: Band normal for January - no openings on 6 during the time I operated. Thanks to all that worked me...

For Spring Sprints/June VHF Contest, plans include boosting 432 to 350+ watts; adding 222 with 350 watts; and adding 903/1296 with more than 50 watts.

73, Bart W9JJ FN31to

Call: WZ1V
 Operator(s): WZ1V
 Station: WZ1V
 Class: Single Op HP
 QTH: FN31mp
 Operating Time (hrs): 19

Comments:
 No Es on 6 and poor condx on the microwaves made this contest chal-

lenging. Had a few exciting contacts like K4MHZ FM25 on 2M ssb, plus worked a few random FSK441, notably K2DRH EN41 on 6M who was sharp enough to type in "QSY 144.126" at the end, where we completed there as well. My plans to put in the full contest period were suddenly thwarted Sunday afternoon by sudden illness. By 7 PM I was comatose burning up with a high fever that hit me out of nowhere and sent my heart rate over 145. I wound up spending Sunday night in the emergency room. It took them over 6 hours to get me stabilized. I guess it would've been more exciting to have been found with my cold stiff fingers still on the key but if my wife hadn't rushed me to the hospital when she did I wouldn't be typing this today. Not fun! This is likely my last contest from this QTH and for quite some time, planning to move to a new QTH later this year. Thanks to everyone for all the great contacts!

-73, Ron WZ1V FN31mp

Summary:
 Band QSOs Mults

6:	163	30
2:	171	31
222:	67	19
432:	88	21
903:	21	7
1.2:	31	9
2.3:		

This is my first VHF contest where I had easy access to more than just the 2 meter band. I had M2 loops for antennas, mounted in a tree behind my house. 1 on 6, and 2 each on 144 and 432.

Due to lack of setup time and disorganization, I didn't have my preamps or power amplifiers, so I ran barefoot from my FT-857D. I had lots of fun and look forward to adding more bands and an SDR IF before the June contest. Thanks everyone I had fun!

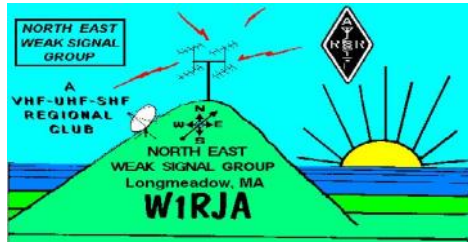
N2GZ Results:
 Single Op, Low Power
 QSOs / Grids
 50 : 34 / 7
 144: 16 / 6
 432: 3 / 2
 Points: 840

Call: W1ZC
 Operator(s): W1ZC
 Station: W1ZC
 Class: Single Op HP
 QTH: Mason, NH

Band QSOs Mults

6:	112	15
2:	116	22
432:	57	15
1.2:	22	7

Total: 307 58
 Total Score = 24,940



N.E.W.S. Group

Membership Application

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: 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:

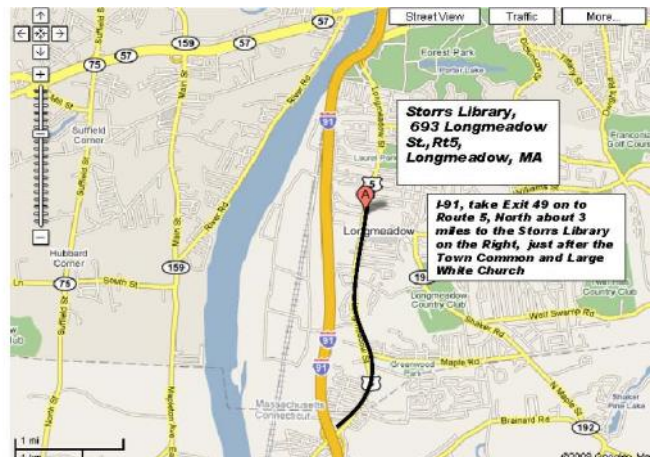
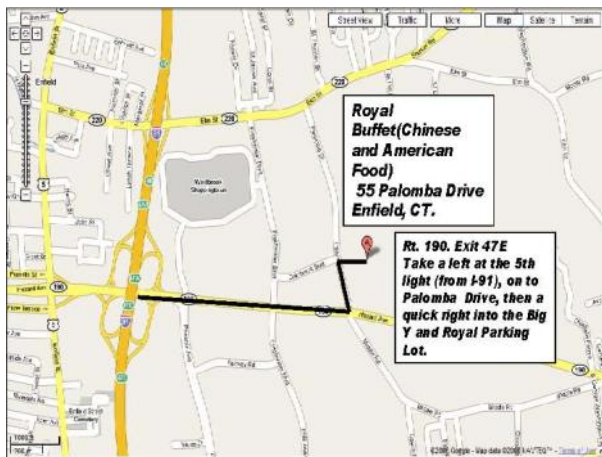
North East Weak Signal Group

c/o WA1MBA Tom Williams PO Box 28

Shutesbury, MA 01072

Email: [tomw \(at\) wa1mba \(dot\) org](mailto:tomw@wa1mba.org)

ARRL Affiliated Club





SSB Electronic USA manufactures and distributes HF, VHF, UHF and SHF equipment covering 10 MHz to 47 GHz

124 Cherrywood Drive, Mountaintop, PA 18707 USA

<http://www.ssbusa.com/ham.html>

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Dover, PA 17315

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paul@w2ped.com



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**Next Meeting March 6, 2010
Presentation by
Gordon W1OUN
Real out of this world DX**

**1 PM at the Storrs Library
693 Longmeadow Street, RT 5
Longmeadow, MA**

*Don't Forget to Register for the
36th EASTERN VHF/
UHF CONFERENCE*

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!