

McNEWSletter – September 2015
North East Weak Signal Group **www.newsvhf.com**

Presidents Report – September 2015 **R. L. Frey – WA2AAU**

Next Meeting: September 26th NEWS Meeting Program
Summer VHF/UHF Operating Reports (Everyone)
Modifying A Motorola “150-Watt” 900 MHz PA – WA2AAU

First of all, as far as club business goes, we have one very important issue to deal with as a group. We no longer have a NEWS-letter editor. What you read here has been assembled by Paul – W1GHZ, out of the goodness of his heart, above and beyond the call of duty... but don't get used to it! This is a temporary patch. WE NEED A NEW EDITOR. During the picnic meeting in July, we had an extended discussion about how to move forward without an editor, maybe posting all club messages only electronically on Face-Book. Fred has been working on a club Face-Book page. I hope he can come to the September 26 meeting to tell us what he has accomplished.

We need to make a final decision on how to conduct official club communications and then make any by-laws changes that may be required. I know this is a pile of minutia, so let's get it done and move forward to more interesting topics. MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: The paper NEWS-Letter publication may cease publication in the next few months especially if we cannot find an editor. Come to the meeting if you have a strong opinion on how to move forward and are willing to help in the process.

I hope everyone had a good time this summer operating on all the bands above 50 MHz. We have lots of contests during this time of the year so I thought it might be nice to have folks report on what they did this year. Also, please tell us about what you may have been working on like maybe putting up a new tower, or putting a new piece of rover gear into use, etc., etc.

Dave – K1WHS has also been pushing new ideas for increasing activity on the VHF, UHF and microwave bands. One such idea is for a Rover Contest. I hope Dave can come to report on the progress he has made with several others on the rules for the rover contest.

Also, the Mount Washington 10 GHz beacon will be coming down soon if it is not already down. I hope that Mike – N1JEZ can update us on the status of the beacon, and the financial drive started last meeting to support it going forward.

Finally, just to add some focus on technical issues, I plan to describe the issues involved in modifying and using a Motorola “150-watt” (or “300-watt”) cellular power amplifier on the 902-928 MHz ham band. Over the summer I modified one taking detailed measurements during the process. The power levels shown above are in quotes because you should not expect that much power out of these amplifiers. That said, they do make very nice 100-watt or 200-watt amplifiers. Just don't get greedy! There speculation on the Internet that the isolator in these units will not work in the 900 MHz band. Not true. I have the measurements to prove it. For more details, please come hear the talk.

NEWS Meeting Minutes July 11, 2015

As recorded by John N2OY in absence of Paul W1GHZ

1300 EDT – Meeting called to order

Proceeded immediately to officer elections

President – Incumbent Richard Frey WA2AAU

Sigurd KJ1K presided over election process for president, as incumbent eligible for re-election

Nominations:

- WA2AAU – accept
- AF1T – decline

Nominations closed with one candidate. N2OY as acting secretary cast one unanimous vote.

Result: **President: Richard Frey WA2AAU**

Vice President – Incumbent Steve Meuse N1JFU

Nominations:

- N1JFU
- KJ1K – decline
- WZ1V – decline

Nominations closed with one candidate. N2OY as acting secretary cast one unanimous vote.

Result: **Vice President: Steve Meuse N1JFU**

Secretary – Incumbent Paul Wade W1GHZ

Nominations:

- W1GHZ

Nominations closed with one candidate. N2OY as acting secretary cast one unanimous vote.

Result: **Secretary: Paul Wade W1GHZ**

Treasurer – Incumbent Tom Williams WA1MBA stepping down

Nominations:

- N2OY – accept
- W1TR – decline

Nominations closed with one candidate. Membership unanimous vote to elect new treasurer.

Result: **Treasurer: John Crawford N2OY**

NEWSLetter Editor – Incumbent Tom Filecco W1WSO stepping down

Nobody present at meeting willing to accept nomination for NEWSLetter Editor.

Discussion:

- “No editor, no newsletter”
- Does the presence of our e-mail reflector eliminate the need for a printed newsletter?
 - o ~20% of membership still receives paper newsletter instead of electronic
 - o Current e-mail reflector provider does not allow for attachments to be sent
- Eliminating newsletter altogether would require change to bylaws
- Use of Facebook as primary communication means?
 - o Fred N1DPM will look into creating a facebook group for the club
 - o Many members do not have facebook accounts, and are unwilling to join
 - o Set up facebook group publicly viewable, but only allow member postings
- Do we want to set up something on the website for communication?
 - o We could, but would require extra maintenance – facebook manages itself
- How to communicate date of next meeting to all members?
 - o Next meeting tentatively scheduled for September 5 (Labor Day weekend)

- K1MAP will check with Storrs Library to see if Sept 26 is available instead
 - Packrats VHF Conference is one week later this year – October 2-4
- Can send paper mailer to mail-only members for notice of next meeting if no newsletter

MOTION: Motion by Mark K1MAP

To have/allow Fred N1DPM set up a facebook group for the club

Seconded by Chip W1AIM

Result: MOTION PASS by unanimous vote of present membership

Result: **No NEWSletter Editor elected at this meeting.**

Directors: Four director positions up for election.

Incumbents:

Mark Casey K1MAP

Dick Wilborg W1ZC

Dave Olean K1WHS

Bob Leiper W1COT

Nominations:

K1MAP – accept

W1ZC – accept

K1WHS – accept

WA1MBA – accept

N1DPM – decline

No further nominations. Acting secretary N2OY cast single unanimous vote to elect directors.

Result:

Board of Directors:

- **Mark Casey K1MAP**
- **Dick Wilborg W1ZC**
- **Dave Olean K1WHS**
- **Tom Williams WA1MBA**

Elections complete at 1352 EDT.

Old/new Business:

- VHF Super Conference April 16-20 2016
 - Washington DC Area – near Dulles Airport
 - Looking for volunteers – contact conference committee:
Ron WZ1C Paul W1GHZ Mark K1MAP
- W1FKF: Mount Washington 10GHz Beacon
 - Beacon will be losing its site this fall – building being torn down
 - New site within current visitors center is available
 - Requires approximately \$500/year in expenses for electricity/rent
 - Per outgoing treasurer, the club cannot presently afford \$500/year for this expense
 - Club surplus currently ~\$1,500
 - Stopping mailing of NEWSletter will save approximately \$200-\$240/year
 - Steve K1IIG is willing to match the club's donation to keep beacon on the air
 - MOTION: Motion by Mark K1MAP
 - Club donate \$200 toward keeping 10GHz beacon on air in new site
 - Motion seconded by Chip W1AIM
 - Discussion:

- Amend motion: Club donate \$200 *per year* toward keeping 10GHz beacon on air in new site *until such a time when it becomes infeasible for the club to continue doing so*
 - Result: AMENDED MOTION PASS by unanimous vote of membership present
- K1WHS: Club contest - Rover Contest
 - Recommendation for two methods of scoring
 - Home stations: contact other home station: points per contact
 - Rovers: contact other rovers and home stations
 - Distance scoring
 - Each 6-digit grid counts as a new location
 - Nearby contacts (<20 km) worth zero or very few points
 - Reduce desire for grid circling
 - Higher points for longer distance contacts
 - Looking for volunteers
 - Scores can be posted via WA7BNM
 - Volunteer to tabulate results?
 - Perhaps print certificates for top contenders?
 - Volunteer for a post-contest writeup?
 - K1WHS will post plans for contest idea on e-mail reflector
 - Comment: Some operators don't do contests – regular operation such as 144.205 preferred. Make noise on the bands to keep hobby from dying.
- CPI looking for people to work for them – microwave company
 - If interested – full time/retiree looking for work – contact K1SG – k1sg@aol.com

Motion to close meeting – seconded.

1424 EDT – Meeting adjourned.

Incoming Treasurers Report

Allow me to introduce myself, as your new NEWS Treasurer. My name is John Crawford, callsign N2OY. I have been licensed since 1994, and have gotten into VHF and above weak signal work over the past several years. I primarily get on the air during the June and September VHF contests for that large contest group that goes up to Mount Greylock. I am also an active alumni member of the RPI Amateur Radio club, helping RPI students further their interest in amateur radio.

While changes at my current employer and to my work schedule have hindered my ability to meet up with our outgoing treasurer for the full exchange of books, I anticipate being able to fully perform my duties as treasurer as soon as possible. I currently have the membership database from Tom, but admittedly still need to get the club's bank account set up so that I have signing powers. I expect to have that taken care of shortly after the September meeting, if not sooner.

My contact information for NEWS-related business is as follows:

John Crawford
 PO Box 1112
 Latham, NY 12110-1112
 Phone: [\(518\) 708-5500](tel:5187085500)
 E-Mail: n2oy.vhf@gmail.com

I thank Tom for his many years of service as NEWS Treasurer, and I hope that during my tenure I am able to serve the group as well as he has during his tenure.

Thanks and 73,
 John N2OY