

N.E.W.S. LETTER

The Official Publication of the North East Weak Signal Group – [N.E.W.S. - Home \(newsvhf.com\)](http://newsvhf.com)

November 2024

Volume 33

Issue 5

Next Meeting: November 23, 2024.

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GENERAL MEETING - STORRS LIBRARY -

1 PM to approximately 3:45 PM.

693 Longmeadow St, Longmeadow, MA 01106

<https://www.longmeadowlibrary.org/>

BOARD MEETING -(Lunch- All are Welcome) 11:00 AM at Lulu's, 151 Hazard Ave. Enfield, CT
Phone: (860) 763-2377 I-91 Exit 47 Rt. 190E 1 Mile on Left <http://luluspizzeria.com>

DON'T FORGET

**The North East Weak Signal Group 2 Meter Net
Every Thursday at 8:30 PM local 144.250 MHz
K1BXC Net Control**

MEMBERSHIP in the N.E.W.S Group is \$10 per 2 years.

Apply to George Collins, KC1V. E-mail: news.kc1v@gmail.com.

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.
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Send articles by e-mail to Don W1FKF at donw1kf-news@yahoo.com.

REMINDER: 222 MHz Activity Night Tuesdays 7 to 11 PM

**Wed Nights 8:30 pm - 432MHz K1FMS (N1DPM) +
432.150 MHz**

NEWS Meeting 18 September 2024

at Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA

and by ZOOM

Called to Order by President, W2AAU, at ~1300

Treasurer's Report September 2024

Balance, Last Report 7-13-2024: \$3024.75

Income:

Dues: \$160.00
Donation: \$6.00

Expenses:

Refund, over payment: **(\$19.00)**
Conference Hospitality Donation: **(\$250.00)**
Park Permits: **(\$46.06)**
Donation, FTP Shareware: **(\$19.00)**
Sub Total: **(\$334.06)**

Closing Balance, 8-31-2024: \$2856.69

Current Paid Members:

We had 13 renewals for this reporting period, seven of which were new members.

The membership totals are:

98 Regular (Up 17 from last report)
3 Life
12 Permanent
1 Courtesy

Submitted September 28, 2024

George Collins, KC1V
Treasurer, North East Weak Signal Group

Tom Frenaye, K1KI, Candidate for ARRL NE Division Director
Spoke about problems with FCC and ARRL involvement

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION Led by K1WHS

Dave finds VHF Contests slow on higher bands. He did better in 222 sprint. What to do? How to get people playing radio instead of computer?

Contests are not fun anymore?

Winning vs having fun?

Suggestions

- . Split contest - digital and analog
- . Change scoring
- . No FT8
- . Start separate contest
- . NEWS take action
- .. make recommendations
- .. experiments
- .. work with W9JJ
- .. learn from RSGB

MOTION - W1FKF - form Committee on new contest rules.

Proposed rules to be tested locally first. APPROVED

Committee:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

K1MAP - 10 GHz beacon (originally K1IIG) back on thanks to W1FKF. Now at K1MAP QTH. Update to Q65 planned.

K1MAP - Several Quansheng radios, already programmed, available at cost

KA1SUN - new 432.280 beacon on Mt. Equinox- heard complaint about signal quality

K2DLL beacons off air. Maybe temporary.

Adjourn 1516

Weekly Calendar

Mon. Packrats Nets start at 7:30pm on 6 meters, 8 pm on 144.150, etc. Philadelphia area.
Tues. Mud Toads Net FM 17, Virginia 8 pm 144.250
Tues. Activity Night 7:00pm 222.100 K1WHS +
Weds Activity Night 8:30pm 432 150 K1FMS (N1DPM) +
Thurs. NEWS net, 8:30pm 144.250
Sat. Chesapeake Net 144.205 W3BFC FM28 9 pm
144.205 Mornings 8:30-9:30 AM -- 144.205 , 144.190, ME, Canada to NC and out to OH, WV

Officers:

President Dick Frey, WA2AAU, Delanson, NY
Vice Pres. Eric Mazur, KA1SUN, Savoy, MA

Treasurer George Collins, KC1V, Somers, CT
Secretary Paul Wade, W1GHZ, Cabot, VT

Board Of Directors:

Tom Cefalo W1EX N Reading MA

Tom Williams WA1MBA Orleans, MA

Bob Bownes KI2L, Troy, NY

Mark Casey K1MAP, Hampden, MA

For Sale

AIL 75 Noise Figure Meter

"reasonable offer"

can bring to meeting

Chip W1AIM

w1aim@fairpoint.com

Mt. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC.

CHEESE BITS

<http://packratvhf.com/index.php/newsletter/1146-cheese-bits-november-2024>

Join Us on the Nets
GET READY for Jan VHF Contest 2025

Weekly Monday Night Nets

6:45 PM 224.580 Rpt	Michelle KB3MTW
7:00 PM 8804 DMR	George KA3WXV
7:30 PM 50.150	Ray N3RG
8:00 PM 144.245	Dave W2KV
8:30 PM 222.125	Jim KC3BVL
9:00 PM 432.110	Mike WB2RVX

ARRL VHF Contest January 18-20, 2025
Contest Period: Begins 1900 UTC Saturday, ends 0359 UTC Monday.
www.packratvhf.com

All Check Ins Welcome - Promote Weak Signal - Check Your Equipment

Looking for Club Call Trustee

Must be control op for beacons (now on RR property). Is a younger person willing?

Renewal is next year.

[for more info](#)

Contact Ron WZ1V wz1v@arrl.net



Microwave Update

2024

Was A Success

British Columbia, Canada

October 3-5, 2024



REV 0.2

Club Commission Program

Each new ARRL STANDARD membership earns the club a \$20 commission (family, student/youth, and blind memberships are not eligible). New members are defined as never having been a member or a returning member that has not been a member for two years. Each renewal now earns the club a \$5 commission. There is no limit to the amount a club can earn in this program.

Members can renew anytime without losing any of their membership time. Details and forms are available on the ARRL web site, at www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-benefits. FAQs are also available to help explain the program. It does take some effort and a bit of paperwork, but the club reaps the reward in cash. If your affiliated club is not participating in this program, ask them to investigate it.

Dave K1WHS 11-4-24

With a lot of sorrow, I have made the decision to dismantle my VHF/UHF station in FN43mj. This move was precipitated by the failure of a rock anchor that was part of my new 130 ft Rohn 45 tower. The new tower was only up and completed for two days when the failure occurred. I was preparing to install the coax and antennas. The tower came down in the trees as the old tower had done back in 2021. It fell across some guy wires for my three stack of ten meter yagis and that 70 ft tower buckled and came down as well. In just a few seconds I lost 200 ft worth of Rohn 45 tower. Two towers were destroyed. Thankfully, no one was killed or injured. The 130 ft tower had a brand new ProSistel rotator installed, that was destroyed in the fall. Surveying all of the damage has convinced me that it is time to stop and dismantle what is left there as I am getting too old to maintain everything, The amount of hardware is daunting for one old person. I am not happy.

I am going to sell my large stacks of loop yagis for 902 thru 3400 MHz 4 X 47 element 902 MHz Loop yagis complete with H- frame and LDF4 (1/2" Heliac) phasing lines and tower mounted preamp. New price around \$2000 Used \$600
4 X 45 element 1296 MHz Loop yagis with H frame LDF4 phasing lines, power divider and tower mtd preamp. \$500
4 X 76 element 2304 MHz Lop yagis with H frame LDF4 phasing lines, power divider and tower mtd preamp \$500
4 X 112 element 3456 MHz Loop yagis with UT-141 phasing lines, and power divider New price around \$1700 Used price \$550
around 290 ft of heavy duty neoprene style 8 conductor #12 rotor cable Two lengths. \$200 ea. One run may be smaller than #12. not sure 100 Ft

Rohn 45 with 4 X 7 el 50 MHz yagis on ring rotors with electrical phase steering Feedlines are four phase matched 7/8" Heliac that terminate indoors with the antenna selector and electrical beam steering system in a wall mounted box. (Tower is still standing with all hardware) Make an offer? I will not break up the four yagis.

Tower guying uses Pjillystran and 1/4" EHS steel.

Assorted runs of 1 5/8" Heliac about 140-159 ft long that fed 902, & 1296. N connectors on each end. (two lengths) \$300 each.

120 Ft of LDF7 1 5.8" heliac with grey plastic plenum covering. N connectors on each end. \$300

220 Ft of LDF7 1 5.8" heliac N connectors on each end. \$500

LDF7-50 Heliac prices are scrap copper price

For the moment, I am trying to keep the 222 and 432 stuff working, but that may change. Let me know of there is any interest. Most of the antennas are in the air at this time.

Hi All,

Roger Rehr W3SZ

The WSJT modes have been an exciting and revolutionary addition to our amateur radio armamentarium. They have allowed us to make contacts that would be impossible without them.

As you know, an unfortunate side effect of their use in some contests (e.g. the ARRL January, June, and September VHF Contests) is that it has become difficult to pull folks away from FT8 on one band, particularly on 50 MHz, to make digital or analog contacts on other bands.

Because of the above, a new WSJT-X Message System is under development. The system is specially designed for VHF/UHF/SHF applications, but is now also suitable for general use. It is based on a messaging algorithm proposed by W4ZST in 2021 for the NA VHF Contest to invite your QSO partner to QSY to another QRG or mode.

A first prototype is ready for testing now in the latest release of wsjt-x_improved, and if the system proves successful, it will likely be introduced in plain WSJT-X with a future Release Candidate 8.

With this new system, generating these request messages requires just a few mouse clicks and no typing. When WSJT-X-improved receives such a request message it generates a pop-up indicating the requested frequency and mode and gives the recipient the opportunity to reply "yes" or "no" to the request. When the requestor's instance of WSJT-X-improved receives an affirmative or negative reply it generates a pop-up indicating that response.

A Windows installer and a pdf file describing how to use the messaging system are available on SourceForge at

https://sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt-x-improved/files/WSJT-X_v2.7.1/Test%20versions%20%28WSJT-X%20Message%20System%29/

as is a png image file that shows at a single glance how everything works.

wsjt-x_improved is an enhanced version of the excellent WSJT-X software by Joe Taylor K1JT, Steve Franke K9AN, Bill Somerville G4WJS, Uwe Risse DG2YCB, and others. Uwe is the project leader for wsjt-x_improved as

well as being one of the members of the core WSJT Development group. If you try this new version of wsjt-x_improved and have questions regarding the use of the messaging system, feel free to email me for help. If you have questions or comments that you feel would be of interest to / helpful to other users, please consider posting them to either the wsjt-x-improved-community mailing list or the WSJT GROUP forum. You can sign up for the former at:

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt-x-improved/lists/wsjt-x-improved-community>

and for the latter at:

<https://groups.io/g/wsjtgroup>

Thanks to Dick Frey W2AAU and the N.E.W.S. Group club members, whose discussions spurred the development of this messaging system!

73,

Roger Rehr

W3SZ

Tip of the Month

Have a simple tip or technique that you can share? Send a short description and maybe a cellphone picture to the NEWSletter to share it with members.

Solid PC Board Holder – W1GHZ

Ever had to chase a PC board around while trying to solder components on it? I have several fancy PC board fixtures that hold the board up in the air, but they aren't really rigid enough for surface-mount soldering. And I like to rest my wrists on the workbench to steady my hands, so it is better to have the board held on or near the surface.

A friend at our local Makerspace, Michael Shor, showed me his technique. It uses strong rare-earth magnets with a conical hole held to threaded standoffs by flat-head screws – see the picture. The standoffs hold the board and the magnets hold the assembly solidly to a steel surface, but the board can be slid around if needed. The standoffs can be low, or high enough for components on the far side, like the filter inductors on this transverter board.

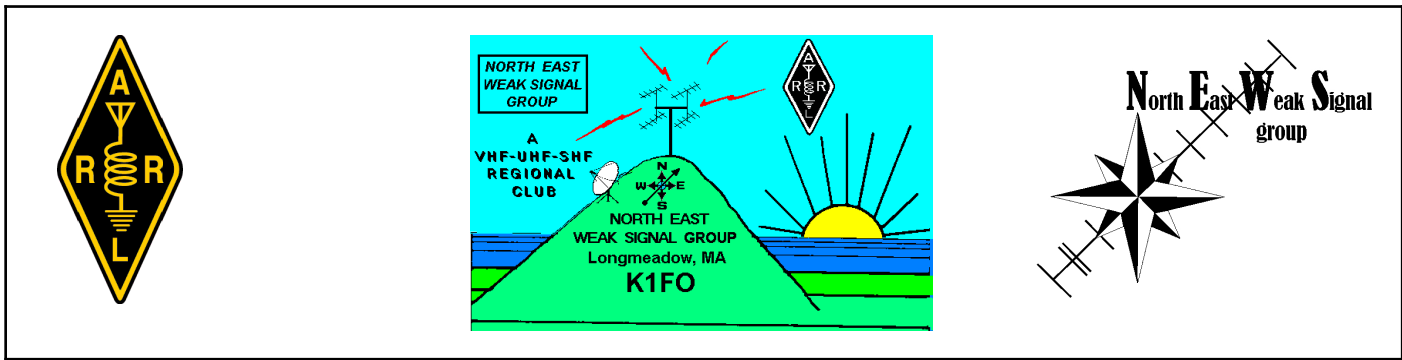


The magnets are inexpensive, about \$9 for a pack of 20 from a US seller, or even cheaper from overseas if you are willing to wait. I'll probably find some other uses for them as well.



DAIWA





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____

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 was established in 1993 to form a camaraderie among fellow VHF-UHF-Microwave enthusiasts and support a convenient means to exchange technical information. We currently have six meetings per year, 4 are held on at the Storrs Library on Rt. 5 in Longmeadow, Mass., 1 at our annual Conference in April, and 1 at our Annual Picnic in July. We provide a "NEWSLETTER" that is distributed via email two weeks prior to each meeting. Any contributions to this publication are appreciated and can be sent to: Don, W1FKF by e-mail to don-w1fkf-news@yahoo.com

Dues are \$10 for 2 years. Please contact or mail application to: NEWS Treasurer, George Collins, KC1V, 105 Ninth District Rd., Somers, CT 06071 or E-mail: news.kc1v@gmail.com

Mail to

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NEWSLetter

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