

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)

Nov. 2025

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Issue 6

November 2025

Next Meeting November 22, 2025

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DON'T FORGET

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

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.
Articles may be reprinted with proper credit given to the author and the N.E.W.S. LETTER.

Send articles by e-mail to Don W1FKF at donw1fkf-news@yahoo.com.

REMINDER: 222 MHz Activity Night Tuesdays 7 to 11 PM

**Wed Nights 8:30 pm - 432MHz K1FMS (N1DPM)
8:00 - 432.100 8:30 - 432.150 MHz**

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 W1VD
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, W2AAU, 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

NEWSLetter Editor

Don Twombly W1FKF Loudon, NH

Secretaries REPORT

NEWS Meeting 27 September 2025
at Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA
and by ZOOM

Called to Order by President, W2AAU, at 1312

TREASURER REPORT

Balance \$2959

OLD BUSINESS

W1FKF - 10G beacon progress slow. Don is willing to build one. Possible sites W2AAU tower and site near Boston.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WA1MBA building 47 GHz beacon with Q65

K2AEP - Beacon is back on 432.280 on Mt Equinox

K1WHS - NC1I gave him portable EME system on trailer. Anyone interested in putting new location on contact Dsve

ADJOURN 1355

Treasurer's Report September 27, 2025

Balance, Last Report 8-21-2025: \$2949.50

Income:

Dues: \$10.00

Expenses:

None:

Current Balance 9-27-2025: \$2959.50

Current Paid Members:

We had 1 renewal during this reporting period:

The membership totals are:

118 Regular

3 Life

11 Permanent

1 Courtesy

Submitted September 27, 2025

George Collins, KC1V

Treasurer, North East Weak Signal Group

BOARD MEETING

November 22, 2025 (all are welcome)

11:15 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>

GENERAL MEETING

November 22, 2025

STORRS LIBRARY

And ZOOM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81239487621?pwd=V4wCfCzv8qxgbjUrFS3MggIoliMno6.1>

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fus06web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F81239487621%3Fpwd%3DV4wCfCzv8qxgbjUrFS3MggIoliMno6.1&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1762351080000000&usg=AOvVaw3ER6xowLsLB1WhtoVXztDW>

from 1 PM to approximately 3:45 PM.

Longmeadow St, Longmeadow, MA 01106

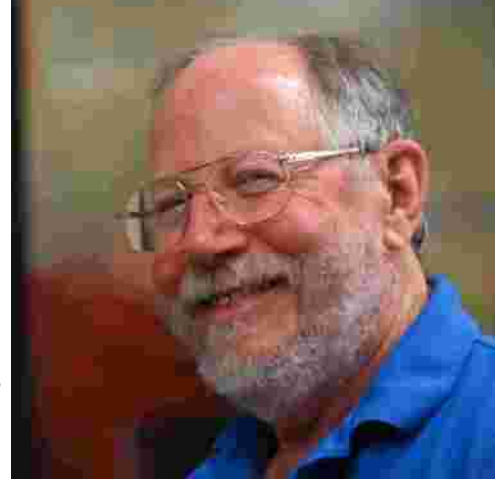
<http://longmeadowlibrary.wordpress.com>

Action Item

Volunteers needed for Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave Conference

Mark, K1MAP, and I, W1GHZ, have been conference co-chairs since Bruce, N2LIV, had to give it up. Probably twenty years or more. This year was the 48th conference. In 2027, we will have the 50th Conference and I will be 80 years old, so I think that is time to retire. Mark is willing to continue.

Mark has been making all the arrangements: hotel, dinner, flea market, and more. I do the program, speakers, MC, website updated, and also store and deliver the AV equipment.



The other important job, procuring and organizing prizes, has been well handled by Mickey, W1MKY, Lanette, KA1NKD, and Don, W1FKF, as you have probably been aware.

Greg, WA1VUG, has been an essential contributor, bringing that fantastic Rohde & Schwarz equipment for the Test Lab

Many NEWS members have volunteered at previous conferences.

For instance, Mike, N1JEZ, and Ray, WA1CYB, have set up and operated the AV equipment, and others have manned the registration table.

What will be needed is a new co-chair person, or more than one person -- the tasks can be split up to lighten the load.

Ideally, a volunteer or two for 2026 could work with me to understand what is involved and probably improve the process.

73,

paul W1GHZ

w1ghz.arrl@gmail.com

Dick, K1HC

Email: dick.bean@verizon.net



Irish Radio Transmitters Society Brendan Trophies



On June 7, 1995, now over 30 years ago, the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS), the national association of radio amateurs in Ireland, first published information about a new award, named the Brendan Trophy. It was done to commemorate 100 years of radio. The Brendan Trophy was to be awarded to the hams on each end of a successful two-way Transatlantic contact on the 2 meter band using terrestrial modes (no satellite, man-made, or moonbounce reflection of a signal) using phone or CW capable of being read without machine assistance (no high speed CW). The award includes the presentation of two finely handcrafted and inscribed Waterford crystal vases as pictured above in this article.

There are two other categories of the award. The second category, called the Brendan Shields, is for what they term “nontraditional” modes including high speed CW and all digital modes. The third category, the Brendan Plates, would be awarded to the first confirmed reception of a Transatlantic 2 meter signal.

You might wonder who is Brendan? The award is named in honor of Saint Brendan the Navigator of Clonfert, Ireland (c. AD 484 – c. 577). He was considered the patron saint of sailors because of his purported exploits as a sailor, with some claiming he and his crew had discovered Newfoundland long before any other European sailor. While there is no physical evidence supporting the claim, the legend endures regarding his 15-day sail westward from Ireland in 510 AD.

Here is a link for the full set of IRTS rules for the Brendan Trophy:

<https://www.irts.ie/cgi/st.cgi?brendan>

In the summer of 2014, a group of five Canadian hams made an expedition to Pouch Cove, Newfoundland (Maidenhead Grid Square GN37os) using the callsign VC1T. The group included Al, VO1NO, Rich, VA1CHP, Helen, VA1YL, Roger, VE1SKY, and Fred, VE1FA. There is an extensive article in the May 2016 QST magazine that is a very good read regarding their efforts (see link below). Their main antenna was a 43 element rope yagi that was just over 97 feet long, and a “legal limit” Larcen amplifier for transmitting power. The team used JT65B and FSK441 digital modes, two digital modes commonly used at the time. This resulted in a reception in Great Britain by John, G4SWX, a distance of 2,831 miles. However, post-contact analysis revealed that the signal had reflected off the International Space Station (see QST article link below for details)! Yet, the team certainly planned and executed quite an effort despite not meeting the established IRTS rules for the Brendan award.

May 2016 QST Article:

<https://www.arrl.org/news/brendan-quest-team-s-2-meter-signal-copied-in-the-uk>

On May 2, 2014, a 2 meter FSK441 signal from the UK was reflected off the structure of the International Space Station (ISS), and it was heard across the Atlantic. Tim, G4LOH, in Cornwall (IO70jc), and Roger, VE1SKY, in Nova Scotia (FN74iu) attempted the contact. VE1SKY was able to copy G4LOH at a distance of approximately 2,753 miles. This was the first signal received via ISS bounce from Europe to North America, and the first intentional signal heard via ISS reflection in any direction across the North or South Atlantic. While two-way communication did not happen, the reception seems to be a DX record for satellite reflection. Later in May, Tim, operating as GK4LOH and transmitting in CW, was received twice in the much-closer GN37 grid by VO1HP at VO1FN in Newfoundland.

See: <https://www.eham.net/article/36882>

There was a claimed Transatlantic contact in March 2002 by a husband and wife ham team, Alexander Dutkewych, N2PIG, on the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland and Debra Dutkewych, VA3PIG, in County Kerry, Ireland, but the team failed to provide the IRTS awards committee with sufficient evidence of the successful two-way contact. Below is a link to a summary of the circumstances by the OK2KKW VHF Contest Group:

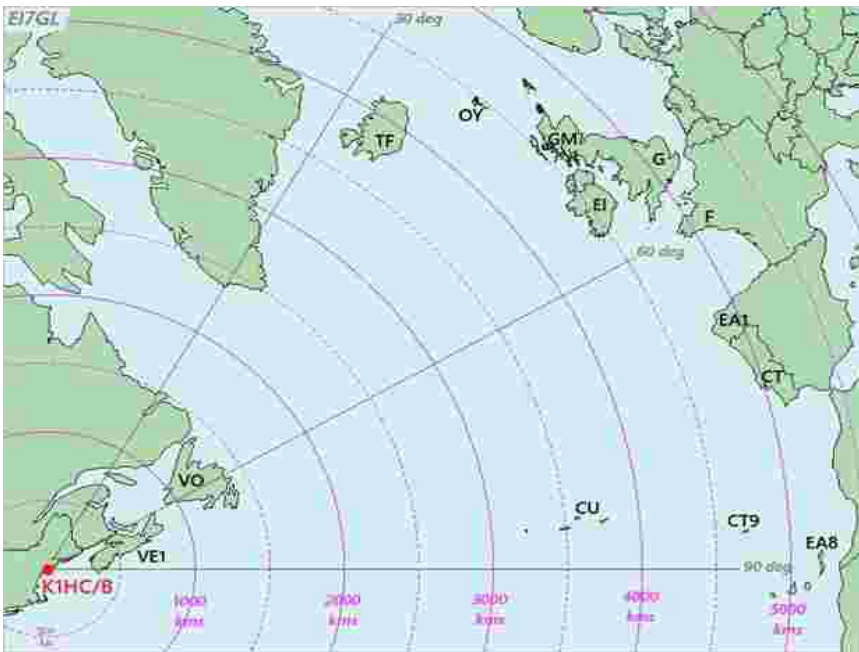
https://www.ok2kkw.com/n2pig_rejected.htm

Subsequent to these two attempts, the ARRL published a QST article by Ev Tupis, W2EV, relating to the Brendan Trophy in May 2002. His article discusses various modes of propagation that might come into use for a Transatlantic attempt as well as some suggested methods of tracking signals. See:

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/0208036.pdf>

So, where are we now, over 30 years after the award announcement?

In a decidedly low-tech, old school, and highly improbable approach to the Brendan quest (but at least within my present skill level!), I have a two meter CW beacon on 144.291 MHz at my operating QTH in Harpswell, Maine in FN53at since July 5, 2025. The beacon was developed and constructed by Vlad, AA7DJ, and has a power output of 10 watts, transmitting into an array of 16 five element Directive Systems yagis equally-spaced on a 120' tower which is at 170' ASL above a salt marsh overlooking Casco Bay. The array is fed with 1-5/8 inch hardline, and the array orientation is 60 degrees. John, EI7GL, calculated the pattern of my northeast 2 meter array to have an estimated gain of 22 dBi.



So, while it is uncertain if this path will ever be successful for a Transatlantic crossing, I have at least received good signal reports for the beacon from VE1SKY and VO1NO, two of the five hams who participated in the expedition to Newfoundland in 2016. Thanks to sites such as the ON4KST chat page (<http://www.on4kst.com/chat/start.php>), we are able coordinate contacts on VHF and UHF bands when propagation conditions are favorable. I'll continue to experiment and learn, and I plan to use the other higher power equipment at my station with digital modes using the northeast array at times.

K1HC Harpswell, Maine (FN53at)

2M on 125' tower:

16 five element Directive Systems yagis SW
16 five element Directive Systems yagis NE
8 five element Directive Systems yagis WNW

I hope this summary of the Brendan Trophy and some of the past attempts to capture it will inspire other NEWS Group members to look for some 2 meter Transatlantic activity next summer! See you on two meters!

73, from Dick, K1HC
operating from
FN53at
Harpswell, Maine

dick.bean@verizon.net

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.

Yellow Painters Tape – W1GHZ

Blue painters tape is extremely useful – I’ve used it for many things, like holding cables and stuff in place, marking hole locations, temporary labels, even for painting. It is easy to work with and removes easily with no residue. One particular use is for modifying equipment – tape on the inside before drilling a hole catches metal chips before they land somewhere damaging.

One problem with the blue tape is that writing with a Sharpie doesn’t show well. It comes in other colors, so I stopped at the local lumberyard recently to find a lighter color. On the half-price table, I found yellow and light green painters tape, so I bought both.

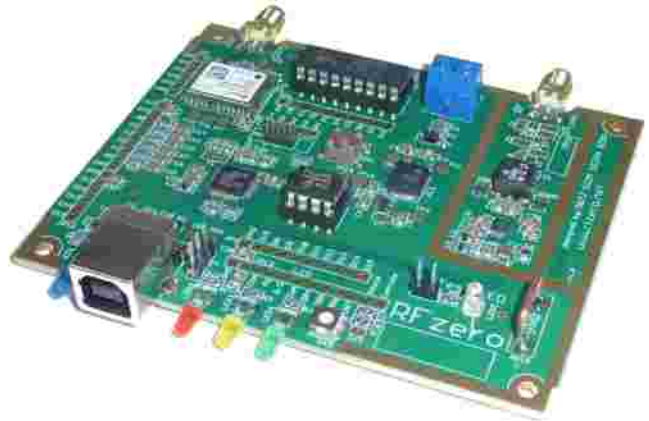
For sun noise testing of feedhorns, I’ve used the blue tape to hold the horn in place, but it isn’t strong enough to hold the horn securely, so a jury-rigged clamp was needed. Duct tape would work, but it often leaves a sticky residue. For my latest tests, I used the yellow tape, Scotch #2097. The label says Exterior Surface, very strong adhesive, remove within 10 days. It held the feeds solidly in place with minimal fuss and good results. The photo shows the feed held with several wraps of yellow tape, with blue tape holding the cables. The offset dish is upside-down because the sun is pretty low in October – note the feed shadow is at the normal bottom of the dish



10 GHz beacon update

Parts identified Don W1FKF
donw1fkf-news@yahoo.com.

The RFzero™ is an Arduino multi-purpose GPS controlled Si5351A RF unit. It can be used as a beacon (IBP, SBP, CW, FST4, FST4W, FT4, FT8, JS8, JT4, JT65, JT9, ModeX, PI4, Q65, RTTY, WSPR, ...), stand alone WSPR or FST4W transmitter, signal generator, VFO, QO-100 dual LO, low cost GPSDO, e.g. for 10 MHz, IC-9700 LO, 90 MHz frequency counter or ... More than 40 programs, Arduino sketches, are integrated into the Arduino IDE, so you can write or modify the software yourself. With the RFzero Manager you don't even have to know anything about Arduino to use the RFzero™.



iD-IF
RF-Zero 434 MHz
Q65



DB6NT -LO
9934 MHz

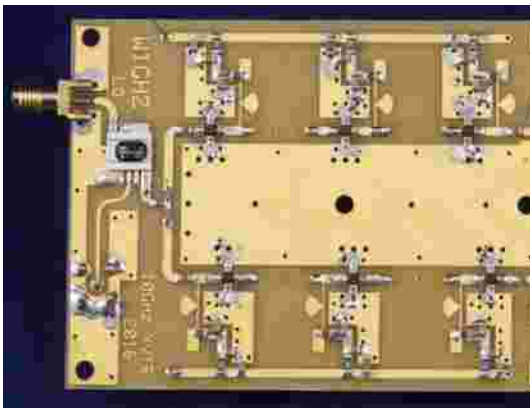
Description

The oscillator unit MKU LO 8-13 PLL2 was designed as local oscillator source for microwave transmitters and covers the frequency range from 8.4 GHz to 13.6 GHz. The oscillator unit covers the frequency range between 54 MHz and 6.85 GHz, also. The user can choose frequencies from a standard frequency list or the user can program its own output frequency in the oscillator unit. The frequency resolution is 1 Hz. Absolute frequency accuracy and stability can be achieved by supplying an external 10 MHz reference frequency. A CW beacon encoder is implemented in the oscillator unit software and so the oscillator can be used as a low power stand-alone beacon transmitter.

Features

- Frequency step size 1 Hz
- Temperature compensated crystal oscillator
- CW Keying
- 10 MHz reference frequency input

W1GHZ /WA1MBA
10 + GHz Beacon board



Enclosure
Heatsink
3 watt amplifier
Slot Antenna

Location TBD

Donation welcome
for project



For Sale:

Please contact Fred K1FMS at n1dpmfred@gmail.com or call or text 413-519-3189

1. Yaesu FT857, comes with hand mic and a brand new spare front panel. Rig is clean and in good working order. \$500

Model	Description	Asking Price	Quantity
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Frequency Counters:

HP-5385A	1000MHz 10 Digit Internal ref or ext 10MHz lockable.	\$100	
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Agilent 53181A	225MHz 10 Digit Internal ref or ext 10MHz lockable.	\$75	
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Network Analyzer:

HP-8713B	300kHz – 3GHz Network Analyzer	\$400	
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Spectrum Analyzer:

HP-8595E	9kHz -6.5GHz Spectrum analyzer with Options....	\$500	
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Options....	041 – HP-IB / Parallel interface		
	130 – Narrow RBW...30 to 300Hz and 200Hz EMI		
	301 – TV Sync Trigger		

Directional Couplers:

Narda 3003-30	2 – 4 GHz	30dB Type N	\$20 Each	2
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AC Power Meter

Fluke 39	AC Power meter harmonics analyzer with clamp on probe	\$50	
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All gear is in good condition and has been tested and is working. (power cords not included)

Please contact Fred K1FMS at n1dpmfred@gmail.com or call or text 413-519-3189

We can make arrangements to meet somewhere, or you can come and pick up if you like at my QTH.



Support The ARRL
Spectrum Defense
Fund
INFO



[EME Conference 2026](#)
[Tenerife - Canary Islands](#)
May 28th-31st, 2026
INFO-

Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave

Conference date
April 24-26, 2026
Hilton Garden Inn
555 Corporate Drive, Windsor, CT 06095

ARRL Launches Nationwide Grassroots Campaign to Pass Amateur Radio



Emergency Preparedness Act

[Send Your Letters Now](#)

<https://send-a-letter.org/hoa>



ARRL has launched a nationwide grassroots campaign aimed at securing the passage of federal legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles.

KT1J (SK)

Henry, KT1J, passed away early this morning after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He has been at Mountainview Center in Rutland for a little over a year, and he was eighteen days short of his ninetieth birthday.

Some of us have joined him in the VHF contest and sprints over the years -- there are almost two or three generations of testers that go back for over twenty years. Others were active with him on the microwave bands. Probably everyone had some role in building gear, testing gear, and solving problems that required special expertise.

I don't know how many of you got to see his collection of wallpaper, but he loved to chase DX and grids, down to the smallest province or oblast in countries we wouldn't even know about if we weren't hams. He was very proud of DXCC on ten bands, VUCC on most of the VHF/UHF/microwave bands, and ultimately, with Mike, N1JEZ, the holder of the Worked All

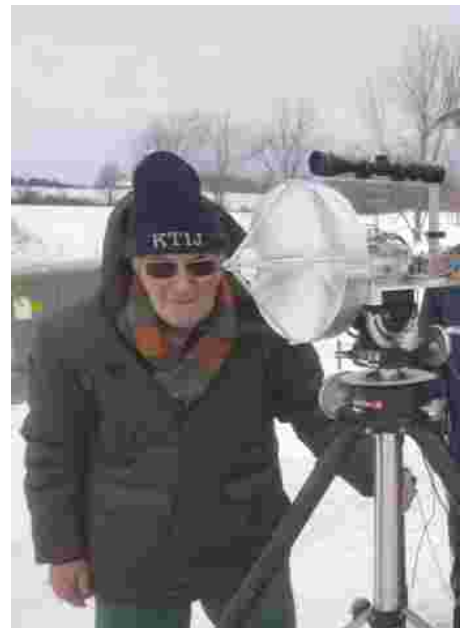
Bands award. He and Mike are two of the three people ever who achieved this milestone. I'm reciting all of this to recognize his perseverance and to celebrate his pride in his accomplishment and his lifelong enthusiasm.

Many of us will simply remember his gentle and patient help in getting us started in ham radio, and then introducing us to new facets over many years. There was also the occasional grid activation with mosquitos and mud. He was always very appreciative of the help he received from everyone, ranging from tower installation and climbing, to welding and machining parts, to calibrating test gear, to repairs of equipment.

Sandi asked me to let his ham friends know, and you are the group that I know has been connected. I don't know everyone who would want to know of his passing, so please share this e-mail as you see fit.

73,

Bob, WE1P





Q5 SIGNAL



OnlineMetals.com



Directive Systems & Engineering
Directive Systems & Engineering VHF, UHF, Microwave Antennas and related products



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____

Name: _____

Call sign: _____ Grid: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (home) _____ Optional (work) _____

Email: _____

ARR 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 donw1fkf-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

Treasurer

North East Weak Signal Group

c/o George Collins
 105 Ninth District Road
 Somers, CT 06071

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News Letter

North East Weak Signal Group

Don Twombly, W1FKF

donw1fkf-news@yahoo.com