

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)

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Volume 35

Issue 3

April 2026

Next Meeting April 24, 2026

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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

Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave Conference

April 24-26, 2026 Hilton Garden Inn

555 Corporate Drive, Windsor, CT 06095

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

Secretary's REPORT

NEWS Meeting 21 March 2026

at Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA

and by ZOOM

Called to Order by President, W2AAU, at 1340

Treasurer's Report

Balance \$2059

5 renewals

5 new members

REMINDER: Dues start January 1

W2AAU 1340

OLD BUSINESS

Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave Conference will be April 24-25 in Windsor CT.

WZ1V played recording of 2 meter E-skip opening in 1988

NEW BUSINESS

K2DLL beacons - new location is needed

W2AAU has offered his tower. Need climber.

KA1SUN will test and reprogram beacons

Adjourn 1408

Presentation by W2AAU

Modifying PCS amplifier for 2304 MHz

originally from Eastern VHF/UHF Conference 2006

Newer modification by cutting out power stage to make smaller high-power amplifier

Treasurer's Report March 21, 2026

Balance, Last Report 1-3-2026: \$3,214.50

Income:

Dues: \$150.00

Expenses:

PayPal Fees: (5.10)
Room Rental: (300.00)

Current Balance 3-21-2026: \$3,059.40

Current Paid Members:

We had 10 renewal and 5 new members.

The membership totals are:

- 80 Regular
- 3 Life
- 11 Permanent

*Time To Renew
Your Membership!*

The reduction in regular paid members from the previous reporting period reflects the number of members whose dues expired January 1, 2026 and have not yet renewed.

Submitted March 21, 2026

George Collins, KC1V

Treasurer, North East Weak Signal

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GENERAL MEETING

April 24, 2026 at 4:45

At the Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave Conference



Officers

Officer	Contact Information	Activity
President	Dick Frey, WA2AAU 7262 Skyline Drive Delanson, NY 12053 (FN22vs) rlfbauer@gmail.com	6, 2, 222, 432, 903, 1296, 2304, 3400, 5760, 10 GHz, 24 GHz.
Vice President	Eric Mazur, KA1SUN 763 Main Road Savoy, MA 01256 (FN32ln) ka1sun0@gmail.com	6, 2, 222, 432, 902, 1296, 2304, 3400, 5760, 10 GHz.
Secretary	Paul Wade, W1GHZ 682 Dubray Rd, Cabot VT 05647 (FN34uj) w1ghz@arrl.net	6, 2, 222, 432, 902, 1296, 24 and 47 GHz 10GHz, more to come.
Treasurer	George Collins, KC1V 105 Ninth District Rd Somers, CT 06071 (FN31sx) news.kc1v@gmail.com	6, 2, 222, 432, 10GHz.
Editor, NEWSletter	Don Twombly, W1FKF 32 Bumfagon Rd Loudon, NH 03307 (FN43gi) donw1kf-news@yahoo.com	6, 2, 222, 432, 903, 1296, 2304, 3400, 5760 MHz, 10 GHz, 24 GHz, 78 GHz. 1296 MHz EME 10 GHz EME

Board of Directors

Each Board Member is appointed for a 2-year Term.

Contact Information	Activity
Mark Casey, K1MAP 303 Main Street Hampden, MA 01036 (FN32sb) map92map@gmail.com	6, 2, 222, 432, 903, 1296, 2304, 3400, 5760, 10 GHz.
Bob Bownes, KI2L 8 Ribbon Candy Lane Troy, NY 12180 (FN32et) bownes@gmail.com	6, 2, 222, 432, 902, 1296, 2304, 3400, 5760, 10 GHz, 24 GHz.
Tom Cefalo, W1EX 16 Dogwood Ln North Reading, MA 01864 (FN42lo) w1ex@verizon.net	6, 2, 432, 5760, 10 GHz, 24 GHz, 47 GHz, 78 GHz.
Tom Williams, WA1MBA 68 Nickerson Rd Orleans, MA 02653 (FN51as) tomw@wa1mba.org	222, 10 GHz, 24 GHz, 47 GHz, 78 GHz.

Support your VHF/UHF - Microwave

NEWS Group

IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE

FOR A DOOR PRIZE Or Auction item FOR THE CONFERENCE

CONTACT

MICKIE, WIMKY dpcllement@tds.net

49th EASTERN VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE CONFERENCE:

April 24-26, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn (860)-688-6400

555 Corporate Drive, Windsor, CT 06095

I-91 exit 38 to Day Hill Rd.



2026 Schedule

FRIDAY 4/24

(and crew)

12:00 Noon Early Arrivals Lunch - meet K1MAP

(413-222-9292) in Lobby

2:00 AF1T and KB1QV Transmission Lines

3:30 Times Microwave Demo - Products and Tools

4:00 Afternoon Workshop: Small dish EME demo

*** if winter in New Hampshire ends in time ***

4:45 NEWS meeting

6:00 SOCIAL ROOM (BYOB due to Hotel rules)

6:00 Dinner (on your own)

7:30 Indoor SWAP/SELL & VENDORS. **No Boatanchors!**

SATURDAY 4/25 ALL DAY

Super Test Lab up to 65 GHz (or higher)

Thanks to Greg Bonaguide WA1VUG

8:15 **WELCOME**

8:20 W3CMP 6 Meter Rover Antennas

8:50 W1GHZ Measuring VSWR at Microwaves

- 9:15 WA4LPR BMRS 10 GHz Q65/CW Beacon
- 10:00 **Break**
- 10:15 WA1MBA Q65 Beacons for 10, 24, & 47 GHz + 5.7
- 11:00 W9JJ Contest Update Forum
- 11:45 **LUNCH**
- 1:25 **AUCTION**
- 1:30 KC1DWH Block Island January VHF Operating
- 2 :00 K1FMS & W1VLF 940nm Update, One Year Later
- 2 :45 KB1QV Focus Hard - Offset Cassegrain Antennas
- 3:15 K1WHS Where have all the Aurora gone?
- 4:00 **END Talks - *ROOM MUST BE CLEAR***
- 4:15 **OUTSIDE** Sun Noise Demo - weather permitting
- 4:30-7:00 socialize on Patio
- 7:00 **BANQUET**
- 8:45 **Award Presentation**
- 8:50 Sam Harris Memorial Quiz
- 9:00 **DOOR PRIZE EXTRAVAGANZA:**
- Mickie W1MKY, Lanette KA1NKD, and Don W1FKF
- EVERY REGISTRANT IS ELIGIBLE FOR DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS.**
- SUNDAY 4/26**
- 9:00-11:00 AM VHF+Microwave Swap and Sell

Please type in your Call for desired item before clicking Add to Cart

May have to Return to [BROWSER TAB](#) to add additional entries

(we want to make sure your callsign appears at least once on the order)

Proceedings

Papers will be available online after conference at newsvhf.com

[For Mail Registration click here](#)

For Mail Registration [Click here](#)

Registration by PayPal is preferred, please

[Registration: \\$40 up to April 17.](#)

\$50 after April 17

[Saturday Dinner Banquet tickets until April 17](#)

Dinner Choices: Rib Eye Steak \$55, Chicken Marsala or Vegetarian \$45

[Guest Saturday Dinner Banquet tickets until April 17](#)

Dinner Choices: Rib Eye Steak \$55, Chicken Marsala or Vegetarian \$45

Friday Lunch

Pizza Lunch on Friday at Jim's Restaurant

Includes Pizza , salad, soft drink, and tip \$22

Saturday Lunch

Grinder Lunch on Saturday at Jim's Restaurant

Includes Grinder (sub sandwich), salad, soft drink, and tip \$22

Note: Your ticket(s) will be waiting at the event registration entrance.

Registration after April 17 will be \$50.

Banquet tickets will be \$10 more after April 17 if available.

You must be Registered for the Conference to attend the evening Doorprize drawings.

(Mark KIMAP) map92map@gmail.com

Book a hotel room at the Conference rate with this link:

Hilton Garden Inn at Bradley Airport

The 'quick book' option is for all 3 nights. Use the 'Edit Stay' link (near the top of the page, on the right hand side) to change what nights you want to book.

The hotel address is [555 Corporate Drive, Windsor, CT 06095](#)

Take I91 Exit 38, then go west to Day Hill Road.

(Mark K1MAP) map92map@gmail.com

ZK06-UM Low Noise Amplifier (LNA) Module, Broadband, 10M-6GHz, 21dB Gain,



Freq. (MHz)	Gain (dB)	NF (dB)
144	25.64	0.33
432	24.98	0.35
902	22.12	0.41
1296	23.20	0.42
2304	22.1	0.49
3400	20.1	0.52
5760	19.7	1.30

Needs a band-pass filter for band
(Measured at Microwave Update 2025)

\$15.00 ea

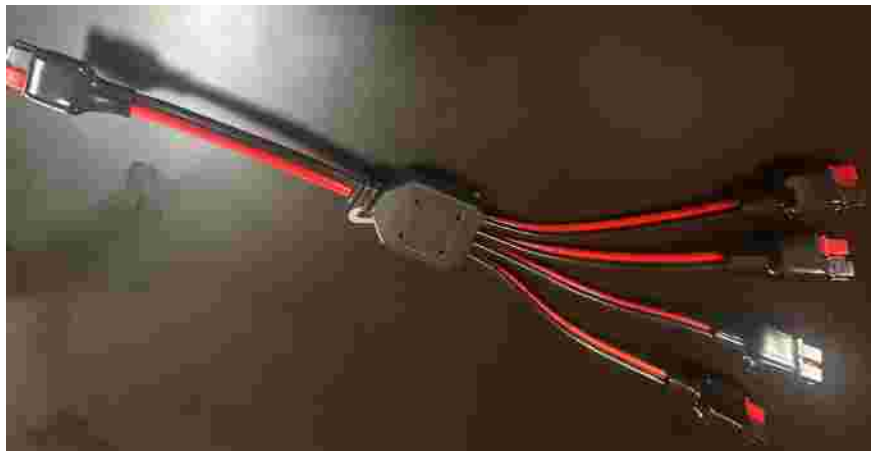
*Will Have some at Conference
W1FKF*

Anderson Splitter Cable 1 in 4 out

\$15.00 ea

Will Have some at Conference

Don W1FKF
donw1fkf-news@yahoo.com





OK1FPC's microwave shop

transverters, power amplifiers and other parts

[3/2026]

Ales Jehlicka

OK1FPC@SEZNAM.cz

https://www.ok2kkw.com/next/ok1fpc/ok1fpc_offer.pdf

The introduction – how to purchase, how to pay

Ales, OK1FPC decided to help boosting local activity on 23cm & UP (especially on 10 GHz for RS) with as cheap as possible transverters and solid state power amplifiers. He has for sale transverters for 1296,3400, 5760 and 10368 MHz, IF 2m or 70cm (on demand).

Transverters has similar construction to Kuhne's G2 version, LO around 106,5 (103,5) MHz isn't included but it's designed for direct connection of Leo's Bodnar low jitter GPSDO (leo-bodnar.com) which is essential for microwave EME. It's also possible to ask Ales for external. TCXO. Power output is around 300-500mW, noise figure around 1,0 dB which means no additional LNA for tropo or RS operation is necessary! Ales doesn't want to sell kits. 23cm and 9cm transverter has new design and it's mixer parameters are equal to newest Kuhne/Alaris transverters. Each transverter is measured for power output, phase noise and noise figure at FPC's laboratory.

If you have any problem with transverter like burning out, you can deal with Ales for sending TRSV back for repair.

[Price for one unit would be something over 310 Euros +/- depends on the band, price can change](#) (Plus tariff and shipping)

Ask Ales for actual info. Important note, if you want to write to Ales about purchase, please always specify the requested IF frequency (2m or 70cm, on 23cm 28 MHz is possible too) Ales doesn't want to waste his time to making you full plug and play black-box with transverter and PA, you'll have to connect it yourself.

Pay: via Paypal or via bank transfer, for more details please ask Ales

[Transverter for the 23 cm band](#)

[Transverters for 9cm and 6cm band](#)

[Transverter for the 3 cm band](#)

[Linear Power Amplifier for 3,4 / 5,7 /10 GHz – 4,5W OUT](#)

[High power Linear Power Amplifiers for 10 GHz 8 W 12W OUT](#)

[Local oscillator - 96x multiplier](#)

[OK1FPC's microwave shop](#)

[Ales Jehlicka](#)

OK1FPC@SEZNAM.cz

Where has 10 GHz Contest Liaison Gone?

In the past most was done on 2 meters SSB

Now most is done on Cell Phone

Reason: more bands, too much to carry

I would like to propose using POC

[Push-to-Talk over Cellular \(PoC\) Radios](#)

handheld or mobile devices that use 4G/LTE/5G cellular networks and Wi-Fi to provide **instant, nationwide** or global communication, **acting as long-range walkie-talkies**.



Area groups could be formed and individual private channels
(200 Channels)

There are a lot of different companies that make them.

The group would have to pick the same manufacture to make sure the network is compatible.

Personally I would pick TIDRADIO, Model TD-G18, for a pair, they are \$110 on [AMAZON](#). Larger sets are cheaper.

One year free service, \$20 per year renewal.

They are programmed by user using a cell phone APP [Odmaster](#)

Long Battery Life & USB-C Fast Charging]: The Tidiradio G18 features a 3000mAh battery that supports up to 7 days of standby time and all-day talk time. With USB-C fast charging for on-the-go convenience, simply press the PTT button to activate the unlimited-distance rapid radio function.

[Automatically Back Up Every Conversation]: Just open the ODmaster app on your phone and keep it running in the background to automatically record all group calls. You can replay the recordings within the app anytime to clearly revisit conversations about work instructions and team assignments Manage groups with ease through simple operations.

Convenient Over-the-Air (OTA)

Should have better coverage than a cell phone as these have a real antenna!

Compatible with [TD-M15](#), [TD-G100](#), [TD-M13](#), [TD-M2 Pro](#)

Comments and suggestions

Post to: newsvhf@mailman.qth.net

Don W1FKF donw1fkf-news@yahoo.com

VHF+ OPERATING Chasing SOTA on Weak Signal VHF/UHF

A new challenge is putting W1 summits on the air — and your station is needed.

2026 SOTA VHF/UHF Challenge

Imagine working a 2 meter SSB contact to a White Mountain summit or a 2 meter CW QSO with a ham on a mountain in the Camden Hills of Maine - the op on the mountain is running 5 watts and a hand held yagi, fighting the wind, and logging as many calls & grid squares as possible before the weather, sunset or fatigue drives them back down. That's the essence of Summits on the Air (SOTA), and this year, the W1 SOTA group needs your help making it happen.

SOTA is a worldwide award scheme that encourages amateur radio operators to activate summits — getting out with portable gear and making contacts from the top. While most SOTA activity has historically been HF phone and CW, a 2026 challenge is putting a spotlight on something much closer to home: 2m and 70cm CW and SSB.

"The purpose is to encourage activity on these bands and modes — and right now, we need more chasers with the equipment to make it work."

The rules are elegantly simple. Activators climb a qualifying summit and set up a portable station Chasers — that's potentially you — work them from home. To count for the challenge, each QSO must include an exchange of six-character grid squares or precise location data, confirming the distance between the summit and the chaser. A contact from your home station to a summit in ME, NH or VT is exactly the kind of QSO this challenge is designed to create. In the W1 region alone, there are more than 80 active SOTA operators, many of whom get on a summit once or twice a month. In past years, those activations produced hundreds of HF sideband and CW contacts, plus 2m FM simplex. This year's challenge focuses specifically on SSB and CW on 2m and 70cm, the very modes this group knows best.

WHAT YOU NEED TO PARTICIPATE

- 2m or 70cm SSB or CW capability
- Your six-character grid square (e.g., FN43ab)
- Join the W1 SOTA Alert email list
- Willingness to call CQ toward a summit — or answer one Coordination is straightforward:

I have created an email list to send a weekly alert to notify

interested chasers about upcoming W1 activations — one message per week, opt out any time.

If you've worked the ARRL VHF contests, you already have what it takes. The only difference is that instead of another contest exchange, you're working someone who hiked to get there.

We are looking to add to the chase list. If you're willing to work summit operators on weak signal VHF or UHF — even occasionally — reach out and ask to be added. The summits are going on the air. All they need is someone listening.

For more info or to be added to the list, email Ed at k1rid@yahoo.com

Learn more at sota.org.uk · Spot activators live at sotawatch.sota.org.uk



Cheese Bits

Newsletter

Mt Airy VHF Radio Club

NEAR-Fest

New England Amateur Radio Festival

NEAR-Fest XXXIX -

May 1 & 2, 2026

<https://near-fest.com/faq/>

Microwave Update 2026

Registration Now open

[Doubletree by Hilton - 1111 Jefferson Road,](#)

[Rochester, NY 1462](#)

**Friday October 23 - Saturday
October 24, 2026**

<https://microwaveupdate.org/>

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.

Support The ARRL

Spectrum Defense

Fund

INFO





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

news.kc1v@gmail.com

News Letter

North East Weak Signal Group

Don Twombly, W1FKF

donw1fkf-news@yahoo.com

Why Join?

Deciding to become a member of the North East Weak Signal Group offers you the following advantages:

- You can attend meetings that have excellent presentations, with fellow radio operators whose combined radio experience adds up to hundreds of years. You have the ability to help steer the topics of the meetings.
- You have a strong sense of ownership and participation in radio schedules such as "North East Weak Signal Net"
- Be a part of the best VHF/UHF Conferences offered in the country!
- In addition, you will receive our Club Newsletter (aptly named)
- "**N.E.W.S. LETTER**" approximately 2 weeks before the next scheduled meeting!

In addition to technical operations and public service, we also have fun! An annual Club Picnic bring the family. Stop by at any of our functions and see what we do!

How to Join!

Simply complete our Membership Application and email or better yet bring it to one of our next meetings! Dues are \$10.00 for a 2-year membership period and are payable upon acceptance.

(Download: PDF Reader [here.](#))

- [Application Form](#)

news.kc1v@gmail.com