

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)

September 2026

Volume 35

Issue 5

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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

Treasurer's Report July 11, 2026

Balance, Last Report 4-24-2026: \$3,109.10

Income:

Dues: \$40.00

Expenses:

None

Current Balance 7-11-2026: \$3,149.10

Current Paid Members:

We had 3 renewal and no new members.

The membership totals are:

87 Regular

3 Life

11 Permanent

Submitted July 11, 2026

George Collins, KC1V

Treasurer, North East Weak Signal Group

Officers

Officer	Contact Information	Activity
President	Dick Frey, WA2AAU 7262 Skyline Drive Delanson, NY 12053 (FN22vs) r1fbauer@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 (FN32In) 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) donw1fkf-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

Morse Code in 2026: Why the U.S. Navy Brought It Back

[Link](#)

Why the U.S. Navy revived Morse code training in 2022 and what it means in 2026.

Contested EM environments, ham radio parallels, and why civilians should learn CW.



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.

The next Northeast Weak Signal Group (NEWS) Meeting

September 26, 2026

BOARD MEETING

- Lunch, September 26, 2026 (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

September 26, 2026 (all are welcome)

STORRS LIBRARY

And ZOOM

from 1 PM to approximately 3:45 PM.

693 Longmeadow St,

Longmeadow, MA 01106

<https://longmeadowlibrary.org/>



Minimum Discernable Signal Testing

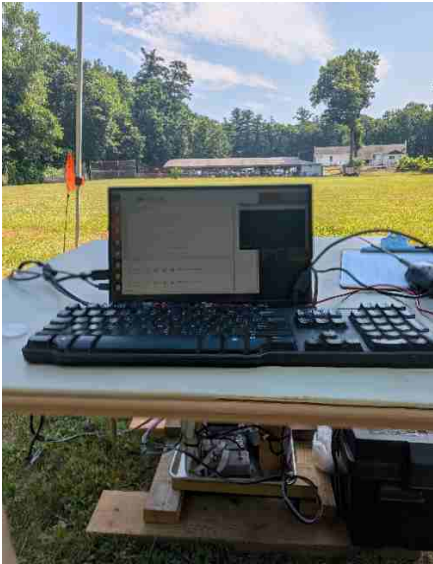
July 11, 2026 NEWS GROUP PICNIC and ANNUAL METTING

Tom Williams WA1MBA

The MDS testing at the annual meeting & picnic this year was fun and work as usual. I didn't run into any equipment or operator problems, so that part went well. I want to thank Bob KB1OV and Lanette KA1NKD for all their help in setting up, operation and tear-down. Don W1FKF was helpful in keeping things moving along and asking me the right questions.

This year we tried something new. We tried to get a s/n report via a hand held spectrum analyzer by tapping into each radio's IF port once everybody was aligned with the source. It provided some help for a few operators who had not peaked quite right yet (the amplitudes were still quite high when we gathered these new data). Anyway, the idea is that in addition to our "operator ears MDS" we would also gain a possible relative equipment S/N which, if it works, would be less subjective. You be the judge.

As usual we also measured the "key down" relative power (called TX in the tables) at the remote site This is just the IF power reported by a TinySA. We tried to take the best/strongest of the signals when they were jumpy. My best guess is that these values were within about 1 dB of "correct" given the situation. Thanks to Bob for speeding up this process.



Above are a couple of photos from the 2026 Picnic and MDS.

Below are the results. Each band has a sort by MDS, TX, and for 10 GHz also the SpecAn S/N Reading.

MDS TESTING JULY 11, 2026. NEWS GROUP PICNIC. DATA AS RECORDED

<u>BAND</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Dish Type</u>	<u>Dish Size</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Spec An</u> dB	<u>MDS</u>	<u>TX</u>
<u>GHz</u>		Prime, Offset, Cassegrain, Horn, Panel	Projected Diameter Inches	<u>W</u>	<u>S/N</u> dB	Lower (more negative) =Better	Higher (less Negative) =Better
10	AF1T DALE	P	24	10	22.2	-90	-27.7
10	K1UU Fred	O	18	7	21.2	-78	-40.7
10	VE2UG RENE	O	26	15	20.8	-74	-33.7
10	W1FKF DON	O	18	8	19.1	-79	-31.7
10	AF1R LEANDRA	O	18	2	18.8	-70	-53.7
10	KC0IYT GLEN	O	18	0	17.2	-72	
10	K2AEP PETE	O	22	0.11	17	-75	-52.2
10	KA1SUN ERIC	O	22	2	15.8		
10	KC1V George	O	18	3	14.8	-70	
10	KC0IYT GLEN	O	18	3	14	-70	-50.7
10	W1AIM CHIP	O	24	4	13.8	-70	-43.7
10	K1FMS FRED	O	20"H x 25"W	2	12.3	-70	-48.2
10	WA1T AL	HORN		12	4.7	-66	-44.7
10	WW1Z JOHN	HORN	24.9 dB	1	1.5	-56	-57.2
10	N1ROZ LARRY 905	O	25	5		-66	-67.4

<u>BAND</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Dish Type</u>	<u>Dish Size</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Spec An</u> dB	<u>MDS</u>	<u>TX</u>
10	AF1T DALE	P	24	10	22.2	-90	-27.7
10	W1FKF DON	O	18	8	19.1	-79	-31.7
10	K1UU Fred	O	18	7	21.2	-78	-40.7
10	K2AEP PETE	O	22	0.11	17	-75	-52.2
10	VE2UG RENE	O	26	15	20.8	-74	-33.7
10	KC0IYT GLEN	O	18	0	17.2	-72	
10	AF1R LEANDRA	O	18	2	18.8	-70	-53.7
10	KC1V George	O	18	3	14.8	-70	
10	KC0IYT GLEN	O	18	3	14	-70	-50.7
10	W1AIM CHIP	O	24	4	13.8	-70	-43.7
10	K1FMS FRED	O	20"H x 25"W	2	12.3	-70	-48.2
10	WA1T AL	HORN		12	4.7	-66	-44.7
10	N1ROZ LARRY 905	O	25	5		-66	-67.4
10	WW1Z JOHN	HORN	24.9 dB	1	1.5	-56	-57.2
10	KA1SUN ERIC	O	22	2	15.8		

BAND	Call	Dish Type	Dish Size	Power	Spec An dB	MDS	TX
10	AF1T DALE	P	24	10	22.2	-90	-27.7
10	W1FKF DON	O	18	8	19.1	-79	-31.7
10	K1UU Fred	O	18	7	21.2	-78	-40.7
10	K2AEP PETE	O	22	0.11	17	-75	-52.2
10	VE2UG RENE	O	26	15	20.8	-74	-33.7
10	KC0IYT GLEN	O	18	0	17.2	-72	
10	AF1R LEANDRA	O	18	2	18.8	-70	-53.7
10	KC1V George	O	18	3	14.8	-70	
10	KC0IYT GLEN	O	18	3	14	-70	-50.7
10	W1AIM CHIP	O	24	4	13.8	-70	-43.7
10	K1FMS FRED	O	20"H x 25"W	2	12.3	-70	-48.2
10	WA1T AL	HORN		12	4.7	-66	-44.7
10	N1ROZ LARRY 905	O	25	5		-66	-67.4
10	WW1Z JOHN	HORN	24.9 dB	1	1.5	-56	-57.2
10	KA1SUN ERIC	O	22	2	15.8		

Band	Call - Name	Dish Type	Dish size	Power	MDS	TX
24	W1FKF DON	O	18	0.5	-72	-46.2
24	VE2UG RENE	O	26	4	-70	-39.7
24	K1UU Fred	O	18	2	-68	-42.7
24	K1FMS FRED	O	20"H x 25"W	2	-60	-54.7
24	KC0IYT GLEN	O	18	2	-48	-72.7
24	KC1V George	O	18	2		
Band	Call - Name	Dish Type	Dish size	Power	MDS	TX
24	VE2UG RENE	O	26	4	-70	-39.7
24	K1UU Fred	O	18	2	-68	-42.7
24	W1FKF DON	O	18	0.5	-72	-46.2
24	K1FMS FRED	O	20"H x 25"W	2	-60	-54.7
24	KC0IYT GLEN	O	18	2	-48	-72.7
24	KC1V George	O	18	2		

Band	Call - Name	Dish Type	Dish size	Power	MDS	TX
47	VE2UG RENE	P	12	0.5	-45	-63.7
47	AF1T DALE	P	12	40 mw	-62	-70.2
47	K1FMS FRED	P	12	40mw	-66	-66.7
Band	Call - Name	Dish Type	Dish size	Power	MDS	TX
47	VE2UG RENE	P	12	0.5	-45	-63.7
47	K1FMS FRED	P	12	40mw	-66	-66.7
47	AF1T DALE	P	12	40 mw	-62	-70.2

Band	Call - Name	Dish Type	Dish size	Power	MDS	TX
78	VE2UG RENE	P	24	180 mw	-47	-75.2
78	N1JEZ MIKE	P	8	3 mw	-38	
Band	Call - Name	Dish Type	Dish size	Power	MDS	TX
78	VE2UG RENE	P	24	180 mw	-47	-75.2
78	N1JEZ MIKE	P	8	3 mw	-38	

ARRL Launches Nationwide Grassroots Campaign to Pass Amateur Radio

Emergency Preparedness Act

[Send Your Letters Now](#)

[INFO](#)

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](#)



Latest NanoVNA Version, Zeenko LiteVNA67

Paul Wade W1GHZ ©2026

w1ghz@arri.net

The NanoVNA has been a revelation for the amateur RF laboratory – real Vector Network Analyzer at an amateur price. From the first NanoVNA good to 300 MHz with a tiny screen to the current LiteVNA64 with a 4" screen, they have enabled real RF measurements in a handy pocket-sized package. According to an IEEE paper¹, the LiteVNA64 offers performance up to 3 GHz comparable to a Keysight VNA costing 50 times as much; it also provides slightly reduced capability up to 6 GHz using a harmonic mode.. The convenience of being able to use it wherever I am working means I use it more often than my old, large, and heavy HP VNA.

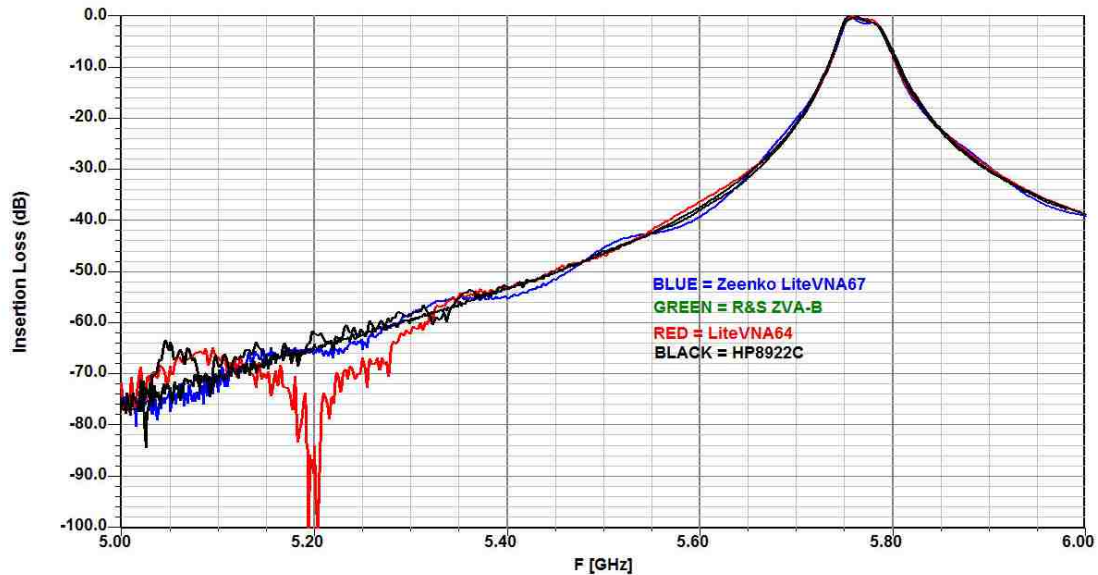
An improved version, the Zeenko LiteVNA67, recently became available, and I acquired one. The new version has a new mixer that works up to 6 GHz with full dynamic range and low noise floor, areas compromised by harmonic operation. I also has a larger 7" screen and uses type N connectors rather than SMA – apparently some users had trouble with SMA connectors breaking off the earlier models. It comes in a very nice plastic carrying case and includes Type-N test cables and calibration parts.

I wanted to test it in the 5 to 6 GHz region, where I am not fully confident about LiteVNA64 measurements. A good test of dynamic range and noise floor would be measuring a narrow waveguide filter, so I tested several 5760 MHz filters several that I had on hand. I tested them with the Zeenko LiteVNA67, the LiteVNA64, my HP8922C, and located measurement results with a Rhode & Schwarz ZVA-B made when I wrote a QEX filter article². The filters, like most microwave equipment, have SMA connectors, so I found some test cables with SMA on one end rather than use adapters with the Type-N test cables. Both LiteVNAs and the HP were calibrated with an HP SMA cal kit, and both calibrations and measurements were made in one afternoon.

AWR-137 three-post waveguide filter for 5760 MHz was measured on all three VNAs and plotted below along with the earlier R&S measurements. The plots for all four are very close down to about -40 dB. The LiteVNA64 is gets pretty noisy below that level, while the others show small variations. The LiteVNA64 curve also has some small glitches, like those I have seen previously in other measurements – annoying but not fatal.



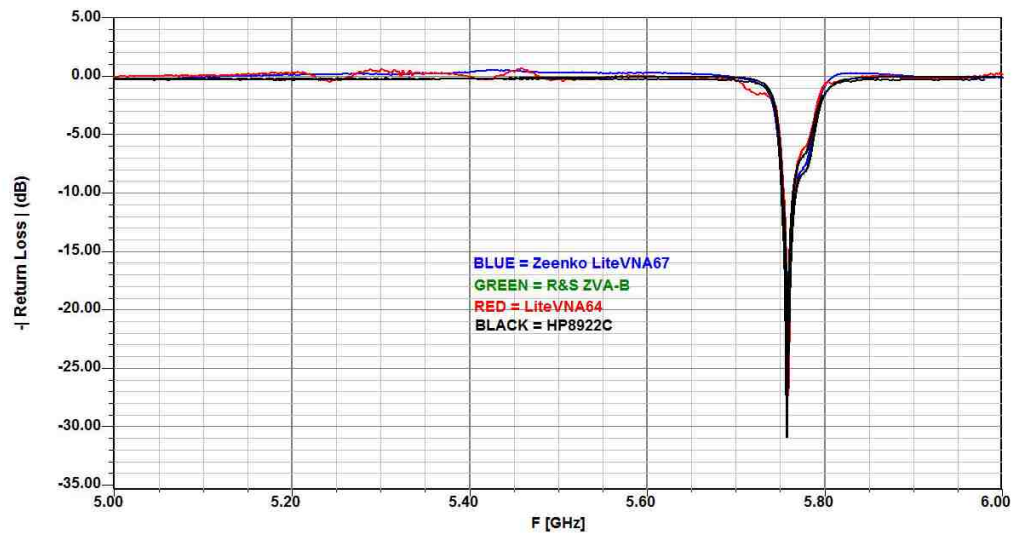
W1GHZ

VNA Comparison
Waveguide Post Filter
WR-137 Three Post #A

W1GHZ

VNA Comparison
Waveguide Post Filter
WR-137 Three Post #A

07:12:00



Another new feature of the LiteVNA67 is a programmable source attenuator to reduce the power level, so that amplifiers may be measured without saturating the amplifier or overloading the VNA. I expect to use this feature frequently.

Summary

The Zeenke LiteVNA67 provides performance up to 6 GHz comparable to much more expensive professional instruments. Current price is around \$300. It should be more than adequate for any ham use.

Is it worth upgrading? For me it is, since I have been doing some work around 5760 MHz and would like to be confident in my measurements. The source attenuator for measuring amplifiers is also very useful.

For most hams the older NanoVNA models should be perfectly adequate as long as they work up to your maximum frequency. Any of them is far more useful and cheaper than the overpriced “Antenna Analyzers” targeted for hams. We should realize that tenths of a dB shouldn’t matter to hams, and never mind all those other meaningless decimal places.

The larger screen is less important to me. I use the screen data for quick measurements and tuning, but I download the data to the microSD card to analyze and view on a larger screen. It does make typing file names on the screen keyboard easier.

There is a rumor of an extended mode up to 11 GHz. That would probably make the upgrade more attractive. I will be upgrading the firmware as available.

Notes:

1. N. Hunt, J. Scott and L. Streeter, "Nano Versus Commercial [Educator’s Corner]," in IEEE Microwave Magazine, vol. 24, no. 4, pp. 88-95, April 2023
2. Paul Wade, W1GHZ, “Waveguide Filters You Can Build – *and Tune*, Part2, Waveguide Post Filters,” QEX, January 2010, pp. 20-25. http://www.w1ghz.org/filter/QEX_Jan_2010_p20-25.pdf

***ARRL September VHF Contest - Please
Enter or Update your Plans in the
W3SZ/K1RZ Database for Sept 12-14***

<https://w3sz.com/k1rz/K1RZDownloadPage.html>

***ARRL 10 GHz & Up Contest - Round 2
Please Enter or Update your Plans in the
W3SZ/K1RZ Database for Sept 19-21***

<https://w3sz.com/k1rz/K1RZDownloadPage.html>

THE MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB

SOUTHAMPTON, PA



Announcing The 2026 Fall Sprints

The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club is proud to sponsor the upcoming 2026 Fall Sprints!

Contest Time and Date:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|--|
| 1. | 50 MHz: | 1800 UTC to 2200 UTC time on Saturday, October 3, 2026 |
| 2. | 144 MHz: | 7 PM EDT to 11 PM PDT on Monday, September 21, 2026 |
| 3. | 222 MHz: | 7 PM EDT to 11 PM PDT on Tuesday, September 29, 2026 |
| 4. | 432 MHz: | 7 PM EDT to 11 PM PDT on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 |
| 5. | 902 MHz and up: | 8 AM to 2 PM local time on Saturday, October 17, 2026 |

Please note the changes for this year's running of the Fall VHF Sprints:

- **The 50 MHz sprint will be held on Saturday afternoon from 1800 to 2200 UTC**
- **Stations will be classified as either Single Op HP, Single Op LP, or Rover**
- **Sprint dates are spaced to avoid conflicts with other contests / events**
- **The 144, 222, and 432 Fall Sprints are scheduled from 7 PM EDT to 11 PM PDT with a 4 hour maximum operating time**
- **Scoring for the 50 through 432 MHz sprints allows 2 points for analog contacts and 1 point for digital contacts. Duplicate contacts = 0 points**
- **The 902 and up sprint scoring is distance based. Only one contact per band using any mode. Duplicate contacts = 0 km**

More information and the complete rules will be posted at

<https://packratvhf.com/index.php/fall-sprints>





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

News Letter

North East Weak Signal Group

Don Twombly, W1FKF

donw1fkf-news@yahoo.com

Treasurer
North East Weak Signal Group

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

news.kc1v@gmail.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 meet-ing!

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

Microwave Update 2026

— SAVE THE DATE —

Friday October 23 – Saturday October 24

DoubleTree by Hilton – 1111 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY 14623

Group Rate of \$159 per night - Reservations currently being accepted

Call 1-800-774-1500 for hotel reservations

Group Code - RVHFG 2026 Microwave Update

Conference registration, events, and Thursday arrival details coming soon!

Check the website in February

www.MicrowaveUpdate.org

Questions? Email: MicrowaveUpdate2026@gmail.com



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