



Happy Birthday

Frank-K2AZZ
Dana-N2KN
Jeff-N2RCF
Claude-WT2C

Our 2 meter repeater is working great! Please feel free to use it. Try the 449.925 but our 224.280 is temporarily off the air. No one uses the 450MHz or the 220MHz repeaters so we don't know the coverage. If you use them give us a report...



2012 dues are \$25.00 per individual \$30.00 for family \$5.00 for students and active Military are free.

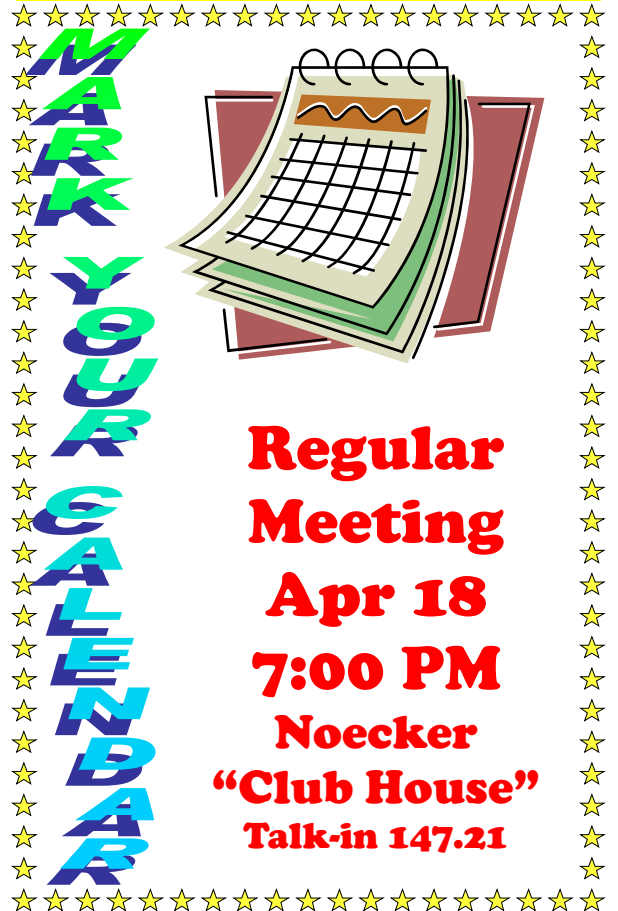
You Can Pay Your 2012 Dues Anytime!

Mail to:
Stan Engel, WA2UET
PO Box 153
Ghent, NY 12075
Or bring with you to meeting
Make checks Payable to RVWARS

2011 DUES ARE NO LONGER PAYABLE!



Please join us on the Tuesday night Roundtable on 147.210 at 7:00 PM. ALL are welcome! Use the Echo-Link (K2RVW-R) if need be.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Regular Meeting
Apr 18
7:00 PM
Noecker
"Club House"
Talk-in 147.21

MEETING APRIL 18 PLANS FOR FIELD DAY SPRING IS HERE!!!

Bob, WB2DUW

Bob is doing well. He has finished his rehab at CMH-Rt 66. He said that his hand is about 90% functional, just some "fine tuning" and should be 100% by the end of summer. He is back driving since the first of February... Good news! Good Luck Bob!

RVWARS WEB PAGE

Dave, WA2FTI has our RVW web page www.rvwars.com updated and looking great. Thanks Dave.

We are nearly to the end of the seventh infusion sequence and the recovery for David has been slow this time. He "hit the wall" last Thursday afternoon and it has been a struggle ever since. His blood recovery has been good this time but he is very tired and he seems to fall asleep without warning. This can be dangerous if he is sitting on the stool in the kitchen.

The next infusion is scheduled for next Monday. I am praying that this will be the last one as it seems to get worse every time.



The photo today is of David teaching the ham radio class last spring. We had a great time with that group and we hope that they are enjoying the amateur radio experience.

Good luck to Wayne and all of the students in the class this time.

2011 AUCTION A SUCCESS

On March 21, 2011, Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society held our annual auction, which has become an annual tradition. A good time was had by all. Our stalwart auctioneers, Shelly, AA2Y and Wayne, K2WG did their usual fantastic job of keeping the items moving while everyone present had their share of laughs.

Many thanks to Tom, N2NZD and Stan, WA2UET for keeping track of the sales, and to everyone present for their support of this effort.

Because of your support, RVWARS earned a profit of \$161.

I NEED NEWS!

Have a story to share? An experience to relate? Some gear to review? Some gear to sell. A technical tip to dispense? Write it up, add a couple of appropriate photographs and send them off to *Rip's Report* wa2uet@taconic.net. Hams throughout the Columbia-Greene area will thank you, and so will the Editor!

**Continual cheerfulness
is a sign of wisdom.
- Anonymous**

RVW WORK PARTY

We finally got up to the site and changed over the battery banks. Also installed new cables on the repeater side of the duplexers. I have new heliex ordered for the jumpers at a later date. Everything has survived the winter OK. We will need to get up there as soon as the snow is gone to clean up some trees and branches in the road way.

HUDSON RIVER BANK FOUNDATION GRANT

The Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc. has been awarded \$750.00 for supplies for the sixth annual amateur radio training from the Hudson River Bank and Trust, Inc Foundation. The ten-week training will begin Tuesday March 15 at 6:30 pm and will be held at the "Noecker66" show room, Graham Ave and Route 66 Hudson.

The Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society is a not for profit organization with the mission to promote and support all aspects of Amateur radio. The members of the group volunteer their time to educate any interested person to obtain their entry level Federal Communication Commission (FCC) License by teaching the basic Amateur Radio course. Members also mentor new Amateurs so that they might learn the proper methods and techniques to better enjoy the hobby.

The group also provides a trained base of licensed Amateurs to provide emergency communications for our community in times of disaster.

The support of the HRBT Foundation, Inc. will enable those students with the equipment needed to learn. The program will have volunteers available to train students on the use of code practice oscillators used for transmitting Morse code. Although Morse code is no longer a requirement for licensure, it is very popular among "Ham" Radio operators. The program will offer training prior to the start of every class starting @ 6pm. Amateur radio operators are individuals of all age groups and gender. There is no cost for the training. For information call Tom, 828-7084. Pre-registration is not necessary but encouraged.

HOMELAND TOWER PROJECT

From Homeland March 19, 2011:

"Hi Stan,

We're preparing to file for our building permit which should take place in the next couple of weeks.. Thanks."



Upcoming Events

Monday, APR 4 — 7:00 p.m.
 ARES/RACES Meeting on the air! Tom, WE2G will be at the EOC if someone wants to stop by.
Monday, April 18 — 7:00 p.m.
 RVWARS Meeting:
 Noecker Clubhouse, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave. Hudson

Weekly Nets

EVERY TUESDAY at 7:00 p.m.
 Informal Roundtable on the 147.210 repeater ALL are welcome.
3rd THURSDAY at 8:00 p.m.
 ARES/RACES
 Emergency Training Net: 147.21 Repeater

Repeaters

147.210 no PL tone
 449.925 no PL tone
 224.280— no tone and temporarily off line.

Vital Statistics

President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD
 Vice President — Mike Alecsynas N2JVE
 Secretary — Tom Cody WE2G
 Treasurer — Stan Engel WA2UET
 Historian — Stan Engel WA2UET
 Safety Officer — Stan Engel WA2UET
 Repeaters — 147.21 224.280 449.925
 Club Call — K2RVW
 Club Special Event Call—WD2K
 Web Page — <http://www.rvwars.com>
 NEWS E-mail — wa2uet@taconic.net
 Yahoo Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

Minutes RVWARS Meeting 3/21/2011

- Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by President. N2NZD. Attendance 26.
- Secretary's report read. Motion to accept by KC2YKM, second by AC2DK.
- Treasurer's report Checking \$848.03, Savings \$2010.40, Total \$2858.43.

Committees:

- **ARES/RACES**
- Columbia County RACES running on the air nets. Nothing from ARES.
- Greene County had demo on Anderson Power Poles. Next meeting will cover Go Boxes. The 147.090 is sitting at N2LEN's residence. Len sent an e-mail to John Farrell several weeks ago asking that the county pay for repairs to the receiver, around \$150. It is owned by the county.

- **Repeater**

Stan visited the repeater site last weekend and changed the batteries and the jumpers around. It looks good up there. Stan contacted Manny's secretary. They will be Applying for a building permit shortly.

- **New Business**

WE2G had a letter which is going to Rep Chris Gibson. Its purpose is to note our note our objection to the part of HR 607 which will take away 420-440MHZ. It was passed around for signatures.

Pete, KW2D, offered his tower and antenna to any member in good standing in exchange for a fair donation to RVWARS.

Carl, WB2TCV, brought up the possibility of putting solar panels up at the repeater site, as a prolonged power outage could cause power problems. He got estimates. They were around \$3000. A 200 watt panel would cost \$450-\$750. Someone with mechanical talent could make brackets. Carl would buy the panel and would sell it to the club at cost if we wanted it. It would eventually be mounted on the remaining sections of the old tower. Charging controller. Prices can vary.

Field Day chairman. KC2YKM volunteered. Mike will give Todd paperwork

W2SXX reported WGXC is looking for amateur radio related announcements. They want to do an amateur radio show.

- **Education**

Wayne, K2WG, reports the class had a false start on March 8, with 1 ½ students. Restart on the 15th with 9 students. There may be 11 at the class on the 22nd. Books are paid for by the grant. Wayne will be teaching Fire School starting April 12. Instructor needed April 12 and May 3. Stan will demonstrate PSK 31.

All remaining classes are half hands on and half classroom.

Motion to adjourn by N2JVE and seconded by AA2Y at 7:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

WE2G, Secretary

FIELD DAY RAFFLE

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

First Prize—24" Samsung LED Full HDTV/Monitor
Second prize-ARRL Repeater Directory

Drawing Saturday 6/25 Noon at the FD Site

Tickets—\$3.00 each Tickets available at the meetings and at FieldDay Site.

Send SASE to RVWARS c/o Stan Engel

PO Box 153 Ghent, NY 12075

Make Checks Payable to RVWARS

MY SON JOE



(Note: My #3 son Joe is in the second row, third from the left, over the Governor's right shoulder.)

Joe is proof that "The Marine Corps Builds Men". He has served on the team that finds and rescues downed US pilots in enemy territory, served as a US Embassy Guard in Northern Africa, was employed as a Halliburton convoy team leader bringing supplies from Kuwait to Baghdad (never lost a man), was a US State Dept employee responsible for the safety of important visitors visiting the US Embassy in Baghdad (he lived there in the Embassy and knew General Petraeus), he speaks and can communicate in both "street" Arabic

and "formal" Arabic, and now he is a Nuclear Power Plant Security person in Oak Ridge - thus the photo with the Tennessee Governor.

Joe was born in Saigon, and he and a brother and a sister were adopted by my family when he was 3 years old, a short time before Saigon fell.

John, W2JSN

The pic was taken 3/2/11 at the state capital in Nashville during my Leadership Oak Ridge (Chamber of Commerce initiative) trip. Gov Haslam was, prior to governor, the Knoxville mayor. He is CEO of Pilot Travel Centers (the largest truck-stop service stations in the country) and part owner/minority stake holder of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Good guy and a Republican.

ANTENNA PARTY!

Well, KC2YKQ-Norm and KC2YKM-Todd and KC2YKR-Tim (me) got a vertical put up and hooked the old Kenwood to it. We made a contact in France!!! Sorry, I have no pictures.

I just want to thank the members that have sent me some great articles for the Newsletter. PLEASE keep them coming. I believe this is the type of content that readers are interested in.

Learn and Practice your CW Skills

ARLB010 W1AW 2011 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

ZCZC AG10
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 10 ARLB010
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT March 14, 2011
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB010
ARLB010 W1AW 2011 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CW	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1400 UTC to 1600 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM ET)
1700 UTC to 1945 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET)

(Station closed 1600 to 1700 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM ET))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2000 UTC (4 PM ET)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2000 "	CW	Tue, Thu
2100 " (5 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
2200 " (6 PM ET)	DIGITAL	Daily
2300 " (7 PM ET)	CW	Mon, Wed, Fri
2300 "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0000 " (8 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
0100 " (9 PM ET)	DIGITAL	Daily
0145 " (9:45 PM ET)	VOICE	Daily
0200 " (10 PM ET)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0200 "	CW	Tue, Thu
0300 " (11 PM ET)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675
28.0675 147.555
DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095
147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590
147.555

Notes:

CW = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM ET), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1400 UTC to 1600 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM ET), and then from 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

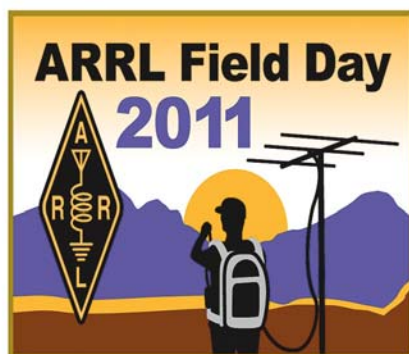


RADIO THEN AND NOW



By: Carl J. Verderber WA2UJX
March 20, 2011

When Grandpa was a HAM, radio was in its infancy. Spark gap transmitters and crystal detectors were the technology of the day. He always said "It would be nice if I could hear only one station at a time Carl". "Someday someone will invent a better receiver". So for the heck of it I tried one of Grandpa's receivers, you know the one with the galena detector, and he was right! You CAN'T hear one station at a time!



www.arrrl.org

ARRL Field Day Overview

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs gather with their clubs, friends or simply by themselves to operate.

ARRL Field Day is not a fully adjudicated contest, which explains much of its popularity. It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, most groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local elected community leaders, key individuals with the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

Join us at the Claverack Town Park on June 25-26 for our activities. Everyone is welcome!

HAM CLASSES GOING GREAT!

The Technician licensing class meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the RVWARS Club House in the Noecker Dealership in Greenport.



There are 11 students in the class ranging in age from 9 to 40+. The first half of each class is a lecture/presentation session covering the basic concepts of radio station setup and operation, FCC Rules and Regulations, basic electronics and the second hour consists of hands on projects.



Students are connecting and studying series and parallel circuits, building 2 meter ground plane antennas, constructing dipole antennas and learning how to use multi meters. All students will also participate in on-the-air activities including voice contacts, digital contacts and perhaps even a CW contact or two.



A VE session is scheduled for May 17th at 6:30 PM and walk-ins in addition to the class members will be welcome.

Shack of the Month!!!

KC2YKM, Todd



I started getting interested in radio while playing with my Grandfathers equipment. He was involved with React. Then I started out with realistic CB radios. I met a lot of nice people on the CB. Always willing to help me out.

In 1998 I bought a Galaxy Saturn radio with a 3 dial multimeter to go with it. I was given a MFJ 1040B preselector as well.

I was on the air until 2000. I had an extended family on channel 4. Some knew my Grandfather, they were a great crew.

With the Y2K scare I stored my radio gear until 2008. I started to take my equipment out again and found that the antenna was bad. I bought a 24 foot big stick antenna and finally replaced that with a 24 foot commercial Sigma Alpha 10 meter antenna.

I got talking to my old friend Vinny, N2SGW and he tried to talk me into Ham Radio because Morse Code was now obsolete. We were both DX chasers on the CB bands. He would turn up the volume on his radios and tease me.

I started asking for information about ham radio and found out about the RVWARS club. Then I met John, W2JSN in the local radio shack store and was asking about changing frequencies on my CB radio. He told me about the Ham classes. I came to the classes with the Clappers and Tom Cody and other members. I took the test and got my Tech license in 2010. I became very involved with the club and am currently serving as committee chairman for Field Day. I also run the swap and shop net on the N2LEN repeater on Saturday nights at 8:00 PM, along with the community calendar.

The gear on my bench above is on the bottom left the Galaxy Saturn, the HR2510 mobile the MFJ989C antenna tuner, my straight key. The Pyle 32/35 amp power supply. On top the RS scanner, the preselector, Kenwood Clock a Radio Shack mic the Kenwood TS-520S transceiver and the PDM-6000 SWR meter and the Golden Eagle D104 to go with the Kenwood. And an old 2 meter portable Asden transceiver.

I am enjoying Amateur Radio very much.
73, Todd

Yaesu, ICOM and Kenwood Issue Statements Regarding Effects of Earthquake on Operations




In a letter to the Amateur Radio community, Vertex Standard Chief Executive Officer and President Jun Hasegawa expressed his "sincere appreciation to all of you for your kind words and thoughts about us" after the devastating 8.9 earthquake that struck Japan last week. Vertex Standard is the parent company of Yaesu. All Vertex Standard employees and their families are safe and unhurt, Hasegawa said, but the company has not been able to reach many of their dealers and subcontractors who are located on the coast area: "We just hope that they are alive." Hasegawa said that a Vertex Standard factory in Fukushima was damaged in the earthquake. Even though the factory is not located near the coast and the damage was minimal, he said that Vertex Standard has decided to "disable the operation at this moment." Saying that they are working very hard to get the factory back to its normal operation, Hasegawa said that "it may take one to two weeks to restart operation in the Fukushima factory. I would like to ask for your understanding and cooperation at this time."



According to a press release, no one from ICOM is known to be injured. No damage has been reported at ICOM's headquarters in Osaka, or at either of their two main factories in Wakayama; both Osaka and Wakayama are located far south of the most severely affected areas. The branch offices in Tokyo and Sendai, however, did suffer some minor damage. "Most of ICOM's facilities and systems are ready to get back to normal business, but supplier logistics, commuting issues and future power disruptions will affect our company," the press release said. "It is too soon to tell how big an impact the earthquake

and its aftermath will have on ICOM. We appreciate your interest and concern."



"Thankfully, our staff in Japan is safe due to earthquake preparedness and the special construction of our buildings," said Kenwood USA President Junji Kobayashi on the Kenwood website. "Power outages and interruption of mass transit have kept most of Kenwood's staff at home since the earthquake; however, we expect the infrastructure to improve in the coming week and our operations to fully resume accordingly. We appreciate the concern for our employees expressed by all those who have contacted us." Kenwood's primary office facilities in Yokohama and Hachioji were not damaged, due to their proximity further south and west of the quake's epicenter. Since Kenwood's primary manufacturing facilities are in Malaysia, electronics production is unaffected. 

For Sale de K2WG:

\$50.00 each

HTX-242 (Radio Shack) 2 meter mobile transceiver

45 watts/10 watts
Mobile mounting bracket
Power-Pole connections on double fused 12 volt DC line
DTMF microphone
Good condition

HTX-202 (Radio Shack) 2 meter HT

Alkaline battery case only
Good condition

GP-68 (Motorola) UHF hand held

Drop in charger
Head set

FT-11R (Yaesu) VHF hand held

Drop in charger
2 battery packs

Contact Wayne at
wayneg1231@fairpoint.net or 518-610-

EAST GREENBUSH 8TH ANNUAL HAMFEST

Saturday, May 14

68 Phillips Road, East Greenbush

8 AM to 1 PM

Admission \$6

Info: www.w2egb.org

MT. BEACON ARC HAMFEST

Sunday April 10, 2011

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Tymor Park, LaGrangeville
Dutchess County

PACKET RADIO—TRY IT!

If anyone is interested in trying a bit of PACKET radio you should know that there are two BBS's on 145.030 that are always online. They are K2WG-1 and K2RVW-1. Just type "C" and one of the above stations and you should connect. Once connected type "H" for the rest of the commands. Type a "B" to log off.

Trade/Sale/In Search Of

I have some 'used condition' amateur rig's I purchased in the past 'new' eg. -1 Alinco DR-605 2/440 mtr fm dual band'r, 6 mtr fm mono band'r, 2 mtr fm mono band'r some 'cb' rig's (am), 1 is a ssb/am. These rig's either DO or Do Not function! Mostly all are easy/cheap 'radio repair' issues eg. internal 'fusing' maybe final or a digital led 'quirk' whatever! My Quest is to swap/trade (barter?) whatever it 'take's from my 'rig collection' to acquire a simple mono mode cw or better if (Lucky:-) cw/ssb 2 MTR rig. Not qrp but qrp 5w or better. This can be Any 'working' stable rig, transverter, completer kit rig, (the mfj-2mtr is an example). If Anyone is Interested in 'trade' or trade/cash 'barter' I am open ears. :-)

I've had much 2 mtr fun with fm now to go on with cw, and/or ssb. :-)-ke2eb George H. Call

West Coxsackie, NY 518-731-9854 hubbycall@yahoo.com

There's mikes and then there's mics!

By: Carl J. Verderber, WA2UJX
March 19, 2011

Microphones perform only one task – to transform sound, any sound, into electrical signals to use for many applications. Record-ers, telephones and transmitters use micro-phones that respond to audio in the range of 20 Hz to 15 KHz. Some mikes respond to sub-sonic vibration below 20 Hz while ultra-sonic mikes respond to audio above the hear-ing range.

I took some time on the Internet to re-search some of the many microphones I have acquired over the past 40 years. I was over-whelmed by the numbers and styles and types of mikes used for just audio applications. Not even the abbreviation is consistent when it comes to microphones. In the early years, the term "mike" was commonly used but recently the term "mic" has gained favor.

I find the many hundreds of designs (and their variants) have been developed over the last 135 years since the first carbon unit was needed for the telephone service. While I have perhaps 18 or 20 mikes I do not have an example of every type of mic. There are: carbon button types; moving coil and dynam-ic types; crystal and ceramic types; ribbon and capacitor types; and types that I am not aware of yet. Some were worth \$5.00 when new while others would have cost thousands of dollars. A "Neumann" TLM-49 is a very expensive microphone that I couldn't possi-bly afford even used. Even if I had one I'd be worried about using it or dropping it. Send it back to the factory for repairs and that could cost you \$900.00 or more! Good old Astatic D-104's are about as good as it gets around here. They are plentiful and affordable and work very well with old boat anchors.



Picture 1: (L) Western Electric carbon mike from 1920's; (R) Western Electric 630 (moving coil dynamic) from 1935 also called the "Eight Ball"

I choose six of my microphones to share with the reader. **Picture 1** shows a Western Electric carbon telephone carbon element mic that was adapted to a stand and used for PA and transmitter service. Another Western Electric unit is the WE-630 from 1935. A great departure from the carbon element, this mic used a diaphragm and a moving coil around a permanent magnet (dynamic). While the carbon mic needs voltage applied to operate, the dynamic unit outputs a voltage

that can be directly applied to an amplifier. Hooked up to my boat anchor transmitters these mikes sound terrible. They are really old and nice to look at – but that's all.



Picture 2: (L) Shure 710A crystal mike from 1949; Ar-gonne M-31 Japan crystal mike from 1965

Picture 2 shows a Shure 710A crystal mic on desk stand and a Japanese Argonne M-31 crystal mic and stand. These two were very inexpensive when new but worked well. When connected to one of my transmitters, the sound from the Shure is too sharp with little low end while the sound from the Ar-gonne is bass heavy with a slight echo. I do not use these microphones but they are pretty to look at!



Picture 3: (L) A Turner crystal desk mike from 1969; (R) Astatic D-104 crystal mike.

Picture 3 shows a Turner crystal mic on a desk stand and an Astatic D-104. I use the Turner on my Globe King 500-C transmitter while the Astatic D-104 is used on the Heath-kit DX-100 and the Heath Apache transmitters. I really like the sound of the D-104! By the way – I have a number of Astatic heads and each head has a different sound so I choose the one that sounds best with the Apache.

Well, there's mikes and then there's mics and each person has to choose the right type and kind of microphone for their purpose and which abbreviation to use. I was lucky to find the right mic for the right price that fit my needs. END



HONDA EM-5000SX
5 KW GENERATOR
\$2,600 FIRM



Comes with:
Wheel Kit and Handles,
Cover
(4) 20Amp 120VAC Out-lets
(1) 30 Amp Twistlock 120VAC 3 Prong Outlet
(1) 30 Amp Twistlock 240VAC 4 Prong Outlet
Automatic fast idle Switch when in use
Charges 12VDC Vehicle Batteries
1 Pull to start (sorry no starter)
1 hour of break in time and about 2 hours of run time

Contact Mike at (518)784-3864 and leave message
(SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY) Thank You

FOR SALE
ICOM IC-703 PLUS
WITH SEC-1223 POWER SUP-PLY

About 6 months old, Like new condi-tion.

Asking \$500 for both.

Contact Tom, WE2G at 828-7084

tcody@mhcable.com

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The Hallicrafters SX-88 Serial Number #203 Restoration Project!

Bringing it back to its Original 1954 Glory!
By Lenny, N2LEN

What's the finest Hallicrafters radio ever made? Some folks would say it is this, the 1954 Model SX-88. Highly coveted by collectors, this impressive general-coverage receiver uses twenty tubes and weighs in at around 75 pounds, making it one of the heaviest receivers in my entire collection and probably the most sophisticated.

With push-pull audio and a host of powerful features, the SX-88 was aimed at high-end customers and priced accordingly, at a breathtaking \$595.00. It was manufactured for only two years, 1954 and 1955. Not surprisingly, given the lofty price and short manufacturing run, fewer than one hundred of these radios are known to survive today.

Maybe even less than that number still actually function. I'm sure the remaining has been properly restored. I won't even begin to tell you what these babies sell for on the used ham radio market...Or maybe I will! he he he!

I always loved the look of the Hallicrafters receivers. The SX-101MK3A that I currently own is truly a beautiful looking and working radio. For quite some time, I always looked at pictures of SX-88's on the internet and dreamed to one day own one. Personally have never seen one (SX-88) in person for sale, and I don't give any credence to Ebay as a standard for price setting, as the prices there are usually inflated and emotion driven, so it is very hard to place a value on any that do go for sale.. There were supposedly only about 300 made or at least offered for sale to the public and I am told (??) that there are now only 100 or so known to exist. One recently sold on E-bay for \$10,000 dollars. That's right! Ten Thousand Dollars. It was purchased by Joe Walsh a member from the rock band "The Eagles" You all know the song "Hotel California" Locally a gentleman in NJ offered a possible sale of his coveted SX-88 for over \$5000.00!

I was fortunate to find this example: serial #203 about 1 week ago. (No, I did not find it for \$20 at a thrift store!) After about several days or negotiating a fair, expensive equipment trade, the receiver became mine. A lifelong Dream has become reality!

But it was a very special Hallicrafters SX-88? A GOLD & BLACK VERSION? Yup, someone during its long lifespan had the front panel; band spread knobs dials, cabinet lid anodized in Gold!

YUK! WHY! WHEN! HOW!

Here is a snap shot of the actual receiver when the pictures were originally sent to me in the beginning



of the deal making process. Remember SX-88's carcasses, parts missing, donor rigs incomplete etc... can easily bring \$2000.00.

Similar to the SX-42 and other Hallicrafters sets, the SX-88 has a painted front panel with slightly raised lettering. The heavy metal bezel surrounding the dials is not so typical and gives the radio a dramatic appearance. The cabinet top is hinged,

giving easy access for replacing dial lamps or tubes.

This is a continuous-coverage ("all wave") receiver, covering all frequencies from 535 khz to 33 mhz in six bands. Both tuning knobs are gear-driven and weighted with heavy flywheels. Small chrome-plated locks are located next to each tuning knob. The centrally-located band switch uses a stout drive belt and takes more muscle to move than on many radios. In addition to the switch elements themselves, the band switch controls the moving pilot lamps behind each dial.

The receiver was packaged perfectly. It is very important when requesting packaging, that you request special wrapping, double boxing, replacement insurance, etc. This is always a must do effort when purchasing hi-end collectible "NON replacement" equipment!

Asking for pictures from the shipper during his packaging process is also an excellent idea. These would help if there are any problems with shipping damage and UPS claiming insufficient or improper packing. They will also help you as you unpack the receiver. The outer box is a triple walled box. The shipped used Styrofoam insulating sheets from 1/2" up to 2" in both inner and outer boxes, with the most protection on the front of the receiver. When any item is received, it is important to compare its appearance to the pictures for any damage.

The manual and the ac plug were in a plastic bag inside the receiver. Packing material was also used over the tubes that do not have shields to make sure that didn't loosen from their sockets and fallout.. He removed the plug from the end of the AC cord so there would not be anything protruding from the rear of the unit. It is an old type plug which I will eventually want to replace the entire cord with a modern 3 wire type. I always do that on all of my vintage gear - that is one area where safety trumps originality, but I am sure that the plug on the 88 was not original anyway.

On the evening that it was delivered, I looked at the pictures sent and began to UN wrap my new jewel. **No Damage anywhere!**

The receiver is in fine working condition. However, I was ready to begin a complete cosmetic restoration first, then a complete electronic restoration.

As far as cosmetics, it needs a complete overhaul. The top bezel suffers from the common warp problem that is known for this receiver. The front panel will need paint/screening or replacement. Same goes for the cabinet, and most of the knobs have to be replaced with original ones... After unpacking the receiver I immediately began the disassembly of the cabinet and front panel. I was told not to carelessly turn the SX-88 upside down on the bench with the case off because you will damage one or two of the IF transformers, there are a number of SX-88 receivers that suffered this fate. Inside there are a number of black beauty caps inside. These should all be changed! Totalling over 50! The only really difficult area is the 2nd conversion oscillator chassis. You have to unsolder several difficult to reach wires in order to remove this sub-chassis; I will probably have to mark the locations carefully before removal. In addition to the caps, I am sure that I will also find a number of far out of spec resistors that would have to be changed.

Back to the cosmetic part of the restoration: After a week of internet searching and with the help of several hams across the US, I was able to locate a gentleman who provides professional panel

and cabinet restoration using a power coat and silk screening process. Most of the radios in my boat anchor collection "cosmetically speaking" are in excellent shape.. So this is a first for me. There is a dividing line between preserve and restore. Some people feel that their radios don't have to be mint to work well.

Different folks place different weights on the two. Lately I have taken more interest in getting the electronic functionality into top shape while cleaning up and preserving as much of the original finishes as possible. I guess there are different philosophies for everyone. I get a bigger charge out of a well preserved original radio than anything that even hints of refinishing. But I guess in the end, the owner must decide. In many cases the previous owners may have already made a big enough mess that a refinishing job is about the only option. With my SX-88, a complete cosmetic refinish was my only option.

As I mentioned earlier, The TOP POT Metal bezel is warped. This is a common problem with the first run production of the SX-88 receivers. The POT metal bezel was upgraded later in the second production run and changed to aluminum. Now searching around the nation for a replacement bezel was even harder. It was like looking for a needle in a hay stack. None around anywhere, anyhow, anyway!

The original bezels were all pot metal with an inconsistent mixture of ingredients so some warped with environmental temperature and humidity changes however some did not. Any attempt to straighten mine will likely result in breakage as decomposed pot metal is very fragile and brittle. Early pot metal was the dross skimmed off the top from refining other metals. The original part was a casting and the design included a compound radius inside the picture frame. To accurately duplicate the appearance of the original part by machine you would have to be manufactured on a High end Metal CNC machine with a 5-axis simultaneous cutting capability. There was a gentleman who made replica bezels many years ago His reproduction bezels were run on a 3-axis CNC. Machining center and while pretty close to the original, does not feature the original part's compound radius in the picture frame inside corners. I didn't care and with this replica bezel being my only option continued by mission to locate one!

After many telephone calls throughout the US, I was able to locate a replica aluminum bezel that was made from the very last lot sold many years ago. It was built ready for installation, and already powered coated black. Yippee! So now the front panel has been shipped off to the refinisher, and a replica bezel ready for installation has been located.

Here are some pictures of the entire front panel with all the knobs removed, top bezel removed, dial glass assemblies removed, hallicrafters center logo





removed ready to be shipped for refinishing.

After fully removing the receiver from its cabinet, removed the front panel. I began immediate inspection of the band switching drive belt.

The drive belt is one of those things which place the SX-88 in a different category than most radio restorations because it uses a custom tooth pattern and simply is No Longer Available Anywhere. Just like the bezel has been researched extensively by several hams and others, with the same conclusion. After blowing out the dust with my air compressor showed a good working drive belt. I will always use it with great care, because the only option may be a complete re-design using modern available drive train components. About 10-15 years ago a gentleman K9RJ (SK) paid the supplier to tool up and make replica belts. After speaking with the ham who is still selling is estate, they are all gone (I suspect many are being hoarded by SX-88 owners in the likelihood they maybe one day be needed) If I do find one it will probably be very expensive. I found out from the gentleman who I purchased the bezel from that he was looking into having a new replacement belts manufactured. This project came to a dead halt when the guy was told the price for process to make a replacement!

The other unobtainable parts on the SX-88 include the RF deck components, and the very high-Q IF transformers. Further inspection of the 2 IF cans in the left side of the cabinet were damaged previously. The aluminum case of the IF cans rivets snapped off one side of the cans. It was suggested to repair them with JB WELD adhesive.

Here is a picture of my IF can repair.

Further inspection of the top of the chassis, re-



vealed a pretty clean cabinet, with absolutely no rust! Looking at the bottom, showed several upgraded capacitors.

Here are some pictures of the top and bottom chassis.



Looking at the front dial sub assembly, I noticed that the right wheel dial pointer was broken. The right dial pointer cam, a very tiny thin brass rod snapped off. Someone used silicone glue to hold the dial pointer straight up! I researched repair and it was recommended to fabricate the solid rod. I haven't the slightest clue why it wasn't repaired before. The pointer wheel is held on with a very small "C" type clip. If you look at the previous picture you can clearly see it. It is quite tiny. If I was able to remove that clip, then the wheel itself, repair would be very easy with the better results. However, repair while it's in place should work out fine too. I was able to carefully remove the tiny "C" clip using 2 dentist picks. After the clip was removed, the pointer wheel just slid off. I ended up using a sewing needle cut to size then bent at the proper angle. It actually fit into the swell of where the original pin snapped off. I also took your advice and used JB Kwik Weld for the adhesive. The JB Kwik sets in only 4 minutes, total bond after 4 hours.

Here is a quick picture of the pointer cam and "C" clip.



Right pointer wheel repaired and re-installed.



After the initial JB Kwik adhesive was used. About 4 hours later, I reapplied a little more fanning it out from the bottom with a toothpick. This morning, I simply slipped it back onto its cam and reapplied the "C" clip. A black felt tip marker was used to color the JB weld black.

The only setback was on the first attempt at snapping the "C" ring back, it went "BING" and flew across the room. After about 1 hour of search

and rescue, on my knees (with a flashlight) it was recovered.

This thing it TINY!

The pointer control now works perfectly!

Several if not all of the controls have been treated with De-Oxit! I also began to clean and polish the aluminum chassis parts. Locating original knobs, some are unique to the SX-88, however other hallicrafters receiver sport the same knob styling. The SX-42 for example has the same body style knobs. Anyone have a Junker SX-42 laying around for donor knobs? More details on this next month. I hope to have the front panel back from refinishing and replacement bezel here by then and provide more information on this restoration project.

The number of unique and unobtainable parts as you can see puts the SX-88 in a different league than most restoration projects where Junkers and parts units are more available, and where standard components were used in the first place.

Probably no different than classic cars or anything else, but if you enjoy the process it is rewarding and a source of pride to own and use a receiver that most only dream of and to know that you've brought it back to original condition.

In the end, it's an excellent receiver and worth the effort. But if all you want is a good working receiver there are easier choices!

Collecting boat anchors and restoration is quite new to me. But it's my new therapy!

You see, as I mentioned earlier, this receiver was working just fine when received...

Let's just make it better!

Best of 73,
Len N2LEN

