

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Rip's Report

January 2012



Happy Birthday

- Barry-K8LEF Emil-KC2YKW
- Sara-KB2BDC Ed-N2XPW
- John-KC2AGM John-W2JSN
- Jim-KC2OGK Bruce-WA2ZNO

**OUR REPEATERS ARE BACK ON THE AIR!
GIVE THEM A TRY.
REPORTS ARE WELCOME!**

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

Please Pay Your 2012 Dues!
Mail to:
Stan Engel, WA2UET
PO Box 153
Ghent, NY 12075
Or bring with you to meeting
Make checks Payable to RVWARS

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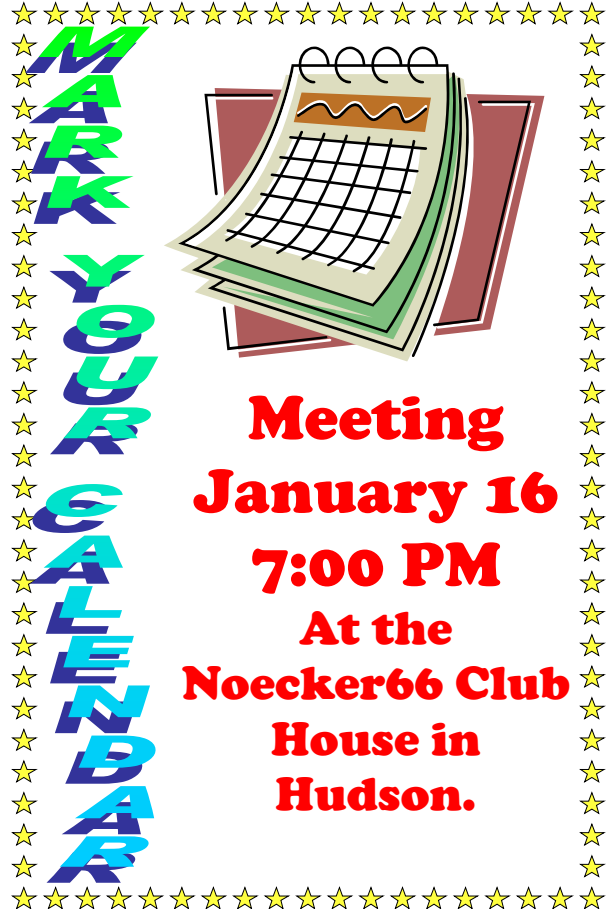
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Please join us on the Tuesday night Roundtable on 147.210 at 7:00 PM. ALL are welcome! Use the EchoLink (K2RVW-R) if need be.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**Meeting
January 16
7:00 PM
At the
Noecker66 Club
House in
Hudson.**

*** JANUARY ELECTION OF OFFICERS ***

(Only members with paid 2012 dues are eligible to nominate or vote.)

NOECKER66 CLUB HOUSE

1/16/2012

Hope to see everybody there!

REPEATER REPORT

We are currently using the spare 2 meter antenna at 100'. I am not sure what the problem with the top antenna is at this point but it looks like it might be a bad cable inside the tower.

I was not expecting any problems with the system so soon but as long as we can get them fixed it will work out just fine. It is a pleasure to work inside the new shelter. The lower antenna seems to be working great.

I am told that the tower crew from HPC will be here to finish their work and find our problem the first week of January.

Then there was another problem with distorted audio yesterday, the 30th. Carl came down with me and we tried to find something wrong. At this point it looks like it might have been a gremlin in the controller. But we are not sure.

When the system is working it sounds great. Eventually all the bugs will be found and life should be easy.

ANNUAL RUMBLE RETURNS

The Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society and the Troy Amateur Radio Association are proud to announce that the annual "Rumble" will be revived Sunday January 15, 2012 at 6:30 PM at Four Brothers in Valatie.

The rumble will be a great opportunity to remember and honor Mr Bill, NY2U, and Dave, WD2K, who were the main instigators at the original rumbles.

January 15 happens to be Mr Bill's birthday, which makes it more special. We will order from the menu. Questions and reservations to tcody@mhccable.com



73,
WE2G

RVW WORK PARTY

The next work party will be in the spring. Maybe we can spray some weed killer around the old shelter. And if the stone is still there we could spread that around some of the rough spots near the old shelter. We should try to keep it looking nice for the Village and us. I am looking forward to Spring!!!

THE TROUBLE WITH RETIREMENT IS THAT YOU NEVER GET A DAY OFF.

Arthur H. Brandow, W2NRD, SK

Arthur H. Brandow, 92, of Cairo passed away on Dec. 20, 2011, at his home in Cairo.

Arthur was born on May 3, 1919, in Coxsackie and was the son of the late Burton J. and Ada H. (Houghtaling) Brandow.

He was a mason with his father and brothers for many years, prior to becoming toll collector on the Rip Van Winkle Bridge and toll collector for the NYS Thruway. Arthur attended The Cairo United Methodist Church. His interests included building radio controlled model airplanes and amateur radio. He also loved walking.

Contributions may be made to the Cairo United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 552, Cairo, NY, 12413.

See photos and past Newsletters and much much more club information at: www.w2jsn.com

RVWARS WEB PAGE

The Web Page has been updated! We added some info on the main page to try to keep folks aware of events. Comments and suggestions are welcome. We will keep Dave Clappers design at least for now. Let me know what you think.

www.rvwars.com



Upcoming Events

ARES/RACES Meeting
first Monday of the month
at CC EOC
WB2DUW-RO
N2NZD-EC

RVWARS Meeting
Monday January 16
7:00 p.m.

Noecker66 Clubhouse, Rt 66
& Graham Avenue, Hudson

Weekly Nets

EVERY TUESDAY at 7:00 p.m.

Informal Roundtable on the
147.210 repeater ALL are
welcome.

1st Wednesday of the Month

Columbia Greene-Emergency Net
on the N2LEN 147.150 Repeater
7:00 PM

Repeaters

BACK ON THE AIR!!!

147.210/147.810 no PL tone
449.925/444.925 no PL tone
224.280/222.680 no PL tone

Vital Statistics

President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD
Vice President — Mike Aleksynas N2JVE
Secretary — Tom Cody WE2G
Treasurer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Historian — Stan Engel WA2UET
Safety Officer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Repeaters — 147.210 224.280 449.925
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/>

RVWARS Meeting 12/19/2011

On Monday, December 19, 2011, the annual RVWARS Goody Fest was held at the Noecker Clubhouse. There were 44 members and guests in attendance and everyone had a good time. Much thanks to all who attended and to those who brought a dish or dessert to share.

RVWARS would especially like to thank Mike, N2JVE and Patti, KC2PWO, for all of the hard work they put into obtaining donations of food and prizes for the drawings. Thanks to their hard work, \$278 was raised for RVWARS.

The monthly meeting was suspended. The next monthly meeting and election of officers will be held January 16, 2012 at the Clubhouse.

WE2G, Secretary

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!

I am not able to produce a quality newsletter on my own! I NEED your help! I am sorry for the repetitive content, I am trying to fill some space.

The below changes to the By-Laws have been voted on and changed.

4. Dues. The Dues Structure is:

- A. Single Member, \$25 per year.
- B. Family Membership, \$30 per year.
- C. Student Member, \$5 per year until he/she graduates.

D. Any unlicensed member of a RVWARS sponsored License Class who successfully passes the VE exam shall be awarded a free membership in RVWARS for the balance of the current year.

E. Membership is from January 1st to December 31st. New members joining the club after July 1 of the current year will be charged ½ year's dues for the current year.

F. Dues for active members of the military are free.



HAM FEAST A SUCCESS!!!

HAM feast, Christmas 2011, a great success !!!!!

Thanks to all who came and participated in our Christmas celebration, 12/19/2011. We had a great turn out (estimated @ 44). Your generosity in preparing hot food, donating gifts and auction items, and participating in the "Dollar Social" resulted in a club gift of \$278... Everyone was so generous in bringing food, that the club did not have a food expense, again thank you.

Special thank you's to the following club member contributors. Mike Alecksynas N2JVE, specialty coffees, and comfort snack bowl with gifts: Patti Lensink KC2PWO, Bailey's basket, and glasses: Jim Naegeli KC2OGK, a huge assortment of sweet breads and jarred cookies, and all our auction items. John Noecker W2JSN, oil services certificate and miscellaneous radio equipment from Bruce Williams N7CXJ. Our community was generous with support as well.

Winners of the raffle were:

Tree and reindeer, Anna Signoretti
Baileys basket, Jackie Miller
Black and Decker, Mike Alecksynas
Sprint blue tooth, Andrew O'Neill
Off Shore Dinners, Tim Chapin
Snack Pack, Bob Owens
Hannaford basket, Mary Daggett
Mystery radio stuff, Bob Owens
Marios gift certificate, Mike Alecksynas
Cracker Barrel, Tim Chapin
Noecker's gift cert, Cathy Chapin
Cookies by Jim, Ron Coons
Coffee! Dish, Mary Ann Engel
Sweet bread by, Jim Norm Chapin
Sweet bread by Jim, Mary Ann Engel
Cookies by Jim, Rebecca Daggett
Cookies by Jim, Patti Lensink
Cookies by Jim, Amy Daggett

The auction was a fierce battle, the Chapin's, Daggett's and Signoretti's fought a tough fight and monopolized the auction bidding.

We had plenty of food, fun and laugh's again THANKS

God bless you all. Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year
Patti Lensink

CARLS LOOP ANTENNA

My first introduction to the loop antenna was a gift from John WA2FUZ (SK). He was moving from the area and I had helped him remove some of his towers. He handed me a bunch of wire with a few insulators. He said it was 537 ft (160 meters) long and that I would be very happy with it. Dave, WD2K (SK) had raved about his loop antenna and I thought yeah, yeah. I finally tried it, hanging the feed point from my tower-about 55 ft high. I just fed it with RG-8 cable, no matching, just a circle of #14 insulated electrical wire with one end connected to the center conductor of the coax, the other end to the shield. I connected the center conductor of the coax to the wire, raised it on the tower, then snaked the wire through the trees on my property, using nylon string to hold the wire about 10-15 feet off the ground. After running the wire through the trees, I pulled it up and soldered it to the shield. I tried listening with the new antenna, it seemed to work as poorly as I imagined. My S-5 background noise was S-3 or lower. I Thought, well if you short the receiver input ,what do you expect? I tuned around found a signal on 75 meter fone. It was about S-9,the same reading as on the dipole, but the background noise was way down. The antenna loaded fine on all bands 80-10, and has worked well. I thought if it works this well at these heights, I'll raise it. I shot arrows over tree branches 40ft or more high and pulled the antenna higher—the result was the cloud warmer antenna I thought the initial loop would be. The feed point high, with maybe 60 feet of it high, then the rest 10-20 feet high seems to work best. I heartily recommend the loop antenna, even though members of the dipole coalition might take exception. I have had little luck with this or any other antenna on 160 meters.

Carl, WB2TCV





Items for sale de K2WG



1. Ameritron AL-811H linear amplifier. Purchased new in 2006 for \$629.00 from HRO. Needs 1 811A tube. Asking \$350.00 OBO.
2. Two Decibel UHF base station antennas. 20 years old but have not been in use since 2002. Exact model no longer manufactured but similar to current model ASP-705K 10 dB gain, 450-470, 500 watts, N female connector. Asking \$250.00 each or \$400.00 for both.
3. AND, 40 foot (10 sections) fiber glass military surplus antenna mast \$25.00

Contact: wayneg1231@fairpoint.net
Phone: 392-5704

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 'takes 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 bubby-call@yahoo.com

WANTED

If anyone has a decent P4 desktop computer that they don't want any more we could use one at the repeater site. I am using a laptop but a desktop would be handier if you have one. I don't really need a keyboard but a LCD monitor would be nice.

Reminder from: TARA-N2TY Yahoo! Group

Title: T.N.T. TRADER NET

Date: Thursday September 29, 2011

Time: 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Repeats: This event repeats every week.

Next reminder: The next reminder for this event will be sent in 1 day, 12 hours, 4 minutes.

Location: TARA REPEATER SYSTEM: 145.17/R & 447.075/R

Notes: This is a reminder for our weekly TARA - T.N.T. Trader Net which dedicated towards buying, selling or trading your amateur related items. All are welcome to come join us at 9:00 PM on the TARA repeater system 145.17/R & 447.075/R, plus Echolink #1774 or IRLP #4151.

Get reminders on your mobile, Yahoo! Messenger, and email.
Edit reminder options

I have about 16 -120 volt pan cake fans plus protective guards if you know of anyone that needs one and 2-12volt 6watt.

- 10-- 10 watt fans----- \$4.00 @
- 1--12 watt-----\$5.00 @
- 3-- 20 watt-----\$5.00 @
- 2-14 watt-----\$\$5.00

\$5.00 for the 12 volt fans @

Contact Ron, WA2UYY
wa2uyy@aol.com

SWAP AND SHOP NET

The 2 meter Swap n Shop net will return on Sat Oct 1 at 8 pm on the N2LEN repeater 147.150 and 449.025 with pl 114.8 . Net control will be Todd KC2YKM. This is a good time to sell some used gear or maybe find something that you have been looking for. Join Todd on Oct 1 at 8 pm on the net.

N2LEN Repeaters

The N2LEN Repeater Network:

- 147.150 114.8hz East Windham, NY
- 449.025 114.8hz New Baltimore, NY
- 448.275 114.8hz Colonel's Chair Ridge
- 442.050 114.8hz Sam's Point, NY 2200'

Yahoo Groups

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/N2LENREPEATER/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ECHOLINK/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GCNYARESACES/>
Echolink Node #6269
IRLP Node #4207

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



- Comes with:
Wheel Kit and Handles,
Cover
(4) 20Amp 120VAC
Outlets
(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



MUSINGS OF THE CURMUDGEON
A reprint from 2/2000



While talking on two meters the other day I was told that it was wrong to expect the newer members (ah, yes and some of the older) of our hobby to maintain the same standards of operating etiquette that we had demanded of ourselves in the past. If we kept doing this we would "end up having them leave and there would be less numbers to justify our existence".

Choking on my coffee I sputtered into the mike "so what". Of course that only offended them further but my point was that this is OUR hobby and we do have the right to insist that certain things be done our way. If others don't like what they find they are free to find another hobby.

Of course things will change with the passage of time and this is the way it should be but to insist that we intentionally be less than we can be is an insult to all of us. If your hobby is wood working you try to be the best and achieve a craftsman's level. It is the same with Amateurs, we want to do our best and strive to improve our knowledge and performance. Why should we do less?

No, this has nothing to do with class of license, it has all to do with class of person. The best aspect of the hobby, other than many of the folks you find in it, is it's infinite variety. There is room for all and interesting areas to explore that will take many life-times.

As Amateurs we have always shared a desire for knowledge and our ability to communicate over distance lets us satisfy this desire in ways we could never dream possible. Who else can talk to the astronauts, a missionary treating a primitive tribe, a world leader or the ham across town who shares a common interest.

We enjoy a freedom of the world that few others will ever know and yet we are told that we should "dumb down" our hobby so "the numbers" will continue to grow. What we have is too special to lose to the "numbers". The decision must be made that it is this uniqueness that makes the hobby what it is. If we lose it let's lose it because we demanded our right to be different. If we don't do this we will lose what we have anyway.

Yes we need a larger cross section of women, youth and minorities but we need these folks to share our interest in our hobby. They will enrich us but they will be part of our hobby. They will not just be numbers!
de WD2K

(by Dave Watrous, Feb, 2000)

It would be really neat to have someone take this column over. It makes great reading! PLEASE! There must be a curmudgeon out there!

RVWARS Year in review 2011

- January: Plans were being made for upcoming Technician course.
A Field Day Raffle was proposed.
The phone line at the repeater site was to be taken out
Winter Sprint was held
- February: Classes will begin March 8 with VE session on May 10.
Volunteers to help with classes were announced.
Winners of Winter Sprint announced.
- March: HR 607 discussed. This would take part of the amateur
70cm band.
Discussion on solar power and possible application at the
repeater site.
Annual auction was held. \$170 profit.
- April: MS Walk will be held May 1 at Lake Taghkanic
Letter signed by members about HR 607. Was taken to Rep.
Gibson's office.
Rep. Gibson invited to attend Field Day.
RVWARS lost David Clapper, WA2FTI. W2CSQ spoke about
David and thanked all for their condolences.
- May: Construction on monopole at Forest Lake to begin in July.
A D-Star repeater may be going up in Greene County
Field Day plans were ongoing. KC2YKM is chairing.
Proposal to change dues structure in by-laws
- June: Greene County ARES/RACES has new emblem. Ongoing work
on 147.09 Repeater.
Nothing happening at repeater site.
Amendment to by-laws adopted.
KB2UUQ donated equipment to RVWARS in memory of
WA2FTI. Mobile donated by RVWARS to Greene County
ARES/RACES.
VE session May 17 yielded 2 Generals and 2 Technicians.
Field Day: 992 contacts, 32 participants and 4,386 points.
- July: Crew working on monopole destroyed Tower. Repeaters are off
of the air.
Greene County ARES/RACES is working on Go Boxes.
- August: RVWARS Club Picnic
- September: Hurricane Irene did much damage in Greene County. ARES/
RACES Activated August 31 to September 7.
- October: Repeater antennas should be up shortly.
- November: Repeaters are up and working.
Columbia County RACES working with nursing homes.
Looking for members.
Pumpkin Patrol was held October 30, 31.
Goody Feast will be held December 19. N2JVE and
KC2PWO will Chair.
Rippers Rumble to be held with TARA (The evil Empire)
January 15.
- December: Goody Feast was held with 44 in attendance.

You Can Enjoy Contests Even If You're Not a Contester

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I often talk to guys who say that they're not contesters. Some even go so far as to say that they hate contests. I'm really not a contester, either, but I do enjoy operating them from time to time. There are several ways to enjoy amateur radio contests even if you're not a "contester."

This weekend, for example, the CQ World-Wide (CQWW) SSB DX contest was being held. As usual for a Saturday morning, I was down at WA2HOM (www.wa2hom.org), our club station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum (www.aahom.org). Now, the museum is only open from 10am - 5pm on Saturdays, so there's no way I'm going to score very highly in the contest, but I still decided to participate.

What I did was take advantage of the contest activity to add countries to our DXCC list. Over two hours of operation, I managed to make 63 contacts, including at least five new countries. The new countries that I added to our log included Iceland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the Cayman Islands, and Madeira Island.

None of these is rare DX, but for whatever reason, we hadn't worked them before. Now, we have. In addition, some of the big contesters will travel to exotic locales and operate from places that normally have no or few ham radio operators. Contests are good opportunities to get those countries in your log.

Operating in a contest is also a good test of your radio and antennas. It's true that contest signal reports are basically meaningless, but if DX stations regularly hear you on your first or second call, then chances are your antennas are working well. If they're continually asking for repeats or never hear you at all, it's a good bet that you need to do some antenna work.

Working a contest can also improve your operating skills. In a CW contest, for example, the good ops are generally operating at 25+ words per minute. That's OK,

though, because it forces you to copy that fast, and because you know what the exchange format is, you pretty much know what characters to expect. Try it sometime. You'll be surprised at how fast you can copy during a contest and how much your CW speed improves.

If none of the above reasons convince you, and you're still a bit apprehensive about jumping into one of the bigger contests, let me suggest that you try one of the smaller contests. State QSO parties, for example, are a lot more laid back than say the ARRL Sweepstakes. The CW speeds are a lot lower and the phone contacts are a lot less intense. You may even learn something about a particular state's geography. You will for sure learn a lot of county names.

It's all about having fun. And you can have fun in a contest, even if you don't have the time or the equipment to be competitive.

When not worrying about the proper county code for Goochland County, Virginia, Dan blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches ham classes, and ragchews on 30m and 40m CW. You can e-mail him with comments or questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



Yaesu's Amateur Radio Division Breaks with Motorola, Changes Name to Yaesu Musen

12/28/2011

After four years under the Motorola umbrella, Yaesu has split from that company. According to Vertex Standard President and Chief Executive Officer Jun Hasegawa, effective January 1, 2012, Motorola will keep the Vertex Standard Land-Mobile Division, while the amateur, marine and air-band will be under the Yaesu Musen banner. The new company will be known as Yaesu USA here in the US.

"This reorganization will allow us to concentrate in amateur, marine and air-band business, which will better leverage and align the strengths of our entire business operation," Hasegawa said in a press release dated December 27. "We believe that there is an exciting opportunity to evolve our organization to meet the needs of the Amateur Radio, Marine equipment and air band telecommunication industries by continuing to provide specialized services and the highest quality products."

Hasegawa explained that the new company's name will be Yaesu Musen, "a name our business partners have been familiar with for over 50 years. We are delighted to bring you the legacy of trust, quality and solid customer service that has always been associated with the Yaesu Musen company name."

While Yaesu Musen will have a new Japanese address, the address and phone numbers -- as well as the US operations and sales organization -- for Yaesu USA will not change. Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, will remain in charge of Yaesu USA's sales division.

SOME PHOTOS FROM OUR CHRISTMAS GOODIE FEAST

