

Goodie Fest DEC 21

Elections and Last Chance to buy Raffle Tickets.

Rip is Bringing Pizza!!!

Happy Birthday

Tom-N2NZD
Russ-W2FSL
Barry-WA2KLP
Bob-WB2DUW

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

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It is now official, ARES/RACES will, from now on, be holding it's regular monthly meetings at the New Columbia County EOC!

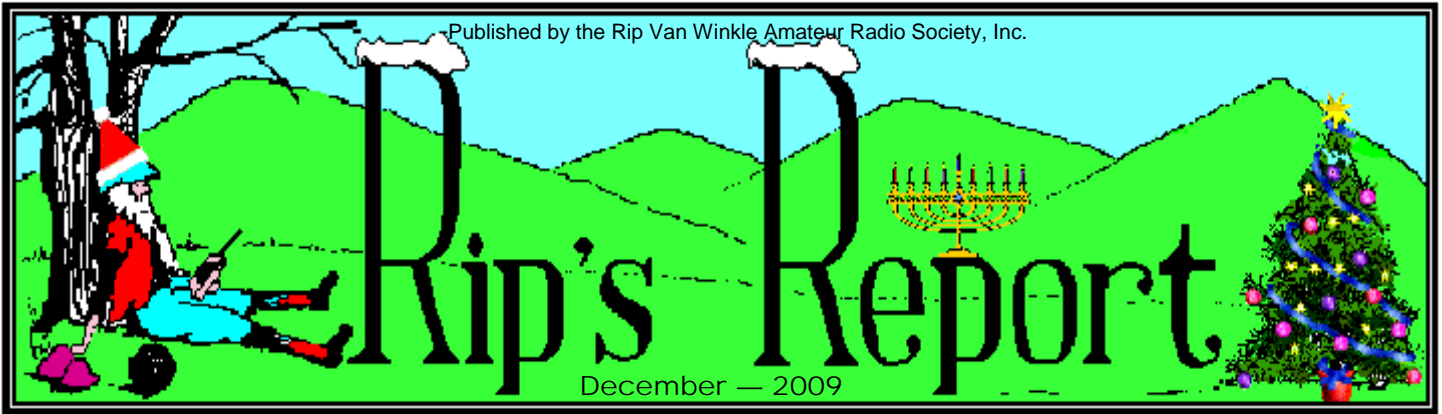
2010 dues are \$25.00 per individual \$30.00 for family \$5.00 for students and active Military are free.

You can pay your dues for 2010 anytime!

Mail to:
Stan Engel, WA2UET
PO Box 153
Ghent, NY 12075



Meeting
Dec 21
7:00 PM
Noecker
"Club House"
Talk-in 147.21



Licensing Classes Start Last Week of February

This RVWARS licensing classes are slated to start the last week of February, 2010 according to Dave, WA2FTI, Education Chairman. Class instructors and assistants have signed on to help with the instruction of the 10 week course that will be held on Tuesday evenings.

Plans are underway to apply for a grant that will pay for the student's text books. We also hope to be able to loan each student a Morse Key. As always, we plan to introduce the students to code and possibly get a few or all involved in on-the-air CW contacts.

If anyone in the Club has contacts with Boy Scout or Girl Scout Troops, it would be great if the local Scouts could take part in the class.

All Club members are encouraged to help out with the classes and to attend the classes whenever possible to act as "Elmers".



Repeater Work Parties

Recent Work Parties at the Repeater Site have accomplished quite a lot. Site cleanup of brush and downed trees has been accomplished. The insulation of the Repeater Shack will help keep the standby batteries from freezing. Pictures of the most recent "Party" are on page 4.

ARRL SKYWARN Recognition Day: December 5

The 11th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day will take place this year on Saturday, December 5. Radio amateurs will operate from many National Weather Service offices around the United States. The purpose of the event is to recognize Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local National Weather Service office. The event is co-sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service.

Traditionally, hams have assisted the National Weather Service during times of severe weather by providing real-time reports of severe events and storm evolution. The assistance that radio amateurs provide to the NWS throughout the year is invaluable.

SKYWARN Recognition Day this year will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC on Saturday, December 5, 2009. (That means the event officially begins on Friday evening in the United States). To learn more, check the NOAA Web site. — Steve Ewald, WV1X, Supervisor, Field Organization Team.

December Meeting to have "Goodies" and Officer Elections

The RVWARS December meeting on the 21st will feature a brief business meeting followed by the bi-annual Election of Officers. The meeting is also the official Annual Meeting of the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society Corporation. Members whose dues are paid up through 2009 are eligible to vote. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers. Nominations from the floor are accepted. (The person nominated must agree to be nominated.)

Following the Elections and other business, the annual "Goodie Fest" will commence with all sorts of Goodies that are always certified as "non-caloric and good for you." (No one is sure who certified that!)

As usual, everyone is invited. Bring your Spouse, girlfriend, boyfriend, just plain friend or someone you know who is interested in being a Ham. There is always plenty to go around!

If you haven't bought your Raffle Ticket for the Christmas Raffle, this will be your last chance! (See Page 3) In addition, the 50/50 can will be available. And, if you have some bucks left over, Dues for 2010 can be paid to our Treasurer, Stan, WA2UET.

See you at the Goodie Fest!



Upcoming Events

Monday, Dec. 7 — 7:00 p.m.
ARES/RACES Meeting
Columbia County EOC.
Ave. Hudson

Monday, Dec. 21 — 7:00 p.m.
RVWARS Meeting:
Annual Meeting of RVWARS
Corporation; Election of Officers;
Goodie Fest!
Noecker Clubhouse, Rt. 66 &
Graham Ave. Hudson

RVWARS Weekly Nets

Tuesday — 7:00 p.m.
Informal Roundtable Net. 147.21
Repeater

3rd Thursday — 8:00 p.m.
ARES/RACES Emergency
Training Net: 147.21 Repeater

Please Note: The RACES
Training net will be held on the
third Thursday of each Month at
2000 Hrs, on 147.210 Mhz. The
Net Control will be Tom Cody.
Please note the NEW time!



Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society VITAL STATISTICS

President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD
Vice President — Steve Walsh W2SXX
Secretary — Shelly Evans AA2Y
Treasurer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Historian — Stan Engel WA2UET
Safety Officer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Newsletter — David Clapper WA2FTI
E-mail — dclapper@mhicable.com
Repeaters — 147.21 224.280 449.925
Club Call — Kilo 2 Rip Van Winkle
Web Page — <http://www.rvwars.com>
RVWARS E-mail — wa2fti@yahoo.com
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

Den Connors KD2S Digital Pioneer: SK

Den Connors, KD2S, the first president of Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) of Pepperell, Massachusetts, passed away September 3 from lymphoma. He was 58. Connors, an ARRL Life Member, conducted the first amateur packet radio contact with all-American hardware and software, using the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Terminal Node Controller (TNC) with Lyle Johnson, WA7GXD (now KK7P).



Den was well known by many RVWARS members and was often heard on the 147.21 repeater several years ago.

KD2S was one of the early movers and shakers in the New England Packet Radio Association. In addition to his digital contributions, Connors was also an active participant in ARES and RACES.

"Den was on our crew for Region 1 comms for Seabrook and storms," writes Terry Stader, KA8SCP, an Eastern MA ASM and MA Region 1 RACES Officer. "He worked the emergency management side for many years. He will be missed."

Call For Articles!

Have a story to share? An experience to relate? Some gear to review? A technical tip to dispense? Feeling didactic or pedantic? Write it up, add a couple of appropriate photographs and send them off to *Rip's Report*. Hams throughout the Columbia-Greene area will thank you, and so will Ye Olde Editor! wa2fti@yahoo.com

FCC Looks to Revise, and Clarify Vanity Call Sign Rules

On Wednesday, November 25, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making — WT Docket No. 09-209 — seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations.

According to the FCC, almost 80,000 licensees have replaced their sequentially issued Amateur Radio call signs with a vanity call sign since the program began in 1996. The Commission did not, however, specify all of the procedures governing the vanity call sign system, but indicated that the procedures "would be set out in the Public Notices announcing 'starting gates' for the groups receiving initial priority and that the procedures would be adjusted from gate to gate as experience dictated." The Commission also decided in the Vanity Report and Order [issued in 1996] to resume issuing new club station licenses. We believe that certain rule changes to the club station licensing rules may be appropriate."

Further information about acquiring a Vanity Call Sign can be found on the ARRL web site and in the Ham magazines, QST and CQ. Several changes are upcoming, so... Stay Tuned!

Holiday Greetings

New Technician Question Pool released to Public January 2010

The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators is due to release the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool to the 14 VECs on December 1, 2009; it will be released to the public in January 2010.

Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes — Technician, General and Amateur Extra — is reviewed on a four-year rotation. This new Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010.

According ARRL Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY10, the QPC reviews the three question pools every four years to ensure that the questions are kept current with the latest amateur practice and technology, as well as addresses information relevant to that particular license class. Green said that earlier this year, the QPC solicited input from Amateur Radio operators concerning the new question pool, accepting input for new question topics and new questions, as well as suggestions for changes or

deletions: **The new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010**, and it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010.

The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination. This question pool will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element.



LAST CHANCE!

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE




FIRST PRIZE - YAESU FT-857 HF VHF UHF ALL MODE TRANSCEIVER





**If you would like some tickets to sell let me know
I will send them to you!**



SECOND PRIZE - \$100 CASH

Drawing at the December Christmas Party 12/21/09
Winner need not be present.

Tickets - \$5.00 each
please send your money to me:

Stan Engel, Treasurer
PO Box 153
Ghent, NY 12075

Please make checks payable to - RVWARS or spell it out if you wish. I will mail you your stubs



November Meeting Photos

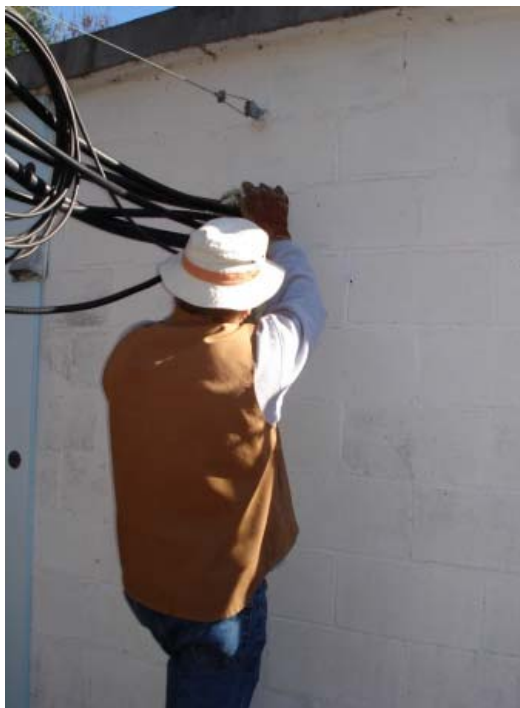


Over 25 members attended the November 16th RVWARS meeting. Good eats, good friends equals a good get-together. The fact that there aren't any pictures of the food is an indication that everyone including the photographer was enjoying the sausage & peppers and lasagna!

Photos by John, W2JSN



Repeater



Stan, WA2UET, caulks around the cable entrance to keep out rain & mice.



Above: Jim, KC2OGK, fastens insulating panels to the walls of the repeater shack.
Left: Tom, N2NZD, installing insulating panels. The inside walls are also insulated to help keep out freezing temperatures.

THE TOWER

The Insurance Co.
New York, NY 10001-0101

Dear Ms. Jones

I am writing in response to your request for additional information for Block 3 of the Accident Report Form (ARF) I submitted to you on April 1, 1997. I put "poor planning" as the cause for the accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully. I trust the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an Amateur Radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which was fortunately attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went back to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools.

You will note in Block 11 of the Accident Report Form that I weigh only 155 pounds. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope.

Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and in spite of my pain, I was able to hold on to the rope. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight, shown in Block 11 of my submission.

As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only 3 vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope

Sincerely,
[Name withheld!]

