

# Happy Birthday

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Dave-KC2OI   | Tim-KC2YKR  |
| Dan-KC2MZY   | Dave-KC2YKU |
| Patti-KC2PWO | Ben-N2ROQ   |
| Gia-KC2WLT   | Ann-WA2KCU  |

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...

*2011 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 2011 anytime!**

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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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**



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

# Happy Valentine Day

2011

## Bob, WB2DUW

An update on WB2DUW ( Bob Turner). Jim was talking to Bob about the middle of January and found out that he is feeling good, upbeat and coming along quite nicely. His stroke therapists say he is about 6 months ahead in his therapy. He has to go some to strengthen his right hand.

Good Luck Bob!

## RVWARS WEB PAGE

Dave, WA2FTI has our RVW web page [www.rvwars.com](http://www.rvwars.com) updated and looking great. Thanks Dave.

This is a photo of David waiting for his infusion this past Monday. This was the fifth infusion and we are hoping that there will be just one more (and NO radiation). Apparently there is a committee that makes these decisions. I wish we were on the committee.



On January 20th he had a blood transfusion and since then he has been feeling considerably better. In addition to that the schedule for the antibiotic and the prednisone has been changed and we are hoping to keep him out of the

hospital next week.

He has been eating much better and he is starting to show an interest in doing a bit more recently. We know that the coming week is the most difficult time when the white blood count is the lowest and we looking forward to an easy quiet time.

Thanks to you for your thoughts and prayers. You know that they are working. There was NO sign of the cancer in the CT scan.

Love to you all!

## Sad News; Please keep the Warner Family in your prayers.



A very bad fire has devastated a very well liked TARA family. Margaret, N2PEK, Roy, N2OWC and Kathy Warner, N2XLD home was completely burned down by fire this past Monday! They have lost everything!

TARA will be having a type of fund raiser for the Warner family and I will keep you informed on the TARA Yahoo group when and what we will be doing.

Please keep them in your prayers.

As always,  
Karen  
KS20

## GET WELL MRBILL

MrBill has had some health setbacks, and could use our support and well wishes, and prayers. He is not at home at this time, he has been in and out of the Hospital and a Nursing/Rehab facility.



MrBill was the TARA Club President for several years and has been a great Elmer for many hams on the air.

Send cards to the TARA NT2Y Club PO Box please.

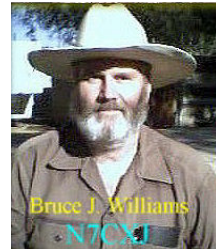
Bill Eddy c/o  
Troy Amateur Radio Association  
P.O. BOX 1292 - Troy, New York - 12181-1292

## RVW WORK PARTY

SNOW SNOW SNOW, does not stop! The repeater sounds pretty good at this point. We will get up there as soon as possible to tweak and make better!

## Welcome back in Chatham, Bruce, N7CXJ

Hello all! I am new and old at the same time! I am new to most of you because I have lived in the fabulous south west for the last 39 years. I am old because I was born here in Chatham 71 years ago at 45 church street. I graduated from Chatham Union school in 1958. I drove bus for the Hudson Valatie bus line, worked as skate guard at the old Skaterama and later drove school bus for Chatham Central school and finally drove for the National Trailways bus system out of Albany, NY. That is how I wound up out west when I transferred to continental trailways out of Denver, CO. I have been continuously licensed, as a ham, since 1958 (yikes! 53 years.). I was a novice for 1 year previously as wv2mhc. I was the Columbia County races radio officer and civil air patrol radio officer as well. New and old... Been there-done that. In Colorado, I was one of the net control stations of the Colorado Columbine traffic net and the net control station for the Colorado connection group of linked repeaters. :-)



**Retirement, a time to enjoy  
all the things you never had  
time to do when you  
worked.**

## HOMELAND TOWER PROJECT

They are simply waiting for word from Verizon to move forward with the project. Manny said "We are going to build the site." Last info received from Manny on 1/17/2011



### Upcoming Events

**Monday, Feb 7 — 7:00 p.m.**  
 ARES/RACES Meeting on the air! Tom, WE2G will be at the EOC if someone wants to stop by.

**Monday, Feb 21 — 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.

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

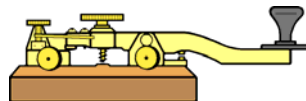
### Vital Statistics

President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD  
 Vice President — Mike Alecksynas 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](mailto:wa2uet@taconic.net)  
 Yahoo Group  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

### RVWARS MEETING 1/17/2011

- Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by Vice- President, Mike, N2JVE. 14 present.
- Introductions were made.
- Secretary's Report read by WE2G. Motion to accept by WA2UJX, seconded by KC2OGK accepted.
- Treasurer's report read by WA2UET. Total \$3037.05.
- **Repeater-**  
 WA2UET received a note from Manny, of Homeland Towers, saying they are waiting for Verizon to apply for building permit. Road has been plowed. 2 meters working all right, 440 is working, 220 is still down. Duplexers are no good.
- **Field Day**  
 New chairman needed, as N2JVE will be out of town Field Day weekend.
- **ARES/RACES-**  
 Columbia County had on the air meeting January 3. Will hold net January 20. Greene County next meeting January 26, nets have been quiet.
- **Education**  
 Wayne, K2WG, should be available on Tuesdays. Mary, KC2SAG, will contact Norm, KC2YKQ, to see if he can assist. Classes to run March-May.
- **Old Business**  
 Fund Raising. Possibility of a pancake breakfast at Applebee's. Volunteers would be needed. Other ideas mentioned were a Brooks Barbecue, car wash. The Sprint on January 15 had very light participation.
- **New Business**  
 Field Day Raffle. After discussion, it was decided to raffle a television, as this would have a broader appeal than amateur equipment. Tickets will be \$3.00. Discussion about sending a sympathy or get well card instead of flowers. It is expensive to send flowers. A card would be more personal. Suggestion to change complimentary membership to the year in which the class is taken only, not the next full year. Will vote on by-laws change at the February meeting  
 The phone line will be taken out at the repeater site as it does not work well. Suggestion about participating in the Adopt a Highway program to get publicity for RVWARS.  
 KC2AGM won 50-50 and donated proceeds to the club.  
 Meeting closed at 7:24pm  
 Respectfully submitted,

WE2G, Secretary



### Editor Note: PLEASE HELP!

I have done three editions of the RVW Newsletter so far. It is fun and I enjoy it. But I had plenty of content to work with.

To continue to be fun I need some news and articles from club members and readers of this NL. If you or your family have done something great let me know. A new radio to report on would be good. If you are an old timer and know some history or have some old pictures please forward them to me. If you are new and want to publish some questions for the readers, please do.

I will publish anything that you send me, within reason of course. Please help me out.

### 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.

## ORANGE COUNTY ARC HAMFEST

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Town of Wallkill  
 Community Center  
 2 Wes Warren Drive  
 Middletown, NY



## QNZ de K2WG ...

If you have young children or grand children you probably know about Thomas the Tank Engine. Thomas and his friends inhabit the Island of Sodor and they always strive to be 'useful engines'. (If you are not familiar with Thomas, try your favorite Internet search engine.) When we are asked about our ham radio hobby, I think we all would like to be able to describe our hobby as useful. There are many aspects of ham radio in our past that we can describe with pride and that would certainly be considered useful: radio grams and phone patches for civilians and military personnel, providing emergency communications for stranded motorists from our mobile or portable units and being deployed to assist various served agencies with emergency communications needs. With modern communications technology available to the general public and public service agencies, the need for these useful services has been greatly reduced and in some cases eliminated.

So, how do we maintain a useful status in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Recent events would suggest that the ham radio community is a valuable source of communications opportunities when normal long-haul communications systems become overloaded or cease to function. Most public safety and public service agencies have their own normal and back-up communications systems for on-scene and local communications. During large scale and/or long duration disasters or other public emergency events, regional, national and international communications become difficult especially when Internet access is not available.

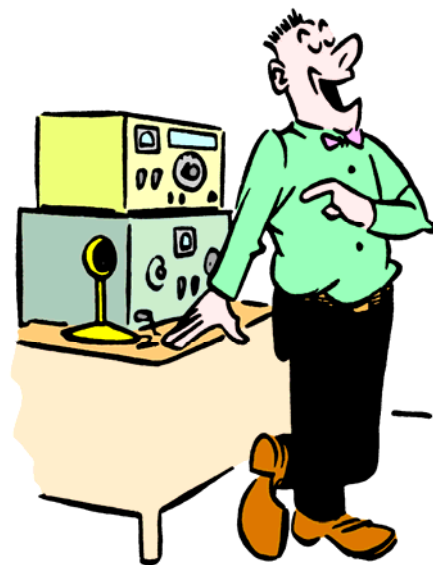
This is our niche. This is where we can become useful. Our multiple HF allocations allow us to establish solid communication paths regionally, nationally and internationally no matter what season or time of day. The ham radio network of HF communications can get important information to and from those who need it. Please don't misunderstand: it is still important for us to be able to provide good local communications for served agencies and be ready to move into action when called upon. However, the action in today's communication environment is more likely to be with activities such as the Hurricane Watch Net and providing health and welfare communi-

cations to and from areas devastated by earth quakes and other natural disasters.

OK, what is the point? Even though a Technician license does grant some HF privileges, to be really useful for HF communications a General license is required. The Element 3 Question Pool will be modified for General license exams starting July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. There are many study guides available both in printed versions and on-line. The ARRL is always a good source for study guides and practice exams. RVWARS will be conducting a VE session sometime this spring or early summer so you won't have to travel very far to take the exam and if you start now, you'll be ready! Just think of all of the other ham radio opportunities that will be available to you with more HF privileges. The cost of a good HF rig is not that much more than the cost of a good dual band VHF/UHF rig. No room for wire antennas? Antennas not allowed where you live? There are many options available using verticals or 'stealth' antennas. No excuses! Just do it! If you need some help getting started or help along the way, please contact me at [wayneg1231@fairpoint.net](mailto:wayneg1231@fairpoint.net).

[Check out the editorial on page 9 and the Op-Ed article on page 96 of the February 2011 issue of QST magazine for more on this subject.]

73 for now... AR ... SK ... de K2WG



**Greene County ARES & RACES** had their monthly January meeting this past Wednesday evening. The topics of presentation for the evening were: Packet Radio and a preview of "NIMS" training.

"NIMS" stands for: National Incident Management System (NIMS) by FEMA.

The (FEMA) NIMS training provides training on and resources for emergency response and support personnel and individuals who wish to improve their knowledge and understanding of NIMS. Greene County ARES & RACES will be working on completing the training for the first course offered. "ICS-100"

Incident Command System (ICS) 100 Training: Provides training on and resources for personnel who require a basic understanding of the Incident Command System (ICS). The primary target audiences for this course are all Department of Agricultural emergency response and support personnel. Secondary audiences include State and local personnel who may respond to incidents. The "ICS" training is quite beneficial for one to understand how the incident command system works locally at the county level.

For further information regarding the "NIMS" training modules you can visit the FEMA website:

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>

The website offers an independent study program to assist with training for each module. A final exam is offered online after completion of the online training module with an immediate certificate you can print, pending a successful test passing score.

To assist with the online training, during the next 2 Greene County ARES & RACES meetings we are offering follow up discussion.

If anyone is interested in taking the Introduction to ICS100 module, you may join us at our next ARES & RACES meeting on February 23rd and March 30th in Cairo. We will then have a 4 hour refresher course given by a certified "NIMS" instructor hopefully in April.

Here is a monthly update on the 147.150 repeater. The 147.150/449.025 repeater has been playing fine over the last month. No problems experienced.

I want to welcome our new net control operator for the "Monday evening "2 Meter Swap & Shop Net".

Todd KC2YKM has taken over the position. Todd did a fantastic job for his first net this past Monday evening 1/24. So if you have anything to Swap or Sell or maybe you just want to "Window Shop" please do join in with Todd on Monday evenings at 8:30PM on the .150.

Thanks,  
The best of 73,  
Len N2LEN





**This is a copy of a letter sent to local hams in 1984. I found it interesting. Not sure who drafted it but I think Pete, KW2D was involved because I remember receiving it with his return address.**

**RIP VAN WINKLE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**  
August 27, 1984

Dear Fellow Amateur;

What is your interest in ham radio?

Is it message handling, contesting, emergency communications, rag chewing, dx-ing, experimenting computers, RTTY, satellites, upgrading, working nets? Are you an old timer, new corner or in-between?

Well, wherever you fit in and however you feel about amateur radio: the old, adage. "In unity there is strength.", specifically applies to our hobby.

In spite of the many diverse facets of ham radio, there has been over the past several years many changes that have benefitted us all. These changes came about with the amateur radio community speaking as a unified body through its organizations.

It is the local radio amateur organization that provides the opportunity for each and every local ham to help this unity and move the hobby ahead - both for themselves and for others. In light of this the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society extends an invitation for you to join its ranks to help make amateur radio more unified in Columbia and Greene Counties.

Over the past year the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society (RVWARS) has provided several services to the public and its membership that you may not be aware of and the organization plans to expand its services in the coming year.

First of all, we are:

1- an ARRL Affiliated club and hope to expand to a Special Services club this coming year;

2- own and operate the 147.81/.21 MHz repeater and offer its use for Columbia Greene ARES purposes as well as general amateur use;

3- sponsor and run amateur radio classes initiating new amateurs into our fraternity;

4- support all local ARES activities and emergency communications when needed;

5- own and operate our own hf station used primarily for Field Day and other public events;

6- publish a monthly newsletter, Rip's Report, keeping the membership up to date on all local ham news.

The plans for this upcoming year will expend the services provided by the club.

The outlook includes:

1- participating in the Volunteer Examining Program by offering to you the opportunity to upgrade at the Columbia Greene Community College rather than travelling to New York City or Albany. Plans call for a testing session sometime in December;

2- organizing, with the cooperation of the Columbia-Greene County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), a Sky Warn Program that will enable the National Weather Service to collect necessary weather data during weather emergencies;

3- offering additional Novice and General Class License classes through the auspices of the Columbia Greene Community College;

4- support the expansion plans of the ARES in any way possible;

5- plan on and operate a special events station from the Hudson or surrounding area;

6- plan to locate and establish a permanent club station to be used by all club members during the many contests through out the year.

These activities need your support, the organization needs your support

Membership in RVWARS is easy to obtain - dues are \$7.50 per year for individuals and/or \$10.00 for family membership - and you must participate in at least two club activities before you can join. (Attendance at two club meetings is sufficient) Current meeting place is at the Columbia Greene Community College on Route 23 south of Hudson in the Faculty Lounge at the south end of the campus. Meetings take place at 7:30 P.M. on the third Monday of each month. September's meeting is on the 17th of the month. Try to attend and find out where you can fit in.

Our club also recognizes that there will be hams that find it difficult, for whatever reason, to affiliate with an organization such as ours. That's okay but we do ask you not to stand in the way by downplaying what our objectives are.

If you do not want to join but do want to use the clubs repeater then we do expect a contribution to help us defray the cost of operating the repeater station and maintaining the site. We now have a separate repeater fund in our treasury and your contribution earmarked for this repeater fund will be used exclusively to support the repeater and not be placed in the general fund. Of course you would not have any voting privileges in the club if you made such a contribution. A suggested contribution amount would be \$5.00 to \$7.00 per year.

Another possible way to be involved with other hams on the local level is to volunteer to be an active member of the Columbia-Greene ARES. Being an ARES volunteer doesn't require any membership or dues to RVWARS. It only requires a commitment of your time and equipment during emergency communications situations that may occur. Of course, attendance at RVWARS meetings will bring you in contact with the Emergency Coordinator, Jim Hedrick - WB2LKZ and the District Emergency Coordinator, Bill Willenbaker - WA2JWL for our area as well as many other ARES members.

It's a good way to keep in touch with what is happening, for special training and programs that are offered. You are also invited to listen to the ARES on the 147.81/.21 MHz repeater on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM. There is a training session in progress now, so join in!

To those of you that have been RWWARS members in the past as well as the present, we sincerely thank you for your support. If you wish you can renew your membership at the September meeting or mail your renewal dues to:  
Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society  
P. O. Box 1028  
Hudson, New York 1253L  
(Repeater contributions will be accepted at this address also.)

Hoping to see you at the September meeting,  
Sincerely,

The Executive Committee RVWARS

P.S. The September meeting will feature Mr. Tim Scrom of the National Weather Service introducing the Skywarn Program to the hams of Columbia and Green counties.

## FIELD DAY RAFFLE

Raffle will feature a 24" TV this year. Tickets will be \$3.00 each. More details next month.

## 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 qrrp 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

## GREENE COUNTY ARC NEWS!

Sorry, no news or info from Greene County ARC!!!



## GCARC Statistics

Claude Kearney, WT2C President  
David M. Rivenburgh, KC2YBK Vice President  
James A. Carr, KC2USW Treasurer  
Len Signoretti, N2LEN Secretary/Technical Advisor

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/GCNYARES/RACES/>  
Echolink Node #6269  
IRLP Node #4207

**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](mailto:wayneg1231@fairpoint.net) or 518-610-1929

**How Does IRLP Actually Work?**

"Internet Radio Linking Project"

Just as a note, the following document is technical in nature, and not for the technically challenged.

I R L P - Keeping the Radio in Amateur Radio

The IRLP uses a Voice-Over-IP (VoIP) streaming software called Speak Freely. Speak Freely is very similar to other VoIP software packages (such as Microsoft NetMeeting and VocalTec iPhone) with one difference... It runs under Linux.

Linux is the operating system of choice for the IRLP system as it allows the best in reliability, programmability, efficiency, and functionality. Most older IRLP nodes use Linux RedHat 7.3 or RedHat 9 as they are very stable releases and run very smooth on any P1 or better computer. Effective March 2007 IRLP started shipping an open sourced CentOS version of Linux. This release provides greatly improved operation with more support for audio cards.

The concept of IRLP's use of VoIP is as follows:

Sample the audio using an analog to digital (A/D) converter. The A/D converter used by IRLP is the input source of a standard PC sound card. This creates a continuous mono 16-bit digital stream of raw audio at 8000Hz (120000 bps).

Compress the audio by downsampling the stream and using an 4-bit ADPCM algorithm to reduce the size of the stream by a factor of four (32000 bps)

Split the sample into small chunks (or packets).

Transmit the packets to the remote host using a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) stream. UDP does NOT confirm the reception of packets, so it uses a "fire and forget" method.

Receive the packets on the remote host.

Join the split packets back into a 4-bit ADPCM stream.

Uncompress the ADPCM stream back into an 16-bit raw stream of audio.

Play the raw audio stream through a digital to analog (D/A) converter (the output device of your sound card).

The control software controls the stream using carrier operated squelch (COS) or continuous tone coded subaudible squelch signals (CTCSS) to start and stop the stream. When COS is present, the computer detects it through the IRLP interface board.

The PTT is controlled by the buffer which joins the split packets back into the audio stream. The IRLP interface board receives a "transmit" signal from the computer while there are packets in the buffer, and a "unkey" command when the buffer is empty.

The user interfaces to the IRLP computer using DTMF signals sent over the radio. DTMF sequences are owner programmable, and can accomplish almost any function imaginable. The DTMF signals are detected on the IRLP interface board and sent directly to the computer in binary, where they are converted into numbers. A DTMF software program which I wrote then runs commands on the computer depending on the code entered.

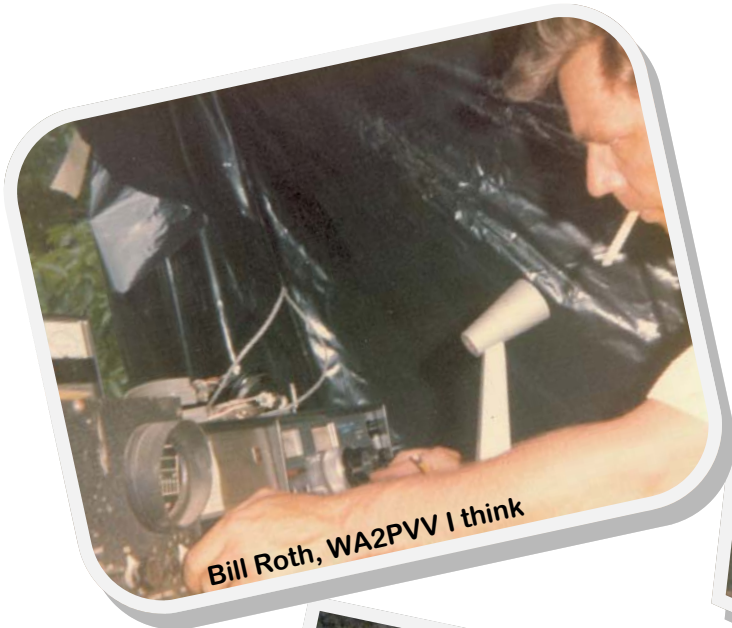
These commands are what start and stop Speak Freely, basically establishing and breaking the link.

And that is, in a nutshell, how IRLP works.

David Cameron  
 IRLP Designer  
 VE7LTD

**Please help me  
 fill these spaces  
 next month!!!**

# Some pictures from a Field Day At Beebe Hill 1975 about



Bill Roth, WA2PVV I think



Adolf Elster

Dick Leavitt, W2CSQ  
And who ????

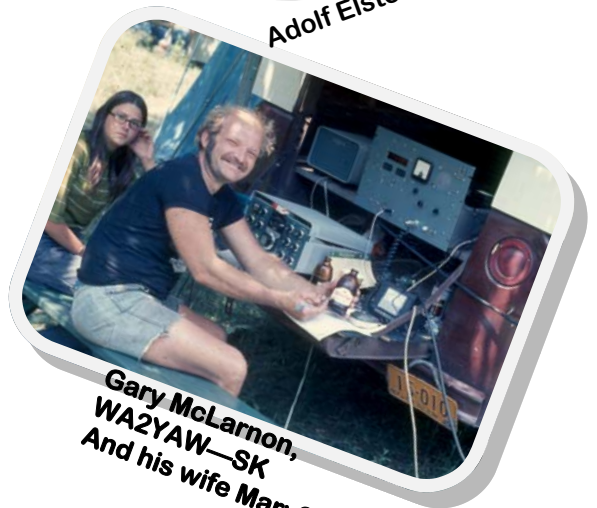


Adolf Elster, W2FSL—SK



John Klimek, K2KHQ—SK

Joe Johnson, W2DW—SK



Gary McLarnon,  
WA2YAW—SK  
And his wife Mary?