



Happy Birthday

Barry-K8LEF	Ed-N2XPW
Sara-KB2BDC	Bill-NY2U
John-KC2AGM	Dave-W2DAV
Pat-KC2CVJ	John-W2JSN
Erika-KC2DMI	Bruce-WA2ZNO
Jim-KC2OGK	

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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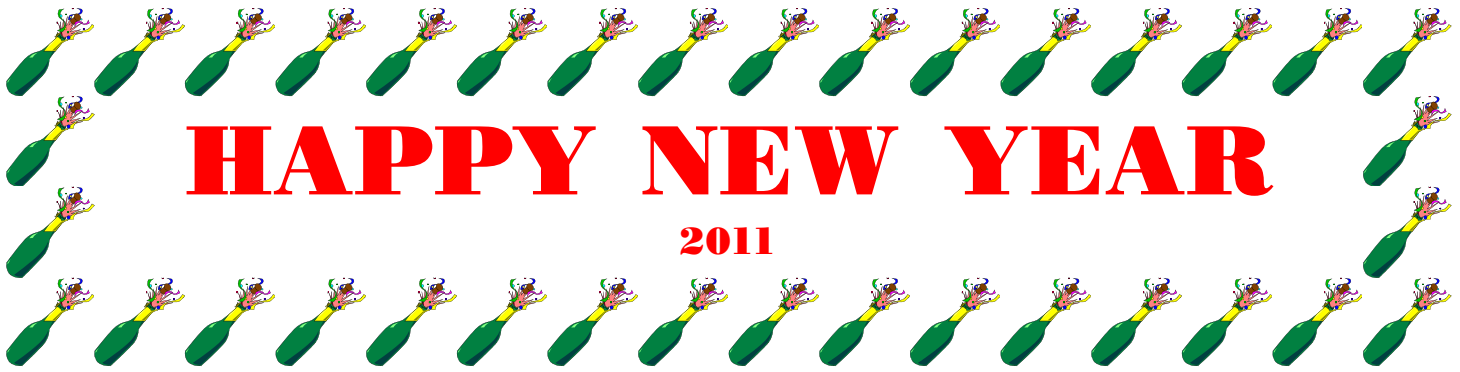


Please join us on the Tuesday night Roundtable on 147.210 at 7:00 PM. ALL are welcome! Use the Echo-Link (K2RVW-R) if need be.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**Meeting
 Jan 17
 7:00 PM
 Noecker
 "Club House"
 Talk-in 147.21**



HAPPY NEW YEAR

2011

PLEASE JOIN US

on January 17 for our first meeting of 2011. We will have some kind of snack for all to enjoy. Meetings are at Noecker 66 showroom and club house in Hudson. Bring your friends that might be interested in Amateur Radio. All are welcome, you do not need to be a member to attend the meetings.

There will be another Technician class this spring. We will discuss that at the January meeting.

Anyone you know could be an Amateur Radio operator or "ham" --no matter what age, gender or physical ability. From ages 8 to 80, people in many countries of the world can have fun as radio amateurs. If you've had fun with CB radio or trying new things with your computer, wait till you see what you can do with ham radio!



LATEST REPORT ON DAVE, WA2FTI

This was poor David this morning. He was sending messages to me about how much he was worrying that they would not let him out today.

The GOOD news is that he is now home taking a nap. He is all tired out from worrying. His white count is up over 5 and he is much safer now. I am expecting that he will be having a good two weeks ahead.

Thank you all so much for your prayers and good wishes. Have a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS everyone!

APRS Introduction

Long-time packeteer Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, developed the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS), which allows packet radio to track real-time events. It deviates markedly from the usual message- and text-transfer activity. Instead, APRS concentrates on the graphic display of station and object locations and movements.

For example, if you know the latitude and longitude of your station, you can add this information to the beacon transmissions sent by your packet TNC. Any monitoring station that's equipped with APRS software will translate the data and display your location on a computer-generated map.

Taking this idea a step further, if you own a portable Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, you have precise position information at your fingertips. Connect the GPS receiver to your TNC and you can transmit your location information even as you're moving!

When any person in an APRS network determines where you're located, he can move his cursor and mark your position on his map screen. This action is then transmitted to all screens in the network, so everyone gains, at a glance, the combined knowledge of all network participants. In other words, everyone knows where you are. The map screen retains this information for future reference. This means that moving objects can be dead reckoned to their current locations with one keystroke--based on their previous positions.

With a small GPS receiver, a TNC and a hand-held transceiver stuffed in a cigar box, almost any object can be tracked by packet stations running APRS software. You can place these boxes on bicycles for a marathon event, and, of course, in automobiles. This system is an excellent tool for triangulating the location of a hidden transmitter or jammer.

RVW WORK PARTY

It did not happen because when Tom and I got there the gate was locked with a new lock for the hunting season.

VHF/UHF WINTER SPRINT



The Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society is going to have a VHF/UHF Sprint on January 15, 2011 from 7 PM to 10 PM. It will be on the 6 meter, 2 meter, 1.35cm and 70cm bands. The object will be to work as many different stations and multipliers as possible in that 3 hours. I will attach the three forms needed to this Newsletter. It is something that was popular in the early 90's and we will attempt to bring it back. Any questions please contact Tom, WE2G at tcody@mhcable.com

*Dream what you want to dream,
go where you want to go,
be what you want to be. Because
you have only one life and
one chance to do all the things you
want to do.*

HOMELAND TOWER PROJECT

The latest report from Homeland is that Verizon is going to start the project in January. Nothing else to report at this point.





Upcoming Events

Monday, Jan 3 — 7:00 p.m.

ARES/RACES Meeting
Columbia County EOC.

Monday, Jan 17 — 7:00 p.m.

RVWARS Meeting:
First of 2011

Noecker Clubhouse, Rt. 66 &
Graham Ave. Hudson

RVWARS 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 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 — Kilo 2 Rip Van Winkle
Web Page — <http://www.rvwars.com>
NEWS E-mail — wa2uet@taconic.net
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

NEWSLETTER MECHANIC

I have volunteered to try my hand at putting together a newsletter for our club. I of course need all the help I can get. Send me lots of stuff worth printing. I am not a writer so I depend on your input. I will try it for a month or two and if it works out I would be glad to continue. I do not pretend to have David's expertise but I will do my best to put something together each month.

I want to thank David, WA2FTI for his many years of hard work and professional capabilities doing the Newsletter. And getting us on the winning list of newsletters for the Northeast area. He had a big pair of shoes to fill when Dave, WD2K, left us and he did it well.

MINUTES—RVWARS MEETING 12/20/2010

RVWARS MEETING 12/20/2010

- Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Vice- President, Mike, N2JVE. 28 present.
- Introductions were made.
- Secretary's Report read by WE2G. Motion to accept by KC2OGK, seconded by KC2SAG, accepted.
- Treasurer's report read by WA2UET. Total \$2904.04.
- **Repeater-**
Homeland Towers received word from Verizon that construction should begin in January. The engineers are working on the 200 ft issue. Nothing heard from KC2FCP on repairing the 220 repeater.
- **ARES/RACES-**
Columbia County, nothing to report. No net on 12/16, as WE2G had commitment, may run net 12/23. Greene County, Will have holiday party 12/22 at 7pm in Cairo.
- **Old Business**
Thank you cards from KC2THH family, WA2FTI, and KC2HTV.
- **New Business**
RVWARS will be sponsoring a VHF/UHF Sprint on January 15, 2011, from 7-10pm. The same contest was run by WD2K and WA2FUZ in the early '90s, but We believe John moved around that time. Forms will be in the Newsletter. We are still looking for an instructor for the Technician Course. 50-50 won by WB2TCV.
Meeting closed at 7:17pm
Respectfully submitted,

WE2G, Secretary

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.

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!



Thanks to Pete, KW2D

QNZ de K2WG...

It's been awhile since the QNZ column has appeared in the RVWARS newsletter and Stan has asked for some help in filling the pages. So, once again I'll try to fill some of the newsletter space with musing on Amateur Radio in particular and perhaps wireless communications in general. Several topics come to mind: digital modes, recruiting new hams, mentoring, getting those hams that have become inactive to be actively involved again, amateur radio/internet interfacing, emergency communications, public service events, antennas and last but not least good amateur radio practices. Hopefully everyone has had a good holiday season with perhaps some new ham radio equipment, software, contacts or all of the above.

Digital modes have been seeing a lot of growth and activity. From simple beginnings with RTTY and Packet the list of available modes has grown with AMTOR, GTOR, PacTOR, PSK, MFSK, Olivia, MT63, several ATV modes and many others. Some of these used to require the purchase of expensive interface devices but most are now available through sound-card mode software and simple computer/radio interfacing. Understanding how each of these modes works can be difficult but learning how to set up your radios and computers to communicate with these modes is relatively easy. By entering any of the mode names into an Internet Search Engine one can find a plethora of online information and print resources to help guide the ham new to digital modes.

RVWARS through the efforts of Stan WA2UET maintains a Packet BBS node and is a good place for digital beginners to learn 'the ropes'. One of the simplest modes but very reliable for passing text messages Packet can be implemented on VHF, UHF and HF frequencies. Most Packet activity in the RVWARS area is on 2 meters. The RVWARS node operates on 145.030 MHz with no PL tone. Through-put speeds on 2 meter Packet are usually around 1200 baud but that is sufficient for reliable text messages.

Two of the popular HF digital modes are PSK31 and Olivia. Both are very robust real time, keyboard to keyboard modes, and Olivia will also easily accommodate sending rather large text files. Other exciting modes to explore are PacTOR III and WINMOR which can be used as components of the Winlink 2000 system: email via HF radio. Winlink 2000 is used extensively by government agencies and MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio Service) stations.

Perhaps we can discuss digital modes during one of the round table sessions. If anyone has any questions or comments, my email address is wayneg1231@fairpoint.net or we could meet on one of the local repeaters.

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



Dec. 21, 2010

New/Old 2M Rig. at WA2UJX QTH
This Yaesu FT-221 2 Meter All Mode transceiver (made about 1977) is my newest rig and one of the oldest Amateur "rice boxes" I have. I received it from John Gabrielsen KC2AGM who had not used it in many years. After replacing 18 electrolytic capacitors in the PS, Audio, and other cards, the rig sprang to life. A careful alignment was performed and it now works well enough to use it on a daily basis. I am on a quest to find a used "linear amp" to use the 221 on SSB and AM modes. I think I am going to enjoy this rig more and more as time goes by because it uses technology (not SMD's) that I can easily repair. Carl J. Verderber WA2UJX

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) VHF hand held
Drop in charger
Speaker mic

GP-68 (Motorola) UHF hand held
Drop in charger
Head set

FT-11R (Yaesu) VHF hand held
Drop in charger
2 battery pacs

Contact Wayne at wayneg1231@fairpoint.net or 518-610-1929

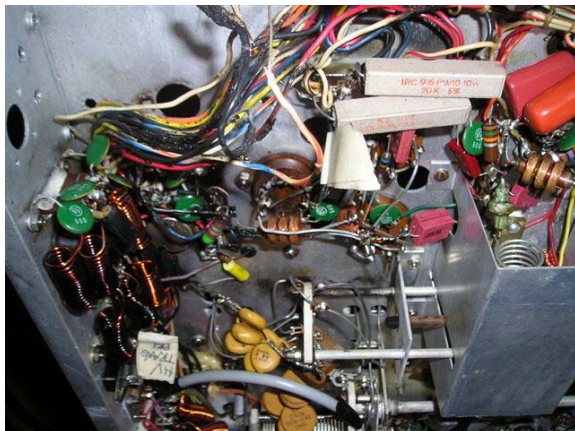
FUSELESS JOHNSON VIKING VALIANT

By: Carl J. Verderber WA2UJX (12/17/10)

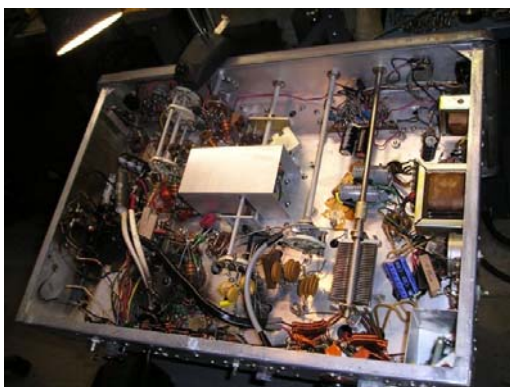


Recently a fellow HAM from NYC asked me to look at a “little” trouble with his Johnson Viking Valiant. He said he smelled smoke and thought there wouldn't be a lot of repair problems. Of course he pumped up my ego by saying “and you're the best Carl, I know you can take care of it real quick”. So – what can a guy do that was just called the “best”? I said “Of course I'll look at your transmitter”. Boy was I in for a shock!

As soon as I took it out of the covers, I could see there was fire and smoke damage. I instantly identified the major areas of concern: one of the three 6146 RF final tubes had a hole in the side of its glass envelope; the HV power transformer and smoothing choke were destroyed; about 10 of the wires in the main wiring harness were fused together; and the final Pi-Net band switch was burned where the ceramic wafer is mounted with a metal bolt.



I concentrated on demounting the damaged components and cleaning the chassis of soot and burnt PVC with acid type toilet bowl cleaner (a trick I learned from a plumber and avid CB'er. Because CB'ers always “tune for smoke”, a lot of rigs and amplifiers are burned up in the process).



The harness was a mess but separating the wires within the bundle was straight forward leaving lots of room for future wire replacement. Days went by as I focused on the cleaning until I looked at the power cord. There it was – the source of the fire and smoke! No fuses! Someone cut off the original power cord plug (the original having two fuses mounted inside the plug) leaving the transmitter unprotected from high current power failures. Calls went out for used replacement parts but only the choke could be procured. The owner is trying to locate the other components and I will have a new addition to my already large number of “DEAD” boat anchors in the basement shop until enough components can be found to complete the repair.

Remember the fuses!


*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

FOR SALE



FT-736R Multimode 2 Meter and 450 MHz. Clean but missing the carrying handle. Has CTCSS Board option. \$600.00

Can dicker a LITTLE bit.

**Contact: wa2uet@taconic.net
518-392-4554**

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INSURED
TOWER CLIMBER
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GREENE COUNTY ARC NEWS

The Greene County Amateur Radio Club had it's yearly club elections at the last business meeting.

The New 2010 GCARC executive board is as follows:

Claude Kearney WT2C President

David M. Rivenburgh KC2YBK Vice President

James A. Carr KC2USW Treasurer

Len Signoretti N2LEN Secretary/Technical Advisor

I have began work on constructing the new GCARC website: Even though it is in it's initial building phase, it is up and running. It can be viewed at this URL web address: <http://WWW.GCARC.US>

The GCARC club 2010/2011 Holiday Party is scheduled for January 8th 2011 at 6PM EST. The location: "The Cairo Hose Company" Right off of Railroad Avenue in Cairo NY.

The Greene County ARES & RACES group has it's last meeting for 2010 on Wednesday evening December 22nd. A quick powerpoint presentation recapped of the entire 2010 yearly meetings, guest speakers, and 2010 events. After the informal meeting we all sat in good company and enjoyed holiday snacks and refreshments.

Our first meeting in 2011 is scheduled for: January 26th 2011, Wednesday evening at 7PM EST. Location: Greene County Emergency Services: 25 Volunteer Drive in Cairo NY.

During the first week in December I traveled up to the 147.090 repeater site to begin the evaluation and repair of the current repeater system. After switching out the current repeater with a new Kenwood TKR-750, it was quickly determined that much more servicing is needed on the other remaining equipment. I am planning to rebuild/repair the entire repeater system from the ground up with repeater equipment I personally own. More updates to follow in 2011.

Here is a quick update on the N2LEN Open Repeater Network. The repeater system is up and running fine. The 147.150 repeater has been playing fine for the last 2 weeks. The interference experienced on the .150 machine has disappeared. For now, No PL tone is needed for access. The 147.150 UHF link to 449.025 is also working fine. So you can use either input to be heard.

Other machines....

The 442.050 in Ulster County will hopefully be back linked into the network in early 2011. 448.275 on Hunter Mtn. shortly linked after. The remote base project, providing linking capability to any repeater in hearing range of the .150 repeater site will also be completed in 2011.

Echolink and IRLP status on .150 repeater:

The Internet link has been pretty popular on the repeater recently. On some early afternoons you can hear the Alaska Morning Net. On Christmas Eve, there was a Special Santa's net for the children on Echolink. All my kid's were so excited to actually speak to Santa on Echolink "As 3rd Party Traffic" They listened to other children also talk to Santa before he made his Big Sleigh Trip around the world delivering gifts.....

Here is the weekly net schedule on the N2LEN system:

Monday evening at 7:30 PM EST the Greene County Swap & Shop Net with Walt N2WJR

Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM EST the Greene County ARES & RACES net with Claude WT2C

Saturday evening at 6:30 PM EST the Capital District Traffic Net with Len N2LEN

Sunday evening at 8:00 PM EST the Greene County Amateur Radio Club "Info Net" with Ken KC2VUG

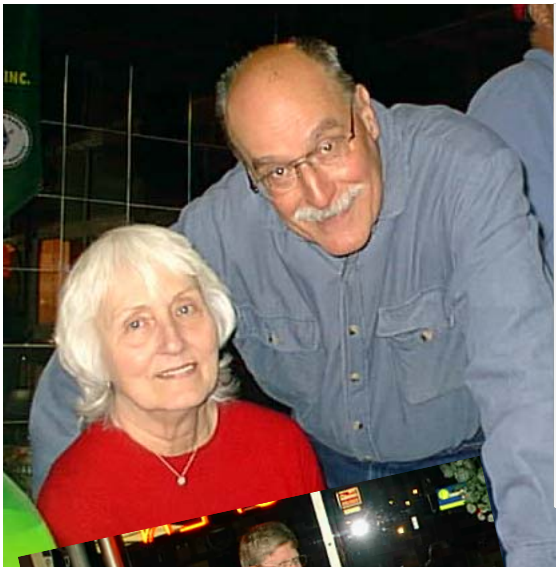
That's it from me...

Happy Holiday's to All....

Best 73 and Good DX

Len N2LEN

RVW Goody Fest 2010



Photos from W2JSN.com

Summary Sheet RVWARS VHF/UHF Winter Sprint

CALL USED _____

3 DIGIT PHONE PREFIX _____

___ SINGLE OPERATOR SINGLE BAND _____ Mhz

___ SINGLE OPERATOR MULTIBAND

___ MULTIOPERATOR (ALL OPERATIONS FROM ONE LOCATION)

___ SWL SINGLE BAND

___ SWL MULTIBAND

IF MULTIOPERATOR, LIST CALLS OF ALL OPERATORS AND LOGGERS _____

BAND QSOs X BAND BONUS X POWER BONUS = QSO POINTS MULTIPLIERS

50 Mhz ___ X 1 X ___ = ___ ___

144Mhz ___ X 1 X ___ = ___ ___

1.35CM ___ X 3 X ___ = ___ ___

70CM ___ X 4 X ___ = ___ ___

TOTAL ___ X ___

CLAIMED SCORE = _____

I have observed all competition rules as well as all regulations for Amateur Radio as per FCC Part 97. My report is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to be bound by the decision of the RVWARS Contest Committee.

DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

CALL _____

COMMENTS _____

EQUIPMENT USED _____

THE RIP VAN WINKLE WINTER VHF/UHF SPRINT

1) OBJECT

To work as many different stations and multipliers as possible during the contest period, using the 6 meter, 2 meter, 1.35cm and 70cm bands. FM simplex frequencies only!

2) CONTEST PERIOD

0000-0300 UTC January 15, 2011 (7pm-10pm Saturday night)

3) CATEGORIES

- a. Single Operator – Single band
- b. Single Operator – Multi band
- c. Multi Operator – All operations from one location
- d. SWL – Single band
- e. SWL – Multi band

4) EXCHANGE

Callsign and a 3 digit number derived from the first three numbers of your home telephone number (not your area code) ex: 518-828-7084 = "828"

5) SCORING

- a. QSO Points – 1) Band Bonus 6m = X1, 2m = X1, 1.35cm = X3, and 70cm = X4
 2) Power Bonus Low (5 Watts or less output) = 4 pts per QSO
 Medium (6-25 Watts out put) = 2 pts per QSO
 High (more than 26 Watts output) = 1 pt per
- b. MULTIPLIER: Each different 3 digit number

6) FINAL SCORE

Total QSO Points X total multipliers (Station and multiplier count on all three bands)

Ex: WA2UET (392) works N2LEN (943) on 2M, 1.35CM and 70CM running low power on all bands = 32 QSO points X 3 multipliers = 96 pts.

7) MISCELLANEOUS

The use of 146.52 Mhz simplex (national calling frequency) along with the adjacent guard channels (146.505 and 146.535) and repeaters is prohibited. Use of 52.525 Mhz, 223.500 Mhz and 446.000 Mhz simplex calling frequencies is allowed. Use recognized simplex frequencies such as 144.90 – 145.00, 146.49, .55, .58 and 147.42, .45, .48, .51, .54 and .57 Mhz on 2 meters. Logs must show time, band, station worked and 3 digit number received. Also a summary sheet with QSO points, (Band Bonus X Power Bonus X QSO) X total multipliers, along with a description of your equipment and antennas used. All standard ARRL VHF/UHF Contest rules apply.

8) SWL CATEGORY

Shortwave listeners may submit an entry log showing time, frequency, stations heard and the station's 3 digit multiplier. The final score will be computed by using 50 pts for each station logged X total number of different multipliers ex: an SWL logs 6 stations with a total of 4 different multipliers 6 X 50 X 4 = 1200 pts.

9) AWARDS

The top three scores in each category will receive a certificate.

Entries are to be submitted by January 30, 2011 by e-mail to tcody@mhicable.com or by snail mail to Tom Cody, 2658 Rod and Gun Rd, Hudson NY 12534

Any Questions to tcody@mhicable.com

