

# MEETING NOV 17

## Be There!

Happy  
Birthday

- Shelly-AA2Y
- Jackie-KA2GAD
- Dave-N2CHI
- Bob-N2KAC
- Fred-WA2MMX
- Ron-WA2UYY
- Skip-WB2T

**The Thursday night nets will now be formal ARES/RACES nets with Bob, WB2DUW, as NCS. The HF only net has been cancelled.**

### Please Pay Your Dues for 2009

Mail to:  
 Stan Engel, WA2UET  
 PO Box 153  
 Ghent, NY 12075  
 Or bring with you to meeting  
 Still only \$15—\$20 family

As always PLEASE let us know if you have a problem with this Newsletter. My email address is: wa2uet@taconic.net

Any problems or suggestions are more than welcome. Thanks

# DUES

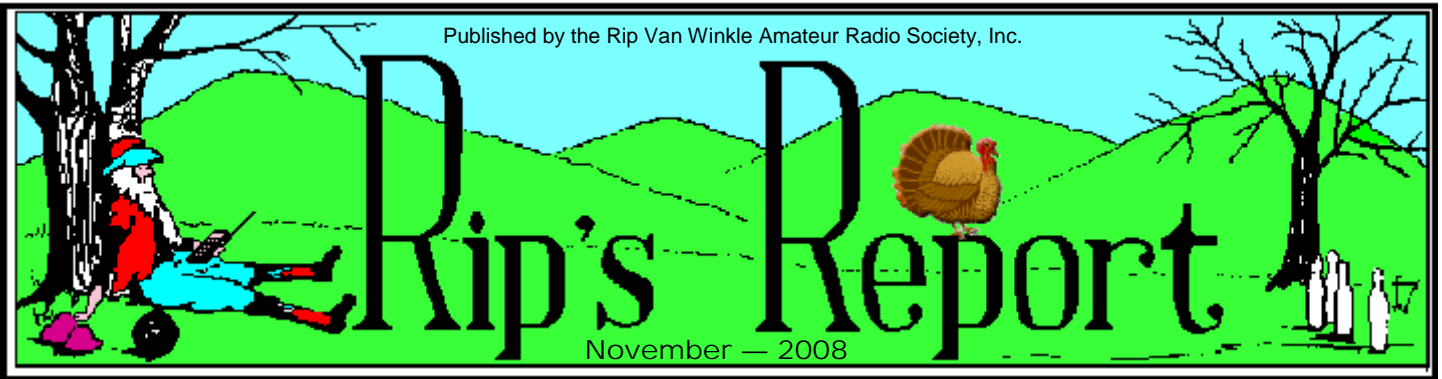
# ARE DUES!



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.



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



## 2008 NTS Drill / SET Overview

*Below is info on the Drill I'd like our ARES group to participate in. The date will be Nov 16th. We'll be able to participate from our home stations. Not sure of any other specifics yet.*

*Thanks, Tom N2NZD*

The following is from Phil, KC2PNI:

Hello. On behalf of the Eastern NY Section Field Leadership I would first off like to thank you for your participation in this year's NTS Drill / SET. Training is probably the most essential tool we have to better serve each other, and the public. This drill would be impossible to do without your dedication, and support. I thank you for making this Drill a reality.

### **Purpose:**

The main purpose of this drill is simple, but multi layered. We are training operators to send, and receive emergency messages in the appropriate fashion. This means properly formatted radiograms, logging, net protocol, and traffic routing. This drill will demonstrate to ARES operators that the NTS is an integral skill that should be continually worked on. This drill will also be practice for local, and HF nets to route information to, and from affected areas. On a more relative note this will also be great practice for using CDTN to route information from the lower/mid Hudson Val-

ley to the Capital Region, and back again.

### **Scenario:**

The situation is dire. A major winter storm (Nor Easter) has slammed the Hudson Valley. This storm has produced blizzard conditions knocking out power in some areas, and making transportation nearly impossible. The storm has also produced severe icing that has all, but eliminated telephones! Conventional communications between State and local disaster management agencies will be non-existent. That's where we come in to the rescue. Local ARES groups have self activated to assist in emergency, welfare, priority, and routine traffic handling for served agencies.

### **Nut's and Bolt's:**

This is how it is going to work, and what we'll need to pull it off. DC, OC, and CC ARES groups have signed on to get in the action. HVN, NYPON, and CDTN will be the nets supporting the drill. All participants will originate an example of each of the 4 traffic precedence's. The stations from mid/lower Hudson, and the ARES groups will bring there traffic to HVN. HVN will have a liaison, or 2 to bring the traffic to

(Continued on Page 2)

## RVWARS Meeting November 17 at the Clubhouse

The regular monthly meeting of the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse on Monday, November 17.

A proposal was made at last month's meeting to raise the annual dues because the Club's expenses: insurance, electric and telephone are rising and the current dues are not sufficient to cover them. Fund raising events and contributions are making up the difference but can't be depended upon.

The exact amount hasn't been decided, so every member's input and support is needed as this important decision about the dues increase is discussed and finally passed. The present dues of \$15 per individual and \$20 per family, has been in force for longer than anyone can remember.

Bring a friend and someone interested in Amateur Radio. The coffee pot and radios will be on. Stan always brings the Donuts, so there's something for everyone!



## SkyWarn Training a NoGo

There won't be a SkyWarn training class this Fall. Our area is not included in the internet listings of classes being offered by the National Weather Service in Albany.



## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, Nov. 16 — 8:00 a.m. to Noon.** NTS Drill/SET

**Monday, Nov. 18 — 7:00 p.m.**  
RVWARS Meeting — Noecker Clubhouse. Rt. 66 & Graham Ave. Hudson

**Monday, Dec 1 — 7:00 p.m.**  
ARES/RACES Meeting — Noecker Clubhouse. Rt. 66 & Graham Ave. Hudson

**Monday, Dec 15 — 7:00 p.m.**  
RVWARS Meeting — Annual "Goodie Fest!"  
Noecker Clubhouse. Rt. 66 & Graham Ave. Hudson

### RVWARS Weekly Nets

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

**Thursday — 7:00 p.m.**  
ARES/RACES Emergency Training Net: 3.980 LSB



#### 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](mailto:wa2fti@yahoo.com)  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

## 2008 NTS Drill / SET Overview

*(Continued from Page 1)*

NYPON. Each VHF net will have liaisons at NYPON to bring the traffic back and forth to their own respective VHF nets. The folks at the CDTN will send replies, and if they wish their own traffic down to the mid/lower Hudson Valley. The ARES groups need to hold their own ARES net's on their own respective frequencies, and assign a liaison to bring traffic to HVN, or CDTN. It is important to say in each Radiogram the word drill at least 3 times in the messages. Please say this is a drill before the preamble. Say "Drill message" in the body, and please sign each message by authority of \_\_\_\_\_ this is a Drill", and then your callsign. I want this to be as realistic as possible, so there won't be many more details. We can have an on air meeting on HF to go over some details, but I want to see what areas of opportunity we may have. All concerns and criticisms will not be done on the air. I will want each net manager, ARES EC, or participating station to send me some sort of report after the drill. I will compose a master list of common issues that we can all work on, and learn from. I ask we have professional courtesy, and deal with problems in a generic friendly manner. This will protect every one's ego, and foster better participation. Know one enjoys having an error called out in front of everybody. I will be sending out a frequency list before the drill. I would like you guys to start getting people signed up ASAP. It will not be needed to man any emergency shelter, hospital, or EOC for this

## Columbus Day Tag Sale



**Jim KC2OGK watches over his Tag Sale goodies**

The Tag Sale went well. We sold a lot of stuff and made \$324.00. It was a kind of spur of the moment thing because of the weather. It was planned for Labor Day weekend but it rained! Seems like it rained all summer. Anyway we pulled it off on Columbus Day weekend. The weather was perfect! If we had a lot more stuff we could have made a lot more money because there were a lot of people stopping. But it was a fun weekend and we made some money... Many thanks to the folks that brought some stuff and helped to sell it. *Stan WA2UET*

drill. You may do so if you want, but the focus of this drill is on the traffic handling aspect. You may set up "mock" shelters in which stations may pretend to be in a shelter/government building, but be operating from home. That's the beauty of HAM radio!! You will need to have some people with HF privileges, and HF/VHF equipment. Please plan ahead for this.

Check into the regular 7:00 p.m. Thursday night RACES/ARES net on 147.21 for more information on this Drill. Also, check your email for info posted on the RVWARS Yahoo group.

# Field Day - 2008



**Photos Courtesy of  
Pete Cecere  
N2YJZ  
Eastern NY  
Section Manager**

**WD2K 2040 4A 401 2 ENY 25 Rip Van Winkle ARS**

## SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY SET FOR DECEMBER 6



The 10th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 6, 2008 <<http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>>. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office on Washington Ave., Albany.

The idea for the first SRD took shape in the summer of 1999. Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Goodland, Kansas NWS office Scott Mentzer, N0QE, tried to find a way to recognize the valuable contributions storm spotters make to the National Weather Service. "Since many of those storm spotters were also hams," Floyd said, "it seemed like a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on Amateur Radio."

And so began an annual tradition. The following year, 85 of the 122 NWS offices — almost 70 percent — participated in the event, making nearly 24,000 QSOs. "Perhaps the most unusual contact occurred in 2000 with an airliner 39,000 feet above Utah," Floyd said. "The pilot ended the QSO with a request for a 'spot weather forecast' for his arrival at Salt Lake City airport." *The ARRL Letter*

**Happy  
Thanksgiving**

## "Kitten on the Key": Cat sends Interfering CW on Forty Meters

Silent since the summer of 2000, "ditters" have been heard once again on 40 meters by hams in North Carolina. According to ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, hams in that state contacted him on October 22 complaining of hearing a continuous string of "dits" on 7.0574 MHz. "We informed the FCC HFDFing station of the situation and asked if they could locate the approximate area of the 'dits' so we could get this resolved as soon as possible," Skolaut said. "They responded promptly and said it was coming from Westerville, a town just north of Columbus, Ohio."

"In a telephone conversation with one of the OOs near the target area, he suddenly stated that he could hear it, but that the signal was at the noise level, about S2 to S3. I could hear it as well at my location [about 50 miles from the target area] — just above the noise level — for about five or ten seconds, then it disappeared."

Around 7:30 AM on October 23, Swain checked the frequency and found no signal. "I assumed that either Bill had found the transmitter or the owner came home, found it transmitting and turned it off," he said. "Later that morning, Bill sent me an e-mail saying that the signal was back on and about S7. I called Bill's house and left a message telling him I was on my way to Westerville to track down the signal. If he wanted to ride along with me while I looked for it, he was more than welcome to come."

Skolaut said the signal was also heard in Newington that day.

When Swain arrived in Westerville, he had a list of the names and addresses of 172 licensees in the area, as well as a general idea of where the signal should be, based on the data from the FCC's HFDFing station. He also had his HF radio, an all-band screwdriver antenna, a GPS receiver and a VHF radio for information and directions.

"We noted that the signal was 30 over S9 and Bill had me make a left turn at the next street, saying that there was an address on the list we should check out. We stopped at that address, but no luck."

Swain and Carpenter then made their way over to a housing development and found that the signal peaked. "Bill checked the list and found a ham lived on the street we were on, so we stopped and knocked on the door, but no one answered," Swain said. "We checked out the backyard and saw a 4-band trapped vertical antenna.

We went next door and spoke to the neighbor and told him who we were and what we were trying to do." With help from the neighbor, Swain contacted the ham at work and explained the situation. The ham told the neighbor how to get in the house and where they would find the transmitter. "We went in, found the transmitter in operation and turned it off," Swain said. "I noticed the ham had a large cat lounging near the transmitter and assumed the cat could have leaned up against the keyer paddle and started the transmitter. No other explanation could be possible!"