

Published by the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Rip's Report

December 2013

Happy
Birthday

Roger-KC2YKV
Tom-N2NZD
Dick-W2CSQ
Barry-WA2KLP

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

*2014 dues are \$25.00 per individual
\$30.00 for family \$5.00 for
students and active Military are
free.*

2014 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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**GOD BLESS
AMERICA**

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**



**Goody Feast
Dec 16
7:00 PM
Churchtown
Firehouse
Information
inside!**

Christmas Goody Feast

Again this year!

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

Join our Yahoo Group at the bottom of the web page. Simply enter your email address.

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

Goody Feast At 7:00 PM

Unfortunately Patti and Mike will not be doing their penny auction and stuff this year!

But it would be great if we could fill the meeting hall at the firehouse with members and family this year for the Goody Feast! I'm not sure what full would be but certainly a couple hundred folks could fit in there! The club will bring probably Pizza and soda and coffee. Members can bring some goody of some kind, but you are not obligated to bring anything.

It will be a great time to check out the meeting place and re-unite with some friends.

If you could PLEASE let me know if you can make it and how many, I would have an idea how many pizzas to bring.

wa2uet@taconic.net



RVW WORK PARTY

We won't be working outside again till after winter!
I don't like the cold!

SOME FUN 147.210 REPEATER DTMF CODES

Site Info:

228-Outdoor Temp

229-Indoor Temp

230-DC Volt Bat 1

231-AC Volt read

232-DC Volt Bat 2

Daily Highs and Lows for the above readings: 900 through 940

450-To check your input to the repeater. Key up type 450, when it says "ready" QUICKLY key up and record your short message, un-key and it will play it back as it heard it.

WEATHER RADIO

310-ON

325-OFF

These codes will work on 449.925 as well as 2 Meters.

I would like to add a basic weather station sometime as well so we could access wind speed etc. up there.

Feel Free to try them!



Upcoming Events

RVWARS Goody Feast **Monday December 16** **at 7:00 PM**

ARES Meeting **N2NZD-EC**

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 — Mike Alecksynas N2JVE
Vice President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD
Secretary — Tom Cody WE2G
Treasurer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Historian — Carl Verderber WA2UJX
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 November 18, 2013

- Meeting called to order at 6:46pm by President, N2JVE. Attendance 7.
- Secretary's report read. Motion to accept by WB2TCV, seconded by KD2DNJ, Carried.
- Treasurer's report Checking \$1834.71, Savings \$1011.35, Petty Cash, \$50.00, Total \$2896.06
- **Columbia County ARES/RACES**
Columbia County Emergency Management will be contacted about ARES/RACES agreement. Holiday Classic 5K will be run at Columbia Greene Community College December 21. Help needed.
- **Repeater**
Connectors on spare antenna were re-soldered. Arnie Cavallaro will be contacted for installation.
- **Old Business**
None.
- **New Business**
Nominating Committee. Carl, WB2TCV volunteered. During the Philmont X-tyal fire, amateur radio was used. This resulted in our obtaining the repeater site. Some companies charge \$1000 per month per antenna on a tower. Public Service has spared us this expense.
- Meeting closed at 7:01pm. Motion by KD2DNJ, Seconded by WB2TCV.
50-50 drawing won by N2JVE.

SKYWARN training followed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas J Cody, Secretary, RVWARS

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

Treasurers Report

November 18, 2013

Balance Fwd. Checking Acct	\$1852.48
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Repts: Dues	\$100.00
50/50	\$17.00
Total	\$117.00

Exp: NYSEG	\$54.39
Subway	\$10.80
Walmart	\$69.58
Total	\$134.77

Checking Bal	\$1834.71
Petty Cash	\$50.00
Savings Acct Bal	\$1011.35

Total RVWARS monies	\$2896.06
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RVWARS REPEATER CHATTER

I got some positive input about a 6 meter repeater at our site. I also got a tip that there might be one available. I have not however made contact with the individual so far so I have no details. I NEED to know if there is any interest in a 6 meter repeater! I don't know what it would cost but I was told it would probably be reasonable, what ever that is.

PLEASE offer some input. The antenna would not be on the cell tower but instead probably on the one section of tower behind the old shelter. I wonder if the 6 meter band would work through and over the trees.

The heat is on in the shelter and I will monitor the bill to make sure it is not excessive. We ran the AC all summer and it did not have any significant impact on the bill. I set the AC to about 80 degrees. The heat is set to about 50 but I plan on dropping that some when I go up there again.

I sure would be open to any questions or suggestions about the operation and construction of the site. Also I would be happy to show and tell to anyone that is interested in seeing the site. The site and the shelter are truly impressive (I think). It all belongs to the club and it would be great if the club would show some interest. Your money has made it what it is.

Stan, WA2UET



**I NEED IN-
PUT FROM
OUR
READERS!
THE
NEWSLET-
TER SEEMS
TO GET
SMALLER
ALL THE
TIME IN-
STEAD OF
BIGGER.**

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT

On December 21, 2013, the Holiday Classic 5K run will be held at Columbia-Greene Community College, starting at 10:00am. We have been asked to provide communications for this event. It is a relatively fast event, lasting around an hour. If you can help with this race, please let Tom, WE2G know at we2g_1@yahoo.com. Thanks.



MUSING OF A CURMUDGEON



In the storm of debate over the impact of removing the code requirement to become an Amateur charges and counter charges are made about the deterioration of the hobby. The statement I don't seem to hear is "we all have a part of what's happening".

Those of us with the longer fangs keep mumbling that things aren't what they used to be but then we no longer use spark gap either. Change only stops at death and if our hobby cannot change it is doomed to go the way of the dinosaur.

Instead of bemoaning the quality of the newcomers (as our batch of old timers did about us) it's time we became proactive and become the standard bearers setting the example for the folks who will and are replacing us. Think back to when you started, was your procedure great or did an old timer or two gently correct you and then go on to fill you in on why it was done that way? Did he go on to hold a nice conversation with you, tell you he'd look for you again, while working you at your speed. Then a week or so later a QSL card showed up in the mail with strange logos like AI OP, WAS, WAC, DXCC SBAND and you couldn't wait to show it off.

We didn't stop to think that here was a guy who had accomplished much in the hobby but we did know that someday we wanted those logos on our cards too. Many years later as we run across that card the conversation comes back to mind and we chuckle a little as we remember him keying to us "think you better work on that punctuate a little". What we forget is we did work on it and because he was kind enough (yes, kind enough) to point it out we became better operators and by doing so increased our enjoyment of the hobby.

Maybe it's time that we, the current crop of old timers, remember this and instead of decrying what we see as deterioration, find a new comer and say that we enjoyed the conversation and welcome them to the hobby, gently adding "maybe you better work on that,...." before we sign off, fill out our QSL card with the nice logos on it and put it in the mail to the old timer of the future.

Dave Watrous, WD2K—12/96

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS EDUCATE, ENTERTAIN

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I like special event stations. I enjoy operating them and making contact with them. Whenever I operate WA2HOM, our club station at the Ann Arbor (MI) Hands-On Museum, one of the first things I do is to search for special event stations.

One of the reasons I enjoy operating special event stations is that it's educational. For example, on November 17, I worked W4D in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. They were commemorating the 520th anniversary of the discovery by Europeans of the island of Puerto Rico. As a result, I learned that on November 19, 1493 Christopher Columbus landed on the island, naming it San Juan Bautista in honor of Saint John the Baptist, a name that was later changed to Puerto Rico (rich port).

Working special event stations is also entertaining. Most times when you work a special event station, you can tell that they're having a good time. One time, I worked W4B, operating from the Kentucky Bourbon Festival. Now, those guys were really having a great time!

How do you find special event stations?

One way to find special event stations is to just tune around. Most special event stations will be operating at least a 20m phone station, so take a look at that band first. Also, consult the special event stations listings in QST or on the ARRL website (<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>). KE2YK also has a special events page (<http://ke2yk.wordpress.com/special-event-station-events/>).

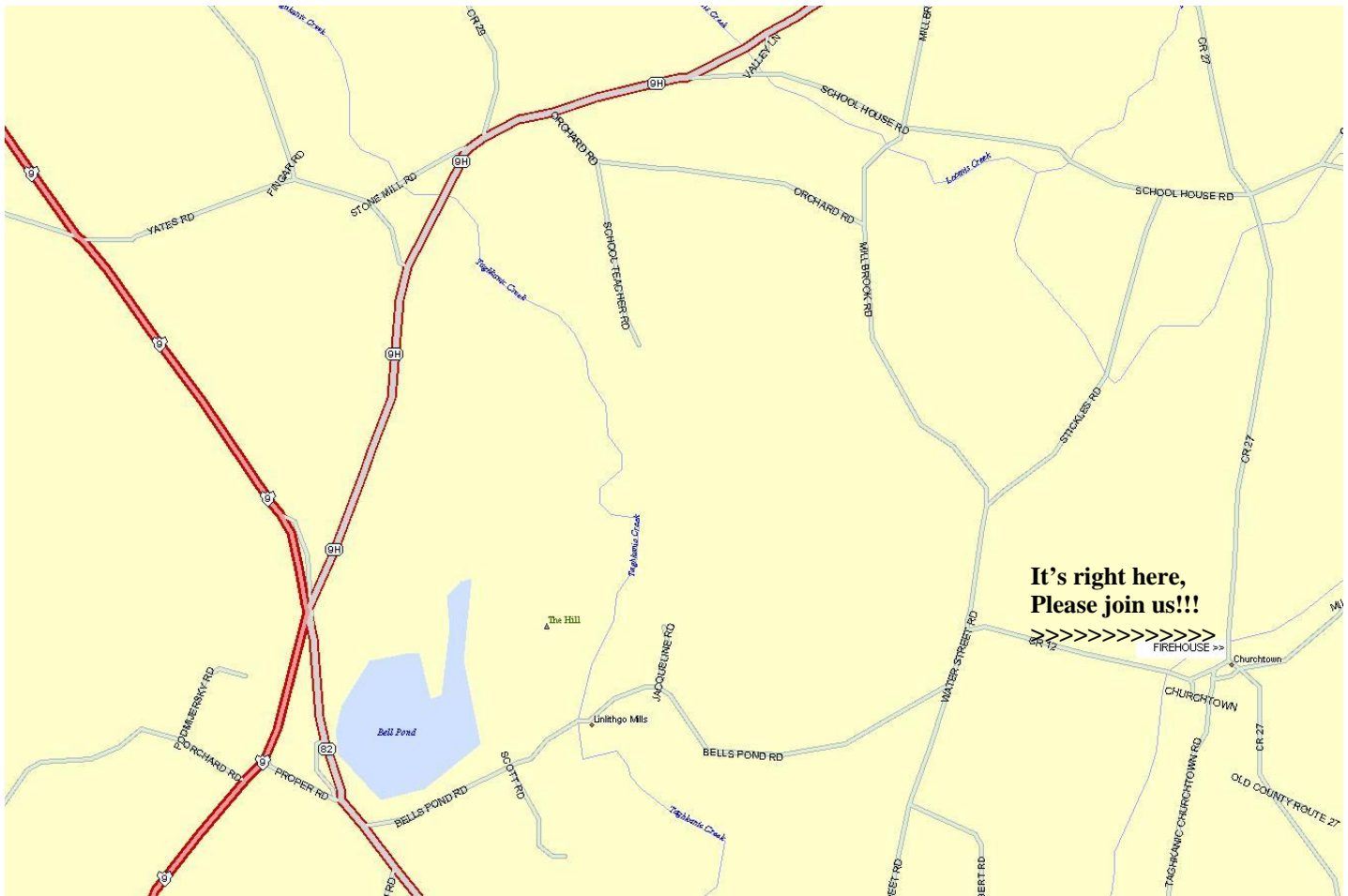
In addition to working special event stations, you should consider organizing and operating one of your own. For the past two years, several members of our Rotary Club who are also amateur radio operators have operated W8P on the third weekend in February, which commemorates the founding of the Rotary Club and helps spread the word about the End Polio Now campaign (<http://www.endpolio.org/>). It was not only fun to do this, but I think that we helped raise awareness about polio around the world.

Whatever your reason for holding a special event, you'll want to be somewhat knowledgeable about your topic. For example, if you decide to set up a special event station at the local Rutabaga Festival, you might want to know how long they've been having the festival, how many pounds of rutabagas are produced by local farms and around the U.S., and maybe even find a couple of rutabaga recipes that you could send out to stations that work you.

=====

When he's not working special event stations, Dan, KB6NU enjoys building kits and working CW. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.





From the West RVW Bridge or 9G take Rt 23 to the 9H intersection and either go North to School House Rd and to Churchtown Firehouse or go through the light and take Bells Pond Road to the Firehouse. From the North or from Hudson go south on 9H from the traffic light in Claverack to County Route 27 and to the Firehouse.

Park in the lot to the right of the Firehouse and enter through the Main Entrance. Someone will be listening to the repeater and will help you if need be. "FIREHOUSE" is indicated on the right side of the map.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

Join the RVWARS Yahoo Group. Go to the www.rvwars.com web site and scroll to the bottom of the page and simply enter your email address into the box.



Using a Spectrum Scope in HF Rigs
Nov. 28, 2013

By: Carl J. Verderber WA2UJX

My newest HF transceiver is a 10 year old ICOM 756-PRO II. I still can't believe how much I enjoy using this radio. It has all HF bands (no 60M) and includes 6M all mode. Most new HF rigs have these features and most of the functions but what I really enjoy is the "Spectrum Scope" function.



40 years ago while visiting a local HAM I was introduced to an add-on to a receiver called a Band Scope. It was made by Heathkit and it allowed him to electrically connect it to his receiver IF strip and it allowed him to "see" the signals that were above and below the frequency he was tuned to. This allowed him to find openings in the band and also to move further away from another signal. But it was costly, bulky, you had to build it and you had to understand how to connect it into the receiver. It was also not that stable and the resolution was not that great – but it worked. I was impressed!

When I had the opportunity to order a new rig in 2003 I selected the ICOM because it had a built-in spectrum scope. With that function I can immediately "see" the spectra of any signal and understand the mode it employs. Be it CW or SSB I can see and identify the signal mode before I hear it. Also my rig shows me my transmitted waveform and this helps me adjust AM modulation levels and SSB levels.

Rigs with "Band Scope" features like the ICOM 746 PRO will display similar information but at much lower resolution.

I have taken some pictures of various spectral modes just to show differences. Please see figures #1 – 5.

I notice more new rigs feature the "band scope" or "spectral display" and I predict that someday every rig will come with this

feature. I thought the readers would like to see the actual results of using this function. END



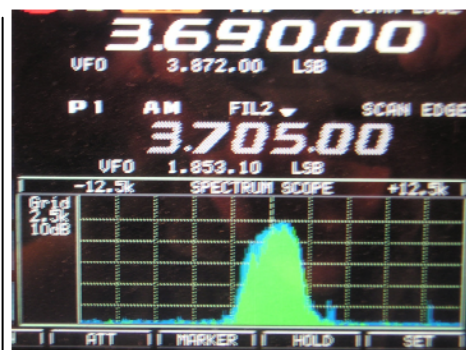
Figure #1 shows what a CW signal looks like. There is no side band information so the width of a single signal is narrow.



Figure #2 shows an AM signal (mixing upper and lower sideband information with the carrier). In this case the total width of the envelope is less than 6KHZ.



Figure #3 shows a narrow band FM signal (in this case total width is less than 12 KHZ).



. Figure #4 is an LSB transmission signal which is about 3KHZ wide. Only the lower sideband is sent without a carrier.



Figure #5 is a very wide +/- 100 KHZ spectra of the 75M band. Notice each rising spike is an SSB or AM transmission signal.

**A SMILE IS AN
INEXPENSIVE
WAY TO CHANGE
YOUR LOOKS!**



Items for sale de K2WG

- 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.

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

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Secure Wireless Broadband Internet
Serving Greene and Columbia Counties
Visit NYAIR.net

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

FOR SALE

A local ham with no phone or internet or VHF wants to sell his station. Below are the information and prices. You will have to let me know if you are interested and I will contact him via USPS or pass you his home address. If you want to make an offer I will pass it on but he says these prices are his minimum. He also said that all equipment is in good condition...

Yaesu FT-840 \$400.00

Yaesu SP-6 \$125.00

Yaesu FP-1030A 25A PS \$175.00

Rockwell/Collins 30L-1 Amp 1KW
\$1300.00

Dentron Super Super Tuner 3000W
\$200.00

MFJ 815C SWR/PWR \$40.00

MFJ 407D Keyer \$40.00

MFJ 890 DX Beacon \$50.00

Drake TV-3300 Filters \$20.00

Ham Key Paddles \$40.00

Yaesu YH-77sta phones \$40.00

Please contact me:

wa2uet@taconic.net and I will get you connected!

I have about 16 -120 volt pan cake fans plus protective guards if you know of any one 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

**If your ad is no
longer valid
please let me
know.**

FOR SALE

For the news letter

Anyone interested it this package.

MFJ 962 tuner
Ten-Tek HF rig
Forty foot crank up tower
CDR rotor & cable
Coax cable
Tri Beam Ant

You have to take it down
Price total-----\$550.00

Wa2uyy
Ron Coons Sr.
518-945-3731

I have a new recently purchased in box, never used: KT 100 auto tuner. This tuner is for Kenwood 'newer' rig's via antenna connection.

I Would like to swap/exchange either or auto tuner with SO239 connectors, or else trade this tuner for a HT or mobile 2, or 2/440 FM rig of compatible cost. This KT-100 was \$199.99 s+h added. This antenna Tuner is Kenwood Only!

I purchased this tuner for a Kenwood TS440S..Not knowing it was not adaptable, for easy operation. I 'decided' I did not wish to pursue 're inventing' any other recourse in making tuner work for my TS440S. So.. I now wish to 'trade' this new KT-100 tuner, as it isn't 'needed' at this time for my personal usage. If this is acceptable for listing with our club rvwars, I'd like to recommend this item for possible 'trade/exchange' resource. thank you. vy 73!-ke2eb george call. 518-731-9854