

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Rip's Report

December 2011

**Happy
Birthday**

Roger-KC2YKV
Tom-N2NZD
Barry-WA2KLP

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

*2012 dues are \$25.00 per individual
\$30.00 for family \$5.00 for
students and active Military are
free.*

**You Can Pay Your
2012 Dues 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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**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**



**Meeting
December
19
7:00 PM
At the
Noecker66 Club
House in
Hudson.**

DECEMBER GOODY FEAST NOECKER66 CLUB HOUSE 12/19/2011

Hope to see everybody there!

Genius is one percent
inspiration
And ninety-nine percent
Perspiration!
Thomas A. Edison

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

HOMELAND TOWER PROJECT

We had a GREAT open house at the site on the 12th. Several interested folks came up and looked things over and had some coffee and donuts and cookies.

All of the repeaters are working now! I still have to do some tinkering, like hooking up the intruder alarm. The audio has been adjusted and sounds great according to reports. We also plan on having a UHF link to the N2LEN UHF repeater. Just waiting for the hardware and making sure it works OK. We also have a link to connect our UHF and VHF repeater. It is working fine. When the codes are finalized I will publish them. But I do not want to leave the repeaters linked all the time. If you link please be sure to UN-link. The weather antenna is installed as well as the UHF link antenna.

I am still waiting for the contractors to come up to turn the yagi and they have to install some more grounding kits, and paint the cables, etc.

RVW WORK PARTY

The next work party will be in the spring. Maybe we can spray some weed killer around the old shelter. And if the stone is still there we could spread that around some of the rough spots near the old shelter. We should try to keep it looking nice for the Village and us.

Christmas in Bethlehem (GA)

SPECIAL EVENT

12/04/2010 The Barrow Amateur Radio Club, Barrow County, Winder, Georgia will operate WR4BC from Bethlehem Georgia beginning at 17:00 UTC on Saturday the 4th of December, through 17:00 UTC on Sunday the 5th of December. A unique collectable QSL will be issued, complete with the Bethlehem Christmas Postmark, to arrive at your QTH before Christmas. For additional details, operating frequencies, QSL instructions, please visit www.barrowhamradio.org.

Dec 4-Dec 5, 1700Z-1700Z, WR4BC, Bethlehem, GA. Barrow Amateur Radio Club. 21.365 14.265 7.265 3.875. QSL. Barrow Amateur Radio Club, 287 Crescent Ct, Winder, GA 30680. A unique collectable QSL will be issued, complete with the Bethlehem Christmas Postmark, to arrive at your QTH before Christmas. barrowhamradio.org



*The greatest challenge
in life is to find someone
who knows all your flaws
differences & mistakes
and yet still sees the
best in you!!*

girlssary.com



Upcoming Events

ARES/RACES Meeting
first Monday of the month
WB2DUW-RO
N2NZD-EC

RVWARS Meeting
Monday December 19
7:00 p.m.

Noecker66 Clubhouse, Rt 66
& Graham Avenue, Hudson

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 — 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 — 147.210 224.280 449.925
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 11/21/2011

- Meeting called to order at 7:04pm by President. N2NZD. Attendance 16.
 - Secretary's report read. Motion to accept by KC2YKM, seconded by KC2AGM.
 - Treasurer's report Checking \$475.18, Savings \$1011.12, Petty Cash \$50.00 Total \$1536.30.
 - **ARES/RACES**
 - Columbia County ARES/RACES meeting held Nov. 7. WB2DUW is working with hospital. Working with nursing homes to get antennas mounted. WE2G worked with TARA on Pumpkin Patrol Oct 30, 31. We're looking for new members as there are only around 5 active members.
No report from Greene County.
 - **Repeater**
All repeaters are working. Cables have to be painted to match monopole. Grounding kits to be installed. Air conditioning unit being repaired. A open house was held at the repeater site. Perhaps a picnic during the summer?
 - **Old Business**
Nominating committee. N2NZD wants to step down as president. Other officers will stay on. Election will be in January.
 - **New Business**
N2JVE brought up a possibility of a turkey dinner for the goody fest. He and Patty, KC2PWO, will provide a 14 pound turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and the pepperoni pot. Mary Ann Engel will provide scalloped clams, scalloped potatoes and pickles. Mary Daggett will provide cookies. Carolyn Noecker will provide sweet potatoes and coleslaw. Looking for a ham, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, tossed salad. Info will be in newsletter. There will be a penny social to make money for the club. Prizes will be donated.
WE2G mentioned a possibly reviving the "rumble" with TARA. These were held at Four Brothers in Valatie. There was interest.
WE2G brought up a proposal about purchasing. Amounts over \$250 would be proposed, tabled then voted on at the next meeting. Discussion. It should be included in the by-laws. Will be re-written to cover possible emergencies. Any changes will be added to the by-laws.
Recognition for those who have worked on the repeater? A plaque?
Adjourned 7:36pm Motion by KC2YKM, seconded by K2KGJ.
 - 50-50 drawn, won by K2KGJ.
- Respectfully Submitted,
WE2G, Secretary

The below changes to the By-Laws have been voted on and changed.

- 4. Dues.** The Dues Structure is:
- A. Single Member, \$25 per year.
 - B. Family Membership, \$30 per year.
 - C. Student Member, \$5 per year until he/she graduates.
 - D. Any unlicensed member of a RVWARS sponsored License Class who successfully passes the VE exam shall be awarded a free membership in RVWARS for the balance of the current year.**
 - E. Membership is from January 1st to December 31st. New members joining the club after July 1 of the current year will be charged ½ year's dues for the current year.**
 - F. Dues for active members of the military are free.

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!

I am not able to produce a quality newsletter on my own! I NEED your help! I am sorry for the repetitive content, I am trying to fill some space.



HAM FEST??? NOPE, HAM FEAST!!!

This year our annual CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION will be held on Monday 12/19/11. We encourage members to bring their families.

Something new too!

In addition to all the goodies (please bring them to) we are going to try a full holiday dinner and we need everyone's support.

Please call Patti (KC2PWO) @ 784-3864 and tell her what you can contribute. So far we have:

Patti—14 pound turkey, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, pepperoni pot and rolls

Mary Ann—scaloped clams, scaloped potatoes, pickles

Mary D—Cookies

Carolyn N—sweet potatoes and coleslaw

We could use a ham, mashed potatoes, green bean casseroles, tossed salads.. There will be lots of folks to feed so be generous in what you bring.

Please remember to bring extra money. In addition to our 50/50 drawing we will have an opportunity to buy chances for a few special gifts and a mystery gift or two. Chances will be sold as a \$10 string of tickets, with the proceeds going to the club. You have to drop a ticket or two in the can in front of the gift you want to win and of course be lucky. If you have any new items that you would like to donate, call me ASAP; I am sure any used radio equipment would be appreciated as well.

Thanks again for making this the best Christmas party yet.

God Bless you all,

Patti Lensink, KC2PWO

Holidays from the Twin Christmas Cities of Nazareth and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

SPECIAL EVENT

12/10/2011

Special Event Station WX3MAS is on the air the second weekend of December, from 1400Z to 0200Z, to celebrate the Holidays from the twin Christmas Cities of Nazareth and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the Christmas City Amateur Radio Club and the Delaware/Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, WX3MAS is QRV every year during the Holiday Season. Listen for us on or about 28.465 21.365 14.265 7.270 3.850, depending on conditions, we also will be operating PSK 31 on 20 and 40 meters, 10 and 15 meters as well if there is good band conditions. Did you contact WX3MAS ? Send a QSL and 9x12" SASE to the above address for a colourful commemorative certificate! Happy Holidays to all amateurs everywhere from WX3MAS!

Dec 10-Dec 11, 1400Z-0200Z, WX3MAS, Nazareth, PA. Christmas City and Delaware/Lehigh Amateur Radio Clubs. 21.365 14.265 7.270 3.850, PSK31 on 20 40 m, 10 15 m if conditions permit. Certificate. Christmas City Amateur Radio Club, RR 8 Greystone Bldg, Nazareth, PA 18064. www.dlarc.org or www.qrz.com/db/WX3MAS

A NEW COLLEGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB By our own Andrew O'Neill

In his junior year at Green Mountain College, Andrew O'Neill (KC2SAL) has started an amateur radio club. The club was created for students to have the opportunity to learn more about and become more involved in amateur radio. The club will offer an



examination this semester, on December 2nd, with the help from volunteers of the Green Mountain Wireless Society located fifteen minutes from the college. WIAD Frank D'Auria of the Green Mountain Wireless Society has been helping Andrew out immensely in the development of the club. Ad-

ditionally, the club already has a license: KB1WJH and called "The Green Mountain College Amateur Radio Club, and we hope to obtain a vanity callsign: W1GMC. Currently there are twelve members of the club, but numbers are expected to grow.

Recently the club hosted its first event "Ham Day," where students could come and learn about what amateur radio was all about. A radio was setup and with the help of two other Green Mountain Wireless Society members we attempted to get a QSO going on 10 meters, but had no luck with the little antenna setup. Students still enjoyed the event with refreshments to eat and plenty of books, magazines, and brochures to read.

Our club has one antenna setup for VHF use and we are planning to rig an additional antenna once the project is approved by the college.

73, Andrew



Items for sale de K2WG



1. Ameritron AL-811H linear amplifier. Purchased new in 2006 for \$629.00 from HRO. Needs 1 811A tube. Asking \$350.00 OBO.
2. 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.
3. AND, 40 foot (10 sections) fiber glass military surplus antenna mast \$25.00

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

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 Cocksackie, NY 518-731-9854 bubby-call@yahoo.com

Reminder from: TARA-N2TY Yahoo! Group

Title: T.N.T. TRADER NET

Date: Thursday September 29, 2011

Time: 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Repeats: This event repeats every week.

Next reminder: The next reminder for this event will be sent in 1 day, 12 hours, 4 minutes.

Location: TARA REPEATER SYSTEM: 145.17/R & 447.075/R

Notes: This is a reminder for our weekly TARA - T.N.T. Trader Net which dedicated towards buying, selling or trading your amateur related items. All are welcome to come join us at 9:00 PM on the TARA repeater system 145.17/R & 447.075/R, plus Echolink #1774 or IRLP #4151.

Get reminders on your mobile, Yahoo! Messenger, and email.
Edit reminder options

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

SWAP AND SHOP NET

The 2 meter Swap n Shop net will return on Sat Oct 1 at 8 pm on the N2LEN repeater 147.150 and 449.025 with pl 114.8. Net control will be Todd KC2YKM. This is a good time to sell some used gear or maybe find something that you have been looking for. Join Todd on Oct 1 at 8 pm on the net.

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

PROFESSIONAL INSURED TOWER CLIMBER DISCOUNT RATES FOR HAMS

ANTENNAS - FEED LINES
INSTALLED & REMOVED

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ARNIE CAVALLARO
518-965-9299



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





MUSINGS OF THE CURMUDGEON

A reprint from 12/2000



Not so long ago we were worried about the influx of new amateurs and upgrades overpopulating the bands. The prevailing wisdom was that a wave of signals would hit the bands making them so crowded that no one could enjoy the hobby. It would be the end of the hobby as we knew it.

Now that a great silence has settled over the bands it appears that maybe the opposite has happened and the great gains projected will not happen. It looks like another case of folks wanting something given to them and when they got it found it was not to their liking. HF with its relatively expensive equipment, large antennas, atmospheric noise and unstable band conditions is not for everyone.

You have to be a little different to spend hours listening through the static crashes in order to hold a conversation with someone you will never meet.

Maybe it requires a slight divergence from center to enjoy spending more hours discussing the relative merits of various antennas or how to properly ground your station.

Spending weekends contacting a many stations as possible to utter the magic words "You are 59" or hammering away at a key that "UR 599" might just make someone suspect that maybe one of your oars just doesn't quite reach the water but all of this is what many of us are hooked on.

Whatever the reason the great truth that has come out of the changes is that HF operators march to a different drummer. We would do whatever is necessary to get the privileges and equipment that allow us to send our signal out in the hope that someone will answer us who understands the importance of SWR. Someone who will understand the need to have someone one a isolated reef tell us he also has felt the magic that one can only feel on HF. That is what that "59" means, an exchange between two people who share a fascination with radio in all its modes. Without that feeling you could issue every-one an Extra license at birth and the bands would be no more crowded than they are now. The "big change" was really no change at all.

By Dave Watrous, WD2K Dec 2000

It would be really neat to have someone take this column over. It makes great reading! PLEASE! There must be a curmudgeon out there!

QNZ de K2WG....

To brag or not to brag, that is the question. Some ham radio stations have multiple rigs, antennas and accessories galore. Others are modest set ups perhaps with only an HT next to the easy chair in the living room. Whatever the situation; it is a proven fact that the size and power of the station is not necessarily indicative of the enjoyment the ham operator experiences. Nor is it an indicator of the ability of a ham to participate in various ham radio activities. There are many certificate holders whose modest stations are a testament to the ability of modest stations to perform well in contests and DX chasing. Whether a station is QRP or QRO there are advantages and disadvantages to each. Regardless of station size and power we can all be proud of our abilities to establish communications during times of natural or man-made disasters when the regular communications systems are compromised or inoperable.



So let's take the opportunity provided by this newsletter to do a little bragging in a positive way. Let's share our station set ups with the readers of the newsletter and discuss how we participate in regular ham radio activities and how we are prepared to assist with emergency communications. By doing so; we will also be helping the newsletter editor to fill these pages with pertinent and relevant material. We may also give other hams an idea of how to use their equipment and abilities to get more enjoyment from the hobby or to better serve the community during times of duress. Rather than imbedding

pictures in your document, it would probably be better to send your pictures as separate files so the editor can cut and paste them into the finished product as necessary.

The station at K2WG is always a work in progress. The pictures included with this article will not necessarily reflect the station appearance a week or month from now. Transceivers include: Yaesu FT-920 160m – 6m; Yaesu FT-900 160m – 10m; Yaesu FT-897D 160m – 70cm; Yaesu FT-7900 VHF/UHF; Blackbox VHF; Alinco DR-140 VHF Packet. Other equipment includes: 2 MFJ-949E tuners, Ameritron ATR-20 tuner; 2 Yaesu SP-8 external speakers; RIGblaster plus; Signalink USB. Additionally there are 2 DELL computers with internet capabilities also used for digital mode use on VHF and HF. There are several wire antennas in addition to a Hy-Gain TR-3JRS triband beam, an R-7000 vertical and several dual band VHF/UHF ground planes. The 55 foot K2WG tower also includes antennas for the N2JVE 146.670 repeater and the WPRY330 Northeast Task Force fire and emergency services VHF narrow band FM repeater.



Operations from K2WG are usually in SSB or digital but the occasional CW or AM QSO rounds out the mix. I'm not an avid contesteer but I try to participate in the ARRL Sweepstakes and some of the state QSO parties. For the past 3 years I have also held the Army MARS callsign AAR2BD. Being a member of MARS allows the use of many more frequencies that are shared by several government organizations. There are also many duties and responsibilities that are included in MARS membership. There is really no end to the ways in which one can enjoy the ham radio hobby.

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



Carving Out Time for Ham Radio

BY Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On a recent episode of This Week in Tech (www.twit.tv), Leo Laporte, W6TWT, mentions ham radio, and a guest asks him how much time he is spending on the air. Leo, who just recently got his Tech license says "Zero!" and laughs.

This is not uncommon. Lots of people seem to get a ham radio license and then do very little with it. I think one reason for this is that they don't take into account how much time the hobby really can eat up.

They get their ticket because it seems like a cool thing to do, but then they have to carve out some time to actually be a ham radio operator. Even if you don't make any of your own gear, setting up a station takes time, and then there is the operating time, of course. Carving time out of busy schedules—and I would guess that Laporte has a pretty busy schedule being the owner of TWiT—is a challenge.

I see things like this all the time. At one ham radio club meeting that I attended, the club vice president asked, "OK, here's the question of the month. How many of you actually got on the air in the past month." Less than half of those in attendance raised their hands. Geez, I thought to myself, why do they even bother to come to meetings if they don't get on the air?

Making time for ham radio.

So, if you're a busy person, how do you make time for ham radio? Well, being the Internet geek that I am, I Googled, "making time for things you love." I got a lot of links to sites that talked about work-life balance and some new-age blogs, but none of them offered much in the way of concrete advice.

Then, I Googled "make time for hobbies" and right off the bat, I found two good articles—7 Creative Ways to Make Time For Your Creative Hobby! (<http://www.exploringwomanhood.com/homelife/hobbies/maketime.htm>) and 5 Ways to Make Time for Your Hobby (<http://o5.com/5-ways-to-make-time-for-your-hobby/>). Both articles offered very similar advice. Here are four points that both made:

1. Schedule it. Set aside a specific time during which you're going to do ham radio. Don't let that time get pre-empted.
2. Designate a place in your home for ham radio. Having to set up your radios or dig out your tools every time you want to operate or build something is not much fun and wastes a lot of time. Having a "shack" and a workspace designated for your projects will let you spend more time on the fun stuff.
3. Partner up. Arranging to work with another ham will make it harder to blow off ham radio for some other activity. Besides, it's a lot of fun to do things with other hams. If you're a newly licensed ham, find an Elmer. There really are plenty around who would be willing to help you.
4. Create a project plan. Setting up an amateur radio station is no small feat. Breaking it down into smaller chunks will make it seem more doable, and you'll get a feeling of accomplishment when you meet your in-between goals.

There's so much to learn and do in amateur radio that it can seem quite overwhelming. I think that's one reason why so many Techs never really get into the hobby and why some experienced hams drift away. I think if you follow the advice above, though, you'll not only find the time to pursue amateur radio, but get a lot more out of it.

When he's not down in his shack, working with a friend on yet another amateur radio project, Dan writes amateur radio study guides. You can find them on his website at www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual. Make some time to e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



The Rettsnitch is used to enforce decency in Amateur Radio operating work.

In 1921, the Washington DC Radio Club presented the Rettsnitch to the league's traffic manager. According to legend, the club received the Rettsnitch specimen from "The Old Man" himself. Cebik stated that "Even at its first public appearance, two of its teeth were missing, suggesting a long history of necessary and effective use. However, to this day, the Rettsnitch has lost no further teeth. It was ordered to be displayed by its mate." The Wouff-Hong and Rettsnitch stories were retold by Rufus P. Turner, when he wrote "Hamdom's Traditions: A Bedtime Story for Young Squirts" in May 1934 QST. According to Cebik, "In 1930, The ARRL Handbook had pictures of both instruments of enforcement. By 1936, only the Wouff-Hong appeared. By 1947 the Handbook had deleted both photos." An editorial on the Wouff-Hong (without the hyphen) appeared many years later in February 1961 QST. Presently, both of these legendary instruments are on display at the ARRL museum in Newington, CT.

Do the Wouff-Hong and Rettsnitch still hold their mystical power over us today?

L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, answered this question well, when he asked "Why were the Wouff-Hong and the Rettsnitch so powerful to those early hams? Because those hams cared about Amateur Radio in their hearts. They desired that which they knew they could never have: A perfectly law-abiding, decent radio service that would inspire young and old alike to become hams or, lacking the inclination to electronics, to become admirers of hams. Every minute of on-the-air time was a chance to show how noble a pursuit Amateur Radio was and should always be. They feared the Wouff-Hong and the Rettsnitch as instruments of their own consciences, as they strove to meet the standards they set for themselves. And that is where you will find the Wouff-Hong and the Rettsnitch today - deep in your own conscience. If they seem to hold no power, then you know it's time once more to elevate your standards a notch higher, and then to strive to achieve them perfectly." He added, "May you never deserve their sting."

SOME SCENES FROM OUR OPEN HOUSE

