



Happy Birthday

David-K2C0I
Patti-KC2PWO
Les-KD2BQB
John-KD2CCR

Mark-KD2GGM
Ben-N2ROQ
Ann-WA2KCU

Your dues are important to this club! We support the operation of the repeater at between 700 and 800 dollars per year just in electric bills. We are always upgrading and improving and maintaining the system. Some of this expense is covered by our members. Our insurance is \$320 per year. Food alone for Field Day and the picnic is over \$300. We purchase some kind of snack for each meeting at probably around an average of \$15 per month and about another \$100 plus for the goody fest. Other than dues our income is sparse. The only substantial income has been the fall tag sale and the goods to sell are running out. The income from the raffle is not a lot. Our paid roster so far in 2015 is only 26 members paid. About \$600 income from dues so far. A rough estimate is about \$1600 expense and about \$600 income leaving us in the hole for \$1000. At the current rate we will be broke in two years! I know that several more members will pay their dues soon, but if you could pay sooner it would make it easier to plan. These figures are obviously a rough estimate but i think you can all see the potential dilemma looming. Please consider helping to maintain your club. Not only dues but your attendance at the meetings and your donations toward the fall tag sale and other needed support.

PLEASE

PAY YOUR DUES



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



Next Meeting
February 16
CHURCHTOWN
FIREHOUSE
2219 Cty 27
Hudson, NY
All are Welcome

MEETING 7:00 PM

**There will be an interesting
Talk about Rail Road Communications!**

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 our web page. Www.rvwars.com
Simply enter your email address.

**FEBRUARY
MEETING
7:00 PM
CHURCHTOWN**

**WE ARE NOW
ON FACEBOOK
CHECK IT OUT**

*2015 dues are
\$25.00 per indi-
vidual \$30.00 for
family \$5.00 for
students and
active Military
are free.*

FYI

RVWARS is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. As such all monetary donations are tax deductible and donations of equipment are deductible. Please consider donating your idle equipment to the club for our use or for sale at the annual tag sale or auction.

New DTMF codes for the New Vantage Vue Weather Station:

500-Wind Speed & Direction
501-Outside Temperature
502-Indoor Humidity
503-Outdoor Humidity
504-High Wind Speed (since mid-
night)
505-High Outside Temperature (since
midnight)
506-Low Outside Temperature (since
midnight)
Hopefully a Rain reading will be added soon. But these are what is available at this point. The system is installed and ready to use. Please feel free to try the codes and see what is going on at the repeater site at Forest Lake. (the outside temperature from the new system is different than that from the controller. They are different sensors.)

RVW WORK PARTY

We did not get the stone raked off this summer. It is not a big deal but would look better if we can get it done next spring. I will let all know when I can help. We will also have to do some weed eating in the spring. That to was neglected this year. Other than that there is not a lot that needs to be done at the site. Todd took the junk away. We are in pretty good shape on the hill.

If we can get the money through a grant next year we will put some solar panels on the roof of the shelter.

**TO USE THE BELOW CODES SIMPLY
KEY UP AND ENTER THE CODE
WITH YOUR KEY PAD**

SOME FUN 147.210 REPEATER DTMF CODES

Site Info:	Daily High/Low
228-Outdoor Temp >	900
229-Indoor Temp >	910
230-DC Volt Bat 1 >	930
231-AC Volt read >	920
232-DC Volt Bat 2 >	940

Resets at
1:00 AM
Daily

450-To check your input to the repeater. Key up and 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

ARES

We are talking seriously about getting an ARES group started again. We feel it is important to have the ability to help with communications with the County EMO if needed. There will be more information about this soon. Meantime PLEASE consider helping. It will be a fun relaxed group. I promise!

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 — Don Peterson, W1SWM
Secretary — Carl Roby, WB2TCV
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/>

JANUARY MEETING!

On January 19, a short meeting was held at the Columbia County 911 facility in Hudson. A Baofeng dual band radio was raffled. Don W1SWM was the winner. Nine members of our club were treated to a PowerPoint presentation followed by a tour of the facility by 911 Emergency Dispatcher Robyn Sweet who has been there for 7 years. She explained in detail the operation of the facility and answered all of our questions. We also talked to some of the other dispatchers on duty. Robyn does presentations for school and scout groups.



Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

Treasurers Report

January 19, 2015

Balance Fwd. Checking Acct \$1529.14

Repts:	Dues	\$50.00
	Raffle	\$70.00
	ATM bal	\$41.00
	Total	\$161.00

Exp:	NYSEG	\$57.09
	ATM	\$100.00
	Baofeng/raffle	\$49.99
	Insurance	\$320.00
	Lighthouse Donation	\$50.00
	Total	\$577.08

Checking Bal \$1113.06

Petty Cash \$50.00

Savings Acct Bal \$1011.49

Total RVWARS monies \$2174.55



MUSING OF A CURMUDGEON



Recently I have been following a discussion begun by a "small pistol" who began by complaining about not being able to work Kingman Reef because he could not get heard above the signals of the "big guns". This of course was the wrong group to whine to as it numbers among its members many of the most prominent DXers in the world.

DXers by their nature are both competitive and helpful. In this case they suggested that he study the art, learn propagation and all the many things that a dedicated DXer needs to know. They also pointed out that no one is born a Big Gun and that it takes most folks years to assembly a station and learn how to use it correctly. Also pointed out was that many of the members worked QRP or low power by choice so a two hundred foot tower, monobanders and legal power were not the only way it could be done.

After reading all this I began to think about our mighty band of DXers and realized that we have it all wrong. Sure, we are all competitive and enjoy rubbing a contact with a rare one into the others and yes we do have a few guys who dim the lights in the neighborhood when they key up but we are not like those guys. Yeah, we may make a "few" insurance contacts or work a country again that is already in the log before one of the others get the country but that's OK. It's OK because very often my phone will ring or someone will call on the repeater to let me know that a rare one is on the bands. It's ok because we help with antennas, tower and whatever else we can do so everyone can get a rare one.

Wait a minute, we sound and awful lot like those guys who offered the whiner help and information. Our big guns are quick to spot for us little pistols and when any of us makes a contact the others are quick to offer congratulations.

We are part of an international group of Hams who enjoy the competitive sport of chasing and capturing a 59 from a reef in the South Pacific. Yes, the jamming happens and the DX police need to turn in their badges but as for the real DXers as Pogo said "We have found them and they is us".

Oh yes, one last tip. If you are a little pistol work the rare one and THEN tell the big guns about it. Real DXers are competitive.

By Dave Watrous, WD2K Nov 2000

WEATHER STATION

We have added a weather station to the repeater site. It will be able to report more accurate temperature and wind conditions at the repeater site. It should give us a better idea of what causes some noise on our repeaters on occasion. Readings will be accessible via your key pad. We purchased a Davis Vantage Vue weather station and that is interfaced with the controller. Included functions at this point will be; wind speed & direction, outdoor temperature, indoor & outdoor humidity, wind speed high, outdoor temp high and low. Hopefully a rain report soon.

CURMUDGEON NEEDED!

It's imperative that we find another "Curmudgeon" as soon as possible! I am out of Dave, WD2K's great Musings. This one is a reprint from our 2012 newsletter.

Someone out there should be able to carry on the tradition. Please send me your Musings!!!

PLEASE COME TO YOUR CLUB MEETINGS.

WE NEED YOU!

Directions from the north to Churchtown firehouse...

Take exit 12 off of I90 onto route 9 south. Travel 4.6 miles to the traffic circle and take the first right out of the circle (not the mall) onto route 9H. About 11.5 miles you will come to a traffic light intersection of 9H and route 66. Go straight through that light for about 3.6 miles to the next traffic light at 9H and route 23. Again go straight through that light for about 1.1 miles to a left turn off of 9H onto County Route 27. It is marked. Stay on route 27 for about 2.5 miles and the Firehouse is on the right with a sign out front. Park in the lot just before the building.

Firehouse from RVW Bridge and 9G.

From the intersection of 9G and Route 23 take 23 about 2.7 miles to the traffic light at the intersection of Route 9. Go straight through the traffic light and travel about 2.7 miles on route 9 to the next traffic light at the intersection of 9H and 82. Turn left at that light onto Route 9H about 2.8 miles to County 27. Stay on route 27 for about 2.5 miles and the Firehouse is on the right with a sign out front. Park in the lot just before the building.

AMAZON DONATES TO ARRL!

Amazon.com has a program named Smile that donates 0.5% of your purchase price to the registered charity of your choice. There is no cost to you. The ARRL is now registered as a charitable organization for the program.

To participate, go to <http://smile.amazon.com>. If you don't already have an Amazon account, you'll need to set one up. You'll be asked to sign up for the Smile program which is only a couple of clicks to select a registered organization. Simply select "AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE INC"

Once you've signed up, please do your Amazon shopping by going to <http://smile.amazon.com>, and 0.5% of your purchases will be donated to the ARRL. Signing up is a one time process.

This is a simple and painless way to contribute to the League. For a FAQ about the program, visit <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

73 de Mike N2YBB

ARRL Hudson Division
Director: Mike Lisenco, N2YBB
n2ybb@arrl.org



RVWARS REPEATER CHATTER

The weather station is installed and working. Details and functions on page 2! Although the wind gauge does not seem to be accurate. I will have to wait until spring to get back up there to check it out.

We have STILL not tested the Generator setup for the repeater. I just have not gotten much done in some time. I will try to get that done before something major happens.

I have to wait for a thaw to get rid of the snow and ice on the road to the repeater. I just have a passenger car with 2 wheel drive.

Stan, WA2UET



RVWARS ON FACEBOOK!

There is now a group on Facebook for the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society. Just search for the above. There are currently 13 members since Tom started the group about a month ago. Please join in!

FYI

I Found I need to leave wouxun battery packs disconnected from WTs if I am not going to use it. Wouxun WTs are draining batteries when they are off, unlike my other WTS I can pick them up after sitting idle for months and they have a full charge.

The Wouxun totally drain in few days

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

JR

ARRL has just published another PowerPoint Jeopardy-type game for instructors to use in exam-prep classes for the General-class test. The game was produced by our own W2XM. The new game, and several old ones, can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/instruction-exam-practice-and-review>.

The Meeting room in the Churchtown Firehouse is HUGE. Bring yourself and lots of other folks.



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.

QNZ de K2WG....

It never gets old. The excitement of contacting a rare DX station or logging a new prefix, country or continent. The smell of firing up the old tube type radio for a trip down memory lane and making new contacts with an old rig (as long as the smell is not smoke). The elevated pulse rate as you open the box with the latest and greatest 160 m thru 70 cm transceiver that UPS or FEDEX just delivered. The satisfaction and pride of loading up the home-brew dipole with an SWR of 1.2 to 1. Seeing the smiles on the faces of newly licensed Technicians or the hams upgrading to General or Extra. Getting a really good deal on a radio gem at a hamfest. Getting a 599 report during a CW contact from a station several hundred miles away when you are running QRP. Introducing our wonderful hobby to young people and seeing the look of amazement on their faces when they grasp the significance of wireless communication without cell phones and without paying to use a network. The comradery of working together and making a new high score during field day operations. The knowledge that when all else fails we can help keep our families and communities safe and secure by providing emergency communications when necessary.

The media is rife with public service announcements regarding STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. Ham radio has always incorporated STEM education. The ARRL has some excellent material to help educators understand how ham radio can be part of STEM education in our schools. In the weeks ahead, I'll be sharing this material with the science educators in the Columbia county schools. If RVWARS members in other counties would like to do the same, contact me via email for further information. We must be prepared to answer questions and assist educators if they decide to include ham radio activities in their programs. Due to increased security in our schools, those of us that would like to actually go to a school and present programs or assist with projects will have to go through a vetting process. But, it will be worth the effort to involve students with ham radio and its many benefits.

The two day intensive Technician License preparation class was very successful last year resulting in several new licensees and a couple of upgrades. Tentative plans are underway to do another class this year. Proposed dates are Saturday May 9th and Saturday May 16th to be held at the East

Chatham Fire House from 8 AM to 5 PM both days culminating with a VE session on May 16th. Further documentation and a proposed topic agenda can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Your help with this course is instrumental in providing a quality program. Take a look at the topic agenda and let me know which topic you would be interested in presenting or assisting with the presentation. This is a 'hands on' course and many helpers are needed to assist the students with soldering, antenna construction and other projects. Let me know via email how you can assist. Also, please 'talk up' this course among your friends, relatives and acquaintances. And... if you have been wanting to upgrade, the VE session at the end of the course is a perfect opportunity for your upgrade as well! 73 for now.... AR.... SK.... de K2WG

TWO DAY COURSE SCHEDULE

Saturday May 9, 2015: 8 AM to Noon

1. Welcome to Amateur Radio
2. Radio Signals, Waves and Modulation
3. Radio Equipment Basics
4. Math Review
5. Electricity
6. Electronic Components

Saturday May 9, 2015: 1 PM to 5 PM

1. Types of Radios and Radio Circuits
2. Propagation
3. Antennas and Feed Lines
4. Practical Antenna Systems
5. Basic Amateur Radio station

Saturday May 16, 2015: 8 AM to Noon

1. Power Supplies and RF Interference
2. Communicating with Other Hams
3. License Terms and Working with the FCC
4. Bands and Privileges
5. International Rules and Call Signs

Saturday May 16, 2015: 1 PM to 5 PM

1. Operating Regulations
2. Electrical Safety
3. Radio Frequency Exposure
4. Mechanical Safety
5. Practice exam[s]
6. VE Session

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE COURSE

The East Chatham Fire Company, Inc. will be hosting and co-sponsoring an Amateur 'Ham' Radio licensing course with the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society. This course will be held on Saturday, May 9th from 8 AM until 5 PM and on Saturday, May 16th from 8 AM until 5 PM. The FCC licensing exam will be given at 5 PM on the 16th.

There is no fee for the course but a textbook is required and purchase of that textbook is the responsibility of the student. The text book is "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Third Edition, Level 1, Technician". This book is available on-line from many sources but the best avenue for purchase is probably using the ARRL website at www.arrl.org. The cost is approximately \$30.00. There will be a fee for taking the FCC exam and at this point in time that fee is \$15.00. The ARRL web site is a valuable source of information about all aspects of Amateur 'Ham' Radio.

It is important that each student read Chapters 1 through 5 before attending the May 9th session. There will not be enough time during class sessions to cover everything needed to be successful with the exam. So, each student must be willing to read the material in the textbook. Class time will be spent with demonstrations and 'hands-on' activities to reinforce the material provided in the textbook.

Attached is the schedule for the two day course. You will also need to bring a photo ID with you on May 16th to prove to the exam proctors that 'you are who you claim to be'.

If you have any further questions and/or to register for this class, email me at your convenience:

wayneg1231@fairpoint.net.

73 for now (you will learn what that means during the course)....

**THE COMPLETE CONSTITUTION
AND BY-LAWS DOCUMENT IS ON
OUR WEB SITE AT
WWW.RVWARS.COM**



Churchtown Firehouse



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, about 1 mile, to County Route 27 on the left then 2.4 miles 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.

New and Old HAMS needed!

Columbia County (ARES) "Amateur Radio Emergency Service" and (RACES) "Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services" are seeking new members. We currently meet once a month prior to the regular meeting. We do an occasional public service event as ARES members where we utilize our communications skills and equipment to assist with public safety. We assist the County with Civil Emergencies and disaster communications when they request us. No equipment required. No experience required. Total voluntary participation. Your help is appreciated when needed to maintain communications during disaster, emergencies or public service events. If you think you might be interested, please email me or ask at field day or an RVW meeting.

Thank you.
TomG (n2nzd@taconic.net)

We are considering putting a HF/VHF station in the firehouse meeting area. Details are just being talked about. If it works out members and guests could do some operating before and after the meeting.

If you don't do anything stupid when you're young, you won't remember something funny when you're old.

get more quotes at THEDAILYQUOTES.COM



SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB001
ARLB001 W1AW 2015 Winter Operating Schedule

ZCZC AG01
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 1 ARLB001
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 2, 2015
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB001
ARLB001 W1AW 2015 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675
147.555
DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095
147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590
147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and

CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, CW/digital bulletins and phone bulletin is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to w1aw@arrl.org.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 91 in the January 2015 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>.

NNNN
/EX



With Just a WSPR

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It's really amazing what you can do with computers in amateur radio, and there's been an explosion in the number of digital modes. One interesting mode that I've recently been introduced to is WSPR, which is short for Weak Signal Propagation Reporting. The protocol and the original WSPR program was written by Joe Taylor, K1JT, and is designed for sending and receiving low-power transmissions on the HF bands to test propagation paths.

I won't try to cover all the technical details here. There are several sites that cover them pretty well:

* Wikipedia: WSPR (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WSPR_%28amateur_radio_software%29)

* G4ILO's Shack: WSPT - Distant Whispers (<http://www.g4ilo.com/wspr.html>)

I was introduced to WSPR by my friend, Joe, AC8ES. He posted a message to our club mailing list asking if anyone had a toroid core that he could buy to make a QRP balun for 10 MHz. When I asked what he was going to use it for, he said that he was making a WSPR transmitter with a Raspberry Pi, and the balun was for the dipole he built for it. He said that he'd gotten roped into doing this because he'd attended a local Raspberry Pi users' group, and when he mentioned he was an amateur radio operator, they encouraged him to try this project.



How could I refuse a request like that? I have a whole kit of ferrite cores, and after some back and forth, we found a small core that he could use.

The software he chose is WsprryPi (<https://github.com/JamesP6000/WsprryPi>). It's described a "Raspberry Pi transmitter using NTP-based frequency calibration." It uses a GPIO port to generate WSPR signals anywhere from 0 to 250 MHz. Joe said that there are several Raspberry Pi programs that run WSPR, but that he chose this one because it seemed to have more features than the others.

Figure 1 shows Joe's setup. Since the output generates a square wave, a low-pass filter is needed to filter out the high-frequency components. As you can see, the GPIO output is fed through a 0.1uF decoupling capacitor into a Mini-Circuits 10.7MHz low-pass filter, then to a 1:1 balun, which is connected directly to the dipole elements.

Joe says, "The antenna is just a dipole taped up to the walls of my living room and hallway." As you can see he made the balun and dipole from 24 ga speaker wire.

The performance of this setup has been kind of amazing. In one e-mail, Joe reported, "Your toroid seems to be working well. Got the balun and antenna finished and executed seven WSPR transmissions from the Raspberry Pi. The WSPR reporting website WSPRnet (<http://wsprnet.org>) came back with a couple dozen reception reports; typical distance is ~300+ miles, max was 593 miles." In a second e-mail, Joe writes, "Did a few more beacon transmissions and checked the WSPR signal reports again. Someone picked up my 5 mW signal from 1010 miles away in Canada."

Joe's turned into quite a WSPR fan. He's even written an Android app - WSPRnet Viewer (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.glandorf1.joe.wsprnetviewer.app>) to retrieve and displays report from www.wsprnet.org. Tapping on a specific report displays more details about it, along with a world map that shows transmitter and receiver locations.

Unfortunately, I don't have a Raspberry Pi, or I'd try this as well. I do have a BeagleBone Black, but there doesn't seem to be software that I can download and install as easily as the Raspberry Pi software. That being the case, this might be a good excuse to purchase one of those new, cheaper RPis.

When he's not digging through his junk box or teaching amateur radio classes, KB6NU writes about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. He has just released The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code. The book is available on Amazon.Com or on KB6NU.Com.

Build a 2-meter vertical antenna for under \$10

Simple 2-meter Antenna

2011 by Harold Melton, KV5R. All Rights Reserved.

Simple center-fed dipole using 1" thin-wall PVC pipe, aluminum tape, and RG-8X or RG-58 coax. You can build and install this antenna in a couple hours.

www.athensarc.org/2m-ant.asp for detailed instructions

This antenna has been used consistently on the Tuesday evening roundtable from Rhinebeck.



THIS IS AN IMPORTANT "PASS ALONG"

Read this and make a copy for your files in case you need to refer to it someday. Maybe we should all take some of his advice! A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

1. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put 'PHOTO ID REQUIRED.'
2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the 'For' line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
3. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks. (DUH!) You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.

I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a Name, address, Social Security number, credit cards. In case your luggage is lost, take another list in your carry on bag, especially if you are abroad and need immediate access to those numbers.

Unfortunately, I, an attorney, have first hand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

5. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
6. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important of all:
(I never even thought to do this.)

7. Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name.

The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks.

Now, here are the numbers you always need to contact about your wallet, if it has been stolen:

- 1.) Equifax: 1-800-525-6285 1-800-525-6285
- 2.) Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742 1-888-397-3742
- 3.) Trans Union : 1-800-680 7289 1-800-680 7289
- 4.) Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271 1-800-269-0271



JOHNSON ADVENTURER FOR SALE
 Adventurer 80-10M CW and AM screen modulated rig. 35 to 50 Watts out – perfect functional operation. New HV Electrolytic Capacitors, all tubes tested VG, comes with 1- 40M XTL, RCA phono to SO-239 adapter cable, manuals and schematics, and a very rare Screen Modulator module Cat No. 250-40. Asking \$125.00 or best offer- no swaps, more pictures available. Contact Carl WA2UJX at cjv@1791.com



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For the news letter

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