

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



Happy Birthday

David-K2COI

Tim-KC2YKR

Dan-KC2MZY

Dave-KC2YKU

Patti-KC2PWO

Ben-N2ROQ

Gia-KC2WLT

Ann-WA2KCU

**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.*

Please Pay Your 2012 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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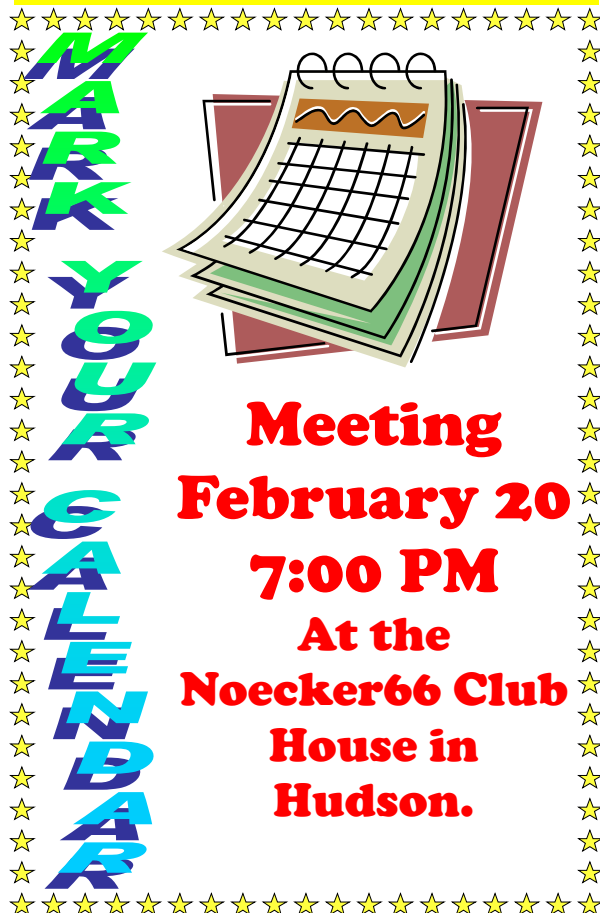
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**GOD BLESS
AMERICA**



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.



**Meeting
February 20
7:00 PM
At the
Noecker66 Club
House in
Hudson.**

FEBRUARY MEETING

NOECKER66 CLUB HOUSE

2/20/2012

PLEASE join us!

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

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

REPEATER REPORT

We are still using the spare 2 meter antenna at 100'. I am still waiting for the Tower guys to come out to see what is the matter with the top antenna.

I was told that the tower crew from HPC would be here to finish their work and find our problem the first week of January. But that did not happen.

We had another problem with distorted audio on the 15th. Cycling the power on the repeater cured it. We are still not sure what is causing it. It was very cold in the shelter on that day and possibly that is the problem. But it has been that cold since with no problem, so???

We have the generator running fine and lead cords with it and it is mounted on a wagon so we can wheel it down to the shelter if need be.

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. I am looking forward to Spring!!!

Franklin Gearing, WA2LUV—SK

Franklin Arthur Gearing, Father of Wayne, K2WG

Franklin Arthur Gearing, lifelong resident of Canaan, NY passed away January 11, 2011 at home surrounded by his family. Franklin was born May 23, 1918 in Canaan and was the son of the late Arthur Franklin and Elsie Graser Gearing.

He was a member of the Chatham High School class of 1935. He was a self employed electrician and plumber. Franklin enjoyed amateur (ham) Radio operating under the callsign WA2ULV, photography and he was a square dance caller.

Family will receive friends Friday January 13, from 4 to 7 pm, at the French, Gifford, Preiter & Blasl Funeral Home, Chatham. We will gather Saturday at 9am to leave for the interment in the Mt. View Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the East Chatham Fire Co., Inc., 14 Frisbee Street, East Chatham, NY 12060 or to Community hospice at 14 Liberty Street, Catskill, NY 12414-1442. For directions or to send an online condolence visit www.frenchblasl.com.

**It's easy
to stand with
the crowd.
It takes
Courage
to stand alone.**



Upcoming Events

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

RVWARS Meeting
Monday February 20
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 — Mike Alecksynas N2JVE
Vice President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD
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 and Corporate meeting 1/16/2012

- Meeting called to order at 7:07pm by President, Tom, N2NZD. 18 present.
- Introductions were made.
- Secretary's Report November minutes read by WE2G. Motion to accept by N2JVE second by KC2YKM, accepted.
- Treasurer's report read by WA2UET. Checking \$846.45, Savings \$1011.12, Petty cash \$50.00 total, \$1907.57.

ARES/RACES

Columbia County Bob, WB2DUW, Columbia RO has had another stroke and is in CMH. Possibility of combining of Columbia and Greene County ARES. Meeting January 2, only KC2OGK and WE2G present.
Greene County AC2DK reported several activities. Vests set up. KM2O met with Greene County in December.

Repeater

Generator was re-built. Carl picked up a wagon for the generator. Waiting to see what problem is with the main antenna. There was problem with repeater last
It's now working again.

Old Business

Proposal on purchasing tabled to February meeting.
N2JVE- Penny social worked well. Will try something similar for Field Day.
One donation already received.
This is corporate meeting.

- **New Business**

Rumble held 1/15. 38 present. Was good. Most from RVWARS. We have to keep it going.

6-8 tower sections are available at the repeater site.

Nominating committee: N2JVE President
N2NZD Vice-President
WA2UET Treasurer
WE2G Secretary
WA2UET Historian
WA2UET Safety Officer

No nominations from the floor.

Secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers.

K2KGG won 50-50.

Meeting closed at 7:27pm

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.



QNZ de K2WG....

Happy New Year! My apologies for missing the deadline for the January issue. Did you make any ham radio resolutions for 2012? Have you been putting off the Upgrade to General or Extra? Let's make 2012 the Year of The Upgrade. The RVWARS VE Team is ready and willing to make your upgrade dreams come true. Have you tried some of the HF digital modes? How about joining the efforts to reinvigorate packet? Digital modes are an interesting aspect of the hobby and really don't require you to mortgage the house to purchase the necessary equipment. Most HF modes can be handled well with any HF rig and a computer with a build in sound card. Check out the articles and ads in QST, CQ or other ham related publications. Just Google PSK31, RTTY, MT63 or packet radio and you've got a plethora of information.

Better yet, make 2012 the year that you introduce at least one other person to the hobby of ham radio and assist that person in obtaining his/her ham radio license. The RVWARS education committee is in the planning stages of developing a two Saturday, all day intensive Technician Class licensing course to be conducted sometime this spring. Stay tuned for details and be ready to offer your assistance.



At the K2WG QTH, two antenna experiments are in progress. The FT-897D is now connected to a random length wire antenna via an MFJ-949E tuner. Interesting results as I search for the lowest SWR on the HF bands. The feed line is currently RG-58 coax and when those experiments are completed, I'm switching to 450 ohm twin lead and will compare the results. So far, it even works reasonably well on the Army MARS frequencies.

The other experiment is mobile HF. I've had the FT-857D in the jeep for a couple of years now and set up wire and whip antennas while stationary but I hadn't tried any mounted mobile HF antennas. While helping my brother unload the U-Haul truck during his recent move back home, I found a stainless steel whip antenna that measured out at 102 inches. Hmmmm.... isn't that the length suggested by most mobile compatible automatic antenna tuners? Sure enough! Checked the specs for the FC-40, ordered the ball mount and spring from HRO and the experiment began. Interesting how the SWR changes as the relative vertical position of the antenna changes. Gets real interesting when I load up when the antenna is clipped close to the vehicle so it will fit in the garage.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for your kind words of condolence on the passing of my father Franklin WA2ULV. Although he hasn't been active for many years, he always enjoyed the hobby when his health allowed him to do so.

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

Folks that attended the Rumble!

TARA....RANDY....KL7TJZ
TARA....KAREN....KS2O
TARA....MAC....W2VLT
TARA....TONY....W2BEJ
TARA....KEN....WA2TQK
TARA....STEVE....5W2IQ (WB2IQU)
TARA....SHELLY....WB2DGE
RIP....TODD....KC2YKM
RIP....TOM....WE2G
RIP....PRESTON....AC2DK
RIP....CARL....WB2TCV
RIP....SCOTT....NO CALL
RIP....KAREN....WB2TCU
RIP....STAN....WA2UET
RIP....MARY ANN....NO CALL
RIP....PATTI....KC2PWO
RIP....MIKE....N2JVE
....RUSS....WB2LXC
....CARL....KC2UTC
....MARIA....NO CALL
RIP....JULES....K2KGJ
RIP....JOHN....W2JSN
RIP....Carolyn....NO CALL
RIP....MARY....KC2SAG
RIP....JIM....KC2OGK
RIP....CHRIS....N2PBN
RIP....CAROL....N2REY
TARA....RIDGE....KB2HWL
TARA....CRAIG....W2XAD
TARA....KAREN....N2WDL
TARA....LEE....K2HAT
TARA....STEVE....WB2HPR
TARA....RALPH....W2RFP
TARA....HANNE LORE....NO CALL
TARA....MIKE....NO CALL
TARA....BOB....KT2D
RIP...Gia...KC2WLT
RIP...Richard...KC2YKT
RIP...Philip...KC2YBJ

See you all next year!!!





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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Wireless Operations Mgr. Cell: 518-965-9299



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Serving Greene and Columbia Counties
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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

WANTED

If anyone has a decent P4 desktop computer that they don't want any more we could use one at the repeater site. I am using a laptop but a desktop would be handier if you have one. I don't really need a keyboard but a LCD monitor would be nice.

Reminder from: TARA-N2TY Yahoo! Group

T.N.T. TRADER NET

Date: Thursday September 29, 2011

Time: 8:00 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 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

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.

Electromagnetic Pulse



EMP AREA BY BURSTS AT 30, 120 and 300 MILES
Gary Smith, "Electromagnetic Pulse Threats", testimony to House National Security Committee on July 16, 1997

As unlikely as an EMP may seem, these topics keep popping up in the media, can be heard on CSPAN, found on the Web, and have actually been mentioned in one of the recent Presidential debates. If you don't already know, an "Electromagnetic Pulse" (EMP), has been declared one of the most likely threats that may one day be used against the United States. NASA has it's own spin on a similar threat, however theirs is from the sun in the form of a Coronal Mass Ejection, or Solar Flare, similar to the 1859 solar storm that burned telegraph wires across Europe and the United States. Both bring on the potential for a TEOT-WAWKI, or otherwise known as "The End of The World as We Know It" event. Imagine life with limited or no satellites, phones, power grid, internet, radio, tv, and probably a few other 21st century comforts.

As Ham radio operators, some would like to think we would be able to communicate when "all else fails", but reality is, most of our gear is connected to long wires, the power grid, or antennas that make them susceptible to the same damaging pulses. One quick and dirty way to protect electronic equipment, is to disconnect all wires and put the radio inside a "Faraday cage".

Now, if you go out and build a Faraday cage, your spouse, family and maybe even your ham radio buddies might just think you are going a little nuts! But... next time you need to replace that old microwave oven, throw it in the basement, cut the cord off, and store some of that unused ham gear inside it. It's not perfect, but it may just get you on the air someday when "all else fails".... Don't forget to cut the cord off!!

Suggested googling to keep you up all night:

Electromagnetic Pulse

1859 solar event
microwave oven Faraday cage

- the anonymous ripper :-)



MUSINGS OF THE CURMUDGEON

A reprint from 4/2000



#####t doesn't set well but the realization is dawning on even those long in the fang that the days of CW preeminence are over. It won't happen tomorrow but in the next few years the code only band space will shrink and we will see all modes throughout the bands. Canada has been using this system for several years as anyone working the eighty meter cw band is well aware. It has worked there but when the U.S. Amateurs move phone operation down the bands chaos could prevail unless we plan now for the future. A simple plan such as this for eighty meters might work. CW 3.5- 3.65, Digital 3.65-3.75, Mixed phone 3.75-3.79 Dx 3.79-3.810, Phone 3.810-3.999. No contesting above 3.850, Novices have full CW privileges 3.525-3.65.

Over the years voluntary band plans have served the Amateur community well. These plans have been seriously eroded in the last few years but the proliferation of digital modes makes it necessary to reestablish these agreements recognizing current and future needs. The narrow band modes can cut through phone operations easily, unless we develop a plan that will allow everyone space for "their" mode open warfare may erupt on the bands.

Now is the time to address the problem while we still have the opportunity. In this country we are fortunate, lots of band space (while it may not seem like it) is available and more HF space will become available in the future. Let's take the time now to begin a serious dialogue at the individual and club level so that when the time comes, and it will, we are prepared for the change.

It can be and should be a positive move for the hobby, for too long half the available band space has been closed to all but CW operators who have all of every band available. Inactivity now may cause the type of problem existing on the 75 meter phone band to become the norm. Do we want that?

(by Dave, WD2K, 4/2000)

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

MAKER BANDWAGON

Amateur Radio Finally Jumps on the Maker Bandwagon

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Over three years ago, I wrote that amateur radio should do more to associate itself with the Maker, or "do it yourself" (DIY) movement (www.kb6nu.com/lets-get-on-the-maker-bandwagon/). Well, it finally looks like it is going to do just that.

Just before the first of the year, the ARRL unveiled its DIY campaign (www.arrl.org/news/arrl-launches-new-diy-campaign). The most visible part of the campaign is a video (www.youtube.com/ARRLHQ), but there are also some other bits, including:

- a flier to be handed out to interested persons,
- buttons that say "Ask Why I DIY with Ham Radio," and
- a PowerPoint presentation and speaker's notes that you can use to give a presentation to an amateur radio club or other non-ham group.

These items are available from the ARRL website, www.arrl.org/DIY.

CQ also on board

CQ magazine is also jumping on the bandwagon. They recently announced that they will run a quarterly "Maker" column, written by Matt Stultz, KB3TAN. Stultz is the founder of HackPittsburgh, a "hackerspace" or community workshop for makers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has been a ham since 2009 and has integrated amateur radio into many of HackPittsburgh's activities.

Stultz's first column, titled "We Are Makers," will appear in the March issue of CQ. It provides a general introduction to the maker/hacker community for hams, as well as a description of a high-altitude balloon project that brought the two groups together in Pittsburgh.

Hams at the Maker Faire In 2006, Make: magazine hosted the first Maker Faire (www.makerfaire.com) in San Mateo, CA. Since then, Maker Faires have also been held in Austin, TX, New York, NY; and Detroit, MI. Maker Faires are showcases for all kinds of crazy projects that people are working on.

Hams usually have a presence at

these events. This year, the theme for one of the amateur radio groups participating in the California Maker Faire, which is the flagship event, is Arduino (www.arduino.cc) applications in amateur radio. Michael, NE6RD, who is organizing this group has lined up several very cool projects. One of them is an Arduino-controlled satellite antenna system.

A project I proposed is an Arduino-controlled keyer. On the face of it, this is not a real exciting project, but my twist on this is that instead of directly keying a transmitter, I plan to have the Arduino actuate a solenoid that will press a straight key. That should make the project a little more visual.

Hams sometimes like to claim that we were the original makers and hackers. We certainly have a long tradition of DIYing. Let's show these upstarts exactly what ham radio is capable of. Perhaps, in the process, we'll even entice a few of them to join us.

When he's not "making" things, Dan, KB6NU, teaches ham radio classes and works a lot of CW. You can contact him about some of the things you're making by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

AUCTIONEER NEEDED

After starting the auction and being either the sole auctioneer or having Wayne, K2WG, as my partner it is time for me to give that up. It has been a long ride and much fun. I am sure Wayne will continue but I suspect he will need help also since he is so very busy all over. Shelly, AA2Y



SOME PHOTOS FROM THE RUMBLE





The "Rumble" Returns For The Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society and The Troy Amateur Radio Association

On Sunday, January 15, 2012, the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society and Troy Amateur Radio Association, in upstate New York, renewed a much missed tradition, their annual "Rumble." This tradition was started in the 1990's by TARA's Bill "Mr Bill" Eddy, NY2U, SK and RVWARS's Dave Watrous, WD2K, SK. It was part of a friendly rivalry between the two clubs. For reasons unknown, it was discontinued. The idea of renewing the tradition was that of Ken Davis, KB2KFV, a member of TARA. It was brought to both clubs and met with instant approval. A great time was had by the 38 Hams and their families who braved 10 degree weather to attend. Many memories of NY2U and WD2K, two great Elmers, were voiced. We are planning to make this an annual tradition once again. (published in the ARRL Hudson Division Beacon)

**MT. BEACON
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
SUNDAY, APRIL 29th, 2012**

HAMFEST

Location

**Tymor Park LaGrangeville
Dutchess County, New York 12540
Talk-in on 146.97 –600 (tone 100)
249 Duncan Road GPS N41 39.240, W73 41.818**

Admission

\$7.00 for buyers

Indoor tables: \$12.00 Prepaid or \$15.00 at the Gate

Tailgating: \$9.00 per space or \$14.00 for two

Doors open

8am to 2pm

Sellers 6am

Buyers 8am

For More Info Contact

David Ruth KC2AFK

(845)677-5079

kc2afk@optimum.net

HOT FOOD & BEVERAGES

Breakfast Sandwiches

Hot Dogs and Hamburgers

Hot Coffee-Cold Soda-Water

Directions

**From the North take Taconic State Parkway South to Rte 55 East
Go to RT 21 (Bruzgul Rd) and make Left Then right on Duncan Rd**

**From Newburgh take I-84 east to Taconic State Parkway North to Rte 55 East
Go to RT 21 (Bruzgul Rd) and make Left then right on Duncan Rd**

FCC Exams—All License Classes!

Registration: 9am to 10am

**Bring photo ID, original & photo copies of both your
A/R license and any CSCE's**

Large Indoor & Outdoor Location!

Non-Ham Spouses & Kids FREE!