

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

Picnic July 15

Rip's Report

July 2012

Happy
Birthday

Les-KD2BQB

Kevin-KM2E

Don-W1SWM

**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

PAY

YOUR

DUES!

PLEASE



**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.



**Picnic at the
tower site
About 10
AM Sunday
July 15**

July Picnic

At the repeater site—bring folding chairs. (and bug spray) We will have some hot dogs and soda.

7/15/2012—10 AM Repeater Site Map on Page 11

Thanks to those that donated a bit toward the expense of FD!

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 call sign](#)

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/GCNYARES/RACES/>
Echolink Node #6269
IRLP Node #4207

REPEATER REPORT

The battery feeds have been separated and it worked out fine! The bank of Gel cells are now feeding the radios and the Deep Cycles are feeding the controllers and control transceiver.

The Computer is working great. Keeping a running diary and radio control software etc. We have been using it a lot.

The good antenna is on top of the tower now and the defective antenna is on the ground waiting for HPC to send it back for repair or replacement. They have the RMA number from RFS.

The repeaters are still running fine. No problems that I know of. We have been linking them to the N2LEN system for the roundtable. That to is working fine as far as I know.

The generator was used for Field Day and ran like a top except for a bout of water from the rain and driving wind. Seems like the rain got into the fuel or the generator and caused it to pulse a few times. It dried out and ran fine for the rest of the exercise!

RVW WORK PARTY

THANKS LEN AND JIM.
We got most of the work done!

We NEED a work party soon. The weeds and brush are growing fast! The easiest way to notify everyone of the time is with the RVW Yahoo group. If you are not a member please go to the club web page www.rvwars.com and scroll to the bottom of the home page for the link. Simply enter your email address. I will include directions to the site in this Newsletter.

A BIG THANK YOU!!!

The Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society would like to thank the Chapin family and Pete Jaworski, KW2D, for their generosity and donations to our club. Pete offered his tower and beam to anyone who took them down. In lieu of payment, he requested that a donation be made to RVWARS. The Chapins took the tower and beam, and made a \$400 donation to RVWARS. We thank you all for all you have done for our hobby.

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 at our station in the County Emergency Operation Center. 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)



Upcoming Events

RVWARS Meeting (picnic)
Sunday July 15th at the re-
peater site

ARES/RACES Meeting first
Monday of the month at CC
EOC
WB2DUW-RO
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 — 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 June 18, 2012

- Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by President. N2JVE. Attendance 20.
- Secretary's report read. Corrections noted. Motion to accept by KC2YKM, second by KC2YKV.
- Treasurer's report Checking \$902.16, Savings \$1011.18, Petty Cash, \$50.00, Total \$1963.34.
- **Repeater**
Repeater working well. Spare antenna is at 180'. Solar working well. Bad antenna is on ground. RFS wants sweeps of the bad antenna. We should get a replacement. Phone service in place and phone patch will be set up soon. 9-1-1 will not be enabled. Long distance will be locked out. Work party will be scheduled after Field Day. Grass is getting high.
- **Field Day**
Things are in place. VE session at Field Day.
- **Old Business**

None

- **New Business**

We have to decide on Claverack Town Park for 2013 Field Day. Motion by N2JVE second by AA2Y to hold 2013 Field Day at Claverack Town Park. Carried.

Food chairman needed for meetings. Nobody stepped up.

W1SWM brought up the fact that Amateur Radio Week is proclaimed in several states the week before Field Day. We should contact the governor before Field Day next year. Tom will contact other clubs.

New New York State Amateur license plates were discussed. The CQ and DE read from top to bottom, not left to right, as it should be. The design was approved by the ARRL. Discussion on Hams downstate receiving tickets for using hand held transceivers while driving.

- **ARES/RACES**
Columbia County, held meeting. NVIS test at Field Day.
Greene County meeting Wednesday night.
- Meeting closed at 7:17pm. Motion by KC2YKM, Seconded by WA2KLP.
50-50 drawing won by KD2CCS, donated back to club..
SKYWARN Training.
Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas J Cody
WE2G, Secretary

LABOR DAY TAG SALE BENEFIT RVW

I would like to try to have another tag sale this year at my yard in Ghent. I live right on Route 66 where the Chatham Fair traffic is heavy. If the weather cooperates we need to make some money. All of the expenses involved with the new shelter have drained the treasury pretty serious. In the past we have done quite well. BUT I **NEED** your commitments to bring stuff to sell, either on your own or donations to the club. If you sell it on your own we would like to get 10% for the club. If we can fill this yard with stuff to look at people will stop. It is fun and profitable. But 2 or 3 people cannot do it alone. PLEASE give it some thought and let me know as soon as you can. This of course depends on the weather. We would hold it for the entire week end, probably start August 30 through September 3.





Home Brew Antenna for RFI Detection

By: Carl J. Verderber WA2UJX

June 26, 2012

Last month I suggested how to dissect a common YAGI TV antenna into a UHF antenna for surface HDTV reception and re-use the VHF portion as parts for building home brew antennas. Two months ago I mentioned High Power line noise (RFI) on the lines outside my QTH. Hoping to find the offending lines myself, I mentioned building a sonic receiver to zero in on arcing insulators. I also wanted to listen to the RFI with an AM mode VHF receiver. I have a 2 Meter handheld with aircraft band (109 to 136 MHz AM mode) receive and to use it for RFI hunting I needed a 130 MHz 3 element YAGI with reasonable front-to-back ratio. Last night I modified antenna parts and built a handheld YAGI for this band.



130 MHz YAGI Gamma match

Using existing design criteria from 2 Meter three element YAGI projects, I scaled up dimensions for the parts I needed and made a 130 MHz three element handheld beam. The gamma match tube clamp was the hardest part to fabricate. Time to finish this project was about three hours.



Completed 130 MHz Antenna 1

See ANTENNA page 7

NOTES FROM BEN, N2ROQ

Ben Webster, N2ROQ recently completed the ICS specific training course for Communications Unit Leader, as well as participated in the "COMLEX" pilot course at the NY State Preparedness Training Center and has been credentialed as a Communications Unit Leader (COML). Ben works full time for the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in the Office of Fire Prevention and Control as a Fire Protection Specialist assigned to the Special Operations Branch.

Timothy P. Hutchings, Communications Sergeant for the Columbia County Sheriff's Office also completed the course and was credentialed through CCSO.

Field Day...

While I didn't have a long visit to field day (I think we were there for a couple hours) I was successful in bringing my Brother-in-Law John Gallant, KD2CCR and Niece Kendall along for their first field day experience. I have suspicion they will be back next year!

Although I couldn't get Kendall past her reluctance to talk on air (could have been extra points there!) John made a bunch of contacts on the GOTA station... I think he may be interested in upgrading after all the contacts!

I did not get on the air too much, was working more on 'coaching' John and 'coaxing' Kendall on the HF GOTA rig... I did enjoy the conversations with some of the folks I don't get to see much (I can't make the Monday night meetings because of Fire Company commitments) Regardless our final score, a good time was had by all and we practiced and proved our ability to provide contacts under alternate power. Job well done!

HF nets...

Late fall of 2011, I joined a group of Folks known as OMISS: the Old Man International Sideband Society. Entry requirements were easy, make 2 contacts with OMISS members on OMISS nets and pay \$7.00 for a lifetime membership. OMISS is run as a traffic and awards net, and they have all kinds of club awards that can be obtained. While working on my WAS, I found that I needed to make improvements to my station, which led to

See N2ROQ page 7

MUSINGS OF THE CURMUDGEON A reprint from 2/2001



The winter doldrums seem to have affected us more than usual this year. The repeater is silent most of the time and even the annoying DXers have disappeared. It is also noticeable that at most times our DX Cluster has only one or two users and even the commuter net has disappeared.

Health problems have slowed a few folks down lately but I have begun to wonder if maybe there is a loss of interest in the hobby. Maybe like the rest of society we are spending our time on the internet (it can't be TV as bad as it is) or could it be we are waiting for someone else to get things started?

Whatever the reason, we are all communicators or we would not be in this hobby so let's begin communicating. Let's get on and talk about the things we would like to do and then do them. If nothing interesting is happening folks will lose interest and the club will suffer. We have been an active group and can be so again but not without everyone helping. Talk it up and let's get rolling again. See you on the repeater.

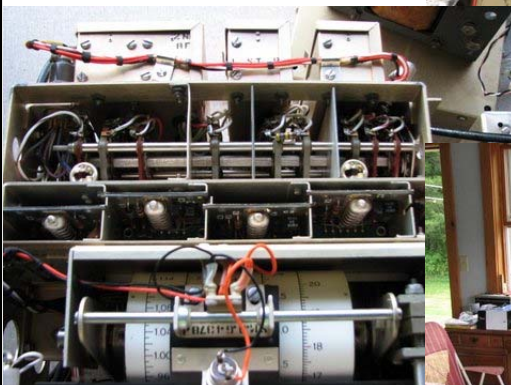
By Dave Watrous, WD2K 2/2001

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

GREENE COUNTY FIELD DAY!

previous email, all went well and every one had a great time. We even had a guest operator, K2HAT, came by, as well as Harry A. Lennon a Greene County Legislator from the town of Cairo. Mr.Lennon wanted to see how we did things to prepare for events like Hurricane Irene, and he thanked every one that helped out during that event.

--
73 Claude/WT2C
AEC, ARES/RACES
GREENE,COUNTY,N.Y.



WD2K Field Day



A special THANKS to Barry and Nathan for all the work they did to keep everyone fed for the week-end. Great Job!!!



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

48 VOLT SUPPLY

I have a 48 volt, 16 amp **HEAVY** duty power supply in need of a home. 220 or 110 primary, can be used for parts-heavy duty diodes, chokes, capacitors or would charge a good battery bank. "Free to a good home". Contact wb2tecv@mhcable.com

ANTENNAS FOR SALE

Comet GH50 6 meter vertical—\$50.00

Diamond X50A Dual Band 2 meter 450MHz \$50.00

Call Martha at 828-5282

FOR SALE

For the news letter

Anyone interested in 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

Wa2uuy
Ron Coons Sr.
518-945-3731

PROFESSIONAL INSURED TOWER CLIMBER DISCOUNT RATES FOR HAMS

ANTENNAS - FEED LINES
INSTALLED & REMOVED

CALL
ARNIE CAVALLARO
518-965-9299

Arnie Cavallaro
Wireless Operations Mgr. Cell: 518-965-9299



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

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

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

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
wa2uuy@aol.com

STATION MASTER ANTENNA FOR SALE

White fiberglass Station Master antenna, last used on 151.2 MHz. Includes mounting hardware. Pickup Only.
Call Carl 845-876-2568 5PM to 9PM
Mon-Fri, all day Sat/Sun

**ANTENNA cont.**

Since I finished this antenna 1:30 AM I waited for the next day to test it with my handy talky in AM mode on the Aircraft band. It worked like a charm! I could walk up and down the road pointing the beam at the lines and eventually I found some problem poles – insulators probably – that were making a lot of RFI. This detection is so good that I found way more RFI sources than I anticipated and now I need to incorporate the use of the ultrasonic receiver to see if I can hear Ultrasonic sparking and arcing.



Using the RFI detection antenna

Now I have one of the three pieces of equipment needed for RFI detection and isolation. The three are: VHF RF detection, Ultrasonic detection and Infrared detection. The next rig to get completed is the Ultrasonic receiver. I need to fabricate a quality parabolic reflector and marry it to the receiver kit I built last month.



Carl and his home brew RFI detection rig 1

END

N2ROQ cont.

a 10 - 160 meter vertical (it was the middle of winter by that point and I didn't want to be climbing trees or towers...) and in the spring, I installed an off center fed dipole for 10 - 80. The 160 loop installation and beam repairs are still on tap before this coming winter... The moral of this short story is if I hadn't jumped on 80 that night and found the OMISS net, I would not have made some 1,000 contacts this past winter, nor have found my station limitations. Because of joining many OMISS nets, day after day, I became comfortable working HF and in the directed net environment, which improved my operator capabilities. I made improvements to my station, added a new HF rig, an amp and a few antennas which improved my station capabilities. I am even toying with the idea of becoming a 'certified' net control station for the club! Relaxed, low key nets like these work to improve our abilities for slightly more stressful events (contesting) or real - world incidents. There are a bunch of different nets out there, try checking them out and sharpening your radio skill!

Introduction to Emergency Communications course (EC-001)

For those who may not be aware, the ARRL has a few courses available to improve knowledge and abilities in communications. The ARRL offers two such courses (EC-001, EC-016) online, in a "moodle" environment for a fee that covers the administrative costs (discounted for ARRL members) I was invited to be part of a "pilot" class for EC-001 in a (free) classroom format in the ENY section (the course was held five Tuesday evenings for about 2 - 3 hours at the Red Cross building in Colonie, taught by SEC Dave Galletly, KM2O) They even have an optional book through the ARRL bookstore! The fifth night culminated with the 35 question exam (\$15.00 fee), administered in a VE style format, by 2 certified "Field Examiners" The course was low key and relaxed but we went over the (short) 29 chapters in the course. It would likely be a good review for many of our more 'seasoned' operators, and really is a great introduction to emergency communications for any of our newer

members who could find themselves in that role. As we continue to work more closely with other services, training and certifications will go a long way in acknowledging that we truly are unpaid PROFESSIONALS... Now a graduate of the program, I have signed up to be a "Field Instructor" to possibly bring this course 'down' to our "twin" counties (and club) depending on interest... END



Skywarn is a nationwide program offered by the National Weather Service. This program, developed to connect local communities with the National Weather Service, is meant to train local spotters to identify and describe forming storms.

The class will be taught by our local Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Stephen Dirienzo, from the National Weather Service. This training is free and open to the public.

If your goal is to be a weather spotter, or if you want to just learn more about storms, this is an exciting opportunity to learn from the experts.

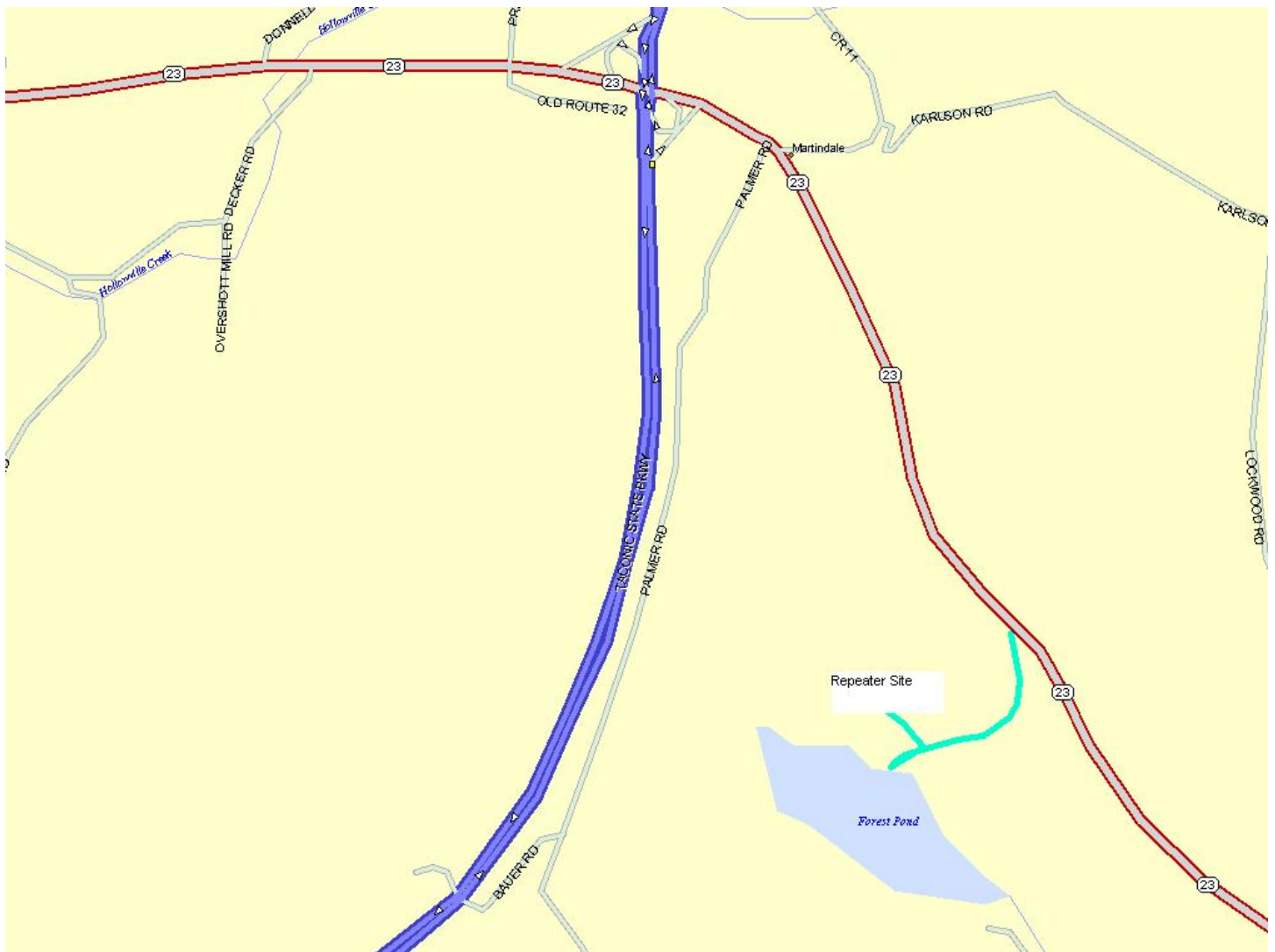
This informative 2 hour class will cover the following topics: basics of thunderstorm development, fundamentals of storm structure, identifying potential severe weather features, information to report, how to report information and basic severe weather safety.

**Wednesday July 18th
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Gt Barrington Fire Station
37 State Rd, Gt Barrington**

Seating is limited. Please register by contacting:
Heather Barbieri
Emergency Management Director, Fairview Hospital
hbarbieri@bhs1.org

For more information, go to <http://skywarn.org>

“NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication, such HAM radio, to join the SKYWARN® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches, nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are also encouraged to become a spotter.” (<http://skywarn.org/about/>)



The road to the tower site is 8 tenths of a mile from the parkway going east on 23. As you ascend a hill on 23 the green road above is right at the crest of the hill. As you begin going up the hill make sure you turn your right hand signal on and begin to slow down. At the crest you will see one of the small green mileage marker signs on your right and that is where the dirt road is. Turn onto that dirt road and drive slowly past the folks that live there on the left. They have children and dogs and chickens etc. The road is washed out a bit in places so be careful. I drive up and down on a regular basis with a fairly new car so you should have no problem. The pond is just a short distance away and if you enjoy walking it would make a nice walk.