

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

NEW MEETING PLACE PLEASE JOIN US

Rip's Report

November 2013

Happy
Birthday

Shelly-AA2Y
Jackie-KA2GAD
Todd-KC2YKM
Stan-WA2UET
Skip-WB2T

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

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

2014 Dues

Mail to:
Stan Engel, WA2UET
PO Box 153
Ghent, NY 12075
Or bring with you to meeting
Make checks Payable to RVWARS


PLEASE
PAY
YOUR
2014
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



**Meeting
Nov 18th
6:30 PM
Churchtown
Firehouse
Information
inside!**

SKYWARN TRAINING AFTER MEETING

See photos and past Newsletters and much much more club information at:
www.w2jsn.com

RVWARS WEB PAGE

The Web Page has been updated! We added some info on the main page to try to keep folks aware of events. Comments and suggestions are welcome. We will keep Dave Clappers design at least for now. Let me know what you think.

www.rvwars.com

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

N2LEN Repeaters

The N2LEN Repeater Network:

147.150 114.8hz East Windham, NY
449.025 114.8hz New Baltimore, NY
448.275 114.8hz Colonel's Chair Ridge
442.050 114.8hz Sam's Point, NY 2200'

Yahoo Groups

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/N2LENREPEATER/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ECHOLINK/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GCNYARESACES/>
Echolink Node #6269
IRLP Node #4207

Meeting at 6:30
because of Skywarn at
7:00 PM

WE HAVE A NEW CLUBHOUSE!!!

We had our second meeting at the Firehouse on October 21st. We had a bit better turnout. The meeting area is huge and very nice. We really need a better showing to let the Fire Company know that we care. We devoured the usual sub sandwiches and some coffee and some chips. Made a few decisions and overall had a good meeting.

They had a pretty serious kitchen fire in the month between meetings and in the confusion and re-organizing much of our meeting paraphernalia, cups, plates, carving knife, and other stuff is missing. But Chris has promised to locate it for the next meeting.

PLEASE join us on November 18 at 6:30 for our next meeting and Skywarn training.



SKY- WARN

REGISTRATION

To register for the Skywarn talk after the November meeting please go to the site below:

http://cstar.cestm.albany.edu:7775/skywarn/skywarn_entry.htm

RVW WORK PARTY

Tom, N2NZD and Jim, KC2OGK helped me get the trencher and we tried to dig a trench to the old shelter. There was too much rock some right on top of the ground. The trenching failed! So Jim and I went up a few days later and installed a riser and went overhead with a piece of UF romex. It is plenty high enough but if something does take it down it is small enough that it will not tear things apart. So we are all set with the vent on the old shelter. Also Jim cut the weeds all around the old shelter, it looks good again!

SOME FUN 147.210 REPEATER DTMF CODES

Site Info:

228-Outdoor Temp

229-Indoor Temp

230-DC Volt Bat 1

231-AC Volt read

232-DC Volt Bat 2

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

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

WEATHER RADIO

310-ON

325-OFF

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

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



Upcoming Events

RVWARS Meeting **Monday November 18** **6:30 PM**

ARES Meeting **N2NZD-EC**

Weekly Nets

EVERY TUESDAY at 7:00 p.m.

Informal Roundtable on the 147.210 repeater ALL are welcome.

1st Wednesday of the Month

Columbia Greene-Emergency Net on the N2LEN 147.150 Repeater 7:00 PM

Repeaters

BACK ON THE AIR!!!

147.210/147.810 NO PL tone
449.925/444.925 NO PL tone
224.280/222.680 NO PL tone

Vital Statistics

President — Mike Alecksynas N2JVE
Vice President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD
Secretary — Tom Cody WE2G
Treasurer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Historian — Carl Verderber WA2UJX
Safety Officer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Repeaters — 147.210 224.280 449.925
Club Call — K2RVW
Club Special Event Call—WD2K
Web Page — <http://www.rvwars.com>
NEWS E-mail — wa2uet@taconic.net
Yahoo Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

RVWARS Meeting October 21, 2013

- Meeting called to order at 7:09pm by Secretary, WE2G. Attendance 10.
- Secretary's report read. Motion to accept by WA2UJX, seconded by WB2TCV, Carried.
- Treasurer's report Checking \$1852.48, Savings \$1011.35, Petty Cash, \$50.00, Total \$2913.83
- **Columbia County ARES/RACES**
No report.
- **Repeater**
Attempt to dig trench at repeater site. There was too much rock. Went over head with #12 UF cable. The wire should be high enough. Ground kits came in. They are now installed. Antenna still on ground. It looks good so far. Batteries were tested and look good. Carl, WA2UJX has a load tester if needed.
- **Education**
Wayne, K2WG is unable to teach class. Marty N2LDR was contacted to see if he could teach.
- **Old Business**
Jackets were discussed and tabled.
- **New Business**
Sweepstakes Contest is coming up. Any score can be submitted as a club score.
Carl, WA2UJX suggested holding a workshop for older equipment needing work. This would help to diagnose any equipment. Other clubs could be invited. This is tentatively scheduled for April, 2014.
- Meeting closed at 7:31pm. Motion by WB2TCV, Seconded by W1SWM. 50-50 drawing won by WA2UJX. Winnings donated to club.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas J Cody, Secretary, RVWARS

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

Treasurers Interim Report

October 21, 2013

Balance Fwd. Checking Acct	\$1981.06
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Rcpts: Dues	\$50.00
50/50	\$8.00
Total	\$58.00

Exp: NYSEG	\$56.29
Subway	\$10.80
Trencher	\$81.42
Lowe's	\$25.07
Astron	\$13.00
Total	\$186.58

Checking Bal	\$1852.48
Petty Cash	\$50.00
Savings Acct Bal	\$1011.35

Total RVWARS monies	\$2913.83
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RVWARS REPEATER CHATTER



Just want to mention again that the 224.28 repeater is working fine. Give it a try.

I went up on Sunday and reset the thermostat to give us a little heat when needed. The numbers on the thermostat only go down to 50 degrees so I will monitor it and see where it goes. There is enough heat generated in the shelter that it is hard to tell until it gets really cold outside.

Above is a photo of the riser for the overhead service to the old shelter. Thanks again to Jim for the help.

As you can see our spare antenna is still laying on the horses waiting to be inspected and tested. The position for that will be at the 100' level 80' below the top.

I STILL have had no input on the idea of adding a 6 or 10 meter repeater to our system. I sure would welcome any ideas.

I don't understand why we do not get some ideas expressed about the addition of another band to the repeaters. Someone has to have some thoughts about it. Good or bad it would be nice to hear something!

The Batteries stood the test OK and Tom brought his load test device up and checked them under a 200 amp load. There was one that showed a bit weak but overall they are good. They should certainly last through the winter and beyond although they are getting quite old. When the time comes to replace them I would like to replace them with Marine Deep Cycle batteries. They are more available and lighter and the last one I purchased was around \$60. And they have served us well... And as always your thoughts are welcome.

Carl R. and I went up today and re-soldered all of the joints on the inside of the spare antenna. Carl saw a couple that appeared to be insulated a bit with rosin, so maybe now it will function for us in the 100' position. But I would like to have Jules test it with his analyzer before we put it back on the tower. My idea would be to attach it to one of the fence posts to get it in a vertical position for testing. But we really need some young strong helpers to do this!!! That seems hard to come by but I will keep begging when the time comes.



I NEED INPUT FROM OUR READERS! THE NEWSLETTER SEEMS TO GET SMALLER ALL THE TIME INSTEAD OF BIGGER.

MUSING OF A CURMUDGEON



RVWARS like any other organization needs fresh ideas and energy to stay viable. Newer members must step forward and take on some of the responsibility so that a normal progression of change takes place. We seem to have many new members but when the call is made for volunteers very few hands go up and the silence is deafening. Many long time members have "paid their dues" and are willing to help but want to be relieved of planning and organizing events. We are beginning to see things undone simply because folks are declining the responsibilities that come with membership and if this trend continues the outlook for the future is dim.

Simple payment of dues does not entitle us to have the other guy do it. Each of us must contribute in turn if we are to remain a vital organization. Have you done your share?

Dave Watrous, WD2K—3/98

I think this might be the last of Dave's columns that I have.

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

I know that some of you guys can write, why not help make this Newsletter come alive again!!!

A NOTE FROM QRZCQ

Welcome, Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, WD2K!

This is our first newsletter, sent to you from QRZCQ.com.

We've been online for two years now! The first day was 2011 Oct 10. We are about 60500 users now and still growing fast!

Some sizes and numbers:

- Calls in database: 2.536.181
- Call views: 14.333.826
- Logbook QSOs: 22.726.374
- All time QSOs processed: 172.480.731
- Monthly visits: 950.000
- DX-Cluster spots with or from our users: 58%
- Video views: 137.995
- Users with picture: 18.237
- DX-Cluster spots via web interface: 69.845
- Max users on DX-Cluster via web interface: 119
- Forum posts: 401 (not much)
- Stream posts: 1.274
- XML lookups: 309.067 (closed test)
- Database queries per second: 2.462
- DX-Cluster spots in database: 8.289.618

Some future dates:

- Date when the site becomes unreadable due to ads: never ;-)
- Date when the online log should start (still coding): aprox. Jan 2014
- Date of next 3rd birthday: 10 Oct 2014

And, unfortunately, 6 users went SK (known) since the site started. May the Ether be with them.

To celebrate this birthday, 100 new registered and activated users will get premium for free. The period for 100 premium will start in few hours.

Please help us grow, use the "Invite" function in your account and please invite your Ham and Swl friends. All you need is their call and email.

Thank you very much for the faith given us everyday by using our site!

Your profile page was viewed 24 times, please check you profile to ensure other hams can look up the right data about you!

Please visit us again and take a look! If you forgot your password simply try to login with your call and last password you remember, then use the simple 'password forgotten' function to recover your password.

<http://qrzcq.com/>

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73 de

The QRZCQ Team

DO5SSB and DO7FOX



Uno, Dos, Tres...

By Dan KB6NU

If you have done any amount of listening to shortwave radio outside of the ham bands, you have undoubtedly run across "numbers stations." The broadcasts from these stations consist streams of numbers or letters, often in a computer-generated female voice speaking in Spanish. Every now and then, a numbers station pops up on 30m, sending five-character groups in Morse code.

According to the Conet Project (<http://www.irdial.com/conet.htm>), "Shortwave Numbers Stations are a perfect method of anonymous, one way communication. Spies located anywhere in the world can be communicated to by their masters via small, locally available, and unmodified Shortwave receivers. The encryption system used by Numbers Stations, known as a 'one time pad' is unbreakable. Combine this with the fact that it is almost impossible to track down the message recipients once they are inserted into the enemy country, it becomes clear just how powerful the Numbers Station system is."

The Conet Project sells a CD with a number of recordings for \$55, but you can find a bunch of mp3 files at <http://www.archive.org/details/ird059> for free.

Recently there was a thread on the Glowbugs Google Group about numbers stations. One fellow mentioned "The Numbers Station," a movie released earlier this year starring John Cusack. IMDB (<http://www.imdb.com>) says that The Numbers Station is about "a disgraced black ops agent dispatched to a remote CIA broadcast station to protect a code operator. Soon, they find themselves in a life-or-death struggle to stop a deadly plot before it's too late." It's currently available for streaming on Netflix, and I watched it recently. It's kind of violent (lots of people get shot), but it's a decent thriller.

Jim, K6FWT mentioned ENIGMA 2000 (<http://www.apul64.dsl.pipex.com/enigma2000/>). The group's website describes ENIGMA 2000 as "a UK based online group, whose aims are to bring together listeners and enthusiasts who monitor and gather information on 'Number Stations' and other related radio transmissions. Through our Yahoo Group monitors can share their logs, discuss frequencies, thoughts and opinions on this most emotive subject." Jim says, "These folks are SERIOUS enthusiasts. I have heard that they surpass many intelligence services with their thoroughness. You can get in up to your eyeballs if you don't watch it."

These stations have been around since World War II. I remember as a kid in the 1960s and 1970s, reading articles about numbers stations in Popular Electronics and Electronics Illustrated. They're as much of a mystery today as they were back then.

=====

When he's not listening to numbers stations, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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)

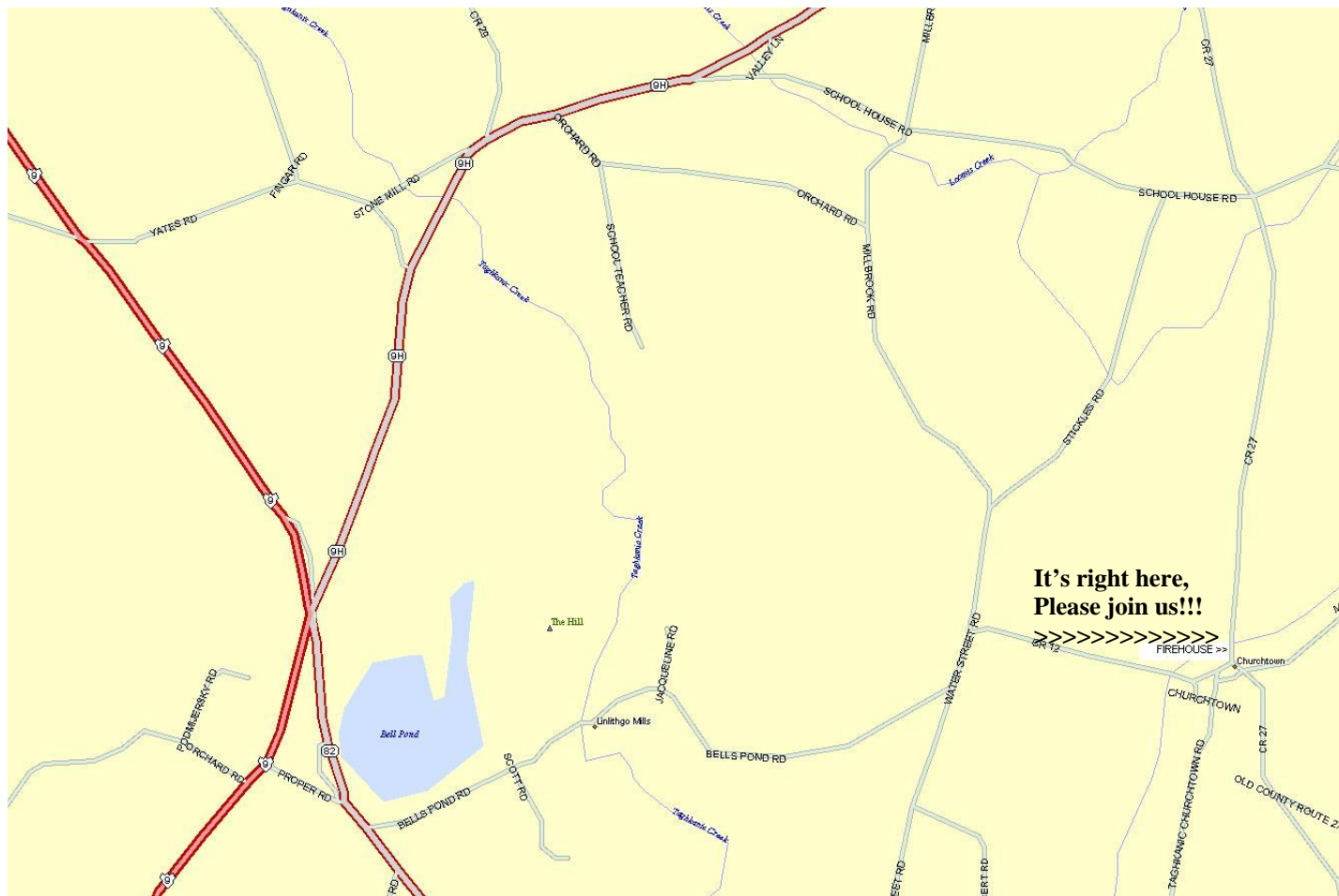
Join the RVWARS Yahoo Group. Go to the www.rvwars.com web site and scroll to the bottom of the page and simply enter your email address into the box.

ENJOY LIFE



There's plenty of time to be dead





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

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

CHURCHTOWN MEETING PLACE!

I don't often say much on the repeaters or anytime for that matter. But I have heard a couple of complaints about meeting in Churchtown! I just want to say that before the decision was made to meet there Tom C. sent a questionnaire to the membership to respond to the two locations that were available. One being the Church in Kinderhook and the other in Churchtown. The response was overwhelming to go to Churchtown although there was not a big response to the question. The Fire Company came to us offering the firehouse for meetings. As did Mike offering the Church. After the voting was complete someone that I don't know offered a Church near Noeckers. That would have been ideal and would have kept everyone happy probably but the offer came after we voted and accepted the offer in Churchtown.

Churchtown is only 6-7 miles out of Hudson, closer for some and a bit farther for others. We would all like to have meetings in our back yard but that is of course impossible. The Churchtown Firehouse is an excellent place to meet! It is large and comfortable. I think that everyone would be happy to be there. I will continue to bring Subs and coffee. And hopefully we will have our usual Christmas party there. There is LOTS of room! And in the years to come an excellent place to hold Field Day and our picnic.

I personally feel bad that some are upset with the decision but if you had expressed your thoughts before the decision was made it could have been different.

I would like to offer my services to anyone in Hudson and areas within reason to pick them up and take them to the meeting on the third Monday of the month. Just let me know... I have room for 3 passengers.

73, Stan, WA2UET

CAGLE G5RV

Oct. 19, 2013

By: Carl J. Verderber WA2UJX

Down in Red Hook and Rhinebeck, there is a small contingency of RVW Club members who get together from time to time for local projects. A very nice Saturday invited the installation of a G5RV antenna at KD2BQB Les Cagle's QTH in the village of Red Hook, NY. WA2UJX Carl J. Verderber and W1SWM Don Peterson made up the support team. Carl shot lines into two trees at a height of about 50 feet where ropes supported the antenna. Measurements were taken with an MFJ antenna analyzer at 80 thru 10 Meters before contacts were made on 10M and 20M with a Kenwood TS-520S rig. Results were good.



During the installation Les and Don selected components and knots that would hold up to the rigors of this antenna installation.

Also - Carl got tangled up in lines while Les helped hold things together.



The project was a success and after testing coffee and donuts were consumed. It's good to know Les will be able to make some good DX contacts with a great antenna. END

RVW CLUB PROPOSAL: A RADIO TECHNICAL CLINIC IN SPRING OF 2014

By: Carl J. Verderber
Oct. 27, 2013

IDEA FOR A FUNDRAISER:

I would like to advance an idea - our club would host a Radio Technical Clinic (RTC) in the spring of 2014. This would be after our March 2014 Auction fundraiser. Like all club projects, creating a fundraiser while providing benefits and value to the community is a good goal to shoot for.

BASIC PREMISE:

There exists a tremendous amount of unused equipment in the hands of Amateurs - unused because of the lack of training in its use and/or because basic and simple repairs are needed to bring this equipment to full functionality. And because professional expertise comes at high costs, Amateurs are hesitant to invest in repairs to equipment that is used occasionally.

VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY:

I believe we have a number of technically savvy members (experts in their field or very astute operators) that could volunteer some of their time and test equipment toward providing technical help to other Amateurs who are having difficulties with some of their equipment - especially older transceivers/receivers of the boat anchor type. For that time, these Volunteer Techs can ask for a donation toward our club treasury to provide guidance and advice. In some cases, just testing the functionality and fitness of a piece of equipment would be sufficient for the owner to make a decision to proceed deeper into repairs or stop all effort on that piece of equipment.

LIMITING DEPTH OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

I want to make it clear that I am not proposing we start a radio repair shop! That would be a path for disaster! What I am proposing is to carefully define the extent of RVW RTC activities and offer a "first level of technical support" to people (clients) who need it.

We also need to limit the numbers and types of equipments. It is a plan that needs further development. We just cannot allow someone to bring in 15 pieces at one sitting as this would overwhelm everyone.

Perhaps we could send out a memo asking anyone who needs help to submit a list of rigs and equipment that they have problems with. We could select one piece from each submission. And they need not be radios because we can diagnose power supplies and other devices but remembering that we do not want to become a repair shop.

WHO COULD POTENTIALLY PARTICIPATE AS EXPERTS?

Persons like myself WA2UJX and Carl Roby WB2CTV have already discussed participation in this fundraiser and have a positive feeling about it. I know there are a number of unmentioned persons that could be enticed to join us. Please consider what expertise and support equipment you might be able to provide. A project like this is in direct relationship with the fundamental principles of Amateur Radio - sharing our interests toward a common hobby.

SIZE OF DONATION FOR SERVICE:

How much to ask for a donation is not an easy thing to decide. I'd like to think that each client being serviced would make a donation relative to their monetary situation and to the level of results with their equipment. We might post a list of suggested offerings. How much money we can raise is not definable but we will never know if we don't try. Further, future RTC's might do better because we will find the pitfalls to avoid. We can also have a mini- coffee bar to provide snacks and drinks which can add to the fundraiser profits.

STRATEGY - TWO PATHS:

PATH #1 is to provide enough test equipment for the "client" to use while providing guidance and ideas that allow the client to personally define the extent of their own goals working on their own equipment. For this we would rent equipment at an hourly rate. Equipment like tube testers, oscilloscopes, voltmeters, power supplies, dummy loads, PATH #2 - we will preselect the equipment we accept by using a submission list from each potential client. This will allow RVW Volunteer Techs to prepare for work on each piece of equipment. I believe path #2 is best because it maintains the most control over events.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VENUE:

We will need a room that has adequate lighting and room for 7 tables - each having two chairs. Approximately 10 Amps/table with at least 2 outlets/table. We need a staging area where equipment can be stored for short periods. A place for a snack bar would be good.

ORGANIZING THE EVENT:

Based upon advance submissions, RVW will accept specific equipment for functional testing and repairs. Another category might be hands-on training in its use. Early equipment like Kenwood TS-820's, 530's and Yaesu Ft-101's might function but the operator might have problems changing bands and tuning up. Operation of some tuners is also troublesome. We could provide hands-on training specific to the rig at this RTC.

We might schedule clients to arrive in "waves" an hour apart so that we are not overwhelmed by having too many at one time. We need to develop a plan for this kind of scheduling.

YOUR FEEDBACK AND IDEAS:

Your feedback and ideas are important to me. We not only need people to sign up to participate but also need ideas that would improve this project. Please contact Carl J. Verderber at carlandkaren67@gmail.com directly with any concerns, ideas and improvements. As time goes on, we can discuss some ideas at our Club Meetings. To reiterate: we have an opportunity to help restore useable older equipment for Amateurs at an affordable cost while having fun and sharing in the hobby of Amateur Radio.

Thanks, 73 Carl WA2UJX

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



Items for sale de K2WG

1. 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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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 qrrp 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

SELL YOUR STUFF HERE

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

FOR SALE

For the news letter

Anyone interested it this package.

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

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

Wa2uyy
Ron Coons Sr.
518-945-3731

I have 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

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

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

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