



Skywarn Class at April RVWARS Meeting All are Welcome

We have a Skywarn class coming up at the April 21 RVWARS meeting.

Skywarn is a nationwide network of volunteer weather spotters who report to and are trained by the National Weather Service (NWS). These spotters report many forms of significant or severe weather such as Severe Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Hail, Heavy Snow, and Flooding.

The staff at NWS Forecast Office Albany is responsible for issuing local forecasts and Severe Weather Warnings for much of eastern New York, southern Vermont, western Massachusetts and northwest Connecticut. Skywarn Spotters provide an invaluable service by providing ground truth on the atmosphere we observe from radars, satellites and reporting stations. These spotters act as our eyes and ears helping to provide better forecasts and severe weather warnings.

How to Join?

Joining is easy. All that it is required is an interesting 3 hour training session. The training courses are offered during the year and are held throughout our county warning area. Sessions are announced on our NOAA Weather Radio Stations and are posted on this web site:

www.skywarn.org/

RVWARS Display at G'town School Family Night

Tom, N2NZD,
Ed, N2XPW.
and
Steve, W2SXX
Man the
RVWARS
Table at the
Annual
Germantown
PTO Family
Night on
March 29 at the
Germantown
Central
School.



One thing I noticed from behind the table, was that It's amazing how little the public knows about Amateur Radio. We did our best to change that.

Steve, W2SXX; Ed, N2XPW; and I answered a host of questions, and really had some good interest at our table. We had a few rigs, HF through 70cm, and some HT's on the air. We let several young kids speak into the mic, and some made simplex contacts of only several feet, but they all got a kick out of hearing themselves coming over another radio.

Some questions we answered were: "How much does it cost?" "How far can you talk?" "Do you need a license?" "Has the cell phone impacted ham radio?" "Where can I get a license?" "Is it hard to pass the test?" "What is that thing (ie..paddles)?" "What is the difference between

ham radio and CB, or Marine radio?" "What if I wanted to talk to someone in Arizona, can it do that?" "Is ham radio still popular?" All of these questions came from adults, with a few youngsters showing a passing interest, but not much from the school age group.

Overall, I felt that the evening was a success at promoting Amateur radio. I wouldn't expect an influx of new members to the club, but there are now many more people in the area that know ham radio is alive and active, and they all know we are available if they decide to take up the hobby.

We may be asked to put on a demonstration for some cub scouts, and I'm certain we will be asked to return for next year's Science Fair and Family Fun Night.

This was a great way to let people know we exist.

Tom N2NZD



Upcoming Events

April 7 - Monday — 7:00 p.m.
ARES/RACES Meeting, Noecker Clubhouse.

April 21 - Monday — 7:00 p.m.
RVWARS Meeting, Noecker Clubhouse. SKYWARN

April 23 - Wed. — 6:30 p.m.
VE Session, all test levels
Noecker Clubhouse.

May 5 - Monday — 7:00 p.m.
ARES/RACES Meeting, Noecker Clubhouse.

May 19 - Monday — 7:00 p.m.
RVWARS Meeting, Noecker Clubhouse.

RVWARS Weekly Nets

Tuesday — 7:00 p.m.
ARES/RACES Emergency
Training Net. 147.21 Repeater
Roundtable following net sign-off

Tuesday — 7:30 p.m.
ARES/RACES Emergency
Training Net: 3.980 LSB

Thursday — 7:00 p.m.
Packet Net. 224.280 Repeater and
223.440 Simplex.

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society VITAL STATISTICS

President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD
Vice President — Steve Walsh W2SXX
Secretary — Shelly Evans AA2Y
Treasurer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Historian — Stan Engel WA2UET
Safety Officer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Newsletter — David Clapper WA2FTI
E-mail — dclapper@mhccable.com
Repeaters — 147.21 224.280 449.925
Club Call — Kilo 2 Rip Van Winkle
Web Page — <http://www.rvwars.com>
RVWARS E-mail — wa2fti@yahoo.com
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

AUCTION — 2008



We made \$76 on the auction.

That is about normal unless we get large donations. Shelly and Wayne have a great time doing it. All in all it was a fun evening and I think everyone involved had a good time. But it is not a big money maker for us. I am not complaining, every little bit helps.

So far we have had 2 summer tag sales. The first one was very profitable because we had a lot of stuff donated from the estate of an SK.

Last year we had another one with lots of household stuff and lots of radio stuff and lots of help and a really good

time for several days during Labor Day. Not only that, it was profitable. . . about \$1000 profits!

We need to continue the auction for the enjoyment and tradition and if we can get some folks to get some stuff together again this summer for a tag sale we should do that again for profit and fun.

There is a lot of traffic on route 66 during the big holidays and it can be profitable for the club if we can again get a yard full of good stuff to sell. Start looking now for good saleable items. . . Both in Ham gear and household items.

Stan, WA2UET

See the "Novice Station for the Early 1960s" Article on Page 3



Lafayette
PROFESSIONAL QUALITY COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER
—ENGINEERED FOR THE AMATEUR
Superheterodyne Circuit Utilizing 8 Tubes & Rectifier Tube

KT-200
IN KIT FORM
64.50 ~~6.45~~
Down
HE-10 WIRED AND TESTED
79.95 ~~8.00~~
Down

High sensitivity superheterodyne circuit utilizes 8 miniature tubes plus rectifier tube and transformer input. Full wave rectifier. The 80.40-20.15 and 10 meter amateur bands are clearly indicated on the illuminated dial face, and can be easily tuned with the pre-calibrated band spread. The receiver has complete band switching, thus eliminating the need for bothersome plug-in coils. Band spread is laid out on easy-to-read 0-100 scale, and features a weighted control knob which offers smooth, precise tuning. Coverage of from 455 KC to 31 MC is obtained through the use of four switchable ranges [455-1600 KC/1.6-4.8 MC/4.8-14.5 MC/10.5-31 MC]. All controls, switches and phase lock are located on the front panel, while an optional accessory socket delivering 360 volts DC and 6.3 volts AC is located in the rear of the receiver. Sensitivity is 3 microvolts (Signal to noise ratio is 20 DB at 3.5 MC) Selectivity is -40DB at 1MC. Image rejection is -40DB at 3MC. Panel is grey metal with white lettering, and controls are black with aluminum trim. Hinged top makes inside of receiver readily accessible to operator. 7 1/2" H x 15" W x 9" D. Shpg. wt., 22 lbs.

FREE!
1960 CATALOG

CUT-OUT AND PASTE ON POST CARD

LAFAYETTE RADIO
P.O. BOX 222
JAMAICA 31, N. Y.
DEPT. VI-9

Name:
Address:
City: Zone: State:



Novice Station From the Early 1960s



The above picture is of the station my father and I used as Novices sometime around 1961. My call was WV2ULU and his was WV2ULV. As you can see from our current club roster, he has kept his call WA2ULV ever since we upgraded to Technician Plus in 1962.

In the picture on the main desk starting on the left is a Heathkit Pawnee 2 meter AM/CW transceiver which my father and I built as a kit. Moving to the right, next is a Heathkit DX-20, CW only, Xtal controlled, 50 watts, which I built as a kit at the age of 13. Next is a Lafayette KT-200 550 KHz thru 30 MHz general coverage AM/CW/SSB receiver which was our introduction to kit building. On top of the KT-200 is a Heathkit HD-11 Q-Multiplier to make the KT-200 a better SSB receiver. To the right of the KT-200 is a straight key that was used as part of the signaling system on the railroad at the Canaan Tunnel (exact time period unknown). Neither my father or I am sure what antenna we were using at the

time but we think it was a dipole cut for 80 meters.

On the far right side of the desk area is an Eico oscilloscope circa 1940's. On the shelf above the ham rigs is a collection of various test instruments all circa 1940's and 1950's. There is also a rotor control for a ten element 2 meter, horizontally polarized beam. The other shelves contain various ham related magazines and technical references and of course on the far right hanging from the upper shelf is the ubiquitous log sheets on a clipboard.

The interesting note about this equipment is that the DX-20 and the KT-200 are still operational and are sitting in my shack along with the modern Yaesu HF rigs. I 'fire them up' once in awhile just to get that old time feeling of 'real radios glow in the dark'!

73 for now... Wayne - K2WG



Some Thoughts About the Tuesday ARES/RACES Net

The Tuesday night nets have turned into pretty much a social event with just an exchange of the weather conditions etc. Then the Roundtable has been quite successful getting some social and technical discussion going. This is all good but I feel that we need to have some Emergency Training and Traffic Handling involved as well. That is what the ARES/RACES nets are all about.

When I mentioned this some folks felt that I was talking about doing away with the social part of the Tuesday net and turning it into just an ARES/RACES net. That was NOT my intention or my thought. So we have talked about it some and have discussed having the ARES/RACES Emergency Training and Traffic Handling nets on a different night or at least separated from the social nets because all of the hams that join the net are not members of ARES/RACES and are not interested in the training.

We currently hold a HF net on Thursday nights. It has not been to successful lately because of the conditions on HF. But I would like to continue that anyway, we can try each week and soon the conditions will improve. But one thought that I have is that we might have a VHF ARES/RACES specific (more formal) net on Thursday night and then go to the HF net after that. Another thought was having it on the weekend like maybe Saturday in the AM.

We need some input from the members about all this. We would like to have lots more folks join the nets and get involved as NCS, especially the new hams. You do not need to be a member of the RVW club or ARES/RACES to join in the nets or the Roundtable.

PLEASE pass along your thoughts and ideas to any of the officers or members of the club. Tom, N2NZD at n2nzd@taconic.net is the EC for ARES (and club president) and Bob, WB2DUW at rturner123@hughes.net is the RO for RACES and Stan WA2UET is AEC for the Nets at wa2uet@taconic.net. And everyone that gets a Newsletter has received a Roster so contact anyone you wish and get your thoughts and ideas back to the organizers.

Thanks! Stan, WA2UET

The Mt. Beacon Amateur Radio Club Hosts Another



HAMFEST!



<http://www.WR2ABB.org>

Talk-in
146.970 pl 100

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2008

New General Admission Hours: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

GPS
N41 39.240
W73 41.818

Tymor Park - LaGrangeville, NY

DUTCHESS COUNTY



**PUBLIC
SERVICE**



New & Used
Ham Radio Dealers & Gear
Hard to Find Electronics Items
Computers & Accessories

ADMISSION: \$6.00

While they last

Indoor tables: \$10.00 Prepaid; \$12.00 at gate



Super tailgate special! ~ One space \$8.00 or two spaces \$12.00

"Join us to renew old friendships & form new ones"

- **FCC Exams - All License Classes!**
Registration: 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
- **HOT FOOD & BEVERAGES**
- **Large Indoor & Outdoor Location !**
- **Non-Ham Spouses & Kids FREE!**
- **Canned Food Drive: Bring Food for the Needy**



For More Info Contact
James Capicotto, K2JIM
(845) 427-2702
K2JIM@frontiernet.net
Or
hamfest@wr2abb.org

Reminder New Hours: Doors Open From 9 AM (Sellers 7 AM) Until 2 PM

Directions: from Poughkeepsie: East Rt. 55, Left on Bruzgul Rd., Right on Duncan Rd., then follow the signs!
If coming from Rt. 22 / Pawling, it's Rt. 55 WEST and a Right on Bruzgul Rd.