

Our 2 meter repeater is working great! Please feel free to use it. Try the 449.925 but our 224.280 is temporarily off the air. No one uses the 450MHz or the 220MHz repeaters so we don't know the coverage. If you use them give us a report...

2011 dues are \$25.00 per individual \$30.00 for family \$5.00 for students and active Military are free.

You can pay your dues for 2011 anytime!

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

**D
U
E
S

A
R
E

D
U
E
!**



Please join us on the Tuesday night Roundtable on 147.210 at 7:00 PM. ALL are welcome! Use the Echo-Link (K2RVW-R) if need be.



Goodie Fest DEC 20

Rip is Bringing Pizza!!

Annual Goody Fest This Month! All Are Welcome!

Our December 20th meeting is the annual goodie fest. Rip will furnish pizza and soda and we invite all to bring some sinful goodies. As in the past we will have a short meeting to discuss what ever needs to be discussed then adjourn to a social feast.

As usual, everyone is invited. Bring your Spouse, girlfriend, boyfriend, just plain friend or someone you know who is interested in being a Ham. There is always plenty to go around! ☞



LATEST REPORT ON DAVE, WA2FTI

You can keep up to date by logging onto www.caringbridge.org/davidclapper

David had his second course of chemotherapy yesterday. He sat next to his beloved IV pump for six hours. It seemed to go much easier for him this time. In the morning there was a fun distraction when two student nurses asked to be involved in his case. They inspected his port and watched while the nurse connected the port to the IV. We visited with them for quite awhile and enjoyed their youth and their enthusiasm.

Last night and this morning things were very different from the first time. David fixed the dinner for us last night and he ate quite a bit as well. He slept very well and this morning he felt good and ate all of his breakfast. I am thinking that the addition of prednisone to the mix might have helped. He cannot really taste his food, but he knows that he has to eat it anyway. He is losing his hair pretty rapidly now. Probably the next photo you see here will be quite different. He has lost about forty pounds as well and I am very jealous of that.

So, today we are feeling encouraged and happy that David is feeling better. We are looking forward to a good week. David's son Ray is here and we will have a great holiday together. Happy Thanksgiving and love to you all. Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers. We know that it is working.

NEW N2LEN 147.15 REPEATER



RVW WORK PARTY

We had a small work party at the repeater site a few days ago. Just wanted to clean up some weeds and brush around the shack and reinforce one guy wire that looked exceptionally bad. It went well thanks to Jim, KC2OGK and Mike, N2JVE.

I went back up after reports of noisy signals received by the repeater. I checked all the connections and looked at the SWR and all looks great. The power out is 29 watts and the reflected power is just 1 watt. So I don't know for sure what the problem might be. I think it might be possible that propagation might be going a bit crazy. I have heard signals getting into the repeater that are normally not there.

Anyway, I don't want to ask Lenny to climb the tower at this point to check the antenna as we expect to be moving to a new location sometime soon.



Erma Bombeck

"There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child."

Robert Lynd

"Were I a philosopher, I should write a philosophy of toys, showing that nothing else in life need to be taken seriously, and that Christmas Day in the company of children is one of the few occasions on which men become entirely alive."

HOMELAND TOWER PROJECT

There is nothing to report on the Homeland tower project. The last we heard from them they said they expect to begin construction in December after all the permits and paper work is complete.

Rec 10/12/2010— "We're waiting on Verizon for direction on the timeframe. Will let you know as soon as we hear. We have started to put together construction estimates and will start bidding the site by the end of the month. We just received the written resolution from the board and are awaiting the clarifications on approval conditions. . Once we get that straightened out we can file for our building permit. We have a projected start of December right now. Manny"





Upcoming Events

Monday, Dec. 6 — 7:00 p.m.

ARES/RACES Meeting
Columbia County EOC.

Monday, Dec. 20 — 7:00 p.m.

RVWARS Meeting:
Goodie Fest!

Noecker Clubhouse, Rt. 66 &
Graham Ave. Hudson

RVWARS Weekly Nets

EVERY TUESDAY at 7:00 p.m.

Informal Roundtable on the
147.210 repeater ALL are
welcome.

3rd THURSDAY at 8:00 p.m.

ARES/RACES Emergency
Training Net: 147.21 Repeater

NEWSLETTER MECHANIC

I have volunteered to try my hand at putting together a newsletter for our club. I of course need all the help I can get. Send me lots of stuff worth printing. I am not a writer so I depend on your input. I will try it for a month or two and if it works out I would be glad to continue. I do not pretend to have David's expertise but I will do my best to put something together each month.

I want to thank David, WA2FTI for his many years of hard work and professional capabilities doing the Newsletter. And getting us on the winning list of newsletters for the Northeast area. He had a big pair of shoes to fill when Dave, WD2K, left us and he did it well.

MINUTES—RVWARS MEETING 11/15/2010

Meeting called to order at 6:39 by President, Tom, N2NZD. 17 present.

Secretary's Report read by WE2G. Motion to accept by KC2WLT, seconded by N2LEN, Accepted.

Treasurer's report read by WA2UET. Total \$3307.06.

ARES/RACES- Greene County was set for Pumpkin Patrol, with 7 volunteers. Len received a call on the Friday before from Troop F, that there were only 2 Thruway bridges in Greene County and they would be covered by fire and police. He asked about covering next year. N2LEN and N2SQW will go up on the first Saturday in December and swap out the 147.09 repeater. Everything is going smoothly. Before he got sick, David Clapper, WA2FTI, had approached N2LEN about doing a course at the Greene County EOC, starting in February. N2LEN was going to approach John Farrell about it. Permission was granted. It's now on hold. Columbia County, Bob Turner, WB2DUW is in Whittier after having suffered a stroke. He should be released this week and will be taking things slow. N2JVE worked Pumpkin Patrol on Shaker Museum Rd in Old Chatham and WE2G was in Albany. It was quiet. ARES/RACES Net will be Thursday night.

New Business

- A thank you card from WB2DUW was read.
- KC2FCP had offered to help with the 220mhz repeater. Stan sent an e-mail, but hasn't heard back.
- A discussion was held on antenna height, as the monopole might go over 200 feet which would necessitate there being a light on top of the monopole.
- The work party went well.
- There was noise on the 147.21 repeater last week. Stan checked it out, but Everything checked out all right. It could have been band conditions, ducting.
- Motion to close by AC2DK, seconded by KC2WLT at 6:54pm.
- SKYWARN training.

Respectfully submitted,
WE2G, Secretary

PACKET RADIO—TRY IT!

If anyone is interested in trying a bit of PACKET radio you should know that there are two BBS's on 145.030 that are always online. They are K2WG-1 and K2RVW-1. Just type "C" and one of the above stations and you should connect. Once connected type "H" for the rest of the commands. Type a "B" to log off.

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!



Holiday Greetings

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society VITAL STATISTICS

President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD
Vice President — Mike Alecksynas N2JVE
Secretary — Tom Cody WE2G
Treasurer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Historian — Stan Engel WA2UET
Safety Officer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Repeaters — 147.21 224.280 449.925
Club Call — Kilo 2 Rip Van Winkle
Web Page — <http://www.rvwars.com>
NEWS E-mail — wa2uet@taconic.net
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

N2FN's New Shed



At times, don't we find ourselves uncertain about many of the things we desire in life? A new radio, well, I really don't need a new radio, but I really like this new kind of radio. Or a coat, "I really don't need a new coat but this one really fits nice. Should I get it? Yes, no, um, I can't decide. The goal of getting an item might act like a ping pong ball going from the "Yes" side of the table to the "No" side. When I go out to a restaurant and the server asks what kind of dressing I would want on my salad, it is a large undertaking for me to give an answer. The more dressings they recite the harder it is to answer the question. Those of you out there who know what you want and get it, right then and there, I salute you.

In the Columbia County area, we have a certain indecisive character among us. In some circles he is known as "The Flying Nun", or "Grandmother Miller" and even "Norman, with his 2 Fuzzy Nostrils". Most People refer to him as Cliff or Kip N2FN. He has been in amateur radio before Fido was a pup. Once known for his tremendous speed on CW, his Morse code abilities that few people could keep up with. This lightning-fingered lad could set fire to an Accu-keyer in 22 seconds flat. Why even legend tells it, that even one time even his Yaesu radio looked up at him and said "Holy crow, man! Take it easy on the key, you're making me stutter!"

After the years went by and interests changed and amateur radio took a back seat for 20 plus years. We all might have a need to give things a rest for awhile and maybe we can pick it up later. Such was the case for Cliff. As the years go by, we tend to learn more and more about ourselves, and we might even become crafty in our decisions. Cliff has learned to mix his interests. It seems that Cliff has combined his love for working outdoors with amateur radio. All of us in this hobby know the as we spend time in our radio shacks, we tend to gather more and more equipment and we take up more and more space.

Well, after much ping-ponging and much stressful "YESing and NOing", the man has finally made up his mind about a large undertaking. In the photo above, I invite you to have a look at N2FN's new radio room, aka "The Dog House", aka "The Dutch Barn", aka "The New-Found-House-O-Clutter". This little beauty is beefed up, decked out and specially ordered to meet the needs of West Ghent's Flying Nun. This baby came home to rest on a specially built trailer that can move that Dutch barn around like a greasy egg on a plastic spatula. Those of you that have not seen one of these expanding trailers in action go over to Kip at the next club meeting and ask him about it. He will give you a blow-by-blow description of what one of these bad-boys can do.

Kip's decision was not an easy one to make but I am confident in saying that he will not be sorry for choosing to purchase his new ham shack, which will be disguised as a shed for his even bigger toys. We wish you lots of luck, Cliff, with your new dwelling. Best wishes to you O.M.

The preceding text was a made up story by Dave, WB2TGN to help the new editor of the newsletter, Stan Engel, to fill up space.

Hints & Kinks: Sealing PL-259 UHF Plugs and SO-239 UHF Connectors Don Doward, VA3DDN, of Pickering, Ontario, sent us this idea for seals for PL-259/SO-239 connectors. Contact Don via e-mail for more information.

The popular and low-cost PL-259 UHF plug and its mating SO-239 UHF connector were never designed to be waterproof. In spite of this, many of us find ourselves having to use these connectors out-of-doors for an antenna or cable connection and then have the experience of trying to apply some form of weatherproofing.

If this is not done, and done well, then intermittent connections soon result, especially with wet freezing and thawing conditions, resulting in moisture and corrosion getting into the connectors and even into the coax itself. Place the O-ring(s) at the base of the SO-239 barrel and use the PL-259 coupling ring to compress them into a weather-tight seal.

One well-known solution is to use a bondable rubber tape wrapping. That often seems to work using one of the soft, moldable, stretchable tapes that are available for the purpose. In practice, I have found that the hardest area to seal effectively using this method is the area from the rim of the male PL-259 shell to the mating SO-239 socket face.

This is especially true when the SO-239 socket is located partially inside the cowl of the antenna mount (such as the Solarcon/Antron vertical or other similar types) and it is impossible to get sealing tape up into this tight location.

To overcome this problem, simply slip as many tight fitting O-ring(s) over the SO-239 barrel (see Figure) as needed to fill the space between the base of the SO-239 and the coupling ring. Lubricate the O-rings with a generous amount of silicone grease, often sold in the automotive part stores as "dielectric tune-up grease."

Important: Check that when the mating PL-259 plug is installed and tightened down, the outer rim of the PL-259 shell butts up against and slightly compresses the "O"-ring(s). The "O"-rings I used were ones I had on hand, about 9/16 inch ID x 0.10 inch thick. I am sure anything that's a snug fit will work. Of course, you will still need to wrap the lower half of the PL-259 shell and the spot where the coax exits the connector with tape to seal that part.





SKYWARN Recognition Day Set for December 4

The 12th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 4, 2010. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office, working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event.

The idea for the first SRD took shape in the summer of 1999. Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Goodland, Kansas NWS office Scott Mentzer, N0QE, tried to find a way to recognize the valuable contributions storm spotters make to the National Weather Service. "Since many of those storm spotters were also hams," Floyd told the ARRL, "it seemed like a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on Amateur Radio."

With the approval of NWS headquarters and a commitment to participate from many local NWS offices across the country, the first National Weather Service Special Event took place on November 27, 1999. "At the end of the event, almost 16,000 QSOs were logged, with contacts made to all 50 states and 63 countries," Floyd recounted. "The Des Moines forecast office took the honor of making the most contacts of any office that first year with 761 QSOs, and went on to lead the pack until 2003 by logging between 1300-1500 contacts each year."

Floyd said that feedback from that first event was "overwhelmingly positive" from both the NWS staff and the local ham clubs: "Many local club members who came to that first event had never visited an NWS office before. When they came for the special event, they learned the value of their reports and how they were used in conjunction with existing technology." And so began an annual tradition. The following year, 85 of the 122 NWS offices -- almost 70 percent -- participated in the event, making nearly 24,000 QSOs.

In 2001, the name of the event was changed to SKYWARN Recognition

Day, a name Floyd said better relayed what the day was all about: "Each year since the inception of SRD, the number of NWS offices participating with local ham clubs has increased; more than 100 offices sign up each year to take part. The most contacts made during any SRD occurred in 2006 when -- thanks to and local hams in the Grand Junction, Colorado area -- 1640 QSOs were logged!"

Station call signs have also changed over the years. Floyd said that some NWS offices and clubs apply for a special event call sign, "such as W3B in Brownsville or N0Y in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Other call signs hint at office location, including WX9GRB in Green Bay and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center. Still others represent more of the big picture, as in KC0SKY in Pleasant Hill, Missouri."

Floyd said that as SKYWARN Recognition Day has grown throughout the years, he has seen a greater use of digital communications in addition to CW, RTTY and packet radio: "Each year, more and more contacts are being made using EchoLink, Winlink and the use of e-mail reflectors." In keeping with the NWS setting, stations are asked to include a weather report of their location in their exchange.

In 2009, the Melbourne, Florida office (WX4MLB) reported the most QSOs -- 1373 QSOs -- than any other NWS office; the Des Moines, Iowa office (K0DMX), with 912 QSOs, placed second. Melbourne also contacted 77 NWS offices, the most reported. Lincoln, Illinois (WX9ILX) was close behind, with 72 QSOs to other NWS offices.

2010 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 4 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and more than 40 countries during the 24 hour event. Even if you make just one QSO to an NWS office, you are eligible to receive a certificate. Just submit a list of the station(s) you worked (along with a self-addressed stamped envelope) to SKYWARN Recognition Day, 920 Armory Rd, Goodland, KS 67735. Many NWS offices also send out special QSL cards for this event. If you haven't yet joined in the fun of SKYWARN Recognition Day, make 2010 your year to do so!

N2LEN UHF REPEATER

It has been almost 1 Year since the 442.050 and 448.275 have been unlinked into the network. The repeaters have been sitting dormant ever Since! However, 442.050 has several new users on it from Orange County...

Anyway, Finally, A new EXCITING repeater site has been offered to me that will provide the clean link signal needed for the whole system! The network will be back online linked via RF shortly! It will be nice to hear our friends from Ulster and The Bronx Again! Hunter Mtn.. Will give us the Eastern Coverage needed again for Chris and Masa!

FOR SALE



FT-736R Clean but missing the carrying handle. Has CTCSS Board option. \$600.00

FT-920 Excellent condition with FM board. \$700.00

Can dicker a LITTLE bit.

**Contact: wa2uet@taconic.net
518-392-4554**

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

2010 ARRL 10 METER CONTEST RULES

1. Object: For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10-meter band.

2. Date and Contest Period: Second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; ends 2359.59 UTC Sunday (December 11 – 12, 2010)

- 2.1. All stations operate no more than 36 hours out of the 48-hour period.
- 2.2. Listening time counts as operating time.

3. Entry Categories:

- 3.1. Single Operator: (9 categories)
 - 3.1.1. QRP.
 - 3.1.1.1. Mixed Mode (Phone and CW).
 - 3.1.1.2. Phone only.
 - 3.1.1.3. CW only.
 - 3.1.2. Low Power.
 - 3.1.2.1. Mixed Mode (Phone and CW).
 - 3.1.2.2. Phone only.
 - 3.1.2.3. CW only.
 - 3.1.3. High Power.
 - 3.1.3.1. Mixed Mode (Phone and CW).
 - 3.1.3.2. Phone only.
 - 3.1.3.3. CW only.
- 3.2. Multioperator, Single Transmitter, mixed mode (only).
 - 3.2.1. Includes single operators using packet or spotting assistance.

4. Contest Exchange:

- 4.1. W/VE stations (including Hawaii and Alaska) send signal report and state or province (District of Columbia stations send signal report and DC).
- 4.2. DX stations (including KH2, KP4, etc) transmit signal report and sequential serial number starting with 001.
- 4.3. Mexican stations transmit signal report and their state.
- 4.4. Maritime mobile stations send signal report and ITU Region (R1, R2 or R3).

5. Scoring:

- 5.1. QSO points:
 - 5.1.1. Two points for each complete two-way phone QSO.
 - 5.1.2. Four points for each two-way CW QSO.
- 5.2. Multipliers: (per mode, phone and CW).
 - 5.2.1. Each US state and the District of Columbia.
 - 5.2.2. Canada: [NB (VE1, 9), NS (VE1), QC (VE2), ON (VE3), MB (VE4), SK (VE5), AB (VE6), BC (VE7), NWT (VE8), NF, (VO1), LB (VO2)], YT (VY1), PEI (VY2) NU (VY0).
 - 5.2.3. Mexico: 32 states: Aguascalientes (AGS), Baja California (BAC), Baja California Sur (BCS), Campeche (CAM), Chiapas (CHI), Chihuahua (CHH), Coahuila (COA), Colima (COL), Distrito Federal (DF or DFE), Durango (DGO), Estado de México (EMX), Guanajuato (GTO), Guerrero (GRO), Hidalgo (HGO), Jalisco (JAL), Michoacán (MIC), Morelos (MOR), Nayarit (NAY), Nuevo León (NLE), Oaxaca (OAX), Puebla (PUE), Querétaro (QRO), Quintana Roo (QUI), San Luis Potosí (SLP), Sinaloa (SIN), Sonora (SON), Tabasco (TAB), Tamaulipas (TAM), Tlaxcala (TLX), Veracruz (VER), Yucatán (YUC), Zacatecas (ZAC).
 - 5.2.4. DXCC countries (except US, Canada and Mexico). KH6 and KL7 participate and count as US states and send HI or AK as that part of their exchange.
 - 5.2.5. ITU regions (maritime mobiles only).
- 5.3. Final Score: Multiply QSO points by total multipliers (the sum of states/VE provinces/Mexican states/DXCC countries/ITU regions per mode). Example: KA1RWY works 2235 stations including 1305 phone QSOs, and 930 CW QSOs, for a total of 6330 QSO points. She works 49 states, 10 Canadian call areas, 23 DXCC entities and a maritime mobile station in Region 2 on Phone and 30 states, 8 Canadian call areas, and 19 DXCC countries on CW for a total multiplier of 140. Final score = 6330 (QSO points) X 140 (multiplier) = 886,200 points.

6. Miscellaneous:

- 6.1. Single operator mixed-mode and multioperator stations may work stations once on CW and once on SSB.
- 6.2. Your call sign must indicate your DXCC country if competing as DX. (N6TR in Oregon does not send N6TR/7, but K1NO in Puerto Rico must send K1NO/KP4).
- 6.3. All entrants may transmit only one signal on the air at any given time.
- 6.4. All CW contacts must take place below 28.3 MHz.

7. Awards: Certificates will be awarded to:

- 7.1. The highest-scoring single-operator station (in each category) from each ARRL/RAC Section, Mexican state and DXCC country.
- 7.2. Top multioperator entries in each ARRL Division, Canada and each continent.
- 7.3. Additional certificates will be awarded as participation warrants.

8. Miscellaneous:

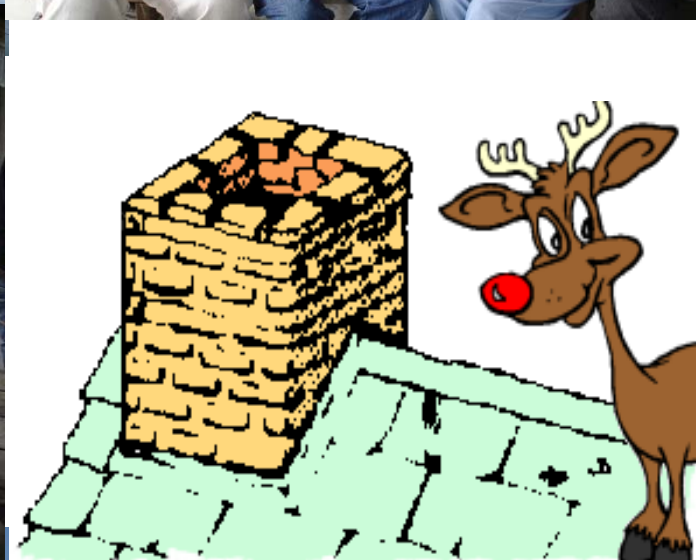
- 8.1. All electronic logs (computer generated) must submit an ASCII text file of the log information in Cabrillo file format. Paper printouts of the electronic file are not acceptable substitutes.
- 8.2. Hand-written paper logs are acceptable submissions.
- 8.3. All entries must be emailed or postmarked by 0000 UTC Wednesday, January 12, 2011.
- 8.4. Email entries only to: 10meter@arrl.org. Submissions require Cabrillo log file with all required information (including exchange sent, category entered, power, and ARRL/RAC section - see General Rules for specific file format).
- 8.5. Electronic files not in Cabrillo file format may be designated as checklogs.
- 8.6. Paper entries should be mailed to 10-Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.
- 8.7. Paper entries must be submitted on current ARRL entry forms or an acceptable facsimile.
 - 8.7.1. Forms are available for downloading here.
 - 8.7.2. Forms are available for an SASE sent to the Contest Branch.
- 8.8. Logs may be submitted via the web applet at www.b4h.net/cabforms
- 8.9. See "General Rules for All ARRL Contests" and "General Rules for ARRL Contests on bands below 30 MHz (HF)" on the ARRL Web.

Field Day 2010



Photos from W2JSN.com

PICNIC—2010



HONDA EM-5000SX
5 KW GENERATOR
\$2,600 FIRM



Comes with:

- Wheel Kit and Handles, Cover
- (4) 20Amp 120VAC Outlets
- (1) 30 Amp Twistlock 120VAC 3 Prong Outlet
- (1) 30 Amp Twistlock 240VAC 4 Prong Outlet
- Automatic fast idle Switch when in use
- Charges 12VDC Vehicle Batteries
- 1 Pull to start (sorry no starter)
- 1 hour of break in time and about 2 hours of run time

Contact Mike at (518)784-3864 and leave message
 (SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY) Thank You



Photos from W2JSN.com