

January Meeting

On the 19th!

Happy Birthday

Sara-KB2BDC

John-KC2AGM

Pat-KC2CVJ

Erika-KC2DMI

Jim-KC2OGK

ED-KC2RHW

Ed-N2XPW

Bill-NY2U

Dave-W2DAV

John-W2JSN

Bruce-WA2ZNO

Barry-W2KS

The Thursday night nets will now be formal ARES/RACES nets with Bob, WB2DUW, as NCS. The HF only net has been cancelled.

Please Pay Your Dues for 2009

Mail to:

Stan Engel, WA2UET

PO Box 153

Ghent, NY 12075

Or bring with you to meeting
Still only \$15—\$20 family

As always PLEASE let us know if you have a problem with this Newsletter. My email address is: wa2uet@taconic.net

Any problems or suggestions are more than welcome.
Thanks

DUES

ARE

DU E !



GOD BLESS AMERICA

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

Meeting January 19 7:00 PM Noecker "Club House" Talk-in 147.21

MAKING YOUR AGONY JOY



January Meeting will Feature Dues Vote

The January 19th RVWARS meeting will take up the question of increasing the Club's annual dues from the current \$15 (individual), \$20 (family) to \$25 (individual), \$30 (family) per year.

As was reported in the December issue of *Rip's Report*, the dues increase would not take effect until the 2010 fiscal year.

PROPOSED DUES

(Effective 2010)

Individual Member = \$25/yr

Family Membership = \$30/yr

Full time students = \$5/yr
(No change)

Active Military = Free
(No change)

The vote had been scheduled for the December meeting but with the heavy attendance by families and non-members the officers decided to postpone the vote until the January meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Noecker "Clubhouse" at 7:00 pm on January 19th. All RVWARS members are urged to attend. As always, everyone is encouraged to bring a friend . . . anyone who is interested in ham radio. Of course, the coffee pot will be on and a supply of doughnuts at the ready! The 50/50 drawing will be held as usual.

RVWARS Pres. Hikes up Hill, Inspects .21 Site

Tom, N2NZD, RVWARS President, made it up the hill to the Club's repeater site to assess the damage done by the recent ice storm. There are pictures of the damage to the repeater site on page 5. Tom's description of conditions on the hill as of Dec. 26, follows.

"It looks like one good size tree and several smaller trees fell on the utility lines and pulled most of the supports out of the trees. The road was passable (at least for the day) up to our turn off and transformer.

I'm guessing that they replaced the pole and transformer shortly after the ice storm, but that may have been done previously. The pole is humming a nice 60 cycles, but it looks like the power has been turned off at the transformer.

I could hear a radio squelch cycling on/off behind the door, but obviously too low a voltage to do anything.

The good news is that the tower and guy wires were not damaged at all, and I don't see any breaks in the triplex AC line either.

At this point I don't know what the plan or timetable is, I just went on a fact finding mission.

(Continued on Page 2)

December's 'Goodies' Attracts Big Crowd

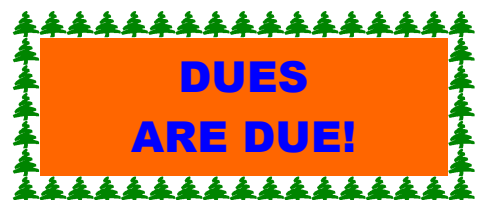
One of the largest turnouts in recent memory attended the December 15th "Goodie Fest" at the Clubhouse. It was a festive occasion with families, kids, wives and new members! A good time was had by all! There was pizza, home-made pepperoni, meatballs, and all sorts of cookies, cupcakes and other goodies for everyone to enjoy.

Pictures of the event taken by John, W2JSN, are on page 4. Additional pictures of this year's "Fest", and a couple of previous years, along with pictures of many of RVWARS activities are also on John's web page at www.w2jsn.com.



Welcome New Member: Barry, WA2KLP

Barry Thompson, WA2KLP, became the newest RVWARS member just in time for the December meeting and the Goodie Fest. Barry and his wife attended the meeting and had a good time meeting the members and enjoying the Goodies! Welcome aboard, Barry!





Upcoming Events

Monday, Jan. 5 — 7:00 p.m.
ARES/RACES Meeting
Noecker Clubhouse. Rt. 66 &
Graham Ave. Hudson

Monday, Jan. 19 — 7:00 p.m.
RVWARS Meeting
Noecker Clubhouse. Rt. 66 &
Graham Ave. Hudson

RVWARS Weekly Nets

Tuesdays — 7:00 p.m.
Informal Roundtable Net.
147.21 Repeater

Thursdays — 7:00 p.m.
ARES/RACES Emergency
Training Net: 147.21 Repeater

BARTENDERS HEAR SOME REALLY ODD THINGS. . .

Two hydrogen atoms walk into a bar. One says, "I've lost my electron."

The other says, "Are you sure?"
The first replies: "Yes, I'm positive."

A jumper cable walks into a bar.
The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

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/>

Ice Storm Damage!



Cliff, N2FN, suffered severe damage to his tower and antennas from the recent ice storm that hit the area. While the house itself was spared serious damage, the power line was ripped from the house. It looks like an Antenna Party will be scheduled for Spring!

.21 Repeater Access Road



The 147.21 repeater lost its commercial power line during the ice storm leaving only two deep-cycle batteries to power the repeaters on the hill. The above picture explains why it has been impossible to get to the repeater site to remedy the situation.

This once again has brought up discussions of ways to provide power to charge the batteries.

The problem remains to be solved.

Pres. Inspects Hill

(Continued from Page 1)

As far as I know this was the first time we've been able to get up there since the ice storm, and it still was a bit tough in the snow.

I'll leave the plan up to the repeater committee and the experts on running AC services. Meanwhile, thank you to the owners of the other repeaters for continuing to offer their services."

Until repairs are made to the power and telephone lines, the Club repeaters will be off the air. In the meantime, these repeaters may be used:

147.090 — No PL tone — *PRIMARY BACKUP* — Official State RACES machine — Thanks to Ken N2SQW

147.150 — No PL tone — Thanks to Lenny N2LEN

445.025 — PL of 103.5 — Thanks to Fred WA2MMX

146.805 — Thanks to Hudson Valley Contesters and Albany Amateur Radio Association.

Also:

147.570 Is our official Simplex Frequency when needed.

3.985 mHz +/- QRM, HF — If no repeaters are available.



Hudson Valley Towers

Tower Installation — Antennas
New Installations
Repairs

Ray Higgins W2RE
Lee Imber WW2DX

www.hudsonvalleytowers.com

service@hudsonvalleytowers.com



Dana, N2KN appointed Chairman of the RVWARS DX Award

The RVWARS DX Award has been around for quite a few years and has been one of the Club's best kept secret for most of its existence.

Dana, N2KN, has offered to bring the award back to life. . . Or at least, wake it up!

The handsome 8½x11 award was designed by the late Dave Watrous (WD2K) using the background drawing created especially for RVWARS by the late Carol Heatherington who was the Middle School Art teacher at the Catskill Central School district in the 1970s and 1980s. She also did the original drawing of the *Rip's Report* Banner that appears at the top of this newsletter.

Award Requirements

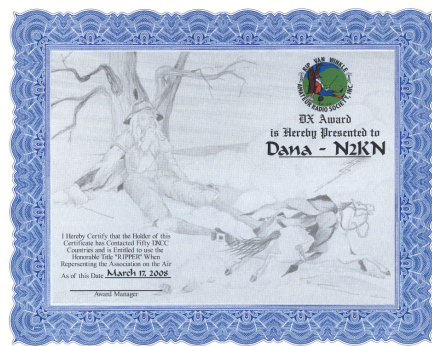
This DX award will be given to any member contacting fifty different DX countries. Endorsements will be given at the seventy five, one hundred and One hundred fifty levels, and at every ten above 150.

Endorsements will be available for Single Band/Single Mode, Mixed Band/Single Mode, Multi Band/Single Mode and Multi Band/Multi Mode.

Submission: A RVWARS member, being above reproach, needs only to request the certificate when the required contacts are in the log. Contacts on the WARC bands do not count for this award.

A separate certificate is available for VFH/UHF contacts.

Contact Dana at n2kn@verizon.net or on the weekly vhf nets. Our website also has info about the Award.



The RVWARS DX Award Certificate

Frequency Change for Time Station CHU

After 70 years of broadcasting Canada's official time, the National Research Council's short-wave station CHU will move the transmission frequency for the 7335 kHz transmitter to 7850 kHz. The change goes into effect at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2009.

Broadcasting 24 hours a day, CHU is a part of NRC's system for disseminating official time throughout Canada. Listeners hear tones to mark the seconds, a voice to announce the time in French and English and digital data to set computers. The atomic clocks at CHU are part of the ensemble of clocks in the time and frequency research laboratories at the National Research Council Canada in Ottawa. The NRC clocks are used in conjunction with clocks in the time laboratories of other countries to construct the internationally accepted scale of time, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time). Time transmissions on 3330 and 14670 kHz are not affected and will continue as before.

In April 2007, the ITU reallocated the 7300-7350 kHz band from a fixed service to a broadcasting service. Since then, the NRC said there has been a lot of interference on the 7335 kHz

NY City Museum Hams In Danger of Losing Club Ham Station

Dear Fellow Amateurs,

The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club- WB2JSM is putting out an SOS (save our station) call for your help. The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club has been demonstrating amateur radio to the visiting public for over 35 years as an independent exhibit at the New York Hall of Science Children's Museum located in Queens, New York.

The museum is undergoing a major renovation project and wants us out for good. We have started a petition which we want you to sign and circulate for us in order to help preserve a great ham radio asset by showing officials at the museum that you value what we do.

Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/6ljost> to read more about our plight and sign our petition. We have logged over 10,000 contacts from the station and even if you're not in our log your help will let us continue to talk up amateur radio and create the next generation of ham radio operators.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Golero KC2CBA
Club Liaison Officer

www.hosarc.org (the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club)
www.nyhallsci.org (the Hall of Science museum)

frequency from many "short wave" broadcasters around the world.

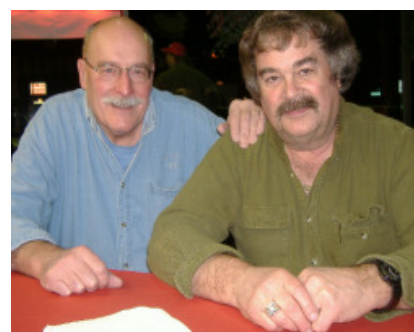
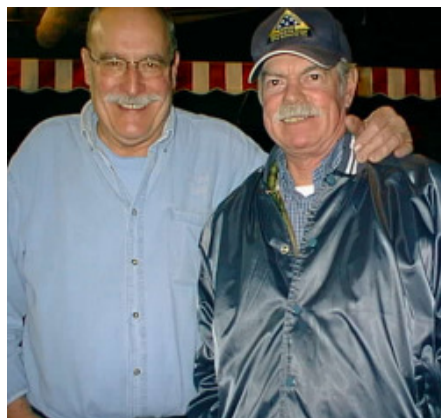
The 7335 kHz signal has been popular with US hams as it was just above the 40 meter band.

GOODIE FEST



2008

Pictures by John, W2JSN
(more at www.w2jsn.com)



STORM DAMAGE ON THE HILL



The last segment of road at the top.



Downed pole with telephone box.



New Pole and Transformer



Damage to the AC Line.