

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

Meeting 10/15

Rip's Report

October 2012

Happy
Birthday

Paul-KC2IK
Ken-N2SQW

**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

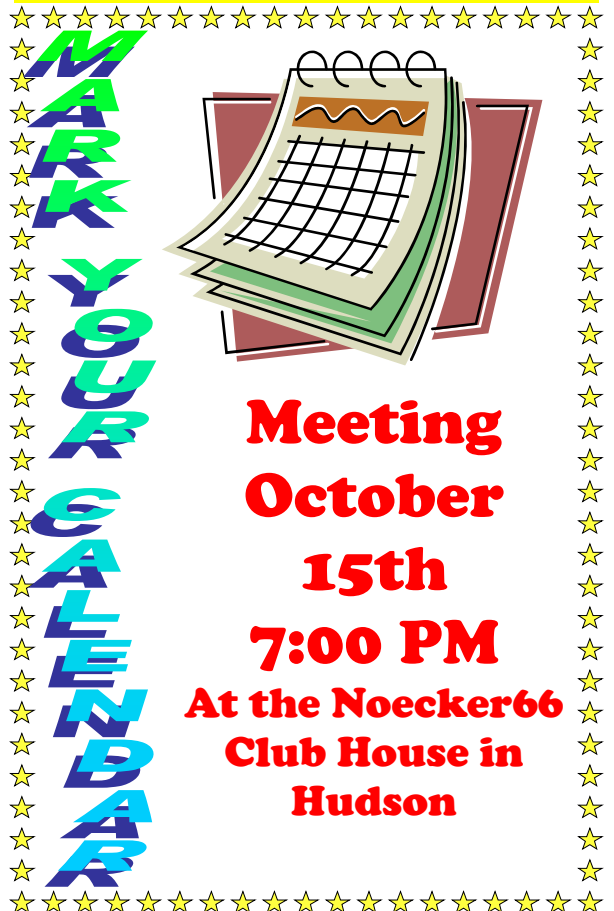
DUES!

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.



OCTOBER MEETING

Noecker66 Showroom (Club House)

10/15/2012—7:00 PM

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/GCNYARESACES/>

Echolink Node #6269

IRLP Node #4207

REPEATER REPORT

The defective antenna has been repaired! We will need to hire someone to put it back on the tower at the 100' level. It will be used as a spare and in the meantime I will connect it to the Vertex repeater so that we can check it out on occasion.

Still have no more mice, maybe we have them under control finally. It appears that they might have been getting in through the plastic drain tube with about 1/2" opening in it. That is now covered with screen.

The ventilation in the old shelter is working great. Just a small squirrel cage type vent and the shelter is dried out very nicely. I leave it running 24/7.

The heat/ac units still need to be opened up and checked for mouse damage.

RVW WORK PARTY

We got the stone covering the new service to the old shelter built up so that it should protect the conduit from snow plows. Carl and Karen and Jim helped get that done. The site looks good and should not need any more attention until spring when the weeds start to grow again. I have been up since the wind storm and just a very few small limbs on the ground. Hopefully the Village will get some work done on the road up the hill soon! It gets worse with each rain storm!

TREASURERS REPORT

I am going to try to include a copy of the monthly treasurers report in the newsletter each month. It is money that belongs to all members even if you do not attend the meetings. It is a brief outline of where we get and spend money each month. If anyone would like to see more detail please let me know. It is on page 3 of this issue.

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
Monday October 15
Noecker66 Club House

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 September 17, 2012

- Meeting called to order at 7:01pm by President. N2JVE. Attendance 22.
- Secretary's report read. Motion to accept by AC2DK, second by AC2JM.
- Treasurer's report Checking \$1885.65, Savings \$1011.21, Petty Cash, \$50.00, Total \$2946.86

• Repeater

Broken antenna was taken apart. Stan contacted RFS to complain. RFS supplied replacement part at no cost. We will have to hire someone to place the antenna at the 100 foot level. SWR on antenna is good.

• ARES/RACES

Columbia County: Meeting held September 1 at EOC. Simulated Emergency Test in the works.

Greene County: Waiting for permission to install the 147.09 repeater, putting antenna on Cairo firehouse. Greene Co net Thursdays at 7:00pm on 147.21 and N2LEN repeaters. ARES/RACES meetings the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

• New Business

RVWARS is looking for a new historian to replace WA2UET, who is stepping down due to time constraints. Anyone interested may contact the officers. Plaque from Greene County thanking RVWARS for use of the 147.21 repeater

• Old Business

Motion by WE2G seconded by KC2YKQ to spend up to \$300.00 to place spare antenna on monopole. Carried

The thank you to Hudson River Bank and Trust Foundation appeared in the Hudson Register-Star Friday, September 14.

- Meeting closed at 7:19pm. Motion by AC2DK, Seconded by KC2OGK.
50-50 drawing won by KC2YKO and KC2YKR.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas J Cody

WE2G, Secretary

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

Treasurers Report

September 17, 2012

Balance Fwd. Checking Acct \$891.79

RECEIPTS:

Tag Sale \$1050.65

Dues

Donation

Total 1050.65

EXPENSES:

Repeater \$

NYSEG \$42.27

Tag Sale \$14.52

Total \$56.79

Checking Bal \$1885.65

Petty Cash \$50.00

Savings Acct Bal \$1011.21

Total RVWARS monies \$2946.86





Wind Damaged Trees

Sept. 23, 2012 Carl J. Verderber WA2UIX

As a radio amateur that uses many trees on the property to hold up multiple wire antennas, trees are my friends and wind is my enemy. I dread high winds and strong storm fronts – and that's just what happened on Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012. A very strong storm front came through my location and left me a present. Three large locust trees located in the center of my back yard were knocked down. Being 60 feet tall and about 60 years old, the removal job was too much for one 67 year old to handle within a weekend so my son Jonathan and my grandson Brandon came over on Saturday and helped remove most of the trees. When we finished I looked up and around the yard at even more open area and said "now I can put up one or two more antennas!"



Sometimes an enemy can cause pain but the result can be positive! With a more clear and open yard the possibilities are endless. END

RVWARS HISTORIAN

I have been Historian for the RVW Club for several years now. I thought I could do the job when I accepted it. I started scanning documents and pictures some time ago but I just cannot seem to get the job done. I am not sure why.

Anyway it is not right that I sit on top of all this material and do nothing with it. It needs to be scanned and sorted and put on a DVD for all to enjoy.

I NEED someone that is interested and capable of doing this job to take it over.

PLEASE respond: wa2uet@taconic.net

GREENE COUNTY ARC NOTES

Hi just a quick rundown on last meeting.

Mark KD2CCO joined our ranks, lets welcome him to the group. We are going to participate in this years JOTA at camp tri-mont in East Jewett, on the weekend of Oct.20-21. It is the 55th anniversary of Jamboree on the air for the Scouts. We are going to set up a couple of HF rigs. We will try to get some dipoles up before the event, I will keep you posted.

The clubs uhf repeater is moving along, the can's are being tuned now thanks to Len N2LEN, Bob KB2SOJ, and Bill WA2PVV. We are installing it at the Cairo Fire House, we have most everything we need.

Len N2LEN, Dave KM2O, and I will be attending a mock up disaster drill for Greene Co. at the EOC in Cairo on Oct.5, also on the Oct.6 there is a SET (simulated emergency test) that we are doing for RACES, it starts at 11:00 am local, can be heard around 3.993 MHz.

Congratulations to Len N2LEN for getting the ARRL Special Service Award, There is a luncheon at Biagio's restaurant in Paramus N.J. on Nov 11 2012, to present the awards, let me or Len know if you want to go ASAP.

Keep an ear out for a new repeater on 147.300 pl 114.8 it will be linked to Len's system, should be up soon. We have a lot going on, get involved if you can, thanks..... (---... ---)

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

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.

**The thing about doing nothing is...
You never know when you're done!**

1957 Popular Science Transistor Radio Project

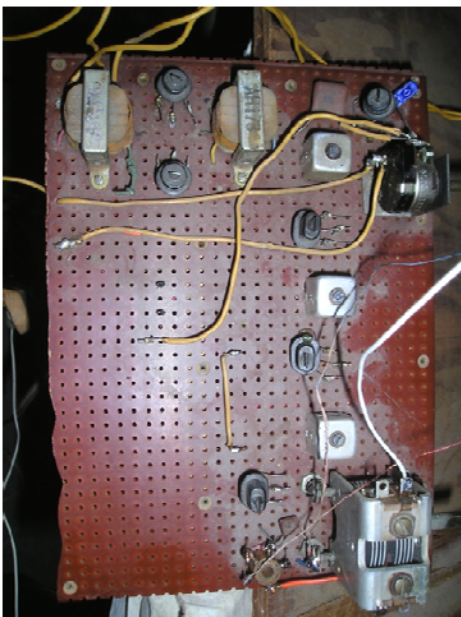
Sept. 27, 2012

By: Carl J. Verderber WA2UJX

This very interesting project came to me from my retired barber who has been an Amateur for around 60 years. He asked me if I could finish the radio project he started back in 1957 and to get the radio to function properly. Luckily, he saved the article in an envelope placed inside the home made cabinet which made this restoration easier to complete.



Looking at the July '57 Popular Science pages that described a portable AM radio that could be built with the very newest of technologies must have filled him with amazement. Once he committed to ordering the components from the parts lists his time must have been filled with anticipation until they arrived. Imagine being the first on the block to have a real transistor radio that you've built yourself.



The radio is a 6 transistor superhet of the conventional configuration; a con-

verter, two IF stages, one audio driver and a push-pull final audio power stage with all components mounted to a perf board except for the "ferrite loop" antenna and the speaker. Considering the transistor was invented in 1948 with the first consumer radio products produced in 1954 (Regency TR-1 portable AM radio) the transistors used for this project were advanced for their time.

The restoration was straight forward as the uncompleted radio was carefully stored for 55 years. Two electrolytic caps needed to be replaced but all other components were in good "as-new" condition. The most prevalent problem was solder joints. I had to re-solder most of the connections. A quick IF alignment with a 455 KHZ signal generator and performing oscillator/RF tracking adjustments made the radio come to life.



An interesting type of tubing was found on some component leads. The instructions mention the use of spaghetti tubing to stop wire leads from touching each other but the use of Perciatelli tubular pasta rods is beyond my comprehension. Because pasta actually works as an insulator (just as long as you can keep the mice from eating them) I left that feature alone.



The radio performs well although dial tracking is not perfect. It drives the 5 inch speaker to room filling volume and with reasonable fidelity.



I can't wait to see the smile on the face of the 87 year old Amateur who waited 55 years to hear this radio play. END

Curmudgeon Reports

I cannot find any more of WD2K's Curmudgeon articles! If anyone has some newsletters prior to 1999 with some of Dave's articles in them please share them with me.

Meantime it would really be nice if someone would take that role of curmudgeon over and send a monthly article to the newsletter. Or any other kind of column for that matter.

I sometimes have a problem filling this NL with something that I think is interesting. I enjoy putting the NL together but I am not a writer and need help from you guys. PLEASE consider a monthly column. I know that some of you are capable of writing.

Thanks, Stan

FACEBOOK FOR HAMS!

Recommended by Todd, KC2YKM

go to, <http://hamwall.ning.com>





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@mhccable.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

Wa2uyy
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
wa2uyy@aol.com

RAILROAD TALK

I will try to give a short overview of Railroad communications. My Knowledge of the use of railroad communications is based on my experiences as a Communications Maintainer on several railroads in the northeast. Listening on the railroad channels, you can hear a variety of operations taking place. If you listen on the "Road" channel, you may hear train crews talking to each other, to train dispatchers, to track inspectors, or equipment defect detectors. The railroad channels are in the 160 MHz area, I will not list frequencies here, there are many sites listing them. The defect detector typically will give a message with the location, axle count (generated by a magnetic transducer), hopefully "no defects" and a train speed. If defects are found (usually a "hot box"-wheel bearing or overheating from a stuck brake) detected by an infrared detector and processed by a computer, correlating it with an axle count, it is announced over the radio (speech synthesizer) and the train will usually stop and the crew will inspect their train. The defect will also be reported by computer to the central computer and also , is correlated with the car identification number so the car can be identified other than by counting axles.

The car id tag is similar to an EZpass tag ,but doesn't contain a battery, which would result in them having to be replaced every few years. The AEI (Automatic Equipment Identification) tag rectifies the 900 MHz signal from the tag reader (about 2 watts), which powers the electronics in the tag . The tag acts as an antenna reflecting the received signal and modulating it (reverse backscatter modulation—ask some of our smarter members how that works). The tag reader receives this signal and decodes the information which was programmed in the tag: the type of wheel bearing (helps in interpreting temperature info), the length of the car, type of car. This information is all sent to the mainframe computer by phone (data) line, or if the tag reader is adjacent to a defect detector, directly to it. This allows the railroad to keep track of where its cars are and their condition . In the old days (when I started on the railroad), a clerk would have to meet each train as it entered a yard ,writing down car numbers as each car entered the yard. It was a major development when video cameras were installed at yard entrances, allowing the clerk to video tape

the cars and enter the numbers in heated or air conditioned comfort. There were many clerks involved in keeping track of where cars were, so you can imagine the savings involved with computerization of this information (and a few jobs added for electronics types.) These days, the AEI tag readers are strategically placed to ensure that the car is placed in the correct train and reads all cars entering a yard . It was not unknown for a car to go missing for a long time in the old days of manually tallying cars.

Conversations you might hear on the road or dispatcher channels would be track workers requesting permission to use/occupy tracks-it is very embarrassing to be working on a track when a train comes along, so you want to be sure you have the instructions correct. The train dispatcher communicates with a train by using remote controlled base stations located about every 20 miles along the tracks. There is a data line to each radio base with a/d converters on each end. It used to be done with a leased telephone line, but data lines are much cheaper. The locomotives have a 45 watt radio on board, powered by the 72 volts used for cab lights and electronics ,with an internal dc-dc converter for the actual 12 volt radio. The conductor on a freight train usually carries a 5 watt walkie talkie for communicating with the engineer when he has to inspect his train or other remote needs. Showing my age, I remember them carrying a 10 watt, 22 D cell powered radio; imagine carrying that the length of a 150 car train for 2 or three trips. It is a great safety feature to have all people in the area monitoring the road or dispatchers channels . I have personally heard a dispatcher give someone permission to pass a switch ,only to be interrupted by "hey I'm on that track". I removed the radio from a squashed track inspection truck, luckily the truck driver heard the defect detector announce that a train had just passed it ,the driver called on the radio and jumped as the train came around the bend. The radio was fine, the mounting bracket had to be pried out .

This is a short summary of some of the uses of radio on the railroad . My ham license (and commercial license) led to a career in two way radio ,which was fun and rewarding .The commercial license got me in the door for an interview ,the ham license got me hired.

Carl—WB2TCV





Ballston Spa Ham Fest 2012



RIPPERS AUGUST PICNIC