

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

Meeting 9/17

Rip's Report

September 2012

Happy
Birthday

Dan-KC2JTM
George-KE2EB
Pete-KW2D
Len-N2LEN

Pete-NX2X
Carl-WA2UJX
Tom-WE2G

**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.



**Meeting
September
17th
7:00 PM
At the Noecker66
Club House in
Hudson**

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Finally back to our regular monthly meetings!

Noecker66 Showroom (Club House)

9/17/2012—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 disassembled. The tuning stub section is bent and RFS said that is likely the problem. They said probably from being dropped. I am currently waiting for a price to replace that section along with some documentation on price and reassembly.

This antenna is a spare, and it is worth about \$1000 and even though we did not pay for it, I think we need to get it fixed and installed back on the tower at the 100' position. I will continue to work on these guys to get the information that we need to get the job done.

So far no more mice in the air conditioners. They must have been crawling in through the drain tube. I put screen over the ends and have seen no more since. All else seems to be working fine.

We also hired ROMA fence to cut an opening in the chain link fence so that we can access the AC unit.

RVW WORK PARTY

I would still like to get the stone spread over the rough spots etc. up at the site. Other than that there is not a lot of work to do right now. I will try to schedule a work party in the fall when the weather is better for working.

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 September 17
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/>

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

Treasurers Report

September 5, 2012

Balance Fwd. Checking Acct \$1107.49

RECEIPTS:

Tag Sale	\$970.65
Dues	\$20.00
Donation	\$10.00
Total	1000.65

EXPENSES:

Repeater	\$164.20
NYSEG	\$40.91 + \$42.27 July and August
Picnic	\$27.59
Tag Sale	\$14.52
Petty cash acct	\$13.00
Total	\$302.49

Checking Bal \$1805.65

Petty Cash \$50.00

Savings Acct Bal \$1011.21

Total RVWARS monies \$2923.65

LABOR DAY TAG SALE BENEFIT RVW, SUCCESS!

The tag sale ran from 8/30 to 9/3 with incredible weather and success. Thanks big time to just three members of our club we made \$970.65 for our treasury. Jim—KC2OGK, Barry—WA2KLP and Mary—KC2SAG gave up their time to help make this tag sale a success. And they donated tons of stuff for the sale.

There was also a LOT of radio related stuff from the family of SK Bob Gay—WB2GMT.

There was a handful of hams that stopped by and Preston, AC2DK was the winner taking the most home with him. He filled his pickup!

Imagine what we could do if a dozen of our 70 plus members would get involved!





Duplicating A Johnson Adventurer Screen Modulator

By: Carl J. Verderber, Aug, 27, 2012

Last Month I wrote about restoring an SW-3 National receiver. It was one piece among several that I was given by an older HAM that is leaving the area. All the pieces of gear were stored in a damp but not wet basement and probably had not seen the light of day for 40 years. I want to share a restoration project on another piece of this gear that might be interesting to our club members.

Johnson Co. made a lot of models of transmitters from the 40's thru the 60's but none so diminutive as the Johnson Adventurer. It is a three tube, 80M thru 10M, 50 Watt input CW transmitter that has the ability to be used in AM mode using an optional two tube screen modulator.



The first thing on the menu was to find an owners and assembly manual for the Adventurer. A search on the Internet led me to a site where a full set of manuals and diagrams were available via free downloads. After printing all the pages I sent a note to the site's owner thanking him for making them available to me.

I started with disassembly, cleaning and testing all parts. All tubes tested good (1 – 807 RF AMP, 1 – 6AG7 OSC and 1 – 5U4 PWR RECT), and all components tested OK (even the 60 year old electrolytic filter caps) but when I inserted a known good 75M 3885 KHZ crystal in the socket, the rig didn't function. It was a puzzling process – taking voltage readings and trying to identify the culprit causing the malfunction. Then by accident I found a ground lug that had voltage on it – and instantly I understood my problem! It is an old problem that always surprises me by popping up from time-to-time for 40 years. It is called dissimilar metal corro-

See Johnson Page 7

Kenny (Chief) Davis, KB2KFV, SK

Kenneth T. Davis, Jr., former Green Island Chief of Police, died Monday, September 3, 2012 at the Samaritan Hospital in Troy after being stricken ill at his home. A native and lifelong resident of Green Island, he was son of the late Kenneth and Muriel O'Donnell Davis.

He was a graduate of St. Joseph's School in Green Island, LaSalle Institute in Troy and Hudson Valley Community College. Ken started his career in law enforcement as a dispatcher for the Green Island Police Department.

He followed in his father's footsteps becoming a patrolman in 1974, sergeant in 1981 and served as chief from 1992 until retiring in 1996. Ken was a communicant of the former St. Joseph's Church in Green Island, a member of the Troy Amateur Radio Association, where he served as past president and on the board of directors.

He was a member of the NYS Chiefs of Police, the NE Chiefs Association, the Watervliet Lodge of Elks, the Cohoes Loyal Order of Moose, the Sons of the Legion in the Legnard-Curtin Post, the American Radio Relay League and was a member and past president of Chapter 8 of the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club. Ken was married for 32 years to his best friend and soul mate, Marilyn Knapp Davis; brother-in-law of Linda and Jim O'Brien.

Ken is also survived by his best friend, Steve (Rita Patrick) Watson; his caregiver, George DeLong; his dog, Sable and several cousins, nieces, nephews and godchildren.

Funeral services, led by Father Thomas Kelly, will be held on Friday at 11:30 a.m. at the McNulty Funeral Home, 147 Hudson Avenue, Green Island. Interment will follow at St. Agnes Cemetery in Cohoes.

Calling hours will be on Thursday from 4 to 7 at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested contributions in memory of Ken be made to either the Troy Amateur Radio Association or in care of the funeral home.

Please go to:

www.mcnyltyfuneralhomegreenisland.com to leave a message for the family.

Is Amateur Radio Too Focused on EmComm?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup, a Yahoo Group mailing list for anyone looking for help with anything related to amateur radio, one ham asked "Over lunch today I read the September issue of QST, which is heavily EmComm oriented. The articles were interesting, but the op-ed piece on page 98 seemed a little over the top to me...Has this focus of this intensity always been a part of ham radio and I just wasn't expecting it? How has it evolved over the years?"

To answer the question, another replied by posting Section 97.1, namely the principles behind the amateur radio service:

Sec. 97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

See KB6NU pg 7

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.

Never tell your problems to anyone...20% don't care and the other 80% are glad you have them.

A NOTE FROM A NEW HAM!

Good Morning Stan:

I sat down and did the math for my testing performance as a member of the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society and here are the results. I was granted my first Amateur Radio License on 05/03/2012. It took approximately 102 days to obtain all 3 licenses. $102 \text{ days} \div 3 = 34 \text{ days per License}$ (while working a minimum of 10 hours per day except on the weekends). My scores were: 1 wrong on the Technician License, 1 wrong on the General License, and 0 wrong on my Extra License.

None of this would have transpired without the help and support of the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society. I can not thank the organization enough for helping me accomplish this goal, and very much look forward to the new adventure.

The members of Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society are some of the most dedicated, educated, and enjoyable people I have had a chance to spend time with in quite a while.

You people didn't have to help me grow – but you did, and I know I can never repay you for the time you have invested. What I can do, is what I am trying to do now, and that is to say “Thank-You” to one and all!

Stan, I don't mean to be bragging, but I am extremely pleased to have done it, and had to tell someone.

With respect,
Jim Learnihan, AC2JM

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

Wa2uuy
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
wa2uuy@aol.com

STATION MASTER ANTENNA FOR SALE

White fiberglass Station Master antenna, last used on 151.2 MHz. Includes mounting hardware. Pickup Only.
Call Carl 845-876-2568, 5PM to 9PM
Mon-Fri, all day Sat/Sun

Johnson continued from pg 4

sion! All equipment made with aluminum chassis could have this problem. Where ground lugs are attached the bonding is done using steel washers, nuts and bolts. When new, these bonds are adequate to return all power and signal returns to common ground – but when this equipment lingers in a damp environment for 20 or 40 years the aluminum contacting the steel bonding fastener will become an insulator and that causes signal and power circuits to “float” because there is no common ground to chassis. In this case, the chassis didn’t have corrosion you could see but by first loosening and then tightening all chassis ground point bolts, we able to get the grounds back to new condition. The rig worked FB after that!

Notice the blue transformer to the left of the rig. It is a bucking transformer that drops my house voltage from 125 VAC to 113 VAC. When new, this rig was designed to function from 105 VAC to 115 VAC power. Any voltage higher than that will produce over stressed tube filaments and high voltages that are well over the component operating limits. Operating in this critical area will cause component failure in a short time.

Now that I have a working 25 Watt output CW transmitter I started to think about using it in AM mode. That idea was soon to be as surprise in the way it was solved.

Noting the details of the optional screen modulator in the owner’s manual, I searched the Internet for the model unit I wanted. No luck! Nothing available for sale. Then I had the bright idea to home-brew one of these modulators myself. I have every component and part in the shack to make the modulator and the project will offer me another challenge.

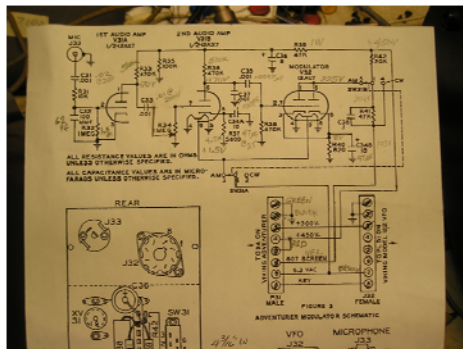


Diagram of modulator

So I started on Sunday morning and by 10 PM that evening, I had the unit as-

sembled but not functioning correctly. I used a “surface mount” 4 X 4 X 2-1/4 inch outlet box then made a 4 X 2 inch sub-chassis out of 0.060 inch aluminum plate to mount two 9 pin miniature tube sockets. Two old fashion terminal strips, a slide switch, a mike connector, a piece of multi-wire cable, and a 1 MEG pot (which I didn’t use) made up most of the hardware. The two tubes needed were a 12AX7 and a 12AU7.

Monday evening was de-bugging time that exposed two incorrectly connected resistors.



Restoring to function I had a 10 WATT AM transmitter that worked reasonably well. Using a period correct Sure-701A microphone the audio is not FM quality but I can be understood! It was a fun project for me and I hope some of you will be able to build some home-brew projects yourselves.



So if you hear a PW AM signal out there it might be me give us a contact please and let me know what you think about this 50 year old rig.
END

KB6NU Continued from pg 4

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur’s unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

He went on to say, “I think that 97.1 (a) addresses your question.”

I like that reply a lot. First, it shows that providing emergency and public-service communications has been a part of amateur radio since its beginnings. Some hams are extremely focused on this, and I applaud them. In my opinion, the piece referred to in the latest QST was not over the top.

I think, however, that some hams do sometimes go overboard on emcomm, and act as if it’s the only reason that ham radio exists. It’s not. As you can see, the rules describe five different “purposes” for amateur radio. Emcomm might be the first, but it’s only one of five. We need to keep in mind the other four as well. I personally like (e), and would like to see amateur radio actually do more to promote international good will.

What do you think?

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When he's not pondering the place of emergency communications in amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU, writes books about ham radio. He is currently feverishly trying to finish the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Guide. You can read excerpts from this upcoming book on his website, <http://www.kb6nu.com/>. You can e-mail him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at cwgeek@kb6nu.com



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T
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S
A
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E





Bike MS 2012: Hudson River Ramble

http://bikenyr.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/NYRBikeEvents?fr_id=18094&pg=entry

September 22, 2012

Birch Hill in Schodack, NY

<http://www.birchhillcatering.com/>

Contact Karen, KS2O if you can help with communications!

KsmithKB2UUC@aol.com