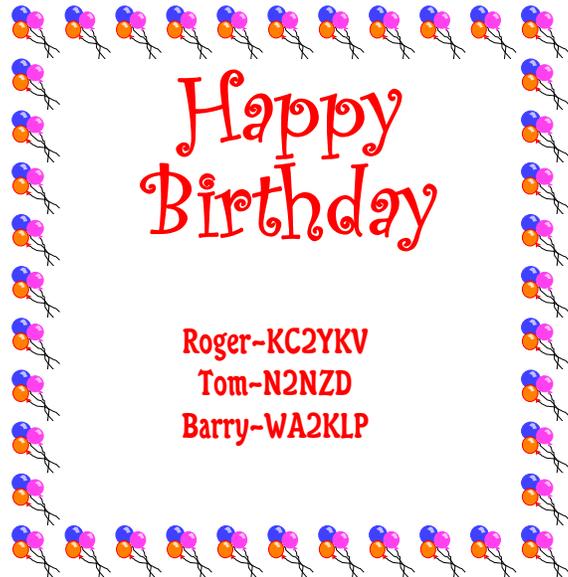


# CHRISTMAS GOODY FEST

# Rip's Report

December 2014



## Happy Birthday

Roger-KC2YKV  
Tom-N2NZD  
Barry-WA2KLP

**ALL THREE REPEATERS  
ARE WORKING GREAT!  
GIVE THEM A TRY.  
REPORTS ARE WELCOME!**

*2015 dues are \$25.00 per individual \$30.00 for family \$5.00 for students and active Military are free.*

**2015 Dues**  
Mail to:  
Stan Engel, WA2UET  
PO Box 153  
Ghent, NY 12075  
Or bring with you to meeting  
Make checks Payable to RVWARS

**2015 DUES ARE DUE!**



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.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



**Meeting and GOODY FEST  
December 15  
Churchtown Firehouse  
Directions on page 6  
All are Welcome**

# MEETING 7:00 PM

## GOODY FEST FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

**The Club will supply the main dish, you bring a goody!**

See photos and past Newsletters and much much more club information at:  
[www.w2jsn.com](http://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](http://www.rvwars.com)

Join our Yahoo Group at the bottom of our web page. [www.rvwars.com](http://www.rvwars.com) Simply enter your email address.

**DECEMBER MEETING AT 7:00 PM GOODY FEST**

**WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK CHECK IT OUT**

## GOODY FEST

As always the club will furnish probably some pizza and soda and chips. Members should bring a goody of some kind to share. (if possible, not required). Bring family and friends. We have **LOTS** of room! Please join us!

## FYI

RVWARS is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. As such all monetary donations are tax deductible and donations of equipment are deductible. Please consider donating your idle equipment to the club for our use or for sale at the annual tag sale or auction.

The new Technicians from the last class at E. Chatham with Wayne, K2WG teaching:

- KD2GLL William Pilgrim
- KD2GLM William Simons
- KD2GLN Matt Pirrone
- KD2GLO David Sweet
- KD2GLP Tom Dias
- KD2GLQ Vicki Besterman
- KD2GLR Gene Truesdell
- KC1BWO Dan Salzarulo

The upgrades to General are:

- KB2OQQ Tom Benjamin
- KA2YLZ Frank Stark
- KD2CCU Joline Pirrone

All of the new Tech's will have a complementary 2014 membership to the RVW club. Congratulations to all!!!

## RVW WORK PARTY

We did not get the stone raked off this summer. It is not a big deal but would look better if we can get it done next spring. I will let all know when I can help. We will also have to do some weed eating in the spring. That to was neglected this year. Other than that there is not a lot that needs to be done at the site. Todd took the junk away. We are in pretty good shape on the hill.

If we can get the money through a grant next year we will put some solar panels on the roof of the shelter.

**TO USE THE BELOW CODES SIMPLY KEY UP AND ENTER THE CODE WITH YOUR KEY PAD**

### SOME FUN 147.210 REPEATER DTMF CODES

Site Info:	Daily High/Low	
<u>228</u> -Outdoor Temp >	<u>900</u>	
<u>229</u> -Indoor Temp >	<u>910</u>	Resets at
<u>230</u> -DC Volt Bat 1 >	<u>930</u>	1:00 AM
<u>231</u> -AC Volt read >	<u>920</u>	Daily
<u>232</u> -DC Volt Bat 2 >	<u>940</u>	

\*\*\*\*\*  
450-To check your input to the repeater. Key up and type 450, when it says "ready" **QUICKLY** key up and record your short message , un-key and it will play it back as it heard it.

### WEATHER RADIO

- 310-ON
- 325-OFF

These codes will work on 449.925 as well as 2 Meters.

I would like to add a basic weather station sometime as well so we could access wind speed etc. up there.

Feel Free to try them!



*Upcoming Events*

**TO BE  
ANNOUNCED**

**ARES Meeting  
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 — Tom Gutierrez, N2NZD  
Vice President — Don Peterson, W1SWM  
Secretary — Carl Roby, WB2TCV  
Treasurer — Stan Engel WA2UET  
Historian — Carl Verderber WA2UJX  
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](mailto:wa2uet@taconic.net)  
**Yahoo Group**  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

**NOVEMBER MEETING**

The November 17, 2014 regular meeting of the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society brought 16 members and friends for a short meeting followed by a scheduled SKYWARN session. During the meeting there was a discussion on installing an HF station complete with antenna at the fire house. Chris, representing the firehouse, reported that the firehouse board is anxious to have an HF station located there and will work with the club to get whatever type of antenna we want, located where we want it. They will arrange for someone to open the firehouse whenever we would like to schedule a work party. He mentioned the firehouse is affiliated with the Red Cross and an HF station would compliment that relationship. The station would be locked up except during our meetings.

The members voted to acquire a weather station whenever Stan, WA2UET, finds the right time to buy it.

Tom, N2NZD, reported he created a Facebook page for RVWARS.

A new Tech class is scheduled in February and March followed by a VE session by Jules, K2KGI, and Wayne, K2WG.

The raffle of a Baofeng 2 meter/220MHz radio was won by Jim Tuttle, KD2DNj. Congratulations!

The December meeting will be our annual Christmas party.

**Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc.**

**Treasurers Report  
November 17, 2014**

**Balance Fwd. Checking Acct \$1366.42**

<b>Repts:</b>	Dues	\$
	Raffle	\$21.00
	Auction Item	\$300.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$321.00</b>

<b>Exp:</b>	NYSEG	\$54.73
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$54.73</b>

<b>Checking Bal</b>	<b>\$1632.69</b>
<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Savings Acct Bal</b>	<b>\$1011.43</b>

**Total RVWARS monies \$2694.12**



## MUSING OF A CURMUDGEON



While talking on two meters the other day I was told that it was wrong to expect the newer members (ah, yes and some of the older) of our hobby to maintain the same standards of operating etiquette that we had demanded of ourselves in the past. If we kept doing this we would "end up having them leave and there would be less numbers to justify our existence".

Choking on my coffee I sputtered into the mike "so what". Of course that only offended them further but my point was that this is OUR hobby and we do have the right to insist that certain things be done our way. If others don't like what they find they are free to find another hobby.

Of course things will change with the passage of time and this is the way it should be but to insist that we intentionally be less than we can be is an insult to all of us. If your hobby is wood working you try to be the best and achieve a craftsman's level. It is the same with Amateurs, we want to do our best and strive to improve our knowledge and performance. Why should we do less?

No, this has nothing to do with class of license, it has all to do with class of person. The best aspect of the hobby, other than many of the folks you find in it, is it's infinite variety. There is room for all and interesting areas to explore that will take many lifetimes.

As Amateurs we have always shared a desire for knowledge and our ability to communicate over distance lets us satisfy this desire in ways we could never dream possible. Who else can talk to the astronauts, a missionary treating a primitive tribe, a world leader or the ham across town who shares a common interest.

We enjoy a freedom of the world that few others will ever know and yet we are told that we should "dumb down" our hobby so "the numbers" will continue to grow. What we have is too special to lose to the "numbers". The decision must be made that it is this uniqueness that makes the hobby what it is. If we lose it let's lose it because we demanded our right to be different. If we don't do this we will lose what we have anyway.

Yes we need a larger cross section of women, youth and minorities but we need these folks to share our interest in our hobby. They will enrich us but they will be part of our hobby. They will not just be numbers!  
de WD2K

(by Dave Watrous, Feb, 2000)

## WEATHER STATION

We could be adding a weather station to the repeater site soon. It would be able to report more accurate temperature and wind conditions at the repeater site. It should give us a better idea of what causes some noise on our repeaters on occasion. Readings will be accessible via your key pad. I am waiting for some reviews on the system before ordering. We will need to purchase a Davis Vantage Vue weather station and that will interface with the controller. Included functions at this point will be; wind speed & direction, outdoor temperature, indoor & outdoor humidity, wind speed high, outdoor temp high and low. Hopefully a rain report soon.

## CURMUDGEON NEEDED!

It's imperative that we find another "Curmudgeon" as soon as possible! I am out of Dave, WD2K's great Musings. This one is a reprint from our 2011 newsletter.

Someone out there should be able to carry on the tradition. Please send me your Musings!!!

## PLEASE COME TO YOUR CLUB MEETINGS.

### **WE NEED YOU!**

#### **Directions from the north to Churchtown firehouse...**

Take exit 12 off of I90 onto route 9 south. Travel 4.6 miles to the traffic circle and take the first right out of the circle (not the mall) onto route 9H. About 11.5 miles you will come to a traffic light intersection of 9H and route 66. Go straight through that light for about 3.6 miles to the next traffic light at 9H and route 23. Again go straight through that light for about 1.1 miles to a left turn off of 9H onto County Route 27. It is marked. Stay on route 27 for about 2.5 miles and the Firehouse is on the right with a sign out front. Park in the lot just before the building.

#### **Firehouse from RVW Bridge and 9G.**

From the intersection of 9G and Route 23 take 23 about 2.7 miles to the traffic light at the intersection of Route 9. Go straight through the traffic light and travel about 2.7 miles on route 9 to the next traffic light at the intersection of 9H and 82. Turn left at that light onto Route 9H about 2.8 miles to County 27. Stay on route 27 for about 2.5 miles and the Firehouse is on the right with a sign out front. Park in the lot just before the building.

## AMAZON DONATES TO ARRL!

Amazon.com has a program named Smile that donates 0.5% of your purchase price to the registered charity of your choice. There is no cost to you. The ARRL is now registered as a charitable organization for the program.

To participate, go to <http://smile.amazon.com>. If you don't already have an Amazon account, you'll need to set one up. You'll be asked to sign up for the Smile program which is only a couple of clicks to select a registered organization. Simply select "AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE INC"

Once you've signed up, please do your Amazon shopping by going to <http://smile.amazon.com>, and 0.5% of your purchases will be donated to the ARRL. Signing up is a one time process.

This is a simple and painless way to contribute to the League. For a FAQ about the program, visit <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

73 de Mike N2YBB

ARRL Hudson Division  
Director: Mike Lisenco, N2YBB  
[n2ybb@arrl.org](mailto:n2ybb@arrl.org)



# RVWARS REPEATER CHATTER

We have STILL not tested the Generator setup for the repeater. I just have not gotten much done in some time. I will try to get that done before something major happens.

I did finally get a remote power relay on the 50 amp power supply so that we can turn it off to test the batteries without having to go up on the hill each time.

Also got a remote switch on the Heat/AC so we can turn it on before we get there and be comfy on entry.

There are no signs of mice in the shelter anymore. The only unwanted critters in there are spiders.

Stan, WA2UET



## RVWARS ON FACEBOOK!

There is now a group on Facebook for the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society. Just search for the above. There are currently 13 members since Tom started the group about a month ago. Please join in!

### GREAT Ham Radio Stories!

Posted on June 13, 2010 by Administrator

One thing about ham radio that many people may enjoy after they get into the hobby is the great stories that you hear because of your ham radio activities. Without a HF capable license these stories are more limited to local people and their events. Once you get a HF capable license you can hear stories from anyone anywhere in the world. Now, with EchoLink and IRLP I guess the distinction between the two license is not black and white. And even without a HF license you can always just listen to any frequency. But my presumption was that the “best” stories were on HF. For example, how many people that worked as engineers on the space program are you likely to hear on a repeater in Green Bay or Appleton Wisconsin? Not many... This weekend I attended the northeastern Wisconsin “YoYo Net” annual picnic and met some of the locals that check into the net. It makes a nice Saturday afternoon, but how many great ham radio stories would you hear at such a local event? Not many I thought. WRONG!

I met a newer local ham that had a decided southern accent. And what a story he had to tell. He explained how he got into ham radio – I forget exactly how many years ago – let’s just say “back in the day...”. Great story – here it is:

This gent was sitting in church one Sunday listening to the sermon and was picking at some sort of wart or other skin issue he had on his finger. He explained that the person sitting next to him told him to stop picking at it and that he would cure his skin problem after the service. The story goes that this stranger explained that he was a ham radio operator. He advised my new friend to place his finger near, but not on, his car’s ham radio antenna. “After it gets warm, move it away from the antenna...”. So after the stranger started the car – he did. And he said you could see the arc and that it did in fact burn the wart or whatever off his finger. Says he still has the scar. And THAT is why he got interested in ham radio...

Good story??? Wait – it gets better... Seems this stranger in church was one of the original “spooks”. Seems he was French-Canadian and served in WWII as a paratrooper and was “employed” by the OSS – the fore-runner of the CIA. He was a spy!

Thanks Pat, KC2CVJ

## The Meeting room in the Churchtown Firehouse is HUGE. Bring yourself and lots of other folks.

*Join the RVWARS Yahoo Group. Go to the [www.rvwars.com](http://www.rvwars.com) web site and scroll to the bottom of the page and simply enter your email address into the box.*

## A STORY TO TELL

Pat, KC2CVJ

As my youngest daughter drove up to our annual family reunion picnic, the summer breeze blew past where I was standing and a flashback of time hit me. I recalled being at the same family reunion picnic. It was a hot and sunny summer day and we were sitting around a shade tree at the picnic. I looked around and saw my father driving up in his old 1952 Plymouth Cranbrook. He bought it new back in '51.

I heard all the kids say, "Far out, look at that old car!" As my father sat down, I asked him if he still had the old ham radio in it. He looked at the car and said, "Yep and it still works too." My youngest daughter ran over and said, "Wow! Grandpa that is a big radio in the car." I asked my dad to tell us the story about how he got the radio. It was always a good story. He looked at us and asked us to sit down and he began this story.

### A Story to Tell

When your dad was about 12 years old, I came home one day with a new car; it was a pear green 1952 Plymouth Cranbrook. Your dad stared at the car for hours. He looked at the inside and out of the car with a ruler in his hand. I was perplexed by what he was doing. He walked over to me and said, "If I get my Amateur Radio license can we put a transmitter in the car?" I had my Extra Class license for just about 3 years and had asked your dad if he would like to get his Novice license, but he was not interested at the time. But now, with the new car, he was very interested.

Your dad read all my QST magazines and told me all about the Elmac A54H and that it could run on 6 V from the car's battery. I had to think about this. The radio cost \$175 new at the time. With the new car and the Korean War going on cash was going to be tight. I told him if he got a summer job mowing lawns like I had been asking him, then I would help him get his Novice license.

Your dad asked all my ham radio buddies in the area if he could mow their lawns. He told them that if he got his Novice license, he was going to get the Elmac A54H and put it in the Plymouth. All my ham buddies jumped at the chance to get a new ham radio operator on the air.

Your dad started that week mowing the lawns. He picked up more jobs as neighbors saw him mowing. It took him a little over a year to get \$112, he was almost there. He passed his Novice test and was waiting for his call in the mail. With a

Novice call back then he could operate some CW on the 80 and 40 meter bands. The Elmac A54H was an AM phone transmitter and he was going to have to work third party until he upgraded to General.

Well, your dad worked more and saved up \$135. Then I pitched in and we ordered the radio. While we were waiting for the radio to arrive at the store the Armistice was signed and the Korean War was over; that was on July 27, 1953 and my brother, your great uncle, was going to come home. We had not seen him since the US started sending troops to the Korean conflict in 1950.

### A Clean Installation

We lived in an apartment and could not set up an Amateur Radio station. We had to use my buddy's station. When the radio arrived, we got right to installing it in the Plymouth. It took most of the afternoon. We took our time wanting to get it right the first time. We mounted the whip antenna on the car first and moved inside to mount the radio. We made a direct power connection to the battery and brought the leads through the firewall right next to the heater hose. The radio was mounted right under the car radio, but it stuck out on the passenger side just a little.

Your grandma came out and asked how it was going? I told her we were done and ready to test it. She opened the back driver's side door and sat down. I called CQ and no one answered back; as I recall the bands were dead. She then got out and closed the door, but the door would not latch and to this day we always have to close the door twice to secure it.

A day or so passed before we got the opportunity to operate the radio again. I came home from work and the bands were hopping. A station was working some phone patches and another was sending messages to and from Korea. We listened for a while and they were calling for any station in our small town. I jumped and gave my call. They came back and asked if we could deliver some messages in our neck of the woods. I sent your dad in to get some paper and pencils. He came back with his school tablet and three pencils.

We must have been on the 10th message. It turned out it was for us from your great uncle. It read: "My unit is packing up and coming home, will get in touch with you when back in Seoul to regroup and will have date when we head back to

US." We delivered all the messages to the town folks and they gave us more messages to send back to the troops.

It's a good thing we got the radio. Your dad had a great idea. When we were not sending and receiving messages to and from Korea we both worked some DX. Your dad upgraded to Technician that summer. We had so much fun working together, I told him, "There will come a time when I will pass this car to you." With a smile ear to ear, he just gave me a hug. We were working some message handling when the message from my brother came in that he was in Seoul and should be back in town next week. When he arrived, we went to the park and had a picnic, right here in this park. We always have the annual family reunion picnic the third Saturday in August, same tree, same park.

### Handing Down History

"What a story Grandpa!" My youngest one shouted out. Every now and then at the picnic the story would be told to the little ones when they saw him drive up in that old Plymouth. I'm now holding the Extra Class license and received my dad's old Extra Class call after he passed away in '91 and true to his word that old Plymouth showed up in my driveway with the radio still working and extra tubes in the trunk.

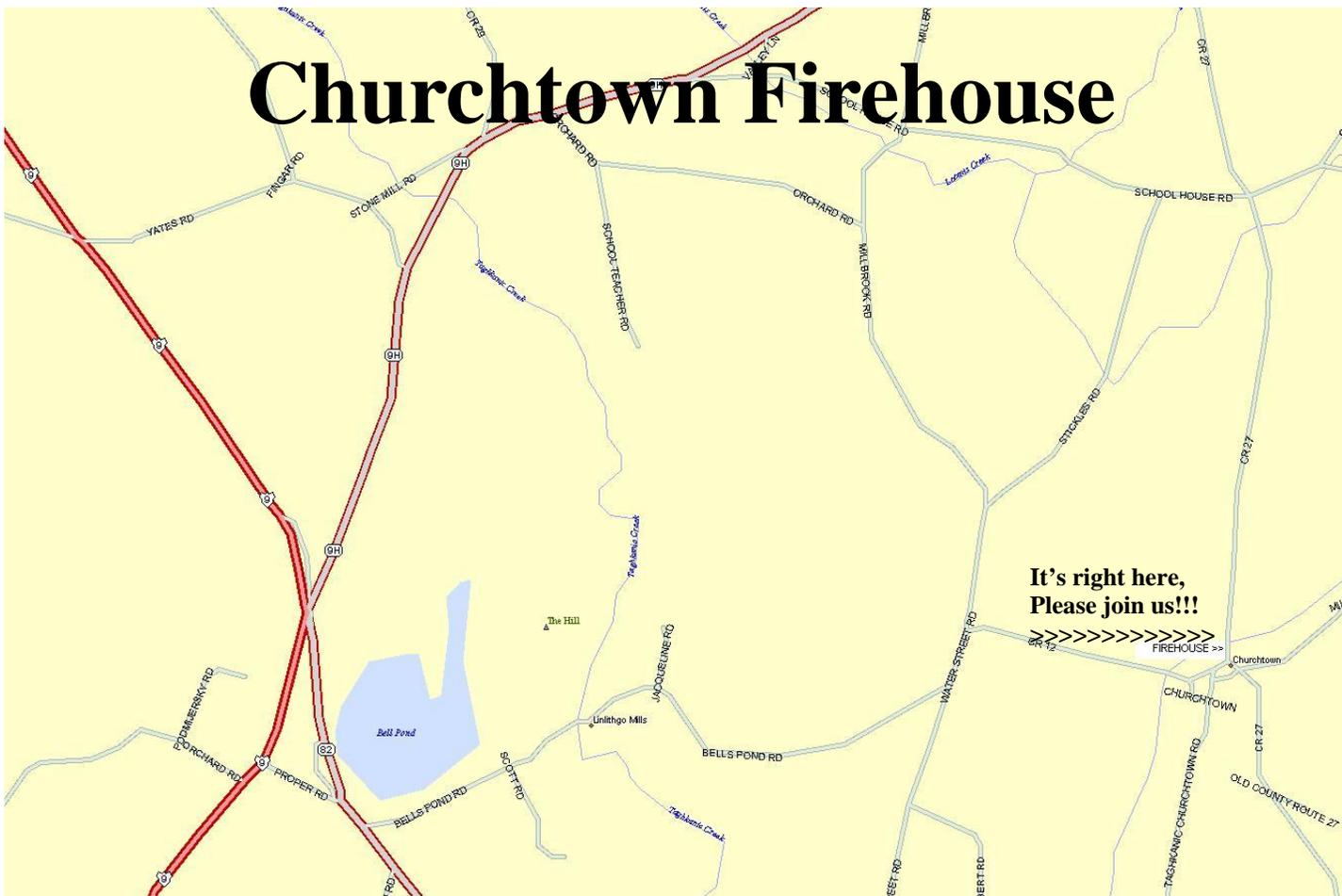
Now, I follow in his footsteps. As I get older and drive up to the picnics and all the kids swarm around the old car and look at the radio, I find myself sitting under the same tree telling the same story. Grandpa will be at the picnic in our hearts. Yes, I did promise the old 1952 Plymouth Cranbrook to my youngest daughter. It will be up to her to keep the memories and pass them down to the next generation. The door will probably never get fixed, but that's okay, it's just one of those things that adds character to the car. So, if you see an old pear green '52 Plymouth sitting at a park with a whip antenna, stop by and ask to hear the story. It's worth it. 73 and may you always remember how important your family is.

Pat

**THE COMPLETE CONSTITUTION  
AND BY-LAWS DOCUMENT IS ON  
OUR WEB SITE AT  
[WWW.RVWARS.COM](http://WWW.RVWARS.COM)**



# Churchtown Firehouse



From the West RVW Bridge or 9G take Rt 23 to the 9H intersection and either go North to School House Rd and to Churchtown Firehouse or go through the light and take Bells Pond Road to the Firehouse. From the North or from Hudson go south on 9H, from the traffic light in Claverack, about 1 mile, to County Route 27 on the left then 2.4 miles to the Firehouse.

Park in the lot to the right of the Firehouse and enter through the Main Entrance. Someone will be listening to the repeater and will help you if need be. "FIREHOUSE" is indicated on the right side of the map.

## 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 prior to the regular meeting. 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)

**We are considering putting a HF/VHF station in the firehouse meeting area. Details are just being talked about. If it works out members and guests could do some operating before and after the meeting.**

**It's not the  
years in your  
life that count.  
It's the life  
in your years!**  
-Abraham Lincoln-





## A BIT OF TRIVIA

Found new led bulb I put near my radios is emitting wide rf frequencies over vhf and uhf.

This came about when I took my ham antenna and hooked it up to my fire radio for better reception. Then put a piece of wire on my 2m 440 radio for receiving only.

That being unshielded really brought forward the issue.

This perhaps you could poll the guy's for the next newsletter to see if they find the led lights causing interference on their equipment.

JR

## SAFTY INFORMATION FROM JR!

OK pulled this one out of my hat from a safety film at work decades ago.

What do you do when you get a blow out?

Step on brake? NO

Take your foot off the gas? NO

Put the gas pedal to the floor? YES

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=lkwOE1yKY5c>

From: JR Fox, Life Member Round Top Fire Police Squad - Protect Your Family!

Do you know CPR and how to clear an airway obstruction, have a Red Cross GO BAG, know how to shut off your house gas, water and electric, do you know a photo electric smoke detector will not be tripped by burnt toast ?

Do you have 7 minutes to watch this National Fire Protection Assn. Video ?

<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=9JU59Nsv2vg>

Most folks don't know it, but Herman Munster was a HAM RADIO OPERATOR! In episode number 18, which first aired on January 21, 1965 Herman is goofing around with his ham radio set (which is apparently a homebrew –naturally- transceiver with headphones, microphone, large horn style speaker, a large quantity of tubes, one HUGE tube and a bank of dry cell batteries) when he overhears some kids playing Martian with their walkie-talkies. Naturally the kids lead Herman and Grandpa into thinking there really ARE Martians on Earth, and being good citizens they notify the airforce. Most significant trivia we learn from this episode is Hermans call: W6XRL4  
Above is a rare copy of Hermans QSL card:

## TELESCOPING MAST

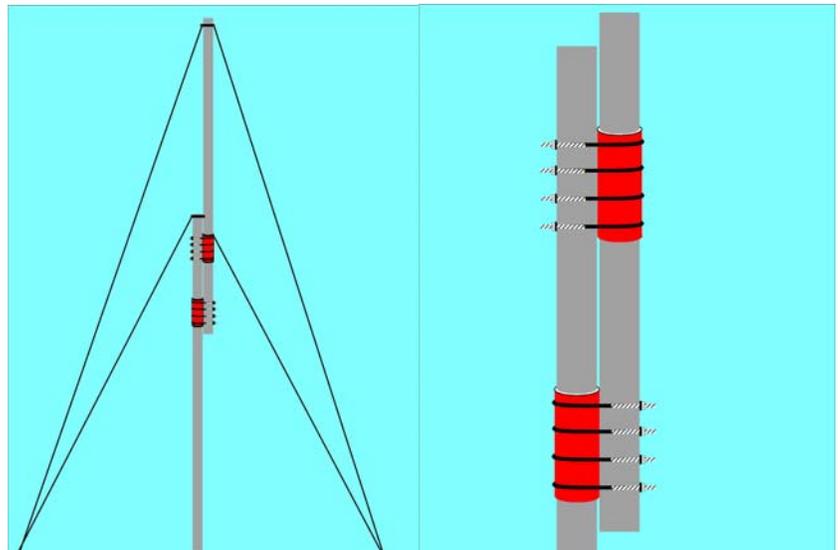
Years ago I stopped by Gary AB2NC(sk) house and he showed me a telescoping mast he made.

I drew on my CAD how it was constructed hoping he would publish it. So here is the CAD Drawing and info that I remember.

BTW...I forgot to put a pulley at the top of the first section of tubing which raised the second section.

The tubing was aircraft aluminum tubing that would bend 90\* in a wind storm and be perfectly straight the next morning year after year. The tubing use to be a reasonable price. But as all metals have gone through the roof because of China is buying everything world wide the 1 1/2" x 25ft tubes are well over \$150.00 from HADCO Jamaica, NY.

So the RED is a piece of plastic PVC that the tubes slip through as you pull up the lower mast. The lower mast is guyed all the time. The second mast slides up into place and tightens the upper section guys. IF a strong wind storm was coming he would lower the mast. He had a Diamond 500 on top and a single random wire for HF. Top of antenna must have been over 60" up.  
JR



## Free Stuff!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm a sucker for free stuff. Below, you'll find links to a free transistor amplifier design program, a free printed circuit board design program, and a free tutorial on antennas. All of these look to be worth a look.

### TransistorAmp 1.1

This is free software for designing bipolar transistor amplifiers. I found the link to this software (<http://en.transistoramp.de/>) on the AMRAD mailing list. Phil, M1GWZ, who posted the link, says, "A transistor circuit that I'm developing needed a 5x voltage gain stage. I could have thrown in a single op amp with split power rails and all that DIL8 real estate, but a single transistor stage would suffice. Trouble is, I'm an EE by inclination, not training, and all those calculations - working out those capacitor reactance values - well, I don't do them often enough for them to be easy. And I want voltage gain, not current. And then I found Transistor Amp 1.1."

"It's a nice piece of software," says Phil, "It installs easily and did the job for me quickly and easily. Oh, and when I built the circuit for real - voltage gain of 5x!"

[[ NOTE: A screen shot of the software that you can use for the article can be found at <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/specify-common-base-circuit.png>.....Dan]]

### Altium CircuitMaker

CircuitMaker (<http://www.circuitmaker.com>) is a free printed circuit board design tool for hobbyists, people like you and me. Maxfield Parrish of EETimes says, "one key aspect of CircuitMaker is its intuitive and easy-to-use interface -- all of the important "stuff" is presented in an easily accessible manner in a ribbon at the top of the display. Another major consideration is that Altium has decided to make CircuitMaker all about "Community," so users can easily share ideas and designs, comment on designs and offer suggestions for improvement, and generally help each other along the way."

### Free antenna tutorial

For a limited time, Rohde & Schwartz and the IEEE Communications Society are offering a free tutorial on Antenna Basics (<http://www.comsoc.org/form/tutorial-registration-antenna-basics>). This tutorial explains the basic functionality of an antenna, starting with Hertz's antenna model. It also includes a short introduction to the fundamentals of wave propagation, the important general characteristics of an antenna and parameters, such as antenna gain, radiation pattern, bandwidth or VSWR. A more detailed explanation of the functionality of some selected antenna types (e.g. dipole or monopole) is also given.

Maik Reckeweg, Product Manager Antennas, Rohde & Schwarz GmbH, Munich, Germany, who is responsible for all the company's monitoring, measurement and communications antennas is the tutorial's.

The video is kind of dry, but I think Reckeweg does a pretty good job of discussing antenna basics. The video is also accompanied by a white paper that delves into these topics a little more completely. Overall, there's a bit more math than in most amateur radio discussions of antennas, but this makes the discussion a little more comprehensive.

=====

When not scouring the Internet for free stuff, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, working CW on 40m, or blogging about amateur radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).



## The Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch: Lost Traditions?

"The Wouff-Hong is amateur radio's most sacred symbol and stands for the enforcement of law and order in amateur operation."

"The Rettysnitch. . . is used to enforce the principles of decency in operating work."

The Radio Amateur's Handbook, 1930, p. 11

In 1930, the Handbook had pictures of both instruments of enforcement. By 1936, only the Wouff-Hong appeared, and by 1947, the Handbook had deleted both photos. Just when we needed traditions of law and order and of decency in amateur operations to guide its growth in the post World-War-II explosion of technology and easier licensing, the symbols had disappeared from view.

Wouff-Hong Many of today's hams have no idea what a Wouff-Hong and a Rettysnitch look like. To rectify that gap in hamdom's essential history, I have used my very limited CAD abilities to make sketches of the two instruments. Figure 1 is the Wouff-Hong. The two main pieces appear to be wood banded by metal strapping and by heavy wire. What the sketch cannot convey is the darkness at the upper end of the longer wood piece, as if stained by blood or purified for its grave duties in the fires of purgatory--or both.

Rettysnitch Figure 2 is a sketch of the Rettysnitch, an all-metal tool. Of the 5 teeth around the disk near the pointed end, only three remain. According to tradition, the other two have done their work and perished in the effort. Again, my limited skills in rendering the Rettysnitch rob the device of its terrible demeanor, and therefore of its force to ensure operating decency among amateurs.

Perhaps the last time the story of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch was told was in 1934. Thanks to Ed Guilford, AA7HQ, in Bothell, Washington, I have the May, '34, QST in which Rufus P. Turner--famous in the annals of electronics writings--recounted "Hamdom's Traditions: A Bedtime Story for Young Squirts." But even by Turner's time, the Rettysnitch was relegated to a paragraph on the story's continuation page in the back of the magazine, with no picture. Somehow, even then, folks had forgotten that you can never have law and order without first having decency. Some pessimists think that we now have neither.

I do not subscribe to the pessimist's view. Sure, the number of rotten operators has skyrocketed, but not their proportion to the main

corps of good, legal, and decent operators, capable and courteous to a fault. We should not be troubled by the size of the job of curing amateur radio of its illegalities and indecencies, for we have more folks to help use the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch just where and how they ought to be used. No, not on others, but on ourselves--to make sure that we set a model for how amateur operations ought to be conducted.

Turner offers no prescription for using either device, but thought the Wouff-Hong able to beat out King Kong's brains or easily plow up acres of Manhattan bedrock. That will tell you something of the power of these machines. But it won't tell you how they came to be.

Remember T.O.M.--The Old Man--who wrote in earliest days of "Rotten QRM." His very first article in 1917 blasted concocted abbreviations just coming into use. Among the almost unintelligible gibberish in his headphones were words like "wouff hong" and "rettysnitch," surely instruments of terrifying punishment. By mid-1917, ARRL was besieged by orders for these contraptions, orders that could not be filled because the League staff had never seen either device.

In 1919, after World War I (then called simply the Great War since no one could imagine doing all that destruction and killing all over again), the League once more took up its work in earnest. At just this critical time, the Directors received from The Old Man a package containing an authoritative and well-preserved specimen of Wouff-Hong. Turner described the contents of the package as "the gruesome instrument of torture." By order of the Directors, it was hung in the office of the Secretary-Editor, within easy reach. Its first portrait appeared in QST for July that year. At each Board meeting, the Wouff-Hong stood on display, to the blanched looks of the humbled Directors.

The Old Man also presented the world with its first glimpse of the Rettysnitch. In 1921, the monstrous machine was presented to the League traffic manager by the Washington, D.C., Radio Club, ostensibly after receiving it from T.O.M. Even at its first public appearance, two of its teeth were missing, suggesting a long history of necessary and effective use. However, to this day, the Rettysnitch has lost no other teeth. It was ordered to hang by its mate.

In the 20s and 30s, many a reproduction of both instruments, but especially the Wouff-

Hong, materialized across the country. A group of hams in Flint, Michigan, created the mystic society called the Royal Order of the Wouff-Hong. The society endures to this day, according to legends to which I have so far not been privy. And The Old Man has been given a name: Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW. At least, legend tells the story that way, perhaps based on the fact that T.O.M. glared at "Kitty" while reflecting on the "rotteness" of everything. Maxim did have a cat. However, true to feline nature, Maxim's cat never spilled the beans.

But what has become of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch? More important, what has become of their power to enforce both decency and law and order on the ham bands? Hams used to cringe at the thought, let alone the sight, of these dreadful tools of enforcement. But, we do not hear of them much anymore. Oh, a tremor of curiosity every now and again brings out a ripple of questions and speculation. But not much more more than a ripple.

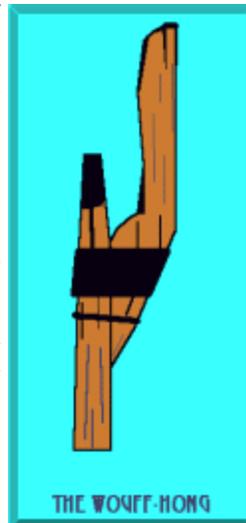
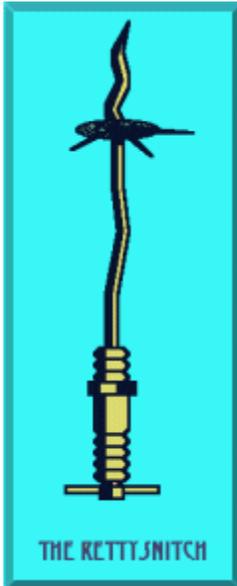
You see, today, we have much more terrifying weapons, things like Oozies and H-booms and the like. They scare us in ways that seem to make the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch tame and toothless. However, even in Maxim's day, objectively more powerful weapons were used in France, like tanques and gas more poisonous than that made by Texas chile. Why were the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch so powerful to those early hams?

Because those hams cared about amateur radio in their hearts. They wanted what they knew they could never have: a perfectly law-abiding and decent radio service that would inspire young and old alike to become hams or, lacking the inclination to electronics, to become admirers of hams. Every minute of on-the-air time was a chance to show how noble a pursuit amateur radio was and should always be. They feared the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch as instruments of their own consciences, as they strove to meet the standards they set for themselves.

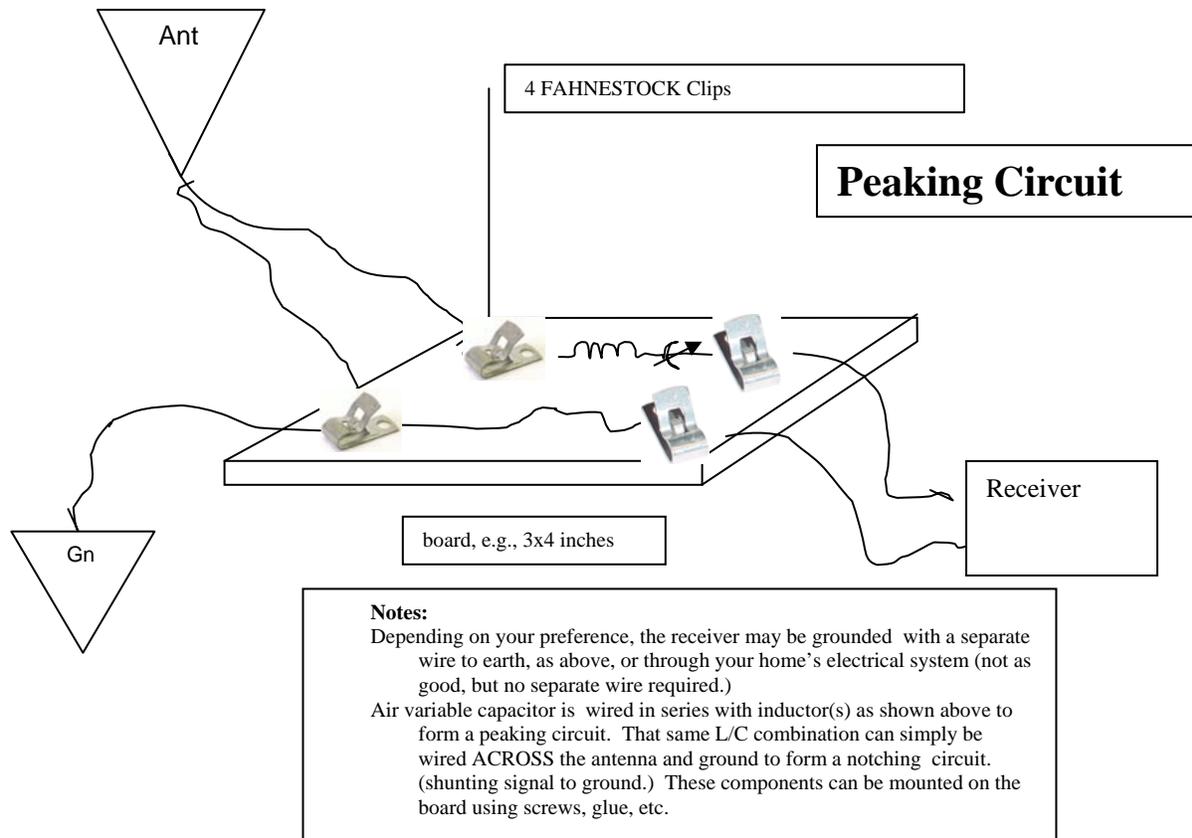
And that is where today you will find both the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch--deep in your own conscience. If they seem to hold no power, then you know it is time once more to elevate your standards a notch higher, and then to strive to achieve them perfectly. Each of us has a secret and private office where no one else may go. Above the door, facing our individual operating tables, hang two instruments, one of law and order, the other of decency. However much the outside world may neglect the tradition of these terrible reminders of responsibility, each of us possesses our own Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch. May you never deserve their sting.

Like all legends, this one, too, must end with special words: pass it on.

Thanks Pat, KC2CVJ



# Simple LC Series Receiver Preselector



If you would like to play with simple preselector circuits without spending lots of money, here is an idea that will cost you less than \$20...far less if you can scrounge an air variable capacitor from an old tube radio. And you get to experiment and find the best values for your set up and listening preferences.

Simple construction. Interrupt the coax or twinlead from your antenna and clip it to a pine board on which you've mounted 4 Fahnestock clips. The two clips on one side lead to the antenna and/or ground. The other two hook to the receiver. Insert leads from your L/C (inductor and capacitor) lash-up between the clips as shown above and short the two bottom clips with a wire for the ground circuit. Short out BOTH pairs of clips to bypass the breadboard, eliminating the preselector. Experiment with the capacitor and individual inductors or solder a number of inductors to a rotary switch so that you can quickly select the appropriate inductance for the desired frequency.

For more permanent preselector construction, you can mount the air variable and the rotary switch, along with input and output jacks in a "project box." Get a couple of knobs. Also, go to Bob Bett's excellent pages at <http://www.geocities.com/amdxlog/rich1.html> Click on "preselector" to see articles and more advanced circuits. Here you will find theory as well as simple circuits for wiring up both peak and notch circuits together using mini isolation transformers, etc. These are really great pages filled with a lot of information and ideas.

- more -

Here's a list of the components I used for my preselector. My theory has been to have many inductors available via a rotary switch. In this way I can get the sharpest notches and peaks, thereby suppressing signals on adjacent frequencies.  
\* See footnote below.

Continued next page

Part	Vendor	Part No.	Approx. Price \$USD	Notes
Air variable capacitor	Radiodaze.com	C-AV365	11.50	Least expensive I've seen, except if you can scrounge one.
0.47 uh coil	An air variable from radiodaze.com  Coils and rotary switch are from Mouser.com	434 22R47	Each of these high Q mini inductors is around 50 cents each.	19 meter band
2.7 uh coil		434 22R7		
3.9 uh coil		434 22R9		31 meter band
5.6 uh coil		434 22R6		
10.0 uh coil		580 22R103		49 meter band
33.0 uh coil		580 22R333		
47.0 uh coil		580 22R473		80 meter band
100.0 uh coil		580 22R104		Add the 100 to the 470 so that one inductance position equals 570 uh.
150 uh coil		580 22R154		
330 uh coil		580 22R334		The 330 and 570 combo will cover the MW BC band.
470 uh coil		580 22R474		
12 position, 2 pole Rotary switch				10YD112
4 Fahnestock Clips	Radiodaze.com	GC11-4034-C	\$ 0.11 each	
	OR Tubesandmore.com	S-H11-4034	11.95 for a bag of 100 !	

Notes:

- Other inductance values are available, Check the Mouser catalog. Note that the coils above are High Q, over a 100. Experiment and find which inductances are best for your antenna and radio. At these prices, you can order a large selection of different inductors and play around with them. Use 1 and 10 MILLI henry coils for LF frequencies.
  - I find the inductance values listed above best for 0.5 to 16 Mhz.
- A tip o' the hat to Bob Betts and Richard Gagnon of the yahoo group, Shortwave-SWL-Antenna.

Dave Griffin  
n2chi  
11/2005

Footnote:

I have chosen the above inductor values because I have found that the narrowest bandwidth and the most symmetrical steep-sided resonance curve will occur when the capacitance within the L/C ratio is low for the given frequency. (Ala  $f=1/((2\pi)(SQRLC))$ ). I assume this is because  $Q=Xc/R$ , but also I note that  $Xc$  can never quite get up to zero while  $XL$  can increase forever, which I assume causes the asymmetry.) I therefore use more inductors than usual to cover the frequency spectrum so that I can more often be using a lower capacitance (and therefore higher capacitive reactance and  $Q$ ) when peaking or notching a signal. Experiment bears this out. You can resonate these circuits with other inductances, but if for a given frequency the capacitance is on the high side, say 250 pf or more, you will notice a definite decrease in the  $Q$  and symmetry of the resonance curve. So, at 50 cents each, selectivity...the objective of a preselector.... is cheap.

## 6 METER BAND PROJECT

Hi Stan& Group-My latest 6 mtr band project has been to a scanner discone approximately 20 ft on vertical mast pole w/ a uhf/vhf tv antenna underneath.. sharing same masting. This antenna coax is fed directly into a 3 antenna 1000 w maximum coax switch. I have also an small log periodic for 6 mtr..about 25 feet High, feed in coax also going to this same 3 antenna coax switch. Another mastpole, attached to house siding via antenna mounting bracket's is my ar-6 Vertical 50-54 MHz antenna.. this antenna coax also going to the 3 antenna switch, at my desktop. All antenna's are grounded...Also coaxial grounded.

I feed these 3 antenna's via my it-100 tuner, in lined to my ic746 pro.. i use mirage 6 mtr amp on these antenna's... No problem's on transmitting.. I thought the discone scanner antenna would 'make' a problem.. result.. it didn't. I took my 'chance's' as no swr meter or Analyzer.. just auto tuner 'mercy hope' setup ..

Lucky me..everything works lol. Yes, I need a mono yagi... hopefully this coming spring or summer, for that. I do not expect much qso's with this 'set up'.. but use what I have.. and this is what I have.. the 6 mtr yagi is my next 'project'...hopefully,6 mtr band will 'open' for some brief wintery qso's at my station, here at west coxsackie, ny. Too cold for antenna work now.. Luckily I completed this project task in mild weather conditions.

IF I do decide on a quick antenna project.. sometime this winter.. it will be to put an insulated #14 copper wire @ 65 ft. length...to my 5 btv gnd.mtd. vertical.. This will Allow me to use this counterpoised and many radials antenna for 160 mtr..via 1t-100 tuner' helper'.. I bought a new roll of 14 ga. from lowes catskill a few day's ago.. for this unscheduled project lol.

oh yeh..I just had 'installed' via 'invisible fencing'..a rectangular 600 ft. underground copper wire..with a 25 ft. parallel 'connector' feedwire ..going to an indoor Room.. this is for my new near 1 yr old Labrador pup.. keeping the dog safe/contained (hopefully)...soo my point to this topic is: IF we get the 300 mtr privledge to operate on that low band..i will have a 'hidden underground' antenna..it will work navis.. but work hi... Anyway..keeping my dog beau happy and safe.. always looking to the future.. 'disconnect the pwr source.. 'hook' wire to the mfj-969 tuner.. my unibalun..and presto.. it is Done :-)

Wishing everyone good dx and very 73!-ke2eb George call



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
**AND**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**TO ALL**

## BRINGING AN FT-817 BACK TO LIFE AFTER A LIGHTNING TRANSIENT

A few years ago, I picked up an FT-817 with all accessories and a carrying bag on eBay for around \$200. The rig had been dropped in a stream during a hike and no longer worked. Unfortunately, the owner had not removed the battery pack so while it slowly dried out, galvanic corrosion worked its destructive way through several of the traces on the PC boards as well as damaging the innards of the rotary encoder driven by the tuning knob.

After a thorough cleaning and some 30 hours of meticulous work, largely with the aid of a headband magnifier, I managed to get the 817 fully operational. With the exception of the damaged LED and Photosensor in the rotary encoder, all of the semiconductors, including the finals and the control microprocessor, were OK. The radio is still working fine.

With that success in mind, I decided to have a go at another 817 on eBay, advertised as having suffered possible lightning transient damage. When I removed the covers, the first thing I noticed was the significant arc flash residues in the area of the DC power connector; definitely not promising.

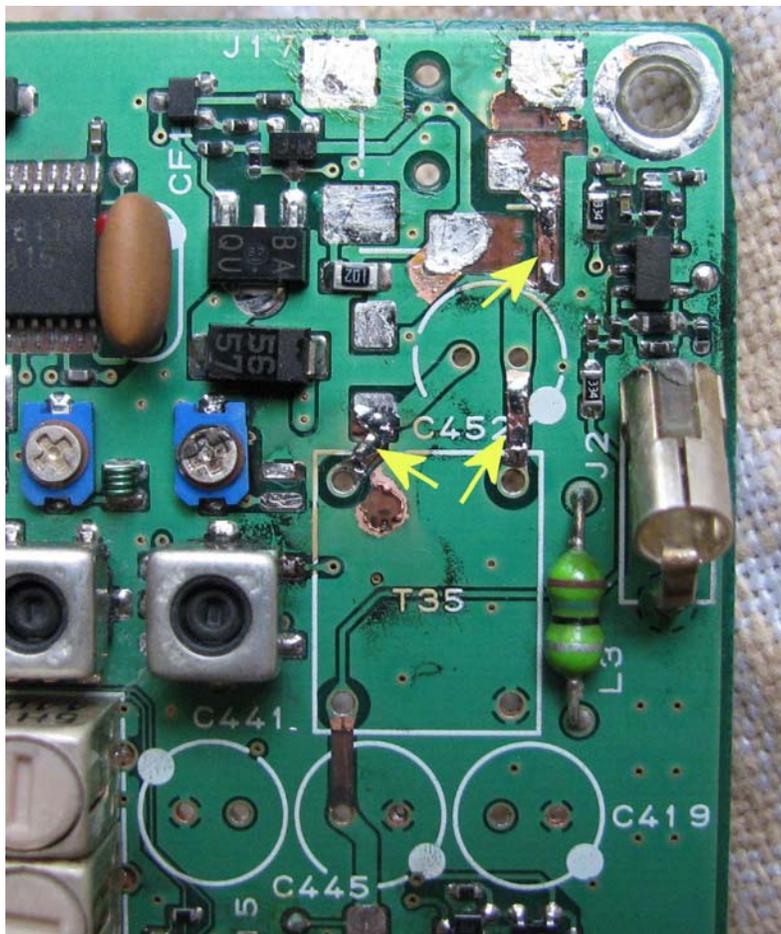
I didn't photo document the damage at the time but the photo below of the inside of the cover just above the power connector shows the arc flash products that were deposited as a hard coating on the cover. The silver colored conductive seal was minimally affected.



Copper trace areas vaporized by the transient flash are clearly visible. Aluminum electrolytic caps C452 and C445, on either side of the common mode choke T35 that filters the incoming 12 volt power, were physically intact but showed reduced capacitance, although leakage was about normal. One winding of T35 burned through at the point where it was soldered to a mounting pin.

In order to work on the board, the power connector J17, common mode choke T35, electrolytic caps C452, 419, 441 and 445 were all removed. Also, a small 4 turn coil adjacent to the upper pins of T35 and the blue trimmer cap to the left was removed since the ground side of the coil was burned through by the nearby arc associated with T35.

The main PC board suffered severe trace damage. The photo below is the state of the board after restoration to a useable state.



Although the blue trimmer cap shows discoloration from arc soot on the adjustment slot, it was electrically intact, as well as was the other components associated with it (430MHz band transmit filter).

Everything in the area was coated with arc flash soot from vaporized material. The discoloration remaining is a hard coating that wasn't removed with an isopropyl alcohol swabbing. The plastic sleeves of C429 and 452 were discolored but the caps were OK and not replaced.

In the photo vaporized copper traces between J17 and C452 and T35 (yellow arrows) have been bridged with adhesive copper tape. The run from the lower left pin of T35 to C445 was bridged on the reverse side of the board.

Continued next page

At this point, J17 was resoldered along with C452 and the T35 pads were bridged to allow for power circuit testing. The small coil next to the trimmer cap was replaced as was the DC reverse blocking diode on the two small solder pads to the left of C452.

The power FET which connects incoming 12 volts to the voltage regulators on the main board had to be replaced as well as the 5 volt regulator chip. Two traces on an internal layer of the main PC board, one of which routed 12 volts to the front panel connector were replaced with runs of #32 enameled wire super-glued to the surface of the PC board.

With power applied, all circuits on the main board checked out normally, both receive and transmit. Amazingly, the circuitry above J2, which is the transmit signal buffer feeding the low level transmit signal to the PA and filter board, was not damaged!

Although damage was clearly visible around the DC power connector, a second 'port of entry or exit' was required; perhaps the chassis itself or, less desirable, the antenna connector.

Unfortunately, in this case, the other entry/exit point was the rear antenna connector. Although there was no visible damage to the PA / Filter board, the final transistors, the drivers and predrivers were all damaged and had to be replaced.

Final stages of testing are now underway and the only question remaining is whether any of the relays in the filter network and Rx/Tx switch paths have been damaged.

Given the amount of effort required to troubleshoot and restore the transient damage, this was clearly not a standard repair and falls into the 'hey, let's see if we can fix this' category with the possibility always in the background that it may have to be trashed.

K2KGJ

## TO BRAG OR NOT TO BRAG

QNZ de K2WG....

To brag or not to brag, that is the question. Some ham radio stations have multiple rigs, antennas and accessories galore. Others are modest set ups perhaps with only an HT next to the easy chair in the living room. Whatever the situation; it is a proven fact that the size and power of the station is not necessarily indicative of the enjoyment the ham operator experiences. Nor is it an indicator of the ability of a ham to participate in various ham radio activities. There are many certificate holders whose modest stations are a testament to the ability of modest stations to perform well in contests and DX chasing. Whether a station is QRP or QRO there are advantages and disadvantages to each. Regardless of station size and power we can all be proud of our abilities to establish communications during times of natural or man-made disasters when the regular communications systems are compromised or inoperable.

So let's take the opportunity provided by this newsletter to do a little bragging in a positive way. Let's share our station set ups with the readers of the newsletter and discuss how we participate in regular ham radio activities and how we are prepared to assist with emergency communications. By doing so; we will also be helping the newsletter editor to fill these pages with pertinent and relevant material. We may also give other hams an idea of how to use their equipment and abilities to get more enjoyment from the hobby or to better serve the community during times of duress. Rather than imbedding pictures in your document, it would probably be better to send your pictures as separate files so the editor can cut and paste them into the finished product as necessary.

The station at K2WG is always a work in progress. Transceivers include: Yaesu FT-920 160m – 6m; Yaesu FT-900 160m – 10m; Yaesu FT-897D 160m – 70cm; Yaesu FT-7900 VHF/UHF; Blackbox VHF; Alinco DR-140 VHF Packet. Other equipment includes: 2 MFJ-949E tuners, Ameritron ATR-20 tuner; 2 Yaesu SP-8 external speakers; RIGblaster plus; SignalLink USB. Additionally there are 2 computers with internet capabilities also used for digital mode use on VHF and HF. There are several wire antennas in addition to a Hy-Gain TR-3JRS triband beam, an R-7000 vertical and several dual band VHF/UHF ground planes. The 55 foot K2WG tower also includes the antenna for the WPRY330 Northeast Task Force fire and emergency services VHF narrow band FM repeater.

HF operations from K2WG are usually in SSB or digital but the occasional CW or AM QSO rounds out the mix. I'm not an avid contester but I try to participate in the ARRL Sweepstakes and some of the state QSO parties. I am no longer a member of MARS but if you would like to consider membership, being a member of MARS allows the use of many more frequencies that are shared by several government organizations. There are also many duties and responsibilities that are included in MARS membership. Check out one of the MARS web sites for more details. There is really no end to the ways in which one can enjoy the ham radio hobby.

Please join us for the RVWARS General Upgrade Net on Sundays at 10:00 on the 147.210 repeater. Those aspiring to obtain their General Class License and experienced General, Advanced and Extra Class hams are welcome to check in.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season!

73 for now.... AR .... SK.... de K2WG



**For Sale**

**2012 Keystone Retreat 39 FDEN**

**Asking \$42,500**

**Call (518)784-3864**

*Ask for Mike or Patti or leave message*



**If your ad is  
no longer  
valid please  
let me know.**

**FOR SALE**

For the news letter

Anyone interested it 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

**Items for sale de K2WG**

1. 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

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

**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

