

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Rip's Report

January 2014



Happy Birthday

Barry-K8LEF	Jim-KC20GK
Sara-KB2BDC	Stan-N2JKS
John-KC2AGM	John-W2JSN
Pat-KC2CVJ	Carl-WA2UJX

**OUR REPEATERS ARE BACK ON THE AIR!
GIVE THEM A TRY.
REPORTS ARE WELCOME!**

2014 dues are \$25.00 per individual \$30.00 for family \$5.00 for students and active Military are free.

2014 Dues

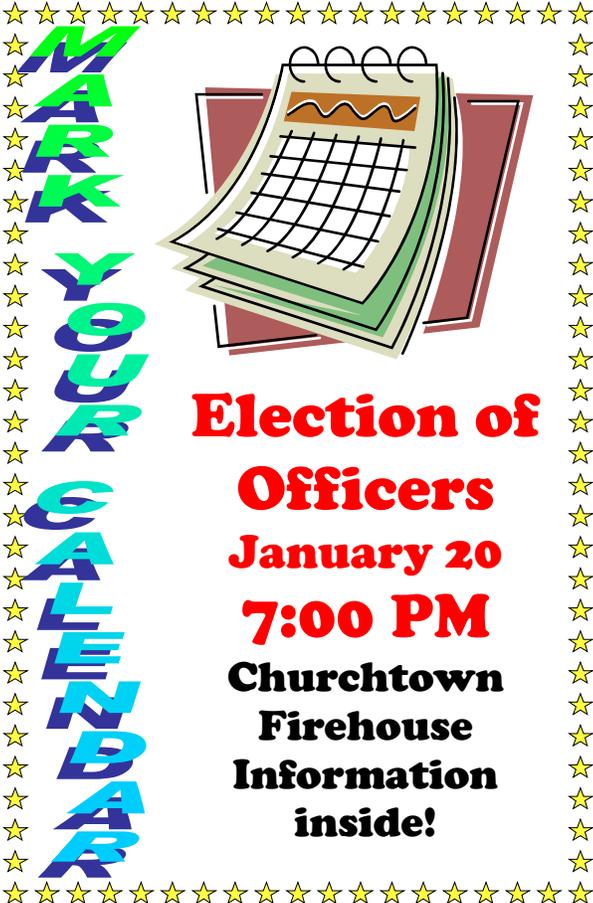
Mail to:
 Stan Engel, WA2UET
 PO Box 153
 Ghent, NY 12075
 Or bring with you to meeting
 Make checks Payable to RVWARS

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



Election of Officers
January 20
7:00 PM
Churchtown Firehouse
Information inside!

Biennial Elections in January

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 email address.](#)

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

Election of Officers At 7:00 PM

Please join us on January 20 at our regular meeting for the election of officers. Carl, WB2TCV, is the nominating committee chairman. If you are interested in a position please let Carl know. wb2tcv@mhcable.com

We will have the usual coffee and soda and sub sandwiches. The meeting hall is large and pleasant.

wa2uet@taconic.net

RVW WORK PARTY

We won't be working outside again till after winter! I don't like the cold!

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!

Wrong is wrong
even if everyone is doing it.
Right is right
even if only you are doing it.



Upcoming Events

RVWARS Semi Annual Election of Officers **at 7:00 PM**

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 — Mike Alecksynas N2JVE
Vice President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD
Secretary — Tom Cody WE2G
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
Yahoo Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

The goody feast was great. The attendance was small but we all had a good time. The pizza was from Scal-i's in Hudson and was awesome! I wish we could have had a larger crowd but was a fun evening regardless.

The January Newsletter is going out to a much larger group! There are MANY hams that I think would enjoy at least knowing that the RVWARS club still exists. I think and hope that some of the Hams that have had no contact with the club in many years might renew their interest and maybe join us at meetings and other events.

If you would rather not receive the NL for any reason please just let me know and I will remove you from the list. wa2uet@taconic.net Otherwise please pass along your thoughts.

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

Treasurers Report

December 16, 2013

Balance Fwd. Checking Acct \$1834.71

Rcpts:Dues	\$25.00
50/50	\$5.00
Total	\$30.00

Exp: NYSEG	\$54.15
Subway	\$10.80
Total	\$64.95

Checking Bal	\$1799.76
Petty Cash	\$50.00
Savings Acct Bal	\$1011.35

Total RVWARS monies \$2861.11

RVWARS REPEATER CHATTER

The tip that the 6 meter repeater might be available turned out to be false. The owner is not interested in selling at least not now. So I would be open to other offers or tips on the possible availability of a system.

The heat is still on in the shelter and I will monitor the bill to make sure it is not excessive. The meter readers don't always like to travel up the hill in the winter time so many bills are estimated. We ran the AC all summer and it did not have any significant impact on the bill. I set the AC to about 80 degrees. The heat is set to about 50 but I plan on dropping that some when I go up there again.

I sure would be open to any questions or suggestions about the operation and construction of the site. Also I would be happy to show and tell to anyone that is interested in seeing the site. The site and the shelter are truly impressive (I think). It all belongs to the club and it would be great if the club would show some interest. Your money and some incredible donations have made it what it is.

I have contacted Arnie at NYAIR and we are going to try to schedule the spare antenna mounting on the next nice weather stretch we get. That will be on the lower bracket in the photo.

Stan, WA2UET



I NEED INPUT FROM OUR READERS! THE NEWSLETTER SEEMS TO GET SMALLER ALL THE TIME INSTEAD OF BIGGER.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT

On December 21, 2013 the CGCC run went great. There were over 100 runners. We had a good club turnout. There were no incidents that had to be reported by our members. Thanks for the help.

MUSING OF A CURMUDGEON



At this time of year things slow down a little and we have time to reflect on the deeper mysteries of life. Watching the first flakes of the season drifting by the antennas I thought about the scientific principles of radio wave propagation.

Having studied the basic theories of the conversion of the human voice to an electromagnetic wave I have boiled all the elements down to their simplest form. I can say that without question it is pure magic.

No, the transistors, resistors and inductors are not magic but the joy that comes from the result of combining all these with my voice and talking to a new friend half way around the world certainly is magic.

We are a fortunate group living in a world without borders. Simply by pressing a button we can talk with our fingers, voices or digital controllers. We can talk through a repeater or satellite, bounce our signal off the moon or exchange television pictures with friends.

Somewhere in all hams there is a little child that marvels at having all this magic at their fingertips. It's this ability to wonder at the technology of our times while using our "magic" toys that makes us Amateurs.

As the door closed behind me and I headed for the "shack" I couldn't help thinking that after all these years the magic is still there. Sure that's only wire out there in the snow but it's magic wire.

Dave Watrous, WD2K—12/96

Protect your gear from ESD

Electrostatic discharge, or ESD for short, has been a concern for anyone involved in electronics ever since we made the transition from vacuum tubes to transistors. I was schooled about ESD when I worked as a test engineer for a company called Doric Scientific shortly after I got out of engineering school, and I wrote about it when I was an editor for Test&Measurement World magazine back in the 1990s. If anything, it's even more of a concern today as electronic components get ever smaller.

In 1991, Bryan P. Bergeron, NU1N, published a two-part series on ESD (part 1: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9104019.pdf>, part 2: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9105028.pdf>) in QST. His suggestions about how to prevent ESD damage are as good now as they were 20 years ago:

- Consider using a room humidifier to increase the relative humidity in your shack, or wherever you work on electronic equipment to 65% RH or higher.
- Use grounded wrist straps when handling ESD-sensitive devices.
- Use grounded, anti-ESD work mats when working on electronic equipment.
- Use a grounded soldering iron and anti-static tools.
- Use anti-static bags and containers for storing and transporting electronic equipment.
- Connect the chassis of all your gear to a good earth ground.
- Consider purchasing a desktop ionizer to neutralize static buildup on your workbench.

I might also add consider grounding the chairs that you use in your shack or discharging yourself after getting up from the chair in your shack. I know that the worst electrostatic discharges that I experience are after I get up from my chair. You can even buy ESD-safe chairs (http://www.all-spec.com/products/Benches_and_Chairs%7CChairs_and_Accessories%7CCHR-00/), but they are kind of expensive.

Personally, I use an anti-static mat that I originally purchased for use with a computer keyboard and a wrist strap that was given to me by an ESD consultant when I worked for the magazine. I use these religiously when building kits or working on any solid-state gear.

It's not hard to find anti-static products. RadioShack sells a wrist strap for only \$1.23 (<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2103245>)! You can find a whole range of anti-static products on Amazon, too. Wherever you get them, they're a good investment.

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When he's not worrying about ESD, Dan, KB6NU enjoys teaching amateur radio classes and working CW on the HF bands. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



A GREAT HOBBY

Dec. 27, 2013

By: Carl J. Verderber WA2UJX

When Stan WA2UET contacted me to see if I could provide an article that may excite more interest in the RVWARS (Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society) club, I jumped at it.

If you think about it our hobby shouldn't even exist. Radio is not actually needed to communicate across town, across the state, nor across countries and it certainly is not needed to cut costs of communication like radio transmission used to do. At one time it was a big deal to communicate with someone in an adjoining state or a different country. The advent of the low cost cell phone system allows anyone to immediately communicate with anyone else in the world at very little cost. So why do we still do it?

There are many reasons that might make a licensed Amateur Radio Operator (HAM) continue to operate a station and assemble from time to time with other Amateurs. The first reason to come to mind is the historical significance of our hobby. It wasn't that long ago that the first radio signals were sent. 110 years isn't that long. The ability to communicate with radio waves – instantly and at the speed of light – was considered a miracle for a some time. Eventually radio technologies evolved to make bigger, better and more efficient transmitters and receivers. Of course more cost effective devices allowed amateurs to access very sophisticated rigs at reasonable prices.

But going back to the 1910's, 20's and 30's, Amateurs had to improvise components and home build much of their equipment. Today it is not necessary nor cost effective for someone to home brew equipment for the sake of saving money. Home brewers do it for the experience to relive the same excitement our forefathers had when they used a rig they built themselves.

Hard core home brewers, whether using tube technology or solid state, can still find parts to build projects. But it requires a lot of time and effort to assemble the right set of components necessary to complete a homebrew rig. Then there are kits that offer some interesting projects most of which are solid state. It has been a long time since HeathKit and KnightKit and EICO provided kits that were affordable and satisfy the needs of Amateur Operators.

Recently, entrepreneurs have begun to offer audio enhancement and RF kits, the most recent of which are the "SD" rigs. Software Defined radios/transmitters allow the Amateur to build a single board transceiver that has only three connections: power; antenna; and USB port. The rest of this rig relies on the computer that controls it. The best part of this technology is the ability to configure the receiver in any frequency, any mode and any bandwidth; this goes for the transmitter also. CW, AM, FM, PSK, DRM and other modes are configurable. It is unbelievable how much function can be offered with modern components and designs!

Other home brewers enjoy building with tube technology. The real challenge of this technology is to find the needed components at low cost. Reusing old parts like power chokes/transformers, audio transformers, coils and capacitors is necessary to reduce costs. Even reusing chassis and front panels helps to decrease overall costs. Many times a builder of medium to large transmitters (with tube technology) might take one, two or more years to complete the project. Some never finish!

It would be easier to order all the parts and components for such a transmitter but hold on to your hats for the cost. For example a new power transformer might well cost \$500.00 and a new modulation transformer might cost \$600.00 and a new 1500 watt output RF tube could cost \$900.00. The costs of new hollow state (tube) project parts can be out-of-reach for the average Amateur and that's why finding good useable old parts is so important. Another reason is listening. Opportunities to listen in on QSO's of all types and all modes can bring a thrill to the listener. Unlike a SWL (short wave listener) who is tuned into a worldwide professional broadcast who's program is intended for the masses, tuning in on an Amateur QSO (two way conversation) is not necessarily meant for the masses to be exposed to. We've all heard SSB (sideband) and AM (amplitude modulation) conversations amongst two or more Amateurs whose content can be nothing more that light topics like the discussing the weather at your QTH (station location) or finding a real bargain at the last Ham Fest. Sometimes we can listen to heated arguments – interrupted by other listeners that put their two cents in from time to time. Other times a QSO can be more intimate in nature --- sharing stories about this girlfriend verses that girlfriend or what happened at

the party last night --- personal stuff that probably shouldn't be discussed "on the air". I guess we all get into a mode from time to time that makes us feel the conversation is "just between us" not considering the entire world could be listening in. But they do and we do and it's fun to hear us talk!

The third reason is communicating with other Amateurs. Some HAMs like to join NETS (pre-scheduled frequency/times where like minded Amateurs join in a sequential and organized conversation about something special to the NET). NETs like "Grey Hair Net, Marconi Net, Lunch Net and Collins Owners Net and countless others allow Amateurs to meet with others of a similar mind set or interest.

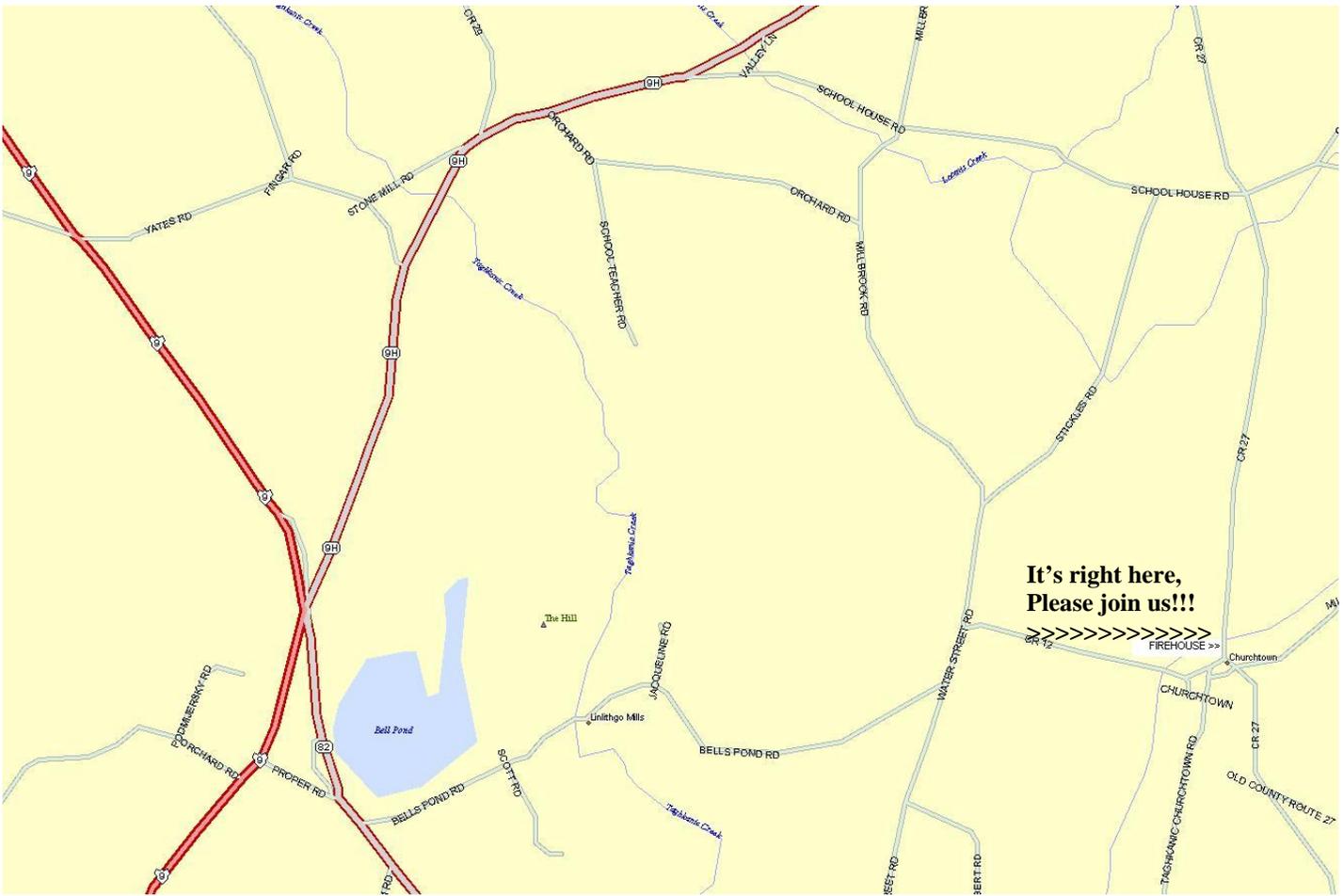
Another important reason is contesting! Now that you've obtained all the right equipment, antennas and such, it's time to get busy and work hard. There are so many contests that allow the aggressive and persistent Amateur to achieve awards from the ARRL like WAC (worked all continents), WAS (worked all states), DXCC (worked 100 countries), etc.

Also reasons why Amateurs stay in the hobby is for the companionship of others of like minded persons. Clubs like our RVWARS offer "Field Day" exercises, provide support to local events and emergencies, and maintain a cohesive and synergistic network of individual HAMs that can complete many projects together. Even providing training classes for new HAMs and sponsoring licensing tests for new and upgrade HAMS. Many clubs have VE's (HAMs that are volunteer examiners and are authorized to give tests). Testing incorporates a VEC (volunteer examiner team) that administers the tests. Almost all clubs maintain one or more repeaters. 2 meter (144- 148 Mhz) repeaters are prevalent but like RVWARS club, 220 Mhz and 440 Mhz repeaters are also available. Repeater provide a central communication link for all the members of a club. A local club sponsored NET is offered once a week to discuss issues and pending projects.

There are also club contests like "Field Day" (held on the fourth full weekend in June of each year) to bring together members of the club on an overnight radio marathon of contacts. All power is provided by either battery or MG sets (motor/generator) and emulates emergency conditions. All equipment is located either under a tent or a

Continued Page 9





**It's right here,
Please join us!!!**

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 to County Route 27 and 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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Every man should be born again on the first day of January. Start with a fresh page. Take up one hole more in the buckle if necessary, or let down one, according to circumstances; but on the first of January let every man gird himself once more, with his face to the front, and take no interest in the things that were and are past. ~Henry Ward Beecher



An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

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.

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

**PROFESSIONAL
INSURED
TOWER CLIMBER
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518-965-9299**



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 qrrp 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

FOR SALE

A local ham with no phone or internet or VHF wants to sell his station. Below are the information and prices. You will have to let me know if you are interested and I will contact him via USPS or pass you his home address. If you want to make an offer I will pass it on but he says these prices are his minimum. He also said that all equipment is in good condition...

- Yaesu FT-840 \$400.00
- Yaesu SP-6 \$125.00
- Yaesu FP-1030A 25A PS \$175.00
- Rockwell/Collins 30L-1 Amp 1KW
NEW PRICE! \$350.00
- Dentron Super Super Tuner 3000W
\$200.00
- MFJ 815C SWR/PWR \$40.00
- ~~MFJ 407D Keyer~~ ~~SOLD~~ \$40.00
- MFJ 890 DX Beacon \$50.00
- Drake TV-3300 Filters \$20.00
- Ham Key Paddles \$40.00
- Yaesu YH-77sta phones \$40.00

**Please contact me:
wa2uet@taconic.net and I will get
you connected!**

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

**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

I have a new recently purchased in box, never used: KT 100 auto tuner. This tuner is for Kenwood 'newer' rig's via antenna connection.

I Would like to swap/exchange either or auto tuner with SO239 connectors, or else trade this tuner for a HT or mobile 2, or 2/440 FM rig of compatible cost. This KT-100 was \$199.99 s+h added. This antenna Tuner is Kenwood Only!

I purchased this tuner for a Kenwood TS440S..Not knowing it was not adaptable, for easy operation. I 'decided' I did not wish to pursue 're inventing' any other recourse in making tuner work for my TS440S. So.. I now wish to 'trade' this new KT-100 tuner, as it isn't 'needed' at this time for my personal usage. If this is acceptable for listing with our club rvwars, I'd like to recommend this item for possible 'trade/exchange' resource. thank you. vy 73!-ke2eb george call. 518-731-9854

temporary structure. The club's ability to make contacts on multiple frequencies measures the club's ability to respond to emergency situations.

Then there are HAMS that are interested in mentoring new or potential Amateurs. They become an "Elmer" who guides and instructs new persons to the hobby. These are very special people that are willing to offer personal time and effort to help others improve. Hats off to Elmers!

While there could be hundreds of reasons why Amateurs do what they do - I just touched on five or six all leading to the fact that Amateur Radio Operators are "special". It doesn't take much effort to pick up a cell phone and call someone in Russia but it does take a special person to make that contact using SSB, CW and other modes of radio communications. Amateurs must first qualify for a license through education and testing, then procure equipment, build antenna systems, learn how to operate that equipment, and then follow all rules necessary to all Amateur radio communications. Then and only then can you hunt for the Russian contact. Special People don't take the easy way....They make it into a hobby! Amateur Radio!

If you are not licensed but are interested in this hobby contact any Amateur and they will guide you to a club or to and an Elmer. If you haven't been active try to awaken the excitement you felt the first day you got your license in the mail. Come to the club meetings or listen in to the club 2 Meter NETs every week on 147.210 Mhz. Make contact with members and get involved again....with other Special People at RVWARS! <end>

Friendship means
understanding, **not** agreement.
It means forgiveness,
not forgetting.
It means the memories last,
even if contact is lost.

-doc. of 'uon-

