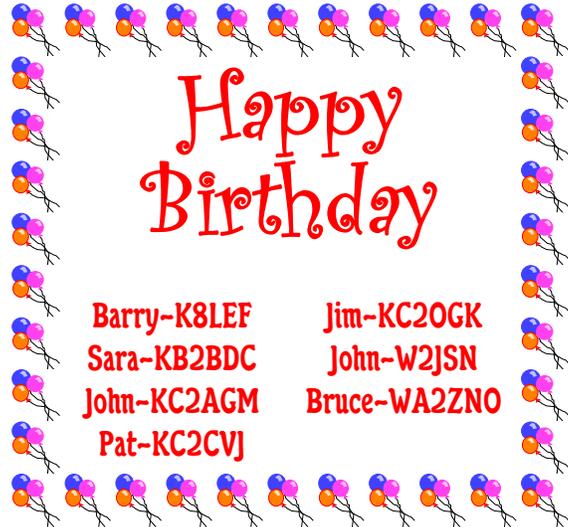


HAPPY NEW YEAR

Rip's Report

January 2015



Happy Birthday

Barry-K8LEF
Sara-KB2BDC
John-KC2AGM
Pat-KC2CVJ

Jim-KC2OGK
John-W2JSN
Bruce-WA2ZNO

The EOC is off of Route 66, Healy Blvd on the left and just North of that is Bridge Street on the right. At the end of that street you will see the Sheriff's office. Park on the street and call K2WG on the repeater and he will let you in. The entrance is on the right side of the building.

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!



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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Next Meeting
January 19
COLUMBIA COUNTY EOC
85 Industrial Track
Hudson, NY
All are Welcome

MEETING 7:00 PM

Meeting at the Columbia County EOC With a tour of the 911 Center

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 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

KA2DLE SK

Orsino, James J. GREENVILLE James J. Orsino, 67, died suddenly on Monday, December 29, 2014. Husband of Anita Kleinman Orsino; father of James (Nicole); grandfather of Emma and Ethan; brother of Virginia (Carl). Cremation will be private, with a celebration of life at a later date. Memorials may be made to Columbia-Greene Humane Society or any animal charity of the donor's choice .

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.

New DTMF codes for the New Vantage Vue Weather Station:

500-Wind Speed & Direction
501-Outside Temperature
502-Indoor Humidity
503-Outdoor Humidity
504-High Wind Speed (since midnight)
505-High Outside Temperature (since midnight)
506-Low Outside Temperature (since midnight)
Hopefully a Rain reading will be added soon. But these are what is available at this point. The system is installed and ready to use. Please feel free to try the codes and see what is going on at the repeater site at Forest Lake. (the outside temperature from the new system is different than that from the controller. They are different sensors.)

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
Yahoo Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

There will be a VE session on January 18th at 10:00 AM at the East Chatham Firehouse, 14 Frisbee Street in East Chatham. All class of license will be tested. Anyone interested in taking the Tech Class license test or upgrading to General or Extra Class is welcome. Questions please contact Wayne, wayneg1231@fairpoint.net

DECEMBER MEETING AND GOODY FEST!

I have no official notes from the meeting. I am told there were about 25 people there. The pizza was very good and there were lots of delicious goody's to go with it. Everyone seemed to be having a good time. Jim, KC2OGK won the dummy load. We had no formal meeting.

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

Treasurers Report

December 15, 2014

Balance Fwd. Checking Acct **\$1632.69**

Repts: Dues	\$205.00
Raffle	\$115.00
Auction Items	\$140.00
Donation	\$15.00
Refund	\$10.04

Total **\$485.04**

Exp: NYSEG	\$48.99
Weather Station	\$385.51
HRO Dummy Load	\$49.90
Food	\$16.74
Subway	\$11.88
Boefeng radio	\$53.98
Staples (paper)	\$21.59
Total	\$588.59

Checking Bal	\$1529.14
Petty Cash	\$50.00
Savings Acct Bal	\$1011.43

Total RVWARS monies **\$2590.57**



MUSING OF A CURMUDGEON



It doesn't set well but the realization is dawning on even those long in the fang that the days of CW preeminence are over. It won't happen tomorrow but in the next few years the code only band space will shrink and we will see all modes throughout the bands. Canada has been using this system for several years as anyone working the eighty meter cw band is well aware. It has worked there but when the U.S. Amateurs move phone operation down the bands chaos could prevail unless we plan now for the future. A simple plan such as this for eighty meters might work. CW 3.5- 3.65, Digital 3.65-3.75, Mixed phone 3.75-3.79 Dx 3.79-3.810, Phone 3.810-3.999. No contesting above 3.850, Novices have full CW privileges 3.525-3.65.

Over the years voluntary band plans have served the Amateur community well. These plans have been seriously eroded in the last few years but the proliferation of digital modes makes it necessary to reestablish these agreements recognizing current and future needs. The narrow band modes can cut through phone operations easily, unless we develop a plan that will allow everyone space for "their" mode open warfare may erupt on the bands.

Now is the time to address the problem while we still have the opportunity. In this country we are fortunate, lots of band space (while it may not seem like it) is available and more HF space will become available in the future. Let's take the time now to begin a serious dialogue at the individual and club level so that when the time comes, and it will, we are prepared for the change.

It can be and should be a positive move for the hobby, for too long half the available band space has been closed to all but CW operators who have all of every band available. Inactivity now may cause the type of problem existing on the 75 meter phone band to become the norm. Do we want that?

(by Dave, WD2K, 4/2000)

WEATHER STATION

We have added a weather station to the repeater site. It will 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. We purchased a Davis Vantage Vue weather station and that is interfaced 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 2012 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@arrrl.org



RVWARS REPEATER CHATTER

The weather station is installed and working. Details and functions on page 2!

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 have to wait for a thaw to get rid of the snow and ice on the road to the repeater. I just have a passenger car with 2 wheel drive.

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!

Ham Radio In Space – High Flying Repeaters (LITERALLY!)

The following steps and resources should help you walk through the process of trying to hear your selected favorite space repeater. Such as? The International Space Station (ISS), Space Shuttle or AMSAT (Amateur Radio Satellite). This is written for the person that wants to primarily listen and see if they can hear the flying repeater.

- Research what is operational at the current time. I researched the repeater on the International Space Station (ISS) with this search on Google. I use Google because they have the largest percent of the search engine market. Therefore people likely submit to them first and people have voted that they give the best results. Everyone has their favorites. I use statistics to judge. Here's the link: <http://www.google.com/search?ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&q=international+space+station+repeater> And here is one result that I read – it has some key resources for my use: http://www.southgatearc.org/news/february2008/space_station_repeater_active.htm You may also want to read articles on the bird and review other people's websites that describe their experiences on working the repeaters on the birds. www.AMSAT.org is a great place to do some research.
- Determine when the particular bird is able to be heard at your location. Use one of these three free sources: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/> and <http://www.n2yo.com/> and <http://www.satscape.co.uk/> You will need to know your latitude and longitude for these sites or your ham radio grid location. I use www.QRZ.com to find mine. I search for my call sign biography page and click on "Click for more details". There you will find what you need. Another nice piece of information you will need is this: "GMT Offset". Mine is -6 Hours. I need that because many of the resources will list the Universal Time (UTC) of the satellite's pass. I need to convert that to my local time so I know when to listen.
- Convert your reported time as necessary. There is software available for tracking birds that should do this for you. This article is for those of us that do this every now and then or for the first time. There are a number of conversion sites available. You can do the following Google search to find them: <http://www.google.com/search?ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&q=convert+utc+to+cdt> – I selected this one and probably will do the conversion with a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet: [http://www2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/\(Gh\)/guides/maps/utc/frutc.rxml](http://www2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/(Gh)/guides/maps/utc/frutc.rxml)
- Go outside with a clear view of the sky and listen! Try your HT with a stock antenna. Then try your mobile. Then maybe try an Arrow II handheld satellite antenna – <http://www.arrowantennas.com/146-437.html> Make sure that you understand the specific frequencies you need to listen on, the direction of travel and the effect of speed on the frequency (Doppler shift). Do some research at www.AMSAT.org on this...

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 web site and scroll to the bottom of the page and simply enter your email address into the box.

QNZ de K2WG....

Happy New Year! Did you make any ham radio resolutions for 2015? Have you been putting off the Upgrade to General or Extra? Let's make 2015 the Year of The Upgrade. The RVWARS VE Team will be holding a VE session on January 18, 2015 at 10:00 AM at the East Chatham Fire House, 14 Frisbee Street, East Chatham, NY. Exams will be offered at all levels. Bring a photo ID, a copy of your current license or CSCE's and \$15.00 US currency or check made out to ARRL VEC.

Have you tried some of the HF digital modes? How about joining the efforts to reinvigorate packet? Digital modes are an interesting aspect of the hobby and really don't require you to mortgage the house to purchase the necessary equipment. Most HF modes can be handled well with any HF rig and a computer with a build in sound card. Check out the articles and ads in QST, CQ or other ham related publications. Just Google PSK31, RTTY, MT63 or packet radio and you've got a plethora of information.

Better yet, make 2015 the year that you introduce at least one other person to the hobby of ham radio and assist that person in obtaining his/her ham radio license. The RVWARS education committee is in the planning stages of developing a two Saturday, all day intensive Technician Class licensing course to be conducted sometime this spring. Stay tuned for details and be ready to offer your assistance.

At the K2WG QTH, antenna experiments are always in progress. Interesting results as I search for the lowest SWR on the HF bands. Is it really just smoke and mirrors or does the antenna and feed line theory we learn in preparing for our license exams predict how well or antennas will perform? RG-58, RG-8, RG8x, RG-213, LMR-400, LMR-600, twin lead, balanced vs. unbalanced? Dipoles, beams, verticals, long wires, loops, deltas, end fed, off-

center fed, commercial vs. homebrew? WD2K always told us that antennas erected in miserable weather performed the best. Of course, always consider your safety first before working on your antennas during our classic northeast winters! The wind has caused part of my tri-band beam to rotate around the center mounting tube so a trip up the 30 foot tower is in order as soon as the weather cooperates.

HF mobile works well in the Tundra. Using the 102" whip mounted to the trailer hitch, the FT-857D and the FC-40 tuner have produced many enjoyable local, regional and DX QSO's on the HF bands. Those of us that remember ham radio in the 1960's, HF mobile was a far cry from what it is today. Inverters (vibrators) to change DC to AC so the radio power supply could change it back to the higher DC voltages needed for operation. If you were fortunate enough to have a transceiver instead of 'separates', it was still bulky and took up a lot of space in the vehicle. They did offer some extra heat in winter, however. I spent lot of time involving mobile operation with a Heathkit Pawnee for 2 meters with a halo antenna fastened to the bumper of the vehicle.

Were those the good old days or will we look back on current years in the future and refer to them as the good old days? How will radio communication evolve over the next several years? Ham radio operators were instrumental in developing much of our current wireless technology and I'm sure that practitioners of our hobby will continue to contribute to the evolution of that technology.

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

KD2DNJ DX

I will be on St Croix, US Virgin Island from 18 - 30 January and am taking a 10w KX3 and BuddiPole with me. I will be able to set up a full 1/4 wavelength vertical antenna with 4 radials on the tide line, so I hope 10w will reach to Columbia County. If anyone would like to coordinate an attempt at communicating with St Croix on 10w, please e-mail me at fjimtuttle@gmail.com to determine a time and frequency. I will also try from Point Udall on St Croix which is the Eastern most place in the US. Finally, I plan to climb 1,000 foot mountain to the Bodkin windmill and try from there, but I will loose the "saltwater amplifier" effect, so I may not be able to reach RVWARS land.

Jim KD2DNJ

FROM JR

The sign of old people is they get up early in the morning to see if they are still alive. However that does not apply to retired people from NYC in round top. My friends up their would get up and have breakfast at noon and ask me to help them with something and I was like what the hell the suns going over the mountain already.

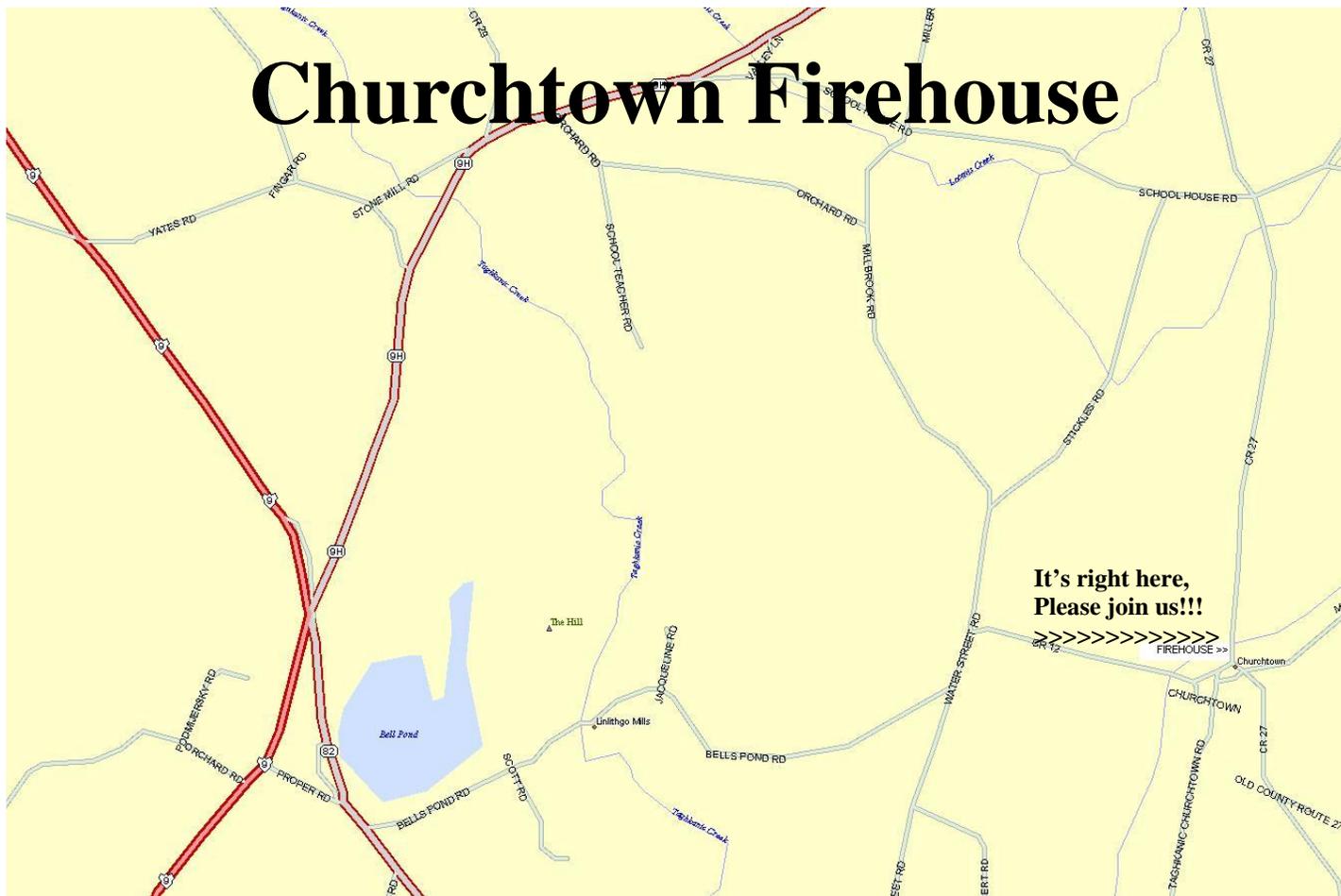
From: JR Fox, Life Member Round Top Fire Police Squad - Protect Your Family! Do you know CPR and how to clear an airway obstruction, have a Red Cross GO BAG, know how to shut off your house gas, water and electric, do you know a photo electric smoke detector will not be tripped by burnt toast ?

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

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

**THE COMPLETE CONSTITUTION
AND BY-LAWS DOCUMENT IS ON
OUR WEB SITE AT
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.

Life
always offers you
a second chance.
It's called tomorrow.

More pics on www.imfunny.net



SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB001
ARLB001 W1AW 2015 Winter Operating Schedule

ZCZC AG01
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 1 ARLB001
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 2, 2015
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB001
ARLB001 W1AW 2015 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675
147.555
DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095
147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590
147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and

CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, CW/digital bulletins and phone bulletin is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

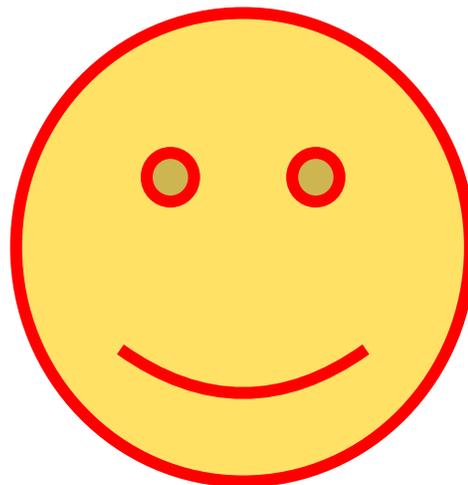
All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to w1aw@arrl.org.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 91 in the January 2015 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>.

NNNN
/EX



How do we promote better operating practices?

A lament that I often hear is that many amateur radio operators either don't seem to understand the importance of good operating practices or just don't care about them. Just this morning, a reader sent me an e-mail saying, "I think there are too many hams out there that don't know how to call a station on split frequency. It's amazing that we have so many dummies out there."

I wrote back, saying, "Maybe we need another type of Official Observer, called the Operating Observer. This group would note when operators aren't following good operating procedures and send people gentle reminders." Of course, as soon as I hit Send, I knew this wasn't a very good idea. As my reader noted, this would be a thankless job, and chances are the poor operators would simply ignore the notices, anyway.

Even so, there must be some way to encourage good operating procedures. One effort to promote better operating procedures is the DX Code of Conduct (<http://www.dx-code.org/>). This is a list of 13 suggestions to make DX operation, particularly pileups, less chaotic. The website includes a small image that you're supposed to post to your website to show that you support the Code. While this is certainly a step in the right direction, I wish there was something that we could do to be more proactive in improving operating practices.

There is, of course, the ARRL Operating Manual. This publication is now in its tenth edition and is a valuable source of information about how to operate properly. The problem is only a fraction of the amateur radio operators on the air have a copy, much less read it.

Another attempt at promoting good operating practice is the ARRL's A-1 Operator's Club (<http://www.arrl.org/a-1-op>). While a noble effort, I think that this program really requires more promotion. In addition to being more aggressive about finding A-1 operators and bringing them into this "club," the ARRL should use it to promote better operation. Perhaps a series of videos with the A-1 Ops logo showing how to operate split or how to properly call CQ would help improve operating practices overall.

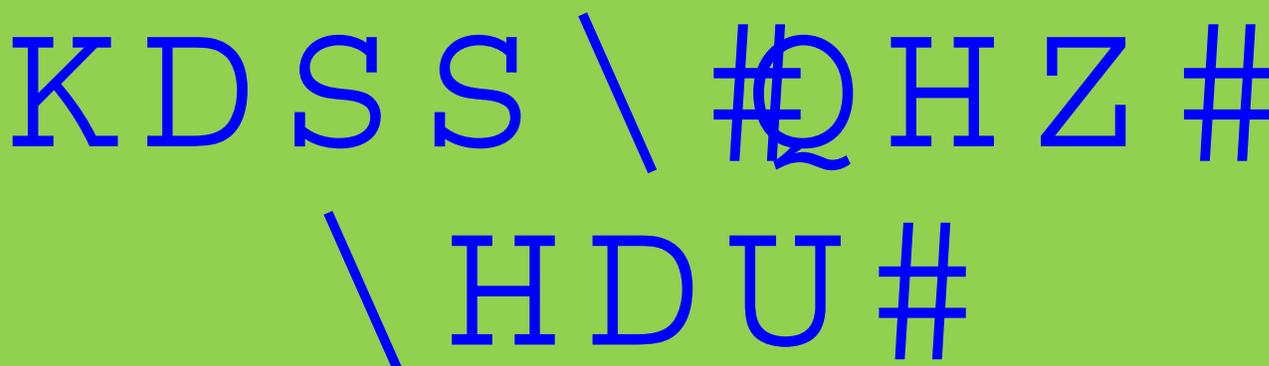
Talking about videos, I'd be surprised if there weren't already some YouTube videos that illustrate good operating practices. If you know of any, please e-mail me. It would be great to have a list of really good ones that I can send to people who want information on how to operate better.

What do you think? Do we need to be more proactive about encouraging hams to use good operating practices? If so, how do we go about it? What do you do to encourage better operating practices?

=====

When not worrying about the state of amateur radio operating practices, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, teaching one-day Tech classes, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

Dan, KB6NU



K D S S \ # Q H Z #
\ H D U #

Amateur radio operator Stanley Hardman in 1939.ii

Stanley Hardman, an amateur radio operator, and his family look at transmitting equipment in 1939.

Fox Photos/Getty Images

Only a few years ago, blogs listed ham radio alongside 35 mm film and VHS tape as technologies slated to disappear.



They were wrong.

Nearly 700,000 Americans have ham radio licenses — up 60 percent from 1981, a generation ago. And the number is growing.

Ham radio will never have the sex appeal of the iPhone, but it does have a certain nerd appeal, says Allen Weiner, an analyst at the technology research firm Gartner.

"If it creates its own experience, that's really what's key here," he says. "If it just emulates an experience that you can get online, it's not going to grow."

Newcomers to ham radio include Helen Schlarman, 89, who has a compact, two-way radio in her home in suburban St. Louis. She looks up a friend across town by pushing the talk button, announcing the letters and numbers of his call sign (W-0-S-J-S), and then announcing her own (W-0-A-K-I).

Steve Schmitz's voice crackles through Schlarman's radio.

"Hi Helen, how you doing, W-0-S-J-S?" he says, ending his response with his own call letters.

Many "hams," as they're known, hang postcards from global contacts on their walls, the way hunters show off deer antlers, but Schlarman's chats are mostly local. She says this hobby is perfect for an outgoing person who spends a lot of time inside.

"It's a different community," she says. "There [are] no stereotypes of age; it's just talking and sharing and enjoying."

Until recently, ham radio was declining as older operators died. Then the Federal Communications Commission phased out the Morse code test that many saw as a stumbling block to getting a license. Last year more than 30,000 new applicants signed up to become ham radio operators, according to Maria Somma, an official with the American Radio Relay League.

At a ham radio convention near St. Louis, the crowd swapping antenna parts and other equipment is mostly male, and over 50. But 15-year-old Jonathan Dunn is attending along with his father. He says Facebook and texting are fun, but making friends using a \$200 radio that doesn't come with monthly fees is more rewarding.

"With ham radio you can talk to new people, all kinds of ages, races, and it's just amazing what a little radio can do. Because no matter where you're at, if you have the right stuff and the right power you can talk to anyone," he says.

Jonathan's dad, Steve Dunn, says the polite chitchat between ham radio operators is good for teenagers. "If young people have the opportunity to communicate with a wide range of people, that instills a certain amount of confidence in their ability to carry on the lost art of small talk," he says.

Even the most die-hard hams concede that amateur radio will never be a mainstream hobby. With smart phones and other devices, people are more plugged in to the Internet than before. But people are still discovering the joy of communicating with a technology that's existed for nearly a century.

Continued next page



Beginnings

Amateur radio came into being after radio waves (proved to exist by Heinrich Rudolf Hertz in 1888) were adapted into a communication system in the 1890s by the Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi. In the late 19th century there had been amateur wired telegraphers setting up their own interconnected telegraphic systems. Following Marconi's success many people began experimenting with this new form of "wireless telegraphy". Information on "Hertzian wave" based wireless telegraphy systems (the name "radio" would not come into common use until several years later) was sketchy, with magazines such as the November, 1901 issue of *Amateur Work* showing how to build a simple system based on Hertz' early experiments. Magazines show a continued progress by amateurs including a 1904 story on two Boston, Massachusetts 8th graders constructing a transmitter and receiver with a range of eight miles and a 1906 story about two Rhode Island teenagers building a wireless station in a chicken coop. In the US the first commercially produced wireless telegraphy transmitter / receiver systems became available to experimenters and amateurs in 1905. In 1908, students at Columbia University formed the Wireless Telegraph Club of Columbia University, now the Columbia University Amateur Radio Club. This is the earliest recorded formation of an amateur radio club, collegiate or otherwise. In 1910, the Amateurs of Australia formed, now the Wireless Institute of Australia.



RMS Titanic (April 2, 1912).

The rapid expansion and even "mania" for amateur radio, with many thousands of transmitters set up by 1910, led to a wide spread problem of inadvertent and even malicious radio interference with commercial and military radio systems. Some of the problem came from amateurs using crude spark-transmitters that spread signals across a wide part of the radio spectrum. In 1912 after the RMS Titanic sank, the United States Congress passed the Radio Act of 1912 which restricted private stations to wavelengths of 200 meters or shorter (1500 kHz or higher). These "short wave" frequencies were generally considered useless at the time, and the number of radio hobbyists in the U.S. is estimated to have dropped by as much as 88%. Other countries followed suit and by 1913 the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea was convened and produced a treaty requiring shipboard radio stations to be manned 24 hours a day. The Radio Act of 1912 also marked the beginning of U.S. federal licensing of amateur

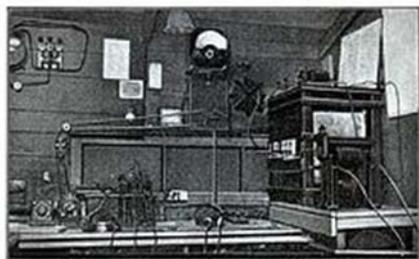
radio operators and stations. The origin of the term "ham", as a synonym for an amateur radio operator, was a taunt by professional operators.

World War I

By 1917, World War I had put a stop to amateur radio. In the United States, Congress ordered all amateur radio operators to cease operation and even dismantle their equipment. These restrictions were lifted after World War I ended, and the amateur radio service restarted on October 1, 1919.

Between the wars

In 1921, a challenge was issued by American hams to their counterparts in the United Kingdom to receive radio contacts from across the Atlantic. Soon, many American stations were beginning to be heard in the UK, shortly followed by a UK amateur being heard in the US in December 1922. November 27, 1923 marked the first transatlantic two-way contact between American amateur Fred Schnell and French amateur Leon Deloy. Shortly after, the first two way contact between the UK and USA was in December 1923, between London and West Hartford, Connecticut. In the following months 17 American and 13 European amateur stations were communicating. Within the next year, communications between North and South America; South America and New Zealand; North America and New Zealand; and London and New Zealand were being made.



Feetornox—An Amateur's Set Heard Over a 100-Mile Range. L. K. W. Station Built by Mr. Ralph Eichen at Toledo, Iowa, with the Assistance of the 1918 Edition of the Book.
Early homebrew amateur radio transmitter

These international Amateur contacts helped prompt the first International Radiotelegraph Conference, held in Washington, DC, USA in 1927-28. At the conference, standard international amateur radio bands of 80/75, 40, 20 and 10 meters and radio callsign prefixes were established by treaty.

In 1933 Robert Moore, W6DEI, begins single-sideband voice experiments on 75 meter lower sideband. By 1934, there were several ham stations on the air using single-sideband.



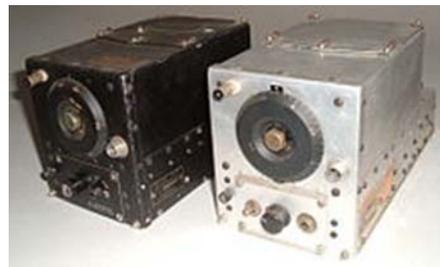
German amateur radio and ski Enthusiast in 1924

World War II

During the German occupation of Poland, the priest Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, SP3RN was arrested by the Germans. The Germans believed his amateur radio activities were somehow involved in espionage and he was transferred to Auschwitz on May 28, 1941. After some prisoners escaped in 1941, the Germans ordered that 10 prisoners be killed in retribution. Fr. Kolbe was martyred when he volunteered to take the place of one of the condemned men. On October 10, 1982 he was canonized by Pope John Paul II as Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Apostle of Consecration to Mary and declared a Martyr of charity. He is considered the Patron saint of Amateur radio operators.

Two radios in the ARC-5 series. Unit on the left is a BC-453-B, covering 190-530 kHz; the one on the right is a BC-454-E, covering 3-6 MHz. Both have been modified for Amateur Radio use by replacing the front connector with a small control panel.

Again during World War II, as it had done during the first World War, the United States Congress suspended all amateur radio operations.[11] With most of the American amateur radio operators in the armed forces at this time, the US government created the War emergency radio service which would remain active through 1945. After the War the amateur radio service began operating again, with many hams converting war surplus radios, such as the ARC-5, to amateur use.



Post war era

A U.S. Postage Stamp from 1964, commemorating amateur radio.

In 1947 the uppermost 300 kHz segment of the world allocation of the 10 meter band from 29.700 MHz to 30.000 MHz was taken away from amateur radio.

During the 1950s, hams helped pioneer the use of single-sideband modulation for HF voice communication. In 1961 the first orbital amateur radio satellite (OSCAR) was launched. Oscar I would be the first of a series of amateur radio satellites created throughout the world.

Ham radio enthusiasts were instrumental in keeping U.S. Navy personnel stationed in Antarctica in contact with loved ones back home during the International Geophysical Year during the late 1950s.



U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Adrey Garret uses a ham radio at Williams Air Operating Facility during the 1956 winter. Ham radio was the only means of voice communication with friends and family back in the U.S. for navy personnel living and working in Antarctica in the days before satellite telephone technology became common.

Late 20th century[edit]

At the 1979 World administrative radio conference in Geneva, Switzerland, three new amateur radio bands were established: 30 meters, 17 meters and 12 meters. Today, these three bands are often referred to as the WARC bands by hams.

During the Falklands War in 1982, Argentine forces seized control of the phones and radio network on the islands and had cut off communications with London. Scottish amateur radio operator Les Hamilton, GM3ITN was able to relay crucial information from fellow hams Bob McLeod and Tony Pole-Evans on the islands to British military intelligence in London, including the details of troop deployment, bombing raids, radar bases and military activities. However, radio hams usually avoid controversial subjects and political situations and discussions as a part of the code of politeness of radio communications.

Major contributions to communications in the fields of automated message systems and packet radio were made by amateur radio operators throughout the 1980s. These computer controlled systems were used for the first time to distribute communications during and after disasters.

American entry-level Novice and Technician class licensees were granted CW and SSB segments on the 10 Meter Band in 1987. The frequency ranges allocated to them are still known today throughout much of the world as the Novice Sub Bands even though it is no longer possible to obtain a Novice class license in the US.

Further advances in digital communications occurred in the 1990s as Amateurs used the power of PCs and sound cards to introduce such modes as PSK31 and began to incorporate Digital Signal Processing and Software-defined radio into their activities..



Thanks Pat, KC2CVJ

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