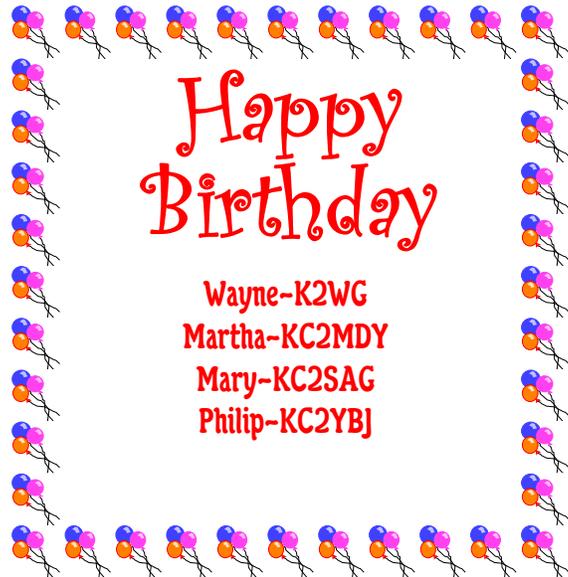


May 2012



Happy Birthday

- Wayne-K2WG
- Martha-KC2MDY
- Mary-KC2SAG
- Philip-KC2YBJ

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

2012 dues are \$25.00 per individual \$30.00 for family \$5.00 for students and active Military are free.

Please Pay Your 2012 Dues!
 Mail to:
 Stan Engel, WA2UET
 PO Box 153
 Ghent, NY 12075
 Or bring with you to meeting
 Make checks Payable to RVWARS

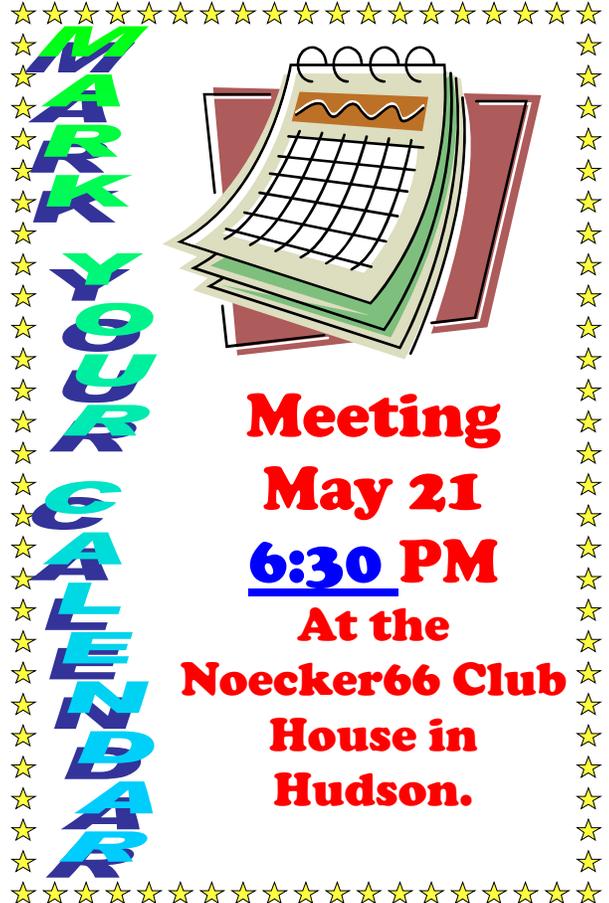
PAY YOUR DUES!

PLEASE



GOD BLESS AMERICA

Please join us on the Tuesday night Roundtable on 147.210 at 7:00 PM. ALL are welcome! Use the EchoLink (K2RVW-R) if need be.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**Meeting
May 21
6:30 PM
At the
Noecker66 Club
House in
Hudson.**

*****MAY MEETING*****
SKYWARN TRAINING
NOECKER66 CLUB HOUSE
5/21/2012—6:30 PM

See photos and past
Newsletters and much
much more club
information at:
www.w2jsn.com

RVWARS WEB PAGE

The Web Page has been updated! We added some info on the main page to try to keep folks aware of events. Comments and suggestions are welcome. We will keep Dave Clappers design at least for now. Let me know what you think.

www.rvwars.com

[Join our Yahoo Group at the bottom of the web page. Simply enter your call sign](#)

N2LEN Repeaters

The N2LEN Repeater Network:

147.150 114.8hz East Windham, NY
449.025 114.8hz New Baltimore, NY
448.275 114.8hz Colonel's Chair Ridge
442.050 114.8hz Sam's Point, NY 2200'

Yahoo Groups

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/N2LENREPEATER/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ECHOLINK/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GCNYARESACES/>
Echolink Node #6269
IRLP Node #4207

REPEATER REPORT

The Solar Panels are here and installed! Thanks Carl, WB2TCV for all your help.

I was finally contacted by the foreman of the tower crew. He said that he would contact Andrew company about the antenna and get back to me. That was about 3 weeks ago and still no information. I will continue to bug them until I get some kind of information.

The radio to link 147.210 and 449.025 is in place and working.

The repeaters seem to be working fine but of course there is a diminished signal to the south and east with the 100' antenna mounted on the northwest side of the tower.

I have been starting and running the generator on occasion and it is working fine.

The new fuse panel is in place and seems to be doing the job OK.

RVW WORK PARTY

The next work party will be in the spring. Maybe we can spray some weed killer around the old shelter. And if the stone is still there we could spread that around some of the rough spots near the old shelter. We should try to keep it looking nice for the Village and us. I am looking forward to Spring!!!

The easiest way to notify everyone of the time is with the RVW Yahoo group. If you are not a member please go to the club web page www.rvwars.com and scroll to the bottom of the home page for the link. Simply enter your email address.

ARRL Status

If you are a RVWARS club member we need to know if you are a member of the ARRL. We are updating our ARRL affiliation and need to know how many members are ARRL members. **Please** let me know. wa2uet@taconic.net

The mind is like a
parachute, it
doesn't work unless
it's open!



Upcoming Events

RVWARS Meeting Monday May 21

6:30 p.m.

Noecker66 Clubhouse, Rt 66 &
Graham Avenue, Hudson

ARES/RACES Meeting first
Monday of the month at CC EOC
WB2DUW-RO
N2NZD-EC

Weekly Nets

EVERY TUESDAY at 7:00 p.m.

Informal Roundtable on the
147.210 repeater ALL are
welcome.

1st Wednesday of the Month

Columbia Greene-Emergency Net
on the N2LEN 147.150 Repeater
7:00 PM

Repeaters

BACK ON THE AIR!!!

147.210/147.810 no PL tone
449.925/444.925 no PL tone
224.280/222.680 no PL tone

Vital Statistics

President — Mike Alecksynas N2JVE
Vice President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD
Secretary — Tom Cody WE2G
Treasurer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Historian — Stan Engel WA2UET
Safety Officer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Repeaters — 147.210 224.280 449.925
Club Call — K2RVW
Club Special Event Call—WD2K
Web Page — <http://www.rvwars.com>
NEWS E-mail — wa2uet@taconic.net
Yahoo Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

RVWARS Meeting 4/16/2012

- Meeting called to order at 6:55pm by Vice President. N2NZD. Attendance 26.
- Secretary's report read. Motion to accept by KC2YKM, second by N2LEN.
- Treasurer's report Checking \$1063.73, Savings \$1011.12, Petty Cash, \$50.00, Total \$2124.85.
- **Repeater**
Solar installation cost \$1235.00, WB2TCV is owed \$35.00. We are now on solar power. No news on broken antenna.
- **Field Day**
We have a wireless router. Windows 7 machines needed a week before Field Day for Barry to program. Everything is going well. Possible VE session at Field Day.
- **ARES/RACES**
Columbia County, no activity
Greene County NVIS presentation went well. Next meeting Wednesday April 18.
- **Old Business**
None
- **New Business**
None
- Meeting closed at 7:06pm. Motion by N2LEN, Seconded by KC2YKR. 50-50 drawn. KC2YKO won. Drawing for 2011 ARRL Handbook donated by N2YJZ and KM2O.
- Talk on ARES in Eastern New York by Dave Galletly, KM2O, ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas J Cody
WE2G, Secretary





Fighting Power Line RFI

By: Carl J. Verderber WA2UJX

April 25, 2012

“It happened again!” It hasn't happened for 2 years but... “Here we go again!” These are the thoughts that went through my mind when it started – Power Line Radio Frequency Interference (RFI).

I live along a major highway that has a 3 phase, 14KV power distribution line that starts about 3 miles south of my home at the power transformer farm north of Rhinebeck. Normally the power line gives little or no interference to the HAM bands I use but about every 3 to 6 years something changes and my background noise levels can go up to +10 over S9.

Three years ago the RFI started after a lightning strike hit the line two poles south of my home (I know because I saw it hit). I recognized the noise within two days of the strike and repairs were finally made about 6 weeks later. Most Power Line RFI is caused by electricity leaking past or through an insulator. To locate the source I walked under the line with an AM radio and a 138MHZ AM Aircraft receiver. I also used my 6M beam to pinpoint the source of noise and validate that pole as the source. I was told “An arcing lightning arrester” was the cause. That would be the 4th time I made calls to Central Hudson in 15 years. Knowing it takes at least three calls to get their attention, then another two weeks for a field engineer to validate my complaint, and two more weeks to get a crew here to make the repairs, I know I'll have to put up with this noise for a lot longer.

I was introduced to an interesting piece of equipment when the Field Engineer came out to validate the RFI. He used a hand held ultrasonic receiver with a 10 inch parabolic dish attached to it. He explained how an electric arc can produce heat, light, RFI and audio noise (in the ultrasonic range). To aid me in detecting this RFI problem and the next, I thought it would be nice to duplicate the ultrasonic detector that the Engineer had. I found a kit available for \$69.00 (ULTRA RX-1) at The Xtal Society, Inc web site. The kit seems to be of good quality and comes with a case. (SEE: Fig -1) I also went shopping for a 10 -12 inch plastic candy bowl that I could use as a parabolic reflector. (SEE: Fig-2) I really believe a useable rig can be made

from these parts and components that will function relatively well. I'll report back to the club my findings when I finally build and test this rig. I hope this information will help other Amateurs fight RFI problems.



Figure 1



Figure 2

**HELP ME FILL THESE
SPACES WITH SOME-
THING GOOD!!!**

QNZ de K2WG....

Now what? The two day Technician Course and VE session was a success! One Extra, two Generals and nine Technicians! One of the Generals was an upgrade and the Extra was a relicensing after a lapse of several years so they are pretty well set on what to do now, but what about the Technicians and the new from scratch General? Who will guide them through the next phase of their ham radio careers? Who will help them learn repeater protocols and etiquette? Who will guide them toward the procurement of radios? (Two of them were seen at the Beacon hamfest eyeing used and new rigs!) Who will help them design and install effective antenna systems? Take a long look in the mirror for the answers!! Yep, that's the person who needs to be there for them. The survival of our hobby and hence our frequency allocations depend on it. Please do your part and offer to be an Elmer or Mentor which ever name you prefer. Below is a list of the new Technicians and their respective emails. Please contact them and offer your services.

The new Technicians are:

Mark Dinkelacker	markdink@mhcable.com
Jolene Pirrone	Jolene@advancedwebdesign.com
Joseph Palumbo	palumboj109@rocketmail.com
James Learnihan	jlearnihan@aol.com
Brian McGowan	blcmcgowan@aol.com
Trevor Jones	libertyguerilla@gmail.com
Joseph Rainwater	vdo_av8r@ymail.com
John Gallant	jgallant@mhcable.com
Mark Sklar	(no email available)

New from scratch General:

Kurt Barbiera – kbarb116@aol.com

If you want to pass along your congratulations to the others:

Alan Gearing – Extra aegearing@tzsawyer.com
Tony Valentin – Upgrade to General (no email available)

The last name of the Extra Class should look familiar. Yup, that's my brother. He and I were originally licensed as Novices in the 1960's. He upgraded to General but I couldn't master the code back then so lived with a Tech+ for many years. Alan has held the callsigns WB2CJQ and WB4ETC. The 4 call is a result of his living and working in the Washington, DC area. We both let our licenses expire at one time or another. I was licensed again as a Novice in 1992 but Alan just never got around to it until he moved back home last fall and got the ham radio bug again. By the way, he actually does have a 'bug' for CW operation. So congratulations to Alan for taking and passing all three exams in one session! But I can't let go of the fact that I got my Extra with the 20 WPM code. Who says sibling rivalry goes away as we get older?

Since this two day intensive format worked so well, maybe we should consider doing it again. Any other ideas about alternative formats? Some clubs do a two day intensive in one weekend. Not sure I'd be up for that. Well, think about it and let me know. A big thank you to John W2JSN for the use of his facility for the class and VE session.

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

Life span of an antenna ...one man's joking opinion:

Well, generally it depends on hours spent listening.

The antenna converts electromagnetic energy into electrical energy, which is basically electrons moving into your radio.

There are only so many electrons in each inch of copper wire, so when they've been sent downstream into your radio, the wire will become "ionized" and deteriorate and probably fall down. This explains why, when you come home one day, your antenna is on the ground (see below).

What happens to all those electrons, you ask. Well, they migrate into your radio and accumulate. In older tube radios, there was a "grid leak" resistor circuit which allowed the electrons to fall on the ground. Now you can't see them, but they're there. As more pile up, they slide into your back yard.

Tube radios, because of the "grid leak" last a lot longer than solid state radios, which stop working when enough electrons have piled up inside to short it out.

Now those electrons in your back yard want to get back into the copper wire, so they "pull" the antenna down to be re-united with it. Since the antenna is high, and they're on the ground, this attraction is not strong, but on a windy day, the electrons get lifted from the ground towards the antenna, pulling it down again. The wind often brings in free electrons from your neighbor's homes (from TVs, etc), so there may be a lot of these things around. If too many electrons get lifted up all at once, they overload the antenna, causing a heat mark, or worse getting back into the radio. Now this is why your antenna usually falls down on windy days.

At least, that's how I understand it.

You can extend the life of your antenna by disconnecting it from your radio when you're not listening. But overall, 500 to 1000 hours spent listening will do in a long wire antenna.

Thanks Jim! :-)





MUSINGS OF THE CURMUDGEON

A reprint from 9/1999



There seems to be a pattern in the reports of public service events that the club is involved in lately. Maybe it's just the imagination of a cranky ole timer but it seems that the same folks seem to be carrying the load at these events.

While I know they enjoy what they do we all have a responsibility to support these events. These events are our point of contact with the public. It is the only time they see that we are an asset to the community. This is the time that we make the friends we may need when tower restrictions are considered or our bands are threatened. Public service is both selfless and selfish, it is the reason we are allowed to have the privileges we take for granted.

If you consider an investment of a few hours helping someone else by providing communications a unreasonable demand then maybe it's time to ask what entitles you to the use of the public airways. If you think it doesn't make a difference ask the folks that worked the carriage event what the competitors and organizers said to them about what having a group of dedicated Amateurs there meant to them.

Enjoy your privileges but next time the call goes out for volunteers remember that there is no free lunch and the same folks can't be asked to pick up the check every time.

by Dave Watrous, WD2K—9/99

There have been a number of changes to the Constitution and By-Laws
THE COMPLETE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS DOCUMENT IS ON OUR WEB SITE AT
WWW.RVWARS.COM

Mailing lists, blogs, and podcasts are good sources of ham info

Whether you're a newcomer or an old-timer, the Internet is possibly the best way to learn as much as you can about amateur radio. On the Internet, you'll find many, many ham radio mailing lists, podcasts, and videos. In essence, these resources give you access to hundreds, if not thousands, of Elmers.

One mailing list that I always suggest to new hams is the HamRadioHelpGroup (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>). The purpose of this group is to help "those who are interested in getting started in Amateur Radio or upgrading their license." This mailing list has a good mix of beginners and experts, and most questions are answered quickly and correctly. One thing that I really like about this group is that the moderators do a good job of keeping the discussions on track, and will squelch them when they stray off topic or threaten to turn into flame wars.

In addition to the HamRadioHelpGroup, you might also want to join a more targeted mailing list. For example, if you're interested in learning Morse Code (hint, hint), you might join the SolidCpyCW list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SolidCpyCW/>). If you just bought a Yaesu FT-60 hand-held transceiver, you might want to join the FT-60 list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FT-60/>). Chances are that no matter what your interest, there's probably a mailing list to discuss that interest.

I'm subscribed to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists and could probably spend most of my day just reading and replying to them. In order to get the most out of them, without them taking away from my on-air time, I only read those threads that I am really interested in, and even then, I quit reading them once they have started to drift off-topic. I also un-subscribe myself from lists that cover topics that I'm no longer interested in.

Blogs, podcasts and videos

In addition to getting on a few mailing lists, you might want to read a few blogs and subscribe to podcasts. These are also great sources of information about amateur radio. I blog about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com, and lots of hams find it

a good source of information. You can find a list of other ham radio blogs that I'd recommend on my home page.

Podcasts are also a good source of information. One podcast that you might want to check out is the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast (<http://www.myamateurradio.com>). Since 2008, Jerry, KD0BIK, has been producing PARP, and currently has more than 50 different episodes online. For other podcasts, consult the list on Jerry's home page.

Finally, there are literally thousands of amateur radio videos on the net. On YouTube alone, there are approximately 32,000 of them. The American Radio Relay League has its own channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ>), but perhaps the most popular amateur radio video channel is the K7AGE channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/K7AGE>). K7AGE has more than 6,200 subscribers and his videos have garnered more than 2.1 million views!

Whatever source or sources of information you select, remember to not let them take up too much of your time. Ham radio is about more than just reading, listening, or watching. It's about doing!

When he's not answering yet another e-mail, Dan blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches ham classes, and ragchews on 30m and 40m CW. You can e-mail him with comments or questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

###



Items for sale de K2WG

- Two Decibel UHF base station antennas. 20 years old but have not been in use since 2002. Exact model no longer manufactured but similar to current model ASP-705K 10 dB gain, 450-470, 500 watts, N female connector. Asking \$250.00 each or \$400.00 for both.

Contact: wayneg1231@fairpoint.net
Phone: 392-5704

PROFESSIONAL INSURED TOWER CLIMBER DISCOUNT RATES FOR HAMS

ANTENNAS - FEED LINES
INSTALLED & REMOVED

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518-965-9299

Arnie Cavallaro
Wireless Operations Mgr. Cell: 518-965-9299



Secure Wireless Broadband Internet
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Trade/Sale/In Search Of

I have some 'used condition' amateur rig's I purchased in the past 'new' eg. -1 Alinco DR-605 2/440 mtr fm dual band'r, 6 mtr fm mono band'r, 2 mtr fm mono band'r some 'cb' rig's (am), 1 is a ssb/am. These rig's either DO or Do Not function! Mostly all are easy/cheap 'radio repair' issues eg. internal 'fusing' maybe final or a digital led 'quirk' whatever! My Quest is to swap/trade (barter?) whatever it 'takes from my 'rig collection' to acquire a simple mono mode cw or better if (Lucky:-) cw/ssb 2 MTR rig. Not qrp but qrp 5w or better. This can be Any 'working' stable rig, transverter, completer kit rig, (the mfj-2mtr is an example). If Anyone is Interested in 'trade' or trade/cash 'barter' I am open ears. :-)
I've had much 2 mtr fun with fm now to go on with cw, and/or ssb. :-)-ke2eb George H. Call West Coxsackie, NY 518-731-9854 bubby-call@yahoo.com

WANTED

If anyone has a decent P4 desktop computer that they don't want any more we could use one at the repeater site. I am using a laptop but a desktop would be handier if you have one. I don't really need a keyboard but a LCD monitor would be nice.

Reminder from: TARA-N2TY Yahoo! Group

T.N.T. TRADER NET

Date: Thursday September 29, 2011

Time: 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Repeats: This event repeats every week.

Next reminder: The next reminder for this event will be sent in 1 day, 12 hours, 4 minutes.

Location: TARA REPEATER SYSTEM:
145.17/R & 447.075/R

Notes: This is a reminder for our weekly TARA - T.N.T. Trader Net which dedicated towards buying, selling or trading your amateur related items. All are welcome to come join us at 9:00 PM on the TARA repeater system 145.17/R & 447.075/R, plus Echolink #1774 or IRLP #4151.

Get reminders on your mobile, Yahoo! Messenger, and email.
Edit reminder options

I have about 16 -120 volt pan cake fans plus protective guards if you know of anyone 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

KENWOOD TS-850S

With PS-52 Power Supply and Kenwood MC85 Desk Microphone. It's in excellent condition since it was not used very much. \$599.

Call Len Sawicky, WB2UEB after 5PM at 828-0791

ANTENNAS FOR SALE

Comet GH50 6 meter vertical—\$50.00

Diamond X50A Dual Band 2 meter
450MHz \$50.00

Call Martha at 828-5282

FOR SALE

Collins (round emblem) hf amp model number 30L-110/15/20/40/80-meters. All RCA tubes-220-240volts-very nice condition, includes all antenna adapters. Lee will deliver within 25 miles of his qth-----Asking \$650

Gray Electronics 10 Meter Amplifier, 300 watts output/5 watt input, needs a 30-40 amp power supply-----Asking \$150

Garmin Nuvi 1390 GPS with Lifetime Map Updates-----Asking \$125

He also has bulk of LMR-400 Coax Cable, he wants \$.70 a foot for it. He will install PL-259 ends on it for \$6.00 per Each connector.

k2hat@ymail.com
518-772-3040

STATION MASTER ANTENNA FOR SALE

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

CLASS OF 2012



The Professor!



21 Things to Do After You Get Your Amateur Radio License

21 Things to Do: Join a club

April 4, 2012 By Dan KB6NU 3 Comments

Thanks to everyone who contributed ideas for my upcoming book, 21 Things to Do After Getting Your Amateur Radio License. I am going to post chapters here as I write them. Here's the first chapter. Please feel free to comment on this chapter.

Join a club

One of the very first things you should do after you get your first amateur radio license is to join a club. There are many reasons why this is a good idea, but perhaps the biggest reason is that amateur radio is more fun when shared with others. The whole point of amateur radio is to make contacts with other amateur radio operators. By joining a club, you start making face-to-face contacts.

All of the other reasons for joining a club stem from this idea of sharing the hobby with other amateur radio operators. For example, you can think of the other members of the club as a vast reservoir of knowledge that you can tap.

Want some advice on what radio to buy? Ask a club members. Need some help installing an antenna? Ask a club member. Have a question about the best place to buy feedline or connectors? Ask a club member. I think you get the idea.

Clubs conduct a variety of activities that you'll find both interesting and useful. Many clubs, for example, have speakers at their monthly meetings that discuss some aspect of amateur radio. By attending these meetings, you'll not only learn about the topic, but have someone that you can contact should you decide to pursue that topic further.

Clubs also hold classes and administer license examinations. Being a member of the club will make it easier for you to take advantage of the classes and help you upgrade your license more easily.

Another benefit that some clubs offer is the use of a club station. This station may allow use to use equipment or operate modes that would be impossible to do at your home station. Our club station, for example, has a three-element Yagi antenna up about 70 feet. There's no way that I could install such an antenna system at my home. Using the club station, though, allows me to experience using this antenna system and learn all about how they work and how well they work.

Being a club member can even help you get a good deal on used equipment. Club members often offer their used gear to other club members at a lower price than they would ask if they listed them online or taking them to hamfests. Not only do you get a lower price, but it's less likely that there will be a problem with your purchase, and if there is, you know exactly where to find the seller.

Finding a club

If you don't know of any clubs in your area, go to <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>. Type your zip code into the appropriate box, and soon you'll get a list of clubs in your area.

The listings will show what services the clubs offer, their specialties, and if the club has a website, the website address. This information should give you an idea of how active the club is and what kinds of things the club members are interested in.

If there are several clubs in your area, visit them all before deciding to join one. Just like people, clubs have their own personalities, and you may find that you fit better with one club rather than another. For example, some clubs emphasize emergency communications and public service. If you're not really interested in those activities, that club may not be for you.

Whichever club you choose, go to the meetings and participate in their activities. One thing is certain. You won't get anything out of a club, if you never show up.

From www.kb6nu.com web page

I NEED NEWS!

Have a story to share? An experience to relate? Some gear to review? Some gear to sell. A technical tip to dispense? Write it up, add a couple of appropriate photographs and send them off to *Rip's Report* wa2uet@taconic.net. Hams throughout the Columbia-Greene area will thank you, and so will the Editor!

I am not able to produce a quality newsletter on my own! I NEED your help! I am sorry for the repetitive content, I am trying to fill some space.