

LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND!

WEB SITE: WWW.RVWARS.COM

Packet BBS N2LDR-1 223.440

Happy
Birthday

Dana-N2KN
Jeff-N2RCF
George-W2JNO
Dana-WA2WNI

D

U

E

S

!



GOD BLESS
AMERICA



Please join us on the Tuesday night nets, 2M and 75M
ALL are welcome!

PACKET BBS
"K2RVW-1"
ON 145.030—Try it!

**2007 dues - Last
Chance**

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

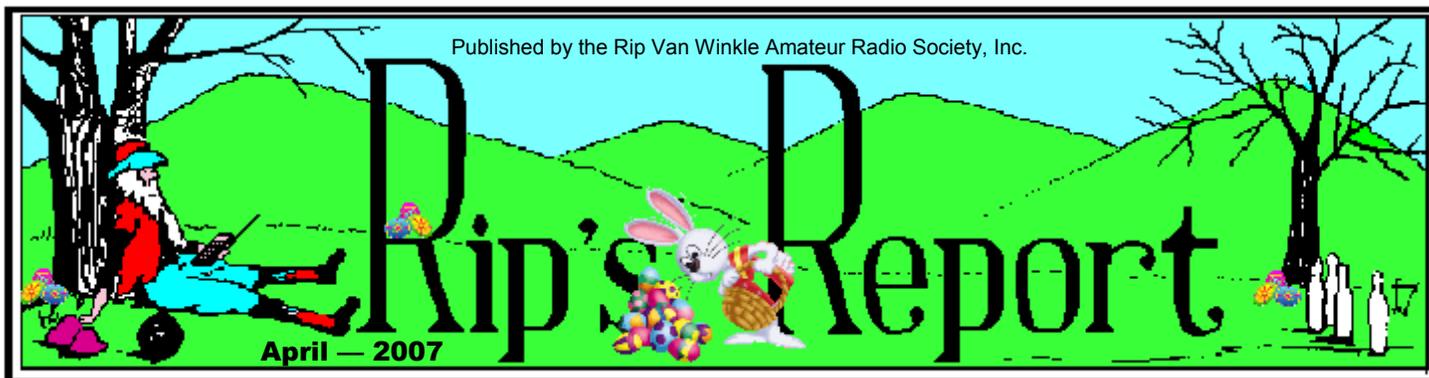


Meeting
April 16
7:00 PM
Noecker
"Club House"
Talk-in 147.09

As always PLEASE let us know if you have a problem with this News-
letter. My email address is: wa2uet@taconic.net

Any problems or suggestions are more than welcome.
Thanks





7 New Amateurs Licensed after Successful Scout Tech. Course

The Technician Course presented to the Boy Scouts of Hudson Troop 102 reached its successful conclusion on Wednesday evening, March 28 when the RVWARS VE team administered the Technician exam. Here are the official results that were mailed to ARRL VEC:

There were 15 candidates taking exams. The final outcome was:

1 Upgrade to Extra - WB2TQC

1 Upgrade to General - KC2OGK

8 New Technicians - 5 Boy Scouts, 2 Scout Leaders, plus 1 walk-in

Wayne, K2WG, lead instructor for the Scout Ham course, said: "My thanks to all who helped with the Scout Class and the VE Session. A very positive project for both ham radio in general and for RVWARS in particular. I'll be contacting all RVWARS members who have volunteered to mentor the new Scouts when their licenses arrive. If any of you have already established a mentoring relationship with any of the Scouts, please let me know ASAP so there is no duplication of effort."

Wayne extended a very special thanks to John W2JSN for providing the facilities for the Scout Class to meet. He also encouraged all RVWARS members to "get on board to assist



Above: Wayne, K2WG, lead instructor for the Scout Tech class presents awards to Scouts Bernie Keeler and Tom Elliot for the highest and second highest scores on the Technician Exam

Below: Adam Adriaance and Tom Yates tied for the third highest score on the Technician Exam



Marty, N2LDR, with the Technician Licensing Course being offered to the general public starting soon."

The Tech Course will also be held at the "Clubhouse" at Noecker's on Wednesday evenings. The starting date will be announced soon. Send Marty an email if you can help out with the class.

N2NZD Named Columbia EC

Tom Gutierrez, N2NZD, has been appointed as Columbia County Emergency Coordinator by Pete, N2YJZ, our Section Manager, and Frank, KB2YUR, our Section Emergency Coordinator for Eastern New York State.



Tom is taking over the ARES duties from Stan, WA2UET. Stan said "I will of course remain a member and do whatever I can to help Tom and the group get bigger and better. And I will of course continue to help Bob and the RACES group do what needs to be done there."

Stan also said "I feel badly about leaving the position but I strongly feel that the organization needs to have someone to help it grow in numbers and strength. If we sit stagnant for long enough we will cease to exist, and that would be a shame. ARES is a great organization and can make the members and the RVW club as a whole really shine in the eyes of the public and the organizations served. And of course we will be "Johnny on the spot" in any emergency between the time it happens and the time the County might declare an emergency and activate RACES."



Upcoming Events

April 2 — 7:00 p.m. ARES/RACES Meeting, Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson

April 16 — 7:00 p.m. RVWARS Meeting, Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson

May 0 — 7:00 pm. ARES/RACES Meeting, Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson

May 12 — 8:00 a.m. East Greenbush Hamfest — Phillips Road Firehouse, East Greenbush

May 00 — 7:00 p.m. RVWARS Meeting, Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson

RVWARS Weekly Nets

Tuesday — 7:00 p.m.
ARES/RACES Emergency Training Net. 147.21 Repeater

Tuesday — 7:30 p.m.
ARES/RACES Emergency Training Net: 3.980 LSB

Thursday — 7:00 p.m.
Packet Net. 224.280 Repeater and 223.440 Simplex.

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society VITAL STATISTICS

President — David Clapper WA2FTI
Vice President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD
Secretary — Shelly Evans AA2Y
Treasurer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Historian — Stan Engel WA2UET
Safety Officer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Newsletter — David Clapper WA2FTI
E-mail — dclapper@mhicable.com
Repeaters — 147.21 224.280 449.925
Club Call — Kilo 2 Rip Van Winkle
Web Page — <http://www.rvwars.com>
RVWARS E-mail — wa2fti@yahoo.com
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

In Spite of What You've Heard, Morse Code Isn't Dead!



These three Boy Scouts and one of their adult Leaders are shown as they copy a 5 wpm code test at the recent VE session. After having only three weeks to practice code, they each came within a few words of passing the code test. Even though the test had no bearing on their attempt at gaining an Amateur Radio license they wanted to give it a try! They all say that they plan to operate CW in the Technician bands on HF. Pictured above from the Left: Tom Elliot, Adam Adriance, Robert Adriance (Leader), Bernie Keeler.

Ham Course for General Public Set For May 16

Following on the heels of a successful class for Boy Scouts, the RVWARS team is offering a Technician Class license course that is open to the General Public beginning May 16, 2007.

Marty Miller, N2LDR, RVWARS Education Chairman, will be the lead instructor for the course which he plans to run for 12 Wednesday evenings at the RVWARS Clubhouse at Noecker's in Hudson.

Marty has already had offers of assistance from several of the volunteers who helped out with the Scouts. If you haven't signed up yet, contact Marty by email. Also, if you know of someone interested in becoming a Ham, pass the information on.

As usual, the class will end with a VE session.

Beacon Hamfest Sunday, April 22

As most of you know by now, The Mount Beacon Club is putting on another Hamfest this coming April 22nd. It's a Sunday and you should put it on your calendar since as always it will be a Blast!

Location is Tymor Park, 249 Duncan Rd Lagrangeville, NY 12540. Talk-in will be on 146.970 (-) pl 100.

GPS: N41 39.240 W 73 41.818.

What more could you ask for? Tons of electronic STUFF at great prices, fine cuisine, a chance to put a face to that voice you've heard so many times on the air and even a chance to upgrade or just find out more about Ham Radio.

RVWARS APRIL MEETING
7:00 pm Monday April 16
Noecker's Clubhouse
Rt. 66 & Graham Ave, Hudson

NC-300 Power Transformer Restoration

By Carl J. Verderber WA2UJX

I recently acquired an NC-300 Amateur band receiver made by the National Co. in the late 1950's. It was a partial trade for components and labor used



National NC-300

to functionally refurbish a Hallicrafters SX-99 receiver. The "99" is a very important part of the owners' HAM history; his first introduction to Amateur QSO's at the age of 7. The "99" turned out quite well and I wanted to get my hands on this "300" to see how it was performing.

Applying power, speaker and long-wire antenna, I turned the NC-300 on and while waiting for it to warm up, I placed it into AM mode, wide receive and located 3885khz on the 75 Meter dial (my favorite starting point for operating AM). Before long, I was amazed to hear some well known voices coming through the "ether". Wow! It works! But what was the other sound I heard emanating from inside the cabinet half as loud as the voices in the speaker? Upon opening the top cover and listening carefully, I could discern the noise (internal arcing or acoustical vibrations) was coming from the receivers' power transformer. Time to take matters in hand and start disassembly.

Now, I don't know how you feel about repairing "boat anchors" but for me, that's where the action is. I would have made an excuse to disassemble it even if it performed perfectly. Anyway, by removing the offending transformer from the chassis, removing the bolts and "bell ends" and then connecting to AC power (no load), the noise was diagnosed quickly. The laminations were vibrating quite loudly and by pinching hard with my fingers, most of the acoustical noise disappeared. Somehow in the past, this receiver had been in a damp environment which caused the laminations to rust — thus loosening the bonding varnish between the plates causing them to vibrate. Time to disassemble the "E" and "I" plates and rescue this important component part.

Using a pocket knife and separating each E/I lamination I found that after all this work, I had 66 "E's" and "I's". Each had a residue of varnish and rust so I soaked them for two hours in a commercial carburetor cleaner (not the spray but the real stuff that comes in a 3 gallon pail. Washing off them off with clear water I then brushed off the small amount of rust on each plate and dried them. Since I had never done this work before, I asked lots of questions of other amateurs and got many different answers about what varnish to use. One fellow said I destroyed the transformer and told me "not to waste my time" and buy a new one from P. Dahl. Yet another said I should find a two part epoxy, mix it quickly, then smear each plate with this mess and



The "Buzzing" (Blue) Power Transformer

better work quickly before it setup He said he guaranteed that it would NEVER come apart again! Who cares about the next guy that might own this rig?

And another said that he worked for a motor winder

and for my purposes, all I needed was polyurethane varnish, heat it to 200 degrees, let the whole thing set for an hour to allow varnish to seep into all the cracks and crevices. And if I had to immerse to leads, rub heavy grease on each lead so the varnish won't take. Then bake the whole thing for an hour or so to cure everything. I remembered the house floor I re-varnished two years ago and I had ¾ gallon of the "right stuff" left.

I filled an old kitchen pot to 3 inches deep with varnish and placed it on top of an old electric hot plate. I did this in the open yard and not in the garage or basement as a wrong turn could bring the varnish to flames. Using a handheld infrared thermometer, I heated the varnish to 200 degrees F and placed the assembled but loosened plate transformer in the solution for the 1 hour period

Continued on Page 4

NC-300 Power Transformer Restoration

Continued from Page 3

taking time to agitate the part and varnish every 10 minutes.

After an hour I took the transformer assembly out and let the excess drip out onto some paper towels. Once it stopped dripping, I tightened the bolts holding the laminations together, squaring up the stack but not installing the end bells. Now to cure this unit I needed an oven. Walking into the house and requesting to use the kitchen stove, my wife Karen picked up a large knife, pointed at me and said "Get that thing out of here". OK, I think of something else...but soon I remembered I had a



"Roasting" the Transformer

"sintering" oven that I never used in the garage. I was junk where I worked but I can't throw away anything. I plugged it in and set it on LOW position. The temp came up to 300 degrees F. and then I placed the transformer into it. I removed power and kept it in for 1 hour. By that time, the varnish was dry and the transformer was not too hot. Now to assemble and test!

First, I took the bolts out then carefully placed the leads into one of the newly painted end bells, and bolted up both bells squeezing the assembly together ready for testing and service. Well it worked perfectly in the radio and I feel a certain amount of accomplishment by saving this component. I wanted to share this with others especially those who are apprehensive about doing something they never tried before. Give it a shot!! The worst that could happen is you'll have to buy another part.

Be an "Elmer" — Help a New Ham

Lighthouse QSO Party This Weekend, April 7

The Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society is sponsoring the Annual ARLHS Spring Lites QSO Party beginning at 0001Z April 7 and running until 2359Z on April 15. All modes may be used.

Calling frequencies are: SSB: 1970, 3970, 7270, 14.270, 21.370, and 28.370. CW: 1830, 3530, 7030, 14.030, 21.030, and 28.030. Score 1 point per QSO plus 2 points per ARLHS member plus 3 points per lighthouse. Special logging requirements apply — see <http://arlhs.com> for details, awards and prizes Send logs by April 30 to NFØJ, Dave Ruch, PO Box 20696, Bloomington, MN 55420.

Any RVWARS member interested in setting up a mobile HF station near the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse? There is at least one member who does take part in this activity, there should be more since we have one of the better known lighthouses on the Hudson River here in our own "Backyard."



Hudson-Athens Lighthouse

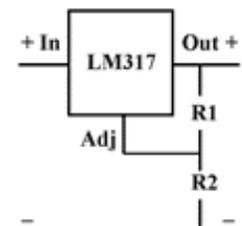
The Versatile LM317

The LM317 is a floating regulator and sees only the input-to-output differential voltages, therefore power supplies of several hundred volts can be regulated as long as the maximum input-to-output differential of 40 volts is not exceeded.

The current carrying capacity of the LM317 is 1.5 amperes. If this current is not sufficient to operate the load a power transistor may be added to increase the current handling capability.

To get other voltages or to try out different value resistors download George Murphy, VE3RP's HamCalc from www.w6bw.org

Input voltage	13.60 volts
Output voltage	9.00 volts
Value of R1	100 ohms
Value of R2	620 ohms
Output voltage	5.00 volts
Value of R1	100 ohms
Value of R2	300 ohms





East Greenbush
W2EGB



Amateur Radio Association
4TH ANNUAL HAMFEST

Saturday May 12, 2007 - Rain or Shine!

Phillips Road Firehouse, East Greenbush NY
Vendor Setup - 6 AM
Gates Open to General Admission - 8 AM

General Admission - \$5

New for '07: **Indoor Tables* – \$15 Day of Event (\$13 Prepay)**

Tables under Pavilion* – \$10 Day of Event (\$8 Prepay)

Tailgating – FREE!**

Club Tables* – FREE!

(For a club table, please contact KC2FCP in advance)

** Includes one admission*

*** Free with General Admission*

VE Exam

- Offered offsite @ 9 AM
- Technician – Extra Class
- Contact **KC2FCP** for info

Hot Food All Day!

- Breakfast: Breakfast Sandwiches, Doughnuts
- Lunch: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chili
- Hot and Cold Drinks
- Much, much more

Premier Door Prize: Yaesu FT-1802M

*to be drawn at Noon**



Other Door Prizes*

ARRL Publications, Electronics, and MORE!

Drawings every 20 minutes starting at 9!

**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN*

For info and/or reservations contact:

Tom, KC2FCP (kc2fcp@nycap.rr.com)

Talk-in: 147.270 (+), PL 94.8 Hz