

**GOODY FEST!!!**

**WEB SITE: WWW.RVWARS.COM-UP AND RUNNING AGAIN!**

**Packet BBS N2LDR-1 223.440**

*Happy  
Birthday*

Tom-N2NZZ  
Russ-W2FSL  
Bob-WB2DUW  
Melvin-KA2RSG



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 ARE DUE**

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

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

AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY  
NOCKER  
DEC 18  
7:00 PM  
"Club House"  
Talk-in 147.21



## 'Goodies' Galore Promised for Rip's Annual Festival of Fanciful Delights!

Once again Old Rip and the Missus have promised to spare not a single calorie to ensure that the Rippers will have a glorious time at the RVWARS annual 'Goodie Fest' scheduled for the December 18th meeting at the Noecker Showroom "Clubhouse" beginning at 7:00 p.m. For those who don't know, the location is at the corner of Graham Ave. and Rte. 66 just North of Hudson.

Everyone is invited... bring the spouse and/or girlfriend (or boyfriend!) or a good friend. Aspiring Hams are welcome, too! Come see what it's all about.

Anyone who wants to bring along their favorite HF rig to show off, the new antenna "farm" should be installed by that time. So, it would be a perfect opportunity to demonstrate your new radio... or even an oldie but goody boat anchor!

Everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite baked goodie either homemade or store bought to share. Soft drinks and coffee will be provided.

There will be a short business meeting before adjourning to enjoy the party. As usual, there will be a 50/50 drawing.



## K2RVW Repeater Repairs about done: New Features Coming!

With its final thoroughly cooked, The RVWARS 2 meter repeater left the air last month leaving the area without our .21 connection. Thanks to Len, N2LEN, who loaned the club one of his repeaters, the local mobiles, HT's and base stations are communicating once again on 147.21.

In the meantime, the charred machine has made its way to California and the Yaesu shops where a new board is being installed. The repeater will soon be headed East for re-installation on the Hill.

While the repeater is being prepared for installation a couple of additions will be installed. A new controller that, among other things, will permit the Control Operator to record and program live announcements will be installed. Also to be installed will be a National Weather Service emergency warning system that will broadcast weather warnings over the repeater. This addition was suggested by SkyWarn.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## RACES takes Part in Flu Drill

RACES members were activated on Thursday afternoon, November 30 when the Columbia County Health Department ran a working "Pandemic" Flu Shot drill. County residents were invited to receive actual Flu shots while the Health Dept. and Public Safety agencies (including RACES) got to experience handling large crowds such as might be expected in a Pandemic situation.

RACES personnel provided backup and inter-agency communication for the drill which ran from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Taking part were Bob Turner WB2DUW, RACES RO; Stan Engel WA2UET, ARES EC; Dave Clapper, WA2FTI; Tom Gutierrez N2NZD; and Jim, KC2OGK.



## ARES Help Needed for Winter Run at CGCC

The winter run at Columbia Greene Community College is going to be held on Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m.. It is a quick event.

We need about 6 folks to help out for that run. But we can find room for more. Contact Stan, WA2UET.

You don't have to be a member of ARES or RACES... or even RVWARS. Please help us out!



## Upcoming Events

**Dec. 18 - 7:00 p.m.** RVWARS Meeting, Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson Annual "Goodie Fest"

**Jan. 8 - 7:00 p.m.** ARES/RACES Meeting, Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson

**Jan. 15 - 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](mailto:wa2fti@yahoo.com)  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

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## K2RVW Repeater Repairs about done...



This photo of our repeater shows the damage to the PA board. The destroyed transistor, in the center of the photo, is what is left of the 'final.' Note the melted solder and how it has flowed down over the surface mount chip capacitors and the transistor leads.

### *Bad Hardline May be the Cause of Repeater Damage*

Water soaked hardline transmission cable on the 2 meter repeater may be the cause of the damage to the repeater's final. High SWR over a long period could result in overheating.

When the new hardline was installed and the power level was brought back up to normal might well have been "the straw that broke the camel's back" and finally cooked the final!

In any case, we will soon have the repeater back... with some great new features, to boot!

RVWARS extends its thanks and appreciation to Len N2LEN for the loan of his repeater!

## Boy Scout License Classes Offered in Jan.

RVWARS was recently asked by the Troop Leader of Hudson Boy Scout Troop 102 if the club could offer training in Amateur Radio to its members. A call was sent out and the 'Rippers' responded! It looks good at this time that a class will be taught for at least 10 weeks with a VE session at the end.

Wayne K2WG is spearheading the instructor group with Dave WA2FTI, Bob WB2DUW, Tom N2NZD offering their help. The location of the classes will either be at the Hudson American Legion Hall (the Scouts' meeting place) or at Noecker's. Details will be worked out later.

## Good Turnout for SkyWarn Training Last Month



Tom Wasula from the National Weather Service, Albany, makes a point during the SkyWarn class presented at last month's RVWARS meeting. About a dozen hams stayed after the regular meeting to receive advanced training in SkyWarn extreme weather spotting.

The NWS in Albany relies on local Amateur Radio spotters to alert them on local weather conditions. Many RVWARS spotters have professional quality weather stations and are active weather spotters.



# DX Calendar

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, DXNL, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

BARBADOS, 8P. Dean, 8P6SH will be QRV in the ARRL 10 Meter contest as a Single-Op/SSB/High-Power entry. He also expects to be active in the upcoming CQ RTTY WPX contest next February. QSL via KU9C.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q. Philippe is QRV as 9Q1TB and has been active during the weekend on 40 meters from around 2030 to 2200z. QSL via F5LTB.

BAHRAIN, A9. Special event station A92BND is QRV during the month of December in celebration of the country's National Day, which is December 16. QSL via A92GR.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Vlad, UA4WHX is QRV as C91VB/4. He is active on all bands using CW and SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

CHILE, CE. CE2P is QRV from Panul Lighthouse, ARLHS CHI-073, during the weekends in December, January and February. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using only SSB. QSL via EA5KB.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Operators Edu, EA8AUW and Juha, OH9MM will be QRV as EF8A from the URE Las Palmas Section in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest as a Multi-Op/Mixed-Mode/High-Power entry. QSL via EA8AUW. FRANCE, F. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Council of Europe Radio Amateur

Club, special event call TP20CE is QRV until December 10. This will be the last activity with this special callsign. QSL via F5LGF.

GUINEA BISSAU, J5. Gianfranco is QRV as J59OFM and usually found on 20 meters SSB around 1630z on various days. QSL via I3LDP.

ARGENTINA, LU. Oscar, LU1XS will be QRV as CE8/LU1XS from Navarino Island, IOTA SA-050, from December 8 to 10. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using only CW. QSL to home call.

ARUBA, P4. P49MR is QRV until April 2007. Activity is concentrated on 12, 17 and 6 meters SSB. QSL via VE3MR.

GREECE, SV. Operators Steve, G4EDG and Jeff, G4ELZ are QRV as SV8/G4EDG/p and SV8/G4ELZ/p, respectively, from Aegina Island, IOTA EU-075, until December 10. They are using only CW. QSL direct via G4ELZ. BERMUDA, VP9. Mark, AA1AC will be QRV as AA1AC/VP9 from the Hamilton Parish from December 9 to 13. QSL to home call.

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS, VU. Members of the Amateur Radio Society of India are QRV as VU7LD (and VU7LD/homecalls) from Kavaratti Island, IOTA AS-011, until December 31. They are active on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV and PSK. QSL via W3HNC.

ZIMBABWE, Z2. George is QRV as Z24S and has been active on 20 meters around 0500 and 1830z.

## The K7RA Solar Update



SEATTLE, WA, Dec 8, 2006 -- The past couple of days have seen robust solar activity, with flares and strong solar wind. On Wednesday and Thursday, December 6 and 7, the planetary A index rose to 28 before falling back to 25. On December 5 a large X9-class solar flare emerged from the sun's eastern side, but it wasn't Earth-directed. This was from large Sunspot 930, which drove the sunspot number to 59 on the same day as the solar flare -- the same level as five days earlier. Wednesday, December 6, saw a smaller X6-class flare, and early Friday morning we are seeing a strong solar wind, with the interplanetary magnetic field pointing south, making us vulnerable. There is a chance of more flares, which could be bad news for the ARRL 10 Meter Contest this weekend.

Flare activity caused a 10.7 cm solar flux reading at Penticton, British Columbia, to jump off the scale. The noon reading showed a solar flux of 573.4, and it had to be adjusted downward to 103 for the day.

A current forecast from NOAA and the US Air Force calls for Planetary A indices on December 8-12 of 30, 50, 40, 20 and 10. Predicted A indices of 50 and 40 for December 9-10 do not bode well for the weekend contest. Even if the geomagnetic activity is this strong, there still should be some north-south transequatorial propagation on 10 meters. But here we see an average sunspot number of 52 for this week -- 35 points higher than last week -- and, of course, the downside is a greater chance of solar flares.

There is a new prediction for the sunspot cycle minimum. Until recently, the minimum was predicted to have a smoothed sunspot number of six centered on March and April 2007. The new forecast moves the minimum out a little further, with a predicted smoothed sunspot number of seven for May 2007. You can see the difference in the table of the SEC Preliminary Report and Forecast for this week compared with the issue from four weeks ago. This later and higher minimum makes sense, because we haven't seen weeks in a row of zero sunspots.



# 'Twas the night before Christmas,

And all through 2 meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,  
Took their H-Ts to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
By a signal with power.  
It smoked a small diode,  
And, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam.  
A flying sleigh, with an  
Eight-element beam,

And a little old driver  
Who looked slightly mean.  
So I thought for a moment,  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,  
The Santa of Hams.  
On a mission, this Christmas,  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late QSLs  
For a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth,  
Till the station was grounded.

He repaired the computer  
That would not compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box.  
A new rig? I thought!

A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?!  
(If he thought I'd been bad,  
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those hours  
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,  
It was my call he sent.  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
73."

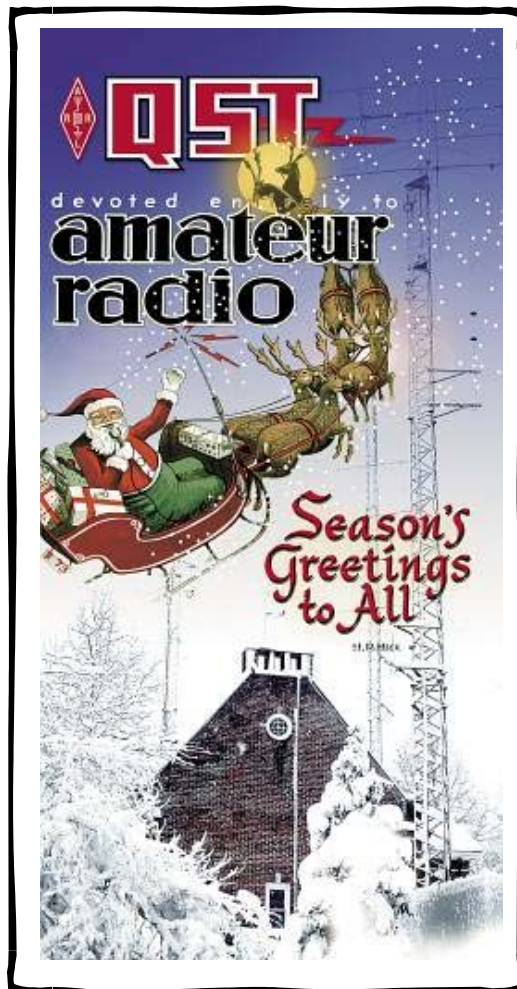
Then he grabbed his H-T,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone with no good-bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pileup was big,  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final  
came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What a ham might expect,  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX!"

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He tightened loose fittings,  
Resoldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp.  
(Never worked right before;  
Now it works like a champ).

A new, lowpass filter  
Cleaned up the TV.  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.