

# February Meeting

On the 16th!

## Happy Birthday

David-K2COI	Betty-N2POS
John-K2DVF	Ben-N2ROQ
Dan-KC2MZY	Tad-N2TAD
Patti-KC2PWO	Ann-WA2KCU
Anna-KC2SJJ	

**The Thursday night RACES nets will now be formal nets with Bob, WB2DUW, as NCS. They will be the first Thursday of the Month.**

**Please Pay Your Dues for 2009**

Mail to:  
**Stan Engel, WA2UET**  
**PO Box 153**  
**Ghent, NY 1207**

The new dues structure is \$25.00 per year and \$30.00 per family. \$5.00 for students in school or college and active military is free. The dues run from Jan 1st to Dec 31st with a grace period until April 1st to pay the previous year. After April 1st any dues paid will be for the following year. So the new rates will take effect on April 1st.

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

Any problems or suggestions are more than welcome. Thanks

# DUES

# ARE

# DU

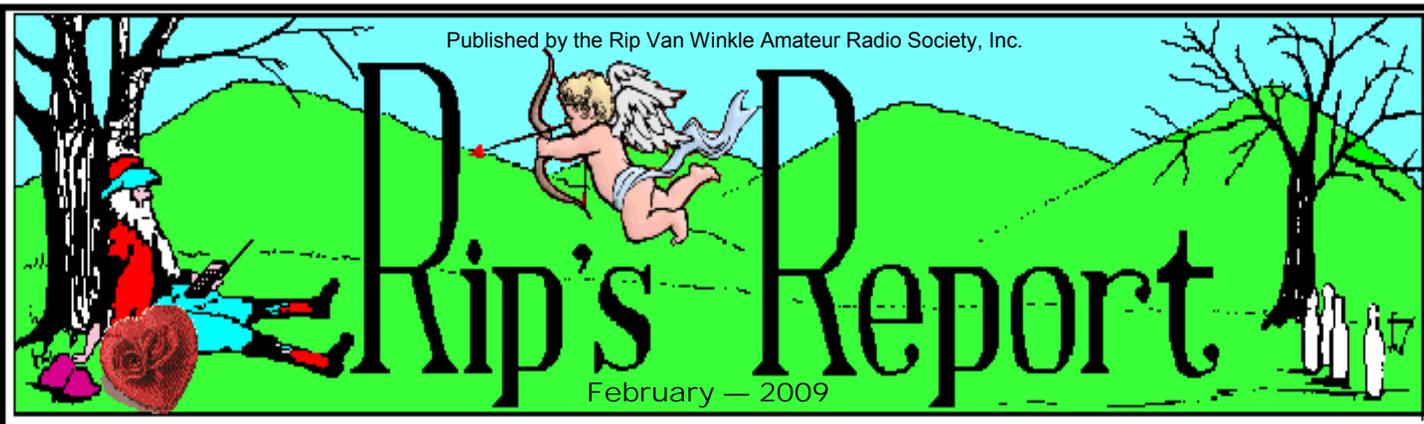
# E!



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



**Meeting**  
**February 16**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Noecker**  
**"Club House"**  
**Talk-in 147.21**



## RVWARS Dues Increase Voted In

The members present at the regular January meeting voted to increase the Dues beginning January, 2010. The member dues will increase from \$15 to \$25 per year. Family memberships will be \$30 per year. Dues for students remain at \$5 per year and members serving in the Military will continue to be dues-free.

In other proceedings, Bob Turner reported on the repairs to the Repeater Site after the ice storm. A work party to construct heavy duty battery cables will take place after the February Meeting. A complete report on the Repeater and RACES appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

A discussion on back-up a repeater for the 147.21 machine disclosed that N2JVE, Mike, is presently working on the conversion of a radio donated to RACES. The unit will become a "Portable Repeater" for RACES use. It could also be used in emergencies if the 2 Meter repeater goes off the air.

Dave, WA2FTI and Stan, WA2UET brought up a proposal to offer clocks with the RVWARS logo on the face to club members at a cost of \$10 each. The proposal was greeted enthusiastically and the project will go forward. Proceeds from the clocks will go to the Club.

## February 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting at the Clubhouse

The February RVWARS meeting will return to the Clubhouse at 7:00 pm on the Monday after Valentines Day!

Further discussion of the Club's Ham Classes will continue. Some support for Upgrade classes was evident at the January meeting.

Volunteer battery cable makers are needed to prepare the battery cables for the new (to us!) batteries at the repeater site. Cable work will take place after the meeting.

As always, coffee and goodies will be available as well as the 50/50 drawing!



## Columbia County RACES

The new EOC is almost complete and ready for RACES to move in. There are many things that RACES requires to provide a functioning room in the new EOC. RACES is in need of a second 13.8 volt, 30 amp power supply, preferably an 'Astron' transformer type. Also, a single band 450 MHz. Radio and a single band 220 MHz. Radio, both in the 35-45 watt output range.

If you have any equipment of this type, and would like to donate it to the Columbia County RACES organization it would be highly appreciated. Please contact: rturner123@hughes.net

## Annual Auction Set for March 16

Once again it will soon be Auction time! If you haven't already been poking through all your gear looking for stuff to sell off, now is the time to dig deep and get things ready to bring to the Noecker Club House on March 16.



We're always looking for good used equipment... low band as well as VHF/UHF rigs, antennas, power supplies, amplifiers, tuners, coax, ladder line, what-have-you!

Computer stuff hasn't done well in past years, so unless you have an older, serviceable laptop that will run PSK, it would be better to leave it at home.

Again this year we hope to have the magic duo of Shelly and Wayne as our auctioneers.

Don't forget to label your junk, er... equipment with at least your call sign and the lowest price you will accept.

The Auction is one of RVWARS's biggest fund raisers, so bring things to auction and bring lots of cash to buy!

With the addition of many new hams to our ranks, good used rigs are needed.

The coffee pot will be on with some goodies to munch on while you are bidding! 50/50 too! Bring a friend!



## Upcoming Events

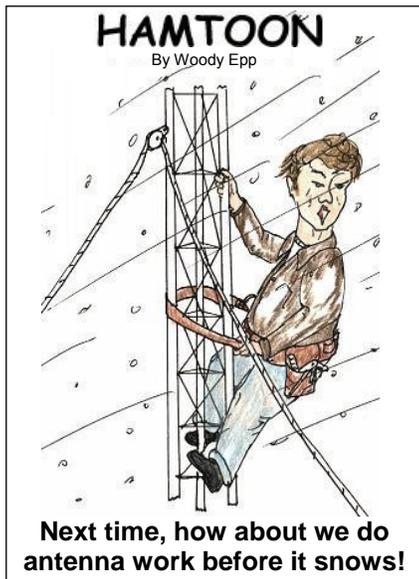
**Monday, Feb. 2 — 7:00 p.m.**  
ARES/RACES Meeting —  
Noecker Clubhouse. Rt. 66 &  
Graham Ave. Hudson

**Monday, Feb. 16 — 7:00 p.m.**  
RVWARS Meeting  
Noecker Clubhouse. Rt. 66 &  
Graham Ave. Hudson

### RVWARS Weekly Nets

**Tuesday — 7:00 p.m.**  
Informal Roundtable Net. 147.21  
Repeater

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



#### Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society VITAL STATISTICS

President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD  
Vice President — Steve Walsh W2SXX  
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](mailto: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/>

## RVWARS Repeater Repairs and Upgrade RACES Repeater and Battery Preparation

**By Bob Turner WB2DUW**  
RVWARS Repeater Chairman  
RVWARS RACES Radio Officer

With the worst of the latest ice storm behind us, it is important that we focus on 1) a way to provide for remote shut-down of all or any of the repeaters during a commercial power failure, and 2) some way of knowing what's happening at the site. The old TAP AR telemetry equipment that was donated by Marty Miller N2LDR, was damaged beyond repair and was removed about a year ago. That unit provided a way to monitor the critical equipment at the site, the AC power, the DC power, the actual voltage at the site and an open door alarm as well as the building (inside) ambient temperature and the smoke/fire alarm.

The first item has been addressed and a plan has been developed to provide a remote shutdown capability for each of the repeaters utilizing the NHRC touch-tone decoder that is existing at the site. Three separate 40 amp normally operated relays driven by a MOSFET will supply the 13.8 volts for each repeater. This control will be done over the separate 450 MHz. Control radio at the site.

The second item is the telemetry unit and there has been some discussion about that as well. Due to the fact that a) no one makes a stock item that will do what we want it to do and b) the cost of a "custom" unit is beyond our budget, it was determined that we need to build one utilizing a "Basic Stamp 2" microprocessor. This could be designed to scan all of the items of interest and upon sensing an alarm condition, will key-up the 450 control radio and transmit a morse code signal such as "AC" to indicate a commercial power failure or a "RF" for a rectifier failure. The device that I have chosen to use has 1610 pins and can be configured as needed. This project will begin about the first of February and will complete some time in the summer.

As this project will be "a work in progress" we might add a voice recorder to announce the alarms in voice rather than CW. We will also be looking into the possibility of having the BS2 monitoring the AC power and

using a "exclusive OR" gate to also shut down the repeaters under program control. This unit could also convert the analog DC voltage to a digital level and transmit that downlink as well. With a little thought and imagination we could have the BS2 handle just about anything we would want.

If anyone would like to contribute ideas or work on this very interesting project please let Bob Turner [rturner123@hughes.net](mailto:rturner123@hughes.net) know and I will be in touch.

### BATTERIES

The need for helping hands has arrived: The new cells that were donated by Fred Fitte WA2MMX need to be put on-line. These seven (7) cells are 2.13 volts and 1310 amp/hours capacity. They should provide weeks - if not months- of emergency power in the event that the commercial power should fail. We need volunteers to cut and make up the twelve (12) inter-cell cables to get these cells on-line, possibly after each regular RVWARS meeting we could stay around and make up the necessary cables. The Club will supply the #2AGW cable and the terminals and the crimping tool to do the job.



**Hudson Valley Towers**

Tower Installation — Antennas  
New Installations  
Repairs

**Ray Higgins W2RE**  
**Lee Imber WW2DX**

[www.hudsonvalleytowers.com](http://www.hudsonvalleytowers.com)  
[service@hudsonvalleytowers.com](mailto:service@hudsonvalleytowers.com)

**Easy Antenna Construction:**

**The G5RV Antenna: Easy to Build, Easy to Use**

*Submitted by Steve, W2SXX*

The "common" G5RV is configured as a 3/2-wave dipole on 20 meters, and works as either a shortened dipole, or a collinear-fed long wire on the other bands. In this configuration, the overall length is 102 ft, with a 28 to 34 ft matching line.

In some cases, this is still too large to fit in one's yard, and not everyone can convince their neighbors to allow one to stretch the wire across property lines. In this case, a 1/2-size version, covering 7 to 28 MHz is useable.

Conversely, some amateurs would like to have 1.8 MHz capability, and have the 204 ft length necessary for this array. I have dimensions included here for both the half-size, and double-size G5RV antennas.

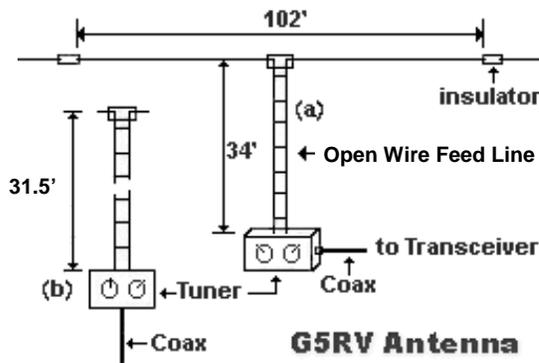
*All of the above-mentioned antennas will work on the 6 Meter band, sometimes without an Antenna Tuner.*

Of the listed antennas above, the 7-28 MHz version was referred to in Louis, G5RV's article in the ARRL "ANTENNA COMPENDIUM" Volume 1, the 1.8 - 28 MHz version is in use at Evhan, WB2ELB's QTH, (with a single feedline, directly matched with the internal ATU in his Kenwood, I am also running the double-scale G5RV here on 160 - 6 Meters and the 3.5-28 MHz version in use by more local hams than I can remember right now.

Just for reference, the ladder line is available at most amateur dealers, over-the-counter, or mail-order, and the polycarbonate (Lucite) plastic for the spreaders for home-built open wire is available at any major plastic suppliers. If using TV twinlead, you can find this at Radio Shack. Insulators can be found at Tractor supply and wire can be found at Home Depot. You can find many more articles on Ham Radio at [www.dxzone.com](http://www.dxzone.com).

Several RVWARS members have perfected ways of getting wire antennas up into trees without climbing. Ask around at the next meeting.

Wire antennas work well and are easy to put up!



**Antenna Dimensions**

Bands	1.8-28 MHz	3.5-28 MHz	7.0-28 MHz
Flat-top	204 ft	102 ft	51 ft
<b>MATCHING LINES:</b>			
Open wire (a)	67.3 ft	34 ft	17 ft
Ladder line (b)	62.4 ft	31.5 ft	21.2 ft
"TV" twin lead	56.9 ft	28.5 ft	14.4 ft



**The Annual  
RVWARS   
March**

**Auction**

**March 16, 2009  
at the  
CLUBHOUSE**

**(Noecker's)  
Corner of Graham & Route 66  
Hudson**

**7:00 pm**

**Bring your Good Used Ham Gear  
for Auction!**

**(NO JUNK PLEASE!)**

**Buy a Rig  
or Antenna  
for your Ham Shack!**

**Good Opportunity for  
NEW HAMS  
to find Equipment!**

**Refreshments Served!  
50/50**

**SEE  
YOU  
THERE**



# January Meeting at Columbia County EOC



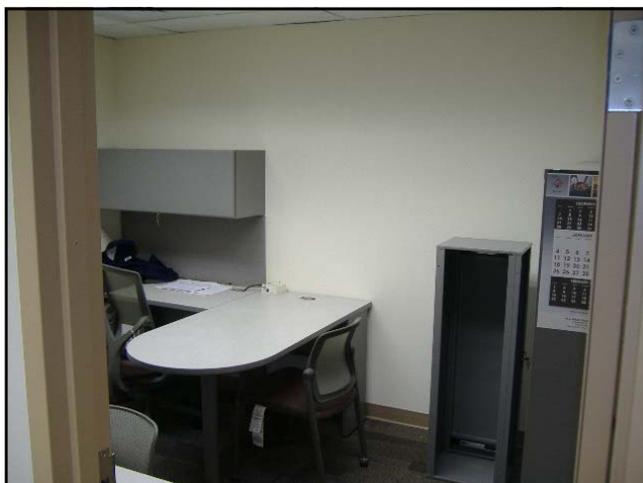
PHOTOS  
by  
John,  
W2JSN



**Bob, WB2DUW, RACES Radio Officer gives the RACES Report to the RVWARS members.**



**Wayne, K2WG, describes the workings of the 911 Center to the RVWARS members in the Conference Room (L) and in the 911 Center (R)**



**The RVWARS RACES room in the Columbia County EOC. More equipment will be installed to provide communications on HF, VHF and UHF. Donations of rigs are requested!**

# FCC License Activity Rising

According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, there continues to be a heightened interest in Amateur Radio following the FCC's elimination of the Morse code exam requirement in February 2007: "The number of new license applicants remains strong under the new Amateur Radio Service rules. The following table chronicles all 14 FCC authorized VEC organizations' new license activity over the last few years." In 2008, the total number of US amateurs rose 1.2 percent, from 655,800 in 2007, to 663,500 in 2008.

**New Amateur Totals  
2006 through November 2008**

Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	1274	1647	1755
Feb	1605	2435	2998
Mar	2531	3478	2816
Apr	1728	2673	3090
May	2283	2607	2562
Jun	1967	2281	2402
Jul	1401	1786	2077
Aug	1623	2183	2084
Sep	1357	1462	1763
Oct	1781	2109	2303
Nov	1993	2132	2197
Dec	1569	1935	2019
Totals:	21,112	26,728	28,066

Somma said that the number of General and Extra class upgrades is also on the rise. "When looking at 2006 totals," she said, "we see that upgrade applications for 2007 were up 286 percent; in 2008, they were up 146 percent over 2006. Requests for new club licenses also remain strong. In 2008, we had 671 applications for club licenses come in, while in 2007, there were 506 applications.

That's an increase of 133 percent."

Calling it a "ripple effect," Somma said that the number of amateurs who want to be volunteer examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up. "Here at the ARRL VEC, we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as examiners and instructors," she said.

Somma further broke down the numbers to show the approximate number of licensees per FCC license class:

## FCC License Classes:

(November 2008)

Novice:	18,500
Technician:	322,500
General:	145,000
Advanced:	62,000
Extra:	115,500
Total US Amateurs:	663,500

"I can think back to the mid 1980s when there were approximately 450,000 US Amateurs," Somma recalled. "These are the highest numbers of General and Extra class licensees I have ever seen." As of April 15, 2000, the FCC no longer issues Novice or Advanced class licenses. "As expected, the number of Novice and Advanced class licensees has decreased," she said. "As I look toward 2009, I see Amateur Radio growing in a positive direction."

—Some information provided by Joe Speroni, AH0A

## Weekend Tech Class, VE Session offered by East Greenbush ARC

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Club will be providing a one weekend (two-day) Technician course and VE Session, on March 7 and 8, 2009, at the Masonic Temple in East Greenbush. There will be a full day of classes on Saturday with live radio demonstrations with a review and VE Exam on Sunday.

This is a great time to get you, your family members and/or friends who are interested in amateur radio, a license or an upgrade of their own!

More information can be found at [www.k2ck.us](http://www.k2ck.us).

The class fee is \$25. That includes the test fee, lunch, and snacks. The current version of the *Gordon West Technician Guide* is required. The cost of the text book is not included in the class fee, but the book can be easily purchased on-line. (amazon.com seems to have the best price: \$18.95. With shipping and tax, the total is: \$24.78)

Contact Glenn, WB2FOB, at [wb2fob@egara.org](mailto:wb2fob@egara.org) or Scott, K2CK, at [k2ck@arrl.net](mailto:k2ck@arrl.net) to register or for more information.



## Upcoming Hamfests Nearby This Spring

- Orange Co. ARC Hamfest - Mar. 28 @ Wallkill Comm Center. (See Flyer, page 6)
- Mt. Beacon ARC Hamfest - Apr. 26 @ Tymor Park in Central Dutchess County
- East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association (W2EGB) - May 9 @ E. Greenbush Fire Co.



# W1AW

## The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL

### W1AW 2009 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)	RTTY	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	RTTY	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:** 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975  
21.0675 28.0675 147.555

**RTTY:** 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.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

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 teleprinter 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.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter 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 Orange County Amateur Radio Club  
Proudly Presents Its Spring



# HAMFEST

Saturday, March 28, 2009  
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

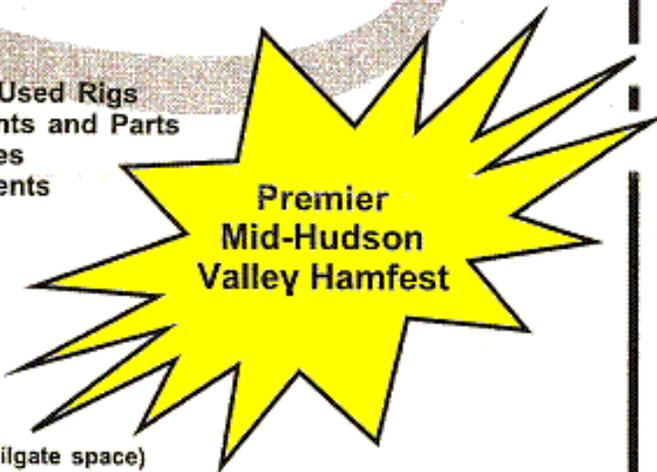
Town of Walkill Community Center  
2 Wes Warren Drive  
Middletown, NY

### Featuring:

- ✓ FCC Exams
- ✓ Free Parking
- ✓ Premier Vendors
- ✓ New and Used Rigs
- ✓ Components and Parts
- ✓ Door Prizes
- ✓ Refreshments

### Admission:

Buyers - \$5.00 (includes immediate family)  
 Tailgating - \$8.00 (8 ft. space)  
 Indoor Tables - \$10.00 (Advance Registration  
 by March 10 only) \$8.00 (You supply table)  
 (Seller receives one FREE admission per table / tailgate space)



Talk-In: 146.76 PL (100) Repeater

For More Information & Reservations, Please Contact:

Don Sayre, AA2DS 38 Karen Dr., Middletown, NY 10940-6605 845-342-2056 after 6 PM

AA2DS@hvc.rr.com