

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!!!

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

Packet BBS N2LDR-1 223.440

Happy Birthday

Sara-KB2BDC	Ed-N2XPW
John-KC2AGM	Dave-W2DAV
Pat-KC2CVJ	John-W2JSN
Erika-KC2DMI	Bruce-WA2ZNO
Jim-KC2OGK	Barry-WK2S
Steve-KE2WO	

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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

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AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

**Meeting
Jan 15
7:00 PM
Noecker
"Club House"
Talk-in 147.21**



Boy Scout Troop To Receive Tech Training Class

Hudson Boy Scout Troop 103, Ed Coons, Scoutmaster, will soon be attending a class that will lead to the FCC Amateur Radio Technician Class license.

Starting on January 10, and continuing for 10 weeks, Wayne K2WG will lead a group of RVWARS volunteers in teaching the material needed to pass the exam. The class will be held at the Noecker W2JSN Clubhouse in Hudson.

Several adult Scout Leaders will also be enrolled in the class so the young men will have the advantage of their own leaders working with them.

Volunteering to assist K2WG with the instructor duties are WB2DUW, Bob; N2PBN, Chris; WA2KCU, Ann; WA2FTI, Dave; K2KJ, Jules; WB2TCV, Carl; and N2NZD, Tom. Also, the RVWARS VE Team will be administering the exam on March 28. The exam will be open to persons who are not in the class and exams will be offered for Tech, General and Extra class licenses. Morse Code testing is no longer required.

A few more volunteer instructors and demonstrators are needed to fill out the classes. Contact Wayne K2WG to join the group.

RVWARS 2M Repeater Fixed: Will Return to the Hill With Several New Features

The wait is almost over! Bob WB2DUW and Stan WA2UET have been hard at work getting the repeater and its two new rack mates connected and programmed for the re-installation on the hill within a week or two.



Goodie Fest is an Outstanding Holiday Meeting!

As the table in the above picture shows, there were goodies a-plenty at the December RVWARS meeting! Many rippers brought along their spouses (spice?) who enjoyed the party.

In addition to the festivities, there was a rig (brought by Carl WB2TCV) on the air and the first CW contact made at an RVWARS meeting was made by John W2JSN. We look forward to seeing the QSL card displayed in the "Clubhouse."

The January meeting is set for the 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse at Noecker's on the corner of Rt. 66 and Graham Ave., Hudson.

Part of the wait was due to the special order of the final transistor at the Yaesu repair center in California.

While waiting for the repairs, Stan has been studying the manuals for the new controller and getting it ready to be cabled to the repeater. Programming is about finished that will allow total remote control of all the repeater's functions. Some of the new features will include recordable voice announcements of meetings, drills and special events.

Another item being added will provide emergency weather announcements by the National Weather Service in Albany. This feature was recommended by SkyWarn.

A new telephone line will be run to the repeater shelter on the hill so that the repeater control operator can remotely access the repeater's control functions. On the air DTMF tone control of the functions presents security problems... tones may be intercepted and later used to interfere with the operation of the repeater.



Upcoming Events

Jan 10 - 7:00 p.m. Tech Class for Boy Scouts. Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson

Jan. 15 - 7:00 p.m. RVWARS Meeting, Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson

Feb. 5 - 7:00 p.m. ARES/RACES 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.

Have You Paid Your Dues?

Support Your Club!

Pay your DUES Today!

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/>

The Good Old Days?

Few Ham radio operators today even think about going mobile, portable or even filling out a log of their transmissions. 40 years ago in the 1960s, Hams were required by the FCC to write a letter giving specifics as to when, where and for how long the mobile or portable operation would take place.

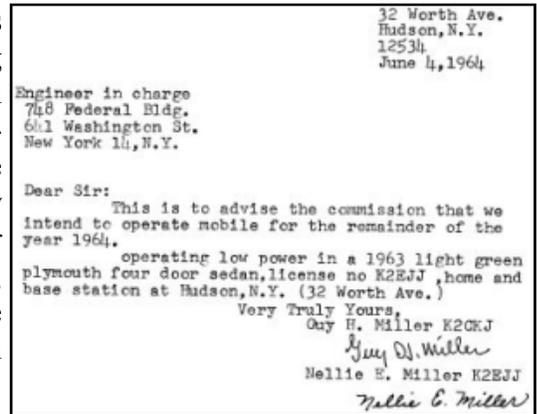
Kip, N2FN, came across the letter (right) when going through some papers that belonged to his uncle.

Back then, a log containing entries of every instance of transmissions from your transmitter had to be logged showing date and time of the transmission, the frequency, call station of the station called (or CQ, TEST, etc.) , call sign of the operator using the station, date and time of the end of the QSO.

Logs and FCC notification of mobile and portable operation are no longer required although many Hams do keep a log of their HF contacts for QSL, contest and DX purposes.

There was a time when Ham operators had to certify that they had made a certain number of CW contacts during the past year before renewing their Amateur Radio License.

Heaven forbid you should accidentally transmit out of band or be heard on an out of band harmonic! If an ARRL OO (Official Observer) didn't send you a post card, the FCC might send you a pink slip detailing your misdeed! (Which you had to answer in writing telling what you will do to prevent the wrong-doing in the future! (Maybe the good old days are now?)



RVWARS Dues are Now Overdue!

We don't want to seem like we're begging or overstating the obvious, but, (truth be told!) dues were due back in October.

At the moment, the Club is a bit flush, but this can change in a flash! We do have recurring bills with the cost of maintaining and running our repeaters, and insurance (required to cover our members at meetings and other club functions.) The electric bill still comes once a month as well as a telephone bill (for the repeater control line.)

So, pony up guys! \$15 a year isn't much to support your ham club. Don't become a non-supportive, non voting, non-member!

Thanks!



Anyone for Fox Hunting?

Tom N2NZD has issued a call for any Rippers who are interested in taking part in a ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) Fox Hunt here in Columbia/Greene County.

Equipment can be as simple as a Handi-Talkie. Give Tom a call and try out something different in Ham Radio!

Two New Additions to Vintage Side of N2CHI

I've added two new transmitters to the vintage side of the shack. I was able to procure a beautiful Barker and Williamson 5100 (on the left in the photo) from an estate auction service. The B&W was previously owned by an SK who purchased it in 1954 and lovingly used and then stored it. After replacing a voltage regulator tube and finding an arcing problem in the output stage, I was able to power this venerable old warhorse right up to its full 150 watt rating on CW. I haven't tried it yet on AM and I don't have the SSB unit for it, but I am enjoying it on 80 meter CW.

Each of the transmitter sections are connected to each other inside the case via Jones plugs, making it rather unique, and overall construction and design is of high quality. It uses four 6146 power tubes, two for the final and two for the modulator. It weighs 93 pounds!

Also, I was lucky to get a Central Electronics Multiphase Exciter Model 20A (center, top, in the photo) from a television station engineer in Tampa who was reducing his collection. He realigned everything before shipping it, but hurling these old boatanchors through the air in packing boxes is problematic. A couple of hours work here restored it, however. (117 minutes of figuring it out and 3 minutes to reset a slipped slug. Best way to find out how a radio works!)

This was the radio that first put hams on the air with SSB (20 watts PEP) back in the early fifties and utilized a rather unusual



N2CHI's Vintage Rigs

method to generate an SSB signal. Not being much of a phone buff, I am using it as a "Near QRP" CW rig, but am working on a homemade Linear amp. I'm using a 100 watt "booster" that is actually the final amp from a Yaesu FT 301 transceiver (Ebay, \$38). It is a fairly simple 10 db broadband amp.

A couple of hours work here restored it, however. (117 minutes of figuring it out and 3 minutes to reset a slipped slug. Best way to find out how a radio works!)

I've got it working in breadboard form and am looking for a frequency-sensing low pass filter from a similar transceiver to follow the amp. The CE20A uses an old green "tuning eye" rather than a meter for peaking the oscillator and amplifier circuits.

Also in the photo, you can see the VFO just to the right of the

transmitter from WW II. Central Electronics sold a kit to convert these to use as a VFO with the 10A and 20A exciters. It produces a 5 Mhz. signal to beat against the 20A's 9 Mhz. oscillator to yield heterodynes for 160 through 10 meter (no WARC !) operation. It is very solid on frequency, as is the 20A, after a pretty short warmup.

I operate my boatanchors, including the Harvey Wells and Swan stuff, on 80 and sometimes 40 meters where they perform best and are most stable. That's the reason why recent 80 meter band allocation changes have troubled me as a General Class Licensee. Guess I'll have to pull the Extra books down from the shelf and get busy. - Dave Griffin, N2CHI

*Thanks Dave, for a great article and picture!
Let's have more Rippers writing about their station and Ham Shack.
A picture or two won't hurt, either!
Make your High School English Teacher proud of you!*

DX Calendar

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, 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.

TUNISIA, 3V. GM0DHZ will be QRV holiday style as 3V8SS from January 7 to February 11. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 meters, using CW and SSB.

ANTARCTICA. Dag, LA9SDA is QRV as 3Y9SDA from Troll Station. Activity is mostly on 20 meters using SSB and PSK. QSL to home call.

TANZANIA, 5Z. Vlad, UA4WHX is QRV as 5H3VMB/5 from the Lindi/MTWARA Region Group, IOTA AF-074. He is active on 80, 40, 30 and 20 meters using CW. He has also been active on 17 meters using SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. Gerben, PG5M is QRV as 9M2/PG5M while on holiday from Pulau Pangkor, IOTA AS-072, until January 7. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6. Saty, JE1JKL is QRV as 9M6NA from Labuan Island, IOTA OC-133, until January 7. Activity is on 160 and 80 meters. QSL to home call. **NEPAL, 9N.** Stig, LA7JO is QRV as 9N7JO from Kathmandu. Since he is here on work assignment, he is active at various times on 160 to 12 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL direct.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. Nao, JK1FNL is QRV as CE0Y/JK1FNL until January 7. Activity is on 40, 20 and 17 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

ANGOLA, D2. Koji, JM1CAX is QRV as D2NX at various times while on work assignment. QSL via JH7FQK.

SCOTLAND, GM. Ken, G0ORH plans to be QRV as GM0ORH from Arran Island, IOTA EU-123, from January 6 to 13.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Kim, DS5SWL is QRV as HL22 until June 30 to mark the city of Pyeong Chang's desire to host the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.

Sang, DS4NMJ is QRV as HL8KSJ from the King Sejong station.

BANGLADESH, S2. Look for a large group of operators to be QRV as S21XA from Dhaka from January 10 to 16. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY, with three stations on the air simultaneously. QSL via EA3BT. **SUDAN, ST.** Slavko, S57DX is QRV as ST2R until April. QSL to home call.

WEST KIRIBATI, T30. T30XX has been QRV on 20 and 17 meters using CW and SSB at various times. QSL via JA8UWT.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. Neil, WD8CRT is QRV as V73NS from Roi-Namur Island, IOTA OC-028, for at least two years. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Members from the F6KOP ARS of Provins group will be QRV as XT2C from Ouagadougou from January 6 to 20. They will also be active using their own XT-calls.

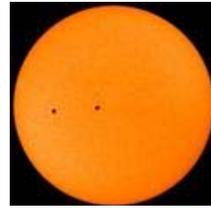
Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via operators' instructions.

INDONESIA, YB. To mark the 71 years of Central Java's Kebumen Regency, look for YC2ZBM to be QRV from January 6 to 10. Activity will be on 40 and 15 meters. A large certificate is available for this event. QSL via YC2TJV.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.

The ARRL RTTY Roundup, DARC 10-Meter Contest, EUCW 160-Meter Contest and the Kid's Day Contest are all scheduled for this weekend. Please see January 2007 QST, page 97 and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

The K7RA Solar Update



SEATTLE, WA, Jan 5, 2007 -- This is the first bulletin of 2007, the year we'll likely see the end of Sunspot Cycle 23, the beginning of Cycle 24, and the minima between cycles.

A few days now into this new year, we can look at sunspot and solar flux averages for 2006 compared with previous years.

Average daily sunspot numbers for the years 1999 through 2006 were 136.3, 173, 170.3, 176.6, 109.2, 68.6, 48.9 and 26.1. Average daily solar flux for the same years was 153.7, 179.6, 181.6, 179.5, 129.2, 106.6, 91.9 and 79.9.

These numbers show a very clear decline, which is easier to perceive when the numbers are averaged over relatively long periods, such as a year. Looking at quarterly averages, we see a little more variability, but the same definite decline over time. Comparing those yearly numbers to a decade ago when the cycle was near the bottom, average daily sunspot numbers for 1995-1997 were 28.7, 13.2 and 30.7.

From the first quarter of 2004 through the fourth quarter of 2006, the average daily sunspot number was 72.9, 71.3, 69.3, 61, 46.1, 55.7, 58, 36, 18.1, 39.7, 23.5 and 23.1.

The average daily solar flux for the same period was 111.1, 99.5, 111, 104.8, 96.4, 93.1, 93.6, 84.5, 78.5, 82.1, 77.5 and 81.6.

Recently this bulletin commented that the prediction for the low point between cycles had recently slipped out a couple of months, so instead of the low smoothed sunspot numbers predicted for March 2007, May looked more likely. Now a new forecast from NOAA has been released, and it shows a flat yet relatively high minimum for this year, spread out over many months.

