



PICNIC AUGUST 5th!!!
147.210 ANTENNA IS REPAIRED!!!
REPEATER IS BACK TO NORMAL OPERATION



**Happy
 Birthday**

**Gary-AB2NC
 Neil-KB2ZYS
 Kevin-KM2E**

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**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!**

Dues for 2008
 Mail to:
 Stan Engel, WA2UET
 PO Box 153
 Ghent, NY 12075
 Or bring with you to meeting



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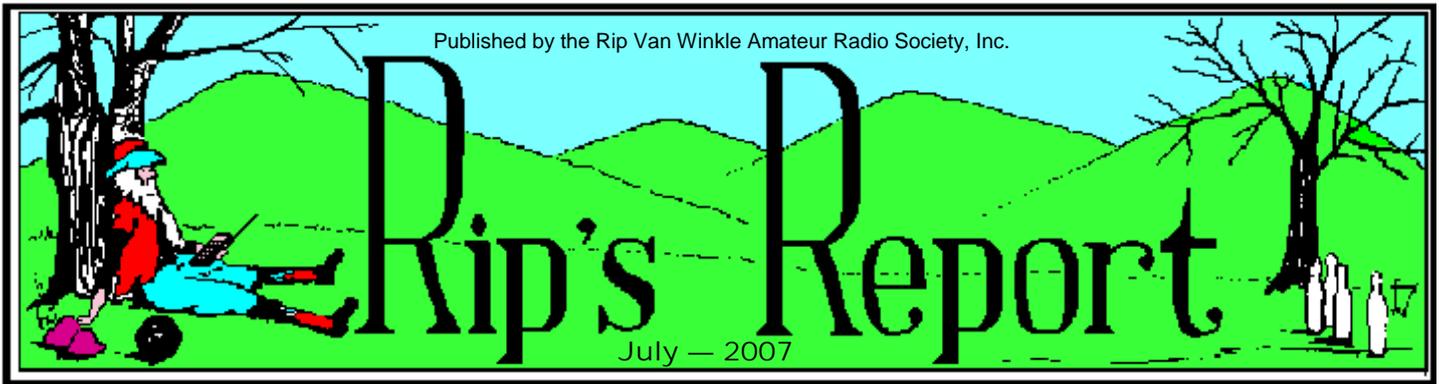


**Meeting
 Sept 17
 7:00 PM**

**Noecker
 "Club House"
 Talk-in 147.21**

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



Field Day 2007 Results

With near perfect weather and a good turnout of Rippers, spouses and friends, the RVWARS 2007 Edition of Field Day was a fun time for all.

Marty, N2LDR, didn't have the final results by publication time of *Rip's Report*, but did send along the raw scores so everyone could see how the Rippers did:

CW Contacts: 51
 Digital Contacts: 52
 Phone Contacts: 218
 Total QSO points: 424

Plus we got extra points for:

Solar: 100
 Public official: 100
 Information table: 100

If anyone knows of any additional points, please contact Marty as soon as possible.



Frank Stone KB2YUR, SK

With the deepest regret and tremendous sadness I must bring you the news of the passing of Frank Stone, KB2YUR, Section Emergency Coordinator for Eastern New York, husband of Sylvia Stone K2SLY. Frank left us Tuesday, July 17, after battling and illness for some time.

Frank's contributions to Amateur Radio, family and friends will ensure that he is never forgotten.

Funeral arrangements were scheduled for Thur. 7/19 and Fri. 7/20 for viewing, and Sat. 7/21 for burial services. Please remember Frank in your prayers.

In mourning, Peter A Cecere N2YJZ
 Eastern New York Section Manager

Rip needs a little help!

Stan, WA2UET, our RVWARS Treasurer, reports that Rip's pockets are almost empty! The present bank balance for the Club is below \$1,000 for the first time in several years. While membership has been fairly steady and most members have paid their dues, the Auction this past March didn't bring in the amount of cash that was common in the past. Since the Auction is the major fund raiser for RVWARS, the cash reserves have been spent on various club projects.

The recent 2 meter repeater antenna installation was expensive since a tower climber (not a Club member) had to be paid. The antenna cost was donated by a member, Dick, W2CSQ.

Which brings us to the point of this article: if you can, please consider a cash donation to your Club. Many of us enjoy the use of our repeaters. Help us keep them on the air. We appreciate Dick's contribution and John, W2JSN's wonderful donation of his facilities for a clubhouse. Won't you join them in supporting YOUR Ham Radio Club with a donation? Rip thanks you!

RVWARS Picnic set For Aug. 5 at the Claverack Town Park

The annual RVWARS Picnic is only a few weeks away. All RVWARS members, their spouses and friends are invited to come to the Claverack Town Park just off Church Street in the village of Philmont.

Members of the Technician License classes are also invited to attend.

Old Rip himself had this to say about the Picnic: "We will have hot dogs and Hamburgs and rolls and the fixins. I will twist Bernie's arm to make up another batch of Goulash and I plan on doing a batch of Carbonara (Italian Pasta dish). If you wish you can bring a dish to share, salads and deserts. We will gather around noon and stay till everyone is tired out. Bring your spouse and/or friend and your kids. There is a nice play area for the kids. If you have not been there the park is a really nice spot with a large pavilion with lots of picnic tables. There is a kitchen for preparing the food and keeping the soda cold. The weather will be great, 70's and dry and sunny.

If there is any interest I could throw up a G5RV antenna and you could bring your new or old HF rig to show off and play with. We could put that on the other side of the pavilion so that we do not disturb the ladies talking. :-) If you need any information about getting there or whatever, Please ask."



Upcoming Events

**No RVWARS Meetings During
July and August.**

August 1 — 7:00 p.m.

V.E. Testing Session for current
Tech. Class

August 5 — 11:00 a.m. 'til —?

Annual RVWARS Family Picnic
at the Claverack Town Park, Phil-
mont

RVWARS Weekly Nets

**The Nets Continue
Throughout the Summer!**

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



**Field Day Pictures by
John, W2JSN**

RVWARS Field Day 2007 Pictures



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@mhcable.com
 Repeaters — 147.21 224.280 449.925
 Club Call — Kilo 2 Rip Van Winkle
 Web Page — www.rvwars.com
 RVWARS E-mail — wa2fti@yahoo.com

RVWARS Field Day 2007 Pictures



Field Day Pictures by John, N2JSN

New Voice in the Ether

One of our RVW Club members, John Ahrens (KC2FXE), invited me to take a good look at his new "home built" AM transmitter. Arriving at his home after dinner, I was greeted with a wonderful smile from John's wife Bonnie who immediately offered coffee and cake to this weary traveler. John escorted me to his "Shack" (an extra room set aside for building and operating his rigs) where many pieces of gear were evident. What immediately caught my attention was a 6 foot rack in the corner of the room. It had gleaming aluminum face panels with many dials, switches and meters placed in appropriate positions. On top was the "Exciter" – a Johnson Ranger that is very favored by those operators who consider its audio to be among the best for small rigs. And in the center of this rack was a "View Port" where four 813A tubes could be seen, side-by-side, gleaming with the brightness of their filament glow. **IMPRESSIVE IS THE WORD!!**

Everyone knew John was working on something special for a long time — years long, and now we can see and hear the fruits of his efforts. Answering the many questions I had, John described the timeframe of the project, technical details, and problems he had to overcome in order to complete the transmitter.

The project started as an idea to build a full, legal limit AM Transmitter in 2003. Deciding on a design by Tom Cathey (K1JJ), John set out to gather components and chassis parts. Most of the parts and components like the 110 lb. modulation transformer or the

KC2FXE Transmitter

By Carl J. Verderber WA2UJX

Vacuum Variable Capacitors were found in Swap Meets, from E-Bay or through other HAMs. Even the face plates, chassis and some covers were manufactured by John out of 1/8 inch T6 aluminum plate. High Voltage power diodes and precision parts like shaft couplers were purchased new. Many alterations to circuit design caused delays because most of the components were used or salvaged parts. Assembly becomes an arrangement of compromises by necessity.



John, KC2FXE, with his "Big Dog"

Help from Bob Jackson (KB2SOJ) with some components, encouragement from Tim (Timtron) Smith (WA1HLR), help with audio design from Nick Balsamo (KG2IR) and troubleshooting aid from Randy (Bear) Bradley (WB2GCR) are some of the many helpful Amateurs that shared in the effort to complete the project.

Construction started in 2005 and on December 25, 2006, the transmitter had a successful maiden voyage. RF output, au-

dio quality, operational functionality, and stability were all better than expected. But, like most home built projects, there will always be room for improvement and trying new ideas. John is building an enhancement as of this writing. It will incorporate a separate audio drive train within the transmitter that will replace the audio drive from the Ranger.

To describe the design elements and features will be a challenge but here goes:

The RF deck is hand built, having a deep chassis at the bottom, and a "pocket" of aluminum surrounding the four 813A tubes. Two tubes on the right are parallel connected Class C, High Level Plate Modulated using a plate voltage of 2,300 VDC. The conventional three band (160M/75/80M/40M) Pi network resides above the tube pocket. Vacuum variable plate and load tuning capacitors are used with a very large tapped inductor. Screen voltage is constantly variable so that the output can be tightly controlled. RF Input drive is coupled to the Ranger.

The Class B (triode connected) 813A Modulator tubes are positioned to the left of the RF tubes in the RF Deck. Connected to an 800 Watt modulation transformer with a plate supply of 3,000 VDC, the audio is driven by the Ranger.

The Power and Control section is located within the bottom portion of the 6 foot rack. Using one Master Plate transformer to source two different voltages required the use of "diode isolation" technique. The single bridge rectifier supplies both filter caps separately;

(Continued on Page 5)

New Voice in the Ether

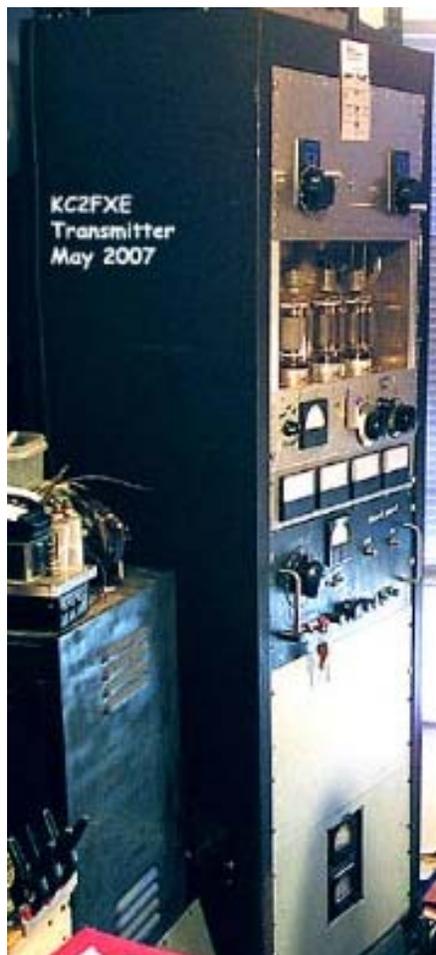
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having “Choke Input” supply for the RF PA, and “Capacitor Input” configuration for the Modulator tube plates.

As for performance, John said he has produced over 2,000 watts PEP into a 50 Ohm dummy load so he is sure that running the rig at 1,500 watts PEP into an antenna will never stress the unit and it should last forever. Operation is straight forward, starting with light loading and tuning for resonance, then increasing screen voltage to attain about 400 watts of carrier. Watching the monitor scope and power wattmeter while increasing audio drive is all that is needed to break into a QSO. The visual fun begins as the glow from the tube filaments and the shine of the polished aluminum panels excites ones' interest while operating.

Tuning across the AM window in the 75M or 160M band, if you hear a very loud and clear signal, chances are its John. Give him a call. Your receiver will be quieted with no background noise interfering with listening to his friendly voice. John says he hasn't given it a name yet but from the loud “BARK” it produces on the air, I for one would call it “THE BIG DOG”!

Carl J. Verderber WA2UJX



Editor's Note . . .

We congratulate John for his work in completing this rig! He has been working for several years to achieve his goal. And this in a time that supposedly no Hams are engaged in building Home-Brew equipment.

John has something to be proud of in his shack. I can't wait to hear it on the air!

Our thanks and appreciation goes out to Carl, WA2UJX for his fine articles! (This is his second of what we hope are several more!) Hopefully, other Rippers will be inspired to write up an article or two for the Rip's Report. Many members have sent emails with compliments on our original articles. Don't forget to thank our authors, too.

Dave, WA2FTI, Editor