

FINAL FIELD DAY PLANS!

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

Packet BBS N2LDR-1 223.440

Happy
Birthday

Bob-KB2SOJ
Jim-KC2BTI
Greg-KC2FRW
Glenn-WB2FOB
Carl-WB2TCV



GOD BLESS
AMERICA

PACKET BBS
"K2RVW-1"
ON 145.030

VE Session
on Saturday June 24 at
the Field Day site.

2007 DUES

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

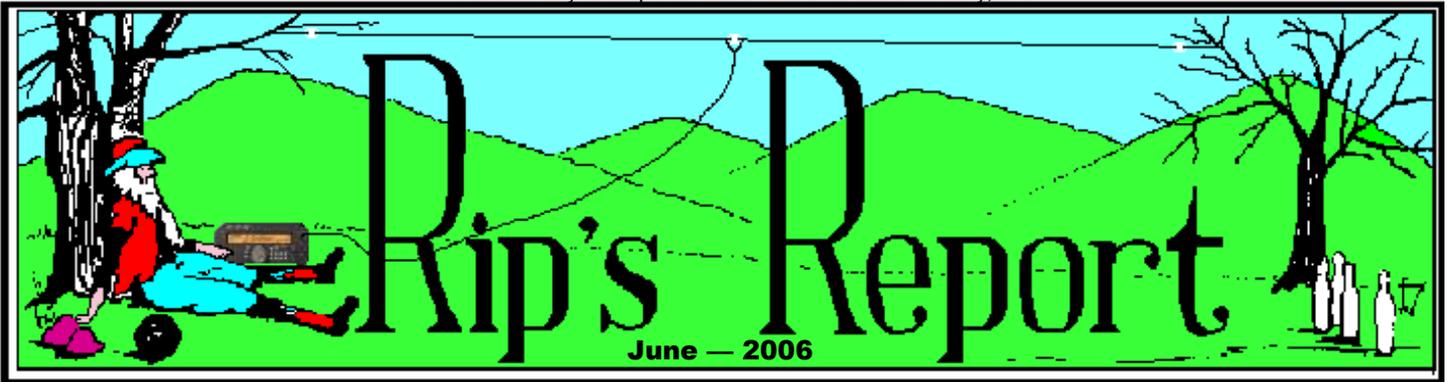
As always PLEASE let us know if you have a problem with this Newsletter. My email address is: wa2uet@taconic.net

Any problems or suggestions are more than welcome.
Thanks

WV
ACOK
AGC
ON
JUN
24



Meeting
June 19
7:00 PM
Greenport
Manor
Hudson
Talk-in 147.21



Field Day 2006

June 19th Meeting At Green Manor

Field Day 2006 is set for the weekend of June 24-25 at the Claverack Town Park. Tom, N2NZD; Bob WB2DUW; and Stan, WA2UET, are the guys in charge of getting the operation up and running for the RVWARS version of the annual contest.

Field Day has been part of the Amateur Radio scene for 73 years. A one-column announcement in the June 1933 QST stated that, "for 27 hours starting the second Saturday in June at 4 pm local time there would be an opportunity for 'portables' to go into the field to contact as many stations as possible." F.E. Handy, W1BDI, said in the announcement "The real object of this contest is to test 'portables' wherever they may be available... If successful, we want to make it an annual affair."

The winner of the First Annual Field Day was a non-club group, W4PAW that made 62 QSOs in 28 sections for a total of 1876 points. Also, back then, in 1933, Hams had to get a special license to operate portable! Field Day has always had the emphasis of operating under emergency conditions using generators or batteries for power.

The RVWARS Field Day will demonstrate these conditions by

going a step further. Several RACES/ARES members will set up their "Go Kit" QRP stations at the Field Day site and will take turns operating for an hour at a time.

RVWARS has planned to operate Field Day in the 3A category: 1 phone station, 1 CW station, 1 "special" station. The Novice GOTA station may be set up this year.

Final plans for Field Day will be discussed at the June 19th meeting to be held at Green Manor, Greenport.

Plan to attend this meeting and plan to participate in Field Day.



This month's meeting of RVWARS will be June 19 at 7:00 p.m. at Green Manor, Town Hall Drive, Greenport. As Usual, talk-in will be available on the 147.21 repeater.

Final plans for this year's Field Day will be discussed. Operators are needed to fill in times from 2:00 pm Saturday, June 24, to 2:00 pm Sunday, June 25. Help is also needed for the setup on Saturday and take-down on Sunday.

Tom, WE2G, reports that a VE Session is planned for Saturday afternoon, June 24. The time will be announced later on the Tuesday Nets, the RVWARS Yahoo Group and by email. If you know of anyone interested in taking an exam for any of the Ham licenses. please let them know about this VE Session. All VE's should sign up with Tom for this Session

Tom, N2NZD; Bob WB2DUW; and Stan, WA2UET, are the cochairmen for the event.

This is the final monthly meeting of RVWARS until September. There will be a special edition of the Rip's Report following Field Day. Rip will resume publishing with the September issue.

Don't forget the August 13th RVWARS Picnic, 2:00 pm, at the Claverack Town Park.



Upcoming Events

June 19 — 7:00 p.m. RVWARS meeting. Green Manor, Town Hall Rd, Greenport/Hudson.

June 24 & 25 — Field Day!

Claverack Town Park

August 13, — Club Picnic

Claverack Town Park



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:

3.9735 LSB or

28.375 USB

Thursday — 7:00 p.m.

Packet Net. 224.280 Repeater and 223.440 Simplex.

The Nets Continue Through The Summer Months

Join
The RVWARS
Yahoo Group!



Visit the RVWARS
Web Site
www.rvwars.com

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
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

rvwars.com has Returned to Web

After spending three months in limbo, the RVWARS web site has returned to the internet with its original address of www.rvwars.com.

Thanks to John, W2JSN, who has donated space on his company's server, all of the web site has been transferred and is now fully operational.

Dave, WA2FTI, scrounged through several generations of his computers and has uploaded the archives of past *Rip Reports* going back to 2002. All were thought to be lost, along with other sections of the web site, when qsl.net suddenly "pulled the plug" on the site this past January for no apparent reason.



Greylock Repeaters Now have PL tones

Recently many people have asked why they could not access the Mt. Greylock Repeater Systems anymore. Mt. Greylock covers an expansive area that it is highly susceptible to interference and Kerchunking.

Therefore, it was prudent for them to PL most of the repeaters on the Mt. Greylock System:

Mt. Greylock VHF and UHF repeaters:

146.910/310	TPL 162.2 Hz
53.23/52.23 MHz	TPL 162.2 Hz
449.425/444.425 MHz	TPL 162.2 Hz
224.100/222.500 MHz	No PL

449.425 and 224.100 are currently operating on indoor antennas in the Lodge at this time until the antennas on the tower are repaired.

VE Session 'Final Exam' Licenses 3 New Hams!

The RVWARS VE Team greeted members of the latest Tech class on Wednesday evening, May 17, and administered their "Final Exam."

Our congratulations to Tom, N2NZD, who passed the code requirement and now has his General Ticket!

Three passed the Technician exam and there were three Techs who were "Grandfathered" to General Class. Congratulations to all!

All class members receive a one year free membership in RVWARS. Those who came up a little short we hope will try the exam again at Field Day or at another VE Session nearby.



Field Day T Shirts Are Still Available

Field Day T Shirts were discussed and approved at the May Meeting. Several people signed up right away with more responding with orders following the Yahoo RVWARS Group



notice. Stan, WA2UET has been producing the shirts and has, so far, completed 30 shirts. The shirts cost \$10. If you want one, send

Stan your request. Include the size (s) you want (S, M, L, XL) and a check for \$10 per shirt.

RVWARS Members go to Dayton Hamvention

I arrived at the Holiday Inn north on Wednesday night and had made a reservation for 4 nights. There was one friend I met that was early too, George, W2LEI. We had dinner together and the next day we rode to the KOA campgrounds to meet other ham friends and go caught in a terrific hail storm.

That night a bunch of us got together at the Holiday Inn for what we called the 7272 ragchew adjustment hour. It was hosted by Chris, KA4UET.

On Friday night I was the main host for the group at the campgrounds where around 85 people showed up for the picnic. I introduced a few of the hams that were responsible for putting the 7272 and the 7221 groups together. We had a raffle and several hams donated door prizes for drawing including myself. Loby, WA2AXZ, put on a great show with old radio equipment and did a great demo of a radio that caught on fire on power up. I closed the session with comments from the group.

Saturday's event was hosted by Bob, W4WTO, who had been working for a solid year on the program. Fifty five people attended and we were very fortunate to have as a guest speaker Mary Hobart, K1MMH, from ARRL who gave an incredible presentation.

As many others I spent a lot. I have been going to Dayton since 1999 and plan to keep going. Check out our web site at www.ragchewers.net. all are welcome to join. We are a very friendly group and meet on 40 meters daily on 7272 from 8 in the morning and stay as long as conditions permit. My slot is Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM. Come check in with me.

If you are interested in being a net control contact Russ, K1IRB

Dick, W2CSQ



A small part of the huge flea market at the Dayton Hamvention.

... At the Dayton Hamvention Banquets



Dick, W2CSQ and Marty, K1PIG



From Left to right: Don, KE2DX; Ed, N2EK; Fred, WA2MMX ; Pete, N2MCI

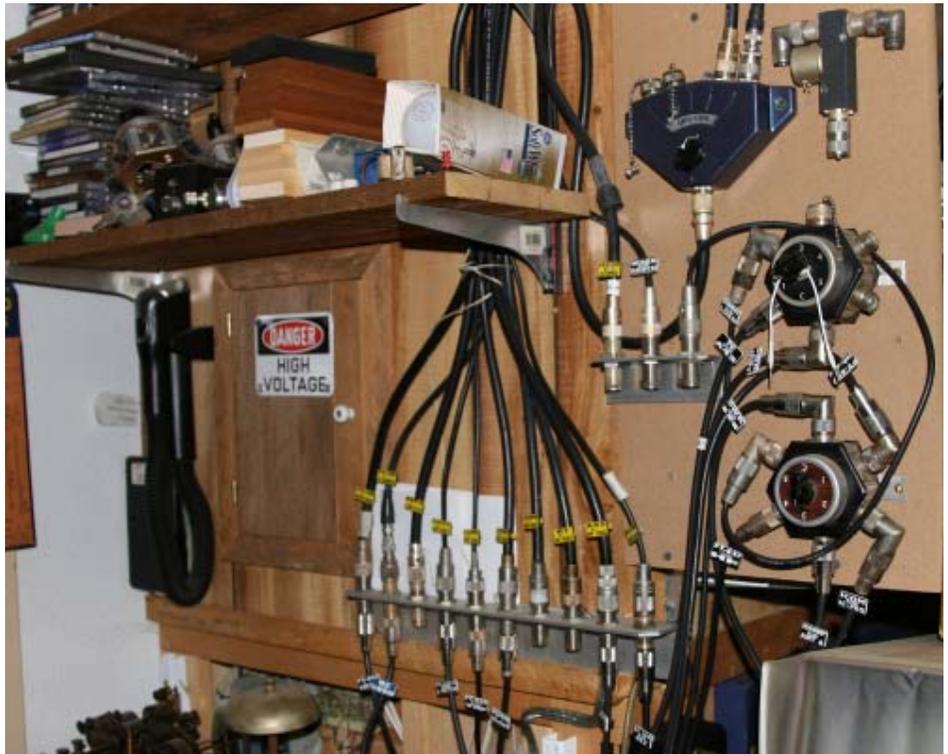
A Grounding System For Antennas

by Stan, WA2UET

A friend stopped by the other day and noticed the antenna system I have here. He then read the article in our Newsletter (*Rips Report*, May, 2006, page 2) about lightning and the antennas. That inspired him to ask that I take a photo of my system and publish it in the NL. It is obviously nothing elaborate but hopefully effective. I simply bring all my antenna feed cables in on top of the barrels and leave them tightened there. When there is a storm approaching I disconnect all the radio cables from the bottom and expect that any static will be discharged into ground from the pin socket to the shell of the barrels. The buss which holds all of the barrels is securely grounded. It is simply a piece of 2" angle aluminum drilled with the appropriate 5/8" holes. I labeled all the cables so I would know where to put them.

I don't believe there is anything that would protect the shack from a direct hit of lightning to the antenna but hopefully this setup will drain the static produced during a storm.

If this inspires anyone to take steps to protect their shack from static it is well worth publishing.



The Ham Shack of Stan, WA2UET, has well organized antenna leads and grounding for static and lightning discharge. *WA2UET Photo*

Folded Dipole Applications

Folded dipoles usually are presented in textbooks and handbooks as providing a way to match 300-ohm twin-lead. However, there are many other applications.

Folding a dipole once doubles its terminal voltage and halves its terminal current. Because $R=E/I$, doubling E and halving I increases dipole radiation resistance four times.

The radiation resistance of an unfolded wire dipole in free-space is approximately 72 ohms, so the radiation resistance of a folded wire dipole in free-space is approximately $4 \times 72 = 288$ ohms.

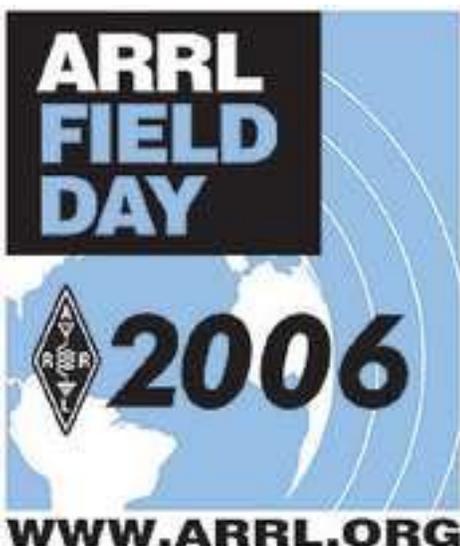
However, the radiation resistance of an unfolded dipole near earth is typically much lower than 72 ohms. For example, the radiation

Next NoBARC VE Session:

The next NoBARC VE Session will be held on Sat. June 10 at St. Joseph's High School, 22 Maplewood Ave., Pittsfield, MA. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. The Exams start at 9:00 a.m.

resistance of a 1.9 MHz wire dipole 40-feet (12.2 meters) above ground is approximately 12.5 ohms.

Folding the dipole once increases its radiation resistance to $4 \times 12.5 = 50$ ohms and eliminates the need for an impedance matching line transformer.





The 4\$ 'SPECIAL' Antenna

by Joe Tyburczy, W1GFH

Sure, you can find "all-band wire antennas" for sale in the back pages of Ham magazines costing \$150 or more. But beware: *Marconi spins in his grave everytime a ham buys an aerial instead of building it.* The plain and simple truth is that wire antennas for the HF bands were intended to be *hand-made* and not store-bought.

Untold generations of intrepid Radio Hams have fashioned their own equipment out of spit and baling wire. Do you think the spark-gap dudes of the 1920's just went out and bought ready-built G5RV's from HRO or AES? No way! They slapped together aerials out of bedsprings, chewing gum, and frozen cow poop. For them, every day was Field Day. I think that home-built antennas should be awarded 10 db of "honorary gain" simply by virtue of their ingenuity. And in this world of microprocessor controlled micro-rigs, constructing one may be your only chance to build something and actually see it work on the air. Think about it.

RadioWorks, Alpha-Delta, MFJ, B&W, Van Gordon, W9INN, and W7FG...nothing wrong with the wire antennas they sell. But buying one is no substitute for "rolling your own". Don't be overawed by their advertising rhetoric. You can make an antenna every bit as good as theirs, and even better in many cases.

Just Do It

Don't be intimidated by SWR, either. Your rig will not blow up and kill you. Most modern rigs will politely refuse to transmit into a really bad match. A perfect 1:1 SWR is for sissies, anyway. All **real** hams have conducted perfectly good QSO's at 3:1 (or more) at some time or another. You may be surprised to know that the vast majority of hams didn't fret about SWR until after WWII when coax cable and SWR meters ("SWR Bridges" as they were first known) became available on the commercial market. Before that time, you simply cut your antenna to frequency, loaded the transmitter final for best output according to the plate current meter, and that was that.

I am a big fan of "balanced line" (twinlead, open wire line, etc.) vs. coax. By using balanced line and a tuner

you can have one, single-element antenna that works well on all bands. You can't do that as easily with coax. The basic "W1GFH \$4 SPECIAL" shown below is a variation on the type of versatile skyhook I've been using for years.

Now at this point, some of you may be looking at the diagram and muttering, "Jeez Joe, that's just a dipole fed with twinlead and used with a tuner". Well of course it is. Virtually all antennas are "di-poles" (i.e. "two sides") in some form or another. This one just happens to be made from low-cost materials.

I won't go into the theory here, but trust me: balanced feedline, properly used, does not "leak" RF and is less lossy than coax. I've tried the commercial 450-ohm ladder line, but prefer 300-ohm TV twinlead, and the cheaper the better. Radio Shack TV twinlead is ideal. Home Depot has some good stuff, too. Forget all the obsessive junk about standing waves, impedance and velocity factor. What you really need to concentrate on is getting an interesting set of antenna insulators.

Hang It Up

Back during the disco era when I first got on the air, I got a pair of really cool antique pyrex antenna insulators from a flea market table in Derry, NH for 25 cents each. They looked like the kind Hiram Percy Maxim used in 1910, and seemed able to pull in exotic DX all by themselves. The other day I found out that Radio Shack wants \$5 apiece for insulators made from some kind of white plastic crap. So I improvised my own by sawing up pieces of an acrylic adjusting rod from a discarded miniblind. I think Hiram would've been proud of me.

Hang the center of the antenna from a tree limb, or use a support as pictured. The exact height of the antenna's feedpoint is not crucial. The higher, the better. 20 feet might be considered the minimum. 60 feet is ideal. However, in the real world, 30-50 feet is average.

For the antenna wire itself, virtually anything will work, but something close to #18 stranded/insulated is ideal.

My favorite stealth antenna material is magnet wire. You can dig this out of an old transformer or even a busted loudspeaker's coil. This ultra-thin stuff is truly INVISIBLE to neighbors and wives alike, and it'll handle 100 watts, no sweat. If you need to keep a low profile, try it as a long longwire, end-fed from your tuner's "wire" terminal. (Be sure and ground everything in the shack like crazy) No trees in your yard? Use a sock filled with sand for a weight and hurl the far end of the wire onto a NEIGHBORS roof or tree. (I would advise doing this at night. If you are caught, claim you are "trying out an old FARMERS ALMANAC recipe to keep bats away". People universally hate bats, and love farmers) If you can't possibly scheme to get your wire more than a dozen feet off the ground, try flinging a few hundred feet of the magnet wire all around the yard in a big loop (find out measurements in the ARRL Handbook or Google "80 meter loop antenna"). Loops can perform satisfactorily at low heights. And remember, don't fuss too much about SWR. A little mismatch is good for you and builds character.

Love Your Tuner

An antenna tuner with a balanced output (internal or external balun) is a must. Using one is a simple matter of adjusting capacitance and inductance for the lowest SWR on a given frequency. Always begin your adjustments at low power, increasing to full power only when you have a reasonable match. At first, you may think it's inconvenient and old-fashioned to manually tune your antenna every time you change frequency, but you soon discover the unique satisfaction of tweaking the variable caps and watching the reflected power dip lower as the received signals grow a bit louder in your receiver. It's "real radio".

Alas, I never had a 100 foot tower to hang this antenna from. The one in Mass. was up 50 ft. and worked what I considered terrific DX. The one I have now is only up 30 ft. and gets good to average results. It won't outdo a yagi at 100 feet. Very few things will.

But for \$4....who can complain?!

Riley Hollingsworth to Amateur Radio Community: "Lighten up"



Riley Hollingsworth at Dayton

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth advised those attending the FCC forum at Dayton Hamvention 2006 to try kindness instead of confrontation when problems arise on the bands. Hollingsworth spoke May 20 to a nearly full house at Hara Arena, and for the most part he praised the behavior of the majority of Amateur Radio operators, especially those who volunteered in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina last year. But, he noted, radio amateurs still could be more courteous and less inclined to fly off the handle at some perceived on-the-air offense.

"You need to lighten up and not embarrass the Amateur Radio Service," Hollingsworth advised. "All of us make mistakes, especially with the new features you have on radios today. It's very easy to make a mistake, to be on the wrong frequency or be operating split and not know it--there's a hundred ways to make mistakes." Hollingsworth said experience has shown him that at least 75 percent of the interference complained about is absolutely unintentional.

In Hollingsworth's view, radio amateurs all too often are hypersensitive and rude. "We have a radar going to detect offenses at all times, we assume the worst in people, we rarely give people the benefit

of the doubt," he said. He joked that if there were three amateurs in a town, there would be two Amateur Radio clubs. "And there'll be two hamfests with 20 people each, because they wouldn't dare consolidate them," he added.

"Stupid Filter"

Hollingsworth acknowledged that "certain problem operators" remain, but the real troublemakers are rarely the newcomers to Amateur Radio. "If there's a downfall in Amateur Radio, it won't be caused by no-code Technicians or codeless anything else," he said. "It'll be caused by the microphone--no doubt in my mind." He advised his audience to ignore the troublesome operators and not give them the attention they crave by engaging them on the air.

"Now, think about it: If what you're hearing annoys you, or angers you or is stupid, use the 'stupid filter,' which is that big knob--that VFO that will take you somewhere else," he quipped. "It's the largest knob on the radio." He recommended moving to another frequency or even another band altogether.

Words of Praise

Hollingsworth praised the Volunteer Examiner program as "outstanding" and noted there had not been a single complaint in the past year stemming from an examination session. He also said the Amateur Radio community should have a greater appreciation for what the ARRL is doing on its behalf.

"Most of you have no idea how much work is done in Newington for you and the Amateur Radio Service generally," he said. "I see it every day, but I think you have no idea of the hard work and dedication that comes out of that office up there, and I don't think we

would be there if it weren't for [the League]."

"This country's communications infrastructure needs Amateur Radio," Hollingsworth emphasized, praising Amateur Radio's overall performance following Hurricane Katrina. "You have a tremendous amount to be proud of."

He also suggested that radio amateurs have an obligation to stay informed about what's going on in Amateur Radio that might affect their activities. "You have to not only keep up, you have to lead the way, because it's in your charter," he said, pointing to §97.1 of the Amateur Service rules.

No Comment on Code Issue

Hollingsworth noted at the start of his talk that he could not address any questions dealing with the FCC's long-awaited decision on the Morse code requirement (Element 1), because he works in the Commission's Enforcement Bureau. "We don't meddle in rule making," he explained, but added that he didn't expect CW to decline if the FCC does drop the 5 WPM Morse requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes as it's proposed to do.

The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) handles Amateur Radio rule makings, Hollingsworth noted, including the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, and the so-called "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140. The WTB has said it will rule first on the omnibus proceeding, then tackle the Morse code proceeding, but it has not indicated when to expect either Report and Order.

No representative from the WTB was at Dayton Hamvention this year.

From ARRL Radio News

