

# Field Day 2008!

Field Day will soon be upon us with all its yearly excitement as the RVWARS rippers prepare to get back to nature once again!



All the newly licensed hams should make every effort to take part in this annual 24 hour combination picnic, camp-out, contest and emergency preparedness drill.

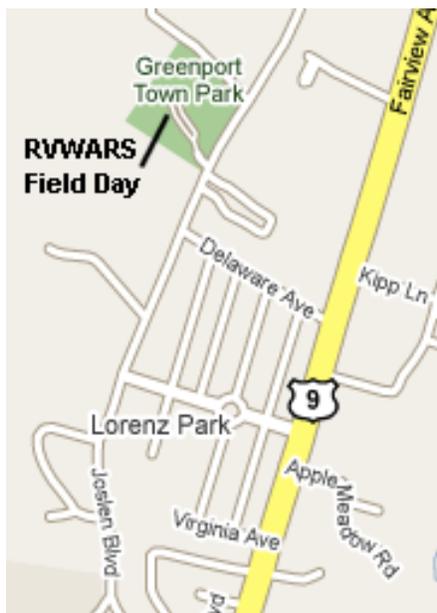
Final arrangements will be made at this month's meeting on June 16, 7:00 p.m. at the "Clubhouse" at the corner of Rte. 66 and Graham Ave. in Hudson.

This year's Field Day will be held at the Greenport Town park on Joslen Blvd. about half way between Hudson High School and the intersection with Rte. 9 near Stottville. The map at the top of the page will show where the RVWARS Field Day will be.

As always, the new hams and long time hams will be given the opportunity to operate the various stations including CW, SSB and even Digital.

Food, coffee and doughnuts will be available.

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and take-down. Be sure to come to the meeting to see what you can do to help make this one of our best Field Days ever!



Field Day 2008 Location



Raising the Flag at Field Day

## RVWARS Tag Sale set for Labor Day Good Used Ham Gear Needed!

It looks like most would like to have the Tag Sale on Labor Day week. I need to get some commitments to get some radio and household items here for that event.

Anything that is good enough to sell is welcome. I have room for some smaller items to store here but anything big will have to wait till the sale starts.

If possible, bring your own table and tarp.

Donations are great but we will work with consignments as well with at least 10% of selling price for RIP. Help is welcome as well. There are times that things get really busy.

Anyone that would like to sit and chat is welcome. I am sure we will have some hot dogs and hamburgers available to cook on the grill and soda and coffee to drink.

*Stan, WA2UET*



## Upcoming Events

**Monday June 16 — 7:30 p.m.**  
RVWARS Meeting at the  
Clubhouse, Corner of Rte 66 and  
Graham Avenue. Talk-in 146.21

**Saturday June 28-29 Field Day**  
**2:00 p.m. Sat. to 2:00 p.m. Sun.**  
Greenport Town Park, Joslen Blvd  
Hudson.

**Set-up** Sat. Morning. Be There!  
**Take-Down** Sun. Afternoon. “

No RVWARS or ARES/RACES  
Meetings during July and August.

**Sunday August (TBA) - 12:00  
noon** Annual RVWARS Picnic at  
the Claverack Town Park, Church  
St. Philmont

## RVWARS Weekly Nets

**Tuesday — 7:00 p.m.**  
Informal Net and Roundtable  
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/>

# Ten Commandments For Hams

1. Beware the lightning that lurketh in the undischarged capacitor, lest it cause thee to bounce upon thy buttocks in a most untechnician-like manner.

2. Cause thou the switch that supplieth large quantities of juice to be opened and thusly tagged, that thy days in this earthly veil of tears may be long.

3. Prove to thyself that all circuits that radiateth and upon which thou worketh are grounded and thusly tagged lest they lift thee to radio frequency potential and causeth thee also to make like a radiator.

4. Tarry not amongst those fools who engageth in intentional shocks for they are surely nonbelievers and are not long for this world.

5. Take care-that thou useth the proper method when thou takest the measure of a high voltage circuit lest thou incinerate both thyself and thy meter, for verily, though thou hast no account number and can easily be surveyed, the test meter doth have one and, as a consequence, bringeth much woe unto the supply department.

6. Take care that thou tampereth not with safety devices and interlocks, for this incurreth the wrath of thy supervisor and bringeth the fury of thy safety inspector down upon thy head.

7. Work thou not on energized equipments for if thou dost, thy fellow workers will surely buy beers for thy widow and console her in other ways,

8. Service thou not equipment for electrical cooking. It is a slothful process and thou might sizzle in thine own fat for hours upon a hot circuit before thy Maker sees fit to end thy misery,

9. Trifle thou not with radioactive tubes and substances lest thou commence to glow in the dark like a lightning bug and thy wife have no further use for thee except thy wages.

10. Thou shalt not make unauthorized modifications to equipment. but causeth thou to record all field changes and authorized modifications made by thee, lest thy successor tear his hair out and go slowly mad in his attempt to decide what manner of creature hath made a nest in the wiring of such equipment,



The Ideal Field Day Rig?

# Dick W2CSQ: 50 years as a licensed ham

I received my first license as a novice in November of 1958. I was then WV2CSQ. I became interested through a friend of my sister's at the time, King Gillan, W2LBC. I got a lot of help from Harold Walker K2LQY, from Catskill, and from my parents of course. I was 14 years old at the time. The novice license then was only good for one year and you had to use small portions of the lower HF bands using CW only. You were rock bound with crystal control on your transmitter.

My first receiver was a Hallicrafters S20R and my transmitter was Heath DX40.

I studied hard for the general theory and CW was a breeze for me so I passed my general in early 1959.

I was anxious to get on AM phone but then shifted my interest to mostly CW which I really enjoyed the most.

In those days people got in trouble with harmonics. These were transmissions on frequencies in multiples of your transmit frequency. I was no different and had to get an antenna tuner. I also upgraded my receiver with a heath Q multiplier that made CW much more selective. I built a lot of my own transmitters using the old 1625, 6L6 and 807 tubes that were very popular those days along with the ever popular 6146. The Heathkit Twoer and Sixer were popular and I put together both kits and enjoyed hilltopping with

them when I was able to drive.

I took a little break from Ham radio in the early 60's for school and service but came back to take my advanced test and then got into repeaters in the early 1970's.

I became Repeater Manager on the Mt. Greylock system and was Vice President of the club after performing a feat to catch a ham upstate in constant jamming and noise making. It was a car chase I will never forget catching the famous

"burper."

I designed one of the first voice ID's in the country and hiked it up Mt Greylock and installed it on a winter day.

Later on the Rip Van Winkle club reorganized and I was on the committee with several others to put it back together in the mid 1970's. I was originally in the club back in the 1950's but it had diminished then due to lack of interest and deaths.

Today I enjoy ham radio and I have attended the last ten Dayton Hamventions and some of the Florida ones as well in Orlando. I meet with hams I talk to often on 20 and 40 meters at Dayton and we get together for meetings and outings.

I have met a lot of great people on ham radio and enjoy the latest and greatest HF, VHF and UHF gear.

*Dick W2CSQ*



An example of a Heathkit DX-40 Transmitter built by thousands of Hams in the 1950s and 1960s.

75 watts CW; 25 watts AM

## *Editor's Note:*

I can't let this article by Dick get by without adding a couple of notes to it: his sister, Ann, got her Ham license, WA2KCU, many years later as did their parents, Eleanor N2FAY and Bill KA2UET. Both are now silent keys.

Dick's brother-in-law is Dave, WA2FTI who also has been hamming for 50 years! I first worked Dick on 75 meter AM in 1963 right after I returned to Hudson and had just been issued my WA2 call. (I was K1HNL before that time.) Dick rode his bike the half mile down to my house to meet me after our QSO.

One of the favorite stories we've heard about Dick is how he hung a fluorescent tube under his long wire antenna. Whenever he transmitted CW, the tube would flash out the dits and dahs, much to the consternation of the neighborhood!

How about you other RVWARS members? How long have you been a ham? Tell us about it. . . Inquiring minds would like to know!

*73, Dave WA2FTI*



The Hallicrafters S20R Sky Champion was manufactured from 1939 to 1945 and was a general coverage receiver.



## FIELD DAY 2008

## YOU KNOW YOU'RE A HAM IF . . .

- you buy electrical black tape in ten packs.
- you've stripped wire with your teeth.
- you've told your son that, "One day, all this will be yours", and he doesn't respond.
- you'd rather help a buddy put up a new tower than mow the lawn.
- you've grabbed the wrong end of a soldering iron.
- you start giving out RST reports when you are on the telephone.
- the propagation forecast means far more to you than the local weather forecast.
- the microphone or visual aid at a meeting doesn't work and you rush up to the front to fix it.
- you tell the XYL, when she notices a new rig in the shack, "That has been there for years."
- your watch is set only to UTC.
- at night, when you pray, it starts off something like: CQ CQ CQ GOD DE (your call sign).
- you ever had to patch your roof after an antenna project.
- Ham radio magazines comprise more than 50% of your bathroom library.
- you ever put a GPS tracker in the XYL's car, just so you could watch her on APRS.
- you and the XYL took a cruise so you could visit the radio room.
- you ever tapped out HI in Morse on your car horn to another ham.
- you ever had an antenna fall down.
- your teenager refuses to ride in your car because it looks like a porcupine.
- you know the Latitude and Longitude of your home QTH.

17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

# HAMFEST

SATURDAY, June 7th, 2008

GOSHEN, CT FAIRGROUNDS  
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Southern Berkshire A.R.C.

FAIRGROUNDS LOCATION – Northwest CT, in the beautiful Litchfield Hills on Rte 63,  
one half mile south of intersection with Rte 4.  
(6 miles north of Litchfield, 6 miles west of Torrington)

Actual street address is 150 Old Middle St. Goshen, CT 06756

TALK-IN – Club Repeater: W1BAA - Sharon 147.285 + 600 - tone is 77.0

### BUYERS & LOOKERS

Admission – \$3  
Parking is INCLUDED  
Children under 12 FREE with adult

FOOD available from 6 a.m. to noon  
Clean fairground restrooms

>>> LICENSE EXAM at 9:30 am <<<

Walk-ins welcome  
For information, contact:

Lee – K1LEE (860) 435-0051  
or email to klee@arrl.net  
Ed – N2JBA (845) 373-8903  
or email to n2jba@arrl.net  
Arnie – KC2CBV (518) 329-7038

or [www.W1BAA.org](http://www.W1BAA.org)

