

AUCTION TIME AGAIN!!!

WEB SITE: WWW.RVWARS.COM

Packet BBS N2LDR-1 223.440

*Happy
Birthday*

- Gus-KD2N
- Cliff-N2FN
- Alex-N2UAO
- Bruce-W2BAR
- Jack-WA2HWJ
- Lenny-WB2UEB

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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!**

**2007 dues can still
be paid**

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

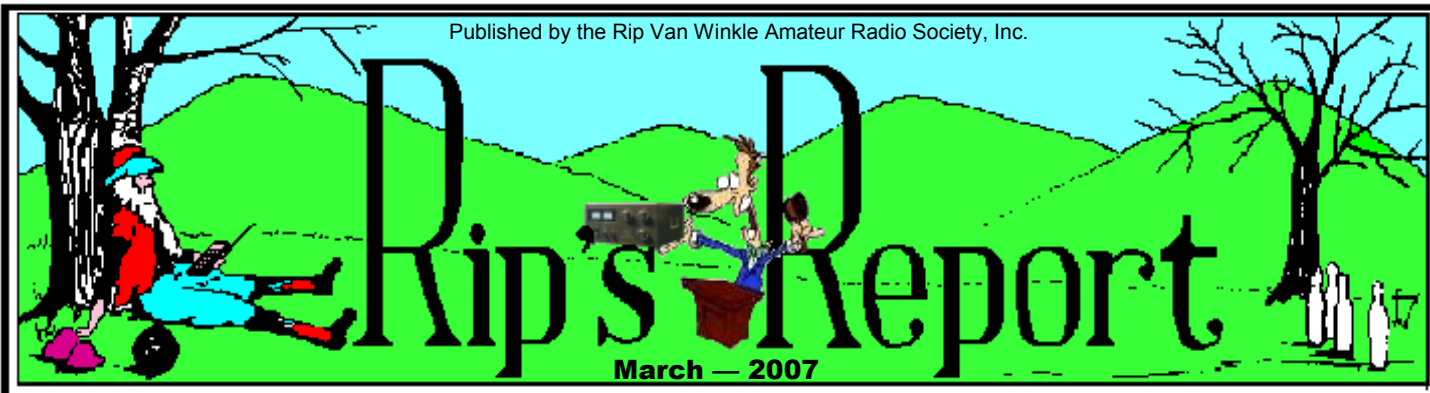


**Meeting
March 19
7:00 PM
Noecker
"Club House"
Talk-in 147.21**

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





IT'S AUCTION TIME!

Scouts all Keyed up over Code! Make 1st CW QSO

It was supposed to be just an introduction to another mode of transmission available to ham radio operators and Ann WA2KCU planned her presentation to be just that. However, the young men of Troop 102 took to Mr. Morse's code like a fish to water! A week later, after a few practice sessions, the first actual on-the-air QSO (under control operator, W2JSN) took place. A week later, two more QSOs were completed.

As a result of the Scouts interest in CW operating, John, W2JSN, has arranged for the purchase of MFJ code practice keys and oscillators. John, KC2AGM, has offered to award a special key to any Scout who can pass the Code Test formerly required of Tech +, General and Extra Class licenses.

Meanwhile, as the class progresses towards the March 28 VE Session, the Scouts have built antennas, crystal radios, and have taken numerous quizzes in preparation for the final exam.

A call for "Elmers" to mentor the Scouts and their leaders is extended to all RVWARS members. Help keep the momentum going!



The RVWARS club auction will be held during the regular meeting on the third Monday of March (19th). Club members from our club as well as neighboring clubs are urged to attend to both buy and sell good working ham radio equipment. Students from the

ARRL VEC Swamped With Upgrades after End of Code Tests

The avalanche of Amateur Radio license and license upgrade applications prompted by the FCC's elimination of Morse code as a licensing requirement is well under way with no end in sight.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports that paperwork from upward of 450 Amateur Radio exam sessions held since the new rules went into effect February 23 has arrived so far this week.

The ARRL VEC, which typically receives paperwork from about 70 sessions each day, has had to add personnel and schedule extended hours to keep up with the workload.

"We've been seeing some of the largest brand-new Technician sessions ever," Somma said. "These examination sessions are huge, and a ton of new Technician license applications has been coming in -- sometimes 60 or 70 at a clip." Somma says license upgrade traffic also has been brisk, and, with some 650 examination sessions already on the calendar for March and more arriving daily, it doesn't look like the pace will slacken anytime soon.

ARRL News

current Boy Scout Tech. Class are also invited to attend the auction as they will soon be needing HF rigs as well as VHF/UHF rigs.

The 7:00 p.m. meeting and auction will be held at the RVWARS "Clubhouse," Noecker's auto dealership, at the corner of Rt. 66 and Graham Avenue, Hudson.

As in past years, Shelly AA2Y and Wayne K2WG will be the auctioneers. Both have requested that the "junk box" be left at home in the garage or attic and only actual Ham radio rigs and accessories be brought to the auction. In years' past, many "boxes o' stuff" unrelated to ham radio have been offered without any takers.

Stop at the head table and register with Stan WA2UET who will issue identification tags.

The club gets 10%, up to a maximum of \$25, per item sold at the auction. This is a major funding event for our treasury.

The rules will be explained again at the auction. Stan does a great job with tags for bidders and keeping track of the money, sellers and buyers. Our thanks to Stan!



Upcoming Events

March 19 - 7:00 p.m. RVWARS Meeting, Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson
ANNUAL AUCTION!

March 14, 21 - 7:00 p.m. Tech Class for Boy Scouts. Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson

March 28 - 7:00 p.m.
VE Session — For Scout Class and anyone else wanting to take any Amateur Radio Exam. Bring ham license, picture ID and \$14. Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson

April 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.

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/>

A Note from K2WG, Course Instructor

I'm very proud of the RVWARS membership!! At last night's (March 7) Scout Class there was one licensed ham for each Scout to help them build crystal radios and dipole antennas. One-on-one mentoring at its best! The support from the membership in regard to this class has been outstanding.

Members have volunteered to teach classes, provide materials and make themselves available to patiently coach the Scouts through their first QSO. This project has taken on a life of its own. Plans are currently in the works to not only continue our efforts with Troop 102 in Hudson but to extend an offer to the other Scout Troops in the area for a similar program. The winter months are typically slow ones for Scout projects so the January thru March time frame fits in with their existing programs nicely.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with this project to date. Stay tuned and please be ready to assist with future endeavors along these lines. We are helping to form the foundation for the future of ham radio. I know WD2K is smiling down upon us.

Reminder: VE session at the club house on March 28th at 19:00 hours. Primarily for the Scouts, but open to all who want to take a Technician test or to upgrade. Bring a copy of your current license, any applicable CSCE's, a photo ID and \$14.00 cash.

Keep up the good work!!

73 for now.... Wayne - K2WG

A huge amount of praise goes to Wayne for his efforts and work with the Scouts!

— Dave WA2FTI

Tech Class Course Planned for April

The RVWARS regular Technician Class course usually scheduled for March has been put off until April this year so that there wouldn't be a conflict with the Boy Scout Class that is currently running.

Marty, N2LDR, Education Chairman and course instructor said that the Tech Class will begin in April when there's less chance of weather interruptions. The class will be held at the RVWARS "Clubhouse" at the Noecker auto dealership in Hudson.

It is hoped that the same interest and help the "Rippers" have shown the Scouts will be offered to the students in this class.

The class is open to the public. The only cost is for the text book. Further information as to starting date and total costs will be announced in the local newspapers.



Repeater 'Scratchies' Due to bad Connector

It seems that old Murphy is alive and well! As soon as one set of problems with the 147.21 repeater was fixed, Murphy's Law took effect and gave us a severe case of the "Scratchies!"

Bob, WB2DUW, repeater chairman, explained that a connector on the hardline where it connects to a short length of co-ax that than connects to the 2 meter antenna has corroded and separated from the hardline. During quiet weather, all is well and the repeater signal is normal. However, wind vibrations cause the interference. The arrival of warmer weather will allow repairs to be made.

ACTIVITIES at the RVWARS BOY SCOUT HAM CLASS



Measuring, cutting, and assembling Antennas, Radios, and Celebrating QSOs!



DX CALENDAR

This bulletin was made possible with information provided by F6BUM, 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.

SPRATLY ISLANDS. Look for a large group of operators to be QRV as 9M4SDX from Layang Layang, IOTA AS-051, from March 10 to 19. They will be active on all bands with four stations on the air simultaneously. QSL via 9M2TO.

MAURITANIA, 5T. Alex is QRV as 5T3TN and is generally active on 80 through 20 meters using CW. QSL via RW3TN.

NEPAL, 9N. Stig is QRV as 9N7JO and has been active on 30 meters around 0100z.

GUYANA, 8R. Esmond, 8R1AK/p has been active on 80 meters around 0530z. QSL to home call.

GERMANY, DA. Special event station DQ50SAAR is active until the end of the year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the DARC Distrikt SAAR. QSL via bureau.

FRANCE, F. Look for TM5P to be QRV from the Pontusval Lighthouse, ARLHS FRA-404, March 10 and 11. QSL via F4ELJ.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. Tony, FO5RK is QRV as FK/FO5RK from Noumea until the end of April. Activity is mainly on 40 and 20 meters using CW after 0600z and 0900z, respectively. QSL to home call.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Bernhard, DL2GAC is QRV as H44MS until April 25. Activity is mainly on 80 and 40 meters. QSL to home call.

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. Jack, F6BUM will be QRV as J5BI from Bubaque Island, IOTA AF-020, from March 14 to 28. Activity is on all HF bands using

CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

ST. VINCENT, J8. Gary, W0AW will be QRV as J8/W0AW from Bequia Island, IOTA NA-025, from March 10 to 16. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 meters, using CW, RTTY and some SSB. QSL to home call.

SVALBARD, JW. Maria Teresa, IN3TCH and Mauro, IN3SAU are QRV as JW/homecalls using RTTY and SSB, respectively. They are also QRV as JW5E from the club station in Longyearbyen until March 11. Activity is mainly on the low bands. QSL to home calls.

EGYPT, SU. SU8DLH has been QRV on 160 meters between 0145 and 0400z. QSL via DK2CL.

BRUNEI, V8. Kanzi, JA4ENL is QRV as V85NL until March 12. He is using mainly CW. He may try to be active on 160 meters as well. QSL direct to home call.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Tim, VK4HFO is QRV from Lamb Island, IOTA OC-137, and is active on 40 meters around 0600 and 1700z.

BERMUDA, VP9. Mark, AA1AC will be QRV as AA1AC/VP9 from Hamilton Parish from March 11 to 15. QSL to home call.

TRISTAN DA CUNHA AND GOUGH ISLANDS, ZD9. Brian is QRV as ZD9BCB and has been active on 20 meters between 1800 and 2000z. QSL via SQ8AQD.

CHATHAM ISLAND, ZL7. Station ZL7/KH0PR has been active on 80 meters using CW between 1030 and 1430z. The length of stay is unknown. QSL via JJ8DEN.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American RTTY Sprint, Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase, RSGB Commonwealth Contest, Idaho QSO Party, AGCW QRP CW Contest,

Oklahoma QSO Party, EA PSK31 Contest, SOC Marathon CW Sprint, UBA Spring CW Contest, NSARA Contest and the Wisconsin QSO Party will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend. Please see March QST, page 90 and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.



The K7RA Solar Update



SEATTLE, WA,
Mar 9, 2007 --
On March 1
Sunspot 944 was
pointed straight at
Earth. This small
sunspot was

followed a few days later by another small one, Sunspot 945. Sunspot 945 is visible in photos from March 5, just behind 944, but both spots seemed to disappear a day or two later before they would have rotated off the visible solar disk. Now the sun is blank, and the sunspot number is zero.

The minimum non-zero sunspot number is 11, and lately sunspot numbers move from zero to 11 to 23 or 24, and back to 11. No solar activity is expected for the next few days, so we will probably see at least several days with a sunspot number of zero.

Geomagnetic conditions are expected to remain quiet, at least until Monday or Tuesday, March 12-13. The US Air Force predicts a planetary A index for March 9-15 of 5, 5, 7, 15, 20, 15 and 10. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions for March 9-10, quiet to unsettled March 11, active geomagnetic conditions for March 12, unsettled to active March 13, unsettled March 14 and quiet to unsettled March 15. A recurring solar wind stream is predicted for Monday, March 12, and it should produce the expected geomagnetic instability.