



IT'S AUCTION TIME!

EchoLink up and Running on RVWARS 2-meter Repeater

The installation of EchoLink on the RVWARS 147.21 repeater has been completed in record time and is ready for use.

Club member and long-time user of Echo-Link, Len, N2LEN, installed the equipment and software with the assistance of Stan, WA2UET who reported: "Len has been a HUGE help in setting up the audio on the EchoLink. He is able to take the EchoLink computer here and put it on his screen at his home and make adjustments while listening to the results. I replaced the transceiver here and the interface so Len had to do it all over again. It sounds great to me and others that have reported say it sounds good."

I plan to use the EchoTime in conjunction with EchoLink to make announcements etc. I will keep any announcements as short as possible. The only problem that could arise is if the announcement starts during the pause after the courtesy beep and the next PTT, it could speak at the same time someone else is speaking. That should not happen often. The announcements will normally only play on the top of the hour. It is a great way to get information out



The RVWARS club auction will be held during the regular meeting on the third Monday of March (17th). 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 current Tech

Tech Class underway On Wed. evenings

Marty, N2LDR, Education Chairman and Lead Instructor has the Spring Technician Course well in hand with at least 8 class members working towards their Technician licenses following the VE session at the end of the 10 week course.

Marty is being assisted by Bob, WB2DUW and John, W2JSN with many other club members coming to present demonstrations and construction projects. If any RVWARS members would like to take part in the course, stop by the "Clubhouse" at 7:00 p.m. any Wednesday evening.

to folks in a pleasant clear voice.

It is running on an AMD computer donated by Tom, N2NZD and a FT-2800 purchased from Dan, KC2MZY at a good price, and a U.L.I. interface from KB2REM. EchoLink by K1RFD and EchoTime by KH2D software. Please feel free to use EchoLink. PLEASE send along your thoughts.

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. Remember, 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 and his helpers!



Upcoming Events

March 17 - 7:00 p.m. RVWARS Meeting, Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson
ANNUAL AUCTION!

March 28 - 6:00 p.m. Germantown "Family Fun Night" G'town School. RVWARS demo/Info Table.

April 7 - 7:00 p.m. ARES/RACES Meeting, Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson

April 21 - 7:00 p.m. RVWARS Meeting, Noecker's Showroom, Rt. 66 & Graham Ave., Hudson
ANNUAL AUCTION!

RVWARS Weekly Nets

Tuesday — 7:00 p.m.
ARES/RACES Emergency
Training Net. 147.21 Repeater
Roundtable following net sign-off

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 — 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
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/>

Using EchoLink: DTMF commands for EchoLink

Stan, WA2UET

Here are the available DTMF tones for the EchoLink system to date. If we continue to make them available we might add some in the future. In order for these DTMF tones to function with EchoLink I had to disable the "Mute" function on the Controller. The "Mute" covers any tones sent by users to keep the tones private. e.g. - if you were using the Phone Patch and calling your wife the DTMF tones would be muted so someone would not be able to record your phone number.

Personally I think that being able to connect to a node and especially disconnect from EchoLink is far more important than the "Mute" function. Be aware that this will be a topic of discussion at a club meeting soon. Bob, WB2DUW and I are open for your thoughts.

The Local Wx is from my weather station here in the Hamlet of Ghent. The other Wx info is from Weather Exchange probably from Albany...

The disconnect will disconnect a station from EchoLink, if there is more than one station on then it will disconnect the most recent station.

EchoLink Controls

1. Disconnect #
2. Disconnect All ##
3. To connect to a node enter the node number
4. Xmit Time 00*
5. Xmit Node Status 77*
6. Xmit Help File 88*
7. Xmit Current Wx 99*
8. Xmit WX Forecast 44*
9. Xmit Local Wx 55* (in Ghent)

RVWARS invited to Set up Demo/Info At Family Fun Night

The Parent Teacher Student Association at Germantown Central School hosts an annual event called Family Fun Night which runs in conjunction with the school Science Fair. The event will take place on Friday, March 28 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

RVWARS has been invited to participate by setting up a table with a display of various radios and other equipment plus any other display of books, brochures and posters that pertain to the hobby of Amateur Radio.

The Club Officers have decided that this would be a great opportunity to present Ham Radio to the students and their parents. Any RVWARS member who would like to take part in this activity should contact RVWARS President, Tom, N2NZD, as soon as possible. We hope to have a number of members there to greet the people and demonstrate the fun and public service offered by Amateur Radio.



RVWARS DX Award Certificate available

This award will be given to any member contacting fifty (50) different DX countries. Endorsements will be given at the seventy five (75), one hundred (100) and One hundred fifty (150) levels and at every ten (10) above 150.

Endorsements will be available for Single Band/Single Mode, Mixed Band/Single Mode, Multi Band/Single Mode and Multi Band/Multi Mode.

Submission: An RVWARS member (being above reproach) needs only to request the certificate when the required contacts are in the log. Contacts on the WARC bands do not count for this award. A separate certificate is available for VFH/UHF contacts.

2008 Technician Course Now in Session



Eight students are enrolled in the 2008 Technician course offered by RVWARS. Marty, N2LDR is shown giving instruction in basic rules and regulations. Note the new RVWARS Banner hanging behind Marty. *W2JSN Photo*

Hold on ma, let me go light the radio!

The Kerosene Radio was made in Moscow for use in rural areas. This all-wave radio was reported powered by the kerosene lamp hanging above it. A group of thermocouples was heated internally to 570 degrees by the flame. Fins cooled the outside to about 90 degrees. The temperature differential generated enough current to operate the low-drain receiver. Regular listeners may have wanted fur-lined union suits, though: it worked best in a room with open windows!

While this article was treated as a curiosity in the June, 1956, issue of *Popular Science*, with solid state components in the radio, you could get some nice performance out of this system. You could even run a QRP ham radio transceiver this way. Does anyone have a schematic for this set up? You could use the thermocouple system at night and a solar cell array during the day to run your QRP station. The thermocouples could be heated by a metal stack for a Franklin stove or hot air from a



fireplace or the hot air from a Coleman lamp.

Combine this power system with the \$50 SSB transceivers developed for the ARRL home brew challenge and you have a nice set up for a mountain cabin or camping trip. Sounds like great fun.

It might be an interesting way to power a Field Day station, too!

Reported by Stan Horzempa, WAILOU — ARRL Amateur Radio News

New Jersey joins NY In Cell Phone Law

On March 1, 2008, New Jersey's revised cell phone law went into effect. After reading it, it appears that talking not only on a hand held cell phone will earn you a ticket, but it now includes "electronic communication device" (read two way radio here), ham, CB, FRS, etc. Just wait till some trucker or other good buddy is stopped and receives a ticket under this newly revised law, then the screaming will start.

Amateur radio is excluded, however.



And now.... there's CQtube!

CQtube is online and ready to take your Ham videos, audio files and photos.

As always it is completely free to use and is still very much in development. Any suggestions for improvements are appreciated.

Currently, you may load files up to 100meg in size. Bandwidth and speed reports are requested to assess usage of both bandwidth and CPU. www.CQtube.com



T.N.T. TRADER NET

Every Thursday from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm on the TARA Repeater System: 145.17/R & 447.075/R

This is a reminder of the weekly TARA - T.N.T. Trader Net which dedicated towards buying, selling or trading your amateur related items.

All are welcome to come join on the TARA repeater system plus Echolink #1774 or IRLP #4151.

DX CALENDAR

ARRL DX news

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.

CONGO, 9Q. Station 9Q1EK has been active on 160 meters around 0450z and 15 meters around 1000 to 1300z. QSL via SM5DJZ.

NAURU, C2. Dick, C21DL has been active using RTTY on 20 meters around 2230 to 0130z. QSL via DJ2EH.

GERMANY, DA. Operators Axel, DH8AK, Sebastian, DO6ELW, Dirk, DK4DJ and Henning, DK9LB will be QRV as homecalls/p from Fehmarn Island, IOTA EU-128, from March 14 to 21. They will also activate Lighthouse Marienleuchte - Old Tower, ARLHS FED-151, and Lighthouse Marienleuchte - New Tower, ARLHS FED-016. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB, PSK31 and SSB on 2 meters. QSL to home calls.

IRAN, EP. Sadegh, EP3HF has been QRV on 15 meters around 0930z and then 17 meters around 1000z. QSL direct.

CLIPPERTON ISLAND, FO. A large group of operators are QRV as TX5C until March 17. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via N7CQQ.

ST. VINCENT, J8. Babs, DL7AFS and Lot, DJ7ZG are QRV as J8/homecalls until March 20. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using mostly SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL both calls via DL7AFS.

BELGIUM, ON. Members of the radio club OSA are active during 2008 as ON70REDSTAR in commemoration of the Red Star Line shipping company. QSL via ON4OSA.

DENMARK, OZ. Look for DK9LO to be QRV as OZ/DK9LO from Romo Island, IOTA EU-125, from March 8 to 21. QSL to home call.

EGYPT, SU. Mustapha, DL1BDF plans to be QRV from the EARA club station SU0ARA from March 11 to 19. Activity will be on all HF bands. He hopes to obtain permission to operate on 80 meters as well. QSL via SU1KM.

ICELAND, TF. Look for Alex, RA3MR, Artem, RD3MA, Dmitry, RA3MF, Helen, RV3ACA, Valery, RZ6AU and Serge, UA1ANA to be QRV as TF/homecalls and TF/RK3MWL from March 11 to 18. They will also use the special call TF4Y in the upcoming Russian DX Contest. Activity will be on all bands with an emphasis on the newer and low bands. QSL all calls via RV3ACA.

GABON, TR. Alain, TR8CA has been active on 160 and 80 meters using CW from around 0500 to 0600z. QSL via F6CBC.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2. Chris, MOAJT is QRV as V26CC until March 14. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW with some SSB. He plans to be an entry in the RSGB Commonwealth contest. QSL to home call. In addition, Bob, W4OWY and Mark, W9OP are QRV as V25WY and V25OP, respectively, until March 18. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY, with an emphasis on 160 and 80 meters if conditions permit. QSL to home calls.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Nick, G4FAL is QRV as V4/G4FAL from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, until March 10. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using mainly CW. This includes an entry in the RSGB Commonwealth contest. QSL to home call.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Nigel, G3TXF plans to be QRV from Providenciales using special callsign VQ5XF in the RSGB Commonwealth contest. Outside the contest he may be active as VP5/G3TXF. QSL both calls to home call.

VIET NAM, XV. Shim, XV3AA is QRV from Danang until March 10. He is active using PSK31 on 20 meters and 17 meters SSB. QSL via JA6UHG.

TOKELAU, ZK3. Udo, DL9HCU is QRV as ZK3HC until March 16. He has been active on 20 and 17 meters at various times. QSL to home call.