

Join us at the Club House!

WEB SITE: WWW.RVWARS.COM

Packet BBS N2LDR-1 223.440



Happy Birthday

- Wayne-K2WG
- Jonathan-KC2BNE
- Martha-KC2MDY
- Stan-N2LBX
- Dave-WA2FTI
- Franklin-WA2ULV

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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



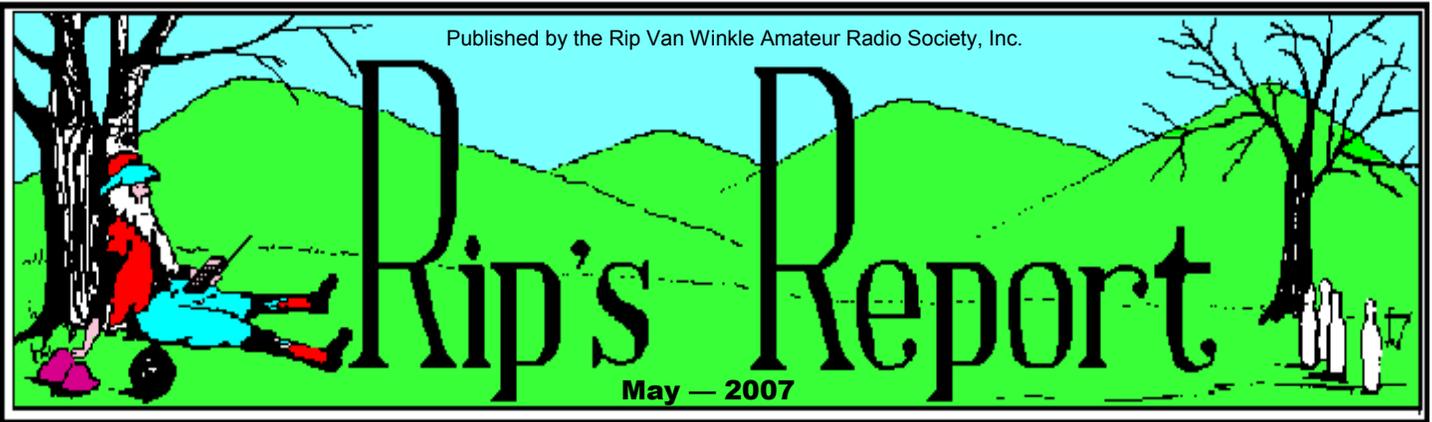
AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



**Meeting
May 21
7:00 PM
Noecker
"Club House"
Talk-in 147.09**

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



New Repeater Ant. Donated to RVWARS

With the old 147.21 mhz repeater antenna at the end of its useful life and causing "scratchies" during windy, stormy weather, RVWARS was faced with an expensive problem: the antenna would have to be replaced. While the Repeater Committee and the Club officers talked over what should be done, the repeater power was reduced to 5 watts output to protect the new PA board that was installed recently. The antenna that was decided upon is the TELWAVE model ANT150F6-2 which has a omni directional gain of 6db.

When the purchase of the new antenna was brought before the members at the April 23 meeting, Dick Leavitt, W2CSQ, offered to donate the amount needed to pay for the antenna and its shipping. Carl, WB2TCV, offered to order the antenna at his employer's cost, reducing the overall cost. The Antenna was ordered during the meeting and arrived just a few days later. The antenna is now on site at the Repeater location awaiting the scheduling of tower climbers and good weather.

RVWARS extends its thanks and appreciation to Dick Leavitt for his generous donation. Dick was among the group who re-activated RVWARS back in the 1960s. The first repeater was located at his home.

Field Day, other committees named at April Meeting

Carl, WB2TCV and Tom, N2NZD have agreed to serve as the Co-Chairmen of this year's Field Day Committee. Anyone who would like to help should contact either Carl or Tom.

RVWARS Field Day 2007 will be held at the Claverack Town Park off of Church St. in the village of Philmont.

Field Day is an annual event that tests Amateur Radio operators throughout the country in their ability to set up and operate their stations "in the field" under emergency conditions using generator, battery or solar power.

Operators attempt to exchange contacts with as many other stations as possible within a 24 hour period beginning 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 23 and ends at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 24.

Field Day is a perfect time for the newly licensed Scouts and others plus those who are interested in getting their license to attend and make some contacts.

More details about Field Day will be announced at the May 21 and June 18 RVWARS meetings as well as the June issue of *Rip's Report*.

(Continued on Page 2)

Tech Course set for May 16 at Clubhouse

Marty, N2LDR will be the lead instructor for the RVWARS Technician Class licensing course to be offered at the 'Clubhouse' at Noecker's auto dealership at the corner of Graham Ave. and Rt. 66 in Hudson. The course will run for at least 10 Wednesdays beginning on May 16. A VE testing session will be held at the completion of the course.

While the past Tech Course was held for the Boy Scout Troop 102 as part of their scheduled projects, this Tech Course is open to the general public. No prior knowledge of electronics or radio is necessary but it would be helpful.

There is no charge for the course other than \$20 for text book. Registration will be held at the first meeting of the class at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 16.



RVWARS Meeting May 21, 7 pm

The May meeting of RVWARS will be held on May 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the 'Clubhouse' on the corner of Graham Ave. and Rt. 66.

Plans for Field day and a report on the Repeater antenna plus other topics will be discussed.

As always, the coffee pot is on! (Doughnuts, too!)



Upcoming Events

May 6 — 9:00 a.m. Walk-a-thon
Lake Taghkanic State Park

May 7 — 7:00 p.m. ARES/
RACES meeting 'Clubhouse'

May 16 — 7:00 p.m. Tech. Course
Registration, 1st Class. 'Clubhouse'

May 21 — 7:00 p.m. RVWARS
Meeting 'Clubhouse'

June 4 — 7:00 p.m. ARES/
RACES meeting 'Clubhouse'

June 18 — 7:00 p.m. RVWARS
Meeting 'Clubhouse'

June 23-24 — 2:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
FIELD DAY 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: 3.980 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/>

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Committees . . .

The Repeater Committee has been separated from the Technical Committee so that it can act on its own and only relate to the concerns of operating and maintaining the RVWARS repeaters, tower, antennas and other equipment at the site. This will also clarify the budget requirements of the repeater system.

The Technical Committee will return to the original description in the old By-Laws where the Committee was responsible in helping members with technical and TVI interference problems. Also, the Technical Committee will act as the Steering Committee in the construction and outfitting of the new RVWARS ARES/RACES Em-Com Trailer. The Committee will also seek grants and donations to fund the trailer project.

RVWARS President, David Clapper, announced the formation of the committees and named Bob Turner, WB2DUW as Chairman of the Repeater Committee and also re-appointed Bob as the Chairman of the Technical Committee.

Bob reported some progress on acquiring grants. Grant applications are about to be submitted to several local foundations. "The first requests are for smaller amounts which will help us build up a reputation for when we apply for larger grants," Bob said. The recently acquired Federal Non-Profit, 501-c-3 status will help us in applying for grants and donations. In addition, members can now deduct large cash donations to the club and receive an official receipt.

New Callsigns On the Repeater

We have at least eight new callsigns on the repeater as a result of the recent Scout Tech course and VE Session. Welcome these new Hams aboard the RVWARS "ship" and help them out with contacts and information.

KC2RHR John Gallicano
KC2RHS Andrew Drumm
KC2RHT Bob Yates
KC2RHU Tom Elliott
KC2RHV Bernie Keeler
KC2RHW Ed Coons
KC2RHX Adam Adriance
KC2RHZ Bob Adriance

Hope you guys enjoy your new hobby! Join us at meetings and especially at Field Day, June 23 and 24.



Upcoming Ham Fests

'Tis the season for Hamfests! There are a few nearby and some a ways off.

The Albany Amateur Radio Association will hold its annual SWAPFEST on Friday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Colonie Community Center on Central Ave, Albany

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association Hamfest will be held 12 May 2007 at the Phillips Road Fire House in East Greenbush, NY.

The Rochester Hamfest sponsored by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association will be held June 1-3 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds, Rte 15A, Rochester, NY It will also feature a Computer and Hobby Show with free WiFi.

The Dayton (Ohio) Hamvention on May 18-20 is the Granddaddy of all Hamfests!

Boy Scouts Honored for Morse Code Proficiency

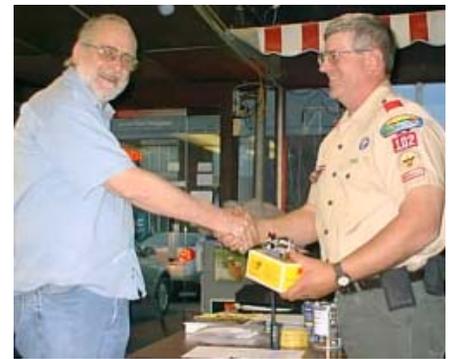


Stan Engel, WA2UET, above, congratulates Bernie Keeler, KC2RHV, and Scout Leader Bob Adriance, KC2RHZ, on behalf of RVWARS after presenting Bernie and Bob (on behalf of his son, Adam) plaques honoring them for their Morse code proficiency.

All photos by John, W2JSN



John Gabrielsen, KC2AGM, presents new Chrome Plated Iambic Telegraph Keys, which he donated in honor of Dave Watrous, WD2K, (who became a "Silent Key" in 2003) to Bernie Keeler, KC2RHV and Adam Adriance, KC2RHZ, for proficiency in Morse Code. Leader Robert Adriance, KC2RHZ, accepts the key for his son, Adam. Bernie and 4 other Scouts plus 2 of their leaders passed the Federal Communications Commission test and became Licensed Amateur Radio Operators recently.



The \$4 Special Antenna

by Joe Tyburczy, W1GFH

Sure, you can find "all-band wire antennas" for sale costing \$150 or more in the back pages of Ham magazines. But beware: Marconi spins in his grave every time 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 bailing 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.

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.

If Ant is 65 ft per leg it will cover 80 thru 10 meters.

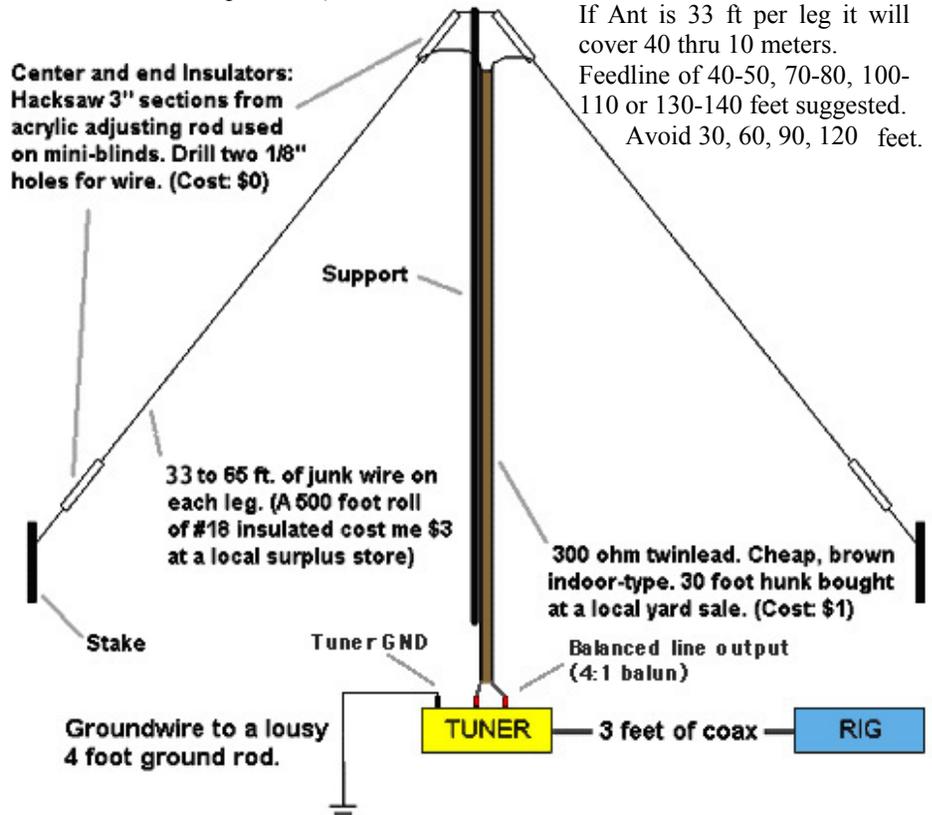
Feedline of 25-40, 80-100 or 140-160 feet suggested.

Avoid lines around 60, 120, or 180 feet.

If Ant is 33 ft per leg it will cover 40 thru 10 meters.

Feedline of 40-50, 70-80, 100-110 or 130-140 feet suggested.

Avoid 30, 60, 90, 120 feet.



Small Active Loop Receiving Antenna

By Dave Griffin, N2CHI

Early last year I purchased a small 27 inch Wellbrook receiving loop antenna from Wales that I have placed on a cheap TV-style rotator out at the end of my deck. From a reception-only point of view, it has revolutionized my concept of playing radios. In fact, except for transmitting antennas, I doubt if I will ever climb a ladder and hang wire again.

Small loops have the advantage of being directive on the LF and MW broadcast bands, but just as important they are very quiet even on shortwave frequencies compared to longer wires and especially to vertical antennas. This is because a loop intercepts more of the magnetic part of the wave front and less of the electrical part. Small loops do serve up slightly less signal level. However, with far less accompanying noise the signal-to-noise ratio rises dramatically. And in modern receivers Signal to Noise is what really matters.

Most of the interference I hear on my radios these days emanates from my own home. TV's, florescent lights, Triac light dimmers, fax machines, any kind of charger....all of these produce a cacophony of noise on my radios. This near-field energy drops off rapidly to a point where it is negligible at about 15 feet or so from the house. When I initially tested the loop inside the house, its magnetic properties dramatically reduced the noise. And when I later mounted it about 20 feet away from the house at the end of the deck, all the noise completely disappeared, except for that from the light dimmers. Triac dimmers radiate much farther because they use the home's electrical system as an antenna. But using the rotator, any noise can be nulled including interference that might come from nearby homes.

For incoming radio signals, the directivity of small loops increases as you lower them closer to the earth.

That's because the radio waves reflected off the nearby ground remain closer in phase and produce a good voltage differential between the leading and trailing edges of the loop. Therefore, my loop works better when mounted about 10 feet off the ground than it would up on top of the house.

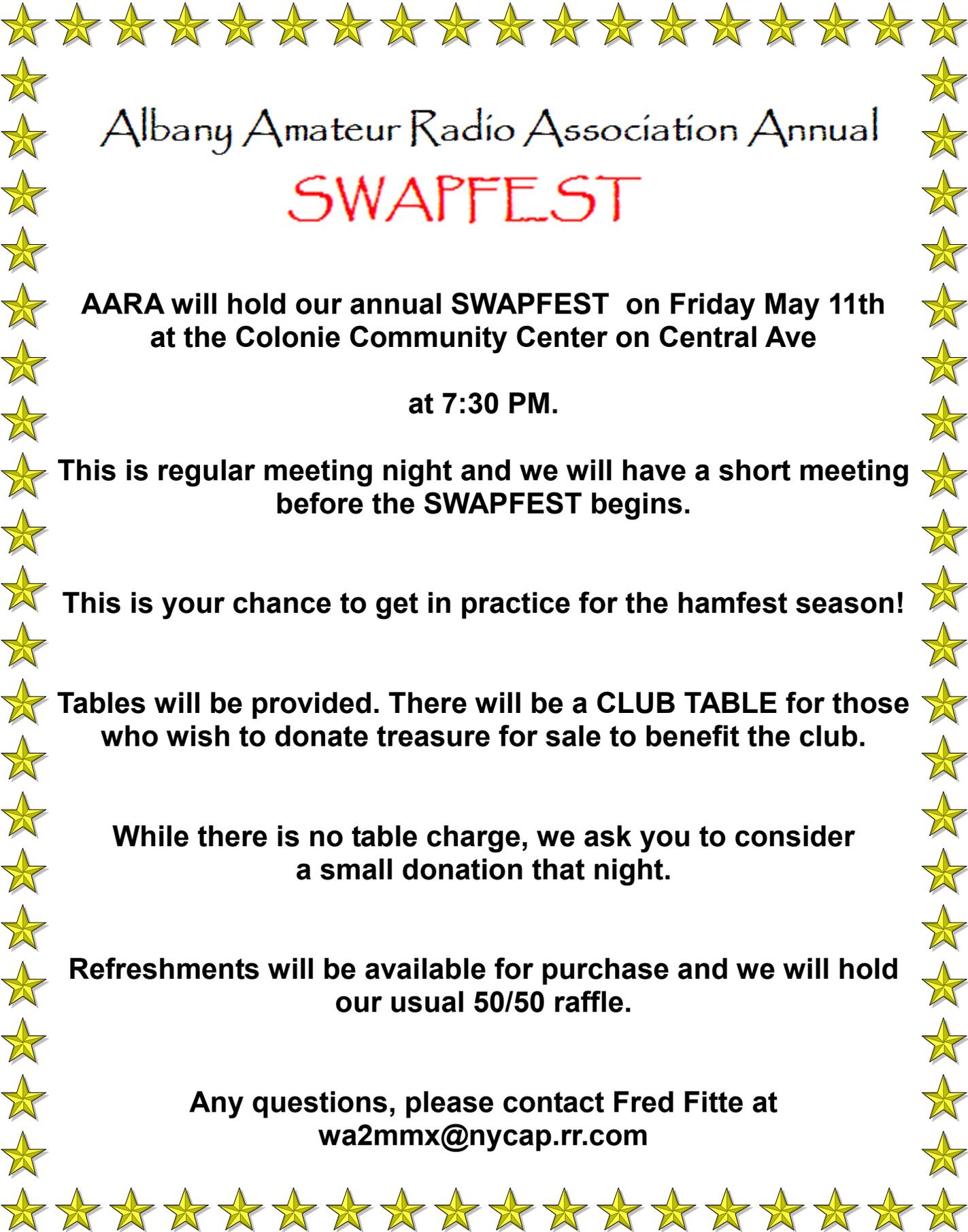


Small loop sits behind a pine tree for protection from the wind. Mounted 10 feet off the ground, it's a little higher than recommended. The lower the better with one of these.

Most small loops (like the Terk Advantage or Edek Torus Tuner that you keep on your desk) are designed for only a limited piece of the spectrum, for example the MW band. Also, they need to be tuned with a capacitor right at the loop, a difficult proposition for an outdoor loop. However, the Wellbrook AL1530 needs no tuning. It covers 100 Khz through 30 Mhz. and I've even heard good signals above 100 Mhz. I can use the loop with a transceiver, too, as long as I don't

transmit into it. My Icom transceiver can be set to auto-switch between separate receive and transmit antennas.

The Wellbrook is an active antenna and Andy, the guy who makes them in Beulah, Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, Wales, UK, has dipped the electrical circuits in epoxy for protection from the elements and probably to reduce of the risk of reverse engineering. The antenna's amp no doubt uses a broadband design with extremely high gain and low noise semiconductors. The results are stunning. So is the price, to be honest.... \$330 USD including shipping from the UK. But when I look at my investment in radios, it seems silly to think I can get the best performance from them for only a few bucks worth of wire! Yeah, I know what you're thinkingthat's what my wife said.



Albany Amateur Radio Association Annual

SWAPFEST

**AARA will hold our annual SWAPFEST on Friday May 11th
at the Colonie Community Center on Central Ave**

at 7:30 PM.

**This is regular meeting night and we will have a short meeting
before the SWAPFEST begins.**

This is your chance to get in practice for the hamfest season!

**Tables will be provided. There will be a CLUB TABLE for those
who wish to donate treasure for sale to benefit the club.**

**While there is no table charge, we ask you to consider
a small donation that night.**

**Refreshments will be available for purchase and we will hold
our usual 50/50 raffle.**

**Any questions, please contact Fred Fitte at
wa2mmx@nycap.rr.com**