



Field Day 2009 Preparations Underway!

Hello Rippers!

Well... Spring is among us and before we know it, Field Day 2009 will be here. This year's site will be at the Claverack Town Park outside of Philmont, N.Y. on June 27-28, 2009. The Contest runs from 2 p.m. Saturday through 2 p.m. Sunday.

As usual, set-up will be on Saturday morning June 27th between 9 and 10 a.m. at the Claverack Town Park. I hope this year we will see some new faces along with our regulars working hand and hand setting up our portable tower, stringing dipoles into the trees, setting up the club rigs and of course... our "Infamous Coffee Pot!"

I know it's a little early, but I would like to get the ball rolling by posting it now. As in years past, tear-down is just as important as set-up since most of the people staying the night are a little wiped out from operating. So, the more hands the better so that everyone can get out of there in a decent time.

Also, if you would like to bring that favorite rig, keyer or headphones, you are more than welcome. Any suggestions for improvements or concerns, Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the Officers of the club.

Volunteers Needed: MS-Walk May 3rd

This years MS-Walk at Lake Taghkanic is on Sunday May 3rd. We will need HAM volunteers to position throughout the course. This event really benefits from our skills, equipment, and time.

We should meet at the large beach parking lot at 9 a.m.

Location: Lake Taghkanic state park (Rt82 or Taconic Parkway) There is no fee to get into the park. Time: 9 a.m. - noon

Equipment: 2m hand-held or mobile, ARES/RACES vest/arm band if you have one

Thank you to all who routinely work this event, and any new volunteers. If possible let me know if you plan on attending, but you are certainly welcome to just show up the day of the event as well. We would like to give the organizers an idea how many we will have.

Thanks, Tom Gutierrez N2NZD

At the next club meeting I would like to find out if any of the antennas, coax, rigs, etc., need to be fixed or replaced and where they are stored.

Here is a link for Field Day 2009: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/index.html>

Just breezing through it quickly, we can get a easy 500 points before we even touch a radio. Food for Thought!!

73's

Mike Alecksynas N2JVE
Field Day Chairman

Ham Class Ends, VE Exam Session Set for May 6th

The 2009 RVWARS Ham classes will have finished their run on April 29 with a review and preparation for the VE Exam Session on May 6. The big difference this year has been the combining of students going for all three of the Amateur Radio License levels.

For the first time the Club will have students taking Technician, General and Extra Exams. There have always been people taking upgrade exams in the General and Extra categories.

Best of luck to all the examinees! We should have a new bunch of hams and upgrades ready for Field Day!

THI

May RVWARS Meeting May 18th at Clubhouse

The regular monthly meeting of RVWARS will be 7:00 p.m., May 18, at the Noecker Clubhouse at the corner of Graham Avenue and Rt 66 in Hudson. Talk-in on 147.21. There's plenty of parking across Graham Ave. at the Bank or Lumber Yard.

Plans for Field Day will be discussed. As a reminder, if you haven't already set aside the last weekend in June to take part in Field Day, set aside Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28 and plan to have a great time!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 3 — 9:00 a.m.
MS-Walk, Lake Taghkanic
ARES provides communications

Monday, May 4 — 7:00 p.m.
ARES/RACES Meeting
Columbia County EOC.
Greenport-Hudson

Monday, May 18 — 7:00 p.m.
RVWARS Meeting
Noecker Clubhouse, Rt. 66 &
Graham Ave. Hudson

Wednesday, May 6 — 7:00 p.m.
VE Exam Session (All Classes)
Noecker Clubhouse, Rt. 66 &
Graham Ave. Hudson

RVWARS Weekly Nets

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

Going to Dayton?

The ARRL National Convention will be held at the Dayton Hamvention® May 15-17 at Hara Arena.

Several RVWARS members make the trip to Dayton, Ohio, for the biggest Ham Fest in the country. . . if not the world!

Making the trip from Columbia County are Dick, W2CSQ and Fred, WA2MMX. Both have been attending the Dayton Hamvention for many years and have formed lasting friendships with hams from all over the USA and Canada.

The ARRL EXPO, located in the large exhibit area in the Ballarena Hall (near the 400-numbered booths), will showcase exhibits and activities to enhance the ham radio experience. Open to both ARRL members and nonmembers, ARRL EXPO is packed with official ARRL program representatives, activities (including activities for youth) and forums. Visit the ARRL bookstore for popular publications and products, join the ARRL or renew your membership, and pick up official ARRL merchandise. All who join the ARRL or renew their membership at the Dayton Hamvention will receive a free gift.

What are you waiting for? Gas up old Betsy and hit the road to Dayton!



Electronic Parts and Manuals Donated to Club



Len Sawicky, WB2UEB, has donated his brother Ed's, WB2UEA, (SK) collection of parts and manuals to RVWARS in Ed's memory.

The parts and manuals are being stored at the Noecker Clubhouse and members are welcome to come and look for any parts they might need for a project.

Be sure to check out what's in the collection at the next meeting. Check with John, W2JSN, to visit during business hours.

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Rip's Ham Shack!



Not too many Amateur Radio Clubs are as fortunate as RVWARS to have a location such as John Noecker's Auto Showroom to use as its Clubhouse for meetings, Ham Classes, Auctions and as a Club Ham station. Through donations from club members and our "landlord" we have a well equipped station for use by any member and also an invaluable demonstration set-up for our Ham Classes. John would like to see the station get more use. Anyone coming into the Showroom during business hours will most likely hear the sounds of Morse coming from the station speaker. John says it's more relaxing than the typical "muzak" that plays over the speakers in most businesses! Plus he likes to copy the 40 meter QSOs in his head. Stop by sometime and have a go at the station!

Seeking the Origin of "CQ"

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU

The language of Amateur Radio includes unique words and phrases; words and phrases hams use every day without thinking about them. A visit to AC6V's Jargon Web page will show you most of it: <http://www.ac6v.com/jargon.htm>

"CQ" is probably the most common idiom hams use. It is so common that even the civilians that populate a ham's family are familiar with the phrase. I can recall numerous occasions when my wife, daughter, sister, mother and/or father commented to someone or other that I was up in the ham shack "calling CQ, CQ, CQ..."

It always did my heart good to overhear those comments because it meant that they were paying attention to what I was doing — so much so that they were getting some ham radio into their system by osmosis.

Long ago, I came to the conclusion that CQ was a short way of sending the phrase "seek you" using Morse code and that its usage became so ingrained in the ham radio nation that hams used the letters for voice operations, too.

Yes and no.

I looked it up on the Internet, and Wikipedia does a good job describing the history of CQ. I will not steal their thunder and I will let you read it for yourself, but here is some interesting CQ trivia that Wikipedia mentions:

Did you know that Herman Munster called CQ in an episode of *The Munsters*?

ARRL Amateur Radio News and Features

Another Porcupine Car Spotted Locally!





East Greenbush
W2EGB
Amateur Radio Association



Proudly Presents Its
6th ANNUAL HAMFEST
Saturday, May 9, 2009

Rain or Shine!

East Greenbush Fire Company

68 Phillips Road, East Greenbush, NY

Vendor Set-up – 6 AM General Public – 8 AM to 1 PM

General Admission - \$6

Pavilion - \$6 per table (Tables provided)

Tailgating - \$6 per 8 foot space

Hot Food All Day!

- *Breakfast: Sandwiches, Doughnuts*
- *Lunch: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chili*
- *Hot and Cold Drinks*
- *Much, much more*

Door Prizes*

- Drawings starting at 9 AM**
- Grand Prize: 2M Mobile Radio**
- Grand Prize Drawing at Noon**
- *MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

FCC Exams held off site

For further information visit our website:

www.w2egb.org

For info and/or reservations contact:

Tom, KC2FCP (kc2fcp@nycap.rr.com)

Talk-In: 147.270 (+), PL 94.8 Hz