

Checking In

Your source for W2KGY news every semester.

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Club Fair 2007 by CDT Andrew Thompson, KC2PCW

Once a year, the Directorate of Cadet Activities hosts an expo exclusively for cadets in order to showcase the clubs and teams that the United States Military Academy has to offer.

Traditionally at Club Night, groups will set up a table with a poster or two and possibly some handouts that cadets can take back to their room to read. Not content with the status quo, the hams decided to create a two part display.

As cadets walked toward Eisenhower Hall for Club night, they were greeted on the walkway by the mobile ham trailer, manned by Wiley Grant. Cadets were able to try their hand at the radio from the trailer, or they could go inside Eisenhower Hall to the Amateur Radio table, where another VHF radio was set up and tuned to the club frequency. At the table, the club used laptops to show pictures of our activities throughout the year while members



CDT Rob Corless (KC2RME) mans the W2KGY table as club night kicks off.

explained what being a ham was all about.

By the end of the night, several cadets had signed up to be a ham operator.

Overall this was one of the most successful club night expo's the Amateur Radio club has executed. Great job hams!

New members sign up at the W2KGY trailer with CDT Wiley Grant (KC2PCV).



New members by CDT Joshua Mauldin, KD5FUM



The club welcomes the following cadets to its membership:



*Eric Anderson,
KG6ABG - GENERAL
Class of 2011*



*Thomas Dean,
KB1JJJ – EXTRA
accredited VE

Class of 2011



*Christopher Kieschnik,
Class of 2011*



*Michael Weigand,
KB3PDB – TECH
Class of 2011*

West Point Amateur Radio License Exam Session by LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG

The USMA Amateur Radio Club held its fall test session on 28 October 2007 in the Dean's Conference Room, Thayer Hall.

This session we had CDT Rob Corless (KC2RME) upgrade to General Class and two amateur radio operators from the community upgrade to Amateur Extra.

Mr. Ron Torpey (N2ATQ) and Mr. Mark Copelletti (WM2C) of the Orange County Amateur Radio Club joined LTC Tim Schmoyer (W2JIG) as Volunteer Examiners to facilitate the administration of exams up to Amateur Extra class. Also assisting were Roy Spells (KC2NDQ) and Wells Farr (WB3CUF).



CDT Corless (KC2RME), unlike many stressed out test takers, thoroughly enjoys the challenge of the ARRL exams.



CDT Grant (KC2PCV) goes for General.



VEs (L to R): Ron Torpey (N2ATQ), LTC Tim Schmoyer (W2JIG), Roy Spells (KC2NDQ), Wells Farr (WB3CUF) and Mark Copeletti (WM2C). Thanks for making this test possible, gentlemen!



Radio Merit Badge, Troop 23 by CDT Thomas Dean, KB1JJJ

On Wednesday, October 17, LTC Schmoyer, W2JIG, Wiley Grant, KC2PCV, Rob Coreless, KC2RME, and Tom Dean, KB1JJJ, all met at the Scout Hut to train Boy Scout Troop 23 towards earning the Radio Merit badge.

The scouts were split into four groups, and rotated through different stations.

At the first station, taught by Tom, KB1JJJ, the scouts were introduced to radio and the basic principals of amateur radio.

Rob, KC2RME, took the second station, and taught the scouts about the basics of electronic theory. This included some hands-on building of circuits. Rob

also bribed the scouts with candy.

The third station, led by Wiley, KC2PCV, was an introduction to RF and electrical safety, as well as a

discussion on licensing.

Finally, LTC Schmoyer, W2JIG, taught the last station, which was about the electromagnetic spectrum and radio wave propagation.

The scouts completed their requirements that Sunday by visiting the W2KGY ham shack and participating in the annual Jamboree on the Air.



[above] Boy Scouts Cameron Sullivan, Samuel Smith, and Braden Virdell receive hands-on instruction on basic electrical circuitry by CDT Corless (KC2RME). The skills they gained helped them earn the Radio Merit badge.

[left] LTC Schmoyer (W2JIG) instructs Boy Scouts from Troop 23 on the division of the radio frequency spectrum. The Scouts received this fundamental training in preparation for earning the Radio Merit Badge and for Jamboree on the Air 2007.

Scouts Jamboree On the Air 2007 by CDT Andrew Thompson, KC2PCW

On Sunday the 21st, the Amateur Radio Club hosted Girl Scouts from Troops 118 and 126 and Boy Scouts from Troop 23 for the 50th annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA).

Scouts were introduced to some of the fundamentals of ham radio, familiarized with all the equipment used by operators, and even got a chance to try their hands on the radios themselves!

Throughout the afternoon the club was able to raise several contacts over the HF radio to ham radio operators in Germany, the Czech Republic, Canada (Yukon),

and the US (ranging from a cub scout troop in Kansas, to an 82 year old ham operator who was broadcasting out of Washington state that couldn't say enough about the importance of learning code!).

Overall the 2007 JOTA was an excellent learning experience for the boy scout troop, and it allowed USMA hams to get some great experience on the radios. Ham radio is just one more way that scouts across America can live up to their motto of 'be prepared'!



CDTs Mike Weigand (KB3PDB) and Andrew Thompson (KC2PCW) help the boy scouts make contacts.

Below is an article taken out of the USMA Newspaper, recognizing W2KGY's hardwork.

Scout Jamboree turns 50

Story by Boy Scout Troop 23 and Girl Scout Troops 118 & 126
Photos by Col. John Smith and Rachel Schmoeyer

On a bright, picture-perfect West Point afternoon, Girl Scouts from Troops 118 and 126 and Boy Scouts from Troop 23, as guests of the U.S. Military Academy Cadet Amateur Radio Club, broadcast from the W2KGY ham radio shack high atop Bartlett Hall during the 2007 Jamboree on the Air Oct. 21.

JOTA is an annual event during which Scouts meet other Scouts around the world through amateur radio contacts. This year was a

milestone, as it marked 50 years for the program.

During JOTA, Scouts engage in QSOs, which are "conversations" in the short-hand code of ham radio operators, with other Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and civilian operators all over the world.

The purpose is to meet each other, exchange ideas, learn from each other and gain a mutual understanding. Though the intent is to try to make international contacts, the High Frequency and Very High Frequency radios used by the club are dependent upon atmospheric propagation conditions in the ionosphere.

The Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts were able to talk to ham radio operators in Germany, the Czech Republic, Canada [Yukon], Washington, California, Texas and Florida.

Using the call sign 2CX, the first amateur radio station at West Point was established in 1926 by Lieutenant William Holmes Wenstrom, a member of the Department of English. In 1936, the Cadet Amateur Radio Club was established under the direction of Capt. Edward C. Gillette of the Department of Chemistry and Electricity with a call sign of W2JIG.



Cadet 4th Class Mike Weigand helps Girl Scout Kristine Houston make radio contact during the JOTA Oct. 21.



Boy Scouts Cameron Sullivan [left], Samuel Smith and Braden Virdell receive hands on instruction on basic electrical circuitry by Cadet 1st Class Rob Corless. The skills they gained helped them earn the Radio Merit Badge.

OIC Ragchew

“An Outstanding Start” by LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG

The club got off to a great start this semester with DCA's Club Night, doubling our membership to 49 ... including four already licensed Amateur Radio operators!

The Radio Merit Badge training and Jamboree on the Air were a huge success this year, as usual. Fourteen Boy Scouts earned their Radio Merit Badge, dozens of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were introduced to the Amateur Radio hobby and talked around the world. Everyone did a great job at the 4 stations during the Radio Merit Badge training (Theory, Circuits, Radios and Safety) and the 3 stations during the JOTA (Tower, Radios and Amateur Radio Operations). There's no way the club could pull this off each year without the support of our members. The feedback from all the troops was overwhelmingly positive.

Excellent work by the club teams to get the VHF/UHF satellite array installed and to put an internal webcam on top of the Bartlett Hall tower. Also, Mike Weigand, KB3PDB, gave the Icom IC-781 a great workout after the JOTA. He operated for several hours after the Scouts left, making dozens of QSLs with operators all over the USA and several foreign countries. Way to go, Mike!

I'm also pleased to announce that the club has benefitted greatly from the support provided by the Information and Technology Operations Center (ITOC), Directorate of Cadet Activities (DCA) and the West Point Parents Club (WP-ORG). Over the past year, these organizations have funded the acquisition of the following items for the club:

1. 2 250' LDF5-50 cables (\$2,275)
2. Trango FalconPLUS Radios (\$1,996)
3. 2 Trango SDR900H Radios (\$1,718)
4. microHam microSO2R Pack 6B (\$1,432)
5. Yaesu G-5500 Rotator (\$640)
6. Yaesu GS-232B Controller (\$600)
7. Yaesu G-1000DXA Rotator (\$500)
8. Axis 2191 Audio Module (\$324)
9. Diamond X510NA antenna (\$190)
10. Pelco WCS4-20 Power Supply (\$176)
11. Louroe Electronics Microphone (\$160)
12. 3-in-1 Speed Dome PTZ Cable (\$95)
13. Nova Satellite Software (\$60)
14. Yaesu HT Battery Charger (\$50)
15. As well as covering our memberships and operating expenses!

Thanks to everyone who has supported in the past and continues to support the club in the future!

As a special “feature,” I am including the club’s operating expenses and planned acquisitions this academic year (2007-2008). We’re hoping the Scoutmaster’s Council will help us fund the first 20 items on our acquisition list (see next page).

Let's start Spring semester off as strong as we did this Fall semester!

Annual Operating Expenses				
Priority	Title	# of Items	Cost	SubTotal
1	ARRL Membership Dues and QST	1	\$39.00	\$39.00
2	QEX: The ARRL Forum for Communications Experimenters	1	\$24.00	\$24.00
3	FCC licenses and upgrades	5	\$15.00	\$75.00
4	W2KGY DCA patch	5	\$25.00	\$125.00
5	Stamps	100	\$0.41	\$41.00
6	QSL Cards	100	\$1.00	\$100.00
7	QSL Service	1	\$20.00	\$20.00
8	AMSAT Membership Dues	1	\$80.00	\$80.00
9	Hamfest Entrance Fees	10	\$10.00	\$100.00
10	Event certificates/patches, frames, parts, kits and minor repairs, etc.	1	\$121.00	\$121.00
Subtotal				\$725.00

Priority	Acquisition Expenses Title	# of Items	Cost	SubTotal
1	Climbing Harness	2	\$300.00	\$600.00
2	Y-lanyard with absorbtion	2	\$200.00	\$400.00
3	Climbing Helmet	2	\$80.00	\$160.00
4	Safety Board Wood	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
5	Fire Extinguisher	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	Flashlight	2	\$35.00	\$70.00
7	Safety Googles	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Climbing Gloves (small and medium)	2	\$3.50	\$7.00
9	Climbing Gloves (medium and large)	2	\$3.50	\$7.00
10	Climbing Gloves (medium and large)	2	\$4.50	\$9.00
11	Rubber Gloves	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
12	100' Safety Rope	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
13	First Aid Kit	2	\$20.00	\$40.00
14	Lightning Protectors HF	2	\$65.00	\$130.00
15	Lightning Protectors VHF/UHF	3	\$65.00	\$195.00
16	4 Pin CB Microphone	1	\$20.00	\$20.00
17	PA/horn for CB radio	1	\$45.00	\$45.00
18	CB antenna	2	\$30.00	\$60.00
19	80/160m dual band antenna	3	\$115.00	\$345.00
20	Dell Precision M4300 Laptop	2	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
21	Harris 10181-9830-010 CABLE ASSY, FRONT PANEL	2	\$228.00	\$456.00
22	Harris 10181-9831-010 CABLE ASSY, AC PWR	2	\$92.00	\$184.00
23	Harris RF-5051-PS001 or RF-5051PS-125C Power Supply	2	\$4,032.00	\$8,064.00
24	Rigblaster Plus	2	\$160.00	\$320.00
25	Tool kit	2	\$150.00	\$300.00
26	100' measuring tape	1	\$15.00	\$15.00
27	Magnetic Compass	2	\$50.00	\$100.00
28	QSL Cardholder package	5	\$12.00	\$60.00
29	Motorola XTS 5000 radios	2	\$4,400.00	\$8,800.00
30	G-2800DXA Yaesu Antenna Rotator	1	\$1,149.95	\$1,149.95
	Subtotal			\$25,736.95

CIC Ragchew

W2KGY Provides Demonstration for National Guard by CDT Wiley Grant, KC2PCV

The Superintendent, Commandant, Dean, and other distinguished visitors viewed displays by the Amateur Radio Club (W2KGY), Scoutmasters' Council (SMC), and other affiliated cadet clubs during a weekend planning event. The display was to show the current standard for command operations at the annual West Point Scout

Camporee held in May.

Several commanders from local Army National Guard units were viewing the setup to decide on whether or not to support the SMC during the Camporee this coming year.

W2KGY demonstrated the communications center used last year in the back

of a simulated M-113 communications track. The overall effect convinced the National Guard commanders to give their support to the SMC this coming year.

With the new prestige of having the National Guard at the Camporee, W2KGY will surely have a greater role in assisting the SMC.



VEC Ragchew

A New General and an Extra VE! by LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG



Congratulations to Rob Corless, KC2RME, for upgrading to General Class and Tom Dean, KB1JIJ, for getting his Extra Class Volunteer Examiner accreditation.

Thanks to Mr. Ron Torpey, N2ATQ, and Mr. Mark Copelleti, WM2C, of the Orange County Amateur Radio Club for helping out as

Volunteer Examiners (VE) during our October exam session. Also thanks to Mr. Wells Farr, WB3CUF, for coming in to provide backup in case we were short VEs. Thanks also go out to LTC Lisa Shay, KA2PAM, and Mr. Roy Spells, KC2NDQ, for taking the time to get their VE accreditation.

The next USMA ARC

License Exam session is tentatively scheduled for March 16, 2008. We should have at least two members upgrading to Amateur Extra, three or four upgrading to General class and a dozen getting their Technician class licenses.

We'll start offering prep sessions in February and cram sessions in March.

Team Ragchew

Team Yaesu – Antenna is Up! by LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG

During the September VHF QSO sweepstakes, club members Wiley Grant (KC2PCV), Rob Corless (KC2RME), Tom Dean (KB1JIJ), Josh Mauldin (KD5FUM) and Roy Spells (KC2NDQ) reinstalled the 2m, 70cm and 23cm satellite array.

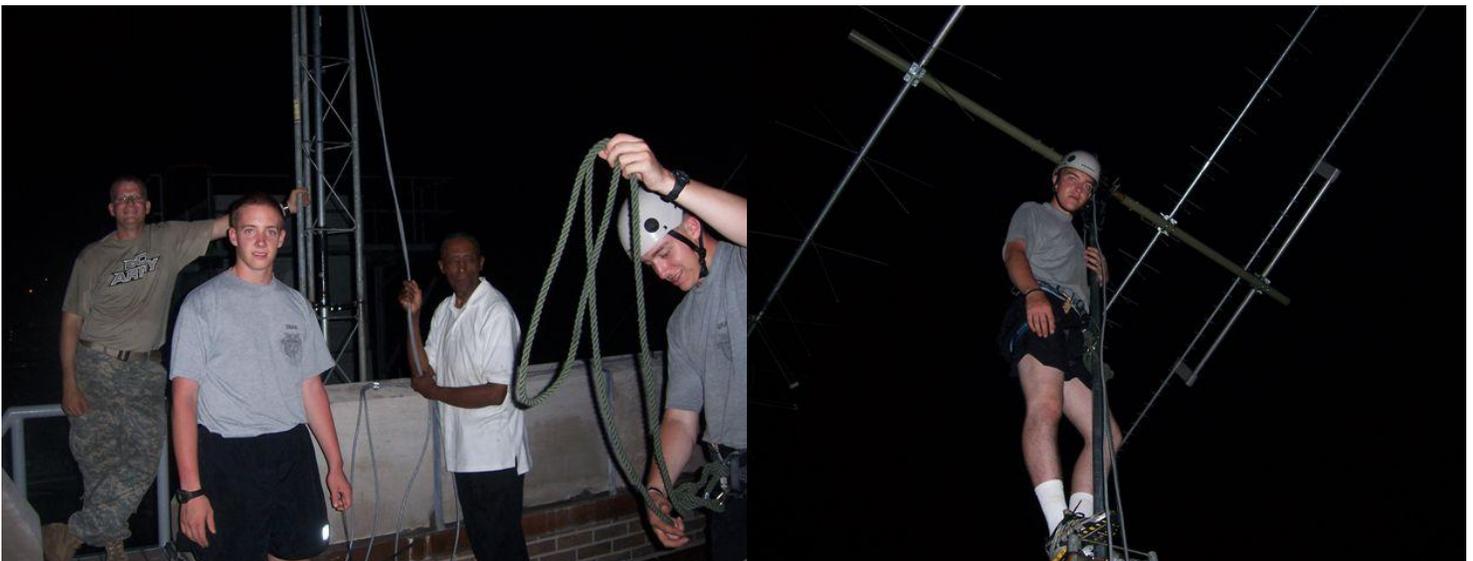
Using a telescopic mast and sectional crossbeam constructed by Mr. Frank Blackmon of the EECS Engineering Support Group, the team mounted the Yaesu G-5500 Azimuth-Elevation combination rotator, KLM 2M-22C (22 element circularly polarized 2M

antenna), KLM 435-40CX (40 element circularly polarized 70cm antenna) and KLM 1.2-44LBX (44 element horizontally polarized 23cm antenna).

The team then connected the control cables and tested the rotator: Success!

Next up is to install

antenna switches at the Yaesu FT-736R radio to switch between the 2m and 70cm base and satellite antennas. Finally, after running cable to the satellite antennas, the team plans to test out the system using the new Nova software!



Team Hamcam by **CDT Robert Corless, KC2RME**

CDT Robert Corless, KC2RME, and LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG, formed the HamCam Team in early 2007 with the goal of installing three camera systems throughout West Point for the use of the Amateur Radio Club. The first system focuses on the Ham Shack and the main antenna tower: one camera on the top of the antenna tower and two inside of the Ham Shack. The next system consists of a camera looking at the club's repeater near Building 1210 and another inside of Building 1210 to monitor the condition of the building, which tends to flood, and the repeater tower. The final camera system consists of a Pelco Pan-Tilt-

Zoom camera that interfaces with 900 MHz and 5.8 GHz radios and a video server. The video server allows control of the camera through a web interface.

The team started the fall 2007 semester by moving the video server to the Ham Shack in Bartlett Hall. The cameras were a fun distraction for the scouts during the annual JOTA in October. With the help of Mr. Frank Blackmon and the Engineering Support Group (ESG), the team built a mount for the Pelco Pan-Tilt-Zoom receiver radios. The next step for the Pelco system is to identify a suitable location for the camera and have ESG build a mount

for the transmit radios and for the camera. Next, the team completed the Tower Cam on the antenna tower above Bartlett Hall, again with the help of Mr Frank Blackmon and his machine shop in ESG.

At the end of the semester, the HamCam team has checked the box of one of the three camera systems and has completed half of another. In the spring 2008 semester, the last one for the two primary team members, the team will focus on completing the Pelco PTZ camera system and installing the camera system at Building 1210.



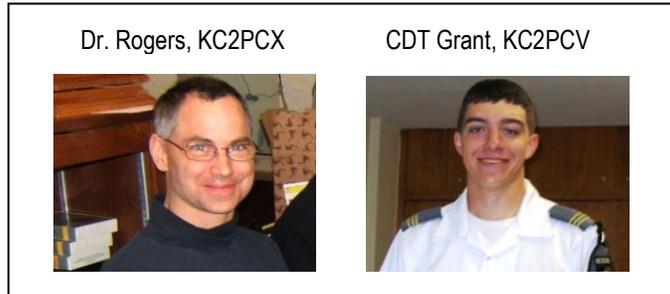
CDT Corless installing Pelco PTZ receiver antennas on the top of Bartlett Hall



Screenshot of the Tower Cam

We have assigned members to teams responsible for the communication systems in the club. There are a total of eight teams: 3 base station teams, 3 repeater teams, a repeater controller/handhelds team and a wireless camera team. In the last issue, we introduced 5 of those teams: Team Icom, Team Kenwood and Team Yaesu. The remaining teams are below, with their responsibilities and their accomplishments.

Team 2m by LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG



Team 2m is responsible for the 2m (146MHz) repeater system at Building 1210 on top of Stony. This is the primary repeater for the club.

The team's equipment includes the GE Mastr II

radio, the six cavity 2m notch duplexer and the Diamond X510NA 2m/70cm dual band antenna.

This repeater is used by the club for phone patch and event support.

Team 220 by LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG

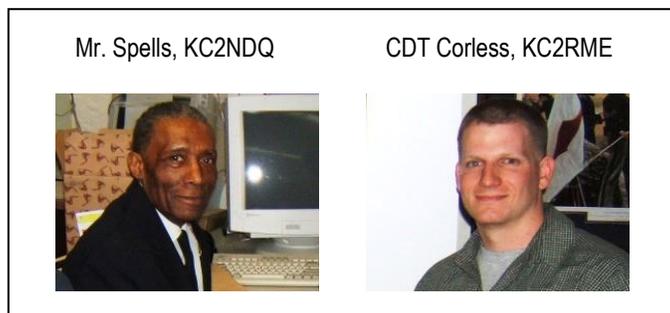


Team 220 is responsible for the 1.25m (220MHz) repeater system at Building 1210 on top of Stony.

The team's equipment includes the GE Mastr II radio, the five cavity

1.25m notch duplexer and the Hy-gain V-3R antenna.

Team 440 by LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG



Team 440 is responsible for the 70cm (440MHz) repeater system at Building 1210 on top of Stony.

The team's equipment includes the Motorola Mitrek radio and four cavity 70cm notch

duplexer. The team shares the Diamond X510NA dual band antenna with Team 2m.

Contests

Great Job Matt! ...wait, where'd he go? by CDT Joshua Mauldin, KD5FUM

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Power
1	W2KGY	2,100	50	21	B	C

Section	Club	Ops
ENY	United States Military Academy ARC	(KF4WZB, op)

The results for the December 2006 international 10-meter contest have come in, and W2KGY's very own Matt Sherburne did great! Unfortunately Matt graduated this past May and isn't around to receive our

congratulations, but that still doesn't take away from how proud we are. His score of 2,100 is considerably high when you take note of all of his other obligations that get in the way of Ham contests. Great job, Matt!

On the Horizon

"Welcome to the Club" by CDT Wiley Grant, KC2PCV



CDT Wiley Grant at the 2007 Boy Scout Jamboree.

This past semester has been a busy one, with many things to do in and out of the club.

Looking to next semester, the club has much to look forward to. Perhaps the biggest event on the horizon is the West Point Scout Camporee, which will be occurring this coming May. Also occurring next semester is the School Club Roundup, a contest occurring every

year in February involving schools from around the globe. On top of all this, the club is looking forward to hosting at least one more license exam and a trip to the Mount Beacon HAM festival in late April.

Club improvements will be occurring as well. W2KGY members will put up the new webcam and also look into finally purchasing the mobile

communications trailer.

To wrap up the semester we will have the annual W2KGY patch party at LTC Schmoyer's house. This coming semester is the time when the club makes itself known to the public at large through its activities. I look forward to another fun filled exciting semester.

Silent Key

Don Adams, "He embraced those ideals." by LTC Schmoyer, W2JIG



Mike Adams, KC7GCQ, SK.

It is with profound sadness that I report Michael R. Adams, KC7GCQ, became a Silent Key in 2004.

Mike was a member of W2KGY from 1998-2002 and the CIC of the club from 2001-2002. I knew Mike and was his club OIC from 1998-

2000. I learned of his death researching the club's history.

Mike was a 24 year old 1LT and a member of the 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, when he died March 16, 2004, in Al Asad, Iraq.

He was killed when

the barrel of the .50 caliber weapon mounted on his tank struck him during a traffic accident while traveling from Iraq to Kuwait. He was buried at West Point on March 30, 2004.

You can post a personal eulogy at west-point.org.