

Checking In

Your source for W2KGY news every semester.

News and Features:

- Fall 2008 Scout Day 1
- DCA Club Night 2
- Repeater Update 3
- New Officers for AY09-2 Semester 4
- Radio Merit Badge Counselors 4
- BSA Radio Merit Badge and JOTA 2008 5
- Special Article 6

Departments:

- OIC 7
- CIC 8
- VEC 8

Contact Information:

USMA Amateur Radio Club
ATTN: HAMS OIC
Dept. of EE&CS
Bldg 601, Thayer Hall
West Point, NY 10996

Tel: (845) 938-2200
Fax: (845) 938-5956
E-mail: w2kgy@arrl.net

Web: www.eecs.usma.edu/webs/clubs/hams

FALL 2008 SCOUT DAY by CDT Tye Sanders

Roughly a thousand Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from the area and surrounding states flocked to West Point to see demonstrations from a number of the cadet clubs on September 20, 2008 for Scout Day. Various booth and live

demonstrations were setup around Daly Field. The Ham Radio club entertained and educated the Scouts with static displays of HF radios and antennas. Currently licensed hams fielded questions pertaining to world-wide communication using amateur radios. Additionally, one of the ham radios was tied into a local repeater so the guest could hear actual



(left to right) CDT Armando Peralta, CDT Eric Anderson (KG6ABG) and CDT Tye Sanders

amateur radio traffic. The club also had tactical military field radios on which the Scouts could talk to one another. The Scouts who wished to glean more information about the role radios played in the military were taught how to properly talk on the radio using correct protocol and were provided the

information necessary to call in a 9-line MEDEVAC. Another popular part of the booth was the cookie, cadet brass and Scout Day neckerchief giveaways.

DCA CLUB NIGHT by CDT Thomas Dean, KC2PCV

September 2 was the annual DCA Club Night. This year, the display was primarily run by MAJ Steven Hamilton, KJ5HY, Mr. Roy Spells, KC2NDQ, CDTs Wiley Grant, KC2PCV, Tom Dean, KB1JIJ, Guice Moore, KC2UBP and Mike Weigand, KB3PDB, with assistance from MAJ Ryan Ebel, KC2TED. The display was set up outside to catch people's attention as they walked in as well as to avoid the noise of Ike Hall. We were able to lure



CDT Wiley Grant, KC2PCV with MAJ Steven Hamilton, KJ5HY sharing information to plebes and upperclassmen.

members in with the assistance of Mr. Spells's cookies, but the display also featured a USRP, a Kenwood D-700, and the Harris Falcon tactical radio. We were able to recruit many new

members this year including one Extra class ham, CDT David Johnston, KG6RPI. The club would like to welcome all new members and looks forward to a great year!

Repeater Update by LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG



Rob Mang (K2ROB), Nathan Rogers (KC2MWE), John Rogers (KC2PCX), Roy Spells (KC2NDQ) and Tim Schmoyer (W2JIG)

On 5 June 2008, Rob Mang (K2ROB), Nathan Rogers (KC2MWE), John Rogers (KC2PCX), Roy Spells (KC2NDQ) and Tim Schmoyer (W2JIG) tuned the 2m duplexer, installed the BridgeCom ComLink CS-540 repeater and put it on the air. We found that the power amp (PA) would intermittently cut out and sent the repeater back to BridgeCom for repair. Ron Kochanowicz at BridgeCom was able to duplicate the problem. They replaced the transmitter section of the repeater and

shipped the repeater back.

On 6 and 7 June 2008, the 213 EIS installed the swing arm and antenna for the 1.25m repeater.

Grounding, power, rack mounting, camera/server, both 250' LDF5-50 cable runs, the dual band (2m & 70cm) antenna and 1.25m antenna are all now complete. Live video and pics are online. For background, check out the blog post and pics from the old location which we had to vacate for the new water tank on Stony. (cont. below)

On 12 June 2008, Rob Mang (K2ROB), Roy Spells (KC2NDQ), Tim Schmoyer (W2JIG) and Ted Spiess swept both antenna systems to record return loss performance in the 2m/70cm and 1.25m bands with the Anritsu S114C. We then installed a 2m/70cm Daiwa DX-10D diplexer, tuned the 1.25m and 70cm duplexers, and put the S-Com 7K controller, GE Mastr II (220MHz) repeater and Motorola Mitrek (440MHz) repeater on the air. Both repeaters are working great!

The Motorola Mitrek is operating on:
Tx:447.275 MHz, Rcv: 442.275 MHz, no PL

We are purchasing the channel elements (KXN1086B/ICM 167500H Receive, KXN1088/ICM 167490 Transmit crystal oscillators) needed to put the Motorola Mitrek on the new coordinated frequency pair:

Tx:447.325 MHz, Rcv: 442.325 MHz,
UNYREPCO#: 2006-R036

The 220 GE Mastr II is coordinated and operating on:
Tx:224.180 MHz, Rcv: 222.580 MHz, PL: 123.0 Hz,
UNYREPCO#: 2003-R393

On 14 June 2008, Nathan Rogers (KC2MWE), John Rogers (KC2PCX) and Tim Schmoyer (W2JIG) installed the BridgeCom again with



The Repeater Location up by Stony Lonesome

a replaced transmitter section. Same problem with the PA. Ron at BridgeCom is shipping a replacement transmitter module with a tested "good" PA on 16 June 2008.

The BridgeCom is operating on Tx: 145.270MHz, -600kHz offset, PL: 100Hz. We also bought the programming software and cable if we need to try another freq pair [i.e., 145.210(-) or 145.280(-)] for UNYREPCO coordination.

New Officers for AY09-2 Semester by CDT Thomas Dean, KC2PCV



Thomas Dean,
KB1JIJ – EXTRA
*accredited VE

Class of 2011



Michael Weigand,
KB3PDB – GENERAL

Class of 2011

The previous club CIC has decided to step down and pass the leadership of the club on. After holding elections at a recent meeting, the club has chosen the following slate of officers to run the club:

CIC: CDT Tom Dean, KB1JIJ
ACIC/S3: CDT Mike Weigand, KB3PDB
S1: CDT Michael Johnston, KG6RPI
S4: CDT Andrew Thompson, KC2PCW
S6: CDT Joshua Mauldin, KD5FUM



David Johnston '12,
KG6RPI-EXTRA



Andrew Thompson '09
KC2PCW-TECH



Joshua Mauldin '10
KD5FUM – TECH

I look forward to working with the staff in the coming semester.

RADIO MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS NEEDED by LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG

Become a Merit Badge Counselor for Radio and sign the **Application for Merit Badge** (“blue cards”) for Troop 23 in October. Complete and submit the **BSA Merit Badge Counselor Information Form** (PDF format), indicating which Merit badges (at least Radio) you want to counsel, and an **Adult Application (to Be a Scouting Volunteer)**.

The Adult Application is valid for one year only and must be renewed annually. To register as a merit badge counselor, mark the box labeled "Council/district position" in the upper right-hand block with "merit badge counselor." Fill in the "Position Code" with code "42," and fill in the "Position (Description)" with "merit badge counselor."



Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge and JOTA 2008 by CDT Michael Johnston, KG6 RPI

On Wednesday, 8 October 2008, we had the opportunity to give a block of instruction on the various aspects of Amateur Radio to aid a group of about 10 Boy Scouts in getting their Radio Merit Badge. Joshua Mauldin, KD5FUM, covered basic radio principles. Michael Weigand, KB3PDB, gave instruction on electrical theory, block diagrams, and schematics. Tom Dean, KB1JJJ, went over wave propagation and other topics related to how the hobby works. David Johnston, KG6RPI, taught about electrical safety and general radio etiquette. Many of the boys seemed really attentive, especially with the visual aids used in the electrical theory portion. In conjunction with this event, we conducted the Jamboree on the Air on Saturday 18 October 2008. We



first gave all the attending scouts a short lesson on the differences between base, mobile, and hand held radios, as well as repeater operation. We then split them in half, with one group going with Tom Dean, KB1JJJ, onto the roof to see and climb the tower, with the other half remaining inside to make real contacts over the radio with Michael Weigand, KB3PDB, and David Johnston, KG6RPI. We were able to make several

contacts on the 20 M band, including other scouts, and our scouts were able to ask questions of the various hams we spoke to. After swapping the groups and allowing all the scouts to participate both on the tower and on the radio, we said goodbye to our scouts, with them now better informed of the role Amateur Radio plays in the world.

Club Seeks ECOMM Trailer, by Mr. Roy Spells, KC2NDQ

“W2KGY W2KGY W2KGY this is K.....” the radio squawked and a club radio operator answered, “This is W2KGY;” the transmission followed. The person on the other said: I hear that W2KGY participated in activities where they were the focal hub managing communication, control report status, and directing inquiries for several large scale community events, roger. We are planning a Run Walk combined with a triathlon to take place next spring in the Hudson Valley and expect participation by at least 1,000 people. We need to know if your amateur radio club can assist and be the onsite communication controllers. The scenario would take place over two days (Saturday and Sunday), requiring set-up with communication tested and in place NLT 2100Z on the Friday before the event. Amateur Radio Operators from Orange County will be handling support for the run walk and triathlon and will communicate with your operation providing information about activities, emergencies, and requests for assistance through your communication network. The site selected is Anthony Wayne State Park parking lot.

The only facility and the park would be a port-john so you would need to set-up your 24 hrs operation in a mobile trailer or tent. We will give you a chance to consider the request and will make contact again on this frequency two days from now at 1800Z.

Members of the Cadet Amateur Radio Club were sent an email and apprised of the request and that this would be primary agenda item for the

club meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening. In the meantime a quick call was made to the OIC and other club staff asking if they thought this could be handled as a club initiative. Several things needed to be immediately addressed; such as trip section permission, qualified and available volunteers, and do we have the radio equipment and a trailer to accomplish the request in such an austere environment as the Anthony State Park parking lot. Hopefully if the need existed we could get the help of fellow Amateur Radio Operators from Cornwall-on-Hudson and the Mount Beacon Radio group.

The OIC had usually allowed the club to use his utility trailer which was outfitted with electric outlets and an auxiliary generator (bare essentials). Quickly we learned that the trailer might not be available for our use since it was already programmed to be out of commission. This sparked some fast action by club officer to assess what our next option should be. Since the operation is a 24 hr operation, using a tent was not what we wanted to consider (weather, equipment set-up, et al, and sleeping arrangements).

It looked like the event we were being asked to participate in would take place in spring of next year sometime around the annual Scouting Camporee, an activity we are programmed to participate in every year. In either instance it was quickly realized that we would be confronted with similar problem with needing a utility trailer for our radio operation.

Club Seeks ECOMM Trailer, by Mr. Roy Spells, KC2NDQ

Continued...

It looked like the event we were being asked to participate in would take place in spring of next year sometime around the annual Scouting Camporee, an activity we are programmed to participate in every year. In either instance it was quickly realized that we would be confronted with similar problem with needing a utility trailer for our radio operation.

Our evaluation was that somehow we must obtain a suitable utility trailer for the club and get it outfitted for operation. We looked around, talked to FEMA, SEMO, and other government agencies to seek not only advice but maybe a surplus utility trailer that could get transferred for use by the club.

Through contacts we found that FEMA had trailers which were being used for Katrina, but due to their location and unsafe construction, we scrapped them for use. Contact was made with SEMO individuals who

were amateur radio operators; they recommended contacting GSA to see if something might be available as surplus. The SEMO contacts said they would check around and get back to us. In the past several weeks a visit was made to a National Logistic Activity facility in Middletown. While there, they were asked for assistance with obtaining trailers. They commented that we should look at the possibility of using a small camping trailer which could provide a facility to house both our equipment and space for four operators.

At the moment, all is still in the investigation stage and hopefully, when you read this article, you will have thoughts and/or suggestions as to how we can resolve our dilemma.

Bottom line is we need to make a decision. Do we raise funds and purchase a trailer or are there other avenues of approach?

OIC Ragchew

This has been a very busy semester. Cadet Wiley Grant and Cadet Tom Dean did a wonderful job setting up club night and recruiting numerous new members. The VE test session and the four previous preparation sessions were a great success. The club

supported Scout's Day with Cadet Sanders, Cadet Weigand, Cadet Peralta, Cadet Anderson and Cadet Dean inspiring the Scouts and thanks to MAJ Stephen Hamilton for loaning the generator. Cadet Tom Dean also served

as the Radio Merit Badge Counselor for Troop 23 helping 9 Scouts earn their Radio Merit Badges. He had help teaching the classes from Cadet Weigand, Cadet Johnston and Cadet Mauldin. I would also like to thank the

former CIC Cadet Wiley Grant for his service and leadership, and respect his decision to focus on other school and club requirements.

73
MAJ Ryan Ebel
KC2TED

CIC Ragchew and on the Horizon

This semester has proven to be quite busy with events in and out of the club. We were able to gain many new members and get many new licenses at this semester's VE test.

Next semester should prove to be even more exciting for the club. The major event that we will be participating in will be the Boy Scout Camporee in early May. In order to prepare for this, the club is looking to purchase an emergency communications trailer and other new equipment. In addition, the club is looking to try

holding a foxhunt at Camp Buckner in the early spring. Other large events next semester will include another VE test session as well as the annual school club round-up.

The club also has several improvements that it would like to accomplish next semester. To start, we would like to make an effort to get the club room cleaned and organized by removing some obsolete and non-functional equipment. This could help pave the way for future projects. Other



The New CIC, CDT Tom Dean, and the Old CIC, CDT Wiley Grant (from Left to Right)

projects that the club has to complete include completing the installation of the MicroHam switches and programming the repeater's autopatch. CDT Weigand and I are looking into ways

of improving connectivity at the Lake Fredrick site for the camporee and Mr. Frank Hammond is looking into the possibility of getting a remote repeater at the Crows Nest tower.

VEC Ragchew

2008 VE Testing Session by CDT Tom Dean, KB1JIJ

On Sunday, October 19, the W2KGY Amateur Radio club held their fall FCC license exam session. The test session was coordinated by CDT Tom Dean, KB1JIJ, and administered with the assistance of MAJ Stephen Hamilton, KJ5HY, Mr. Roy Spells, KC2NDQ, as well as local hams Ron Torpey, N2ATQ, and Mark Copeletti, WM2C.

This semester's test session

was very successful. Three club members passed the test along with two others from the community.

- MAJ Ryan Ebel, KC2TED, passed element 3 to earn a General Class license
- CDT Mike Weigand, KB3PDB, passed element 3 to earn a General Class License
- CDT Guice Moore passed element 2 to earn a Technician Class license

- Mr. Victor Soto, KC2UBB passed element 4 to earn an Amateur Extra Class license
- Mr. Anthony Dahlia passed element 2 to earn a Technician Class license.

Congratulations to all those who tested and a big thank you to all those who assisted! We look forward to holding another successful test session in the Spring.