

Spring 2008

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# Checking In

Your source for W2KGY news every semester.

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## 2008 SCOUT CAMPOREE by CDT Tom Dean, KB1JJ

On the weekend of May 10, the Scout Master's Council held their annual Boy Scout Camporee at Lake Fredrick. This year, the camporee involved over 2,000 scouts, 200 cadets, as well as members of the 101<sup>st</sup> NYARNG Signal and Military Police units. The camporee began Friday afternoon as scouts began to check in. On Saturday, scouts competed at various sites such as first aid, land navigation, physical challenges, and drill. The camporee was concluded on Sunday with a traditional parade and review.

This year, the West Point Amateur Radio club, W2KGY, played its largest role yet in supporting the event. The club's primary responsibility was to activate a communications net for coordination of activities and emergency services. The club also set up a 2m packet link in order to send data about scouts checking in from Camp Natural Bridge to Lake Fredrick. The club



CDT Grant (KC2PCV) operates a Kenwood D700 as scouts and scoutmasters observe.

was also supported by B/101 NYARNG Signal Company whose job was to install tactical phones at the training sites.

Starting on Thursday afternoon, club OIC LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG, accompanied by club CIC CDT Wiley Grant, KC2PCW, and club ACIC CDT Tom Dean, KB1JJ, packed and moved the club's communications trailer into the field. While setting up, they discovered the first issue of the camporee: the RFID of 50 of the HTs issued to the club by DOIM were not registered in the

trunking system rendering them nearly useless to any non-licensed person. This was remedied by relying instead on the radios which the SMC had picked up from DOIM.

On Friday, the advance party was joined by CDTs Rob Corless, KC2RME, Andrew Thompson, KC2PCV, Aaron Helm, KC2TEC, and Mike Weigand, KB3PDB. The team had to bear pouring rain all day. CDTs Rob Corless and Aaron Helm spent most of the day at Camp Natural Bridge sending data from check-ins, while the remaining

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## Scout Camporee (cont.)

members monitored the net and continued setting up the Tactical Operations Center.

Saturday provided with a break in the weather and operations ran smoothly. When the camporee officially began on Saturday morning, campers were greeted by the landing of a Blackhawk helicopter. The club was originally going to provide ground communications with the helicopter, but this job

was passed off to a warrant officer on the scene. CDT Rob Corless did provide hand and arm signals to help the helicopter touch down safely.

This year marked the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual camporee at West Point and was the club's fourth year assisting. It was by far the most involved the club has ever been supporting the operation, but it was an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all who participated.

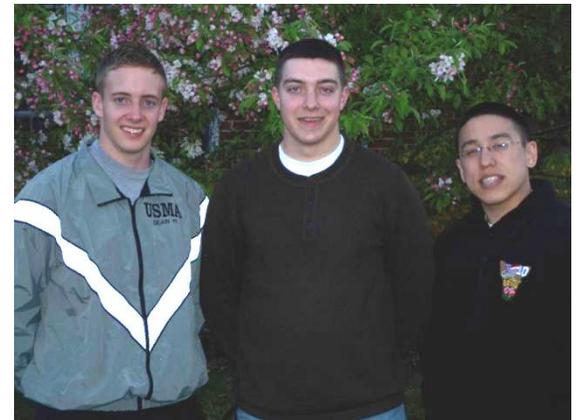


*Tom Dean, KB1JJJ, on the left and Wiley Grant, KC2PCV, on the right are the club's ACIC and CIC. Stationed in LTC Schmoyer's mobile ham shack, Tom and Wiley help facilitate communications at the Camporee along with the rest of W2KGY.*

## Patch Party and Elections by CDT Andrew Thompson, KC2PCV

On April 10th, W2KGY hams gathered together to celebrate the completion of another successful year of operation as well as to bid farewell to two of their most active members. The evening started off with food and refreshments and then moved on to elections for next year's leadership positions. Current Cadet in Charge Wiley Grant KC2PCB retained his position, but rising sophomore Tom Dean KB1JJJ stepped up as second in command. After voting on all the staff positions as well, club patches were awarded to the cadets who had been most active in the club over the past year. Members who earned the award this year included: Tom Dean, Josh Mauldin and Rob Corless. Finally, club members bid farewell to two hams who have been in integral part of

the club; Rob Corless KC2RME will be graduating and receiving his 2LT commission on May 31<sup>st</sup>, so the club wished him onto bigger and better things as an officer in the U.S. Army. Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Schmoyer W2JIG will also be leaving at the end of the school year as he is being reassigned to a new post. Club member Andrew Thompson says "LTC Schmoyer has been a big part of the club for the past 10 years and has really built the club up from a social gathering of experimenters into a living, breathing club that helps out the community throughout the year and that has the equipment necessary to step up in a time of emergency—he will be sorely missed." Check back next year for the W2KGY end of the year party.



*[from left to right] Vice President Tom Dean, KB1JJJ, President Wiley Grant, KC2PCV, and S6 Joshua Mauldin, KD5FUM.*



*President Wiley Grant, KC2PCV presenting S6 Joshua Mauldin, KD5FUM with his W2KGY patch.*

## SCR West Point Middle School Assembly *by LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG*



*CDTs Joshua Mauldin, KD5FUM, and Mike Weigand, KB3PDB, standing before a crowd of attentive middle schoolers.*

On Thursday, 14 February 2008, Josh Mauldin (KD5FUM) and Mike Weigand (KB3PDB) talked with over 100 West Point Middle School 5th graders about Amateur Radio and their activities as members of the USMA Amateur Radio Club (W2KGY). The students were then invited to talk to other Amateur Radio operators on the Mount Beacon repeater (146.970MHz, 100Hz tone). There were many QSOs with local hams! This was just part of

W2KGY's community support for the School Club Roundup sponsored by the Council for the Advancement of Amateur Radio in the New York City Schools (CAAR/NYCS), the ARRL and its Hudson Division Education Task Force.

In addition, Tom Dean, KB1JII, reported that 20m has been wide open and he has worked nearly every state west of the Mississippi from the Bartlett Hall club room (BH502) in just the last two days!

## COL(R) Enderle's Visit *by CDT Tom Dean, KB1JII*

On 25 April, COL(R) Wallace Enderle, W7IZR, class of '48, accompanied by his son, Mr. Scott Enderle, came to visit the W2KGY ham shack. COL(R) Enderle was received by COL Barry Shoop, LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG, Mr. Roy R. Spells, KC2NDQ, MAJ Ryan Ebel, KC2TED, as well as CDTs Tom Dean, KB1JII and Mike Weigand, KB3PDB.

During the tour, LTC Schmoyer explained to COL(R) Enderle the history of the club. This was followed up by a demonstration of our current equipment by CDTs Dean and Weigand. We attempted to have COL(R) Enderle make a QSO, but band conditions were not favorable.

Following this, COL(R) Enderle was presented with a EECS Department coin by COL Shoop. COL(R) Enderle was also presented with various souvenirs from the club including our current QSL cards.

Our portion of his tour was concluded after he was taken to the roof and shown the antenna farm. He then walked across to the roof to the Astronomy club's observatory where he was met by MAJ Page.

COL(R) Enderle was a member of the club when he was a cadet. He was also active in the club when he returned to the academy as a faculty member in the mid 50s. COL(R) Enderle has made significant contributions to the club



*COL(R) Enderle sits in the Ham Shack with the rest of W2kGY*

which has helped the club's acquisition and installation of much of the equipment that the club currently uses including the ICOM 781 transceiver, towers and many antennas.

## Repeater Build by COL (Ret) Roy R. Spells, KC2NDQ



*Pictured L to R: TSgt Caducio, SSgt Heimbaucher, TSgt Otero (Team Chief) SSgt Ortiz, SSgt Cole, TSgt Reynolds, and SSgt Schult*

213th Electronic Installation Squadron, Stewart Air Base, Newburgh, New York Air National Guardsmen during recent weeks provided their expertise to rebuild the W2KGY Repeater located at West Point in Bldg 1210. To date they contributed over 60 hours to the project to remove old and frayed cables stringing new cables, training and certifying club member to climb towers, setting new grounding rods, and installing our new 220/440 and 2 meter antennas. The unit's Workload Section continues to program time and efforts installation, calibrating, and testing the repeater system services. When the repeater is fully

operational it will give HAM operators the capability to link-up and expand amateur radio contacts throughout the Hudson Valley area. With civilian positions as an Orange and Rockland linemen, Motorola Installer, Nextel and Verizon Servicemen, and NYC Policemen, fulltime guardsmen, coupled with military specialties, personnel of the 213th EISq perform essential tasks for our nation. Daily members of the unit are deployed and engaged in operations and missions that ensure communications and the operation of associated facilities for military forces worldwide.

## Air National guard 213 EIS conducts Safety Training by CDT Rob Corless, KC2RME

On the afternoon of Sunday 4 May, SSGT Conrado Y Caducio from the 213 EIS, 782d Training Group, New York Air National Guard took time from his unit's mission to install the new repeater cabling to teach several club members proper safety procedures complying with the most up-to-date OSHA standards. Club members present for the training were CDTs Robert Corless (KC2RME) and Tom Dean (KB1JII), faculty members LTC Tim Schmoyer (W2JIG) and Mr Roy R. Spells (KC2NDQ),

and Joe Humet, a longtime friend of the club famous for his bravery in single-handedly installing the tri-band antenna on the club tower.

Prior to the training, the club ordered two sets of new climbing gear in order to comply with current OSHA standards, which further improved the event. Additionally, SSGT Caducio brought three sets of his climbing gear to show what the professional climbers use when they have to climb a tower.

The training focused on

proper climbing procedures, discussing the conditions for safe climbing, and discussing the safety equipment necessary for safe climbing. Rob, Tom, and Mr Spells participated in the training where they were able to climb with both SSGT Caducio's gear and the club's new gear. The event culminated in Mr. Spells climbing to the top of the tower to adjust the cabling on the TowerCam because the signal from the camera disappeared when rotating towards the south.



## Sandhurst Support by CDT Tom Dean, KB1JJ

On Saturday May 3, CDTs Tom Dean, KB1JJ, and Mike Weigand, KB3PDB, assisted the Sandhurst competition by providing data communications between the indoor marksmanship center and the Tactical Operations Center, which was located in MacArthur Barracks. The range scores of each competing team was stored in an excel spreadsheet which was then sent over the Packet protocol between the two

sites. The main purpose of this exercise was to test out the packet system in preparation for the SMC.

Since Mike was unavailable on Friday, Tom was assisted by Aaron, KC2TEC, to help set up some of the equipment ahead of time. This set up concluded with a minor incident which damaged one of the club's extension cords as well as a cadet's wall outlet.



## 2LT Rob Corless Bar Pinning Ceremony by MAJ Ryan Ebel, KC2TED

With the year coming to a close, the only active firstie in the club, KC2RME—CDT Rob Corless, chose none other than the Club OIC, W2JIG—LTC Tim Schmoyer, to conduct his 2LT bar-pinning. Furthermore, he chose the best place on West Point for the ceremony: the Ham Club room! CDT Corless joined the club at the behest of the OIC, W2JIG, during the second semester of his cow year. He was immediately assigned as the primary cadet for Team HamCam. In the year he worked on the project, CDT Corless started with boxes of new radios and antennas and, with the help of W2JIG, setup the HamCam system (five cameras in four different locations). The only thing left to do is have a 120V outlet installed, which is scheduled to be done later this year. CDT Corless is also known for climbing the most places on West Point of any club member.



*[from left to right] Virginia Corless (mother), Rob Corless KC2RME, Ed Corless (father) and LTC Schmoyer W2JIG as 2LT Corless receives his Second Lieutenant's bars from his parents at the Bar Pinning Ceremony.*

CDT Corless was commissioned as a 2LT in the Military Intelligence Corps and will go to Fort Bragg, NC for his first duty station as

an officer. Prior to attending the West Point prep school, he spent 16 months as an enlisted soldier at Fort Lewis. Great job and good luck!

## **Teams**

### **Satellite Array Repair** by **LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG**

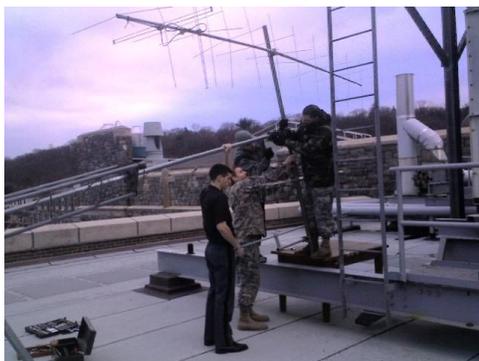
Saturday, 02 FEB 2008, club members Wiley Grant (KC2PCV), Rob Corless (KC2RME), Tom Dean (KB1JIJ) and Mike Weigand (KB3PDB) repaired the satellite array.

The satellite array had

broken off the Yaesu GC-038 mast clamp at the Az-El rotator. There was another mast clamp in the Bartlett Hall ham shack lockers that we used to replace the broken one. We also ordered another mast clamp from Universal

Radio (\$30).

The repair took a little longer than expected due to the excessive strength of Rob and Tom, but with some replacement screws from ESG and minor crack in the replacement mast clamp, all seemed back to "new."



*The four cadets carefully bring down the satellite array so that they can begin repairs.*



*[from left to right] CDTs Mike Weigand, KB3PDB, Tom Dean, KB1JIJ, Wiley Grant, KC2PCV, and Rob Corless, KC2RME, are all smiles when it comes to satellite array repairs.*

### **Web Cam** by **CDT Robert Corless, KC2RME**

With the semester ending and the PCS of CDT Rob Corless (KC2RME) and LTC Tim Schmoyer (W2JIG), the two primary members of the HamCam, finishing the project became a top priority. The urgency to finish the project was evident in the participation during the last days of TEE week. CDT Rob Corless, CDT Wiley Grant (KC2PCV), LTC Tim Schmoyer, and Lara Schmoyer (KC2TEB—W2JIG's harmonic) worked from 1400 until sunset for two days installing the Pelco Spectra II PTZ camera on a stadium light pole on Daly field. The four members divided up so two members worked on the stadium pole, one was

on the top of Bartlett Hall at the receiver radios, and one was inside the clubroom on a computer verifying the video, audio, and PTZ functions on the camera server's webpage. This truly was a team effort. In the end, the camera was installed with video and audio functions confirmed, however, the PTZ functions will have to wait until the camera has a permanent power supply on the stadium light pole (the members used a generator for temporary power). The team currently has a work order in place to have a 120V AC connection installed on the stadium pole.



*Rob Corless works diligently to put the Ham Cam back in action.*

## ***OIC Ragchew***

This ragchew marks the end of my tour at USMA and as OIC of W2KGY. This summer, my family and I will be moving to Virginia where I'll start my next assignment with the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA).

I've had a great time being involved with the USMA ARC. Highlights include contacting the International Space Station, Radio Merit Badge training, Jamboree on the Air, School Club Roundup, West Point Camporee, Tower climbing and the end of year Patch Party and Elections.

I've been very impressed with the community relationships the club has developed with the 213 EIS Air Force National Guard, 101st Army National Guard Signal Battalion, USMA Directorate of Information (DOIM), West Point Middle and Elementary Schools, Orange County ARC, Mt. Beacon ARC, Scoutmasters Council, Boy Scout Troop 23, Girl Scout Troop 192 and Junior Troop 118. I've also enjoyed meeting and hearing from our alumni, updating the club's history and working with club members on the many team projects including the HF tower, satellite array, repeaters and webcam.

It's always dangerous to

come up with a list of people to thank and so many have contributed to the club over the past three years. However, I feel I would be remiss if I didn't try.

I would like to thank COL Ressler, COL Shoop, LTC Dodge, LTC Conti, Mr. Reigner, Mr. McKay, Mr. Spreer and Mr. Blackmon for the continuous support that the EECS Department, EE Program, Information Technology & Operations Center and Electronics Support Group have given the club. Likewise, COL Flowers, Mr. Mayer, Ms. Grable and everyone at DCA who make club activities at USMA possible.

Thanks to everyone at the 213 EIS who have put so much of their time and effort into the repeater rebuild. I would also like to thank Mr. Perullo and Mr. Conlon at DOIM who have been great friends to the club, especially providing their expertise, contacts and help for the repeaters and Camporee. LTC Graham and the Scoutmasters Council have become close club partners, assisting W2KGY with resources and their expertise to support Scouts and the Camporee. Special thanks to Mr. Torpey, N2ATQ, without whom we

could not have held a single Amateur Radio licensing session.

I am deeply grateful to the cadets, officers and civilians in the club that made these past three years so successful and enjoyable. What you have accomplished over the past three years is impressive and I wish each of you the best for the future.

The club remains in extremely capable hands for next year. Wiley Grant, KC2PCV, will continue as the club's CIC and MAJ Ryan Ebel, KC2TED, will take over as the club's OIC. Mr. Spells, KC2NDQ, will continue to provide continuity as the club's trustee.

73!

LTC Schmoyer, W2JIG



## **Silent Keys**

Albert A Baron, N6AY, West Point Class of 1956, passed away on 25 January 2008.

## ***CIC Ragchew and on the Horizon***

W2KGY has made astounding progress this year. The club took on more activities and supporting roles than it ever has. Along with all this extra activity has come a great amount of publicity for the club. When I came into the club 3 years ago, the club was one of the smallest and least known about clubs in the corps. Since then, through the work of both the OIC and the club's members, W2KGY has become a known and requested club

at major events in the West Point community. From the club's work at the annual Sandhurst competition to its increasing role in the annual Scout Camporee, the club's members have truly been putting on a show. I want to personally thank CDT Rob Corless for his outstanding effort over the past year and a half. Rob may have only been in the club for a little more than a year, but he

has moved the club many more years forward with his efforts. I also want to thank LTC Schmoyer for his unwavering support of both myself and the club. He has truly given a part of himself to this club and the club is better for it. Both he and Rob will be greatly missed but I wish them well in their future journeys.

In the next year I see great things happening for the club. Our main

focus for next year will be recruiting contributing members to ensure the club continues to thrive in the coming years and building on the successes that the club made this year. The next year will hold many great surprises for the club and many more growing experiences.

73's

CDT Wiley Grant,  
KC2PCV

## ***VEC Ragchew***

### **West Point Amateur Radio License Exam Session** by CDT Tom Dean, KB1JJJ

The West Point Cadet Amateur Radio Club, W2KGY, held its biannual exam session on 29 March 2008 in the Dean's Conference Room, Thayer Hall. In this session, Lara Schmoyer, age 11, daughter of Club OIC, LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG, earned her Technician License. MAJ Ryan Ebel and CDT Aaron Helm also passed their element 2 tests to earn their Technician License.

In addition, CDT Wiley Grant, club CIC, KC2PCV, upgraded to General. There was also one member of the community, Mark Andrews, from Mahopac, NY, who earned his Technician License.



*[left] Our newest, and youngest, HAM stands proudly holding her license. Lara Schmoyer stands in front of VE's Tom Dean, KB1JJJ, Jim Schug, W2JTS, and Ron Torpey, N2ATQ, who stand left to right respectively.*

CDT Tom Dean, KB1JJJ, served as team liaison and was assisted by VEs LTC Tim Schmoyer, W2JIG, Roy Spells, KC2NDQ, Ron Torpey, N2ATQ, and Jim Schug, W2JTS. The club holds one exam session each semester, as well as several study sessions leading up to the exam.

*[below] CDT Wiley Grant, KC2PCV, upgraded to his General class license this Spring, too.*

