

NEW MEETING PLACE

Rip's Report

October 2013



Happy Birthday

Paul-KC2IK
Carol-N2REY
Ken-N2SQW

**OUR REPEATERS ARE BACK
ON THE AIR!
GIVE THEM A TRY.
REPORTS ARE WELCOME!**



2014 dues are \$25.00 per individual \$30.00 for family \$5.00 for students and active Military are free.

2014 Dues

Mail to:
Stan Engel, WA2UET
PO Box 153
Ghent, NY 12075

Or bring with you to meeting
Make checks Payable to RVWARS

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Please join us on the Tuesday night Roundtable on 147.210 at 7:00 PM. ALL are welcome! Use the EchoLink (K2RVW-R) if need be.



**MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR**



Meeting

Oct 21

7:00 PM

**Churchtown
Firehouse
Information
inside!**



We have a new meeting place! It is a great location and hopefully will be our permanent home from now on!

See photos and past Newsletters and much much more club information at: www.w2jsn.com

RVWARS WEB PAGE

The Web Page has been updated! We added some info on the main page to try to keep folks aware of events. Comments and suggestions are welcome. We will keep Dave Clappers design at least for now. Let me know what you think. www.rvwars.com

[Join our Yahoo Group at the bottom of the web page. Simply enter your email address.](#)

N2LEN Repeaters

The N2LEN Repeater Network:
147.150 114.8hz East Windham, NY
449.025 114.8hz New Baltimore, NY
448.275 114.8hz Colonel's Chair Ridge
442.050 114.8hz Sam's Point, NY 2200'
Yahoo Groups
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/N2LENREPEATER/>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ECHOLINK/>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GCNYARESACES/>
Echolink Node #6269
IRLP Node #4207

WE HAVE A NEW CLUBHOUSE!!!

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society will be meeting at the Churchtown Firehouse from now on!

The Firehouse was offered by a member and we met with the board members and everyone seems happy to have us.

The Churchtown Firehouse is set up as a Red Cross shelter and we will fit in with our Emcomm expertise.

We thank John for all the time and effort he has donated to RVWARS.

The September meeting went well. The Firehouse was great. We had a good time. BUT we need some of our members to join us. We always have a couple of Subway sandwiches and coffee. PLEASE join us in October for our next meeting. The Firehouse is not hard to find, right on county route 27 in Churchtown. If you need more instruction please call or email one of our members.

RVW WORK PARTY

The wonderful fall weather is here! We are planning on doing something with the service to the old shelter. The trencher from Home Depot in Catskill is \$100 per day. It was suggested we go overhead instead. That is maybe a good idea. I have the overhead triplex and I have 20' of 2.5" conduit. We will have to determine for certain that we have plenty of height over the driveway. I would like to get it done early in October or ASAP. **BUT I NEED HELP.** Please Email me if you can help. wa2uet@taconic.net.

SOME FUN 147.210 REPEATER DTMF CODES

Site Info:
228-Outdoor Temp
229-Indoor Temp
230-DC Volt Bat 1
231-AC Volt read
232-DC Volt Bat 2
Daily Highs and Lows for the above readings: 900 through 940
450-To check your input to the repeater. Key up type 450, when it says "ready" QUICKLY key up and record your short message, un-key and it will play it back as it heard it.
WEATHER RADIO
310-ON
325-OFF
These codes will work on 449.925 as well.
I would like to add a basic weather station sometime as well so we could access wind speed etc. up there. Feel Free to try them!

CONGRATULATIONS

MIKE AND PATTI!



Upcoming Events

RVWARS Meeting **Monday October 21** **7:00 PM**

ARES Meeting **N2NZD-EC**

Weekly Nets

EVERY TUESDAY at 7:00 p.m.

Informal Roundtable on the 147.210 repeater ALL are welcome.

1st Wednesday of the Month

Columbia Greene-Emergency Net on the N2LEN 147.150 Repeater 7:00 PM

Repeaters

BACK ON THE AIR!!!

147.210/147.810 NO PL tone
449.925/444.925 NO PL tone
224.280/222.680 NO PL tone

Vital Statistics

President — Mike Alecksynas N2JVE
Vice President — Tom Gutierrez N2NZD
Secretary — Tom Cody WE2G
Treasurer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Historian — Carl Verderber WA2UJX
Safety Officer — Stan Engel WA2UET
Repeaters — 147.210 224.280 449.925
Club Call — K2RVW
Club Special Event Call—WD2K
Web Page — <http://www.rvwars.com>
NEWS E-mail — wa2uet@taconic.net
Yahoo Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RVWARS/>

RVWARS Meeting September 16, 2013

- Meeting called to order at 7:09pm by Vice President. N2NZD. Attendance 11.
- Secretary's report read. Motion to accept by KC2OGK, seconded by W1SWM, Carried.
- Treasurer's report Checking \$1981.06, Savings \$1011.32, Petty Cash, \$50.00, Total \$3042.38
- **Columbia County ARES/RACES**
ARES/RACES approached by Columbia County officials and met with them. MOU offered by county and agreement reached.
- **Repeater**
Stan rebuilt power gates and installed them. Power gates switch power from power supply to batteries. Antenna on ground needs to be checked. Trencher needed in order to bury cable used for fan in building. Solar is keeping batteries charged. Temperature in shelter will be kept at 40 degrees during winter. Load test will be done on batteries. Will look into seeking grant for deep cycle batteries and antenna analyzer. Ground kits haven't been installed yet. Stan will continue attempting to contact tower people to obtain them.
- **New Business**
Fox Hunt discussed. Several options were mentioned. Students from Taconic Hills school are interested in Technician class. Stan will contact K2WG.
There is a white board at the firehouse with dates the facility will be used.
- Meeting closed at 7:36pm. Motion by WB2TCV, Seconded by KC2OGK. 50-50 drawing won by WE2G.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas J Cody, Secretary, RVWARS

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc. **Treasurers Interim Report** **September 16, 2013**

Balance Fwd. Checking Acct \$2091.32

Repts:	Dues	\$105.00
	50/50	\$7.00
	Raffle	\$33.00
	Donation	\$40.00
	Tag Sale	\$638.55
	Total	\$823.55

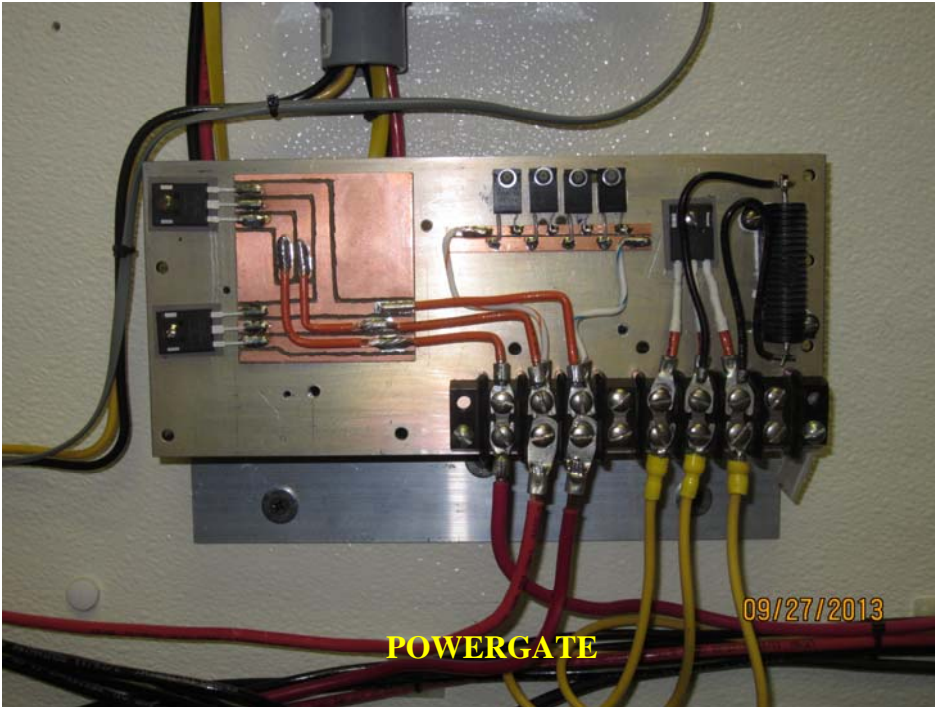
Exp:	NYSEG 2mo	\$156.72
	Subway	\$21.60
	Picnic Food	\$131.96
	FD Food	\$196.56
	FD Misc	\$54.97
	FD Cash	\$100.00
	Firehouse Rent	\$250.00
	WD2K License renew	\$22.00
	Total	\$933.81

Checking Bal	\$1981.06
Petty Cash	\$50.00
Savings Acct Bal	\$1011.32

Total RVWARS monies \$3042.38



RVWARS REPEATER CHATTER



I was recently made aware that some of our members are using the 220 repeater. So just to make sure that it was working properly I checked the output to find that it was a mere 4.5 watts output. I then checked the input to the duplexers and find that it is 18 watts in and 12 watts reflected. So I connected our NEW spectrum analyzer to the duplexers and they were WAY out of alignment. After a few tries I finally got them tuned better and now see 20 watts to the antenna and just 1/2 watt reflected. So if you have the equipment please try the repeater. It should be working pretty good now. 224.280 –.

Other repeater chatter, with the technical help from Jules, K2KGJ I have completed the Power Gates on the two battery banks. Now the power source with the highest voltage is powering the system and with the solar panels charging the #1 battery bank the batteries are being used to power the system most of the time.

The ground kits for our cable entry have finally arrived, and are installed.

As soon as we get the spare 2 meter antenna inspected and it looks OK we will get that back up on the tower at the 100' level for a spare.

I STILL have had no input on the idea of adding a 6 or 10 meter repeater to our system. I sure would welcome any ideas.

Tom, N2NZD and Jim, KC2OGK tried and failed to dig a trench for our underground service to the old shelter. The rock beat us. The trencher and us started to fall apart so we quit. So we are going to go overhead soon to power the vent in there to keep things reasonably dry. Hopefully we will get the overhead in very soon.

We are going to give the battery bank a test to see how long it will last on its own. Then we will try it again with just the solar panels connected. I started the test today 10/1 at noon by shutting down both the charger and the solar panels.

I NEED INPUT FROM OUR READERS! THE NEWSLETTER SEEMS TO GET SMALLER ALL THE TIME INSTEAD OF BIGGER.

MUSING OF A CURMUDGEON



Lost in the "Great CW Battle" the hobby has failed to let the newer folks know about the fun and knowledge that the ticket makes available. Seldom do we hear about DXing, antennas, traffic handling or just plain ragchewing on the repeaters.

Sure we make a point of welcoming the new licensees to the repeater and invite them to meetings but do we tell them what we have done recently or mention the current DXpedition that we are spending hours trying to contact? Do we include them in the conversation when we talk about the upcoming contest season or do we just assume they know all those things? The answer all too often is no, the conversation excludes them and they wander off to the TV or a repeater where a group of new operators collect and stagnate.

The greatest loss the hobby has suffered in the last few years is not the CW requirement or band space, it is the loss of the Elmer who guided many of us and shared their fascination with Amateur radio with us. Supporting us when needed and free with constructive criticism when needed they were friends, teachers and role models to generations of Hams.

Let's make it a point to explain what we are doing, invite folks to be part of our activities and become Elmers to another generation of Amateurs so they may share the hobby with us as our Elmers did for us.

Dave Watrous, WD2K—9/97

I think this might be the last of Dave's columns that I have.

Again, Please consider doing a column like this. It would be really neat to have someone take this column over. It makes great reading! PLEASE! There must be a curmudgeon out there!

I know that some of you guys can write, why not help make this Newsletter come alive again!!!

HELP ME FILL THESE SPACES WITH SOME- THING GOOD!!!

*One of my favorite little sayings is,
"To avoid criticism, say nothing, do nothing, be nothing".*



Should the FCC allow encryption?

One of the most fundamental rules in amateur radio has been the prohibition against the use of codes or ciphers meant to obscure the meaning of a message [Part 97.113 (4)]. Recently, that long-standing prohibition was challenged (<http://www.arrl.org/news/rules-change-sought-to-permit-encryption-of-sensitive-emergency-communications>) to allow encryption when passing emergency health and welfare traffic. The idea was that encrypting these messages would protect the privacy of individuals. In his Petition for Rulemaking (<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7022424684>), Don Rolph, AB1PH, pointed out that Australian amateur radio rules permit encryption for emergency services operation or related training exercises.

Oddly enough, the pushback against this petition has been loud and swift. The ARRL quickly came out against the petition (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-urges-denial-of-petition-to-permit-encryption-of-some-emergency-communications>), and when I blogged about this issue (<http://www.kb6nu.com/im-jumping-on-the-anti-encryption-bandwagon/>), several hams replied that they didn't think allowing encryption was a good idea.

The main arguments against encryption seem to be that:

- * It will make people suspicious of amateur radio operators and bring unwanted scrutiny upon amateur radio.

- * Make self-policing more difficult.

Among the arguments for allowing encryption are that cryptography is a fundamental element of modern RF communications, and that not allowing it, negates one of the purpose of amateur radio. Namely, that one of the purposes of amateur radio is to "advance the state of the radio art."

In late September, the FCC dismissed this particular Petition for Rulemaking (<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-dismisses-encryption-petition>). It stated specifically that "the record does not support Mr Rolph's assertion that the prohibition on encrypted amateur communications is impairing the ability of the Amateur Radio community to provide effective support to public safety agencies during emergencies."

Of course, this discussion isn't over yet. Encryption is now employed routinely for even the most common types of digital communication, and as a newer generation of amateur radio operators take over, they'll want to experiment with these digital communications techniques. One commenter suggested that a portion of the 900 MHz band or maybe the 5 GHz band be set aside for experimentation with encryption. I think that is an idea worth exploring.

What do you think? Does encryption have a place in amateur radio?

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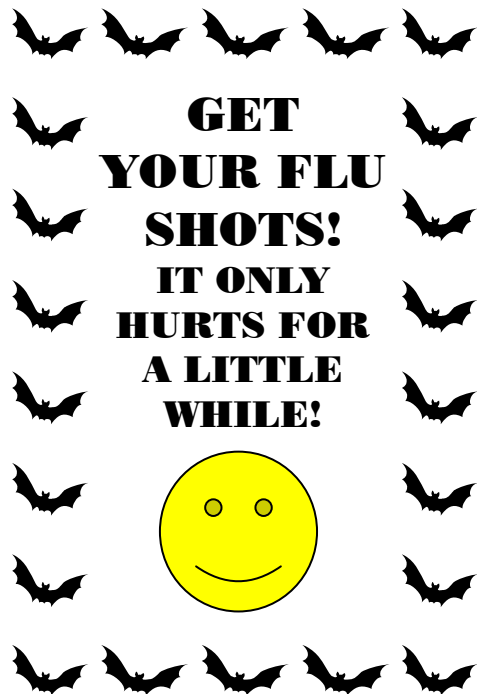
When he's not pondering FCC rules, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

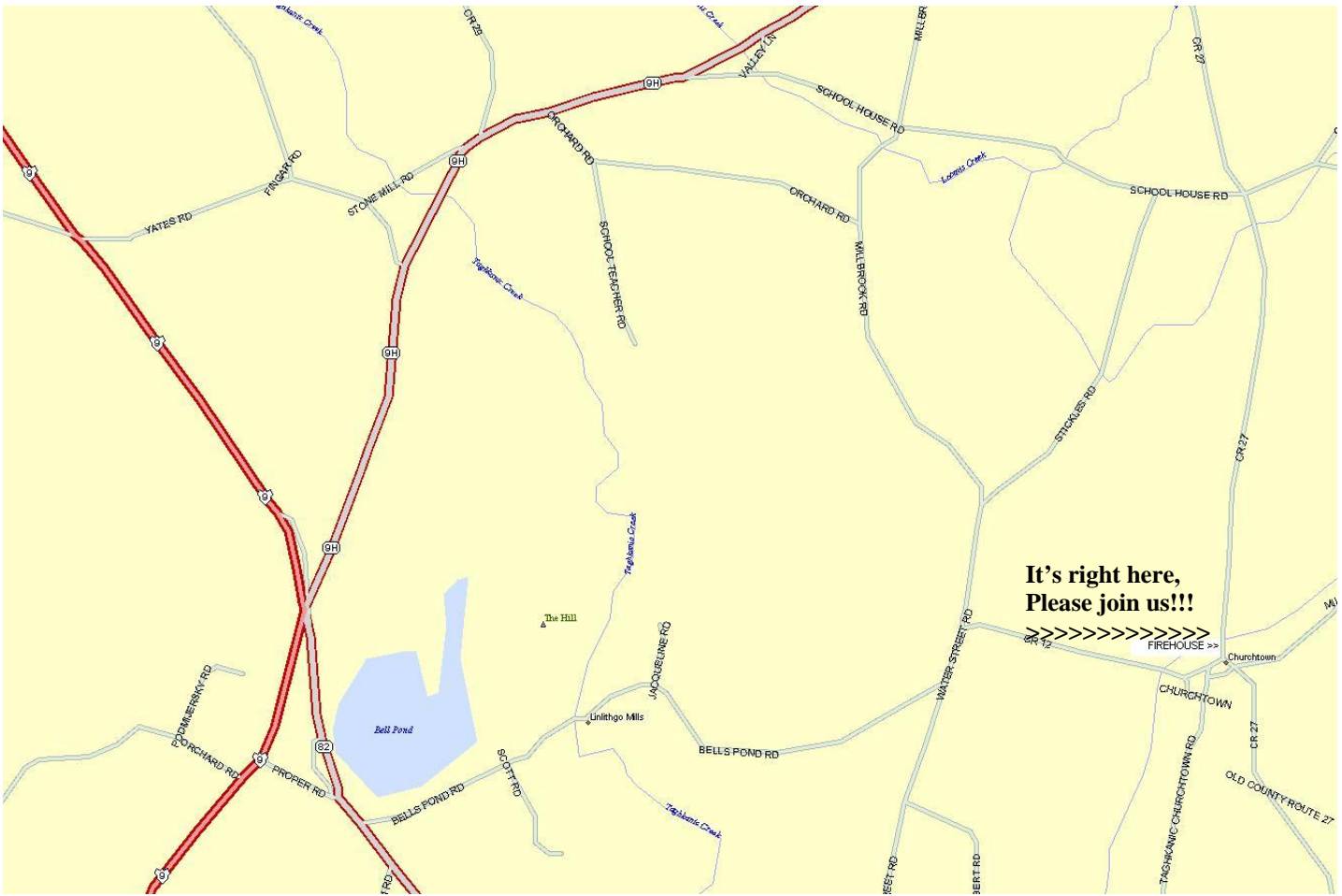
New and Old HAMS needed!

Columbia County (ARES) "Amateur Radio Emergency Service" and (RACES) "Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services" are seeking new members. We currently meet once a month prior to the regular meeting. We do an occasional public service event as ARES members where we utilize our communications skills and equipment to assist with public safety. We assist the County with Civil Emergencies and disaster communications when they request us. No equipment required. No experience required. Total voluntary participation. Your help is appreciated when needed to maintain communications during disaster, emergencies or public service events. If you think you might be interested, please email me or ask at field day or an RVW meeting.

Thank you.
TomG (n2nzd@taconic.net)

Join the RVWARS Yahoo Group. Go to the www.rvwars.com web site and scroll to the bottom of the page and simply enter your email address into the box.





From the West RVW Bridge or 9G take Rt 23 to the 9H intersection and either go North to School House Rd and to Churchtown Firehouse or go through the light and take Bells Pond Road to the Firehouse. From the North or from Hudson go south on 9H from the traffic light in Claverack to County Route 27 and to the Firehouse.

Park in the lot to the right of the Firehouse and enter through the Main Entrance. Someone will be listening to the repeater and will help you if need be.

“FIREHOUSE” is indicated on the right side of the map.

The Amateur's Code

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE

Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL

Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE

With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY

With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED

Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC

With station and skill always ready for service to country and community



Items for sale de K2WG

- Two Decibel UHF base station antennas. 20 years old but have not been in use since 2002. Exact model no longer manufactured but similar to current model ASP-705K 10 dB gain, 450-470, 500 watts, N female connector. Asking \$250.00 each or \$400.00 for both.

Contact: wayneg1231@fairpoint.net
Phone: 392-5704

If your ad is no longer valid please let me know.

FOR SALE

For the news letter

Anyone interested in this package.

MFJ 962 tuner
Ten-Tek HF rig
Forty foot crank up tower
CDR rotor & cable
Coax cable
Tri Beam Ant

You have to take it down
Price total-----\$550.00

Wa2uyy
Ron Coons Sr.
518-945-3731

**PROFESSIONAL
INSURED
TOWER CLIMBER
DISCOUNT RATES FOR HAMS**

**ANTENNAS - FEED LINES
INSTALLED & REMOVED**

**CALL
ARNIE CAVALLARO
518-965-9299**

Arnie Cavallaro
Wireless Operations Mgr. Cell: 518-965-9299



Secure Wireless Broadband Internet
Serving Greene and Columbia Counties
Visit NYAIR.net

Trade/Sale/In Search Of

I have some 'used condition' amateur rig's I purchased in the past 'new' eg. -1 Alinco DR-605 2/440 mtr fm dual band'r, 6 mtr fm mono band'r, 2 mtr fm mono band'r some 'cb' rig's (am), 1 is a ssb/am. These rig's either DO or Do Not function! Mostly all are easy/cheap 'radio repair' issues eg. internal 'fusing' maybe final or a digital led 'quirk' whatever! My Quest is to swap/trade (barter?) whatever it 'takes' from my 'rig collection' to acquire a simple mono mode cw or better if (Lucky:-) cw/ssb 2 MTR rig. Not qrp but qrp 5w or better. This can be Any 'working' stable rig, transverter, completer kit rig, (the mfj-2mtr is an example). If Anyone is Interested in 'trade' or trade/cash 'barter' I am open ears. :-)
I've had much 2 mtr fun with fm now to go on with cw, and/or ssb. :-)-ke2eb George H. Call West Coxsackie, NY 518-731-9854 bubby-call@yahoo.com

I have about 16 -120 volt pan cake fans plus protective guards if you know of any one that needs one and 2-12volt 6watt.

10-- 10 watt fans----- \$4.00 @
1--12 watt-----\$5.00 @
3-- 20 watt-----\$5.00 @
2-14 watt-----\$5.00

\$5.00 for the 12 volt fans @

Contact Ron, WA2UYY

I have a new recently purchased in box, never used: KT 100 auto tuner. This tuner is for Kenwood 'newer' rig's via antenna connection.

I Would like to swap/exchange either or auto tuner with SO239 connectors, or else trade this tuner for a HT or mobile 2, or 2/440 FM rig of compatible cost. This KT-100 was \$199.99 s+h added. This antenna Tuner is Kenwood Only!

I purchased this tuner for a Kenwood TS440S..Not knowing it was not adaptable, for easy operation. I 'decided' I did not wish to pursue 're inventing' any other recourse in making tuner work for my TS440S. So.. I now wish to 'trade' this new KT-100 tuner, as it isn't 'needed' at this time for my personal usage. If this is acceptable for listing with our club rvwars, I'd like to recommend this item for possible 'trade/exchange' resource. thank you. vy 73!-ke2eb george call. 518-731-9854