

# RANDOM Oscillations

A Monthly Publication for the Members of the Radio Central Amateur Radio Club

## From the President

Neil, KC2KY

So far it's been a pretty mild winter and I hope everyone's antennas are still up. It looks like 2012 will be an exciting year. For starters, we will be re-locating our meeting place to the Middle Country Public Library in Centereach. The library has worked out quite well for Board meetings and I think it will be an excellent venue for general meetings. When we made the decision at the January board meeting to change meeting locations, it was too late to secure the Middle Country Public Library for the January general meeting but we were able to reserve the library at Centereach High School.

## January Meeting - SHARES (HF SHARED RESOURCES)

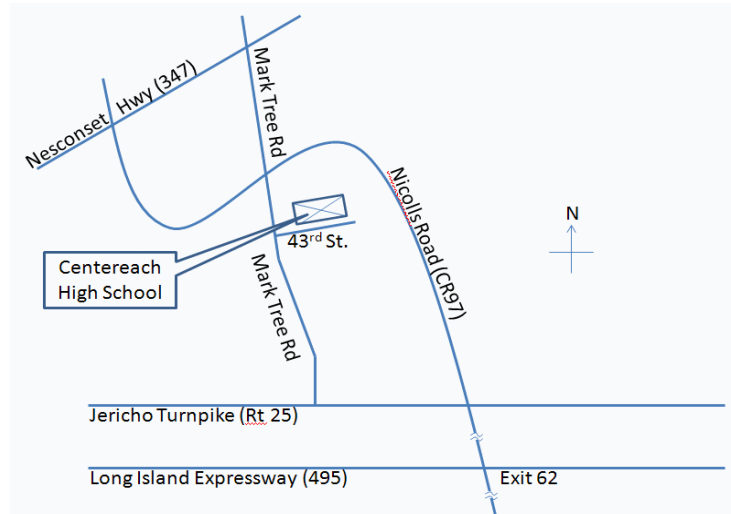
At our January meeting, Alex, K2AJR, will be giving us a presentation on HF SHARES - National Communications System initiative to provide interagency HF communications in the event that ordinary lines of communications become inoperational. Alex has been in the telecommunications industry for over twenty years. His principal interests in Amateur Radio are HF communications and portable, military surplus HF equipment. Alex demonstrated some of his prized collectables at our September "Show and Tell" meeting and again at the holiday party in December.

## Congrats Richie, KB2ZPB, DXCC Award Winner

Richie brought 100 QSL cards, plus a few "insurance" QSL's just in case there were any problems with the first hundred, to HRU where ARRL DXCC Field Checker John Reiser, W2GW, reviewed the cards and signed them off for the DX Century Club.

See "President", Page 2

## New January Meeting Location: Centereach High School Library



### Directions to Centereach High School

**From the Long Island Expressway** - Get off at Exit 62 (Nicolls Road, CR97). Take Nicolls Road North (Toward Stony Brook), past Route 25. Continue North to the Mark Tree Road traffic light. Turn left at the light onto Mark Tree Road. Continue to the second traffic light (43rd Street). The high school is on the left.

**From Sunrise Highway** - Get off at Exit 51. Take Nicolls Road North (Toward Stony Brook), past the Long Island Expressway and past Route 25. Continue North to the Mark Tree Road traffic light. Turn left at the light onto Mark Tree Road. Continue to the second traffic light (43rd Street). The high school is on the left.

**From Route 347 or 25A** - Turn South on Nicolls Road. Proceed to second traffic light (Mark Tree Road). Turn right at the light onto Mark Tree Road. Continue to the second traffic light (43rd Street). The high school is on the left.

*When you arrive at the school, use the Main Entrance. The school floor plan on page 4 will help you find the library.*

### January Meeting Announcement

**Wednesday January 25, 7:30 PM at  
the Centereach High School Library**

**SHARES - National Communications  
System HF Initiative**

**Guest Speaker Alex Rokewitz, K2AJR**

## Ham Radio University 2012

This year's Ham Radio University was one of our most successful. HRU attendance was close to 400 people. Radio Central was well represented - Richie, KB2ZPB, Fred, K2LDC, Barbara, WA2VQJ, Alex, K2AJR, Yuki, KW2K, Ken, WB2ART, Bero, KA2DZR, Rocky, KT2G, and Yours Truly, KC2KY. Those are the faces I remember running into; there may have been others. Radio Central had a club table with our club banner and a photo collage produced by Dick, K2RFP. At the "Meet Your Local Radio Clubs" forum, Radio Central was one of the six radio clubs that gave a presentation on our

various activities. In thanks for Radio Central's support of HRU, we were one of six Long Island clubs that the ARRL awarded an ARRL 2012 Radio Amateur's Handbook to use as a door prize to help raise money for our club treasury.

## Club Kit Building Projects

Our February meeting will be an overview of kit building and homebrewing. At the February meeting, we'll be presenting a variety of possibilities for a club kit building project. The meeting will be followed up with a workshop later on in the year where we can get together and work on our kits at a meeting.

## Meet Your local Hams

Frank, K2PWG

This Month's Featured Ham: Leo Foley, K2SGH

I visited the shack of Leo, K2SGH, located in a colonial house in a quiet area on top of one of the highest hills in Port Jefferson, Long Island.

Leo was born in Astoria, Queens, raised in Elmhurst, and attended St Bartholomew's grade school, St John's Prep, and Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute where he graduated with electrical engineering degrees. He is now retired from Hazeltine Electronics (Now BAE Systems) where he was a design engineering manager.

His interest in the hobby started at the age of 16 with a high school friend who was a ham (K2KSS). He obtained his Novice call KN2SGH in 1956, and later that year advanced to General. He now holds an Extra class.

See "K2SGH", Page 3

### Radio Central Amateur Radio Club's 2012 Meeting Calendar

DATE	TOPIC
January 25, 2012	Federal SHARES Shared Resources HF Program
February 29, 2012	
March 28, 2012	Future Meetings
April 25, 2012	
May 30, 2012	To Be
June 27, 2012	
July 25, 2012	Announced
August 29, 2012	
September 19, 2012	
October 24, 2012	
November 28, 2012	
December 19, 2012	

## 2011 Club Officers

**President:** ..... KC2KY  
Neil Heft

**Vice President:** ..... K2CQK  
Charlie Fiore

**Treasurer:** ... KC2KY (Acting)

**Secretary:** ..... AB2UW  
Bill Lynch

## Editorial Staff

**Editor** ..... KC2KY  
Neil M. Heft (737-0019)

## Directors

Serving until 12/11 . . .  
Dick Pav..... K2RFP

Serving Until 12/12 . . .  
Joe Cohen ..... KJ4ZW  
Stan Bryer ..... W2SCB

Serving until 12/13 . . .  
Bob Chandler ... WB2ETR

## Founding Members

Harry Lersner N2AWM sk  
Stu Goodman K2RPZ sk

## Honorary Members

Frank Kiefer, K2PWG  
Art Greenberg W2LH sk  
Warren Bogin W2GZA sk  
JoAnn Colletti N2IME sk

## Club Resources

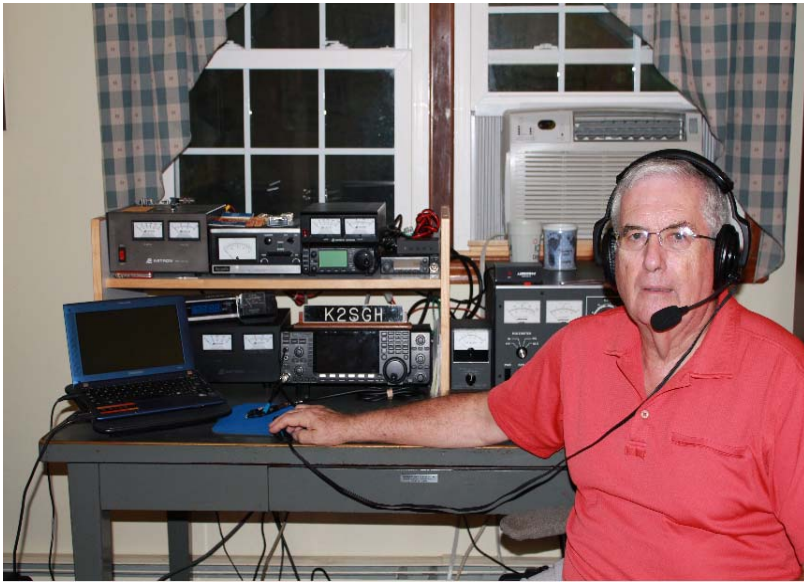
W2RC/R ..... 145.150 MHz, 4Z PL  
W2RC/R ..... 449.525 MHz, 2A PL

### Repeater Nets

**Tuesday at 20:00 EST :** Club Rag Chew Net

**Club Web Page:** <http://rcarc.org>

*K2SGH, from Page 2*



He served in the army from 1963-1965 as a First Lieutenant in the Signal Corps stationed for 21 months in Fort Huachuca, Arizona which was the Army's electronic proving grounds. Here he operated as K2SGH/7. He was discharged in 1965 and relocated to Long Island where he still resides. His dedicated shack is located in an upstairs bedroom with a view of his back yard antennas.

The station consists of quite an array of equipment but his main station is IC-7600, AL-1200 and a High Gain TH-5 tri-band beam. The TH-5 sits on top of a 60 foot crank-up tower as seen in the photo. He has an R7000 for the WARC bands, and full sized vertical and horizontal antennas for 40 Meters. Leo also occasionally operates mobile, or even marine mobile in Port Jefferson Harbor, with an IC-706 and AH-4 automatic wire antenna tuner.

Leo operates about eight hours a week and chases mostly DX. SSB is his main operating mode, but he also now has the capabilities for PSK and RTTY.

Leo has many accomplishments as seen by the awards on his wall including #1 Honor roll on phone with 355 confirmed. Leo was also one of the earliest members of the club's DX group. He has also won in the low power class in the CQWW contest in 2002 from the U.S. Virgin Island as KP2/K2SGH.

With six grandkids, he is hoping one of them will follow in his footsteps and obtain their license, and enjoy the hobby as much as he has.



Leo's biggest remembrance is working G3GAD on the 15 meter CW novice band as his first DX station after receiving his license in 1956.

Thank you Leo, long time friend. We attended the same grammar school, lived only five blocks from each other, but never met until Ham Radio brought us together.



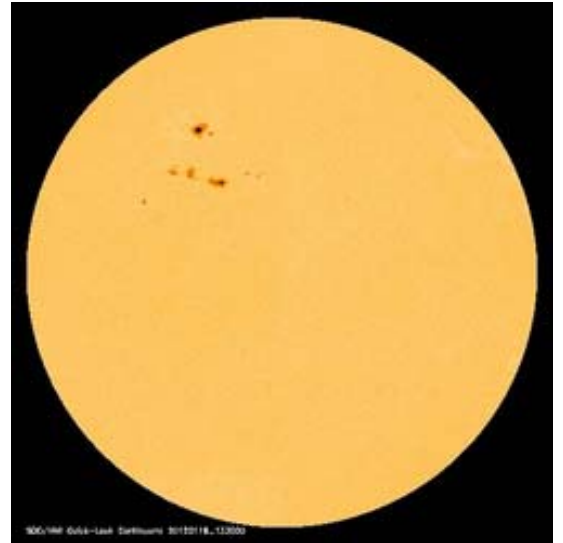
*All the information in the "Meet Your Local Hams" series is based on personal interviews between the featured ham and Frank, K2PWG. Each article is then reviewed and approved by the featured ham before it is submitted to Random Oscillations for publication.*

# Solar Update

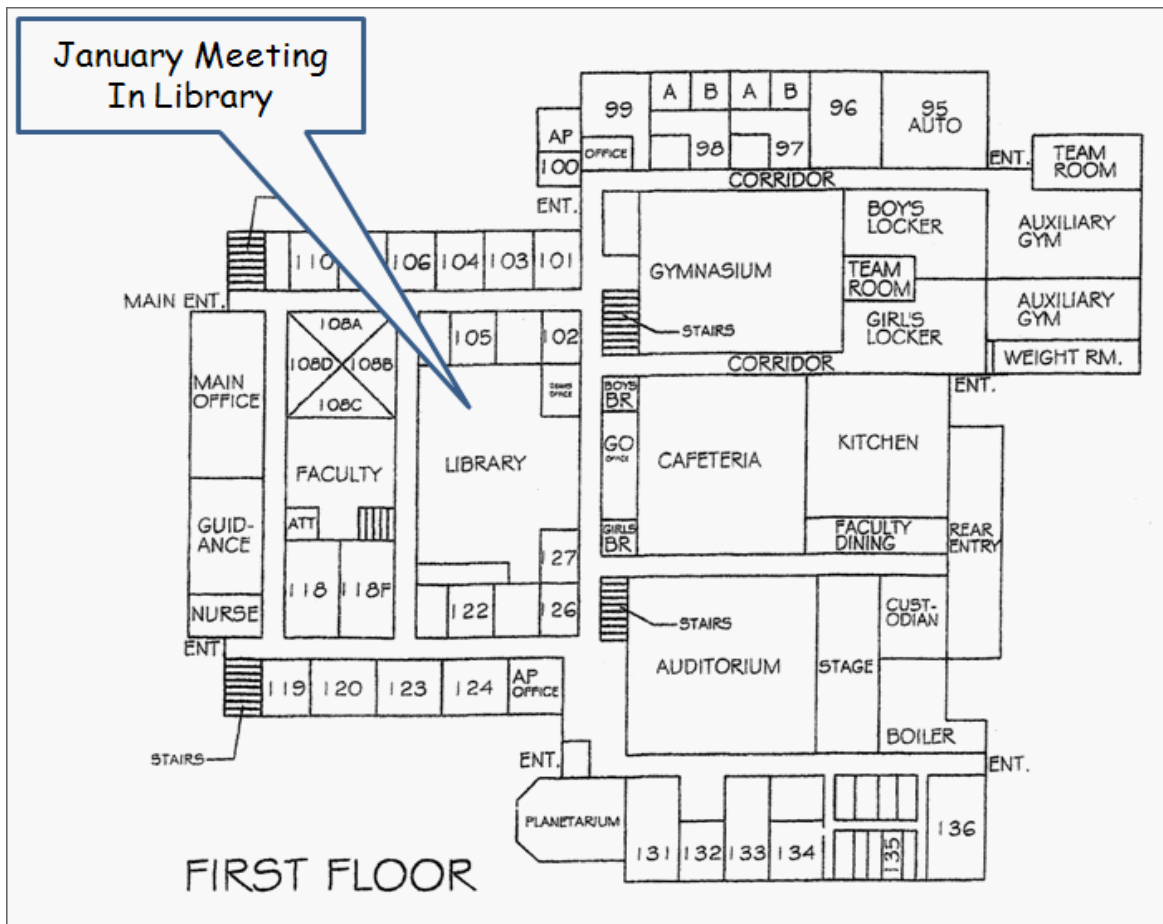
From the ARRL Letter, January 19, 2012

Tad "Fooling me like the Sun in the winter" Cook, K7RA, reports:

New sunspot groups appeared on every day over the past week. On January 12, new sunspot group 1396 appeared, and the next day two more — 1397 and 1398 — popped into view. On January 14, four new sunspot groups appeared: 1399, 1400, 1401 and 1402. January 15 saw group 1391 vanish and new group 1403 emerge. Two more appeared January 16 — 1404 and 1405 — while 1397 vanished. On January 17, 1406 appeared and 1395 disappeared, while 1407 emerged on January 18. The average daily sunspot numbers rose this week, from 90.6 to 116.9, while the solar flux stayed about the same, changing from 134.9 to 133.4. The latest predictions have a solar flux of 150 on January 19-20, 155 on January 21-22, 160 on January 23-25, 155 on January 26, 140 on January 27-29, and 135 on January 30-February 6; we are still looking for a solar flux peak of 165 on February 17-21. The predicted flux values of 160 on January 23-25 are markedly higher than the 145 predicted last week for the same dates. The predicted planetary A index is 6, 8, 5, 8 and 12 on January 19-23, and 5 on January 24 through the end of the month. Look for more information on the ARRL website on Friday, January 20. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Max Graham's Sun in Winter.



The Sun, as seen on Thursday, January 19, 2012 from NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope. This MDI (Michelson Doppler Imager) image was taken in the continuum near the Ni I 6768 Angstrom line. The most prominent features are the sunspots. This is very much how the Sun looks in the visible range of the spectrum.



# Feedback Loops

*Paul Dunphy, VE1DX*

One of the Local QRPers came around the bend and made his way up the hill. This one was in a lot better shape than the last time we had seen him, presumably because he had taken out a membership in the local gym. There was a lot less puffing and a lot less sweat when he made it to the verandah and sat down.

"Well", he said, "I've been thinking." This was cause for immediate interest because when a QRPer starts thinking, often the unexpected arises. "The solar cycle is stuck. The flux is 68, and has been for a long time. It won't be rising in the foreseeable future. Sunspot Louie hasn't seen a thing in almost two months. The Palos Verdes Sundancers have given up!" We rather doubted this pessimistic prognostication was correct, but we nodded for him to continue. "You know, I've been using my trapped triband beam for a long time," he began, "and I am going to replace it with a monobander. I found a 4-element beam on the swap shop. The fellow wanted a lot for it, but it only had been in the air for 2 years. So I drove over to his QTH and snapped it up this morning before anyone else had a chance. It's all ready to go on my tower next weekend. I already have my tribander for sale. Some sucker will buy it!"

We were about to ask for more details, but before we could he continued as soon as he'd caught a breath. "I was reading the Internet, and digging through some old magazines, and I saw my trapped beam only has 5 dB gain on 20 metres, and this monobander has 8.2 dB. That's a heck of a lot of difference! Over 3 dB. That would make my signal jump out in the pileups, and it makes sense to be king of 20. I bet I'll get a dozen new ones over the winter with it. Who cares about 15 and 10? They are never open anymore! I even asked Red Eyed Louie when he'd heard any DX on 28 MHz, and he says he can't remember."

We thought about this for a bit, for this was not the first time DXers have discussed antennas and gain. "Seems like a lot of difference", we said slowly, "3 dB is hard to get. Are you sure you are not comparing dBi and dBd?" The QRPer looked at us with a glare and snapped, "What's the difference? dBs are dBs. The fellow told me it was a killer beam. Why wouldn't a 4 element monobander on a 26 foot boom have 8.2 dB gain?"

We tried logic. "All dBs are not equal. dBb is the gain referenced to a dipole and dBi is the gain referenced to an isotropic radiator. There is a difference of about 2.14. You can bet the monobander specs are expressed in dBi and your tribander is dBd. If you correct the monobander to use the same units, then the gain is 6.1. So you really are just getting about 1 dB. That's only a 6th of an S-unit. You'll never notice the difference. Your tribander might have traps, but it has 7 elements on a 24 foot boom. No doubt 4 of them are active on 20, and the only difference is about 1 dBb of trap loss."



The QRPer was looking confused, and then said with a defiant look, "Stop taking away gain from my new antenna before I even get it up! It has to be better than that. The fellow who sold it to me said he got DX with the first call every time. He said to ignore gain figures and all those comparison charts. He says the real proof is with the on-air performance. Says you know you are going to bust the pileup as soon as you hear it. Why would he say that if it wasn't true?" He pointed his finger at us to emphasize the point. "And I think he's on the DXCC Honor Roll, too!"

We looked at the QRPer for a moment, and decided not to tell him there is no Santa. "Well, if he told you it is a one-call antenna, then probably you made a good move. He wouldn't tell you that if it wasn't so. When you get it in the air, let us know how it works. Make sure you have it ready for the fall so you can get the fellows on Midway the first day. Just be a Believer and it will bring you more DX than you ever got with your old antenna! Just with one call, too. You will think the Great Days of DXing have returned!"

He smiled broadly and walked down the hill, satisfied that he had a solid edge over all of the locals. An hour or two later one of the older and more crafty QRPers came by. "I sold my 20 metre beam today. Got a good price for it too. The guy who bought it thought I worked Honor Roll with it. Most of my DXCC credits came on 15 and 10 with my vertical during the last two cycle peaks. I think I have 201 on 20. Now I can order the kit for that 4-square I've wanted for 80 so I can add to my DXCC Challenge totals. I think I have 20 worked dry. I saw a cheap tribander listed on the swap shop this afternoon. That will work just as well, and give me 15 and 10 as a bonus for when the sunspots return. I phoned the fellow, and he said he'd have it down by the weekend." He looked at us smugly, expecting a reply.

We simply nodded and looked out over the bay. Sometimes it is best to say nothing. Especially when the flux is stuck and circular deals are being made to ensure one's perch on the DXCC is maintained. More properly put, if it isn't broke, let them fix it anyhow! We recalled the advice of the Old Timer who told us years ago that it is best not to disturb a balanced feedback loop. DX IS!

# Radio Central Amateur Radio Club 1-4-2012

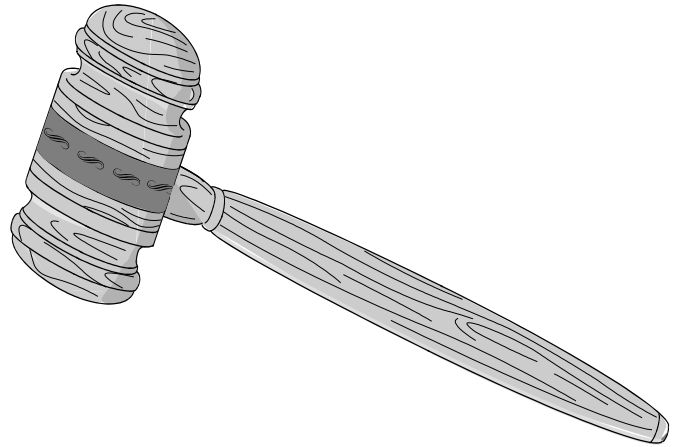
## RCARC Executive Board Minutes

*Submitted By Bill Lynch, AB2UW*

*Board Members Present: President & Acting Treasurer \*Neil Heft, KC2KY; Secretary \*Bill Lynch, AB2UW; Director, Dick Pav, K2RFP*

*Board Members Absent: Director Stan Bryer, W2SCB; Director Bob Chandler, WB2ETR; Director, Joe Cohen, KJ4ZW; Vice President Charlie Fiore, K2CQK*

*Guests Present: \*Rich Fisher KB2ZPB; \*Steve Sussman-Fort, AB2EW*



Meeting started at 7:18PM in the 'Foundation Room' of the Middle Country Public Library.

### Future RCARC Meetings:

January - Neil has contacted Alex Rokowetz, K2AJR, and he will speak about SHARES, the SHARED RESOURCES (SHARES) High Frequency (HF) Radio Program.”).

February – We discussed talking about kits and kit building, with the thought towards members ordering a kit(s), then building it, then showing it off or troubleshooting it at the April meeting. Neil has a previous kit presentation that he could update and do at the meeting. Several of us will bring either unbuilt or built kits to show what could be done. Bill & Steve will do some research on what is available and email the results to everybody else.

March – Neil will try and contact Bob Lundquist to do a presentation at this meeting. If Bob can't make it, then the Rhode & Schwarz representative Neil knows will be contacted to speak.

April – Neil suggested a repeat of the build-it night, where we bring test equipment for members to use to check out their projects (ordered at the February meeting, and built in February, March and April). We could also check transceivers and coaxial cables. For people who didn't build something or bring anything, he suggested building a 2m ground plane antenna like was done in previous years at HRU. Steve talked about a simple toroidal matching network for either a random length wire or a ½ wavelength wire antenna. We could have a few kits of parts for these 2 projects available at the April meeting.

Other Possibilities for 2012:

a) Circuit Design Software: LT spice can be found at <<http://www.linear.com/designtools/software/>>, 'Elsie' program does filter design <<http://tonnesoftware.com/elsie.html>>, LC filters can be easily designed here: <<http://www-users.cs.york.ac.uk/~fisher/lcfilter/>>

b) Take video of a club event and then make it into a video that can be used at future club meetings or HRU.

c) Show a DXpedition video at a club meeting.

d) Have an auction.

e) Software programs for the shack.

Bill will send Neil a map of the inside of Centereach HS for the January meeting as well as a map of where the school is. Bill will also do the same thing for the Middle Country Public Library.

RCARC Web Site: Bill volunteered to help Neil with setting up a Paypal link on the RCARC website to collect dues, sign up for a kit build, etc.

Ham Radio University 2012: Sunday, January 8th - Neil will be doing a 5-10 minute talk about Radio Central at the 'Meet Your Local Club forum. He will use some of the Powerpoint slides that Bill generated for a previous program. Dick brought the display board with photos and gave it to Neil for the 'club table' at HRU.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

Next RCARC exec meeting - Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 7PM sharp, in the 'Foundation Room' (upstairs) at the Middle Country Public Library in Centereach.

### Items for Sale

Alinco DR135T 2M VHF Radio with TNC  
Unit and Manual \$200.00 + shipping &  
insurance

MFJ 407C Deluxe Electronic Keyer and  
BY1 Bencher Combo

Like New Condition

Unit and Manual \$150.00 + shipping &  
insurance

RF Concepts 2 Meter Amplifier

1-8W in, 60W out

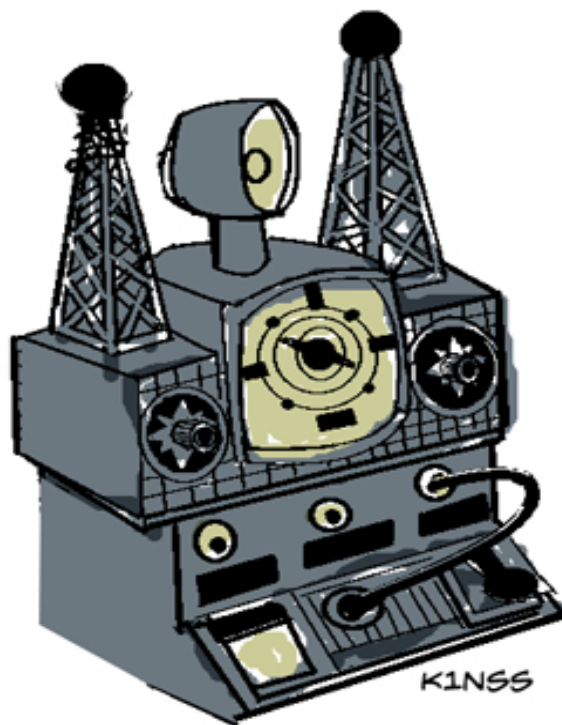
Unit and Manual \$150.00 + shipping &  
insurance

Kenwood TM-V7A 144/430 MHz FM Dual  
Bander

Unit and Manual \$280.00 + shipping &  
insurance

Contact Bero, KA2DZR, 631-689-0345

KA2DZR@arrl.net



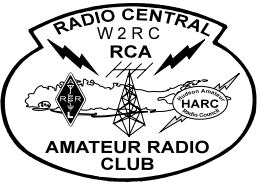
### Purchasing Parts for your Next Project?

*If we pool our parts orders together with mail order suppliers like Digi-Key, Allied Electronics, or Mouser Electronics, we can defray some of the shipping costs and save some money. Bill, AB2UW, has set up an on line utility for members to order parts from Mouser Electronics as a group. To find out more, check out <<http://editthis.info/wiki/RCARCParts>>.*

*If you have a supply of junk box parts you want other members to know about - whether you want to sell stuff or give it away, Random Oscillations is a great way to let your fellow members know. Just drop me an email or a snail mail with details and we'll put your items in the Newsletter to see if there are any takers. (limited to amateur radio or other electronics related items)*

### Newsletter Articles Wanted

*Working on a new kit or homebrew project? Have you recently received a rare or interesting QSL card? Received a new DXCC award or band endorsement? Or just have a cool photo (ham radio related) or some soap box comments to share with other club members? Why not consider submitting an article for the Newsletter. We're always looking for material for the Newsletter and feedback from club members goes a long way towards keeping the Newsletter interesting as well as stamping the club "personality" on our monthly publication. Articles can be submitted electronically or on paper, whatever you feel comfortable doing. As RCARC's Newsletter editor, I particularly look forward to putting a new edition together when I have material submitted by members.*



**Radio Central Amateur Radio Club**  
Post Office Box 396  
Centereach, NY 11720-0396

## January Meeting Announcement New Location!!

Wednesday January 25, 7:30 PM at the  
Centereach High School Library

**SHARES (SHARED RESOURCE) HF Initiative**  
**Alex Rokewetz, K2AJR**

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