The Oldest Cadet Club, Today: W2KGY



Patrick McGurrin, Nolan Pearce

United States Military Academy





PRESENTED AT:



OVERVIEW

The armed forces and radio communication go hand in hand. The Cadet Amateur Radio Club, W2KGY, trains cadets on cutting-edge electronic warfare and signal tools while maintining a club-focused atmosphere. The club has three distinct parts:

- Military-Focused Training
- Radiosport Competitions
- Community Service



HISTORY

The club is the oldest continuously run club at West Point since its first callsign W2JIG in 1932! Our long gray line contains PhDs, instructors, national scholarship winners, and career military officers.



ELECTRONIC WARFARE TRAINING

As the priorities of the Army shape towards modernization, the amateur radio club leads and trains cadets in military electronic warfare tactics. These include:

- Foxhunting in a military setting
- HF ALE operation
- Expedient Antennas

The foxhunt gives cadets a chance to apply theoretical antenna knowledge to a military operation (below).



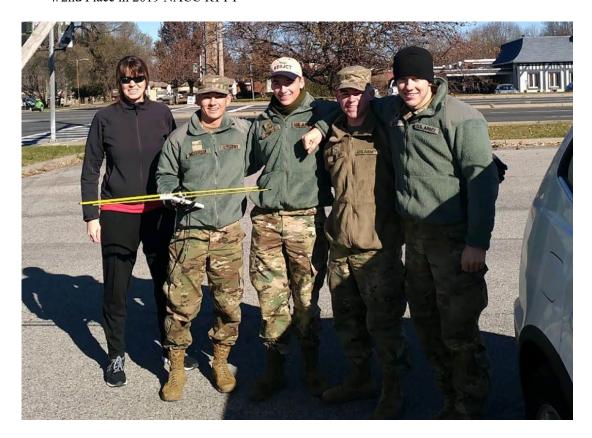
In addition, we license nearly 10-15 cadets a semester (shown below)!



AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Of course, we operate as a college club station as well. We have earned the following awards:

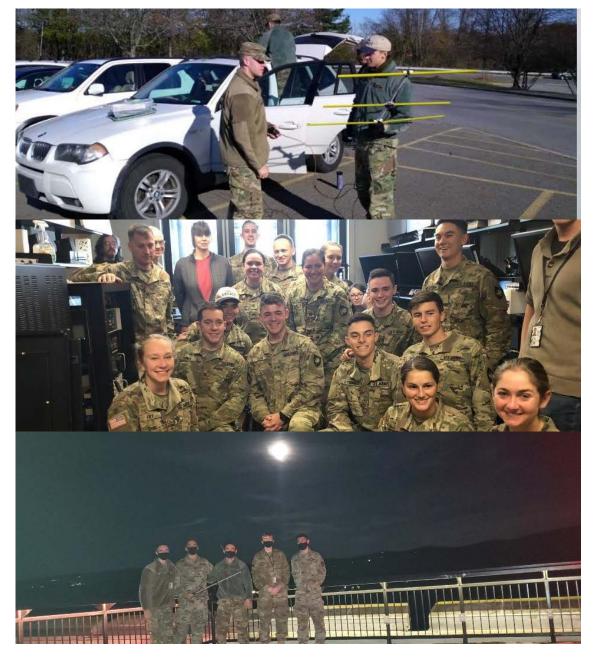
- 1. 1st Place in Fall 2020 SCR New York
- 2. 1st Place in Fall 2020 CW SS NY Club
- 3. 1st Place in 2019 QSY Foxhunt (below)
- 4. 2nd Place in 2019 NACC RTTY

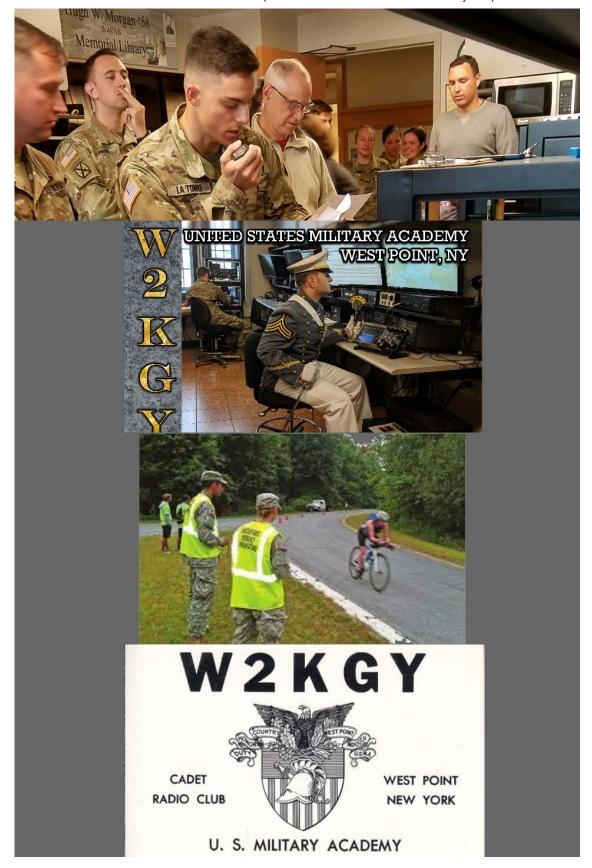


RESEARCH TESTBED

We also act as a research testbed for cadet capstones and independent studies. Our satellite test group uses the station for satellite experimentation, and each spring our Astronomy club launces an APRS-trackable weather balloon.









ABSTRACT

Although the Cadet Amateur Radio Club, callsign W2KGY, boasts the title of 'Oldest Cadet Club' since its founding in 1926, it leads cutting-edge innovation on radioscience and sport.

The club develops technically adept leaders of character trained on military equipment while maintaining a developmental culture from its amateur background.

This poster showcases past accomplishments of the club and presents its future plans as a cornerstone of electromagnetic warfare training for the Corps of Cadets.

Further, the poster demonstrates the club's usefulness to the academy as a research testbed for satellite operation and propagation studies.