

The Rochester VHF Group

The VHF



Journal

Volume 63, Issue 5

January 2011

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday, 7:30 PM

Spencerport Wesleyan Church
2653 Nichols St., Spencerport

Map and directions in back

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Pre-Contest Warm-up

The Chairman Speaks! Dave Hallidy K2DH

Groupers: Happy New Year! I hope that 2011 gives us all lots of Aurora, Sporadic-E, Tropo, Meteor Scatter, and all the other VHF propagation enhancement modes we get so excited about. I also hope that 2011 is a good year for you in all other ways- family, work, health, etc. I know we've had a kind of tough winter so far, let's hope it settles down a bit and we can all get our equipment running well for the upcoming ARRL VHF Sweepstakes contest!

Our December meeting, although lightly attended, was a good one. It was our annual Tune-Up Clinic meeting and a number of members came to have their converters, preamps, transceivers, and amplifiers checked out. John WB2BYP and I were the guys behind the controls that night. We saw some really good performers (and, unfortunately, some NOT so good performers), and I hope that everyone got a chance to see how precision measurements of Noise Figure, Gain, and other critical operating parameters are made. Thanks very much to the generosity of the folks at L-3 Communications for the loan of the HP8970B Noise Figure Meter, the Advantest Network Analyzer, , and all the supporting equipment we used that night.

Continued....

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The Chairman Speaks! continued...

The Chairman Speaks!

By Dave Hallidy K2DH

... I have the results of the measurements we made, but I must apologize- they are at another location and unreachable as I write this. I promise to have them published in the next Journal!

The January meeting will be our "Pre-Contest Warm-up" session. The meeting will be dedicated to discussions of ways to maximize our scores in the contest, while at the same time maximizing our fun! Mark K2QO and David AB2YI will give us some ideas on ways to run a successful Rover operation- Mark's been doing it for quite a while and David is a relative newcomer, but both have been very successful and will share their thoughts. This should be a really informative meeting! Remember- even if you don't come to the meeting, the contest runs from 2pm local time on January 22nd to 11pm local time on January 23rd. Get on the air and make some noise!!!

As I mentioned in last month's column, the club beacons were removed from the N2MLH site. However, the weather has put the brakes on reinstalling them at the N2PA site, so they are still off the air. More news to follow- we'll probably need a sled-dog team to mush our way into the site to get the work done!

Coming up, our February meeting will be a presentation of the new Flex Radio Flex-1500 by Freddie WB2GFZ and John WB2BYP. Currently, March is open (although we're kicking around the idea of a VHF+ flea market) – but if you'd like to do a presentation (we'd really like that!!!) please let me or John know so we can "roll out the red carpet" for you! Seriously, the club needs to hear/see what the members are doing- it's a friendly group so you won't be intimidated speaking to us.

That's about it for this month- I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on January 14th at 7:30pm for the Pre-Contest Warm-up! I hope to see you there!

73

Dave Hallidy K2DH

Secretary Report

Tom Jennings, KV2X

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for December, 2010

The general meeting, held at the Spencerport Wesleyan Church, was convened at at 2002 by K2DH. Dave announced the meeting will be short so we can do the tune up clinic tonight. We went around the room introductions and what we did ham radio wise since the last meeting. We had an interesting discussion about all the various noise sources existing today. Dave commented how quiet the Green Heron equipment is.

Attendees were: W2TAU, W2CNS, WB2BYP, K2OS, WB2QCJ, K2DB, K2QO, AB2YI, KV2X, K2DH, W3OAB, and Gloria Butterworth.

NEW BUSINESS: Tom solicited input to the Journal

OLD BUSINESS: Beacon status. John, W3OAB, mentioned the old beacon equipment has been removed from N2MLH's QTH. Dave said the real beacons are just about ready to be deployed. All needed is to be sealed up. W3OAB is willing to put the beacons on the air at his QTH for a cold soak before being deployed at N2PA site. The beacons will be on 6 meters, 2 meters and 1296 MHz.

K2DB motioned to accept the last month's meeting minutes as written in the Journal, WB2BYP seconded. W2CNS motioned to accept last month's treasurer's report as written in the Journal, seconded by W2DB. K2QO motioned to adjourn the meeting with W2DB seconding.

Program: Tune up clinic

**Rochester VHF Group
Treasurer's Report – December, 2010**

CHECKING ACCOUNT

<u>Previous Balance</u> (as of 12/08/2010):	\$1,940.09
Income:	\$0.00
Expenses:	\$0.00
<u>Current Balance</u>	\$1,940.09

*Respectfully submitted,
Tom Jennings, KV2X, Treasurer*

The Vice Report May 2010

We had a good tune up clinic in December, with quite a few preamps and converters that were measured for gain and noise figure. Mark, K2QO will be bringing his recently reworked Elecraft Transverter back this month for a re-measurement, so if anyone would like to take advantage of the opportunity, we will be bringing the Noise Figure measurement equipment back and will have it available for the meeting. I am planning on bringing in my 432 preamp/relay box, which shortly will be installed at the dish focus. I'm curious to know what the net loss is prior to the preamp. I'll take some images of the activity and pass them along in the newsletter.

This month's meeting topic is the Contest Warm-up – Rover Discussion on Friday January 14 2011. We will review plans for the contest, and have a round-table discussion on the activities of some of the current crop of Rover stations. Come out and let the group know about your plans, and see who is going to be on. It does not take a lot to work up a significant number of contacts in the January contest, as a lot of operations are conducted from modest home stations, as well as by some of the bigger efforts around the northeast. The leaves are off the trees, and the conditions can sometimes be surprising.

Next month on February 11, 2011 the topic will be a Demonstration of the Flex 1500 SDR Transceiver presented by Freddy WA2GHQ and myself, with applications in a stand-alone mode as well as hookup to transverters for higher frequency operations. These are interesting transceivers with outstanding specifications, and some quirks too.

The weekly Monday and Thursday Night RVHFG Nets have been doing well, and if you have not checked in for a while, please join us at 2100 local on 144.260 USB and then at 2130 on 50.200. If we have requests, we go to 222.100 or 432.100, which makes a great way to checkout equipment prior to events like the contest or sprints. Join us whenever you can!

See you on the air,
John, wb2byp

Tune Up Clinic



John, W3AOB, and Bob, W2CNS, look on as Dave, K2DH does noise figure measurements on a pre-amp.



John, WB2BYP shows Mark, K2QO and Dave, AB2YI how to measure the noise figure of a transverter.

2011 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

Object: To work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Foreign stations work W/VE amateurs only.

Date and Contest Period: The date will be announced annually by the ARRL but will generally be the third or fourth weekend in January. Begins 1900 UTC Saturday, ends 0359 UTC Monday (**January 22-24, 2011**). Source: ARRL.

FM Simplex Challenge and Clean Sweep Award

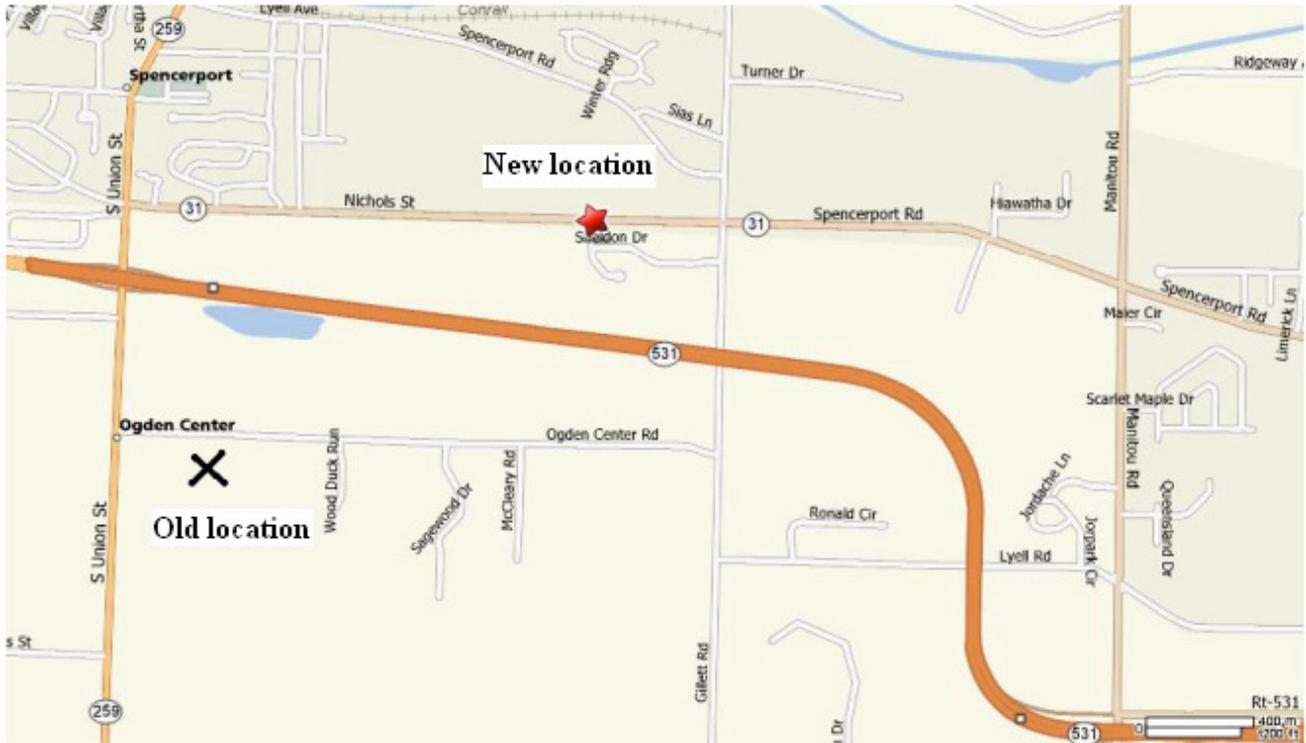
Once again the KA2LIM Contest Group is sponsoring the FM Simplex Challenge. A contest within the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes to encourage those hams who only have FM capability to get on the air and find out how far and how many contacts they can make via FM simplex.

We are also going to present a "Clean Sweep Award" to all rovers who work us on the bottom four bands from all the grids that they activate Details are on our website: www.ka2lim.com

Classified Listings

No listings this month. If you have something to sell or a want, please send an email and I will be happy to include it in the next issue of the Journal.

Meeting Location and Directions



Spencerport Wesleyan Church on 2653 Nichols St. (actually Hwy. 31).

Directions from Rochester:

531W exit RT. to 259N

259N turn Rt. on 31E (first Rt. at traffic light)

Look for Spencerport Schools Bus Garage on left

Take first Rt. on Sheldon at A-framed church, park in rear lot.

Enter gray metal door under fire escape.