

# The Rochester VHF Group

# The VHF



# Journal

Volume 65, Issue 2

October 2012

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday, Oct 12th 2012 at 7:30 PM at **Spencerport Wesleyan Church**  
**2653 Nichols St., Spencerport**

**Map and directions on last page**

**In this issue:**

The Chairman Speaks!  
Secretary's Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Vice Chairman's Report  
Beacons  
Pumpkin Patrol  
222 Sprint Report

**Topic:** Mark, **K2AXX**, has recently deployed a 6 Meter stacked array with remote switching / phasing capability. He will share his experiences in design, construction and operation with this exciting new tool from his arsenal.

## The Chairman Speaks! John Stevens WB2BYP

**Groupers:** There's some great news in this month's newsletter with upcoming meetings and the Beacon Project finally in place, thanks to the hard work of Dave Hallidy K2DH, and the arrangements made by Bob Nezelek W2CNS, the assistance by Frank K2OS, John W3OAB, Charlie K2LDU, Greg K2LDT, Gary AA2DT, Lenny WA2ZNC and the space and power provided by the Antique Wireless Association (AWA) in Bloomfield NY. I'm going to keep it short because I know others have taken images and will fill you in on all of the details. Thanks to all who helped, and are involved with the ongoing maintenance. It sure is nice to hear the Beacons, and they are appreciated a good distance away as well as locally.

Bands continue to be in interesting shape. I worked the 222 Sprint and made a few contacts during the 432 Sprint and was glad to see the activity.

...Continued....

Published by  
Rochester VHF Group  
PO BOX 92122  
Rochester, NY 14692  
Editor: Tom Jennings, KV2X

*The VHF Journal is published by the Rochester VHF Group monthly except June-August. The subscription price is included in the membership dues. If you elect to receive the PDF version by downloading it from our website, dues are US\$10 per year. In this case, you will be notified by email the day it is available for download. If you choose to receive the hardcopy Journal by Postal delivery, the dues are US\$15.00 per year. Articles and comments should be submitted to [journal@rvhfg.com](mailto:journal@rvhfg.com)*

# The Chairman Speaks!

...Stan, KA1ZE/3 will be giving a talk on the remote-controlled station in FN01 he uses to operate the 144.205 morning net, at the Joint Mid-Atlantic and North East VHF Conference hosted by the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club and the North East Weak Signal Group (NEWS). Look here for more info:

[http://www.packratvhf.com/2012\\_Conference/vhf%20conf.html](http://www.packratvhf.com/2012_Conference/vhf%20conf.html)

Our RVHFG Monday and Thursday at 2100 local 2M and 6M Nets on 144.260 / 50.200 have continued to have a good turn-out and make for a good way to check out gear with a pretty consistent crowd. Everyone is welcome; it is very informal, runs about 1/2 hour on each band. If there is interest in higher bands, we usually go to them after the 6M net is over. Several have 432 SSB capabilities, and occasionally N2DCH gets to work into the area on 222. Come by and check in, and let us know how you are hearing, what's new in the shack, any heads up on ham-fests or other club meetings. As always anyone anywhere is welcome to come to the RVHFG meetings and check out the website for more up to date information on VHF/UHF/SHF in the Rochester Area.

Come to the meetings, check out the website for more up to date information, and get on the air!

John WB2BYP

## Secretary Report

Tom Jennings, KV2X

### Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for September 2012

Meeting called to order at 1955. W2CNS made a motion to accept the minutes as published in Journal WB2GFZ seconded motion. W2UAD made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as published in the Sept Journal. K2OS seconded the motion.

Attending: WB2BYP, WB2GFZ, W2CNS, K2TER, W3OAB, N2VTC, W2UAD, K2OS, AB2YI, KV2X

**Old business:** Beacons are in a box waiting for the work party needed to install them. The work can be done in an afternoon if 3 or 4 people are available. Need to install them by end of October as a lot of people are asking about the beacons. WB2BYP will take action to send out notice for work party. K2TER will put notice on web site. W2CNS will contact staff at AWA. W2CNS will contact AWA

**New business:** KV2X asked everybody to send him what they did for the contests this past summer and September so it can be published in the October Journal. We then went around the room with introductions and what we did over the summer with ham radio. WB2BYP adjourned the meeting at 2107

**Program:** W2CNS and WB2BYP's trip to International EME Conference in Cambridge, England

### Rochester VHF Group Treasurer's Report

#### CHECKING ACCOUNT

**Previous Balance** (as of 09/12/2012):

**\$2006.09**

Income: Dues

\$ 90.00

**Current Balance**

\$2096.09

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Tom Jennings, KV2X, Treasurer*

## Vice Chair Report

Fellow Groupers, Our October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will include another installment of the 6 Meter DX meter series by one of our local experts, Mark Hoffman, K2AXX. Mark has recently deployed a stacked array with remote switching/phasing capability. He will share his experiences in design, construction and operation with this exciting new tool from his arsenal. I hope you can join us! **Note:** We will meet at the same location but we will be in another room due to an activity at the church.

### Operating Event:

Our sister club, RDXA is sponsoring the New York QSO Party (NYQP) on October 20<sup>th</sup>. There are many entry categories, modes and bands to operate. I encourage you to get on the air to pass out points or to compete for one of the many awards: See <http://www.nyqp.org/> for details. Tom, KV2X, and I will be roving and will concentrate on the low bands. Please work us at all of our stops.

73,  
Bill Rogers, K2TER – Vice Chairman, Rochester VHF Group.

## VHF Beacons

The club beacons are finally back on the air, hopefully in their long-term location. They are located in FN12hv thanks to the generosity of the Antique Wireless Association; they are located on a 30 foot mast at the AWA Museum in Bloomfield. They are as follows:

Frequency MHz	Power	Antenna
50.078	1W	Dipole
144.297	1W	Big Wheel
222.050	5W	Par Omni Angle
432.300	5W	Par Omni Angle
1296.257	2W	Halo

They all ID simultaneously, beginning with about 20 seconds of carrier, followed by the ID (W2UTH) and Grid (FN12hv), followed by several seconds of no carrier.

A huge THANKS to all who helped bring this project to completion: W2CNS, K2OS, K2LDU, K2LDT, WB2BYP, K2OEQ, W2BSN, K2DB, AA2DT, W3OAB and probably others I've forgotten (and me).

I'm listening to them now on all bands but 222 (no gear for 222 here yet) and they sound good.

The club welcomes reception reports, so if you can hear them, please let us know!

We'll be adding other bands as time goes on- 903, 2304, and up.

73,  
Dave K2DH



Good view of beacon antennas



Almost up!

Some Beacon reception reports:

**FN12mg**: I listened to the beacons tonight during the 432 sprint. I used my omni's for 6, 2 and 222 but had to use the beams for 432. 6M was S1, 2M was S3, 222 was S3, 432 was S2 here in FN12mg. Ken KA2LIM

**FN13fe:** On Wednesday 10/3/12 at 1:00 PM local time using a Yaesu FT-847KA2ENE reports hearing the 50, 144 and 432 beacons in Irondequoit, NY. About 3 miles from the shore of lake Ontario. 50.078 using 5 element horizontal beam. (good signal) 144.297 using 10 element horizontal beam. (best signal) 432.300 using 10 element vertical beam. (weakest signal). 73, Harry (KA2ENE)

**FN03:** VE3ZV (Stephen) reports hearing the 144, 222 and 432 beacons. Tnx to all for their effort helping today. 73, Frank, K2OS

## **Pumpkin Patrol Needs Help!**

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY

Hello everyone. I have to make a plea for Pumpkin Patrol help. First a little background. The Pumpkin Patrol was born when one Halloween some kids found it funny to throw a pumpkin off a bridge over the thruway many years ago and it hit a trucker's windshield. A lot of vehicle damage and a startled driver with a smashed windshield managed to bring his rig to a stop and as far as I know there were no injuries of major proportions. Some local CB people being part of REACT then started the watch and it has now grown to a full operation every year for two nights now operated by the state police Troup "T" . We deal with Albany and the watch is now extended the full length of the NYS thruway and personal is provided by a number of Ham Radio groups all along the way. Locally we sponsor a "Goodie Patrol" who visits with goodies from the season and maybe coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and some candy and apples. They visit each site at least once striving for twice per night. I have handled the Pumpkin Patrol scheduling and operations for the last 3 years and have participated for many years before and the started the "Goodie Patrol". Just last Friday a local Ham was on the expressway and a can of coke was thrown right over the fence barricade, so there are nutty people out there. It was lucky no one was hurt or killed and this kind of thing can happen on any day at all, not just Halloween.

What to expect:

1. Time: about 6pm to midnight, Tues and Wed, 30 and 31 Oct.
2. Where: Bridges over the Thruway in Monroe County.
3. Two bridges are available for both nights and one bridge for one night.
4. Operation on 28/88 (110.9 PL) FM only.
5. Be prepared for cold conditions.
6. Brad needs volunteer, operator, and vehicle information ASAP to be forwarded to the State Police, and contact phone number for Brad.
7. Back up operators are a plus.

Right now we are stalled at 2 bridges for two nights and one bridge for a Tuesday evening to be manned. Please check with your Ham friends and have them email me. It is imperative I get this information very soon. I am asking for help in achieving this. Please let me know as I want to fill the roster up and hand it over. My phone number is 585-216-5066. The email address I prefer is **kb2chy@frontiernet.net** with the subject line of Pumpkin Patrol 2012 which traps the email for my immediate attention Remember the "package" you will get will come via EMAIL not postal service. Thanks for the support, Brad KB2CHY

## **222 Sprint Report**

Well it took me an hour to get out to Genesee Park, and 40 minutes to set up, so around 8 PM I was on Buckman Road with gusty winds and some rain. I worked maybe 8-10 stations there with a few moderate DX grids. At 9 PM I decided to forget FN12, and go for FN03 which would be closer to home. It took 40 minutes to get there, and by 10 PM, guys were

turning out the lights. I worked about 5 stations, KA2LIM just before he pulled the plug, WB2BYP was saturating my FT450 with cw — very difficult to find his calling freq.

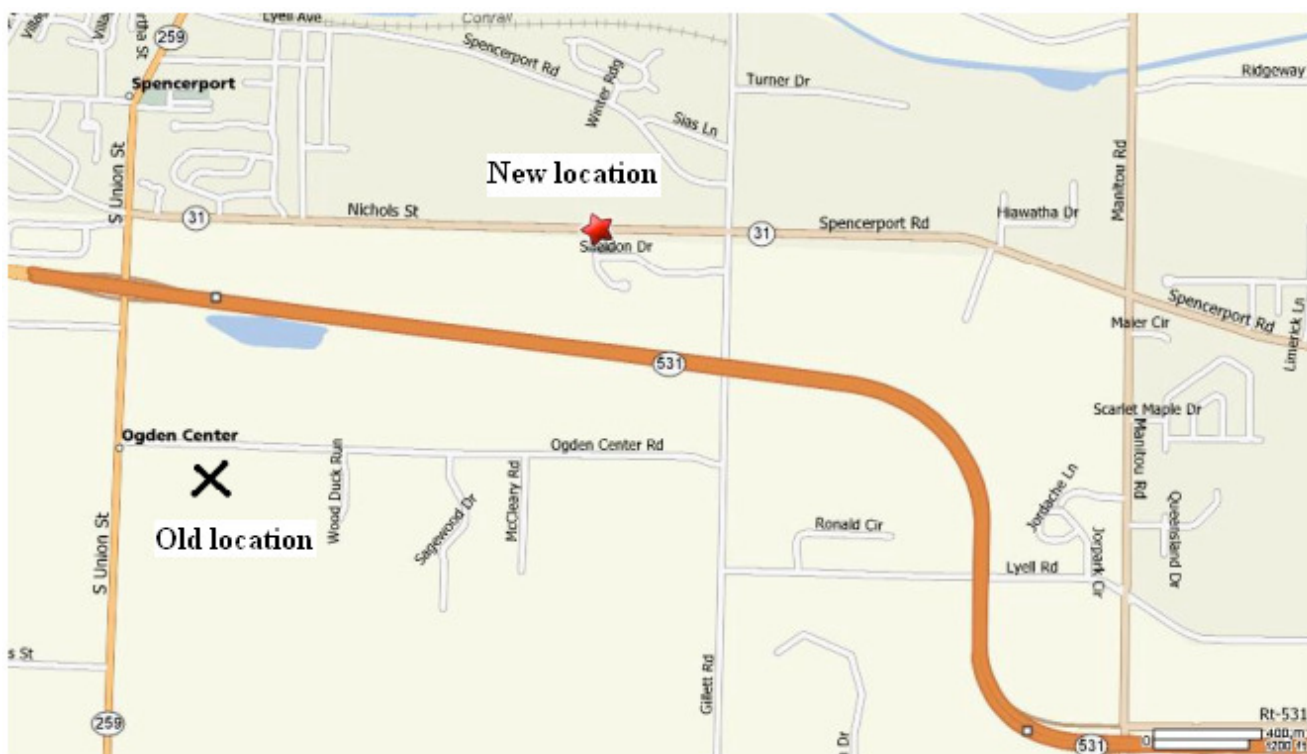
It was some fun, with some minor problems. Tore down in 15 minutes, and went QRT at 10:40 PM. I made it home by midnight, wondering if I've got the energy to take it on next week for 432.

73 David, AB2YI

## Classified Listings

None this month

## 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.**