

# The VHF JOURNAL



November 1998 – Volume 50 Number 1

Dedicated to the Radio Experimenters, Contesters and Operators above 50 MHZ, along America's North Coast

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Membership in THE ROCHESTER VHF GROUP is by application. Dues are \$10 (Ten Dollars U.S. - \$15 U.S. for Canadian Members) per year. Make Checks payable to "The Rochester VHF Group". Membership expires on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Club meets on the second Friday of each Month, September through June, at the Monroe County Social Services building at 111 Westfall Road. Commercial advertising prices are \$20 (twenty dollars U.S.) per year per space and must be arranged through The Advertising Manager. Non-commercial "For Sale" or "Wanted" ads are free.

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Since information is considered perishable (time sensitive), please be sure to send VHF JOURNAL correspondence to the above mentioned P.O. Box. or contact The VHF Journal's Editor, Curtis Braun via the internet: [curtis.braun@digital.com](mailto:curtis.braun@digital.com) or [braun@netacc.net](mailto:braun@netacc.net).  
<http://VHFGroupers.greecenyc.com>

## This Months Meeting...

Place:	MDS, 175 Science Parkway.
Time:	7:30 PM Friday Nov. 13, 1998 Please be on time!!!
Program:	Tune-Up Meeting
Presenter:	RVHFG
Dead Line for Journal:	Nov. 27, 1998

## 1998/99 Officers Elected

By Nominating Committee

Congratulations to the new management Team:

Chairman	Steve, N2ULL
Vice Chair	Dave, K2DH
Secretary	Wally, WY2Z
Treasurer	Len, WA2ZNC
Director, even	Jeff, KB2VGH

Director, odd	Russ, N2KG
Past Chairman	Ev, W2EV

We the members of the Club really appreciate your voluntary efforts, especially this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

## From the Chairman...

HI EVERYBODY !

I hope you all had a great summer, as I did! I am honored to be the VHF Group chairman and I'm sure with all of your continued help and support we

will have a fantastic year! Unfortunately we got off to a slow start with the first meeting, a lack of submissions and the Labor Day storm prevented us from getting out our September Journal, but there will be no excuses in the future.

I would like to remind you that anyone can submit an article to the journal editor and I encourage you to do so, how about an experience you had this summer? How about that first EME Contact? Or a series on building a Kilowatt amp? There is a lot going on here with the RVHFG, send us an article or two. We would love to hear from you.

In upcoming meetings we still have Mark ( N2IQU) who will give us a talk on EME, and we also have the annual Tune-Up clinic coming soon ( Nov.- Dec. ) and this year it is scheduled to start at Microwave Data Systems ( MDS ), more details to follow in upcoming meetings and newsletters, including directions from 111 Westfall Rd. to MDS, it is easy to find. We also have Russ ( NJ2L ) who would like to address the group and Russ always has something interesting for us. Would anyone else like to put on a presentation for us?

And last but not least, don't forget our January pep rally for the VHF Sweepstakes and club competition. This year we have a conflict with the normal January meeting night and there will be more details to follow on this soon.

Again, I anticipate a great year and look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

73 de Steve ( N2ULL )  
Chairman

## **CQ all new call signs**

By N2hkd, Editor

If you have changed your call sign or know if anyone else, who has done so, I am creating a database for the call sign updates. This may be helpful to many of you who have not updated your contest software with the new call signs. How many of you still have n2odk listed instead of err, give me a minute, oh yes n2odk, no N2KG, that's it. I will publish the database JIT (just in time) for the January Sweepstakes. Please submit these to this email account:

**braun@netacc.net**

## **For Sale ...**

### **November 98**

2 Meter EME Antenna Array: 4xCushcraft 17b2 w/4-way power divider and U-bolt junctions(for 4"pipe -- pipe not included. All for \$500

432MHz Kilowatt Amplifier: Never on the air. 3cx800. Specs say 30 watts drive give 800 watts output. RF Deck and Power Supply. Needs HV cable to attach power supply to RF Deck. \$1000 obo

Ev Tupis 716.638-8269  
West of Rochester

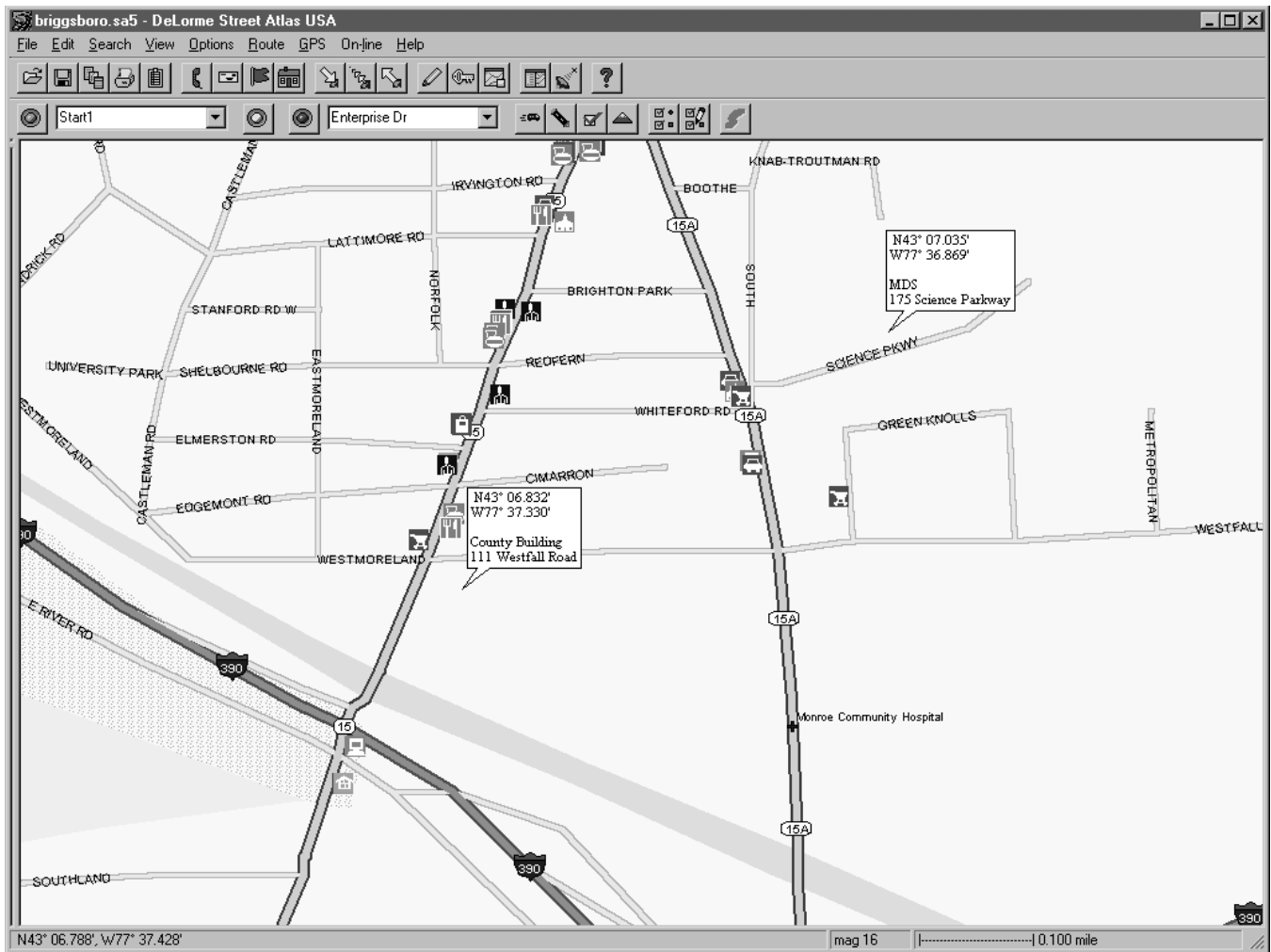
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AEA, PK-88, INTERNAL MODEM,W/ MANUALS, 50.00  
5 EL. 2 M. BEAM,NEW, HB. 50.00  
ICOM IC-740,ALL BAND,ALL MODE, 160/10, 400.00  
30' TRIAX,(3 SECT.), TOWER,ROTOR,BEAM 100.00  
YAESU,FC-301 TUNER, 500w. 160/10 200.00  
PRESICION O'SCOPE (OLD) S-55 20.00  
HP O'SCOPE (OLD) HP-130 25.00

WA2ZNC, LEN, 229-5470

## **November Tune-Up Meeting**

By N2hkd, Editor

Please note that this month's meeting is not at 111 Westfall Road !!!!, It will be at MDS, 175 Science Parkway, courtesy of Dave Hallidy and company. Please see the map below for directions. It is very important that you arrive on time and wait for someone to let you in, after all we do not want to set off the alarm, thanks.



## **From the Treasurer...**

By Len WA2ZNC

May 1998:

Treasurer Report 09/14/98

Receipts:

interest on account \$ 1.96

Expenses:

None \$ 0.00

Balance on hand:

Checking account \$ 790.21

Saving account \$ 1,277.38

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\$ 2,067.59

Treasurer 89/90  
WA2ZNC, Len

## **Contest Corner**

By N2YB, Mark Wasserbauer

What a beautiful summer! I don't think we were rained out of a single weekend. Well if you haven't done anything to improve your station performance by now and were planning to, I can't say I blame you too much with so many other great things to do, but there is still time. I am talking about outdoor station improvements in October, even November or December. The days are cool and dry, but short. This is the time of year to get the outdoor work finished when possible and leave the indoor stuff for less favorable weather. Make a list and a plan.

If you read the results in June QST you are aware of the fact that we only needed one or two more logs with a few hundred points each to win. I wonder how many stations totaled 500 points and failed to turn in a log. I am not going to sugar coat the

situation, we are up against some very stiff competition for either the small or large club categories. If we are even thinking about winning anything, every operating member of this group MUST:

**Assemble the best station they can with the equipment they have or will have by January.**

Beg, borrow, or build, need I say more. What ever you have to put on the VHF and UHF+ bands, get them on the air. It doesn't have to be perfect, just put a signal on the band. It seems every year I am surprised to hear about what was not on the air due to some trivial matter, wrong antenna polarization, or no antenna for that band. Over the years I have made and heard of some surprising contacts with far less than optimized stations. One or two Qs on a new band means at least one new grid, maybe more. Just do a bit of math and you will see what I mean. A high Q count is great but it is your grid count that can boost your score into contention for a plaque.

**Sharpen operating skills.**

Anyone's performance in a completion is more fun and more fulfilling when one is prepared. Sports are a perfect example, you know practice makes perfect, all that stuff. No one can expect to be perfect but my point is that you will feel more a part of the contest if you are ready and turned, mentally and physically. Use CW! You do not have to be especially proficient, just be able to complete the Q, practice sending your call and your grid, practice copying various calls and grids. One dilemma I always seemed to face is getting the other station to understand I have other bands in CW! Practice "ANY OTHR BDS" and "222", "70CM", "33CM", "23CM" ect. They will get the idea. No one is going to refuse to work a station that may be sending slow code or is having trouble, a Q is a Q, just make it happen. During a contest, after all the local stations are worked, the best way to 'be heard' or 'to hear' the weak ones is using CW. But don't take my word for it, talk to any serious VHF contester and decide for yourself.

**Plan to operate for as much of the contest as possible, or at least the most active times.**

Make arrangements now and clear the weekend with family, friends, and bosses, so as to head off any stress that may ensue from a surprise-operating weekend. Handle the little things well in advance to insure that when contest weekend comes, you are free, physically and 'mentally' to concentrate on

your best performance. If you have limited time to operate, try to be on for the most active times, particularly first four hours, Saturday evening, and Sunday evening. Get creative, one idea I hear was operating mobile FM (or SSB) on the way to grandma's house while recording the operation using a small tape recorder and logging later. There are three winners in this situation: you, by operating the contest when you otherwise may not be, others, Qs are given out helping everyone you work perhaps in multiple grids, and the RVHFG, you have the opportunity to turn in additional logs of your effort to add to the group log count and score.

**During the contest remember we are a team and each one of us should remember and act like one.**

We all know how, as individuals how we would like the contest to go everyone wants to work everyone we hear the moment that station is heard. But everyone also knows that this is not how contesting goes, for the most part. Use your station to the fullest, but understand that there may be others out there that have put far more effort into the contest and have an extremely strong presence on the bands. A quieter station can use a loud station to their advantage without being bothersome. A loud station is generally shaking the bushes pretty good and getting the DX to move their antennas, after the Qs are completed the DX usually moves up or down the band looking for the next Q. **Please read this carefully!!** Do not try to "tail-end" the DX on the local strong station's operating frequency without being granted permission. This activity is very much frowned upon and is usually not tolerated. I would recommend a margin of "AT LEAST 10KHz above or below" the strong local station for a number of reasons. 1) You will be able to hear the DX. 2) The DX will have a better chance of hear you. 3) You will not cause interference to the local station that is now looking again. Let me remind everyone that slowing down a large effort can be very costly to the group. Last year one single multi-operator log resulted in one third (1/3) of the entire club score!

**Don't give up!!!**

First of all remember that every station does not work everyone that they hear, every station. And if you are running 25 watts to a 5-element yagi at 20ft above average terrain, chances are very good that you are going to hear quite a few stations that are very loud that seem to have trouble hearing you. There are a number of reasons for this: the other

stations is running 20dB more power, the other station has a high receiver noise level, the other station is being QRMed, etc. In this situation I recommend that you first, optimize your antenna position, next get the stations attention using the same mode that they are using but be ready to try CW if they continue to ignore you, once you get there attention and if the DX station has not already suggested CW, change to CW (now the DX is looking for you), keep in mind any shift your transceiver may introduce. Chances are very good you will bag the Q much easier and faster than trying to complete on SSB. In my opinion, this kind of activity is the essence of VHF contesting. Some QSOs will be much easier than others. The difference between an average performance and one that brings home a plaque are one that includes this kind of operation and determination. Dig in and grind them out. You may be surprised at your score at the end.

#### TURN IN A LOG!!!!

I have said this before but it is worth repeating as many times as necessary. "Any contest effort is worth recording and turning in for contest credit!". "Any contest effort is worth recording and turning in for contest credit!". "Any contest effort is worth recording and turning in for contest credit!". "ANY CONTEST EFFORT!!!" I refer you to QST June 1998 Contest Results. Don't make me beg.

#### A word on the rules.

I failed to make mention of a particular ruling last year but will not make the same mistake this year. Section 2 of General Rules for ARRL Contests on bands above 50MHz:

Entry Categories:

1. Single Operator:

One person performs all transmitting, receiving, spotting, and logging functions as well as equipment and antenna adjustments.

**1. Use of spotting assistance or nets (operating arrangements involving other individuals, DX-alerting nets, Packet Cluster, etc.) is not permitted.**

What this boils down to is, if you use information, in any way, from any source, delivered on any network for locating, spotting, finding, and/or working stations for contest credit, you are 'assisted' and therefore considered MULIOP. This includes schedules with other stations made prior to the start

of the contest. I didn't write them, but there they are.

#### To Conclude

This contest will be won by the club that puts the most into it. For all practical purposes one could argue that the contest has already begun in the form of preparations. Stations being optimized, problems weeded out, multi-op efforts coordinated, operating strategies forming, on and on. The Rochester VHF Group has one very significant advantage over many of the other groups, sheer NUMBERS. We only need roughly two thirds of our membership to average 25K points each to be in serious contention for a large club gavel. Remember that this is our 50<sup>th</sup> year. What better time to put on the best performance we can as a group and bring home a half century gavel.

## UHF Contest Fun

By Curtis Braun, N2HKD

Fun is what ham radio is supposed to be about. Doing public service is the price we pay. Contesting is a way we can hone our skills to be able to provide this service with professionalism. This is my view. Let's talk about some fun.

George (KB3PW) and I decided to dust off the rover to provide a team to support a local effort for the ARRL UHF contest. We also decided to put a second station together to up the Q count. This presented a small problem. One, our usual driver was not available which meant we needed some extra support. Two, this is a twenty-four hour contest, which spells "no Sleep", or in other words "hit and run". Third, we wanted to expose a newcomer to the hobby. We decided to ask Dan (KC2DQR), my kids scout master, to join us. If the call didn't give it away, he has been a ham only since May 1998. It was decided that I drive, take care of logistics, and provide support to Dan, while George takes care of the prime station, teaches Dan about contesting and CW, and relieves me at the wheel.

Once George and I were done with the retrofits, we had 222 through 10G for the prime station and 222 through 3G for the secondary station. (We borrowed a 2 and 3G setup, because I only had up to 2 G running). We started in FN14, on the lake.

Our highlight came in Canada, where we found a yet to be built highway overlooking the horizon. We used an access ramp for bridge that was under construction. This location in FN25 worked through 10G, Wow!!!

We had some small issues, such as vegetation to contend with. There were some occasions where we moved the rover 10 feet and gained the next higher band such as 5 G.

Here we were in the middle of the night, Curtis flicking the switches for Dan and Dan learning to use the CW keyer with dit by dah instructions from George. Was this a team effort or what? The final tally, 69 mults out of a possible 72, and a full sweep from 222 through 3 G on both stations, Whew!

This by far is what George and I enjoy. Creating a reliable station, working out the logistics and then delivering the Qs, without a lot of smoke ☺. Happy Roving de KB3PW/R.

## **Future Articles**

By N2hkd, Editor

Dave Hallidy has release his Presentation entitled:

Linearizing Solid-State Power Amplifiers  
Or  
Reducing Splatter on the VHF Bands.

Since this article is rather large, I will be publishing it in parts. As soon as I scan it in, I will try to get it on the vhf web page. Starting next Month I will add it to the Journal as a separate page for your convenience.

Was this a summer of no activity? Successful or not so successful contacts may be of interest to our readers. Ideas for new projects may be of interest also. Please submit articles via email the editor or call, send a copy to the Club PO box. Send us some notes on how the Journal is looking, what is that you the reader want to see, keep those letters and email coming...

VHF Communications magazine is still in business.

Check their web page at:

<http://www.clearlight.com/~vhfcomm/>

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Enjoy next weekend the first LABRE VHF-UHF-SHF DX Contest - Nov 7,8 ( 6, 2, 1.5 meters, 70 centimeters and SHF QRG's upper 902 MHz, all mode ) promoted by the "Brazilian Amateur Radio League".

The english contest rules and Informations:

<http://www.geocities.com/Pipeline/Halfpipe/6040/index.html>

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VHF mail Reflector can be found:

Submissions:

[vhf@w6yx.stanford.edu](mailto:vhf@w6yx.stanford.edu)

Subscription/removal requests:

[vhf-request@w6yx.stanford.edu](mailto:vhf-request@w6yx.stanford.edu)

Human list administrator:

[vhf-approval@w6yx.stanford.edu](mailto:vhf-approval@w6yx.stanford.edu)

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The Tokyo HyPower reflector is alive and well, and 16 hams have subscribed in the first 48 hours.

Anyone is welcome to subscribe. The list covers both equipment marketed under Tokyo HyPower's name and OEM equipment manufactured by THP (such as the monobanders sold first by Amp Supply and then by Kantronics). Who knows, maybe those who want to buy an HT-750 (which is still in production), or any of THP's other current models, can arrange a group purchase.

We can discuss everything from technical issues to buying and selling to operating anecdotes, and you don't have to actually own any THP equipment at the moment to be a member. You just have to have an interest.

If you'd like to subscribe, please go to the following URL:

<http://www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/thp>

It should be a unique discussion.