

# The VHF Journal

Official Newsletter of  
The Rochester VHF Group

Club call: W2UTH

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November 1999

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*This month's saying: "Shut up and jump."*

**Meeting: Friday 12 NOV 1999, 7:30**

**Adaptive Broadband**

**175 Science Parkway, Rochester, NY**

**Tune-Up Clinic: Dave, K2DH**



- **To subscribe:** Send your address, call and \$10 US funds (or \$15 CDN funds, 11 Euro, 150 k Cz, 60ff, etc.) to: The Rochester VHF Group, PO Box 92122, Rochester, NY 14692.
- Commentary and articles via e-mail to editor VE3IEY: [tantonr@kingston.net](mailto:tantonr@kingston.net) (Please note the change in ISP address since the first issue of the year). Use standard ASCII text, Word Perfect 6.1, or send as a regular e-mail message.
- **Post editing, printing, distribution and data-magic are courtesy of Judy, N2KXS :^)**

**Schedule for the rest of 1999, etc:**

**Nov 11- All Band Sprint! 7pm-Midnight local time!**

**Dec 10- Internet Resources for the VHF Operator**

**Jan 14- January Contest Rev-up**

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*"Beer is living proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy"*

Benjamin Franklin

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## Contest Corner

Mark, N2YB

I am not sure what I was thinking, looking at the heavy band of thunderstorms approaching on the local radar, and then going up to the N2PA site anyway. I got set up about 15 minutes before the 432 Fall Sprint starting time of 7:00PM only to have S9+ noise crashes and a rather high SWR. I called for about the first 20 min of the contest and began to wonder if I would hear even anyone through all the noise. By this time the rain had subsided but I could see what appeared to be the worst of it approaching from the SW. In 5 minutes I was packed and rolling out the driveway.

While reading this article I want you to think about what needs to be done to your station to have it operational for Thursday evening, the 11th. The All Band Sprint will be a nice time to put some contest pressure on your station and your skills with plenty of time to fix and fuss before the real thing. Even if you don't have all your projects finished, this effort should remind you of the improvements you wanted to make and forgot to write down last year. The first few weeks following any given contest is the time when everyone is fired up about making improvements in the station and operating skills. I think the All Band Sprint will give everyone a nice jump on the January Contest.

With the great weather we have been having on the weekends, the 'Outdoor' column of your To Do List should be nearing completion. Completion means that all the changes or improvements have been 'Tested'. One 'test' is worth a thousand operational theories. Now is the time to start shifting your focus to the indoor work. Think about how you would like your operating position to look and feel. Can the station be completely controlled within an arms reach? Is there anything that will make it difficult to be there for extended periods of time? What could be added to make your contest experience more enjoyable? Now is the time to think through these issues, make changes, and try them out. There is still plenty of time to make rather big changes and still have time to fuss over details.

Imagine that it is minutes before the start of the contest. You are sitting there with headphones on, station all warmed up, logging program waiting for the first entry, a few stations on the air anticipating the starting flurry. With only the radio audio in you ears, you are already in the 'Zone'. That place where your mind has been connected to the airways by your radio equipment. Your mental awareness of the room, or any of the current surroundings disappears as your mental focus is consumed by the transceiver front panel and the rotor position indicator. Your mental image has been extended to the reach of the current band conditions in the direction of your antennas. All the setting and adjustments you make with antenna position, mode, or filters effects that connection, enhances the connection.

Do you enter a 'Zone' when you put the headphones on? Do you put them on in anticipation of this effect on your mind? Both these questions may sound silly but have you ever thought about it before? I think that this is the reason why radio is so popular, and why a computer interface to communications will never take the place of radio. I was captivated by this effect during my first QSO. I was not aware of it at the time but I am sure it was there. This is the reason why I, and I'll bet I'm not alone, look forward to putting on some nice quiet headphones and entering the zone.

A contest is a time when this mental effect can be the most fun. The high activity level makes operating the VHF and UHF bands a lot like fishing in an overstocked pond, too many fish and not enough food. Just turn the dial or the antenna to find new stations to log. Time slips by very quickly as you get caught up in the starting flurry of working a station through some bands, then the next station is calling you, at times, you have to remind

yourself to breath. This kind of excitement is part of the essence of radio contesting. Without this excitement, I doubt many of us would be doing it. In my case, the level of this excitement is a direct relation to the amount of preparation that I have put into the effort. Is the station easy to operate? Are all the problems with equipment repaired? Have I sharpened my operating skills? The contest is going to come and go whether I participate or not. The excitement of being in that radio propagation 'zone' is going to come and go whether I partake or not.

The Rochester VHF Group award structure is there to recognize stations and individuals who work hard and smart, before and during the contest. Recognize I said. Don't forget that the most important thing about this contest is having fun. However, asking and answering the same questions can improve your level of fun. How well is the station constructed? How easy is it to operate? How well can I communicate on CW? What are my short and long term contest goals and what will be my reward for attaining them? What is my game plan for facing adversity during the contest? Ask yourself these questions. Ask yourself the questions that comprise these questions. What are the 'weak links' in my station? How can they be improved or worked around? What adverse things could happen? How will I deal with them? Come up with answers for these questions and you will be preparing for the next level of contesting. The level where you are not simply a passive station on the air, but one who is actively anticipating the next bit of enhancement or activity and making a difference to other stations' opinions as to how active the bands were. In loose terms, the operators who prepare and anticipate having the most fun, are perhaps the ones most likely to be in the winners' circle.

The All Band Sprint is going to come and go whether we choose to operate or not. The opportunity for a full rehearsal will come and go with it. I plan to take full advantage of this opportunity and I hope many of you do too.

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"October was World Vegetarian Month. Did you eat a vegetarian?"  
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Giles Harper, 1999



**RVHFG mailing list info (courtesy of KB2VGH):**

**Submissions:**

rvhfg-bod@vhf group.  
rochesterny.org

**Removal requests:** rvhfg-bod-request@vhf group.  
rochesterny.org

**List administrator:**

owner-rvhfg-bod@vhfgroup.rochesterny.org

**Officers:**

- Chairman: NS9E
- Vice Chairman: KA2RDO
- Secretary: K2OS
- Treasurer: N2OPW



Director (Even year): KB2VGH  
Director (Odd year): K2DH  
Past Chairman: N2ULL

**Appointees:**

Contest Chairman: N2YB  
Assistant: KA2RDO  
Assistant: N2JMH  
Awards manager: <open, new!>  
Banquet Chairman: <open>  
Picnic Chairman: <open, has been for several years>  
Newsletter Editor: VE3IEY  
Newsletter Publishing: N2KXS  
Membership Manager: N2KXS  
Internet Webmaster: N2KXS

**Call Name Phone & E-mail**

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VE3IEY Tom Richmond (613)-634-1855  
tantonr@aracnet.net



*"Another one of them new worlds. No beer, no women, no pool parlors, no nothin'."*



Earl Hollman in the 1956 film "Forbidden Planet"

**From the Treasurer:**

By Paul N2OPW

**CHECKING ACCOUNT**

Previous Balance..... \$643.93

**Income:**

Dues collected. 90.00  
50/50 profits.. 8.50

**Expenses:**

PO Box Rent ..... -44.00

Current Balance.. ..\$698.43

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

Previous Balance.....\$1243.93

Income:..... 0.00

Expenses:..... 0.00

Current Balance.....\$1243.93

**Balance on Hand:**

Checking..... 698.43  
Savings..... 1,243.93

Total..... \$ 1,942.36

**IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!**  
Please plan on attending the upcoming Meeting and  
**bring some extra money to pay this year's dues!**



**January Contest Awards Program**

...de Jim, N2JMH



Thanks for appointing me awards manager of the 1999-2000 season and I will do my best to meet the high standards that have been set in the past.

This year we have added another entry class in hopes of increasing the competition. It is LIMITED Single Op:

Operate the lower 4 bands with a maximum of 160 watts. The intent of this class is not to keep anyone from getting on 903 and above and we hope it does not go that way. It does not help out the club competition!!! I can think of a number of stations that could make this class really interesting.

With the addition of another class comes the need for more award sponsors. If you have never sponsored an award here is a chance for you to step up. You could even grab a friend and co-sponsor if you like. As in previous years, if you sponsored an award last year you will be given first chance to sponsor that award again and you will be hearing from me within a few weeks or you may contact me before then if you like.

The current structure of awards is:

2 Unlimited Multi  
2 Limited Multi  
5 Rover  
5 Unlimited Single  
5 Medium Single  
3 Limited Single  
1 QRP  
50, 144, 222, 432, 903&1296, 2304&up Single Band  
Most Improved  
FM only

As in past years the award structure will be adjusted to sponsorship and participation, accordingly.

Let me say this again, in case you missed it before, we need more sponsors. The plaques are beautiful and I think everyone enjoys them. The new millennium would be a nice time to have your name or call on the plaque as the donor. Don't make me come over there!  
Feel free to contact me anytime.

Jim Howard N2JMH  
9437 Ridge Road  
Brockport, NY 14420  
e-mail "mailto:n2jmh@juno.com" (NEW)  
home: 637-4554  
work: 370-1038

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"For any country to be a country, you have to have an air force, a football team, and a beer. You can get by without the air force and the football team, but you have to have a beer."  
Frank Zappa



## MONKEY BUSINESS:

submitted by WA2YTM

Start with a cage containing five apes.

- In the cage, hang a banana on a string and put stairs under it.
- Before long, an ape will go to the stairs and start to climb towards the banana. As soon as he touches the stairs, spray all of the apes with cold water. After a while, another ape makes an attempt with the same result - all the apes are sprayed with coldwater. This continues through several more attempts. Pretty soon, when another ape tries to climb the stairs, the other apes all try to prevent it.
- Now, turn off the cold water.
- Remove one ape from the cage and replace it with a new one. The new ape sees the banana and wants to climb the stairs. To his horror, all of the other apes attack him. After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs, he will be assaulted.
- Next, remove another of the original five apes and replace it with a new one. The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment with enthusiasm. Again, replace a third original ape with a new one.
- The new one makes it to the stairs and is attacked as well. Two of the four apes that beat him have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs, or why they are participating in the beating of the newest ape.
- After replacing the fourth and fifth original apes, all the apes which have been sprayed with cold water, have been replaced. Nevertheless, no ape ever again approaches the stairs.

Why not? Because that's the way they've always done it and that's the way it's always been around here.

And that's how company policy begins....

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"Some of my best friends are beers."  
Old Chicago Brewing Company



# 1999 FALL ALL-BAND SPRINTS ANNOUNCEMENT

**OBJECT:** 1). To work as many stations as possible on VHF in a 5 hour period. 2). To have fun!

**DATE:** Thursday, November 11, 1999

**TIME:** 7 PM to Midnight local time. Stations within 50 miles of a time zone boundary may adjust their operating time to that of the adjacent time zone if they wish. You may operate all 5 hours of the event.

**BANDS:** All above 50 MHZ, including laser.

**CLASSES:** Single-op, all band only. While there is no rover class per se, a station may change grids, and submit a separate log for each grid operated from.

**SCORING:** 1 point for contacts on 6 and 2 meters. 2 points for contacts on 222 and 432 MHZ. 4 points for contacts on 902 and 1296 MHZ. 8 points for all bands 2304 MHZ and above. Multipliers are 4 digit maidenhead grid squares. (January VHF sweepstakes scoring.)

**OTHER RULES:** All other rules are the usual rules for ARRL VHF contests.

**AWARDS:** Certificates will be issued to the top 5 finishers at the National level. We are open to alternative award ideas for next year!

**REPORTING:** Logs are due three weeks after the contest date. **Electronic:** Submit log and a suitable summary sheet to: [VHFGroupers@greeceny.com](mailto:VHFGroupers@greeceny.com) (Log should be in ARRL standard file format.) **Mail:** Log and suitable summary sheet to: Rochester VHF Group, P.O. Box 92122, Rochester, NY 14692