

The Rochester VHF Group

The VHF



Journal

Volume 57, Issue 9

May 2006

News!

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday, May 12, 2006. 7:30pm

NOTE: This meeting will be held in Ogden, NY just off Rt. 531 at the Ogden Town Hall! MAPS are in the back of the journal.

Topic:
Show and Tell!
and
Elections!

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The Chairman Speaks!

Dave Hallidy K2DH

Well, this will be my last column as Chairman of the RVHFG- my term comes to an end this month. I'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to my team of officers and board members, who've supported me throughout my tenure as your Chairman- we've worked hard as a team to make the club better, and I think in general we've succeeded. Even more than that, I'd also like to say a huge THANK YOU to you- the members of the RVHFG- you make the club, and you've made the club easy to run for the past two years!

We had a great April meeting- our speaker, Walter NQ2O did a great job of informing us all on the status of the Amateur Satellite program and showing us what was on the horizon for us all (and hopefully soon!). Thank you, Walter!

We also had our annual banquet, and if you missed it, you missed another great one! We had over 60 people in attendance, and a great selection of door prizes for everyone. The food was great, the dessert (a birthday cake "surprise" for K2CS) was great, the fellowship was outstanding, and it was good to see so many faces and spend time chatting and in some cases renewing old friendships. If you missed this year's event, plan on next year for sure- it will be even better, I'm sure! By the way- if you were a winner of one the CQ Calendars that were given as door prizes, see me- they have come in (they didn't make it by banquet time) and I'll get yours to you.

Congratulations to this year's winners of the W2UTH Memorial Award- Judy N2KXS, and Fred WO2P. This was a first- the first time we've awarded two people in the same year, but both Judy and Fred were deserving of the award, so the committee thought it appropriate and we did it. Congratulations again, you two and let's keep the tradition of excellence going- you're both on the nominating committee for next year's award!

The current status of the club project is as follows: The kits have been received by me- they arrived on Friday, April 28. I've begun to distribute them to their owners. If you've signed up for this project, you need to get hold of me so we can make plans to get you your kit. I can bring yours with me to the meeting May 12, or you can make arrangements to pick it up from me,

**The Chairman Speaks! (continued)
Dave Hallidy K2DH**

but we don't want this thing to go on and on- we can only schedule a work party after they've gotten into everyone's hands and we know who needs help and who doesn't. Email me or call me with your intentions.

It's May, so it's time for elections of club officers again. As I mentioned at the beginning of this column, my term is up at the end of May. So far, we have a commitment from Andy Flowers K0SM/2, to be a candidate for the office of Chairman for the 2006-2007 year, Judy Stonehill N2KXS has agreed to stay in her position as Secretary, and Jeff Luce K2EHF has agreed to remain on as club Treasurer. Fred Miller WO2P, our Vice-Chairman, will NOT remain in his position next year due to family commitments, and Paul Meyers N2OPW will NOT stay on next year as Director. The following positions are open: Even Year Director (replacing N2OPW)- this is a two-year position on the Board of Directors, helping to make the decisions that run the club. Fred WO2P has indicated he would consider that position. Odd Year Director- technically this position on the Board isn't open till 2007, but Andy K0SM/2 currently fills that spot and as Chairman, he can't do both (plus, he wants to stay on as Journal Editor- we don't want to burn him out!), so the position of Odd Year Director needs to be filled, this would be for a three-year term ending in 2009. It has the same responsibilities as the Even Year Director. At the banquet, Russ W2DYY indicated he would like to take a Director's position, so I have penciled him into this position. Vice Chairman- this is a one year term, the right-hand to the Chairman, and the responsibilities include planning of meetings, with the help and support of the rest of the Board including the Past Chairman (me). Please consider volunteering for one of the available positions, nominate yourself or get yourself nominated at the May meeting. We want to continue the club's tradition of excellence and your help is needed to make this happen. None of these offices require an excessive amount of work, and the Board has always been supportive of any officer needing assistance.

The RVHFG two meter net, which meets on Monday nights at 9pm on 144.260 continues to get good weekly support. Lately I've been NC, but this week, Scott AA2WV took the reins and did a great job with his big array and great ears- I understand everyone heard him well. Thanks, Scott! Please try to check in, folks. It's a great way to say hello, and blow the cobwebs out of the rig. The net will continue over the summer, so come by and say hi.

Last, we'll once again have our booth at the Rochester Hamfest June 2,3, and 4. We'll be running a signup sheet around at the May meeting to help with the booth. Please take an hour slot on Friday or Saturday to support the booth and sign up membership renewals. Remember, our membership year ends on May 31, so everyone needs to renew then and the Hamfest is a great time to do it. But we need folks at the booth to tell the club's "story" and get folks to sign up. Please help out.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on May 12th. We need your support on election night to continue our work into next year.

73,

--Dave Hallidy K2DH, Chairman, Rochester VHF Group

**The Vice President Speaks!
Fred Miller, WO2P**

Folks,

I want to thank Walter NQ2O for his excellent presentation on satellite communications last month. We had a group of visitors at the meeting who attended the meeting just to hear him speak. Walter offered his unique and historic perspective having been involved in them since the flight of the very first bird. He brought us up to date with the latest info on AMSAT programs, answered many questions from the

The Vice President Speaks! (Continued)

Fred Miller, WO2P

audience and demonstrated his favorite satellite tracking program. It was a very informative and a thoroughly enjoyable program.

Our May program will be a "SHOW and TELL Night". Everyone is invited to bring any project or pictures of projects that they have been working on. This is your chance to let everyone else know what you have been doing. There is no need for a formal presentation just a brief (or not so brief) explanation of what you have been up too. Please plan on attending and participating in this program. It will only be as successful if YOU participate.

The annual combined RVHFG / RDXA award banquet was held on Saturday April 22nd. It was very well attended and a good time was had by all. The food was excellent and the myriad of conversations lively. Thanks go out to Diane and Dave Hallidy for again organizing and hosting a really class event.

Attention Fox Hunters: The Xerox Amateur Radio club will be hosting a fox hunt in the Rochester area on Saturday morning May 13th (National Fox Hunt Week). If you are interested in this rapidly growing sport save the date. The huntmasters are currently putting the hunt together. I will pass on details as to the starting location and time when I get receive them.

This will be my last communique to you in my role as Vice Chairman. It has been a pleasure serving you for the past 2 years and I thank all the folks who have come forward during that time with programs. I encourage you all to continue to please support our new VC and our club by continuing to share your interests with other club members.

Secretary Report

Judy Stonehill, N2KXS

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for April 14, 2006

The meeting, which was held at Town of Ogden Highway Facility, was convened at 1948 local by the Chairman, K2DH.

Members in attendance included: N2OPW, NQ2O, N2ZDS, K2MP, WB2BYP, K2AXX, AA2WV, K0SM, N2JQR, AF2K, W2OAB, K2EHF, WO2P, K2DH, and N2KXS. Guests present included: KC2KPK, N2WY, W2JTR.

Attendees reported their March activities.

OLD BUSINESS

The Rochester VHF Group received a letter of thanks from Mercy Flight Central, Inc. for our memorial gift given in memory of Harriet Blodgett.

It was moved by Dave, K2DH, and seconded by Fred, WO2P, that the Secretary's report be accepted as printed in the Journal.

It was moved by K2DH and seconded by Paul, N2OPW, that the Treasurer's report be accepted as printed in the Journal.

Secretary Report —continued

Judy Stonehill, N2KXS

The awards for activity in the January VHF contest are ready to be presented at the April 22nd RVHFG / RDXA banquet. The total RVHFG score is not known yet. Contest sponsors who haven't paid yet for awards need to do so.

The Rochester VHF Group web site can be reached via rvhfg.org as well as rvhfg.com. Send material to Raj Dewan, N2RD, to be put on the RVHFG web site.

The current club project, the DEMI all-band power meter kit will be ordered on Monday, April 16th. Andy, K0SM, has volunteered to solder the very small IC for those who prefer not to do it themselves.

Sixty-one RVHFG and RDXA members and their guests have signed up for the banquet as of this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections will be held at next month's meeting. Andy, K0SM, has agreed to run as Chairman, Judy, N2KXS, will run for Secretary, and Jeff, K2EHF, as Treasurer. Candidates are needed for Vice-chairman, Even-year director, and Odd-year director.

Andy also said he is willing to continue as the RVHFG Journal editor. Thanks, Andy!

Walter, NQ2O, moved that the Rochester VHF Group September meeting be moved from the second Friday to the third Friday in any September in which there is a conflict in the date for the VHF Group and RARA. Dave, K2DH, suggested, instead, that the two clubs hold a joint meeting in September. It was suggested that the motion be tabled until next month and that a club officer talk to RARA before our next meeting. Walter left it to the VHF Group BoD to look into it and report back to the members next month. After more discussion, Walter withdrew the motion.

Ed, K2MP, reported that VUCC rules for 50 MHz through 1296 MHz have changed to allow movement within as much as a 124 mile radius.

The business meeting was adjourned at 2051.

PROGRAM

Walter, NQ2O, gave a presentation on amateur satellites, particularly those being designed, built, and deployed by AMSAT.

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2006 SVHFS Conference in review -Andy Flowers, K0SM

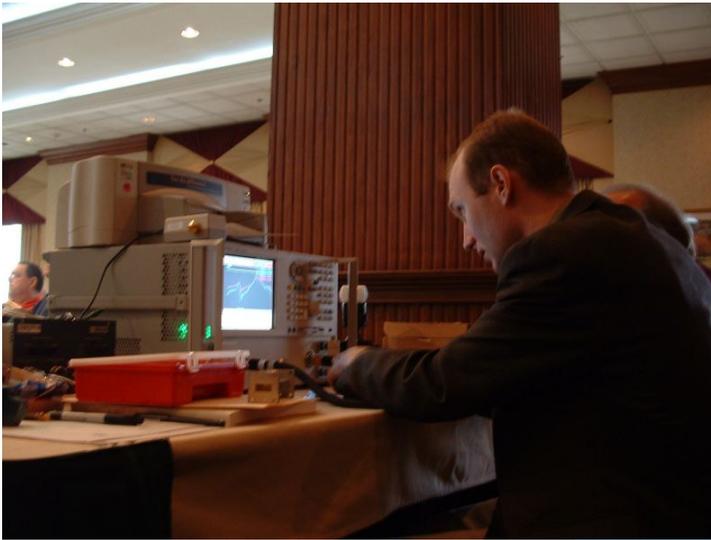
I was invited to the Southeastern VHF Conference, April 28-30 in Greenville, SC. I have to say that it was a very enjoyable conference, and I learned quite a bit. The highlights for me were getting to run the NF and network analyzers for a good part of the tune-up sessions....and man, did Agilent loan us some nice stuff! I also had the opportunity to test W7LRD's 16-turn helix and my soup-can on 2401 MHz. Both tested out quite nicely...though my antenna had the advantage of being previously tuned on a vector network analyzer!

The SVHFS held a competition to see who could build an antenna with the most gain at 432 MHz, *without exceeding the dimensions of a yardstick*. That added some entertainment to the antenna range. I believe the winner was a yagi design that had some 12+ dBd of gain.



Here is one of the more creative attempts at getting more gain out of a yardstick. It is essentially a phased array of dipoles with a reflector.

I gave my talk on rain scatter which the RVHFG had witnessed the previous month. I appreciate all of the feedback this group gave to me. There seems to be a growing bunch of 10-GHz weather nuts in 4-land, which is encouraging. I will bring my copy of the proceedings to the next RVHFG meeting. The book itself is rather large and full of all kinds of ideas for summer projects.



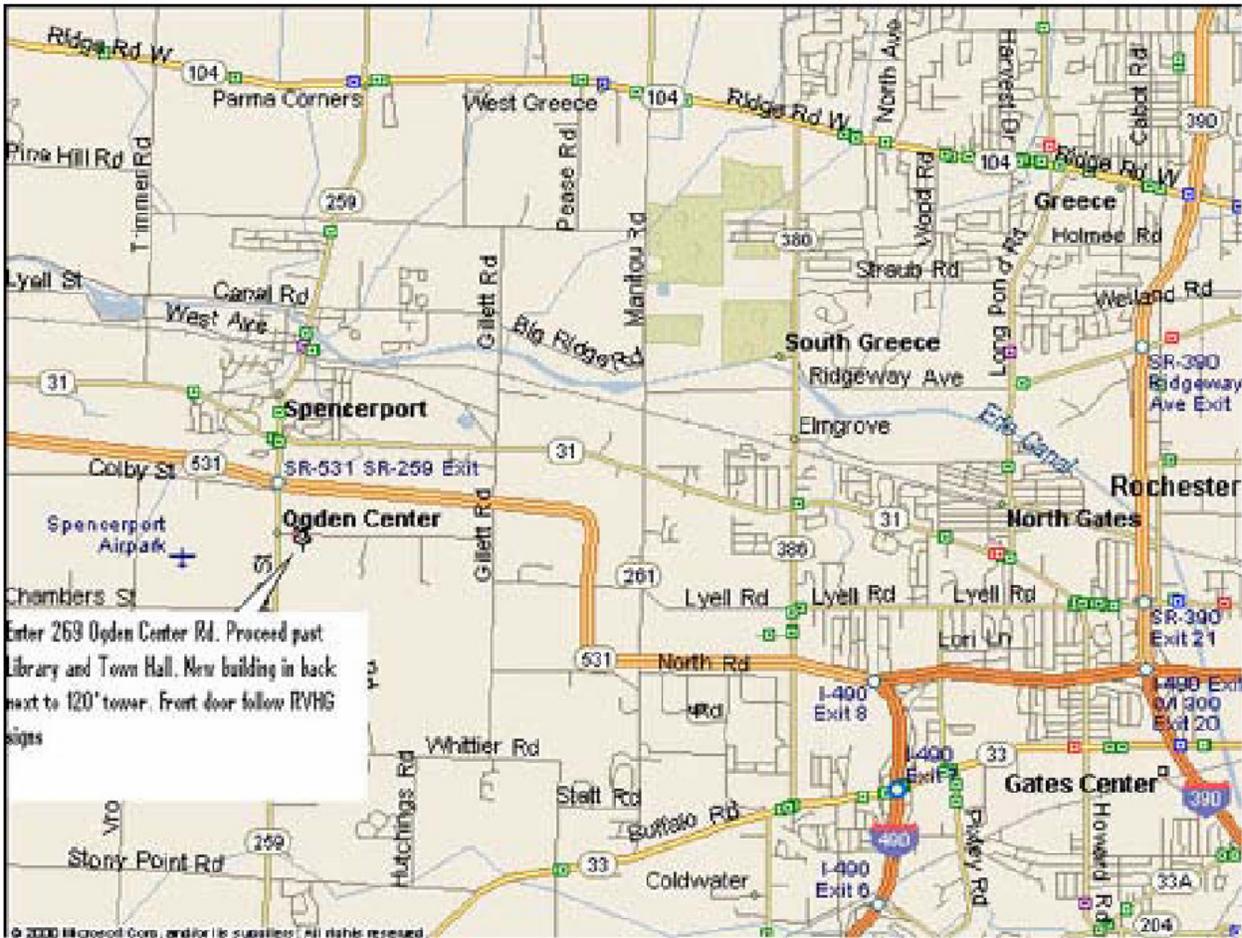
K4CSO is showing me how to run this sweet, sweet 50 GHz network analyzer. I now realize that no hamshack is complete without at least one of these.

Here is one of the 16-turn helicies for 2401 MHz sold by W7LRD on Ebay. This is good antenna, with about 20 dB return loss and over 14dBd gain (linear).



More creative homebrew antennas: In the back are several 2.4 GHz helix designs, including one made from a dollar-store slinky! In the foreground you can see a couple more yardstick designs for 432 MHz.

RVHFG Meeting Site: 269 Ogden Center Rd (Ogden Town Hall / Coordination Center)



Things of note about our Meeting Location:

- 1) It's VERY convenient from ANYWHERE in the Rochester area. From downtown, it's under 10 minutes. From the eastern towns it's under 25 minutes. From the south of Rochester (Gene-seo) it's only 45 minutes.
- 2) It's a VERY nice building. A brand-new building, moder facilities, and PLENTY of parking
- 3) It has access to internet connections and a video projector, and has seating for up to 70 people.
- 4) In other words, it's a tremendous location. A BIG thanks goes out to the Town of Ogden, and Jeff Tewksbury (N2JQR) for allowing us the privilege of using this facility.

