

## The Rochester VHF Group

# The VHF



# Journal

Volume 63, Issue 9

May 2011

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 7:30 PM

**Spencerport Wesleyan Church**  
2653 Nichols St., Spencerport

**Map and directions in back**

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### **Topics:**

Elections and brain storming for what the club will do for the January, 2012 VHF Contest

## **The Chairman Speaks! Dave Hallidy K2DH**

**Groupers:** Last month, we did a presentation on the club beacon project. We had the beacon boxes at the meeting and everyone was able to see them and see the new ID'er. We actually had them running into dummy loads and Tom KV2X went out to his truck and heard the Six and Two meter beacons on the air. We were able to actually reprogram the ID'er with the real location of the beacons once they're installed down at N2PA's site in FN12in- it's quite simple to do and to change if we need to at some point in time. Due to work schedules, we haven't been able to get them back up on the air in their new location, but I'm convinced we'll have that accomplished in the next couple of weeks, in time for the Tropo season (on 1296) and the Sporadic-E season on 50 and 144. By the way, the beacon frequencies, once they ARE back on the air, will be: 50.078, 144.298, and 1296.262.

Our annual combined RVHFG/RDXA banquet was held last weekend (May 7<sup>th</sup>) at the River's Edge Party House, and from what I heard on the RVHFG Two Meter net Monday night, it was good, if lightly attended.

As you no doubt saw if you subscribe...

**Continued....**

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*Editor: Tom Jennings, KV2X*

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# The Chairman Speaks! continued...

...to the RVHFG club email reflector, I sent out an email requesting help with next year's slate of officers and a rather stark and unsettling description of the future of the club if we don't get some help in the form of some people volunteering to fill the open officers' positions. Folks, we need your help! Plain and simple- this Friday is election night and we have the two highest positions in the club- Chairman and Vice Chairman, open and with no prospects of filling those jobs! The Board of Directors is meeting this week to see what we can do to put the club on some sort of "life support". We are open to ANY ideas you may have, but frankly, I've made the same plea before and the response has always been Nil. If there is that much apathy, if no one cares about the success of the club, then why is the Board going out of its way to try to transfuse some life back into the organization? I'd like to think that we could fill the room this Friday night with folks and their ideas for making the club better, but somehow I don't think that will happen and my plea is falling on deaf ears. Please prove me wrong! This is, by the rules of our constitution, my last term as Chairman. That can't be changed, and frankly, I think it's time for some new blood with new ideas to take over and revitalize the club! You don't need to be an expert in anything, or some great people mover/shaker, but you need to have some motivation and desire to see the club succeed and grow. That's all it takes- the Board will help with the hard parts. So PLEASE come to this Friday's meeting and show your support for the club- bring your ideas and suggestions, no matter how "off the wall" you think they might be- I promise you, the Board will consider them.

I want to say Thank You to the club for letting me serve as your Chairman for the past two years. It has been an honor and a privilege. But it's time for some new ideas of ways to get this club jump-started again.

I hope to see all of you (and bring your non-member friends; maybe they'll have some suggestions of their own we can use), and I don't want to hear that Spencerport is "too far to drive"- it's a lousy excuse when at the drop of a hat, we'll drive to the ends of the Earth (or at least to the Dayton Hamvention), and that's "not too far". See you Friday night at 7:30pm- be there!

73,

Dave Hallidy K2DH

RVHFG Chairman 2009-2011

## Secretary Report

Tom Jennings, KV2X

### Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for April 2010

The meeting was called to order at 2012 by Dave, K2DH. Dave briefly talked about the beacons. Next we went around the room introducing ourselves and talked about what we did in the past month with ham radio and with VHF. Dave reminded everybody about the upcoming VHFG/RDXA banquet. Dave mentioned the Drumlins Hamfest is next Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. We also talked about the Rochester Hamfest.

K2DH asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting as published in the Journal, K2DB motioned to accept and K2MTH seconded it. K2DB made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and WB2BYP seconded it.

**Attending:** K2OS, WA2IKC, Gloria Butterworth, WB2BYP, W2CNS, AB2YI, K2DB, KK2MTH, W3OAB, K2DH, KV2X

**Old business:** None

**New business:**

W2CNS asked if RVHFG could have a get together or meeting at the AWA. W2CNS said he would look into and find out what could be available. Even a possible summer meeting or kick off meeting for next year.

Dave said that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Odd Year Director positions are open. We need to find some one to come forward to fill the positions. A suggestion was made do emails; ask the ARRL if they have any suggestions. It was decided that the secretary put together a list of members with emails and given to board of directors who would send out a letter asking for help.

K2DH made a motion to adjourn the meeting K2DB seconded the motion.

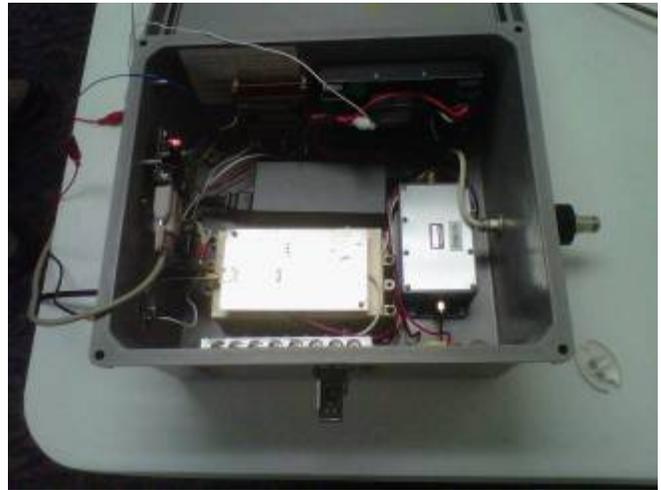
Meeting adjourned at 2100

**Program:** RVHFG Beacons.

The beacons were turned on and operational. Dave showed how easy it is to reprogram the IDer. The beacons were heard out in the parking lot on both 6 and 2 meters.



Six and two meter beacons



1296 MHz beacon



All the beacons



Dave programming one of the beacons

Beacon pictures by KV2X

**Rochester VHF Group  
Treasurer's Report –**

**CHECKING ACCOUNT**

<b><u>Previous Balance</u></b> (as of 04/08/2011):	<b>\$1,950.09</b>
Income:	\$0.00
Expenses:	\$0.00
<b><u>Current Balance</u></b>	<b>\$1,950.09</b>

*Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Jennings, KV2X, Treasurer*

## The Vice Report May 2011

First let me say it has been my sincere pleasure to have served on the board for the past two years in the capacity of the Vice Chairman. Thanks for all of the support, comments and suggestions received.

The joint RVHFG and RDXA Banquet was held on Saturday 7 May 2011 at the Riverside Party House, and a fine time was had by all those attended. If you see or talk to Paul K2FX in your travels, give him a hearty "thanks" for his efforts to pull things together and organize the venue, take reservations and generally coordinate for both clubs.

Coming up in May on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, (yep...) in addition to the regularly scheduled meeting round the room who's-doing-what-to-whom-and-with-which, we will entertain a discussion on the direction of the club meetings and activities. For some technical content, we will have on display a couple of examples of high power amplifiers for 1296 MHz. I planned to make this a full scale presentation but I have scaled it back so that we can conduct the business portion of the meeting, and elections.

On the table, we will have a couple of examples of high power amplifiers, and present some of the unique problems associated with power supplies, combining techniques, connectors, bias supplies, protection circuits and the choices of tubes vs. transistors. Solid State amps are getting more common, as several manufacturers have offerings, but they are still somewhat pricey. Dave K2DH has a fine example of the kind of work W6PQL is making these days and having some great success with his 500+ W amp. DB6NT has a product line on up to a Kw. At least one European station has taken four of their 250 W SSPAs and quadrature combined them for a big amp. On the hollow-state end of things, tubes and cavity amplifiers are actually becoming more available thanks to the decommissioning of analog TV. Tubes have lots of quirks at these frequencies, but more hardware is now showing up on the surplus market, so it is getting somewhat reasonable to build around and still find usable spares.

Now I know not everyone is going to want to build one of these, but I do hope that the hardware and discussion sparks some ideas, and is at least interesting and curiously different in construction.

Here's a couple of images of the work in progress at Area 26 on a Siemens YL-1050 amplifier:



This amp came to me in a completely different packaging arrangement; one that I felt was somewhat unsafe at any speed. Repackaging it is making it drop into the shack power supply "system" for consistency and swap-out should anything go wrong. (That never has happened though...)

Here is some recent news on the activity front. On 144.205 every morning at 0800 local, Stan KA1ZE/3 and Ken W2UAD run an informal net, and collect check-ins from a pretty respectable distance. Stan has an unusual station that is fully remote controlled over the internet. This is not all that new a concept, as Paul K2DB has shown with his well-oiled remote HF installation, but more rare on VHF. Stan is able to operate from his northern home as well as his winter home in Florida entirely through his laptop computer. The amazing thing is the number of check-ins and the surprising resurgence in activity on the band on a daily basis. Stan collects statistics on the miles between stations, and makes something of a challenge to operators to see if they can break a cumulative score that sometimes exceeds 1000, 2000 and even 3000 miles total. Here's a little background and some of the results that he publishes and distributes on a daily basis:

#### 144.205 Morning Group 5-8-2011

Welcome WA9NGO, W3OT, W2KV, VE3EU, VE2SSB, VA3TVW, and AC3L/m

Congratulations to W8BYA EN70 for joining the 5000 mile club

Congratulations to W2KV FN20 and VE3ZV EN92 for traveling more than 2000 miles

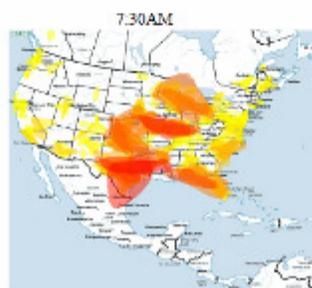
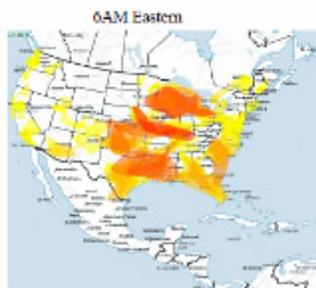
Congratulations to VE3EU EN93 and VE2DSB FN35 making the trip of 1000 miles

Most distant tropo contacts were made by W8BYA and VE2DSB. 679 miles involving cw meteor scatter with residual tropo. W8BYA also made 500+ mile contacts with W2KV and N0IRS.

N2SPI/p Back packed up Mt. Wachusett FN42ba. Our total s will be a bit off because I am waiting for a report from Richard.

32 stations on this morning making 152 QSO's totaling 32,386 miles

73, Stan



	KA1ZE/3	WA8RJF EN91iq	WZ1V FN31rh	WB8AUK EN80or	WA9NGO EN61po	WA4GPM FN11og	W8MIL EN74ic	W8BYA EN70ku	W3OT FN21dl	W3MEL FN10xl	W2UAD FN13gc	W2KV FN20ok	W1OUN FN42hk	VE3ZV EN92UW
KA1ZE/3			285	257		76	398	372	121	138	93	195		139
AC3L/m	154													
K1MAP FN32sb			51									164		
K1PXE FN31ke			31											
K2SMN FN20oj			132											
K4MSG FM19ee	185													
KA0KYZ EN33qw								436						
KB3TNZ FN10sx												95		
KC8YJB EN91bk	199							173						131
N0IRS EM29se								505						
N2SP1/m FN42bl			87									206	25	
N4QWZ EM66ok								317						
N9OLT EN64am								290						
VA3TVW FN03bg	137													78
VA3WLD FN03gr	150							350						45
VE2DSB FN35hs	357							679						392
VE3DXP EN92jw	178					253	219	246			189			45
VE3EU EN93vu	178						252	324	280	315				
VE3ROR FN03bf	134					207		314			121			29
VE3ZV EN92UW	139					212	262	286	254	276		331		
W1OUN FN42hk			98									223		
W2KV FN20ok	195		131	419		119		545					223	331
W2UAD FN13gc	93													
W3MEL FN10xl	138													276
W3OT FN21dl	121													254
W8BYA EN70ku	372					438	226					545		286
W8MIL EN74ic	398	264			96			226						262
WA4GPM FN11og	76			314				438				119		212
WA9NGO EN61po							96							
WB8AUK EN80or	257					314						419		
WZ1V FN31rh	285											131	98	
WA8RJF EN91iq							264							
QSOs	19	1	6	3	1	7	7	16	3	3	3	10	3	13
Total Miles		264	815	990	96	1619	1717	5501	655	729	403	2428	346	2480
Group QSOs	152													
Group Miles	32386													

I'd highly recommend that you tune in at 0800 mornings and jump into the activity. It is pretty amazing what is being heard and worked on a daily basis.

Ken W2UAD has been reporting on the success of the morning net in our Monday and Thursday evening 2M and 6M nets. I had a day off recently, and checked into the morning net, working a number of the stations on within my typical troposcatter circle of about 250 miles. The real interesting stuff came when Stan was able to hook up with Doug W4LY in South Carolina. While Doug was chatting with Stan, I was hearing random meteors on Doug, with 5 second long bursts of his transmission. Goes to show you the kind of phenomenon that occur regularly, that we don't uncover unless we know for sure that the other stations are on and active. Stan uses one of the VHF/UHF chat rooms to find out that stations are on and available, and then takes a stand-by to have them call in. Here's the link to the chat page:

<http://www.on4kst.com/chat/start.php>



Stan's contest location is a hilltop in the Allegheny Mountain range at 2400 ft ASL. The tower is 155 ft of Rohn 55. It is located in the extreme NE corner of FN01, a stone's throw from FN02, FN12, and FN11.



Our Monday Night Net and the Thursday Night Nets continue to be well attended at times and then sometimes it is just a few. Please check in and say hello!. The net starts at 2100 local on 144.260 SSB, and 50.200 at 2130 local. Check-ins on Monday nights and Thursday nights have recently been W2UAD, K2DH mobile, KA2EKI, KC2PCD, KC2QZR, KE2LW, KC2QLJ, WB2QCJ mobile, WB2SQS and N2DCH. On 6M the check-ins were K2MPE, W2UAD, KC2PCD, K2ERG, KE2LW and WB2SQS. Rumor has it 6 has been open more recently, and we are looking forward to better and better conditions.

KE2LW is still looking for a few good hands to help out with an antenna refurbishment task. If you are willing and able to assist, please see me at the meeting or on the air so that we can coordinate a visit to his QTH.

As always, we need to know what you would like to see and hear at the Monthly meetings. Please forward me any of your ideas, interests, criticisms or comments to:

**wb2byp at arrl dot net**

Seriously folks, we can only do this with feedback. Catch any one of the Board members or Directors on the air, on the Net, email or just give a call at 585-415-4973.

73,  
John  
wb2byp

## Spring Sprints

In last month's Journal I published a schedule of the upcoming Spring VHF/USHF Sprints and put out a call on the RVHFG Reflector for results and experiences. Here are the responses I received:

### 2 Meter Sprints

Hi Tom,  
VA3ST Results - 144 MHz Spring Sprint  
40 Q's 25 Grids Best FN42, FM18  
**73, Stan VA3ST, FN03ha**

## From KA2LIM:

I decided to do it a bit different and operated as KA2LIM/R for the 2M sprint. Took along a local (KA2BED - Charlie) so he could experience weak signal contacts first hand. I think he is hooked.

Well, I have an 8 ft tower section that is mounted on a plate that fits into the trailer hitch on the back of the van. The tower is hinged at the base so I can tilt down to insert the mast (18') and then tilt the tower up and lock in place. Have a 5 element beam with the coax going to a selector switch so I can switch from the omni-angle on the van to the beam. Power is 50 watts.

Worked a few of you tonight, band was up and down here, had a total of 20 q's. Decided to call it quits about 10PM as was only hearing stations we had already worked.

Now comes the "Extra moment" part or "old timers moment" part, call it what you want. Un-hooking everything and get to the switch to remove the coax and find that I never was on the beam the entire contest. I Worked everyone on the omni-angle with 50 watts. Farthest contact was over 350 miles. That speaks well for that omni and the new guy got to see first hand what an omni antenna will do.

Omni-Ken

KA2LIM/R

## 432 Sprint

I went out for the 432 sprint, 2 miles up the road from my house to a hilltop with a 22 element beam and 30 watts power signing as KA2LIM/R. The first station worked was W9KXI - Al who is 5 miles south of me and I then worked N2DCH who is 80 miles east of me. The sky was a bit hazy but the hill tops could be see for 30 miles to the SW around thru the NE, BUT no signals were heard or detected.

A bit after 8pm my cell phone rang and it was WA1T-Al calling from MD to see if I was on the air and what was happening. I told him nothing being heard here. Al said he had worked K3TUF and K1DS and had his antenna pointed toward me. As I tuned, I got bits and pieces of K1DS and then he was gone. I then heard K3TUF working someone on CW and then gone. I called Al on CW and he heard me plainly and then gone.

We talked a bit more and then I started seeing the BIG lighting to the SW and N behind me. About that time I heard this beep on my cell while talking with Al. Finally I looked at the screen and saw that it was my youngest daughter calling. Hey! I don't understand these cell phones and all the gadgets that are on them, to me a phone is to make a call and then hang up. I said good-by to Al and called my daughter back, she was frantic: Dad, we're under a tornado watch, get off the hill. I tore down in less than 3 minutes and headed for home.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile for my house, a tree in the road in my lane, I go around it and continue on. 200 yards from my house, I have to drive very slowly thru an obstacle course of trees that are twisted in every direction and laying every where. Got Home and Jean had been watching for me and wondered why I was going so slow on the road.

This morning we walked up the road to check out the mess and it was a mess. Along came a neighbor and said it up-rooted the tree and put it on a neighbor's house. So we drove up to see it. A number of trees were up-rooted and smashed across the roof in three places. Thank GOD, no one was hurt.

Jean just got back from her morning walk around the cemetery that is in the middle of our farm and said there are 2 trees down and limbs everywhere. So, looks like we have our work all laid out for us to get the cemetery cleaned up.

So I worked a total of 2 stations during the sprint, got to see a fantastic lighting show, HEAVY rain and a tornado. That's enough excitement for this old man for a while.

Ken KA2LIM

## RVHF Group at the Rochester Hamfest.

The RVHF Group will have a table this year in the Flea Market area of the Rochester Hamfest. This is your chance to stop by to meet and chat with the newly elected officers of the club. It is a great time to become a member or renew your membership to the club. As a special feature the K2TER Rover will be present and active on 6 meters. If there is an opening, the station will be available for individual hams to operate and work some great 6 meter DX! See you all at the Hamfest.

Tom Jennings, KV2X, Editor

## Rochester Hamfest 2011: *The New Legacy Continues.*

Mark your calendars: Saturday June 4th 2011

Gates open 8 AM - *Rain or Shine*

*360 Maiden Lane - Rochester NY 14616*



### **New for 2011:**

- **FREE Admission** > Members of RaRa - The Rochester Amateur Radio Assn. will receive **FREE** admission and **FREE** Flea market space with presentation of their 2011 membership cards at the gate. If you're not a member? [Join today!](#)
- **Last Chance Auction** > At 2pm flea market vendors are invited to bring their unsold items to the last chance auction.\*\*\*
- **Talk-in has moved** > Talk-in is now on 146.61 and 444.45 - both PL 110.9 for even better coverage at and near the Hamfest location.
- **Discounted Hotel** > Mention "Rochester Hamfest" and receive up to 28% off your stay.

### **Returning Hamfest Hits:**

- \$5.00 General admission.
- Youths under 16 admitted free with a paying adult.
- \$5.00 on-site overnight camping permit for Friday evening arrivals.
- Free VE Testing.
- Same great location as 2009-2010 with over 16 acres of flea market space.
- 2011 ARRL Atlantic Division Convention - Come meet your representatives!
- Educational Programs.
- DXCC QSL card checking.
- Fantastic food! - All proceeds benefit the Barnard Fire Department.
- Our popular full service bar.
- ... and much, much more...

### **Door Prizes:**

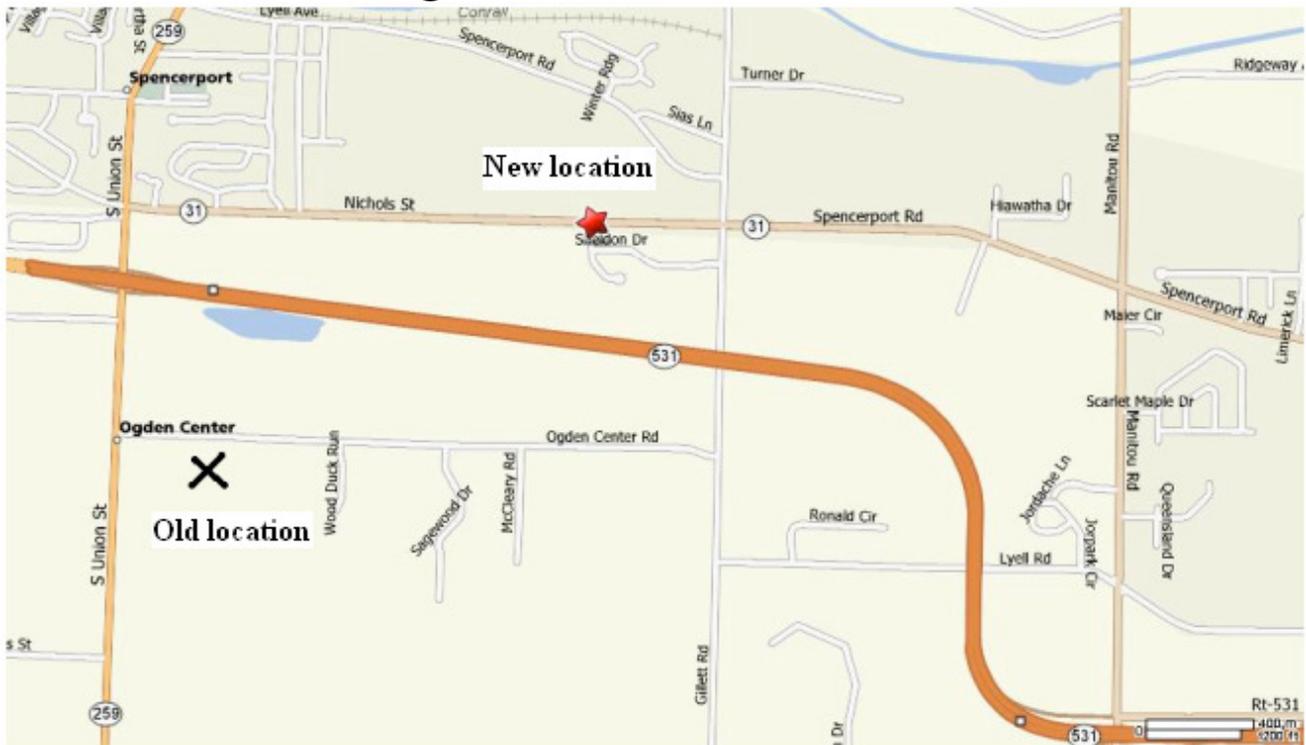
Door prizes will be awarded every half hour from 9am until 2pm!!!

Comments and questions can be directed to: [HFProducer@RochesterHam.org](mailto:HFProducer@RochesterHam.org)  
Commercial vendors (non-flea market) wishing to attend should contact:  
[HFVendorRelations@RochesterHam.org](mailto:HFVendorRelations@RochesterHam.org)

## **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.**