

The VHF



Journal

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January 2013

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday, Sept 14th 2012 at 7:30 PM at **Spencerport Wesleyan Church**
2653 Nichols St., Spencerport

Map and directions on last page

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Topic: Pre-Contest Warm-up

| RVHFG's Beacons | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Band | MHz |
| 6m | 50.078 |
| 2m | 144.950 |
| 1.25m | 222.050 |
| 70cm | 432.300 |
| 23cm | 1296.258 |

The Chairman Speaks! John Stevens WB2BYP

Groupers: Our December Tune-Up Clinic was a great success, with lots of interesting preamps, transverters and some surprising results obtained. I believe Dave Hallidy has all of the numbers further in the Bulletin here, so I'll just leave it with a big thanks to Dave for all of his efforts with the test equipment, and to Bill Rogers for hosting the event. A good time was had by all.

We are looking forward to the 11 January 2013 meeting at our usual place, Spencerport Wesleyan Church on Rt 31 in Spencerport NY. The topic will be our "**Pre-Contest Warm Up**". There is chatter about a lot of home activity in FN13 and FN12, and even some roving action going on. Please come by the meeting and bring any news about what your plans are, or what your latest project is that is on the bench.

Ev Tupis W2EV sent around a questionnaire this past month on the level of activity that there may be for the contest on FM mode. There is some renewed focus on FM for the contest, and a handheld or mobile can work a lot of contacts and grids in this area from one of the local high spots. I believe the results can still be found here: ...Continued....

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The Chairman Speaks!

Continued...

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BLS6ZQY>

Our RVHFG Monday and Thursday at 2100 local 2M and 6M Nets on 144.260 / 50.200 continue to have a good turn-out and make for a good way to check out gear with a pretty consistent crowd. This past week we learned from John N2DCH that he will be active over the contest weekend from VestalNY on 6 bands, and will be out roving on Sunday of the contest. Be on the lookout for him.

Also, John passes along that Richard N2SPI will be on 6, 2 and 70cm from Mt. Utsayantha in the Catskills on Sunday of the contest. That is one great location (FN22qj) and depending on where on the mountain the vista east and west is pretty good.

Al Ward, W5LUA has been updating the DX Records on the ARRL web site. This is pretty eye-opening as to what is really possible on the bands. He recently added in the progress of N1JEZ on 24 GHz, K1FJM/4 with 432 contacts and W5UWB for his record breaking 222 meteor scatter QSO with ND0B.

Check it out here:

<http://www.arrl.org/distance-records>

I've been playing around with several of the current SDRs that are USB based, and learning quite a bit. There are some great software packages out there for the right price too. I'll bring what I have to the meeting as part of the show and tell. Bring what you have that might be of interest to the group.

Come to the meeting and share what you have been doing!

John
wb2byp

Secretary Report

Tom Jennings, KV2X

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for December 2012

The meeting was held at K2TER's QTH and called to order at 1947 by WB2BYP. K2DH made a motion to accept the November minutes as published in the Journal and W2CNS seconded the motion. K2DH made a motion to accept the November Treasurer's Report as published in the Journal. K2TER seconded the motion.

Attending: Wb2GFZ, N2VTC, WB2BYP, K2DH, W2CNS, KV2X, K2TER, K2OS, WB2QCJ, AF2K, AB2YI

Old Business: Beacons. We discussed the status beacons and decided to place the frequencies of all the beacons in an obvious place in the Journal.

New Business: None

Mud Planning Update:

- Contacted RIT and must resubmit our plan. It should be ok as long as it does not conflict with RIT plans.
- Also talking to a non profit convention planner who is willing t help out
- Need to nail down date that doesn't conflict with home comings
- N.E.W.S. was asked if the East Coast VHF UHF Conference would become involved with MUD
- RVHFG Members should plan on attending MUD 2013 at Moorhead State University in Kentucky

Meeting adjourned around 2015.

Program: Tune-Up Clinic

Rochester VHF Group Treasurer's Report

CHECKING ACCOUNT

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Previous Balance (as of 12/10/2012): | \$2038.09 |
| Income: | \$0.00 |
| Expenses: | \$0.00 |
| Current Balance | \$2038.09 |

*Respectfully submitted,
Tom Jennings, KV2X, Treasurer*

Tune-Up Clinic Results

Compiled by Dave Haliday K2DH

| December 2012 RVHFG's Tune-UP Clinic Results | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|
| Band | Owner | Device | NF | Gain | Comments |
| 50 | W2CNS | DEMI 50-28 Transverter | 0.14 | 20.68 | |
| 144 | K2OS | HB NE32184 | -0.2 | 22.56 | |
| | K2OS | HB MRF966 | 0.91 | 21.5 | |
| | WB2BYP | ARR SP144VDG | 0.64 | 19.18 | Unit #1 |
| | WB2BYP | ARR SP144VDG | 0.2 | 22.65 | Unit #2 |
| | AB2YI | Landwehr | 0.11 | 18.63 | |
| 222 | WB2BYP | WA2ODO | -0.79 | 22.91 | |
| | WB2BYP | HB MGF1402 | 0.39 | 18.34 | |
| | W2CNS | RVHFG Transverter | 7.1 | 16.83 | |
| | AB2YI | DEMI 222-28 Transverter | 1.16 | 16.08 | |
| 432 | WB2BYP | ARR SP432VDG | 0.01 | 19.26 | K2CS Unit |
| | WB2BYP | WD5AGO 2-stage | 0.03 | 41.34 | |
| | WB2BYP | ARR P432VDG | 0.51 | 17.08 | EME setup w/relays |
| | W2CNS | RVHFG Transverter | 4.78 | 26.37 | |
| | W2CNS | DEMI 432-B | 3.4 | 14.93 | |

December 2012 RVHFG's Tune-UP Clinic Results

| Band | Owner | Device | NF | Gain | Comments |
|-------|--------|----------------|-------|-------|----------|
| 903 | K2TER | DEMI 903-144 | 0.52 | 25.18 | |
| 1296 | W2CNS | DEMI 23LNA | 0.1 | 13.97 | |
| | W2CNS | WD5AGO 2-23 | -0.13 | 33.59 | |
| | WB2QCJ | SSB SP-23 | 1.3 | 13.98 | |
| | K2TER | DEMI 1296-144 | 0.43 | 15.4 | |
| 2304 | K2TER | DEMI 2304-144 | 1.14 | 14.02 | |
| 3456 | K2TER | DEMI 3456-144 | 1.67 | 20.7 | |
| 5760 | K2TER | DEMI 5760-144 | 2.63 | 19.9 | |
| 10368 | K2TER | DEMI 10368-144 | 2.47 | 15.8 | |

Note: There are several instances of “negative” Noise Figures. This is not possible, as all devices in a receive system contribute noise to the system. But it is caused by the use of a High ENR Noise Source with the Noise Figure Meter making the measurements. Today’s very low-noise GaAsFET or PHEMT devices require the use of a Low ENR Noise Source for the most accurate measurements (something we don’t access to). These negative readings only make the ABSOLUTE value of the Noise Figure meaningless, but in RELATIVE terms, or for adjustment purposes, the readings are still useful.

Dave, K2DH

RVHF Group's Annual Tune-Up Clinic



K2DH, K2OS, AB2YI, KV2X, AND W2CNS talk about noise figure measurement



WB2BYP, K2TER, K2DH, KV2X, K2OS, N2VTC, WB2QCJ, W2CNS, and WB2GFZ

The 2013 ARRL January VHF Contest

The [2013 ARRL January VHF Contest](#) -- scheduled for the weekend of January 19-21 -- is sure to make the dreary winter days come to life with the sound of RF! "Don't let cold weather dissuade you from getting on the air," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "Many a portable or rover operation has done just fine in January. Even so, the VHF bands can be tough, especially if there's no enhanced propagation; however, we had pleasant sporadic E openings on 6 meters in late December 2012, and last year's January VHF Contest also saw some sporadic E."

Two new categories have been added to the ARRL January VHF Contest for 2013: **Single Operator/3 Band** and **Single Operator/FM Only**. Hams who choose to operate in the Single Operator/3 Band category may only use **6 m, 2 m and 70 cm**. While hams can use 100 W on 6 and 2 meters, there is a limit of 50 W on 70 centimeters. The Single Operator/FM Only category is limited to 6, 2 and 1.25 m (222 MHz) and 70 cm, with a 100 W output power limit on all four bands.

"These new categories are great opportunities for those new to VHF operating to get their feet wet," Kutzko said. "The Single Operator/3 Band category is perfect for those with an all-in-one rig that covers the HF and VHF bands, while the Single Operator/FM Only category can help shift the focus from repeaters to VHF simplex operating."

Kutzko said that the Single Operator/FM Only category is an excellent activity for a local club or Public Service group: "Hold a competition within your group, or think of it as a deployment exercise and have fun, all while getting practical experience in handling traffic. Head for a high operating site with a clear horizon, open the squelch on your FM rigs and see how far you can work without a repeater. Experiment with different antennas. For example, try a J-pole, a large vertical or a small, vertically polarized Yagi with a 5 W handheld transceiver and see how much better you can do."

Kutzko explained that there are numerous stations that enjoy 2 meter FM simplex QSOs, especially those near a large population center. "Just be sure to keep the national 2 meter calling frequency of 146.52 MHz clear of contest activity, including making or soliciting QSOs," he said. "Also, please keep in mind [General Rule 1.9](#): 'Only recognized FM simplex frequencies may be used, such as **144.90, 145.00; 146.49, .55 and .58, and 147.42, .45, .48, .51, .54 and .57 MHz** on the 2 meter band. Calling frequencies of **52.525, 223.5 and 446.0 MHz** may be used during the contest, but don't monopolize them. Be sure to tune above or below the calling frequencies to check for additional FM contest activity in your area."

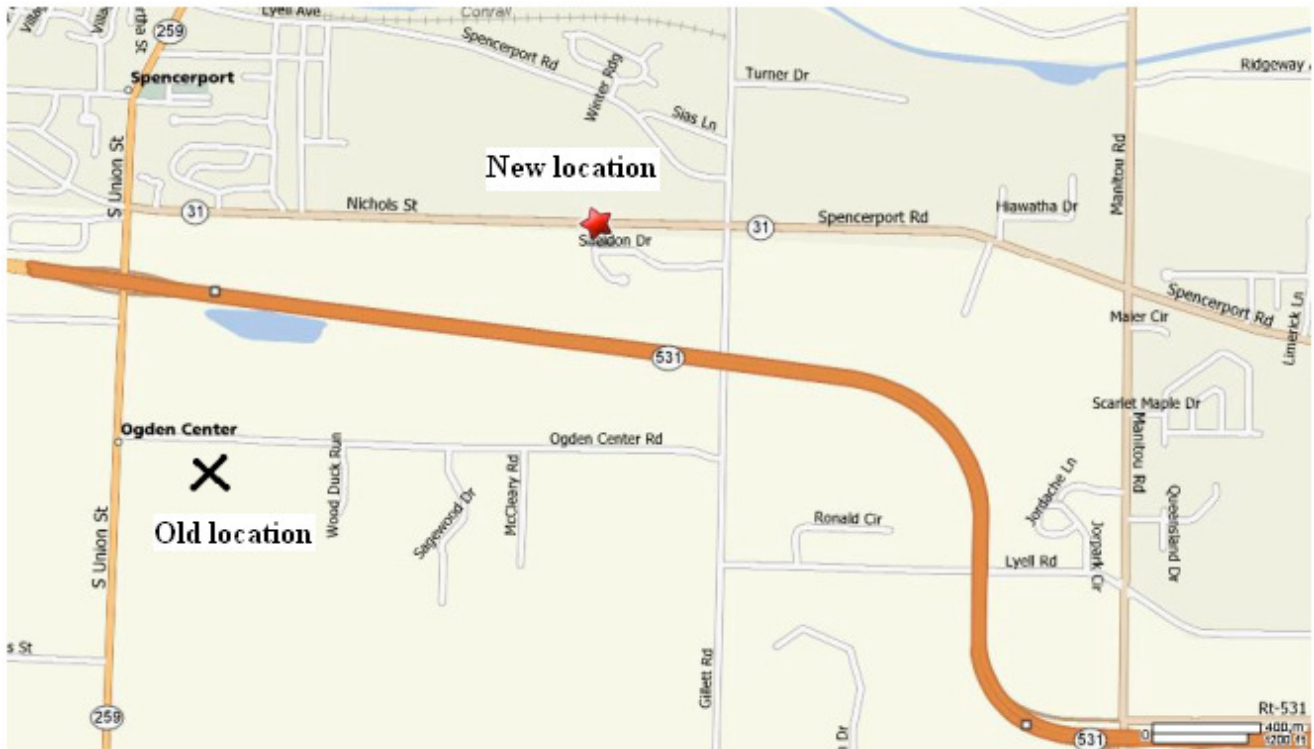
The [2013 ARRL January VHF Contest](#) runs from 1900 UTC Saturday, January 19 through 0359 UTC Monday, January 21. Participants can submit their Cabrillo-formatted logs via [e-mail](#). Paper logs may be sent to ARRL January VHF Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. All logs must be postmarked no later than 0359 UTC Wednesday, February 20, 2013.

This article came from <http://www.arrl.org/news/get-in-on-the-winter-fun-with-the-arrl-january-vhf-contest> and I added the bold characters. Tom kv2x

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.