



News!

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be

**Friday, Nov. 9, 2007
at 7:30pm**

NOTE: This meeting will be held in Ogden, NY just off Rt. 531 at the Ogden Town Hall

Topic:

BIG Amplifiers

*John Stevens WB2BYP
Frank Pollino K2OS*

The Chairman Speaks! Andy Flowers, K0SM

Fellow VHFers,

Rebekah and I took a trip to Philadelphia for Microwave Update last month. In addition to the conference it was a good chance for us to visit some friends in the area and an opportunity for Rebekah to do some early Christmas shopping.

I saw some very interesting presentations, and after Raj's presentation on software-defined radios was excellent preparation for the array of SDR-related topics that were there. I started seriously thinking about how to come up with a complete narrowband microwave transceiver using the \$30 Softrock transceiver and a surplus LO. TR switching should be a snap since you have direct access to the board. My understanding is that those Softrock transceivers will work from 0 to 60 MHz, which should allow you to use some of those odd crystals that aren't good for much else. I see that there are some surplus image reject mixers on ebay for a song, which might be just the thing to use. Does anyone feel like taking this up for a winter project?

I've been busy arranging for a more permanent home in the Rochester area. If all goes well we should have a new address. I fell a little short in my quest to find a house on top of a mountain surrounded by a salt marsh, but there should be ample space for me to bring my radio toys out of the box they've been in since June.

The November meeting will be all about high-power amplifiers....something which your president is relatively ignorant, so I'm looking forward to it! See Bill's articles below for details.

Andy Flowers K0SM

The Vice President Speaks!

Bill Rogers, K2TER

Wow. I can't believe another month has slipped by since the last meeting, another month closer to the January contest with unfinished action items from Tom and my June contest post mortem. I did get a few things fixed, including my 2304 preamp and an intermittent relay in my transverter/switch box. I also made time to enjoy the Buffalo hamfest, lots of bargains and many RVHFG members in attendance including Dean (WB2QCJ), Judy (N2KXS), Fred (WO2P), John (W3OAB) and Paul (W2TAU) among other hamfest regulars.

The RARA Equipment Auction was a blast, too. As usual, Ed Gable (K2MP) was one of the auctioneers; it's always a pleasure to hear his running commentary of the items on the block. There were a lot of bargains and no computers and no junk. I recommend adding this to the November plans next year.

October Meeting

We had a look at the future in October. Raj Dewan (N2RD) delivered his renowned Software Defined Radio (SDR) presentation to our group. He presented the recent advancements in the state of the art and demonstrated a few of his own kits. It's hard to imagine that a high performance radio implemented on a ~4 square inch PC board (and a PC) could rival the performance of a high cost rig. If you missed this one, I recommend you attend his next lecture on the subject.

November Meeting – “Big Amps”

Enough said. John Stevens (WB2BYP) and Frank Pollino (K2OS) will be presenting on the design and construction of high output VHF/UHF/Microwave tube amplifiers. This is a great opportunity to learn from some of the experts in the field of homebrew amplifier building. Bob Nezelek (W2CNS) and Dave Hallidy (K2DH) will show off some of their projects as well. Significant time will be devoted to Q&A. I'm told there will be a reference CD take away as well. This is another “main event” to mark on your calendars!

December Tune up Event

We're gearing up for our annual tune-up clinic. Be sure to bring in your preamps, amps, transverters, filters, etc. The tune up team will help you get the most out of them.

Bill Rogers, K2TER

Secretary Report Judy Stonehill, N2KXS

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2007

The meeting, which was held at Town of Ogden Highway Facility, was convened at 1945 local by the Chairman, K0SM.

Members in attendance included N2OPW, KV2X, KB2TAK, W2CNS, WO2P, K2MP, W2JTR, NQ2O, K2OS, N2KXS, K0SM. Guests included KC2KPL, KB2TAH, Katie Malarkey, and David Malarkey.

Attendees talked about their amateur radio activities since the September meeting. One of the attendees brought in an "air cannon" antenna launcher.

NEW BUSINESS

The Treasurer's report was read by the RVHFG President, Andy Flowers:

Savings account balance	\$1,519.06
Checking account balance	1,324.00

Russ, W2DYY, moved that the report be accepted as read. Raj, N2RD, seconded the motion which was passed by the attendees.

It was moved by Fred, WO2P, and seconded by Russ, W2DYY, that the Secretary's report be accepted as printed in the Journal. The motion was passed by the attendees.

Raj Dewan, N2RD, gave a presentation on Software Defined Radio. There was much discussion about the characteristics and advantages of SDR.

The meeting was adjourned at 2110.

Treasurer's Report Chuck Blocher, KC2IQV

Savings	\$1519.06
	+ 0.32
	<hr/>
	\$1519.38
Checking	\$ 1187.52

The Rochester VHF Group

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Grid Calculator for mobile phones

Andy Flowers, K0SM



I've decided I needed to finish off some projects that I've been working on for the last year, so I finally broke down and registered a domain name so I could start putting these projects out there where people can use them. So, in the vain of very small and handy devices for microwave operation (remember WO2P's *Dasher?*), here is handy grid calculator that is always at hand.

It requires a mobile phone with CLDC 1.1 and MIDP 2.0, which is pretty much any phone made in the last two years. You could also run it in the Java environment for a Palm or other higher end device, but I think there would be better software for those platforms. I designed this one for microwave activity days, 10 GHz contest, or anything else that might require calculating beam headings with a minimum amount of excess equipment.

The software is freely available at <http://www.k0sm.com/gridcalc>

Picture of Grid Calculator running on the author's Motorola C290. It sure beats hauling out a laptop for this purpose.

WANTED:

Built or kit Demi 10 GHz transverter. There must be at least one of the original RVHFG club purchase units gathering dust on someone's shelf.

Contact Russ W2DYY at 585-248-5453

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

