

The Rochester VHF Group

The VHF



Journal

Volume 70, Issue 5

January 2017

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday January 13th at 7:30 PM located at Exelon Emergency Operations Facility in Macedon /Gananda. Doors open at 7 PM. Map and directions on last page.

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VHF+ Contest Calendar 2016

Classifieds

Topic: VHF Contest Prep

W2UTH 6 meter Skimmer

<http://www.reversebeacon.net/dx/sd1/dxsd1.php?f=0&c=W2UTH&t=de>

The Chairman Speaks!

Dave Haliday K2DH

Hello again, fellow VHF+ "addicts". I hope everyone had a great holiday and I extend a very Happy New Year to all! I hope you got treated well by Santa Claus and that new kW amp for 432 is gleaming in your shack now, ready to do battle in the January contest coming up!

I must apologize for having to miss the December meeting of the RVHFG. I had another commitment that evening and had to set my priorities appropriately. It looks like I'll miss the January meeting as well, due to work commitments that evening. But if I get free early enough, I'll try to be there.

Continued...

RVHFG's Beacons

Beacons Hosted at AWA Museum

Band	MHz	Power	Antenna
6m	50.078	5W	Squalo
2m	144.298	6W	Big Wheel
1.25m	222.050	5W	Par Omni-Angle
70cm	432.300	5W	Par Omni-Angle
23cm	1296.257	2W	Halo

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The Chairman Speaks!

Continued...

Our January meeting will be dedicated to the upcoming January ARRL VHF Contest. Our plan is to discuss various strategies to maximize the club cumulative score (which, in the last couple of years, has grown nicely, and we want that to continue). Jarred will have some more details in his column in this Journal. If you can make the meeting, please try to do so. The club can really use your score- AND, ARRL has instituted new rules regarding club membership- if you're not a currently active member (that means dues-paying according to our constitution), you actually can't turn in your score on behalf of the RVHFG. So that should be an incentive to get to the meeting and pay up, so our score reflects your efforts!

We may have a good solution to the meeting location problem. It looks like our March meeting will be held at the Rochester MakerSpace, 850 St. Paul in order to try it out to see if it would work for the longer term. This venue looks very promising so we'll give it a try in March.

You may have noticed the absence of the club beacons for about a week in December (they're back on now, thankfully). What happened was that someone was working at the AWA and inadvertently shut off a breaker to the line powering the beacons. My heart stopped when I couldn't find them on any band, thinking a major malfunction had occurred. Then I got to thinking- they wouldn't ALL be gone if the antennas fell over or if one of the boxes failed- the design is such that at least 1296 would have stayed on the air even if the other box containing the other transmitters failed. So I contacted K2OEQ and he got another AWA member to check. Sure enough, it was just a lack of AC power. The switch was thrown and voila! Back on the air with the trusty beacons!

I'll stop here, but I want to say- be sure to get on the air for the contest, starting at 1400 local time on Saturday January 21st and running till 2300 local Sunday the 22nd. Help your fellow Groupers run up a good score and who knows- you may find some good conditions- maybe some tropo, E-skip, or even aurora can happen in the January contest! Get on and have some fun!

CU on the bands 73,
Dave Hallidy K2DH

Secretary Report

Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for 9 December 2016.

By Tom Jennings, KV2X

The meeting was called to order at 1935L by Jarred (KF2MR). Jarred welcomed everybody and asked for a motioned that meeting minutes report be accepted as written in December's journal. Tom, KV2X made the motion and Jim (WB2YJH) seconded it. Then Jarred asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report Tom, KV2X made the motion and Jim (WB2YJH) seconded it. Old and New business was discussed, then every introduced themselves and talked about their ham radio activity during the past month.

Attending: Jarred (KF2MR), Steve (KA1CNF), Dave (AE2DM), John (WB2BYP), Jim (WB2YJH), Ken (N8KH), Steve (K2STF) & Tom (KV2X).

Old Business

Jarred discussed status of beacons. Up and running. Need the 6m beacon frequency in the Journal.

Dave, K2DH, is now the official trustee of W2UTH.

New meeting places were discussed. Rochester MakerSpace, 850 St. Paul, (<http://www.rochestermakerspace.org>) suggested by Steve, K1CNF, seems to be a viable location. Also Tom, KV2X, and Dave, AE2DM, suggested Wegman's Market Café as a possible location but there is a cost involved. Possible location for a meeting with food?

ARRL Club affiliation process is almost complete.

New Business:

Jarred proposed an activity incentive for the January VHF Contest. He proposed issuing a certificate for high score for Single Operator and for high score Rover, and a Special certificate for ham with exceptional effort. This would be by vote. His proposal was accepted.

Jarred made a motion to close the meeting, Tom (KV2X) motioned to accept and Ken (K8KH) seconded the motion.

Program: Show and tell

Rochester VHF Group Treasurer's Report (1/12/17)

CHECKING/CASH ACCOUNT

Previous Balance (PP = \$52.82, Cash = \$610.83 Cash, \$1415.25 Checking): \$ 2078.90

Income:

Paypal Transfer \$52.82 to Checking \$ 52.82

Expenses:

Beacon Repair Parts (Dave Hallidy, Check# 1067, \$156.92, Cashed 11/15) \$ 156.92

M&T Fee for being under \$1500.00. Called to question fee and will be taken off on next statement. Meanwhile account will be boosted above \$1500 to save the \$10 Fee

\$ 10.00

Current Balance (PP = \$0.00, Cash = \$610.83Cash, \$1301.15 Checking): \$ 1911.98

Respectfully submitted,

Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ, Treasurer

Vice Chairman's Report

By Jarred Jackson, KF2MR

Vice Chairman's Report

By Jarred Jackson, KF2MR

Happy New Year! With the change in the calendar comes the cold weather and the January VHF Contest! We had a nice warm streak heading into December, so of course we got all of our antenna work done right!? Well for me, I have been able to clear out all of the Christmas stuff that was on my bench and work spaces so I can get back to the projects I intended to have running for the contest. Even if I get half of them working, I will be happy!

Last meeting we were able to check out the progress on the 6m amplifier. Jim, WB2YJH did a great job with the mounting of the amplifier and power supplies in the enclosure. He swapped the dead amplifier module for a good module and handed it back to me for mounting of the controls. Progress has been much slower than I anticipated, but it's still moving along. Dave, AE2DM, stopped by Harbor Freight and picked up a couple of toolboxes he was considering for enclosures. The cost was certainly good and we discussed what types of projects could fit well into the toolboxes. For show and tell I opened up my 1296/2304 transverter box as well as the 3456 box to highlight some of the assembly details.



For the January meeting, the topic will be the January VHF contest. We will review:

- ARRL Contest Details
- Listing of currently used logging programs
- Historical Performance by the RVHFG
- Strategies for improving the cumulative score, including a round table discussion on the Top 10 Operating Practices for improving individual scores
- January VHF Contest Honor Roll
- Demonstration and discussion of shared equipment

We will meet at the Exelon Emergency Operations Facility in Macedon. See the back of the journal for more information on the location.

January VHF Contest

By Tom Jennings KV2X

The January VHF Contest is meant for amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada. Begins 1900 UTC Saturday, ends 0359 UTC Monday (**January 21-23, 2017**). That would be 1400 EST Saturday, January 21, and ends 2259 EST Sunday, January 22.

There are 9 entry categories to choose from:

- Single Operator Low Power
- Single Operator High Power
- Single Operator Portable
- Single Operator, 3-Band
- Single Operator, FM Only
- Limited Rover
- Unlimited Rover
- Multioperator (Unlimited)
- Limited Multioperator

Pick the one that suits you best for the contest.

As a way to increase participation, RVHFG will be issuing a certificate for high score for Single Operator and for high score Rover, and a Special certificate for ham with exceptional effort. As Dave, K2DH says "Help your fellow Groupers run up a good score and who knows- you may find some good conditions- maybe some tropo, E-skip, or even aurora can happen in the January contest! Get on and have some fun!" Be sure also to submit your log to the ARRL.

Go to <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf> for the complete set of rules.

Good luck to all and have FUN!

2017 VHF+ Contest Calendar

Event	Date	Local Time	Notes
January VHF Contest	1/21– 1/22	1400 Saturday until 2259 Sunday	http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf

Classified Listings

Dead 6M amp?

Anyone have a 6M brick amp that needs to have the RF transistors replaced and might consider parting with it instead?

Contact: Bill K2TER

Meeting Location and Directions

Meeting Location

Exelon / Ginna Emergency Operations Facility
1255 Research Forest
Macedon NY 14502

