

The VHF Journal

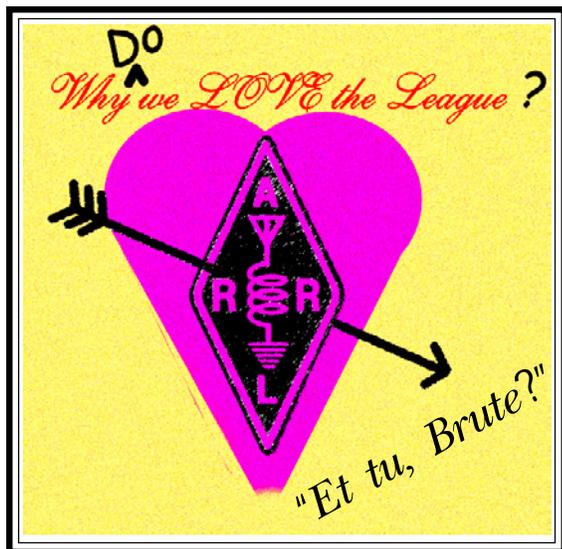
"Scientia sine art nihil est"

Published by The Rochester VHF Group

<http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org>

Club Memorial Call: W2UTH

Valentines Edition: February 2002



How we got to where we are today: No more contest results in QST.

Writings by: ARRL WNY SCM W2LC; ARRL Atlantic Div Vice Director K2MP; an official release by N3EFN (the Atlantic Div Director), and a few voices of dissent and suggestions for improvement from the peanut gallery.

PLUS:

***TOP VHF SS SCORES** for the RVHFG back `til the beginning of time (well, almost) -By N2WK

* **Roving with Jonah and the Blue Whale** - By N2WVK

* **Home station reports from the Great White North**

***more stuff on radio (amazingly enough!)**

...and all kinds of cool graphics, pictures, quotes and totally irreverent and irrelevant stuff.

Information for the 2002 Rochester Cup Competition is available on the RVHFG Homepage at :

<http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org/>

Any questions, comments or concerns, please contact me at n2jmh@arrl.net or at home in the evenings by telephone at 585-637-4554.

FM FOR THE CONTEST?

DE: N2JMH

As most of you know, I wanted to try something different this year to try enhance the activity level for the contest. The FM band is one area in which we in Rochester have an advantage over some, I guess. From what I have heard from years past, this category is a way to increase your q's for the contest with significant numbers. Yet activity has seemed to be on the decline, so I set out to ruffle a few feathers in my usual fashion.

I know that you can hardly believe that I would do anything to cause an uproar. You know me; I am so soft-spoken and non-opinionated. Anyways, I came up with the plan to put Janet, kc2idt on as an FM only contesteer from our home location with my modest array turned vertical and give her some power from the tube amps which also helped keep her warm in the basement shack. This little experiment might be very costly, though. First off, it really hurts my score not being able to pick up the extra Q's from far away grids without the horizontal ssb signal that I would get from her, and secondly, you know that FM contesting is a brutal, cut-throat existence. She could be ruined forever as a new ham that only contests for my enjoyment.

I did not want to offend anyone with this experiment, nor do I intend to offend anyone now. If I advertised before the contest, or let my intentions leak out some, I was sure that many that would not be on for the contest would have to get on and see how the girl made out against the experienced contesters. How sweet it is to hear the patience that many give to the ladies and the youngsters on the air. I actually did listen in every once in a while from the rover to hear how it was going. The spirit of amateur radio was not dead even during a contest on FM. Well, almost. At least towards the ladies, anyways. It is a contest right.

So, how did the experiment work out, you ask? Take a look at your own log first and answer the question yourself. I personally think it was a success, and have heard many unsolicited confirmations of the increased FM activity for this contest.

Thanks go out to all that made an attempt to get on the air. My wife still is talking about the contest 3 days after it is over, and not using 4 letter expletives for the entire conversation either.

The results for KC2IDT
50MHz- 26q-4grids /144MHz- 101q-6grids
223MHz-33q-5grids/ 446MHz-41q-3grids
1296MHz-4q-3grids/ 10368MHz-1q-1grid
Total of 6877 points

Looking for the Editors Rant? Try Page 6 This month! :^)

To Subscribe: Send your address, call, e-mail address and \$15 US funds for mailed copies(or \$10 US for Web downloaded copies) to: The Rochester VHF Group, PO Box 92122, Rochester, NY, 14692. You may elect WEB or MAIL delivery for the same price. You will be notified the very day it is available for download. If you elect delivery by mail, copies are in Black and White- sorry!

-Commentary and articles: via e-mail to editor VE3IEY: tantonn@kingston.net. Use standard ASCII text, Corel's Word Perfect or send as regular e-mail.

-Photos and drawings: via e-mail, and can be sent in any format that is available (JPG, GIF and TIFF are most common). EXCEPTION: We don't like MS PowerPoint (*.PPT) files!

-Assistant Editor, Printer, Membership & Data-Magician: Judy, N2KXS

-Production Czar and Supreme Downloader of the Word: Fred, WO2P

-Advertising space is now available in the Journal. Contact the editor for One thru Twelve month rates. Layout services are free of charge.

-This publication is Copyrighted by the Rochester VHF Group. It has been created using Corel's Word Perfect 2000, Adobe Photoshop 6.0, Adobe Pagemaker 6.5.2, Adobe Image Ready 3.0, and Adobe Acrobat Distiller 5.0. It is designed to be read with Acrobat 5.0 Other NFP publications may excerpt articles herein provided subscription information (or www address) to the Journal is reprinted with it.

THE VHF JOURNAL was compiled, edited, and typeset on Amherst Island, in Ontario, Canada (FN14pd)

It was published in Rochester, New York, USA (FN13)

The World's Image Capital

The Rochester VHF Group

* Club memorial call: W2UTH *

Club website @ <http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org>

Officers:

Chairman: K2AXX Mark Hoffman (585) 243-5606 k2axx@arri.net

Vice Chairman: W2DYY, Russ Schroder w2dyy@rochester.rr.com

Secretary: N2JMH Jim Howard (585) 637-4554 n2jmh@arri.net

Treasurer: N2IM Charles Barkowski, (585) 225-8406 n2im@juno.com

Director (Even year): KB2VGH Jeff Luce (585) 424-8406 kb2vgh@amsat.org

Director (Odd year): K2DH Dave Hallidy (585) 728-9517 k2dh@frontiernet.net

Past Chairman: NS9E Tim Stoffel lionlamb@servtech.com

Appointees:

Contest Chairman: N2JMH Jim Howard (585) 637-4554 n2jmh@arri.net

Awards manager: N2JMH Jim Howard (above)

Club memorial Call Trustee: N2WK Wayne King N2WK@arri.net

Banquet Chairman: WA2ZNC Len Gessin (585) 229-5470 wa2znc@juno.com

Picnic Chairman: AA2WV Scott Ballou

Journal Editor: VE3IEY Tom Richmond (613) 634-1855 tantonn@kingston.net

Journal Publishing: N2KXS & WO2P (585) 582-2074 jstonehill@att.net

Membership Manager, Subscription Services: N2KXS (above)

Internet Webmaster: K2AXX (above)

Mailing list Majordomo in charge: KB2VGH (above)

Advertizing: VE3IEY (above)

Jeff, KB2VGH sez: "There is only *one* mailing list [you'll ever need...]"

Rvhfg@vhfgroup.rochesterny.org

It is set up to broadcast to all RVHFG members

DEC. TREASURERS REPORT

by: N2IM 12/20/01

CHECKING ACCOUNT Previous Balance..... \$2568.15

INCOME: Mug Profits..... 00.00

Dues and Phemts sales. 151.00

Misc. Credit..... 5.00

EXPENSES: Postage..... 00.00

Newsletter Supplies.. 00.00

DEMI Order.....1595.78

CURRENT BALANCE..... \$1128.37

SAVINGS ACCOUNT Previous Balance.....\$1281.04

INCOME: Interest..... 0.00

EXPENSES: Transfer to checking.. 0.00

CURRENT BALANCE.....\$1281.04

TOTAL:\$2409.41

JAN. TREASURERS REPORT

by: N2IM 1/23/02

CHECKING ACCOUNT Previous Balance..... \$1128.37

INCOME: Mug Profits..... 00.00

Dues..... 00.00

EXPENSES: Postage..... 00.00

Newsletter Supplies.. 00.00

CURRENT BALANCE..... \$1128.37

SAVINGS ACCOUNT Previous Balance.....\$1281.04

INCOME: Interest..... 2.14

EXPENSES: Transfer to checking.. 0.00

CURRENT BALANCE.....\$1283.18

TOTAL:\$2411.55

Downeast Microwave Inc.
 50M thru Light
 Frenchtown, NJ (908)996-3548
 For all Your uW needs!
 Fax (908) 996-3702
<http://downeastmicrowave.com>

Your Andrew Cable Connection!

TOM WHITTED, WA8WZG

PORT CLINTON, OHIO - EN810M

50 MHZ - 24GHZ

PHONE: (419) 732-2168 FAX: 732-2944

E-MAIL: WA8WZG@WA8WZG.COM



MEETING NOTICE

Friday 8 FEB 2002

7:30 PM

**111 Westfall Road
Rochester, NY**

Chairman's Rant:

January Contest 2002 Recap..... de K2AXX
"A Little bit of uh-huh, and a whole lot of OH YEAH!". Yep - all encompassing! This year seemed to be perhaps the busiest, most active, absolutely INTENSE feeding frenzy!

The rovers were quite an incentive to stay active. New grids & bands at almost all hours of the day. Stations were active at 3am! I can't believe how well things did! I sincerely hope each of you were able to participate to whatever extent you could!

Highlights: 10GHz stations! An amazing number of them, for that matter. VUCC in a weekend - how can you complain about that? F2 propagation on 6m! WOW. This is only the 2nd VHF contest I've ever run where DX was in the log! GMO, GIO and TF3!

TONS of local activity! Guess all the pre-contest hype worked! I'm SO thankful that you took the time to get on and work even a few stations! It really helped all of the club(s) in the area. Rochester Cup competition getting fierce once again! It's pretty cool to see the efforts ramping up - I'm wondering myself just who's going to take it!

Downsides: Ice. I had it lightly Saturday night, and was wondering why it was so hard to work stations under 100 miles away! Unprepared: I was working on the tower at 1pm Saturday, and that's not a smart thing to do - especially for an impending 30+ hour in-the-chair effort to follow. I was REALLY dragging after that.

OVERALL - I think the RVHFG has a lot to be proud of this contest. It looks like we're on target for a possible new Club Score record! I'm waiting to see the results (SEND LOGS TO january@vhfgroup.rochesterny.org) and especially the Rochester Cup! That's gonna be FUN!

6m is STILL opening! Today was GREAT into Europe again, with a TON of QSOs (while I write this, as a matter of fact!) in the log, and more to follow. Hope to see you at the February meeting! Should prove fun swapping lies & tales of the contest with you!

Mark, K2AXX

50MHz and Above:

... de K2AXX

Yes, you're all bored of my exploits! But I can't encourage you enough THIS WILL BE OVER MUCH SOONER THAN WE CARE TO IMAGINE! If you've never worked DX before on 50MHz, PLEASE take some time; fire up your radio and PLAY. Believe me, it's workable stuff!

Recently Logged "GOOD STUFF"

01-01-2002 PJ7LT Sint Maarten Island

01-17-2002 ES2JL Estonia

01-19-2002 GJOJSY Jersey Island (UK)

AND THE BELLE OF THE BALL:

01-23-2002 - 10 Ukrainian stations, starting with UT8AL, in KN88! Also that day, was OHOJFP (Aland Islands) and many ES, LY,OH and SM stations. LZ,YO,9A and YU were also worked - about 20 countries in a couple hours. WOW.

AND -

01-26-2002 T77GO (San Marino), along with 99 other stations all over Europe, including FDLI,9A,HB9,OK,GM,S5,ON,PA,SM,LA,SPG,OE,OH,GW. 18 Countries in all.

What's the secret? Well, I'm about to share some of my deep, dark secrets with you now!

1) Listen a LOT to other USA stations you hear on the band. They are often a GOOD indicator of what's to come. If the band is opening to Europe, you will often hear stations via backscatter - try to see what THEY are working. If lots of CQs and no replies - chances are good not much will happen.

2) If you can, look for the Video indicators below 50MHz. The day of the BIG Ukrainian opening, the video signals from there on 49.749MHz were literally ON THE PEG. They were SO strong at one point, harmonics of the fundamental transmitter were bleeding into the band! That's VERY unusual, but a good sign of strong conditions. I've listed vid frequencies before - there are also many good references on the web.

3) Call CQ. You'd be surprised what happens! Trust me, if you run 100w to a small antenna, you'll be heard. Many DX stations are running less than that - so if you hear DX - chances are they can hear you. I call CQ on CW 99% of the time - it helps in marginal conditions - and makes my smaller signal a tad more competitive in the pileups!

4) Try to be around in the morning! Between 8am and 11am if possible. This seems to be the witching hours for European stuff.



COOL STUFF: K2DH is doing something LOTS of us have thought about! You've probably seen the glut of Russian power tubes on the market for VERY cheap prices! Well, Dave had the idea that 400w isn't often enough! SO - he's gotten a Russian GU-74B (4CX800) tetrode, which he's going to retrofit into his old 8930 (4CX250R equivalent) amplifier. AND - he's willing to tell us about it once it plays! These tubes can be gotten on eBay for under \$50, and the sockets are \$50 as well. For \$100, and other parts - you can build yourself an amp capable of around 800-1000 watts output with perhaps 20 watts of drive!

That's what I've seen on the bands! Many of us commune on 147.55 FM Simplex during the openings. You might wish to check that out as a fair indicator of possible activity if you are limited in what time you can spend. Lots of chatter there often indicates a bum opening. Little chatter with lots of urgency - TURN ON AND PLAY!

AWARD SPONSORSHIP

DE: N2JMH

Hi everyone, your favorite moneygrubber here again. It's that time of year again for award sponsorship and I would like to try to handle it a little different this year. In past years I have sent previous sponsors a form letter to remind you that it is time to sponsor again. It's the 2000's now and I should be able to cover everyone through the Journal and by electronic mail.

All past sponsors should reply to me preferably in the form of a check for the award that you paid for last year. If you do not wish to continue let me know as soon as possible so it can be offered to others. Either way please inform me of your intentions. If you wish to sponsor and have not in the past let me know and I will tell you what is available. Contact me at n2jmh@arrl.net or in the evening at 716-637-4554. The club mailbox is: RVHFG PO box 92122 Rochester NY 14692.

Last year's sponsors:

Unlimited Multi 1st-RDXA

Limited Multi 1st-NS9E

SOHP 1st- WA2ZNC 2nd-NS9E 3rd-Andros MFG

SOLP 1st-WY2Z 2nd-N2WVK 3rd-N2JMH

QRP 1st-N2KXS

ROVER 1st-Andros MFG 2nd-N2JMH 3rd-K2TER 4th-KB2VGH

Most Improved 1st-N2NEP

Single Band 50-K2AXX 144-W02P 222-VE3IEY 432-WA8WZG 902/1296-N2YB 2.3-5.7 K2DH

Price remains the same as last year \$30 for 1st place;

\$29 for 2nd place; \$28 for 3rd place

ARRL CHANGES REPORT

...a chronological retelling of the tale,
in the words of the players. compiled by VE3IEY



Scott W2LC ARRL WNY Section Manager w2lc@arrl.org

"Hi All,

If you haven't heard already 16 pages of QST are going to get cut, with the SM Section News topping the list, with contest results next, then DX listings and who knows what else. These are just some of the proposed cuts that the Directors will discuss a week from now. And there WILL be more cuts, the items just mentioned do not add up to 16 pages.

This is not welcome news, not just because I get to write the WNY Section News column. **This 16 page cut represents a big big big down turn in the quality of QST magazine.** You need quality to attract and keep membership, not less value for a higher cost. I do not mind the dues increase, the ARRL should have raised the dues sooner, but let's keep a quality magazine. I'll even pay another dues increase too, be glad to.

Join up and make your voice heard. Let your Atlantic Division Director Bernie N3EFN (N3EFN@arrl.org) know what you want to see in QST. Give him your opinion on other matters too. That is what he is there for. Do it NOW. He is your representative to the ARRL Board of Directors. He and the other Directors set ARRL policy, not us SMs, so speak up and let him know what's on your mind. And let the Directors know now how you feel now, before they vote to reduce QST by 16 pages.

73 Scott W2LC ARRL WNY Section Manager w2lc@arrl.org

Ed Gable k2mp Asst. Dir. ARRL Atlantic Div. Asst Section Manager, ARRL WNY

"The League is verry interested in getting input on ways to meet their goal of reducing the cost of printing QST by \$100k/year. There are several proposals, one of which was to share contest reporting between QST and the ARRL web-site. The League took unprecedented steps to gain input on what people thought of the idea, right down to sending ARRL representatives to Club meetings such as the RVHFG

and the Rochester DX association. ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, instructed me to go to the clubs and get their input. Acting as Asst. Dir. Atlantic Div, I did this last week and offered the proposal in great detail. The input was excellent. I received wonderful, well thought out responses from people setting aside their emotions and presenting positive ideas on options and alternate plans. Those have been turned over to the League and I feel that the current Contest Reporting is going to be left as is.

Warm regards, Ed Gable k2mp Asst. Dir. ARRL Atlantic Div.
Asst Section Manager, ARRL WNY

Mark, K2AXX, Chairman, RVHFG

Ed Gable came to the RVHFG meeting on Friday to ask about these proposals (in his official ARRL role, btw) and get comments from the club. A resounding THUMP was whacked onto the league for proposing to eliminate contest results - we came up with the following:

- 1) Eliminate static stuff (directors lists, etc) that doesn't change but once a year - put it on the website
- 2) Raise dues. Almost UNANIMOUSLY accepted, just raise the dues to something which will make QST stay the same or improve!
- 3) Eliminate contest results, you eliminate members. Me, for instance..

Ed was to be passing this on to W2LC.... we're all aware of the storm brewing and have passed our feedback to the league.
K2AXX

James S. Idelson, 96 Morse Road, Sudbury, MA 01776
President, Yankee Clipper Contest Club k1ir@designet.com

January 15, 2002

TO:ARRL Board of Directors

SUBJECT: JOINT STATEMENT AND REQUEST OF US CONTEST CLUBS ON THE PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE DETAILED CONTEST RESULTS FROM QST

To the Board of Directors:

We, the presidents of the undersigned ARRL-affiliated contest clubs, wish to respectfully submit our unanimously held views on the current proposal to eliminate certain elements of contest coverage from QST in an effort to reduce cost. We are requesting that you defer this decision and accept our proposal to contribute resources and work with the ARRL to develop a more complete and effective solution to the problem.

The presidents of the ARRL-affiliated contest clubs unanimously support the following Joint Statement and Request. In many cases, there has been sufficient time to gain the support of the membership, as well:

1. We, the undersigned, recognize and appreciate the work that

the ARRL does in support of contesting, including sponsorship and administration of 15 ARRL contests plus the IARU contest, publishing rules, collecting logs, scoring the contests, providing awards, publishing results, maintaining the CAC, employing Dan Henderson and Kathy Allison. We support the Contest Robot, Cabrillo and Logbook of the World projects - all of which will benefit contesters.

2. We understand and support the League's goal of producing QST with ever-increasing quality, and to do so within certain financial constraints.

3. We feel that coverage of contesting in the printed format of QST is extremely important to the future of contesting as a mainstream amateur radio activity.

4. We feel that QST's printed line-by-line scores are extremely important at all levels of competition and participation. Although web-based results conserve the purpose of delivering the same information at a lower delivery cost, we feel that printed results serve a special purpose in promoting contesting. Printed results in the national magazine provide a unique sense of satisfaction and pride to participants; this cannot be duplicated with web-based results.

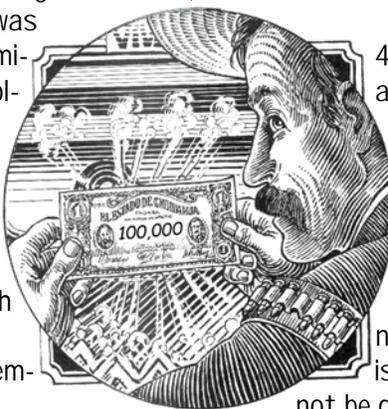
5. We are committed to assisting the League in finding solutions for complete contest coverage that can be delivered at lower cost using all forms of media - print and electronic, while at the same time making such coverage more attractive and interesting to a much wider audience than has been the case to date.

6. We ask the League to defer its decision regarding elimination of detailed contest results from QST until we have had an opportunity to work together to craft a solution that meets the financial requirements while further enhancing the quality of the product that is delivered.

7. To move this process forward expeditiously, we are assembling a group of volunteers to participate in an ARRL Contest Coverage Working Group, whose goal is to assist the League in defining a cost-effective and pragmatic solution for outstanding coverage of ARRL contests - combining both QST and web-based delivery methods.

ARRL Contest Coverage Working Group - Member Profiles

- Long-time, experienced contesters
- New, less-experienced contesters-in-training
- Non-contesters
- Business/marketing experts
- Sports journalism/writing experts
- Electronic delivery experts



Signatories To this Letter:

Southern California Contest Club; South East Contest Club; North Coast Contesters; Minnesota Wireless Association; Society of Midwest Contesters; Yankee Clipper Contest Club; Potomac Valley Radio Club; North Texas Contest Club; Frankford Radio Club; Mad River Radio Club; Tennessee Contest Group; Northern California Contest Club

Bernie Fuller, N3EFN Director, Atlantic Division

Bill Edgar, N3LLR Vice Director, Atlantic Division

As you all know, the ARRL Board of Directors met in Dallas, Texas, on 18 and 19 January 2002. Debate by the Board included:

*** Consideration of moving the SECTION NEWS columns from QST to the ARRL Web. The Board voted to delay final consideration of this issue until the July 2002 meeting. This will afford Section Managers and members an opportunity to "test" the web-based Section News and to make comments to Directors. In making the "test", please take into account that by moving the Section News to the new Web page editorial space in QST will be made available for items of wider member interest and significant funds will be freed and made available for the pursuit of favorable antenna rights and the protection of our frequencies.

*** The movement of contest line scores from QST to the Web. While this has been a controversial issue the simple fact is that contesters as a group are heavy users of the Web, and that portion of the Web dealing with contests will provide contesters with more rapid, detailed information than now available in QST. Transferring line scores to the Web will allow the QST editorial staff the flexibility of covering contest activity with wide appeal articles on specific contests and contesting in general.

No one is arguing that Section News or contest line scores are no longer important, or that these activities will no longer be covered in QST. Board level support is as strong as ever. We simply have a better, cheaper and FASTER way to deliver targeted section information and contest scores than we had 30 years ago. In this age of rapid information flow, it is ludicrous that the Section News is 2 - 3 months old by the time it hits QST. Section Managers now will have virtually unlimited space to upload timely information as well as photos and data tables. I ask that you go to the ARRL Web and check the Section information section, and while you're on the web take a look at the contest results information.

Atlantic Division Section Managers will have an opportunity to debate these changes at the Division Cabinet meeting in April. We have included ample time in the agenda to cover these issues. Make sure that you let your Section Manager know your feelings. Bernie Fuller, N3EFN Director, Atlantic Division; Bill Edgar, N3LLR Vice Director, Atlantic Division

EDITOR'S

RANT! ...de VE3IEY



OK- so I live in Canada (If this is news, then maybe you shouldn't be let out of the house alone, even WITH a compass). I DO NOT belong to the ARRL. I belong to RAC (A merger of the old CRRL and RAQI). CRRL dues are \$35 CDN per year. ARRL dues are (last I checked) is \$47/year USD to be mailed to Canada (This works out to about \$79 CDN per year). That's a lot of money, so I think I have a pretty good reason for only belonging to one national ham organization. However, when I lived in the US I DID belong to the ARRL. I think my sympathies should be relatively obvious to even the most casual reader of the Journal for the past 3 years.

But let me say that, in my personal opinion, that this whole thing of taking contest scores and section reports out of QST stinks of something else...

... bad management at the HQ level that is unable to look in the mirror to find the real problems. The \$100,000 shortfall is like a suspicious lump the doctor finds during your checkup... The removal of the Section reports and Contest scores are like the operation that takes out the ugly little things that show on the surface. What remains, however, is the Cancer that the follow-up treatments don't get, maybe because the doctor is looking in the wrong place, maybe because it's just too terminal to stop.

When I was a young ham, very early on I started comparing my VHF contest scores to others, and to my previous scores, to see how my gear upgrades were going and to see what else I had to learn, and who I had to learn it from. I found contest scores, standings boxes, and the like to be a tremendous motivating factor. Now that will all be gone from QST. Sure it will be on the web. That's cool, but it's not what they should be looking at- it's a STOPGAP. Now, I know they are in a tight spot, needing to save \$100,000 US so keep on track, but I think I have some better ideas to save that money. Pick any of the following- mix and match 'em. Who knows how much they'll save (we'll never know cuz they'd never tell us), but I bet it would be a bundle!

1) **Make two membership classes: web and print** (DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR???). One costs more- guess which one? OOPs- that means that they'd have to give advertisers a break, as LESS people would be seeing their advertising in print. Money talks, and advertising is where it's at. **Darn.**

2) Cut print production costs! Gosh, maybe it's time to investigate another format for the print version of QST...

Something more recyclable, or a smaller size (there are other trade sizes that are standard- look at TV Guide- glossy cover AND newsprint inside). I know the old format had become too expensive to produce... **MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE LOOKING AT it again- it has been over 20 years since the last change.** (like drop an issue in August, make it 11 issues or less a year). Why do they need glossy pages if they cost more? OOPS- less advertising dollars again. **Darn.**

3) How about all these guys who are saying that they don't mind a dues increase to keep the quality of QST up... **How many of these guys are LIFE MEMBERS** who paid their money in the 1970's when they could get lifetime privileges for a couple hundred bucks... OK, so the ARRL offered it, they took it, and they got a good deal. The REST of you folks are PAYING for the ARRL's STUPIDITY for offering it in the first place!

Did they figure Lifers were going to SK in 15 years or less?

Well then, it's costing the rest of YOU money. Maybe QST mailing should be taken OUT of Life membership... unless they're willing to pay the postage costs once their initial payment runs out. You life members love the League? Consider that your Life membership **IS** part of the problem! If everyone purchased life membership, the League would go bust in 15 years! Hey- costs are up- life is tough. **Darn.**

4) Cut out a few \$100,000 of middlemen- **MOVE THE LEAGUE TO THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA.** Yup, I know it's expensive to move. Yup, I know it's expensive to live there. Sorry.

THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB THAT YOUR ONLY NATIONAL AMATEUR ORGANIZATION HAS IS TO PROTECT YOUR FREQUENCIES!
How can you do that from Connecticut??????

Why do you need those lobbyists on Capitol Hill? Why can't the League officers press their own case? BEACUSE THEY'RE NOT IN WASHINGTON!!! Get rid of staff. Cut costs. Outsource lab tests. Should have done it years ago, too. What good is a national amateur radio organization if we lose it all? Ask the membership? OOPS- that costs money to do... if the recent "ask the contesters" effort is any indication, expect a half-baked month's notice, if you're lucky. **Darn.**

5) Cut out the contest department staff. After all, the logs can now be fully analyzed by computer, a move they spear-headed. We don't need the staff telling us all those cute stories if it's a choice between print or none at all. Give me the statistics: I get the stories via listservers in real time, or thru my local club publication. Evidently they have been blaming recent June VHF test errors on the interns anyway- one reason that contest results are routinely SCREWED UP (lets call a spade a spade here!) with MAJOR stations (like K1UHF in

Jan 2001 & VE3AX in June 2002, and who knows how many minor ones that don't complain) and clubs being dropped or being uncredited in the listings- **LET THE COMPUTERS DO THE DARN THING !**

What kind of ham buys a \$5,000 transceiver? My bet is that it is someone who expects 115% out of the rig. Guess what- **I bet there are a lot of contesters in that group.** Cut contest publication and contest operator readership goes down (they're all going to the web to look at scores). **Contest readership goes down, and the value of your advertising dollar goes down.** If you plan to lose customers (advertisers or members), don't expect to get them back.

I always like to remind people that the folks at the FCC and UPS and Aerotron and STI and all those other folks that have been after the valuable real-estate we call the ham bands can read. Not publishing contest results is a self-fulfilling prophecy- no results mean less readers, less readers mean less participation in the contests, less participation in the contests means the guys at all those frequency-hungry companies (who can afford subscriptions to QST and therefore access to the members-only portion of the ARRL website whenever they want) will see that in the results. Results? Hey! there's nobody on 220! Lets take it! (whoops- flashback there- not to subtle, eh? :^) **Double-Darn.**

Now, up here in Canada, **RAC has systematically reduced staff, costs, cut their publication TCA to bi-monthly issues, increased use of volunteers, and MOVED HQ TO THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.** I think this **fiscal responsibility** has played **VERY WELL with Canadians-** membership is up **significantly,** and they are **RIGHT ON TOP OF ISSUES that deal with Ham Radio- for a per-capita cost that would make the ARRL HQ cry.**

Remember- the problem is not just the sixteen pages they are trying to save. The problem is not just the \$100,000. Look at the letters that follow- one mentions additional editorial content that will be needed to replace the removed items. **It's a symptom-** treat it as such and you'll take on a whole new perspective.

Sure I love the League... But not enough to give them \$79 CDN per year to do this, while life memberships are dragging them down the toilet, while frequencies are being taken away, while HQ costs are sucking the well dry, and QST expenses sure amount to more than the "50% for publication purposes" that the ARRL claims for "postal purposes". How about you? Is it YOUR national amateur radio organization?

Tom VE3IEY FN14 tantonr@kingston.net or ve3iey@rac.ca
(The opinions above are not those of anyone other than myself. I do not speak for the RVHFG, its members, or its officers. I speak for me. Who speaks for you?)

N2IM ROVER- Jan `test 2002

What do you get when you mix a vehicle, radio equipment, and a slightly mixed-up operator together? A VHF rover! I can't speak for other rovers, but that is a good definition of my rover attempt for the January Sweepstakes! This is a story of my first attempt at SS roving!

Going on the advice of some local rovers, encouragement from our Chairman, and enthusiasm to try something new, I ventured out into the fabulous world of VHF roving. I was very pumped about trying it, so in November of 2001, I began preparing for the rove (with the huge help of K2TER and N2JMH). I decided to stick to the four local grids since I wasn't sure I would be around to operate on Sunday. My plan was to take 10 bands with me. One small problem was that I only had 5760!

People began stepping forward to offer me some of their spare equipment to use. Jim, N2JMH, offered to construct a platform on the back of my Astro van with a tower and mast. We began working on Saturdays on that. Bill, K2TER, offered me some equipment for 432, 903, 1296, and 3456. The only problem was that 903 and 3456 needed work, and all of the bands needed to be integrated. I was nervous that I would not be able to complete everything in time, but I kept receiving encouragement and help and was determined to do my part in trying to win the Club Competition.

Dave, K2DH, and Tom, KV2X, lent me equipment for 10 GHz and 222 MHz. I also bought a used IC-746 to cover my 6 and 2 meter needs. Todd, N2WVK, built a laser setup for me to use as well. Without the help of these different guys, this operation would never have happened. Thanks! The beginning of the contest came way too fast for me. With it came many complications I had not planned for (I kind of forgot that Murphy only wreaks havoc during contests!) I had a terrible headache and head cold the entire weekend (I mean, I went through a box and a half of Puffs Plus!) The night before, I had still been putting antennas up and equipment in the car. 903, 1296, and 3456 were not working at all! I could hear on 1296, but that was it! My 5760 transverter was not able to be tuned up in time, so my only working bands were 50, 144, 222, 432, 10GHz, and laser. I took what I had and left pumped up for a weekend of fun!

My first stop was Buckman Rd. in FNO2. My schedule called for a 3 hour stop there. I probably made more contacts from that point than any of my other stops. I also made my first 10 GHz contacts! The first one was with Mark, K2AXX, and the second was with the W2FU multio. I'm hooked on 10 GHz! I worked through all my bands with both stations and N2PA.

After leaving there, I went to FN12AR, near Mt. Morris. Again,

I was able to work Mark on 10GHz, even when I had the horn pointed down on the ground! That shows you what 5 watts at the feed on a tower can do! The one disappointing part was not being able to work W2FU from there. I found out later that it was due to the fact that I had the horn on the wrong polarity! Stupid me, I didn't know that a horn also had horizontal and vertical planes! The next morning, we met up with the N2JMH rover to work laser and our different bands across the grid line. It was a lot fun making all those contacts on laser! All in all, I made 10 laser qosos in four grids! It really helped my score out.

I had to knock off operation at 9:00 am Sunday morning and was not able to resume it again until 4:30 Sunday afternoon. After operating for a few miles in FN13, I stopped at W2EV's house to work Ev on 10 GHz. While I was there, he let me borrow his 24 GHz wideband and we made a QSO that gave us both an extra grid!

After some operating in FNO3, it was on to the four grid corners to work the bands with the other rovers. It was very orderly and the contacts were made through all the bands in short order with minimum mistakes. It was kind of funny watching the faces of people as they drove by our four rovers parked on the side of the road! I can't even imagine what they were thinking!

Finally, as the contest was on the homestretch, I decided to go to W2FU to work them on 10 GHz and laser. I got there around 9:30 pm. I worked them on those two bands and then they asked me what happened to the other bands. I told them the problems that I had with them, and that I left 903 and 3456 at home that afternoon, because I would not have time to fix them on the road. They told me to go out and get 1296, that they would fix it to make a contact on. Thanks to Scott, AA2WV, for his investigative troubleshooting that resulted in a QSO for W2FU and an extra grid for me! I left there around 10:30 to go home.

While I was driving down Rt. 104 (over the Bay Bridge) some motorist comes roaring up next to me, honking his horn and point at my roof. I didn't really pay that much attention (after all, a lot of people look at you strange when you drive around with two 16' antennas, three 5' antennas, and a couple of halos up around 11!). After honking at me, he just finally pulled ahead. I didn't think to check things in my mirror until I heard a "thwump." I pulled over at the first available spot, only to find that my whole array had turned sideways and I now had two 16' antennas width-wise! I hopped into the back and adjusted my rotator and continued home, only to have it occur twice more! I finally arrived home at 11:30 pm, exhausted and cold, but very happy.

Many thanks to the hams who made this all happen: N2JMH,

K2TER, N2RD, KV2X, K2AXX, N2WVK, W2EV, and last, but not least, my father, KC2IVS, who handled all the driving for me on Saturday.

This was my first January rove, but it will not be the last! Already, I have planned a better layout and better antenna scheme. I will be back next January! I will have more bands and better antennas, but most of all, I will have a lot of valuable experience! Listen next year for N2IM/R!

The January SS contest aboard the JMH Blue Whale.

"Todd Donath" <n2wvk@arrl.net>

January is a great time to get away from it all and take a vacation. Let go and forget about all the problems you may have, the daily stress and all.. So every January I board a cruise ship called the Blue Whale. It's one of those tall ships, a dual masted iron sides type. The JMH cruise line covers a wide variety of grid squares in the Atlantic region including the often rare FNO3. And sometimes ports in the EN territories.

This year's cruise was one of the best, although security was tighter than normal. We got off to a great start. We had a brief encounter with another of the tall ships in EN91. It was the Mighty K2TER with full crew on deck. We docked 1800utc in the port of Erie with the crew of the TER/R for a bite, chat and the usual exchange of rare metals and spices from our native grids. After all past stories were told and our bellies were full, it was time to fire off the cannons.

1900utc we had a huge glacier blocking our access to the mine of golden Q's past. And the dive for the lost jewels was called off. We finally dropped anchor late that evening in FNO1 due to mysterious ice fog. This ice fog condition worsened as the temp dropped to 9f. The audio fog horn worked greater distance than the 5gig horn. At this point the Captain had to do something to stop a mutiny.. It was time to change grids again.

A long and restful sail to FN13 and a hot breakfast cooked by KC2IDT.(Cooked conventionally, not with rf) I was ready to greet the Laser lit morning. And there it was, a cw laser signal in my eye, N2IM/R. Then it was off to hunt the big game. And the possibility of the long haul 5 gig qso. Grid to grid we went.

guided through the bands by experienced operators at every sand bar or reef. I ended up with a whole lot of stories and the experience to navigate another ship through the same waters. I know my voice sounded gruff but I was playing the part of a Viking at sea.

All in all, a real fun time, Only one thing,, the price of the ticket can vary from state to state.

See Attached NY trooper Boarding Pass....
Todd, N2WVK

ROCHESTER HAMFEST VHF GROUP PROGRAM

Gang,

As some know, I stepped up to head the program this year for the Rochester Hamfest. We have one of the prime time spots and it is usually well attended. I plan on doing a "Rover forum" and am asking for a couple of volunteers to take a 1/2 hour time slot to discuss anything you want to about vhf contest roving.

I will introduce you and help you along if needed and plan on filling the remaining spots myself.

Now here is the good part, I need an answer ASAP as I have to get a little more detail to Lloyd for inclusion in the hamfest program.

Don't be shy here, I need some help!
Jim n2jmh

UT-3.6 SP (6/99) New York State • Department of Motor Vehicles
UNIFORM TRAFFIC TICKET
NEW YORK STATE POLICE
LM 075034 1
Last Name (Defendant) HOWARD First Name JAMES M.I. M
Number and Street 9437 RIDGE RD Apt. No. M
City BROOKLYN State NY Zip Code 114120
Client ID Number N2JMH N2JMH
Lic. State NY Lic. Class B2/B2 Date Expires 02/11/04 Com. Veh. Bus Haz. Mat.
Plate Number N2JMH Reg. State NY Reg. Type SR Color BR Veh. Type SUV
Vehicle Year/Make 2002 FORD In connection with your alleged commission of the following offense committed on:
Weekday SU Date of Offense 02/12/02 at 7:00 PM
Street Name ST-63 Hwy Type SB Hwy No. 63
Location Code 11760
IN VIOLATION OF NYS V&T LAW 01 Other Law
Sec. 11-101
Description of Violation NO RED FLAG ON LOAD
Officer's Signature [Signature]
U.S. POLICE
NCIC/ORI 115002 DIV/Troop A PCT/Zone 1 Sector/Station 411
Officer's Last Name (print) TITZMANN FL MJ Badge/Shield 11760
YOU ARE HEREBY DIRECTED TO APPEAR IN THE
City TOWN OF PAVILION
Address 1 WOODBROW DR
City PAVILION State NY Zip 14425
Date 02/12 YEAR 02 AT 5:00 PM
A PLEA OF GUILTY TO THIS CHARGE IS EQUIVALENT TO A CONVICTION AFTER TRIAL. IF YOU ARE CONVICTED, NOT ONLY WILL YOU BE LIABLE TO A PENALTY, BUT IN ADDITION YOUR LICENSE TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE OR MOTORCYCLE, AND YOUR CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION, IF ANY, ARE SUBJECT TO SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW.
Upon conviction you may be subject to a mandatory surcharge in the amount prescribed by law.
Your failure to respond may result in a warrant for your arrest or suspension of your driver license and/or a default judgment against you.

FUTOCABR CONVERTER UPDATE !!!!

To all,

The ARRL has started doing more rigorous checking of Cabrillo log submissions. They found an error(?) that didn't get detected before. (Or, they changed the standard, and didn't let everybody know.) Luckily, it's easy to correct by hand. I will have a corrected converter program out in a day or two. The error has to do with the 'END-OF-LOG' statement at the very end of the log. It should read (Without the single quotes) 'END-OF-LOG:' I know this may seem anal-retentive, but it's the ARRL, not me. Also, make sure no characters follow this statement. Tim, NS9E

Why ask Why?

LOG SUBMISSION INFO!

Gang,

OK, it is over, besides terrible conditions it sounds like it went very well. Before you convert your log to Cabrillo, please send it to january@vhfgroup.rochesterny.org with your class of participation and the club to which you want your score to be applied for the Rochester Cup. Every electronic submission will get an acknowledgement with a number. Keep this number for proof of submission.

Paper logs will get an acknowledgement number if there is an email address included.

Then convert to Cabrillo format for the ARRL and send it to januaryvhf@arrl.org with the Rochester VHF Group as your club name for club affiliation. You will also get an acknowledgement number from them. Log submission is very important this year with the talks of scaling down contest coverage in QST. We won't lose it if you use it!

Log submission help is available from me at n2jmh@arrl.net or call me at home 585-637-4554

Jim n2jmh

The Resurgent Sun

NASA Science News for January 18, 2002

Evidence is mounting that some solar cycles are doubled-peaked. The ongoing solar maximum may itself be a double -- and the second peak has arrived. FULL STORY at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2002/18jan_solarback.htm?list110894

VE3CVG REPORTS FROM THE GREAT WHITE NORTH (FN25)

Once again VA3KA, VE2ZP and I competed locally in a friendly way, and this time I was left in the dust. Well, not too far back. These are great scores for our location and modest stations, especially considering that this is seen as one of the quietest contests. Our close scores show how well matched we were. Each QSO and each grid makes a very big difference when the scores are like this. Dave's 6m persistence and assertiveness worked for him. Ken beat me out with his last few contacts I was not so lucky/skilled. Another hour and ah well never mind next contest.

*VE3CVG stats: ABCDE Total 97Q/ 37G Score 5,143

*VA3KA stats ABCD Total 102Q/ 40G Score: 5,160

*VE2ZP stats: ABCD Total 110Q 51G Score: 6,834

It was an enjoyable contest with a good deal of frustration and some classic moments. With the possible exception of 2m, the bands seemed quite flat Saturday, with ok/enhanced short haul signals but very poor longer haul propagation, especially on 70cm and 23cm. I quit (early) Saturday (9:30pm?) out of

frustration. On Sunday, the propagation was much better, and 6m opened a couple of times for an hour or so and that sure helped to add grid multipliers.

Propagation on 222MHz, 432MHz and 1296MHz improved dramatically Sunday evening but still with lots of QSB. Several uncompleted QSOs due to QSB (K1UHF), several "no hears" on scheds, several old standbys like NQ20, VE2JWH, K3MBM that were not heard (by me) this contest. Much effort to attract the attention of the big USA stations ... with some success (W2FU, N2PA), and some disappointments (K3YTL). One QSO was completed by whistling CW on SSB so that the other station (Kieran VA3KS on 222fm) could copy me. I didn't have FM and he didn't have SSB or CW. One attempted 2304MHz QSO with Clare VE3NPC, involved setting up a paragrid at night on the back deck at -15C. I took the FT-817 IF radio from 1296 outside, along with the vxrtr set up, and a battery for power. Didn't work! But, I was rewarded with a brief view of a spectacular aurora covering the entire northern sky at 7pm. This one looked like zebra stripes running east to west. The next contest will be warmer.

After numerous tests pre-contest and at least 4 or 5 test during contest, VE3IEY (Tom) and I are now positive that we do not have a clear path on 1296 or 432. We tried absolutely everything. Last resort will be to look for a reflector somewhere. VE2ZP could not work him either but VA2KA worked him easily with S9 signals. I'm told that there was a lot of ice and fog to our south and that may have accounted for some of our RF frustration. I also hear that our friends in VE2 land had considerably better conditions for a much longer time on 6m on Sunday.

See you next contest. 73 Rick (VE3CVG)

FOR SALE

cable	connector	QTY	Price
LDF4	N male	19	\$10ea
LDF5	N female	6	\$15ea
LDF5	flange male	2	\$15ea
LDF5	flange female	1	\$15ea
LDF4	DIN male	10	\$15ea
LDF5	DIN female	3	\$20ea
LDF6	DIN female	5	\$25ea

all connectors are used, but complete.

LDF4 = 1/2 LDF5 = 7/8 LDF6 = 11/4 LDF7 = 1 5/8
contact: ve3by@bmts.com

If you go to a funeral at night, do you drive with your lights off?

RVHFG CLUB RECORDS FOR JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES

Researched by Wayne King, N2WK

SCORE / CALL/ YEAR / PLACED #

SINGLE OP HIGH POWER				ROVER (AFTER 1994 MAJOR RULE CHANGE)			
188,800	W2FU	1997	#7	167,076	WA2MOP	1994	#2
180,540	KA2RDO	1999	#7	163,020	W2FU	1998	#2
168,454	K2AXX	2001	#3	144,534	N2JMH	2001	#1
154,176	W2HPF	1995	#5	140,250	K2TER	2001	#3
129,920	KA2RDO	1995	N/A	95,612	K2TER	2000	#2
128,928	W2HPF	1993	#6	90,090	KB3PW	1998	#6
119,700	KA2RDO	1993	#9	81,046	WA2MOP	1995	#1
111,592	N2WK	1990	#1	80,510	KA2CKI	1998	#7
110,856	KD5RO	1989	#6	68,187	KB3PW	1997	#4
104,064	W2HPF	1994	N/A	63,650	K2TER	1999	#9
MED PWR 150 WATTS OR LESS				ROVER (BEFORE 1994 RULE CHANGE)			
87,296	N2ODK	1996	N/A	409,840	KD2KQ	1993	#5
86,430	N2ODK	1995	N/A	305,244	WO2P	1993	#7
86,268	WB2ELB	1996	N/A	265,200	KB3PW	1993	#8
63,279	KD2YB	1993	N/A	250,312	N2KXS	1993	#9
49,056	AA2WV	1999	N/A	246,341	N2HKD	1993	#10
QRP PWR 25 WATTS OR LESS				LIMIT MULTI-OP			
70,262	KD2YB	1996	N/A	148,500	N2WK	1992	#1
50,468	N2WK	1991	N/A	111,760	KB2DMK	1996	#4
39,223	KD2YB	1995	N/A	108,810	N2HLT	1995	#3
27,328	KD2YB	1991	N/A	66,364	WB2ELB	1994	#5
26,675	NS9E	2000	N/A	63,128	N2HLT	1998	#6
QRP/P 10 WATTS OR LESS				UNLIMITED MULTI-OP			
22,320	WX3P	1996	#3	568,524	N2WK	1998	#3
20,496	WB2ELB	1990	#1	527,040	N2WK	1996	#1
13,728	WX3P	2000	#2	509,937	N2WK	1995	#1
13,115	WX3P	1998	#3	495,288	W2UTH	1997	#2
11,952	WX2P	1995	#2	451,577	N2WK	1994	#1

S.W.O.T. PLAQUES FOR JANTEST

John Petersen, KM5ES, the president of SideWinders on Two (SWOT) announces that SWOT will recognize with plaques the top 2m scores (Single Operator High Power, Single Operator Low Power, Rover, and Multioperator) during the ARRL January 2002 VHF Sweepstakes. All amateurs are eligible to participate, with or without SWOT membership. Members of the SWOT Contest Committee are not eligible to participate, and their decisions are final.

Currently, the ARRL does not track band specific information unless someone enters the contest in the single band mode. Therefore, to participate, simply include the SWOT contesting manager, Don Ross, NL7CO (NL7CO@ARRL.NET), as a cc: in the electronic submission of your Cabrillo formatted contest logs. All ARRL contest rules apply with the exception that rule 6.1 is modified such that only electronic logs are being accepted this year.

Plaques will be purchased and mailed prior to the end of March 2002 and the results will be posted on the SWOT homepage <http://home.swbell.net/wd5djt/> at the same time. SWOT is a grouping of amateur radio enthusiasts promoting full usage of the 2m band with an emphasis on the weak signal portions of the band. Questions may be addressed to either KM5ES or NL7CO.

**Meeting Notice: FRIDAY 08 FEB 2002, 7:30 PM
111 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY**

FOR SALE

I have for sale two (2) 6 el 6m yagis, one of which is down and apart ready for pickup either here or at the St. Kitts fleamarket. The other will be available in the early Spring (it's still on the tower!). These yagis started life as Cushcraft 6 el yagis, but have been re-modeled on the computer, lengthened to a 24' boom, and most importantly, have been strengthened with additional inner tubing lengths in the boom and some of the longer elements. A dacron boom strut is used to hold the antennas horizontal. One was used to get 2nd place in the 2001 6m Spring Sprint, 1st place Canada in the ARRL Sept. VHF contest, and more than 60 new countries in the last 7 months. 'Nuff said! Asking \$200 each.
73 Peter VE3AX ve3ax@sympatico.ca

-Two meter Multi-Mode: Kenwood TS-700SP. Late model with full frequency coverage, digital readout, VOX, AC & 12 VDC operation. Ten Watts. Mic, cables, manual. One owner, as new condition. \$250.00

-Six meter Multi-Mode + HF. Kenwood TS-670. Full featured (General coverage RX, All mode, IF Shift, VOX, more) Covers 6, 10, 15 and 40 meters) Great 10 mtr IF radio as well. 12 VDC. With cables, mic, manual. As new condition. Worked 52 countries - hears well. \$200.00

-Mirage Brick A-1015G, 6 meter, 10 watts to 150 watts, with RX pre-amp. All Mode. 12 VDC. As new. Current list \$360, today only \$195.00 Ed Gable k2mp (585) 392-3088
187 Lighthouse Rd. Hilton, NY 14468 k2mp@eznet.net

**The VHF Journal
The Rochester VHF Group
PO Box 92122
Rochester, NY 14692
USA**