



The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday, November 13th 2015 at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7PM at the AWA Campus located on Routes 5 and 20 just east of the Route 444 intersection in Bloomfield, NY. The address is 6925 Routes 5 and 20.

**Map and directions on last page  
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Topic: AWA Tour

RVHFG's Beacons	
Band	MHz
6m	50.078
2m	144.298
1.25m	222.050
70cm	432.300
23cm	1296.257

Beacons Hosted at AWA Museum

**W2UTH 6 meter Skimmer**

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

## The Chairman Speaks!

**Tom Jennings KV2X**

**Groupers:** The 2015-2016 continues with an interesting APRS and Amateur Balloon tracking talk by Jon Dickason, N2JAC at our October meeting. Jon had some great high altitude pictures to share. We all thank Jon for an informative and entertaining program. For November we will be having our meeting at the AWA Museum in Bloomfield, NY. Ron and Duncan will be our hosts and guides. It should be an interesting tour as the AWA has some new additions which we will all be interested in seeing. There will be a short business meeting prior to the tour. See the last page for maps. December will be the RVHFG's annual Tune-up Clinic again hosted by Bill Roger's, K2TER. It's a great time to check the noise figures of your preamps and transverters and get ready for the January VHF Contest. Keep an eye on the RVHFG.ORG announcements for details. Speaking of the January VHF Contest, the ARRL announced a rule change effective January 1, 2016 allowing the use of 146.52 MHz during the contests. It is hoped the change will attract more hams into VHF+ contesting. Another way to increase activity during the January VHF contest will also give everybody a further chance to obtain a Worked ALL Rochester Award now that the time period to make 100 contacts has been extended until June of 2016.

I hope to see you at the meeting and bring a friend!

73, Tom KV2X

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# Secretary Report

Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ

## Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for 9 October 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 1931L by Tom (KV2X). Tom welcomed everybody to our second meeting of the new season. Tom (KV2X) asked for a motioned that last month's meeting minutes be accepted as written in September's journal. Dave (K2DH) motioned the acceptance and Steve (K2STF) seconded. Tom (KV2X) asked for a motioned that the Treasurer's report be accepted as written in September's Journal. Jarred (KF2MR) motioned the acceptance and Dave (K2DH) seconded. A motion to close the meeting was offered by Dave (K2DH) and Steve (K2STF) seconded.

### Attending:

Jon (N2JAC), Jarred (KF2MR), Tom & Betty (KV2X), Freddie (WB2GFZ), John (WB2BYP), Gloria (K2GAB), David (AB2YI), Dave (AE2DM), Dave (K2DH), Bob (WA2QAU) Steve (K2STF) & Bill (K2TER).

### Old Business:

- Worked All Rochester (WAR) event was discussed and the group agreed to extend the event through April 2016. The group talked about encouraging the WAR activity by placing highlights of the 1<sup>st</sup> individual to complete the requirements in the RVHFG Journal.
- 6 Meter Skimmer's health was questioned and some have indicated that it's ok and others seem to think it is deaf.
- 220 MHz Beacon appears to be having problem. Dave (K2DH) indicated he would check it out and Jarred (KF2MR) & Freddie (WB2GFZ) volunteered to help with the effort.

### New Business: None

**Program:** Jon Dickason (N2JAC), provided an informative and exciting talk about his experience with APRS and Amateur Balloon tracking. The presentation included a slide show to provide APRS background and videos to highlight the Amateur Balloon activity.

## Rochester VHF Group Treasurer's Report (10/31/2015)

### CHECKING/CASH ACCOUNT

Previous Balance (PP = \$3.82, Cash = \$273.83Cash, \$2211.60 Checking):	\$2489.25
Income:	
Dues Dave (AB2YI), Bob (WA2QAU)	\$ 20.00
Current Balance (PP = \$3.82, Cash = \$293.83Cash, \$2211.60 Checking):	\$2509.08

Members paid up for 2015 – 2016 are as follows;

AB2YI, David Muller	KB2BLS, Bill Hanes	WA2QAU, Robert Roberts
AE2DM, David Malecki	KC2PCD, Len Crellin (2017)	WB2BYP, John Stevens (2017)
AF2K, Irv Goodman	KD2DCC, Ed Pendzik	WB2GFZ, Freddie Sulyma
K2AXX, Mark Hoffman	KF2MR, Jarred Jackson	WB2QCJ, Dean Keyser
K2DH, Dave Hallidy	KV2X, Tom Jennings	WB2SQS, Mike Gioka
K2EHF, Jeff Luce	N2HEG, Martin Ippolito	WB2YJH, Jim Reilich
K2GAB, Gloria Stevens (2017)	W2CNS, Bob Nezelek	WO2P, Fred Miller (2017)
K2OEQ, Duncan Brown	W2GMT, Gary Terrana	
K2TER, Bill Rogers	W2LT, Joe Hoodak	

*Respectfully submitted,  
Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ, Treasurer*

# Vice Chairman's Report

By Jarred Jackson, KF2MR

I enjoyed operating the NY QSO Party from the car and heard quite a few locals on the air. This was actually a good excuse to begin rebuilding the rover setup for a semi-permanent installation that frees up the passenger's seat and allows a roving partner in January. I tried an MFJ-1699S multi-band antenna, with mixed results. This is the type of antenna where you move a jumper to different taps to change bands. Well, it never did tune like the chart suggested. But PSK31 into Europe was no problem on 20m and I was able to get on 40m using an antenna tuner. With my proximity to W2RDX (@W2FU), it wasn't too tough to work those guys on any band no matter how inefficient the antenna was. The best part about this event was that most stations slowed down on CW for me. Thanks to Len, KC2PCD for humoring me on the VHF/UHF bands. We were able to get through 10m – 70cm on SSB and CW in rapid succession with no problem. The very next day, my power plant went into a scheduled refueling shutdown which would take me off the air for three weeks. Luckily this only occurs every 18 months. Despite 18 years of experience, I remain in awe at the power of nuclear technology. Perhaps a topic for a future RVHFG meeting!?

73, Jarred - KF2MR

## “Worked All Rochester” Award Update

By Jarred Jackson, KF2MR

The “Worked All Rochester” award period has now been extended through June of 2016 to allow more time to gather contacts for your logs. The award was developed as a fun, but challenging program to encourage VHF/UHF operation. You need to make 100 contacts with local hams on VHF/UHF bands to qualify (See [www.rvhfg.org](http://www.rvhfg.org) for rules). In concept, 10 well equipped stations could all complete the award in a single night. This is based on the rules that allow contacts on Voice, CW, and Digital modes to be considered separate contacts on 6m-70cm. This means up to 12 contacts per person. Sounds great in theory, but in practice most hams don't have all four of the lower bands (most often missing 222), might not be capable of using CW, or may have never used digital modes on VHF/UHF bands. But most RVHFG members can at least use voice modes on 6m, 2m, and 70cm with many proficient on CW. Let's see if it's possible to earn the award, just working the 21 other current members of the RVHFG with the following assumptions.

- All members have voice capability on 6m, 2m, and 70cm
- 13 members can use CW on these bands

This leads to 63 voice contacts and 39 CW contacts or a total of 102, more than enough needed for the award. This does not credit that a handful of members who also have all mode capability, or at least FM on 222/223 MHz. So setting up a sked with just one RVHFG member a week leads to the award in 22 weeks.

OK, maybe you are not the kind of person to setup 21 skeds for the purpose of earning an award. Me neither. The above example was just intended to show that it is not only possible, but not too hard to do if you wanted to. In reality, weekly nets, contests, and random on the air activity makes it much more fulfilling and interesting to log your contacts. As of September, my log had 42 unique call signs totaling 130 contacts on the lower bands for an average of about 3 contacts per person (with another 13 contacts in the microwave bands). Of these 42, only 12 are current RVHFG members and to date, the most contacts made with one station (8) came from a former member. Only 15 contacts were made on 222/223 MHz, so while helpful, this band is certainly not necessary to earn the award. About 50% of my contacts came from contesting, but here are several other circumstances where I logged contacts:

- A guy I met on 146.55 while he was driving around Rochester
- About 5 people who switched to FM simplex after the 145.11 Sunday Net
- Two guys I talked to on the way home after participating in the XARC Fox Hunt
- Someone responding to a radio test on 146.55 before field day
- After the Monday and Thursday RVHFG nets (lots of Q's possible here)
- A couple of guys I met up with at Field Day

In the end, if you stay active on the air, there are plenty of opportunities to fill up your log. Hopefully when you do fill it up and reflect back on it as I have, you will see just how much activity there can be on the VHF/UHF bands.

73,

Jarred - KF2MR

## VHF Contest Rule Change: Use of 146.52 MHz FM Simplex Frequency

The ARRL Programs and Services Committee earlier this year unanimously adopted a recommendation from its VHF and Above Revitalization Committee to remove the rule prohibiting the use of 146.52 MHz simplex for making contest contacts. That change will go into effect starting on January 1, 2016.

The VHF and Above Revitalization Committee had concluded that the restriction was no longer necessary. The committee felt that permitting the use of 146.52 MHz would allow new/curious contesters possessing only FM-mode radios to stumble upon more contacts, increasing their chances of being drawn further into VHF+ contesting — the primary aim of the Revitalization Committee.

Advance notification of the rule change now has been communicated to the full Board, and the change becomes effective in 2016, starting with the ARRL January VHF Contest.

The change also will be incorporated into the [ARRL Field Day](#) rules. This change eliminates Rule 1.8 in the "[General Rules for ARRL Contests Above 50 MHz](#)," with subsequent Rule 1 sections renumbered accordingly. — *Thanks to Dan Henderson, N1ND, Regulatory Information Manager/Acting Contest Manager*

Tom Jennings, KV2X

## VHF+ Contest Calendar

Contest	Dates	Notes
EME Contest (50-1296) Round 2	11/28–11/29	
January VHF Contest	1/30-1/31	This is one of the big ones! Can we beat 12 logs from 2015 Use of 146.52 MHz Allowed

## Classified Listings

*None this month*

