



The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday, January 8th at 7:30 PM (come early, doors open at 7 PM) at **Spencerport Wesleyan Church** 2653 Nichols St., Spencerport [Map and directions on last page](#)

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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

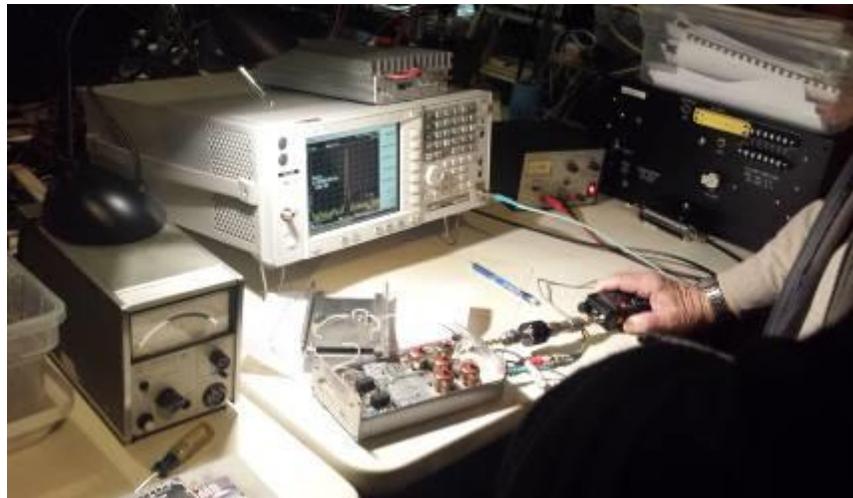
W2UTH 6 meter Skimmer

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

The Chairman Speaks!

Tom Jennings KV2X

Groupers: Happy New Year to you all and I hope it will be a great year for VHF/UHV/UW operating. The Tune-up Clinic was a success thanks to Dave, K2DH providing the valuable test equipment and Bill, K2TER for hosting and providing food & drink to make the clinic a success. Check RVHFG.ORG for photos.



2304 Transverter under test

For the January meeting we will be discussing three popular logging programs with an emphasis on using them for VHF Contesting. Please bring any questions or experiences or tips to the meeting. The meeting will be a great place to find out what the plans are for the contests and what your plans will be. KF2MR will promoting the Rover Blitz for Sunday after lunch. The Blitz will be an opportunity for the RVHFG to be a Top 10 contender for club scores. Continued...

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The Chairman Speaks!

Tom Jennings KV2X

...continued.

As an encouragement, the RVHFG will give a participation mug to each member who submits a contest log to the ARRL. See the Vice Chairman's Report for details.

Don't forget to use the January VHF Contest to obtain the 100 QSOs required for the Worked All Rochester Award. (See <http://rvhfg.org/pdf/articles/64.pdf> for details.)

We have been talking about a club project but there hasn't been any consensus as to what the project could be. Since the plan for February meeting is a show and tell (see Vice Chairman's Report for details) we can use it as a brain storm session for a club project. I set up a Forum on the RVHFG.ORG to open up the discussions and a couple examples of a project have been posted. Any and all ideas are welcome.

I hope to see you all at the meeting Friday and bring a friend!
73, Tom Jennings KV2X

Secretary Report

Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for 11 December 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 1930L by Tom (KV2X) just after sharing pizza and the latest activities amongst the group. Tom welcomed everybody. Tom (KV2X) asked for a motioned that last month's meeting minutes be accepted as written in November's journal. Dave (K2DH) motioned the acceptance and Jarred (KF2MR) seconded. Tom (KV2X) asked for a motioned that the Treasurer's report be accepted as written in December's Journal. Bob (W2CNS) motioned the acceptance and Dave (K2DH) seconded. A motion to close the meeting was offered by Dave (K2DH) and Steve (K2STF) seconded.

Attending: Tom (KV2X), Freddie (WB2GFZ), Bob (W2CNS, & Linda), Steve (K2STF), Bill (K2TER), Dave (K2DH), Irv (AF2K), David (AE2DM), David (AB2YI), Jarred (KF2MR) & Frank (K2OS).

Old Business:

- 6 Mtr Skimmer health was questioned and some have indicated that its ok and other seem to think it is deaf.
- 6 M, 2 M, & 1.25 M Beacons appear to be having problems. Dave (K2DH) to check it out.

New Business:

- 220 MHz Transverter Project was discussed. A committee/forum is being considered via Tom (KV2X) to get things rolling.
- The RVHF group is hosting the annual Banquet this year. The venue being considered is Lillian's and Jarred (KF2MR) to follow up.
- An idea to award any RVHF group members who submits a January contest log a commemorative coffee mug was presented. The idea was accepted.
- The suggestion of working the January contest as base and rover was presented. The operator would be rewarded with extra excitement and the ability to hand in two logs. There are tentative plans for the Rovers to meet up for lunch in LeRoy (1/31).

Program: Our host Bill (K2TER) provided pizza & wings and others added goodies to a pre-meeting meal. Lots of collective chatting took place and afterwards the Tune Up clinic commenced. Much thanks goes out to Dave (K2DH) for providing the test equipment and overlooking the tune up activities.

Rochester VHF Group

Treasurer's Report (12/31/2015)

CHECKING/CASH ACCOUNT

Previous Balance (PP = \$3.82, Cash = \$303.83Cash, \$2306.60 Checking): \$2614.25
Income:
Dues Frank (K2OS, \$10), Doug (N2BEG, 9.41), Dana (VE3ES, 9.41) (PayPal) \$ 38.82
Duncan (K2OEQ, \$10 Check)
Expenses:
AWA Donation \$50 & Flowers to brighten up Gloria (K2GAB, \$66) \$ 116.00
Current Balance (PP = \$22.64, Cash = \$313.83Cash, \$2200.60 Checking): \$2537.07

Members paid up for 2015 – 2016 are as follows;

AB2YI, David Muller	K2TER, Bill Rogers	W2GMT, Gary Terrana
AE2DM, David Malecki	KB2BLS, Bill Hanes	W2LT, Joe Hoodak
AF2K, Irv Goodman	KC2PCD, Len Crellin (2017)	WA2QAU, Robert Roberts
K2AXX, Mark Hoffman	KD2DCC, Ed Pendzik	WB2BYP, John Stevens (2017)
K2DH, Dave Hallidy	KF2MR, Jarred Jackson	WB2GFZ, Freddie Sulyma
K2EHF, Jeff Luce	KV2X, Tom Jennings	WB2QCJ, Dean Keyser
K2GAB, Gloria Stevens (2017)	N2BEG, Doug Stewart	WB2SQS, Mike Gioka
K2OEQ, Duncan Brown	N2HEG, Martin Ippolito	WB2YJH, Jim Reilich
K2OS, Frank Pollino	VE3DS, Dana Shtun	WO2P, Fred Miller (2017)
K2STF, Steve Fleming	W2CNS, Bob Nezelek	

*Respectfully submitted,
Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ, Treasurer*

Vice Chairman's Report

By Jarred Jackson, KF2MR

Cumulative Club Scoring: While the days of million point VHF sweepstakes were in the past and may not be on the horizon in the near future, it is certainly possible to show that the Rochester VHF Group is still active and able to put in a respectable effort. In 2015, the club put up the best scores seen in 5 years and this was still only a casual contest for most. Although we squeezed out 10th place in 2015, we will likely need to double our score to ensure we secure a Top 10 finish in 2016. Based on what I have heard from club members in the past few weeks, I have no doubts with just a little effort, this is easily achievable.

Rover Blitz: For fun, points, and perhaps a little bit of experimentation, please join in for a mid-contest lunch and rover blitz on Sunday January 31st. We will meet at Mooney's grill in Le Roy at 11:45. Following lunch, we will split up and go out to the four local grid squares and see how many contacts we can make in just 90 minutes. Not only is this an opportunity to add to the cumulative club score, but to also help create local activity for the other contest participants in our area. Remember that the ARRL allows you to enter as a single operator and a rover within the same contest, maximizing the total number of contacts you can provide to other participants. One caveat is that you cannot use the same equipment in the car as your home station. If you have a dual band HT that is all it takes to get started as a rover (though a magnet mount antenna will make a noticeable difference). If you would like to really have fun, some spare FM equipment will be available at the January 8th meeting to equip you with up to 6 bands with less than 5 minutes of setup time.

Participation Mug: For any club members submitting a log for RVHFG club credit, you will be eligible for a participation mug with the RVHFG club logo and 2016 contest recognition. All you need to do is

to submit a valid log to the ARRL, showing RVHFG as the affiliated club. If you are a member of a multi-op or rover team, each member receives a mug as long as your call sign is shown. Every log counts!

February Meeting topic: For the February 12th meeting of the Rochester VHF Group, we will have a project display (aka show and tell). You are encouraged to bring along anything communications related to display. You will have the option to provide a brief explanation of the project to the group or you can simply display the project and answer questions as people ask them. This is not limited to DIY projects. If you have a somewhat unique piece of equipment or software, feel free to bring that along to display. “In-Progress” projects are OK too! As we explore these various projects, there will also be time to socialize and talk about our latest activities on the bands.

RVHFG / RDXA Banquet – Save the Date: The banquet will be held at Lilian’s Restaurant and Party house on Saturday April 16th. More details “To Be Announced”, however this will be the first chance to pick up your January contest participation mug and perhaps see (or be) one of our club members recognized for their achievements in either the NY QSO Party or VHF+ contests. This is also an opportunity to receive the “Worked All Rochester” award for making 100 VHF/UHF contacts with amateur radio operators in the Rochester area.

73, Jarred - KF2MR

33cm FM Operation during Contests

By Jarred Jackson, KF2MR

In the past year and a half, I have experimented with the 902-928 MHz. band, starting with FM equipment. Most of the contacts I have made with stations in the greater Rochester area have been on FM. While I have added a transverter to my setup to add to the grid multipliers, FM still represents a large portion of my rover operations as it is very simple and convenient. The timeline below represents some of my experiences with 33cm FM during contests.

June 2014	QRP Portable operation using Alinco DJ-G29T. Only two contacts with N2QIP/R using a TK-981 on 927 MHz. Unaware at the time that we were the only stations in WNY making contacts on 33cm (regardless of mode or frequency) for this contest.
August 2014	Limited rover operation along with N2QIP/R. Many contacts between the two rover stations using TK-981s on 927.5 MHz. First experience using Alinco HT and 17 element yagi on low end of the band (902/3 MHz) to cover significant distance. Contacted VE3OIL/R over 60 miles across the lake from my driveway in Webster.
September 2014	Additional success with VE3OIL/R (85 miles) as well as K2LIM (60 miles) using Alinco DJ-G29T on 902/3 MHz with yagi. Measured HT output as 1.8W on battery.
January 2015	Added KA2OQZ and WB2BYP to the contest log on 33cm FM. Both stations were using Alinco HTs with Dave using the HT antenna and John using a yagi.
June 2015	N2QIP/R not available this contest, so I replaced the TK-981 (927 MHz) with a modified TK-930 (902/3 MHz). Repeat success with KA2OQZ using a mobile antenna on my end and the HT antenna on his end (5 miles obstructed). Also completed a 66 mile contact with VE3CRU/R with another TK-930 on his end. Added N2VRI/R and KD2IRH/R to the 33cm FM contest log during post-dinner rover blitz.
August 2015	Nothing new for 33cm FM, though lots of contacts with N2QIP/R on 927 MHz.
September 2015	Added KD2CJR to the log for 33cm FM, operating the family station with KA2OQZ. Covered 10 miles (line of sight) using horizontally polarized yagi, while I think Ken and Dave were using the stock HT antenna.

For most operators, the best bang for the buck comes from equipment that operates on 902/3 MHz FM allowing contacts with transverter based stations. For me this is the Alinco HT and the modified TK-930. However these radios are not readily available or require modification. The TK-981 is one of the most common (and perhaps easiest) commercial FM radio to reprogram for the amateur band. It too can be modified, but this isn't necessary or worth the effort. Several other commercial radios can be used at 927.5 MHz making this the most common FM calling frequency. Cost for the modified TK-930 is comparable with the TK-981 (Around \$100 each). One disadvantage of the TK-930 is the lack of squelch control or a "monitor" button to remove squelch altogether. This is somewhat offset by the improved sensitivity experienced by the replacement front end filters. Since the Alinco HT is now selling at a premium in the used market, the best options are the TK-981 and TK-930. At the current used prices, you could add both the Kenwood mobile units to cover both ends of the band spending less than the typical eBay price for the Alinco HT (\$250 and above) while adding the benefit of higher output power. Of course, for \$400 and a little bit of time interfacing the unit, you could purchase a fully assembled transverter allowing you access to all modes on 902/3 MHz. If the price or complexity of transverters doesn't sound appealing to you, or you would like to option to make contacts at both ends of the band, consider giving FM a try.

Jarred - KF2MR

VHF+ Contest Calendar

Contest	Dates	Notes
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

Winter Hamfest

February 27th 2016

Big Flat s American Legion

45 Olcott Rd S, Big flats, NY 14814

\$5 Admission **\$10** for a flea market table - First come, first served

Food Available--VE Testing --50/50 drawing--\$100 Grand Prize (Drawing at 12 noon)

Doors open to public at 8:00 a.m.

Venders welcome at 6:30 a.m.

Contact phone number: 607-739-7305

<http://www.ka2lim.com/7.html>

Shake off the winter blues and come out and have a cup of coffee and a conversation with friends and maybe find a new toy in the inside flea market.

Rt. 86 Exit 49 Big Flats, NY

Classified Listings

For Sale: HF transverter

I acquired an HF transverter in a package deal. This is a Tokyo Hy-Power HX-240 and covers 80/40/20/15/10m. The IF is 2m and was used with an FT-290R. It's a neat piece of gear that I did not know existed. If anyone thinks they would use, please let me know. It has been sitting in a box for over a year and chances are if I don't get rid of it, it will sit in the box for years to come. \$50 untested for any RVHFG member (you are welcome to try before you buy if you are local, but may need to make some cables for it). I am sure I could get more for this on eBay, but I am interested in seeing someone put it to use.

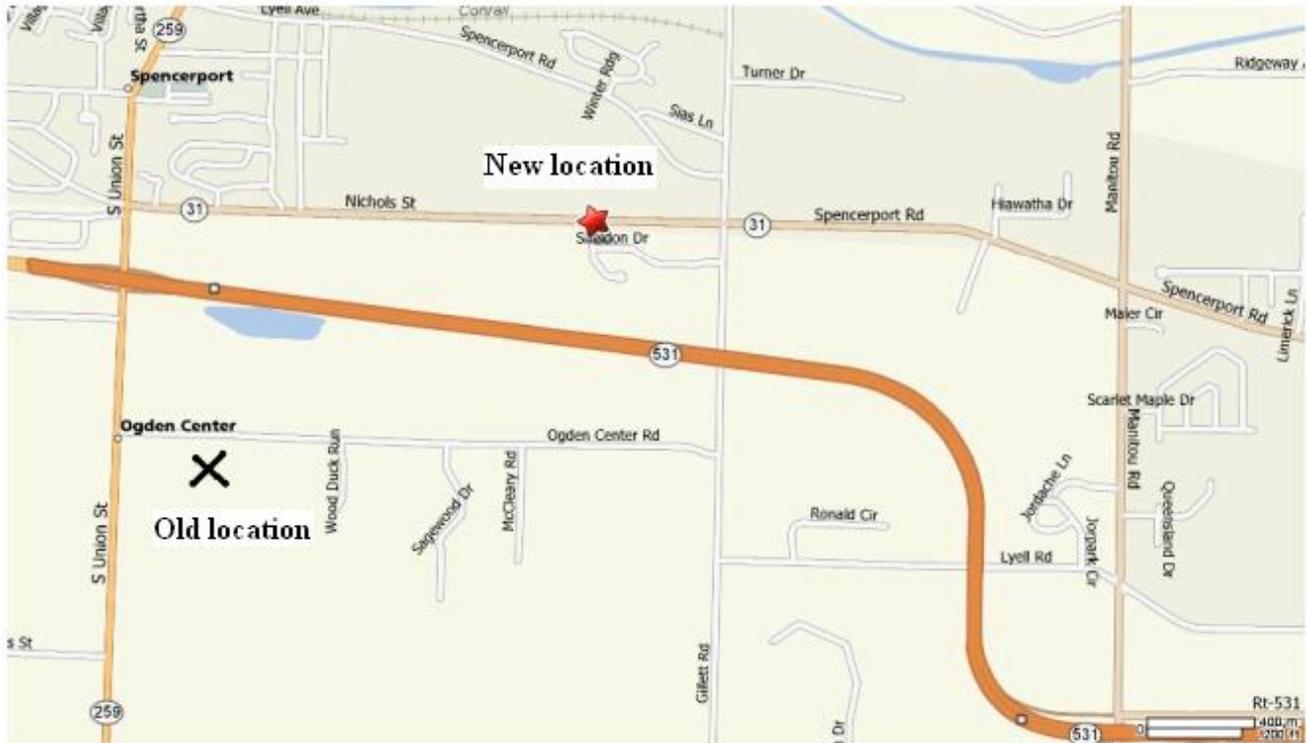
73, Jarred - KF2MR

Wanted: 7/8" ANDREW connectors

Does anyone have any 7/8" ANDREW (other types- Cablewave, etc. may not fit Andrew cable) connectors they'd part with? I'm trying to cable 2304 and 3456. I have three complete N Males and MOST of three N Females (they're missing the Female Center Pin). I'll take pretty much anything that's an N type connector- male or female, or at least 2 spare Female Center Pins. Ultimately, I need to make up two cables. What have you got, what do you need for a trade (stuff or pictures of dead presidents)? Please let me know off list what you've got. Please let me know- with the decent weather, I'm getting all the microwaves squared away for the contest.

Thanks! Dave K2DH

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.