

# The VHF Journal

Official Newsletter of  
**The Rochester VHF  
Group**

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\*Club call W2UTH\*

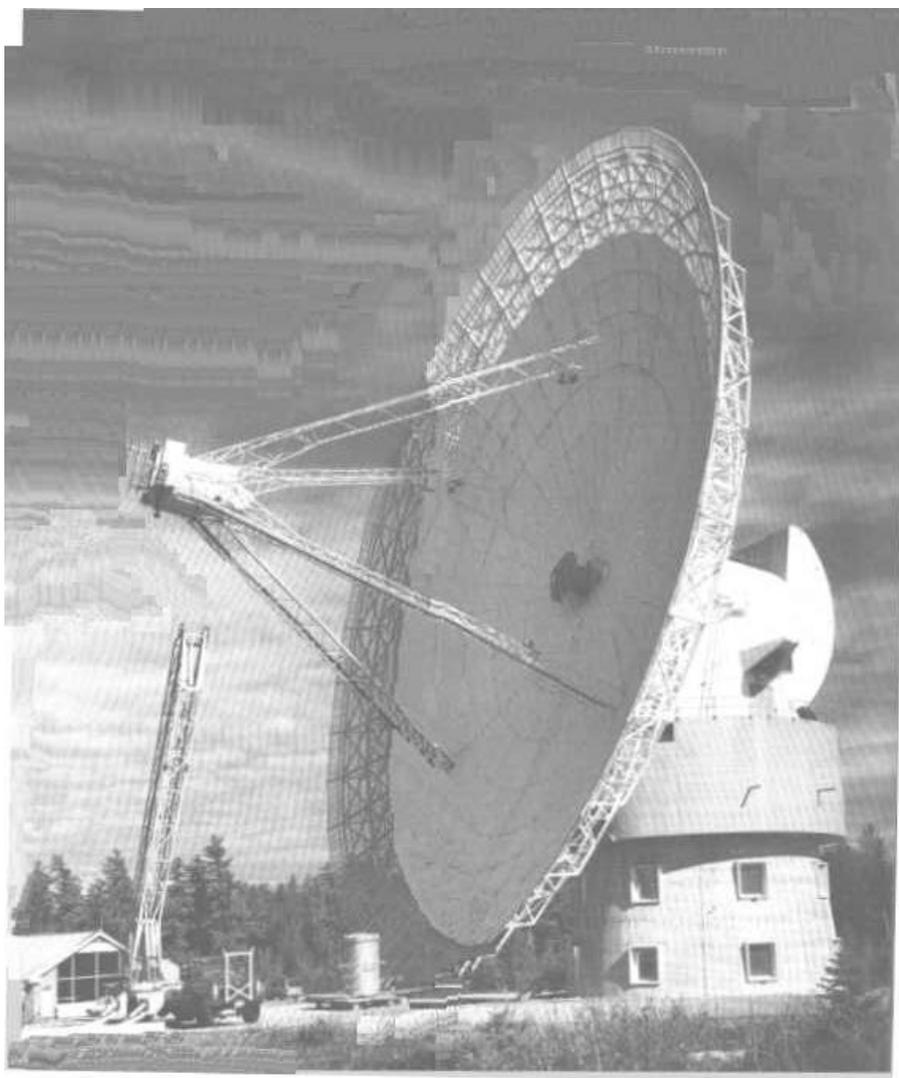
Club website @ <http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org>

**FEBRUARY 2000**



**VE3ONT  
and the big dish in  
Algonquin Park!**

Presented by Peter Shilton, VE3AX  
*This may be the best program of the year- if you  
miss it, you'll really regret it!*



**This Month's Quote:**

**"I have something to tell everybody. I've glimpsed our future, and  
all I can say is- go back."**

See the program description on Pg 2!

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**Banquet Announcement inside!**

See Pg 7

## ***VE3ONT and the big dish – “Hello Moon”***

In 1993, EME was the new hot topic! Why? A station was on the air for the ARRL EME Contest that year using a 150' diameter dish, capable of working stations with 50w and a single antenna WORLDWIDE! In short, this operation put EME into the shack of a relatively small station! Who was responsible for this HUGE effort? VE3ONT, the Toronto VHF Society.

VE3ONT began in 1970 as a VHF contest group and received the “ONT” call in 1973. Dennis Mungham -VE3ASO (SK), Paul Sobon - now NO4T, Larry Dobby -now VE2DO, Dana Shtun - VE3DSS, Bill Clinch - VE3DXJ, and Peter Shilton – VE3EMS (now VE3AX) were the principals involved. This group held (and still holds) the Canadian Multioperator records in the June VHF Contest and was present for other activities.

The group tried to secure the 46m antenna at Algonquin in the '70's and the early '80's through the Engineering Dept. of the University of Toronto without success. In August 1992, a new group was in charge of the facility which had been mothballed in the late '80's by the owner. They approached the new management and offered to exchange Engineering expertise for dish time. The management was also intrigued - the big dish had never been used for transmitting! The rest is history - without a doubt still the most successful “amateur big dish” EME operations ever. From 1993 to 1995, 6 bands were made EME-active with the 600+ QSO, 3 band effort in 1993 being the most productive. EME for everyone at last!

This presentation will include audio clips, slides and photos of the entire operation coming together. Photos of the dish were featured on the cover of QST Magazine, and many articles in many journals have been written regarding this fantastic operation.

### **About VE3AX:**

Peter was licensed as VE3EMS in 1969, and was quickly bitten by the VHF bug! He fell in love with **220** in 1972 as the operator of VE3ONT. In his own words, **“Gear was as dangerous as it was ugly - we made 7 QSO's that year!** Built entire new KW 220 station for June 73 and made 32 QSO's - not bad for that era! Was hooked on 220 Mhz”. **Peter holds 220 Mhz WAS #7 Sept 1984 and 220 Mhz VUCC #5 Dec 1984.** He works for UCAR Carbon International - National Sales Manager for Canada - Graphite Electrode Sales - used in making electric arc furnace steel.

He moved to 22 acre farm in Cayuga, Ont.(FN02) and is in the process of building a multi-band contest station once again with EME capability on 144/222/432 and 1296 Mhz. Perhaps the VE3ONT callsign will be heard once again from there?!? Wait and see. His wife Heather now holds the call VE3EMS.

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**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

**To subscribe:** Send your address, call, and \$10 US funds (or \$15 CDN funds), to: The Rochester VHF Group, PO Box 92122, Rochester, NY, 14692.

**Commentary and articles:** via e-mail to editor VE3IEY: [tantonr@kingston.net](mailto:tantonr@kingston.net) (Please note the change of ISP address!). Use standard ASCII text, **Corel's Word Perfect** or send as a regular e-mail message.

**Post editing, Data Magic, Printing & Distribution** are courtesy of Judy, N2KXS.

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## **Schedule for the rest of 1999- 2000**

**Mar < BIG DEAL in the works w/out-of-town speaker>**  
**April VHFSS awards BANQUET! announced on PAGE 7**  
**May <Surprise Surprise >**



### **The Rochester VHF Group “Who's Who”:**

**Officers:** Chairman: NS9E  
Vice Chairman: KA2RDO  
Secretary: K2OS  
Treasurer: N2OPW  
Director (Even year): KB2VGH

Director (Odd year): K2DH  
Past Chairman: N2ULL



### **Appointees:**

Contest Chairman: N2YB  
Assistant: K2AXX  
Assistant: N2JMH  
Awards manager: N2JMH

Banquet Chairman: WA2ZNC  
Picnic Chairman: <open for several years>  
Newsletter Editor: VE3IEY  
Newsletter Publishing: N2KXS  
Membership Manager: N2KXS  
Internet Webmaster: N2KXS

### **How to contact them:**

K2DH Dave Hallidy(716)-728-9517 [k2dh@frontiernet.net](mailto:k2dh@frontiernet.net)  
K2OS Frank Pollino  
(716)-594-0502 [pollino95@aol.com](mailto:pollino95@aol.com)  
K2AXX Mark Hoffman  
(716)-243-5606 [mhoffman@greece.k12.ny.us](mailto:mhoffman@greece.k12.ny.us)

**This TVI page is brought to you to honor the ARRL, who scheduled the January VHF SS during the football playoffs again! (Did you notice about 3 years ago they had NO problem moving the June VHF test so it wouldn't conflict with the ARRL National Convention?)**

KB2VGH Jeff Luce  
(716)-424-8406  
kb2vgh@amsat.org  
N2KXS Judy Stonehill  
(716)-582-2074  
jstonehi@frontiernet.net  
N2JMH Jim Howard  
(716)-637-4554 n2jmh@ibm.net  
N2OPW Paul Meyers  
(716)-425-1301 N2OPW@qsl.net  
N2ULL Steve Obenhofer  
(716)-392-7870 N2ULL@aol.com  
N2YB Mark Wasserbauer  
(716)-242-4574  
mwasserb@harris.com  
NS9E Tim Stoffel  
(716)-247-4798  
lionlamb@servtech.com  
VE3IEY Tom Richmond  
(613)-634-1855  
[tantonr@kingston.net](mailto:tantonr@kingston.net)

### **K3MQH/Multi QRT due to TVI/TFI**

(excerpted from e WSVHF mailing list)

At 8PM Saturday a delegation of mountaintop neighbors pounded on the door of the shack to complain about TVI/TFI. The only thing missing were the burning torches.

The telephone company denies, of course, that their antiquated, corrosion ridden equipment could possibly be at fault. I've even called the telephone company inviting them to to run some tests with me.... They're not interested. It costs them money. Having an unresponsive, finger pointing, telephone company leaves the mountain residents no alternative than to come knocking at my door.

The problem has been going on for years....and my response has always been: "Too bad, not my problem, but I'll help you fix it if you would like." Nobody wants me to help them fix THEIR problem because they know that if the crew is not at the shack, then everything is fine and therefore it's all my fault.

One resident even wrote their congressman without even talking to me about their problems!!!! Then, of course, the FCC called me!

At any rate, the K3MQH Multi Operation went QRT at about 8:30 PM Saturday night.  
Dick , K3MQH, South Mountain VHF Team

### **TVI, THE WHOLE STORY... de K1UHF**

Five years ago I was fortunate to convince my wife to buy a house on a mountain top. It is secluded (antennas are hardly visible) in a area with 3 acre zoning. Before I put my tower up I had a temporary setup and told the new neighbors that I was a ham radio operator and I was planning on putting up a tower. They didn't seem to care and actually found it interesting, so far so good.



In keeping with our TVI theme, here is a picture of the Hudson Watershed VHF Society, the K2TVI team, setting up in FN21wh for the January 2000 VHF SS.

I operated most of the bands with the temporary setup and one neighbor started complaining, the same one that does now. He had this great antenna that the guy put up himself and he got everything he wanted for free and didn't need cable. Of course all the other neighbors had cable.

I get flawless reception with an attic TV antenna and have measured almost 4000 uV at the antenna. The neighbors antenna is a little snowy even though it is outdoors. On many occasions I went over to fix it, but they didn't like having to deal with it and maintained that everything was fine before I moved in with my radios.

I did have co problems with 3 neighbors that I was able to minimize with ferrite clamp on's and cores to wind the power cords through. I determined that the neighbor with the antenna was getting fundamental overload. I found a source for 75 ohm notch filters tuned to 144.2 and 50.125 and put them on his set. It seemed to fix the problem on six and two. They still complained and I went there again and again. Usually I had to put the traps back on as they disconnected them, he said it hurt the reception but his picture looked just as bad before I put them back on as with them.

The last visit I was remotely keying up both my 6 and 2 meter KW's with my antennas pointing directly at her. Much to my surprise the picture was no worse while I transmitted, the filters

really worked, after re-installing them. I did however tear up the audio with my six meter station. I started checking everything and found her rotator didn't rotate, **and of course it was stuck pointing at my house** not at NYC.

She admitted that she knew it wasn't working and I suggested that she replace it and I offered to install it. She said she would get one but I never heard from her until last night. I did discover that unplugging the power cord for the rotator fixed the common mode audio problem. I thought everything was working well considering the poor condition of her antenna. When she called she said that I was scaring her with the interference noise, I suspect she fell asleep watching the TV and it woke her up.

My house is clean on the attic TV antenna except for 222, I do not have a notch filter for that band. Besides the antenna I have a DSS dish which is flawless. **I have, however, come out of almost everything in my house that is electronic.** I threw out all the AT&T phones and I have table radios and stereos that pick me up. Generally unless I am on 222 and my family is watching the broadcast antenna I have no problem. **I did burn out the TV in the bedroom when I was on 10 meters the other day, really.**

The real problem with this whole thing is that my wife is upset because I am bothering the nice neighbor. I can't reason with my wife either. She doesn't care what the FCC says she wants me to stop.

I went QRT during the contest at 9:30 PM Saturday but I will not give up, I will be on with more power and bigger antennas but I have to deal with this problem somehow, especially my XYL.

## Chairman's Letter... de NS9E

Well, the January 2000 VHF Sweepstakes are in the books, and the process of getting logs submitted has begun. If you used a computer to log, this should be a simple process, and hopefully done by the time you are reading this. I hope you took time to go over the log with a fine tooth comb. The ARRL has announced that it will be MERCILESS with logging errors from now on. If you made an error, chances are it will be caught!

That aside, let's talk about the contest this year, a most unusual beast. I don't know if I can call this a really good one or just above average.

I don't think anyone will dispute the best thing about this year's contest was the massive aurora on Saturday. I have been VHF contesting now for 11+ years, and this is the most massive opening of it's type I have ever seen. It was a lot more solid than the opening in September 1999 and at least as intense as the aurora of 1988. Personally, the aurora was a bust. With 10 watts, I could not bust the massive pileups on the stations 'running au'. I'm sure it was a real blast for those stations who had some power. I expect great things from our big multiops! I used the time to work on FM and microwaves.

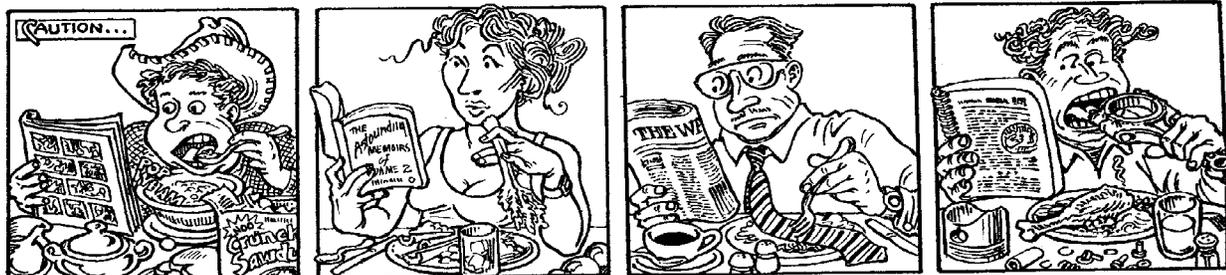
Other than the aurora, Saturday was real tough sledding. I had a hard time trying to get into an organized rhythm to work stations. This came with time. Conditions also improved after the aurora had died out. In any case, I had just under 10,000 points at 2 AM Sunday, when I put down the mike for the night. Shortly before calling it quits Saturday, I discovered a devastating tactical error. I had been running 35 watts (instead of 5 watts) on 2 meter FM. This also explained why I was busting FM pileups much more easily than normal! Unfortunately, it put me out of the club QRP category, which I suspect I would have easily won. There was no way to fix this problem at this point. To say the least, I was not amused. Morale: check ALL your power settings if you are trying to compete in such and such a power category!

Sunday was a much better day operating. There were more rovers around, but they were incredibly hard to get a hold of. I think this is an area where we can work on strategic improvement. In the end, I just barely caught K2TER in FN03 as they were tearing down. I caught N2OPW in the closing minutes of the contest for a couple additional microwave QSO's.

FM was a nightmare. All the 2 meter activity was concentrated on 146.55. This made it nearly impossible to work some folks, and this year was the first that I let a few slip by. I just could not break the pileups that resulted when all the stations were on one frequency. I know I lost several opportunities to run the bands with some of the rovers as a result. For next year, we need to start a massive education program to get ops to spread out on FM, especially 2 meters! This will make the contest more fun for everyone. I will also set up some small rotatable FM beams that

will make my 5 watts much more effective. It should also help cut QRM, both sent and received.

Where were the stations to the West?? **During a informal**



**discussion on HF on the Monday after the contest, I learned that a number of big gun stations were not on this year due to TVI problems in their local area. I hope this is not a sign of things to come.**

How did I do in the end? 26,675 points. This represents an improvement over 21,000 points last year. Strengths? More grids, especially on 222 and 432. I think the big antennas are working in my favor, even with higher feedline loss. Having 3456 playing helped, too. I had hoped to have 5760 and 10 gig playing for January, but a football contract this fall made sure I had no weekend time to build stuff! Weaknesses? General microwave operating. Although the station seemed to perform well, there were just not as many people with microwave bands around to work. I hope this too is not an indication of things to come. FM was also a weakness, due to the crushing pileups on '55.

Technically, the station performed flawlessly. All the work to build a new control ladder system certainly paid off. Switching bands was as close to effortless as the equipment I have will allow. I didn't have a single equipment failure the entire contest. I expect this trend to continue as I continue to clean up the wiring and add more capability. With a number of other big projects completed, I hope to begin work on getting 5 and 10 GHz on the air, as well as taking full advantage of the power I have on 902, 1296 and 2304.

Well, that pretty much does it for the January 2000 VHF SS, the first big contest of the new century!

## 144 MHz net: NEW NAME!

Hi Folks,  
I have changed the name of the 'West Carleton 144 Mhz SSB net' to the 'Ottawa Valley 144 Mhz SSB net'. This name better reflects the geographic distribution of those that check-in.

Hope to hear you on **Tuesdays, 144.250mhz USB @ 9:00pm**. See [www.igs.net/~va3ks](http://www.igs.net/~va3ks) for net details.

...73..Kieran, [va3ks@igs.net](mailto:va3ks@igs.net) and [www.igs.net/~va3ks](http://www.igs.net/~va3ks), Carp, Ontario FN15

## January 2000, or Why does that signal sound

### SO garbled? ... de K2AXX

Guess it's like a tradition here, of building a station absolutely at the last minute! Once again, the K2AXX (KA2RDO) tradition of throwing stuff together and trying to make it all work right comes through, with improved results. Here's a brief tour. . .

**Time:** December, 1999

**Characters:** K2AXX, AA2WV, K2UA, K2DH, W2ONP, KB2VGH, Renee (K2NAY?)

**Setting:** K2AXX, FN12cs. Newly created radio cave, located in garage. Finishing up drywall and painting in early December, with new AC power circuit completed as well. Completely bare- no radios in sight. ONP, WV and AXX slaved over this since September. . finally completing it. Whew. Now to relax.

**Wrong.** K2AXX is on phone with AA2WV, griping about getting everything done in time. WV' simply poses - "we should run multi. . .". OK, precedent set. I float the idea by UA, who states "now THAT'S something I can do". Hmm..now what? Check what I've got that works. Searching produces 6m, plus some FAA amps. UA offers his 2m, 903+ gear, and assistance. WV offers his IF rig, 432 and 222 stuff. Fine.

WELL, maybe. In late December, the DAY we finish carpeting the room, WV and I begin moving Racks and tables in. During the week, UA and I arrange pickup details for microwave gear. I pick it up, learn about it, get it home, and set it down. Forgetting how to set it up, naturally. Scott brings more stuff. . . looking impressive. Oops. Not enough COAX CABLE to leave 903/1296 arrays on the big tower, or even 222/432. Crap.

Early January, AXX, WV and UA start setting up station. By end of day, 222/432 and 903+ ready to get antennas hooked to them. WV, ONP and AXX put up a 26' tower right next to the garage. Cool. Fabricated a rotor shelf from stainless steel plate already on hand. Began installing antennas on it the weekend BEFORE the contest. WV, AXX and neighbor Bruce pull the 903/1296 array off the 64'. WV, VGH and AXX spend the remaining nipple freezing hours installing antennas. AXX and WV construct a FM array, and determine that we can't get it up the 64' tower. Crap.

All week before the contest, WV and AXX build, solder and swear as the stuff comes to life. On Saturday AM, AXX is up the 26' tower moving junk around enough to fit FM array there. Whew - it worked. Friggin porcupine. That afternoon, contest begins with AXX on 6, UA on 2, and WV on 222+. Works fine. Except 2m. No preamp - deaf. Au begins. Scramble. Ignore 222+ as the rate on lower bands better. UA leaves. . will bring preamp later. Down

to 2 ops. DH appears, brings gifts of 10/24 WBFM QSOs, and sits down to play. Works new grids on 6. Drink Rebel Yell. Cool. DH leaves. Back to 2 ops, where it remained. Visits from Rovers most excellent. Many QSOs from these intrepid folks. 432 amp being flaky. 222/432/1296 headset don't work right. WV fixes. Works OK now.



### **Mark repairing the 432 KW input circuit**

Re-network computer. WHEW...

After 1.5 hour off time, return to contest. Celebrate with Rebel Yell.

Renee comes outside, sits down, calls CQ. Works stations. Renee leaves. Works more FM QSOs than I did. Crap. WV and AXX call it quits at 2:00am. AXX wakes at 6:30am. Gets out at 7:00am. Works W0's on 6. Yippee. WV rolls in at 8:00am. Full force. 2 ops, still. K2TER stops. Works us. Leaves. N2OPW

Back to 2. AXX works station on 222, logs, notices error message on screen. Presses keys, still error. Hmm. Power off PC, turn on HDD failed. Crap. WV thinks I throw his PC across room. It merely fell. .

Swear, rage, threaten to quit. Drink more Rebel Yell. WV forces me to think. Think. Hmm. Data is on 2m computer (networked). Count # of QSOs from tally on screen, search per grid square. Find all QSO data. Get new computer. Load VHFTEST. Copy all call signs/times/grids to Excel spreadsheet. Begin new contest on new computer. Retype all data offline. Export to text file. Begin new contest. Log online. Import text file. Data returns.



The RVHFG 10368 / 144 Mhz transverter kits taking shape at DEMI! (Pix stolen from DEMI website)

stops, works us. Leaves. Work contest. Don't drink til noon. Neighbor Bruce comes over, sits at 6m, and listens. His kids listen too. Cool. Another convert – he wants a book to learn from. This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> op next time! Work ONP on 223.5. Asks if I heard opening to Florida on 6. “73 ONP – K2AXX QSY”. Work Florida. Am told “we're the loudest thing on the dial” 3 or 4 times. Head expands, WV pops bubble. 432 PA still flaky. Crap.

Finish contest with bang. Tons of stations at end. Take backup disks (lesson learned), consolidate log. Tally score. Listen to N2JMH. Nice job. Power off gear, go inside. Sleep.

Summary: 4 craps, way more cools, a couple yahoos (literally and figuratively). 400mL of Rebel Yell. 3 steaks. Sauce and noodles. Chips, soda. Fine company, nice room. Learned many things.

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### **Beer Warms the Soul!**

In centuries past, consuming ale very warm during cold weather was not at all unusual. Because all taverns had large fireplaces, small iron pokers were hung by the fire to be used for warming drinks. These red-hot pokers, called *loggerheads*, were sometimes brandished by inebriated patrons when tempers flared, giving rise to the phrase “**to find yourself at loggerheads**”



## Editorial License...

de VE3IEY

Well, here we are- February- Another January VHF SS in the record books. I just realized this was my 23rd VHFSS- and that number is small compared to a number of VHF Group members.

I'll never forget my first VHFSS-(1977) ...the thrill of sitting in the old RARA Corvair van as a novice, tail-ending WA2EKR (now N2EH) for QSO's on FM using Motorola tube gear that was probably older than I was. Definitely older. I bet WA2ZNC is one of the few who remembers that van- to a novice it sure was impressive!

Then there was WB2WCQ (now AF2K) who gave me a lift to the Hamburg Hamfest only a few days after my first license arrived. Irv is still one of the stalwarts on the Rochester ham scene, and active in the RVHFG.

Duncan, K2OEQ, anchored a little multi-op in January 1978 that I was recruited into by WB2RJL and WB2KIW because I had spent a year on the Novice bands on CW- and because I was an "experienced VHF SS operator" (see paragraph #2- hi!). They stuck me in front of KIW's FT-221R and I worked about 23 sections (pre-grid term- sri!) with a barefoot 17w on CW.

Henry, W2UTH, invited me over to join SIARC (the Ontario County / Canandaigua ham club that runs the 146.82 repeater now), which met at his house. By the time we had finished I was helping him teach ham classes, doing the CW bit (and working AU on 2m behind him on his rig while he was doing the theory).

Old George Poppelwell, WB2YHD kept me up til 5AM many nights talking about 6mAU in his shop, where he ran a Clegg Venus. Tom Hodge, WA2YTM ,and I spent what seems like lifetimes building gear, antennas, and going out to remote locales for the VHF contests (the 8mm movies of those exploits would make a great , or frightening, meeting show someday, once they are on videotape).

**My point is that you never know where your kindness will take someone. You never know if the next ham you take a moment to help will become a new VHF/UHF convert.**

73 es DXOM / YL  
abciey

## New Swap table at the February meeting!

(...as suggested by our inimitable Vice Chairman.)

**Bring something to swap or show off-**

**(In the spirit of St. Valentines Day, the editor suggests this might not be a good place to pick up a gift for the XYL or to trade the old model in for a new YL. However if you are showing off a new YL or OM, well, then feel free, eh!)**

due to the use of a bad thing, but the abuse of a good thing."  
-Abraham Lincoln

## From the Treasurer: By Paul N2OPW

January 26, 2000

### CHECKING ACCOUNT

Previous Balance..... \$1081.42

Income:

Dues collected..... 50.00

50/50 profits..... 00.00

Awards collected..... 238.00

10GHz project deposits.... 3225.00

Expenses:

Newsletter Supplies..... 00.00

DEMI Deposit 10GHz ..... -3419.49

Banquet Deposit..... -100.00

Current Balance..... \$1,074.93

### SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Previous Balance.....\$1248.65

Income:

Interest:..... 4.73

Expenses:..... 0.00

Current Balance.....\$1253.38

Balance on Hand:

Checking..... 1,074.93

Savings..... 1,253.38

Total..... \$ 2,328.31



**Please note the lack of center pins in these N-Connectors. How much power were YOU running in the January 2000 VHFSS?**  
abciey photo

"If one is hurt because of alcohol, it is surely not

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## It's good to know there is still hope at 500 below, living in Western NY

Forwarded to the RVHFG Journal by N2GKM

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### 60 above

Floridians wear coats, gloves and woolly hats.  
Western New Yorkers sunbathe.

### 50 above

Virginians try to turn on the heat.  
Western New Yorkers plant gardens.

### 40 above

Italian cars won't start.  
Western New Yorkers drive with the windows down.

### 32 above

Distilled water freezes.  
Chautauqua Lake's water gets thicker.

### 20 above

Californians shiver uncontrollably.  
Western New Yorkers have the last cookout before it gets cold.

### 15 above

Michigan landlords finally turn up the heat  
Western New Yorkers throw on a sweatshirt.

### 0 -

Californians fly away to Mexico.  
Western New Yorkers lick the flagpole.

### 20 below

People in Miami cease to exist.  
Western New Yorkers get out their winter coats.

### 40 below

Hollywood disintegrates.  
Western New York Girl Scouts begin selling cookies door to door.

### 60 below

Polar bears begin to evacuate Antarctica.  
Western New York's Boy Scouts postpone "Winter Survival" classes until it gets cold enough.

### 80 below

Whiteface Mt. freezes.  
Western New Yorkers start going deer hunting.

### 100 below

Santa Claus abandons the North Pole.  
Western New Yorkers get frustrated when they can't thaw the keg.

### 297 below

Microbial life survives on dairy products.  
Western New York cows complain of farmers with cold hands.

### 460 below

ALL atomic motion stops.  
Western New Yorkers start saying...."Cold 'nuff for ya?"

### 500 below

Hell freezes over.  
The Bills win the Super Bowl.

# HERE IT IS!

The Announcement for the 2000 RVHFG Awards banquet! ... de WA2ZNC

**Our Banquet is set for Saturday, April 22, 2000, at the Burgundy Basin Inn, 1361 Marsh Rd. Pittsford, NY. 6:30PM cash bar, 7:30PM Buffet dinner.**

**Ticket cost will be \$ 18.50 per person. There will be a cheese and cracker plate, before the dinner. DJ will be present for our listing and dancing pleasure.**



## More info at the February Meeting!!!

Bernd Helbig of Halle, Germany is still, at last report, looking for investors in his new company. He is marketing "Beer-on-a-Stick," something like a beer Popsicle. If this venture is successful, he also has high hopes for Beer Pudding, Beer Jelly, and Beer Cream with Pineapple.

(Now you know the true meaning of this month's quote on the front page :^)

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**YOUR "FOR SALE" AD COULD HAVE BEEN HERE.  
NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO BRING YOUR JUNK TO THE  
CLUB SWAP TABLE AT THE MEETING.**

**So there.**



**FN05 near Bancroft, Ontario, Canada**

### **A solo trip to the Great White North during the 2000 January VHF SS-...Another Rookie Rover Story, de VE3IEY**

Well, it was 3 weeks before the contest when I took the antennas off the old tower. Two days later we get 48 hours of 45-55 MPH winds. Yeow. I exchange e-mail with Jeff about sites. Assemble all the stuff, get out the welder and the hacksaw. Many hours spent in a local farmers tractor workshop, and just as many hours wiring gear. Too many hours to print here (as my XYL is the proofreader). **The result is in Fig 1.** It barely fit on the ferry to get off the island (reminds me of the story about building a boat in your basement). The first mate wanted to know **"do your fillings not hurt when you are driving down the road in that?"**

**Stop #1, FN14**, things work as expected (not as desired), the **-20C** temperatures take the wiggle right out of the crystal local oscillators for 220, 903 and 1296. But, despite the frost, the 6, 2, and 432 (with AM6155) run well-I was sure the HV would have arced over, but it never did! The Ham III rotor is turning about 1 degree per 5 seconds- boy is it cold! Then it's off to **stop #2, FN13** at the old **RCAF Airbase south of Picton, Ont. What a view of the horizon- and nobody around for miles.** So what's that noise I hear? Ignition noise, audible in the headphones... I peek out into the new darkness- it's the local **yoot**, doing donuts in the deep snow out in the middle of the abandoned airstrip. Beautiful AU visible despite interference from a full moon in a perfectly clear sky. Drive to Bancroft, stay overnight- too cold to sleep in the truck! Was **-27C** when I checked in.

**Stops 3,4 & 5: FN05, 15 and 04 Saturday AM-** each time I move it gets tougher to get the attention of stations in Rochester- everyone is pointing South. It's easy to work FM19 everywhere, even up to 432, because they're always pointing NORTH :^)

**Best site: FN05** Saturday morning, literally right across from a CATV head-end. A nice view to the south through the heavy snowfall. **I cleared out before the Football playoff game began lest the pitchforks and torches of the local natives be brought to bear! :^)**

**All in all-** Still trying to figure out my score: **multiply** grids by number of QSOS, **add** number of grids activated, **subtract** temperature in degrees F, **add** number of snowmobiles seen to 6m QSOS, **add** number of gas fillups to 432 QSOS, **remove** unique calls from log **based on the cube root** of the number of rigs that failed to operate as desired. **Then add the solution to this problem:** [If one Rover **leaves** Rochester NY at **2PM**, and travels north at **65 MPH**, and another Rover **leaves** Amherst Island, Ont at **2:30 PM** and travels north at **80kMh**, at what point will they be able to meet and operate in tandem **but** not be disqualified for grid circling **if** one of them is wearing a **woolen scarf from St. Anthony's College of Oxford University?**] Final score: **12.** Some restrictions may apply. This offer not available to minors in some states or provinces. **Items may be closer than they appear.**

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