

The Rochester VHF Group

The VHF



Journal

Volume 60, Issue 4

Dec. 2008

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be
Friday, Nov 14th, 2008

**Spencerport
Wesleyan Church
2653 Nichols St., Spencerport**

Map and directions in back

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Tune Up Clinic

The Chairman Speaks! Bill Rogers, K2TER

Fellow Groupers: At the November meeting, Andy Flowers (K0SM) gave a presentation on Meteor Scatter that was quite engaging. We also discussed and finalized the rules for the Rochester VHF Group's Rochester VHF Challenge coming up in January. The complete rules for the challenge are included in this issue of the journal. They are also available online: <http://www.rvhfg.org/challenge.pdf>. Since this is the first year of the Challenge the word is just getting out there. If you attend club meetings, check in to nets or correspond on group reflectors, then please take some time to give us a plug.

December Program: This year we are going to hold a program and the tune-up clinic.

Tune-up clinic: Something new for this year! In addition to the noise figure meter, Dean Keyser (WB2QCJ) is going to bring a communication test set to check out base and mobile rigs. So bring your transverters, preamps, filters, and rigs. Bringing RF/power cables, adapters, and power supplies for use during the clinic would be helpful.

Program: John Stevens (WB2BYP) will guide us through a show and tell on preamps. He will cover the fundamentals of gain, noise figure, intercept point, gain distribution, cascaded noise effects and potentially provide a walk through of noise figure measurement fundamentals. APB: We need your preamps, all kinds and in any condition.

Please meet us at Spencerport Wesleyan Church – 2653 Nichols Street (Hwy 31) Directions on last page. **Bring a friend!**

Bill. K2TER

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Secretary Report
Judy Stonehill, N2KXS

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2008

The meeting, which was held at the Spencerport Wesleyan Church, was convened at 1932 local by the Chairman, K2TER.

Attendees introduced themselves with their names and calls. They talked about their current activities and contest plans. In attendance were K0SM, K2TER, N2MLH, KV2X, W2CNS, NQ2O, W3OAB, N2KXS, WB2QCJ, N2UAD, WO2P, and K6PSP. Also attending were Mark Hazel, K2MTH, Jean Louise Maher, N2PHB, and Brian O'Conner, KA2CEB as guests.

OLD BUSINESS

Dean, WB2QCJ, said that he has a 100 watt TS570 with 6 meters and an Astron power supply for sale.

Bob, W2CNS, has a TS940S and an FT920 for sale.

Members who need gear for additional bands were encouraged to state that on the RVHFG reflector.

Andy, K0SM, moved that the Secretary's October report be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Fred, WO2P, and approved by the attendees.

Andy, K0SM, moved that the Treasurer's October report be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Fred, WO2P, and approved by the attendees.

Dean, WB2QCJ, read the text he proposes to have engraved on a plaque for Al Goss in recognition of Al's efforts in establishing the W2UTH/B beacon. Larry, N2MLH, made a motion that Dean proceed with having the plaque made. The motion was seconded by Walter, NQ2O, and approved by the attendees.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill, K2TER, covered the rules for the Rochester VHF Challenge. The object of the Challenge is to encourage amateur radio operators who are relatively new to the hobby or who don't operate very much during the January VHF Contest, to get on during the contest and get involved in the competition. The rules were developed to make it as simple as possible to participate. There will be prizes and awards. The contest rules will be posted on the Rochester VHF Group web site. Bill will talk about the Challenge at RDXA and RARA meetings. RVHFG members are also encouraged to spread the word.

Fred, WO2P, moved that the meeting be adjourned. Andy, K0SM, seconded the motion which was passed by the attendees. The business meeting was adjourned at 2019.

PROGRAM

Andy, K0SM, gave an impressive presentation on meteor scatter, including recordings of several contacts he has made via meteor scatter.

Rochester VHF Group
Treasurer's Report – December 2008

CHECKING ACCOUNT

<u>Previous Balance</u> (as of 11/1/08):	\$1,135.36
Income:	
Membership dues	\$10.00
Expenses:	\$ 0.00
<u>Current Balance</u>	\$1,145.36

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

<u>Previous Balance</u> (as of 11/1/08):	\$1,522.86
Income:	
Interest	\$0.65
Expenses:	\$0.00
<u>Current Balance</u>	\$1,523.51

TOTAL	\$2,668.87
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*Respectfully submitted,
Judy Stonehill, N2KXS*

Up coming events
By Bill Rogers

In January we will get a peek at the Flex5000 Software Defined Radio thanks to Bob Nezelek (W2CNS), Walter Obenhofer (NQ2O) and Andy Flowers (K0SM). It will also be a contest prep meeting for the January VHF Contest and the Rochester VHF Challenge. Again, we need your help to get the message out!

2009 Rochester VHF Challenge

By Bill Rogers, K2TER

The Rochester VHF Group is pleased to announce a new local contest to kick off the 2009 VHF season. The Rochester VHF Challenge is a contest that runs in tandem with the ARRL January VHF QSO Party to encourage VHF, UHF, and microwave activity in the Rochester and surrounding areas.

Objective: Make as many valid contacts with Rochester VHF Group members and others in the area to obtain the largest score, according to the scoring rules presented below, within your quadrant in the Rochester area and Canada.

Scoring: Scoring is simple. It uses the same formula as the January ARRL QSO Party rules: Compute the product of your January ARRL VHF QSO points and the number of valid contacts in the log made with Rochester VHF Group members. This is the case if at least 20% of your contacts are with Rochester VHF Group members. If the percentage is less than that there is a formula to prorate the Q points. See the example #2 below.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for the contest you don't need to be a member of any club or organization, just a single operator or group operating under a single call sign for the duration of the contest. The only exception is that current Rochester VHF Group members are not eligible to enter the Challenge.

Prizes/Awards:

- 1) A grand prize will be awarded to the operator with the highest overall score.
- 2) An award will be given to each of the first place finishers within each quadrant and Canada.
- 3) Certificates will be handed out for up to 5th place within each quadrant and Canada where it is determined that a significant effort has been made.
- 4) There will also be an award for the highest aggregate club score. Rochester VHF Group members (single operator – fixed station) can submit logs for other club participation only. Members of the Rochester VHF Group are ineligible for the individual Rochester Challenge awards.

Scores will be posted on the <http://www.RVHFG.org> web site. The decisions of the RVHFG Contest Committee with respect to the scoring and awards are final.

Determining your quadrant:

For simplicity, determine where you are located relative to the intersection of Rte 31 and the Genesee River. If you are located to the North of 31 and to the East of the Genesee River, you are in the NE Quadrant. Valid quadrants are NE, SE, SW, and NW and Canada. If you are located in the US and unable to determine your quadrant from the instructions above, you can use the following coordinates to calculate your quadrant relative to that point.

N43.15464° W77.60991°

If you need assistance in determining your quadrant contact Bill Rogers at the k2ter@rochester.rr.com.

Rules:

You must determine your quadrant before the contest begins. This information will not be exchanged during the contest though. The intention is that there is no need to alter “on- air” exchanges required for the January VHF QSO Party.

All **ARRL** rules for operating the January VHF QSO Party must be adhered to. It is strongly suggested that you familiarize yourself with these rules to answer any additional questions you may have – see <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/jan-vhf-ss.html>

The Contest begins 1900 UTC Saturday, ends 0400 UTC Monday (January 17 - 19, 2009).

Each contact must be logged in accordance with the rules with all information captured: Date, Time(EST or Z), band, mode, call sign, exchanges, etc.

For simplicity this year, there will be no entries accepted for the rover category.

Log submission:

It is acceptable to submit a standard ARRL log with an additional cover sheet or equivalent that contains the Call sign of the station, name, address, the quadrant you operated from, (optionally club affiliation), the ARRL QSO points (not total score), the number of valid Rochester VHF **Group member** contacts in the log, and finally claimed score for the Rochester VHF Challenge. **See “Scoring Example” below.**

Logs must be submitted to the Chairman Bill Rogers, K2TER no later than February 21, 2009. Valid submissions shall sent by email to k2ter@rochester.rr.com or post marked via regular mail at Rochester VHF Challenge, Bill Rogers, 104 Judson Street, Webster, NY 14580-3409 by that date.

Note: As the ARRL rules state, one contact is allowed per station per band with the exception of rovers stations. You can contact a rover more than once on any band if the rover is operating from a grid square that is not currently in your log for that band. This is a great way to fill your log with RVHFG contacts since there are 4 grid squares in the immediate Rochester area that rovers operate from.

Scoring Example #1: (>= 20% RVHFG contacts)

Your ARRL score box looks like this:

Band	# QSO's	Point/QSO	Q Points	Grid Squares
50 MHz	25	1	25	7
144 MHz	40	1	40	8
222 MHz	2	2	4	2
432 MHz	12	2	24	5
Total	79		93	22

You have 67 contacts with RVHFG members in your log and this is more than 20% RVHFG member contacts. $67/79 \sim 85\%$

Rochester VHF Challenge Score $93 * 67 = \mathbf{6231}$

For comparison this is your ARRL score:

ARRL Score = $93 * 22 = 2046$

Scoring Example #2: (< 20% RVHFG contacts)

Your ARRL score box looks like this:

Band	# QSO's	Point/QSO	Q Points	Grid Squares
50 MHz	25	1	25	7
144 MHz	40	1	40	8
222 MHz	2	2	4	2
432 MHz	12	2	24	5
Total	79		93	22

You have 12 contacts with RVHFG members in your log and this is less than 20% RVHFG member contacts. $12/79 \sim 15\%$

Proration factor = $(RVHFG\ QSOs * 5) / Total\ QSOs = (12 * 5) / 79 = .7495$

Rochester VHF Challenge Score = $(Q\ points * Proration\ factor) * RVHFG\ QSOs = (93 * .7495) * 12 = \mathbf{836}$

Note: this score is rounded to the nearest whole number.

For comparison this is your ARRL score:

ARRL Score = $93 * 22 = 2046$

Identifying club members:

Here is a list of RVHFG club member and club multi op stations call signs.

AF2K	K0SM/2	K2AXX	K2DB	K2DH
K2DLW	K2LDT	K2LDU	K2MTH	K2OS
K2QO/R	K2TER/R	K6PSP	KA2ENE	KA2LIM
KA2WYE	KB2TAK	KC2IQV	KC2MCC	KC2OTX

KC2PCG	KC2RER	KC2SPY	KC2THW	KV2X
N1MU	N2CJR	N2EZS	N2HKD	N2KG
N2KXS	N2MLH	N2RD	N2ZDS	NQ2O
NS9E	W2CNS	W2JTR	W2LC	W2NES
W2ONP	W2OWF	W2UAD	W2ZHB	W3OAB
WA2ZNC	WB2BYP	WB2QCJ	WB2YJH	WO2P

Operating frequencies:

FM (Simplex contest frequencies in MHz):

52.525*		
146.49	146.55*	146.58
147.51	147.54	147.57
223.5*	223.6	223.7
446.0*	446.1	446.2
1294.5*	1296.3	

* - most popular

SSB (Call frequencies, local): (You are not restricted to these frequencies – just a suggestion on where to look for contest activity)

National	Local Contest
50.125	50.200
144.200	144.260
222.100	222.160
432.100	432.160

Activity Hours:

Although this contest runs from 2:00PM EST Saturday to 11:00 PM EST Sunday, activity hours below offer a great opportunity to contact the most locals and RVHFG members. Be sure to take advantage of these.

Activity hours are 7:00 PM-9:00 PM on both nights - On the 2M FM freqs and 144.260. QSY from there to other bands and then come back.

Example Exchange: (You are KV2X)

CQ Contest this is K2TER, QRZ?

K2TER here is KV2X, over

KV2X copy FN12, over - FN12 is the maidenhead grid square K2TER is located in (see below)

Roger FN13 here

QSL, QRZ K2TER contest.

Determining your Grid Square:

If you don't know your 4 digit Grid square look up your callsign on QRZ.com

Under detailed information:

Coordinates **43.088351 -77.432557** [about](#)
State **New York**
County **Monroe**
Grid **FN13gc**

You can also look for grid square information/map at arrl.org:

<http://www.arrl.org/locate/gridinfo.html>

Bands/QSO points:

- A - 50-54 MHz – 1 point per QSO
- B – 144-148 MHz – 1 point per QSO
- C – 222- 224 MHz – 2 points per QSO
- D – 432-449 MHz – 2 points per QSO
- 9 – 903 MHz or 33 cm – 4 points per QSO
- E – 1296 MHz or 23 cm – 4 points per QSO
- F – 2304 MHz or 13 cm – 8 points per QSO
- G – 3456 MHz or 9 cm – 8 points per QSO
- H – 5760 MHz or 6 cm – 8 points per QSO
- I – 10384 MHz or 3 cm – 8 points per QSO
- J - 24 GHz – 8 points per QSO
- K- 47 GHz – 8 points per QSO
- L – Laser – 8 points per QSO

Recent 2 and 6 Meter Net Check-Ins			
24-Nov		1-Dec	
144.260 9pm	50.260 9:30 PM INNAUGRAL NET	144.260 9pm	50.260 9:30 PM
K2MPE	K2MPE	N2AWA	WA2GAI
WA2SOK	KE2LW	KC2SCZ	KC2SCZ
KA2EKI	WA2SOK	KB2BLS	KC2QZR
K2TER	KC2QZR	WB2BYP	KC2PCD
KC2JKU	K2ERG	NQ2O	
KB2BLS	K2TER	KC2QZR	
N2YEM	KC2PCD		
KC2PCD	KC2JKU		
KC2MCC			
KC2QZR			

Submitted by Larry Carter, N2MLH

RUSS SCHROEDER W2DYY 5/8/08 (SK)

By Dave Haliday, K2DH

I was asked to write a memorial for our dear friend Russ W2DYY who, as I'm sure everyone is aware, passed away very suddenly last May. This has been very difficult for me- Russ was one of my best friends for many years. I asked a couple of his other close friends for their memories of Russ, and these are included below. I met Russ at RARA back in the very early 1970's, when we were both interested in, and active on 2m FM. As I recall, Russ was one of the people involved, as I was, with the design and construction of the first UHF repeater in Rochester, as part of "UHF of Rochester". Russ was a very smart guy- and I remember that he liked to be right in any technical discussion. The best part was, he almost always was! Russ was very active in the RVHFG for many years, and was part of the N2WK team that ran so hard in the June VHF contest for several years. A few years ago, he and I went to Canada to provide 47GHz for the gang, when we were all attempting to get VUCC on that band. I recall we had a great time on that trip, and I have a picture of Russ in my shack that I will remember him by for many years, standing in front of his microwave gear doing what he liked to do best- making the contact. The RVHFG is a bit less the club that it was when Russ was with us, and the millimeter wave gang has really felt the loss- a part of our spark has gone away, it seems. – Dave K2DH

Wow, where do I begin? I always admired his knowledge of WW2 gear, he could fix ANYTHING! I also miss his favorite saying: "Win some, lose most."- Chuck WG2A

Russ and I go back to a first QSO on 2m FM in the late spring of 1968. My wife Nancy and I were on our way into Rochester from Sacramento after my discharge from the USAF, and I put out a CQ on .94 as we approached Webster. Back came Russ, and we had our first chat of almost 40 years. Russ and I shared not only ham radio, but also photography and fishing as hobbies. We pioneered VHF- both SSB and FM, RTTY- both HF and AFSK on 2m. Until he and Joan were married, he was at our house in Sodus Point almost every weekend. "Couldn't get enough of Nancy's Chili" he said. Russ was my Elmer in home computing in the mid 70's. We both built up home brew Motorola 6800 based machines long before PC's or the Internet. He also arranged for me to take most of the computer science courses at Xerox's programmed learning center even though I was in Plant Engineering and Maintenance. Later on, we drifted off into different interests. Russ went on higher and higher into UHF and microwaves, and I got into OSCAR operation and the digital modes. We kept contact mostly in VHF contests and our annual "Salesman's Row" gang at the Rochester Hamfest. Most of those guys have passed over the years, and now Russ is gone too. The bands are a bit lonelier now. - Al K2MPE

Russ, we miss you- RIP old friend.

Free Online Practice Tests

By Tom Jennings, KV2X

Are you thinking of upgrading your ham ticket in the near future? Or do you know someone who wants to get his or her ham license? Well below is an email I recently received from Hamilton Carter regarding a set of free online practice tests he created. I briefly checked it out by taking the Extra exam. A question is displayed with multiple choice answers. You click on the button to the left of what you think the correct answer is. If you are right, the background turns green and the word Correct appears below the choices otherwise the background turns bright red and the word Wrong appears.

Here is Hamilton's email:

Hi Thomas,

I just saw the ROCHESTER VHF GROUP on the arrl.org web site and I noticed that you offer help for newcomers. I just created a set of free online exam practice tests that I hope hams will find useful.

Within the practice tests, online study resources, (Wikipedia, NASA, ARRL, etc...), are provided for many of the questions. The list of resources available for each question is constantly growing because users can add their own favorite links to the study materials. Users can also track their test scores over time and see which subelements are giving them the most trouble. You can see all the practice tests at:

<http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/>

Please let me know if you find it handy, or if you think of any ways to make it better. Also, if you think it's useful, please feel free to add a link to the practice exams at your site. Thanks!

73 de KDOFNR Hamilton Carter

PS The tests were mentioned recently on kb6nu.com at:

<http://kb6nu.com/new-online-test/>

you can also see comments about the practice exams on the QRZ forums:

<http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=180904>

Classified Listings

For Sale: 2 and 3Gig Station

2 and 3 G in one box with common TWT(WA2MOP's rover station) All Down East components. \$500. PS for TWT.

Free 18" dish with tri-band feed with purchase of complete station.

Contact: Howard Clark k2an at localnet dot com

WANTED TNC CONNECTORS. I'm redoing my station, trying to put in a better effort in the January VHF contest than the last few years by adding 4 more bands and a different antenna configuration. To do this, I need 6 additional male TNC connectors. I'll be using the connectors with a larger diameter coax (Flexi 4XL) Please let me know if you have some extras for sale. Thanks. Judy, N2KXS

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.