

# The Rochester VHF Group

## The VHF



## Journal

Volume 70, Issue 7

March 2017

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday March 10th at 7:30 PM held at Rochester Makerspace located at the rear of 850 St. Paul St., Rochester. Doors open at 7PM Map and directions on last page.

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 Classifieds  
**Topic:** 6m Amplifier Club Project

### **W2UTH 6 meter Skimmer**

<http://www.reversebeacon.net/dx/sd1/dxsd1.php?f=0&c=W2UTH&t=de>

## The Chairman Speaks!

**Dave Haliday K2DH**

Hello again, fellow VHF+ "addicts", once again, I must apologize for missing another RVHFG meeting. My XYL and I had just gotten back from a vacation in J6 (St. Lucia) and I was still trying to unwind, get through all the mail and get back into the swing of winter in upstate New York! I'm looking forward to making the March meeting.

Speaking of the March meeting, I'm excited that we're about to try out a possible new venue for club meetings. Our meeting this month will be at the Rochester Makerspace, located at 850 St. Paul St in the city. This location is said to be well-lit and welcomes geeks- errr, technical gurus, like us. Please try to attend, as we want to get a feel for what you think of the place in terms of future (maybe longterm future) meetings.

Continued...

RVHFG's Beacons			
Beacons Hosted at AWA Museum			
Band	MHz	Power	Antenna
6m	50.078	5W	Squalo
2m	144.298	6W	Big Wheel
1.25m	222.050	5W	Par Omni-Angle
70cm	432.300	5W	Par Omni-Angle
23cm	1296.257	2W	Halo

*Published by Rochester VHF Group PO BOX 92122 Rochester, NY 14692 Editor: Tom Jennings, KV2X*  
 The VHF Journal is published by the Rochester VHF Group monthly except June-August. The subscription price is included in the membership dues. If you elect to receive the PDF version by downloading it from our website, dues are US\$10 per year. In this case, you will be notified by email the day it is available for download. If you choose to receive the hardcopy Journal by Postal delivery, the dues are US\$15.00 per year. Articles and comments should be submitted to [journal@rvhfg.com](mailto:journal@rvhfg.com)

# The Chairman Speaks!

**Continued...** While I was away, I understand the Monday night 2m net has been growing! That's wonderful news and I hope that the folks showing up on Mondays are curious enough about VHF+ doings that they'll attend a club meeting or two to see what we're about in more detail than the net can provide. Also, thanks to Len KC2PCD for the wonderful job he's doing as net control and also for his efforts to get a Facebook page started- this looks like a winner to me!

I was very impressed with the program Jarred KF2MR put together for the net two weeks ago. His presentation on basic amateur microwaves was excellent and the fact that one could follow along with his text on Facebook was a real plus. There was time at the end for questions and a number of good ones were asked by the net attendees that night. I hope we can do this kind of thing again soon, as I think it's a good way for people who don't typically attend meetings to get a flavor of the club and our passions.

Speaking of meetings, I've been thinking (for a couple of years now, since I read about another club's success doing this), that we might want to consider dropping the "Business" portion of the meeting and getting right to what the members want to do at the meeting- experiment and learn. We've talked about this before, but never really gotten too far with the idea. We might also want to consider not having formal meetings, but instead, gather at a place on a Saturday for breakfast, or at a members' home for a demonstration of something he/she is doing. It's something to think about. A demonstration of EME, or making some microwave contacts with our Ontario VHF Association friends on the other side of the lake are a couple of quick ideas that come to mind.

The joint RDXA/RVHFG banquet is coming up, too. It will be held again this year at Lilian's Restaurant 2200 Penfield Road, on April 21, 2017. Cocktails at 6:00pm, dinner at 7:00pm. This is always a fun get together, we'll be presenting contest awards, maybe a special award or two, and door prizes. Plan on attending- it's a great time at a friendly place!

That's it for now. I hope to see you all at the Makespace on March 10, where we'll see the progress of the 6m power amplifier project

CU on the bands 73,  
Dave Hallidy K2DH

## Secretary Report

Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ

### Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for 10 February 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 1937L by Jarred (KF2MR). Jarred welcomed everybody and then asked for a motion to accept meeting minutes and treasurer's report as written in January's journal. Ken (N8KH) motion to accept and Harry (W2HRY) seconded.

#### Attending:

Jarred (KF2MR), Freddie (WB2GFZ), Steve (KA1CNF), David (KA2OQZ), Harry (W2HRY), Tom (KV2X), Brian (KA2CGB), Ken (N8KH) & John (WB2BYP).

#### Old Business:

- The next three meeting will be held at the Rochester Makerspace on St. Paul St. in Rochester. For March's meeting, we will return to the topic of the 6m amplifier, demonstrate its use and discuss the functions of the amplifier control board.

- Jarred (KF2MR) indicated that our Affiliation with the ARRL was completed before the January contest.
- The 6M Skimmer's operation was reestablished by Jarred but was recently view as down again.
- Club sponsored Contest incentives have been generally accepted. The group agreed to sponsor the June contest plaque. The members agreed to sponsor the Atlantic Division Single Operator 3-Band plaque.

**New Business:**

- Len (KC2PCD & Jarred (KF2MR) have established a Face Book page to aid with the Net discussions.

**Program:**

Dave (KA2OQZ) & Jarred (KF2MR) demonstrated the basic functions of the 23cm ID-1 transceiver & briefly discussed some of the advance applications that the radio is capable of. This radio was designed to take advantage of the higher bandwidth on the 23cm band and provide a higher data throughput for computer connections.

## Rochester VHF Group Treasurer's Report (2/7/17)

**CHECKING/CASH ACCOUNT**

Previous Balance (PP = \$0.00, Cash = \$380.83Cash, \$1551.15 Checking):	\$ 1931.98
Income: None Expenses:	
Service Charge \$10 for account being below \$2500	\$ 10.00 Current
Balance (PP = \$0.00, Cash = \$380.83Cash, \$1541.15 Checking):	\$ 1921.98

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ, Treasurer*

## Vice Chairman's Report

By Jarred Jackson, KF2MR

As I write this, it is the first day of March and feeling like spring. I have been deeply engaged in radio related projects over this last month and enjoying every minute of it. Thanks to all who have responded to my questions as I have made my way through some design decisions in the rover rebuild.

We launched the RVHFG Facebook group and have nearly 30 members. This was created primarily to support additional information exchange and interaction with RVHFG Net participants. Speaking of the net, KC2PCD has been doing very well attracting local hams to the net. This is due in large part to engaging Roc City Net members. Len routinely has 12-14 net participants for the 2m SSB net. On February 20<sup>th</sup> we put on a short multi-media presentation of Microwave Communications which encouraged net participants to download a presentation and review the slides while the 2m SSB net was used to present the content and take questions and comments. I received positive feedback on this approach and encourage our members to present a topic of their choice in the same manner. If you have an interest, please get in touch with KC2PCD.

The subject of the March meeting will be the 6m amplifier club project. I am looking forward to the new venue at the Rochester Makerspace. I hope that KA1CNF will give us a brief tour of the facility, so please arrive at 7pm so we can make the most of our time there. During our first meeting working on this project, members recommended adding SWR protection and selected the W6PQL amplifier control board. This added significant complexity to the project, but should help make this a more

durable amplifier once complete. The amplifier itself is assembled and operating, but I have not fully integrated the control board. I would like to talk through this during the March meeting and look for a volunteer who may be able to either take advantage of more of the board's functionality or perhaps find a less expensive method of addressing the need for protection. Please take a look at the control board website before coming to the meeting so you have an idea of what it is capable of ([http://www.w6pql.com/amplifier\\_control\\_board.htm](http://www.w6pql.com/amplifier_control_board.htm)). We need to get a move on building these amplifiers, so I will be looking for commitments from people who would like to get building. We will schedule two days in April and two days in May to build the amplifiers.

Next month will be nomination of club officers and May will be election of officers. But the earlier we can talk about this the better. It is important to recognize that the club only functions when people volunteer and actively participate. It doesn't take a lot of work from any one person to have a lot of fun if there are a lot of people who are willing to put in just a little bit of work. I encourage everyone to think about what they can do to help with club activities. Maybe this is running for one of the officer positions, but maybe it's something altogether different. Can you volunteer to run a project, write an article for the newsletter, make a presentation, or coordinate club activities at a hamfest? In many ways, these activities are even more important than the business side of club affairs and we are flexible enough to structure the club around the interests and activities that our club members would like to engage in. Don't assume that someone else is going to volunteer. If paying your dues and showing up for club meetings are the primary ways you participate, then we need your help. Jump in and get involved!

## Spring Sprints

The "sprints" are short contests that many people like to use to test out equipment and try new things without having to commit an entire weekend. The ON4KST Chat website is used in our region to help coordinate contacts. Your score is entered into 3830scores.com after the contest is over and unless you are one of the top 3 scores, you will not be asked to submit your log. The 2m Sprint always falls on a Monday, allowing us to gather together before and after the 9pm SSB net to pick up local contacts. I encourage everyone to get on the air and at least make one contact in each event. For those with Microwave capabilities, please consider getting on the air for this event and let me know if you wouldn't mind being part of a demonstration for those who may be interested in seeing how this stuff works. Schedule is:

144 MHz: Monday, 4/17/17 from 7 - 11 PM local

222 MHz: Tuesday, 4/25/17 from 7 - 11 PM local

432 MHz: Wednesday, 5/03/17 from 7 - 11 PM local

Microwave, 902 MHz and up: Saturday, 5/6/17 from 8 AM - 2 PM local

50 MHz: Saturday, 5/13/17 from 2300Z until 0300Z Sunday, 5/14/17

73,  
Jarred Jackson, KF2MR

## Classified Listings

For Sale - KF2MR

1296 & 2304 MHz Transverter Set (\$575)

This is the system I built and used for many contests now in the Rover (including this January contest). The bands share an enclosure and power connection, however IF, PTT, and Antenna connections are all independent. The transverters are setup with 5W input. Output is approximately 10W on 1296 using a small DEMI amplifier and 2W on 2304. 1296 has a 144 MHz IF, while 2304 is currently setup with a 434 MHz IF (I use an FT-817 as the IF radio). Built with SG-Lab transverters. The 2304 transverter has the option for an external 10 MHz clock, though I have rarely used this option and didn't notice much of a difference when I did.



IC-1271A 1296 MHz Base Station Radio (\$400)



(Stock Image – Not the actual radio)

Kenwood TK-930 (\$50)

This FM Mobile radio has been modified with new filtering for the 902-903 MHz portion of the band. It is programmed for 902.1, 902.3, 903.1, and 903.3 MHz. A very cheap way to get on the band.



# Meeting Location and Directions

## March Meeting Location – NEW LOCATION

The Rochester Makerspace is located at the rear of 850 St. Paul Street in almost 4,000 square feet of workspace. Parking is in the rear of the building off of **Scrantom St.** You must go down Scrantom St. to locate the rear parking lot. Do not park in the front of the building and please do not park directly in front of the loading dock. The entrance will be through the double overhead doors or the entry door to the right. The door code will be shared with RVHFG officers and BOD members to help with entry if needed. Go through the inside door at the top of the loading dock, turn left and walk a short distance to the end of the hall. The main Makerspace is on the left through the overhead door. Talk-in will be on 146.52 if anyone has trouble finding the place or needs help getting in.

