

The Rochester VHF Group

The VHF



Journal

Volume 68, Issue 3

November 2014

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday, November 14th 2014 at 7:15 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

In this issue:

The Chairman Speaks!
Secretary Report
Treasurer's Report
Mud Recap
VHF-UHF-Microwave Contest Rule Change
New RF Device
Classified

Topic: AWA Tour

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

W2UTH 6 meter Skimmer

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

The Chairman Speaks! Tom Jennings KV2X

Groupers: With much regret I am announcing that Bob Nezelek W2CNS has resigned as Chairman of the Rochester VHF Group for personal reasons. The RVHFG Officers and Board wish to thank Bob for his service as Chairman and all the work he did to insure the Microwave Update Conference was a success. As Vice Chairman I will be stepping into the Chairman's position until the next election of officers in May.

Speaking of MUD... I had a great time at the RVHFG sponsored MUD conference. It was well organized and everything went well. I met a bunch of great hams, learned a few things about microwaves, spawned a couple ideas for club projects, and bought a couple things at the flea market. Continued....

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

The Chairman Speaks!

Continued...The Rochester Marriott Airport Hotel is a great place to stay. Frank and Dave have a recap below plus Bill, K2TER, has uploaded quite a few pictures taken during the MUD Conference and the tour of the AWA Museum. Click on this link to see all the pictures

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1ttw5samolukx5w/AADJH0A_Uyvbay630-6HJTSea?dl=0

This month's meeting will be at the AWA Museum on Friday October 14th at 7:15 PM local time. It will be a short business meeting followed by a tour of the Museum. I am looking forward to the tour as it is a great chance to reminisce on my early days in radio back in the '60s!

The New York QSO Party was held in October and had a great turn out according to AF2K over 300 logs were submitted. Jarred, KF2MR, was trying earn one of the VHF awards and his efforts drummed up some VHF activity. As a mobile in 2 counties I gave Jared around 10 Qs both cw and phone, Gloria K2GAB and John WB2BYP did a limited mobile op on 52.525, 146.55. 225.5, 446.0, 927.5 and 1294.5 and worked Jarred from Monroe, Wayne and Ontario counties. Another rover helping out was NA2X. Digital Qs were made with KB2RMC. I hope this is a start of a new trend of a large VHF/UHF participation in future NYQPs!

Looking forward to December, we will be having our annual Tune-Up Clinic at K2TER's QTH. Get your filters, preamps, transverters, and rigs dusted off for noise figure measurements, power out, etc. Then you will be ready for the January VHF Contest.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting and sharing radio memories during the tour.

73,

Tom Jennings KV2X

Secretary Report

By Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for 10 October 2014

The meeting was called to order at 1937L by Bob (W2CNS). Bob welcomed everybody and all attendees identified themselves and gave a brief account of their recent activities. The previous month's meeting Secretary's report was briefly highlighted and a motion to accept the report as written in September's journal was presented by John (WB2BYP) and Bill (K2TER) seconded the motion. Freddie (WB2GFZ) the Treasurer reviewed the club's financial standing for the period 8/31/14 through 9/30/14. A motion through presented the asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting as printed in the Journal. Bill (K2TER) made the motion to accept and John (KB2BYP) seconded. Freddie (WB2GFZ) reviewed the Treasurer's report as reported in the May's Journal and a motion to accept the report was presented by John (WB2BYP) and Bill (K2TER) seconded.

Attending: Tom (KV2X), Bob (W2CNS), John (WB2BYP), Gloria (K2GAB), Bill (K2TER), Freddie (WB2GFZ), Steve (K2STF), David (AB2YI), Dave Malecki (KD2HEV), Ryan (W2XH), Jarred (KF2MR), Dean (WB2ACJ), Bob (WA2QAU), Ken (W2UAD), Frank (K2OS) & Fred (WO2P).

Old Business: Tom (KV2X) made a request for individual contributors for the next Journal.

New Business – None

Bill (K2TER) motioned to close the meeting at 20:24L and Tom (KV2X) seconded.

Program: There were two presenters, Jarred (KF2MR) & Ryan (W2XH). Jarred talked about his HackRF SDR project and explained the software efforts (Linux) and the hardware aspect. Ryan discussed the XB-200 LF/MF/HF/VHF transverter and a block up-down converter (Expands the bladeRF's usable Freq.) enabling the platform suitable for HF/VHF applications.

VHF Group Treasurer's Report (10/31/2014)

CHECKING/CASH ACCOUNT

Balance (as of 9/30/2014, PayPal =0, Cash = 171.00, Checking = 1853.29) \$2024.29

Income: \$450.41

Bob (W2CNS), Freddie (WB2GFZ), Dean (WB2QCJ), Ryan (W2XH), Ken (W2UAD), Bob (WA2QAU) & Dave (AB2YI) (dues \$10 ea). John (WB2BYP) & Gloria (K2GAB) family dues \$15 (Sub Tot \$85)

New Members @ MUD Jim (W1XR), Dale (AF1T), Dean (VA3CDD), Richard (W2GPS), Murray (VE3NPB), Kent (WA5VJB), Walt (N2IK), Bill (VE3CRU), Sid (K8ZES), Dana (VE3DS), Jack (WA2CHV), Stephen (KB8VAO). New members at MUD (12 * \$8.00 = \$96) Plus Ken (KA2LIM) \$10. PayPal Harry Hoffman (KA2ENE, \$9.41). (Sub Tot \$115.41)

Add \$250. Chk # 1039 dated 1/10/14 for 1st Marriott payment should not have been reported as an expense in Treasurer's report (1/27/14).

Expenses: \$31.00

PO Box 92122 Rent \$31 (6 Months)

Current Balance (PP = \$0.00, Cash = \$225.00, Cash, \$1862.70 Checking): \$2443.70

Members paid up for 2014 – 2015 are as follows;

K2GAB, Gloria Stevens	KF2MR, Jarred Jackson, KF2MR
KV2X, Tom Jennings	N2IK, Walt Burdett
W2CNS, Bob Nezelek	N2NEP, John Cunliffe
WB2BYP, John Stevens	VA3CDD, Dean Denter
WB2GFZ, Freddie Sulyma	VE3CRU, Bill Burgess
AB2YI, Dave Muller	VE3DS, Dana Shtun
AF1T, Dale Clement	VE3NPB' Murray Hill
AF2K, Irv Goodman	W1XR, Jim Welch
K2EHF, Jeffrey Luce	W2GPS, Richard Hambly
K2ERG, Elbert Gross	W2UAD, Ken Evans
K2STF, Stephen Fleming (Steve)	W2XH, Ryan Tucker
K8ZES, Sid Emmons	WA2CHV, Jack Kelly
KA2ENE, Harry Hoffman	WA2QAU, Bob Roberts
KA2LIM, Ken Kent	WA5VJB, Kent Britain
KA2OQZ, David Carlson	WB2KAO, Tim Magee
KB8VAO, Stephen Gocala	WB2QCJ, Dean Keyser
KD2HEV, Dave Malecki	WO2P, Fred Miller

Respectfully submitted,

Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ, Treasurer

MUD 2014 Conference Recap

By Frank Pollino K2OS and Dave Hallidy K2DH

The MUD 2014 Conference was held in Rochester on October 24-25 at the Rochester Marriott Airport Hotel. This year's conference was sponsored by the RVHFG. Planning for this conference began over a year ago by committee members. It culminated with 100 attendees for the conference and 115 attendees to the Saturday night banquet. Kudos to the staff at the Rochester Marriott, especially Melissa Adams and Christine Paoletti. They provided great service and planning guidance for this event.

On Thursday, 32 early arrival registrants enjoyed a visit to the Antique Wireless Association Museum in nearby Bloomfield, NY. In addition to the current exhibits, the AWA staff pulled out some unknown microwave components and assemblies from their inventory for display. An AWA docent asked if anyone could identify particular items that were displayed. It was impressive to hear Jeff Kruth WA3ZKR describe almost every item and its application.

The formal conference was held on Friday and Saturday. There were 13 presentations over the two days covering the microwave spectrum up through 78 GHz. Topics covered microwave roving in New England to small dish 10GHz EME to 78 GHz EME experiments. In addition, Jack Kelly WA2CHV presented a "Laser Lab Virtual Tour" of the UR Laser Lab. There was something of interest to the beginner to the most adventurous microwave operator.

During break periods, the vendor and flea market room was busy with shoppers seeking a variety of components, amplifiers, LNAs and antennas. Also in this area was the Keysight Technologies test equipment set-up. This equipment provided conference attendees access to noise figure and other RF measurements on the most state-of-art equipment.

Some attendees walked away with the great deals on items during the four auction breaks hosted by the official MUD Auctioneer Kent Britain WA5VJB. Our thanks to donors of auction items and to Kent for providing some entertaining auctions.

A noteworthy surprise took place during the conference. Tony Emanuele WA8RJF presented a lifetime achievement award plaque to Al Ward W5LUA. This award recognized the years of support Al has given the microwave community and his operating achievements.

The Saturday evening banquet concluded the official activities. The buffet dinner and dessert was followed by a presentation "Radio – The Early Days" by our keynote speaker Kent Britain WA5VJB. As usual, no MUD Conference would be complete without the door prize drawing. This year was no exception. With the great generosity of commercial and individual prize donors, the prize drawing was a prolonged event with many attendees getting two prizes. Our special thanks to these commercial vendors who provided some great door prizes for attendees:

ARRL Bookstore
CQ Communications
Directive Systems and Engineering
DEMI - Down East Microwave Inc.
Kuhne Electronic GmbH
Mini-Circuits Inc.
Valon Technology LLC
WA3IAC Chuck Steer – eBay:chuckwa3iac
W2RFC Radio Club

The conference was a success because of the contributions of these RVHFG members and individuals:

Dave Hallidy K2DH: Co-Chairman, Test Equipment Coordination
Stephanie Hallidy: Ladies Door Prizes, Tote Stuffing, Registration
Frank Pollino K2OS: Co-Chairman, Door Prizes
Nick Ibarluzea: Website
Bill Rogers K2TER: Website, IT Support, Presentations, Publicity
Bob Nezelek W2CNS: AWA Coordination, DVD Burning
Lynda Draper: Ladies Door Prizes, Alternate Activities, DVD Burning, Registration
Freddie Sulyma WB2GFZ: Finance, Registration
Tom Jennings KV2X: Finance, PayPal Coordinator, Registration
Betty Jennings: Ladies Door Prizes, Registration
Irv Goodman AF2K: Timekeeper, Raffle Coordinator, Registration
Paul Kolacki K2FX: Audio, Master of Ceremonies
Stephen Fleming K2STF: Publicity, Registration
John Stevens WB2BYP: Shirt/Tote/Lanyard Design and Purchase, Tote Stuffing, Publicity
Gloria Stevens K2GAB: Shirt /Tote/Lanyard Design and Purchase, Tote Stuffing, Publicity, Registration

ARRL Seeks Input on Initial VHF-UHF-Microwave Contest Rule Changes

The ARRL has formed an ad hoc subcommittee on VHF and Above Revitalization and is seeking member input on updating VHF-UHF-Microwave contest rules in order to increase the level and breadth of participation in ARRL VHF-UHF-Microwave contests and encourage utilization of less used ham bands. They want to make changes across all VHF and up contests. The following are initial recommendations of the rule changes they want to make:

1. Removal of the current prohibition on the use of Amateur and non-Amateur forms of assistance for all operator categories, with such use having no impact on entry category;
2. Removal of the current prohibition on self-spotting for all operator categories; and
3. Allowing single operators to transmit on more than one band at a time.

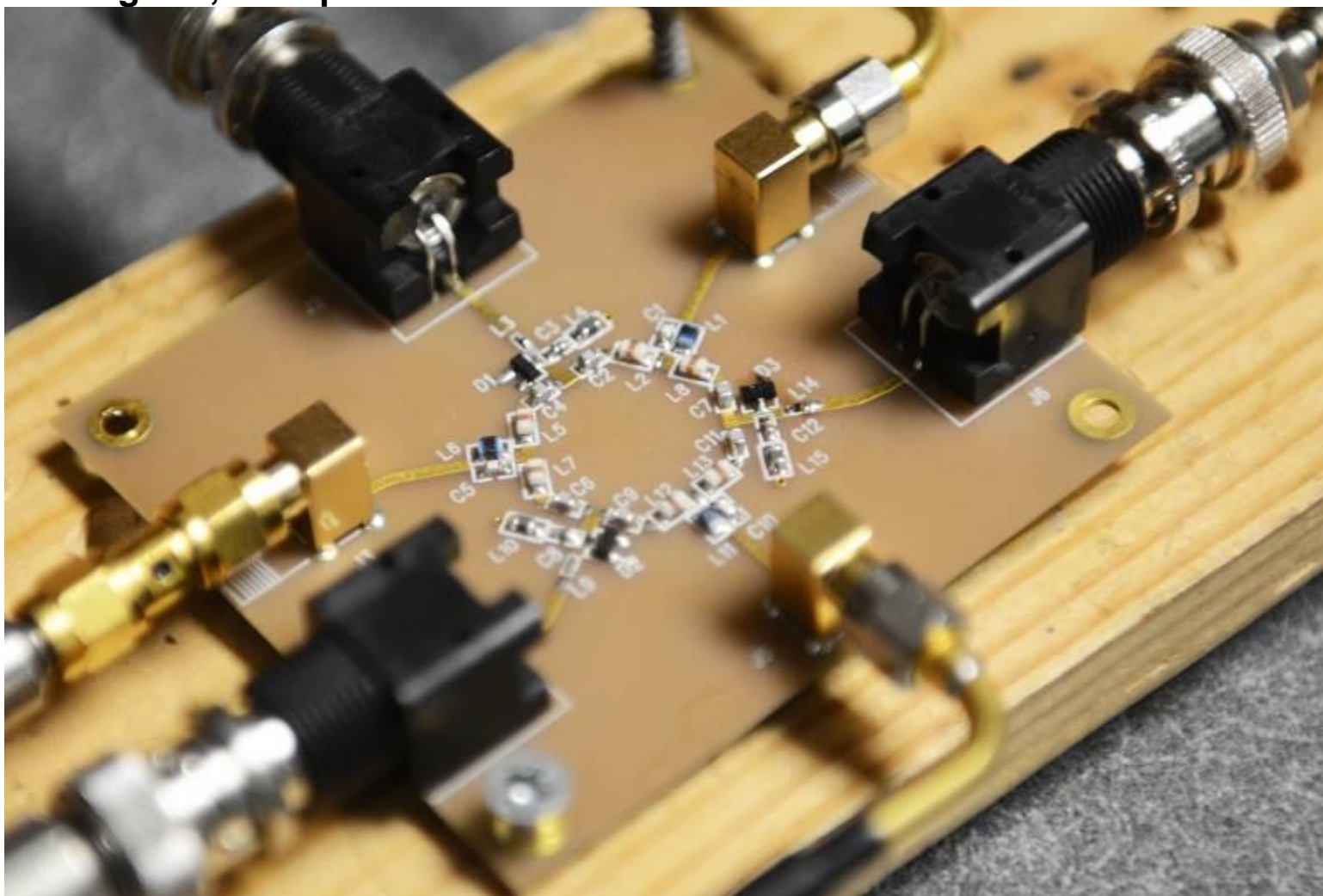
Specific rule changes are listed on the ARRL web page at

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-input-on-initial-vhf-uhf-microwave-contest-rule-changes>

You can help the ARRL by considering the potential impact of each proposal and sharing any specific observations about it. As a club whose members do a lot of contesting, the RVHFG should discuss the changes and send the groups opinions to the ARRL. We can start a discussion on the RVHFG.ORG. Deadline for comments is December 15, 2014 and must be sent to vhf-input@arrl.org.

Tom Jennings KV2X

Lighter, Cheaper RF Device Could Transform Telecommunications



Researchers at the [Cockrell School of Engineering](http://www.utexas.edu/news/2014/11/10/radio-wave-device-alu/) at The University of Texas at Austin have achieved a milestone in modern wireless and cellular telecommunications, creating a radically smaller, more efficient radio wave circulator that could be used in cellphones and other wireless devices, as reported in the latest issue of *Physics*. The new circulator has the potential to double the useful bandwidth in wireless communications by enabling full-duplex functionality, meaning devices can transmit and receive signals on the same frequency band at the same time. The key innovation is the creation of a magnetic-free radio wave circulator. For more details see: <http://www.utexas.edu/news/2014/11/10/radio-wave-device-alu/>
Tom Jennings KV2X

Classified Listings

Blue Sky AL2 Transportable 5-Meter Mast Kit

The AL2 5-meter mast is suitable for rapid deployment HF and VHF antenna systems. Capable of supporting a mast head load of up to 65 lb. in 70 mph wind conditions when guyed. Manual push-up mast sections through the fully articulating tripod base. Tripod has adjustable telescoping legs with twist compression locks and bubble level alignment indicator. 2-inch OD interlocking mast sections are constructed from aerospace grade aluminum alloy.

New Unused: 5-meter transportable mast kit includes the following the following components:

- 5-meter mast kit and transportable wheel enabled ballistic nylon bag (BSM2-M-M205-AL2-000)
- Surface Wire Ground Kit with ballistic nylon carry bag (BST2-K-L104-GND-000)
- Guy Kit with ballistic nylon carry bag (BSM2-K-G605-PRI-BLK)

Price excludes shipping: **\$2100.00**. USPS Money Order. No overseas sales.

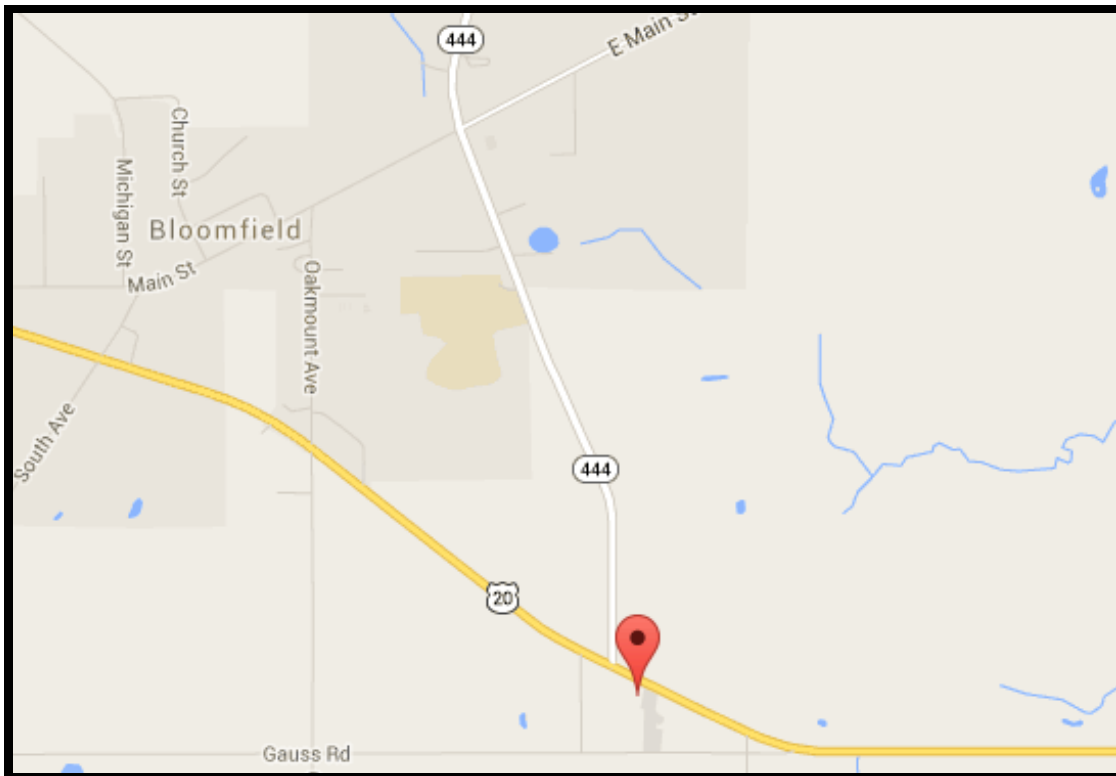
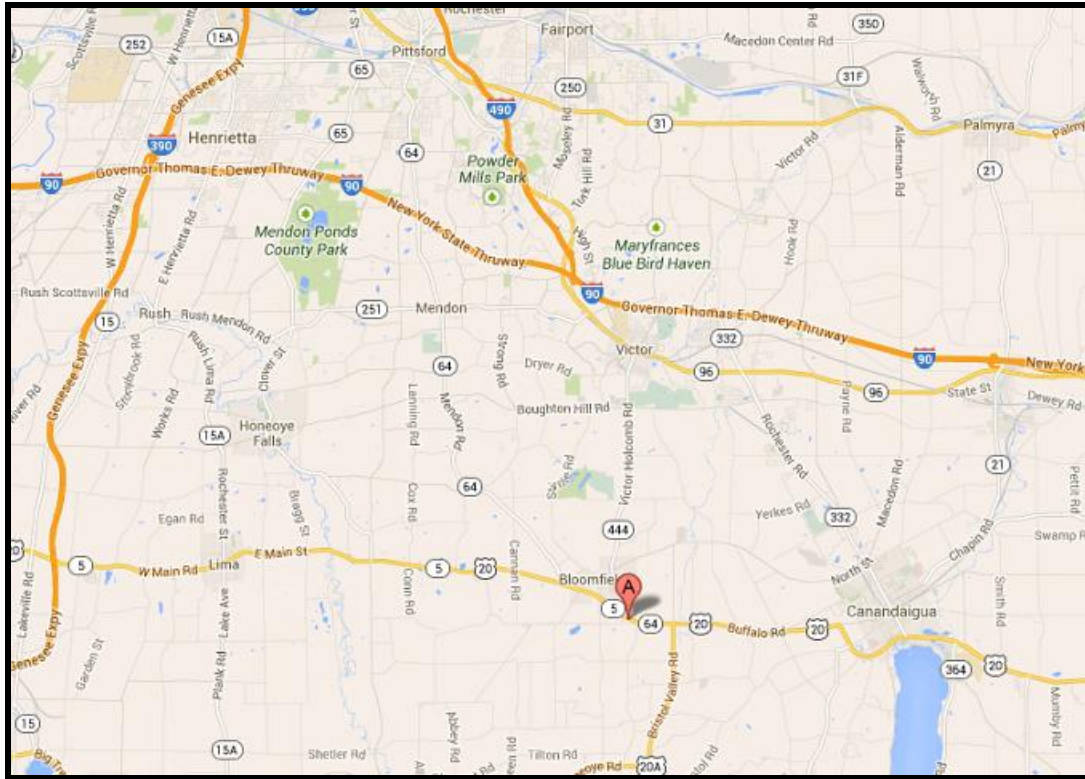
More pictures at <http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?456250-BlueSky-AL2-5-Meter-Mast-Kit>

For additional information and product data sheets Contact Skip WB4NQG at sbudde@bellouth.net

Note: Termination box at the mast base not included.



Meeting Location and Directions



Close up Map of AWA Museum's Location just east of the Route 444 and Routes 5 and 20 intersection