

The Rochester VHF Group

The VHF



Journal

Volume 61, Issue 7

Mar. 2010

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday, March 12th, 2010, 7:30 PM

Spencerport Wesleyan Church
2653 Nichols St., Spencerport

Map and directions in back

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Topics:

Software Defined Radios

The Chairman Speaks! Dave Hallidy K2DH

Groupers: Work on our new website is continuing. Progress is good, but was slowed a bit by Nick's injury. He's back on track and things are coming along nicely. That said, I need to advise everyone that our agreement for the website upgrade has limitations- we can't afford everything we'd like to have there. So, if you have ideas for the upgrade, we'd ask that you submit them to the BoD and we'll get Nick to advise us on the cost and complexity of the ideas. If appropriate, we'll have them added to the club page.

The combined **RVHFG/RDXA banquet** will be held on April 24th, 2010 at Nick's Sea Breeze Inn on Culver Road, across from the Sea Breeze Amusement Park. The banquet will be a lunch affair, from 1-4pm on that Saturday. There are no tickets being sold, it's a "pay as you go" affair- each attendee will be responsible for their own bill. The lunch buffet at Nick's will run a maximum of \$12.99 for Chicken French along with all the other buffet items Nick serves (many). Drinks are extra, as are taxes and gratuity. The cash bar will be open for those who want alcoholic beverages, for those who do not, sodas and juices are also available. **Continued....**

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The Chairman Speaks! continued...

Expect the total (less beverages) to run around \$18. The clubs will be presenting a few awards, but most of all this is intended to be a good time with lots of fellowship and camaraderie. Please plan to attend. And if you do plan to attend, we need a final count by April 17th, in order to give Nick time to prepare the place for us.

As I mentioned last month, a couple of months ago, I acquired an SDR (Software Defined Radio). You've no doubt seen the ads in QST or CQ for these radios, and might wonder what the fuss is all about. As you would guess, the software is the key (since it's called a SOFTWARE Defined Radio), and there are lots of different programs out there (many are free) which will make the radio behave differently. This month, I'm going to present a short talk about Software Defined Radios in general and the SDR-IQ (the model I bought) in particular. I've been playing with this thing and it truly is amazing some of the things one can do with it. I've recorded some "chunks" of spectrum during the recent ARRL DX Contest, and I'll be able to play them back and allow you to "tune" the signals just as if the receiver was connected live to an antenna- it's amazing! One can also play with filtering, mode selection, and other optional configurations while playing back the recorded signals. I promise this won't be a boring talk, but I encourage you to attend because this is the direction radio is taking for the future.

The next meeting of the RVHFG will be held at 7:30pm on Friday March 12th, 2010 at the Spencerport Wesleyan Church on Rte 31 in Spencerport (see the back page of this newsletter for directions if you haven't been there before).

PLEASE plan on attending the meeting this month- the club is its members, and it's only as good as YOU make it- come, tell us what you like/don't like, and your BoD will listen and work to make the club greater than it already is. I know you'll enjoy what we have for you this month!

... 73

Dave Hallidy K2DH

Secretary Report

Judy Stonehill, N2KXS

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for February 12, 2010

The general meeting, held at the Spencerport Wesleyan Church, was convened at 1943 local, by the Chairman, Dave, K2DH. He welcomed the attendees and introduced Mark Hoffman, K2AXX, who would be talking about his background in 6 meters and DXing.

The attendees talked about their experiences in the January VHF contest. Ken, KA2LIM, talked about what could be done to encourage newer operators to get involved in VHF contesting.

Attendees were K2DH, N2KXS, WO2P, KV2X, W3OAB, WB2BYP, K2TER, AB2YI, WB2GFZ, KA2LIM, K2OEQ, N2YB, W2UAD, WB2YJH, K2AXX, N2ZDS, K2DLW, Jean Kent, Ed Pendzik, and Kelsey Pendzik.

OLD BUSINESS

Fred, WO2P, moved that the minutes of the January 2010 meeting be accepted as printed in the Journal. John, WB2BYP, seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the attendees.

Fred, WO2P, moved that the January Treasurer's report be accepted as printed in the Journal. John, WB2BYP, seconded the motion which was then passed by the attendees.

Dave, K2DH, reported that the beacons are still off the air. He is trying to determine a solution. He said that Larry, N2MLH, told him that they cause interference on the APRS system, on 2-meter nets that Larry runs, as well as on fire pagers. Fred, WB2GFZ, asked questions regarding the beacon frequencies.

Bill, K2TER, told the group that Nick Ibarluzea, the web site developer for the RVHFG, is recovering from his accident and, in a couple of weeks, may be back up to par and able to work on our web site. Nick has been very responsive to members' comments and suggestions regarding the site.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave reported that he sent an email to RVHFG members via the reflector asking if the members would like to have our annual banquet again this year. He has received seven positive and two negative responses. He said that RDXA is planning to have the annual banquet on April 24th at the Sea Breeze Inn. This year, the banquet will be a luncheon, held from 1 PM to 4 PM, and will cost \$16 to \$18 total. They need to a list by April 17th of RVHFG members who plan on attending. Dave will post the full information on our reflector as soon as he receives it.

Tom, KV2X asked that anyone who has input for the RVHFG Journal or ideas on topics please send them to him at his email address. Dave will send Tom an article on the RF Space SDR-IQ software defined receiver which he showed to the group. Dave also referred attendees to the January 2010 QST article about the receiver.

Dave reminded attendees that elections for RVHFG officers will be held in May and that we need to begin considering potential candidates in March. This will be published in the April and May RVHFG Journal issues.

Ken, W2UAD, moved that the business portion of the meeting be adjourned. Tom, KV2X, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2024, local.

Program

Dave, K2DH, introduced Mark Hoffman, K2AXX, who gave an excellent presentation about his experiences with 6 meters and DXing.

**Rochester VHF Group
Treasurer's Report – January 2010**

**Rochester VHF Group
Treasurer's Report – February 2010**

CHECKING ACCOUNT

<u>Previous Balance</u> (as of 1/31/10):	\$ 1,955.26
Income:	
Membership dues	\$ 30.00
Expenses:	\$ 0.00
<u>Current Balance</u>	\$ 1,985.26

*Respectfully submitted,
Judy Stonehill, N2KXS, Treasurer*

The Vice Report February 2010

March Meeting:

Coming up here in March on Friday the 12th, we will present **Dave Hallidy (K2DH)** and a program titled "**A Beginner's Discussion about Software Defined Radios**". Dave will present an introduction to Software Defined Radio technology with the use of the SDR-IQ assembly that is sold by RF Space. Here is the link to their site

<http://www.rfspace.com/RFSPACE/SDR-IQ.html>

This is an extremely useful tool for the shack. It makes for a high grade receiver suitable for direct demodulation of MF/HF frequencies or as a "pan adaptor" like receiver, indicating power vs. frequency in as much as a 196 KHz wide section, similar to a spectrum analyzer, but with the ability to close in on an individual signal and demodulate as a CW, SSB, AM or Wide-band/Narrowband FM signal. I know Dave will go into this subject in a little more depth but one of the more intriguing features is the ability of the unit to digitize and record a slice of the spectrum and then allow the user to play back the segment – even tune through the signals and demodulate them, search adjacent frequencies for other signals etc. The unit comes neatly packaged and powers simply via a USB port. I purchased one of the unpackaged boards a while back when they ran the initial beta run, and have used it quite a bit on 1296 as a pan adaptor. Come to the meeting and enjoy learning more, and see the demonstration!



Upcoming Meetings:

Plans for the springtime include **Dale AF1T and Mickey W1MKY** presenting an **Introduction to VHF/UHF Antennas**. I have seen what they have been doing at several of the conferences and it is an entertaining as well as fascinating presentation. This is something that will appeal to old timers and new hams as well. Dale and Mickey come from Henniker NH, and are very active during the summer months especially from Martha's Vineyard and Block Island on 10 GHz.

Also in the agenda for speakers in the spring months is **Jeff Ach W2FU**, coming in to update us on advances in wireless rotor controls and other new stuff of interest to the HF/VHF/UHF/SHF operator.

We are looking forward to all of these upcoming presentations. Stay tuned for more info.

As always, we need to know what you would like to see and hear at the Monthly meetings.

Please forward me any of your ideas, interests, criticisms or comments to:

wb2byp at arrl dot net

Seriously folks, we can only do this with feedback. Catch any one of the Board members or Directors on the air, on the Net, email or just give a call at 585-415-4973.

Some email comments from Ken KA2LIM:

This is nice. Now, how about some of you taking the new folks under your "wing" and show them the wonders of weak signal VHF/UHF, and then guide them along. Invite them, pick up and bring if necessary, to the monthly meetings that has interesting speakers and topics.

Those of you who were not at the February meeting missed a great presentation on 6 Meters by Mark – K2AXX. His enthusiasm for 6 Meters was contagious. This is what is happening at the monthly meetings and will surely excite new people in the hobby.

Invite a new person to your station for a weekly net check-in so they can see and hear. Invite them to participate in a contest, June is coming up, to see and experience the wonders of VHF/UHF contacts. Also, some of you who are into EME invite them to your station for some participation in some EME contacts. Don't leave them to fade away on repeaters.

Ken, KA2LIM

Our Monday Night Net and the Thursday Night Nets continue to be well attended. Check in and say hello!. 2100 local on 144.260 SSB, and 50.200 at 2130 local. Check-ins on Monday night were K2MPE, W2UAD, K2DH, VA3ST, AB2F, KA2EKI, KC2PCD, KC2QZR, KE2LW, KC2QLJ and N2DCH. On 6M the check-ins were K2DH, K2MPE, W2UAD, KC2PCD, K2ERG, VA3ST, KE2LW and WB2SQS. A great turnout!
Here's a short list of other things coming up:

June 12 - 14 ARRL June VHF QSO Party
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html?year=2010>

July 17 - 18 CQWW VHF
<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>

August 7 - 8 ARRL UHF Contest
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html?year=2010>

September 11 - 13 ARRL September VHF QSO Party
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html?year=2010>

Springs Sprints - Start in April. Single band and run for 4 hours per night for 5 weeks
Fall Sprints - Start in September. Single band and run for 4 hours per night for 5 weeks

73,
John
wb2byp

February Meeting



Mark Hoffman, K2AXX, is giving an excellent presentation about his experiences with 6 meters and DXing.



The Audience

Classified Listings

Wanted: 100+ ft of RG8/u It can be in *any* condition. I need it for an antenna experiment. Dinged-up outer jacket? No problems. No connectors? No problems. "There's a break somewhere"? No problems. All you have is a 500' or 1000' spool? No problems. Water damaged/infiltrated? No problems. Wanna get rid of it cheap? No problems. :) I need a minimum of 100' but will take longer lengths if you have it. Please contact me with what you're willing to part with and how much you want for it.

Thanks, Ev, W2EV

For Sale by K2TER

IF Rigs:

See January 2000 QST "Hotwiring the TS-690" by Rus Healy K2UA for transverter mod docs.

These are the 3 radios mentioned

Kenwood TS-690SAT (2) – email for condition, IF filter choices, and price.

Kenwood TS-450S

Realistic HTX-100 (2) – with NJ2L transverter mod \$60 each

Amplifiers:

2304 MHz 60w amplifier module - \$100

3456 MHz Toshiba 20w Amplifier - \$60

5760 – Avantec 10W amplifier - \$110

10 GHz – Avantec 5W amplifier - \$150

Brand new in box HTX-100 - \$150 – unconverted

Transverters:

Built by DEM 2304-144 transverter - 1W \$375 firm

DEM 144-28 - 30W output \$250 firm

Microwave Modules 432-28 – 10W w/two LO frequencies - \$80

Rochester VHF Group 432-28 - \$50

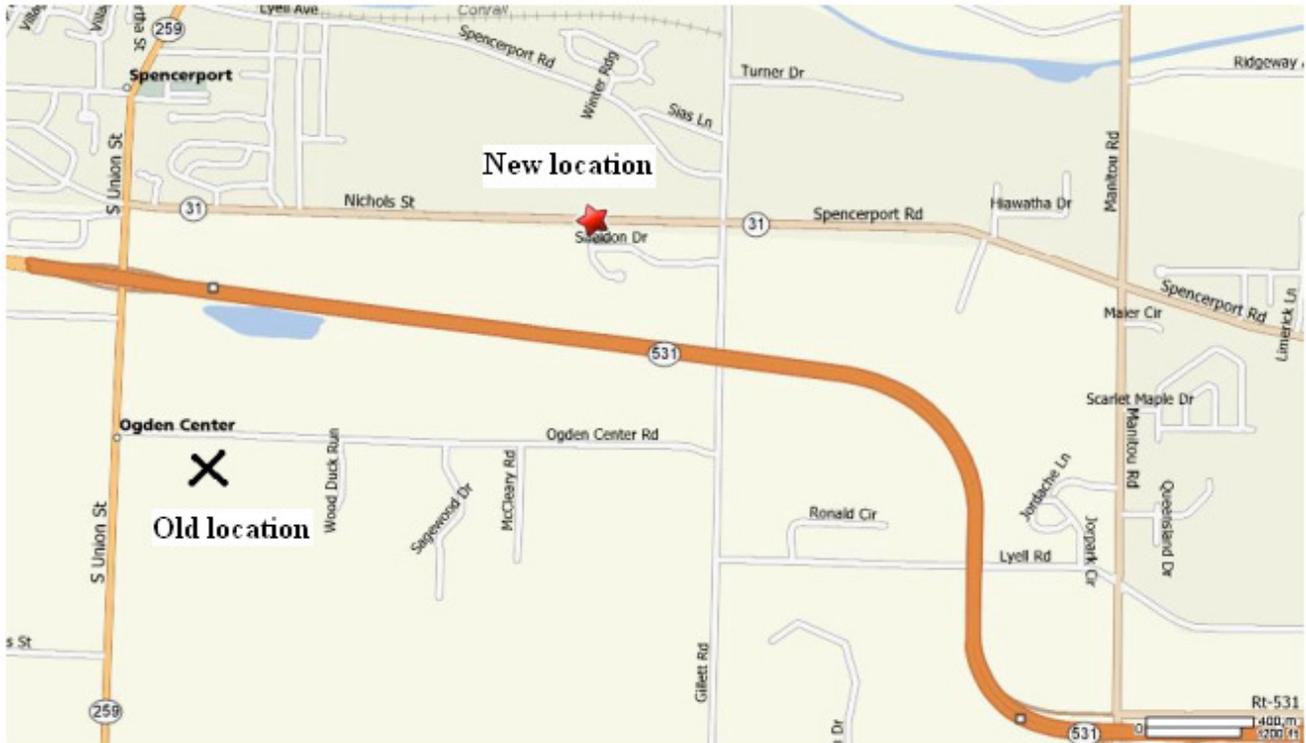
Accessories:

DEM Transverter interface for TS-850 - \$45

2 - 22' Military crank up towers – call for details

If interested, please email Bill Rogers, K2TER at k2ter@rochester.rr.com

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.