The Chairman Speaks!
Andy Flowers, K0SM

Fellow VHFers,

We have another construction project coming up this month—cheap yagis! I’ve had the pleasure of using one of these twice for roving operations in the ARRL UHF Contest back on the great plains. KM0T and I fashioned a 9-el 432 yagi using an old broom handle in about half an hour. It worked great, and it was really neat to make some 700-mi QSOs with it! These cheap yagis are great for rovers, particularly for a first-time rove. I know many of the big contesters have a few of them around for equipping rovers and newbies with something much better than a vertical.

I’m started work on RainScatter version 2, and I’m hoping to have something ready by this Spring. New things include rainscatter beacon control, auto-tracking, and a web-interface to gather useful weather data on a cell phone. Much of this is working on the bench, so hopefully we can try it out soon!

-Andy Flowers K0SM/2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 9th</td>
<td>Building low cost and repeatable VHF/UHF yagis with maximized gain/dollar.</td>
<td>For those beginning to discover the SSB and CW capabilities for their FT-100s, FT-8*7s, IC-706s, etc. and those wanting to build spare antennas for your applications: We will help you build a few of the renowned “cheap” yagis and supply build instructions for all bands from 50-2304 MHz. You will be amazed at how easy and inexpensive this technique is.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 9th</td>
<td>Antenna range testing and how-to forum.</td>
<td>Bring your home brew yagis in or any other yagi, horn, dish. We will determine the gain of your system as well as return loss (SWR match). While you’re waiting for your antennas to be tested we will have a panel of experts available to answer how-to questions and give advice. Let’s bust those blocks together and enhance your station.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 14th?</td>
<td>RVHFG Awards Banquet</td>
<td>The results are in from the January Contest; let’s congratulate the top operators and beginners! Let’s also have a great meal and the best of company.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11th</td>
<td>RVHFG Board Elections</td>
<td>This is your chance to vote for the club’s leadership in the following year. Voice your choice!</td>
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**The Vice President Speaks!**

**Bill Rogers, K2TER**

**December Meeting**

The Tune-Up Clinic was a success. We checked and adjusted a lot of equipment at the December meeting. John Stevens (WB2BYP) and Dave Hallidy (K2DH) skillfully manned the equipment. Thanks again to Dean Keyser (WB2QCJ) for supplying the noise figure meter.
The Vice President Speaks (con’t)
Bill Rogers, K2TER

RVHFG Monday Night Net – 144.260

The Monday Night Net was fairly active in the weeks leading to the January contest. John Stevens (WB2BYP), Dave Hallidy (K2DH), Walter Obenhofer (NQ2O), Barry Ricket (N2EZS) and Russ Schroeder (W2DYY) were on to QSY up the bands. I even had a “random” CW contact with Howard Clark (K2AN) on 1296.1 MHz! At the time, I was running my rover transverters from my basement into my rover antenna stack that was statically mounted (west) in the rafters of my garage. The Net runs every Monday night at 9:00; be sure to check in to check out!

January Contest Preparation

Every year I talk myself and Tom Jennings (KV2X) into making a significant number of refinements to my rover station during December and January which inevitably leads to last minute scrambling. This year was a little more under control – the rover was assembled one week ahead of the contest but we did have some last minute issues to address. See the photo of the ice on my rover stack. This year, we added receive bandpass filters for the 1296, 2304, 3456, and 5760; this greatly improved our ability to pick out signals. We also decided to run a single laptop for contest logging and navigation, but we used 2 monitors and 2 USB touch pad keyboards. This worked surprisingly well and eliminated a lot of shouting through the other guy’s headphones.

January Meeting

Thanks to Jeff Tewksbury (N2JQR) and Mark Adams (K2QO) for organizing a pre-contest pep rally. I added some rover pictures and tales from the road, as well. With my less-than-adept handling of the A/V controls, I think I actually detracted from the presentation.

K2TER/R at 100 cows (L) and K2QO/R (R)

January Contest

Tom (KV2X) and I met Mark (K2QO) and Paul Schwabel (W2TAU) at Longway’s (Truck Stop) in Watertown to share a pre-test meal. We headed to “100 Cows” FN23 and Mark headed to a sight further up the Tug Hill Plateau. Since the field we normally park in was a sheet of ice, we set up in a compromise location. I was really glad to hear single op stations from Rochester returning our calls on 144.260 MHz. from here as well as from Mutton Hill in FN22. From there we had conditions to support microwave contacts to the East as well as into Rochester but we discovered that 2304 was not functioning. This was disappointing since our upper bands were in top shape. From the four local grids we made a lot of contacts on 3, 5 and 10 Gig.
Because of equipment issues on both ends we had to jump from 1296 MHz to 5760 MHz with N2PA - no problems doing that this contest! Congratulations to Dave (K2DH) for putting a fine signal on the upper microwave bands with less than a week of preparation!

February Meeting

Two words – “Cheap Yagis”. Mark (K2QO) and I will present construction and operation anecdotes. We have used and are using these low cost and highly repeatable antennas on our rovers. That’s how I started filling in bands up to 1296 and how Mark runs to 903 now. Andy Flowers (K0SM) can attest to the success of these antennas as well. Following the presentation there will be a build session to produce 11 element 432 MHz beam antennas. Please bring your files, hack saws, and hot glue guns, and 50 ohm cable pig tails and we’ll provide the boom and element material. We will also have the capability to tune the feed point of the antennas so you will leave with an antenna ready to be put on the air.

And finally, please join me in welcoming Dave Hinerman (WD8CIV) to our group. Dave is a firmware developer at Harris RF and has expressed an interest in weak signal VHF operation.

2007 EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE

33rd Annual Eastern VHF/UHF Conference to be held April 20, 21 & 22, 2007 once again at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Enfield, CT. This year we will sponsor a Saturday afternoon mini conference – Introduction to Microwaves in addition to our regular 3 day conference activities. Friday night hospitality suite, Saturday lectures, band session discussions, vendor displays and noise figure measurements and evening banquet. Outdoor flea market Sunday morning (weather permitting) specializing in VHF and Up items. Directions: take Interstate 91 take to Exit 49, bear right at end of the ramp, and take your immediate right (at the Friendly’s) onto Bright Meadow Blvd. The hotel will be on your left. See WWW.NEWSVHF.COM or contact Bruce Wood, N2LIV, Conference Chairman at N2LIV@ARRL.NET or (516) 938-0698 ext 210, (days) for further info.

If you interested in presenting a talk or preparing a paper for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings please contact Bruce Wood, N2LIV, Conference Chairman. Paper submittal deadline March 1, 2007.

MICROWAVE UPDATE (MUD) 2007 October 18-19-20

Historic Valley Forge Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Hosted by the Pack Rats--Mt Airy VHF Radio Club

Thursday sightseeing or possible surplus tour Conference Fri & Sat; Flea Market Fri night, Vendors on site; Banquet Sat night, Door prizes and raffles.

Spouses, friends and family invited; hospitality room; Alternative family/spouse programs available.

$79 early-bird registration until 9/1 includes Conference, proceedings, banquet.
$89 from 9/1-10/1; $99 thereafter.
Extra banquet tickets $39.
Special hotel rate $92/night

Full info and registration at www.microwaveupdate.org
Abstracts, papers and presentations may be sent to W2PED (pdrexler@hotmail.com ) or N2UO (lu6dw@yahoo.com)
Questions to chairpersons: K3TUF (Phil@k3tuf.com) or (KB3HCL@arrl.net)
Secretary Report  
Judy Stonehill, N2KXS

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2007

The meeting, which was held at Town of Ogden Highway Facility, was convened at 1942 local by the Chairman, Andy, K0SM.

Attendees introduced themselves with their names, calls, and locations, and talked about their 2007 January VHF Sweepstakes plans, including which bands they will have for the contest. K2TER also mentioned that he has some extra gear to loan out for the contest.

OLD BUSINESS

Because the December issue of the Rochester VHF Group Journal was late, it will be published in February 2007.

Judy, N2KXS, read the Secretary’s report. Chuck, KC2IQV, moved to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Russ, W2DYY, and approved by the attendees.

Chuck, KC2IQV, gave the Treasurer’s report, noting that the balance in the RVHFG account is $1,516.21. Dave, K2DH, moved that the Treasurer’s report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul, N2OPW and approved by the attendees.

Members in attendance included: K2OS, K0SM, K2TER, N2OPW, K2DB, N2KG, AF2K, WB2BYP, W2DYY, W2JSG, W2SKY, KC2OCE, N2QO, W02P, N2JQR, W3OAB, N2YB, W2EV, KC2IQV, KC2PCG, K2DH, K2QO, N2EZS, N2KXS, Spencer Tupis, and Ethan Tupis.

Andy, K0SM, said that the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club (Pack Rats) is sponsoring and heading the program of this year’s Microwave Update at the Valley Forge Hilton in Philadelphia, October 18-20.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave, K2DH, said that there has been some discussion among a few members about the upcoming Rochester VHF Group banquet. A venue and date have to be decided on so reservations can be made and tickets can be printed. Paul, N2OPW, suggested that Diane Hallidy pick the date, venue, and make the reservations. There was some discussion, during which it was agreed that the Pineview Restaurant, where last year’s banquet was held, was ideal. Dave will talk to Pineview about possible dates and ask Diane if she is willing to take on the necessary arrangements. The approach was approved by attendee vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 2007 as moved by KC2IQV and seconded by N2OPW.

PROGRAM

K2TER, Bill, K2QO, Mark, and N2JQR, Jeff, showed slides of their rover rigs and talked about their (sometimes harrowing) experiences while roving during the January VHF contest as well as during other competitions.
Things of note about our Meeting Location:

1) It’s VERY convenient from ANYWHERE in the Rochester area. From downtown, it’s under 10 minutes. From the eastern towns it’s under 25 minutes. From the south of Rochester (Geneseo) it’s only 45 minutes.

2) It’s a VERY nice building. A brand-new building, modern facilities, and PLENTY of parking

3) It has access to internet connections and a video projector, and has seating for up to 70 people.

4) In other words, it’s a tremendous location. BIG thanks go out to the Town of Ogden and Jeff Tewksbury (N2JQR) for allowing us the privilege of using this facility.