

The Rochester VHF Group

The VHF



Journal

Volume 63, Issue 8

April 2011

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

Spencerport Wesleyan Church  
2653 Nichols St., Spencerport

Map and directions in back

**In this issue:**

The Chairman Speaks!  
Secretary Report  
Treasurer's Report  
The Vice Chairman's Report  
Rochester Hamfest  
AWA Spring Meet  
Spring Sprints  
Classified

**Topics:**

RVHFG Beacon Project

## The Chairman Speaks! Dave Hallidy K2DH

**Groupers:** I'm sorry to say, the mini-fleamarket we had for last month's meeting was- well, kind of a bust. Several people brought goodies to sell, but I don't think much money changed hands. The weather may have played a part in this, because it was kind of a bad night and not too many folks showed up for the meeting. I think on a better night weather-wise, we might have had better participation.

This month, we're going to do a presentation on the club beacon project. We had hoped to have them re-installed at their new location at the N2PA site in Prattsburg, but once again, the weather hasn't cooperated. So instead, we'll have the beacons themselves on display and for your listening pleasure. I recently purchased a new ID'er for them, called the ID-omatic II. It's from Ham Gadgets Inc. This thing is a kit which can be built in about 1/2 hour and uses a PIC processor for the beacon message generator. It is easily managed from the serial port of a PC and the message can be changed with just a few keystrokes (as opposed to the old IDer, which used a UV-erasable EPROM to store the message). You'll get to hear it in action, and comment on the beacon's message content and speed- we can change it on the fly. **Continued....**

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# The Chairman Speaks! continued...

If you've forgotten, our beacons are set up to run on 50.078, 144.298 and 1296.260. They all run low power: one Watt on Six and Two meters, and two Watts on 1296. The Six meter beacon, when it was at N2MLH's QTH was reported from as far away as Portugal!

I'll mention this again this month- it's time to think about next years' RVHFG officers. We need to put together a list of nominees for each office at the April meeting, so we can have elections in May. If you've ever had visions of the power, glory, and high pay that come with being an officer of the RVHFG, here's your chance to take part (didn't you ever wonder why I've been Chairman so many times- it's the power and the pay!). Seriously, we need volunteers to be officers of the club. The club only functions because of the efforts put forth by the Board of Directors, consisting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer, Even and Odd-Year Directors, Past Chairman, and Technical Advisor. This year, the positions of Chairman and Odd-Year Director are open, at a minimum. There is no requirement to be some whiz-bang leader or speaker or anything of the sort- just a desire to help the club. We could really use your help- some new blood at the helm would be a good thing, I believe.

We've worked out the details of our annual joint banquet with the RDXA. Here they are:

It will take place on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Rivers Edge Party House on Scottsville Road. Open Bar will run from 6 until about 7:15PM, followed by buffet dinner. The Award Presentations will cap off the evening. All that needs to be decided now is what buffet choice we will opt for. All of the menu options are clearly listed on the Rivers Edge website. <http://www.rochesterbanquets.com> We'll need to decide as a group which one to pick. Information about how we are to pay for tickets will be forthcoming.

Paul K2FX of the RDXA is now officially accepting reservations. Please RSVP directly to him at: [k2fx@arrl.net](mailto:k2fx@arrl.net) (and please copy me at: [k2dh@arrl.net](mailto:k2dh@arrl.net)). The cut-off date for reservations will be May 1<sup>st</sup>. Walk-Ins **WILL NOT** be permitted per the Rivers Edge staff. Thanks, and I look forward to seeing all of you at the Rivers Edge!

That's it for this month- I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on April 8th at 7:30pm.

73

Dave Hallidy K2DH

## Secretary Report

Tom Jennings, KV2X

### Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for March 2011

The general meeting, held at the Spencerport Wesleyan Church, was convened at 1947 by K2DH. The meeting started off with introductions and what everybody did in the past month with ham radio and with VHF.

K2DH asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting as published in the Journal. WB2BYH made the motion to accept and WB2GFZ seconded it. K2MTH moved to accept the treasurer's report and seconded it.

Attendees were: K2DH, KV2X, W3OAB, WB2GFZ, WB2BYP, Gloria Butterworth, N3LZG, W2IT, K2SRF, K2MTH, AF2,, WB3TSU, K2DB, K2ZS

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Beacons. No new status. They are ready to put up. Plans to talk about beacons at next meeting

**NEW BUSINESS:**

K2DH said plans are in the works for our annual banquet with RDXA. Dave will post to the reflector when plans are firmer.

K2DH talked about getting a slate of candidates for officers for next year.

K2DH asked if there was a motion to adjourn WB2BYP made the motion to adjourn and K2DB second it. Meeting adjourned at 20:25

**PROGRAM:** Mini- Flea market.

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

**CHECKING ACCOUNT**

<b><u>Previous Balance</u></b> (as of 03/08/2011):	<b>\$1,950.09</b>
Income:	\$0.00
Expenses:	\$0.00
<b><u>Current Balance</u></b>	<b>\$1,950.09</b>

*Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Jennings, KV2X, Treasurer*

**The Vice Report April 2011**

We had a small but interesting **VHF/UHF Flea Market**, at the March meeting. Thanks to all who participated. I think we all got a chance to pick up a goodie or two. Roy Wildermuth W2IT was there, a new visitor, who is active in restoring the WW2 vintage military gear at the museum, and picked up a few usable D104 microphones. I was able to pickup a working video camera for the dish project, which has checked out just fine, and is now mounted, in a water-resistant housing ready for installation.

This month's meeting on Friday 8 April 2011 will be a presentation on the status of the **RVHFG Beacon Project**, with some live hardware in the to-be-installed form. Dave Hallidy will be demonstrating a recent addition to the controller, the ID-O-Matic.

The May 2011 meeting is primarily focused on the club elections. Please be sure to come! In addition to the usual around-the-room update that has become institutional with the meetings, I'll be bringing in a project that has been on the bench for the past year or so, a **1KW 1296 MHz Cavity Amplifier**. This is a tube amp originally built by VE1ALQ based on a German design that uses a 1.5 kW dissipation tetrode (YL-1050) that has been recently re-assembled and the power supply rewired for fit into a common wiring system with other amps around the shack. This is basically for convenience and interchangeability with other power supplies in

case anything goes wrong. As always, if you have an interesting project in development or completed, please bring them in and share ideas.

We received this email string:

Date: Fri, 25 Mar 2011 15:40:29 -0400  
Subject: [RVHFG] VE3 Needs a 2.3GHz Test

From a VE3:

Hi Mark,

I recently got a 2.304 GHz set up and want to test it out. A local ham, VA3ST Stan Thimm suggested you may have some equipment that is good for 2.3 GHz. Stan has some problems with his receiver at the moment and is unable to test things out with my station. Is it possible we could coordinate something in the next couple of weeks to test my station out? I am located in Fonthill, Ontario grid FN03IA, and have a portable location with a good vantage point over Lake Erie.

Thanks

Frank, VE3NYZ

My gear is all torn down between roves and I cannot help out.

73,

Mark K2QO

K2 #543  
FN03ra

JWS: Anyone can help out here that has 2.3 GHz running? Here is Frank's email:

[fjankovich@sympatico.ca](mailto:fjankovich@sympatico.ca)

From our Monday/Thursday Night Net, Ron KE2LW has need of an antenna party to do a small amount of refurb work on his antennas on his roof. I thought I would try and get together a couple of volunteers and we would descend upon Ron some warm Saturday. Are there any volunteers out there? Email me at [storyavenue@hotmail.com](mailto:storyavenue@hotmail.com).

The **Monday Night and Thursday Night Nets at 2100L on 144.260 USB** has continued to be well attended. Once again thanks to the usual suspects : Ken W2UAD, Al KA2EKI, Mark K2CAN, John W3OAB, Bill KB2BLS, Mike WB2SQS, John N2DCH, Len WA2ZNC, Dave K2DH, Ken KA2LIM, Paul W2TAU, Mark K2QO, Freddie WB2GFZ, Len KC2PCD, Gary KC2TEP, David AA2YI, Carl WA2GAI, Ron KE2LW and Al K2MPE.

Spread the word about the meetings, and join us on the Monday and Thursday night nets.

See you on the air,

John  
wb2byp

## ***Rochester Hamfest 2011: The New Legacy Continues.***

Mark your calendars: Saturday June 4th 2011  
Gates open 8 AM - *Rain or Shine*  
360 Maiden Lane - Rochester NY 14616

### **New for 2011:**

- FREE Admission > Members of RaRa - The Rochester Amateur Radio Assn. will receive **FREE** admission and **FREE** Flea market space with presentation of their 2011 membership cards at the gate. If you're not a member? [Join today!](#)
- Last Chance Auction > At 2pm flea market vendors are invited to bring their unsold items to the last chance auction.\*\*\*
- Talk-in has moved > Talk-in is now on 146.61 and 444.45 - both PL 110.9 for even better coverage at and near the Hamfest location.
- Discounted Hotel > Mention "Rochester Hamfest" and receive up to 28% off your stay. [\[click for details\]](#)

### **Returning Hamfest Hits:**

- \$5.00 General admission.
- Youths under 16 admitted free with a paying adult.
- \$5.00 on-site overnight camping permit for Friday evening arrivals.
- Free VE Testing.
- Same great location as 2009-2010 with over 16 acres of flea market space.
- 2011 ARRL Atlantic Division Convention - Come meet your representatives!
- Educational Programs.
- DXCC QSL card checking.
- Fantastic food! - All proceeds benefit the Barnard Fire Department.
- Our popular full service bar.
- ... and much, much more...

### **Door Prizes:**

Door prizes will be awarded every half hour from 9am until 2pm!!!  
See <http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/Hamfest.htm> for more details.

## **2011 AWA SPRING MEET**

**Date TBA**

The 2011 AWA Spring Meet will once again be held at the Bloomfield Elementary School, 45 Maple Street (Route 444).

The meet begins at 7:00 A.M. for vendors and doors open for the public at 8:00 A.M. The day will be devoted to vintage radio and communications, will include indoor and outdoor flea markets, with coffee and donuts available in the school auditoria. This year there is no entrance fee and the inside table rental will be at cost. Outdoor parking spaces are free.

Tours of the AWA Museum and Gauss Road Facility will be available. Contact Spring Meet Coordinator Ron Roach, W2FUI, at 585-526-5487 for Spring Meet information.

## 2011 Spring VHF/UHF Sprints

"Distance Scoring" will continue in 2011 for all 5 of the Spring Sprint Bands/events.

Dates for the 2011 Spring Sprints will be:

144 MHz - Monday, April 11, 7pm to 11 pm LOCAL time

222 MHz - Tuesday, April 19, 7pm to 11 pm LOCAL time

432 MHz - Wednesday, April 27, 7pm to 11 pm LOCAL time

902 MHz & Up - Saturday, May 7, 6am to 1 pm LOCAL time

50 MHz- from 2300Z Saturday, May 14, until 0300Z Sunday, May 15, 2011

Check <https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/2011-announcement> for rules

## Classified Listings

### For Sale from K2AXX

I'm cleaning the shack up once again, and am trying to find new homes for some pretty neat stuff. Prices are negotiable, and I can meet in Rochester on weekdays. REALLY prefer not to ship (antennas will not ship), so local sales are priority.

144MHz EME ARRAY: \$400 ORO

4 x M2 2M9SSB yagis, 15' 6" boom, 12.0dBd, excellent condition. Directive Systems 4-port power divider + all matched phasing lines H-Frame, including all 40+ ss u-bolts, mounting plate and flange bearings Elevation drive (Linear actuator) - set up to provide 0-90 deg, pulse counter output. Works well, still installed - will remove upon sale.

Sierra Wattmeter: \$40 (fair condition, used heavily) 200-1000MHz insert, Switchable 10, 50,100,500W scales. N (m) and N (f) connectors.

MAR-6 - SMT leads, sealed pack (10) - \$5

MAV-11 - long leads, in package (4) - \$5

MAR-8 - 1 long lead, 10 SMT - \$5

SBL1X, SBL1, SRA1 mixers - \$5

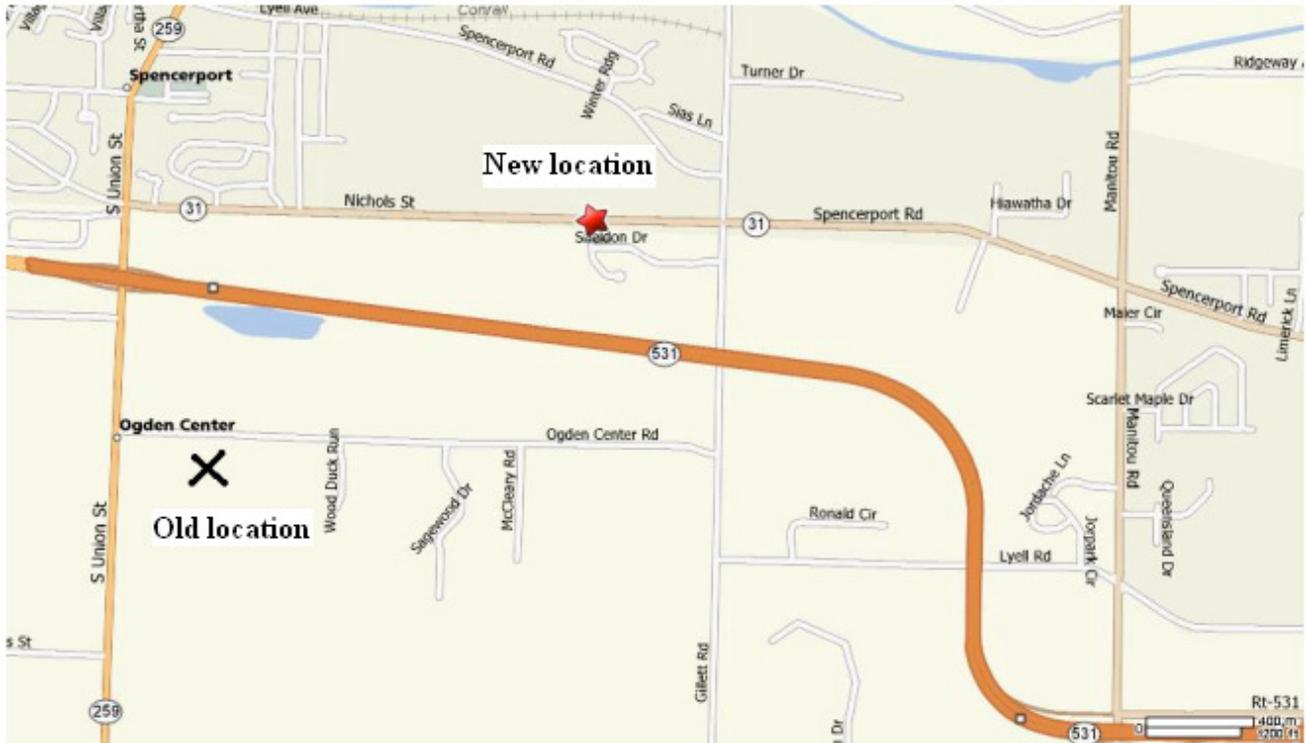
Aertech Diode Detector - \$5

2 x RG393 Double-shielded Teflon cables, N(m) clamp connectors, 36" each: \$20

As I continue to dig, there will be more. Email is preferred, [mark@k2axx.com](mailto:mark@k2axx.com)

-Mark, K2AXX

# 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.**