

The Rochester VHF Group

The VHF



Journal

Volume 60, Issue 7

Mar. 2009

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday, January 9th, 2009

Spencerport Wesleyan Church
2653 Nichols St., Spencerport

Map and directions in back

In this issue:

Secretary Report
Treasurer's Report
Constitution Amendment
Greater Buffalo Hamfest
License Course
Rochester Hamfest
Eastern VHF/UHF Conference
Net Check-ins
Classified

Topics:

Gadget Night

The Chairman Speaks! Bill Rogers, K2TER

Fellow Groupers: I would like to extend a special thanks to Paul Mackanos (K2DB), the current president of RDXA and a long time member of RVHFG, for provided a fact filled presentation on the ARRL Logbook of the World (LoTW) at February's meeting.

March 13th Meeting: Gadget Night! We have a lot of club business to cover, elections are around the corner, the awards banquet is coming soon and we are moving forward on the W2UTH beacon project. If all works out we will have the 5-6 bands on the air just in time for our 60th anniversary celebration. What better way to honor our club founders? After that will be our yearly "Gadget night". For our program, we will open the floor to all to present their latest projects, experiments, lessons-learned, etc. Please bring your latest gadgets, images, recordings, and short presentations to share with us all. A computer and projector will be supplied for your convenience.

With the 60th year upon us we have something special planned for the April meeting – be sure come to the March meeting to find out what we have planned!

Please meet us at Spencerport Wesleyan Church – 2653 Nichols Street (Hwy 31) Directions on last page. **Bring a friend!**

Bill, K2TER

Published by
Rochester VHF Group
PO BOX 92122
Rochester, NY 14692

Editor: Tom Jennings, K2VX

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

Secretary Report
Judy Stonehill, N2KXS

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2009

Prior to the general RVHFG meeting, the members of the BoD met for a few minutes to approve the final cost of \$30 per attendee for the annual joint RVHFG/RDXA banquet.

The general meeting, which was held at the Spencerport Wesleyan Church, was convened at 1935 local by the Chairman, K2TER. The meeting opened with a moment of silence for Leon Ingerick, N2HLT, Silent Key.

Attendees then talked about their January VHF Sweepstakes experiences as well as their memories of Leon.

Fred, WO2P, moved that the Secretary and Treasurer reports be accepted as printed in the RVHFG Journal. Tom, KV2X, seconded the motion which was passed by the attendees.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark, K2AXX, asked that members consider donating to a trust fund for Leon's children. Bill will also put the request on the reflector and bring it up on the net. A collection was also held after the business portion of the meeting.

Dave, K2DH, described the antennas that he may get for the beacons. The 1296 beacon is down for repair. The plan is to have beacons for all VHF bands. Mark, K2AXX, will donate discontinued MDS rigs for 2M, 222, and 432. The goal is to have the lower four bands implemented this year in addition to 1296 that is functional now. Dave has a 2M antenna that would be an excellent beacon antenna. Dale, W4OP, of Par Electronics has 222 and 432 omni antennas for \$100 plus shipping. Dave recommends that we take advantage of the deal. Frank, K2OS, moved to spend \$100 plus shipping on the antennas. Fred, WO2P, seconded the motion which was approved by the attendees.

Fred, WO2P, gave an update on the RVHFG/RDXA banquet. It will be held on Saturday, April 25th to avoid winter vacations. Several locations were considered and Napa Gino's was locked in. We need a minimum of 30 people to hold the cost to \$30 per person. There will be a social hour between 1800 and 1900 hours. Drinks are not included in the ticket price. Dinner will begin at 1900 hours. Irv, AF2K, will generate the tickets.

A request was made for nominees for the W2UTH award. Fred, WO2P, Dave, K2DH, Andy, K0SM, Judy, N2KXS, and other former recipients who are members of the club can receive nominations, decide if the standard has been met and, if so, select this year's recipient. All previous recipients who are current members select the current year's recipient. Nominations, with justification, need to be in writing.

A sign-up sheet for coverage of the Rochester Hamfest RVHFG booth was passed around the room. Only eight hours need to be covered this year, with two members during each hour. Walter, NQ2O, made a motion that a complimentary year's RVHFG membership be given to any non-member who speaks at our meetings. The motion will be discussed after the meeting to ensure that it meets the constitutional rules of the Rochester VHF Group.

Paul, K2DB, moved that the business meeting be closed. The motion was seconded by Fred, WO2P. The meeting was closed at 1951 hours.

A drawing was held for two donated Greater Buffalo Hamfest tickets. The proceeds will be deposited in the RVHFG account.

PROGRAM

Paul Mackanos, K2DB, gave a presentation on the ARRL Log of the World. He has been using it for several years and has found it to be extremely useful in tracking contacts. The system processes logs and matches QSOs for all contacts on different bands and modes. The software is free and works under Windows, Mac OS, and Linux. It's free to ARRL members and non-members, is easy to use, and is available in nine languages. Software, instructions, and a PowerPoint tutorial are available on the ARRL website.

Rochester VHF Group Treasurer's Report – March 2009

CHECKING ACCOUNT

<u>Previous Balance</u> (as of 2/1/09):	\$1,164.41
Income:	
Proceeds: Elmira Hamfest ticket drawing	\$8.00
Expenses:	\$0.00
<u>Current Balance</u>	\$1,172.41

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

<u>Previous Balance</u> (as of 2/1/09):	\$1,523.96
Income:	
Interest	\$0.37
Expenses:	\$0.00
<u>Current Balance</u>	\$1,524.33

TOTAL	\$2,696.74
--------------	-------------------

*Respectfully submitted,
Judy Stonehill, N2KXS, Treasurer*

Amendment to RVHFG Constitution

At last month's meeting Walter, NQ2O, made a motion that a complimentary year's RVHFG membership be given to any non-member who speaks at our meetings. The motion was discussed after the meeting to ensure that it meets the constitutional rules of the Rochester VHF Group. It was found that the RVHFG's constitution does not allow for honorary membership so the following amendment is being proposed to implement Walter's idea. The constitution also states that the amendment must be published at least 30 days before the annual meeting which is the May meeting.

AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS OF THE ROCHESTER (NY) VHF GROUP

Amendment No. 2, which amends Article I- MEMBERSHIP, as follows:

Section 2. Honorary Membership. Honorary or Complimentary Memberships in the Group, while not customarily permitted, may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, be granted under certain circumstances. Examples of such circumstances might be a complimentary membership given to a non-member who makes a presentation to the Group, or a member who has performed some extraordinary service either to the Group or in support of Amateur Radio. An Honorary or Complimentary Membership granted to an individual who is not currently a member WILL NOT grant that person voting rights or the opportunity to serve as a club officer during the period of the Honorary or Complimentary Membership. Generally, such Honorary or Complimentary Memberships shall have a duration of one year; the intent of such memberships is to allow the individual the opportunity to experience what the Group has to offer, and entice that person into becoming a full, dues-paying member entitled to vote on Group matters and to hold office within the Group if they so desire. However, such an Honorary or Complimentary Membership may have its duration extended under special circumstances and by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Greater Buffalo Hamfest

By Tom Jennings, KV2X

Saturday, March 7th, I attended the Greater Buffalo Hamfest (lucky winner of one of the donated tickets raffled off at the February meeting). I picked up a few miscellaneous connectors and adaptors. At the Hamfest I bumped into a few Groupers!



Dean WB2QCJ, Al K2ERG, Paul W2TAU, Mark K2QO, Judy N2KXS, Fred WO2P



This is a view of the selling floor.

Amateur Radio Licensing Courses

Are you thinking of upgrading your ham ticket? Or, do you know somebody interested in getting their ticket? RARA. Now is your chance to take advantage of RARA's licensing courses which are held at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). Licensing sessions consist of 7 weekly class meetings. Classes are taught for all 3 license levels: Technician, General, and Amateur Extra using the ARRL License Manuals, which will be provided to you.

Morse code is no longer required to obtain a license due to changes in FCC regulations. However, interested parties can still obtain training by contacting RARA's [Education Coordinator](#).

Fees for current RARA members*:

Class	\$4.00
ARRL Licensing Manual	\$24.00
Total	<u>\$28.00</u>

If you complete a course and do not successfully pass the exam, you may retake the course at no charge.

Our next semester of classes will begin in April 2009.

For more information: Call our hotline or contact our [Education Coordinator](#) directly or call RARA's Telephone Hotline: (585) 671-2424

Rochester Hamfest

As you're probably aware, there is contradictory info posted on two different sites, and there's nothing the Hamfest Committee can do about that...yet. It has become rather controversial and I am trying to say as little as possible, although there have been a fair number of incoming inquiries on the RARA Hotline asking if there is really going to be TWO hamfests here this year. Irv, AF2K

Editor's Note: It looks like information is becoming more consistent as I checked two urls: www.rochesterham.org and www.rochesterhamfest.org and both point to RARA's home page. I also did some Googling and found a url for a Rochester Hamfest flyer at: <http://www.rochesterham.org/hamfest.htm>

35th EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE: APRIL 17-19, 2009
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL (860)-741-2211
1 BRIGHT MEADOW BLVD. (OFF RT.5)
ENFIELD, CT 06082

The aim of the Conference is to share with our fellow VHFer's and above technical achievements in the field of communication and experimentation. You are all invited to participate by presenting a technical paper or submitting one for publication in the Conference Proceedings CD. Just your attendance is also welcome and we have a full program scheduled once again this year. If you are interested in presenting a paper at the conference or submitting one for the

Proceedings please contact: Bruce Wood, N2LIV at N2LIV@ARRL.NET. See <http://www.newsvhf.com/vhfconf.html> for schedule, talks, and activities

Net Check-ins				
Date	6 m	2 m	70cm	23 cm
2-Feb	n2yem	kc2hzm	kc2pcd	kb2bls
	kb2bls	kb2bls	k2dh	wb2byp
	k2dh	k2dh	ka2eki	
	kc2hzm	ka2eki		
	ka2eki	wb2byp		
		nq2o		
		kc2pcd		
22-Feb	kc2mcc	k2dh	kc2tep fn22	
	k2dh	n2awa	wb2byp	
	wa2gai	ka2eki	k2dh	
	kb2tiq	kc2hzm		
		wb2byp		
		w2rjo fn23		
		kb2bls		
		w2uad		
		kb2tiq fn12		
2-Mar	kb2tiq	kc2qzr	kc2tep fn22	
	wa2znc	k2dh	k2dh	
	k2dh	kb2bls	wb2byp	
	k2mpe	wa2znc	kb2bls	
	kc2pcd	wb2byp		
		kk1cw fn32		

Classified Listings

For Sale: 2 and 3Gig Station

2 and 3 G in one box with common TWT (WA2MOP's rover station) All Down East components. \$500. PS for TWT.

Free 18" dish with tri-band feed with purchase of complete station.

Contact: Howard Clark k2an at localnet dot com

For Sale

EME Array

4 x M2 2M9SSB Yagis, H-Frame, Power Divider, Phasing Lines, Elevation Actuator arm and spare U-Bolts. \$500 Firm.

You can see a picture of the array at <http://www.qrz.com/db/K2AXX/1235701783>

All stainless 2" 5/16" U-bolts, heavy-duty aluminum H-frame, pillow block bearings at center, 1/2" aluminum center plate. Full system VSWR 1.25:1 at 144.1MHz. With the antennas selling new for \$150 each and the power divider at \$80, this is a good deal. Want to sell as a complete system. Will NOT ship this, pickup only. Still in the air, can remove anytime.

Radio & Amp Gear

HB Preamp tower-mount box: MGF-1302 preamp, .35dB NF, 20dBg. Dow Key 402 N-type transfer switch, rated 1KW continuous. >80dB isolation. All RF cabling done, needs sequencer and DC power. WXproof enclosure w/vent, mounting flange. \$60 ORO

Attenuators, Line Stretchers, Loads, Splitters, Detectors:

Huber-Suhner DC-18GHz Power Splitter (4901.19.A) - SMA connectors, precision unit. \$35 ORO

Batch of attenuators, all SMA (M)(F) - \$30 for all ORO

1 x Elcom 10dB DC-18GHz attenuator

2 x Mini Circuits SAT-6 6dB DC-4GHz

1 x Omni Spectra 6dB DC-4GHz

1 x Narda 3dB DC-18GHz 2W

2 x 75-ohm variable attenuators, 1-10dB, BNC(F) in/out. Good for IF.

DB Products 15w N(M) screw-on loads. \$5 each

Aertech Diode Detectors - DC-10GHz, zero-bias schottky. Neg. DC output, ~200mV. Great for monitoring power with a directional coupler and a DC voltmeter. SMA(M) in, SMA(F) out. \$10 each (have 2)

Polyphaser 125-1000MHz Lightning protectors, N(M) > N(F), 375W max between 125-250MHz, reduces to 100W @ 1GHz. \$10 Each

Coaxial Line Stretchers - S-100 Rodostub twin stub tuners, N(M) to N(F). \$20 each

Coaxial Relays & Adapters:

Various SPnT Relays: Some SP4T jobs, various voltages and actuation methods (TTL, 28VDC coils). Not sure how they work, but cheap! \$5.00/ea (have 3)

Huber-Suhner 36_BMA-SMA-50-1/199_U SMA(F) to BMA(M) bulkhead connectors. Bag of ~20, - \$35 for all. Includes mounting hardware.

Other Interesting things:

~40' or slightly longer pieces of LDF5-50 heliax, with N connectors on each end. \$30 each.

900MHz commercial yagis - 10dBd, with short coax, needs mounting hdwe - \$25 ORO

440-460MHz Commercial yagi - 3 el, needs mounting hdwe - \$20 ORO

Andrew LDF4 Grounding Kits. Includes ground strap, sealing tape and mastic. \$3 each, 2 for \$5. (Worth the price just for the tape and mastic!)

~2' Grounding cables - heavy black PE jacketed. From LDF4 grounding kits, with the copper cable clamp removed. Lugs crimped on each end, ready to use for all sorts of things. \$2 each.

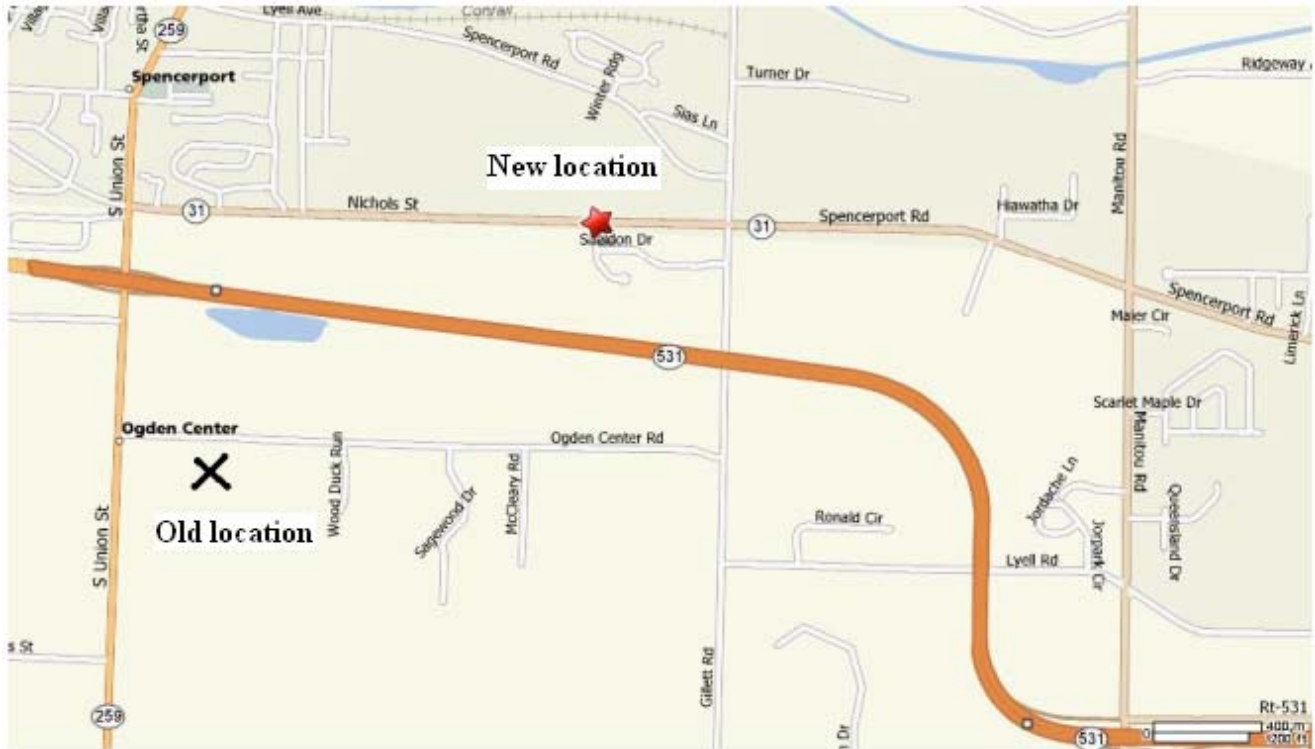
Heathkit SB-220 HF Input Coil assembly, with capacitors - \$20

Heathkit SB-220 Capacitor bank assembly - original caps, untested - \$20 for all.

Heathkit SB-220 Diode & Metering board - original, minus Zener Diode - \$10.

-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.