

The VHF



Journal

Volume 69, Issue 9

May 2016

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday, May 13th at 7:30 PM located at Exelon Emergency Operations Facility in Macedon /Gananda. Doors open at 7PM

**Map and directions on last page**  
**In this issue:**

- The Chairman Speaks!
- Secretary's & Treasurer's Report
- Vice Chairman's Report.
- Hamfest
- Contest Calendar
- Classifieds

**Topic:** Elections, Awards, CAT Control, and more

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

Beacons Hosted at AWA Museum

**W2UTH 6 meter Skimmer**

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

## The Chairman Speaks!

**Tom Jennings KV2X**

**Groupers:** The May meeting is our last meeting until fall and an important one in that May is the month for our annual election to establish the Rochester VHF Group's officers for the following year. This is your chance to select the person who you want to serve as an officer of the group. Please attend to vote. As I will not be running for an officer position, I would like to take this opportunity to say it has been a privilege to serve as an Officer of the RVHFG over the past 6 years.

Elections are not the only thing going on at the May meeting, as there will be planning for the Hamfest and June VHF Contest, and a talk on CAT control of transceivers.

Another "Rover Blitz" is planned for the June VHF Contest. This would be a great way to enhance the club's score along with your own. See Jarred's discussion in the Vice Chairman's Report for further details. I hope we can really increase Rochester area's activity in the VHF Contest this year.

Now will be a good time to make plans for the RVHFG's September meeting, which will be a picnic meeting at Fellows Road Park. Everybody enjoyed it last year and to make it more enjoyable this year we reserved the pavilion close to the parking lot!

Hope to see you all at the meeting and bring a friend!

73, Tom Jennings, KV2X

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# Secretary Report

By Tom Jennings KV2X substituting for Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ

## Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for 8 April 2016.

Tom (KV2X) called the meeting to order at 1943L. After introductions, Tom (KV2X) asked for a motion accepting the meeting minutes from last month as written in March's journal. Al (K2MPE) motioned to accept and Duncan (K2OEQ) seconded. Tom (KV2X) asked for a motion that the Treasurer's report to be accepted as written in March's Journal. Jarred (KF2MR) motioned the acceptance and John (WB2BYP) seconded.

**Attending:** Al & Brenda (K2MPE), Harry (W2HRY), Duncan (K2OEQ), Tom (KV2X), Dave (AE2DM), Dave (KA2OQZ), Ken (KD2CJR), Steve (K2STF), John (WB2BYP), and Ken (N8KH)

### Old Business:

- Beacons. No progress to check up on them.
- W2UTH 6 meter Skimmer is off line. Arrangements need to be made in order to check it out and make the necessary repairs.
- Annual RDXA & RVHFG Award Banquet (16 April 2016) at Lillian's in Penfield is on track with 26 reservations as of April 8<sup>th</sup>'s meeting.
- Elections of officers discussed. Elections will be at the May meeting.

### New Business:

- Rochester Hamfest. Jarred did a great job presenting options to the group regarding RVHFG's presence at the Hamfest. After discussing them, it was decided to reserve 2 spots and the costs would be \$5 per spot. Keeping in mind that the reserved spots require an interactive activity, which we still need to decide what to do. Jarred is investigating a demonstration of VHF PSK31 by setting up a 2 meter PSK31 robot. Also showing off a vhf rover. Bill's (K2TER) rover or Jarred's (KF2MR) are two possibilities.
- Discussion of the June contest. A club goal of 300,000 points was made everybody was encouraged to get on the air. K2TER/R and KF2MR/R will be having microwave capabilities.

Tom (KV2X) asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave (KA2OQZ) made the motion to adjourn and Al (K2MPE) seconded the motion.

**Program:** Jarred gave a tour of the Ginna Emergency Operations Facility before and after the meeting. Thanks to Jarred for making the arrangements.

## Rochester VHF Group Treasurer's Report (4/30/2016)

Correction to the March Journal's Treasurer Report:

The PayPal account indicated \$22.64 when in fact it should have indicated \$28.13.

Treasurer's Report (2/29/16)

Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ

### CHECKING/CASH ACCOUNT

Previous Balance (PP = \$28.13, Cash = \$333.83Cash, \$2119.60 Checking):	\$2481.56
Income:	
Dues Ken (N8KH, \$10)	\$ 10.00
Dues Ev (W2EV), Spencer (KB2IRH), Ethan (KB2IRK) & David (KA2OQZ) PayPal 9.41.ea. (\$37.64)	\$ 37.64

PP Xfer to Checking \$60	
Expenses: Checking #1058 Banquet Hold \$100	\$ 100.00
Current Balance (PP = \$5.77, Cash = \$343.83Cash, \$2079.60 Checking):	\$2429.20

Treasurer Report for April's Journal:

Treasurer's Report (3/31/16)  
Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ

CHECKING/CASH ACCOUNT

Previous Balance (PP = \$5.77, Cash = \$343.83Cash, \$2079.60 Checking):	\$2429.20
Income: Banquet Ck #1058 \$ return from Banquet	\$100.00
Expenses: Check # 1059 (\$39.98, Renew RVHFG Domain)	\$39.98
Current Balance (PP = \$5.77, Cash = \$443.83Cash, \$2039.62 Checking):	\$2489.22

Treasurer's Report (4/30/16)  
Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ

CHECKING/CASH ACCOUNT

Previous Balance (PP = \$5.77, Cash = \$443.83Cash, \$2039.62 Checking):	\$2489.22
Income: None	
Expenses: None	
Current Balance (PP = \$5.77, Cash = \$443.83Cash, \$2039.62 Checking):	\$2489.22

**Members paid up for 2015 – 2016 are as follows:**

AB2YI, David Muller	K2TER, Bill Rogers	W2CNS, Bob Nezelek
AE2DM, David Malecki	KA2OQZ, David Carlson	W2EV, Ev Tupis
AF2K, Irv Goodman	KB2BLS, Bill Hanes	W2GMT, Gary Terrana
K2AXX, Mark Hoffman	KC2PCD, Len Crellin (2017)	W2LT, Joe Hoodak
K2DH, Dave Hallidy	KD2DCC, Ed Pendzik	W2UAD, Ken Evans
K2EHF, Jeff Luce	KD2IRH, Spencer Tupis	WA2QAU, Robert Roberts
K2GAB, Gloria Stevens (2017)	KD2IRK, Ethan Tupis	WB2BYP, John Stevens (2017)
W2HRY, Harry Ramos	KF2MR, Jarred Jackson	WB2GFZ, Freddie Sulyma
K2OEQ, Duncan Brown	KV2X, Tom Jennings	WB2QCJ, Dean Keyser
K2OS, Frank Pollino	N2BEG, Doug Stewart	WB2SQS, Mike Gioka
K2MPE, Al Cook	N2HEG, Martin Ippolito	WB2YJH, Jim Reilich
K2STF, Steve Fleming	VE3DS, Dana Shtun	WO2P, Fred Miller (2017)

*Respectfully submitted,  
Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ, Treasurer*

# Vice Chairman's Report

By Jarred Jackson, KF2MR

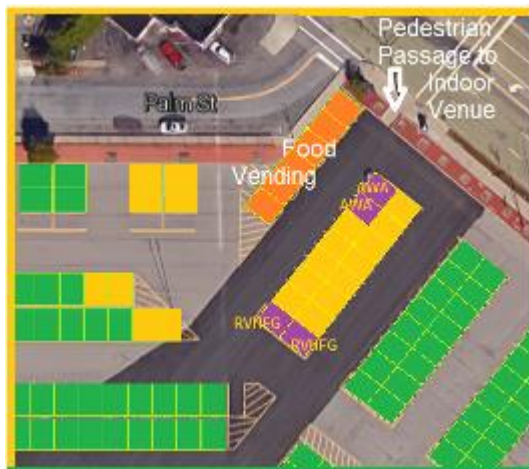
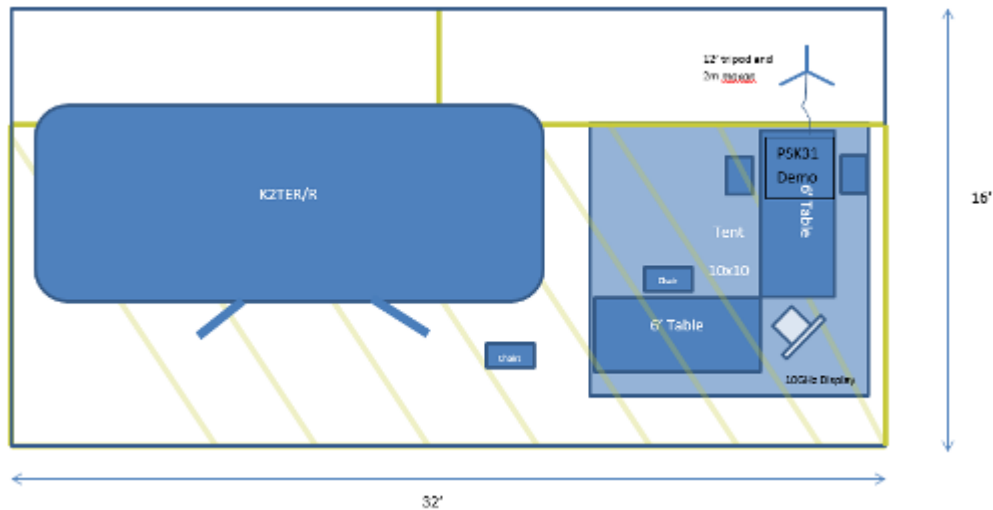
## RDXA / RVHFG Awards Banquet



The banquet held on April 16<sup>th</sup> was a great time with over 30 attendees from the two clubs. It is nice to socialize with people who share your interests and meet up with people who we might not otherwise talk to on the air very often. Special thanks to Freddie, WB2GFZ for taking care of collecting money, paying the bill, and handing out door prize tickets.

## Hamfest – Help Needed

Based on the feedback from the April meeting, we have secured a club location for the Hamfest and Bill K2TER has agreed to bring his rover van to demonstrate. I will also have a small 2m all mode station setup with an FT-817 and a 2m Moxon to pick up the beacon and perhaps demonstrate PSK31 on 2m if anyone would like to give it a shot. Now we need people to help with early morning setup and staff the table throughout the day. Please use the forum on [www.rvhfg.org](http://www.rvhfg.org) to volunteer. Below is a diagram showing the locations we reserved and a possible layout for the space that we have.



## VHF Super Conference

While we were enjoying the banquet held on April 16<sup>th</sup>, a big event was ongoing that weekend in Sterling Virginia. The VHF Super Conference was a joint effort by the Northeast Weak Signal Group, the Mt. Airy VHF Club, and the Southeastern VHF Society. The event drew a large group of VHF+ enthusiasts from across the country. Thanks to Ken KA2LIM, who attended the event, I was able to review a copy of the proceedings disk and it will be available to review during the May meeting for anyone who may be interested.

Technical Presentations included:

- Activating Saint Martin, K5QE
- The FLWSS Beacon Project, K0VXM
- VHF Rover Revolution, K1DS
- Setting New World Records on 2.3 and 3.4 GHz, N6NB
- Ericsson 13cm Amplifier Conversion, N1JEZ and KT1J
- Estimating Tropospheric Working Range on VHF/UHF, K4MSG
- Keeping Amateur Radio in Space, N8FGV
- IF Triplexer, K3TUF
- How to Tune and Modify Filters "The Right Way", WA2AAU
- The Second Annual Microwave Gulf Outing, WA8RJF
- Codes and Modes for Weak Signal Communications, K1JT
- The Arduino: An Electronic Tinker Toy, KB1VC
- A One Day Polar Mount for EME, K4QF
- 60 ft Tilt Over Tower Project, VE2XX
- A Simple Low cost 5760 transverter for the Rover AND a Person Beacon or LO for 5760 and 3456, W1GHZ
- Building a Super Rover, W8ZN
- Rotating Towers are Not for Weenies, W1SMS
- Amateur Radio Activities in Higher Education, WD5AGO

In addition to these topics, you will find a lot more information under the workshop topics and over 15 additional contributed papers (including one by K2DH):

- EME Workshop
- VHF101 Workshop

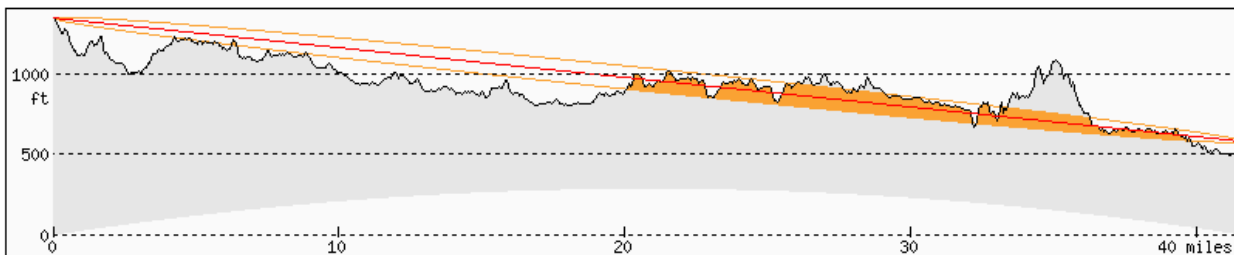
Stop by the May RVHFG meeting to look at more of the topics and preview the presentations. A couple of disks will be available at cost if you would like to take a closer look.

## Spring Sprints

The sprints are just about over with 144, 222, 432, and Microwave now behind us. 50 MHz remains for this Saturday at 7pm. Let's hope for some enhancement. I tried operating without assistance (ON4KST chat) for a bit and found it difficult to get the attention of the distant grids with my small station. I quickly caved in and got online. While I normally operate at home for the sprints, the Microwave sprint was an exception. I took to the road in the rover with 902-3456 and 10G. This was the first time operating with the new microwave H-frame so I was a bit nervous the whole thing was going to fly away on 490 at 65 mph. However, everything stayed intact. It was a great trial run before I load 432, 222, and 50 MHz antennas for the June contest.



Bill, VE3CRU/R, is my motivation behind the Microwave Sprint. He operates the same bands from the four grids on the north side of Lake Ontario. Bill and I run modified TK-930 mobile radios on 902/3 FM and they are so effective we use them as liaison radios on the other bands. Locally I heard WB2BYP on 902, 1296, and 10G and KA2OQZ/R on 902 and 1296 FM. It was great to hear Dave on the air and he surprised the Canadian stations who were not expecting him. The path between John and I is considered highly obstructed (see below) but this did not stop us from making the path on 10G. Who says microwaves are line of sight!



## June Contest and Rover Blitz

This June is setting up to be a very big event. Some substantial upgrades are in progress with many of our stations adding new bands, new modes, and higher gain antennas. The cumulative club score has been steadily rising over the past 3 years. We need you to help keep the momentum going. If my estimates are correct, we should have two rovers with at least 10 bands, another two rovers with 6 bands, and two rovers with four bands.

On Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>, we will plan a Rover Blitz. Everyone is welcome to attend (remember you can submit a log as a single op. and again as a rover). Details are still being worked out, but the Blitz will occur late afternoon-early evening in Le Roy. We make most contacts on FM, so please program the following simplex frequencies into your radios: 50.3, 146.58, 223.5, 446.1, 927.5, and 1294.5. Some spare equipment will be available to fill in the band-gaps. Contacts above 23cm will likely occur on the normal calling frequencies. If you have it, bring it, there is a high likelihood someone can work you (10G FM, laser, etc.). The plan is to visit each of the four grid squares just once to limit the time and so that we can get back out making contacts with the fixed stations as well.

**September Picnic – Save the Date – 9/9/16 @ 6pm – Fellows Rd. Park**



# Rochester Hamfest 2016

Saturday, May 28 - Memorial Day Weekend!

**NEW PLACE: 200 West Ridge Rd., Rochester, NY at Eastman Business Park**

...also known as Kodak Theater-on-the-Ridge! We are **NOT** at the **Barnard Fireman's Field** for 2016.

*Bring the Whole Family*

- **Club presentations, all day!** See a Spark Gap transmitter and telegraph sounder, tour a World Class Rover (mobile ham radio station) and more!
- **The K-5 Exploratorium** (indoors) is geared to kids in grades K through 5. Let them build working circuits, experiment with FRS radios or build a tower! See the tab titled "Inside Activities" for more information.
- **Stay at the (pet friendly) Hampton Inn** to enjoy FREE hot breakfast and WiFi. Others can sleep in, swim in the pool or shop at one of the many area malls (but we hope they come, too!). Reserve your room for \$99 by calling 585-663-6070 and requesting the group rate for the "Rochester Hamfest".

Our 89<sup>th</sup> year!



**RARA** NEW LOCATION! **Rochester HAMFEST**

200 West Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY  
Eastman Business Park ("Theater-on-the-Ridge")  
Updates: <http://www.RochesterHamfest.org>  
Information & Indoor Reservations: [RochesterHamfest@gmail.com](mailto:RochesterHamfest@gmail.com)

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**  
**SATURDAY**  
6:00 AM until 2:00 PM



All Paved. New Indoor.  
Talk-in: 145.11, 110.9 PL

**\$5 per person**  
(FREE to RARA members and ALL under 15 years old)

**\$5 per Flea-space**  
Approximately 12' x 16'

**FREE stuff...**

- General Parking**  
No selling, no "Tenting"
- Door Prize Ticket**  
(18+ years old, only)
- VE Exams**
- QSL Checks**  
(for ARRL Awards)

**Indoor Market**  
**\$40 per space**  
Includes: Reserved space, Friday access, table, chair & electricity!

**Country Store**  
Sell your stuff on our table & we'll call you when it sells!

**Door Prizes**

**EVEN MORE STUFF**  
Breakfast & Lunch Avail.  
Family K-5 Exploratorium  
Family Discounted Hotel  
Indoor Restrooms  
On-site ATM  
Club Presentations All Day  
[RochesterHamfest@gmail.com](mailto:RochesterHamfest@gmail.com)  
[RochesterHamfest.org](http://RochesterHamfest.org)  
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# VHF+ Contest Calendar

Event	Date	Local Time	Notes
50 MHz Spring Sprint	5/14/16	7-11PM	
<b>ARRL June VHF Contest</b>	<b>6/11-6/12/16</b>	<b>2PM Sat. - 11PM Sun.</b>	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf">http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf</a> This is the next big one for RVHFG. Let's plan for a busy weekend. What band can you add?
ARRL Field Day	6/25 – 6/26/16	2PM Sat – 2PM Sun	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/field-day">http://www.arrl.org/field-day</a> 6m – 70cm commonly used. Give CW and PSK31 a try on VHF for extra points
CQWW VHF	7/16 – 7/17/16	2PM Sat – 5PM Sun	<a href="http://www.cqww-vhf.com/">http://www.cqww-vhf.com/</a>
ARRL August UHF	8/1 – 8/2/16	2PM Sat – 2PM Sun	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/august-uhf">http://www.arrl.org/august-uhf</a>
10 GHz and Up Weekend #1	8/20 – 8/21/16	See rules	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up">http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up</a> Amazing what can be done on these bands – come out and see !
ARRL September VHF	9/10 – 9/12/16	2PM Sat – 11PM Sun	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf">http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf</a>
10 GHz and Up Weekend #2	9/27 – 9/28/16	See rules	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up">http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up</a>
NY QSO Party	10/15/16	10AM – 10PM	Look for updates on NYQP.org later in the year. Similar to field day, we can run the bands using all different modes for extra points.
EME Weekend #1	10/22 – 10/23	See Moon	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest">http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest</a>
EME Weekend #2	11/19 – 11/20	See Moon	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest">http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest</a>

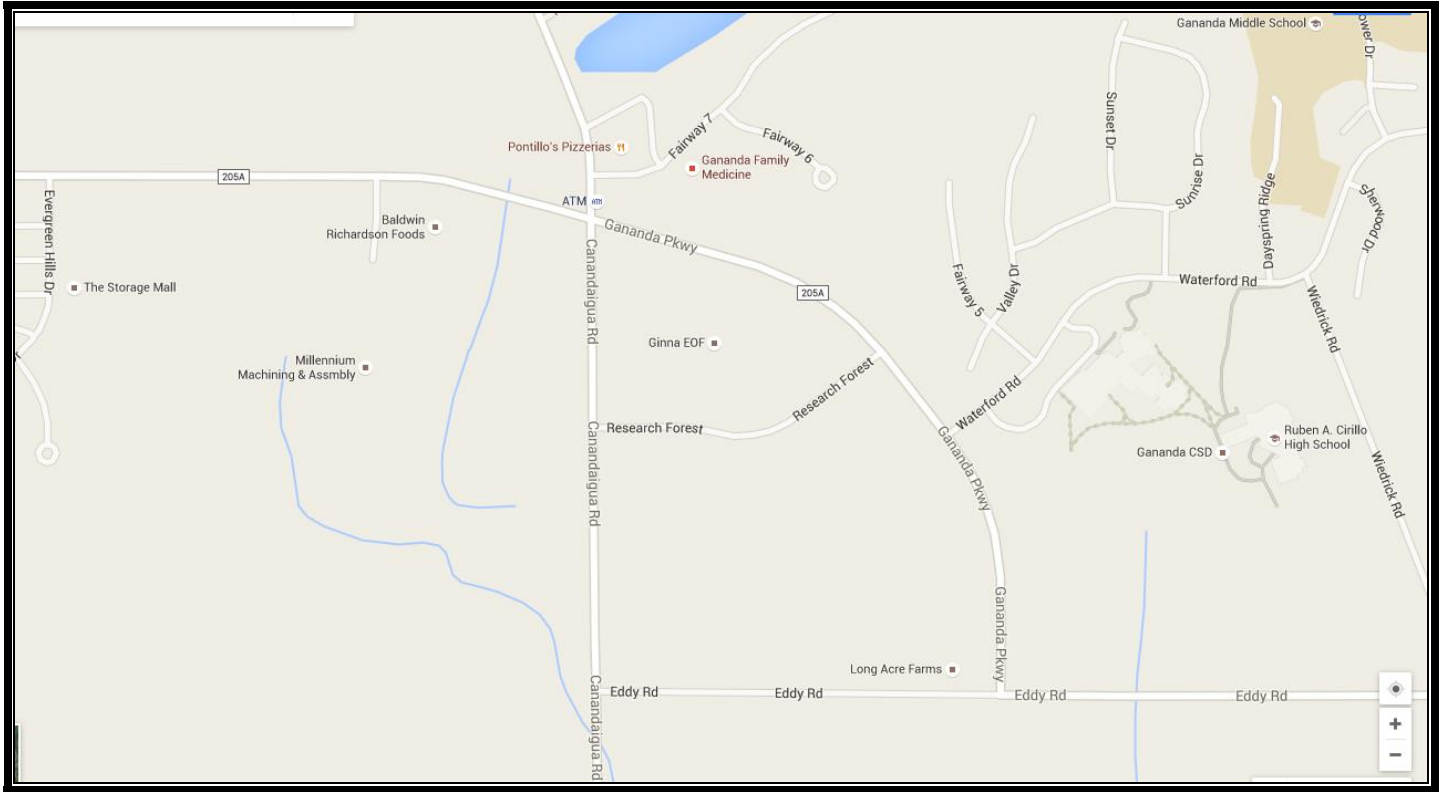
## Classified Listings

**For Sale:** Astron Power Supply RS-70M 70A PS with meters. New last year, local delivery preferred \$250

Thanks, Jack WX3P



# Meeting Location and Directions



Arriving from the west (Penfield/Rochester), take Rt. 441 east to Gananda Parkway. The address is **1255 Research Forest, Macedon, NY 14502**. The map above should help find it from there. If lost, please call Jarred at 585-278-7281.