

The Rochester VHF Group

The VHF



Journal

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May 2017

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday May 12th at 7:30 PM held at Rochester Makerspace located at the rear of 850 St. Paul St., Rochester. Doors open at 7PM. Map and directions on last page.

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Topic: Elections, June VHF Contest

W2UTH 6 meter Skimmer

<http://www.reversebeacon.net/dx/sd1/dxsd1.php?f=0&c=W2UTH&t=de>

The Chairman Speaks!

Dave Halliday K2DH

Hello again, fellow VHF+ "addicts", I hope you've been able to operate in the VHF/UHF Sprints this spring. So far, we've had events for 144, 222, and 432 MHz, with the Microwave Sprint on Saturday, May 6 and the 50MHz Sprint the following Saturday. These are great little contests and a good opportunity to blow the dust off your gear for the spring tropo and summer E-skip seasons.

I understand from Jarred and others, that last month's meeting at the Rochester Makerspace was a good one, in the sense that the location seems to be a good fit for us. I'm glad to hear that, because I feel that a more central location (which the Makerspace is) is vital to keeping our existing members coming to meetings, as well as being more attractive to potential new members.

Continued...

RVHFG's Beacons W2UTH			
Beacons Hosted at AWA Museum FN12hv			
Band	MHz	Power	Antenna
6m	50.075	5W	Squalo
2m	144.298	6W	Big Wheel
1.25m	222.050	5W	Par Omni-Angle
70cm	432.300	5W	Par Omni-Angle
23cm	1296.257	2W	Halo

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The Chairman Speaks!

Continued... Once again, our May meeting will be at the Rochester Makerspace, located at 850 St. Paul St in the city.

The May meeting is an important one for the RVHFG- it's our annual meeting, as required in our constitution, at which time we hold "elections" for officers for the next year. I put the term "elections" in quotes because I can't recall the last time we actually had to elect an officer from a group of candidates! It would be nice to see that again, but I'm a realist and recognize that there just aren't that many people interested in the responsibility associated with officership. That said; if anyone wants to step forward to occupy a position within the BoD of the club, please let one of the current officers know of your interest.

I understand (having missed last month's meeting- again) that there was discussion about holding less formal club meetings, something I talked about in my column last month. I think we'll try to bring it up again, and maybe we can firm up some ideas on how to make this happen. This does not mean we won't hold meetings every month, just that the structure (and probably content) will change to a less formal, more radio experimentation/operation format. We have lots of folks who have special interests in our organization and it would be great to have them present something that might be unfamiliar to others, but interesting and of value.

Keep showing up on our net nights- Monday evening at 9pm for 2m on 144.260 and Thursday evenings at the same time for 6m on 50.220. KC2PCD is the normal net control and Len does an excellent job bringing people up and conducting the net. Also, don't forget our Facebook page- it's worth a look, to see what's going on!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the May meeting on May 12th. In the meantime, get active on the bands and keep your eye on the chat page and the propagation page- with the weird weather we've been having, there have been reports of VHF tropo!

CU on the bands.

73,
Dave Hallidy K2DH

Secretary Report

Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for 10 March 2017.

See Vice Chairman's Report

Rochester VHF Group Treasurer's Report (4/7/17)

CHECKING/CASH ACCOUNT

Previous Balance (PP = \$0.00, Cash = \$380.83Cash, \$1541.15 Checking):	\$ 1921.98
Income: None	
Expenses: Service charge for M&T account \$10	\$ 10.00
Current Balance (PP = \$0.00, Cash = \$380.83Cash, \$1531.15 Checking):	\$ 1911.98

Respectfully submitted,
Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ, Treasurer

Vice Chairman's Report

By Jarred Jackson, KF2MR

The April meeting was held at the Rochester Makerspace. This is a very interesting place filled with tools, equipment, computers, and people who enjoy making things. We saw projects in progress from 3D printers, woodworking, laser cutters, stained glass, and electronics in various stages of construction. Steve, KA1CNF provided the tour and also showed us the amateur radio station he is building in the space. The very next day I joined and within a few days attended the orientation safety training. I hope that the Rochester Makerspace can become a place where RVHFG members can get together and work on projects in the future. I did not keep formal meeting minutes, but offer a summary below of what we covered.

We discussed results of SWR testing using the bridge for the 6m amplifier, but did not come up with a less expensive way of processing the voltage from the bridge to protect the amplifier. I am still looking for someone willing to put together a less expensive alternative to the W6PQL board or someone who would like to design around the features of the W6PQL board to make it worth the cost. When posting this design challenge on the RVHFG reflector, we did get an excellent concept that may cost less than \$20 to implement. If anyone is interested in taking this on, please let me know.

We covered some of the proposed changes for the 2017-2018 RVHFG season. The key elements of the proposed changes are as follows:

- Nine monthly meetings would be replaced with one conventional meeting where club business will be addressed along with any other topics of interest and one "Annual Workshop" where technical topics will be presented over the course of several hours on a weekend.
- Less formal monthly gatherings and on the air activities will be promoted the remainder of the year. These will be "Coffee & Breakfast" meetings, contesting, and visits to see what other hams have been working on, and project work at the Rochester Makerspace.
- Quarterly newsletters (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) would replace monthly newsletters and would contain member submitted articles and websites of interest.

One of the highlights of the Rochester VHF Group meetings is engaging in conversation with other like-minded members. While all of our members enjoy talking about their latest projects or listening to what others have been doing on the air, very few members can spend the time to organize projects, develop presentations, or write newsletter articles. I understand that this is a hobby, not a job, and we are supposed to have fun and enjoy the limited time we have. The proposal is intended to better align our efforts to meet this end. As a proposal, this is open for discussion, debate, and modification. The conversation was started during our April meeting with pros and cons identified and general support of the proposal. I hope the conversation will continue in the May meeting as well. Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the May meeting as I am working night shift through mid to late May. This will be the annual business meeting with election of club officers.

Election of Club Officers

Would you like to guide the direction and activities of the Rochester VHF Group? If so, maybe a club officer position is for you. The following nominations have been made and accepted for the 2017-2018 season so far.

Chairman – Jarred Jackson – KF2MR

Secretary – Freddie Sulyma – WB2GFZ

Treasurer – Jim Reilich – WB2YJH

Vice Chairman – OPEN

Director – OPEN

During the May meeting, there will be open nominations prior to the election. Volunteers are strongly encouraged. If more than one person is nominated for a position, the election will proceed by closed ballot (As Dave mentioned, this step is often unnecessary). All individuals nominated must accept the nomination (or otherwise volunteer) in order to be elected.

The officers serve a term from July 1st 2017 to June 30th 2018. The Director will serve a two year term from July 1st 2017 to June 30th 2019 to assist with continuity on the Board of Directors.

We also had volunteers for the Contest Chairman and Website administrator which will be explored more over the summer.

Awards Banquet

The January 2017 VHF Contest Honor Roll award recipients are:

- Single Operator High Score – W2EV
- Rover High Score – K2TER/R (K2TER & KV2X)
- Outstanding Achievement – W2HRY/R

Ev, Bill, and Harry were in attendance to receive their awards.

When the night was over and I thought all awards were handed out, I was surprised and honored to receive the W2UTH award presented by Ev Tupis, W2EV. Ev recognized that it often takes a lot of support and understanding from our families to allow us to fully engage in our hobby. He not only recognized me, but asked my wife to join me in accepting the award on behalf of my family.





*T-Shirts Provided to our Rover Honor Roll Members
Courtesy of KF2MR*



Example of Honor Roll Certificate

Jarred Jackson, KF2MR

Classified Listings

For Sale - KF2MR

1296 & 2304 MHz Transverter Set (\$575)

This is the system I built and used for many contests now in the Rover (including this January contest). The bands share an enclosure and power connection, however IF, PTT, and Antenna connections are all independent. The transverters are setup with 5W input. Output is approximately 10W on 1296 using a small DEMI amplifier and 2W on 2304. 1296 has a 144 MHz IF, while 2304 is currently setup with a 434 MHz IF (I use an FT-817 as the IF radio). Built with SG-Lab transverters. The 2304 transverter has the option for an external 10 MHz clock, though I have rarely used this option and didn't notice much of a difference when I did.



IC-1271A 1296 MHz Base Station Radio

(\$400)



(Stock Image – Not the actual radio)

Kenwood TK-930 (\$50)

This FM Mobile radio has been modified with new the 902-903 MHz portion of the band. It is programmed for 902.1, 902.3, 903.1, and 903.3 cheap way to get on the band.



filtering for
MHz. A very

Meeting Location and Directions

March Meeting Location – NEW LOCATION

The Rochester Makerspace is located at the rear of 850 St. Paul Street in almost 4,000 square feet of workspace. Parking is in the rear of the building off of Scrantom St. You must go down Scrantom St. to locate the rear parking lot. Do not park in the front of the building and please do not park directly in front of the loading dock. The entrance will be through the double overhead doors or the entry door to the right. The door code will be shared with RVHFG officers and BOD members to help with entry if needed. Go through the inside door at the top of the loading dock, turn left and walk a short distance to the end of the hall. The main Makerspace is on the left through the overhead door. Talk-in will be on 146.52 if anyone has trouble finding the place or needs help getting in.

