

The VHF



Journal

Volume 64, Issue 9

May 2012

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be Friday, May 11th 2012 at 7:30 PM at **Spencerport Wesleyan Church**
2653 Nichols St., Spencerport

Map and directions on last page

In this issue:

The Chairman Speaks!
Secretary Report
Treasurer's Report
Light Rover Mast
VHF Contest Prep
Rochester Hamfest
Orleans County Hamfest
PROS Hamfest
Classified

Topic: Elections, Gadgets, Story

The Chairman Speaks! John Stevens WB2BYP

Groupers: A great time was had by all at the RVHFG/RDXA Awards Banquet. We had 43 members from the combined clubs roster, and a good meal. Thanks go to Lilian and her staff for that. A most entertaining set of awards was given out, we got to un-furl our respective banners and swap a few QSO stories. Thanks also go to all the helpers, Miss Gloria K2GAB, Irv AF2K, Paul K2DB and Rick W1TY, and Diane for the fine extras that made the tables look great. Next year RDXA heads up the Banquet organizing committee, and we look forward to that event as always.

I'll put in a plug in for the Rochester Hamfest and the new location and date. This year they are moving to the RIT Campus, at the on Saturday 30 June 2012. We are looking forward to the indoor flea in climate controlled conditions (will we miss the rain?),.....**Continued....**

Published by
Rochester VHF Group
PO BOX 92122
Rochester, NY 14692
Editor: Tom Jennings, KV2X

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

The Chairman Speaks! continued...

.... as well as the outside tailgating that will be going on. We hope to have the RV loaded with the usual stuff and maybe some new goodies. Look for us and the RVHFG Banner outside in the tailgating lot.

The May 11th 2012 meeting will be our traditional Election Meeting. Our slate of officers is almost wrapped up, with a couple of formal responses expected any moment. Having said that, I have decided to run again for the role of Chairman, and Bill Rogers K2TER has agreed to stay on as Vice Chairman. Tom Jennings KV2X has also agreed to run again for the Secretary/Treasurer position. Tom has done a fabulous job on the Newsletter the past couple of years too. Please let him know how much that is appreciated! Freddie Sulyma WB2GFZ has agreed to run for the position of Technical Advisor. Dave Hallidy K2DH will continue on as the Former Chairperson. We welcome nominations from the floor too, so don't be shy. This club can only survive if we all pitch in and help, and new ideas and directions are welcomed. If you know someone that is just itching to jump in and serve, please nominate them (ok...ask them first...). We will do our traditional go around the room and introduce yourself, and tell us what you have been doing. If you have something easy to carry in, bring it, as we are always looking for technical content. That's what the club is about after all. It's is as good as YOU the members make it. Come and tell us what you would like to see in the next year, and what you think would make the club stronger.

73,
John WB2BYP



RVHFG/RDXA Awards Banquet

Secretary Report

Tom Jennings, KV2X

Rochester VHF Group Meeting Minutes for April 2012

The April meeting was held at McGregor's restaurant in Henrietta. There were lots of table discussions regarding ham radio, microwave, roving, EME, and NYQP VHF participation while we were eat-

ing and drinking India Pale Ale and Imperial Porter. Irv, AF2k is at 639 grids worked on 6 meters and with confirmed 614 grids. KA2LIM plans to be operating 903 thru 3456MHz during the June VHF Contest.

W3OAB made a motion to accept the secretary's report as written in the Journal. WB2GFZ seconded the motion. WB2GFZ made a motion to accept the treasure's report as written in the Journal. W3OAB seconded the motion.

Attending: K2TER, W2CNS, WB2BYP, K2GAB, KV2X, AF2K, K2LDU, W3OAB, K2DB

Old business

Beacons: Awa is ready for us. Dave, K2DH, has feed line, John, WB2BYP, has connectors. It is just a matter of scheduling a work day.

New business

The combined RVHFG and RDXA Awards Banquet will be held on Apr 21st at Lilian's in Penfield. John reports that so far 25 people have signed up. John continues to request people to sign up for the banquet.

Elections: A nominating committee was formed to recruit potential officers. Next month elections will be based on the slate to be determined by the nominating committee.

There was discussion related to upcoming Rochester Hamfest on Jun 30th. Plan to have a signup sheet at May meeting.

There was a Discussion of having meetings at members home. WB2BYP will take the action of making a list of potential meeting hosts. We also plan on having the November meeting at AWA.

We discussed club project of SDR radio application. Several members will do research.

Meeting adjourned at 2119 hours.

Rochester VHF Group Treasurer's Report

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Previous Balance (as of 04/09/2012):

\$2006.09

Income:

\$ 0.00

Current Balance

\$2006.09

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Jennings, KV2X, Treasurer

Updates on the Light Rover Mast

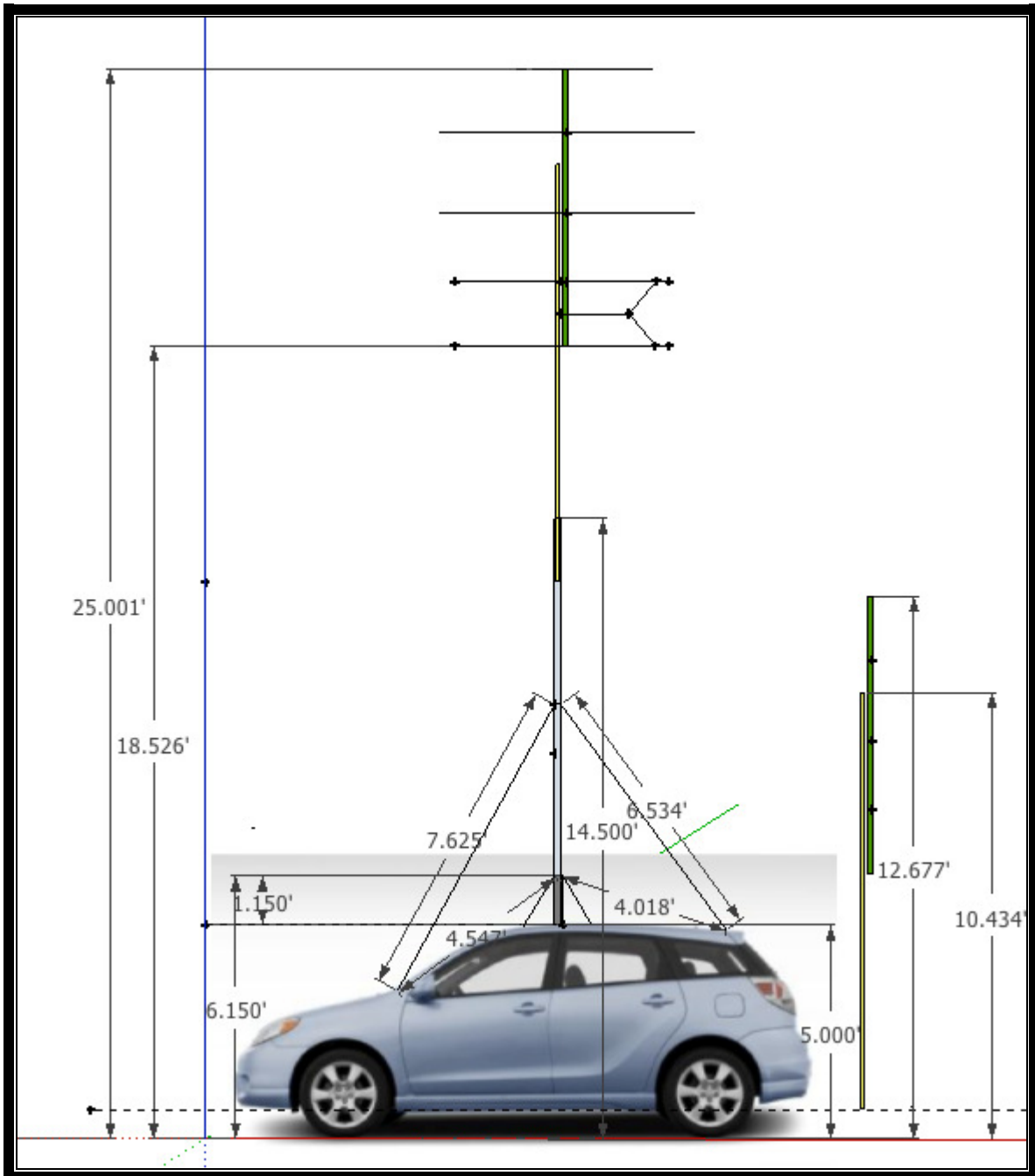
David Muller, AB2YI

Back in the December 2010 Journal, I submitted some ideas on a Light Rover Mast. The idea was to carry antennas for a four band limited rover, and get them as high as possible quickly, and be able to aim them easily with an Armstrong rotor. Low tech, low cost, simple construction, but it has good performance.

Each revision has had some advantages and issues. But I've kept turning it over in my mind. Finally, now, I think I've found a design that does it all. How about a mast capable of reaching 25 feet, pushed up from inside the car in just a minute or two, assembled without climbing anything more than a step stool, for a cost of less than \$25. It provides at least 6 feet of mast space, but even that can extend a few feet further to separate antennas. This will carry light weight Moxons and Cheap Yagis well, and it rotates quickly with a twist of the wrist. For previous notes and pictures on this project, you may want to check out the September 2011 RVHFG Journal. Here, I'm just going to cover recent improvements. I haven't tried everything together in the field yet, but I'm confident that each of the elements I used before will work in this new configuration. This is concept more than detail--consider the design, and be cautious if you decide to try any of it.

To describe in general, I started with a 1/2 inch plywood bulkhead installed over my open sunroof. On that, a chain tripod with turnbuckles supports a 12", 1" diameter steel pipe. Through that passes a ten-foot length of 3/4" steel conduit, with 5/8" I.D. steel conduit inside, and they center when lowered onto a 5/16" bolt projecting up from a plywood floor piece. When down, the mast is well supported for travel, still rotates, and can top out at 11 to 13 feet, as you wish.

In earlier versions the mast was guyed when pushed up, and the guys tangled in the wind when slack. So I sacrificed height and dispensed with the guys, using the outer conduit to mount antennas, and the inner conduit for support, topping out at 17 feet. Then, to eliminate the climbing, I provided a bolt atop the mast where a carrier assembly could be hooked, and antennas mounted at the ground on 3/4" PVC slid into place, just tightening a clamp at the bottom to secure everything.



Elevations to scale: Maximum height and travel height (behind car).

The newest feature is to secure the bottom of the carrier to a piece of 1" PVC conduit that slides up the main mast, so height is no longer limited to 17 feet. After pushing the entire mast up four feet, short guy lines anchored to hood and rear hatch hinges draw tight 10 feet above ground, securing the outer conduit. Then it is

quite easy to insert one or two 4-foot 5/8" conduit extensions inside the 3/4", as I had done on the first version. That leaves at least 18" overlap, the 3/4" conduit supporting the inner conduit and antennas. When pushed beyond the first four-foot extension, the PVC tube will travel above the 3/4" conduit, and to avoid a snag when retracting, I selected the flared end of 1" PVC facing down, so it funnels into alignment.

As before to join extensions, a simple notch in the 5/8" conduit aligns with small pan-head screws on a dowel insert. Except this time, to prevent sticking when the wood swells, I'm cutting a 2" piece from a 1/4" I.D. black iron nipple, with a dowel pushed inside to anchor the screws.

The top of the 5/8" inner mast will have a bolt passing through to one side to support a strap hook on the carrier. A notch atop the 3/4" conduit will engage the bolt so the two conduits rotate together when down, and they can be lifted out or inserted as one piece, the only procedure that requires a small ladder. As before, a length of 3/4" PVC mounts the antennas above and below the support point on the carrier.

To get an extra two feet of spacing between antennas, the lower PVC antenna mount can be fastened, at bottom, to an elasticized nylon line running inside the carrier. As the mast extends, the mount will drop until the line is tight, but it remains in alignment since it is secured to the 1" PVC tube. When retracted, it is pushed up again. It's just enough space to allow stacked Yagi's on 222MHz instead of a single Yagi, and on a bare 30-watt transverter, that may help.

If you rove, you have to be willing to push the envelope a bit. I can travel and operate at 13 feet, push it to 17' easily, and then go for 21' or 25' if it's a suitable spot. The biggest challenge may be handling 12 feet of coax looping onto the roof. I've found it works best to have it taped into one cable that can be fed or retracted. With good weather in June, maybe there will be some pictures to post.

VHF Contesting Preparations

Ken Kent, KA2LIM

It is time for those of you who have connections with your local clubs, (other than the VHF/UHF clubs and regular operators on these bands) to start talking up the June VHF contest. Get the info into the local club news letters for May and June. Check into the weekly nets and start talking up the contest and encourage those who have FM only to get on the simplex frequencies to make contacts and find out how far you can communicate with simplex only. (Check the KA2LIM/K2LIM website www.ka2lim.com for the FM simplex frequencies used)

Encourage others to get together and make contacts during the contest even if they only have one or two bands. i.e.: 6M, and/or 2M and/or 432/440. Perhaps at the local club station or someone's home or a hilltop and operate from a vehicle or set up a portable station at some convenient location. Rovers, invite someone new to go out with you to see how it is done and get them started.

If you know someone who you want to encourage in VHF/UHF-ing, invite them to come and operate with you or just visit your station. Or, you can visit the K2LIM contest station in June, located in FN12mg. We have room for vehicles to park and I think we can even give them something to eat along with an introduction as to how far you can reach with a variety of antennas on 6 thru 432. (We might even have the microwave bands operational) Contact Ken – ka2lim@arrl.net for more info. .
Don't forget to turn in a log, even if one Q!

For further information on weak signal (VHF/UHF), feel free to contact anyone in the RVHFG via the website www.rvhfg.org or email: ka2lim@arrl.net or visit the website www.ka2lim.com

VHF/UHF Contest Calendar for 2012

9-10 June VHF QSO Party

21-23 July CQWW VHF

4-5 August UHF Contest

8-10 September VHF QSO Party

Details and rules can be found on the ARRL website www.arrl.org and the CQ Amateur Radio website www.cq-amateur-radio.com .

Join in the fun on the VHF/ UHF bands.

Ken

KA2LIM

The Rochester Hamfest

From <http://www.rochesterham.org/Hamfest.htm>

It's OFFICIAL: The Rochester Hamfest is moving! In addition: Since Amateur Radio has evolved to incorporate, and invent, many technologies beyond generating RF; The Rochester Hamfest celebrates these advancements by adopting the name "Rochester Hamfest and Technology Expo".

Four years ago we set out on a mission to revive the Rochester Hamfest from what appeared to be a downward spiral of certain demise. It was obvious by the feedback and comments from the very beginning that we had the plans for a winning event. Each of the past three years saw attendance grow. The inaugural 2009 event was blessed with blue skies and flyovers by none other than the US Navy Blue Angles. In 2010 storms threatened and early morning rains dampened some, but cleared by mid morning to make for a good day over all for the growing crowds. June 2011 had mixed forecasts but heavy rains came mid-morning calling an early end to what was building to a record crowd. Just before the heaviest rains came, the general parking manager reported that we only had room for about 20 more cars!

The bottom line is that in three years the Rochester Hamfest has outgrown the Barnard Carnival grounds; far sooner than we ever expected. And we refuse to be at the mercy of the weather. We want attendees to have a great day Rain or Shine! So... **"Here we GROW again!"** Beginning this June, the Rochester Hamfest will call HOME to the campus of the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). Not only will we have ample general parking (paved and striped), we will have large amounts of tailgating space also paved and striped. No more stones, mud, or soggy grass to contend with. But here's the ultimate new feature: 60,000 square feet of pristine, **air conditioned**, indoor flea market space in the Gordon Field House! You can be guaranteed that this beautiful venue has never housed livestock. The Rochester Hamfest is now WEATHER PROOF! Never again will we care if it rains, snows, sleet, or hails; we won't care if its 30 degrees or 100 – we'll all be comfortable – INDOORS!

NEW Features of the Rochester Hamfest and Technology Expo:

- WEATHERPROOF!
 - 60,000^{Sf} of beautiful air-conditioned space for Commercial Vendors and Indoor Flea Market
- Tailgating outside on pavement
- New Date: Saturday June 30th 2012
- Closer to the Thruway
- Onsite Hotel for out of town travelers

All at the same low prices!

- Admission: \$5.00 - FREE for RaRa club members
- Outdoor Tailgating: \$5.00 - FREE for RaRa club members
- Indoor Flea Market: \$5.00 - FREE for RaRa club members (tables & chair rental available at a nominal fee)

Outdoor
Indoor



HAMFEST

Orleans County Amateur Radio Club

Gates Open 6AM for Vendors 8AM for Public

**Saturday
August
11, 2012**
Ridgeway Fire
Hall
11392 Ridge Rd.

**Large Outside Flea Market
(Indoor if Rain)**
\$5 Admission
Includes Outside Flea
\$5 Indoor Tables

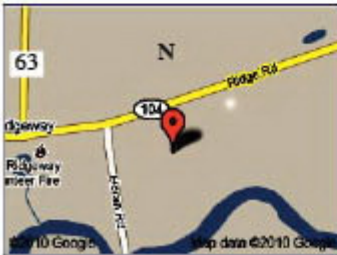
Kids under 16
Free
With paying adult

Forums
Contesting
RTTY
PSK31
Paved Hamfest Area
Paved Parking
5K Sq.Ft. Indoor



Door Prizes
TEN TEC FG-01 Analyzer
Wouxun KGUV1P/4

Serving Breakfast Sandwich & Coffee \$3
Hotdog or Burger Fries & Drink \$4
VE Testing \$15 starting at 9AM



Directions
From Buffalo, Rt.78N
to Rt.104E
From West RT.104E
From East RT.104W
to Horan Rd Entrance
Talk-in: 145.270



Contact Terry Cook,

KC2JKU (585)589-6362

kc2jku@ocarc.us

Pioneer Radio Operator's Society

Saturday
June 9th, 2012

Oldtime
Hamfest

7:00 AM Set-up
8:00 AM General public

P

R

O

S



Manion Park, Chaffee, NY
35 miles south of Buffalo, NY
35 miles north of Olean, NY
Just off of NY Rt. 16, turn onto
Grove St. @ Chaffee Sound &
Electronics, follow the signs!

*Special thanks to K2XZ & N3LLR for all
your help, this year and years past!!!*

Contact: Roy Schwedt, KC2LEE @
716-676-3903 /
RSCHWEDT@NETSCAPE.COM
or Gary Tillinghast, KB2YAA @
716-592-9554

Still just \$5.00!

Fun, Prizes, Food, 50/50, Lots of Ham stuff!

Classified Listings

HP8568B Spectrum Analyzer For Sale

Posted by **Dave Hallidy K2DH**

I have a very nice HP8568B Spectrum Analyzer for sale. 100Hz-1.5GHz. Unit is fully functional, works perfectly- input attenuator is actually NOT damaged (rare!). Trace is bright and well-focused. I will include interconnecting cables, line cord, and a CD containing the operation and service manual. I will also include a SPARE, working, RF Unit (the lower half of the two unit system) and a SPARE display unit (the upper unit) (parts only- the CRT got broken, but it's otherwise functional).

Price is \$1500 for all. I will NOT ship- local pick up only or we can figure a way to meet half way.

Contact me for pictures or to come see it in operation.

Thanks for looking!

Dave K2DH

24VDC/10.5A Switching Power Supplies

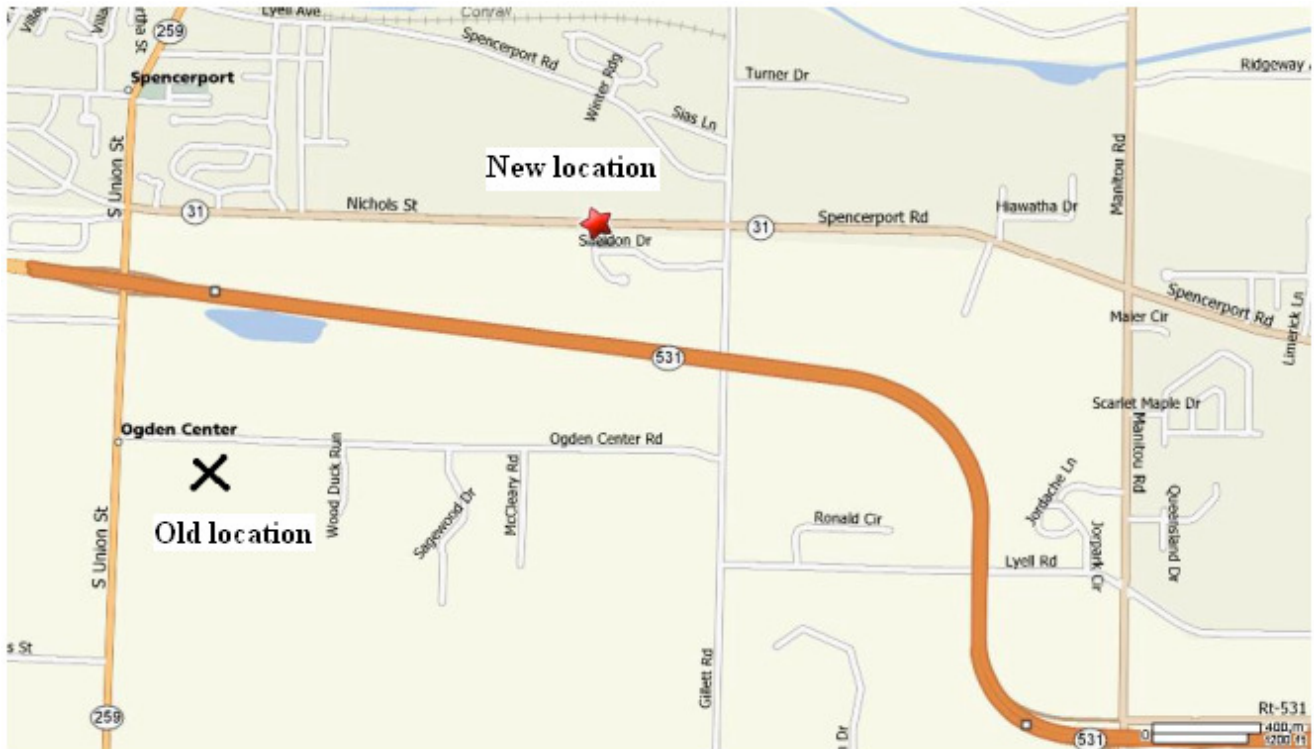
Posted by **Dave Hallidy K2DH**

I still have a bunch of these available. They are CONDOR GPFM250-24-C units, brand new. \$50 each. Unit powers from 100-240VAC, 50/60Hz. Output is adjustable up to 28VDC, has +/- Sense inputs, Output Disable. There is a built in fan permitting continuous operation at the rated current (10.5A). These are great little power supplies! Each unit weighs about 2 lbs, can ship USPS Priority Mail Medium Flat Rate Box (\$11.35). Contact me for pictures, shipping info.

Thanks for looking!

Dave K2DH

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.