



**Meeting
Tuesday
Jun 16**

7:30 pm
111 Westfall Road

**Election of
Officers
&
FIELD DAY!!!**

Join us after the meeting at

Scotch 'N Sirloin

*in Winton Place at Winton Road
Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road*

New Members

Fred Gern, K2FR

Please join me in welcoming our new members: **Ron, N2TLX**, **Jim, N2VNO**, and **Mark, N2YB**.

Congratulations

Fred Gern, K2FR

W2EZ Tom, was the only RDXA member listed in the results of the North American QSO Party CW results from January.

Did you know that **N2WK** has 43 states worked on 2 meters as well as 20 countries? (along with over 300 countries and 5 Band DXCC). And **Frank, K2OS**, has all 50 states worked on 2 meters, with 34 countries in the bag (of course there is

some EME!) and has been running up totals on 40 meters lately.

RDXA finished 14th in the Medium Club category in Sweepstakes Phone. Our members did well too. **W2TZ** won Western NY Low power with 186+K, **W2LC** won WNY Hi Power with 243+K. Other participants were: **K2FR** QRP, **W2LB**, **W2EZ**, **W2FU**, **W1TY** all low power; **K2MP**, **NA2X**, **W2RW**, **W8JW**, **AF2K**, in the Hi power class. Our gang who traveled north won the Northern NY section; ops were **K2DB**, **K2CS** and **N2TWI** from RDXA.

The VHF contest in January drew many RDXA ops with the big guns being the **N2WK** gang (**N2WK**, **K2DB** from RDXA) winning WNY and Third overall in the Unlimited Multi class. **W2FU** and **K2CS** finished 2nd nationally in the Rover class.

Why did I do it?

Dave Wright, N2CK

Greetings all. Not having enough to do in my life (like anybody who knows me knows how ironic that is!), I volunteered to take over newsletter publisher-ship from **Raj**, **N2RD**. First off, I would like to publicly thank Raj for all his hard work and dedication he gave to produce such a quality publication! That kind of work is going to be hard to follow, but here goes.

First off, you'll notice a different look to the newsletter. As I currently don't have access to Adobe Pagemaker, I'm using msword for my first attempt. I've got quite a learning curve ahead of me. Most of the folks here at work use msword, so my

using it for the newsletter will help at work as well!

Submissions - recognize that the newsletter is what we make of it. Did you put in a serious effort in a contest? Feel proud of your score and want to make your fellow members want to rise up and challenge your effort? Let your fellow club members read about your tails (or possibly yarns) and feats of achievements. My goal is to be putting the final touches on the newsletter by the 1st of every month, so I'll need input before then. If you have something you want to submit, let me know and I'll try to hold up to give you a little extra time. I'm not on packet (yet!). That's a summer project for me (along with grounding the shack and whatever ends up on the honey-do list). Anyway, I can be reached via email at djw@dos.nortel.com.

Know of a great ham radio web site? Let me know and I'll pass it along. One of my favorites is the Ham and DX reference guide, maintained by AC6V. The URL is "<http://www.ac6v.com>". It's got quite a substantial list of links to DX expeditions, QSL route information, contesting, manufacturers and much more. Check it out.

Speaking of web sites, if you have any pics of the hamfest, let someone from the Board know. We'll try to get them on the RDXA website (bonus points if they are already scanned!).

Lightning is Funny Stuff

Ed Gable, K2MP

After taking a direct lightning hit on May 31st I started to assess the damage for insurance. The first was fairly obvious as

the top few feet of the fiberglass radome on the VHF/UHF FM vertical were gone and only a shred of fiberglass remained.

The Kenwood FM xcvr was non-operative. No big surprise there as it was connected directly to the vertical. Opened that up and found a short piece of #16 copper wire melted right at the coax connector and a few splatterings of molten copper scattered around. "Well this thing is a lost cause," I remember saying to myself while soldering the wire back onto the connector. Fired the unit it up and it worked perfectly !! Full power out and great sensitivity. Go figure.

The next item on the bench was my PK-232MBX multi-mode controller. This had a weld mark on the side where an arc from the rotor control box jumped 2 inches, melting the cover screw head in the process. Found the PK-232's +5 volt line to be two ohms above ground and ties to 14 IC's. It's toast ! (Anybody have one for sale ?)

Next item was the T2X rotor control with its melted hardware. I feared the worst, but two fuses later; line fuse and meter fuse, it was back on-line.

Now to the Alinco data radio used for the NG2P cluster. It, too, had an arc mark on the side of the radio where the coax line ran adjacent to it. Dead. No lights, no noise, no key, no low voltage power on the logic board, good fuses....put the cover back on and call Alinco. They want a reasonable \$20.00 for an estimate. It's on the way to CA.

Now to the ICOM 765, Knwd TS-940S/AT and SB-220. Whew.... they're all perfect. DC grounded antennas, good entrance grounding and gas discharge arrestors seem to have paid off on the HF side. The rotor control lines came in directly and were not by-passed or protected in

any way. Looks like a good spot for improvement. The 6 meter and 2 meter multi-mode set ups likewise seem to pass the muster. The lightning strike also took out the burglar alarm system (currently and temporarily protected by Smith and Wesson), magnetized the pix tube in my SONY tv set and burned out something on my line at the phone company central office.

All and all it could be worse. The biggest problem is the vertical at 70 feet. It's all gotta come down. I needed a Summer project.

P.S. Thanks to everyone for your best wishes and kind words during my recent illness. I'm back and better than ever.

Ed

Rochester Hamfest & RDXA Hospitality Suite

Vic Gauvin, K1PY

Well, if you missed the RDXA "Hospitality Suite," then you must not have been at the hamfest this year! From where I sit, we had a winning setup that welcomed a lot of folks and provided a prominent, large, shady area where one could get out of the sun and enjoy the camaraderie. It was easy going and laid back, and made for a great place to take a break before heading back out to make the rounds. My take is that it was great PR for the club, and showed us in a great light.

What I liked the most, however, was how it brought together a group of people to make it happen. In the "way" of many clubs of the radio variety, things get done

when they get done. And sometimes it's quite nice to see who steps up to the plate. This year was especially encouraging, and hopefully a sign of greater individual involvement in club activities (oh no, just jinxed it!!!).

A case in point was the "Thursday crew." (Yes, that's when you gotta go now—but that's another story....) Noonish (that's oh-twelve-hundred local) saw **Jim N2VNO** and **John KG2NI** the first on scene to (followed shortly thereafter by **Dave N2CK**) "grab the high ground" for **RDXA** and **GRA** (also known as "the Grassy Knoll" courtesy of **Bill WB2JMX**). A few minutes later a nice little shade tarp went up courtesy of new RDXA'er **Jim N2VNO**, and the relaxed mood for the afternoon was set. John got a vertical loaded up on 20M SSB, using the metal fence as a ground plane. Then there was a stroll over to Wegman's for some liquid refreshment. The wx was grand—what more could you want?!!

After a nice break, Dave, Jim, and **Vic K1PY** took off to retrieve some Rohn 25 sections stored at Vic's cache at his brother-in-law's in Mendon. The plan was to use them to string the club banner "up high and proud" in front of the canopies. And since they were available (a long and sad story...), we decided they'd be perfect for the job. Of course, we didn't know about the poison ivy that kinda grew all around where they were stored, but Dave and Jim bushwhacked their way, undeterred (but careful), to accomplish their mission. Now, back to the 'fest.

Later, **Scott K2ZS** arrived with the two club canopies, and by then we also had **Bob NG2P**, **Bill WB2JMX**, **John N2NEP** and lots of onlookers on board. Amid many suggestions and lots of advice, the canopies made it up anyway! (No, I'm joking, it was now a piece of cake what with the previous Field Day experience —

see, that preparedness training DOES pay off!) We were now SET for the start of the 'fest on Friday morning. (By the way, so were a LOT of other groups all over the fairgrounds. It was looking quite promising!)

Friday dawned bright and warm, with lots of early 'festers. With now lots of members around (so I'm not going to try and list in case I leave someone out), the tower sections went up, then the banner, and we were officially in business, and looking good. Chairs were out, coolers were stocked, JMX's grill was set up, Dave and Jim went and got the keg and put 'er on ice, and the finishing touch this year, that little extra bit of class, a pressurized tap system, courtesy of **Jim N2VNO**. Oh yes, there were also tons of flea marketers out there as well, lest we forget! Not to be left out, we had a couple of tables for members to use in one of the "wings" of our canopy layout (oh yes, if you didn't see it, it was quite the spread!)

All throughout the 'fest, we had a continuous stream of people grabbing a seat, enjoying the shade, and generally having a great time. And the quality of the installation (preparedness, FD) was tested with a couple of pretty good, brisk storms that blew through on Friday p.m. The canopies stayed down, the gang stayed dry, and we just watched it blow by. Didn't disrupt a thing for us, even though the entire rest of the fairgrounds was deserted!

This whole thing turned out to be pretty idyllic, and having spent a fair amount of my 'fest time at club corner, I got to noticing why. It was one of those wonderful occasions where someone sees what needs to be done and steps up to the plate to take care of it. There were several instances of this with club members, such as **Tim KG2NO** and **Dave KA2BOK** who made the extra

efforts to bring soda, burgers, etc., and keep things stocked. And the gang who set up the rest of the stuff on Friday and then on Saturday, and keep things going. But the key player was **Dave N2CK** who quietly and without anyone really noticing kind of watched over everything and never let anything get out of hand. Cars, they were all parked way around the back of the canopies, out of the way as we'd hoped. The grill, it had charcoal and starter fluid, and got fired up when it was time. The keg got gotten and installed. The kitty donations, well, they got taken care of. I don't know what else (this is all in looking back), but the point is that things just plain went real nice, and it takes someone just kinda watching over things for that to happen. And again, not taking away from all the others who helped out—it really was a nice club effort—"the guy" for this year's 'fest was in my opinion Dave. THANK YOU! And I'm sure that everyone who got to benefit from our area appreciated all the efforts that we all put in together to make it happen. We DID have a club presence, and PR aside, it was grand for all of us.

More Hamfest Musings

Fred Gern, K2FR

Well, we were there on the grassy knoll; where were over half our members! The sign in sheet was ignored by some but many members didn't even seem to show up at all! Must be that Internet stuff, we blame it for everything.

Our President, **K2ZS**, and Board member, **N2CK**, helped the club finances along by donating most of what was consumed this year. THANKS GUYS! And to make it even sweeter it seems that

many dug deeper into their pockets at the donation jar further filling the club treasury. **Bob, NG2P**, also reported some donations to the PacketCluster fund. (Ed note - the food and soda were covered by donations)

K8FC and Deer Hunting

Fred Gern, K2FR

Joe, K8FC, decided to go deer hunting. The result is:

1. One dead deer
2. One dead motorcycle
3. A dead helmet and leather jacket
4. One live Joe who can define luck for you.

DXers are tough!

Contests

Dave Wright, N2CK

ARRL June VHF QSO party Jun 13-15

Field Day!! Jun 27-28

IARU HF World Championship July 11-12

QRZ DX

The **St Brandon** operation shut down May 17 with 51000 + qso's in the log. Propagation was generally poor during much of their stay and I found signals usually weak and difficult to pull out of the noise. They were working Europeans much of the time. I managed to get them on 15 and 40 meter cw only. I thought I had them on 12 meters, but a log search with the ve7tcp Internet log posting did not confirm it. Their signal was in the noise and I copied only a partial of my call. Have a great summer and get those antennas ready for the fall dx and contest season. The following information is courtesy of OPDX and The 59(9) Dx Report.

7O-YEMEN-Zoli, HA5PP will be in Yemen for the month of June. He will attempt to get a license, this time from the proper authorities. Several years ago he operated with a license issued by a local official and not approved by the central government. This operation was not approved for DXCC by the ARRL. He will ask for the calls 7O8DX or 7O8CW. This is a long shot. KYFC.

9N-NEPAL-Charlie, K4VUD will be in Nepal from July 7 to mid November. Qrv on all bands with cw, ssb and maybe rtty on usual dx frequencies.

FO-AUSTRAL ISLANDS-Albert, FO5JR will visit the Austral's July 24 or 25 and stay until August 13. He will operate cw only around 14010 and 21010. If you missed the FO0FI operation, this will give you another chance to bag a potential "new one". 59(9) Report says he dislikes dx style qso's and prefers to exchange names and qth.

HB0-LIECHTENSTEIN-DL6VI, DL1FDH and DL4OCM will be Qrv HB0/home call June 22-26. Qsl to home call.

HC-ECUADOR-Rick, NE8Z will operate from various locations in Ecuador July 5-26. Call will be HC1MD and HC1MD/HC4, HC1MD/HC5, HC1MD/HC6, or HC1MD/HC7 depending upon the location. Activity will be mainly WARC bands cw, ssb and rtty. Qsl his manager K8LJG.

KP1-NAVASSA ISLAND-A group of veteran dxpeditioners headed by WA4DAN and AA4NC have secured permission to operate from Navassa later this year. Date has not yet been determined. This will be a four station full power operation with beams and a variety of low band antennas. Call sign will be N1V. The last KP1 operation was in 1993. Watch the bulletins for more details as they become available

V3-BELIZE-Look for Stan, W5JYK to sign V31YK, Wondy, K5KR signing V31KR and Mike, W5ZPA signing V31MP on Ambergris Caye in Belize August 26-30. Qrv cw, ssb and rtty 80- 10 meters. Qsl to each operators home call.

ZK1, 3D2-PACIFIC ISL-The South Pacific islands are popular destinations for vacationing dxers. Wolf, DL2SCQ and xyl Ann, DL1SCQ will operate from Rarotonga in the South Cooks Aug 9-14. using calls ZK1SCQ and ZK1SCR. Using the same calls they will stop in Penrhyn in the North Cooks. Aug 16-21.. They will move to Figi, 3D2 aug 29-Sept 7. 3D2 calls will be issued upon arrival. Qsl all calls to DL6DK.

Choice DX worked in May-40 m 3B7RF, 20m- A45XR, OH0EA. 15m-3B7RF

Qsl's received-SV1CEI 2wks, GH0STH (G4DIY 3 wks), VP9LR(K1EFI 3 mo), VP8CTR(DL5EBE 11 wks), Z32XX(NN9C 14 wks), TT8JF(F6FNU ! mo)

DX- 40 Years ago - June 1958

Ed Gable, K2MP

QSL's to drool over received this date were UA1KAE's Antarctic Expedition, JZ0AG from Netherlands New Guinea, 3W8AA in Republique Democratique du Viet-Nam and C8YR of Lanchow Kansu, China. Buffalo's W2SSC promised the VK0TC Macquarie QSL's for 1958 will be out soon.

The SCDXA was active even then with DX-pedition sponsoring, this time with PX1FC, a 24-hour a day, seven day operation from Andorra.

Effective June 1, 1958, the ARRL DXCC Country list was amended to add ten new entities. These were all derived from the old Windward-Leeward Island groups and all carried the VP2 prefix. We know these today as Anquilla, Antiqua, BVI, Monserrat, St. Kitts, and etc.

The transition from AM to SSB continues but not without problems and suspicion. HL9KR was the first SSB station from Korea but was only allowed to operate on 14.130 Mc.

DX tid-bit...there were 3800 Russian hams in 1958. Individual licensing required sponsored membership in a state approved radio club and passing theory and code tests.

The Italian government approved the licensing of U.S. Servicemen stationed in Italy and many new I1 calls were heard with Yankee sounding voices. This writer would be I1DFD years later.

RDXA Officers at this time were Bob Mast W2TQR, Bill Bellor, W2MG and Ernie Siegmund, K2ITM, in the usual order.

Hammarlund Manufacturing announced their new SSB receiver, the popular HQ-170. You could buy one from Rochester Radio Supply and Vic Lotempio, W2RIS. Other active amateur outlets in Rochester were Fred Becker, K2CEI, featuring Central Electronics gear and Jerry Fink Co. (W2TTQ) carrying the Drake line.... which consisted of solely the model 1A receiver.

On The Slate

Dave Wright, N2CK

As a reminder, here is a list of candidates to lead RDXA for the 98/99 year:

President - Scott Hoag, K2ZS

Vice President - Mike Rundle, N1OKL

Sec/Treas - Ed Gable, K2MP

Board of Directors (vote for 3)

Fred Groner, W2TZ

Bob Hunter, NG2P

Rick Mintz, W1TY

Dave Selbert, KA2BOK

Dave Wright, N2CK

You personally are invited...

Vic Gauvin, K1PY

... to join us in two weeks for our club's premier event: **Field Day!** This "personal" invitation is to let you know, individually, that we would like to see YOU!

If you just "think about it," then you will quite honestly miss out on a grand time. Did you not stop by the Hamfest "Hospitality Suite"? If you didn't and lost out on a neat time there, then don't let Field Day be yet another lost occasion. Really, it's having you and the other club members on board, being there, sharing "the moment" (well, maybe a little more than a moment, but you got the gist of it) that makes it the most popular national event in radio, bar none.

"I don't do [fill in activity of choice here] [pick one: at all, very much, well enough, as good as the other guys, as good as the top people in the club] so I won't go." Aside from being a self-fulfilling prophesy, it's the way to ensure you never will enjoy just plain being a part of something fun. Club events, and Field Day most notably, are those activities that are far greater than the sum of their parts. If the same people that come to FD went off by themselves and set up the same amount of "stuff" in several different operations, there wouldn't be that magic that comes of a group "getting it together" and sharing it with a greater number. Review last month's write-up on the "feel" of Field Day, the electricity of those key moments—elsewhere, that doesn't happen. After things are humming along, you can roam around and still feel that it's "something big," something neat that's going on, even though at that particular moment it all seems quiet, still. That's because there's that connectedness of the entire group just being there together and doing it. It's all those moments, all those individual activities over the entire

weekend, added together and mixed in with a healthy dose of camaraderie that makes Field Day into RDXA FIELD DAY! But ya gotta BE THERE, ya gotta "do stuff," ya gotta just say the heck with it and jump in and try it out in order to feel it. See you there!

How to make the most of FD

Vic Gauvin, K1PY

Let's assume you just read some motivational article somewhere that convinced you to come to Field Day, but you've still got reservations about what the heck it's all about (not having participated previously). Those of us for whom it's the event of the year tend to forget that not everyone knows what to expect. So here goes.

The best way to participate is to be there for as long as possible. "As possible" is the operative phrase here, so don't put it off before you start. You do what you can do, but if in fact, if you really, REALLY thought about it, you could, if you really wanted to, come a bit more, then it all makes it better. Why's that? I'll use vacations as an analogy: You can go to Cape Cod (I'm a K1 remember) and breeze through in a day, or a couple of days, and then ask "what's the big deal?" Oh there's a few neat things here and there, but what? Well, "what," like Field Day, is as much a state of mind, a "feel" about something that you've plain got to experience to enjoy, and experience means taking the time to really get into it, to "feel" it. So the more exposure the better. Maybe that's why those that love it the most, vacation or Field Day, tend to

spend as much time as they can there. But ok, you can't do it all, but do what you can do, and you'll start to get the idea. So what's next?

Field Day is an activity, not a show. You can't watch Field Day. It's not a standing around thing. The more you jump in the more you get out of it. And there's always something, at nearly any time, that you could do.

Setup is the obvious first choice. Noonish we gather at the site, and right off stuff needs to be unloaded and carted to where it's going to be set up. And here's the other part of it: Jump in means JUMP IN. Don't wait for that engraved invitation, but team up with someone that looks like they (might) know what they're doing and give a hand. Believe me, it won't take long before you get the lay of the land and are pretty soon showing the next new guy that shows up how they could help! It's all just a bunch of people doing straightforward stuff.

Antennas, antennas, antennas—that's Friday's work. And we've got antennas! Saturday, it's everything else, and if you can't find something to do, you haven't let yourself get into it yet! And although we've got a technical hobby, most of FD isn't (technical, that is). It's setting up to stay around a while and what's involved in all that. Creating a space where we can stay in comfort, do some operating, prepare some food and provide a few (some might say more than a few!) creature comforts. Field Day is LOTS more than radio! So don't worry about what you think you don't know—there's lots more that you do know that can be of help.

But still, you ask, what about the radio side of it? Well, yes, we certainly are there for some of that as well. And there's as many ways to do FD as there are

operators and helpers. And we try to have it all!

Fred K2FR and **Gayle N2TWI** last year had the best turnout ever at the Tech/Novice station, a training ground, a "try it, you'll like it" encouragement approach for anyone who strolled into the area. Lots of people had a great time, both trying out something new, as well as helping those doing the trying. And you don't need to be a brand-new licensee to operate. If you haven't really ever tried HF-style contesting and are intimidated a bit by it, then stop by. (And other not-so-intimidated ops, please stop by and give a hand here when you're not otherwise involved—it's a great feeling, both for you and all you get involved with.)

Want to step "up" a notch? Then the SSB station might be the ticket. There'll be lots of ways to participate if we get all the stuff together that we're hoping for. Learn S&P (Search & Pounce) techniques, learn CT logging software on a separate logging computer, learn CT band-mapping to help snag Q's we'd otherwise miss, see how the CQ ops turn Q's around quickly (it's all in what you don't say!). Stop by and give a listen. Someone should be there to get you into the operating schedule (no firm, fixed scheds—let us know what 4-hour segment you're available for and we'll juggle all available ops over that time period).

CW is where the points come from, and we've got a couple of those stations going as well. This might be called the "high end" stuff, what many of us aspire to, especially in this club. Even if you're not "Mr. CW," there's lots you can learn by seeing what's going on. Keyboard memory keyers also might let you hop in there a lot easier than you'd think! Sit on down, and someone will show you the ropes.

If that's not for you, then maybe "digital" contesting might be. RTTY Rick is captaining a whole new category in Field Day, new this year. "Everybody can do RTTY," especially when our chief RTTY guy is there to show you. And you can! And it's one whole heck of a lot neater and more interesting than you'd think (take it from one who's been there—it's a gas, and a non-threatening mode for contesting!) Check it out!

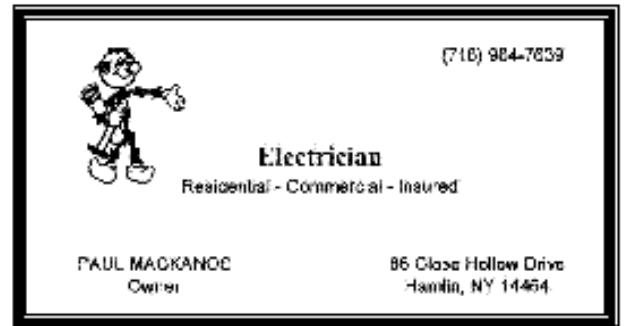
And speaking about getting the most out of FD: Food, food, food! An army marches on its stomach, and hams are CERTAINLY no exception! And we don't forsake the good things just because we're out in the "field." **Kevin N2VJB** will take care of the culinary side of things in his traditional top-notch fashion. He always tries to come up with a "special" for each FD.

Do you get the idea? It's all there at Field Day. It just takes you to be there to enjoy it, and make it even better by your presence. It's a "gotta do!" See you there!

FD QTH

- Webster Park Campgrounds
- Westernmost park entrance along East Lake Rd, 0.6 miles west of Holt Rd intersection

- Proceed straight along campground road, onto dirt, until you see a humongous flagpole that screams "antenna support" at you. YOU



WON'T MISS IT IF YOU'RE A HAM!



Rochester DX Association Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the Rochester (NY) DX Association, and is published prior to each monthly meeting for the information of members and others interested in Amateur Radio DX and Contesting.

You are cordially invited to any meeting, held at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September through June. We meet in the "auditorium" of the Social Services Building at 111 Westfall Road in Rochester, New York

Club officers and committees

President	<i>Scott Hoag K2ZS</i>
Vice President	
Secretary-Treasurer	<i>Ed Gable K2MP</i>
Board of Directors	
	<i>Fred Gern K2FR</i>
	<i>Bob Hunter NG2P</i>
	<i>Dave Wright N2CK</i>
DX Chairman	<i>Bill Buchan W2OMV</i>
Contest Chairman	<i>Chris Shalvoy K2CS</i>
Newsletter	
Editor	<i>Fred Gern K2FR</i>
Publisher	<i>Dave Wright N2CK</i>

Dues and correspondence

*Ed Gable K2MP
Secretary-Treasurer RDXA
187 Lighthouse Road
Hilton, NY 14468*

Rochester DX Association

Fred Gern K2FR
824 Woodcock Dr
Webster, NY 14580

To: