



Meeting
May 16th
7:30 p.m.
111 Westfall Rd

Now that antenna farming season is upon us, you won't want to miss the May RDXA program. We will have the ARRL video: "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Antennas...but were afraid to ask". This video features **Frank Rutter, K3AW (SK)** in a fascinating lecture and demonstration of antenna theory at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. Don't miss it! May is also a test session month. Spread the word.

Editor's Corner

Dave Wright, N2CK

Welcome Spring! Got any antenna plans for the shack you're working on? Don't forget to sign up and take part in Field Day this year. After finishing 3rd in the nation in class 3A, we've got a position **and** a reputation to uphold! We need support from the **whole** club! Our two Field Day Chairmen, **Raj, N2RD** and **Fred, W2TZ** are looking for people to raise their hands and sign up. A definite "need" area exists for setup and teardown, and dare I say it – the thankless job of Chef. We (collectively) had a blast last year, and I'm hoping this year is as much fun!.

After some reflection, I realized that I neglected to offer congratulations to all the award winners! But one person I would like to recognize and salute, is **Fred, W2TZ**. Look back over the past year. Look at the results he has achieved in contests. It seems like every other month I was recognizing his accomplishments (see the November SS

CW results later in this newsletter)! Who is one of the first to arrive and the last to stop working at Field Day? The answer is Fred! Congratulations to Fred as a much-deserved recipient of the KE2WK award. Looking back over the year, I can't think of a better choice!

Breaking the Law?

Fred Gern, K2FR

As I rode through the pastoral countryside of Western NY today I noticed something that triggered my ham attention. As I negotiated an intersection in a rural town I saw a vehicle labeled in such a way that it could bring fear into the hearts of many hams; especially those who only operate FM for years and years and those who have entered the hobby as "NO CODE TECHNICIANS".

The car was letter with the **words "Town of **** CODE ENFORCEMENT"**.

Do these people have the right to burst into your shack unannounced and test your code knowledge? Can they arrest you if you do NOT have a key or paddles?

DX 40 Years Ago – May 1960

Ed Gable, K2MP

News this month included the VU2ANI story on the successful Andamans DXpedition. Success then was measured as logging 125 countries and 3360 QSO's. Hang on to your hats and watch

the DXCC country list was the word when news of a complete reshuffle of African French Colonials came out. New independent entities were expected from the old FF series of prefixes, including Mauretania, Ivory Coast Republic, Republic of Mali, Chad, Gabon, High Volta, French Nigeria and Dahomey. First out of all this was 7G1A claiming an established Republic of Guinea. It will take a long time to figure this all out.

Almost lost in all of the Africa changes was the addition of the Auckland & Campbell Island group the DXCC list. In the mean time, XU, PK, YB, EP and 3W remain on the banned country list. The 1959 Sweepstakes contest winner was K2MWK with 191,443 points. The highest score was W4KFC's 238,710 total, and you could be a section winner with only 3371 points as was Manitoba's VE4SA. The SSB boys were getting some serious power with this month's introduction of a linear amplifier using the new 4CX1000. Also seeing the potential for high power SSB was the Heath Company. They introduced the new Heathkit Chippewa Linear amplifier using a pair of 40400A's. The PA/Power supply combination weighed (Good lord) 175 pounds!

Field Day Spread the word!!

Fred Groner, W2TZ

FIELD Day!!! Soon the month of June will be here and with it comes Field Day. **Field Day operation is June 24 and 25 and setup is June 23.** Mark your calendars. This is a very exciting time of year for RDXA. It is our only club event in

which members have the opportunity to work and operate side-by-side at one location in a team effort. Many of us look forward to operating competitively in it every year. Last year we did real well. RDXA/W2RDX ended up Number 3 in the highly competitive 3A class. This year we would like to move up to #1 – that is our objective. Planning for this year has already started. We have some ideas for improving last year's score, but need much help.

The basic setup will be the same as last year. We will have the wire beam array back in the field for SSB. The flag pole will support the basic 80cw, 20cw, and 10cw station antennas which will be a TA33 tribander and an 80 meter inverted V. The basic 40cw, 15cw station will use 2el wire beams situated over the wood pile.

Last year we had big interference problems on 10 meters, so 10 meters was used solely by the Novice station. This year RDXA purchased a 3 el monobander for the Novice station. The monobander should be an improvement over the dipole used last year by the Novice station both in terms of gain but it also should allow the Novice station to null out interference to and from the other two stations. **We need a mast support for the 10 meter monobander.** Any help here would be greatly appreciated. We will also try to get and use a less noisy tube transceiver for the Novice station to minimize interference. If 10 meters is hot this year, we want to be ready and interference free.

Raj, N2RD, co-Field Day Chairperson this year, has suggested a change in strategy this year based on comparing our 1999 results with other top scoring stations. Other top scoring stations have much more SSB qsos compared to RDXA. Raj will discuss details later, but the approach

involves using one of the cw stations on SSB during high SSB activity, especially at the beginning of FD to increase our final SSB qso totals.

After last years successful Field Day, we had a meeting to propose improvements for this year while the 99 FD was fresh in our minds. In addition to the above, we all agreed that we definitely need additional help during the setup period on Friday, the day before Field Day. The setup period starts at 2pm, Friday. At that time we start erecting all antennas, and it is our objective to do most of our antenna work by sunset. **Setup help any time after 2pm, June 23 is definitely needed for the success of this years Field Day.** Many of us will be at the site until late Friday, so if you can't come to help at 2pm, come after work even if that involves coming after 6pm.

What will we need to take RDXA to the top of the 3A pack? We need enthusiasm and a team effort. We need people to give us a good start by setting up on Friday so we can do equipment activities on Saturday and be ready to go at full speed at start time.

FIELD DAY is a great exercise and valuable experience in emergency preparedness. We are getting very close to that #1 top spot. **E-mail either of the Field Day co-chairpersons N2RD and/or W2TZ about your Field Day plans.**

Upcoming events

Dave Wright, N2CK

May 25-26 CQWW WPX CW

June 24 – 25 Field Day!

November SS CW Results

Dave Wright, N2CK

Looking over the results, I see that **Fred, W2TZ** finished third for the northeast region with a score of 144,924. Fred won the **Atlantic Division Low Power CW** plaque for his efforts! Other RDXA members showing up are **AE2T** and **KG2NO** (now K2CY) in the QRP division. In the Low Power category (after W2TZ) is **W2FE**. RDXA members listed in the high power category include **K2UA**, **K8FC**, **W2LC**, **W2EZ**, **N2UM**, and **NG2P**. There was a multi-op effort of **W2RW** with **WB2KAO**.

Working VK0IR The N1OKL experience

Mike Rundle, N1OKL

Ed Note: What follows is a short note Mike sent to the VK0 reflector after working them and acknowledgment from the reflector administrator.

From: John Devoldere

Sent: Tuesday, 21 January, 1997 07:40
To: Michael S. Rundle
Subject: Re: [HEARD] Tnx, N1OKL
Tks fer comments, and congrats!
73John

Hey guys, THANKS! For the fun, for the work, for sharing the adventure and for the NEW ONE! SUPERB JOB down there in the antipodes. You, the pilots, and everyone involved are a credit to our hobby, for sure.

It's an hour and a half after the QSO, and I'm still excited. So I'm writing this to try and give you all something back--a sense of the excitement and fun here.

After only sporadic propagation to my QTH, FN13--Rochester, NY, I was beginning to think of writing this one off. I NEVER heard the beacon. And only had a few short openings on 40cw and 17 phone on Saturday. The HUGE pileups and my modest station (200w and wires + a vertical) could not get through. But I worked them at 0440z, 21 Jan on 20m CW. 200w to a Gap Vertical. Flipped the rig on after dinner and a trip to the supermarket with the XYL (hey I needed ALL the karma I could get). It was about 0100z and I found--again--no VK0 anywhere. Landed several new ones and almost got HF0, rtty, but the propagation slipped away too quick. Is it my imagination, or is EVERYONE on? Seems like all of us, all over the world are on the air. The "Heard Effect" I'd call it. VK0 popped up weak, but Q4 on the GAP Eagle at about 0330z here. Not too big a pile up either. And working 2 up--so okay for my General ticket. (Ooooo, there was a temptation to slide down to 7007 when I heard them there--and ONLY there--last night.)

Anyway, I was trying it all: watching the spots on the NE MegaCluster and OH2BUA's WebCluster, watching the

Reflector for tips, hints, odd openings, etc. Wonder what the on-line bill will look like this month? Checking those propagation maps from Switzerland via the web, staring at HFX and PropMan plots till my eyes were bleary. And wondering how I might string up a new wire somewhere, more advantageous. Maybe Dennis next door wouldn't mind another wire across his backyard!

No, I did not snag them immediately. By 0400z, they were Q5 and I could hear each TU and the end of a QSO. It took a long 40 minutes of calling, shifting up and down on the xmit VFO, switching between antennas to overcome the QSB, following the spots on OH2BUA and the cluster here--since most of the time I couldn't hear who they were working. The pile up would literally pop in and out from time to time, but not enough to follow the other end of the QSOs. So thanks to all who put QSX info in their spots. Couldn't have done it without you.

Then finally, after the zillionth call, an N1? came back. I sent my call again. And he came back N1O? Holding my breath, I hit the ENTER key for the log, shot back N1OKL twice and 599 599 TU. The reply came through crystal clear: N1OKL 599 599 TU. A final TU from here and it was over, 10 seconds tops. By 0520z, they were gone...faded into the winter ether.

Gone from the airwaves here, but not from memory. I'm sure I'll remember the moment as long as I pound brass. And I think my Grand Dad--who taught me the code and left me his L&N RR straight key--would be as excited as I was. 28 years as a ham, and this IS the high point. Now if one of the nieces or nephews would just get interested, Grand Dad and I could pass this along...

To those who haven't worked them yet, hang in there. Keep trying. The pile ups

are thinning out FAST. Propagation is holding up OK, and the ops on Heard will be there till the 28th. If I can do it--an average ham, no big DXer, no aluminum cloud warmers--so can you. And what a great time trying!

Who??

Fred Gern, K2FR

A new column for the ham radio impaired. Last month's secret ham almost missed the banquet.

Before that, was the person who was 90 degrees off while chasing a new one. Here's this month's hobbled ham.

He has a high country count and has mentioned one country that is on now, but mostly cw. The station appears on 15 M SSB and the ham is called. He can't hear the DX. The 'informer' calls a few times (100 watts and a beam) and works the DX and is asked "you can hear him 'that well?'".

A few minutes later he works the DX and admits that he had the coax switch on his 80/40 wires.

Have you run across any good ones? Send me any you know of, but omit the callsign.

A5 Bhutan

Fred Gern, K2FR

Up and running - April 28. Jim Smith got this one on the air and fittingly he is the first on the air. The BIG DXpedition there

starts in a few days (May 2 or 3) so by the meeting date many of the 'local deserving' will have this one in the bag. QSLs for the big operation are promised at Dayton; if you have nothing better to do but stand in line. (I got 'em!)

Upcoming Hamfests

Dave Wright, N2CK

APR 29 Champlain Valley ARC -
Plattsburgh, NY

MAY 6 Binghamton ARC - Owego, NY

Jul 16 Batavia Hamfest Batavia Downs -
8315 Park Rd. (talk in 147.285+)

JUL 22 Utica ARC - Frankfort, NY (talk in
145.450-)

AUG 5 Tompkins County ARC - NY

Aug 13 Lancaster Amateur Radio Club
Greater Buffalo "Summer" Hamfest &
Computer Show Hearthstone Manor ...
333 Dick Road, Depew, New York
[http://hamgate1.sunyerie.edu/~larc/Great
erBuffaloHamfest.htm](http://hamgate1.sunyerie.edu/~larc/GreaterBuffaloHamfest.htm)

SEP 17 Auburn Hamfest, Owasco Lake,
Emerson Park, Pavilion. (talk in
147.000+)

SEP 23 Buffalo Hamfest - Hamburg, NY
Western NY Section Convention

SEP 30 – Elmira - ARA of the Southern
Tier Chemung County Fairgrounds,
Horseheads, NY. (talk in 146.70- or
222.20+)

Rochester Hamfest

Tim Strong, K2CY

The date for the Rochester Hamfest is June 2 - June 4. The unofficial RDXA Hamfest committee consisting of **Dave N2CK**, **Vic K1PY** and myself have put together a list of items that need to be provided by some members. If you can provide any of the things, please contact me at k2cy@arrl.net.

Please note that beer, pop and hotdogs will be provided as supplies last, if you prefer something different, please bring your own.

Volunteers Needed to Bring These Items

Grill

Flea Market Table

Chairs (please label with your call)

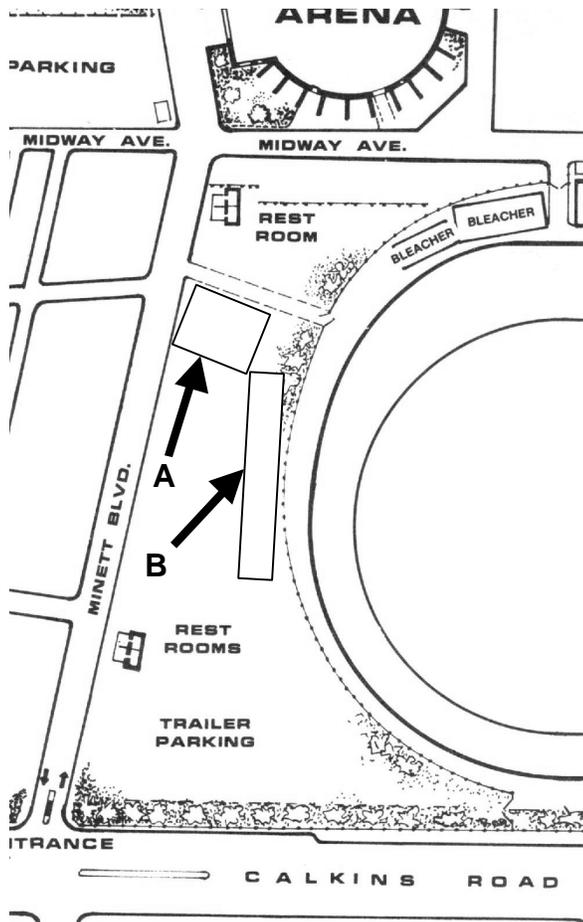
"Grassy Vale"

The traditional RDXA hamfest location, known as the "**Grassy Knoll**," has all but disappeared, victim to new building construction using "our area" that was sold to the developer.

After exhaustive investigation, the quasi-official de facto hamfest committee has located what we hope will be a suitable replacement, the "Grassy Vale." We'll be visiting the site and coming up with a layout for parking, grilling, flea marketing, and general sitting around and rag-chewing. Map below shows proposed location. There's many benefits, including easier access, and proximity to the Dome, food booths, and the rest rooms (but not too close!).

We'll need a bunch of members to be holding flea market passes in order to grab the space we'll need to "stake our

claim" to this as our area (many more than before). Map below shows location, where **A** is the canopied gathering area, and **B** is parking. This area has previously been essentially unoccupied, and the parking goes well behind all the campers along the main road.



A little more humor!

Dave Wright, N2CK

Those that lament over the changes that Amateur Radio is currently undergoing will find the **TRAP** (Traditionalist Radio Amateur Program) website amusing. It can be found at:
<http://w3.gwis.com/~joelr/gearpix.htm>

For Sale

Dave Wright, N2CK

Many of you remember **Jean, N2MXG**, and probably know that he passed away last summer. His ham radio estate is up for sale and his kids have brought most of his equipment back to Rochester. They have asked me to help them with what Jean provided in documentation for most of his equipment including general pricing guidelines. I will gladly take best offers and submit them to the family. If you knew Jean, you knew that he was meticulous and kept his equipment in nice shape. If you have any interest and or questions, you can call Curtis at 716-223-1347 or email me at braun@netacc.net (put N2MXG as part of the subject line). This is a partial list:

Collins 75S3 Receiver (\$250),
Heath SB201 (\$250),
LDG Antenna Tuner AT11 (\$150),
Tektronics 465 oscilloscope (\$100),
Kenwood 731 2m/440 dual band (\$300),
Icom 735 HF transceiver (\$600),
Kenwood 3530 (220 FM) (\$175),
Motorola MT1000, UHF (\$350),
Icom 729 HF (\$700),
Kenwood Twins, 599 (\$350),
Mirage B1016G (\$150),
Kenwood TS-790, 2m,440,1296 (\$1250),
Icom24AT dual band HT (\$150),
Kenwood RC-10 Remote control unit (\$100)
Universal 40' tower,
Yaesu G800 rotor

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	<i>Mike Rundle N1OKL</i>
Secretary-Treasurer	<i>Ed Gable K2MP</i>
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Newsletter Publisher	<i>Dave Wright N2CK</i>

Dues and correspondence

*Ed Gable K2MP
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The RDXA website has moved and is located at: www.qsl.net/rdxa
Check it out.



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