



Meeting  
Tuesday  
May 15<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m.

You worked `em – now see  
the video - **FO0AAA,**  
**Clipperton Island 2000**

Also on the schedule will be  
Field Day discussions. Come  
prepared to raise your hand to  
volunteer for a role.

**ROCHESTER HAMFEST**  
June 1st, 2nd, 3<sup>rd</sup> Save \$2.00.  
General Registration and Flea  
Market space tickets available  
from **Irv Goodman, AF2K**, at  
the May meeting.

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## President's Soapbox

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*Mike Rundle, N1OKL*

If you missed the combined RDXA /  
RVHFG Banquet, you missed an  
enjoyable evening of food, fellowship and  
of course, the awards. Nearly every facet  
of operating and contesting was  
represented. And RDXA itself again  
received the Rochester Cup. This marks  
the second consecutive year the Cup has  
been awarded to RDXA. With one more  
win, this particular Cup will become the  
permanent property of our Club...  
something to keep in mind as you plan  
your VHF contest efforts for next season.

I noted in the calendar that May marks  
our final VE session of the year. So, if you  
or someone you know has been studying  
for an upgrade, the May session will be  
your last test opportunity before fall.

The calendar also reminded me that  
Hamfest and Field Day are both just  
around the corner. Time to sort through  
the shack and shop for flea market sale  
items; make the XYL happy and get rid of  
some of the "junk" cluttering up the  
basement! As for FD, be sure and attend

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the May meeting where planning will commence in earnest.

Unfortunately, I have an out-of-town business commitment and will not be presiding at the next meeting. VP **Fred, W2TZ**, will preside.

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## Editor's Corner

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*Dave Wright, N2CK*

Once again I find myself seconding Mike's thoughts (he's a tough act to follow...). I'm referring to the combined RDXA / RVHF Group Banquet! What I found interesting, other than the opportunity to chat with people I don't see that often, was how each group responded to their particular award presentations. The tag team of **Wayne, N2WK**, and **Chris, K2CS** as presenters and MCs flowed well, with plenty of humor interspersed. Congratulations to **Ed, K2MP** as the well-deserved recipient of the **KE2WK** award. [*Ed note: Ed had volunteered to pick it up when it was done. Surprisingly, he wasn't offered the opportunity!*]

Hamfest is just around the corner. Your unofficial hamfest organizers of **Vic, K1PY**, **Tim, K2CY**, and myself will be doing some shopping to provide drinks and hots and burgers. However, feel free to bring stuff along as well. We all know it's hard to shop on an empty stomach! Also, the RVHF group will be camped out in our corner this year (probably across the street). Let's make them welcome. If you purchased a flea market pass this year, and will be driving in, let one of the above folks know so we can justify (if needed) the amount of space we grab. We'll need around 10 passes. Also, if you have 'em, grab an extra chair or 2 to bring along. I'm sure they'll be appreciated.

The results of the Sweepstakes CW contest are available on the ARRL web site. I'm not going to summarize the results here, in part due to time constraints, and also 'cause I always overlook somebody. So, if you played in this contest, look up the log and see how you fared.

I checked out a couple of web sites I saw posted on the contest reflector and felt they were worthy of reporting. As we're coming into lightning season, the first is [www.lightningstorm.com](http://www.lightningstorm.com). Click on the *view your free lightning map* link and see almost real-time reports of lightning activity. If you're really paranoid, you can sign up for notification services direct to your pager (additional cost of course).

The second site has information on reciprocal licensing information for Amateurs. The site is: [www.qsl.net/oh2mcn/license.htm](http://www.qsl.net/oh2mcn/license.htm). It appears to be pretty comprehensive. It shows an update date of May 8<sup>th</sup>, so hopefully it's filled with up-to-date information.

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## KB2CHC wins W2OMV/K4VOS Scholarship

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*Vic Gauvin, K1PY*

Our own **Kellie Gauvin KB2CHC** has won the first award of the **Bill Buchan W2OMV/Hank Resch K4VOS Memorial Scholarship**, administered by RARA. We can call her our own as she is the daughter of **Vic, K1PY** and "way back when" was for several years the chief operator and callsign holder of our first Field Day Novice Station.

Way back when is hard to say for someone who is now only 24 and pursuing her Master's Degree in Education at Cornell. But it's true -- back before most of the current membership

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remembers, when we had Field Days at Harriet Hollister Spencer State Park way down in Canadice, south of Honeoye Lake (and just several miles south of where Rus K2UA is now). This is around 14 years ago. Whew! Here's what Kellie said about it in the scholarship application.

*I became a Ham when I was 10 yrs. old because I thought it seemed cool. The thought of all the equipment and talking to people in faraway places excited me. I also fell in love with Field Day. I have only missed one Field Day since I got my license. It was always fun to be part of something so big. I based school speeches and Science Fair experiments on Ham Radio (for example, one on propagation entitled "Night vs. Day--The Battle of the Airwaves"). It was also something that my father and I did together. It made me part of something and exposed me to so many fascinating people. Because of this, Ham Radio had a starring role in much of my childhood.*

*Right now because of school, I am not as active as I would like to be. (However, it was quite funny when I first visited the Cornell radio club station and was standing in the doorway, the guys hanging around couldn't believe that a female Ham had shown up!) I have moved several times in the last 3 years, and with school it is very hard for me to do anything else. I do miss all aspects of Radio and am very jealous of my father who gets to contest all the time.*

*One of the greatest things about my involvement in Ham Radio is that as a teacher I have a very real and exciting way to teach my students about technology and even a little physics. When I start teaching, I will be what used to be called a 'shop' teacher, and able to do lots of "hands on" work. So I will have the facility and the equipment to be able to construct Ham Radio equipment and*

*perform experiments with classes. I cannot think of a better way to capture high school students interest than with something that can be as much fun as Ham Radio!*

Since then Field Day involvement has been less, but Kellie has at least dropped in to say Hi each year. This is how she got to meet both Bill and Hank. Her comments...

*I am pleased yet sad to apply for this scholarship. Pleased in that, if I am fortunate to be the recipient, it will help me towards my goal of becoming a high school science teacher. Sad, though, because it's a memorial to two very nice people that I had been fortunate to meet and know slightly.*

*I remember both Bill (W2OMV) and Hank (to those who knew him) (K4VOS) from RDXA Field Days, where they were both very active. I was still a "young kid" at that point, and both of these gentlemen were very warm and welcoming to me. I remember thinking of Bill as a "patriarch" of radio -- he must have been already in his 70's when I first met him, and still super active! He was always the most polite and refined person, with a welcoming smile. I always felt great when he remembered me and said "Hi Kellie" when I'd show up at Field Day. Hank was the same way, but also very light-hearted and jocular. At FD, he was our "Mr. Packet Radio," and he'd always be willing to take the time to show me the setup and how it worked. He also had fun as the natural power guy, and he'd explain that setup to me and everyone else as well. With his easy-going, laid back style, I was surprised to learn that he was a Physicist at Kodak.*

*I think seeing "real people" involved in science helped me in my decision to take that path in my own education. I'm sorry that both of these fine gentlemen became*

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*Silent Keys in so short a time, but I was at least privileged to have known them for some time at least. They will both stay on as fond memories in Ham Radio for me.*

As they will for all of us. Congratulations Kellie!

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## Field Day Planning and Needs

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*Fred Groner W2TZ & Vic Gauvin K1PY*

**FIELD DAY!** Mark your calendars: **June 23 and 24**, with **setup Friday, June 22**.

This is a very active yearly event for RDXA, since members have the opportunity to work side-by-side at one location in a team effort.

The basic setup at Webster Park will almost be the same as last year. We will again operate in the 3A Class. This year, however, *all stations will operate some SSB*.

- The traditional SSB station will operate 75, 40, and 10 SSB using 2el wire beams on each band – yes, a 2el 75m wire beam! [See "HAIR" elsewhere in this issue -- Ed.]
- A second station will operate 80CW, 20CW, and 20SSB using a TA-33 tribander and an 80m dipole on the flagpole using our own GIZMO
- A third station will operate 40CW, 15CW, and 15SSB using 2el wire beams over the wood pile
- The Novice station, ably captained by **Gayle, N2TWI**, is initially planned to be the same as last year using a 10m monobander. Hopefully, we can recruit **Tim, WB2KAO's** Novice Class to help

with the Novice station operation and give Gayle a helping hand

**Bonus points** will be a major area of activity this year, even bigger than before. The ARRL has added 300 additional bonus points, so we can add up to a maximum of 1500 points to our total score this year. These bonus activities provide wonderful opportunities to satisfy the varied interests of our membership, and gives everybody a chance to participate at the level comfortable for them. Here's the breakdown:

- **"Non-traditional mode" demonstrations** -- These may be APRS, ATV, SSTV, or Portable Packet. Non-traditional only implies not used at the main stations. Up to a maximum of 3 can be demonstrated, for **100 points each!** We really need a number of people to set up and run these demos. The rules say nothing about the duration of the demo, so the time involved can be as little as it takes for one demo to as long as everyone would enjoy doing it. Is this a mode you could provide or one you're interested in learning more about and can help out?
- New this year is a 100-point bonus for a **visit by a government official involved in emergency communications**. This official must actually show up at the FD site for us to claim the bonus. We're working this issue. There's a Hillary somebody that got mentioned....
- **Media Publicity** (100 bonus points) must be at least attempted, and a copy of the attempt or the actual media publication included in our final FD report. Help is needed with media publicity.

- **Irv, AF2K** did a great job last year with **message origination** (100 points), **message handling** (100 points), **public info booth** (100 points), and **W1AW bulletin** (100 points). We'd like a few folks to step forward and offer Irv some help with these items this year, especially the information booth.
- **Alternate Power** (100 points) was done last year using solar charged batteries provided by **Ed, K2MP** and a QRP rig provided by **Mike, N1OKL**. Hopefully, Ed and Mike can repeat this year, but if this is an area you're interested in, we bet they'd love a hand.
- **Satellite QSO(s)** (100 points) have been done in previous years by **Walter, NQ2O** and **Scott, K2ZS**. Although only 1 QSO is needed to claim the 100 bonus points, all extra QSOs contribute to the bottom line. Help is needed with the satellite station from setup to operation.
- The **VHF station** has been in the capable hands of **Paul, N2OPW** in previous years. This is another major operation and the potential source of a big bunch of points. The VHF station will need all kinds of help during setup as well as many operators to grab those Q's (all modes: SSB, CW and FM).

These bonus points are a major part of any club's FD effort, and are the cumulative equivalent of many on-the-air hours of operation at the 3 main stations.

Then there's always the matter of our major secondary activity: Food! Recently the approach has been to have individuals or 2 or 3 folks responsible for each meal. And that could be anything from ordering a cold-cut platter from

Wegman's to grilling some succulent sausages with peppers and onions....Mmmmm! This saves any one person from having to accept the onerous burden of satisfying a whole bunch of people for an entire weekend. It seems to have mostly worked out well, but it depends on more people volunteering to take part. Again, if other parts of FD aren't your cup of tea, maybe **this** is the way to participate in an important and meaningful way.

There are other things we haven't covered. Power, tents/shelters, miscellaneous help and things you always need at FD, the all-important help at setup and takedown -- these are the things that make FD the one activity where **everyone is needed** and can contribute in so many ways. This is also what truly makes it an Emergency Preparedness exercise -- as much as we kid about it, it's indeed true -- it's good ol' basic training in how to do things in the field as a team. That's why *we need YOU!!!!* It's the ultimate club and team event!

If you can help fill any FD slots or have any questions about any aspect of FD, no matter how large or small, please contact anyone listed above. The more the merrier!

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## DX of the past - May 1959

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*Ed Gable, K2MP*

Now here's a contest worth going for. The 1959, 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Bermuda as a British colony, saw the Radio Society of Bermuda sponsoring a DX contest with first prize being a one week all expenses paid holiday in Bermuda, including air fare. Then, and still, Afghanistan, YA,

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remained a nice catch made easier by K6IWG operating as YA1IW during his work in country as an aerial surveyor. He was there for 8 months. Working from Svalbard was hard enough for Ivan who had to sign SM5WN/LA/P, but he also had to QRT from May to July while waiting for generator fuel to be delivered. With April first out of the way the pirate reports started coming in. Those logging 6K8GT should have known better, but the 4W1A phony disappointed many. Summer DX should have been good with plans announced for: Albania with OK7HZ/ZA, Ifni by EA4FU, Oman by MP4BBW using SSB and Nepal by I1ZFF. An operation from rare Nepal is pending with Engineers from Cook Electric going to the country for a year. Good equipment is promised from Technical Material Corporation offering a GTP-750 and GPR-90. Pitcairn Island will be tough for a while as Tom Christian, VR6TC, is off to New Zealand for medical treatment lasting up to a year. Italian Somoliland is getting a boost as Ted Henry offers a SSB rig to the only operational station, I5GN. This was the year of the end of Danny Weils' (VP2VB) wandering DX-peditions as YASME II crashed on the remote rocks of Reunion Island. Danny almost lost his life on that one and his stories filled many DX columns in almost all publications. Still ready for more, Danny was making the circuit of DX clubs and Hamfests collecting funds for YASME III. A new product just announced was the Airmaster KW-SB linear amplifier. Using an AX9908 in the final it would output 2 kW pep. Unfortunately, it didn't input any orders and they were never seen again.

#### **Historical Bits from K2MP:**

**1919:** G. Marconi, after starting many ship-to-shore stations and installing hundreds of Marconi sets aboard ships, found himself short of wireless operators.

He turned to Hams and encouraged their activities by forming the *American Wireless Association*, the first AWA.

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## **Add Hair and RUN 'EM – An RDXA Field Day Tradition**

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*Fred Groner, W2TZ*

During the '80s and early '90s, before RDXA discovered its present day site, our Field Day antennas were rather bland, simply consisting of short tribanders and low dipoles.

The first Field Day at our present site in 1994, because of some well positioned tall pine trees and excellent tree spacing, gave us the opportunity to add a little "hair" to our signal without installing elaborate towers and tubing antennas. We decided to utilize those tall pine trees and tried to erect wire beams.

Our first wire beam was truly a beast. It was a four-element 40 meter beam on a 90' rope boom at a height of about 45'. For those who remember, it was a thing of beauty and an excellent piece of geometric art. The reflector was at the flagpole, and the beam extended southwest with the 2<sup>nd</sup> director just making it to the edge of the trees. You could see the thing way up the road entering the site. It was so beautiful that there was a great deal of reluctance to take it down at the end of FD.

Did it work? Over the 24 hour FD operation, it proved its worth, especially during the hours of darkness when the 40m skip went long. Low dipoles during long skip conditions are poor performers, but the 4el wire beam gave us a very strong signal into the west and west coast, and we were able to run stations throughout the night.

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Since our ecstatic 1994 experience with the 4el wire beam, most of the RDXA FD antennas have evolved from dipoles to 2el wire beams. Just this past year's FD, we tried a 2el wire beam on 75 SSB for the first time! **Chris, K2CS** took the initial shot at 75 using the beam, and was able to hold the frequency and run at an excellent rate. All ops were impressed with its performance, and when morning came, we had a historic high of 550 QSOs on 75 SSB! Those who operated had a lot of fun using an antenna normally prohibitive at a home QTH.

Yes, using antennas the likes of which are only possible at a FD site is yet another thing that makes our FD fun. So when people ask "What is the secret of RDXA's FD success?" tell them "**WE ADD HAIR TO OUR SIGNAL AND RUN 'EM!**"

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## 1999-2000 RDXA Year End Awards

*Chris Shalvoy, K2CS*

1st time CQWW SSB	<b>N2OPW</b>
1st time ARRL SSB	<b>W2EZ</b>
1st time ARRL CW	<b>W2RW</b>
Barefoot Contester	<b>K2CS</b>
Top SSB	<b>K2UA</b>
Top CW	<b>W2LC</b>
Most Improved	<b>AF2K</b>

**Megapoint** (1 contest year's time frame, 1999-2000) - **AF2K, K2CS, K2FR, K2UA, K8FC, N2RD, N2WK, W2EZ, W2LC, W2TZ**

### Cumulative Megapoint

<b>K2FR</b>	5m level
<b>K8FC</b>	5m level
<b>W2LC</b>	10m level

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## Bill Becket KE2WK Memorial Award

**K2MP**

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## Contest Calendar

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*Chris Shalvoy, K2CS*

### May, 2001

**26-27 CQWW WPX CW**

### June, 2001

9-10 ARRL June VHF QSO Party  
23-24 **ARRL FIELD DAY**

### July, 2001

14-15 IARU World Championship

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## How's DX?

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*Chris Shalvoy, K2CS*

Well, we come to a much-deserved break in the action. No major contests to speak of this month and unless you're a VHF fan (like me), not too much happening on the hf bands.

For those of you who have no other outside source of information other than this bulletin (and I hope that's NONE of you...), we had a MAJOR flare that completely wiped out HF for days. The A index hit 130 or so... funny though, it didn't happen during CQWW or a P5 DXpedition.

Aurora was the order of the day for the last weekend of March. I got a few hours in, knocked off a few "new ones" and marveled at yet another one of this hobby's too seldomly seen attractions.

I can't stress enough the thrill of some of these other bands. "To each his own", but many, many of your fellow DXer's are past or current VHFer's. It without question hones your skills, be it SSB or CW.

Check this out....

Having worked FO/DL7FT the other nite, I happened in on one of Frank's ragchews. Believe it or not, he has his OWN ZIP CODE!! That's right, all mail with that zip goes to his house. I guess Frank Turek is no stranger to you "seasoned" DXer's... he's been on the trail since 1953 or so.

If you have a chance, I'd get him on the Ausrtals, he's indicated this will be his last DXpedition. He'll be QRV for the next 2 weeks. Cards have been promised by June.

ZD7K is on, easy, but only there `til the end of the week. You should have a few days to get them after reading this... get going!!

**IN THE LOG** (only the good stuff, non-contest)

PY0FZ	(20m RTY)
TK/W8MV	(17m CW)
<b>8Q7DD</b>	(20m RTY)
HI9/DL7DF	(160m, 80m, 30m, 15m CW)
JW4WJ	(20m CW)
TX8G	(15m CW)
<b>H40RW</b>	(40m CW)
<b>EY8MM</b>	(17m CW)
FO/DL7FT	(17m, 15m SSB)
CE0Y/W7XU	(20m RTY)
<b>4L2M</b>	(20m CW)
<b>ZD7K</b>	(40m, 10m CW, 10m, 17m SSB)
<b>SU9ZZ</b>	(17m CW)

**IN THE MAIL** (no buro packs)

<b>SU9ZZ</b>	(12m CW)
<b>BX4AB</b>	(15m CW)
EW3LB	(80m CW)
<b>CU7BC</b>	(6m SSB)
<b>4L1BR</b>	(20m RTY)
<b>JX7DFA</b>	(10m CW)
<b>VK0MM</b>	(20m, 30m CW, 20m SSB)

<b>9M6JU</b>	(10m CW)
8P1A	(80m SSB)
<b>J5Z</b>	(15m SSB)
<b>YK9A</b>	(12m, 40m CW)

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## Science Exploration Days

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*Bob Hunter, NG2P*

It is that time of year again, Science Exploration Days are here Wednesday and Thursday May 16 and 17 at St. John Fisher Student Life Center.

Area industry, colleges and other organizations put on the Science Fair for the benefit of approximately 3500 area high school students. Plus it is open to the public Wed evening. The focus is to try to interest students in science and engineering fields. Many of us hams got our start in engineering through ham radio.

The fair is not only a display in the gym but there are talks by area specialists throughout each day. I mention this if anyone might be interested in doing a presentation next year let me know.

In the past, area ham radio clubs have put up a display in the student life center (gym). And this year I hope it will be the same. We have had HF contacts, 2M FM, ATV, Packet, laser, 'ole sparky. RG&E allowed us to hang a lite weight ATV camera on their R/C helium filled balloon one year and we monitored on some TV's we had set up.

Participants are also invited to a very nice lunch both days, including wine and cheese.

Wed 8:30-ish set up  
10AM - 2PM Students  
Wed 7 to 9PM Open to the Public  
Thurs 8:30-ish setup  
10AM - 2PM Students

This is a busy week for a lot of us as Dayton is that weekend. But if you can please help



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out, and please spread the word to other clubs even if you can't attend.

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## **7MHZ realignment addressed at WRC-2003**

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*From the ARRL*

The FCC's World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 Advisory Committee has approved several "preliminary views" --or PVs—on expected WRC-03 agenda items. Among these is a US preliminary view supporting a realigned 40-meter amateur allocation at 6900-7200 kHz on a worldwide primary basis. The FCC is soliciting public comment on all preliminary views by May 9.

The preliminary view was developed by Informal Working Group 6, which is dealing with most issues of concern to amateurs. ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Walt Ireland, WB7CSL, serves as vice chairman of IWG-6. The PV says that, alternatively, the US could support a 7000-7300 kHz worldwide primary amateur allocation.

Only amateurs in Region 2, which includes North and South America, have access to 7000-7300 kHz; the rest of the world has only 7000-7100 kHz, with the upper 200 kHz allocated for broadcasting. ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, says the ARRL would prefer going back to the pre-World War II worldwide 7000-7300 kHz scheme. Some broadcasters, on the other hand, would

like amateurs worldwide at 6800-7100 kHz, he said, so they would not have to move. A Radio Conference Subcommittee backgrounder from the Inter-department Radio Advisory Committee--which reflects views of the federal government--said the issue "is liable to be very controversial."

Further complicating matters, Rinaldo said, is the fact that international HF broadcasters want to fold the 7 MHz realignment question into another WRC-03 agenda item examining the adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations from approximately 4 MHz to 10 MHz. Broadcasters are expected to seek additional HF elbow room to accommodate digital transmissions to complement their existing AM channels.

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## **On the Block**

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*Dave Wright, N2CK*

Icom 275H, 2 meter multimode base, 100w. w/ voice mod.

Icom 375A, 220 meg. multimode base, 30w. w/ P.S. , voice mod.

Icom 475H, 440 meg. multimode base, 100w. w/ voice mod.

Icom 575H, 6 & 10 meter multimode base, 100w. w/ preamp, voice mod.

all excellent inside and out.

WA2ZNC, Len, 716-229-5470, email-wa2znc@juno.com

## 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*

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