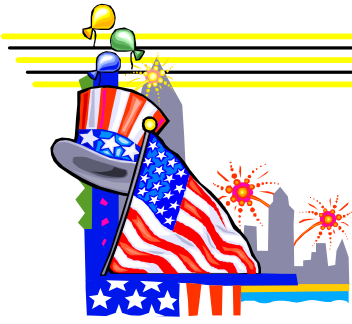


# ROCHESTER

# DX

# ASSOCIATION

[rdxa.com](http://rdxa.com)



ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JULY 2002

## Summer Social Meeting

July 16<sup>th</sup> 20:00 local

Join your fellow RDXAers for a social gathering at our usual watering hole

Scotch & Sirloin  
Winton Plaza

### President's Soapbox

Fred Groner - W2TZ

Post Field Day Greetings to all. As the newly elected President of RDXA, I would like to say thanks to Mike, N1OKL who served as RDXA President for the last two years. I'm glad Mike will remain nice and close to RDXA since he is now our new RDXA Newsletter editor. I know that I'm going to have to rely on Mike's past expertise as President during my term. Thanks to Dave, N2CK, who did a great job as the previous RDXA Newsletter editor. Thanks to Scott, NY2A who served as RDXA Sec-Treas during the last year.

Field Day went off very well this year. Setup on Friday was just amazing, mainly because of the good turnout. Except for a few minor details, all antennas were up easily by Pizza time at 5:00pm. The open wire 80 meter all-band dipole which served as the main GOTA antenna and the 80 meter KW antenna was the first antenna to go up. The RDXA Purple Heart goes to Paul, N2OPW who shed blood for RDXA when he scratched up his legs pretty badly trying to maneuver through the sharp brushes and thicket to anchor the northwest leg of the 80 meter dipole. During take-down a less treacherous path was discovered leading to the end support, so next year the installation of the 80 meter dipole should be less brutal.

Next, the RDXA tribander was erected on the flag pole using GIZMO-1. This was done in record time and the tribander was pointed in a good south west direction. Simultaneously, a few of the setup crew erected the 2-element 40 meter wire beam in the field. This was also done quickly, and the elements were easily aligned and required no additional adjustment.

New this year was a diesel generator which was placed slightly south of the flag pole, allowing heavy power cables to be easily run to the 40 meter tent and VHF station in the field and to the

other stations located under the barn overhang. This generator was unusually quiet, by RDXA standards, and it didn't seem to moan at all under load when the two KW stations, the VHF station, and the GOTA stations were transmitting.

This year we were fortunate that Jim, N2JMH volunteered his impressive rover station for use as our VHF station. The rover was located in the field north of the flag pole. Jim obviously broke all RDXA set-up records with his rover station. Since the Webster Park location is such a poor location for VHF, it was great to have the N2JMH rover and it appeared that Jim was able to add VHF QSOs which we would have not been able to work, otherwise without Jim's help.

After the Saturday, 2 PM start time, all rigs were well-manned for the 24 hour Field Day period, even in the wee hours of the morning. Although, 2A offers less operating opportunity relative to our usual 3A operation, everybody appears to have had a reasonable amount of operating time on the two KW and GOTA stations. The GOTA station also proved valuable as a training station for operators not familiar with the operation of CT. 15-30 minutes of tutoring on the GOTA station was enough for anyone to master the software.

Since RDXA never operated KWs before at the Webster Park site, we did not know what to expect in terms of station-to-station interference. Special thanks to W2FU who installed bandpass filters at each station to minimize any potential interference problems. The filters seemed to work well since we had essentially no major show stopping interference problems. The biggest pleasant surprise was that we did not have interference on 40 meters between the 40 KW and GOTA stations. We were able to operate a KW on 40 SSB and operate 40 CW using the 80 meter open-wire dipole on the GOTA station. This was significant since 40 meters was considered an essential band for the GOTA station if we were going to make the 400 QSO goal in order to claim the 100 point GOTA station bonus. The GOTA station was able to achieve the bonus points goal by making over 400 QSOs.

Finally, Cable Ch-9, R-News came to tape segments of the RDXA Field Day operation which were aired later on Saturday night. They did a great job. I have the R-news tape and have been passing it on to those who want to see it. Really good action operating by W1TY, and K1PY gave an enthusiastic description of what Field Day was all about.

73 and have a good summer.

## Editor's Corner

Mike Rundle - N1OKL

Welcome to the Summer Editions of the RDXA Bulletin. During July and August our newsletter, like our meetings, takes a different direction. Most notably, the Bulletin is distributed only in electronic format, available in PDF format for download from the RDXA website.

As the new Bulletin Editor, I invite you to submit articles, stories, photos, etc. for publication. Please send to my attention at either of the following addresses: [n1okl@attglobal.net](mailto:n1okl@attglobal.net) or [rundlem@kpgraphics.com](mailto:rundlem@kpgraphics.com). If your submission is greater than 1/4 Mb, please send only to the work email address.

Any editable text format will do: MS Word, plain text emails, etc. I do however, have one text formatting request which will make my life as Editor a bit easier. Thanks!

**Spaces**—please, regardless of what format you send, do not put two (2) spaces at the end of sentences, or after any punctuation. This is an old typewriter monospacing convention, which was used to improve readability. It is not needed with the unit-spaced fonts in use today. And, if I don't catch these double spaces, they sometimes cause problems during PDF file conversion.

I will be on vacation during the first week of August, so publication for that month may be slightly delayed. (Work me from NAØ55, Vinalhaven Island, Maine; see photo.)



QTH rented by N1OKL and XYL on NAØ55. The home is located on the Southeast side of the Island, right on the ocean. Should be great for sunrises and DX!

## July & August Contests / Events

- RAC Canada Day, CW, SSB----- 1 July
- IARU HF Championship, CW, SSB ----- 13, 14 July
- CQ WW VHF, all modes ----- 20, 21 July
- RSGB IOTA Contest, CW, SSB----- 27, 28 July
- Int'l. Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend ----- 17, 18 August

## September Contests

- YO HF DX, CW, SSB ----- 31 July, 1 September
- IARU Region 1 Field Day----- 7, 8 September
- All Asia DX Contest, SSB----- 7, 8 September
- Worked All Europe DX, SSB ----- 14, 15 September
- CQWW RTTY DX, RTTY----- 28, 29 September

For the latest contest info, rules, changes, updates, etc., check the SM3CER website at: <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/index.htm>

## RDXA 2002-03

## New Officers

At the June meeting, the following members were elected to serve as RDXA Officers for the 2002-03 year. Congratulations to all; and thanks to the outgoing officers for their service to our Club.

- President..... Fred Groner – W2TZ
- Vice President..... Raj Dewan – N2RD
- Secretary/Treasurer ..... Charlie Kuhfuss – WB2HJV
- BOD ..... Mike Rundle – N1OKL (ex-Pres., automatic)
- BOD ..... Scott Blystone – NY2A
- BOD ..... Dave Wright – N2CK
- BOD ..... Paul Meyers – N2OPW

## RDXA 2002 Field Day Results

Vic Gauvin - K1PY

Below, is the RAW contact data manually captured from screens before computer shutdown. Also, VHF is estimated from verbally reported data, and the mode numbers are likely wrong (so I put more phone than cw).

Updates and comparisons (even though apples/oranges) to follow as available.

## RDXA 2002 Field Day Summary (Prelim) Class 2A (QRO)

Band	SSB	CW	Total
80m	401	261	662
40m	1338	653	1991
20m	750	365	1115
15	0	0	0
10	0	0	0
GOTA	168	232	400
VHF	168	2	170
SAT	0	0	0
NAT	10	6	16
<b>QSOs</b>	<b>2835</b>	<b>1519</b>	<b>4354</b>
QSO Pts	2835	3038	5873
Pwr Mult	2835	3038	5873
Bonus Pts			1400
<b>Total Score</b>			<b>7273</b>

## 2002 RDXA FD Photos

Mike Rundle - N1OKL

The following is a photo essay of the annual RDXA pilgrimage to Webster Park for Field Day operation.

As W2TZ noted in his very complete description of our operation, this year's event differed from past outings in several ways:

- Only 2 HF stations—instead of our usual 3—were activated, thus putting us in the 2A class.
- We ran high power (1kW) on the 2 HF stations.
- Our non-competitive effort made for a relaxed atmosphere in which many members spent time chewing the rag and getting to know one another better.
- The GOTA (Get-On-The-Air) station—which replaced the old Novice-Tech station, gave many a chance to get on the air and work their first FD contacts ever.
- The 25kW diesel generator provided by Dick Young and Admar Supply was quiet, reliable and needed no tending.

Setup

Friday, 21 June



K2MP, W1TY and N2OPW relax after an afternoon of aerial assembly.



N2USB, WB2EFU and AF2K enjoying a cold 807 after work in the field.



AF2K setting up the RDXA Public Information Tent. As in past years, Irv made certain that we put our best foot forward as we present amateur radio to Park visitors. Looks like Irv is taking another break here. Well, it was a hot afternoon!



The RDXA yagi; our trusty TA-33 again hangs on the 1939 Boy Scout flagpole, suspended from the K1PY patented GIZMO-1. This gets easier every year!



Power Arrives! N2QKL hooks up the main power line from the 25kW diesel generator, donated by Admar Supply Company.



Electricity, just like at home! N2OPW wires in the 22VAC lines for the amplifiers. In addition to securing the generator, N2QKL supplied this distribution panel. Hookup was quite literally, just like home.



The "WhisperWatt" generator control panel. This is how power should be!



K1PY and N2RD make the first call on the kW station. It works! And hey, nothing blew up. Amazing!



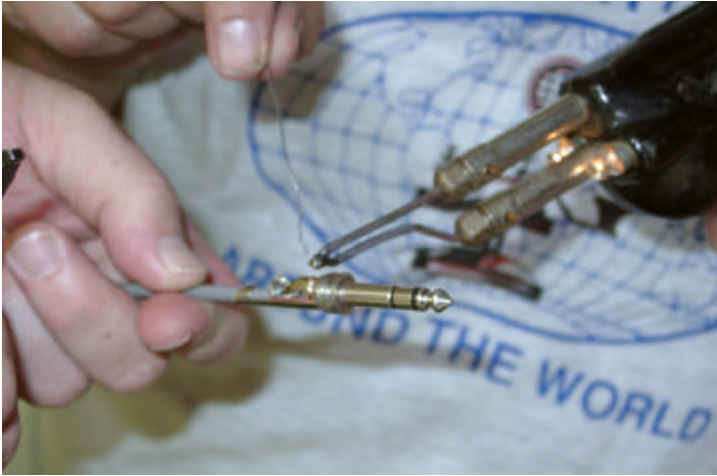
The N2JMH VHF/UHF rover arrives; some assembly required on the array. Boy, you couldn't ask for a better field for Field Day. Even the grass was recently mowed; guess we got our \$75 worth.



Now that's what I call an antenna farm. And imagine, it's portable!



No, the earth didn't fall off it's axis. It's the only way I could get all the action in one photo. The N2JMH antenna array rises.



No operating event is complete without last minute soldering and patch cable assembly. FD 2002 was no exception.



W2FE, W2TZ and N2CK checking out the GOTA station for interference. Nil!



W1TY and K2MP making patch cables while KD2WL checks the bands. Better hurry guys, less than an hour to go.



The tent in its usual position in the field. Because of the kW's the "tent" was dedicated to 40m SSB and CW operation this year.



Our Club Banner and Old Glory grace the old barn. Meanwhile an anxious group checks out the GOTA station (right) for interference from the kW stations. Thanks to bandpass filters supplied by W2FU, and careful placement of antennas by W2TZ and K1PY, the GOTA station operated without interference from the kW's. Just goes to show what a little planning and applied engineering can do.

**The Games Begin                      Saturday Afternoon, 22 June**



K1PY minutes before the start in the 40m tent. Note the spacious interior and uncluttered layout—a result N1OKL's tent remodeling service (removal of that useless and inconvenient wall between the two halves of the tent).



Sometimes the only thing to do once the action begins on the bands is to take a nap. NG2P rests his eyes.



W2TZ delivers vital supplies to the chefs. Gotta keep 'em cooking.



N2VNO demonstrates ATV while N2RD and NG2P look on. Are you awake Bob? Pay attention now, there will be a quiz later.

### The Games Continue

Sunday, 23 June



KC2IDT runs 'em and N2JGU logs 'em at the GOTA station Sunday morning; making QSOs with the mysterious and elusive "church" crowd, no doubt.



Our chefs for Saturday evening dinner: N2OPW and KD2WL. Manning the grills is hot work. Where's W2TZ?



Our chefs for Sunday lunch: N2CK and KD2WL. They're looking for W2TZ too. This grilling is thirsty business.

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## Field Day Participation Pins

Irv Goodman - AF2K

**2002 Field Day Participation Pins** are in. If you ordered one, you can pick it up at the July Summer Social at the S&S Tuesday evening, July 16th.

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## Classified Ads

### Trans World Electronics T1000 1000w linear amplifier.

Broadband, Solid State, No Tune, 2–30 MHz. Manual plus Installation & Service Manual. Excellent condition and performance. Prefer to sell local or within 150 miles of Rochester. Asking \$2000. Irv Goodman, AF2K, (585) 671-4430 or AF2K@juno.com

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## A New Ham in the Family

Doug Stewart - N2BEG

*Can you remember what it was like taking your first amateur exam? Remember the thrill of actually passing? N2BEG chronicles his son Ben's experience.*

I thought I would take this opportunity to write something for the upcoming newsletter. I have not submitted anything since Fred was the editor, so I guess I'm a little overdue. For those that don't even know who I am (since I rarely make a meeting any more), the name is Doug and I have recently been joined in the shack by my 9 year old son Ben who passed his technician test at the last RDXA test session on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June.

Ben decided to do his "expert project" for his fourth grade class on ham radio. Prior to this he had only had a casual interest in anything I had been doing in the shack, (although he always liked going on the roof) so I was surprised when he decided on this for his project. (His mother may have had some influence here.) anyway, as a coup de grace we figured if he took his test and passed he would truly be an "expert" and probably get a good grade too.

After he decided to try the test, we picked up the study guide from Radio Shack and I started to go over it with him. I have to say after looking over some of the material I was very apprehensive about his chances given the timeframe. This was 2 weeks before the hamfest and his first shot at the test. Some of this stuff was news to me since I took my last test 8 years ago and a lot of it was real lost in the gray matter from my novice days from 1978, but onward through the fog we went.

Well the hamfest test session went pretty much as expected. Ben missed it by quite a few but it was a very good experience for him and made him that much more determined to try again. (Was this **my** son?) We crammed some more and I was still feeling like this is a lot of material to cover with a 4<sup>th</sup> grader who had no knowledge of anything in the book 2 weeks before. Ben continued to amaze me with what he picked up, remembered and yes actually learned! They are truly sponges at that age, not like most of us who need to have things beat into our heads multiple times in order to get even a glimmer of understanding—well that's my experience anyway.

The next testing session was the Kodak session in building 28 which was the following Tuesday. I still thought he needed more time but since all this new fangled VE testing stuff lets you take the test as many times as you want we figured why not? As luck would have it, we received some bad information on the start time and wound up missing the exam that night. More time to study, but was there another session before school was out on the 21<sup>st</sup>?

After frantically calling a number of folks and searching the web, we found out the gang in Horseheads (my old stomping grounds) had a session scheduled for that weekend. I also had talked to Raj at that time and it was then he set up the session for the 18<sup>th</sup> after a couple other folks expressed interest in taking exams that night.

Well, Saturday morning we were off to the NYSEG building in Horseheads for another try. Ben took his time and after what seemed like eternity the VEs proclaimed he had missed it by 2, but he also had 2 answers for a couple of questions! He told me he must have not completely erased a couple of answers he had changed and they had to mark them wrong, arrgh! Well they let him try it again while we were there this time checking his answer sheet carefully. After examining his test for another eternity the powers that be said he missed it by 1. Ben was pretty glum, but still determined to get it on the next try. So close.

Now it was crunch time. He knew his stuff he told me, he would definitely get it next time. I decided to not push him. He had studied so hard and learned so much in such a short time that I thought he needed some time to regroup. If he didn't make it, it wasn't the end of the world he would just do it over the summer at a more normal pace I decided. We didn't pick up the book again and headed down to 111 Westfall on the following Tuesday evening.

Well, Mike Ed and Raj were the VEs there along with one other guy taking his tech also. They all encouraged Ben to take his time and just do his best and I think it was barely 15 minutes when he proclaimed he was done and handed in his sheet. I asked him if he wanted to go over it again just in case, but he said no and that he was done. I was ready for the bad news figuring he had thrown in the towel and was sick of this stuff, but he then confided in me that he thought he passed and only had a couple questions that he had no idea at all about and just guessed. The crack VE team put on their best stone faces as they each examined Ben's test one at a time until Mike finally reached over the table with a big grin and shook Ben's hand. He was so thrilled. He couldn't wait to tell his mom. He didn't stop smiling the whole way home. I only wish his grandpa, whom he never met, could have seen his grandson pass his test. I think he did anyway. Ben is now the first of the third generation of hams in the Stewart family and by far the youngest. His little brother wants to start studying now. I think we need a bigger shack.

Our thanks go out again to Raj who set up the last minute session and to Mike and Ed for sitting in on yet another exam. Look for Ben on .79 and above. He is KC2JXP as of last Friday and he got an A on his project on the last week of school.

We hope everyone has a great summer.

73s from N2BEG and KC2JXP

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## Secretary's Notepad

Charlie Khufuss - WB2HJV

It's never too early to begin thinking about your RDXA membership renewal! For those wishing to renew by mail for the 2002-03 season, please send your remittance (\$15) to me at the address below. **If you are sending a check, please write your callsign on the check.**

**Rochester DX Association**  
c/o Charles Kuhfuss WB2HJV  
55 Stoney Path Lane  
Rochester, NY 14626

Should you need to contact me for any reason, you may reach me at the following addresses and numbers:

H: 585-225-4754 / [chaznancy@aol.com](mailto:chaznancy@aol.com) / [wb2hvj@frontiernet.net](mailto:wb2hvj@frontiernet.net)  
W: 585-783-2175 / [charles.kuhfuss@transport.alstom.com](mailto:charles.kuhfuss@transport.alstom.com)

As a suggestion from Scott, it will be helpful for those writing checks to include their callsign on the check.

Scott has e-mailed me all the club's electronic files. I also have the briefcase with membership cards, petty cash in the tupperware container, etc. Today I opened a totally free checking account with M&T with ATM access and no minimum balance or monthly service charge. There is a branch near work and home both that will be convenient. Scott and I transferred \$1300 from the Charter One account that he was using. Scott still has four outstanding checks he is waiting on to clear. He will then close out the account at Charter One after they come through and give me the remaining money in cash.

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### New RDXA Shirts Arrive

Vic Gauvin - K1PY

#### The new RDXA shirts have arrived!

If you ordered one of the new RDXA shirts, I have your order. See me at the S&S on most Fridays, or at next week's S&S Summer Social, or call and make other arrangements to pick up your shirt.

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### Propagation *AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, July 1991*

Solar Flux Range ----- 159 – 251

**General**—Our late spring DX season on 15 Meters has passed its peak, and was interrupted by some intense geo storms. Conditions were very good between storms, but now it is July and summer MUFs are at their lowest. Day-path signals will usually be weaker than in June. The long haul paths on 15 in the spring and summer are combination day/night paths. For example, our best morning path leads to Asia (where it is evening), while signals across the day path (Europe) are mostly weak. True nighttime paths are open to lower latitudes, such as Africa.

**20 Meters**—Most DX activity will move to 20 due to the weaker propagation on 15. Early morning is still be best time to operate, with Asia, the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and southern Africa all open at once.

**Historic DX**—There are two important expeditions we need to mention here: Afghanistan and Burma. Paths to both countries are nearly over the pole—one to the east and the other west. On 15, these paths will be marginally open for many hours of the day. *[If you are looking to work the current YA operators, this is sound advice.— Ed.]* The YA will peak in late evening and the XZ in mid to late morning. Openings on 20 will be shorter, but the short path

openings will be pipelines. The YA should be loud before and after our sunset, with possible long path to XZ at the same time. The best XZ opportunity is the first two hours after sunrise, coincident with long path propagation to YA! (These expeditions will probably not be active simultaneously.) Both plan to operate the 17 meter WARC band, and this could be a good place to catch them without a massive pileup. Forget 10 Meters.

The XZ may not be easy to work. Romeo's signals from YA and 1S (Spratly) were very elusive, as he missed the narrow windows into North America almost every day. If he brings someone along who understands propagation, Burma should be very workable.

73, de Roy - AD5Q / Houston  
<http://www.qth.com/ad5q/>

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### Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2002 June 04

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2002 Jul 10	130	10	3
2002 Jul 11	135	8	3
2002 Jul 12	130	8	3
2002 Jul 13	130	15	3
2002 Jul 14	135	12	3
2002 Jul 15	140	12	3
2002 Jul 16	145	14	3
2002 Jul 17	145	10	3
2002 Jul 18	145	8	3
2002 Jul 19	145	8	3
2002 Jul 20	145	12	3
2002 Jul 21	145	10	3
2002 Jul 22	145	10	3
2002 Jul 23	145	8	3
2002 Jul 24	140	7	2
2002 Jul 25	140	7	2
2002 Jul 26	145	10	3
2002 Jul 27	145	10	3
2002 Jul 28	145	10	3
2002 Jul 29	145	10	3
2002 Jul 30	145	7	2
2002 Jul 31	145	7	2
2002 Aug 01	140	12	3
2002 Aug 02	135	15	3
2002 Aug 03	135	10	3
2002 Aug 04	130	10	3
2002 Aug 05	130	12	3



# ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION

W2RDX

rdxa.com

This Bulletin is the official organ of the Rochester DX Association and is published monthly, September through June, prior to each monthly meeting.

All those with an interest in amateur radio and DXing and contesting are cordially invited to any meeting. Meetings are held at 19:30 local time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Location is the auditorium of the Monroe County Social Services Bldg., 111 Westfall Rd., Rochester, NY.

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