

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

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



## Regular Meeting

March 19<sup>th</sup> 19:30 local

111 Westfall Road  
Monroe County Buildings

This month's program is the famous (or perhaps infamous) **DX Quiz** created by the diabolical and notorious team of *Ed Gable, K2MP* and *Mike Rundle, N1OKL*. Come prepared to test your knowledge, impress your friends, and maybe even learn a few things!

*Bring a writing instrument.*

## March is a VE Testing Month

Remember, preregistration now required

*Note potential meeting room change at 111 Westfall—to room # 858 if asbestos removal work has begun.*

## Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin  
Winton Plaza

new ones for my DXCC total. Though I'm never likely to become a major contender, I must admit that I am finding the excitement of contests more alluring each year.

Speaking of contests, it's official. We will once again be joining with RVHFG for a combined awards banquet this year. Details are furnished elsewhere in this issue; see Paul, N2OPW for tickets. Last year's event was a great success and I hope to see more RDXAers at the 2002 Banquet.

With spring just around the corner—hopefully—it's time to start thinking about summer operating events. First and foremost is of course, Field Day. Fred, W2TZ and Vic, K1PY—our capable FD coordinators—will be looking for assistance in all areas. This year's QRO operation, the addition of South American stations, and the GOTA station, should make for an interesting and fun time. If you have ideas or want to get involved, contact Fred or Vic.

Other notable summertime events include the IARU HF championship and IOTA contest, both in July. As you are making vacation plans, why not take along a portable rig and include one of these fun events in your itinerary. August of course, is the month for the International Lighthouse weekend. Several RDXAers are considering a venture to operate from the recently-restored lighthouse on Fourth Lake in the Adirondacks. Contact Chris, K2CS or myself if you are interested.

All in all, this summer is shaping up to be a fun time on the air. Now, if we can just get through the rest of the winter without another windstorm...

QRU es CU at the meeting.

### President's Soapbox

By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

We opened the February meeting with the question, "How many pounds of aluminum do you have at what height?" Maybe we ought to ask the same question in March and see how much of that total has survived! I hope your aerials weathered last weekend's wind storm. Many I fear, are going to be doing some serious antenna work in the coming spring and summer months. There's no shortage of antenna experience amongst RDXA members, so if your RF radiators have fallen victim to Aeolus' recent excesses, don't hesitate to call on your fellow Club members for assistance.

Did you operate in the recent ARRL DX contests? I didn't get on for the SSB event, but I had great fun in the CW operation. I thought conditions were excellent and even managed to snag a few

### Editor's Corner

By Dave Wright - N2CK

As I write this column, the winds have diminished a bit. When I ventured outside this morning to fetch the paper, I had to inspect all the elevated aluminum and wire. Thankfully it was all still present, and not somewhere around Greece.

I participated in both ARRL contests, and had a great time. One thing of particular note, I never used 30db of attenuation as much as I did in the phone contest. Another little trick I tried was to turn off the monitor circuit to give my ears a break from the noise floor while I was transmitting. I found a pileup I couldn't break, for a station in the Azores. However I did work some nice stuff. I didn't work as many Japan stations as in the past, worked one Australian,

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and no New Zealand. I did work into a new part of the world for me, that being Singapore.

During the phone contest I came across a neat way to deal with those DX stations that don't like to identify themselves. Late in the contest, I had set a goal of reaching 500 Qs. As I tuned across the band, I heard stations I figured I had already worked, but who weren't giving their call. Rather than wait until they decided to finally give their call, I called them. More often than not, they reported I was a dupe! This technique saved me the keystrokes of having to check them in my log. The couple of times it was a valid Q, I respectfully asked for a fill of their call. Hopefully a couple of operators picked up on the number of dupes that called them late in the game.

I have a new feature I would like to see added to contest logging software. I believe a "Net in Progress" function should be added to contest software. Once again, I was confronted with angry netheads while I tried to call CQ on 20m. I was at 14.302.8. I asked at least 4 times, using a vertical, and a tribander pointed at Europe, and heard no dissenting voices indicating that I was interfering with ongoing conversations. So, hearing nothing, I started to call. After a couple of minutes of calling (with no takers by the way), someone comes up on my frequency and starts ragging on me because I'm interfering with a maritime net on 14.300.00! After explaining (or trying to) that I had asked 4 times about the frequency usage (using different antennas to listen as well), I decided to leave the frequency and wander down the band. It was actually more productive anyway as I worked a few new multiplier stations. Anyway, back to my original thought, nets that have been around for a while, probably have published schedules. How difficult would it be to provide a look-up table to provide a warning that a specific net will be starting at 1400Z? Also, for those that interface their rig with their logging software, have the feature read the rig frequency, and warn when you are getting close to a net in progress, or happen to choose a frequency where a net usage is imminent. Think about it. I never partake in nets (other than the very occasional Sunday night 2m net), so I don't know when/where they are going to be located. The folks who insist on their right to hold their net in the middle of a crowded band in the heat of the contest can generate some clear spectrum (maybe a stretch here) around their net in progress, and everybody will get along a little better!

I'm going to finish my column with a plug for some logging software I purchased quite a while ago. It is DX4WIN (<http://www.dx4win.com>). I recently took the time to import all of the contest logs I could find, going back to 1997, as well as some paper-logged Qs I knuckled in by hand. I then took a stack of cards I had received via the bureau, and proceeded to find them in my log to note those Qs were now confirmed. I also manually entered a stack of stateside QSO information from cards I had received in the past. Once all my confirmed QSL cards were recorded, all it took was one simple query to determine that I was 4 states shy of WAS, and that I had QSOs with those states in my logs. I quickly got requests ready for the states I needed (Hawaii, Wyoming, Rhode Island, and Tennessee) and shipped them out. I now have Hawaii confirmed on 4 bands and both modes, thanks to KH6R. I anxiously await the rest of them. Seeing how easy it was to check WAS, I tried DXCC. What a shock to my system! I have 54 confirmed on phone and 12 on CW. Guess the next step for me is to figure out how the QSL labeling function works, and get a batch ready for the ARRL to send out for me.

Whew, I don't think I've been this verbose in quite a while. See you at the meeting. Don't forget to hook up with Paul, N2OPW to get your banquet tickets. The combined function was a lot of fun last year, and now that we've shared common ground at the hamfest, and gotten to know folks more, I'm sure that this year will be a hoot as well.

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## DX Quiz, Questions

by Fred Groner - W2TZ

RDXA achieving a first place finish in 3A in the 2001 Field Day was not done without a lot of down and dirty work and sweat. Much of this involved setup jobs, which are, simply put, grunt jobs—but well-appreciated grunt jobs.

**Question:** "What is the most honored and revered grunt job at RDXA Field Day?"

**Question:** "Name the 3 all-time RDXAers who have demonstrated service at Field Day doing this grunt job above and beyond the call of RDXA duty?"

**Hint:** The guys who bring the food and beer don't count!

**Answer:** See page 5.

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## DX of the Past

By Ed Gable - K2MP

There was lots of good DX this month as new stations became QRV from such delightful spots as Heard Island VKØWR, Norfolk Island VK2BRJ/9, Christmas Island VK9XI, Solomon Islands VR4EZ, Brunei VS5TJ and New Hebrides YJ8RG. You needed great patience to log the only Marion Island station ZS1MI. His WW2 vintage receiver was so unselective that he could only copy one station on the air at one time! Further, his warbly, low power AM station often drifted out of the band and you had to wait until he came back again. Nonetheless, he logged hundreds of DXers via careful net operations.

Although it's commonplace to work DXCC in a weekend contest today, it was first done this month by Katachi Nose, KH6IJ. Nose was a legend in high speed CW and a master at rapid QSOs. If you answered his CW with a standard 2x2 call (you send his call twice, your call twice) and he came back to you with a snappy report, you felt good about the QSO. What you didn't know is that he worked two or three other stations while you were calling!

KH6IJ was a guest at an RDXA meeting in the 1960s. Local VHF DX made the news when Victor, New York's Hank Blodgett, W2UTH, worked ZD8NK on 6 meters. This was newsworthy enough to get a nice picture of Hank, in his shack, in QST.

And you thought the last Russia prefix shuffle was difficult, it happened this month too. The UA1 through UAØ prefixes became standard for the Northern portions of Russia with UAØ covering a huge portion of Asiatic Russia. The mostly confusing UD through UL covered the Southern portions. Easy with a map, but knowing who became what was a challenge.

From the pages of QST, National Radio Company introduced their NCL-2000 Linear Amplifier with a pair of 8122 tubes. Although not intended for Amateur use, on the same pages, Rochester's own RF Communications announced a line of rugged, commercial 1 kW HF transceivers based on their successful URT-23 Navy transmitter. So successful was this amplifier, using not one but two 4CX1500B final tubes, that it was in continuous production for over 20 years. A young local engineer, with the call sign K2MP, was on the original design team.

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**DXCC List w/ Beam Headings****By Dave Wright N2CK**

Check out <http://www.njdx.org/dxcclist.shtml>. By entering a starting point either via a predefined city, or using latitude and longitude, this site will generate a DXCC country list with beam headings, long path headings, distance (in miles), latitude/longitude, continent and CQ zone. Check it out.

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**Ducie Island****From the ARRL DX Letter**

**Ducie Island VP6/D** –The Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association expects to be QRV beginning March 12 for one week. Two stations will be QRV on 15 meters using CW and SSB for 24 hours a day, with stations active on the other bands as well. An additional station will be QRV on 6 meters, and some activity using RTTY is expected as well. QSL via operators' instructions.

Additional information (from the DX-News email reflector): the main frequencies for this operation are 21.020 for CW and 21.295 for SSB, 24 hours a day. Note please, that the expedition will have both fifteen meter frequencies QRV at the same time.

Other frequencies are: 14.195 for SSB and 14.020 for CW; 28.495 for SSB.

If conditions on the higher bands are poor, they will use 7045 for SSB and 7005 for CW.

The operators will not be QRV on 75/80/160 and not on WARC bands until the last part of the operation. A frequency for CW on WARC will be announced later.

The starting date will be released when I have their estimated time of arrival. The call will not be released until the last minute.

From: af2c@njdx.org as per WA2MOE (Pilot Station).

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**March Contests**

ARRL DX SSB ----- 2, 3 March  
BARTG Worldwide RTTY-----16-18 March  
Russian DX (CW/SSB) ----- 16,17 March  
CQ Worldwide WPX, SSB----- 30, 31 March

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**April Contests**

46<sup>th</sup> Annual QCWA QSO Party----- 6-7 April  
Japan Int'l. DX, CW, 20m-10m----- 12-14 April  
GACW DX Contest "Mr. Samuel Morse Party" (CW) -20-21 April  
Holyland DX Contest (CW/SSB) ----- 20 April

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**May Contests**

CQ Worldwide WPX, CW -----25, 26 May

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**Rochester Hamfest Tickets**

As a convenience for RDXA members, Irv Goodman, AF2K will have Rochester Hamfest tickets for sale at the March, April and May meetings.

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**2002 Awards Banquet**

RDXA and RVHFG will again join together for our 2002 operating awards presentations. Here are the details:

**When:** April 20, 2002 6:30 pm (new date this year)

**Where:** Burgandy Basin Inn (same as last year)  
Erie Room (new this year)

**Cost:** \$20.00 (same as last year) includes dinner buffet, snack table, service charge, tax, and gratuity. Cash Bar (same as last year).

Tickets available at the club meeting, see N2OPW.

Come join our celebration!

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**Propagation** *AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, March 1991***Solar Flux Range** ----- 194 – 277

**General**—It is spring, and the return of daylight to the polar north brings a rapid improvement in propagation into Asia on 10m, 15m and 20m. These conditions will not last long on 10 meters, since declining daytime MUFs become a factor around the time of the equinox. The 10 meter DX season is almost over, and we will see a steady deterioration on this band for the next two months. Activity on the low bands is also on the decline, but good nighttime propagation will continue on 40m in spite of the lower activity.

**20 Meters**—20m is in fine shape. During the spring we can expect excellent conditions via short path to the remotest reaches of southern Asia both at sunrise and sunset. In the summer this becomes a pipeline to the orient in the morning, and to the middle east in the evening. In the evening, however, most of the calls on 20m will be from the USSR. Tune carefully to pick out the more exotic DX, including Africa. All nighttime paths are wide open now, with propagation peaks to daylight areas within an hour or two of the grey line. Long path is also excellent in several directions, including a northerly path in the morning across the Indian Ocean to parts of Antarctica.

**15 Meters**—Spring, especially late spring, has a spectacular effect on 15m propagation. This has already begun, with openings over the pole after dark. Access to Asia will become almost constant during both day and night, as 15m will remain open later and later with the increase in MUFs. Watch for VK9NS this spring, who is expected in Bangladesh during March and in Bhutan in May. Both operations should be easily workable on both 15m and 20m—the seasonal timing is perfect. Openings to Europe will increasingly extend into the afternoon, and when the MUFs get high enough a nighttime path will also open in that direction. There are many other unusual paths (including long path) that seasonally open on 15m in spring. More of these will be discussed next month.

73, de Roy - AD5Q / Houston

<http://www.qth.com/ad5q/>

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**ARRL QSL Policy****From Atlantic Division Listserver**

Recent discussion regarding the QSL service offered by eQSL suggests that there is some confusion about ARRL QSL policy. Simply put, there has been no change in League policy regarding eQSLs. ARRL does not accept QSLs that have been transmitted to the recipient via electronic means for its awards. Anyone, acting as an authorized QSL manager, however, may receive logs via email (or any other direct means) and send QSL cards, via post mail, to

recipients. This is the traditional QSL manager process. As has always been the case, certain norms are expected when handling cards in this manner.

First, we expect that a QSL manager will seek permission from operators for whom QSLs are handled. We do not accept cards from unauthorized QSL managers for DXCC credit. Such an authorization must be a proactive choice of the DX station rather than an "opt out," default authority given to a bulk mailer.

Second, since most operators requesting QSLs expect that the returned cards will correctly reflect the actual QSO data, we expect that a QSL manager will do the checking required to assure that only real contacts are verified. We all know that raw logs contain many errors. A recent sample from a bulk-mailing QSL service show three out of five QSOs confirmed were not in the recipient's log. This is unacceptable. Often, these errors are only detected when incoming cards are compared to the log. The distribution of QSLs, without any checking of the information contained on the incoming cards, is poor QSLing practice, and may lead to blanket rejection of all QSL cards from the station/manager in question.

Also, we expect to be able to identify cards as authentic. Many cards are printed on home printers, and in many cases, the data is printed on card stock at the same time. Although this is technically acceptable, the process often makes verification difficult. In certain cases we may reject these cards. Cards should be personalized or otherwise made unique through the use of a stamp or other personal mark (signature or initials) across a label boundary.

Finally, the concept of obtaining a QSL card at no charge is a long-held tradition in ham radio and DXCC, and we endeavor to continue this tradition. QSL managers handling cards for DXCC submission must make cards available if adequate postage is supplied. Postage can be supplied by sending IRCs, direct funds, or SASEs. We consider it an ethics violation if cards can only be claimed through payment of a fee, and thus we will not accept cards for DXCC credit for which a fixed charge is made. A number of well-known DXpeditioners and QSL managers do not accept bureau cards, but we are not aware of any cases where a card will not be forthcoming if adequate postage is provided.

For its awards, the ARRL does not accept electronically transmitted QSLs that are printed by the recipient. There is no restriction placed on how log information is conveyed to an authorized QSL manager, however. Cards provided by QSL managers who make a reasonable effort to comply with the guidelines presented here will be gladly accepted for DXCC credit.

For Further Information Contact: Wayne Mills, N7NG

## Congo 2002 DXpedition

by EA3BT & EA3WL

*I received the following solicitation of support via email through the RDXA website. As I look through this, I thought about those DXpedition conversations of our own that we often have over a cold 807 at the S&S. This is how these things get funded...by us. Let's consider giving these guys our support - N1OKL.*

Due to the great success that we had at international level with our last operation "Comoros 2001: D68BT & D68WL", with more than 24,000 QSO carried out by two operators, this year it pleases us to present you our new project: "CONGO 2002."

Next we explain to you a little more about it.

### Who are we?

Many of you will already know us, but if it is not this way, we present ourselves next. Our callsigns are EA3BT (Josep Gibert) and EA3WL

(Núria Font). Along the last 7 years we have carried out several DXpeditions, many of them of great success, including:

- 1996–Maldives: 8Q7BT and 8Q7OK.
- 1997–Mexico: XF3/EA3BT and XF3/EA3AOK (activating IOTA NA-045 and NA-090).
- 1998–Martinique: FM/EA3BT, FM/EA3WL and TO8B.
- 1999–Montserrat: VP2MBT & VP2MGL.
- 2001–Comoros: D68BT and D68WL.



During these years we have tried to contribute with our grain of sand to increase the activity of DX operation and we believe that we have achieved it, for what we feel very proud of it. Therefore, with this new project for the year 2002, we want to continue contributing something more. You can find all the information about these operations in our page web: <http://www.qsl.net/ea3bt>.

### Why TN?

As already all you will know, the Republic of Congo is a country located in the African continent, in zone 36 of the WAZ. At first sight it cannot seem an attractive destination in order to organize an expedition of DX like it could be a distant country of Oceania or a lost island, can it?

But nothing else far from the reality. At the moment this entity of the DXCC is situated in place number 38 according to the list of the ARRL for the 2000 Most Needed Countries List (no other list has been published with new data). And probably at the moment, due to the last operations that have taken place to the entities that were in the first places, be sure that the Congo will have climbed positions in the list.

In the last years the activity from this entity has been rather null, due, with all security, to the unstable political situation that the country has suffered. At the moment, the situation seems to have begun to be normalized, and we believe that this is a very interesting moment to organize the operation.

### Equipment

Here we show you some technical details of the operation:

- Callsigns: TN3B and TN3W (still not confirmed)
- Dates Of The Operation: Between the 16th and 27th May 2002
- Modes: SSB, RTTY and something of CW
- Bands: 6, 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40 and 80 meters
- Equipments: Yaesu FT-900 / Icom IC-706 MKIIG
- Linear amplifier: Ameritron AL-811
- Antenna Cushcraft MA5B (10-12-15-17-20 meters)
- Antenna Hy-Gain 3 elements (10-15-20 meters)
- 3 elements for 50 Mhz
- Dipoles for 40 and 80 meters

### Targets of the Operation

Due to the situation of this country in the Most Needed DXCC Countries List of the ARRL (number 38), the demand will be very important. And in order to satisfy it, we will install 2 complete stations, each one with an equipment and a beam that will be simultaneously in the air the maximum numbers of hours. Also, to try to put the best signals in all the places of the planet, we have a linear amplifier.

As we have been doing in our last two operations (Montserrat 1999 and Comoros 2001), we will try to put the logs in internet daily in our page web (<http://www.qsl.net/ea3bt>) in order to satisfy the growing demand that the hams are making in this matter.

We want to remark, how we have already made in other occasions, that this is not a trip of holidays, as our objective is to put in the air a DXCC entity that is very demanded and what we want is to give the opportunity to work a "new one" to the maximum number of possible stations. That's why we will install two full stations.

We understand that it is our obligation to run with all the costs of the air tickets and accommodation in the destination. Now then, there are a lot of additional expenses, as: the transport of the material (excess of baggage), (the actual tariff of Air France: 32 €/Kg and itinerary), the cost of the licenses, the QSL card printing, other material and expenses. All these things make the costs of the operation be very high, and the total budget is of about €9,000 (without including air tickets and stay, of course!).

That's why we are asking to your association to consider the possibility to provide us an economic help to cover with the expenses of the operation. We hope to be able to have your invaluable collaboration and become one of our sponsors. And don't doubt to get in touch with us to ask us any question you could have. (e-mail: [ea3bt@infomail.lacaixa.es](mailto:ea3bt@infomail.lacaixa.es)).

TNX and best 73. We copy all of you soon from TN.

## DX Logbook

Chris Shalvoy - K2CS

Never a dull moment in this hobby...

A few nights back I was in the PWØT pileup on 17m SSB (getting nowhere, at that point in time), heard a beep on my cluster monitor and decided to scrap my effort and go work something easy.

Went to 10m, spun the beam west and "what to my wondering ears do I hear" but, "K2CS, K2CS, are you there...hold on guys, K2CS are you there?" What?!?

I thought I might have missed the call (it was SSB you know). The calling station's call wasn't familiar, ZK1XXX. How would he know I'd look at that spot at that time, that night and decide to go to that frequency? Too many variables to be a coincidence.

I listened a bit longer, the guy started CQing again and then I got it! It was Barry, N2PNG on South Cooks! A month or two ago he mentioned he was working on getting there but beyond that, I had heard nothing further.

One call, he came right back, we chatted for a bit (while everyone patiently waited...sure), set a sked for 17m and away I went. An hour later, sure enough, there he was, very, very weak (SSB, **no key on the island!**), an hour later, found him on 20m calling CQ, no takers and not spotted!

I had worked Barry when he was in Ireland a few years ago, what a set of ears! At that time, HW100, D104 and the now famous wire. Broke the pileup, in the log, hand delivered QSL card. Same should hold true for this operation, mode country for me this time.

Another interesting envelope showed up a few days ago, fat, looked just like a bureau pack. Interesting thing about it though was no "credits left" sticker. I figured that the "C" guy was on vacation and didn't have any with him. Well, not a bureau pack but 7 double, D68C cards with 20 plus Qs (even FM!). Won't need them real soon.

I was unable to operate the last few contests, out of town. First time in 12 years I missed both ARRL contests. Hope to have some of you recount your stories at the meeting. As a consolation, I'll operate the WPX at the end of the month. Still have yet to operate a contest on the beam.

If you need scores posted on the website, just drop me an email and I'll get them logged.

## In the Log (non contest)

H4ØT ----- 15m SSB, 10m RTTY  
 5U4R ----- 80m SSB  
 ZK1XXX ----- 20m, 17m, 10m SSB  
 PWØT ----- 40m, 30m, 20m, 15m, 10m CW  
 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m SSB  
 15m RTTY  
 TI9M----- 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m CW  
 20m, 15m, 10m SSB  
 20m RTTY  
 H7DX----- 80m, 40m, 20m, 17m CW  
 40m SSB  
 J28VS ----- 10m SSB

Best DX es 73

## Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2002 March 06

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2002 Mar 06	170	30	5
2002 Mar 07	170	15	3
2002 Mar 08	175	12	3
2002 Mar 09	180	10	3
2002 Mar 10	185	10	3
2002 Mar 11	185	10	3
2002 Mar 12	190	10	3
2002 Mar 13	195	5	2
2002 Mar 14	200	5	2
2002 Mar 15	200	5	2
2002 Mar 16	200	8	3
2002 Mar 17	205	8	3
2002 Mar 18	205	5	2
2002 Mar 19	200	8	3
2002 Mar 20	200	8	3
2002 Mar 21	200	5	2
2002 Mar 22	200	5	2
2002 Mar 23	195	5	2
2002 Mar 24	195	8	3
2002 Mar 25	195	5	2
2002 Mar 26	190	5	2
2002 Mar 27	185	10	3
2002 Mar 28	180	8	3
2002 Mar 29	180	5	2
2002 Mar 30	175	5	2
2002 Mar 31	170	8	3
2002 Apr 1	170	8	3

## DX Quiz, Answers

by Fred Groner - W2TZ

The most honored and revered grunt job at RDXA Field Day is the "arrow fetch." Arrow fetching skills are most basic to getting wire antennas up and performing. Respect for arrow fetchers is certainly well-deserved.

**#1-W2OMV** is the number one all-time arrow fetcher. Bill had a good eye for arrows and slid easily through those thick Webster Park bushes.

**#2-K2SKO** is a close second to W2OMV. Cliff has become an outstanding arrow fetcher while also being a generator Captain.

**#3-K2CY & W2LB** Tied. Although a good arrow fetcher only has to be a doer, Tim and Larry are thinkers as well as doers. Their best arrow fetching days are yet to come.

# 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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