ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION
rdxa.com

Regular Meeting
September 16th 19:30

Room 2150, Bldg 76
Carlson Imaging Sc. Building
Rochester Institute of
Technology

2003-04 Kickoff Meeting

Join us for the first meeting of the new contesting and DXing season. Renew old friendships, find out who is doing what in the Club this year, and get involved in the upcoming activities.

Writelog Computer Demo

Encounter the latest in contesting software at this meeting. You will have a chance to try out this state of the art software that has revolutionized SSB and RTTY contesting.

President's Soapbox   Fred Groner, W2TZ

By the time you read this, summer 2003 will be history. Personally, I don't remember having a more hectic summer. I traveled to Mass., Penna., and France this summer. The visit to France was quite unique. On July 1, I traveled to Ware, Mass. to visit my 26 year old son, Mike. When I arrived, my son told me that his planned wedding to a girl, Sandie, who lives in France, was on for August 12. Just imagine, a DX-wedding! The history behind their relationship goes back to the 1960s when both of their grandfathers worked for General Cigar Co. The families stayed in contact through the years with Sandie's family visiting Rochester in 1991. The internet, not amateur radio, allowed Sandie and Mike to stay in contact in subsequent years, and that eventually led to the wedding.

Sandie and Mike had to work through a maze of American and French bureaucracy to get the needed paper work done to allow the wedding to proceed. It reached a point that they didn't think the wedding would happen this summer. Well, all turned out well. My passport arrived in July and we obtained plane tickets and exchanged some dollars for some Euros, so all was in place for a trip to Strassbourg, France for the DX-wedding.

The summer was very hot this year in Europe with temperatures well into the upper 90s and even in the lower 100s. There are very few air conditioners and fans in Europe. I was worried that people coming from the US for the wedding would wilt in the heat – over 10,000 deaths in France are now being blamed on the heat wave. Well, amateur radio came into play at this point, thanks to good old muffin fans that are small enough to fit into my check-in luggage. I took two muffin fans with me and they proved very useful, especially in helping get a good nights sleep. Thanks to Sandie's parents, the wedding was perfect and this DX-wedding was great fun.

We did a fair amount of sight seeing in France and I was only able to spot only one amateur radio antenna. Almost every house has 3 TV antennas pointed in different directions. The only place I saw what appeared to be a tribander was on top of the gigantic European Union Bldg. in the center of Strassbourg. So I don't know where all those French signals are coming from that you hear on the bands. Maybe they all have stealth antennas. I'll have to make a few French QSOs to get the answer.

During our travels, we crossed the Rhine river into Germany and within a half mile there was a McDonalds – what a let down, so we went back to France. Anyway, my first trip to Europe was quite a good experience.

RDXA is preparing for another year of Dxing, Contesting, Hamfesting, and Socializing.
Hope we all have a good 2003/2004 RDXA season. See you at the 9/16 meeting.

Future Decisions for RDXA
Fred Groner, W2TZ

At the last BOD meeting, two major issues were discussed that will be voted on in the near future.

First is the issue of the labor and expense of sending hard-copy RDXA newsletters to all members. Many amateur radio clubs are now sending newsletters via e-mail, thereby saving the expense of paper and postage. The recent postage rate increase lends support to eliminating hard-copy mailings. Perhaps a few hard-copies of the newsletter could be made available at the RDXA meetings for those who want hard-copy.

Second, the legal incorporation of RDXA was discussed to seek legal protection from law suits in case of accidents at RDXA activities, Yes, we do have insurance, but we as a club would like to know if we should be incorporated or if our insurance is sufficient to cover any potential legal problems. We plan to have a lawyer attend a future BOD meeting to explain just exactly what we should do to prevent any potential future legal problems.

WriteLog Workshop
Vic Gauvin K1PY

Our experiment with a new Field Day logging program, WriteLog, seemed to work out fairly well (whew!). And beyond simply using a new program, we networked the entire system as well, taking further advantage of many neat features that this program offers.

Field Day logger training consisted of a 15-minute or so overview directed to a cheatsheet that was available at each station. Plans for further training fell by the wayside in the midst of endless Field Day distractions. In spite of this, we had few problems over the course of the weekend.

Having "lucked out" as it were, we knew we needed to revisit this program again so that we would have operators with a greater comfort level for next FD. Since people seemed pretty interested in it, and since it is one of the more popular "next generation" Windows logging programs (vs. DOS used by CT, NA, TRlog, etc.), we decided to have a go at it this Fall. This way if you decide you like it, you have a chance to obtain it prior to the start of the contest season.

The plan is to replicate most of the RDXAnet system, and have a live, hands-on workshop with 3 or 4 of the logging PCs networked a la Field Day. Several people will share a PC, and we'll start with bringing up a new program and take it from there. This time we'll simulate ARRL Sweepstakes or CQ WorldWide. First we'll concentrate on the main features that you'd use as a single-op, and get comfortable with that. If time allows, we can pretend we're at W2FU's Multi-Multi (which uses WriteLog BTW), and revisit (at least for the folks who were at FD) running a networked system.

This is quite the software package, and it's used by several club members already. Even if you're familiar with it, come and share what you've learned -- there's enough features that hardly anyone knows 'em all, so there's always something to learn. If you are just curious, definitely this is the opportunity to see a super program. And don't be put off by the earlier comment implying complexity -- once you get your feet wet with this thing, it's as easy as CT or any of the others.

So stop on by and check out the latest in computer contest logging, with WriteLog. We'll look forward to seeing you!

[Ed. note: This is indeed a CONTEST logging program, not a general-purpose logger. Its features are oriented towards maximizing QSOs and handling the needs of contest logging. You may then export the data into a general-purpose program such as DX4WIN for country tracking, QSLing, etc.]

Field Day 2003
Vic Gauvin, K1PY

An amazingly cool new computer logging network, Murphy-plagued power setup, and dismal propagation were the most memorable aspects of RDXA's 2003 ARRL Field Day effort.

Computer logging network?!

Finally taking the bold and daring step to go from DOS-based CT which we've used for years and with which everyone is familiar and comfortable, this year we moved to Windows-based *WriteLog,* a very popular contest-logging package written by **Wayne Wright, W5XD**. This of course necessitated logging computer upgrades. So the several logging PCs, which for a number of years had been provided and maintained by **Dave N2CK** (*great job Dave!*), were replaced by 5 IBMs, from mouse to monitor, donated by **Kevin N2VJB** (*thanks Kevin!*). With additional memory and other components purchased by **Vic K1PY** and installed by Kevin, we now had a significantly updated computer suite.

About a month before Field Day, Kevin brought this whole pile of stuff to Vic's QTH, and the Gauvin dining room was transformed into computer central. All five systems were set up around the periphery of the dining room table, with extensions and terminal strips running everywhere. Ethernet cables were interconnected, and we had a network. WriteLog was loaded on one of the PCs, and the FD master logging file configured. Kevin then cloned this entire system, burned a CD, and created 4 other identical systems. With a little customizing of each PC's identity, we finally launched WriteLog on each system, got them talking to each other, and **RDXAnet** was born!

Since these were all untried as "radio computers," Vic's IC-765 was hauled out to the dining room and squeezed onto an edge of the table. First with a dummy load, then

with coax running down the hallway to the radio/computer room and the antenna inputs, it was confirmed that we had no noticeable interference either from or to the radio. Each computer's COM and LPT ports were tested for rig control and cw keying. It looked liked we had a network – of course, we now had to duplicate this at the Field Day site with little spare time for unresolved problems.

Friday setup
Friday afternoon of FD saw an excited bunch of RDXAers and friends ready to have at our annual FD setup exercise. We were rejoined by **Mike N1OKL**, who'd recently moved back to 1-land – it was great to see Mike back for FD! Again, the infamous **W2TZ Spider Web Arrays** were raised among the treetops, and the club TA-33 raised using the equally infamous **K1PY Flagpole Antenna-Raising Tower System.** Not wanting to go with its mnemonic, it's known affectionately as the **Gizmo**. We were even organized enough this year to do some SWR measurements on the Yagi, and brought it back down for some element adjusting to actually make it resonant in the ham bands, thanks to **Ed K2MP**. Whew, we're getting good!

Irv AF2K, *Mr. Take-Care-of-all-the-other-things-that-make-Field-Day-work-so-great,* made the traditional 5 p.m. pizza run while we were waiting for the 25 kW diesel super-generator to arrive. In the meantime, **Scott K2ZS** provided a "let's everybody watch Scott make a custom Ethernet cable from scratch" demo, and came through with flying colors (zero networking problems all weekend).

Murphy starts to lurk
After pizza ("*Irv, get more pizza next year*"—**Rick W1TY**), we were starting to get concerned about the generator. On-site cell-phone attempts (it's *sort of* radio) to determine its whereabouts went unanswered. (It turned out to be simple miscommunication, and all is well for next year.) Finally around 8 p.m. we went to plan B, and arranged for two member-provided 5 kW units. And we needed to get the RDXA power cables.

Saturday after the traditional breakfast at the *Nutcracker,* we were back at it, unloading tables, chairs, lights, rigs, accessories, coax, and all the other stuff needed to put a field station together. However, power was still a problem. **Dave N2CK** was setting up his neat dolly-mounted 5!kW unit. However, a second arranged generator didn't work out, so we had no power for the SSB station in the field. Now it's times like this that you discover how wonderful ham radio is and what it's all about: Visitors to our FD site, **Nelson KC2ERF** and **Patty**, heard of our quandary, and at 9:00 Saturday morning volunteered to drive back to their place in Victor, pick up a 5 kW generator they had, and bring it back to the site! Is that cool or what?!! Thanks much from all of RDXA. However, we had yet another problem. Even when the second generator arrived, we hadn't been able to locate the club power cables and had no way to run power to the stations. **Cliff K2SKO,** our regular "power chief" and the presumed keeper of the cables, was not able to be with us for this FD due to some planned surgery (all went well). But checking at his QTH, it turned out he didn't have them either. Bottom line: We never found them even after much searching until an accidental discovery a couple months after FD! Well,

scrounging for every heavy-duty extension cord we could find, we wired things up as best we could, and hoped for the best. But you know what the most amazing part of all this was? It never had the feeling of a crisis or a "problem" and never got emotional for a moment – it was simply a "situation" that had to be dealt with by the club, and was. Methinks we actually benefited from the fruits of previous year's Field Day emergency preparedness training.

RDXAnet launches!
While all this was being worked out, others were laying out our first-ever computer network (tks **Chris K2CS** and **Scott K2ZS** for custom-made site-specific Ethernet cables). With the N2VJB hub behind the 80/20 station at the south end of the overhang, connections went to the 40/15, GOTA, and spotting stations under the overhang, and across the road (through a PVC tube) all the way out to the SSB station in the field. OK, so now we're ready to fire it up, but… no 2nd generator yet. Sheesh, is Murphy on a rampage or what? It turned out Nelson and Patty were held up for quite a while at a traffic stoppage at the Bay Bridge. But they finally made it, and the generator was put in place. We fired up the gennys, powered up the computers, launched WriteLog, held our collective breaths, and connected to the network…, and,… voila! All the stations showed up! RDXAnet is a GO for FD!

After lunch at around 1:00, with an hour to go, Vic held a WriteLog mini-training session, explaining each of the items on a printed WriteLog shortcut sheet that would be at each station. That really wasn't much, and more was planned, but it never came about. But once things started, it seemed to work out ok. That perhaps attests to both the quality of the program and the talent of the operators. However, we do plan on a more substantial training session prior to next FD. *[Ed note: Also at this month's meeting.]*

Oh so sweet
So was the upgrade and all the effort worth it? The consensus is a huge YES! Seeing each different station's contact pop into the log on your monitor, having a real-time running Q total band by band, having another station's actual tx/rx frequency and whether they are in run or S&P mode so you can pass people to them, a special rx-only spotting station on the network that can go find contacts you haven't yet worked on your current band and spot them on a band-map so you can just click on it, change your freq right to that station, work 'em, then hit a key and go back to your CQ frequency and continue where you were. On cw in run mode, you can type in a call, then answer it, log the Q, and QRZ for the next all with one key. Plus you have multiple redundant logs on each PC. The network was flawless. Yes, it was sweet. And being the first time out and with no familiarity with it, many ops didn't make full use of these and other potential operating advantages. Next year we plan to remedy that prior to FD. (And BTW, if you're inclined to upgrade your own station's contest logger, consider going to WriteLog and that way being ready to really capitalize on it during FD next year!)

Propagation?

Propagation among other things may be described as how signals get from one place to another. And when you don't have it, guess what doesn't get anywhere. Take a look at the comparative QSO numbers for the past few years, especially 10, 15, and 20, and you'll get the idea how bad things were. Granted the kW last year helped, but not much as you can see (interesting in itself!). Yes, we still made Q's, but way down. The opening hour on 40 phone last year was 170 – this year 90 – exactly the same rig, antennas, and operator. Our now normal 4000 overall contact total down 25% to 3k. 10 and 15 weren't even *there!* As usual, CW saved the day, and **Raj N2RD** and the 40/15 cw crew and **Fred W2TZ** and the 80 cw crew came through.

So were we alone?

So, when propagation is bad in one place, it's usually bad in others as well. But as they say, location, location, location, and that definitely goes for radio and propagation. And our key 3A competition was not nearly so impacted, as the next table illustrates.

John W2GD of DX contest fame and a bunch of other Frankford Radio Club contest ops in NNJ switched from 4A to 3A this year, and yet again topped the category *(these are all preliminary scores from previous major players – we have to wait until December for the official ARRL results).* Actually, John was being nice when I inquired about the switch: "*We were taking our shot at taking away your 3A record, but condx just did not cooperate as you well know.*" Well, it was still good enough for a huge score! Congrats to John and FRC.

A great surprise was to discover that **Joe K8FC**, who as we know moved to CO, hooked up with the premier FD group out there (are we surprised?!!) These guys, the *Pike's Peak DX Group,* won 3A in '00 and likely hold the class record with a **17k** score! They again are major contenders. Good goin' guys. **NI4M** in WCF was the beneficiary of southern propagation and actually had the best 15 and 20M scores of all (but notice *no* 10M.)

Where do we go from here?

So what do we get from all this? Well, it's nice to confirm what we thought about our low-band (80, 40) capabilities – we are in the top tier with W2GD (who have dedicated 24-hour contest pro ops at all positions). Here's another comment from John: "*It points out the somewhat unique advantage we have in the east on the low bands, particularly 80/75 meters. You don't make 700+ qsos on 75M in Hole in the Wall, MT, or In the Middle of Nowhere, FLA!*"

And it confirms what we've known for many years, and perhaps has galvanized the resolve to do something about it this coming year: *20M is the band we absolutely need in order to have a chance to reclaim #1 3A.* At the prime times, we need **two** stations on 20, one in each mode. Even so, our geographic location compromises our ability to get the 8's and 9's, so we need the southerly and westerly Q's. Which

means that when we have our restricted window of opportunity, we need to *own* our frequency – and that indicates some serious antenna planning, and the club commitment to make it happen.

		00	01	02	03
				2A	
		3A	3A	kW	3A
CW	80	205	266	261	431
	40	811	735	653	824
	20	235	351	365	173
	15	164	242	6	0
	10	0	0	0	0
		1415	1594	1285	1428
	T/N-GOTA	0	0	232	2
	VHF	6	9	10	13
	OTH	5	6	0	0
	TOT CW	1426	1609	1527	1443
PH	80	549	559	401	410
	40	1275	1342	1338	776
	20	583	294	750	202
	15	54	15	10	0
	10	0	0	0	0
		2461	2210	2499	1388
	T/N-GOTA	224	111	168	86
	VHF	108	53	173	45
	OTH	15	0	0	0
	TOT PH	2808	2374	2840	1519
QSO	**80 ALL**	754	825	662	841
	40 ALL	2086	2077	1991	1600
	20 ALL	818	645	1115	375
	15 ALL	218	257	16	0
	10 ALL	0	0	0	0
	80-10	3876	3804	3784	2816
	ALL	**4234**	**3983**	**4367**	**2962**
PTS	CW pts	5704	6436	3054	5772
	PH pts	5616	4748	2840	3038
	QSO pts	11320	11184	5894	8810
	BONUS	1200	1400	1400	1300
	TOT pts	**12520**	**12584**	**7294**	**10110**
	PLACE	4	1	n/a	??
80cw/20cw,ph PTS		2926	3056	4004	2820
40cw/15cw,ph PTS		4008	3938	2656	3296
75ph/40ph PTS		3648	3802	3478	2372

So, we know what it'll take, and we've shown that we can do it. The bands are actually turning in our favor and playing to our strengths (and finally making WNY a more competitive location!). And we know that we've got class competition, which helps get the juices flowing! "*What happens next year will not be decided until next May I suspect, but if the decision is to do 3A again, we'll let you know. Competition makes all the difference. If conditions*

had been normal, this could have been really close. – W2GD"
There it is folks. Let's start thinking now about *really* going for it in '04!!

		W2RDX 3A WNY	W2GD 3A NNJ	W0GG 3A CO	NJ4M 3A WCF
CW	80	431	423	189	10
	40	824	928	884	646
	20	173	718	440	856
	15	0	115	40	291
	10	0	0	0	
		1428	2184	1553	1803
	T/N-GOTA	2		46	
	VHF	13		12	1
	OTH	0		0	
	TOT CW	1443	2184	1611	1804
PH	80	410	733	82	16
	40	776	778	127	115
	20	202	600	675	1268
	15	0	37	547	362
	10	0	0	0	
		1388	2148	1431	1761
	T/N-GOTA	86	435	74	257
	VHF	45	113	35	8
	OTH	0	20	0	
	TOT PH	1519	2716	1540	2026
QSO	80 ALL	841	1156	271	26
	40 ALL	1600	1706	1011	761
	20 ALL	375	1318	1115	2124
	15 ALL	0	152	587	653
	10 ALL	0	0	0	0
	80-10	2816	4332	2984	3564
	ALL	**2962**	**4900**	**3151**	**3830**
PTS	CW pts	5772	8736	6444	7216
	PH pts	3038	5432	3080	4052
	BONUS	1300	1500	900	1000
	TOT pts	**10110**	**15668**	**10424**	**12268**

Field Day 2003
Observations   Kevin Popplewell N2VJB

Given the fact that Field Day is "an event, not a contest" as proposed by David Wright in one of his many contacts Saturday night in the tent that was out-standing-in-its-field, I am inclined to make some observations about our efforts and preparations. Since I have a background in Scouting and have participated in the instruction of the Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge and also have the fortunate

personal quirk of being somewhat of an avid survivalist, I enjoy the Field Day 'event.'

My first observation is that we come off as well-prepared and organized. Now whether this is true or not in reality, it surely looks that way to anyone just peeking in on our operation. I think that over the years we have come to depend on each other to perform certain tasks and to provide certain equipment. It does NOT seem to fail, even this year when the large generator did not show up and we happened to have spares, and the fact that our enthusiasm was infectious enough to cause another ham to provide an additional generator that he was generous to loan us. We come off as professional amateurs or amateur professionals, whatever!

We endeavor to follow the spirit of the Field Day rules as we understand them completely. We set up in an unprepared, unimproved area. We raise antennas by hand in trees, etc. We pitch tents, run wires, set up tables, light grills, dig trenches, and do all of the things to make the site useful and presentable as possible. We try to divorce our efforts as much as possible from the 'real' world just as would be the case in an actual disaster. I am not sure if the model is followed more or less religiously in other clubs, but I think we adhere to the 'spirit' of Field Day as was intended.

Enough about the stuff, now something about the people. We are all very different individuals with varying levels of age, skill, resources, talents, opinions, and appetites. We work together during this effort in a way that brings credit to all of us as 'hams'. Now some 'ham it up' on the radio, some in conversation, and some even 'ham it up' in the make-do kitchen. But it's the people that hold it all together. This year we had some new people join us in the effort, some young and some just young-at-heart. We did well to invite them and let them participate. We weren't expecting a payoff in this effort, but if we get some new members then that is just a big plus. We greet every visitor that comes up and happily will spend the time to completely overwhelm them with information on Amateur Radio. We invite anyone and everyone to come and see us, not just to show off our stuff, but to explain what this operation is and what it represents if something really horrible were to happen. I think that some people now have a bit more wherewithal if not appreciation for us since 9/11. We, as a club, demonstrate that we CAN and, if called on, WOULD provide the service that we promised to provide when we received our 'ticket.'

Until next Field Day, 73!!

Stagecoach and Pumpkin
-- Charles Kuhfuss WB2HJV
Greetings to all,

Nance and I have arrived home safely after a fabulous trip. No problems whatsoever...truly amazing. Trying to get a hand-blown Swedish glass perfume bottle through airport

security in Berlin and Frankfurt was a challenge but we managed. Yes at 05:30 this morning the stagecoach turned back into a pumpkin. Back to reality.

Scandinavia is beautiful, clean and pristine; but $8.00 for a poor quality brew in a restaurant, $72.50 for 12 gal of gas for the rented Audi A4 and a dollar for one post card is all a bit much. At least in a supermarket one can purchase a half liter can of warm beer for $2.00. The inhabitants are very friendly and all speak good English. Most shops are closed by 5 PM daily and Sunday. Buy your gas on Saturday because there's nothing open on Sunday. The average Joe works 7 1/2 hours a day and has six weeks vacation. Life is a much slower pace and it reminds me of the mid-fifties here when I was a kid. On the tour our director said the people are content to live day to day as long as they are comfortable with the basic needs; food clothing and shelter. Change happens slowly. Interesting to see a thatched roof with a satellite dish...pointed at the horizon because they are so far north!

We spent the last week in Germany staying with relatives who still don't have a shower; but at least their new apartment has a washbowl in the WC. The old East Germany has 25% unemployment and in places seems more run down then on our first visit in 1993 when the Russians were still there. They don't like the Euro because when the change came the cost of an item that was 1 German Mark became 1 Euro, nearly doubling the price of many items.

Too much to tell for one e-mail...

Sorry that I missed last week's board meeting at Fred's QTH. There have been no changes to the club's financial status over the summer since my last year-end status report. No bill yet from Best Rental for the FD potty. Guess I may have to call Tom yet another time.

For our club contest score we have received from the League the book about the Yasme foundation/The Colvins/Danny Weil etc. Looks interesting and I'll bring it along if anyone is interested. According to Dan Henderson's note it was provided to all contest clubs by an anonymous doner.

See you all on the 16th at RIT, if not before. Even though it's great to travel, there's no place like home in the USA.

73, Charlie WB2HJV

PS. Mother nature picked Copenhagen as the QTH for the most beautiful, blond, blue-eyed, tall, English speaking, friendly, well tanned/endowed yl's on the planet earth. Every way one looks there's one more attractive than the last. Only saw one topless sunbather!

DX4Win Testimonial Dave Wright, N2CK

As many of you know I purchased DX4Win as an awards and QSO/QSL tracking program. I currently have a database of ~8400 QSOs dating back to 08/10/94 (yes, not much by way of comparison to my fellow club members).

After I participate in contests, I upload my log into the program to keep my database current. Also, as I work an occasional DX station, I manually add the QSO in offline mode. FYI, I keep my database on the household computer, as I don't have a printer attached to the shack computer. As cards come trickling in, I search them in the d/b, mark them as confirmed, and note if the sender wants one in return. Typically, a handwritten card always gets a response.

As the summer draws to a close, I figured that it was time to perform my QSL duties to do some housekeeping prior to the start of the new contest season. I selected the labels, print labels function and chose the option of previewing what was to be printed (VERY handy option by the way!). Imagine my surprise when DX4Win indicated that I would need 43 sheets of labels at 30 labels/sheet! As I had quite a few QSOs marked as confirmed, and wanting cards in return, I was unsure of how to proceed. I did some investigation and determined that for a number of imported contest logs, the print label flag was set to Y! Not wanting to blindly clear the print flags, and have to re-enter all my received cards (and of course not knowing where to start) I sent an email off the support email address. I received a very through, prompt, and correct response to my problem from Steve Brookout, NR4M. Steve's instructions showed me how to tell DX4Win that I wanted to use date ranges to search for QSOs. Once a date range was identified (and verified by bringing up the appropriate log on the shack computer and comparing QSO counts) I set the print flag to no. Then, using the same search filter range of dates, but setting the confirmed flag to Y prior to the search I set the print flag to Y for only confirmed QSOs. I went from (possibly) printing 43 pages of labels to 7! [Prior to starting, as an extra level of protection, I made a copy of my d/b log file on a floppy – it wasn't needed!]

I also inquired for further clarification on how to have it flag unconfirmed, but needed entities for further awards (look out 5 band DXCC – yea, right!). Once I get the confirmed QSOs labeled and on the way to Newington (and print flags turned off!), I shall further investigate this functionality. One additional feature this software has which I really like; if you have a partial sheet of labels, it allows you to specify the number of missing labels on the first sheet, and it will adjust the printing accordingly.

In closing, when I wrote to Steve, thanking him for the correctness, clarity, and promptness of his response, Steve actually seemed surprised! He indicated in his email that the response I received was "something that he always felt obligated to do and that's all part of what you pay the $89.95 for". I don't want this article to sound like a blatant advertisement for this product. But as someone who deals with relational databases, and the occasional support call; I felt that this level of service after the sale deserves to be recognized.

June 28, 2003

To: Members of Rochester DX Association Radio Club
And all participants,

WELCOME to the Community of Webster, New York and specifically to this hallowed ground wherein lies not only the imprint of the feet of thousands of boys who, many years ago, gathered and camped here under the aegis of the Boy Scouts of America, but, also, here we have historic significance of another imprint, and that is the pioneering role those 'Scouts' of yore played in the amateur radio field.

When radio was new to America and to the world, Boy Scouts had already learned to magnify the mysteries of the crystal set. They learned Morse Code and the ability to telegraph messages and receive them and so, was born to an excited, youthful audience the great experience of a new age of communication; one that chartered a new merit badge, initiated radio clubs in schools and formed radio clubs throughout the land.

As the Mayor of the Village of Webster, New York, I sincerely bid you welcome as you conduct your Annual American Radio Relay League Field Day here, on the grounds of dear old Camp Cutler. Those Boy Scouts learned their lessons well and went on to signal corps of many services in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Sadly, the Boy Scouts moved to another camping grounds, but their training still survives and no memory dims here.

In these uncertain times, your roles as operators, teachers, community service responders, and, probably most importantly, the crucial role of dependability in times of crisis, should not only be recognized, but applauded at the highest levels and in the greatest, most endearing means possible.

We, the Community of Webster, NY, applaud you for your extraordinary efforts in your exercises here, this weekend, and for your unending commitments to all who receive the benefit of your knowledge in the field of never ending dreams; the field of HAM RADIO.

Most sincerely,

William C. Ruoff, Mayor

Rochester DX Association
W2RDX   **www.rdxa.com**

This bulletin is the official organ of the Rochester DX Association. It is published monthly, September through June. Email your articles to the newsletter editor n2rd@arrl.net by the first Tuesday of each month for inclusion in that month's newsletter.

All those interested in Amateur Radio, especially in DXing and contesting, are invited to attend to attend meetings and to join our club. The club meets at 7:30pm local time on the third Tuesday of each month from September to June. The club web site has the latest information on meeting location. It is currently schMany members meet at a local bar Scotch and Sirloin for camaraderie after the regular meeting. Come and join us!

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