



**Regular Meeting
April 20th 19:30**

**Gander Mountain
Meeting Room
300 Jay Scutti Boulevard
Henrietta, NY 14623**

**RTTY!
by
Rick & Vic
The Mark & Space Cadets**

Our April meeting will explore RTTY setup and operating techniques in a new way. Be prepared for a program unlike any other that you have seen at RDXA. It's an evening of learning & laughing, sure to cure the post winter blues.

President's Soapbox Paul Mackanos K2DB

As I write this, I have just woken to a beautiful Hawaiian morning. It's Tuesday, April 6, 2004 and I have been here visiting my son & daughter in law for a week now. I have been playing around on 20 meters with a QRP rig and a vertical PAC-12 antenna. The antenna is not very good, I hear a lot, but do not make many QSO's. I will be going to the North Shore today, and will put up a dipole in the trees, maybe that will help a lot. As for the club news, I see that the banquet is settled, and I would hope that we will all get together for it at Keenan's Restaurant. I hope you all had fun in the contests, and continue to post your scores on the web site. I want to thank Rick W1TY for accepting the

open Vice President position; Rick will be a fine addition to the leadership of this club. I look forward to the program for this month, a RTTY update & demonstration from some of our RTTY members. I have had a sneak preview of the program, and you guys are going to love it. For now, I am going to load the rental car, and go become a beach bum. Please use our website, and give us feedback on what you would like or not like to be available there. See you all at the meeting at Gander Mountain.

73 & Aloha

K2DB/KH6

The 2004 Annual RDXA – RVHFG Banquet

Rochester's Premiere Social Event for Hams

Sunday, May 2, 2004

Cash Bar at 6:00PM, Dinner at 7:00PM

Keenan's Restaurant

1010 East Ridge Road
Rochester, NY 14621
In Georgetown Plaza, Irondequoit
between Carter St. and Portland Ave.
www.keenansrestaurant.com

Awards and more!!!

Dinner Buffet

with Chicken French, Carved Roast Beef, Soup, Salad, Vegetables, Baked Pasta, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Bread & Butter, Crab Salad, Cottage Cheese, Choice of Coffee, Tea, or Soda, & Choice of Dessert

\$20.00 per person

See Irv at the April meeting to sign up!
(more details inside)

Tickets for the Annual Banquet

Irv Goodman, AF2K

Tickets for this year's combined ROCHESTER VHF GROUP and ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION Annual Awards Banquet will be available from AF2K at the VHF Group meeting on April 9th and also the RDXA meeting on April 20th, plus the S&S on April 16th, 23rd and 30th.

Also available by mail -- An SASE with check or M.O. payable to RVHFG or RDXA to:

I. J. Goodman, AF2K
515 Drumm Road
Webster, NY 14580-1579 USA

RDXA Finances Charles Kuhfuss WB2HJV

The RDXA financial report as of April 4, 2004 is as follows:

Current checking balance	\$1172.19
Petty cash	\$118.00
Total available funds	\$1290.19
<u>Less memorial fund</u>	<u>(\$726.89)</u>
Total operating funds	\$563.30

March activity:

Check #126 to K2ZS for website renewal (\$70.00)
Check #127 to Best Rental for 2003 Field Day portable toilet (\$86.60)...invoice dated 3/21/04

The RDXA currently has 55 paid members.

Nominations for offices

- Vic K1PY

Now's the time...

for all good RDXAers to consider what they can do to keep the club as great as it can be. For success, everyone should of course participate in some manner, no matter how big or small, just something, just do it.

For those whose time has come to take on a formal position, the '04/'05 nominating committee would like to hear from you. Toss that ol' hat in the ring and have a ball. Over the years you surely have observed that we have a pretty easy-going club (although there's a few on the fringes that think vying for top 3 in Field Day is a bit intense). So this is a non-threatening environment that you can truly enjoy. This is dramatically supported by the oft-repeated observation that our board of director's meetings -- the supposed "business" part of the club -- are regularly attended by several non-BOD members just because they are a friendly get-together of folks simply sharing their enjoyment and mutual interest in the hobby and in our club. I think it says a lot that guests often equal the board at these meetings. Hey, if that piques your interest in

stepping up to some position, attend the next one to check it out for yourself. (*The electronic issue of this newsletter may reach you prior to the March meeting, so watch for info via the rdxs e-mail list.*)

Also don't hesitate to recommend a nominee or two, sort of like the current primary! Affirmation by several folks may be just what it takes to convince someone who's hesitant to agree to serve. Contact any member of the nominating committee: Vic K1PY, Dave N2CK, Raj N2RD, Kevin N2VJB, and Tim WB2KAO. (We have an extensive committee due to some recent urging by one of our more active members!)

Lastly, if a board or officer position still isn't quite the thing for you at the moment, we still need help and enthusiasm in all the other areas in which we participate: Field Day, our biggest event, plus HamFest, St. John Fisher, Rochester Science Museum, Lighthouse Weekend, and help with any number of committees such as Program, DX, Contest, and the newsletter (new-member biographies, station photo tours, ...) -- your opportunities are endless -- the extent to which you participate accentuates both your and everyone else's enjoyment in the club.

Now's the time...

March Meeting Update

Paul, K2DB

The Program was fantastic, and I want to thank Pete W2SKY and Jon N2JAC for their fine presentation on Amateur Radio on the International Space Shuttle, and actually having the video and audio of the space shuttle communicating with the students at Webster Thomas High School. You missed a great, informational program.

Administrative Discussions:

RDXA renewed the website annual fee for 2 years at a cost of \$70.00. I will ask Charlie to reimburse K2ZS for his out of pocket funds to renew.

Membership Chairman -- Kevin N2VJB has volunteered and will be the new Membership Chairman. I will ask Charlie to send him a database of our membership and Kevin will be doing the membership roster duties.

Contests - WPX Phone March 27/28 Get in there, work some new ones, and add your score on the web site.

DX -- Chris gave us an update on what is out there now, lots of stuff to work.

Log Submission -- Chris says "wow" there are a lot of new posted scores on the web, keep up the good work guys, and keep submitting those scores for RDXA.

Packet Cluster – running along quite nicely, no problems. Bob says to give you guys the TELNET address, so you can come in via Internet, so here it is: Telnet Host 66.67.220.251 Telnet Port 7300 Go ahead and check it out. If you have never used telnet, call me and I will try and help you out.

Web site – it was suggested that we add an EVENTS CALANDER, and keep it updated for all amateur radio events that we know of, and the dates. Examples, Dayton Hamfest, Rochester Hamfest, VE Sessions (not only ours), etc. The idea is to get our members and anyone else to go to our web site for anything in Ham Radio.

73 de Paul K2DB

Contesting and DXing from the past February 1983 Ed, K2MP

On the local scene the RDXA meeting then was held at the Colonial Hotel on Empire Blvd. The February program was a film on the N2AA Contest team showing their Multi-op effort during the past CQWW DX contest. The RDXA newsletter was a hand written, one pager, Xeroxed and mailed with a first class 20 cent stamp. “News” from the newsletter revealed that Jeff, W2HPF, was the FD Chairman and was seeking participants and KB2SE was looking for support to run a 160 meter club effort.

On-the-air then was Heard Island, Syria with YK1AO, Kerguelen as FB8XAB and Franz Joseph Land as UK1PGO. QST published the list of Sponsors for the upcoming DX Contests. Shown there was the Rochester DX Assn sponsoring the W/VE Phone QRP award.

Also from the pages of QST was a list of IARU Champions. From Western NY the only local top scorer was Ron Roach, W2FUI. The new 30 meter band is now available, but, as warned by ARRL President Vic Clark, W4KFC, on a shared basis. This means that Amateur activity is secondary and no harmful interference can be caused to primary users.

QST reports that many are having problems getting QSL’s from Iraq’s YI1BGD. It is suggested that two dollars and an SASE might work. (Nothing changes – Ed)

The “hot” radios on the market were Kenwood’s TS-930, ICOM’s IC-740 and Drake’s TR-7, all solid state. Yaesu’s FT-102, in the same kilo-buck price range, featured three 6146 final tubes. Yaesu, as we know, would eventually catch up! KLM introduced their KT-34XA.

AWA Museum opens for the season.

Ed Gable K2MP Museum Curator

The A.W.A. Electronic Communication museum, in nearby Bloomfield, New York, opens for the season on Sunday, May 2nd, at 2:00 p.m. This unique, local resource

has an outstanding collection of vintage communications equipment.

The museum theme is electronic communication and thus covers the telegraph, telephone, wireless, radio and TV themes. Prized artifacts include the first cell phone, the first transistorized transmitter, the first practical and functional transistorized super-het receiver, articles used in the development of the super-het by Major Armstrong, RCA’s first radio product, working mechanical TV and much, much more.

Come and key a 1 kW spark transmitter, you’re only opportunity! This is a world class collection, is in your back yard, maintained by your friends and fellow hams, and admission is still, after over fifty years.... Free. If you haven’t seen it... shame on you.

Hours of operation are Sunday, 2 – 5 p.m. May through October 31st, and additionally 2 – 4 p.m. on Saturdays in June, July and August. Closed major Holidays.

Contact the Curator, Ed Gable, K2MP, at (585) 392-3088, or egable@rochester.rr.com for information, group tours and how to donate artifacts.

FCC Pre-Dec-03 Version of Form 605 Obsolete Excerpt from ARRLB010

Effective with Monday, May 3, receipts, the FCC’s Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will dismiss any applications filed on an FCC Form 605 issued earlier than December 2003. The change does not affect applicants filing on-line with the Universal Licensing System (ULS) at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>, said the FCC, which is encouraging on-line filing.

In the wake of the FCC’s unexpected announcement, the ARRL is developing a replacement package that could require several more pages. It hopes to have it ready in time for Hamvention May 14-16.

The RDXA Logbook by RDXA Members

The articles in this series are composed of input solicited from general members on a particular theme. They are written by you! We will have a different theme each month. Just email your input to the editor at n2rd@arrl.net and it will be in the logbook.

This month’s theme is:

RTTY / HF Digital Operation

Vic, K1PY:

Being RDXA, we tend to get into a few contests. Many of us are binary challenged, so SSB is our primary mode, as it is for lots of others since there're endless contacts to be made. But you do have to deal with a weekend's worth of sideband in your ears, and it's quite exhausting.

For those able to decipher the dits and dahs at often excessive rates, there is a welcome relief from the stress of SSB contesting – tighten up that filter, and essentially all you hear is the station you want to work. What relief – definitely the way to go, and well worth the effort it takes to enhance your cw skills.

And then there's the gentleman's contest mode – just easy-going Q's laid right out in front of your eyes, just a key-stroke or mouse-click away from being in the log. Yes sir, welcome to RTTY.

With the advent of computers in nearly every shack, and a soundcard in every computer, the stage was set for the rtty revolution. More and more people are on in every contest, and it's getting so the major events are just as big and busy as those of the other modes. The ARRL Rtty Roundup is as big a rtty draw as Sweepstakes is for SSB and CW. (Hmmm, maybe there should be a third SS weekend....)

So like any contest where there's the necessary critical mass of participants, you have all the same challenges – put the greatest number of calls in the log. And all the same techniques apply – how many and which hours to operate, band strategies, multipliers, timing, CQ vs. S&P. You've got it all – but it's so much nicer. No sideband cacophony, no 50wpm cw deciphering, just the melodious mark/space tones nudging the skirts of your filters. And you can set the volume fairly low – you just need to catch the sense of the tones to tune them in by ear, or get them close enough to then use a built-in tuning meter or waveform display to zero in properly.

The software that's out there really makes things a breeze. The most popular program right now seems to be MMTTY, an extensive and top notch freeware program written by Makoto Mori, JE3HHT. It has good documentation, lots of Web-based support sites, and is easy to install. If you don't want to get into all the intricate details that it provides, just click the HAM default button, and you're ready to go. It also has logging capabilities, message memories, and all the other bells and whistles that make this a fun mode. With just the functionality in this program, you can get into any rtty contest and get an idea what it's like.

For more serious rtty contesting, and to really get all the perks and advantages, you'll want a "proper" contest logging package. The one that started it all for rtty contest

logging is Rtty by WF1B. This is a great DOS-based package that makes things much simpler for contesting, and it's now freeware. There's no further development going on, but it's a great basic package and there's still lots of users out there to provide help and support.

As is true for the other modes, probably the top logging program is Windows-based WriteLog by Wayne Wright, W5XD. If you want to advance to smooth contest sailing, this is the one. I understand there's a new plug-in in the works that makes your morning coffee for you! Just kidding, but it's that cool.

Just download the free MMTTY plug-in and you've got all you need for loads of rtty contest action. (Well, there's always the Alpha....) If you operated at our last Field Day, or were at last fall's meeting demo, you have an idea what WriteLog can do as a contest logger. Add to that some whiz-bang stuff unique to rtty and you couldn't ask for more. For example, you're tuning across the band and this station calling CQ starts to print on your screen. If your working SSB or CW, you type in the call and see if it's a dupe or not – with rtty (are you ready for this???) – it's automatically color-coded regarding dupe-ness, AND if it's a MULT!! Then all you do is click it to pop it into the callsign field and work it. If you're calling CQ it's even cooler – let's say two or three people answer your CQ – again, rtty is just so relaxing it's not a hassle – they're just printed right up there on your monitor. Anyway, two are new Q's and they're green, and one is a new mult, and it's yellow. You hit the Insert key, and it automatically grabs the mult first (as the more valuable contact), puts it in the callsign field, and answers with your exchange. Enter his data and hit the + key and it's logged and your TU message is sent. (Just like in ssb or cw modes, all this can be set up to work with just the Enter key if you'd like to make it even simpler.) Having a nice little run with stations just printing out in front of you and simply hitting a key to grab them is the nuts.

Oh, but you never run, you say, so you'll never get to appreciate all this. Well think again. Being a digital mode gives rtty many of the benefits and ability to do much with little that CW has. Both Rtty Rick and I run just a barefoot IC-765 and can regularly get some decent runs going. Even on 40 and 80 with dipoles. That's one of the other beauties of this mode – it lets you really participate with a modest station.

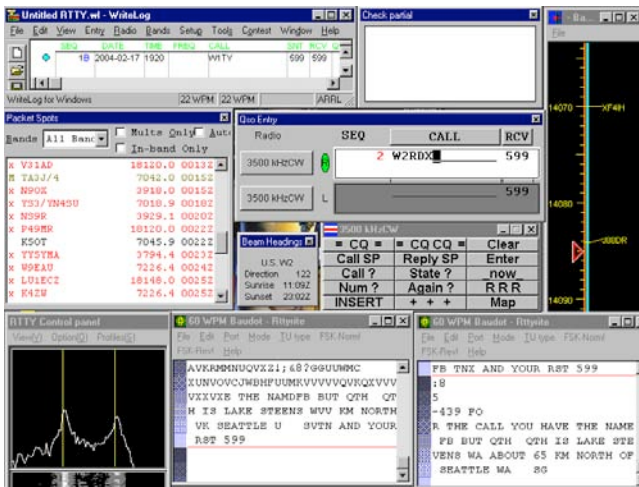
So with the least operating stress and the most bang for your low power buck, this is the mode to contest with. And it's really so simple to hook up – if you've built a computer/rig cw interface, it's essentially the same thing, with different pins. Plus get the audio from your rig to the soundcard. This is no big deal – even * I * did it! So can you, and you'll have a ball. Try it, you'll like it.

[Ed. note: MMTTY, WriteLog, the needed interfaces, and everything else about setting up and operating rtty will be explained in detail at this month's meeting.]

Rick, W1TY

My IC-765 / Writelog based RTTY setup uses three computers and three RTTY decoders. The main WL screen shows the HAL P-38 hardware modem in the right window with MMTTY in the center along with its tuning display. A second computer is dedicated to RITTY receive only and the third shows only PacketCluster spots. Even though WL is sending Packet spots to the bandmap, I like to have an entire screen, on computer #3, showing only spots so as to keep me updated on overall band activity.

The obvious question is, why three RTTY decoders? Each decoder, HAL, MMTTY and RITTY has different strengths. With weak signal, path flutter and QRM, a single modem may miss vital information, requiring a repeat, but another will always decode correctly. I also use a PK-232 receiving audio only, for tuning. I find the LED bar display very fast. Even though I can show four RTTY tuning windows simultaneously, I still usually tune by ear.



A very useful utility, F-Keys, in the center of my screen allows user programmable Function Keys to automate common messages such as sending CQ and asking for repeats with just a click. It is also used for CW and Phone contesting.

The IC-765 will output 100 watts all day without a problem, but it gets hot. As this is a key-down mode, some rigs cannot continuously handle this power level. An extra cooling fan is always a good idea with teletype. All you really need is a quality receiver and sound card. Set your AGC to slow, use 250hz filters if you can and build an FSK keying cable (avoid AFSK via the mic input). With an average station you will be very competitive. Let's hear more RDXA tones in the next contest.

Finally... No, I cannot decode RTTY by ear. Maybe someday though!

The RDXA Logbook Theme for May

Tell us about your Elmer
Include a photograph if you have one

Just email your input to n2rd@arrl.net by 5/4

The Exchange

For Sale by Natan, W6XR

I have two F12 XR-5 for sale. Both in the air less than one month. 20 through 10 meters including WARC bands. Includes balun and both units assembled, trimmed and tested with price of \$600.00 each. Pickup in Ithaca, NY preferred. These are my personal antennas now on the ground.

(Ed. Reply to Natan via Email natan@twcnv.rr.com)

For Sale by Jim, N2VX

I got a good deal on clamp-on ferrite beads and have extras. They are used for RFI suppression on PC cables, etc. They came to 0.70 each. If anybody's interested I can bring them to the next meeting. The rest go to the hamfest.

(Ed. Send Jim an email jim_cronin@juno.com and he will bring them to the next meeting.)

Wanted, placed by Irv, AF2K

An elderly gentleman, new ham, is looking for a used 2 meter FM xcvr for base use. Mobile rig would do I suppose. Nothing too complicated. Will need an antenna also. Located in Pittsford, 490 & 31-F neighborhood. Anything for sale?

(Ed. Reply to Irv via email af2k@juno.com)

For Sale, placed by Irv, AF2K

HAZER (Rohn 25G) Excellent condition. Galvanized steel and aluminum, by Glenn Martin. Includes worm gear winch and 4" brass stainless steel pulley in Rohn tower top section to raise and lower Hazer. \$350. Pick-up only, in Pittsford, NY (585) 381-8187

Rohn GIN POLE, 25G, Excellent condition. \$200. Pick-up only, in Pittsford, NY (585) 381-8187

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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Dave Wright, N2CK
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Send dues (\$15/yr) and correspondence to the secretary Charles Kuhfuss WB2HJV, 55 Stoney Path Lane, Rochester, NY 14626.

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