



### Holiday Dinner!!

December 14

**Swiss Chalet**  
Dinner at 7:00pm

Greetings to all at the start of this Holiday Season. We will have a Holiday Social Dinner at Swiss Chalet at 7:00pm on Dec. 14 in place of the regular RDXA business meeting. Organization is easy as we will order off of the regular menu and get separate checks. Email [af2k@juno.com](mailto:af2k@juno.com) if you are planning to come for dinner. We will qsy to the S&S for some post prandial merry making.



camels, food you wouldn't want to eat and the locals with their AK-47's. I don't even want to think about the "one week living in a disabled van without a shower" story. After seeing this, the work at Field Day should never be a cause of complaint again!

Anticipating Don's program, I chose to invite members from RARA, RVHFG and BARK among others to join us at Gander Mountain. A little RDXA marketing resulted in over forty people attending. The room was literally Standing Room Only. Hopefully some new faces will join RDXA. When we have an appropriate agenda, I think that more interclub activities would be good for us all.

Did you string your holiday lights yet? While you are up on the ladder, how about running some elevated radials at the same time? It's a good way to make your antlers (not just a holiday reference) more effective.

No formal meeting in December but we all congregate at the Swiss Chalet on the 14th for a dinner. Normal schedule resumes in January.

If it is done in amateur radio, it's done at RDXA!

### President's Soapbox Rick Mintz, W1TY

CQWW, Sweepstakes... Let the games begin. It's contest season! The low bands are getting quiet and the high bands still make an appearance. Life is good.

Did you attend the November meeting? The presentation from Don Butterbaugh was really a treat. His travels representing Harris RF were the foundation of fun and sometimes scary tales of his installations in Mongolia. We had the chance to see

### RDXA Holiday Social Rick Mintz, W1TY

Fast becoming an RDXA tradition is the annual December Holiday Social.

Here is your early reminder to set the date aside.

Since the third Tuesday comes late this month we have decided to move our get together up one week. Come and join your RDXA friends for some fun and the last chance in 2004 to tell tall tales.

This year the place to be is **Swiss Chalet**. They have something for everyone, including your favorite adult beverages. BBQ Chicken (yum), ribs, burgers, great salads (Caesar is my favorite) and more are on the menu, all at a reasonable price.

It's always a good time and a nice change from the formality of monthly meetings.

Join us!

Date: December 14, 2004

Place: Swiss Chalet on S. Winton Road

Time: 7:00pm sharp

Order off of the menu and separate checks.

QSY to Scotch & Sirloin after dinner ???

Please send your RSVP to Irv, AF2K@juno.com.



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### **DX Cluster Report NG2P**

**Bob Hunter,**

Prompted by a call from Bob Kester K2JJT just before Thanksgiving, who is sysop of the FAIRPT backbone node, the RF link was restored from there to the DX Cluster. I don't have equipment setup in the shack to make outbound connections easily and the problem wasn't reported for some time. Sorry about that.

Bob reports that on any of the old NEDA nodes, NEWARK, FAIRPT that are still up and running and you see RDXA:KB2VZS-7 on a node list (type N as I recall to see it), you can connect.

C FAIRPT (on userport freq of 145.09 at Fairport or as required elsewhere)

C RDXA (from anywhere that shows RDXA on the node list)

DX (or C NG2P)

Alternate:

C FAIRPT

DX

DX (twice)

Also for you packet guys, if you are connected to FPTCPU (the AWZnode in the Linux box there), the command DX will take care of things for you. So I am told.

73

Bob NG2P

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### **RDXA Finances Charles Kuhfuss WB2HJV**

The RDXA Financial Report as of December 7, 2004 is as follows:

Checking account balance \$1449.10

Petty cash \$100.00

Total available funds \$1549.10

Less memorial fund (\$615.18)

Total operating funds \$933.92

November checking account activity:

Memberships \$76.00 (KE2VN, KC2EZL, K2ZT, NY2A, K2CS/N2TWI)

Transfer from petty cash \$84.00

Guest speaker dinner 11/16/04 (\$5.67) check #151

Ham club software (\$10.00) check #152

November Petty Cash activity:

Memberships \$60.00 (WY2Z, K2ZS, N2BEG, N2RD)

50/50 raffle on 11/16/04 \$24.00

Transfer to checking account (\$84.00)

The RDXA currently has 54 paid members for the 2004/05 season.

**Please renew your membership at the meeting or by mailing me a check at address 55 Stoney Path Lane, Rochester, NY 14626.**

A group of ten RDXA members gathered at Hickory Lake to operate K2NNY for SSB Sweepstakes. This was my first contest at HLCC and I really enjoyed myself. It was my job to optimize Writelog for the effort past the basic implementation that had been used in the past.

Primary to the upgrade was the creation of .WAV files. This allowed us full voice automation: from CQ to Exchange to announcing Dupes (as a Worked B4 message). Windows XP comes with a computer voice that is pitiful, however AT&T has a demo program that is far superior. That was the source of the .WAV files. After recording 0-9, A-Z and a few complete phrases, everything goes to a .WAV editor (GoldWave.com). Each character has to be separated individually to a file and equalized for volume, etc. Lot of work! Lot of fun also! Ended up with ~60 files. Finally, since I had the urge, I added a utility that allows almost every Writelog function to be accessed via a mouse click. Success would be measured by getting AF2K to put down his pencil! (Note: It didn't happen!)

The final upgrade was to use the K2NNY Sweeps CW log as an ADI file for the SSB weekend. Any station worked on CW weekend had its Check, Section, etc. automatically entered when the call was worked. Really cuts down on the typing when all you need is the new serial number. It worked great. The new stations from SSB will append to the CW ADI to include even more calls for next year.

K2DB and I arrived late Thursday evening so as to have all of the next day to update the station. With RF problems on CW weekend we set about installing upgrades. Paul provided a new RigBlaster Pro. We added two ¼ wave ground radials for each band along with another ground rod. Drilling a ¾" hole in the floor, directly behind the op table, we hammered thru a few feet (it seemed) of rock to better ground the radials. We finished 15 minutes before darkness! Result: Not a single hangup of either radio (at 1KW) or computer. With K2DB at the mic we began. First QSO at 0400 local: "1 Q VY1JA 60 NT". Lock and load!

K2NNY consisted of K2DB, W1TY, N2OPW, K2CS, N2TWI, NF2L, N1OKL, AF2K, N2VJB and KA2IYB. We worked RDXA members W2TZ, K1PY, W2LC, W2FU, WB2HJV and WB2KAO. Who did I miss? Obviously Sweeps is a major RDXA

activity. Special thanks to Paul for the QTH and Kevin for feeding the huddled masses. I suggest that "Contest Cooking with Kevin" becomes a monthly column. Also, thanks to the inventor of "Duck Tape"!

Raw score: 1147 Q – 80 Sections – 183,520 points.

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### Cooking with N2VJB

This month's easy recipe that even a ham operator can make during a contest.

#### E-Z Cheese Soufflé

Ingredients:

8 slices soft white bread (Wonder works well)  
5 eggs  
1/4 teaspoon dry mustard  
1/2+ shredded cheese (Cheddar-Jack is really nice)  
2 cups milk  
1 stick butter or margarine  
Tall (4" or better) casserole

In a bowl beat the 5 eggs until well blended add milk and mustard powder.

Spray casserole with non-stick spray on sides and bottom. Remove crust from bread slices and cut bread into uniform cubes. Pour bread cubes into casserole and add shredded cheese. Mix this up a little to get some cheese below the surface. Pour egg/milk mixture over the bread/cheese and place in refrigerator overnight. (Before adding the liquid you could spice up the soufflé with red pepper flakes or whatever you prefer).

In the morning, preheat oven to 325. Melt butter/margarine and pour over the soufflé mixture in the casserole. Bake in ovens for 1 hour or until top begins to brown.

Serve immediately!

This is the Hickory Lake Sunday breakfast this year. Give it a try!

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### Radio Explained     Albert Einstein, Genius

"I am often asked how radio works. Well, you see, wire telegraphy is like a very long cat. You yank his

tail in New York and he meows in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? Now, radio is exactly the same, except that there is no cat."

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### **RDXA Holiday Greetings Rick Mintz, W1TY**

On behalf of the Officers, Board of Directors and Chairman of RDXA, have a wonderful Holiday season. To help with those last minute holiday pressures direct your spouse, significant other or generous parents and friends to:

<http://www.aesham.com/>

<http://www.hamradio.com/>

<http://www.burghardt-amateur.com/>

They'll figure it out!

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### **For The Fun Of It Rick Mintz, W1TY**

Hams never lie, but under the influence of beer (or oxygen), you may have heard these...

I will learn the code this year.

Field Day is not a contest.

I have never spotted myself on the packet cluster.

Honey, this is the last radio that I will ever need.

DX net? Never been on one.

Of course I can copy RTTY in my head.

I'm from the FCC, and I'm here to help you.

You're 599, need your call again.

I worked 'em on the first call. (Only took 2 hours)

OK, a little more...

NØEL\* - G1FT - KR1S\* - KR1NGL - RE1NDR - N1CK\* \*actual issued calls

Q: How many DX'ers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: One to change it and the rest to argue about where the gray line begins.

Q: If an antenna falls in the forest, and no one is there to see or hear it, does the SWR change?

Finally! Using all of the letters in "The Morse Code", rearrange them to make a Ham Radio related phrase. (Solution further down, no peeking!)

A month into the contest season. I hope you've had an opportunity to operate.

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### **DX! Chris Shalvoy, K2CS**

CQWW SSB, the last weekend of October seemed to please. Even though 10m is on the way out, the band held in there for much of the contest.

I found myself on 40m and 80m much longer than in years past. 40m is a "test" in itself. Foreign broadcast, splits and wire always pose a challenge for the low power crowd.

I think I topped my best with 49 q's on 40m. Guaranteed to give you a headache! 15m and 10m were almost a wash with 228 and 220 q's respectively. A far cry from the 500 q's on 10m the past few years.

Did manage a few "surprises" on 20m, BA, 9M8 and HS0. Remember, I'm not used to these type of q's. Generally, they don't hear me and in ever instance, I was the first one there, before the spots and subsequent pileups.

As I've said many times, knowing propagation will do more than amps or beams.

Heard in the pileups, N2RD, W2LU, XE2AC, N2CK, K1PY, WB2HJV, N2OPW & NA2X.

Onward to the efforts at K2NNY. CW was one I had to miss due to a certain kids football game (East Rochester made it to the county championships for the first time ever in Raymond's division, guess what I choose to do....).

From the reports, a handful of operators did an excellent job and even managed a sweep amongst a huge "hit" with A indexes into the 100's!!

2 weeks later, K2DB manages to (in my opinion) gather one of the finest operating crews to participate in SS SSB. It always will amuse me how many "CW" only ops show for this one and put the phone guys to shame.

Just the right mix of seriousness, sarcasm and our own "chef" made for yet another exceptional effort.

The "tale of the tape" will show our overall effort but I think we all left satisfied and ever closer to the "big boy list".

Thanks to those who managed to give us a point or two throughout the sweeps.

I'll be short and sweet about my CQWW CW effort (from Cold Brook, NY)... 60 mile an hour winds, 80 foot trees snapping and NO ELECTRICITY WITH YOUR GENERATOR IN YOUR GARAGE IN ROCHESTER make for less than perfect operating conditions in any contest. I did manage to get up a

crude, folded 160m dipole for the ARRL 160m contest.

I headed up to my place in Cold Brook, NY (FN23) to operate the 160m contest. After a few flurries and quite a significant snowfall in Cold Brook, I managed to get on the air about 10pm (0300 z). Since I have yet to get the furnace in, and the temperatures in the single digits (8.8 f) it was a struggle to try to keep the place warm and operate. Honestly, I was wearing a few sweatshirts, afghan around my legs and my 30,000 BTU propane heater right next to me. I could see my breath throughout Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Ah, but the noise.... non existent. 1600 ft on a ridge and no neighbors is well worth the cold. Granted, I have a much better job to do on a 160m antenna, but from the "junk box", it tuned and people heard the TS50.

No "DX" but worked almost anything I heard.

As far as I can remember, my best effort ever.

275 q's with 48 mults, which works out to 26,400. A folded (300 ohm ladder line) dipole and the TS50.

One interesting observation... Why would so many stations ask me to repeat my section? Well, I know your initial reaction would be your incredibly weak signal but think. The last time I really put an effort in this contest was from my old place in NNY. The super checker files had me listed there so the WNY exchange took quite a few for a loop.

I have great hopes for next year (like Gayle coming to keep the fire going!!).

In closing, I'd like to mention the passing of Mrs. K2FR, Pat Gern.

I'm at a loss for words but suffice it to say she was the one behind the "master". Without Pat, Fred wouldn't have been able to be what he was to us.

A chapter in our lives has been closed but oh what a book has been left behind.....

Dia Duit Fred & Pat,

Chris, K2CS

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**To the RDXA management team...  
Rick Mintz, W1TY**

A special thanks to those that keep things running smoothly....

**Officers**

Paul K2DB  
Vice President  
Charlie WB2HJV  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Chairs**

Raj N2RD - Newsletter  
Vic K1PY - Contest, FD  
Scott K2ZS - Web page  
Chris KCS - DX  
Bob NG2P - PacketCluster  
Kevin N2VJB - Membership

**Board of Directors**

Gene W2LU  
Dave N2CK  
Paul N2OPW  
Fred W2TZ

The vast majority of RDXA business such as insurance, membership, hamfest, finances, Field Day, program and event planning are all handled by these dedicated members. After all the sometimes heated discussions, they always find a consensus and always act in your best interests! When you see them...say "Thanks!".

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**Membership Expiration Rick Mintz, W1TY**

Remember that the grace period for 2004-2005 RDXA membership ends in December.

Membership privileges including access to the RDXA mailing lists and member web areas will be deleted in late December. Why wait? Charlie will be glad to receive your renewal. It's a bargain at only \$15. (Puzzle solution: "Here Come Dots")

**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 7:00pm local time on the third Tuesday of each month from September to June. Come and join us!

**Officers:**

**President** **Rick Mintz, W1TY**  
w1ty@arrl.net

**Vice-President** **Paul Mackanos, Jr., K2DB**  
paul@prohomeinspector.net

**Secretary/Treasurer** **Charles Kuhfuss, WB2HJV**  
wb2hjb@frontiernet.net

**Board of Directors:**

Paul Meyers, N2OPW n2opw@qsl.net

Dave Wright, N2CK n2ck@arrl.net

Gene Fuller, W2LU w2lu@worldnet.att.net

Fred Groner, W2TZ w2tz@aol.com

**Apointed positions:**

Contesting and FD

Newsletter Editor

DX Report

Membership

Packet Cluster

Web Master

Vic Gauvin, K1PY

Raj Dewan, N2RD

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

Kevin Popplewell, N2VJB

Bob Hunter, NG2P

Scott Hoag, K2ZS

**Send submissions to the newsletter editor:**

Raj Dewan, N2RD

n2rd@arrl.net

**Send dues (\$15/yr) and correspondence** to the secretary Charles Kuhfuss WB2HJV, 55 Stoney Path Lane,

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**Rochester, NY 14626**

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