



**Regular Meeting
June 15th 19:30**

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

**Field Day!!
There's tweaks, new stuff, things to
know about. Come learn what you
need to know about this year's FD.**

(Please bring FD Food \$\$)

**ALSO
2004/2005 Officers & Board of
Directors Elections
PLUS
QSL Card Judging**

President's Soapbox Paul Mackanos K2DB

Nominations for officers were closed at the beginning of May, and we will have the elections at the June Meeting.

Field Day is fast approaching, and we will be having another great week-end of radios, antennas, stories, great food and friendship. Please make plans to be in attendance for the annual RDXA Field Day at Webster Park the last full week-end of June.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting, next Tuesday at Gander Mountain.

We are looking at the possibility of changing the meeting time next year to 7:00 PM. Let us know what you think of that.

In the meantime, post those contest scores, work that rare one, fix the antenna damage from the winter, and above all else, lets all have FUN.

Welcome New Members

**Mike Crownover, AB5EB,
Andy Flowers, KØSM
Robert Karz, K2OID
John Rogers, W2JTR,
Robert Wood, N2KX**

And, also welcome back to those who have joined us again after a hiatus:

**Roger Calendine, KB4VL
Albert Gritzmacher, AE2T
Marv McIntyre, K2ZAA
Karl Abbott, N2KKB**

QSL Card Contest

Rick, W1TY

At the June RDXA meeting, members can vote for their favorite card. Can't make the May meeting (shame on you)? I will also accept cards via email or snail mail until June 7th. The cards will be projected at Gander Mountain and voted on for the most attractive. (You will NOT be allowed to vote for your own card.)

The winning submission gets a choice of two GREAT PRIZES,

(1) one year (six issue) subscription to the National Contest Journal, or,

(2) one year paid RDXA membership extension

RDXA Finances Charles Kuhfuss WB2HJV

The RDXA financial report as of June 1, 2004 is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Current checking balance | \$867.07 |
| Petty Cash | \$100.00 |
| Total available funds | \$967.07 |
| <u>Less memorial fund</u> | <u>(\$615.18)</u> |
| Total operating funds | \$351.89 |

June activity:

Chk #133 AF2K Banquet ticket (\$20.00)
Chk #134 N2CK Tent cover from Memorial Fund per BOD) (\$111.71)
Chk #135 WriteLog License for Field Day (\$65.00)
Checking deposit - K2MP Banquet ticket - check #0265 \$20.00
Checking deposit - Petty cash transfer WB2HJV \$60.00
50/50 Raffle on May 18th - \$16.50 to petty cash
RDXA membership renewal \$15.00 to petty cash
The RDXA currently has 57 paid members.

Field Day 2004

Vic Gauvin K1PY

The end of June will quickly be upon us. Of course, to all of us that means but one thing: Field Day!!

At the HamFest, I spent a lot of time talking with folks who stopped by our inside booth, and often the topic was Field Day ('course, I had something to do with that!). It's definitely neat to have the bragging rights that we've earned over the years. Many times I pointed up at our "Top 10 Field Day ..." poster outlining all the years since '89 that we've made it. It was a major selling point for the club overall, and perhaps a key factor in attracting 5 new members.

We've certainly worked hard to get here, and similarly hard to stay here all these years. And this year will be no exception. We've juggled a few things around, and added a couple, including the latest version of WriteLog (our own W2RDX registered copy by the way). We plan on capitalizing on some of WriteLog's functionality, like for example, interstation Gab. Also, all WL functions can be programmed to any keyboard key, so we'll be customizing a few things.

Other than simply sharing the general excitement we share about Field Day, it will be to your advantage to come out to the meeting and get a preview look and explanation of the things that are new for this year.

There's two other things that would help a lot at the meeting:

If you have a fair idea when you'll be there, please fill in the sign-up sheet. It's a tremendous help in planning.

(Don't worry if it doesn't turn out -- we'd rather know what you're hoping to do versus knowing nothing at all.)

Along with that, it will be a HUGE help if you pay ahead for FD food -- we all have other things to do at FD -- chasing people down for their food money is one we'd rather not have to do. \$20 for weekend (4 meals). Please help.

We've gotten the Field Day reputation we have through all of our combined efforts over the years. It's something to be proud of, and is likely what continues to motivate us to ever better accomplishments. Let's keep that tradition rolling yet again this year!

Directions to Field Day site:

RDXA Field Day is held at the campgrounds in Webster Park in Webster NY.

Take the Holt Road exit from 104, and proceed north. At the lake, turn left on East Lake Rd and go approximately 0.6 miles. Turn left into Webster Park Campgrounds. Proceed straight, even after the road turns to dirt. When you enter a clearing, there will be a parking area to the right -- you're there!

And for newcomers -- yes, that flagpole DOES scream for an antenna on it, doesn't it? Wait 'til you see what we do with it!! (Hint: GIZMO).

FD Schedule

Friday June 25

- Gather at site approx 1 p.m. to be ready for official start of set-up
- 2:00 p.m. Start set-up. Many hands make light work -- be there if you can
- 6:00 p.m. or so -- Free pizza and soda for set-up workers
- After pizza (if required): Finishing any antenna, power, tent, or other basics to be ready for Saturday morning

Saturday, June 26

- 7:00 a.m. Traditional FD Breakfast at the Nutcracker Restaurant, Empire Blvd at Gravel Rd
- 8:00 a.m. Continue set-up at site
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch -- Medium sub, custom ordered (p/o weekend pkg)

- 10:00 – 1:30 WriteLog training
- 2:00 p.m. Start operating!
- 5:30 p.m. Saturday dinner, featuring Chef Kevin – this year, Italiano! Plus the traditional RDXA desserts (p/o wknd pkg)

Sunday, June 27

- 12 midnight – Night shift starts; infamous DVU Buzz Bombs distributed (they're great!!) (use with care!)
- Sometime in the morning, Breakfast (p/o wknd pkg)
- Noon – Lunch, Hots & Burgers (p/o wknd pkg)
- 2:00 p.m. Operating ends; take-down starts
- 4:00 p.m. approx; apres-FD sit-around and well-deserved celebratory 807
- 4:01 p.m. Planning starts for FD '05!

"Rate" and CQing not your thing?

Vic Gauvin, K1PY

Although RDXA proclaims itself to be a "DX and contest" club, and that's certainly true, we also like any organization anywhere are made up of members whose interests and capabilities vary from the basic "somewhat interested and have a lot to learn," to the gung-ho master-class nationally ranked expert. That has made some people at FD somewhat uncomfortable, because they really want to participate, but are intimidated by those for whom high-rates and full-time CQing are the staff of life. If you're not "there" yet, you may feel that you can't really take part, or may not even be coming out. (Although our FD is much more than Q's!!!)

We hope to have a wonderful solution for that!!!! And no, I'm not gonna tell you what it is, because we can't guarantee it yet. But if this is something that piques some interest, then you should come to the meeting this month to hear about it and see if you can help to make it happen. Maybe it'll be you that's the last person we need to pull it off!

Reflections on FD 2003

Vic Gauvin, K1PY

Well, because of the inside booth at the HamFest and the Field Day planning meeting (still to come at the time of writing), you're spared the 100-page K1JUL/K1PY Field Day history that I joked with Raj that I'd submit.

FD has been the one constant in my radio "career." For years and years I didn't even own a radio at all. But I'd

always join all the other hams across the country who came out of the proverbial woodwork for Field Day.

It started with my first club while in high school -- EARS, the Exeter (N.H.) Amateur Radio Society. Now this was a young club, unlike most you see today. This club was primarily high school-aged kids. Our oldest non-school member was probably in his late twenties! We went to an abandoned fire-watch tower, on a hill of course, but right behind the QTH of a real radio Old-Timer, a broadcast engineer at a radio station, who became a club mentor. There were no transceivers back then folks -- these separate receivers and transmitters all glowed in the dark and weighed a ton (each)!

Then there were a couple 2-person FDs at a camp on a lake up towards N.H.'s White Mountains. And yes, mountains high, lake low, contacts few.

A memorable hiatus was with a few guys from the Port City Club (Portsmouth, N.H.) that formed a little group called the Southport Island Field Day, Marching, and Chowder Society. This was up in Kennebunkport, Maine, on of course, Southport Island. The camp was right over the bridge to the island -- the turning bridge, that rotated 90-degrees to let boats through the channel with the mainland. And just across the street from the Lobster House. The place where at 6 p.m. on Saturday, 4 hours into Field Day operating, we'd shut down, march down the hill to the Lobster House, and have our traditional chowder and boiled lobsters (picked fresh from the salt-water tanks). The actual lobster boats that got them were at the pier next to our table. This is down-home real New England guys!

Those days ended when I moved to Nashua, N.H., and became co-founder (with another Vic) of NARC, the Nashua Area Radio Club. This is the club now famous for its 28A Field Days and stacked mono-banders on 70-foot towers using the call N1FD. But it started more traditionally, going to the top of some nearby mountain (easy to do in N.H.) It was great -- mornings found the peak fog-shrouded, you could pick wild blueberries, and at the end of the day watch the sun set over another mountain.

We moved back to Nashua ultimately and got a lot fancier and better. That was when the multiple towers started. I remember operating the 40M station with a 40-2CD Cushcraft at 70-feet, passing the time with guest operator HL9KW (yes HL). This club has real character, and some real characters! For example, one member who had real flair would introduce Sunday breakfast by serving Bloody Mary's while attired in a velvet smoking jacket! He ultimately went on to become ARRL Division Director. Things were good. And ultimately we won 4A.

In 1984 we moved to Rochester. Excited to find a HUGE club, I couldn't imagine what their FD would be like. Shocked that neither could they, I was quite fortunate to discover RDXA. Harriet Hollister Spencer State Park was

my introduction to FD WNY-style. The most noteworthy thing about those early RDXA Field Days was my 10-year old daughter Kellie's desire to go along with Dad for these special weekends. What an honor that was for me! And to justify it, she even got her Novice ticket, and became the sole operator of our first Novice FD station, using her call KB2CHC.

To draw more of the membership that wasn't thrilled with a 45-minute or longer drive to the FD site, we relocated to the Ridge Shelter at Webster Park. This definitely worked out better, and was the start of the current RDXA FD tradition. And the rest is

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.

Rochester Hamfest 2004 Wrapup

Rick, W1TY

Every Hamfest has notable moments. This year...

(1) Major thanks to Vic & Kevin for a successful RDXA membership booth in the dome. I know that they put a lot of planning into the display, which looked great. We can

now welcome five new RDXA members because of their efforts. There were also a number of renewals. I can't speak for the entire time, but whenever I passed by, RDXA was busier than ARRL. Maybe they should have to join US! A special thanks to Vic. He lived at the booth for the entire time. He worked every visitor without even the expectation of a QSL card. And Kevin hanging in with only about 10 hours sleep over the prior three days: Kudos!

(2) Charlie's Cabana. Charlie has done more for the science of beer distribution than anything since the invention of Carbon Dioxide. The brewmeister required that the keg be empty at the end of the fest. With total disregard to his personal safety, he happily made that happen.

(3) I expect that Dave Wright put in the most behind the scenes effort. Dave acquired new roofs for the RDXA Grassy Knoll condo. He had to set them up at home to ensure the correct fit and transport them to the 'fest along with the gas grill. Dave..... you're the best!

(4) Frank Sinatra entertained the stragglers until about 7:30 on Saturday night. Most (definitely, not all) of us enjoyed his music. During this time we engaged in a few hours of childish jokes and beer consumption. Was the highlight of the fest. Charlie performed some strange body gyrations in my car, the details of which I will omit.

(5) The Unknown Pizza Delivery Person actually found us at the Fairgrounds.

(6) Jim & Kevin. Jim thanks for the Wegmans trips for food. And Kevin... what good would burgers have been if you hadn't remembered to "cheese" us?

I know that there are others that I am not mentioning, but thanks from all of us.

Everyone had a great time, I'm sure. Next stop..... Webster Park!

RDXA - More than Amateur Radio. Good people having a good time.

Charlie, WB2HJV

In reviewing the new member / member renewal totals, as of today we currently have 22 paid (including 2 students) for the upcoming 2004-05 season. That's 22 more than we had last year at this time for the upcoming season. Great effort by all...

I have \$60.00 set aside for callsign badges...should I place an order and with whom...or is someone else planning to handle this? Please advise. Thanks.

My left index finger that I sliced with my utility knife upon Cabana teardown appears to be healing ok. Yes Rick, my Cabana still needs a couple of refinements before I can go to market and start shipping. Trouble is I keep working with the prototype...five years now...battery operated lights, electronic thermo sensor, a weight gauge with

digital display to determine keg emptiness, a small spigot to release ice water on those 90 degree days, and some quick disconnects ...etc. are a few suggestions posed in the past for future study.

As I drove away from the grassy knoll the vendor with the polka music carried on...something about adios Frank...

Vic, K1PY

The Rochester Hamfest is behind us as the newsletter is being prepared, but it's worth a few moments to reflect on RDXA's "presence" at this local institution. To sum it up in one word, I'd choose "impressive" and yet again something to be proud of.

For the first time, we decided to take up the Hamfest organizer's offer of a free booth (given to all local clubs to "fill up" the Dome). With materials from Irv AF2K, Kevin N2VJB, and myself, Rick W1TY, Charlie WB2HJV, and Jim N2VX put up the club banner, the FD Top 10 poster, and a bunch of smaller posters. In addition was a QSL card display, an RDXA denim shirt and FD T-shirt, and the Big Key (with oscillator). All this is on yellow tablecloths. If you were allergic to yellow, you would have to stay out of the building!!

Kevin provided a laptop to display a 40-slide PowerPoint presentation that repeatedly and quickly cycled thru many FD pictures, many slides indicating our FD results for each year (all the 6th, 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st places), and anything else I could find to show off the club.

Whether it was all the yellow that captured people's eyes, or the Big Key, or whatever, we had a pretty constant stream of traffic. Lots of folks stopped by, especially those from Buffalo and Syracuse. And lots of stories! I recommend that everybody work this booth just for that – it's a blast. But the coolest thing is being able to talk to anyone else about all that we have to offer as a club. I think sometimes we're too close to it all to realize, and start taking it for granted. Stepping back and taking a look, it's impressive. There's action. There's spirit. There's fun and camaraderie. And that's before you even get to the main things we do!!! Based on that alone, we got 5 new members. A couple from out of town really had no idea who or what we were, but what we have and are is easily able to shine thru. We should all feel pretty good about that, and hopefully so will our newest members. Some unfortunately are even further out than Redd in Oswego, so we'll barely see them, but we'll have to keep the spirit strong enough that it spans the miles. (Actually, for our new long-distance members, you're joining several others in the Carolinas, Florida, Colorado, Wyoming, and Mexico, so you're not alone!)

Of course, the inside booth was just the newest aspect of our Hamfest presence. There's of course the traditional Grassy Knoll Hospitality Area. Aside from much selling on the club tables – free for all members to bring their stuff by the way (I was informed that not everybody knew this – see how much we take for granted?!) – we had an even bigger and better Grill crew, dubbed the GrillMeisters. Jim N2VX found a great Italian Sausage place, and Dave N2CK got a supply for the 'Fest, plus prepared the Peppers & Onions to top them off. These were the best!! Jim also made a BJ's run, as well as Tim K2CY and Bud KD2WL, each obtaining all the goodies we needed for another successful 'fest food experience.

Charlie's Cabana on Saturday was a highlight again this year. From W1TY's post-Fest e-mail: "Charlie's Cabana. Charlie has done more for the science of beer distribution than anything since the invention of Carbon Dioxide. The brewmeister required that the keg be empty at the end of the fest. With total disregard to his personal safety, he happily made that happen" (with help from the rest of us).

For those who choose to leave too quickly, you miss the afterglow of a long weekend's activity. The stalwart few gathered under one of the canopies, TY's car was moved closer, and "Frank Sinatra entertained the stragglers until about 7:30 on Saturday night. Most (definitely, not all) of us enjoyed his music." But mostly it was the repartee that went with it. Of course, having the pizza delivered to the Grassy Knoll helped some too!

Many folks deserve kudos from the club for their efforts at the 'Fest, from Paul N2OPW and the stake-out crew days before the 'Fest to those who are there to take things down when it's done. Big thanks as always need to go to Dave N2CK for picking up, transporting, setting up, taking down, and hauling again all the tables, chairs, the club grill, and the two canopies. As they say, it wouldn't happen without him! Thanks Dave.

As if all this wasn't enough -- soon we get to do it all over again – Field Day here we come!!! See y'all there!

Thanks!

**To all the authors
of the 2003-04 season newsletter articles.**

**See you in the fall,
Raj, N2RD, Newsletter Editor**

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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