



***New Season — New Time!
A half hour earlier...***

October 19th 19:00

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

What Ham Radio has meant to me
by Tim Magee, WB2KAO

Tim has been licensed since 1963, and will be presenting a nice program on what Ham Radio has meant to him in the last 40 or so years.. He was born blind, the oldest of 5 children, in 1951. Ham Radio has been a bright spot in his life since 1963. He enjoys using and teaching teaching the cw to others. He met his wife of 10 years on 2 meters back in 1976. Look for Tim on his own repeater in the on 444.850 MHz PL 110.9.

President's Soapbox Rick Mintz, W1TY

Can you tell that contest season is upon us? Gravity grabs the red & yellow leaves and the sun makes limited appearances. Before the next newsletter CW Sweepstakes will be a memory. Hope you all get a chance to operate. I am looking forward to my first SSB Sweeps at K2NNY. After ten consecutive years with a sweep as a single, I am game for a combined effort with my RDXA friends.

Seems like we talk so much about contesting at RDXA, but do you even think about what RDXA means to you? DX club, contest club, social club. We seem to have a mix of interests, and somehow they all blend. More appropriate to the times would be to say that we multitask.

Sometime, however, these interests can conflict. With the attention RDXA pays to Field Day, we have an example. Big score or just have fun, what's your pleasure? On the surface these views can be opposed. Emergency preparedness, contest, social gathering... what is it? Neither and all. Long gone, happily, are the days of scouting for the hot operators to increase the score. Hey, if RDXA cannot bring home the Q's on it's own, why call it RDXA Field Day?

Personally, I attend FD to hang out with my friends and try to approach the Guinness score for the consumption of mini-éclairs. But, when I sit in the "chair", I want Q's... lots of Q's.

The September Board meeting at N2CK's had ten RDXA members attending. That wonderful turnout speaks to the commitment of our officials. The hot topic is often the monthly program. The buck stops with K2DB this year. Got an idea? Let Paul know. The October general meeting is a week away but I am still going to tease you with the November program. We are expecting a representative from Harris RF with a very unique program. Don't miss this one! (Yes, Harris remains in business, even after K2MP retired.)

Our collective thanks to Chris, K2CS, for his DX presentation. As always Chris entertains and educates. We let him choose the topic. Next time Chris is invited, how about, "Radio Life After DOS". What pressure!

As I sit here typing with Pneumonia (not fun), I am faced with potential problems with our Mendon Ponds move. Lots of "hidden" expenses that must be dealt with. It's nice to have such a capable crew to help. More later on this.

For those that are antenna challenged, get on the air anyway. When my tower fell I thought my contesting days were over, but multi-op RTTY with N2WK and Sweeps with K2NNY dispels that. With only my 40/80 vertical standing I was able to win CQ WPX RTTY for 40 meters this year. Excuses abound, but give it a try anyway. As I found out... Ya just never know.

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

Board of Directors' Meeting Report

Rick Mintz, W1TY

Hi RDXA'ers,

We just concluded the monthly Board of Directors meeting for October. The primary topic was the Mendon Ponds location for 2005 Field Day.

Ed Gable put forth a lot of effort with the county trying to get them to accommodate our needs and budget.

Unfortunately, there were many charges that we were not initially made aware of and also the 2005 pricing for the East Lodge had also increased. The bottom line is... we cannot afford an extra \$300 that would be needed to pursue Mendon Ponds.

It is still our intention to find an alternative location to Webster Park, one that we can afford. This is where we need your help. We are asking all RDXA members to consider alternative locations for Field Day. What we basically need is a large field that has trees on the perimeter to allow us to string dipoles. We want to stay in Monroe County or else be very close to it. Be it a park, private field or whatever, we need you to suggest possible locations.

We were fortunate to get an early start on the search, so this setback will not be the end of the relocation search. What we DO NEED is your eyes, and your suggestions.

Maybe you know a farmer, some club or business facility that has the space that we need and will allow us access. We will be looking for some feedback at the next club meeting, October, 19.

I especially want to thank K2MP, K1PY, K2DB and others for their efforts so far in searching for a location. There is more work to do and I am sure that with their continued help, and yours, we can find a great site.

Thanks for your efforts. Let's keep our premier event at a premier location.

RDXA Finances Charles Kuhfuss WB2HJV

The RDXA Financial Report as of October 4, 2004 is as follows:

Checking account balance	\$1,082.07
Petty cash	\$256.70
Total available funds	\$1,388.77
Less memorial fund	(\$615.18)
Total operating funds	\$723.59

September checking account activity:

Memberships \$60 (NF2L, N2HKD, WB2DVU, K2MP 05/06)

September petty cash activity:

50/50 raffle on 9/21/04 \$17.00

Memberships \$135.00 (W2TZ, N2OPW, W1TY, WB2KAO, NG2P 05/06, W2LU, W2LC, KC2DQR, WB2HJV)

The RDXA currently has 37 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.

The RDXA Logbook by RDXA Members

We are continuing the regular column series titled "The RDXA Logbook" which will be composed of input solicited from general members on a particular theme. 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:

Contesting

Vic, K1PY

The season is upon us! One of the questions we might ask ourselves is What do we hope to get out of it?

Since most of us have "average" stations, meaning tri-bander and wires no higher than 50 feet, or even less like yours truly, we likely never thought of "goals" and satisfied ourselves with just getting on as time allowed and having some fun. Actually, that last item, fun, is the key point, as it should be. And the setting of goals is perhaps seen as impinging on the fun part and starting to make it more like work. Not necessarily. It depends on the goal – set the right goal and it will increase the fun.

How's that, you ask? Well, you know what it's like to accomplish something, to finish that job, and feel satisfied with the results. Even though at times during the "doing" of it you weren't so thrilled, the ultimate satisfaction at the end overshadows all that by significant amounts.

So what's the right goal? That's obviously a quite personal thing with many variables. However, I think we sometimes keep ourselves from accomplishing certain things and realizing satisfaction by putting all kinds of roadblocks in front of ourselves. A huge example would be that one can do squat with a modest station, so we don't even try. So let's address that. What can be done with a modest station? How about nearly 8-Band DXCC with a vertical? How about huge DX and contest accomplishments with "wires and 100 Watts?" How about a million contest points in

one season? These were done by Charlie WB2HJV (xxxx, GAP Voyager, 100W), Chris K2CS (TS-440, 100W, wires only until very recently), and numerous RDXA winners of the Megapoint Award, most running stations comparable to our own.

"Oh no, those required way too much personal effort." Well, meaningful results will require effort. But yes, these folks did put in the time and for that have earned some big-time awards. The point was "modest station." The station needn't be the inhibiting factor.

What else might keep us from setting a goal? It might be the feeling that we don't want to set "it" because we know we won't accomplish "it." Well, that suggests the key to success is to aim for something that indeed can be done, but that you just haven't tried to do. There's lots of those, and you can do them once you get over the ingrained inhibitions we're addressing here. For example, and you've heard this: Get on and make 100 contacts. You know you can do this, you just have to do it. And there you go, you're on your way!

All right, that was fun. So what's next? Well, now you'll probably let the idea creep in that you don't have the time to do this more than once (key word: let). Raising a family, attending to obligations, often you're right. But most often you're probably raising legitimate sounding but not quite accurate roadblocks. If you have the feeling that you'd truly "like" to do a bit more, then the issue is bumping aside the mindset that there's too much else to do, when in fact with some very minor planning you could easily squeeze a few hours out of a Sunday afternoon to get on at the end of a contest. It's the deciding, not the doing, that's the problem!

OK, let's say the roadblocks are overcome, and you're looking for that doable goal. Other classics that result in a legitimate feeling of accomplishment are 100 Q's in x hours, or a certain number of states or countries over a weekend, or x new countries to add to the DX total, or a new mode, such as rtty, where even one contact is the milestone! Small, achievable, enjoyable, but simply ones you let yourself ignore all this time. Well, now is the Springtime of the contest season, and it's time to plant new seeds. Try planting just one new goal-seed, and then nurturing it over the rest of the season. It might grow to be something you'll be quite pleased to point to by the end of the season. GL, and see you in the 'tests!

How about NON-QSOs?

Redd, WB2DVU

It was year 2000. I was playing my usual single band 40 meter game in CQWW DX CW. As always when running 100 watts to a dipole, it had been a very l-o-n-g night.

I stumbled across a faint *CQ*. It was ZK1VVV, also running low power on South Cook Island. I dropped in *WB2DVU*. He answered someone else. Again. Strike two. Again. I heard *WB2?*. WHOOPEE! Sent the call

again, but now, thanks to QSK, I heard someone else calling. Again I heard *WB2?*. I sent my call twice, with at least two or three other stations now in the mix. *ONLY WB2 WB2? KN*. THAT shoulda done it, eh? WRONG. Mr. And Mrs. America and all the ships at sea were calling and calling. Thank you, packet. I gave up after about 10 seconds. After about 30 seconds, there was a lull! I dropped in my call, but so did an East Coast MM Powerhouse. *MR10KW 599 32*. And away they went.

I sat there for about 15 minutes, listening to folks QRM and police each other, debating whether or not to quit. I was so tired and angry and disappointed that I almost wept. Was THIS behavior one that I'd have to adopt to become a better contester/DXer?

Nope. I've improved my antennas a bit, and my operating skills have also improved. But I am NOT gonna step on other people to get ahead (well, OK, except when defending my run frequency, usually in vain). *QRZ* means me. *?* means me. *K?* Is NOT me. I will be persistent but polite. I will listen a lot and transmit a little. If this relegates me to the backbench, so be it.

Care to join me?

Charlie WB2HJV

Well for me, 160 meters is the name of the game this contest season. The target is DXCC on the "Top Band". To that end I'll be focusing on the seven contests with 160 meter DX activity; i.e. CQWW SSB/CW, ARRL Int'l DX SSB/CW, ARRL 160 and CQ160 SSB/CW. Since the only "open window" on 160 meters between WNY and Europe seems to be between 10 PM and 2 AM local time, you'll most likely hear me in the 160 DX window quite frequently...evenings/early mornings... assuming I can catch a little snooze after dinner.

My TS-850S was just upgraded to one of the last manufactured Kenwood TS-870S transceivers, with the IF DSP, this past summer. The 850S is now dedicated to the WARC bands. The \$300.00 Kenwood coupon, my Father's Day gift from my generous, lovely bride, and the "plug-and-play" concept with my existing station, caused me to crumble under severe pressure back in June and place the order.

The parcel of land adjacent to my property that is the QTH to my GAP Voyager vertical (20, 40, 80 & 160) has been recently sold and the new owner assures me I'll have at least one more winter season before he begins development...so it's full steam ahead to confirm 44 more entities on the gentlemen's band. There's no longer any room on my property for a 160 meter antenna, because there's already 10 others erected for the low bands; so, serious thoughts have been crunching through my cranium about erecting a 160 meter dipole... primarily as a back-up antenna... no easy task though as the land is heavily overgrown with grape vines, poison ivy, blackberry

stalks, dense varieties of thirty-foot tree stalks, and four foot deep scrub-brush...haven to billions of those pesky, West-Nile-Virus carrying, mosquitoes! Installing a Beverage will be no easier.

"It is not enough to say that you are doing your best; you have got to succeed in doing what is necessary." Winston Churchill

Paul, K2DB

K2DB & K2NNY Plans.

My plan is to have the Hickory Lake Contest Club (K2NNY) up and running for the November Sweepstakes Contest, better than ever, and hopefully have the best scores we ever have had, both in CW and silly side band. All of our scores go to RDXA. To work with Jeff, W2FU on whatever multi-op contests he needs op's on.

Changes to my station: We now have a brand new Icom 746PRO, which I am still learning how to use; it has so many bells and whistles. Plus Irv, AF2K will be bringing his no tune amp for the extra DB's on the signal. (Loud is good, louder is better, loudest is best). We are looking forward to the pile-ups for K2NNY.

New Antennas: A few of them. I was fortunate, and had some help on this one. Kevin, N2VJB, Rick, W1TY and Bob, NG2P came up to Hickory Lake, and we put up a few new antennas, and we should really kick some butt now.

We have a 75/80 Meter dipole at approximately 75 feet, favoring east and west. Old 75/80 dipole was only 35 to 40 foot high, and stuffed in the trees, this one is totally out in the open.

We have a 40 meter delta loop, at approximately 65 to 70 feet, fed at the bottom and favoring SW/NE. This replaced the square loop, but is about 35 feet higher.

We have a 40 meter dipole, at approximately 65 feet, favoring a more N/S direction.

We also put up, on the tower, a three element 145 Mhz vertically polarized beam, and have it pointing at the Watertown Repeater.

The tribander is a TH5DX at 32 feet, and it still works FB. Going to get the manual, and fine tune it.

All of these antenna have been checked out ON_THE_AIR, and all work GREAT !!

New Operating Strategy: Yeh, operate 24 of the 30 hours, and kick some butt !!!!!!!!

We also did a lot of home improvements at Hickory Lake, a new deck, new wood stove, interior decorating, painting, etc. It's a different place this year. Much more comfy cozy.

The RDXA Logbook Theme for November

Memorable DX

Describe your most memorable DX
Work any interesting station recently?
Operating strategies?

Just email your input to n2rd@arrl.net by 11/2

More FD memories

Dave, N2CK

While enjoying a nice run on 40M phone Saturday afternoon with Ed, K2MP logging, I came across a station I just couldn't pull out. Try as we could, we couldn't make out the call. Not wanting to loose the chance to work this person - but also not wanting to waste time - I said "Try again in a half hour. We'll be turning the antenna." The look on Ed's face to my comment just left me in stitches as he wondered what control he needed to access to "turn the antenna". It took a few minutes to compose myself to get back to running! Wonder what the op on the other end was thinking!

Applying a simple engineering "fix" to the hose.

Kicking back and running them on 75 and 40M early Sunday morning at 6:00 AM - logging as I worked `em. That was a blast!

The display of the rig(s) and the modes/frequencies of the other stations was awesome yet again. I tried to pass that information along when I worked the 1D stations - figuring that they are trying to contact us - I would pass along the information as to where to find us. In retrospect I wonder how many actually made it into the log as a result of my passing along this information. I also tried to thank the 1D stations after working them. (Vic will suggest that perhaps this is a non-productive use of time - I considered it polite) Along this theme - perhaps I over-IDed, giving the call after EACH Q - even though I knew there were people waiting to work us/me. As someone who gets frustrated at DX (or any non-ID'ing) stations I didn't want to leave that impression on the other end. If we avoided some dupes in the end - it was worth it.

Scrambling to get some tarps up around the VHF tent when the rain came on Saturday afternoon. A team of folks, without any prompting, took it upon themselves to spring into action to put some sides on and stake the tent down. I don't remember who all showed up, but you know who you were.

Talking to one of the park guys on Sunday morning. He made the comment about how he liked having us there because we always pick up after ourselves. Once we're gone - there was little sign we were there.

Sitting in at the GOTA station during the final 1/2 hour of FD trying to help Wally and Alex (Marv M.'s (youngest?) son) get a couple of more Q's. Wally had worked a couple, and I found 2 for Alex to work. I had found another and

Alex was trying to get through to him as the seconds ticked down. As our computer showed 3 seconds AFTER 2:00 - the operator announced that 'Time was up, and that it was over.'. I was impressed by this operator (no - I didn't note the call) and his prompt recognition that the 24 hour period was over. Truly a class act in my book! It showed me that someone there had the forethought to set the station clocks BEFORE getting started and that someone was actually paying attention to it.

Looking around on Sunday afternoon and seeing all the help for teardown -now that IS appreciated!

Kicking back at 4:20 Sunday afternoon and seeing everything (almost) packed away.

Up coming contests

October

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB
0000Z, Oct 30.— 2400Z, Oct 31

November

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW
2100Z, Nov 6.— 0300Z, Nov 8

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB
2100Z, Nov 20.— 0300Z, Nov 22

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW
0000Z, Nov 27.— 2400Z, Nov 28
(thanksgiving weekend)

December

ARRL 160-Meter Contest
2200Z, Dec 3.— 1600Z, Dec 5

ARRL 10-Meter Contest
0000Z, Dec 11.— 2400Z, Dec 12

January

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW
0000Z, Jan 29.— 2359Z, Jan 30

February

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW
0000Z, Feb 19.— 2400Z, Feb 20

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB
0000Z, Feb 26.— 2359Z, Feb 27

March

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, Phone
0000Z, Mar 5.— 2400Z, Mar 6

Out Of State Members

Rick Mintz, W1TY

RDXA member that reside outside of New York State are now allowed two membership options. Full membership, at \$15 per year, gives you all RDXA privileges, including the right to vote and choice of receiving the newsletter via email or hardcopy. The alternative, for \$5 per year, provides an email copy of the newsletter and access to the web page archives.

2004-2005 Dues Due Rick Mintz, W1TY

If you did not pay your 2004-2005 RDXA dues at the Rochester Hamfest or Field Day it's time to stop collecting interest on your \$15. Charlie, WB2HJV will happily collect your membership fee. Let's all get paid up so RDXA can maintain its operating budget.

DX Cluster

Bob Hunter, NG2P

You can get a copy of the DXCluster manual at http://www.dxcluster.org/main/usermanual_en.html.

And you will also want to download the Filtering Primer http://www.dxcluster.org/main/filtering_en.html.

The cluster does no filtering of spots, the user must do that. You can use different filter arrangements based upon your secondary ID i.e. NG2P-4 or NG2P-8 for 40 or 80 m as an example. You might want a filter for CW only from North America spotters. Normal frequency of spots arriving during non contest periods is like the old cluster software during a contest. This spot rate during constest weekends hits 20 or 30 a minute.

Again please Telnet 66.67.220.251 7300 to the new cluster and try it out.

(START > RUN <type the following>:
TELNET 66.67.220.251 7300).

Use your callsign at the login prompt and no password is required. Some of the new operating systems like XP give a double character and that has to be turned off at your end.

The 2m user port is still 144.91 and the 440 port is 440.9.

If there are any issues call anytime over the contest weekends coming up.

Home number is 442-7185, Cell 576-6810

Rochester DX Association
W2RDX **www.rdx.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. 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**
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Contesting and FD

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DX Report

Membership

Packet Cluster

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Raj Dewan, N2RD

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Kevin Popplewell, N2VJB

Bob Hunter, NG2P

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