



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

September 21th 19:00

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

HF DXing
by Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

Although the sunspot cycle is headed for its low point, DX is still available on the bands. Come and hear Chris how he successfully snags the rare one while running barefoot on wires.

President's Soapbox Rick Mintz, W1TY

Welcome to the 56th year of RDXA. Take a moment to think about that. Imagine all the changes in Amateur Radio and how the techniques we use have advanced through all those years. Certainly RDXA itself has also changed through two score and sixteen seasons. That group of local hams choosing to gather together to distribute DXing information and share a common interest would be amazed at how RDXA has flourished.

A wiser man than I has said that "the more things change, the more they stay the same". How true for us. We still chase the "rare one", contest, discuss antennas at length, brag about our accomplishments and gather to enjoy the fun and competition of Field Day with our friends. What a wonderful hobby! Of course some of our approaches have changed with the times... DX Cluster, Writelog, Do-Everything radios, etc.

Change can be good or bad, but it must be attempted. The first change that I am proud to announce is the relocation of Field Day. Webster Park has served us well, but it is time for new challenges, and hopefully new benefits. Mendon Ponds may prove in the final analysis to be good or bad. Time will answer that. But I think that we will mostly agree that it was time to find out.

As I take the helm of RDXA, I recognize that we need to energize the Club, include those on the sidelines and increase general membership. I also recognize we have Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairs that are dedicated and willing to pitch in. From this, we will all benefit. It is a hard working and talented assemblage of members. A number of other changes are in the works too. The one change that I would like to see most is a commitment from every RDXA member. Get involved. Make an effort to donate some time, just a few hours annually to your fellow Hams. Are you on a committee? How about working on a monthly program? There is not a member out there that has not had experiences that would interest us. Each member should be able to submit an occasional newsletter article. We will be contacting you to get your comments and program support, so be thinking about it. Remember, you are the RDXA!

As a no-code Extra (20 wpm, never been used), my perspective is different from each of you. This is actually representative of our strength. Did you know that we have in our ranks people versed in electronics, chemistry,

**Renew your RDXA Membership
Today**

The membership dues are \$15 for the 2004-05 Season.

Mail your renewal to:

Charles Kuhfuss, WB2HJV
RDXA Secretary & Treasurer
55 Stoney Path Lane,
Rochester, NY 14626.

photography, sailing, astronomy, instrumentation, networking, printing and optics, to name only a few? So many strengths to call upon.

As each third Tuesday arrives, let's put down the newspaper, turn off the TV, let go of the beer and get to Gander Mountain at 7:00pm. Your friends are waiting to see you! Let's have a great year.

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

CU at the October RDXA meeting.

From the Out-going President Paul, K2DB

It has been a Great Year for our club, and I want to thank each and every member, new and old for their support of the RDXA for the past year. With the elections being held, and new officers ready to step up to the plate, I look forward to a new and exciting year with RDXA. To let you know, there always seems to be some RDXA business being discussed, no matter where people congregate. The newly elected President, Rick, W1TY and I occasionally get bored, and decide to just get on our motorcycles and ride for a few hours. These road trips to various destinations (never planned, we just ride and stop at will) usually end up with one of two scenarios; we stopped because I was there, the sun went away and it rained, or we stopped to either eat, or get an ice cream. Most of the time we just chit-chat and a lot of the topics are field day, next years programs (yes, that's my bag now, as I will be VP and it's my job), and anything else club related. Don't get me wrong, when we ride, its not always RDXA we talk about, after all, we are both human, and other interesting topics do come up. (hihi). I would like to let you guys & gals know, that we had one of the most successful field days imaginable. We need to thank, and slap each other on the back for the great friendships, expertise and above all else, the FUN that was had by all at field day. I am writing this column from the peace and serenity of Hickory Lake, as I took a few days to relax and listen to the loons, whippoorwills, waves lapping on the shore and the quietness of nature. That also means I am looking at the trees that are surrounding the camp, and thinking of what antennas to use for 40 & 80 meters for the November Sweepstakes contests, and what score K2NNY can contribute to RDXA for those contests. I look forward to working with our newly elected President and board of directors for the upcoming season, and I certainly see this club moving forward as an exciting and new DX and contesting season approaches. Please make room on your calendars for the RDXA meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, starting in September, at our meeting location – Gander Mountain, and remember that all of our meetings will be starting at 7:00 PM this year. Lets all put forth a little extra this year, and make it the best year ever for RDXA. I want to thank all of you for your fantastic support RDXA. See you next year !!

Paul Mackanos – K2DB – Outgoing President

RDXA Finances Charles Kuhfuss WB2HJV

The RDXA Financial Report as of September 1, 2004 is as follows:

Checking account balance	\$1022.07
Petty cash	\$104.70
Total available funds	\$1126.77
Less memorial fund	(\$615.18)
Total operating funds	\$511.59

Summer activity:

Check #150 K2CS Award frames (\$34.23)

Field Day bottle return \$4.70

The RDXA currently has 26 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.

June election results

Charles Kuhfuss WB2HJV

The officers and committee chairman for the 2004-05 season are:

Officers:

Rick Mintz, W1TY - President

Paul Mackanos, K2DB - Vice President

Charlie Kuhfuss, WB2HJV - Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Gene Fuller, W2LU

Fred Groner, W2TZ

Paul Meyers, N2OPW

Dave Wright, N2CK

Committee Chairmen:

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS - DX

Kevin Popplewell, N2VJB - Membership

Vic Gauvin, K1PY - Contest/Field Day

Raj Dewan, N2RD - Newsletter Editor

Bob Hunter, NG2P - Yahoo Groups Moderator

Scott Hoag, K2ZS - rdx.com Domain Moderator

So what did you miss?

Rick, W1TY

The final meeting of the 2003-2004 season was highlighted by the QSL Card Contest. Surprisingly there were only a dozen entries. The first vote required a runoff between W2FU and N2PU. After the dust had cleared the winner, having a choice of a year of the National Contest Journal or a RDXA membership extension was.... N2PU. Here is the winning entry. Congratulations, Lloyd!

N2PU



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:

2004 Field Day Report

The PEOPLE, The WEEKEND

Vic, K1PY

Whew! What a Field Day! This is the word guys: You don't want to miss an RDXA Field Day. That seems to be the consensus as we report on our most successful FD to date – and that's not just in terms of score, but in just plain ol' satisfaction. As they say, "a good (great!) time was had by all."

So, why is it we can claim all these glowing accolades? Well, to start, we keep having more and more people participate, like **Andy NF2L**, making major contributions. That's a pretty positive sign! And for many, that participation is simply to come by during either setup and/or takedown, give a hand, and share in the overall spirit. Tks to **Lloyd N2PU** and others for all the help, without any expectation of operating time! Then there's others, some members like **Tim WB2KAO**, **Bob W2RLK**, and **Roy W3RLW**, and many not members at all, like **Steve N2DZS**, who stop by over the weekend just to check out how things are going. (And give us a VHF Q or two via HT or mobile!) Some come when they can, like **Carl KU2N** helping on evening CW, and **Mark W2FE** who was able to break away from a graduation to make the last hour. And our now long-distance member **Mike N1OKL** who comes in from 1-Land for an annual reunion! (And who almost lost the distance crown to **Luis XE2AC/W2GO**, but it didn't work out – Luis says maybe next time!) There seemed to be an energy surrounding the site over the entire weekend, and I don't mean all the RF (although there was plenty of that too).

Friday setup

Things started well on a gorgeous Friday afternoon, antenna day. We did all the traditional bow-and-arrow line stringing to put up those tried-and-true **W2TZ** wire antennas. And there was the Gizmo crew trying to capitalize on the 85-foot flagpole. And this year we finally utilized the club 30-foot tower. By Pizza Time, there were 10 antennas ready to go -- whew! Needless to say, those pizza boxes were quickly ripped open as soon as **Irv AF2K** returned from the Friday Pizza Run. Oh, plus the Field tent also got put up, and the 25 kW diesel generator, courtesy of **Admar**, **Dick Young N2QKL**, and **Cliff K2SKO** put in place and ready to go by Cliff and **Dave N2CK** and the Power Crew. Special kudos to **Fred W2TZ**, **Paul N2OPW**, and **Andy K0SM** for some above-and-beyond antenna work.

Saturday breakfast

Those hearty souls able to rise and shine early enough rendezvoused at the Nutcracker for the Field Day Breakfast. Must have been around 10 or so, and I think just about everybody had the #4 special, which is a hearty combination of eggs, toast, bacon or sausage, and home fries. With that, we were ready to do battle!

Saturday setup

Arriving at the site we found a crew already there unloading the **N2CK** Field Day Hauler of tables, the club canopies, tent stakes, chairs, grill, and whatever else could be squeezed in. And coax. I think we used more coax than ever this year and perhaps have reached the limits of our supply. **Ed "Mr. Whaddaya Need, I Might Have It" K2MP** brought at least 1000-feet just himself! But Ed may have a challenger for how much Field Day "stuff" can be brought in one vehicle in **Redd WB2DVU** who drove in from Oswego in a full-sized van chock full of everything, plus some. And there were other challengers as well – there is LOTS of stuff that is brought to support our efforts. (Trouble is, there's several trips made TO the site with new stuff, but only one trip BACK! You should've seen the endless pile of stuff that needed to get back to K1PY's QTH! Thanks to **Dave Williams**, a non-Ham guest who bailed us out – last year it was **Rowan KC2KPI**.)

With tables in place, guru **Kevin N2VJB** ran the Ethernet cables for **RDXAnet**, Cliff and Dave and crew ran power cables, **Charlie WB2HJV** saw to getting everything across the road, *everybody* ran coax and feedlines, the two canopies went up, and we plugged in the **W2DSW** fridge! At that point, AF2K was ready to open the Public Information Booth (special tks **Fred WO2P** and **Xerox** for neat banners).

Of course, while all this was going on, **Redd** was setting up the palatial and elegant Field Phone Suite, while **W2TZ**, **Roger KB4VL**, and others set up the 80/20 station (tks **Raj N2RD**), **Rick W1TY** set up the 40CW station (IC-765 tks **N2VJB**), **Ed K2MP** set up the GOTA station

he provided, and **Andy K0SM** set up the Spotting Stations (Ten-Tec OMNI-VI tks **Fred W2TZ** and ElecKraft K2 tks **Tim K2CY**).

Time for lunch

Now all the above is definitely a part of what FD is all about. But here's one of the many reasons an RDXA FD stands out: As lunchtime approached, **Charlie WB2HJV** drove off to DiBella's Sub Shop. So do we just get some random subs, take-it-or-leave-it? Heck no – Charlie had *individual menus* customized for each person to fill in and check off exactly what he/she wanted down to the garnish. That's pretty hard to beat!

As start time approached, the stations seemed to be ready to go. The PH setup was getting calls left and right. Even 6 meters was rolling in, and we all hoped it would continue, unlike a couple of years ago when it died an hour or so before start time.

And they're OFF...

At the starting gun, we had **Irv AF2K** leading off on PH, **Paul K2DB** on 40CW, and **Larry W2LB** on 20CW. The Q's started rolling in,... except on 20CW. CQ..., CQ..., CQ..., hmmm. Well, persistence: CQ..., CQ..., CQ.... Let's call somebody..., again..., try again.... Rig loaded ok? Check the coax. Make sure all the barrel connectors are tight. Take that bandpass filter out. Take the antenna tuner out. Go direct to the rig. Try this. Think it's that? Use the other 20M wire antenna. *Nothing* was working. 45 minutes and 4 QSOs. The heck with this – grab the GOTA TA-33 and see if that works. **Bingo!**

And guess who pays a visit?

OK, we're making contacts, but what's with the 20M flagpole antennas???? Well, it turns out that due to technical problems, the Gizmo-A4 didn't make it to its targeted 50-feet, and it was at *exactly* the same height as the 2-element 20M wire Yagi right next to it. Each apparently detuned the other, which was determined when just half of the wire beam was dropped to vertical and all of a sudden the A4 starting kicking butt. Well, guess we won't do that anymore! (Come to the FD Follow-up meeting and help us plan how to prevent this for next year!)

Does anybody ELSE have a flyover?!!!

Well, while Murphy was being joined and Q's were being made, another of the many special aspects of RDXA's FD was also underway. **Bob NG2P**, along with **Curtis N2HKD** and **Jim N2VX**, were doing what's now come to be the *Annual Field Day Flyover*. Yep, fly, as in airplane. Bob is a pilot and member of a flying club out of Brockport, and he and the crew enjoy themselves in the air while providing us with a valuable two hundred bonus points. That's because not only is this a flyover, but it's tracked via APRS and captured and transmitted via ATV, and these count as demos. This is where the great aerial shot in the RDXA Web site banner comes from. I never determined if anyone else does anything this exotic, but I

doubt it. Hey Bob, could we run a raffle at the Hamfest for a seat on this trip?! It might finance the whole FD weekend!

Or a chef extraordinaire?

By now most everything has settled in and it's getting to be dinnertime. And we all know that means it's time for Chef Extraordinaire **Kevin N2VJB** to wield his magic. Every year Kevin conjures up a delicious (and even healthy) major dinner for the crew. This year was no exception with a pasta bake with mini-meatballs, salad, and garlic bread, and of course, yet another RDXA FD tradition, **mini-Eclairs** and **Cream Puffs**. Ahhhh, we're set for the night.

In praise of the dedicated

Night. That realm of the strong and enduring. That time when mysteriously there are few ops to be found! Here we give all due praise to our stalwart night crew who keep things going while all the rest are snoozing the night away. Tks to **John KC2JSJ**, **Cliff K2SKO**, **Irv AF2K**, and **Ed K2MP** at the phone station, **Fred W2TZ**, **Redd WB2DVU**, **Andy K0SM**, and **Larry W2LB** at the two CW stations, and **Vic K1PY** valiantly trying to make a go of the Spotting station.

The best laid plans...

Night also translates to low bands. Last year that's when things slowed waaaaay down and we really were digging for every last Q. So that's why **Gene W2LU** and **Paul N2OPW** teamed up to avoid that this year. For the first time we had separate listening-only antennas to enable the two 80M stations to pull out those weak ones calling us. 80PH had a SW Pennant antenna, and 80CW had a SSW Beverage. Both were custom designed and fabricated by Gene specifically for our FD.

After resolving a couple of operational glitches around midnight (making **Gene W2LU** part of the night crew!), we got them doing their thing and it was just excellent! They really pulled stuff in. There was only one problem, if you could call it that – *everything* was just rolling in, and we had the best low-band conditions of the past several years! Our dig-em-out-of-the-dirt antennas ended up not being needed! Sheesh. Last year it was a real slow drag. Musta been cuz we HAD these that condx were so good. So I guess we actually can say Gene did a great job and really improved our low-band performance!! Hey, good goin' Gene! That aside, we're keeping these little beauties around for next time. It ain't always gonna be so good.

See Spot Run (or not...)

Speaking of pulling out Qs, we also had another new feature in our continuous quest for improvement. This was initiated last year as a way of capitalizing on WriteLog's Bandmap function. It was used with limited success but a whole bunch of fun on 80PH by **Tim K2CY** and **Vic K1PY** around midnight to 3 a.m. So this year, there were two thoughts that made us push it even further: One, condx were likely to be bad like last year (see above to see how

bad a call that was!), and two, WriteLog had a new Bandmap "pouncing" feature that just screamed to be taken advantage of. Briefly, with a populated bandmap, you just hit a key to automatically go to the next unworked station on the bandmap. Then again, and again. It skipped any dupes. Wow! How could you not love this?!!

So, in addition to the 80PH Pennant, Gene and Paul put up another off the parking lot just for the Spotting Station. We had pre-amps, thanks to **Jeff W2FU** (along with bandpass filters, power cables, etc.) So we were READY! But not really. Part of it was the bands being so good. From midnight to 3 a.m., PH had 79, 83, and 84 hours (good goin' **John KC2JSJ** with **Cliff K2SKO** logging!). Irv AF2K kept the pace going from 3 a.m. on to 6. Six to 8 a.m. could have benefitted from having spots, but there was nobody to grab 'em as our spotter guy was on the phone rig! We did use it to some extent during the night at the two CW stations, but the issue there was twofold: Moderately good rates and unfamiliarity with actually using the feature. And the last couple hours on Sunday afternoon, we could have used it as well, but we didn't push it enough. So this is something that we should examine and perhaps work on for next time – it's a resource that still could make a difference, once we figure out how to work it.

Get up and smell the coffee

Having made it through the night, we were certainly ready for the Slam-Bang Breakfast Crew of **Rick W1TY** and **Dave N2CK** to fuel us up for the run to the end. And they did their usual great job with a hearty breakfast of bagels, eggs, bacon, and sausage.

All thru the morning, you could see the Q's added to the log one after the other (that's still a fascinating aspect of networked logs!). We were starting to realize that we were getting some decent numbers when we had 3000 Q's by 10:30 local. Which of course makes you want to keep the momentum going! Boy, it's hard to beat this!

GOTA shines!

Speaking of hard to beat, it was hard to beat the enthusiasm at the GOTA station this year! A definite highpoint was **Scott K2ZS** Elmering his three kids, **Katie, Ben, and Daniel**, to their first GOTA contacts (2 each!) I guess we can say we had "main operators" in **Dale N2YJU** with xyl **Brenda KC2GXX**

pulling some callsigns out of the air! Among all his other duties, **Kevin N2VJB** also got to finally sit down and contribute on the operating side. Along with **Marv K2ZAA, Wally WY2Z**, and others, this crew racked up 345 QSO's which added significantly to our bottom line. And I think we're going to have a fiercely dedicated crew next year looking to surpass that 400 Q goal.

Magic band performs (sort of...)

And of course we've got to acknowledge the persistence and fortitude champions of our FD efforts – the VHF

team! With undying loyalty in the face of one of the poorest VHF locations in the Rochester area, **Paul N2OPW** and crew labor thru the day and night, eternally hoping for that elusive 6-meter opening. He and **Andy K0SM** did get somewhat of an opening, and added 85 6M Q's to the log that we'd never had had otherwise. Plus "running the bands" with **Walter NQ2O** added a bunch more. It's dedication like this that keeps all of us going – every last Q indeed adds to the bottom line.

Come get your red hots here!

So everybody kept cranking and before you knew it, **Bud KD2WL** and **Paul N2OPW** were passing around delicious burgers and hots (they're always better at Field Day, just like at the ballpark!). Of course, that signalled that we were in the home stretch. People gathered around the rigs, checking out the band summary (which of course is misleading since it doesn't show VHF or GOTA – but they don't notice in the excitement). And when the final seconds tick down, and that last Q is in the log, we end up with 3488 at the three main stations! Not too shabby, eh?!!

Pass that 807 please

'Course we now are all anxious to see how much VHF and GOTA add to the total, but in the meantime, computers get shut down, equipment put away, and antennas taken down in what is always the most amazingly short amount of time, considering the amount of stuff there is and how long it took to put it all up. But by 4 o'clock it's incredibly pretty much wrapped up, and it's time to sit around and just bask in the great feeling of a fantastic weekend of contacts and camaraderie. Some good Samaritans graciously provide a selection of 807's for the celebration, and we look at the preliminary numbers. With all the data in, we end up with a grand total of 3937 Q's, which with mults applied, yields our highest score ever of **13,146 points!** And folks, anything over 13K definitely puts you among the FD "big guns," the top tier.

Congratulations to all who were involved, cuz it took everybody's combined efforts to make all this happen. Sure, there's folks who put in stupendous efforts for which we are forever grateful and without which we wouldn't be anywhere. But without **everybody** doing whatever they can do, big and small, whenever they can do it, we wouldn't be where we are, nor would we have such fun doing it! This is a team accomplishment, and that's why we all can be quite proud, come Hamfest time or anytime, to walk around and be identified as part of **RDXA**.

2004 Field Day Report – the NUMBERS

Aside from an entirely enjoyable Field Day weekend, we can take further satisfaction in having posted our highest point total EVER! The final score is 13,146 points! See breakdown below (which also includes our friends in Colorado, and NJ4M, the Florida Contest Group, who beat us last year).

Table 1 – W2RDX 2004 vs Top 3A scores

		W2RDX	W0GG	NJ4M
		3A WNY	3A CO	3A WCF
CW	80	441	210	32
	40	856	927	540
	20	365	746	493
	15	84	347	399
	10	0	0	13
		1746	2230	1477
	GOTA	0	0	0
	VHF	14	17	0
	OTH	1	53	0
	TOT CW	1761	2300	1477
PH	80	737	34	0
	40	594	64	201
	20	415	1318	1406
	15	0	295	307
	10	0	139	365
		1746	1850	2279
	GOTA	345	0	361
	VHF	85	364	73
	OTH	0	0	0
	TOT PH	2176	2214	2713
QSO	80 ALL	1178	244	32
	40 ALL	1450	991	741
	20 ALL	780	2064	1899
	15 ALL	84	642	706
	10 ALL	0	139	378
	80-10	3492	4080	3756
	ALL	3937	4514	4190
PTS	CW pts	7044	9200	5908
	PH pts	4352	4428	5426
	BONUS	1750	1220	950
	TOT pts	13146	14848	12284

So, what's in the numbers? Bottom line first, our Colorado friends **W0GG** really rallied under **Joe K8FC** and put together a superb effort, beating us by a significant 1700 points. We can talk geography all we want, but the proof is in the antennas, and they made it happen. Congratulations to Joe and the **Pikes Peak DX Group**.

So, what else is there? Basically, we dominate the low bands, especially on phone. Look lower down at the overall band QSO entries, and the 80 ALL and 40 ALL info ("all" means total phone and cw QSOs). We definitely rule!

Our traditional weak area is the high bands, especially 20M. (Again, look at the 20 ALL numbers and compare with our competition.) We did improve somewhat this year (see table 2). This may be attributable mostly to covering both 20PH and 20CW separately (although we'd done that previously, just not recently). It might have been a trade-off on phone – we lost 183 on 40 to gain 213 on 20. The planned antenna improvements on 20CW did not happen, but we improved (doubled) regardless. 15 always bears watching, and we seem to always not quite catch it when we need to – something else we need to remind ourselves of.

Noteworthy is the return of a significant GOTA score. The crew had a great time making this happen, and it really helps overall.

Table 2 – W2RDX 2004 vs 2003

		W2RDX 2003	W2RDX 2004	2004 ranking
		3A	3A	
CW	80	431	441	#3 (508)
	40	824	856	#2 (904)
	20	173	365	#6
	15	0	84	
	10	0	0	
		1428	1746	#2 (1914)
	T/N- GOTA	2	0	
	VHF	13	14	
	OTH	0	1	
	TOT CW	1443	1761	
PH	80	410	737	#1 (559)
	40	776	594	#5
	20	202	415	#3 (583)
	15	0	0	
	10	0	0	
		1388	1746	
	T/N- GOTA	86	345	
	VHF	45	85	
	OTH	0	0	
	TOT PH	1519	2176	
QSO	80 ALL	841	1178	#1 (942)

40 ALL	1600	1450	#5
20 ALL	375	780	#3 (964)
15 ALL	0	84	
10 ALL	0	0	
<hr/>			
80-10	2816	3492	
ALL	2962	3937	#3 (4234)
<hr/>			
PTS	CW pts	5772	7044 #5
	PH pts	3038	4352 #3
	QSO pts	8810	11396 #2
	BONUS	1300	1750 #1
	TOT pts	10110	13146 (#1 (12750))
	PLACE	4	TBD
<hr/>			
POLE (80/20) PTS	2820	3560	
COMM (40cw) PTS	3296	3412	
FIELD (ph) PTS	2372	3490	

NOTE: The 2004 ranking column provides comparisons with data from previous year's. For example, on the 80CW line, "#3 (508)" indicates this year's effort ranks #3 overall, with 508 QSO's being #1.

So what's to be gleaned from table 2? First, there's a **new 80PH QSO record!** This year's 737 phone contacts totally blows the previous 559 record out of the water. Great goin' guys!

There's also a new **bonus points record**. ARRL continues to add bonus point opportunities, and there were more this year than ever. Making a lot more work to take advantage of them all. Thanks to **Irv AF2K** for his usual tons-a-points (600 this year), **Paul K2FX** for Publicity, **Andy K0SM** for Satellite and SSTV, **Ed K2MP** for the solar cells for Alternate Power, **Curtis N2HKD**, **Jim N2VX**, and **Bob NG2P** for APRS and ATV, and **Dale N2YJU**, **Brenda KC2GXX**, **Kevin N2VJB**, and the other GOTA operators, we got the maximum available 1750 bonus points.

Also interesting is the station by station points contribution – check the last three rows, listing the points from each of the three main stations. There's an amazingly equal distribution.

Side notes:

- This year's score last year would have placed us **#8 OVERALL**. That's *overall*, regardless of class. Top Ten Box, which includes a 51A, 17A, and 7F.
- Without their digital Q's yet included (and perhaps other things as well), *as of now* our score

beats that of the infamous **N1FD** (Nashua Area Radio Club), who ran 21A, but was heavily impaired by Murphy at a new site.

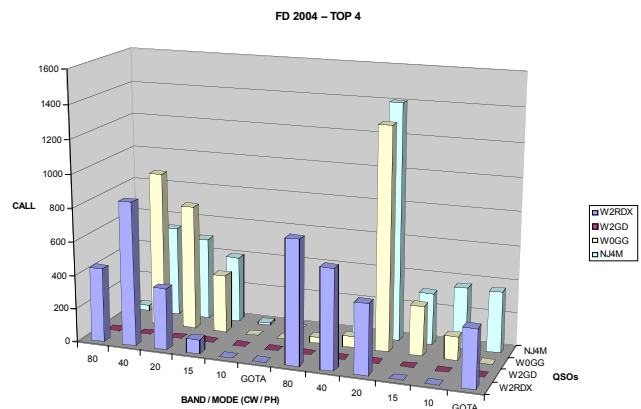
- And last but not least, W2TZ's on-site prediction of a top 3 finish might be right on the mark. With **W2GD** in 2A this year, and **NJ4M** at 10K, that leaves **W2LV** in NNJ as the sole unknown. They were #3 to our #4 last year, but they don't post any data on the 3830 reflector. However, they appear only once in our log – whereas **W0GG** who whupped us pretty well appears 6 times. Barring some other top group which might have changed class to 3A this year, I'm predicting a #2 finish. Now we just need to wait and see!

All of this certainly provides thoughts for the FD follow-up meeting and for next year's planning. The fact is, at a time when the bands are going down, this club is going up! More people are participating, we've got a super number of cool FD traditions, and most important, we've got a growing group that simply has fun!

Well, that sums it up for this year. Definitely a job well done and much to be proud of. But doesn't that 13K-level score and that #2 position really whet the appetite? Don't you just wonder how far we *really* could go? It just doesn't get much better than this, does it? But then again, methinks we're still gonna try!

P.S. And just in case you're wondering what the competition is like, here's photo 13 – their 20M mono-bander at 50-foot with a 40-foot mast on top for the 80M inverted-V. ☺

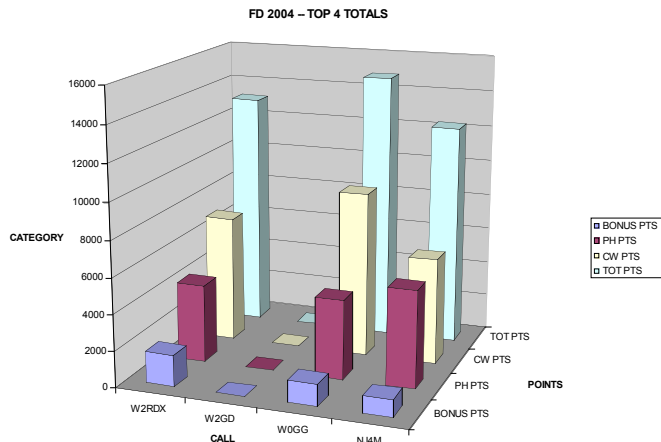
FD2004 – CONTACTS, TOP 3



This graph shows **QSO TOTALS**.

W2RDX is in the front row. CW totals are on the left, PH on the right. This really shows our parity on the CW side, our outright dominance on low-band PH, and our Achilles heel on 20. (**W2GD** is missing due to being 2A this year,

but they'll likely return and are usually #1 – something for both us and **W0GG** to be interested in.)



This graph illustrates **POINTS**.

In this case, each horizontal row contains each club's points, with front-to-back being 1) BONUS, 2) PHONE, 3) CW, and 4) TOTAL.

Gene, W2LU

One of the great things I see in our Field Day participation is that there is room for everyone. If you look at it as a social event, there is plenty of room and there are plenty of others interested in sitting around and just enjoying the company of their fellow hams.

- Room for testers. If you are interested in making it a serious contest. There are plenty of others in that camp ready to work at all of the details - station setup, antennas, computers, etc. And, thankfully there are many who are ready to take on the tasks of "food and shelter."
- Room for the new comers Room for the nighttime people.
- Room for the daytime people.
- Room for the workers and, yes, room for the "observers".

The success of this formula I believe is evident. We manage to keep RDXA at near or the the top of the competition and still make it an very enjoyable social weekend.

I happen to enjoy the competitive nature of Field Day. I believe that some good competition is a great way to improve your skills, and the purpose of the affair is to train/prepare for any possible emergency. Along that line I think it is important to try something a little new each year to learn what works and what should be discarded. And what better way to find out than to try things out in competition against a few hundred other groups who are doing somewhat the same thing.

Yes, we are a "DX" club and many, including myself have asked "Why Field Day in a DX club?" Perhaps it's to work on our operator skills. Perhaps we get some station setup ideas. Perhaps we get some antenna ideas. Perhaps it's just to keep in touch with our fellow DX'ers.

Any way you slice it - Here's to Field Day !

Gene / W2LU

The RDXA Logbook Theme for November

Contest Plans

What are your plans for contesting this season?
Any changes to your station?
Operating strategies?

Just email your input to n2rd@arrl.net by 10/5

(Thanks to Vic, K1PY for providing much of this material. – Ed.)

DX News

DXAC Member Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

Hope this finds you all well and surviving the "Summer". The bands were generally tough. 6 meters opened very infrequently and the HF bands were dead most of the time. One of the most lauded Dx-peditions of the summer, YV0D was shortened due to weather (operating only 57 hours!!). Typical for what this summer had become. I guess since you weren't in the pool, there was plenty of time to work on your antenna farm.

From the DXAC :

These operations have been approved for credit.

OJ0J	Market Reef	July 1-4, 2004
YA7X	Afghanistan	ough April 30, 2004
HZ1AN	Saudi Arabia	All operations
HZ1IZ	Saudi Arabia	All operations
3DXQZ	Republic of Guinea	April 20 - 30, 2004
YI9MC	Iraq	Current operation effective March 23, 2004
5V7AD	Togo	June 12 through June 22, 2004
9U5M	Burundi	4 Feb 2004 - 17 Mar 2003
TT8XZ	Chad	4 Dec 2004 - 19 Dec 2003
YI/N3YPI	Iraq	22 Aug 2003 - Current
YI/AB8DY	Iraq	2 Jul 2003 - Current
9Q0AR	DR of the Congo	01 Jan 2004 - 31 Mar 2004
9Q1KS	DR of the Congo	01 Jan 2004 - 31 Mar 2004
HH2SJR	Haiti	01 Jan 1998 - Current
XF4IH	Rivella Gigedo	Mar 2004 - 20 Mar 2004

6O/T5 Somalia (not Somaliland)

Hope some of these made it to your log.

In the Log (non contest)

OJ0/OH0I (20m, 17m CW)

S9SS (15m CW)

ZA1DX (20m, 30m, 17m, CW, 20m SSB)

BA4ED (17m CW)

VR2XMT (17m CW)
YI9WRV (20m CW)
T88AY (17m CW)
3D2XX (30m CW)
7P8NK (17m, 15m, 12m CW)
7P8DK (80m, 15m CW, 20m, 15m RTTY)
VQ9LA (15m CW)
OH0/SM0JHF (30m CW)
A92GR (20m SSB)
YB1HDF (20m CW)

Best DX es 73,
Chris, K2CS : Atlantic Division DXAC

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

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

Field Day Mailing List

Rick Mintz, W1TY

For those interested in Field Day activities and planning I have created a new mailing list. It operates the same as the Membership Mailing List, which you are all familiar with. This list, however, is for Field Day related message exchanges only. To sign up for the list send a blank text email to: **RDXA_FD-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

You will receive a return message confirming your acceptance into the list group. I usually subscribe members once a day, so it may take overnight to get you on board.

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.

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 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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w1ty@arrl.net

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