ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION
rdxa.com

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER JUNE 2005

Regular Meeting

June 21st 19:30 local

Antique Wireless Association Museum
Bloomfield, NY

June Program

AWA Museum Tour • Election of Officers

Ed, K2MP will host RDXA members and guests at a "cook's tour" of the AWA Museum. Join us for this fascinating look at the beginnings of wireless communications as seen in the radio apparatus and documents preserved by the Antique Wireless Association. Directions to the Museum may be found on Page 8. Prior to the tour, we will elect RDXA officers and BOD members for the 2005-06 Club year. *Marconi 107A Tuner photo courtesy of John Jenkins, http://www.sparkmuseum.com*

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Social after the Meeting

Location TBD

President's Soapbox **By Rick Mintz - W1TY**

This is the last scheduled newsletter of the 2004-2005 RDXA year and my final President's Soapbox. Even with the many communications carried on via the RDXA email distribution lists, the newsletter serves an important purpose. It has legs!

This past winter while waiting for more inviting outdoor weather, I browsed some issues from past years. I was reminded of some friends such as W2OMV and K2FR, now both SK. I miss them both. Seems like yesterday that the wisdom and stories of Bill Buchan and the constant promotion of RDXA that Fred Gern espoused every day on the local repeaters were freshly spoken.

Email is great for time sensitive matters, but the important issues, those that remind us of past notable events, are better in hardcopy. Nostalgia is not about the past, it is about our journey to the present. But let's face it; our past can be fun to remember. It also puts in perspective our changing radio interests. Reading about a "new one" being activated, now in our log, a decade old contest score, reminiscing about a new mode attempted or just remembering friends. Legs. Try it.

I am hoping that occasionally some of my issues and comments have caused you to think or smile or squirm. Soon after you receive this you will choose a new President. Do not ask him to do it all. Even with the Board of Directors to help, there is never enough time and resources. Want a better club? Be a better member! To enjoy your hobby you must be involved in it.

From your choice on June 21st, the new President will be busy. Although the official transfer does not occur until September there will be a lot to do getting ready. My last official duty as President will be related to Field Day. Let's look forward to a great 2005-06 RDXA year. My signal is fading, time to QSY.

73 de Rick W1TY (W2RTY)
President RDXA • • • — • —

As I have said in every newsletter since elected…

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

I believe it!

Field Day 2005, W2RDX **Rick Mintz - W1TY**

Wow, Field Day is just around the corner! How cool is that?

There are so few things that we can depend on. Well, maybe not. At Field Day these are the things we **can** depend on—

- ⇨ K2MP having one of everything in his van.
- ⇨ Mini-éclairs on the table, quickly disappearing.
- ⇨ Someone snoozing in a chair.
- ⇨ Friday night pizza & Irv with a pocket full of coupons.
- ⇨ Saturday dinner, always late, but worth the wait.

- ⇨ N2CK wishing for a larger truck.
- ⇨ Writelog training will never be completed.
- ⇨ Collecting of soda can pull-tabs.
- ⇨ Someone with a very large knife, shaving a very little stick…the same stick as last year.
- ⇨ Dozens of hours of planning will still cause lots of head scratching.
- ⇨ W1TY dreaming of a Field Day RTTY station.
- ⇨ K2ZS will supply the mini-hams (hamlets?) for the GOTA station.
- ⇨ Three people pointing North…all in different directions!
- ⇨ RDXA Air Force (NG2P) will strafe the site and provide photo reconnaissance.

- ⇨ K2DB will launch his Master Lock to new heights.
- ⇨ N1OKL with a mosquito repellant cigar.
- ⇨ There will be 30 minutes of rain, 48 hours of fun.
- ⇨ Complaints about propagation, no matter how good it actually is.
- ⇨ AF2K arriving at an obscene hour to begin the late shift, all without complaint and without Pickles (woof).
- ⇨ Someone sending their own call sign.
- ⇨ W2LU wanting more open wire feeds.
- ⇨ Sunday breakfast will be a cholesterol nightmare.
- ⇨ W2TZs "interestingly air conditioned" sweat pants.
- ⇨ GOTA station, W2AN tells W2RDX that we are loud.
- ⇨ Yes, we **are** loud!

It's all part of the FD fun and that you **can depend on that!**

Remember that only RDXA members are allowed to operate the W2RDX Field Day stations. GOTA station (W2AN) is open to all as allowed by the Field Day rules.

ARRL Visa Card — Rick Mintz - W1TY

It had to happen. The ARRL Letter (Vol. 24 #20) announced the availability of an Amateur Radio credit card. The maximum limit will be $15,000, just enough to outfit that new station that you have been wanting! Wonder if you can also purchase DXCC credits with the card? *[But is there a place for one's callsign on the card? Ed.]*

ARRL Scholarship to KC2JSJ — Rick Mintz, W1TY

The ARRL Foundation has announced the recipients of 31 scholarship awards for the 2005 academic year. The Henry Broughton, K2AE, Memorial Scholarship for $1000 was awarded to **John McIntyre, KC2JSJ**. John is the son of RDXA member Marv, K2ZAA Congratulations to John!

RDXA Election Ballot 2005-06 — Rick Mintz - W1TY

Here is the final election ballot for the June RDXA elections. Retiring President is an automatic BOD member for the term.

Sample • RDXA Officer Elections 2005-2006 • Sample

President	N2CK	Dave Wright	□	√ Choose 1
	Write-in		□	
Vice President	N2VJB	Kevin Popplewell	□	√ Choose 1
	Write-in		□	
Secretary-Treasurer	WB2HJV	Charlie Kuhfuss	□	√ Choose 1
	Write-in		□	
Board of Directors	K2DB	Paul Mackanos	□	√ Choose 3
	N2OPW	Paul Meyers	□	
	W2LU	Gene Fuller	□	
	Write-in		□	
	Write-in		□	
	Write-in		□	

Last 2005 BOD Meeting

RDXA Board of Directors meetings for Spring 2005 will be held at the following locations. Meetings typically start at 19:30 local time and are **open to all RDXA members**. Contact a Club officer or BOD member for further information.

June 2005 K1PY

Dayton Hamvention 2005

In our Topic of the Month column this month, RDXA members who attended this year's Dayton Hamvention share their impressions and experiences of the event.

Charlie, WB2HJV – What did I see? Yaesu's new FTdx9000 transceiver. Now that's a radio! Like **big.** But then it should be for the price tag. Nice feel to the tuning dial.

What did I hear? The Kenwood rep sez that they are at least two and a half years away from releasing a new HF rig. There will however be one or two new FM dual banders ready for Dayton 2006. Hopefully that is if all goes well with design and development.

Who did I meet? ON4UN. The legendary Mr. John D. himself. A very pleasant chap to eyeball with.

What did I learn? Winning ticket numbers for the hourly prize drawings went as high as 28,355. Were there that many tickets sold? I dunno. Was that the attendance? Doubtful. A big crowd was on hand but it was still smaller than what I saw on my first visit in 2001, as evidenced by the open indoor vendor tables and vacant flea market spots. There was still a large crowd though, probably on par with 2004. Saturday's weather was spectacular. Hot sun and cold brewskis…a 1.0 to 1 match.

Only eleven months till Hamvention 2006!

Chris, K2CS – I know Mike (N1OKL) has asked for Dayton impressions and I'm sure there will be a few from those who attended. Let me give you my impression with a few concerns of the DXAC, who holds their "yearly" meeting at Dayton.

I had resolved a few years back that Dayton to me became more of a social event than a ham radio marketplace. Where else on the planet could you go and be with some of the best and brightest in your "Sport"? Sure, you can go to a NASCAR show, NHL game, MLB game, even a NBA game and see your "Heroes". Often, they may even stick around to sign a few autographs but seldom, if ever, do you get to converse, even share a "beverage" with them. "I've signed your card, move along."

Dayton through the years has attracted the "first stringers" of the hobby; those who continue to participate and promote the hobby. Yet, you and I are on the same "playing field". Sure, maybe a bit more recognition, a suit and tie, Heineken instead of Labatt, but always accessible. Not a single "big time" DXer has ever shunned me: no shove off, no disrespect. We are more a part of the show than any spectator. We are the show! I doubt any NASCAR driver would greet you with such enthusiasm, even genuine thanks for your participation (or spectatorship). Without your contact, there'd be no reason to go to P5, BS7H. And honestly, who'd really want to go there anyway?

Sure, there's lots of stuff in the flea market, older rigs, manuals, parts, pieces and almost anything else you may be looking for. Dollars may drive your decision, but the last knob for that Collins may not be found elsewhere. Granted, the numbers are dwindling. A few years back, there was a lottery for flea market spots. Now many are able to take up 2 or 3 slots while only purchasing a single space. None the less, I can't think of a place I'd, or N2TWI would rather be than Dayton in May (even though, overall, April probably had better weather, the former Dayton dates). This was our 12th year at Hamvention. Despite the negatives, I suspect we'll be there for many more to come.

Counterweights for Wire Aerials — Mike Rundle – N1OKL

Since moving to Connecticut, I have become an aficionado of the wire aerial. My QTH here is almost ideal for experimenting with a variety of skywires: a 2-acre site, situated on the south side of a hill at an elevation of 690 ft. The hill slopes up to a summit North of my site, which is about an eighth of a mile away horizontally, and maybe 90 ft. above my location. We are thus protected from strong Northerly winds by the hill itself. The house sits more-or-less in the center of a 1-acre level clearing, rectangular in shape, with its long axis running East-West. This clearing is surrounded by a second-growth hardwood forest of maple, oak, and shagbark hickory trees, the typical height of which is 80 or 90 feet. It's hard to imagine a better site for wire antennas.

With a bow and arrow and fishing line apparatus, I can get lines up in the trees to about the 70 ft. level. Pulling heavier support ropes up for the aerials is then an easy task. The trick though, is putting sufficient tension on the antenna wires to keep them at the highest level, while maintaining enough slack to prevent either the wire or the support rope from parting when the treetops oscillate in the wind. A simple pulley and counterweight system does the trick.

After shooting 80lb. test, Kevlar fishing line through the top of a tree, I attach 3/16" black Dacron line and pull this up. To this line I attach a 4" plastic clothesline pulley, usually fitted with a swivel of some sort. After trying a few expensive pulleys made for sailboats, I finally found just the right pulley for aerials. It is made by Penn Plastics in Bridgeport, CT, http://www.pennplastics.com/, and features a glass-fiber reinforced yoke, with a unique tongue that keeps the line in the groove of the 4" sheave, and an aluminum axle with a nylon bearing. The plastic is UV-stabilized. Best of all, it sells for just $5 at Lowes.

The Penn Plastics Everlast #50 pulley, 4-inch sheave. Made for clotheslines; perfect for wire aerial counterweight systems. Available at Lowes for $5.

Before hoisting the pulley into the tree, I thread the aerial support rope through the pulley, again using 3/16" Dacron line. One end of this line attaches to the end insulator of the aerial wire and the other to the counterweight.

If for some reason you don't have access to the end of your support rope, or you need to run the aerial wire itself over the pulley as is the case with my 160m dipole which is actually an inverted "U" configuration, contact Penn Plastics directly and they will provide unassembled sheaves and yokes. You can then assemble the pulley *after* threading the aerial wire (or support rope) over the sheave by using a 1½" x ¼" diameter stainless steel shoulder bolt and nylon inset locknut. You will have to drill out the holes in the yoke and sheave bearing slightly as they are a bit smaller than ¼". The stainless steel shoulder bolt is available from McMaster-Carr, http://www.mcmaster.com/.

A stainless steel shoulder bolt and nylon insert locknut, for making a pulley with removable sheave from Everlast #50 components.

For the counterweight itself, I have tried various objects over the years. Lead is the obvious choice because of it's density, but it's not cheap. Then too, you want to put lead inside of something because of its toxicity, so that means melting and casting. I did this all once, and the results were OK, but not optimum. Every new counterweight meant buying the lead, melting it and pouring into some sort of mold. It was quite a hassle, not to mention expensive.

I also tried PVC pipe filled with sand, gravel, or nails. This works well, but the lower density of the actual materials used for weight means that the counterweights themselves get a bit large. White PVC cylinders hanging around the yard are also unsightly.

A PVC counterweight, filled with sand and nails. Height is about 3 ft. Works great but it's ugly; stands out like a sore thumb hanging in the yard.

I have two of these PVC counterweights that I used in Rochester, but somehow, I just couldn't bring myself to hang them in the yard here in the Connecticut woods.

As I was casting about for a counterweight alternative for my first wire aerial at the new QTH, I happened to glance over into the woods. An answer to the counterweight dilemma presented itself immediately. Granite!

An inexhaustible supply of aerial counterweights. Durable, heavy, weather-resistant, conveniently piled in one place, and *free* for the taking.

Connecticut is littered with granite, which previous generations of residents have thoughtfully gathered up and piled in long rows that run willy-nilly through the woods everywhere one looks. This stuff weighs in at about 160 pounds per cubic foot, so it doesn't take too large a chunk to make a 20 or 30 pound counterweight. All one need do is choose a piece of the appropriate size and weight and fit it with an attachment for hanging. For this process, you will need a hammer drill, a large screw eye, and a lag shield anchor.

When we were in the process of moving to Connecticut, I mentioned to the XYL that I was going to have to rent a hammer drill to re-install my floor-mounted drill press and to put up furring strips for pegboard on the poured concrete walls in the garage. Being of a practical nature and having lived with me for 25 years, Susan said, "Why don't you just buy yourself a hammer drill. And get a good one while you're at it; don't buy something cheap like you usually do."

Well, I needed no further encouragement! I bought a Bosch Bulldog…the Cadillac of hammer drills. It's amazing how many times I have used it since moving here. I wonder now how I ever got along without it.

The Bosch Bulldog hammer drill. Bores through granite, concrete, brick, concrete block, slate, asphalt–you name it–like a hot knife through butter.

3/8" x 4" stainless steel lag screw and lag shield anchor.

With the requisite tools and materials on hand, the first step is to choose a stone of the appropriate size and weight. There's a table in the ARRL Antenna Book that can take some of the guesswork out of this process. Look up "wire tension" in the index. On the referenced pages you'll find a series of charts that will permit you to calculate the required tension in pounds for a given span and wire weight. Choose a stone accordingly.

My personal preference is a roughly triangular or rectangular shape for the counterweight, with the hanging hole at the top of the triangle or on the short side of the rectangle. This gives the finished counterweight a sort of "natural" appearance when suspended…if you can imaging rocks hanging around in mid air as being at all natural!

N1OKL and the Bulldog: making another counterweight.

Once you have selected a stone of the proper size, drill a hole in it to fit the lag shield. A lag shield for a 3/8" screw eye requires a 5/8" hole about 1½" deep. If you have a sharp bit, this takes less than a minute with the Bulldog; a bit longer if your bit is worn, as mine has become after making half a dozen counterweights, and sinking more than a few wedge anchors in foundation walls.

Next, insert the lag shield into the hole, install the screw eye, and seal with silicone. Sealing the hole is important to prevent water infiltration during winter months when freezing and thawing cycles can combine to fracture the stone and/or loosen the lag shield. After all, you don't want to wake up and find your aerials on the ground because of an ice-shattered counterweight or an extracted lag shield and screw. Water thawing and freezing is a powerful force that splits even large granite boulders, and could easily shatter your small stone counterweight.

Completed mounting hole with lag shield inserted. Hole is slightly deeper than the length of the shield; permits complete sealing of hole with silicone.

Installing the screw eye in the lag shield A cheater bar is essential.

Screw eye installed and sealed against moisture penetration.

Completed counterweight holding the new 160m dipole antenna at N1OKL.

When hanging these counterweights, I keep them fairly close to the ground, no more than 3 or 4 feet up. This is high enough to be above average winter snowfalls here, but low enough so that should the weight fall, it will do no harm…except maybe to an extremely hapless squirrel or fox or turkey, all of which wander through our yard on a regular basis. I have four of these natural granite counterweights hanging underneath trees in the yard. Two support a full-size, 260 ft., 80/160m inverted "U" and the other two are holding up the 40-10m extended lazy-H. The lazy-H has survived two winters and remains as high as when it was originally installed. The inverted "U" is new this year.

Upcoming RDXA Programs and Events

June 21 Antique Wireless Museum tour, K2MP
June 25, 26 ARRL Field Day

June Contests

Wake-UP! QRP Sprint, CW ----------4 June
IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW ---------- 4-5 June
ANARTS WW RTTY ---------- 11-12 June
All Asian DX, CW ---------- 18-19 June
Kid's Day, SSB ---------- 18 June
ARRL Field Day, All modes---------- 25-26 June

More Contest Info

http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/index.htm

July Contests

RAC Canada Day Contest, CW, SSB---------- 1 July
DL DX RTTY ----------2-3 July
IARU HF World Championship, CW, SSB---------- 9-10 July
CQ WW VHF, All modes ----------16-17 July
Great Lakes Sweepstakes, All modes----------23-24 July
RSGB IOTA Contest, CW, SSB ----------30-31 July
More info: http://www.contesting.co.uk/hfcc/rules/riota.shtml

August Contests

European HF Championship, CW, SSB----------6 August
Worked All Europe DX, CW ---------- 13-14 August
Keymen's Club of Japan, CW----------20-21 August
SARTG WW RTTY----------21 August
YO DX HF Contest, CW, SSB----------27-28 August

Field Day 2005 — Vic Gauvin - K1PY
What to Expect at Mendon Ponds

Here's the very latest breaking news on the RDXA Field Day 2005 effort straight from our own Mr. Field Day himself. Ed.

Less than two weeks to go! Whew!

The RDXA Field Day is always a somewhat major undertaking to say the least, but this is the year we really see what we're made of. The new Mendon Ponds Lookout Shelter location has required a completely new station and antenna layout, new power and Ethernet distribution, and new shelter configurations. In addition to that are two new 50-foot military masts, with rotators, and a 20m monobander. True to our nature, this year's annual antenna improvement strategy will see two new V-beams!

Continuing traditions are the great FD gustatory experiences we've come to savor, with even secret new ones in the works. The thing that doesn't change is that a whole bunch of us get together, put on one heck of a show, and have a ball doing it.

So, for those who didn't get the inside scoop on Field Day at the last regular meeting, here's the latest. (You won't learn anything at the *upcoming* meeting except what an excellent operation the AWA has down in East Bloomfield; no FD info.)

It was debated, but we worked hard to stay in the 3A class, which seems to meet our needs and where we have history. Actually, there's not a whole lot of difference antenna-wise, where the majority of the work is – maybe two antennas. What, you say? Well, if we went 2A, what would we have? One phone station and one CW station, each on all bands. If you split that single CW station into two, one on 80/20 and the other on 40/15, you now have our traditional station band/mode configuration, and you'd basically be using the same antennas, just divided between two rigs. In any case, that's how we rationalized it!

So anyway, what do we have? First, our location is in the southwest corner of Mendon Ponds Park at Lookout Shelter. There's a 400-foot or so westerly driveway to a dedicated parking lot. We in effect have the entire area – there are no other facilities such as other shelters or picnic areas near us. There is, however, an apparently popular wildlife/wilderness area whose entrance borders the parking lot, and which may still draw regular visitors, regardless of our overwhelming presence. We should be aware that regular users of the area may look upon us as unwelcome and inappropriate usurpers of "their park." It should be fine if we're our regular happy, cheerful, outgoing selves.

There's a fair-sized grassy area and an open-sided picnic shelter on a knoll on the north side of the driveway. On the north edge of the parking lot is a permanent outhouse, with two stalls on each gender-specific side. South of the parking area and driveway is another open area with a very welcoming shady treed area right on the south edge of the parking lot. This shady spot has been dubbed the Gathering Area, and will be where the Info Booth, grill, picnic tables, etc., will be for general hanging around if you're not operating or kibitzing.

Back to radio. With each mode on all bands, we of course have to split them as we always have. There's no more "way out in the

field" for phone, though. Phone is now the mode with the permanent roof, being located in the north side shelter. In fact, all the phone stations will be there: HF, GOTA, and VHF. Reasoning is that GOTA will share phone's antennas, saving us from erecting dedicated ones for that station. To share, it must be convenient to switch the coax between stations. Hence, they're co-located. It was also the preferred spot for our VHF guy, so why not? Well, you might say, they'll all bother each other with talking. We believe it's not usually "operating" talking that's been the problem at the commissary overhang in Webster, but non-operating chatter. With each group facing 90-degrees from the other and all facing outward from the center of the shelter, plus all wearing headphones, we're hoping it works out.

CW is again a side-by-side setup as it was under the overhang at Webster – they'll share one of the Club canopies on the other side of the driveway from the phone station. Both are in fact on knolls on either side of the entrance and not far from the main park road.

The generator, again courtesy of, and with many thanks to Admar, will be a bit further up the driveway, but right along it and equidistant from each of the operating locations and the Gathering Area. The Ethernet hub will be right at the generator, and our network cables and power cables run together to the stations. Our #1 sound reinforcement guru is hard at work using his cable-running experience on a design to safely and unobtrusively get the cables across the road. There is a wonderful story that can only be shared later about how our power distribution dilemma was resolved. You'll see the results of that at the site on Saturday morning.

The main challenge for this Field Day is figuring out where to put the antennas. We're at the mercy of the positions of available open spaces and trees. We also need to cover the northeast and east on the low bands and Florida to NWT on the high bands. With many site visits, long measuring tapes, satellite imagery, but most importantly our Club antenna gurus, a plan is in place.

Phone gets the club TA-33 tribander for 20/15/10m, 40m and 80m inverted-Vs for high-angle, and the latest (hopefully) killer stratagem: A V-beam. Available space limits it to 300 feet per leg, but that still provides a bit of gain on 75m, more on 40m, and even more (but narrower) on 20m. Oriented SW, it's broad enough on 75m and 40m to cover most of the country with some gain. On 20m it should be quite effective, but more tightly southwest. Operators must be aware of and continually check the optimal antenna on all bands. There are two choices at all times. Make sure you utilize them to our advantage. That's why we're making the effort to put them up.

80/20 CW gets a newly donated 20m mono-bander that we're hoping finally makes a dent in our continual 20m QSO deficit. There's no deficit on 80m CW, but it's only fair that they also have a V-beam to supplement their 80m inverted V. It was *tight* getting the two of them into the space we have. We can only hope that they won't wipe each other out. Perhaps that's the subconscious reason we've planned on inverted Vs at each station as well. We're promoting them as the "high-angle" antennas for local northeast, but they're also there just in case the V-beams have problems.

40m/15m CW is always the most focused station, usually concentrating on one band and one mode. Over the years, it's proved to be our bread and butter station. It will have a high-angle inverted V, and the tried and true 40m 2-element wire Yagi that's yielded literally thousands of contacts over the years. The 40m antennas will be used on 15m as needed. It may sound like this is the station that got shortchanged with the new layout, but it's in fact no less than it has ever had, and it has been quite successful.

Being RDXA, we weren't going to let a little thing like designing and erecting an entirely new antenna layout in a completely unfamiliar area keep us from taking advantage of another opportunity that became available for the first time this year. That's the offer by the AWA of the use of a couple of 50-foot military masts that they've recently obtained. These are the Ontario Surplus "rocket launchers" that you've seen at the Rochester Hamfest for years. They were being considered way back before any move was contemplated, and when it turned out they were available, we weren't going to let a new location hinder us from capitalizing on these beauties. A crew went to the AWA Annex several weeks ago, and with support of several AWA members, actually erected one to gain some familiarity with the equipment and the process. It also ensured that all the required components were available and in working order. They're quite the sight up close and personal, and with our Yagis on top, should be a tremendous Field Day asset. With a little effort here and a false start there, we're pretty sure we've also got rotators for each of these things. That's yet another advantage we'll have over previous years, but one that we need to remember to utilize with continual awareness and checking of our beam heading.

Friday, June 24th, is when the plans will all start to come together. We'll be at the site earlier than ever identifying the specific locations for the masts, guys, antenna trees, and canopies. Although no actual setup can commence before 2 p.m., we could use you on site earlier than usual to get things in place and ready to start. With everything going someplace new, it's likely to take much longer, so we'd like to be as ready as we can up front. So have an early lunch and get out there by 13:00 local at the latest if you can.

To best utilize resources, we hope to put together a few teams to work together on various tasks. For example, we need a team to focus on erecting the two military masts. In parallel, we need the two Yagis assembled and ready to mount on the masts at the appropriate time. While this is going on, many lines need to be shot into trees for our wire antennas, and then the antennas themselves strung. At Webster, everyone was essentially familiar with what needed doing when and where, so people just showed up and went to work. It is quite apparent that this will not work this year. Right when you first show up, please locate someone that can get you hooked up with a team. Let them know if you have a particular area you'd prefer, such as the beam team, etc.

And of course, the day ends with the traditional Friday Setup Pizza Bash. Just like the site, the eats also come from someplace new, and Mendon will economically benefit from our little sojourn in their fair town.

There's much more, as you know. Ye olde editor will hit the Delete key if I put any more in right now, so it'll have to wait for the post-Field Day wrap-up.

I'll assume you now have the idea that this year is definitely a challenge. But certainly one we can meet. After all, we're RDXA, and have owned the WNY bragging rights for Field Day for well over a decade. We certainly don't want this record to end, or even hiccup, now. So, as it always is, the rest is up to us. *Really* up to us this year. Let's do it.

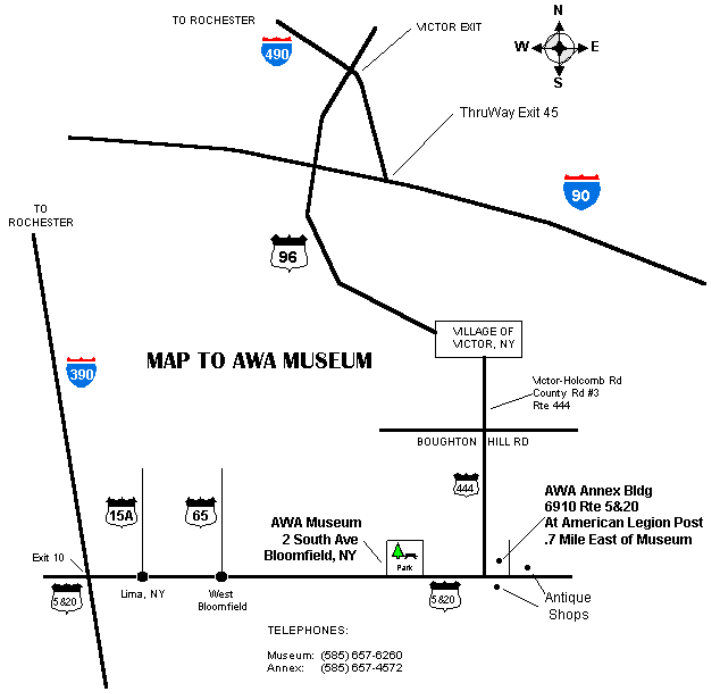
3A Western New York. Tks, W2RDX, Field Day.

AWA Tour — Rick Mintz - W1TY

The Antique Wireless Association Museum is one of the few devoted to research, preservation and documentation of the history of wireless communications. There is a complete range of historical communications equipment on exhibit. Some of these can be associated with famous people like Guglielmo Marconi, Lee DeForest, Edwin Armstrong, Thomas Edison and other pioneers.

By special arrangement with our own **Ed Gable K2MP/W2AN**, RDXA will substitute our formal June meeting at Gander Mountain with a field trip to the AWA. K2MP is the curator of the museum and we are grateful to have him donating his time to provide a tour of radio history. Whether you have visited the AWA in the past or not this is a **must see** event. Ed is the Google of antique radio. Ask and he knows! Get Googled (Gabled?), June 21st. Learn more at: http://antiquewireless.org/

We will begin with a very short business meeting, maybe under a tree, consisting of the 2005-2006 RDXA elections.



Virtual Spark Museum — Mike Rundle - N1OKL

While searching for a suitable photo to illustrate this month's program, I came across the website of John Jenkins. John kindly gave his permission for me to use his photos and sent me the larger image below. If the visit to the AWA Museum has whetted your appetite for antique radio apparatus, be sure and visit John's virtual museum at: http://www.sparkmuseum.com. His collection of restored Marconi sets and other vintage radio and scientific parts and pieces is truly amazing.

Marconi Model 16 Balanced Crystal Receiver, ca. 1916.

Propagation — *AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, June 1994*

Solar Flux Range ----------68 – 88

General – During the WPX CW contest in 1992, the solar flux dipped below 100 for the first time during this cycle decline. This year, during the same contest, it dipped below 70. It doesn't get any lower, but we are not really at the bottom of the cycle yet. At the true bottom of the cycle, the flux stays in this bottom area nearly all the time. In May, we had days when the flux was in the 90s. This opened 15m (marginally) to many parts of the world. Even so, it is apparent that we will see the last of these openings during the remainder of 1994.

Even in the best of times, **June is a month of deterioration for 15 meters**. May is the peak of its season and July is the worst. June is the month where daytime MUFs really plummet. This year, we don't have enough solar activity to open the band anyway, so things are looking dismal. We can probably write 15m off until the end of August, then hope for marginal openings in the fall.

With QRN static crashes taking over the low bands and depressed summer MUFs taking out the high bands, **DX activity is always focused on the mid-range of frequencies during the summer**. This is primarily 20 meters. Many night paths are open, but others are closed. At the top of the cycle, most night paths are open all the time for most of the year.

This is still the **peak of the season for 20 meter night path work**. During the WPX (I spent the whole contest on 20m), conditions weren't bad until the geostorm hit Saturday afternoon. Europe opened in late afternoon for us, and was also open for most of the morning (until noon). The polar openings were in the early evening and early morning. Japan opened for their sunrise, but the best opening was after midnight across the evening path (i.e. over time zones where it is evening). Mid morning is the best time for S.E. Asia. There was also some east/west long path at the usual times. All this was with very low solar fluxes. This pattern will set the DX agenda through this summer, and for the late-spring/summer season through the bottom of the cycle.

Propagation is excellent on 30 meter night paths, though there is also more QRN. 17m should continue to open to many parts of the

world, though often marginally. The disturbed solar conditions that shut down DX paths for much of March and April were back during May, but not as severe. DX was workable for most of the month. They will also be a factor during the first half of June, but the bands should be worth checking out. The Sporadic-E season is opening up 10m & 6m nearly every evening for stateside SSB fun.

73, de Roy - AD5Q / Houston
http://www.qth.com/ad5q/

Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2005 June 7 *US Dept. of Commerce NOAA*

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2005 Jun 8	105	15	3
2005 Jun 9	105	10	3
2005 Jun 10	105	10	3
2005 Jun 11	105	8	3
2005 Jun 12	100	8	3
2005 Jun 13	95	10	3
2005 Jun 14	90	10	3
2005 Jun 15	85	10	3
2005 Jun 16	85	10	3
2005 Jun 17	85	10	3
2005 Jun 18	80	10	3
2005 Jun 19	80	8	3
2005 Jun 20	80	5	2
2005 Jun 21	80	5	2
2005 Jun 22	80	8	3
2005 Jun 23	80	8	3
2005 Jun 24	80	12	3
2005 Jun 25	85	20	4
2005 Jun 26	90	20	4
2005 Jun 27	90	15	3
2005 Jun 28	95	10	3
2005 Jun 29	95	10	3
2005 Jun 30	95	10	3
2005 Jul 1	100	15	3
2005 Jul 2	105	20	4
2005 Jul 3	105	15	3
2005 Jul 4	105	15	3

DX Logbook

Chris Shalvoy - K2CS
Atlantic Division DXAC

Observations from your DXAC meeting Friday evening at the Miami Room, Dayton Hamvention, as traditionally has been done since I was chosen for the DXAC:

⇨ Oddly enough, remote station operation was the single, most important issue that was addresses at our session.

⇨ DX in general has been pretty clean cut lately. Years past, out of country operation, lack of activity, LOTW, and card checking has occupied our discussions.

⇨ I gather that many are taking advantage of the lack of definitive direction of remote station operation.

⇨ The Internet and wireless links have made such stations more affordable and now visible.

⇨ As a whole, the DXAC felt it was obligated to contribute to the discussions on remote operation, as it would pertain to DXíng and contest operation.

⇨ Nothing has been officially formulated but the commitment to offer guidance was agreed upon.

From the DXAC:

These operations have been approved for credit.

YI9KT – Iraq – From May 7, 2004 to Feb 8, 2005
YI9GT – Iraq – From May 7, 2004 to Feb 8, 2005
T6KBLRM – Afghanistan – Current operation
A52CDX – Bhutan – Oct 24, 2004 to Nov 12, 2004
TT8M – Chad – Current operation effective March 14, 2005
6O0CW – Somalia – From Feb 3, 2005 to Feb 17, 2005
TT8AMO – Chad – Current operation effective March 9, 2005
6O0X – Somalia – From Nov 18, 2004 to Nov 26, 2004
T68G – Afghanistan – Current Operation effective April 2005
HZ1EX – Saudi Arabia – From Oct 27, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

Hope some of these made it to your log.

In the Log (non contest)

Station	Bands
XT2JZ	30m, 20m CW; 30m RTTY
ZK2QQ	20m, 17, 15m CW
4K60K	20m CW
UN7MO	20m CW
MJ/K8PT	80m, 40m CW
T99W	40m CW
A35YL	20m, 17m CW
A61Q	20m CW
UN3M	20m CW
FO/N6JA	20m, 17m CW

Station	Bands
ZA1Z	40m CW
ST2BF	20m CW
EX8QB	20m CW
JT1Y	20m CW
LZ4VU	40m CW
UK8BQ	20m CW
AP2NK	20m CW
J75RZ	80m CW
UN7QX	20m CW
4U1UN	60m SSB

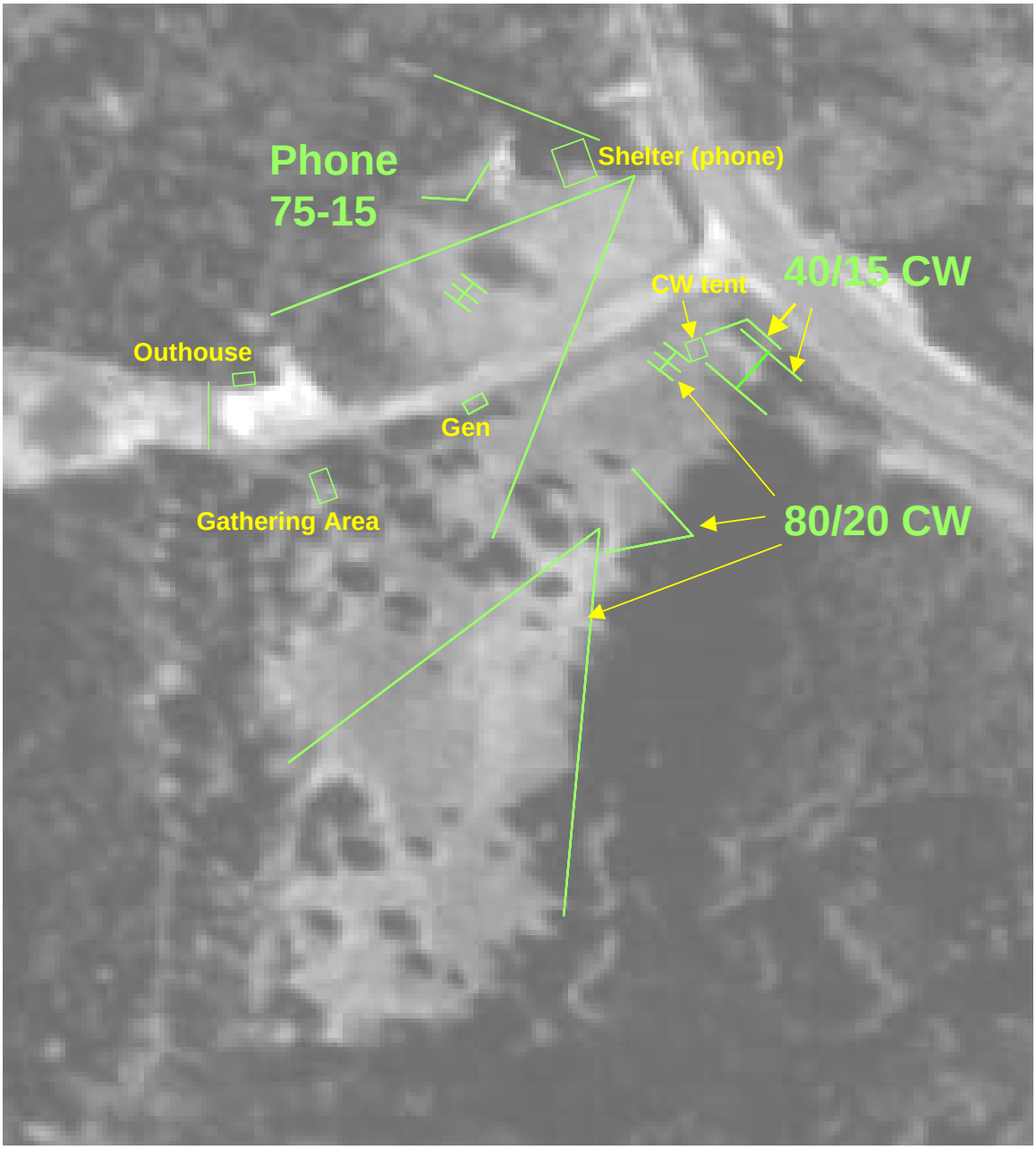
20m is obviously the place to be lately. Look for 6m to open soon, and get those 160m antennas ready for the fall. See you in the pileups. Best DX es 73,

Chris, K2CS, Atlantic Division DXAC

What Is It?

Can you identify the function of this early piece of radio apparatus?

Here's a view of the 2005 RDXA Field Day site layout superimposed on an aerial view of the Lookout Shelter location in Mendon Ponds Park. Lots of aerials! We need your help to get them all up and operational. Setup commences at 13:00 local time, Friday, 24 June. Join us for a weekend of work, fun, great food, and radio madness! Mendon Ponds is **the place to be** on the last weekend in June. So tell the boss you're QRT, kiss the XYL good bye, forget about the lawn, grab your tool bag and gloves, throw a lawn chair in the car, and a cooler of 807s in the trunk and head out to RDXA Field Day. If you're not sure what else to bring, don't despair. The often-imitated, but never-duplicated, world-renowned, patented, copyrighted, and definitive K2MP Field Day essentials checklist will arrive in your email inbox soon. Look it over, bring what you can and join us for Field Day 2005. You'll have a great weekend. Guaranteed!



Rochester DX Association

W2RDX rdxa.com

This Bulletin is a the official organ of the Rochester DX Association and is published monthly, September through June. Email your articles, tidbits, ham ads, etc. to Mike, N1OKL at the addresses below by the first Tuesday of the month for inclusion in that month's issue.

All those with an interest in amateur radio and DXing and contesting are cordially invited to any meeting and to join RDXA. Meetings are held at 19:30 local time on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, September through June.

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