

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



Regular Meeting

May 16th 19:30 local

300 Jay Scutti Boulevard
Gander Mountain
Meeting Room

Field Day Planning

Vic Gauvin, K1PY and Fred Groner, W2TZ will lead our Field Day planning discussions. Join us and find out what's on tap for this year's 3A effort at Mendon Ponds, and how you can participate.

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Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin
Winton Plaza

purchase, so if you bought (or are planning on purchasing) a flea market pass, let me know. We will have a booth inside the Dome Arena this year, and we'll be looking for people to man the table for an hour or two. The initial thrust is to make sure we have it covered for Saturday, and then work on Friday. I'll be passing around a schedule at this month's meeting. Duties involve greeting the public, sharing what the club is all about, and possibly collecting membership dues. One topic we discussed at the Board meeting was to push the Field Day aspect of our club's activities. I asked for the same area we've had in the past, next to the Antique Wireless booth. Looking at the current layout of the Dome, we're already penciled in for that area. Now we need the warm, friendly bodies to staff it!

We've made a slight change in programs for May and June. June is traditionally our Field Day planning meeting, however as Field Day is the immediate weekend after our regular meeting, we will be working on final preparations at the May meeting. I won't be as involved as much as I have in the past because my youngest son is graduating (presumably) from High School on Saturday. We're planning on another 3A operation at Mendon Ponds park at the Lookout Shelter. I do plan on being there for Friday setup, and Sunday. I promised the XYL, that Saturday is reserved for all the celebration and recognition of the new graduate. It'll be tough, but I know you'll keep the rates up, and keep making the Qs in my absence (just don't loose the run frequency!). Thinking back to the Board meeting this week, I think we're covered food-wise for Friday night, and (I think) Saturday lunch. Kevin, N2VJB is on board for Saturday dinner. Doug, N2BEG has offered to help out with Sunday breakfast (he mentioned something to the effect of made to order omelets). I'm sure Doug wouldn't mind an extra hand. Also, the Sunday lunchtime shift is available if someone wants to man the new club grill. I'll be bringing my 2-burner Coleman camp stove to augment the cooking facilities.

If you weren't at the April meeting, you missed the great news that Gander Mountain Manager Steve Cinatti managed to move the other groups who wanted to use the lodge on our meeting nights. We're all set for the rest of this calendar year, and next year as well! Make sure you say a word of thanks to the folks at the Customer Service desk. Also, I would encourage you to shop there and drop a couple of bucks while you're waiting for the meeting to begin. I'm sure they'll appreciate it.

Also at the May meeting, we'll be accepting nominations from the floor for Board of Directors positions. N2OPW, W2LU, and K2DB are stepping down as Directors. As outgoing president, W1TY has

President's Soapbox

By Dave Wright - N2CK



Greetings all,

As the regular RDXA season winds down, it culminates in two fine events in the month of June. Of course, I am talking about the Hamfest and Field Day. I hope to see a great RDXA turnout at both events. This may be the last year on the Grassy Knoll as we know it. With the sale of Dome Arena property to the local hometown grocery chain, the area we've grown to

claim as our turf may no longer be available. Aah, such is progress. Also, the "unofficial" hamfest committee is looking for a couple of volunteers to be on food procurement detail. Yes, that means shopping for processed mammal meat to grill, condiments, chips, soda, etc. We will not have the portable cabana this year as Charlie will be out of town. This means, you'll need to plan accordingly should you want some cold adult beverages. I'm trying to get a feel for how many flea market passes we, as club members

served as a Board member this past year as well. Please join me in thanking these folks for their service to our club. We currently have 3 people who have stepped up and are willing to serve on the Board. Irv AF2K, Doug N2BEG, and Allen K6PSP are on board to serve. I would like to publicly thank these people for taking on this very important role in the club. I plan on staying on another year (that is if you will have me for another year!). It is my belief that Vic K1PY and Charlie WB2HJV are also staying on for another year as well.

I'll close for now, as the Sabres game is going on (I'm listening to the game on the HF radio, tuned to 950 AM – how handy!). I'm sure that tomorrow morning, I'll think of something else I should have added to this. See you at the meeting!

May Contests

ARI Int'l. DX Contest, SSB, CW, RTTY -----6, 7 May
 Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest, RTTY----- 13, 14 May
 FISTS Spring Sprint, CW ----- 13 May
 U.S. Counties QSO Party, SSB-----20, 21 May
 CQ WW WPX, CW-----27, 28 May

More Contest Info <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/index.htm>

June Contests

IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW ----- 3, 4 Jun
 ANARTS WW RTTY, all DIGI modes except CW ----- 10, 11 Jun
 GACW WW CW DX, CW----- 10, 11 Jun
 All Asian DX, CW ----- 17, 18 Jun
 SMIRK, CW, SSB ----- 17, 18 Jun
 Kid's Day, SSB -----17 Jun
 ARRL Field Day, all modes ----- 24, 25 Jun
 QRP ARCI Milliwatt Field Day, CW----- 24, 25 Jun
 Marconi Memorial HF, CW----- 24, 25 Jun

July Contests

RAC Canada Day, CW, SSB ----- 1 July
 DL DX RTTY, RTTY, PSK31 ----- 1, 2 July
 IARU HF World Championship, CW, SSB----- 8, 9 July
 CQ WW VHF, all modes----- 15, 16 July
 North American QSO Party, RTTY----- 15, 16 July
 RSGB IOTA Contest, CW, SSB ----- 29, 30 July

August Contests

European HF Championship CW, SSB----- 5 Aug
 North American QSO Party, CW----- 5, 6 Aug
 Worked All Europe DX, CW ----- 12, 13 Aug
 SARTG WW RTTY, RTTY -----19 Aug
 North American QSO Party, SSB ----- 19, 20 Aug
 Hawaii QSO Party, all modes----- 26, 27 Aug
 SCC RTTY Championship, RTTY ----- 26, 27 Aug

Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2006 May 09

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2006 May 10	85	12	3
2006 May 11	85	30	5
2006 May 12	80	25	5
2006 May 13	80	12	3
2006 May 14	80	10	3
2006 May 15	80	10	3
2006 May 16	75	8	3
2006 May 17	75	8	3
2006 May 18	75	10	3
2006 May 19	80	15	3
2006 May 20	85	10	3
2006 May 21	85	8	3
2006 May 22	90	8	3
2006 May 23	90	8	3
2006 May 24	90	8	3
2006 May 25	90	10	3
2006 May 26	90	8	3
2006 May 27	90	8	3
2006 May 28	90	8	3
2006 May 29	90	10	3
2006 May 30	90	10	3
2006 May 31	90	10	3
2006 Jun 01	85	15	3
2006 Jun 02	85	20	4
2006 Jun 03	85	20	4
2006 Jun 04	80	15	3
2006 Jun 05	80	10	3

For more see: <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/Data/index.html#alerts>

Propagation

AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, May 1995

Solar Flux Range-----66 – 95

General – April was a good month for us. We again had flux levels in the 80s and 90s for a good part of the month and enjoyed night path propagation on 20m. Then they took a dive below 70 and the polar windows were still open on 20m, but not as well. As I write this, the ionosphere is disturbed and conditions are off. At this time of the year, all we need is a quiet geomagnetic situation for plenty of DX. Seasonally, the high bands don't get any better than this at the low end of the cycle. The WPX CW contest is coming up, and is one of few remaining contests where we can enjoy nightpath pipelines to Europe and Japan on 20m.

Summer MUFs – One factor we won't have to worry about this year is the low summer MUFs. At the high end of the cycle, this stifles 10m DX from May through August and effects 15m during midsummer. Since these bands are not producing anyway, there is no need to worry. May is a good month for 15m, so we can still expect marginal openings to Europe when the flux gets above 80. Most DX activity, however, will be on 20m.

Summer DX – DX windows to remote parts of the world are important. Long haul paths over the pole provide contacts to rare spots like A5, XZ, YA, 9N, VU4, VU7, and S2. Europeans need these same windows to work parts of the Pacific. When expeditions are launched to these locations, the season has much to do with your chances of making the contact. Even at the top of the

solar cycle, 10m propagation is scarce in midwinter. Polar paths are always difficult on 40m and very formidable on lower frequencies. The best all around band for polar work is 20m. (At the top of the cycle, 15m is awesome - but not any more.) At the low end of the cycle, the polar paths on 20m are only reliable during the late spring and summer. This is when you hope these rare DX spots are activated. 17m and 30m would also be good to watch for this difficult propagation. The windows open in both the evening and the morning.

20 Meters – 20m openings to the Far East are improving in the morning, and will become a daily pipeline through the summer. Evening openings will continue to improve to Russia as the grey line tilts in that direction. East/west paths are not a problem and never are. We have more bands to choose from when working these paths, even including 10m. It is wise to catch Pacific expeditions on the low bands around our sunrise, even in midsummer.

10m and 6m – It is my opinion that stateside sporadic E on 10m (and 6m) is much better at the low end of the sunspot cycle. This season is upon us, and includes Field Day. Expect plenty of activity on 6m this year.

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

WB2HJV Receives KE2WK Award

At the recent RDXA / RVHFG Awards Banquet, Charlie Kuhfuss, WB2HJV was presented with the prestigious KE2WK Award, in recognition of his service to RDXA and his amateur radio activities in the fields of HF contesting and DXing. Congratulations Charlie!



Dave, N2CK, RDXA President (right), presents the KE2WK Award to Charlie, WB2HJV.

From Charlie...

Dear friends,

Once again I would like to say thank you for presenting me with the prestigious KE2WK Memorial Award. Yesterday I rearranged the wall space in my shack and made a very prominent QTH for my new plaques and awards that I received on Saturday night. When I arrived home my XYL thought that I had made "quite a haul."

I mentioned Saturday evening that I must give some credit to my "Elmer," whose name was Elmer, W2CDX (SK) for instilling in me the love for our great hobby many years ago. And too, to our Tim WB2KAO for encouraging me to attend an RDXA meeting back in October of 2000. Tim said to me, "Chaz, you're a DXer and I think you just might like to attend an RDXA meeting." Tim hit the proverbial bulls-eye!

After W2CDX died in 1984 I floundered a bit with the hobby as there were no more evening skeds with him or eyeball Qs. During the 1980s I also lost to the SK ranks from Dunkirk and Fredonia some great ops in WB2VTR, K2JQT, K2LZV, K2TKD, K2SZF, W2MBO, W2DGV, and previously to that, the old teach himself W2SB, licensed in 1916. The wind was gone from my sails and something was missing. I agonized for years about going after Elmer's call sign as it is a great one, especially for a DXer, but could not bring myself to do it as there was only one Elmer W2CDX. It was his original call from 1930 although then it was 8CDX as Dunkirk was in 8 land at that time. The call is now held by the Chautauqua County DX Club located in Bemis Point, NY.

Since I've been with the RDXA the fun, fellowship, and camaraderie has been truly wonderful and it has definitely rekindled that radio "spark" for me. Thanks to the RDXA too, my knowledge of radio and operating techniques has certainly increased.

As you may have guessed I like to write, send and receive mail, keep records, go to the bank/PO, and so on. I was the troop scribe in the Boy Scouts 1962 - 1965 and managed the ten-cent a week dues notebook/membership list. I think it was good training for me, maybe even more important than that one-handed bowline or the slender sheep-shank.

As many of you may know I have no siblings and have always considered the OMs and YLs in our ranks to be my brothers and sisters; and that's why this award means so much to me. I'm looking forward to many more exciting "radio" years with all of you. Thanks once more for your nomination and votes of confidence.

Photos from the RDXA / RVHFG Awards Banquet

The annual RDXA / RVHFG Awards Banquet was held on 22 April. Members from both Clubs joined in the festivities to celebrate the past year's DXing and Contesting accomplishments. Photos of the event, courtesy of N2OPW and K6PSP.



Chris, K2CS, RDXA DX and Contest Chairman presenting this year's RDXA awards for outstanding performance in HF contesting.



K2CS receives the prestigious, surprise Birthday Award. AF2K (left) and K2CS XYL, N2TWI (right) looking on.



Irv, AF2K (left), Chris, K2CS (center), and Gayle, N2TWI (right).



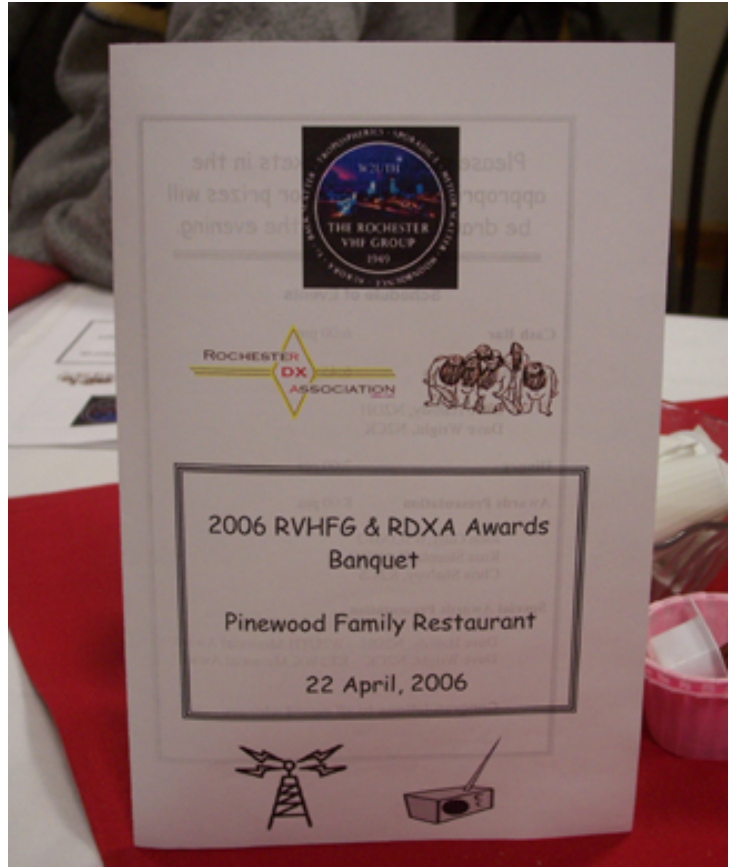
The assembled Club members and guests.



Alan, K6PSP and Paul, N2OPW our tireless photographers.



Allen, KB2CHY and XYL (left), Len, WA2ZNC and XYL (standing) and Tim, WB2KAO (right).



The Program of Awards.



Bob, N2HJD (left) receiving a RVHFG award.



Chris, K2CS presenting another Megapoint award to Fred, W2TZ

In the Shack

As the saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words." With this in mind, we continue our photographic tour of RDXA member's shacks, antenna farms, and the like. Ed.



Rick, W1TY: Rick's optimized RTTY setup includes three separate decoders for RTTY, an IC765 and FL2100 amp. Soon to be online is a new, homebrew, solid state Class E amp capable of delivering 2kW in RTTY.



Len, WA2ZNC: At the other end of the coax, Len's antenna farm boasts an equally impressive array of HF and VHF aeriels.



Mike, N1OKL: Two views (above and below) of Mike's new shack in Danbury, CT...with and without the operator. The best (and worst) part of moving is getting to rebuild your shack. I had long wanted a new layout for my gear, and relocating to CT gave me the excuse I needed to construct a custom, 9-foot long radio table. Using a hardwood butcher-block top mounted on a custom frame of extruded aluminum, the entire table is on wheels...making access to the rear of the table a snap.



Len, WA2ZNC: Len's shack with an impressive array of HF and VHF gear.

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION

W2RDX

rdxa.com

This Bulletin is 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.

President----- Dave Wright – N2CK
n2ck@arrl.net

Vice President----- Vic Gauvin – K1PY
k1py@frontiernet.net

Sec/Treasurer----- Charles Kuhfuss – WB2HJV
wb2hvj@rochester.rr.com

Board of Directors

Paul Meyers – N2OPW----- n2opw@qsl.net

Gene Fuller – W2LU----- w2lu@rochester.rr.com

Paul Mackanos – K2DB----- paul@prohomeinspector.net

Rick Mintz – W1TY----- w1ty@arrl.net

Appointed Positions

DX Chairman ----- Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

Packet Cluster Sys Op ----- Bob Hunter, NG2P

Webmaster ----- Scott Hoag, K2ZS

NG2P Packet Cluster----- 144.910 MHz
Telnet: 66.67.220.251 / Port 7300

Newsletter Editor

Mike Rundle, N1OKL ----- rundlem@kpgraphics.com
Alternate email: n1okl@pcilearn.com

Dues (\$15 / year) and Correspondence to:

Charles Kuhfuss, WB2HJV
55 Stoney Path Lane
Rochester, NY 14626

Professional Home Inspection



Paul Mackanos - K2DB
20 Sumac Way
Fairport, NY 14450



Paul - K2DB

www.paulmackanos.com

800.822.7579
585.223.4230