

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



## Regular Meeting

May 15<sup>th</sup> 19:30 local

300 Jay Scutti Boulevard  
Gander Mountain  
Meeting Room

### May Program

*Number 1, 3A USA, The Run for the Gold - Can we make it? There are major things already going on in our efforts to again achieve #1 U.S.A in 3A. We're reviewing and reevaluating everything to optimize our effort. Come see where we're at with 5+ weeks to go.*

### Coming in June:

*" Three Days To Go"*

*A last minute Field Day update, plus something extra to make it worthwhile.*

XX

## Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin  
Winton Plaza

local was the best time for us. Knowing that the deadline to terminate the operation was fast approaching, I decided to sneak some time in the shack prior to heading for work last Friday. As I struggled to find their listening frequency I saw a spot on the cluster that announced their QRX frequency was 14.280 from a station I knew had just worked them. Quickly I cranked VFO B to that frequency, and the two calls later they were in the log! I know there was lots of complaining about the 30 khz wide window they announced as their listening frequency range, but in reality just how often does a rare one like this get activated? As the group brought stations up on the air, I did some web searching to learn a little more about this entity and to learn why it was so rare. All I can say is **wow!** Those guys have my vote for being the most radio-rabid folks there are. Reading the news bulletins on the DX reflector, and listening to the interview with James, 9V1YC by satellite phone while on the rocks - it's amazing what they went through just so we had the opportunity to add this one. Imagine operating while wearing a life jacket in case the wind picked up and blew you off the rock! Hello! While the rest of us were (trying) to work them from the relative comfort and safety of our shacks, they were putting up with heat, salt spray, wind, no room to move around, and add to that a ~10 hour shift in total darkness with the South China Sea a scant 5 feet below their feet. I only wish there would have been better propagation to this area. Now the anxious wait for the logs to be posted begins.

# KE2WK Award

## Paul Mackanos - K2DB

This Award is to recognize the HF enthusiast who has been the most active in RDXA Club commitment, made contributions to the Club Newsletter, who is recognized by Club members as a high profile active station pursuing DX and participating in HF contests, while promoting the RDXA and Amateur Radio on the HF bands. In memory of our Past President, Bill Beckett, 1991-1993.

### President's Soapbox

By Dave Wright - N2CK



Greetings all,

At this time the BS7H DXpedition is now QRT and on their way home. Hopefully you had the opportunity to put this **rare** one in the log. I was lucky enough to work them on 20m SSB on the 4th around 08:20 local. I may have them on 20CW as well - I'll have to wait until the logs are posted to verify. I had been listening for them as soon as I got home from work, early in the morning, and

late in the evening prior to this but had not heard a peep. Coming to my rescue was K2MP (yet again!) who advised me that 8-9 am

I spent the wonderful weather last weekend routing a control cable for a remote coax switch through an old garden hose which was eventually buried in the yard. I wanted to replace the remote coax switch I have been using as I could not make use of my lightning protection system due to the requirement of the antenna feedline to pass a DC voltage to control the remote unit. At the Newark hamfest I picked up an Ameritron remote coax switch, which uses a separate control cable to provide the signals for antenna switching. Everything is now hooked up and the lightning protection device is back in place. I have one more PolyPhaser to tie into the protection scheme. It's for the rotor. Initially I anticipated it being used on tribander, but now it will be used for the remote switch control line.

The W2RDX/60 celebration is just one month away. Plan on joining us at the Antique Wireless Museum Annex as we put W2RDX/60 on the air! There will be a dinner meeting at the Scotch and Sirloin afterwards. Plan on arriving for cocktails and the social gathering by 19:00 with dinner at 20:00. In accordance with how our predecessors conducted their monthly meetings, ties will be required of all members in attendance to honor those who came before us.

## W2RDX/60

**Announcing the Rochester DX Association 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary On-Air Celebration, 9 June 2007, 1300z-1900z from the Antique Wireless Association Museum in Bloomfield, NY. All HF bands SSB, CW. Classic 1947 era AM on 3.885 mc.**

It sounds like we've got a nice slate of candidates shaping up for elections next month. If you've ever wanted to be more involved with the internal affairs of the Club, now's your chance! We can always use **you**. The Board meetings are a great opportunity to socialize, and plan out the affairs of the Club's activities. Time and responsibility duties are usually minimal.

For those who attended the combined RDXA/RVHFG awards banquet, thank you. For those who did not attend, consider checking it out next year. It was looking like it wasn't going to happen this year – but the increased participation from RDXA pushed us over the minimum. During the drawing of door prizes, how ironic was it that K2DB was the first person called for the drawing? Paul made a beeline for the ARRL handbook donated by Bill Edgar, W3LLR (Bill also arranged two other books from the League for door prizes). I think all had a great time, but more importantly – we were able to recognize folks from both Clubs for their accomplishments over the past year. One thing I never thought I would experience is K2DB at a loss for words when he won the KE2WK award this year. Congratulations once again to Paul for his many contributions to the Club over the years. As an aside, if someone has an east side location they would like to suggest for next year, let us know. Be advised you may be tagged to help co-ordinate arrangements.

It looks like Field Day planning is the order of the day at this month's meeting. We're still looking for folks to pick just one extra role during our annual operating event. Please take a moment and consider where you would like to add your toil, talents, energy and sweat.

I'll close for now. I hope to see lots of folks at the upcoming Hamfest, and the W2RDX/60 operating event!

### May Contests

ARI Int'l. DX Contest, all modes----- 5, 6 May  
Alessandro Volta RTTY DX, RTTY----- 12, 13 May  
EU PSK DX Contest, PSK31 ----- 19, 20 May  
CQ WW WPX, CW ----- 26, 27 May  
Helvetia Contest, CW, SSB, Digi----- 28, 29 Apr

### More Contest Info

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

### June Contests

SEANET Contest, all modes ----- 2, 3 June  
IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW----- 2, 3 June  
ANARTS WW RTTY, RTTY ----- 9, 10 June  
All Asian DX Contest, CW----- 16, 17 June  
SMIRK Contest, CW, SSB ----- 16, 17 June  
Kid's Day, SSB ----- 16 June  
Marconi Memorial Contest, CW----- 23, 24 June  
ARRL Field Day, all modes----- 23, 24 June

### July Contests

RAC Canada Day Contest, CW, SSB----- 1 July  
DL DX RTTY Contest, RTTY, PSK31, PSK63----- 7, 8 July  
IARU HF World Championship, CW, SSB----- 14, 15 July  
CQ WW VHF Contest, all modes ----- 21, 22 July  
RSGB IOTA Contest, CW, SSB----- 28, 29 July

### RDXA Booth at Rochester Hamfest

Just a quick reminder that RDXA will again staff an indoor booth at the upcoming Rochester Hamfest. Membership renewals and new memberships will be accepted.

QSL cards will be checked for WAS, VUCC and DXCC by ARRL Field Checkers Ed Gable, K2MP and Bill Dobson, N3WD, starting at 11:00 AM Saturday at the RDXA booth in the Dome Center.

### No Antenna Un-tweaked

By Vic Gauvin - K1PY

The All-Out Effort for Field Day 2007



With the motivation provided by the whumping we received from W9CA, we're well along on our all-out effort to regain the #1 crown. (By the way, I'm told W9CA set a new FD 3A record, eclipsing Joe K8FC's W0GG crew out in CO. So at least we were #2 to a worthwhile effort. They deserve congratulations.)

So, with our experience over the years, we all have to admit we pretty much know how to "do" Field Day, and we sure do it pretty well! So at this point in time, most of us are just noticing that the

wx is starting to get Field Day-like, and with the HamFest coming and all, FD can't be that far off. But that's usually about it (well, with the exception of a few of us that shall remain nameless).

But this year, nothing is as it was. A couple of years ago, when we were trying to figure out the new Mendon site, K8FC asked me if we were out to win. I truthfully answered "No, we're just trying to make it **work!**" Well, he didn't believe me, but it was true, as became apparent in many respects, with a few notable exceptions. But this year, Joe, the answer is a resounding **yes!** We're trying with everything we've got, and whatever else we can muster beyond that!

A good example involves our FD antennas. It's the radio equivalent of "where the rubber meets the road" – in our case it's "where the aluminum meets the ozone." (Or I am writing this too late at night?) Our wires, with kudos to the genius of Fred W2TZ, have always worked superbly. Witness the 40m CW record-breaking performance last year with Fred's 2-element wire beam. But our aluminum hasn't kept up. It was "there," but never quite up to snuff. Well, for this year, we're doing everything possible, short of buying an entirely new antenna farm, to remedy that.

Each antenna in our arsenal will be disassembled, cleaned, and re-gooped (technical term: you knew exactly what I meant, though, right?). They'll all be reassembled and set per manufacturer's specs to the CW or phone portion of the band. And not to rely just on that, we're taking them out to the site for **Antenna Tune-Up Day** (May 19th, 10:00 a.m.) thanks to Ed K2MP, Redd AI2N, Alan K6PSP, Larry W2LB, Kevin KC2PKO, Raj N2RD, and Ken N2ZN, with a few others possible. We'll be raising them up far enough to eliminate ground effects, and measuring and tuning. Raj, N2RD will be utilizing the technology he demonstrated to us during two meeting programs this year to really get a handle on how these things are performing. As I've been saying to the folks involved, if anything about our effort this year doesn't pan out as desired, it won't be because of the antennas!

Speaking of the antenna arsenal, there are a couple new weapons joining the 3-element 20m monobander and the A4 we've been using. First is a reprise of a CushCraft 2-element 40m Yagi, the 40-2CD. We'd used this the first year we tried the Gizmo on the flagpole. (We were fearless that year, we raised the 40m on one Gizmo, and another Yagi on another!). I'm not sure how it worked out (and I'm not digging into the records to see), but it wasn't enough to prompt us to bring it back.

Until this year. And after it's been refurbished and tuned, we're strongly entertaining the prospect of getting it to the **top** of the flagpole. How high is that, you ask? See elsewhere in this newsletter. How are we getting to the top? Also see elsewhere. We've run some antenna plots, and they suggest that this is the optimal location. We're most interested in using it for nighttime operation to the West.

And then there's 20 meters. Our nemesis. Most likely our biggest problem on 20m is something we can't do anything about – the fact that we're in WNY. But we're not letting that stop us from doing everything else that we *can* do something about. We'll be rolling out the Big Gun (or at least the biggest 20m gun we have available to us): A KLM KT 34XA. That's a 6-element, 32-foot boom tri-bander with perfect performance for FD. Its gain is as good as W2TZ's brand-new 4 element Force12 with the same boom length (measured in side-by-side comparisons, each on separate towers 100 or so feet apart). Its side rejection is nowhere as good, Fred reports, but for us in a domestic exercise, it's

perfect! We get the forward gain but don't exclude others answering our CQs.

The 3-element 20m has been used by the CW station, but the station needing the most help, especially recently, is phone, so that's where it's going, on top of one of the AWA's 50-foot Mil-masts. If this can't do it, there's not much else that can.

So, enough for now. I think you're seeing that the level of effort for this year is significant.

There will be more news at the meeting and on the Club FD mailing list (quiet up to now, but I'll be changing that real soon). (Join if you haven't already – it'll be the first place for breaking news and discussion.)

As you can see, we're obviously "going for it." It'll obviously be easier and more fun, for us and you, with you on board. The bragging rights for being part of this (even regardless of the results) are going to be right up there – we probably should even do the infamous T-shirt thing! So make sure you step up. Needless to say we could use you, and likewise needless to say (but I will), it'll be an absolute blast!

73, W2RDX 3A WNY Field Day.

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Propagation AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22  
May 1996

Solar Flux Range-----66 – 78

**General** – With most of the Arctic Ocean now exposed to 24 hour daylight, we have excellent polar windows both in the morning and evening on 20m. These extend to the southern reaches of Asia which are among the most difficult parts of the world to reach from North America. Europeans will find these same windows open to their favorite part of the world to work: the Pacific. It is now early May, so these evening windows are still not open to the northeast as they will be a month from now. The MUF along this path still needs to go a little higher. From Texas, this will open the band to the heavily populated areas of Russia (there are lots of hams in the Ukraine) plus the Middle East. The West Coast already has this opening because it is a true polar path to them. As 20m band closings move later into the night, larger areas of the earth will be workable for longer durations. At the peak of the solar cycle, these night paths open up during February!

**20 Meters** – This is also the season where the molecular density of the ionosphere starts to thin due to heating. Daytime MUFs start to trend lower, and this keeps 20m open in the morning for several hours after sunrise. Polar Asians are starting to come through nicely in the morning from Zone 26. A morning path to the east coast of Asia will open up later this month, and will remain open through the summer. These openings make the WPX CW contest an interesting event at the low end of the cycle. Nobody expects much activity on 15m or 10m.

Daypaths are also open on 20m, so you can still work Europeans in the morning and Asians in the late afternoon. During the WPX, the East Coast can expect to have a path to Europe for most of the day which the rest of us will envy.

**40 Meters** – 40m is still in great shape, and opens in the evening to the European parts of Russia that are not yet accessible on 20m. This is a sunrise opening where we work into the area of daylight and follow it across Europe. Morning brings an excellent opening to Asia lasting over an hour. 40m contacts count double points in the WPX.

**High Bands** – The lowband season is waning, and most DX activity will move to 20m. Alternative bands are 17m and 30m, and 40m will be usable through the summer (but noisy). 10m, 15m and 80m will remain marginally useful. Southern hemisphere DX can be worked through the summer on 80m at our sunrise (especially VK/ZL). Sporadic-E season is here for 10m and 6m SSB short skip work.

73, de Roy - AD5Q / Houston

<http://www.qth.com/ad5q/>

## Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2007 May 8

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2007 May 9	70	8	3
2007 May 10	70	5	2
2007 May 11	70	5	2
2007 May 12	70	5	2
2007 May 13	70	5	2
2007 May 14	70	5	2
2007 May 15	70	5	2
2007 May 16	70	5	2
2007 May 17	70	5	2
2007 May 18	70	5	2
2007 May 19	70	10	3
2007 May 20	70	15	4
2007 May 21	75	8	3
2007 May 22	80	5	2
2007 May 23	85	5	2
2007 May 24	85	15	4
2007 May 25	85	25	5
2007 May 26	85	20	5
2007 May 27	85	20	5
2007 May 28	85	8	3
2007 May 29	85	5	2
2007 May 30	85	5	2
2007 May 31	80	5	2
2007 Jun 1	80	5	2
2007 Jun 2	80	8	3
2007 Jun 3	75	15	3
2007 Jun 4	75	5	2

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

## Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity

NOAA

9 May – 4 June 2007

Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels.

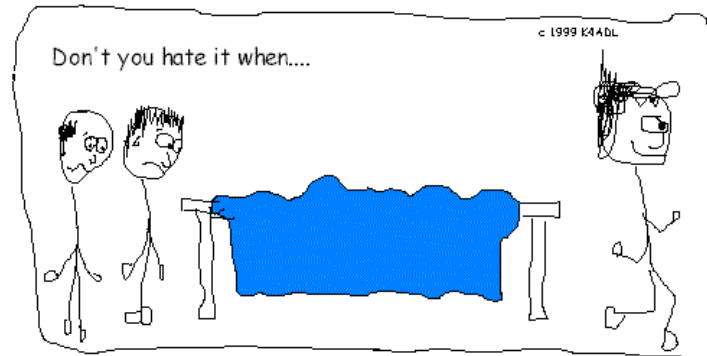
No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to reach high levels during 25 May - 03 June.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels through 18 May. A recurrent coronal hole high-speed stream is expected to disturb the field during 19 - 20 May with unsettled to active levels likely. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected during 21 - 23 May. Another round of coronal hole effects are expected during 24 - 27 May with unsettled to minor storm

conditions possible. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected for the remainder of the forecast period.

More at: <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/radio/>



WITH HIS HAMFEST TABLE SECURELY PROTECTED FROM EARLY-BIRD BARGAIN HUNTERS BY THE DREADED OPAQUE BLUE TARP, LOUIS HEADS OFF FOR A LEISURELY BREAKFAST.

Courtesy of K4ADL – <http://www.qsl.net/k4adl/>



1, 2, 3 June 2007

Monroe Country Fairgrounds  
Route 15A, Rochester, NY

### Friday, 1 June:

- 06:00 – 19:00 – Outdoor Flea Market Open
- 12:00 – 17:30 – Dome Air Conditioned Exhibit Hall Open
- 18:30 – Annual Awards Dinner RIT Inn

### Saturday, 2 June:

- 06:00 – 19:00 – Outdoor Flea Market Open
- 08:30 – 17:30 – Dome Exhibit Hall Open
- 09:00 – 17:00 – Programs

### Sunday, 3 June:

- 06:00 – 13:30 – Outdoor Flea Market Open
- 08:30 – 13:30 – Dome Exhibit Hall Open
- 11:30 – GRAND AWARD

## Hamfest Flea Market Speak, Decoded

*Thinking of buying a new rig at the upcoming Rochester Hamfest? Then you'll want to take along a copy of this essential guide to Hamfest Flea Market Speak. Ed.*

- This rig puts out a BIG signal. ----- It's 50 kHz wide.
- This is a really good CW rig. ----- It doesn't work on SSB.
- This is a really good SSB rig. ----- It doesn't work on CW.
- This is a really good rig. ----- It doesn't work on CW or SSB.

The transmitter is outstanding. -----It doesn't receive.  
The receiver is really hot.----- It doesn't transmit.  
This rig is really hot.----- It's stolen.  
It seems to be a vintage regenerative type.----- It oscillates.  
I just retubed it.----- Got 'em from questionable used tube stock.  
I just aligned it. ----- The slugs on the transformers are jammed.  
I don't know if it works.----- It doesn't work, probably never has.  
It doesn't chirp. ----- It doesn't chirp because it doesn't transmit.  
The audio sounds great. --- The 120Hz buzz is faithfully reproduced.  
I just had it serviced.----- I sprayed WD-40 over all the wiring.  
It comes with the original box. ----- Just brush out the kitty litter.  
Better buy it now, cause it won't last. -----No translation needed.  
Sure, it works at full power.----- It sucks all it can from the wall.  
This rig has wide frequency coverage.  
It drifts up and down and out of band.  
Frequency stability is great.  
The VFO doesn't work – you'll have to use crystals.  
Real popular rig in its day.  
There were whole HF nets on repair and maintenance problems.  
QST gave this one a really great review.  
The language broke new ground for profanity.  
It might need a bit of tweaking.  
Marconi himself couldn't fix it, much less align it  
It was used in government service.  
It was stored outdoors on a wooden pallet.  
The dial drive may need lubricating.  
The gears are stripped and the setscrews frozen.  
I plugged it in to check that it lights up.  
The light came from the two foot high flames.  
I'm selling it because I have two of them.  
I'm getting rid of my parts radio.  
You won't find one at a better price.  
Better from the point of view of the seller.  
This is a collector's item  
The manufacturer went belly up and won't honor the warranty  
It came from an estate sale.  
If you have any problem take it up with the owner.  
I had it on the air just last night.  
And you thought the woodpecker was gone.  
It worked last time I used it. If it still worked I'd still be using it.  
The only lightning damage was a fuse  
The only lightning damage I recognized was a fuse.  
I have the \_\_\_\_ somewhere. I'll send it to you.  
You'll never see the \_\_\_\_ .  
I'll help you carry it to the car.  
I'll do anything to unload this boat anchor.  
It works OK on 80 meters.  
It had some parasitics but I got in and really  
screwed it up and now I want to unload it.  
The tubes used by this rig are worth the asking price.  
The rig uses a rare 7360 beam deflection tube  
for a balanced modulator, but it's blown and  
you'll spend \$80 to get a new one.

This is the rig of my dreams I really wanted one of these as a kid,  
but now I've got to let it go.  
As I've gotten older, I've learned what a hunka junk it is.  
The signal quality of this rig was easily recognizable in its day.  
The high distortion and bad audio quickly identified this rig.  
This rig will bring back the feelings and atmosphere of vintage ham  
radio gear.  
The bypass capacitors to the AC line put enough voltage  
on the chassis to give you a shock in the lips through the  
microphone, and it smokes so bad when you turn it on  
that you'll probably start coughing and wheezing.  
I'd keep this baby, but my wife is making me clean everything out.  
I finally got around to giving this thing  
the proverbial heave-ho.  
There are a couple of other people interested in it.  
Someone sat on it to tie his shoelaces  
while walking past the table.  
You'd better buy it now, because I'm leaving soon.  
The previous buyer and his brother, Guido, are heading  
back toward the table and they aren't smiling.

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## The Quest for WAZ

By Ken Boasi - N2ZN

Several weeks ago, I received a cardboard tube in the mail from CQ with my mixed WAZ award in it. As I looked at it, I began to recall the effort I put in to earning that award, and the things I learned during the quest to get it. On the surface, WAZ is not a difficult award: 40 QSOs is all it takes. Initially, I thought that it would be easy, and that I would just "fall into" the WAZ award as I worked on my DXCC. I now know how wrong that assumption was! WAZ is actually (in my experience) a harder award to earn. To prove the point, I had almost 200 DXCC countries worked before I worked VR2XMT for my last CQ zone.

Looking at the WAZ map, you can see the problem. Sure, maybe 30 of the zones are easy to work. However, from our location here on the east coast, there are a number of stumbling blocks. Add in the fact that I have a relatively small station, consisting of various wire antennas and barefoot power, and the problem becomes a little bigger. With the bottom of the cycle approaching, the search for zones 12, 19, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 34 was quite interesting.

My goal was to achieve WAZ using QSOs that I made starting in late 2003 when I returned to radio. I had been inactive for a few years, and I wanted to start fresh, and not use any QSOs for my awards from previous activity (year 2000 and before). However, the old DX desperation kicked in, and two zones (23 and 26) from the old logs were used. I don't really remember those QSOs, so I don't have any good stories for those, unfortunately. I still have not worked any Zone 23 (Mongolia/parts of Asiatic Russia) or Zone 26 (Southeast Asia) since I got active again. The same almost happened with Zone 22 (India/Sri Lanka), but I ended up getting lucky. So, onto the highlights.

Zone 12 (Western South America) – This zone contains Chile and its possessions, Easter Island, San Felix, and Juan Fernandez. I went a year of not hearing anything from Zone 12 until I worked XQ1VLY on 15 meter RTTY in early January 2005. Fittingly, I ended up working CE6/LA9SN, 3G0YP, and CE4B within a few weeks of getting XQ1VLY. Work one, work em' all, I guess.

Zone 19 (Eastern Asiatic Russia) – Situated just north of Japan, in the extreme eastern part of Russia, Zone 19 is a location we East

Coast hams really don't hear that much. We get plenty of Zone 17 and 18 stations, but 19 seems to be a black hole. Figuring that this would be easy, I just worked as many UA0 stations as I could find, and just figured that at least one would have to be in Zone 19. Wrong! All Zone 18s. Studying Russian prefixes helped me to figure out which stations were where, and I finally found UA0FZ on Sakhalin Island, amazingly weak, on 17 meter CW on 2/22/05. A real struggle of a QSO. It was easier to get the card from W3HNK than make the QSO. Of course, I worked Vlad again about two months later, and he was close to 599. Figures. Since then, I have managed to catch a few other Zone 19 stations. Aside from ham radio, Zone 19 seems to be a real interesting part of the world, very unlike anywhere else.

Zone 22 (India/Sri Lanka) – I had a VU worked back in 1999 on 10 meter SSB, at the peak of the cycle. I had never heard any VUs or 4S7s for the entire time I had been back on the air, so I resigned myself to the fact that I would have to use the old QSO for credit. Luckily, I was wrong. I knew from watching the cluster that 4S7NE was showing up somewhat frequently during my lunch hour on 17 meter CW. On 9/13/06, I was driving back to work and was tuning 17m, and I heard a very strong signal calling CQ and signing 4S7NE. He was literally the only signal on the band. I figured that it had to be a pirate; he was way too strong, propagation was poor that day, and I was only using my mobile setup, which has a fairly poor antenna. But WFWL, right? I pulled over, made the QSO easily, sent the card, and was amazed when I got Nelson's card back a few weeks later. His card notes he was using a G5RV for the WARC bands. It must be the same magic G5RV that K2CS uses.

IOTA:- AS 003 CQ ZONE:- 22		<b>ISLAND OF SRI LANKA</b>		ITU ZONE:- 41 LOC :- MJ 97wm			
<b>4 S 7 N E</b>							
CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	2 WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				
N2ZN	13	9	2006	17:14	17	589	CW
Tx :- TS 130 S Ant:- G5RV DIPOLE 3 - Element Yagi Tnx QSO / QSL <i>Dear Ken</i>		<i>720 Nelson</i>		Nelson E. Ranasinghe 18, Katana Housing Scheme, Demarhandiya. 11270 Sri Lanka. E-mail : nelson4s7ne@hotmail.com			

The elusive Zone 22 card from 4S7NE, worked from Ken's mobile setup.

Zone 24 (Eastern China, Macao, Hong Kong) – Maybe the most difficult zone to work from the East Coast, although Zone 23 and 26 are right up there, too. I had never heard any stations from Zone 24, ever. During summer 2005, though, things changed, and I would find VR2XMT nearly every morning on 20 meter SSB. I could hear him real well, but the problem was that he could never hear me! He would usually peak around 1200z when I was driving to work each day. Most people listen to music on their drive to work, but I was listening to/for Hong Kong. Each day, I would call and call, and nothing. Either I would get beat out by stronger stations, or he just wouldn't hear me. This went on for literally the entire summer. I knew I had to work him that summer, because next year would have even worse propagation, and the morning long path opening would disappear once fall started, and at that point, VR2XMT would move to 75 SSB, where I had no chance at all. For the whole summer, I screamed myself hoarse at least 3 days per week calling Charlie. Nothing. 20 meters, 17 meters, nothing. He just could never hear me. It wasn't his fault-my 100W

and screwdriver antenna just doesn't have what it takes to work Asia on the morning longpath opening. I would have tried from home, but the path wasn't there until about halfway through my commute to work. Things weren't looking good as the end of the season approached. I guess the propagation gods were determined to give me one shot, though, because on 9/9/05, Charlie was peaking at a real 10 over 9 on the meter, much stronger than his normal 55-57, and there were no callers! I guess he hadn't been spotted yet. Finally, he came back to me after months of calling, and he gave me a 54 report (yeah, right!). This was the last zone I needed, and I got the card soon after. I would have applied for the award right there, but my Zone 34 card kept me hung up for a year after this, as you'll see.



The Zone 24 card from VR2XMT; after months of calling, also from his mobile setup, Ken snags a QSO with the last Zone needed for his Award.

Zone 27 (North Pacific Ocean) – This zone is in the Pacific, close to Japan, but does not contain Japan. This zone is the area that contains Guam, the North Marianas, Micronesia, Philippines, and a few others. Due to not really knowing the zones that well, I figured I would have a Zone 27 somewhere, since I had a lot of Pacific cards. In reality, I didn't have any Zone 27s and would have to try harder. DU3NXE was the only Zone 27 I ever heard, but I was never able to get him to hear me. I did get lucky, though, during the 2005 WPX CW contest. I found KG6DX on Guam on 20 CW, just barely audible. He must have great ears, because I now have the card.

<b>GUAM</b>							
<b>KG6DX</b>							
QSO WITH	DATE			GMT	RST	MHz.	2-WAY
	MONTH	DAY	YEAR				
N2ZN	MAY	29	05	2327	599	14	CW
		CQ ZONE 27		Grid <i>QR23RL</i>		ITU ZONE 64	
Pse OSL Tnx	IOTA:0C-126			OPR: Joel E. Chalmers 279 Gardenia Avenue Latte Heights, Guam 96923 U. S. A.			<i>73 Joe</i>

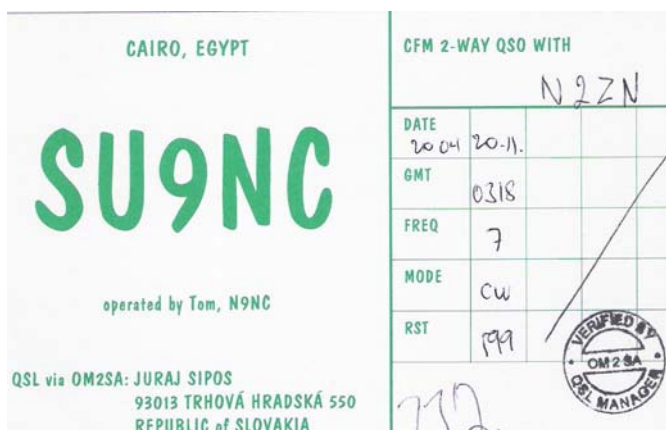
KG6DX in Zone 27 was worked during the 2005 WPX Contest.

Zone 28 (Southern Southeast Asia) – Indonesia, East/West Malaysia, Singapore, etc. are all in this zone. A freak occurrence happened on July 4, 2005-the SFI shot up to something like 180 after being in the 90s the previous day. 15 meters opened like crazy, and somewhere in there was YBØDPO, working split on

CW. I was able to get through, despite a broken antenna on 15m that was causing the radio to fold back to about 60 W due to high SWR. The next day, the SFI was back down into the 90s and 15m was deserted. I still have no idea what happened.

Zone 29 (Western Australia) – I had a lot of fun with this one. This was a good lesson in propagation and greyline effect. Zone 29 is actually the antipode for our area. Mike, VK6HD, a great low band operator, seemed to be on every night (his morning), but I would always be in the wrong place at the wrong time. I would listen on 30 meters, he would show on 40m. I would listen on 40m, he would be on 30. I would listen on 30m, he would be on 80m, and so on and so on. It took me until Halloween 2004 for me to have good timing and work Mike right after sunset on 30 meter CW. It was real amazing to hear his signal rise up as the sun set, and then disappear shortly after that. I had fun chasing him around. Two years later, I worked him on 80 meters around the same time. Obviously, I learned my lesson about greyline!

Zone 34 (Northeast Africa) – This one is not that hard in theory, but at the time, it was rare. Only Egypt, Sudan, and Libya are in 34, and there were no stations active in any of those places at the time. The only one with any real activity was Egypt, but it was often tough to catch someone there. During CQWW CW week in 2004 (a real good time for propagation, by the way) I worked SU9NC on 40m CW and quickly got a card out to his manager, and began waiting...and waiting, and waiting. Six months passed, nothing. A year, nothing. A year and a half, nothing. Multiple requests, nothing. Nothing through the bureau or direct. And no other Zone 34 stations to work, either. I wrote it off as a lost cause, and figured I would work it again eventually. One day I checked the mail and there was an envelope with the QSL manager's return address, and I was almost beside myself; the card was in there. It was a good two year wait. As I said, I sent multiple requests, and a few months after that, I got yet another SU9NC card from the manager. So now I have two for the same QSO. Nice souvenir, I guess, and it's always good to have backup. Radio irony is at its best here, though; a month after I got the SU card, I worked ST2BF, a month after that was the 5A7A expedition, and then a few weeks after that, I worked ST2A, and got the cards for all of those QSOs very quickly. Just amazing. Fortunately, Zone 34 is more active now than it was a few years ago; STØRM/ST2A has been tearing it up for the past year or so. In 3 months, I was able to confirm all of Zone 34 and get multiple bands towards 5BWAZ. But, that two year wait for the first one was torture. I just had to use one of the SU9NC cards for the WAZ submission just for symbolic purposes.



The elusive last card needed: from SU9NC in Zone 34.

So, those are the good stories; the rest are somewhat unremarkable. But I will say I did learn more about propagation and careful listening during my WAZ quest than I could ever imagine. Sure, a lot of people have WAZ, and there are probably a lot of hams who have WAZ confirmed but have never applied for it. For me, though, it was a good goal to shoot for, and ended up giving me a lot more than just a certificate. It also proved that you can do a lot with a minimal setup, some propagation knowhow, and a half-thimbleful of talent. For now, I'm off to working on individual WAZ awards for CW, SSB, RTTY, and maybe someday, the elusive 5BWAZ. Happy zone-ing!



Finally! N2ZN's Worked All Zones Award. It took a while but the effort paid off with lots of knowledge of worldwide HF propagation.

**Announced DX Operations** From NG3K Web Pages  
<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

*Looking for that rare one? Just want to try out that new antenna or amp? Trying for WAZ? Check out the listings you will find for active and announced DX operations on the NG3K web archive. Point your browser to the URL above for up-to-date DXpedition info. Ed.*

### How Tall is the Webster Park Flag Pole?

By Irv Goodman - AF2K  
 and Vic Gauvin - K1PY

For all the years we've been at the Webster Field Day site, each year the same question gets asked: "How the heck tall is that flagpole anyway?" There have been varying estimates, but now the mystery is solved!

Irv AF2K took advantage of one of our delightful sunny days recently and went on out to the site. With pole in hand, he performed the traditional pole and shadow measuring technique, and we now have the numbers.

Since this has been such a long-standing question, we want to get the most out of finally knowing the answer, so we're going to have a contest to see who can come up with the closest guess.

At the Field Day meeting, the introduction Question will be "How tall do you think the Webster Park FD flagpole is?"

The answer need only be to the nearest foot. The winner will receive a 2007 Field Day Food Ticket (normally \$20.00) for the entire weekend. Multiple correct guesses will result in a drawing

for a single winner. How can you beat this? Knowing the answer to the mystery, and a chance at Free FD Food!

## To the Top of the Pole

By Vic Gauvin - K1PY

"Because it's there!" And other reasons, like it'll work better. But for the most part, the challenge that the flagpole at the Webster Park Field Day site has always taunted us with is to somehow get an antenna to the top of it.

For the uninitiated, this is a classic, 1939, major, big-time flagpole that as soon as you see it you say "Whoa, wouldn't that be great for an antenna?" Well, we've been using it for all the years we've been at the site, and we're back again this year. But the top itself has eluded us.

And those same uninitiated folks will ask Why? Just pull whatever you want up with the pulley. Normally that would be the case, but this one is special. When we first encountered it, it was pulley-less. Irv AF2K (and if there were others, I apologize for not knowing) was able to arrange with the Webster Fire Department to get a ladder truck to the site one spring to install a pulley and line on the flagpole. Unfortunately, the ground was pretty wet at that time, and the truck was not able to get close enough to the pole to quite reach the top. So it got installed 10 or so feet below the top; and has been there ever since.

Now, we could, I suppose, get the firemen to come back when the ground is not soggy and redo it. For whatever strange and unknown reason, we never followed through with that obvious solution. Instead, we scratched our heads and speculated on this and that way to do it, but it really just went undone.

Until...the now infamous Gizmo! (The creative naming juices were just not flowing that year.) Designed and built by Rube Goldberg (embodied in this incarnation by K1PY), it actually allowed us to raise Yagis a good part of the way up this thing. Not near the top, but pretty darn good. We used it for three years, but every year, we looked at it and shook our heads, and wondered when it was coming down. It just didn't inspire confidence. So it was going to be retired anyway.

Well, we left Webster Park for a couple of years, and now we're back; and back with a vengeance to regain #1. So that spurs a renewed attack on the top of the pole. But this time, with a more confidence-inspiring solution.

Well, we think we've got it with the (current and temporarily named) Gizmo 2! It employs

a (humbly stated) elegant but simple method of getting a fixture over the ball at the top of the pole, and then down over it. Secured by a couple of tie-lines wrapped around the pole, it provides three pulleys and lines for hauling any moderate Yagi (like a 2-element 40m monobander) to the very top!

More detail as to how would take too long to explain, and too many pages for illustrations. Besides, we want to show you! At the coming Field Day meeting, we'll have an unveiling of the new Gizmo, fresh from its (hopefully successful) maiden voyage the evening before at the FD site. (Come on out if you're curious. We're gathering at 5:30.) The brave and adventurous crew of Dave N2CK, Paul N2OPW, Alan K6PSP, and Ken N2ZN will be attempting to raise the thing in our initial attempt at topping the pole. We'll report the results at the meeting, and hopefully won't need to get in crunch redesign mode. Cuz you see, we need the thing the next weekend for the Antenna Tune-Up. (We like to live on the edge! Or at least the maniacal, whip-cracking FD chairman behind all this seems to!)

So, here's yet another reason to make the FD meeting. Don't miss it. See if we made it to the top!

## DX Logbook

By Chris Shalvoy - K2CS  
Atlantic Division DXAC



What would a DX article be without one of the "all time" biggest DX adventures in (at least my) lifetime, BS7H.

First, realize the call starts with "BS".

Even though I'm fairly well acclimated to the rules governing entities, come on. Monk Apollo is more active, and at least doesn't have to run for higher ground each day.

Don't get me wrong, I'm very pleased with the effort these guys put forth. A bit more "study" could have gone into 30 meters, even though it was indicated the east coast would be given special consideration. From here, 9am (local) is not the time to head to 30m. Very, very loud signals, but running JAs until far too late in our day.

So, here's how it went here.

Monday, Tuesday (the best signals to me), Wednesday, Thursday... no luck. Tuesday the signals were like locals, all between 7:20 - 8:20am.

Now that being said, there was (or should have been) an opportunity on 17 meters just after sunset, well between 2250-0100z, this from past experience in the area (I don't run any software to plot that stuff, my paper logs provide more than enough information thank you).

So, we're on to Friday morning. I started to listen at 7:20am local, signals were borderline at best but getting consistently better. Nothing close to 2 days before but at least I could hear them.

CW was and always will be the best shot so even though they were on both modes and honestly, SSB seemed louder, I stayed there until about 7:38am, came right back, no problem.

So, about 4 hours invested (the 4 prior days) and we get #330. Having a few more minutes until I have to go, let's see what's happening with SSB.



Martti (at least that's who it sounded like to me) had gone to calling W1 and W2 only about an hour before. I could barely hear that they were there. Being inland, maybe he was hearing the W1s.

He ditched that and went to W3. Well, propagation was working for them so he stayed with W3 for what seemed eternity. Good operators and better "propagationists" understand how this whole crazy thing works. Back to W2 we go.

Having heard W3UR working Martti at the bottom of the announced frequency range, I decide to camp out at the top. One call, in the log.

This whole thing is a cat and mouse deal. I personally believe it's not about antennas, rigs, power. It's the op and I'd contest that with ancient equipment and less than a stellar antenna farm, I've done OK.

A few more cards will secure my place on the Honor Roll, a feat that I've been chasing for only 14 years, all from the start with an HTX 202. Propagation knowledge and being blessed with an outstanding group of some of the best (if not **the** best) operators in the world (given our 300 plus feet above sea level).

In closing, W2RDX has won the First Place Multi in the WNY section (and second place overall) in the 2006 IARU HF Championships.

This year's operators were stalwarts N1OKL, AF2K, first time out N2OPW and N2TWI and myself. The "Mystery Antenna" provided more than adequate coverage on 20 meters and provided a 3-fold increase in score.

Let's hope the DX Gods will provide us time to get some more aluminum in the air so we can take a shot at an even better finish this year.

I'm seeing spots on 10m and 6m, summer must be here.

#### In the Log (non contest):

Station	Bands
XU7MDY	17m CW
5W0SV	17mSSB
YK1BA	40m CW
J5UTM	40m CW
VP5/PY2XB	60m SSB
KH8/AI4VU	17m, 20m CW
BP100S	20m CW
9Z4FZ	60m SSB
BS7H	20m CW, SSB
3X2DX	40m CW

See you in the pileups.

Best DX es 73.

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### Proposed RDXA Constitution and By-Laws Changes By Vic Gauvin - K1PY

*The following describes the changes to the RDXA Constitution proposed by the Board of Directors, and to be discussed at the May regular membership meeting and voted upon at the June regular membership meeting.*

#### Article 4 – Officers and their Duties

#### SECTION 1.

Define start/end of term as starting July 1 and ending June 30, to allow new slate of officers to have authority to appoint Chairmen, call planning meetings, etc. Add to end:

"..., commencing July 1 and ending June 30."

#### SECTION 5.

Point 1: The purpose of the outgoing President becoming a member of the Board of Directors (BoD) is to utilize their expertise as a consultant to the new officers. However, since elsewhere it's stated that all members of the BoD are elected positions, this position should be more properly defined as a consultative post.

Remove the second and third sentences, as follows: "The outgoing President automatically becomes the fourth Director at the end of his/her term. Should the President be re-elected, the fourth Director is then elected from eligible members."

To implement the consultative position of the outgoing President, replace the preceding with:

"The outgoing President automatically becomes a non-voting consultant to the Board of Directors for a term of one (1) year."

Point 2: To encourage greater membership participation in the governance of the club, a three consecutive year term limit is suggested for Directors. Add after the last sentence:

"The maximum sequential years of service of a Director shall be three (3) years. After a year, a member is again eligible to serve as a Director."

#### Article 5 – Meetings

#### SECTION 1.

Point 1: To distinguish membership meetings from BoD meetings, add the words in italics to the first sentence:

"The RDXA shall hold regular monthly membership meetings, September through June, at a suitable location selected by the officers or a delegated committee."

Point 2: Since the ARRL has eliminated meeting attendance as a requisite for submitting contest scores in club events, the second sentence of Section 1, which was added to ease the accommodation of this requirement, should be deleted, as follows:

"Meetings may include the Rochester Hamfest, RDXA Banquet, RDXA Field Day and/or Picnic."

#### SECTION 3 (NEW)

Point 1: To define BoD meetings, the following new Section 3 is proposed:

"The Officers and Directors shall hold regular monthly business meetings at times and locations determined by the Board of Directors. Meetings shall be announced in advance and be open to all members. Meetings during the summer months, July through August, are optional at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Business meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order."

Point 2: To ensure that the maximum number of voting members is involved in any discussions and deliberations on a proposal requiring a vote, it is proposed that the minimum quorum for voting be two-thirds the voting members, as follows:

"The quorum for voting on any proposal shall be two-thirds of the membership of the Board."

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**Article 6 – Amending the Constitution**

SECTION 1.

To clarify, change “regular meeting” at end of the paragraph to: “regular monthly membership meeting.”

SECTION 2 (NEW)

Similar to the preceding Board of Directors meeting quorum, a quorum for Constitutional amendments similarly should be required. Current wording indicates two-thirds of members present. This at times could be a very small number. By-Laws Article B, Section 3 provides for mailed ballots for Constitutional amendments. To ensure adequate member representation, it is suggested a new SECTION 2 be added, to read as follows:

“At a meeting at which a Constitutional vote is to be taken, the meeting quorum shall be a minimum of one-third of the eligible membership at the time of the meeting. The quorum may fulfilled by mailed ballots received by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to the meeting in lieu of personal attendance.”

**RDXA By-Law changes**

Per By-Laws Article B – Rules of Conduct, SECTION 2, the By-Laws may be amended, as deemed necessary, by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

At the Board of Directors meeting on 14 March 2007, the following changes were implemented by unanimous vote of the Board.

**Article A – Dues and Assessments,**

SECTION 4.

Removed the following:

“The Bulletin mailing label shall indicate membership term” as the primary means of distribution is now electronically via e-mail notice and posting on the club Web site.

**Article B – Rules of Conduct**

SECTION 2.

To achieve general agreement on changes to the By-Laws, changed vote for By-Law amendment as follows:

...from majority to two-thirds.

SECTION 3.

Mail ballots for Constitutional or Impeachment proceedings are specified in this section, but it was not specified how they should be handled. The change specified the Secretary-Treasurer as recipient for mailed ballots for Constitutional or Impeachment votes, to be counted at a regular monthly membership meeting.

SECTION 4 (NEW)

To ensure all members of the BoD are provided with the opportunity to hear directly and personally all information and arguments in support of or against any proposal put to a vote, and similarly have the opportunity to participate in all discussions and deliberations, the following new Section 4 was added:

“To vote in an informed manner at regularly scheduled Board of Directors business meetings, an Officer or Director must be physically in attendance. No other means of voting is authorized.”

**Article C – BOD Vacancies**

SECTION 1.

If it is near the end of the term, vacancies may be impractical and unnecessary to fill. Thus, the following was added at the end:

“...at the discretion of the Board of Directors.”

**Article D – Duties of Club Activity Chairmen and Editor**

SECTION 3.

Since these are no longer utilized, the following was eliminated at the end of the section:

“..., and provide mailing labels for the current membership list to the Bulletin Editor.”

SECTION 6.

Regarding monthly meeting programs,

“...meeting.” at the end was changed to “...regular monthly membership meeting.”

The following new article was implemented and identified as Article E since there was no current Article E between Articles D and F:

**Article E – Discretionary Spending (NEW)**

SECTION 1.

Members of the Board of Directors are authorized to make a single Club-related purchase of up to Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) on their own discretion. The expended amount is to be reimbursed upon reporting it to the Board of Directors and submittal of receipt(s) to the Secretary-Treasurer. Once used, this authority must be renewed by the Board of Directors.



An annotated copy of the Constitution & By-Laws with the above proposed Constitutional changes and updated By-Laws highlighted in yellow is available for viewing at the RDXA Web site at <http://www.rdxa.com> in the RDXA Library under General Information and entitled DRAFT Constitution 10 May 07 (flagged as members only, so you must log in)

Annotated copies will also be available at the June regular monthly membership meeting.

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**Rename The GIZMO...GIZMO II, that is**  
We dropped the ball and let it lie when we named the original RDXA Field Day Flagpole Antenna Raising Device “Gizmo.” We don’t want that to happen this time.  
We’ll have the temporarily-named Gizmo II at the meeting, and the Challenge before you is to come up with a name. There’s certain characteristics of it that bring a couple of ideas to mind, but we’d like to tap the collective creative intelligence of the massed RDXA Field Day Faithful to see what might result.  
So, prepare however you might for the Challenge, and let’s find out what the real and true name of this thing really is.

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## 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 second 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, September through June.

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Chris Shalvoy – K2CS----- chriss@globalhp.com

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DX Chairman ----- Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

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

Webmaster ----- Scott Hoag, K2ZS

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