

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

1947-2007 • 60 YEARS OF DX IN WNY

FEBRUARY 08

Regular Meeting

February 19, 2008 19:30 local

NapaGino's

PennFair Plaza, corner of Rts 250 & 441

NEW LOCATION FOR JAN, FEB, MARCH

February Program

Program to start at 7:30 -Business meeting to follow

Software Defined Radios & the Elecraft K3

By Raj N2RD

Socialize before the meeting with Dinner @ 5:30 and after the Meeting stick around a bit at

NapaGino's

NEW MEETING LOCATION for January, February and March!

Jan, Feb, and Mar, point your GPS toward NapaGino's in Penfield for the meeting. Here's a timeline of sorts:

Please join a number of us for Dinner at 5:30 in the "meeting room" or consider coming early for a coffee, soda, or other beverage and some pre-meeting socialization

- Meeting will be at 7:30, with intros and Program first
- Then we'll break for 50-50 tickets followed by any business
- Finally, we don't need to *leave* from here, so plan on extending those quick after-meeting chats by staying around for coffee, dessert, and more socializing!

Upcoming Programs and Activities

- Mar 18DX Quiz, (quizmaster still TBD) & The Best of
RSGB with Alan Masson
K6PSP/GM3PSP/G3PSPApr 15VE7CC Cluster by Carey Magee K2RNY
May 20May 20The Headphone Project by Paul Meyers
N2OPW
 - Jun 17 2007 Field Day video by Alan Masson **K6PSP**

And besides regular meetings, we have

- W2RDX/60 Operating Event #2 (March)
- Joint Awards + /60 Banquet (Apr)
- RDXA tent & booth at the HamFest (June)
- FIELD DAY (June)

And don't forget the informal after meeting and weekly (almost) get-togethers at the Scotch & Sirloin (the "S&S") (We should expand our mission to be DX, Contest, and *Social*!)

The Podium

Vic Gauvin K1PY

Well, spring must be on its way with summer soon to follow. Wanna know how I know this? The ARRL has just issued the 2008 Field Day rules! Believe it or not, but I actually do take a break from constantly thinking about FD and doing this and improving that. But now I don't know. It sure looks like it might be time to start some planning. Needless to say, there'll be more to come on *this* topic!

Speaking of more to come, stand by for more info on our 60th Anniversary celebration. Plans have been brewing, and it's sounding good.

Also, the board is researching away on the pros & cons of incorporation as was resolved at the last meeting. As I write this, the board has yet to meet since the last general meeting, so there's nothing to report right now. But we will have met prior to the February general meeting, so we'll see what comes out of that.

And speaking of the February meeting (I can't believe how one topic just automatically flowed into the next this time --I'm usually not so lucky!), we yet again have a treat. **Raj N2RD** will be telling us all about an exciting but seldom experienced aspect of our hobby, Software Defined Radios. And this is not just academic—Raj has built and operated SDRs and can give us first-hand experience. Plus, he's recently received the long-awaited Elecraft K3, and will be telling us all about it! (See the program article for even more info.) Now all we need to do is figure out how to get an outdoor antenna set up at NapaGino's.

Speaking of NapaGino's (I'm on a roll!!!), our first of three alternate location meetings last month was hugely successful (at least location- and attendance-wise). We had over a dozen members enjoying dinner prior to the meeting, a la the old DX Men days. And then there was nearly standing room only for **Ed K2MP**'s *great* AWA PowerPoint tour (great job as always Ed—thank you!) So we're hoping it's as well received this month as last. Consider joining us for dinner prior to the meeting. (Contrary to the published starting time of 5:30, 6:00 turned out to be the de facto time. However, this bumped up right against the start of the meeting. 6:00 is "OK," but try to *be there* before that. If we can start ordering earlier, we should be OK. Thanks.)

As usual, there's lots going on in RDXA. Come join us in enjoying the best hobby there is.

VP's Soap Box Paul Mackanos K2DB



As many of you know, the BOD has appointed me as the Vice-President to fill the open position. I would like to thank the BOD for the appointment, and help the club as much as possible.

As many of you also know, I try to stay active in the hobby and I am involved in

many areas. One of the responsibilities of the VP position is to be responsible for the meeting programs. I know that the programs have been filled for the rest of this year, but I will ask you to please let me know what your preferences are for next year's programs. It is never to early to start filling up the open spots.

I will try to keep you informed of upcoming contests via the RDXA E-Mail reflector. I have been hearing quite a few of you on during these contests, and it brings a smile to my face when I work each one of you.

Speaking of that, have you all updated the scoring grid on the RDXA website? It would be nice to keep it updated so that club members can check and see how each others stations are doing.

If you have any questions or comments for me, please don't hesitate to slip me an e-mail at <u>k2db@arrl.net</u> and I will try to respond to you ASAP. See you on the bands.

A Bit about this months Program Vic Software Defined Radios

Vic Gauvin K1PY

If computers haven't already made enough of an impact on our hobby and squeezed their way into our operating positions, they can now, if you'll allow it, almost completely replace the rig! At least the receiver. Here's what *Wikipedia* says about SDR: "A **Software Defined Radio** (SDR) system is a radio communication system that can potentially tune to different frequency bands and receive any modulation across a large frequency spectrum by means of as little hardware as possible, processing the digitized signals in software."

A basic **SDR** may consist of a computer (PC) equipped with a sound card, or other analog-to-digital converter, preceded by some form of RF front end. Significant amounts of signal processing are handed over to the general purpose processor, rather than done using specialpurpose hardware. Such a design produces a radio that can receive and transmit a different form of radio protocol just by running different software.

"Software radios have significant utility for the military and cell phone services, both of which must serve a wide variety of changing radio protocols in real time. "

In the long term, software-defined radio is expected by its proponents to become the dominant technology in radio communications. It is the enabler of the cognitive radio." So, how's that?! The dominant technology!

Well, if you've looked closely at any of the FlexRadio ads, you might have to allow they sound downright interesting, technology-wise. One example is the Flex-5000 Family.



The FLEX-5000A[™] follows the very popular SDR-1000[™]. The next generation of software defined radios now integrates all I/Q audio and hardware control over a single FireWire (IEEE-1394) connection to a user provided computer.

Additionally, all analog to digital conversions are performed internally in the FLEX-5000 so an external sound card is not required. The other two versions of the FLEX-5000 (models C and D) provide higher levels of integration and convenience with a CPU built inside.

Dominant? I wasn't ready to believe until I heard about the Elecraft K3.



Elecraft's state-of-the-art K3 transceiver offers a unique combination of ultra-high performance *and* affordability. Both 100-watt and 10-watt

(upgradeable) models are available. Starting at under \$2,000 for the 100-W assembled model (K3/100), the rig is comparable in both features and performance to transceivers listing at up to six times its price.



In a first for the industry, the K3's identical main receiver and sub receiver each feature a high-dynamicrange, down-conversion

analog architecture. This allows Elecraft to provide roofing filters with bandwidths as narrow as 200 Hz, while upconversion designs have roofing filters typically 3,000 to 15,000 Hz in width. Unlike some competing downconversion designs, the K3 also provides 6-meter coverage, as well as continuous tuning from 0.5 to 30 MHz. Each receiver has its own bus-switching mixer, narrow ham-band front-end filters, 32-bit I.F. DSP, low-noise synthesizer, and up to five crystal roofing filters.

Both fixed- and variable-bandwidth crystal filters are available. The variable filters are available in both data/CW and voice-mode bandwidths, and allow close tracking between crystal and DSP filtering — a feature not available on any other rig at any price. Two 32-bit digital signal processors provide true software-defined features, along with expansion memory to handle future signal processing tasks and operating modes. The operator will have full control over any operating situation, with 8-band receive and transmit EQ, stereo speaker/soundcard outputs. binaural effects, and advanced noise reduction. Also included is built-in PSK31, CW, and TTY decode/encode, so the operator can enjoy the excitement of data communications with or without a computer. The rig's rich I/O complement includes an isolated sound card interface, front/rear mic/phone jacks, dedicated serial I/O, and band data. An optional module provides transverter in/out and RX antenna in/out jacks. The latter allow the use of RXonly, in-line filters for extreme operating environments. Needless to say, this is something exciting. And Raj will have his K3 at the meeting! You don't want to miss it!

RDXA Membership News



RDXA membership renewal for the 2007-2008 season was due in October 2007. To date, we still have not received some renewals from folks registered last year. The fee, of \$15.00, remains the same as last year.

If you haven't kept your membership up to date, please consider renewing it. If you have a question as to whether you are current or not, please send me an email at k2rny@frontiernet.net. I'll be happy to help you out. We are in the process of updating the membership portion of the website. Any non-paid member will loose access to the members only section of the site.

Please see **Carey Magee** – **K2RNY** or any board member at the meetings they will be happy to help you out.

Our thanks to all who have renewed to date

Membership Biographies - AF2K, Irv Goodman

As a kid growing up in West Irondequoit, I spent considerable time glued to the multi-band G.E. console radio in our living room, listening on the various short wave bands. There were four ham operators on my road – Jack Auer, **W2SGJ**, the first one I ever visited when I was 15. Plus Harold Eskin, **W2UG** (SK, ex-**W2PVK**), Dave Bodner, **K2ZFM** (SK), and Ralph Amdursky, **W2DFS**, now of Tamarac, Florida, whose 75 meter mobile signal would always come blasting across the band when ever he drove by while I was listening.

In 1949, I finally purchased a new Hallicrafters S-53 receiver from Burstein-Applebee, and with a long wire in the back yard and a fixed 3-el. 10 meter beam in the attic crawl space, got into some serious SWL-ing from my bedroom on the second floor. Joined ARRL as an Associate member and several SWL organizations. Managed to get all 48 states and 98 countries confirmed over the next few years.

I graduated from Irondequoit High in 1951 and spent three years at RIT in Publishing & Printing Dept. While there, club station K2GXT came into being. The hamshack was a tiny room on the roof of the old downtown campus Eastman Building at 65 S. Plymouth Ave. In October of '56 I was drafted into Uncle Sam's Army, hoping to get assigned to the 144th Signal Battalion at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Instead, from Fort Dix, I headed to Fort Hood, Texas for Armored Infantry Basic where I spent most (but not all!) of my weekends either in the post print shop, producing various items for my Battalion Supply room (S-4), where I worked, or hanging around K5WAB, the nice MARS station on post. Being the only Private in my Company with a car (despite being instructed not to do so. I drove it back after having flown home for a Christmas leave given to everyone), I was guite popular with my coworkers when it came time to head to Austin for a weekend of partying.

Sold the car (1953 2-door Chevy) in Fort Hood and headed to West Germany via Fort Hamilton, L.I. and

MSTS. During my 18 months in Deutschland, I was a Battalion Ammunition Sergeant (E-5), basically a desk job in S-4. I spent several weeks attending Small Arms Repair School in Fuessen in the beautiful Bavarian Alps countryside. My spare time was spent with the crew at the **DL4ORD** station there. The S-53, which I had my parents ship over to me, was sold just before I came back to the states in Oct. '58, one week after Elvis Pressley arrived at the same barracks in Friedberg, 21 miles south of Frankfurt.

Back home, I was hired as an Inspector and Proofreader at the old Todd Co. Div. of Burroughs Corp. in Jan. '59. But it wasn't until 15 years later when my mom drew my attention to an item in the Times-Union announcing RARA licensing courses coming up. I enrolled and finally obtained my Novice ticket on June 21, 1974. I did not want to get on the air as **WN2WCE** until my dipole with the Reyco traps was in the air and ready, and my QSL cards were printed. Using the tag of "Irv", my first QSO was New Years Eve, Jan. 1, 1975, using a Heathkit DX-60 and HG-10 VFO, purchased from Chuck Beyer, **WA2QFU** (now **WG2A**). Those Novice days were some of the most enjoyable, especially staying up late at night to catch those rare western states on 80 CW, using a straight key of course.

Upgrading was a slow and painful struggle. Never flunked a CW test in my life, but failed multiple theory exams which required numerous Fridays off from work to make that trip to the Buffalo FCC office to try again. The only exception was

the Extra Class which I breezed through on the first attempt at '78 Rochester Hamfest, and regretfully changed my callsign shortly thereafter to something shorter.

I should mention that one of the many persons who provided the incentive for me to upgrade was Tim Wettach, **N2TW**, (ex-**WB2EXH**), who was licensed at age 11 and an Extra by 13.

Have been involved in Traffic Handling and also Contesting over the past 33½ years, but DX-ing has been my primary focus. Have undertaken two DXpeditions, both to Gibraltar, in Nov. '78 and Nov. '79, as **ZB2EN**, along with my DX partner Russ McKay, **W2RMM** (ex-**WA2CBU / ZB2EM**). This past year, I managed to achieve DXCC Honor Roll (Mixed), which I didn't think I would attain in my lifetime. More recently, I have been chasing new Grid Squares on The Magic Band – 6 meters.

You might say I am obsessed with this unique hobby of ours. The camaraderie and special friendships that exist throughout the amateur radio fraternity are unequalled. -- Irv, AF2K

Next month look for Doug Stewart N2BEG's Bio

DX Information - Solicitation of Comment -DXAC - Remote Operation Chris Shalvoy K2CS

RDXA, As a duly appointed member of the DX Advisory Committee, I'd like to formally solicit your comments on remote operation. Specifically, how such operation can affect DXCC status. Unlike examples we've been shown here (K2DB - K2NNY), many stations and clubs are using remote operation to take advantage of station placement (east coast as opposed to west coast, 200 feet above sea level as opposed to 2000 feet above sea level) to "bolster" their DXCC totals. Please think this through as the DXCC desk asked for input from the DXAC and their constituents before any formal guidelines or "rules" are adopted. Since DXCC encompasses VHF,UHF awards, don't forget to consider that scenario as well. As our hobby becomes more technologically advanced, we're probably just on the "tip of the iceberg" as it were so if you would, give some thought to your reply. The DXAC has been given until May for submissions but I'd be interested in hearing your thoughts as soon as possible so I can formulate a formal response in a timely fashion.

K2CS - DXAC, Atlantic Division

For the 160 meters enthusiasts Rick Mintz W1TY

http://www.k8nd.com/Radio/Planning/CQWW160/TopbandBadFreqs.pdf



Sunspot in Cycle #24 Alan Masson K6PSP

Here is a picture of the 1st Sunspot in Cycle #24 thanks to Alan Masson **K6PSP**. He pulled the picture from:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/10jan_so larcycle24.htm?list928782



Propagation 11 years ago

AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22

February 1997 Forecast

Flux Range 69 - 81

We are now past mid-winter, a time when night path conditions return to 20 Meters during sunspot peaks. For us, these conditions will not be seen until late April. While many are watching the sun for signs of the new cycle, others are at their radios finding paths to needed DX on different bands or at different hours. We all found a path to Heard on 20 by taking advantage of the long haul pipelines at the beginning and end of the day. These occur mostly during daylight while the sun is low in the sky, but can extend across areas of darkness in the southern hemisphere where night paths are seasonally open. Contacts on the other side of the world are made by exploiting these opportunities.

There is little activity on 10 & 15. North-south paths are open daily, and on 15 we can work east as far as Africa. But it is the northern latitude paths that populate the band, and no seasonal relief is expected until the fall. The daypath to Europe is on 20, which remains marginally open for several hours beyond its greyline peak in the morning. The ARRL DX Test is coming, where daytime activities include chasing Caribbean mults on 10 & 15 and listening to the east coast run Europe on 20. Marginal conditions are expected to Europe on 15.

A rich variety of DX openings can be found on 40. The best path to Europe begins in late afternoon while it is still daylight in Texas. This opening extends further into the evening on the east coast. I have no idea what 40 sounds like from there in a contest, but it must be nice. Later in the evening the MUF drops below 7 MHz at high latitudes and European activity drops. On most evenings we find propagation across lower latitudes, such as to Africa with its large pileups. There is also a sunrise peak sweeping across Russia at this time, but polar paths are difficult on 40 so most signals are weak. After midnight this opening moves across the rest of Europe - as the Pacific opens up and darkness approaches Japan. Access to Asia broadens through the pre-dawn hours and peaks after sunrise. There is also a brief high latitude short path pipeline along the northern greyline (into Scandinavia and Russia from W5) which many without directional antennas mistake for long path. Actual long path openings occur in several directions, and the west coast knows them best.

On lower bands, the best opportunities are at sunrise and sunset peaks. The European peak is after midnight, but the stronger EU stations can be worked earlier in the evening (in pileups) when everybody is stalking the bands. After midnight, the band is quieter, the DX is louder and the east coast is mainly asleep :-)

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

Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity

13 February - 10 March 2008

NOAA

Solar activity is expected to be very low. 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 13 - 24 February and 29 February - 10 March. The geomagnetic field is expected to be unsettled to active on 13 February due a recurrent coronal hole high-speed stream. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected during 14 - 15 February as the high-speed stream gradually subsides. Mostly quiet conditions are forecast for 16 - 27 February. Activity is expected to increase to active levels during 28 - 29 February due to another recurrent coronal hole high-speed stream. Quiet to unsettled levels are expected during 01 - 07 March as the high-speed stream subsides. Activity is expected to increase to active levels during 08 – 09 March with minor to major storm periods possible at high latitudes due to a recurrent coronal hole high-speed stream. Unsettled conditions are expected on the last day of the period as the high-speed stream begins to subside.

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



Large Banquet Room at NapaGino's

Isn't Amateur Radio Grand

Scott Hoag K2ZS

As many of you may know, I was once an active member of a fantastic organization known as The Rochester DX Association. About 8 years ago I found myself thrust into a new and ever growing group of Americans known as Divorced Apartment Living Fathers. While many of our group (referred to as DALF's) learn to cope, those DALF's who are also Hams tend to have issues.

Where's My Shack???

In the beginning there was my apartment. A quaint little place consisting of a living room, kitchen with attached dining area, a hallway with a bathroom, and 2 meagerly sized bedrooms. Being a father of 3 I needed a 2nd bedroom for my children when they visited on their court appointed visitation days. So far so good except for the fact that no where in the list did I find anything about a "Ham Shack" and upon further review of my lease I found a clause that read: "Thou shalt not posses or engage any form of outdoor aerial"

Rats! Should have read the fine print a little closer! Be that as it may I found I missed all the advantages of having a "Station", all those early mornings when I would have my coffee at my desk before shuffling off to work. I would check email, check the cluster, and maybe work a new one. Then there was always returning from work. You know, you grab a beer, head to the shack, check your email, check the cluster, and maybe work a new one. Then there was the time after dinner when you would grab a beer, head to the shack, check your email, check the cluster, and maybe work a new one. Don't forget about before bed when you would grab a beer, head to the shack, check your email, check the cluster, and maybe work a new one. That was the best time because you would usually always work a new one.

Wait, could that explain the membership in DALF's? Oh well, you learn to adapt.

Desperation

It didn't take long for it to happen. I found myself sitting at "The Big Table" with the guys one Friday and the subject of that weekends contest. Ahhh Contest! The thrill, the anticipation... Like anyone with an addiction problem the pain and emptiness set in. There had to be a way! So I stopped at my ex home and retrieved my HF rig and some "fixins".

Since it was a 10 meter contest (and the sun spot cycle had only made it half way down the down side) I figured I would use the hall and put up a 10 meter dipole. I had the wire and coax so I whipped together a dipole and nailed one end to the trim over the kid's bedroom door and the other end to the hallway wall. Not bad, done in about half an hour. I secured one end of the feed line to my MFJ tuner and from there to my MFJ analyzer. I tuned the antenna to nearly a flat SWR. Now for the true test with some RF. NOT A GOOD IDEA! I lit my apartment and everything electronic in it right up. Since I pretty much had the entire apartment building to myself (there was only one other apartment in a building of 6 that was occupied) I figured what the heck and operated in the contest anyway. I was able to make about 150 Q's and picked up a few countries. After that disappointment I took it all down and gave up even though I watched the parking lot for the cable service trucks responding to issues with service and saw nothing.

Down The Log

It is now years later, 8 to be exact and I find I have settled in to this new way of life. Calmer heads prevail and rational thought towards "Aerials" has lead me to a viable solution. It was the day after Christmas and I was home with nothing to do. I had been spending more time with the club and I started missing CW and being an active ham radio operator. I had an antenna in my bedroom that I basically used just for listening in once in a while. I started searching the internet for information on compromised antennas. There were guite a few hits and I found that there were quite a few hams in my situation. I found an article that interested me and started experimenting with my listening antenna. First problem was exposure. I didn't feel comfortable with the thought of sitting at my radio directly under an antenna radiating 100 watts. I decided to move my operating position to the dining room table, which gave me a whole room's separation from the antenna. Nice! Then there was the RFI issue.

Previously I had constructed this sort of folded dipole thingy that I fed with coax and had the old 4:1 Balun from my G5RV at its base. I relied on the auto tuner in my Kenwood TS-690S to take care of any irregularities with SWR. It sort of worked but I still lit everything up in the apartment and figured it was due to Standing Waves on my coax. I decided to move the MFJ tuner to the base of the antenna and tune it for single band operation with my analyzer. That worked ok and seemed to reduce my RFI by about 90%. The problem was nobody heard me. Back to the internet.

I found articles on apartment antennas which all centered on loops. I went to home depot and picked up some wire and joined the ends of my dipole which created a 12' x 12' loop that went around the ceiling of my bedroom. Tuning it with the MFJ was very touchy but I was able to operate narrow segments of 80m, 40m, and 20m with success. There was even a contest in CW, what could be better! I had a blast working the Canada Day CW contest and worked 10 stations. Back to the internet, fast!

Since changing bands was a long process of disconnecting the feed line from the tuner, connect the analyzer, fiddle forever to find the "sweet spot", reconnect everything and operate, I had to find another solution. More research (and a bunch of bucks) led me to my SG-230 Smart Tuner. Being designed for random wires I found they even had an antenna design for an apartment antenna in their manual. This works great and as of this writing I have logged over 280 stations which is close to exceeding even my most active year when I had a shack and antenna farm!

The Rest of the story

It is Friday morning and I was scheduled to go out of town for work. We are in the midst of a "weather event" so I decided to cancel (read in "Blow Off") my plans until Monday because I really didn't want to miss "The Big Table" today anyway. As dictated in the ARRL Handbook I made my coffee, checked my email, checked the cluster, and worked a new one! I grabbed IS0GQX which is a new country for me (that makes 3 this week) and have been listening to him work them for the last hour. I have been actively pursuing DXCC and through the miracle modern science, LoTW, and a new logging program that prints QSL's for me I have 146 cards out to the bureau, 32 cards out to stateside managers and my confirmed country count went from 30 to 67 all in the past 2 weeks. I have received 4 cards every day this week and look forward to adding new conformations to my log. I am now 6 states away from WAS and have a sked on Sunday to pick up MT so I will not let my membership in DALF's slow me down any more.

Life does come "full circle" and I have the whole day to play before it's time to meet at the S&S. Maybe I'll set up rig control since the 13 pin DIN arrived that I ordered. Maybe I'll try and figure out why I can't get MMTTY to transmit FSK for me. There is after all that Mexico DX RTTY contest this weekend and I'm sure I'll work a couple. Or maybe I'll just waste time and write this article.

Website(s) of the month

If you have ever wanted to get a look at a K3 being assembled, take a look. It is a really cool view into the radio itself.

Submitted by: Carey Magee K2RNY

http://www.hb9drv.ch/tmp/k3build.wmv Take a look at this Vintage Ham Radio Promo Submitted by: Irv Goodman **AF2K**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBGIdf0VjQ4

Do you ever wonder what all of those strange signals you hear most mornings around 3524. This is real fast stuff! Submitted by: Ken Boasi **N2ZN**

http://tom.w4bqf.googlepages.com/COPYINGCWOV ER70WPM

Check this out, unbelievable! Now you don't have to copy CW, just click on it $\ensuremath{\textcircled{}}$

Submitted by: Paul Mackanos K2DB http://www.dxatlas.com/CwSkimmer/

Begali Keyer

Paul Mackanos K2DB

Wow, With the addition of my new Begali keyer, I am now having a blast running my remote station. I will give you a little background, Steve, **K1EL** is the guy who came up with the Winkeyer USB keyer, and it is really sweet. I use one at the **K2NNY** site, and I now have one at home. Why would I have one at home when I do not even have a station here?

Well, the reason is this, Steve has come up with a little software program that lets 2 Winkeyers communicate with each other over the internet. It works this way: I use my paddles and key my Winkeyer at home and it keys the transmitter at the remote site via an internet connection. I won't go into the specifics of how, but it really works well. There is also a nice little option in the program where it can be used as code practice between two people, without keying the transmitter, you can set one up with your buddy and connect to it via the internet, and both of you can practice. Really neat. The bottom line for me is more enjoyment of running remote. I no longer have to rely on message buffers or going into keyboard mode to operate remotely, I just grab the paddle and start sending, just as though I am in front of the rig. I know it works, I just used it to work my first station with the set-up on 40 meters, and it was **ZK2CC** who is in Nuie. I did have to work him long path, he was to weak on a direct path. I will be glad to discuss this with you at any time. I guess we are on the cutting edge of technology. Steve has not announced this little program as of yet, we are still beta testing it, and he wants me to beat it up to find any bugs. If you are not using a Winkeyer USB keyer, you may want to check it out at http://www.k1el.com Oh yeah, by the way - it will only recognize perfectly sent characters and will not send out a character it doesn't recognize. So if your code is a little sloppy, you will know it right away, it just will not send out the character. Guess how I found this out ??? I need practice on my sloppy code.



Here is a picture of my Christmas present from my daughter. It is a Begali Simplex paddle with my call engraved on it. It is the sweetest and best feeling paddle I have ever used.



CONGRATULATIONS

K2DB appointed Vice President

I am pleased to announce the Paul Mackanos, **K2DB** has been appointed Vice President by the Board of Directors. His term will begin immediately (1/17/08) and expire, as all terms will, in June 2008. As many of you know, Paul brings "several" years of experience to the board. Paul has mentored more than a few of us, always willing to help and has placed K2NNY firmly on the map in sweepstakes contesting. I feel his placement will always hold the club's best interests at heart. With our 60th year in full swing, I hope Paul's addition to the board will assist us in fully appreciating our anniversary and continuing the heritage that the RDXA has been blessed with. Congratulations and thank you for stepping forward. Chris Shalvoy, **K2CS** - Nominating Committee, 2007



One of "our own" in the news! From the latest CONTESTER'S RATE

SHEET 23 JANUARY 2008 Edited by Ward Silver NOAX

If you want to scan a band, but don't have a spare spectrum analyzer to dedicate to the job, there's an alternative. Joe K8FC suggests that you can do the job for a relatively small investment, a software-defined radio (SDR), such as one of the Softrock kits <<u>http://www.softrockradio.org</u>> combined with Rocky <<u>http://www.dxatlas.com/Rocky</u>> or Power SDR <<u>http://www.wu2x.com:80/sdr.html</u>> software. These are pretty amazing packages!



Some pictures taken by Alan Mason **K6PSP** of our annual "Toast to **K2FR**". The picture is from the S&S on Friday 2/1/08. The brass plate is dedicated to Fred and is screwed to the back

of the bench facing the fireplace. The latter photo has appeared in the RDXA Newsletter before.

We miss you Fred!





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 Gayle, N2TWI at the addresses below by the second Tuesday of the month for inclusion in that month's issue.

Al 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.

$\label{eq:resident-constraint} President Vic \ Gauvin - K1PY/k1py@frontier$	net.net
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Membership Dues (\$15 / year) can be sent to: Carey Magee 69 Fairview Crescent Rochester, NY 14617 Any other correspondence to: Irv Goodman

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