

# ROCHESTER **DX** ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



ROCHESTER **DX** ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

1947-2007 • 60 YEARS OF DX IN WNY

MAY 08



## Regular Meeting

May 20, 2008 19:30 local

June meeting 6/17

**We are back at our normal  
location of Gander Mountain**

## May Program

**The Headphone Project by Paul Meyers N2OPW**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Any suggestions as to where we  
should meet regularly?**

*(See article in newsletter)*

**Something central (City/Henrietta),  
no cost for the room, and food?**

**Send your suggestions to any board  
member.**

## Upcoming Programs and Activities

Jun 17 2007 Field Day video by Alan Masson **K6PSP**

**And besides regular meetings, we have**

- W2RDX/60 Operating Event #2 (May)
- 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!)

## W2RDX/60 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event Station

First we want to say, on behalf of the club, Jeff thank you for your generosity! We have confirmed with Jeff, **W2FU** the week-end of **May 24 & 25** for RDXA to use W2RDX/60 for our 60th Anniversary Celebration. Jeff has graciously offered his complete station for our use, the entire week-end and said we can use all of the stations, on all of the bands in whatever mode we choose to use. The stations are completely set up as of now for Multi-Multi contest operation. This means we can use all bands from 160-10 in all modes, even RTTY on some bands, all at the same time! We can even set up a station for 6 meters if we so desire.

We have the full week-end till 10 or 11 PM

Set this week-end aside and come with us and work a **BIG GUN STATION** for the **RDXA CELEBRATION!**

This will even help out our members in the use of contesting software with **N1MM**, which will help us out for Field Day.

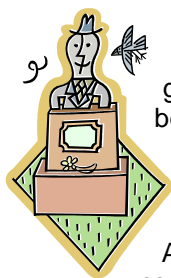
Come join the FUN!

Let's **MAKE THIS THE BEST**

**SPECIAL EVENT STATION** there ever was!

## The Podium

## Vic Gauvin K1PY



Holy Moley! When spring breaks, radio activity certainly seems to blossom! We've got a full plate in front of us. Hopefully you'll be able to partake of it all.

First, if you missed the banquet, you lost out. Food was great, and prizes were excellent, with some great donations by ARRL and CQ (tks Paul **K2DB**), and a well-considered top-notch array of "good stuff" obtained by Dave **N2CK**. Camaraderie, as always, was wonderful, with some good zingers here and there (the best-of-show was one directed to our favorite non-CW operator -- priceless!) by Andy **K0SM**.

Second, but certainly not in importance: The RDXA club incorporation papers were signed Wed, May 7, 2008! Sherwood **W2KFU** and Paul Snyder were present at the official signing at the QTH of Vic **K1PY** during the regular board of directors meeting. Signatories present were Vic **K1PY**, Paul **K2DB**, Irv **AF2K**, Chris **K2CS**, Alan **K6PSP**, and Carey **K2RNY**. Papers will be submitted to the Secretary of State of the state of New York in Albany, and we'll soon receive back our certificate of incorporation. This is certainly an achievement of which we all can be quite pleased and proud.

So, what's ahead of us? FIRST and urgently (if you'd like to proudly wear a new RDXA shirt at the hamfest), we need an apparel order by Thursday, May 15 (which might be the day you're reading this!). See elsewhere for details, *but don't delay -- do it NOW and finish reading this later*. You can NOT wait for the meeting if you want a shirt in time for the Hamfest. Otherwise, orders *will* be taken at the meeting for a delivery date TBD.

Speaking of the meeting, the special "club project" presentation for a headphone splitter/amp designed by Paul **N2OPW** will be next on Tues, May 20 at 7:30 p.m., at GANDER MTN. This is not something you've seen much, so make it a point. If you're a builder, but don't have a specific need, consider building one or more for others in the club that are not enamored of the aura of solder wafting around their faces. This could be referred to as "the Field Day Special," since that's the genesis of the project -- the need to enable multiple people to listen in during FD when all ops are wearing headsets. It might also allow you to add some external audio equalization to help in copying certain stations.

Next, come just to gawk, but come to the RDXA W2RDX/60 Special Event operation on Sat. & Sun, May 24 & 25, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day at the **W2FU** super-station, 1107 Salt Road, Webster. If you don't go, you'll kick yourself later after you hear everyone who went raving about the station, and the antennas, and this, and that, and how awesome it was. Truly, the chance of a lifetime, truly a world-class station, truly a fun club-oriented activity looking to get *everyone* to participate, and again, a Special Event station, not a contest. Special Event T-Shirts will be available to mark the occasion.

Rounding out the month will be the Rochester Hamfest on Fri & Sat, May 30 & 31. This of course means, as RDXA,

you get the benefit of the poshest, classiest, most enviable club hospitality area at the hamfest, thanks primarily to the efforts of Dave **N2CK**. Club tables are available free to members from which to sell their treasures. You do need to oversee your items most of the time, but you'll be amongst the group while doing it, and will have lots of help. It's a gas! And then there's the burgers & hots and other goodies! Boy have we got it good!

Then there's the inside booth, again a very classy and professional appearing booth thanks to the loan of presentation equipment by Paul **N2OPW**. The RDXA booth hosts the ARRL DXCC card-checking done by Ed **K2MP**. Renew your membership, sign up for Field Day, purchase and/or order club apparel, and otherwise just share the pleasant exchanges that routinely occur with passersby. It's a fascinating experience.

Please sign up with Carey **K2RNY** to help at either or both of these to keep them operating at the enjoyable level we've come to expect. It doesn't happen by itself of course, but by just helping out for an hour over the entire weekend, you can feel good about continuing yet another top-notch RDXA tradition which is the envy of other clubs and which benefits both you and all the other members. And besides, you'll be working with your fellow members!

Lastly, while marking your calendars, please note the All-Club RARA Picnic on Sat, Jun 21, and of course, FIELD DAY, Fri-Sun Jun 27-29! More on these events next month.

Enjoy! You've got the whole summer to rest up.

"You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."

- Albert Einstein



## RDXA Membership News

RDXA membership renewal for the 2007-2008 season was due in October 2007. If you have not paid get your money in for this and next 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 at the Hamfest. If you have a question as to whether you are current or not, please send me an email at [k2rny@frontiernet.net](mailto:k2rny@frontiernet.net) who will 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 -

### Paul Meyers

N2OPW

I was first licensed in 1991 at the ripe old age of 48. Sure I had an interest in Ham Radio back when I was a Boy Scout. I remember crystal sets and trying to learn Morse Code, but without an Elmer the interest just wasn't strong enough. I grew up, got a BSEE from RIT, and got married to Terry 40 years ago, and had two sons, John and Chris, long before the real interest in Ham Radio got the best of me. Terry is now a retired Social Worker, John is a Civil Engineer in Boston MA with Dianne and three of my grandchildren and Chris owns his own architectural firm in Columbus OH with Carole and my other four grandchildren.

I was first licensed as a Technician because there was not a code requirement. After a while I struggled through and passed 5WPM and upgraded to Tech +. Later I took the General test and waited almost a year for the rules to change to reduce the code requirement to only 5 WPM. Then in one session I processed the paperwork to become a General and passed the Extra exam.

My first rig was a borrowed Radio Shack HTX-202 2M HT and I developed an interest in 2m weak signal when I picked up a KLM 2000 2M rig but I quickly upgraded to an ICOM IC-706. I joined the RVHFG because of my interest in all the technical aspects of ham radio, and spent many years on their BOD and as their Treasurer. I tried contesting once at **N2PA** and was convinced to become a rover along with Jeff, **K2EHF**. We roved for many years and once achieved #6 in the US for the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. I feel that most non-hams can understand and are more impressed with HF world wide DX than understanding grid squares and the technical achievements like VUCC on 10 Ghz.

Along the way my interest turned more to HF and contesting. I joined RDXA and served on their BOD for many years. I have an interest in antenna construction and RTTY contesting and I have upgraded my rig again and now have an ICOM IC-765. I enjoy multi-op contesting and have been on the **K2NNY** team for numerous ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contests and the **W2CCC** team for the IARU HF World championship contests. Field Day is another activity that I have often participated in as the VHF team captain. I currently am a member in six radio clubs, RDXA, RVHFG, RTTY Rangers W2RTY, K2NNY, W2CCC, and KB1PNP.

I was very much honored last month at the RVHF, RDXA W2RDX/60 banquet to be presented with the **KE2WK** Memorial Award.

For me, later this year, will be a scheduled move to Columbus Ohio to be closer to some of the grandchildren and hopefully a tower and a beam to up my DX country count.

Thanks Paul!

**We are looking for a volunteer for next month????  
Who will it be – send me your bio and surprise the club!**

## From Last Months Meeting



Carey Magee **K2RNY**, who spoke about the **VE7CC** DX Cluster.



Bob Rossi **NA2X** receiving ARRL DXCC #1 Honor Roll plaque from Ed Gable **K2MP**.



Vic Gauvin **K1PY** with samples of the new RDXA shirts and hats.



## Websites of the month

RTTY Ranger graphic based announcements have moved to the web. They are available at:

[http://home.rochester.rr.com/wlty/RTTY\\_Rangers.htm](http://home.rochester.rr.com/wlty/RTTY_Rangers.htm)

A new reflector has been set up for those of you that are interested in remote stations, operating, contesting, etc. It is called remote operating.

It is my hope that those currently using remote stations, or are thinking about it, please subscribe and help kick this new reflector off. There are many of us that have a lot of experience, technical know how and have been there and are doing it now. I know I have had a lot of successes and failures in my endeavor to get the remote station operational. I want to share, and I still have a lot of what if and how do I do this type of questions.

Hopefully this list will be where we can get together and help each other. If you know of others who are interested, or other lists that we can get the word out about this new reflector, please let them know. The more we get the word out, the more we will enjoy each others comments. Thanks in advance, and I hope to see you on the new list. General information and subscription info on the mailing list is at:

<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/remoteposting>

Paul **K2DB - K2NNY**

The next sunspot cycle will be 30-50% stronger than the last one and begin as much as a year late, according to a breakthrough forecast using a computer model of solar dynamics developed by scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). For more info go to:

<http://www.ucar.edu/news/releases/2006/sunspot.shtml>

On this page you can listen to and control a short-wave receiver located at the amateur radio club [ETGD](#) at the [University of Twente](#). In contrast to other web-controlled receivers, this receiver can be tuned by multiple users simultaneously, thanks to the use of Software-Defined Radio.

<http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/>

NASA is inviting everyone to send their name to the moon on board the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter. Right now you can log onto a special NASA Web site that is collecting names, which will be put on a microchip that will be integrated into the LRO. The LRO mission is the first step in NASA's plans to return humans to the moon by 2020. The deadline to add your name to the microchip is June 27.

<http://lro.jhuapl.edu/NameToMoon/index.php>

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulate Paul Meyers **N2OPW** for being presented with this most prestigious award at our annual banquet last month.

### -THE KE2WK AWARD -

The KE2WK Award recognizes the HF enthusiast who has been the most active in RDXA Club affairs, demonstrated long term club commitment and made contributions to the club newsletter. It is a person who is recognized by club members as a high profile, active, radio operator pursuing DX and participating in HF contests while promoting the RDXA and Amateur Radio on the HF bands.

### 2007 RDXA DX Awards

The top points contributing station for SSB based club contests was Gene Fuller, **W2LU**.

The top points contributing station for CW based club contests was Dave Farnsworth, **WJ2O**.

One million points were contributed to club contests during the 2006-2006 RDXA contest season by the following stations :

Paul Mackanos,	<b>K2DB</b>
Wayne King,	<b>N2WK</b>
Gene Fuller,	<b>W2LU</b>
Dave Farnsworth,	<b>WJ2O</b>

Incremental mega point achievement awards were also presented to :

15 million points,	Chris Shalvoy,	<b>K2CS</b>
30 million points,	Scott Bauer,	<b>W2LC</b>

See the following article and give Ed **K2MP** a congrats on this great recognition! You are an incredible asset to the Rochester Ham community, and the wonderful treasure we have in our back yard - The Antique Wireless Museum.

[http://home.rochester.rr.com/w1ty/RTTY\\_Rangers\\_4.htm](http://home.rochester.rr.com/w1ty/RTTY_Rangers_4.htm)

"Typos are very important to all written form. It gives the reader something to look for so they aren't distracted by the total lack of content in your writing."

- Randy K. Milholland

## DX Information

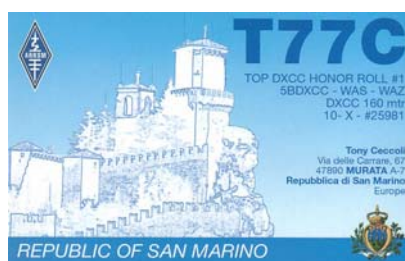
K2CS

The following operations are approved for DXCC credit:

9UXEV – Burundi.....2008 Operation  
5X1NH – Uganda.....2007 Operation  
YK9G – Syria.....2008 Operation  
SØ5A – Western Sahara.....2007 Operation  
HZ1PS – Saudi Arabia.....  
G4GIR/KH9 – Wake Island.....2007 Operation  
TX5C – Clipperton Island.....2008 Operation  
VP6DX – Ducie Island.....2008 Operation  
ZL1GO/8 – Kermadec Island.....2007 Operation  
3C7Y – Equatorial Guinea.....2007 Operation  
3YØE – Bouvet Island.....Operation from Dec  
2007 through Feb2008  
YA/LY1Y – Afghanistan.....Operations in 2006 and  
2007

## Card of the Month

K2CS



Printed by K2CS - 2008 5-mtr e-qsl@k2cs.com http://www.k2cs.com/qslcard

### K2CS

Date	UTC	Band	RST	2X
02-Mar-2003	17:52	10m	59	SSB
28-Aug-2004	16:23	17m	599	CW
26-Nov-2006	15:42	15m	599	CW
25-Dec-2007	06:29	60m	55	SSB

Loc.JN63FV - QSL INFO on QRZ.COM  
Trx QSL VERIFIED BY T77C - 73 Tony

## Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity

### 07 May - 02 June 2008

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 07 - 08 May, 21 - 28 May, and 01 - 02 June. Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels 07 - 12 May. On 13 May, a recurrent coronal hole high speed stream is expected to increase activity levels to unsettled to active conditions. Activity levels are expected to decline to quiet to unsettled levels 14 - 18 May. Conditions should increase to unsettled to active, with a chance for minor storm levels at middle latitudes and major storm periods at high latitudes on 19 - 21 May, due to a recurrent coronal hole high speed stream. On 22 May, activity levels should abate to quiet to unsettled levels until 26 May. Recurrent high speed streams are expected to increase activity again to unsettled to active levels for 27 May - 02 June.

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

## Propagation 11 years ago

AD5Q's notes  
from Cycle 22

### May 1997 Forecast

Flux Range 70-85

20 Meters continues to improve. The evening openings are great, especially if you like running CW Russians. This path follows the post-sunrise area across Siberia and Russia to Eastern Europe and Scandinavia. Around midnight the polar path closes, but signals continue to come through from the west.

On 20 CW, westerly signals from the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand are hardly numerous enough to keep the band jumping with DX activity. Most amateurs in these areas are primarily SSB ops, just as most in Russia and Eastern Europe prefer CW. When paths are open both over the pole and to VK/ZL, an SSB operator on 20 will find most DX activity to the west, while the CW op will more likely notice a band that is wall-to-wall with that sound we all know and love: polar warble. In the late evening, the westerly opening expands as signals cross the darkness back into daylight where it is late afternoon. If the band were to stay open well past midnight (assisted by an extra 10 or 20 points of solar flux), the late afternoon region would approach Asia and a path to Japan would open up nicely. Some excellent runs in past WPX contests come to mind.

In the morning we find good openings over high latitude paths into Asia. Here we routinely work JT, BV, VS6, HS, 9V, V85, etc. while tuning and wishing for signals even more exotic (9N, A5, VU4, XW). This morning pipeline does not last long, but is changing as summer approaches.

At the high end of the solar cycle, we notice a deterioration in 10 Meter conditions during May due to a heating and thinning of the ionosphere that lowers the MUF; effecting 15 Meters in midsummer and forcing most DX activity down to 20. At the low end of the cycle we have already written off 10 and 15 anyway, and should notice that the effect of this summer heating on 20 Meters is beneficial. It keeps the MUF hovering above 14 MHz for most of the morning, lengthening the duration of our opening into the Asian evening darkness. During our own evening, we work into this same broad area of morning as it spans Russia and Siberia. Instead of a narrow pipeline into a sunrise area, a large region of a remote continent is workable - improving QSO rates in the CW WPX beyond what would be expected at the low end of a sunspot cycle.

Thus, 20 Meters will continue its transition to this summer configuration. The main opening to Europe will be in the late afternoon; working into their late evening window to the west before the band closes for them.

Other bands? 40 is still in excellent shape with rising QRN levels (and low band contacts count double in the WPX). I would expect that conditions on 30 are even better, but I have yet to find room for a serious antenna on any WARC band and claim no expertise.

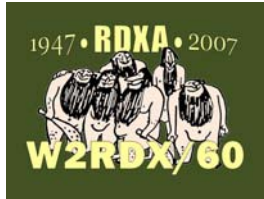
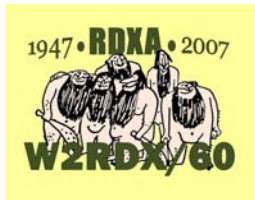
<http://www.qth.com/ad5q/>

## RDXA Apparel

K1PY

Orders are now being taken! If you can get an order to Vic K1PY at k1py@frontiernet.net by noon on Thu, May 15, you should have your hat and/or shirt\* in time to proudly display them at the hamfest. Pickup and payment can be made at the hamfest inside booth on Friday.

### Embroidered baseball caps, Golf shirts, and Twill shirt



There will be two styles, the green and yellow golf shirts, and the green "Twill" shirt\*.

*\*NOTE: Green denim is no longer available. Twill is a nice replacement, but all current orders for the "denim" shirt will be held until each person has been able to handle a physical Twill sample and decide. The sample will be at the upcoming meeting, and at the hamfest.*

They will feature the RDXA Cavemen. The illustration doesn't show it, but the cavemen will be "filled" with a flesh-colored thread so that the shirt color doesn't come through (making them either green or yellow). The embroidery will be on the left, over the heart

Call signs are \$3.00 extra (no savings for a 1x2, sorry!) Color will be same as above depending on apparel color, approx 1/2 to 3/4 inch high. On shirts, over right side. On hats, on the back.

### T-Shirts

T-Shirts will be available for the **RDXA W2RDX/60 Special Event Station** operation @ W2FU, and a **60th Anniversary Field Day** shirt.

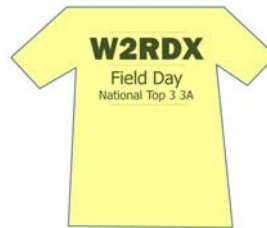
T-Shirts will only be in the traditional RDXA Yellow, but a lighter, mellower shade (marketed as "Butter" in the shirt catalog). No call sign option is available.

### PRICES

- **RDXA Baseball Caps, Forest Green, \$13.50, with call \$16.50**
  - High quality layered "sandwich" brim
  - Stone-washed "floppy"
- **RDXA Golf Shirts, 50/50 Cotton/Polyester, \$15, with call \$18**
  - Forest Green, with pocket
  - Forest Green, no pocket
  - RDXA Yellow, no pocket



- **RDXA Twill Shirt (replacing denim), \$20, with call \$23** (estimated price)
  - Forest Green, medium weight long-sleeved shirt, left-side pocket, button-down collar
- **RDXA 60th Anniv Field Day T-Shirt \$12**



- Traditional RDXA Pale Yellow with updated Field Day/60 design; W2RDX on back

- **RDXA W2RDX/60 Special Event @ W2FU T-Shirt \$12**



Get the "I was there" shirt for the W2RDX/60 Special Event operation at W2FU

## Time for a new location?

N2CK

Have you been looking? Do you have any ideas? The BOD decided to put some power into your hands. We are making a plea to you – the membership, to actively seek out a new location for our meetings. Rather than the BOD making a decision, which will affect our next working year, we would like some input from you as to where we can meet.

Next time you are out somewhere at a restaurant, bar, church, library, etc take a look around and see if there is something which will fit our needs. Requirements are as follows:

- 1) Free
- 2) Handicapped accessible
- 3) Available the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month September – June
- 4) Centrally located
- 5) Ability to run later than 9:00 if necessary.

It would help if the location was close to an expressway to facilitate travel. Should you find what you think is a suitable location, let a member of the BOD know and we'll check it out. If it meets the combined needs of the club – we'll make the arrangements to procure it for the club calendar year.

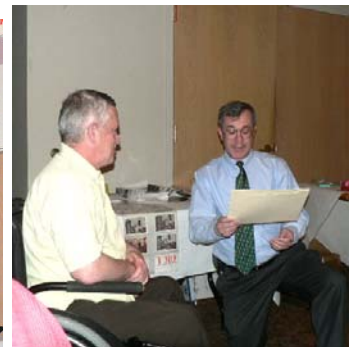


## 2008 Awards Banquet

Pictures by Cliff

K2SKO

For those of you who where not there some pictures to show you what fun you missed!



## Nominating Committee

N2CK

At the last Board meeting, Alan and Dave volunteered for the Nominating committee. They have been making some calls trying to find person(s) willing to fill empty slots. What they were looking for was: Board of Director(s), Newsletter Editor and Recording Secretary positions. At the current time, 2 people have stepped forward to fill the President and Vice President positions. They will be confirming via follow-up email that this is still their intentions. Additionally, they have approached those currently serving to see if they would like to continue in their respective positions.

If you have some free time to spare, and wish to help out one of the most active, dynamic and talented clubs in the Rochester area, let us know your intention. We will also be calling for nominations from the floor at our next meeting. Just as an aside, one position we really need covered is Recording Secretary. It is especially important for us to keep accurate and concise notes of our meetings to document the proceedings of "The Corporation".

Don't let this assignment overwhelm you. Mostly the tasks are related to the "business" of running the club - motions, seconds, motion pass or not, attendance at BOD meetings (as well as date/time/location). The intent is to prove that the club is not a "sham" cover structure - but an entity following its rules and documenting outcomes.

In closing, let us know if you have an interest in helping guide RDXA through the 2008/2009 season.

Here's what we have so far a slate of Officers for the 2008 / 2009 season:

President	Paul	<b>K2DB</b>
VP	Ken	<b>N2ZN</b>
Treasurer	Irv	<b>AF2K</b>
BOD	Chris	<b>K2CS</b>
	Doug	<b>N2BEG</b>
	Lynn	<b>W2BSN</b>
Membership	Carey	<b>K2RNY</b>
Newsletter	Gayle	<b>N2TWI</b>

We're short one BOD position (constitution says 4, with outgoing President serving as advisor), and a recording secretary.

## Reflector Tips & Tricks

K2DB

Do you have more than one e-mail address? Do you sometimes forget to look at which account you are using? It's really easy to do. Here's a tip to help you out!

**Q** - How can I post from 2 or more addresses to a "members-only" list?

**A** - Our RDXA list is restricted to "members-only", meaning if you post from an address that isn't a member of the list, the message is held for moderator's approval. Members-only lists are increasingly popular because they reduce the amount of spam seen by the list.

The problem is for people who want to post to the list from two or more addresses, but only want one of those addresses to receive list postings.

For example:

I sometimes post to the list from K2db@k2db.org and sometimes as paul@paulmackanos.com or paul@ProHomeInspector.net. I'd like all the postings to be treated as coming from a list member, but I don't want duplicates of list messages; I only want k2db@k2db.org to get the messages.

The solution for this is to actually subscribe all addresses to the list, but to disable delivery from all but one of the addresses. So in the above example, I'd subscribe k2db@k2db.org, paul@paulmackanos.com and paul@ProHomeInspector.net but, I would disable delivery to paul@paulmackanos.com and paul@ProHomeInspector.net

You can disable delivery to an address by going to the List Options page for that address and setting "Mail delivery" to "disabled".

If you do not feel comfortable doing this, just send me an e-mail and I will go into the list and change it for you.

Also, do not subscribe with your callsign@arrl.net account. That is only for receiving mail, and you do not actually send mail from that account, so the list will not be able to handle it. It will bounce it as a posting from a non-member.

I hope this takes some of the confusion out of using the list.



## The Rochester Area Ham Radio Picnic

Sponsored by the Rochester Amateur Radio Assn.

**When:** Saturday June 21st

**Where:** Ellison Park Creekside Lodge

RaRa would like to invite and encourage the general membership, and their families, of the Rochester DX Assn. to attend a picnic celebrating Ham Radio, friends, family, camaraderie, and all that is good! A great time will be had by all! RaRa will be providing: door prizes, hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and condiments but a dish to pass is always a welcome addition.

There is no charge for this event. But we do need your help in planning: Please have a representative of your club contact Bill, **WB2SXY** at williamkasper@frontiernet.net with an approximate head count of your attendees no later than June 10th. Let's help support this effort. Paul, **K2DB** volunteered to keep a head count of those that wish to attend. Please respond to him at k2db@k2db.org  
Talk-in on: 146.28 /88 repeater, 146.52 simplex within the park.



## A Bit of Humor

K2DB



During a recent Saturday afternoon drive around Greene County I happened down a back road near the 'Coon River. I saw a sign in front of a broken down aging farmhouse that read, "Talking Dog for Sale."

Well, that made me curious so I stopped to see what the deal was. In the yard there is a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting.

"You talk?" I asked.

"Yep," the Lab replies.

Well after I got over the shock of hearing a dog talk, I asked

"So, what's your story?"

"Ah shucks there ain't much to tell. Is that a screwdriver antenna on your truck out there?"

"How did you know that," I asked?

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I'm a ham radio operator. I got my ticket when I was a young pup.

In no time at all I had my 5-band DXCC in Phone and CW.

The CIA heard about me and asked me to do spy work for them. I would hang around the communications centers and with my keen hearing could copy the transmissions.

Because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years.

Copying high speed CW all day really tired me and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the CIA (8 dog years is 56 CIA years) and joined a ham radio club. In fact I won first place in the Iowa QSO Party two years in a row. Then I had a mess of puppies and got away from Ham Radio for a while. I sure miss my radio. Why don't you buy me and I'll be your CW operator in the next DX 'test.."

I said "let me see what I can do."

I went back in and asked the owner what he wanted for the dog.

"Ten dollars," the old farmer says.

"Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He's just a No Code General."

## Revamping the Shack

N2CK

I recently invested some effort in revamping the shack.

Specifically, I ran a dedicated 240V line for the amp.

Previously I ran all the shack components (HF rig, computer, monitor, amplifier, and other station accessories) off one wall plug. I believe the household computer located 3' away was also running off the same circuit. Can you say overload? Previously, I was prevented from running a dedicated line because I had no open positions in the panel box. I suspected the household machine was on the same circuit when shortly after the new panel was installed, I had both the household and shack computers on – as well as the rig. Hearing a station I wanted to work, I snapped on the amp. Hearing both computers shut down, I realized that proved to be the final load on the 120 volt circuit using the new panel. I visited the panel box, and popped the breaker

back into place. This makes me wonder just how much current was flowing though the old breaker on this circuit.

In anticipation of doing some kitchen work, I lobbied to spend the money to upgrade the service – in part because I knew we were going to need some 20A dedicated lines in the kitchen, but also because I wanted to get the amp running on 240. I knew what I was using was a significant overload on the circuit, as turning on the amp caused the (new) breaker to pop.

A little bit of shopping at the local big box store, I came away with a 20 amp double pole breaker, and a spool of 12 gauge wire. I put my youngest son to work helping me get everything wired up (he's going to school to be an electrician).

Once we got everything wired up, I opened the amp (a Heathkit SB-200) and set the jumpers for 240 volt operation. **K2DB** has repeatedly told me how much more power I would see out of the amp once it was running on 240. Actually, I don't see much of a difference in the output on my watt meter. One thing I do notice is the light above the station doesn't flicker to the beat of a CW signal anymore.

Knowing I would probably be using the amp more often I decided to investigate cooling options. To those who haven't seen my shack, I built a shelf arrangement to augment the little surface space I have on the desk. The amp tucks into a compartment with little room to spare. There is a mere 2 ¾ inches of clearance above the amp. A while ago, **N2OPW** gave me a small 120 volt muffin fan. To make it more convenient, I wanted to hard-wire it to the plug. Additionally, I needed to elevate it slightly from the cabinet. If you look close at the picture, you'll see some rubber feet I attached to the bottom of the fan (found at a local big box place as well). The feet are ~3/8", and the fan 1 ½ inches tall. This gives me just under an inch of clearance at the top. I positioned the fan so it blows up, pulling the hot air from the amp.



I stumbled across an even neater solution for mounting the switch. As I looked around for some scrap sheet metal or Plexiglas to mount the switch, I found a microphone mounting bracket. Hmmmm, I pondered. I bent the center tab back and broke it off. I then filed the opening between the 2 prongs just a little, and presto - I have a mounting bracket for my switch! I mounted the bracket to the shelf arrangement in a convenient, out of the way location with a couple pan head sheet metal screws. Now when ever I use the amp for an extended period of time, I can operate safely current-draw wise, and also vent some warm air from the amplifier.

## Incorporation Signing      Alan Mason K6PSP

Here are the photos taken at the signing of the RDXA Incorporation papers at the QTH of Vic Gauvin **K1PY** in the presence of our attorneys Sherwood Snyder **W2KFU** & Paul Snyder, and the RDXA Board.



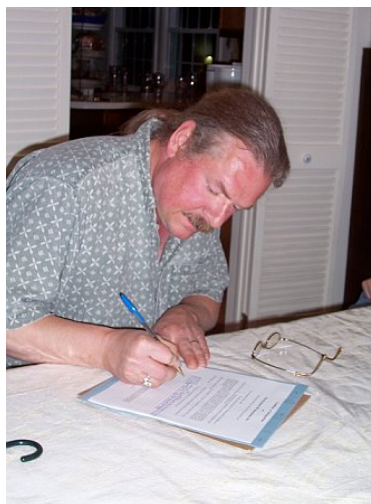
Paul Snyder, K1PY and Sherwood Snyder W2KFU



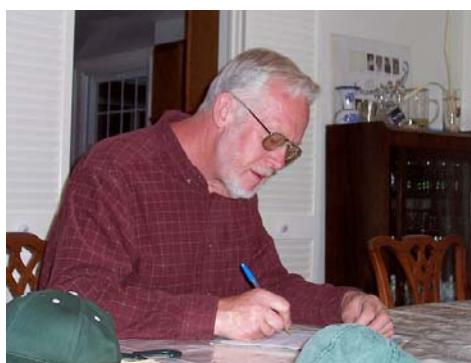
K2DB signing & AF2K waiting



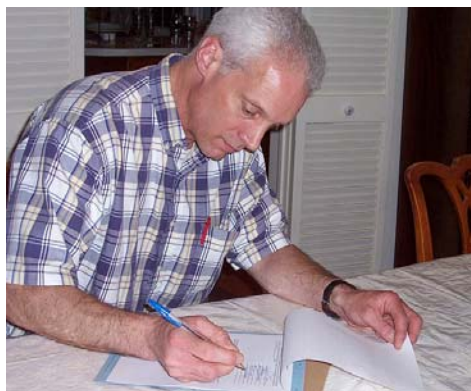
AF2K signing



K2CS signing



K6PSP signing



K2RNY signing



The whole gang



**You Might be a Ham Operator if...** **K6PSP**  
Continued from May ....

10. Porcupines appear to be fascinated with your car.
  11. If you ever tried to figure out the operating frequency of your microwave oven.
  12. When you look around your bedroom of wall to wall ham gear and ask: Why am I still single?
  13. The local city council doesn't like you.
  14. You actually think towers look pretty.
  15. Your family doesn't have a clue what to get you for Christmas, even after you tell them.
  16. Your HF amplifier puts out more power than the local AM radio station.
  17. The wife and kids are away and the first thing that goes through your head is that no one will bother you while you call "CQ DX" a few hundred times.
  18. When you pull into a donut shop and the cops there on their coffee break ask if they can see your radio setup.
  19. You refer to your children as your "Harmonics".
  20. Your girlfriend or wife asks: "You're going to spend \$XXXX on what???"
- More to come next month ...

**Upcoming Ham fests** **N2CK**

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| June 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Breezeshooters, Butler, PA<br><a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">www.breezeshooters.net</a>                   |
| June 14 <sup>th</sup> | Skyline Amateur Radio Club of Cortland<br><a href="http://www.skylinerradioclub.org">www.skylinerradioclub.org</a> |
| July 19 <sup>th</sup> | Batavia<br>Alexander Firemen's Grounds Rt. 98  |
| Aug 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | Tompkins County Amateur Radio Club<br>Trumansburg <a href="http://tcarc.compcenter.com">tcarc.compcenter.com</a>   |
| Aug 9 <sup>th</sup>   | Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Assn<br><a href="http://www.klara.us">www.klara.us</a>                                    |
| Sept 13 <sup>th</sup> | RAGS<br>Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse<br><a href="http://ragsinreview.com/">http://ragsinreview.com/</a>      |

**June Meeting**  
**RDXA General Membership Meeting**

TUES 6/17/08 at Gander Mountain; 7:30pm

Agenda:

Nominations of Officers and BOD for 2008-2009

A presentation of Field Day 2007 Video by Alan, **K6PSP**  
plus last-minute FD '07 details

Elections of Officers and BOD 2008-2009

As always, the presentations and featured programs will be before the regular business meeting.

73 de Paul **K2DB**





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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 Gayle, N2TWI 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.

**President**----- Vic Gauvin – K1PY/k1py@frontiernet.net  
**Vice President**----- Paul Mackanos-K2DB/k2db@k2db.org  
**Treasurer**----- Irv Goodman – AF2K/af2k@juno.com  
**Correspondence Sec** --- Chris Shalvoy – K2CS/chris@k2cs.net

### Board of Directors

Carey Magee – K2RNY ----- k2rny@frontiernet.net  
Doug Stewart – N2BEG ----- stewarts@rochester.rr.com  
Alan Masson – K6PSP----- k6psp@arrl.net  
Chris Shalvoy – K2CS----- K2CS/chris@k2cs.net

### Appointed Positions

DX Chairman ----- Chris Shalvoy, K2CS  
Packet Cluster Sys Op ----- Bob Hunter, NG2P  
Webmaster ----- Scott Hoag, K2ZS  
Contest Chairman ----- Chris Shalvoy, K2CS  
Membership Chairman ----- Carey Magee, K2RNY  
Newsletter Editor --- Gayle Shalvoy, N2TWI/ges@rocsoft.com  
NG2P Packet Cluster ----- 144.910 MHz  
----- Telnet: ng2p.ham-radio-op.net / Port 7300

### Membership Dues (\$15 / year) can be sent to:

Carey Magee  
69 Fairview Crescent  
Rochester, NY 14617

### Any other correspondence to:

Irv Goodman

## Professional Home Inspection



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the referral of their friends and family.*

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