

ROCHESTER
DX

ASSOCIATION,
INC.

rdxa.com



General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 17th 7:30 PM

This month's program

Field Day Preparation

Media room, right next to the EOC
Operations Center
1190 Scottsville Road
Exit 17 (Route 383 South) off I 390

In This Newsletter:

DXing 101

How To Use the RBN

DX History – 50 Years Ago

RDXA Banquet

And Much More

BOD Election Candidates and Officers

A quorum of the board of directors has decided 7 board slots will be available for the June election.

Candidates for Board of Directors:

Doug N2BEG, Lynn W2BSN, Scott K2ZS,
Andrew N3LZG, Bill K2TER, Paul K2DB, Larry W2LB

The following members have volunteered for the following officer's positions.

President - Paul K2FX

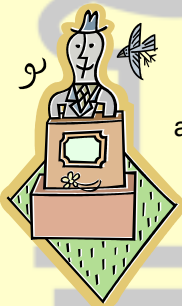
Secretary – Bill K2TER

Treasurer – Irv AF2K

Vice President – Mark K2MTH

The Podium

Paul Kolacki, K2FX



Last month I said that April showers bring May flowers, but we've now had enough of them. Some nice warm weather and sunshine is needed so that antenna projects can get done. We'll hope for the best. I'd like to start off by reminding everyone that the May Meeting will revolve around Field Day.

By the time you read this, a second Field Day planning meeting will have already taken place. N2BEG and W2LB are heading

up the Field Day Committee. As you may recall, The BOD has given them some direction, and they have been working within those parameters. If you are

interested in helping out with the planning, please contact Doug-N2BEG, or Larry-W2LB. Keep watching the Reflector for more information on this important event.

Also at our May General Meeting, nominations for 2011-12 BOD Positions will again be accepted. The nominations so far include: **Board of Directors:** Doug N2BEG, Lynn W2BSN, Scott K2ZS. **President** - Paul K2FX, **Secretary** - Bill K2TER, **Treasurer** - Irv AF2K, and **Vice President** - Mark K2MTH. **Appointed Positions:** **Membership Chairman** - Carey K2RNY, and **Newsletter Editor** - Andrew, N3LZG. If you have any other nominations for these positions, they will be accepted on Tuesday Night. Voting will take place at the June meeting, so don't miss it!!

On May 7th, the Annual Awards Banquet was held at The Rivers Edge Party House on Paul Road. For those of you who could not join us, we missed you! In all the years I've been associated with RDXA, I would have

to say that this has been the best location yet. Not only was the food exceptional, but the facility met our needs perfectly. We had a very comfortable Banquet Room to ourselves, which allowed for cocktails and socializing. Following dinner, we were treated to watching those who have worked so hard this year to be recognized with awards. I wish to thank Ken - N2ZN, Rick - W1TY, and Paul - K2DB for their assistance in handing them out. Also, a big thank you to Mark, K2MTH for taking the official photographs, and to Max, KC2SPY and Irv, AF2K for handling the financial transactions that evening. I've

received several emails following the banquet from some attendees who wanted to express their gratitude for the work on the banquet, and to voice their vote for returning there again soon. Thank You!

I will be attending an out of town conference on May 11th, so Scott, K2ZS will be at the Podium to run the meeting. I'm sure he'll do a fine job. I look forward however to seeing everyone in June for the meeting and big Field Day event. There has been plenty to work on the bands, so GO GET EM!

It's Not Just for Spots Any More – How to Use the RBN for Other Things

By Pete Smith, N4ZR

It's hard to imagine now, with the Reverse Beacon Network providing literally millions of spots to hundreds of users every contest weekend, but when PY1NB first proposed and implemented the RBN website, we saw it more as a tool for watching propagation. The Telnet cluster node came along more as an afterthought, but what an afterthought!

In the March-April issue, I reported on developments with the RBN, and mentioned using it to compare your signal with others. Now I've been asked to provide a little more detail on some other ways to use this new tool.

Got to Start Somewhere

On the RBN's main page at <http://reversebeacon.net/main.php>, the first piece of "eye candy" is the map. It doesn't show up in a black and white illustration, but in color, green dots represent spotters, red dots are the DX they have spotted, and the paths between them are color-coded by band. The map, by Google, is zoom-able and pan-able, just like *Google Maps*, which powers it.

Seeing everything is pretty, but not always what you want. Right below the map is the nerve-center of the program. If you click on "no filter selected, showing all spots", it brings up the following menu. Pretty self-

explanatory – you can really narrow your sights to spots from or about one or more bands, continents, zones, modes, and so on.

Am I Getting Out?

The first question I'm usually asked is, "Do I really have to call CQ to be spotted by the RBN? The answer is, "Yes – sort of." The *CW Skimmer* software does expect to hear certain keywords that tell it whether a station should be spotted. Those keywords need to be fairly close to your call-sign (in time) in order for it to link the two. Fortunately,

one of the keywords is "TEST", and what I usually suggest is that people make their transmission read something like "VVV VVV TEST N4ZR N4ZR AR". That is pretty unmistakably **not** a solicitation for a QSO, so you won't be misleading anyone.

If you're being heard anywhere in the world, you'll see the spots appear in the running list below the map on the main page, like this.

Comparing Antennas

It is pretty easy to do A/B comparisons with the RBN. The only

Figure 1.

showing spots for DX call: N4ZR
search spot by call sign

rows to show: 50

de	dx	freq	op/dx	snr	speed	time
K4TD	N4ZR	14069.9	CQ	8 dB	25 wpm	1310z 12 Mar
W3UA	N4ZR	14070.0	CQ	14 dB	25 wpm	1310z 12 Mar
W3LPL	N4ZR	14070.0	CQ	35 dB	25 wpm	1310z 12 Mar
N7TR	N4ZR	14069.9	CQ	21 dB	25 wpm	1310z 12 Mar
WA7LNW	N4ZR	14070.0	CQ	11 dB	25 wpm	1310z 12 Mar
W0MU	N4ZR	14070.0	CQ	17 dB	25 wpm	1310z 12 Mar
K3MM	N4ZR	14069.9	CQ	36 dB	25 wpm	1310z 12 Mar
OL5Q	N4ZR	14069.9	CQ	34 dB	25 wpm	1310z 12 Mar
GVBZNR	N4ZR	14069.9	CQ	26 dB	25 wpm	1310z 12 Mar
S66ARX	N4ZR	14068.0	CQ	11 dB	25 wpm	1309z 12 Mar
L4SEKA	N4ZR	14068.1	CQ	10 dB	25 wpm	1309z 12 Mar
K4TD	N4ZR	14067.9	CQ	10 dB	25 wpm	1309z 12 Mar
N0XR	N4ZR	14068.0	CQ	40 dB	25 wpm	1309z 12 Mar
GVBZNR	N4ZR	14067.9	CQ	22 dB	25 wpm	1309z 12 Mar
WA7LNW	N4ZR	14068.0	CQ	10 dB	25 wpm	1309z 12 Mar
K3MM	N4ZR	14068.0	CQ	37 dB	25 wpm	1309z 12 Mar
W3LPL	N4ZR	14068.0	CQ	37 dB	25 wpm	1309z 12 Mar
DK3IP	N4ZR	14068.0	CQ	12 dB	25 wpm	1309z 12 Mar

Figure 2.

trick is that you will need to change your frequency at least 300 Hz before transmitting again, or Skimmers that heard you the first time will ignore you for 10 minutes. Looking at the table above, from the bottom half of the RBN's main page, will give you the idea.

The RBN measures Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR), not absolute signal strength, so in order to average out variations in QRM, QRN, or local noise sources, you need to make several comparative measurements in a relatively short period of time

(before propagation changes). The very best practice is to send one string as described above, make your changes, immediately send the same string at least 300 Hz higher or lower, change back, QSY again, send the same string, and so on ... until you get a good sense of the average difference in SNR.

Other Uses of the Data

Because the spot data you can download from the RBN's DX SPOTS > Raw Data page are in .csv text format, they are readily imported by general-purpose analytical

software. For example, you can import the data into *Microsoft Excel*, though in most cases *Excel* cannot handle all of the data in a single day's file because it has a limit of 65K rows of data. I generally use *Microsoft Access* to handle a full contest day's data, as many as 800,000 rows!

With a little practice you will be able to sort and excerpt data to your heart's content, and if you're a real *Microsoft Access* hot-shot, I hope you'll share your analytical ideas with the rest of us.

—NCJ

DXing 101

By Doug Stewart, N2BEG

A lot of us were following the banter last month on the reflector around the April fool's day thread on funny calls. There were quite a few very good ones that came out from contributing individuals. Most notably was the Kazakhstan ham, UP2LID and several of his comrades. While most had fun with this it was brought up by someone that perhaps not everyone was 'in the know'. We RDXA'ers sometimes take for granted all of the tidbits and operating do's and do-nots that we have learned over the years and decades of pursuing this great and unique hobby of ours. If you are new to the game, as some are, there are some operating practices and procedures that may be common knowledge to some, may not be that obvious to all.

The above mentioned ham does not exist, although if you work any CW pileups or dxpeditions you will undoubtedly hear some or all of his call. One of the first things we should all learn when operating on any band is something that requires almost no skill, just patience. It is very difficult for some and as the technology enveloped in and around our hobby increases exponentially it can make it even harder. Of course I'm referring to listening. Since listening you could argue should constitute at least half of our time on the air, one would think we would all do more of it. Listening to any pileup in phone or CW will tell you otherwise. There are many that simply do not operate that way. With the advent of such operating aids as the DXcluster, skimmer and the reverse beacon network and other programs or websites, it takes less and less time to find those rare stations to try to work. However, if you want to be successful you still need to know their limitations and do your share of listening before making the problem worse.

For those that don't know what the term means, a 'lid' is a poor operator. The above referenced imaginary

ham is merely another ham telling a 'lid' that the DX station is listening "up 2", or 2 Khz ABOVE where he is transmitting and the 'lid' is interfering with the DX station. This 'helpful' ham is ALSO considered a lid because he is ALSO transmitting on the DX stations transmit frequency to tell the lid this. (these guys are called 'frequency cops', or just cops.) This also adds to the problem.

There are a host of generally excepted rules for working DX that make it easier for everyone. There have been numerous articles, blogs, and plenty of on air rants on the subject. Most notably was an op-ed piece by Randy Johnson, W6SJ in February 2010 QST that promoted what he called "DX-Etiquette", which he wrote after listening to the Mellish Reef Dxpedition operation and the circus that was created by the lids trying to work that one. Randy has also been on the other side of the pile numerous times so he has that perspective as well.

Randy was promoting a code of conduct that DX stations AND those trying to work them could follow which would make it easier for everyone to get that new one in the log. The idea was not new, but it did spark some much needed interest to a growing problem.

Since then a website was put up by Randy to promote this idea with links to his article, a downloadable "DX code of conduct", a wealth of other links on the subject, powerpoints for club meetings, a link to put on your or your club's webpage and most importantly a place to add your call indicating your support of the code. I think it's a fantastic idea. Randy's goal is to have every operator in the world sign up. Take a minute and point your browser to his site and see if you agree. Add your call as I have. I hope we can have a link on the RDXA website soon as so many other prominent DX clubs have already done. It can only help us all in the long run when trying to work that new DX entity. See if you agree.

Here is the link:

<http://dx-code.org/dxcode4.htm>
see you in the pile-ups!

RARA Scholarship Awarded

It was announced last evening at the May RARA meeting that this year's recipient of the annual RARA memorial scholarship is our own (OK, MY own) Ben Stewart, KC2JXP. The scholarship is in memory of William Buchan, W2OMV, Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, John Levis, KB2FXI, Davis Stewart, K2ZCD, William Resch III, K4VOS and A. Leland Zwack, W2WPF.

Ben is currently attending RIT majoring in Electrical Engineering with minor in Biomedical Engineering. You may remember Ben from past RDXA field day operations where he helped out with GOTA, setting up antennas and Milmasts, and assisting with reaching things in high places.

Doug Stewart, N2BEG

Ball Mount QSO

A Funny Thing Happened on my way to the Scotch & Sirloin for our weekly Friday afternoon social. I was on the 145.11 repeater, talking to Larry W2LB and others when Larry said he had his HF rig in the car. I asked him what frequency he was on, and he mentioned 14.031. I set my TS-440 in the van to 14.031, and there he was, calling me. I hit the auto antenna tuner and it went nuts, it would not tune the antenna. Oh well, he is close enough and I hear him, so I called him. We had a real quick CW qso and Larry said I was really weak. He was 20 over, so I figured it must be that I had the 40 meter ham stick and it didn't tune. We finished the qso and Larry pulled in and parked right next to me. I got out of the van and I discovered this:



I had just left Joe, K2QZR at Kost Tire in Greece, and I had taken my ham stick off of the van so that Joe could take it inside the bay and change the oil. Looks like I forgot to put it back on when I left.

So Larry and I had a qso, and I can say I used a **"ball mount antenna"** for the QSO.

J J

73, Paul Mackanos, K2DB

Giant Key Award

After a prolonged absence, the Giant Key Award has been revived. Awarded periodically, the Giant Key is given in recognition of service to RDXA.



Lynn Bisha, W2BSN presenting the Giant Key Award to recipient Andrew Lesny, N3LZG

What Is This?

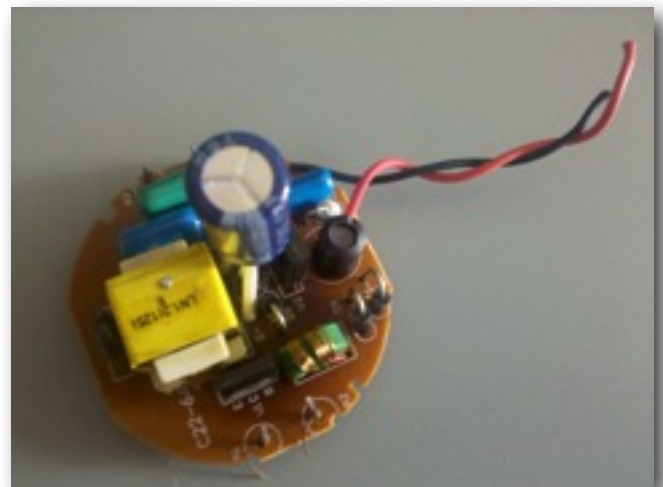


Photo courtesy of Paul, K2DB. Answer will be in next months newsletter.

"Remember, if you need to shave your pits, you need to get fresher olives."

DX 50 Years Ago – 1961

Dx'ers then were drooling over the announcement of Malpelo, a new entity, being activated as HK1QQ. The first QSO was with Bert, W8IZQ, and then bands sounded like a more recent /P5 spotting, except UP2LID was QRT. Also new to the bands was the Republic of Central Africa being activated by Pierre Sevestre, TL8AC (Ex FF8CE, FQ8HT). In this not to unique situation for the time period, Pierre had three callsigns, operated from three different countries, and never moved a foot, such was the African reshuffle going on. You might have been lucky enough to

log JY(1, 2 or 3)NZK. JY1 in Amman, JY2 in Akaba and JY3 in the Eastern Desert Region. This bizarre operation was a joint venture of Columbia Pictures and Collins Radio where shiny new KWM-2's seemed to be in every screen shot. ZS6PC made the log of many happy DX chasers with two stops at /ZS8 in Besutoland, followed by a 500 mile journey to /ZS9 in Bechuanaland. Old Timers will remember Danny Weil, VP2VB/mm and the ill stricken yacht "Yasme." Danny is off again in his third vessel the Yasme II. (evidently the second Yasme that blew up and sunk before leaving port didn't count.) The plan this time is to complete his round

the world tour and DX stops, starting in the Pacific, with the first stop Marquesas. This was the start of the still active Yasme Foundation, a financial supporter of many Dxpeditons. At this time a total country count of 330 made you BMOC (Big man on Campus) with huge bragging rights. Working a KA2 was a pretty long haul, that was Japan. The dream receiver, a Hallicrafters SX-115, was all over ham magazine covers, but the new Collins S-Line was making people sell body parts to get one. RDXA was going strong. See you next time.

73, Ed Gable, K2MP

W2RDX Event Operating Activity 1997–2010

(excluding Field Day)

Date	Activity	Callsign	Location	QSOs Logged	QSLs RCVD & SENT
June-July 1997	RDXA 50-Year Observance	W2RDX/50	QTHs of 14 Members*	1095	162
June 9, 2007	RDXA 60-Year Observance	W2RDX/60	AWA Museum Lawn	200	50
June 17, 2007			At K2NNY By K2DB	173	25
December, 2007			RMSC	148	20
May 5, 2008			W1TY	42	5
May 24-25, 2008			W2FU	1699	316
December, 2008	Holiday Science & Tech. Fair	W2RDX	RMSC	109	6
December, 2009	Holiday Science & Tech. Fair	W2RDX	RMSC	115	13
December, 2010	Holiday Science & Tech. Fair	W2RDX	RMSC	439	67

* K2FR	310	K2CS	25
AF2K	306	W2LB	18
W2PJ	150	WB2RGK	11
WB2JMX	89	W2OMV	10
W1TY	63	W2IC	9
K2FX	49	KA2IYB	6
K2MP	45	K2ZS	4

From ARRL...

Machinist's Workshop magazine tested penetrating oils for break-out torque on rusted nuts. They "scientifically rusted" nuts and bolts, treated them with various commercial penetrates and one home brew mixture, and then measured the torque required to remove them. The results?

- No penetrant - 516 pounds
- WD-40 - 238 pounds
- PB Blaster - 214 pounds
- Liquid Wrench - 127 pounds
- Kano Kroil - 106 pounds

A homebrew mix of automatic transmission fluid and acetone was also reported to have worked but that is disputed in several online discussions. (Thanks, Tim K3LR)



Doug has been having some trouble tuning up his antenna lately. Can't imagine the reason why.

RDXA/RVHFG 2011 Banquet



Irwin Goodman, AF2K, accepting multiple NYQP awards for W2CCC



Ken Boasi, N2ZN, accepting his Megapoint award



Lynn Bisha, W2BSN, winner, 2010 CQWW SSB high score.



Mark, K2MTH, going home with two NYQP plaques for his work.



Paul Mackanos, K2DB, receiving his Megapoint award.



Max Kelley, KC2SPY, accepting the NYQP award for High School High Score winner W2WHS



Rick Mintz, W1TY, winner of a Megapoint award



Red Swindells, AI2N, with his Two Megapoint award

RDXA/RVHFG 2011 Banquet

First Time Awards

High Score, 1st Time CQWW SSB: Lynn Bisha, W2BSN
High Score, 1st Time Sweepstakes CW: Al Gritzmacher, AE2T
High Score, 1st Time Sweepstakes SSB: Al Gritzmacher, AE2T
High Score, 1st Time CQWW CW: Al Gritzmacher, AE2T
High Score, 1st Time ARRL 10 Meter Contest: Al Gritzmacher, AE2T
High Score, 1st Time ARRL DX SSB Contest: Sarah & Ben Townsend, AK2D & AK2X
High Score, 1st Time CQ WPX SSB: Duane Fregoe, K2SI

Megapoint Awards

1 Megapoint: Rick Mintz, W1TY
1 Megapoint: Paul Mackanos, K2DB
1 Megapoint: Ken Boasi, N2ZN
2 Megapoint: Redd Swindells, AI2N
5 Megapoint: Wayne King, N2WK
Cumulative 30 Megapoint: Fred Groner, W2TZ

Special Thanks go out to

Paul K2FX – arranging the hall
Mark K2MTH – photography
Max - KC2SPY – cashbox
Presenters – Ken N2ZN, Paul K2DB & Rick W1TY



*This year's Shorted Grid winner,
Bill Kasperkosky WB2SXY*



Rochester DX Association

W2RDX rdx.com

This Bulletin is the official publication of the Rochester DX Association and is published monthly, September through June. Email your articles, tidbits, ham ads, etc. to Andrew, N3LZG at alesny@rochester.rr.com 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 3rd Tuesday of each month, September through June.

President -----Paul Kolacki – K2FX/usafpilot@rochester.rr.com

Vice President -----Scott Hoag – K2ZS/ scott@k2zs.com

Treasurer -----Irv Goodman – AF2K/af2k@juno.com

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Board of Directors

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Doug Stewart – N2BEG -----doug.stewart@ITCMEMS.com

Lynn Bisha – W2BSN -----lbisha@rochester.rr.com

Chris Shalvoy – K2CS -----chris@k2cs.net

Appointed Positions

DX Chairman-----Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

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

Webmaster -----Scott Hoag, K2ZS

Contest Chairman -----Ken Boasi , N2ZN

Membership Chairman -----Carey Magee, K2RNY

Newsletter Editor -----Andrew Lesny, N3LZG

NG2P Packet Cluster -----144.910 MHz

-----Telnet: ng2p.ham-radio-op.net / Port 7300

Membership Dues can be sent to:

Carey Magee
69 Fairview Crescent
Rochester, NY 14617

Regular membership \$20.00

Family Membership \$5.00

Full Time Student \$10.00

Any other correspondence to: Irv Goodman, AF2K

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