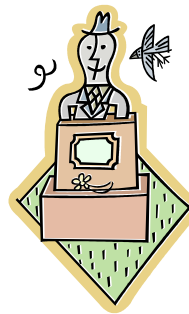


# Rochester DX Association



## The Podium

Paul Kolacki, K2FX



This is the month we give thanks for so many of the blessings in our lives, and we take some time out to enjoy the company of family and friends. That also includes all of our Ham Radio friends both local and around the world. What a great a great hobby we all share in common. The role we play in Public Service also can't be forgotten. I know that citizens around

the country are thankful for that in times of need. As President of RDXA, I too would like to thank all of you who help to make this such a great organization.

This month, we have a real treat in store for all of you at our monthly meeting. W3OAB will put on a demonstration on how to build an Air Cannon Antenna Launcher. You've probably seen some of these in action at Field Day, plus I happen to know that a few of our members also employ them at their own stations. John will take us step by step through the build process, and provide a list of the parts you will need to build one yourself. For those of you who really enjoy the smell of PVC Glue in the early evening, this demonstration is for you! I hope you will join us on November 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:30PM at the EOC Building in Scottsville for what promises to be a fun, educational, and knowing John, AN ENTERTAINING presentation.

Plans are already underway for the Annual RDXA Holiday Banquet which will be held on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at the Rivers Edge Party House in Scottsville. Attitude Adjustment hour will begin at 6PM, with a delicious buffet dinner to follow at 7PM. Reservations ARE A MUST! Please drop me an email to: [k2fx@arrl.net](mailto:k2fx@arrl.net) if you plan to attend. I'll take reservations

## RDXA Holiday Banquet

**Tuesday, December 20th**  
**Rivers Edge Party House,**  
**Scottsville**

Bar Opens @ 6:00pm

Dinner @ 7:00pm

Reservations being taken now until  
Friday, December 16th

## Holiday Science & Technology Fair at the Rochester Museum & Science Center

Once again, RDXA will be participating in this annual event at the Rochester Museum & Science Center, December 27-28-29. Feel free to participate and utilize your expertise with the visiting crowds of all ages.

**Taking volunteers for all time slots now.**

up until Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Last year the feedback I received from our members was fantastic about the location, atmosphere, and the food. Don't miss out this year. Get those reservations in ASAP.

We are also planning to participate in the Rochester Museum Science Fair to take place in late December. This has become a yearly event for us in conjunction with RARA. Please watch your email closely in the coming weeks for specific information as it pertains to our role. In years past, this fair has gotten RDXA some nice press, and has enabled us to share our wonderful hobby with people of all ages. Help will be required to pull

this off as in years past, but I guarantee you that the time you put into it will be very rewarding, and FUN!

I want to wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving, and I look forward to seeing you all on the 15<sup>th</sup> for our November Meeting!



## 2011 New York QSO Party

The contest season is upon us, and that means QSO parties are in full swing. There were several other state QSO parties leading up to NYQP for us all to get warmed up on, and work out any bugs we may have, software, equipment and antennas.

On Saturday morning prior to the start of the QSO party the bands appeared to be in great shape with great signal reports coming and going. The start time came and we were off and running, let the fun begin. This being the third year for NYQP, we may not be as well known as some of the other QSO parties, but in the world of amateur radio word travels quick. I have a very competitive nature so there wasn't a lot of time for idle chit chat when making my q's, but numerous times along with the standard exchange came many words of gratitude, "thanks for bringing NYQP back" "great job guys, keep up the good work" "love the website" for a few. Hearing those kind words along with the exchange really made me feel good being a part of the NYQP committee. I have participated in all three years of the NYQP and before seeing any logs coming in you just knew this was going to be a good your for participation.

It was about 10:30 and I said to myself I wonder when things will open up to the west coast, and I no more than said that and I was inundated with calls from California and Washington. This all coming from someone who is new to contesting, there is nothing like being the desired station everyone wants to talk to. I know this isn't a rare DX expedition, or a big name station in CQWW but it's nice having everyone chasing you. If your new to contesting and haven't experienced anything like this, you don't know what you're missing. For our more seasoned members they are well versed in this and may not get the "rush" that I did, but on both sides fun was had by all.

In the early afternoon the bands took a dump and it wasn't looking good. After a few hours things came back to life and the chase was on. During the contest I had the pleasure of working all different stations, worked a lot of the locals in many different categories: home based, mobile stations, rover stations, and the school(s). It's amazing how fast 12 hours goes by.

Now its time to wait and see how things really went. It appears the amount of log submissions is definitely up from last year. All the talking it up and getting the word out in the usual forms, and the blogs all helped. Now everything is in the hands of the log checking team, Ken (N2ZN) and Carey (K2RNY) they will do their magic and have the results for us to use for the plaques and certificates. There has been some chitter chatter about some of behind the scenes work that is going on. We have asked the log checking team for input on what would make their tasks easier to accomplish. Paul (K2DB) has taken the input from Ken and Carey and he is working with Larry (W2LB) and Larry's son Mark, have been working on developing the desired software to help the log checking team. Ken and Carey do a great job on the log checking process, and spend an enormous amount of time to make sure the results are as accurate as can be. Hopefully next year we will have some tools to help Ken and Carey.

Overall, I think the 2011 NYQP was another great success. Many thanks need to go out to all of the NYQP committee for making this a premier QSO party. On behalf of the committee and myself we hope everyone had an enjoyable time, and hope to get you all in the log next year.



Brent  
KC2QLJ  
2011 NYQP Coordinator

## Radio Days Are Back: Ham Radio Licenses at an All-Time High

By Michelle Macaluso

Published November 22, 2011 |  
FoxNews.com

[iPhone](#), beware?

The newest trend in American communication isn't another smartphone from Apple or Google but one of the elder statesmen of communication: Ham radio licenses are at an all time high, with over 700,000 licenses in the [United States](#), according to the [Federal Communications Commission](#).

Ham radio first took the nation by storm nearly a hundred years ago. Last month the FCC logged 700,314 licenses, with nearly 40,000 new ones in the last five years. Compare that with 2005 when only 662,600 people hammed it up and you'll see why the [American Radio Relay League](#) -- the authority on all things ham -- is calling it a "golden age."

"Over the last five years we've had 20-25,000 new hams a year," Allen Pitts, a spokesman for the group, told FoxNews.com.

The unusual slang term -- a "ham" is more properly known as an amateur radio operator -- described a poor operator when the first wireless operators started out in the early 1900s. At that time, government and coastal ships would have to compete with amateurs for signal time, because stations all battled for the same radio wavelength. Frustrated commercial operators called the amateurs "hams" and complained that they jammed up the signal.

People like John Pritchett have used the slang term ever since.

"It takes an inquisitive mind that wants the challenge to speak with the rest of the world," Pritchett told FoxNews.com. "I meet a lot of people as a result amateur radio. It's a fascinating experience to meet somebody who you've talked to for years -- when you finally meet them and go, wow, that's you."

Pritchett has been a ham for over 35 years. He sits in his ham shack slowly turning the dial on his amateur radio and listening attentively for a voice through the high radio frequency. But he's not looking for aliens: Pritchett is dialing in to make contact with someone around the world.

"W6JWK, This is John in Fresno, California," he says.

Pritchett can communicate with people around the globe or even astronauts in space by talking through his microphone or using Morse code.

With more people joining the hobby, local ham radio businesses are growing as well. [Amateur Electronics Supply](#) in Las Vegas sells everything to do with ham radios, from transceivers, amplifiers and antennas to handhelds.

"We have clientele from all walks of life," manager Luke Rohn told FoxNews.com. "We have church groups who are interested in ham radio for a viable source of communication in times of natural disaster. We have young kids that find ham radio interesting. Maybe they've heard about it through their father and grandfather and it's a lot of fun for them."

According to the American Radio Relay League, retirees and emergency groups are among the main reasons for the nearly 30,000 new hams that pick up the hobby each year.

Ham is a boon for safety as well as a fun pastime: When normal communications methods fail and cellphone towers are jammed, ham radios will still work and can help out in disaster situations, because they don't require towers to relay the signal.

"Amateur radio came into play very much during the major earthquake in the Bay Area in 1989. The only thing I had was a little handheld radio. Nothing else worked, telephones didn't work, cellphones didn't work, amateur radio just kept right on working," Pritchett said.

Looking to ham it up a bit with some friends? Try a fox hunt -- the radio equivalent of ham-to-ham combat. In a fox hunt, local amateur radio clubs search for a transmitter (called the fox) using their homemade antennas.

"The fox hunting is really fun -- the thrill of the chase, the competition of being the first to find the transmitter," said Rob Mavis, president of the [Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers](#) club in Clovis, Calif.

Ham radio is inexpensive fun, as well: All you need is a couple hundred bucks to get started and a FCC license -- which is free, but requires a \$10 to \$12 fee to cover expenses.

So join the latest craze -- no iPhone app required.

### RDXA Donates to Malpelo DXpedition

The New York QSO Party has funded the Rochester DX Association and has sent in a \$50.00 donation via PayPal to the HKØNA Malpelo DXpedition 2012

We have asked that our club logo be placed on the HKØNA Malpelo DXpedition 2012 Club and Organization Sponsors page at: <http://dxarc.org/Corporate2.htm>

We should see our club logo and a hyperlink on the page under [Contributors \\$50 and above](#): it as soon as they process the donation.

Thanks,

Brent KC2QLJ NYQP Coordinator

Paul K2DB NYQP Advisor



## RDXA 10 years ago?

I was wondering if we could start a new column of sorts in the newsletter... I would hate to rely on someone else to do it, but I don't have the history of the club like some of our esteemed colleagues do...(Irv, Ed, etc....) But I ran across this while doing some "paperwork"...

I was going through my ancient PAPER mobile ARRL Mini-log the other day that I finally filled up and replaced with a new PAPER ARRL mini-log, because it's easier for me. (note the price increase from \$1 to \$5.95!) Anyway, I ran across an entry from December 27<sup>th</sup> 2000 indicating I worked W2RDX during the holiday RMSC operation that year. I do not remember that, or even being active in the club back then. Maybe one of the old timers (hi- hi) has some recollection of how long we've been doing that? I think

it's a great tradition that we should certainly embrace and continue. (Sign up today for your time slot mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter!)

So I remember when my father (WB2GAH) provided me that log to use in 1988 after he passed away, along with a converted Regency SSB 23 channel CB that he used in his car. Oh the memories in that book. I worked the world with 12w PEP and a 108" whip during that sunspot cycle. Some calls that I noticed in there were the infamous V31BB, who berated many an unwary ham that dared call him with any kind of novice inflection or signal impingement. His on air tirades were legendary. (He also never QSL'd I'm told and eventually met his demise working on his own amplifier... see "one hand rule") Makes you wonder?? I also saw UT7DX Alex, Ivor GI0AIJ, (also a character bit in a good way who I

worked again recently..) P43E, Emily....so many fond and memorable mobile QSOs.

So 10 years ago I'm thinking the majority of RDXAer's were still paper logging. Go back and look some of yours over and I'm sure you will recall some fond memories and QSOs as I have.

ALTOID CHALLENGE:

All home brewers who have ever used an Altoid's tin... Time to switch to SMT!

—Doug Stewart, N2BEG



## FCC Announces Changes to 60m Band

USA's Federal Communications Commission released a REPORT AND ORDER on November 18, 2011 with new 5MHz rules for the Amateur Radio Service.

**Effective date: 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.**

The FCC adopted the use of the name "60 meter band", to refer to 5MHz amateur radio in the frequency range 5330.5-5406.4 kHz, but USA hams are still only allowed to transmit on 5 specific channels in the band.

The FCC changed the rules to allow: Phone (Upper Sideband), RTTY, Data, and CW; with specific limitations on the use of these modes.

Amateur radio is a "secondary user" in this band, and must not cause harmful interference to other services! Amateur Radio Service must accept interference from other primary services and other nations services.

Operators transmitting data or RTTY must exercise care to limit the length of transmission so as to avoid causing harmful interference to US Government stations.

New 60 meter band 5MHz Channel List:  
General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra Class license only.  
Suppressed Carrier VFO Dial freq

5330.5 kHz USB (center of channel = 5332.0)  
5346.5 kHz USB (center of channel = 5348.0)  
5357.0 kHz USB (center of channel = 5358.5) New!  
5371.5 kHz USB (center of channel = 5373.0)  
5403.5 kHz USB (center of channel = 5405.0)

Note: FCC deleted the channel at 5366.5 USB (center=5368.0) and "replaced" it with channel 5357.0 kHz USB (center=5358.5)

The maximum allowed power level is now 100Watts PEP (ERP) effective radiated power referenced to a dipole. If another type of antenna is used, the station licensee must maintain a record of either the antenna manufacturer's data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain.

Upper SideBand Phone, Data, or RTTY transmissions may use dial (VFO) USB suppressed carrier frequency at 1.5kHz below the center of the channel.

Transmissions must not exceed the 2.8kHz bandwidth channel. RTTY modes such as PSK31 must not exceed 60Hz necessary bandwidth. Data modes must not exceed 2.8kHz bandwidth. CW bandwidth must not exceed 150Hz bandwidth and the CW frequency should be at the center of the channel.

Data stations operating under section § 97.221 automatically controlled digital station, are not allowed on these 5MHz channels.

## ROC City Net

Hi everyone,

Just a reminder and want to extend the invitation to come join the local gang on HF. We all gather on 145.11, come join us on Wednesday evening @ 20:00 EST on 3.825 (+/-). It's an informal net, no round table, no waiting for your # to be called. We all just check in, and if there is someone you would like to make a QSO with just call re-check and net control will let you make your contact. It's a great way to check adjustments you have made, either equipment;

antenna's or maybe evens that new wave file. This net is not limited to the Rochester area, we have had check ins from all over, EMA, PA, OK, NJ, NLI, DE and ME to name a few so if we need a check from someone more than just across town. It's just another great way to fellowship besides on the 2m repeater. Look forward to seeing everyone next week on the net.

73  
Joe  
K2QZR  
Net Control

## A Word on Contest Operations

Since there are a lot of newbies now in RDXA (this is good) since the last sunspot peak with lots of activity, and now with contest season upon us, I'd like to offer a couple of things about contests and this reflector in order to make everyone's experience more enjoyable.....

1. CONTESTS – using any means of solicitation other than your CQ frequency is absolutely forbidden in any contest. This means e-mails, 2 meter repeaters, packet clusters, telephones, CB, FRS, requests to anyone to “SPOT” you etc. This is true even of the Assisted categories where the use of telnet/clusters is allowed. If “assisted” you can spot others, and use spots, but you can't spot yourself, and continuously spotting your friends is largely frowned upon. You will see some of the Multi ops spotting each other, and there are some that think this is OK to keep them in the band maps, but it's pretty bad practice in my book.
2. In a DX contest, please don't go working everyone in the club because you hear them. If you honestly need the mult (in CQWW) then that's OK to work one, but in ARRL DX, there's no reason to work any. You are just wasting others time that might be used for working a station that counts. So, spend a couple of minutes and check the rules of a contest before you start calling folks. Only call those that count for points or mults.
3. If you want to help your club, you should get on there and work as many point counting stations as you can, and if inclined spot the DX, not your friends.... (Please, not on e-mail). If you are assisted, this is easy, if you are not assisted, it can still be done if you are only putting out spots and not reading them. Most of the contest software allows this. Getting on and working 10 stations in a major contest doesn't help the club at all. There are no points for participation, in fact, if everyone did this, the club would probably get put in the unlimited category and we'd be competing with YCCC, PVRC, etc. So, get on and spend some time at it. I'm not saying that if for some reason, you really can get on and make only a few contacts and then QRT, that you shouldn't do that, but don't kid yourself into thinking that this is helping the club score. Get in there and really participate if at all possible. Everyone has their own level of participation and that is understood. Not everyone is going to make 6000 QSO, or even a few hundred in some cases.....

### Club e-mail List

More and more, this is being used to simply chat, pass current band info and station activity. This is creating a lot of e-mails for folks that are not currently interested in hearing about it. There is a completely UNUSED Telnet Cluster that is run by the club expressly for this purpose. I would strongly recommend that folks start using this instead of e-mail. I'm sure I'm not alone in that I've missed “important” club news because I simply don't pay much attention to all of this chatter on e-mails. There are Group announces, chats and such available on the Telnet Cluster and those that are interested, can stay logged on and use it, while not affecting those that chose not to. There are Telnet apps for all of your Smart Phones too, so you don't need to use e-mail just because you are mobile.

If the club really wants to continue to use e-mail for spotting stations, and talking about how hot the band is, then I recommend that we set up two “reflector” lists. One for chat, and one for RDXA club news and announcements.

—Jeff Ach, W2FU

# Spud Gun Time 2011



Pictures courtesy Ed Gable, K2MP, Brad Mitchell, N8YG, Andrew Lesny, N3LZG



## Rochester DX Association

W2RDX rdx.com

This Bulletin is the official publication of the Rochester DX Association and is published monthly, September through Jun. Email your articles, tidbits, ham ads, etc. to Andrew, N3LZG at [alesny@rochester.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:usafpilot@rochester.rr.com)

**Vice President** Mark Hazel – K2MTH [mthazel2151@yahoo.com](mailto:mthazel2151@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer** .....Irv Goodman – AF2K [af2k@juno.com](mailto:af2k@juno.com)

**Secretary** .....Bill Rogers – K2TER [k2ter@rochester.rr.com](mailto:k2ter@rochester.rr.com)

### Board of Directors

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## 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  
Packet Cluster.....144.910MHz  
.....Telnet: ng2p.ham-radio-op.net/port7300

## 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**



A big thanks goes out to Anmari Linardi, N2YGG, for designing the new NYQP logo.

Brent KC2QLJ NYQP Coordinator

Paul K2DB NYQP Advisor

## Professional Home Inspection

Paul Mackanos – K2DB  
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