

ROCHESTER  
DXASSOCIATION,  
INC.

rdxa.com



## 2011 New York QSO Party

Saturday, October 15, 2011

by Rick Mintz W1TY/W2RTY

The Rochester DX Association is again sponsoring the NY QSO Party.

This is the third year of the NYQP after a 25+ year hiatus. The 2011 NYQP kicks off on October 15 at 10:00 AM local time for twelve hours. Here is your chance to be the "chased" in a contest. Whether you are a serious or casual contester, or looking towards adding to your County Awards total, the NYQP has something for you.

All modes including SSB, CW and RTTY/Digital will be activated. There are certificates and over 30 plaques sponsored for participants. Last year we experimented with a "Rookie Operator Award" which was very popular. For the 2011 NYQP, those licensed from January 2009 are eligible. This gives newer operators a chance to compete against those that don't have years of experience, antenna farms and high power.

We are always looking for mobile stations to travel through counties. Each county change gives you the opportunity to work that station again as a new multiplier and on up to three modes. Mobiles can post their travels beforehand on the NYQP web site so others will know where to look for them. Mobiles are the backbone of any QSO Party and really will add to your county totals. A list of the rarest NY counties to help plan your route is also on the NYQP web site. Take a friend and make a day of it!

Being a stateside contest, signals will be strong. Last year all 62 NY counties were active. No matter what mode(s) you choose and from kilowatts to milliwatts, the NYQP is designed for fun. Contest logging software is online along with a tutorial for N1MM Logger.

Full information on Rules, County Maps, Logging Software, much more is available at: [www.NYQP.org](http://www.NYQP.org). Be sure to check out the "Frequently Asked Questions" section. See you the third Saturday in October.

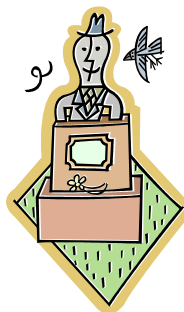
# !!! CQ NYQP !!!

## The Ionosphere: What, why, and how?

What makes up the ionosphere? Why is the ionosphere divided into regions and why do they have different effects on radio waves? Why do we have a MUF? What does the E-layer have in common with my big-screen television? To answer these questions and more, we will take a deep dive into the ionosphere, and examine it from both theoretical and practical viewpoints. We will explore differences in day/night propagation, how grayline propagation works, and how to find and capitalize on the more unusual and less-understood propagation mechanisms found in the HF spectrum. Finally, we will apply this knowledge toward operating practices, with a focus on HF DXing and contesting.

## The Podium

Paul Kolacki, K2FX



I can hardly believe that the summer is just about over! With the long Labor Day holiday behind us, and the days getting shorter, it is a constant reminder that it's time to get down to business for another year with RDXA, and what a year it will be! First, you have elected a very solid Board of Directors, who in turn appointed some new people to help guide this great organization along. One of those people is our new Vice President Mark, K2MTH.

Even though Mark is a relative newcomer to the club, I know that he is a very capable individual who will organize some good programs for us all to enjoy this year. Not only that, he is a fellow US Air Force Veteran, and the Air Force always gets the job done! Nice to have you aboard Mark!

Our Newsletter Editor is another individual I must acknowledge. Andrew, N3LZG, has agreed to take on a job that few have wanted to tackle. So, let's all thank Andrew for stepping up to the plate. I encourage you to make his job as easy as possible by contributing to the Newsletter. In a recent survey, many of you responded that the Newsletter is an important part of RDXA. However, relatively few have actually written material to be published. So this year I urge all of you to submit at least one article on a subject of your choosing. The duty of the Editor is NOT to write, but to assemble the material that others contribute. Our members are a smart group with much diversity in their backgrounds. Let's put that to good use this year and get writing.

If you are a ham who does things strictly by the book, you know that hams should work on antenna projects ONLY when the weather turns cold and snowy, however I caught wind that a few of you have broken that pattern, and actually applied yourselves to some summertime antenna projects! What are you guys thinking? Working on antennas when the weather is actually nice and warm! Well, I at least give you credit for making an effort, and hope that the searing summer heat, hurricane winds, or rain and lightning have not brought down those wires you so diligently erected. Good for you guys for being different! In all seriousness, I am happy to see that several of you are experimenting!

We'll be kicking off this season with our first RDXA meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at the EOC Center on Scottsville Road at 7:30PM. The program for the evening will consist of a presentation on Propagation by K0SM. Do you know what index numbers, solar flux, the status of the solar cycle, and geomagnetic conditions all mean? Well Andy does. He's a well known contester who relies a great deal on knowing just what effects propagation will play on his operating activities, and he'll be there to share that knowledge with you. So please make plans to join us. I know that you will walk away with some valuable information that will open up a whole new dimension to your on-air operating.

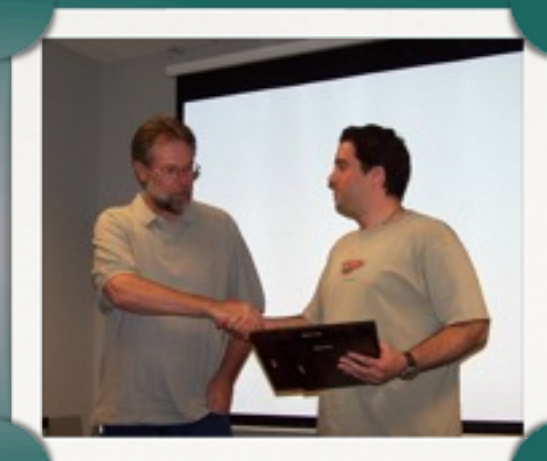
After the meeting, we'll gather at a location to be announced that evening to consume some munchies and cool liquid refreshment. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you now that summer is coming to an end, and hope that this year will be a rewarding one for RDXA.



## KE2WK Award for 2011

The KE2WK award winner is Ken Boasi, The KE2WK Memorial Award is in recognition of the highest achievement available from RDXA. KE2WK (sk) was a past President of RDXA and the initial award was instituted in his memory by Wayne King N2WK.

The KE2WK Award is presented on an as-deserved basis. Only those that have demonstrated the very highest level of dedication and service to RDXA and the Amateur Radio community are considered.



## Voice Keyer for ICOM Radios

Here is a simple and useful project for the many ICOM users in RDXA. And it's cheap too!

Before the 2010 NYQP I was concerned that running QRP SSB would involve hundreds of unanswered CQ's. What to do? Automate! Knowing the N1MM Logger supports commercial keyers there had to be simple homebrew answer. After all a voice keyer is basically the same as that used for the audio digital modes such as PSK and Olivia.

Here is a simple circuit costing a whole lot less than a RigBlaster and works 100% FB. With the

creation of a WAV file and adjusting the audio levels correctly (Audacity is a good software choice), no one will even detect that you are not sending direct from your mic. I send a long CQ in the NYQP (CQ New York QSO Party, W2RTY Wayne

County New York. Anyone, anywhere) Whew.... Not saying that a few thousand times is an energy saver!

The circuit should work equally well in any brand of radio. Just adjust the pin connections to access your mic audio and PTT. A hint: record your WAV in stereo so you are sure to have a active channel going to your radio. There are other ways to record audio, even directly into N1MM, but this worked well for me. Particularly useful was the ability to tailor my audio WAV using Audacity to match my Heil mic, I boost the audio until just before it starts to clip.

— Rick Mintz, W1TY/W2RTY

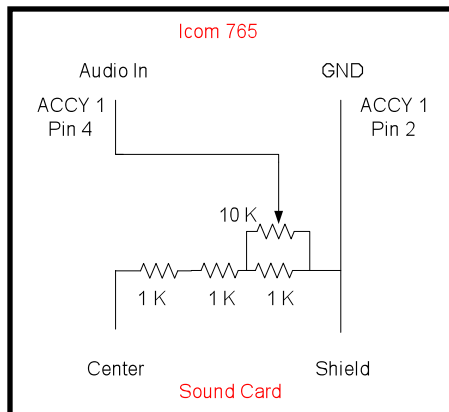


Figure 1: Voice Keyer diagram

## HK0NA – Malpelo Island How to Work Us

- Our Goal is to provide every station in the World the opportunity to make at least one QSO, and to enable top DXers to put our call sign in their log on as many bands and modes as possible.
- First, make sure you can copy us well enough for a good QSO. If signals are poor, would it be better to wait a while for better propagation? It can be very embarrassing to you for us to call you when you can't hear us.
- Unless otherwise noted, we will utilize split operation only. This means you cannot succeed by calling on our frequency. We aren't listening there. Be very careful to set up your transceiver so that you do not call on our transmit frequency. You must find where we are listening and then pick your next transmitting frequency accordingly.
- Our operators will try hard to work everyone in the world. Some areas will require more effort than others. Listen carefully to determine if we are trying to work a particular geographical area. Call if you are in that area. We will not respond to callers who are not in that area. If you are not in the desired area, spend the waiting time studying the pileup procedure of the operators.
- Call only if we are calling your exact call sign, if we are calling a very similar call sign or if we are asking for anyone to call. One matching letter in your call sign is NOT enough! Listen to the pileup again, and wait for the next opportunity to call. We will not respond to calls from stations other than those we are addressing. Keep in mind that many DXpedition operators may be hearing you

even if they don't respond. You could earn a bad reputation in this way.

- If you do not hear who has been called, listen for a short time as the operator will probably call again. You don't want to miss his second call. When in doubt, DO NOT call, but rather try to determine the correct procedure. You will be far more successful by listening more and transmitting less.
- Be sure you have made a good QSO. If you aren't sure, make another QSO. It is best not to send a report until the operator sends your call sign correctly. If the operator does not send your call sign correctly, make another QSO. He may have actually worked someone else.
- Reiterating, we will not work stations who are:
  - o Calling out of turn – when we are trying to work someone else
  - o Calling out of the called area – study the pileup and wait for your turn
  - o Calling with an obviously wrong partial call sign – use the time to study the pileup.
- These simple guidelines are intended to help you to get into our log quickly. They are consistent with our intended operating procedure. If you call the way we expect you to call, it makes sense that you will be in the log more easily and more often.
- We understand that no one is perfect, and that everyone will make mistakes. Keep your own house in order; make sure to minimize your own mistakes. Don't get frustrated. Our operators are some of the best in the World. Summon your greatest self-control, and let us deal with the others. Soon, you will be in the log.



## ARRL 160 Contest 2010

A few weeks ago, after the results of the 2010 ARRL 160 contest came out, I was talking to W2TF and he was wondering how I had gotten the score I ended up with...if I would let out some of the mystical Secrets of Contesting that N6TJ has often talked about. Well, in response to a diminishing number of requests, here's what happened.

As so often happens, this contest started a few months before the actual start date; it actually started 6 or 7 months before. Reading through the 2009 results, I had scored well in the first real contest effort from my new location. At that point, a somewhat part time effort with a partial station yielded over 600 Q's and a final score of 120k. At that point, I only had about 20 radials under the vertical and three Beverages (with no way to switch them). My score was OK, and I ended up at #4 in the Atlantic Division, and #2 in WNY for Single Op Low Power.

I have always enjoyed the section-level and division level competition in the ARRL contests. As it turned out, even though I was #2 in WNY, I was only 4000 points behind the WNY section winner, who I will call The Man on the Hill. Figuring that I could complete the station and put in more operating hours this year, I thought I could probably pull a fast one on the Man on the Hill and be #1 WNY this year.

All of those things would eventually happen, but I did spend time over the summer completing the Beverage switching for two radios, making or fixing Beverage transformers, and planting more radials under the vertical, for a grand total of 35 100' radials. Initial tests working and hearing DX were encouraging, and by the middle of October, all six Beverages were in the air. The switching arrangement allowed any Beverage to be switched to either radio at any time, to allow listening in different directions. I didn't have the ability to transmit on either radio, just the main radio, but that wasn't really a problem. The switching/antenna sharing I have now doesn't permit sharing a transmit antenna between two radios on the same band.

The plan was to CQ as much as possible on radio 1. The second radio was for tuning the band, loading up the bandmap, and listening in the DX window for mults. If I needed to work anything I found on radio 2, I would move radio 1 there quickly and work it, then get back to my CQ frequency. If things slowed down on my CQ frequency, I would go work all the stations on the bandmap quickly (using Ctrl+Up arrow or Ctrl+Down arrow on N1MM was great for this), and then establish a new CQ frequency.

So, the big day came, and I got home from work and made it on the air by 22:39z, 39 minutes into the contest. I S&P for about 15 minutes, at which point dinner arrives, and I am back on at 23:33z, with more S&P, picking up mostly new mults, but working the occasional very loud station also. Find NL, QC, KP2, OM, MAR, and C6 during this period, and finally settle in to run on 1856.5 at 23:46z. NNY and NLI call in for back to back mults, and I find KD0S in SD on radio 2 and work him at 00:05z. Keep running on 1856.5 until 00:28z, when take 8 minutes to clear the bandmap off of stations I had found with radio 2. LA, IA, SNJ, and E7 are new mults, and then back to 1856.5 which was luckily still open.

More running until 01:02z, then another run down the bandmap which takes about 15 minutes this time; find OE, VP5, P4, OK, and AR for new mults, then back to 1856.5 at which is again miraculously open; I wonder why nobody is taking the frequency after 15 minutes of me being away. Then again, why look a gift horse in the mouth? More running until 01:48z, and then off to clear the bandmap again. By using Ctrl+Up arrow and Ctrl+Down arrow, I am still able to work 2-3 per minute in S&P mode with a full bandmap; keep the rate up any way you can, I guess. Work UR, CT, EWA, SC for new mults, then find a new home on 1810 at 02:29z and start CQing again. Back to fast S&P at 03:02z and get WWA, G, ZF, KS, NE and XE for new ones, and find my way back to 1856 at 03:24z, and stay in the 1854-1858 range, moving a bit occasionally until 04:40z. A bit more bandmap clearing, and I find a spot at 1802 to run on at 04:55z; CQing lower in the band can cut down on interstation interference in the high end so I can use the 2<sup>nd</sup> radio for a while up there. It pays off as I find WY up high, and then EI in the DX window, and then back to CQing. A bit more S&P afterwards and then I am CQing up high again at 1850 at 05:49. FM5CD calls for a new one, and then W4CHA calls with the WCF mult. I find WC6H in SJV on the 2<sup>nd</sup> radio and work him for another new mult, and then resume CQing at 06:27z, now on 1844. VE4EAR calls in for a rare mult, followed by GW3NAS and KH6LC. More bandmap clearing at 07:10z, then back to 1848 at 07:32z. I alternated CQing and S&P/bandmap QSO's until 08:13z, when I stopped for the night. After the first night, I had 538 QSO's and 92 mults.

After getting up on Saturday morning, I was tooling around on the ARRL's website, and just for fun, decided to look at the 160 meter contest records. Looking at the SOLP records for WNY and the Atlantic Division, I saw that the WNY record was held by W2LC with 150k, and the Atlantic Division record was W3GH with 203k. I started to

wonder if I could pass at least the section record, and even make a run for the division record, which was about 15 years old. So, I decided to make this my goal for the second night-to break the section record and get as close to the division record as I could.

I was back on before sunset at 21:12z, and spent the first hour with a mix of S&P and running. and then spent the better part of the next 2.5 hours running, pausing only to work F and HI for new mults. A pause to work a HA mult ended up taking much longer than expected, but thankfully he hung in there and worked me after about 10 minutes of trying; the other stations on frequency were starting to get annoyed! I also worked DL right after for a new one, and then resumed CQing at 01:11z on 1864. A pause to work 2 UR's was taken at 02:59z, and even though they weren't mults, the 5 pointers do help the score!

The second night is often the slower night, and the hours sometimes seem to crawl with low rates. Indeed, looking at the rate sheet afterwards shows the second night with less QSO's in nearly every hour. The only thing to do is sit in the chair, hold the frequency, and work whatever comes by. Grinding out the slow hours in the chair will definitely add to the bottom line, but it can seem like contesting in slow motion sometimes.

Anyway, I bounced around a bit, mixing CQing and S&P in an effort to keep the rate up. The second radio is not finding a whole lot of new stuff-the band is packed, but I have worked most of the other CQ machines already. At 03:35z, I am CQing at the bottom of the band at 1800.7 and LY1G calls for a new mult, but otherwise, CQing so low in the band doesn't seem productive, so I move up to 1849 and things pick up. They are calling at one every 2 minutes or so at this point. DF2PY calls in with his normal big signal. By 04:44z, I am S&P again, and work ON4UN. John is not as strong as he usually is, so conditions must be abnormal. I jump on 1866 at 05:06 and resume CQing. Some west coast, mixed in with PA3FKN and UV5U call in, along with the usual "stuff".

At 06:00, I am scanning with the second radio in the DX window, hoping to hear some new mults as EU sunrise starts. I hear W2CCC calling someone and completing a QSO, so I listen in to what Chris is working. It turns out to be IK4ZGO, which I then work for a new mult. The next half hour or so is spent tuning and working stations that are popping up; more west coast stations with weak signals. The Beverages sure do help here! Back to CQing at 06:39z on 1804, the only somewhat open frequency I find. More West Coast calling, and W7CB calls in at 07:04 for one of the last sections I need, SB. W6JTI calls six minutes later

for SF. Meanwhile, I find N6AN again (heard him before but couldn't work him) and get through for the LAX mult. Finally-cleaning up those California sections!

Back to my CQ frequency (things are getting slow enough that I can move around the band pretty freely and not lose my spot) and GM5X calls at 07:24z for a new one. The next hour and a half is a mix of run and S&P, just trying to get stuff into the log. GW3JXN is found and worked for 5 points at 08:09 on an S&P sweep. Sunrise is racing across EU at this point, so good to work some before they disappear forever. At 08:14z, I go back to CQing on 1825, a great frequency right in the sweet spot of the band. Just goes to show how slow things are getting, that a frequency in the 1820-1830 range was available (usually it is packed with stations every 200 Hz or less). I am getting answers every 2-3 minutes now.

Then, at 08:34z, I hear a signal call me, but it is weak. For some reason, I forget to switch the Beverage control around at first, leaving it pointed west. Eventually, I figure it is an EU station, and flip to the NE beverage, but no joy. I start rotating and find it is KL7RA! Should have tried the NW antenna first, obviously. Once I do that, Rich is in the log easily. Four minutes later, I hear a station call, with 0FU in the suffix. I am still pointed NW, so I start rotating the antennas, but it is only audible to the NW. I keep sending "?" "0FU AGN?" and so on, until I get his call as RA0FU. No way that a zone 19 station on Sakhalin Island is calling, but I confirm the call as RA0FU, he confirms, and sends 599, and that's it! Definitely a highlight of the weekend to have a Zone 19 call, as it can be difficult to work that part of the world on 160. It was right at his sunrise, so it became more believable the more I thought about it. After the contest, I did exchange QSL's with him to confirm. Very cool. That QSO was at 08:39z, and one of the best in the contest. Staying put and CQing through the slow hours can definitely pay off.

From 08:39z until 10:13z, I CQed on 1825, only occasionally venturing off to work something I found on the second radio. At that point, something inside me wanted to get some sleep, and I decided to finish, and miss out on sunrise (something I did the first day, also). First things first, though-take a quick sweep of the band, and work whatever is there. ZL8X becomes my last mult of the contest and is followed by KH6ZM, the last DX of the contest. At 10:37z I work WA8ZBT for my last QSO and pull the plug. The second night's totals were 398 QSO's and 16 mults for a grand total of 938/108 for 216,432 points, well above the section record and at least 5% above the division record!

Things I could have done better? Well, staying in the chair more is obvious; I operated only 20 hours missed one sunset, and slept through both sunrises! It's hard to tell if any other mults would have been worked during those times, but my 108 multipliers was the second highest mult count among the SOLP stations; only the #1 station had 5 or 6 more. If possible, I would like to upgrade the station a little more next year to be able to do true SO2R on one band-this would be done by using a multi-multi style switching relay box, or having a second transmit antenna. We'll see.

Of course, it is always fun working your fellow club members, and those were W2FU, W2LB, W2CCC, AI2N, W2TF, W2TZ, and K2DB. Other WNY friends such as K2ZR, WB2ABD, N2CU, and a number of others are always nice to see in the log.

Well, it was a lot of fun, and I'm hoping to do it again this year. It is really satisfying to operate a contest and have a good feeling at the end of it; when you make most of the right moves and have a good score, you get that feeling. Tom, I hope I've let some of the secrets out; maybe you can let me know at the S&S someday.

## Brief rundown of score and station

Claimed QSO's	936	
Claimed Mults	108	
Claimed Score	216,432	
Final QSO's	932	
Final Mults	108	
Final Score	214,920	
Hours	20	
Sections	78	missed YT & PR
Countries	30	Best DX: RA0FU, ZL8X
Score Reduction	0.70%	
Lost QSO's	4	
Power	150w	
Radio	2x FT-1000 MP Mark V	
TX Antenna	Sloping wire vertical, 35 radials	
RX Antenna	6 Beverages, 560' each, NE, E, SE, S, W, NW	
SO2R	Array Solutions	

## Safety Never Ends

I just wanted to share a little experience that I had yesterday.

My wife and I arrived home after work, and both noticed a weird smell in the house, and nothing apparent disregarded it. After being home for an hour or so my wife



had gone upstairs and the smell was increasingly stronger. Upon entering our office this is what she found:

Not sure when the fire took place, it had burned itself out. There was no major damage, soot and smell mostly and anything plugged in I'm considering a wash. I know I can't be the only one to use outlet strips either in the shack, or just around the house. I never expected this to happen, well we never do. In the picture you can see 3 outlets on the strip, this was a 5 outlet strip. After the fire, the red PROTECTION light was still on indicating things were working normal. I consider my family very lucky, now to spend sometime and reconsider how I use power strips in and around the house.

—Brent Hungate, KC2QLJ



## Five Wheelin' To Rochester



For the second weekend in a row, I took off on the bike for a overnight trip. This time I rode to the Rochester Hamfest in Greece NY, a trip I usually make by car. I go every year and it's a chance to socialize with fellow Ham Radio operators I often don't see much any other time. I talked to more Hams I know from Lockport than I see around town.

I belong to one Rochester area Ham club, the Rochester DX Association, and I enjoy meeting and hanging out with them. They always set up a big area at the hamfest for that purpose. You can sell things there, if you don't have enough to justify setting up your own table. Or just talk.

I rode out on Friday, planning on arriving in the evening and camping overnight. I knew I would need to stay over Saturday night as well, so I asked ahead to see if I could stay the second night and got permission.

The trip out was long, but uneventful. I rode the Canalway Trail from Lockport to Medina, then jogged north to Route 31 aka, NY Bicycle Route 5, and took that to Albion. Riding the road was much faster and it was hot and sunny. I was glad to find places to stop and buy something to drink. I pulled into the Super Wal-Mart just outside Albion and bought a lemonade, Vitamin Water and a candy bar, mostly for a break and a chance to get out of the sun. When I left, I stopped again in the Village of Albion at McDonalds and had one of those Lemon-

Strawberry Slushies. I got brain-freeze, but felt much cooled off.

At some point, I got back on the canal trail and continued towards Rochester. I rode the path good and bad until I came to a place called Henpeck Park. I used a restroom, just a Port-a-john really, and stopped to pull some pine twigs out of my derailleur that were making a ticking noise as I rode. It turned out to be just one bridge short of where I was going to leave the canal, so I hopped on the road next to the park, which paralleled the canal and rode it. A few mile of local roads with reasonably heavy traffic and I came to the fairgrounds the hamfest is held at.



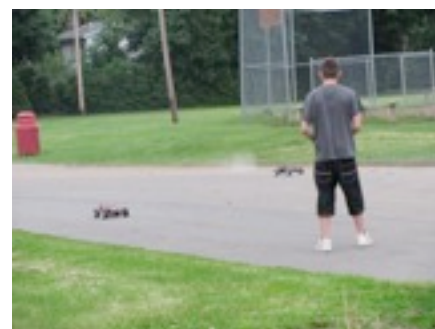
I got in, bought my ticket, found out where the RDXA group was going to set up and camped between a couple stands of trees that were right behind it. It worked out great.



Of course, being there already meant being there early in the morning to help set up the tents! It was a good thing too, as it began to rain. The tents made a popular spot to wait out the rain. Unfortunately, the rain kept up pretty steadily into the afternoon. Of course someone made the decision to take the tents down and pack up. The rain had slowed, but still was coming down.

Quite a few RDXAers were still there and not quite ready to call it quits, so we moved to an overhang with picnic tables at the building nearby. Of course, then the rain stopped and we had quite a good time swapping stories and drinking beer. When the beer ran out, we decided it was time to go out to dinner.

I grabbed a lift to the restaurant with one of the guys and we had a good meal. It felt good to sit and eat indoors. But soon, it was over and I was back at my campsite.



I had nothing to do, so after watching some kids drive their RC cars in the park for a while, I hopped into the tent to lie down. This is where the trailer as a source of power paid off. I plugged the AC adapter for my netbook into the AC inverter and fired up the netbook. There was wi-fi at the hamfest and it was still on, so I laid in the tent and watched Leo Laporte's video of his Tech-Guy morning radio show. I was hoping to catch TWIT after that, but never made it that far. I fell asleep and when I woke up later, the laptop was off. The inverter must have shut down, which it does when the voltage drops a certain amount, and the laptop ran on battery until it had to shut down. I figured I might as well go back to sleep then while I was in that mode.

I awoke early, probably about 5am and decided I would get going early, tear down and have some breakfast before heading out. I got dressed, packed stuff up and then started emptying the tent. It was very convenient to drag everything over to the picnic tables under the overhang

where we sat the day before. I spread things out on the tables to let them air out and dry a bit before rolling them up. The sun didn't seem to want to help but at least it didn't rain.

I cooked breakfast, which consisted of boiling water. I had some instant oatmeal and instant cocoa, so that wasn't a big culinary experience. I don't know whether the oatmeal was stale, or the fact that I mixed two flavors together, or maybe it's just how instant oatmeal is, but I didn't enjoy it much. It was like eating sawdust rolled in wallpaper paste. No matter how much water I added, it didn't seem to soak in, it just rolled off and made a puddle around the oatmeal. The cocoa was good, though, once it cooled enough to drink. I need to find some better breakfast recipes for camping, because other meals can usually be bought on the road. Things that don't need refrigeration...

I rode out, once I was done with breakfast, and got to Ridge Road – Route 104 – then north to where I got on the canal path. At 7am on a Sunday Ridge was not very busy. Three lanes each direction with not enough cars to fill one, yet some idiot in a white Caddy had to blow by me inches away from me and lay on his horn as if to say get out of my lane. I have no idea what his problem was. In the two miles from the canal to the Hamfest, I encountered several instances of aggression from motorists this weekend. Thankfully, I



don't seem to have that problem around home.

*I kept seeing these on the canal path. At first, I only saw the outer shell and thought they were an acorn or something like that. I finally stopped and looked closely.*

Once on the bike path along the canal, I enjoyed myself. I came across several places I had missed in the way in. But I just couldn't seem to get any speed up. I was going 5-7 miles per hour. On the way out, I averaged over 10 mph. At this rate, I would never make it home. I got off and on the Canalway several times trying to find why I was so slow. Riding on the road is faster, but often more harrowing due to traffic. Route 31 parallels the canal and is designated NY Bike Route 5, so it has pretty nice shoulders and the signs seem to warn motorists to expect bikes, but it's also hot and unshaded. The sun was taking its toll on me. I'd gotten a sunburn every ride the past two weekends and despite applying sunscreen every time I got off the bike, I was still feeling the sun.

So, I plodded on and made better time on the roads, but still switched back to the canal from time to time. I got off in Brockport and back on just outside town. Every time added a half mile or more north or south.

Finally, from Albion on, I stuck to the road exclusively. It was a long, hot, tiring ride and I didn't enjoy it much. I stopped in Albion for a long time at the Mickey D's again. Stopped again in Middleport for liquids. I finally made it to Lockport and after climbing the hill into town, pulled into the plaza at Quality and sat in the shade of the bank building there and drank the Gatorade I had bought in Middleport. I made it home by 7:30pm, over 12 hours on the bike.

I don't know why coming back was so much harder. Maybe there was a headwind. Maybe I was just tired. It felt like something was wrong with my bike, but there wasn't. All I know was, it was a good thing I left early in the morning, not 11:30am, like I did on the way out.

I did find one problem when I checked the bike over Monday, but not one that would account for the slow speed. I noticed one wheel had a slight wobble in it. I checked it out and found a broken spoke. So, I need to fix that. I didn't know where I might find one locally, so I got on the phone and ordered a few from the manufacturer. Now all I can do is wait.

— Al Gritzmacher, AE2T

## Thrill Before The Chill

Starting at 8am at the Damascus Shrine Center (979 Bay Road in Webster) you'll find a miniature version of the Rochester Hamfest! There will be acres of flea-market space and inexpensive good food - all for a \$5.00 donation to the Shriners - what a great way to wrap up the 2011 Hamfest season and help the kids.

## ROC City Net

**Every Wednesday at 8:00 PM  
(0100 UTC) @ 3825KHz  
Join Us!**



## From the AWA Convention

Paul Mackanos should be proud of his presentation to the AWA. Not too many folks get to do this and I was very curious how the more critical AWA 'seat warmers' would view a presentation such as the DX Skimmer.

The following email was received from one of our more critical members, and I quote:

*"Wednesday the 17th was a day of seminars from 10 AM to 5 PM with only an hour break for lunch. Each historical seminar had 50-60 people in attendance. There was one non-historical seminar by an avid (rabid ?) local amateur radio fan regarding the DX 'Skimmer' software for identifying signals on the ham bands; an obviously powerful*

*tool for contesters.... While not my cup of tea, it was interesting to see how amateur radio is morphing with new technologies of software defined radios, computers and the Internet. I could see that he and others like him were having a ball with technical advances..."* That can't be a bad thing....

So there you are. Congratulations, and, thank you Paul !

Best 73,

Roy Wildermuth, W2IT

AWA Annual Conventions

## DXpedition to Suriname, PZ

We are pleased to announce a DXpedition to Suriname (PZ) with a 3 man team all of which are RDXA members.

The operators are:

Redd, AI2N

Ken, N2ZN

Dave, WJ2O

The dates of the operation are Thursday, February 16, 2012 to Tuesday, February 21, 2012. It will include a multi-single effort in the ARRL DX CW Contest.

Power: unknown

Callsign: unknown

One thing that is known is we want to work you all but you have to use CW (loaner keys available on request).

73, Team PZ,

Redd, Ken, Dave

## DX CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

# 2011 Field Day



## 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](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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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

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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

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**

## For Sale from Rick, W2RW

- Rohn 45G foldover section. Four 1/4" EHS guy cables attached at hinge assembly. \$300
- Wilson SY-1 System One 5-ele 20/15/10m yagi w/ Telrex balun. Refurbished with stainless hardware then up 7 yrs. Also nearly another complete set of parts, boom, elements, traps, etc., for spares or will sell this separately for antenna projects. \$300
- Mosley TA-33 3-ele 20/15/10m yagi w/ Hy-Gain balun. \$200
- Boom section from 15 element 2m yagi, some broken elements, use for a project. \$25
- Icom IC-2100 2m mobile. \$100
- Kenwood TR2500 2m handheld with 120V AC power base and 12V DC mobile base. \$40
- Two Digital 19" RM model 874-D power distribution units 120V 24A input, eight NEMA 5-15 (standard duplex receptacle) outputs. \$25/ea
- Motorola rpb50 commercial UHF multi-tone pager base. \$20
- 500 ft box 14AWG TW stranded for HF dipoles. 50% market price
- TASCAM model PE-150 electret condenser studio mic. \$35
- Weller No. TC202 small soldering station. \$25

## Professional Home Inspection



Paul Mackanos – K2DB  
20 Sumac Way  
Fairport, NY 14450



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