

# Rochester DX Association



## What Two Radios Can Do For You

After a hiatus in 2011, I got to operate in the RTTY Roundup this year. With solar conditions being much, much better than they were in 2010, I was looking forward to the contest. I didn't plan to be on full time, but did want to devote more than an hour or two to the contest. Like many contests I operate from home, I would use two radios.

When I moved to my current home in 2009, the plan was to rebuild the station as a SO2R station from the ground up. It is not often that we get to rebuild our stations from scratch, so this was the perfect opportunity to do it right. After several years of consistently guest operating at well equipped stations like W2FU, K2DB, and N2WK, I had an idea of what I would need inside the shack. What I have as far as antennas (compared to those guys) is a different story!

Within a few months, I had a fully functioning SO2R setup that would work on any mode, and could put out a signal on all of the bands. Not a great signal, but sometimes, all you need is a signal. RTTY, as it turns out, even though it needed the highest amount of computerized intervention, was a great mode to operate SO2R. You don't have to worry about decoding anything yourself; the computer takes care of that, and all you have to do is control the computer.

My antennas are just verticals and dipoles right now, but I do have some Beverages for the low bands, which are a big help. So, operating low power SO2R can be a bit challenging without beams, but you can still work people. The strategy for the RTTY contest was just to keep radio 1 CQing all the time, and go as fast as I could using radio 2 for S&P.

For the most part, I was able to stick to the strategy, and had a good time. The most surprising moment was on Saturday afternoon, E21YDP answered one of my CQ's. I would never have expected Thailand to hear me, but I guess those enhanced solar conditions helped. Other than that, it was a good contest, and I had fun. Everything worked, nothing broke, and I ended up with a decent score for only 12 hours on the air.

The real fun started when the contest was over. The score breakdown was:

Band	QSOs
80:	100
40:	127
20:	244
15:	94
10:	91

Total: 656 State/Prov = 55 Countries = 48 Total Score = 67,568

Not a bad score, all things considered. Then, I ran some statistics from N1MM about the contest. One of the stats available is QSO's by Radio by Hour, and that looked like this:

Date	Hour	Total	R1	R2	Running Total
2012-01-07	18	48	24	24	48
2012-01-07	19	27	17	10	75
2012-01-07	20	19	8	11	94
2012-01-07	21	72	41	31	166
2012-01-07	22	14	4	10	180
2012-01-07	23	27	17	10	207
2012-01-08	1	35	27	8	242
2012-01-08	2	12	7	5	254
2012-01-08	3	59	25	34	313
2012-01-08	4	56	33	23	369
2012-01-08	13	33	11	22	402
2012-01-08	14	29	11	18	431
2012-01-08	15	72	48	24	503
2012-01-08	16	3	2	1	506
2012-01-08	18	26	14	12	532
2012-01-08	19	42	15	27	574
2012-01-08	20	35	8	27	609
2012-01-08	21	26	7	19	635
2012-01-08	22	21	14	7	656
Total	All Hours	656	333	323	0

According to the table above, I was keeping up the rate solely by using the second radio. In some hours, like the 18z hour on Saturday and three hours on Sunday, I made more QSO's on the second radio than on the first radio.

Since my Radio 1 totals are entirely from CQing, and the Radio 2 totals are entirely from S&P, you can see that each radio operated its own contest, really. If I had operated with one radio and done only running, then my final score would probably have been what Radio 1 did. If I had operated with one radio and did only S&P, then my score would have been what Radio 2 did.

Now, when you combine the two totals, it showed how using two radios can be used to overcome what I lack in antennas right now. I even had some good hours where both radios were doing well; the 21z Saturday and 15z Sunday hours both had 72 QSO's in that hour, and my best rate hour was 82 QSO's at some point during the first day. I have heard that 50 or 60 QSO's per hour is a good rate on RTTY, so I did have some good hours here and there. Of course, had I operated more, then I would have done even better. Sometimes, one can only take so much RTTY, though!

For SO2R RTTY, I use N1MM Logger. The computer has two soundcards, one for each radio. The radios are FT-1000MP Mark 5's, using real FSK on each. I do have a SO2R headphone switching box that routes audio whenever you PTT one radio, but I didn't use that for RTTY; just hearing one rig in each ear all the time is fine. After all, the computer is doing the heavy lifting (decoding).

I hope the idea of more QSO's per hour is enticing to some of you!

— Ken Boasi, N2ZN



## Contest Calendar

Here are the upcoming contests of interest for February and March. RDXA Club Contests are highlighted in red; these contests count towards the Megapoint and First Time Awards.

**CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB, 2200Z, Feb 24 to 2159Z, Feb 26**

North American QSO Party, RTTY, 1800Z, Feb 25 to 0600Z, Feb 26

**ARRL International DX Contest, SSB, 0000Z, Mar 3 to 2400Z, Mar 4**

North American Sprint, RTTY, 0000Z-0400Z, Mar 11

BARTG HF RTTY Contest, 0200Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 19

Russian DX Contest, 1200Z, Mar 17 to 1200Z, Mar 18

The April RDXA/RVHFG awards banquet is fast approaching, and with that, the annual distribution of the RDXA Megapoint and First Time Awards. The awards that will be given out this year are for the 2010-2011 contest season. I'd like to have everyone review their scores on the score grid on RDXA.com, and make any additions or corrections necessary. The score grid is the official "score keeper" for RDXA, and therefore, is what determines the winners for the awards. If your scores are not up to date, you can potentially lose points towards awards that you did earn. Make all of your points work for you. Please be sure to have all of your 2010-2011 scores posted no later than March 1, 2012.

There are several excellent DX contests taking place from mid-February to mid-March. The biggest, of course, are the ARRL DX contests, where the rest of the world works the USA. Conditions on 10 and 15 meters have been very good; these two contests should be an excellent opportunity to pick up lots of DX countries, in addition to providing an opportunity to score well in a major DX contest. For anyone interested in qualifying for WRTC, these are two of the qualifiers, so be sure to be on the air.

The Russian DX contest is also a very good DX contest. It is a 24 hour contest, and is mixed mode, so CW and SSB are allowed for a mixed entry, or you can operate single mode as well. This contest is growing in popularity every year and is another great opportunity to work lots of DX quickly. This contest is a WRTC qualifier as well.

With the increased solar conditions, plus WRTC qualifying taking place, I can't help but think that activity will probably be very high during these DX contests, so be sure to enjoy them. It is a perfect excuse to spend the weekend on the air (or at least part of a weekend)!

There are also several major RTTY contests this month. The NAQP RTTY is the weekend after ARRL DX CW, and is a great contest. In the past, RDXA has sponsored teams during all of the NAQP contests, but the most popular in terms of team participation has always been the RTTY event. If anyone is interested in forming teams for this one, I'll be posting a note to the reflector the week of the contest to see if there is any interest. It is always a fun contest. Now that there is life on 10 and 15 meters, the great rates you can get on 40 and 80 may suffer a bit, but that is no excuse not to operate.

BARTG RTTY is a good DX contest, for all of you digital DX chasers, and is a favorite of our own RTTY Rick. I'm sure Rick will make an announcement about this one on the reflector.

Finally, the CQ 160 SSB contest is sure to provide lots of "fun". This is always a tough contest, but if you have an amplifier, you can usually carve out a spot somewhere in the band. Even though this one operates a bit like the 160 SSB Sweepstakes, there is usually some DX lurking in the window that is workable during the contest. Give it a try, but it isn't for the faint of heart.

A quick update on something that was posted to the reflector this month: club member eligibility. After reviewing the roster, and plotting all of the members and comparing the plot to the club circle, it turns out we are all eligible to turn in scores for the RDXA except for 1 out of state member. So, we can be assured that we are playing by the rules for the club competition.

Something to think about: In last year's ARRL DX Contest club competition, RDXA was 7th in the Medium Club Competition, with a total of 21,284,007 points, spread out over 19 entries. That score is the combined entries of the CW and SSB contest. We had 7 entries on CW and 12 on phone. Only 2 members submitted scores in both contests, and 1 member submitted a S/O score for one contest and was part of a multiop for the other.

This year, with 70+ members, let's see a bit more club participation! It is great that we were #7 with only 19 entries, but for a club our size, we can do so much better.

If we had 70 entries for each contest, that would give us an amazing score, but probably wouldn't

happen for practical reasons. Even if half the club members submit only one score this year, we will be close to doubling the number of entries from last year. Think about getting on the air and submitting a score for RDXA this year!

Finally, I would like to mention that several of our members will be heading to DX locations to operate in the ARRL DX CW contest. Joe, K8FC will be in Costa Rica as part of the TI5N operation. Joe has been there many times, and having operated with Joe once or twice, I would say that he is a big part of that team's success.

Three other RDXA members will be operating from the PZ5RA shack this year during ARRL DX CW. WJ2O, AI2N, and myself will be operating as PZ5RO during the week we are there, and hope to work as many members as possible. Of course, work us during the contest, especially, but look for us before and after the contest as well. After our week in Suriname, Dave and Redd will be operating from Aruba as well, so keep an ear out for those guys as they enjoy another sunny DX QTH.

— Ken Boasi, N2ZN



## Proper QSL Technique

i've done several talks on proper qsl'ing to foreign countries but here's a few things to remember -

- 1) NEVER put your return address on the top left of any out of United States envelope. In most every country but ours, return addresses are put on the top, center of the flap on the back of the envelope.
- 2) NEVER put a callsign in the address you're sending to or on the return one to you on the back. this simply says "rifle me, i have money in here".
- 3) in some countries, possessing us dollars ("greenstamps") is illegal. That information can generally be found while investigating the qslroute.
- 4) it's not a bad idea to put a self addressed envelope in with your request. obviously, you can't put a stamp on it but that's why you send the irc or dollars.
- 5) "Hide" your dollar or irc between the return envelope and the qsl card, fold the dollars in half as they cut the

corner out of the bottom of some mail. If not sending an envelope, put a blank piece of paper in there.

6) Be conscious on what the postal rates are overseas. some managers ask for \$3 which is what it costs them to get the card to you. they make no additional funds to cover those who send nothing or less than the desired amount.

7) Be patient, everyone complains about the us postal system but it's the best in the world, bar none. some russian cards may take years to receive, honestly.

Hopefully this will help, the suggestion about going to the post office isn't a bad one. My guy in East Rochester gets a kick out of where I send stuff and is very helpful on some of the oddball places.

best dx es 73,

— Chris Shalvoy, k2cs

## 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

## KE2WK Memorial Award Nominations

It is that time again; nominations for the KE2WK Memorial Award are now open. As you all know, the KE2WK Memorial Award is the highest honor that can be given to an RDXA member-it is our version of "Amateur of the Year".

As the rules state, it is the last recipient's duty to accept nominations for the award. The time has now come for me to fulfill that duty. The rules for the KE2WK Award are as follows:

1. A member(s) of the RDXA has to nominate a fellow club member(s).
2. Nominations shall be presented to the LAST recipient of the award ONLY. This is to help keep the nomination(s) confidential if possible. He or she then will start the decision making process with as many past winners of the award as possible so the candidate may be selected if qualified. If a past winner is nominated, he or she shall be excluded from the selection committee.
3. If past winners are NOT available then the BOD will help decide on the winner if the candidate is qualified. Nominees shall not be on the committee and not privy to their nomination.
4. This award does not have to be presented every year. Even if someone is nominated but does not fit the criteria then the committee can elect not to proceed for a given year.
5. The committee, made up of past winners or the BOD, shall not be biased on their decisions and shall select the winner on his or her merits only. This should not be a popularity award.
6. The committee shall be discrete and NOT disclose their decision, if a nominee has been selected, until the time and date of the award presentation is determined.
7. Note that "if qualified" is in relation to what is inscribed on the award. The inscription must be reviewed during the selection process.

Please send your nominations to me directly! Do not send them to the BOD, your nominee, or anyone else. I will post some more reminders in the coming weeks, but would like to get everyone thinking about it now.

—73, Ken N2ZN

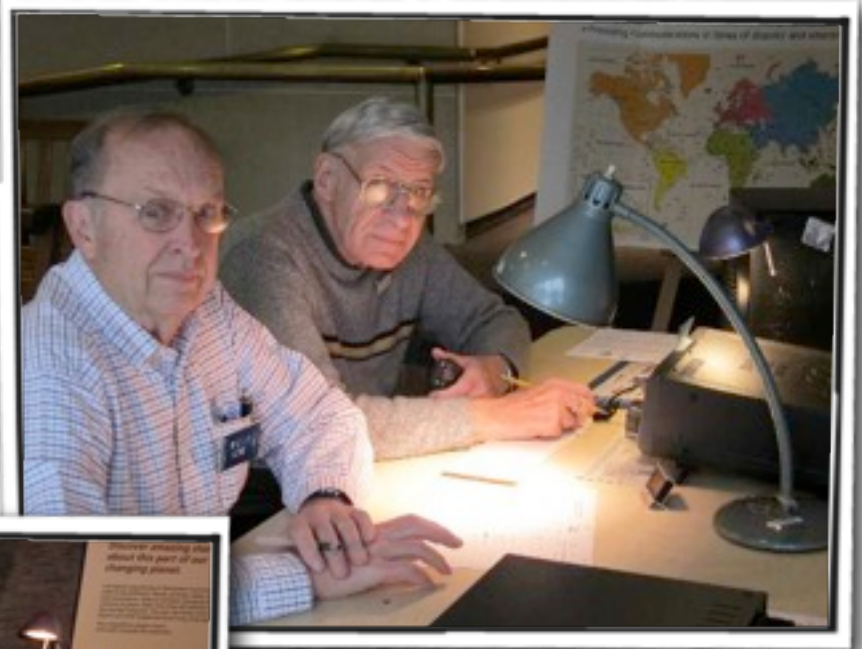
### On The Lookout

We are canvassing the RDXA membership to see if there is anyone out there with web design experience and some available time who would like to take on very important job of maintaining, upgrading or changing the RDXA and NYQP websites. It doesn't pay well, and the hours probably stink, but we would welcome a member to take on this important club information source and tool and help make it the best it can be. Anyone interested please respond back to myself or any board member. Thanks for any consideration you can give this important function!

73z,

— Doug, N2BEG

## RARA/RDXA Technology Days at the RMSC 2011



# 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DRUMLINS Hamfest

Contact person: Jon King KS2JEK  
(585)-785-0036

Marbletown Firehall, Newark, NY  
From Rte. 31, 1 mi. South on rte.88  
To Silver Hill Rd. turn left.  
1 mi east to Fire Hall, Should be a sign

TALK-IN  
146.685



Electronics – **AMATEUR RADIO GEAR** – Computers

Breakfast – **GRAND PRIZE** – Door Prizes  
Admission \$5.00  
Tables (6 ft.) \$5.00 Tailgaters \$3.00

**FREE Amateur License Exams will be held at the Hamfest site**  
**Registration & Testing from 10am**  
Walk-ins accepted Doors open at 9:30 AM  
For more info call or email Sabrina  
Tel: 585-727-2091, Email: [WD2STK@yahoo.com](mailto:WD2STK@yahoo.com)

## VENDORS TO DATE

**KJI ELECTRONICS, Cedar Grove, NJ**  
[www.kjieletronics.com](http://www.kjieletronics.com)

**QuickSilver Radio Products**  
[www.qsradio.com](http://www.qsradio.com)

**1 CHOICE YUKON, INC**  
[www.1choicewayukon.com](http://www.1choicewayukon.com)

**Sauder Electronics**  
[www.sauderelectronics.com](http://www.sauderelectronics.com)

For a more up to date list, please visit:  
[www.drumlinsarc.org/hamfest.htm](http://www.drumlinsarc.org/hamfest.htm)

**APRIL 14, 2012**

Venders 7am  
Public 8am Till

### **CLUB TRUSTEE WA2AAZ**

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## 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 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 .....Brent Hungate, KC2QLJ  
Newsletter Editor .....Andrew Lesny, N3LZG  
Packet Cluster.....144.910MHz  
.....Telnet: ng2p.ham-radio-op.net/port7300

### Membership Dues can be sent to:

Brent Hungate  
267 Terrace Park  
Rochester, NY 14619

Regular Membership	\$20.00
Family Membership	\$5.00
Full-Time Student	\$5.00

**Any other correspondence to: Irv Goodman, AF2K**



## Professional Home Inspection



Paul Mackanos – K2DB  
20 Sumac Way  
Fairport, NY 14450



800.822.7579  
585.223.4230