

# Rochester DX Association



## March's meeting presentation **Emergency Power**

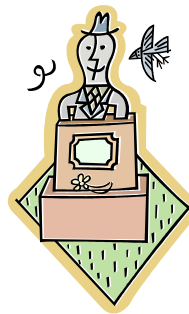
Mike Rink, W2HYP, - Electrical Supervisor for the University of Rochester Strong Memorial Hospital Operations and a trustee for the WR2AHL repeater system - will explain how to choose and use a portable power generator for ham radio use and how the 145.11 repeater is able to stay on the air when the power goes out. Hope to see you there for this presentation. We promise it will be —electrifying!!



*Mike, W2HYP - Inspecting the four 100Ah storage batteries that keep the repeater in operation during outages.*

## The Podium

Paul Kolacki, K2FX



After taking the month of February off (due to time constraints) the President's Column returns to the RDXA Newsletter. First, I want to say that at the February meeting, Ed Gable, K2MP did an outstanding job with his presentation on the History of Single Side Band (SSB). I especially found the information on the Transatlantic Radio Service and

Telephony very interesting! The fact that we have so many talented people associated with our club who wish to share their knowledge speaks volumes about RDXA as a whole. Thank you Ed!

This month, the program we had scheduled on Software Defined Radio has been postponed as our presenter K8FC now has a conflict. However, we are very pleased that Mike Rink, W2HYP will be with us instead to speak on the topic of Generator Power. For those who may not be aware, Mike maintains the 145.11 Repeater on Bristol Mountain, and is the Electrical Supervisor for Strong Memorial Hospital at the University of Rochester. I hope you can be with us for Mike's visit on March 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:30PM at the EOC Building in Scottsville.

I am still actively looking to appoint a Field Day Chairman for this year. As of this writing, no one has yet stepped forward to lead the charge. It was decided that RDXA would once again make this a social event, and not an all out contest effort. In doing so last year, a great time was had by all without the pressures that can accompany a stringent field day routine. If you have a little spare time, and want to help out in this position, please

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**3825KHz Join Us!**

contact me ASAP. No experience is necessary. All that is required is a desire to serve your club and its members. I need to have someone in place by no later than March 31<sup>st</sup> in order to allow sufficient time for planning.

Ah, springtime, the Vernal Equinox occurs on our Meeting day, March 20<sup>th</sup>! With the season comes increasing daylight, warming temperatures, and the rebirth of flora and fauna. The word equinox is derived from the Latin words meaning "equal night." The spring and fall equinoxes are the only dates with equal daylight and dark as the Sun crosses the celestial equator. At the equinoxes, the tilt of Earth relative to the Sun is zero, which means that Earth's axis neither points toward nor away from the Sun. (However, the tilt of Earth relative to its plane of orbit, called the ecliptic plane, is always about 23.5 degrees.) There, now you have your Earth Science lesson for the month!

It seems to me that the arrival of spring is a great reason for you to come out and join us this evening!! Keep watching the email for pre-meeting dinner and post meeting libation locations. For now all the best, and we'll see you in the pile-ups!



## Field Day 2012 Chairman Needed

We are still looking for someone to take over the esteemed position of RDXA Field Day Chairman. Please consider helping out RDXA for this very important club activity. Until someone steps forward, we will continue to prepare, as some things have to be done to have a successful field day, chairman or not.

1. The site is confirmed, it will again be at Webster Park, thanks to Lloyd, N2PU for keeping on top of this.
2. The 100 foot crank-up tower is confirmed, Jim from Monroe Ccounty will be showing up at the field day site at noon on Friday for their annual "training exercise".
3. We need to confirm the generator (I believe Lloyd will take care of this task.)
4. Irv is taking care of the porta-potty needs.
5. Everything else is up in the air – "HELP"

We need your help and input. Please step forward and lend us a hand and help make this a successful RDXA event. It sure looks like a laid back social, training and appetite fulfilling week-end coming. Save the last full week-end in June and we will again have a blast. Plans are to meet at the site at noon on Friday and get ready to start putting it all together at 2:00 PM (per the field day rules).

73

Paul K2DB

# Contest Corner

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

Virginia QSO Party , 1400Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 18 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 18

**CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB, 0000Z, Mar 24 to 2400Z, Mar 25**

SP DX Contest, 1500Z, Apr 7 to 1500Z, Apr 8

JIDX CW Contest, 0700Z, Apr 14 to 1300Z, Apr 15

New Mexico QSO Party, 1400Z, Apr 14 to 0200Z, Apr 15

Georgia QSO Party, 1800Z, Apr 14 to 0359Z, Apr 15 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 15

We are quickly approaching the end of the RDXA contest season (in terms of Club Contests), but don't let that keep you from getting on the bands. As you well know, there is a contest every weekend (much to the consternation of the Health Ailment Nets on 20, 40, and 75 SSB), and therefore, an opportunity to have some fun and sharpen your skills. In addition, March brings us the spring equinox, which is one of the best times of year for propagation on the HF bands. This is when "summer propagation" begins, so start looking for those polar openings to Asia on 40, 20, and 17 meters.

The biggest contest listed above is definitely the CQ WPX contest at the end of the month. This is a major DX contest, and also a club contest, so be sure to get on the air and add some points to

your totals for the year. There is plenty of DX in WPX, and the abundance of multipliers makes it easier to rack up a big score in a short amount of time.

CQ WPX also is one of the only major contest websites that features a searchable score database, with results going all the way back to the beginning of the contest. It is pretty neat to be able to instantly search all of the results for the entire history of the contest, and the interface is very easy to use. Open logs from the last few years are also now available at CQWPX.com

The other contests I have mentioned above are smaller DX contests and QSO parties. These contests are great opportunities to get on the air and sharpen your skills in both running and S&P. Since there are usually fewer stations on the air during these weekends, you have to search a bit harder to find them. You can also call directed CQ's, especially in the QSO parties, and practice running stations. The Georgia QSO Party always has a good amount of activity, and you can probably find an open frequency on 20 or 40 meters and call CQ Georgia, and there is a good chance you can start a run. Great practice!

I hope everyone had a chance to participate in the ARRL DX Contests this year and submit a score on behalf of RDXA. On behalf of the PZ5RO team, thank you to everyone who got on and worked us during the CW contest-it was a great thrill to hear so many familiar call signs come through the headphones that weekend. Even though conditions on 10 meters weren't as good as they could have been, we ended up with over 5800 QSO's during the contest.

See you next month....

— Ken Boasi, N2ZN





## RDXA Shorted Grid Award

By 2012 Winner Ed Gable  
K2MP

It was a reminder on the RDXA reflector about the starting period of the Shorted Grid Award (SGA) that got me thinking that I would really make a go of it this year. The Rules are pretty basic, work 100 current ARRL DXCC entities in the shortest period of time, using 100 watts or less, any band, any mode. So, on January 1, 2012, I lit off the DX Scape cluster and just started picking off every new country I saw. Not a lot of planning or science there, just see 'em and work 'em. I did stay away from rare DX entities and big pile ups due to two things; using only 100 watts made breaking the pile ups harder and I was after quantity, not rarity.

Day one saw 35 counties logged. Now, those used to working DX contests might say something like "Gee, I do that in the first hour of any major contest." And that's true, I've done that, but these were all non-contest QSO's. Days 2 thru 8 brought 40 more entities. Days 9 through 11 logged 26 new ones making a total of 101, and I put an announcement of the reflector saying the job was done. It was fun and a nice goal to shoot for, but in my mind not really that hard. Let's look at some factors why I think this. I have a station that is quite capable, although really pretty average. I have a 43 foot vertical for 80 and 40 meter DX'ing that works quite well and a Mosley Pro-57B yagi on 20 thru 10 meters at 60 feet and an inverted "L" on 160. The main thing is flexibility. I can see stations

spotted that I want to call, stack them up in the ICOM 756Proll's stacking registers and recall them instantly at a push of a button. If the pace is not too fast, I have even called two stations nearly simultaneously on different bands and even different modes, a poor man's SO2R look alike. Trouble comes when both answer almost simultaneously and you talk in the Heil Pro-set when you should be manipulating the paddle. That's embarrassing, but usually recoverable.

Next consideration is that there is a lot of activity during the first of the year. I've noticed a lot of DX stations on-the-air, just saying hello and sending the all too familiar HNY (happy new year) during or at the end of every QSO. Thirdly, the solar flux index reached 144 and conditions were excellent for many days. Finally, availability of entities to work. With a little searching you can find published data, nearly real time, from the spotting networks on how many entities were spotted. In the first two weeks of January there was an average of 217 entities available to work each week. Assuming only half of those had propagation to WNY at our operating times, that's still a whole bunch of different countries to log. Then, too, not every station/entity is spotted. A wild guess says that about forty of my QSO's were with common EU/SA stations that were grabbed doing search and pounce between jumping on needed spots.

Simultaneously to working the Shorted Grid Award (SGA), I was also working the newly announced ARRL Diamond DXCC Challenge award

celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ARRL's DXCC program started in 1937. Like the SGA, the Diamond Challenge is to work 100 countries but you have the entire year to do so and no QSL's needed. An interesting quirk is that the entity list is that of the year 1937. As such, many common entities such as: GU, GD, V5, C2, VQ9 and etc count for nothing in the Diamond program. Conversely, the rules are generous about working the same plot of physical dirt under a new name such as the 1937 Ceylon, VS7, is now workable as today's Sri Lanka, 4S. Complicating things are new countries that were split in the post war era. For example, The Federated Malay States, VS2, in 1937 was one entity. Today they are four Malaysian states under 9M2 and you have to know what state the station your working is in to count for a valid 9M2 contact. It's all made much easier by getting the "2012 ARRL Diamond DXCC Challenge entity list as a down load from the ARRL website. So, who's gonna beat 11 days for the SGA in 2013. I'll be there... Good luck.

— Ed Gable, K2MP



## New Rules for 5 MHz (60 Meters) To Go Into Effect March 5

On November 18, the FCC released a Report and Order (R&O), defining new rules for the 60 meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM) filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). In the February 3 edition of the Federal Register, the FCC announced that these new rules will go into effect on March 5, 2012.

Details can be found at,

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/02/03/2012-2477/amateur-radio-use-of-the-allocation-at-5-mhz>

In summarizing the new rules, the FCC explained that the new rules amend the current rules to facilitate more efficient and effective use by the Amateur Radio Service of five channels in the 5330.5-5406.4 kHz band (the 60 meter band): "Specifically, and consistent with our proposals in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding, the Commission replaces one of the channels with a less encumbered one, increases the maximum authorized power amateur stations may transmit in this band and authorizes amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators. The Commission also adopts an additional operational rule that prohibits the use of automatically controlled digital stations and makes editorial revisions to the relevant portions of the Table of Frequency Allocations and our service rules."

The Amateur Radio Service in the United States has a secondary allocation on 60 meters. Only those amateurs who hold General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses may operate on this band. Amateur stations must not cause harmful interference to -- and must accept interference from -- stations authorized by any administration in the fixed service, as well as mobile (except aeronautical mobile) stations authorized by the administrations of other countries.



## DX Code of Conduct Update - March 2012

According to the flag counter, we have had 40,000 visitors to our site. You can see the background of visitors by clicking on the Flag Counter box at the bottom of the page.

Pileup management continues to demonstrate that on-the-air performance is based largely upon the DXpedition operator being disciplined about how he manages the pileup. It is also obvious from our experience with two recent DXpeditions that when an operator exercises good management technique is essential. A disciplined operator forces the pileup to adhere to his requirements. When he does, the QSO rate is higher, more hams end up in the log, and everyone is happy about the time he spent.

There other was a notable exception. The manager maintained, "All of our operators are experienced." But on the air performance was poor with long intervals with no identification, not sending "UP" after every QSO, or at least every other QSO. It was a real mess for long periods and they were roundly criticized.

The beefed up "Code of DXpedition Operators" section of the site pays benefits to those DXpedition managers that require some advance education and training for their ops.

I announced the DX Code of Conduct Store in January. You can buy nice denim shorts, T-shirts, hats, cups, and badges with the DX Code logo on them. Our store website is [DX Store](#) Unfortunately, after my announcement, only one single ham ordered items while 500 others on the distributions list ignored it. I have to ask this question: is anyone really interested in this? Answer in survey to follow.

We need to have more national societies promote us and include a link to our website from their society's website. A lot more work needs to be done and I hope that as you read this, you consider whether your own country's society is supporting ethical operating practices. For American operators, please consider contacting your section or division manager or HQ in Newington asking them to support the project.

I have an ethical question to ask: if a DXpedition operator or DX station sees a DXer operating flagrantly poor manner in a pileup, should he "make the QSO" so as to make the guy go away but not put him in the log or acknowledge the QSO with a QSL? One prominent DX operator does just that. No more patience and this is his way of dealing with the jerks. Please send your observations to me at [w6sj@arrl.net](mailto:w6sj@arrl.net)

Finally, you will also get a survey. Please take a few minutes to respond.

73 and good DXing,

Randy W6SJ





## Malyj Vysotskij Island Deletion

DXCC News Release February 23, 2012

According to the Finnish Ministry of Transportation and Communication, the Saimaa Canal Treaty between Finland and Russia has been finalized by relevant Finnish and Russian authorities through ratification.

The Treaty has entered into effect with a date of February 17, 2012.

Malyj Vysotskij Island (MVI), R1M, is no longer included in the Treaty. Thus, MVI will be deleted from the DXCC list as of February 17, 2012, and added to the Deleted Entities List.

Administratively at HQ, we will not make the necessary changes to the DXCC system until after the final data processing for 2011 is complete — this includes the tables shown in Logbook of The World. (The 2011 DXCC Annual and Honor Roll listings will contain M-V Island as it stood in 2011, a current entity). This change will affect the Honor Roll numbers as follows:

#1 Honor roll will drop to 340 (down from 341) The entry level Honor Roll number will drop to 331 (down from 332)

DXCC members will see their current entity totals drop by one on their Mixed awards, and on the bands and modes where MVI credit is given. They will also see their DXCC Challenge totals drop commensurately.

73 es DX!

Bill Moore NC1L

Awards Branch Manager

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Blog: <http://www.arrl.org/awards-blog>

Twitter: [arrl\\_dxcc](https://twitter.com/arrl_dxcc)

## Republic of South Sudan Assigned Z8 Prefix

After a wait of more than seven months after being [accepted as a member of the United Nations](#), the Republic of South Sudan [received its prefix block from the International Telecommunication Union](#) (ITU): Z8. On July 14, 2011 — after South Sudan's admittance to the UN — the new country became a DXCC entity by way of Section II, 1(a) of the [DXCC rules](#). — Thanks to The Daily DX for the information



*publicized as the world's largest Stepper IR array (6x4). It's at 180' and measures 66' high and 50' across. It has a gain of almost 21db on 20m. Can you hear me now?*

*— Submitted by Doug, N2BEG*

Been wearing your RDXA callsign badge to meetings lately? You misplaced it? Oh, you don't have one? Well this is a good time to order yours before hamfest season kicks in. If you already have one, wear it to the March 20th meeting so others can see what they look like. I'll be taking orders for new ones. Cost is \$9.00 (\$8.33 + tax) and due upon delivery. Check payable to RDXA, or cash. You can also notify me via e-mail if you want one ordered. Be sure to include your callsign, your name as you want it to appear, plus your town. Cut-off date is Thursday, March 22nd.

Irv Goodman, AF2K

[af2k@juno.com](mailto:af2k@juno.com)



## New RDXA Website Now Online

Larry (W2LB) and I (K2DB) have spent countless hours on revising the RDXA website. We have a prototype "NEW" [RDXA.com](http://RDXA.com) website up and running now. This is a website that is presently "a work in progress", and not as fully functional as the original site yet, but coming along nicely. Please visit the new site at [RDXA.com](http://RDXA.com)

We have added a "GOOGLE" calendar to the site, and we have put in the dates for all of the RDXA BOD and General Membership Meetings, Field Day Week-end and the Summer Socials in July and August. This is a public calendar and you can take events and add them to your own "Google" calendar.

We have a volunteer to manage the calendar, Don, K2DV will be the contact so please let Don know if something needs to be added or deleted. We need your feedback, things asked for previously are a link to Face book, a blog to cut down on reflector traffic, Twitter, etc.

Mark, K2MTH is in the process of setting up a Face book account for RDXA, it will be up and on line in the near future.

Please check out the site and let us know your wants, needs, etc, and we will try and accommodate what we can.

Please post "on the reflector" [rdxa@rdxa.com](mailto:rdxa@rdxa.com)

If things seem to change when you are cruising the site, it is probably just me or Larry editing or adding something.

Thanks,

Paul K2DB & Larry W2LB

(apparently the new web fumlbers, not webmasters)



Ladies and Gentlemen, All Members of RDXA and RVHFG:

**Announcing the RDXA/RVHFG Joint Annual Awards Banquet!**

**Saturday 21 April 2012**

If you have been to the RDXA/RVHFG events in years past, you know it is typically a fun evening with the awards and camaraderie of both clubs represented.

This year's event will be held at Lilian's Restaurant and Party House in Penfield, 2200 Penfield Road, (585) 377-1300 in the "Pen Fair" Plaza (See the map below for detail on the north-east corner of Rt 441 and Rt 250.) Lilian's is next door to the restaurant formerly known as Napaginos, (where she formerly worked) that is now Mike's Sports Bar. Now running the show in her own place, Lilian has the same easy-to-get-to location, well-lit parking, and reputation for great food.

The exact arrangement for dinner (off-the-menu or banquet) is still being worked out, but I need to have a head count as soon as can be, so I am asking you all to mark your calendars, and **send me an email at [wb2byp@arrl.net](mailto:wb2byp@arrl.net) with your confirmation and any guests .**

Here is a link to Lilian's web site:

<http://www.liliansrestaurantpartyhouse.com/>

This is a long-standing yearly tradition that both the RVHFG and RDXA are proud to continue. The Bar will be open at 6:00 PM, and dinner should begin about 7:15 PM. I'll be sending out more info in the next couple of weeks.

Hope to see you there!

John WB2BYP

Rochester VHF Group Chairman 2011-2012



## 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 ..... Paul Mackanos, K2DB  
 ..... Larry Brightenfield, W2LB  
 Contest Chairman ..... Ken Boasi, N2ZN  
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 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**



Don't forget the pre-meeting dinner and social  
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It is directly across from Wegman's (on the other side of the street) in the marketplace mall.



## Professional Home Inspection

Paul Mackanos – K2DB  
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