# Rochester DX Association



## **Tuesday's Meeting**

Installation of The VHF/UHF
Beacons at
The AWA Museum
Presented By
John Gilly, W3OAB &
Mark Hazel, K2MTH
November 20 @ 7:30pm

**Monroe County EMO** 

# **Holiday Banquet**

December 11th
Rick's Prime Rib House
Cocktails at 6pm
Dinner at 7pm
Full details will be made
available at next week's
general meeting.

### **RMSC Event Station**

Once again, we will be supporting the Rochester Museum and Science Center Holiday Science and Technology fair. The dates for this year's event are Thursday December  $27^{th}$  – Saturday December  $29^{th}$ . The hours of operation are 10~AM-4~PM – although we will need help early Thursday morning to put the antenna up. For those willing to help out with the roof work, we anticipate arriving at the museum by 8:30 or so.

For those who have helped out this effort in the past, I'm sure you will agree with me that it is a fun and rewarding way to showcase our hobby to the general public. For those who have not helped out with this event previously, please consider spending some time with us. I am looking for volunteers for both the morning and afternoon shifts for all 3 days. We'll have an HF station (rig TBD) using a G5RV (thanks to N2BEG) set up in a prominent location in the museum. We will need a crew willing to brave the cold weather to put the antenna up on Thursday and remove it on Saturday. Typical duties involve conversation with folks passing by to explain what we're doing, operating, and explaining the basic theory of long distance radio communication. In this day and age of cell phones and instant communication, it's nice to show what can be done with wires and RF energy.

If you're interested in helping out for one day, or all three, mornings or afternoons (or any combination thereof) please drop me an email at <a href="N2CK@arrl.net">N2CK@arrl.net</a> or give me a call – 392-3183. I think you will find this a fun and relaxed way to enjoy sharing our hobby with the families attending the event.

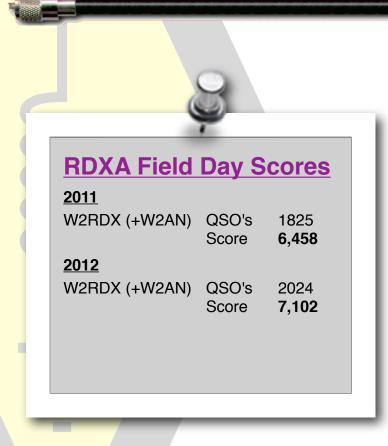
Dave, N2CK

## **NYQP** Update

The New York QSO party 2012 has come and gone, hard to believe another year has passed already. This year's qso party was another great success. The NYQP team decided that due to hurricane Sandy we would extend the deadline until 00:00z on November 15th to allow stations that may have been affected by the storm some time to get there logs submitted. As of our deadline we had 270 logs submitted this year, which is down a little from last year's 283. This may be storm related. Never the less, there was a lot of activity on the bands. It was great to work so many different mobile, youth and rookie stations. Another great feature this year was the stations that used the option of getting a 1X1 call sign for NYQP that was a nice addition to an already great qso party. As the logs have been coming in I have been amazed with how many DX logs have been submitted, really nice to see their participation. The NYQP team would like to thank all RDXA members who participated this year to help NYQP have another successful year. The log checking team now will start the hard work of calculating our results, a huge thanks goes out to Larry – W2LB and his son Mark who have been working diligently on some software programming to aid in this process. Anyone wishing to utilize a 1X1 call sign for the 2013 NYQP can apply for them now and get them reserved, I know several members have already applied. I hope to add even more RDXA members next year.

73

Brent - KC2QLJ





## **Living On the Edge**

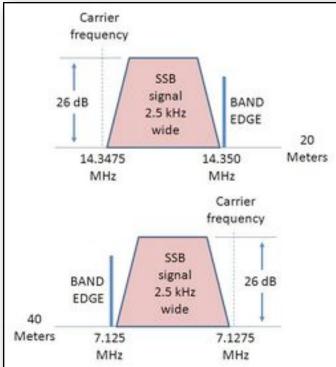
With this weekend's CQ World Wide SSB Contest coming up and the 40 meter band allocations having evolved rapidly over the past few years, it's worth taking a few minutes to review some do's and don'ts, particularly for US operators.

First, the lower edge of the US phone band is 7.125 MHz - not 7.100 MHz. The requirement is for you to keep your signal above 7.125 - all of it. If you are using LSB, the frequency display of your radio shows the carrier frequency and that has to be high enough to keep the sidebands of your signal inside the phone band. What does that mean? According to the FCC in Part 97.3a, everything stronger than 26 dB below the mean power of the signal counts as the signal's bandwidth.

Without getting into a huge derivation of carrier suppression and the effects on bandwidth of audio and RF compression and distortion, let's just say that you should tune no lower than 7.1275 or 7.128 MHz to be sure of "coloring inside the lines." I'm sure some enterprising contest station outside the US will set up shop with a carrier frequency of 7.125 MHz, but just don't call them. If you have a connection to the spotting network, you can always post a spot that says, "XYØZZ 7.125 Not Legal for US Phone Band" and perhaps they (and those calling) will see it and move.

A similar problem over the past couple of years has been stations at the top end of 20 meters with their USB carrier frequency above 14.3475 - you're out of the band, folks! Again, just don't call them - these are not the usual frequencies for rare stations.

Another "gotcha" is caused by jumping to that freshly posted spot and giving your call without looking closely at the frequency. DX stations can operate well below 7.125 MHz, 14.150 MHz, and 21.200 MHz - don't call them there! In every contest, you can hear a steady stream of US stations well outside the US band who should know better. If you can program your radios not to



Make sure your signal is clean and that the rig's displayed frequency of your carrier is far enough from the band edge to stay legal!

transmit outside the US segments or set up your spotting network filters or logging program not to tempt you with out-of-band spots, do so. That way, in the heat of battle, you won't make a mistake. Or be tempted to "make a mistake."

Finally, before sending in your log - make sure it states the right category for your entry. If you receive ANY spots from the spotting networks by any means, you must enter in the Single-Operator, Assisted category (SOA). (This is the Unlimited category in most ARRL contests.) Most logging programs now automatically connect to the Internet and then to a spotting network, so you have to disable that feature if you are going to enter the unassisted Single-Operator category. The current versions of N1MM logging software now assume a default of SOA for Single-Op entrants, so be sure and check when you set up the software.

As you get ready for radiosport's Big One, remember to play nice. Have fun, definitely, but be sure to set good examples for good operating and clean signals. The world does listen - especially when you're living on the edge!

73, Ward NØAX

# NYQP Rover Operation by N2BEG & KC2JXP

For NYQP this year, Ben and I decided to try to activate some of the rarer counties in western NY based on the historical information compiled from previous years. We had planned to drive southwest early in the morning and set up first in Cattaraugus county on top of a hill in the Farmersville state forest. We had my Little Lancer with my Alinco DX70 for a rig, a borrowed Hustler mobile antenna for 20-10 meters (thanks Dave N2CK) and a new G5RV with a Vectronics tuner. I brought a roll of kite string and lock for hoisting the antenna as my spud gun still needs to be fixed. As we arrived at the forest and turned onto the dirt road, I was wondering if roads were going to be an issue. Some of the way up to the top they certainly got interesting. We got some curious looks on the way from hunters in pickups wondering what we were up to. Arriving in the roadside campsite at about 930, we got set up and started on 20 meters. It was slow going at first but we had some contacts, hoping from 20 to 15 and trying 10 as well but it was dead for us. It was about then when the forest rangers stopped by. I explained what we were doing as they looked over the car and the antennas and they had the strangest expressions, not quite sure what to make of us, hands on their guns the whole time. They apparently thought we were just nuts and not harmful, so they left us for some of the others we saw in the woods that morning. (We heard shots the whole time we were there) We started to deploy the G5RV after seeing limited success with the hamstick and hustler on 20 and above. As we finished doing that we had another visitor stop by

that after seeing the cougar paw sticker on the back window (for the HFL Cougars), thought meant we tracking bears with the antennas. I guess that made sense? He told us the site we were in was on a black bear trail. Who knew? His buddy who had a big smile the whole time but never said a word, all the while holding his can of bud looked over the G5RV very intently. They bid us farewell and drove on down the road. Remember, this is the southern tier... having a bud at 11am (while a passenger in a pickup truck) is pretty normal. We went until about 2 then decided we should head over to our next stop, Alleghany county and the Swift Hill state forest. We found a spot on top of a hill, amongst the hunters and Amish and started to set up but realized we were really hungry. We went back down the hill into Houghton and found Subway. (There is precious little in Houghton as any student at Houghton College can attest) It was a pretty drive.



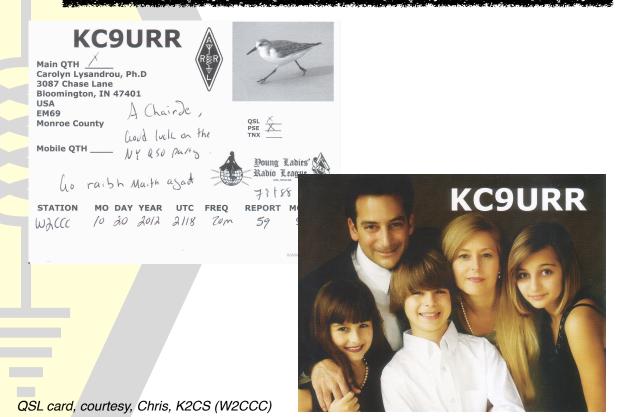
A rainbow on the way to Alleghany county

After resuming operations at our campsite we had some really good runs on 40 and 80 as the weather started to change and we got some rain towards dusk. It was then that Ben got the crap scared out of him as a bow hunter brushed the car

walking into the woods. Never said a word or looked up. We didn't hear him coming at all. When it started really raining and we could just barely see, our friend came back out of the woods, again walking right by the car and under the antenna without looking or acknowledging we were there. We decided to pack up and head north to Wyoming county for the next base of operations which was going to be at Carlton Hill state forest, but when we got into Warsaw it was raining so hard we decided to take a look around town to see if we could find a place we wouldn't get stuck or lost. We hit the Tim Horton's (which just happens to be next to the trooper barracks...hmmmm???) and ran a couple contacts on the hamstick but it was tough going. We needed to deploy our trusty G5RV if we were going to run. We spied across the street up on the hill to an official looking building that was closed and had a large parking lot. Upon further review it was

discovered to be the Wyoming county social services building. Perfect! We pulled around back and went to the edge of the lot and started to put up the G5RV, one end in the trees, the other on a big satellite dish. Then it really started to rain.... Ben and I had our best runs there on 40 and 80, closing out the bands and wrapping up about 9pm finding nothing but dupes. We beat feet north with the 40m hamstick on and made our way to Livingston county were we only managed 7 more contacts before it was over. We had a real good time and made lots of contacts, our best effort to date, all the while putting some fairly rare WNY counties on the air. We wound up with 342 q's and 81 mults. (Never worked Cattaraugus county either!) Not sure what will happen next year. Maybe a CW effort. Hope everyone had a fun NYQP and thanks to all who put us in their logs. See ya next year!

- Doug Stewart, N2BEG



### LotW — Are You Using It? If Not, Why?

The stamp: 98 cents. An IRC: \$2.10 - and expect these both to go up next time the post office has a rate increase. Over three bucks and we haven't included the cost of printing a QSL card and the cost of envelopes – both sending and return.

When I started in his hobby, stamps were a nickel, a gallon of gas was thirty-five cents and I never thought I would see either climb to over three bucks. But here we are and at least we can count on the price of gas going down if Michele Bachmann gets elected (snicker.) Not so for the price of sending a QSL card.

Getting a DXCC using cards through the mail is going to cost a minimum of \$350 – not counting all the cards that are sent out for which there isn't one returned. Plus, with cards, you have to have them checked and verified – a necessary step to insure the integrity of the awards program. Then there's the wait – cards coming through the mail take forever. Cards coming through the bureau take longer than that. One of the reasons we have so many hams over 90 is that they refuse to go SK before they get their cards from the bureau.

Even QSLing direct has its risks in addition to the cost. In some areas the postal authority is less than efficient or less than honest. Mail to hams is targeted for theft because it has become common knowledge among postal thieves that these envelopes may contain money.

Because currency and IRCs can be stolen and possession of foreign currency in some countries is illegal, many hams use foreign postage stamps to cover the return shipping cost. Unless you want to take on a new hobby, stamp collecting, this is a cumbersome way to do business. What am I going to do, stock stamps for a papa five or a seven oscar just in case I ever work one?

So, as you sit there bleary eyed from reading paragraphs of QSL problems, you ask, "What's the solution?" Logbook of the World. And no, contrary to what you may be thinking, I don't fly an ARRL flag from my fifty foot tower or have a marble bust of Hiram Percy Maxim sitting on top of my linear.

First the downside: LotW is a pain in the butt to set up. I work with computers for a living and it took some time for me to understand what I had to do. The protocol seems more difficult than setting up a Swiss bank account. It's as though the process was taken from a Tom Clancy novel – the only thing missing is dropping off a paper bag under a park bench at midnight. ARRL says it's necessary to protect the integrity of the system so that an entity is identified and verified before they can compete for an award. I am okay with that. Plus, once you have your account set up it gets better. Really. It does.

Most of the logging software has the capability of uploading QSOs either one at a time or in batches straight to LotW. Nothing could be easier. Your contact gets his acknowledgement and you get yours in minutes instead of weeks or months. There are progress reports available to let you know how far away you are from each award.

For those who still want a paper QSL – and I am one of those because the walls of my shack are papered with them – you can still go the normal QSL route. And for those DX contacts who don't use LotW, you can still combine those cards with LotW logs to get award credit.

In order for Logbook of the World to be more effective, more hams need to use it. I would love it if everyone did. I will do paper QSL cards no matter what. I like to have a card the first time I work a country. After that, if I can get LotW credit for additional bands, it's so much more convenient.

So, what would encourage you to participate in LotW? What would the ARRL have to do now that they're not doing?

73,

Steve Miller, W6SDM

# **November DXPedition Calendar**

November							
2012 Nov05	2012 Nov19	Bermuda	VP9KF [spots]	See Info	VP9KF 20120809	By G4BKI; focus JA greyline; CW; QSL: Paul Evans, 6809 River Road, Tampa, FL 33615, USA	
2012 Nov05	2012 Nov19	Montserr at	VP2M [spots]	DL7AFS	DXW.Net 20120815	By DJ7ZG as VP2MGZ and DL7AFS as VP2MYL fm NA-103 (WLOTA 1475, FK86vt); 80-10m; mainly RTTY PSK31 PSK63 SSB	
2012 Nov05	2012 Nov22	Kenya	5Z4 [spots]	LotW	SM1TDE 20120813	By SM1TDE as 5Z4/SM1TDE fm Diani Beach, Mobasa; 40-10m; CW; QSL also OK via SM1TDE, Buro or direct; holiday style operation	
2012 Nov06	2012 Dec11	Uganda	5X1NH [spots]	G3RWF	OPDX 20121022	By G3RWF; 80-10m, perhaps 160m; mainly CW, some SSB + digital; QRV for CQWW DX CW and ARRL 10m contests	
2012 Nov06	2012 Dec15	Curacao	PJ2 [spots]	Home Call	VA3RJ 20121026	By DL5MFL as PJ2/DL5MFL, DB5IJ DF9MV DJ1MGK likewise fm Signal Point (SA-009, WLOTA 0942); QRV for WAE RTTY; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct	
2012 Nov08	2012 Nov15	Bhutan	A5A [spots]	JH1AJT	JA1TRC 20121101	By JH1AJT; 40-10m; spare time operation; QSL OK via JARL Buro or direct	
2012 Nov08	2012 Nov15	Tonga	A3 NEW [spots]	Home Call	425DXN 20121110	By JA1JQY as A31KJ, also JA1KJW (A31KJ), JA3MCA (A31MA), JA8VE (A31VE); 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY	
2012 Nov09	2012 Nov17	Bonaire	PJ4 [spots]	PE2MC	DXW.Net 20120924	By PE2MC as PJ4/PE2MC fm SA-006 (WFF PAFF-024, WLOTA 1279) using Radio Nederland array	
2012 Nov09	2012 Nov17	Monaco	3A [spots]	M0URX	DXW.Net 20120927	By ON5UR as 3A/ON5UR and ON8AK as 3A/ON8AK; 80-10m; SSB	
2012 Nov09	2012 Nov24	Seychell es	S79NU [spots]	DL8NU	DXW.Net 20121031	By DL8NU fm Mahe (AF-024, WLOTA 3286); mainly CW	
2012 Nov10	2012 Nov14	Cyprus	5B [spots]	Home Call	VA3RJ 20121102	By DC8MH as 5B/DC8MH and DL4ABO as 5B/DL4ABO fm AS-004 (MIA MCI-002, WLOTA 0051); 40-17m; CW SSB; Buro QSLs preferred	
2012 Nov10	2012 Dec09	Madagas car	5R8IC [spots]	F6ICX	DXW.Net 20120909	By F6ICX fm Ste Marie I (AF-090, WLTOA 0491)); 20-10m; CW RTTY PSK63; 100w; holiday style operation	
2012 Nov10	2012 Nov22	St Peter & Paul	PTOS [spots]	LotW	AA7JV 20120702	By PY2XB PP5XX HA7RY AA7JV; 160-6m, focus on low bands; QSL also OK via HA7RY	
2012 Nov10	2012 Dec09	Madagas car	5R8IC [spots]	F6ICX	DXW.Net 20120909	By F6ICX fm Ste Marie I (AF-090); 20-10m; CW RTTY PSK63; 100w; holiday style operation	
2012 Nov11	2012 Nov18	Gambia	C5WP [spots]	ON7WP	DXW.Net 20121106	By ON7WP fm Sami (IK13uj); 40-10m; 50w; dipoles or vertical; spare time operation	
2012 Nov11	2012 Nov23	Brunei	V84SMD [spots]	LotW	OPDX 20120514	By F1HRE F5EOT F6BIV I2VGW I8YGZ IK2LTR IZ2GNQ IZ8CCW ON7RN UZ2HKC V85AVE V85AX V85TX YB3MM fm OC-088 (WLOTA 1628, Grid OJ74); 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY; 4-5 stations, 24 hrs/day; QSL also OK via OQRS and IK2VUC, Buro or direct	
2012 Nov12	2012 Nov19	South Cook Is	E51KBR [spots]	E51KBR	DXW.Net 20120901	By E51KBR fm Rarotonga I (OC-013); 20-10m; SSB RTTY PSK31; holiday style operation	
2012 Nov12	2012 Nov30	South Cook Is	E51 [spots]	HB9BXU	DXW.Net 20120901	By HB9BXU and others as E51C E51ABS E51BZD E51CHX fm Aitutaki I (OC-083, BH01cc); 80-10m; SSB CW PSK31; holiday style operation, 1900-2400z	

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2012 Nov16	2012 Nov19	Greenlan d	XP2I	OZ1BII	OZ1BII 20121005	By OZ1BII; QRV for LZ DX Contest; CW; 160 80m Nov 18-19
2012 Nov17	2012 Nov27	Lord Howe I	VK9	Home Call	OH1VR 20120710	By OH1VR as VK9/OH1VR and OH3JR as VK9/OH3JR; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY; include SAE + IRC or 2USD w/ QSL request; each QRV for CQWW DX CW as SOSB
2012 Nov18	2012 Nov24	Sint Maarten	<u>PJ7</u>	See Info	K1GI 20120930	By K1GI as PJ7I (QSL via JG2BRI) and 7L4XDT as PJ7XK; 160-10; SSB CW + digital; 500w; hex beam + verticals
2012 Nov18	2012 Dec08	South Cook Is	E51TLA	LotW	425DXN 20120803	By OZ6TL fm Rarotonga I (OC-013); CW RTTY; QSL also OK via OZ6TL
2012 Nov20	2012 Dec11	Bahamas	C6 NEW	Home Call	DXW.Net 20121113	By N4BP as C6AKQ, N4UM as C6ARU, K4RUM as C6AUM fm Freeport; QRV for CQ WW DX CW, ARRL 160m, ARRL 10m contests
2012 Nov21	2012 Dec03	Br Virgin Is	VP2V	LotW	AA7V 20120724	By N3DXX AA7V; QRV for CQWW DX CW and perhaps ARRL 160m Contest; QSL also OK via NR6M direct
2012 Nov23	2012 Nov26	Micronesi a	V63JX NEW	JH1DVG	425DXN 20121110	By JH1DVG fm Pohnpei (OC-010); 40 20 15 10m
2012 Nov23	2012 Nov28	St Martin	FS	VE3IKV	VE3IKV 20121102	By VE3IKV as FS/VA3RA fm NA-105; 10 6m; CW SSB; QRV as PJ7/VA3RA during CQWW DX CW and on Nov 26
2012 Nov23	2012 Dec03	Lesotho	<u>7P8D</u>	LotW	ZS2DL 20120111	By ZS2DL V51YJ LZ1UQ DJ3CQ ZS1TT K5LBU DL2MDU DL8JJ ZS2DK ZS6RJ VE7MID VA7DX; 160-10m; CW RTTY, some SSB; QSL also OK via OQRS or direct (see Web)
2012 Nov24	2012 Dec10	Mauritani a	<u>5T0SP</u>	LotW	SP6EQZ 20120807	By SP2EBG SP3CYY SP3GEM SP6EQZ SP6FXY SP6IXF 5T0JL fm Nouakchott (IK28ac); 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY; focus on JA and Far East; QSL also OK via SP6FXY; OQRS to be available
2012 Nov26	2012 Dec11	Maldives	8Q7AU	HB9OAU	DXW.Net 20121009	By HB9OAU fm Maayafushi I, North Male Atoll (AS-013, WLOTA 3911); 80-10m; SSB; 7 band vertical
	CQ WW DX Contest, CW (Nov 24-25, 2012) Check here for pericontest activity too.				2) Check here for pericontest activity too.	
2012 Nov28	2012 Dec09	Auckland Campbell Is	ZL9HR	LotW	DXW.Net 20120329	By VK2IR VK3YP + team fm Campbell I (OC-037); QSL also OK via EB7DX
2012 Nov30	2012 Dec12	Saba & St Eustatius	PJ5J	LotW	JH1ROJ 20121104	By JA1MZL JJ1LIB JN1RVS JJ1CBY JA1DXA JN1HOW JH1ROJ fm Sint Eustatius (NA-145); 160-10m; CW SSB + digital; verticals + Spiderbeam; focus on low bands for JA + Asia

# What is it?

Tune in next month for the answer



### **Rochester DX Association**

W2RDX rdxa.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, W2FG at <a href="mailto:alesny@rochester.rr.com">alesny@rochester.rr.com</a> 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	Mark Hazel – K2MTH	
	mthazel2151@yahoo.com	
Vice President	Brent Hungate — KC2QLJ	
	brenthungate@yahoo.com	
Treasurer	Irv Goodman – AF2K	
	af2k@juno.com	
Secretary	Bill Rogers – K2TER	

k2ter@rochester.rr.com

### **Board of Directors**

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Max Kelley - KC2SPY	max@maxkelley.com

### **Appointed Positions**

Packet Cluster Sys Op	Bob Hunter, NG2P
Webmaster	Paul Mackanos, K2DB
	Larry Brightenfield, W2LB
Contest/DX Chairman	Paul Mackanos, K2DB
Membership Chairman	Brent Hungate, KC2QLJ
Calendar Chariman	Don Vlack, K2DV
Newsletter Editor	Andrew Lesny, W2FG
Media/Banquet Coordinator	Paul Kolacki, K2FX
Packet Cluster	144.910MHz
Telnet: ng2	p.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
Lifetime Membership	\$200.00

Any other correspondence to: Irv Goodman, AF2K





### 2246 E River Rd Rochester, NY 14623

Join us for our pre-meeting gettogether, starting at 6PM

# Professional Home Inspection



Paul Mackanos – K2DB 20 Sumac Way Fairport, NY 14450



800.822.7579 585.223.4230