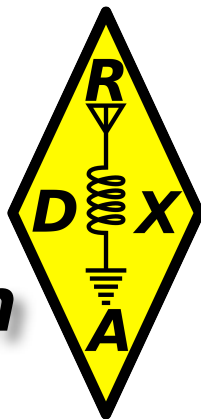


Rochester DX Association



New York State QSO Party

***Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012: 1400 UTC thru Oct. 21, 0200 - 12 Hours
(Third Saturday in October)***

October Monthly Meeting

This month's topic will be a presentation provided by our very own Ed Gable on the 2012 HK0NA DXpedition of Malpelo Island. To compliment Ed's presentation of the DXpedition he will also be showing a video of the event. RDXA had the distinct pleasure of being a sponsor of the HK0NA DXpedition.

A Note From The NYQP Coordinator

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone so quickly, looking at the calendar NYQP is just a little over a long away. Each year NYQP has grown in participation and that is what it's all about. Let's mark our calendars for October 20th, 2012 and get on the air. Qso parties, I know, are not ARRL Sweepstakes or Cq World Wide but let's show the amateur radio is live and well in NY. I know last year there were some that teamed up and worked together and that is awesome. Maybe we could host our shack to someone new who has never participated in a qso party or any other contest. Ever since Paul K2DB and Rick W1TY set out to bring the NYQP back to life there has been a tremendous amount of man hours and skill put into this. We are still in a growing phase and have some rough edges, but we are moving forward. It would be great to be perfect, hey but even CQ WW just had a glitch in their scoring software. I have had the pleasure of receiving some wonderful feedback about what a great event NYQP has become, and along with the good there has been some negative feedback we need to hear both that's how we learn about the issues we need to address. I would like to ask our members to help out a little bit, several clubs in other states have committed to participating in NYQP to help it become a top qso party, take a look at the contest calendar and you may not be able to give the full shot but try to get on and participate even a little in the other qso parties. I hope to add all of you in my log this year.

73

Brent Hungate KC2QLJ
NYQP Coordinator



Meet Our Officers and Board of Directors, Part 2

Brent Hungate, KC2QLJ — Vice-President

I hope everyone had a great summer, we actually had one for a change. Fall is upon us and time to get active. At the last board of directors meeting, the board decided to have the officers and board members to do a little biography so we can learn a little bit about our members in office.

My exposure to 2 way communication started back in the mid 70's when my father jumped on the "cb radio" fad. As a young kid I was caught hook line and sinker with his new way of talking with other people. I will never forget when dad came home with the new Realistic TR440 Navaho base radio and the 5/8 ground plane antenna and set up the new shack in the kitchen. I enjoyed the 11 meter band for many years and often thought about getting my ticket and just never followed through with it. In 2006 I was one of the lead organizers for the Rochester Labor Day Parade and we decided to use amateur radio operators for our communications. It was the weekend some great guys planted the seed and a gentle nudge to follow through and get my Technician class license. Just to mention a few Lynn N2IZX, Len

KC2PCD, Brad KV2CHY and our very own Tim WN2KAO. Tim spent a lot of time talking with me that day and placed the icing on the cake, next thing you know off to RARA class I went and was once again back on the air. I didn't know about RDXA but soon found that most of the crew I talked with on 145.11 were members of the club. I attended the next monthly meeting and was very impressed and became a member the next month. I have never found a more knowledgeable and generous group of people as I have found here in RDXA. I still consider myself a newbie in the world of DX'ing and contesting but I have an ample amount of seasoned veterans to turn to. As we all know I have experienced my fair share of trials and tribulations in the shack, but through this all I have learned so much. Be part of the Field day Committee, NYQP Coordinator, serving on the Board of Directors and now as Vice President is a true privilege to be part of an unbelievable organization. Fall is right around the corner let's get those antenna projects done and get ready to work some DX and participate in the great contests throughout the season and one of my favorites NYQP.

Meet Our Officers and Board of Directors, Part 2 (continued)

Lynn Bisha W2BSN — Director

I was exposed to ham radio in my family, at age 3, when my father was licensed as W2BSN in 1949. Early memories include listening to my mom practicing the code for her license 3 years later. She was licensed as K2AHG. The radio station was set in the kitchen, and Mom would enjoy her breakfast club every weekday morning on 3.885 mc AM. The first receiver was a Howard 437-A and the transmitter was a home brewed rig with an 813 in the final. Later the station was upgraded to a Hallicrafters SX-42 receiver and the transmitter was an RMCA ET-8023 (pair of 813s) from a U.S. Navy Liberty ship. I have fond memories of field days in the 1950s and radio club meetings with a very nice group of people from the area around West Carthage, NY in Jefferson county.

By the time I was in high school, 2 meters AM was all the rage and I wanted in on the action. I studied and passed the Novice test in theory and 5 wpm code and was licensed as WN2CLT in July of 1962. Now it was possible for me to use 2 meter phone. CW was never a particular interest. There was a group on every night around 8 p.m. on 145.26 mc. Commercial 2 meter equipment was still pretty expensive. Dad home brewed a 2 meter converter for a surplus 3-6 mc "Command " receiver, and home brewed a transmitter using an 829-B tube. This was good for about 30 watts. A home brewed 16 element collinear array on a 40 foot tower completed the station. Within the year I passed the Technician test and became WB2CLT.

I enlisted in the navy in 1965, after a year of college, and continued to pursue a career in radio. At first I wanted to be a Radioman; I had hoped to be sent to a morse code school to learn the code well enough to pass the general exam. After flunking the hearing test, that option was no longer open. I spent my time in an A6-A Intruder squadron, repairing doppler navigation radar, radar altimeters, and voice encryption equipment. This included two cruises in the "Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club" on the USS Enterprise in the period of 1965 – 1969.

My father passed away in 1969, when I was 23. He was the key to ham radio in the family, and my mother didn't use it very much after that.

At this point, ham radio took a back seat to life in general. However, I always maintained an interest through magazines and continued to repair anything electronic. After the Navy, I was hired by IBM here in Rochester and began a career in Field Engineering. Marriage, and a son and daughter, kept me very

occupied. Thirty-six years of repairing computers at several different companies also kept my skills up to date; and I faithfully renewed my license. I attended the Rochester Hamfest each year because it was a continual source of parts and projects. I retained a few items from my father's estate for a long time, but I finally donated them to the Antique Wireless Association in 1982.

When the code testing requirements were eased to 5wpm in 2000, I upgraded to a General class license. In 2003 I filed under the vanity program to get my dad's call. I was amazed that it was still available. Finally, in 2004 I passed the Extra exam at the Rochester Hamfest. Retirement came along in Feb. 2005. That was when I walked into the AWA annex and asked if they needed a volunteer. Seven and a half years in the AWA have been like a second childhood. I get to play with radios I could only dream of as a youngster. I have had a wonderful learning experience in the many facets of collecting. It is also tremendously exciting to be intimately involved with a world class museum that is rapidly expanding its space. Five years ago I was asked to join the AWA board, and later I was appointed Assistant Curator. It has also been rewarding to share operating events with the members of RDXA at the museum annex. As the museum grows and expands, we hope to build on the rapport with RDXA as well as other local clubs. Four years ago I joined the board of directors of RDXA and I'm enjoying the camaraderie and the exposure to the contesting environment.

My current stations consist of a Collins R-388 general coverage receiver paired with a Johnson Viking Valiant (1950s, all tubes) for nostalgia AM (Listen for it on 3.837 Sundays @ 4p.m.). The Drake twins R-4C and T-4XC (1970s tubes and solid state hybrid) for nostalgia SSB (Sundays @ noon 7.237), and a Kenwood TS-440 with a Henry 2K-D linear for general use. I have several other radios and can operate from 1.8 – 440 mhz. Yes, I still have 2m AM, a Heathkit Twoer (Benton Harbor Lunchbox) that I used as a teenager and in college. CW is one of my latest pursuits, and I am struggling to get past 12wpm. My biggest interests are rag chewing and restorations. I will admit I do much more listening than talking, but as my late father-in-law always said, "If you're talking, you're not learning."

Dan Guyor, N2DD — Director

I was born at a very early age, but didn't get started in ham radio until later in life. My cousin had a shack set up in my uncle's basement that I saw at the age of 8 and I've wanted to get into ham radio ever since. I couldn't get

Meet Our Officers and Board of Directors, Part 2 (continued)

down to the FCC office in Detroit on Tuesdays so it had to wait.

I had joined the US Marine Corps and pretty much been around the world when the opportunity finally arose. By then the FCC said that VE teams could give the test and they had come out with the "No-code Technician" license. My Radio Chief had asked about ham radio, and being a Radio Technician I gave him and our Lieutenant lessons in FCC regulations and electrical theory. We went to a local VE session and I passed the test. I was awarded the call sign KF6RAK, but never got on the air as I didn't have the time or equipment.

My last duty station was Camp Lejeune and while there my Comm Officer wanted some HF Field Expedient Antenna training. In the Marine Corps at the time I needed to set up the contact another unit on a distant base, work with two frequency coordinators, then get three frequencies for this training. One frequency for day, one for night, and a third that wouldn't work at any time. I know this because I did HF training between California and Hawaii years earlier.

My recommendation to the Comm Officer--he was a novice licensee at the time--was for me to get a General license, build some antennas, then call CQ and conduct a little third-party traffic with the Marine who built the antenna talking to the Ham on the other end. The CommO went for that idea. A little more study and one

test session later I came out with an Amateur Extra Class license and the call sign AG4ZB. The antenna training was a success.

While at Camp Lejeune I changed my call sign to NC8D because I got tired of everyone coming back to me with "KG4 Who?" during Field Day. I got my Extra in North Carolina but grew up in 8-land, near Detroit. NC-8-D kind of told my history. After I retired from the service I moved to New York to build radios for the Marine Corps.

I thought I'd get into contesting when I saw a video on You Tube by the Ham Band called "The Contest" featuring Jan Thogersen, OZ1ADL. The idea of talking to others around the world appealed to me more than talking to everyone around North America during Field Day. The next available call was N2DD. I applied for it and got it. Imagine my surprise when I made a contact last year in the CQ WPX, then got LoTW confirmation, with OZ1ADL. Thanks Jan.

I'm still building my station. Right now I have a Yaesu FT-857D feeding a G5RV at 35 feet through a LDG Z-11 Pro. So far I've got 70 DXCC entities, 47 states and 292 CQ WPX prefixes, all using SSB at 100 watts and all confirmed in Logbook of the World. My next step will be Broadband HexBeam on the side of the house. When you hear N2DD on the air now there is a tall, retired Jarhead with a face made for radio at the control.

ROC City Net

**The premier HF net from
Upstate New York**

**Every Wednesday at
8:00 PM (0000 UTC) @
3825KHz +/-**

**And Now on 145.11 Bristol
Repeater,
Sunday @ 7:30 PM**

Join Us!



Fire at N2BEG

As some of you know we suffered a serious house fire at my QTH on Sunday, September 9th. My wife and I were the only ones home and had only minutes to get us and all the animals out. We couldn't locate our two cats and when it was all over only Smokey made it out. We miss his brother Coco dearly. He was a very unique kitty and was always on someone's lap or helping me in the shack.



Coco....always playful

Never having had an experience like this I can now tell you firsthand how terrifying it is. As an old scouter who tries to always "be prepared", there are many things I have learned since the fire that are worth passing on. I don't believe anything or anyone can completely prepare you for dealing with this type of situation, however there are a lot of things that are simple and that you have heard many times that should be taken to heart. There are others things we have learned that take a little more effort and are not as evident. When this is all over I hope to do a program for a meeting and give all the details. Suffice to say for now, check your smoke detectors, call your insurance agent about your coverage (ask about code upgrade insurance) and have a plan. Our fire was on a warm afternoon. It would have been completely different in February at 3am.

We are now staying in a house in Honeoye Falls, after 8 days in a hotel. It is more house than we need but we are glad the insurance company found it so quickly. We have started the rebuilding process and learning a lot more about that as well. The fire started in my shack of all places, in my flat screen computer monitor (an older Acer 15") as near we can tell. Everything in the shack was destroyed, as was most everything in the basement. The

contents of the house were pretty much a total loss, but we did manage to save some items. The house has been gutted to the studs and will basically be all new on the inside. We were in the process of refinancing when the fire happened which has complicated things somewhat, but we are working through it. Our hope is to be back in by Christmas.



my IC-756....

Ben and I are planning on doing NYQP from the mobile somewhere. We're looking at activating Cattaraugus County and maybe Allegheny on the way back. Still working out the details, stay tuned. Hope to work some of you. I will post updates when I can. Please check your smoke detectors!

Best 73z,

Doug, Kathleen, Ben & Jack

Zombie Apocalypse Survival Gear: Ham Radios

Monday, September 24, 2012

The zombies are coming! Quick: What should you scavenge together for the impending attack?

Baseball bat, check.

First aid kit, check.

Ham radio equipment? You better hope so.

Earlier this week, Dragon Con — the annual sci-fi, fantasy and comic book convention — hosted a panel covering communication in a post-apocalyptic world. According to [Wired's coverage](#) of the conference, several attendees may have been disappointed by the panel's primary topic of discussion: amateur radio.

While amateur radio may not be as exhilarating as fighting zombie hordes, it may be the most effective tool during an apocalypse. So why invest in amateur radio equipment for a potential zombie apocalypse (you can never be too prepared!)? Like most investments, amateur radio's success depends on diversification.



Image courtesy Monitos en la Pared via flickr.

The amateur radio community has millions of members worldwide and several hundred thousand licensed operators in the United States. This fact combined with the dedication of local radio clubs makes ham radios one of the best communication systems during a zombie attack.

Amateur radio operators can send out signals from their personal stations either in their homes, on the road, or even from the International Space Station. If these operators send their signals on the right frequency, local radio repeaters can detect the signal and re-broadcast them.

Repeaters receive signals on a certain frequency and then transmit those same signals on a different frequency. Additionally, these stations have more powerful antennas that allow for broadcasts across a greater range. Connecting multiple repeaters allows for even greater distance broadcasts.

Local radio clubs or individual operators maintain these repeaters, and they allow others to transmit on them. So why might this work better than traditional communication channels during a zombie apocalypse?

Downed telephone lines and cell towers without power can lead to spotty or nonexistent coverage during a disaster. A huge network of amateur radio repeaters can utilize pockets that still have power, and generators can keep them running as well.

Amateur radio's not just for zombie attacks, however. Ham operators have been instrumental in several real-life emergencies, including [search and rescue efforts](#) during Hurricane Katrina. There's even a group of amateur radio enthusiasts and horror film buffs who started their own "[Zombie Squad](#)" dedicated to emergency preparedness. So if you're gearing up for a zombie battle, don't forget your radios. Finding safety among this huge amateur network may prove more useful than shotguns and baseball bats.

For more information on amateur radio, including how to get your own license, check out the [American Radio Relay League](#).

Posted by Hyperspace

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, W2FG at 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.

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Membership ChairmanBrent Hungate, KC2QLJ

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Membership Dues can be sent to:

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Regular Membership	\$20.00
Family Membership	\$5.00
Full-Time Student	\$5.00
Lifetime Membership	\$200.00

Any other correspondence to: Irv Goodman, AF2K

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

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