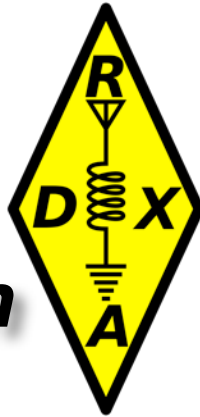


# Rochester DX Association



**May Monthly Meeting  
Field Day 2013 Planning  
&  
BOD Election**

**Tuesday, May 21, 7:30pm  
Monroe County EOC  
1190 Scottsville Road**



[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

## A Right-Sized Field Day

Vic Gauvin K1PY

After the brief but inconclusive Field Day discussion at the last general meeting, there were, as expected, continued Field Day discussions. That was followed by a couple of proposals to the board, and finally a solid discussion at the recent Board of Directors meeting.

*(continued on next page)*

## A Right-Sized Field Day

(continued)

The first proposal to the board was by Ken N2ZN. It follows this summary in full, but its main points were

- Recent Field Days have neglected operating during what is an *operating* event
- The casual approach to support a teaching effort had no takers
- There was little sense of pride or accomplishment over the past two years
- A number of members are interested in an effort between casual and all out that is more contest like
- We need people committed to operating and putting on an effort worthy of a contest club
- Its suggested that we revisit the FD discussion and put an emphasis on OPERATING, and ultimately CONTESTING

This was followed by a supporting e-mail from Vic K1PY, picking up the operating thread and building on the baseline efforts of the past two years to provide a casual and competitive, as well as a productive and enjoyable operating environment. One worth coming out for. It follows Ken's article, and its main points were

- A key aspect of Field Day enjoyment is doing as well as possible as a club
- After the past two years, we may be able to move forward to something between casual and full blown
- Define a manageable effort built on the 2A baseline of the past two years
- Identify "doable" incremental options that improve results worthy of the extra effort
- Maintain GOTA as a key casual element, and participation at your comfort level
- Remember we are RDXA

The above points were the basis for a very productive discussion at the recent Board of Directors meeting, which resulted in a consensus approach to bring to the membership at the upcoming meeting. It is summarized after the full text of the two proposals outlined above.

### N2ZN e-mail to RDXA Board of Directors

With Field Day approaching, the question has (again) come up as to what kind of operation we were planning on hosting this year. As in past years, it comes down to "All out contest" versus "casual" operation, similar to our activity the past two years.

At this month's general meeting, it was decided (I think) that we will again pursue a casual operation. As Mark mentioned (truthfully), during our all-out contest wars of a few years ago, it did push our resources to the limit, both in terms of people and equipment. However, I think this club can do better than just a "casual" effort.

During the last two years, we have certainly put on casual efforts; almost too casual. I know that a number of members have expressed interest in doing something more contest like, and I would also favor that. It does not have to be an all-out effort to win, but it can walk the line between casual and all out efforts.

As a contest club (which we are), it was sad to see over the past two years on Field Day weekend the number of times that the radios were left unmanned, not producing anything. The focus seemed to be on eating, drinking, and having a good time doing other things that were not radio related-despite the fact that this event is focused on operating radios, contest style.

I (and a number of other people) would like to bring Field Day back to being about operating. This has nothing to do with the number of towers we put up or the number of radios we bring; it has to do with the shifting of priorities. We don't need five towers and SO2R setups on each station. What we do need are people committed to operating, who will focus on operating, and putting on a Field Day effort worthy of a contest club.

In a contest club, the priority should be operating contests. In a general purpose club (RARA, Drumlins, etc), the purpose of Field Day is much broader, and can be defined many ways. This is good and bad, and much harder to define than when you are part of a club like RDXA when your purpose is much clearer.

One of the main drivers of turning Field Day into a casual effort was to make it more of a teaching and Elmering event. We invited hordes of newbies to our Field Day with promises of plenty of air time and lessons on setting up stations and building antennas. None of them showed up, and the ones that did seemed more interested in hanging out, BSing and eating than learning about radio. Our regular FD crew was there, but the groups of eager new hams waiting to sit under our learning tree never appeared, and that has been the same for the last two years. I predict the same will happen this year.

Contesting doesn't have to be a dirty word, especially as a DX/contest club. Over the last few years, I have heard people refer to our all-out Field Day efforts as "CONTESTS", with scornful emphasis on the word CONTEST. Most of these complaints come from people outside our club who are not members, or from actual members of the club who are on the "fringes"-they don't come to the meetings very often, they don't contribute scores or work DX, but they certainly aren't shy about saying how things SHOULD be when it comes to Field Day. Obviously a passionate subject, but to me, it has always been easy-if you are a CONTEST club, operate the thing as a CONTEST, and don't worry about pressures from outside "interest groups" who aren't helping to pull the wagon forward regardless of what we do.

The past contesting efforts that RDXA put on were (to me) spectacular. I had never seen anything like it when I moved here, and it is possible I never will again. The amazing things weren't only the antennas, radios, and sheer size of everything, but the fact that the entire Rochester ham community would come together to make our huge FD efforts happen. We had generators, towers, equipment, manpower, antennas, VHF rovers, and operators just for the asking. Not all of it came from within RDXA. That was the amazing part. Everyone wanted to do get on the boat and do their little bit to help us realize our dreams of being #1 in the country, and we did it twice. We got invited to Dayton to talk about it. We were recognized by the county for our efforts. We celebrated and were proud. Even as the #2 finisher some years, we were still proud.

And now, it's over. I didn't feel much sense of pride or accomplishment the past two years. We had trained no (or few) new operators because they didn't show, and we abandoned our radios in favor of eating and hanging out. Our scores were poor compared to what we could have done with the SAME setup, but more commitment to operating. This is not what RDXA is about.

When I joined the club, members used to speak in hushed tones, outside of meetings, saying to each other "This is nothing but a Field Day club", and always with a negative connotation, like we should be doing something else with our time and money. And there was truth to that-I can't deny it. We put in a huge amount of resources into FD. But now, our big FD efforts are a thing of the past, and the claim can't be made that we are a Field Day club anymore. So what kind of club are we, now? What's our big "get"? The thing we do the best?

In conclusion, I actually have two requests for the BOD:

Revisit this year's Field Day discussion, and place the emphasis on OPERATING.

Start planning (and becoming comfortable) towards the idea of a return to CONTESTING in 2014, in one form or another.

Respectfully,

Ken Boasi, N2ZN

## K1PY e-mail to RDXA Board of Directors Small, Medium, or Large

One of the most enjoyable aspects of Field Day has always been doing something as group, as a club, with fellow members, many of them good friends, in a combined effort, and most especially, sharing in the camaraderie of doing so. Working together, combining our resources, our skills and knowledge, to do as well as possible (otherwise, why are we there?). It's especially motivating for someone with a simple home station (most of us) – you're part of a larger effort with a better station than you'll ever have. You can be part of a multi-multi! Wow, you'd certainly like to know far you could take it!

The key to all this is operating. Especially for a DX and Contest club! Even the League gave up denying that FD is at least partly a contest: From the 2013 Field Day Primer:

*Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN! ... While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities.... The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.*

Actually, with Monroe County Emergency Coordinator Muffy Meisenzahl's demonstrated support, she thought our "contesting" effort indeed demonstrated our "emergency response capabilities" and bragged about it to federal government officials (FEMA, etc.) If you didn't know that, that's why we often have the county tower.

So, operating should be the focus. This does not mean in the least that there's no casual aspect. With active participation, how much on-air operating time does any one person get? Well, outside of the overnight shift (actually, a really pleasant time), you might be on for a couple of hours, four at most. There's plenty of time remaining to be casual!

So, with operating the key, after two years of "Casual" operation, it seems we should have recovered from our past excesses, and may be able to take a couple of steps forward. And no, "Full Blown Contest Effort" is not where this is headed. Read on.

In the 2012 FD survey, two approaches were proposed:

- "Casual / Teaching Contest Effort"
- "Full Blown Contest Effort"

It's odd that those were the only two choices. There's usually Small, Medium, and Large. This survey provided only Tiny and Huge. So this is an attempt at defining Small, Medium, and even Large.

Briefly, the results. 40% chose Full Blown, 60% chose Casual. When given a different choice, the highest margin in the survey, 80%, would "participate" in a full blown effort than a casual (60%). This is food for thought.

With these things in mind, let's propose and consider some incremental suggestions between a Casual and a Full Blown FD. It might be that there is far more interest in something at a level in the middle, bringing more of us together.

A starting point might be to define the baseline effort that would be expended anyway for a Casual FD. Basically, you'd be doing at least this no matter what.

1. Friday setup as usual
2. Traditional club-provided pizza party for the set-up crew
3. Power via Admar generator
4. Power panel setup and distribution
5. Club canopies (2) and other tents/shelters
6. Computer network
7. VHF/UHF
8. Food
9. 2A entry with GOTA
10. Several wire antennas
11. Cushcraft A4 tri-bander
12. Mil-mast
13. Night operation
14. Sunday take-down
15. Logs gathered and entry submitted to ARRL

So, an effort at even the lowest level involves most of the above, and more with transporting equipment to and fro. A reasonable question is this: With all this effort, were the last two years results truly satisfying from an operating and contest club perspective? Or put another way, are we all recovered now, and have had enough of this?

Compared with all of the above, it wouldn't take much more at all to convert this into a more productive and enjoyable "casually competitive" event.

Let's start with last year. Simplistically, a wire, Mil-mast, and A4 was one of the stations, with all wires being the other. The A4 can be productive, especially on CW. So that's a good starting point and something we'd already have.

Suggestion 1: The biggest bang for the buck would be using the flagpole that we over the years have invested so much effort in utilizing for something more than a wire antenna support. (If anyone really believes the thing is ready to fall over, you're welcome to bypass that set-up, and to mark off the area and stay outside its boundaries. For those who think otherwise, let's proceed.) The 2-element Cushcraft 40M Yagi would be available. That by itself used to generate 1000+ CW contacts just by sitting there and CQing. It also performed well on 15 one year that we tried it briefly. This provides a very capable 2-band station.

With the A4 on 10/20, an 80 dipole, and the 40/15 flagpole station, and staying in 2A, you've got a much improved all-band/mode setup.

Of course, in 2A you have to work out the band/mode timing. Also, frankly, this is one of the most competitive classes in Field Day. (I thought I might be on Cape Cod for one FD weekend, and checked to see what was in the area. Found a 2A station that puts up 5 (that's f-i-v-e) Mil-masts with two 40M beams. 2A! And they were #8!)

Next possible steps: Simplify the band/mode thing and return to "our" class by adding a dedicated phone station, with the previous two as CW. This has been the traditional and very successful club configuration. There are two ways to do it, each an incremental step:

- Suggestion 2: All wire antennas for phone station
- Suggestion 3: Replace some wires with a Mil-mast and A4 (needs to be found)

Either way, this 3A configuration puts us in the most competitive position without going overboard. For arguments sake and to complete the discussion, there's one last possibility:

- Suggestion 4: Replace the phone A4 with our venerable Killer Tri-bander 34-XA (that's what the KT in KT34-XA stands for, by the way)

In fact, the above at suggestion 4 was most of our '08 national championship station.

What else would it take? Not much - we've done all this before. We could use the proven site layout employed that year.

But it's not all antennas. What else gives us a "casual but competitive" Field Day?

Keep the GOTA station as it was done the last couple of years. Its sole purpose is for anyone, specifically the casual operator, to operate. It could be as simple as a 40M phone/CW station. 40 is a winner band during the entire FD period. It'd be a ball for any operator, zero pressure, perfect for low-key searching & pouncing, and great training/mentoring opportunities.

One of the key things that need to be stressed for whatever level we undertake is the attitude under which any of this is put together. The attitude should be participation at your comfort level, both in setup and operating. (But in fairness to the entire club, you still make sure you do your share.) For some, it's full throttle - max effort; for others, it's more laid back. For some it's max rate running - for others easy-going S&P. For some it may be logging at GOTA or phone. For others, any number of important activities that fall under "support" but which we couldn't do without - transportation, food, equipment, etc. All these options are here.

So, pick one of the suggestions, suggest alternatives, mix and match. Then however it turns out, offer to step up to make it happen.

There's one last thing really worth remembering: We are RDXA. We are a DX and Contest Club. We are two-time National Field Day Champions (been there, done that, have the T-shirt ☺). Being asked to present at the Dayton Contest Forum is one of the most exciting times RDXA has experienced in Field Day, and something that we'll remember forever. We do NOT have to go over the top to maintain a winning tradition. Our '08 winning effort was a joy. Let's keep it going. RDXA Pride.

## BoD Field Day 2013 summary

Vic Gauvin K1PY

The Field Day discussion focused primarily on the points raised by Ken N2ZN, and had general agreement as a result of the e-mail even before discussion started. With consecutive Field Days tailored to be training and mentoring exercises being generally ignored, it was felt that RDXA made a legitimate effort in this regard, but that we should move on. This was consistent with Ken's position that we should support our own member's interests.

The proposals that Vic K1PY suggested were then discussed in detail. Basically,

- several incremental class and station configurations were outlined as potential options for this year's Field Day
- It was further proposed that we attempt to determine the number of people we'd need to accomplish each level
- A survey would be developed and distributed to the membership, requesting their input on what level of effort they would be able to commit to in support of Field Day

- The total level of volunteer effort would then determine which class and station configuration the club as a whole was able and willing to undertake
- 

## A Right-Sized Field Day

*(continued)*

There was unanimous agreement on this approach, and this is what will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

In outline form, these are the class/station options. Casual is the “baseline” that would have been done if the Casual approach continued. Each “+” is an addition to that baseline or the level that precedes it.

- **Casual** – same as last two years – Class 2A with A4 on Mil-mast + wires
- **+1** – Class 2A with A4 on Mil-mast and 80 dipole **plus** 2L 40 on flagpole (40/15)
- **+2** – Class 3A – All above on CW **plus** add'l phone station + wires
- **+3** – Class 3A – All above **adding** A4 on Mil-mast + wires
- **+4** – Class 3A – All above **replacing** A4 with KT-34XA

The survey will seek Field Day attendee level of support in the following areas.

- Equipment (rigs, tents, etc.)
- Pre-setup equipment pickup and transportation (vehicles, etc.)
- Setup
- Other support commitment (food, food help, bonus points, etc.)
- Operating
- Takedown
- Post-takedown equipment return

At the time of this writing, it can't be determined if an online survey would be ready before the meeting. If it's not, a paper version will be used at the meeting to determine the initial level of response to these proposals. You're also free to use the RDXA e-mail reflector to convey and discuss your impressions of the above.

So, please consider all that's presented above, all that's gone on over the years that you've been involved in RDXA's Field Day, what kind of club we are, and come to your own determination as to what type of Field Day you believe is best for RDXA. Convey that determination via your level of commitment in the survey. Whatever the sum total of everybody's commitment is will determine what kind of Field Day we'll be having. It's hoped that the membership desires a return to celebrating RDXA Pride!



I wish I could say my amp did this to my coax... this was what was left of my coax lead ins after the fire. They saw about 1500F. While all will get replaced eventually, I was able to cut one back and get my butternut back on the air for now...

—Doug, N2BEG



NYQP plaques are hitting the mail. All should be out this week! Thanks to all for their patience!

— Doug, N2BEG



# The Solar Maximum

Doug N2BEG

If you have kept up with spaceweather.com or any of the other websites out there to track what's going on with the sun in our much anticipated year of solar maximum you may be also asking, where is it? Where are the 24 hour 10 meter band openings and DX coming out of every part of the world round the clock workable with a wet noodle and QRP?? Well, you are not alone. The predicted peak of the current solar cycle should be going on now, and activity has been on the rise, however even the experts can't agree on why this cycle seems to be acting different. Back in March NASA experts announced that we may have already have seen the peak and that it was lower than expected, but also may contain a little surprise they have seen before, a "double peak".

Having been a ham since 1977, I am enjoying this, my third cycle, even though it's different. I am hopeful it will end with a bang and give all the new hams a chance to experience a truly noteworthy cycle. As I write this we are again in the wake of glancing CME which has pretty much killed the bands, but on the other side of that should be some choice offerings once again.

So while it's not the 'great one', it's still amazing what you can work when the sun cooperates with a little luck, patience, propagation information and even a modest signal. Using the new tools we have today makes it all easier too, but again it's not necessary to score some decent DX.

Well, time to see about getting some antenna work done. Go get on and have some fun. Tell us what you were able to work!

## ROC City Net

The premier HF net from  
Upstate New York

Every Wednesday at  
8:00 PM (0000 UTC) @  
3826 KHz +/-

And On 145.11 Bristol  
Repeater,  
Sunday @ 7:30 PM  
Join Us!



**1st Annual "Irv Fest"**  
Save the date, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
after work at the QTH of Irv, AF2K

More info to follow later !!!

Put it on the calendar !!!

## RDXA - Red Wings Night

**Fri. July 19 - 7:15 p.m. vs. Syracuse (Nationals)**

**Post-game Fireworks**, presented by Batavia Downs Casino and Racetrack... **Tote Bag Giveaway (1st 3,000 fans)**, presented by The College at Brockport... **Mercy Flight Central Night and Jersey Auction... Magnet Giveaway (1st 2,500 fans)...** Hillside Family of Agencies **Pre-Game Autograph Booth.**

Mark, K2MTH will be organizing an RDXA Night at Frontier Field.

**Tickets will be \$6.00 each and we will all sit together. Mark will be coming out with details on how to get your ticket !!!**

73 & see you at the ball park for a fun filled evening !!

—Paul K2DB



This award had arrived in the mailbox of Lynn Bisha, W2BSN, demonstrating the benefits of submitting a log in a contest, no matter how many (or few) contacts were made.

# RDXA RVHFG Annual Awards Banquet



# Announced DXPeditions for June 2013

2013 May25	2013 Jun07	<b>Aland Is</b>	<b>OH0</b> <b>NEW</b>		<a href="#">425DXN</a> 20130518	By PA0VHA as OH0/PA0VHA, PA2A, PA2AM, PA2VMA, PA3ALK, PA3BAG likewise; HF + 2m; SSB CW RTTY
<b>CQ WW WPX Contest, CW</b> (May 25-26, 2013) Check here for pericontest activity too.						
<b>June</b>						
2013 Jun01	2013 Jun07	<b>Fiji</b>	<b>3D2WN</b>	AA2WN	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20130426	By AA2WN fm Viti Levu I (OC-016, WLOTA 0055); HF; holiday style operation
2013 Jun03	2013 Jun10	<b>St Barthelemy</b>	<b>FJ</b> <b>NEW</b>	Home Call	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20130513	By K5WE as FJ/K5WE and N5WR as FJ/N5WR; 80-6m; mainly CW, some RTTY SSB
2013 Jun03	2013 Jun20	<b>Cape Verde Is</b>	<b>D44TWO</b>	M00XO	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20130420	By DF2WO fm Praia, Ilha Santiago (AF-005, HK84fw); 40-10m; CW SSB; 80 watts; holiday style operation
2013 Jun08	2013 Jun15	<b>Bahamas</b>	<b>C6ATT</b>	Home Call	K2TTT 20120920	By K2TTT fm New Providence I (NA-001, WLOTA 1115, FL15hb); also N2RFA (C6ABB), K2KJI (C6ALC), KC4PX (C6APX); 80-10m; SSB RTTY SSTV PSK31 JT65; QRV for ARRL June VHF QSO Party
2013 Jun11	2013 Jun28	<b>St Martin</b>	<b>FS</b>	LotW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20130507	By K9EL as FS/K9EL; 80-6m
2013 Jun14	2013 Jun28	<b>Br Virgin Is</b>	<b>VP2V</b>	W9DR	W9DR 20130212	By W9DR as VP2V/W9DR fm Anegada I (FK78tr); 6m; SSB; CW beacon on 50115.6 kHz
2013 Jun16	2013 Jun30	<b>Svalbard</b>	<b>JW9JKA</b> <b>NEW</b>	LA9JKA	LA9JKA 20130518	By LA9JKA; operation to continue until Dec 15, 2013
2013 Jun22	2013 Jun29	<b>Guantanamo Bay</b>	<b>KG4</b>	Home Call	K4RX 20130424	By K4RX as KG4RX, AC4TO as KG4TO, N4SIA as KG4AS fm FK29kv; HF; CW; KG4RX + KG4TO QSOs will go to Clublog
2013 Jun28	2013 Jul07	<b>Curacao</b>	<b>PJ2</b>	LotW	ON6DX 20130418	By ON6DX as PJ2/ON6DX; focus on 6m + 15 12 10m for JA and Asia; QSL also OK via ON6DX, Buro or direct
2013 Jun30	2013 Jul05	<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>LX</b>	ON6ZV	ON6OM 20130228	By ON6ZV ON6OM ON7EG ON4MW as LX/OO6P; HF; SSB RTTY PSK31 PSK63

### Rochester DX Association

Club Station — W2RDX

Club Website — <http://www.rdxa.com>

This Bulletin is the official publication of the Rochester DX Association and is published monthly, September through June. Email your articles, tips, ham ads, etc. to Andrew, W2FG 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** .....Mark Hazel – K2MTH  
[mthazel2151@yahoo.com](mailto:mthazel2151@yahoo.com)

**Vice President** .....Brent Hungate – KC2QLJ  
[brenthungate@yahoo.com](mailto:brenthungate@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

Larry Brightenfield – W2LB ....[brighten@rochester.rr.com](mailto:brighten@rochester.rr.com)

Doug Stewart – N2BEG .....[doug.stewart@itcmems.com](mailto:doug.stewart@itcmems.com)

Lynn Bisha – W2BSN .....[lbisha@rochester.rr.com](mailto:lbisha@rochester.rr.com)

Dan Guyor – N2DD.....[drguyor@earthlink.net](mailto:drguyor@earthlink.net)

Andrew Lesny – W2FG .....[alesny@rochester.rr.com](mailto:alesny@rochester.rr.com)

Max Kelley – KC2SPY .....[max@maxkelley.com](mailto:max@maxkelley.com)

### Appointed Positions

Webmasters .....Paul Mackanos, K2DB  
.....Larry Brightenfield, W2LB  
Contest/DX Chairman.....Paul Mackanos, K2DB  
Membership Chairman .....Brent Hungate, KC2QLJ  
Calendar Chairman.....Don Vlack, K2DV  
Newsletter Editor .....Andrew Lesny, W2FG  
Media/Banquet Coordinator.....Paul Kolacki, K2FX

### 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 get-together, starting at 6PM

### Professional Home Inspection



Paul Mackanos – K2DB  
20 Sumac Way  
Fairport, NY 14450



800.822.7579  
585.223.4230