

# Rochester DX Association



## September Meeting Elecraff KX3 Demonstration

**Tuesday, September 17,  
7:30pm**

**Monroe County EOC  
1190 Scottsville Road**

Because of the later start, it was a bit of a hurried planning period. But because of our many successful Field Days, we were able to fall back on our previous “emergency preparedness training” and pull it together pretty well. (*See, all of our previous events really were emergency training!*)

Probably the most difficult challenge we had was, as usual, arranging for pickup and transport of equipment, primarily Yagis and Mil-masts. The stalwart regulars with a few welcome new additions came through however.

The most welcome “new thing” was the ARRL’s expansion of the FD setup period. You’ll recall we couldn’t start prior to 2pm Friday. Now it’s 0 Zulu Friday, making it Thursday evening for us! We chose to keep it just Friday, but started the weekend by returning to another tradition, the Nutcracker breakfast. Of course, it was now on Friday, but still a nice kick-off to the weekend. After a casual breakfast, rendezvous at the Webster Park site was around 9, but that still gave us 5 hours more than before. It effectively removed the feeling of urgency associated with prior setups, and made setup a lot more relaxing.

We had fair success in getting teams together for the various initial setup tasks, and things went pretty well. It only ever lasts just a while, however, and people drifted off on their own to whatever appeared to need doing next. But that’s a good thing – at least setup continued nicely.

As always, one of the larger tasks is Mil-mast setup. Again, we had new people on board to learn from our Field Day veterans, led by Lynn W2BSN. Gene W2LU led the Yagi assembly team putting together an A4 (from K1PY), a 40-2CD (courtesy N2ZN), and a new participant, a CL-33 (thanks W2LB). Rich W2FBS donated a 40M Bazooka to the club and we used it at GOTA (thanks Rich). An 80M CW inverted Vee and a new on-site creation (more training!), an 80/40M bow tie for phone, completed

## Thoughts on 2013 Field Day

Wow, great turnout, great camaraderie, great weekend, great score, all with a laid back feeling. In a word: Great! (And no, I did NOT overuse that term – if you were there, you know.)

Actually, this is a pleasant recollection for those in attendance, but an overdue wrap-up for those that couldn’t make it. I wish I’d decided to write this soon after the weekend to get a better chronology, but now all I can pass on are the lasting impressions. And as you can tell, they are positive.

We started planning much later than usual. That’s because the thought was that this was going to be similar to the two previous year’s Field Days: A casual, minimal effort, teaching event. A proposal to the board prompted a review of this philosophy, and because of the lack of interest in the training aspect (read negligible turnout) and the basic nature of RDXA (“a DX and contest club”), it was decided to return to our normal FD role: Being a national leader in this event. But we wanted to address the desires of our overall membership, so some changes in approach were instituted.

the HF antenna suite. The K2TER rover was completely self-contained with its elevated array for VHF.

Mil-masts and antennas progressed nicely until it was time for yet another new thing for this year – a club-provided Friday lunch. Which was expertly handled by *another* change for this year in the person of Mike N2UJN who graciously volunteered to coordinate food for the entire FD weekend. In some cases this was helping Irv with pizza or Joe with Saturday dinner, and in others seeing that we had a Wegmans food tray, etc. It made the entire weekend run that much more smoothly.

Then back to antennas. The air cannons again did a superb job shooting dipole lines way up into the trees. And shelters were up by later afternoon so we could start getting the stations set up.

There also were a few “adventures” that enhanced the emergency training aspect of this year’s event.

First up, or not up as it were, was the line going to the club flag pole pulley. It was missing. We kind of went back and forth with various alternatives, one replacing the other, before deciding to just try the old existing flag pole pulley. Not the long missing one at the top, but the lower one that’s been there a long time. Then we examined its line, and found a frayed spot, making it unusable. We’d decided at one point to put the CW tribander up, thinking it was lighter than the 40-2CD. I mean, a 40M beam has to be heavier, right? Not so as we found out, so at least it was the 40 going up where it belonged. A trip was almost made to the hardware store when we realized we had some quite adequate black line from one of the ham suppliers that was more than long enough. So the old line was replaced, the 40M hauled up, and we were back in business.

After all this, it was time for another tradition – the club Friday night pizza, again handled by Irv AF2K. Great as usual, and for many a nice ending to a much more relaxed Friday setup.

There were a number of people, however, who have learned to optimize the Field Day experience by camping on site for the weekend, and they adjourned to the club campsite along the northern tree line of the grassy field. There was even power run to the campsite location! (Hey, we’ve got 25 kW, why not use it?!!) Others finished the station equipment setup so they’d be ready to test first thing the next morning.

Saturday began with another visit to the Nutcracker, but it wasn’t attended like on Friday. We then adjourned to the site to finish setup.

One of the first things to deal with that morning actually had started on Friday. This was another of the “adventures.” The details make too long a story, but the bottom line was that the diesel generator was routinely slowing down to a near stall before catching itself and getting back to speed. This kept going all Friday and into the night. It continued on Saturday. At one point, it ended up ruining one of the older station PCs. We have photos (that couldn’t be found for this article) threatening the generator with a hammer, to no avail. John W3OAB ultimately determined it was a loose ground to one of the engine components (I’m obviously not remembering which) that was the problem. Once tightened, it ran like a charm like in all the previous years.

Oh yeah, one last one. It was actually caused by the generator problem. We didn’t realize that the computer that replaced the one blown by the generator had an N1MM version that was out of sync with the others in the network, and also the log was not similarly configured. That also took a little straightening out. But we recovered, although it took until a couple of hours into the operating period to resolve.

All this aside, with the extended setup time on Friday, Saturday really had little actual setup remaining. The whole setup was done with lots of time to spare, leaving us time for a casual on-site lunch and to deal with adventures!

Once things were resolved, actual operating slipped into its usual smooth, quiet routine. The two CW stations, both in one of the club canopies near the road, and between the CL-33 tri-bander in the northwest corner of the grassy field and the 40-2CD on the flagpole, had the most relaxed air. These guys just narrow the filters, only hear whoever’s calling them, and just coast along. The 40/15 CW station had an FT-1000MP (thanks K1PY), and the 80/20/10 CW station a K3 (thanks K2RNY)

The phone tent, out in the southwest corner of the field, is a little noisier because of the nature of the mode. And we hadn’t gotten the DVR built into the K3 (thanks K0SM) programmed yet, so we had verbal CQs and exchanges. That got remedied ultimately, but we realized we still need training on these rigs. Something for next year.

Now we were in a smooth routine, and in just the right frame of mind to completely enjoy the great meal Joe K2QZR again provided. Many thanks Joe.

The 24 hour operating time is actually a pretty relaxing period. You get a couple of on air shifts, and otherwise just kick back. It’s great! There’s lots of hanging around the campsite, the common area

next to the commissary, and at the stations, listening to the Q's roll in.

Speaking of that, we didn't mention GOTA yet. This was really a high point in our renewed approach to FD this year. ARRL has a strange set of rules that govern who "qualifies" to operate the station. We decided we'd just leave it open to anyone who wasn't a "contest type" op to sit down and just make contacts and have fun. We could simultaneously be casual and competitive. It was located right at the commissary under the front overhang. It had an FT-1000MP Mark V (thanks N2ZN) to the 40M Bazooka. This station had several runs going on 15 phone at different times, and a number of ops had a blast! John W3OAB and Mark K2MTH were the generous control ops that kept it going, and they mentored several folks into successfully making contacts. Much appreciated guys.

Night calmly fell and things hummed along. This is the "dedicated operator" period of the event. Those who are willing to stay through the night to keep the contacts coming in and adding up. It gets long around 3 a.m. local, but at the same time is pretty peaceful. You just keep chugging along.

Dave WJ2O was only able to arrive in the dark of the morning on Sunday, and he showed up bearing gifts. As you know, he had the honor of being part of the Clipperton DXpedition, and brought a nice black TX5K souvenir coffee mug to the first 20 early morning people he saw. Thanks Dave!

Sunday proceeded without incident, and the numbers were starting to look pretty good. Especially considering that we hadn't made any outright "push" for contacts. We were just getting this particular year back into the typical RDXA style, and seeing where it took us and how people liked it. But you leave a bunch of contest ops alone and they'll simply make contacts, and that's what we did. The numbers will be elsewhere in the newsletter, or at the meeting (or both). But they're looking pretty good for a relaxed but competitive effort.

Around noon it started actually feeling like the closing moments, and people that weren't operating started picking things up to get a head start on takedown. It still is amazing how things that take a day to put up come down in hours, but that's what happens. For the most part, people stayed until most everything was loaded, but it got *really* thin at the very end. I'm wondering what happened to the times when a fair number of people hung around after everything was loaded up, sat down and opened a cool one, and waited to hear the preliminary numbers and celebrate the score. Now that's a far nicer way to cap off a great weekend.

Regardless, we have to be quite pleased with the outcome and of the weekend overall. I'd have to say it far exceeded our hopes. I think it speaks to who and what we are as a club, and it's something we should and do take pride in, and I believe will continue to do so.

73 until FD 2014, June 27-29

#### W2RDX/W2AN Field Day 2013 Score Breakdown

Main Stations		
Band	SSB	CW
160	0	0
80	172	342
40	510	1,062
20	223	545
15	24	167
10	8	15
6	91	10
144	20	15
222	2	2
432	16	13
Satellite	0	2
QSO's	1,066	2,173
Points	1,066	4,346
2xMult	2,132	8,692
Total	10,824	

GOTA Station		
Band	SSB	CW/DIG
160		
80		
40	1	
20		
15	288	1
10		
6		
144		
222		
432		
Satellite		
QSO's	289	1
Points	289	2
2xMult	578	4
Total	582	

Bonus	Points
100% Emergency Power	300
Media Publicity	100
Setup in Public	100
Info Booth	100
NTS message to SM	100
W1AW Bulletin	100
NTS Messages Handled	100
Natural Power QSOS	100
Site visit by elected official	100
Site visit by served agency official	100
Youth	100
Educational activity	100
Web submission	50
Satellite QSO	100
GOTA Op + Coach Bonus	480
Total Bonus Points	2,030

Total QSO Points (Main+GOTA) 11,406

Bonus 2,030

**Final Score 13,436**



## It's Antenna Season!

Like many of you I have a lot of antenna work planned for the fall. Since I'm in the middle of planning my new shack I wanted to get the outside work done first. I need to replace all my feedlines first and foremost, and get them into the basement. Like most I went to the normal places looking for good coax to use. I searched DX engineering, Texas towers, the wireman, etc. and all are within a few cents of each other pretty much. DX Engineering offers free shipping however which can be a sizable expense especially if you are buying bulk. I was getting ready to pull the trigger when I found I needed to purchase some computer stuff for my son Jack and wound up going through Amazon. While there I decided to search for coax and stumbled on a site offering LMR400 type coax in bulk (500ft) for \$209 plus shipping. Can this be correct? I dug deeper and read some reviews, which were very favorable. It is not Times, or Carol or Belden but at this price equates to around \$.43 a foot delivered which is almost HALF of what I can find it for anywhere else. It is called Shireen cable which I never heard of, but the information on the company I found online seemed good, all seemed legit so I ordered a roll. I wanted direct bury which they said was available but not listed so I emailed the company with my order. They responded in less than an hour (on a Saturday!) and said they would make it DB and not charge me anymore?!

They shipped it on Sunday(?) by Fedex and it arrived Wednesday morning. It looks to be good looking stuff and the correct length by what I can tell. I cut back some insulation and it appears to be what it says it is. I'm planning on using some this weekend and will let you know, but so far I'm a happy camper. Check out the pictures. More info to follow!



# RDXA Scholarship winners

Two of our (younger) members recently received college scholarships through amateur radio. (Perhaps you noticed Max's picture in this month's QST, page 94?) Please congratulate Max Kelly, KC2SPY and Ben Stewart, KC2JXP when you see them next. Max was awarded two scholarships, one from the ARRL and one from FAR (The Foundation for Amateur Radio) Ben was awarded a FAR scholarship from the QCWA. Way to go Max and Ben!



(DROID picture!)

BRIGHT ISS Pass this morning, 0615

## W2CCC June VJF Contest 2013

(Chris, K2CS op)

I've always had a place in my heart for VHF contesting.

I was blessed to get into the hobby during the big "Tech Plus" push of years past.

The RVHFG (along with the RDXA) provided me a place to operate alongside many "storied" operators and multis.

I've been part of the N2WK efforts, roved with W2HPF, WA2MOP and my wife, N2TWI.

Over the last 4 years, I've revived my love of VHF thanks to K2QO/r.

W2CCC is located in FN23 and for those familiar with the grid, our Watertown stronghold is no more.

In the "old days", FN23 was about as easy as FN13, WA2AEY was always on, good station and Kevin was a great operator. My understanding is the demise of the station was perpetuated by an ice storm the Adirondacks experienced years ago.

I purchased 10 acres of land and an 1846 farmhouse that had been abandoned for 30 years. The building needed a lot of work so no time for any radio for almost a year. Great "take off" at 1400 ft.

Eventually, I tossed a 6m dipole thru the trees and worked VP2JM. This was the start of W2CCC as it is today.

Currently, the station has 2, 6, 222 and 432 with a collection of radios and equipment that I've owned (and roved with) or has been donated or "reconditioned".

100w on those bands, I run 3 elements on 6m, an old "twist" on 2m (only the horizontal elements), a 222 beam and long boom 432 (from K8GP, thanks to N2OPW and a Dayton "scouting" expedition).

The most recent additions have been the 432 rig from W2BSN (from W2DYY, thanks Russ) and a 432 preamp found and tested by WB2BYP. As you can see, many members have helped to get this station where it is today (as can be expected with this organization).

I had hoped June 2013 would be like June of the year prior where late on Sunday, we had a huge opening to Europe. Well, as happens all too often, that wasn't going to be the case.

Starting the contest, I had a few skeds, successfully completed those and set about looking for K2QO/r. We've found that we can work each other no matter where those guys go. Mark has picked out some "classic" spots to operate from thru the years.

K2LIM is always a "no brainer" so I found them and worked thru several bands. W2SZ is on the same parallel. Several "local" folks were on so worked to the West for a bit.

Next, found K8GP (in FM19?) so 2m was working OK. K1TEO is another strong and consistent operator.

One of the most frustrating things I encounter is no one aims toward FN23. I guess years of inactivity (and activity overall) has taken its toll. I will say, it's gotten better of late after a few successful band runs with stations who have no idea who I am.

The rest of the afternoon and evening, it's "ground plane" with nothing special.

K2QO/r pulls in for a bit of rest late Saturday which is always enjoyable. Nice to hear the "road stories", what they are hearing, what I am hearing... Obviously, an few 807's are consumed.

This year (as in past Junes) Paul, WA2TAU rides along in the K2QOr.

I often comment that W2CCC has a 6m opening every single day, and it does. Sunday morning provides that as the EL grids are coming in here and there. Several "pings" are heard to the West but nothing in the log.

As usual, the activity tapers Sunday afternoon and honestly, if not for rovers there wouldn't be much reason to stick it out.

A pleasant surprise just before I pack up to go home is KB2M in FM29 (on 2m) giving me my 14<sup>th</sup> grid on 2m.

All told about the same score as I'm use to in September – 6201, 88 qsos, 53 grids.

I'm very pleased with my 222 score (using a converted HTX-100 from an old NJ2L article) – 11 grids and 432 (using the W2DYY rig), 10 grids.



6m was a bust considering, 16 grids but typical without an opening (and with 3 elements).

All told fun none the less.

Looking forward to September in a few weeks, look for me in FN23 or send along an note for a sked, glad to put you n the log.

Chris K2CS (W2CCC – FN23)



## 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  
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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**



**2246 E River Rd  
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Join us for our pre-meeting get-together, starting at 6PM

## Professional Home Inspection

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