

# **Rochester DX Association**



## **September Meeting Presentation**

**Mike Sanchez, N2UJN,  
“FT-1000 MP Receiver Performance Characterization with  
the Elecraft XG-3”**

**Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm  
Monroe County EOC  
1190 Scottsville Road**

## **1ST annual ROC City Net Picnic**

Sept 20th at the west lodge at Mendon Ponds Park. We will be there all day long. Food will be provided along with soda. Bring your own adult beverages. We will have a hf station up and running as well as a 2m setup. Talk in freq. 145.110. There will be no special time to eat. We will be serving food most of the day. I do ask, however, if you are coming, to sign up with me asap so we can have a proper count for the food. If you don't sign up you can still attend, but I can't say we will have enough food to go around, so it's important to get on the list. Please get back to me if you plan to attend. I am looking forward to seeing everyone out there. I think it will be a lot of fun.

73,  
Joe, K2QZR

## Field Day 2014 - How'd it go?

How'd it go? Those that were able to participate this year already know that we had another great Field Day – this write-up is to let those who couldn't be there know what they missed. And if you haven't



participated, well, look and see what our FD is all about – no matter what your radio and club interests are, RDXA's Field Day has some way in which you meaningfully can take part, contribute, and enjoy with fellow members. So take a look at what happens, and find your spot. Everybody is welcome!

### Pre-Field Day

Last year was the first in which we took advantage of the new ARRL rule that allows groups to start setting up at 0000Z of the Friday before FD weekend, rather than 1800Z. We repeated that this year, starting around 9am Friday. That alleviated the urgency of setup. But still, getting everything like the two AWA Mil-masts, the several Yagis we use, the power panel and cables, *lots* of coax, tables/chairs, the two club canopies and other EZ-Ups, etc., to the site right on setup day, *then* followed by all of setup, remained “challenging.” But this year we finally *asked* the League about staging major equipment such as the above at the FD site even prior to that, such as the previous weekend. (There's a rule that we generally interpreted to mean nothing could be in place prior to setup.) We were thrilled when they said “that would be perfectly acceptable!”

And our great hosts at Webster Park had no problem with us using the space inside the rear of

the commissary building to keep things in, both before and after FD.

This combination significantly lightened the load on the transport efforts and the setup crew. Along with some advanced planning, and splitting setup among several teams, we have been on the air making test QSOs by Friday evening for the past two years.

### Friday setup--morning

The official start has traditionally been breakfast at Nutcracker's restaurant in Webster Friday morning to get fortified for setup. Then arriving at the site, it was a breeze to bring things to the field, and we were quickly able to start assembling the three Yagis and the two Mil-masts – thanks to **Ed K2MP** and **Lynn W2BSN**, the respective team captains, for another excellent effort. It was much less taxing than any previous year. (Our continuing goal—to use planning and technology to reduce work but yet achieve a competitive score.) And yet again, many thanks to the **AWA** for their long-standing support of our Field Day by providing the classic “Rocket Launcher” (AB-621/G) Mil-masts.

Antenna and Mil-mast crews sync their efforts so there is an antenna ready when the first mast is ready to raise a beam. This year that was the A4 at the phone station, out at the eastern end of the field. Next was the CW station CL-33 at the northwest end of the field, next to the east side of the road.

While all this was going on, there were lots of other things being handled. **Irv AF2K** is the master at preparing a welcoming central gathering area, which is always around the commissary. He ensures the U.S. flag, club banner, some FD results posters we've made up, the club refrigerator (surprised?!), and lots of very necessary but little appreciated incidentals (until you need them – and they're there!) Like making sure the Porta-Potty arrives! Chief among Irv's tasks is the Public Information Booth, which is a FD 100 point bonus, but really for us it's a central focus point for visitors to come, sign the guest log, and learn about what we're doing. Even though our site is maybe a mile in from East Lake road, we have a surprising number of visitors, both hams and guests.

**Dave N2CK**, the regular power guy, and **John W3OAB** combined on the power setup and distribution. Dave picked up the generator at **ADMAR**, our regular contributor, with many thanks. John took on some technical enhancements to the distribution network



## Friday setup--afternoon

Lunchtime soon arrived, and we were treated (club sponsored to workers) with Rhino's hard roll subs (various fillings) and chips. This and three other meals to follow, were all wonderfully coordinated by **Mike N2UJN** with many thanks from members (especially anyone who'd attempted this in previous years!)

Back to the antennas, probably one of the most important aspects of FD success that we actually have some power over. Last year the phone station had a very poor showing on 40M. **Gene W2LU** set out to rectify that, and after a few planning meetings and several work sessions, came up with a totally new 80 and 40 wire antenna approach for phone.

As you know, the Mil-masts are 48 feet high. Gene wanted to use that height as the base for a 20 foot extension mast (which he happened to have), on which we could put an 80M horizontal dipole and a 40M inverted Vee. Both would be a few feet apart at the top, and be offset 90 degrees from the other. This allowed them to double as guys for the top of the mast. The Mil-mast was centered along a north-south line between the trees bordering the east end of the field. The 80M was supported in the center and run north and south. With the trees, it was completely horizontal, barring the expected droop.

The 40M was two feet below the 40, and run east-west-ish, with a little inclination to the SSW.

A final addition was a second 40M inverted-Vee directly under the upper one at 28 feet (a Mil-mast guy point), and sloped similarly.

Each was fed independently, and selected by a home-brew coax switch box nicely built by Gene specifically for this FD. A special feature was that it allowed 40M antenna selection of Upper, BOTH, Lower, along with the 80M and A4.

We were pretty excited by this pretty interesting experiment. But just looking from the road over to the phone 80M antenna was a pure joy. It was yellow wire, so it stood out nicely, and looked awesome at 70 feet.

Afternoon also is when the 40-2CD is raised, as it can wait for the heavier antenna/mast work to be done. And this year, thanks *again* to the Webster Fire Dept, we had a line in the top pulley of the flagpole to pull it all the way up! Thanks to **Lloyd N2PU** for making that happen.

How far is "up" has been asked since we started going there. Several years ago we did a geometric measurement using shadows cast by the flagpole and a one or two foot stake, and determined that it was 87 feet to the very top. This year, **Larry W2LB** had a 100-foot tape measure, so he tied the end to the pulley line and raised it to the top. This was going to resolve the question with even greater precision. And the height is: **85 feet!** (from the ground)

In the afternoon John moved on to take care of our computer network. This year we had a classic case of "it worked at home" so why were there issues on site?.

**Mark K2MTH** along with John W3OAB again this year ensured that we had a very capable GOTA station. They had a commercial Bazooka antenna (donated to the club by **Rich W2FBS** last year). This was high in the trees over the parking lot, oriented SW, and feeding Mark's new **Elecraft KX-3** with 100W PA. It gave them 40 and 15 capabilities.

It then gets to be time to start putting up shelters for operating – the two club canopies – and several



member-provided EZ-Ups. Thanks **Doug N2BEG** and **Rich W2FBS**. The phone station was located just off the north-south path of the 80M dipole, along the trees for afternoon shade. CW was positioned close to the bushes alongside the road, and between the flagpole and the CL-33, and held both CW stations. The EZ-Ups were placed over park picnic tables in front of the commissary, as well as over the Public Info Booth. It provided a pleasant shady area for breaks, dining, and off-times once operating began.



## Friday setup--evening

5:30 or so signals another tradition, the free Pizza (to workers – you notice you get rewarded for your efforts ☺ ) This has been coordinated by Irv for longer than I can remember, and is a great thing to keep going. Thanks Irv.

This is pretty much the end of the work day, but a few of the energetic people continue on with station setup, especially as all the antennas are up and waiting.

**Vic K1PY** set up his **FT-1000MP** at phone, anxious to try the new antennas. The best performer at around 8pm was the Upper 40M Vee, with S9+15-20 reports across the board, mostly in the middle Atlantic states, but also similar reports from 8's and 9's. The Lower 40 was around S5-7 at all the same locations – everyone was interested in providing comparison data – it was cool. Lastly, the combined 40M Vees were very tricky to load, as we

only had the internal rig tuner, and it struggled to get to 2:1. We took pains to feed them with identical length coax. Reports were poor, and we saw this as a need for further design. But overall the Upper antenna reports for the Vee at 70 feet were super. I don't know why, but I never thought of the 80M antenna – my excuse is I was focused on the “fancy” one, it was getting late, and I probably figured it would be awesome anyway.

Since that's where I was, I didn't notice how far the CW guys went with their stations, but we still had all Saturday morning to continue, with most everything done. Nice way to end the day.



## Saturday setup— 9 - 2

Another visit to the Nutcracker preceded arrival around 9. The major task needing completion was debugging the computers – they weren't cooperative. Nothing is going to thwart John, though, and he continued beating at the problem until its resolution. Just in time too, as we had them up and running at the stations at about 1:30.

The 40M stations got on the air to check their antennas, any mutual interference, etc., while we still had a fair amount of time to resolve any surprises.

The 40 CW stations consisted of an **FT-1000MP-Mk V** from Ken **N2ZN**, and a **TS-2000** from the **AWA** via **Lynn W2BSN**. Many thanks to both.



So Saturday is pretty relaxing, and we had loads of fun making contacts, seeing how things were working, and just getting comfortable.

Setup really has ended by lunchtime, when again Mike provided a great lunch – this time Wegmans’ wraps of various types with chips, potato salad, and mac salad.

## Operating —2pm Sat to 2pm Sun

Ken is preparing a companion article elsewhere in this newsletter about operating, results, etc. But more than operating occurs between 2 and 2.

Once operating starts, it gets pretty relaxed. All the “work” is done, and the stations are on the air, involving several ops. Phone ops have the option of having a logger – it’s really not needed, but is very enjoyable. You get to make comments back and forth about the stations calling, sometimes one or the other gets the correct missing letter in a call, and you get to share some of the amusing things that can go on during extended operating. For example,

two phone ops, each wearing headphones, had trouble with a weak call, and both leaned forward toward the radio to hear better. They broke up when it got commented on.

The CW guys convey a mystical presence in their tent – it’s completely silent, a few keys get tapped, and the log fills up. It’s magical.

**GOTA** is probably the most interesting station, and the one any visitor should check out. It’s up at the commissary, very accessible, and there’s one or two “coaches” always available to help anyone who wants to make one or more contacts. We’ve made it our policy to let anyone at all operate this station, so you’re welcome to come and see what it’s all about. And this past year, play with a super nice new radio! The point is to let everybody GOTA – Get On The Air. And we mean it. Among the other things the AWA does for us is allow us to use the club call, **W2AN**, for this station, thanks to call sign trustee **Ed K2MP**.

Since we’re covering 12 hours, we’ve got a couple of meals to provide. Say no more, for the past few years **Joe K2QZR** has stepped up big-time with his traditional Lasagna Dinner with all the fixings. It’s always been scrumptious, and a huge hit. You need to be sure to sign up pretty quickly as he has to limit how many he can prepare for to keep it manageable. This year he extended his max to 30 to meet the demand. Appreciate it Joe, and it was great as always.

The coffee machines under the commissary roof start getting fired up as night falls, and the site falls into a peaceful tranquility. It’s a special aspect of the





Field Day experience. Obviously very akin to camping out, but with an entirely different aura about it with the lights from each station visible as you look around the site, and go over and see the island of light and the activity surrounding each station.

Then of course, the critical Sunday morning person is the one who starts the new pot of coffee! Mike again comes forward with bagels and cream cheese, donuts, and a box of coffee from Wegmans. (I hadn't seen one of those, but it's like boxed wine.) (Even now I'm feeling the thoughts emanating...) Finally, Mike's finale is a hamburger/hot dog cookout lunch, with chips and leftover (refrigerated) potato and mac salad from Saturday.

## Sunday after it's over

I can't comment directly on take down because I had to leave immediately after my 10am operating period to make the ferry boat to our vacation destination. But take down time has recently been an activity lacking in support. (If you're wondering how you could help the club, the most immediate way is come Sunday, have lunch, and help during

take down. *Many* people will welcome you.) We've recently reflected back on previous FDs where we'd all finish take down, then gather around by the commissary under the trees, sit in a lawn chair, pop an 807, and discuss the weekend, awaiting the preliminary results, looking to see how "our" band/mode did, and compare to previous years. We're trying to see what it would take to resurrect that. Ideas welcome.

That's it. We do a lot, but we love it, and for us this is what Field Day is. There's all kinds of Field Days, and I've been on my share of them from 2-man efforts with an HW-20 and a dipole next to a lake, to ones in a fire watchtower, on a mountain top, to a cottage in Maine where we stopped at 5pm and walked next door to a lobster restaurant. But ours is the most exciting. Even if it doesn't seem to be quite "your thing," why not come out and see if you can see why it's *the* thing for the others in the club that make it happen. You might be surprised. If nothing else, you will have seen what an award-winning Field Day looks like!



# Field Day 2014 Stats and Results

With another Field Day in the books, it is always helpful to look back and see exactly what we did while we were operating. In the heat of battle, you tend to not even pay attention to what's going on outside of your own little world.

As always, no contest operation would happen without the operators. Recruiting started in early June, and it became obvious that we would be stretched thin this year. Due to conflicting events, family issues, or people simply not responding, we were going to be short. In 2013, we had 13 CW operators, but this year we would only have 10, and not all could stay at the site for more than one or two shifts. The number of phone operators was slightly down as well, but as you'll see, through careful scheduling, we were able to keep our QSO totals roughly the same on CW, while increasing our phone QSO count by over 500! This wouldn't have happened without the available ops volunteering to spend more time in the chair, and using some of our usual CW and VHF ops in other places as well.

Several days before the event, our operator roster and the times they would be available were finalized. From this, I was able to create an operator schedule that would keep all three stations on the air, while addressing the need for sleep times. This was an important part of the schedule, since we didn't want anyone too burned out when it came time to tear down on Sunday afternoon. The formula was simple; any ops that were considered full time (onsite for the whole event) would have at least 6 hours off for sleep in the evening/night, shifts would be 2 hours long, and there would be very few back to back shifts throughout the 24 hours. With three stations on the air, this leaves us with 72 hours of operating time to fill between the full time and part time operators.

The only shift I had no idea what to do with was on the phone station from 4-6 AM on Sunday morning. This is usually one of the toughest times to operate, because rates are slow, and the fatigue that has built up between Friday night and Saturday morning setup starts to really catch up with you. Mix in the usual cool temperature and insect onslaught, and it makes for some disgruntled operators. However, I am happy to say that we were able to fill that tough shift thanks to AF2K and K2MP, so we were able to keep all three stations on the air for the full operating period.

We were pleased to have some new operators this year, particularly on the phone station, and some faces that we haven't seen in a while to return. The final roster was:

Phone: AF2K, K1PY, K2MP, K2TER, N2CK, N2UJN, N2ZN, W2TF

CW: K2DB, K2TJ, KV2X, N2BEG, N2ZN, NW2K, W2FE, W2FU, W2GN, W2TF

VHF: K2TER, KV2X, K2QZR

GOTA: AC2JO, K2MTH, KB2CHC, KD2GHF, W3OAB, WA2CAT

Before Field Day this year, the Field Day Committee had decided that we would shoot for 15,000 points, which was an 11% improvement in score over the previous year where we scored 13,436 points. We fell a bit short of that mark, but we know that we did a better job operating because of the added QSO's on phone, and the fact that we kept our CW score at the same level. This, in fact, was done with virtually the same setup we had last year, and no significant outlay of extra equipment. Here are the breakdowns:

## Field Day 2014 Stats and Results (cot'd)

2014					2013				
QSO's			Bonus	Points	Main Stations			Bonus	Points
Band	PH	CW/DIG	100%Emergency Power	300	Band	PH	CW/DIG	100%Emergency Power	300
160	0	0	Media Publicity	100	160	0	0	Media Publicity	100
80	449	409	Setup in Public	100	80	172	342	Setup in Public	100
40	828	959	Info Booth	100	40	511	1,062	Info Booth	100
20	351	654	NTSmessage to SM	100	20	223	545	NTSmessage to SM	100
15	122	178	W1AW Bulletin	100	15	312	167	W1AW Bulletin	100
10	24	0	NTSMessages Handled	100	10	8	15	NTSMessages Handled	100
6	19	6	Natural Power QSOs	100	6	91	10	Natural Power QSOs	100
144	20	14	Ste visit by elected offi d	100	144	20	15	Ste visit by elected offi d	100
222	7	6	Ste visit by served agency offi d	100	222	2	2	Ste visit by served agency offi d	100
432	11	11	Youth	100	432	16	13	Youth	100
Satellite	0	0	Educational activity	100	Satellite	0	2	Educational activity	100
			Web submission	50				Web submission	50
			Satellite QSO	0				Satellite QSO	100
			GOTA Op + Coach Bonus	280				GOTA Op + Coach Bonus	480
			Total Bonus Points	1,730				Total Bonus Points	2,030
QSO's			1,831	2,237	QSO's			1,355	2,173
Points			1,831	4,474	Points			1,355	4,346
2xMult			3,662	8,948	2xMult			2,710	8,692
Total			12,610		Total			11,402	
Total QSO Points(Main+GOTA)			12,610		Total QSO Points(Main+GOTA)			11,402	
Bonus			1,730		Bonus			2,030	
Final Score			14,340		Final Score			13,432	

## New Treasurer Appointed

Long-time member Irv Goodman, AF2K, is retiring from his post as Treasurer. Taking his place will be Mike Sanchez, N2UJN.

We thank Irv for his years of service and dedication to the task of keeping RDXA's financial affairs in order and welcome the new appointee.



## Where Did The Summer Go?

I trust everyone had a fun and relaxing summer doing something other than trying to work folks on the radio, as that was at best challenging and most other times damn near impossible. 6m has been a bust all summer. (It would be nice if it opened for the upcoming contest on the 13th.) I managed to do almost none of the radio tasks I had on my list but I am hopeful for the fall and the eventual end to the rainfall deluge we experienced all summer long. Hopefully most everyone in the club had a chance to participate in the W1AW/2 ARRL NY centennial operations. I know I had a blast and learned a lot about being on the other side of the pile and how good filters help. A big thank you to Paul and Chris for organizing that huge undertaking. Then of course there was field day. It is my opinion that we placed in the #1 or 2 spot for 3A. We will see. Hats off to the FD coordinators (Ken and Vic) for another awesome first class RDXA effort. Next year is already being planned so if there is anything you can or want to do to help, let Vic know. There is a task for everybody who wants to contribute and it's an awesome way to help the club, meet some members you may not know, bust chops, have fun and maybe even learn something along the way. It's not all about sitting in front of a radio, there are a few things to do before and after, right Vic?

At my QTH we are still finishing up with the contractor on the last items he has to do on the house to call it done. I never would have dreamed it would have taken so long but the saga is hopefully in its final phase. We finally had a three day dry spell so I could get the dirt pile from the basement addition spread out and rock hounded to plant grass. It's finally sprouting. (After the last round of downpours the day after planting it I feared the worst.) That will lead the way to putting up some additional wires and finally getting the last of my aging

feedlines replaced. The next big project is tilting the tower over and servicing my tribander. (I think the balun took a hit as the SWR is off the charts everywhere) That will happen later this fall. Of immediate need is the trimming or outright cutting down of some trees surrounding my back garage where the 6m and 2m beams are mounted. The trees were 10 feet tall when I mounted the antennas on the roof and have now hit 30 feet and have grown into the turning radius. (I also need to re-shingle the roof, replace a garage door, fix gutters, etc. but AFTER the September VHF contest!) I also have plenty of inside work to do with the building my new permanent shack, trying to lay that all out before winter. I also need to do more interfacing with the computer and get ready for contest season and hopefully be back on the digital modes.

I still find most of my radio time comes in the mobile. The summer has been god awful on 17m (and above). Only the night owls seem to work much DX on the higher bands. Today at lunch time the only station coming in from Europe was an F5 who was running 300 watts to a quad and he was only 5/6. Needless to say, he couldn't hear me in the mobile over the pileup. (yes, pile up for a French station!) I did work Jordan last week and I thought that was quite an achievement given the propagation. That's the update from N2BEG, what have you been doing? Send Andrew a note for the next newsletter! We would all like to know what you are up to.

— Doug Stewart, N2BEG

# The RDXA W1AW/2 Operation

**May 21-27, 2014**

Well, the largest undertaking this club has probably ever pulled off went off as a huge success back in May. Hopefully everyone that wanted to participate got a chance to operate this historic and once in a lifetime ARRL event. This event would not have been possible without the huge efforts by a few members of our club. Some of you may not know how much effort went into this, particularly the behind the scenes activity but it was, as they say at a certain place up on Ridge road, it was HUGE.

I think it's safe to say that without the efforts of Paul K2DB, Chris K2CS, Carey K2RNY and James N2IW, RDXA would not have been able to pull this off. You also may not know that participation in this event came to us directly from the ARRL. As one of the premier active radio clubs in the state, we were approached late last year about the possibility of representing NY State during one of the two activity weeks planned for the W1AW event. This should be a tremendous feather in our cap and we should all feel proud that we were selected. (The other week was in January and was handled by well known contesters and expeditors, Les, W2LK. I am not sure how he and his group handled the logistics of being one of the first groups on the air, but they pulled it off in spectacular fashion as well.)

Our efforts in this event were culminated in the first class effort that one of our newer members contributed by way of the scheduling website he

created. Early on James and Paul worked on this collaboration which resulted in an excellent, functioning scheduling site that allowed users to sign up for slots and see the whole week with a mouse click or two, change time slots or bands in a flash, etc.. James did a hell of a job on that. The club presented him with a gift card for his efforts along with a very well deserved THANK YOU. It made the activity so much better than it would have been otherwise. It looks like at least 8 other groups, maybe even more, reached out to James to have him do schedules for their W1AW events. That is also HUGE. We have some first class talent in many disciplines among our club members!

The comments on the reflector Paul created for the event were phenomenal. Everyone had a blast from what I could see. The activity was outstanding and all of the participants enjoyed being on the other side of the pile for what was a once in a lifetime event for most of us. I hope you all agree that every one of the operators involved did New York and RDXA proud. The data shows the operation was active on 10 modes, on 12 bands over the course of 7 days for a total of 32,874 QSOs. Give yourselves a well deserved pat on the back for a great operation.

— Doug Stewart, N2BEG



## 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 [andrew.lesny@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.lesny@gmail.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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## Appointed Positions

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## Membership Dues can be sent to:

Daniel R Guyor  
 305 Wood Road  
 Rochester, NY 14626

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

**Any other correspondence to: Mike Sanchez, N2UJN**



## ROC City Net

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