

Rochester DX Association



January Meeting Presentation

“Beverages in the Woods”

Tuesday, January 20, 7:30pm

Monroe County EOC

1190 Scottsville Road

Charlie W2GN will describe his 6-Beverage system with home brew relay box and switch. He's seeking to emphasize how easy it is to home brew the Beverage transformers, and to underscore how Beverage antennas are a fun, useful and cheap addition to any station that has the room for them.

From The President

Welcome to 2015!

Glad to see many of you at the (once again very successful) Rochester Museum and Science Center event over the holidays. Many thanks to those who participated and setup the station. It was great to coerce a few young people into making a contact or two. Several adults were intrigued as well and spent significant time going through our exhibit.

Thanks once again to RARA as they provided demonstrations and staffing as well, always good to see those guys.

The RDXA Holiday Dinner was once again well attended and an enjoyable evening all the way around. Thanks to Nikki Hungate for taking care of us. Look for some other non-radio related events along the same lines in the upcoming months.

2015 looks to be a very productive year DX wise with several important and long overdue DXpeditions on the horizon.

Navassa, (K1N) looks to hit the airwaves at the end of January and operating for 2 weeks or so. Nice to have one so close to us as some of the more recent and desirable operations have been ½ way around the globe. Regardless of your station and equipment, I'd suspect you'll be able to log them. Obviously the proximity helps but moreover, this group is a collection of real pros. Should be minimal "complaints" on when and where they operate. Don't discount 160m or 6m...

The second half of the contest season is upon us as a few more 160m contests are on the

horizon and a few "great" contests for the new and experienced testers alike, the ARRL DX contests.

A great way for those new to contesting to get your feet wet since DX stations have to work the US for points. Unlike CQWW, etc, the world will be calling YOU.

CW and SSB, a great way to experience a contest with the added benefit of DX stations inability for them to work each other for points.

ARRL DX CW is February 21-22, SSB is March 7-8.

Another great "starter" is one of the CQWW WPX contests where prefixes are the multipliers. SSB is first being held March 28-29 while CW is a few months later on May 30-31 (not Memorial Day this year).

Remember to add your score to the RDXA Score Grid!

Time flies so remember the April Awards Banquet and Field Day. Announcements will be forthcoming on both.

Looking forward to many of the activities we're planning for 2015, I hope you are as well.

Best DX es 73,
Chris, K2CS

The future of Dxpeditons....

I recently read a blog post on DX Coffee by Rich-KY6R about the future of DXpeditons. Rich's entry raised many more questions than answers. I'll try to weigh in on this subject and answer from my own perspective.

I believe the future for Dxpediting activity is good; however I do believe that we will see changes in the duration and kinds of DXpeditons in the future.

It is more costly to charter boats and aircraft now than at any time in the past. This will likely cause some future DXpeditons to "downsize". By that, I mean that instead of 17-20 days they may be only 8-10 days. Instead of a full on Leaderboard Dxpediton with contacts on many bands and modes, the Dxers may have to settle for fewer contacts.

I think the scope and durations of DXpeditons will change. FT5ZM was probably one of the best DXpeditons ever with flawless execution and great fun. I would expect that future rare ones may not be all band/all mode feasts as they are now. Dxers may have to settle for one CW, SSB and Digital contact. I think the days of working a Dxpediton on 20 band slots is coming to an end. Shades of days gone by.

There is more money than ever available to Dxpediton teams, but only for the rarest of places. DXpeditons to destinations out of the top 25-30 most wanted entities will likely be largely self-funded.

It is costly for US led DXpeditons to use the world-wide Bureau system. I think you will see changes there. Recently the Italian Dxpediton Team initiated a \$1.50 OQRS fee to get a bureau card. I support DXpeditons covering their cost such as what the Italian team has implemented. The free ride needs to come to an end. DXpeditons should always accept and return direct cards with SASE or adequate postage. But a bureau card costs a Dxpediton's bottom line and has no possibility to cover even its small cost. Multiply that small cost by many

thousands of cards and you can easily spend thousands of dollars to return bureau cards. With LoTW being such a success returning thousands of bureau cards just does not make sense. This tradition needs to change.

It's not just Americans that are busy organizing DXpeditons. Our friends the Russians, French, Spanish, Germans and the Italians are quite busy activating many rare and much needed places. In fact, the Italian Dxpediton Team led by Silvano-I2YSB has been extremely active these past few years. The French F6KOP team will bring us Tromelin-FT4TA in just a few months from now.

The Chinese and Taiwanese are very interested in organizing DXpeditons. Their challenges are primarily cultural in that Chinese and Taiwanese hams generally do not donate their money to support Dxpediton activity. When a group is self-funded it greatly limits what they can accomplish. The UK based Five Star Dxers are about due for another exciting activation. You can bet that Zorro-JH1AJT is working on something exciting!

World-class Dxpediton leaders Ralph-K0IR and Bob-K4UEE are not ones to rest on their laurels. They are hard at work on future ultra-rare activations which they will share with us when they are ready.

There are fine young men that are coming into the ranks of Dxpediton Leaders. I've previously written about Krish-W4VKU and Jon-K7CO. Many of the established Dxpediton Leaders are still quite young, such as James-9V1YC, Antonio-EA5RM, David-K3LP, Greg-W6IZT, Seb-F5UFX and a host of others. We look forward to more operations by Craig-K9CT, Stu-N2TU, Joe-W8GEX, George-AA7JV and Tomi-HA7RY.

The future of DXpeditons will continue to be greatly impacted by Government and environmental restrictions. Governments such as the DPRK (P5) Turkmenistan (EZ) and Eritrea (E3) remain hostile towards amateur

The future of Dxpeditions.... (cont'd)

radio or freedom and civil rights for their people.

The US Government has become more environmentally restrictive than in years past. KP1-Navasa, KH5K Kingman Reef, KH3, Johnston Atoll and Palmyra Islands remain out of reach for Dxpedition leaders.

I predict that in the future, hams will need to form or hire organizations to lobby on our behalf to open up now inaccessible places. Hams will need a larger voice and more influence to accomplish what was easily done in the past.

There is no shortage of Dxpedition leaders trying to activate the rarest of entities. Eritrea (E3) is regularly visited as is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (P5). There are world-class Dxpedition leaders that are continuing to try and activate the rarest of islands in the Caribbean and the South Pacific. There are teams working on most of the top 20 most wanted DXCC entities. Some are real

efforts and some are "tire kickers". Probably the only entities likely to not see any ham activity any time soon are Syria and Turkmenistan. The situation in the DPRK is difficult to predict however I feel that the Chinese or the Russians may be successful at some point.

There are many bold men willing to go to bold places. Let's wish them well and give them our full support when they are able to announce a Dxpedition to these rare and much needed places.

The future of Dxpeditioning is good, but like many aspects of the world, it will be changing and more and more DXpeditions must find new ways to cover their ever increasing costs.

What do you think?

—Paul S. Ewing, N6PSE

ROC City Net

The premier HF net from
Upstate New York

Every Wednesday at
8:00 PM (0100 UTC)
@ 3826KHz +/-

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

Working 1A0C while setting up the amp

Or, you never know just who is listening!

On the next to last day of their operation, I desperately wanted to get them into the log again. I had them 3 times (15M CW and SSB, and 20M SSB), but did not have them on 40. When I got home from work on Monday, 1/5 I checked dxscape.com – and sure enough they were spotted at 7.170. Frantically I fired up the rig and amp, set the tuner and waited for the amp to finish warming up. I was finally (after *lots* of calling, I got them in the log on 40 SSB.

After dinner, I went back on the household machine to do some work and checked the cluster. Sure enough, they were spotted on 40 CW. Sweet – one more opportunity to get them into the log. I fired up the shack computer, turned on the amp – and while I was waiting for the amp to warm up, I set the tuner up for the CW portion of 40. Seeing that the amp was ready, I hit the button to set VFO B to VFO A and put it into split mode. I also put it in dual watch mode. At this point both VFOs were on their transmit frequency of 7.028.2 so I gave the knob a slight twist to move VFO B up a little bit so I could tune the amp near a frequency where I would actually be transmitting. After a quick minor adjustment, I hit F4 to send my call (if I drive the amp with too much power the grid protection circuit shuts it down). Sure enough I had the RF output a smidge too high, so I backed it down. While I was doing that and clearing the fault to put the amp back in operating mode –

sure enough I heard N2CK coming back to me on VFO A. Somehow, giving the tuning knob a quick tweak placed VFO B EXACTLY on 1A0C's listening frequency! As I sat there in shock thinking "Did that really happen?" I heard N2CK again. OK, this time I know he's coming back to me – so a quick TU and exchange back and he was in the log for yet another mode. Afterwards, as I thought about it, I thought that perhaps an insurance Q wouldn't hurt – so 12 minutes (figured that was long enough – he would have forgotten he worked me) I tried again. Once again he was definitely in the log for sure.

So, I guess the take away on this is to assume that on any frequency SOMEONE could be listening. In this case it was the DX station I was trying to work! Too bad I don't know who the operator was – I would like to explain why I found myself tuning up on his listening frequency. I honestly felt I was far enough away that I would not interfere with anyone.

—Dave Wright, N2CK



RMSC Science Days 2014

A mainstay on the club event calendar, this year again allowed the public to see Amateur Radio in action, albeit in a much more comfortable venue. Our joint exhibit with **RARA** brings together members from both organizations that enjoy displaying the perks of our hobby to visitors who also are interested in seeing what we've got.

Both club and visitor turnout was good. Over the three days, 13 **RARA** members and 14 **RDXA** members participated (see below), some coming multiple days. Thanks to all who came out and supported both the clubs and radio in general. The museum did its part and drew good crowds the first two days (Sat and Sun), and a surprisingly large crowd on Monday, which was great! That's what makes it worthwhile for us to even be there (besides the enjoyment it provides anyway).

Our role, of course, is putting **W2RDX** on the air, and eliciting contacts to talk with visitors that we gathered around the station – so it's definitely *not* contest style! (See, we really *can* do it!) We routinely had as many adults as kids stopping by. The fun, and the challenge, is having the kids talk with and listen to someone else over the radio that they don't know and can't see – well, we do display the QRZ page of the stations we work, so if they have a photo, we love it. I have to say, all the ops we contacted were willing to step up to the task and did a nice job.

I suppose it's not surprising, but only a couple of adults were willing to try it – they're shyer than the kids! On the other hand, there's usually a fair number that get into some interesting questions with us at the museum, and we had some nice conversations. One or two were actually pursuing licensing info!

As usual, it's us the members that allow this to all happen. Thanks to

- **Doug N2BEG**, **Ben KC2JXP**, and **John W3OAB** who, before and after the event, made sure we had a nicely operating **G5RV** on the roof of the museum. It worked great!
- John also provided a beautiful 30-inch monitor that gave the station a great visual presence
- **Bob K2OID** and the **Xerox club** again provided their nice **IC-746** – many thanks
- **Rich W2FBS** also provided a 20-inch monitor that we used to display the QRZ page
- Working the event were **Irv AF2K** (3 days), **Vic K1PY**, **Chris K2CS**, **Mark K2MTH**, **Bob K2OID**, **Kellie KB2CHC**, **Ben KC2JXP**, **Doug N2BEG**, **Dave N2CK**, **Gayle N2TWI**, **Rich W2FBS**, **Andrew W2FG**, **Larry W2LB**, and **John W3OAB**

Thanks to ALL!

— Vic, K1PY



Kellie KB2CHC (one of our Monday crew) on air with her son Liam looking on.

RMSC Science Days 2014 (Cont'd)



Membership Renewal

Your membership in RDXA is highly valued, and, we hope that those of you who have not renewed your membership for 2014-2015 will do so at your earliest convenience.

A variety of ways of providing the \$20 membership fee are available:

1. Via PayPal. Send to treasurer@rdxa.com from your own PayPal account.
2. Via any Board member, all of whom are listed on the website.
3. Irv Goodman, the long time treasurer, has a lot of experience receiving cash and checks. Am sure he will still be happy to accept payments in that form. And most of you know him. (I will, of course, hide from him after this email goes out).
4. Postal mail to

Mike Sanchez

RDXA Treasurer (make sure to put this so my wife can see it is important).

8 Piccadilly Square

Rochester, NY 14625

5. Attend any RDXA meeting, they are all excellent, and give to me, I sit in the back next to Irv if you have not met me.

Why bother joining and paying the dues? Just another club. Just another meeting.

Not really.

\$20 dollars enables you to participate in a variety of benchmark Amateur Radio activities such as:

The number 1 in class (3A I think) field day event in the USA. This is a real project managed by a highly capable project management team, and, staffed with some of the most technically credible people in RF in upstate NY. There is not better event to participate in where Amateur Radio, technology and people intersect. In addition, the food is benchmark for this activity.

Excellent chance to work with young people at the RMSC event every year.

Access to incredible technical input via networking with members of RDXA. My own intersection with RDXA has led me to some of the most capable people I have met in my long career as an engineer. And, all willing and eager to teach, and help.

Get to know the ROC-City Net Coordinator and members personally.

Access to coaching where antenna simulation, setup, etc., are relevant (long time experienced EE's to help you).

I personally rarely join any clubs. RDXA club, however, is more than worth the \$20.

Thank you,

Michael Sanchez, N2UJN

RDXA Treasurer

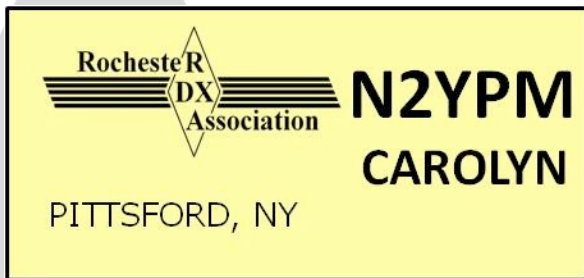
New club name badges

With the price of the badges we've been getting now at \$9, plus \$3 for a magnetic back, the club Board investigated some other options.

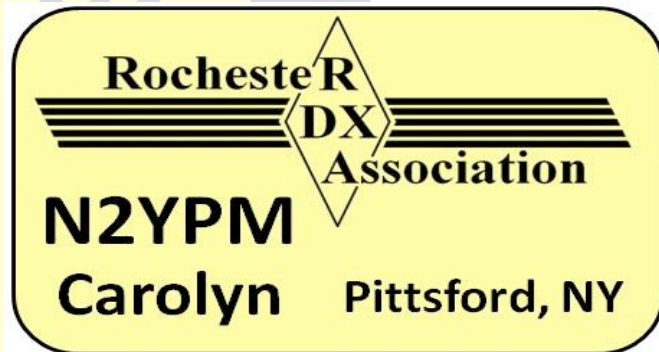
We found a vendor with photo printed badges (provide the artwork, they make it into a badge) with the option of a pin back or a magnetic back.

The design requirement was to be similar to the current badges. This maintains continuity and a common look between old and new badges.

For comparison with the new badge design, here's the old one, at 1 7/16 x 3 inches.



Here's the new one selected at the latest board meeting. It's 2 x 3 inches.



The consensus was that this style more prominently displays the RDXA logo and other info compared to the older style.

Note that font size may vary as needed for 6 character calls and longer QTHs.

A sample was passed around at a recent meeting, and modeled by **Carolyn N2YPM** at the Holiday dinner.

We'll be placing an order soon for recent new members.

If you need a **replacement** badge, or just like the newer one, see **Vic K1PY** for orders. Provide the same info that you see in the sample images.

Price for replacements will be \$5 with your choice of a pin or magnetic back.

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 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.

PresidentChris Shalvoy — K2CS
cshalvoy@att.net

Vice PresidentBrent Hungate — KC2QLJ
brenthungate@yahoo.com

TreasurerMike Sanchez — N2UJN
N2UJN.michael.sanchez@gmail.com

SecretaryBill Rogers — K2TER
k2ter@rochester.rr.com

Board of Directors

Bill Rogers — K2TER.....k2ter@rochester.rr.com

Doug Stewart — N2BEGdoug.stewart@itcmems.com

Lynn Bisha — W2BSNlbisha@rochester.rr.com

Dan Guyor — N2DD.....drguyor@earthlink.net

Andrew Lesny — W2FGalesny@rochester.rr.com

Mark Hazel — K2MTH.....mthazel2151@yahoo.com

Irv Goodman — AF2Kaf2k@juno.com

Brent Hungate — KC2QLJ.....brenthungate@yahoo.com

Appointed Positions

WebmastersCarey Magee, K2RNY
 Contest/DX ChairmanChris Shalvoy, K2CS
 Membership ChairmanDan Guyor, N2DD
 Calendar Chairman.....Don Vlack, K2DV
 Newsletter EditorAndrew Lesny, W2FG
 Banquet CoordinatorNikki Hungate
 Media CoordinatorPaul Kolacki, K2FX

Membership Dues can be sent to:

Mike Sanchez, N2UJN.
 8 Piccadilly Square
 Rochester, NY 14625

Or via PayPal:

treasurer@rdxa.com

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

Any other correspondence to: Mike Sanchez, N2UJN



2246 E River Rd
 Rochester, NY 14623

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

