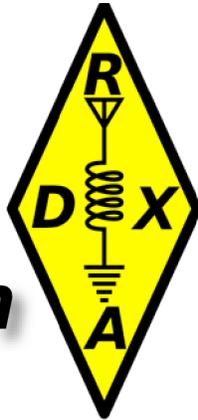# Rochester DX Association

President's Letter

Well, well...

Bands have been surprisingly absent for the last few months with all the buzz being directed toward newer "digital" modes.

I must say, it's been fun to actually use 6m in less than optimal conditions (given the time of year).

At home, I run an FT8 station on 6m 24/7 in monitor mode. Interesting to see what pops up while I'm at work. Depending on how signals are propagated, I consistently see EM and EN grids (and the local stuff) almost daily, only problem is I'm not there (well, I'm very seldomly there anyway).

Last winter, I made a lot of qso's on 60m JT65. The band was very active but far less than traditional ones. Remember, all but newer rigs don't have that band capability and generally unless tuning some other antenna, most folks aren't set up there.

The "regular" HF bands were packed so I can just imagine how there are now with many stations heading to digital given the SFI and A indexes of late.

The DXAC has been questioned on new "endorsements" given the influx of activity so I'd suspect some announcement on that in the not to distant future.

Contest season is winding down, many had a "tough" time to say the least. Powerhouse stations in EU were unable to hear us on many occasions making it tough to "stay in the chair" for too long. When was the last time the "honey do" list beat out a contest? Well, I suspect it did several times this season.

One more chance to pad your country count at the end of May w/ the CQWW WPX CW contest. Good thing there is you can work the USA for points too.

Regardless of band conditions the club has remained very active, increased membership and has focused on a series of outstanding programs. Thanks to all who have presented and looking forward to finishing out the season with the same quality.

After our (fun) but less than successful inaugural 50th W2RDX/70 attempt last June, we'll be giving it another shot on 29 April. The AWA folks have tweaked the era rigs and we'll be on the air from around noon until 9pm. The club will set up a little "hospitality" area where we'll cook some grill items, have a few beverages and enjoy the "celebration".

Special thanks to the AWA and Lynn Bisha (W2BSN) for allowing us to utilize the facility once again.

After our #1, 3A win last year, focus of late has been on Field Day. Vic is fully "on board" and the core group from last year is just as enthusiastic. The plan is to keep much of what went well last year in place with the addition of some kind of "digital" mode. Last year, we had no need with the surprising 15/10m opening Sunday morning. Somehow, I don't see that happening given how things have gone since then.

Club participation was outstanding and I would hope be the same this year. Setup, tear-down and "butts in seats" all went without a flaw, a great testament to the RDXA on our anniversary year.

I'm sure we'd all love to see the same participation, enthusiasm (and do I dare say "result"!!) as last year.

Look for upcoming FD meetings and feel free to becoming part of the planning team (heck, no worry about getting on the air, right?).

Gayle and I will be "celebrating" our 25th consecutive Dayton in May, let's hope the WX is a bit better than the downpours of 2017. Having been to the "new" facility last year will help, knowing the lay of the land a bit better. RDXA will once again have a "hospitality tent" in the flea market. As more information becomes available, I'll send out the spot location in hopes we see anyone who attends.

Don't forget to join us 28 April for the combined RDXA/RVHFG annual award banquet. A great way to rub elbows with our RVHFG brethren and an enjoyable evening with your fellow RDXA members.

Thanks to the membership (and the BOD) for a very memorable /70 anniversary year so far!

Best DX es 73,

Chris K2CS

An Active Receiving Antenna

John Hall AC2RL

As we continue our slide down to the solar minimum, I am trying to pump up my game on 80 and 160 meters. Last fall I added a wire vertical for 80, and will soon be hanging a 160 meter inverted-L.

Reading ON4UNs "Low Band DXing" it became clear that I could benefit from some kind of receiving antenna to help pick signals out of the noise.

Beverages weren't an option on my 1/3 acre East Irondequoit lot. Even a flag or K9AY loop would be problematic, given the layout of the house, trees, electric service, and other antennas.

Searching for options, I came across LZ1AQ's active antenna website http://active-antenna.eu.

I ordered his AAA-1C antenna amplifier. 87 Euros and two weeks later a package arrived from Bulgaria.

The AAA-1C consists of a weather tight box containing a low-noise amplifier that can be mounted on the antenna mast, and an interface board that goes in the shack. The amplifier has both high-Z (voltage) and low-Z (current) inputs and relay switching to handle up to two loop and two short dipole antennas.

Many active antennas use coaxial feedlines which require a bias-tee arrangement to allow the RF signal and DC power to share the coax. They often require ferrites on the cable to filter out common mode noise picked up by the coax shield.

The AAA-1C uses network cable, specifically Cat-6 shielded twisted pair for feedline. Being twisted pair it's inherently resistant to common-mode noise. It can handle gigabit Ethernet, so it has no problem handling HF frequencies. With four twisted pairs, signal, power, and control can go on separate pairs, with no need for a bias tee.
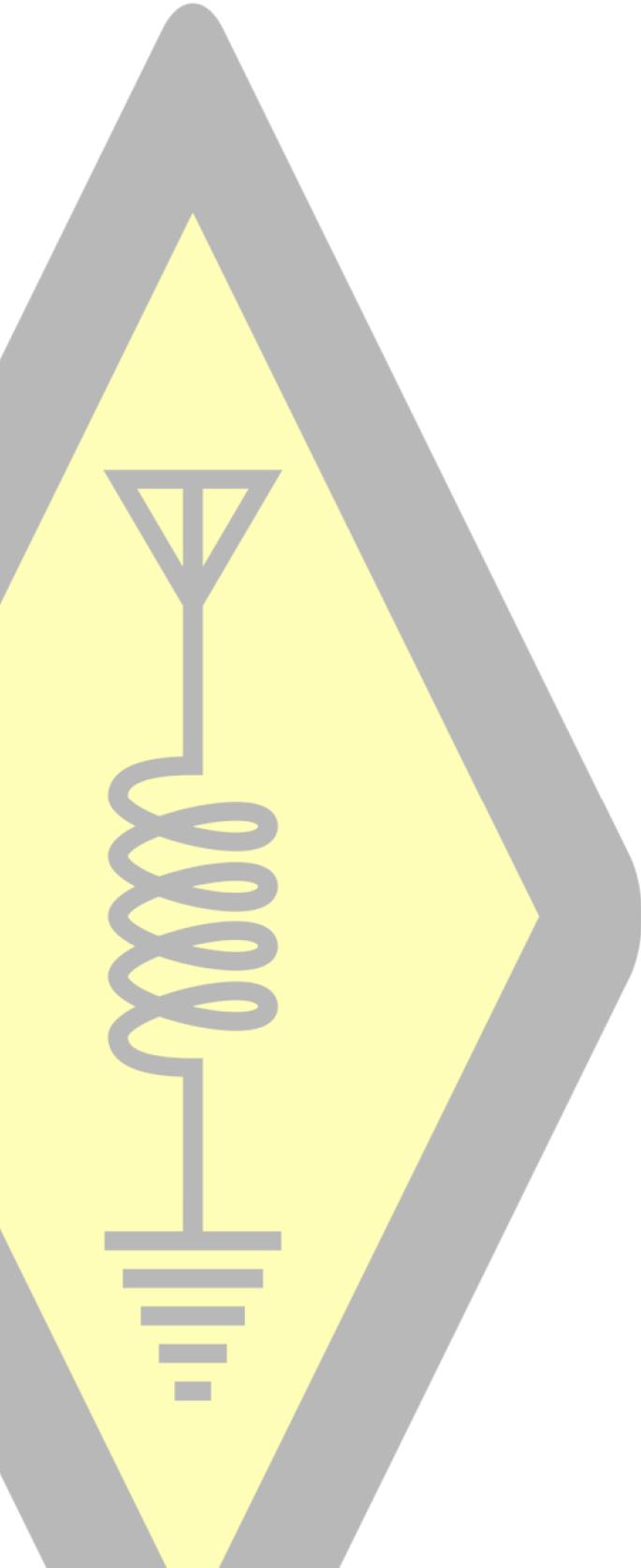
I built two three foot loops of used heliax that I bought at Batavia last year. LZ1AQ's website explains that a "fat" loop works better because it has less inductance. I mounted the loops at right angles along with the

amplifier on a short piece of PVC pipe. It is temporarily installed about three feet above the eaves on a temporary mast, bungeed to a downspout.

So far I'm pleased with its performance. On 80 meters, stations stand out from the noise better than on the vertical. Switching between the two loops shows it is definitely directional. Even though it is an amplified antenna, the level is lower than the vertical, but completely usable when my rig's preamp is on. I haven't yet bagged any DX with it because the band has been bad lately. I'm looking forward to trying it out when I can catch a good opening.

Once I get some experience with it, my next step is to try using it with another receiving antenna about sixty feet away and my MFJ-1026 phaser to get even better directionality towards Europe. If I like the results, I may spring for a couple more AAA-1Cs and LZ1AQ's companion delay line box to build a phased four-direction receiving array.

RDXA / RVHFG 2018
AWARDS BANQUET

APRIL 28, 2018
COCKTAILS: 6:00 PM
DINNER: 7:00 PM

LILIAN'S RESTAURANT
2200 PENFIELD ROAD

COST PER PERSON IS $25 PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MEALS:

- 12 OZ. SEASONED PRIME RIB W/ POTATO
- CHICKEN FRENCH OVER PASTA
- GROUPER FLORENTINE W/ RICE PILAF

EACH MEAL INCLUDES: HOMEMADE CHICKEN SOUP, FRESH SALAD GREENS, HOMEMADE ROLLS W/BUTTER, CHEESECAKE, COFFEE & TEA.
OPTIONAL: CASH BAR

PLEASE RSVP TO: RDXABANQUET@RDXA.COM BY 4/19/2018
PLEASE INCLUDE NUMBER ATTENDING AND EACH MEAL SELECTION
YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO PAY IN ADVANCE USING PAYPAL BY SENDING A
"FRIENDS AND FAMILY" PAYMENT TO RVHFG1949@GMAIL.COM
PAYMENTS WILL ALSO WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE DOOR

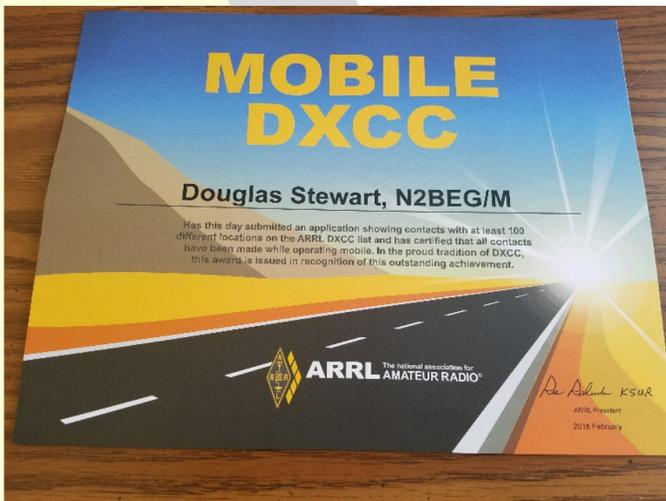Rochester DX Association (RDXA)
Rochester, NY
est 1947

HARRY R. - W2HRY

ARRL Mobile DXCC Award

N2BEG

The ARRL rolled out its new mobile DXCC award in February. Having been working on QSOs and collecting confirmations from the mobile for some time and even attempting to apply (and being rejected for) mobile DXCC before, I was glad to see it finally official. The "application" can be found on the ARRL DXCC page. It consists of a downloadable form in which you list your 100 QSOs with 100 different DXCC entities. There is no QSL requirement. You cannot submit through LOTW either. You then sign, scan and email the application in and that's it. This is what it looks like:

 I was not impressed. Not sure how popular this will be. There is no serial number, no endorsements possible and no QSL requirement. You can't even apply with the ARRLs own LOTW program. Since I applied and was awarded the certificate in 3 days, I have to conclude that there is no real check of any kind. They also specifically exclude Aeronautical and maritime contacts for this award. Why? If there is no confirmation requirement, what difference does it make?

I think the ARRL has done the DXCC program a disservice by including this "award" among its ranks. I'm not sure why this had to be handled and implemented this way, other than it was obviously the easiest way for the ARRL to do it. Kind of reminds me of the old Rag Chewers Club. (Remember that one?) About as tough to get too. Not good ARRL, IMHO

Art Bell, W6OBB, SK.

Renowned former radio host Art Bell passed away Friday, 4/13/18 at his home in Pahrump, NV. He was 72. Best remembered for his late night radio shows, 'Coast to Coast AM' and 'Dreamland', he was a favorite of late night AM enthusiasts, truckers, 3rd shifters, hams and conspiracy theorists. RIP Art.

The next RDXA Meeting is this Tuesday, 4/17/18 @19:30 at the Monroe County EOC

Program:

Solar living with a Hamshack by Charles Dunn, AC2DG

RDXA 2017-18 Calendar

September 2017

5	BOD – K2CS
19	Meeting – EOC
9-11	ARRL September VHF
23-24	CQWW RTTY

October 2017

3	BOD – N2BEG
21-22	NYQP
17	Meeting - EOC
28-29	CQWW SSB

November 2017

4-6	ARRL SS CW
1	BOD – K2TER
18-20	ARRL SS SSB (W2R at W2FU)
21	Meeting – EOC – W2BSN
25-26	CQWW CW

December 2017

1-3	ARRL 160m CW
6	BOD – K2CS
9-10	ARRL 10m
19	RDXA Holiday Dinner
28-30	RMSC Event
30-31	Stew Perry 160m CW

January 2018

3	BOD – N2UJN
6-7	ARRL RTTY Roundup
16	Meeting – EOC – **WJ2O**
20-22	ARRL January VHF
26-28	CQWW 160m CW

February 2018

10-11	CQWW WPX RTTY
15	BOD – AF2K
17-18	ARRL DX CW
20	Meeting – EOC
23-25	CQWW 160m SSB

March 2018

3-4	ARRL DX SSB
6	BOD – W2BSN
20	Meeting – EOC – **N2ZN**
24-25	CQWW WPX SSB

April 2018

3	BOD – N2BEG
17	Meeting – EOC – **AC2DG**
28	RDXA/RVHFG Annual Awards Banquet
29	**W2RDX/70 - AWA**

May 2018

1	BOD – K2TER
15	Meeting – EOC – **DXeng?**
18-20	Dayton Hamvention
26-27	CQWW WPX CW

June 2018

2	Rochester Hamfest
5	BOD – K2MTH (Rohrbach's)
9-11	ARRL June VHF
19	Meeting – EOC - **FD**
23-24	**ARRL Field Day**

July 2018

14-15	IARU
21-22	CQWW VHF

August 2018

TBA	IRVfest
31	Contest season concludes
	Membership year concludes

The following is from 3D2AG's website, Take heed FT8 DXers!!

FT8 Etiquette for DXers by 3D2AG

The new digital mode '**FT8**' being all the rage, below are some tips to make our mutual experience of this exercise the most enjoyable and productive:

1. Foremost, **PLEASE CALL THE DX STATION SPLIT!** Otherwise it will be impossible for the DX to decode your signal among the many calling on his frequency. Do not call on his frequency. Select a clear spot on the waterfall in the Wide Graph to set your transmit frequency, and call the DX there.

2. When calling the DX, **SEND A REPORT, not your grid,** along with your call (e.g. W1AW 3D2AG -17). This will greatly reduce the number of exchanges and time per QSO, enabling more stations to work the DX in the available propagation window. Click the "Next" button under "Generate Std Msgs" for the "Tx2" message. This will generate a signal report with your call instead of a grid square. Major DXpeditions will now usually not respond to calls with a grid.

Typical FT8 'ideal' short QSO (75 Seconds long):

```
CQ 3D2AG RH91
3D2AG W1AW -17
W1AW 3D2AG R-20
W1AW 3D2AG RR73
3D2AG W1AW 73
```

Extended long QSO (105 seconds):

```
CQ 3D2AG RH91
3D2AG N6TE DM12
N6TE 3D2AG -20
3D2AG N6TE R-15
N6TE 3D2AG RRR
3D2AG N6TE 73
N6TE 3D2AG 73
```

Note that the above times can be much longer if there are improper decodes needing repetitions

(please refer to point (1) above!). Please note that for a good QSO, the '73' is optional, so if you cannot manage to copy the final '73' do not worry you are in the log. Usually after attempting to send 3 or 4 times the final 'RR73', the DX will move on to the next station.

3. If you do not intend to stick around, please do not call! A FT8 QSO takes a minimum of 60 to 105 seconds, and if there are repetions, up to 2 or 3 minutes, even 5. A lot of patience is required. If there are 4 or 5 stations calling at the same time (hopefully split!) the DX station will answer them in the order they appear on his waterfall, so your turn will come. The DX could be wasting a lot of precious on-air time calling absentee stations!

4. To make the QSOs smoother and faster during a DXpedition, the 'RRR' and '73' lines are usually combined as '**RR73**' so please be prepared for this. For proper interpretation of 'RR73' please always use the latest version of WSJTx: (https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html).

5. Last, but not least: after making a simplex QSO with the DX, please QSY - DO NOT start calling CQ on his frequency forcing him to shift elsewhere (yes, this happens too often!!). The FT8 spectrum is already very crowded as it is, so please do not deprive the DX of his hard-earned 'parking space'! Thank you very much and let's enjoy FT8 Mode!

Breaking News...

RDXA Members- New Calls!!

Mike, N2UJN is now KM2B

Paul, K2DB is now AE4PM

(Note Mike's new email on last page)

2017 RMSC Holiday Science and Technology Days A Hit

Our annual museum operation was a hit with many QSOs by a number of young operators stopping by. The bands and the antenna cooperated this year and 135 contacts were made on a number of bands with minimal QRM from the museum. Thanks to all who volunteered to make this operation a success.

W3OAB SHOWING A VISITOR THE MAGIC OF HF

Save The Date!

Joe, K2ZR, founder of the The Roc City Net, has announced they have organized a hamfest in August. It will have RW Antennas as a commercial vendor and be totally free to attend or sell in the flea market. More details to come.

1st (Annual?) Roc City Hamfest

August 25th, 2018

Log Cabin Restaurant Macedon, NY

NYQP Plaques will be shipping soon!

The 33 plaques will be picked up this week. Thanks to everyone who helped make NYQP a success. Save the date for this year and start planning early- 10/20/18

W2RDX/70

Hey, want to get on the air and use our special 70th anniversary call? Its available for anyone to use. If you find yourself with some radio time and want to generate some contacts, feel free! All we ask is that you put you call on the schedule so we can track the use. Go to www.RDXA.com and select the RDXA/70 pull down. The schedule link is halfway down the page. Tell anyone that you work about our 70th anniversary and if they want a special card (yet to be designed, but certainly special) The QSL manager is AF2K. Here is a direct link to the schedule:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1I JMaUtPMwXHE69NaXDBPL8ORFUCRItntV5 BVxnggnZE/edit#gid=0

Python based FT8 log specific .kml creator for Google maps and Google Earth

Mike – KM2B

A python script has been created specifically for the wsjtx_log.adi that is written into LocalData automatically by wsjt-x software. The log is cumulative.
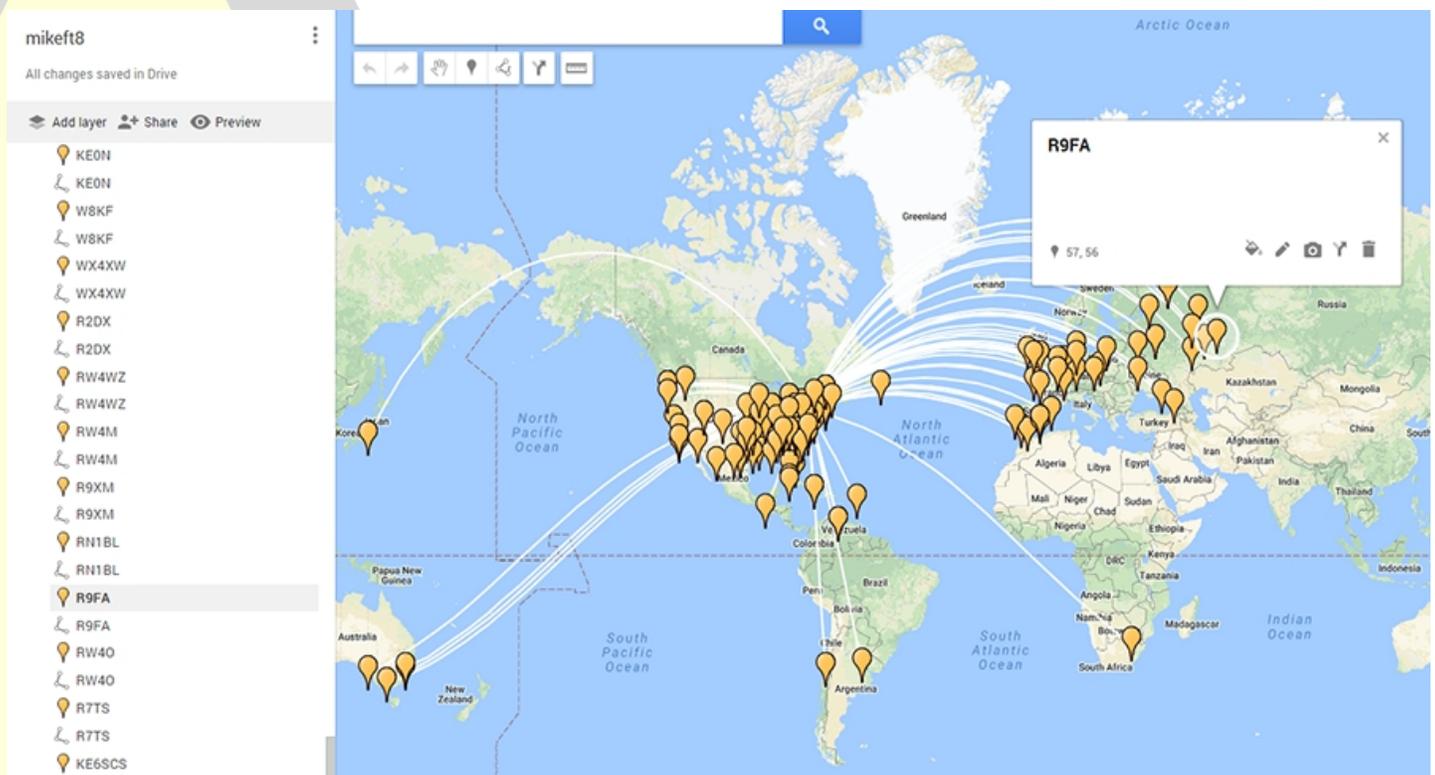
The python script has been compiled into a single windows .exe file for broader use in our RDXA club for those interested in making either a 2D google map or a 3D google earth view of FT8 contacts.

Results Generated

Once the procedure discussed is executed a file named callSigns_wPointsLines.kml is written into the directory where the script is run in the presence of the wsjtx_log.adi file (procedure to run below).
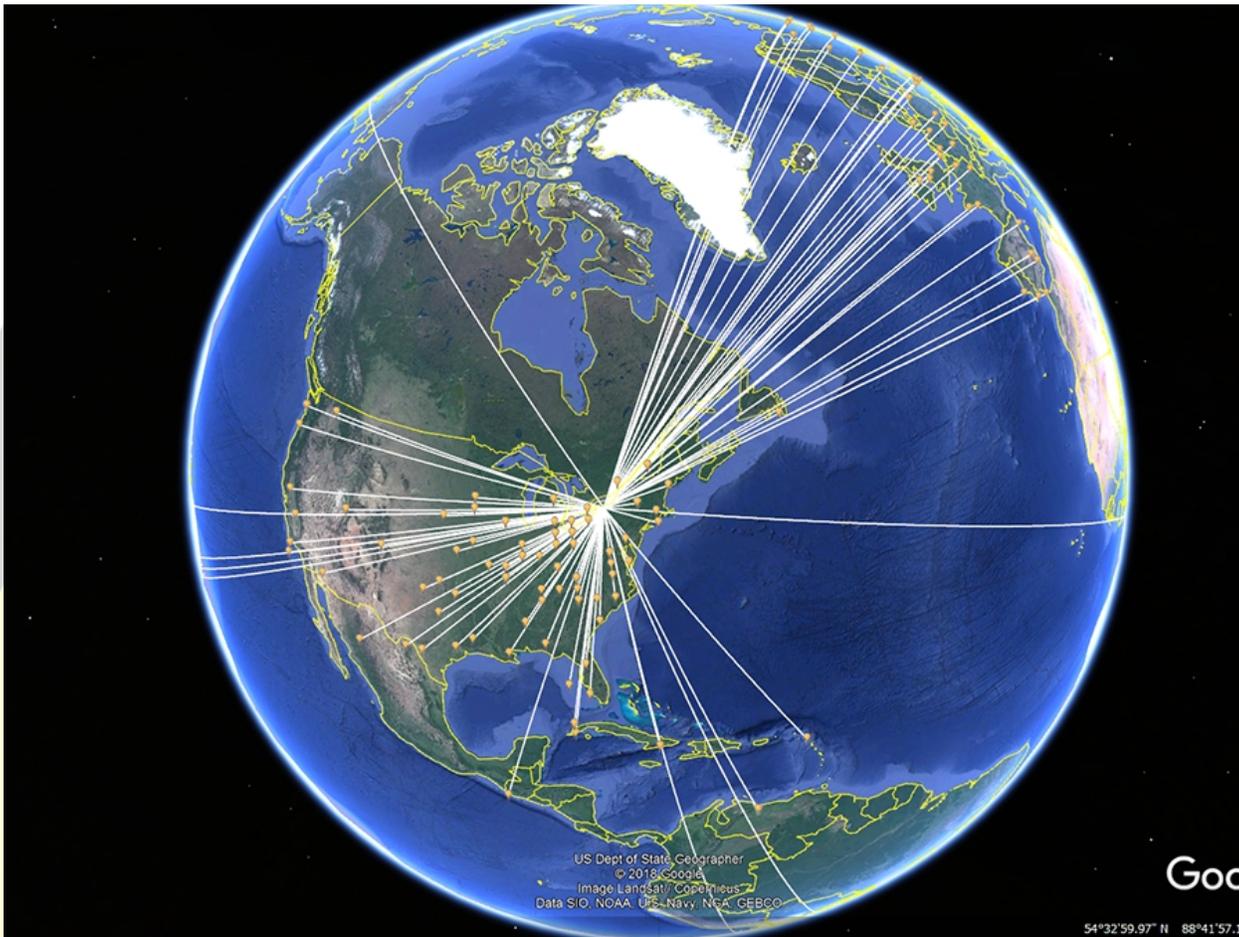
Google Maps 2D View

The generated .kml file can be used for both google maps and google earth.   You can upload the .kml file to google maps (that process is a bit obscure but ping me if you cannot figure it out).   Once you do, the below, light weight, single layer map from your grid to the contact grid will be produced.   If you click on any of the little balloons a circle will appear around the balloon and the call sign will pop up with its corresponding longitude and latitude.

I like the ability to create a map because, as I am doing FT8, things happen pretty fast, and, I cannot always get a chance to look up folks locations while the contact is progressing.   After the session, I cut and paste new contacts into my growing FT8 .adi file for kml creation.   The above is the latest.   As you can see, even in really poor band conditions, it is possible to really do well in dx. (for me anyway).

Google Maps 3D View

The generated .kml file can also be uploaded to Google Earth. Once uploaded the below view will show all contacts from your grid location as shown below.

The google earth view is very different in its perspective than the 2D view. Here, you really get a chance to see the path actually taken by your signal, and, get a better understanding of your contacts relative to your antenna configuration. Again, if you click on any balloon, the call sign will pop up.

Where to get the .zip file containing the .exe file and what to do then?

I have made a google drive downloadable link below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S2KIeP4Pv_0c15fzbBLLS2pa3njeZieE/view?usp=sharing

Download the .zip file to a directory you will remember and place the wsjtx_log.adi file into the same directory as the download. When you unzip the file, make sure to delete the auto-expanded extra directory and unzip the contents into the directory created. (Just backspace the path shown until it is your original directory without the automatically added directory for unzip). **Filename is: km2b_adif_2_kml_PointsLines_main.exe.**

Once you have unzipped the file go to the directory and make sure it is there! Then, find your wsjtx_log.adi file (varies depending on operating system so a way to do it is just search for it with windows search making sure you can search in hidden directories too. Copy the wsjtx_log.adi file to the same directory you unzipped the .exe file too.

Having made it through all of the above, you are partially there.

What to do when you have both wsjtx_log.adi and km2b_adif_2_kml_PointsLines_main.exe in same directory.

When you have co-located both the FT8 .adi log and the .exe file in the same directory, you can begin the process of creating the .kml file. The code will lead you through the process. To launch the process simply cd to your directory where you have placed both the .exe file and the .adi file then:

1. launch a windows command line window
2. Type in the exact command you see at the bottom of this cmd window.

Figure 1: How to Run the kml creator

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

c:\Python27\kml_scripts\yourFolder>ls
'ls' is not recognized as an internal or external command,
operable program or batch file.

c:\Python27\kml_scripts\yourFolder>dir
 Volume in drive C has no label.
 Volume Serial Number is 404E-11C2

 Directory of c:\Python27\kml_scripts\yourFolder

04/15/2018  07:47 AM    <DIR>          .
04/15/2018  07:47 AM    <DIR>          ..
04/15/2018  07:42 AM         5,381,118 km2b_adif_2_kml_PointsLines_main.exe
04/15/2018  07:41 AM            38,314 wsjtx_log.adi
               2 File(s)      5,419,432 bytes
               2 Dir(s)  393,532,805,120 bytes free

c:\Python27\kml_scripts\yourFolder>km2b_adif_2_kml_PointsLines_main.exe wsjtx_log.adi
```

Figure 2: What you will see if a gridsquare is missing in the log when you run.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

KM2B
Longitude = -78
Lattitude = 43

CO8LY
Longitude = -76
Lattitude = 20

KM2B
Longitude = -78
Lattitude = 43

**ERROR: hisGrid for CM3HUY missing
**TO DO: Add gridsquare to adif logfile for CM3HUY
ERROR: kml file not created

c:\Python27\kml_scripts\yourFolder>
```

What will happen once I fix all the missing grid square information?

Once you fix all the missing gridsquares in your .adi file, then, you will get the below window after you run the script!!   The window will tell you the name of the kml filename*:   callSigns_wPointsLines.kml*.

```
CTA Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe                    _  ☐  X

KM2B
Longitude = -78
Lattitude = 43

KM4DDJ
Longitude = -86
Lattitude = 36

KM2B
Longitude = -78
Lattitude = 43

SUCCESS!!
152 Records Processed
Filename -> callSigns_wPointsLines.kml -> Written to Directory
You can now upload the .kml file to google maps or google earth

c:\Python27\kml_scripts\yourFolder>_
```

OK -> Now what do I do?

Go to google earth and upload the callSigns_wPointsLines.kml file and ram around looking at all your contacts!   Same thing for google maps!!

At least for me, once of the great pleasures of completing a contest or an FT8 session is using google earth to "visit" the contacts around the globe.   Enjoy!! I use the 2D view to get a compact view.

For programmers:

If any of the many programmers out there want the python scripts and python library dependencies needed for this script let me know.   I can send a link to that stuff as well. I used the Python 2.7 platform due to the vast availability of libraries.

This was a fun project because I learned many, many things including the basics of creating a .kml file.   And, for the very first time I understand the details of grid square to longitude/latitude conversion!

Mike

KM2B

Help Wanted:

The club could really use some help. Carey has asked for someone to take over the Website. It is not that big of a time commitment and if you have the skill set, not that hard. Please email Carey if you would like to help. arsk2rny@gmail.com

FIELD DAY 2018

Vic K1PY

Western New York, Webster Park along the shore of Lake Ontario, Saturday, June 23rd, 01:59:57 local, :58, :59, :00, *CQ Field Day, Whiskey 2 Radio Delta X-ray!*

It has begun. The annual exercise that engages an enthusiastic number of us to show off what can happen when a group puts its collective mind to accomplishing it.

If you are there while it's happenning, you'd be thinking to yourself: *I helped do this*. No matter what small task it was, I helped make it all happen. Getting stuff to the site and getting it in place – I helped unload it. Or the Mil-masts that support our antennas – I helped the team get them in the air. Or the Yagis that need to be assembled – I tightened the elements. Or I helped lay out the power cables. Or helped put up the shelters. I was there to help in innumerable ways to make it all happen.

And because of that, in 2017, I helped us win a national title -- **#1 3A in ARRL Field Day!** Against over 1,300 other teams throughout the U.S. and Canada. *For the fifth time.*

Just by being there.

Not many people can proudly wear that banner.

Yep, that's a huge part of what FD is within RDXA. And interestingly, and most pleasantly surprising, a number of other hams, having heard of our efforts, also come and help out as much as anyone else – just to be a part of it. Wow. We're definitely doing something right.

This year we hope to duplicate that feeling. Working towards a repeat performance, the Mil-masts, shelters, Yagis, dipoles, Beverages, Elecraft K3's, all of it, are lined up. Again, through the generosity of Admar Supply, the 25 kW generator is again available to us, free for the using. Likewise, AWA's Mil-masts are yet again freely available for our use. The core planning teams are planning away.

Remember that feeling from last year? Or from a few or even many years before? It's time to get it on your calenday: Friday, June 22nd through Sunday, June 24th. Haven't been to FD yet? You can see it's one of the most varied radio experiences there can be – concentrated in one fantastic weekend of work and comaraderie.

And maybe a number 6?

You gotta be there to find out and experience it for yourself.

CQ Field Day W2RDX

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 Quarterly. Any news items, articles or pictures should be sent to YOUR NAME HERE? by the second Tuesday of the month for inclusion in that month's issue. All those with an interest in amateur radio, 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. Meetings are located at the Monroe County Emergency Operations Center located at 1190 Scottsville Rd. Rochester, NY 14624.

President.....................Chris   Shalvoy   – K2CS cshalvoy@att.net

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Secretary.....................Bill Rogers – K2TER k2ter@rochester.rr.com

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Appointed Positions

Webmaster	Carey Magee-K2RNY
Contest/DX Chair	Charles Kurfuss-WB2HJV
Banquet Coordinator	Gayle Shalvoy-N2TWI
Media Coordinator	Paul Kolacki-K2FX
Field Day Chairs	Vic Gauvin-K1PY
	Bill Rogers-K2TER
Newsletter Editor	???

Membership Dues can be sent via:

Paypal:
treasurer@rdxa.com
US Mail:
Mike Sanchez KM2B
8 Piccadilly Square
Rochester, NY 14625

Regular Membership:	$25.00
Family, Full time Student or Out of State member:	$6.25