

Rochester DX Association



President's Letter

Well, after several of the “premier contests”, are we having fun yet?

As expected, bands have been less than cooperative. “Stalwart” 20m has even been interesting, shutting down well before sunset on occasion. Regardless, any day on the radio is still “fun” but I suspect, we’re not out of the woods yet it would seem.

CONGRATULATIONS to RDXA on our 2018 Field Day 2nd place finish in the 3a category, yet another outstanding effort which the club should be very proud of. A review of the 2018 event, what went well and what we could do better will be held in the early part of 2019 (in preparation of the late June event).

Information of those meetings will be forthcoming. Nice job all!!

Had the opportunity to “resurrect” K2NNY in sweeps SSB a few weeks ago. A small group of us got a rental (VRBO) in Inlet, NY just over the Herkimer/Hamilton (read WNY/NNY) border, having to bring everything in, put up a G5RV in the trees and hope for the best.

Dave (WJ2O), his wife and daughter Karen (K2KAR) arrived Friday afternoon, we got in later that evening. We used to own property about 2 miles from this location but haven't been back in 14 years, this after the property was sold (and W2CCC purchased).

Time marches on as some of the “landmarks” we were used to have changed hands or are closed. Still brought back many fond memories (I had lived there for several years in the late 70's).

We got up early Saturday morning and started to assemble the station. G5RV went up fairly fast as the run up the drive provided the 102ft we needed to string the G5RV. Several “casts” of the slingshot got the antenna up about 40 ft., the balun about eye level. The location was at 1700 ft. so we had some built in height already.

Dave provided his well-traveled K3 with matching amp and tuner. My contribution was the antenna (including installation) and logging laptop. After the typical “setbacks”, we were all ready to go BEFORE the start of the contest (at 4pm local).

As described above, the bands seemed out of sorts, I started on 20m with a mere handful of QSO's for the first 2 hours. This necessitated heading to 40m far earlier than I would have liked. Having been a consistent operator at the Hickory Lake Contest Club location (aka K2DB's cottage) for years, I have the operating plan down pretty well.

We operated thru the nite with op changes about every 2 hours (though some of the late nite/early morning shifts were a bit longer). Two YL ops really help as well as the “built in” 2 to 3 S unit “boost” from the call.

Dave grabbed the VI mult late Sunday afternoon and we got the sweep (with about 23 hours on the air). Having to take it all down and Dave packing up his gear for his VP2V trip, we could have gone the other hour but decided to clean up and head home. Gayle, Raymond and I had a 3.5 hour drive (and as usual, it was snowing) while Dave had about an hour and a half.

All told, a great weekend, many thanking us for being back on the air. We're hoping to do the same next year, learned a few lessons but overall, the formula seemed to work well.


SO, back to Rochester, several club related events on the calendar.

- The annual "Holiday Dinner" will once again be held at Rick's – flyer attached.
- This year's RMSC demonstration will be a one day event. It will be held on Saturday 8 December, 2018. RDXA plans to participate with an FT8 demonstration. Look for additional information as it becomes available on the reflector.
- As we're right in the thick of the contest season, remember to submit your logs with the ROCHESTER (NY) DX ASSN listed as your affiliated club and update the RDXA.com spreadsheet.

Thank you all for your outstanding enthusiasm and we're all looking forward to another great year!

Best DX es 73,

Chris, K2CS



A digital recording thermometer with a black plastic casing. The top section is labeled 'OUTDOOR' and shows a large digital display of '21.5°F'. Below this, it says 'MIN' and 'MEM'. The bottom section is labeled 'INDOOR' and shows a large digital display of '11.3°F'. Below this, it says 'MAX' and 'MIN'. There are buttons for 'MAX', 'MIN', and 'RESET'.

This is a picture of the recording thermometer from W2CCC on 23 November, 2018. As you can see, sometime between CQWW SSB and that weekend it's already hit minus 21.5 deg! Indoor temp comes in at a balmy 11.3 deg.

Once, in a conversation with Rich, KL7RA (SK), he asked "How cold does it get in NNY?". I replied, "I've seen -32". His comment... "Respectable.....".

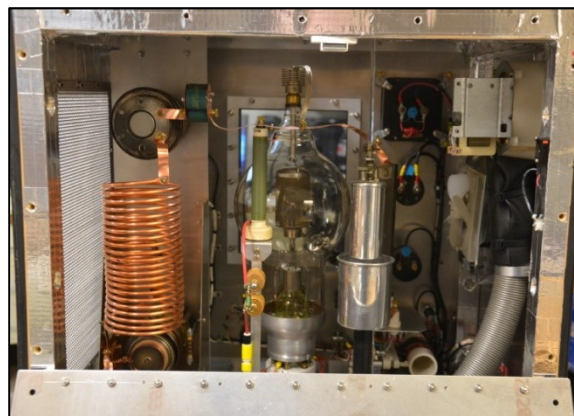
Warm Up That Shack

Lynn Bisha W2BSN

With winter fast approaching, it is time to think about heat in the ham shack. The museum recently acquired a large donation of home brewed equipment from the estate of Charles Preston, K4LJH. Charlie was a consummate home brewer, and his skills are shown magnificently in the pictures here.



This linear amplifier is now on display in the museum. It consists of an Eimac 750 TH final tube and the appropriate circuitry. The power supply is a separate piece. The 2 piece design allows normal humans to transport this beast.



The 750 TH is 17 inches high, the globe is 7 inches in diameter and it weighs 3 pounds. This is the big brother to the pair of 100 TH's in the modulator, and

the 250 TH in the final of a BC-610 transmitter. This tube's maximum ratings for an RF power amplifier include:

Filament Voltage 7.5 v
Filament current 22.7 a
Plate Voltage: 6000 v
Plate Current 625 ma
Driving power 125 w
Power output 3000 w

As you can see, this would be a proud addition to any ham shack. Most of today's rigs would be able to sufficiently drive this amplifier to the legal limit (and beyond). It would also be quite a conversation piece in a ham shack. The 170 watt filament should provide the appropriate warm glow through the large front window to ward off the evening chill in an upstate winter.

2018 NYQP update:

The logs have all been received and 'scrubbed', as it were, for the team to get them loaded into the software scoring database. As you may not be aware, there is a tremendous amount of work to make this happen. Even though the logs are required to be in Cabrillo format, the logs are received from a HUGE number of different logging programs that don't always generate a true Cabrillo formatted file. To compound this, there are always issues with logs that need to be investigated and resolved prior to scoring. You would not believe the variety of issues the team has seen over the years. It truly is a work in progress to try to streamline and improve this year after year. Vic, Carey, Dean and Dave continue to process the logs and get them ready for Dave's software to do its magic and eventually determine the winners! Stay tuned for future updates and results!!

Your NYQP Team

Get on the GRID!

If you haven't yet put your scores up on the website, now is the time! No matter what contest or what score, take a minute to put YOUR score up on the RDXA score grid. Some members may not be aware of this club activity. After any contest and right after you submit your log, put your score on 3830.com and send a note out to the club, take another minute to drop the score in the RDXA score grid. There are "club contests" and "non-club" contests. The club has awards at our annual banquet in the spring that helps to showcase members efforts. So, log on and get them up there. If you need a password, send a note to the webmaster (aka Carey) and he can hook up. The grid scores go way back, you can see what scores looked like when the peak of the sunspot cycle made things a lot busier!! Check it out!

<http://rdxa.com/oldsite/index.php?page=RDXA%20Score%20Grid>

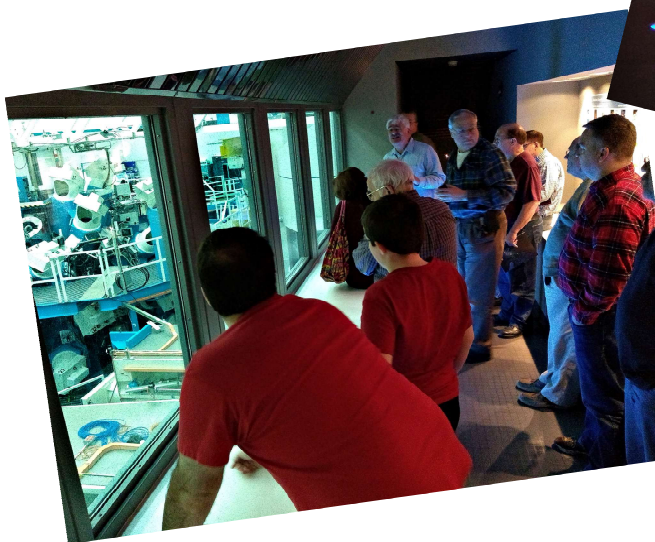
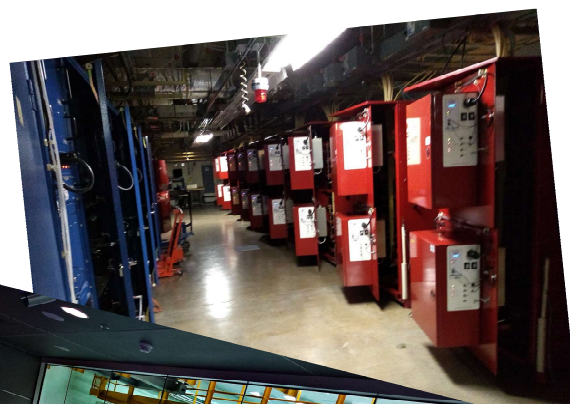
The 3830 site is the world wide version so you can see how you stack up against everyone in any contest.

<https://www.3830scores.com/>

N2BEG

A Visit to the Laser Lab

Our November meeting was dinner at Duffs Famous Wings, followed by a tour of the University of Rochester's Laboratory for Laser Energetics. Our host and guide at the lab was Jack Kelly, WA2CHV. Jack did a great job explaining the operation of the lasers in the language of ham radio.



W2CCC tower project

Several years ago, I had the bright idea to put up a few towers at our property in Cold Brook, NY.

Mind you, we're about 40 miles from Utica (or Herkimer), dead end road but as a bonus, no neighbors to complain and very little if any noise.

After some assistance from WJ2O and engineering help from W2GD, towers were purchased and the “project” began.

First order of business was all the “paperwork”. I'm blessed with a very laid back area of the Adirondacks as the only concerns became rules of the “Adirondack Park” and a nearby, no longer used airstrip (that is still marked on aviation maps though).

The park rules indicated a 40 ft. limitation but for “advertising” signs. TV antenna specifications allowed far greater height and that's what would be referenced.

Next, the airport.... I checked with the appropriate FAA sources, provided engineering specification showing the distance we are from the airstrip and the proposed height of the towers – NOTE, many of the trees around the tower would be TALLER than the proposed structures... I guess if you're crashing, you steer around the trees to then miss the towers...

When all was submitted, etc. – 70ft towers would be well within the airstrip proximity and limitations thereof. Additional height would require illumination of some-sort.

As for the town of Ohio, my neighbor said “Forget it, I'll talk to them...”.

Since we don't live there, items were delivered and signed for by the same neighbor. He was also contracted to dig the tower bases but due to the weight of the concrete truck, a “pour time” late in the year had to be chosen.

Since then, the project has sat for several months as we've sought out some kind for “rig” to set the tower sections. Remember the beginning paragraphs; we're not close to anything.

Our tree surgeon had access to a bucket truck but it had some mechanical problems which put it out of commission for several months so I began to look at other options.

After a few pleas on the reflector, it was decided to put the towers up during NYQP with help from Charlie WB2HJV, Irv AF2K and most importantly, John WB2BYP. He's had extensive experience doing such work, the proper tools and a free weekend.

Ironically enough, the Friday we chosen had unusually high temps considering the time of year – we took a day off anticipating the good fortune.

With guy moorings yet to be poured, we decided to go up the maximum



distance for a Rohn 45g w/o guys – 50ft. 6ft was extending beyond the concrete base and 4 sections would then be raised by gin pole.

Several weeks before, Gayle and I laid out each section to be sure they “fit”. We labeled the sections and laid them near where they were to be raised.

One tower was brand new, one was from K2FR (former KB2SE - SK) purchased several years ago that had already erected at his QTH in Webster.

The first order of business was making sure the bottom section fit the sunken section in the base. All at ground level, that would be the hardest section to set (hopefully).

The first tower was to be the “new” sections. Later on, we found out that the galvanization coating covered most of the holes. They had to be filed or later drilled so the appropriate bolts would fit.

This process added significant time to the first tower raising. The second day, we knew better and chased the holes before we raised the sections.

Tower one went up and late in the day, we were even able to mount a rotor and Butternut Beam I was given years ago. It had been assembled but unused as I added more VHF stuff to the 10ft roof tower on the garage.

That morning, I checked it out, it “dipped” on several HF bands so we decided to give it a shot. A far larger XR6 will adorn that tower when we have the equipment to get it up there but this will do for now.

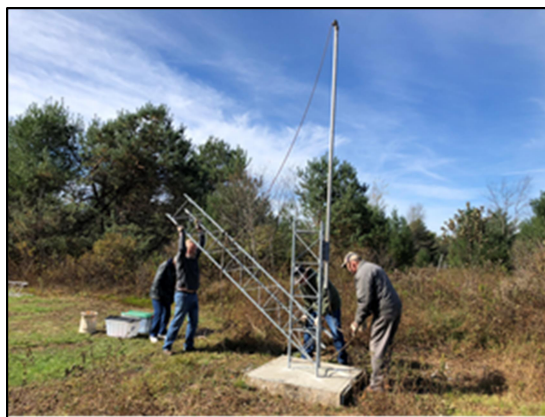
Tower 2 went up in about ½ the time the next day. John knows his stuff when it comes to tower erection and gin pole usage. Charlie and I pulled ropes with direction from John as the sections were raised.

All told, only a missing socket and a broken file were the only “casualties” (while also noting the poison ivy “field” that surrounds tower 2 that thankfully didn't infect anyone).

The week after, I got up at sunrise and ran the rotor cable and coax to test the setup in CQWW SSB. Rain was forecast for 8am so the “daybreak” work needed to be completed before I got soaked.

Sure enough, got it all tied together just as it started pouring (raining the entire weekend of the contest).

Looking forward to getting the XR6 up as I'm sure that will be even more dramatic than the Butternut (which btw, played



real well on 15m during CQWW SSB) and moving the VHF stuff off the garage roof (making room for 903, 1296 loopers).

When complete, tower 1 will have the XR6 (which has a 6m dipole in it), M2 2m antenna and 2m/440 Diamond Vertical. Along the side will be a 160m inverted L. I have a few thousand feet for radials. This tower is about 120 feet from the house.

Tower 2 will have a long boom beams on 6m, 222 and 432 and possibly the DISH TV dish. Between the towers will be a 40m lazy H.

This will complement the 4 existing 570ft beverages, full size 160m dipole and ground mount Butternut Vertical..

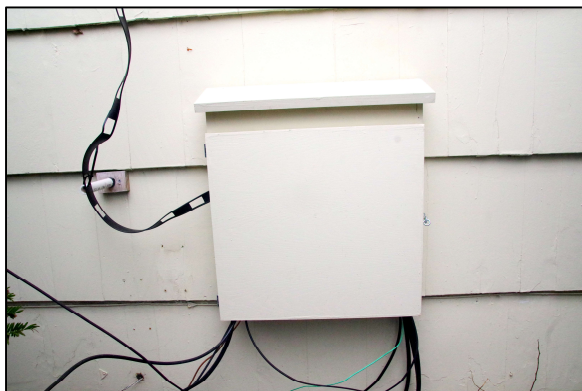
Oh, and we CAN'T forget the "tried and true" G5RV now can we...?

Chris, K2CS
(W2CCC, FN2)



Bat House and Mail Slot

John Hall AC2RL

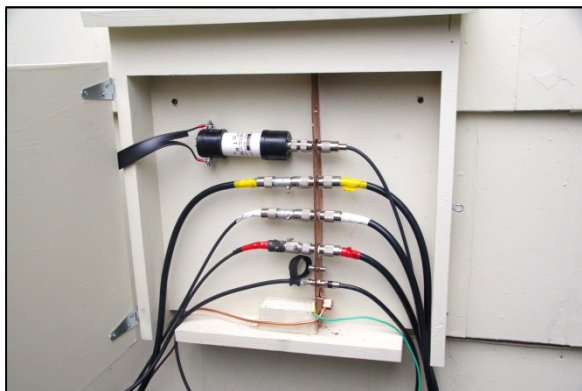


I finally decided to bring some order to where the antenna feedlines enter my shack. With four HF, one VHF, and two receiving antennas, things were getting out of hand.

The junction box I built looked like one of the boxes people hang up for bats to roost in, hence it was dubbed the “bat house”.

It contains a ground bulkhead made from a flattened piece of copper pipe, drilled to accept UHF and F bulkhead connectors and connected to my ground rods. The coaxial lines have blitz-bug type lightning arrestors installed at the bulkhead.

It also contains the balun that connects to the window line feeder for my 80 meter loop skywire. That balun also contains a lightning protection device. The cable from the balun to my tuner is less than ten feet long so SWR loss is not much more than when I ran the window line directly to the tuner but it has really helped reduce the RF level in the shack.

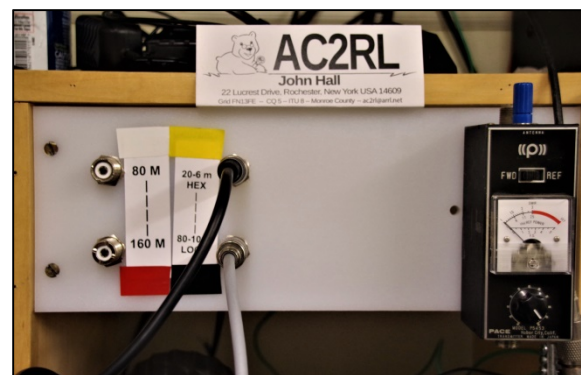


All feedlines from the antennas and the fat copper ground wire enter on the left side of the box. Short lengths of coax and a green wire to my indoor bonding strip leave via the right side down to the basement window well directly below.



One pane of the window has been replaced by the “mail slot”, a plywood panel with a generous slot to accommodate the cables, and a wooden shutter to adjust the size of the slot. Foam insulation of the type sold for sealing air conditioners makes a draft-proof seal around the cables.

After discovering that the shack carpet was damp below the window, the cables in the window well were rearranged to hang well below the slot to allow water to drip off and not enter the shack.



In the shack, the cables for my HF antennas terminate in a patch panel where I can connect my tuner and rig inputs to whatever antenna I wish. The panel also holds an old field strength meter to confirm something is actually happening when I transmit.

NYQP portable from Franklin County

N2BEG



The little cabin in Franklin County

I like to try to activate rarer counties for NYQP. We last went north to Franklin county in 2016 and stayed at an Air B&B just outside of Lake Placid. For that trip I invited my oldest son Ben to join myself and the rest of my family for a weekend getaway and a casual NYQP effort. We had a great time and our hosts were awesome. Since then I had mentioned our adventure to a friend I have who has a small cabin also up in Franklin county who enthusiastically invited us to his place if we ever wanted to go north again. Plans were made and when the day came, my younger son Jack and I loaded the truck and headed north. My friend Pete's cabin is about 20 minutes south of Malone, in Owl's Head. There are very few folks around after the summer is over and he is in a secluded spot to begin with.

Once we got unpacked, we went to work to get the G5RV deployed. The obvious choice was the tall pine immediately adjacent to the cabin. With a single shot from the air cannon, we managed to get a line up at about the 60 foot level. The antenna went up and we secured it to trees on either side. We celebrated with a few 807s and settled in with a delicious meal

while we caught up with our host. Both Pete and my son are musicians, so it wasn't long before they were jamming while I set out to set up my temporary station. Pete also gave us the lay of the land. He plays host to a bountiful array of animals around his place. The cabin has no indoor plumbing as yet (planned for spring) so the facilities are a short walk away. We were instructed on the necessity of carrying a pistol for any trips in the night as he has been visited by bear, wolves and most recently a porcupine while venturing out after dark. (just to scare them off, not shoot them) I got to see the porcupine on one such trip. Pete is an animal lover and feeds a large array of birds as well as deer. He has a flock of about 25 turkeys that come by twice a day and are come right up to the cabin. He feeds the largest flock of blue jays I have ever seen..

After I fired up the rig and computer and tested everything, we called it a night and hit the hay. As daylight broke on Saturday, the daily ritual started and we enjoyed watching the wildlife have breakfast while we made ours. After a final check out of the station and N1MM, I was ready for NYQP. A few test QSOs were made and all looked good.



Some of the daily visitors

I began on 40 meters and then went to 20 after a short while. I like to try to give as many out of state participants contacts on the higher bands during the day. As with all NYQPs, we share the bands with the Germans for their WAG contest. That makes 20 meters pretty crowded as it's a hugely popular contest across the pond. I ventured briefly to 15 but there was very little activity there. I took some time to explain the concept of contesting to our host who thought the whole thing was intense. I had a few good runs on both phone and CW and took time out to work a few scouts for the Jamboree on the air which also happens during NYQP. At one point I



Cabin front with G5RV feedline visible

think I worked an entire troop so they could get the QSO for credit towards their radio merit badge.

As the day wore on the contacts multiplied. Pete and



My portable setup in Franklin county

Jack ran some errands and I pressed on. We did a quick dinner break and then I pushed on to 40 meters. Things heated up as the contest wound down. 80 meters was the usual hotbed of activity as the run to the finish ensued. I had a lot of thanks for providing the “new one”. I never worked another Franklin county station, I think there was at least one other station on for at least some of the contest. County hunters are big enthusiasts of QSO parties, I get a fair number of QSL requests whenever I operate portable for NYQP.

In the end I wound up with 461 QSOs, 47 counties and a score of 55,104. I managed to work all but 45 minutes of the contest. We thoroughly enjoyed our outing and have already anticipated another venture, possibly to another northern “rare” county for next year. Thanks to all who made it in the log. See you all next year.

N2BEG



Jack and his new best friend, Oakly the wonderdog

RDXA 2018-19 Calendar

September 2018

4 ————— BOD — KM2B
 8-10 ————— ARRL September VHF
 18 ————— Meeting — Show Us Your Shack
~~23-24 ————— CQWW RTTY~~

October 2018

2 ————— BOD — AF2K
 16 ————— Meeting — K2TER
~~20-21 ————— NYQP~~
~~27-28 ————— CQWW SSB~~

November 2018

~~3-5 ————— ARRL SS CW~~
 6 ————— BOD — W2BSN
~~17-19 ————— ARRL SS SSB~~
~~21 ————— Meeting — WA2CHV~~
~~24-25 ————— CQWW CW~~

December 2018

30-2 **ARRL 160m CW**
 4 BOD — K2TER
 8 RMSC Event
8-9 **ARRL 10m**
 18 RDXA Holiday Dinner
 29-30 Stew Perry 160m CW

January 2019

3 BOD — K2CS (note — THUR)
5-6 **ARRL RTTY Roundup**
 15 Meeting — WJ2O
 19-21 ARRL January VHF
25-27 **CQWW 160m CW**



February 2019

5 BOD —
9-10 **CQWW WPX RTTY**
16-17 **ARRL DX CW**
 19 Meeting — EOC
22-24 **CQWW 160m SSB**

March 2019

2-3 **ARRL DX SSB**
 5 BOD — EOC
 19 Meeting — EOC
30-31 **CQWW WPX SSB**

April 2019

2 BOD —
 16 Meeting — K2DH — FT-8
 TBD RDXA/RVHFG Annual Awards Banquet

May 2019

7 BOD — AWA (tentative)
 17-19 Dayton Hamvention
 21 Meeting — EOC
25-26 **CQWW WPX CW**

June 2019

4 BOD —
 TBD Rochester Hamfest
8-10 **ARRL June VHF**
 18 Meeting — EOC — **FD**
22-23 **ARRL Field Day**

July 2019

13-14 IARU
 20-21 CQWW VHF

August 2019

TBA IRVfest
 24 ROC City Hamfest
 31 Contest season concludes
 Membership year concludes

The Rochester DX Association

Cordially invites you to our

Annual Holiday

Dinner

18 December 2018

Rick's Prime Rib House

898 Buffalo Road

Rochester, NY 14624

Cocktails: ----- 6:00pm

Dinner: ----- 7:00pm

Dinner Selections - \$30

Prime Rib

Chicken French

Orange Roughy

Dinner, Hor d'oeuvres, Desert, Coffee included

Cash Bar

Reservations and dinner selection by December 4th to
RDXABANQUET@RDXA.COM

Gayle - N2TWI

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.

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.

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Appointed Positions

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	Bill Rogers-K2TER
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Regular Membership: \$25.00

Family, Full time Student
or Out of State member: \$6.25

