

# Rochester DX Association



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**Deadline for Next Issue:**

**August 31**

## President's Letter

As we wind down another RDXA "year", we have a few other activities left to occupy our time. First (obviously) is the return of FD after a 2 year unplanned hiatus.

Great to see the enthusiasm demonstrated so far, seems the event is being embraced as it was in years past.

A revaluation on where we as a club are today has yielded several changes in the FD layout. As "time marches on" and the realization that no one is getting any younger, a less physically "stressful" approach this year seems to be the biggest change.

The club has gone ahead and purchased a new beam in the hopes that assembly and tear down can be accomplished faster than in past years.

We've also come to the realization that several members are no longer with us, ones who were consistent FD participants. Those folks will be surely missed but their positions need to be filled.

Personally, Gayle and I will be in Ireland as we were ironically enough the last time a "real" FD was held in 2019. As we travel with a group representing Rochester Sister Cites, we have little say in when we go. I will say though, it's something else to be in "the homeland" during summer solstice as in 2019, it stayed light until 11:30pm local time. I played golf that day and honestly, could have gotten another 18 in if I knew what I do now about that day.

Gayle and I just returned from our 30th anniversary Dayton, having first attended in 1993. The flea market was visibly less occupied, crowds were good but down from prior years. We stayed at the "new" headquarters on the Wright-Patterson Airbase and attended the "Contest Super Suite" each nite. Many of our old friends were there but once again, several have left us over the last 3 years. Not much flea market shopping for me, I really never got thru the entire site as we had to "pull up stakes" Saturday as storms hit the area late that afternoon. In past years, we had several locals who heaped with setup and tear down but this time out, we were on our own. Several of our relocated RDXA members

stopped by (actually “remembering” where we were from years past as I had no “RDXA” banner displayed (BTW, where is it?)).

As DXAC Chairman, I felt obligated to attend the DX Dinner on Friday night at the Marriott. This was a first as we generally go out with “friends” each night while at the Hamvention. I was approached by several asking DXAC related questions, also good to shake hands with some who I had only seen on Zoom meetings. Oddly enough, no “DXpedition” of the year (which could be expected) and Joe Taylor was honored for WSJT/FT8 as love it or hate it, it has transformed the hobby and in particular, DXing.

Speaking of Hamfests, the Rochester (RARA) Hamfest returns this year in its somewhat traditional weekend after Memorial Day. Several other area Hamfests are also planned with the ROC City version on Saturday 27 August. I’m sure RDXA will be well represented at both.

Also this August, we once again will be holding our annual picnic deemed “IRVfest” several years ago. Very popular last year, it will be held at the Dolomite Lodge on WEDNESDAY 17 August. The club has decided to provide all “meat” so a dish to pass is asked of those attending.

Contest wise, things are winding down as well – the CQWW WPX CW contest will have concluded by the time you read this with the annual IARU contest being held on

the weekend of 9-10 of July. In June, the popular VHF contest is held on the second weekend.

In preparation for the 2022-23 year, we’ll once again be meeting at Johnny’s “in person” for those local members. The thought has been discussed having specific months be designated “Zoom” meetings as well (spreading them between bulletins – another avenue of club information). This will allow our out of town members the ability to “catch up” but hopefully promoted locals to attend “in person”.

Several other organizations I’m involved with are adopting similar strategies, it’s been nice to provide access to those who can not attend locally the ability to stay informed and that would remain an option, just not every single month.

It’s being discussed and decided well before the 2022-23 meeting schedule is released.

As I have in the past, I’d like to thank those who continue to keep this club vibrant, active and most of all “enjoyable”.

Looking forward to another great year and continuing to return to a more “normal” times.

Best DX es 73

Chris, K2CS

### *Submission Guidelines*

*Microsoft Word is the preferred format for newsletter article and item submissions. If that is not possible, a plain text file, such as that produced by Notepad, is second best.*

*Please end each paragraph with a single return (Enter key), I have to remove excess returns by hand. And don’t use returns for line breaks in a paragraph. I may be flowing the text into a different column width.*

*The standard body font is 11 point Calibri. If you can’t do that, don’t worry, it’s easy for me to change.*

*It’s okay to, use tables and bulleted or numbered lists in Word. Bold, italic, colored, and underscored text is also fine.*

*Images, photos and diagrams are best in .jpg format and may be supplied separately or embedded in a Word document. If you have Excel or Powerpoint stuff to be included, send them in that form.*

*Following these guidelines will make my job easier but, if you need to do something else, let me know and I can probably accommodate you*

*Thanks,  
Your Humble Editor*



### IQ Data for Dummies

Software defined radios (SDR) use IQ data. IQ stands for In-Phase and Quadrature. It is what makes up so-called analytic signals. The following web page has an excellent explanation (one of the best I've ever seen), complete with moving pictures.

<http://WhiteBoard.Ping.SE/SDR/IQ>

### Free Book

Fundamentals of Wireless Communication

[https://Web.Stanford.edu/~dntse/Chapters\\_PDF/](https://Web.Stanford.edu/~dntse/Chapters_PDF/)

(submitted by Ken Hendrickson)



RDXA booth at 2022 RARA Hamfest - photo by Dave Wilson



Chris K2CS and Bob W9IZ relaxing in the RDXA booth at Hamvention—photo: John AC2RL

### SK Equipment For Sale

**HF Transceiver Kenwood Model TS- 830S**

**Heathkit Monitor Scope Model HO-10**

**Kenwood TM - 2550A 144 FM Transceiver**

**Heathkit Linear Amplifier Model SB- 220 (2kw Linear Amplifier)**

**Astron Power Supply RS- 20A**

**Kenwood SWR & Power Meter SW2000**

**Kenwood SP- 230 Speaker**

The best thing to do is email her and see if you can go and see what all there is, as there was some other equipment in the radio room.

Her name is Daisy King and her email is : despinap-k22@gmail.com, the equipment belongs to Georg Pullman (W2SNC) and he is a SK. He was also a member of the ARATS and some other local clubs.

(Submitted by Robert Allard)

## New! RDXA Equipment Share

Do you have gear just sitting on your shelf that you rarely use? Maybe it's your previous rig that you're keeping in case your new rig goes out for repair? Or a wire dipole you took down when you put up your beam? What about tools and test equipment that you can't do without but only use once or twice a year? Perhaps that coax crimper or an RF voltmeter? Your second-best antenna analyzer? How about sharing them with other RDXA members?

I ask you to look around your shack and see if you have anything you might want to make available on a short-term basis to other club members with a need.

We're not strangers. Another club member is likely to be a more trustworthy borrower than some random guy. That said, you are responsible for making it clear up front what happens if something were to break while the borrower has it. It's also up to you to make sure the borrower knows how to use the equipment. If it's something fussy, say your \$30K Rohde and Schwartz spectrum analyzer that's going to burn out if it sees one electron more than more than 10 milliwatts on the input, well, maybe you want to vet who you loan it to, right? On the other hand, something like a fence post driver is easy to use and hard to break.

This list is intended only to connect lenders and borrowers. You decide what to lend and who you lend it to. It's a private transaction. You can say "no" if you don't know/like/trust someone who wants to borrow. The club will take no responsibility for lost, broken, worn-out, or not-returned items. That's between you and the borrower.

I suggest a week is a reasonable loan period for tools, and a month for rigs, antennas, and other equipment, but in the end, that's up to you. A borrower can always ask to extend the loan if they need it longer.

Icom 735 HF transceiver	John Hall AC2RL
Leader 2 channel oscilloscope 15MHz	John Hall AC2RL
Fluke 80K-40 HV probe, 40 KV 1000:1	John Hall AC2RL
Desktop Variac	John Hall AC2RL
Bonton Signal Generator 100khz-175Mhz	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
Bonton RF millivolt meter good to 600Mhz	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
1.2Ghz Frequency counter	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
500Mhz mW meter	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
100khz to 40Mhz Chinese signal source	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
DT9205 Handheld digital multi meter	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
35Mhz to 4.2Ghz Chinese handheld spectrum analyzer	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
900Mhz basic NanoVNA	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
0-30V@10A adjustable power supply	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
13.8V@20A power supply	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
Agilent E4418B power meter	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
Bird 1kW dummy load	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
Bird 30dB 500W attenuator	John Cunliffe W7ZQ
MFJ 949C (100W) manual antenna tuner	Mike Sanchez KM2B



## RDXA Spider Beam Field Day Pre-build

N2BEG

On Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> A few of us gathered to put together the latest weapon in the RDXA field day arsenal, a spider beam. Mike, KM2B, John, AC2RL, Chuck, NN2L and my self met at my QTH and assembled the antenna from the box per the instructions provided. It went together fairly smoothly, and we only got a little wet towards the end. It measured within reason when we were done and we were satisfied that it will go back together in a reasonable amount of time at the site. Thanks to all who helped, especially Chuck



## Paul Kolacki, K2FX,

by Mike KM2B

In 2012 I belatedly learned of the release of the CW requirement to become a licensed ham. I had been licensed in 1992 as N2UJN, obtained a 2m/440 radio and a handheld, then, let that all lapse as I worked and raised my kids.

But, in 2012 my kids were no longer that interested in Dad and I had, for the first time in a long while, some time to do something else.

So, I studied and passed the technician exam and filed for my old call N2UJN again and it was granted.

One Sunday night in late November of 2012, I listened into what was then K2QZR Sunday night 2m net, then in its infancy. I did not yet know the check in protocol but, at one point, what sounded like a professional newscaster's resonant voice came on and indicated he was selling his radio, something that I had never heard of before, a Yaesu FT-1000MP. This gentleman gave his phone number.

The next day I phoned the number and the same voice answered. I shared my name and that I had heard him on a 2m net the night before and was interested in his radio. He introduced himself as Paul Kolacki, K2FX. We set a time and he gave me his address and also a ballpark number for what he wanted to sell the FT-1000MP for.

I arrived on time and as I neared K2FX's home, I saw a nice tower with all manner of antennas on top of it. When I parked in his driveway out in Ontario county I looked up and saw wires running throughout the trees. "The real deal here", I thought to myself.

I knocked on the door and a nice lady answered with a smile and ushered me in, then down a flight of stairs to the basement where I walked into a room that looked MORE advanced than NASA itself.

In front of me from my far left to my far right was a curved tabletop with two decks, lower and upper. Each deck was neatly ordered from left to right with radio's, amplifiers, microphones, CW keys, and a lot of stuff I had no idea what it might be. The room reverberated with some really high quality sound emitting from one of the radios.

Paul Kolacki, K2FX, sat right in the middle of the semi-



circle and turned with a solid smile on his face. He introduced himself and then, after asking, gave me about a 30 minute tour of his truly spectacular "shack" as he called it.

He had an entire series of old Yeasu tube radios (I used to remember but they were early radios). All looked brand new and all were in perfect working order. On the far left was what looked like a mid-sized refrigerator, but he indicated it was an amplifier, a famous one that would put out 3000 Watts. Again, I no longer remember the brand but, for a while I did and it is well known to everyone (but me at the time).

As a former CB'er, who only ever had a legal radio, 3000 Watts sounded truly astronomical. 3000! eye popping watts!! He did say that was illegal and did not wink. He told me the story about how he drove down to Texas to get it from someone.

Paul took probably 45 minutes of his time to walk me through all his equipment, talk about the various bands available on HF, discuss "rag chewing" which was his preference, and contesting, which was not.

Then, he showed me what I still consider as the most beautiful radio I have ever seen. The Yeasu FT-1000MP. It literally looked brand new. He had it all hooked up and sat down and turned the dial and chatted with someone briefly while I watched the front face. Then, we moved around the 40m band (it was after dark) and we listened to all the folks from all over chatting.

Again, as a former CB'er from East Texas whose frame of



reference for a distant conversation was 5 miles, listening to Minnesota that night was like listening to a magic show.

Paul totally hooked me into HF that very evening. He gave me what is STILL considered a fair deal to me and to him and then he took me outside to his tower where it was LIT from below for visibility at night. He talked about all the different bands and antennas etc. A truly dizzying conversation for me at the time.

He refused to let me carry the original box with the MP in it to my car, and carried it for me to my back seat. Then, Paul said: "Listen, I am a member of a club called the RDXA. Lot folks there in that club are long-time Amateur operators with a wealth of knowledge. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month. All are welcome. I will be at the next meeting if you want to join us.

That last thing he did that night was to give me his cell phone number and tell me to call if I had any confusion or questions "any time". Then, he said: "Do Not Use the Radio with any antenna until you have established a good earth ground".

And so began my current, true odyssey through ham radio. I DID attend the next meeting and there were a bunch of guys there that all seemed to have Ph.D.s in EE and Amateur Radio.

Once, I switched the transmitter to the second receiver frequency and could not, no matter what I did or read,

figure out how to switch it back. So, I called Paul's phone number and after one ring he picked up. I told him the problem and he said: "look at the radio". I did. He said, "see the red light on the right under the TX button?" I did. He said, "on the left there is a small button that says TX under it but is not lit, see it". I did. Paul said, "press that button". I did, PROBLEM solved.

I said thanks and apologized for such an easy issue. He said, "Mike, no problem, call anytime".

I never did call him again but I did chat with him at Field Day and RDXA Christmas Party.

I remain in awe of Paul Kolacki today and his ability to inspire so much enthusiasm in me and also get me started on the path to HF.

Paul would help anyone anytime. He supported Field Day. He was routinely a voice on 2m to listen to. He ran the infamous UFO net which was great fun to listen to. Lots of new hams on 2m saw his shack and he would help them set up operations.

Paul Kolacki, K2FX, was probably not perfect, just like all of us, but, where Amateur Radio is relevant?

K2FX was a Ham's Ham. The Best.

May he rest in peace.

KM2B

## The Field Day Archives

*Vic K1PY*

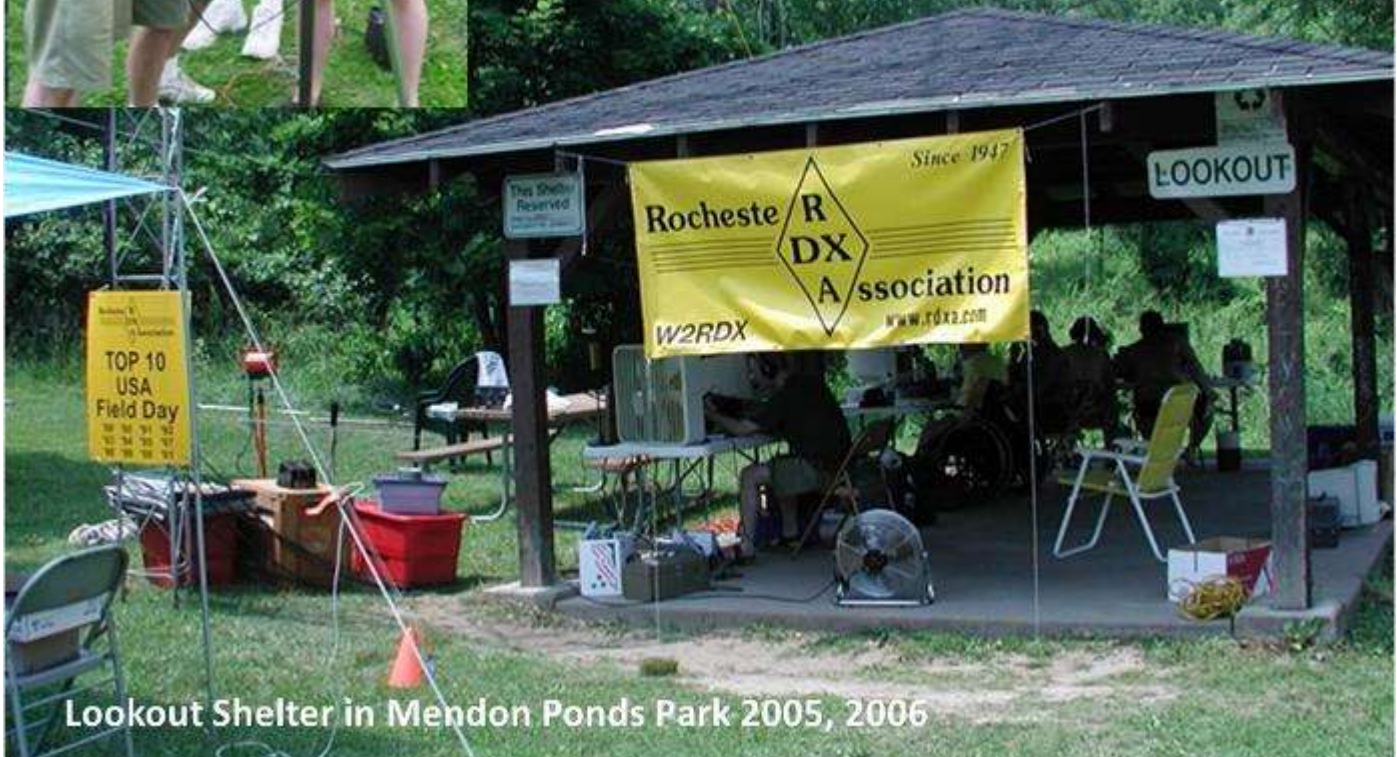
Having collected info on RDXA's Field Day activities for what seems like forever now (well, only from the late 80's), and with FD nearly upon us (finally!), it seemed appropriate to gather some of it for the pre-FD newsletter. This might give us perspective on what we've done over the years. Digging into it all made it seem like these were "the FD archives," hence the title.

The years with the most photos (all from the club) seemed most appropriate, so that defined the years we chose.

It was interesting, and not surprising, to routinely see a few people show up over the years. The major players as it were. And it's only appropriate.

To support the pix, write-ups from those years were extracted directly. Some had more than others. So, here we have the first RDXA FD Archival presentation.

**2005 & 2006** saw us trying out a new location: **Lookout Shelter at Mendon Ponds Park**. It was the **first time** that we had the two Mil-masts, courtesy of AWA, who'd just recently obtained them. (Many thanks for these for years to follow.) They were used at the CW stations in the field, and both had rotators. Phone, GOTA, and VHF were all in the shelter. **Phone & GOTA shared antennas:** A TA-33, 80+40 Inv-Vees, and for the first (and last) time, a V-beam for 80/40. CW had a (new to us) 20M Yagi and a second 80CW V-Beam, along with a 40/15 2L wire beam and an Inv-V. **RESULTS (3A):** In 2005 we placed **#3** with 11,246 pts, and **#2** in 2006 with 12,546. Worked out pretty well!!





**2008 — 17978 points!** Is this AWESOME or what?!!! That's a 34% increase over last year's record-setting 13360 !! Our own 40m CW Crew beat the **W3AO** 40m CW crew (1146 to 1074) You want something even cooler? Our own 40m CW crew then went on to make yet another 162 15M contacts to boot !!!! And it doesn't stop there: Our single station 80/20 CW crew had a combined 1452 contacts. The **W3AO** 80m stn + 20m stn (TWO stns) had a combined 1775 -- that's only a 323 contact difference between their two stations and our one station! Below is a note that we received from Muffy Meisenzahl, the Administrator of Monroe County Office of Emergency Management: "Please extend our congratulations to everyone involved in achieving recognition as #1 in the Nation for Class 3A, at the June 28th Amateur Radio Field Days! We also understand that your activity during this event places you in the Country's Top 10, most probably at #5. We also had EOC 100' Motorized crank-up tower (TU Muffy and Jim Herbst)

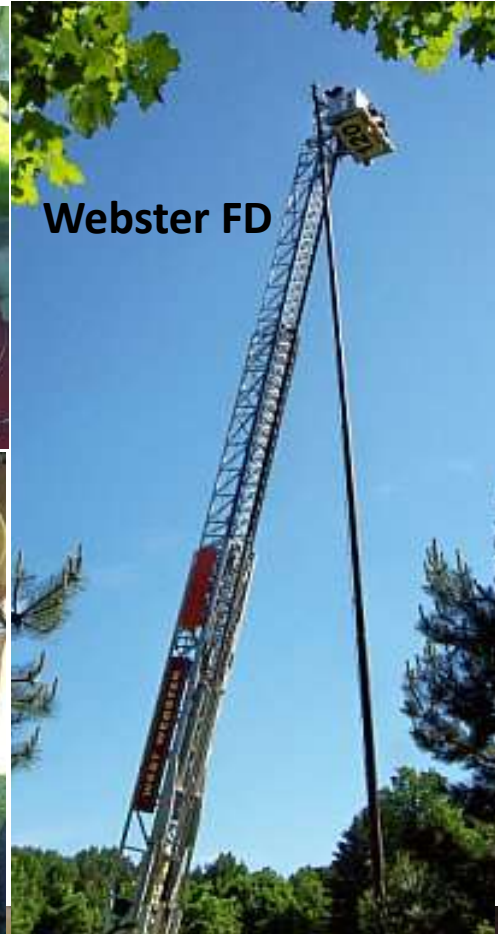


100' tower



K2SI

K2TER



Webster FD



KC2JXP



W2COP

N2HKD

N2PU

AF2K

WA2JLW

K1PY

K6PSP/  
GM3PSP



**2016** — Different year, same feeling. That's the overall summary. Last year it was weather. This year "conditions." Give the CW guys credit – they hung in there and matched 80 and 40, and actually beat last year's 20 score. 20 was the sole change for the CW station pair – we reallocated the CL-33 tri-bander and brought back the CL-203 20M mono-bander from a few years back. Perhaps the improvement can be partially attributed to that. For 15, in retrospect, we think we went to 15 later than we should have, as it was hopping when we did – during the last couple hours.

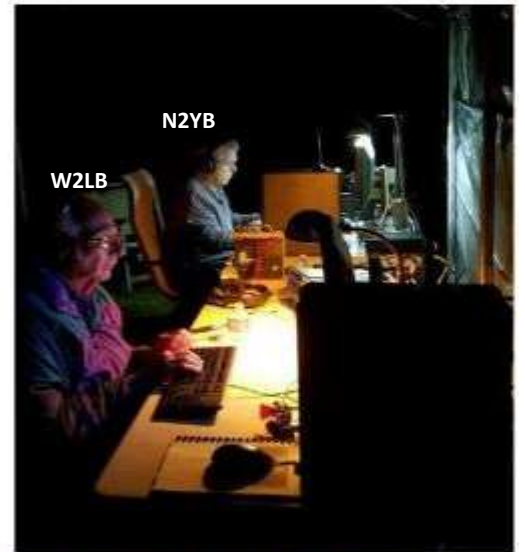
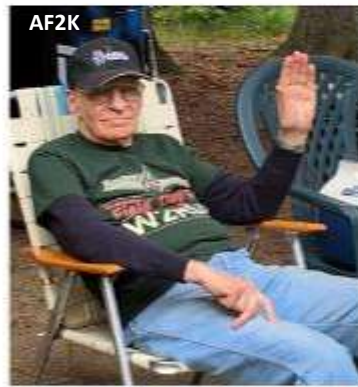
PH on the other hand had a much harder time. It was always noisy. After midnight it was hard going. Both modes reported that, actually. Phone was also where we made 20M changes, actually the most significant overall for this year, and it was therefore an even larger disappointment. Q's just weren't there. We'd keep checking, just in case – it is a bread-and-butter band after all – but seldom much of anything.

We ended up at **#2 3A** with 3288 combined points and a score of 12,202.





**2018**—FD was good even though the rain dampened spirits a bit. The two 40m Vee's were erected with no trouble at ~80 and 35 feet using the two pull ropes. Both antennas tuned to ~7040 khz with 1.15:1 SWR. Incredibly, both tuned within one inch of Mike's calculations. The installation was easy and new team member Chuck, NN2L, used a sling shot to easily get over the South-end trees. Performance is mixed. We got 900, 40 CW Q's instead of the usual 1,000. N2RD called CQ's on the upper antenna so didn't test any difference. K2CS reported that he could not finish a QSO, mid-afternoon, with a W3, but when switching to the lower antenna the QSO was easy. On the down side it was reported there was more on-site station to station QRM using Vee's instead of the Yagi. So we'll have to discuss that some more. GOTA did well and like last year had a great run on 10 meter phone. Final score was 12,980 with 3479 Q's for another #2 finish in 3A.





**2019**—First, it was a great time over the entire weekend. We were blessed with some of the best wx we’ve had in quite a long time, and that only set the stage for what everyone that was there at take-down (a good crew – many thanks to you all) agreed was simply a wonderful weekend overall. Lots of new initiatives, lots of improvements, and lots of challenges that we previously missed were met. Murphy, however, was not to be denied. Those who were there can attest to all this, but here are some details for those who couldn’t make it, and for history.

To start, let’s address the detailed numbers in the overall breakdown. **CW** (80/20 and 40/15 stations) did as they always do – reel in the contacts. We beat last year by adding another 112 contacts (448 points after multipliers). (*Operators: Carey **K2RNY**, Rus **K2UA**, Doug **N2BEG**, Raj **N2RD**, Mark **N2YB**, (Continued next p.)*





Chuck **NN2L**, Larry **W2LB**, Jack **WA2CHV**). The station location was moved way out toward the east end of the field – for two reasons. One, to be less inviting for people to come hang out, and unintentionally chat on and on, interrupting the ops, and two, to shorten the coax feed lines to the station, mostly for 80M CW, where the antenna is at the eastern-most end of the field. It seems to have worked out pretty well.

**DIG**ital, the biggest initiative, which we finally got involved in after many years of discussion, but mostly because it's the hot new thing that we couldn't ignore, yielded another 63 HF contacts and 69 VHF contacts (528 points). (Operators: John **AC2RL**, Dave **K2DH**, Don **K2DV**, Dave **WA2HOY**)



**PH**one also did not sit back, and 20 was “the band,” setting a new all-time record of 991 contacts

**Don K2DV at DIGital FT8** (beating the '07 591 record), albeit to the detriment of 40 and 80. With Bill **K2TER** required to be out-of-country for the first part of FD weekend, Mike **KM2B** accepted the task of scheduling operators. Some of the regular phone ops didn't reply to the scheduling e-mails, so we ended up drafting CW ops for phone (with thanks for pulling them away from their favorite mode). (Continued)



Together, they all provided an additional 106 contacts over last year (212 points). (*Operators: John **AC2RL**, Vic **K1PY**, Brian **KA2CGB**, Don **KD2CTZ**, Mike **KM2B**, Doug **N2BEG**, Mark **N2YB**, Ken **N2ZN**, Lynn **W2BSN**, Dave **WA2HOY***).

**VHF** is the first place Murphy struck most heavily, when a cable accidentally damaged the **K2TER** Rover rotator while being raised on the hydraulic boom. Aside from sharing its 6M Yagi with FT8 (yielding the above-noted FT8 contacts), it was limited to only a combined CW/PH total of 9 contacts.



**SATellite** was another major initiative. Determined to not let us miss this bonus for a third consecutive year (100 points for a single contact), Dave **K2DH**, with the extremely generous contribution to the club by Jeff **W2FU** of an automated satellite tracking system and M-Square antennas, snagged 13 additional contacts, for an additional 140 points!

**GOTA** felt the absence of Gayle **N2TWI** (along with Chris **K2CS**, avoiding the raindrops in El-land), but still was able to pull out 135 phone contacts thanks to the Maynard clan (*Cal **K2CAL**, Wesley **N2WES**, Ollie **W2OLI**, and Henry*), and Kellie **KB2CHC**, who had a 58/hr run the last hour on 40).

The big chunk subtotals summarize the preceding:

- **HF CW** (2175 contacts) up by roughly 100, but **TOT CW** (2317 contacts) (HF, DIG, VHF, SAT) (“DIG” counted here because it has CW point value, i.e., 2 pts/contact) was up by approx 200, even without the normal contributions by VHF, but helped by DIG.
- **HF PH** also up by approx 100, but **TOT PH** (GOTA, VHF, SAT) is down 100 because of lower GOTA and VHF.
- The **QSO HF band** numbers juggled around because of 20, but overall evened out to approx 100 more overall

Looking at **CW pts vs. PH pts**, you can see why we double-up our stations on CW – with 4 points total per contact (2 pts for the contact times a power multiplier of 2 for “low power” operation), a huge portion of our score comes from that mode. Which is now enhanced by similar treatment of digital contacts.

**BONUS** suffered two Murphy hits, even with obtaining the two bonuses we missed last year (Sat and W1AW message). We lost two others in their place.

The first because our *Visit by an Elected Official*, which for years has been the Webster Town Supervisor, did not make it to the site this year (we did specifically invite him). FWIW, he also did not make it to the XRX Club FD, **W2XRX**, who operate not far from us In Webster. The other was the lack of “students” for the intended Bazooka Air Cannon *Educational Activity* session – there was nobody to present to. (*Continued*)

The other was the lack of “students” for the intended Bazooka Air Cannon *Educational Activity* session – there was nobody to present to.



## THE BOTTOM LINE:

Our **TOT pts** did not quite match what was estimated from collective group memory after the completion of takedown (we hadn't jotted down the numbers straight from N1MM+ in time). Still, we improved over last year, and definitely have much new knowledge on how to use our new initiative experiences for next year. In fact, at the follow-up meeting, there was already excitement about how to go forward. Overall, for us it seems, the fun is in the effort and continual improvement and expansion of boundaries (with Winning a nice side bonus!)

## THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE 2019 ONE SUPER FIELD DAY!

We want to thank the many people not mentioned in this wrap-up who contributed in many, many other tasks involved in carrying off an effort of this magnitude. Together we all enjoy the excitement and challenge in making it happen, and continuing to make it better each year, for the past **24 years** at this spot in Webster Park. **2020 will be 25 YEARS! HOPE TO SEE YOU BACK.**

*2022 post-script: Guess we know it didn't turn out. BUT, 2022 is upon us and the RDXA Field Day will be back in Webster Park for another great year! Hope to see even more of us there to make up for lost time!*

*73, es CQ FD!*



## My Mobile HF Antenna Issue

N2BEG

Last fall I mounted my new-to-me (but obsolete) High Sierra HS1500MK2 screwdriver antenna in the back corner of my also relatively new-to-me 2013 Toyota Tacoma. This was an upgrade from my collection of hamsticks that had served me well over the years in several vehicles. I had also upgraded my ancient Alinco DX70 to a much newer (but still obsolete) IC7000 I purchased from Raj, N2RD. Though I had some antenna mounting issues until I settled on a sturdy solution. I enjoyed some success with this new antenna, however the controller matching needed to be upgraded too. Using an automatic tuner and manual screwdriver control box was just too cumbersome. After conferring with Russ, K2UA and others, the West Mountain Radio Turbo Tuner seemed like to ultimate solution. I ordered one from DX Engineering in September only to discover they were not in stock. Apparently, Russ bought the last one!! Well, fast forward through our wonderful winter. They had pushed the delivery date out on my tuner 3 times. The last date was May 16. I anxiously waited but the day came and went with no signs of the tuner. I reached out to DX Engineering only to hear that West Mountain still can't obtain something in the tuner and the new ship date was now May 30<sup>th</sup>.... 2023. Obviously I have to do something different. Since the early spring my antenna was having issues matching anywhere so I decided to rip it all apart and examine everything top to bottom to find issues before proceeding further. The feedline was checked and found to be OK. I unmounted the antenna from its base, which is a nice quick release design, and the first issue became apparent. At that point I started to disassemble the antenna itself to make sure it was OK inside. I went to the manual which was not very well written, but did contain some useful items. Under maintenance it mentions to take the antenna apart at least twice per year. Oops. Don't recall seeing that before. It also mentioned use in high salt or coastal areas needing more maintenance. Hmm. Looking at the corrosion (and arc marks) on the base mounting stud seemed to indicate I had bigger issues.



As I struggled to get the antenna disassembled, I realized that it had become fused together and required a lot of extra work to break heavy brass base free of the antenna tube and get it apart. I hosed it down with several types of penetrating oils and let it sit. I still had a hell of a time getting it apart. PB Blaster along with a hammer and a screwdriver working around the base finally got the base brass piece out of the antenna outer sleeve.



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This was supposed to be bright brass. Yikes. Inside the outer antenna tube was also ugly. This was aluminum. Add several months of winter driving in NY to add a corrosive electrolyte and water. Now add current. Galvanic corrosion gone wild.

So as we recall from our study of RF, that the current flows on the outside of the conductor. If it happens to be a salty aluminum oxide, it isn't going to play nice



with our antenna matching which explained what I had been seeing. I then spent the next day cleaning up all of the pieces and then using Noalux anti corrosive on the sleeve before reassembling the now nice shiny brass base into the nice clean aluminum tube. Upon reassembly, I removed the auto tuner from the equation and matched the antenna using only the antenna control box to drive the motor. I now peak the noise

on receive, load up with low power and check the SWR. Its just a couple of tweaks with the control box to tune the antenna to resonance. Suddenly I seem to be radiating a lot more signal! It is still a pain with out a suitable auto-



matic screwdriver tuner, which I'm working on, but the radio sure works better. With the upper HF bands in great shape, I can typically work anyone I can hear. I have spent the majority of time on 20m and have worked stations in Europe, Australia, Japan and South America with 100w during my commute. The other night I got called into work at midnight. I left at 2 AM and 20m was still wide open. I worked a station in Sardinia, but heard a G0 talking to a VK4 and heard both stations equally loud. I can't wait for the peak of this cycle. I am still exploring screwdriver antenna tuner solutions to minimize effort but until that happens at least it loads and is repeatable. I have a reinspection marked on the calendar for this fall.

## RDXA 2020-21 Calendar

### September 2021

7 — BOD  
11-13 ARRL September VHF  
21 — Meeting  
~~25-26 CQWW RTTY~~

### October 2021

5 — BOD  
19 — Meeting  
~~16-17 NYQP~~  
~~30-31 CQWW SSB~~

### November 2021

2 — BOD  
~~6-8 ARRL SS CW~~  
16 — Meeting  
~~20-22 ARRL SS SSB~~  
~~27-28 CQWW CW~~  
30 — BULLETIN DEADLINE

### December 2021

7 — BOD  
~~3-5 ARRL 160m CW~~  
~~11-12 ARRL 10m~~  
21 — RDXA Holiday Dinner  
27-29 RMSC Event  
~~25-26 Stew Perry 160m CW~~

### January 2022

~~1-2 ARRL RTTY Roundup~~  
4 — BOD  
15-17 ARRL January VHF  
18 — Meeting  
~~28-30 CQWW 160m CW~~

### February 2022

1 — BOD

~~12-13 CQWW WPX RTTY~~

15 — Meeting

~~19-20 ARRL DX CW~~

~~24-27 CQWW 160m SSB~~

28 — BULLETIN DEADLINE

### March 2022

1 — BOD  
~~5-6 ARRL DX SSB~~  
15 — Meeting  
~~26-27 CQWW WPX SSB~~

### April 2022

5 — BOD  
19 — Meeting

### May 2022

3 — BOD  
17 — Meeting  
20-22 Dayton Hamvention  
~~28-29 CQWW WPX CW~~  
31 — BULLETIN DEADLINE

### June 2022

7 BOD  
18-19 ARRL June VHF  
21 Meeting  
25-26 ARRL Field Day

### July 2022

9-10 IARU  
17-18 CQWW VHF

### August 2022

16 IRVfest  
27 ROC City Hamfest  
31 Contest season concludes  
Membership year concludes  
31 BULLETIN DEADLINE



## Rochester DX Association

**Club Station — W2RDX**

**Club Website —** <http://www.rdxa.com>

**Facebook group —RDXA QTH**

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 19:00 Local time on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, September through June. Meetings are located at Johnny's Irish Pub located at 1382 Culver Rd. Rochester, NY.

**President** Chris Shalvoy — K2CS  
[president@rdxa.com](mailto:president@rdxa.com)

**Vice-President** Mark Hazel — K2MTH  
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**Secretary** Bill Rogers — K2TER

Please send all newsletter submissions, comments, and complaints to the editor:  
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### **Appointed Positions**

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### **Membership Dues can be sent via:**

Paypal: [treasurer@rdxa.com](mailto:treasurer@rdxa.com)

US Mail: Mike Sanchez KM2B  
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Rochester, NY 14625

Regular Membership: \$25.00

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