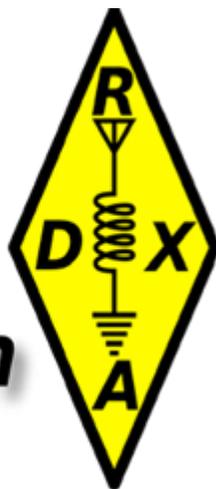


Rochester DX Association



President's Letter

I hope everyone has been enjoying the recent uptick in propagation though we have experienced several "hits" where the bands have gone literally dead.

Summer is always a busy time with family commitments, vacations and then all those outdoor radio improvements you dream about as the snow flies. Never enough time to fit it all in it seems.

Contest wise, things are winding down with only a few mainstream events left. The RDXA has always been very active in the upcoming June VHF Contest so I'd expect the same this year. In this area of the country, we're blessed with an abundance of operators and active stations. Easy to run up some impressive scores with little time invested.

By the time you are reading this, the Annual Awards Banquet will have been concluded, nice to see so many participate and begin this yearly tradition once again.

Both organizations (RDXA & RVHFG) are looking to do more together in the future, such as "sharing" like presentations during the year and other events where the organizations can combine resources. Hate to be a "downer" but groups such as ours are not enjoying the growth they had in years past and there honestly is quite a bit of membership crossover.

Speaking of club business, there are some draft proposals on adjustments to our By-laws as some of the directives had become "dated". The Board has done a great job in looking at areas that can be updated while not affecting our Constitution. Nothing earth shattering here but should provide a more up to date document to follow while conducting club business.

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Deadline for Next Issue:

August 31, 2023

RF Exposure Survey Now Required

As of May 3, 2023 all amateur stations are required by the FCC to complete an RF Exposure Survey. No exceptions.

The ARRL has a web page with resources for calculating exposure and completing this survey at

<http://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure>

ARRL membership is NOT required to use the resources on this page

Field day is fast approaching and I hope we have a substantial turnout. Interested parties have held several meetings with significant progress made. 3A has been once again chosen for our operating class and the success of filtering and band-pass applications proven last year will once again be deployed. The club has decided to provide all food but donations will be accepted.

In August, the ever so popular “IRVfest” returns to Dolomite Park, this year held on Tuesday 22 August. Once again, the club will provide the “meat” with a dish to pass asked for from each attending member. We’ll have a sign-up email sent about a month before the event (so we don’t get 10 trays of eclairs!).

Bet some wouldn't mind that though....

That’s it for now, enjoy the summer, fix all those broken antennas and hopefully, add a few new countries along the way.

Best DX es 73,

Chris, K2CS

General Meeting June 20

The June 20 meeting will be our annual general meeting and our last meeting until September.

Topics will be Field Day, election of officers, and general club business. It is important that we have a quorum of members at this meeting.

There will be discussion of recent changes the Board has made to the club Bylaws. The old and new documents have been distributed with this newsletter, along with explanatory notes.

**June 20 7:00 PM at Johnny’s
and via Zoom**

Remembering Our Recent Silent Keys

Roger Burkhart W2RMB

Paul Kolacki K2FX

Marv McIntyre K2ZAA

Bob Rossi NA2X

Len Gessin WA2ZNC

Scott Hoag K2ZS

Bob Nezelek W2CNS

HamClock

John AC2RL

Did you ever wish you had one of those expensive Geo-chron world map clocks in your shack? Me too, but they were always too rich for my budget. Fortunately, there's an affordable alternative, the HamClock. HamClock is a free computer application. I'm running it on a Raspberry Pi and a \$10 hamfest LCD monitor. Total investment under \$50.

Every part of the HamClock display is configurable. For instance, the world map can show countries, terrain, MUF, aurora, or weather on either a Mercator or azimuthal projection. Other tiles can show current contests, phase of the moon, graphs of space weather readings, solar images at several wavelengths, SOTA and POTA spots, and NCDXF HF beacon status.

Assembly and setup are simple. Take a Raspberry Pi and connect a mouse, keyboard, and monitor. Connect it to the internet and download the HamClock app from <https://www.clearskyinstitute.com/ham/HamClock>. Follow the instructions on the Download tab to install the app. The installer gives you the option to install a desktop icon to run HamClock, or you can type "hamclock" at the Linux prompt. HamClock also has downloads for macOS and other UNIX-like OS's but nothing for Windows.

Configure HamClock by clicking the screen while it is starting up. You can enter your call, QTH location, preferred DX cluster server, and other information. Then click Done and Hamclock will start.

"But wait", you may say, "Raspberry Pis are expensive and scarce these days". True, but it runs fine on older models, too. I have run HamClock on a first-gen Pi model B. It was slower than the Pi 3 B+ I'm running now but was entirely usable. I have also run it on a cheap, available Pi substitute, Libre Computer's AML-S905X-CC a.k.a. "Le Potato". It's readily available from Amazon for \$35. The Le Potato takes a little more Linux knowledge than the Pi and I eventually switched back to a real Pi be-

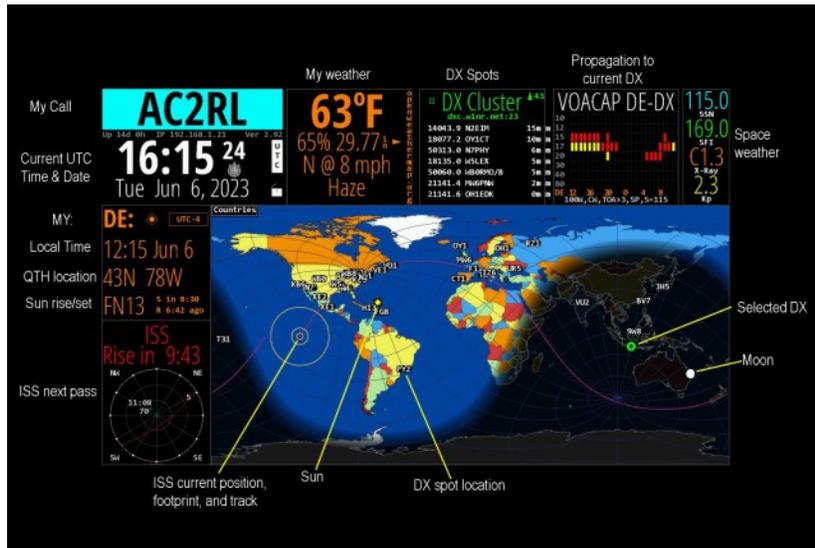


Hamclock in the AC2RL Shack

cause I couldn't convince the Le Potato to run the screen resolution I needed to match the junk monitor I was using. The Pis had no problem with the resolution.

You can also access HamClock from a web browser on your local network. It serves its display to any web browser on your local network at `http://<IP address of the Pi>:8081/live.html`. This is handy if you don't want to dedicate a monitor for it. Also, since you need a mouse to interact with HamClock, to change the displays and select DX locations and satellites, you can use the web interface if you don't have a physical mouse connected to your Pi.

I've been running HamClock in my shack for about three months and it has been completely reliable. It took a few weeks to find the exact combination of options showed the data that was most useful to me, but it has become a valued addition to my shack. I've got it running on an old 19 inch 4:3 monitor now, but someday I may put it up on a big screen TV!



The HamClock Screen

AC2RL Receives KE2WK Memorial Award

The KE2WK Memorial Award was presented to John Hall AC2RL at the 2023 RDXA/RVHFG Awards Banquet. The award was presented by the previous recipient, Gayle Shalvoy N2TWI. Who said:

First I want to start with a thank you for the honor of being the past recipient of the KE2WK award. I won it during COVID and felt like I never properly thanked all of you. I remember KE2WK well and with fond memories of when I was first licensed.

This award was started by Wayne King N2WK many years ago (give us your station and we will take the nation)! Thank you Wayne for honoring Bill and all the recipients since it started.

The KE2WK Award recognizes the HF enthusiast who has been the most active in RDXA Club affairs, demonstrated long-term club commitment and made contributions to the club newsletter. It is a person who is recognized by club members as a high profile, active, radio operator pursuing DX and participating in HF contests while promoting the RDXA and Amateur Radio on the HF bands.

The nominee for 2023 led by far in votes of the past award winners. He is at all club activities, Field Day, picnics and rarely misses meetings.

He is always helpful in many ways to any member who needs it. His passion for Amateur Radio as a whole, and the RDXA in particular, is apparent with his presence, expertise and thoughts. Being a part of the board just adds to his credibility.

He is also quite a builder and embraces new technology. He is one of the newer members of the club and has still stepped up.

He has participated in contests and submits scores regularly – logged 9 out of 15 club contests and 5 of 13 non-club contests. One of the comments I hear about him is:

“He is not just a one mode guy like me either. He ops and contests quite a few modes which I think is commendable.”

I have had the honor to operate with him both at Field Day and at W2CCC.

Over and above all the things already said, this years nominee shares one more item with myself and a few other winners, as the newsletter editor. Those of us who have done this job know what a job it is! The newsletter is always done on time and formatted well (those who know realize that is the hard part).

With that being said, it is my honor to present this years KE2WK award to John Hall AC2RL



RDXA-RVHFG Awards Banquet



Gayle works the door



Cocktails before Dinner



Opening Remarks by Chris and Rus



A Sumptuous Feast!



Awards



Gayle and Rus draw Door Prize Winners



Door Prizes



Bob WA2QAU received the award as the most active RDXA contester



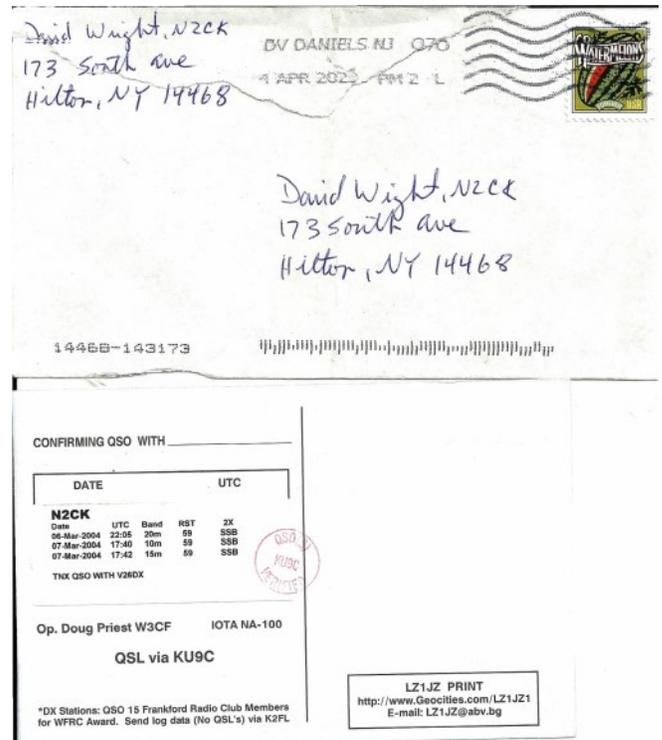
John AC2RL receives the KE2WK award from the previous recipient Gayle N2TWI

V26DX Confirmed!

Dave N2CK

When I fetched the postal mail on Friday, 4/7, I was surprised to see a self-addressed letter back to me – obviously from when I sent an SASE for a QSL card. Hoping for some extremely rare DX, I opened it up. The card inside wasn't rare (V26DX – Antigua and Barbuda), neither were the contacts (10/15/20 SSB). But when I fired up DX4WIN to log the contacts as confirmed, I checked when QSL labels were printed – to give me an idea when my card was sent out. Sadly, a hoped for 40 CW contact came back as not in the log (was hoping to bolster my 40m country count!).

When I examined my DX4WIN records, what I found interesting is that the QSL labels were printed the end of February 2016 for CW and SSB contacts made in March 2004. My card would have been mailed in early March of 2016. Even though these contacts were confirmed 7 years after my card was sent – for contacts made (now) 19 years ago – it's still exciting to see one of your SASE envelopes come home bearing confirmation of long ago contacts.



Interesting Ham Podcasts

John AC2RL

Here are my favorite podcasts of particular interest to the radio amateur. You can listen to them on apps like Spotify, Stitcher, and TuneIn or on their websites. These are great to listen to in your shack, when driving, exercising, or doing chores.

This Week in Amateur Radio (TWIAR)—A weekly podcast of news and information for the radio hobbyist. Regular features cover ham history, tower climbing and antenna safety, and fundamentals of amateur radio. Presenters include Rochester's own Dave Wilson WA2HOY. Shows run from 90 to 125 minutes.
<https://twiar.net/>

Amateur Radio News Line—If you're looking for a shorter news-only podcast. Weekly episodes. 20 minutes.
<https://www.arnewsline.org/>

Solder Smoke — Bill Meara N2CQR and Pete Juliano N6QW talk about radio, especially homebrewing in a style reminiscent of Tom and Ray Magliozzi's show *Car Talk*. Their motto: "If you know stuff, you can do stuff". Monthly. 50-90 minutes.
<https://soldersmoke.blogspot.com/>

Ham Radio Workbench — "Your bi-weekly podcast on making and technical topics of interest to ham radio operators" Host George Zafiroopoulos KJ6VU and others discuss what's on their workbenches, plus a deep dive into a project or technical topic. 100-200 minutes. Biweekly.
<https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/>

QSO Today — Host Eric Guth 4Z1UG interviews a different guest every week. Discussions include their ham radio journey, their contributions to the hobby, and how ham radio has shaped their lives. Weekly. 70-90 minutes.
<https://www.qsotoday.com/>

RDXA 2022-23 Calendar

September 2022

14 — BOD
 11-13 — **ARRL September VHF**
 20 — Meeting
~~24-25 — CQWW RTTY~~

October 2022

5 — BOD
~~15-16 — NYQP~~
 18 — Meeting
~~29-30 — CQWW SSB~~

November 2022

9 — BOD
~~5-7 — ARRL SS CW~~
 15 — Meeting
~~19-21 — ARRL SS SSB~~
~~26-27 — CQWW CW~~
~~30 — BULLETIN DEADLINE~~

December 2022

~~2-4 — ARRL 160m CW~~
~~7 — BOD~~
~~10-11 — ARRL 10m~~
 20 — RDXA Holiday Dinner
 26-28 — RMSC Event — ~~tentative~~
~~24-25 — Stew Perry 160m CW~~

January 2023

4 — BOD
~~7-8 — ARRL RTTY Roundup~~
 17 — Meeting
~~21-23 — ARRL January VHF~~
~~27-29 — CQWW 160m CW~~



February 2023

7 — BOD
~~11-12 — CQWW WPX RTTY~~
~~18-20 — ARRL DX CW~~
 21 — Meeting
~~24-26 — CQWW 160m SSB~~
~~28 — BULLETIN DEADLINE~~

March 2023

7 — BOD
~~4-5 — ARRL DX SSB~~
 21 — Meeting
~~25-26 — CQWW WPX SSB~~

April 2023

4 — BOD
 18 — Meeting — Zoom, K2CS — DXAC

May 2023

2 — BOD
 16 — Meeting
 19-21 — Dayton Hamvention
~~27-28 — CQWW WPX CW~~
~~31 — BULLETIN DEADLINE~~

June 2023

3 — Rochester Hamfest — tentative
 4 — Annual Combined Awards Banquet
 6 — BOD — Jake's
 10-12 — **ARRL June VHF**
 20 — **Meeting – FD Zoom**
~~24-25 — ARRL Field Day~~

July 2023

8-9 — IARU
 16-17 — CQWW VHF

August 2023

22 — IRVfest
 26 — 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

Vice-President Mark Hazel — K2MTH
vicepresident@rdxa.com

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treasurer@rdxa.com

Secretary Bill Rogers – K2TER

Board of Directors

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Mark Hazel – K2MTH
Bill Rogers-K2TER
Mike Sanchez – KM2B
Lynn Bisha – W2BSN
Dave Hallidy - K2DH
Doug Stewart-N2BEG
John Hall—AC2RL

Appointed Positions

Webmaster	Chris Shalvoy – K2CS
Calendar Chairman	<vacant>
DX Chairman	Chris Shalvoy –K2CS
Contest Chairman	Charles Kurfuss- WB2HJV
Banquet Coordinator	Gayle Shalvoy - N2TWI
Media Coordinator	<vacant>
Election Committee Chair	Bill Rogers – K2TER
Membership Chairman	Mike Sanchez – KM2B
Field Day Chairs	Vic Gauvin - K1PY Doug Stewart – N2BEG Bill Rogers - K2TER
Newsletter Editor	John Hall - AC2RL
Board Support	Vic Gauvin – K1PY John Gilly – W3OAB Gene Fuller – W2LU

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: \$10.00

Please send all newsletter submissions, comments, and complaints to the editor: John Hall AC2RL -- newsletter@rdxa.com

