

Rochester DX Association



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Deadline for Next Issue:

November 30, 2023

President's Letter

Welcome to the 2023-24 RDXA club season, hope you all had an enjoyable summer.

After a most successful Field Day (in all estimations), looking forward to getting back to the contest season, programs and the camaraderie we all share.

A few housekeeping items, dues are being accepted for the new "season" and will remain at \$25 for local membership. If you remember, we approved By-Laws changes back in April which standardized dues for categories other than Full (or Regular) members.

The new structure is a flat \$10 for anything other than that, this would include Family, Student and Out of the Area members.

The old formula was a percentage thereof and was frankly confusing. This change is minimal and will assist in uniformity.

The updated Constitution and By-laws can be found on our website at :

[http://rdxa.com/wp-content/Documents/
RDXA_Constitution_revised_4_apr_23.pdf](http://rdxa.com/wp-content/Documents/RDXA_Constitution_revised_4_apr_23.pdf)

or under RDXA Club Information.

Several other items were addressed, such as bulletin publishing frequency etc but most of the document remains the same, a testament to those who fashioned the club charter years ago.

The effort by the board has made the document "up to date" and reflects how the RDXA currently operates.

Thank you to all who attended the annual IRVfest at Dolomite Lodge a few weeks back, Our guest of honor had a great time as well as those in attendance. Plenty of food and treats, a few 807's and a lot of catching up after a few months off. This has become a great tradition in the RDXA and I'm sure we all can agree, something that should continue for years to come. I suspect they'll be a picture or two elsewhere in this issue.

The September (19th) meeting will feature our *Show Us Your Shack* presentation where we invite all members to do a brief presentation on your station or other projects of interest to the club. We'll go over a few business items, look at the calendar and a few highlights during the upcoming months.

The meeting will be held at Johnny's beginning at 7:00pm. I suspect they'll be a group meeting at the Merchants Grill (at 5:00pm) to enjoy dinner beforehand, all are welcomed.

With propagation improving daily, this years slate of DX contests should be most enjoyable. As we head towards "fall" propagation and the return of the lower bands, you may want to take some time before the snow flies and be sure everything is in order outside.

I just ran two new 570 ft runs for beverages at W2CCC. Lots of fun puling those wires thru the trees, bugs, downed limbs, all that. Given the alternative though (it's already in the 40's at nite up there), it was time well spent. Several breaks from downed limbs and trees as well as loosing the battle against a cement mixer had really compromised the runs. To date, no "moose" interference yet...

Need to check out the connections on the west run, that wire is in pretty good shape (as far as the swr meter

shows) so a cleanup may be all that is necessary.

Still would like to have time to hook up a larger amp (it's up there) but too many other pressing issues always seem to come up. It's tough to find time for radio related stuff when you don't live there. Weekend trips are usually taken up with yard work or household chores. Radio is a secondary thought.

Don't get me wrong, the shack up there plays well but there are always improvements that could be made and many of them are items still in boxes, brand new, just not hooked up yet.

This may not be odd as I'm sure many of you are in the same predicament, no time....

Since as much travel isn't on the schedule for next year, maybe I'll have some more time for such things.

Speaking of contests, don't forget to mark your calendars for the New York QSO party on 21-22 of October. A premier contest and gaining in popularity each year. It would be nice to have a few more club members participate as there is a club competition and we haven't "made the grade" in the last few years.

A few other dedicated stations would close that gap. If you're free, consider entering this year, it's a lot of fun and trust me, you can make plenty of contacts with a less then "contest" station.

Thanks to all the club members that have made the NYQP one of the most popular state QSO parties in the USA.

Best DX es 73,

Chris, K2CS

President, RDXA

Chairman, ARRL DXAC

WA2CHV (cw seat): Is it normal to be hallucinating contacts at this point during Field Day?

N2BEG (phone seat): No! Take a break if you need one!

WA2CHV (cw seat): Unhhh...OK.

2 AM local time, June 25th

Submitted by Jack Kelley WA2CHV

RDXA Field Day 2023

Doug Stewart N2BEG

Our field day effort this year was modeled after last year's successful exercise, with a few tweaks. The things we needed to work on were making sure we had enough interest and ops to maintain a proposed move from 2A to 3A and to try to maximize the bonus points we missed last year while maximizing having some fun and not over taxing anyone (or getting anyone hurt!)

Recall that last year was a return from the covid era and our first real effort in 3 years. We had some issues to be sure, however we still finished with a respectable score and 3rd place in 2A, proving that we still remembered how to do things. We continued to try to minimize the heavy lifting of field day by spreading the jobs out, limiting the amount of big hardware and trying to do things smarter and not harder. The key was more folks to spread the responsibilities out and good planning.


The decision to go back to 3A was only decided after the club voted that with more of a turnout we could support the effort, do well AND have a good time doing it. By all of the early indications, we did just that.

Planning in earnest started once we got clear of NYQP last year. Planning early, the main things we wanted to build on was the use of the same basic hardware which included as many IC7610s as possible, the same awesome filtering combination we deployed last year thanks to Bill, Mark and Dave, and the simple antenna solutions utilizing push up masts rather than any milmast setup as we were so accustomed to doing along with a lot of ropes and dipoles.

The antenna layout stayed largely the same, with the notable addi-

6 Webster Herald | Webster, New York | July 5, 2023

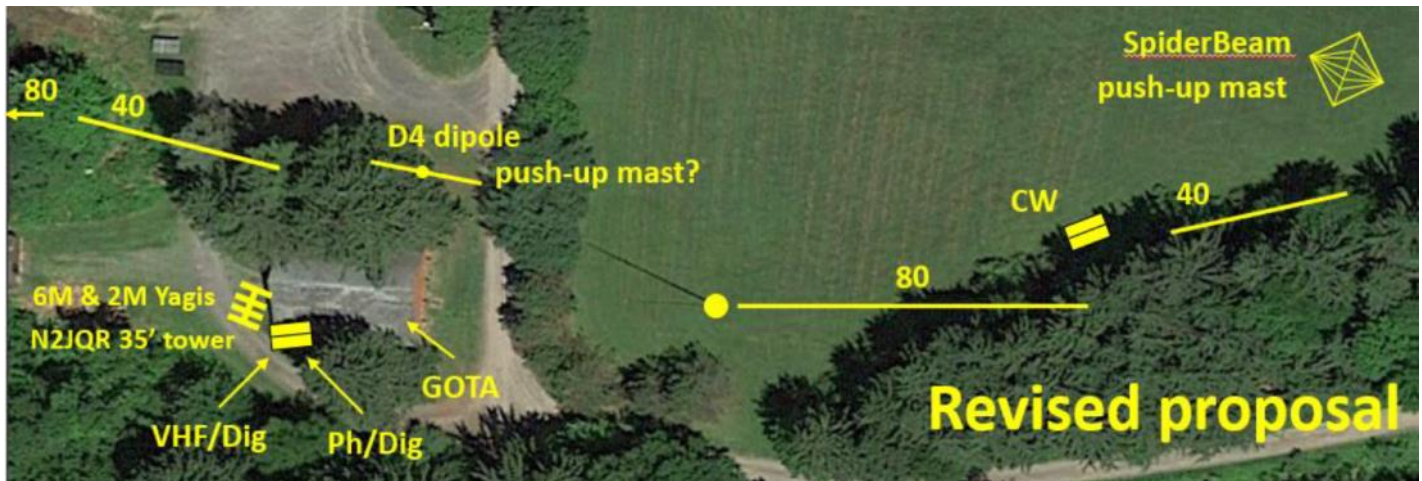
Rochester DX Association "Field Day" Emergency Preparedness Drill Webster Park, 23-25 June, 2023



The ARRL (American Radio Relay League, the governing body of Amateur Radio in the USA) holds an emergency preparedness drill each year called Field Day. Stations around the USA, Canada and it's possessions deploy temporary stations to demonstrate the ability to provide emergency communications when necessary. Radio operators contact each other for a 24 hour period utilizing voice, data and even morse code. The Rochester based club has demonstrated unparalleled expertise in this operation and has "won" the event (most successful contacts) at least 6 times in the last 20 years. Approximately 35,000 amateur radio operators participate each year. Group picture - Left to right: Dave Hallidy - K2DH, John Hall - AC2RL, Don Dever - KD2CTZ, Gayle Shalvoy - N2TWI, Legislator Mark Johns, Bill Rogers - K2TER, Lynn Bisha - W2BSN, and Mark Hazel - K2MTH

Photo: Rochester DX Association

tion of a dedicated satellite station provided by Dave, K2DH in the middle of the field. (not shown)



As the day crept closer, additional meetings were held to firm things up. We split the hardware set up and assigned each part to their captain and confirmed who was providing what and how it was getting there. Logistics, as you all know, is the key to any successful operation and assuming never gets you far. Getting people to commit and ensure tasks were understood and planned ensures fewer surprises. We each had our assignments and it looked like we would have all the hardware, food and coffee we would need to pull off a fun and successful outing. The only unknown, as always is the weather. Plan for the worst, hope for the best!

When the Friday of field day arrived, we met at the Nutcracker as per our standard routine, enjoying a nice breakfast before starting setup. The forecast was sunny and hot and the threat of thunderstorms loomed for the weekend. (sounds familiar?) Yours truly, as I have done previously, took a load of stuff up to the site early and stored it under the commissary awning with the blessings of the Webster Park staff. When we finished breakfast and the caravan arrived at the site, we were met with a locked gate. That was a first. A quick call to Brian at the park had him arrive in a few minutes and things got under way.

With the increase in volunteers and the simplified layout, the setup went very fast. The stations came together mostly before noon on Friday and by days end, all but a few antennas in trees remained. Look-



Load number 2 prior to leaving Friday

ing at the impressive amount of hardware K2TER, K2DH, K2MTH, K2UA and others provided, I would venture to say very few clubs (or ANY!) could compare to what was brought to the field that weekend.



Phone/VHF station



GOTA setup



Satellite station







FD 2018-2023 CONTACT DATA

Impacts of Digital & GOTA

Vic K1PY

To expand on the info in the previous digital writeup, here is the data for all modes since we started using it in 2019.

This illustrates the impact digital has with respect to our overall results.

As a pre-digital reference, 2018 (#2 3A) is included as it was the last year prior to digital.

The most immediate impact was the reduction of Phone:

- '18/'19 were great at 1383/1296 with a modest digital effort
- '22/'23 was not so great at 267/509 with a significant digital effort

GOTA definitely stepped up this year with a digital contribution of 328 contacts.

Bonus points (3380) were at an all-time high, primarily from new enhanced GOTA rules.

As you can see in the bottom row, this year's score just edged out our #1 2019 3A score. Perhaps #1 again? It was a dynamite effort.

Congrats to all who made it happen. How about joining us again (or for the first time)?

CQ FD!

* There were no FD's for '20 & '21 due to COVID

'18 3A	'19 3A	'22 2A	'23 3A		
335	444	0	297	CW	80
881	964	501	600	CW	40
678	635	506	494	CW	20
167	132	124	113	CW	15
2	0	0	2	CW	10
2063	2175	1131	1506	HF CW	
33	2	6	0	CW	VHF CW
0	0	0	0	CW	GOTA CW
0	7	0	1	CW	SAT CW
2096	2184	1137	1507	CW	TOT CW
	45	156	0	DIG	80
	17	252	330	DIG	40
	1	212	138	DIG	20
	0	102	37	DIG	15
	0	35	0	DIG	10
	63	757	505	HF DIG	
	69	75	51	DIG	VHF DIG
	1	0	328	DIG	GOTA DIG
	133	832	884	DIG	TOT DIG
138	129	240	360	PH	80
374	108	10	124	PH	40
388	911	0	0	PH	20
35	0	0	0	PH	15
107	0	0	0	PH	10
1042	1148	250	484	HF PH	
114	7	17	5	PH	VHF PH
227	135	0	18	PH	GOTA PH
0	6	0	2	PH	SAT PH
1383	1296	267	509	PH	TOT PH
473	618	396	657	ALL	80 HF
1255	1089	763	1054	ALL	40 HF
1066	1547	718	632	ALL	20 HF
202	132	226	150	ALL	15 HF
109	0	35	2	ALL	10 HF
3105	3386	2138	2495	ALL	80-10 HF
3479	3613	2236	2900	ALL	ALL Q's
8384	8736	4548	6028	PTS	CW pts
0	532	3328	3536	PTS	DIG pts
2766	2592	534	1018	PTS	PH pts
11150	11860	8410	10582	PTS	QSO pts
1830	1690	1170	3380	PTS	BONUS pts
12980	13550	9580	13962		TOT pts
2	1	3	?		PLACE
WebB S	WebB S	WebB S	WebB S	<<< LOCATION	

Rotator Cable Testing Trick

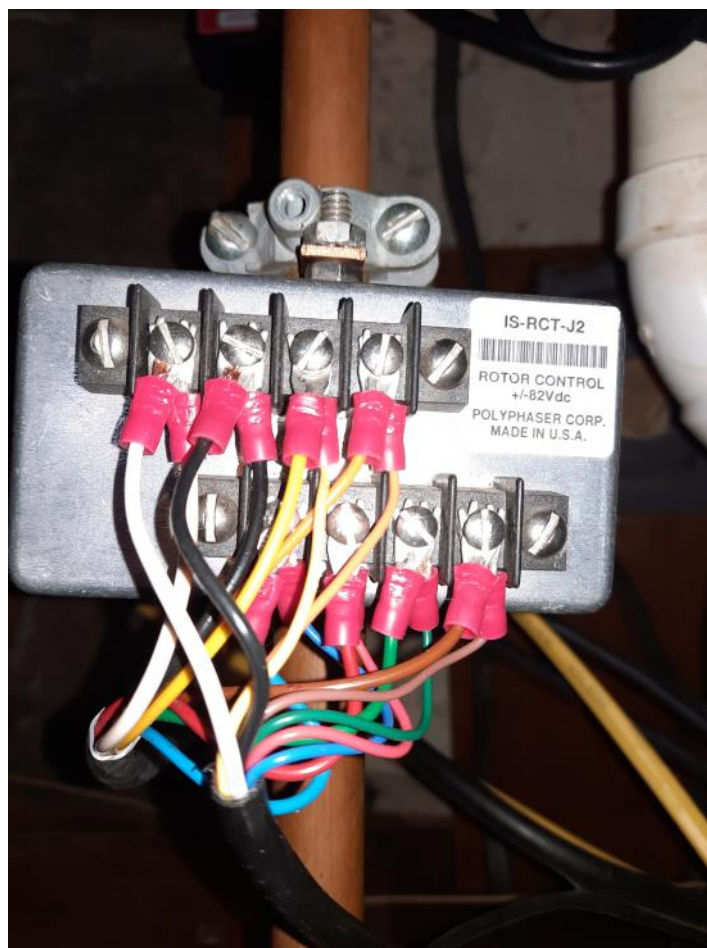
Dave Wright N2CK

Earlier this summer I had to have my roof replaced. Before the crew came for tear off, I had the contractor disconnect everything topside (coax, rotor control and ground) and drop it to the ground so the roofing crew wouldn't have to work around it. While he was working, he noticed the outer jacket of the rotor control cable (light grey rubberized covering) was gone. Years of exposure to sun on a dark roof had done its work. It's ironic that this was discovered 2 days after the Rochester Ham Fest. I ordered replacement cable and waited for my roof to be completed so connections could be re-established topside.

While I waited, I thought about something procured many years ago at a ham fest, still sitting new and unused in my ham radio junk drawer – a Polyphasor lightning protector for rotor cables. At the time, I purchased both coaxial and rotor control cable lightning arresters. After I purchased them (probably from Vic – K1PY), the coax polyphasors were mounted and put to use; the rotor cable unit sat unused in the junk drawer.

I dug it out, and went down to the basement where the cables enter the house via a cellar window to determine how I could mount it. I knew there was a $\frac{3}{4}$ " copper water line going out to the garage, so I fabricated a mounting strategy using a copper ground rod clamp affixed to the outgoing water line. I chose not to replace the length of cable – what was inside was still good, but also in part because to do so would have meant grabbing an extra person and entering the crawl space located under the shack to reroute the new cable up to the controller.

With the polyphasor mounted, it was time to put spade terminals on both ends of the 8 conductor cable. As I worked, I thought "How can I confirm I have a good connection between the old and new coax". I wanted to ensure all was correct before my contractor came back to reconnect everything. Then it dawned on me – ohm's law. I could easily check continuity between the terminals connected to the polyphasor and to the end



of the new cable – I could pull the outside end through the window and do basic resistance checks (orange to orange, blue to blue, etc). But just how could I check between the polyphasor in the basement to the controller at the station on the ground floor?

The solution I came up with was simple – a clip lead. I used a clip lead to short 2 terminals (everything powered off of course) together – say orange to blue at the controller, and then went downstairs and confirmed 0 ohms between the 2 colors. I wasn't concerned with resistance checks between the other colors – not knowing what circuitry was contained in the controller – I was just looking for 0 ohms between those specific colors. I repeated this process for all 8 wires – and all were good. And, on the plus side, I got in some extra steps (and stairs) in the process.

When everything was finally connected topside, all worked without a flaw.

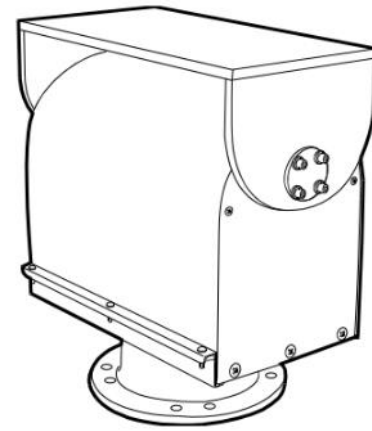
A WiFi-Controlled Satellite Antenna Rotator from a CCTV Pan/Tilt Mount

John AC2RL

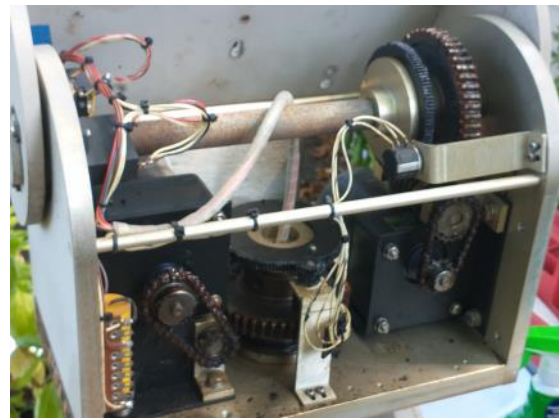
I found a closed-circuit TV pan/tilt mount for sale on Craigslist. Here's how I repurposed it as an antenna positioner for amateur satellite operations.

The unit is a Pelco model PT1250P/PP. Designed for outdoor applications, it's a monster that weighs 55 pounds built to handle 100 pound cameras. Each axis has a 120 VAC motor and heavy worm gear to provide motion and a precision potentiometer for position feedback.

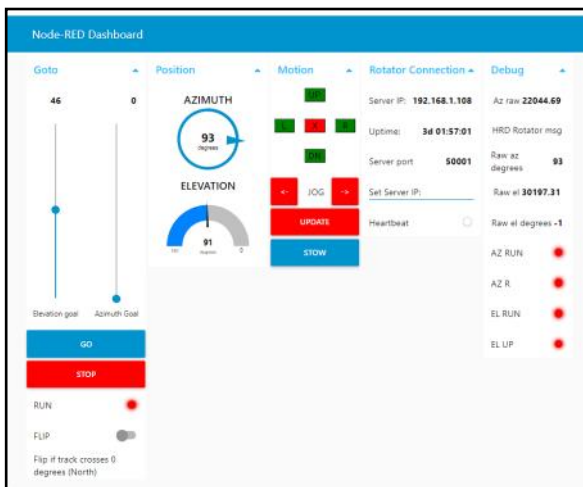
It is controlled by an ESP32 microcontroller in an attached weatherproof box. The box plugs into 120 VAC power, but all control is done from a remote computer via WiFi. The control computer runs a Node-RED application that serves a web page for manual control of the positioner. It also provides an EasyComm 1 protocol rotator interface on a virtual COM port that allows it to be automatically controlled by an amateur satellite tracking program.



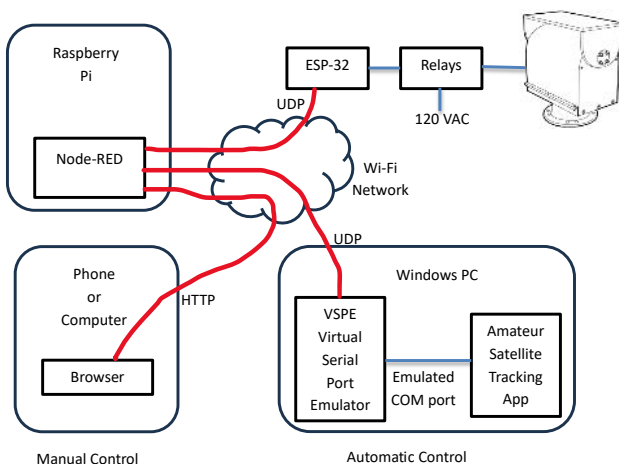
Pelco PT1250P



Inside the positioner



Manual control web page via Node-RED



The completed positioner with temporary antennas

The control box contains a control board and a relay board. The control board has the ESP-32 which is programmed with MicroPython. A jumper on the board allows you to choose whether the board tries to connect to an existing Wi-Fi network (currently hard-coded as the one in my house) or if it acts as an access point, forming its own Wi-Fi network. The latter is for use in the field, where I'd use a laptop to connect to it.

Client computers communicate with the ESP32 via UDP packets containing JSON objects corresponding to Python dictionaries. A typical command to move the rotator to azimuth 180, elevation 65 looks like:

```
{“azgoto”:180, “elgoto”:65}
```

When moving, it sends regular messages telling the current azimuth and elevation and which motors are running in what direction.

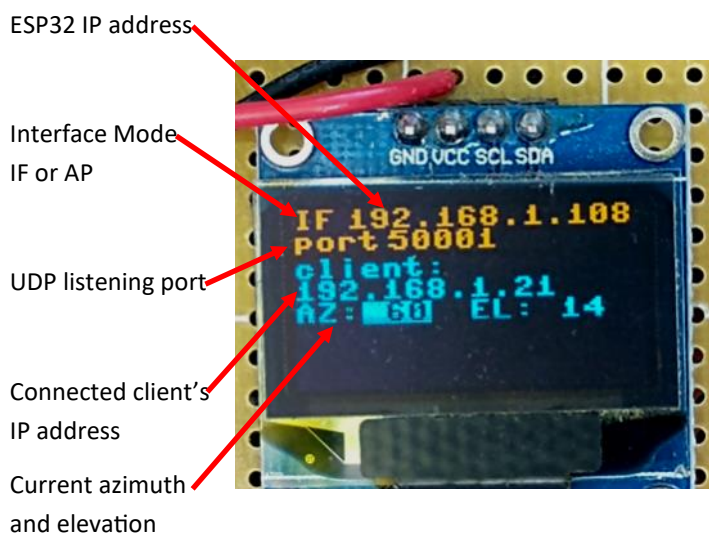
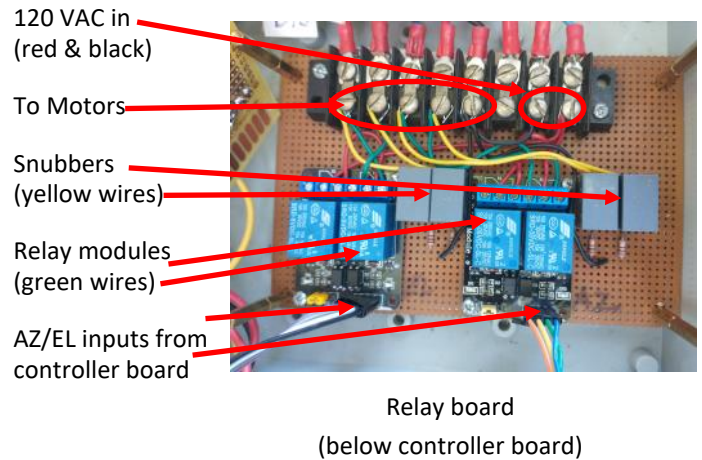
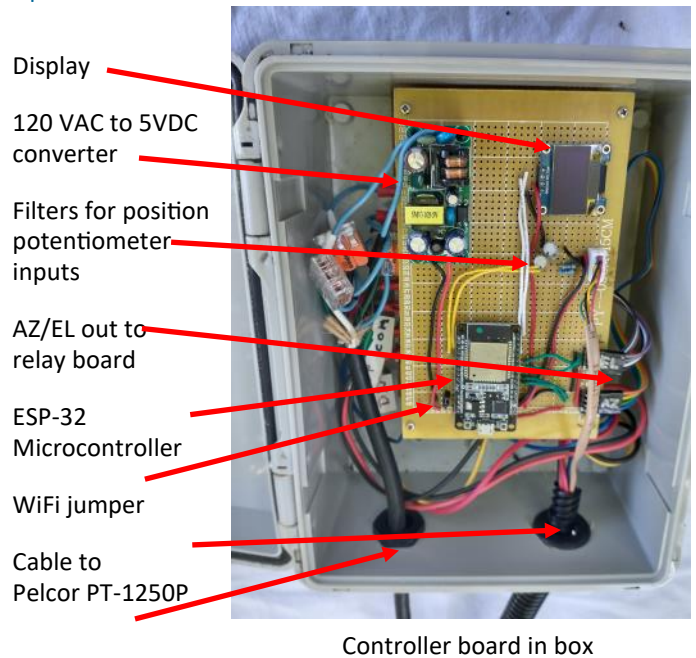
It also sends occasional broadcast messages saying, in effect, “Here I am. My IP address is xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx” so clients can find him without the operator needing to enter an IP address.

A small display on the controller board shows the state of the controller.

The relay board sits below the controller board and contains two relay modules, one for each axis, each with two relays, one for on/off and one for direction.

Early in development one of the relay boards failed. “Cheap Chinese junk” was my verdict. So I replaced it . . . and the replacement soon failed. “Hmm. Maybe I’m doing something wrong”. Well, I was doing something wrong. Controlling inductive loads like AC motors can cause severe arcing of the relay contacts leading to failure. The solution was to add an RC circuit called a “snubber” to each relay. The boards have been working reliably ever since.

Client code is written in Node-RED and runs on a Raspberry Pi in my shack. It talks UDP to the controller board and serves a nice web page to control the rotator from any computer or phone browser on the network. The Node-RED code also listens for UDP packets containing EasyComm 1 rotator commands—a common protocol used by amateur satellite tracking software. My satellite program of choice, Ham Radio Deluxe Satellite Tracking, wants to talk via a Windows COM port, not UDP, but a handy utility, VSPE (Virtual Serial Port Emulator) can take its COM port input and emit the necessary UDP packets.



IrvFest 2023—Photos by Doug Stewart N2BEG



KM2B Solo Field Day, 2023

Impetus and Goals:

After 10 years, from 2012 to 2022, of participating in the larger RDXA Field Day effort at Webster Park, this year, 2023, I wanted to do something along the lines of setting up and operating completely solo, with self-constructed (everything) to emulate a true emergency communications outage and subsequent back on the HF airwaves with generator power. Additionally, I wanted to test my rural location on a hill in Canadice, NY, looking Southwest at roughly a heading of 245 degrees. Lastly, I wanted to switch between line power and generator power to ensure that both power sources are low noise and reliable for effective radio communications.

Operating Location:

My location is on a hill at around 1950 ft looking southwest as shown below on Google Earth just a short distance up in the hills from Canadice Lake. My operating location would be near, but not at, the top of a hill on the side of the hill that looks southwest. So, I could expect reasonable propagation along a line of 240 degrees while I could expect the rise to the top of the hill along a 60 degree line to be disfavored. Which, is OK given the few states Northeast and the many that are Southwest.



Antenna Support:

Initially I planned to operate an antenna hung from a branch up in a tree and tied off at two other trees. However, for two reasons I changed the antenna support plan:

1. Rain was predicted and I decided to make my operating position from inside the small garage at the location.
2. Having an effective support that can be transported and raised at any location is a plus for emergency ops.

I chose to build a light weight, strong push up mast that would hold a few lbs. of antenna at or near 30 ft. A trip to Home Depot, and some reading before, indicated that EMT Pipe is both light weight and more than strong enough to hold up a few lbs. with little top guying.

I purchased three 10' lengths of EMT with diameter 1" (for the bottom supported part), and $\frac{3}{4}$ " and $\frac{1}{2}$ " 10' sections for the "push-up" components. These two sections are extremely light weight and even an old guy can pln order to turn the EMT into easily usable push up masts once each section was slipped inside each pipe without the sections dropping all the way to the ground, I used hose clamps as shown the below figure. I held the lowest section up at the outset by pounding a metal fencepost into the ground and hose clamping



the 1" EMT section to that fencepost until I had guys at the top of the 1" section. Then, I slipped the $\frac{3}{4}$ " inside the 1" and the $\frac{1}{2}$ " inside the $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Finally, attached the antenna to the top $\frac{1}{2}$ " pipe and push both the $\frac{1}{2}$ " and the $\frac{3}{4}$ " EMT up. Total cost was slightly above \$30.

The Original Antenna - Plan vs Reality:

I had originally "designed" (or copied a design from a website) a multiband dipole that would enable operating four bands (10, 15, 20 and 40m).

However, when I pushed that antenna up, and tested, an issue occurred, not easily avoided with my push up mast design without some modification. The original antenna implemented as planned (but a lower height

for testing) is below. The below antenna has/had metal ring screws attached to the vertical PVC pipe section. Upon raising the antenna and testing SWR, 10m and 15m had nice dips to low SWR but 20m had a pathological response across the band. After a long bit of time, it became clear that the metal ring screw was in contact with the metal mast resulting in unusable SWR response.

Building the antenna from scratch, on Friday, then, testing it after setting up the mast put me at around 3:30 pm Friday afternoon.



Punting to a 20m Dipole.

I decided, at that point, to punt off the multiband to a future date when I have the time to debug and ensure no contact with metal mast and antenna parts.

Fortunately, I had brought, as a backup, something NN2L, Chuck Lempke, had given me some time back which completely solved the metal-to-metal interaction between mast and antenna for a single band dipole. Chuck had given me a very, very thick piece of plexiglass or Lexan that he had collected at his job prior to retirement in the form of former employee name tags. The dimensions were roughly 3" by 9" So, building a 20m dipole with this center insulator would put all antenna components well away from the metal mast. I used THHN #14 solid wire which, when bent through the Lexan, took the pressure off of the transition between coax and wire. At that connection, with the excellent coax wire, JSC Wire 3020 RG-8/U made in America. This wire's center conductor and outer braided ground wire were so thick I could connect the an-

tenna wire and the coax wire with a screw-on wire terminal and let the heavy RG-8U hang off the connection without any wire breaking. Amazing.



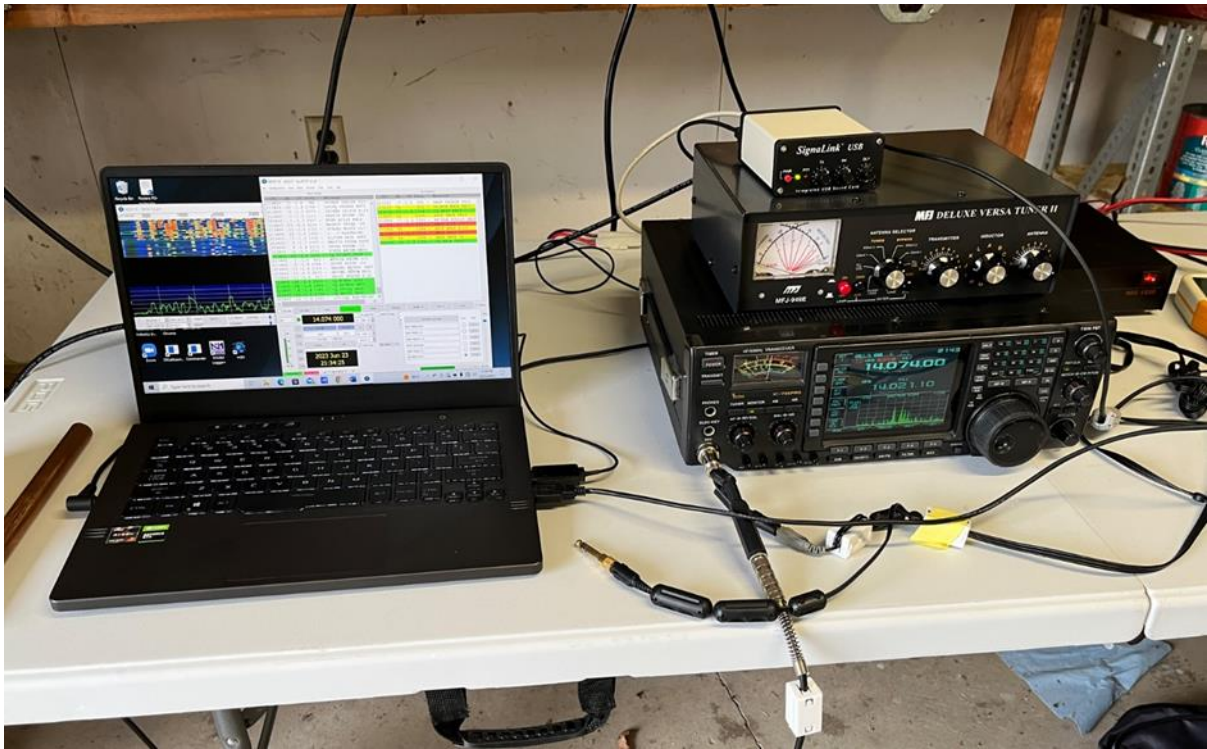
The final 20m dipole build, up about 27 feet, with two FT-240 #31 toroids, is shown below. The mast needed only one guy at top, as the antenna itself served as a modest top guy of sorts. The dipole is significantly "Inverted V" since I tied off the string holding the antenna ends at points I could reach on the ground.



Operating Position

NN2L, some time back, had offered his Icom 756 Pro for sale for a very fair price. Although I had my FT-1000MP I planned on setting up a station at my remote property with the IC-756 Pro. I never did do a permanent install but felt field day 2023 would be a good platform to force myself to learn and use this nice old radio. I sorted out the cabling needed to connect the Icom to a laptop and then ordered an Icom Jumper module for \$10 from Signalink USB to swap out with the wiring for my FT-1000MP for sound card use with FT8.

On site, I ran the coax into my garage and setup a table for the laptop and the Icom 756 Pro. The resultant station setup is shown below.



Field Day Operating Strategy

I operated from 2pm to around 7pm on Saturday, June 24, when the 20m band died off for the night and then made dinner consisting of Lentils, grilled chicken breasts and a Greek Salad. This food lasted for the entire time I operated for Field Day. The next day I operated from about 8 am until about noon.

My operating strategy, for two modes, was as follows: I would operate phone mode all the way across the phone part of the 20m band S&P and pick up all the folks on the band possible at that time. Then, I would switch to FT8 mode and pick up all the contacts available S&P with that mode. At that point some time had passed and propagation changed and I would switch back to phone mode and pick off all of the available contacts again, then, switch to FT8 again, repeat.

Observations on FT8 during crowded band contest conditions:

I found, with my system, that anything below 50 Watts with FT8 produced sparing to none S&P Contacts. Once I reached the 50W threshold, contacts were one or two pings to return contest information. Another good reason to continue to improve my CW and move away from FT8.

Noise Testing

Prior to the contest I located a part of the 20m band around where there was no activity and measured the ambient noise both with the house power and, separately, with the house backup generator running. Noise test results were:

Ambient noise with all power to house OFF (just power to garage outlets on): 1-2 S-units

Ambient noise with all line power to house and garage: 1-2 S-units.

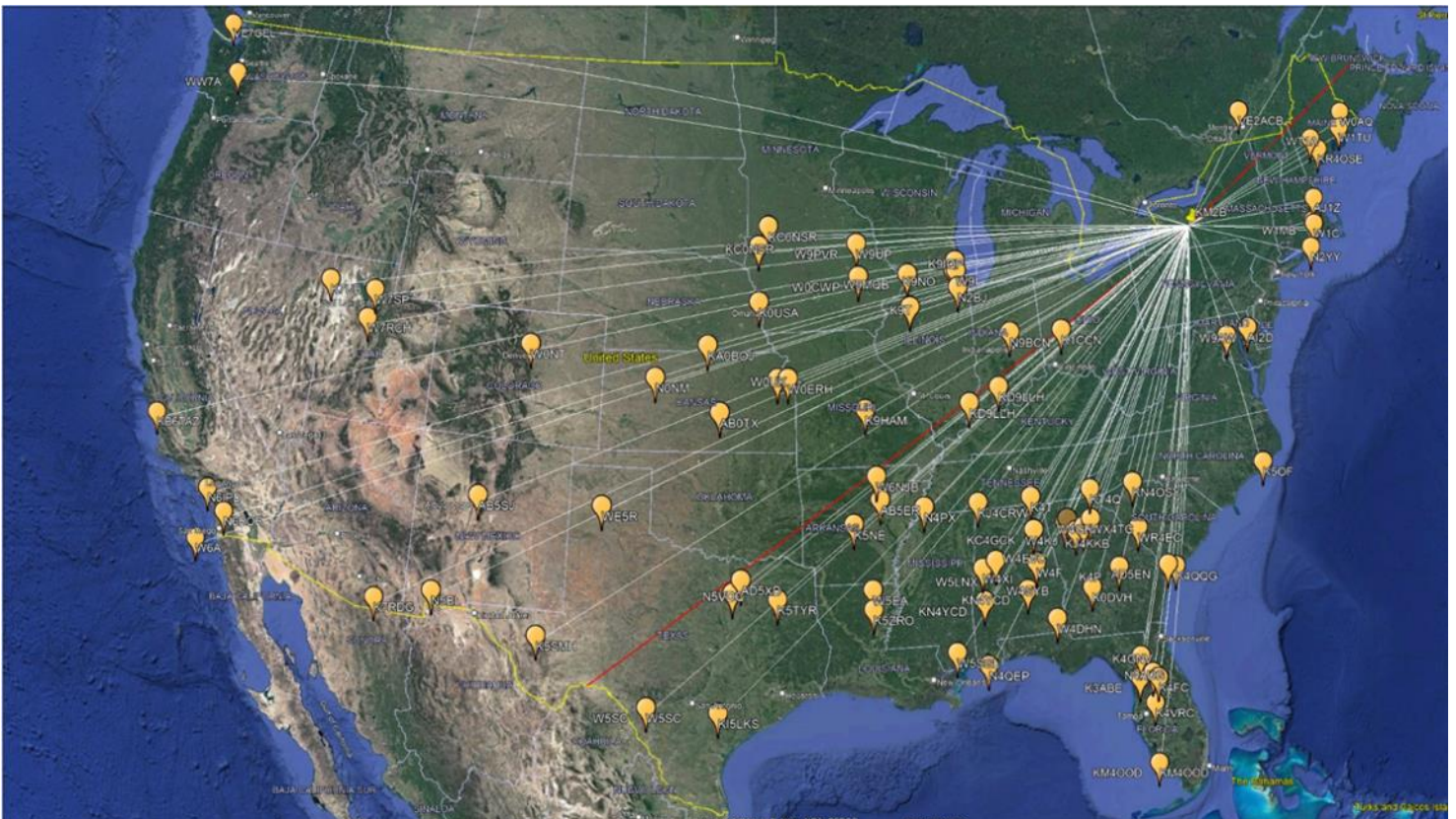
Ambient noise with all backup generator power to house and garage: 1-2 S-units.

All of these results are well below the S6-S7 noise in my suburban neighborhood.

Field Day Contact Results

Contact results are below. The red line shows the broadside orientation of the dipole antenna. Most contacts scatter around that line broadly. The lowish height combined with the inverted V format resulted in a broader transmit width and enabled even a few contacts in Washington and Vancouver. I was surprised at the range of such a low 20m dipole in inverted V format. Although some of the contact stations had large antenna systems, not all did.

From these visualized results, an added 40m or 80m dipole, added to the 20m Dipole, would help fill in the missing nearby states and provide evening/night time operating time that the 20m dipole would not offer. Perhaps next year's updates.



Summary:

I achieved my goal of design, setup, and operation completely solo with a home-built antenna and portable home-built mast at my remote location in Canadice on both line power and emergency power including an assessment of ambient noise. For me, results are very good and indicate operations from this location using a limited antenna and a 100W rig are not only possible but good. IC-756 is a very, very nice rig. No doubt.

Total expenditures were around \$34, mostly for the EMT pipe and a few hose clamps. Everything else I already had. Total food expenditure was around \$14 including the Feta cheese for the salad.

The Shocking Tale of the Electric Briefcase

John AC2RL

I was a real nerd in high school. Crazy about electronics and radio, not into sports or social life. In 1967, long before backpacks were a thing, most kids carried their books and notebooks to class with their hands. I usually had a few library books, tools, and other things as well (including a comic book or two!), so I carried my stuff in one of my dad's old briefcases, oblivious to the fact that this was Not Cool.

On several occasions, while I was paying attention to the teacher, wiseguys would reach up for the briefcase beside my seat and pass it back, hiding it from me. The bell would ring and I'd have to go hunting for it. This got old fast.

Popular Electronics used to have stories about "Carl and Jerry", two bright lads who would invent ingenious electrical and electronic gadgets to solve problems. "So", I asked myself, "What would Carl and Jerry do?". I hatched a plan to put the wiseguys in their place.

A trip to the local discount store produced a cheap but spiffy-looking attache case, covered in the finest plastic imitation leather. The handle was brown plastic and with the aid of a soldering pencil I was easily able to melt two parallel bare copper wires into the handle.

Next I built a "tickler" circuit. Two D-cell batteries in series with the buzzer from an old code practice set and the 8-ohm secondary of a small output transformer I had salvaged from an old radio or phonograph (Didn't we all, in those days?) The buzzer produced a square wave that the transformer stepped up to somewhere around 100 volts AC at a minute level of current. I connected it to the wires in the handle and the latches on the case. The buzzer was wrapped in an old wool sock to mute it's tell-tale sound.

I removed one of the feet on the bottom of the case and replaced it with an SPDT pushbutton switch and then glued the foot back onto the switch. Lifting the case would close the switch and energize the handle and latches. I added a disable switch operated by a wooden toothpick stuck through a small hole in the side of the case.

The trap was ready. I stashed my real briefcase in my locker and headed for Social Studies class with the electric briefcase. I sat down, placed it beside my chair and pulled out the toothpick to arm it. About twenty minutes into class, I heard a sudden high-pitched scream behind me. Sure enough, one of the wiseguys was standing up, white as a sheet, shaking his hand, yelling "I've been shocked!" The teacher, Mr. Paolantonio, came back to see what had happened. "Mister Pal, John's briefcase shocked me!!" to which Mr. Pal raised an eyebrow and replied, "And what were you doing with John's briefcase?" Revenge was sweet . . . until Mr. Pal picked up the briefcase by the handle, quickly dropped it and said some words that teachers weren't supposed to say.

The briefcase, the wiseguy, and I were promptly sent off to see the Vice Principal. Wiseguy and I spent our afternoons in detention for the rest of that week.

It was well worth it. After that, the wiseguys always left my stuff alone, and my Physics teacher, Mister Bauer, invited me to demonstrate the Electric Briefcase to him, and complemented me on my ingenuity and knowledge of electricity.

RDXA 2023-24 Calendar

September 2023

TBA	BOD
9-11	ARRL September VHF
19	Meeting - Show Us Your Shack
23-24	CQWW RTTY

October 2023

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

November 2023

4-5	ARRL SS CW
7	BOD
18-19	ARRL SS SSB
21	Meeting – Joint meeting RVHFG
25-26	CQWW CW
30	BULLETIN DEADLINE

December 2023

1-3	ARRL 160m CW
5	BOD
9-10	ARRL 10m
19	RDXA Holiday Dinner
23-24	Stew Perry 160m CW

January 2024

2	BOD
6-7	ARRL RTTY Roundup
13-15	ARRL January VHF
16	Meeting
26-28	CQWW 160m CW



February 2024

6	BOD
10-11	CQWW WPX RTTY
17-18	ARRL DX CW
20	Meeting
23-25	CQWW 160m SSB
29	BULLETIN DEADLINE

March 2024

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

April 2024

2	BOD
TBA	RDXA/RVHFG Banquet
16	Meeting

May 2024

7	BOD
17-19	Dayton Hamvention
21	Meeting
25-26	CQWW WPX CW
31	BULLETIN DEADLINE

June 2024

4	BOD
8-10	ARRL June VHF
18	Meeting - FD
22-23	ARRL Field Day

July 2024

8-9	IARU
20-21	CQWW VHF

August 2024

TBA	IRVfest
TBA	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
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