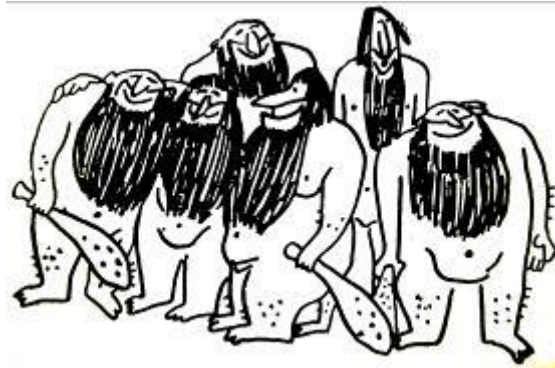


Rochester DX Association



DECEMBER 2024

President's Letter
by Chris K2CS
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FD RESULTS :
RDXA 2ND IN 3A
The 2024 Field Day results are in! RDXA came in second in category 3A with 15,562 points. First place was taken by the North Fulton ARL with 16,234 points.

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Deadline for Next Issue:
February 28, 2025

President's Letter

Well, the first ½ or so of the contest season is complete with some outstanding conditions. As could be expected but always nice to have things “hold up” during a contest. Several very well run DXpeditions have also concluded.

Times have changed, haven't they? Integrated spotting network in your logging program, “instant” verification of a QSO, real time tracking of bands and even who they had logged, oh and LOTW. The days of the waiting 2 years for a Russian QSL card are almost gone. Sad in a way, waiting for “snail mail” was always exciting. Even the “buro” envelopes of late are small and fewer between.

I always remember one of my elmers (I had and still have many) Fred, K2FR (aka KB2SE – SK) filing thru my envelopes... ok, ok, ok, this one is good, ok, ok, etc. I find myself doing the same but would have never thought back then this would be the case. I love to see the big six – 6m, 60m and 160m cards, all else are nice but in over 30 years in the hobby, probably worked and verified (and now under 2 calls).

I know 6m is sort of on the fringe of an HF club interest but almost daily, the band has opened to somewhere else in the world or double hop to the west coast. Granted, almost exclusively FT8 but still amazing that 6m DX QSO's are so prevalent during this cycle. I “see” several others in the club in there and note what they are working.

Several weeks ago, John W2BYP and myself spend a day on the roof here in East Rochester, a project I have had on my mind for years but never had the time to complete.

The aforementioned K2FR, his C3 beam has lived here since Fred passed. At that time, Mike N1OKL and I put that on a Glen Martin 10ft tower and it's served me well ever since. I also had a 2m 13b up there and a small

Cushcraft 3 element 6m beam.

The new redesign consists of the same C3 (to me, absolutely the best HF beam ever produced – have a C4 up north) a Force 12 long boom 6m antenna and a log periodic Create at the top. Having a IC-9700 here and several amps to choose from, thought I'd be nice to have at least a 4 band capability in East Rochester if anything went wrong regarding W2CCC where the setup is far more advanced (and advantages like towers, no noise and a fairly rare location).

Well, I'm absolutely amazed at what the Force 12 “brings to the table” (little Thanksgiving reference there). It's sharp, sure but even with only 180 watts (run 500w up north), I almost always get a stronger report than I give. Granted, I'm at 35 feet with all kinds of obstructions but I never have logged as much or so many from FN13.

Now, HF is a far different story as I'm spoiled at how things work up north. I hear folks but they are no where

near as loud. Since retirement at the begging of July, I've had a bit more time on the radio here and guess I never realized the stark difference.

Speaking of retirement, we've been in hotel rooms 32 days

since 1 July, enjoying my freedom (but Gayle using all her vacation up...). We've also spent weeks on end up north and plan to do even more of that next year – as soon as the WX breaks, we'll be heading back up there for extended periods of time.

A few more things, the RDXA is always looking for programs so if you'd like to share anything with the club, we'd love to hear your tales. If you're really not the presenter type, consider writing an article for the bulletin. Over the years we've had some outstanding articles and many referencing your fellow club members exploits.

One other thing, I'm very excited about is the resurgence of email “spots”. Club members are taking to the reflector and letting others know of a few choice offerings now and again. Many have replied actually logging

. . . the RDXA is always looking for programs so if you'd like to share anything with the club, we'd love to hear your tales.

the DX. I always have said, these are stations that are being heard here – many spots come from other areas of the USA and by the time we get them, those stations are unworkable (or not workable yet). It reminds me of the old 2m DX net stuff or the talk function on the cluster.

A reminder that the Annual Holiday Dinner is Tuesday 17 December – Johnny’s. A flyer is elsewhere in this issue. Other than the Awards Banquet, one of the most longstanding club social events.

In closing, the DXAC is undertaking what we’ve deemed “DXCC 2025”, a through review of the current DXCC rules. This exercise will begin in a few weeks and progress through 2025.

If any club member has input (and let’s not start with how we hate FT8 or how I’ll never work P5 because that’s NOT helpful), please send me your sincere thoughts to cshalvoy@frontier.com and I will try to include them in our discussions.

We have a wealth of knowledge and expertise in this club, being one of the oldest DX clubs in the country – I look forward to your input.

As always, submit your scores for the RDXA and add your totals to the score grid.

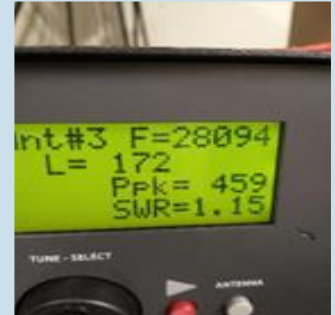
Best DX es 73,

Chris, K2CS

A Ham With One Wattmeter Always Knows His Power Output

John AC2RL

But a ham with four wattmeters is never sure. Here are four of my meters, all reading the same CW signal:



- Ameritron AL-80B Linear – 760 watts
- Daiwa CN-901 – 550 watts
- Bird 4410A with 4410-3 element (10x factor) – 500 watts
- Palstar HF-AUTO antenna tuner – 459 watts

What’s worse is that their sensitivity varies depending on the frequency so a meter that reads high on one band may read low on another. (I’m inclined to trust the Bird.)

The Rochester DN Association

Cordially invites you to our

*Annual Holiday
Dinner*

TUESDAY - 17 December, 2024

Johnny's

1382 Culver Rd

Rochester, NY 14609

Cocktails: ----- 6:00pm

Dinner: ----- 7:00pm

Buffet - \$25 per person

Tossed Salad - Rolls

Chicken French

Sausage - Peppers - Onions

Baked Ziti

Greens and Beans

Roasted Brussel Sprouts

Cash Bar

Reservations by December 13th to
RDXABANQUET@RDXA.COM

Gayle - N2TWI

“When all else fails...”

John “Jack” Kelly WA2CHV

“...amateur radio will get through” is a statement that has cliché status in our amateur radio community. I chase cw DX, so it didn’t much matter to me, except when it did.

Each year I spend the last week of September at a campground deep in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park located in the forested mountains of western North Carolina (N.C.). There I hike, watch the trees grow, and forget life’s cares. This year was no exception.

On Monday, September 23rd, I had my tent and tarpaulin set up when the rain began. It continued to rain at camp as Invest 97L in the far Caribbean strengthened into hurricane Helene and made landfall in the Florida panhandle on Thursday, September 26th. At this time, it was clear that my rain-saturated camp and the nearby picturesque town of Bryson City, N.C. were probably in the direct path of Helene as she traveled north over Florida and Georgia. In addition to more rain, sustained winds of 40 mph with gusts to 60 mph were forecast. A national park ranger ordered evacuation of other campers located in the low-lying part of the campground, advised me to take down my tarpaulin and its poles lest they become projectiles in the anticipated wind, and advised me to stake down my tent extra well. All of which I did, and then retreated from my camp to a motel in Bryson City.

The truly epic amounts of rain that fell on western North Carolina caused the Tuckaseegee River, which bisects the town, to flood. Falling trees, landslides, and rising water cut off roads, cell phone signals, and internet connections to Bryson City. By Friday the 27th, Bryson City, like much of western North Carolina, was effectively isolated from the world. I needed to get a message to my wife that I had abandoned my camp and was safe and dry in town.

I had only a two-meter rig¹ with me. Using it I was able to hit the KF4DTL repeater in the nearby town of Sylva, N.C. Local amateurs on the Sylva repeater had no cell phone signals or internet connectivity, but Oliver, KK4UZP in Whittier, N.C., had WinLink Global Radio Email² capability. WinLink uses PACTOR³, a form of Frequency Shift Keying (FSK) modulation to send digital data over the HF bands. With your rig in USB mode, look for PACTOR signals around 7.046 MHz and 14.096 MHz. I dictated the essence of a brief message for my wife to KK4UZP and he was able to compose and send an email to her that very day despite not having a cell phone signal or internet connectivity himself. My wife and children were immensely relieved to hear that I was OK. Amateur radio got through when all else failed.

¹ Kenwood TM-V71A

² See <https://www.winlink.org/> for more information. This is an absolutely fascinating capability that I had no idea existed.

³ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PACTOR>. In the text, I imply that PACTOR is merely a form of modulation. It is in fact much more than just a form of modulation and includes software that adds routing information, error correction, and data compression.

EME Demo at K2TER

Bill, K2TER, hosted social gathering and demonstration of “portable” earth-moon-earth communication on Saturday November 16 2024.

His 1.3 GHz Station consisted of a:

- 2.4 m folding dish and feed
- 250 W Kuhne amplifier
- Ultra low-noise LNA
- Sub Lunar/Green Heron AZ-EL system with moon tracking SW
- ICOM IC-9700
- Q65 Waveform using WSJT-X SW

Afterwards, Bill wrote: As for the station performance – we did eventually find a path to complete QSOs- about a dozen mostly in Europe and Asia-Russia. The problem was the frequency stability. Frequency changed while the IC-9700 was transmitting due to heat and then on receive it would change while it cooled. So it was difficult for stations to decode us and difficult for us to decode sigs that looked solid. Mark Hoffman and I had success when he worked on a mitigation strategy on the operating window and I cranked the rig’s 6W down to 3W out = significantly less frequency drift due to heating – enough to have round trip comms – so about 100W at the dish instead of 200W. We eventually turned the wick up a tad and found a happy operating point with better power out. In fact, I already have Italy confirmed in LoTW – country #10 for me on 23cm. Again I enjoyed your company and look forward to more social gatherings like this.



ly
atic



A Tale of Two Wires

John AC2RL

During my annual autumn inspection of my antennas, I noted the condition of two different wires.

My 80 meter horizontal loop is stranded 14 AWG copper-clad steel with a black HDPE jacket. It is type 531, “Silky” from thewireman.com. After eight years the insulation shows no visible degradation. It currently costs \$0.55 per foot for a 100 foot length. The folded counterpoise of my 160 meter inverted-L is black stranded 14 AWG copper THHN wire. After four years its nylon outer jacket is brittle and falling off, but the inner PVC insulation is still sound. A 100 foot spool is \$46 at Home Depot, \$0.46 a foot. I’ll continue to monitor these wires and see how they last.



THHN after 5 years



“Silky” after 8 years

RDXA 2024-25 Calendar

September 2024

~~3 — BOD~~
~~14-16 — ARRL September VHF~~
~~17 — Meeting Show Us Your Shack~~
28-29 — CQWW RTTY

October 2024

~~1 — BOD~~
~~15 — Meeting NYQP~~
19-20 — NYQP
26-27 — CQWW SSB

November 2024

~~2-4 — ARRL SS CW~~
~~5 — BOD~~
~~19 — Meeting K2UA NYQP~~
16-18 — ARRL SS SSB
23-24 — CQWW CW
~~30 — BULLETIN DEADLINE~~

December 2024

3 BOD
6-8 ARRL 160m CW
14-15 ARRL 10m
 17 RDXA Holiday Dinner
 21-22 Stew Perry 160m CW

January 2025

4-5 ARRL RTTY Roundup
 7 BOD
 21 Meeting
18-20 ARRL January VHF
24-26 CQWW 160m CW



** Tentative

February 2025

4 BOD
8-9 CQWW WPX RTTY
15-16 ARRL DX CW
 18 Meeting
21-23 CQWW 160m SSB
 29 **BULLETIN DEADLINE**

March 2025

1-2 ARRL DX SSB
 4 BOD
 18 Meeting
29-30 CQWW WPX SSB

April 2025

1 BOD
 13 RDXA/RVHFG Banquet **
 15 Meeting

May 2025

6 BOD
 16-18 Dayton Hamvention
 20 Meeting
24-25 CQWW WPX CW
 31 **BULLETIN DEADLINE**

June 2025

3 BOD
14-16 ARRL June VHF
 17 Meeting – FD
28-29 ARRL Field Day

July 2025

12-13 IARU
 19-20 CQWW VHF

August 2025

19 **IRVfest ****
 23 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. Consult the club website for up to date info.

President Chris Shalvoy – K2CS
president@rdxa.com

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

Treasurer Mike Sanchez –KM2B
treasurer@rdxa.com

Secretary Bill Rogers – K2TER
secretary@rdxa.com

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



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Bill Rogers-K2TER
Mike Sanchez – KM2B
Lynn Bisha – W2BSN
Dave Hallidy - K2DH
Doug Stewart-N2BEG
John Hall—AC2RL
Rus Healy — K2UA

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>
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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

