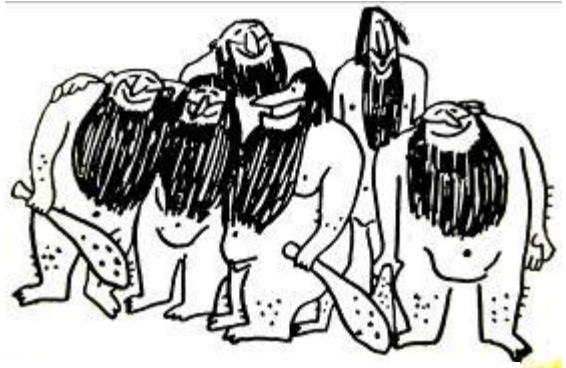


Rochester DX Association



March 2026

DON'T FORGET THE RDXA/RVHFG AWARDS BANQUET

Sunday April 19, 2026
Cocktails at 1:00 PM, Dinner at 2:00 PM
Awards to follow.
Johnny's, 1382 Culver Road, Rochester NY

A Misadventure of a Navy Ham

see

"The Tale of Three Chief Petty Officers"
on page 7

We have two stories of winter
antenna woes from:
Dave Wright on page 3
and
Doug Stewart on Page 5

NEWSLETTER NEEDS CONTRIBUTORS!

Remember, you the RDXA members supply the
content for this newsletter. Please consider
writing something for the next issue.

We're looking for anything from a single
paragraph up to several pages. Photos and
cartoons are welcome.

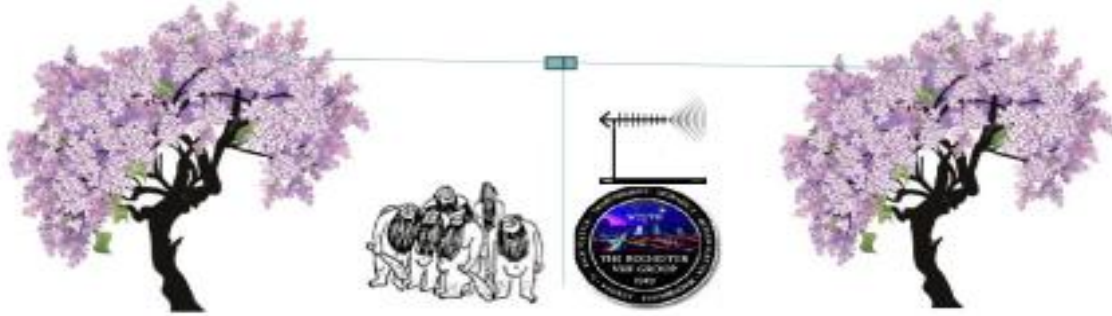
Microsoft Word format is preferred but I can
handle most other formats. JPEG is best for
photos.

Wonder what the ARRL
DX Advisory Committee
has been doing? See
page 9.

NEXT MEETING

The next general meeting will April 21, 7PM in person at Johnny's
and via Zoom.

Field day plans and preparations will be discussed.



RDXA/RVHFG 2026 AWARDS BANQUET

Sunday - 19 April 2026
COCKTAILS - 1:00PM
DINNER - 2:00PM
AWARDS TO FOLLOW

JOHNNY'S - 1382 CULVER ROAD

SICILIAN BEEF
CHICKEN FRENCH
GREENS & BEANS
MEATBALLS - SAUSAGE
ROASTED POTATOES
SALAD - ROLLS
DESSERT

Cost per person \$30 (payable at dinner)

Please RSVP to rdxabanquet@rdxa.com by 4/15/2026

Please include number attending

Gayle - N2TWI

What Goes Up ...

Dave Wright

I was initially going to write an article about what goes up doesn't always come down – but Mother Nature resolved the issue for me quite nicely.

A little background, as fall wound down, I wanted to add VHF/UHF FM capabilities to the shack as I have unused coax feeds already routed to the station (in through a basement window, through the cellar and crawlspace,



and up through the floor in a closet). I hoped to put a small dual band vertical on a side peak of the roof. When I couldn't find anyone interested in working off a ladder, my son suggested an alternative – mounting it considerably lower on the garage roof, using the tripod that holds my GAP vertical.

After we installed the dual band Diamond antenna, it was time for testing. I found I could connect to the 145.11 machine with mid-range power, but trying to connect with the WB2KAO repeater on 444.850 was a problem. Using 50W (full power) it was marginal. Obviously where the garage was located, my house was in the way and an alternate location was needed.

In a tree on the back edge of my property, I had a vinyl coated cable run through the crotch of a tree ~35' up. By adding a pulley, and some antenna cord, I had a nice handy antenna pull-up device. I'll use that! As an aside, you can find the cable at lowes. Search for dog run cable. I grabbed my spool of 3/32" rope – thinking I had more than enough on the spool for the task, ran it through the pulley and tied it off to the tree. As I pulled the cable with my left hand, the line trailing from the pulley in my right. One last pull, almost where I want it – and the cord slipped out of my right hand. Yup, the pulley was now out of my reach. Like I said, what goes up doesn't always come down.

I contacted a tree surgeon, who has done work for me before, to ask if they could rescue my pulley and bring it down. However, before they could get here, the high winds in December broke the tree half way up. Upon closer inspection, I suspect that the water worked its way into

the crotch of the tree where the cable was – and weakened the tree, thus causing the failure. Luckily nothing was damaged on the ground. The branches touched the back of the garage, and it cleared the boat parked in the yard.

I let the tree contractor know what happened, and asked for a quote to remove and clean up the debris. While he was there to examine the job, he suggested an approach using a different tree. As part of the job quote, he was going to drill a hole in another tree, and mount a pulley up top held in place by a J hook screwed into the tree. When it came time to do the job, the crew brought a remote control operated tracked bucket lift (I didn't know such things existed!). The operator drove it into the back yard, put down the stabilizer legs, and up he went. No messing around with ladders or climbing equipment!

In closing, there may be times when knowing a tree surgeon comes in handy. As of this writing, I still haven't elevated the antenna. Shortly after they were here, the skies opened, dropped lots of snow and the weather got really cold.



Ahhhh, winter.

N2BEG

You may all recall the very strange year we had last year, which led to the very weird year we are experiencing currently. We haven't seen a winter like this in quite some time. I know neither myself or my antennas were prepared and now I'm playing the price.

One of the many wind storms we've endured took a large branch off the tree my 160 inverted vee is on and it pulled the antenna down from where it was so it no longer loads correctly.

The big windstorm we had in late December was howling as I watched the trees swaying in the back yard, my eyes locked on my little tower holding up my C3S. It was really moving and as I watched it I realized it was moving way more than it should. After it was over, I



looked from one window and all seemed OK, but the view from the living room didn't look right, but it was hard to see what was going on as it's over 100 ft behind the house and has a lot of tree branches obscuring a good view. A couple days later I ventured out and realized what had happened and how lucky I was.

After the snow melted (very briefly) I found the base and saw what caused the whole thing. As someone who regularly harps about scheduling maintenance, I became victim of my own negligence. Seems 2 of the three bolts anchoring the tilt base to the bottom plate had loosened completely and came out. I found one, and I believe the other is under the tilt plate. Luckily the tower itself wedged itself against the eave of the garage and is stuck there. I think with a winch and some decent weather I should be able to pull it back to vertical and secure it properly. Then when I'm ready, it will tilt over and have the rotor replaced, new coax and another 8 foot section added, along with new guy wires.



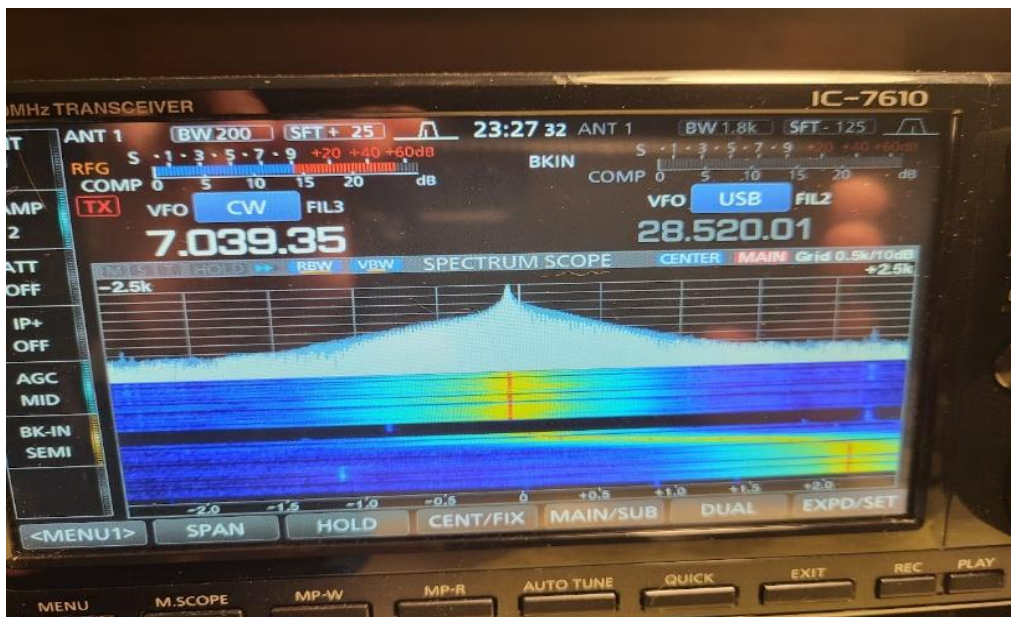
Now, I also have a broken OCF dipole I need to fix, in addition to the rotor on my small VHF roof tripod. A large branch took out my 160 inv L. Hopefully the spring around the corner provides some time to get to some of this. I suspect there are a lot of yards like mine that need an extensive cleanup after all these wind storms. Branches are everywhere.

As for on the air activities, I've been severely constrained by the above. I played in the Jan VHF contest, missed most others but did hear that my neighbor has now moved onto other bands besides 160 so I have that to look forward to as well.

I've managed to work a fair amount of stuff from my truck on occasion, however, that

setup needs to have some maintenance done also. The salt is no friend to vehicles or antennas. Congrats to all who were able to get 3Y0K in the log.

N2BEG



WF2W's signal on 40m at my QTH. He's approx. 1/4 mile up the street

The Tale of the Three Chief Petty Officers

*Walter Anderson ETN3 OE Div 65-67, reproduced with permission
Submitted to the RDXA newsletter by Dave Wright N2CK*

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“On the last day of Great Lakes Boot Camp I received my orders to report to the USS Springfield, home ported in Villefranche, France. Let me begin my story from there. It was during the year of ‘66 and I think we (USS Springfield, 6th Fleet Flagship) were at port in Naples. I say I think because after all these years it’s a blur as to exactly what port but I think it was Naples. Sometimes we would hang out there for a week or so while our 3 star Admiral 6th Fleet Commander took care of his diplomatic duties in the region. He was always entertaining the dignitaries and I guess spreading our goodwill around the region. Often when we were in port and I didn’t feel like going ashore so I would go up to the radio transmitter compartment on the upper level - take my Sony reel-to-reel tape recorder with me on which, I had hours of music and stretch out on one of the bench seats, just relaxing and listening to the music. Typically, there was no one around so I pretty much had the place to myself.

One day however, (I seem to remember it being a Saturday afternoon I got a bit bored and the thought came to me – why don’t I power up one of the WRT-2 transmitters, tune over to one of the amateur radio frequencies (I think it was on the 20 meter ham band) and see if I can make a state-side contact with a ham who might be able to set me up with a phone patch to my girlfriend in NJ. After all, I was a legal amateur radio operator with my own call sign. There was little if any radio communication going on while we were in port and the particular transmitter available just happened to be off line for maintenance at the time. So, I tweaked up an open frequency and started calling CQ. Within about a minute or so I got a response from a stateside ham that just happened to be able to setup phone patches; how lucky can you get.

I revealed that I was onboard the USS Springfield; I don’t recall giving our location however. We established our connection and I gave him the telephone number that I wanted to contact. As luck would have it on this weekend afternoon my future mother-in-law to be answered the phone and when the ham on the other end tried to explain the whole thing she almost passed out with fright not knowing what to say or do. But then she did come around and was able to get my girlfriend on the phone. The ham on the other end had to explain the ‘protocol’; how this was a one-way conversation and you had to say ‘over’ when you were through talking so the person on the other end could respond and talk. She finally got the hang of it and we were able to have a nice lovey-dovey conversation that I think lasted for about ten minutes. Well – what more can I say. At the end I felt pretty damn good about being able to pull that off. I knew my girlfriend would have a forever story to tell all her coworkers the next day and my future mother-in-law was ecstatic about the whole event (when she came to) . She thought I was a genius so I was finally accepted. Everything was just peachy – or so I thought. Here is where the story gets a bit complicated so please bear with me.

The Chiefs:

Chief #1: A mystery Chief Radioman stationed on another ship in the 6th fleet.

Chief #2: a Chief Radioman (one of 4) in the OR Division on board the USS Springfield and an amateur radio operator.

Chief #3: A Chief Electronic Technician in the OE Division (my Division) on board the USS Springfield.

The chain of events that was about to unravel is beyond anything I could have imagined.

The next weekday as I recall was a normal workday so as always, we gathered in the ET shack for the 8am muster. Our Lt(jg) did his briefing, the chief said a few words and then we were dismissed; everyone except for me.

‘Andy, I need you to remain for a bit’ said Jim, our First Class ET with the Chief (#3) standing beside him. ‘Oh, what’s up Jim’ I said. The Chief jumped in and went on to say that over the weekend he was contacted by another Chief (Chief #2) , and that this Chief, who also was a ham operator, had been contacted by yet still another Chief Radioman (Chief #1) who just happened to pick up the tail-end of a radio communication that Sunday. He noted the time and radio frequency of the transmission. He also just happened to hear the Springfield mentioned. Now he knew that the Springfield was in port and that bothered him a bit.”

RDXA Best Practices for Contest Score Posting

1. Submit your log to the contest site. Make sure your Cabrillo log contains the line: “CLUB: Rochester (NY) DX Assn”. If you use the N1MM+ logger to create the file and set Config->Change Your Station Data...-> Club to “Rochester (NY) DX Assn”, the logger will add the line when it generates your log.
2. For ARRL Contests, select “Rochester (NY) DX Assn” in the “ARRL-Affiliated Contest Club” field on the log submission page.
3. Add your score to the RDXA Score Grid <https://rdxa.com/oldsite/index.php>. If you don’t have or don’t remember your credentials, send an email to webmaster@rdxa.com.
4. Share your score and any comments you have about the contest via email to the club reflector, rdxa@groups.io
5. Post your score at <https://www.3830scores.com/> Select “Rochester (NY) DX Association” in the “Club” field.

DXAC description and Responsibilities

(compiled by Bill, N6WS – DXAC Southwestern Division)

Many of you have little or no knowledge of the responsibilities of the DXAC and the following should provide an in depth description of our duties.

With the consistent clamoring to “get rid of entities” because “I can’t get on the Top Honor Roll”, please take a minute to read this excellent synopsis of the DXAC recently compiled by one of our members.

The committee recently underwent a review of each and every section of the current DXAC rules, the first in 25 years!

I have no idea what will become of our work as several sensitive areas are still being discussed. We meet every 3 weeks and have for almost 2 years – an incredible time commitment by those on the committee (we have almost perfect attendance by all 19 members (unless they are on a DXpedition as is occurring now with Bouvet actually) and even K5UR and NA2AA have joined several sessions.

Lengthy, yes but I’d hope you’d acquire a higher level of appreciation for our work.

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS
Chairman, ARRL DX Advisory Committee

The DX Advisory Committee, or DXAC, is an advisory body that supports the **American Radio Relay League** on matters related to DXCC and broader DX policy. It does not administer awards, and it does not make binding decisions. Instead, DXAC exists to provide deep subject-matter expertise when questions arise that are not easily answered by reading the DXCC rules alone.

DXAC members are selected because of their long-term experience in DXing, contesting, DXpeditioning, and DXCC participation. Many have decades of operating history and firsthand knowledge of how rules have been applied over time. This institutional memory is critical, because DXCC is a program built on continuity and precedent.

The committee represents a broad geographic cross-section of the amateur radio community. This diversity helps ensure that recommendations consider international operating realities, licensing environments, and access constraints—not just theoretical rule interpretations.

In short, DXAC exists to help protect the long-term credibility of DXCC by ensuring that decisions are informed, consistent, and historically grounded.

It's important to clearly understand DXAC's boundaries, because many misunderstandings stem from assuming DXAC has authority it does not actually possess.

DXAC **does** analyze DXCC rules, identify ambiguities, evaluate edge cases, and consider unintended consequences of possible changes. The committee also provides historical context—why certain entities were accepted, how similar cases were handled in the past, and what risks come with altering long-standing interpretations.

DXAC **does not** create or delete DXCC entities. It does not approve or deny DXpeditions, and it does not issue awards or confirmations. All final authority remains with ARRL staff and, where appropriate, the ARRL Board.

This separation is intentional. DXAC's role is to slow things down, not speed them up. By remaining advisory, DXAC helps ensure that DXCC governance remains deliberate, conservative, and resistant to short-term pressure or popular opinion.

DXAC conducted the most thorough DXCC rules review in decades without destabilizing the program.

The 2025 DXAC review was one of the most comprehensive examinations of the DXCC rules in recent decades. It began in December 2024 and continued through October 2025, spanning nearly a full year of structured discussion.

The goal was not to rewrite DXCC, but to examine whether the existing rules still support the integrity, relevance, and long-term viability of the program. Each section of the DXCC rules was reviewed in sequence, along with related operational and governance issues that impact how those rules are applied. This was not a reactionary review. The committee consistently emphasized avoiding changes driven by instant gratification, short-term operating trends, or pressure to accelerate awards like Honor Roll. Instead, the focus was on ensuring that DXCC remains meaningful decades from now.

DXAC operates within a formal governance framework. It provides recommendations and analysis to ARRL, but it does not function as an independent authority. This structure ensures accountability and consistency with ARRL's broader responsibilities.

Throughout the 2025 review, the committee repeatedly returned to three guiding principles: stability, continuity, and fairness. Stability ensures that operators can trust DXCC over decades. Continuity protects awards already earned. Fairness ensures that new entrants are evaluated consistently with past ones. One of DXAC's most important functions is identifying unintended consequences. A rule change that appears simple on paper can have cascading effects across hundreds of entities, thousands of award holders, and decades of precedent.

Despite major personnel changes, DXAC maintained continuity and productivity.

The 2025 review occurred during a period of significant membership transition within DXAC. Several long-serving members retired, stepped down for health reasons, or became Silent Keys. At the same time, new members were appointed who brought strong DX and DXpedition experience.

Despite these changes, the committee maintained continuity, institutional memory, and consistent participation. This was critical given the complexity and historical nature of the topics under review. The Board Liaison transition was also handled smoothly, ensuring continued communication between DXAC and ARRL leadership.

The committee tackled both modern operating realities and long-standing DXCC questions.

The range of topics addressed in 2025 was broad and deliberately balanced between modern operating realities and long-standing DXCC questions.

Modern topics included remote operation and Rig-in-a-Box configurations, verification practices, and transparency. Long-standing topics included inactive entities, entity eligibility under evolving rules, and field checking standards.

Importantly, the committee did not approach these topics in isolation. Each discussion considered how changes in one area could affect the DXCC ecosystem as a whole.

DXAC clarified RIB expectations without rewriting DXCC rules.

The committee concluded that Rig-in-a-Box operation is permissible under existing DXCC rules. No new rules were required. However, clarification was necessary to ensure consistent understanding.

Key requirements emphasized included proof of valid local licensing, proof of permission to operate, and proof of physical presence where required. The committee recognized that licensing and regulatory environments vary widely by country.

DXAC deliberately avoided over-regulation, acknowledging that every situation is unique and that rigid rules could unintentionally exclude legitimate operations.

DXCC continuity was prioritized over short-term gratification.

Inactive entities generated some of the most extensive discussion during the review. The committee consistently expressed concern over proposals to delete entities or create an “inactive entity” list. Defining inactivity is inherently subjective. Political restrictions, environmental protections, safety concerns, and personal circumstances all affect activity levels. History shows that many long-inactive entities eventually become active again.

The committee also recognized that deletions would artificially accelerate Honor Roll achievement, undermining the program’s credibility. For these reasons, DXAC strongly favored preserving continuity.

DXCC is precedent-linked; one change can force dozens more.

A recurring theme was the recognition that many entities accepted under earlier DXCC rules would not qualify if evaluated strictly under modern criteria. Retroactively applying new standards would unravel the DXCC list.

DXCC is precedent-linked. Changing one decision often forces reconsideration of many others. For this reason, DXAC emphasized documenting historical acceptance rationale rather than revisiting past decisions. This led directly to the recommendation to digitize DXCC records and to form a subcommittee dedicated to historical research.

DXAC improved transparency while respecting governance boundaries.

Several high-profile cases were discussed during the review period. The SV/A DXpedition prompted direct engagement from the ARRL CEO, which the committee appreciated as a step toward transparency. The Chagos situation highlighted how geopolitical changes can intersect with DXCC. DXAC recommended a cautious, wait-and-see approach rather than premature conclusions. In all cases, DXAC reinforced that its role is advisory, not determinative.

No systemic verification weaknesses were found.

DXAC reviewed current accreditation practices, including the use of GPS data, social media documentation, and on-site verification methods. The conclusion was that the existing system remains robust. Rather than recommending changes, the committee suggested improving transparency, such as maintaining a database of rejected DXpeditions to help future planning and reduce uncertainty.

Small refinements can significantly strengthen confidence.

The Field Checking program was reviewed with an eye toward clarity and integrity. Several ambiguities were identified, particularly around 160-meter eligibility and minimum qualifications for card checkers. The committee agreed that modest tightening—such as higher DXCC totals and reinstating a written examination—would improve consistency and confidence without discouraging participation.

Most rules survived unchanged — by design.

One of the most notable outcomes of the review is how little needed to change. Sections I and III of the DXCC rules were deemed sound and required no modification. Most recommendations focused on clarification, documentation, and forward-looking improvements rather than rule changes says something important about the maturity of DXCC. DXAC's 2025 work strengthened DXCC not by changing it — but by protecting it.

The DXAC's 2025 work strengthened DXCC by reinforcing what already works, clarifying modern realities, and resisting pressure to make destabilizing changes. The committee's work was not flashy, but it was foundational. By protecting continuity and trust, DXAC helped ensure that DXCC remains meaningful for future generations of DXers.

RDXA 2025-26 Calendar

September 2025

2 — BOD
 13-15 — ARRL September VHF
~~27-27 — CQWW RTTY~~

October 2025

~~7 — Meeting NYQP~~
~~18-19 — NYQP~~
~~25-26 — CQWW SSB~~

November 2025

~~1-3 — ARRL SS CW~~
~~15-17 — ARRL SS SSB~~
~~22-23 — CQWW CW~~
 30 — BULLETIN DEADLINE

December 2025

2 — BOD
~~5-7 — ARRL 160m CW~~
~~13-14 — ARRL 10m~~
16 — RDXA Holiday Dinner
 27-28 — Stew Perry 160m CW

January 2026

~~3-4 — ARRL RTTY Roundup~~
~~17-19 — ARRL January VHF~~
~~24-26 — CQWW 160m CW~~



February 2026

3 — BOD — FD Review
~~14-15 — CQWW WPX RTTY~~
~~17 — Meeting — Program N2RD~~
~~20-22 — CQWW 160m SSB~~
~~21-22 — ARRL DX CW~~
 28 — BULLETIN DEADLINE

March 2026

3 — BOD — NYQP Review
~~7-8 — ARRL DX SSB~~
 28-29 — CQWW WPX SSB

April 2026

19 — RDXA/RVHFG Awards Banquet
21 — Meeting — Program FD Planning

May 2026

5 — ** BOD
 15-17 — Dayton Hamvention
~~30-31 — CQWW WPX CW~~
 31 — BULLETIN DEADLINE

June 2026

TBA — RARA Hamfest
 13-15 — ARRL June VHF
16 — Meeting — Program FD
Checklist
~~27-28 — ARRL Field Day~~

July 2026

4-6 — CQWW VHF - CW/SSB
 11-12 — IARU
 18-19 — CQWW VHF - Digital

August 2026

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 located at Johnny's Irish Pub located at 1382 Culver Rd. Rochester, NY. Consult the club website for times and dates.

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Doug Stewart-N2BEG
John Hall—AC2RL
Rus Healy — K2UA
Joe Casey – K2JKC
Mike Maynard – K2GC
Jack Kelly – WA2CHV

Appointed Positions

Webmaster	Chris Shalvoy - K2CS
Contest Chairman	Charles Kurfuss - WB2HJV
Banquet Coordinator	Gayle Shalvoy - N2TWI
Media Coordinator	<vacant>
Election Committee Chairman	Bill Rogers - K2TER
Membership Chairman	Chris Shalvoy -- K2CS
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 Ev Tupis – W2EV

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



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