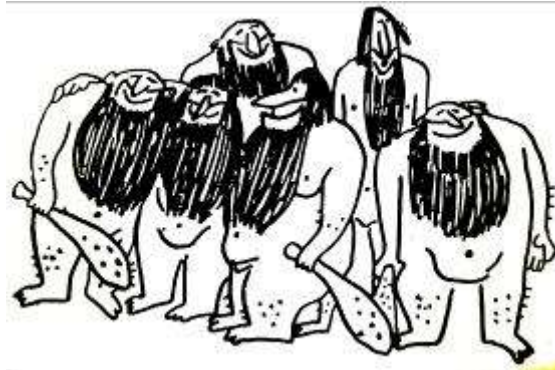


Rochester DX Association



**RDXA Turns 76
and
75 Years of ARRL Affiliation**

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President's Letter

by Chris Shalvoy K2CS

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*** Field Day Results *
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DLARC

(Digital Library of Amateur
Radio and Communication)

now

includes RDXA Newsletter!

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Deadline for Next Issue:

February 29, 2024

President's Letter

So, how re the bands treating you these days?

Contesting and DX have taken on a whole new look the last few months. Upper bands packed and "useful" far later than sunset, multiple DXpeditions and ones who actually know propagation. Entities we haven't heard (in the East) for years. Band county heaven.

We're not done yet though, a few more months of activity and winter conditions to support them.

Great to see several "new" local stations active, folks that may not have been in the past.

NYQP was once again a complete success, congratulations to those who plan, organize and support the event. As mentioned, NYQP has become one of the most popular state QSO parties, participation is outstanding. If you had the time, you could work folks all 12 hours, CW and SSB. There were various reports on conditions but overall, a vast improvements over years past.

Several "single band" contests are coming up before a few week break. ARRL 160m and 10m contests are the next few weekends. It'll be interesting to see how 160 is as the literal opposite of the way the bands are behaving of late. On the other hand, 10m should be wide open. Regardless, all enjoyable and before time takes you away from the shack for the holidays.

Then fire up that VHF gear for the ARRL January VHF Contest the weekend of the 20-22, always great participation in Rochester and surrounding areas.

Once again I'll mention the unbelievable effort in this years FD and once again, a #1 in 3A! Operating is key

but I think the engineering at the site as well as utilizing new technology and modes have once again paid off. I'm sure we'll look at improvements but for the most part, an enjoyable outing, extremely quick setup and take-down and other than the food debacle... not much else to be concerned about.

Looking forward to planning 2024 over the next few months.

Elsewhere in the bulletin is information on the 2023 Annual Holiday Dinner, I hope as many as possible can make it, always an enjoyable time. Later in 2024, we'll be having the combined RVHFG & RDXA Awards Banquet. This will return to an April time-frame, I'm working with Johnny's once again in hopes of getting the place "to ourselves" on a Sunday afternoon. Things went well last year and I'd hope we could replicate it once again.

In January, we'll start up General Membership meetings, all "in person" and some supported by Zoom. If anyone would like to present, let me or a board member know, we're always looking for radio or related programs of interest to the club.

Finally, CONGRATULATIONS RDXA!!

A recognition plaque was sent to us from the ARRL for 75 years of affiliation.

The letter and picture of the award are elsewhere in this issue and remember, **without the membership, we'd have no club.**

Congratulations one and all, thank you for your continued support of the Rochester DX Association.

Best DX es 73,

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

RDXA Takes 1st Place in 2023 Field Day Category 1A

Congratulations to all who made this possible!

Our band and mode strategy, our antenna layout, our bonus point effort, and most of all, our intrepid operators brought home the bacon, once again claiming the top spot in category 1A.

Of course, it would not have been possible without all those who worked set-up and teardown, food and beverages, and to showe our visitors what amateur radio was all about and how it benefits our community.

The numbers in the table show number of QSOs, power (2= 100W), number of participants, total score, and ARRL division.

| 3A | | | | |
|--|-------|---|-----|------------|
| Rochester (NY) DX Assn. W2RDX (+W2AN) | 2,900 | 2 | 30 | 13,962 WNY |
| North Fulton ARL K4JJ (+NF4GA) | 3,274 | 2 | 132 | 12,741 GA |
| Providence Radio Assn. W1OP (+W1C) | 2,925 | 2 | 39 | 12,608 RI |
| Prairie Dog ARC (SD) WØOJY (+WØEJ) | 2,948 | 2 | 33 | 12,363 SD |
| Randallstown ARC N3IC (+K3MZ) | 3,196 | 2 | 17 | 12,046 MDC |

The Rochester DDC Association

Cordially invites you to our

*Annual Holiday
Dinner*

TUESDAY - 19 December, 2023

Johnny's

1382 Culver Rd

Rochester, NY 14609

Cocktails: ----- 6:00pm

Dinner: ----- 7:00pm

Buffet - \$25 per person

Tossed Salad - Rolls

Chicken French

Meatballs

Baked Ziti

Greens and Beans

Roasted Vegetable

Cash Bar

Reservations by December 15th to
RDXABANQUET@RDXA.COM

Gayle - N2TWI

RDXA Receives Plaque From ARRL

RDXA has been an ARRL affiliated club for seventy-five years!

From the letter that accompanied the plaque:

Dear Chris:

I am pleased to present a plaque to the Rochester DX Association commemorating 75 years of affiliation with The American Radio Relay League, Inc. I'm of course familiar with the Rochester group and also acknowledge that the Rochester VHF group will be celebrating its 75th year of affiliation next year, as I understand it. Indeed, amateur radio is alive and well in Rochester, NY as you said. Congratulations again and I regret I am not able to present this plaque personally to your club. Please convey my congratulations to the entire club and feel free to call me with any questions you might have. Very truly yours,

/s/ Robert B. Famiglio

Bob Famiglio, K3RF Director, ARRL Atlantic Division



WESTERN NEW YORK — SCM, Charles I. Otero, W2UPH — The Rochester DX Association has been formed. The purpose is to further the interests of its members in the pursuit and enjoyment of DX. The organization is formed by, and for, DX men exclusively. Prospective members must show proof of working at least 25 countries postwar, or 50 countries prewar. Chairman is PUD; vice-chairman is DOD; secretary-treasurer is PYW. The executive committee is made up of these officers, plus QCP and TXB. At the last meeting of the Rochester Amateur Radio

From QST Volume 31, Issue 8, August 1947, page 70

In 1947 when RDXA was founded, membership was for “DX men exclusively”. Members had to show proof of working either 25 countries postwar or 50 countries prewar and there was no mention of women. Officers were (in those days everybody in Rochester was a W2 prefix):

| | | |
|-------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| W2PUD | R. G. Talpey | Chairman |
| W2DOD | Elmer J. Grabb | Vice-Chairman |
| W2PYW | Robert O. Sinclair | Secretary-Treasurer |
| W2QCP | Bruce L. Kelley | Member, executive committee |
| W2TXB | Albert S. Keltz | Member, Executive committee |

I wondered if Bruce L. Kelley, W2QCP, was Bruce L. Kelley, W2ICE, of the Bruce Kelley 1928 QSO Party. Alas, no. The Fall 1948 Radio Amateur Callbook lists both, W2QCP at 181 Chili Avenue in Rochester, and W2ICE at Ava, Oneida County (northeast of Syracuse).

Gene Fuller W2LU, SK

Gene Fuller passed away suddenly on September 15, 2023. His heirs contacted RDXA to let us know that he had willed his ham radio gear to RDXA. When I arrived to inspect his shack, his radio was still on, tuned to 15 meters as if he had just stepped away for a moment.

I and several other members spent a week or so in early October retrieving stuff from his basement which was completely full of radio stuff.

It will be sold for the benefit of the club. To date, we have realized over \$3000 with more to come.



Gene's operating position



Meters that we will be selling at hamfests next year



Some of Gene's equipment for sale at the RARA auction.

Tips for Pulling Coax

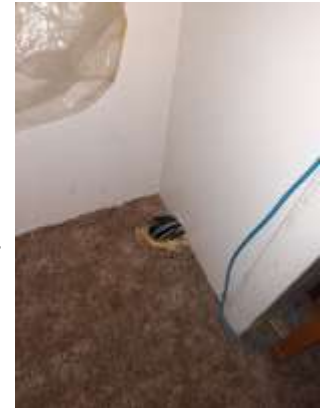
Dave Wright N2CK



One of the tasks on my to do list has been to replace a section of coax that runs from my grounding plate, into the shack. Coincidentally, it's also the coax that's connected to the main antenna on the roof (Mosley Classic 33 with 12/17 and 40m add on kits). A little background, this is the first coax I ran way back when I was first setting up the home station and was connected to a 2m/70cm 5 element yagi (vertical polarized). Being a young home owner with kids, I chose to use a chunk of 10 base 5 coax (they were throwing it out at work, and Jim Cronin, N2VX encouraged me to grab some). As I discovered the world of HF contesting, the small VHF/UHF yagi was replaced by the classic 33, and then upgraded to add 3 more bands. Through it all, the yellow Ethernet coax served me well – but, as it wasn't made to be UV or weather resistant, I wanted to replace it with real coax.

Here's a link to what I was replacing: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10BASE5>

When I first set up the home station, I was informed that all needed to be removable leaving little trace behind. I drilled holes into the top frame of the cellar window and from there routed the coax through the basement a short distance and into a crawlspace under the shack. I brought all my wires up through a corner of the downstairs closet, and through a wall (low enough to cover with a piece of base molding) and coming out behind the operating position. As I pondered how to replace the Ethernet coax, I had a hunch that neither of my kids would be interested in going into the crawl space to get the new coax routed through.



As I thought about the problem, an answer came to me. I utilized a Chinese finger trap tool I



purchased (see link below) and some of the weather resistant cordage we use for antennas. I cut off the PL-259 connector in the shack, and pushed the pulling grip down onto the coax to be replaced. I tied the cord to the pulling grip and taped everything up.

<https://www.homedepot.com/p/Southwire-1-2-in-Pulling-Grip-58281040/314761048>

I went down to the basement, and with my son guiding the wire down through the closet floor, I pulled the yellow coax out, with the cord trailing nicely behind it. I didn't have sufficient room in the basement for the pulling grip to pull the new coax all the way outside, but once I got it to the window, I could shove it down

through the hole and outside ready to be connected to the grounding plate. Removal of the old was quite efficient.

I routed the new coax into the basement through the hold in the top of the window sill and into the basement where I re-installed the pulling grip. Once again, everything was taped. I applied a light film of dish-washing detergent to the taped pulling grip to make it easier for the new coax to follow the cord back through the hole. With my son slowly pulling, the new cable snaked through the crawl space to where it went through the floor above. When the new coax was just about to go through, I asked my son to pull slowly – but without stopping. It was amazing – the new coax went through the hole and out behind the shack desk so smoothly.

I had an idea this plan would work, I wasn't expecting it to work so flawlessly. The next time you need to route antenna wire (or electrical wire) try this method. It was nice not needing someone to get up close and personal with spiders.





RDXA Newsletter Now In the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications

The Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications (DLARC) is a free service of the Internet Archive that hosts copies of newsletters, podcasts, manuals, catalogs, magazines, journals, and videos related to amateur radio.

One great feature of the DLARC is that the documents it contains are searchable. When I searched for "RDXA" and told it to sort the results by date published, the first result it produced was from the April 1948 issue of QST, "The RDXA bulletin lists W2s QCP, PUD, CNT, SYV all well over the century mark in countries worked. RTX has 108 on phone alone" (The search for "RDXA" also produced several references to the *other* "RDXA", the RTTY DX Association.)

Recently, the RDXA Newsletter was added to the DLARC.

You can find the DLARC at <https://archive.org/details/dlarc>.



Origin of Anomalous SWR measurements for 2m/70cm Dual Band Antenna

Mike Sanchez KM2B

During the NY “shutdown” during Covid, when all the big box stores stayed (wide) open and all the Mom and Pop stores were forced to close (and go under) and people were told to stay in. Well, I sort of (did not) BUT (did) build a dual band 2m/70cm antenna in simulation, then built the antenna itself, then implemented in my backyard and tested it and then wrote up the initial testing. In between going to big box stores and grocery stores that remained (wide) open that is.

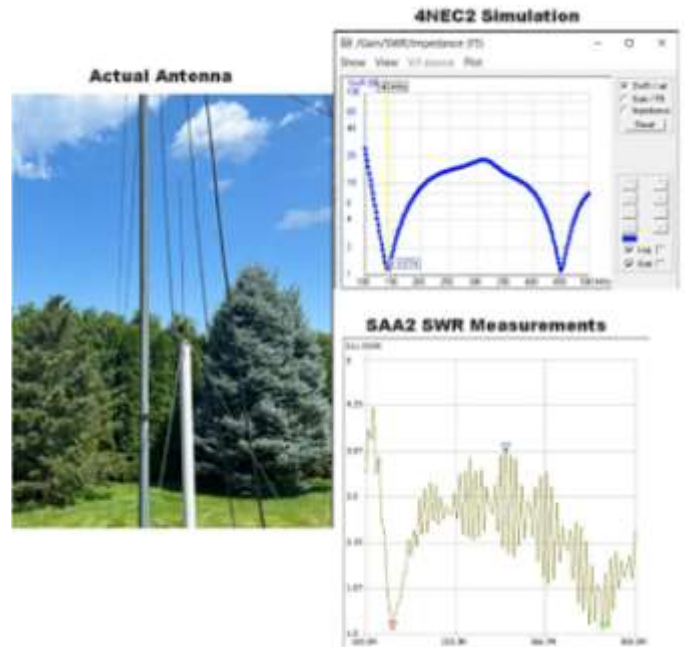
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cQPrkdQ_zC1Uu_cUeWVmZFpsRNtwJRif/view

At build time in 2020 I only had a Bird wattmeter and a 5W slug to measure forward and reverse power at a few points and then compute SWR. All results for 2m matched simulation, but, for 70 cm the result was odd. Instead of steady increase from higher to lower SWR as frequency increased like simulation showed, the SWR for 70cm first increased to a peak and then fell off from 440MHz to 450 MHz. I was puzzled. Until now.

Recently, John Cunliffe sold, to me, his NanoVNA v2 for a reasonable price. This enabled me to make reasonably high resolution SWR sweeps across both 2m and 70cm bands.

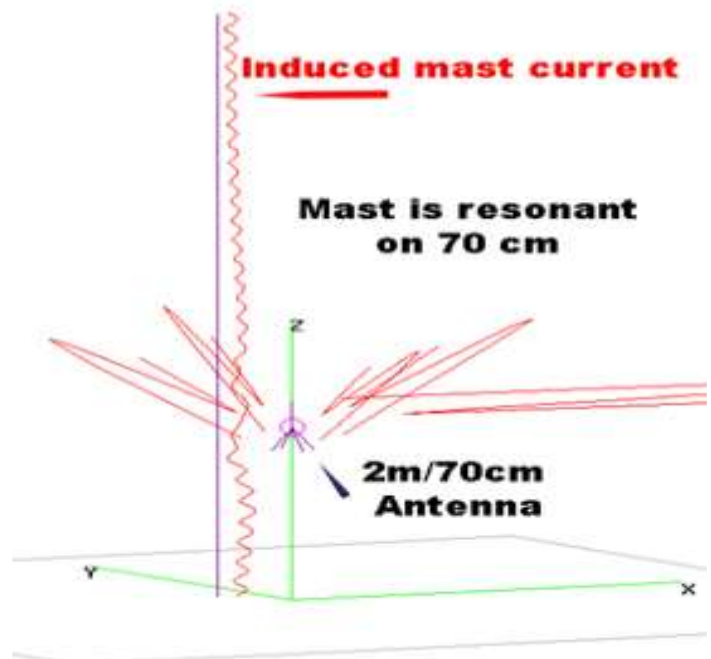
The implemented antenna and it’s simulated with 4NEC2 and actual SWR response with the NanoVNA v2 are below pictorially and graphically. I implemented the dual band 2m/70cm about 3 feet from my Rhon 9H50 steel mast just for convenient access to an existing, unused Coax line. As can be seen in the below composite on the left, 4NEC2 antenna simulation, for an SWR scan from 100Mz to 500MHz, is nice smooth with two very nice dips in the middle of the 2m and 70cm ham bands. The actual NanaVNA v2 measured results show a similar global response curve BUT also have some anomalous oscillations.

To understand the measured result better, recently, I added the mast to the 2m/70cm antenna simulation and again ran the simulation and looked at the currents, in red, on the mast. Sure enough, the Rohn



mast, above about 175 MHz becomes resonant and then interacts with the antenna thereby resulting in the SWR oscillation.

Fortunately, in the 70cm band, the peak of the SWR oscillations are around SWR=1.7. For low power, long transmissions to a repeater, the radio can survive. I did move the antenna about 20ft away and the oscillations decreased in amplitude but remain.



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~~
 16 — Meeting
 20-22 — **ARRL January VHF**
~~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~~
 6 — BOD
 19 — Meeting
~~30-31 — CQWW WPX SSB~~

April 2024

3 — BOD
 TBA — RDXA/RVHFG Banquet
 16 — Meeting

May 2024

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

June 2024

5 — 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
president@rdxa.com

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

Treasurer Mike Sanchez –KM2B
treasurer@rdxa.com

Secretary Bill Rogers – K2TER

Board of Directors

Chris Shalvoy – K2CS
Mark Hazel – K2MTH
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> |
| 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 |

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

