



Meeting  
Dec 15<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m.  
111 Westfall Road

Andy Walker  
From  
Walker Towers  
Topics to include:

Common tower installation mistakes  
Tower grounding and lightening protection  
Comparison of amateur and commercial installations  
Video from the top of a 1000 ft. tower

And don't forget the after  
the meeting meeting at the

**Scotch 'N Sirloin**  
in Winton Place at Winton Road  
Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road

## President's Soapbox

*Scott Hoag, K2ZS*

Well, here it is December already! Hope all of you had a great Thanksgiving. I spent mine in Kentucky visiting family, so unfortunately missed the CQWW contest. We returned home late on Sunday and I was too busy to catch the end of the contest. I did however check the WWV reports on the cluster and saw that the conditions were at least favorable for those who were in it. Hope to see some good scores turned in for the club.

I have to comment on last months meeting. I was glad to see the club receive recognition from the ARRL for it's 50 years of affiliation. There was heated debate after the presentation of the plaque as to the proposed license restructuring. There was even a comment made by a new member after the meeting. His comment compared us with other clubs that really doesn't discuss anything at there meetings. They come, see whatever program, socialize and go home. That says a lot about our club and our members. We are involved and concerned with our hobby. There were many concerns raised over the proposed changes, and many who said they wouldn't be a ham today if it weren't for changes made years ago. I know I wouldn't be a ham if it weren't for the creation of a Novice class license years back. There are many now, in our club, who wouldn't be hams if they didn't drop the code requirement for an entry level

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license. Much was said against the ARRL for "selling out", but we must realize they are trying to preserve our hobby. Without active amateurs we will lose spectrum. League membership is important, it is your strongest voice to the FCC. I myself maintain membership in the ARRL because of all the good it really does for the hobby. Remember one thing, there is safety in numbers, and if you don't speak, how will they hear you.

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## Editor's Corner

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*Dave Wright, N2CK*

How many of you worked the AWA Special Event station? I know I didn't. We got back from sunny Florida on Friday evening around 10:15. By the time I got the rig fired up and started looking for them they were off the air (something about a cooked resistor in the transmitter). While I was playing the tourist in sunny (and warm) Fla., I missed Sweepstakes SSB (one of my favorites!). Additionally, as I missed opening day, the first weekend, and Thanksgiving morning for deer hunting (hint – as someone who hunts primarily alone, I like having LOTS of other folks in the woods to move the deer around), the weekend of CQWW CW was the first occasion I could get out hunting. What a decision! Hunting won of course, as there will be other CW contests on the calendar, but it was a tough decision! In retrospect, perhaps given my lack of success Saturday and Sunday maybe I should've played radio!

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## Welcome New Members (and a couple of old ones)

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*Fred Gern, K2FR*

A welcome to **Norm, AB2FU**. Norm joined at the November meeting and then notified me that he is now **W2AD** -congratulations. Also a warm welcome back to **Walt, NQ2O**, who rejoined the club at the meeting too. When **Bill, KA2IYB**

renewed he also added his wife, **Traci** to the roles - **KB2RNG**.

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## Important Notice

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*Fred Gern, K2FR*

If your mailing label has the expiration date of 10/98 on it you will see it circled in RED. This will be your LAST issue of the newsletter. The Evil Database Keeper will dump you as of Jan. 1, 1999 (that be me!) Keep those cards & letters & checks coming to K2MP.

Also, remember the postage rate goes to \$0.33 January 10. You had better have that postage for cards to U.S. managers. If not, pray!

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## Contest Calendar

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*Chris Shalvoy, K2CS*

ARRL 10M            12-13 Dec 0000-2400  
CQWW 160M CW 29-31 Jan 2200-1600

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## Old RDXA Member Retires

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*Fred Gern, K2FR*

I've have been notified by the family of **Wayne King, N2WK**, that he took the Big Buy Out at Kodak and is now know as Wayne "wedge shot into the woods" King. He joins W2TZ and several other early retirees in RDXA - obviously people who weren't needed at work! (Wish they did nice things like that in my business!)

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## VE Session

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*Fred Gern, K2FR*

We had an interesting VE session last month. One - a tech plus - had passed the General theory, got his original call back that has lapsed years ago, and then passed the 13 wpm to get his General. A very happy guy!

The other person passed the No Code Tech tests with no difficulty. He said the reason he's becoming a ham is to have communication Jan. 1, 2000. He has other friends doing the same thing. Does he know something we don't? Do you think handheld microprocessors are Y2K compliant?

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## 1923 DX QSO Celebration a SUCCESS!

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*Ed Gable, K2MP*

As reported in the last RDXA Bulletin, the Antique Wireless Association planned an on-the-air celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first amateur two-way transatlantic QSO. The celebration, taking place on the Friday after Thanksgiving, was a great success. Using an exact replica of the 1923 transmitter, operators **Ed Gable, K2MP** and **Bob Raide, W2ZM**, went QRV at 5:00 p.m. on 3525 kHz. The well-publicized event brought out many interested old timers and at times the pile up rivaled any found on DX stations. The planned use of a three tube regenerative receiver soon became impossible due to the QRM and a Collins 75A4 was pressed into service. The sound of the transmitter was what all wanted to hear. Four 203A's in a p-p Hartley circuit, with raw AC on the plates, made a very distinctive and easy to spot note.

Complicating the matter was the fact that this was also CQWW CW DX Weekend. Several DX'ers broke in to say "Bad filters OM" or other such helpful remarks. About 150 contacts were logged including two W7's and an EA8 was calling but we couldn't make a go of that. The AWA has done three such events now; the 1BCG 1921 transcon

test, the Millen TX event and now the 1923 1MO/8AB QSO, all of which have been very popular. So what's next.... How about the first ever transcontinental 20 meter phone QSO. Let's see, we need a 204 tube, an audio choke for the heising modulator, some copper tubing.... Can do. Stand by for more.

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## The Scoop On IRC's

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*Forwarded by Fred Gern, K2FR*

IRCs don't have to be stamped at all; it is optional.

Only a stamp in the right-hand box will render it valueless; it sez in French in the right-hand box that the stamp of the post office which cashes in the IRC should be there.

Only IRCs from the US seem to have an additional stamp in the middle; nobody else stamps there so it does not make them more valid or valueless. I simply think that it is not needed.

So to sum up my experiences after cashing in thousands of IRCs:

Coupons with no stamp at all are OK.

IRCs with a stamp in the right-hand box are useless

73 de Rolf, SM5MX, ex. XV7SW

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## Green Stamps

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*Forwarded by Fred Gern, K2FR*

I hear all this business about postal rates in other countries going up, and a single US Green Stamp not being sufficient. Maybe so, maybe not. Check out the currency exchange rate at:

<http://www.dna.lth.se/cgi-bin/kurt/rates/>

On the 24th of August 1998 a single US dollar is:  
Finnish Markka 5.46 - Air Mail postage 3.40 Markka  
Hong Kong Dollar 7.7 - Air Mail postage 3.10  
Japanese Yen 143.9 - Air Mail postage 120  
Italian Lira 1770 - Air Mail postage 1300  
French Franc - 6.01 - Air Mail postage 4.70

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German Mark - 1.79 - Air Mail postage 3.00 (a buck won't do it here)

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## DX 40 Years Ago

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*Ed Gable, K2MP*

QSL's to die for received this date were LA2JE/p on Svalbard, UA0KAR on Dickson Island and from the world's rarest YL, Hilda Klouckova, and JT1YL in Mongolia. The very rare Maldives is represented by VS9MI, but offers a great challenge as the rig there was a surplus army pack set. The only other active Maldives station is VS9MA with an equally lack-luster DX35 working hard to do 20 watts into a random wire. Reporting in QST, VS1GL told the disappointed DX community that his planned Andamans & Nicobars operation was thwarted by licensing problems. W6BRF/TA reports great SWL'ing from Turkey, but transmitting is still not allowed. K6IGP/KP6 just went QRT after a month on Palmyra and handed out many a new one. A lot is happening in CE land where the CE0 and CE9 prefix pattern is changing to separate Deception, South Shetlands, Greenwich, Easter and Juan Fernandez Islands. It will eventually settle out, but years later. Two advertisers introduce new products of interest. First is the second version of the *Dream Receiver*, the National NC-303, and the second, for you 6-meter enthusiasts, is a new transmitter manufactured here in Rochester, New York by the Neil Company.

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## QRZ DX

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*Bill Buchan, W2OMV*

The bands were heating up in November, as major dxpeditions were underway on Pratas Island BQ9P, FT5ZH on Amsterdam, XZ1N in Myanmar, VK9LX Lord Howe, V63 Micronesia by a YCCC group, XU1A Cambodia, 5V7A Togo, E30GA Eritrea, TY8A Benin, as well as the multi op contest groups heading to the Caribbean for the CQ WW CW contest. Plenty of dx available for everyone. Unfortunately, solar flares hampered propagation at times. The Pratas group was

especially difficult to hear or work. Conditions did improve in time for the CQ WW CW contest just concluded. 10 meters was wide open all day with no shortage of stations to work. I could not spend as much time with the contest as I wanted as our family Thanksgiving get-together was held on Saturday. I did get on Friday night, Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon for a few hours. No rare DX worked but a few good catches, 4L1UN, J45T, 5X1Z, 5V7A, 9H0A, D44BC, S6KR and 9G1TB were welcome multipliers.

The following information on upcoming DX operations is courtesy of OPDX and The 59(9) Report.

8Q7-- MALDIVES-- Look for Lee, G0ULN operating as 8Q7LE from Dec 22-- Jan 13, SSB on IOTA frequencies. No QSL route given, but try home call.

9M6-- EAST MALAYSIA-- Phil, G4JMB will be QRV from Kota Kimbalu as 9M6CT until Jan 16. QSL to G4JMB.

FT5Z-- AMSTERDAM ISLAND-- The FT5ZH operation started November 25 and is now in full swing. They are attracting big crowds on 14195 kHz, listening above 14200. They will be on the island until Dec 25. Hopefully the pileups will subside before then and us little guys will have a better shot at them. Some CW operation on 10 or 15 meters would also help. If you are one of the lucky ones, QSL's go to F6KDF.

KP1-- NAVASSA ISLAND-- The plans for a KP1 operation early next year are on hold awaiting approval from the Dept of the Interior of a landing permit.

VK9C-- COCOS KEELING-- Hide, JM1LJS will be QRV on Cocos Keeling Dec 26- Jan 2 as VK9CL. QSL via JM1LJS.

ZC-- PALASTINE-- A potential for a new entity exists if Palestine is granted an ITU callsign prefix block per the recent ITU conference in Milwaukee.

ZL9-- CAMPBELL ISLAND-- The ZL group is getting ready for a Jan 1 departure. They are taking an impressive amount of equipment, Yaesu transceivers, amplifiers, Four 5 kW diesel generators, one 2 kW gas generator. The antennas will be monoband beams, Gladiator verticals, 4 squares and wire loops. Stay will be until Jan 25. Call is ZL9CI.

Choice DX worked in November-- 40 m E30GA, TY8A, TA4/KU0J, 30 m TY8A, 17 m E30GA, 15 m

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TY8A, 5V7GM, VK9LX, 12 m 3DA0CA, D44BC, HC8N, T32IW, 3D2VA, V63HO, 10 m E30GA, E30HA, ET3BN, A25/W0YG, JY8YB, D68WU, 3B8FQ, 5V7RF.

QSL's Received-- A45XR 17 days, TT8JW (AB4ET 7 wks), YB3OSE (W7TSQ 3 mo.), 3V8BB(F6FNU 5 wks), N6MZ/KH9 (WA4YBV 7 mo.), TZ6DX (K4DX 5 wks), TU4FF (OH8SR 21 mo.), 3DA0CA(W4DR 9 days).

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## SS SSB

*Fred Gern, K2FR*

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I put in a mediocre effort this year but I did hear several club members in the fray. They were W2TZ, K2NNY (sweep & great score), K1PY, K2SKO, W2LC, AA2MU, K2ZQ, W2RW and W1TY (a sweep here too). Not too bad, but I thought I'd hear more than this. Where were you all?

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## Happy Camper

*Fred Gern, K2FR*

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After the forced six-month radio layoff I got my stuff in the air. The 40/80/160 sloper seems to be a mystery at the moment – it hates 40 & 80 but seems to work fair on 160; you figure it out. The big surprise is the Force 12 C3 antenna. After selling W1TY my TH7 I figured I'd never hear anything good again and probably not even work it. Well let's get to the disclaimer.

I am not employed by, have any financial interest in and am not related to anyone at Force 12. They make one hell of an antenna. It's on an 18-ft. boom and is very light. After looking at the figures on what my Rohn 45 will support, figuring the exposure possibilities to wind, the antenna went on an un-guyed tower. It's about 0.4 square feet over the 70 MPH limits of the tower. We are in a 70 MPH wind zone here. My property is surrounded on three sides by trees, cutting the wind exposure at a mere 40 feet to acceptable levels.

Well, I did CQWW SSB and did fairly well, considering I had no Q's on 40 & 80. BUT, in four weeks I managed to work 3 new ones in a week and a week later I worked the XZ1N station on CW & RTTY (working the XZ was important to me because my only other card for it was from the infamous RR guy, Romeo S. - one wonders if he was REALLY there!). The little antenna bagged the E3 operators easily, and then I managed to work the BQ9 on one call, CW, and the first morning they operated. Less than a week later an FO0 was on RTTY from the Australes, and thanks to the W1TY spot I nabbed my 3rd new one, bringing my worked total to 318. One really neat antenna (AF2K and W2RMM also use this product). Now if I could only get the FR/T before he leaves! And maybe for Xmas some stupid 9M2 will step into my sights!

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## National Electrical Code & You

*Fred Gern, K2FR*

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Here is what the National Electrical Code has to say about amateur radio stations. See if your station complies.

### Grounding:

Metal towers, masts, antenna supporting structures and all radio equipment must be grounded. The grounding conductor must be continuous and unspliced. It must be no smaller than #10 copper or #8 aluminum stranded or solid. No copper straps or coax braid are permissible. If possible it must run in a straight line, it must be securely fastened, it must be protected where exposed to damage, and it must be connected to an APPROVED electrode system by an APPROVED connector.

An approved electrode system consists of one or all of the following:

- A. A metal underground water pipe in direct contact with the earth and at least 10 feet in length.
- B. The metal frame of a building where the building is connected to a low impedance ground.

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C. A ground ring consisting of at least 20 feet of bare #2 copper encircling the building or structure and in direct contact with earth at a depth of 2-1/2 feet

D. Where any of the above grounds are not available a 5/8 X 8 foot copper rod or a 3/4 inch X 10 foot galvanized pipe may be used as the ground electrode.

NOTE THIS >>>> Each of the above electrode systems, if available, must be interconnected with #6 bare copper. Whatever electrode system is selected it MUST also be interconnected with the ELECTRICAL SERVICE ground by a #6 copper conductor. All inside conductors must be separated at least 4 inches from power conductors.

#### **Antennas:**

Antenna wire size must be #14 for spans of 150 feet and #10 for longer spans. Antenna wire must be hard-drawn copper or copper clad steel, insulated or uninsulated. No invisible antennas are permitted by code. Antennas and feeders must not be supported by utility power poles or any electrical service mast entering the home. Antennas must also be kept well away from power lines, and never pass under or over power lines.

Open wire feeders must be of the same construction and size as antenna wire with the exception of small spans of less than 35 feet, where soft-drawn copper may be used, (toss out that ladder line you purchased). Clearance from any structure must be 3 inches or more.

Entry into the ham shack must be made via an insulating bushing, drilled windowpane or an opening of such size to permit a clearance of at least 2 inches. A lightning arrester must also be installed on all open wire feeders, and conductors must be installed to make accidental contact difficult.

Coaxial feed lines have no restrictions other than being securely supported.

The bottom line is that the ARRL and their Handbook are sadly lacking in the information that every amateur operator needs to know.

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## **A Ham's Night Before Christmas**

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*Gary Pearce, KN4AQ*

(Yet another corruption of Clement Clarke Moore's classic Christmas tale, this time distorted by Gary Pearce KN4AQ, and the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC, December 2, 1996.)

Twas the night before Christmas,  
And all through two-meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,  
Took their HT's to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
by a signal with power.  
It smoked a small diode,  
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh, with an  
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver  
who looked slightly mean.

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So I thought for a moment,  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa  
The Santa of Hams.  
On a mission, this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late QSLs  
For a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth, till  
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Resoldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...  
(Never worked right before --  
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV,  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That would not compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box,  
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?!"  
(If he thought I'd been bad  
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those hours  
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,  
It was my call he sent,  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pile-up was big,  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final  
came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What a ham might expect,  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX."

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# Announcing the MUG Award!

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*Bob Hunter, NG2P*

## PURPOSE:

*The purpose of this incentive is to award a mug in a process similar to the ARRL Sweepstakes. Many operate that contest and only work the number of sections available. One Q per section times 79 sections. This award is similar. You don't have to put in a major score, only get in and have fun. Then if you qualify, you can receive the award.*

The contests this incentive applies to are:

**CQWW SSB, ARRL SS CW, ARRL SS SSB, CQWW CW, ARRL 160M CW, ARRL 10M, CQWW 160M CW, ARRL DX SSB, CQWW 160M SSB, ARRL DX CW, CQWW WPX SSB and CQWW WPX CW**

## GENERAL RULES

- A) To receive a mug members must meet the specific contest goals set forth later in these rules, in addition:
  - 1) Log must be submitted to the contest chairman **AND** the sponsoring organization in a timely manner (as specified by the contest chairman or the due date of the sponsoring organization).
  - 2) Logs must indicate RDXA for club competition.
  - 3) Only logs submitted by RDXA members are eligible.
  - 4) Members must cover the cost of the mug **including** shipping and handling.
  - 5) Rules of the sponsoring organization must be followed.
  - 6) This incentive does not distinguish between single operator, multi-operator, single transmitter, assisted or un-assisted.

- 7) **At least 2 contests from the above list must be entered to qualify.**

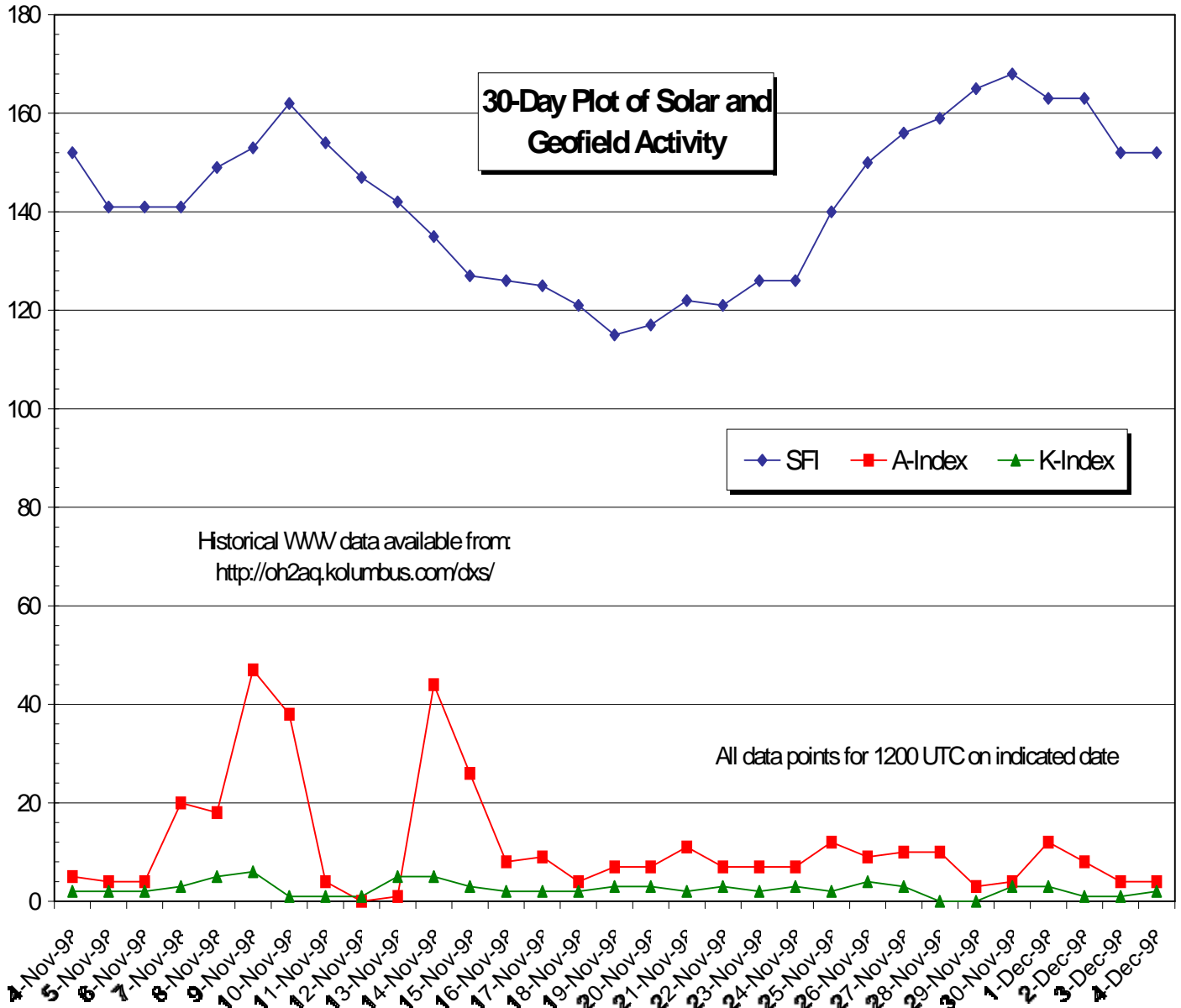
## SPECIFIC RULES:

- B) CQWWDX-CW/SSB
  1. Entrants must contact 50 different countries on a single band or 125 countries on multi-bands using one mode.
- C) ARRL DX CW/SSB
  1. Entrants must contact 50 different countries on a single band or 125 countries on multi-bands using one mode.
- D) WPX CW/SSB
  1. Entrants must contact 150 different prefixes on a single band or 300 prefixes on multi-bands using one mode.
- E) ARRL 10m Contest
  1. Entrants must contact 25 different countries, either mode or combination of either.
    - **This requirement may be modified accordingly to reflect solar activity.**
- F) ARRL 160m CW
  1. Entrants must contact 20 different states.
- G) CQ 160m CW/SSB
  1. Entrants must contact 20 different states.
- H) ARRL SS CW/SSB
  1. Entrants must get a clean sweep
- I) Mix and Match
  1. Entrants must make 1000 Q's in any combination of the above contests, any mode during one **club** contest year (September thru the following August). All logs for the individual contest must be submitted for credit as per the General Rules above.

April 17, 1998, modified (K2CS) December 3, 1998







I recall reading somewhere that keeping a log of the SFI, A & K indices would be useful. The thinking behind this seemed to be that the sun rotates on a 28-day period and therefore, knowing what happened 28 days in the past could prove useful for predicting the future. Not always, of course, but often enough to be useful. Interesting I thought, but I'm not always around to record the WWV broadcasts. Then I remembered that the OH2AQ web cluster provides an easy way to look up the last 1000 WWV spots. Viola! I just copied the spots for 1200 UTC each day and dropped them into an Excel spreadsheet. The result is the chart here. I'll keep it going throughout this year's run of newsletters and hope that folks find it useful.

73, Mike, N1OKL



"RDXA President Scott Hoag, K2ZS, receives 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award from ARRL Atlantic Division Assistant Director Ed Gable, K2MP" (Photo credit AA2FO)

To solidify its status as a strong and viable organization; it was 50 years ago that the young *Rochester DX Association* decided to become an ARRL affiliated club. That status continued for the next 50 years and the club still enjoys a reputation of being a thoroughly modern and effective organization. The RDXA is proud to support a packet cluster at NG2P, is proud to continuously place well in ARRL and CQ sponsored DX contests, is proud to financially support major DX'peditions, is proud to publish an excellent DX bulletin, and the list goes on. The ARRL is pleased to acknowledge the RDXA's 50 years of affiliation and wishes continued success for the future.

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## **Rochester DX Association Newsletter**

*This newsletter is a publication of the Rochester (NY) DX Association, and is published prior to each monthly meeting for the information of members and others interested in Amateur Radio DX and Contesting.*

*You are cordially invited to any meeting, held at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September through June. We meet in the "auditorium" of the Social Services Building at 111 Westfall Road in Rochester, New York*

### **Club officers and committees**

President	<i>Scott Hoag K2ZS</i>
Vice President	<i>Mike Rundle N1OKL</i>
Secretary-Treasurer	<i>Ed Gable K2MP</i>
Board of Directors	<i>Bob Hunter NG2P</i> <i>Rick Mintz W1TY</i> <i>Dave Wright N2CK</i>
DX Chairman	<i>Bill Buchan W2OMV</i>
Contest Chairman	<i>Chris Shalvoy, K2CS</i>
Newsletter Publisher	<i>Dave Wright N2CK</i>

### **Dues and correspondence**

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### **Rochester DX Association**

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**To:**