



**Rochester DX Association Newsletter**

**October '98**

Meeting  
Oct 20<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m.  
111 Westfall Road

**N2RD**  
**FP8 Dxpedition**  
**St. Pierre es**  
**Miquelon**

**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

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## **Congratulations!**

*Dave Wright, N2CK*

Welcome to new member **Paul, W3IEE**.

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## **Before I forget ...**

*Dave Wright, N2CK*

As I started work on this month's newsletter, I realized that I forgot something that needed to be in the Field Day Wrap up issue. And in the rush to produce the Sept. issue, I once again forgot to mention it. What I forgot, was to issue a resound THANK YOU to **Marv, K2ZAA** for the use of his generator at Field Day. What makes this significant is that Marv is NOT an RDXA member (yet), but volunteered his generator (and a nice Honda at that!) to a bunch of folks he barely knew. **Cliff, K2SKO** also deserves a THANK YOU for making a trip home at

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the last minute to get his generator! Thanks to both of you, for without your efforts, the RDXA effort could have been substantially diminished!

For those folks with net access out there, make sure you bookmark the RDXA website at “[www.frontiernet.net/~rmintz](http://www.frontiernet.net/~rmintz)”!

If you’re not doing anything on 31 Oct, look up **Rick, W1TY**. Rumor has it that he wants to elevate some aluminum. If you’ve ever wanted to drink some of Rick’s free beer, now’s your chance.

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Ed gave a running commentary, illustrating with cards from the actual periods, how callsigns and licensing progressed through the years, in both the U.S. and worldwide, until arriving at our current international callsign structure. And of course there was the ever-enlightening descriptive information that Ed does so well. When we ended at 9 or so, I for one, and I’m sure everyone else in attendance, was wishing for even more. Great job Ed!!!

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## You missed a good one...

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*Vic Gauvin, K1PY*

...if you weren’t at the September meeting. Mr. Mashed Potatoes, **Ed Gable K2MP**, in his inimitable and most enjoyable style, gave us an incredibly interesting trip through the early days of QSLing. And we mean EARLY! Like before callsigns! With actual cards!

Ed had slides of the earliest QSLs in radio (some of which he worked himself!) In truth, we’re not sure of the source, but some were worked by **Bruce Kelley W2ICE**, and others were likely from the AWA, of which Ed is now curator. Regardless, they were absolutely fascinating in the information they contained and the insights they gave to early radio. Rigs were described by the type of final tube at how much voltage! Receivers were not “name brands,” but types of circuits and number of tubes! And it took some TIME to fill in one of these things. Each one is a history unto itself.

## So don’t miss this one!

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*Vic Gauvin, K1PY*

Not many clubs have the benefit of having active members that personally go on DXpeditions. We are blessed with several, and this month one of our most recent DXpeditioners, **Raj Dewan N2RD**, will give us a first-hand account of his recent trip to **FP8-land, St. Pierre ET Miquelon**.

Raj was able to hook up with several others that were going to put this unusual French enclave in upper Canada on the air, and we’ll get to see and hear and hear about their most successful results. And Raj will be able to justifiably show off his DXpedition T-shirt! So don’t miss it!

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## Finally on the Air!

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*AC4W via Fred Gern, K2FR*

Well, I’m going for WAS on 40-Meter QRP CW, now that my outside wire is up and

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tuned well. We live on a tiny city lot, and with the permission of my neighbor behind me, on the block behind us, my 75 foot wire goes from the front of our property to the middle of his property, oriented SW/NE, fed at the NE end. The wire is not long enough to be too directional, so it works fine. A counterpoise in my attic, about 30 feet long, works real well, tuned up with my MFJ artificial ground.

DX? Yeah, G4BUE, F5LGE, and ON4AEK so far. Never did I think that the MFJ 9040 would work this well. I took a gamble, thinking that it would be just a toy.

I've got a new job, so instead of working till late, and working 40 Meter DX all night, now I wake up at 4:00am! So I'll have to go to bed even earlier, to wake up at 2:00am, in order to work DX on 40 with QRP!

73, Brian Ceroky, AC4W

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## Contest Calendar

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Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

|             |           |           |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| CQWW SSB    | 24-25 Oct | 0000-2400 |
| ARRL SS CW  | 7-9 Nov   | 2100-0300 |
| ARRL SS SSB | 21-23 Nov | 2100-0300 |
| CQWW CW     | 28-29 Nov | 0000-2400 |

*Ed. Note: Don't forget to submit those scores, no matter how "insignificant" they may seem. Also, make sure that after you submit them, let Chris know your score so you can compete amongst fellow club members for fun and bragging rights!*

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## The DX Chairman!

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Fred Gern, K2FR

Most everyone in the club has met Bill, W2OMV, our DX Chairman. BUT- did you know ABOUT Bill?

DXCC CW - 293 countries

" SSB - 267 countries

" MIXED - 310 countries

5 BAND DXCC WITH 17 Meters endorsement

80 Meters - 166 countries

40 Meters - 230 countries

10 Meters - 235 countries

Amplifier with about 350 watts output. A Butternut mini beam for the upper bands and 80 & 40 are done with a Butternut vertical

How about that!

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## Lightning Hits!

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Natan, W6XR/2

Hello all,

Been reading the thread on lightning hits and thought a few comments as to what works for me might be again appropriate. What follows is only what works for me, or maybe I am just incredibly lucky.

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The QTH here is on a hilltop and looks down on most everything. Two towers are installed along with a 160 vertical. Early this morning (Labor Day Weekend) fierce storm roared through, and after another direct hit on the Rohn tower and wind gusts that vibrated the house, my wife decided to QSY to the basement.

Foolishly I chose to stay in the second floor bedroom and check out THE WEATHER CHANNEL. No warnings, so decided to just go back to sleep. This morning another storm, and the Rohn tower takes another direct hit which is number four this year. Checked out the news and find out two fatalities were caused by a tornado type affair north of here.... guess Nancy was right about going to the basement. The wind was registered at 87 mph, so we did not get the worst of it.

Now, what is significant about all of this, is that after four direct hits this season, no damage at all. I consider this fact remarkable, or it may be just luck. Each tower and the 160 vertical have a minimum of four twelve foot ground rods at the base. All these rods are tied together with very large wire and then affixed securely to the towers at three places. A large bus cable, courtesy of the power company ties the towers and the vertical together. This bus wire then continues 300 feet to a wetland in the corner of the property. Every 15' along the length of the bus wire a 12' ground rod is placed and connected and follows until the end of the bus wire which is under water at this time.

The control wires and coax enter the house through a Polyphaser entrance panel, which is of course grounded. After four years and six known direct hits...no damage. Like I said, it does seem to work.

73, Natan W6XR/2

*Ed note: Natan is a former RDXA'er. Fred, K2FR found this on the tower reflector.*

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## QRZ DX

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*Bill Buchan, W2OMV*

The days are getting shorter, nights longer and cooler, QRN is subsiding and propagation is rapidly improving. Now is the time to get on the bands and work some of the DX available. The CQ WW contests coming up provide an excellent opportunity to add to your country and band mode totals. Major DXpeditions planned for later and next include PY0S, St Peter and Paul rocks in January; KP1, Navassa, date to be announced; FT5Z, Amsterdam Island in December' ZL9, Campbell Island in January. It promises to be a busy and rewarding winter. The following information is courtesy of OPDX and the 59(9) Report.

5W-- WESTERN SAMOA-- Gerard, PA3AXU will be active Oct 28-Nov 8 signing 5W0GD, all bands, CW, SSB and RTTY. Qsl to PA3AXU. He will be on Tonga Oct 21-27 signing A35XU.

8Q7-- MALDIVES-- group of DL's, oms and yls are planning to operate Oct 18-Nov 8, including activity in the CQ WW ssb contest. The OM's will sign 8Q7IO and the YL's 8Q7IQ, using 2 or 3 transmitters simultaneously .All QSL's go to DL7VRO.

FW-- FUTUNA ISLAND-- FW5XX is Marcel, ON5QM, QRV until mid November. He has been active recently on 15 meter SSB.

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FR/G-- GLORIOSO ISLAND-- Jacques, FR5ZU will be on Glorioso Oct 7-30. All bands, CW, SSB and RTTY. Look for him 0230-0430.0830-0900,1400-1600 and 1700-1800 UTC. QSLs go to JA8FCG.

E3-- ERITREA-- Jacky, F2CW/ZL3CW appeared on the bands Sept 29 signing E31AA. He has been on 14005 kHz in the evening, running barefoot with a TS50. Signals have been weak. Length of stay is unknown. If you are lucky, QSL goes to his New Zealand address: Jacky Calvo, P.O. box 593, Pukekohe, Auckland 1800 New Zealand.

A better chance of snagging an E3 contact will be Nov 3-18 when a group of 12 operators will be on 24 hours a day with 3 stations, 160-10 meters, CW, SSB, and RTTY. Call probably will be E31DX. QSL route will be announced later.

Eritrea ranks # 5 on the ARRL DXCC most wanted list. There has been very little activity from there since it was moved from the deleted list to active status in 1994.

HC--ECUADOR--Uwe, DL2YAK will be QRV Oct 25-Nov 22 as either HC5UK or

HC5/DL2YAK. Emphasis will be on the low bands including 160 meters. QSL to the home call.

S9-- SAO TOME-- Chris, HB9CYV and Martin, HB9CYN will operate from Sao Tome

Oct 26- Nov7 signing S92YV and S92YN on 80-10 meters, CW and SSB. QSL to their home calls.

ZK3-- TOKELAU-- Ron, ZL1AMO leaves New Zealand Oct 17 for a 3-4 week visit to ZK3. He hopes to use his 1995 call of ZK3RW. He prefers CW on the ends of the bands, but occasionally operates SSB and rtty..Qsl to ZL1AMO.

Choice dx worked in September-- 40 m HF0POL, 30 m HF0POL, 20 m S07WW, KC4AAA, 17 m HC8N, 15 m 3D2DX, HSoZAA, TZ6DX, TT8JW, ET3AA, 12 m ZL2UW, 5A1A, TA2BK, 10 m C91RF.

sl's received-- LU1ZC(LU6EF 7 mo), ZK1EHH(K8VIR 14 wks), 3V8BB(YT1AD 3 mo), CY9AA(VE9AA 14 mo), HS0ZAA(KM1R 1 wk), S08RIEA2JG 5 mo), TZ6DX(K4DX 10 days).

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## Award Presentations

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Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

*What a great year! Log submissions increased and overall point totals more than doubled. Just think what we can do with the bands this "season"!*

Below is a listing of yearly awards given to RDXA members who've shown outstanding ability during the "contest season". Scores are compiled beginning with CQWW SSB in October and ending with CQWW WPX in May.

### **1997-98 Barefoot Contester Award**

Awarded to the person submitting the highest combined low power scores for all club contests, both CW and SSB. No yagis allowed. 150 watt limit. This award is for the small station.

### **1997 Best First Time CQWW SSB**

### **1997 Best First Time CQWW CW**

### **1998 Best First Time ARRL DX SSB**

### **1998 Best First Time ARRL DX CW**

### **1997-98 Top Combined SSB Score**

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Includes the 1997 CQWW SSB and 1998 ARRL DX SSB.

### **1997-98 Top Combined SSB Score**

Includes the 1997 CQWW CW and 1998 ARRL DX CW.

### **1997-98 MEGA Point Award**

Given to any RDXA member who submits contest scores which total 1 million points or more for a single contest year. Only those contests in the club competition are eligible. Included are CQWW (SSB & CW), ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB & CW), ARRL DX (SSB & CW), CQWW WPX (SSB & CW), ARRL 10 & 160 meter contests and CQWW 160 meter (SSB & CW).

### **1997-98 Cumulative MEGA Point Award**

Given to any RDXA member who submits contest scores which total 1 million points or more. Points accumulate from year to year so that everyone can work for the award. Endorsements to the original award will be given for the highest milestones such as 5, 10 and 25 million points.

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## **How about one new one?**

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*Fred Gern, K2FR*

No, not an entity or country. I'm talking about one new convert to ham radio. Tell them the fun of talking to people all over the world WITHOUT a telephone and computer. And doing it in real voice mode, not 'type to you later, bud'. If that doesn't turn them on maybe they would like to learn a foreign language their friends don't know - Morse code. Or they

could bounce a signal off the moon if the local stuff is too easy.

Damn the public service "image" stuff - it's great but not what we need.

Ham radio is a HOBBY and IT IS FUN and that is what will bring new people to our pastime. Think about what you can say or do when someone says 'oh, you're a ham; my Uncle was one years ago'. We need to say more than 'oh, what was his call?'.

This would probably be an interesting topic at a meeting: how do we get the new guys, especially kids? We make lots of excuses why we don't get them, now lets take a more positive view.

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## **More Contesting tips**

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*Rob Hummel, WS1A*

*Ed note: This is reprinted without permission. I intend to inform Rob that I have used*

If you want to be competitive, you must be positive. Here are some suggestions.

1. Acquire as much knowledge as possible about the contest.

First, learn the rules of the contest. That means knowing the exchange and the scoring. It also means understanding what strategy you should use to maximize your score. Figure out how long should you chase a multiplier and how many Qs do you need to be competitive.

Figure out if a multiplier a 3-point qso is more valuable to you toward the end of

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the contest. Calculate how many mults you will need to be competitive.

## 2. Decide where to point your antenna and when.

You must understand how propagation affects your area. Read the propagation forecasts and make sure you understand them. Know where your greyline goes. Know when 40m opens and 20m closes. Keep an extra antenna and radio tuned to popular 10m frequencies (you know them because you researched, right?) to check for band openings.

## 3. Study the local competition.

Study the scores, multipliers, and prefixes worked by those in your area. Call them or write them and find out their strategies. (Of course, they may not want to tell you!) Ask for copies of their logs. Study where they pointed their antennas and when. Find out what bands they favored and why.

Anyone who beats you is in a position to teach you something. Instead of reviling them, study them. Don't forget the other end of the spectrum. Some of the most valuable lessons I've learned have come from low-power stations with wire antennas.

## 4. Know the field.

Study the contest results from the past 2-3 years. You must know the calls that were active. You must know if any special DX stations be on. You should know who you'll be listening for.

You must know the frequencies that JAs can use on 80m. You should know the 40m allocation world-wide. You should know where VKs will be on the low bands. Instead of figuring out why the contest is unfair, learn how to work it.

## 5. Improve your station.

Learn the truth about feedline matching, antenna loss, VSWR, directivity, and gain. That means read and study. That means experiment. That means cut and try.

Shrug off the myths embraced by the mediocre. Don't listen to people who tell you that 2:1 SWR is good enough because all the power goes somewhere eventually. Or that 9913 is lossless at HF. Or that a 1 dB difference in a signal is unnoticeable at either end. Or that connector loss is negligible. All those statements are lies. Find out why.

Work on your antennas. Nothing is perfect or stays that way. Put up new antennas. Try wires. Try loops. Try beverages. Try low-noise receive antennas. Try slopers. Try, try, try. All these antennas are relatively low-cost.

## 6. Learn your radio.

All (well, most) of those knobs on your radio have a purpose. Find out what they do. Read and study the manual. Do you know where the manual is?

If you can quickly set a split frequency, you might be the first to work a new station of 40m. If you learn how to use those 100+ memories efficiently, you can stack up big stations and throw your call in rapidly to 2, 5, or more stations simultaneously.

Get all your filters in place. Get a voice keyer. Learn your DSP. Get a better mike. Tweak the audio until it sounds crystal clear and with all the punch of a buzz saw cutting through aluminum. Remember that setting for the contest, then turn it back to mushy so the boys on 80m don't complain.

## 7. WORK the contest.

If you're going to work a contest, then, by God, WORK IT. A 48-hour contest runs

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for 48 hours. If you want to be competitive, you will run for 48 hours too. Hey, if you can't, then you can't. But then don't whine about not winning.

The single biggest weapon that a small pistol has is persistence. I've heard lectures from big guns where they advocate switching bands when your QSO rate drops below 60/hour. That's okay for a big gun, but here are some surprising statistics:

- \* At a rate of 60 Qs/hour, you would work 2,880 stations in a 48-hour contest.
- \* At 30/hour, you'd work 1,440 stations in a 48-hour contest.
- \* Even a rate of 15/hour (only one QSO every 4 minutes!), you'd still work 720 stations in 48 hours!

How many Qs did you work in the last contest? I've WON contests where I didn't make 720 total Qs.

Cherry pickers don't win. If you give up when the time between Qs stretches out to 4, 6, 10, or more minutes, you give up your competitiveness. A contestants' mettle is measured in the dead of night when calling CQ endlessly on a seemingly dead band or when tuning 20m or 40m or any other band straining to pull that next new station out of the noise. (Hint: This is where 1 dB or less makes all the difference in the world.)

## 8. Have fun.

Winning is fun. But so is competing. It's great fun being a part of an overall event that's larger than some petty self-centered concern about whether your QTH is "unfairly disadvantaged." If you want to have fun in a contest, find people who are having fun and do what they're doing. Don't be poisoned by the facile argument that a contest where everyone

isn't a winner is unfair and unfair is no fun.

Everything is fun if it involves amateur radio.

\* I love working SSB, CW, and RTTY contests -- although my skill in each mode varies widely.

\* I love domestic contests. I don't like the spate of non-SASE cards they generate, but I answer every one -- I will NOT be responsible for discouraging a ham for a few bucks.

\* I love DX contests. Every time I hear GW4BLE or ON4UN or EA7USA it's the same thrill.

\* Everytime someone remembers my call I light up like a little kid. Gosh, they remember me!

\* I love working the all-Bulgaria QSO party and being the only USA entry -- winning with 4 QSOs!

\* I highlight my name in every contest result that published. What a thrill! Any contest I miss I consider a failure. Every contest I make is a victory.

## Conclusion(s)

If you like contests or think you might, understand that there are hundreds and thousands of like-minded souls out there who want you to be the best you can be. We'll help, encourage, and congratulate you for every QSO you make and every log you submit. Every DX station is looking for you. Every QSL you get is a thank you.

Ignore the bitter, the miserable, and the perpetually dissatisfied. They're not your competition; they're QRM.

Rob Hummel (WS1A)

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## Club adopts good taste (?)

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Vic Gauvin, K1PY

Aha! That got ya didn't it! Well, I'm not sure myself about the accuracy of that headline, but I'm sure that's what a lot of the XYL's might say as a result of a little problem we've had with the **RDXA golf shirts**. I don't agree of course cuz I'm the one that got the "yellow thing" going from our early attempts at Field Day publicity. And it seemed like a good idea to continue the color scheme into other club items as well. So our first round of generic RDXA golf shirts (not Field Day related, just the club logo only) was yellow as well.

Now we learn that yellow is no longer available, at least from our vendor who's been giving us good deals up to now. Rather than jumping ship, we decided to go a little more mainstream and get something that might even go with more stuff. (But of course we all know that there's only one radio guy in a hundred that even heard of color coordinating *clothing!!*) Yes, can you believe it! People actually *do that!!!* So the next round of RDXA golf shirts will be (are you ready for this...?): Light gray, with a solid black logo. Sheesh, might even be tasteful. Might even be able to wear them "out" someplace other than a hamfest. Oh well, what're goin' to do. Sorry guys. Let me know if you're still interested. But I'll understand.

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## New Vanity Address

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Fred Gern, K2FR

Effective September 14, there's a new address at Mellon Bank for vanity call sign paper application filers who submit Form 610V and FCC Fee Remittance Form 159 with the vanity fee via the US Postal Service. The new address is: FCC Wireless Bureau Applications, POB 358130, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5130.

Electronic Form 610V Vanity Call Sign filers will continue to send Form 159 with the vanity fee to FCC Amateur Vanity, POB 358994, Pittsburgh PA 15251-5994.

The vanity call sign filing fee drops to \$13 for applications filed on or after September 14, 1998.

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## DX – English Translations

Dave Wright, N2CK

*Ed note: this was grabbed from the net quite a while ago. With the upcoming CQWW SSB contest, I thought it was appropriate to share with the club.*

*Originally written by Rob Hummel, WS1A.*

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Please move [up/down] a little.                  | Oh, there you are. We've been holding the frequency for you.   |
| (After you send your exchange)<br>"QSL, thanks!" | I didn't copy, but I think I already have your [state/prefix]. |
| QSL QRZ?   | Bet you can't guess my call!                                   |

| DX Station says:  | US Translation:   |
|---|---|
| The Whiskey-One something only, call again.   | Everyone call again.  |
| After struggling with poor conditions and many repeats, the DX station announces: "I got your call okay now." | Any resemblance between the entry in my log and your call is purely coincidental. |
| Is this frequency in use?   | Thanks for holding the frequency for me. You can QSY now.                         |
| CQ Contest  | Unless you're from Wyoming or Nevada, don't call.                                 |
| My power is 300W.   | How do you like my new parallel Alphas?   |
| Frequency is occupied!  | Oh, there you are. We've been holding the frequency for you.                      |

## Tower News

Fred Gern, K2FR

Yesterday (Oct. 3) I was lucky enough to again successfully impose on fellow RDXA members for a favor. This time we got the tower base hole filled with concrete and the base and first 10' section in the air.

Hopefully in 2 weeks (Oct. 17) the rest of the tower and some antennae will grace the air over the house. The tower is next to my garage and through the branches of a flowering dogwood! Hard for the neighbors to see the base!

Thanks to W2RW, AF2K, K8FC, K2ZS, NG2P and my son-in-law who now feels being a ham is too much work! P.S. Neat date and monogram in concrete compliments of AF2K.

Update 10/11 - New antenna is about 20% assembled. Boy does it look light and floppy compared to my old TH7 (it's a Force 12 C-3). Beta tested the remote coax switch I purchased at the hamfest (yes, I am slow). Sprung for new rotator

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to lower weight at top of tower and got the rotor end wired and tested. I'm actually making progress!

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Force 12 C-3D HF Yagi. Only used 6 months. \$300. Irv Goodman, AF2K, 671-4430

Butternut HF-6V Vertical, covers 80-10 minus 17 and 12M. Needs some repair. Dave Wright, N2CK, 392-3183

## Stuff for sale

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*Dave Wright, N2CK*



## Rochester DX Association Newsletter

October '98

### 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

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Rick Mintz W1TY

Dave Wright N2CK

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Bill Buchan W2OMV

Contest Chairman

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**To:**