



Meeting
Dec 21st
7:30 p.m.
111 Westfall Rd

At the December meeting Mike Rundle, N1OKL will display his homebrew, 6-band trap vertical. In portable operation from Nova Scotia this past summer, Mike worked 41 countries using 5 watts and this antenna. Come take a look.

Editor's Corner

Dave Wright, N2CK

Greetings everyone. We're about halfway through the contest season, so get those scores submitted.

I bought myself an early present, the NCJ collection on CD-ROM from the ARRL. I've just started looking through some of the issues, and it looks like lots of good articles. Now if I can get the newsletter done, I'll have more time for reading! Maybe I'll even learn something new.

Have you checked out the RDXA web site lately? Our President has been busy making improvements. You can now submit your scores directly on the web! Nice job Scott!

If you missed the last meeting, you missed a good one. **Rus, K2UA**, put on quite the presentation! Our meeting this month should be a good one as well. At a board meeting at **Mike, N1OKL's** QTH, we saw the home-brew antenna during the building phase. It's a very nice looking and well-constructed antenna. Suffice it to say, Mike's attention to detail is amazing!

Read your label!

Fred Gern, K2FR

Look at your mailing label. If, after your CALL it says **YOUR LAST ISSUE**, guess what?

This **IS** your last issue unless you pay your dues.

K2MP is the guy to pay (only \$15) or on Jan. 1, 2000 the mad deleting guy strikes.

Scott Bauer, W2LC Becomes WNY Section Manager!

Dave Wright, N2CK

Scott Bauer, currently Western New York Deputy Section Manager, will become Section Manager on January 1, 2000, completing the present term of Bill Thompson, W2MTA, who, after 20 years is retiring from the office. For new folks, Scott is a former RDXA board member and President and still an active member.

Scott moved to his present location in the Syracuse area a little over two years ago. Before that, in Rochester, he'd been restricted to a single ground-mounted vertical, but he'd never gone inactive.

Achieving the office of Section Manager was something Scott has always wanted to do. In fact, he actually ran against Bill Thompson when Bill first ran for Section Manager twenty years ago. Next year will be the second time he'll run for the office (now that's patience!).

Scott's first order of business upon taking up the Section Managership will be to

review and fill in any gaps that still exist in the volunteer offices of the Section ("unless Bill beats me to it!," Scott says). He looks forward to getting to know the entire volunteer corps in the next several months.

"I feel that this is my time to help Amateur Radio and the ARRL, and keep Amateur Radio going in the right direction. I believe that Amateur Radio and all of us Hams have a lot to look forward to. We can and need to do better, but I think Amateur Radio is going to do just fine."

Please welcome our future Section Manager, **Scott Bauer, W2LC!**

(source

<http://www.dreamscape.com/phaedrus/WNY/w2lc.html>)

DX 40 Years Ago – December 1959

Ed Gable, K2MP

This is an appropriate column to report on the passing of a great DX'er, Chod Harris, WB2CHO/VP2ML. It was about this time when Chod, then a Rochester resident, obtained his WB2 call and started his amateur career. He will be remembered as an ARRL HQ Staff person, heading the training department and writing an occasional DX article and then moving on to become CQ magazine's DX Editor. A prolific writer and DX advocate, Chod was ever eager to promote DX'ing. He later moved to California where he was active with the NCDXF. He succumbed to complications of a serious a heart attack just over a month ago.

Back in '59, band conditions were rapidly going from bad to worse and catching the better DX was becoming more

challenging. Twenty meters was the boss band. YA1IW was anxiously awaited to become active as VU4, VU5 and AC5. UR2BU related that the Zone 15 and Oblast 091, as shown on his QSL card, were not part of his return address and is slowing down delivery. Rare Nepal, 9N, has just become much more available with the arrival of Yanks working for Cook Electric company and the interest of King Mahendra, who somehow managed to get issued 9N1AA. After years of work and waiting, the first Korean Nationals were issued a club license as HL9TA and were allowed 50 watts on 40 through 10 meters. In case anyone is wondering, the top YL DX'er for the period was Maxine Willis, W6UHA, with 269 confirmed. Just in time for placing under the Christmas tree was a new product from the R.L. Drake Company. Their new receiver, the Drake 2-A, featured true selectable sideband selection and a funny method of tuning down to the kHz.... By using little marks on the tuning knob skirt. I wonder if that will catch on.

Breaking News

Fred Gern, K2FR

Dansville, NY. 11/22/99. The street formerly know as "Morse St." is going to be renamed "No Code St." Local citizens say they haven't a clue what that means

Extreme Antenna launching

From the ARRL Members site

Hams have their favorite ways to launch antennas into trees. They include slingshots, fishing gear, bow and arrow, and now 12-gauge shotgun--a method developed in Montana (*and maybe one of the few places where you might get away with it--Ed*). One of our correspondents tells of a ham in Big Sky Country who is into cartridge reloading. He's also a retired military weapons guy, so we can't recommend this approach as something to actually try. This is for your information only! We understand that this ham loads 12-gauge rounds in such a manner as to fire a fiberglass baton that pays out line from a fishing reel affixed to the shotgun's barrel. The usual "Don't try this at home" proscriptions apply, but it's said there is not a tree too tall to not serve as an antenna attachment point. Now, we also understand there's a ham in Virginia who uses a military grenade-launcher attachment for his M-1 to get his wires into the sky. But that's all we can say on that subject. Just listen for a big signal on the low bands

Contest Calendar

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

January, 2000

8-9 ARRL RTTY Roundup

22-24 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

28-30 CQWW 160m CW

February, 2000

19-20 ARRL DX Contest SSB

CQWW 160m SSB

Ed note – Bold indicates RDXA Club Competition.

Call complications

Fred Gern, K2FR

Did you ever wonder if:

- K2FR – was two fer what?
- K2MP – was really Empty?
- K9EEE – was really Tripoli?
- N2TWI – is really tweet?
- N2UM – could make up his mind?
- W1TY – really was?
- W2FE – like an ATM?
- W2FU – let's not go there!
- W2IC – Icabod of Sleepy Hollow?
- W2LB – 2 pounds of what?
- W2SAW – did he tell what he saw?
- W2EZ – is he or ain't he?
- W2TZ – is that like tizzy?

OR:

Is it St. N1CK?

XZ0A DXpedition

From the site www.dx-central.com

The Central Arizona DX Association takes great pleasure in announcing the first major DXpedition of the new millennium. Beginning on January 13, 2000, XZ0A will be active from Thatay Khun Island, off the

southernmost tip of the Union of Myanmar (XZ, Zone 26, Southeast Asia).

Located in the Andaman Sea at 09 57 N 98 32 E, this island location will have a total of eight stations running FT-1000MPs and Alpha amplifiers with full size antennas on all bands. Although the great majority of contacts will be made on 80 through 10-meters, there will also be dedicated stations, with specialized operators, for Top Band, RTTY and 6-meters. This will be the first ever XZ IOTA, and a brand new prefix. This DXpedition will run continuously through February 6, 2000.

The XZ0A DXpedition team will represent a wealth of operating experience from seven countries: England, Indonesia, Japan, México, Spain, Thailand, and the United States. As of yet, licensure is not possible for Myanmar nationals, but we are hopeful that this will change in the near future.

More complete details can be found at the DXpedition web site:
<http://getnet.com/~k7wx/myanmar.htm>.

QSL requests can be made directly, or via the appropriate bureau.

Direct QSLs: XZ0A QSL Request
c/o Bob Myers, W1XT
37875 North 10th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85086 USA

Bureau QSLs: Cards should be clearly marked: XZ0A via W1XT

This operation has been scheduled to coincide with a period of favorable propagation to Europe and North America on the low bands. On the XZ0A web site there is an area devoted to zone-by-zone propagation information, prepared by the propagation expert Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA. Just click over your QTH on the world map to see a chart of hour-by-hour band openings for your location.

Y2K DXpedition

Fred Gern, K2FR

An international group of hams is defying the media millennium predictions and have planned an expedition to bring in the New Year and the dreaded religious apocalypse.

Arrangements have been made to cover all contingencies that could arise. No gasoline generators will be used in case electricity becomes unusable at the witching hour. Instead five teams of race horses are being used to drive a treadmill which in turn will drive a generator (the generators are World War 1 surplus – no technology at all!) Hay and oats to feed the horses has been provided by Alpha and Hy-Gain (AKA MFJ). Shovels to clean up after the horses are being donated by the North California DX Foundation, who are also providing mulch bins to recycle the droppings.

Radios will be Spark Gap transmitters borrowed from the Antique Wireless Museum in Bloomfield, NY. Old TV sets will be used as receivers, since they are very broad banded and hear everything (they shouldn't).

Antennae will be made from wiring removed from houses built in the 1920's, avoiding any hi-tech copper problems. Rotation will not be a problem with omnidirectional antennae. The twinlead for feeding these wires will be made of the same antenna material described before.

Logging will be provided by a team of 4X operators using a train carload of rechargeable portable computer batteries that will arrive at the site fully charged.

The 4X team will use Chinese made computers, thereby eliminating any potential Christian religious failures.

One major problem to be solved is how to communicate with the Tech + contingent on 10 meters. A team of experts is developing a SSB module to be added to the Spark Gap transmitters for this purpose.

Where will this all happen, you ask? Why (or Y) of course in the remains of the German Democratic Republic, just West of the old Berlin Wall – don't you remember? The call will be Y2K, just like the old days.

QSL via the buro if the world still exists.

How's DX?

From the ARRL members site

VIETNAM, 3W. 3W6KM is usually active on 20 meter SSB between 1600 and 1800z. QSL via ES1AKM.

MAURITANIA, 5T. Eight members of the International Amateur Radio Volunteers are building a net for emergency medical assistance and are QRV December 13 to 20 as 5T5U, especially on the newer bands, 29260 kHz FM and on 6 meters. They have a beacon on 50.115 MHz. QSL via JA1UT.

GHANA, 9G. Zdeno, OK2ZW, is active as 9G5ZW for three years. QSL via OM3LZ.

ANGOLA, D2. D2/EA1BF is usually QRV around 1100z below 21200 kHz. QSL to home call.

MARTINIQUE, FM. Ralph, K2PF, and Steve, KU9C, will be QRV as FM5DN in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Before and

after the contest they will sign FM5DN or FM/K2PF. QSL FM5DN via KU9C. QSL FM/K2PF to home call.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. Dave, AG8L, and Mike, KC8NJA, are active from the Windwood contest station until December 15. AG8L will be QRV as WP2Z as a Single-Op entry in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. KC8NJA will be active on 10 meters SSB before and after the contest. QSL KP2/AG8L and KP2/KC8NJA via NN6C. QSL WP2Z via KU9C.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Look for OH0Z to be a Multi/Single entry in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. QSL via OH1EH.

SYRIA, YK. Omar, SYRIA, is usually QRV near 1828 kHz just before his sunrise.

VKØLD - Macquarie Is.

Fred Gern, K2FR

For about the next year in a place many need. Most operation will be CW!

Web site: www.geocities.com/vk0ld/1.html
Check it out: here are some samples.

Lots of operation info:

This is **NOT** a Dxpedition. I'm living & working here - amateur radio happens to be a hobby. If you really need Macquarie Island for your DXCC or some other award, I will do my best to accommodate you, but don't expect miracles !! I'm used working pile-ups from various DX locations (VP8, A4, P2, 9V, V8 etc) but please **do not call me if you already have Macquarie confirmed** - give the other guys a chance. I tend to switch off if pile-ups get too crazy.

Here is an example of the kind of detail you'll find on this site: **Sunday 05 & Monday 06 December NO OPERATION Saturday 04** Tx: 14.003MHz Rx: 14.008 MHz I am using a 250Hz IF filter **1200z - 1300z CW USA/ VE/ Sth. America/ Africa Vertical** *This means if you are a JA, HL or European, then pse do not call me !!!!*

Sounds like a REAL operator to me.

QSL Via the Buro

Fred Gern, K2FR

This is the message sent by the DX station when worked by someone. Most old hams have no problem with this, but maybe some new members need the information and the "oldies" can always check the prices, which ALWAYS change!

The scoop is the ARRL runs the Outgoing Buro (Bureau) and there are a few rules that you must pay attention to. It works by using bulk shipments overseas to the QSL buro of the receiving country. So this is what you need to know:

1. You **MUST** be an ARRL member. Proof of membership must be sent with the cards (the address label from QST is fine). Also acceptable is a copy of your membership card or the information from the label on a piece of paper.
2. The price is \$6 per pound or part of a pound of cards. Depending on the paper that is about 150 cards.
3. You can send up to 10 cards for \$1 or 11 to 20 for \$2 and 21 to 30 for \$3.
4. Check or money order is fine, cash is NOT recommended.
5. Remember there are SOME countries that the buro DOES NOT send to.

The process is somewhat slow, but unless you have an excess of cash or are in some super-duper hurry this is the way to go. The exceptions are:

1. MOST DXpeditions will need to go directly to the designated manager.
2. Very rare countries usually need to be sent direct with IRC's or Green Stamps. (IRC's can be purchased at the Post Office or from some QSL managers, Green Stamps are available from your local bank – they are U.S. dollars)

When you first start working DX you will be susceptible to the panic that comes from working all that fine DX and not having the card in your hand in minutes (a computer age syndrome). ALL contest contacts go via the buro. You may also fall prey to stations in common countries telling you to QSL direct. You do NOT QSL direct to most of Europe, Russia, Japan, Australia or New Zealand. If in doubt ask one of the "old" Dxers! They will also tell you that DX IS!

Currently I am receiving cards from the ARRL and WPX contest last March. If you are a slow person like me don't be surprised to find out you have accumulated 4 or 5 pounds of cards to be sent out. It's frightening!

Does Santa live in Iran?

Fred Gern, K2FR

Several weeks ago I sent a card out for country #322. It went to Iran and the rumors have it that much of the mail there is pilfered and does not reach the intended recipients and that the station I worked was having many problems. Then this AM I decided it was time to

check my seldom-used Juno e-mail account. This is what I received:

Dear Fred

Salam

*Checking my records I noticed that we had a qso on June 9, 1999 and I asked for your mailing address by email for sending you a qsl card. My record does not show the results. While it could be my bad record keeping, **I would appreciate if you let me know if you have received a card from me, if not, please let me have your mailing address and I will send one.** I have not received your card, but then I do not know if you have sent one. Quite a **few letters mailed to my P.O. box address have failed to arrive recently.** If you decide to send a card please use my home address:*

36 Hayamanesh, Dabestan St.

Resalat Hiway, 16316

Tehran, IRAN

Best Regards

Abdollah Sadjadian, EP2FM

The next day in answer to my reply:

Dear Fred

Salam

*Thanks for the prompt reply. **QSL card for you in the mail now. Would appreciate if you inform me of its receipt.***

Best Regards

Abdollah, EP2FM

How about that????????????????????

Ed note: Fred got his card on the 11th.

A little humor

Rick Mintz, W1TY

Go placidly amid the noise and QRM and remember what peace there may be in a dead band. As far as possible without losing contest points, be on good terms with all ops, even that guy on 75M with the 5KW amp. Speak your truth quietly and clearly: don't trip the ALC light; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story, especially the guy on the local repeater who is always there.

Avoid loud & aggressive persons, they are vexations to 75-meters. If you compare yourself with others you will become a contender; for always there will be greater and lesser ops than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans, like that half-built thing, you don't know what it is, it's been in the basement so long.

Keep interested in ham radio, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing solar cycle. Exercise caution in sticking your fingers inside your equipment; for the world is full of voltage. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high QSL-rates; and everywhere life is full of 599 contacts.

Be yourself: use your own callsign. Especially, do not give inflated signal

reports. Neither be cynical about voice-keyers; for in the face of all aridity & disenchantment it is foolproof as CW.

Take kindly the counsel of the OM, gracefully surrendering the rigs of youth. Nurture strength of guy-wires to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with un-grounded towers. Many fears are born of loose connections. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with your gear.

You are a child of the ARRL, no less than H.P. Maxim and Dr. Yagi. You have a right to your 3 KHz. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the bands are opening as they should. Therefore be at peace with the ionosphere, whatever you perceive it to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of ham radio keep peace with your key.

With all its sham, drudgery & broken dreams, it is still a beautiful hobby. Be careful. Strive to be DXCC.

Upcoming Hamfest

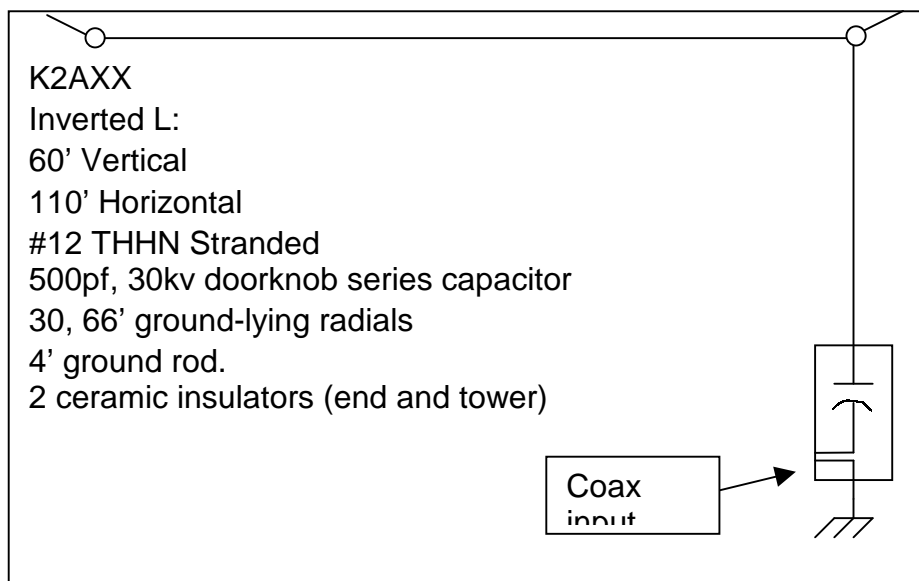
Dave Wright, N2CK

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring a hamfest on Feb. 20th at the Leonard Post VFW hall, located at 2450 Walden Ave, Cheektowaga. Talk in freq. Is 147.255+.

Building a simple transmitting antenna for 160 meters – that really works!

Mark Hoffman, K2AXX (ex-KA2RDO)

This fall, I put up a 64' tower for my VHF and above stuff. HOWEVER – being the contradiction that I am – I decided to decorate it with a wire antenna for my other love, 160. I wanted something resonant, with reasonable bandwidth (2:1 SWR B/W of about 50KHz) and above all, simple. Talking with K2UA, he pointed me towards the venerable Inverted L (he has one that barks, too!). In analyzing the design, there's NOT much to it. Here's how it looks:



This setup gives 2:1 SWR B/W of about 60KHz (1.800 – 1.860). At 1.823, it is 1.12:1.

Recommendations:

- 1) Buy THHN wire from Home Depot or Lowes. You can get #12 stranded, 500' roll, for about \$20. This wire is decent, jacketed, and seems to hold up pretty well. So cheap, in fact, that if it breaks – replace it. Don't repair it. The broken ANTENNA makes great RADIALS!
- 2) Start off with more wire. I began at about 180', and trimmed to about 170' for resonance at 1.823. Don't short yourself! You might find that the lower to the ground you get – the more wire you'll need to achieve the resonance in the band. For instance – if you have only 30' vertical, you MAY NEED up to 190' of wire to start. Make certain you borrow an antenna analyzer – makes tweaking so much easier!
- 3) Use Ground buss bars to connect radials. These things are cheap in any electrical shop, and make a really good common ground point. No more copper pipe and flame. Radials can be just about any wire you can find – doesn't matter. If you can elevate the radials – do that too. Just need 4 133' radials for that. . . and 4 tall end supports.
- 4) You don't need a 30kv cap – you can get by with an air-variable if you're adventurous. Just make certain it is in series with the antenna wire. If you want to design your own remote-tuning network – there are a number of articles on doing just this. Put it in a cheap Radio Shack plastic project box, use a ceramic feedthrough to connect the wire. Seal it from the wx, but DO drill some weep holes. Nothing like a water-cooled series cap. . .

You could certainly use this as a primary antenna – however the downfall of using this antenna is NOISE. It hears noise better than anything else you could want. Static crashes of S9+ are not uncommon, and any thunderstorm within 500 miles is fair game, too. That's why most folks also use a separate, wave receiving antenna (Beverage, EWE, Terminated Loops) I've had fun installing this thing – and hope this helps get you a big signal on 160!

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>
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DX Chairman	<i>Chris Shalvoy K2CS</i>
Contest Chairman	<i>Chris Shalvoy, K2CS</i>
Newsletter Publisher	<i>Dave Wright N2CK</i>

Dues and correspondence

*Ed Gable K2MP
Secretary-Treasurer RDXA
187 Lighthouse Road
Hilton, NY 14468*

The RDXA website has moved and is located at: www.qsl.net/rdx
Check it out.



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Rochester DX Association

Dave Wright N2CK
173 South Ave
Hilton, NY 14468

To: