



Meeting
Feb 16th
7:30 p.m.
111 Westfall Road

TiCK Keyers!

Brad Mitchell, WB6YGG, and Gary Diana, N2JGU will overview the TiCK and other products of their own design. (TiCK is: Tiny CMOS Keyer). The program will include product descriptions, demonstrations, and construction tips.

Join us for a behind-the-scenes look at these innovative and fun-to-build accessories for QRPers and CW ops.

The RDXA Web site is located at:
www.frontiernet.net/~rmintz

Save the date!

*The RDXA Banquet is April 17th
and will be held at Rick's Prime Rib!*

President's Soapbox

Scott Hoag, K2ZS

Hello everyone and I hope your winter is going well. I know I can live with 8 or 9 days of bad weather a season. If you believe in folklore, the Hedgehog says we will have an early spring. What could be better!

I have to say that last month's program seemed to be a big success, and we should all thank Mike for coming up with such a great idea. I would like to see more of that type of group participation in our meetings. It was amazing to see how many people brought in coax as a subject. We all seemed to learn from other's past experiences. This month's program should be even better. The gang from Embedded Research is going to give a presentation on some of their products. I will be most interested in looking at their TIC Keyer. I need a compact keyer for my portable station this summer.

I hope you all had a chance to work the ZL9, it seemed like a very well run

operation. I was checking their log on the Internet and saw a lot of RDXA'ers there. I didn't seem to have much luck until the initial rush was over, but I did log them 8 times in their last 2 weeks. I think they are the last station I have logged in a while though, I am now a full-time student at MCC, and can't seem to find any free time for radio anymore. This too shall pass, Hi.

73's and gud Dxing Scott, K2ZS

Editor's Corner

Dave Wright, N2CK

Hello all. I guess I'm the only one in the club who did NOT work the ZL9 – guess I need to get the packet up and running! I did hear them one evening, but they couldn't hear me! Oh well, guess I'll have to wait for the next visit.

Save the date of April 17th for the RDXA banquet. If you are interested in attending, make sure you get in touch with **Ed, K2MP** with your money. It's \$18 a person and the menu choices are as follows: Chicken French, Orange Roughy, and of course, Prime Rib. Please indicate how many will be attending and your dinner choice(s).

As the Embedded Research folks are presenting the February program, I figured I'd pass along their web site URL. It's www.frontiernet.net/~embres/. Stop by and check out their site. Nice to see the local folks doing well.

Welcome New Members

Fred Gern, K2FR

Welcome back to two members. **Karl, N2KKB**, finally renewed his membership (after being deleted by the vicious data keeper) and to **Bill, K2TER** (former KA2CKI), who rejoined after a year absence. RDXA is glad you are a member again.

ARLD005 New DXCC Entity Added

Ed Gable, K2MP

The International Telecommunication Union, in its Operational Bulletin No. 685 of February 1, 1999, has allocated the callsign prefix E4 for use by Palestine. This is in accordance with the Resolution PLEN/3 of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1998.

Under the current DXCC List Criteria, Section 1, this callsign allocation meets the requirement of paragraph b.

Palestine will be added to the DXCC List effective October 1, 1999.

Contacts made with E4 stations after February 1, 1999 will count for this new entity.

Under the DXCC rules, contacts with the deleted entity of Palestine made prior to June 30, 1968 do not count for this entity.

There is no commonality of territory or administration.

Ed note – I received this information from Ed, Rick, W1TY and Fred, K2FR. Ed gets the credit because he was first into my mailbox – though Rick was right behind him.

If a file looks interesting it can be read using:

TY/ANTENNA <filename>

Others can upload any files that are of general interest in these areas for access. If you don't want to do it, get the file to me via E-Mail to be uploaded: k2fr@juno.com

Contest Calendar

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

ARRL DX CW 00:00-24:00 20-21 Feb
CQWW 160M SSB 22:00–16:00 26-28 Feb
ARRL DX SSB 00:00 – 24:00 6-7 Mar

CLUSTER ADDITIONS

Fred Gern, K2FR

This past week NG2P and I have made some additions to the information available on the 'Cluster. We now have directories to hold information on RFI, QSLs, Tower and Antenna.

What will be put in there is general information that will be available to users of the NG2P PacketCluster.

These join the Contest and Recipes directories already in place. In case you haven't used it, the Recipes one contains many files that have been taste tested.

You can look at the content of the directories with the command:

SH/RECIPE or SH/ANTENNA etc.

DX 40 Years Ago – February 1959

Ed Gable, K2MP

Still rare Macquarie Island is QRV for about a year as VK0CC by VK4CC. He promises AM, SSB and CW operations. Fletcher's Ice Island, KG1DT (Ex KF3AA and T3) is a fun catch and a nice collectible QSL, but no good for DXCC, sez ARRL's chief DXCC guy Bob Newkirk, W9BRD. The problem is that it keeps moving... sometimes as much as 300 miles! It's now passing well North of Point Barrow. In what is probably the longest case of pirate operation, W6SAI reported that all operations from 3A2AF, from 1951 to 1958, are invalid. Now here's a contest worth jumping into. To celebrate the Bermudan Tercentenary, the Radio Society of Bermuda is offering a prize of an all paid week's stay for two in VP9 land. Air fare is included. For you VHF DX'ers, at this time there were a total of 62 WAS certificates on 50 MHZ. No 50 MHZ DXCC, yet. The New Jersey DX association celebrated its first anniversary. Danny continues to move about on *Yasme II*, this time going to VP2MX and VP2KFA (Anguilla). Forgetting for a moment this is a 40 year article, know that 50 years ago this month Norfolk and The Vatican, became DXCC

countries. New to the Honor Role was W5ADZ with 279 mixed, while top of the Honor Role was W1FH with 290. W6AM was 2nd with 288. An item that became very popular with DX'ers and other tower owners, was the announcement by Rohn of what they called a fold over tower. Also new and very impacting was the announcement of a new receiver by Collins. It was the 75S-1 and would be known forever more as a member of the *Collins S-line!*

QRZ DX

Bill Buchan, W2OMV

Congratulations go to the ZL9CI dxpedition crew for a most successful operation. They were mostly loud, always on their announced frequencies; splits were kept to a minimum and operators fast and efficient. They were available on all bands and modes, often simultaneously. Over 93000 contacts were logged, exceeding the previous dxpedition record of 80673 set by the Heard Island VK0IR group. ZL9 was not the only good DX available in January.

Tuvalu T20, Micronesia V63, Banaba T33 and FO0 Marquesas were logged by many. FO0AWI and FO0XUU will move to the Australs in February. Coming up in February is the ARRL CW DX contest. This is an excellent opportunity to add new band or mode countries to your log. The following information is courtesy of OPDX and the 59(9) Report.

Pacific Tour-- Members of the Czech OKDX Foundation will return to the Pacific after last year's trip to 3D2, 5W and ZK1. This time they will be on Fiji as 3D2TN Feb 25 to 28, in Western Kiribati

to sign T30RD March 1-8. Next stop will be either T31 Central Kiribati or Banaba T33 with calls of either T31RD or T33RD. They will back track to T30RD April 1-8 and to Fiji April 9. They are bringing beams and amplifiers with a Titanex vertical and Beverages for the low bands. QSLs go to the OKDXF.

C21-- NAURU-- This semi-rare Pacific island will be visited Feb 27 - March 7 by well known dxers G3SXW and G3ZEM. Roger, G3SXW will use C21SX and Bob, G3ZEM will sign C21ZM. They will have beams and amplifiers. Don't look for them on SSB, they prefer CW. QSL to their home calls.

EL-- LIBERIA-- Mark, ON4WW has been active as EL2WW lately. He expects to be there for several months. Activity from EL has been scarce for last several years due to the political unrest and fighting in this West African country. QSL via ON5NT.

FW-- WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS-- Cedric, HB9FN will sign FW5FN Feb 23— March 8, operating mostly CW. QSL via HB9HFN. Call book address is incorrect, use C. Baechler, Mettetlet 26, ch-1763 Granges-- Paccot, Switzerland

KG4--GUANTANAMO BAY-- Operators W4ZYT as KG4ZK, W4SD as KG4SD and NW3K as KG4NW will be in Guantanamo for the ARRL CW DX Contest Feb 16-22. They will be active before the contest with their KG4 calls, during the contest they will use KG4DZ. QSL to their home calls, but KG4DZ cards go to W4SD.

KH4-- MIDWAY ISLAND-- Simon, IV3NVN will operate from Midway as KH4/IV3NVN Feb 21- March 3 using SSB and CW. QSL to home call.

V7-- MARSHALL ISLANDS-- Tom, N4XP (ex AL7EL) will be active from here in late

Feb to early March as N4XP/V7.
Emphasis will be on the low bands. QSL
to N4XP.

VK9Y-- COCOS- KEELING ISLAND--
Charlie, W0YG and George, W8UVZ will
be on CoCoas-Keeling Feb 13-- 20
signing VK9YY, after their stop on
Christmas Island as VK9XX Feb 6-13.
They will operate mostly 160, 80 meters
and the WARC bands. QSL both calls to
W0YG, but use separate envelopes for
each call.

VQ9-- CHAGOS-- VK9DX is Ron, AA5DX
on Diego Garcia for 4 months. QSL to
AA5DX. VQ9QM is Dale, W4QM also on
Diego Garcia. QSL via W4QM.

QSL's received in January--DS5RNM 5
wks, 9M2AX 4 mo., D44BC 4 wks,
ET3BN 5 wks, V63AO 5 wks, TY8A (1
mo.), 5V7ZM(G3ZEM 5 wks), HC8N
(AA5BT 2 mo.)

Choice DX worked in January---40 m--
ZL9CI, 30 m-- ZL9CI, 20 m 3W5FM,
FO0SIL--17 m ZL9CI, FO0SIL, EL2WW,
FO0XUU--15 m ZL9CI, V63KU, 12 m
ZL9CI, PZ1AP, XQ0Y, V51HK, --10 m
ZL9CI, T20FW, FO0AWI, T33VU.

Propagation prediction using beacons

Mike Rundle, N1OKL

One of the most enduring laws of DX
states that there are two reasons for an
apparently dead band: (1) propagation is
poor, or (2) no one is transmitting. The
NCDXF beacon network addresses the
second possibility by insuring that reliable
signals are always on the air, from fixed
locations, worldwide. Status of the

network is available at:
<http://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/beaconSchedule.htm> .

My first experience with the network was
a few years back when I read an article
describing the system. I was trying to nail
my first real DX award; the IARU Worked
All Continents certificate. I mean, how
hard could it be...only 6 confirmed QSOs
were needed. But I had no contacts with
Africa.

One snowy Saturday morning, I headed
down to the shack with my
coffee...determined to snag an AF QSO. I
fired up the rig and checked the beacon
frequency for 20m. No South Africa. I
watched it off-and-on throughout the day,
and by noon local time, I could just make
out ZS6DN. As the signal built a bit more
in the early afternoon, I called CQ AF and
amazingly enough, a ham in one of the
west coast countries came back after only
a few calls. That made a believer out of
me on the spot.

In the years since, I have found that by
monitoring the network on the band of
interest, a very reliable prediction of an
opening to a particular location will often
be revealed when the band is apparently
dead. I have also created a form, which
can be used to record the results of
monitoring.

By plotting the results in a simple
spreadsheet, one can develop a pretty
clear picture of when various band
openings occur at any given location. A
blank of this form is printed in this month's
Bulletin.

Sometimes when I am puttering around
the shack or shop, I will leave the rig
tuned to one of the beacon frequencies. It
is interesting to hear the various beacons
appear and disappear with the swings in
propagation. In fact, I have noticed that

once you get a feel for the propagation swings, it is possible to predict the time of day with reasonable accuracy by which beacon(s) are audible...sort of the reverse of using plots of audible beacons to predict propagation.

A couple of simple software tools can also make monitoring the network a bit easier. The best beacon monitoring software I have found is AB Wizard from KU5S. This is a FREE Windows program. Download it from:

<http://www.wtrt.net/~ku5s/Comments.htm>
. When the program is running, it displays a world map with the locations and callsigns of the beacons. At the time each beacon is scheduled to transmit, its callsign on the map changes from black to red. This happens based on the clock in your PC. So obviously, it pays to have your clock set accurately. To facilitate this, AB Wizard also includes a set clock function. Just click on the "Get Time" button and the program will connect with one of the Internet timeservers in its list and synchronize your PC's clock with the correct time. (If you use a dial-up connection to access the Internet, clicking this button will call up your dialer.)

But I'm a lazy guy and I wanted my PC to do the work of correcting its clock...unattended. So I hunted around the internet and found "SocketWatch".

This Windows program is not free, but it only costs \$10. However, you can download a free, fully functional trial version. Save of selected options is not supported unless you register. And this is the whole point of SocketWatch. If you put a shortcut to SocketWatch in your Startup folder, each time you boot your PC, SocketWatch dials your internet connection and polls a list of time servers to synchronize your PC's clock. What's really useful is that, at after the initial boot time check, the program will recheck and

correct the time at any user-specified interval. This happens completely in the background. It's kind of neat to be sitting at the rig, working some DX station, or watching the Cluster and hear the modem connect and know that your PC's clock is being automatically synchronized with the atomic clock in Boulder. Check out SocketWatch at:

http://www.locutuscodeware.com/product_s.htm . (Hint: you will need to turn off all automatic power management functions in the Windows Control Panel in order for SocketWatch to function automatically. Otherwise, if you leave the PC on and unattended, Windows will power down portions of the system and SocketWatch will think the system is turned off.)

For those of you who want to get really exotic with PC time-synchronization, check out:

<http://www.kaska.demon.co.uk/>. Here you will find another shareware time sync program, which works similarly to SocketWatch...but without the automatic dial-up function. However, Tardis has the added benefit of being able to work with the Kallisto GPS card to synchronize your PC's clock using signals from the GPS satellite constellation. This is a short, ISA-format plug in card for the PC. It provides a Rockwell 12-channel Jupiter GPS receiver and various other features. The Tardis program is designed to interface with this card (and/or Internet time servers) and sync your PC's clock to the GPS time signals at regular intervals. (I confess...if I had an available slot in my PC, I would have this up and running instead of SocketWatch.)

Good monitoring and good DX!

New ARRL Contest E-MAIL Addresses

Fred Gern, K2FR

ARRL has set up distinct e-mail addresses for contest logs, rather than a single address for all. The full story is on the "Members Only" web site. Below are the new addresses as copied from there.

10GHZ@arrl.org 10 GHz and Up
Contest 10Meter@arrl.org 10 Meter
Contest 160Meter@arrl.org 160 Meter
Contest
AugustUHF@arrl.org August UHF
Contest
DXCW@arrl.org ARRL International
DX CW Contest
DXPhone@arrl.org ARRL
International DX Phone Contest
EMECcontest@arrl.org International
EME Contest
Fieldday@arrl.org Field Day
IARUHF@arrl.org IARU HF World
Championships
JanuaryVHF@arrl.org January VHF
Sweepstakes
JuneVHF@arrl.org June VHF QSO
Party
RTTYRU@arrl.org RTTY Round-up
SeptemberVHF@arrl.org September
VHF QSO Party
CWSS@arrl.org November
Sweepstakes CW Contest
SSPhone@arrl.org November
Sweepstakes Phone Contest
Straightkey@arrl.org Straight Key Night!

No RDXA E-MAIL?

Fred Gern, K2FR

We have 53 names (out of 74 members) who have E-Mail addresses.

Occasionally messages of interest to RDXA members are sent to this list. If you have NOT been receiving any of these and have E-Mail please notify me.

Upcoming Hamfests

Dave Wright, N2CK

The Greater Buffalo " Winter " Hamfest & Computer Show Feb. 28, 1999 If interested check out hamgate1.sunyerie.edu/~larc/greaterbuffalowinterhamfest.htm for details

Drumlins Thirteenth Annual Hamfest in Newark will be on Saturday, March 27th from 7:00 AM – till. Contact wa2sok@redsuspenders.com for additional details.

Free to good home(s)

Dave Wright, N2CK

I have a quantity of ethernet coax. I believe it's 50 ohm. It's double shielded (braid, foil, braid, and foil), and is not really UV resistant. Depending upon demand, I'll dispense it in ~100' sections.

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>
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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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