



Rochester DX Association Newsletter

January '99

Meeting
Jan 19th
7:30 p.m.

111 Westfall Road

Tips, Hints and Kinks Night!

Bring along and be prepared to talk about (10 minutes or so) your favorite Contest and DX tips and hints. Bring along examples of your special tip. If you've got something written up, get it to N2CK for submission in the Feb. newsletter!

**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

Hello everyone and Happy New Years, I hope you all had a great holiday season. Boy, I am looking out at about 12 - 14 inches of snow cover in my yard, looks like old man winter is making up for years past. I'm sorry now that I took down my temporary 160m antenna, doesn't look like an easy thing to put back up for CQWW160 at the end of this month.

As **Bill (W2OMV)** reported, there has been a lot of good DX these past months. I hope you all got a chance to work the ZL9. Unlike some of the other operations we have heard lately, these guys know what they were doing. With everyone trying work them, it makes it a little easier to get the other guys.

Our Vice President, **Mike (N1OKL)** is doing a great job with programs this year. This months' program should be an interesting one, but its success depends on your participation. We need all of you to bring in something that you have invented or made to help out around the shack. I know many of you have home built QRP and other equipment, now is the chance to show your talent. I am looking around my desk here and see at least two things that I will bring. They don't have to be pretty, or ready to patent and put on the shelf, just

anything that makes life a little easier for you in the shack.

Well, that's it. Hope to see you this month.

Editor's Corner

Dave Wright, N2CK

Greetings all. Hope you had a good holiday season. I enjoyed some quality time with family. I kept myself busy over the holiday by constructing a shelf so that I can integrate a computer in the shack for logging and packet purposes. Now all I need to find is a monitor (14" color SVGA – anybody got an extra?).

Overheard on the VHF FM broadcast band, none other than our own **Paul, K2FX** doing the traffic report! We should see if we can set him up with some kind of VHF link so we can give/receive real-time traffic reports! What a service we could provide to the greater Rochester community!

Enough of my blathering, on with the newsletter. **Rus, K2UA** provided an excellent commentary on the WS1A contesting tips article in the October newsletter. I think you'll find it to be interesting reading. So, we'll see you at the meeting and don't forget to submit those scores to Chris!

Welcome New Members

Fred Gern, K2FR

Welcome **Barbara, KB2YHE**, and **Jed, KB2WVR**, new family members of RDXA.

They just completed installation of a log periodic & tower.

Ed note – From what I've heard, their station consists of quite the VHF antenna farm. Maybe we can drag Jed aside and give a talk on what it's like to coordinate such an installation!

Amateur Radio Legacy: Warren Ash, AK2H

Rus Healy, K2UA

Every one of us has memories of a few people who were especially significant to us in our early days of Amateur Radio. For me, one such person was Warren, AK2H.

Warren was first licensed in the mid 1950s, but the priorities of a young family and a demanding job distracted him from ham radio for more than a decade. He let his license lapse. In 1978, when Warren's interest was rekindled, he took all three CW exams and all five written exams in one sitting, before the FCC. He aced them all and walked out an Extra Class licensee.

Warren had a modest station. He ran an ICOM 751 to a center-fed flat-top that was fed with open-wire line. With this modest and neat-as-a-pin setup, Warren worked all USA counties on CW, and for an encore, worked 5-Band DXCC on CW--running 100 watts--and did it by working the same 100 countries on all five bands. This self-imposed restriction was a small insight into Warren's high standards, and his goal-oriented nature. I vividly remember Warren chasing Jacky, 3B8CF, on 80 meters, for one of his last countries. If you think about the implications of this effort, it is truly impressive.

Once he had achieved these lofty goals, Warren rewarded himself with a 50-foot tower and a KT-34XA. He was a crack CW operator, and also enjoyed RTTY. When I first met Warren in 1982, at a meeting of the Overlook Mountain Amateur Radio Club in Kingston, New York, I was a very eager, but very green, 16-year-old who had been licensed less than a year. Warren's examples in operating, conducting the weekly DX net on the local repeater, and his willingness to give guidance, correction and advice to me as I climbed the steep learning curve of the DX and contest game, was tremendously valuable and inspiring to me. I spent many hours with Warren, chatting on the air and visiting his shack, where I tried to absorb as much as I could of his techniques and approach to the hobby of CW DXing.

These times were very enjoyable to me and, I think, to Warren as well. He had an eager pupil and was a patient teacher. When I graduated from high school, Warren and his wife, Georgia, gave me an engraved Cross pen and pencil set that I still use daily. This is one of the things I cherish from that time in my life.

There is no question that Warren influenced my choice of careers, which started out with seven years at ARRL headquarters as a QST technical editor and a book editor. He also influenced my ardent pursuit of Amateur Radio. Although I don't chase DX QSL cards anymore, preferring instead to operate contests (and simply answer the cards that come in), Warren's operating and practices live on in my memory as a prime example of the truly classy DXer.

Last week, when I got back from a business trip to Brazil, among the Christmas cards we had received was one from Georgia, with a note. She explained that Warren had passed away this year, less than a month shy of his 68th birthday. While I was in high school, Warren had a multiple bypass operation and retired a little early from IBM, which gave him a chance to chase DX and enjoy life more than a working man might. But he never quit smoking. The news of his death was an incredible blow to me.

I hadn't seen Warren in a few years, but we always exchanged cards at Christmas and I think of him often. He will always mean a great deal to me. I wish I had had the chance to say a proper farewell.

We all know that we'll miss our friends when they're gone, but we never know just how much we'll *really* miss them until it happens. Warren, had I had the chance, I'd have said 73 to you myself. Instead, I promise that I will remember and reteach those many great lessons you taught me, and what our friendship will always mean to me. RIP, my friend.

Contest Calendar

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

CQWW 160M CW 29-31 Jan 2200-1600
ARRL DX SSB 20-21 Feb 0000-2400

Stealth Tower Design

Fred Gern, K2FR

OK, here's the deal. I'm willing to forgo the enormous profits that could be made by this idea because I feel it is too important to Amateur Radio to be rationed out for mere profit. I propose that ALL hams erecting a tower, with or without a permit do the following: Construct 3 vertical dipole antennae with associated stand-off brackets. These probably should be made of PVC pipe. Mount these near the top of your tower. Since these antennae will be modeled after cellular tower transmitting ones the following will happen:

1. NO ONE will complain about your tower - they will assume that it belongs to TPC (The Phone Company for those not familiar with the phrase).
2. They will keep their children, dog and cats indoors to prevent them from getting cancer because of the 'radio waves'. Cellular phone sales and use will double in your area and as more people walk around the supermarket grinning, smiling, and talking on their phones the amount of problems we receive for phone RFI on 40 meters will almost disappear. And some irresponsible guy will probably invest \$50 in materials and thousands in advertising and sell them on some shopping channel for \$49.95 plus shipping and handling.

Canadian QSL Manager?

Fred Gern, K2FR

For those sending SASEs to Canadians or VE managers, please note that Canadian postal rates have increased with the New Year. New rates are as follows:

Within Canada, up to 30 grams: \$.46 (formerly \$.45)
To the USA, up to 30 grams: \$.55 (formerly \$.52) All other countries, up to 20 (sic) grams: \$.95 (formerly \$.90).

DX 40 Years Ago – January 1959

Ed Gable, K2MP

The New Year starts remembering 1958 as a year of 'round the clock long-haul skip conditions and an inexhaustible supply of rare and exciting DX. ZL3DX (Cathams) did a nice study of phone versus CW contacts coming from the yanks and found 43% were on SSB, 33% were using CW and a still high 24% were using AM phone. Old French Guinea became the new Republic of Guinea and FF8AC found himself in the rarified air of sole operator in a new country. The rules for the 4th WAE contest were announced and this year it was to be a CW only event for the first time. A new 20-meter phone rig for ZL1ABC put the Kermadecs on the air and added a check mark to many a DXCC tally sheet. The 1959 ARRL DXCC country list had 308 countries. Sampling the first 100 on the list, AC3 through KB6, you will find 21 no longer exist. The CR4 – CR10 and FA – FU8 prefixes are quite noteworthy in that regard. The entire list has 50 to 60 countries, which are deleted today. So what is a rare country? According to Jeff, K0OD, CR8 Damao & Diu Islands, FI8 French Indo-China and FN8 French India make the list. CR8 was activated only once by W6ODD who made 50 contacts in 1954. However, DXCC credit wasn't given until 1960 and only 18 current DXCC members have credit for it. a perfect example of WFWL. FN8 is credited to only 91 lucky people. Others have claimed that Wrangle Island is rarest as no contacts were ever made for this UA0 spot. Not so, claim others who proudly point to Wrangle cards hanging on their walls. This writer also has a Wrangle Island card.... a SWL card sent to me by what must have been a very bored Russian scientist who got tired of counting Sea Lions and decided to send SWL cards to New York Hams with weak signals! In a full-page advertisement, Central Electronics, manufacturer of the first successful line of amateur SSB equipment, announced that they were now a wholly owned subsidiary of Zenith Radio Corporation. Zenith evidently didn't take to the amateur market and CE quietly disappeared soon after.

QRZ DX

Bill Buchan, W2OMV

The DX highlights for December were the ARRL 10-meter contest and the Amsterdam Island dxpedition of FT5ZH. The 10-meter contest was drastically improved over last year, reflecting the improved propagation from the rising solar flux levels of cycle 23. The band was crowded with European stations during the morning hours, but afternoons were mostly west coast with a sprinkling of South Americans and Caribbean stations. Nothing rare was heard or worked, but some of the better multipliers worked were ZL, KH6, KL7, A45, RW2, EU, CE, and CX.

The Amsterdam Island dxpedition by two French operators amazed me with the frequent strong signals from such a remote location. The early pileups were huge, mostly SSB on 14195 kHz. After several weeks of calling I finally put them in the log on 10, 15 and 20 meters. SSB. They obviously preferred SSB, and the few times I heard them decently on CW, they soon either went QRT or switched to SSB or RTTY. On CW they used a very large split and it became very difficult to predict where were listening.

By the time you read this the ZL9CI Campbell Island operation will be in full swing. Make every effort to contact them, as it may be your last chance for a QSO. The New Zealand Department of Conservation is restricting future access to the island. Good luck with this one and see you in the pileups. The following information is courtesy of the 59(9) Report.

5W-- WESTERN SAMOA-- 5W1AS is Sakuma, JI3WLT until March 1. QSL to JH7OHF.

A3-- TONGA-- Lee, 3D2VA is now QRV from Tonga as A35VR until at least Feb 1. QSL via WA2NHA.

CP-- BOLIVIA-- Claus, DJ8UG is QRV at least until year 2000 as CP4BT, mostly CW. QSL via DL9OT.

H40-- Temotu Islands-- DL2GAC and DK9FN will be active from Pigeon Island in the Temotu's until April. Call may be H44MS or possibly an H40 call. No information given on possible frequencies or

modes of operation. QSL to DL2GAC via the Bureau.

LZ0-- SOUTH SHETLANDS-- LZ0A is Dan, LZ1UU on Livingston Island until the end of February, operating mostly cw.10-40 meters. QSL to LZ1KDP.

ZL9CI-- CAMPBELL ISLAND-- The ZL operators plan to be active from about Jan 10 to Jan 25. they have good equipment and experience from the Kermadec ZL8 operation and should provide good signals on the normal DX frequencies. All modes will be used. The announced QSL route is Kermadec DX Association, P.O. Box 56099, Tawa, New Zealand.

Choice DX worked in December-- 75 m OX3SA, 30m 3D2DK, 20 m FT5ZH, TL5A. V63KU, JT1CO, JT1BG, HS1RU, CN8NK, 15 m FT5ZH, 12 m 3D2DK, ZD8T, 10 m FT5ZH, V63AO.

QSL's received-- 5A1A direct 9wks, TJ2RSF(EA3URE 7wks), AP2JZB(K2EWB 2mo), 3E1DX(N0JT 2 mo), 3D2VA(WA2NHA 5 wks), 5V7RF(GM3YTS 12 days), 7X4AN 4 mo, S07WW(ON5NT 4 mo), 5X1T(ON5NT 10 wks).

Your Club

Fred Gern, K2FR

At an earlier meeting I brought up the subject of slow growth in our hobby and even apparent reduction in the number of Dxers and Contesters. We have been sitting on our duffs whimpering about how 'The Internet' the evil force behind this problem while Internet Companies actively seek out new users. I guess hams have always been able to find the people that were interested in the hobby and have them come on board.

Well, surprise, surprise. We are NOT doing very well and yet we continue to sit around complaining about it. As a group hams are a very interesting composite of all the things we complain about in politics and crime. Let's all get together over a beer and decide that 'THEY' had better do something about 'IT'. Let's fight and bitch and moan about CW and how it makes 'GOOD' operators. Let's write letters to national magazines and complain about the 'IDIOTS' on nets, in contests, working DX or rag chewing. It always

does a hobby good to air out its dirty laundry in public. Laugh and giggle over the guy you know who runs 2500 watts to rag chew or win a contest. Mock your neighbors for complaining about their phone going south while you're on 40 meters. Give those who would take our frequencies or prevent the erection of towers as much ammunition as possible. The ARRL has reduced services to DXers and Contesters and has added new fees to our awards. Piss and moan about the ARRL and what it does when you are NOT a member.

The NRA and many of its members have become the worst enemy private ownership of firearms has. Hams have become our enemies too. Don't like No Codes? Get them interested in DXing or Weak Signal VHF/UHF and I'll bet that most will learn CW. Tired of the idiots on the local repeater? Bite the bullet and try talking about what YOU like to them- don't cut off the conversation as soon as possible. Have a tower up without a permit in a town that requires it? Don't brag about it, keep it a secret. Light up your neighbors TV or stereo? Don't tell them it's their problem without at least trying to be nice and checking things out.

We need to attract and cultivate DXers and Contesters for RDXA. For years we have sent 3 months of our Newsletter to prospective members. It works! This year we tried a more aggressive approach to the members who left the club as of Jan. 1st. Four of them paid their dues and are still members. We have 72 members as of 1/10/99. It wasn't that long ago we had about 12 members and couldn't keep most of them! Do you know someone interested in our activities?

Invite them to a meeting. Ask them to come to Field Day. Tell me to add them to the mailing list. Promote DXing and Contesting - they are really fun things to do. Invite friends, scouts whatever to come see what we do. Bring someone into your shack and try to tell them about the fun of ham radio - not the tests you took and how hard it was to learn CW.

If the rules for a license are changed and you don't like them, complaining will NOT help our club or our hobby. Do what religious missionaries do - CONVERT THEM!

WS1A's Contesting Tips Revisited

Rus Healy, K2UA

Back in the October issue, our editor picked up an inspiring article by Rob Hummel, WS1A that contained a number of interesting points to ponder about contesting. Although I find Rob generally on the mark in his assessments, I feel differently about some of the subjects he discussed. I think it's valuable to share differing opinions, so here goes.

Point number 3, "Study the local competition," is a good idea. You may find people resistant to sharing ideas with you that would give away their operating strategy—arguably their biggest secrets. I would encourage you to not just study, but *get to know* your competition. Talk to them at club meetings. Ask your club's program manager to invite them to do a program. Or, go to their local club meetings and say hello. Conversation invariably leads toward your mutual shared interest: contesting! Find out whether they prefer operating DX or domestic events, or both, and whether they're on the air a lot between contests or not. These are telling points that will allow you to learn a lot about your competition. And you'll probably make friends with them, too. To me, this is one of the coolest things about our hobby.

WS1A's Point 5, "Improve your station," is a huge one. It's incredibly important for making bigger scores. Rob says:

"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 these statements are lies."

I strongly disagree with that last one. These statements aren't lies—at least one of them is completely true, and the others are only

sometimes true. They need to be qualified in various ways. Let's take them one at a time.

- 1) "Don't listen to people who tell you that 2:1 SWR is good enough because all the power goes somewhere eventually." Simply put, a 2:1 SWR may be plenty good enough. If your feed line is short, or the frequency is low (both of these are relative), a 2:1 SWR is just fine as long as your rig likes it well enough to deliver full power into this load. But it's not because "all the power goes somewhere eventually"; it's because reflected power causes *mismatch loss*, which is a function of feed line type, length, frequency, and impedance mismatch. How can you tell whether there's a problem? Use N6BV's TLA program, which comes with *The ARRL Antenna Book* and is on the ARRL Web site (<http://www.arrl.org>). Play with some real examples from your station to get a feel for how it works.

Where a 2:1 SWR is too high is where you have an RG-213 or smaller feed line, say, over 200 feet long, at frequencies above 14 MHz. Understand too that, assuming that your feed line, antenna and radio all have the same design impedance, the SWR at your antenna is *always* higher than what the rig sees. This is also a function of the matched feed-line loss (the published number) and the actual mismatch. If you have a 250-foot run of RG-58, and you're running an antenna with a 3:1 SWR, the SWR your rig sees will be *well* below 2:1, but you'll still have a very big problem with the system. Consider that those of us who also play on the microwave bands sometimes use a piece of coax as a dummy load! A 100-foot hunk of RG-58 has so much loss at 1 GHz that it makes a fine 50-ohm dummy load—as long as you don't run enough power to melt the dielectric!

A 2:1 SWR is also too high if your rig cuts back its output power and you don't have an efficient antenna tuner to make the rig happy.

- 2) "Don't listen to people who tell you that 9913 is lossless at HF." Actually, short lengths of 9913 are basically lossless—but what you consider a short length depends entirely on frequency. Rob's point is that 9913 is not hardline. My problem with this cable is reliability. The center conductor of 9913 is #9.5 soft-drawn solid copper that work-hardens with regular handling and flexing. This causes it to elongate, damaging connectors. Also, 9913 has a lot of air inside it, so it will, if left

outdoors over time, collect water inside. This is never good! But the stuff is fine for portable and temporary operation as long as you're aware of its limitations. The bottom line, however, is that no matter what feed line you use, you must know its characteristics (matched loss, in particular) to decide whether it's right for your particular application. Generally, bigger is better. Some years ago, someone in YCCC (I think it was K1ZM) pointed out that changing your tribander's feed line from RG-213 to hardline makes the antenna act almost like monobanders. This is a definite edge over your feed-line-challenged competition.

- 3) *"Don't listen to people who tell you that a 1 dB difference in a signal is unnoticeable at either end."* This, too, needs qualification. Recall that 1 dB is the smallest increment in audio levels that the human ear can detect. Where a 1-dB difference in signal strength is important is on the high bands (anywhere over 21 MHz, and especially as you get up into the VHF/UHF/microwave spectrum), when the bands are dead or very quiet. In this case, there's no question that a 1-dB difference is *the* difference between copying a signal and hearing nothing but receiver noise. However, on the lower bands, it's interference (and you and your rig's ability to reject it) and atmospheric noise that rule your ability to copy and be copied; practically speaking, it's not *ever* receiver sensitivity. Of course, this doesn't mean that it's not worth working for that last decibel of antenna gain—it means that you need to understand where it matters most and where it's better to trade off some gain for a better front-to-back ratio as you design your antenna farm.
- 4) *"Don't listen to people who tell you that connector loss is negligible."* This is the one that doesn't need much qualification. It's not true. Connector loss *is* negligible unless the connectors were put on by someone who didn't do a good job of it, or unless the connections have degraded because of other factors. If connector loss weren't negligible, then think about how much heat would be dissipated in a connector. Most of us use 30-W or larger soldering irons for various tasks. You know how hot they get. Imagine this much heat in roughly the same area—say, a UHF barrel connector and the two PL-259s plugged into it. This would certainly melt the dielectric (in cheap connectors) and reflow the solder in almost any connector. Now, guess how much

power is lost in a 1.5-kW system if 30 W of heat is dissipated in a connector: it's 0.088 dB. Yes, *less than one tenth of one decibel*, but a tremendous amount of heat. This amount of loss *certainly* negligible from a signal strength standpoint, unless we're talking about an EME system. Most of us have many connectors in our systems, and we don't see these sorts of failures happening. Ever. Therefore, I suggest that the loss of a typical connector pair is on the order of 0.005 dB or 2 W in a 1.5-kW system. This is, absolutely, negligible. All that said, you should definitely do your best job of installing connectors and weatherproofing them, for the sake of system reliability. We put too much effort into all this to let one lousy connection steal a contest from us.

Before we get too far off track, I want to remind you that I think WS1A's article has most things right on the money. Rob goes on to make a lot of great points about antennas and experimenting with them. He is absolutely right: Try different things. There's an amazing amount you can do with wires and some patience. (This is a key point about erecting wire antennas!) You will not be disappointed at the work you invest in learning what works best at your location.

Rob makes a point about operating that I think is a matter of perspective. He says, "Any contest I miss I consider a failure. Every contest I make is a victory." Although I certainly agree with the latter point, I don't think missing a contest is a failure. Radio contesting is a hobby, and therefore it needs to be approached with the right attitude. For most others, and me, family comes first. This limits how many contests we can do. I don't care that I miss WPX, many of the foreign special-interest contests, and any RTTY contest. I do care if I miss ARRL DX CW, CQWW CW, SS CW, the North American QSO Parties, and the ARRL VHF contests. So I try to make things happen that will allow me to do full efforts in them without alienating my family. Not operating some contests is not a failure—it's a trade-off that I gladly make to get the most enjoyment I can from radio contesting while balancing my hobby with the other priorities in my life. And by all means, I'll work you in a contest other than those I'm doing hard-core—whenever I can steal a few minutes during the baby's nap, late in the evening or early in the morning!

I hope you've found these tidbits useful and that you can use Rob's good advice to improve your contest station, your mental preparation, and your understanding of what to focus on as you're

getting ready for the next contest you're looking forward to operating. WS1A's closing statement is definitely worth repeating here: "Ignore the bitter, the miserable and the perpetually dissatisfied. They're not your competition; they're QRM." See you on the bands!

First Time RTTY Contesting

Tim Strong, KG2NO

For those of you that do not know me, I have been licensed since the spring of 1996 and an RDXA member since the fall of 1997. I first got interested in contesting when I attended the RDXA Field Day event in 1997 as a Technician working the Novice/Tech station. Since then, my interest in contesting and DX'ing has grown and I enjoy participating in these activities as time allows.

I started my contesting in 1998 by taking part in the CQ World Wide SSB and ARRL 10 Meter contests. On January 2-3, 1999, I participated in the ARRL RTTY Roundup contest. This past contest was a feat since I did not have any RTTY capabilities as of December 31, 1998!

On January 1, 1999, I downloaded a program call "Blaster Teletype" (BTL) written by Robert Glassey, G0VTQ. Information on BTL may be found at the following URL: <http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Heights/4477>. BTL is a DOS based program that uses a computer's soundcard to modulate and demodulate RTTY signals. I drove the soundcard (line-in on the computer) by using the audio out port on the back of my transceiver. The headphones jack on the computer was connected to the AFSK port on the transceiver. This, I believe, is the simplest setup for BTL. There are other configurations that are explained in the BTL documents, but I needed to get on RTTY the quickest and cheapest way possible, as the contest was to start the following day.

After all the connections were made, I turned on the computer and radio and started BTL. Wow! Look at all the garbage coming to the screen! So, where are the RTTY calling frequencies? With the help of [The ARRL Operating Manual](#), I managed to see some words coming to the screen. Cool!

Here was KL7IFP chatting with W5VW. It sounds like, er, uh, it looks like they are getting ready for the RTTY contest. I watch them for a while until family responsibilities call me away from the radio, maybe I'll hear them during the contest.

I finally managed to find time to test my transmission when the kids were down napping, two hours into the contest. The first call I tuned in was K7BG in Montana. I waited for the "QRZ" and then pressed the function keys that send their call followed by my call. He heard me! After he sent his exchange, I quickly pressed the function key that I have programmed with my exchange. He came back with "QSL", so I log the time and his exchange in my log. My first RTTY contact has been logged!

I continued working the contest throughout the weekend as time permitted. I operated for a total of about 9 hours. I made 62 contacts including 27 states, 2 Canadian provinces, and 8 countries for a whopping score of 2,294 points! Watch out W1TY, you've got some competition!

I found RTTY to be a neat mode of operation. It reminded me of the chat programs used on the internet, but I had to keep reminding myself that what I was reading on the screen was coming via radio waves. For those of you who have not tried RTTY before, I urge you to give it a try. BTL and other programs similar to it make it fairly easy and inexpensive to get on a new mode. Try it, who knows, maybe you'll like it!

1999 RTTY Roundup

Rick Mintz, W1TY

RYRYRYRY - Well it's over since last night. I won't start bothering people about RTTY for at least 2-3 weeks. What a great contest. Participation seemed up from last year and the bands were better overall, but 10 meters was flaky. Only had two problems. A minor computer crash, fixed in 2 minutes. And having VK & VP8 (S. Shetland) calling me at the same time... all while beaming Europe. The WF1B RTTY software is the only way to go. Next year will have the rig talking to the software so I won't forget band changes anymore, even at 2:00 am.

My personal goal was (1) to pass 1000 Q's and (2) have my third top ten finish. The first was done and the second takes waiting until August (!) QST for the postings. Even with the better bands, my 31% score increase from last year gives me hope.

Was nice to see some of the locals participate. Although still groggy from the 24-hour effort, and New Years at Turning Stone, I remember K2ZS, N2WK, N1OKL, K1PY, and KG2NO working the faithful. Nice to see N2WK back in the TTY fold. Hope he considers this a 'playtime' contest! The boss rewarded my efforts with contest room service, pizza, pecan pie, etc. Thanks Rhonda.

I have a RTTY Contest schedule for 1999. If anyone wants it let me know, by any mode, except CW.

73 & NHY de W1TY 599 NY K

Winter Hamfest

Via Don Vlack, K2DV

The Greater Buffalo " Winter " Hamfest & Computer Show Feb. 28 , 1999

Leonard VFW Post, Walden Ave. Cheektowaga, New York

Sponsored by : Lancaster Amateur Radio Club

Sellers reserve your tables now...only \$5 each use the link below
<http://hamgate1.sunyerie.edu/~larc/greaterbuffalo/winterhamfest.htm>

Doors open at 8 AM ..

Stuff For Sale

Dave Wright, N2CK

FOR SALE: FROM N2WK - (PLUS SHIPPING ON ALL ITEMS)

ASTRON PS (35A) - \$75.00

ASTRON PS (35M) - \$85.00

TS-830S W/VFO-230/STACKED FT FILTERS (good IF rig) SSB/CW, MODIFIED FOR EASY XVERT HOOKUP \$600.00 includes SP-230 EX SPEAKER + MC-50

TS-830S W/VFO-240/500Hz CW FILTER (good IF rig) MODIFIED FOR EASY XVERT HOOKUP \$550.00 includes SP-230 EX SPEAKER +MC-50

TS-430S W/FM BOARD, 1.8 SSB, 250hz CW (good IF/rover rig) FILTERS, MODIFIED FOR EASY XVERT HOOKUP \$500.00 INCLUDES MC-50 DESK MIC

TEN-TEC ARGONAUT II 535 W/MOBILE MT/STEP ATTENUATOR \$750.00

TEN-TEC PS 12V FOR ABOVE \$30.00

DENTRON MT-3000A ANT TUNER 2KW W/BUILT IN FRD/REF WATT METERS, COAX \$150.00 SWITCH, 4:1 BALUN AND 200 WATT DL

TEKTRONIX 491 SPECTRUM ANALYZER 10Mhz TO 0Ghz This is a small/light compact unit comes W/WAVEGUIDE ADAPTERS \$800.00

Poor Man's Spectrum Analyzer/Tracking Gen assembled Boards, case, manual \$75.00

MILLIVAC VOLT METER (.001 TO 3 Volts) w/probe \$95.00

8877 (GOOD PULL) 1.5KW OUT ON 2M \$195.00

GE 6146B NEW IN BOX \$15.00

GE 12BY7A NEW IN BOX \$9.00

VOICE KEYER (One 16-sec message) in box \$30.00 works good, w/repeat delay, hook to 3 rigs

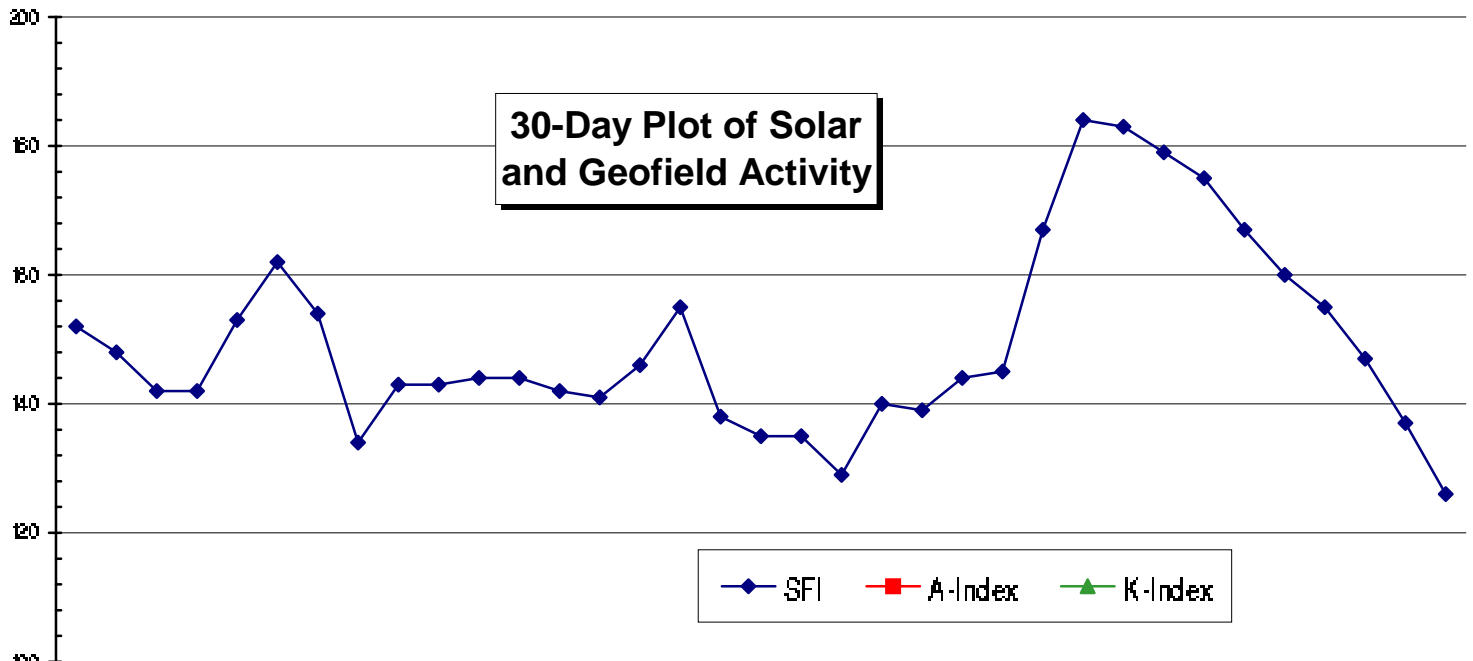
286 Computer w/keyboard/Monitor/HD/2 FLOP good for packet and multiop network \$95.00

MICRONTA AJUST DUAL TRACK PS (0-20V-1.5A) good for relays and microwave sources \$65.00

ALPHA DELTA-2 COAX SWITCH \$30.00

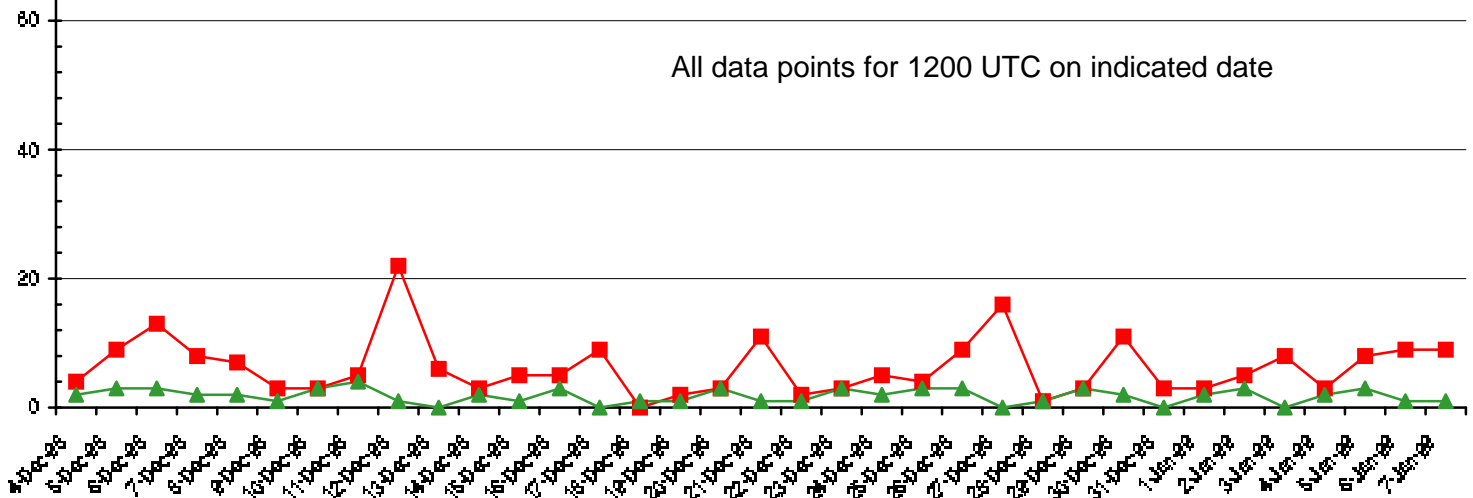
ALPHA DELTA-4 COAX SWITCH \$50.00

Contact N2WK at wfking@worldnet.att.net r (716) 638-8556 (calls monitored so please talk after message)



Historical WWV data available from:
<http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/>

All data points for 1200 UTC on indicated date



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

1A0.....S.M.O.Malta....57 ()					
1S.....Spratly....348 ()					
3A.....Monaco....57 ()					
3B6-7...Agalega/Bran....64 ()					
3B8.....Mauritius....73 ()					
3B9.....Rodriguez Is....67 ()					
3C.....Eq.Guinea....91 ()					
3C0.....Pagalu....90 ()					
3D2.....Conway....265 ()					
3D2.....Fiji....267 ()					
3D2.....Rotuma....267 ()					
3DA.....Swaziland....99 ()					
3V.....Tunisia....63 ()					
3W,XV...Vietnam....355 ()					
3X.....Rep.Guinea....100 ()					
3Y.....Bouvet....138 ()					
3Y.....Peter 1 Is....185 ()					
4J,UD...Azerbaijan....37 ()					
4J1.....Malyj Vysot....35 ()					
4K2,UAl.Franz Joseph....10 ()					
4L,UF...Georgia....40 ()					
4S.....Sri Lanka....28 ()					
4ULITU...UN Geneva....55 ()					
4ULUN...UN HQ NY....132 ()					
4X,4Z...Israel....52 ()					
5A.....Libya....65 ()					
5B.....Cyprus....51 ()					
5H.....Tanzania....76 ()					
5N.....Nigeria....92 ()					
5R.....Madagascar....80 ()					
5T.....Mauritania....96 ()					
5U.....Niger....87 ()					
5V.....Togo....93 ()					
5W.....West.Samoa....263 ()					
5X.....Uganda....76 ()					
5Z.....Kenya....73 ()					
6W.....Senegal....100 ()					
6Y.....Jamaica....176 ()					
7O.....Yemen....57 ()					
7P.....Lesotho....103 ()					
7Q.....Malawi....86 ()					
7X.....Algeria....66 ()					
8P.....Barbados....148 ()					
8Q.....Maldives....39 ()					
8R.....Guyana....149 ()					
9A.....Croatia....50 ()					
9G.....Ghana....95 ()					
9H.....Malta....61 ()					
9J.....Zambia....91 ()					
9K.....Kuwait....45 ()					
9L.....Sierra Leone....102 ()					
9M2,4...W.Malaysia....1 ()					
9M6,8...E.Mayaysia....341 ()					
9N.....Nepal....16 ()					
9O.....Zaire....92 ()					
9U.....Burundi....81 ()					
9V.....Singapore....358 ()					
9X.....Rwanda....79 ()					
9Y.....Trinidad....153 ()					
A2.....Botswana....99 ()					
A3.....Tonga....260 ()					
A4.....Oman....42 ()					
A5.....Bhutan....11 ()					
A6.....Un.Arab Em....42 ()					
A7.....Qatar....45 ()					
A9.....Bahrain....45 ()					
AP-AS...Pakistan....33 ()					
BS7H.Scarborough Reef....343 ()					
BV.....Taiwan....342 ()					
BV9P...Pratas....345 ()					
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C3.....Andorra....61 ()					
C5.....The Gambia....100 ()					
C6.....Bahamas....180 ()					
C9,C8...Mozambique....81 ()					
CE,CA-E...Chile....174 ()					
CE0.....Easter Is....208 ()					
CE0.....San Felix....182 ()					
CE0.....Juan Fern....180 ()					
CM,CO...Cuba....193 ()					
CN.....Morocco....76 ()					
CP.....Bolivia....170 ()					
CT,CR...Portugal....70 ()					
CT3.....Madeira Is....81 ()					
CU.....Azores....79 ()					
CX,CV...Uruguay....162 ()					
CY9.....Palau....130 ()					
CY9.....Saipan....130 ()					
D2,3.....Angola....97 ()					
D4.....Cape Verde....104 ()					
D6.....Comoros Is....77 ()					
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EA8-EH8...Canary Is....86 ()					
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EK,UG...Armenia....41 ()					
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ET.....Ethiopia....65 ()					
ET2.....Eritrea....65 ()					
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EY,UJ...Tajikistan....27 ()					
EZ,UH...Turkmenistan....33 ()					
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FG.....Guadeloupe....148 ()					
FH.....Mayotte....76 ()					
FK.....New Caledonia....270 ()					
FM.....Martinique....148 ()					
FO.....Clipperton....231 ()					
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FO/m....Marquesas Is....257 ()					
FP.....St.Pierre/Mil....68 ()					
FR.....Reunion....76 ()					
FR/G....Glorioso....73 ()					
FR/J....Juan de Nova....88 ()					
FR/T....Tromelin....73 ()					
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FT8X...Kerguelen....118 ()					
FT8Z...Amst'm/St.Paul....82 ()					
FW.....Wallis/Futuna....265 ()					
FY.....Fr.Guiana....142 ()					
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GD.....Isle of Man....50 ()					
GI.....No.Ireland....50 ()					
GJ.....Jersey....55 ()					
GM.....Scotland....49 ()					
GU.....Guernsey....55 ()					
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H4.....Solomon Is....287 ()					
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HH.....Haiti....168 ()					
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JW.....Svalbard....16 ()					
JX.....Jan Mayen....26 ()					
JY.....Jordan....51 ()					
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K1.....Boston, MA....96 ()					
K2.....New York, NY....130 ()					
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K4.....Atlanta, GA....212 ()					
K5.....Dallas, TX....242 ()					
K6.....E.A., CA....207 ()					
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K8.....Cleveland, OH....244 ()					
K9.....Chicago, IL....264 ()					
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KC4.....Antarctica....188 ()					
KC6.....W.Car.(Belau)...302 ()					
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KH3.....Johnston Is....284 ()					
KH4.....Midway....297 ()					
KH5.....Palmyra/Jarvis....271 ()					
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KH7.....Kure....298 ()					
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KP5.....Desecheo....158 ()					
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LU.....Argentina....164 ()					
LX.....Luxembourg....51 ()					
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PY0/T....Trinidad....105 ()					
PZ.....Suriname....145 ()					
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S5.....Slovenia....50 ()					
S7.....Seychelles....60 ()					
S9.....Sao Tome....94 ()					
S0.....W.Sahara....71 ()					
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SP.....Poland....43 ()					
ST.....Sudan....65 ()					
SU.....Egypt....56 ()					
SV-SZ...Greece....54 ()					
SV/A....Mt.Athos....52 ()					
SV5.....Dodecanese....53 ()					
SV9.....Crete....55 ()					
T2.....Tuvalu....274 ()					
T30....W.Kiribati....278 ()					
T31....Cent.Kiribati....269 ()					
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T33.....Banaba....255 ()					
T5.....Somalia....64 ()					
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T9.....Bosnia-Herc....50 ()					
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TN.....Congo....91 ()					
TR.....Gabon....92 ()					
TT.....Chad....79 ()					
TU.....Ivory Coast....97 ()					
TY.....Benin....92 ()					
TZ.....Mali....94 ()					
UA.....Euro.Russia....33 ()					
UA2.....Kaliningrad....41 ()					
UA0-0...Asiatic USSR....05 ()					
UB,UM...Uzbekistan....28 ()					
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VE4.....Winnipeg....303 ()					
VE5.....Saskatchewan....301 ()					
VE6.....Alberta....306 ()					
VE7.....B.C....297 ()					
VE8.....N.W.T....325 ()					
VE9....New Brunswick....65 ()					
VK.....Australia....266 ()					
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VK9L...Lord Howe Is....265 ()					
VK9M...Mellish Reef....283 ()					
VK9N...Norfolk Is....262 ()					
VK9W...Willis Is....289 ()					
VK9X...Christmas Is....354 ()					
VK0.....Heard Is....128 ()					
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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

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