



**Bill Buchan
W2OMV
SK**

**Rus Healy, K2UA
2 RIG CONTESTING!**

Ever wonder how those top contesters use two radios to work a contest? For our program this month, Rus Healy, K2UA will be presenting a program on 2 rig contesting.

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

President's Soapbox

Scott Hoag, K2ZS

Hello everyone, hope you are all dug out from last week's storm. Boy was it a beauty. Unfortunately though, our club has suffered a loss I know will have an affect on everyone. I learned Monday morning that Bill Buchan; W2OMV, is now a silent key. I hope we will all take a moment from our busy schedules to remember him and all he did for our club.

Well, if there was ever a time to be stuck indoors, I guess it should be on a contest weekend. I wasn't in the contest myself, but was sure amazed at the amount of cluster activity. My TNC couldn't keep up with the spots, and I saw many data overload messages on my screen. I have however, heard from some who said conditions weren't optimum. I didn't try this one; I had my fun in ARRL DX CW.

ARRL DX CW was a blast. I have made some improvements here and made sure I had a little time for it. One of the improvements was finally making up a

keying interface for my contest software. BIG improvement over doing it by hand. I was able to sneak a little more time away from family matters and my score showed it. Whereas my usual score would be between four to five thousand, I was able to produce a score of over fifty two thousand. I am going to make sure this one goes to the club.

On that note I want to remind everyone to submit his or her scores to our contest chairman, K2CS. He will take it anyway you get it to him. I would suggest via e-mail, the cluster, or bring it to this months' meeting. As a club we are really on a roll this year. That would mean a big jump in club participation two years in a row. Let's keep it up.

Well, that's it from here. Hope to see you at this months' meeting.

Editor's Corner

Dave Wright, N2CK

It is with deep dismay that I learned of the passing of **Bill, W2OMV** this week. Bill truly enjoyed this hobby, whether he was trying to work the latest dxpedition on a band he needed, or being an active member of the club. As newsletter editor, I will miss his timely and informative articles. Bill was always first into my mailbox with his column every month! As a neophyte DX'er, I will miss his wisdom and words of advice on how to actually go about working some of those exotic places I read about.

On a lighter note, I hope you replied to Ed's Banquet dinner invitation. It sure

does sound like a fun evening. My wife is not convinced that we talk about stuff other than radio, so I've got my work cut out for me. I'm facing additional pressure because it's on her birthday! I hear how I *NEVER* take her anywhere; hopefully this will count as *SOMEWHERE!*

Bill Buchan, W2OMV Silent Key

Ed Gable, K2MP

The RDXA and Ham Radio in general lost a dear friend with the passing of **Bill Buchan, W2OMV**, suddenly last week. He was an active DX'er and contester, the most often winner of RDXA's award for the most non-contest DX stations worked, and most recently he was the DX Editor for the club newsletter.

Licensed in the 30's, Bill had no need for a Vanity callsign. *W2 Oscar Mike Victor* was heard daily, literally around the world, as Bill spent his retired days doing what he loved, chasing DX. And he did it well with 318 worked, mostly on his favored mode of CW. DX'ing kept Bill active, he rarely missed a meeting and he loved to come out for Field Day. Bill was also a member of the *Antique Wireless Association* and he enjoyed attending their annual convention. A few weeks ago Bill started to plan an improved antenna system. "I'll need some help putting it up," he said. Nobody would have missed that antenna party. Bill and I often jostled in DX pileups as our operating times and habits were similar. I last heard Bill in a crowd for the E4 just a few days ago, where we were both trying

for our first 28 MHz E4. I got 'em first, I usually did. We joked about that. "You've got the big antenna, but I've got the time" Bill quipped. We should all be so lucky to use our time as wisely and with as much enthusiasm and lust for life as our dear friend Bill Buchan, W2OMV.

QRZ DX

Bill Buchan, W2OMV

Ed note: This is Bill's last column. It was received the morning of the day he passed away.

The big DX news in February was the appearance of the newly minted DXCC entity of Palestine on the bands. E44DX appeared first, a Finnish group headed by Maarti Laine, OH2BH. They operated mostly SSB and made over 33,000 QSO's in 10 days of operation. They were immediately followed by JA1UT/E4 and E44/JA8RUZ for a few days. Then 4 Hungarian ops signing E44/HA1AG took over the pileups, mostly with fast CW. Strong signals were the rule for E44DX and the HA ops, so every one had a good chance to get them in the log. I missed E44DX, but managed 4 CW band QSO's with the Hungarians. The ARRL CW DX contest in February enjoyed good band conditions, particularly on 10 and 15 meters. No rare DX was worked but several good multipliers of HZ, HC8, GD, WL7, KH6, OH0 and XR1 made into my log. Hope we can do as well in the SSB version in March.

The following information is courtesy of The 59(9) Report and 425 DX News.

3B9--RODRIGUEZ ISLAND-- The Midway-- Kure DX Foundation next dxpedition will be to Rodriguez Island April 1- 10. They will operate all bands and modes 160-6 meters, including RTTY. Up to 9 stations will be used at various island locations. Call sign has not been announced. QSL's will be handled by N7LVD.

3D2-- FIJI-- 3D2KE is Karl, K0KL, QRV March 20-27, and mostly CW on 40 and 15 meters. QSL to home call.

5A-- LIBYA-- Abubaker, 5A1A will be using 5A22A during March and for an unknown length of time. QSL this call only to IK3ZAW.

JT-- MONGOLIA-- JT1Y is Nicola, I0SNY operating club station JT1KAA in Ulan Baator, April 6-26. QSL via I0SNY.

KG4-- GUANTANAMO BAY-- W4WX and N2WB will sign KG4GC and KG4WB March 18-25 with special attention to 6 meters and RTTY. QSL to the home calls.

PY0S-- ST PETER AND PAUL ROCKS-- A new team of PT2BTI, PT2HF and PT2NP will replace the cancelled trip of PS7KM to the rocks, now called an archipelago. They plan to be on the rocks March 15-22. Call sign unknown at present. QSL via PT2GTI.

Choice DX worked in February-- 40 m EL2WW, E44/HA1AG, 3B8/DJ7MI 30 m E44/HA1AG, 20 m ZD7BG, JW0LGS, E44/HA1AG, 15 m FO0XUU, H40FN, A35RK, C21ZM, 10 m 3D2TN, ET3AA, E44/HA1AG.

QSL's received T32KV(K0MP 3 mo), FP5BV(F5TJP 5 wks), 9J2AM(JA0JHA 11 mo), VK9LX(VK2ICV 2 mo), V63KU 6wks, 3D2DX(EA4DX 4 mo), 3D2QB(SM3CER 9 mo), V63HO(KQ1F 3 mo), JT1BG 6 wks

Remembering Bill, W2OMV

Fred Gern, *K2FR*

Ed note: This was originally printed in the October newsletter. I'm including it here to note his DX achievements. These totals were as of Oct. 1998. Since the addition of Palestine as an entity, I'm sure his country count has risen.

DXCC CW 293 countries
DXCC SSB 267 countries
DXCC 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

New Digital mode?

Rick Mintz, W1TY via N2HOS

Nothing in memory compares with the recent plunge the digital folks have taken. No, not a dive into the ocean or pool, but into PSK31. Once Peter G3PLX developed the program and posted it on the Internet the explosion began. Within a few days there was a PSK reflector and web sites devoted to the new mode, heavy activity on the air and even talk about the first PSK contest. Maybe it's a virus for it sure seems to be growing fast

enough to qualify for some kind of contagious germ!

There is little doubt about the mode's appeal. First, it's free for one and all. And it will always be free because anyone using the source code must agree to that promise. Second, it works on almost any kind of a computer/operating system, the sound card being the only requirement. Third, it is simple to set up and run. Fourth, PSK31 saves bandwidth because it really does work in a very skinny path (31 to 80Hz). Fifth, this bandwidth sharply reduces noise and QRM as an issue and, even with five to ten watts, produces excellent inter-continental paths. Sixth, the mode's antenna requirements are minimal. And, seventh, PSK is fast. 50 WPM is a very respectable speed for keyboard QSO's. Only a minority can sustain such speeds!

Wait a minute! There must be some tradeoff here, some bad news, some hidden disaster ready to strike the naïve and uninformed! There's no free lunch, you know. Sorry, no big negatives reported so far. According to the mob of enthusiasts, PSK31 is a pleasant surprise right out of the box. Even ARRL's Dave K1ZZ loaded up the program. And, within an hour he was making contacts, one with a DL station operating only 2 watts to a vertical! (QST magazine will soon do an article on the subject.)

So, let's do a recap. If you want to download the program go to <http://aintel.bi.ehu.es/pjsk31.html>. The small file downloads fast even with a slow modem.

If you wish to join the PSK reflector, send an Email to listserv@n2ty.org and put the following in the BODY of the message: subscribe psk n2xxx@n2xxx.com. Put nothing else in the message (replace n2xxx with your callsign and Email

address, please). If you want to download the program and just listen for a while, tune to 14070.15 (14069.00 USB-use the same offset in the figures below), 21070.14, 28070.15, 7035.15 or 3580.15. Be certain to print out the Help Files. They are thorough and form a fine tutorial on the subject of PSK31.

Some have already complained that the software is incomplete, that it needs auto-features like buffer keys, etc. But please think back to Peter's basic minimalist concepts. He wants this product to bring us back to the days of one-on-one keyboard conversations. Peter looks forward to the day when much of the traffic we see and hear will once again be spontaneous, lively exchanges between two operators who want to talk to each other, who want to forget about the endless brag sheets and canned messages we so often exchange today.

Bravo, Peter!

ARRL DX Phone – New Class?

Rick Mintz, W1TY

Not having participated in the ARRL DX Contest since 1993, I was in the mood to give it a go. However with the 40" of snow, other things looked to take precedent. So decided on different approach. I had just finished a computerization of the station. Time to use it! So the operator "class" I entered was, "Single OP, Single Band, No Tuning, Packet Spot Only, Never Speak A Word, Low Power, DXCC".

Initially I intended to work 15 meters and quit after 100 countries. On Friday the

propagation reports did not seem positive, so I changed to 20. Here was the plan. Using CT and the NG2P PacketCluster for spots, I would only work stations that CT displayed as a new multiplier from packet. CT would send the cluster spot to the entry field and the rig would go to that frequency. F3 on the keyboard sent my call via the MFJ Voice Keyer and F4 the exchange. If I found a mult that was not cluster spotted, I couldn't work it. If the cluster crashed, tough for me.

Bottom line... 101 countries on 20 (took until Sunday afternoon). Never said a word into the microphone! Learned about CT's automated functions. Still had time to plow snow! Thanks to NG2P.

Contest Calendar

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

CQWW WPX SSB 27-28 Mar 0000-2400

DX 40 Years Ago – March 1959

Ed Gable, K2MP

The QST cover for this month depicts, using a famous Gil cartoon, the only person who did not enjoy the just completed DX contest.... the guy at the DX Contest desk at HQ. So let us take a look at the history of this long time favorite contest. The first DX contest was

entirely different. It consisted of long text messages and preambles which had to be relayed (hey, American Radio *Relay* League, remember) through distant stations. 7 and 14 Mc were the only bands used and winners contacted as many as 83 stations in a continuous two-week contest period. 1932 brought a complete change, which followed the very popular "Calls Heard" format. You registered your intent to compete ahead of time. Then, W/VE transmitted on scheduled times and DX listened to be followed by DX stations transmitting and W/VE listening. You reported everything heard. The winner heard 70 different countries. Missing was the thrill of two-way contacts so in 1933 the rules changed to begin the present format. Self-assigned serial numbers were used in '33 and W8CRA won with 42 countries. In 1936 band multipliers were introduced to encourage multiband activity and the contest was spread over two weekends. Post-war contesting took off with great popularity and both W4FU and W2GWE managed over 100 countries in the 1948 DX contest achieving the first weekend DXCC's.

ARRL Contest Scores by E-mail

Ed Gable, K2MP

It's easy, quick and the ARRL preferred method of submitting contest scores. Here's how to do it.

Prepare an e-mail message, which only for the just completed ARRL DX Phone contest, is sent to Dxphone@arrl.org. The

SUBJECT of the message will contain; your Callsign, Contest, Mode, and Class. For example, K2MP ARRL DX SSB SOHP. Note there is no punctuation in the SUBJECT. In the Summary be sure to include your ARRL section; WNY. This is required for all contest submissions even if not used in the exchange. Attach to the message, in text format, your Summary sheet and log. For detail on format, if your logging program doesn't already do it, see <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/98/rules-all.html> Do not send anything else to the log submission e-mail address as it is a robot and will not respond. Send any other contest correspondence to n1nd@arrl.org.

Ham Related Web Sites

Dave Wright, N2CK

For a near real-time MUF map, check out this site suggested by **Allen, KX2H**: "solar.uleth.ca/solar/www/realtime.html". It's updated every 30 minutes.

Are you guilty of causing interference with your neighbors with your ham-related activities? If so, check out the Compliance and Information Bureau at: "www.fcc.gov/cib/".

A site with some AWESOME pictures, including the K3LR 80M beam at 150', can be found at "paradox2010.com/gallery/".

An interesting site maintained by the Tennessee Contest Group can be found at www.k4ro.net. It's got lots of station tours and pictures of some nice antenna farms. These guys look like they take contesting seriously!

RDXA Banquet

Dave Wright, N2CK

Make sure you clear your calendars for the RDXA Banquet. The date is April 17th and will be at Rick's Prime Rib House. Menu choices are Prime Rib, Orange Roughy, and Chicken French. The cost is \$17 a person. Get your reservation and dinner choice(s) to **Ed, K2MP** as soon as possible! See you there!

Upcoming Hamfests

Dave Wright, N2CK

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

For those of you that like to plan ahead, the Rochester Hamfest will be June 4, 5, and 6th.

Rochester DX Association Newsletter

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

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

Club officers and committees

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

Dues and correspondence

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The RDXA Web site is located at:

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