



# RDXA #4 USA

Meeting  
Nov 16<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m.  
111 Westfall Rd

**Rus Healy**  
**K2UA**

Stacking and Phasing  
Yagi Antennas

*Spread the word:  
November is test session month!*

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## Editor's Corner

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*Dave Wright, N2CK*

Field Day `99 results are in. As you can see from the headlines, we placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation, with 3900 Q's and a score of 12,750!! Nationwide, there were 368 entries in our class. Mighty fine piece of work! We were just edged out of 3<sup>rd</sup> place by 412 points by the Hudson Valley Contesters and Dxers - 4527 Q's for 13,162 points in ENY. Second place honors were earned by the McHenry County Wireless Association (IL) with 5213 Q's for 14,362 points. The Twin Cities Repeater Club (MN) with 4806 Q's for 15,536 points, took first place in 3A.

While surfing ham related sites, I came across a few I'd like to share. Here they are. The North Jersey DX Association has

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a very nice page of ongoing DX events. Check them out at: [www.usats.com/ce-dx.html](http://www.usats.com/ce-dx.html). Do you find the various reflectors more noise than signal, especially after a contest? Check out Bafoofnik's Search engine with digests of Tower talk, contest, top band, and QRP-L reflectors. You can find it at:

[www.qth.com/stamper/search/baf.htm](http://www.qth.com/stamper/search/baf.htm)

One last site I feel is worthy of mention talks about what it's like to participate in the ARRL DX contest. It was written back in 1958, and from my perspective, still seems appropriate. It's at:

[www.hamradio-online.com/1996/jan/hams.html](http://www.hamradio-online.com/1996/jan/hams.html).

One last comment, as always I am constantly looking for material for our newsletter. I would love to include more articles of operating efforts, or antenna projects. Feel free to contribute, as this newsletter is what WE make it.

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## More New Members

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*Fred Gern, K2FR*

RDXA now has 84 members. How about that?

We are please to announce new member, **Ann, N2GSX** who was at Field Day and has joined the group. Also joining this month (number 84!) is **Jim, KC2EZL** in Leicester.

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## DX 40 Years Ago – November 1959

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*Ed Gable, K2MP*

With better transceivers and improved propagation the use of 75 meter SSB for phone DX'ing is the buzz this Fall. Making the grade with ZL1AXX, the big signal from down under, is the goal for many. Antennas seem to be the key and many are putting up wires with gain (collinear arrays) or adding a reflector to their verticals. Periodicals report that pirating was becoming more of a problem at this time. Slims reported included ZD6FX, YI2AM, KC6ZZ and others. Russian News Agency TASS reported that amateur station UPOL6 (No typo) was QRT. Why? The Russian Artic Ice Flow Scientific station melted! The U.S. is still banned from QSO's with: EP/EQ, PK, XV, YB/YH and 3W. The big catch for the month was VQ9AIW on the Seychelles which was #256 for **Sax, W2SAW**. You would think that having a callsign like BV1US would assure WAS, but that active club station pleads for a S.C. QSO in the November QST. The RDXA Gang traveled to the Buffalo area for a joint Dinner with members of the Niagara Frontier DX Assn. Still number one in ham band transceivers, Collins announced their new KWM-2, now covering 80 thru 10 meters, whereas the KWM-1 only covered three bands. The KWM-2 was introduced at \$1095, less power supply, and you had to get on a waiting list.

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## Computer Set-up Tips

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*Dave Wright, N2CK*

Are you using a PC with windows 95 for logging and a general shack computer? If so, here's a couple of tips.

To set the time, bring up the date/time properties window, and tune the HF rig to WWV. Now set the hour and minutes to the desired values (one minute after the current time). Set the seconds to zero. When WWV indicates the time you've preset the hours/minutes to, quickly hit apply and OK. The key is setting the seconds to zero. It in effect stops the clock so you can set it precisely.

Do you want a 24-hour clock without that annoying AM/PM? Bring up the Regional Settings window, and set the time format to "HH:mm:ss". Hit apply and OK. You are now in 24 hour time format. Hopefully your time zone (date/time properties) is already set to GMT and auto-adjust for daylight savings time is DISABLED. Also under the regional settings window, if desired change the date format to dd-mon-yy.

I downloaded a geoclock shareware program for windows from the QRZ website ([qrz.com/files/utility/gckwin73.zip](http://qrz.com/files/utility/gckwin73.zip)). The nice thing about this program is that you can adjust the "local" time offset. Your computer can be set up for GMT and zulu time, however geoclock can be set up for local time.

I hope these windows hints help you out!

Here's a CT9 tip from **Vic, K1PY**: After years of complaining about the awkwardness of Alt-W to clear entered data, I discovered the DEFINEKEY

command. Typing this in the callsign field brings up a window where you first press the key you want to assign some function to, then asks for the key sequence to be assigned (Alt-W in this case). This was great and I assigned 2 or 3 keys to do this (I need to do it a lot!). I put it on the tilde (~) key and the minus and equals keys (not good for CQing stations as these have other functions assigned as defaults by CT but it was fine by me). I had them all over! Then during SS CW, I had one of those *duhhhhh* moments: Why don't I put it on the semi-colon key?! If you use touch-typing techniques, then this is the key right under your right pinky on the "home row". So instead of reaching up to the tilde or whatever keys (still better than Alt-W), you don't even move your hand – just push down your little finger and voila – all clear! It was great!

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## ARRL West Central Florida Division Official

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*Ed Gable, K2MP*

With the appointment of Dave Armbrust, AE4MR, as the first Section Manager for WCF Section, the newest ARRL section becomes almost official. Almost? The new section comes into effect January 15, 2000. As such, there is no effect on Section events, like SS contests, until then.

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## Commercial

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*Fred Gern, K2FR*

Last fall my tower went up at the new location and I sold my TH7 to W1TY. The Hy Gain was an excellent hunk of aluminum, BUT I'd like to join several others in the area and recommend that anyone contemplating a new HF antenna seriously consider the Force 12 line, especially the C-3 series. It is a decent 10 meter antenna but it really shines on 15 and 20 meters. These antennae are light, easy to assemble and seem to be very durable. Perfect for small towers or roof-top installations.

As of this date I believe RDXA has four members with these in the air and a fifth one will be installed soon by another member.

You know the line: I have no financial interest or connection with Force 12, I'm just impressed!

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## In a former life I was:

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*Fred Gern, K2FR*

**BL1MP** - RIDING HIGH  
**WHØRU** - ROCK & ROLLERS  
**LØOP** - FULL WAVE  
**GØOFY** - SOME SAY I STILL AM  
**UR1TOO**- COULD BE  
**TW1T** - SPEAKS FOR ITSELF  
**5B4SIX** - ELEMENTARY

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## Contest Weenie Award!

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*Fred Gern, K2FR*

CQ World Wide DX Phone. You scan the bands working station after station. The vast majority of the stations calling CQ are excellent operators.

But every once in a while you run across one who just amazes you; astounds you with their horrible operating habits.

This year the K2FR Rotten Operator of the Contest Award goes to the operator(s) of KG4CM in that wonderful multiplier, Guantanamo Bay. I tripped across this station working station after station and giving Zone 8 as the exchange. The voice didn't sound familiar so I listened a minute or two and then started hearing stations – loud ones – saying “your call?” He NEVER gave his call in 4 minutes. I left the frequency and worked a bunch of stations. After 10 minutes or so I returned to his frequency and heard several stations still asking for his callsign. Ten minutes later I returned again to hear the same scenario over and over. Finally he gave his call and I worked him two calls later and decided that it irked me enough that even though I'd given him 2 points I would tell as many people as possible about his/their extremely poor operating practices. Of course the next day I heard the same thing on another band and called and asked for his call before I gave the exchange. Surprise!!! Same station. Probably should NOT have worked them at all – boycott still works if enough people try it.

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## How's DX?

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*Chris Shalvoy, K2CS*

I hope you've all had an opportunity to get on the bands the last few weeks, they've continued to be great.

The CQWW SSB contest last weekend was a blast! Nice to have that additional band (10m) to spread things out a bit. Having never experienced 10 in such great shape, I found most of my time spent there. Almost 1/2 my 900+ q's were gotten on ten meters. It was quite a thrill working stations around 29 MHz!

Actually was working Europe on 20 meters at 3am local time. The band stayed open all nite long. A far cry from having to duke it out on 40, 80 or 160.

Glad to see so many logs turned in already. I know some other huge scores will be forthcoming. Oddly enough though, our submissions so far for this contest ONLY surpass our 1996-97 YEAR END TOTALS!!!

I'm sure we'll get some whopping ARRL SS CW scores in the next few days. Wasn't able to operate it myself (first time in 7 years) but saw a lot of spots and seeming good band conditions. If you get a mug, get it in quick! They ran out last year and I got my money returned with NO MUG!!

Check the contest calendar, ARRL SS SSB, 160 and 10 meter contests are coming, something for everybody.

The club competition grid is later in this issue reflecting only CQWW SSB. The additional scores you've submitted will be on a separate sheet and published later in the year (honestly, after I get more than 2 scores..).

IN THE LOG (non-contest, only the good stuff)

ZK3DX (17m, 10m SSB, 10m, 30m CW)  
R1ANF/A (30m, 20m CW)  
KH5/DF6FK (15m, 20m, 40m SSB)  
FR5FD (20m CW)  
KL2A (20m CW)  
S79BW (20m CW)  
5H3RK (30m CW)  
DS5USH (10m CW)  
OX3FV (40m CW)  
EL2WW (10m CW)  
TO0DX (30m CW)  
VP2MCS (80 CW, 20m RTY)  
T30CW (40m, 10m CW, 20m RTY)  
UA0FF (10m SSB)  
R1AND (17m CW)  
V51AS (10m CW)  
ET3VSC (17m CW)

### IN THE MAIL (non buro pack)

OJ0/K7BV

Thanks once again to the 59(9) DXReport, my main source of weekly DX information.

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## Remarkable

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*Fred Gern, K2FR*

For those living in the dark shadows there is a bit of news that should lighten your day. **Jeff, W2FU**, applied for a variance for towers at his home (same as a QTH) in Webster. The zoning people actually listened and this is what he got:

1 @ 90'

1 @ 125'

1 @ 150'

Guess we all know where the big signals will be coming from next year!

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## Future Amateur Radio Exam Format???

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*Dave Wright, N2CK*

*Ed note: This is something I grabbed from usenet back in '96. I believe it was originally written by Jim, AG3Y though I was not able to confirm it. Enjoy!*

Pick one or more of the answers as appropriate.

1) A "ham" is:

- A. A delectable dish served for Christmas or with eggs for breakfast.
- B. An uplifting phrase found in Operations Manuals for Japanese amateur equipment, meaning, "Honorable American," usually applied to the operators of said equipment.

2) A "rig" is:

- A. A device used to dig wells, usually for water, but if you are lucky, perhaps for oil.
- B. A device used to send electrical signals around the world. Archaic definition "used to communicate with CW, RTTY, AM or SSB" (See Glossary at bottom of page for more help) Note: Because communication has long since ceased to be an objective of Amateur Radio, we at the FCC will not consider either answer to be incorrect. This is a freebie, not a trick question.

3) An "antenna" is:

- A. A wire strung between the rafters in your attic.
- B. A "flagpole" with a strange black box attached to the base.
- C. A large array of tubing, wire and insulating material held 50-200 feet in the air by a device called a "tower." Because of widespread ordinances, these are

extremely rare, and found only in the remote corners of the desert Southwest.

4) "TVI" is:

- A. Any form of interference whatsoever that is blamed on the operation of an Amateur Radio station. This can occur whether the station is on the air or not.
- B. An abbreviation for the Tennessee Valley Inquisition, a fierce battle for tower rights that took place in the late 1990s.

5) "Guy" is:

- A. A person you meet on the street and ask about the time, as in "Hey, Guy, what time is it?"
- B. A wire used to hold up a tower in winds of 25 mi/hr or less. Most amateur operators consider its use optional.

6) "Ground" is:

- A. What a tower crashes into when the winds reach 30 mi/hr or more.
- B. What keeps Japan from being line of sight from here in the good ol' US of A!

7) "Packet" is:

- A. A grand experiment in digital communications that started in the early 1980s, but ground to a halt because of too much infighting among SysOps.
- B. Something you put your letters into when you really want the message to get where it is supposed to go. Stamps are applied to the outside of this packet, and in a few days it arrives at its destination. Just like magic!

8) A "computer" is:

- A. A device that has lured potential Amateur Radio operators away from the hobby by the thousands.
- B. An enormous waste of time and energy, but, like women, "You can't live with them, ya can't live without them!"

9) A "printer" is:

- A. Someone who works for the newspaper.

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B. A device attached to a computer to accurately translate the tones received from the sending station into all the typos, misspellings and grammatical errors as they were originally entered by the operator.

10) "Electronics" is:

A. A mystical art that no one understands anyway, so why try to define it?

B. All of the above

C. None of the above

Congratulations! If you gave any answer to 70% of the questions above, you are qualified to become an Amateur Radio operator. Just fill out the form on the other side of this exam and send it in to the FCC offices shown at the bottom of the form.

Glossary: Oh heck, it's too much trouble to define SSB, AM, CW, RTTY, etc, because these modes are absolutely obsolete anyway and no one cares.

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From the estate of NF2Z:

Kenwood TS-440S, 160-10M, CW filter, PS-50, speaker, mike, key - \$700;

Heathkit SB-200 amp, 2 – 572B tubes, wired for 120 vac - \$200;

Kenwood TR-7600A 2M HT, desk charger, 3 new batteries, mike - \$75;

Icom IC-2AT 2M HT, desk charger, 5 batteries, mike, leather case - \$75;

Bearcat 210XL VHF/UHF scanner 30 – 500 MHz - \$50;

Heathkit HM-2410 VSWR/watt meter - \$25;

Mosley TA-31M 10/15/20M full size, full power rotating dipole - \$125;

Mosley TW31M 12/17/30M full size, full power rotating dipole - \$150;

Mosley S-401M 40M full size, full power rotating dipole - \$50

Home brew 5 element 2M beam - \$50.

All antennas in NEW condition, assembled and stored inside. Contact

**Len, WA2ZNC** at 229-5470 or wa2znc@juno.com.

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## Items For Sale

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*Dave Wright, N2CK*

## 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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	<i>Rick Mintz W1TY</i>
	<i>Dave Wright N2CK</i>
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/rdxa](http://www.qsl.net/rdxa)  
Check it out.



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## To: