



Holiday Social
Meeting
Tuesday
Dec 19th
7:30 p.m.

At the QTH of Vic, K1PY
and Carolyn, N2YPM!

In the spirit of the holidays, Vic and Carolyn have graciously offered their residence this month for a Spouses-invited social gathering.

If you are planning on attending, please bring a dish to pass and your beverage of choice. Hope to see you all there! (Any RDXA'ers caught ignoring their spouses at this gathering will be required to check into a DX net!)

President's Soapbox

Mike Rundle, N1OKL

"So what exactly does DX stand for," my XYL asked during CQWW. At the time I was focused on making my goals for the Contest and I didn't give her question much thought. I responded with something like, "Oh, it just means a station in a different country." But after the frenzy of the Contest subsided, I found myself wondering about her question. Is DX an abbreviation for something? Somehow I had it in my mind that maybe it was an acronym for a Latin word or words. Hmmm. I tried all the dictionaries here at home--including my Latin-English dictionary from college--but no luck.

In odd moments at work I tried typing DX into various search engines on the internet. I found lots of interesting web sites that way--but no actual definition of DX. Typing "DX AND definition" yielded nothing either. This was getting interesting. A search of all the big ham sites on the web proved equally fruitless.

I was about to make a trip to the library to consult that well-known oracle of the

English language--the 23-volume Oxford English Dictionary--when I had the idea to look for dictionaries on the web. And there I found it. Not DX listed exactly as an abbreviation, but some pretty likely definitions nonetheless. In an obscure dictionary of telecommunications terminology I found several listings for "distant _____". There was "distant reception" and "distant communication" and the most likely, "distant exchange".

My conclusion is that DX simply stands for: distant exchange. I'm still looking off and on for a more definitive meaning as well as some information on the etymology of the term. Perhaps a look in the OED is still in order.

Changing the subject completely, I hope to see many of you at the RDXA Holiday Social. **Vic, K1PY**, and **Carolyn, N2YPM** have generously offered to host the event. You will find driving directions elsewhere in the Bulletin. Hope to cu there.

Editor's Corner

Dave Wright, N2CK

Greetings all. It's been a year that's gone by quite quickly. It doesn't seem that long ago that we were worrying about Y2K (and you thought you had heard the last of that phrase). Hopefully you spent some time on the antenna farm this summer, because as I write this column we're expecting winds in the 60 MPH range.

I neglected to include my computer setup hints in a previous column, so here they are (you experienced computer users can skip to the next paragraph). These instructions are taken from a pc running windoze 95. Under the Regional Settings screen select the Date tab and set the date format to *dd-MMM-yy*; select the Time tab and set the time format to

H:mm:ss. Under the Date/Time screen set the time zone to GMT and do NOT check the auto-adjust for daylight savings time box. To set the time accurately, set the seconds to zero, and then, while listening to a sync signal like WWV, set the hour and minute to the next sync pulse that you will hear from WWV. As soon as you hear "The time is now ..." click apply followed by OK to close the window. Setting the seconds to zero in effect "holds" the clock so that it can be set accurately.

One of our own made it into a write-up on the contest reflector. The following quote is taken from a summation of operating in the CQWW CW from Thailand by **Fred Laun, K3ZO**: "I did get an impression of East Coast signals on 20 during the first two hours of the contest when I was still alert and able to make some observations while logging. Of course many of those I heard or worked were probably beaming Europe so the observations may not mean that much, but my impression was that **W2FU** was the loudest signal by just a bit, with K1ZZ a close second". Way to go Jeff!!

Directions

Vic Gauvin, K1PY

Via 490E and Washington St (E. Rochester):

Exit 490E at exit for 31F, heading south (east) toward Fairport

At first light after 490, Right on Washington St (Rte 153)

At next light, Left, going under railroad bridge (North Main St, Pittsford, Rte 96)

Straight on South Main St (Rte 96) at light at crossroads in center of Village

Straight on South Main St (Rte 64) at light at Jefferson Rd (FYI: 96 goes L on Jeff)
At next traffic light, bear Left on Pittsford-Mendon Rd (Rte 64)
First Left on Knickerbocker Rd
Second Right on Stuyvesant Rd
First Left on Van Cortland Dr
Third house on right, #27 (hard to see #; look for Yagi in trees)

Via East Ave:

South on East Ave (Rte 96), making sure to bear right to stay on East Ave and Rte 96 at entrance to St. John Fisher
Continue on East and Rte 96 past Nazareth College
Straight on South Main St (Rte 96) at light at crossroads in center of Village.
Straight on South Main St (Rte 64) at light at Jefferson Rd (FYI: 96 goes L on Jeff)
At next traffic light, bear Left on Pittsford-Mendon Rd (Rte 64)
First Left on Knickerbocker Rd
Second Right on Stuyvesant Rd
First Left on Van Cortland Dr
Third house on right, #27 (hard to see #; look for Yagi in trees)

Via Monroe Ave:

East (southeast) on Monroe Ave past Pittsford Plaza to Pittsford Village.
Right (south) on South Main St (Rte 96) at light at crossroads in center of Village.
Straight on South Main St (Rte 64) at light at Jefferson Rd (FYI: 96 goes L on Jeff)
At next traffic light, bear Left on Pittsford-Mendon Rd (Rte 64)
First Left on Knickerbocker Rd
Second Right on Stuyvesant Rd
First Left on Van Cortland Dr
Third house on right, #27 (hard to see #; look for Yagi in trees)

Via Jefferson Rd:

East on Jefferson Rd past Locust Hill CC
Straight at lights at intersection with Clover St (Rte 65)
At second traffic light, Right on South Main St (Rte 64)
At next traffic light, bear Left on Pittsford-Mendon Rd (Rte 64)
First Left on Knickerbocker Rd
Second Right on Stuyvesant Rd
First Left on Van Cortland Dr
Third house on right, #27 (hard to see #; look for Yagi in trees)

Via Calkins Rd:

East on Calkins, continuing past Clover St (Rte 65)
Becomes Mendon Center Rd near Mendon Center Elementary School (and school bus depot)
At next traffic light at cemetery (ahead), sharp Right onto Pittsford-Mendon Rd (Rte 64)
First Left on Knickerbocker Rd
Second Right on Stuyvesant Rd
First Left on Van Cortland Dr
Third house on right, #27 (hard to see #; look for Yagi in trees)

Via Rte 96 from Bushnell's Basin:

North on Jefferson Rd/Pittsford-Victor Rd (Rte 96) from Basin
Pass East Street on left; canal appears on right -- **watch for next turn now**
Next Left at canal flood control gate -- **very sharp**, onto Knickerbocker Rd
First Left on Van Cortland Dr
At 3rd left (Saxony), continue straight on Van Cortland but look for Yagi straight ahead
Driveway on left with Yagi, third house from end of Van Cortland

This is IT!

Fred Gern, K2FR

Those of you who have hoarded bags of American currency for obscure reasons, i.g. buying new toys, going on vacation, paying for the Christmas bills or investing in Xerox stock, you have a problem!

**Your RDXA DUES are very past due!
Your label will have your call and then a month and year: 10/00**

That is the date that informs you this is your **last newsletter**. All other dates are good. 10/00 is BAD

Please note that if your mailing label is in **RED**, the color of the blood our hearts bleed for you, you are on the list. PAY UP!

K2MP is an affable person and is prepared to strike your name from the "delete" list for a mere \$15.

RDXA at RMSC Dec 27 – Dec 30

Mike Rundle, N1OKL

Had enough of malls and TV sports? Are the kids driving you crazy? Then come on down to RMSC with the entire family. Help man our station and let the kids run around the museum. RMSC is always a great place for the family to visit. There's a new look and feel at the Museum, which features many fun, hands-on technology exhibits. Keep this in mind when family and friends are visiting over the holidays and you have cabin fever.

Amateur radio is again invited to the Rochester Museum and Science Center

December 27, 28, 29, 30 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for the Holiday Science and Technology Fair. We need your help to staff the demonstrations.

The Rochester DX Association has made special arrangements to provide a complete HF station with a vertical antenna on the roof! We will be sharing the excitement of worldwide DX—solar flux and geomagnetic conditions permitting—with the youth and museum visitors.

This is fun stuff folks! There are too many positives to pass up. The prerequisites are a positive attitude, and a willingness to share. Brush elbows with some fellow hams that know their stuff. A lot can rub off in 2 hours. The kids are curious—our morse code demos always generate huge interest—and interest in our hobby

Call **Mike, N1OKL** for information and to sign up for an operating slot. (716) 383-1981 or N1OKL@arrl.net

DX 40 Years Ago – December 1960

Ed Gable, K2MP

The wandering DX'er Danny Weil, VP2VB/MM, reported on his ill-fated attempt to land on Clipperton Island. Terrible seas and 40-knot winds forced Danny to retreat from the island and he described the situation thusly to W6AM. "Sails are gone, can't use engine, were drifting about, and over board are gasoline drums, remnants of sails and the contents of crew-members stomachs!" Despite all that he did get the *Yasme III* to Clipperton, managed a landing, and made 775 QSO's as FO8AN. A new entity, Cyprus (5B4) came aboard as an independent country and UN member,

but the old UK Army base remained as a stabilizing influence. They're still there and we know them as ZC4. ZC4KS was QRU in 1960 and is still active. Also new as of 9/30/00 was Nigeria, formally ZD2, now 5N. The first station to ever QSO with Nigeria was K2DCA. And if your DXCC list isn't confusing enough, also pen the change of the Sultanate of Oman, VS9O, to the new prefix of 9C2. Now, remember ZD2, Nigeria? The portion that did not go to Independent Nigeria remains ZD2, but only for a month when it will be Cameroun, FE8. Now we have a hint of why some of the old timers claim over 360 countries. Shucks, they only lasted 30 days!! From the QST ads we see smaller and smaller rigs with more and more power. Hallicrafters, National and E.F. Johnson all had tabletop 2 kW rigs with the Johnson Invader 2000 being announced this month. Using a pair of PL-175A tubes, it was a complete legal limit transmitter the size of the current receivers of the day. A serious table or desk was required!

DXCC Field Checking

Fred Gern, K2FR

Joe, K8FC has been appointed a DXCC Field Checker by the ARRL. He will be available to check your cards under the following conditions:

1. You will have to make an appointment for Joe to be at a meeting or wherever **well** in advance.
2. You should be aware of the basic rules as to what can or cannot be checked by him.

Joe can be reached via E-Mail:
K8FC@ARRL.NET

Low Power Contesting - Abusing But Not Amusing!

Fred Groner, W2TZ

During the CQWW cw contest I found myself in a very interesting situation - one which us low power types encounter in practically every contest. I had just switched to 20 meters to try to up my QSO total on that band. I really didn't have many QSOs on 20 at the time so I tried to find a clear frequency in the middle of the band to try to do a little CQing and hopefully do some running. Every clear frequency where I tried to call CQ the brutes running KWs and big antennas would kick sand in my face and tell me to QSY. Such abuse! I always remember in situations like that what my Grandpappy once told me. He said never, never get into a pis#ing contest with a skunk - you will never win. So reluctantly I went higher and higher up to the top end of the 20 cw band and finally found a clear frequency where for a few moments nobody abused me and I was able to run stations at a fairly good rate. All of a sudden some slow, poor sounding cw station came on frequency and told me that I was on a RTTY frequency and that I should QSY. I was amused at the nerve of this guy and quickly told him that I had been on this frequency for 40 min. He again responded that I was on a RTTY frequency and told me to QSY. I told him that he was on a contest frequency and that he should QSY. I continued to call CQ and work stations. The guy then sent a series of RYRYRYRY's, in hopes, I guess, of chasing me off the frequency. Well I stayed on frequency and he again told me to QSY. I then responded by telling him that he should QSY to the WARC bands where there is no contesting. He

then told me to kiss his as#.
Appreciatively, they were his final words of abuse because then he was gone.
Moral of the story: Us low power types know we have to put up with some abuse, but should we have to kiss anybody's as#?

Special News

Fudy Dudy (askfudydudy@hotmail.com)

An interesting situation has beset another DXpedition in an attempt to satisfy DXers worldwide. The political situation in Liberia is so dangerous that the attempt to operate with his old call, **ELØPE**, has been stalled for weeks. Expedition leader, **Guy Wire**, feels that current conditions will not soon allow any operation from this country. His new wife, the former **Di Pole**, is confident they will be able to resume their honeymoon even if radio operation is not allowed.

Luckily for many, Liberia is not a very rare location.

How's DX?

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

Whew....

Time to take a break, see your family again and celebrate the holidays. This is almost worse than the NASCAR schedule (if you follow that stuff).

Let's see... Sweeps SSB was fun, CQWW CW was plagued by big "hits" which virtually wiped out the bands for minutes on end, ARRL 160m was real tough and to finish it off, ARRL 10m just confirmed that cycle 23 is on its way out.

Thanks for all the logs. **Scott's, K2ZS** new forwarding system emails me when

you submit on the web. As for those who've sent paper or disk logs to me, I'll get them straightened around as soon as possible. "Tis the season" and all these 'tests leave little time.

The bands in general have been weak. Many "hits" throughout the month killed hf. but, remember the old adage about the silver lining?

For those of us who foray into the upper bands, 6m has been a killer. A few Sundays ago, 6 sounded like 20 meters! As I was getting ready for a Sunday morning Christmas Party (no typo), **Irv, AF2K** called to alert me to the opening. In a matter of moments, I'd worked G, E1 & GW. Reluctantly, I headed off to the party but guess the opening lasted a while longer.

During the 10m 'test this weekend, it opened again with FG, KP2, WP4, & TI ending up in the log. To top it off, P4, VP2M, KP4, and C6 were worked this morning.

Remember, "One man's DX *may be* another man's DX".

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

S07U	(10m SSB)
TS7N	(30m, 80m, 40m, 15m, 17m, 10m, 20m CW) (12m SSB)
J79GU	(20m RTTY)
XQ3ZW	(40m CW)
YJ0PD	(10m SSB)
D44BS	(80m CW)
J75KG	(40m CW)
5B4/RA9JX	(40m CW)
HC8N	(6m SSB)
SY2A	(10m SSB)
	Monk Apollo (SV2ASP)
EI3IO	(6m SSB)
EI5FX	(6m SSB)
GW3JXN	(6m SSB)
G4CBW	(6m CW)
ZK2VF	(10m CW)
FG5BG	(6m SSB)

KP2BH (6m SSB)
WP4KJJ (6m SSB)
TI5BX (6m SSB)
P49T (6m SSB)
VP2MDD (6m SSB)
KP4EIT (6m SSB)
WP4G (6m SSB)
C6AIE (6m SSB)

IN THE MAIL (no buro packs)

DU3NXE (10m CW)
FH/G3SXW (40m, 15m, 20m CW)
FW/G3SXW (20m, 15m, 10m CW)
9U5D (20m SSB)
CX5X (15m SSB)
J3A (80m SSB)
AP2JZB (17m SSB)
HC8A (80m SSB)
PJ4B (80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m SSB)
J6R (15m SSB)
ZX0F (80m SSB)
ZD9ZM (12m, 30m, 10m CW)
VP5DX (15m 80m SSB)
YB0ECT (15m CW)

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

Rochester Cup Competition

Jim Howard, N2JMH

Once again the Rochester VHF Group will be sponsoring the Rochester Cup competition during the January VHF sweepstakes. [*RDXA was last year's winner. Let's see if we can make it two years in a row! — ed.*] This event is open to all local clubs and we have changed the rules a bit this year in the hopes of creating some activity and making it easier for you to submit your log to us. The contest dates are January 20, 2001 1900UTC Saturday through January 22, 2001 0400UTC Monday

Rochester Cup Scoring: Submit your log to the RVHFG in behalf of any Rochester area ham radio club. The club with the most points is awarded possession of the Rochester Cup for one year. Three consecutive wins retire the cup to your club. Log scoring is standard ARRL January sweepstakes format. That's it, no member roster to cross check.

Log Submission: After you have submitted your log to the ARRL, also submit just the summary sheet to the RVHFG with the name of the club you are submitting for clearly printed on it. The preferred method to submit your log is electronically to; vhf@vhfgroup.rochesterny.org or you can mail it to:

The Rochester VHF Group
PO Box 92122
Rochester, NY 14692

Complete rules, along with log sheets and acceptable format for log submission to the ARRL January Sweepstakes are available at the RVHFG website, the ARRL website and in QST.

The RVHFG meets on the second Friday of the month at the Monroe County Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road. During the January 12th meeting log sheets and other useful contest information will be available and all are invited to attend.

I look forward to hearing you all on the air.

New Postage Rates

Fred Gern, K2FR

Postage rates for domestic and international will go up effective January 7, 2001. The rates confirmed are as follows:

Domestic postcard .20
Domestic letter - 1 oz .34
Postcard to Canada & Mexico- .50

International Postcard .70
1 ounce to Canada & Mexico .60
1 ounce to other countries .80

Note that the basic overseas rate is now for **1 ounce**, whereas the old rate was for 1/2 oz.

From **Dennis, NB1B**, USPS Postmaster

Hopefully you ALREADY started using this postage on SASE's you've recently sent out!

Ask Fudy Dudy

Fudy Dudy (askfudydudy@hotmail.com)

Dear Fudy,

I'm a new ham and hope to operate while on vacation this spring. Your article on end-fed wires cleared up many questions I had been worried about. Now I have a wire that IS long enough to reach to the end and am looking forward to using it.

My family and I will be staying in Florida near Disney World and that's where I plan

*to operate. I am **very** worried about the political stability of Florida and wonder if I will be allowed to bring my ham equipment into the state.*

What do you think I should do?

In a Quandary

Dear Quandary,

Don't sweat the political situation in Florida. Hopefully it will be over by the time you get there. But here are some hints for you:

1. The legal hassles are a product of some of the oldest lawyers that the Democrats and Republicans could find who are still breathing.
2. If they are still alive - and hassling each other, take a tip from some of America's most successful politicians and business leaders: **donate money and be seen near someone important.**
3. Bring your radio with you. I don't think you will have a problem at the border: you know the reasons! And run as large an amplifier as you can find and hopefully you will sterilize all political hacks still in Florida (Governors, Senators, etc.) and prevent their genes from spreading elsewhere.

Fudy

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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RDXA Web Site: www.qsl.net/rdxa



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