



Meeting  
Jan 18<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m.  
111 Westfall Rd

---

### Hints and Kinks Night!

Bring a technique, a project, a procedure you use around the shack and share it with fellow RDXAers.

So...take a look around your shack and workbench and bring a hint or kink to share.

Just a reminder, January is also a test session month. Spread the word!

---

### President's Soapbox

---

*Scott Hoag, K2ZS*

Hello everyone and happy New Year. The coming of the New Year has brought some big changes to our hobby. There has been a great deal of, shall we say discussion, on our club Email reflector. I think it is time that we realize the importance of voicing our opinion when it comes to our hobby and any proposed changes. In the past few weeks I have been watching some of the ham-related Email reflectors and I am amazed at the number of armchair lawyers there are out there. Now that things have happened, everyone has an opinion. Where were they when the time was right to speak up? I am not professing gloom and doom and the end of Amateur Radio, I just think we, as the Amateur community, owe it to future generations of hams to protect what we have left. The next time we are asked for our opinion, we have to speak up in numbers.

---

On a similar note, our VEC has resigned his position to pursue a change in career. If RDXA is to continue to offer VE Testing, we will need a replacement. If you are a VE and would like to take over his capacity as VEC, please let us know. There will be testing this month before the meeting, so why not come by and see what you could do to help out.

---

## Editor's Corner

---

*Dave Wright, N2CK*

Greetings and Happy New Year to all. I'm glad to see the world, as we know it, survived.

As mentioned above, **Dana, W2IC** has stepped down as VEC. Good luck in your career change and thanks for taking on the challenge of VEC.

Well, it's time for my annual plea for articles. You may notice that the content of this issue is a little lighter than usual. Have you tried a new mode lately, or made a significant effort in a contest you would like to share with your fellow club members? Let me know about it. Remember that the newsletter is what we make it. Think about what YOU could contribute.

---

## Welcome New Member

---

*Fred Gern, K2FR*

**Doug, N2BEG**, became our first member of the year.

Good to have you back, Doug

---

## LOUDER IS BETTER A Low Power DX Contest Strategy

---

*Fred Groner, W2TZ*

Contesters know from experience that Loud is good. Loud allows you to quickly work those rare needed multipliers even in massive pile-ups. Loud allows you to greatly increase your QSO rate in a contest by holding a frequency and running stations. Loud allows you to Search-and-Pounce at a fast rate. Loud generates winning contest scores.

Some contesters spend much time, money, and effort to be Loud. Installing relatively elaborate antenna systems requiring towers at heights prohibitive to the average QTH, and using robust max power amplifiers are the two main strategies to become Loud. We've all heard awesome stories about the activities of various contest stations to become Loud. But what strategy can the typical amateur station with relatively simple antenna systems and low power adopt to become more contest competitive without resorting to big amps and big antennas?

I have operated contests for over 40 years using Low Power (no amp), Tribanders at zoning restricted heights of 48', and wire antennas for the low bands. I have often been asked to recommend a DX contest strategy for the more typical amateur station. Hopefully the following will help.

In my opinion the best DX contest strategy is based on two major factors. The first is the Loud factor and the second is propagation. Before you can

---

develop a specific contest strategy for your station, it is very important to know the signal strength capabilities and limitations of your station on each band. This should be done prior to the DX contest of interest, and will dictate the actual contest strategy. For example, many of us must obey antenna height restrictions which severely limit the erection and use of the necessary low-angle radiating antennas needed to be competitive on 40, 80, and 160 meters in DX contests. As a result, high-angle radiators of limited DX effectiveness must often suffice as DX contest antennas. Antennas must be evaluated for Loudness in terms of first, simply being heard, and secondly, for the ability to crack a pile-up. If pre-contest testing indicates that you can't be heard, for example in Europe, but you can be heard in the Caribbean, a strategy should evolve which precludes even trying to work Europe during the actual contest but encourages attempts to work stations in the Caribbean. The strategy is simple – don't waste precious contest time trying to work stations on bands who can't hear you.

After the Loudness assessment of your station, you most likely will realize that you are Loudest to most regions of the world on 10 and 15 meters and less Loud on 20 meters using your Tribander, and least Loud on 40, 80 and 160. Therefore, since you are Louder on 10 and 15, develop a strategy to spend as much operating time as possible on 10 and 15 as propagation would allow. When 10 and 15 die, go to 20, and then go to the low bands when propagation again dictates, usually during late evening. If you can't work stations on the low bands because of a weak signal due to poor antennas and/or poor propagation, get some sleep and get ready for another shot at 10 and 15 at sunrise of the second day. In fact, be ready when your

Loud bands open and try to find a clear frequency during Search-and Pouncing and call CQ to try to see if you can run DX stations. If you can hold the frequency and maintain a good running rate, congratulations. Continue running until your rate drops then change to your other Loud band(s) and try to run stations again using the same strategy. On 20 and the lower bands you most likely will not be Loud enough to run stations so forget that strategy, but try to solely Search-and Pounce at a fast rate. The more stations you call, the more stations you will work. If you don't like to Search-and-Pounce, you got problems -Life for a contester who is not Loud is Search-and Pounce.

In summary, Louder is Better in DX contests and a strategy based on a good knowledge of propagation and the loudness limitations of your station is the best strategy to optimize your score in DX contests.

---

## DX 40 Years Ago – January 1960

*Ed Gable, K2MP*

Magazines were full of doom and gloom with predictions for a terrible sunspot minima. Such predictions came from enough data to support the theory that several cycles of good sunspot maxima (the then current condition) are followed by a real low period. No matter the sunspot count for K8JKX who just got his DXCC. Alex, aged 12, is believed to be the youngest DXCC member, then and now. (There's a chance for Raymond!!) Sometimes we take our multi-kilobuck rice boxes for granted. Let's look back well within half our life-time and see what

---

some rare DX stations were running: OQ5AA ran a DX-40 on a Congo river boat, HL9TA, Korea's equivalent to W1AW, ran 50 watts home brew and a WW2 surplus BC312 RX, YA1IW runs a Gonset mobile radio, SU1MS still uses a WW2 ARC-5 TX, and the list goes on. By the way... all of those chaps made DXCC! News from Russia included their loss of the 160 meter band and the addition of a new Novice class, ten meters only, using "R" callsigns. The first ever QSO from Tabago, VP4WD, was with W2KQT, and started a frenzy on the low end of 40 meters. A new SSB transmitter was announced by Hallicrafters and proved effective by DX'ers over the years. The HT-37 phasing rig featured what would become the standard for years to follow, 6146's in linear mode.

---

## A Few Answers

---

*Fred Gern, K2FR*

No Hate or Love it stuff here, just some answers in case you get asked. Thanks to the ARRL web page for the information.

1. The FCC says current Tech Plus licensees holding a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3B on April 15, 2000, may apply for a General class upgrade. CSCE holders must attend a Volunteer Examiner session, complete Form 605, attach a valid CSCE, and pay the required application fee (\$6.65 for the ARRL-VEC), if the VEC you use charges a fee. The same holds true for Advanced licensees taking the Extra theory.

2. Holders of a pre-March 21, 1987, Technician class license (or a CSCE) may claim credit for a new General class license after April 15, 2000. The upgrade is not automatic, however. You will have to apply through a Volunteer Examiner test session, complete Form 605, attach documentary proof of having completed the requirements for a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987, and pay an application fee, if any, to the VEC involved.

Proof: Obviously, if you have an original of your Technician license issued anytime prior to March 21, 1987, that would suffice. Other documentary evidence could include an original CSCE for Element 3 issued prior to that date; an FCC verification letter of having held a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987; a document from the FCC's contractor, ITS Inc. or possibly a *Callbook* listing dated prior to March 21, 1987, indicating your license class as Technician. You can write the FCC, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Provide the FCC with your name, address, and current call sign as well as all details of your licensing. The FCC may be able to verify in writing that you held a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987. You also may contact ITS Inc. (visit <http://www.itsdocs.com/>). For a fee, ITS will research prior licensing records and should be able to provide you with the necessary documentary proof.

Absolutely not, although this rumor has been making the rounds on the Internet and on-air discussion groups. You will continue to be an Advanced class licensee and have Advanced class privileges after April 15. Again, no one loses any privileges, and all license classes stay the same.

- 
3. For current General class to upgrade to Extra:

If you're going to take your examination before April 15, 2000, you must complete both Element 4A (instant upgrade to Advanced) and Element 4B, then take your CSCE for Element 4B to a VE session on or after April 15 to apply for your Amateur Extra ticket (this means filling out Form 605 and paying the application fee, if any, to the VEC). And yes, in this example, it means you would need to appear at *two* test sessions. You also could just wait until April 15 and take the single 50-question Extra class written test.

4. The new question pool has not been developed yet for the post-April 15, 2000, tests.
- 

## Contest Calendar

---

*Chris Shalvoy, K2CS*

*January, 2000*

22-24 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

**28-30 CQWW 160m CW**

*February, 2000*

**19-20 ARRL DX Contest SSB**

**25-27 CQWW 160m SSB**

*Ed note – Bold indicates RDXA Club Competition.*

---

## Some new calls for April 15th

---

*Fred Gern, K2FR*

SLØW- new extra

SL1CK what a new guy thinks it is

PHØNE just new

T1MID real new

GØODY happy

GØAL smaller?

MØAN unhappy

ST1NK another opinion

WA1L another unhappy

---

## Incoming QSL Buro

---

*Fred Gern, K2FR*

**ARRL 2nd District QSL Bureau  
NJDXA  
PO Box 599  
Morris Plains, NJ 07950**

This QSL Bureau *prefers* that subscribers send a check (\$5 minimum I believe) for postage credits. SASEs will only be accepted if they are close to 5 x 7-1/2 inch size, and you need to have sufficient postage on them - important if you get lots of cards. Sending the check is **much** easier.

---

## How's DX?

---

*Chris Shalvoy, K2CS*

Hope you all survived the New Year, Y2K or otherwise.

---

Take it from an insider, we had absolutely **no** calls pertaining to Y2K failures.

As for DX, things have been humming right along. With the past ARRL Sweepstakes, 160 & 10m contests and the CQWW CW contests, more than the geese are getting fat.

Our contest grid has bloated and with that, we're on our way to another record year. Please check the following grid for accuracy and get changes to me.

The fun never stops as the January VHF Sweepstakes is in a week, CQWW 160m CW follows on Superbowl weekend and ARRL DX SSB will be held the third weekend in February. Refer to the complete contest listings later in this issue.

Seems the bands have drifted towards their winter ways, SFI has been down lately, 40 meters is already open when most of us get home from work, and 10 is already gone.

A few snippets:

CE0Z is QRZ now and will be so until 20<sup>th</sup> January. QSL via CE6TBN

XZ0A is scheduled to begin on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

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

T30CW (30m CW)

**PT7NK (6m SSB)**

**9M6AAC (15m CW)**

**ZC4AKR (20m CW)**

A61AJ (30m CW, 20m SSB)

T32BO (20m CW)

**BY9GA (20m CW)**

PY0ZFO (20m CW)

**SV2ASP/A (20m SSB)**

**XU7AAV (17m CW)**

5T5U (10m SSB)

7X4AN (10m CW)

**XU7AAZ (20m SSB)**

TA3D (40m CW)

**CE0Z (15m SSB)**

IN THE MAIL (non-buro pack)

PT7NK

FS5PL

R1MVA

V73GT

XX9TRR

3B9R

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

---

## More DX

---

*From the ARRL Web Site*

MONACO, 3A. Laura, 3A2MD, is QRV between 3510 and 3515 kHz before 0700z.

GUINEA, 3X. Robert, 3XY1B0, has been QRV on 21035 kHz around 1630z. QSL via F5XX.

SRI LANKA, 4S. Yasu, 4S7YSG, can usually be found on 10103 kHz just before 1700z. QSL via JA2BDR.

UNITED NATIONS, 4U. Fritz, DL4TT, will be QRV from 4U1UN beginning January 7. He will concentrate on CW on the higher bands.

JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLANDS, CE0. A group of amateurs are QRV as CE0Z until January 16. Look for their CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31, SSTV, Packet and Satellite operations on 80 to 10 meters, including the newer bands, and 6 and 2 meters and 70 cm. QSL via operator instructions.

SAN ANDRES AND PROVIDENCIA ISLANDS, HK0. Abel, HK0VGJ, can

---

often be found on 40 meters CW starting as early as 0330z.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Marek has been QRV as HF0POL on 21010 kHz between 1400 and 1530z. QSL via SP3WVL.

ITALY, I. Amateurs living in Rome have been granted permission to replace their regular callsign prefixes with the special I10 prefix to celebrate the Jubilee Year until December 24, 2000.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Shiro, JD1BIC/JD1, usually comes up on 30 meters CW around 1000z.

ANTARCTICA. Sarah is operating KC4AAD, and will be active for the next several weeks from Siple Dome Station. QSL via K4MZU.

SEYCHELLES, S7. S79LE has been QRV using PSK31 on 14070 kHz just before 1800z. QSL via DL8LE.

PALAU, T8. Hide is QRV as T88LJ, and can be found on 30 meters CW between 1400 and 1800z. QSL via JH8DEH.

UZBEKISTAN, UJ. Shams, UK8CK, is usually QRV on 80 meters using CW around 0000z. QSL via RW6HS.

BERMUDA, VP9. Bob, KE0UI, will be QRV as VP9/KE0UI from January 8 to 15 on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. He will be active from rare Hamilton Parish, IOTA NA-005. QSL to home call.

BURKINA FASO, XT. XT2DR has often been QRV between 0700 and 0800z on 21275 kHz. He will be here until January 24. QSL via F6BZH.

---

## For Sale

---

*Dave Wright, N2CK*

Home Brew, 2 meter, 5 el. new beam.  
\$50.00

Mosley TA 31 M, 10/15/20 meters  
\$125.00

Mosley TW 31 M, 12/17/30 meters  
\$125.00

Rotating dipoles, like new, full size, high power.

**Len, WA2ZNC** 229-5470 or send email to wa2znc@juno.com

ICOM 751A, Competition grade, full featured HF transceiver. All mode, general coverage receiver, built-in keyer, new cost ~\$1500. As new condition, only \$495, including ICOM power supply, both desk and hand held microphones, external ICOM speaker, original packing boxes.

Also have Hustler 5BTV vertical antenna. 80 through 10 meters. Needs new base hardware. Current list >\$200, today \$25.00! **Ed Gable k2mp**, 392-3088 or k2mp@eznet.net

---

## Upcoming Hamfest

---

*Dave Wright, N2CK*

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring a hamfest on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> at the Leonard Post VFW hall, located at 2450 Walden Ave, Cheektowaga. Talk in freq. Is 147.255+.

## 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>Paul Meyers, N2OPW</i> <i>Bob Hunter NG2P</i> <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.



33 South Main Street  
Pittsford, NY 14534

Bus: (716) 381-4770

Paul Ext. 178 • Toni Ext. 177

Fax: (716) 586-4599

E-Mail: [mackanos@nothnagle.com](mailto:mackanos@nothnagle.com)

E-Mail: [tconnors@nothnagle.com](mailto:tconnors@nothnagle.com)



PAUL MACKANOS  
Sales Agent

*50 Years  
Combined  
Experience*



TONI CONNOR  
Associate Broker

### **Walker Tower**

Amateur Radio Towers  
Antennas & Lines  
Installation and Painting  
Maintenance and Service  
Free Advice

**Andy Walker**  
**KA2RBW**

(716) 243-1841

### **2000 CALLBOOK CD-ROMs**

Genuine "Flying Horse" Callbooks  
\$38/USA, \$39/VE, \$41/DX QTHs  
Check, VISA, MC (NY Res. add 8% Tax)

#### **The 59(9) DX Report (Distributor)**

P.O. Box 73, Spring Brook, NY 14140  
Order by Tel/FAX: 716-677-2599

E-mail: [the599rpt@aol.com](mailto:the599rpt@aol.com)  
[members.aol.com/the599rpt/dx.htm](http://members.aol.com/the599rpt/dx.htm)

### **Rochester DX Association**

Dave Wright N2CK  
173 South Ave  
Hilton, NY 14468

## To: