

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



## Holiday Social Meeting

December 18<sup>th</sup> 19:30 local

27 Van Cortland Drive



See page 3 for directions

**Vic, K1PY and Carolyn, N2YPM** have graciously offered their home this month for a

Holiday Social. Spouses are invited. Please bring a dish to pass and the beverage of your choice. See you there!

*Any RDXAers caught ignoring their spouses at this gathering will be required to check into a DX net!*

to use the photos. So don't be surprised if some of our local ham friends and worthies turn up in a future issue of QST.)

This month and year, we mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first wireless transmission to span the Atlantic Ocean. On 12 December 1901, in a drafty tent atop Signal Hill outside of St. Johns Newfoundland, Marconi heard the faint but unmistakable sounds of the Morse letter "S" issuing from his receiver.

Today, we give little thought to our daily use of the radio technology pioneered by Marconi and others. From garage door openers to cell phones to satellite communications to invisible fences for your favorite canine, radio infuses our lives.

As we celebrate the achievements this month of the first radio amateurs, it's perhaps appropriate to pause a moment and consider the dedication and persistence shown by these individuals in their pursuit of the art and science that was to become radio. As you casually strike up a QSO with a fellow ham half a world away, imagine what it took for Marconi and his colleagues to pull off this feat. Years of tinkering and testing, thinking, redesigning and refining—always pushing the limits of the medium.

This indeed is the amateur spirit!

QRU es CU at the meeting

### President's Soapbox

By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

Hey, someone forgot to pay the propagation gods for CQWW CW ! And you know what? They turned off the bands. What terrible conditions! On Saturday, I too actually went outside to see if my coax had come loose from the beam. There was a modest recovery on Sunday, but it was still pretty rough sledding—all the more disappointing when compared to the excellent conditions in the month prior to the Contest. Ah well, that's what makes HF operating interesting. Let's hope we don't experience such dismal conditions for the December contests.

Just a reminder, lowbanders will get their shot at fame and fortune early in the month with the 160m CW event. 10m aficionados have their chance to show off their mode versatility with both CW and phone at mid-month.

Speaking of contesting, I hope you got a chance to look at the Hickory Lake Contest Club Bulletin on the RDXA website. I certainly had fun putting together this lighthearted photo story of K2NNY in the 2001 phone Sweepstakes. If you haven't already, stop by the RDXA Library on our website and take a look. (I sent a copy to Dan Henderson at the League and he asked for permission

### Editor's Corner

By Dave Wright - N2CK

Once again our bands are under attack. You probably received a letter asking for funds from the ARRL. It seems that the band of choice this time is 70cm, specifically 425-435 MHz. Yes, I know 70cm isn't savored by DXers, and HF contesters, but it is used quite extensively for local communications. Take a trip over to the ARRL web site and read all about it.

I am now packet enabled! I've had the equipment and software for longer than I will admit to, but thanks to **Ed, K2MP's** assistance (and patience I must add) things are up and running just fine. I do need to add an omni antenna for 2m so I can turn the beam (the antenna I'm using is above the tribander – once I turn toward Europe I lose the cluster). I've got the making of a quarter wave ground plane ready to assemble and put up, courtesy of the W20MV estate. I'm sure Bill wouldn't mind his antenna emitting RF again for the purpose of chasing DX!

I was one section away from a sweep in sweepstakes phone! Just where was Quebec hiding? It seems hard to believe I missed such a close section. I didn't operate much Sunday afternoon due to

personal reasons. Perhaps if I had stayed at the rig, I could have done the sweep. I now have to switch to rant mode. What gives with these 40m nets on Sunday morning? I was 3 kHz away from one net running 500 watts into a vertical. I had a nice run, working quite a few New England states I needed. All the while I was on this frequency no one I worked commented about my interfering with ongoing nets. Someone came up on my frequency and proceeded to complain bitterly about the interference I was causing. Apparently these folks are on this frequency every day of the week at that time and hence, it's their frequency! Realizing that nothing I said would deter the person confronting me, I decided to move. After moving, when I looked for a frequency, I cranked the mic gain and loudly announced QRZ, are there any nets +/- 5 kHz of this frequency? Upon hearing no dissenting voices, I proceeded to commence calling CQ again. I'm sure the net folks think we're just as annoying, and I know this is a topic Mike touched on in his November column, but it sure is annoying. OK, enough of ranting. I feel better now.

I've got a word of advice to those folks that like to build and tinker with computers. It seems like I have a defective floppy drive in the shack computer. The problem is that I can't get to two of the screws holding it in because the motherboard is in the way. So, now I have to bring the computer to the workbench (the kitchen table), remove all the cards (making sure to note the slots they're in), and swing the panel holding the motherboard in place to remove two screws! I don't think the new drive is going to have screws in both sides when it goes back together! I haven't been able to submit logs 'cause I can't get them off the machine (the shack computer has not network connections to the outside world).

Remember that December brings the joint RDXA/RARA outing at the Museum and Science Center. As I said last month, it's a great event. I will probably make it at least a couple of days. As an event participant, you'll get free admission. Hopefully I'll see you there.

Have fun, work some contests or DX (just stay away from a net in progress, or one that is due to start within the next 3 hours) [Sorry--couldn't resist], and keep those bands warm.

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## DX of the Past, December 1961 By Ed Gable - K2MP

One hundred years ago, on December 12, 1901, the first DXer grabbed the spotlight by "working" the first trans-Atlantic wireless communication. In a cold, barely-heated, drafty building in Newfoundland, our DXer let loose a kite antenna, and using an untuned detector and a common telephone receiver held tightly to his ear, he distinctly heard the morse code letter "S" transmitted from far away Poldhu, Cornwall, UK. Our first DXer was, of course, a young Italian named Marconi.

History doesn't reveal if he ever got a QSL card. Sixty years later, however, the DX news was filled with comments, suggestions and schemes for getting those much needed pasteboards. By the early 60's DXing and DXpeditions were a growing pastime by the increasing number of Hams worldwide, led by the U.S. and graduating Novices looking for increasing challenges. QSLing was a major problem. IRCs were useless in non-postal union countries, which were numerous in Africa, Asia and Eastern countries. QSL buros were popping up at a brisk pace, but unlike the ARRL, you had to be a paid up member of your country's buro for incoming and outgoing cards. It was difficult to know if the DX you worked was a buro member or not so sending off your card to a DX buro was a crap shoot.

Some QSL routes were listed in QST and in printed weekly DX newsletters such as the *DX Magazine* by Don Chesser, W4KVX, or *The DXERS Magazine* penned by Gus Browning, W4BPD. These weekly, pre-internet, magazines were the major source of DX news and a must for the serious DXer of the day. Subscriptions, 40 issues, by airmail, were \$7.50 a year.

Another popular QSL technique was to use SASEs with stamps affixed for the DX country. Foreign stamps were available from several sources, the largest was from local dx legend Sax Ringler, W2SAW. Nonetheless, QSLs did get through and cards this month to drool over were XT2Z from the Upper Volta Republic, TY2AA from the Republic of Dahomey, EA9IA from Ifni and TL8AC from French Central Africa. Note that all are deleted countries today.

Speaking of that, this reporter has learned that the AWA Museum in Bloomfield is going to display an upgraded amateur radio history section in 2002. Part of that will be a display of QSLs from deleted countries. If you have any old cards in a box, on the floor in the closet, that you would like to share with others, contact museum Curator Ed Gable, K2MP.

From the pages of QST, and directed especially to the DXer and Contester, was an ad from Space-Raider of Pasadena, CA. Their products featured 6 element mono-band yagis with crossed elements causing a polarized diversity pattern to eliminate QSB and fading. Fade away they did--as nothing was ever seen or heard from them again.

Happy Holidays and good future DXing. 73, Ed K2MP.

### Radio Factoids from K2MP:

- 1905:** Horace Martin introduced the Vibroplex key. He called it a bug.
- 1914:** Hiram Percy Maxim forms the ARRL to relay messages. Typical Amateurs had a range of 25 miles.
- 1950:** The US Ham population was near 90,000.
- 2000:** The ARRL outgoing QSL buro handled 1,868,895 cards!

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### December Contests

ARRL 160m, CW ----- 7-9 December  
ARRL 10M, CW/SSB ----- 15, 16 December  
ARRL Straight Key Nite ----- 31 December

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### January Contests

ARRL Straight Key Nite ----- 1 January  
ARRL RTTY Roundup ----- 5, 6 January  
Japan Int'l DX, CW 160-40m ----- 11-13 January  
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes ----- 19-21 January  
CQ 160m, CW ----- 25-27 January

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## Holiday Social Directions

By Vic Gauvin - K1PY

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

1. Exit 490E at exit for 31F, heading south (east) toward Fairport.
2. At first light after 490, Right on Washington St (Rte 153).
3. At next light, Left, going under railroad bridge (North Main St, Pittsford, Rte 96).
4. Straight on South Main St (Rte 96) at light at crossroads in center of Pittsford Village.
5. Straight on South Main St (Rte 64) at light at Jefferson Rd (FYI: 96 goes L on Jeff).
6. At next traffic light, bear Left on Pittsford-Mendon Rd (Rte 64).
7. First Left on Knickerbocker Rd.
8. Second Right on Stuyvesant Rd.
9. First Left on Van Cortland Dr.
10. **Third house on right, #27 (look for Yagi in trees).**

### Via East Ave :

1. 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.
2. Continue on East Ave. and Rte 96 past Nazareth College.
3. Follow directions from #4, above (via 490E and Washington).

### Via Monroe Ave :

1. East on Monroe Ave past Pittsford Plaza to Pittsford Village.
2. Right (south) on South Main St (Rte 96) at light at crossroads in center of Village.
3. Follow directions from #5, above (via 490E and Washington).

### Via Jefferson Rd:

1. East on Jefferson Rd past Locust Hill CC
2. Straight at light at intersection with Clover St (Rte 65)
3. At second traffic light, Right on South Main St (Rte 64)
4. Follow directions from #6, above (via 490E and Washington).

### Via Rte 96 from Bushnell's Basin:

1. North on Jefferson Rd/Pittsford-Victor Rd (Rte 96) from Basin.
2. Pass East Street on left; canal on right—watch for next turn now.
3. Next Left at canal flood control gate—acute angle turn—onto Knickerbocker Rd.
4. First Left on Van Cortland Dr.
5. At 3<sup>rd</sup> left (Saxony), continue straight on Van Cortland but look for Yagi straight ahead, on left.
6. **Driveway on left, third house from end of Van Cortland, #27 (look for Yagi in trees).**

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## RMSC Holiday Science Fair

By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

RDXA has again been invited to participate in the Holiday Science and Technology Week at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. This year's HSTW takes place on 27, 28, 29 December. The hours are from 10:00 to 16:00 local each day. Like last year, we will setup and operate an HF station continuously, throughout the event. Operators are needed. We have established no particular operator schedule for the HSTW. Several RDXA members, myself included, will be on hand throughout. If you want to operate or lend a hand in some other way, come on down.

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## EMP Shielding Required?

From the ARRL Web site

A petition recently put on public notice by the FCC would require that all electronic equipment subject to the Commission's jurisdiction be shielded against electromagnetic pulse (EMP) damage. The proposal, as drafted, would apply to both new and existing equipment that falls within its scope. If the petitioners have their way, that would include Amateur Radio equipment. Amateur radio may qualify for a luxury exemption. However considering the emergency service that Amateur Radio can

provide, it could become a reality. This, of course, stems from the Sept 11<sup>th</sup> attack. Marconi meet Jules Verne.

*Ed.: I found an interesting EMP commentary on the web. It was written by Adam Eisenberg. Check out Mr. Eisenberg's website at: <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/5971/emp.html>.*

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## New York Ham Wins Lawsuit

From the ARRL Web site

In one of the most favorable PRB-1 court rulings in years, a New York amateur has won a three-year battle to erect a tower on his property. The US District Court for the Northern District of New York has ordered the Saratoga Springs Planning Board to grant Randall J. Palmer, N2NVH, a special use permit for a 44-foot antenna support structure. PRB-1 is the limited federal pre-emption that requires localities to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communication.

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## The Banana Boat Swing and Other Distinctive Fists

CW Notes with Character By George F. Franklin - W0AV

Back in the thirties, when I got started in ham radio, every CW signal had at least two, sometimes three, characteristics...not all of which could be described by using the RST system. Incidentally, RST then maxed out at 559, not 599 as now; easier to manage in those days.

First of all, there was the "fist", i.e. the operator's manner of sending. The old pump handle straight key was pretty much the standard, and predominated on the bands. Next in popularity was the Vibroplex, commonly known as the "bug", with manual dashes and "automatic" dots. Here was where the individual sending style really came into play. There was the sea-going Sparks sporting his "banana boat roll", with the exaggerated dash length. You could easily visualize Sparks holding on for dear life in his shipboard shack as the vessel slowly listed from port or starboard. Once acquired, the BBR was usually retained even after Sparks returned to dry land; it was a badge of distinction, so to speak.

Of lesser popularity, but even more distinctive, was the style of an operator using a classic "sideswiper" key. The dots and dashes were both made manually by horizontal movement of the blade to which the finger grips were attached. The resulting CW, though eminently copyable, has to be heard to be appreciated as it defies word description. Yes, there are still a very few OTs on the bands using sideswipers, but they are most certainly a vanishing breed.

No discussion of fists would be complete without mention of the so called "Lake Erie Swing", which originated with bug-using marine ops on ships plying the Great lakes. The LES was characterized by the very generous use of dots, usually much faster (relatively) than the dashes. It made for a somewhat fluttery, whimsical style of sending, not unpleasant to copy once one got the hang of it. This style was later adopted by many airline and police CW operators, with equal success.

Vying for importance with the operator's fist, was the matter of his rigs CW "note", the T in the RST system. Here you encountered an endless variety of sounds, ranging from the raucous to the coveted PDC (pure DC) to somewhat rare T9X (PDC, crystal). There were many one stage, "self excited" rigs used on CW in those days, in spite of the dire FCC and Handbook warnings against coupling simple rigs of this type directly to the antenna. Many of us thought that as long as you used a "blocking capacitor" between the lead-in and the tap on the rig's output coil you were OK. After all, it wasn't direct coupling, was it? Simple keyed Hartley oscillators

using the popular type 210 or 45 tubes were generally identifiable by their pronounced “chirp”, usually caused by poor supply regulation. Someone has said that they sounded like a stepped on frog; an apt description.

The TNT circuit (my favorite) was often a one tube affair using a tuned plate tank circuit and an untuned grid coil, hence TNT (tuned, untuned). These rigs all too frequently emitted a rude sound which sounded like a nose being blown, or worse. A few made downright obscene sounds, probably because of inadequate power supply filtering.

A TNT rig with a poorly filtered, poorly regulated power supply was a frightful thing to hear on the bands. Strangely enough, the raunchier the note, the wider and more potent the offending signal seemed to become. One thing, though, it did attract attention from DX stations. Unfortunately, it frequently annoyed the FCC monitors, who responded with the fearsome “Green Ticket”. Of course, there were the purists who always managed to emit a T9X signal. They were sort of an elite bunch, however, who looked down upon the lowly users of Hartley and TNT rigs. They did stoop to respond to such offensive CW signals, but only if they originated off shore and could be classified as DX.

And then there was the special breed of CW operator, usually a high power fanatic in southern California who sported a crystal controlled KW+ rig, the signal from which was modulated at 120 (or 100) cycles (there were very few Hertz around in those days). This resulted in a very distinctive note which seemed to cut through the pileups, assisted by the big jugs pumping out the KWs, of course. I was told that the modulation was the result of using “resonant filters” in the power supply, in lieu of the typical brute force filter capacitors, which cost big money at 5 kV or so. These resonant filters did reduce the ripple significantly, usually just enough to meet the FCC criteria of the day. Sneaky but effective.

Oh, yes, there was the matter of S in RST, the signal strength factor. If you had sufficient power and a good antenna you could work the world on CW, even if the guy on the other end used a one tube regenerative receiver and a pismire transmitter. On the other hand, if your fist and/or your note were “distinctive” enough you could work plenty of stations, including DX, even if your signals weren’t all that powerful. A good chirpy (birdlike, squishy) or buzz saw signal could often cut right through a T9X pileup, especially if assisted by a good Banana Boat Roll or Lake Erie Swing.

I suppose some mention should be made of the atrocious frequency drifting of those classic CW rigs. Well, look at it this way. There was a fifty-fifty chance that one would drift away from the QRM. On the negative side, it was not unknown for a drifter to slide right out of the band and into outer darkness before the end of a long-winded transmission.

Ah...those were indeed the good old days of CW. Contrast those sounds with the sterile, electronically generated dots and dashes which dominate today’s ham bands. No Character there!

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**DX News** Excerpts from *OPDX Bulletin*  
<http://www.papays.com/opdx.html> 10 December 2001

**3X, Guinea**, Francois, VE2XO, will be in 3X-land between December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup>. He is expected to be operating as 3XY6A while he is in Conakry (capital city) hopefully December 26-27<sup>th</sup> and January 3-5<sup>th</sup>. However, he will be operating as 3XY8A when he is on Roume Island (Los Archipelago, **AF-051**), from December 28<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Francois will be active mainly on SSB (and on PSK31 from time to time) on 20/17/15/12/10 meters. He will be operating split (listening up 5 to 10 on

SSB and up 1 to 2 on PSK31). His preferred frequencies on SSB will be DX frequencies and the IOTA frequencies (+/- QRM):

20m - 14195 (3XY6A) and 14260 (3XY8A)  
17m - 18145 (3XY6A) and 18128 (3XY8A)  
15m - 21295 (3XY6A) and 21260 (3XY8A)  
12m - 24945 (3XY6A) and 24950 (3XY8A)  
10m - 28495 (3XY6A) and 28460 (3XY8A)

His preferred frequencies on PSK31 will be: 14070, 18100, 21070, 24920 and 28120 kHz. Francois also mentions that this is a one man “Holiday DXpedition”, so he won’t be operating 24 hours a day and will also spend some time enjoying the beach. QSL via VE2XO (direct only): Francois Normant, 3054 avenue Lacombe, Montreal QC H3T 1L4, Canada.

**4W, East Timor**, If you need this one on 20/15/10 meters CW, Thor, 4W6MM, continues to very active on/around 28002, 21002 and 14002 kHz, usually between 1130-1330z and around 0200z.

**E4, Palestine**, Guenter, OE1GZA, informs OPDX that after the unfortunate cancellation of his planned E4 activity for the CQWW SSB Contest (due to security reasons), E4/OE1GZA was still able to be active on November 23-24<sup>th</sup> and logged a total of 1,027 SSB contacts. Watch out for his next E4 activity on either December 14-15<sup>th</sup> or 21-22<sup>nd</sup> (if the regional security situation allows). Also, Guenter requests to please avoid “same band/samemode” duplicate contacts to allow as many hams as possible to work E4. QSL to address shown under the E4/OE1GZA entry in “qrz.com”.

**EA6, Balearic Islands**, Christian, DL6KAC, will be active on the Island of Mallorca (IOTA: **EU-004**, DIE: **E-021**) from December 21<sup>st</sup> through January 6<sup>th</sup>. Activity will be on 40-10 meters, maybe 80m, mainly on SSB (a CW Key is available) and using 350 watts of power into dipoles on the high bands, and an inverted “L” for 40/80 meters. This will be a holiday style operation. Callsigns were not provided, however, he will probably sign EA6/DL6KAC or DL6KAC/EA6. QSL via the DARC bureau or direct (qrz.com).

**KC4, Antarctica**, Chris, N3SIG, has been showing up a few days during the week as KC4/N3SIG from the McMurdo Base Station (**AN-011**). Watch 14243 kHz after 0400z. QSL via AI3D. Also, look for KC4AAA on the same frequency generally earlier, after 0200z. QSL via KI1ED.

**KH5, Palmyra Islands**, Mike/KH6ND and Kimo/KH7U were expected to be active in the ARRL 160 Contest this past weekend from here, but due to some transportation delays which was beyond their control, they had to cancel their operation. With the delays, the operators would not have arrived on the island until sometime Sunday. NEWS FLASH. Just before going to print, we received a message from Carl, N4AA, editor of QRZ DX, stating that Kimo/KH7U, Pat/NH6UY and Walt/AH6OZ will be active for a short time on December 10<sup>th</sup>, sometime between 0300 and 1800z. Activity will be on 20 meters, possibly the WARC bands or 40m.

**P5, North Korea**, Ed, P5/4L4FN, continues to be active on 10 meters after 2200z. However, he has been showing up on 20 meters on 14260 kHz after 1300z, usually working stations from Asia and Europe.

**PJ2, Neth. Antilles**, Marty, NWØL, will be operating from the island of Curacao (IOTA **SA-006**), January 2-8<sup>th</sup>, and will be signing PJ2T in the ARRL RTTY Roundup Contest on January 5-6<sup>th</sup>. Before and after the contest, he will sign PJ2/NWØL, primarily on RTTY and SSB, on 80-10 meters, including 17/12 meter WARC bands. QSL PJ2T only via KN7Y and QSL PJ2/NWØL via his home callsign.

**PJ2, Neth. Antilles**, Remember to look for William/W9VA, Joe/W9JUV and W9EFL to be active from Curacao (**SA-006**), December 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. They plan to operate in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest (December 15-16<sup>th</sup>), Single Op category, as PJ2T. Before and after the contest, look for them to be signing PJ2/homecall. QSL via home calls.

**PYØF, Fernando De Noronha**, Tony, PY8IT, will once again operate as PYØFT from here, December 12-18<sup>th</sup>. He will be concentrating on RTTY and PSK31. QSL via JA1ELY.

**S9, Sao Tome**, A group of Scandinavian Hams will be active from here February 4-10<sup>th</sup>, possibly as S92LA. The “Team Hot Coil”, co-ordinators Rune Oye/LA7THA and Stein Roar Brobakken/LA6FJA expect to be active on 160-6 meters, including the WARC bands, with operations on



CW/SSB/PSK31/ RTTY and SSTV. Their main target will be the low bands, WARC's, DigiMode, CW, SSB and 6 meter. They plan to have at least two stations active 24 hours per day. The QSL Manager's address (LA2N) is: Sore Sunnmore Gruppa av NRRL, v/ Otto Norhagen, NO-6143 Fiskaabygd, Norway, Europe.

**V5, Namibia**, DL2SL and Janusz/SP6IXF will be active from here next year (February/March 2002). Their departure is scheduled on February 14<sup>th</sup> from Berlin, and they should be active from February 15<sup>th</sup> from Farm Heimat, 130km west of the capital. They will head back home on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Their activity is planned for operations on all bands. The callsign used by SP6IXF will be V51/SP6IXF, and for DL2SL it will be V51/DL2SL.

**VP8/SS & VP8/SG, South Sandwich And South Georgia Islands**

**(Update)**, James Brooks, 9V1YC, sent out a press release on December 3<sup>rd</sup> on the upcoming DXpedition. In it he states, "VP8/sg South Georgia and VP8/ss South Sandwich will be activated on the HF bands in January and February of 2002. Operators are EI6FR, EI5IQ, HB9ASZ, PA3FQA, K0IR, W3WL, K4UEE, VE3EJ, N5KO, K5TR, W7EW and 9V1YC. Exact dates, callsigns and QSL managers are not being made public until we are on the air." The complete press release will be sent to all OPDX InterNet Subscribers as an additional bulletin.

**XU, Cambodia**, (Attention Topbanders) Dick, N6FF, is now active from Sihanoukville signing XU7ACB. He will be here until December 17<sup>th</sup>. His activity is centered around the low bands, especially 160 meters. Look for him around/on 1828, 3525, 7003 and 10106 kHz. QSL via N6FF.

**YA, Afghanistan**, Currently, all YA5T operators are out of the country and are expected to be back sometime early this week. Be advised that there has been a SLIM active using the YA5T callsign on 20 meters CW.

**ZD8, Ascension Islands**, Jim, ZD8Z, has been really active on 80 meters this past week (with some activity on 40/30/17/10 meters). Watch 80 meters as early as 2145z and as late as 0300z between 3788 and 3797 kHz. Watch 30 meters (10102 or 10106) around 0200z and 17 meters starting at 0100z on 18072 or 18106 kHz. QSL via VE3HO.

**Propagation** AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, December 1990

Solar Flux Range ----- 178 – 241

MUFs are significantly lower this season. With solar fluxes in the 200 range much of the time, the bands (all of them) are acting as though fluxes were lower than they are. I don't have an explanation, only an adjusted forecast.

**Low Bands:** Conditions on 80 are better than the last two seasons, with activity every night - especially on fone. In the early evening, pileups on European stations are dominated by east coast packeteers (lids). This is not the EU propagation peak anyway, since sunrise doesn't sweep across the continent until after 0600Z. On both 40 and 80, the DX can then be worked with much less competition because so many are asleep. The best nighttime band will be 40 CW. Exotic African stations tend to show during the evening, and the east coast doesn't seem to have such an advantage in this direction.

**20 Meters:** MUFs are not high enough to keep 20 open at night. The evening path to the sunrise areas to the northeast is closed, and this is the path with the most DX activity. The southern hemisphere is not effected by this problem, so the band will usually remain open to points south and east after it closes to Europe. Trans-antarctic long path openings will occur at their regular times. During much of the day there are marginal openings to Europe—but we all know there are better daytime bands.

**Daytime Bands:** The lower MUFs have effected 10 Meters, which shuts down shortly after dark (also in Europe). Last year the Europeans kept coming through into the afternoon. These openings are now shorter, especially into Russia where the band closes shortly after our sunrise. A greater portion of Asia will be inaccessible this winter on 10. There will be plenty of activity anyway, since 10 is a very popular band. 15 will actually be in better condition, with longer openings to more of the world.

73, de Roy - AD5Q / Houston

<http://www.qth.com/ad5q/>

**Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table**

Issued 2001 December 05

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2001 Dec 05	225	10	3
2001 Dec 06	225	8	3
2001 Dec 07	220	7	2
2001 Dec 08	210	7	2
2001 Dec 09	205	7	2
2001 Dec 10	200	7	2
2001 Dec 11	190	7	2
2001 Dec 12	190	7	2
2001 Dec 13	190	8	3
2001 Dec 14	190	8	3
2001 Dec 15	190	8	3
2001 Dec 16	185	8	3
2001 Dec 17	185	8	3
2001 Dec 18	185	8	3
2001 Dec 19	185	8	3
2001 Dec 20	185	10	3
2001 Dec 21	190	10	3
2001 Dec 22	195	8	3
2001 Dec 23	195	7	2
2001 Dec 24	200	7	2
2001 Dec 25	205	7	2
2001 Dec 26	210	7	2
2001 Dec 27	215	7	2
2001 Dec 28	220	7	2
2001 Dec 29	225	7	2
2001 Dec 30	225	7	2
2001 Dec 31	225	8	3

# ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION

W2RDX

rdxa.com

This Bulletin is the official organ of the Rochester DX Association and is published monthly, September through June, prior to each monthly meeting.

All those with an interest in amateur radio and DXing and contesting are cordially invited to any meeting. Meetings are held at 19:30 local time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Location is the auditorium of the Monroe County Social Services Bldg., 111 Westfall Rd., Rochester, NY.

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