

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

[rdxa.com](http://rdxa.com)



## Regular Meeting

October 16<sup>th</sup> 19:30 local

111 Westfall Road  
Monroe County Buildings

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS will host a discussion on the art of QSLing. Chris will tell us how to get those Rare DX cards.

*Note potential meeting room change at 111 Westfall—see President's Soapbox for details.*

## Social after Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin  
Winton Plaza

storms. Don't forget to check your ground system during an inspection. Refurbishing oxidized ground connections with a little emery cloth and steel wool is good practice and can often lower noise levels.

In preparation for contest season, **Scott, K2ZS** has made further refinements to the RDXA website. The results are faster loading for those on dial-up connections and a really unique page header. Stop by [rdxa.com](http://rdxa.com) and check it out.

Finally, a note on our meeting room location at 111 Westfall Road. We have been informed that asbestos removal work is scheduled to begin sometime in the period October through January, on the ground floor. This will put the auditorium and perhaps even the cafeteria and adjacent room out of commission. **Steve Gulack, N2ZDS**, our liaison with the County, has arranged for an alternate location in the building during this time. If the auditorium, cafeteria, and adjacent room are unavailable, we have Room #858 reserved for the balance of the meeting year. This is a moderate-size conference room on the 8th floor. If you are among the first to arrive and our usual meeting spots are not available, head up to Room #858.

QRU es CU at the meeting

### President's Soapbox

By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

Have you been on the bands lately? If not, you're missing some truly great conditions. October is considered by many savvy operators to be the best month of the year for DX...and recent conditions are certainly proving their case. Solar flux has been consistently high, and in spite of some days with A-indices above 15, worldwide DX has been regular and consistent on all the high bands. In fact, I have seen some reports that the conditions we are experiencing now may represent the peak of Cycle 23 - which was previously believed to have occurred last year.

October also kicks off the contest season with CQ Worldwide DX SSB at the end of the month. If you're looking for a warm-up to CQ WW along with a shot at some exotic Pacific and Asian DX, don't forget the VK/ZL Oceania CW contest 13-14 October. With the bands in such great shape, there are sure to be some rare catches in this event.

Speaking of the contest season, how's your antenna farm? Now's a good time to check everything over before winter conditions set in. A little preventive maintenance on ropes, fasteners, and feedlines goes a long way to insuring your aerials stay up through the winter

### Editor's Corner

By Dave Wright - N2CK

What a difference a month makes! Last month when I wrote this column I had a fan running in the shack, now it's time to close the storm windows and turn up the thermostat.

Is your shack/station prepared for the rigors of the onslaught of winter? The only task I would like to perform is re-guying the vertical antenna. It's a project that will take just a few hours to do, but I never seem to get around to it.

I had some fun while trying to work Conway Reef last night. While waiting for the operator to work them by the numbers (he was on the 7's) the operator took a short break. I was busy at the computer, so I didn't hear the reason for the break. After listening to the silence at 21.295 for a few minutes, I couldn't take it anymore. In my boldest, wise guy attitude, I announced, "QRZ, QRZ - Is the frequency in use?" I was promptly redressed (politely) by the frequency police. Of course I went back and told them I was checking to see if they were awake. I hope they could take a joke!

The pages of QST were filled with reports of easy to work YA stations in now very uncertain Afghanistan. Seems as though many U.S. Tech Reps were there installing comm gear and doing oil exploration. W6BRF, having just arrived in Turkey (TA) reported that there is no Amateur activity at all permitted in that country. Same was true of Nepal, where U.S. Cook Electronics personnel, numbering in the hundreds, were installing a country-wide telephone system. The many hams there were told no 9N licenses would be issued.

In a rare editorial mood, QST devoted a full five page report on the KS4BB DX-pedition to Serrana Bank, then a separate country, now HK0. This is a wonderfully detailed account, which is great reading and gives one appreciation for the difficulties of putting rare ones on-the-air in the early days.

On this date the top U.S. SSB DX'er was W8YIN with 140 countries confirmed, but world-wide it was TIHP with 183 confirmed.

World Traveler and DX-er Danny Weil, having sunk two previous sailing sloops, now has a third, the *Yasme III*. First stop is the Galapagos, HC8.

The cover of *DX Magazine* revealed the OH0XK/0 DX-pedition to much needed Aaland Island. Also shown was their use of a brand new Viking Valiant transmitter. Reading further into the article reveals none other than our own Sax Ringler, W2SAW, as being responsible for cutting red tape to get the TX delivered. The results of the 25<sup>th</sup> annual ARRL DX contest were published showing the RDXA placing sixth place nationally with 1.9M points. Local top scorers were W2FBA and W2TXB on CW, and W2PUN and K2GXI on phone. For you VHF DX-ers, power is now easier to obtain using the just announced Viking 6N2 Thunderbolt amplifier.

#### Historical Bits from K2MP:

- 1916:** 2IB works 8AEZ, a distance of 750 miles, new record.
- 1936:** Atlantic VHF DX with G5BY spanning the ocean on 5 m.
- 1947:** Narrow-band FM allowed on ham bands. One benefit was the elimination of BCI caused by AM.

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#### Hot Tips for DX

#### DX Reflector

Check out the North Jersey DX Association DX Tips at: [usats.com/ce-dx.html](http://usats.com/ce-dx.html). It has a section for Ongoing Events. So if you are not up on the latest DX-pedition point your browser here.

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#### Electrical Tape for Amateur Use By Fred Groner - W2TZ

When you do antenna work, one of the most important items you need is good, reliable electrical tape. Most amateurs who have had experience with electrical tape for antenna applications would strongly recommend either Scotch (3M) 33 or 88 Vinyl Tape. This tape bonds and holds well for long periods of time. I recently dug up some 10 year old buried coax which had Scotch 33 taped barrel connectors, and the tape was still in superb shape with no signs of degradation. Be careful, however, when using this same tape that may be a few years old. I had some Scotch 33 that was about 5 years old and used it to tape rotor cable to the side of my tower.

Within days the tape lost its grip and quickly unwound, hastened by the wind. Apparently, vinyl tape has a finite shelf life.

While Scotch 33 or 88 is the tape to use, it is expensive (\$4 a roll) compared to other Vinyl tape you could buy for less than \$1 a roll. I personally like good, but I like cheap, also. Home Depot and Chase Pitkin have cheap Vinyl electrical tape for about \$.48 and \$.64 a roll, respectively. Chase Pitkin has another tape for about \$1 a roll, which seems attractive because it is made by 3M. I am presently experimenting with this tape by using it in places which will allow easy inspection, and easy change if necessary. It would be great to find a good and cheap tape.

Another problem, which annoys me to no end, using cheap tape is its inability to stand up to high humidity—in either indoor or outdoor applications. I have taped spliced wires in an indoor environment with cheap tape only to find after a year or two of high humidity cycles that the tape would loosen and almost fall off the splice exposing bare wire. This is very bad especially for safety reasons.

So in summary, use fairly new Scotch 33 or 88 tape if you want to be relatively sure that your tape job will pass the test of time. If you use cheap tape, inspect frequently.

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#### Salvation Army still needs Volunteer Ops

**ARRL**

NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 2, 2001—Although the Salvation Army has cut one shift of radio operators to support the organization's World Trade Center relief operation in New York City, it still needs fresh Amateur Radio volunteers. "We are still short of people," said **Jeff Schneller, N2HPO**--who is coordinating the Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Network, or SATERN, operation.

Schneller said the midnight to 8 AM shift has been suspended, but SATERN still needs six Amateur Radio operators per shift—a total of 12 per day—for the indefinite future. He said he appreciates the volunteers who have turned out so far to assist the Salvation Army effort, but those there the longest now "are getting weary," he said.

SATERN needs operators at the Kennedy Airport warehouse with their own base station set up from about 8 AM until about 9 PM—possibly broken into shifts. In addition, SATERN needs operators to ride with trucks to provide communication. He said the Salvation Army now has three trucks running from morning till night. He said this effort also can be broken into shifts, but determining exact shift times is difficult because of traffic and loading and unloading delays. "They try for 4 PM as a shift change time," he said. Operators start and end these shifts at Salvation Army Division HQ on 14th Street in Manhattan, where SATERN also needs operators.

Schneller said that, if sufficient additional operators are available, they may be deployed to check on canteen sites and/or ride with other vehicles that are providing Ground Zero support or relief.

"Radio usage is becoming less emergency-oriented and more long-term logistical support oriented as time goes by," Schneller said. "Response from around the nation and the world has been heart-warming, especially those amateur operators who were willing to put their life on hold, so that they could come help out for a few days or weeks in NYC."

Schneller said the word he has from Salvation Army is that the organization is happy with the Amateur Radio support they've been getting. "They want us to keep going," he said. So far, he said,

some 40 Amateur Radio operators have turned out to help support the Salvation Army relief effort—some from the New York City area but others from as far away as Missouri, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Schneller requested that potential volunteers contact him directly:

**Home:** 718-461-0370

**Cell:** 917-226-1339

**Page:** 718-939-3939 (give message to operator)

**Ham radio:** Call N2HPO on the 147.270 repeater (141.3 or 127.3 CTCSS).

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## Hilton Apple Fest Results

By Dave Wright - N2CK

First of all, I would like to thank all of those folks who came out to operate, hang out, or whatever. I think the combined effort of BARK, RVHF, RDXA, and RARA was quite a fun event. We worked 167 folks at the HF station. Not much DX, although YK4AZF, came back to me from Syria (15M SSB). I got chastised from **Ed, K2MP** for not working them with my own call. Had I known how rare it was, I probably would have tried. For DX we worked Switzerland, England, and Guantanamo Bay. We operated on 40-10 with a wire dipole and a Kenwood TS-140, both provided by **Ed, K2MP**. The Radio coaches from RARA did a GREAT job getting kids on the air. We also had a 2m mobile using a J-pole for local communications.

However, **George, N2UIO**, provided the real impressive display. I asked George if he could provide an ATV demonstration. George was receptive, and I procured access to a room on the second floor. The original intent was for George to man the camera and transmit ATV signals back to us in the tent. However George did us one better and put together what he called a man-pack. Picture this – George (and sometimes an assistant) would wander through the crowd, transmitting what they saw, back to us in the tent. He often stopped and interviewed some people along the way as well. He really liked working along the food booth isle as he got all kinds of free handouts! The best part of this is that we were watching live, and were chatting via 2m simplex as well (yes – it was recorded for posterity). One woman who stopped by mentioned that her daughter was working in the Apple Pancake booth. We sent George over to that booth to check it out. It was quite an experience for this woman to see and chat with her daughter over an ATV link! I plan on sharing the video with the Apple Fest folks.

I wanted to use a computer for logging, in part to make the QSL'ing chores easier, but also to show how computers are an integral part of a shack these days. I found a nice logging program written by **Scott, N3FJP** at the QRZ site. It has an easy, intuitive interface, and handled the chores quite well. We wanted to have a digital mode, such as PSK31, but we never got it fired up.

All in all it was quite a successful gathering. I've been getting ~8 QSL requests a day, with some even arriving on Monday (it was a Sat/Sun event).

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## ARRL DX Phone Results

By Dave Wright - N2CK

I stopped by the ARRL site looking for material as I usually do, and discovered the results are available. RDXA had a pretty good showing with 24 entries for 13,777,950 points. And once again **Fred, W2TZ** finished in the top 10 single operator, low power.

Nice job Fred! The **RDXA - K2FR** Memorial plaque for W/VE low power combined scores was won by **VA3UZ**.

As before I won't list RDXA'ers and how they finished (as I often overlook somebody!), however the results will be published in the November issue of QST.

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## On the Block

By Dave Wright - N2CK

FOR SALE: 40 foot E-Z Way crank up tower. Very Good condition.. On the ground in Greece ready and to pick up. \$75.00. Ed Gable K2MP 392-3088 or k2mp@arrl.net

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## October Contests

VK/ZL Oceania DX, SSB-----6, 7 October  
VK/ZL Oceania DX, CW ----- 13, 14 October  
CQ Worldwide DX, SSB----- 27, 28 October

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## November Contests

ARRL Sweepstakes, CW -----3-5 November  
Japan Int'l DX, SSB----- 9-11 November  
Worked all EU DX, RTTY-----10-11 November  
IARU / RSGB 160m CW ----- 17, 18 November  
ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB -----17-19 November  
CQ Worldwide DX, CW ----- 24, 25 November

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## Propagation *AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, October 1990*

Solar Flux Range ----- 144 – 233

**10 Meters** is already in the peak of its season. This peak only lasts a couple of months, so it is wise to make the best use of it. Though most propagation forecasters claim the 10 meter season peaks in November, this one prefers October. The grey line path has much to do with this. This path currently leads into the Middle East in the early morning, and to Southeast Asia at sunset. Every DX Hog prefers this DX to Europeans and JA's, which is where the grey line leads us in November. Those working on 5 band WAZ (or 5 band Honor Roll) should concentrate on 10 Meters this month, because these Asian openings only occur at certain times of the day, in certain months, and only near the peak of the sunspot cycle. The CQ World Wide SSB contest is this month, and there is no better opportunity to work a lot of exotic countries in a hurry. Don't miss it.

**The situation on 15m** is less critical, but the band is very good. Polar openings are much more common and available throughout the year. The fall season brings an increase in activity on all bands, and a greater variety of workable countries. To maximize the number of exotic calls in your log, spend most of your time listening. Tune carefully and methodically across all open bands, and don't just listen for pileups. In many cases, the reason a country is rare is because there are no operators that work large numbers of stations pileup style. They prefer their DXing at a more leisurely rate, away from prime DX frequencies, or at times when the arrogant American hoards are asleep. It used to take much

time, patience and skill to chase down all the DXCC count-ries. With packet, these factors are no longer important.

Returning to the subject of propagation, **20m and 40m** will be very good this fall as nighttime bands. On 20, the Antarctic paths will be in season through next spring. The morning short path to the Far East is not in season, but this exotic part of the world is accessible in late afternoon via long path.

73, de Roy - AD5Q / Houston  
<http://www.qth.com/ad5q/>

**DX Logbook** **By Chris Shalvoy - K2CS**

Welcome to the 2001-2002 edition of club contesting and DXing!

Hope all those nice (and effectively over) summer days found you on your roof, tower or in the trees preparing for the months to come.

Even though the best HF DX contests are yet to come, I still found some time to operate this summer.

A few of us fired up W2RDX in the IARU contest the weekend after "the 4<sup>th</sup>". Bands seemed down but I'm sure we managed to work a few more countries adding to our quest for club DXCC.

Raymond and I participated in the September VHF contest from FN23 making as many people "happy" as possible. FN23 seems to be one of those needed grids even though I did manage to get it as well. There never was any real openings but did manage to pickup a few ground plane grids I needed.

Hope you've been on (the HF) bands in the last few months. ZL7, ZK1, K3J, C9, T32 (reportedly Christmas Island) and most recently 3D2C have all been on with good ops and "round the clock and dial" operations.

Unfortunately, I'm sure many of you would have liked to work the YA operation planned by ON6TT and S53R. Peter and Robert are now safe in Pakistan (as "safe" as that can be).

AP has been heard on the air in the last few days, although SSB and simplex makes it difficult.

In closing, don't forget the CQWW SSB contest 26-28 October, Sweeps CW 3-4 November and Sweeps SSB 17-18 November. Logs should be submitted to the web page if possible.

**In the Log:**

- ZL7/G3SXW ----- 10, 15, 20, 30 CW
- ZL7/G3TXF ----- 17 SSB
- K3J ----- 15, 10, 17 SSB
- ZK1QMA ----- 12, 15, 17, 20 CW
- T32CY ----- 17 CW, 12, 17, SSB
- C98DC ----- 15, 20 SSB
- 3D2CI ----- 12, 10, 15, 17 CW
- 3D2CY ----- 17, 12, 10 SSB

**In the Mail** (non buro packs):

- HK3JJH/HK0
- 3Y0C
- BQ9P
- VK9LX

**PS:** Received # 299 in the mail today...what will # 300 be?!

**RDXA 2001-02 Contest Calendar** **By Chris Shalvoy - K2CS**

Date	Contest	Club (Y/N)
<b>September</b>		
8-10	ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party	N
29-30	CQ WW RTTY	Y
<b>October</b>		
27, 28	CQ Worldwide DX, SSB	Y
<b>November</b>		
3-5	ARRL Sweepstakes, CW	Y
17-19	ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB	Y
24, 25	CQ Worldwide DX, CW	Y
<b>December</b>		
7-9	ARRL 160m, CW	Y
15-16	ARRL 10m	Y
<b>January</b>		
5, 6	ARRL RTTY Roundup	N
19-21	ARRL January VHF Sweeps	N
25-27	CQ Worldwide 160m, CW	Y
<b>February</b>		
16, 17	ARRL Int'l. DX, CW	Y
22-24	CQ Worldwide 160m SSB	Y
<b>March</b>		
2, 3	ARRL Int'l. DX, SSB	Y
30, 31	CQ Worldwide WPX, SSB	Y
<b>April</b>		
	144 MHz Sprint	N
<b>May</b>		
	50 MHz Sprint	N
25, 26	CQ Worldwide WPX, CW	Y
<b>June</b>		
8-10	ARRL June VHF QSO Party	N
22, 23	ARRL Field Day	N

**First Use of Wireless Telegraphy in War** **IEEE Website**

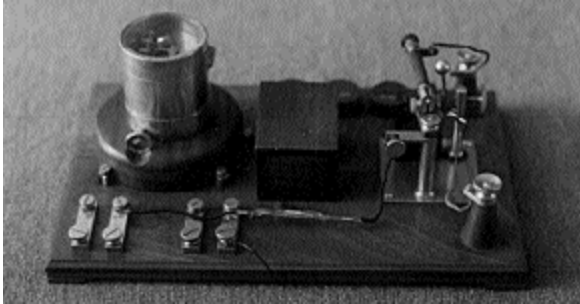
*Given the current world situation, the following article seemed an appropriate addition to this month's Bulletin. Ed.*

By Duncan C. Baker  
 IEEE Senior Member, Tinet/Pretoria, South Africa

PRETORIA, South Africa—The first attempted use of wireless telegraphy in war took place during the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902, according to a paper to be presented by Brian Austin, University of Liverpool in England, at the conference "100 Years of Radio" sponsored by the IEE in London Sept. 5-7. His account details the early efforts by the British Army and Navy to use the new technology, which had been demonstrated by Guglielmo Marconi in 1896.

The State Archives, located here, record that the Kruger's Boer Republic placed an order for six wireless telegraphy sets from the firm Siemens and Halske on Aug. 24, 1899. The sets, which cost 110 Pounds Sterling, were supposed to provide communication for

the fortifications around Pretoria. They had a guaranteed range of nearly 15 kilometers and used antennas 36 meters high.



The original radio transmitting equipment used during the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902

However, the sets never reached Kruger's forces because they were confiscated by customs in Cape Town. Later, British forces tried unsuccessfully to use the equipment supplied by Marconi on the arid inland plains of South Africa, possibly plagued by ground conductivity and the lack of matching resonances of the essentially quarter-wave antennas.

The British Navy had more luck after installing five of the sets the army rejected in the Delagoa Bay Squadron. Successful experiments over a range of 85 kilometers were recorded on April 13, 1900, and unsubstantiated claims were made for communication between Delagoa Bay and Durban, a distance of nearly 460 kilometers.

Lynn Fordred, curator for the Corps of Signals Museum, said parts from the original equipment are in storage at the School of Signals in Heidelberg. Her research for a book dealing with military communications in South Africa highlights the roles of personalities and the problems experienced in coming to grips with the new technology.

While the British Army showed a surpassing lack of interest in wireless telegraphy after their initial failures, Fordred said the Boer forces were unexpectedly progressive in their use of telegraphy and telephone facilities, and even had a telephone exchange at a time when the British Army had none.

## Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2001 October 02

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2001 Oct 03	205	15	3
2001 Oct 04	195	12	3
2001 Oct 05	190	12	3
2001 Oct 06	190	8	3
2001 Oct 07	190	10	3
2001 Oct 08	190	10	3
2001 Oct 09	190	10	3
2001 Oct 10	190	12	3
2001 Oct 11	190	12	3
2001 Oct 12	185	15	3
2001 Oct 13	180	10	3
2001 Oct 14	190	10	3
2001 Oct 15	205	8	3
2001 Oct 16	215	8	3
2001 Oct 17	225	7	2
2001 Oct 18	235	7	2
2001 Oct 19	250	10	3
2001 Oct 20	255	12	3
2001 Oct 21	265	10	3
2001 Oct 22	270	12	3
2001 Oct 23	270	12	3
2001 Oct 24	260	12	3
2001 Oct 25	250	15	3
2001 Oct 26	240	15	3
2001 Oct 27	230	12	3
2001 Oct 28	215	12	3
2001 Oct 29	210	12	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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