

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2001

Regular Meeting

September 18th 19:30 local

111 Westfall Road
Monroe County Buildings

Fred Groner, W2TZ will host a session on choosing ropes for amateur use. If you've ever seen Fred's antenna farm, or helped with his Field Day antennas, you know that Fred has experience with all kinds of rope.

September is a VE test month
Spread the Word

Social after Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin
Winton Plaza

President's Soapbox

By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

As hints of fall begin to tinge the morning air, it's time again to resume our regular Bulletin and meeting schedule. I hope you had an enjoyable summer and are ready to plunge headlong into the fall and winter contesting and DXing season.

With fellow RDXAers, I had the pleasure of operating several radio events over the past 3 months. **K2CS**, **AF2K**, **N2TWI** and I put W2RDX on the air from Chris' and Gayle's Adirondack shack for the IARU HF Championship in July. August saw RDXAers **W2TZ**, **K2MP**, **K1PY**, **K2SKO**, **W8JW**, and **N2USB** on the air as W2G from the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse for the International Lighthouse Weekend. And finally, I spent a fun-filled week in Maine eating fresh lobster and clams and operating N1OKL/NA55 from Islesboro Island in Penobscot Bay. Though the propagation gods really put a damper on EU contacts, I managed 35 countries and several hundred stateside QSOs in the log...including a fine chat with **WB2HJV** here at home. Charlie's

report that temperatures were soaring over 95°F with high humidity only added to the enjoyment of my oceanside QTH and its cool breezes!

If you have not already done so, point your browser to rdxa.com and take a look at our new website. **K2ZS** has done a masterful job of bringing the RDXA web presence up to date with the latest features and web capabilities. Numerous new pages and links have been added including an RDXA Event Calendar, 2001-02 Contest Calendar, and more. Be sure and check out all the links 'cause there's more than meets the eye on just the home page.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again at our first meeting in September. Until then, QRU de N1OKL

Editor's Corner

By Dave Wright - N2CK

Here it is September already; where has the summer gone! The calendar hints that fall should be coming, but as I type this, I have a fan running in the shack (and it's not to cool the equipment!). No major repairs, and/or upgrades at this end. I do have one little problem with the tuner in the rig that I hope can get resolved before contest season is upon us. I guess while the main rig is removed for service, I can give the shack it's annual cleaning.

I also would like to thank our resident Webmaster, **Scott, K2ZS** for the fine job on the club site. I will be uploading newsletters to the site this week. One comment however, it works best with Explorer. You can use Netscape to access the site, however I believe Explorer shows off Scott's work better.

We have a new Board member, and Secretary/Treasurer as we start the new season. I would like to thank **Scott, NY2A** for stepping up and relieving **Ed, K2MP** of his duties. Ed, you've done a fine job, thanks much for your hard work and dedication to the club.

Charley, WB2HJV accepted a nomination to run for the Board, and was elected. Welcome aboard. And finally, thanks to **Bob, NG2P** for his service as a Board member. I'm sure that with Bob's involvement with the cluster, he'll still be a frequent visitor at Board meetings.

You'll notice that this issue of the newsletter is lighter than normal. You, the reader, can help out in this area. I'll make my usual plea for articles. Remember, this newsletter is **YOUR** newsletter. Feel free to drop me an article.

DX of the Past, September 1969**By Ed Gable - K2MP**

New this period were prefixes JD1,C21 and C31 for Japan, Nauru and Andorra. Also authorized was the use of ZM1, 2, etc in place of ZL1 by New Zealand Ops in celebration their Bi-Centenary. Nice DX catches of the time were BV2A Formosa, FB8ZZ on Amsterdam, UA1KED Franz Josef Land, FL8MB in French Somaliland, ZL3HV/VK0 on Macquarie, YA2HWI Afghanistan and the very illusive VU5J on Laccadive Island. W4VPD's /KC4 Navassa operation was approved for DXCC. The 160-meter season got off to a good start with the venerable 160 Meter DX'er, W1BB, concluding the first East Coast (USA) to Asia QSO. The Asia end was Yoshio, JA2CLI, running just 100 watts to an inverted Vee with Apex at 105 feet. Planned DX-peditions were Kure Island with KH6SP/KH7. QST reported on the passing of the 1992-1996 ARRL President Herbert Hoover, Jr, W6ZH. QST also reported this month on the results of the June VHF QSO party with Bob Nezelek, W2CNS, the Atlantic Division Leader Single Opr leader with a four-band effort. Popular with DX'ers, Tri-Ex announced their new W-67 freestanding series of crank up towers. Also new was a small transceiver especially marketed for easy portable and DX-pedition operations. Small, 260 watts, 5 band, SSB and CW, with built-in AC and DC supplies, were features of the Swan Cygnet. At this time RDXA meetings were informal Dinner meetings held at various Restaurants including The Colonial on Empire Blvd and Amalfi's on St. Paul Blvd. There was no Newsletter and the meeting announcements were one page Xerox copies, hand addressed, and delivered with a 6 cent stamp.

Historical Bits from K2MP:

1921: ARRL sponsored Transatlantic tests resulted in first USA/EU Amateur QSO with F8AB and W2ZE. Frequency was around 100 meters.

1923: Patent awarded for Single Sideband

1938: Amateurs get two new bands; 2 ½ meters (112 Mc) and 1 ¼ meters (224 Mc).

DX Magazine Most Wanted Survey**DX Reflector**

The annual DX Magazine Most Wanted Survey is now available on the DX Publishing Web site at:

http://www.dxpub.com/dx_survey2001.html

Please be careful when filling in the boxes at the top of the form so your reply will be counted in the proper time-zone/continent.

The world-wide results of the 2000 Survey are posted on the web site under "DX News" and the continental/mode breakdown was published in The DX Magazine for Jan/Feb and Mar/Apr 2001.

I hope you will all participate in this survey as it is considered to be the most accurate survey of "Most Wanted." I note that the DXCC Yearbook for 2000, in talking about the ARRL's Top 100 list, said, "The list of the 100 least credited entities we are currently able to produce provides interesting and informative information about the DXCC program and its members, but it isn't particularly useful for DXpeditioners looking for the most desirable places to activate. With the advent of new DXCC software we will be able to produce much more relevant and useful data. We will continue to search the DXCC list for useful information, but for now, determining what DXers are really interested in working, we will look (with permission) to the Top Ten in The DX Magazine's 100 Most Needed Countries - World Wide."

I thank ARRL/DXCC desk for expressing their confidence in this survey. I would appreciate your support, by participating, to continue making it as accurate as possible.

Please be careful in marking the more confusing prefixes like the VK9's and VKØ's. Some of the totals in recent years would indicate errors in marking the survey form.

Thanks and 73,
Carl - N4AA

Field Day Thanks**By Fred Groner - W2TZ**

The 2001 RDXA Field Day at Webster Park was a huge success again this year. Our final score was about the same as last year so we should again be at the top of 3A. To all who participated in one way or another, much, much thanks. But at the risk of omitting some contributors, a few individuals deserve some special thanks because their participation extended beyond just the FD weekend. Tnx to K2SKO who borrowed and trucked that beautiful Honda genny as well as the large cooking grill to and from the FD site. Tnx to N2OPW for the pickup and return of antenna masts and tower sections graciously loaned to RDXA by EI, K2SPO (somebody tell me that it is not true that EI changed his call letters!). Tnx to N1OKL who repaired the 10m beam after FD. Tnx to K1PY for gathering and submitting all the FD documentation to the ARRL. Extra special tnx goes to NG2P for the greatest FD idea for bonus points of all time. Bob flew an airplane over the FD site and transmitted amateur TV of the site to those on the ground. The ARRL should at least give RDXA double bonus points for this unique feat.

WRTC 2002 US Teams Choose Partners**ARRL Reflector**

World Radiosport Team Championship 2002 team captains from the US and the UK have chosen their partners. The WRTC 2002 Organizing Committee has announced US and UK pairings for the event, to be held next summer in Finland.

The 10 teams representing the US are (in alphabetical order by team captain) Ralph Bowen, N5RZ, and Rus Healy, K2UA; Doug Brandon, N6RT, and Andy Blank, N2NT; Daniel Craig, N6MJ, and Dave Mueller, N2NL; John Dorr, K1AR, and Doug Grant, K1DG; Bill Fisher, W4AN, and John Laney, K4BAI; Trey Garlough, N5KO, and James Brooks, N1YC; Steve London, N2IC, and Dave Hachadorian, K6LL; Dave Patton, NT1N, and Mark Obermann, AG9A; Bob Shohet, KQ2M, and Dan Handa, W7WA; and Randy Thompson, K5ZD, and Tom Frenaye, K1KI.

Apple Fest Volunteers Needed**By Dave Wright - N2CK**

As many of you may know, I have been involved with BARK putting on a special event station at the Hilton Apple Fest. After the combined RARA/RDXA effort at the Rochester Museum and Science center over the holiday break, I got to thinking about a combined Apple Fest special event. I applied for, and received the special event call sign of K2A for the weekend. I have approached RARA, and will be attending the RVHFG meeting this week to look for volunteers. I will also be looking to RDXA membership as well. I asked my Apple Fest contact person to list us in the brochure as "Greater Rochester Amateurs". Think about coming out for a little bit over the weekend and play radio and talk up the

hobby with the general public. If you would like more information on the Apple Fest, their web site is: www.hiltonapplefest.org.

ARRL DX CW Results Available By Dave Wright - N2CK

The write-up is available in the members only area. I won't attempt to recap all the results, because I don't want to overlook any RDXA members, however **Fred, W2TZ** (2,201,796 points) and **Rus, K2UA** (5,248,800 points) finished in the top 10 of Single Op low power and high power respectively. Congratulations to both Fred and Rus for your accomplishments.

FRN becomes Mandatory in December ARRL Letter

Get ready (again) for the FRN! Although the FCC has slipped the deadline before, the Commission said this week that, starting December 3, 2001, everyone doing business with the FCC--licensed or not--must obtain and use a 10-digit FCC Registration Number--or FRN. The FCC called the move "a first step" toward streamlining fee collection and tracking. Many amateurs registered with the Universal Licensing System (ULS) were assigned a 10-digit FRN by the Commission Registration System--or CORES--in a one-time cross-registration last year and notified by mail.

Details to implement CORES for the Amateur Service are still being worked out. Steve Linn of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau said just how CORES and ULS will work together remains up in the air. "CORES is not replacing the ULS database," he explained, "but there are a lot of questions as to how it is to be integrated." A final implementation with respect to Amateur Radio is "yet to be determined," he said. Under the most likely scenario, however, CORES registration will supplant ULS registration for those who do not already have an FRN.

Those without an FRN will be required to register and provide one before transacting business with the FCC, whether or not a fee is required. An individual does not have to hold an FCC license to obtain an FRN. The requirement to obtain one extends to applicants for an Amateur Radio license as well as to anyone required to pay a fee to the FCC, such as those applying for a vanity call sign. CORES registrants will be required to supply a Taxpayer Identification Number--or TIN--typically a Social Security Number (SSN) for an individual. The FCC says CORES information is not made public.

An FRN will not be needed to file comments in rulemaking proceedings. Filings that do require an FRN but don't include one will be rejected. The FCC has not yet proposed replacing the ULS Licensee Identification Number with an FRN; many amateurs already have both, and both numbers appear in FCC licensee records. The ULS continues to be available to new registrants.

The FCC began implementing CORES last year. The agency announced the adoption of its new CORES/FRN rules on August 31 and detailed the requirements in a Report and Order.

In its Order, the FCC sounded almost apologetic for imposing yet another set of numbers on licensees and applicants. "We realize that the manner in which our electronic systems have developed has results in a multiplicity of numbers, passwords and identifiers," the FCC conceded. The FCC said that once various electronic filing systems--such as ULS--incorporate CORES and FRN into their application process, "the need to maintain registration information in multiple systems will be eliminated."

The FCC said CORES makes provision for the registration of foreign nationals unable to obtain an SSN by providing the ability to register without one. The FCC has required that club stations obtain an assigned TIN when registering in the ULS. In an apparent about-face, the FCC's CORES Order states that unincorporated radio clubs registering in CORES should use the TIN/SSN of the license trustee. The ARRL has asked the FCC to clarify.

N1OKL/NA055 By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

For the past several years, my XYL, Susan and I have spent a week on St. George Island (NA085) on the Florida Gulf Coast. This year, I decided to take a rig and try my hand at IOTA operating. I had such a great time on the bands in February that I began looking for a similar island site for a summertime IOTA operation.

Looking at a map of the Eastern U.S., I noted that numerous islands of one sort or another stretch more-or-less continuously from Georgia to Maine. So I started typing various coastal names into names into web search engines to see what might be available in terms of accommodations on these islands.

Since I figured we could probably take another vacation in August or so, I began looking further North along the coast...hoping to find an island situated in cooler weather. I narrowed my search to the Maine coast and without too much effort, found a cottage for rent on Islesboro Island in Penobscot Bay. The location sounded perfect and an email to the rental agent confirmed that both price and availability were what we were seeking.



The N1OKL shack on NA055

Islesboro Island, Maine

We booked reservations for 5-12 August at this great-looking spot. (Unfortunately, the previous week--during the IOTA contest--was unavailable. Maybe next year!)

Susan and I took our time driving from Rochester...stopping overnight near Nashua to dine at a favorite seafood restaurant, and arriving on Islesboro on Sunday 5 August. The Island is reached via a 20-minute ferry ride from Lincolnville, Maine. The Maine State Ferry Service operates several ferries serving coastal islands and Islesboro is reached via the ferry Margaret Chase Smith. A schedule, information, etc. for all Maine ferries is available at: www.state.me.us/mdot/opt/ferry/ferry.htm



On the Margaret Chase Smith to Islesboro Island, Maine

When we arrived on the island, we met the rental agent and received directions to the cottage. What a wonderful fellow Don was. His family settled on the island in the mid-1700s and he had the typical ways and speech of down-East Maine. Don said we would settle up the finances, etc. later and that we had best get along to the cottage and get our holiday started. He also told us where to buy fresh lobster: call Earl the lobsterman, or his wife Janice. Place your order in the morning for what you want that evening. \$9 for a nice 2-pounder.



View of Penobscot Bay from our deck Islesboro Island, Maine

The cottage turned out to be all that we expected. Situated on a promontory overlooking the Eastern reaches of Penobscot Bay, the site was surrounded by water—salt water—on three sides. What great antenna conditions, I thought! There were also plenty of tall pines and birches to serve as supports. A little figuring with the compass and an azimuth-equidistant map revealed several key trees that were situated at auspicious points for placement of the off-centered dipole.

Monday morning after breakfast found Susan and I “fishing for RF”...that is, launching arrows tied to fishing line into trees. The antenna went up without too much fuss and N1OKL/NAØ55 was on the air by late afternoon EDT, 6 August. I ran mostly U.S. stations on 20m SSB into the early evening Monday. Disappointingly, there seemed to be little DX that I could hear. But the stateside pileups were deep with lots of workable stations. I turned in Monday night a bit hoarse, but happy with the log. Maybe the bands will open to EU in the morning, I thought.



The operating position N1OKL/NAØ55

Such was not the case however. The bands never really opened to EU for the week I operated on NAØ55. I made plenty of stateside QSOs, had several short runs with South American stations. I worked both Alaska and Hawaii, some central-Asian DX but never had any really good openings to EU where I piled up the contacts. Even when the Worked All Europe contest began at the end of the week, I could really only hear the big guns from EU. The little guys with 100w and a dipole were lost in the noise.

The A-index remained at 10 or above all week, and Chris, K2CS later told me there were excellent 6m and VHF conditions this week. Maybe I need to get some VHF gear for these IOTA jaunts!

Anyway, I had fun in spite of the poor HF conditions. I worked 35 countries and handed out a new IOTA QSO to many happy operators. I operated mostly SSB on 20m. I did find some propagation on 17m and managed several CW runs on this band. Everything above 17m was pretty wiped out. There was some good DX to be found on 40m CW in the early mornings. (For comparison, I worked nearly 70 countries from Florida during a week-long holiday in February, mostly on 10m.) Clearly the propagation gods were not smiling on me in August.

But the location, the views, the weather, and the seafood were great. I had fun on the radio. Susan and I both relaxed and pretty much did nothing but watch the ocean, read, nap, enjoy margaritas at sunset, and sleep late.

On the Block**By Dave Wright - N2CK**

Rohn 48 ft. HDBX Tower, HyGain TH7DXX, Ham IV rotor and all cables. Approx. 100 ft each coax and control. \$800. for all. Location Ilion, NY near Utica. New owner must remove. Some assistance available. ICOM IC-745 HF Xcvr with optional SSB & CW filters, \$500. or b/o, DRAKE L4B and Power Supply -- little used, \$700. ASTATIC D-104 station mic, \$40. KAM TNC w/terminal, \$75. W9INN sloper, 40m, \$75.

Contact Al Goss, K2ERG, (716) 482-3353 or renal@localnet.com

September Contests

All Asian DX, SSB----- 1, 2 September
Worked All Europe DX, SSB----- 8, 9 September
ARRL 10 GHz cumulative ----- 15, 16 September
CQ/RJ Worldwide RTTY DX ----- 29, 30 September

October Contests

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

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

Solar Flux Range ----- 150 – 212

Ten Meters is back! Conditions are improving every day, since this band evolves from a dead summer band to a spectacular DX band in the peak of its season in only two months. There will be plenty of DX on this band for the next several months - until April. Within this period, some months are better than others. Spring DX on 10 is never as good as in the fall (15 is the other way around). During the winter, there are no windows over the pole into the exotic parts of Asia because of the polar night. As Maximum Usable Frequencies are trending down, the band will not stay open long past sunset. 10 is a daytime band, and during winter, propagation is almost exclusively along daylight paths.

The sun sets on the North Pole on 23 September. After October, windows over the pole will be increasingly narrow and difficult. The countries effected are mostly in southern Asia. Look for 10 meter contacts in these countries during September and October in the early morning after sunrise, and in the early evening after sunset. The rest of the world will be consistently workable until next spring.

15 Meters is also good in the fall, though the night path propagation of late spring and early summer is not part of the DX formula. Through the winter it is mostly a daytime band, with a pattern very similar to 10. During the fall, 15 doesn't get the attention it deserves because 10 is so good. Though there is less

activity on 15, propagation really is excellent. Many operators will spend most of their time on 10.

20 Meters & 40 Meters: For night path propagation, 20 will be the best (as always). 40 meter activity will increase as we approach winter, but 20 will be the best even then. Lowbands are best at night during the bottom of the sunspot cycle, when 20 closes on winter nights and becomes a daytime band (while 10 and 15 are dead). Southern hemisphere long path on 20 will be excellent through spring, in late afternoon and for 2 hours after sunrise.

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

Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table*Issued 2001 September 11**US Dept. of Commerce NOAA*

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2001 Sep 05	190	12	3
2001 Sep 06	190	10	3
2001 Sep 07	190	10	3
2001 Sep 08	185	10	3
2001 Sep 09	180	12	3
2001 Sep 10	175	10	3
2001 Sep 11	165	10	3
2001 Sep 12	160	10	3
2001 Sep 13	160	10	3
2001 Sep 14	160	10	3
2001 Sep 15	160	10	3
2001 Sep 16	160	10	3
2001 Sep 17	160	12	3
2001 Sep 18	165	15	3
2001 Sep 19	170	10	3
2001 Sep 20	175	8	3
2001 Sep 21	180	8	3
2001 Sep 22	185	8	3
2001 Sep 23	190	12	3
2001 Sep 24	190	12	3
2001 Sep 25	190	12	3
2001 Sep 26	190	10	3
2001 Sep 27	190	12	3
2001 Sep 28	190	12	3
2001 Sep 29	190	10	3
2001 Sep 30	190	15	3
2001 Oct 01	190	12	3

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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 3rd Tuesday of each month. Location is the auditorium of the Monroe County Social Services Bldg., 111 Westfall Rd., Rochester, NY.

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