



**Fred Gern
K2FR
SK**

This Month's program
is: "**W2FU 15 Meter
Antenna Array**"
presented by
Jeff Ach

Meeting
Tuesday
Feb 20th
7:30 p.m.
111 Westfall Rd

President's Soapbox

Mike Rundle, N1OKL

Our friend and fellow amateur **Fred Gern, K2FR**, is gone. It is a bittersweet time: for as we mourn his passing, we also celebrate his life and comradeship. Fred's life as an amateur truly embodied the spirit of friendship that is a hallmark of our hobby. Whether rag chewing on .79, pounding brass in pursuit of elusive and rare DX, or most especially, welcoming newcomers to the hobby or our Club, Fred was always extending the warm hand of amateur fellowship. We will dearly miss his hearty laugh and booming voice, his outrageous pronouncements and his dry wit. Through good times and bad, Fred's gregarious ways made RDXA what it is today--a gathering of amateurs, open to all. We will miss you Fred Gern. Wherever you journey, we hope that you find trees that are always half a wavelength tall, and half a wavelength apart, good propagation and open bands and reports that are always 599. May your signals travel far and forever...as they surely will in our hearts.

QRU de N1OKL

Editor's Corner

Dave Wright, N2CK

The Greater Rochester Amateur community, as well as all of Amateur Radio, lost a good friend this past month. Fred's impact upon our community was obvious by the number of people present at his memorial service. I think it would be a safe bet to say there were more hams per square foot in that room, than what is seen at a hamfest! I will remember Fred always being the spokesman for Amateur Radio and RDXA. Anyone who ever shared the repeater with him at drive time knows how entertaining his commentary was. I like to remember the humor he provided at VE test sessions. As a test candidate, aspiring to reach the next license, I appreciated it to release the anxiety. As a Dxer and contester wanna-be, I appreciated learning about the hot new DX and why it was considered rare (not that I actually worked a lot of it!). And finally, as newsletter editor I really appreciated the volume and quality of his submissions. Fred regularly contributed timely, informative articles interspersed with humor. In case you weren't aware, the fuddydudy@hotmail.com was a real email address set up by Fred (I sent an email asking the question "how long should a long wire be?" – imagine my surprise to see it answered in the next issue!). Hopefully someone will pick it up and continue the tradition. In closing, it was MY pleasure to know and learn from Fred. He will be missed.

K2 Father RDXA

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

The bands were strangely quiet the evening of Friday the 2nd of February.... That was the nite of Fred's last call....

If not for Fred Gern, I doubt I'd have met you all and participated in this hobby with such fervor.

From my first meeting with Fred on the 79 repeater, DX was the order of the day. He dragged me along to my first meeting (9 years ago) never caring about my no code tech status....

See what he hath done.

Always was the first to congratulate me on ANY accomplishment, be it work, home or radio; even attended many of our "family" functions....

Great to argue politics with too.

It's gonna be tuff on Fridays, contests and when the P5 comes on....

I wonder if **K2FR** will end up in their logs?

Well it's midnight, the YK's going QRT, still need D6 on 80m and "the rocks" may still be workable.

Tuff to see the screen again so Fred, make sure you're there when I get on the honor roll and finally knock off 5 band, for without you.....

73 es best DX,

Chris, K2CS

DX 40 Years Ago – February 1961

Ed Gable, K2MP

As I write this, D68C is blasting the ether on 10 CW in the background. Timely, as

this month in '68 the only active Comoroos station, FH8CD was going QRT. Also very timely, what with the current YK9A DXpedition active and easily logged from this area, was the announcement that Rasheed, YK1AA, was then QRV on the low end of 20 meters. (Note, the low end of U.S. 20 phone at that time was 14.200 and there was a lot of unreachable juicy DX below that.) This month South Yeman was reported to have received the call sign block 80A to 80Z. A very happy W1BB, of 160 Meter fame, collected WAC on 160 meters by working KA9AK in Japan. Pitcairn Island just became a little easier to work as Tom Christian, VR6TC, now on 15 SSB every Monday afternoon with QSL Manager W4TAJ on frequency logging. At this time the DX population is waiting for Qatar, MP4, to come up as a new one. OD5BZ reports he was in MP4 land, had a license, security clearance but lacked the needed Political clearance. Translated, that means he cannot afford to pay the needed *tribute*. While waiting for all that to clear, the gang had enough to work with tidbits like 5U7AL/TY at Dahomey Republic, YA1TNC, Kabul in Afganistan, ZD9BE at Tristan Da Cunha and Fanning Island, VR3DY, by KH6GLU. A new transceiver hit the market in the ever-increasing manufacturer's power war, this time Swan with their model 500C. Five hundred real watts from a tabletop rig. Just don't hold the key down very long or the sweep tubes got so hot the glass softened and a hole was sucked right through the glass!

Upcoming Hamfest

Bill Rhodes, WB2JMX

Attention Upstate NY amateur radio enthusiasts: the Rochester Institute of

Technology Amateur Radio Club will be holding its first annual Spring RIT Hamfest and Computer Show this coming March. Held indoors on the RIT campus in Henrietta, the fest will include Rochester-area vendors, several forums, and of course a flea-market area!

Doors will open to the public at 8:00am on March 17th, 2001 and all areas of the fest will remain open until 4:00pm. Exhibitors and flea-market vendors are invited to arrive at 7:00am to set up. General admission tickets will be available *only* at the door, at a price of \$3 for the general public and \$2 for students. Table spaces in both the flea-market room and the exhibit room will be \$8 per table, and must be purchased before March 1st by sending a check for the table fee plus a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The RIT Amateur Radio Club, 70 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623. Make checks payable to "RIT Amateur Radio Club".

RFI Swat Team

Fred Groner, W2TZ

Recently, **W2TZ** and **K1PY** have had RFI with close proximity neighbors. The W2TZ case involved RF getting into a stereo amplifier through a number of lengthy speaker leads. The interference was strongest on 10m and decreased with frequency to the point that no interference could be heard on 40 meters. The interference was independent of the amplifier volume control setting. The problem at K1PY mainly involved RFI getting into a VCR, wiping out the picture when playing a tape. At least for low power, the problem at both stations was resolved by placing a number of split, snap-on ferrite core beads on the input leads to the stereo amplifier and the VCR. For the stereo amplifier about seven

beads were necessary in each of the longer speaker leads. Without getting into details, a similar larger number were required on leads going into the VCR. The split beads were easy to install and are just great technology for resolving RFI problems. The Ferrite Split Beads, made of 43 ferrite, were obtained from Surplus Sales of Nebraska, although they could be purchased from Palomar or Amidon Associates. Palomar has a very good, well-written RFI Tip Sheet, which could be requested at the Palomar web site. I obtained a copy and gave it to my neighbor because it explains in very simple language, that the cores don't damage or degrade the performance of the equipment. It is a very good sheet to promote communications and neighbor relations. So, the bad news is RFI is where you find it, but the good news is that when you find it, ferrite cores do a great job at minimizing or reducing the RFI without even minor surgery on the equipment involved.

How's DX?

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

Well deep into the "winter season," we've had quite a few good ones to work of late.

3Y0C showed up a few weeks ago somewhat unexpectedly and has provided a new one for the deserving. Chuck, N4BQW has had some equipment problems on Bouvet, amplifier and antenna-related, and subsequently his signal is down from his initial sign on.

The only **usable** signal I've heard was from my cottage a few weeks ago. He was on 10m, from 11am `til 2pm local...S7. Pileup was huge and 10m on a 40m dipole isn't exactly optimal so he's not in the log here yet...

All word is he'll be leaving the island early, on or about the 2nd of March. He's been spotted on almost all bands but without a much better station, this is one I just can't hear....and he only does CW on request...and very QRS.

YK9A has been on from Syria, weak here too and seemingly non-contest ops. I'd get going, they're due to QRT soon.

Ed note: They are now QRT.

Combing my logs and checking confirmed countries, I noted that D6 wasn't there. Well lo and behold, D68WI & D68BT show up around the middle of January and now the MEGA operation of D68C is on. Suffice it to say; they're in the log now...

As I write this, the first spots have come through for PW0S, Peter and Paul Rocks. I've worked two other operations from the rocks but have yet to receive a card from either. 5 or 6 days from this one, stateside manager though, we'll probably see cards.

BIG NEWS... VK0MM route, VK4AAR, Alan Roocroft, P.O. Box 421, Gatton, QLD 4343, Australia. Green stamps preferred (I'd send 2).

As always, thanks for all the scores and we'll have an updated grid soon.

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

V73GT	(10m CW)
9V1JC	(40m CW)
8Q7DV	(40m CW)
EW3LB	(80m CW)
TA3DD	(80m CW)
YV1DIG	(160m CW)
TF8GX	(40m CW)
SU9ZZ	(12m CW)
D68WL	(20m, 10m SSB)
D68BT	(17m SSB)
3C1AG	(40m CW)
3D2AG/P	(10m SSB)
VK9NOO	(15m CW)
YK9A	(12m, 40m CW)

D68C (40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m,
12m CW)
(20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m
SSB)
JT1CO (20m SSB)
S0NY (10m CW)

IN THE MAIL (no buro packs)

E30TA (20m, 17m, 10m SSB)
KH5/KH6ND (20m CW)
HS1NGR (20m SSB)
3DA0CA (80m CW)
T31K (80m, 40m, 15m, 12m, CW,
17m, 20m, 10m SSB, 15m RTTY)
V7G (40m, 10m CW)
3W3SK (15m CW)
GW3JXN (6m CW)
P49T (6m SSB)
VP2MDD (6m SSB)
HC8N (6m SSB)
KP2BH (6m SSB)

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

73, Chris

Packet using a Sound Card

From the ARRL Members only website

Check out www.qsl.net/soundcardpacket/
for the skinny. It looks like the software
will work with Windows versions 95, 98,
NT, 2000 and ME. From reading the
information on the web site, you'll need a
Pentium-based machine, and lots of ram.

Hello/Goodbye in over 100 Languages

From the DX Reflector

Something every Dxer, and ragchewer
needs. Check out:
"www.elite.net/~runner/jennifers/goodbye.
htm".

RDXA Contest Calendar

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

February, 2001

17-18 ARRL DX Contest CW

23-25 CQWW 160m SSB

March, 2001

3-4 ARRL DX Contest SSB

24-25 CQWW WPX SSB

April, 2001

9 144 MHz Sprint

May, 2001

12-13 50 MHz Sprint

26-27 CQWW WPX CW

June, 2001

9-10 ARRL June VHF QSO Party

23-24 ARRL Field Day

July, 2001

14-15 IARU World Championship

On the block

Dave Wright, N2CK

For Sale: HF Yagi, TH6-DXX Tri-bander
with documentation. Traps, elements and
boom are in very good shape, however
the element/mast brackets all need rusty
Hardware replaced. A real bargain at
\$25.00. FREE, Mast, 18 feet, 2 inch OD,
heavy wall. Pick up in Gates. Need
truck. It's Heavy. Ed Gable, k2mp, 392-
3088, Or k2mp@eznet.net

Rochester DX Association Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the Rochester (NY) DX Association, and is published prior to each monthly meeting for the information of members and others interested in Amateur Radio DX and Contesting.

You are cordially invited to any meeting, held at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September through June. We meet in the "auditorium" of the Social Services Building at 111 Westfall Road in Rochester, New York

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RDXA Web Site: www.qsl.new/rdxa



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