



**Meeting  
Tuesday  
Jan 16<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m.**

**QSL Fun Night!**

OK, guys, put that snow shovel away and instead, dig up some of those very interesting QSL cards that you received over the years. The January RDXA program is going to be about those QSL cards. Please bring any QSL cards that are really unique in terms of rarity, history or even shock value. Bring that QSL card along which may have an underlying interesting story - we want to hear about it. Bring that QSL which needs no words but speaks for itself. Show off that favorite QSL and let us know why it is your favorite. QSL cards might have more entertainment value than we think. See you at the meeting.

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

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**President's Soapbox**

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*Mike Rundle, N1OKL*

Welcome to the 21st century.

Happy 2001! Though the ISS doesn't quite resemble Arthur Clarke's vision in the film 2001, permanent human presence in space has become a reality...proving yet again that science fiction has a way of becoming science fact. One can only guess at the technological marvels to come in the new century.

Speaking of which, have you tried one of the new digital modes yet? The latest--MFSK--is billed as possibly the best yet for digital DXing. All it takes is a PC, a sound card and a few simple cables. If you're looking for something to get you out of the deep winter doldrums, give one of these new modes a try.

The recent operation at the Rochester Museum and Science Center certainly helped get a lot of RDXA folks over their post-holiday blues. Over 3000 people visited the museum during the 4 days of the Science and Technology Fair...very many of whom stopped by the

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**RDXA/RARA** display to have a look at Amateur Radio in action.

Superb conditions on 10m enabled us to make 148 contacts in 38 countries using all modes: ssb, am, cw and even a full-quieting, FM DX contact with Italy! With very many of these QSOs, we were able to get visitors on the air to exchange a comment or question with the DX. Kids especially got a thrill from talking with someone in a far-away land, and the expressions of surprise and joy on their faces when they heard their name come back over the radio made all the work worthwhile.

Possibly the most interesting contact was with **Tom, S57RTH**. I was operating and trolling for contacts when out of the ether came a booming signal with a West Texas accent you could cut with a knife. But instead of the anticipated W5 call, I copied an S5. "Hmmm...probably an American at the embassy, or some expert tech installing cell sites," I thought. On the next over I asked Tom where he was from in Texas. Imagine my surprise at the drawling answer, "No, no, I wuz bern heah in Slovenia, but I bet yew think I'm from El Paso." Turns out Tom's English teacher was from El Paso! What fun it was to listen to Tom from Slovenia speaking perfect English with a West Texas drawl. All the visitors and ops got a real chuckle out of this cross-cultural pollination. Ham radio truly does span the globe!

Thanks to all from RDXA who helped make this event a success: **K2MP** and **N2BEG** helped with antenna installation and takedown. As always, **AF2K** brought us valuable support materials. **N2CK**, **K2MP**, **K2SKO**, **N2BEG**, **K1PY**, **N2YPM**, **K2CS** and **N2TWI** held operating and logging positions and were responsible for getting visitors on the air. A great effort by RDXA!

Indeed, Museum officials were so impressed by our showing that there is a real possibility for a semi-permanent Amateur Radio presence at RMSC. Several of us hams suggested that, with the installation of a permanent ham antenna, Amateurs from around the area could easily set up an ad hoc station from time-to-time for a few hours or a day. This suggestion was met with enthusiasm by the Museum management. More to come...

QRU...see you at the January meeting.

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## Editor's Corner

*Dave Wright, N2CK*

I would like to start out this month by commenting on the combined **RDXA/RARA** effort at the Rochester Museum and Science center. What a blast it was! It was amazing to see the looks on the kids' faces after they talked to someone on the air, and then showing them just where they were talking. We had lots of friendly ops on the other end that were plenty willing to chat with kids we put on. On Wednesday, a station in Trinidad chatted with a number of kids. This operator varied his conversation with the kids, with questions ranging from "What's your favorite pizza?" and "Did you get anything for Christmas that you didn't expect?" Hats off to **Mike, N1OKL** for arranging this with RARA and the museum folks. Mike also brought the rig (FT900 – which I broke – more later), his homemade trap vertical which was installed on the roof, and a logging computer interfaced to the rig (he brought lots more as well). As promised, in the previous sentence, I was enjoying quite the pileup, when a KH7 called me. I chatted with the KH7 for a few minutes before the rig went south. I unkeyed the

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mike to turn it over, and heard nothing but silence! The receive on the radio was gone! I was convinced that I had broken his radio, and that it was going to need a trip back to Yaseu. That night, Mike discovered that it was working again, so he opened it up and did some surgery on cold solder joints. It managed to survive the rest of the weekend without problem! Good job Mike!

I ran across a web site that has plenty of links to maps and other reference material. The url is:  
"www.cgrer.uiowa.edu/servers/servers\_references.html". There were some dead links observed, but the volume of links there was amazing!

It looks like our esteemed program director, Fred, has come up with a unique activity this month. Start digging through the pile and grab your favorite QSL card to share.

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## Contest Logging News

*Fred Gern, K2FR*

RDXA President, **N1OKL**, after months of research and development, has found a solution to the Cabrillo Format problem vexing so many contesters. **Mike** read and re-read the rules and noticed that one of the "outs" to using the Cabrillo style files is to submit a **hand written log**.

At the December Board of Directors meeting he proudly announce his new software package for those confused by the Cabrillo Format. It is called:

### **PAPYRUS 2.0!**

*[Ed note: I believe one club member (who shall remain nameless) used this very package during a recent Sweepstakes effort!]*

It is also rumored that he is working on another program for those who have forgotten how to write manually - **STYLUS 1.0** - now in beta version being tested by a well known local contester.

No price for the package has been announced yet, but he hopes to have it on the market by the end of February - in time for the ARRL DX CW Contest.

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## K8FC Appointed DXCC Field Checker

*Joe Wilkowski, K8FC*

I have put together a short description and list in order to help you understand the current status of DXCC card checking. Hopefully this will answer many of your questions. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail at any time if you have further questions. /joe k8fc

### *Entities Eligible For Field Card Checking*

All current entities on the DXCC list are eligible for card checking. Deleted entities are NOT eligible and must be sent to ARRL. (In a separate submission apart from any field checking submission.) Also ineligible are 160-meter contacts and contacts older than 10 years of the date that I am checking the application. (I.e., if I am checking an application in 2001, contacts made in that month in 1990 will not be eligible for me to check.)

Cards not eligible for field checking must be sent to ARRL and cannot be sent along with an application checked by me. The applicant can opt to send the entire submission to ARRL if they wish. Also, ineligible cards, if sent to ARRL, are NOT considered part of the field-checked application. They are considered a separate submission.

During checking, if a card appears altered I will have to reject it. You can challenge



- Phone
- CW
- RTTY
- Satellite
- 80 Meter
- 40 Meter
- 20 Meter
- 15 Meter
- 10 Meter
- 6 Meter
- 2 Meter
- 5 Band DXCC and endorsements

There are currently no certificates for 12 and 17 meters, but future expansion will add these bands.

There is no award or endorsement for 30 Meters (10 MHz), however, an applicant may use these towards a Mixed, CW or RTTY award.

All contacts must have been made from the same DXCC entity. Several prefixes such as KH2, KP2, KP4, KL7, and a host of others are separate DXCC entities. Entities confirmed from one of these are not acceptable for a DXCC application in the 48 contiguous states. At the same time, an application from a KH6 for example, cannot include cards for contacts made from the mainland, KH2, or KH7. With the mobility of this country's residents, and a current trend toward obtaining or keeping a callsign from out of the contiguous 48 as a "vanity call," it is important to know the difference.

#### *The Process*

You as the applicant are responsible for your cards at all times. I will handle your cards by mail, but all expenses and risks are your responsibility. In addition, the ARRL is not responsible for the cards I handle and will not honor any claims as such. UPS, registered mail and some others provide for claims for items lost in the mail.

As an applicant, you should deliver to me a completed application, and QSL cards

for each entity claimed. They must be in the same order as listed on the form. In addition, a check or money order as dictated by the fee schedule made out to ARRL as well as a business-sized envelope addressed to ARRL needs to be provided for me to forward your application to ARRL. I am responsible for sending the checked application to ARRL. I am required to forward to ARRL within 48 hours or 2 working days, after a valid card-checking event. I will also keep a copy of the application for my records.

At the end of the session, you will retain your cards. If mailed, I will return them the way you have instructed me to.

Last but not least, please make sure that the handwritten forms are legible. I will help you if the application needs to be done over again.

This FAQ and a link to a PDF copy of the application are available on my web site at <http://www.computer-connection.net/~jwilkows>

I look forward to helping you all out, and please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or to set up an appointment.

Thanks and good DX,

Joe Wilkowski K8FC

k8fc@arrl.net

12/12/00

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## **DX 40 Years Ago – January 1961**

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*Ed Gable, K2MP*

Disappointment was felt by DX'ers around the world with news that the long awaited HK0TU Malpelo trip ran into transportation problems and had to be cancelled. The even more eagerly awaited Laccadives operation, VU2NRM, has been on again, off again for several

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weeks. It is hoped that they can get permission to operate in February. Standby. Good news is that there were two new entities to log; Cayman Islands separated from Jamaica for a new one and UA2 from Kaliningradsk also became independent. With the current 3Y0C Bouvet operation I'm reminded that 40 years ago another surprise Bouvet station came on as LA0B. This station was, as is 3Y0C now, a scientific group, not a DXpedition. How would you like to hear this station CQ'ing ? UPOL8! A wx station on Arctic Ice Island just plying the ham bands... obviously a very bored radio op! Iran was very active with a slew of U.S. Military ops operating all bands and modes with easy APO QSL addresses. A peek at the log of a big gun DX'er of the period reveals: LU1ZO Shetlands, FB8XX Kerguelen, UJ8KAA Tadjik, KR6LD Ryukyu Is., VS6EC Hong Kong and ZD6RM Nyasaland. It seems like HH2V has a good PR manager as this month he had his picture published in both *QST* and on the cover of *DX Magazine*. Evidently anticipating propagation changes, both Mosley and HyGain announced new 40-meter yagis. For VHF DX'ers, Ameco announced their new line of converters and pre-amps using something called Nuvistors.

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## Will They or Won't They?

*Fred Gern, K2FR*

Here we are - 2001. What do you need? Even better yet, what do you think will be on the air that you need?

Being one of those O.F.'s that doesn't need too many more my choices are rather limited. I'll bet that **North Korea (P5)** will come on this year. Martti Laine has already broken the ground, the country to the south is talking about kissing and making up so this one is

probably the best bet of the rare ones to appear.

Of the least probable are the two Indian Islands, **Andaman & Nicobar (VU4)** and **Lakshadweep (VU7)**. I haven't followed this too closely, but I understand both the government and the military have a problem with operations from these locations. We've already asked **N2RD** if he could help and he just chuckled. And for those interested, several months ago it was **strongly suggested** by some Indian hams that outsiders should **NOT** get involved in discussions with the government about this.

The biggest question mark in the Long Lost Country domain is **Scarborough Reef (BS7)**. What we must do is convince Martti Laine, **OH2BH**, to take his wizardry and cell phone sales pitch for Nokia to China and work a deal. If they buy the cell phone system they will have to let Martti and some friends operate from the reef while towers are being installed (tower beta testing would be done on 160M through 10M). This is a long shot, but those Finnish phone salesmen are awfully resourceful!

**P5** is the winner for most needed country by those who answered my e-mail query to members. Several still need **BS7** and **BV9**, mostly because they (I) thought those first operations for a "new country" before it was on the list would never be new ones. OOPSS!

The most interesting replies were from 7 or 8 members who thought that their needs list was "most everything", not just the 'rare ones'. Those are the people with the most enthusiasm! Every time they get on the air they can work something new - remember the fun that was? You only remember the prefixes of those you need when the numbers decrease to a 'precious few'.

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## ARRL VCE Appointment

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*From the WNYDXA Newsletter*

**Mark Adams, K2QO**, of Clarence NY, has been appointed Volunteer Consulting Engineer by the ARRL. Just what is a VCE you ask? The VCE program provides assistance to amateurs who may need to meet structural requirements set forth by local zoning authorities. Such engineering requirements are often necessary to obtain a permit to erect an antenna support structure. Hams often need an "expert witness" to certify that the tower in question meets or will meet the engineering requirements of local ordinances. Amateurs who need assistance are referred to VCEs in their area. VCEs are not expected to provide their service for free, but are asked to provide an initial consultation gratis and to consider giving discounted rates to amateurs where possible to meet a common goal for the good of Amateur Radio in the community. VCEs shall keep their Division Director apprised of engineering work that they are doing if it was a result of a referral through the VCE program.

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## More Interesting Calls

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*Fred Gern, K2FR*

**ST1FF** - didn't get a card?  
**SP1LT** - is it personality or frequency?  
**WA1L** - didn't get the new one  
**WA1T** - list op  
**W1MP** - on lists only  
**NØME** - NOT a KL7 or just an excuse?  
**NOISE** - REAL CALL worked in RTTY contest!

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## How's DX?

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*Chris Shalvoy, K2CS*

### Happy New Year to one and all...

I hope Santa brought that FT1000 or whatever you've been asking for.

As things stand here, still proud to be running that "wire" and far less than a "gallon".

The 3Y was quite a surprise, even the best tipsters seemed to miss that one. Not in the log here... yet, but they've been rumored to be there for 3 months. Only thing is a few days ago the cluster was full of "doom and gloom" about antennas, generators and the like.

I must admit, their signals seem real down from last week.

Looks like we're into the winter DX cycle and maybe the last hurrah for EU 6m openings until summer. Last weekend at the cottage, 20m was dead before midnight (other than a few PY's).

Ah, but no "down" time in this hobby... CQ 160m CW contest is the last weekend of January followed closely by ARRL DX CW the weekend of February 17<sup>th</sup> and the SSB end of things the first weekend of March.

As always, thanks for all the scores and we'll have totals for hand written submissions soon.

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

TI9DX	(20m CW)
S79OK	(20m CW)
LU1Z/UT1KY	(20m CW)
HS1NGR	(20m SSB)

**IN THE MAIL** (no buro packs)

S79BL	(20m CW)
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**VP6BR** (10m, 12m, 15m,  
17m SSB)  
  
(10m, 12m, 15m,  
17m CW)  
  
(15m RTY)  
**ZC4AKR** (20m CW)  
FW/G3TXF (17m, 12m CW)  
FH/G3TXF (30m, 17m CW)  
**VU2TS** (20m CW)  
**XZ0A** (20m CW, SSB, RTY,  
17m CW, SSB)  
**XU7AAZ** (20m SSB)

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

73, Chris

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## More FUDYDUDY

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*Fudy Dudy (askfudydudy@hotmail.com)*

I am proud to announce that due to the unparalleled response to the **FudyDudy** e-mail site that we have joined the growing number of Dot Com businesses and become Dot Compost. The Juno e-mail address is no longer in use. The only address now is:  
askfudydudy@hotmail.com

*[Ed note: This is a REAL e-mail address.]*

Now our first letter from a DX station:

**Dear Fudy,**

*I understand that postage rates in the United States have risen lately. Those of us in foreign lands are worried about the impact this will have on us for QSLing. Many of my friends are not only DXers but also County Hunters. We spend enormous amounts to send and receive cards from the U.S.*

*What are we to do?*

*See Doubleyou **P5NOT***

**Dear See Doubleyou,**

Well, we must admit that our rates are pretty cheap but as true blue Americans we are required to bitch and moan about ALL prices. The price of IRC's in the U.S. has risen drastically and my idea would be for you to buy these outside of America because they will soon be selling used IRC's on E-Bay to suckers trying to save a penny.

The other thing to do is beat the Postal Service at their own game. Our new overseas rate is \$0.80 - up one third - but the weight has been doubled to ONE OUNCE (that's some unknown number of grams). So what you guys do is consolidate your mailings to QSL managers and have them send the cards to you in groups of 4: this should be just under an ounce. The old postage was \$0.60 for 2 cards - now you get 4 for only twenty cents more - Such A Deal.

**Fudy**

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## Jamming Continues to Plague 40 Meters

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*From the ARRL Website*

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 5, 2001--For some months now, regular users of the 40-meter band have been plagued from time to time by strong, very broad, frequency-hopping signals that somewhat resemble a slow-scan TV transmission. The signals, it turns out, originate from jamming stations in the Middle East.

"We know exactly what this is," said ARRL Monitoring System Coordinator Brennan Price, N4QX. "This is a very high-power Iraqi jammer of a very high-power Iranian short-wave broadcast station."

ARRL member Kris Mraz, N5KM, in Texas was among those inquiring about the signals' source. Mraz says he's heard



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the "loud 'buzzing' signal" on 7010 kHz but jumping around to 7050 and 7080 kHz as well. It's also been "spotted" on packet. Depending on propagation, the jammers might show up any time of day or night. An East Coast 40-meter operator reports the jamming signals have showed up around 7020 kHz and around 7200 kHz in the morning as well as other frequencies on the band. The signals occupy about 10 kHz of spectrum.

Price says the short-wave broadcast station involved is The Voice of the People of Kurdistan, transmitted via The Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran facility in Teheran. "The Iranian station has a daily transmission on 7100 kHz from the same facility, and Iraq has jammed that one also," he says.

Price explains that the Iranian station-- which broadcasts anti-Saddam Hussein propaganda, hence the jamming--jumps frequencies several times each broadcast in order to avoid the jamming. Unfortunately for 40-meter users, the Iraqi

transmissions follow. This results in a situation where it's hard to predict when the jammers might show up on a given frequency block or how long they'll stay.

"I have no idea how anyone who wants to listen to the Iranian station can do so, given the mid-broadcast frequency shifts and the jamming," Price remarked. He also notes that neither station is transmitting where it is supposed to be.

"The Iranian and Iraqi telecommunications administrations have been advised of this," he said. "Given the enmity between Iran and Iraq, coupled with strained relations between both countries and the US, it is highly unlikely that either country is going to cease operation just because we ask them to."

Price says that such "politically motivated" intruders typically don't disappear until the political situation changes. "The 'woodpecker' went away when the Cold War did," he said. "This one will probably not go away until Saddam Hussein does."

## 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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