

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

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ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2002

Holiday Social

in lieu of a meeting

December 23rd 18:00 local

N2RD QTH

14 New England Drive
Pittsford, NY

Raj Dewan, N2RD,
and his YL, Gretchen,

cordially invite RDXA members, spouses, and friends to share the warmth of their home in celebration of this Holiday Season

Please RSVP to N2RD. Bring the beverage(s) of your choice and/or hearty hors d'oeuvres to share with all



President's Soapbox

By Fred Groner - W2TZ

A salute to the CW and SSB crews at K2NNY in the ARRL November Sweepstakes. Their effort to put NNY on the air in a substantial way in the SS is very much appreciated since NNY is a rare section, and in some regions of the country it is a very rare section. In my opinion, what really makes NNY rare is not a lack of native NNY stations who operate SS, but the way they operate SS. Every year since NNY became a new section, I had no problem working NNY, usually working 3 or 4 NNY stations in each SS contest. I was surprised to learn that many stations have trouble working NNY for a new section. I then realized that, except for K2NNY, every NNY station I worked in 2002 and previous years was accomplished by them answering my CQ SS. I don't ever recall hearing a native NNY station running stations. Most native NNY stations obviously do a lot of S&Ping, and that makes them very difficult to work, especially if you are also mostly S&Ping – possibly looking for a NNY station to work for a new multiplier. The multi-op effort of K2NNY fills that void – they almost always run stations. K2NNY presents a fixed, stable target for those needing NNY as a new section. K2NNY knows how to establish a frequency, maintain it, and efficiently work the pile-ups. Can you imagine the number of SS stations calling CQ

NNY on Sunday afternoon and evening if K2NNY didn't make a presence in NNY?

Special thanks to CW operators, K2CS, K2DB, and W2FE, and SSB operators AF2K, K2DB, K2DV, N1OKL, and N2OPW. Great job, guys and nice to see RDXA represented in rare NNY.

DX and Contesting of the Past

By Ed Gable - K2MP

Last month we reported here that Bill Orr, W6SAI, was traveling and trying to operate from various DX locations. Bill did land at Monaco and came up as 3A2AF using a 40 watt 807 rig and a small S-40B receiver. Normally using a Collins receiver and a kilowatt, Bill learned that the 3A call is good for 10 dB by working 16 countries with one CQ. The 40 Kc bandwidth of the receiver was challenging.

Nice stuff this month was Tanganyika Territory VQ4ERR, Burma (on SSB) XZ2SY, Pakistan AP2AD, Sao Thome CR5AR, Nyasaland ZD6RM and North Korea HL6KEF, unfortunately working iron curtain countries only.

In October all phone lines were cut feeding the Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. No problem. KG4AA and KG4AO came up and handled 1000s of phone patches and other traffic in a seamless transition of communications.

Those DXers still in need were happy to learn that Macquarie Island is QRV again with VK4CC operating and signing VK0CC. As of this time the top DXers were W1FH, W6AM and ZL2GX, all with 286 countries confirmed. The top Rochester DXer was W2BXA with 278.

Today we recognize many YL operators and there is even a YL DXCC. That was not quite so in 1958 where the rarest YL was Hilada, JT1YL, from the Mongolian Peoples' Republic.

The pages of QST report on another YASME landing with Danny Weil, VP2VB, landing on Aves Island and giving up YVØAB. Reading this you can really appreciate the perils of trying to land a small dingy with 1500 pounds of boat anchor type radios.

The Field Day results were reported consuming *twenty pages* of the December QST. Category 2A winner had 6525 points and 3A top scorer came in with 9954 points. The 12th annual VHF Sweepstake rules were announced. This pre-grid square event required you exchange a sequential QSO number, your call, signal report, ARRL section, time and date. Weak signal CW exchanges must have been a challenge.

Telerex Labs introduced their new Tri-band Array claiming their trapless design, with 7 elements on a 14 foot boom, was the standard of comparison.

Happy Holidays from K2MP/W2AN.

P5/4L4FN QRT

ARRL Letter

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NORTH KOREA ASKS P5/4L4FN TO QRT – The only Amateur Radio station active from North Korea has been ordered off the air. Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN, had been operating for the past year as P5/4L4FN from Pyongyang. The ARRL subsequently accredited SSB and RTTY operation of P5/4L4FN for DXCC.

“This really hits the ham community hard,” QSL manager Bruce Paige, KK5DO, said in a news release. “I, for one, was looking forward to a satellite contact on AO-40. I know that many of you were still awaiting your first QSO.”

Paige said that on Friday, November 22, Giorgadze was called into a meeting with the “Radio Regulation Board” without any explanation, and he was politely asked to quit all transmissions and pack all his radio equipment. “Saturday, he spent all day on the roof disassembling his antennas and packing boxes.” Paige said North Korean government officials later came by and sealed all of the boxes. When Giorgadze leaves North Korea on December 10 for two weeks of vacation, “. . .he is to take everything with him out of the country,” Paige indicated.

Giorgadze had tried for more than two years to obtain permission to operate Amateur Radio in North Korea and finally was given the okay in 2001 to bring an ICOM IC-706MkIIIG into the country. In the intervening months, he’s been slowly upgrading his antenna system. He’s made more than 16,000 contacts during his stint in North Korea, and earlier this year attained the first DXCC ever from that country.

Giorgadze, who’s from of the Republic of Georgia, had been operating on the basis of oral permission from North Korean authorities, but ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, said the League was satisfied on the basis of written information submitted that the P5/4L4FN operation conformed with DXCC rules and cards would continue be accepted for credit.

December Contests

ARRL 160m, CW -----6-8 Dec
ARRL 10m, CW/SSB ----- 14, 15 Dec
RAC Winter Contest, CW/SSB -----28 Dec
Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge, CW----- 28, 29 Dec

January Contests

ARRL Straight Key Night, CW----- 1 Jan
ARRL RTTY Roundup, RTTY-----4, 5 Jan
North America QSO Party, CW----- 11, 12 Jan
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes -----18-20 Jan
CQ 160m, CW-----24-26 Jan

RDXA Contest Soapbox

ARRL Sweepstakes SSB

Call: K2NNY, Hickory Lake Contest Club; AF2K, K2DB, K2DV, N2OPW, N1OKL ops. Class: Multi Op, high power. QTH: NNY. Operating Time: 24 hours. Station: Yaesu FT-900, yagi tribander at 30 feet, 40m vertical loop, 75m dipole. Total: Qs – 1296. Sections – 80. Total Score – 202,280. Club: RDXA. Comments: We had some wild times with a fishing pole, a Master padlock, a ladder, weak rope, slipping knots, a bass lure, and an uncooperative fir tree while putting up the 80m dipole Saturday afternoon. You figure it out! Pesky problems with a couple of intermittent coax jumpers when we hooked up all the gear—I will now be getting a 100W soldering iron, no more fooling around. Give me some major heat for those PL-259s! In spite of all, we were on the air with AF2K’s solid-state KW at contest start. No tuning. Wow! Nice! Bands seemed OK. A couple of computer crashes taught us that NA doesn’t like to run in a DOS window. Duh! Papyrus 1.0 saved the day though, and we never missed a QSO. We stayed with the high bands till they died, chasing the rare ones from band to band (VYØ, et. al) via the cluster, then switched to 40m. What timing. SWBC interference was brutal, as always. Made the jump to 75m mid-evening and had super runs. Couldn’t work above 3780 with the amp as SWR was too high (N2OPW was right: we should have trimmed more). Shut down the amp and worked out the band with 100W from 02:00 till daylight. We were down to just a couple needed for the Sweep after midnight; but didn’t get the last—U.S. Virgin Islands—until 07:00 Sunday. Worked many of the much-debated, always-elusive ‘church crowd’ till about noon. Stuck with it till 16:00 local Sunday and managed 200K+ points raw score. Icy snow off and on through the night made getting out on the back roads a bit of a challenge, but with all hands pushing in a couple of spots, we heaved K2DB’s bargemobile to plowed pavement. We got the sweep and had a great time. What else is there? A repeat of our 2001 Atlantic Division 1st place, maybe. We’ll see.

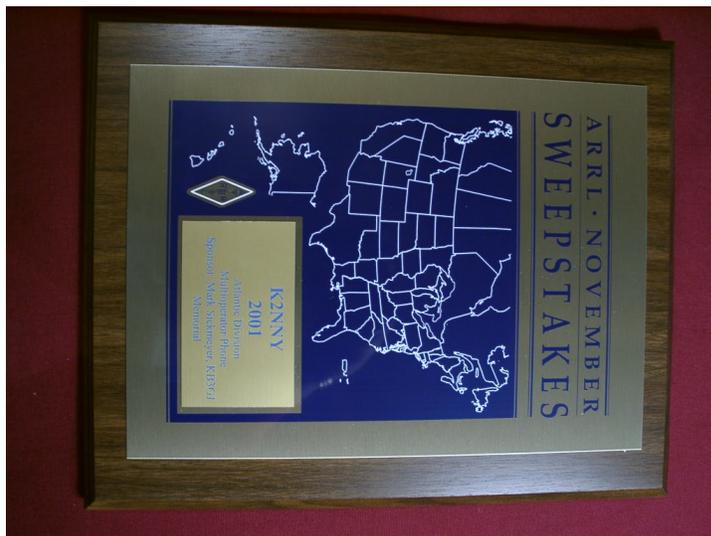
The following are some choice photos of the HLCC SS SSB team members in action.



K2DB practicing his 'clean sweep' technique before the contest start.



AF2K shovels out the pileups on 20m while N2OPW logs.



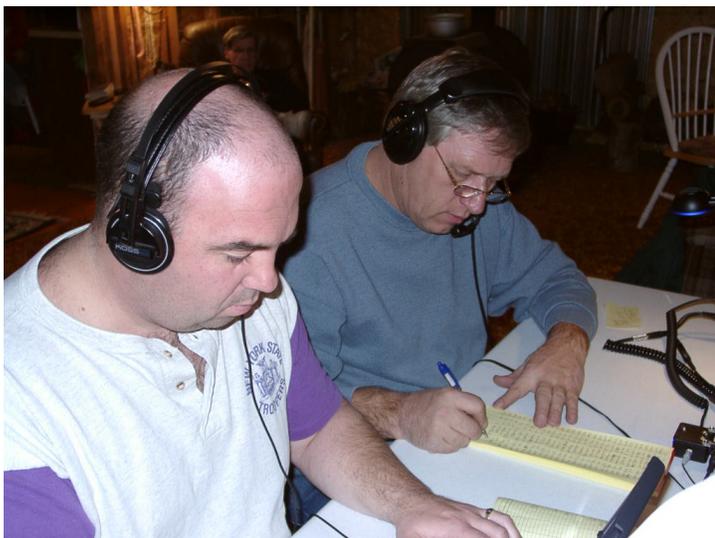
The 2001 1st place award. Will the team do it again? Time will tell.



The TWE T1000 solid state linear loading at a KW. This fine piece of amateur equipment can be yours for the 2003 portion of the contest season. See AF2K's ad in the For Sale section.



Rats, another computer crash. I think we need a different approach. K2DV prepares to engage Papyrus 1.0 (again!) while N1OKL does battle with the silicon gods.



K2DV and K2DB working and logging the pileups on 40m. What a pair of calls, eh? Did they plan this?

Give RDXA Membership this Holiday Season

Looking for a holiday gift for a fellow ham who has everything? Want to get a ham-to-be interested in DXing and Contesting? Or maybe you have wondered how you could share the excitement and accomplishments of RDXA with your ham friends across the country or around the globe. The answer is simple. Give the gift of RDXA membership!

Remember, full RDXA membership is available to licensed amateurs regardless of QTH, though only local members are now eligible to submit contest scores for club competitions, per the latest League rulings

And here's a bonus. Current members who give five gift memberships will receive one free ticket to the annual awards banquet. Ten gift memberships earns two free banquet tickets.

Don't delay. Get out that gift list and make your holiday shopping easy. No crowds, no hassles, no fuss, no muss. Plus, you'll have the satisfaction of sharing the RDXA fellowship with another ham.

DX Advisory Member Needed By Ed Gable - K2MP
Assistant Director, Atlantic Division

Hi Gang: The position of DX Advisor committeeman for the Atlantic Division is now open and we're actively searching for a replacement. This would be a great opportunity to associate the RDXA with those decision makers who greatly effect the DX-minded Amateur Community. If you have an individual in mind, please contact me directly. Time is a little short.

2002-03 Awards Banquet Date Set

Paul Meyers, N2OPW, reports that the date of 19 April has been set for the combined RDXA / RVHFG Awards Banquet. Paul also notes that the planning committee is considering some novel venues and programs. If you are interested in assisting with the planning, or have suggestions, contact Paul. Regardless, mark your calendars now; this year's event will definitely be different.

Treasurer's Report By Charlie Kuhfuss - WB2HJV

As of December 2, 2002 the Club's financial status is as follows:

Checking	\$1787.86
Petty Cash	\$145.00
Total funds available	\$1932.86
Less Memorial Fund	(\$826.89)
Operating funds	\$1105.97

The RDXA currently has 53 paid members for the 2002/03 season. **Please check the membership expiration date printed on your bulletin label. 26 members from 2001/02 who have not yet renewed for the current season.** Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

ZL1AMO From *The Daily DX*, Vol 6. No.228
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Well known DXer and super CW op Ron Wright ZL1AMO recently fell seriously ill when both of his lungs collapsed while on a DXpedition to Fiji. He was subsequently airlifted to a hospital in Auckland, New Zealand where he has been in intensive care for over three weeks. Reports from Jacky ZL3CW/F2CW state that Ron is slowly improving, now being able to recognize people. He was able to sit up in a recliner on November 30th according to his XYL Terri. He is still unable to talk and Jacky has offered to bring a Morse key on his next visit so Ron can communicate. This brought a laugh to Ron.

Jacky is also passing the news to the amateur radio community that the family is in great need of financial assistance to cover the cost of the airlift from Fiji to New Zealand. Contributions to the ZL1AMO Air Ambulance Fund should be sent to INDEXA c/o Bill Jennings, W4UNP, Secretary-Treasurer INDEXA, P.O. Box 607, Rock Hill, SC 29731. Contributions to the fund are NOT tax deductible.

XE-Land Convention By Luis Delgadillo - XE2AC

From our friend and former member Luis, XE2AC, I received this photo of the first DX convention of the *Asociacion de Radioaficionados de Aguascalientes*, of which Luis is President.



Check out the other photos of this event at the website of XE1KK: <http://www.kkn.net/gallery/xelkk?&page=1>

Propagation AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, December 1991
Solar Flux Range ----- 131 – 230

General – The days are now very short in the northern hemisphere. The sun doesn't shine at all on the north pole, so 10 meter opportunities into central and southern Asia are rare. Grey line paths in the morning lead to Europe, and there is plenty of activity on this popular path. The 10m season will continue for several months with openings to most of the world. The other fine daytime band will be 15m, which will have broader openings to more of the world. On 15m, polar openings are still common.

20 Meters – Nighttime MUFs are lower now, and 20 Meters is seriously effected. The band begins to close in mid-evening, and paths to the northeast are not open for the European sunrise. The band stays open in the early evening for polar paths to Asia and Russia, and then closes. In the morning, we no longer have that fine summer short path to the Far East. Instead, Antarctic long path is at the peak of its season. Excellent morning long path to India, Russia, the Middle East and Europe is an every day occurrence. This is a favorite DX path for many experienced DXers, with plenty of activity on both ends of the path. It is near sunset at the other end of the path, but DXers in Europe and Russia know it well. There are also excellent long path openings around our sunset to the Far East that are not closely watched.

40 Meters – The early band closings on 20m move much North American DX activity to the low bands. New challenges await DXers who have already worked everything over and over on the high bands. There are also frustrations. SSB DXers find 40m loaded with foreign political propaganda and either move on to 75m, or work on their 5 Band DXCC on 40m CW. This is one reason why 40m pileups are so quickly overrun with lids. (The main reason, however, is packet.) 40m is a great band, and many exotic stations appear in the evening hours. African CW ops in particular seem to like 40m.

80 and 160 Meters – These two low bands are also in season, but we are still too high in the sunspot cycle for serious DXing on 160m. On 80m, most of the activity is on SSB. On all the low bands, the east coast has a much greater advantage to Europe and Africa than they do on the high bands. Hoards of east coast packeteers dominate pileups most of the evening, and Europe is hard to work. It is important to note that European activity in the evening comes mostly from insomniacs with big signals.

The real propagation peak is at the EU sunrise, which occurs after midnight here. By then, most of the east coast is in bed and 80m

DX is very workable. You will still need an amplifier and a good wire antenna to achieve consistent results.

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

Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2002 December 03

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2002 Dec 04	185	10	3
2002 Dec 05	185	10	3
2002 Dec 06	185	10	3
2002 Dec 07	185	10	3
2002 Dec 08	180	12	3
2002 Dec 09	180	15	3
2002 Dec 10	180	12	3
2002 Dec 11	185	10	3
2002 Dec 12	195	10	3
2002 Dec 13	195	8	3
2002 Dec 14	185	8	3
2002 Dec 15	180	10	3
2002 Dec 16	170	10	3
2002 Dec 17	160	12	3
2002 Dec 18	150	30	5
2002 Dec 19	150	20	4
2002 Dec 20	150	15	3
2002 Dec 21	145	15	3
2002 Dec 22	140	15	3
2002 Dec 23	140	15	3
2002 Dec 24	140	15	3
2002 Dec 25	140	15	3
2002 Dec 26	140	15	3
2002 Dec 27	145	12	3
2002 Dec 28	145	12	3
2002 Dec 29	145	15	3
2002 Dec 30	150	15	3

For Sale

The Perfect Christmas Present for Yourself: Trans World Electronics (Escondido, CA) T-1000. 1000 watt Linear Amplifier (will do 1250w). Broadband / Solid State / No Tune, 1.8-30MHz. Manual plus Installation & Service Manual. Excellent condition, a real performer and pleasure to use. *This is the amp that powered K2NNY to SS SSB fame last month!* Price reduced to \$1775 plus shipping. Irv Goodman, AF2K (585) 671-4430, AF2K@juno.com

Remember, non-commercial ads are free for RDXA members.

RMSC Holiday Science Fair

By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

As in years past, RDXA and RARA will be manning the amateur radio display during the Rochester Museum and Science Center's Holiday Science & Technology Fair. An HF SSB and CW station will be in operation on Saturday, 28 December from 10:00 to 16:00

and on Sunday from 12:00 to 16:00. Operators are needed. Assistance with antenna setup would also be appreciated; time and date TBD. The schedule is casual; no need to sign up in advance, unless you'd like. Station location will be on the 3rd floor. When you enter, inform the museum personnel that you are operating the ham station, and there will be no entry fee. Contact N1OKL at 383-1981 or n1okl@attglobal.net for details.



Nature's Fury, photo by Chris VenHaus; From the Solar Terrestrial Dispatch website, quite possibly the best radio propagation site on the web. Visit STD at: <http://www.spacew.com/>

Join me in welcoming Finger Lakes Radio and Bill Munson, KC2NG, as the newest advertiser in the RDXA Newsletter. Bill has a fine shop and a nice selection of radio accessories on hand. Drop by and say hello during the Holidays.

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ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION

W2RDX

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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 Board Room of the Monroe Community Hospital, 435 East Henrietta Road, Rochester, NY.

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