

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



Regular Meeting

February 19th 19:30 local

111 Westfall Road
Monroe County Buildings

Beverage Antenna Seminar

Jeff Ach, W2FU, will discuss the venerable Beverage receiving antenna...a must for serious, low-band DXing.

*Note potential meeting room change at 111 Westfall—
to room # 858 if asbestos removal work has begun.*

Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin
Winton Plaza

President's Soapbox

By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

Wind. Lots of it. That's the headline news this month. Many RDXAers suffered antenna damage as a result of the high winds on 1 February. My own antennas were not immune as I suffered what appeared to be a brake failure on my rotor. Though I had a big windmill on my hands for a few hours, the failure luckily occurred several days *after* the high winds. From the ground, I was able to toss a rope over the boom and secure the antenna to a nearby tree. I was able to get up on the roof this past weekend and found that three of the four bolts securing the rotor to the tower had vibrated out. I replaced them and was quickly back in business. And, as the snow continued to melt, I found the missing bolts on the roof and in the gutters. All in all, this was a pretty minor problem and I'm not complaining.

As a result of K2MP's comment during the antenna setup at RMSC, I am now the proud owner of a full, 8-section, 32-foot military HF whip antenna. When he looked closely at the antenna during setup, Ed noted, "Hey, you're missing a couple of sections." Geeze, what a thing to say to a guy!

Well it bugged me and when our operation at RMSC was over and I had the antenna back home, I took a closer look at it. I noted some numbers on each section, so I checked the mil surplus websites for similar products. Zip.

What the heck I thought. I typed one of the numbers into the Google search engine and voila, a match! I browsed over to the indicated site and there was my antenna. I also found an order form for additional sections. It turns out that I was missing *three* sections, not two. They weren't expensive, so I ordered all three. I'm looking forward to trying out the longer antenna at this summer's portable events: vacation, lighthouse weekend, etc.

By the way, guess who makes this antenna? Shakespeare—the fishing rod and tackle people. For a look at their antenna products, point to: <http://www.shakespeareproducts.com/military/>. Check out the 120 HF antenna system. If you are looking for a nice, highly-portable antenna, this may fit the bill. If you decide you don't want to spend the money for a new one, consider looking around hamfests for odd sections. You can always complete your secondhand collection with a few new sections from Shakespeare. In fact, this is how I acquired my 120 HF originally. A few years back, I found the top 5 sections and a base right here at our own Rochester Hamfest for \$80.

I just downloaded the 27-day solar and geomagnetic forecast and I couldn't help but note that, if the forecast holds, February will be an excellent month for DX. Beginning on the 18th, 10 consecutive days with a flux over 230 and K indices of 2 are predicted. The high A indices predicted for several days at the beginning and end of the month promise good conditions for those of you chasing 6 meter openings.

Good luck in the pileups.

QRU es CU at the meeting.

RDXA Quiz

By Fred Groner - W2TZ

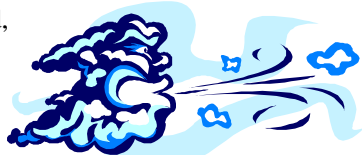
"What is the preferred beverage of RDXA members?"

"What is the proper way to order said beverage?"

Hint: Get real guys; we are not talking about antennas, and we are not talking about Brittany Spears (Pepsi).

Answer: See page 5.

Greetings all. I hope your antennas survived the onslaught of Mother Nature. From the emails I read, there were a few mishaps. **Rick, W1TY** had the worst experience—loosing his tower and all the antennas on it. In the immortal words of **Fred – the wire antenna king, W2TZ** “If the antennas are still up after the big wind, simply stated, the antennas aren’t big enough”. Following that logic, because my antennas are still standing, I must surmise that they aren’t big enough! I did cast a few anxious glances to the rooflines to make sure that everything was still where I wanted it to be. Thanks to over-engineering, and judicious usage of guy wires and cable, I don’t have to venture onto the roof to repair damage.



It’s amazing what you can learn from watching the history channel. I happened to spot a tease for a feature called “Boy’s toys – the history of the remote control”. Seeing this, I knew I had to watch the program. The next time you pick up your remote, thank Nikola Tesla. Did you know that he invented the remote control back in 1898? In the first documented usage of a remote control, Nikola used tuned radio circuits to control functions on his model boat. Separate circuits, tuned for specific frequencies controlled all aspects of his boat – speed, lights, and steering. Nikola obtained a patent for his remote control on November 8th, 1898.

Back in January, I worked A41KJ in Oman – a new country for me. I was also glad to see that he had a US QSL manager, **Bud, N5FTR**. I quickly put together an SASE, my card and a green stamp to send off. When the card was received from Bud, I noticed that the card was for a contact with W2CK! The date, time, and frequency were correct with my log. I knew I heard Siddiq come back to N2CK, got a 59+ report (without the amp), and had a valid exchange. I sent the card back to Bud, along with a note indicating the mistake, and hoping that I was in A41KJ’s log correctly. One week later I received my card from A41KJ, correct in all details, along with a note from Bud admitting that the mistake was at his end. Bud even sent along a couple of US stamps to cover my second mailing. It’s nice to see that kind of service QSL managers.

For those of you interested in P5 (and I suspect there are a lot of you), check out <http://www.amsatnet.com/P5.html>. Ed is still waiting for written permission to operate. He has been given verbal permission – however the ARRL requires that written permission be granted before the QSO can be counted as valid. Noted at this site is a log search engine, so if you think you made it through, you can check the log (I tried a couple of avid RDXA DXers – they weren’t listed). Permission to use this information in our club newsletter is granted by recognizing the source – the Houston AMSAT Net <http://www.amsatnet.com>.

I hope to see you all at the February meeting. Jeff Ach, W2FU will be hosting a talk on beverage antennas. I know at least one RDXA member who has expressed an interest in adding a beverage to his antenna farm now that he’s got a clean shot to the field behind his house.

DX of the Past - February 1959

By Ed Gable - K2MP

On this date VE3MR and TI2HP announced their assault on Cocos Island. They will have two Collins KWM-1 transceivers, one on CW as TI9CW and the other on SSB as TI9SB. The instructions from the operators are to zero beat as closely as possible. Even

though the KWM-1’s were the first true SSB/CW transceivers, they had no provisions for split operations.

Another planned operation is Tonga (VR5) by ZL3DA. He still needs \$450 to firm transportation costs and DX clubs worldwide are asked to help. Tonga’s last operation was back in 1940.

Well, it wouldn’t be a 50’s era DX report without learning where world traveling Danny Weil, VP2VB, was located. Unfortunately the news is not good with the YASME II on the rocks off Grenada. Danny had a broken foot but is OK, the radios are OK, but it doesn’t look good for the boat. Will there be a YASME III? Stay tuned.

QSLs received this month to drool over include VS5EW in Brunei, FB8BK on Tromelin Island, EQ3AL in Iran (Using WW2 ART-13 and BC-348) and KC6JC operating from Truk and the site of a captured Japanese high power radio transmitter. As was common then, all four of these QSLs are home made.

There was much talk amongst DXers about the steep rise in phony [phony = unlicensed; not phoney as in SSB/AM guys] operators causing havoc on the bands. The Vatican, Wrangle Island, St. Helena and Mongolia are just a sample of *Slims* logged by many this month.

At this time Frank Kryss, W2QJM, wrote for the RDXA a monthly column which appeared in the RaRa Rag. This month Frank wrote about the top five DXers in the RDXA with W2GNT at the top of the list with 259 countries confirmed. Of that list, sadly all are SK’s today.

“Command your Band” was the slogan of Carl Mosley as he introduced his new line of Mosley *Powermaster* full size mono-band yagis. If you needed ham equipment this day you simply went downtown and bought some from well stocked dealers. Rochester Radio Supply for Hallicrafters, Jerry Fink & Company for Drake, Fred Becker for Central Electronics and Hi-C Electronics for your parts and antennas were a few ready for your business.

Science Exploration Days

By Bob Hunter - NG2P

I received the first announcement for Science Exploration Days at St John Fisher College.

Tuesday, May 14	Advanced Setup
Wednesday, May 15	8:30ish until a great lunch
Thursday, May 16	8:30ish until a great lunch

In past years, there has been a wine and cheese welcome and buffet lunch (with more wine if you can take it).

Beg the boss and come on out. It is not just radio event. Local industry, scientific groups and technical colleges have exhibits. All displays, including ours, are set in the gym. There are also talks from local specialists to the best and brightest in area high schools.

UHF and N Connector Covers

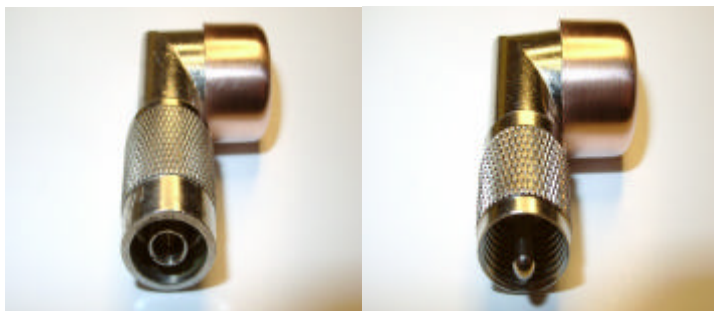
By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

Have you ever wanted a cover for female UHF or N connectors—then decided you didn’t really need one after all once you checked the prices? If so, here are two inexpensive homebrew solutions. One provides a slip-on cover, the other screws on.

Before we take a look at each, let me point out a commonality between N and UHF connectors that you may not realize exists.

The sleeve threads are the same size and pitch for UHF and N connectors. Among other things, this means that a cap for one series will work equally well for the other. Many may already know this, but it was interesting news to me.

Let's begin with the slip-on cover. It's the simplest since it is nothing more than a 1/2 inch cap for copper sweat-fit pipe.



Example N and UHF connectors, with 1/2 inch cap for sweat-fit copper pipe installed on each.



To obtain a snug fit with the pipe cap, especially on UHF series connectors, you may find it necessary to shim the inside of the cap. For this purpose, I use a thin piece of mylar, cut to fit inside of the cap. There is some variance in the diameter of caps and connectors so you will need to try various lengths of shim.

A threaded cover which provides more security can easily be fabricated from readily-available parts. You will need the sleeve from a PL-259 and several additional pieces, as described in the photo caption below.



Parts needed to construct a screw-on cap for N and UHF connectors: PL-259 sleeve, 3/8 inch copper sweat pipe cap, 6-32 x 3/8 in. brass machine screw, short length beaded chain and end connectors, brass shim stock.

First, buff the pipe cap, shim stock and inside of the connector with emery cloth or steel wool...just as you would pieces of copper pipe for sweat-fit joints. It's important to remove all oxidation from these parts, especially the inside of the PL-259 sleeve. Otherwise, solder will not adhere.

Next, drill a hole in the top of the pipe cap to accommodate the 6-32 brass screw. You can make this hole larger than the screw and use a nylon-insert stop nut to secure the screw to the cap. Or, you can drill and tap the hole then solder the screw to the cap (don't

forget to put the chain connector on *before* you solder). The objective in either case is to allow the beaded chain connector to swivel on the screw.

Now, coil up the shim stock and insert it into the PL-259 sleeve, pushing it past the threads and up against the flange at the opposite end of the sleeve. Then insert the 3/8-inch pipe cap and check for a snug fit. Depending on the thickness of your shim stock, you may have to use several turns to obtain a snug fit for the pipe cap.

Finally, solder the pipe cap to the PL-259 sleeve. Use standard plumbing-type solder and acid flux. Before soldering, disassemble the components—shim, pipe cap, sleeve—and coat all with flux. Reassemble, heat with a small torch and solder.



Completed cap with beaded chain attached. This view shows the pipe cap, soldered to the inside of the PL-259 sleeve, and the 6-32 screw holding the beaded chain.

Probably the most common use of caps is to protect chassis-mount UHF and N connectors. In such installations, it is common practice to secure the cap to the chassis to prevent it from being lost when not in use; see photo caption below.



Homebrew connector cap installed on chassis mount SO-239. In this installation, cap has been secured to one of the SO-239 mounting screws to prevent loss when not in use.

These connector covers are easy to make, especially the slip-on version. Their use could save a lot of aggravation when used to protect unused connections exposed to dust, dirt and weather. So, the next time you are in the hardware store, pick up a few 1/2-inch copper pipe caps. And before you discard that old piece of coax, clip off the connectors and save the sleeves.

February Contests

CQ WW WPX, RTTY----- 9, 10 February
ARRL Int'l. DX CW----- 16, 17 February
CQ 160m SSB----- 22-24 February

March Contests

ARRL Int'l. DX SSB-----2, 3 March
BARTG Worldwide RTTY----- 16-18 March
CQ Worldwide WPX SSB-----30, 31 March

New ARRL DXCC List Available

The official source of DXCC information! Record the DXCC Entities you've worked and QSLed! This new edition includes a complete listing of DX Century Club rules including the latest changes and clarifications. It contains information about each entity on the DXCC List, deleted entities, and the latest DXCC Entity additions. Also included are a prefix cross-reference, the list of international call sign series, and much more.

Descriptions of all DXCC awards are covered, and information about how to get numerous DXCC items, such as pins and plaques. This is a "must have" for every DXer.

February 2002 edition, The American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ISBN: 0-87259-857-8) #8578 - \$4.00

Shipping late-February or March, 2002

Greater Buffalo Winter Hamfest

Sunday - February 24, 2002 ----- 08:00 - till

**Jam-Packed with Buyers and Wall to Wall with Sellers
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6777 Main St., Williamsville, NY
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Talk In: 147.255 PL 107.2

Propagation *AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, February 1991*

Solar Flux Range ----- 174 - 320

General—Days are getting longer now, and MUFs are back on the increase. Also, there was a spectacular resurgence in solar flux in late January to about 350. This brought us an early return to all night openings on 20 Meters, and an abrupt end to the good European signals we've been hearing on 80. 40 is still very good. I offer no projection of future solar activity in view of the recent rise in fluxes, and leave this topic to the many propagationists who specialize in watching the flux go up and down. Compared to the seasonal variations in propagation, I find this activity rather boring.

20 Meters will again be reliable for night path work until next fall, with evening pipelines to areas on the other side of the world where the sun has recently risen. Polar openings will be very good, and the next few months would be ideal for any of the backup Afghanistan operations to show. The recent operation occurred at a time of year when opportunities to work North America were limited to short windows on only a couple bands. Experienced DXers know to watch these windows carefully when stalking a desperately needed new one, assuming that the expedition will daily exploit these limited opportunities to fill the demand in remote parts of the world. The YA operators missed almost all the 20 meter windows to North America, just as they did from Spratly. It seems they concentrated on 10 & 15 meters, where the windows were almost non-existent except from the east coast. These countries remain in great demand here.

10 Meters will remain good for only another month, and will then deteriorate rapidly during March and April. It will not be as good as in the fall. 15 will gradually improve throughout the spring, with improved access to remote Asian countries. The peak season for 15 is still a few months away. 20 long path is excellent, peaking 1 to 2 hours after sunrise. Low band season is not over yet, and 40 will be very good. If fluxes remain high, 80 will not be much good, but opportunities to work many countries will occur during contests.

73, de Roy - AD5Q / Houston

<http://www.qth.com/ad5q/>

Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2002 February 05

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2002 Feb 06	225	15	3
2002 Feb 07	225	20	4
2002 Feb 08	220	12	3
2002 Feb 09	210	10	3
2002 Feb 10	200	8	3
2002 Feb 11	200	7	2
2002 Feb 12	200	7	2
2002 Feb 13	205	7	2
2002 Feb 14	210	7	2
2002 Feb 15	215	10	3
2002 Feb 16	220	10	3
2002 Feb 17	225	10	3
2002 Feb 18	230	7	2
2002 Feb 19	230	7	2
2002 Feb 20	230	7	2
2002 Feb 21	235	7	2
2002 Feb 22	240	7	2
2002 Feb 23	245	7	2
2002 Feb 24	250	7	2
2002 Feb 25	255	7	2
2002 Feb 26	250	7	2
2002 Feb 27	245	7	2
2002 Feb 28	245	10	3
2002 Mar 01	240	10	3
2002 Mar 02	235	7	2
2002 Mar 03	235	7	2
2002 Mar 04	230	7	2

DX Logbook

Chris Shalvoy - K2CS

As I listen to the 9Q1A calling 4's (and as usual, 7's and others calling), it's been another incredible couple of weeks on the bands.

Seems the **daily** 6m openings have subsided, so I'm able to concentrate on the HF bands once again.

For those of you who (unfortunately) haven't been on 6m, the last 3 months have been something for the record books. Just pickup the recent issues of CQ or QST and "read it and weep". Many local DXers have contributed their experiences. From here, it was something I'd never dreamed.

After the initial openings during ARRL sweeps, the bands held up almost daily providing worldwide DX most of the time. The thing about 6m is that predictions aren't as easy as they are on HF. The

only definite prediction is that we'll take a hit during contest weekends (6m was **dead** during the January VHF contest). Hi!

On to HF where there's been **no** lack of good stuff lately.

VP8THU (South Sandwich) hit the bands during the later part of January providing a new one for many.

A few days later, VP8GEO fired up from South Georgia once again providing excitement amongst the masses.

Recently, S9LA (Sao Tome) and 5Uxx (Niger) have allowed those of us with beams (did I say that?) to remain pointed in the same general direction and rack up a few new band countries.

The 5U boys are still going, being spotted on 160m tonite while it looks like the S9 guys are done.

PY0T, PY0S, H4 and 9Q (on tonite) and KH1 (late April) are all up and coming. I'd suggest checking your country lists, some of these haven't been on in a while.

The Weekly DX has decided to go to an email-only format in a few weeks. What a shame. Just think, your birth certificate, driver's license, ham radio tests and licenses, insurance policies, DXCC, QSL cards, bonds, stock certificates, death certificate (one in the same lately), **money** are and always will be issued on paper.

I'll keep my straight key, paper logs and a heart felt respect for those before me.

In the Log (non contest):

CE9/R1ANF.....	17m, 20m	CW
7Q7LA	20m	CW
5H3RK	20m	CW
4L8A	20m	CW
A35VK	10m	CW
3D2AG/p.....	15m	CW
HF0POL.....	20m	CW
S92JHF	20m	CW
KC4AAA.....	20m	CW
	never heard on CW before	
VP8THU	20m, 30m.....	CW
	17m	SSB
JT1CO	17m	SSB
VP8GEO.....	20m, 30m, 15m, 17m, 40m	CW
	17m, 20m.....	SSB
5U4R.....	20m, 15m, 10m	SSB
5U1A.....	15m, 30m.....	CW
S9LA	17m, 12m, 20m, 10m	CW
	17m	SSB
HI3/OK2ZU.....	10m, 40m.....	CW
C31LJ	12m	CW

As always, thanks to those who pioneered this hobby and have helped me and this organization continue. And Fred, still miss ya.

73 de Chris, K2CS

QST Contest Scores

By Scott Bauer - W2LC
WNY Section Manager

I would like to ask all RDXA members to remind the Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN@arrl.org, that 100% of contesters are ARRL and that removing the contest "line scores" is removing the contest results from QST. After all, the line scores *are* the contest results.

I would like to suggest that the RDXA send a letter on behalf of the Club to the ARRL president W5JBP and the Atlantic Division Director stating that removal of the line scores would not be looked upon favorably by the RDXA and its DXers and contesters—all of whom are ARRL members.

Unless of course you want to remove the QST results from QST.

73 Scott - W2LC
w2lc@arrl.org

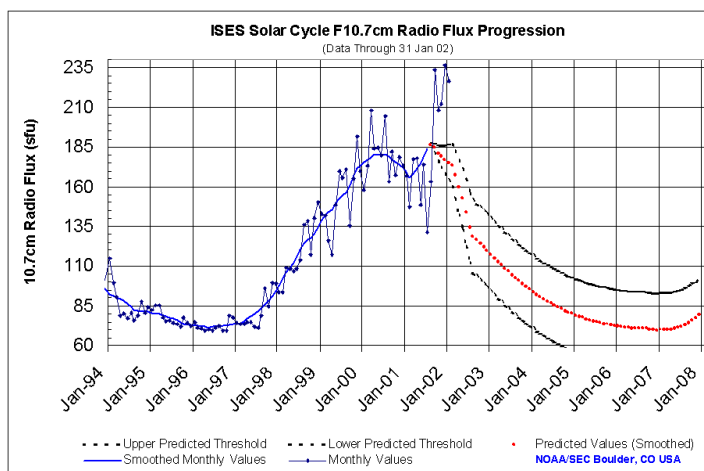
RDXA Quiz - Answer

The preferred beverage of RDXA is a glass of "dark" – made famous a few years ago by K2FR at the S&S. The proper and respectful way to order a "dark" is to say, "Another dark, please!"

Cycle 23 History

NOAA

The NOAA chart below shows the progression of the current Cycle 23. There was some speculation early in the current cycle, that this would be a "double peak" cycle—which the chart clearly confirms.



Additional information on the progression of Cycle 23 is available from NOAA at: <http://www.sel.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/>.

For Sale

Two Meter Multi-mode; SSB, CW, FM and AM, full frequency coverage, AC and DC operation, 10 watts, with cables, mic and manual. Perfect one owner condition and only \$225.00 today.

Also Six Meter PA, Mirage B1015, 10 watts input, 150 watts output, SSB/FM, with built-in pre-amp. Current AES price \$369, today only \$195.

Ed Gable, K2MP, (585 392-3088, k2mp@eznet.net)

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 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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