

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

[rdxa.com](http://rdxa.com)



ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2002

## Regular Meeting

January 15<sup>th</sup> 19:30 local

111 Westfall Road  
Monroe County Buildings

**Jim Howard, N2JMH**, will share his experiences on roving in VHF contests.

*If you were at the 2001 Rochester Hamfest, then I'm sure you saw Jim's amazing rover vehicle. Stop in and give a listen and find out what's involved for a serious "road warrior" entry in a VHF contest.*

## January is a VE Testing Month

*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

December was a busy time for ham radio here in Rochester. The month began with a celebration of Marconi's first transatlantic reception. On 12 December, hams from RARA and RDXA met at the US Coast Guard station on Lake Ontario for a short, Field Day-like operation to commemorate the event. See full story elsewhere in this issue.

At the end of the month, RARA and RDXA again joined forces to demonstrate amateur radio at the Rochester Museum and Science Center during Holiday Science and Technology Week. The three-day exhibit, 27-29 December, showcased our hobby to over 2000 visitors. Full coverage of this special event also appears elsewhere in this issue.

January promises to be another full month for ham radio activity. By the time you receive this month's Bulletin, the 2002 ARRL

RTTY Roundup will be history. If you enjoy the digital modes, I hope you had a chance to participate. As always, I'm sure Rick's RTTY Rangers were out in force.

Low-band aficionados will have two opportunities to test their mettle this month, beginning with the Japan International DX CW event on 160m-40m, 11-13 January. Low-band activities round out the month with the CQ 160m CW Contest on 25-27 January.

Sandwiched between these low-band events is the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes on 19-21 January. All RDXAers are urged to get on the air during this event, as a win by our Club will permanently clinch the RVHFG Rochester Cup.

Happy New Year and good luck in the pileups.

QRU es CU at the meeting.

### Editor's Corner

By Dave Wright - N2CK

Greetings and Happy New Year to you all. I hope you have been keeping those rigs warm and filling up the logbooks. I haven't had as serious contest effort this year as I did last year, mostly due to family constraints and competition for the back room here in the house. My kids' think I'm kidding about my taking over their room once they move out.

I recently submitted my log for the ARRL 10M contest. Imagine my surprise when the ARRL contest robot returned it! Upon inspection of the mail message, I neglected to include my section, and the club designation was not recognized. I checked my Cabrillo log format and determined that I had neglected the section information. I quickly corrected that, but I saw nothing wrong with the club information. I went to the ARRL site to determine the problem. I eventually determined that the discrepancy was that I had spelled out Association, and the robot was looking for "Assn"! Once I corrected this trivial mistake, my log was accepted and stored. I was impressed that the ARRL had implemented such a program to screen incoming logs for errors and had provided the ability to notify the end user of problems with their logs. Nice job! [FYI as I was browsing through my mailbox for stuff to add to fill out the newsletter, I came across an announcement from the ARRL about standardizing recognized clubs for log submissions. Guess I should actually read this stuff once in a while!]

This column is shorter than usual, as the clock is ticking and I have to get it shipped off to Mike for additional input and copying. See you at the meeting.

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## K2FR Memorial Plaque

By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

On 21 December 2001, RDXAers met at the S&S for our usual Friday Social. This Friday however, was quite special as it marked the installation date of the K2FR memorial plaque.

The memorial was designed by AF2K and N2OPW saw to its acquisition. On the appointed date, AF2K and W2TZ provided installation labor and expertise. Unfortunately, the screws supplied by the plaque manufacturer were tiny. These fasteners proved highly elusive...slipping from the grasp of the installation team, not one, not twice, but three times! Too many darks, maybe?

Retrieving the screws from the peanut shell-covered floor would be a difficult task, and might well have proved impossible were it not for the forethought of AF2K. In the best tradition of amateur preparedness Irv produced a flashlight and the search was on.



Intent on their task and ignoring stares from puzzled patrons, Irv and Fred scoured the area with keen eyes and at last managed to locate the slippery little buggers. Screws finally and firmly in hand, the team completed the job in short order, signaling success with the time-honored phrase, "Another dark, please."

Check it out next time you visit our watering hole. The plaque is affixed to the back of the big wagon wheel bench, right behind K2FR's favorite spot at the end of the center table.

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## DX of the Past

By Ed Gable - K2MP

Talk about DX, how about 22,000 miles! Yes, it was this date, 40 years ago, that the first OSCAR reached successful orbit and then made history. Over the years there have been more OSCAR's, FUJI's, and ham satellites from many other countries. Satellite DXCC, WAS and VUCC's are recognized awards and "Satellite Ready" transceivers are common place. All starting with a little home made box by a bunch of enthusiastic Ham Radio volunteers!

This was also the year that the Vatican, by way of HV1CN, filled the log of many eager DX'ers. The venue was both CW and Phone weekends of CQWW and the DXpedition was sponsored by none less than Bill Halligan, W9AC, Chairman of the Hallicrafters Company. Miraculously, (it was the Vatican, after all) two sets of complete Hallicrafters stations; HT-32A/SX-115/HT33A, showed up at their door step. W9IOP, W2BBV, W2BIB and I1CNS were some of the well known ops.

The government of Curacao (PJ5) revealed an intense activity to lure Ham Radio tourists to the their island. They sponsored a luxury hotel with what was described as "Voice of America" type antenna systems already installed, no waiting Ham licenses, and even U.S. registered boats so you could operate mobile or portable with your U.S. callsign. Some hotel rooms had Collins KWM-2's

installed. I guess they were not aware of how "frugal" hams were as nothing was ever heard from them again.

This period was the down side of the sunspot cycle with bottom expected in 1964/65. Low band activity was picking up and only 10 meter CW worked on that band with an occasional opening.

DX activity to drool over at the time included:

- Marquesas Island FO8AN, operated by Danny Weil, VP2VB
- Crozet Island FB8WW,
- Aves Island YV0AA
- Bhutan by VU2BK
- Turkoman UA1CC/UH8.

It took four pages in *DX Magazine* to explain how to log the WAE contest with the still bizarre QTC reports. Some logging software does that pretty well today, paper logging was more challenging!

And finally, if Santa didn't bring the perfect gift and place it under the tree, Collins radio just announced that they were taking orders for the new 75S3 receiver at \$620.00.

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## January Contests

ARRL Straight Key Nite----- 1 January  
ARRL RTTY Roundup----- 5, 6 January  
Japan Int'l DX, CW 160-40m ----- 11-13 January  
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes ----- 19-21 January  
CQ 160m, CW-----25-27 January

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## February Contests

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

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## FD Kudos from Far and Wide

By Fred Groner - W2TZ

Since the 2001 Field Day results were announced to the world in December, QST, with our first place finish in 3A, RDXA has received much congrats. In addition to congratulating ourselves – we did a super job doing that by celebrating, we received and appreciated Field Day kudos from far and wide. In January, 2002 Section News, our WNY SM, W2LC wrote, "Congratulations to the Rochester DX Association for placing FIRST in the very competitive 3A category." I love the way Scott uses caps in his articles! I personally appreciated the kudos which N2WK e-mailed RDXA. Wayne knows the tremendous amount of work and group effort needed to make a first place finish. Tnx Wayne, for the kind words. DX kudos came from K8FC at his distant, new QTH in Colorado. Tnx Joe, but don't forget you were there at Webster Park making those middle-of-the-night 80 meter CW QSOs which contributed to our success. I surprisingly, worked Joe in the 160 meter contest at the relatively early time of about 0400Z and he had the strongest signal at that time from west of the Mississippi. Joe must have his 160 meter antennas up already and his big Alpha humming. And finally, thanks to the fine Christmas party held by Vic, K1PY and Carolyn, N2YPM which gratefully substituted for our Dec. meeting. We were able to corner and shower kudos on

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Gayle, N2TWI who contributed significantly to our Field Day efforts, not only in 2001 but in many years in the past.

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### 425 DX Report Most Wanted From the DX Reflector

Cast your vote for the most wanted DX entities at:  
<http://www.425dxn.org/surv2002>

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### Remembering Those Good Old Amateur Radio Stories By Fred Groner - W2TZ

The best is yet to come. At a future RDXA meeting we will present the best program of the year. What's up? Are we going to import a famous DX speaker? The answer is no, because we already have the greatest talkers right here in RDXA! In an upcoming RDXA meeting, we will have Good Old Amateur Radio Stories Night presented by RDXA attendees who wish to participate. We all must have a good amateur radio story to tell. The story might involve experiences with DX, pile-ups, antennas, radio equipment, on-the-air encounters...anything related to amateur radio. I'm sure there are some good stories in RDXA of all places. So start remembering some of those good stories from the past. Be truthful and accurate—no BS please!

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### New QSL Manager Site By Ed Gable - K2MP

Many of us use Manager look up sites, the old [qsl@data-sync](mailto:qsl@data-sync) being one of the earliest. I just found a new site that is really fast and up to date. It not only returns the Manager, but his name & address as well. Go to: <http://dxer.home.att.net/qslink.htm> and follow the directions. Enjoy.

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### Greater Buffalo Winter ARRL Hamfest Don Vlack - K2DV

**When:** February 24, 2002. Opens 08:00 local.

**Admission:** \$6.

**Tables:** \$10.

**Where:** Main Transit FD Hall 6777 Main St., Williamsville, NY. Only 1 mile from NY State Thruway I-90, exit 49.

**Table reservations:** [luke@towncountryflorist.com](mailto:luke@towncountryflorist.com)

Sponsored by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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### RDXA On-the-air Social By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

At our last BOD meeting, K2CS noted that many members of RDXA are now living outside the area, and that we ought to try to pull together an on-the-air social to keep in touch with our far-flung friends.

I volunteered to solicit input concerning bands, frequency, dates, and times. My initial thoughts in this respect are that 20m would be the best band and that a Sunday afternoon might be the best time. As for the date, obviously we would want to pick something on a non-contest weekend.

A good alternative band might be 17m. It is not nearly as crowded as 20m, but has similar propagation characteristics. The only problem with 17m is that many folks lack antennas whose performance is optimal on the band. Otherwise, it's a good choice.

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I am looking for input so please forward your thoughts to me at: [n1okl@attglobal.net](mailto:n1okl@attglobal.net). I'd like to get something scheduled in the March or April timeframe.

For check-in you will of course want to have a cold 807 handy. For a truly authentic experience, make it a dark.

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### Free HF Propagation Software From ARRL Web

Courtesy of your government, Chuck, W1HIS, states that "the best available, free, downloadable software for rolling your own HF propagation predictions" can be found at the NTIA/ITS Software Services Web page, which is maintained by Greg Hand. (NTIA/ITS is the acronym for National Telecommunications and Information Administration Institute for Telecommunications Sciences, which is part of the US Department of Commerce). The website is <http://elbert.its.bldrdoc.gov/>, and will run on a 486 or better PC with Windows 95 or later (for you diehards out there, there is even a DOS version that can be downloaded). I have not tried it out. Perhaps someone in the club can experiment with it and provide a demonstration for one of our meetings.

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### RMSC Holiday Science Fair By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

RDXA and RARA combined efforts again this year to showcase amateur radio of during the Holiday Science and Technology Week at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. This year's event took place on 27, 28, 29 December.

On our "stand", the RARA Radio Coaches demonstrated basic electronic principles via a home-brew CW keyer kit. RDXA and RARA members staffed a fully-functional HF station.

In all, over 2000 visitors passed through RMSC during the three days—and many stopped by our third-floor exhibit for a look at ham radio in action.

On HF, we logged slightly over 100 QSOs (about 25% CW) with 28 different countries—using the W2RDX call. And on Saturday we jumped into the fray during the RAC Winter Contest and managed 60 Qs for a total of 5890 points before it was time to dismantle the station. If only we had known the rules, we could probably have doubled our score!



"Now let's see, if you want to talk to Brazil, I think you push this button." WB2NFY and N2CK explain HF propagation to guests.

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Now this looks like armchair copy! N2CK makes a Q.



K2CS explains HF propagation to the son and grandson of KE2P.



N2OPW and K2MP on the roof of RMSC. "Perfect! Say guys, do you think you could stand here and hold up the aerial for a few days?"



After the strenuous work on the roof, N2OPW and K2MP take a turn at the mic.



W2RDX/RMSC. Our modest but effective station. FT900, 100W to vertical on the roof.

## DX News

Excerpts from *OPDX Bulletin*

<http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>

7 January 2002

**4T, Peru,** Rene/DL2JRM and Daniel/DL5SE will operate as 4T4X and 4T4V from the station at the Radio Club Peruano on all HF bands, 160-10 meters, with priority on CW and some SSB from January 3-13th. They may operate from some island during the coming dates, but they now plan to operate "full-time" from OA4O (Radio Club Peruano station) using their special call signs. They hope to operate long hours in order to achieve as many contacts as possible. QSL 4T4X via DL2JRM and 4T4V via DL5SE.

**8Q, Maldives,** Look for Giovanni, I5JHW, to be active as 8Q7CG from here starting January 6th for one week. There was no announcement of bands or modes of activity. QSL via his home call sign.

**9U, Burundi,** Gus, 9U5D, was very active over this past week on 12 meters (around 24988 kHz between 1830 and 2130z). If he is not on 12 meters check 20 meters (around 14185 kHz). QSL 9U5D via SM5BFJ, only direct, NOT via the operator SM5DIC. The new address for SM5BFJ (ex-SM0BFJ) is: Leif Hammarstrom, Lerklockan 4, SE - 73091 Riddarhyttan, Sweden.

**AH0, Mariana Islands (Attention Top-banders!),** Kazu, JA1RJU, will be active from here and making a special effort to work North American and European top-banders from KH0 Northern Mariana between January 10-15th using the call sign KH2K/AH0. Look for him on 1827.5 kHz using a full sized dipole with a 1kw. QSL via JA1RJU either JARL bureau or direct (SAE+IRC or GS). Do **not** send your QSL to the KH0 or KH2 bureau. **Added Notes:** Do not get KH2K/AH0 mixed up with AH2K/KH0 who has been operating at present. Kazu will operate mostly on 160m. This is a one-man operation.

**CE9, South Shetlands Islands,** Oleg, UA1PBA, is expected to be active as CE9/R1ANF from a Chilean base on King George Island in the South Shetlands (**AN-010**) on January 8th. QSL via RK1PWA

**H40, Temotu Province,** Nick, VK1AA, reports that he is in the final stage of preparation for his Temotu DXpedition, March 28th-April 12th. He is going there to do some serious activity on 160 and 80 meters. However, the bad news is that due to the strict baggage limits of only 16kg, Nick had no choice but to make some special (costly!) arrangements with Solomon Airlines which would allow him to take a 160/80m vertical and amplifier. His total transport/flying cost of this one-man operation is approx. 3500 USD. Nick mentions that most of this sum is already provided by private funding, more support is needed and much appreciated. If you are in position to help with some modest contribution/donation, please contact him direct via E-mail at: [watchman@tig.com.au](mailto:watchman@tig.com.au).

**HS, Thailand,** There have been reports that Dave, W3VK, has been assigned to the U.S. embassy in Thailand and is now using the call sign HS0ZDP.

## IOTA News

**AS-153**, Members of the Calcutta VHF Amateur Radio Society will travel to the Ganga Sagar Melaannual Festival on Sagar Island and will be active from January 10-16th. Operators Deepak/VU2DPM, Sked/VU2SKD, Kitchu/VU2KFR, Horey/VU2HFR and Joy/VU2JSH are there for the main purpose to handle the emergency radio network, however; amateur radio contacts will be made during their spare time. Suggested freqs are:

**CW** - 14040, 21040 and 28040

**SSB** - 14260, 21260 and 28460 kHz

Possible activity on PSK31 on 14070 kHz. QSL via IZ8CCW.

**NA-113**, Remember to look for Wade/AA8LL/C6A and Liz/K8LIZ/C6A to be active from Crooked Island this week (January 12-14th). Activity will be on the SSB IOTA frequencies, 40-10 meters. QSL via buro.

**SA-020**, Remember to look for the "Radio Club of Kourou" (FY5KE) to activate Salut Islands, January 12-13th. Activity will be on HF, 6 meters and AO-40 satellite. QSL direct.

**SA-050**, The Southern Cross DX Group of Chile is expected to activate the Islands of Lennox, Nueva and Picton during January. Their activation dates will be announced online at: <http://www.qsl.net/ce9c>

**KG4, Guantanamo Bay**, Two members of the Florida DXPedition Group, Bill/W4WX (KG4DX) and Larry/W1LR (KG4LR) will be active from GTMO January 11-19th. Look for them on all bands, including 6 meters, on CW, SSB, RTTY, and PSK-31. QSL to home callsigns via the bureau or direct. Remember there is no QSL bureau at GTMO.

**KH0, Mariana Islands**, Members of the Oita DX Club JA6BTO (KH0/JA6BTO), JA6HJP (KF4LX/AH0), JA6LZN (KH0/JA6LZN), JA6PBO (KK7UB/KH0), JA6VQA(WH0B) and JH6ALF (AB2GA/KH0) will be active (especially on 160 meters, 80/40 meters, the WARC band, 6 meters, CW,SSB,SSTV,RTTY) from Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (**OC-086**), February 7-10th. QSLs via their home callsigns either direct or through the JARL bureau.

**KH0, Mariana Islands**, Toshi/JP1IOF and Yoshi/JE2EHP will be active as KH0WW and K1HP/KH0, respectively, from Saipan Island in the Northern Mariana Island, January 25-28th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters with operations on CW/SSB/FM/RTTY. QSL KH0WW (Toshi) via JP1IOF and K1HP/KH0 (Yoshi) via JE2EHP.

**KH4, Midway Island**, Jim/G3RTE and Phil/G3SWH will activate Midway Island on both SSB and CW between March 30th and April 6th. They have already secured the special callsign of W4M which will be used exclusively during their stay on the island. QSLs will be handled by G3SWH. Midway counts as **OC-030** for the Islands on the Air (IOTA) award. They have an expedition target of 10,000 QSOs with an approximate 50/50% split between CW and SSB. They expect to have two stations on the air on all bands between 40 and 10 meters. They are happy to meet the costs of transport to and from the island, but are looking for sponsorship and donations towards their living expenses, printing QSLs and the like. If you would like to help, send an E-mail to Phil, G3SWH, at: [Phil@g3swh.demon.co.uk](mailto:Phil@g3swh.demon.co.uk).

**Pacific Operation (T8 and V6)**, Tony, K2NV, will be going on a vacation in the Pacific during January 12-22nd. He is expected to sign T88ZZ from Palau from January 12-15th and as V63RF from Micronesia from January 18-22nd. His activity will be mostly on CW, but with some SSB and RTTY. QSL via K2NV.

**R1, Antarctica**, Nikolai Makarov, UA3YH (AB0KG), will be active as R1ANM from the "Amundsen-Scott" South Pole station (WABA K-08) within a couple of weeks, January 9-20th. He plans to operate both CW and SSB mainly on 20 meters, perhaps some 15 and 10 meters occasionally. His basic frequencies are:

- 14020/14160 kHz within 1600-1900z for Europe (non-rotored 3 element tri-band yagi)
- 14020/14243 kHz within 0000-0200z for NA/SA/AS (fixed 6 element yagi).

QSL via the bureau to UA3YH or direct to AB0KG (P.O.Box 18118,Boulder, CO 80308-1118 USA). The QSL cards for R1ANM have been printed a few weeks ago. All requests for the R1ANM 2001 year operation, either direct or via the bureau, have already been answered.

**S7, Seychelles**, Luca, I5IHE, is now active as S79LC from Praslin Island (**AF-024**) until January 11th. His activity will be mainly on SSB and RTTY, with some CW and SSTV. He was spotted this past week on 14257 kHz around 1900z. QSL via I5JZP.

**SU, Egypt**, Ahmed, SU3AM, in Port Said, has been very active on 12 and 17 meters. Look for him around 18147 kHz and 24950 kHz between 1000 and 1200z. QSL via DL5ZBV.

**T30, Western Kiribati**, After spending the holidays back in the United States with his family, Eric, T30ES (N1JSY), will return to Western Kiribati on January 8th. While stateside, he met with members of his support team, sharing his adventures on the island of Butaritari with the Peace Corps. Eric is planning to install a second antenna, an inverted V. In addition, arrangements have been made for obtaining a new higher capacity battery. This should extend his operating time. T30ES operates on battery power, charged daily by solar panels. Eric frequently operates on Saturdays at 1400z and Thursdays from 1830z around 14288 kHz. He is on at other times, as his work schedule allows. In December, Eric used his equipment coordinating the emergency medical evacuation of a native having complications during childbirth. The mother and child were reported doing well in a Tarawa hospital. This action proving that amateur radio is not just DX but a valuable resource in an emergency. For more information, photographs and updates on this operation, check the Web site at: <http://people.mags.net/boem/kiribati1.htm>.

**V3, Belize**, By the time you read this, Gerd/DJ4KW and Gisela/DK9GG should be in Belize and active for the next four weeks. Gerd is expected to sign V31YN on CW/RTTY/PSK31 and Gisela will be active as V31GW.

**VP8/SG & VP8/SS, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands**, Current reports indicate that James/9V1YC and Trey/N5KO are in the ship "Braveheart", and they can sometimes be heard active as maritime mobile (homecall/MM). James was heard this past Sunday on 20 meters saying he was west of the Falkland Islands. The rest of the team operators will be picked up over the next few weeks. Landing and activity from VP8/SS will all depend on the weather and sea conditions. If activity does happen from VP8/SS, it will be around the 3rd week in January and only for 3 to 4 days. Operations will be **limited**. The team hopes to be active longer on VP8/SG, possibly 10 days toward the last weeks of Jan through early Feb.

**YA, Afghanistan**, All activity by YA5T over the last few weeks were the work of a PIRATE/SLIM operator. Peter, ON6TT, left Kabul on December 4th and has not been active as YA5T since then. According to the YA5T Web page, Peter will be leaving his home in Belgium on January 20th to head back to Afghanistan. He has a few stops on the way, so he will not arrive in Kabul until a few days later.

**ZF, Cayman Islands**, Lou, KE1F, will be operating from Grand Cayman Island as ZF2LM starting January 14th and will finish his operation on January 30th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters, CW, SSB and perhaps RTTY. QSL Manager is AF2C, SASE please.

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## Marconi Special Event

By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

12 December 2001 marked the centennial of the first reception of transatlantic wireless signals by Guglielmo Marconi. This event was celebrated by amateurs around the world in a variety of special event operations. Most notably, amateur stations were on the air from the historic Marconi station sites in Cape Cod, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Poldhu, Cornwall in the UK.

Rochester amateurs celebrated with a short, special event operation from the U.S. Coast Guard Station on the shore of Lake Ontario.

The operation commenced in the wee hours of the morning (05:00 local) with live television coverage by Channel 8. A temporary

station was set up in the parking lot adjacent to the CG Station and this station was featured on Channel 8's early morning talk show.



The TV 8 cameraman moves in for a closeup of the setup.



N2BNE, W2SKY, and WB2SXY strike a pose for the TV audience.

Following the TV action, the setup was moved to the Coast Guard boathouse where the serious operation commenced.



AA2YV pounds brass, W2SKY listens and N2OPW logs. In keeping with the spirit of the event, all QSOs were CW, using a hand key.

Using the trusty N1OKL mil surplus HF whip, the first contact was made between K2JD and EA-land. About half a dozen contacts followed, including QSOs with the Marconi memorial stations in Newfoundland and on Cape Cod.

With some respectable contacts in the log, it was time to try the kite antenna. The participants adjourned to the jetty and an attempt to raise the kite commenced.



Up, Up and Away!

Unfortunately, the near-shore winds proved too light to raise the kite with the antenna wire. The flying crew moved to the end of the jetty and was able to get the apparatus in the air once clear of surrounding land. But, when they attempted to walk the line back to shore, they lost the wind.



Though the best efforts with the kite reached half-way across the Genesee estuary, there was insufficient wind and lift to support the antenna wire.



Back inside. A view of the operation from the balcony of the boathouse. The HF station in action on the right, and an interview in progress with WXXI radio.

On return to the boathouse, 7 or 8 additional contacts were made, including a QSO with the Marconi memorial station located at Cornwall in England.

The event concluded about 12:00 local. With 14 QSOs in the log, all involved agreed that it was great fun and a resounding success, in spite of the failure to get the kite antenna in the air. The QSOs with other Marconi special event stations were particularly notable and the contact with Poldhu was a real plus.

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

**Solar Flux Range** ----- 176 – 370

**General**—January brings us the lowest MUF's of the year, and they are lower than in the last few years. Low bands are having a great season, but signals on 80 are still much weaker than they will be at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. This is something to look forward to, but for now, lets enjoy 10 and 15 Meters.

**10 and 15 Meters**—As I write this, hoards of policemen, lids and jammers are anxiously monitoring their packet machines lusting for the opportunity to QRM the expected Afghanistan expedition. [Pretty ironic given the current situation—Ed.] As the path to this part of the world is almost due north from here, don't expect to work him on 10. Even if we hear him on this band, the east coast will have a tremendous advantage in the pileups. Even openings to European Russia will be short this year. Still, 10 will be loaded with DX activity from Europe in the morning. Openings to the rest of the world will occur at their regular times. For those difficult to reach corners of the world (southern Asia), things will be easier on 15 or 20. Conditions on 15 will be very good.

**20 Meters**—For the past two months, 20 has been closing at night. During January this will occur especially early. Since this is the band most rely on for night path propagation, activity is way down. Much of it has shifted to the low bands. 20 is in great shape in the southern hemisphere. In the late afternoon and evening, look for activity from Africa and the Antarctic. Tune carefully for exotic long path stuff from the far east around sunset. Morning long path is wide open to most of Europe, and to Russia and the Middle East.

**Low Bands**—This is the best time of year for low band work. This is more difficult, and linears are almost a necessity. For many Honor Rollers, low band DXing is the only cure for DX burnout. Europeans are very workable after midnight on 80 this year, but MUFs are too high for any heavy DX excitement on 160. 40 will be the best band for serious world wide nighttime DXing for the next month or so, until 20 returns.

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

## Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2002 January 02 US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2002 Jan 02	230	10	3
2002 Jan 03	230	8	3
2002 Jan 04	230	7	2
2002 Jan 05	225	7	2
2002 Jan 06	220	7	2
2002 Jan 07	220	7	2
2002 Jan 08	220	10	3
2002 Jan 09	220	7	2
2002 Jan 10	225	7	2
2002 Jan 11	235	10	3
2002 Jan 12	245	10	3

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2002 Jan 13	250	15	3
2002 Jan 14	250	8	3
2002 Jan 15	250	8	3
2002 Jan 16	250	8	3
2002 Jan 17	255	8	3
2002 Jan 18	260	8	3
2002 Jan 19	260	8	3
2002 Jan 20	260	15	3
2002 Jan 21	260	10	3
2002 Jan 22	260	7	2
2002 Jan 23	255	7	2
2002 Jan 24	250	7	2
2002 Jan 25	245	10	3
2002 Jan 26	240	10	3
2002 Jan 27	235	10	3
2002 Jan 28	235	7	2

## DX Logbook

Chris Shalvoy - K2CS

Well, after a few “months off”, here we go...

I hope the “bands” have treated you all as well as they have me. Honestly, the only “band” to speak of lately has been 6 meters. Sure, there has been some HF stuff here and there but with the cancellation of Ducie, what more does a DXer need?

You may have noticed very few good spots on 40, 80 & 160. All the DX is on the upper bands.

Since about the first week of November, almost daily, unheard of openings have occurred on 6 meters.

Back in my “early” ham days, I heard “tales” of working Europe on 6m, little did I know that would end up being boring!

My log has become a 6 meter only log of late. Sure, I “broke down” and worked China, Tristan Da Chuna, Vietnam, Georgia, Mongolia, Western Samoa, Shetlands, South Shetlands, Indonesia, Rotuma, Malawi and a few others but it just didn't seem the same.

When I'm able to work V7, 9J, KH6, KL7, CU, OY, OZ, TG, TI, LA, TF, VY1, 9Y, 6Y, 8P and many G, GW, GI, EI, F, GM, GD, PA, XE, P4, FG, YV, KP4, HP, HR and a few others on 6m, who needs 20m? Honestly, I feel bad for those of you who haven't got 6m up and going, it's been amazing!

For those who follow the “predictors”, last year should have been the end all. Needless to say, this has been that year. Granted, HF has been phenomenal but I doubt we'll see such excitement on 6 for years to come. Enough said.

Seems to me, many logs are not being turned into the web site.

Viewing last year's submissions and this years, we're off quite a few. I guess I'd understand if you've all have been chasing 6m DX but somehow don't believe that's the case. I'll gladly accept mail, email or otherwise. The ARRL DX contests are coming up so let's get cracking!

On an ending note, you beam guys will get a kick out of this. This last Sunday, 6m was cooling down so I decided to work some HF DX. Saw the 3D2 (Rotuma) spotted so I decided to give it a go. Spun the beam to 271 and sure enough he was there... but very weak. Well, this isn't what I expected, time of day, SFI high, low A & K, should be a piece of cake. Switched to the wire, he's S5, beam, S1. What's the problem? Think about it.

All the best, Chris

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

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