

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2003

Regular Meeting

January 21st 19:30 local

435 East Henrietta Road
Monroe Community Hospital

Rus, K2UA will share his experiences in last year's World Radiosport Team Contest.

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Note meeting location change. Park on South side of building and enter through South door (the side that faces I-390 & the Canal. Location is the Board Room. Mention "radio club meeting" to guard.

Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin
Winton Plaza

President's Soapbox

Fred Groner - W2TZ

OK guys, listen up, this is important. As you all know I suffered a heart attack right in the middle of the contest season on November 14, 2002. Fortunately, I was not in the middle of any contest when it happened. In fact, it happened in the middle of the week within minutes after logging off the computer and e-mailing my CW SS logs to the League. I had mild chest pain and indigestion followed, within a few minutes, by a cold sweat. The cold sweat was a unique feeling that gave me the common sense to get my butt to Rochester General, which is only about 4 miles from my QTH. After all the tests and blood tests confirmed that I, indeed had a heart attack, those thoughts of being a silent key became reality. The key I envisioned was an old J-38 straight key, but this key had a big padlock on it so it couldn't be used, period. You can't work DX or contests from six feet under – reality hit home about life and what I should have done to prevent the heart attack in the first place. My mother will be 90 in March, 2003 and she doesn't have heart problems, so why should I have heart problems. Heart attacks were the thing other people got, not me.

Well, I was lucky and got a second chance. My cardiologist placed stents in the two heart arteries that had 70% and 100% blockage. The doctors at Rochester General told me that statistics have shown that once blockage occurs, you are susceptible to blockage happening again and a life style change is a must to reduce the risk. That includes doing all the diet and exercise things that we all hear about every day on TV and in newspapers and magazines. I have been trying to obey Doctor's orders and so far so good. I lost weight and on December 30 I passed a treadmill stress test, which not unlike when we test our transmitters: the test is intended to see how the heart holds up under load. I passed the stress test and the Cardiologist said that I could now do anything physical that I want. Passing the stress test was significant since it indicates that I probably suffered no or little heart damage as a result of the heart attack. So I guess I will have to QSY to a different life style and learn from the experience. I would strongly urge all RDXAers to evaluate their personal lifestyles to minimize their chances of heart attack. Remember, the objective of the amateur is to load up those antennas, but not put a load on your heart!

During my period of recovery, I have been doing a lot of thinking about what kind of amateur activities are best for maintaining a healthy heart. Sitting in the shack munching on greasy potato chips while working DX probably is not the best activity. Spending a long time in a pile-up, however, is probably better for the heart than working him on the first call. Hopefully screaming into a microphone or sending CW on a keyboard will provide some degree of aerobic exercise – one can only hope.

But probably the best activity is to put up a 5000 foot long Beverage antenna, and inspect it every day by walking the 5000 foot distance to the termination and then back again. Let's write a how-to book. Any other ideas?

73 and see you at the January RDXA meeting.

**WRTC 2002
An Insiders View**

By Raj Dewan - N2RD
This Month's RDXA Program

If you worked OJ2H during the last World Radiosport Team Championship in the period from 1200z 13-7-2002 to 1200z 14-7-2002 then you worked the team with Rus K2UA and Ralph N5RZ while they were competing in the world championships.

But whether you worked them or not, you can get an insider's perspective on what it is like to be nominated for the honor of representing your country and competing in the WRTC by coming

to our next general meeting on Tuesday 11/19 and listen to Rus' presentation on his WRTC experience.

The WRTC was born in 1990 as part of the Goodwill games in Seattle, WA. It has since been held in San Francisco in 1996 and Slovenia in 2000. Fifty teams from 27 countries/regions were invited to the 2002 WRTC in Finland. This included twelve teams from US. The Finnish hosts set up 50 modes but similar stations with roughly the same terrain and equipment. Each station had a tribander and Windom antenna. No super duper stacked monobanders. The stations were more like the ones you and I have. This then was the basis for the competition - 50 top teams using similar but simple stations.

What happened? Come and listen to the presentation at the Monroe Community Hospital Board room (enter through the South entrance) at 7:00pm on Tuesday 21, January.

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

February Contests

RSGB 160m, CW ----- 8, 9 Feb
 CQ/RJ Worldwide WPX, RTTY----- 8, 9 Feb
 ARRL Int'l. DX, CW----- 15, 16 Feb
 CQ 160m SSB ----- 21-23 Feb

Rochester Cup Competition

Jim Howard - N2JMH

As everyone knows, RDXA retired the cup last year with 3 consecutive wins by a large margin. In an effort to equalize the playing field we will be going back to the old scoring system, with some modifications.

The scoring will go like this: you receive 1 point per contact per band per grid for each and every RVHFG member you work. Your total goes towards your club's cumulative score. Here is a scoring example for you:

W2ZZZ log for January 2003 Sweepstakes:

Time	Band	Grid	Call	Cup Point
1901	50	FN 13	W2FU	1 - member
1902	144	FN 13	W2FU	1 - member
1903	222	FN 13	W2FU	1 - member
1904	50	FN 12	K2AXX	1 - member
1905	144	FN 12	K2AXX	1 - member
1906	144	FN 02	N2JMH/r	1 - member
1907	222	FN 02	N2JMH/r	1 - member
1930	432	FN 13	N2UIO	1 - member
1935	144	FN 13	N2UIO	1 - member
1945	144	FN 03	N2JMH/r	1 - new grid; member
1946	222	FN 03	N2JMH/r	1 - new grid; member
1950	50	Dn 90	W7ABC	0 - non member

Total Rochester Cup score for W2ZZZ is 11 points and that gets totaled with everyone else in the ZZZ club for the Club Total. This

will even the playing field I think, so we will try it and see how it works out.

Log submission should be in any format electronically to n2jmh@arrl.net no later than 30 days after the end of the contest. Please send your entire log and don't forget that you must submit to the ARRL in Cabrillo format. I would prefer if you processed your own log for Rochester Cup score, but I can do it if needed. Any text based word processing program should make it easy to do with the "find" search option. Please be sure to include your class of operation and which club you want your score to count towards.

As an added incentive the Top overall individual score using the Cup format of a non-RVHFG members will receive a complimentary pass to our annual banquet, and the top individual within each local club will receive a complimentary 1 year web based subscription to the RVHFG Journal

Any other information or questions can be answered by contacting me by email. Log sheets are available for download from the League at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/>

Thanks to Steve Gulack - N2DZS

On behalf of RDXA, I sent the following email to Steve Gulack, N2DZS, and received the following reply. Ed

***** My Email *****

Hi Steve,

As the year comes to a close, I just wanted to take a minute and send along my thanks and that of all RDXA members for your efforts on our behalf in securing the meeting rooms for us at 111 Westfall over the years. I suspect that many members, myself included, gave little thought to how it was that RDXA was privileged to have such a convenient and comfortable meeting venue. I understand that it was through your efforts that RDXA was permitted to meet at 111 Westfall.

From all of us at RDXA, THANKS!

Happy Holidays to you and your family.

73,

Mike Rundle - N1OKL

RDXA Board Member and Newsletter Editor

***** Steve's Reply *****

Mike,

Since the County decided to terminate my position in August, I am no longer available at the "mcls" address and no longer with the County. I am still an amateur radio RACES/ARES volunteer. However in my 22 years as the Communications Officer, I felt good I was able to help out our amateur radio community by reserving free, clean and centrally located meeting space.

After my departure, I was sorry to hear that someone in the County felt they could no longer support the commitment and needed to change the location after the start of the meeting season.

My latest endeavor in working with various amateur radio operators was to have installed and get operational several thousand dollars of equipment for the K2JD shack. We now have a new Mosley antenna on the HF station and a new Cushcraft on the Novice HF station. Both have new towers and rotators dedicated. As of last week, these are fully operational, but we are awaiting a

final check of the entire setup before opening it back up to the membership. This should occur soon.

A Happy Holiday Season back to you!

Steve Gulack - N2DZS

stevegulack@alum.RIT.edu

HLCC Historical Record

Mike Rundle - N1OKL

Over the past half decade or so, many members of RDXA have enjoyed operating K2DB's Hickory Lake Contest Club station in the ARRL November Sweepstakes. As a result, HLCC has posted some very respectable Sweepstakes scores, culminating with First Place in 2001 for High Power SSB, Atlantic Division.

Our Official Historian - Irv, AF2K - put together the following summary of HLCC scoring over the years. Thanks to all those who made these scores possible. (A score in **boldface type** indicates a clean sweep for that year and mode.)

	1996		1997		1998		1999	
	Qs	Score	Qs	Score	Qs	Score	Qs	Score
CW	624	94,848	925	146,150	697	107,338	677	104,258
SSB	-	-	1038	164,004	1202	187,512	1319	208,402

	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Qs	Score	Qs	Score	Qs	Score	Qs	Score
CW	138	16,560	417	65,886			-	78,052
SSB	663	106,080	1296	207,360	1269	202,280	-	-

Note also that the 2002 scores are raw. Will HLCC take the Atlantic Division High Power SSB title again in 2002? Only time will tell. Unless we loose a lot of points in cross-checking, I think our raw score gives us a good chance.

Propagation AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, January 1992

Solar Flux Range ----- 152 - 302

General - It is now mid-winter. MUFs are seasonally at their lowest, and so are QRN levels. It is this writer's opinion, however, that MUFs are not as low as they were last year. We are still near a sunspot peak, and solar fluxes still reach monthly peaks of over 200. As I write this, it is 275 and conditions are excellent on the high bands. On good nights, 20m seems to be staying open later, giving us better access to Europe, Russia, and Asia in the evening. Last year, this band was closing early even during November. I never did understand why the MUFs seemed lower than the fluxes would suggest, but this year things are back to normal for a sunspot peak. European signals on 80m have not been very strong.

20m and 40m - On a typical evening, 20m is loaded with Russians. The band is open to other parts of the world, such as the Middle East and Africa. Activity from these areas is sparse, especially on CW. Exotic African countries tend to show up on 40m, and time spent tuning for these stations is well spent. Pileups on 40m CW build very quickly. Most of the DX is on the bottom 10 KHz of the band, and astute DXers find the rare DX as soon as it comes on. What follows is a short window of opportunity—once the packeteers get their amplifiers warmed up you can pretty much forget it. You must copy the DX in order to work it. 40m SSB is a different story. There is much less DX and much more shortwave QRM, but the DX is down around 7050 - 7100 and listening on

announced frequencies in our phone band. QRM on the DX station's frequency is not a major factor.

The 20m Dawn Patrol is looking down the long path in the morning. Ideally a rare CW contact with a middle eastern country will result, but more common are contacts with India, Russia, Europe, Africa and the Indian Ocean. Countries like A6, 9K, A7, YI, & YK are far more available on 20 SSB via long path than they are on code. Point your beam at whoever is taking the list and repeatedly yell the last two phonetics of your call until somebody tells you to shut up. Then, if you can get the DX station to key his PTT for a CW QSO, the League will count it for CW Honor Roll!

10m and 15m - are in fine shape for day path work. Most of the rare DX pileups will be on 10m, which has much more activity overall. Variations in the solar flux will effect 10m, and on days when the flux is especially high we can expect better penetration into Eastern Europe and Russia in the morning. Around sunset, look for signals from S.E. Asia. 15m can remain open for several hours after sunset with excellent access to Asia, but not on most January evenings when the flux is under 200.

73, de Roy - AD5Q / Houston

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

Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2003 January 07

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2002 Jan 08	145	10	3
2002 Jan 09	155	10	3
2002 Jan 10	160	15	3
2002 Jan 11	165	12	3
2002 Jan 12	165	8	3
2002 Jan 13	170	8	3
2002 Jan 14	175	8	3
2002 Jan 15	170	15	3
2002 Jan 16	165	12	3
2002 Jan 17	165	10	3
2002 Jan 18	160	10	3
2002 Jan 19	155	15	3
2002 Jan 20	155	12	3
2002 Jan 21	145	12	3
2002 Jan 22	135	15	3
2002 Jan 23	125	30	5
2002 Jan 24	120	20	4
2002 Jan 25	115	10	3
2002 Jan 26	115	12	3
2002 Jan 27	115	12	3
2002 Jan 28	115	10	3
2002 Jan 29	125	10	3
2002 Jan 30	135	15	3
2002 Jan 31	145	15	3
2002 Feb 01	150	12	3
2002 Feb 02	155	8	3
2002 Feb 03	155	8	3

Treasurer's Report

Charlie Kuhfuss - WB2HJV

As of January 5, 2003 the Club's financial status is as follows:

Checking ----- \$1750.86

Petty Cash	\$145.00
Total funds available.....	<u>\$1895.86</u>
Less memorial fund	<u>(\$826.89)</u>
Operating funds	\$1068.97

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

Pings

Science Exploration Days – Bob Hunter, NG2P reminds us that the St. John Fisher science fair is scheduled for 14 and 15 May. Volunteers to help staff a ham radio exhibit and demonstration are needed. Contact NG2P.

If you haven't participated in this event give it some consideration. It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase amateur radio to young people with technical interests. Plus, St. John Fisher provides a gourmet, *free* lunch buffet both days.

RDXA at RMSC

Mike Rundle - N1OKL

During the recent Holiday Season, RDXA staffed an Amateur Radio exhibit at the Rochester Museum and Science Center during their annual Holiday Science and Technology Week. As in years past, RDXA was joined in this effort by RARA members. RDXA setup and operated an HF station and RARA setup and operated a VHF station showing APRS. VHF EchoLink contacts were also made via this station. And notably, live, direct, real-time reception of an ISS SAREX QSO was accomplished via this VHF station.



WA2NFY at the key of W2RDX.

On the RDXA side, K2MP, AF2K and N1OKL again made their pilgrimage to the roof of RMSC to set up the HF antenna. Irv was right, we should have brought a snow shovel, as accumulations were several feet deep in places!

On Friday and Saturday, 28 and 29 December, N2CK, N1OKL, AF2K, K2CS, N2TWI, and WA2NFY operated W2RDX. Unfortunately propagation conditions were poor (A-index of 26 both days), and few DX contacts were made. On Saturday, K2CS and N1OKL made about 50 QSOs in the RAC Winter Contest.

Attendance also was sparse compared to past years. Museum officials indicated visitors were half the number seen in 2001.



N2BEL demonstrating CW and basic electronics to a young visitor.



W2JAT operating EchoLink and APRS.

OPDX Bulletin Excerpts

6 January 2003

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

3B9, Rodrigues Island - Robert, 3B9FR, was active this past week on 20 and 12 meters. Watch 14195 kHz around 1700z and 24950 kHz around 1445z. QSL via the address on QRZ.com.

7Q, Malawi - Allan, G0IAS, informs OPDX that Harry, 7Q7HB, will be back in Malawi as of January 5th for "about" three months. Closely following him will be the return of Les, 7Q7LA (The first 7Q to be re-issued with a licence back in 1990. All QSLs are still only DIRECT to G0IAS (NO BUREAU CARDS and also there is NO 7Q Bureau).

A5, Bhutan - Dr. Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, will once again head back here during the month of February. Look for him to sign as A51B between February 3-26th. Activity will only be during his spare time. This trip will have an emphasis on 80 meters CW around 3505 kHz (+/- QRM) during his mornings and evenings. If conditions are not good look for him on 40 and 30 meters. He does plan to be active on the higher bands after his sunrise. QSL via direct to W0GJ.

C6, Bahamas - By the time you read this Bill, KM1E, is expected to be active as C6AGN until March 4th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters. QSL via W1DIG.

CE9, South Shetland Islands - Ric, CE9R, is expected back on King George Island (AN-010) sometime this month. Activity will be from Escudero Base (WABA CE-11). QSL via CE3HDI.

EA8, Canary Islands - Look for Juha, OH9MM, to be active as EA8/OH9MM in the ARRL SSB Contest (March 1-2nd) as a Single-Op/Single Band (20m) entry. QSL via home callsign. Also, look for Juha, OH6XX, to be active as EA8/OH6XX in the ARRL SSB Contest as a Single-Op/Single Band (15m) entry. QSL via home callsign.

IOTA NEWS

AS-047. Toru/JI5USJ and Makoto/JI5RPT will be active as homecall/6 from Daito Island (a very rare islands in Japan) for about a 1 week stay the first of March. Look for activity on 160-10 meters on SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK31. More details on their schedule is forthcoming. QSL direct to home callsigns or via the JARL QSL bureau. **JI5RPT:** Makoto Koyanagi, 5-42-203 Kadan, Aoba Sendai Miyagi 980-0815 JAPAN. **JI5USJ:** Toru Koyangi, 400-6-1119, Nagasoneminami Hikone Shiga 522-0052 JAPAN.

NA-062. Bob, W2SF, will be signing W2SF/p from Lower Matecombe Key (US FL-062S, Monroe County), in the Florida Keys through June. His activity will be on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign, direct or bureau.

SA-057. A group of operators from Uruguay will activate CV1F from San Gabriel Island, January 10-13th. They may also activate Farallon Lighthouse (URU-003). San Gabriel Island is 1 mile from the Lighthouse, but access to Farallon Island is restricted. There is no Lighthouse on San Gabriel Island. Activity will be on 40-6 meters CW/SSB, and possibly 160/80 meters and some digital. QSL via EA5KB.

SA-061. Look for operators Gladys/CA6TBB, Caelos/CE6AMN, Marco/CE6TBN, Jamie/CE6AKH, Fernando/XQ5SM and Mario/CE6NE to be active as CE6M from Mocha Island, January 15-18th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters CW/SSB. QSL to P.O. Box 591, Temuco, Chile.

JD1, Minami Torishima - JD1YBJ was quite active this past weekend on CW/SSB. Watch around 7009, 10100, 18073 and 18133 kHz. Activity starts around 1100z and again around 2130z.

JD1, Ogasawara Islands (IOTA Op) - Fukushige, JM6DZB, is on Iwo Jima Island (**AS-030**) in the Kazan Island Group (aka Volcano Islands). He will be active as JM6DZB/JD1, however, he is here to work and will only be active during his free time. His planned stay is through the end of December. Activity will be on 80/40/15 meters SSB. QSL via the Bureau to his home callsign.

Meanwhile, special event JARL station, 8N1OGA, continues to be active. Over the past weekend, 8N1OGA was heard on 160/80/40/20/15/12 meters. Activity will last through the end of the month. QSL via the JARL Bureau or direct to JA1MRM.

KP2, U.S. Virgin Islands - Just a few more days to work Joe/W8GEX and John/WZ8D as N8Z from St. Croix (**NA-106**). Activity will end January 8th. Activity continues to be on 160-6 meters. QSL direct to WZ8D.

PJ7, St. Maarten - Ron, ND5S, informs OPDX to look for him to be active as PJ7/ND5S and Sue as PJ7/KF5LG from St. Maarten (IOTA NA105) between February 9th and February 22nd. Ron will again participate in the ARRL CW DX Contest. Outside of the contest, activity will be 160-10 meters CW, RTTY and SSB in that order. QSL via PJ7/ND5S direct or bureau.

V3, Belize - Art Phillips, NN7A, informs OPDX that he will operate as V3IJZ/p from South Water Caye, Belize (IOTA **NA-**

180), January 17-20th. This will be a part-time one-person operation with 100 watts, and vertical and wire antennas. Operation will be mostly CW on 40-10 meters including the WARC bands; some 80 and 160 meters. Some SSB on 20 and 15 meters IOTA frequencies are possible, conditions permitting. IOTA **NA-180** was opened as a new IOTA by Art and Mike Sharp, NG7S / V31RL, in February, 1993. QSL direct via NN7A (Art Phillips, P.O. Box 201, Flagstaff, AZ 86002 USA), or to NN7A via the ARRL bureau. No skeds, please. There will be no on-line logs, and E-mail contact will not be possible while on the island. Visit the DXpedition Web site at: <http://www.nadxa.com>

XY, Myanmar - Hiroo, JA2EZD, is expected to head back to Myanmar later this month. Look for him to sign XY1M between January 14-29th. He plans to concentrate on 6 meters and the Low Bands. QSL via XW2A.

YA, Afghanistan - By the time you read this, operators Toshi/JA8RUZ and Kiba/JK1KHT should be QTH as YA1JA. QSL YA1JA via JA1CQT: Hiro Nakanishi, 1-9-5 Kuriki, Isogoku, Yokohama City, Kanagawa Pref 235-0041, Japan. However, another operator, Sada/JA1PBV, will be in Kabul and will be active as YA1BV until mid-January (15th was mentioned by some sources). Activity by YA1BV has been mainly on 40 and 30 meters CW. QSL YA1BV via JA1PBV: Sadao Itoh, 3-8-12 Baraki, Ishioka, Ibaraki 315, Japan.

ZK1, South Cook Islands - Victor, ZK1CG, from Rarotonga Island, informed OPDX that he will continue to use the special callsign ZK1USA until January 17th. He can usually be found on (or near) 14275, 21303 and 28495 kHz as early as 1800z and as late as 0330z. Victor also mentioned he has received his QSLs from Italy this past week and will begin sending out the cards for his ZK1CG and ZK1USA contacts.

ZS, South Africa

John, ZS6AN, in Pretoria, South Africa, informs OPDX that well known Southern Californian DXer, Steve McCully, W7TZ, will be in South Africa from January 1st through February 1st. He will be operating from both John's base station as well as his mobile station using the callsign ZS*/W7TZ from all of the South African continental call areas.

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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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