

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2003

## Regular Meeting

March 18<sup>th</sup> 19:30 local

435 East Henrietta Road  
Monroe Community Hospital

### Hidden and Limited Space Antenna Forum

*Don't let antenna zoning restrictions or a lack of real estate keep you from working exotic DX. Join fellow RDXA members and guests in an informal discussion of hidden and limited space antennas.*

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## Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin  
Winton Plaza

### President's Soapbox

By Fred Groner - W2TZ

In case you haven't heard Chris, K2CS has been appointed by the Atlantic Division Director of the ARRL, N3EFN as the Atlantic Division Representative to the DX Advisory Committee. RDXA would like to extend a special congrats to Chris for this accomplishment. We all know the extensive knowledge Chris has for DX as evidenced by his very rapid rise to the verge of making Honor Roll. RDXA will gladly help Chris in his efforts to make DX better than ever.

Also, in case you haven't heard, our past President and present Editor and Publisher of the RDXA Newsletter, Mike, N1OKL will be moving to Danbury, CT because of job demands. Mike has purchased a house on a 2 1/4 acre lot and is already planning to plant his antenna farm this spring. We wish Mike all the best with those antennas. It sounds like a great DX QTH.

RDXA will need a replacement for Mike to get the newsletter out every month. Perhaps, if my memory serves me correctly, we can go back to making the newsletter a two-man job. One person can be editor and another person can be publisher. We definitely need

access to a copier, but maybe the time has come to solely e-mail the newsletter to members. Any volunteers to do the newsletter will be greatly appreciated.

As I write this, I'm thinking about when I can do some winter antenna projects, which I have been trying to do since November. Winter this year has been very bad for amateur radio because of the deep snow. Winter is a great time of year to trim limbs on trees and put up rope supports on trees for wire antennas. Leafless trees are great to work with simply because you can see what you are doing. Last October I put up an experimental "T" antenna mainly for 160 and 80 meters with 5 raised radials using what I call "the mother of all maple trees" that belongs to my neighbor but advantageously extends over onto my property as a support for one leg of the antenna. When I put up the antenna with the tree full of leaves, I thought I had bow and arrowed a good support for one end of the "T", but after the first good wind storm, that leg of the "T" hung up on another limb. The horizontal and vertical lengths of the "T" are about 80' and 45', respectively and the radials are about 60' long and about 5' off the ground. I feed the "T" with an SGC autotuner at the base of the "T" and it loads well on all bands. Evaluated on a place-in-line basis in pile-ups, results were promising on 160 and 80 meters in spite of the hung up leg. As soon as the snow melts I'll find a better limb support so it can last through all of next winter without getting hung up. Needless to say, I hope the snow melts soon.

73 & CU at the RDXA meeting.

### DX Logbook

By Chris Shalvoy - K2CS

I hope you all have had an opportunity to compete in some of the recent contests. We've just completed the major "run" starting at the end of October with only the WPX contests remaining.

If you hadn't noticed, the bands are in much worse shape than last year. On 10 meters, Europe was gone most contests by 1700z. The JA runs on 10m & 15m seemed much shorter.

As for 6m, other than a north-south opening in the fall, I've heard nothing at all. Last year will definitely be one to remember.

One of the most interesting contests I had a chance to operate was the CQWW 160m SSB Contest. I know we all chuckle when we mention this one but I actually worked pretty good stuff this year. The shorted G5RV is my weapon in this one, with a tuner of course.

I got one about 0330z Friday nite. Real noisy (go figure) but was surprised at how loud some of these guys were (and that they could hear me!).

XE1RCS was logged at 0355z, followed by WP2Z at 0432z, V47KP at 0436z and then D4B at 0448z. EI7M was worked at 0545z. I was stunned. Remember, nothing fancy here. Just good ears *there*.

I worked a few more hours on Saturday nite but with no where near the "luck" encountered on Friday. All told, 103 Qs , 44 mults, for 11088.

**In the Log** (since 1-1-2003, only the good stuff):

ZA/Z35M	40m CW
AH3D	10m, 20m, 15m, 12m SSB 30m CW
T31MY	10m, 12m, 17m CW
5T5PBV	20m CW
9G5ZZ	20m, 17m, 30m CW
SØTV	17m, 12m SSB
5X1DC	20m SSB
D88S	17m SSB
PZ5RA	80m, 30m CW
YBØIR	15m SSB



K2CS in action during the recent CQ WW 160m Contest. Who says you have to be a "big gun" to have fun on 160m?

Don't forget, VP6 (Ducie) is on *now*. They started today (9-Mar) and will continue until the end of the week. A golden opportunity for those who didn't get them the last time around.

Best DX es 73,  
Chris, K2CS

## RDXA / RVHFG Banquet

By Paul Meyers - N2OPW

Selecting April 19th for the annual RDXA/RVHFG banquet was not a good idea on my part because this year it is the weekend of Easter and the Passover season. The banquet is therefore canceled and will be rescheduled.

The target dates are now 4/26 or 5/3 and the intent is to do something a little different than the usual buffet at a banquet hall. I am open to suggestions, but need to act quickly. Let me know your thoughts, ASAP.

## March Contests

ARRL International DX, SSB	1, 2 March
BARTG Spring RTTY	15-17 March
Russian DX Contest, CW/SSB	15, 16 March
CQ WW WPX, SSB	29, 30 March

## April Contests

EA WW RTTY Contest	5, 6 April
Japan International DX, CW	12, 13 April
Holyland DX, CW/SSB	19 April
YU DX, CW/SSB	19-20 April
QRP to the Field, CW	16 April

## GIZMO Night a Success

By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

Station Accessory Night was the topic for the February RDXA meeting and many members brought and demonstrated those indispensable add-ons that personalize an operator's station.

Herewith, a photo essay of some of the notable accessories.



KD2WL showed off his Marconi replica straight key and the anti-skid pad he uses to keep it from wandering around the operating desk. The padding is available in the house ware department of many department stores and can be cut to any size.



How many of us have heard those strings of uncontrolled dits from poorly-adjusted mechanical keyers? Is it an "s" or an "h" or maybe a "5"? A bug aficionado, KD2WL also shared an idea for adding weight to mechanical keyers to slow down dit production. Small lead weights are available at many hobby supply shops. Typically used to add ounces to model trains,

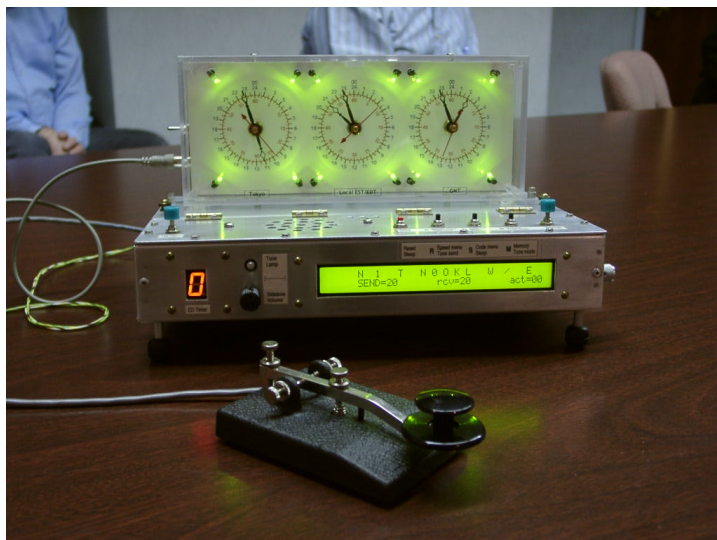
the weights often come with adhesive backing that allow them to be easily affixed to the existing weight on a bug. Note the several weights of different shapes added to the bug in this photo.



KD2WL demonstrates the effectiveness of the weights with his blue racer and vintage AMECO CW practice oscillator.



AF2K, a noted local user of the Papyrus 1.0 logging program, showed the new and invaluable data entry accessory pictured above. The device, known as an "electric pencil sharpener" features a self-contained power source and automatic actuation mechanism, thus allowing a Papyrus user to quickly and effectively restore broken or dulled data entry apparatus. AF2K is said to be seeking a patent on the unit.



N1OKL exhibited a homebrew 24-hour analog clock and his combination electronic keyer, CW decoder, and ID timer. The keyer displays sent Morse on the upper line of a 2-line LC display, and decoded CW below. The ID timer to the right of the CW display counts from 0 to 9. The analog 24-hour clock is shown sitting on top of the keyer. Three clocks are mounted in a single case for simultaneous display of time in three different zones. N1OKL says that once you get used to reading a 24-hour clock, a quick glance tells you the time...just as on a 12-hour clock. Unlike a digital clock, with an analog clock, there's no need to translate the digits into actual time. 24-hour quartz movements are available from: <http://www.klockit.com/>.

## New Atlantic Division Rep to DX Advisory Committee

The ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN has appointed long-time RDXA member and local DXer of note, Chris Shalvoy, K2CS, as the Atlantic Division Representative to the DX Advisory Committee. RDXA congratulates Chris on his appointment.



Upon his appointment, K2CS made the following remarks.

"Gentlemen (and the BEST lady), I'd like to thank you all for your help and continued support in this endeavor.

This is taken solely in the memory of K2FR, my Elmer and mentor.

I hope I can represent you in the manner in which Fred would have wanted me to."

## RDXA Financial Report

By Charlie Kuhfuss - WB2HJV

As of March 9, 2003 the RDXA financial status is as follows.

Checking -----	\$1457.86
Petty Cash-----	150.00
<u>Total Funds Available -----</u>	<u>\$1607.86</u>
<u>Less Memorial Fund -----</u>	<u>(26.89)</u>
Operating Funds-----	\$780.97

The RDXA currently has 56 full members + 1 student member.

## Propagation *AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, March 1992*

Solar Flux Range ----- 155 – 200

**General** – It is equinox time. Both the northern and southern hemispheres receive equal amounts of sunlight. Neither hemisphere is afflicted with seasonally low MUFs, and neither has a problem with early band closings on winter nights. There is worldwide propagation on several bands. A similar situation occurs at the autumn equinox, and many propagation forecasters treat spring and fall conditions as if they were identical. This is not quite true. 10 meters seems to be at its best in the fall, and 15m peaks in the spring. Unscientific DX hogs need no explanation of this phenomenon, and routinely check all bands anyway.

**10 and 15 Meters** – As I write this, 10m is still in excellent condition. We are nearing the end of its season, and can expect a rapid deterioration over the next two months. The daytime MUFs begin their seasonal decline right after the equinox, but don't seriously effect 15m until June.

**20 and 15 Meters** – Though 20 Meters opened up for all night propagation back in February, but nighttime MUFs continue to rise until summer. This also causes a steady improvement in after dark propagation on 15m. We are starting to get some nice evening propagation, and in late spring 15m stays open most of the night. For the next several months, make 15m a regular part of your tuning routine during the evening hours. There will be plenty of activity, especially over the pole.

**40 and 80 Meters** are still good. 40m propagation will continue through the summer, but most of the activity along nighttime paths will move to higher bands. The primary night path band will be 20m, which should be consistently reliable through November. After sunrise, we get the usual trans-Antarctic long path to VU/4S7, the Middle East and Russia. This is followed by excellent long path to Africa and the Indian Ocean. We can also begin looking for pipeline short path conditions to the west, north and northwest. This includes the most exotic parts of Asia (i.e. S2, XW, 3W, 9M, 9N, 9V, V85, BV, VS6, BY, JT, XX, HS, XU). If you need any of these, be on 20m in the morning regularly through the summer. Most will be active. Also look for long path to the Antarctic (via the north). This path is especially good in the Spring. Morning openings on 20m consistently provide the richest variety of exotic DX opportunities.

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

## Ultimate Mardi Gras Vehicle

By Phil Rundle



My brother, who lives in New Orleans where we grew up, sent this photo of the ultimate Mardi Gras Vehicle...spotted on the streets of New Orleans in last week's Mardi Gras celebration. This baby has it all! What a hoot!

## Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2003 March 05

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2003 Mar 05	155	15	3
2003 Mar 06	155	12	3
2003 Mar 07	150	10	3
2003 Mar 08	150	12	3
2003 Mar 09	145	12	3
2003 Mar 10	145	10	3
2003 Mar 11	140	12	3
2003 Mar 12	135	8	3
2003 Mar 13	130	15	3
2003 Mar 14	125	15	3
2003 Mar 15	120	15	3
2003 Mar 16	115	12	3
2003 Mar 17	110	15	3
2003 Mar 18	115	12	3
2003 Mar 19	115	15	3
2003 Mar 20	115	15	3
2003 Mar 21	110	10	3
2003 Mar 22	105	10	3
2003 Mar 23	105	10	3
2003 Mar 24	110	10	3
2003 Mar 25	110	12	3
2003 Mar 26	120	12	3
2003 Mar 27	130	15	3
2003 Mar 28	140	10	3
2003 Mar 29	145	15	3
2003 Mar 30	150	15	3
2003 Mar 31	150	20	3

## For Sale

**Complete Icom Station** – IC-761 transceiver, SP-20 spkr. SM-10 desk mike, IC-AT500 auto tuner, IC-2KL solid state automatic amp. All excellent condition. **No mods**; all manuals and original cartons. \$2000.00. Len Gessin, WA2ZNC; 585-229-5470; Honeoye, NY; [zncgessin@cs.com](mailto:zncgessin@cs.com)

**Large Equipment Racks, cheap** – At my work, we have 6, approx. 6 ½ feet tall, equipment racks that are excess to our needs. They are clean and in excellent condition. We are asking \$20.00 each for them, (they are probably worth 50x that). If you are interested in them, I can send jpegs or we can arrange to have you view them in person. You can reach me at my desk: 273-7110 or mobile: 802-6564. Bill Rogers, K2TER.

**Hamfest Tickets** – 2003 Rochester Hamfest tickets – General Admission, Flea Market and Banquet – will be available from AF2K at the RDXA and RVHFG meetings in March, April and May. Buy now and save a couple of bucks on the gate price.

## Selected DX News

From the OPDX Bulletin  
3 March 2003

**6W, Senegal** – John, F5VHQ (ex-OE5TGL), will be active as 6W/F5VHQ between April 19th and May 1st. Activity will be on 40-10 meters SSB. QSL via F5VHQ.

**8P, Barbados** – Winston Seeney, 8P9BX (VE3WFS), informs OPDX that he attended a meeting of the Radio Society of Barbados and was told a QRP DX team is scheduled to operate on the Atlantic coast, on March 15th, and is scheduled to go on the air at 1400z. They will operate on CW and SSB on the lower ends of the bands from 40-10 meters.

**9N, Nepal** – Dov Gavish, 4Z4DX, will be active as 9N7DX starting April 22nd for 4 weeks. Activity is expected to be on 160-6 meters CW and the digital modes. QSL via 4Z4DX. His Web site is: <http://www.qsl.net/4z4dx>

**A4, Oman** – Alex, YO9HP, will once again be active as A45WD. He leaves for Oman today (Monday, March 3rd) and is expected to be active around the 5th or 6th of March. His length of stay is not known (possibly two weeks). Look for him on 80-10 meters including WARC on CW/SSB. QSL via bureau or YO9HP: Alex Panoiu, Pleasa - Prahova, RO-2038.

**BU2, Taiwan** – Mark Kawasaki, JJ1TBB, was happy to inform OPDX that he has received permission from the Taiwan Authority to operate as BU2/JJ1TBB from Taipei. He states “BU” is a very new prefix for Taiwan. His activity will be mainly CW/SSB on 40-10 meters. He was heard this past week on 21262 kHz around 0200z. Mark's work assignment is expected to keep him in Taiwan for 3-4 years. QSL via JL1ANP. ADDED NOTE: Mark may be known for his operations from Singapore as 9V1AN (1995-96), and Christmas Island as VK9XB (1996), Vietnam as XV2A (1991) and possibly from some others locations.

**BW4, Taiwan** – Art, UA3VCS, states there is a minor change in his callsign for the upcoming Russian DX Contest (March 15-16th) and the CQ WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th). He will not sign BW3/UA3VCS as first announced, but he will sign BW4/UA3VCS. Art also mentioned that he will be a Single-Op/ Single Band (10m)/Low Power entry for the CQ WPX SSB Contest (and also a Single-Op/All Band/Low Power entry for the WPX CW Contest). QSL via the CBA (preferred) or bureau (it may take more than 1 1/2 years to reply for the QSLs received via bureau).

**CB5, Chile** – Ferdi, XQ5SM (SCDXG member), will put the CB5 prefix on the air for the first time during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th). Look for him to be active in the contest as CB5A as a Single-Op/All Band/Low Power entry. QSL via XQ5SM.

**JW, Svalbard** – Francois, F8DVD, will once again be active from Spitzbergen Island (EU-026, WAZ 40). He will stay from April 20-24th, in Longyearbyen (Grid JQ78TF), the main city of Spitzbergen. Look for him as JW/F8DVD on 80-10 meters SSB. QSL via his home callsign either via the bureau or direct (SASE+postage).

**MD4, Isle Of Man** – Operators G0HSS, G3NKC, G4MJS, G4XUM and M0BEW will be active as MD4K in the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th) as a Multi-xxx entry. QSL via G3NKC.

**MJ, Jersey** – and will be operational from March 19-24th. Their callsigns will be MJ/K8PT and MJ/K3PLV. They will be operating SSB/CW/RTTY on all bands with concentration on the lower bands including 160 meters. Pete states, “Ham radio is our priority.” QSL is via their home calls. Direct QSLs are preferred, but bureau cards will be answered as time permits.

**MM0, Scotland** – Leo, W3LEO, will once again be active from Portpatrick in southwest Scotland from about March 4th to April 3rd. His callsign will be MM0LEO, and he plans to be in the CQWPX SSB Contest. Leo will use an Icom 706 (100 watts), an R-5 vertical [10, 12, 15, 17, 20 meters], and a 40-meter dipole in a delta configuration. Leo provided us with the following reference numbers: CQ Zone 14, ITU Zone 27, Grid Square IO-74ku, IOTA EU-005 [Great Britain] and Worked All Britain [WAB] Square NW-95. QSL via W3LEO.

**OY, Faroe Islands** – Rob, PA5ET, informed OPDX that he was pleased to announce that Ronald/PA3EWP, Dick/PA3FQA and himself (all members of the Low Land DXpedition Team) will activate these islands between March 24th and April 3rd. Activity will be on all HF bands 160-10 meters CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and some SSTV. They will have two stations on around the clock. Equipment will be: 2 FT-1000MPs with 2

Alpha Amplifiers, 2 Quads antennas for 30-10 meters, a vertical for 40 meters and the Titanex V80e and V160e for 80 and 160 meters. They have requested local callsigns, but currently have not been informed of them. So for now, they will use OY/homecall. All QSLs will be handled by the LLDXT QSL Manager PA5ET: Rob Snieder, Van Leeuwenstraat 137, 2273 VS Voorburg, The Netherlands. For more update-to-date information, please the LLDXT Web site at: <http://www.qsl.net/ldxt>

**RU9, Asiatic Russia** – Alex, RW3TN, will be active as RU9G in the Russian DX Contest (March 15-16th) as a Single-Op/All Band/CW entry. RDA: KP-06 or KP-07. QSL via RW3TN.

**TI, Costa Rica** – Harry, AC8G, reports he gave out the wrong callsign for one of the operator's in the upcoming fall TI5N operation (during the CQWW DX SSB Contest). The callsign KA8KUZ should have been Brian, KA7KUZ.

**TM5/TO5, Martinique** – Al, F5VHJ (aka NH7A), who was active this past weekend as TM5A in the ARRL SSB Contest, will be active again in the CQ WPX Phone Contests (March 29-30th) as Single-Op/All Band entry. Also, Al will be active in the CQWW SSB Contest (October 25-26th) as a Single-Op/All Band entry, but using the callsign TO5A. QSL all three operations via F5VHJ.

**VK9X, Christmas Island** – David, VK2CZ, reports that he has been allocated the callsign VK9XD for the CQWW SSB Contest (October 25-26th). QSL via VK2CZ direct only.

**VP6/D, Ducie Island** – Remember, the second DXpedition to Ducie Island will be active possibly next weekend on March 8th or 9th, depending upon seas and weather. The station callsign will be announced shortly before the operation begins (either from DXpedition organizer Kan, JA1BK, or the pilot stations JE2EHP, DJ8NK and WA2MOE). Activity is expected on CW, SSB and RTTY with operations on all HF bands and 6 meters. AO-40 was also mentioned. Please refer to OPDX.595 for more details. QSL via JR2KDN.

**YA, Afghanistan** – YA1CQ was heard this past week and weekend on 17/12/10 meters. Check 18130 kHz around 1200z, around 24940/24950 kHz after 0630z and again after 0800z, and 28480 kHz after 0730z. QSL via JA1CQT. It has also been reported that Nick, G4KUX, is in the country until April 2004 and is active as YA4F. Most of his activity reported on the clusters has been on 40 and 6 meters. Watch around 7048 kHz after 1930z. QSL via G4KUX.

## Finger Lakes Repair Service

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Location is the Board Room of the Monroe Community Hospital, 435 East Henrietta Road, Rochester, NY.

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