

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



Regular Meeting

May 20th 19:30 local

Scotch & Sirloin Restaurant
Winton Plaza

The Dayton Experience

Where can you get the inside story on rare DX, find out about the latest new rigs, meet other DX ops from around the world, and browse through acres of flea market radio goodies? One place: the Dayton Hamvention. If you didn't make it to this year's event, join us at the May meeting where fellow RDXAers who attended will share their experiences.

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Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin
Winton Plaza

President's Soapbox

By Fred Groner - W2TZ

Well, the last month has been rather difficult for RDXA since we lost our good meeting location at the Monroe County Hospital. Our April meeting was held at RIT and at the meeting we discussed activities to try to come up with a more central meeting location. Surprisingly, AF2K was able to talk S&S management into allowing us to use one of their spare back rooms. Unless something falls through, we will have the May and June meetings at the S&S and see how it works out. Again, any ideas from anyone for a more ideal meeting location would be appreciated.

The Hamfest is at the end of the month and we will strive to get our "grassy knoll" location again this year. As of this writing we will need a truck or Van to haul our hamfest equipment from Hilton to the hamfest - N2CK unfortunately has a conflict with job duties this year.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see our initial Field Day plans. K1PY and myself have been spending a lot of time trying to come

up with a 3A Field Day setup that is simple to put up yet effective in terms of achieving a good final score. Field Day will be discussed in much detail at the May and June RDXA meetings.

CU at the meeting.

Field Day Planning and Needs

By Vic Gauvin - K1PY
Fred Groner - W2TZ

Field Day!

**Field Day is June 28 and 29 and setup is June 27.
Mark your calendars now.**

Field Day is probably the culmination of the RDXA calendar year, and a time when members again have the opportunity to work side-by-side at one location in a team effort. Two years ago RDXA made first place in the 3A category and we are returning to the 3A category this year. Unlike two years ago a GOTA station will replace the now defunct Novice station, so we have been making new plans concerning the GOTA station.

The basic layout at Webster Park will almost be the same as in previous years. The antenna set-up will be simple, consisting mostly of wire antennas. The traditional SSB station will operate 40 SSB and 75 SSB. Antennas will be 2el wire beams on each band. The second station will operate mainly 20 SSB and 20 and 80 CW using the TA33 tribander and 80m dipole on the flag pole using the legendary GIZMO-1. The 40 CW station will operate mainly CW during the daylight hours, but will have the option to operate 40 SSB when the SSB station goes to 75 SSB about 20:30. When on 40 SSB the 40m station can only "run" stations - no S&P allowed due to no logging networking with the SSB station to dupe check QSOs. All 40 SSB results will be combined after Field Day. This is a new approach intended to help out the 40 CW station at night when rates are slow.

The GOTA station will be used primarily as a RTTY station using an all band dipole. This should hopefully attract some computer enthusiasts into amateur radio.

We don't know what to expect in terms of station-to-station interference, but we hope to do some Saturday morning testing to try to resolve any problems.

Bonus point activities are again a major need this year. Hopefully individuals who helped with these last year will step-up and do them again this year.

We have two rigs lined up for the 3A stations, but still need a rig for the 80/20 station and a rig with RTTY accessories for the GOTA station.

We need generators except for the SSB station.

Additional ropes for antennas as well as the many accessories needed at each station are needed.

The VHF station has been in the capable hands of N2OPW in previous years, and WB2JMH last year. *The VHF station will need help and operators.*

As is always the case, many details will have to be worked out before the event. If you can help fill any FD slots, please contact us. All help is appreciated.

RVHFG Summer Family Picnic By Jim Howard- N2JMH

When: July 19th 2003 2pm till it's over, eat at 16:00 local sharp!

Where: N2JMH/KC2IDT QTH 9437 Ridge Road Brockport NY.

Why: Enjoy some refreshments with your fellow hams, see who is up to what for the summer or just because you ain't got nothing better to do.

What: You need to bring a dish to pass, lawn chairs, swimming necessities and a smile. The RVHFG will provide hots/hamburgs, soda and Kool-Aid, condiments and membership forms.

Who: Rochester Area hams ; come one, come all!

We have a swimming pool, horseshoes and a large sheltered yard. Should have some awnings up to keep you out of the sun. We need RSVPs no later than July 12th, please include what dish you plan on bringing. Limited overnight accommodations can be made for our north of the border friends but there is plenty of room to pitch a tent in the yard.

May Contests

ARI International DX Contest, CW/SSB/Digi ----- 3, 4 May

Alessandro Volta RTTY DX, RTTY ----- 10, 11 May

FISTS Spring Sprint, CW ----- 10 May

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW ----- 24, 25 May

June Contests

VL/ZL Trans-Tasman, CW ----- 7 June

IARU Region 1 Field day, CW ----- 7, 8 June

ARRL Kid's Day ----- 21 June

All Asian DX, CW ----- 21, 22 June

ARRL Field day ----- 28, 29 June

Rochester Hamfest 2003

By Vic Gauvin - K1PY

Maybe it'll actually feel like Spring by the time the Rochester Hamfest comes along at the end of the month. Sheeeesh, Spring. Like or not, it's nearly Hamfest time, so get ready.

RDXA will join with the RVHFG again this year up in the old Grassy Knoll area, same as last year. We gave up fighting the computer guy for turf down along the intersection of the main road and the side road to the old racetrack. Two years ago we were there Monday noon before the Hamfest and he'd already staked out his area. Guess he didn't like us grabbing the corner the year before that on Tuesday. Besides not having to fight for the (former) Grassy Knoll area, there are added advantages of better parking, no threat of flooding, and the opportunity to develop the area as a "Club Row" along with the .79 folks and others.

We're going to try a slightly modified layout to enable easier access for folks to stop in, say hi, and have a little chat. More like the former times on the Grassy Knoll where we had nearly continuous roundtables going on, and lots of folks would drop in. There will be no sign saying so, but we'd like our area to look and feel like the "RDXA Hospitality Area." Bring chairs!

It's usually not a problem, but just to make sure, we need a number of people to buy a Flea Market "vendor" pass (at \$10) to ensure that we have enough "spots" to justify the space we will be claiming ahead of time. And, over and above everyone else, you get access to the RDXA/RVHFG VIP Parking Area! Just having a close-by parking space on the grass behind the guard rail is worth it. And just think how much closer it will be to bring that new heavy transceiver or amplifier you just bought.

Speaking of parking, everybody, whether you're selling or not, **has** to park behind the guard rail. Vehicles use up way too much space, make access difficult, are susceptible to scratching, the list goes on. Besides, if you don't, you may find a guy rope for the club tent shelters tied to your bumper.

We'll have the club tables set up for casual selling. They will be on either side of the front "entrance" to the sit-down social area. The only rule for selling stuff is label each item with your call and the price. If you're not around, we'll negotiate it for you - "It says \$100? I'm sure he'll take 10." Maybe you want to put a minimum or a firm price on it!

If you plan on major selling (where you need your vehicle), come on by Thursday afternoon and stake out a spot right across the way so you can be close by. That'll keep you in touch with the group, and provide you with occasional helpers to watch things. And besides, that's now when the 'real hamfest' actually starts. So even if you're not selling, if you are able, come on by on Thursday afternoon, help set up the shelters, watch the fairgrounds fill up, and of course, relax with the group and a cool one.

We're planning on continuing the tradition of having burgers and hots at noon on both Friday and Saturday. A few additional helpers would be appreciated to make a short run or two for supplies to the Wegmans across the street. Now how convenient can that be, huh? So be ready to step forward, or we'll make you cook instead. As usual, if you want something in particular, bring it. Also some bags of chips, pretzels, and other goodies would be nice - if you happen to be at the market a few days before, grab something to bring to the 'fest.

Also (here's the important part that you thought I forgot about), we'll continue the even older tradition of having smooth, cold, beverages available. Up until recently we went with a keg, but going with cans last year proved to work out pretty well, so we think it'll be the same this year - much less hassle in getting it (never mind returning it), greater variety, no cups, very portable, no waste, and you can take home the leftovers. I know, I know, it

ain't the same, it doesn't have the aura, but it still does the job. And **cans** not bottles, please.

That's the basics. We might develop more between now and the 'fest, but regardless, it's always a great time. Plan on being there, even if you're not buying or selling or shopping or whatever – just to be part of the camaraderie. It's one of the best parts of radio in Rochester for the whole year. So, 1) definitely come, 2) get a Flea Market pass for VIP parking, 3) bring goodies, 4) bring chairs, and most of all, 5) plan on a great time at the RDXA Hospitality Area!

73 and see you at the Hamfest.

Propagation *AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, May 1992*

Solar Flux Range ----- 99 – 145

General – May is an especially good month for DX. My DXing career began in the mid-60s at a sunspot bottom, and it was then that I learned about the high nighttime MUFs that characterize conditions in late spring. The fine night path propagation we find on 20m for most of the year does not exist at the low end of the cycle. In late spring we get a break from the DX doldrums, and 20m opens in the evening over the difficult polar paths we now take for granted. At the peak of the cycle these same seasonal effects turn 15m into an excellent night path band – without diminishing the its effectiveness across day paths. The variety of DX paths that open at this time of year is astonishing. There is a major event at the end of May that enables contesters to exploit 15 meters at the peak of its season: the WPX CW.

Polar openings can occur at any hour of the day, and these openings are deep into Asia. European openings occur most of the day, with great evening openings where you can follow the sunrise across Europe (as with any nighttime band.) Morning long path should be watched for rare African countries. Good openings to the Middle East can occur in late afternoon and evening.

10 Meters – The 10 meter season is basically over, and DXers not in tune with propagation's seasonal cycle are somehow surprised. Some point to the drop in sunspot activity in past months. Propagationists who primarily watch the solar flux charts are expecting a rapid drop in solar activity over the coming year, and they are probably right. We have enjoyed a broad cycle peak, but it is nearly over. Make the best of 10 meters this fall. The poor conditions in the next several months will be seasonal.

20 Meters – 20m is great in the morning, with pipeline conditions to the Far East and long path to the Indian Ocean and Africa. Have I said this before? Please understand that I have been writing this propagation article for over four years, and am running out of material. Future articles in NARS NEWS may occasionally be devoted to other subjects, such as antennas. It is hoped that readers find these upcoming articles as informative as this series on propagation.

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

Monroe County FM Net **By Dwight Hill - K2KWK**

For a long time I have wished that the Monroe County FM net was a sort of bulletin board on-the-air for local clubs, where announcements could be made of upcoming meetings, programs, club activities, etc. Once in a while that happens and my hope is that it gets somebody interested in the club and maybe a new

member or two. At least I hope some of the clubs want new members and more activity.

The Sunday night net is a great place for such announcements to be thrown out for new hams, old hams, visitors, etc. It's free even! Seriously, my hope has been that each club would get some one to volunteer to make such announcements to the FM net listeners.

People you don't hear check in do make it a point to listen once in a while. I hear things at hamfests and meetings that tell me more are listening than we hear from. People studying to be hams listen. One local guy told me the FM net and bulletins was the focal point of a gathering of people getting ready for a test. Each Sunday they would collect at one house or another to do code, study, ask questions, and catch that net and the news.

It would really please and surprise me if each club made such an effort. I can't cover everything that happens or give every detail that some one else can think of. I still think it would be great for a club to do this, and great for the net itself. If you could bring this up for discussion sometime in some meeting, it would not displease me in the least.

PS – The reason I can give details of the RDXA group is because of their complimentary newsletter, for which I am grateful. Please extend my thanks to them. [*You are most welcome, Dwight. Ed.*]

Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2003 May 06

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2003 May 07	110	25	5
2003 May 08	105	20	4
2003 May 09	105	15	3
2003 May 10	100	15	3
2003 May 11	100	20	4
2003 May 12	100	20	4
2003 May 13	100	25	5
2003 May 14	100	25	5
2003 May 15	110	20	4
2003 May 16	115	20	4
2003 May 17	120	15	3
2003 May 18	125	20	4
2003 May 19	130	20	4
2003 May 20	130	15	3
2003 May 21	130	20	4
2003 May 22	135	20	4
2003 May 23	145	15	3
2003 May 24	150	15	3
2003 May 25	150	15	3
2003 May 26	155	15	3
2003 May 27	155	15	3
2003 May 28	150	25	5
2003 May 29	145	20	4
2003 May 30	145	12	3
2003 May 31	140	8	3
2003 Jun 01	125	15	3
2003 Jun 02	115	15	3

If this forecast is anywhere close to accurate, I suggest unplugging the HF radios for the month and taking up basketweaving! Ed.

RDXA Financial Report By Charlie Kuhfuss - WB2HJV

Our Secretary / Treasurer submits the following summary of RDXA financial affairs, as of 1 May 2003:

Current checking balance ---- \$1159. 59
Petty Cash ----- \$102. 00
Total available funds ----- \$1261. 59
Less Memorial Fund ----- (\$726. 89)
Total operating funds ----- \$534. 70

The RDXA currently has 57 full members and 1 student member. No membership changes since 1 April 2003.

Radio Photos from the War



My friend Greg, a U.S. Marine stationed with a communications battalion in Kuwait, sent this photo of the ultimate microwave rover dish. Eat your hearts out VHF contesters!



Who says HF is obsolete. Check out the 4-square array in the background of this photo of an antenna farm "somewhere in Iraq."

DX News

from the OPDX Bulletin
12 May 2003

7P, Lesotho – A sixth operator has joined July's week-long 7P8 Lesotho DXpedition. That will give the group even more expertise

on CW and digital mode operations. The newest operator to join the group is Igor Zdorov, WØIZ, of Minneapolis, MN. Look for 7P8CF and 7P8TA to be the main phone ops, while 7P8MJ, 7P8NK, and 7P8DA, 7P8IZ will be mostly CW and digital modes. This all modes, all band operation is under the aegis of the Texas DX Society <http://www.tdxs.net/> and the Lone Star DX Association <http://www.dixer.org/lsdx>

AL1, Alaska – Operators Corliss/AL1G, Francis/KL7FH, William/KL7Z and Kyle/AL7J will be active in the CQ WPX CW Contest as AL1G. The entry is Multi/?. QSL via AC7DX.

C6, Bahamas – Operators Frederick/K9VV and Calvin/K6CT will be active as C6AKU during the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 24-25th) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via K9VV.

CU, Azores – Goran, SM4DHF, will be active as CU2/SM4DHF in the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest (November 29-30th) as a Single-Op/Single Band (20m) entry. QSL via SM4DHF.

FS, St. Martin – Look for Craig, AH8DX, will be active as FS/AH8DX during the CQWW SSB Contest as a Single-Op/All Band entry. QSL via CBA.

HC, Ecuador – Andy, NP3D, will be heading back to HC-Land on May 18th to celebrate his birthday. He will be there until May 26th. Also, he will be joined by Alexandro/HC1AJQ and Taka San/JA2JPA. They will try to activate SA-033 at this time. They will have a generator, ICOM-706MKIIG and dipoles. The schedule is as follows:

- May 18th - Celebrating Andy's 44th birthday.
- May 19-20th - HC1/NP3D and HC1/JA2JPA QTH on the Mountain at 11,000 ft ASL near Quito.
- May 21-23rd - IOTA SA-033 as HC4/Homecalls.
- May 24-25th - CQ WPX CW as HC4/NP3D on 80 meters.

Iota News

AF-083. Look for Francois, F8DVD, to be active from Djerba Island, Tunisia, using the callsign of the Djerba Scouts Radio Club, 3V8SM, from June 23rd to July 4th. Activity will be on the HF bands, SSB. By special permission of Mustapha, DL1BDF, who's the coordinator for Scout Radio Clubs organization in Tunisia, all the cards for Francois' QSOs will go to him, either direct or via the French Bureau. Please write "via F8DVD/71" on the cards going through the bureau. For direct cards please send a SAE and the correct return postage. All the direct cards with insufficient return postage due will be answered by the bureau. Send direct cards to: Francois Bergez, 6 rue Liberte, 71000 Macon, France.

AS-024. Operators Kaoru/JA3MCA, Aru/JA0KNM, Jun/JJ1EQW and Kai/JE3NJZ will be active as homecall/JR6 respectively from Hateruma Island, Yaeyama Archipelago, Okinawa, from June 6-9th. Their activity will be on CW/SSB and on 40-2 meters. Please QSL via their home callsigns by the Bureau or direct. Hateruma Island is known as the inhabited island in the south end of JA-land.

AS-073. Tex, 9M2TO will be active as 9M2TO/P from Perhentian Island, May 15-18th. Using an IC-706 plus a G5RV, Tex will be active on 40-10 meters, including the WARC bands. QSL 100% AUTOMATICALLY through the Bureau via JA0DMV.

AS-074. Ian, 9M2/G3TMA, will be operating from Pulau Ketam from May 14-18th. Operations will be on CW and some SSB. Callsign will be 9M2/G3TMA. QSL address is: Ian Buffham, Bekay Court, Lorong Enau, (off Jalan Ampang), 55000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

AS-107. Champ, E21EIC, will be active as E21EIC/P in the RSGB IOTA Contest in July from Si Chang Island. He will use a dipole antenna and 100 watts. QSL via E21EIC

AS-147. Takeshi, JI3DST, will be active as JI3DST/8 from Okushiri Island (Okushiri-cho Okushiri-gun Hokkaidou) starting at 0700z, July 25th through 0000z, August 3rd. Activity will be on 40/17/15/12/10/6 meters SSB. QSL via the Bureau ONLY.

EU-004. Peter, DL8YR, will be active as EA6/DL8YR/p from Mallorca Island, May 14-28th. Activity will be mostly on CW on all bands including an entry in the WPX Contest on CW.

EU-008. Bob/N5ET with XYL Linda/KE5TF and Peter/GM3OFT are expected to be active on May 31st as MM/N5ET/P from Raasay Island (IOSA NH-10, SCOTIA CN-24, Loc. IO67xi). Activity will be for 5 hours starting around 0900z. Activity will be on 40/20/15 meters, following propagation. Send direct QSLs (EU-only) via GM3OFT, all other areas via N5ET or bureau.

EU-080. A multi-national team (CT1APE, CT1CJJ, CT1EEB, CT1ILT, CT2GLO, EA1CA, EA1DKV, EA4ABE, EA4ST, EA5FX and N5KO with the close help of EA1MC) will be active during the IOTA Contest from Ons Island as ED1ONS. The Team will be on Ons from July 25-27th. A Web page will be set up very soon (online logs will be available) at: <http://www.qsl.net/ed1ons> Also, the team wants to know your needs for EU-080 so they can set an operating plan for outside of the contest hours. Send your feedback to: ct1eeb@mail.telepac.pt QSL via ED4URJ: Seccion Comarcal Ure Jarama, P.O. Box 123, 28700 San Sebastian de los Reyes (MADRID), SPAIN. Cards can be send Direct or via Bureau. PLEASE NOTE: A station will also be active on 50, 144 and 432 MHz.

NA-057. Raymond, WQ7R, will be active as HQ9R from Roatan Island, Honduras, in the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th) as a Single-Op/All Band/Low Power entry. QSL via N6FF.

NA-067. Ken, W8KL, will be active from the North Carolina State East Group between May 18-22nd. This will be a "Mobile Operating Position" using a FT-100D/Hamstick Mobile Antenna. Look for him on SSB on 14260 kHz +/- QRM during the afternoons/evenings (East Coast Time), if band conditions are good. He will also try during the mornings for JA/VK stations. Ken states, "If Bands Are Dead There's A Nice Beach There!!!" QSL via the Bureau or direct (QRZ.com OK).

NA-144. Tom, WA6WPG, will be active as WA6WPG/P from San Miguel Island, July 25-27th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters and include the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 26-27th) as a Single-Op. Tom will have a solar panel in addition to his battery and plans to be operating at least 24 hours. QSL via his home callsign.

OC-NEW. Members of the Mediterraneo DX Club (YC3DIK, YC3MM, YC3BDJ and YC3BCS) and possibly others plan to activate Pisang Island, a new IOTA in the Sumatra's Coastal Islands South Group. All operators will sign homecall/5 and activity will start around 1200z May 11th and end May 17th. Activity will be on 80/40/15/10 meters SSB. QSL all callsigns via IZ8CCW, direct or bureau. Their web page is at: <http://www.mdx.org/southsumatra/>

SA-024. Members of the LABRE/SP (Liga Amadoristica Brasileira de Radio Emissao in Sao Paulo's) will activate Comprida Island (DIB 021), May 17-18th. Their callsign will be PV2AA. Activity will be on 160-2 meters CW/SSB/FM. QSL via PY2AA: Caixa Postal 22, Sao Paulo/SP, CEP 01059-970, Brasil.

SA-042. UPDATE to OPDX.599. Operators PT7BI/Daniel, PT2GTI/Stuckert, LU1YU/Helmult, PY8BI/Marcelo, CT1EEN/Samuel and PY8EA/Rocha, will be active from Mexiana Island, May 21-25th, using the callsign ZW8M. QSL via CS1GDX. For more details, visit the Web page at: <http://geocities.yahoo.com.br/mexianaisland>

SA-082. Pedro, HK3JJH, will be active from Morro Grande from June 3-8th. There was no callsign provided, but activity will be on all the bands (mostly 20m). He also mentions that there is a lighthouse (WLH-LH-0404) on the island. QSL cards are only by direct to: P.O. Box 81119, Bogota, Colombia, SA. Postage is 2 USD, any help is welcome.

IU3, Italy – Operator Andy, IV3SKB, informs OPDX that he will use the special callsign IU3X in the CQ WPX CW Contest as a

Single-Op/Single Band (40m)/High Power entry. His Web page is at: <http://www.qsl.net/iv3skb>

J75, Dominica – George, K5KG, will be active as J75KG between May 20-29th. Activity is planned for the HF bands CW/SSB and an entry in the CQ WPX CW Contest (May 24-25th) using the J75A callsign. QSL via KU9C. George is currently working to help local hams get on the air. A request has gone out, asking for donations of small rigs or HTs. You can contact George via E-mail at: k5kg@arrl.net

KH9, Wake Island – This may be the last week to work Jake on Wake as N6XIV/KH9. He has been active on most days on 20 meters (around 14265 kHz between 0730-0915z. His QSL Manager Glenn, K2FF, informed OPDX that Jake was expected to install a Force-12 tribander C3SS last week which was left behind by Chuck Brady (N4BQW/KH9) and will be used by both operators when there.

P4, Aruba – Scott, K0DQ, will be active from Jacky's, P43P, QTH during the CQ WW WPX CW Contest (May 24-25th) as P41P and as a Single-Op/All Band/High Power entry. QSL via Mario, I2MQP. Look for some P40Q operations before/after contest.

RL1, Russia (Special Prefix) – Radio amateurs from Sankt Petersburg, Russia, are celebrating the 300th anniversary of their city. Look for 21 stations to be on the air from Sankt Petersburg now through May 31st.

R300SP via RU1AE (RZ1AWT)	RL1N via RA1ABC
RL1A via RA1AG	RL1O via RZ1AWO
RL1B via RU1AB	RL1P via RZ1AP
RL1C via RV1CC	RL1Q via RV1AQ
RL1D via OH5ZZ (UA1DJ)	RL1R via RA1ALA
RL1F via RU1AS	RL1S via UA1AES
RL1G via RA1AR	RL1T via RX1CQ
RL1J via RZ1AWF	RL1U via RA1AOL
RL1K via UA9KG/1	RL1W via RW1AI
RL1L via RZ1AYA	RL1X via RX1AX
RL1M via UA1ANA	

S9, Sao Tome And Principe – Duarte, CT1CPP, is now active as S92UN. He is now active on 12/15/17/40 meters with dipole antennas. Watch around 7067- 7074, 14260-14270, 18126-18130 and 21260-21270 kHz starting around 2100z. Duarte asks to please be patient with his answering of the QSL cards, because he can only answer them when he returns to Portugal. QSL via CT1CPP (QRZ.com): Antonio Duarte Prates Bebianno, Estrada dos 4 Marcos No. 17, Sarilhos Grandes, 2870 Montijo, Portugal. Duarte is expected to be here for about 3 months.

TA, Turkey – Andy, G3AB (ex-G4ZVJ), will be active as TA3/G3AB in the CQ WPX CW Contest as a Single-Op (possibly Single Band) entry. QSL via G3AB.

TO5, Martinique – Jack, RW3QC, will be active as TO5AA, in the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 24-25th) as an All Band/High Power entry. Activity will be from FM5BH's QTH. The QSL Manager has not been chosen yet.

V63, Micronesia – Operators Funaki/JA7ZP, Takao/JA7AGO and Sho/VA7HMZ will be active from Pohnpei (**OC-010**) May 12-15th as V63ZP, V63GO and V63DX respectively. Activity will be 40-10 meters CW/SSB. QSL via their home callsign (Bureau OK).

VI8, Australia (Special Event) – The Darwin Amateur Radio Club of the Northern Territory, Australia, will be operating a special event station with the callsign of VI8NT to celebrate 25

years of self government. The station will be opened officially on the 1st of July 2003 (Northern Territory Day) and run until the 31st December 2003. This special Amateur Radio callsign VI8NT is allowed to be used by any licensed VK8 Amateur. Only one Amateur will hold the callsign at any one time, meaning only one station on air at a time. A special QSL card is being made up by the QSL Manager Neil, VK6NE. All QSLs will be accepted directly or via the Bureau.

VP2, Montserrat – Three members of the Florida DXpedition Group are “On the Road Again”! Operators Bill W4WX/VP2MHX, William/N2WB and Bob/K9MDO (both waiting on VP2M callsign) will be here July 22-29th. They will have three Kenwood TS-570D stations and will be active on most bands and modes. QSL via their homecalls, CBA. N2WB via QSL Manager N2OO.

VP9, Bermuda – Merv, N6NO, will be active as N6NO/VP9 from May 14-21st. His activity will be on 80-10 meters, possibly 160, with a 100w and a focus on CW. His operating times will favor the difficult Asia/Oceania path. QSL via N6NO.

VQ9, Chagos Island – Larry, VQ9LA, has been very active on 20 meters RTTY. Watch around 14083-14090 kHz beginning around 2200z. Larry will be there for about year.

XU, Cambodia – Jaak, ES1FB, informs OPDX that he will once again return to Shianoukville, and operate as XU7ACE for about 10 days starting May 11th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters, mostly SSB. He plans to activate IOTA **AS-133** on May 17-18th, but this depends on the weather condition (It is the rainy season now). QSL via his home callsign, ES1FB, either by the CBA or by the bureau (but this will take more time). **Added note:** Previous XU7ACE bureau cards are answered about 70%, direct cards on a weekly basis.

XW, LAOS – Champ, E21EIC, will be back in Laos around June 3-23rd and will be active as XW1IC. His activity will be on 160-10 meters, including the WARC bands using only 100 watts. He states the modes he will use are CW/SSB/RTTY and 2 meter FM (Maybe 6 meters if possible). Champ will also be active in the All Asian DX Contest. QSL via E21EIC.

YO, Romania [I don't mean YAO! Ed.] – Jean-Michel, F6AJA, will once again be YO/F6AJA (10th year consecutively) from Suceava (450Km north of Bucarest) from May 19-28th. He will be on the air when time permit from the Silviu station YO8FZ.

YV4, Venezuela – Dario, YV4GMG, in Santa Cruz, informs OPDX that he is active on 160 meters and 6 meters (on 50110 kHz), as well as 20/15/10 meters. On HF, he can also be active on PSK31/SSTV/RTTY/MMT63/AMTOR. QSL via his home callsign. Also, active from the same station is Hector/YV4GMH and Maria/YV4GMB.

Z38, Macedonia – Lothar/DJ7ZG and Babs/DL7AFS will once again be on tour. This time they will be active from here using the callsign Z38Z. They hope to be active starting on May 15th for about 10 days. Activity will be on 160-6 meters, mainly on RTTY, PSK and SSB. Lot informs/states to OPDX, “Due to the request of many Hams from America and Japan we want to work these countries particularly.” QSL via DL7AFS. Their homepage and online log will be at: <http://www.qsl.net/dl7afs>

ZF, Cayman Islands – The team of John/K6AM, Ned/AA7A, Lee/KY7M and Bud/N7CW will activate ZF1A (IOTA **NA-016**) in the 2003 CW WPX Contest. Please QSL via W5ASP.

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2003 Darwin Award Contestant

Finally this month, we publish this photographic entry for the 2003 Darwin Awards. We do not know what happened after the photo was taken; notice the ladder-worker's bare feet! Quite possibly events that followed were shocking!



Code Ode

A Poem by Troy Weidenheimer - WØROF

It's more than dots and dashes,
It's a place.

A sanctuary for those who've learned
To love the mysterious magic of
Thoughts arriving in mile-long strings
On roads of ether or wire.

Even more, it's peace,
A shield from the disordered sounds
Of traffic, angry people
And industrial clutter clatter,
Within its warm mantle
We find soothing respite.

And the patter of bright ideas it is,
The sharp focusing of others' thoughts
From miles beyond our vision's range,
As in a dream we sit so still,
It floats in our ears and stirs our minds
With concern, remembrance, speculation
And mirth.

And code is music,
From sounders and speakers it dances
In the shack to each sender's inner clock,
And comes butter-smooth, deliciously swinging,
Or choppy staccato from a "fist" praising definition,
Or perfectly metered, flowing exquisitely
From the gentle hand of an artist.

A place,
And peace,
Intelligence and
Music.

Code is more than dots and dashes.

The Telegraphic Apprentice

Jerry Newton was employed with Western Union in San Antonio, Texas. He published dozens of telegraphic poems in a book in 1902. Though the family was living in Arkansas, he joined the Union Army service in Indiana, working as a telegrapher with Co. H, 1st Regiment, Indiana Cavalry, mostly in the Arkansas region.

His older brother Edward (1845-1923) joined the Confederate Army as a telegrapher, Co. H, 8 Arkansas Cavalry. After the war he ran the Little Rock WU office. Charles Newton (1855-1901), a second brother, worked as telegrapher at the Frankfort, KY office.

Jerry worked for WU from after the Civil War to around 1910. He pounded brass in Arkansas, Houston, TX and San Antonio, with perhaps some other stops in between. The following poem was written just after the turn of the century.

My Experience as an Apprentice by Jerry Newton

(Scene, Little Rock Western Union Office, 1868.)

When left in charge one day at noon
Alone, to hold the fort,
I felt a yearning, uncontrolled
To tackle noon report.

Some occult power kept pricking me,
Which I could not subdue,
With alternating joy and fear
My courage came and flew.

Sun-clad fancies gleamed so bright
Of honors and of fame,
But my verdancy was tristful
'Fore welcome 30 came.

'Twas up to me; L. R. was called,
This gave my nerves a "jar,"
A chilly rigor seized me, when
I answer'd, I. I. L. R.

I started up my register,
The paper went askew,
I broke - with waning confidence
But started up anew.

The sender was an artist rare,
And forty words at least
Per minute, he was sending, and
It seemed his speed increas'd.

The moments kept on lengthening out,
Each filled with fears galore,
By desperation goaded on,
I tore my hair and swore.

I mopped the cold beads from my brow,
As dots and dashes flew,
And like a piece of marble stood
With face of livid hue.

Six hundred yards of paper soon
was reeled off on the floor,
Oh! phantoms of that fateful day
Will haunt me evermore.

Though five and thirty years have gone,
My locks with gray are strewn,
I see myself in Little Rock
Taking press report at noon.

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 Banquet Room of the S&S Restaurant in Winton Plaza, located just south of the Erie Canal on Winton Road.

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