ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION
rdxa.com

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER | FINAL EDITION | APRIL 2005

Regular Meeting

April 19th 19:30 local

300 Jay Scutti Boulevard
Gander Mountain
Meeting Room

April Program
Logbook of the World

Chris, K2CS and Andy, NF2L will discuss the League's innovative electronic QSL program, *Logbook of the World*. If you have been puzzling over how to get started with LoTW, here's your chance to learn the ins and outs of using the LoTW system from a couple of pros. Bring your questions.

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Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin
Winton Plaza

N2CK Selected as 2004-05 Recipient of KE2WK Award

Vic, K1PY presents the prestigious **KE2WK Memorial Award to Dave Wright, N2CK**. The award recognizes the HF enthusiast who has been the most active in Club affairs, demonstrated long term Club commitment, made contributions to the Club newsletter, who is recognized by Club members as a high profile active station pursuing DX and participating in HF contests, while promoting the RDXA and Amateur Radio on the HF bands.

President's Soapbox **By Rick Mintz – W1TY**

Soon we will announce the nominees for the slate of RDXA Officers and Board of Directors for 2005-2006.

When I chose to run for President a year ago, I had several goals in mind that were to be accomplished. Happily (at least for me) they were completed.

- Relocate Field Day
- Increase membership totals
- Provide more live monthly presentations
- Initiate cross posting of programs and open meetings with other regional clubs

The relocation of Field Day was certainly the most polarizing issue. It was also my #1 agenda item.

I believe that we are better than we were a year ago. Having accomplished my primary goals, I have chosen not to seek another term as President. It is time for someone else to step up and guide us with their ideas. I hope that you will throw your hat into the ring. Don't wait to be asked…offer. And when you do, remember that there is always opposition to change. Expect it. Enjoy the debate. Make a difference.

The outgoing President is grand fathered into a Board of Directors seat for the upcoming year. From there I hope to be able to help the new administration continue to improve RDXA. Three BOD positions remain open for candidates.

There are still things left to do. The new administration will have their own agenda, as they should. A few suggestions, however, some important and some more mundane…

- RDXA should become more visible in the greater Rochester and amateur radio community.
- Member involvement should encompass more individuals, not just a core group of participants.
- The President should have a tie break vote in the BOD.
- Increase involvement in Club-wide technical and/or homebrew projects.
- Initiate Club sponsored multi-op on-air contesting events for those with limited station resources.
- Find a better balance between DX, Contesting & Social. After all we are R**DX**A.
- BOD members should be restricted to two consecutive terms.
- The President should present his goals to the membership for the upcoming year.

I want to thank the many members that provided support in so many ways. When the next term begins in September, I am sure that whoever is elected will enjoy the same cooperation extended to me. I would be remiss without mentioning one more time the guiding members of RDXA. The elected Officers & BOD: K2DB, WB2HJV, N2OPW, N2CK, W2TZ & W2LU. The Chairmen: K1PY, NG2P, K2CS, N1OKL, K2ZS & N2RD. Thanks guys.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served, and the dedicated Club members that committed their energy and considerable talents to a successful year. Let make 2005-2006 even better.

If it is done in amateur radio, it's done at RDXA!

Contest Commentary

N2OPW, CQWW 160 SSB – On the last trip to K2NNY for the NAQP RTTY contest, we decided to participate in the CQ WW 160 M SSB contest also. All we had to do was to build a 160m antenna, we had everything else. Step #1, calculate the wire length for a 1/4 wave inverted L. 137 feet should do fine. Also cut two radials the same length. Step #2, One well-positioned cast by K2DB with his famous "padlock fishing lure" and the fishing line is 90 feet up in the tree branches. Step #3, pull up the antenna and get the end stuck at the 90' peak. Pull the base out and end up with a "vertical" tilted at 45° to the East. (See picture 1.)

Picture 1: You can just make out one leg of N2OPW's field-expedient 160m antenna running lazily up in front of the trees on the left of the photo.

Step #4, Stretch out the two radials in a North-South direction, just laying on the ground. Step #5, Make secure connections with precision color-coded connectors called wire nuts. (See picture 2.)

Picture 2: Inverted L feedpoint with unique wire nut attachments.

Step #6, Check the SWR; 1:1 at 1.812 MHz; close enough; we do have a tuner. Step #7, For 9 hours before and 3 hours after the RTTY contest, participate in the CQ 160m SSB contest. Step #8, Have fun and put 41 states, 5 Canadian provinces, and 3 DX countries into the log. I am truly amazed at what can be done with 100W and a wire thrown up into a tree. The only regret was hearing a station from Ireland at S9. But, he couldn't hear me because of the local hill immediately to the East of the antenna. He's not in the log.

W1TY, NAQP RTTY – The WNY Digital Contest Club invaded K2NNY in St. Lawrence County for a Multi-2 Low Power effort in NAQP RTTY. Using the new club call KC2NUB, now W2RTY, ops W1TY, K2DB, N2OPW, and N2VJB 4-wheeled the mile of snow & ice covered dirt road to set up two Icom stations for the contest. Arriving early Friday afternoon it was 16°F outside and 0°F inside. Solution? Open the doors and warm the place up! After three hours and a toasted tree it was comfortable.

The 12 hour effort produced 548 Qs and 80k + points despite being antenna challenged on 20-15-10. Worked RDXA members N1OKL & K8FC. N2OPW & K2DB tossed up a vertical (~90 feet), ran radials onto the frozen lake and entered CQWW 160. What have you done for radio fun lately?

Hey, DST is here. Less evening time for low bands, more time for antenna projects. Ying & Yang. The geometry of the universe keeps your radio activities in balance. After NAQP RTTY, VHF/UHF op (now RTTY Ranger) N2OPW was working 160 as K2NNY until 4:00am. That is Ying, Yang or Nuts! I opted for sleep. Next morning K2DB and I downed another great N2VJB breakfast and wandered outside to shoot some targets (.22LR and 30-06). Lock & load!

K8FC, ARRL DX 160 – It is amazing how one contact can change your whole perspective on a contest. Living here in Southern Colorado, the so called "spotlight" effect seems to be most pronounced for Top Band propagation. My good friend WØGG was running phased verticals pointed NE and he was surprised that they were not as effective to Europe as he expected.

It seems the spotlight favored Texas, NM, AZ etc. Many of the reports I have read from the DX stations who were on reported that the signals were down quite a bit from the East Coast and peaked

in the states mentioned above. As many have commented, receive antennas are key to this contest here in Colorado. We really are at a disadvantage here for European propagation on the Top Band.

Now that I have made my excuses, I was just plodding along in the wee hours of the morning trying to hold a run frequency. Boy, on this band if you loose your run freq it takes a lot of patience and time to set up a new one as there just isn't that much spectrum on 160. Murphy had not visited me yet this weekend; everything seemed to be running flawless. The Polish Prince must be smiling on me.

My transmit antennas were absolutely unusable as receive antennas. The static crashes were horrendous, the key clicks were out of site and the 10 kW stations were commanding the band. The East/West NE/SW Beverages were really making the difference for me in this contest. I would be listening to the NE Beverage and I would hear someone down in the mud calling and I knew they had to be to the West, just a flick of the switch and these guys sounded like they were in the back yard. This phenomena worked similarly for all Beverage directions. In addition, deep QSB was evident during the whole contest on both evenings. I don't ever remember hearing QSB this pronounced. You had to have many repeats on some stations and wait until they peaked to get all of the report.

Boy, talking about getting off of the subject ! Anyway to continue, on the second night at 2:15 local Sunday morning, I was really excited to hear W2IB calling CQ in the clear with a great signal. I gave him a call and he came right back to provide me with the 79th section multiplier which happened to be NNY. Now all I needed was NWT (which I later learned would not come to pass). There were intermod artifacts all up and down the band and along with the key clicks, this served to make it a very noisy environment. Then all of a sudden out of the blue, a flash of light, a bolt of lightning it was a bird, no a plane. Sorry, I couldn't resist. Anyway, as I was saying, I was sitting there listening on the NE Beverage and I thought I heard a very weak station calling so I started flipping antennas around and no joy, it seemed like the signal just went away. I went back to calling CQ as I did not want to loose the run and there it was again, a faint signal. I listened again, no luck. I called CQ again and nothing. I worked a couple more stations and resumed the CQs. There it was again. I could just make out a signal responding to my CQ. So, now I am going to concentrate on the matter at hand. I acknowledged the signal by saying agn ? pse over and over. I determined he was coming out of the west and flipped the antenna to the western Beverage and stayed there. As I mentioned earlier, the QSB was phenomenal that weekend. I persisted to listen and respond and then all of a sudden right in the clear was JT1CO calling K8FC. I could not believe what I was hearing, and sent agn agn agn. Sure enough, he came back with K8FC de JT1CO JT1CO JT1CO KKK! **Holy Batman, it was true!** I went back to him and gave him the ubiquitous 599 and he did the same and I sat there in shock. *I had just worked Chak, JT1CO in Mongolia on 160 meters.* This made the contest for me, I did not care if I made another contact. This made it all worth while. So that's my contest story and I'm sticking to it. Take care, good DX and happy New Year!

Upcoming RDXA Programs

May 17	Field Day 2005, K1PY
June 21	Antique Wireless Museum tour, K2MP

April Contests

EA RTTY ---------- 2, 3 April
QCWA QSO Party ---------- 2, 3 April
Japan Int'l DX; CW ---------- 9, 10 April
Holyland DX, CW & SSB ---------- 16 April
SP DX RTTY ---------- 23, 24 April

More Contest Info

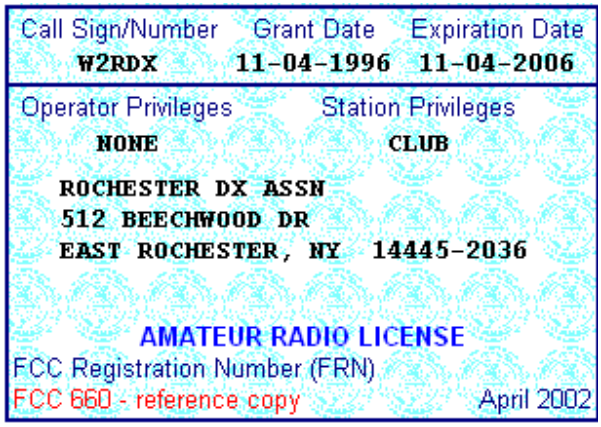
http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/index.htm

May Contests

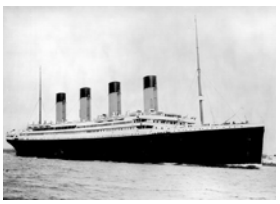
ARI Int'l. DX CW, SSB, RTTY ---------- 7, 8 April
Alessandro Volta RTTY DX ---------- 14, 15 April
EU PSK DX, PSK31 ---------- 21, 22 April
CQ WW WPX CW ---------- 28, 29 April
QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint; CW ---------- 29 April

Display Your License — Rick Mintz - W1TY

At http://amateur.mailpen.net you can print a multi color copy of you most prized possession…your FCC Amateur License! Both the wallet and full sized version are available for printing. Here is a sample of the wallet-sized version for W2RDX.



93 Years Ago — Rick Mintz - W1TY

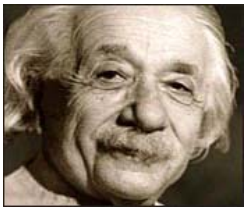


This bit of historical radio trivia may surprise and stump even resident RDXA radio historian Ed Gable! RMS Titanic was assigned the callsign MUC in January 1912. Some time after January, Titanic's callsign was changed to MGY. Which vessel was previously assigned MGY? Titanic was owned by a US consortium. Callsigns for US ships usually began with W, N or K. So why did Titanic's callsign begin with an M?

Answers: U. S. vessel Yale. M = Marconi Company, operator of the wireless station aboard the ship.

100 Years Ago — Rick Mintz – W1TY

This year, science lovers along with atoms, photons and neutrons throughout the universe have something to celebrate. 2005 is the centenary of Albert Einstein's "miracle year."



Einstein recalled 1905 as the year when he said "a storm broke loose in my mind." That year, he proved the existence of atoms, devised the theory of relativity, showing that e equals mc2 and laid the foundations for quantum physics. Fifty years after his death, Einstein's reputation is only improving with age. His theories of the universe continue to be supported by new generations of scientists using tools that Einstein could only imagine.

Specifically, in 1905 Einstein published the following works:

- "On the Motion Required by the Molecular Kinetic Theory of Heat of Small Particles Suspended in a Stationary Liquid"
- "On a Heuristic Viewpoint Concerning the Production and Transformation of Light"
- "On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies"
- "Does the Inertia of a Body Depend Upon Its Energy Content?"

You think that these things do not affect you? If so, put away your GPS, microwave, Ginna power, CRT, CD's, etc.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the miracle year (or "Annus Mirabilis" as it is sometimes known) and the 50th anniversary of Einstein's death, 2005 has been designated the World Year of Physics. Check it out at: http://www.physics2005.org/

Here's An appropriate Einstein radio-related quote: "I am often asked how radio works. Well, you see, wire telegraphy is like a very long cat. You yank his tail in New York and he meows in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? Now, radio is exactly the same, except that there is no cat." What a guy!

Self-serving trivia: My iced tea, always nearby when contesting, has $9x10^{16}$ Joules of potential energy. Maybe it should have an SO-239. Definitely, 1 Call = 1 QSO. To carry this to the absurd, my IC-765 has the potential energy, with 100% efficiency, of 385 megatons of TNT. Truly a booming signal.

Memorable Moments in Ham Radio

In our Topic of the Month column this month, RDXA members recall some of their more notable ham radio experiences from years past.

Gene, W2LU – My most memorable ham radio experience was back in the middle 70s when Rochester had two or three "Hikes for Hope" to benefit the Hospital Ship *Hope*.

Someone contacted me to see if I could contact the ship by ham radio and quite to my surprise I did find the ship and for two years set up some great PR for them. We actually set up communications between the hikers and the ship. The first year it was pretty much limited to phone patch type activity. But the second year we patched through the ship's horn blast to start the hike and actually had two-way slow scan TV between the hike route (even including helicopter rides) and shots from the ship's hospital personnel and crew. The SSTV was handled by HF from Brazil to Webster and then a 2 meter link into the hike route with amazingly good quality pictures of hikers, hike route, ship's staff and the ship. There were lots of headaches but also lots of fun and we managed to help raise several hundred thousand dollars for the ship's medical work.

Mike, N1OKL – One evening in the Spring of 1997, I was trolling the RTTY subands and came across a rag chew QSO in progress between a U. S. ham and a station in Israel. I didn't have Israel in log on RTTY, so I waited patiently for the QSO to end, hoping that the propagation wouldn't shift before I could make my call. Happily, the bands held up and at the end of the contact, the Israeli station came right back to my call and I met Arie Surkiss, 4X6UO. We exchanged the usual info, and when Arie told me his QTH was Herzliya, just north of Tel Aviv, I was immediately interested. In my job with Kodak, I had visited a company the year before in Herzliya. I had just set up another visit with this company, and was going to be in Herzliya the following month. What an amazing coincidence! I shared all this info with Arie, and we exchanged email addresses to make plans for an eyeball QSO.

Over the next few weeks, we corresponded via email and Arie asked if I would be willing to bring over a couple of pieces of ham radio gear for him and a friend. Arie said domestic prices were sky high on ham gear, due to big import duties. I said sure, thinking he was probably looking for a few small accessories. In the end, I wound up taking over a brand new IC-746 and two Down East Microwave UHF transverter kits. I asked Arie if there would be any problems bringing in all this gear, and he assured me there would be none, including no duty. "We'll see," I thought.

In the end, I decided to carry the 746 as hand luggage and I found that it fit perfectly in an aluminum sample case I had. I packed the transverters in my checked bag, figuring there was less chance for breakage with the kits.

My flights took me from Rochester to JFK, and then on to Israel on an EL AL 747, or as the Israelis say, the **E**very **L**anding, **A**lways **L**ate airline. Anyway, if you have never traveled to Israel, you have yet to experience the ultimate in airline security screenings. Before you board a flight *to or from* Israel, *every* passenger is scanned and then personally interviewed. "Why are you going to Israel? Who are you meeting? Do you have an invitation from them? What will you be discussing? Who do you work for? What do you do in your work? Why are you meeting with these people? Where are you from? Where were you born? Have you traveled to Israel before? Have you traveled to other countries in the area? When? Why? How long will you be staying? Where are you staying? Why are you staying there?" The questions go on for at least 20 minutes or so, with most questions repeated and subtly reworded several times to see if you give the same answers. These people are *serious* about security; *real serious*.

Then came the question I had been anticipating, "Are you carrying any electronic devices?" "Well, yes," I answered. 'Better tell them everything,' I thought. So I rattled off a list of all the ham radio stuff I had with me. I also told them I was bringing it in for a ham radio friend in Israel to try out, and gave both our callsigns. "Anything else besides this equipment," the interviewer asked? "No," I replied. That was it. Not another question about the gear!

The flight to Israel was uneventful and I met up with Arie shortly after I settled into my hotel late in the afternoon. We drove over to his home, which sure enough, was only about 5 minutes from the hotel. I handed over the rigs and received a wad of greenbacks in exchange. I met Arie's wife and then Arie and I retreated to his shack to make sure the 746 had arrived in working order. Thankfully, the rig fired up just fine. Arie then asked if I would like to operate from Israel. "What about my license? Is it OK here?" I asked. "Sure, no problem," he said. "Just sign 4X6/N1OKL." And with that, I was QRV from Israel! Arie had a kW station with a 5 element yagi on the roof of his 4-storey apartment building…and was maybe only a couple of miles east of the Mediterranean Sea. So, the next thing I knew, I had a moderate pileup going on 20m SSB. Neat!

Arie rescued me after about an hour and we headed out to dinner at an Arabic restaurant run by a friend of his. We had a great meal and finished it off with Turkish coffee…just what I needed at that point. You could stand a spoon up in this stuff! In spite of the caffeine injection, I was fading fast so Arie dropped me back at my hotel. We agreed to get together again for dinner after I finished my business meetings over the next few days.


Arie Surkiss, 4X6UO

The evening before I left Israel, we had another great meal, this time at a seafood restaurant. I have kept in touch with Arie over the years, and have met him again on subsequent business trips to Israel. With each visit I would import various pieces of ham radio gear, all without customs or security batting an eye. I found out later from Arie that he had retired from the Israeli Army communications corps with the rank of Colonel. He had also participated in several amateur radio exchanges with hams in Jordan, and even met King Hussein, JY1 on one occasion. In 1999, he was one of the local ops who put the first E4 station on the air. Arie was clearly well known in the ham radio community in Israel and surrounding countries. Over the course of several visits, I came to believe that the mention of his name and callsign during the security interviews had a lot to do with the ease with which I was able to lug a lot of ham radio equipment into Israel.

What a great hobby this is!

If you want to know a bit more about Arie and his ham friends in Israel, check out his website at: http://www.iarc.org/~4x6uo/

Joe, K8FC – Well, beyond doubt, my most memorable experience in ham radio was the day I **finally** received my novice license KN8VQU (Kilowatt November 8 Very Quiet Undertaker). I had an Elmer, K8PLS (no longer active) who had tutored me in electronics and answered all my questions. Together we built the first receiver I had ever owned dedicated to ham radio. I had been listening to an old Zenith short wave radio that I had physically removed from a neighbor's garbage can and resurrected by testing the tubes at the local soda fountain that happened to be a drug store that had a tube tester (remember those?). Boy I loved that radio, the local boys were all on 160 meters AM with home brew mobiles. That is how I found out about the local ham club and how I met K8PLS. Woops, excuse me, I digress. Anyway, the receiver we built was a superhet with hand wound oscillator and mixer coils wound on the plug in black ceramic coil forms. We added a "Q" multiplier and a BFO for CW. Boy that thing was broader than a barn but it worked like a champ for the novice bands on 80 meters. I still have that receiver! My dad had bought me a DX-20 transmitter kit for Christmas in 1957 and after he helped me with the soldering I managed to get it together and try it out on a light bulb. **Holy Cow**, it worked! I had a crystal that I had gingerly scrubbed with Ajax over and over again until it worked on the 80 meter novice band (40 as well, I think) and I was raring to go. I studied and studied and studied and studied the Amateur radio handbooks that were put out by the ARRL at the time, as well as the license guide that they printed. If I remember right, I had to send away for the test and have it administered by a General licensee or above. I finally received the test, caught a bus to Detroit and made it to my Elmer's house. Boy I was nervous about that test. I can still remember sitting at Bob's kitchen table with him sitting across from me. A code oscillator stood before me attached to a J38. Bob sat there very stoically with a pad of paper and a pencil. The defining moment was upon us. I made it; I managed to send and receive 5 WPM coherently for at least one minute; still don't know how I accomplished that; I was so nervous it was a wonder I remembered my own name. The written test was easy as I had memorized every question and answer in the license manual and there was no chance that I would miss any question. (Too bad I didn't have that much discipline in school, eh?) Now came the hard part, Bob put the exam in the mail and all I had to do was wait for the results. That had to be one of the worst things I ever endured as a young adolescent. I waited and waited and waited and waited running home every day from school and asking my mom if anything came from the Federal Candy Company. Every day she would sadly say "No son, not yet." I think it upset her more than me because she knew how much I wanted that ticket. Finally after what seemed to have been 5 years at that time, I came home from school and there on the dining room table along with a peanut butter sandwich and a glass of milk, was a letter from the FCC. With a great amount of trepidation, I managed to open the envelope and peak inside. **Hooray**! My novice ticket had arrived! I was so exited I jumped around like a rabbit, I ran over and hugged my mom and picked her right up off the floor. Man, there couldn't have been a finer moment in my young life.

Well, the rest is history. I could go on and on about the trials and tribulations of my first contact, but that story is best left for another time. So now you have it, the most memorable moment in my ham radio career.

Irv, AF2K – Thoughts of pursuing a DXpedition to a semi-rare entity sounded exciting. My DX partner-Russ, WA2CBU, now W2RMM-and I had thoroughly investigated such places as 3A2, XT, and VP2V. However, the inspiration to go forward was sparked by a slide presentation at an RDXA meeting that took place at the old Howard Johnson's restaurant at Twelve Corners.

Ken Palmer, K2FJ / ZB2G (SK) had been to Gibraltar several times to operate, and that looked like a great place for "first timers" to get their feet wet.
So, in the first week of November 1978, we headed over for a week of fun on The Rock, along with a little sightseeing of course. We obtained our callsigns on arrival, ZB2EM and ZB2EN, for the equivalent of

merely U. S. $1.03 apiece and set up shop in Room 440 of the Rock Hotel. Equipment consisted of a Kenwood TS-830S, Henry 1KD-5 Linear and a Swan 2-element Tribander. The QTH was ideal: high above Gibraltar harbor and facing North America with the Rock of Gibraltar looming directly in back of us to the east, less than a couple hundred feet from the hotel.

There were times when we both operated, but I actually handled most of it alone while Russ was out roaming the area with his camera. We did take in the rock apes, along with a bus tour of the entire peninsula, a visit to St. Michael's Cave and the many tunnels inside the Rock itself.

As far as the pile-ups we attracted, I managed to handle them all 98% of the time. Stations needing Gibraltar felt they were assured of getting the QSL with a couple of statesiders handling the entire operation. When the bands were open to North America, working the hordes by call area was the best way to maintain control and maximize the propagation time. It's a lot of fun being on the other end of the pile-ups day after day. One of the many memorable aspects was working the numerous JAs early in the morning daily (Gib time). They are all so unbelievably courteous and orderly!

The stats for the week: 1587 Qs of which one-third were DX and two-thirds stateside. We snared 50 states for both ZB2EM and ZB2EN plus 93 countries combined.

The entire effort was an extremely rewarding and satisfying experience. In fact, we returned exactly one year later with different equipment and antennas to do it all over again. But the November 1979 trip produced only 1139 Qs, as we were plagued with ongoing power outages caused by labor problems at the local utility company. Additionally, we missed a full day of operating, thanks to poor travel scheduling enroute. Having to fly by helicopter from London's Heathrow to Gatwick airport caused us to miss our connecting flight to The Rock, and British Airways put us up for the night.

Cliff, K2SKO – *My Brother Carl, W1FVY* – Carl was 12 years older than me so was more like an extra father to me during my growing up years. He had always had electronic gear when I was a kid so all that 'stuff' was familiar to me. Though he didn't have a license then (that bad old code stuff) he was quite interested in ham radio and that got me interested also. When I finished up grad school and moved to New Jersey with my family, Carl said he'd help me get equipment if I could beat him in getting a license. Well, I had already bought a BC348 from the old Radio Shack store in Boston, so I was able to practice code from W1AW. I actually did beat him by passing my General at the Federal building in NYC (that's a story in itself) and Carl came through with money for a Heath DX-35 and VFO. Carl lived far enough from an FCC examiner so under the old rules he could get a Conditional General and became W1FVY. We were able to chat quite a bit before I got transferred up to Rochester and conditions weren't so hot for regular contacts. I did get involved with ham radio in Rochester (I'm one of those RARA ex-presies from way back!) but I then got involved in our school board and in woodworking and so dropped out of ham radio for 25 years or so. In the meantime Carl was very active with his expeditions to the arctic ice islands for underwater sound research and with his VHF activity. He was the inventor of the "Big Wheel" antenna which had a period of popularity back in the 60s. He wrote several articles for QST and actually was on the cover of one of them.

As I got closer to retirement, I remembered my earlier thoughts about ham radio being a great activity for a retired person. Besides, my brother wasn't getting any younger and I felt we ought to get back together on the air. Fortunately, I had diligently renewed my license all these years. My equipment was rather ancient, a DX100 and a Mohawk receiver, so I bit the bullet and bought new gear. I bought a TENTEC based on Carl's advice and we maintained regular contact up until his death at age 84. His health was not good in his later years and his wife and sons have said that his radio contacts with me and his other ham buddies kept his spirits up. I've been so grateful to amateur radio that made this possible.

I still maintain regular contact with many of the hams that worked with Carl and that he had introduced me to. They are great guys and most of them are up in their 80s and 90s. If it had not been for Carl, I wouldn't be having these wonderful contacts in *my* retirement years. Ask me about Carl sometime. He had a fascinating career.

Ed, K2MP – Most memorable Ham experience. Gee, that's tough. five, six, seven, eight and now close to nine band DXCC was (is) fun, Honor Roll achievement felt good, and 50 MHz WAS was a real hoot, mainly because it took over 25 years to work the last state…KH6. Working a November SS Sweep always brings a smile. (BTW, the 2004 SS mug came yesterday, Wow, what color – bright orange!) And of course what can I say about becoming a Rtty Ranger; whew, does it get any better ? Twice elected as Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year has to be memorable, along with the RDXA KE2WK award, but if you look at the plaques on the, wall the most memorable ones have nothing to do with DXCC, WAS, WAZ or such. One rather plane single sheet of paper just says thanks for helping your country. Earned for, and I'll never forget the number, handling 12,261 pieces of formal message traffic through the Harris MARS station for GIs in Iraq at Christmas time. That felt good. Last night felt good. I used my extensive amateur station equipment and years of expertise to contact a station far, far away in the Dominican Republic! Her name is Joanne and she is a medical missionary in the mountaintop jungles of HI8-land. She has been there for 20 years. She saves lives every day. She has a horse, a broken motorcycle, a very tired transceiver, a dipole in a tree and a truck battery that she charges when there is power in her village a few hours a day. She saves lives every day. Every three or four weeks I run a phone patch for her (remember those?) so she can talk to the Pastor of the Church in Rochester that supports her activity. When through with that, I hook her up with her mom in Buffalo so they can chat a while. The same hurricanes that devastated Florida last year went through HI8 first. She shared her red beans and rice with other villagers. Did I say she saves lives every day ? When finished running a phone patch session, I look at the wall. There is no plaque on the wall for that, but those are my most memorable QSOs.

Dave, N2CK – There are two moments that come to mind that fit the theme of most satisfying Amateur Radio moment(s).

The first is finally getting through the pileups to work VKØMM, Macquarie Island! After hearing Fred, K2FR *rave* about how *rare* this island was, and knowing I finally worked it, I was really excited to have this one in the log. I sent off my card along with a donation and waited for the card to come back. Imagine my consternation when I finally got the card and noticed the admonishment of "DUPE 20M SSB on 1-OCT". (I worked him on

the 16th of September and knowing how strict he was about not working dupes, never called him again on that band!)

The second satisfying moment came when I started participating more in CW contests and got a greater exposure to cut numbers. At first 5nn was "understood" as meaning 599…yet so much faster. Progressing father along the learning curve, hearing "5nn att" in a contest no longer requires thinking about what the operator is telling me. Such an efficient transmission of "data" using a commonly agreed upon translation just seems so natural. Going even further, now some operators are using cut numbers to send their serial numbers. My initial reaction was to log what I heard. However since I know they mean 599 when 5nn is sent, why shouldn't the same translation be extended to the rest of the data sent my way?

Propagation

AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, April 1994

Solar Flux Range ---------- 73 – 87

20 meters is opening slowly for propagation across nighttime paths. Solar fluxes are usually in the 80s and 90s, and sometimes dip into the 70s. For most of the past month, geomagnetic conditions were disturbed. March wasn't a good month for reliable DXing, and disturbed conditions may continue for another month. This column does not offer predictions of solar conditions.

Through the bottom area of the sunspot cycle, April and May bring out the best DX conditions on 20 meters. The sun hangs low in the sky over polar regions, opening pipelines into Russia and Asia. Nighttime MUFs are higher throughout the northern hemisphere, providing DXing opportunities well past midnight to some parts of the world, especially West. As the pole tilts more toward the sun, the high latitude path to Europe will open for evening work and things will get crowded. This should happen during April, but for now, much DX activity remains on the low bands.

This seasonal peak in 20 meter propagation becomes more important at the bottom of the cycle, because remote parts of the world (especially southern Asia) become difficult to work on many bands. The 20 meter polar window in late spring is a welcome change. This year we should have several months of good evening conditions on 20.

This is also the time of year when **15 meters** starts going crazy at the top of the cycle…staying open all night with nearly constant propagation to Asia and Europe. Not this year! 15 should be used for daypath work, and is still reliable to most of the world, on the same paths that used to open on 10. As the cycle declines further, DX openings on 15 will shorten and become marginal. Daytime MUFs will not be high enough to open a good path to Europe. The **17 meter WARC band** will likely emerge as the daypath alternative at sunspot bottom, with reliable openings throughout most of the year. A yagi for this band would be a nice project.

There is increasing activity on the **30 meter WARC band**, which closed in the evening during winter. This band is limited in several ways: no SSB, no DXCC credit, no QRO (unenforceable). Still, plenty of choice DX shows on this band and pileups are surprisingly competitive. *[Ed. note: When the WARC bands first opened, DXCC credit was not available for QSOs on these bands. Today however, DXCC credit is available for all WARC band QSOs, including 30m QSOs.]*

With the late seasonal opening of 20 meters this year, **the lowband season is extended**. DX contacts continue to be made on 80, with plenty of activity on 40. Much of the activity should move to 20 during April, but propagation on 40 will remain good.

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

Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2005 Apr 05 *US Dept. of Commerce NOAA*

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2005 Apr 06	90	15	3
2005 Apr 07	95	10	3
2005 Apr 08	90	5	2
2005 Apr 09	85	8	3
2005 Apr 10	85	15	3
2005 Apr 11	85	8	3
2005 Apr 12	85	10	3
2005 Apr 13	85	12	3
2005 Apr 14	85	12	3
2005 Apr 15	85	12	3
2005 Apr 16	85	8	3
2005 Apr 17	80	5	2
2005 Apr 18	80	5	2
2005 Apr 19	80	5	2
2005 Apr 20	80	10	3
2005 Apr 21	80	15	3
2005 Apr 22	75	15	3
2005 Apr 23	75	15	3
2005 Apr 24	75	10	3
2005 Apr 25	75	5	2
2005 Apr 26	75	8	3
2005 Apr 27	75	8	3
2005 Apr 28	75	8	3
2005 Apr 29	75	5	2
2005 Apr 30	75	8	3
2005 May 01	80	15	3
2005 May 02	80	10	3

Spring 2005 BOD Meetings

RDXA Board of Directors meetings for Spring 2005 will be held at the following locations. Meetings typically start at 19:30 local time and are **open to all RDXA members**. Contact a Club officer or BOD member for further information.

April 2005 N2VJB

May 2005 W2LU

June 2005 K1PY

Rochester Hamfest Tickets Now Available

Rochester Hamfest tickets will be available from Irv Goodman, AF2K at the April and May RDXA meetings. Get your tickets early and save a few bucks on the door price.

Hamfest dates: June 3, 4, 5.

Free Ham Radio Software — Rick Mintz – W1TY

Ham Radio Deluxe is a suite of **free** Windows programs providing CAT control for commonly used transceivers and receivers. HRD

also includes DX mapping and PSK31 software. Check it out at: http://hrd.ham-radio.ch/

AWA Spring Meet **7 May 2005 / 08:00 – 17:00**

ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION™

Continuing the wonderful success of last year's all-indoor Spring Meet, the decision has been made to again hold this annual AWA event just around the corner from the Annex at the Bloomfield Elementary School, 45 Maple Avenue (Route 444). All events will be indoors. This will include the flea market folks, the museum excess inventory sale and auction, a member's auction and commercial vendors. You will also want to attend the new and expanded programs and demonstrations. Scheduled programs include a wonderful showing of the fabulous Hammond Museum of Radio in Guelph, Ontario, by museum curator Nori Irwin, VE3AQZ. Following that, and in celebration of Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday, we will trace his enormous contributions to electrical science in a presentation by Dr. Thomas Peterson, Jr., using present day video clips, an electrostatic machine and actual 18th century artifacts. The popular equipment demonstrations by museum staffers Roy Wildermuth, W3RLW, and Duncan Brown, K2OEQ, will continue throughout the morning. There will, of course, be the usual Annex and Museum tours scheduled in the afternoon as well. The Meet is open to the public. You do not have to be an AWA member to attend. Admission is a mere three dollars and if you want to sell items an inside flea market table is an additional seven dollars. Doors open at 7:00 a.m. for sellers to set up and the event starts at 8:00 a.m. There is plenty of room for smaller meetings if groups, such as the AMers, want to get together. Coffee and doughnuts will be available. **The date again is May 7th.** Spread the word about this exciting and expanded AWA Spring Meet format. Questions to meet chairman Ron Roach, W2FUI, at (585) 526-5487, or w2fui@msn.com.

Location: Bloomfield Elementary School just around the corner from the A.W.A. Electronic Communication Museum Annex at 6910 Rt. 5 & 20 (intersection with Rt. 444). Check the AWA website at: http://www.antiquewireless.org/ for details.

DX Logbook **Chris Shalvoy – K2CS**
Atlantic Division DXAC

The following is a DXAC correspondence recently sent to me from Wayne Mills, N7NG (of LOTW fame).

Gents,

It has just come to our attention that the ITU has issued the International Call Sign Prefix Bloc E5A-E5Z to the Cook Islands.

We're not sure yet what precipitated this change, but it appears to have taken effect in July 2004. Of course, according to the current DXCC Rules, this change elevates the Cook Islands to the status of Political Entity.

Looking at the Cook Islands from this point of view, however, suggests that the North Cooks will remain separate from South Cook (as the parent). It may be that Palmerston Island will become the actual "first separation" entity and become part of the remainder of the North Cooks, which (as a group) are not sufficiently separated from Palmerston to become an additional separation entity.

We'll be looking at this as will (I am sure) others interested in "new ones." We'll make an informational announcement to the public tomorrow. Just thought you all might be interested in this development.

73, Wayne, N7NG/1

From the DXAC:

These operations have been approved for credit.

YI9KT – Iraq – From May 7, 2004 to Feb 8, 2005
YI9GT – Iraq – From May 7, 2004 to Feb 8, 2005
T6KBLRM – Afghanistan – Current operation [*Yes, the call is odd, but correct, Ed.]*
A52CDX – Bhutan – Oct 24, 2004 to Nov 12, 2004
6ØØCW – Somalia – From Feb 3, 2005 to Feb 17, 2005
6ØØX – Somalia – From Nov 18, 2004 to Nov 26, 2004
TT8AMO – Chad – Current operation effective Mar 9, 2005

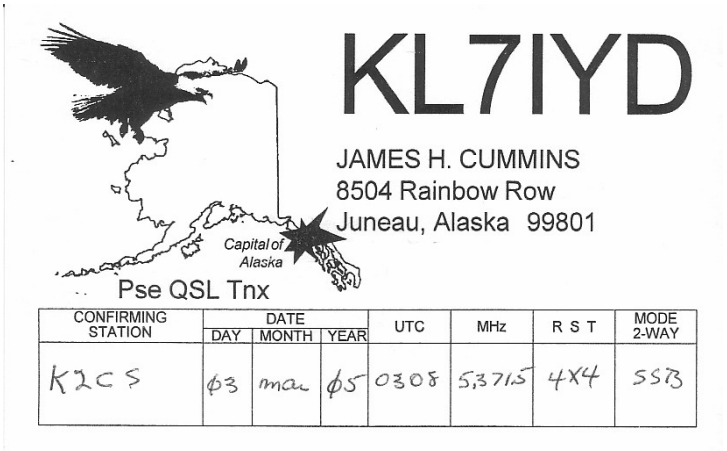
Hope some of these made it to your log.

In the Log (non contest)

Station	Bands
XT2JZ	30m CW
TT8M	30m, 17m CW
TT8AMO	40m CW
MJ/K3PLV	30m, 40m CW
MJ/K8PT	80m, 40m CW
YN4SU	80m CW
TO7C	80m, 40m, 30m, 17m, 20m CW; 20m SSB
5Z4DZ	30m CW
HZ1EX	40m CW

Station	Bands
CN2R	30m CW
SV5/DJ7RJ	80m CW
8R1RPN	160m, 40m, 17m CW
MM0XAU	17m CW
TA4/DL2OBO	40m CW
FT5XO	80m, 40m, 30m, 20m CW; 20m SSB
8Q7DV	40m CW
J7RZ	80m CW

The low bands still seem to deliver even though there has been "life" on the upper bands.



QSL for 60 meter QSO between K2CS and KL7IYD, Alaska. The new 60m channels (it's not really a band) offer some interesting DX possibilities.

Excitement was definitely generated by the just-completed FT8/X operation from Kerguelen. Great job, very easy to work from 2 land. Guess others weren't so lucky. See you in the pileups.

2003-04 RDXA Awards — Chris Shalvoy – K2CS

2003-04 Bare-foot Contester Award – Chris Shalvoy, K2CS.

Awarded to the person submitting the highest combined low power score for all club contests, both CW & SSB. 150 watt limit. This award is for the small station.

2003-04 Top Combined SSB Score – Redd Swindells, WB2DVU.

Includes the CQ WW SSB and ARRL DX SSB.

2003-04 Top Combined CW Score – Jeff Ach, W2FU.

Includes the CQ WW CW and ARRL DX CW.

2003-04 Most Improved – Dave Wright, N2CK.

Includes the CQ & ARRL SSB & CW Contests.

2003-04 MEGA Point Award – Chris Shalvoy, K2CS; Wayne King, N2WK; Jeff Ach, W2FU; Scott Bauer, W2LC; Fred Goner, W2TZ; Redd Swindells, WB2DVU.

Given to any RDXA member who submits contest scores that total 1 million points or more for a single contest year. Only those contests in the *Club Competition* are eligible. Included are CQWW (SSB, CW, RTTY), ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB & CW), ARRL DX (SSB & CW), CQWW WPX (SSB & CW), ARRL 10 & 160 Meter Contests, CQWW 160 Meter (SSB & CW).

2003 Best First Time CQWW SSB – not awarded

2003 Best First Time CQWW CW – not awarded

2003 Best First Time ARRL DX SSB – not awarded

2003 Best First Time ARRL DX CW – not awarded

2003-04 Cumulative MEGA Point Award – not awarded

Given to any RDXA member who submits contest scores totaling 1 million points or more. Points accumulate from year to year so that everyone can work towards the award. Endorsements to the original award will be given for higher milestones such as 5, 10 and 25 million points.

KE2WK Memorial Award – Dave Wright, N2CK.

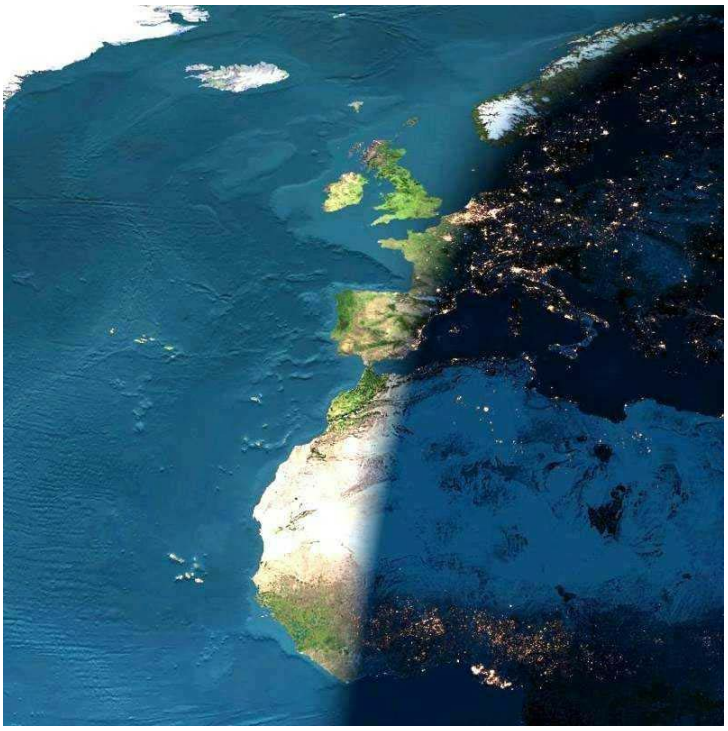
This award recognizes the HF enthusiast who has been the most active in Club affairs, demonstrated long term Club commitment, made contributions to the Club newsletter, who is recognized by the Club members as a high profile active station pursuing DX and participating in HF contests, while promoting the RDXA and Amateur Radio on the HF bands.

Station Grounding — Fred Gern, K2FR (SK)

This is a reprint of an article Fred wrote a number of years ago. As we move into the Summer months and thunderstorm season, it seems appropriate to review the subject. Ed.

Here is what the National Electrical Code has to say about amateur radio stations. See if your station complies. Grounding: Metal towers, masts, antenna supporting structures and all radio equipment must be grounded. The grounding conductor must be continuous and unspliced. It must be no smaller than #10 copper or #8 aluminum stranded or solid. No copper straps or coax braid are permissible. If possible it must run in a straight line, it must be securely fastened, it must be protected where exposed to damage, and it must be connected to an **approved** electrode system by an **approved** connector. An approved electrode system consists of one or all of the following: 1) A metal underground water pipe in direct contact with the earth and at least 10 feet in length. 2) The metal frame of a building where the building is connected to a low impedance ground. 3) A ground ring consisting of at least 20 feet of bare #2 copper encircling the building or structure and in direct contact with earth at a depth of 2-1/2 feet 4) Where any of the above grounds are not available a 5/8" x 8 ft. copper rod or a ¾" x 10 ft. galvanized pipe may be used as the ground electrode. **Note This:** each of the above electrode systems, if available, must be interconnected with #6 bare copper. Whatever electrode system is selected it **must also be interconnected with the electrical service ground by a #6 copper conductor.** All inside conductors must be separated at least 4" from power conductors. Antennas: Antenna wire size must be #14 for spans of 150 feet and #10 for longer spans. Antenna wire must be hard-drawn copper or copper clad steel, insulated or uninsulated. No invisible antennas are permitted by code. Antennas and feeders must not be supported by utility power poles or any electrical service mast entering the home. Antennas must also be kept well away from power lines, and never pass under or over power lines. Open wire feeders must be of the same construction and size as antenna wire with the exception of small spans of less than 35 feet, where soft-drawn copper may be used, (toss out that ladder line you purchased). Clearance from any structure must be 3" or more. Entry into the ham shack must be made via an insulating bushing, drilled windowpane or an opening of such size to permit a clearance of at least 2". A lightning arrestor must also be installed on all open wire feeders, and conductors must be installed to make accidental contact difficult. Coaxial feed lines have no restrictions other than being securely supported. The bottom line is that the ARRL and their Handbook are sadly lacking in the information that every amateur operator needs to know.

Photo of the Month — April 2005



Here's a fantastic photo of the day-night terminator from space. Note the 160m signals clearly visible propagating North-South along the grayline. This is how K8FC managed to work Mongolia from Colorado on 160 meters. See Contest Commentary article on page 5.

Rochester DX Association

W2RDX rdxa.com

This Bulletin is a the official organ of the Rochester DX Association and is published monthly, September through June. Email your articles, tidbits, ham ads, etc. to Mike, N1OKL at the addresses below by the first Tuesday of the month for inclusion in that month's issue.

All those with an interest in amateur radio and DXing and contesting are cordially invited to any meeting and to join RDXA. Meetings are held at 19:30 local time on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, September through June.

President ---------- Rick Mintz – W1TY
w1ty@arrl.net

Vice President ---------- Paul Mackanos, Jr. – K2DB
paul@prohomeinspector.net

Sec/Treasurer ---------- Charles Kuhfuss – WB2HJV
wb2hjv@frontiernet.net

Board Of Directors

Paul Meyers – N2OPW ---------- n2opw@qsl.net
Gene Fuller – W2LU ---------- w2lu@worldnet.att.net
Fred Groner – W2TZ ---------- w2tz@aol.com
Dave Wright – N2CK ---------- n2ck@arrl.net

Appointed Positions

DX Chairman ---------- Chris Shalvoy, K2CS
Packet Cluster Sys Op ---------- Bob Hunter, NG2P
Webmaster ---------- Scott Hoag, K2ZS

NG2P Packet Cluster ---------- 144.910 MHz
Telnet: 66.67.220.251 / Port 7300

Newsletter Editor

Mike Rundle, N1OKL ---------- rundlem@kpgraphics.com
Alternate email: n1okl@pcilearn.com

Dues ($15 / year) and Correspondence to:
Charles Kuhfuss, WB2HJV
55 Stoney Path Lane
Rochester, NY 14626