ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION
rdxa.com

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER MARCH 2005

Regular Meeting

March 15th 19:30 local

Note the changed meeting start time

RDXA monthly meetings will return to the **19:30 start time** beginning in March.

300 Jay Scutti Boulevard
Gander Mountain
Meeting Room

Contest Advisory Committee Update

Rus Healy, K2UA is our Atlantic Division representative for the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. At the March meeting, Rus will provide an update of CAC activities. Bring your contest questions and concerns.

Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin
Winton Plaza

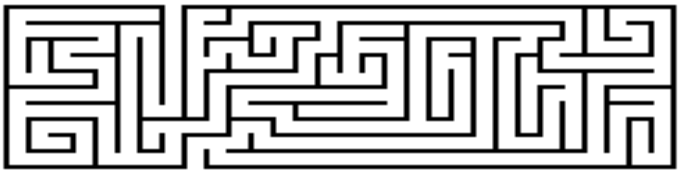
President's Soapbox — By Rick Mintz – W1TY

Have you visited the RDXA web page lately? Our Webmaster, Scott K2ZS has been tuning, tweaking and tailoring. With new features coming on board, and lots of activity photos, RDXA.com will be a great jump off point to your radio queries…and not just for local happenings.

With this newsletter issue we welcome back Mike Rundle, N1OKL as Editor. Having already announced this on the RDXA email list, just let me say that I am glad to have Mike back at the helm. Let's keep him busy.

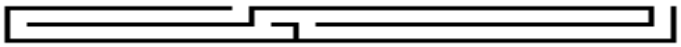
I was trying to maneuver the FCC license page last month. Here is my thought process while dealing with the Gettysburg babble.

I decided to email ARRL and was contacted by VEC Manager Bart Jahnke within an hour. He had me download two single page



forms and said, "Mail them to me, I'll take care of it." And he did! See the difference? Membership has its privileges.

I had to miss the February general meeting and my scheduled presentation, but W2TZ came through and entertained. I would



have enjoyed his program. Speaking of which, there are some great programs in the queue for the rest of the 2004-2005 season.

March 15	Contest Advisory Committee, K2UA
April 19	Logbook of the World, K2CS & NF2L
May 17	Field Day 2005, K1PY
June 21	Antique Wireless Museum tour, K2MP

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

White Elephants in the Shack

This month, our Topic of the Month column takes a look at radios and accessories that members have acquired over the years, which may have turned out to be less than useful, and which through neglect or despair, have wound up in the proverbial junk box.

Vic, K1PY – With hopes of doing some portable operation, like QC in SS, a smaller HF 12V rig seemed to be a basic requirement. I stumbled across a TS-450S (not SAT) at a 'fest and it seemed to fill the bill. Unfortunately, the portable operations never took place, and it more or less sat around for a while.

Later, when an urge to experiment with SO2R operation surfaced, there it was–a second radio right at hand! Got a 40-10 meter Patriot vertical and gave it a shot. Whoa! As many of you had deduced prior to getting this far in the text, this was not going to work out. This is a nice little radio when it's in the shack by itself, but it cannot stand any nearby RF. It proved essentially useless as a second radio. It had one redeeming quality however: it was sold at

the hamfest, along with several other not-used items, and the $$ went toward a rig that could handle the RF, an FT-1000MP.

Jeff, W2FU – Well, I thought I had a good "White Elephant" for you. A couple of years ago I had to have an ICOM handheld R10 receiver. Not sure I remember why, but it sat in the shack and around the shop for a couple of years collecting dust. Occasionally I would charge it and listen to 95.1 FM with it. Sounded like crap, real difficult to tune, but it would cover DC to 1300 MHz and surely it would be useful for something, but not for me!

During the recent ARRL DX CW I had to go find and make an emergency repair on the 80 meter 4 square. K2TER and I went out in the cold, snow and dark and I took along the R10. As it turned out, it was an invaluable tool for finding the arcing connection at the base of one of the verticals and effecting bypass and repair operations in between contacts and CQs as determined with the R10. The 80 meter operator never missed a beat as we bypassed the failing vertical with a dummy load, repaired the connection, and returned the vertical into the 4 square all without shutting down 80m.

The moral is…whatever it is, to someone, somewhere or at sometime, it will be useful.

Raj, N2RD – I have a whole herd of white elephants in my shack. The oldest one is a medical amp that I bought thinking I would some day reconfigure it for ham radio. It is still sitting on my shelf, not completely in one piece, but not usable either. Then I have a TI TMS320 DSP evaluation board and all the books that came with it. I thought that one day I would do some DSP programming. That day has not dawned yet. Sitting on another shelf is a good deal I got on a sweep oscillator and a 20" XY monitor. I thought that I would use it to tune any RF filters that I would design. Well, I have not designed any yet. But if I ever do, I already have the tool; had it now for 11 years. I may have to lug it all to the next hamfest.

Dave, N2CK – I guess the only item one could consider a white elephant I purchased at a Hamfest is a Radio Shack HTX-100 10 meter mobile radio. My thoughts at the time were that I still had a couple of 11m antennas in the garage (GASP – N2CK admits to having 11m equipment!), and that I could easily get a 10 meter rig working so that I could work some DX while mobile, or at work. This was a great idea, however just a couple of years too late. If I had this idea a couple of years earlier, I could have used it as we ramped up to the peak, then worked it on the way down. As it was, I purchased it on the down side of the sunspot peak, and it never made its way into the vehicle. Even worse is that I made the stupid mistake of paying top dollar for it…even though I knew we were starting on a sunspot decline. Anybody interested in an HTX-100 with a service manual?

Redd, WB2DVU – When I'd finally saved up enough money to get my 1000MP, I'd also saved enough to accessorize. Filters (great), SP-8 speaker (looks good, too big, not presently connected), DVS-2 (hardly ever used it, not presently connected) and, for some inexplicable reason, I picked up an LL-7 phone patch, the one that fits into the SP-8 speaker. It's still here in the box somewhere. **Why** did I buy that? I haven't heard a phone patch on the air in a decade, I've **never** had a need to do one and I hardly ever get on SSB anyway. I can run patches from my boatanchor stuff once I [finally] get time to fix it up. I must have been in crow mode, picking up all the shiny stuff.

Mike, N1OKL – When I got my FT-1000D in 1993, I too had the urge to accessorize. I bought the SP-5 speaker and after staring at the blank panel in the speaker cabinet just above the audio filter controls, I decided that I just **had** to have the LL-5 phone patch to fit in that empty space. So I bought it and installed it, but like Redd, I **never** used it. I kept thinking that someday I would come across an operator in some remote place, desperately seeking a phone patch with home…perhaps to render medical aid to some stricken person somewhere. It never happened.

By the mid 1990s, audio DSP filters were all the rage, and I gave serious consideration to removing the phone patch and adapting one of the QST DSP designs to fit the space in the speaker cabinet. Clearly others had the same idea. Around the time of the VKØIR DXpedition, Timewave introduced the 59Y DSP filter, designed *especially* to fit into the SP-5 speaker cabinet. With just wires and a GAP vertical for antennas, I was struggling to even *hear* the guys on Heard Island, much less *work them.* So I plunked down the cash and bought the 59Y. I removed the LL-5 and installed the DSP unit the day it arrived; tuned up on the bands that evening and punched in the DSP. It worked well, but it wasn't the silver bullet I had been hoping for to snag a QSO with the VKØ guys. I did finally log a contact with VKØIR, but not with the assistance of the 59Y. As for the LL-5, I sold it a few years later at the Rochester Hamfest, probably for 50¢ on the dollar. I still have the 59Y and use it's internal decoder when working RTTY. The DSP really helps pull out those weak RTTY signals.

Paul, K2DB – A keyboard that some thoughtful person brought to K2NNY for our club use. It was an RFI magnet, and caused us major grief. At KC2NUB, someone grabbed it, and guess what, we lost 2 hours wondering why RF was getting into the computer. I have this piece of junk, does anyone want it?

Editor's note: I confess, your Editor brought the "RFI magnet" keyboard to K2NNY a couple of years ago, for SS SSB. At the time, I remember N2OPW wrapping it with aluminum foil in a desperate attempt to shield it. Maybe it would make a good snow sled.

RDXA Welcomes a New Member!

Wayne Reinert, K3ZXY

Caledonia, NY

Contest Commentary

N2CK, ARRL DX CW – I played briefly in the ARRL DX CW contest this year. As usual I never get into a 48-hour contest on Friday night (sage advice that Fred, K2FR gave me…something about all the big guns working each other, and that little pistol stations like mine would be hard to pull out of the QRM). My Saturday was spent in a gymnasium in Webster watching and cheering for the Hilton varsity wrestling team. When we got home, I tried getting on; I found I couldn't concentrate on pulling out the calls…perhaps exposure to too much noise from a crowded gym. On Sunday I got on and ended up making 195 Qs. Because I missed Saturday night, I didn't have any Japan or Asia stations. I also ended up missing Hawaii. A couple of highlights I wanted to dwell on however. I ended up finding this station on 15m who was working *real* slow – like below 13 wpm. He was working stations fairly consistently. After I worked him, I brought up a telnet session, connected to the

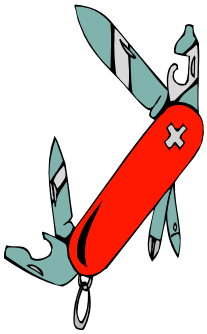
cluster and posted a spot for him, with the note that he was a slow op, and to give him a QSO. Hopefully some stations found him and added him to their logs. Also worked was Luis, XE2AC. Luis also had a nice little run going. After working Luis, I connected to the cluster again and spotted him. Luis, hopefully some of your club members saw my post and worked you. Now, a question of ethics; Vic and I have had this conversation about the "intent" of a rule. Technically, because I connected to the cluster, I should have entered as assisted. However, since I took *no* spots whatever from the cluster, I entered unassisted. One thing I did observe as I was scrambling to hit 200 Qs in the later stages of the contest: W2FU was stationed right at the bottom of a band. I heard them on 15m, 20m (and I believe 40m). Great strategy Jeff! I wanted to say high, but I didn't want to distract the operators. All-in-all a fun contest. I didn't work anything I haven't worked before, but it was fun. One plus side to a CW contest (RTTY as well) my family doesn't have to listen to me screaming in the back room.

N1OKL, NAQP RTTY – With the intention of giving the guys up at Hickory Lake and KC2NUB a few Qs, I jumped on the bands for a bit of contest surfing in NAQP RTTY. The event began at 13:00 local time on Saturday, and I started my search for KC2NUB on 20m. I fired up the telnet link to NG2P, and saw that KC2NUB was connected as well. That's good news, I thought. The guys actually made it into Paul's camp in the winter. Wonder how much snow was on the ground there? Anyway, I couldn't find them on 20m, but I did snag a couple of semi-rare entities. After a few hours, I gave up and went back to putting the finishing touches on a new cooktop installation for the XYL. As expected, 20m folded about sunset, so I shifted my search for KC2NUB to 40m. I made a couple of circuits up and down the RTTY sub-band, but no joy. This digital contesting is interesting, I thought; kind of relaxing actually. The computer does most of the work, and the real skill seems to be in tuning the RTTY sigs. After a bit, your ear gets really attuned to the warbling tones, and you don't really need to look at the tuning indicator on the TNC. Neat. After dinner and a DVD movie, the XYL turned in and I headed back down to the shack. 40m was still alive with RTTY sigs, and I started a new scan of the band. Much to my surprise, I found Joe, K8FC with a nice little run going. I threw out my call, and we exchanged contest info and had a short chat. Turns out that Joe worked KC2NUB on 20m during daylight. QSB finally killed our QSO, and I resumed my hunt for the guys. I ought to try 80m, I thought. My lazy-H isn't likely to work well on 80m for transmitting, but it'll hear OK. Sure enough, I found the guys on 80m with a nice run in progress. Hmmm…wonder if I can get this skywire to take any power on 80m? No problem. The Palstar AT1500BAL tuner matched things right up; no arcs, no fuss, no muss…even running 400W with the amp. Gotta make sure they *hear* me, you know. Of course, most of the RF was probably going straight up, but what the heck, Hickory Lake was close. I retuned to the KC2NUB 80m frequency and snagged them on the first try; said Hi, and they directed me to their 40m frequency for a second QSO. But I couldn't find them on 40m. Nada. Zip. Back to 80m, where they *assured* me that was the correct 40m frequency. Well, it turned out they were there all right…underneath a 10-over-9 signal 1kHz away. From what I could hear, they weren't working many East coast stations either. Gee, wonder why? Back to 80m where I told them they were getting clobbered by a big gun in the East…which they had just figured out on their own. They gave me a new 40m frequency and we connected right away once I QSYed back to 40m. OK, that's my two Qs for KC2NUB I thought. Nice to work K8FC as well…felt like old home week for RDXA. Time for bed. Wow! It's 01:30. Time flies when you're having fun.

Micro908: A Swiss Army Knife for HF Raj Dewan – N2RD

Imagine, if you will, a single handheld unit that can:

- Measure SWR and impedance of antennas and other devices over the HF bands,



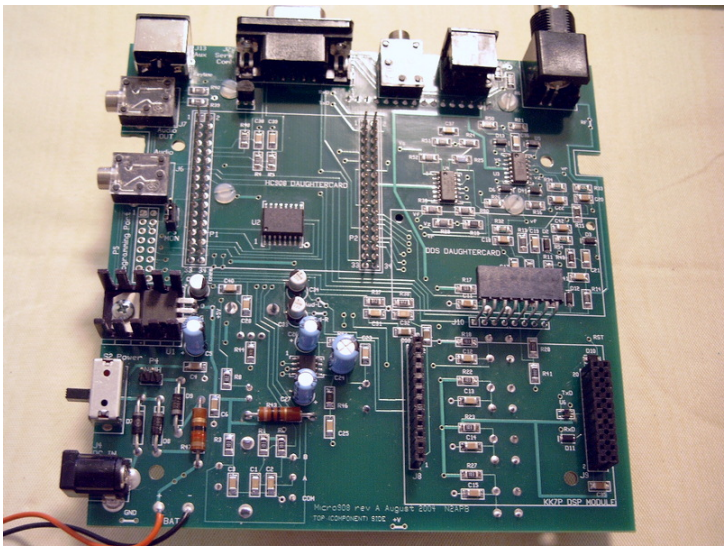
- Log the SWR to a PC as a graph of SWR vs. frequency,
- Have a DDS based VFO that can tune from 1 to 30 MHz with 1Hz resolution,
- Provide the same DSP based audio processing as K2DSP, the DSP in Elecraft's K2,
- Memory CW keyer,
- Function as a portable PSK31 digital mode controller,

Sounds like a dream? It is but you can have one. Actually, you would have to build one using a kit obtained from the American QRP Club. As an aside, the AmQRP Club was formed a couple of years ago with the merger of NJQRP and NorCal QRP clubs. I am sure many of you are familiar with the high quality QRP kits from NorCal. The same design quality is present in the AmQRP kits.

The Micro908, shown with Antenna Analyst software and panel overlay.

The kit in question is called the Micro908 because at heart of the unit is a Motorola HC908 processor that controls all the functions. The unit basically consists of a motherboard into which three daughter cards plug in: one with the HC908 processor, another with the KDSPx module, and another with a AD9850 DDS VFO.

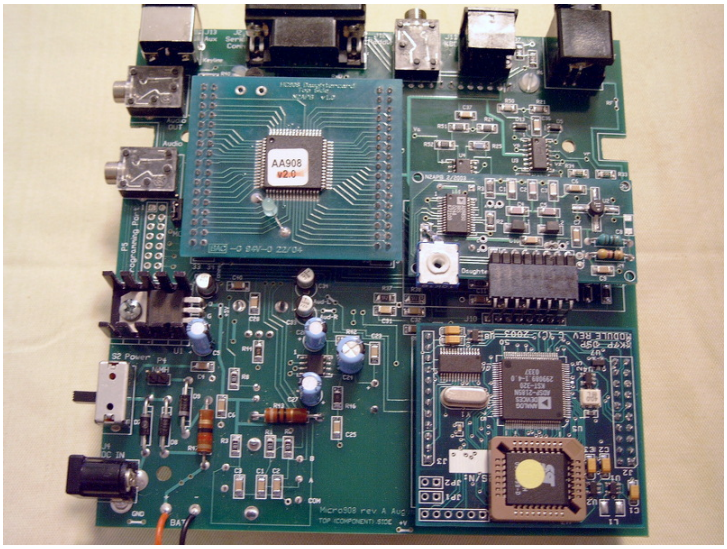
There is lots of memory built in so that the different programs for the different functions can be stored on board and selected using front panel buttons. Buttons? Here are picture of the assembled unit and the motherboard with the daughter cards:



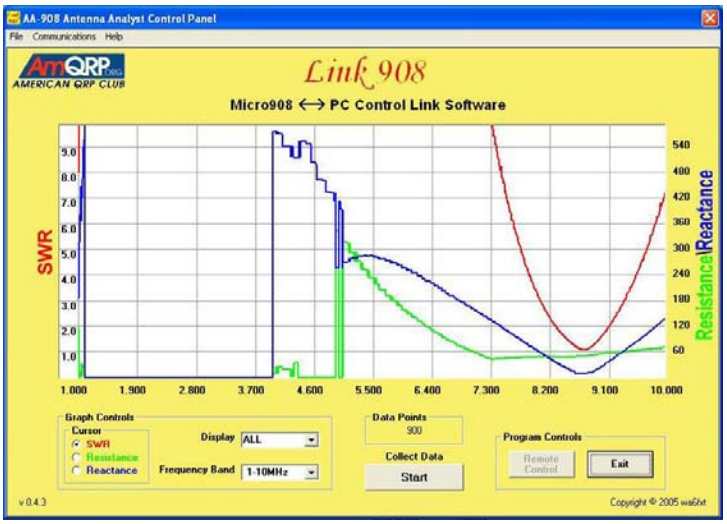
The Micro908, production PCB, without daughter cards installed.

I built the unit in just a few hours. There are few surface mount components and a handful of through-the-hole components. The club has identified someone who for a nominal fee will install the SMT components for you. I did it myself and it was not hard to do with a fluorescent lamp with a magnifier.

The cost of the kit depends on the options you get. A complete kit of all parts including the case and the KDSPx unit costs about $300. You can get more information at the AmQRP club website, URL at the end of this article. Although it is out of stock at the moment, they have gone through two kittings and may do more depending on the demand. Palstar sells a unit, called the ZM30, for about $300, that is designed by the same group, but this unit is just an antenna analyzer, not a multipurpose unit like the Micro908. You do get more value by building the kit. Plus, all the software is open source. Many hams are developing extensions and improvements. There have been three new pieces of software to enhance the unit's flexibility released in just the past week.



The Micro908, production PCB, with daughter cards installed.



Lin908 PC software screen (showing antenna scan results).

Interested? Check out the Micro908 for yourself on the American QRP Club website at: http://www.amqrp.org/kits/micro908/. Ed.

Working the Rare One

Bob Dunn - K5IQ

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http://www.qsl.net/k5iq/

Finally! You can't believe it, but there he is…and for once his signal's booming in! "Gotta turn on the juice," you think to yourself as you jab the power switch on the linear. "Y'know, this time I just might have a chance," you muse out loud.

The object of your intense attention: one of the rarest, most sought-after, stations in all of hamdom–even more exotic than Naucents Atoll–it's the weather station on the mysterious Isle of Sqwot, callsign 12AX7 and the operator, Mario, is in rare form:

"Lima Victor, what is your problem? I said the 'Zulu' station only! QRZed, 12 Alpha X-Ray 7?"

The ensuing pile-up sounds like about a hundred Indy racers warming up in a two-car garage…the roar is deafening. Mario picks 'em out deftly and responds in crisply accented English:

"Golf Alpha, 5 and 9, 73…"

As the tubes heat up in the amplifier, you quickly check the beam heading and tap the rotor controls to get that last possible extra degree you'll need to get the edge. Then you double check the heading once more, just in case.

"12 America X-Ray 7, QRZed stateside…"

Working 12AX7 is a particular challenge because Mario's job at the weather station leaves him little time for hamming, and when he does get on the air, there's almost never propagation from your QTH. Not this time, though. He's 20 over 9...*and* he's working by call districts! Two more, and he'll be on yours!

"Foxtrot Hotel, I did not call you! Please do not transmit! The Lima Whiskey station, go ahead."

You're hands tremble just a bit. You clear your throat and rehearse your phonetics. You've waited years for this. Suddenly, a bit of trouble--some goofball asks if the frequency is in use and 213 band

policeman simultaneously key up, generating enough RF energy to cook a meatloaf. Undeterred, Mario presses on:

"12-A-X-7 on the Isle of Sqwot, QSL via Callbook address, QRZed…"

Mario's signal has dropped a bit, but he's still blasting in. Your call district is next. Your palms are moist. Then...more trouble: an old timer, clueless to the hypoxic multitude waiting to work 12AX7, has snagged him: "Okay, mighty fine, there Martin. Name here is John, Jig-Oboe-Henry-Nan, and you're putting in a pretty darn good signal into the old Hallicrafters...pretty darn good, indeed! The weather here was mighty hot and we sure could use some rain" You want to scream at the old guy to shut up, but you know that you'll be rattling on about nothing in particular yourself in a couple of years. Instead you double check the beam heading one more time.

"73 John, best to you and your family…QRZed, this is 12-Alpha X-Ray 7…"

Oh, no! Mario's stopped going by call districts! You'll have to duke it out with the rest of the known world! To top it off, his signal's down to an S-7. No matter–the plate's fully dipped on the amplifier and the beam heading is…well, better check it again. Then it happens.

Murray comes up on frequency. You know Murray–after 40 years in the garment industry, he's retired…has one of everything in the AES catalog. Tonight he's using the FT-1000MP driving the Henry driving the Alpha. With Murray's 6-over-6-over-6-over-6-over-6-over-6-over-6 monoband array, he doesn't have to wait for band openings–he makes them! As Murray's nasal, New Yawk tinged voice comes through the speaker, you notice that *your* porch lights are flickering in time. Meanwhile, Mario's down to S-4.

"Nice to talk to you again, Marry-O. Your signal is very, very nice. It's quite strong tonight, but not as strong as it was last night, but much, much louder than the night before. Okay, Marry-O, it's always a pleasure to hear your voice. Won't hold it; many are calling you. All the best, Marry-O. Take care. 73, my friend. There are many people who would like the opportunity to exchange reports with you Marry-O, so I will sign. Oh, and just one more thing, Marry-O, did you get the key-lime pies I sent you?"

…and so on…and on…and on. Murray transmits for another ten minutes, all the while repeating, "won't hold it; many are calling you." When Murray finally lets up, 12AX7's signal is like a whisper about a memory about a wish. You stare at the rig in disbelief; your mouth tastes like copper.

Disgusted, you turn off the linear, then the transceiver. You go to bed and try to sleep, but a voice in your head keeps repeating, "…won't hold it; many are calling you…"

When all else fails… **Dave Wright - N2CK**

As I started getting the station and Writelog ready for the ARRL DX CW contest, I noticed that the computer would not key the rig through the interface I built. A little background here, the interface I built uses the parallel port. I added a ¼" female jack into the project box so that I can plug my straight key and key up the radio either via the straight key, or through the parallel port. The rig would transmit using the electronic key input, but not the straight key. In panic mode, I called Ed, K2MP to ask if there was something that could have changed in the radio to cause this. Ed, in his infinite wisdom, said "Did you plug the straight key *directly* in the back and key it that way?". I mentioned to him how my interface was built, that it *should* key the radio (the key word here is "should"). He advised me to bypass the interface altogether and try it again. So, feeling like a fool, I climbed up on the desk, unplugged the interface plug and ran the straight key directly to the. Imagine how surprised I was when it worked! Now my curiosity was really peaked. I took the output cable from my interface, and took a look at the wiring in the plug for the radio. Sure enough the wire to the tip of the plug had worked its way out from under the screw terminal! Once I connected it everything was working again. So, how can a plug, which has been plugged into the **back** of the radio, which has **not** been disturbed in almost a year, develop an open connection like this? Damned if I know, but I did learn to try the obvious solutions first. Thanks Ed, and boy did I feel like a fool.

N2OPW/rr **Rick Mintz - W1TY/rr**

Congratulations to Paul Meyers on becoming RTTY Ranger #15 during CQWW WPX RTTY. Paul had been working prior to this contest getting MMTTY cabled and adjusted for his effort. Dealing with the flu bug, I am sure my recovery was expedited by receiving W1TY 599 114 N2OPW.

March Contests

ARRL Int'l. DX SSB ---------- 5,6 March
BARTG HF RTTY ---------- 19-21 March
CQ WW WPX SSB ---------- 26, 27 March
QRP Homebrewer Sprint; CW, PSK31 ---------- 28 March

April Contests

EA RTTY ---------- 2, 3 April
QCWA QSO Party ---------- 2, 3 April
Japan Int'l DX; CW ---------- 9, 10 April

More Contest Info http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/index.htm

Propagation *AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, March 1994*

Solar Flux Range ---------- 85 – 101

The **lowband season** is nearing its end, and it has been a very good one. With higher bands closed for nightpath work, activity has moved to the lower frequencies and provided a rich variety of workable DX amidst the QRN.

Higher bands are starting to open up at night. 30m is opening nicely over polar paths in the evening, and 20m doesn't shut down completely until after midnight. Still, nighttime MUFs are not high enough to open the evening pipeline into Europe and Russia. This will come later in the spring.

In the morning, the best path into Europe is on 15m, making 20m a difficult band to play in contests. In the ARRL CW, we had several good openings limited to the northernmost parts of Europe and Russia. Openings to the remainder of the continent were marginal, so only the louder stations were workable. Japan was also marginal. Portions of the US closer to Europe had it better. For

several hours after 15m closed to Europe, persistent begging by East coast Big Guns paid off with a 20m contact for every 10 - 20 CQs. My own 20m single-band effort wasn't as successful. Those that had a choice filled their logs on 15m by day and 40m by night. Seasonally, all this will change in the coming months. Evening pipelines to Europe and Russia will return, so the WPX CW (late May) should be its usual rate-fest.

Good DX **propagation on 40m** will continue through the spring, with activity moving to 20m as nightpath conditions improve. The 80m season is on its way out, but spring brings better opportunities to work parts of the world where it is summer in January. The same can be said for 160, but I do not have sufficient station capability or experience to speak for Top Band operators.

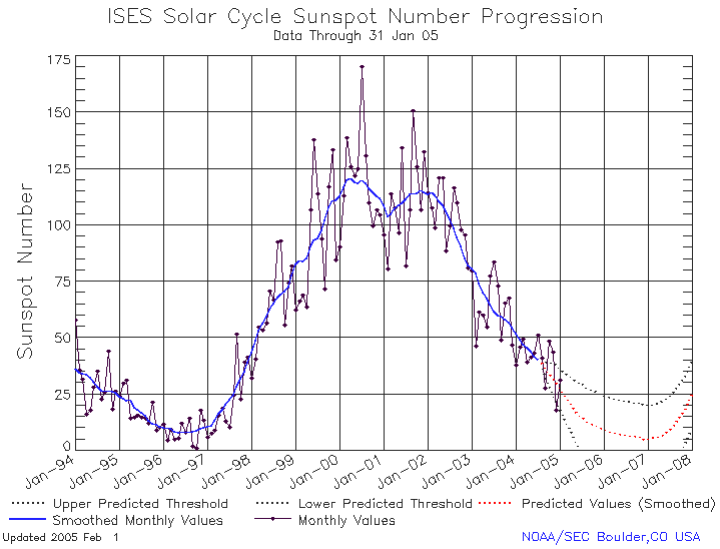
Springtime conditions should also improve **propagation on 17, 15 and 12 meters**. 15m remains mostly a daypath band, but the region of daylight in the northern hemisphere is expanding. This provides us with broader openings (longer openings and wider coverage) over all northerly paths. A few Europeans are still coming through on 10m, since solar fluxes above 100 are still fairly common. March is the final good month of the 10m season, even at the top of the cycle. Increased high latitude solar exposure is not good for the ionosphere, and the effects begin on 10 right after the equinox. They work their way down to 15m by July.

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

Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2005 Mar 1 *US Dept. of Commerce NOAA*

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2005 Mar 02	75	8	3
2005 Mar 03	80	8	3
2005 Mar 04	80	5	2
2005 Mar 05	85	5	2
2005 Mar 06	85	15	3
2005 Mar 07	90	20	4
2005 Mar 08	90	20	4
2005 Mar 09	95	15	3
2005 Mar 10	100	10	3
2005 Mar 11	100	10	3
2005 Mar 12	100	8	3
2005 Mar 13	100	10	3
2005 Mar 14	100	8	3
2005 Mar 15	100	8	3
2005 Mar 16	100	15	3
2005 Mar 17	100	25	5
2005 Mar 18	95	12	3
2005 Mar 19	90	10	3
2005 Mar 20	90	5	2
2005 Mar 21	90	5	2
2005 Mar 22	85	5	2
2005 Mar 23	80	5	2
2005 Mar 24	75	10	3
2005 Mar 25	75	10	3
2005 Mar 26	75	10	3
2005 Mar 27	75	10	3
2005 Mar 28	75	12	3



Cycle 23 Progression and Predictions NOAA/SEC

WNY Digital Contest Club — Rick Mintz - W1TY

Who is **KC2NUB**? Why it's the new callsign for the **WNY Digital Contest Club.** I applied for a club call for the through ARRL. It's free, by the way. Obviously I could only deal with just so many NUB references so the application then went off to the FCC for a Vanity Call. W2RTY was available and so now I wait. I am hoping for more multi-op digital contests to allow RDXA members put W2RTY on the air.

Latitude - Longitude Finder — Mike Rundle - N1OKL

Do you need to find the latitude and longitude of a particular location in the U. S., and don't have ready access to a GPS unit? No problem. If you have web access, point your browser to the Tele Atlas website at: http://www.geocode.com/index.php and click on the link that says "Test Drive Eagle." Eagle is Tele Atlas' geocoding software. Fill in the form that appears, click the "request" button, then click the "show results" button that appears on the next page. Viola! A page appears with all manner of geolocation information for the entered address…including latitude and longitude in both decimal degrees as well as degrees, minutes and seconds. Maps of the specified location are also provided.

March 2005 BOD Meeting — 8 March - 19:30 local time

The March 2005 RDXA Board of Directors meeting will be held at the QTH of Charlie Kuhfuss, WB2HJV on the evening of 8 March. The meeting starts at 19:30 local time and is **open to all RDXA members**. Contact WB2HJV for directions and other information.

WB2HJV 55 Stoney Path Lane
Rochester, NY 14626 (Greece)
H 225-4754
W 279-2175
C 975-9687

And remember: guided tours of the world famous WB2HJV beer museum, conveniently located on-site at the meeting venue, are free for all attendees.

KC2NUB Debut at K2NNY/HLCC **Rick Mintz - W1TY**

Photos by Paul Meyers – N2OPW

Braving potential snow, cold and poor propagation, the KC2NUB RTTY team headed north to the K2NNY Hickory Lake Contest Club site in St. Lawrence County for a multi-2 low power effort.

Paul Mackanos, K2DB Rick Mintz, W1TY
Paul Meyers, N2OPW Kevin Popplewell, N2VJB

NAQP is a relatively casual contest, because it is only 12 hours in length. Past years have had good activity though…about 800 Qs for a single op. This fit our plans perfectly. A change of winter scenery, a chance to play radio and the opportunity for hanging out with friends is just the thing this time of year. During the off time I hope to dust off the Weatherby .22 and plink some paper targets. Kevin also plans to arrive armed to punch paper. As I write this, I am wondering what culinary creations Kevin has in store for us?

How many hams does it take to install a connector? At least three judging by this photo. N2VJB, K2DB, and W1TY...connecting.

The K2NNY site was never designed for multiple transmitters so interference is possibility, but maybe we will get lucky at 100 watts. On the flip side the antennas, being primarily designed for Sweepstakes, are excellent for a North American contest. Hope the wires are still up, but you never know. The winter storms up in St. Lawrence Country can be brutal.

So many wires, so little time. Can you believe they call this wireless? N2VJB, K2DB, and W1TY...hooking up.

Just-in-time manufacturing: N2VJB and K2DB building a computer, minutes before the start of the contest.

K2DB takes a break from the action in the HLCC *Contest Stratolounger*.

We built up a permanent K2NNY, P-III-866, computer (also for future contests) and networked a laptop, both running MMTTY FSK with RITTY as a secondary decoder. Kevin's computers are popping up everywhere and getting a second chance at a useful life!

Since NAQP RTTY requires an exchange of a name (any name) we chose Homer. Hope you worked Homer, KC2NUB. DUH!

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

The following is a DXCA correspondence pertaining to a "Disapproved DXCC Operation" list. This response was sent to Jim O'Connel, W9WU (DXAC Chairman) from Bill Moore, NC1L and forwarded to me (from Jim). I hope this clears up some recent questions I've been receiving on operation approvals.

Hi Jim:

I get asked this question quite often.

There is no published list of these. As you may know information on the internet is not always the most current. If we posted a list and people download it and something changes they might never know and they may lose out on a possible credit. What we have

recommended for years is for people to just submit a card and let the computer decide at that moment. If I sent a list out that had, say P5/W9WU as not being good for DXCC and a week later it was approved, someone who does not always keep up-to-date with information on the internet could lose a good one. This is why we suggest cards be sent and let the computer reject them. When something is subsequently approved I make an announcement to the bulletin services world wide and all someone has to do is drop me a note and I can add this to their record without the need to see the card again.

Also…In the table where this list is kept there are thousands of other entries totally unrelated to actual rejected cards. When they designed the program they did not think to separate some things that may be of value at a future date. Sorting through and maintaining a list from this would be a nightmare at best.

So, this is why we recommend people submit cards and let the computer make the proper decision at the time of the submission so there is no question as to the it's validity. In addition, if it is rejected, I usually recommend that they include it in a subsequent submission. This way as a last resort if an operation had been accepted after a rejection they would eventually get credit for it. Often, if an operation is not resolved within a year it is slim that it will ever count. (Recently, though, I did resolve an operation that has been rejected since 1993, so you never know).

One thing I always do it when I learn of an operation that we do require documentation for, I make attempts to contact the operator(s) and/or manager to get this resolved.

73,
Bill Moore NC1L
DXCC Manager

From the DXAC:

These DX operations have been approved for credit.

R1MVI – Malyj Vysotskij Island, September 10-13, 2004

TX9 - Chesterfield Island, October, 2004

VU4RBI and **VU4NRO** – Andaman & Nicobar Islands, November 30, 2004 - December 31, 2004

Hope some of these made it to your log.

In the Log (non contest):

Station	Band
XF1K	10m, 17m CW
3G0YP	10m CW
KG4SB	80m CW
VP8KF	10m, 40m CW
CT3/VE3NZ	160m CW
YN4SU	80m CW
FG5FR	80m CW
3B8CF	80m CW
A22/JA4ATV	40m, 30m CW
T94YT	80m CW
CU2M	40m CW
5T0CW	12m, 15m, 40m, 20m CW
XT2JZ	40m CW

Station	Band
HB9ATA	160m CW
PZ5RS	80m CW
CT3/HA5JI	80m CW
V51AS	80m, 40m, 30m CW
Z24S	80m CW
5Z4DZ	80m CW
TO0O	80m CW
6O0CW	40m, 30m CW
T96Q	40m CW
FO/N6JA	20m CW
T99W	40m CW
C21DL	20m CW
KL7IYD	60m SSB

As you can see, the place to be has been the low bands and leave the mic unplugged (except for 60 meters…no choice there). These have been some of the best conditions I've personally seen in the last few winters. Guess we're truly on the way down.

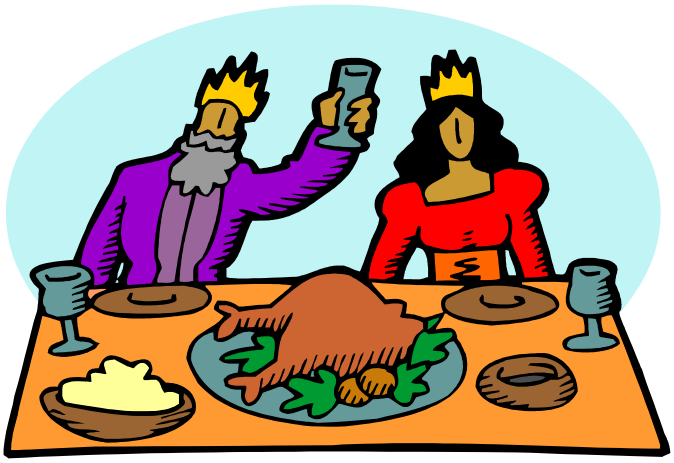
As we push onward to the Spring, I'd be thinking of something for 80 and 160m for next winter if you haven't already.

All the stuff worked here (40, 60, 80 & 160m) was on the G5RV, shorted for 160m operation (even got KH6 in the 160m contest a few weeks ago).

See you in the pileups.
Best DX es 73,
Chris

Rochester VHF Group
And
Rochester DX Association

Annual Awards Banquet



Saturday, 2 April 2005

Pineview Family Restaurant
2139 N. Union Street
Barefoot Landing Plaza
Spencerport, NY

1 ½ miles North of Rte. 259/531 interchange.
Union St. is Rte. 259

18:00 local – Cash Bar
19:00 local – Buffet Dinner

Tickets $20 per person
Available from AF2K and N2OPW

2003-04 Awards **Chris Shalvoy - K2CS**

First, I'd like to thank everybody for your score submissions and wish you all the best in next year's competition. If there are qualifying candidates, the following awards will be given out at the upcoming Awards Dinner. Remember two more contests to go for **this** year, CQWW WPX SSB & CW.

2003-04 Bare-foot Contester Award – 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 Best First Time CQWW SSB

2003 Best First Time CQWW CW

2003 Best First Time ARRL DX SSB

2003 Best First Time ARRL DX CW

2003-04 Top Combined SSB Score
Includes the CQWW SSB and the ARRL DX SSB

2003-04 Top Combined CW Score
Includes the CQWW CW and the ARRL DX CW

2003-04 Most Improved
Includes the CQ & ARRL SSB & CW Contests

2003-04 MEGA Point Award – Given to any RDXA member who submits contest scores which 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).

2003-04 Cumulative MEGA Point Award – 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 for the award. Endorsements to the original award will be given for higher milestones such as 5, 10 and 25 million points.

KE2WK Memorial Award – 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.

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

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