

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



Regular Meeting

September 20th 19:30 local

300 Jay Scutti Boulevard
Gander Mountain
Meeting Room

September Program

The first meeting of the RDXA year is traditionally devoted to planning the Club schedule for the year ahead. Join us and renew old friendships and get involved with Club activities for 2005-06.

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Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin
Winton Plaza

President's Soapbox

By Dave Wright - N2CK



Greetings all,

As I speak to you in my first official duty as incoming President of RDXA, I would like to thank the outgoing administration for their efforts. Rick and Paul were quite active behind the scenes, whether it be promoting a new era of open communication among the various Rochester Ham Clubs, or lining up an outstanding series of programs. Take the time to thank them for their hard work.

All your antenna projects wrapped up and ready for the upcoming contest season? I still, as of this writing, need to get going on mine. I mentioned in email about having to do a tear-off on the roof. For those of you who have never seen my roof, it's not for the faint of heart. It's an older village home with a full attic and 45 degree pitch to the roof. Compounding my anxiety is that the contractor has told me 6-9 weeks! That doesn't leave much time before snow starts to fall! I'm hoping for the 6-week estimate! Hopefully, it'll

be a non-issue and the tribander will be up in operation by the time that Kure is active. Certainly would like to work them on a bunch of bands. One thing I want to address is to get the beam to play better on the CW portion of 20m. Everywhere else it seems fine. Additionally, when I borrowed an antenna analyzer from Ed, K2MP I decided to take some readings on my Gap Titan. Imagine my surprise when I found out that it wasn't resonant anywhere in the 75/80 band! Now I know why it was so hard to work folks there. I guess when I have some "free" time; I better take a look at that as well. Actually, I had been planning on pulling it down as one of my guy lines snapped.

Do you ever receive letters from the ARRL requesting funds for spectrum defense? If you're like me, they get a momentary consideration, and then are directed towards the circular file. Well, it may be time to reconsider. It seems like amateurs aren't the only ones concerned with BPL. One magazine I love reading every month is Computer Link Magazine—a wealth of information in every issue. Imagine my surprise when I read Justin Ziemniak's editorial "Broadband over Power Lines" in the August 2005 issue. For those who don't know, Justin is the Publisher and Editor. The following is a direct quote from the first paragraph of his article (used with permission):

"As if Google wasn't expanding into enough other realms in addition to search, the web search leader has invested in a Germantown, Maryland Broadband over Power Line (BPL) company called Current Communication Group (www.currentgroup.com), investing around \$100 million, claims a Wall Street Journal report. Other investors included Goldman Sachs and Hearst Corp."

Wow, with that kind of financial backing, is there a chance for us lowly users of the HF spectrum to protect what we have? Obviously, for that kind of money, they'll be expecting some sort of return on their investment. I really like to consider myself an optimist, however where BPL is concerned, I'm definitely a pessimist. My gut feeling is that I don't think there is a solution, which will deliver the promised bandwidth to end-users without polluting some portion of the spectrum. As much as I've grown to be really annoyed at Time Warner and their pricing and policies, I do applaud the fact they do strive to maintain a sealed system. I'd much rather deal with a little bit of RF hash coming from a bad coax connection (heck, I've even got a couple sources in my house!), than deal with noise coming from the world's largest antenna arrays (power lines) right in front of my house. So, the next time you get one of those letters, consider dropping a few bucks back to them. Considering what you have invested in radios, antennas (and towers for some folks), and consider what

enjoyment you'll get from the hobby when BPL takes over. Hopefully, as Time Warner currently has most of the County wired with coaxial cable, maybe RG&E won't be considering it. I for one, after the blackout in August of 2003, would rather see power utilities investing in maintaining and upgrading their infrastructure. Even if you aren't an ARRL member, consider making a contribution for spectrum defense. By the way, there is a good article on BPL at <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/bpl.htm>.

I wanted to pass along a web site I heard about. It's purpose is to allow you to identify the source of RF noises you may hear on the bands, and what they could be coming from. It includes a brief description of how the noise was heard, what it was determined to be, and includes links to an mp3 file as well as a picture of the waveform. Yes, it does have some BPL samples as well. The url is: <http://VE3HLS.tripod.com/noise/rfhome.html>.

RDXA Officers and Directors for 2005-06

RDXA Officers and Directors for the 2005-06 Club year are as follows. A hearty welcome to this year's RDXA leadership team!

President - Dave Wright - N2CK

Vice President - Kevin Poppelwell - N2VJB

Sec/ Treas - Charlie Kuhfuss - WB2HJV

Board of Directors: Paul Mackanos - K2DB
Paul Meyers - N2OPW
Gene Fuller - W2LU
Rick Mintz - W1TY

2005-06 BOD Meetings

RDXA Board of Directors meetings for 2005-06 will be held at the the home QTH of Club officers and BOD members on a rotating basis. The meeting schedule will be determined at the first BOD meeting of the year, to be held at the QTH of N2CK. 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.

Sept 2005 N2CK

September Contests

All Asian DX Contest, SSB----- 3, 4 Sept
Worked All Europe DX, SSB----- 10, 11 Sept
CIS DX RTTY----- 10, 11 Sept
QCWA QSO Party, all modes----- 17, 18 Sept
CQ WW RTTY DX----- 24, 25 Sept

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

October Contests

Oceania DX, SSB----- 1, 2 Oct
Oceania DX, CW----- 8, 9 Oct
JARTS WW RTTY----- 15, 16 Oct
QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party, CW----- 22, 23 Oct
CQ WW DX, SSB----- 29, 30 Oct

Propagation

AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, Sept 1994

Solar Flux Range----- 70 - 97

General - September is a month of dramatic change. High latitude MUFs rise dramatically, bringing the high bands back to life. Nighttime MUFs start to trend lower, bringing improving conditions to the low bands as well. In summer, most of the action is on 20 Meters. Now we will have more options.

High Bands - Flux levels are too low to expect anything out of 10 meters this year, but openings on 15m will be common. With solar numbers ranging from the low 70s to around 90, the quality of 15 meter openings will not be consistent. On some days we may find paths over the pole and to all of Europe. On others, only western Europe (and the QRO guys in East Europe) will be coming thru. The East Coast will have better penetration into Russia, and everyone will have limited opportunities over the pole. Seasonally, the polar opportunities will be most common in the early part of the fall DX season. Later this month, the sun will set on the North Pole and high latitude paths will become increasingly difficult as the polar night expands.

DX openings should be more consistent on 17 meters, since this is a lower frequency. This band will likely serve up the best DX propagation this fall season for day path work. It is a small band, and will easily get crowded when 15m fails to open the European windows. Openings to remote parts of the world (e.g. southern Asia) will be more common on 17m than on 15m. A beam on this band would be a real asset over the coming years.

The fall prognosis for 20 meters is not promising. Nighttime MUFs are falling, and this will close the band in the evening. Night path DX activity will soon shift to the low bands. We may expect deterioration of DX conditions and declining activity through the fall, beginning this month. Watch for the nightly band closing to gradually move to earlier into the evening, shutting down many DX paths we have enjoyed all summer. One opening that should remain reliable is the morning grey line opening to Russia and Europe, with a similar opening to Asia at the end of the day. Paths to the southern hemisphere will also be good, because night paths to the south will be opening up.

Low Bands - The low band season will get off to an early start once evening activity on 20m dries up. 30 meters will eventually close up at night like 20m, but not until later in the season. 40m will become the primary band for night path work, but SSB ops will look for options on 75m because of the special problems of operating 40m.

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

Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2005 Aug 30

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2005 Aug 31	90	10	3
2005 Sep 01	85	15	3
2005 Sep 02	85	20	4
2005 Sep 03	85	15	3
2005 Sep 04	90	10	3
2005 Sep 05	90	10	3
2005 Sep 06	85	10	3
2005 Sep 07	90	8	3
2005 Sep 08	95	8	3
2005 Sep 09	100	15	3
2005 Sep 10	100	12	3
2005 Sep 11	100	10	3
2005 Sep 12	100	20	4
2005 Sep 13	100	20	4
2005 Sep 14	100	15	3
2005 Sep 15	100	5	2
2005 Sep 16	100	5	2
2005 Sep 17	100	8	3
2005 Sep 18	100	10	3
2005 Sep 19	100	10	3
2005 Sep 20	95	20	4
2005 Sep 21	90	20	4
2005 Sep 22	85	15	3
2005 Sep 23	85	10	3
2005 Sep 24	85	8	3
2005 Sep 25	85	8	3
2005 Sep 26	85	10	3

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION

W2RDX

rdxa.com

This Bulletin is 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----- Dave Wright – N2CK
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Vice President----- Kevin Poppelwell. – N2VJB
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Sec/Treasurer----- Charles Kuhfuss – WB2HJV
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Board Of Directors

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Gene Fuller – W2LU----- w2lu@worldnet.att.net

Paul Mackanos – K2DB----- paul@prohomeinspector.net

Rick Mintz – W1TY ----- w1ty@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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