ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION
rdxa.com

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2006

# Regular Meeting

**February 21st 19:30 local**

300 Jay Scutti Boulevard
Gander Mountain
Meeting Room

**G-Land & Rhombics**

**Alan Masson, K6PSP**, formerly GM3PSP, G3PSP, will share tales of his operating experiences on the "other side of the pond" and on using his local 20m Rhombic!

If you've ever wondered what it's like to be an operator in another country, or to use the fabled Rhombic antenna, join us for this interesting and informative program.

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## Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin
Winton Plaza

**President's Soapbox** **By Dave Wright – N2CK**

Currently, the long-awaited 3YØX operation is underway. I currently have worked them on 15m and 20m phone, and I'm pretty sure I got them last night on 20m CW. I've been a frequent visitor to their website http://www.peterone.com, as I check for recent log updates. I see that Ed, Chris and Charlie are also actively chasing them. I'm sure others are, but I didn't really want to waste bandwidth on the site, searching the log for all RDXA members. Hopefully, you'll get the chance to work them. I'm hoping to get them on a couple more bands/modes before they pack up. I was pleasantly surprised as I looked at their pre-trip pictures, and saw that they selected the exact manufacturer and model generator(s) that I did. However, if you watch the latest video clip (from the 14th of Feb), it shows them wheeling one around. Apparently the plastic large rimmed wheels aren't suited to the cold temperatures as one of the wheel rims broke! I wonder if that would be covered under warranty? While waiting to work them on SSB one evening, there were the usual folks who don't understand split—even though the op mentioned "listening 200-210". This one guy just kept calling 3Y0X on their transmit frequency. Finally, I heard someone else pop in and give the guy a 59 report. This fellow—satisfied that he had finally worked 'em—went on his way, and we had a relatively clear listening frequency for a while. Was it a dirty trick? Possibly, but it worked to move the clueless operator off their transmit frequency.

I have been chasing a very annoying noise problem lately. It's most apparent on 40m. I have been talking with someone from RG&E about getting it resolved. I have some things to try this weekend to eliminate some possibilities or determine possible directions of sources. If I am successful at finding the source of this noise, I'll provide a write-up in a future column. What I'm hearing lasts for 25 seconds or so, and then goes away for 15 seconds. When I hear it, it's usually an S9+ noise level. This has really been hampering my efforts to work the 3YØX DXpedition.

I'll close for now, as the clock on the PC tells me that lunch is over. Just a reminder, if you haven't renewed your membership, we'll be removing you from the RDXA@yahoogroups mailing list this month. If you're planning on re-upping at the regular meeting, see Charlie before the meeting.

Good luck working 3Y0X!

**Topic of the Month** **Station Wish List**

*In this month's Topic of the Month column, RDXA members share their thoughts about equipment, accessories, antennas and more that they would like to have at their station.*

**Gene, W2LU** – In spite of what we often hear going on in the pileups it has always been a basic truism that you can't work 'em if you can't hear 'em. This becomes more and more of a challenge as we move to lower and lower frequency bands. The past few year I have been working a fair amount of 80 and 160 meter SSB and am running into the problem of trying to keep up with the guys down along the east coast. Many view New York State as being on the East coast but if you look at a globe you'll see that taking the relatively short hops that come on 80 and 160, we in this area get

our first reflection off the relatively poor conducting Canadian Maritime rocks, whereas the guys only a few hundred miles east along the coast, get their first hop off salt water—a difference of probably 10-20 dB. On these bands where path losses are already considerably more than on the higher bands this extra 10-20 dB of signal loss is enough to put many of the low power European stations down in the mud. The best (only) answer, since we can't convert the European 100-watters to kilowatts, is better receiving antennas. Sloping dipoles and bent vertical dipoles make good transmitting antennas and not too bad receiving antennas and pennants are good and very cost effective receive antennas, but I still often get reports of European stations calling me that I cannot hear. Jack, N2RK, down near Ithaca, and about the same path as we have, has beverages and hears much better than I, as does Jeff, W2FU with his beverages. Sooo, my wish is for a nice set of six, 900-foot beverages for listening on 80 and 160 meters. (I would even settle for something as simple as 3 bidirectionals ! Hi!)

**Dave, N2CK** – Mike's question for this month was what kind of gear would you really like to add to your station. Upon thinking about it, my first thought would be some really serious antennas. Perhaps something rotatable for 40m (hmmm, stacked 40m mono-banders would be really nice!) would be a nice addition to the station. However, I think what I would appreciate most would be to have the shack somewhat removed from it's current central location. For those who haven't seen my shack, I share the back room with the family computer desk. There is just enough room for one person to fit between the radio desk or computer desk. So, when someone in the household needs to use the computer, we either get real cozy, or I take a break from operating.

## Contest Commentary

**N1OKL, BARTG RTTY Sprint** – I managed to get the new Palstar tuner—the one with the 45-amp relay contacts—installed in time for the BARTG RTTY Sprint, so I was looking forward to giving it a good workout. I started out on 20m and it was immediately obvious that band conditions were nowhere near as good as in RTTY Roundup a few weeks previous. European signals were generally quite weak on my extended Lazy-H, if they could be heard at all. I toggled the PC over to IonoProbe—a little system tray application that monitors space weather conditions via NOAA internet posts—for a quick look at propagation conditions. Ah Ha! So that's the problem. The A-index was at 8. Well, that explains it. I slogged along on 20m off and on throughout the day, and I did manage to work a reasonable collection of EU DXCC countries…including the elusive ZC4, a new one for me. After dinner I dropped down to 40m where, with the A-index still solidly pegged at 8, the activity was mostly stateside and East of the Rockies. After several S&P passes up and down the RTTY subband on 40m, and finding no new ones to work, I shifted my attention to 80m. I kept at it until midnight, all the while slowly creeping up to the 200 QSO mark. I came across N2OPW calling CQ, but even with a full gallon to the aerials here, he never heard me. Propagation can be so weird sometimes. At about 00:30 local Sunday, I called it a night. I had 175 QSOs in the log, 14 or so W/VE areas, and surprisingly, 29 DXCC countries. And, the new tuner seemed to be holding up just fine. Final score was 8095.

If you're interested in keeping tabs on solar conditions, and have an always-on internet connection, you might want to check out the IonoProbe application at: http://www.dxatlas.com/IonoProbe/. It's a $20 shareware program. You can try a fully-functional version free for 30 days. I find it very useful.

**W2RTY, CQWW WPX RTTY** (SOLP/40) op: W1TY – After last years' 5k points due to a case of the flu, I was determined to make a real effort this year. Gone was the single 40 meter HF-2V vertical that had served so well for years. In its place is my new homebrew three element 40m parasitic array. It was designed with EU contacts in mind and WPX is a great place to exercise it. With a calculated gain of 5.33dbi and 24dbi F/B it should be the perfect antenna for grabbing those EU prefixes along with the continent multiplier for 40 meter entries.

Can't have too many of these. W1TY's 40m vertical array.

My array planning was to design a system that would eliminate US QRM. With my multiple decoders I do not worry about very weak signals, only QRM which will affect the sync of the decoders. Actually this year there did not seem to be that many stations from the west. Maybe it was competition from the Olympic Games or just propagation. In any event, when in the omni pattern and looking to print a weak one, I just flipped the switch and engaged the northeast pattern and voila. I have learned that the potential elevated noise level of a vertical is not an issue, but S/N ratio is. That being said, the array is only little more noisy that my 40m dipole. A mile of radials will do that! I only use the dipole for W1, 2, 3, 8, 9, VE2, 3 as it is purposely installed low for a high angle signal.

The secret to a quiet vertical. Can't have too many of these either.

In WPX a single op is allowed 30 of the contest's 48 hours and so my slightly late start was not a problem. Actually this is a small advantage in a single band effort, as it gives the stations some time to populate. Since 40m is a gray line sensitive band, care must also be given to "being there" when twilight hours intersect a populated region. A real time gray line map is a constant companion on my screen. During these times I can expect S9+ signals from VK and ZL, well above my S4-5 noise floor. This is often the case prior to local sunrise.

Having done many all band contest entries I always wanted to be on an open band, not wanting to miss additional QSOs. Forty meters gives me a great DX band with the advantage of slow

daytime periods during which I can rest. This year WPX did not have a major CQ run but instead many mini-runs. The rate meter would briefly exceed 100 but overall I can expect a continued supply of contacts. Unanswered CQ periods are usually brief in WPX. Eventually I will work the band out and then take a break; not possible in other entry classes. Also, those in 40m single band tend to have very optimized systems for 7 MHz. I like to compete against stations that are at their best.

Stations that might be considered difficult on 40 were in abundance: TA, VK, ZL, 7X, 4X, 6W, HZ, VK6. I expected higher than normal static this year due to the warm temperatures, but this did not appear. I soon changed my exchange from W2RTY 599 123 123 to W2RTY 599 123-123. The addition of a hyphen saves a USOS character and speeds the QSO. However, I would not recommend this approach during poor band conditions. I kept a buffer without the hyphen available for difficult contacts. Sending 5NN is similarly inefficient as it requires that additional shift characters be sent.

Final tally: 522 Qs and 636,286 points! (So far it's looking like 1st place, NA; my third 1st since the new antler was installed last summer.)

I was happy to see W2RLK, N2OPW, K2KX, NG2P,W2LB, N1OKL – RTTY Rangers all, participating in WPX. That is almost 1/3 of all Rangers…well done guys!

Next up? NAQP RTTY (and CQWW 160m) from Hickory Lake in NNY on Feb. 25-26 with K2DB, N2OPW and N1OKL. Look for W2RTY on RTTY and W2RDX on 160.

**N1OKL, CQWW WPX RTTY** – Now here's a serious RTTY contest I thought; 48 hours of radio teletype madness. I jumped into the fray about an hour after the kickoff Friday night. The clusters were showing only a few spots on 20m, so I decided to fire up on 40m. The RTTY subband was nearly wall-to-wall with deedling chirps. WOW!. As I recall, RTTY signals started at about 7030 kHz, and extended waaay up the band. I began working my way up the band in S&P mode just to get a feel for what was happening. Most contacts were stateside, but the DX was there also. I checked the propagation conditions, and saw that the A-index was 1; much better than during the BARTG Sprint a few weeks back. I kept an eye out for a clear (or semi-clear) spot to call CQ, but never found a thing. I called it a night at about 02:00 local Saturday morning.

Returning to the shack at about 08:00 local Saturday morning, I switched to 20m; more room to operate here. With the A-index still at 1, EU signals were pouring in. I quickly found a clear spot for CQing, and settled into a nice steady pace running stations. Ah, this is how it was meant to be!

I knocked off for lunch and a few chores around the house, including a run to the grocery store with the XYL, in advance of an approaching Nor'easter *monster* snow storm. Settled back into the operating chair in late afternoon, still on 20m and worked the band till the propagation to EU gave out. Though the propagation remained good to the west, with my wire antennas beaming NE-SW, I am at a bit of a disadvantage once propagation moves west of my QTH. I can hear signals to my west under quiet band conditions, but in a big contest like this one, with the band jammed with stations and a low solar flux, there's not much hope.

After some dinner, I returned to the shack and dropped down to 40m for a few S&P runs up the band…on the lookout for a spot to call CQ. I worked plenty of stations, but a clear spot was nowhere to be found. I tried elbowing my way in a few times, and the kW sure helped with this, but interfering signals from nearby stations made the print erratic. After asking for repeats from one too many callers, I gave up on 40m and made the move to 80m.

There was plenty of elbow room on 80m, and I finished up the night here, hitting the sack shortly after midnight. I did see print from fellow RTTY Ranger N2OPW once, but at the time, he and I were both in S&P mode, and we never hooked up. It was just beginning to snow lightly when I headed to bed.

Teletype Corporation Model 15 KSR, a favorite of early amateur RTTY ops.

Sunday came to find Danbury in the midst of the biggest snowstorm in years. At 07:00 local we already had 2 feet of snow on the ground, and it was still snowing hard. A good day to hunker down in the shack and work the contest. I made some coffee and headed down to the basement to check out the action. I was a little concerned that the VSWR on my ladder line feeds would be unmanageable, because of snow build up on the lines. Also, since the lines enter the shack through a ground-level basement window, they were by now completely buried in several feet of white stuff. I didn't relish the prospect of heading outside to sweep the snow away from the window.

Happily, this was a very dry snow, and the VSWR on the lines, though changed a bit from normal "dry" conditions, was still manageable. And 20m was wide open to central and eastern Europe. I quickly found a spot to call CQ and spent the next several hours racking up Qs. While the Nor'easter blew, I spent the day alternating between S&P and running on 20m. Though the A-index rose to 7 on Sunday, the path to Europe remained good.

The Nor'easter blew itself out by mid-afternoon, leaving us with just under 3 feet of snow at the OTH. I had 300 Qs in the log when the propagation began to swing west on 20m, and signal strength on the band fell below the reliable print level. Nap time.

I finished up the last 1 ½ hours on 40m, working mostly S&P, which yielded a better rate at this point than running. Final QSO count was 362 with a claimed score of 192,978. A great contest, and best of all, there was so much snow that I could sleep in on Monday and work from home with my laptop!

### Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

*Issued 2006 Feb 14* *US Dept. of Commerce NOAA*

| UT Date | 10.7cm Radio Flux | Planetary A Index | Largest Kp Index |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 Feb 15 | 75 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Feb 16 | 85 | 8 | 3 |
| 2006 Feb 17 | 80 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Feb 18 | 80 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Feb 19 | 80 | 8 | 3 |
| 2006 Feb 20 | 80 | 8 | 3 |
| 2006 Feb 21 | 80 | 10 | 3 |
| 2006 Feb 22 | 80 | 20 | 4 |
| 2006 Feb 23 | 80 | 12 | 3 |
| 2006 Feb 24 | 80 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Feb 25 | 80 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Feb 26 | 80 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Feb 27 | 80 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Feb 28 | 80 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Mar 1 | 75 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Mar 2 | 75 | 8 | 3 |
| 2006 Mar 3 | 75 | 8 | 3 |
| 2006 Mar 4 | 75 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Mar 5 | 75 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Mar 6 | 75 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Mar 7 | 75 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Mar 8 | 75 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Mar 9 | 75 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Mar 10 | 75 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Mar 11 | 75 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Mar 12 | 75 | 5 | 2 |
| 2006 Mar 13 | 75 | 8 | 3 |

### Propagation

*AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, Feb 1995*

Solar Flux Range ---------- 81 – 95

**General** – In early February we pass mid-winter, and MUFs start back up again. At the peak of the cycle, all night openings returned to 20 meters in time for the ARRL CW contest. This year, we are in for an extended low band season. 30 meters may start to open in the evenings beginning in March. 20m will remain a daypath band until later in the spring. We will continue to enjoy the extra challenge of DXing on lower frequencies.

**Low Bands** –European contacts are easy this year on both 80m and 160m. Weekend nights are the best on 160m - after midnight from Texas. There will be more DX on this band during the ARRL test, but the pileups will be much bigger. The 160 meter contest was not a good time to chase EU contacts, because the band is so crowded with stateside signals. Still, stations equipped with large arrays for transmit and receive on 160m were able to work EU during their stateside runs.

This month's QST brought us a major innovation in receiving antennas: the EWE. A lot of DXers are building these already, and reporting surprising results. This antenna will broaden the horizons of many who lack the real estate needed for full sized beverages, but who already have loud signals on 80 and 160.

**DXpeditions** – The recent Japanese operation from Bhutan illustrates that all is not well. We currently have no DX bands with reliable paths to this part of the world. At the low end of the cycle, the best polar openings into deep Asia occur during late spring and summer. We should hope that rare DX operations that involve longhaul polar openings occur during this seasonal window. Europeans seeking to work certain Pacific expeditions at this time of year would also have difficulty finding an open band. In the case of A51, any operation is welcome. It is an indication that the country is opening to the idea of amateur radio operation by experienced foreigners. The major Bhutan operation many await seems more of a possibility now, with a little more patience.

This month, there is serious operation from the Congo Republic (good ops). This east/west path is no problem from the US. 20m stays open in the evening on the African side of the path, so the window is open all afternoon for us. 20m is also open at night in the southern hemisphere. It is only in our northern latitudes where the band dies in the early evening. We can look forward to better nightpath propagation starting in the spring.

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

### January Roundtable Redux — By Vic Gauvin – K1PY

*As a subtle reminder of what you miss when you're not at a meeting, here's another in the "What did you miss?" series.*

January's meeting was a replay of the pleasantly popular experts' roundtable format, but with a focus on maximizing your 100W radio. Being that that's what many of us actually run—dreams of 100-foot+ towers, stacks, and Alphas aside—it seemed appropriate to check the accumulated knowledge of the attendees, hopefully to pass on a new trick or two to even the most accomplished ops.

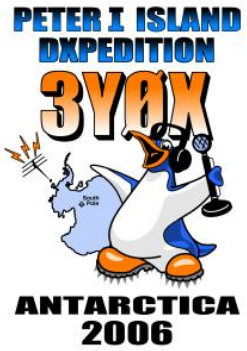
Arranging the chairs in a rough circle, once the thoughts and ideas starting coming, there was no stopping them! Here's just the high points. (To get the really good stuff, you have to be there.) The topic again is: "Maximizing your 100W Radio":

- Use the narrow modes, such as PSK31. One op's single CQ led to 3 hours of enjoyable contacts.
- Capitalize on your filters.
- Utilize DX nets; drop the attitude; nets can be very effective for a low power station; if one you need is there, then that's where you work 'em!
- Resonant antennas.
- Use antennas to concentrate your RF where it's most effective; directional, low angle; bigger is often better, but capitalize on what you can actually do
- Optimize your feedline; high quality, minimum splices, adapters; minimize insertion loss.
- Take advantage of antenna modeling; it takes some time and learning, but can show you exactly what's happening with your station and how to optimize.
- Understand antenna heights and the effects on pattern; low is not bad, it's very effective, but you need to know what happens. ARRL Antenna Handbook heartily recommended.
- Review and optimize each part of your overall system, from antennas to feedlines ,to station layout and ergonomics, to grounding.
- Know propagation and where to be when; all the other things become moot if you're losing out to propagation because you haven't learned how to capitalize on it. Even in solar minima, there are great things happening (but mostly on the lower bands).

- The most important thing to optimize: you the operator; know what you're doing.
- Know what your antennas actually do, where they're strong, weak; take-off angles, directions, etc.
- Grayline map; use as tool whenever you're on, especially in conjunction with the Cluster
- Know your rig and its features. Many don't know or practice using what they've got, and even misuse to their detriment; keep the manual around; study it and play with the rig's features.
- Train your ear; work at getting on the air, digging out the hard ones. Do some serious listening and hear what's going on. Experience is the best teacher and enabler for pulling info out of the garbage. Utilize software such as RUFZ and pileup programs for training.
- Develop and practice timing skills, i.e., when to jump in during a pileup.
- Know how to work split. Some ops work every contact in split mode, not just DX stations running split; allows calling them where they're listening…which isn't always their transmit frequency.
- Learn which rigs have the best receiver; as they say, you can't work 'em…
- Know how to use your attenuator, RF gain control when things get hard to copy; counter-intuitive, but it really helps.
- Listen for the smaller signals, not just the easy ones on top of everybody else – these little guys (like you) are all freebees and appreciate you working them.
- Grounding – learn, experiment with how and where it may help your station.

And then there was no more time. A great session, very dynamic, everybody participating. You lost out if you missed it. Don't let it happen again!

## Working 3YØX




**Gene, W2LU** – I worked 3YØX last night on 20m SSB, split - 14.195/14.205. The big difference was antenna height. I often don't notice much difference between my LP [*log periodic, Ed.*] at 100 feet and my really old TH-6 at 45 feet and I'm sure there isn't much difference in gain between the two. The difference is the low radiation angle of any reasonable antenna at 100 feet vs. same antenna at 45 feet. If you're working Europe when the band is wide open, 45 feet is fine. But in this case the band was virtually dead/closed and it's a fairly long path. I really could not copy them on the TH-6 and he was good copy, about 55/7 on the LP. Moral of the story: If I needed to make the choice I would spend my time and money on height (up to 1-2 wavelengths on 20m) before bigger antennas. Conversely, on 10m when the band was wide open to Europe I've seen the TH-6 do better. My conclusion is that if I wanted to simplify things it would be one tower, about 70 feet with a Hy Gain TH-11, or an LP, for 10-20m (including WARC bands) and a shortened 40 meter 2 element at least ten feet above it, but my guess is that even good dipoles at 70-80 feet would work very (within 4-6 db) well. So, up to a point, on the high bands, it's easier to get db's with height than with bigger antennas (give or take building codes!). (The advantages of f/b ratio of course adds a whole 'nuther consideration.)

**Charlie, WB2HJV** –I've invested about six hours so far for my four Qs. Also, I'm hoping for excellent conditions on 160m this weekend with the ARRL CW DX contest and forecasted bitter cold weather. I'll be in there both nights 0500z to 0700z praying for EU.

Peter 1 (3YØX) in the log at WB2HJV!

At times they were easy…at other times it was a struggle. On several occasions I had no luck at all. These are maybe not the best techniques but they worked for me.

*Feb 9th, 0200z to 0400z, 30 meter CW (10103)* - Day 1, two hours of calling in the 21khz wide pileup; no luck. I must have sent my call at least 300 times! The pile-up was just too big and QSOs too short to find the last station worked. 3YØX was an S9.

*Feb 10th, 0343z, 20 meter SSB (14195)* - The pile was 15khz wide 14200 to 14215. I tried chasing the last station worked with no luck for about 45 minutes then finally just sat calling on 14.200 for 10 minutes. Bingo in the log!

*Feb 11th, 0300z to 0500z, 30 meter CW (10103) again* - Two hours trying every technique I could think of; came up empty.

*Feb 11th, 1320z, 17 meter CW (18073)* - The pile was *only* 5khz wide. I did the piggyback thing after a K4 worked him. Ten minutes of total playing time with the B VFO and he's in the log.

*Feb 14th, 0120z, 30 meter CW (10105)* - Again for yet another try, the pile was 7khz wide 10106 to 10113. 3Y0X was the strongest signal on the band. No chance to get a good feel for the pile-up as it was so weak. So I just sat calling on 10106 and after 15 minutes I hear my call sign.

*Feb 14th, 2313z, 15 meter CW (21023)* - Band appeared dead for an hour…checked it at 2215z then left the shack with the rig on 21023. I walked downstairs to get a brew from the fridge at 2313z and heard a CQ coming from the shack. It was 3Y0X all alone! They were not spotted. Worked them up 1 with one call and 100 watts.

*Feb 15th, 1045z, 40 meter CW (7023)* - Good signal but after 45 minutes in the pile jumping ahead of the last station he worked I came up empty. Maybe tonight or tomorrow morning…maybe.

About six hours in the shack have yielded four Qs on 15, 17, 20, and 30 meters.

Today is Feb 15th and hopefully there are ten more days before they go QRT to work them on the other bands.

**Doug, N2BEG** – Peter 1 and more; what's up at N2BEG…

First, a couple pics from Vic's tower in December while taking down an antenna for Dave, N2CK, which he mentioned in the last newsletter. He got it up on the air at his QTH with his son and is no doubt burning up 40, 80 and 160 by now.

Bird's eye view of N2CK from K1PY tower.

Been keeping an ear out for Peter 1, and finally got them in the log on 15 SSB. (my old mic still works Irv). I had to wait for the big guns to get them first. I saw a spot on Friday afternoon where someone was thanking them for band number 7! I think that was their 2nd full day on the air and with only 3 or 4 stations up; big gun + no life maybe? I will keep trying for a few more bands between family activities.

Started going through my log to get caught up on QSLing. I do not typically pursue paper, but do like to QSL to get the rare ones confirmed and it has been quite a while since I sent out anything. I have worked DXCC but have never sat down and done the paper work to confirm everything so that's my goal for the year.

I discovered a loud birdie coming into my packet station radio on 144.91 preventing me from connecting to the cluster; have to track that down now.. Always something…

In the log this winter so far, (*very* casual operating): 5H3VMB, 5H1C, PYØFF, 5U7JB, R1ANN, 6W/5A7TM, V51AS, TF3YH, VC3Ø, 3B9FG, 3YØX, CEØZ, plus a few new grids on 6m.

**Mike, N1OKL** – There's something to be said for waiting until near the end to work these big DXpeditions. The pileups are smaller, the ops may not be working split, and sometimes their CQs are largely unanswered. You know it's time to give 'em a shout when you see "begging" in the comment line on the clusters.

Friday before 3YØX's scheduled QRT on Sunday, I found their signals loud and mostly in the clear on 80m SSB. Four calls and they were in the log. Later that evening, I found a similar opportunity on 30m CW. It took a few more calls, but in short order I had them on 2 bands, 2 modes.

Saturday evening I worked them again on 20m SSB grayline, at about 18:00 local. I listened for a while after my QSO and their signals faded out completely by 19:00 local.

So, 3 Qs in the log in short order, all without too much work. It pays to wait.

### February Contests

CQ WW RTTY WPX, RTTY ---------- 11, 12 Feb
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW ---------- 11, 12 Feb
ARRL Int'l DX, CW ---------- 18, 19 Feb
CQ WW 160m Contest, SSB ---------- 25, 26 Feb

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

### March Contests

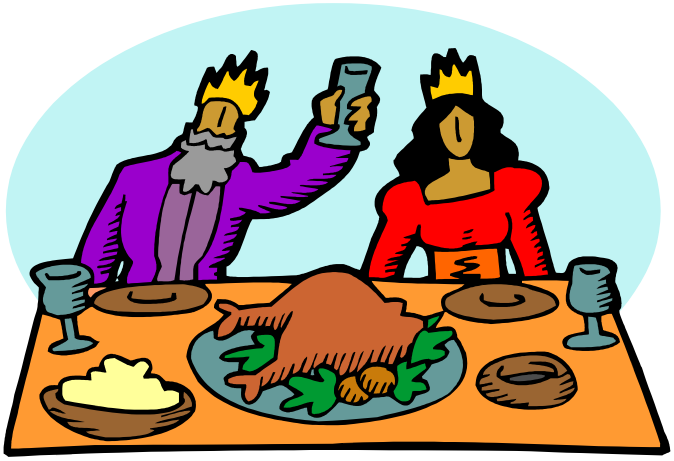
ARRL Int'l. DX Contest, SSB ---------- 4, 5 Mar
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship, low band (1) ---------- 4 Mar
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship, low band (2) ---------- 5 Mar
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship, high band (1) ---------- 5 Mar
RSGB Commonwealth Contest, CW ---------- 11, 12 Mar
North American Sprint, RTTY ---------- 12 Mar
BARTG Spring RTTY ---------- 18-20 Mar
Russian DX, CW, SSB ---------- 18, 19 Mar
CQ WW WPX, SSB ---------- 25, 26 Mar

### Combined RDXA - RVHFG Banquet Announcement

We've reserved the same place as last year: the Pineview Family Restaurant in Spencerport, and we held the line on prices; it will be $20 per person, as it was last year. The date is Saturday, April 22. The cash bar begins at 18:00, with dinner at 19:00. Both clubs will be presenting awards, and we expect to have a great selection of door prizes, as well! Plan to bring your spouse/significant other. I think the spouses had as good a time as the hams at last year's banquet! Tickets are now available; see Paul N2OPW, Irv AF2K, or any other club officer for tickets. Don't wait till the last minute. The place can hold 80 people, and once both clubs have sold 80 tickets, that's it!

Rochester VHF Group
And
Rochester DX Association

**Annual Awards Banquet**



Saturday, 22 April 2006

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
Awesome Door prizes Drawing!

Tickets $20 per person
Available from AF2K and N2OPW

# 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** ---------- Dave Wright – N2CK
n2ck@arrl.net

**Vice President** ---------- Vic Gauvin – K1PY
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**Sec/Treasurer** ---------- Charles Kuhfuss – WB2HJV
wb2hjv@rochester.rr.com

**Board of Directors**

Paul Meyers – N2OPW ---------- n2opw@qsl.net
Gene Fuller – W2LU ---------- w2lu@rochester.rr.com
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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