

# ROCHESTER

# DX

# ASSOCIATION

[rdxa.com](http://rdxa.com)



ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2006

## Regular Meeting

March 21<sup>st</sup> 19:30 local

300 Jay Scutti Boulevard  
Gander Mountain  
Meeting Room

### DX4WIN Logging Demo

Dave Wright, N2CK & Rick Wells, W2RW will present a live, real-time demo of one of the most popular DX tracking programs available. Come see real-time what it does using a live internet connection. Chart your progress towards another band/mode award!

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## Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin  
Winton Plaza

### President's Soapbox

By Dave Wright - N2CK



temperatures, combined with more hours of daylight, mean we're quickly approaching hamfest season again.

I hope you all followed Mike's request and snapped some pictures of your station, accessories, and antennas. I need to do exactly that myself. I did take some pictures of my outdoor grounding station, however I neglected to note that recent rains had deposited mud

splatters on the copper plate. I'll clean it up, and snap another pic to send to Mike, along with inside pictures as well.

*[We'll be continuing our shack photo series for the next few months, so you have plenty of time to get those photos in. Ed.]*

I had the opportunity to use the Club call over the weekend of the ARRL DX SSB contest. I invited Andy, NF2L and Tim, K2CY over to guest operate on Saturday (I also asked them to submit a small write up for the newsletter to share their experience). By the time I was done on Sunday, Andy, Tim and I added 191 DX QSOs to W2RDX's callsign history. The log was sent to Chris, K2CS for submission to the league and safekeeping.

The noise issue I was having trouble with has been resolved. It turns out a streetlight just south of me was having problems. This explained why I was encountering it in the evening, but not during the day. The light kept cycling off and on. When the light was on, the noise disappeared. However, once the light cycled off, the noise came right back. I borrowed a communications receiver from Ed, K2MP (Mr. Has Everything!), and tuned to the 40m band. I started looking around for lights exhibiting a problem. Once I noticed the problem light, and stood underneath it, I knew I had found the source. One thing I had observed was pops and buzzes along with the noise. Sure enough, as the light attempted to start up, and flickered briefly, I heard pops and snaps through the portable receiver—just like what I heard at home. I placed a call to a contact at RG&E who arranged for a crew to come out and fix it. As an aside, the contact I was working with at RG&E provided me with his cell phone number so I could contact him directly once I discovered the problem. Even more amazing is that he called me while he was on vacation to report the light had been fixed, and for me to call him back with my observations. I was floored with this extra customer service. I did call him (but the next week, after he was back from vacation) to report all was well.

Now's your chance to get your tickets for the combined RVHFG/RDXA Banquet to be held on April 22 at the Pineview Restaurant, just north of Spencerport. Contact Paul Meyers, N2OPW. A candidate has been selected to receive the coveted KE2WK award this year. Make sure you are there to help us recognize the contributions this most worthy candidate has made.

Once again, Irv, AF2K will be selling hamfest tickets at the meeting. I think he also has banquet tickets as well, so when you come to the March meeting, bring even more money with you so you can snag your tickets to these fun-filled events in advance. Also, should you purchase a flea market pass, please let me know.

I would like to get an idea how many “flea market spots” members of our Club purchase. It’s nice information to know so we can justify grabbing the “Grassy Knoll” each year.

Save the date, a sure sign of spring, the Newark Hamfest, sponsored by the Drumlins Amateur Radio Club will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup> this year. I hope to be in attendance, weather permitting. I hope to see a few RDXA folks out there as well.

I’ll close for now as I have more “homework” to do—that being my presentation on DX4WIN this month. One thing I’ve discovered is that as I look through the manual I see even more features I either once knew, never knew, or thought were there, but just didn’t know how or why they were accessed. So, this has been a learning exercise for me as well.

Hope to see you all at the March meeting.

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## DX4WIN Logging Demo & More

Vic Gauvin - K1PY

*More on this month’s meeting programs. Don’t miss ’em!*



You’ve been working ’em in the contests for years, but have you ever pulled all the logs together to see just how many entities you’ve worked? The magnitude of

the task has likely kept you from even considering it. Well, with the current DX logging and tracking software programs like DX4WIN now making it so easy, you can load all those logs and sit amazed at what you’ve worked and at the neat ways the software lets you track it.

Dave, N2CK and Rick, W2RW will be presenting the very popular DX4WIN DX logging and tracking program “live” (meaning a laptop computer to the Gander Mtn. monitor). Also in the works is a real-time internet connection (tks to Paul, K2DB) to access the NG2P Cluster. The program will monitor all the spots, check all your band/mode data, and alert you to any “new ones!” (All right, all right, you’re letting the computer do all the work the old timers will tell you, but you have to admit, that’s an awfully slick feature!) And then of course it helps big-time with getting the all important QSL out the door.

Andy, NF2L also will have some information on another similar program, and there are likely to be people on board that can talk about others that they’ve tried.

You’ve always wondered exactly what these programs could do for you...now’s the time to come and literally see!

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## DX4WIN Auction

Dave Wright - N2CK



As an added incentive to attend this month’s meeting, there is an additional perk. Steve Bookout, NR4M has generously offered to me, to offer to the club, one licensed copy of the software, along with a printed copy of the manual. Currently this software lists for \$89.95, and an extra \$15.00 for the manual.

The software will be delivered on CD-ROM, ready to be installed. We will be holding a combined silent and public auction for this software.

Before I go into the details about how this will take place, I implore you to explore their website and download the current

version of their software at <http://www.dx4win.com>. The software you will download is a fully functional package. You can install it and play with all of the features. You can import logs, enter QSOs off line, search for possible awards you qualify for, and search for QSOs to mark as confirmed and set label print flags. One neat feature is the world map. As you step through the QSO information in the log, if you set your latitude and longitude under the preferences tab, you can visually see the path your signal took to make that contact.

Additional functionality provides a PSK31 interface, as well as a packet cluster. More interestingly, when connected to a packet cluster, the software scans incoming spots, and identifies spots with red or blue if they are new band or band/mode entities, based upon your current database log. Furthermore, double clicking on a spot, automatically enters some of the data into the QSO window, so once you work them, all you have to do is hit enter to log it. How could life be more simple?

One thing to note however, while this is fully functional software you will not be able to save the QSO information you entered while playing. Additionally, I think attempting to print QSL labels causes the word “DEMO” (or something to that effect) on the labels.

So, you ask, how do I go about getting this fine software package? Well, here are the details. First, this auction is open only to current RDXA members. If you are currently not a member, you must become a member before I will accept your bid. I need confirmation from Charlie that you are a paid up member to consider your offer. Second, as noted in the second paragraph, this will be both a silent and public auction. How can this be done you ask? If you cannot attend the meeting this month, send me an email with your bid by Monday, 20 March before midnight. I will check my email Tuesday morning to determine who the highest bidder is via email. I will open the meeting for public bidding for this software package after the presentation Tuesday night. If your silent bid is exceeded, you will not have the opportunity to resubmit your bid and it will go to the highest bidder in attendance (or the highest silent bidder). Third, the minimum bid for this package is \$30. Remember, this is a package worth approximately \$112 when you add in the cost of shipping a CD, and a printed copy of the manual. We need to pay Steve a “token” fee for this software. Once the highest bidder is identified, I will contact Steve to notify him who won. Steve will ship the software and documentation directly to the winner.

For further clarification, this came about when the wife of Don Peters, W2ELK (SK) offered a licensed copy of version 5.03 (which is the version I’ll be using for the show-n-tell this month). She offered it to me to auction off to the Club to augment the Club’s funds. I called Steve, NR4M to inquire about the possible transfer of this software to another person, and Steve suggested this alternative to me to pass along to the Club.

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## Contest Commentary

**W2RTY, NAQP RTTY Sprint & W2RDX, CQ WW 160 SSB** – A handful of intrepid RDXA adventurers and RTTY Rangers made the winter trek to Hickory Lake for a weekend of mid-winter contesting and gourmet dining last month. Between delicious meals, feeding the woodstove to keep zero degree temperatures at bay, and watching the Canadian Olympic Team in the





curling finals on Canadian TV, K2DB, W1TY, N2OPW, and N1OKL managed to find time to work two contests: NAQP RTTY Sprint and CQ WW 160 SSB. Our setup consisted of an Icom 746 Pro, a laptop running WriteLog with the MMTTY plug-in, and the venerable HLCC antenna farm. The 160m antenna setup was a hastily-erected lazy inverted L: a  $\frac{1}{4}\lambda$  wire sloping up and over a tree, complimented by 2,  $\frac{1}{4}\lambda$  radials, coax fed at the junction of the radials and the sloping wire. Finding the resonance point of this cloudwarmer a bit out-of-band on the low side, we simply put a 6-foot fold in the sloping wire. Viola! Resonance at 1860 kHz...or so. Good enough!

N2OPW jumped into the 160m fray on Friday night as W2RDX. With only 100W and a marginal antenna, most contacts were a struggle. Paul was persistent though. I drifted off to sleep at about 23:00 local, accompanied by his patient repetitions: "Whiskey 2, whiskey 2; one, two; one, two..." in response to S&P efforts. Ah, life on 160m!

Here are N2OPW's impressions:

"I used the club call W2RDX in the CQ 160 SSB contest 25 February 2006. I was up at K2DB's camp at Hickory Lake with N1OKL, W1TY, and K2DB, for NAQP RTTY and tried a little in the 160m contest. I used an IC 746 Pro with 135' of wire thrown 80' up into a tree with two radials. (Sort of a slouching vertical, or half of a bottom fed inverted Vee.) Thanks Mike, N1OKL for your help with the antenna. For the club I got 30 new states and 3 Canadian provinces on 160m. Score was 7656 points as multi-one class because of using packet. Actual class should have been SINGLE OP WITH PACKET AND ONLY 100w if it were to exist.

The temperature was +8°F on Friday night and 0°F on Saturday night and only 8" snow. Good thing we had my 4 wheel drive. Burned up lots of firewood and ate like kings, thanks to W2RTY digital contest and gourmet food club. (See W1TY for details.)"



N2OPW after an all-night stint on 160m. Paul logged 30 new states and 3 Canadian provinces in two nights of operating the CQWW 160m SSB event.

The NAQP RTTY Sprint kicked off at 13:00 local on Saturday afternoon. We started out on 20m and alternated between S&P and running. Rates were decent, though not spectacular. A brief foray to 15m found no workable signals, though the cluster showed a few spots. 20m seemed to close early—maybe it was the latitude at our QTH—and we shifted out attention to 40m. Again, the rates were decent, but nothing to write home about. We had two antenna choices on 40m: a vertical loop and a dipole and if the print was marginal on one, switching antennas usually cleared things up. However, regardless of the antenna in use, 40m never really lengthened out with a stable path to the West coast. By 20:00 local we were alternating between 40m and 80m...and that was the pattern until the contest ended at 01:00 local on Sunday. We would run and S&P on one or the other until rates dropped then switch

bands. All in all, band conditions seemed poor to fair. Final score: 26,112.



W1TY, AKA "Ranger Rick" lead the W2RTY WNY Digital Contest Club into action in the recent NAQP RTTY Sprint. Note the unique headgear, issued to all W2RTY operators, and containing a 170 Hz "resonance cavity" that aids in the rapid and accurate tuning of RTTY signals.



Gourmet snacking—always an essential component of W2RTY operations.

## DX Logbook

Chris Shalvoy - K2CS  
Atlantic Division DXAC



The last few months have seen plenty of contest activity, a real big DXpedition and notably worse conditions than we've been used to for the last few years (unless you're on 160m)!

I've been less active on those lower bands since the big winds of a month ago (remember ARRL CW?). The G5RV came

down and I've had no time since then to get it back up. Hopefully, I'll get at it this weekend (18-19 March), the weather is going to get bad so no better time, I guess.

CQWW 160m SSB was a blast even though I only got to operate Saturday evening and ARRL SSB had (what I consider) strong openings on 160m (18 countries worked. No Canada or USA either, Friday night only.). In both those contests, I operated W2CCC from Cold Brook, getting the new call out there. As I suspected, it breaks the pileups rather nicely.

A big thanks to those operators who have run the W2RDX call the last few weeks. For those who are unable to attend the meetings, we've completed logging all 50 states but are still awaiting 4 more cards to confirm our W.A.S.

W2RDX got 3YØX on CW and SSB also.

We've also got our LOTW account setup and loaded with everything I've been given so far.

The DXAC has been charged with a review of the country status criteria. More on this as it progresses.

#### From the DXCC Desk, approved operations:

**YI/OM2DX** – Iraq

Operation commencing June 9, 2003

**D2DX** – Angola

Current operation effective December 15, 2004

**D2DX** – Angola

Current operation as of December 15, 2004

**TS3A** Tunisia

March 24, 2005 through March 28, 2005

**T6X** – Afghanistan

Current operation effective March 8, 2005

**TT8PK** – Chad

December 27, 2005 through February 11, 2006

**XW1A / XW1LLR5 / XW1X / XW1M** – Laos

Current operation effective October 29, 2005

**R1MVC** and **R1MVW** Malyj Vysotskij Island (M-V Island)

Operation from 15-28 November 2005

**K7C** – Kure Island

Operation from September 25 through October 5, 2005

**YI9VCQ** – Iraq

November 30, 2004 through November 5, 2005

**KH9/WØCN** – Wake Island

September 17 – 28, 2005

#### In The Log (Non Contest)

Station	Bands	Station	Bands
KL1V	40m CW	Z3ZGP	60m SSB
SV3RF	160m CW	SM5EDX	160m CW
HBØ/DL2ØBØ	160m CW	HA5JI	160m CW
HI9/HA7TM	160m CW	V26VR	160m CW
CU2/OH2BH	160m CW	CM6RCR	160m CW
KP2/WZ8D	60m SSB	OY9JD	160m CW
6ØØN	20m, 80m CW	CE2ØZ	20m, 30m CW; 20m SSB
5H1C	40m CW; 20m SSB	5TØJL	17m CW
FH/G2TXF	40m CW	V51AS	80m CW
VQ9JC	20m CW	G4WFQ/6W	30m CW
3YØX	20m, 15m, 12m, 17m SSB; 15m, 17m, 30m, 20m CW		

**Propagation** *AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, Mar 1995*

Solar Flux Range ----- 76 – 95

**General** - Conditions during February were better than would be expected, because solar fluxes held in the 80s for much of the month. 15m conditions during the ARRL CW were very good, with several multi-multi and single band efforts finishing with 1000+ contacts on this band. We are now approaching the equinox,

and conditions on 80m & 160m are still quite good. This writer is awestruck at the receiving performance of the EWE antenna, and will soon be QRV with them in four directions on two bands using some simple shortcuts.

**The Equinox** - The lowband season is starting to fade, but the band to watch for dramatic improvement will be 20m. Worldwide coverage on this band involves propagation across nighttime paths, paths where the sun is low in the sky, or combination day/night paths. These options are limited in winter since 20m closes promptly after sunset, making northerly DX windows very narrow. Evening openings are already improving. The grey zone is aligning itself over the pole, and much of the evening DX is on the polar path into Siberia. This window will widen, and by late spring will include the heavily populated areas of Russia. DX signals will be wall to wall across the band, and will have that hollow polar echo we all know and love.

For the next several months, pipeline conditions will exist on 20m primarily in the evening and in the morning. In late afternoon and evening, you work into the areas where the sun has recently risen. In the morning, you work into areas where it has recently set (or is about to). In early spring, this means we work the polar regions and eastern Asia in the evening. For several hours in the morning, we work over the pole (again) and across to the west (Russia and Europe).

As summer approaches, this pattern will shift and we will work Asia in the morning and Europe at night. At the bottom of the cycle (we are not there yet), the polar paths into southern Asia become narrower and close for much of the year. The late spring gives us our best shot at this part of the world. This year we will often have Antarctic long path openings to southern Asia, but not like at the peak of the cycle. From the southern USA, morning Antarctic paths are the most fun because we consistently wax the east coast in pileups (unless they go by call areas).

Let's not forget the lowbands at equinox time. QRN levels are declining in the southern hemisphere, and this is the time when activity picks up across the southerly paths. 15m will continue to open regularly to Europe for a few months, but conditions will usually be marginal with limited access to eastern Europe and Russia. The QRO guys will come through fine. 10m is fine if you speak fluent Spanish and don't like CW.

73, de Roy - AD5Q / Houston

<http://www.qth.com/ad5q/>

#### 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

#### More Contest Info

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



## April Contests

Kids Roundup; SSB----- 1, 2 April  
 EA RTTY ----- 1, 2 April  
 SP DX, CW, SSB----- 1, 2 April  
 Japan Int'l. DX; CW ----- 8, 9 April  
 Holyland DX; CW, SSB----- 15 April  
 ES Open HF Championship; CW, SSB ----- 15 April  
 SP DX RTTY ----- 22, 23 April

## Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2006 Mar 14

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2006 Mar 15	75	10	3
2006 Mar 16	75	5	2
2006 Mar 17	75	5	2
2006 Mar 18	75	8	3
2006 Mar 19	75	20	4
2006 Mar 20	75	15	3
2006 Mar 21	75	12	3
2006 Mar 22	75	8	3
2006 Mar 23	75	5	2
2006 Mar 24	75	5	2
2006 Mar 25	75	5	2
2006 Mar 26	75	5	2
2006 Mar 27	75	5	2
2006 Mar 28	75	5	2
2006 Mar 29	75	5	2
2006 Mar 30	75	5	2
2006 Mar 31	75	5	2
2006 Apr 1	75	5	2
2006 Apr 2	75	5	2
2006 Apr 3	75	10	3
2006 Apr 4	75	8	3
2006 Apr 5	75	8	3
2006 Apr 6	75	10	3
2006 Apr 7	75	10	3
2006 Apr 8	75	5	2
2006 Apr 9	75	5	2
2006 Apr 10	75	8	3

For more see: <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/Data/index.html#alerts>

## February Program 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.

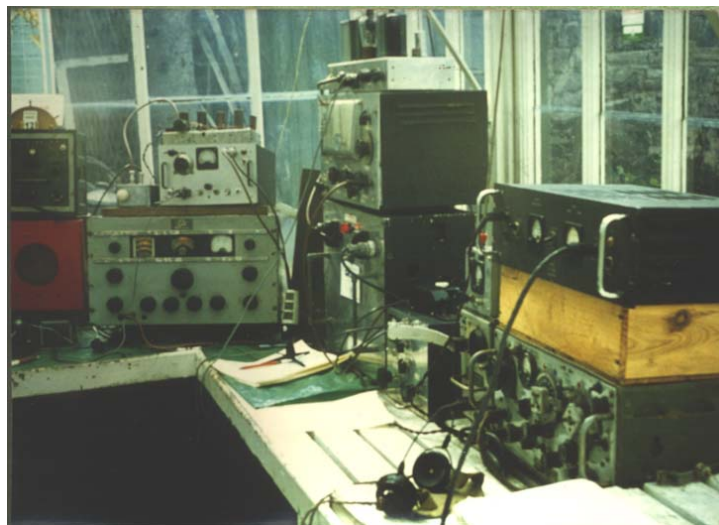


So what did you miss by not attending the February RDXA meeting?

Our February Program was titled: "Ham Radio in the U.K. & The Rhombic Antenna".

G3PSP (formerly GM3PSP/K6PSP), Alan Masson, now an RDXAer and New York resident, expounded on his years as an SWL

and then ham in Edinburgh, Scotland and near London, England. We heard about Field Days in the U.K., which happen many times a year and are an entirely different event than we're used to.



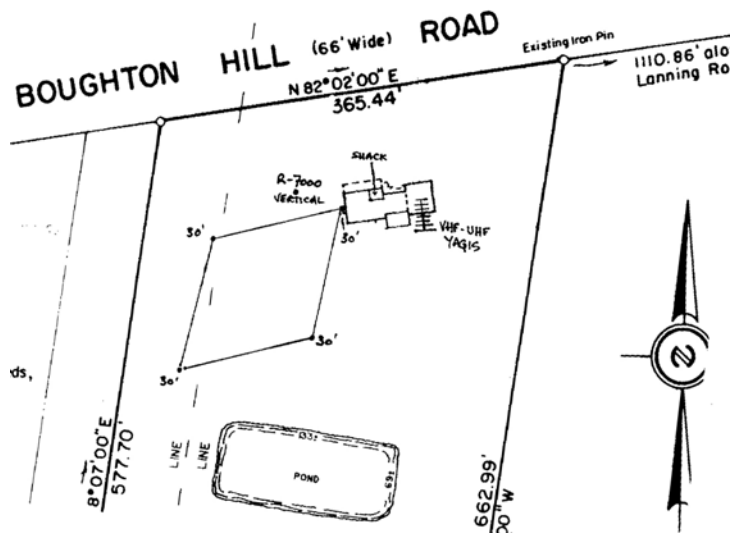
GM2PSP shack, Edinburgh, Scotland, 1968.

Photos of his station revealed a mix of home brew and commercial HF gear—some familiar things like the ubiquitous 6146B and a pair of 807s, and some foreign (to us) valves. Alan was also an early RTTY enthusiast and VHFer.

Although radio is international with similarities, we got insight into the differences each nation brings to radio.

Moving to the present in part 2 of his presentation, Alan described how he came to learn about and decide to build the famous Rhombic antenna. His is for 20m, specifically tailored for communicating with friends back in the U.K.

After describing Rhombics in general, we saw Alan's layout in Honeoye Falls. EZNEC plots showed the radiation pattern, and comparison measurements with a reference vertical illustrated gain and directionality.



K6PSP Rhombic antenna layout. In spite of an advantageous orientation, the hoped-for gain to G-land has proved elusive.

Summing up, even though he has striking gain to the South and Southwest because of his feedpoint (dictated by terrain), his hoped-for gain to EU was not realized. An interesting general discussion ensued as to why and what could be done about it.



A rare, if not unique, 2-topic presentation, we all had a thoroughly enjoyable time learning about two areas of radio none of us are likely to personally experience.

And *that* is what you missed if you weren't there! Don't let it happen again.

See notes elsewhere in this issue for more on the March program.

April Program: "The WA2CBU/AF2K Gibraltar DXpedition"

## Ham Radio on Display

By Curtis Braun - N2HKD

Somehow, I got involved in this two-day science fair; thanks Bob, NG2P. This has been a very rewarding experience as we demonstrate Ham Radio to students from Junior and Senior High. The format is quite nice, we set up on Wed morning around 7:30, coffee is provided. Students arrive around nine, and come with different groups over the next few hours until about 1PM. After we shut everything down, we get a chance to R&R in the St. John Fisher Dining hall. There is an open house Wed evening, where I have the chance to meet quite a few parents as their kids drag them from exhibit to exhibit. I get a lot of, "My <insert name of relative> was into that," and "Wow has ham radio expanded." Thursday has the same time schedule, including the R&R. I really appreciate and thank the volunteers that have supported this tradition over the last many years. This fair has a long history (decades) and we are privileged to be able to participate.



W2SKY demonstrates an Arrow handheld Yagi and HT setup for satellite QSOs at last year's St. John Fisher Science Exploration Days.

As with all good things, this effort will only continue with club participation. This is a good way to advertise and support our hobby. It takes 3 people for the entire time to really cover this event. The next two events are the E Cubed Fair at RIT on May 4 and the Science Exploration Days at St. John Fisher on May 10 and 11. We are currently working to improve this program to create more interest. So, please come and support this effort, it takes more effort than just a few people. No experience is necessary and the equipment will be provided. Won't you be able to come out and play?



NG2P looks on while potential new hams explore digital radio.

Please inquire and sign up with Curtis Braun, N2HKD (613-1402), Peter Fournia, W2SKY (377-0535). Thanks for your continued support in RDXA.

## In the Shack

*As the saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words." With this in mind, we begin a new column this month: photos of RDXA members' shacks. Herewith, a sampling of RDXA shacks. Ed.*

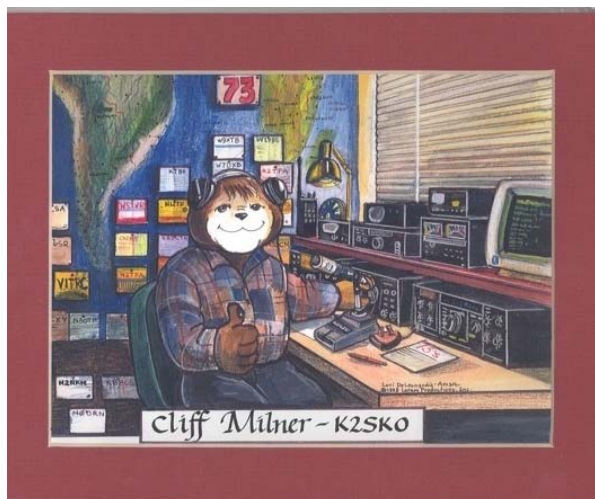


**Chris, K2CS:** The K2CS station is comprised of a TS440SAT, MFJ keyer, a spare TS440 to the left, an FT620B for 6m, top right, and in the center a TS711 for 2m weak signal. The 2m and 6m bricks are on the right top. The antennas are a C3 with the infamous G5RV. DOS-based laptop for logging.





**Coldbrook Contest Club, W2CCC:** K2CS trustee. TS50, matching autotuner, power supply and MFJ keyer (with the W2OMV benchner), that's it! Outside is the W2OMV Butternut vertical and a 160m dipole. Another DOS-based laptop is used for logging at W2CCC.



**Cliff, K2SKO:** Cliff has a shack that is truly the cat's meow!



**Wayne, K3ZXY:** Wayne's compact setup includes a TenTec Pegasus rig, with an LDG autotuner and a classic, long-arm straight key.



**Alan, K6PSP:** Alan's modern shack on this side of the pond is a big change from his 1968 setup in Scotland (pictured elsewhere in this issue).



**Gene, W2LU:** Gene's setup includes this impressive antenna array and an equally impressive full-size rack of homebrew gear.

## The Lights are On But Nobody's Home

By Ward Silver - NOAX

Reprinted by permission from the *ARRL Contest Rate Sheet*, 22 February 2006.

After this past weekend's ARRL DX CW extravaganza, a local ham said on our club net, "Gee, all evening I could hear these strong stations on 80-meters all the way from the East Coast - NH, MA, NJ, NY. Then tonight, nothing! Like the band is dead!" This was somewhat tongue-in-cheek, but it's not an uncommon reaction. I also hear this after the 10-Meter contest during low sunspot years. For months, not a peep is heard on 10-meters until 0000Z Saturday when the band springs to life!

Obviously, contesters tend to have good stations and that tends to open up a band beyond what a more modest station might accomplish. Nevertheless, the disparity between weekdays and weekends is often dramatic. New hams (and even long-timers) are prone to ask, "Where did everybody go?" The bands are obviously wide open, but we're just not making ourselves heard.

Which leads to the probing question, "When was the last time you called CQ outside of a contest?" A regular old "come in anybody" CQ—the kind we used to log a lot of as Novices with a big, old "X" in the next column of our logbook indicating no response to our puny signals. To be perfectly honest with you, it's been a while for me.

I'll bet it's been a while for you, too!

Why? Well, partly because testers tend to spend their weeks getting ready for the weekends. Also, the Internet and email push a lot of information to us that we don't have to go trolling for on our own. Hey, you're reading this instead of putting out a signal, aren't you? By the time you get done reading the email from a couple of reflectors, check your favorite Web sites, and scan the spotting network for any New Ones, your evening is shot!

This isn't some sinister plot or a great moral failing, it's just a rebalancing of how we "do" ham radio in the Information Age. The information "about" radio is found on-line and we use it to more carefully target our on-air activities. Sort of a "just-in-time" philosophy for ham radio where you only get on the air to make that particular DX contact or for a weekend of contesting after doing all the research to make sure the on-air time is spent as efficiently as possible.

All well and good, but in becoming so successful at doing a particular thing, we've forgotten how to...yes...goof off on the air without having a goal in mind. A good portion of what got us on the air and kept us there as new hams was that "What will I work today?" feeling you got sitting down in front of the rig waiting for the tubes to warm up.

New assignment: choose an on-the-air activity that you don't know what will happen when you do it! Maybe it's as simple as calling CQ or maybe putting the keyer in beacon mode while you read email. Look through the QST Special Event listings (or on-line at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>) and see if you can find them.

There are lots of things to try out there and who knows, maybe you'll find somebody tuning around looking for you from across the continent!

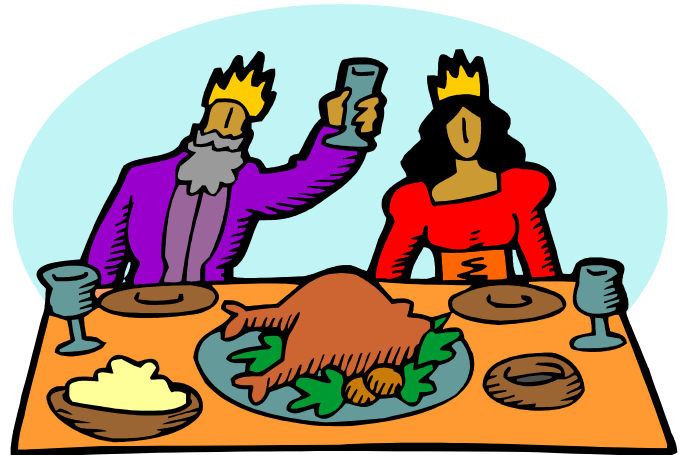


North Pole sunset, courtesy of K6PSP.

## 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**



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## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, September through June.

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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

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