

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

1947-2007 • 60 YEARS OF DX IN WNY

APRIL 2007

## Regular Meeting

April 17<sup>th</sup> 19:30 local

300 Jay Scutti Boulevard  
Gander Mountain  
Meeting Room

### April Program

*PSK31 and Other Sound Card Digital Radio Modes - There's more than just RTTY in that space between CW and SSB. Come see and hear Alan, K6PSP/G3PSP discuss and demonstrate PSK31 and other sound card digital radio modes.*

### Coming in May:

*"Run for the Gold"*

*RDXA's assault to recapture USA #1, 3A Field Day*

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## Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin  
Winton Plaza

front of the rig – that is when there aren't family events going on. I made a less than stellar effort in the WPX SSB contest. I find it hard to get excited about a contest where most of the activity is packed in a 200 kHz slice of 20m, with a handful of signals on 15m. I really miss the activity on 10m with SSB signals spread out and running up through 29MHz! Having experienced the peak of a cycle on these bands, I can't wait for them to come back.

Has anybody worked the Swains Island DXpedition yet? The times I've been back by the rig, and checked the spots on the cluster – I haven't heard a sound yet. Hopefully I can get these folks at least once before they leave.

Something I've been mulling over in my mind for a while is how many different ways Amateur Radio makes it into movies. Some are more focused on the voice side of the hobby like Frequency, while others focus on CW – like Independence Day. I always get a chuckle when watching Enemy of the State, and they send a signal to the satellites to focus on another area. I had to explain to my wife what dah-dit-dah-dit dah-dah-di-dah means. These are just a few examples of our hobby in mainstream Hollywood offerings. I'm sure if you think about it, you can come up with many other examples.

As we approach the end of the 2006/2007 season, it's time to think about a new slate of officers. Chris, K2CS has offered to head the nominating committee. I will not seek the office of President for another term. It's been a fun couple of years, but it's time to pass the baton to someone else.

# W2RDX/60

**Announcing the Rochester DX Association 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary On-Air Celebration, 9 June 2007, 1300z-1900z from the Antique Wireless Association Museum in Bloomfield, NY. All HF bands SSB, CW. Classic 1947 era AM on 3.885 mc.**

At this time, ticket sales for the combined RDXA/RVHF group banquet are way behind normal. It appears that tickets for the VHF group are running significantly less than last year, while ours are up slightly. As we currently are under the minimum of 40 needed for the room, it's questionable at this point if the banquet is actually going to happen. We need to give them a count by April 14th. If a miracle occurs and it does happen, I suspect I'll be

President's Soapbox

By Dave Wright - N2CK

Greetings,

Just when you think we've turned the corner towards spring, along comes winter to give us (hopefully) one last blast. I am optimistic that this will be short-lived. At least the huge piles of snow are gone (Redd, are they gone yet?).

Looking at the calendar, there is one more major contest remaining – the WPX CW. Hopefully I'll hear some local activity.

Don't forget to get those scores posted – no matter how few Qs you made. It is my intention to spend some serious seat time in



shopping for door prizes at Newark Hamfest. As I mentioned in my last article, contributions are greatly appreciated (though we can't give you a receipt for tax purposes). Should you offer something for a door prize, and the banquet not happen – your contribution will be returned along with a gracious thank you.

Vic, in his usual zest to improve upon last year, has thrown down the gauntlet this year for Field Day. We want all folks to pick up at least one more area where they can contribute. Let's honor those who came before us and make the 60th celebration of this club something to be remembered by a take-no-prisoners approach to our annual operating event. Take a look at the email Vic sent out and figure out what excites you about our Field Day. Even if it's a simple matter of hanging around the GOTA station being a coach/mentor – WE NEED ALL OF YOU to make this happen.

Did you get your tickets for the hamfest yet? I've driven around the Dome Arena and tried to figure out where we can set up. Our old site – the Grassy Knoll is no longer. The long guardrail fence has been taken out and the ground leveled. Looking at the parking lot where the Flea Market is supposed to be located, it was not clear exactly the flea market was to be located.

I need to close for now as the deadline for submissions is approaching. I hope to see you at the meeting this month. Come prepared to sign up for new roles at Field Day!

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#### Did You Know?

By Rick Mintz - W1TY

*Can you believe it? Here's a bit of CW trivia from W1TY! Ed.*

Thomas Edison was so fascinated by Morse Code that he taught it to his girlfriend Mary Stilwell, proposed marriage to her in the code, and nicknamed their first two children "Dot" and "Dash".

On December 25, 1871, Edison married 16 year old Mary Stilwell, whom he had met two months earlier. They had three children:

- Marion "Dot" Estelle Edison (1873–1965)
- Thomas "Dash" Alva Edison, Jr (1876–1935)
- William Leslie Edison (1878–1935)

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#### April Contests

SP DX Contest, CW, SSB-----7, 8 Apr  
EA RTTY Contest, RTTY -----7, 8 Apr  
Japan Int'l. DX Contest, CW -----14, 15 Apr  
Holyland DX Contest, CW, SSB-----21 Apr  
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix, PSK-31 -----21 Apr  
ES Open HF Championship SSB, CW -----21 Apr  
SP DX RTTY Contest, RTTY -----28, 29 Apr

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#### More Contest Info

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

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#### May Contests

ARI Int'l. DX Contest, all modes -----5, 6 May  
Alessandro Volta RTTY DX, RTTY -----12, 13 May  
EU PSK DX Contest, PSK31 -----19, 20 May  
CQ WW WPX, CW -----26, 27 May  
Helvetia Contest, CW, SSB, Digi -----28, 29 Apr

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#### June Contests

SEANET Contest, all modes -----2, 3 June  
IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW-----2, 3 June  
ANARTS WW RTTY, RTTY -----9, 10 June  
All Asian DX Contest, CW-----16, 17 June  
SMIRK Contest, CW, SSB -----16, 17 June  
Kid's Day, SSB -----16 June  
Marconi Memorial Contest, CW-----23, 24 June  
ARRL Field Day, all modes-----23, 24 June

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#### AWA Spring Meet and Vintage Radio Auction Flea Market, Vendors, Program, Museum Tours



The annual AWA Spring Meet will be held May 5th at the Bloomfield Elementary School (45 Maple Ave, Route 444 in the village of Bloomfield, NY) starting at 7:00 am for set up and doors open at 8:00 a.m. The entire day is devoted to vintage radio and communication themes, starting with indoor and outdoor flea markets, a large auction of radio items, talks and demonstrations, and continuous screening of vintage films. Our program features Museum Director Dr. Thomas F. Peterson, Jr. who will show there was wireless communication before Marconi, Fessenden and others. In the afternoon the world famous AWA Museum will be open. Refreshments are available during the day and other group gatherings are encouraged and popular. The entry fee is only \$5 for this all-day event and includes an award drawing. Indoor flea market tables (provided) are \$7.00 each. The event is open to the public and the indoor venue assures a great time rain or shine. Vendor space is still available. Call event Chairman Ron Roach, W2FUI, at (585) 526-5487, for further information.

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#### April RDXA Program

By Alan Masson - K6PSP/G3PSP

#### PSK 31 and other Sound Card Digital Radio Modes

Digital radio modes such as PSK31 are easy and inexpensive to install and have become very popular in recent years. Did you know there can be as many as 20 simultaneous PSK31 QSOs taking place within the bandwidth of a single SSB channel, such as 14.070 - 14.073 MHz? Alan, K6PSP will describe how to get started on PSK31 and many other digital modes that use the computer's sound card, with free or inexpensive software. Alan will also play examples to help you identify these strange sounds on the amateur bands.

Come see, and hear! See you there.

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#### Changes to DXCC Field Checking

By Ed Gable - K2MP

Effective immediately you can now have cards greater than 10 years old field checked by yours truly. I am still not able to check cards for deleted countries or those for 160 meters. If you are

going to Dayton, Bill Moore reports a massive QSL card checking venue and they will check deleted and 160 meter cards at that time.

## The Downside of DXing on 60 Meters

ARRL Bulletin № 11

ARRL

5 April 2007

*There's nothing wrong with casual DX on the 60 meter band, but DXpedition operation on the band has huge potential for practices inconsistent with regulations governing use of the band. All those contemplating DXing on 60 meters should read the League's Bulletin below, and pay particular attention to the special regulations governing operation on 60 meters. Ed.*

The ARRL is expressing concern that negative consequences could result from chasing DX on 60 meters. Some DXpeditions have announced plans to operate on Amateur Radio's only channelized band, where **amateur operations hold secondary status to fixed service operations, including some US government stations.** ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says that while it's legal for DXpeditions to operate on the 5 MHz band provided the licensing administration extends privileges there, DX pileups on 60 meters pose the potential for real and unique problems.

"US amateurs are limited to five channels on 60 meters, USB only, maximum effective radiated power (ERP) of 50 W, audio bandwidth not exceeding 2.8 kHz, and not all of the channels are useable because of ongoing fixed service operation," Sumner points out. **Upon request of a primary service user, Sumner says, it's "absolutely imperative" that hams be prepared to relinquish any 60 meter channel immediately. This means constantly monitoring the transmitting channel.** Hams also must not exceed the radiated power limit, he stressed.

Not all countries authorize amateur operation on 60 meters. Transmitting on a 5 MHz frequency without authorization not only breaks the law, but jeopardizes the operator's continued participation in the ARRL DXCC program. 5 MHz cards submitted for DXCC may not be accepted for credit without evidence the operation was authorized.

**Sumner emphasized that causing harmful interference to fixed and mobile service stations could jeopardize even the existing, limited privileges as well as the chances of increasing those privileges on a domestic basis, plus any possibility of obtaining an international allocation on 60 meters.**

## Contest Commentary

**WPX SSB, Chris, K2CS/W2CCC** – I ran the WPX SSB from W2CCC a few weeks ago. Hoping to put a relatively good effort in, I got on Friday evening shortly after we arrived. The TS50 and the wires were all I was using this time out. As things turned out, I wish I had a few more watts at hand.

Friday night and Saturday morning were outstanding on the low bands. 160m was in great shape, the full size 160m dipole doesn't hurt matters. I managed a few Europeans (SSB even with 100 watts) and plenty of stateside stuff, considering this is a prefix contest. Saturday was tough. 15m seemed dead, 20m was crowded so I spent a lot of time to make just a few contacts. The low bands of the prior evening were more rewarding.



Saturday afternoon brought a strange occurrence, at least in my book. It began to snow with very wet, heavy flakes. I started to hear "arcing" noises coming from the rotary antenna switch.

Wearing headphones, I knew something was going on but couldn't find out where it was coming from. I did know that it was killing the rig's audio. Every static "crack" overloaded the ALC and dropped the audio level momentarily. Very frustrating when signals are down as it is.

I finally traced the noise to the switch, took off the lead from the 160m dipole and lo and behold, the precipitation was such that it was causing static electricity while hitting the full size 160m dipole. I was able to take the lead and watch it "arc" to ground. Wild. I've never seen anything like that!

I had to go to 20m as the best result I was having on 15m was with the 160m dipole. Saturday night never really panned out on 160m but I was able to work quite a few on 80m and 40m.

Granted, it is a "prefix" contest so stateside stuff is workable but when all was said and done, I had almost 100 Qs on 80m, 50 Qs on 160m and 80 Qs on 40m. Plus, I made at least one QSO on every band, 10m – 160m.

Nowhere near as good as last year (when I operated by myself, Gayle and Raymond stayed home last year) but I guess we'll see if things were as bad as I perceived them to be.

In last year's effort, I won W2 overall low power.

## Propagation

AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22  
April 1996

Solar Flux Range-----67 – 74

**General** – With solar activity as low as it is, we are still in lowband season but this will change during April. Currently the best times to work DX on 20m are in the morning and late afternoon / early evening, and this is across daypaths. 20m paths will begin their transition to a summer configuration this month. This is because of the rising MUFs along nighttime paths. The bottom of the sunspot cycle is predicted for the coming months, but don't let this bother you.

**30 and 40 Meters** – Though the night is growing shorter and noise levels are increasing, conditions are still excellent on 40m. In mid-winter, MUFs drop below 7 MHz at night on the path to Europe, reducing the number of signals on the band for much of the evening. Currently Europeans are coming through all evening, with excellent openings to the northern areas after 0500Z. Until the evening paths return to 20m, there is still plenty of propagation to enjoy on 40m. Another option is 30m, which also closes at night in the winter. It is opening up, and will have later evening propagation than 20m during the current transition.

**Polar Paths** – We are past the equinox now, and the tilt in the morning and evening grey lines have flipped to opposite sides of the pole. We currently find openings to Europe in the morning and Asia in the afternoon. By summer, the Asian pipeline will be in the morning, Europe in the late afternoon, and Russia all evening. DXing on 20m will be possible for more of the day, and Europe will still be very workable in the morning through spring. All these openings will broaden. The sun is low over the pole for 24 hours now, so polar windows should really open up. We will find excellent openings into Asia both in the morning and in the early evening. As springtime progresses, the number of echoing polar signals will increase until they are wall-to-wall across the band in



the evening. Most of these will be Russian. The morning window will favor areas of Asia where there is less activity, but more exotic DX to work (another Burma operation?).

**15 Meters** – This band will improve slightly. Little activity or interest in this band is expected, and the reliable paths will be mostly east/west and north/south. For the USA, this means Africa, South America and the Pacific (and not Europe or Asia). Sporadic-E season is approaching for both 10 and 6 meters. This is not DX, and won't bring out much CW activity (other than chasing off the CBers on 10m CW). It does breathe life into the 10m Novice (SSB) band, giving many no code operators something to do with their radios.

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

## Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2007 April 10

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2007 Apr 11	70	8	3
2007 Apr 12	70	10	3
2007 Apr 13	70	5	2
2007 Apr 14	70	5	2
2007 Apr 15	70	5	2
2007 Apr 16	75	5	2
2007 Apr 17	75	5	2
2007 Apr 18	75	5	2
2007 Apr 19	75	8	3
2007 Apr 20	75	20	5
2007 Apr 21	75	15	4
2007 Apr 22	75	10	3
2007 Apr 23	75	10	3
2007 Apr 24	75	8	3
2007 Apr 25	75	5	2
2007 Apr 26	75	5	2
2007 Apr 27	75	5	2
2007 Apr 28	70	25	5
2007 Apr 29	70	15	4
2007 Apr 30	70	10	3
2007 May 01	70	5	2
2007 May 02	70	5	2
2007 May 03	70	5	2
2007 May 04	70	5	2
2007 May 05	70	5	2
2007 May 06	70	8	3
2007 May 07	70	8	3

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

## Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity 11 April – 7 May 2007

NOAA

Solar activity is expected to continue at very low levels.

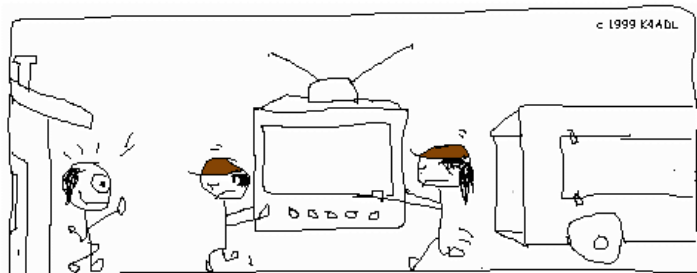
No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to reach high levels during 11 - 18 April, and again during 29 April - 07 May.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels through 19 April. A recurrent coronal hole high-speed

stream is expected to disturb the field during 20 - 21 April with unsettled to minor storm levels expected. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected during 22 - 27 April. Another round of coronal hole effects is expected during 28 - 29 April with unsettled to major storm conditions expected. Mostly quiet conditions are expected for the balance of the period.

More at: <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/radio/>



UNAWARE THERE ARE 14 HAMS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OPERATING ON 6 METERS, VICTOR TAKES DELIVERY OF A 60 INCH TV, COMPLETE WITH RABBIT EARS.

Courtesy of K4ADL – <http://www.qsl.net/k4adl/>

## Working N8S

## RDXA Members



**Chris, K2CS** – I hope you're all getting N8S in your logs, an interesting DXpedition so far.

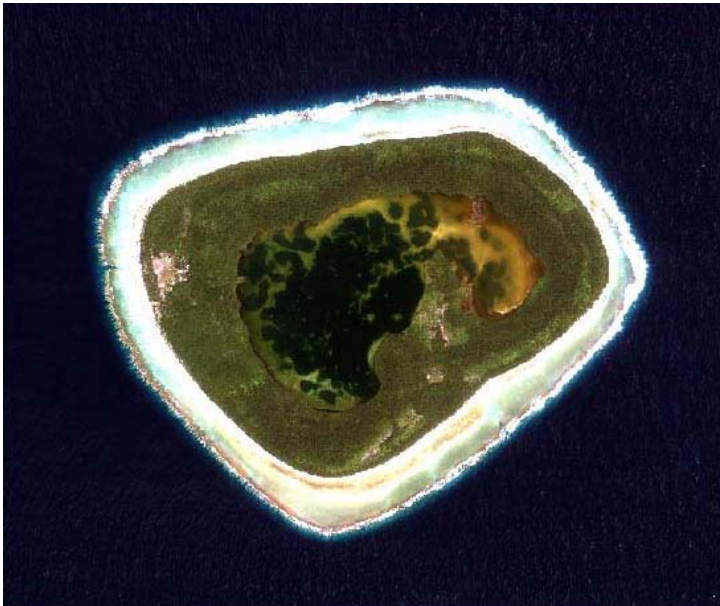
Opening day I was greeted by outstanding signals on 30m just about sunrise. I was surprised at the S 5-7 signal. Unfortunately I didn't have enough time to invest so I had to wait until that evening.

Having worked the KH8SI group last July, it wasn't "make or break" but it's always nice to pad the log, get a few more modes and bands. N8S was on 17m SSB when I got home, 1 or 2 calls, in the log. OK, that wasn't too bad (other than the mode). They eventually went to CW. After dinner, 1 call, honestly. Found the station he just worked, called... in the log. That was something new having worked them on 17m SSB the last time around (only QSO, last day actually).

Let's see what else we can get tonight. Looking at spots, they've now gone to RTTY, 17m as well. A few calls there and once again, in the log (happy Rick?). So one evening, 3 modes but all the same band. Ironically, the same band I had worked them on last year. I'd suspect (not having any program that figures this out) that we may have a pipeline path with Swains on 17m.

Tonight I got them on 15m CW, took a few minutes and they were only S3 at best. Did hear them on 12m but not even worth "screaming" for them. Hopefully, they'll hit 30m and 40m this morning as I'd suspect we'd have a pretty good shot there if the other mornings' signals were any indication. (Added note: 3 calls Friday morning on 30m, huge signal).

Ken's little email propagation guide is fairly accurate though I see I've worked them 1 or 2 hours after their "peak" (especially on 17m) so don't give up. A-index at 3 has helped too.



Swains Island. European Space Agency photo from the Internet Ham Atlas, <http://www.hamatlas.eu/> by SP6NVK.

**Charlie, WB2HJV** – It seems interesting to see all of the spots for N8S on 10, 12, and 15 meters. I have not heard these chaps on any of these bands yet, phone or CW. It seems however that the 4s, 5s and 6s are doing OK with them on these frequencies. I've been fortunate to work them on 17m, 40m, and 8m0 CW, plus 1m7 SSB. I wonder why they are not on 40m, 80m, and 160m more often at sunrise here on the East Coast. The morning that I worked them on the low bands they had decent signals on 80m and 40m, S3 and S6 respectively. But I checked again this morning while getting ready for work and once again the spots were all on the upper bands.

Last Saturday morning I was up between 2 and 3 am here Rochester time and N8S had a huge signal, S7 to S8. The only problems were the lids and frequency police who had signals S9+20. Then the tuner-uppers started and it was then I figured my sleep was more important. There were no problems yesterday at sunrise on 40m or 80m when I worked them; the crowd seemed to be behaving themselves.

We've still got a few days left so good luck to all on getting them logged. Speaking of logs I heard they are having problems with the on-line logs and a small portion of April 7<sup>th</sup> was lost from 17m.

## The Chance of a Lifetime

By Joe Wilkowski - K8FC

### A DXpedition to TI5N during the 2006 CQ WW CW Contest

I have operated many, many contests over the years and enjoyed each and every one for the most part. However, I have always been on the U.S. side of pile-ups chasing that rare DX station. Never have I experienced being on the DX end of the chase. Let me tell you, if you ever have an opportunity to go on a DXpedition of any kind, give it a fair amount of consideration, as it will be one of the highlights of your Amateur Radio career.

Having said that, planning a DXpedition is no small feat and requires a ton of work from all the members of the group. This is true even for a small group such as ours. Our team consisted of me, K8FC; Dick, WØRAA; Phil, NØKE and Marty, K2PLF. We arrived in San Jose Costa Rica on 21 November 2006 after many

delays. I spent over 12 hours in the Dallas airport waiting for a plane that seemed never to appear.

We all met up in Dallas and had a great chance to get acquainted. Marty Green, K2PLF, was the only one of our group I had not met yet so we had a great time getting to know each other.



On the other side of the pileup: Joe, K8FC on location at TI5N, Costa Rica, November 2006.

We finally got on the plane to San Jose and landed in Costa Rica about 11 p.m. local time. We were met by our host, Keko, TI5KD and driven to the station. Boy, I have to say that if Keko would have dropped us off anywhere on the way to his home we would still be looking for a way out of the maze! Costa Rica is a beautiful country, but they definitely need road repairs. A pothole is a crater and the roads just don't get fixed. But, everybody seems to take it in stride and road craters are as much a daily part of life as anything else. After arriving at Keko's home and station, we exchanged some pleasantries and then we all passed out in the fine accommodations.



The TI5N antenna farm. Anything you want on any band from 160m through UHF, in a tropical paradise. It's a ham's DX paradise in Costa Rica.



You could not ask for anything better for a DXpedition environment. The station operating positions are in a small apartment complete with a couch, chairs, wet bar, shower, fridge etc. The sleeping arrangements are in an adjoining apartment not more than 20 feet away. The station consisted of virtually any antenna you would like to use from 160m through UHF. It would take a month to describe the antennas and their supports. Suffice it to say they were plentiful and all working. Of notable mention is an amazing home-brew cubicle quad that works on 10, 15, 20 and 30 meters. This was pretty much the star antenna for our trip.



The star antenna at TI5N: a homebrew 4-band, 4 element quad.

There were a couple of HF transceivers available but usually operators bring their own flavor of transmitter/receiver to the fray. I took my newly constructed K2 transceiver and made over 700 QSOs (outside of the contest) with that rig barefoot. If you have not had an opportunity to use a K2, you are missing out on a pleasant experience. I am using this little gem now in all my daily ham activities including chasing those elusive 160m contacts. In addition to the HF transceivers we had a number of good amplifiers ready to use, including an Alpha 89. There were bandpass filters and shorting stubs available for use as well. The electricity is the same as the U.S. (120/240 VAC) but not very dependable. We had many power outages as well as brown-outs, but the equipment held up well in the long haul.



Closeup of the quad antenna at TI5N. Note the multiple feedlines and multiple loops on each element. This really is a custom antenna.

Keko's wife, Sophia, provided the sustenance for us each day we were there. She is a fine cook and paid attention to when we operated and her schedule was timed perfectly to feed all the hungry ops. Sophie is also a ham and really understands the environment.



Some of the UHF antennas at TI5N. Ham ingenuity at its best!

We worked over the next few days to arrange the equipment and antennas for the final contest configuration. We needed to make all the antennas available to either station at any time so this took some special switching magic that Phil and I concocted – not pretty, but totally functional. We had a lot of little glitches but worked through each and every problem as it came along. I was in charge of getting the network and logging computers set up. Phil and Marty, having had the experience at TI5N before, were in charge of bands and logistics. We had a couple of RF glitches but, all in all, it worked fine. Keko had just installed a DSL connection and as yet it was not hooked up. I took care of the interfacing of the DSL to the stations as well as distribution to the compound in general. This provided access to the internet and the clusters. During the entire weekend we used the DX cluster to feed our logging computers. It's a real kick to see yourself spotted!



K8FC's K2 in operation at TI5N along with the logging and spotting network.

Let me say a little about band conditions and propagation. First of all, Costa Rica is only 9 degrees above the equator and they are going into their summer during this time. It is also the beginning of their "dry season". When we arrived, and even as we were landing, the wind was blowing the airplane all over the place. We were pretty much beat up when we finally hit the runway (literally). The wind continued to blow the entire week and into the weekend. As a matter of fact, the first two days we were there it got down into the 40s at night...which was unheard of and set a few records. This

caused all sorts of power line radio noise, and the power lines in our neighborhood were no exception. We had a ton of noise on 40m and higher frequencies, 80m and 160m were rendered pretty much useless because of these conditions. Finally the noise began to subside but still posed a major problem for the entire contest weekend. Propagation from Costa Rica is great for JA, US and Europe with only about a 60 degree shift in azimuth from Asia to Europe. We had a fixed TH6 that provided us with Africa and South American exposure.



At only 9° North of the Equator, Costa Rica is definitely in the tropics, as evidenced by the lush vegetation around the TI5N QTH.

Operating from Costa Rica was an incredible experience. As I said earlier I had never been on the other end of a pile-up. When conditions were right, you would hear Europe and Stateside at the same level and it provided a challenge to sort out the calls. We would work stations on 20, 15 and 10 meters during the daylight hours and shift to 40m and 80m in the evening. We'd also intersperse some 160m until we could not stand the noise any more. The JA openings were absolutely predictable and we were there waiting for them on all the low bands. Keko has an 80 meter dipole at 150 ft. that works wonders to Asia and Japan. What a thrill to hear the JAs, VUs and DUs loud and eager on 80 meters!

Think of that. How would you like to have armchair copy on Asia at sunrise on 80 meters? It was truly a pleasure.

This was an experience of a lifetime. We had a ton of laughs and told a myriad of stories. If you get a chance to go on a DXpedition, do it! You will not be disappointed.

Has Joe's story whetted your appetite for being rare DX? Check out the TI5KD/TI5N website at: <http://www.yantis.us/ti5kd/>

## Disappearing Entities



While watching the national news one day last week, I observed an interesting peace about global warming and how it might just affect our hobby. The report was focusing on the island nation of Kiribati, officially the Republic of Kiribati, T3, located in the

central tropical Pacific Ocean. Kiribati comprises 33 atolls dispersed over 1,351,000 square miles (3,500,000 km<sup>2</sup>) on the

equator. There was concern that with global warming and the resultant rise in sea level, the speculation is that at current rates this island nation could be underwater in 30 years!

For DXCC purposes, Kiribati is divided into three entities: Gilbert Islands (Western Kiribati, T3Ø), Line Islands (Eastern Kiribati, T32), and Phoenix Islands (Central Kiribati, T31).

Banaba (or Ocean Island) is a raised-coral island that was once a rich source of phosphates, but it was mostly mined out before independence. The rest of the land in Kiribati consists of the sand and reef rock islets of atolls or coral islands that rise but a few meters (at most 6.5 feet) above sea level.

According to the South Pacific Regional Environment Program, two small uninhabited Kiribati islets, Tebua Tarawa and Abanuea, disappeared underwater in 1999. The islet of Tepuka Savilivili no longer has any coconut trees due to salination. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts that sea levels will rise by about half a meter by 2100 due to global warming, and a further rise would be inevitable. It is thus likely that within a century the nation's arable land will become subject to increased soil salination and will be largely submerged. (Information from Wikipedia.)

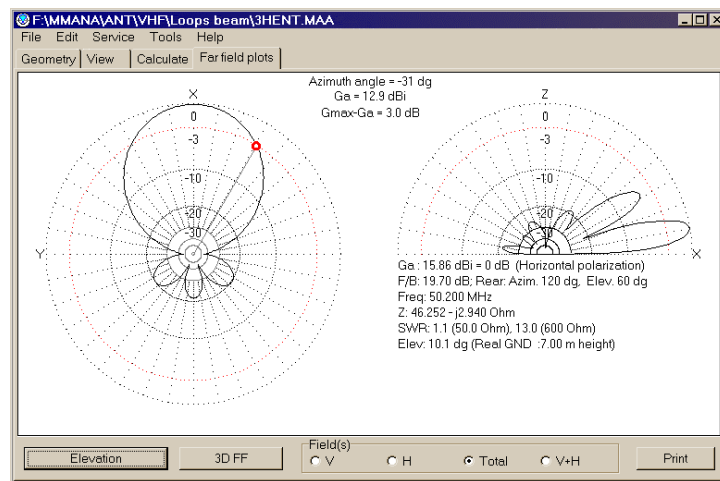
Now I'm glad that I had the opportunity to work T32Z (East Kiribati) – and get it confirmed!

## Free Antenna Modeling Software

By Ken Boasi - N2ZN

I just wanted to pass on something for the newsletter. Here's a program I found to do antenna modeling. It seems to work pretty well, but takes some getting used to. It is MMANA, written by the same guy that does MMTTY (Mako Mori, JE3HHT). The **free download** comes with a number of antenna model files, and you can make your own. You can find this software at:

<http://mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca/mmmana/index.htm>



Far Field plot display from MMANA. It's **free** for the download.

## Announced DX Operations

From NG3K Web Pages

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Looking for that rare one? Just want to try out that new antenna or amp? Check out the listings you will find for active and announced DX operations on the NG3K web archive. Point your browser to the URL above for up-to-date DXpedition info. Ed.





I'd have to say the biggest QSO in the last few weeks was H44MS, which when confirmed will put me on the honor roll. Yet another milestone in my ham radio career and one I've worked hard for with "100 watts and wire" for 16 years. I'm still awaiting my 3CØ card. As you may know, the Solomons were hit with a Tsunami earlier in the week. H44MS was spotted tonight so I suspect he's OK and when he

gets home in a few weeks will send along my card. I doubt it'll be here in time for Dayton so I'll have to apply sometime after that.

Enjoy the upcoming weather. 6m should be opening soon as well.

In the Log, non-contest:

Station	Bands
XT2C	80m, 40m, 30m, 20m 17m, 15m CW 17m SSB; 20m RTTY
YB1A	40m CW
HVØA	20m CW, SSB
CE1/K7CA	160m, 80m CW
URØMC	160m CW
J2ØRR	80m, 30m CW
ST2A	80m, 40m 20m CW
J79RV	160m CW
KP2/K3CT	160m CW
PJ4/KU8E	160m CW
V31K0	160m CW
GD3UMW	60m SSB
ZD8WX	60m SSB
9U9Z	15m SSB
9UØX	17m CW
VK9DNX	20m, 15m, CW; 17m SSB
TA3D	80m CW; 20m SSB
SVØXAO	80m CW
SV5/DJ7RJ	80m CW
TCØDX	40m, 30m, 20m CW
VP8/LZ1UQ	40m CW
ZL7/KHØPR	20m CW
XE1KK	60m SSB
HI3TEJ	160m CW
MUØFAL	60m SSB
J28JA	20m SSB
TU2/F5LDY	40m CW
YN4SU	30m CW
N8S	17m CW, SSB, RTTY; 15m CW



ZD8WX 60m QSL; front (above), back, (below). 60m DX work requires that operators pay particular attention to the unique regulations governing operations on this band.

#### Ascension Island

**ZD8WX**

Bill Gallier, W4WX

Confirms QSO(s) as follows:



Grid: I122tb  
IOTA AF-003  
CQ Zone 36  
ITU Zone 66



To Radio					
Date	K2CS	UTC	Band	RST	2X
Date	23-Feb-2007	00:51	60m	55	SSB
Txn QSL 73 de Bill					

Thanks for the QSO(s)

☐ Pse QSL Txn ☐

73, Bill

Ascension Island is a 37 square mile British Territory located just south of the equator about 900 miles west of Africa. It is a volcanic island with about 1100 inhabitants, mostly from St. Helena which is 700 miles away. The island was first populated by the British who stationed a marine garrison there in 1815 when Napoleon was exiled to the island of St. Helena. The island is a popular nesting ground for the large Green Sea Turtle.

UX5UO print

See you in the pileups. Best DX es 73.

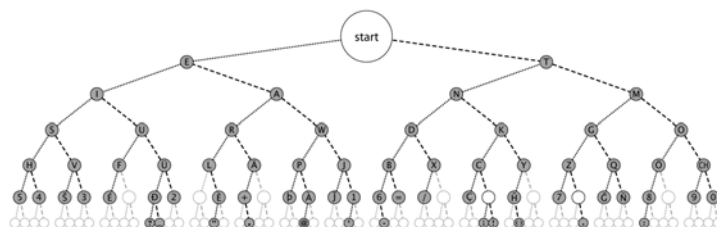
#### More on Morse

By Rick Mintz - W1TY

Ranger Rick reveals the secret he used to learn the Morse code many years ago. See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morse\\_code](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morse_code) for a larger version of the chart below. This is actually pretty cool. Ed.

In computer science, a dichotomic search is a search algorithm that operates by selecting between two distinct alternatives (dichotomies) at each step. It is a specific type of divide and conquer algorithm. A well-known example is binary search.

Some dichotomic searches only have results at the leaves of the tree, such as the Huffman tree used in Huffman compression, or the implicit classification tree used in Twenty Questions. Other dichotomic searches also have results in at least some internal nodes of the tree, such as a dichotomic search table for Morse code, seen below.



A dichotomic search table for Morse code. A larger version may be found on Wikipedia under the entry for Morse code.



# Rochester **VHF** Group And Rochester **DX** Association Annual Awards Banquet



**Saturday, 21 April 2007**

**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 K2DH, AF2K, N2CK and N2OPW**

## FCC to Require Keyboard Typing Test for *All* Amateur License Classes



In an historic move, the FCC has acted to add a typing proficiency requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission today adopted, but

hasn't yet released, the long-awaited Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket BS-AGN, the "Typing Proficiency" proceeding.

The Commission said it would shortly release testing requirements. Your typing speed and accuracy will be measured automatically by software currently being developed by the FCC. The software will evaluate performance which will be displayed along with your typing speed.

With the demise of Morse code, the FCC felt it best to guard against poorly typed communications on the new and increasingly popular digital modes.

Also today, the FCC adopted an Order of Reconsideration in WT Docket ST-PID — an ARRL request to require all Amateurs under the age of 10 to trained in the "proper holding and posing with an HT". The League has recognized the frequency with which younger Amateurs are photographed holding HTs and noted that the proper holding and displaying of these "shacks on a belt" would further the growth of this facet of Amateur Radio

In a break from what's been the usual practice in Amateur Radio proceedings, the FCC only issued a Public Notice on or about the close of business today and not the actual Report & Order, so some details — including the effective dates of the two orders — remain uncertain.

The actual text of today's announcements may be found at:  
[http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index.htm?job=service\\_home&id=amateur](http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index.htm?job=service_home&id=amateur)

## Nokia Patents Morse Code-generating Mobile Phone



Nokia has filed a patent for an optical messaging system that can generate symbols and Morse Code, as well as decipher the information on the receiving end. They plan to equip handsets with a large light emitting matrix to generate scrolling or blinking symbols recognizable up to four meters away. Phones using this technology will also come with a single, high-power LED than can be used manually to transmit Morse Code, which can be deciphered on the remote end using a camera phone. What's the big idea? Nokia calls it a "new communication channel that does not pollute the RF band."

## New Rig from Yaesu - FT-450



Those headed to Dayton this year will get an opportunity to see Yaesu's latest HF/50MHz rig, the FT-450. The rig is not yet included on the Yaesu web site, but a Google search turned up several dealers offering the rig for sale at \$969 without ATU and \$1119 with internal ATU. Frequency coverage is 160-6 meters TX and 30kHz through 56MHz RX. Modes are SSB, CW, AM, FM. Power is 100w all bands. The rig includes a 400MHz IF DSP chip and a 10kHz roofing filter as well as built-in CW keyer with 3 memories plus 2 voice keying memories. Computer interface is via a standard 9-pin D-sub connector (hopefully without the need for a TTL-RS-232 level converter). A TWX function permits monitoring the TX frequency when split operation is enabled. Interestingly, CW keying can be accomplished using the UP/DN keys on the supplied hand microphone.



## 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 second 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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Packet Cluster Sys Op ----- Bob Hunter, NG2P

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