

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

LATE EDITION

JANUARY 2007

Regular Meeting

January 16th 19:30 local

300 Jay Scutti Boulevard
Gander Mountain
Meeting Room

The VNA in Action

In the November and December issues, Raj, N2RD described the Vector Network Analyzer. Now that you have read the article and seen the pictures, come see the real thing in action. Bring your questions and learn how the VNA can help solve some of those mysterious station and construction problems.

Coming in February

RDXA/60 at the Combined RDXA and RARA Meeting

February 2nd 19:30 local

Henrietta Fire Hall

3129 East Henrietta Road

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin
Winton Plaza

President's Soapbox

By Dave Wright - N2CK

Greetings all.

What is with this weather? It's almost like we got a few extra months to work on antennas.

I would like to thank those folks who came out and participated in the combined operating event at the Rochester Museum and Science Center after Christmas. I was going to list the folks I knew were there – but then I realized I would most probably overlook someone, and I didn't want that to happen. I was there Wednesday

afternoon and Friday morning, and had a blast! On Friday, we pretty much stuck to 40m SSB. We tried to find stations who would be willing to stick around and chat with us, and also talk to kids as they passed by. Vic was a natural at coaching the kids and helping them through their first contact. Alan, always present with his camera, was also quite the operator. I couldn't believe how stations were lining up to come back to him when he called QRZ? We even had a recently licensed ham (a Tech) make his first HF QSO (no, I don't remember his call). If you couldn't find the time to participate this year, consider setting some time aside for next year.



Rochester Ham is QST Cover Plaque Award Winner



Floyd Koontz, WA2WVL, a Rochester resident for many years, is the winner of the December QST Cover Plaque Award, for his article "The Horizontal EWE Antenna." Congratulations, Floyd! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award—given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue—is determined by a vote of ARRL members.

Did you happen to get VU7LD in the log? Here's the saga of how I fared. Anxious to work this new, rare one, and following the advice of Ed, K2MP that the best time to work them would be mid-morning (local time) on 20m, I made it my mission to be at the radio on weekends. This was the only time I could catch them during the window of favorable propagation.

I initially started looking the weekend of December 9th and 10th, but I heard not a peep. I was listening from 10:00 – 11:00 local time. The following weekend, I tried again with no success. However, this time I listened earlier in the day as K2DB worked 'em at 9:11 local (make that 14:11 UTC).

I figured my best chance would be during Christmas break as I would have a few days to spend listening for them. On 23 Dec., around 14:15z their signal had improved from a barely audible whisper to a solid S 3-4. Frantically I searched for their listening frequency. I finally found them at 14.265 MHz and attempted to bust the pileup. Imagine my frustration when I heard a voice pop

on their listening frequency asking, "Hey, aren't you guys gonna work any RTTY?". I listened to the op explaining that he was currently working SSB, and there would be an attempt later at RTTY. The op then went QRX for a short while. By the time he returned, the signal was back at the noise floor!

On 24 Dec. I again was at the radio before 09:00 local, listening for them. I did not hear anything. Finally on Christmas morning, I heard their signal once again peek at an S 3. I found their listening frequency of 14.265 and waited for my opportunity. I tried a few times and couldn't get in. I heard the op state, "Now listing 267". I quickly hit the VFO button and bumped VFO B up to 14.267 MHz. I was the first person he heard on the new frequency, and I promptly gave him a 59 report. Now the long wait to see if my call showed up in the log. The online lookup said that updates would be posted on 27 Dec. I must have checked the online log 20 times on the 27th, but each time the current logs had not been uploaded. Finally, when I checked on the 28th, it was uploaded, and there was my call! Guess it's legit. Whew!

Speaking of rare DX, did you get 1A4A in the log? I didn't, though I took some time trying during the RTTY Roundup on Sunday. They were spotted working on 14.260 MHz, listening up 5. All I can say is what a bunch of pathetic operators US hams are! Sheesh! It was downright embarrassing to be a U.S. ham. Way too many times for it to be a mistake, I heard the operator call for a specific call, or part of the call—and folks just kept on calling anyways—even though their call was nothing like what the operator was requesting. I am fairly confident I was on their listening frequency, because the few times folks in the pileup stood by, I could hear the other operator he was working. In retrospect, perhaps the operator could have caused a little less chaos by working by the numbers—though at one point he was calling for 6's, 7's or West Coast folks. But, he didn't really stay consistent in his operating practices. Next time!

This month, I had the difficult task of removing some folks from the RDXA mailing list, and will be working with Scott to turn off their access to the members' only area of the web site. These were people who have not renewed their membership, even though there have been repeated attempts to get them to come back.

I would like to make a personal request to all of you. Like me, you all have lots of funds tied up in equipment, antennas, as well as time invested in the hobby. I personally feel that the **ARRL's Spectrum Defense Fund** is a worthwhile cause. In light of that, I would suggest that at the January meeting, we pass the hat for donations to submit to the League from the Club. Hopefully you're not all tapped out with Christmas bills. I think it would be a fitting tribute if a Club whose mission is contesting and DXing on the HF bands submits a donation for this most worthwhile cause.

I did participate in the RTTY Roundup, but the only RDXA person I worked was N2WK. I actually heard Wayne working a few folks before catching him CQing on Sunday. I'm surprised I didn't hear more folks active. I finished with just over 100 contacts.

I'll close for now as lunch is over, and I need to get this piece off to Mike. Don't forget Mike's request for your top 10 "most wanted" entities. I'll be looking through the DX4WIN database tonight for mine!

January Contests

ARRL Straight Key Night, CW ----- 1 Jan
ARRL RTTY Roundup, RTTY ----- 6, 7 Jan

Kid's Day, SSB ----- 7 Jan
EUCW 160m Contest, CW ----- 6, 7 Jan
Ø7Ø PSK FEST, PSK-31 ----- 13 Jan
Hungarian DX, SSB, CW ----- 20, 21 Jan
UK DX RTTY, RTTY ----- 20, 21 Jan
CQ WW 160m DX, CW ----- 27, 28 Jan
BARTG RTTY Sprint ----- 27, 28 Jan

More Contest Info

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

February Contests

YLRL YL-OM Contest, CW ----- 3-5 Feb
Mexico Int'l. RTTY, RTTY ----- 3, 4 Feb
CQWW RTTY WPX, RTTY ----- 10, 11 Feb
RSGB 1.8 MHz contest, CW ----- 10, 11 Feb
ARRL Int'l DX CW ----- 17, 18 Feb
Russian PSK WW Contest, PSK31 ----- 23, 24 Feb
CQWW 160m Contest, SSB ----- 24, 25 Feb
NAQP RTTY, RTTY ----- 24, 25 Feb

March Contests

ARRL Int'l. DX, SSB ----- 3, 4 Mar
Open Ukraine RTTY low band, RTTY ----- 3 Mar
Open Ukraine RTTY high band, RTTY ----- 4 Mar
NAQP Sprint, RTTY ----- 11 Mar
BARTG Spring RTTY, RTTY ----- 17-19 Mar
Russian DX, SSB, CW ----- 17, 18 Mar
CQWW WPX, SSB ----- 24, 25 Mar

Contest Commentary

OK DX RTTY DX, N1OKL – What a bust!

This year's OK DX RTTY event was plagued with exceptionally active geomagnetic conditions that resulted in near-total HF radio blackouts. For most of the contest, the A-index hovered in the 70 to 80 range! Typically, OK DX RTTY is a well-attended contest, and serves as a good warm up for the ARRL RTTY Roundup in January. Not so this year. I operated for only a few hours and each contact was a struggle. I made only a handful of DX QSOs and posted a score of 2064 points. Sometimes Mother Nature can be downright uncooperative.



Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge, N1OKL – I had not worked this contest in past years, but I have always been intrigued by its scoring system. The contest exchange is grid square location and points are awarded for each contact based on distance. So, when I saw the cluster full of 160m spots around midnight, I decided to give it a try. This is a CW contest, and though my CW is pretty solid at 20 WPM, it is not so great at typical contest speeds of 25 WPM and up. So, I was pleasantly surprised to find most exchanges taking place at a comfortable 15 to 18 WPM. I operated S&P with 1kW for several hours. The only European I

heard was a very faint signal from CT3, not strong enough to warrant a call. Most of my contacts were within a few hundred miles, with a handful out to 1000 miles or so. I logged a QSO with W2FU and I did manage a long-distance contact to BC, worth 14 points. Band conditions were near-perfect with the A-index at 0 and virtually no QRN. All-in-all, it was a fun event and I plan to give it a try again next winter.

ARRL RTTY Roundup, W2RTY – Several members of the WNY Digital Contest Club made the journey to Hickory Lake in St. Lawrence County to operate from K2DB / K2NNY as W2RTY in this year's RTTY Roundup. W1TY, K2DB, N2OPW, and N1OKL mounted a single transmitter / multi-op effort for the event, in the low power category. Terrestrial weather conditions were nothing short of amazing with daytime temperatures on Saturday approaching 60°F. Space weather too was accommodating with a low A-index and SFI in the low 90s. After a bit of a slow start, 10-minute QSO rates settled to a steady 40 to 60 contacts per hour, with a few peaks on Sunday morning as high as 100 per hour. A change in the weather Saturday afternoon brought wind gusts of 50 MPH during which time beam rotation did not seem wise. Luckily the yagi was pointed NE at the time, so rates into EU did not suffer.



Celebrating the New Year, members of the WNY Digital Contest Club operating as W2RTY during the recent ARRL RTTY Roundup. L to R: Paul, N2OPW, Rick, W1TY, Paul, K2DB. Behind the camera, Mike, N1OKL.

Final claimed score: 831 Qs, 88068 points. We worked 54 states and provinces and 52 countries. We had 187 Qs on 80m, 302 on 40m, 262 on 20m, and 80 Qs on 15m.

Propagation

*AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22
January 1996*

Solar Flux Range ----- 69 – 86

Low Bands – It is now the dead of winter, so nighttime MUFs and noise levels are at their lowest. This is peak season for lowband work. There is more activity than last year, and conditions are better with louder signals. In the evening, the MUF along the path to Europe drops below 7 MHz, so much of the transatlantic activity moves to 80m (actually 75m SSB). Those with good setups for transmitting and receiving on 160m are doing well this season. Conditions peak at the European sunrise, which now occurs after our midnight. The louder EU stations are able to work stateside without benefit of the sunrise phenomena, especially on 80m.

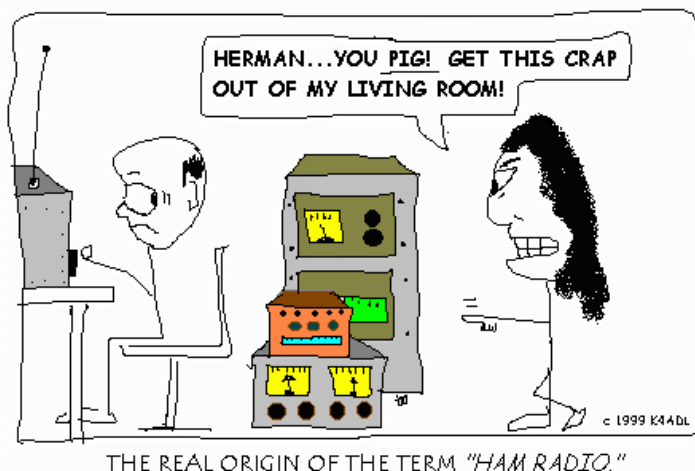
Gray Line Paths – The East Coast enjoys excellent conditions to Europe on 40m with high activity well before sunset. Most of the rest of us use the band peak following the EU sunrise. There is another interesting opening to Europe at our own sunrise. At this time of year, the grey line tilts toward the northeast in the morning. This opens a high latitude path to the north that serves up loud signals from Scandinavia and can extend into some hard to reach areas of Central Asia. Since this opening is of short duration, your experience with this path will vary if you live in other parts of the US (or world), since the grey line will lead to different countries than here in W5. High latitude paths are difficult on the low bands, and this sunrise opening gives us our best shot at certain countries.

High bands – 20m has become primarily a daypath band, replacing 15m which has gone the way of 10m. Let's not forget that it is summer in the southern hemisphere, and that 20m nightpaths are open down there. Long path is not nearly as good or reliable as it was at the sunspot peak, but signals come through quite regularly in the Southern US. From W5, the opening begins with a short opening to the Middle East and then broadens to Europe. (The path to VU and 4S7 usually doesn't open first, but is a daily happening higher in the cycle.) There is less activity on long path than at the sunspot peak, and little competition in pileups. The East Coast is busy working Europe short path, and sigs switch to short path for us after an hour or so. Long path is also workable around our sunset, but the activity at the other end of the path is scarce. Instead of Europe, we work S.E. Asia. Our sunset is also a good time to tune for other signals from the south, like Antarctica. The loud signals with equatorial ring are South Americans. Certain exotic areas of the Indian Ocean are also along this path, so this is your short path window to FT, ZS8, 3Y and VKØ (the long path is a summer opening).

Background: In 1988, at the beginning of Cycle 22, Roy Hradilek, AD5Q, embarked on the task of creating a chronicle of propagation history for Solar Cycle 22 as experienced from his Houston, Texas QTH. Given that solar cycles follow an 11-year period, it is interesting and instructive to look at Roy's comments on propagation from 11 years ago. Though by no means an exact prediction of what one can expect in the current cycle, and noting that propagation to and from WNY is somewhat different than from Houston, Roy's notes can nevertheless provide useful insight into current propagation conditions.

73, de Roy - AD5Q / Houston

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



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

Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2007 January 9

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2007 Jan 10	90	8	3
2007 Jan 11	85	5	2
2007 Jan 12	80	5	2
2007 Jan 13	80	5	2
2007 Jan 14	75	8	3
2007 Jan 15	75	8	3
2007 Jan 16	75	15	3
2007 Jan 17	75	15	3
2007 Jan 18	75	15	3
2007 Jan 19	75	15	3
2007 Jan 20	75	10	3
2007 Jan 21	75	5	2
2007 Jan 22	75	5	2
2007 Jan 23	75	5	2
2007 Jan 24	75	5	2
2007 Jan 25	75	5	2
2007 Jan 26	80	5	2
2007 Jan 27	85	5	2
2007 Jan 28	85	5	2
2007 Jan 29	85	15	3
2007 Jan 30	85	25	5
2007 Jan 31	85	15	3
2007 Feb 01	85	10	3
2007 Feb 02	85	5	2
2007 Feb 03	85	5	2
2007 Feb 04	85	5	2
2007 Feb 05	85	10	3

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

Antenna Farming in Oswego By Redd Swindells - AI2N

My project for the warm months of 2006 was to organize my station a bit and to improve my low band capabilities. I finally managed to tie all of my grounds together and improve my lightning protection scheme. I took down the shack walls to pull in more cables/wires and buried 60 radials in my small, cluttered back yard.

My goal in this is 5 band DXCC. To this end, I gave up 160m for now and erected a Cushcraft MA8040 vertical (photographed from my attic window for maximum clarity). It is a short vertical that uses hybrid (inductor, cap hat) loading. After working out a hairpin match that worked on both bands, I wound up with 2:1 SWR for all of 40m and the bottom 60 kHz of 80m. The internal tuner on my FT1000MP can easily get me well into the new 80m (75m) phone band. I also put up a cloud-warmer "bent" trap dipole for 40/80. To (hopefully) minimize interaction with the vertical, the dipole is not actually resonant on 40m or 80m. A tuner and ladder line feed make it usable. Finally, I put up a couple of pennants (EU, VK/OC) and a half-size reversible flag antenna (SA/JA) to augment my trusty "magnetic" loop on receive. The yard is crowded. Yes, I'm using a Front End Saver.

First test: I operated the first night of CQWW DX CW as SOSB 80m LP. VE stations responded well to the low dipole, as expected. The dipole and vertical were about equal to the Caribbean. Euro stations that did not respond to calls using the dipole were usually snared using the vertical. I even got through

the pileups for 5B, 7X, 5A, 3V, 6W and TZ (not you, Fred). I wound up at 149Q/17Z/64C; not great, but better than before. I even managed WAC! I'm still not strong enough to get a good run going on 80m, but I'll probably manage 80m DXCC once I actually start sending QSLs (This year's project).



The new low band vertical at AI2N plays well into EU and AF in its first use.

In the Shack

Photos by Dave Wright - N2CK



This month, we continue our armchair tour of RDXA members' shacks with a look at the impressive DX and contest station of Wayne King, N2WK in Holley, NY.

Wayne's shack features three operating positions, equipped as follows. **Position 1** includes a TenTec Omni VI Plus, modified Dentron DTR-2000L amp, TenTec Auto Tuner, band pass filters, and Kenwood SM-220 monitor scope.

Position 2 includes a Ten Tec Orion II, another modified Dentron DTR 2000L amp and Ten Tec auto tuner plus another second Kenwood SM-220 monitor scope.

Position 3 features an Icom 746 Pro and an Alpha 86 for 6m only.

The N2WK antenna farm is equally well-equipped. Wayne's Holley, NY QTH sports three towers of 110 ft., 68 ft., and 70 ft. Each tower is festooned with multiple yagi arrays, while also serving as supports for a variety of low band wire antennas. See photos and captions on the following pages for specifics of the individual tower and antenna configurations.



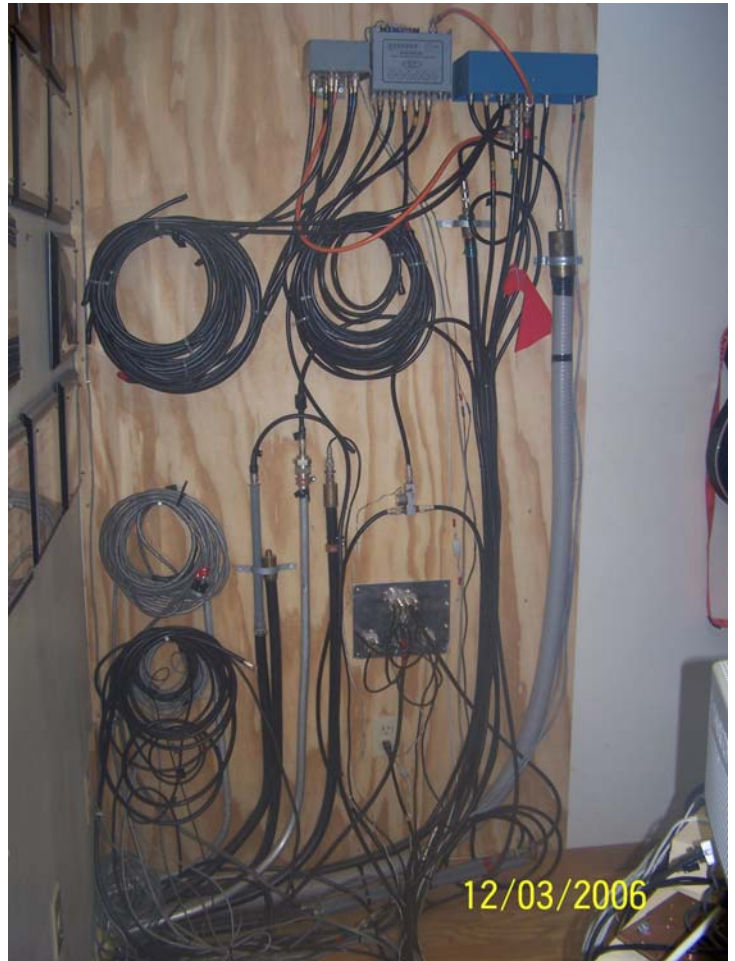
Operating position 1 at N2WK features a Ten Tec Omni VI and a modified Dentron amp.



Operating position 2 (center) at N2WK includes the Ten Tec Orion II and another modified Dentron amp. Operating position 3 (right) features an Icom 746 Pro and an Alpha 86 amp for 6m only.



What goes up must come in. An outside view of the feed and control line entry point.



On the other side: the feedline and control line termination panel.



The N2WK workshop. It takes a well-equipped bench to keep a station of this size and complexity in top operating form.

Radio wave propagation could be looking up after this summer, according to past and predicted sunspot and solar (radio) flux statistics released this week from the NOAA Space Environment Center. Those numbers indicate that current Cycle 23 will bottom out in July. As for Cycle 24, which should peak in approximately five years, the predictions are all over the map, with some saying it could be one of the most intense cycles in history and others calling for a weak or average cycle.



Tower #1 Rohn 25G, 110 feet, top 50 feet rotates. 2 el 40m Cushcraft @ 109 ft.; 4el 20m Hygain @ 92 ft.; 2, Mosley Pro 57As @ 62 ft. and 32 ft., stacked using Array Solution stack match unit. The tower also supports a 160m sloper.



Tower #2 Rohn 25G foldover, 68 feet. Cushcraft ringo at top; 5 el 15m Hygain @ 70 ft.; 14 el 2m Cushcraft @ 78 ft. The tower also supports an 80m horizontal loop.



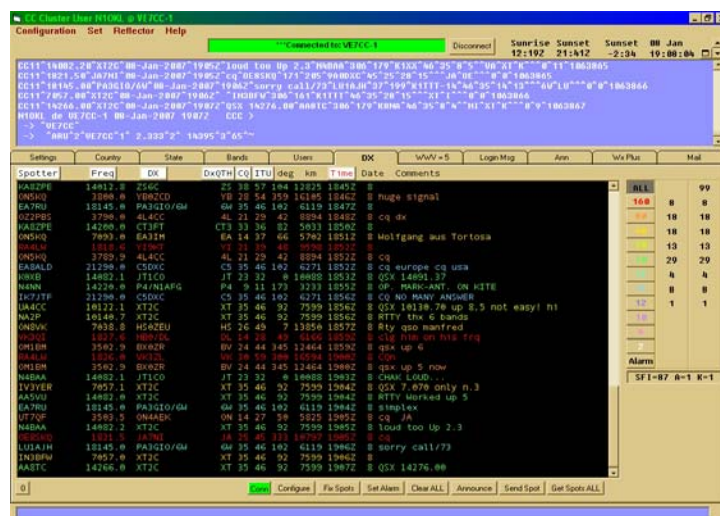
The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved this operation for DXCC credit: **5X1RI (Uganda)**, operation May 5, 2005-February 3, 2006. For more information, visit the [DXCC](http://www.arrl.org/dxcc) Web page.



Tower #3 Rohn 25G, 70 feet. 7el 6m Cushcraft @ 80 ft.; Mosley Pro 67A @ 70 ft. 10/12/15/17/20/40m, 4el on 10m, 3 on other bands and 2 el on 40m; the tower also supports an 80m sloper.

VE7CC DX Cluster Software By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

I suspect that many folks are aware of the excellent DX Cluster user program created by Lee Sawkins, VE7CC. The user program is **free** for the download from <http://www.ve7cc.net/> and is supported with regular updates. Detailed setup and configuration instructions are provided on the VE7CC web site.



Screen shot of the **free** VE7CC DX Cluster user program.

One of the more interesting capabilities of Lee's DX software is its ability to be configured as an input / output module for logging programs that support a telnet cluster interface. That is, one can run the VE7CC software as a "front end" for any logging program that supports a telnet DX cluster connection. This would enable one to establish a single set of cluster spot filters in the VE7CC user program, and use those filters with multiple logging programs.

Here's how to set up the VE7CC user program as a DX cluster front end for your logging software. From the menus go to:

1. **Configuration | Ports/Logging Program**
2. In the dialog box that appears, click the check box labeled: **Enable Telnet**
3. Click the radio button labeled **Use Port 7300**.

This will direct the *output* from the VE7CC user program to the local telnet loopback IP address and port. As long as the logging software you want to use is running on the *same machine* as the VE7CC program, you can use the Windows built-in telnet loopback port as the input port for your logging program. To do this, simply open the telnet cluster address setup routine in your logging program and add a new entry. Give the new entry any name you like, and use 127.0.0.1 as the IP address and 7300 as the port. This is the local telnet loopback port and IP address. That's it.

Launch the VE7CC user program first, and connect to your favorite DX cluster location. Now launch your logging program, and select the name you entered above as the target cluster. Voila! Your logging program will immediately begin taking its cluster feed from the local telnet loopback port, which in turn, is taking its feed from the VE7CC user program.

This scheme works out really well if you are running two monitors. You can have your logging software running in one monitor and a full screen display of the VE7CC user program in the other. This permits you to keep tabs on all band activity with a glance at the VE7CC monitor, while focusing your operating activities on a particular band and mode in the other monitor. This is particularly easy to do if you have setup the bands with a custom color scheme in the VE7CC program.

I am using this exact setup with Logger32 for general purpose DXing and logging, and I find that it works very well. I really like having a full screen display of band activity running in one monitor. Plus, the expanded display format option, *which includes country names*, is really handy. For contest activities, I continue to rely on the built in telnet cluster connection in N1MM Logger, rather than using VE7CC as a cluster front end.

2006 RMSC Operation

By Alan Masson - K6PSP

For the past several years, members of RDXA and RARA have setup and operated a ham radio station at the Holiday Science and Technology Fair held at the Rochester Museum and Science Center between Christmas and New Years. Herewith, photos from this year's event.



Before the crowds. Dave Wright, N2CK (left) and Vic Gauvin, K1PY (right) set up and check out the exhibit.



A young visitor makes her first QSO, with a little help from Dave, N2CK.



Alan Masson, K6PSP mans the station while young visitors look on.



Vic, K1PY explains the fine points of VHF operation to a young visitor.



Dave, N2CK pinpoints the location of a DX contact in the Caribbean.

1A4A Online Logs



1A4A
AMATEUR RADIO STATION OF
THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

Those chasing the recent 1A4A operation from the Sovereign Military Order of

Malta will find the logs from this operation online at: <http://www.centuplo.it/logonline/inputlog.asp>. As of this writing, the logs were up to date through the end of the operation.

If you are interested in learning more about SMOM, visit their U.S. web site at: <http://www.smom.org/>. Of potential interest to DXers, is an article on this web site stating:

The Order has recently returned to Malta, after signing an agreement with the Maltese Government which granted the Order the exclusive use of Fort St. Angelo for a term of 99 years. Located in the town of Birgu, the Fort belonged to the Knights from 1530 until the island was occupied by Napoleon in 1798. Today, after restoration, the Fort accommodates the Accademia Internazionale Melitense, which is engaged in historical and cultural activities related to the Order of Malta.

Does this mean that there will be a future SMOM operation from the Island of Malta? Possibly, if Fort St. Angelo is granted the same extraterritorial status as the SMOM properties in Rome.

Be Your Own DXCC Entity From *The Times* of London
8 January 2007

Have you dreamed about being rare DX? Here's your chance. Ed.

World's tiniest country seeks new owners to fly the flag

By Helen Nugent, *Times* correspondent

For sale: the world's smallest country, complete with its own passports, currency, stamps and national football team. Uninterrupted sea views and complete privacy assured. Oh, and more wind than you will ever want. Offers in the region of eight-digit sums considered.

After 40 years, the owners of the Principality of Sealand have put it on the market. They hope that investors will be lured by the island's setting and its status as a tax haven.

But it is not exactly a dream hideaway. Sealand, which was built as a wartime fort called Roughs Tower in 1941, is a 550 sq. m (5,920 sq. ft.) steel platform perched on two concrete towers. Accessible only by helicopter and boat, it sits seven miles (11km) off the coast of Harwich in Essex. [Check out <http://www.sealandgov.org/> and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sealand>]

Its living accommodation is less than palatial—long, low buildings made of steel through which the sound of generators reverberates constantly. One American visitor described it as “unbelievably ugly”.



Roughs Tower, also known as HM Fort Roughs, is one of several World War II installations that were designed by Guy Maunsell and known collectively as His Majesty's Forts or the Maunsell Sea Forts. It is not an island, but a man-made structure, similar to an oil rig. The purpose of HM Fort Roughs was to guard the port of Harwich, Essex. It was constructed in the United Kingdom, towed into position and deliberately sunk at 51°53'40"N, 1°28'57"E on Rough Sands, a sandbar located approximately six miles from the coast of Suffolk and eight miles from the coast of Essex, England.

What it lacks in charm and climate it makes up for in a history that includes raiders, hand-to-hand fighting and a kidnapping.

In September 1967 Paddy Roy Bates, a former English major, settled there with his family. He proclaimed the island his own state and gave himself the title of prince.

A year later the Royal Navy tried to evict him. The self-professed Roy of Sealand saw them off with warning shots from the fort.

A judge ruled that Sealand lay beyond the three-mile limit of Britain's territorial waters and was, therefore, outside government control.

Seven years later Prince Roy introduced a constitution and, later, a flag, a national anthem and gold and silver Sealand dollars. Finally, passports were issued to people deemed to have promoted the interests of Sealand.



In 1978 Dutch and German businessmen came to discuss a business deal and, while there, kidnapped Prince Roy's son and took Sealand by force. He was freed in a counter-attack from the air and Prince Roy held the invaders as prisoners of war. Germany

asked Britain to intervene but was told that the fortress was beyond British jurisdiction. Prince Roy eventually released the men.

Life on Sealand is much calmer and Prince Michael of Sealand, who has been in charge since poor health led his father to hand over the reins in 1999, spends most of his time on the mainland.

Prince Michael, 54, told *The Times*: “We have owned the island for 40 years now and my father is 85. Perhaps it is time for some rejuvenation. Astronomical figures have been mentioned but we will just see what comes forward.”

DX Most Wanted

Analysis and Commentary

RDXA Members

By the Editor - N1OKL

This month's Column of the Month features a compilation of the most wanted DXCC entities from RDXA members. Yellow indicates the entity occurs on multiple lists.

For purposes of comparison, two lists of top ten most wanted entities from *DX Magazine* and *425 DX News* are also presented. These lists are several years old, and—especially with respect to VU7 (VU7LD) and 3Y/P (3YØX)—do not reflect the results of recent DX operations in these locations.

It's interesting to note that P5 does not make the *425 DX News* top ten list (it's #12). If you consider that recent operations in VU7 and 3Y/P have probably removed these entities from the top ten, then P5 and KH7K (#11, Kure Is.) move up. However, there was a big operation in 2005 from KH7K (K7C), so that probably removes Kure, and moves ZS8 (Marion Is.) into a top ten slot

N2WK	N2ZN
3B7 Agalega & St. Brandon	3D2/c Conway Reef
70 Yemen	9X Rwanda
BS7H Scarborough Reef	9U Burundi
FR/G Glorioso	3C Equatorial Guinea
FT5W Crozet	CEØX San Felix & S. Ambrosio
KH8/S Swains Island	FT5W Crozet
P5 North Korea	FT5Z Amsterdam & St. Paul I.
SV/A Mount Athos	KP1 Navassa Island
VP8/O South Orkney	T31 Central Kiribati Is.
ZS8 Pr. Edward & Marion Is.	TN Republic of the Congo
	P5 North Korea
	BS7H Scarborough Reef
	70 Yemen

N2CK Wanted to Work	N2CK Worked, confirmation needed
1S Spratly Island	3B9 Rodrigues Is.
3D2/r Rotuma	3DA Swaziland
3W Vietnam	9J Zambia
3Y/B Bouvet	9Q Zaire
3Y/P Peter I Island	CEØA Easter Island
R1MV Malyj Vysotskij Is. (4J1)	EZ Turkmenistan
R1FJ Franz Josef Land (4K2)	FO/M Marquesas Island
BY China	SV5 Dodecanese
P5 North Korea	VK9L Lord Howe Island
ZL8 Kermadec Island	VU India

AF2K	N1OKL
3B7 Agalega & St. Brandon	BS7H Scarborough Reef
BS7H Scarborough Reef	3CØ Annobon Island
CEØX San Felix & S. Ambrosio	3D2/c Conway Reef
FR/G Glorioso Island	FR/G Glorioso Island
FR/J Juan de Nova, Europa	FR/J Juan de Nova, Europa
P5 North Korea	3Y/B Bouvet
PYØS St. Peter & Paul Rocks	FT5W Crozet
VU7 Lakshadweep Island	FT5X Kerguelen Island
YA Afghanistan	VK9L Lord Howe Island
YK Syria	P5 North Korea
ZK2 Niue	7P Lesotho

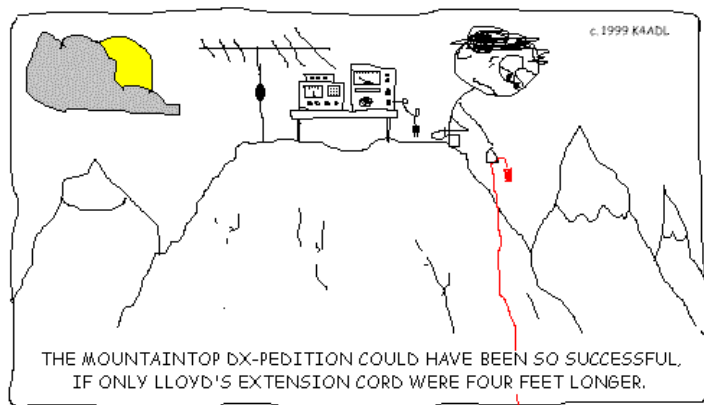
WB2HJV	Enter Your Own
3Y/B Bouvet	
70 Yemen	
BS7H Scarborough Reef	
FOØ Clipperton	
KP1 Navassa Island	
P5 North Korea	
VKØ/H Heard Island	
VK9X Christmas Island	
ZL9 Auckland/Campbell Is.	
ZS8 Pr. Edward & Marion Is.	

DX Magazine (2005)	425 DX News (2003)
BS7H Scarborough Reef	VU4 Andaman & Nicobar Is.
VU7 Lakshadweep Island	BS7H Scarborough Reef
P5 North Korea	VU7 Lakshadweep Island
3Y/P Peter I Island	3Y/P Peter I Island
70 Yemen	FR/J Juan de Nova, Europa
KP1 Navassa Island	KP5 Desecheo Island
KP5 Desecheo Island	KP1 Navassa Island
3Y/B Bouvet	YVØ Aves Island
FR/G Glorioso	70 Yemen
VU4 Andaman & Nicobar Is.	FT5X Kerguelen Island
KH7K Kure Island	KH7K Kure Island
ZS8 Marion Island	P5 North Korea
VKØ/H Heard Island	ZS8 Marion Island

Though the *DX Magazine* top ten list is a bit more recent than that of *425 DX News*, it too is out of date with respect to recent operations in VU7 and 3Y/P. Removing these two entities from the list moves KH7K (#11) and ZS8 (#12, Marion Is.) into the top ten.

However, as was the case for the *425 News* list, KH7K would likely drop off the *DX Magazine* list, as would VU7 and 3Y/P. This would then move VKØ/H (#13, Heard Is.) into the top ten for *DX Magazine*. This is interesting. I remember well the last operation on Heard Island, VKØIR. That operation took place 10 years ago this month (Jan-Feb 1997). Despite this operation having made 80,000 + QSOs, it would appear that demand from DXers has once again driven Heard back into a spot on the top ten list.

Looking at this list, I noticed an interesting anomaly in the prefixes used for Crozet, Kerguelen, and Amsterdam and St. Paul Islands. The latest ARRL DXCC countries list shows the prefixes for these entities as FT5W, FT5X, and FT5Z for Crozet, Kerguelen, and Amsterdam, respectively. Yet most of the responses I received from members who had these entities on their most wanted list, showed the prefixes as FT8W, FT8X, and FT8Z, including my own list. I have changed the prefixes on the entities in the tables here to correspond to the League's list. Clearly though, there are at least two slightly different prefixes that are considered valid for these entities. (Logger32 for example, has the 8W, 8X, and 8Z prefixes listed for each entity in an "alternative prefix" table.) This sort of prefix ambiguity is fairly typical for some of the rare entities, so you might want to check your logging software and make certain that alternate prefixes are listed...on the off chance that you have actually worked an entity under some other prefix and it isn't showing up in your worked listings.



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

Swivels for Wire Antennas

By Mike Rundle - N1OKL

Over the years, one of the things I have noticed about wire antennas hung from trees is that the wire and support ropes tend to twist (sometimes a lot) as the antenna is raised and lowered. To avoid the strain this places on the antenna and especially the feedline, I have sometimes installed swivels on the ends of the antenna, outboard of the end insulators. However, I have found that not all swivels are created equal. The typical inexpensive hardware store swivel will generally not rotate under tension. Ball bearing swivels solve this problem, but usually at a high cost, especially for stainless steel models.



SPRO #12 heavy swivel. 1820 lbs. test. 1½" length; 5/16" eye ID. Ideal for wire antenna ends (outboard of end insulators) to prevent twisting of antenna wire and to reduce resulting feedline strain when antenna is raised.

Recently, I came across an inexpensive solution: heavy duty fishing swivels from SPRO (Sports Professionals). I ordered several of the SPRO #12 heavy swivels. These little gems are rated for 1820 lbs., and appear to be made of brass or nickel. They are

small, lightweight, and rotate easily under tension (though they are not ball bearing swivels). Length is 1½ in. Eye ID is 5/16". Price is \$10.50 for a package of 3, or \$3.50 each, plus shipping. Available from: <http://spro.com>. Click on "Products" on the left side of the page, then "Swivels" on the next page, then "Heavy Swivels".

VU7 on the air, Again

ARRL Web

If you did not manage to work VU7LD in December, you will soon have another chance to log this most-wanted country. Ed.



VU7RG Lakshadweep Islands DXpedition set to start 14 January.

The VU7RG DXpedition to Lakshadweep Islands, sponsored by the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), is scheduled to get under way Monday, January 14, at 1830 UTC. The DXpedition will continue until

January 31. Plans call for having up to 14 stations on the air from four islands. Operators on Agatti, Bangaram and Kadmat islands (all AS-011 for IOTA) will use VU7RG, while a separate all-Indian team will operate as VU7MY from Minicoy Island (AS-106). The *Daily DX* reports the vessel carrying the more than two dozen operators will depart January 12, although some operators already are on Kadmat Island. A DXpedition to Lakshadweep Islands sponsored by the Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) concluded in late December. Lakshadweep Islands has been the second most-wanted DXCC entity. More info is available at: <http://www.vu7.in/>.

27-Day Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity

NOAA Space Environment Center

10 Jan - 05 Feb 2007



Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels until 14 January. Very low activity is expected during 15–24 January. Very low to low activity is expected for the rest of the period.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosync orbit is expected to be at high levels during the period.

The geomagnetic field is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels through 15 January. An increase to unsettled to active levels is expected during 16 – 19 January due to a recurrent coronal hole high-speed solar wind stream. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected during 20 – 28 January. Activity is expected to increase to unsettled to minor storm levels during 29 – 31 January due to another recurrent coronal hole high-speed solar wind stream. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected for the rest of the period.

For more see: <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/radio/>

W2RDX/60

By Chris Shalvoy - K2CS
Atlantic Division DXAC

What were you doing 60 years ago?

Well, many of us weren't even "straight keys" at that point so Ed Gable, K2MP and Chris Shalvoy, K2CS will attempt to bring you up to speed.

This year is the 60th anniversary of the Rochester DX Association. At our February combined meeting with RARA, Ed and I will bring you an overview of the Club and sprinkle it with references to historical items and local events that many of you lived through.

Several special operating events have been planned for this yearlong celebration and will be discussed after the presentation.

Come relive a bit of amateur radio history and the glory days of ham radio in Rochester, NY.

Best DX es 73

DX Logbook

By Chris Shalvoy - K2CS
Atlantic Division DXAC



Well, back from my self inflicted “sabbatical”, we’re all rested (sure) and ready to review the DX and Contest season to date.

First and foremost, several local ops logged “The Big One”, VU7. Some polls have it listed as #2; what a thrill to get them on Christmas Day! Guess you never know what you get from Santa, I must have been a **real**

good boy. Can P5 be far behind?

I finally bagged 3CØ back in October, just before CQWW SSB.

Speaking of that, what did you think?

160m just wasn’t there (for me), Sunday was almost worthless. I can’t ever remember “quitting” before the end of the contest but this year, I called it quits 2 hours before the end. Granted, I never expect 10m to be a big player, though I did manage a few African (non EA8) contacts, but even 15m didn’t even come to town.

So, all in all, close to a half million points isn’t too bad. As time progresses, I find myself closing in on the K2FR contesting model, that is not being able to stay up **all** nite...couldn’t understand that 15 years ago.

I managed a few contacts during CQWW CW, mainly from W2CCC. It’s great location but still a few antenna improvements need to be made.

The “Mystery Antenna” was an outstanding addition (thanks N1OKL, AF2K and N2OPW). The W2OMV vertical still plays real well on 40 meters. Actually, 40m and 80m were the primary bands on which Bill used it. It shows, I just assembled it as it had been taken down and those bands are flat, everything else...I’d use different words for.

I know additional radials would help (I have only 4, 2 full size 40m and 2 full size 80m, buried) but so many other projects take precedence.

Our yearly trek to K2NNY was yet another experience. Paul (K2DB) has been spending quite a bit of time up there and has hatched a rather interesting station configuration. I’m an old school guy, fancy tech stuff really isn’t for me even though I’ve earned a rather good living from just that line of work for 20+ years. Maybe, I’m just sick of it by the time I get out of work; maybe I’m just longing for the “pioneer” days of the hobby. Give me a straight key, tube rig and G5RV and I’d be happy. But time moves on, or so I’ve been told.

This year’s K2NNY SS SSB effort featured an expertly designed, dual-position operating station...far more than I would have ever expected. Not to indicate for one moment that Paul wasn’t able to handle such things (he’s on the “short” list of my mentors, pushed me into one of the few 20 wpm techs that ever were) but I’ve been out of the mainstream with Raymond’s need for non-amateur related events. I’ve heard, second hand, what was going on up there, but really wasn’t expecting the amount of time and engineering effort that had taken place.

Due to a conflict, I was unable to get up for SS CW so the SSB event was my first go.

The operating setup was well designed only lacking a tap at each operating position (hey Paul, FB). Plenty of desk space, good chairs, surrounded by friends, great propagation...wait, well not really, the propagation I mean.

The little red lite (indicating that the other rig was on the air) was expertly designed by N2OPW. It worked like a champ but we still all hated it!

Nonetheless, other than one of the laptops failure (stuck keyboard) I can’t recollect anything else really going awry.

So onward to ARRL 160m, my favorite contest.

This year I took Friday off so I could be on the air right at the contest’s start (5 pm local for those non-UTC guys). Drove up to W2CCC Friday morning, got plenty of provisions in Utica and even brought an amp (**Oh No**, K2CS!).

Got everything hooked up early, but only one thing didn’t play...**the amp!**

Seems the TS50 only has 3 output ranges, 10, 50 and 100 watts. Well, the amp was being overloaded even at the 10 watt range so, oh well, 100 watts here we come, but wait, it gets better.

If you remember, we had 60 degree weather that day and the threat of “high winds”. At 1400 ft. msl, the high winds were alive and well and they brought their pals to the party too: thunderstorms and intense lightning.

Wait, it’s December!



W2CCC shack in Coldbrook, NY, site of Chris’ 160m battle with QRM, wind and lightening in this year’s ARRL 160m Contest.

So, lets review, 160m contest, thunder and lightning storm, 1400 ft. msl. Do we have any guesses?

I've never heard such a racket. 40dB++ noise, I thought the digital meter was going to bend it's "needle". I'm not too keen on operating in thunderstorms with full size, 160m dipoles at 60 feet either. Take into account that I'm alone, 18 miles from anything, probably a worse situation than some DXpeditions.!

So, lets see, favorite contest, amp not working and not able to hear a thing, great! Work seemed better at that point.

Friday and early Saturday was a complete waste of time, I never knew where the attenuate button on that rig was, until then. I think the first real run I had was early Saturday morning. The temperature was still in the 60s until late Saturday afternoon, then it snowed!

6m, 60m and 160m are my bands so even with the almost impossible operating conditions (at least it was warm, 2 years ago it was in the single digits) I stuck it out. All in all, not as good as the year before but I guess without power, it's not too bad.

So since then, we had the 10 meter contest (did we, contest?) and some recently run RTTY deal (W2RTY where were you?).

The upcoming months hold the CQWW 160m SSB & CW contests as well as the ARRL DX CW and SSB Contests. Please, if you participate, submit your logs for the RDXA, as always, if you need help, let me know.

Keep in mind the upcoming slate of events pertaining to our 60th anniversary. Hey, maybe get on the air and work some DX, for old times sake.

Many before us paved the DX road, take advantage of it.

In The Log (Non Contest)

Station	Bands
W8GEX/KP2	60m SSB
J5VAP	20m RTTY
YXØLIX	80m, 40m, 20m, 15m CW; 15m, 20m SSB
TBØDX	30m, 40m CW
J5UTM	40m CW
FG5FR	6m CW
HI8ROX	6m SSB
HI3TEJ	6m SSB
ZP6CW	160m CW
KH8SI	17m SSB
5A7A	80m SSB; 80m, 40m CW
GIØKOW	160m CW
E51PEN	40m, 30m CW
1A4A	40m, 15m CW; 17m SSB

Station	Bands
SØ1R	40m, 30m CW; 20m RTTY
YXØA	17m CW
VU4AN/VU3RYE	20m CW
STØRM	20m RTTY
VP9GE	6m SSB
FM5AA	6m SSB
FG1GW	6m SSB
VI9NI	17m, 20m CW
4O3T	40m, 30m, 20m, 15m CW; 20m, 15m SSB, 20m RTTY
3XM6JR	80m RTTY
HC8N	160m CW
3CØM	20m SSB
VU7/VU3RSB	20m SSB

Plus, **EI9ØGPO** – 20m SSB – Special event from the General Post Office, Dublin, Ireland to commemorate the 1916 Easter Uprising.

See you in the pileups,
Best DX es 73.

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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? Here's a sample of 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.

Dates	DXCC	Call	QSL Via + Info
1-14 Jan	5H	5H3VMB/5	UA4WHX; all bands
1-17 Jan	DU	DU1/CT1EAT	LoTW; SSB, RTTY
3 Jan-3 Feb	5U	5U5U	All bands; SSB
4-28 Jan	J2	J20SA	ON7SAT; 40, 20, 15 10 SSB; spare time ops
6-13 Jan	PJ4	PJ4/NØVD	NØVD
6-20 Jan	3B8	3B8/DK2WV	DK2WV + Buro; HF, amp, dipoles; holiday style DXpedition
7-20 Jan	XT	XT2C	F9IE; all bands & modes
7-30 Jan	XU	XU7ACY	K2NJ; focus on low bands
7Jan - 11 Feb	3V	3V8SS	GMØDHZ; 80-10m, perhaps 160m; CW, SSB; holiday style op
8-21 Jan	BV	BXØZR	W8UVZ; all bands; focus on 160 80m; vertical, Beverages; amp
10-16 Jan	S2	S21XA	S21XA; 160-6m; SSB CW RTTY; 3 stations
10-31 Jan	YS	YS3/I2JIN	All bands; mainly CW
11-20 Jan	XW	XW3DT	By RK3DT; QSL: PO Box 11, GPO, Hong Kong (before May 2007)
13-21 Jan	T3Ø	T32MØ	LoTW; 160-10m, CW, SSB
15-25 Jan	VU7	VU7RG	N200
15-25 Jan	JT	JT1/K4ZW	K4ZW; focus on low bands, especially 160m
17-26 Jan	FM	FM/F5LOW	F5LOW; HF bands; SSB PSK; holiday style ops
17-27 Jan	T5	600M	PA5M; local evenings; 100w; wires
18-29 Jan	5H	5H1Z	F6AML; 80-10m; SSB CW; 400w; verticals; focus on NA + Asia



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 3rd Tuesday of each month, September through June.

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

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