

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

1947-2007 • 60 YEARS OF DX IN WNY DECEMBER 2008



Banquet Meeting December 16, 2008

January Meeting will be on the 20th

The Monroe County Emergency
Operations Center (EOC)
Media room, right next to the
EOC operations center.

1190 Scottsville Road
Exit 17 (Route 383 South) off 390
Media Room

There is a new look to the RDXA club website

Field Day Records: Use this section to see the "Field Day Results" page. We are currently adding records for the 2007 and 2008 field day efforts

KE2WK Award: Use this section to view the KE2WK award roster.

Event Calendar: There is a new event calendar on our website. Give it a visit and see what is going on

Newsletter: The News Letter archive has been updated. It was renamed to "News Letters" and ordered it right below the "Home" link so it should be easier to find. Also some of the older content has been de-activated.

Thanks Scott – Great work!!!!!!!

Holiday Science & Technology at RMSC Submitted by K2RNY

RDXA is hosting an HF operating event at the Rochester Museum and Science Fair on December 27, 28 and 29. RDXA will have a K3 and an R7 vertical as station equipment.

We need Volunteers to man the station for those 3 days. Time slots are from 10AM to 1PM and from 1PM to 4PM each day. Any time you can spend with us will be a great help. I have updated the RDXA website with the existing schedule.

Please respond to this email if you'd like to volunteer some time operating.



RDXA Membership News

October 31 marks the end of RDXA 2007/2008 season. As of November 1, 2008 the new membership fees will be in effect.

They are:

- \$20 - General Membership
- \$5 - Family Membership
- \$10 - Full Time Student

Please renew your RDXA membership at the October meeting or anytime before 10/31 to avoid the increase.

If you have any question at all, please send me an email at k2rny@frontiernet.net.

I am undertaking some record keeping of our membership files. Please send me an email (k2rny@frontiernet.net) with your current awards, if you are an ARRL member and a current email address. I will make the changes to the club's membership database and to the website database as well.

We need more Bio's for future months! We would love to hear how you got started in the hobby and what else do you do in your life (if there is anything besides amateur radio). Please send your bio to Gayle **N2TWI**, the newsletter publisher and she will see that it is printed.

Membership Biographies -

Have you provided a biography of yourself for publication in the Newsletter yet? If not, how about taking time out to write one up and submit it to the Editor for the January issue. I would certainly appreciate that. Haven't had a bio in there for several months. Let's maintain the tradition.

Low Dipoles

K2DB

Your ARRL editor's CW Sweepstakes operation confirmed that a great "secret weapon" in domestic contests is a low dipole on 80 or 40 meters. In his case, an 80 meter inverted-vee about 20 feet high at the apex generated nearly 400 QSOs while operating low-power. A 40 meter dipole at a similar height will also generate great results. Why? The high angle of radiation from these antennas results in great regional coverage out to several hundred miles...and beyond if conditions are good.

For a DX contest, these antennas don't do nearly as well, but for a temporary advantage in domestic contests, the low dipoles can't be beat.

Remember, this is true for all domestic operations, consider them for all NAQP contests & Field Day too!

Who says low dipoles don't work?

Free Online Ham Practice Exams and Study Materials

Check out the set of free online exam practice tests that I hope hams will find useful.

Within the practice tests, online study resources, (Wikipedia, NASA, ARRL, etc...), are provided for many of the questions. The list of resources available for each question is constantly growing because users can add their own favorite links to the study materials. Users can also track your test scores over time and see which sub elements are giving you the most trouble. You can see all the practice tests at:

<http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/>

November 1997 Forecast Flux Range 78 -117

And the new cycle is just beginning! With solar fluxes swinging from the 80s to around 120 within a month, it was hard to forecast highband conditions in the CQWW. Geomagnetic conditions were disturbed in the phone portion, but solar activity was high enough to open 15 nicely. For the CW test the flux was also at the high end of its monthly range, but with QUIET geo conditions. Propagation was as good as could be expected from this young cycle.

Evening conditions on 20 Meters were somewhat improved, but it takes a higher flux to open the night paths at this time of year. Long path openings are better and more reliable, but these night paths span the southern hemisphere where it is late spring. The main path to Europe is in the morning, and is a daypath. With the daytime MUF often substantially higher than 14 MHz, the better path to Europe can be found on 15. This was the case during the contest, where many had good rates during runs. However there will still be days when fluxes are under 100, and where 20 will have the better daypath. Since we are now late in the DX season, the polar region is dark. We cannot expect much propagation over high latitude paths on 15 yet, so from W5 there won't be much in the way of Russian openings. Over these difficult paths 20 Meters should be preferred, both at sunrise and at sunset. Use the Antarctic path for southern Asia.

As I write this, the Ten Meter contest is approaching. We have already experienced brief openings to Europe here, mostly to the western parts. The openings to Japan have been better. During the CQWW, many made Asian long path contacts in the morning via the southeast. The east coast had a much better path to Europe with fairly good runs, but these occurred before the band even opened for the rest of us. At best, we can expect about the same conditions for the Ten Meter contest (hoping for high flux and low K- Index). For most of us, this will be mainly a stateside contest with lots of Sporadic-E propagation to provide high rates. We will surf the Caribbean looking for multipliers and pileups, and hope for an opening to Japan for DX runs. This is still a substantial improvement over recent years, and activity should be sharply up this year without the heavy reliance on weak signal backscatter.

The night band with the most quantity is still 40. Europe peaks best before sunset for us and after sunset for the east coast, but it is the same opening. In mid-evening we follow the sunrise across Russia and then Europe after midnight. The peak on 40 will follow the brief sunrise peaks on 80 & 160 to the same area.

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

Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity

10 December 2008 - 05 January 2009

Solar activity is expected to be 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 10 - 12 December and 02 - 05 January. Normal levels are expected during 13 December - 01 January.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at mostly quiet levels on 10 - 12 December. Activity is expected to increase to quiet to unsettled levels on 13 December due to a recurrent coronal hole high speed stream (CH HSS). Activity is expected to decrease to quiet levels during 14 - 21 December. Activity is expected to increase to unsettled levels on 22 - 24 December due to another recurrent CH HSS. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet levels during 25 - 30 December. Activity is expected to increase to unsettled to active levels on 31 December - 02 January due to another recurrent CH HSS. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet levels during 03 - 05 January.

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

January VHF Contest

**guest submission
K2TER**

Have you heard the news? VHF Contesting in January just got a bit hotter in the Rochester Area.

The Rochester VHF Group is pleased to announce a new local contest to kick off the 2009 VHF season. The Rochester VHF Challenge is a contest that runs in tandem with the ARRL January VHF QSO Party to encourage VHF, UHF, and microwave activity in the Rochester and surrounding areas.

Objective: Make as many valid contacts with Rochester VHF Group members and others in the area to obtain the largest score for your station and your club!

Scoring: Scoring is simple. It uses the same formula as the January ARRL QSO Party rules: Compute the product of your January ARRL VHF QSO points and the number of valid contacts in the log made with Rochester VHF Group members.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for the contest you don't necessarily need to be a member of a club or organization, just a single operator or group operating under a single call sign for the duration of the contest. If you are a member of a club you can also contribute to the aggregate club score.

Awards/Prizes: There will be many activity related awards including a club award. Please see our website for details:

<http://www.rvhfg.org>

Good service is not dead....

W1TY

Ever complain about a company's service?
My IC-765 was to be the mult station at K2NNY for CW Sweeps. Before the contest we discovered a hash noise on the signal. Not being a CW op, I never noticed it.

I was referred to Mike, N1EQ (N1EQ.com) and told to check out his reviews on eHam. He services many models of HF gear. With 139 reviews posted he scored 5 of 5 EVERY time... 100%. After a couple of emails, I was asked to have the radio arrive the week of Nov. 10.

I got a UPS email showing delivery and got one from Mike 4 minutes later! Never went more than 2 days without an update from him. He changed some plastic caps to ceramic, which I should have suggested anyway. Also found an intermittent tuner relay. But the big thing he suggested.... Knowing that my amp required 25 watts input, he told me of an internal switch that limits the 765 to either 100 or 50 watts. (Maybe some countries...er, entities, require that.) He suggested wiring to the spare phono socket on the radio and he would adjust it to output 25 watts when the socket is shorted. Very Cool. I just need to install a relay in the amp, so when it is on the phono socket it shorted. Voila... 25 watts. Never knew that possibility existed. Now I can forget about checking the exciter output when using the amp. Moral of the story... read your service manual. There may be capabilities you never knew existed.

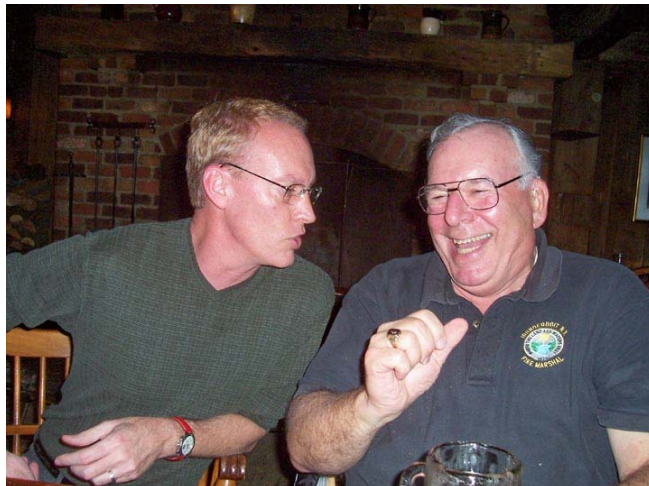
Mike changed about a dozen caps and the tuner relay. Enclosed was a photocopy of each circuit he worked on and highlighted the components repaired. Nice. The 765 is working fine. Fourteen days door to door.

Mike charges \$48/hour. Compare to Burghardt at \$75/hour. With return shipment (\$40) the total was still only \$201.

I am a happy RTTY Ranger... W1TY/W2RTY

Some pictures for the month

Submitted by K6PSP



WB2PYD and N2PPU November 14, 2008



K1PY – Field Day – WE DID IT! November 18, 2008

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 Gayle, N2TWI 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.

President-----Paul Macanos – K2DB/k2db@k2db.org

Vice President-----Ken Boasi-N2ZN/ n2zn@rochester.rr.com

Treasurer-----Irv Goodman – AF2K/af2k@juno.com

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Chris Shalvoy – K2CS ----- K2CS/chris@k2cs.net

Appointed Positions

DX Chairman ----- Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

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

Webmaster ----- Scott Hoag, K2ZS

Contest Chairman ----- Ken Boasi , N2ZN

Membership Chairman ----- Carey Magee, K2RNY

Newsletter Editor --- Gayle Shalvoy, N2TWI/ges@rocsoft.com

NG2P Packet Cluster -----144.910 MHz

-----Telnet: ng2p.ham-radio-op.net / Port 7300

Membership Dues can be sent to:

Regular membership - \$20.00

Family Membership - \$5.00

Full Time Student - \$10.00

Carey Magee
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Rochester, NY 14617

Any other correspondence to:

Irv Goodman

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