

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



Regular Meeting

March 18, 2008 19:30 local

NapaGino's

PennFair Plaza, corner of Rts 250 & 441

NEW LOCATION FOR JAN, FEB, MARCH

March Program

Program to start at 7:30 -
Business meeting
to follow

DX Quiz & The Best of RSGB
with Alan Masson
K6PSP/GM3PSP/G3PSP

Socialize before the meeting
with Dinner @ 5:30 and after
the Meeting stick around a bit at

NapaGino's

Upcoming Programs and Activities

Apr 15 **VE7CC** Cluster by Carey Magee **K2RNY**
May 20 The Headphone Project by Paul Meyers
N2OPW

Jun 17 2007 Field Day video by Alan Masson **K6PSP**

And besides regular meetings, we have

- W2RDX/60 Operating Event #2 (March)
- Joint Awards + /60 Banquet (Apr)
- RDXA tent & booth at the HamFest (June)
- FIELD DAY (June)

And don't forget the informal after meeting and weekly (almost) get-togethers at the Scotch & Sirloin (the "S&S") (We should expand our mission to be DX, Contest, and Social!)

RDXA / RVHFG Annual Awards Banquet

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008

Large Banquet Room at NapaGino's

**\$25/person; 6 PM - Cash Bar
7 PM Buffet Dinner**

See Irv (AF2K) for Tickets!

The Podium

Vic Gauvin K1PY



Spring keeps teasing us, but winter cruelly returns. It doesn't help that we have an early Daylight Savings Time to further taunt us. Oh well. At least there's DX to chase! In what has to be the longest cycle bottom ever, it still seems quite possible to work good DX on almost all bands. All is not lost.

Thanks go out to Dave **N2CK** for hosting a "mini-multi" at his QTH under the **W2RDX** call sign. In spite of dreadful conditions, DX was still there to be worked -- it just took more effort. It was an open-house, and several members took advantage of Dave's hospitality.

Those who could be there on Sunday got a chance to operate Vic **K1PY**'s just-assembled Elecraft K3 kit that arrived during the week preceding the contest. Being a cautious assembler, there was justifiable speculation as to whether it would be ready! It didn't make it for Saturday, but with successful on-air tests with Raj **N2RD**, owner of the K3 demonstrated at the February meeting, it was deemed fit for service on Sunday. It was truly enjoyable playing with the well-thought-out bells and whistles on this radio, and there were many a "cool" and "now that's nice" heard. Again, thanks to Dave for providing the opportunity.

To follow up, don't forget the not-at-all-mini multi that the club will host in May at Jeff **W2FU**'s Super-Station in Webster. For almost all of us, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to even step foot inside a station of this magnitude and ranking in the contest world. We'll continually point out and really want to convince you that you need not be intimidated or feel you'll be put on the spot. It's solely to ENJOY, and even if you just come to gawk, that's fine. Since it's a Special Event station under the **W2RDX/60** call sign, if you're maybe interested in getting on the air, you're not under any pressure to make fast QSO's or a lot of them. But if you'd like to try maybe just one (to say you operated a Super-Station), there will be coaches familiar with the equipment, the messages will be scripted, and you can just enjoy. Obviously we'll do phone, but RTTY (PSK31?) is planned as well. And the CW contest guys can get on and work CQ WPX CW if they desire. And you can look at the log over their shoulders and see how the Q's come in at a station like this. It's awesome! So put it on the calendar: May 24th and 25th. (We know, it's the "official" Memorial Day weekend, even though Memorial Day itself, traditionally on May 30th, is a Friday. Weird.) But do it -- it'll be worth it!

March Program!

Paul Mackanos K2DB

The March meeting of the RDXA will be having 2 programs. Alan, K2PSP will be doing a short presentation on "The Best of RSGB" in March. Radio Society of Great Britain (www.rsgb.org)

We will also have a "GADGET NIGHT" show and tell in March. Please bring along some of your "GADGETS" for show & tell & playing. This should be great for others to see what some of us play with in our hobby.

Remember, the programs are now BEFORE the business meetings.

VP's Soap Box Paul Mackanos K2DB



One of the things we have been talking about at the BOD meetings is the choice of meeting places. It seems that many of you are very happy with the meetings being held at Napagino's. It is really nice there, and they do take

care in seating and serving us our meals before our meetings. It has been suggested that we just stay there and

have dinner before the meetings, and some of us stay for a cocktail & eyeball QSO session afterward, which is also very nice.

Another thing that has been discussed is going back to Gander Mountain, because of its central location. Those of you on the west side of town have a long drive to Napagino's.

What do you guys & gals think?

The down side of Gander Mountain is the complaints about it being too noisy, and we have to leave at 9:00 sharp. Let me know in an e-mail and I will pass it along to the BOD. We expect a wide variety of views on this subject.

As you all are aware, one of the responsibilities of the VP position is to be responsible for the meeting programs. I know that the programs have been filled for the rest of this year, but I will ask you to please let me know what your preferences are for next year's programs.

I hope you all are having fun with the different DX-peditions that have been on the air.

Good luck in the pile-ups.



RDXA Membership News

RDXA membership renewal for the 2007-2008 season was due in October 2007. To date, we still have not received some renewals from folks registered last year. The fee, of \$15.00,

remains the same as last year.

If you haven't kept your membership up to date, please consider renewing it. If you have a question as to whether you are current or not, please send me an email at k2rny@frontiernet.net. I'll be happy to help you out.

We are in the process of updating the membership portion of the website. Any non-paid member will lose access to the members only section of the site.

Please see **Carey Magee – K2RNY** or any board member at the meetings they will be happy to help you out.

Our thanks to all who have renewed to date

Membership Biographies - N2BEG, Doug Stewart

I was first licensed in 1977 at the age of 14 as **WA2LJE**, shortly after my father (**WN2GAH**) got his ticket. We were living in the southern tier, outside Elmira at the time in a tiny (RF blocked I swear) town called Breesport. He was a little late getting into the hobby, he had been interested since WWII but never enough to get his ticket. He managed to get myself and my twin brother Dan (**WB2MRP**) interested enough to get our novices. (what else are you going to do in Horseheads?)

I remember being really shaky on the code when I took my test, but within a few months I was burning up the novice bands, and back then we actually had sunspots to play with so my favorite bands were 15 and 10. I remember receiving tons of cards, and some of them were the pink kind you don't want to get, from OO's (do we even have them any more, and if so, do they ever go to 20 phone?!!)

Anyway my novice station first consisted of a Knight T-60 transmitter, crystals first, then a fine Knight VFO (hence the OO cards) and a Realistic DX-160 (I dare you to try that!) receiver. My dad had an old (like 40's vintage) Navy frequency meter to check to see if we were in the band or not. (I'm sure THAT was accurate) After what seemed like an eternity with that junk, we upgraded the receiver to an HRO-60 (with all the coils) that a friend of my dad's just gave him. (price check, I have the original manual with the purchase price paid in 1954 of \$649..that was BIG money back then!) What a difference, I think that National can still hold its own even against today's rigs. It still works and is in my shack today. Eventually we upgraded to a Drake TR-4Cw that my Dad purchased new from a radio store right in Horseheads whose name escapes me now...it's long gone now.

Eventually I convinced my Dad that I needed a keyer, as CW had become a chore for the wrist at 20+ wpm with a straight key (for me anyway) so that was a birthday present, at age 15 I think. For antennas we ran a trap dipole for 80-10 and a TH-3 jr on the roof for 10-20 and a huge receiving loop under the eave. I upgraded (after one failed attempt at Buffalo) to general at the hamfest in 1979. I remember being the only person (OK kid, lid, space cadet, etc.) taking the test under forty. I took and passed the 20 wpm and even took a crack at the advanced since I was there, but missed by a bunch. I stayed there (at General) for a long time until I convinced myself to upgrade after moving back to the Rochester area after school in Ohio and my first job in Connecticut (like 1986ish?). It was in CT that I purchased my very own brandy new rig, an IC-745 with the keyer and FM unit and an IC-02AT, both of which I still have.

My current station consists of an Icom IC-756 that I purchased last year from Gene, **W2LU** that really makes a difference as my 745 is getting a little weak in the knees. Antennas now consist of a TH-3 that I refurbished last summer and put up on a few sections of Rohn 25 to 35 feet, along with a mystery antenna and a butternut HF9V.

My favorite mode has always been CW, but do own a mic, and occasionally use it. I usually tend to search and pounce DX, am not a real contester per se, but do enjoy it

occasionally when time permits. I enjoy homebrewing (that's were you actually build stuff) and antenna work. I have an extensive parts collection should someone have a component they are searching for, for a project I would be glad to help.

My all time favorite memories on the radio are:

Working a station on 80 CW in Hawaii (age 14) at about 5 am one rainy cold winter morning (again, in the boonies outside Horseheads, NY) when someone walked up to my window in the dark and knocked as I was looking out. You want to talk about scared crapless? Turns out their car died and they wanted to ask to use the phone and mine was the only light on the road! I also remember working a six meter opening with a DeWald crystal set running 8 watts on AM (50.4 of course) to a 2 element homebrew Armstrong quad and filling a log page with west coast stations.

Other fond memories were finishing a 30 meter QRP kit (I think it was an NN1G) that I had laid out on the bench, no case, etc. and answering a CQ at 80 milliwatts to see if the darn thing worked on transmit. To my surprise the station answered me and was a **VK** to boot! I think that qualified me for my 10,000 mile per watt award.

I also have fond memories of sitting in the MCC parking lot one summer night before class waiting my turn to work a **JA** on 10 from my car and converted SSB CB. He didn't believe me when I told him I was running 12 watts, he said I was a solid 5/8!

I remember also once connecting to the packet station on Mir for a quick digital QSO.

Since the last cycle, with the help of my XYL, Kathleen we moved once, mostly raised 2 boys, Ben (**KC2JXP**) and Jack ages 15 and 12 who now occupy all my radio time with school, scouts, sports and robotics. I try to get out to the meetings and an occasional stop at the S&S when time permits. I volunteer as an assistant scout master for troop 10 in Honeoye Falls, and as a mentor for the high school robotics team, (Cougartech, team 2228.)

Now that I'm older and more feeble, qualify for QCWA and blow spit bubbles occasionally, I sit around the house hoping for the sunspots like the rest of you, but always wondering about putting one more wire over that tree...

Now back to the bands!

-- Doug, N2BEG

Looking for a volunteer for next month – all applicants accepted!

RDXA Incorporation pro/con Research Summary

Vic Gauvin K1PY

Tasked with researching the "pros and cons" of incorporation, the RDXA board reviewed a number of articles, made personal contacts, queried clubs around the country, and did extensive Internet searches. Those findings were reviewed and discussed at the board of directors meeting on February 13, 2008. A unanimous consensus was reached on proceeding with the incorporation.

A number of steps were outlined. The first was to present a summary of the findings to the membership at the general meeting in February, which was done after the program. It is that summary that is provided "in writing" here.

Binder: Printouts of a cross-section of results (not everything) are available for member review in a hard-copy binder. Examples are:

- Key: WNYDXA e-mail and FAQ re their lawsuit
 - ❖ They've since incorporated and obtained ARRL insurance
 - ❖ They recommended we do the same
- Write-ups of N2CK discussions with lawyers in his building at work
- Article "*When a corporation does not provide liability protection*"
- Article "*Liability protection and the corporate veil*"
- Volunteer Protection Act
- NYS Consolidated Law, Ch 35 -- Not-for-Profit corporation law
- ARRL club insurance policy

3 main reasons to incorporate: Liability, liability, liability

- If you are at all exposed, such as Hamfest, FD, you should have it
- If not, it's "optional," but nowhere was it said to be a bad thing or that any group shouldn't do so

How much protection?

- Incorporation does not and never will protect you from the act of being sued
- It provides *limited* liability, not complete
- But other than criminal activity (Enron, etc.) or gross negligence, you are protected by incorporation: NYS law, Ch 35, Article 5, Sect 517, Para (a): "*The members of a corporation shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the corporation.*"

Piercing corporate veil (from "*When a Corporation Does Not Provide Liability Protection*")

- Occurs when a court determines a corporation has not been run "correctly" (per below)
- Difficult to prove. Must prove corporation did not comply with basic legal requirements.

- ❖ *Co-mingling of assets* -- such as paying personal debts with \$\$ withdrawn from corporate bank account
- ❖ *Representation* -- Perform activities as the club, not personally. E.g., reservations at NapaGino's are in the name of RDXA; FD Porta-Potty rental is under RDXA; club insurance, etc.
- ❖ *Corporate formalities* -- annual meeting, meeting minutes, etc., must be performed. Otherwise, the corporation is perceived by the court as a "sham" and not protected
- ❖ *Personal guarantees* -- individuals cannot personally guarantee contracts, obligations of corporation. Corporation must do it as an entity
- ❖ *Criminal* -- No business entity protects anyone from criminal charges.

Summary: "*If you take prudent steps to run your corporation, you should have little worry regarding whether the veil of protection may be pierced.*"

That's the summary. So what's next?

Per the vote at the January meeting, our counsel, Sherwood (**W2KFU**) and Paul Snyder of *Snyder & Snyder* have been invited to make a brief presentation to the general membership at the upcoming meeting (March 18). Please welcome these supporters of RDXA who are graciously donating their time and efforts pro bono on our behalf. Their presentation will be first on the agenda, followed by the program, and then other business.

At this meeting and after discussion of counsel's presentation, we'd like to propose formally continuing with the incorporation process.

We then must determine the content of the Articles of Incorporation, and its relation to the current Constitution and By-Laws. Any required changes must be implemented and presented to the membership for approval.

If the approval to continue with the incorporation process is received at the March meeting, then the formal vote for incorporation would be at the next meeting at which the Articles of Incorporation, and the Constitution and By-Laws, with any required changes, can be presented to the membership and voted on. This hopefully will be April.

DX Information Chris Shalvoy K2CS

Well, the contest season is quickly coming to an end. I guess unless you have the time to participate in every contest, you always get disappointed when this part of the "season" comes around.

A few years back, I got in them all, SSB, CW, RTTY. For those new or reacclimated to the hobby, it's a great way to "pad" those country totals. With the advent of LOTW, you don't even have to work at it. Just send that "email" along and watch that total grow.

After 16 years of actively DXing, I've finally gotten on the Honor Roll. It takes time, setting that alarm clock and (even though there is LOTW) getting those cards out. Know propagation, listen and listen some more. Sure, there's little "secrets" that the active DXer learns, that's where the double reference to "listen" comes from. Listen to the bands, the pileup but moreover, listen to all those "elmers" out there.

Here's one... TX5C was just on 20m, listening 200-210. Where do you think I camped out? Ask me at the meeting... (btw, got him in a few simple calls).

The following have been approved for DXCC credit:

5L2MS – Liberia 2007 Operation
D2NX – Angola 2007 Operation
S79UU and S79AB – Seychelles Islands 2007 Operation

TT8PK – Chad 2007 and current 2008 Operations
YK9SV – Syria 2007 Operation
6E4LM, XF4YK and XF4YW – Revillagigedo 2007 Operations

FJ/OH2AM – Saint Barthelemy 2007 Operation
TN6X – Republic of The Congo 2007 Operation

TN9Z – Republic of The Congo 2007 Operation

YI9QX – Iraq Current operation effective December 2007
E4/OM2DX – Palestine 2007 Operation
J5C – Guinea-Bissau 2008 Operation
3YØE – Bouvet Island Operation from December 2007 through February 2008
3C7Y – Equatorial Guinea 2007 Operation

IN THE LOG (non contest)

TO5FJ (40m, 17m SSB)
J5C (15m, 17m, 20m, 40m, 80m SSB)
(17m, 20m, 40m, 80m CW)
(40m RTTY)
J79SJ (60m SSB)
FJ/G3TXF (40m CW)
VP2EMD (60m SSB)
VP6DX (12m, 15m, 17m, 20m, 40m, 80m SSB)
(10m, 12m, 15m, 17m, 20m, 30m, 40m CW)
(20m RTTY)
8R1PW (40m CW)
OX3XR (60m SSB)
TX5C (17m, 20m SSB)
(17m, 20m CW)

See you in the pileups.

Best DX es 73, Atlantic Division DXAC



Propagation 11 years ago

AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22

March 1997 Forecast

Flux Range 69 - 77

Though it is still officially winter, the equinox approaches and brings daylight to northern regions that have been difficult to traverse in recent months. With the low solar flux numbers it is too soon to expect reliable night path conditions on 20, but we will see a steady improvement over the next few months.

It is still low band season, and our best long haul DX band for night path propagation is still 40. Nighttime MUF's are on the increase, bringing improved conditions to Europe in the evening hours. The grey line is currently aligned almost due north, making contacts across polar regions easier than they would be. These paths are never easy on the low bands, but now is the time to try them.

DX signals on the low bands will remain good for another month or so, but noise levels will soon be an additional factor. At equinox time, noise levels in both hemispheres are low enough to bring out activity from both sides of the equator. This is the time for lowband work into Australia, the Pacific, South America and southern Africa.

On the high bands, little activity is expected on 10 or 15 and the best bands will be 20 & 17. Our best opportunities on 20 are still in the morning after sunrise and in the afternoon both before and after sunset. The morning brings a pipeline to Europe, Russia and the Middle East, while the dusk opening is the best time for Asia. There will be times when the polar paths won't open very well at sunset, but it is a good idea to check the southern path for Antarctic openings and possible long path to the Orient. African contacts can be made on 20 at anytime in the Afternoon, while the Pacific is usually the last path to close in the evening. Antarctica can also come through late in the evening.

Over the coming months, look for expanded 20 Meter opportunities after dark. The polar paths will be opening up better, nighttime MUF's will continue to rise, and DX activity will move to this band as the noise levels increase on 40. Daypath conditions will improve, but after a peak of a couple hours to Europe in the morning conditions are marginal for the rest of the day. The daypath to Europe will often be more optimum on 17.

The 30 Meter band is another one that mostly closes up at night in the winter. This will be the first band to open up for long haul evening DXing this spring. Polar paths are not difficult on this band when it is open, and islands in the Indian Ocean are very accessible.

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

Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity

12 March - 07 April 2008

NOAA

Solar activity is expected to be very low. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to reach high levels on all days of the forecast period except 26 March and 05 April.

The geomagnetic field is expected to be at quiet to active levels on 12 - 19 March as the coronal hole high speed stream continues to be geoeffective. On 20 - 24 March expect mostly quiet levels. On 25 - 29 March activity levels should increase to unsettled to major storm levels as the next coronal hole rotate into a geoeffective position. From 30 March through 07 April activity levels should decline to mostly quiet to unsettled levels as effects from the coronal hole high speed stream subsides.

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



KE2WK Award

Please review the criteria for the **KE2WK** Award. If you would like to nominate a club member, please reply to Paul – **K2DB** directly: k2db@k2db.org Or call at 314-8665

THE KE2WK AWARD

The **KE2WK** Award recognizes the HF enthusiast who has been the most active in **RDXA** Club affairs, demonstrated long term club commitment and made contributions to the club newsletter. It is a person who is recognized by club members as a high profile, active, radio operator pursuing DX and participating in HF contests while promoting the **RDXA** and Amateur Radio on the HF bands.

The **KE2WK** Award criteria for “The **RDXA** Amateur of the Year Award”, is as follows:

- 1) A member(s) of the **RDXA** has to nominate a fellow club member(s).
- 2) Nominations shall be presented to the LAST recipient of the award ONLY. This is to help keep the nomination(s) confidential if possible. He or she then will start the decision making process with as many past winners of the award as possible so the candidate may be selected if qualified. If a past winner is nominated, he or she shall be excluded from the selection committee.
- 3) If past winners are NOT available then the BOD will help decide on the winner if the candidate is qualified.

Nominees shall not be on the committee and not privy to their nomination.

- 4) This award does not have to be presented every year. Even if someone is nominated but does not fit the criteria then the committee can elect not to proceed for a given year.
- 5) The committee, made up of past winners or the BOD, shall not be biased on their decisions and shall select the winner on his or her merits only. This should not be a popularity award.
- 6) The committee shall be discrete and NOT disclose their decision, if a nominee has been selected, until the time and date of the award presentation is determined.
- 7) Note that “if qualified” is in relation to what is inscribed on the award. The inscription must be reviewed during the selection process.

*The award is in memory of our past President Bill Beckett
KE2WK 1991-1993.*



Oswego in Winter

Redd, **AI2N**

Important Notice for ARRL Contests: Note the following correct nomenclature for RDXA for contest logs submitted to ARRL using Cabrillo format. When you submit an electronic log to the League for an ARRL contest, you **must** use the correct name for RDXA to insure the Club receives credit for your score.

The correct name format for RDXA in the automated ARRL log submission system is: **Rochester (NY) DX Assn**

Enter the Club name EXACTLY as above, including parentheses, capitalization, and abbreviation.

Thanks Duane **KC2PCG**

New Reflector

What happened, all at once a new e-mail reflector, and you want to know why because you have not heard anything negative about the present one. Yep, that's true and one of the reasons was: most of your posts were not going to the list, many posts were days late, yes days late. Several of you got bounced and could not send any posts to it, receive any posts from it, etc. Therefore no one knew what was what. Several of us were made aware of the complaints, and tried to work it out with Yahoo. You might as well sit in a pile-up for Scarborough Reef with 5 watts in a basement with a handheld to get any info from Yahoo. One of our esteemed members really let it fly with an e-mail that really blasted the Yahoo Reflector, and I sent him a personal e-mail and asked him why he was so upset. From his reply, I really found out a lot more that I had really wanted or imagined, including the fact that he had a wedgie that day. But, all in all he was right (man I hate to admit that!) and graciously he agreed to set up the new e-mail reflector and manage it until we could come on line and get it going. Many thanks to Joe, **K8FC** I want to commend Carey, **K2RNY** for moderating the Yahoo reflector, and he has been having major problems with managing it, he wants to dump it ASAP. Carey will graciously continue to manage it until April 1st, which was decided to be the drop dead date of the Yahoo reflector. So here is our plea to you – the members:

On April 1st, the old list will be shut down. Please switch over to the new reflector ASAP.

We all hope that all of you have switched over to the new reflector at RDXA@mailman.qth.com

If you haven't switched yet, please visit this page to subscribe to the new RDXA reflector.

<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/rdxa>

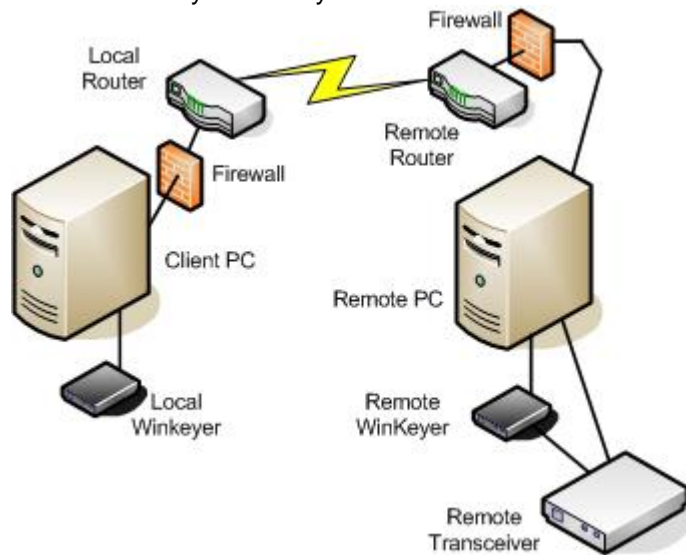
Good luck and welcome to the new RDXA mailing list. You may wish to consider not posting to both lists anymore, just use the new one. 73 de Paul **K2DB**

Don't forget the upcoming DXpeditions!

9X0R Rwanda March 16 - 27 see www.9X0R.com

What is WKremote ? Paul Mackanos K2DB

WKremote is a software application that provides a way to send Morse code from the local PC to a remote station's transceiver. It allows the user to enter Morse on a paddle or on a keyboard and have this relayed to a remote Winkeyer that keys the transceiver.



I have finally worked out the bugs with Steve, K1EL and the remote Winkey USB is up and running on my remote station. WOW, what a shot in the arm to remote operation. I now sit at the computer in my office, log into the camp and work CW with my paddles from here. Here is what really happens along with a diagram of the set-up. The paddles are connected to the local Winkeyer.

Maybe I can bring this into a meeting and demo it for you on my laptop. If you want more info go to www.k1el.com

Announcement: Once again we have sponsored the **2008 International DX Contest Plaque, W/VE Single Operator Low Power Combined Score.** This is a yearly sponsorship by Rochester DX Association - **K2FR Memorial.**

February W2RDX Event Dave Wright N2CK

During the weekend of the ARRL DX phone contest, I hosted a mini-multi operation to put **W2RDX** on the air. The intent of this endeavor was multi-faceted: first to get the club call on the air during a DX contest, expose some new people to contesting and what it's all about, and have some fun while we were at it. Actually Vic had a forth hidden agenda – his new K3 was en-route. He wanted to put it through its paces during the QRM of a phone contest. I'm confident you'll find an article from Vic about his new toy somewhere in this newsletter.

Looking back. I feel like we did all 3 (4?). Those responding to my offer were Dave **K2DPC**, Jim **N2VX**, Carey **K2RNY**, and Vic **K1PY**. Dave and Jim were in attendance on Saturday morning with a surprise visitor of **K2DB** in the afternoon. Carey and Vic participated on Sunday. It was great that Paul stopped by on Saturday. Dave had a station grounding question I couldn't answer. While we were talking outside, I told Dave to pose his question to Paul. Paul explained to Dave why his first choice would be the basement over the second floor. That's why I love this club so much – there is such a wealth of hands-on knowledge that one has access to just by asking. Paul declined the offer to operate the station. Perhaps if it had been the CW contest, he would have taken me up on the offer.

On Saturday, as Dave and Jim trolled the bands looking for stations I had them experiment switching between the vertical and tribander antenna. In retrospect, conditions seemed more difficult on Saturday than on Sunday. I made it my main focus to explain what was happening, and showed them the tools - the logging software, the cluster, the beam heading information and gave them an insight as to what the reported power would be. We finished Saturday with 35 Q's in the log. Not a great number by any means, but the intent was to educate and have fun.

On Sunday, Carey arrived before 7, and Vic by 9. Vic came proudly bearing his new toy. Prior to Vic's arrival I put Carey on the station and gave him a brief overview. Carey jumped in with both feet and was working them like a pro! Once Vic arrived, we took the workhouse IC-765 offline and connected up the new K3. As an aside, I observed while carrying it in that the weight was comparable to the six-pack of adult beverages in my right hand. Just a slight difference than my '765! The only drawback to using the K3 was that we couldn't get Writelog to recognize the rig. The computer saw the extra serial port from the USB connection (I didn't know I had USB ports on my old windoze 98 machine!), but didn't see the rig. To work around this, we needed to manually switch the software when we switched bands. Not a biggie. As Vic had never communicated with the radio via a computer, we don't know if this was a problem with the rig or if Writelog didn't know how to talk to a K3. There was a K2 in the list of supported radios. One would think (communication-wise) a K2 is the same as a K3. Vic was going to do some research to see if the version of Writelog I have supports this rig.

Carey took the first shift of operating the K3, followed by Vic. I took a turn at the helm as well. The only negative observation I had was that the tuning knob was stiff to turn.

However that was not a result of a manufacturing defect – but Vic's cats. It seems they discovered the felt washers provided with the kit were fun to chase around. In true ham make-do tradition a piece of another material (felt or wool – don't remember) was retrofitted into place. All of us found the controls well laid out and quite intuitive. I didn't play as much with the filters as I would have liked. At the time my ears were getting stressed from the phone band QRM.

Final results were a total of 171 Q's for 43,092 points. We did use the amp a bit on Sunday to make the Q's a little easier to come by. Looking over the log, we didn't work anything of great significance. We did hear Kuwait on Sunday but couldn't make them hear us. Contacts by band: 40m – 19, 20m – 126, and 15m – 26. We did work one station on 10 – but he was local so we couldn't count it (after a phone call with Vic, we hooked up on 28.350 to give his rig an initial Q and verification test). Certainly not stellar results for a multi-op effort, but given the educational thrust, as well as getting some new blood involved with contesting, I'm more than satisfied. As an aside, I really enjoyed getting **W2RDX** on the air again! I hope those who participated learned something new, and had some fun as well.





Remote operation report to the DXAC

17 March, 2008

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

Atlantic Division

After polling several different clubs in the Atlantic Division, here is a synopsis of comments received by a cross section of amateurs in this jurisdiction.

Stations ranged from full blown contesters to casual DXers. Mainly, more "seasoned" hams replied surely understanding the situation and it's ramifications.

Rule 9 in the "Basic Rules" section of the DXCC regulations states the following :

9. "All stations must be contacted from the same DXCC Entity. The location of any station shall be defined as the location of the transmitter. For the purposes of this award, remote operating points must be located within the same DXCC Entity as the transmitter and receiver".

Most stations (aware of this rule) referenced it their comments. General consensus was that if the station followed these guidelines, as written today, remote stations would be operating under the guidelines set forth by the league.

Veteran operators referenced the now defunct rule that placed a mileage limitation on DXCC credits. Having been licensed for 15 years, my recollection was that a station had to be within a 60 mile radius to count contacts as ones worked from his station. I may be incorrect on the

particulars but do remember being told of a situation such as this.

Other stations felt further clarification was needed and went as far to suggest that the delineation should be within ones state. A station operating from New York could remotely operate a station within New York, but not one located in California let's say.

Several even suggested that regardless of the situation spelled out above, that any remote operation be considered a separate category for all DXCC considerations.

These comments were regarding DXCC status only. Contest operation drew a completely different set of issues and responses.

Consistently, stations suggested a separate "class" for remote operation stations, much along the lines of a "rover" designation in VHF contesting. This consensus was unanimous.

Still different and more serious concerns were voiced by stations (such as myself) that pursue 6 meter DX. The remote ramifications here are far more important than those in HF. Careful consideration should be given to any allowance of remote operation on 6 or any higher band due to the obvious propagation differences between VHF and HF.

I trust these comments will aide the league in formulating fair yet concise guidelines on remote operation. As the hobby progresses and more and more state of the art electronic are injected into our hobby, this ruling alone will most probably govern this aspect of amateur radio for years to come.

My hope and the hopes of those who took the time to comment is that appropriate and educated decisions are made, ones which will allow such operation but will not in any way favor these operation over more "traditional" stations.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Shalvoy, **K2CS**

Atlantic Division DXAC

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.

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