

ROCHESTER

DX

ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

## Regular Meeting

November 18,  
2008 19:30 local



## NEW LOCATION!!!!!!!

The Monroe County Emergency  
Operations Center (EOC)

**Media room, right next to the  
EOC operations center.**

We cannot use the big EOC operations center, as  
it is booked that evening.

The room we are going to use will be in use  
before our meeting and they are scheduled to exit  
before 7:30 PM.

What we would ask is – do not be early for the  
meeting, as we cannot get into the room before  
7:30 PM.

Be sure to park in the back and not out in front, as  
we will not be able to enter thru the right front  
entry doors (near the Burger King).

1190 Scottsville Road

Exit 17 (Route 383 South) off 390

Media Room

## November Program

The November meeting will be a discussion  
on new operating awards for DX and  
Contesting.

Bring ideas of what type of awards you  
would like to see.

The board will bring some ideas to share  
with you!



Tuesday  
December 16

RDXA Holiday Get Together  
at Napa Gino's

Order from the menu and get  
exactly what you would like.

Meet for conversation at 6:00

Dinner at 7:00

RSVP: WITY by Dec 12

## The Podium

Paul Mackanos K2DB



Well, now that the two major Sweepstakes contests are over, yes I am writing this on Monday Morning, it was really great to have many of you RDXA'ers call us at K2NNY and give us a qso. We had a blast, and I sure hope that you all had a fun time too.

RDXA is a DX and contest club, and it is contest season so get that rig & antennas ready and go have some fun.

This month, our meeting is going to be in the same building, but not in the big EOC operations room, but in the media room, right next to the EOC operations center. We cannot use the big EOC operations center, as it is booked that evening, due to some type of graduation ceremony. The room we are going to use will be in use before our meeting and they are scheduled to exit before 7:30 PM. What we would ask is – do not be early for the meeting, as we cannot get into the room before 7:30 PM. Be sure to park in the back and not out in front like some of us do, as we will not be able to enter thru the right front entry doors (near the Burger King). We have to use the other entrance.

We are #1, in Field Day, 3A its official and the results are out from the ARRL. GREAT job RDXA'ers.

See you at the meeting, Tuesday evening at 7:30

Paul K2DB

**“There is a very fine line between  
"hobby" and "mental illness."”**

*... Unknown*



## 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](mailto:k2rny@frontiernet.net).

I am undertaking some record keeping of our membership files. Please send me an email ([k2rny@frontiernet.net](mailto: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 -**

**None this month – I know the next Bio is out there just waiting to be printed!**

**Check out these Websites!**

No wonder some people think we are nuts!!!!

Submitted by **AF2K**

<http://www.1982crew.com/PHP-Nuke/PDF/K9LTN.pdf>

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## Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity

12 November - 08 December 2008

Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels. However, there will be a slight chance for low activity (isolated low-level C-class flares) during 20 November - 03 December with the return of (old) Region 1007 (N35, L=252) to the visible disk.

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 12 - 15 November, 26 November - 03 December, and again during 06 - 08 December.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet levels during 12 - 23 November. Activity is expected to increase to mostly unsettled levels during 24 - 28 November due to a recurrent CH HSS. Quiet levels are expected during 29 November - 02 December followed by an increase to unsettled to isolated active levels during 03 - 06 December due to another recurrent CH HSS. Activity is expected to be mostly quiet during 07 - 08 December as the HSS subsides.

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

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## You Might be a Ham Operator if... **K6PSP** Continued from June ....

51. Your exercise machine is a Morse code keyer.
52. You walk through the plumbing section at the hardware store and see antenna parts.
53. Your neighbors thought you were nuts when you ripped up your lawn to bury chicken wire.
54. Your next door neighbor thinks that your wife is a widow.
55. Your wife has delivered meals to your Ham shack.
56. If you sold all your Ham radio equipment, you could pay off your mortgage.
57. Removing snow from the roof of your car requires working around the antenna and wires.

**This is the last of the run.  
Thanks Alan for months of fun**

## Propagation 11 years ago

AD5Q's notes  
from Cycle 22

### November 1997 Forecast 121

Flux Range 86 -

This fall has given some neglected HF bands a wake up call. The seasonal peak in high band activity has coincided with a sharp increase in solar activity to produce a 15 Meter season beyond anyone's expectations. The band was well populated with DXers trying out paths that have been closed for some time. From W5, most of Europe was coming through nicely with occasional openings to parts of Russia. The east coast undoubtedly got a better path to Russia with less Japan. The CQWW fone contest was marred by geomagnetic storminess, but many reported respectable QSO totals on 15.

The waters on 10 Meters were also tested, and openings to both Europe and Asia were found. With flux levels at times higher than 120, these openings were sometimes pretty good (though brief).

Winter approaches, however, and the polar night is advancing over the high latitudes. The fall DX season is therefore past its peak, and we should not expect this new solar activity to keep the bands open the way they have been this fall. We are in the early stages of the new cycle. The recent sharp rise in flux levels from near bottom levels was almost unprecedented and likely anomalous, and continued improvement at these rates should not be expected (even though possible). I expect deteriorating conditions now through January on 10 and 15, with hope for a nice comeback in spring '98. Next fall season, the big news will be 10 Meters.

A moderate increase in flux levels is very significant for 20 Meter nightpath propagation. Evening DX openings will be better than last year, and morning daypath openings to Europe will be longer. This winter the band will still close at night, but it is summer in the southern hemisphere where the nightpaths will be wide open. Expect dramatic improvement in long path propagation across the Antarctic. From W5, find southern Asia, the Middle East, N.E. Africa, Russia and Europe in the morning; and Indonesia, S.E. Asia, and Japan around our sunset. Short path openings can also occur at these times.

It is too early to expect an end to the great lowband conditions of recent years. Many have put up effective antennas and will continue to use them, providing lots of activity through the winter months. Evening conditions on 40 will likely improve over last year due to higher nighttime MUF's. <http://www.qth.com/ad5q/>

## K3LR - method of installing a PL259 coax connector submitted by K2DB

I have hundreds of silver plated PL-259s in service at my station. They are all soldered the same way. It is different from what almost everyone else does. Good soldered shields are very important to me. I was never sure my shields were well soldered or had melted the dielectric before using this method (before 1982).

Bill, N4AR taught me how to do this and I have been doing this "unconventional method" ever since.

Using silver plated PL259s makes this system a breeze. I use the ones that say "Made in USA" on the shell. I will try to describe the method. I need to post some pictures on my web site.

Take a fully assembled (shell + body) connector. Measure the connector against the RG8 (or similar) coax. Take the outer covering of the coax off with a sharp knife. Pull the braid back all the way by fanning it out. Wrap 3 to 4 turns of Scotch 88 black tape around the center conductor dielectric up against the fanned out braid. Use wire strippers and remove the remaining dielectric from the center conductor. Install the fully assembled PL259 onto the center conductor and over the 88 tape. The back of the PL259 body should rest on the fanned out shield. Solder the center conductor. Fan out the shield and cut it to 1/4" long and fold over the back of the PL259. Solder the shield all the way around to the back of the PL259 body. While the back is still hot wrap 2 turns of 88 tape around the soldered shield to seal it good.

I use a Weller D550 soldering gun for this process

Now you can enjoy a well soldered shielded PL259! I have NEVER had one fail!

There may be a small impedance bump that you might be able to see at VHF caused by this method vs. soldering through the holes, but the N4AR method guarantees a well soldered shield which is much more important to me.

73!  
Tim K3LR

Download the photos in zip format: [Soldering of PL259](#)

## October Meeting

Here are some photos for the next RDXA Newsletter, of Ken Boasi N2ZN making his presentation on Contesting last night, October 21st.

I will also have some photos for you soon of the mast-erecting party at the AWA annex the last Saturday of October.

Pictures submitted by **K6PSP**





## SSB Sweepstakes

submitted by K2DB

The gang at **K2NNY** would like to thank each and every RDXA member who helped us to our record score this week-end at Hickory Lake. We had a great time, stuffed our bellies full of great food and worked a total of 1639 stations in all sections for the sweep.

1639 QSO's 80 Sections = 262,240

Be sure to post your score on the scoring grid of rdx.com & send it in to the ARRL so the club can get credit for the club scoring at the national level.

You can e-mail your Cabrillo log to [ssphone@arrl.org](mailto:ssphone@arrl.org), **K2NNY's** log is already posted.

Also, after the contest ended, I watched the Steelers/Chargers game and after my Steelers won, I got a little tired and decided to either go to sleep early; or go back on the contest and have a little fun. So I set up N1MM logger for W2RDX, (yes, I had the trustees permission) went up the hill and flipped the switch to the 80 meter dipole, loaded up to 1500 watts and called CQ Sweeps this is W2RDX.

WOW, I was FRESH MEAT at 7:40 PM on Sunday night, apparently I got spotted (I did not use packet) and the pile-up started. I ended up working 255 QSO's; 55 sections in the last 2.27 hours of the contest for a score for RDXA of 28,050. I got several "THANKS for the SWEEP" comments during the run.

Too bad the contest ended at 10:00, as there was still a huge pile-up on us when it ended.

**N2OPW** broke the pile-up and had a great signal, he was 20 over, I wonder how strong we were there in his new OHIO QTH?

During the run, as always, some lids tune up on you (probably because they couldn't get on and rag chew on their favorite frequency due to the contest) and transmit a carrier on the frequency. Easy fix, hit the notch filter and keep on running. After a while, it seemed that my receiver was being de-sensed, as the audio would go low, but I could still copy, but at a reduced level. This continued to come and go at different times, so I thought it was just someone trying to QRM us. Well, after the contest was over, and I put the rig back on CW, the audio level was still reduced. After a little trouble shooting, it seems that something in the coax feed to the tower is intermittent. I would check the SWR and it was infinite, then it would go to 1.1 to 1. I checked it a few minutes later and, bingo - infinite again, then back to 1.1 to 1. This brings me back to thinking of what happened at **W2FU's** QTH, "bad PL-259 connections". Something is apparently amiss in the feed line. I don't have time to fix it before I come home, but there is an article in this newsletter about how to put on a PL-259 connector that will not let the connections deteriorate. It is from the **K3LR** website. I know **W2FU** and I will never solder a PL-259 in the traditional way again, only the **K3LR** way. Check out the article in the newsletter or Google



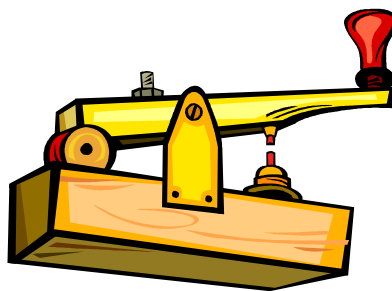
"K3LR PL-259" and tell yourself that you will never solder one any other way other than the **K3LR** method.

*Carey our thoughts and best wishes are with you and your family in the loss of your father.*

Daniel G. Magee: October 10, 2008. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Armida N. Magee; children, Stephen (Alison), William (Lynne), Carey (Susanne), and Mary Magee; grandchildren, Corbin, Garrett, Alexa, Dan, Katherine and Julia Magee; several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Dr. Timothy Quill and Hospice Nurse, Tina Gregoire for their loving care.

Contributions may be made to Hildebrandt Hospice Care, 2652 Ridgeway Ave., Rochester, 14626, or to St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, 417 South Ave., Rochester, 14620.



## The Big Key Award

The Big Key Award started a few years ago and has not been given in quite a while. This is passed from recipient to recipient any time something, umm how do I put it, funny? Interesting happens? You fill in the blank ...

Scott Hoag **K2ZS** was the last person to receive this illustrious award. You will have to ask him why, I am not one to tell stories. This time it is going to an unnamed person, come to the meeting to find out whom.

One clue ... This person broke the pile up twice for **K2NNY** the second time with the question ... "Gayle what was my number again?"

## ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION

W2RDX

rdx.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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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### Board of Directors

Carey Magee – K2RNY ----- k2rny@frontiernet.net

Doug Stewart – N2BEG ----- stewarts@rochester.rr.com

Lynn Bisha – W2BSN ----- lbisha@rochester.rr.com

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  
69 Fairview Crescent  
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### Any other correspondence to:

Irv Goodman

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