

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION

rdxa.com



ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

1947-2007 • 60 YEARS OF DX IN WNY

JANUARY 2009

RDXA General Membership Meeting



January 20th

3rd Thursday of the month

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

January Program

January's program is GADGET NIGHT! It is a show and tell program, and it should be a lot of FUN! Bring along any gadgets you use in the shack, for your computer, antennas, rig, keying, whatever, etc. Come on we all have a few things. This is a great way to see what other members of our club are doing! Dig out that GADGET and bring it along and be prepared to have some questions asked about it.

Some of you may ask, what's a gadget?



A **gadget** is a small technological object (such as a [device](#) or an [appliance](#)) that has a particular function, but is often thought of as a [novelty](#). Gadgets are invariably considered to be more unusually or cleverly designed than normal technology at the time of their invention. Gadgets are sometimes also referred to as [gizmos](#).

Bring your gadget, gizmo, or what ever you want to call it and have some fun!

Mark your calendar now!

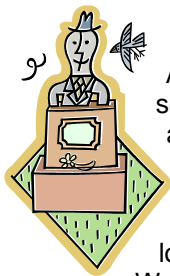
Saturday May 30th

**ARRL Atlantic Division Convention &
75th Annual Rochester Hamfest**

Sponsored by: Rochester Amateur Radio Association
**Barnard Carnival Grounds -
380 Maiden Lane, Greece - www.rochesterham.org**

The Podium

Paul Mackanos K2DB



Well, it was a fitting end to the year-long 60th Anniversary celebration of the RDXA. Thirty seven club members and significant others attended the Banquet and Holiday Party and a grand time was had by all. The food and camaraderie was outstanding. And everyone

looked so nice....all dressed up! Hi!

We also had great participation of many RDXA and RARA members for our joint participation at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. We need to thank all those who donated their precious holiday time and became involved in the display. Amateur Radio was proudly displayed and the members of both clubs went out of their way to promote our hobby. It was most enjoyable for me to participate, meet many hams who stopped by and renew old acquaintances but especially the youngsters who really showed enthusiastic interest in our hobby. We had an all band vertical (an R7 I think) on the roof that did survive the big wind storm we had, until I went up to help take it down after the event. I was untying a knot on one of the guy ropes and whoops, there it goes, it pulled out of my hand and down it went. It looks like it only bent a few of the radial wires. I hate it when that happens.

As we move from 2008 into the coming year, we need to decide which contests we are going to participate in to hone our contesting skills for Field Day.

Last year, we were #1 in our 3A class for Field Day and we want to again congratulate each and every member for helping us reach that plateau. It seems to me that with some serious effort this year we could do quite well in holding on to that #1 spot again.

RDXA is one heck of a club, and we are lucky to be members of it. I have been a member of a few clubs in my day, and RDXA is at the top of the list.

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas, Hanukah or Kwanza and Holiday Season and of course, have a prosperous and fun 2009!

Who knows, maybe Santa left us some much needed sunspots!

New Recording Secretary

I am proud to announce that Carey, **K2RNY** has stepped forward and will assume the duties of Recording Secretary for the club. As we are now incorporated, this is an important position for our club.

Paul **K2DB**

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.

If you have not all ready done so 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.

This month's bio is Paul Mackanos K2DB

Paul was licensed in 1963 as **WN2ITU**, then later in 1963 he received his General Class License as **WB2ITU**. He upgraded to Extra in the 70's when Incentive licensing took away the bottom 25 kilocycles (now it's hertz) of the band and received the call of **K2DB**. Paul is the station Trustee for **K2NNY** which operates in the November SS at his camp in NNY. He now runs his station in NNY by remote control, from Rochester or wherever he is with my laptop, or wherever a computer is available.

He was born and raised in Indiana, PA, too many years ago. His main mode of operation is CW, although he does diddle with RTTY once in a while.

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.

Vintage Beginnings

Across

- 1. Diploma word
- 6. Tiny PCB parts
- 10. Junkbox item, say
- 14. Like a nerd
- 15. Grid ____ resistor
- 16. All over again
- 17. Irish prefix
- 18. ____-VOX
- 19. '60s Novice transmitter maker
- 20. Heathkit Novice rig
- 22. VU4 island
- 24. Azimuth 90
- 26. What a lid is, for example
- 27. Best Yagi spacing
- 31. Pick up, on the bands, say
- 34. OE peaks
- 35. 4S7 group
- 40. This puzzle's theme
- 43. "Get lost!"
- 44. What a poor CW filter does
- 45. SU river
- 46. Beams, towers, amplifier - to a DXer, say
- 48. You feed an ant. with it, very generally speaking
- 52. VU royal YL
- 54. ER land
- 57. Popular Novice rig (and tube) of the 50's
- 62. Like Darth Vader
- 63. 2006 contest held in PY
- 65. Label on a wattmeter
- 66. Give up
- 67. Unlucky number, in Rome
- 68. Plantain lily

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | | | | | 15 | | | | 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | | 21 | | 22 | | 23 | | | | |
| | | | 24 | | 25 | | 26 | | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | 31 | 32 | 33 | | | | |
| 34 | | | | | 35 | | | | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 |
| 40 | | | 41 | 42 | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | | | | | | | | 44 | | | | |
| | | | 45 | | | | 46 | 47 | | | | |
| 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | | | 52 | 53 | | | | | |
| 54 | | | | 55 | 56 | | 57 | | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 |
| 62 | | | | 63 | | 64 | | 65 | | | | |
| 66 | | | | 67 | | | | 68 | | | | |
| 69 | | | | 70 | | | | 71 | | | | |

- 69. New Englander hams
- 70. ____-Uda
- 71. Hex
- Down**
- 1. Took to court
- 2. Windows alternative
- 3. Amps per Volt
- 4. Cooper maker
- 5. High points
- 6. Kills, as a dragon
- 7. Restroom sign
- 8. Packet payload
- 9. RF effect
- 10. Song of praise
- 11. JA cartoon art
- 12. Restore a PS, say
- 13. Drake Novice transmitter
- 21. Tit for ____
- 23. Physicist Paul
- 25. Ponderous one
- 27. Drift, as an odor
- 28. Hip bones
- 29. P5-land (abbr.)
- 30. To be, in old Rome
- 32. Duck: (in DL)
- 33. "Got it!"
- 35. Natural ground system
- 36. FIGS partner
- 37. VE3 lake
- 38. PJ title
- 39. Ceramic insulators, say
- 41. Sierra follower
- 42. Phi follower
- 46. Preceeds a 'J'
- 47. Halves of thirds
- 48. AC-1 maker
- 49. Group of 13
- 50. Trombone part
- 51. What an amplifier in standby does
- 53. Char. code
- 55. Z lead-ins
- 56. Opera solo
- 58. Quad element
- 59. QSL mgr's expectation
- 60. Part of IARU (abbr.)
- 61. Controlled a Novice's freq., once
- 64. Welding type - was heliarc, once

So what's a Soviet Woodpecker?

Just about every ham has cussed this thing at one time or other ...Great pics of the soviet woodpecker antenna! Anyone want one for their backyard?

<http://www.artificialowl.net/2008/12/abandoned-giant-duga-3-system-antenna.html>

Thanks Rick - W1TY!

We just want to extend great big thanks to Rick for setting up the banquet – Great Job!

Thanks to Alan K6PSP for uploading to the website a new album of 20 photos from the banquet. They are in the "Holiday Banquet 2008" Photo Gallery on the RDXA website. You will find it right at the bottom of the list.

Hint: click on the first photo to start an automatic slide show.

Website changes

K2ZS

The photo gallery section is up and running again after a major redo. You will notice some changes to the interface along with updated help files.

Enhancements include:

- You now have the ability to change the order of the gallery listings by changing the "Creation Date". The list is now sorted in a descending order and the 1st photo in the gallery is used as it's thumbnail.
- You now have the ability to change the order in which the photos in a gallery are displayed. Read the help file for more info.
- Clicking on an image in the gallery list will activate the slide show as on the live site so you can preview a slide show while creating it.

Since there are well over 500 photo's in our collection I had to move each group associated with a gallery to a new directory named by its gallery name.

Future updates will be the addition of a "Waste Bin" to store the deleted images for later use and some improved user interface options.

Below is a nice little app for keeping stats on site activity. If you dig into it you will see we are getting hits for odd stuff like **WA2WVL** sketch of Rick's amp... We have even had hits from other countries.

Go to: <http://www.rdxa.com/d4wstats/report/>

Something from the ARRL Contest Update e-mail newsletter:

"The holiday season is a time when we often start those "catch up" projects, like entering those old paper logs into our computer logging program. BORING! Dave **NN1N** found a tool to make the job a lot faster and it's called (surprisingly) [Fast Log Entry](#) by Bernd **DF3CB**. It allows you to only enter the data that has changed from the previous contact. It could be just like working the contest all over again!" It works with any logging program that imports ADIF files. What it does is let you create a new ADIF file that you then import.

Here's the link: <http://www.df3cb.com/file.html>

N1MM Quick Start

Those of you (us) that get bamboozled by the blizzard of options and settings in the N1MM contest logging software may find help in Pete N4ZR's "Quick Start" guide. It's available via a link right at the top of the [N1MM Web site](#) and will definitely cut down on those "what did I just do?" moments common with any powerful piece of software. (Thanks, Steve N2IC)

The N1MM site is <http://n1mm.com/>

The new guide is in the menus across the very top -- it's the first entry under Help files.

Do you remember your Novice Days? K6PSP

This website should appeal to those who remember their Novice License days:

<http://www.novice.bappy.com/index.html>

(Received from **N6ZE** of CVARC).

RDXA Reflector

K2DB

If you are not a subscriber to the RDXA e-mail reflector, Please consider joining the list at:

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

There is a lot of activity on this reflector, and the club would appreciate it if every member is subscribed so that each and every member can be kept up to date on RDXA Activities.

73 de Paul K2DB

8 January 1999 Forecast Flux Range 74 -108

It is now January - the month where nighttime MUF's are at their lowest. Last year at this time, the operation from Heard Island demonstrated what can be done at the bottom of the solar cycle from a remote location when the need is very great. As I write this, an operation from Laos has been activated and the need is also great. Contact with this Laos expedition may prove more difficult than Heard for DXers with average antenna installations.

For much of the USA, the main path to Heard was via the South Pole. This was not a problem on 20 because it was summer where polar windows are wide open. Contacts on other bands were more challenging because the flux was too low to open 15 and polar paths on lowbands are difficult anyway. This polar problem primarily effected western USA. The path to Laos is via the North Pole for the eastern US, and this is a difficult winter path even on 20 at current flux levels. The band closes at one end of the path just as it is opening at the other. Windows of opportunity will be of short duration, and propagation will favor other parts of the country (west). These openings will occur around sunrise and sunset, depending on your location. Both long path and short path should be watched - but both will favor the west coast. Similar possibilities look good on 40 for those with effective antennas, but chances of a contact are slim to none for those with wires. The west coast will have an easy path on 20 & 40, with opportunities on several other bands we can't even dream about. The last serious operation from Laos was in December '89 at the top of the solar cycle, and paths on both 10 and 15 were open from Texas. A surge in flux numbers would help hold the path open for the east coast on 20 this year. Good Luck in the pileup!

Aside from the Laos path, many continue to enjoy the new activity on 15 and 10. After a strong surge of new solar activity to start the cycle last fall, flux numbers have levelled off for now while the winter season works against us at the higher latitudes. Polar paths on 15 were sparse in the recent season, and this band still has much room for improvement. Seasonally, I feel this band is at its best in late spring. We can look forward to some interesting propagation in months ahead, though I don't see 10 Meters getting really hot until next fall.

For now it is lowband season, and that is where everybody is in the evening. Good conditions on 80 & 160 should be exploited, because this will be our last winter of low solar activity for some time.

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

Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity

14 January 2009 - 09 February 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 be at normal levels throughout the period. The geomagnetic field is expected to be at quiet levels through 18 January. Field activity is expected to increase to quiet to unsettled levels, with isolated active periods possible at high latitudes during 19 January due to a recurrent coronal hole high speed stream (CH HSS). Activity is expected to decrease to quiet levels during 20 - 26 January. Activity is expected to increase to quiet to unsettled levels, with isolated active levels possible at high latitudes during 27 - 30 January due to another recurrent CH HSS. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet levels during 31 January - 09 February.

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

DX Report

**K2CS
Atlantic Division, DXAC**

Well as you all may have figured out by now, the bands have been challenging to say the least. Good time to focus on working the low band stuff that hopefully (in a few years) will be more difficult. Still, with the conditions as they are, I'm filling my logs with a few here and there.

Probably my most favorite contest, the ARRL 160m Contest was held in early December. Conditions weren't as good as a few years ago, I missed W6 for the first time ever (I guess there was one on but I had packed it in by the having worked the band out, at least in my estimation).

Many of you may know, I'm not really a "cqer", preferring S&P. I hate missing mults and with limited power I find that combing the dial with filters at tight as they go, I'll generally find a station or two that others just pass by. Several DX stations I called came right back then continued on with cq's as many just don't take the time to listen for the weak ones.

All told, I was about 20 qso's off from last year and logged KP2, FM, HI, ZF, P4, CT, DL, F, G, OM, ON and was pleasantly surprised by E7 and HK0. Really need to get the beverages going though, just need the time.

With a LOTW submission just before the yearbook deadline, I've now have 300 confirmed on CW. Amazing to think about actually that only a handful of the 331 countries I've worked are not on CW, SV/a for example.

This years biggie is KP5. The window the team has been shooting for is 12-26 of February, 2009. DXAC Chairman Bob Allphin, K4UEE is the expedition co-chair. If I hear anything outside of published reports I'll let you know.

In the log (Non contest)

TO5DX 160m CW (all other than noted)

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| OM3PC | 6W/DL4JS |
| VP2V/SP3IPB | LZ2YY |
| OZ8ABE | J3/DL7CM |
| OM3GI | 5K0T |
| HC8N | VE2XAA/2 |
| KP2/K3TEJ | LA9Z |
| OZ8ABF | ES1QD |
| FM5BH | OX3KQ (SSB) |
| UT3MD | |

Operation approved for DXCC Credit

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| T61AA – Afghanistan | VK9DWX – Willis Island |
| VU4RG – Andaman & Nicobar Island | |
| A52AM – Bhutan | CY0X – Sable Island |
| YI9PT – Iraq | 4W6R Timor – Leste |
| EP3BN – Iran | 9N7BN – Nepal |
| VU4MY – Andaman & Nicobar Islands | |
| VU7NRO – Lakshadweep Islands | |
| VU7SJ – Lakshadweep Islands | |
| TN5SN – Republic Of The Congo | |
| TN5MM – Republic Of The Congo | |

Amateur Radio Stats

W1AGP

Just a bit of good news to share...

If you are looking for the best source for Amateur Radio stats check out www.ah0a.org. This is the place where media is pointed to when they are looking for hard numbers.

At the end of year meeting for the ARRL it was told that the ARRL grew by 1100 members. There was approximately a 1.2% growth in hams in the USA and there are 28,066 new US hams in 2008.

To those people and groups who were active in promotions, classes, exams and teaching- ya dun gud!

It is important that we project our hobby as one that is growing in numbers and now we have some hard facts to support that claim!

As we deal with non hams in conversation, events, classes, etc. remember that we are all ambassadors who can bring positive energy and new members to our group.

Allen G Pitts, W1AGP
ARRL Media & PR Manager
apitts@arrl.org

Can you copy this call sign?

K2RNY

The program for your computer is called RUFZxp. It throws call signs out at you that you need to type in. If you goof, it lowers the speed. If not it keeps increasing the speed.

I have been using it for a couple of weeks now. I am consistently copying call signs at 15 WPM which is up for me. Last week, I was topping out at 18WPM. Now I am topping out at 24 WPM. This has helped me quite a bit. As a practice tool for contesting, I think it has merit. Pick a free copy at www.rufzxp.net.

Another Golden Age

submitted by K1PY

I thought this was a great article in the recent ARRL Contest Update e-mail letter.

CONVERSATION - Another Golden Age

Another golden age of what? Surely, I'm joking? The economy and solar cycle are in a race to see which can be most disappointing. Half the world seems angry with the other half. Long faces are seen on every television screen--and even that old black-and-white set we've kept forever is going dark in February. Bah, humbug...golden age, indeed! Of what?

Well, amateur radio. Oh, right! Tell me another! Our licensee totals are flat, code hasn't been heard in a testing room for years, and your homeowner's association board faints like goats at the very mention of antennas. Electrical shop has been expelled from the high school curriculum, vacuum tubes are surely made from moon dust for what they cost, and "they" are taking lead out of solder! Golden age...what holiday nog has the editor gotten into this time?

Not so fast, you Ebenezers of Electronics, you Scrooges of Software, let's take a moment to remember a time long ago. There was another time when things really *were* tough. It was called the Great Depression and if you think radio stuff was expensive now, go back and compare prices of radio stuff to wages in the 1930's! There were exactly two big contests--Sweepstakes and the ARRL DX Contest. Most hams didn't even know what sunspots were and DX meant "out of state".

Yet in many ways, that era of deprivation and hard-scrabble ham radio is remembered as a Golden Age of Amateur Radio. It was during those cold winters and hot summers (without forced-air heating and central air conditioning) that many of the characteristics of modern amateur radio were forged. The elements that came together were technology, materials, tools, and an interest in experimentation and self-improvement.

I see many of those very same elements converging today. To be sure, technology has a much broader scope than

when "Radio Was King!" but this is a technological age! The materials are vastly more sophisticated, although no one seems to have figured out how to calm an obstinate roll of Copperweld(tm) even yet, but amazing capabilities

are available for a pittance. We are awash in tools, both of the hardware and software persuasion, many of which are even free!

That leaves the interest in experimentation and self-teaching element. To the skeptics out there grumbling and muttering about appliance operators and "dumbed down" stuff, have you tuned into any of the "do it yourself" movement? And that's what it is...a movement! The first spark was struck with "This Old House" on PBS and slowly the ember grew. Cable TV channels picked up local and national shows on food, crafts, and science, providing kindling to the flame. The number of channels grew, creating an insatiable demand for content. Programmers of the entertainment industry discovered that people like shows about DOING THINGS. The Web fanned the flames with the sudden realization that everyone can be content.

And then the "Mythbusters" phenomenon exploded! Jamie and Adam took stuff apart! They wired, they drilled, they welded, and they measured things! And they blew stuff up! And laughed like hyenas as the fragments pinwheeled and beams shattered and frozen chickens blasted through windscreens! And no-nonsense Jamie fixed the viewer with a steely gaze from under his cap and said, "Don't try this at home." Well, what more encouragement do you want? It is now officially desirable to be able to tinker, to build, to design, to think, boys and girls.

This groundswell of interest did not go un-noticed by the media and now there are literally dozens of magazines, books, Web sites, television shows, blogs, and whatever media was invented this week, all dedicated to some aspect of doing-it-yourself. There is even a [Do-It-Yourself Network](#) - check it out! [Make Magazine](#) hosts an event called Makerfaire that in four events has attracted around 200,000 people, each paying \$25 to get in and see people...that's right...doing stuff. The Web site [Instructables](#) is crammed full of individually-contributed projects from people beating down the door to contribute! These three examples are but a ripple on the pond.

Who are these do-it-yourselfers? They're people just like you and me with one important difference. They don't know about ham radio yet...or maybe they know the wrong things about ham radio. These are our people! If they can just find the door to ham radio, they'll find an amazing hobby in which you can be an inventor, a collector, an emergency worker, an athlete, an engineer, a radio show host, a scaler of heights, a teacher and mentor, an astronomer, and a geophysicist. All at the same time.

Whatever it is that they are doing now--robotics, hang-gliding, geocaching, hiking, bike racing, programming--has some facet that can link up with a complementary facet of ham radio. These people love the smell of solder in the morning, the thrill of competition, the feel of a well-cut thread, the sound of a well-modulated signal, the satisfaction of watching a network spring to life. They're our

people! They just don't know we're here. Why? Because we're afraid to tell them.

The Ebenezers are shifting uncomfortably, worried that these newcomers won't do things just like us, they'll want to change ham radio, I won't like it! Oh, fiddle-dee-dee...the exact same worries bedeviled ham radio as the transition was made from the old spark to the new CW. And again when hams started using phone. And then when SSB displaced AM. And when we started using FM. And when we started using computers. You'd think ham radio had died a dozen times to read the letters in old QSTs about rotten this and rotten that. But we're still here.

Those flat licensing numbers are hiding something, dear readers. There's a quiet change afoot as new hams are signing up, masked by natural attrition and the whittling away of dead wood in the ranks. Below the surface of that still water, powerful tides are flowing. More and more new faces are joining us every day. They're finding out what ham radio is really all about--the original open-source technology, the 'net before the 'net, where hands-on lives on. Just as seventy-five years ago, ham radio can be a melting pot of many good things, creating something even better out of the resulting alloy. If we let it and if we let them.

That's a good thing to ponder as we prepare to turn the page on another year, hoping that 2009 will bring us a sunspot or two. Golden Ages look a lot different coming than going. They're new, they're challenging, they're risky, they're scary. It is said that it's not a Real Adventure if you enjoy it while you're having it, but that's no reason not to have an adventure. Or have we forgotten the exciting possibilities that pulled us up to the tower top and down to the workbench and onto the bands in the first place? I don't know what's coming, but I'm feeling those tides of change.

And it's going to be golden. 73, Ward **N0AX**

Put Your Pencils Down Submitted by K2DB

Technology abounds in the shacks of contest operators--databases, recorders, automated call sign decoders, to name a few--but it can't guarantee that every piece of information will be logged correctly. Errors creep in from every chink in the accuracy armor, even typos have cost many a QSO at log-checking time. Knowing that one's log is very likely imperfect and with the log submission deadline days away, the temptation to polish it a little (or a lot) is strong and the competitive drive can make one's ethics weak. CQ WPX Manager and Contest Hall of Fame member Randy Thompson K5ZD weighed in on the subject this week after watching some post-contest discussion of call signs on the cq-contest reflector. Let's listen to what he has to say...(this post is also available as [contesting.com Article 45.](#))

"Two calls...have been discussed on the cq-contest reflector in the past days. People were more than happy to point out these calls were incorrect and what the correct call was... I was very disappointed and concerned by that.

"What is contesting? It is a competition between operators. This competition involves working stations on the air during

the contest period. Part of working stations is recording them accurately in the log.

"When the contest is over the participants submit their log (the record of their activity) to the contest sponsor. The sponsor checks the logs and publishes the results. Some people are declared winners, but everyone is also able to compete with themselves and measure their own improvement.

"Seems pretty simple...

"If testers sit around after the contest and compare their logs with others in order to make corrections to what they copied, is that within the spirit of the competition? You are still competing to work stations, but accuracy is no longer being tested. Same is true if you use other means after the contest to correct your log (looking at DX Summit records, listening to audio recordings, etc.).

"In the "old days" ops would write their log using pencil and paper. They would then have to manually go back through and dupe the log. During this process they would correct errors they found or make the text easier to read. This process took time and is a big part of the reason there is a 30 day period to submit logs. It also led to this perception that correcting logs after the contest was OK.

"Today, we keep our log on computer. At most we should scan through the log looking for typos and fixing anything we made a note of during the contest. These corrections should be done by you based on your own review and knowledge of the log. Not as a group effort or using outside tools!

"It's ok if you didn't get every call or exchange correct. Yes, your score may be reduced by the log checkers. That's part of the competition. Request your log check report after the results are published and study it. If you confuse certain letters on phone or CW you know what to work on during the next contest. It's called improving your skills and should be the most satisfying part of contesting.

"Do contesting and yourself a favor--follow the rules and work the contest as best you can. Put your log in the proper format. Send it in as quickly as possible after the contest. The result will be an honest and fair competition that can be used to measure your skills against others and yourself.

"And if anyone asks you to confirm a call that was worked in the contest, just say no. Encourage them to do the right thing and send in their log as it recorded their activity."

This and related subjects were also addressed by CQ Contest Committee member Doug KR2Q in a May 1996 article in National Contest Journal magazine. The ARRL Contest Advisory Committee has published a set of [guidelines for HF contest operating](#), too. To be sure, there is nothing wrong with analyzing and reviewing your log to improve your accuracy, operating strategy, understanding of propagation, and so forth. That's part of the continual and life-long path to the Top Ten. But understand that what you discover applies to the NEXT contest.

73, Ward **N0AX**

LoTW - This is one individual's input, but some interesting information to think about. (From VHF reflector) <http://www.eham.net/articles/20825>

According to Eham, QRZ, DX News, and numerous other sources, CQ Magazine will begin accepting eQSL (www.eqsl.cc) confirmations for their awards programs. This bold move certainly "ups the ante" for the ARRL and their LoTW program.

While I've been an active user of Logbook of the World for several years now, I've also been disappointed with it in many ways. First and foremost is that it is currently only accepted for DXCC and Worked All States. It is not accepted for VUCC, and there is no timetable from the league on when this award and others might be added.

The league has cited limited resources and complexity as the barrier to adding more awards to the program. I had hoped that the addition of Yaesu as a major sponsor of the program might accelerate progress, so far there has been no visible movement.

Another criticism is that the security for LoTW is unnecessarily high, and these safeguards increase the complexity and making changing the software difficult and time consuming. Literally, I can log on to my bank and perform on-line banking with fewer safeguards than exist on LoTW.

Those of us in corporate America see this mind-set all too often. The IT department staff lives in fear of viruses, cyber-attacks, and other threats, and management doesn't really understand the technology. The end result is that users are often handcuffed with a network that is too protective, with adverse effects on productivity. The league seems to have fallen into this trap as well.

While they will accept virtually any printed card, or letter from another amateur as proof of a QSL, I cannot receive a JPEG image by computer and print it out. "Card checkers" have widely varying standards, and the whole system ignores the modern age of communications.

I'm no huge fan of eqsl's system either, but it does seem a more reasonable compromise between the legitimate need for security and validation and ease of use. As postal costs continue to rise, and the economy suffers, the sheer cost of achieving awards like VUCC becomes a real issue for most of us. Even domestic postage can be daunting, and international rates far worse.

I'd love to see the league publish a timeline for adding VUCC and other awards to LoTW as an immediate step. I'd also like to see them consider alternative systems like eQSL for award credit, perhaps for domestic awards like WAS. Reducing the security for the system could also speed adoption and popularity of the system.

If VUCC credit were allowed, would other VHF operators use it or not? I get a lot of 6 Meter contacts being reported now on the system, but very few for 2 Meters and up.

Thoughts?

Les Rayburn **N1LF**

Rochester Museum and Science Center AF2K

Here's a brief recap of **W2RDX** activity at RMSC:

QSO's by day:

Sat. 35

Sun. 27

Mon. 48

For a total of 110

W2RDX/60 total for the same weekend in 2007 was 148

Below is a letter we received from the Museum:

Dear Irwin,

The Rochester Museum & Science Center is very grateful to the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and Rochester DX Association for participating in our Holiday Science & Technology Days program. By generously donating their time and expertise, both groups gave our visitors a memorable experience that was fun and educational. It was nice to see the Democrat and Chronicle newspaper noted how interesting the radio program was.

I have enclosed complementary passes to RMSC for your teams. Please contact me if I can provide additional passes. We look forward to inviting the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and the Rochester DX Association back for our next Holiday Science & Technology Days presentation.

Thanks again,

(s) Bruce Tehan

Antenna height

Question: Wire antenna height: How do you launch your wire antennas / support ropes into trees for maximum height?

With a rope and 3 to 5 oz. weight, I can consistently place lines about 25-30 feet high, depending on branch location and density. I want to achieve more height; some of my trees are in the 60' range. So, my questions are:

- (1) What sort of 'launcher' have you used with the most consistent success to achieve both height and accuracy?
- (2) Is the device 'Home-brew' or 'store-bought'?
- (3) Any special techniques or tricks that you have found to be especially useful?

Don **AB2NM**

Answers:

For launching in the trees 60-80 feet, I would suggest the following:

<http://www.antennalaunchers.com/antlaunching.html>

I built one the CSV17 from the kit. It is surprisingly accurate. It uses compressed air and launches weighted tennis balls (fairly safe). The only regret I have is that I can't reclaim all the time I wasted trying other means of "launching" wiring antennas. Bill **K2TER**

I use the "EZ- Hang". I bought one at Dayton a number of years ago and I love it. Some folks have borrowed it from me and they've had good success too. It launches a fishing sinker on the end of a fishing line which is held in a Zebco fishing reel attached to the unit. Once the fishing line is where you want it, you attach a heavier "Dayglo Orange" line (supplied as part of the system) to the far end and reel the fishing line back in. Then you put your antenna on the orange line and pull. It sounds like a lot of BS, but it works well and apparently they sell a lot of them - they've been around a long time. One problem (at least according to what I've heard) is that our lovely state of New York has outlawed the sale of and purchase of slingshots (which is the basis of the EZ-Hang). Since I bought mine out of state, I had no problem. You can get it mail order from the manufacturer (check CQ and other ham pubs for the address/website), but I'm not sure if they'll ship it to NYS addresses- don't quote me on it either way.

Dave

K2DH

Actually, the best device I have seen for this is the **RDXA** Launcher used by **W2BSN** and **W2LB**. Maybe those guys could share their design with the group...?

For those who have no idea what I'm talking about, go to Youtube, search for **K2NNY**, and look for **K2NNY** Antenna Launch. All PVC and compressed air, as **K2TER** mentioned.

Ken

N2ZN

I use an old 40 lb re-curve bow and a Carp Arrow. Any good bow will work well. The Carp arrow already has hole in the end for line attachment and it's a very dense arrow and tip. They are designed to shoot into the water and "stab" a carp, then retrieve using a bail/type fishing reel/rod (spinner). I can easily reach 60-70' up and place extremely precisely. The Carp arrow is heavy enough to come back to Earth in all but the heaviest of woods. Pull the line back through using the reel and mason twine. Then use the twine to pull the antenna rope, 12-17 lb line works the best. I've found this to be superior to all of the slingshot type devices. More accurate, and the arrow is much more dense than the load that can be "slung" with a slingshot.

Certainly more expensive if you have to go out and buy a new compound bow, but I found a used re-curve at a small sporting goods store years ago. Cost me only about \$20.

Jeff

W2FU

Here are a few pictures of the air cannon. All parts were purchased at home depot except for the tire valve used to charge the air chamber. I use 40 - 60 psi to cover any tree I have come across. 80 psi is simply amazing. The slug is a piece of 1.25" steel pipe with a wooden core. The line is regular mason's line (very strong nylon). The slug needs to be heavy enough to pull the line back to the ground. I used 4" x 2' pvc for the air chamber and the ball valve is 2". Larry (**W2LB**) does very well with a 1.5" ball valve and it is easier to "snap" open. You will notice in the pictures that I use a lever to open the valve quickly. The Barrel is 1.5" pvc about 2.5' long. With a little practice, accuracy is quite good. I am always willing to give someone a hand using this to put up an antenna. Lynn **W2BSN**



 I use an old surf casting; heavy spinning rod (~8' or so) spooled with an open face spinning reel and filled with 17lb test abrasion resistant line. I cast a 2 oz sinker into the tree line. If the shot wasn't successful, just pop off the sinker and retrieve the line from the tree tops and cast again. When successful placement is achieved, use the fishing line to pull a mason's twine up through (just like Jeff does), then use that to pull your main support line up. If you can find a old rod/reel at a garage sale, and it's capable of handling a couple of ounces of weight, give it a try. There's just something about using a bow-n-arrow in semi-populated areas. People tend to get nervous. If they see you casting a line into the trees, they'll just think you're nuts. Just my \$0.02. Dave **N2CK**

The next step to remoting a station

Check this out:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rth8FWBJFY>

ARRL's New Triple Play Worked All States Award **K2DB**

The Triple Play WAS (Worked All States) Award is available to all amateurs worldwide who must use Logbook of the World (LoTW) to confirm QSOs with each of the 50 states on voice, CW, and digital modes. The Triple Play WAS Award is a serial-numbered award starting with # 1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application submitted via LoTW. Awards issued will be tracked and presented on the ARRL Website.

Two-way communications must be established on amateur bands with each state on each mode. There is no minimum signal report required. Any or all bands (except 60 Meters) may be used for the Triple Play WAS. The District of Columbia may be counted for Maryland.

Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 50 miles apart. Club station applicants, please include clearly the club name and callsign of the club station (or trustee). Contacts must be made after 0000Z on January 1, 2009 to be considered for this award. LoTW will be programmed to automatically use this criterion. Contacts must be confirmed via LoTW. Written confirmations will not be accepted.

There are no endorsements for the Triple Play WAS Award. Contacts made through "repeater" devices or any other power relay method cannot be used for WAS confirmation. A separate WAS is available for Satellite contacts. All stations contacted must be "land stations." Contact with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft, cannot be counted.

EXCEPTION: Permanently docked exhibition ships, such as the Queen Mary and other historic ships will be considered land based.

A US applicant must be an ARRL member to participate in the WAS program. DX stations are exempt from this requirement.

Attempts to falsify data, logs, or other application operations may be grounds for disqualification. The decision of the ARRL Awards Committee in such cases is final.

Please follow the instructions presented on the LoTW website. The cost of the Triple Play WAS award is \$12 for a certificate delivered to a U.S. address, or \$13 delivered to an address outside U.S.A. Per-QSO fees associated with using LoTW credits as normal will be charged via the online application.

Read more about the award in QST and see the certificate.

If you have previously set-up a WAS award account on your user page, you do not need to do anything else. There is a new Triple Play Award counter and link in your WAS award area if you have confirmed any state in LoTW after January 1.

ARRL Membership Renewals

K2DB

I received a call from an RDXA member today about renewing his ARRL membership and having the RDXA receive credit for the renewal. I called and talked to the ARRL membership spokesperson (Norm) and inquired about the program.

It is very easy, and a source of income for RDXA (not much, but a few dollars). And every dollar counts. I have downloaded the application forms needed, 1 for the renewing member and 1 for the club to send in the application and the dues.

All we have to do is have the renewing member fill out the form and pay us; we then forward the club application to the league and deduct the club commission and put it in our treasury.

Why not, we have over 70 members and if they are all ARRL members (probably not) and we all renew on a yearly basis, that could add up to a few more dollars for the treasury. Below is the info from the ARRL website.

- ARRL Affiliated Clubs receive a commission for every new ARRL membership and renewal they submit to ARRL Headquarters.
- Clubs retain a portion of the dues for each regular or senior membership submitted to ARRL Headquarters.
- Clubs retain \$15 for each new membership OR lapsed membership (of two years or more). A NEW MEMBER is defined as any individual who has never been a member of ARRL or any individual who has not retained a membership for two or more calendar years prior to the application submission.
- Clubs retain **\$2 for each renewal**. A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at anytime, even before their current membership term expires
- Family, Blind or 21-and-under discounted memberships are not applicable for any discount.

So here is the bottom line:

I will be renewing this way, as I just checked and my ARRL membership expires in 51 days. If you are not an ARRL member or your membership has lapsed for more than 2 years – RDXA gets \$15 if you join. If you just renew – RDXA gets \$2 if you renew. If you want, send me an e-mail at k2db@arrl.net and ask me to send you the pdf file of the application.

We have added a new document to the website for ARRL membership renewals thru the RDXA. Please consider renewing your ARRL membership thru RDXA & help out our Treasury.

Station changes in 2008

K2RNY

I replaced my ICOM IC-735 with an Elecraft K2/100. It is amazing what a good transceiver will do for a station. I was able to hear and work stations never before attainable with the IC-735. It was an investment, but well worth it.

Plans for 2009 are to get those wires away from the house and set properly in the back. Planning on an antenna switch and a complete relocation of my dipole, 30M wire and 17M wire. Plus, I plan on finishing my radial field for the vertical.

What are your plans or changes? Send them to the publisher and we can share them throughout the year.

QRZ and Logger32

K2ZS

Notice to members using logging software in their shacks...

As of this year QRZ is no longer offering free lookup integration for popular logging software packages. I believe this has already happened as I could not do any lookups directly through Logger 32 last night. According to QRZ there are a select few that will have the ability to do lookups (if the user holds a paid subscription) and logger 32 isn't on that list. I have inquired about this through the Logger 32 Forum and they don't have any plans on writing a plug-in for their software. They will be making available the source code to their software if there are any developers that wish to give it a try.

I also use Logic 8 here and they are on the supported list but you have to download a new lookup engine from their (logic's) website.

It's a sad day indeed when QRZ taints our hobby with such extortionist commercialism.

Answers to Crossword



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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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

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**Any other correspondence to:
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**Mike's new call is K2OI – I will see that this is changed by the next newsletter – I need to reload some software to make this change – sorry for the incorrect information*

*The highest compliment our clients can give is
the referral of their friends and family.*

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