Rochester DX Association

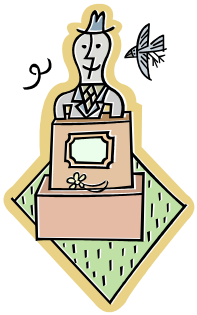
November Meeting Subject: "Sniffing Glue"

Next Month November 15th, we'll be sniffing glue. We'll sort of…Actually John Gilly (W3OAB) will be giving a class on assembling a pneumatic spud launcher. Well even assemble a couple of them based on the plans from the March issue of QST magazine. So stop by the Monroe Emergency Operations Center at 7:00 and we'll show you how to throw up that dipole in no time.

For our October 18th meeting, the Rochester DX Association Met at Cheap Charlie's restaurant, 8 Elm St., Bloomfield at 6:00 PM for Dinner. Afterward we had a short Meeting. Then the real fun began. We convened the meeting and headed to the Antique Wireless Museum in Bloomfield. Lynn Bisha (W2BSN), Ed Gable (K2MP) and Roy Wildermuth (W2IT) and other AWA members graciously gave the DX Association a wonderful tour of the facility.

The Podium

Paul Kolacki, K2FX



Now that October is upon us, I don't know how many tricks we'll encounter, but as far as RDXA is concerned, there will be plenty of treats!! I'll get to that in a moment, but first I'd like to address those of you who did not make our kick-off meeting in September. All I can say is WOW! You missed a good one! Sunspots and Propagation are all the rage as this current solar cycle continues to build, and knowing what the numbers mean and how to put them to effective use at your own station is invaluable. That's exactly what those in attendance at the September Meeting were instructed in by Andy, K0SM. Andy did a very fine job of taking a somewhat complex science, and presenting it in such a way that everyone was able to walk away with a better insight into the mysteries of propagation. I personally want to thank him for the time he put into his presentation, and for all that it did towards helping RDXA members better their understanding of something that plays such a vital role in our everyday operating.

So now that we're off and running into this new season for RDXA, we do have a real treat for all of you planned for October. Those of us who live in this area are very fortunate to have a place that houses a virtual time warp of electronic equipment of all kinds, especially Ham Radio Gear! That place is the AWA Museum, and it will be the LOCATION for our October gathering. If you have ever wanted to tour the Museum, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!! The Museum is one of the few devoted to research, preservation and documentation of the history of wireless communications. There is a complete range of historical communications equipment on exhibit. Some of which, can be associated with famous people like Guglielmo Marconi, Lee De Forest, Edwin Armstrong, Thomas Edison and other famous pioneers. Members of the Antique Wireless Association, a world-wide group, have collected these exhibits from around the world - much of which are still in working order. This will be

something NOT to be missed. So mark your calendars now for Tuesday, October 18th! Prior to the tour, we'll first meet for dinner at Cheap Charlie's Restaurant, 8 Elm Street in Bloomfield, NY at 6:00 PM, which will be followed by a brief meeting (6:45-7 PM). Then we'll proceed a short distance to the AWA museum which is located at 2 South Avenue. After the tour, you are again invited back to Cheap Charlie's for some good old fashioned socializing and munchies.

Don't get tricked this month! The meeting WILL NOT be at the EOC Building as usual, but rather at the Antique Wireless Association Museum in Bloomfield. I hope to see each and every one of you there! It may be October, but as far as RDXA is concerned it's more like **ROCKTOBER!** Good DX, and may all of those ghosts and gremlins stay far away from your shacks as you chase all of that great DX. Happy Halloween everyone!

ROC City Net

The premier HF net from Upstate New York

Every Wednesday at 8:00 PM (0000 UTC) @ 3825KHz Join Us!

NYQP Report: Weekend Fun

Once again a New York QSO party is over, and I had a blast. I invited Carey, K2RNY over to operate from my station, as I knew his station was in a state of slight unassembled-ness. I also knew that he did a lot of the back-end support work for the NYQP. Given that, I figured he would appreciate being able to operate. We ran multi-single class, low power and had worked both CW and phone. Our score wasn't in the top echelon compared to some scores I've seen from the group, but the intent was to have fun – and we did. Carey arrived about 9:30 (giving me time to get the station somewhat cleaned up and ready to rock). I searched my desk drawers in earnest looking for the foot switch when I discovered it shoved in the pile of wires under the desk. Guess I left it there and it kinda got "pushed" under there by the vacuum cleaner! I gave Carey a quick rundown on the station, antennas and we looked for a place to start.

I had intended to start on 40 SSB, but we tried 15 with no success, and then went to 20 to make a few Q's before heading back to 40. Carey was over here until about 2:00 local and put almost 100 stations in the log on SSB, CW and hitting 40, 20 and 15. We did work W2RTY on 40 SSB in the morning, and to have a little fun with Ritty Rick – gave him a 53 signal report. Hopefully he logged the received report as it was sent. After Carey left, I jumped on and did my best to finish off the contest.

I had a real nice run on 20 SSB for almost an hour with contacts coming once a minute or so. I did have someone doing his or her best to interfere with me by sending a CW carrier. I started to get irritated, but then remembered the trick of "just continue working folks – even if you make up the call"! And, as the 756 Pro III has the built in voice recorder, I kept hitting the play button. If the interference was there, I made up a call and a county or state "for the log" (obviously these calls weren't actually added to the log). When someone actually did come back to me, they got worked through the interfering CW signal. After about 15 minutes, the person interfering with me went away – probably frustrated that they didn't annoy me.

A little after 5:00 local, the smells from the kitchen distracted me as I CQ'd on 40 SSB. I worked KA4ERK from Schuyler county at

21:17. After the contact was made, I offered my frequency to him and went QRT for dinner. After dinner, it took a bit to shag my wife away from the home computer (a little background – the station and home computer desks are both in the back room with only room for one at either!).

I kicked her off the home machine and jumped on 75 SSB. As I searched for an appropriate place to call CQ, I came across a Good Old Boy network lamenting on the "contest clutter" on the bands and that worst of all – it was a New York State QSO party! Imagine the laugh I got when one of the other Good Old Boys commented "And worst of all, they're all Guido's up there!". I kid you not. I felt like asking if the frequency was in use, but thought better of it.

In the later stages of the contest, I was CQ'ing on 75 SSB and K2MP called me. At the time he called me, there were 2 others calling. I worked Ed and asked him to stand by. I worked the other stations calling me and then turned my frequency over to Ed as I wanted to look for some CW stations (and hopefully county multipliers).

I then scanned across 80 and 40 CW picking up Ontario, New York, and Putnam counties on 80 CW, and Tompkins and Kings on 40 CW. The final result was 54 of 62 counties worked for a total of 31,248 points.

— Dave Wright, N2CK

Upgrades to 145.11 Repeater Complete

Fellow Amateurs,

I would like to update everyone to our recent upgrades to the Bristol Repeater system. The 145.11 repeater now has full time Echolink and IRLP connectivity. We recently added a robust link radio transmitter to accommodate the extended run times of the repeater. For everyone's information the Echolink software lists the node under Repeaters as WR2AHL-R. The IRLP node number is 8058 if connecting from another IRLP node on earth. In conjunction with this additional IP connectivity, the repeater's courtesy tone has been extended out to accommodate network based QSOs to join the repeater. Please wait for the beep before transmitting and allow frequent breaks to allow this connectivity to the repeater.

I also want to extend my sincere thanks for your contributions in the past to help defray electric costs at the site. I'm extending yet another request for your continued support. Please contribute to help keep the repeater operating costs to a minimum. Our electricity usage per month is our foremost expense. Thanks again for your continued support and please visit our web site for contributions http://www.frontiernet.net/~wr2ahl/index_files/Page440.htm .

Sincerely,

Mike Rink, W2HYP

NYQP Mobile operation nixed at N2BEG…

On Monday (10/10) while running an errand at lunch in my trusty mobile. I was sitting at a light on Rt. 96 in Victor listening to 15m when the light turned green and I was immediately rear ended by a woman in a Ford SUV. This has not been my year for my poor car (ask Joe K2QZR who I was talking to when a deer ran into me on the way home from work earlier this year)

We pulled off to the side and exchanged information. She was very apologetic and said she was sorry she knocked the "thingy" off the back of my car. This was of course my 15m hamstick which she sheared off at the mount that was now being flattened by traffic. I explained to her what it was and that I was a ham to which she replied "oh, my dad is a ham, he lives in Brockport!… there aren't many of you guys around anymore, he's 72" Small world I guess… Here is what my hamstick mount looked like after…

Anyway, with the parts on the way to repair the damage post haste, I still don't think there will be time to get things repaired for what was to be my NYQP mobile effort. (As it turns out other things have transpired in the meantime to keep me home at least most of the day Saturday… Oh well.) The other amazing thing that happened as a result of this was the insurance company estimate. This was page 2, Note no. 11.

10/12/2011 at 11:31 AM HGT3337002
100793 25rt0hcy

ESTIMATE OF RECORD

2002 MITS LANCER ES 4-2.0L-FI 4D SED WHITE Int:BLACK

	NO.	OP.	DESCRIPTION	QTY	EXT. PRICE	LABOR	PAINT
N	11**	Repl	A/M AMPHENOL(83-822 74868 PL-259 49190)	1	5.42	0.1	
	12**	Rpr	A/M ANTENNA BASE			0.5	
N	13**	Rpr	A/M CABLE/PLUG ASSEMBLY				
	14**		A/M FLEX ADDITIVE	1	5.00		
	15		OTHER CHARGES				
	16#		Hazardous Waste	1	2.50		
			Subtotals ==>		15.27	6.2	4.2

Line 3 : DAMAGE TO REAR COVER,MIDDLE, USE HEAT TO REFORM, REFINISH WITHIN A REPAIRED PANEL WITH FULL CLEAR
Line 5 : INSPECT FOR DAMAGE UNABLE TO SEE ANY DAMAGE ON INITIAL INSEPCTION
Line 6 : RT SIDE BROKEN
Line 8 : INSPECT FOR DAMAGE, LOOSE AT TIME OF INSPECTION, UNABLE TO SEE
Line 10 : BUFF TRANSFER LOWER MIDDLE OF PANEL
Line 11 : PER WWW.AMPHENOL.COM AND WWW.OCTOPART.COM
Line 13 : POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO PLUG/CABLE, UNABLE TO SEE ON INITIAL INSPECTION

I'm left to wonder how he identified the PL-259 connector on the end of my coax, AND how they intend to repair my custom aftermarket antenna base?? Great service though!! See me to find out who they are….. Good luck in NYQP… I'll be home for it I guess!

Doug

N2BEG

QRP and Portable

Carey Magee, K2RNY

The family and I decided to take an ocean-side vacation before we sent the oldest off to college this year. We packed our bags and got a spot on the Chesapeake Bay in the tiny town of Cape Charles. I decided to take the QRP gear; a Hendricks PFR-3A powered by a 5Ah Gel Cell Battery, a few wires and my SuperAntenna MP-1 vertical and give things a try as K2RNY/4.

Cape Charles is on the southern portion of the DEL-MAR-VA peninsula in a section commonly known as the Eastern Shores. Within a one hour drive, you can go north from Virginia to Maryland and into Delaware. If you look at a call section map, it looks like I should be a /3. But I checked at ARRL and because my state is Virginia I operate /4, so K2RNY/4 was on the air, vacation style, for a week.

Learning #1- Check to make sure you are operating with the proper suffix.

I didn't really get a chance to begin until around mid week due to guests. This was family first, operating when the opportunity arose second.

I setup late Wednesday evening before we went out. This way, when I came off the beach the next day,

I'd get started. I tried the MP-1, but the thing wouldn't tune up and I just couldn't get the SWR down far enough. The radio uses three BS-170 transistors to produce 5 watts out on 40, 30 and 20. If there is high SWR, those little guys will fail. On inspection, it turns out that the shorting tube that rides up and down the coil had water in it from a previous night's rain. So I switched the MP-1 out with my long wire antenna/ counterpoise combination.

Learning #2 – Check the gear before, during and after operating.

So now I set up a 34' long wire strung from the table up through the umbrella and over to a small tree in the backyard about 20' high. This coupled with a 16' counterpoise roughly 6 inches off the ground gave me that sneaking feeling it was going to be a long vacation ham radio-wise… Well, I gotta say it wasn't too bad.

Here is the rundown from the log:

- WB0QQT – Steve from Nebraska – RST 449
- ZB2FK – Ernie from Gibraltar – RST 539
- RW3QNZ – Alex from Russia – RST 599 (He was in a hurry!!)

Learning #3 – Some contacts are better than no contacts. Take what you can get and be happy about it.

Given the fact that I operated for just 2 out of the 7 days, I'd say the trip was a success. I had a lot of fun.

In closing, I want to report that this year, I have been operating QRP with this radio and antenna since May 23rd when I dismantled my basement shack for remodeling. In that time I have also worked:

6W/RK4FF – Senegal

J79FCG – Dominica

FG5FR – Guadeloupe

6Y5WY – Jamaica

XF3/IZ2LSC – Mexico

IS0/I0JX – Sardinia

CT8/DL1CW – Portugal

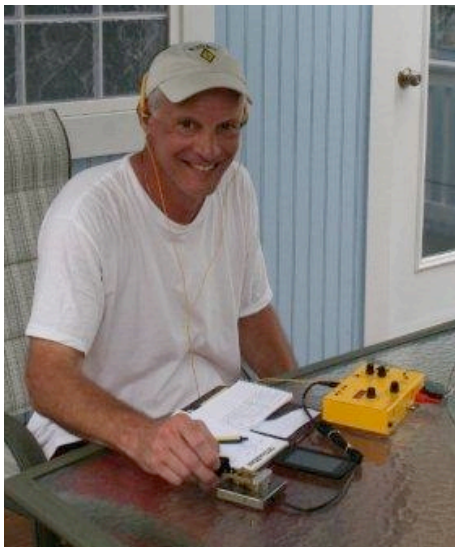
EF4RCH – Spain

H77REX – Nicaragua

This doesn't include the large number of stateside folks calling CQ who I didn't work because I wanted to focus on landing DX.

Learning #4 – Yes folks, 5 watts won't necessarily bust the pileups, but you <u>will</u> work DX.

Update: Since the vacation when the pictures were taken, I have changed to a Palm Paddle and have it mounted to the side of the radio. Now the rig and paddle are one unit. Next on the list is to get a pelican case to hold everything nice and neat. Sometimes a Wegman's bag just doesn't cut it.



Thrill Before The Chill Inaugural Hamfest 2011

October Meeting At the AWA 2011

Rochester DX Association

W2RDX rdxa.com

This Bulletin is the official publication of the Rochester DX Association and is published monthly, September through Jun. Email your articles, tidbits, ham ads, etc. to Andrew, N3LZG at alesny@rochester.rr.com by the second Tuesday of the month for inclusion in that month's issue.

All those with an interest in amateur radio and DXing and contesting are cordially invited to any meeting and to join RDXA. Meetings are held at 19:30 Local time on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, September through June.

President .....Paul Kolacki – K2FX usafpilot@rochester.rr.com

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Membership Chairman.....Carey Magee, K2RNY
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.....Telnet: ng2p.ham-radio-op.net/port7300

Membership Dues can be sent to:

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Regular Membership	$20.00
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Any other correspondence to: Irv Goodman, AF2K

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