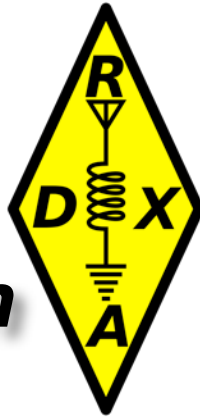


**Rochester
DX
Association**



RDXA Annual Holiday Dinner

Tuesday December 17th
Ricks Prime Rib
6:00 – cocktail hour
7:00 – dinner

ROC City Net

The premier HF net from
Upstate New York

Every Wednesday at
8:00 PM (0100 UTC) @
3826KHz +/-

And Now on 145.11 Bristol
Repeater,
Sunday @ 7:30 PM

Join Us!



What Have I done in Ham Radio this year...

Dan Guyor — N2DD

Spring found a big box from K4KIO on the door step. It was my new Broadband HexBeam antenna. I already had the rotator and control box from the RARA auction in 2011, and a 25 foot tower from W2RMM's widow through a lead from Irv, AF2K, last year. I picked up two more tower sections from Mark, K2AXX, this year. Having all the parts, I only needed to assemble the antenna, plant the tower, and put the beam on top. Easier said than done.

That happened the weekend before Sweepstakes (SSB). It works great. For Sweepstakes I made more contacts in less time and got more sections than I have the past few years. It was very nice not to have to fill for every W6 contact like I did last year. In fact, I never had to fill anywhere this year.



Other new items in the shack include a Swan 1200W amp and WM-2000A Peak Reading Watt Meter. I haven't put them on the air yet. They look nice next to each other. I also picked up a back-up rig from eBay this spring and the RARA auction last fall. It consists of the Yaesu FT-575GXII Transceiver, the Fc-757AT Tuner, and the FP-757HP Power Supply. I haven't put that system on the air either.

Taking the lead from Duane, K2SI, I've started working modes other than "Silly Side Band". Last fall I built three different sound card interfaces for my FT-857D, but none of them worked right. One caused the radio to stay locked in transmit as soon as I brought up the PSK-31 application I was using. This spring I finally put down the money for the RIGblaster Advantage and my winter project this year putting that box in the system. I built a CW interface for the computer and participated in the CQWW CW contest for about two hours and

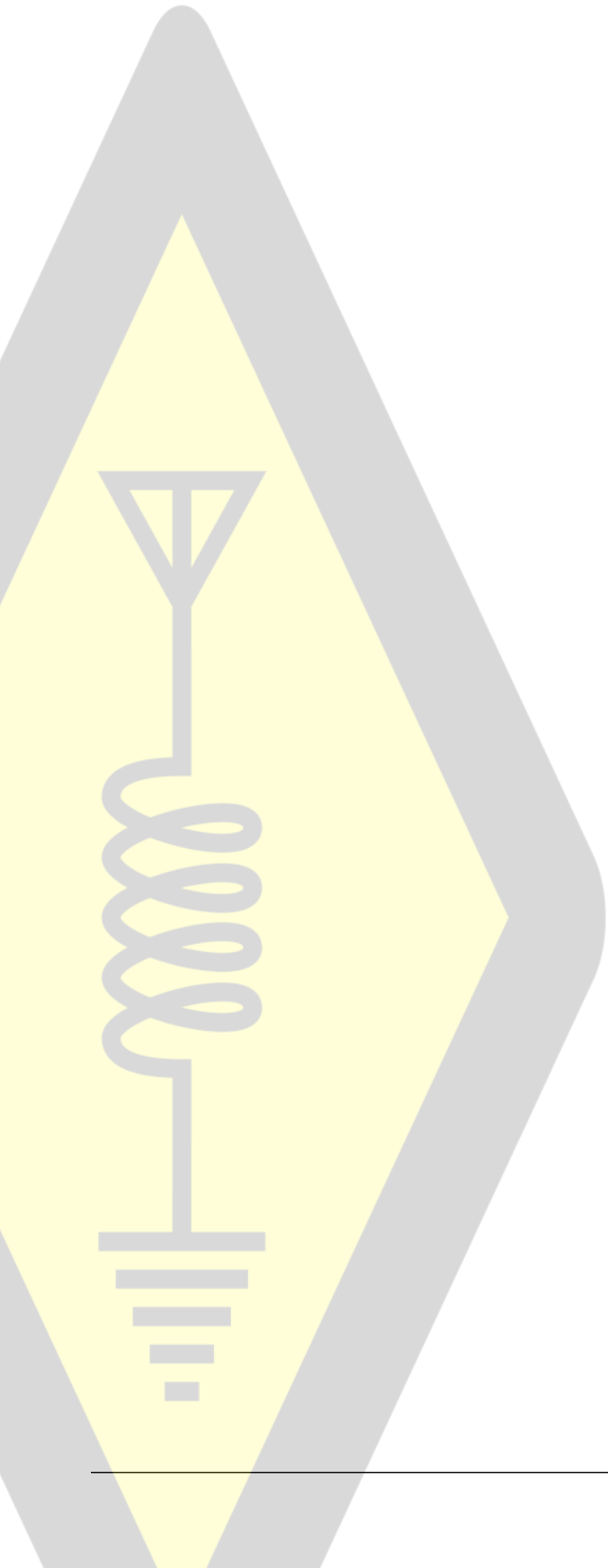
brought in 21 contacts. As of the Dec 10th I've got 8 of them confirmed for 5 countries and 4 states.



The mailman brought me a couple of awards this year. I've now got CQ WPX SSB and the ARRL WAS. I made all the contacts SSB using my FT-857D running 100 watts through my LDG Z-11 Pro into a G5RV, inverted-V with the peak at 35 feet. My DXCC country count now stands at 102 worked and 88 confirmed via LoTW. The last two countries came from the CQWW CW contest, Ecuador and Ascension Island.

My project next year will be to start QSLing direct so I can get cards to finish out DXCC. When the snow melts I'm going to load up my flagpole as a 20' vertical. I also want to work more CW and start working RTTY and PSK-31. I'm looking forward to the ARRL centennial contest as both an ARRL Appointee and taking my turn as W1AW/2. Five points will be awarded toward the challenge if you submit a QSO with N2DD to LoTW as I am both a Registered Instructor and Volunteer Examiner.





My First Year In Ham Radio

December 6th, 2012.

Finally, the antenna was up (special in the sense that it cost little and I could install it myself), grounded, coax installed, routed, RF radio ground rods installed, shack ground routed, radio acquired (a beautiful one at that), tested, manual read. General passed. The technology was ready...bands were open...I had been listening for days. Now, ~40 years after I tried to make my last long distance contact...

My first HF contact. KH7XS. Florida. 10m. Huge signal +20dB into the red zone on my radio.

For me, this first contact on Amateur Radio was truly spectacular. I had come a long way from 4W on Channel 19 with my friends in 1977. It was a marvel. Back then, listening to all of the stations around the states on the Citizens Band, but, no matter how hard I tried with my TRC-30A, and 4W, on a winter evening, I never made a single long distance contact on AM.

But, the mystery of the attempt stayed with me.

So, when KH7XS, on Dec. 6 answered back to my call, it was amazing. Florida!! Finally, after nearly 40 years, I could answer back! He took a minute to chat with me when I indicated he was my first HF contact ever. Very nice considering his goals that evening.

The mystery and amazement of long distance contact found, through HF, was monumental for me between Dec 6th 2012 and around June, 2013 when the high bands died. I was dumbfounded when I first spoke with Slovenia, Croatia, and many countries. Each new country seemed like a gift of a gold nugget, and, the mystery remained. To go from 4W (11m) to 100W and 17m is truly a spectacular transition. It is true that I had a few years on VHF in the 90's via repeaters and was a "ham" during that time. But, honestly, HF is really where the mystery resides. One never knows who might be waiting, what far away country is listening. I did not even know "HF" existed for most of my adult life really, or not really what it was.

Now, with my one year anniversary on HF as of yesterday, I have more than 500 contacts across 10m-17m and 40m. Most are SSB, but, a good few are PSK-31, and, a smidgen RTTY.

Honestly, my favorite mode remains voice communications with another live person. This is how I started, and, this is what I grew to love about radio...a voice in the evening...to get to know.

In this past year I have transitioned to Extra, opening all band segments, and, opening conversations within the band segments with some who are truly expert in the domain of radio communications. My very modest antenna, at a mere 7ft for the first 6 months of operation, is now at 25 feet, and, somewhat optimized for 10-17m. Lots of contacts, lots of great conversations over the last year. I also built a resonant 40m dipole, recommended to do by K2FX, from parts that K2QZR had sold me with another antenna.

40m opened the mystery of evening communications all over most of the USA and Canada. Amazing.

Not infrequently, I encounter a fellow Citizen's Band original on the Amateur HF bands. Just today, December 7th, I had a great conversation on 28.4 MHz with a gentleman from North Carolina who, like me, still uses his CB. Locally, in Rochester, on Channel 26, there are some great conversations to be had with some passionate radio aficionados. Many of those have transitioned to ham radio in the last year like I have. But, we still gather on 26 once in a while. Me? I don't mind talking to an adult who makes sure his son is at scouts on time named "SuperFly". Not at all. I know his call sign too.

Last but not least, the loosely associated RDXA team has been invaluable to me. Introduced to me by K2FX after I somehow managed to be randomly on the K2QZR 2m Sunday net when he mentioned he had a radio I had never heard of for sale. But, it was in my price range, so, I went to look. I now own the most beautiful radio ever made. FT-1000MP.

How lucky is that? Wonders never cease where radio is concerned.

But, more importantly, K2FX invited me to the RDXA meeting, which, I had never heard of. This open stance to new people by the RDXA has been absolutely WONDERFUL for me. How to make a QSL card? Ground the antenna? Isolate the computer? Fix neighbor RFI? Send a QSL card to Europe and have it actually come back? Best instruments? ALL answered by the RDXA. Wonderful!!

As I move into my second year of HF operation I value the same things I valued as a 15 year old kid where radio is concerned:

1. The people I meet and make friends with, first and foremost.
2. The cool technology that unfolds every day from the mystery of who might be on the bands.

I love HF, and, my radios, and, the nature of Amateur Radio: for me radio really is about the mystery of people, realized through technology. HF has opened that avenue, people through technology, more than ever for me.

Michael Sanchez (N2UJN)



A Contest Participation Reminder...

From Paul Mackanos, K2DB

You never know if you win or not no matter what your score is.



DXPeditions for December 2013/January 2014

2013 Dec16	2013 Dec31	Minami Torishima	JD1	See Info	DXW.Net 20131201	By JG8NQJ as JG8NQJ/JD1; 17-10m; CW; spare time operation; JA QSL via JG8NQJ Buro, others via JG8NQJ Buro or JA8CJY direct; operation expected to continue until Mar 18, 2014
2013 Dec19	2013 Dec26	Turks & Caicos	VP5	VE3OC Direct	DXW.Net 20131127	By VE3OC as VP5/VE3OC; HF; QSL also OK via eQSL
2013 Dec21	2014 Jan10	Temotu	H40FN	DK9FN	DXW.Net 20130117	By DK9FN fm Nendo I (OC-100); ; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct
2013 Dec22	2013 Dec24	Lesotho	7P8CE	DH3WO	DK1CE 20131118	By DK1CE
2013 Dec22	2013 Dec24	Lesotho	7P8DJ	DJ2HD	DJ2HD 20131030	By DJ2HD; holiday style operation
2013 Dec22	2013 Dec24	Lesotho	7P8WO	DH3WO	VA3RJ 20131025	By DH3WO fm Roma Lodge; spare time operation; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct (w/ 2USD or 1 IRC)
2013 Dec22	2013 Dec29	St Eustatius	PJ5 NEW	JA1HGY	DXW.Net 20131212	By JN1RVS as PJ5/K6NAO; 40-10m; CW RTTY PSK
2013 Dec24	2013 Dec25	Svalbard	JW NEW	DL1NX	425DXN 20131214	By DL1NX as JW/PY2SEX fm Spirsbergen (EU-026); 40-10m; CW SSB
2013 Dec24	2013 Dec30	Botswana	A25 NEW	See Info	DJ2HD 20131212	By DJ2HD as A25DJ, DH3WO as A25WO, DK1CE as A25CE; holiday style operation; QSL via home_call except A25CE via DH3WO
2013 Dec24	2014 Jan08	Namibia	V5		DJ2HD 20131118	By DL3DXX
2013 Dec31	2014 Jan06	Namibia	V5	DH3WO	DH3WO 20131118	By DH3WO; holiday style operation
2014						
January						
2014 Jan01	2014 Jan31	Bahamas	C6A	LotW	VA3RJ 20121107	By 9H5G as 9H5G/C6A fm Stocking I (NA-001); 160-10m; SSB + digital; QSL also OK via NI5DX direct
2014 Jan02	2014 Jan18	Namibia	V5	Home Call	DJ2HD 20131125	By DL9NDS as V5/DL9NDS and DJ2BQ as V5/DJ2BQ
2014 Jan03	2014 Jan21	Senegal	6W7SK	LotW	DXW.Net 20120806	By F6BLP; 160-10m; QSL also OK via F6BLP, REF Buro or direct + eQSL

DXPeditions for December 2013/January 2014 (Cont'd.)

2014 Jan09	2014 Jan14	Cambodia	XU7AEU	M6CFW	DXW.Net 20131202	By M6CFW fm Phonm Penh; HF; SSB
2014 Jan11	2014 Jan12	Martinique	FM NEW	Home Call	DXW.Net 20131212	By SP7VC as FM/SP7VC, SP3IPB, SQ7OYL likewise
2014 Jan11	2014 Jan19	Cayman Is	ZF2PG	LotW	DXW.Net 20131208	By K8PGJ; focus on 17 12 10m; QSL also OK via K8PGJ direct
2014 Jan13	2014 Jan19	Martinique	TO3JA	EB7DX	VA3RJ 20130926	By JA3ARJ and JA1CJA fm NA-107 (DIFO FM-001, WLOTA 1041); call sign requested
2014 Jan15	2014 Jan16	Dominica	J79 NEW	Home Call	DXW.Net 20131212	By SP7VC SP3IPB SQ7OYL as J79VC and J79PB
2014 Jan17	2014 Jan18	Guadeloupe	FM NEW	Home Call	DXW.Net 20131212	By SP7VC as FG/SP7VC, SP3IPB, SQ7OYL likewise
2014 Jan18	2014 Jan22	Montserrat	VP2M NEW	Home Call	DXW.Net 20131212	By SP7VC SP3IPB SQ7OYL as VP2MPG and VP2MTK
2014 Jan21	2014 Feb21	St Kitts & Nevis	V47AJ	N3ME	DXW.Net 20131117	By N3ME W3UR fm St Kitts; 160-10m; focus on RTTY, some CW SSB
2014 Jan21	2014 Jan27	South Cook Is	E51CDW NEW	BA4DW	DXW.Net 20131213	By BA4DW fm Rarotonga I; HF
2014 Jan23	2014 Jan29	Dominica	J79 NEW	Home Call	DXW.Net 20131212	By SP7VC SP3IPB SQ7OYL as J79VC and J79PB
2014 Jan24	2014 Feb12	Amsterdam I	FT5ZM	N2OO	K0IR 20120403	By 9V1YC EY8MM FM5CD HK1R K4UEE K9CT LA6VM N4GRN N6HC VE3EJ VE7CT W6IZT WB9Z K0IR VA7DX UA3AB; dates planned
2014 Jan26	2014 Feb28	Burkina Faso	XT2AW	M0OXO	OPDX 20120930	By DF2WO fm Ouagadougou; CW SSB; holiday style operation



Rochester DX Association

Club Station — W2RDX

Club Website — <http://www.rdx.com>

This Bulletin is the official publication of the Rochester DX Association and is published monthly, September through June. Email your articles, tips, ham ads, etc. to Andrew, W2FG 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.

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Appointed Positions

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.....Carey Magee, K2RNY
Contest/DX ChairmanChris Shalvoy, K2CS
Membership ChairmanDan Guyor, N2DD
Calendar Chairman.....Don Vlack, K2DV
Newsletter EditorAndrew Lesny, W2FG
Media/Banquet Coordinator.....Paul Kolacki, K2FX

Membership Dues can be sent to:

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305 Wood Road
Rochester, NY 14626

Regular Membership	\$20.00
Family Membership	\$5.00
Full-Time Student	\$5.00
Lifetime Membership	\$200.00

Any other correspondence to: Irv Goodman, AF2K

