

Rochester DX Association



March Monthly Meeting

This month's guest speaker:
ARRL Atlantic Division Director
Bill Edgar, N3LLR.

Tuesday, March 19, 7:30pm
Monroe County EOC
1190 Scottsville Road

Don't Forget!

**CQ World-Wide
WPX SSB 2013**

March 30-31, 2013

Starts: 0000 UTC Saturday
Ends: 2359 UTC Sunday

Experiences With TX5K

I have been anxiously anticipating the TX5K dxpedition. Knowing that I've never logged the island, combined with one of our own being part of the operation, and topped by a US QSL manager – made this one a “must have” entity for me (let's also note that off the left coast of the US it should be pretty easy!). The only problem standing in my way – was that my wife and I had vacation plans for Mexico when the group first got started – returning Tuesday night of their last week. The first I could start looking for them was Wednesday evening, the 6th. I knew I had a small window of opportunity – and knew I had to make the most of any opportunities I had. I, for one, am AMAZED at the DXA.ORG real time updates! Wow – that is most awesome! No more wondering “Did I really work them???”; “Yup, there it is in the log – scratch off 17CW from the list of band/modes I need.”. I ended up working them a total of 10 times, on 6 bands and all 3 modes (missed 80 and don't have anything for 160) and used the amp for only 2 contacts. I found the operators to be disciplined, and quite adept at working the never-ending pileups.

I ended up getting them in the log 5 times Wednesday night – nothing Thursday (got on the radio later than planned and a steady stream of JA's were lined up to work them). On Friday I worked from home (had a doctor's appointment in the morning). I got up at 5:00 AM (local) and added them to the log 4 more times before I officially had to tether myself to the computer for the day. I got them in the log once more after work on Friday for the final time.

I had one brief encounter with another RDXA'er. I was in the weeds trying to work them on RTTY (I think it was 20M). I was using both the RTTY decode function in the 756, as well as using the digital interface in N1MM as I tried in vain to find their listening frequency. As I inched my way up from their transmit frequency, I noticed K2MP K2MP scrolling across my screen. Hmmm, Ed typically has a real good clue where they're listening – I'll find Ed and try to work `em at the same time. I figured once

Ed opened up a connection, there would be an ionized path even a QRP signal could follow. Surely they would be able to hear my 100 watt station. As an aside, I copied them at 20 over – so I figured I shouldn't need the amp. Wrong! Sure enough, I found Ed's transmit frequency and shortly thereafter Ed worked `em. Try as I could, they couldn't hear (in RTTY – would that be read?) me! Shucks, another opportunity lost. A couple of times, I heard them very loud in the afternoon and would be patiently trying to work them when they shifted their mode to working a different area. I heard them ask specifically for Asiatic Russia, or EU knowing their windows of propagation would be closing shortly. Dejected, I stood down and unplugged the headphones so I could continue to listen on the speaker hoping they would go back to working anyone. A couple other times I heard them quite loud – but once again were asking for Europe – so no joy there.

I did have one memorable moment while trying to work them on RTTY. Apparently the operator was trying to tell the caller that they were in the log (and apparently _multiple_ times!). The caller, responded by the equivalent of “well – it's not a valid Q until you're in MY log!”. Hmmm, the op says you're in his log, he just responded to you – put him in your log and call it a contact – problem solved. Shortly afterwards –(perhaps out of exasperation) – the operator switched to asking for Europe. Another opportunity lost; shucks!

All in all, I found the operators to be quite efficient, knowledgeable, and capable of controlling the pileups I heard. Of course there were the lids who insisted on tuning the amp on the operators transmit frequency to annoy; but (IMHO) I didn't really hear the frequency police chastising offenders that don't understand split operation. The operators tried to focus on propagation, extending windows of opportunity to areas they knew might have limited times available. Hope you had as much fun working them as I did.

– Dave Wright, N2CK

Working TX5K, the little guy gets in the log...

Typically, since I have a minimal station with 100 watts (or less) and simple or mobile antennas, I will usually wait until a dxpedition has gone on at least a couple of days minimum before jumping into the fray. It saves a lot of frustration usually. TX5K was no exception. I have Clipperton confirmed on a few bands so it was not imperative to work them but my goal was to get them from the mobile on whatever bands I could. Listening to the piles on the first couple of days was ridiculous, but I listen anyway to learn the ops methods. You can learn a lot from using your two VFOs to listen where he is working and the pattern. (newbies take note... listen, listen, and listen some more before calling!) The TX5K gang was a joy to hear. As someone commented, they ran the pileups like conductor and produced a smooth flow of Qs with little interruption. Well, at least on CW. The ever present lids on phone didn't have a chance either. The phone ops never let the piles get unruly or give in to the constant incessant bad ops who continue to call when the DX is working someone, or when they were calling for AS or EU and the incessant W4 continues calling. I did not hear them well at all from the house on 80 or 40 (which is not surprising with a severely folded G5RV in the attic and a 35 year old TS520S with no filters.) I think it was day three when I finally had a chance in the car and heard them on 17m CW and the pile was still pretty large. I slid up the band and heard them on 18157 just booming in on phone. I put the split in the VFO and called them ONCE, bam in the log. I was still in the parking lot at work! The next day I believe I worked them on 17 CW, another great op, then I switched the hamstick to 15 meters for the next try. One the way home the next day I heard them very loud on 15m CW. The op was doing a great job pulling the pile apart at about 4 or 5 q's a minute and then I heard him bust a caller for a duplicate QSO (by sending QSO B4) and then jumped right back to it. I kept calling after every "di-di-dah, di dah dah diit" the prescribed amount of KHz UP. He kept working the pile and then he busted ANOTHER dupe caller. Since our own Dave, WJ2O

had sent a note out *from* Clipperton to the reflector asking for people to NOT bother with insurance or duplicate Q's (since with this DXpedition using was the new DXA website you can see in minutes or even seconds whether you are in the log or not) I thought maybe Dave was the 15m CW op that day. About a minute later I worked them and the op said HI DOUG, so my question was answered! Always great to work Dave from wherever he is in the world! The next morning I put the 10m hamstick on and went to work. For whatever reason the antenna would not load up anywhere on 10m. Turns out there is a open spot in the helical winding... argh. I put on the almost brand new 12m hamstick and tried there. I heard nothing, but the antenna loaded beautifully. The band was just dead. The next day I was on the way to a Dr. appt. in the afternoon and heard them nice and loud on 12m CW. Again, it took about a dozen or so calls to get them in the log. I didn't hear them on phone that day on 12m. I think they had a day or so left on the island at that point, and I tried to hear them on 10 from the house but never did. Oh well, I will have to be satisfied with 4 band slots from the mobile. Hope you all got them if you needed them; they sure were a joy to work, and work they did. Looks like they were just shy of 350,000Qs is that correct? Amazing. A first class DXpedition by all accounts.

Best DX & 73,
Doug , N2BEG



TX5K and The Missing RTTY Mode

How mistakes made in my attempts to contact Clipperton lead to using a contest to verify a digital setup.

The week of the Clipperton DXpedition was a busy one for me. I had very little time to apply myself toward making contacts. Consequently, by the time Friday rolled around, I had made only three contacts total, all CW. During the time I did have for TX5K, I found that my station had changed. CW and SSB weren't a problem, but RTTY, a mode I wanted to use to make that "last" contact was no longer ready to go. Over the last year, I had made upgrades to my computer and radio and realized that my digital capabilities had vanished. Needless to say, this left me in a position of hurrying to rediscover what it took to get my RTTY and PSK modes back on-line, with RTTY being a priority so that I could make that last contact.

This was not to be.

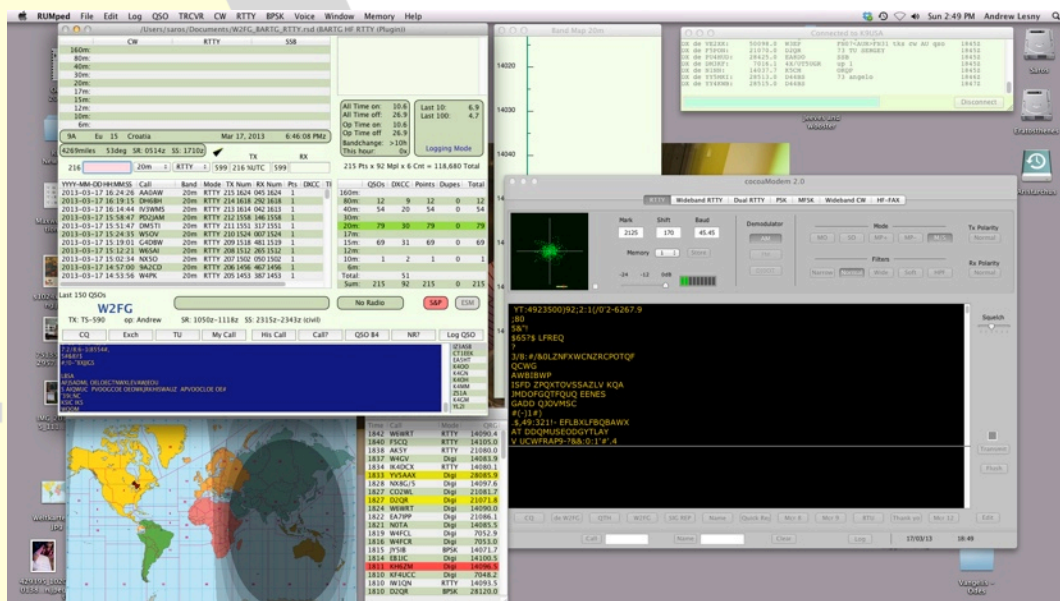
Digital communication requires multiple devices to operate. The computer, its software, the interface to the radio and the radio. My previous setup was with a Yaesu FT-857 and was relatively simple to operate with AFSK and PSK. The computer's own sound card did all the heavy lifting.

The new radio, a Kenwood TS-590s is different. The audio card is built in and operates through a USB cable direct to the computer. This difference makes management of audio easier, but configuration was trickier. The radio, computer OS and computer software all had to be 'told' how to handle the audio. Despite spending several hours over one night to get RTTY output, I couldn't get the computer and radio to work. As the clock ran out for TX5K, I was left trying an acoustic connection which didn't work.

Kicking myself for not having been better attentive of my shack, I was determined to get my station back to digital mode readiness. Several online searches helped me troubleshoot the configuration. Kenwood provides a supplemental manual for audio settings, though mostly for the Windows user (which I am not). Nonetheless, it helped me tremendously in setting the radio to accept audio. The computer configuration was aided with a USB codec audio driver and routing the audio to the radio USB port. The RTTY interface, once set, received audio, but would not send until the right-side audio channel was selected. A couple of dummy load tests demonstrated to me that I had regained my RTTY capability.

I decided to put the my "new" rig to use in the BARTG contest. As of this writing, the contest is not over, but I have made over 200 contacts so far. Not a record, but conclusive proof that my work has paid off. My original goal was to make 100 contacts. That goal accomplished, I decided to keep going. Wish me luck.

— Andrew, W2FG



April 2013 DXpeditions (continued)

2013 Apr01	2013 Apr13	South Cook Is	E51DXX	AG1LE	DXW.Net 20130309	By AG1LE fm Rarotonga I (OC-013, BG08cr); HF
2013 Apr03	2013 Apr09	Virgin Is	KP2	LotW	JP1IOF 20130122	By JE2EHP as K1HP/KP2, JF1BVG as KP2/JF1BVG, JP1IOF as WH7P/KP2; all bands; all modes; QSL also OK via home_call, Buro or direct (+ OQRS to be available)
2013 Apr03	2013 Apr11	Micronesia	V63XG	LotW	OPDX 20130107	By JA1XGI fm Pohnpei I (OC-010, QJ96cx); 160-6m, focus on 30 17 12m; mainly CW, also SSB RTTY JT65; QSL also OK via JA1XGI direct
2013 Apr04	2013 Apr16	Seychelles	S79VJG	G4DFI	G0VJG 20121231	By G0VJG fm AF-024; 80-10m, 40m below 7.100 MHz (QSX up 200 for NA); SSB; amplifier; verticals on beach; QSL also OK via RSGB Buro
2013 Apr04	2013 Apr18	Corsica	TK	See Info	VP9KF 20121027	By G4BKI as TK/G4BKI; tentative operation, on and off during this period; QSL direct: Paul Evans, 6809 River Road, Tampa, FL 33615, USA
2013 Apr04	2013 Apr18	Samoa	5W0M	DL4SVA	DXW.Net 20121118	By DL team fm OC-097 (AH36tn); 80-6m, incl 60m + 2m EME; CW SSB RTTY; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct
2013 Apr05	2013 Apr16	St Lucia	J6	LotW	N7QT 20130211	By N7QT as J6/N7QT fm Babonneau and mountain top locations; 80-10m; CW SSB RTTY PSK; QSL also OK via N7QT, Buro or direct (w/ SASE)
2013 Apr06	2013 Apr12	Belize	V31	IT9EJW	425DXN 20130216	By XE1AY as V31NV, XE2AA as V32EE, plus V31HU fm South Water Cay (NA-180); HF + 6m
2013 Apr06	2013 Apr13	Barbados	8P9HI 	VA3QSL	VA3RJ 20130315	By VA3QSL fm Bayfield, St Philip Parish (NA-021, WLOTA 0999, GK03ge); HF; QSL OK via VE Buro or direct (w/ 2 USD)
2013 Apr06	2013 Apr29	Reunion	FR 	F5MNW	DXW.Net 20130314	By F5MNW as FS/F5MNW fm AF-016 (DIFO FR-001, WLOTA 1812, WWFF FFF-011); HF; CW

April 2013 DXpeditions (continued)

2013 Apr07	2013 May08	Tanzania	5H3MB	IK2GZU	DXW.Net 20130218	By IK2GZU fm Ilembula; HF; spare time operation
2013 Apr08	2013 Apr20	Bonaire	PJ4	SP9FIH	SP9FIH 20130212	By SP9FIH as PJ4/SP9FIH and SP6AXW as PJ4/ SP6AXW fm SA-006 (WLOTA L1279, FK52tf); 160-6m; SSB RTTY CW
2013 Apr10	2013 Apr15	Lord Howe I	VK9LT	W6NV Direct	DXW.Net 20130308	By W6NV
2013 Apr15	2013 Apr20	Micronesia	V63	Home Call	JA7HMZ 20130219	By JA7HMZ as V63DX and JA7GYP as V63T fm Pohnpei I (OC-010)
2013 Apr20	2013 Apr28	Tanzania	5H1DX	DF8DX	VA3RJ 20130308	By DF8DX; also fm Pemba I (AF-063, WLOTA 1437)
2013 Apr22	2013 May04	Ogasawara	JD1BMH	JD1BMH Buro	JG7PSJ 20130308	By JG7PSJ fm Chichijima I (AS-031); 40-10m, perhaps 80m; CW SSB RTTY; QSL also OK via JG7PSJ direct
2013 Apr23	2013 Apr30	Maldives	8Q7KP NEW	LotW	DXW.Net 20130310	By VU2PAI W4VKU fm Bodufinolhu (AS-013); HF9V, 2 ele SteppIR; OQRS to be available
2013 Apr25	2013 May08	Tokelau	ZK3N	DL2AWG	DXW.Net 20121125	By DL6JGN DL2AWG fm Nukunonu Atoll (OC-048); 80-10m; CW SSB RTTY
2013 Apr27	2013 May04	Tunisia	TS8IT	IK2DUW	IK7JWX 20120927	By IK7JWX IK2DUW IW2NLC IS0AGY IK2PGM I8LWL IK8GQY IK6CAC IV3FSG IT9SSI fm Djerba (AF-083, WFF 3VFF-007, WLOTA L-1394, ARLHS TUN-022); HF 6m; SSB PSK31 RTTY CW
2013 Apr28	2013 May04	Ogasawara	JD1BLY	JI5RPT	JI5RPT 20130309	By JI5RPT fm Chichijima I (AS-031); 40-10m + satellite; CW SSB + digital
2013 Apr28	2013 May05	Ogasawara	JD1	LotW	JP1IOF 20130122	By JE2EHP JF1BVG JP1IOF as JD1BLC and JD1YBT fm Chichijima I; 160-6m; all modes; QSL also OK via JP1IOF, Buro or direct
2013 Apr29	2013 May06	Tunisia	TS8TI	IK2DUW	425DXN 20130216	By I8LWL IK2DUW IK6JRI IK8GQY IK8TEM IS0AGY IW2NLC KF5EYY 3V8ESG 3V8SA 3V8SF 3V8ST fm Djerba I (AF-083)

Rochester DX Association

Club Station — W2RDX

Club Website — <http://www.rdxa.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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Membership Dues can be sent to:

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

Any other correspondence to: Irv Goodman, AF2K

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Join us for our pre-meeting get-together, starting at 6PM

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