

Rochester DX Association



February Meeting Presentation

“N1MM+ updates for all contester levels”

N1MM Logger and the updated **N1MM Logger Plus** isn't just for hard core contesters – its features, especially in the newer N1MM+ release – really add to the fun and enjoyment of getting on in a contest, no matter how long or casually/seriously you plan to operate. Direct from those who built it, this month's presentation features the fast-paced **Dayton Hamvention** video by **K8UT**, comparing the N1MM Classic/Plus versions. A **bonus feature** will be how it will look for us in this year's **Field Day!** That, and an open discussion, will let you see how much has improved.

Tuesday, February 17, 7:30pm
Monroe County EOC
1190 Scottsville Road

From The President

Well, I hope as I, you've had a chance to log K1N. Outstanding propagation and would class operators have made many a DXer happy. This DXpedition will most probably go down in history given the rarity and number of anticipated QSO's.

Other than the all to typical "cops" and QRM, for this part of the world, their signals and knowledge of propagation has made it especially easy for them to enter the log.

Take pride in the fact that RDXA was a part in offsetting the financial burden this mega operation takes.

The date has been set for the combined RDXA/RVHFG Annual Awards Banquet. This year's event will be held Saturday April 11, 2015 at Lillian's in Penfield. Nikki Hungate, our "resident" banquet and party director has negotiated a \$25 per attendee price. Specific information can be found elsewhere in this bulletin. Make your plans now as it's always a great time.

As mentioned last month, we're half way thru our contest season with several enjoyable events coming up. With the recently improved band conditions, a great time to "pad" your totals or complete that 5 band award you've been working on.

Speaking of 5 band, I've recently started going thru boxes of old cards in hopes of attaining 9 band DXCC. I'm a bit shy on 160m but very close on 30m and 12m, all set on 17m. So the first 2 cards I submit (thru LOTW) on 30m come up as a match! One, from 1994 at N2PEB!

I never really "embraced" 12m but recently have been surprised with what the G5RV and 100w can do (when the band is open). Logged a DU there a few weeks ago.

I've spoken to others and similar results have been had. Great time passer in the remaining winter months. I'm sure you'd be surprised in what you've worked and may not have submitted.

Remember, "May is on the way" (wow, rhymes...) so Dayton should be in the back of your minds as well as the recently announced Rochester Hamfest. That event will return to the Barnard Fireman's Field on Saturday June 6, 2015. Tickets will be \$8.00 at the door but \$6.00 can be had "pre-sale". Obviously, RDXA will have their hospitality tents there and members are encouraged to attend both.

Thank you all for continuing to keep the RDXA a viable and vibrant part of ham radio history, not only on a local basis but internationally as well!

Best DX es 73,
Chris, K2CS



Navassa: Turn Off Those Speech Processors! K1N Tops 100,000 Contacts

Word From Navassa: Turn Off Those Speech Processors! K1N Tops 100,000 Contacts:

The pressure to work K1N <http://www.navassadx.com/> on Navassa Island continues. The DXpedition has topped 100,000 contacts, but demand seems insatiable, as it enters its final few days. The pileups continue to be fierce with little letup, K1N team member Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, said in a February 10 media release. A day earlier, during a satellite telephone interview http://www.dokufunk.org/upload/navassa_2_final.MP3 with Wolf Harranth, OE1WHC, Johnson advised phone operators to turn off their speech processors when trying to break the pileups. He said the splatter generated when phone ops max out their audio in an effort to be heard "makes it almost impossible" to pick out individual callers.

"If we could somehow magically eliminate all speech processors, we could probably double or triple our rate, particularly in working Europeans," Johnson told OE1WHC.

Johnson said the distribution of K1N contacts forms "almost a bell-shaped curve centered on 20 and 30 meters," although, he added, 40 meters has been "very productive" as well. On the outer edges, K1N had logged more than 2500 contacts on 160 as of February 9 and

has been working stations in Oceania and Europe on 6 meters, where K1N has been maintaining a beacon on 50.103 MHz.

Johnson said the team will continue to operate full bore into the early weekend but will start closing down on Friday, February 13, sending unneeded supplies back to Jamaica.

"We'll probably be in full swing through Friday evening (local time)," Johnson explained. Operations will proceed through Saturday, but "at the break of dawn" on Sunday, February 15, the team will have to depart Navassa, and it could be another decade before anyone is able to activate Navassa Island.

"Everyone is still healthy and in good spirits," Johnson said in the team's February 10 news release. "We really thank everyone for standing by while we work our propagation windows, especially to Japan."

The K1N logs <https://secure.clublog.org/charts/?c=K1N> have been posted.

Source:

The ARRL Letter



The Ability to Learn International Morse Code

The ability to learn International Morse Code (IMC) is apparently a special aptitude.

I was wondering if my personal difficulty in learning to copy CW at a relatively high speed was due to my lack of training, my own laziness, or was it perhaps an inherited trait. I know that certain people have trouble with reading, because of dyslexia, and so on. Certain people can't carry a tune in a wheelbarrow. So are some people naturally gifted in CW, and some not?

I Googled the following (Google: Morse code military class washout rate) and found a document that has just been released from the NSA ("No Such Agency") that has studied the issue.

The ability to learn International Morse Code (IMC) is apparently a special aptitude unrelated to other aptitudes or skills (Goffard, 1960). Goffard said: For some men code skill seems to be impossible to learn, while for others it presents no problem. Although methods of selecting men with a high aptitude for learning IMC have been the object of research for a number of years, they are still only moderately satisfactory. With the least apt men eliminated by the Army Radio Code Test of the Army Classification Battery, the range of aptitude for code among men in courses which include IMC is still wide.

Low correlations have repeatedly been found between Morse code achievement and intelligence, educational level, mechanical ability, and knowledge of subject matter.

Woehlke (1956) summarized the research on attempts to identify selection devices for Morse trainees. He reviewed special tests of Morse aptitude including the "code learning" types of tests such as tests of code discrimination, learning, and speed of response. He found that attempts to link general ability, achievement, and aptitude tests as well as non-test factors such as age and sex to code ability were unfruitful. Specific aptitude tests included auditory factor tests and clerical, musical, and mechanical aptitude tests as well as many others. When compared to other areas of testing, Woehlke concluded that Morse code aptitude validities are inadequate.

The present attrition rate' among Morse trainees is high. Attrition ranges from 26% to 42% of which "most" (Le., 20% to 30%) is due to academic failure. Of the academic failures, nearly 100% are because of the inability of the students to copy code sent at a speed of 20 GPM (CODEZ1) - the training standard.

Approved for release by NSA on 12-01-2011, https://www.nsa.gov/public_info/files/cryptologic_quarterly/the_use_of_compressed_speech.pdf

I also found a page from a ham that holds the Coast Guard record for CW.

Morse code and the United States Coast Guard:

My Ham radio experience paid off in that the United States Coast Guard eagerly accepted me at their Petaluma, California Radioman "A" School in 1975. Radioman School was an intensive 5 months of study covering everything from teletype and maritime radio procedure to Morse code and search and rescue communications. Unfortunately the course work was a bit difficult, resulting in a washout rate of over 50% of my classmates. <http://www.rogerwendell.com/morsecode.html>

The "Low correlations" quote from the NSA is especially interesting. It must mean that even someone of high intelligence could be poor in CW, and also the opposite.

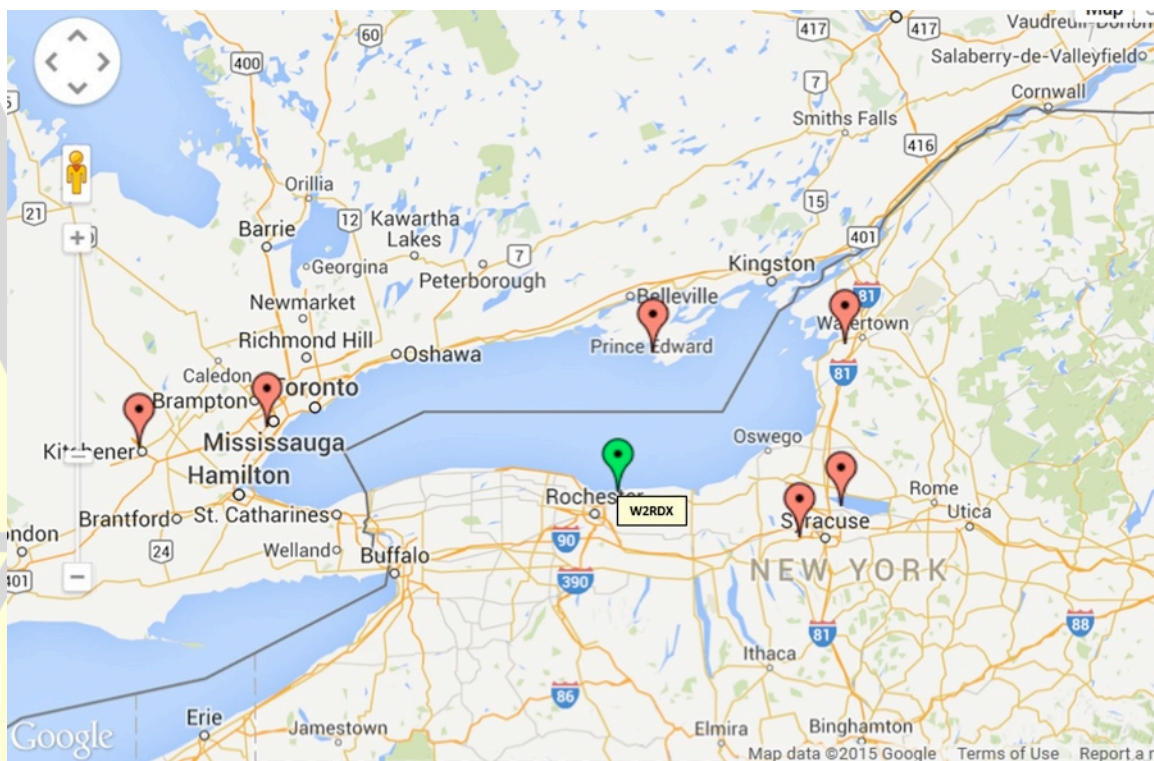
So, apparently CW skill can be developed with practice for some people, while others get little or no advantage with extra practice, no matter how hard they try.

I have to conclude that high speed CW will forever elude me. But that won't stop me from enjoying the hobby and operating in CW. I just will stick to people like me who go slow, or the polite operators who will slow down for me. The hobby is big enough for everyone to get in, have fun and enjoy, whether on CW or any other mode.

Thanks for looking,
73, Joe Cotton W3TTT

2015 Field Day Station Locator

W2RDX is on the map.



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!

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 andrew.lesny@gmail.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

WebmastersCarey Magee, K2RNY
 Contest/DX ChairmanChris Shalvoy, K2CS
 Membership ChairmanDan Guyor, N2DD
 Calendar Chairman.....Don Vlack, K2DV
 Newsletter EditorAndrew Lesny, W2FG
 Banquet CoordinatorNikki Hungate
 Media CoordinatorPaul Kolacki, K2FX

Membership Dues can be sent to:

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Or via PayPal:

treasurer@rdxa.com

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

Any other correspondence to: Mike Sanchez, N2UJN



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

