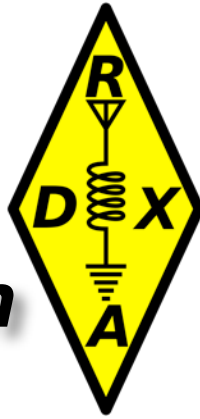


Rochester DX Association



September Presentation

Remote Station Operation

General discussion on plans for the year

Tuesday, September 20, 7:30pm

Monroe County EOC

1190 Scottsville Road

President's Letter

Here we go again... for our 70th year actually.

Regarding our "anniversary", we're planning a year long operating event that ALL club members are encouraged to participate in.

During a few of our last milestones, W2RDX has operated several "special events" which included "one off" QSL cards for those who contacted us, designed by several club members.

This time out, we're planning specific "times" in the club's history, highlighting modes and radios which would correlate to the club at that point in time.

The thought is to start out with the most "rudimentary" operating modes and rigs, culminating with modern digital modes and cutting edge communication technology.

W2RDX/70 most likely will be our call with the possibility of a 1x1 during a specific time of the anniversary year.

It has also been discussed that we may operate the ARRL Sweepstakes (in 2017) with that 1x1.

All these ideas are open for discussion but we're planning on having some kind of outline available for QST and other local publications before January, 2017.

The board has begun to layout a fantastic schedule of presentations for the 2016-17 year and continue to look for outstanding content in the bulletin thanks to your contributions.

Thank you to all who participated in Field Day, arguably the single biggest event the club participates in. Vic has done some real "number crunching" and the committee has already met and begun discussions on our 2017 effort.

NYQP is fast approaching and as always, a great operating event with a "world class" team supporting it. Many feel it's the most fun of any HF contest throughout the contest "season". If you are unable to participate in many contests or have never contested before, give NYQP a try, you'll be surprised at how many stations would LOVE your call in their log, no matter what county you are in.

Look for a calendar of all club events elsewhere in the bulletin so you can plan your operating time accordingly.

I hope to see everyone at the 20 September meeting and in the mean time, go work some stuff, OK?

Best DX es 73,
Chris, K2CS
President, RDXA

NY QSO Party - Get Ready for October 15!

By Dean NW2K

It's all about NY on October 15 as radio amateurs from around the world get on the air to work all 62 NY counties, Chautauqua to Clinton, Niagara to Suffolk. A dozen or more mobile operators will take to the mean streets of NYC or the bucolic surrounds of the Southern Tier and North Country. Brave souls will sneak out to the woodlands to activate a rare county, Field Day style, as temps may dip into the 30's. And good, solid Elmers will open up their shacks to new hams and build excitement as the spotlight is on US!

The NYQP game is easy to play as all operating modes and bands are eligible. The QSO exchange is simple for NY operators: signal report and county. For those eager out-of-state ops wanting to work all 62 counties, they'll send a signal report and their state, province or DX.

There's a category for all operating styles from single-operator-QRP to multi-operator-high-power-mobile! And the 48 plaques, which are awarded to category winners, are simply beautiful and I think they're the best in the business. Serious "furniture" for the discerning ham's shack! The state-wide NYQP Plaque Sponsorship Team and the Rochester DX Association really step up to the plate each year to make all the effort worthwhile.

Please start thinking about your NYQP operations. Mobile or Fixed, SSB, CW or digital, the important thing is to get on the air with friends and make some "noise" and help promote amateur radio spirit in NY. Please consider using this event to introduce new hams into the mix. Elmering has always been an important aspect of our hobby and NYQP is a perfect vehicle from which to teach operating concepts and station engineering. Make a new antenna, try a new digital mode, operate a vintage rig, have fun!

There is a page at the NYQP website (www.nyqp.org) that we've created to announce activity across the state. It's called "2016 Planned Activations" and it's easy to list your plans online to alert others of your activity in that rare or not-so-rare QTH. It helps all of us make informed choices on how to operate to maximize fun. The event's rules are also listed at the site.

In 2015, we had a record 314 logs, 156 from NY, 135 stateside, 14 from Canada, and 9 from DX. 5,670(!) unique call signs participated in the event, with 43,065(!) reported QSOs. Contacts were made

in all 62 counties from 49 (missed AK) states, 9 (AB, BC, MB, NB, NT, ON, PEI, QC, SK) provinces, and dozens of DX countries. There were 57 amateur radio clubs (25 New York and 32 out of state) involved the event. Let's set some new records in 2016!

Need any assistance or have any questions? Wondering which are the rare counties? Have a question about logging software? The NYQP Team is at the ready...send me a note any time at NW2K@arrl.net or check out the great NYQP website (www.nyqp.org) for all the details. We'll help you get on the air on October 15!



Rebuilding my C3S

Doug Stewart, N2BEG

Like most of you I have many, many projects. Some of them have been procrastinated over for years. Well this spring, after struggling working the VK0, VP8 and FT4 dxpeditions, I decided enough is enough and I dragged out my old C3S which had come crashing to the ground in a wind storm and been shelved for about 8 years. I started this once before, making a list of the parts I needed and having new element brackets made. I replaced it with a used TH3 so it was forgotten about until it took a lightening hit over 2 years ago... it was time.

For those who may not be familiar with the Force 12 C3S, it is trapless 6 element triband yagi on a 12 foot boom. It has 2 elements per band and it is the little brother of the C3. It does 10, 15 and 20 but will also load up with a tuner on 12 and 17. There are a number of variations on this design as well as some awesome modifications.



Original installation

Rebuilding my C3S (continued)

I sorted out the parts, salvaged another boom from another dead beam, made a list and ordered tubing and rivets.



The old bent stuff

I started with the boom. The original was 3 pieces and they were swaged to fit together. The boom I had was a 2 piece unit. I cut it to length and carefully measured the element locations, drilled the rivet pilot holes and started mounting the brackets. My new brackets were a little oversized, so I added shims.



Clamp shims

I beefed up the two larger clamps, adding larger rivets and 4 instead of 3. It's very important to make sure all the clamps are all flush to the bottom and straight on the boom. Any issue at the boom will be magnified on the element ends.

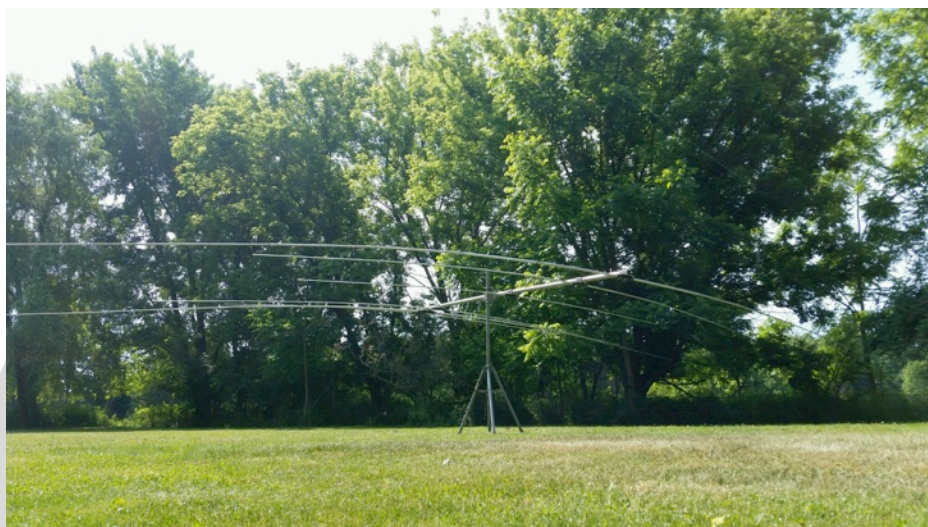
Rebuilding my C3S (continued)



Completed boom assembly

After completing the boom, I started the elements. I disassembled each one, cleaned them and put Noalox compound on each joint before riveting the new sections where needed. I redressed the tape on the insulators and set up a tripod to assemble the beam. Once all the elements were mounted, I wound a coax choke and did a quick SWR check. All 3 bands looked reasonable but naturally high at 5 ft. I pushed the beam up as high as I could on a longer pole and got it to about 10 feet. I checked the SWR curves again and they were moving in the right direction. I was able to point it at Europe and make a couple Qs. Not great reports, but OK for it being on the ground. It works.

Rebuilding my **C3S** (continued)



Rebuilt C3S

The total investment was about \$40 in tubing, \$15 worth of rivets and other assorted hardware and about 2 weeks of sweat equity. I will enjoy having something with directivity and gain to use this upcoming contest season. Don't ask me why I waited so long...

(This antenna is still available and current MSRP is \$1099.)

I'm calling stage one complete. Next up, get it on the tower.

The Astron Thump

Dean, NW2K

1 JUL 2016

I have a few Astron linear power supplies and all of them can start up with a “bang,” “thump,” “boing,” “clunk,” or “whung.” The RS-50A, RS-35A, RS-20A, and RS-12A have big empty capacitors at startup, and even with no load, this causes a high inrush current into the transformer when the on-switch is flipped. The transformer sees a near short initially and vibrates violently (drama!) and the steel case amplifies the sound. Then....calm returns.

Robert WA1MIK calls it “GNNNNnng” and he dislikes the sound too. At the Repeater-Builder website, he provides a simple \$2.50 solution with no moving parts, which I implemented. The solution employs a negative temperature coefficient (NTC) device, which has a current-limiting resistance when cold. The device regulates itself so after startup, its resistance decreases substantially. WA1MIK opted to install a NTC device inside each of his Astrons, but I made up an inrush-current-limited power strip for my station's power supplies. In both cases, the NTC device gets installed in series with the hot AC line before the Astron power switch.

Here's a link to information on how to size the NTC device for this application:

<http://www.ametherm.com/>

Here's a link to WA1MIK's implementation:

<http://www.repeater-builder.com/astron/inrush/astron-surge.html>

I used an Ametherm SL32 2R025 from Mouser and installed it into a metal electrical box, which includes a duplex receptacle and a light switch. Two Astrons (RS-12A and RS-50A) plug into this box and their delicate power switches remain in the “on” position. The light switch is used to power them up. No more drama!

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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Any other correspondence to: Mike Sanchez, N2UJN