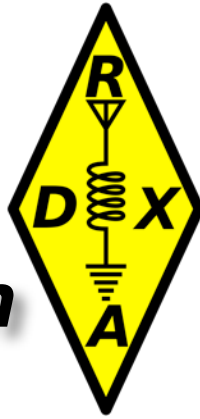


Rochester DX Association



The Rochester DX Association

Cordially invites you to our

Annual Holiday Dinner

20 December 2016

Rick's Prime Rib House

898 Buffalo Road

Rochester, NY 14624

Cocktails: ----- 6:00pm

Dinner: ----- 7:00pm

Dinner Selections - \$30

Prime Rib

Chicken French

Orange Roughy

Dinner, Hor d'oeuvres, Desert, Coffee included

Cash Bar

Reservations and dinner selection by December 9th to
RDXABANQUET@RDXA.COM

Gayle - N2TWI

President's Letter

Well, wasn't that "fun".

Obviously, I'm talking about the 2016 CQWW SSB contest. I'm approaching my 25th year as a ham, have contested for all of them and have never heard conditions that bad.

Looking at last year's almost 1 million point effort, it's hard to believe "we'd" be happy working common European stations. Granted, I don't expect to "run em" on 10m (and for several years to come honestly) but to struggle to work even Europe on 20m was hard to stomach.

The whole contest turned into a "worked all Caribbean" outing actually. Thank you to all the guys that operate from there otherwise we would have had nothing to log.

After some hard work during NYQP, the newly installed XR6 (at only about 30 ft) still helped immensely. Never having had an HF beam at W2CCC, it'll be nice to see what it will REALLY do... when the A index isn't like 70.

CQWW was the kickoff to several contests, the RTTY version being several weeks beforehand.

We've just completed a "CW lovers dream" with ARRL SS CW with the busy schedule of ARRL SS SSB, CQWW CW, ARRL 160m and ARRL 10m rounding out almost a contest a week! Great time of year and even more fun if the bands cooperate.

Please remember to submit your logs with Rochester (NY) DX Assn as your club.

Several club related event are happening in December. See information on the Holiday Banquet on the 20th and the yearly RMSC event at the end of the month.

To all participants, NYQP went off without a hitch, bands were marginal once again but everyone who participated had a blast regardless. Hats off to the "team" once again, outstanding job.

W2RDX/70 will take the airwaves in June of 2017, this will allow us some time to publish our schedule and organize exactly when and where we'll be on the air. If all works out, we'll be running sweeps next year with a 1X1 to commemorate the club's anniversary. More to follow as the year progresses.

Thanks to all who have been attending the meetings as over the last several months, we're seeing a very good showing of club members. A great way to let us know what you've been up to, exchange ideas and enjoy this fine and historic organization together.

Best DX es 73,

Chris, K2CS

President Rochester DX Association

NYQP portable in Franklin County

N2BEG KC2JXP KD2JZU

For NYQP 2016 I decided to see where the data from previous years indicated a greater need than my previous efforts in MON, LIV, ORL and CAT as well as prior years running either portable or mobile in multiple counties as we seemed to have chewed up a lot of time out of the 12 hour period just breaking down, moving and setting back up since my mobile antennas (hamsticks) are very inefficient on the lower bands especially with 100 watts. I thought that a more sustained effort could be had setting up in one county with a better antenna that was in relatively high demand and staying put rather than wasting time moving. In looking at the QSO counts from last year and some prior data from other years, it is evident that the northern and eastern counties in the North Country are typically among the least represented in terms of QSOs in NYQP. Mobiles have allowed for them to be activated each year, but usually for only a relative few contacts. I had settled on Essex which was at the bottom of the count last year, however when I got to trying to find a place to setup there I ran into issues and was starting to run out of time. Since NYQP falls in the traditional peak color season in the fall, the rates at most places to stay usually go up, sometimes double or triple on weekends. I was not about plunk down a large amount for a hotel and then have no way of knowing if I could operate for sure. I tried many campsites and cabins, etc, but I ran into them either closing on the 15th or being booked or ridiculously priced. Since the XYL was going to come along, it couldn't be as 'rustic' as it otherwise could have been if it were just Ben and I. What to do...

At the suggestion of Dean, NW2K, I checked out some Air BNB places. I had looked at a few but they were either full or wouldn't accommodate a group of three. If you are unfamiliar with these, they are typically rooms or entire private homes that people in the Air BNB program rent out for the night or weekend at very reasonable prices. It's a budget bed and breakfast that is more dorm or hostel like, usually with a common area and shared bathroom with the hosts usually on site. I was coming up empty, but then stumbled on a new listing for a place in Saranac Lake that was available and only had been listed since September. I enquired and was surprised it was available AND that after a couple emails explaining what I was planning on doing, even more surprised that they didn't have any problem with me setting up my station and antenna for NYQP! I ran it by the wife and she agreed so we booked it. It turns out it was not in Essex county which I was looking for, but right on the border in Franklin county, within walking distance of both the town of Saranac Lake and Essex county. Franklin is still fairly rare in terms of NYQP, but very popular with tourists. (The other two rooms in the house booked also)

As the week approached I gathered my station equipment. I was planning on using my 746pro and a laptop so I could take advantage of computer control. I had not had the opportunity to do that when we had operated portable before as my DX70 won't play with a computer. I downloaded the necessary driver for the radio interface, got the latest version of N1MM and tested everything, got all talking and working. Packed 100 feet of RG8X, my trusty G5RV, spud gun, etc. We were good to go.

Friday, the day before I took off from work to pack and the plan was to leave once my wife got out of work at 3. All was proceeding to plan. As I was picking up my laptop, I caught the corner on the damn cat climber next to the chair and it slipped out of my hand hitting the ground hard from about a

foot up. You know that sinking feeling you get in your stomach when stuff like that happens?? I had that in spades. I gingerly picked up the computer, opened it up and turned it on. I was greeted with the Windows 7 logo and almost started my happy dance when the error message occurred. Seems windows had an issue and couldn't load and was attempting to fix the problem. Great. Two and a half hours until we were supposed to leave. I went on packing and let the laptop do its thing. After about 20 minutes it gave up and said windows was unable to fix the problem. Several reboots and retries yielded the same results. Awesome. I asked my son jack for Ben's old laptop from school which he used occasionally. He produced a very dusty laptop with a dead battery. I plugged it in and booted it up. I remember setting it up as a dual boot system with linux and windows 7. When I selected the windows 7 boot option it said it couldn't locate the necessary file. Another sinking feeling hit. I told it to try again and it came up with the Windows 10 logo. Apparently it had been upgraded? It seemed to be the first time booting so it took forever. Eventually I got it up and running, downloaded N1MM, the correct drivers (after several tries), etc... it seemed to be working, however I am learning Windows 10 as I go. I hooked up the radio and it actually connected and worked, good to go!! I finished packing everything, picked up the wife and headed out for our 4 and a half hour drive. We were meeting Ben there as he drove up from MA.

We arrived at about 930PM and were greeted by our host Dave and Ben who had been chatting over 807s while waiting on us. Come to find out that Dave's dad was a ham and he remembered his days watching him work his radio and string up antennas. He was anxious to hear about ham radio and NYQP and we talked for an hour until his wife arrived. They turned out to be great hosts and were very interested in hearing about radio and NYQP. We turned in and looked forward to an early start on Saturday getting things set up.



KC2JXP and N2BEG at Franklin County

After a couple cups of coffee and a fantastic breakfast courtesy of our hosts, we broke out the spud gun, G5RV and coax and deployed our antenna about 30 feet up in a hemlock near the house (just behind us on the left) We set up the rig in the living room facing the front of the house right behind the window above my head. By 9:30 we were testing and all looked good.



KD2GZU untangling one leg of our G5RV.

We started out on 20 meters, but for whatever reason we had very little action. After a half hour and only 4 QSOs to show for it, we went to 40 meters. We mixed up SSB and CW for a few hours and then decided it was time for lunch and a little sightseeing as it was a gorgeous day in the Adirondacks.



Mirror Lake on Main Street in Saranac Lake.

After lunch we hit the bands again. 20 was still not yielding any sustainable rate so went back to 40. (I don't think the G5RV played well there) We had several good runs on both SSB and CW especially when people spotted us. We did this until past sunset as 80 was dead until then. We continued on after a short dinner break until we ran into our first glitch during the contest. About 830 Ben noticed the mouse (damn touch pad thing) had stopped working on the laptop. We worked with it that way for a while but it was really annoying. Once we hit a slow point we decided to try rebooting the laptop. That turned out to be a big mistake. Remember how this was the replacement computer and newly upgraded to Windows 10?? Yup, you guessed it, time for good ol' windows updates.... 45 minutes later we are back up, the mouse works initially then dies again. Our hosts to the rescue, a USB mouse was plugged in and we were off and running until the end. All in all, the event went smoothly. We took time out to answer questions from our hosts and other guests who were genuinely interested in our progress, as well as a few QSOs with scouts that checked in for JOTA. We finished with 310 QSOS, 52 counties, and 22 states I think. We called it a night after shutting down and awoke a little later Sunday and starting takedown. We were again treated to a fantastic breakfast, finished loading the car and bid farewell to our hosts.



We sure lucked out with the weather, our equipment (mostly), our great hosts and the fact that they were completely OK with us running a contest in their house full of guests. We did have some local QRM, but that was very minor compared to the hospitality and fun we had.

2016 Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge - RDXA Teamwork

The Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge has established itself as the friendly 160 meter contest. While it enjoys strong activity, the band is slightly less crowded than the major 160 meter contests. This provides more opportunities for the non super-stations to make intercontinental QSOs.

Here are the results for 2015, not including the write-up, which is not yet available:

http://www.kkn.net/stew/2015_STEWSCR.TXT

WNYers, WF2W finished 7th, W2FU 23rd, in HP; NW2K 14th, K2QO 19th, in LP; K0SM/VE3 12th, N2CU 18th, in QRP; all in a big field of 806 logs. Many RDXAers participated in the event, including K2SI and N2BEG, and I'm sorry if I missed some call signs.

This contest is a fun challenge for all stations and the distance-based scoring is very refreshing. A modest inverted-L with some radials will do quite well and you might consider spending some time building a receiving antenna or two. Beverages go up easily and the total cost is about \$10 each, plus some RG6. I'm sure that our experienced club members will help our less experienced get on the air and have fun. DX will be on the air!

Here is a link to the rules:

<http://www.kkn.net/stew/stew.rules.txt>

Last year, several members of RDXA teamed up to fund a plaque, sharing the cost:

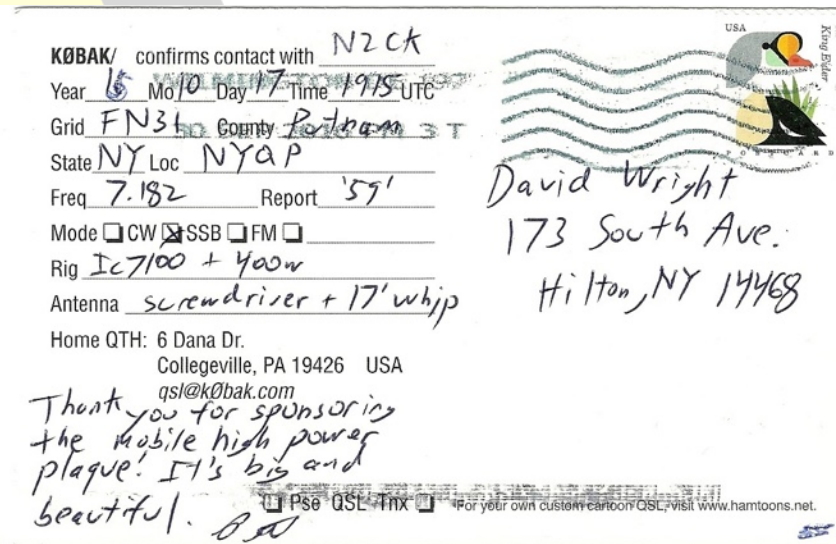
Rochester DX Association: Top Score, S/O-LP, Outside N. America

At press time, the winner has yet to be announced.

Need help with a TX or RX antenna? Have questions about the contest? Is there enough interest to share the \$60 plaque cost again this year? If so, please send me a note.

Thanks! 73, Dean, NW2K

Secondly, I recently received a QSL card from K0BAK /M for a contact in last year's NYQP. The contact was 40 SSB – but what's special about this contact? Pete also won the NYQP plaque I sponsored for High Score Mobile operation. His words on the card were "Thank you for sponsoring the mobile high power award! It's big and beautiful". He used an IC7100 and 400 watts using screwdriver and 17' whip. He was mobile in Putnam County. We worked at 19:15.



Announcing the 2016 RMSC Holiday Science and Technology Days

A Joint Demonstration by RDXA, RARA and XARC



Celebrating our 20th Continuous Year!

Please join us as we demonstrate ham radio and some of our technology to kids at the museum. On 12/26-12/29, 11am-3pm. If you would like an official “slot” or would like to help with the antenna please email me. All are welcome.

Doug, N2BEG

doug.stewart@stcmems.com

In case you've never seen it....

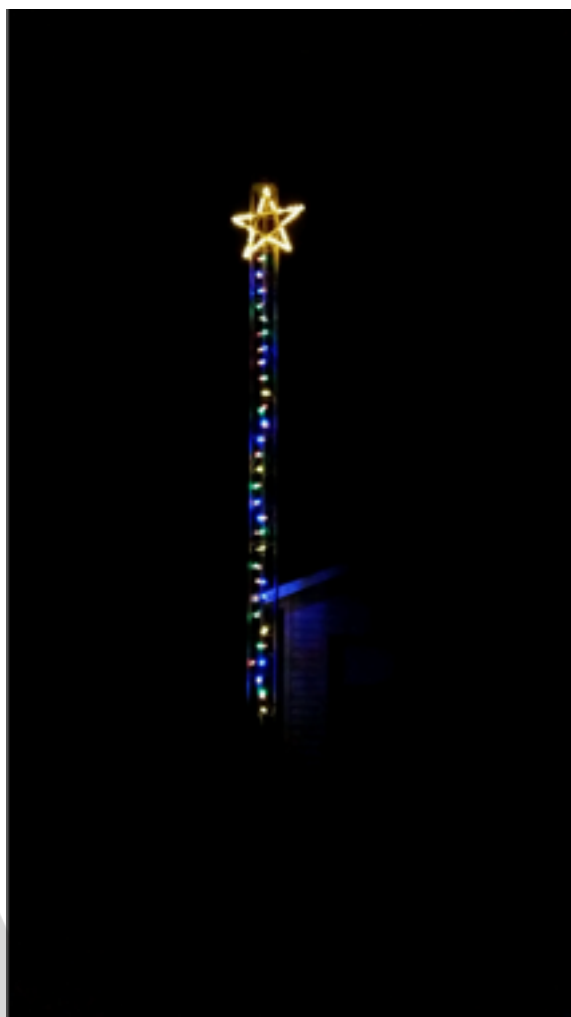
Via N2BEG

The TV show "Last Man Standing" starring Tim Allen will occasionally include shots of his radio shack during episodes. This is the only current TV show to include an actual ham station as part of the show. (remember "Alf" back in the 80s and Herman Munster prior to that?) Tim is Mike Baxter, KA0XTT (which is a fictitious call that stands for "eX-Tim-Taylor" alluding to his previous show Home Improvement) Allen did get his real ham license in 2014 (KK6OTD). The show's producer (also a ham) went to great lengths to make sure the radio on the set portrayed an actual ham shack and is indeed real. (the awards, not so much) The station is routinely put on the air by members of the Last Man Standing ARC (KA6LMS) and gets spotted on the cluster regularly. Now in its 6th season on ABC, it airs Friday nights at 8.

(Notice the Green Heron controller!)



Happy Holidays from N2BEG



First time “lighting up” my little tower



Antenna farm in daylight, rebuilt C3S,
HF9V on right, VHF stack in the
middle (Hygain VB-64, Cushcraft
13B2)

I finally got my QSO King mounted above the roof line with the help of a building contractor friend. After much experimenting I ended up with 96 feet of antenna lead with under 3:1 SWR from 80 meters to 10 meters.

I followed the charts for correct antenna lengths, but with poor results. Other lengths that did not work well were 109', 105', 85', and 72'. When spring comes, I will try 133'.

So far I have been able to work the Cayman Islands on 15 meters with this setup.

David Pfonner
KD2IVQ



RDXA members

Now that the holidays are upon us, it's time again for the RMSC HSTD event that we champion with RARA every year. Pete, W2SKY reminds us that this is our **20th consecutive year** for our combined involvement with RARA in this program which we know has resulted in many thousands of contacts, a few new hams and many fascinated youngsters many of whom have come back on consecutive years, brought siblings or even in at least one case talked with family over the air. This year's days of operation will be Monday through Thursday, 12/26-12/29. Please indicate your availability to participate over the course of the 4 days. We typically ask for a 2 hour shift, but more or less is always doable. The Museum hours are 11-3 during the event. You can operate, assist with demos, answer questions, log or help set up or takedown. All are welcome!

We will plan to put up the antenna the weekend prior but that is weather dependant. (we can do it the morning of the event if need be.) If you would like to help with that, a couple volunteers to go to the museum roof will be appreciated, also for takedown on Thursday.

Please let me know if and when you can participate.

Antenna setup (may be Saturday 12/17 depending on weather)

12/26 Monday 11-3 (setup)

12/27 Tuesday 11-3

12/28 Wednesday 11-3

12/29 Thursday 11-3 (takedown)

I will publish a schedule once responses are in.

Thanks for all your help in putting this event on for so many years!

73Doug

N2BEG

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.

PresidentChris Shalvoy — K2CS
cshalvoy@att.net

Vice-PresidentMark Hazel — K2MTH
mthazel2151@yahoo.com

TreasurerMike Sanchez — N2UJN
N2UJN.michael.sanchez@gmail.com

SecretaryBill Rogers — K2TER
k2ter@rochester.rr.com

Board of Directors

Bill Rogers — K2TERk2ter@rochester.rr.com

Doug Stewart — N2BEGdoug.stewart@itcmems.com

Lynn Bisha — W2BSNlbisha@rochester.rr.com

Dan Guyor — N2DDN2DD@ar1.net

Mark Hazel — K2MTHmthazel2151@yahoo.com

Irv Goodman — AF2Kaf2k@juno.com

Jeff Ach — W2FUw2fu@frontiernet.net

Mike Sanchez — N2UJN
.....N2UJN.michael.sanchez@gmail.com

Appointed Positions

WebmastersCarey Magee, K2RNY
Contest/DX ChairmanCharlie Kuhfuss, WB2HJV
Membership ChairmanDan Guyor, N2DD
Newsletter EditorAndrew Lesny, W2FG
Banquet CoordinatorGayle Shalvoy, N2TWI
Media CoordinatorPaul Kolacki, K2FX

Membership Dues can be sent to:

Mike Sanchez
8 Piccadilly Square
Rochester, NY 14615

Regular Membership	\$25.00
Family Membership	\$5.00
Full-Time Student	\$5.00
Lifetime Membership	\$200.00

Any other correspondence to: Mike Sanchez, N2UJN