



XARC 2000



Monthly Newsletter of the Xerox Amateur Radio Club

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Brian Donovan
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John Wright
Barry Rickett

KC2DTT
KG2NY
K2AS
W3MUD
KE2MK
N2EZS

XARC Repeater

KE2MK
145.29 MHz Output
144.69 MHz Input

XARC Web Page:
<http://www.ggw.org/xarc/>



December 1999

Next club meeting:

Thursday, December 16, bldg 337
6PM

Agenda: Members favorite/unusual/rare Ham Radio
URLs by KC2DTT

Guest Column

From K2AS

I guess I appointed myself newsletter editor. I will try to keep it going and interesting for as long as I can. It may be sparse at times if I get very busy or there isn't anything I can think of to put in it. E-Mail and the web page will still be primary tools for communication, but the newsletter will be more for information not as suitable for e-mail.

This is where I appeal to all the club members. There will always be space available for anything you might want to submit. It could be a column, article, whatever. Like the nice article WW2J wrote that appears in this issue.

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XARC Y2K Preparedness

Xerox Corporate security has requested that the XARC be prepared to support communications in the event of an emergency during the Y2K transition. For the following Tuesdays in Nov and Dec the club station will be open for operation with an operator on duty from approximately 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. EST. The operator schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday Nov 30 Brian Donovan K2AS
- Tuesday Dec 7 Pete Fournia W2SKY
- Tuesday Dec 14 Need
- Tuesday Dec 21 Need

There is another important reason for doing this. Access to the club station has recently been hampered. XRA has turned the room that the station resides into an office. I'm sure it's partially based on the fact that it hardly ever is used during the day. So, unless we make an effort to use the station a little more often, we may find it out in the parking lot.

Please sign up for one of the remaining dates. Or stop by on one of the scheduled days to help or check out the station.

Contact Lou Pepin KG2NY at ext. 29013 or at Lou.Pepin@usa.xerox.com to sign up.

Radio Clubs Invited to RMSC!

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association is supporting an event at the Rochester Museum and Science Center that will take place over Christmas vacation. They are looking for hams to help out at the exhibit. Read the article below, which was put out by RARA. If you want to help, see Pete Fournia W2SKY Peter.Fournia@usa.xerox.com.

Dec. 27 – Dec 31

From RARA

Would you spend two hours to promote amateur radio in Rochester? Just two hours showing what you like about the hobby and perhaps telling a child or two about what sparked your interest in our great hobby. Pretty easy in a nice relaxing room filled with lots of radio stuff and other amateurs, just like you, talking to kids about the neat things you can do with radios. The two hours will fly by and it will be, regrettably, time to pack up your things and head home. How and where will all this happen? The Rochester Museum and Science Center has invited us back to be part of their Holiday Technology Show for grade and high school students. We'll have two big tables, chairs and anything else we need all set up for us. All we have to do is do and talk radio. What could be more rewarding than spending just a few minutes with someone and seeing that same spark in them as when you became interested? We'll have our choice of one of four days, between Christmas and New Years, to bring ham radio into the new millennium. You, as a member of one of the Rochester amateur radio associations' radio clubs can promote your hobby and set a young mind to dreaming great dreams. You hold the key. Call now to reserve your own two-hour window of opportunity. Call soon, only a limited number of slots are available. Call Keith Freeberg, in Rochester, at 716-458-8246 today!

Upcoming On Air Events

ARRL 10 Meter contest, December 11-12. 10 Meters is wide open during the day, and this contest should be big. US/Canada give signal report and state, DX stations give signal report and QSO number. Slow speed CW sections. Read all the details at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-10m.html> or Sept. 1999 QST.

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes, Jan. 22-24, 2000. More next month. See <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/01vhfss.html> for more details.

New 11 Year Cycle Discovered

Seems that sunspots aren't the only thing on an 11 year cycle. Radio Shack introduces a 10-Meter radio every 11 years, markets it for a couple of years before it fades away. Its newest offering is the HTX-10. It goes for \$149.95 but is available presently for \$10 less. It has SSB/AM/FM, covers the whole band with 25 watts. I have toyed with the idea of getting one of those mini 160-UHF rigs for my vehicle, but this is a really cheap way of getting on mobile HF with one simple antenna. Even when the band dies down, maybe the radio would make a good IF for some VHF/UHF transverters. Speaking of Radio Shack, I noticed their web page has loads of ham gear for sale, from many different manufacturers. Be patient, the web pages seem to be very slow in loading however.



Radio Shack HTX-10

Activity Reports

- See WW2J's story on Page 6.
- Bob, K2OID also worked the CQ WW CW DX contest Thanksgiving weekend. Conditions were good and he worked 30 of the 40 CQ zones.
- K2AS operated the CQ WW Phone DX contest at the end of Oct. Mostly 10 meters. Worked 29 countries, including 18 Japan contacts in a few hours of operating.
- Following up on the presentation WW2J gave on PSK31, K2AS picked up some shareware for reading CW. It works with the PC's soundcard, similar to PSK31 and W95SSTV. Its called CWGet. The same author (UA9OSV) has a RTTY program for soundcards called TrueTTY. Both can be gotten and the following URL : <http://www.dxsoft.com/english.htm>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARRL 10 METER CONTEST

WHEN: DEC. 11-12

See <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-10m.html>

DECEMBER CLUB MEETING

PLACE: XRA BLDG 337 CONFERENCE ROOM

TIME: THURSDAY DEC. 16 AT 6:00PM

Our regular monthly meeting. Ken Hall will be discussing Ham Radio information on the WWW

END OF THE MILLENIUM (ALSO STRAIGHT KEY NITE)

PLACE: WORLD-WIDE, UNLESS USING A DIFFERENT CALENDER

TIME: 12:00 AM JAN. 1, 2000

Will chaos and anarchy reign? Forget the bottled water, make sure those batteries are charged and the generator has gas, it's straight key nite.

KIDS DAY

WHEN: JAN. 1, 2000 1800Z – 2400Z

PURPOSE: Kid's Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people hands-on on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is intended to give hams a chance to share their station with their children

JANUARY CLUB MEETING

PLACE: XRA BLDG 337 CONFERENCE ROOM

TIME: THURSDAY JAN. 20 AT 6:00PM

Our regular monthly meeting. Could be about the VHF contest or the history of radio.

JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES

WHEN: JAN. 23-24, 2000

TIME: SEE

[HTTP://WWW.ARRL.ORG/CONTESTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/01VHFSS.HTML](http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/01vhfss.html)

The big one in the VHF world. Expect a club station effort. Stay tuned for details.

ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST CW

When: Feb. 19-20, 2000

ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST PHONE

WHEN: MAR. 4-5, 2000

- John, N2XV, has been QRT for about 8 months while house was for sale. Moved into new house last week and hopes to get back on air soon.

Club Station News

The club is presently in the market for a 2-meter all mode transceiver. There is not much available presently from the usual manufacturers for under an arm and a leg, so we are looking at the possibility of picking up a piece of used gear. If you come across or know of someone in the Rochester area that would have one of these for sale, let me know. Preferably something not more than 10-15 years old. Contact Brian Donovan at ext. 15346 or Brian.Donovan@usa.xerox.com

Don't have HF capabilities at home? At W2XRX you can work DX on any day. We are fortunate to have a club station like this at Xerox. Stop by and give it a try. If you want some help to familiarize yourself with the station and procedures, contact one of the club officers.

November Meeting Minutes

After thinking it over, I won't be including minutes as part of the newsletter. The minutes will continue to be sent out via e-mail. Some of the information will be reproduced here as part of the newsletter when appropriate.

Support XARC - Time to Send in Dues

If you haven't sent in your XARC dues for the year 2000, now is a good time to do it. It will keep you on the mailing list, you'll continue getting these spiffy newsletters (though there is no guarantee), access to the club station, phone patch privileges on the repeater, etc. If you lost the application form, there is one at the end of this newsletter or on our web page.

So send me your ideas.

Also, don't forget to send me your activity reports. Activity reports don't have to be on-air related. Any type of ham radio related activities are wanted. In case you didn't read my e-mail last month, here are some ideas for activity reports:

- DX you worked
- Contest activities
- New awards you received (WAS, DXCC, etc.)
- New equipment you bought (Especially new radios)
- Homebrew projects
- Public service activities
- Interesting QSO's
- New mode you are trying
- New antenna you put up
- Hamfest reports
- Test you are studying for
- Upgrades in your license status
- New Vanity calls
- Other clubs you are in
- Unusual propagation conditions you experienced
- Logging program you are trying
- Satellite activity
- Nets you take part in
- Antique radios/ collections

- Interesting band openings on VHF
- Help needed (antennas, troubleshooting, etc.)

Let me know how this newsletter works out. I am making a PDF file, I hope everyone has a reader for this. It should print and display pretty well. I noticed that the QSL graphics lost some clarity going to pdf.

I also found out there are a lot of issues surrounding fonts and Acrobat. Apparently in 4.0 Adobe made changes based on obscure font attributes that can disallow embedding a font in a PDF file. At least one thing I had to change based on that.

Our President, Ken Hall, is looking for ideas for club meeting programs in the upcoming year. Send him a note or call him with your ideas x27466 or Ken.Hall@usa.xerox.com.

Wanted /Not Wanted

- This space is available. Something to sell? Looking for a piece of equipment? It may be a limited audience, but at least it is people you can trust.
- K2AS would like to experiment with SSTV before he jumps in on 14.230. Anyone want to exchange some pictures using SSTV? Would like to use 6m, but HF also OK.

A HAM AS PRESIDENT?

Several months ago, our governor declared that it would be officially Amateur Radio month in New York State. At times, Governor Pataki has been mentioned as a potential presidential candidate. Too bad he is an ex-ham. It got me wondering when we would have a ham in the White House. The closest we've gotten is Herbert Hoover Jr. Anyway, it was a good reason for a top ten list.

TOP 10 (OR SO) REASONS A HAM WOULD WANT TO BE PRESIDENT

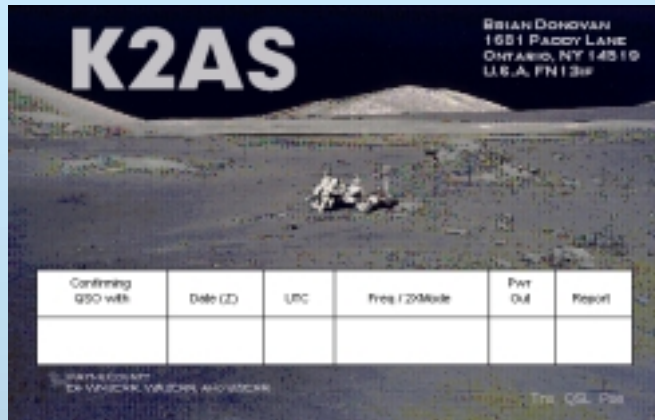
13. Could jam Russian embassy in his free time
12. Divert funds intended for social programs to research into antenna materials less susceptible to ice damage
11. As leader of executive branch, pull strings to cut FCC turnaround time on his applications from 47 days to 39 days.
10. By executive order, declare the District of Columbia a

new DX country

9. White House would look "more modern" with a tri-band Yagi on top
8. Can get an employee discount and first choice on surplus military radios
7. Living on federal property, PRB-1 makes it easy to get a zoning variance for 150 foot tower
6. Private planes with loony pilots crash into tower before they hit White House
5. Go to hamfests, buy as much junk as you want and have secret service guys carry it all
4. Convert the Lincoln bedroom into a ham shack and solicit donations from guest operators
3. On field day, have military copters hover over the White House grounds holding each corner of a rhombic
2. Have NASA launch him a geo-stationary 2 meter repeater
1. Washington monument = Nice support for a long wire

Member Spotlight

Brian Donovan K2AS



I didn't really want to start out featuring myself, but since this was put together quickly, I had easy access to me. Plus it would be a way to show how this might work.

FIRST LICENSED: 1971

FIRST CALLSIGN: WN2CRR

OTHER CALLSIGNS: WA2CRR, W2CRR

LIVES: Ontario, NY

MARRIED: (Kim) 3 Children (16), (14), (10)

ACTIVITY: 80m-2m, CW, Phone, PSK31, RTTY, SSTV?

Occasional contesting

RIGS: Yaesu FT-920, Icom IC-260, Kenwood TM-733A

ANTENNAS: G5RV, 48 ft. tower, 4 el Yagi for 6m, 13 el Yagi 2m

ACTIVITY: Contests for fun, DX, building

My interest in radio began when looking at my fathers Heathkit, Lafayette, and Allied catalogs, some of which I still have. First radio was Heath GR-64 shortwave, then Hammarlund HQ-110 and a homebrew xmtr. Moved up to a DX-60B, then HW-101, and Kenwood TS-520. Ed, WB2FLA was a big help as I was starting in ham radio.

After several years of minimal activity, it picked up in 1996 when I built an addition and finally put a shack together.

Likes to work DX, but find it challenging with 100 watts and a G5RV. Interfaced the FT-920 to a computer and am working PSK31, experimenting with SSTV, and checking out software for CW and RTTY. I would like to try packet, APRS, more SSTV and work the new Phase IIID satellite.

Started with Xerox in 1976 as an engineering technician. Now with GKLS (MCSE) writing service documentation and training.

Member Spotlight

Dusty Kramer – KF2CF



FIRST LICENSED: 1961

FIRST CALLSIGN: WN2NWU

OTHER CALLSIGNS: KA2HAZ

LIVES: Webster, NY

MARRIED: (Mary 1989) 4 Children Kathleen 31, Kenneth 25, Morgan 8, Matthew 5

ACTIVITY: Ragchewing with english-speaking operators; some contesting for the club.

Rigs: HF is Heath HW-5400; VHF includes mobile as base TM-241 and a FT-2200 mobile (not currently used). Have IC-P2AT handheld. Old equipment includes Hallicrafters S-40 (reconditioned), and a Hammarlund SP-600 that I hope to rebuild. HW-101.

Antennas: NONE AT PRESENT. JUST MOVED INTO NEW QTH. PLANNING HF AND VHF.

Not sure how and why I got into ham radio. I was the stereotypical mechanically curious, take-everything-apart young kid and I would occasionally amaze even myself by fixing something once in a while. Started listening to shortwave at around 9 years-old. Collected old radios until I was in my late teens. Paper route money bought my first novice station, a Knight T-60 and an S-40 Hallicrafters receiver. Later upgraded to a new Hammarlund HQ-180 but my license expired and I and my equipment went dormant for nearly 20 years. After getting my new novice (KA2HAZ) in the late-seventies, I built an HW-101, which I still have. Upgraded to Advanced in '88, I think. Now KF2CF.

Past work experiences include television repair technician. In 1971 worked for Heathkit as a bench technician at the then new store at Long Ridge mall where I worked on everything, but specialized in ham and test equipment, as well as television.

Came to Xerox in 1977 as a 4000 copier technical representative. Now work in GKLS.

CQWW DX CW Contest

By Larry Lavery WW2J

If you asked me what I did over the Thanksgiving holiday I would have to admit I spent around 20 hours Saturday and Sunday working the CQ Worldwide DX CW contest. I am not a avid contester and I have a very modest station; 100 watts, a dipole on 40 and a vertical on 20 - 10 meters. This was my 2nd CQWW CW contest and my only goal was to do better than last year.

For those of you who have not tried this contest I thought I would explain a little about it so you might be enticed to try it next year. The goal is to work as many DX stations in as many CQ zones as you can. The exchange is signal report and zone, we are in zone 5 so it goes like '599 5'. A QSO only lasts a few seconds. Stations transmit and listen on the same frequency, I only heard one DX station operating 'split', he was listening 1Khz up.

Contesters operate in one of two modes, 'search and pounce' and 'run'.

If you have a powerful station, you can 'run' QSOs, that is... occupy a frequency, call CQ and have everyone come to you. If you have a station like mine, you must search for the stations 'running' and call them. The big gun contesters that 'run' monitor their QSO rate. You will hear them fly along at 30 - 45 wpm and they will maintain that until their QSO rate drops. Don't be alarmed if you can't copy 30 wpm, you will hear the exchange repeated many times and you can pick out the call and zone and be able to recognize your call when they reply. When they finish a QSO send your call once and listen for a reply.

The activity during these contests is very high. 10 meters was solid signals from 28.0 to well into the novice band (28.1+). My rig has a 500hz xtal filter and it is really too wide for this. Once, I called a station, he replied and then I heard my call coming from another station up the band a few hundred hz...I got two QSOs with one call :-). I recommend a computer-logging program that has CW memories so you can eliminate dupes and send exchanges with a keystroke. The computer was set to about 25 wpm; rather slow but I wanted them to get my call correct the 1st time. My normal keyer was in parallel with the computer keying so I could jump on the keyer if I had to.

If you hear rare DX being called by 20 or more kilowatt stations...jot down the frequency and move on. Come back after the big guns have worked him. On Sunday I found A61AJ, the United Arab Emirates, all by himself calling CQ; he came back on the 1st call.

You will hear many interesting things...I heard one

station that had two antennas on a switch. He would beam to Europe and then beam to the US. I called him when he was weak, he threw the switch and blew my headphones off. I also heard some very strong stations in Asiatic Russia, I can't imagine what kind of station they were using. You will also hear some interesting CW notes from US as well as DX stations. Is this is done on purpose to differentiate their signal from the norm?

Despite what you hear about the rude operators these days, I had many contacts where I had difficulty getting through and the big guns stood by until I was successful. There was one Caribbean station 'running' and he was so strong he overloaded my receiver, yet I could not get him to hear me because of all the strong QRM. Running low power is like being Humpty Dumpty in a world of giants. When you get crushed, you move on and catch up with him later.

I operated four bands 40 - 10 meters and worked around 50 countries on each band without pushing hard. It was a lot of fun and I added a few new countries to my DXCC list.

I hope to hear you in the pile-ups next year.

By the way...if you prefer phone, I can't imagine why:-), the phone portion of this contest is mid November.

73...Larry
