

The Eastern Iowa DXer

The Official Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX Association



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



September/October 2001

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Club Officers

President: Heinz Blankenhagen, NR0X
Vice President: Rick Heinrich, N0YY
Secretary Treasurer: Tom Kueny, K0DX

PacketCluster **WB8ZRL**
147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM

Repeater Committee: Al Groff K0VM
Joe Finkstein W0MJN

Repeater: **N0DX/R**
144.59/145.19

Membership Committee: Jim Spencer W0SR
Tom Vavra WB8ZRL

From the President

Heinz Blankenhagen, NR0X

The recent tragic events in New York and Washington have made ham radio and DX seem a lot less important. Having lost a son of my own I can understand the grief of those that lost family and loved ones. One of those killed in the pentagon was a young man from Anamosa. That is getting pretty close to home. Let us hope and pray that the insanity of terrorism can be stopped soon and forever.

I'm sure you all join me in thanking Terry and XYL Shanna for their efforts in once again doing the cooking at the EIDXA picnic. As usual they did a super job. It gave me great satisfaction to be able to present the lifetime membership and plaque to Lew Gordon, K4VX. After the picnic I received the following letter from Lew:

Dear Heinz,

First, I must again thank you and all of the members of the EIDXA for presenting

me with the Honorary Lifetime Membership. This is quite a tribute of which I am very proud. Doug and I had a great time at the picnic. It was good to see old friends again, and also see the latest antenna projects at NR0X. The food was excellent and the camaraderie was great.

73
Lew

Solar activity has increased dramatically in recent days. Solar flux reached a new high for this cycle. I guess the prognosticators may have to revise their predictions. If this keeps up we should have a good contest season. It seems like the DXpedition season is in full swing as well. The boys on Johnston Island did a fine job and Conway reef is off to a good start as I write this. I haven't heard much about Ducie Island lately but my board says they should be up about the middle of November and will probably count as a brand new country.

Election of officers will be held at the upcoming meeting. I wish to thank Vice President Rick Heinrich and

Secretary/Treasurer Tom Kueny for their services during the past year. Tom has informed me that he will not be available to continue in office due to family obligations and his additional duties as DXCC card checker. Tom will nominate George Carsner to fill the vacancy.

Following the business meeting Glen Kesselring will be making a presentation on their trip to Spain and the Madeira Islands. I had originally planned to have a presentation on our trip to the Caribbean but we decided not to go. Instead I will be talking about wind power in Iowa. I recently toured two wind farms in north central Iowa. I think you will find it very interesting. I will be using the laptop with Power Point and the projector. This will be the first time I have done one of these so I hope all goes well. Also we will have some prices for QSL cards from two different printers. WØAWL has agreed to see if there is enough interest in monogrammed shirts, jackets etc., to justify another group order. Hope to see all of you at the meeting.

73

Heinz

The Editor's Corner

By Rick NØYY

Well I failed in my last attempt to distribute the newsletter electronically. Hopefully, this attempt will work a bit better. It's a good thing we started trying because we have learned some of the limitations of the QSL.net service. It appears that the file size for distribution is limited and we will be forced to keep file sizes small.

So with this newsletter, I am going to try something different. I am going to try to distribute it via a direct distribution list, not through the QSL.net service. I'd

appreciate your feedback as to how well this works for you.

Well it has been a busy time as everyone tries to get ready for the upcoming contest season. Wade is working out the details of his new antenna system. And I'm trying to get mine up in time to take advantage of the upcoming season.

AS some of you might know, I had quite an accident while working on the 40 Meter beam and mast. We were raising the mast when the rope broke and fell on Jay, KCØAKJ's hand. The operative word was LUCKY!!! Jay took 17 stitches to close a severe cut on his finger when the boom to mast clamp met with the thrust bearing with his finger as a bumper. Jay was able to climb down the tower but spent the next few hours in the hospital getting put back together. He has been out of work for a couple weeks but is healing. You may want to drop him a line to wish him well. Jay has done some tower work for other club members including WØSML and the late KØVZR.

I still hope to develop a website for EIDX in the upcoming few months. Please be gentle as this will be a learning experience for all of us. I want to be able to offer a product that provides value to club members. With that in mind, I would appreciate ideas from you as to things you would like to see available in a common resource area.

EIDX Club Badges - Update

Well after several phone calls, eyeball discussions at Peoria, and e-mails we are read to move forward with new badges.

We have a proposal from the SignMan from Baton Rouge for a badge "identical" to the existing club badge for \$8.20 including shipping and handling. This

assumes that we will have in initial order for 10 badges up front. (That is to offset the costs for the die for the EIDX logo stamp.

He has another process that offers more variables, but we will have to decide as a club if we want the badges to all look the same.

We provided updated artwork with improved registration and a scanned copy of an existing badge to arrive at the price. Once we have the badge design finalized, we can add the EIDX to the SignMan's - "Clubs & Organizations" section of his web site (www.thesignman.com/clubs/others.html). This will provide the necessary reference for future badge orders.

Splatter

From Tom, WB8ZRL:

The picture on page 105 of October 2001 QST has a familiar face, but a non-familiar call. It seems that Jim (ex-W0NB) is now KP2L and a member of the PJ2T contest team. Jim has often operated portable from some island in the Caribbean and it seems that he has now made it permanent. Jim is also featured in an article in the Sep/Oct 2001 NCJ, but the two pictures (the cover and page 11) are both from the back (not his best side!)

The NCJ article tells about the resurrection of a previously used contest site in Curacao. An extract from that article.....

"Shortly thereafter, Jim, KP2L, was attempting to clean the rust from the tower base, when he drew a large arc off the end of the wire brush on the electric drill. A quick test with a VOM showed that the drill case was 220 V above

ground! Many days of headscratching and consultations -- both local and stateside -- began to unravel the mysteries of the 3-phase, 50-Hz house wiring. Only on a subsequent visit to the island was W0CG able to correctly connect the wiring to the local services."

They must have done the restoration job well, as PJ2T finished third in the multi/single category of the 2001 ARRL CW contest.

Contest Calendar

The season is upon us! There are many opportunities to test your skills and sleep deprivation techniques. Remember to copy the club leadership when submitting logs to ensure that EIDX gets club credit for your efforts. I assume there will be efforts from several of us during the CQWW Phone/CW weekends as well as the ARRL November Sweepstakes.

There is a review of club reporting rules, so stay tuned for any changes in club competition.

I'm always looking for ideas and inputs for the newsletter. If you have something that you would like to include, please get a copy to me via any of the traditional methods. (e-mail, US Postal, etc.)

Let me know if there is a section of the newsletter that you would like to see added or changed.

Remember, this is your newsletter!!

Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the Eastern Iowa DX Association will be on Friday, October 19, 2001 at 7:30 in Room 219C Linn Hall on the Kirkwood Community College campus. Doors open at 6:30 pm for eyeball QSOs. Monitor 145.19 for directions if needed. See you there



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