

# The Eastern Iowa DXer

The Official Newsletter of the  
Eastern Iowa DX Association



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



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**August 2002**

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## Club Officers

President: Heinz Blankenhagen, NRØX  
Vice President: Rick Heinrich, NØYY  
Secretary Treasurer: George Carsner, WØPPF

Repeater Committee: Al Groff KØVM  
Joe Finkstein WØMJN

Membership Committee: Jim Spencer WØSR  
Tom Vavra WB8ZRL

## PacketCluster

147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM

**WB8ZRL**

## Repeater:

144.59/145.19

**NØDX/R**

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## *From the President*

Heinz Blankenhagen, NRØX

Plans are underway for a WØ DX Convention on September 28<sup>th</sup> in Omaha. At this point details are a little sketchy. Nick Critelli, KØPCG, who resides in Des Moines, is promoting the affair. All DX Clubs in the zero call area including EIDX are being asked for our support. I should have more details in time for the meeting.

Congratulations to a number of club members who have recently applied for or received their 5 Band WAZ award. Jim, NØAV, has all 200 confirmed. Tom, WB8ZRL has 198, Gary, KØGT 190 and Terry, WØAWL 171.

The weather has caused some problems for some of us lately. Tony, NØPG, had some serious damage when lightning struck his antenna, taking out his FT1000-MP and some other equipment and cabling.

I've had a bit of weather related bad luck myself. One night I forgot to unplug the

Laser printer and lightning got the printer and the motherboard on the XYL's computer. More recently, on July 18<sup>th</sup>, we had a 4.5" cloud burst. The power went off at midnight so we lit the Aladdin Lamp and played dominoes while waiting for the outage to end. After about an hour I grabbed a flashlight and took a look in the basement. I was shocked to find water gushing into the basement through the conduits from the doghouse. The drainage tile for the doghouse was flowing backwards, dumping water into the doghouse and had filled it to ground level. We quickly got our gasoline generator running so we could power the sump pumps. I plugged that drainage tile and started pumping water from the doghouse onto the lawn outside. Then I discovered that the basement pump was not keeping up with the water coming in, so I went to the roadside ditch to check the outlet and found it covered over with silt and sod. While standing knee deep in water with a probe and shovel I got that flowing better. Then started on the basement floor using the shop-vac. I estimate about that I removed 100 gallons or 20 dumps of the shop-vac. We finally got to bed about 4:30

AM. I spent the next several days drying out conduits and coax connectors.

As announced earlier the picnic this year will be at Gary's (KØGT) on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, at 4 PM. Terry will be doing the cooking again. The club will provide the brats and fixings. Bring your table service, a beverage, a covered dish and a chair. The meeting will be brief so there will have plenty of time for visiting. Hope to see you there.

73  
Heinz

### ***The Editor's Corner***

By Rick NØYY

Well, I presume that this summer has provided enough heat and rain to suit us all. I have continued with my travels for work and am also getting ready to send "Number 1 Son" off to college in a few weeks for his first taste of college life.

I still haven't finished the web site project, but hope to have something done by the early fall.

From the notices included in this newsletter it seems that we are working toward a WØ DX dinner. That will provide another opportunity for all of us to get together to socialize and exchange more ideas. We're lucky to be in the middle between the W9 and now the WØ dinners so that should make the travel a bit easier.

The line has gone quiet on the debates surrounding the proposal from the Contest Committee. Maybe we should dust off the debate so that we can come to a consensus at the fall meeting.

Please let me know if there is something that should be included either in the newsletter or if there is a special subject

program you would like to see in the upcoming year.

See you at the picnic.

### ***Summer Meeting and Picnic***

The August EIDX meeting will be a picnic at the QTH of KØGT North of Hiawatha on August 17 at 4:00 p.m. Bring a covered dish, table service, and a chair. Brats and beverage will be provided (lemonade--iced tea).

Gary has provided the following: Leave I-380 North at the Boyson Road exit and go right to Centerpoint Road. If coming south on 380 go left on Boyson Road to Centerpoint Road. Take Centerpoint Road north to Tower Terrace Road (Tower Terrace Mobile Home Park on the corner). Go west about 1 mile to Tower Dr. South on Tower Dr to last house on the right side. NOTE on the map Tower Terrace Road is marked as Chain Lakes Rd. Microsoft isn't up to date. See you there.

You can e-mail questions to:  
gary2730@earthlink.com.

73  
Gary KØGT.

### ***WØDXCC Dinner***

From Nick Critelli – KØPCG

#### **Good News....there WILL be a WØDXCC Convention.**

The First WØDXCC Convention will be held in Omaha NE on **Saturday, September 28, 2002**, assuming, of course, that **you all** are willing to help.

I need the cooperation from each of the DX Clubs: The KCDX Association, the Heartland DXA, the Twin Cities DXC, the EIDX, the Mississippi Valley DXA, the Mile High DXA and the MMM . Please advise ASAP that you support the Convention so that I can include your club name as a sponsor. (It won't cost you anything, I'm personally taking the risk.) However, if you are not willing to lend your name as a sponsor and help get your members to attend let me know. I must have your club's pledge that you are behind this project.

Time is of the essence. I would like to sign the Contract with the Holiday Inn Convention Center on Monday. I am a little concerned because I have only heard from 3 DX Clubs...and we really need all of the clubs to get behind this project. Please let me know your positions ASAP.

I have contacted Chuck at Tenedyne and he has agreed to put on a forum on log periodics, yagi and monobanders and will donate a log periodic as a grand prize. Vendors are also interested. Burghardt Amateur Radio will come and sponsor a "transceiver shoot out" pitting all of the new HF rigs against each other for you to decide which is best for you, etc. TI9M will come and tell us about the recent trip to Cocos Is. and will have the TI9M cards with him. (We have respectfully turned down an offer of fake Scarborough and P5 cards and have referred them instead to the W9DXCC convention to be held the prior week. <G> [that ought to rile the W9 boys] )

**The Mr. DX Award... chosen by the Presidents of each of the sponsoring zero land DX associations.**

At the convention banquet, you will be giving the Mr. DX Award to the Amateur who best exemplifies the art of DX. I will send nomination forms for Mr. or Ms Dx to

each of your club members (provided you get me a list with their name and address) as well as to every W0 who upgraded their DXCC status last year. This should be a pool of approximately 500. Any one in zero land can make a nomination. The nomination form is attached to this e-mail as an Adobe .pdf file. If you can't open a .pdf file, log on to [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and download and install adobe reader.

As soon as possible after the September 12, 2002 nomination deadline, I will mail a copy of all of the nomination papers to each club president. After you have had time to study them and make your individual picks, I will arrange for a teleconference call with all of the presidents and you can choose the lucky winner.

**The Venue Committee: Next years convention venue to be chosen by the Vice-Presidents of the sponsoring zero land DX clubs.**

At the convention, the vice presidents of the sponsoring zero land Dx clubs will meet and chose the venue for the next years Convention. Consequently it is imperative that you and your vice-presidents be in attendance.

So:

1. Please e-mail me **asap** if you and your club are behind the Convention.
2. Please e-mail me the name and address (and hopefully e-mail addresses) of each of your club members so that I can contact them directly.
3. Please give me your best estimate of the number of members from your club that you believe will attend the convention in Omaha. This is important because we

have to have some idea as to the number of people who will attend.

4. If you run a list serve as part of your club, please post an e-mail about the WØ DXCC Convention in Omaha, NE and ask everyone to e-mail me at k0pcg@CritelliLaw.com and let me know if they think it is a good idea and their ideas for speakers/forums etc. and whether they will be willing to come to the convention.

5. Lastly, many thanks to the KCDXC Lee and the Heartland DXA, Todd for their input and work. Todd is working on a web page that will be up shortly.

Thanks and 73

Nick Critelli KØPCG  
Des Moines, IA

## ***A New Concept in Maps***

The following was provided by Tom, WB8ZRL from the Tower Talk Reflector.

Posted by: Tim Makins, EI8IC

People might be interested to see a new type of Ham Map, now available for free on my website. It will be of use to all amateurs, whether HF or VHF based.

The problem with ordinary web-based maps is that there is either too little or too much information on the screen. I have just completed a map of Europe, the first in a series of Overlay Maps, where YOU get to choose the amount of information you have on display.

The following overlays are available:  
Country Outlines, CQ Zones, ITU Zones, Time Zones, Grid Locators, Country Names, Capital Cities, Prefixes, Flags.

You can chose which overlays are on display, the order they are displayed, and which one is on the top. The map can be saved in the normal manner (File>Save As) for viewing off-line, and it can be printed out with what ever overlays are active.

As the page is graphics-intensive (220kB) it takes approximately 30seconds to load with a 56kB modem, or 1 minute with a 28.2Kb modem. A pre-loader page is provided as an entry point. The address is:

<http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/grids/euro/preload.html>

Or it can be accessed through the normal menu on my website.

**IMPORTANT: THE MAP REQUIRES JAVASCRIPT TO BE ENABLED ON YOUR BROWSER. IF YOU HAVE JAVASCRIPT TURNED OFF, IT WON'T WORK.**

I welcome any comments or suggestions for other maps.

73s Tim EI8Ic ([www.qsl.net/ei8ic/](http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/))

[HF and Budget Contesting Information Site.]

More maps in this series will be added as time and resources allow. It takes me about a week to make the map and its overlays. If you would like to sponsor a map in this series, order a similar map of a particular area, or need any other graphics processing or web-design (\$80/page), please contact me.

## ***Meeting Notice***

The next meeting of the Eastern Iowa DX Association will be on Saturday, August 17, 2002 at 4:00pm at the home of Gary, KØGT. Gary is hosting the annual summer picnic this year at his QTH. See the details included in this issue. Monitor 145.19 for directions if needed. See you there.



Rick Heinrich NØYY  
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Marion, IA 52302