

The Eastern Iowa DXer

The Official Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX Association



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



October 2006

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Club Officers

President:	Gary Toomsen, KØGT	Packet Cluster	WB8ZRL
Vice President:	Tom Hauer, KØYA	147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM	
Secretary Treasurer:	George Carsner, WØPPF		
Repeater Committee:	Al Groff, KØVM Joe Finkstein, WØMJN	Repeater:	NØDX/R
Membership Committee:	Jim Spencer, WØSR Tom Vavra, WB8ZRL	144.59 / 145.19	

From the President

Gary, KØGT
President, EIDXA

It is with deep regret that I have to report the passing of one of our club's leaders. Wade, WØEJ, became a Silent Key suddenly on August 31, 2006. His contributions to the club, local antenna leadership, BPL, and amateur radio in general will be sorely missed. 73's Wade – SK.

Exciting times this summer. Two new entities were approved and operations from both have taken place. Hope everyone had a chance to put them in the log. Also with the rules change that enabled Swains Is. to count, there is rumor of additional new ones to come. Just guessing, but if Iraq can't unify their warring factions, there could eventually be a split-up that would create possible new ones. DX is certainly dynamic.

Looks like we are really approaching a sunspot minimum. There are many guesses about the shape of the new one coming. I like the predictions for rapid

development with a high maximum. None of us knows how many more cycles we will see, so we should plan on making the most of this next one. For the many of us recent retirees, we will get to experience the full benefits of the daytime bands. At the same time now is the time to make use of the nighttime low frequency propagation. This hobby could have you working around the clock. The past couple of weeks have been up and down. We can go from 6 meter openings to dead bands in a matter of a few days time.

I would like to thank Heinz, NRØX, for hosting the EIDXA summer picnic and Terry, WØAWL, and Shanna for grilling the brats. It was a warm day, but there was a nice breeze. Good to see all who attended. It is a busy time of year, so we missed seeing some of you. Sorry you missed it. We don't meet often, so we all try to catch up with the latest news when we do get together.

The election of officers for 2007 will take place at the October 13th meeting. Be thinking about an office you would like to hold or another member that would be a good fit for one of the positions. We

usually have a good time with the elections, but they are important to the future of the club. Do attend. Dues will be due in October for 2007. Be prepared for this financial burden! See you at the Fall meeting of the EIDX

We are also scheduled for a presentation from Rod, KØDAS and Tom, NYØV on their Pacific exploits. It should be an enjoyable evening.

73's
Gary, KØGT

Guest Editor's Corner

By Rick NØYY

(Tom continues to be heavily involved in business and personal pursuits and has asked that I pull out the old computer and see if I can give him a hand...)

I had accepted Tom's request for help before recent events. Now I find writing this part of the newsletter even more difficult. The passing of Wade, WØEJ, leaves a huge hole in our organization, the community, and ham radio as a whole. Wade was so involved in so many aspects of the hobby and contributed so much that his passing will have an impact on all of us.

But I guess what I'd like to recall about Wade is a call to arms for our club. He was a leader. We need leadership in our club. Wade was busy with his career, family, and other interests but always found the time for leading the charge when he saw it necessary – a lesson for all of us. Sure, he didn't do it alone. There are many others in the club that contributed, led, cajoled, etc. to make changes in our environment, but Wade made the time to tie many of the pieces together.

With elections coming at our next meeting, we need to reflect on Wade's leadership. We will be seeking a slate of

officers that will help keep the club alive and enjoyable. Gary has done a wonderful job in the role of President, making sure that the meetings were held with the right level of oversight. He made sure that we had some entertaining presentations.

Tom has provided the skill to keep us informed via e-mail and the periodic newsletter. He has tried to provide us with his contribution.

And certainly let's not forget George, who has gone above and beyond to keep the minutes and club books and provide handouts at every meeting to document membership and expenses. And not to go unnoticed, it is his tireless, relentless pursuit of those of us tardy in our dues to make sure the coffers are appropriately stuffed!

So who of us will step up this time? This club was formed from a family of those with similar interests. Sure it is fun to get together to exchange war stories and remember the past, but what about the future? Is there anything we can do to expand our membership? What about getting some youth into the hobby? I know it is bit contentious but what about using contesting as a stimulant for some new energy in the club? Internal competition? Should we align with a contest club to help stimulate more participation in the various contests?

These are all questions for YOU THE MEMBERSHIP! What do you want out of the club? Are you ready to step up and demonstrate the leadership necessary to take us to a new level?

Send an e-mail to Gary, KØGT and let him know if you are interested in one of the leadership positions. Make your voice heard. We'll all be better for it!

73's
Rick, NØYY

(The passing of Wade, W0EJ was sudden during routine surgery. I have included this except from the ARRL to provide some information related to his passing and background for those that are interested.)

ARRL Midwest Division Director Wade Walstrom, W0EJ, SK



**ARRL Midwest Division
Director Wade Walstrom,
W0EJ, who died August
31**

NEWINGTON,
CT, Sep 1, 2006

-- ARRL
Midwest
Division Director
Robert W.
"Wade"

Walstrom,
W0EJ, of Cedar
Rapids, Iowa,
died August 31
during surgery.
He was 59. An
ARRL Life and
Diamond Club
member,
Walstrom was
elected in 1999
to succeed

retiring Midwest Division Director Lew Gordon, K4VX. He won a third term (2006-2008) as Midwest Division Director last fall. Born in Nebraska and raised in South Dakota, he'd been an Amateur Radio licensee for 46 years and previously held the call signs K0ZTV and WA6TXE.

"Wade's sudden and unexpected passing is deeply shocking to all of us who worked with him during his many years of service to the ARRL," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

A member of the ARRL Executive Committee, Walstrom -- an electrical engineer and recently retired Rockwell-Collins project manager -- was a former three-term Iowa Section Manager before becoming Midwest Division Director. He'd

previously chaired the ARRL Board of Directors' Volunteer Resources and Programs and Services committees, and he'd served on the Membership Services and Election and Ethics committees.

Walstrom was instrumental in the effort to end interference to Amateur Radio from a broadband over power line (BPL) pilot project in Cedar Rapids. He not only worked with local radio amateurs but co-authored a technical report that pointed out BPL's harmful interference in the amateur bands and the inadequacy of "notching" techniques. Copies of the report went to each member of the FCC.

Walstrom also served on the Linn County Planning and Zoning Commission.



**Bruce Frahm, K0BJ,
has succeeded
Walstrom as Midwest
Division Director.**

An active and serious DXer and contester, Walstrom was a member of the Eastern Iowa DX Association, QCWA, AMSAT and the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club.

Walstrom was a

graduate of South Dakota State University. He received his PhD from Iowa State University.

ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, worked with Walstrom on the Volunteer Resources Committee, which, in 2003, revised the rules and regulations governing the ARRL Field Organization.

"He could always find the right words when I got stuck for how to phrase something," Craigie recalled. "It was a pleasure to work with him, and I am very sad that there won't be any more

opportunities for us to benefit from his intelligence and good sense."

ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, said he was shocked and saddened to learn of Walstrom's untimely death. "I had the good fortune to get to know this quite bright man pretty well, sitting next to him at meetings and working with him on committees. He was a very fair and intelligent individual. I think I can speak for all of us on the Board when I say we admired him and the values he stood for."

ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, has succeeded Walstrom as the division's Director. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, will appoint someone to fill the now-vacant Vice Director's seat.

Survivors include Walstrom's wife, Solveig, and their sons Robert and Steve, KC0LGE. Visitation is Monday, September 4, 2-5 PM, at Cedar Memorial Funeral Home in Cedar Rapids. Members of the ARRL Board of Directors will attend the memorial service Tuesday, September 5, 10 AM, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids.

The family invites memorial donations to the ARRL or to St Mark's Lutheran Church.

[Notes from the Editor – I was part of a group of local amateurs that participated in Wade's funeral mass. What an amazing experience! Wade was remembered in a way that paid tribute to him and his life. It was scripted to tell his life as a tribute to the man. The numerous references to ham radio in his eulogy and the presentation will leave a lasting impression on me. It became another chapter in Wade's life, albeit a closing chapter. 73's Wade – and good hunting]

It Ain't Over Till the Fat Lady Sings...

By Rick N0YY

At the April meeting I had the pleasure to present my exploits as FG/N0YY for the ARRL International DX CW Contest. While I enjoyed the contest, I left feeling like I had missed a part of the experience. I fell short of my goal of "winning" or so I thought.

This short note tells its own story – one of effort, skill (at least I'd like to think there was some skill involved) and competition.

After every contest there is a posting of scores on the 3830 reflector to establish bragging rights or to just see how you stacked up against regional competition or your own goals. I had selected the Low Power, Unassisted class because it fit with my desire to not have to drag tons of equipment to the Caribbean and to compare operating skills among those in the same class.

As scores started to pour in, I was encouraged in that my score was still on the top of the pile, but that was short lived. AE6Y operating from P49Y changed classes and with the luck of propagation, skill, and timing wound up with the top score. Well second in the world ain't all that bad – is it?

And then just days before the end of the contest reporting period, Dave, K3LP posted his score from FS5UQ and sure enough my "second in the world" fell to third.

Well now it was time to start a training regime. Stay up longer. More pileup practice. Develop a better band change strategy. And schedule a return visit to push the envelope. Yes, I continued to improve in my Kansas City DX Club hospitality suite Pile Up Contest CW test

– moving up another few notches from last year.

But to me the most important was to wait for the Log Checking Report from ARRL and to see where my mistakes were made. Was it during high rate periods? Low band operations? Noisy periods?

Well the ubiquitous Yogi Berra said it well when he intoned, "...It ain't over till the fat lady sings..." When the ARRL results came out, I was back in second place. I passed Dave by a more accurate log. There is no claim to skill or conditions, or anything else – only the conclusion that after busted calls and multipliers were removed, I would up second in the world.

The before and after look something like this:

3830 Report

Call	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
P49Y	4265	329	4,209,555
FS5UQ	3676	301	3,319,428
FG/NØYY	3570	308	3,298,680

ARRL Results

Call	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
P49Y	4,241	328	4,173,144
FG/NØYY	3,522	306	3,233,196
FS5UQ	3,600	299	3,229,200

It was quite interesting to see that the ARRL Contest report in QST actually added space to identify that the difference in score between Dave and me "...were separated by less than a tenth of a percentage point." Wow – that's close!

When you think in terms of busted calls and the penalties, then the actual number of miscopied/mislogged calls was about 16 calls out of 3500! I declare that a personal success!!!

As a result of the rescoring, and the World Second Place result – I also found that the consolation prize was that I was

the top scoring North American Low Power Single Operator Unassisted – thus being able to put some hardware on the wall!!!! Quite a pleasant surprise.

So spoils to the good clean living and dedication. And the realization that accuracy can beat raw rate in a contest. Needless to say I am quite pleased.

So now... What to do this next contest season?????

W9DXCC Dinner

Anyone attend this year's dinner? How about preparing a short report for the upcoming meeting!

Internet Resources

With the upcoming contest season and DXpeditions to support those contests, the internet can provide insight into where everyone is going and what calls and countries will be on and available.

First, to find out what contest is causing all that noise, check out the website of Bruce, WA7BNM.

<<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>> His main index page points to a 13 month calendar so that you can plan when you want to send the family away so you can operate till you can't sit any longer.

The other popular site is <www.ng3k.com> Bill provides a listing of DXpeditions as announced in various DX bulletins. He has many different services that he offers and his site is quite a resource. I like to see what DXpeditions are planned for contests so that I can make sure that special calls are in the databases so that I am not spinning my wheels when I work someone and find that it is a non-standard call and that the logging program gets lost.

Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the Eastern Iowa DX Association will be on Friday October 13th, 2006 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 for officer elections and annual dues!



Tom Hauer KØYA
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