

The Eastern Iowa DXer

The Official Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX Association



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



January 2007

Page 1

Club Officers

President: Glen Kesselring, KØJGH
Vice President: Dave Schmocker, KJ9I
Secretary Treasurer: George Carsner, WØPPF

Repeater Committee: Al Groff, KØVM
Joe Finkstein, WØMJN

Membership Committee: Jim Spencer, WØSR
Tom Vavra, WB8ZRL

Packet Cluster **WB8ZRL**

147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM

Repeater: **NØDX/R**

144.59 / 145.19

From the President

Glen, KØJGH

Greetings to all our EIDX members. Thanks for your support as your new President. I am writing this column on November 8 and with my present political affiliation I could be impeached by now...I'm not sure. Hi.

Please give some thought to meetings you would like and club activities that we may implement or improve upon. VP Dave and I have been discussing 2007 meeting dates which are included below and will be posted on the web page soon.

A few years ago we had an effort to get several teams set up for some of the DX contests. The idea was that even though you may not be a "big gun" or very good at contesting, when everyone worked a few, the overall score was amazing. I think we gave the Kansas City club a run for their money as I remember. This may have some appeal.

Also, I think we could work up a score sheet for a "Ham of the Year" or "Most

New Band Countries" or "Most New Countries Confirmed" (thinking of any new DXCC holders.) Maybe points for Most DX worked on a new mode. i.e., RTTY or PSK.... (For Terry, that might be on CW. Hi)

Regarding the webpage: I think we were going to try to get pictures of members and their stations for the website. I am guilty for not getting this done but it could really enhance the webpage. I think Dave has some good ideas for using the webpage for more real time info. Any additions help dress it up and make it more inviting.

These are a few ideas. Please drop me an email regarding programs and club activities.

73

Glen KØJGH

DX Focus

by Dave, KJ9I vice-president, EIDXA

Exciting times are all around us. ZL8R is putting on a good show on all bands (as sunrise approaches, they're working many stations on 1.815,5 MHz QSX up 1-2 kHz. They've logged people as far east as W1, most impressive for a Pacific expedition. 5R8RJ is active as is 5Z4DZ all on the low bands. And over the past weekend (the first half of the annual ARRL moonbounce (EME) contest, numerous stations worked 7Z1SJ in Saudi Arabia for a new DXCC on 2 meters! From 160m to 2m and higher, there is DX excitement everywhere.

DX is all around us waiting to be experienced. As a DX club, our passion for DXing instills an inert drive in us to do whatever it takes to help fellow EIDXA members find and work a new one. In addition, support of DXpeditions advances our cause and helps us in our pursuits as does general exchange of pile-up technique and other DXing pointers so we can each be more effective as we are in hot pursuit of the next "new one."

Solar cycle 24

by Dave, KJ9I

What's happening with solar cycle 24? During the October 2006 EIDXA meeting, discussion took place around when will the new cycle be upon us. It may be already. So get your 6m (or 10m, 12m, etc.) antennas ready now. For once the openings hit, you will want to be ready. Who knows what will drop out of nowhere on 6m: Last cycle's surprises into the upper midwest on 6m included ZB2, VP8 (Falkland Islands), JY, SV1, KH2, KH0, and many other treats for those who could get to a radio at that magic time. Ah yes we surely remember those we missed, particularly if our buddies worked

them.. But to work a new one on 6m is such a special treat filled with "where did that come from?" absolute, unadulterated DX excitement.

Are your antennas in prime operating condition? What will it take to have things ready for that next new one?

Real-time DX news

by Dave KJ9I

The recent officer election brought Glen and me to EIDXA leadership roles. Thank you for your vote of confidence. As officers, one of our prime areas of responsibility is to assess how we do things toward optimizing our methods and processes toward meeting our goals.

Toward real-time DX news, what is the best vehicle? Newsletter, website, e-mail reflector? Or is there a better way? Tools already at our disposal enable almost real-time access to DX information: DX PacketCluster (*thanks WB8ZRL*), our EIDXA e-mail reflector as well as the EIDXA *website (thanks KA0Y!)*.

So what brings fastest DX news, updates, focus to our group? The website is well-suited to bringing general "who is EIDXA?" information as well as reminding everyone when/where is our next EIDXA meeting. I would like to ask Ken KA0Y if he would post our 2007 meeting schedule (included at end of this newsletter) front and center on our website. That way anyone can view this information "self-serve" any time it is convenient for them. A friendly suggestion: set your web browser to include EIDXA website as a "favorite" now so you'll keep current on our news.

And then there's real-time DX news. There are multiple sources of DX news ranging from DX publications such as Bernie W3UR's Daily DX to the ARRL DX bulletin. If you hear a rumor about a

DXpedition, you would use your favorite internet search engine (mine is <http://www.dogpile.com>) to search for text that may find the appropriate website for more information.

How about our e-mail reflector? To share real-time info with your EIDXA peers, what if we bring current DX tidbits to the EIDXA e-mail reflector. This serves all in a much more timely manner than waiting for a newsletter. It has been my experience that the EIDXA reflector best serves as our "immediate" short-fuse DX info vehicle to get the word out now. If we use the tools available at our disposal, we'll see how efficiently we can help each other work DX. To post a message to the EIDXA reflector for immediate distribution to all who are subscribed to the list, send the message to EIDXA@mailman.qth.net with an appropriate DX related subject line. Poof: real-time DX information at all of our finger-tips within seconds of it being sent.

How do I get my e-mail address added to or removed from the EIDXA reflector?

Contact our club secretary with specifics (your e-mail address) and the request (add or remove) to/from list.

73 and I'll see you on the website for EIDXA meeting schedule as well as on the EIDXA e-mail reflector for real-time DX information.

How do I access the EIDXA website?

Open your internet connection and your web browser (Mozilla Firefox or Microsoft Explorer, etc.) and input <http://www.eidxa.org/> as the URL. Hit enter to send your browser to this site. Presto: you're there! Now navigate to the links on the web to explore that which you're interested in seeing real-time, whenever your schedule permits on-demand.

Well then, what content is left for a newsletter? Great question..hmmm any answers out there?

Suppose we consider a cost/benefit analysis of EIDXA newsletter: Cost? Time to prepare and write it and then time to read it by each reader. Benefit? The same information which could have been delivered faster and more efficiently via other vehicles but is now old news because the newsletter comes out less frequently. Solution? Send it more frequently? I like this thinking.. let's use EIDXA e-mail reflector to provide instant updates to all instead of a newsletter as a highly effective way to distribute near real-time information.

Newsletter: high cost (time to create and read the significant volume)/ late benefit
EIDXA website: low cost, self-serve convenience, real-time availability.
EIDXA reflector: low cost, real-time, fast information as it unfolds.

I'll see you on the EIDXA website and e-mail reflectors. As our club charter requires a newsletter, does this requirement accurately represent the wishes of our membership? Should a club charter contain requirements for newsletters, or should it contain overall goals and mission (core purposes) of the organization [for example: to support DXing and DX-related activities, broad participation in DXpeditions, DX contests, etc.] and guidelines to ensure those goals can be attained [funding DXpeditions, DX information exchange, participating in station improvement efforts/plans]? Does it make sense to tailor our club charter to align best with our needs in accordance with the wishes of the membership? Great discussion topic for the next EIDXA meeting. I hereby propose we modify the club charter to include mention of communicating the meeting schedule, but to exclude which communication vehicle is used for that purpose freeing us to use current technology as it becomes available and as makes sense to the best interests of the EIDXA members. If we continue to require a newsletter, we'll

want to be prepared to justify why it's needed.

Next let's consider who would write it. Glen and I can best serve the EIDX by performing EIDX leadership functions as well as organizational planning and activity alignment with our club mission. If a newsletter is required/desired, then traditionally and logically the club secretary would perform that function (with input by the president/VP team) and the treasurer would stick to financial matters for the organization as the president and VP guide the EIDX through the course specified in our charter. These roles have proven highly effective in many organizations DX-related and otherwise over time.

For the duration of our term of office we'll be aligning the roles and responsibilities of the EIDX officers as above toward high efficiency, especially since we only meet quarterly.

For the January meeting, please be prepared to discuss your thoughts on the requirement for a newsletter. Another DX Club I formerly led had a newsletter too.

Then a problem developed: everyone thought they wanted to read a newsletter but no one wanted to write it. When that club experimented with temporarily discontinuing the newsletter, they found that no-one missed it because the newer communication vehicles were faster, and more efficient/effective. Broad participation in DX activities and information exchange became possible because the restrictions imposed by a monthly newsletter format had been removed. Their newsletter had been consuming quite a bit of time and adding no value to the modern communication vehicles we now have available. What about EIDX?

I look forward to hearing about all the exciting DX you worked! I look forward to hearing everyone's current "DX

reports" at the January meeting as well as discussion about what DXpeditions are 'coming soon to a theater near us.'

Does anyone have any new antenna projects in progress or amplifier plans/shack upgrades that might be of interest to the EIDX? What ways has anyone found to squeeze +1 or 2 more dB out of their station?

73,
Dave KJ9I

2007 EIDXA meeting schedule

Look for this information on the club web-page from now on. It will be kept updated on the website to ensure everyone has timely access to the info even between newsletters.

19 Jan Kirkwood Linn bldg: Room 219C
7:00-7:15 early arrivals,
7:15PM-7:45PM EIDXA business meeting
7:50PM-9:00PM program by AB0QS "Lightning and Grounding"

20 Apr 7:30PM Kirkwood Room 219C
program 2m EME, WSJT, and SU/KJ9I

20Jul 7:30PM Kirkwood Room 219C
program W0GJ on VU4 DXpedition.

19 Oct 7:30PM Kirkwood Room 219C
election of officers, and 3Y0X video



David Schmocker, KJ9I
2946 Stone Road
Springville, IA 52336-9791