

The Eastern Iowa DXer

The Official Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX Association



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



January 2008

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Club Officers

President: Glen Kesselring K0JGH
Vice President: Steve Miller N0SM
Secretary Treasurer: George Carsner W0PPF

Packet Cluster **WB8ZRL**

147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM

Repeater Committee: Al Groff K0VM
Joe Finkstein W0MJN

Repeater: **N0DX/R**

144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8)

Membership Committee: Jim Spencer W0SR
Tom Vavra WB8ZRL
Nelson Moyer KU0A

Greetings & Very Happy New Year to All!

The January 2008 EIDXА meeting will be held **Friday, January 11th**, at 7:30 p.m. at Kirkwood Community College in Room 219C. The program will be a video of the 3Y0X Expedition. If you've never seen this video, it will give you a much greater sense of the obstacles and dangers involved, not to mention all of the organizational difficulties. That said, they put on a tremendous expedition and didn't miss many who wanted it! Even if you've seen it before, there is so much that you'll find something you missed the last time.

From the President's Pen - Glen Kesselring K0JGH



To all EIDXАers, a hearty welcome to 2008. Here is hoping for some nice sunspots. It seems there has been at least a little improvement with SFI coming up to the mid 70's. This last year was a big one with the BS7H operation. If it wasn't the last one needed ... it was surely a big one for most DXers.

Some more of the good ones from my log were: 1A4A, XT2C, J20RR, YW0DX, D60VB, N8S, FW0YL, 3B7C, 9U0A, 3C7Y, 5L2MS, C52C, FJ5KH for a new country of St. Barthelemy. I'm sure there were others that highlighted your log, too. Keep an eye out for Kosova as a possibility as they are voting on their independence some time from February to April. It appears most of Europe favors their independence from Serbia ... everyone except Serbia and Russia. Also, some combination of Aruba, Curacao, and Bonaire could bring new country changes. Last year on our trip to PJ4 there was talk of Bonaire pulling away from the Netherlands. If all our hopes for peace in the world were to come true there

From The President's Pen - Continued

may be even more rare ones warm the skies with RF. The subject of programs comes to mind. We have a couple of nice videos of DXpeditions. I know there has been interest in a program regarding LoTW. I think help on uploading logs and claiming credits was discussed.

Nelson, your guide was very helpful. Maybe you could work up something. I would like all of us to be thinking of what or where we need to be going in 2008 as a club. We certainly welcome the new members from this past year. We need to be listening to what activities and interests that our members desire so help the club by QRO your ideas.

I'm looking forward to a great year. May we can get the antennas up, the rigs the way we want them and many new contacts. Work to build our hobby through service when we can step up to provide it and good Elmer habits to those in our ranks. See you at the meeting.

Ice Storm 2007

I hope your antennas have survived the snow and ice storms. In checking with several members, it seems that damage was minimal considering the ice storm. If there were lucky breaks, they were: (1) the fact that the winds stayed calm... at least around this part of the state; and (2). that we had a couple of days of melting! That said - I lost the front half of my long boomed 2-meter antenna (M2 2M5WL), which is still hanging by the support rope. During the worst of the ice, the elements on my Skyhawk were true half moons. I feel so very fortunate not to have lost any of them. The ice did cost me several hours of down time in the 160-meter contest.

From Rich W3ACO: "I lost my 2 meter Yagi and also lost my 80 M wire vertical. I pulled up my 80 M vertical this afternoon. Other than the other end being too low in the far tree, it is back in working order. 2m Yagi is now perched in a small tree about 10 feet above ground instead of above my roof. After bending the elements back into position, it works OK !!"



The ice wasn't so kind over in Illinois - Dave W0FLS wrote: "Dec. 1st Ice storm - K9DX lost his big 9 element circle 160m array last night. All 9 elements went down. They were custom built Titanex verticals. Lots of \$\$\$."

From the VP - Steve Miller N0SM

This newsletter is a new experience for me and I certainly admit to having very limited material for this issue. I would like to know what you are doing, whether building a project, constructing or installing a new antenna, successes and failures you've had with various antennas, things you like and don't like about your radio, DX successes you've had, contests you have entered.... in short, I would like to make this more member oriented so we become better acquainted with each other, with each other's interests, stations, and antenna systems, particular operating likes and dislikes, feelings about various subjects, and DX you would like to work. Please keep me informed about yourself and your activities. It can be an e-mail (n0sm@arrl.net), a written note (my address is good on QRZ,

From the VP - Continued

Etc.), or give me a call (641-684-4753). Or if you know of a success of another member, please let me know so I can include it. It can also be a help line.

We all have varying interests within the DX and contest communities. Some want to work everything on every band and every mode while others are happy to work the new country for their own personal satisfaction. Some want the biggest and best antenna systems and radio; others are minimalists...low power, homebrew rig and antenna working for the greatest distance. Your experiences are what I'm seeking for the newsletter. Whether you like power and big antennas or QRP, please share your experiences. One is no better than another...though it certainly may be more unique. We'd all like to get to know you better and you're all important to the mix in our club. Thanks for your input!! Incidentally...that also includes contest scores. Did you improve over last year or run into Murphy?

Contesting

Over the years we have had a number of members who really enjoy contesting. Our club used to compete against itself and occasionally against neighboring clubs (though they were never aware of it - except in the scoring column). With a club our size, it should be easy to get our club's name back in the club columns of the DX contests. Yes, we need everyone to operate. No, you don't have to be in it for 48 hours. It isn't difficult to make enough contacts to earn 50,000 points (QSOs x Multipliers = Score). One can do that with a very modest setup! If 10 people do it, that's 500,000 points but if 40 members participate, it's 2,000,000 points. Obviously, some won't make 50,000 points while others will bring in much larger scores.

I don't know if we could talk Steve White NUØP (or another talented club member) into making one of those fabulous trophies he used to fashion but we could have a nice trophy for the op with the top score. The ARRL International DX Contests are: CW - February 16Z & 17Z; Phone - March 1Z-2Z, 2008. Let's discuss it at the meeting. I'll certainly provide a certificate for everyone who scores 50,000 points or more. If we can get a top score trophy, that would make it all the better.

The ARRL's "Contest Rate Sheet"

I don't know how many of you are among the 16,000 who subscribe to Ward Silver's (NØ AX) *Contest Rate Sheet*, which is published by the ARRL in bulletin form but if you don't, I would like to highly recommend it to you. You're all ARRL members so it, like the ARRL Bulletin, is free. The *Contest Rate Sheet* is a gold mine of fascinating information (not just about contesting). Ward is a PhD in electrical engineering as well as being an excellent wordsmith, DXpeditioner, contester, builder, and humorist.

His publication is a lightning rod for useful and helpful operating tips. In the December 26th issue, he also encourages gentlemanly behavior in the contests that also applies to chasing DX. "Don't forget that contesting is a cacophony of cooperation. In the heat of battle, we still must share the same bands in a modicum of rapprochement. Be charitable to the other guy or gal

ARRL "Contest Rate Sheet" - Continued

and liberal with the benefit of the doubt. Bite your tongue (or hold those fingers) when emotions threaten to get the best of you. We really can all get along if we try." Ward Silver. (Reprinted with permission from the ARRL).

Re-Elmering Inactive Hams

One last item - Have you noticed that a number of our ham friends are no longer active? Most just need a bit of encouragement from us to boost their interest. Here's another reprint from the Contest Rate Sheet that addresses the matter: "Re-Elmering The Missing Calls As we take some time off from work or studies or just our regular routine, it is a good time to ask ourselves, "Where are the missing calls?" Those once-familiar calls that just don't seem to be in our logs these days or answering our kerchunks on the repeater. Some may have moved away, some calls may have new owners, some may just be operating elsewhere, and, of course, some operators may have slipped through the F-layer and lost. But not all of them. "

We all know some of these friends, let's get them revvvvvved up and going again. If you need a little help, give them the website that Dave, KJ9I, sent out recently:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/21dec_cycle24.htm?list92065

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***See you Friday January 11th
7:30 PM in Room 219C Kirkwood Comm. College
Pizza afterward!***

2008 EIDXA Meeting Schedule

Look for this information on the club web-page www.eidxa.org. Meeting information on the web site is up to date to ensure everyone has timely access to the information between newsletters.

Next Meeting

January 11 – 7:30 p.m., Kirkwood Community College, Room 219C. Program: Video of the 3YØX Expedition.