



# Eastern Iowa DXer

Official Newsletter of the  
Eastern Iowa DX Association

An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



**NØDX**

**April 2011**

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## Club Officers

President:	Steve Miller	NØSM
Vice President:	Jerry Rappel	WWØE
Secretary Treasurer:	Richard Haendel	W3ACO
Repeater Committee:	Al Groff	KØVM
	Joe Finkstein	WØMJN
Membership Committee:	Jim Spencer	WØSR
	Tom Vavra	WB8ZRL
	Nelson Moyer	KUØA

**Packet Cluster** **WB8ZRL**  
147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM

**Repeater:** **NØDX/R**  
144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8)

**EIDXA Meeting – Friday, APRIL 15, 2011, 7:30 p.m.**

**Room 219C of Linn Hall on the campus of Kirkwood Comm. College.**

***"Finding That Rare One & Cracking the Pile-up"***

**Presented by panel members Tom Hise NCØO, Rich Haendel W3ACO, Glen Kesselring KØJGH, Joe Hungate K8OM and Jim Livengood WØNB**

## President's Propagation, Pronouncements & Pontifications

- EIDXA President - Steve Miller NØSM

Greetings EIDXAers,

The year started off with great DX and it continues with lots of fine DX. Of particular current interest is the VU4 operation and then coming in May is a 10 day DXpedition to Afghanistan with several others on the horizon. To help that, we've had good to occasionally excellent band conditions with bursts of sunspots causing the solar flux index to hit a high of



155. While it has since dropped to below 100, another jump to 105 is currently happening (3/24). The A index is a little high but not bad. It's been a while since we could really work 12 and 10 meters and what a pleasure it's been to not only have those bands open but to be able to work some really good DX!!

As you have seen, the Marathon scores that have been reported so far are outstanding and there are



more people in the running now. (Joe, I'll try to get my info to you soon). The beauty of the Marathon is that it provides an incentive to get on the air and operate. It's so easy to know, "Well, I'm on the Honor Roll" or "I've worked 300 countries so there's not much left to do" or to acquire similar attitudes. The bad part is that we get so focused on the "new one" that we forget how much fun we've had working the DX. This is an opportunity to challenge ourselves or if you're Mr/Mrs/Miss Competition, to challenge the best in the club. What fun! Best of all, it's in a very non-threatening fun-filled environment where members pull for members. When it's over, we share in the celebration of not only the winner but in the fact that we've put forth a good effort and have had a great time. The club certainly owes immediate past president Joe Hetrick, KCØVKN, a big round of thanks for all of his time and efforts in creating the software and keeping track of the Marathon scores. I might also add that Joe has been extremely helpful to me, the neophyte president!!

I would like to thank everyone who participated in either the ARRL CW DX Contest or the ARRL SSB DX Contest!! I'm not sure we hit the 3 million mark combined but we made a good start at club contesting. A note recently came saying "I'm not a contester but would like to get better acquainted with the software so I could better participate." As you saw in Rick's superb program at the January meeting, you don't have to be a contester to participate in the contest. Several people made 125 to 150 contacts then there's Tom Hise NCØØ who submitted excellent scores in both contests. Whether you're the super contester like Tom or the casual 100+ contact operator, everyone's score ups the pride we get when the scores come out. Again, thanks to all who operated either one or both contests. I'll try to list the scores I've received.

Tom Vincent NYØV was approached about our club hosting the Zeroland DXCC (WØDXCC) Convention in a year or two. This year's convention will be hosted by the Kansas City DX Club. Apparently, a club in Colorado was also being approached. It is a one day event concluded with an evening banquet. The general organization of such an event isn't difficult but being thorough and able to cover the 10,000 little details takes good organization. We'll discuss it at the April meeting so please be prepared to give your thoughts. So far, I've heard "Yes, that would be great" and I've heard, "it sure would be good to go to Colorado...even my wife would go" so I'll be interested in your feelings.

The day before the CVARC Hamfest will be the 2011 Midwest Division Convention and it will be held in Cedar Rapids. Steve Sawyers is on the committee and has approached the club about taking a two hour slot in the afternoon to cover the topic of DX. Joe Hetrick, Jim Spencer and Tom Vavra have been contacted. We'll get a report from them at the club meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all for your efforts on behalf of EIDXA.

I'm looking forward to seeing you April 15th. 73 Steve NØSM.

### Now That's DX!

- EIDXA Vice President Jerry Rappel WWØE

OK gang, this is my first full newsletter – I am feeling a lot more like myself after my knee replacement last December 2010. The weather is shaping up, sunspots on the rise, Dayton Hamfest is a month away, what more could we want ? More DX !!



If you haven't submitted a log to the EIDXA Marathon, why not? Details are on the EIDXA web page. This issue we have a good article on PSK submitted by Richard Haendel, W3ACO. And Joe Hetrick KCØVKN tells about his mini DXpedition to Sint Maarten. Also an interesting story on Mount Athos – he has been spotted on RTTY in

late February/March of this year. And a Japanese Earthquake radio production update is included in this issue of the *Eastern Iowa DXer*.

**Japan Post Earthquake/Tsunami Production Update**  
*(Courtesy CQ Magazine NewsRoom)*

***Kenwood: Production Unaffected by Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami***

The president of Kenwood USA says the company's staff in Japan is safe and facilities there are undamaged. In addition, says Junji Kobayashi in a statement posted on the company's website ([www.kenwoodusa.com](http://www.kenwoodusa.com)), there has been no impact on Kenwood's equipment production since its main factories are located in Malaysia.

Kobayashi said Kenwood's corporate offices are south and west of the quake zone, but "power outages and interruption of mass transit have kept most of Kenwood's staff at home since the earthquake." However, he says, "we expect the infrastructure to improve in the coming week and our operations to fully resume accordingly."

"We appreciate the concern for our employees expressed by all those who have contacted us," Kobayashi added. He promised additional updates as conditions warrant.

***ICOM: Staff & Factories OK - Other Issues May Slow Production***

ICOM America says the company's facilities in Japan suffered only minor damage from the March 11 earthquake, but that there may be interruptions in its supply chain from vendors in the quake/tsunami zone and that other issues, such as rolling power blackouts, may slow production.

Ray Novak, N9JA, ICOM America's Division Manager for Amateur and Receiver Products, released a statement reporting that no one on the company staff is known to have been injured as a result of the earthquakes or tsunami. "There are no damages reported at Icom's headquarters in Osaka or at either of our two main factories in Wakayama.

***Yaesu Update - Some Production Continues in China***

Some production of Yaesu amateur radio equipment continues, according to Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, Executive Vice President of Yaesu

Amateur Radio Sales Yesterday, company president Jun Hasegawa announced that production at Vertex-Standard's factory in Fukushima, Japan, has been suspended due to earthquake damage. However, Dennis informs us that Yaesu also has a plant in China that is in full production.

### New DXCC Entities

The dissolution of the Netherland Antilles has caused changes to the DXCC List. As per the DXCC rules, the two Netherland Antilles DXCC entities will be deleted and moved to the Deleted Entities List. Four new entities will be added to the DXCC List: (1) *Curaçao*; (2) *Sint Maarten*; (3) *Saba and St Eustatius*, and (4) *Bonaire*. The event date and time for these changes occurred 0400 UTC, October, 10 2010. In addition, the IARU has received a petition from a group of US amateurs to create an additional (i.e. 5<sup>th</sup>) new entity within the same island chain. The proposed entity, located on the island of St. Barts, would encompass the 5000 acre estate of pop star Jimmy Buffett. The petition proposed that the new entity be named *Margaritaville*, for undisclosed reasons.

“Now that's DX” until the next issue. 73, Jerry Rappel WWØE

### PJ7/KCØVKN – Fun in the Sun !

- Joe Hetrick KCØVKN

Anyone in the club that knows me knows that I've been trying to go *somewhere* for a few years. Family constraints being what they are meant that whatever I did had to be family friendly, and that got a bit more difficult with the addition of a second harmonic in Dec 09! The places you can take a baby are a bit different than places you can take an older kid!



Isabella, building a castle

I started off by pondering someplace like KP4. I thought it'd be easy. I asked a few folks (NP4Z, KØJGH, NYØV) and Tom came right back with “Why not the PJ's?” That set the ball in motion.



First, I hit up Google to see if there would be any places to stay that were likely to hook my XYL, then, I scanned my logs to see who I had worked there recently so I could get a feel for licensing, etc. Not having ever gone anywhere out of country with a rig before was a bit daunting (I worry too much).

**B is about where our room was**

Tom again pointed out that K9CT, who spoke about K4M to EIDXA last fall, was part of PJ7E so I fired off an email to him, as well as Mario, PJ7MF. Both were immediate in their replies. Craig was especially helpful in allaying my early fears that there would be a licensing hurdle. Both he and NØYY did stress that the CEPT status was “fuzzy” but I had also contacted PJ7/K4UWH and a couple of other PJ7/ ops that had operated after 10/10 assuming CEPT and they were told their operations would be accepted by the DXCC Desk; I had worked Charlie K4UWH right after we made the decision to go to PJ7 (though explaining to my wife why we had to stay on the Dutch side over the French side was a bit of a struggle!—“But honey, it’s a different DXCC country and its new!”).

Once the decision to go was made; the huge task of figuring out what I needed and what was practical was next. In this I tapped about everyone I knew who had gone anywhere for tips on what was reasonable. Nobody turned me down, and everyone was enthusiastic.

The place we chose to stay at was called “Divi Little Bay” and it is situated on the South part of the island on a peninsula. On one side is Big Bay and the other Little Bay, with Phillipsburg and the large cruise ship terminal across the bay. After looking at lots of options and emailing several of the places (none of which had any problems with me putting up antennas, so long as I caused no issues for other guests), we chose Divi more because it had a beach

**Fishing pole case & carry-on w/ rig, key, power supply**



on-site, so, no need for driving, and, close access for the girls. We thought that the girls would tire easily if we had to trudge out to a beach and back again, this way we'd be close to our room, but, could go explore the island when we wanted. I reasoned, from a radio perspective, that the location would give me fair TO's and I'd be close to saltwater. Google Maps views of the resort showed that all of the rooms were pretty close to the bays, and, I figured I'd have less problems getting in the way of other vacationers if we went this route.

The next hurdle was gear: what to take, what not to take. After a bit of thought, I reasoned that my K3 should stay at home. While it is small and light, I had a lot of other family stuff to carry on, and it was just a bit too big considering the other things I'd be carrying. My K2, however, is a bit smaller, and fit perfectly in a soft case I found online and then inside of my backpack, which would also house the logging laptop as well as a Gamma Research HPS-1 power supply.

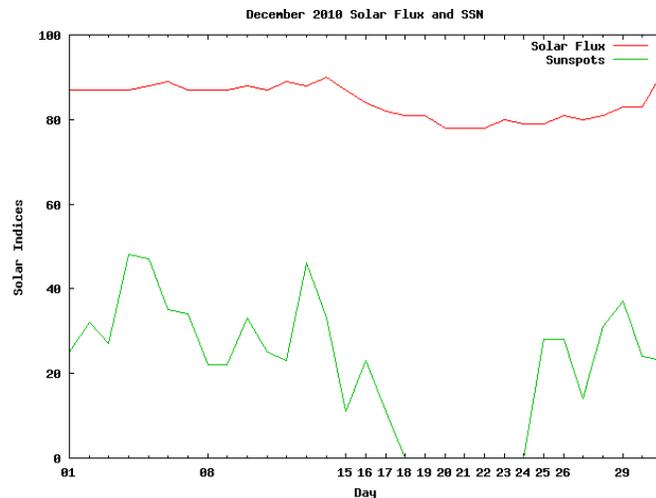
For antennas I decided to go with end-fed halfwaves, but brought about 120' of 22awg Teflon wire to build about anything I needed. I like traveling with Teflon wire because it's slippery and doesn't tangle easily.

To feed the halfwaves I built a homebrew coupler, and, pre-cut wires for each band and tested them on the coupler at home. I was reasonably certain that I could find some band to work while I was down there. This was one of my mistakes: too many antenna choices. It was all light wire, and it turned out to be just right given the support options I had available (I used a 33' and 20' telescoping fiberglass pole to support a 20m halfwave/40m quarterwave, and an 17M halfwave). I fed both independently with 2 pieces of 25' coax.

The situation on the ground was just about what I expected. We had a West facing room on the second floor, about 15' from the water's edge. We arrived at about 4PM local, literally after 2 hours of sleep in the last 24. I scabbled a few things out on the patio and then we all went to sleep.

The next morning I finished the setup, quietly, while everyone else slept. I managed to work a few stations before QRT for breakfast; but I was hooked.

The days settled into a cycle pretty quickly. I'd get up while it was still dark, work for about an hour until everyone was ready for breakfast, and then if there was a reason to be back at the room (Betty taking a nap, maybe) I'd operate for a while mid day. I'd close each night off with some happy hour and then I'd operate for a bit before my eyelids got to heavy and I needed sleep (usually about 9PM local – the kids and wife ran me ragged carrying them and everything else around the island!).



**Not quite the numbers you'd hope for!**

Everyone complains about conditions, but I have a legitimate complaint, as evidenced by the graphic above! My days on PJ7 coincide with that green line, which corresponds to sunspots. I arrived on PJ7 and expected to be able to work into JA to fill some requests, but alas, it was much more difficult than I anticipated with numbers like that.

My grand total was about 890 QSO's, on 40-15. I found a few interesting openings by listening to the beacons. I frequently found it hard to work anything other than NA at certain times of the day, until I discovered that 17M opened in to EU about 2 hours before it opened into NA, at around 10AM local. This gave me a couple of mornings of good runs into Eastern and Central EU. Before I left I had a few postcards and several emails from JA's keen to get PJ7 in the log, and so I setup an Internet sked with Nob, JF2MBF in an attempt to gauge conditions when I was QRV. Each evening a bit after JA sunrise, I'd meet Nob and we'd look for a band that I could hear on. Unfortunately, it wasn't very easy, and in the end I worked only a handful of JA's on 30M on my last night on the island. According to NYØV, the few times he listened I had piles of JA's calling, I just couldn't hear them.

Having family obligations changed my operating, but, 900 Q's is better than none, and I think I had a good balance of family fun and operating. At least the next trip I don't think I'll be discouraged from bringing my radio by anybody in the family!

There were a few things I learned along the way that I thought I'd share:

- 1) Amateurs are the most generous folks you'll ever meet. Not a single person I talked to didn't reply; in fact, I had a few phone calls, unsolicited as well as some emails from folks who only **heard** I was planning a trip.



- 2) NØYY's advice to have an itemized list of all of my gear in each piece of luggage as well as a copy of CEPT and my license in those places really helped. I didn't hit any snags, and I'm not sure they looked at any of it, but, I believe that just making the effort meant that they didn't probably get too worked up about all the wire and toroids and stuff in my luggage.

Betty helping dad put up antennas

- 3) Antennas are religious. Especially traveling antennas. I had the added discomfort of not having any idea what our room would be like, or where it would be on the resort. I felt I had to plan something self supporting. Our own AKØM was very helpful in helping me think of several options for this; and he offered up a lot of his own gear.
- 4) I took too much stuff! Ferrying my radio gear as well as a family's worth of stuff through the airport hurt. I had my own radio bits down to 1 fishing pole case, 1 backpack that was my carryon; but we had a car seat, 2 pieces of luggage as well as 3 backpack carry-ons with kid stuff in it for the flight. I bet I was comical walking through the airport. I think that I could have packed just a little lighter, but I was worried about not having something simple that'd keep me off the air. I now have a good idea what I'd leave behind next time.



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**EIDXA Scores in 2011 ARRL DX Contests – submitted by members**

**NCØØ Contest – CW**

Band	QSOs	Pts	Cty	
3.5	41	123	34	
7	178	534	70	
14	314	942	84	
21	121	363	67	
28	39	117	27	
Total	693	2079	282	Score : 586,278

**KCØVKN – CW**

Band	QSOs	Pts	Cty	
3.5	30	90	22	
7	83	246	47	
14	76	228	55	
21	27	81	24	
28	21	63	20	
Total	237	708	168	Score : 118,944

**KDØQ – CW**

Band	Qs	Mults	
160	17	15	
80	57	35	
40	92	47	
20	165	60	
15	54	35	
10	36	24	
			421 contacts, 216 multipliers, 272808 points

**KWØJ – CW**

Band	Qs	Points	Countries	
40	35	105	21	
20	38	114	26	
15	42	123	29	
10	23	60	11	
Total	138	402	87	Points 34,974

**NCØØ – SSB**

Band	Qs	Pts	Cty	
3.5	13	39	12	
7	61	183	41	
14	222	666	78	
21	325	975	99	
28	118	354	47	
Total	739	2217	277	Score : 614,109

*Combined score for both 2011 contests, CW & SSB: 1,200,387*

**WØPPF – SSB**

Band	Qs	Pt	Cty	
20	59	177	32	
15	57	171	30	
10	15	45	8	
tot	131	393	70	Score 27610

**KØVM – SSB** (about 9 hours worth of effort)

Band	QSOs	Pts	Cty	
14	41	123	23	
21	85	252	38	
28	41	123	19	
Total	167	498	80	Score : 39,840

**EIDXA Meeting – Friday, April 15, 2011, 7:30 p.m.**

**Don't miss the program:**

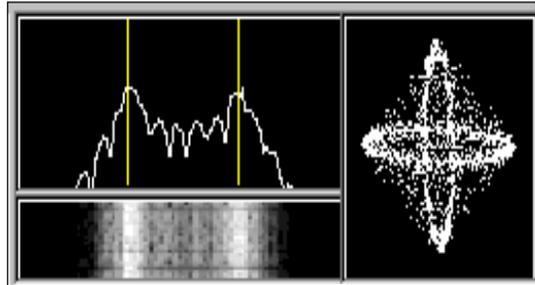
**"Finding That Rare One & Cracking the Pile-up"**

**Presented by panel members Tom NCØØ, Rich W3ACO,  
Glen KØJGH, Joe K8OM and Jim WØNB**

## RTTY Corner – The Latest DX Digi-Doings

- Jerry Rappel WWØE

**DX NEWS :** CEØY, EASTER ISLAND. Frank, I2DMI, will be active as CEØY/I2DMI from Easter Island July 30th and August 8th. Activity will be *RTTY only*. QSL via home call sign.



Well we've seen some major DXpeditions take place the past few months, VP8ORK, S9DX, TJ9PF, 4A4A, and NØTG/CYØ. All were operating RTTY. I already had worked a South Orkney years ago, but did manage to get the TJ9PF on 30 meters RTTY. TJ9PF made over 17,000 contacts on RTTY, setting a record. The 4A4A team made 9,187 contacts on RTTY.

Latest confirmations here are FY1FL, 6V7W, TL5A, SP4K, V31GW, YT2U, OM3LK, 5V7TT, ZL8X, KH2L, TL5A, LZ8E, E51SC, TF5B, PJ4D, PJ7E, PJ2T, V44KAI, T3ØRH, 7P8KDJ, 9K2HN, FP/W6HGF, KH2L, and V21ZG. Worked are 8P9AA, TF3IG, EW8CM, CT3KY, CU5AQ, ZL1BYZ, V51JF, RØFA, JA8GLZ, D2QV, LX8RTTY, MIØBPB, P4ØYL, 8P9NX, 4A4A, NØTG/CYØ, RI1FJ, and K4J. (More than half are via LOTW).

We welcome to the RTTY Corner this month Richard Haendel, W3ACO, Secretary/Treasurer of EIDXA. Glen Kesselring, KØJGH, has submitted some recent logs, T8CW, YJ3AY, TF3IG, 4U1WB, FY1FL, TLØA, KG4SS, S9DX, E51SC, ZD9AH. Also Sam Burrell KØAFN has worked SV5BYR, OH4A, E79EBL, UN1L, S9DX, SO4N, TJPPF, FR5MV, T77NM, 4X2ØHC.

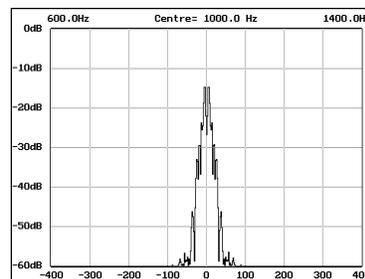
The results of the 2011 RTTY Most Wanted Survey are now available. View the results at:

<http://www.aa5au.com/rttysurvey.html>

**Using PSK**

- Richard Haendel W3ACO

Many of you use SSB and CW as I do, but there is another mode which is a lot of fun. It also has the capability to make contacts without a lot of power and there is almost NEVER a pileup! I'm talking about PSK31. During my effort operating the EIDXa marathon, I've discovered that many DX entities I need have hams who want to make DX QSOs but operate with only modest equipment and simple antennas. That's where PSK shines. These guys and gals can be heard most every day or night from all over using only PSK. If you don't listen for them, you'll miss a QSO!



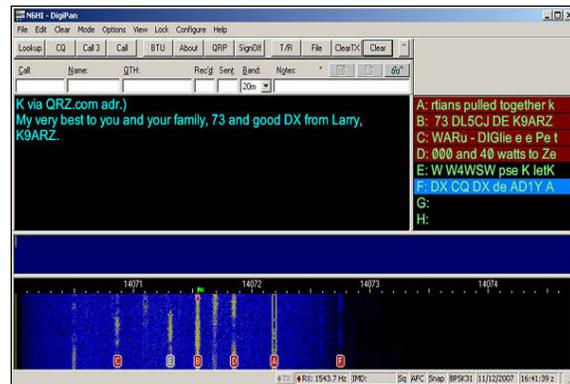
Many of our members don't have beams and high power. PSK is THE way to work a lot of DX. PSK generates a very narrow signal, less than 100 Hz, so many stations can fit into a 2 KHz window. Bottom of each 2 KHz segment is as follows: Spots I listen to are 7.035, 10.139, 14.070, 18.100, 21.070 and 24.920 or so. PSK operates using your computer sound card.

As you can see in the table below, recent loggings for me from my marathon list include QSOs from my home QTH using 30 watts and a dipole or from my shop QTH using 50 watts and a Yagi.

26-02-2011	FK1TK	0818Z	40M
08-01-2011	9A4KW	1519Z	15M
07-01-2011	CE3PG	1637Z	15M
02-01-2011	D2QV	1639Z	15M
06-01-2011	FR5MV	1606Z	20M
01-01-2011	H4ØFK	2058Z	15M
06-01-2011	TJ3AY	1524Z	17M
01-02-2011	UAØZK	2324Z	20M
01-01-2011	V51JF	1557Z	17M
15-02-2011	YC9DEB	1700Z	20M

I haven't gotten some of the super rare ones yet, but who knows?

The Digipan 2.0 display to the right shows the following: At the bottom is the frequency display shaded blue. This spectrum shows about a 2.5 kHz window. This window scrolls downward. Each yellow line is one station. Letters on top of each carrier correspond to a decoded station. The stations being decoded appear in a list on the right side of the page.



Where the little red diamond with the green flag is the frequency you select with your mouse and if you were to transmit. That is where your carrier will be. Today 26-02-2011 on 20 meters about 1600 Z, I saw more than 40 stations at the same time, all being decoded.

For more information, there are some good web pages.

<http://aintel.bi.ehu.es/psk31.html>

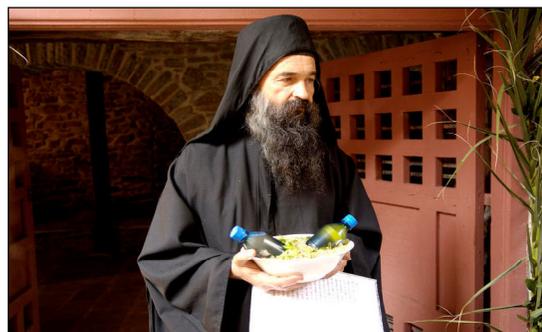
<http://www.digipan.net/>

<http://www.w1hkj.com/>

Many programs can be downloaded from the Internet. I use Digipan 2.0 (free) and it seems to work for me. Others include FLDIGI (free), Ham Radio Deluxe780 (free), MMVARI (free). Details and reviews can be found on e-ham. Note that RTTY contacts must be made using radioteletype since November 15, 1945. PSK contacts count toward DXCC/RTTY.

### Mount Athos – Monk Appolo & The SV2ASP/A Project

If you read the March QST article on the Top 20 by Bernie, W3UR, you probably saw his comments on Mount Athos #14 most needed. There are a number of reasons for the high ranking.



Doctor Rick Dorsch, NE8Z has learned a great deal about the reasons while helping Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A over the years. Monk Apollo is the only active ham in Mt. Athos on HF. Mt. Athos limits the number of foreigner pilgrim visitor visas to 10 per day. Tourist visas are not issued.

Also, there are other restrictions including the fact that foreign hams are not allowed to operate there. On a whim, Doctor Rick decided to apply for a pilgrim visa. He got the surprise of a lifetime when he received notice from Monk Apollo and the Abbot Fr. Gregorio that a pilgrim visa was issued. His visa is for "any amount of time, any time" according to Monk Apollo. He immediately made travel reservations. Rick will be leaving Michigan on April 7th. It will take 58 hours of non-stop travel to reach the Docheiariou Monastery. Rick will remain in Mt. Athos from April 9th- 16th.

Use the link on SV2ASP's QRZ.com page or [www.mountathos.gr/active.aspx?](http://www.mountathos.gr/active.aspx?)

He will leave Mt. Athos on April 16<sup>th</sup> and work his way back to Athens for a 2 day lay over before heading back to Detroit on April 19th. Monk Apollo has expressed the fact that he can't work Japan and Asia due to mountains lying directly behind the Monastery. He would like to be able to have a portable setup that he can take to a small home owned by his Monastery at the top of the mountain and operate in all directions.



**Photo: The Holy Monastery of Docheiariou Monk Apollos' Room just to Left of Center—Blue Balcony. Note: Japan and Asia are behind the mountain.**

Monk has an Icom IC-706MkIIG for portable use and needs a portable antenna, mast and cables. He has access to heavy duty 12 VDC marine batteries to use at the hilltop QTH.

Also, Monk Apollo is patiently working on mastering CW. Finally, Monk Apollo is temporarily located on the top floor of a building and is hanging an 80m dipole off a balcony to work whomever he can. Major construction at the Monastery will prevent him from moving back to his permanent room in the Monastery for 2-3 years. Dominik, DL2EBE, has graciously provided Monk Apollo with a used tubular crank up tower and a 3 element SteppIR antenna. They will be put up when he finally moves to his new room. In the meantime he needs something better. Monk Apollo uses an Icom IC-756PRO for his normal operation.

Rick's goals are to provide what Monk Apollo needs for:

- Portable Operation, so that Monk may operate from the top of the hill behind the Monastery. Provide needed equipment, and training.
- CW capability through use of a MFJ646 code reader and other software. Train Monk Apollo on CW pile up handling techniques.
- Better antenna performance from his balcony location. Provide an antenna, such as a Carolina Windom 80, (80-40-30-20-17-15-12-10m) to replace the present 80m dipole. Rick obtained a Saturday 4:30pm-5:30 slot on the 2011 Dayton DX Forum agenda. He will be providing attendees with information about his trip to "The Holy Mountain" and what has been accomplished with the help of *SEMDXA*, Buddipole and others he will name as having contributed equipment and support. He has also offered to give a more extensive slide & video presentation at *SEMDXA* for those not able to attend the Dayton Hamvention.

Courtesy of *The Long Path* – South East Michigan DX Association

## Dayton Hamvention 2011

- **May 20-22, 2011 - Global Friendship**

Since 1952 Hamvention® has been sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA). For many years it has been the world's largest amateur radio gathering, attracting hams from throughout the globe.

About 1950, John Willig, W8ACE, had asked the Dayton Amateur Radio Association to sponsor a HAM Convention but was turned down. John wanted to have a quality affair. Speakers and prizes would be a drawing point. John finally found a champion in Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), the newly elected president of the club. A meeting was held and the DARA Board allocated \$100 to get started.

The Southwestern Ohio Ham-vention was born. The first committee consisted of: John Willig, W8ACE, General Chairman Al Dinsmore, W8AUN, Arrangements Bob Siff, W8QDI (K4AMG), Prizes and Exhibits Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), Publicity Bob Montgomery, W8CUJ, Finance Clem Wolford, W8ENH, Program Ellie Haburton, W8GJP (W4ZVW), Women's Committee The next year the name became "Dayton Hamvention®" and was registered as a trademark.

April was determined to be the best time but the Biltmore Hotel, in downtown Dayton was booked. March 22 was the chosen date, causing a short lead time. How far did \$100 go? Not far! A 12" TV was raffled off to help raise funds. The FCC agreed to give license exams and Phil Rand, W1BDM, a pioneer in TVI elimination was on the program. First prize, a Collins 75A2, was purchased locally.

Hoping for 300 visitors, the committee was amazed that over 600 showed up! There were 7 exhibitors and 6 forums. The ladies program was successful with a luncheon at the Biltmore and a trip to a local TV station. In 1955 the Awards Program began with the "Amateur of the Year." The Flea Market has grown from 200 to more than 2000 spaces. In 1964 the Hamvention® moved to Hara Arena. Shuttle buses and handicapped parking were added in 1969. In 1973 it became a 2 day event with Sundays added in 1974. The program has grown to a "Souvenir Program" and in 1976 the dimensions changed from 6"x 9" to the current 8-1/2"x11".

The growth of the Dayton Hamvention® can be attributed to caring, energetic people who enjoy being on a winning team.

## Tech Talk

### How Many Conductors Are There in a Coaxial Cable?

If you said two, read on. If you said three, go to the head of the class. That's right, there are three conductors in a coax cable.



The center conductor, the inside of the shield, and the outside of the shield. Because of the skin effect in an AC circuit -- and an RF signal is simply one type of an AC signal -- the current divides between the inside and outside of the shield. And now we've "lost our balance".

We no longer have equal and opposite fields canceling each other out. The result? The outside of the shield begins to act like an antenna, and radiates a signal. One problem with this is that it will distort, to some degree at least, the pattern of our antenna. Now our megabuck BandBlaster Yagi is not concentrating our signal -- and power -- where we intend it to. But the bigger problem, as you've probably guessed, is RFI/EMI. That unwanted signal is radiating all along the coax, including in the shack and throughout the house. And as the number of electronic gadgets in a typical home multiplies, so does the potential for headaches. Trust me on this -- when your XYL can't watch her football game, or the OM misses the latest episode of his favorite soap opera, things can go downhill rapidly. Not every RFI problem can be cured with a balun, but adding one is the best first step in almost all cases.

So what does a balun do? To oversimplify a bit, a balun chokes off the flow of current on the outside of the shield, forcing it all to the inside. We've now "regained our balance" -- equal and opposite fields are generated inside the coax, cancel each other out, and nearly all of our power reaches the antenna. Baluns can also perform another function at the same time -- they can be used to improve the impedance match between a source and a load. We could more properly call them "balun and X:Y transformer", where X:Y is the ratio. But common use is to call them X:Y baluns. Just keep in mind that they are performing two distinct functions.

Most common are the 1:1 and 4:1 types. The 1:1 is what we've been talking about so far. The 4:1 will improve the match (lower the SWR) on high impedance antennas. A folded dipole, for example, has an impedance of about 300 ohms. We could feed it with 300 ohm ladder line for an almost perfect match. But sooner or later we need to transition to 50 ohm coax to connect to our transceiver. Using a 4:1 balun steps up our 50 ohm coax to a 200 ohm load impedance, and a perfectly acceptable 1.5:1 SWR on the coax. (from QuickSilver Radio Products).

## The History of the Pocket Protector

*The New York Times*, 24 June 1999 – There was no such thing as a nerd back in 1947, when Erich Klein opened a small factory on Chicago's North Side and became one of the first manufacturers to make plastic pocket protectors. "It slipped into a shirt pocket and was useful to anyone who carried a fountain pen or a ballpoint pen, which had ink leakage problems," said Randy Siltan, Mr. Klein's grandson and president of the company, Erell Manufacturing. "We still make hundreds of thousands a year, but most others have dropped them from their lines. I guess pocket protectors aren't so popular anymore."



That's a polite way to put it. Made possible by the same heat-sealing process used to make World War II flak jackets, the pocket protector was intended as an advertising giveaway, emblazoned with a company logo. But this simple polyvinyl chloride product evolved into something far more culturally symbolic: it became the ultimate emblem of nerdiness.

"My first computer course in college was taught by a guy with so many pocket protectors he seemed to be some son of animatronic device with a bad haircut, said Alan Robbins, an associate professor of design at Kean University in New Jersey. "Pocket protectors organize tools on the wearer's body, turning the user into a kind of rudimentary cyborg - part human, part toolbox."

In the 1980's, pocket protectors enjoyed a brief hey-day. Since then, they have become self-conscious. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Museum gift shop sells a \$1.25 protector emblazoned with "M.I.T. Nerd Pride". "I sometimes poke fun of it as a cultural icon, but I feel naked without one:" said John Shipman, an applications specialist at the New

Mexico Tech Computer Center in Socorro, N.M. "Ever since high school, when all the other kids were going down to the gun store to look around, I was going to the local office supply store. I guess I was a proto-geek."

The fact that the pocket protector is a joke is an example of the triumph of culture over technology." Robert Friedel, a professor of history at the University of Maryland, says one problem with the protector was the material it was cut from because plastic "promises imperviousness to ruin and to soil, but in a way so avowedly artificial that there's another part of us that tends to recoil a bit"

### DXCC QSL Card Checking



EIDXA members can get their DX QSL cards checked for DXCC credit from the following club members:

- ARRL Midwest Division Director, and EIDXA member, Cliff Ahrens KØCA: [cahrens@mywdo.com](mailto:cahrens@mywdo.com).
- EIDXA member Tom Vavra WB8ZRL: [wb8zrl@arrrl.net](mailto:wb8zrl@arrrl.net).
- EIDXA member Mike Nowack NA9Q: [na9q@arrrl.net](mailto:na9q@arrrl.net).





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