



Eastern Iowa DXer

Official Newsletter of the Eastern Iowa DX Association

NØDX



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League

EIDXA 1975 - 2010 · 35TH Anniversary

December 2011

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Page 1

Club Officers

President:	Richard Heinrich	NØYY	Packet Cluster	WB8ZRL
Vice President:	Jerry Rappel	WWØE	147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM	
Secretary Treasurer:	Richard Haendel	W3ACO		
Repeater Committee:	Al Groff	KØVM	Repeater:	NØDX/R
	Joe Finkstein	WØMJN	144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8)	
Membership Committee:	Jim Spencer	WØSR		
	Tom Vavra	WB8ZRL		
	Nelson Moyer	KUØA		

EIDXA CHRISTMAS 2011 NEWSLETTER

President's Propagation, Pronouncements & Pontifications. EIDXA President – Richard Heinrich NØYY.

Never miss a meeting ... you can't second guess what will happen! I want to thank the membership for their vote of confidence. I will do what I can to make sure I lead in a way that will make us proud. I've been at the helm before and agreed to step in and help over the next year.



But I want everyone to start thinking now about next October and who they would like to see in this position. Certainly there are others in EIDXA that have the time and energy to lead and offer new insights into how they would like to see the club evolve. Take the challenge – step up!

I want to personally thank Steve, NØSM for his leadership over the past year. Steve asked to step down for a number of personal reasons. We enjoyed your perspectives in the Newsletter and your leading of the meetings - and of course your travel to Dayton where we always have fun.

And for the record, my allegiance is split. I am also the current President of the **Caribbean Contesting Consortium**, the organization that is behind PJ2T, the most logged call sign in the world! As a matter of fact as I write this column, I am packing for a trip to the island in preparation for the 2011 running of the CQWW CW DX Contest. We will have a team of 10 operators including our own WØNB, Jim Livengood to take on the world in the Multi-Operator / Multi-Transmitter class. We plan on having 5 stations operating simultaneously. So while you are enjoying your Thanksgiving dinner, we will be working hard getting ready for a hard fought contest battle. Jim will be one of the 20M team while I will slug it out on 80M and 10M. It should be a blast!!!



The great news is that the sun has warmed up again and is producing spots! Solar Flux of 180 over the last week has really sparked high band operations. At the same time the low bands are still fully functional. T32C was one of the strongest Pacific operations I can remember with honest S7 signals into Iowa. So this should be a good year. Predictions have it that this will be a short and “weaker” cycle than some of those in the past, but we should take advantage of the openings while they last.

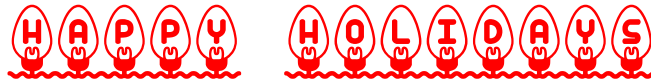
15M is interesting too. At 10PM local time I was working the Pacific and Africa at the same time. It took longer to run the beam back and forth than it did to work the available EA8's and YJ's.

Hopefully everyone got their antenna projects done during the warmer weather. Now we are faced with windy and colder weather as the seasons change. But don't forget the old adage, that antennas put up in freezing weather usually have a 3-6 dB advantage!

This should be a fun year as we see a few more changes in our Club. We now have a Program Committee to do some planning. I will also try to set a year's worth of meeting dates in the next few weeks. (After my foray down South for the contest ...)

That way we can all plan and can get speakers lined up. We have had a couple of exciting volunteers indicate programs of interest, but dates are still the issue.

And then of course we have our own Marathon challenge. The year is drawing to a close. Maybe the holiday weekend will allow you to find time to get on the air and work a few more for your entry into the Marathon. Maybe you are not a contester, but there will be plenty of stuff to work on the high bands. Case in point ... Terry, WØAWL challenged me a few weeks ago to see what I could do on 40M. So during the CQWW SSB contest a month ago, I got on for a few hours. I worked 60 countries on 40M SSB in just over 2 hours. But more interesting was that in another 4 hours I worked DXCC in 10M SSB! So get in there play. If you look at the NG3K website, you will find some very interesting stuff that will be active over the next few weeks.



Rick Heinrich NØYY.



“Now that's DX”
EIDXA Vice President Jerry Rappel WWØE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Welcome to what I believe is the first EIDXA Christmas newsletter. Sorry – this was the last tree on the Wal-Mart lot ...



“Now that's DX” continued ...
Beginning this issue, **Members Spotlight ...**



In this issue: meet our new EIDXA President - Richard Heinrich NØYY. The official 2011 **EIDXA** Christmas tree. **T32C** Dxpediton to East Kiritimati - **Christmas Island** - *How to Work Us*. The origin of HI HI. “Godzilla” Amplifiers. Member Spotlight, etc. etc.

The EIDXA Newsletter survey was very helpful, 46 surveys have been returned so far. Thanks to all of you. Here's the general outcome: it seems the most used wireless apparatus to transmit and receive electromagnetic waves on an intermediate frequency - is the Icom PRO series, followed by the Yaesu FT series, and then the K3, and various others from the KWM-2 to the Icom 765. The most read amateur radio magazine is not a surprise – QST, with about half of the members reading/subscribing to both QST and CQ. SSB is the mode of the majority, a very close second is CW, then SSB/CW and RTTY. About half of us use the DX contests to hunt and pounce for those much needed new entities. 99% are LOTW users. The most popular item that members want to see in future issues of the EIDXA newsletter is a “Member Profile”. Which I have started in this issue. Now I found one part of the survey extraordinary – a lot of members want to know more about - me. Which is also in this newsletter. And about 1/3 of us are willing to step forward and do a presentation during a future meeting. So now that I have gathered all the data and processed it through my historic Univac-laptop, I have the specific needs and will use this for future articles. About 5-6 members have already sent me a profile for forthcoming newsletters. It's not too late, e-mail me some info about your shack, etc. and include pictures. Thanks to all who participated in the Newsletter survey! I appreciate your time.

Awhile back I read in QST about someone who was offended by DX contests and DXpeditions. Amateur radio bands, use them or lose them. The more activity you hear – the better. Have you tuned across the 10 and 12 meter bands lately? Hear anything? **WOW !!** The bands are lit up like a Christmas tree. Commercial interests would just love to have a chunk of this spectrum. Working a contest also improves your operating skills. So thank a Contester or DXpedition for keeping the HF bands alive. The next time you are interrupted by a contester, or Dxpediton, why not consider joining the crowd. There's room for everyone. It's all about having fun. And you can have fun during a contest, even if you don't have the time or the equipment to be competitive.

Good DX in 2012, and **Happy Holidays** . Jerry WWØE

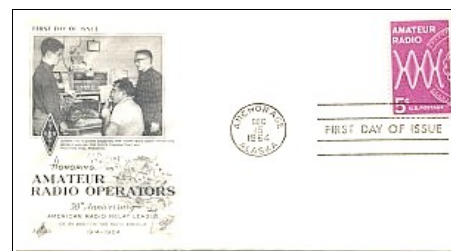
ALL THOSE YEARS AGO ...



December 12, 1901 – Marconi lofted a kite to support 400 feet of wire as an antenna, and copied the “first” Transatlantic radio signal. History was made! It was recently discovered that the radio signal he copied was ... **“I’m listening up 5”...**

December 1915 – QST is first published. 10¢ a copy. \$1.00 a year. (Richard W3ACO is one of the first subscribers.)

December 1964 – the US Post Office issues an Amateur Radio stamp commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the ARRL.



December 1986 – QST published an article called “A New Audio Filter – Digital Signal Processing”.



December 1989 – Icom introduces the IC-765. suggested retail \$3149.00

December 2011– the first “Christmas” edition of the EIDX Newsletter is hot off the press. Members are now in a Christmas state of mind and as a token of their appreciation buy the editor a Yaesu FTDX5000 ... with DMU2000 (and matching speaker). (I knew there was something I liked about this job).



EIDXA MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT



NØYY



Meet our new EIDXA President - **Richard Heinrich NØYY**



I have enjoyed 44 years in the best hobby in the world. I have met hams from around the world in QSO and face to face. It has been a wonderful journey that I have no intention of seeing end soon. But maybe some background would help.

I was first licensed in 1967 as WN8ZDR while in high school. It was a modest beginning with a Halicrafter's S20R and Globe Scout. The S20R had a burned out BFO coil so I learned about

good old ham ingenuity at an early age as I had to use a leaky broadcast band receiver with its 455 kc IF oscillator providing the beat to be able to copy CW.

That station was short lived as I soon migrated to a Heath Mohawk receiver and Johnson Ranger transmitter. My group of Elmer's were contesters and soon I had an electronic T/R switch that was keyed from my first electronic keyer. I was on my way. I was bitten by the contesting bug hard and it formed the basis for my operating all through the years even to today.

We would operate as a multi-operator entry in Sweepstakes and make a whopping 250 QSOs in the then novice bands.

By May 1968 I had upgraded to my Advanced Class license and became WA8ZDR. At that point I took the next leap and started to operate on Top Band. I was surrounded with a bunch of 160M enthusiasts with huge top loaded mobile antennas with screaming dynamotors, and in-dash Elmac or Gonset converters. There was always a hush when someone described working a G or a DL or maybe even an OK on top band. My how things have changed.

College, a career, family, and other interruptions kept me from being as engaged as I wanted, but I always found time for Field Day. I joined many different groups for that magic weekend in June. I always had a station, but it spent time in boxes most of the time. In 1987, I put a few wires in trees and became active again while living in Millersville, Maryland.

In 1994 I returned to Cedar Rapids and it took a few years to get everything put back together again. In 1997 I received the call NØYY and the rest is history. I have been active despite the challenges of a career that has me traveling to more locations than I work in a typical weekend! But I have also found new friends that are supporting my addiction. In 2001 I joined the team at N0NI where I got to be part of Toni's world class multi-operator station. I was like a kid in a candy store as I hopped from radio to radio and band to band racking up the contacts. Sure it was contesting from the Black Hole, but it was CONTESTING.

I fill my time between contests with chasing DX and with my current station I have been reasonably successful. Currently I am at 305 worked with 297 of those on CW. As the kids graduated from high school and we started to test the empty-nester lifestyle I realized I had stuff in my bucket list that I needed to consider. I had always wanted to experience what it was like being at the other end of the pile-up.



In the fall of 2005 I operated from PJ2T in the 2005 CQWW SSB contest and I was reborn. This preceded by 2006 ARRL DX CW effort from Guadeloupe where I finished #2 World and #1 North America in the Low Power class.

Since then I have joined the PJ2T team numerous times and in 2010 I was elected President of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium – a position I enjoy today.

I have been fortunate to have led several teams to #1 World in the ARRL DX CW contest and also have a #1 World in the 2009 CQWW SSB Contest. So in all I have had a lot of fun being part of the “most logged callsign in contesting”!



PJ2T

I have also enjoyed numerous positions in EIDXA. I was the VP in 1979 when I had to withdraw when I returned for my Master's Degree. I again held the position of Vice President from 2001 to 2002 and was elected President in 2002 and held that position through 2004. I operated as PJ2T for the CQWW CW contest October 29th through October 30th 2011.



(There will be a full report on Rich's PJ2T contest results in the January 2012 Newsletter).

DXPEDITION TO EAST KIRITIMATI / CHRISTMAS ISLAND

(For those who haven't seen this -
it's from their web page.)



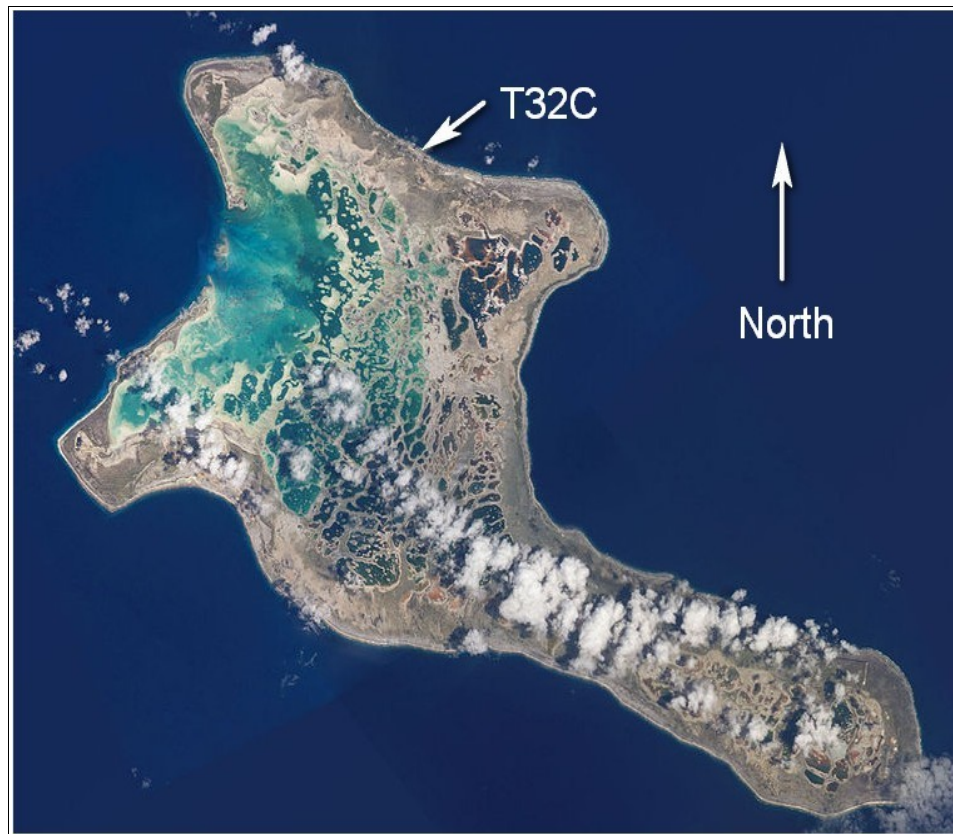
How to Work Us. Our goals are to provide every station in the world the opportunity to make at least one QSO with T32C, and to enable top DXers to put T32C in their log on as many bands and modes as possible.



1. Before calling, make sure you can copy **T32C** well enough for a good QSO. If signals are poor, it would probably be worth your while to wait a little for better propagation. We will be active for one month, so there will be plenty of opportunities to make your QSOs.
2. Until near the end of the operation, we will utilise **split operation only**: Generally, we will be listening a few kilohertz higher than our transmit frequency, but the T32C operator will announce his listening frequency or frequencies regularly. Be careful to set up your transceiver so that you do not accidentally call on our transmit frequency. Instead, determine where we are listening (the T32C operator will say, or simply find the pile-up!) and call us there.
3. Here are some tips: Who are we working? What is the callsign? Where is this station transmitting? While *we* are listening, you should quickly scan the pile-up to find the station we are working. On CW, increase your receive bandwidth if necessary. Determine where we are listening and then pick your transmit frequency accordingly.
4. Our operators will try hard to work stations in all parts of the world, but some areas will require more time and effort than others. Listen to determine if we are trying to work a particular geographical area (again, the T32C operator will announce, for example, "Europe only" or "South America only"). Call if you are in that area. We will not respond to callers who are not in that area.
5. Call us only when we are asking for anyone to call, e.g. after a CQ call or, more likely, when an existing QSO has been fully completed. When the T32C operator says "T32C QRZ?", announces his listening frequencies, or says "T32C... thank you" ("T32C TU" on CW) that is your cue to call.

6. If we respond immediately with your full callsign and a signal report, fine. In that case just reply with your signal report to us and that is a good QSO. But bear in mind that many stations are likely to be calling and it is possible the T32C operator will not have been able to copy your complete callsign the first time. He would then respond to a 'partial' call (e.g. "the Mike Zero Alpha station, you're 59", or "station ending X-Ray Yankee Zulu, you're 59"). Please call again then **only** if your callsign corresponds to that being called, or is **very** similar (one matching letter in your callsign is **NOT** enough!) We will not respond to calls from stations other than those we are addressing.
7. If you do not hear who has been called, listen for a short time as the operator will repeat the call. We recognise that QRM might have covered the T32C signal just as you are being called! If in doubt, please do not call again, but listen to the T32C operator. If he has heard you, he will call you again if you do not respond straight away.
8. Be sure you have made a good QSO. If you aren't sure, **make another QSO**. It is best not to send a report until the operator sends your callsign correctly, as he will take reception of your report as a confirmation that he has copied your callsign correctly. If the operator does *not* send your callsign correctly, make another QSO later. Logs will be uploaded daily to **ClubLog**, so ideally check whether your callsign has been logged correctly before trying for an 'insurance' contact.
10. Reiterating, we will not work stations who are:
 1. Calling out of turn – when we are trying to work someone else
 2. Calling out of the called area – wait for your turn
 3. Calling with a wrong partial callsign – study the pile-up
11. We understand that no-one is perfect, and that everyone makes mistakes. People will transmit on our frequency, and they will do so repeatedly because often they can't hear the DX station. Please don't get frustrated and respond to this: let us deal with the situation!
12. Comments on our operating procedures, choice of bands, etc should be made via e-mail. We have established a special e-mail address which anyone can use to send messages to us. We will publicise this address widely in the press releases, on the website etc. We will review all comments, but we won't be able to reply to anyone individually.

Any general responses will appear on our website and, if appropriate, we will circulate them to the amateur radio press.



Thanks to Wayne N7NG, Steve 9M6DXX and members of the T32C team for their work on this document.



Hey - have you "heard" any sunspots lately?

Scientists at Stanford University have developed a method of using acoustic waves to catch sunspots in their early stages of development, with as much as two days warning before they materialize as sunspots on the sun's surface. Recently a Stanford Graduate student discovered that in the near-surface region, small-scale convection cells, about the size of California, generate sound waves that travel to the interior of the sun and are then reflected back to the surface. The sunspot precursors are as deep as 65,000 kilometers inside the sun when heard by the SDO (Solar Dynamics Observatory - "Our eye on the sun"), and then emerge on the surface one or two days later, as ... sunspots.



(The Stanford Report)

Here comes the sun ... ?

NASA predicts that Solar Cycle 24 will be the smallest in the last 100 years, in terms of maximum sunspot numbers. But it's still too early to know if this cycle is an indicator to what some scientists are calling "*The Death of Sunspots*". Cycle 24 is predicted to peak in mid 2013, with a maximum sunspot number of 75.

(NASA newsletter)



HAVE SOME COFFEE WITH YOUR DX



For the latest DX information, news, and updates ...



<http://www.dxcffee.com/eng/>

Selected blend.

EIDXA MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT



WWØE



A handful of members replied in the recent Newsletter survey that they would like to know more about myself. Born and raised in Davenport, Iowa, which is where I still reside. The radio “bug” bit me when I was about 13-14 years old. My neighborhood friend and I would frequent the alleys of our block looking for treasures such as bicycle parts, and other unspecified things. One Summer day our picking paid off, for someone had disposed of a bakelite RCA AM/Police band circa 1950's radio. I grabbed it and took it up to my bedroom. Plugged it in later that evening, and after it glowed and warmed up a bit – I was picking up electronic signals from stations in Texas, New York (WABC) etc. Why would anyone no longer want this radio? After concentrating for a few evenings on St. Louis Cardinal baseball games and music stations (WLS), I was hooked. The next year on my newspaper route during their annual Summer contest, (after first earning my usual 24 bottle case of Mt. Dew, and a new speedometer for my bike), a Radio-Shack type one tube radio kit, and an 8 transistor radio were among the other prizes I earned for getting new customers. This radio was used for more AM Broadcast Band Dxing.



During high school I bought a tabletop 8 band Midland radio from the McGee Radio catalog, that included Shortwave and Amateur bands. After I was married a few years later, my wife bought me an Allied SX-190 SW receiver, built like a tank. I was hooked on Short Wave listening. I began sending reception reports to the stations I was hearing.

After a few months, colorful QSL cards and pennants began appearing in my mailbox.



Voice of Germany



**Radio Pyongyang
North Korea**



Radio Baghdad



Vatican Radio



Springbok Radio



Voice of Viet Nam (Hanoi)



Radio New Zealand

In a few years time I had over 70 countries logged and 50 verified on the shortwave bands. Including Radio Pyongyang in North Korea, Radio Bagdad, The Voice of Viet Nam, Radio Kuwait, and SpringBok Radio in South Africa, they had a commercial for “*Jungle Oats*” cereal frequently. Kind of like oatmeal.



Fastforward to 1977, after monitoring the Amateur radio bands, and studying the license manual, and copying CW - I was licensed as KAØBLE. Four months later I had my WAS certificate on CW. About 7 years later I became WWØE. During a five year time period I was employed by a couple local radio stations, KSTT-AM, and WHBF AM/FM as a master control operations engineer. Then I was employed at WQAD-TV in Moline for 21 years doing the same kind duties and activities. And later on working in Computer Aided Drafting. I'm semi-retired now. My two grand-daughters keep me active, and my Australian Sheperd “Ellie” - takes me for a long walk daily. I've been an EIDXA member since 2002. And am starting my second year as EIDXA Vice President.

My station:

Yaesu FT1000MP,
Icom 706 (for 50 Mhz).
Ameritron ALS-600 amplifier.
Mosley TA-33jr, and on the
same mast a CushCraft D3W
(12/17/30), a homebrew 5
element 6 meter yagi - (*Thanks
KØIS*) all on Rohn 25G at 50'.
Butternut HF2V for 40/80
meters.



Awards:

5BDXCC, 5BWAS, WAZ, DXCC/CW, DXCC/RTTY, WAS/RTTY, DXCC/17 meters, MIXED DXCC total is currently at 304 verified. Also spending time on 12/30 meter DXCC. You'll find me on CW and RTTY most of the time. I became involved on 6 meters two years ago. Anticipating a longwire for 160 meters next year. I'm also a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.



You'll also "see" me on SSTV occasionally ...



HL5BLI



TJ7GD



FR5AB



JT1CO



5X1T



4X4GT



ChromaPix

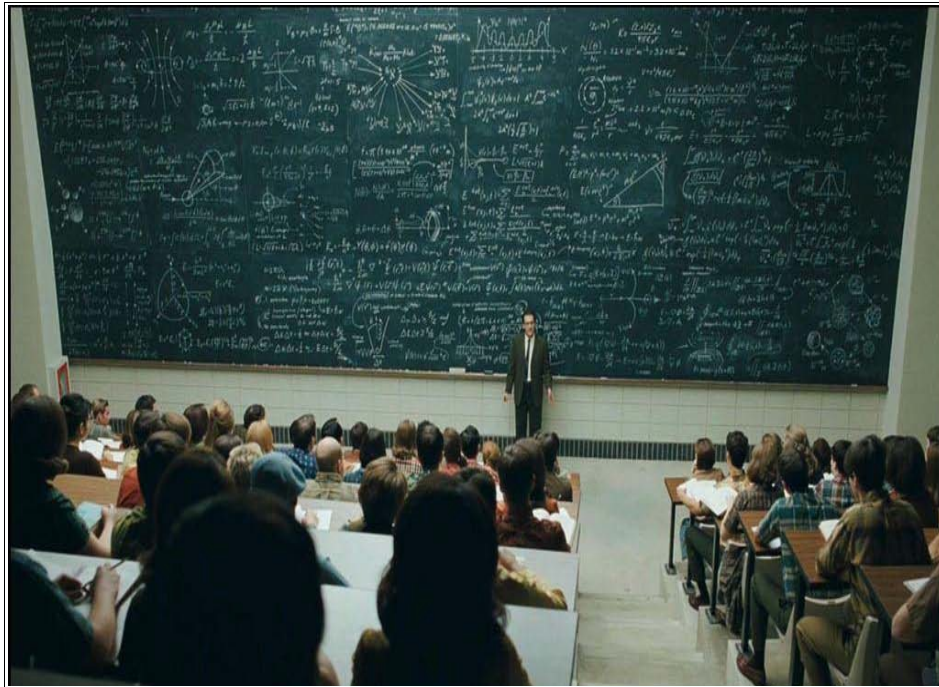


Digital SSTV

I also accumulate and restore AM broadcast (AA5) bakelite radios and TV's from the 1940-50's era. I have bought back to life one of my two TV's from the late 1940's. A 1948 Sentinel - 7" CRT fully restored. My 1947 Admiral TV - 10" CRT still needs recapped. Jerry WWØE

Admiral 1947 TV →





Vice President WWØE at the October club meeting explaining how easy it is to fill out his EIDXA Newsletter survey.

● ●● ■●● ■●●■ ●■
E I D X A

~~DIT~~ ~~DIT~~ ~~DIT~~ ~~DIT~~ ~~DIT~~ ~~DIT~~ ~~DIT~~ ~~DIT~~ ~~DIT~~ ~~DIT~~

Hams from around the world worked together in a global hidden transmitter hunt. A stream of dits were heard worldwide, it seems a southern California amateur radio station accidentally pushed his keyboard up against his keyer and unknowingly activated it. He was eventually contacted by the ARRL of the problem. (No callsign or name released yet).

(Amateur Radio Newline)

AS SEEN RECENTLY ON →



28005.0 T32C lonely
 21290.5 T32C the never ending DX pedition
 28015.0 **BY5CC**
 28015.0 my error – correct call is **6Y5CC**
 18085.0 STØR he's listening UP !!
 18085.0 STØR many still calling, he went QRT 5 minutes ago
 7170.0 A92GR takes only \$\$\$ no QSL return
 28412.0 JH1AJT
 28412.0 Correct callsign is JH1NVF
 3795.0 YW3Y Op Elvis Calling DX
 10130.0 RADAR up to 150 - European Russia
 14200.0 3XY1D listening up 24.5
 24894.0 ES1TU ROCK CRUSHING SIG INTO S. CALIF
 21290.0 3XY1D more policeman than QRMer's !!!!!
 24897.8 7X7M QSX 24900.9
 24897.9 Correct call is TX7M
 28038.0 XV1X not the sharpest tool in the shed
 14195.0 IT9LID..... jamming 195 again

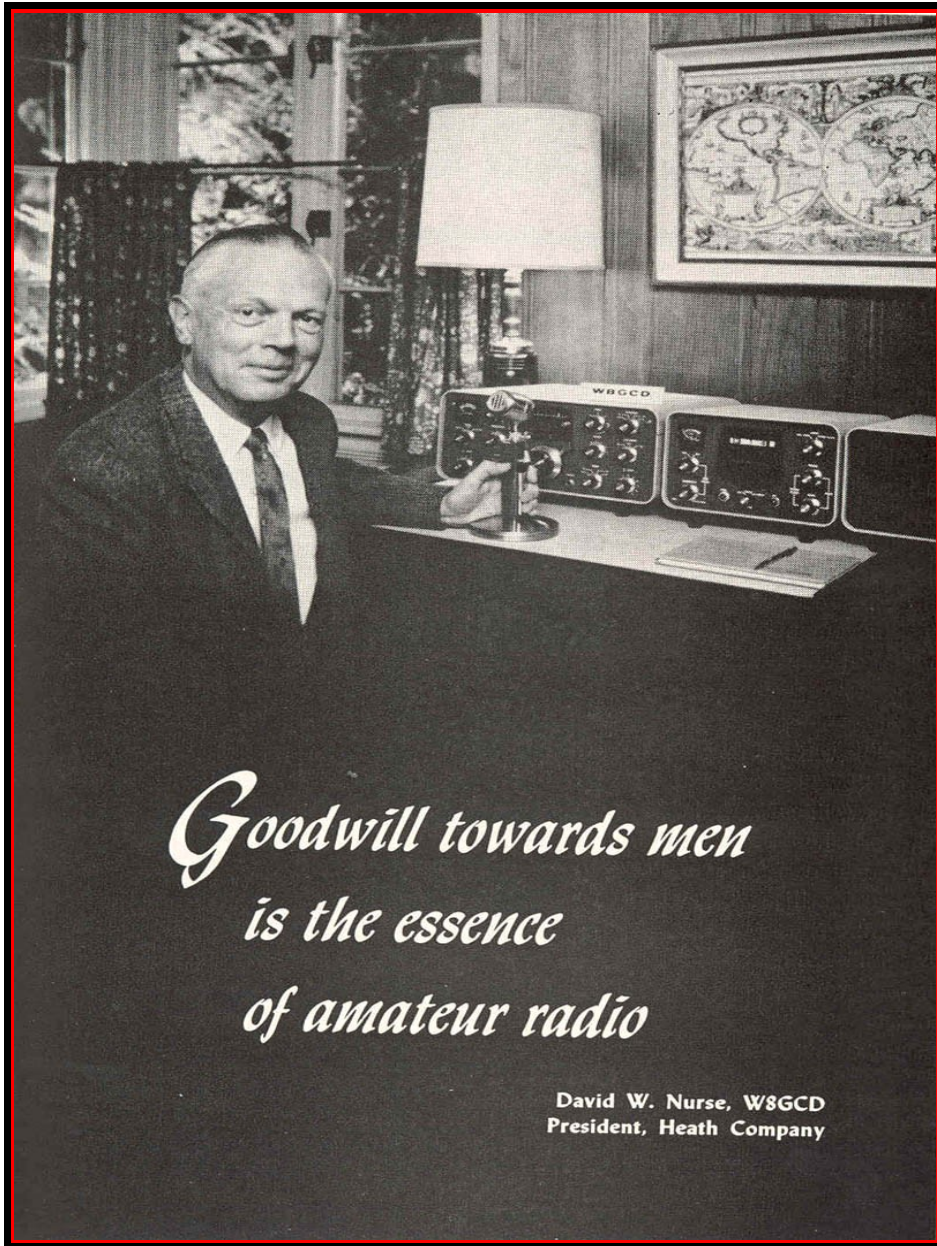


Dayton Hamfest 2012 Theme: "Internationally Connected"

This choice was made to recognize the many hams who travel to Dayton from all over the world.



This humorous holiday cover from **RADIO NEWS** December 1925 features a construction project by the publisher, Hugo Gernsback, dubbed *The Loud-Speaking Christmas Tree*. Not surprisingly, the loud-speaking tree consists of a remote speaker in a wooden box. Pretty tame stuff by today's standards, but if you consider how novel radio itself was in those days, this setup might have created quite a sensation at a holiday gathering.



DECEMBER 1966 QST.

5N7Q - Bodo Fritsche
(Homecall DF8DX ex 5NØOCH)

I recently worked 5N7Q on 17 meters CW back in October while he was in Abuja, Nigeria. The following is from QRZ.COM. Jerry WWØE.

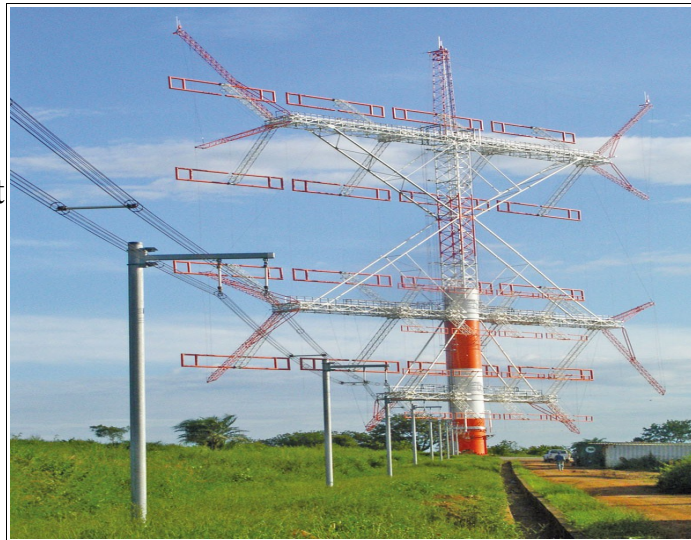
I am in Nigeria for maintenance of broadcasting station in Abuja, the capitol city of Nigeria. I will be QRV during 3-15 October 2011. I am using one of the largest fully rotatable short wave antennas in the world. My antenna gain is over 20dBi on all bands from 10m-40m. Call me if you copy me, I have not more than 100W. I will be QRV in CW and SSB this time. However, I cannot ensure that there is always electricity at the radio station. I therefore might be also QRV from the hotel with a vertical antenna only. You will notice it easily: signal weak - Hotel, signal huge - radio station.

The antenna rotates to cover a 360° coverage angle for complete flexibility with a single antenna structure. Covers all shortwave broadcast bands (6-26 MHz) with only one antenna.

High antenna gain: HP-RCA 2/2: 14 dBi-19 dBi.

HP-RCA 4/4: 19 dBi-24 dBi
High front-to-back ratio:
perfect DC grounding sturdy rigid dipole design for safe

operation under extreme environmental conditions. System maintainability (no guy wire system, easy access to main parts, minimized number of insulators). Small footprint enables reduced space requirements.



◇ ◇ ◇

HAM Nation is the **TWIT.TV** show about ham radio. **Bob Heil K9EID**, host with various co-hosts and guests will cover the excitement and importance of ham radio. HAM Nation airs live each Tuesday at 6:00 PT/ 9:00ET on <http://live.twit.tv>.



The ideal Christmas gift
for any ham
(or for his xyl!)

Season's Greetings

from the people
who make the

DRAKE 2-B RECEIVER

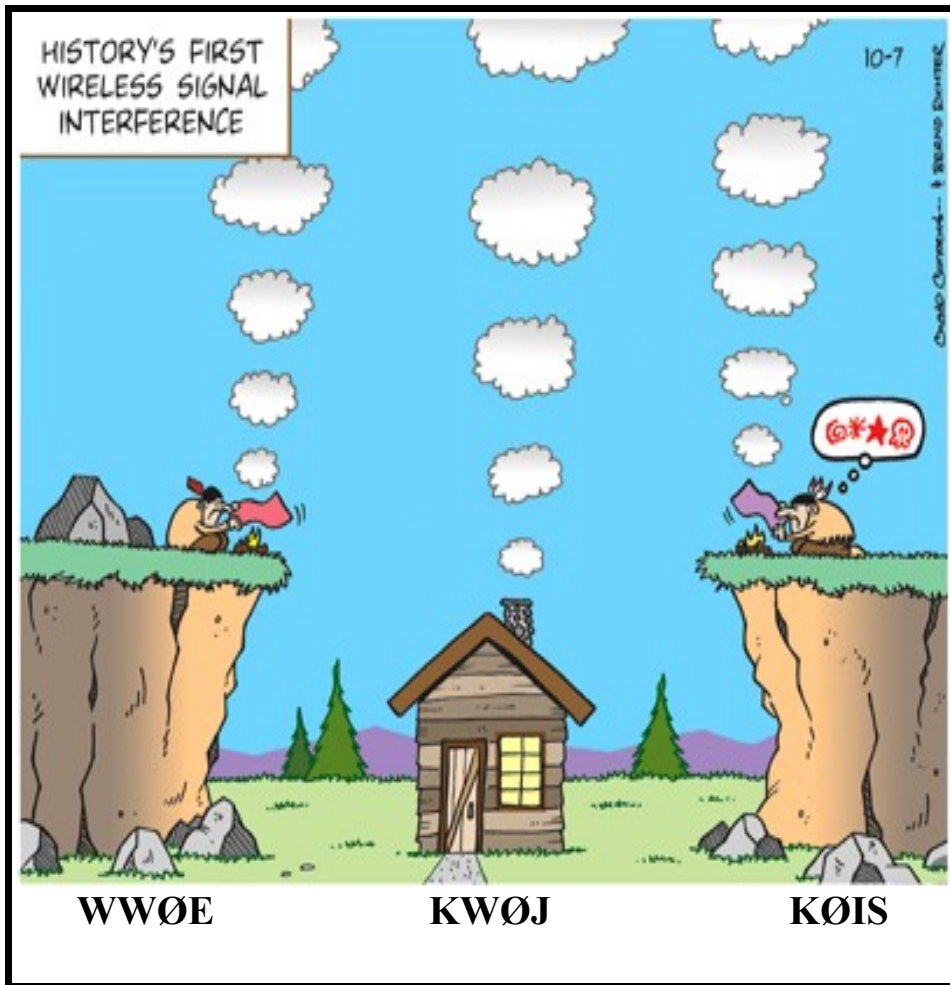
R. L. DRAKE COMPANY
Miamisburg, Ohio

W8CYE	"Bob" Drake
W8NGU	"Pig" Smith
K8IMN	"Bill" Drayer
W8VST	"Vic" Blackwell
K8YDO	"Milt" Sullivan
W8NUQ	"Jim" Waits
K8HYD	"Jim" Kittel
K8JYP	"Ernie" Gulden
K8HGI	"Carl" Wolfe
W8BCKE	"Bob" Brandt
W8ENH	"Clem" Wolford

143

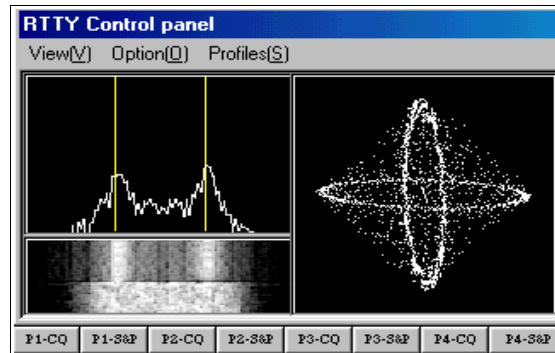
DECEMBER 1963 QST.

Ripley's Believe It or Not!



• • • — • • — • • • — • • — • • —

RTTY Corner. Jerry Rappel WWØE



The latest DX digi-doings.

Stations in my RTTY log recently: 9H4JX, HV5ØVR, T32C, TX7M, TU2T, 3XY1D, AHØ/AB2RF, ZK2V, FY5FL, 9M6XRO, ZD8F, 9A9L, GWØRYT, JW7QIA.

Glen Kesselring KØJGH worked these RTTY stations: T32C, TX7M, KH2L, ZK2V, S51DI, 9A5X, SV8JE.

Tom Vinson (“DX'er extraordinaire”) **NYØV** submitted his RTTY log: T32C, VU2NKS, A35CT, H4ØKJ, C21UF, VK9CX, TX7M, 3XY1D, TU2T, 8Q7CC, BX5AA, SU1SK, DS4DBF, 9M6XRO, A52PP, ZK2V. There would've been more but Tom said he had to take a break for lunch ...

Sam Burrell KØAFN has a handful of new RTTY stations: DU3/NØQM, 7Q7CE, JY4NE, TR8CA, A52PP, TX7M, ZC4LI.

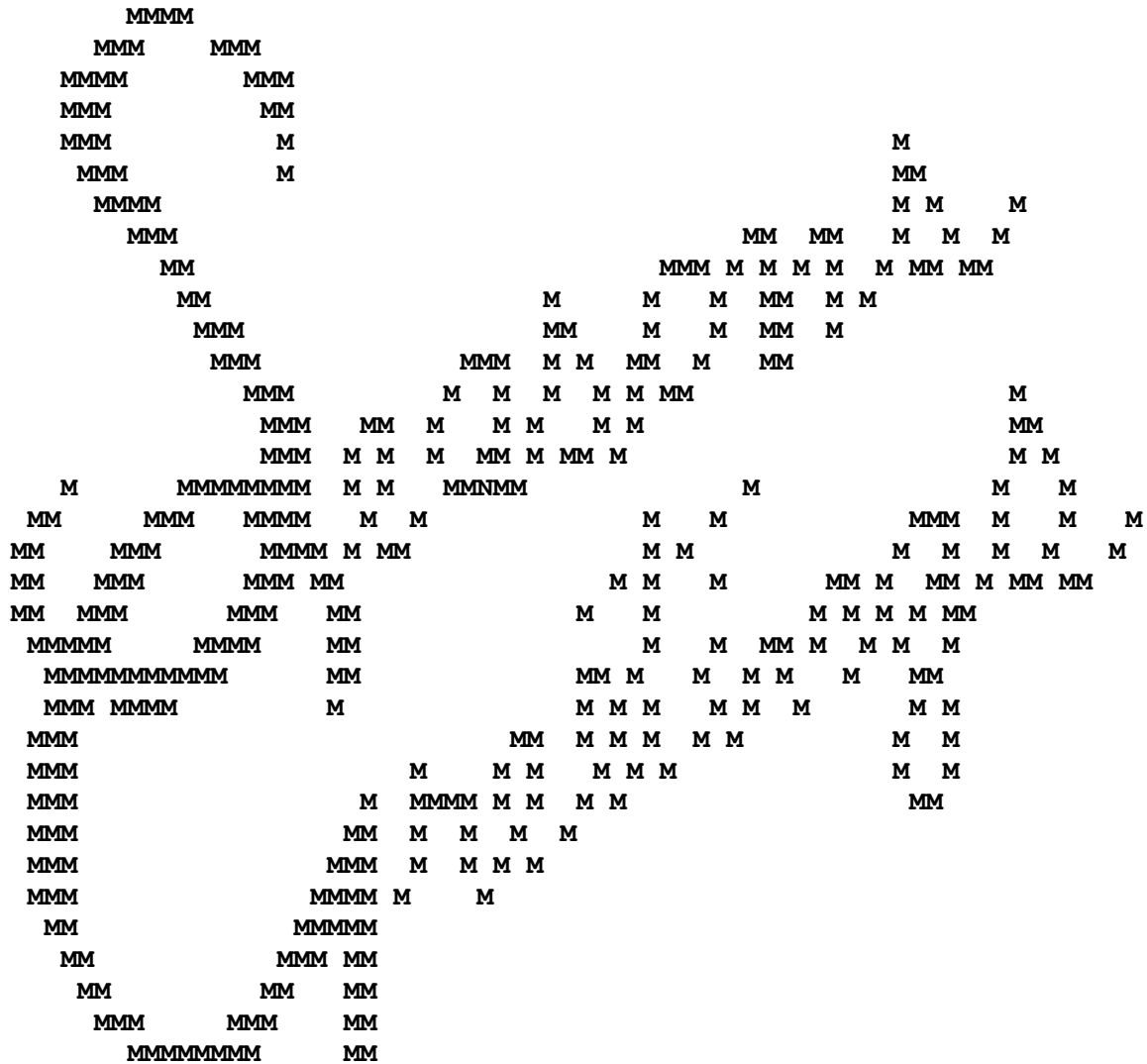
Dave Jaska WØVX gives us his extensive RTTY log: T1AS, EX2ØID, RA2FF, A65BR, A45XR, 9K2YM, GW3YDX, D2QR, W6HGF/KHØ, DS3HWS, 6V7X, KP4JRS, ED1R, CR6K, KH6GMP, YV4BCD, JH4UTP.

Some great catches guys - thanks for taking the time to contribute to the RTTY Corner !!

JANUARY 7-8 ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP

RTTY Corner continued ...

Images like this appeared frequently on RTTY in the 1960's and the 1970's .



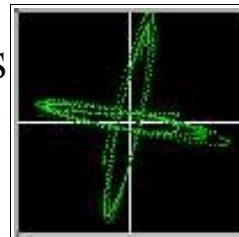
..:~*~:._.:~*~:._.:~*~:._.:~*~:._.:~*~:._.:~*~:._.:~*~:._.:~*~:._.:~*~:..

In the days before computers were around, RTTY artists dominated the nerd-art scene using teleprinters via Ham radio. All text pictures were created by hand.

RTTY Corner continued ...

WLO News On the Air with RTTY Feed

WLO RTTY News is now on the air! Through the gracious accomodation of Rene Steigler, K4EDX, owner of WLO in Mobile AL, KLB north of Seattle, and KNN in Marina Del Rey, California, and his technical staff in Mobile, AL. The frequency is 8473.000 Khz. Power is 1000 watts. On-Air time is 24/7. Your signal reports are of great interest to us. Those of you who can hear and/or copy WLO RTTY NEWS are urged to listen to WLO at various times of the day and night, and send us an e-mail noting your location (City and State) the time of day when you hear us, and the signal strength. Please bear in mind that this is a commercial class of transmission, and the mark carrier frequency is lower than the space. This is opposite of amateur RTTY transmission, so you will either have to adjust your receiving apparatus to use reverse tones, or tune to the UPPER sideband. Please send your signalreports to : WLONEWS@olypen.com.



Speaking for myself - W7TTY - this is a dream that after perhaps 14 years is finally coming true. I believe it to be a bit of history, because other than the WA9XHN/WC2XPF experimental RTTY transmissions between 1999 and 2001, to my knowledge there has NEVER been any RTTY News transmissions aimed at a general audience/listenership. Because we are utilizing a maritime frequency, a portion of our transmission day will be using SITOR-B mode, which is the same as AMTOR-FEC. A fellow in the marine electronics industry was quite pleased to hear of WLO RTTY NEWS and the inclusion of the SITOR-B mode, because all ships are required to have SITOR-B facilities aboard and are required to test them periodically. He noted that the Coast Guard, who requires the tests, is often somewhat indifferent about assisting with SITOR-B tests, other than the NAVTEX transmissions, and that the presence of WLO RTTY NEWS will make his life easier. He also stated that he was going to pass the word to all of his maritime customers that there is a new service available for their crews and/or passengers. Who knows - this might turn out to be somewhat big. Enjoy GreenKeyers - we're looking forward to your signal reports.

- W7TTY- ITTY News -

Inside the Russian Short Wave Radio Enigma

Estonian tech entrepreneur Andrus Aaslaid runs an Internet relay for UVB-76 out of his attic office.

From a lonely rusted tower in a forest north of Moscow, a mysterious shortwave radio station transmitted day and night. For at least the decade leading up to 1992, it broadcast almost nothing but beeps; after that, it switched to buzzes, generally between 21 and 34 per minute, each



lasting roughly a second—a nasally foghorn blaring through a crackly ether. The signal was said to emanate from the grounds of a *voyenni gorodok* (mini military city) near the village of Povarovo, and very rarely, perhaps once every few weeks, the monotony was broken by a male voice reciting brief sequences of numbers and words, often strings of Russian names: “*Anna, Nikolai, Ivan, Tatyana, Roman.*” But the balance of the air time was filled by a steady, almost maddening, series of inexplicable tones.

Most observers believe that UVB-76 is an idiosyncratic example of what’s called a numbers station, used to communicate encrypted messages to spies or other agents.

Somewhere in Russia a signal of mysterious beeps and buzzes has broadcast since the high-water days of the Cold War. But why?

This mysterious story is too extensive to put in the newsletter, for more fascinating reading find it on line at:

http://m.wired.com/magazine/2011/09/ff_uv76/all/1

Have a Happy Holiday ... speaking of happy -

The origin of HI HI

"HI HI" is the Morse in Morse, it sounds like ("hehhehhehheh hehheh"). or dot dot dot dot dot dot. to it sent in Morse to sound. It is most commonly Code), but has carried over CW expressions have carried

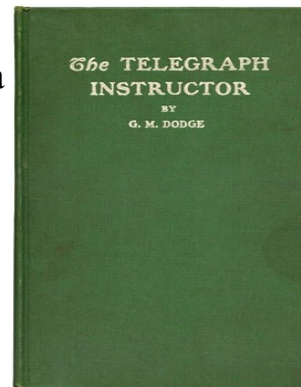


equivalent of a laugh as someone chuckling That is ditditditdit dit dit You really have to listen appreciate its laugh like used in CW (Morse to voice as well. Many over to voice, such as 73

(Best Regards) and 88 (love and Kisses), etc. The origin probably dates back before radio to the telegraph days. And since Hams used Morse long before voice became practical, the sound of the Morse characters HI HI was used to resemble a laugh sound. In some sense it is equivalent of a smiley. It's onomatopoeic, that is the naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it (as buzz, hiss).



The definitive answer is suppose to be found in Dodge's - "The Telegraph Instructor" manual circa 1850 to 1900. If you can find one, last seen going on e-bay for \$43.00 .



Courtesy Ham Radio History.

My apologies – since this is the Christmas Newsletter, I should have made this article “The origin of HO HO”... **HI HI**.



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM GODZILLA



At this joyous **Chistmas Season** the people at Godzilla Products want to extend to your family the very best wishes for the **Holidays.**



"I WANT A GODZILLA"

May the brotherhood of amateur radio help bring peace on earth and Good Will toward men - But don't forget ... If you want to incinerate your local competitors in the pileups or create havoc in Tokyo during the next contest or most importantly breathe fire in the pileup then ...

YOU NEED A GODZILLA PRODUCTS AMPLIFIER!

"NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS" SPECIALS



RF OUTPUT INDICATOR (A new product from Godzilla)

This unusual but handy item is made up of neon - arranged to spell out "Merry Christmas". Use it to tune your amp and decorate your shack. Only \$9.95.



LEAD APRONS

For young contesters/DX'ers who want to have children someday). Protects you from excessive amounts of RF. Only \$19.95.

GODZILLA LINEAR AMP

Uses an Eimac 3CW10,000 tube to produce 10KW. No duty cycle limitation – 100% carrier, key down for 12 hours. Only \$10,995. This water cooled monster will cause submarines to surface in the Pacific. Order direct from the factory. (Flames not included).



Godzilla Products
Box 10995
Tonganoxie, KS 66217

REMEMBER: *If your lights don't dim when you key the amp, your linear is too small!*

Godzilla Amplifier user testimonials ...

"Heats my entire basement (and garage) in the Winter months". NØSM

"I use it daily to check into the Arkansas QRP – DX Net".

NØCØX (name withheld).

“I cooked an entire pound of Oscar Mayer lite bacon on top my amp one morning while checking into the Breakfast Club Net - now I know why they included a cast iron fry pan”. W3ACO

“You got a fry pan with your Godzilla”? KØJGH

“Ever since I had my 55' US Tower installed my neighbors have stopped talking to me - anyhow - RFI, I'll show them RFI, Come on Godzilla”.
KWØJ

“Next time I hear FR5DX on the bands I'm keying up my Godzilla, maybe he'll QSL now” ! WØAWL

“I accidently placed my MFJ QRP rig on top of my Godzilla, I saw flames just like in the advertisement, the optional side attachment fire extinguisher is a must have”. KCØVKN

“I told the BS7H DX'pedition crew I was running 1.5 watts QRP”. NYØV.

“I ordered the opional 52” ceiling (cooling) fan, with my Godzilla amplifier, as all of the wallpaper on the shack walls completely peeled off after 3 hours”
KØZILA

“I wish it came in an Avocado color to match my formica desk top in my shack”. KØIS

“The freight company delivered my Godzilla Amplifier Friday afternoon. I had the house rewired for 800 amp service, but there is another complication. Unfortunately, my ham shack space will not contain the beast, but it will fit in the garage. The wife will now have to park her car in the driveway. I think the Godzilla Amplifier will be a perfect complement my neighbors' son sousaphone. He tunes it up almost every night for an hour. We'll see how well he can read music with the lights flickering to the beat of Morse at 30 wpm – heh heh heh” ! WWØE

(Jerry, Tom - WB8ZRL brought a book of the Kansas City DX club's newsletters and spoofs. I thought you could use some for the newsletter. Terry – WØAWL). Thanks guys - I added my own personal touches etc, etc.
WWØE

EIDXA MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT



WØAWL



Although I taught 7th, 8th and 9th grade science, this had nothing to do with my interest in ham radio. I guess most of my interest started with my wife's brother-in-law. He was in the Navy, and would use amateur radio to make connection in Iowa. I sent for a book from the ARRL. I don't recall the title of the book, but it did little to convince me that a ham license was in my future.



Terry Cellman WØAWL

Several years later, the adult education coordinator at my high school was searching for general interest education classes for the adults in our community. It seems that all the usual classes, like jazzercise, microwave cooking, and beginning sewing, had been offered in past years and now met with little interest. I still wanted to achieve an amateur radio license, so another teacher and I suggested trying to organize a novice radio class. The class was a hit. Eugene Wiener (KØCKX) was brought in to teaching the class.



We met twice a week for 8 weeks. Before the class was over, most of the class passed the 5 wpm code test and were there waiting to see if we had also passed the novice written exam. In April of 1977, I was issued the novice license with the call sign WDØAWL. There were also two other future EIDXА club members in the class, NØCHN (Earl) and KAØY, (Ken).

My first radio was a Kenwood TS520S and my antennas consisted of a spider-like array of dipoles, all fed with a single feed line. As most of you know, cw was not my first love. In fact, during my first 28 years of being a ham, I only logged CW contacts. I was nervous sending and receiving code. I knew if this radio hobby was going to be fun for me, I needed to upgrade my license. I started studying for my general class license immediately by listening to code tapes. This was a lot less stressful than doing code over the airwaves. I only used

one study book in preparing for the general exam. It was Radio Shack's, From 5 Watts to 1,000. I passed the general exam at the Federal Building in Rock Island, Illinois in May of 1977. Although I was not yet into chasing DX, I upgraded to the advance class license in February of 1978.



One of my friends, NØAFL Dave, got me interested in chasing DX. It all started as a friendly challenge between friends. He was also responsible for introducing me to the EIDXА . I was voted a member in the early 80's. I have always had beams, amplifiers, and tall towers as I chased DX. My present location limits my tower height to 10 feet above the roof of my house. This was a concern, since I had yet to confirm the last ARRL country I needed. To add to problem was a move from Ainsworth, Iowa to our present location in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The new 35-foot tower was in place, but my beam antenna had been damaged in a windstorm. However, with the help of a loaned beam from WB8ZRL (Tom), I was able to confirm my last needed country, BS7H, Scarborough Reef. That contact convinced me that 100-foot towers are great, but are not entirely necessary for chasing DX.

Now what to chase? I had tried chasing DX on RTTY, and even though I have DXCC on that mode, I really never was fully committed to that mode of operation. I really never believed I would be able to chase DX on CW. I had taken some good natured kidding at the EIDXА meetings for my obvious ambivalence to operating CW. I had passed the 13 wpm code during my general class license exam. But, DX operators don't send code at that snails pace, and I had not used code for the last 28 years.

This is what I appreciate about our EIDXА club, help is always there if you need it. I had club members encouraging me to try chasing DX on CW. They convinced me I needed be able to recognize my call sign at 20+ words per minute. Actually it's a little more complicated than that. But, by listening you can pick out much of the information needed to work DX on CW. As I write this, my DCCC worked total is 297 on CW. I was glad for the help, guidance and encouragement to jump in and get both feet wet.

My current HF station consists of a Yaesu FT2000 transceiver. I have 2 Kenwood 271's for packet connection and repeater use. The antennas uses are a Bencher Sky-Hawk for 10-15-20, a Butternut vertical for 80 and 40 meters, and a Cushcraft rotatable dipole for 12-17-30 meters. I use an Alpha 99 HF linear to help bust the pile-ups. After making the decision to chase DX on CW, I added a Bencher Logikey, model K-5 keyer and a Vibroplex key to my desk.



I need to thank these hams for their help in guiding me in the correct direction. WØSR, WB8ZRL, and NØYY. I also need to mention NRØX. I was with him in his mobile station, parked on a deserted back road, 5 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. He had just finished working the 3XØY Peter 1 Island. He programmed my call into his keyer and wanted to know if I could pick my call out if answered. That contact in the middle of nowhere was the first CW DX contact I made. It felt great, and I was hooked.

HEATHKIT RETURNS



“HeathAid” Hearing Aid

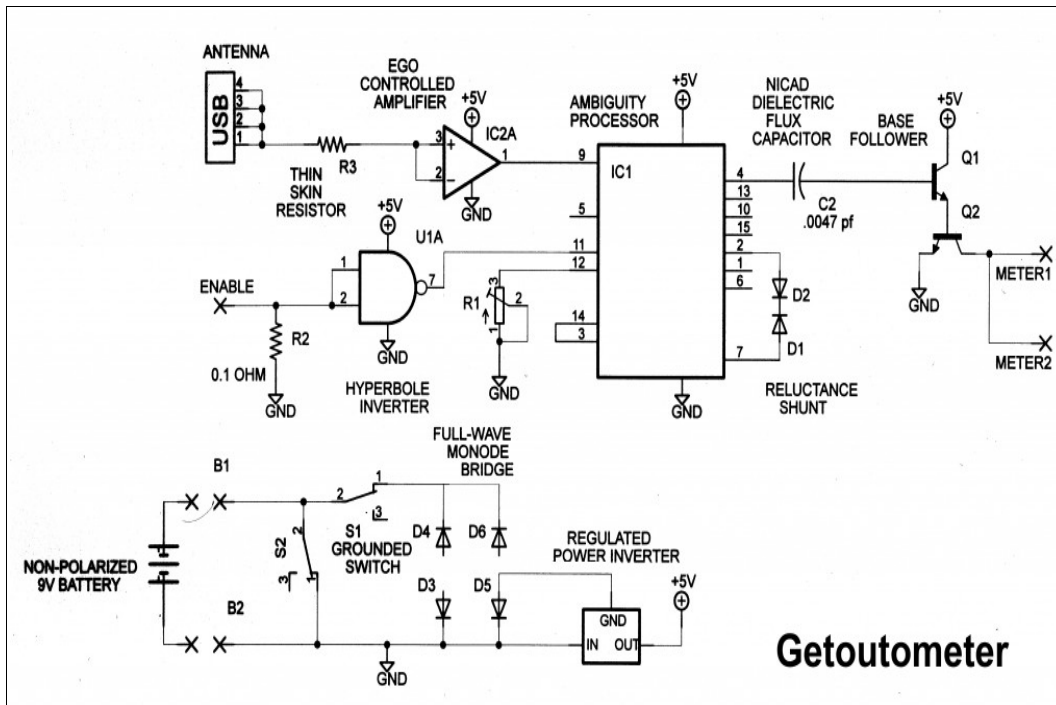
By popular demand, as most of you have heard Heathkit is bringing back the kit building tradition. Successfully building your own products provides a sense of pride and accomplishment, not realized by simply buying something off the shelf.

In December 2011, just in time for **Christmas**, Heathkit will debut two of its new product lines of Do-it-Yourself kits, including the electroacoustic “HeathAid” Hearing Aid.

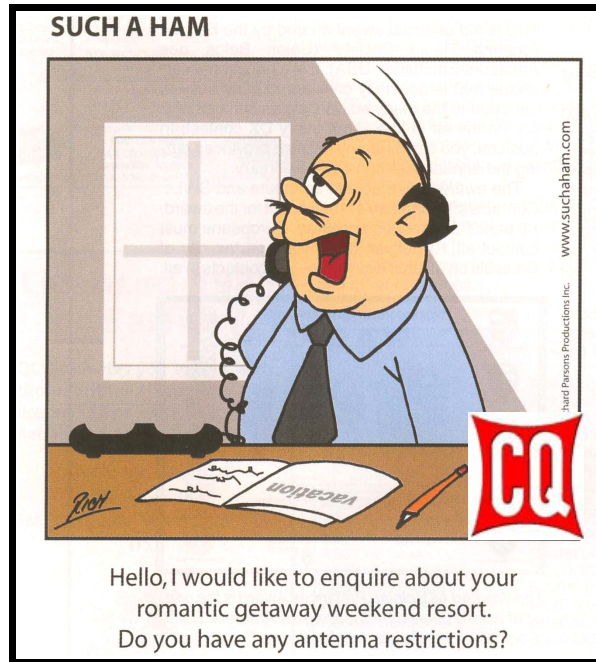
And the new and improved “**GETOUTOMETER**”.
Do you go outside in the middle of the night with a flashlight to make sure your antenna is pointed in the right direction? Do you have difficulty copying a DX station and your friends let you listen to them over the cell phone?

Well

Wouldn't just another
3dB
help....Somewhere?
You need the new
Heathkit
"GETOUTOMETER".



(TwinCities DX Club)



U.S. Ham Population Tops 700,000

U.S. Ham Population Tops 700,000 for the First Time - As of September 30, 2011- the total number of FCC amateur licensees was 700,221. according to the ARRL and AHØA.org, the total number of FCC amateur licensees was 700,221. This represents a 145 percent increase over the U.S. ham population in 1971, according to the ARRL, and an increase of more than 200,000 in the past 20 years. And a peak of 687,860 in March 2010, according to statistics tracked by Joe Speroni, AHØA. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says there are currently approximately 150 ARRL-coordinated exam sessions each week, compared with about 55 per week in the mid-1980s.



The most interesting place I (WWØE) ever heard Morse Code was in the song: "Iron Butterfly Theme" - by the 60's rock group, Iron Butterfly. At the very end of the song, "Love You" is sent out in high pitched CW at 13 WPM.

Coming in the January 2012 EIDXA newsletter -

“Adding a 40 meter and 30 meter reflector to the 4 element SteppIR”.
by DX'er “extraordinaire” Tom Vinson NYØV

A new antenna & tower for Sam Burrell KØAFN

PJ2T CQ WW Contest report by:
EIDXA President - Richard Heinrich NØYY



More EIDXA Member Spotlights



“A View from the Other Side of the Pile-Up” by Dee Logan W1HEO
What’s the Best Way to Work DX” ‘By the Numbers’
by Kelly Jones, NØVD
(From WorldRadio Online)

Famous callsigns, radio rooms, and and QSL cards

The origin of "CQ" ?

And much more ! ~~STAY TUNED~~ ...



*Thank
you*

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter !



DXCC Card Checking Is As Close as EIDXA



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

- ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director, and EIDXA member, Cliff Ahrens KØCA attends EIDXA meetings as his schedule permits. You may also send your cards to him by surface mail. Contact Cliff via e-mail for more information and/or to make arrangements to check your cards: cahrens@mywdo.com.
- EIDXA member Tom Vavra WB8ZRL. Please note that Tom is unable to check cards from deleted entities or cards for 160 meters. Contact Tom via e-mail for more information and/or to make arrangements to check your cards: wb8zrl@inavia.net.
- EIDXA member Mike Nowack NA9Q. Mike attends EIDXA meetings as his schedule permits. Contact Mike via e-mail for more information and/or to make arrangements to check your cards: na9q@arrl.net.



◇ ◇ ◇

2010 EIDXA Meeting & Events 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

Friday, January _____, 2012 at 7:30
p.m.,

Room 219C, Linn Hall on KCC campus.

Program: _____

