



# Eastern Iowa DXer

Official Newsletter of the  
Eastern Iowa DX Association



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League

## NØDX

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**January 2011**

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### Club Officers

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

**EIDXA Meeting – Friday, January 21st, 2010, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Room 219C of Linn Hall on the campus of Kirkwood Comm. College.**  
**Program on Contesting for DXers by NØYY**

### **President's Propagation, Pronouncements & Pontifications** **- Steve Miller NØSM**

Wow!!! What a great way to start off the new year!! Band conditions on January 1st and continuing for several days now have been the best we have seen in a long time. And how about the amount of activity on the bands....Oman, Jordan, Taiwan, Israel, Zimbabwe, Morocco, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cyprus, Isle of Man, South Korea, and on and on....fone, cw, psk31, and rtty....one was even on slow scan tv....and ranging from 160 through 10 plus a lot of spots for 6 meter contacts. Hey...is this real? And this isn't mentioning all of the others who aren't quite so rare who are making this truly an invigorating experience!! I hope you have been able to enjoy some of this! Like I said, "What a great way to start off 2011!!"

I would like to ask each of you to sit back for a moment and reflect on what you enjoy most about this wonderful hobby (or "service" from the more official perspectives). Is it chasing DX, working a contest, hunting down those last few for a particular award or ??? Each has his/her own preference for operating but one thing is common, in each effort we have a goal to achieve which gives meaning to what we do. You're stuck with me for the next 10 months and in that time, I believe it is important for us to not only have our individual goals but for our club to have a purpose or purposes... in other words, some

collective goals. Through the leadership of Joe Hetrick, KCØVKN, and Jim Spencer, WØSR, we've been given a challenge to participate in the CQ Marathon. It is an invigorating activity and is dangerously addictive. Once you start, you can't leave it alone. Even if, on the surface, it doesn't appeal to you, I highly recommend giving it a try. It really is a lot of fun and can be very addicting (seriously!!.... ask KØJGH and NYØV who keep blowing me out of the water on the pile ups). The propagation gods have been great...enjoy them. Joe has information about the CQ Marathon in the newsletter. If you find you don't enjoy it you can certainly opt out but if you get hooked, you're always welcome to join in the fun.

The January EIDX A meeting will be Friday, January 21st, at 7:30 at Kirkwood Community College. I, with the help of Rick Heinrichs, NØYY, will be leading a discussion on simple contest techniques with another goal in mind!

Our club is the Eastern Iowa DX Association and you will hopefully have noted the word "OUR." For the 10 months you have to endure me, I would very much like it to be OUR club, not in an exclusive manner...but just the opposite, in a very inclusive way. Your ideas are important guiding the direction our club goes. No ideas....no direction. So please put the thinking caps on those magnificent brains and lets develop a plan for the next 10 months!!

One of the big reasons I joined this club (somewhere around 1980) and one of the reasons I continue is the tremendous respect I have for the intelligence and abilities of the members. Rarely do I ever come away without having found a new insight into one or more of the members and into what I can do to improve my station and operating. I always look forward to these quarterly opportunities to share and learn. I hope you do, too. See you at the meeting and I'll be anxious to hear about your station and your insights into good operating!! 73, Steve NØSM

### ***"Now that's DX" – Jerry Rappel WWØE***

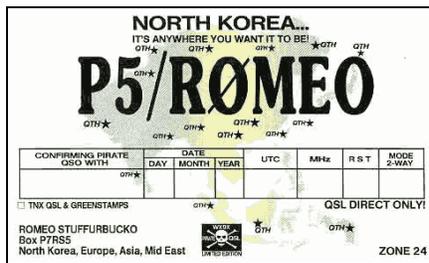
Hello everyone and welcome to my first Vice President's column. I'm still recovering from a full knee replacement.

Thanks to Joe for helping with this newsletter. A little about myself. I have been an EIDX A member for 9 years. Been licensed since 1977. Active on 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters. Have earned numerous DX awards over those years, 5BDXCC, 5BWAS, WPX, WAZ, just completed DXCC RTTY after getting back into RTTY. SSB, CW, PKK31, RTTY, SSTV are the modes I enjoy most. The 4 new PJ entities just put my DXCC mixed total at 300 countries. Worked in the radio/TV broadcast industry for 27 years.



## A DX Blast from the past – Jerry Rappel WWØE

### “Romeo, Romeo, where for art thou Romeo” ?



Romeo Stepanenko 3W3RR/AHØM. The 1993 DXpedition to North Korea, P5RS7. The DX scene was in total hysteria at the start of 1993. The famous Romeo of past DX fame was signing P5RS7, supposedly from North Korea on 15 and 20 meter CW. This operation was never accredited for DXCC, and since, has become another blunder for the famous Romeo. Subsequently, Mr. Romeo's operation from

Libya, 5AØRR was also disallowed.

Romeo faked the North Korea operation and was caught cheating, like submitting pictures that were later identified as locations not in North Korea. Japanese amateurs using directional equipment verified that Romeo was in Vladivostok Russia, just over the border from North Korea. He was unanimously voted down and disqualified from the DXCC program and is not allowed to participate in any matter, because he cheated. Last heard he was a salesman somewhere in Asia. Unfortunately, when you cheat, you live with the consequences.

### DX Marathon – Joe Hetrick KCØVKN

Doubtless everyone is probably tired of me spamming them on the reflector about Marathon totals and changes! For those who have been living on a rock in the middle of the Pacific (have you been QRV?), EIDX is trying to drum up some participation with a little intra-club competition using the *CQ DX Marathon* as the excuse.

Probably the easiest way to get an understanding of what Marathon is, is to read the rules at: <http://www.dxmarathon.com>. As of this writing it was pretty straightforward (using the 2011 rules as a guideline).



#### Three categories:

- Unlimited (spotting, power, antennas)
- Formula 1 (QRP, single tower shorter than 65', or wire antennas)
- Formula 2 (100W max, simple verticals or wire antennas-no arrays or yagis)

See the rules for complete description, but this should get you started thinking where you'll operate.

**Goal:**

Work as many distinct DXCC entities/zones using any band or mode (excluding Echolink/repeaters/satellites) beginning 0000 UTC January 1, 2011, ending 2359 UTC December 31, 2011. Each country and zone is counted only once, so, you just need to work on whatever bands/modes you can and work as many individual countries as you can!

No verification is required, the honor system is in effect.

Sounds pretty easy, eh? To track your progress, CQ has a spreadsheet available that you can use to fill in your slots. The site above should reference a link to that spreadsheet. I have a parser completed that will allow EIDXa members to email me their Excel files periodically so that I can generate club totals to display on a webpage. Currently that webpage is: <http://host.bitjanitor.net/~jhetrick/eidxa.php>. Brad K4RT has placed a link to this page on the EIDXa web site.

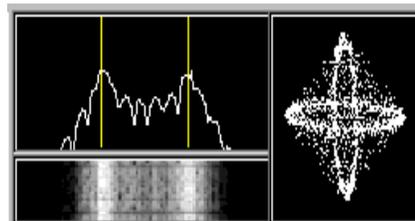
The guidelines for sending me your spreadsheets are pretty simple: make sure it's the current 2011 CQ Spreadsheet (which you can get from the above dxmarathon link). Other than that, I don't care if you email it to me once a day or once a week. You don't have to date it, or keep track of the differences between the last and the first submission. It would be slightly helpful if you named it "yourcall.xls" like "kc0vkn.xls".

I'm working on a second solution for those without excel; or without the desire to use it (I agree; using a big unwieldy spreadsheet is annoying). I've got a web-only interface in the works that will let you enter your zone and countries worked one at a time and it will then be incorporated into the totals page above. It will also generate a comma separated file that you can import into the CQ Spreadsheet, should you decide you want to enter the Marathon at the end of 2011 because you had such a great year of DX.

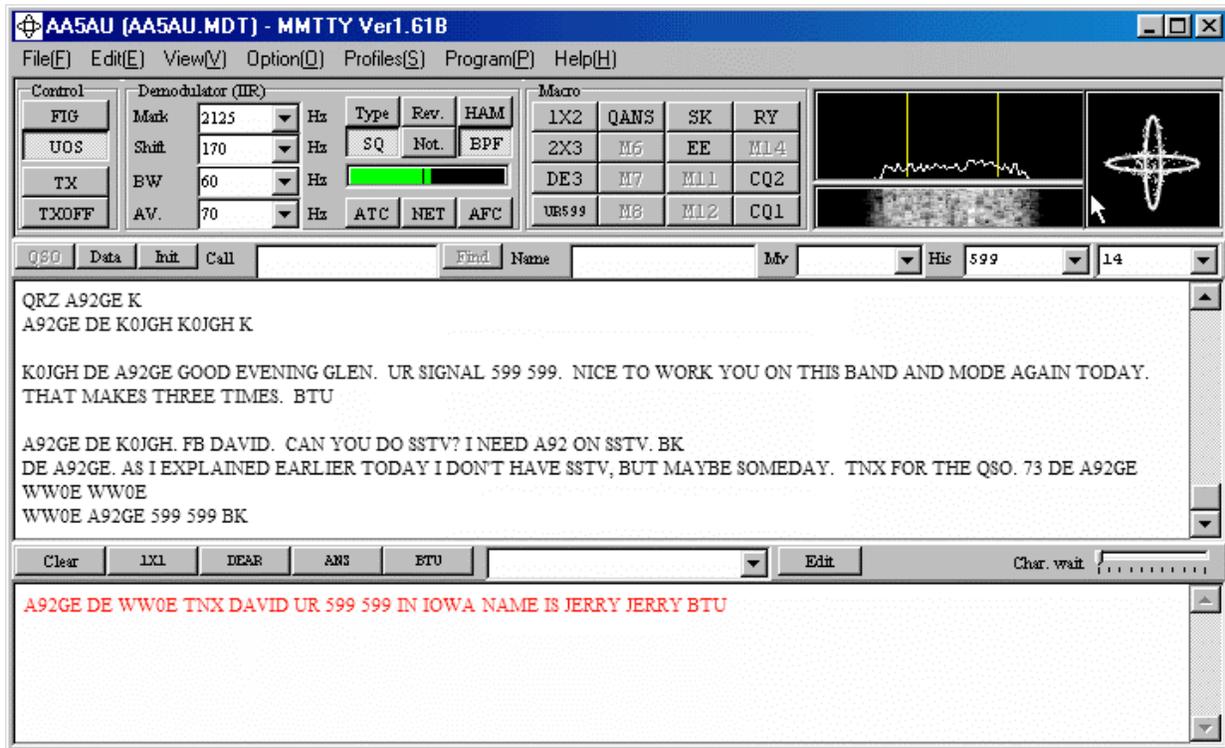
My hope and goal is that if I can provide regular updates to the membership about individual totals, people will be motivated to QRV and have fun. If you have ideas, I'd love to hear them.

## ***RTTY Corner – Latest DX Digi-Doings – Jerry Rappel WWØE***

Anyone out there operating RTTY? Everyday more and more Amateur Radio operators are operating on the HF digital modes, PSK, etc, and in particular, RTTY. Recent catches here include: 5X1T, ZL8X, 7Q7HB, A92GE, YJØHA, KH2JU, OHØB, TLØA, 3D2MP.



I'm running MMTTY software, here is an excellent site on getting started in RTTY: <http://www.aa5au.com/rtty.html>. Makoto (Mako) Mori, JE3HHT who deserves much credit for popularizing RTTY by writing the MMTTY software modem and making it available for integration into logging software. He also wrote MMVARI, which implements other popular digital modes, and several other digital mode software products.



MMTTY is a great product and Mako has exhibited great ham spirit with a huge effect as RTTY operation continues to be the fastest growing mode of HF digital operation.

### ***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:

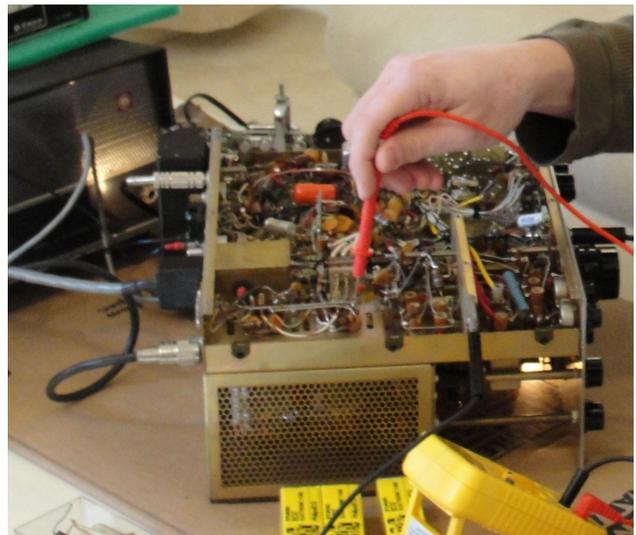
- Cliff Ahrens KØCA: [cahrens@mywdo.com](mailto:cahrens@mywdo.com).
- Tom Vavra WB8ZRL: [wb8zrl@arri.net](mailto:wb8zrl@arri.net).
- Mike Nowack NA9Q: [na9q@arri.net](mailto:na9q@arri.net).



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### **SAFETY FIRST**

An EIDXA member checking voltages in a vacuum tube era transceiver. What's missing from this photo that makes this potentially dangerous exercise safer?



Answer: The other hand! Keep one hand behind your back to reduce the potentially lethal risk of taking high voltage across your chest – and heart!