Official Newsletter of the Eastern Iowa DX Association

The Eastern Iowa DXer

NØDX

An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League

Established 1975

ANNUAL APRIL ISSUE

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		

Next EIDXA Meeting – Friday April 13th, 7:30 PM 2012.
Room 219C of Linn Hall on the campus of Kirkwood Community College.
Special Program: HKØNA Malpelo DXpedition by Glenn Johnson, WØGJ

Glenn Johnson, WØGJ at Malpelo

The Eastern Iowa Dxer

www.eidxa.org

April 202 - Contents

President's Propagation, Pronouncements & Pontification

EIDXA President *Richard Heinrich*, NØYY

Another busy contest season has ended and hopefully you put new countries or increased your band totals during the season. While the bands have been active, the conditions have left something to be desired. Add to that the unseasonable weather and storms all around us keeping the noise levels up on the low bands making things more difficult than you might expect at the spring equinox.

The 3CØE Annobon operation kept many of us listening and chasing. The apparent random pattern made this one especially difficult. From many comments it seems that this was one of those examples that finding a quiet frequency in the direction of their progression and calling seemed to yield "reasonable" results.

Now that we have the main part of the contest season behind us and we have either been successful or frustrated by our pursuits of the DX-peditions it may be a good time to review the DX Code of Conduct. It serves as a reminder of good operating practice for the pile-ups and general day to day operations. Just do a web search to find it. Many sites have it posted.

And it's that time of year to start planning the Dayton pilgrimage. From my perspective, EIDXA will be VERY well represented this year. Several different groups have plans to travel to the Hamvention. I'll be going with my standard group again this year. I'm already packed and ready to go!!

WE are very grateful to have Glenn, WØGJ as our speaker at the upcoming meeting. Glenn recently returned form what appears to be the most successful DX-pedition in history to the island of Malpelo as HKØNA. Glenn has graciously accepted our invitation to present and will also include a feature article in this issue. We are getting a sneak preview of what will likely be one of the premier presentations at the DX Forum at Dayton!

And speaking of the Dayton and the improving weather, now is the time to plan your summer antenna projects and to put together your list of "stuff" that you absolutely cannot live without to buy in the flea market at Dayton. I know I have several antenna projects to finish my reconstructed antenna system. While everything works, there is always room for improvement.

And just as a little reminder of why you want to keep those antennas polished and ready to pounce, I'm including the recent list of the Top 20 Most Wanted Entities compiled by Carl, N4AA.

2011 Position	Prefix	Entity	2010 Position
1	P5	North Korea	1
2	KP1	Navassa	2
3	3Y/B	Bouvet	3
4	VKØ/H	Heard Island	5
5	7O	Yemen	4
6	FT5Z	Amsterdam	6
7	FT5W	Crozet	9
8	BS7	Scarborough	10
9	VP8S	South Sandwich	8
10	ZS8	Marion Island	7
11	VKØ/M	Macquarie	13
12	HKØ/M	Malpello	12
13	FR/T	Tromelin	15
14	SVØ/A	Mount Athos	14
15	ZL9	Auckland & Campbell	16
16	PYØS	ST. Peter & Paul	18
17	KH5	Palmyra	19
18	KH5K	Kingman Reef	17
19	KH9	Wake Island	22
20	FR/J/E	Juan de Nova	20

I look forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting. Have fun and be safe.

Rick NØYY

"Now that's DX"

EIDXA Vice-President *Jerry Rappel*, WWØE

"FEATURE STORY" – HKØNA Malpelo Island DXpedition

First things first

Wow! - as Richard just said - we are delighted to have a special feature in the newsletter this month. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ has submitted his HKØNA Malpelo Island Dxpedition story. Thanks Glenn.

"And now for something completely different"

If you've noticed … I've been changing the presentation of the newsletter in the past couple issues. With this issue I believe I have found the essential that I've been looking for, as the standard. Let me know your opinion.

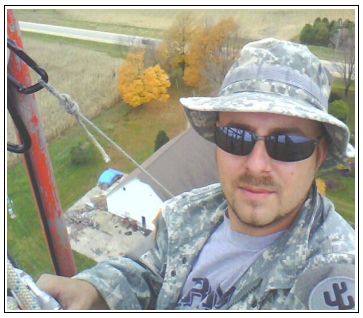
Additionally, this edition of the newsletter is "BURSTING AT THE SEAMS". Thanks to the 17 club members for their contributions. Is this a new record?

"Now that's DX" continued

Beginning with this newsletter I will get under way a new column named PSE QSL - featuring QSL cards from our members. If you haven't given me one already, bring one to the next meeting, or send it to me.

The concept of sending a QSL card to verify reception of a station may have been independently invented about 100 years ago. The earliest reference seems is a card sent in 1916 from 8VX in Buffalo, New York to 3TQ in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The standardized card with call sign, date, frequency, etc. may have been developed in 1919 by C.D. Hoffman, 8UX, in Akron, Ohio.

"Maintainer of the Web Site"



The club welcomes **Jason Joens, KDØMND** as the new EIDXA "Maintainer of the Web Site". I'd like all the club members to know that they can E-mail me at pixelpaint@mchsi.com for any changes to their online club profiles. All they have to do is shoot me an email with the updated information, and I'll get it done.

Something I thought I'd never hear a contester say

During the 2011 CQ WW WPX contest - "conditions were so bad on Saturday morning, I actually took time off to mow the lawn". N2MM. (CQ Magazine).

From April 1937 QST

The most sensational Dxpedition of all times is now being organized. All DX'ers are invited to participate in it's financial support. The Dxpedition will contact only it's financial supporters. A ham who donates $10.00 to the Dxpedition will be entitled to 10 contacts in the radio-rarest countries. Hams who have donated will give their call sign with a **/PU**, to indicate "paid up" status . . . . . the column ends with "look what month it is".

"Now that's DX" - see you next issue - *Jerry* WWØE

Feature Story

"The Rock" ~ *HKØNA*

January - February 2012
Glenn Johnson WØGJ

Malpelo Island is a bald "rock" almost 310 miles west of Columbia. It is between the Galapagos Islands and Panama. Malpelo is a natural preserve, equivalent to the U.S. Desecheo and Navassa, with very restricted access to the land. Dive boats take divers to the waters around Malpelo, but they are not allowed to set foot on the island, very similar to Desecheo. Only one dive boat is allowed at any one time. No fishing is allowed within 25 miles. The Columbian Navy keeps a presence there with a ship to watch over the dive boats and to keep fishermen away.

Glenn Johnson WØGJ

Jorge, HK1R, our team leader had been working over 5 years to get permissions and coordination with the Columbian Park Service and the Columbian Navy.

Malpelo was first activated in 1969.
http://hamgallery.com/qsl/country/Malpelo_Island/hk0tu3.htm
This link tells how harrowing and dangerous the HKØTU DXpedition was! Bob Denniston, WØDX, was one of the operators on that first DXpedition. One member, the team doctor, was severely injured in the landing attempt and almost lost his life. In the waters surrounding Malpelo is one of the largest concentrations of hammerhead sharks in the world.

There is only one "flat" place on the island about 400 feet above the sea to operate from. The climb from the now improved "landing" is extremely steep, at least a 60 degree angle, over extremely rugged and sharp rocks. This "flat" area, unfortunately for most of the DX world faces east and southeast to Europe and South America with an 1100 foot high mountain directly behind the camp between Asia and North America.

Only a few, short DXpeditions have ever taken place from Malpelo. Before HKØNA, no operation had ever taken place from the top of the island with a clear path to Asia and North America.

We knew this was going to be one of the most physically demanding DXpeditions in recent years. For at least 6 months prior to the DXpedition, most of us were on a physical training program to build up our strength and endurance. Still, almost half of the 20 team members were physically unable to make the climb to the operation site at the top. One thing we were not prepared for was the incredible heat, with daytime temperatures 105-115 °F or more! The black rock absorbs the heat from the sun and it was like camping on a parking lot on a hot day! There is not one blade of grass or shrub or tree for shade. Three of us were physicians, K9SG, KØIR and myself. Gary K9SG, is an urgent care physician and he was prepared to be the primary physician for illness and minor injuries. As a surgeon, I packed a large Pelican case with surgical equipment to fix about anything. Except for some minor heat problems, scrapes and bruises, and one sprained ankle, we remained healthy and safe.

The HKØNA team assembled in Bogota, Columbia, on January 19. On January 20, we flew to the port city of Buenaventura, Columbia. We set sail for Malpelo just before midnight that night on high tide. The Seawolf is a 110 foot dive boat that regularly takes divers to the Malpelo waters. The trip is about 30 hours one way. We arrived at Malpelo just before dawn on January 21st.

From the Seawolf, a Zodiac boat took us to El Tangon, the cantilever "dock" over the ocean. We either climbed up the rope ladder or were hoisted up by winch. →

There is not one place on the island where a landing can be made by any boat but a military landing craft, and that in only one small place. As you can see from the pictures, Malpelo has sheer cliffs all round the island. The climb up to OpB is in the 60+ degree angle range. If you stand up and put your arm out against the rock, you will fall down the cliff. It is that steep. Getting to the very top, involves scaling a 60 foot vertical wall with ropes.

I go backpacking in Idaho almost every summer and use a 30 degree incline treadmill to work out on.

I did fine with the climbing. → What we were NOT prepared for was the incredible heat!

By early afternoon the team and all personal gear had made it to the base camp with six stations and all antennas ALREADY set up and operational!!! How good can it get?

On Christmas day, 3 ½ weeks before the main team was to arrive, the Fabulous Four Columbian team members, HK1N Jaime, HK1T Sal, HK1MW Bolmar & HK6F Faber, left their homes and families to transport nearly 4 tons of gear to Malpelo on a Navy ship.

The Navy keeps a small contingent on the island in a small duty hut: one officer, one higher ranking enlisted man and four lower ranking enlisted men. The advance team put up all of the antennas at OpB (Baja = lower) site and a few of the antennas at OpA (Alto = higher) site. Time was spent putting a steel cable into the rock to help one climb, not only up from the Tangon to OpB, but also up to OpA. They had several rain days, as the rainy season was ending, and with a few more days, could have had OpA completely finished. We literally walked into OpB and sat down and operated. By the end of the first day after the main team arrived, we had a two stations operational at OpA, and four stations by the second day for a total of ten stations.

Inside the tents, temps were 125 °F +++ …. and in the first few days of operation before a fan was taken up to OpA, radios and computers would literally shut down because of overheating. If you were sleeping in a tent at sunrise, within an hour after sunrise, it became SO HOT inside the tent you had to get up. There was no place to go for further rest or sleep until after dark.

I was assigned to do the operator scheduling, and after discussion with most of the team, the initial plan was to rotate all operators through OpA for a 48-hour "shift" and then return to OpB. However, only about half of the team ever made it up to OpA. Many could not physically do it. It was that demanding. Of several who went up to OpA, some never went back up a second time. The black rock is like an asphalt parking lot in the hot sun. When it rains (we had several squalls come through, but no steady rain), the surface of the rock is covered with algae and guano. Any rain changes the surface into slime, and even maneuvering on level ground is dangerous, as the rocks themselves are very slick and the volcanic rocks are very sharp should one slip and fall. When it rains, any travel on the island is impossible.

At OpA, → we had a large expedition tent with room for four stations and a couple shade screens over the tent and outside of the tent.

During the day, we pulled the stations out of the tent to help reduce the heat stress. At OpA, we slept on cots under the stars.

At OpB, we had two large sleeping tents and two small rooms in the old barracks for sleeping. Along two walls, we set up tables for 6 stations. We even had a water cooler and ice maker at OpB!

Within an hour after sunrise, it was impossible to sleep anywhere because of the heat….so we looked forward to operating our next shift. We could only sleep between shifts at night when it was cooler. If one operated most of the night, there was no sleep possible the following day. Yes, this was very physically and mentally demanding.

We had a total of 11 Elecraft K-3 transceivers and six Elecraft KPA-500 solid state amplifiers. In addition, we had two Alpha 8410 amplifiers for the low bands. OpA had four K-3's and one KPA-500. OpB had six stations with K-3's and either a KPA-500 or Alpha 8410. A spare K-3 was used as a 6M beacon from OpB. The next to last day, one of the KPA-500's began smoking. Otherwise there were no equipment failures.

At OpA, we had an A3S for 20-15-10M and an A3WS WARC band beam with a 30M element. We had dipoles for 160, 80 & 40M. One would think that a 160M dipole with apex at 35 feet on top of a 1100 foot peak would do well. It didn't. We were all very disappointed. The volcanic rock should have been an "insulator," but with the recent rainy season and all of the algae and guano, the effect must have been the same as if the dipole was only a few meters high. One of the best antennas I used at OpA for hours on end was a 15M wire ground plane 1100 feet above the ocean…..endless loud pileups from early morning until several hours after dark with only 100 watts!

OpB at sunrise →
OpB also had an A3S and A3WS.

We had Spiderbeam masts for 160 & 80M verticals. We had two open wire fed dipoles that performed well for 40-10 M. There were also ground planes for most bands 30M and up.

160M was a real challenge! We tried various receive antennas, but nothing really worked better than the transmit antenna. Many, many stations were calling and all at our noise level…..partial call after partial call.

One almost has to be sure of a complete call to answer, as soon as you have a partial call and the pileup dies down, the QSB will make copy of that partial call impossible. It was always good to hear signals above the noise floor. To those stations, we could readily get back to. I always had my "zero detector" turned on. I really like 12-10M CW, too, as the pileups are a little more spread out and it is surprising who will show up! 160M remains the ultimate challenging, but fun, band for me. Sunrise is a hoot when the JA's start coming out of the noise and you get them into the log. Everyone is happy!

It was impossible to sleep during the day….anywhere, no matter HOW tired you were. However, there were always camp chores, laundry and other things to do. One night up at OpA, I was sleeping out under the stars on a cot and woke up so wet from the dew, I could almost wring the water out of my t-shirt. Even body temperature is cooler than the surroundings and guess where the dew forms first!

The Seawolf, our transport vessel, provided three meals each day, along with a daily supply of fuel and water. Three times a day, a few guys would go down to the Tangon and in a rope net, haul up the daily supplies. At OpB, breakfast would arrive about 10 am, lunch at 3pm and dinner at 6 pm. The marines would take the breakfast and lunch meals up to OpA, along with water and fuel. OpA never received an evening meal. Sometimes OpA would have no water for almost half a day.

The physical demands to keep ahead with water and supplies was nearly impossible. It was too hot during the day and too dark to move about at night.

A couple times at OpB, we ran out of water (in the 5 gallon jugs) and had to boil rain water for drinking. There was a way to take a shower with rain and cistern water, but the water supply was intermittent.

Besides, it was so hot, that taking a shower was almost pointless because you'd feel like you needed another one before you could even dry off.

Did I mention how HOT it was on Malpelo? →

Except for the heat,our only significant physical concern was the land crabs. Crabs were EVERYWHERE and into EVERYTHING! If anything were dropped onto the ground, there would be a crab pileup within seconds. They would tear and eat into just about anything, including one's toes!

We had team members from Germany (DJ9ZB), Brazil (PP5XX), Argentina (LU9ESD), Columbia (HK1R (team leader), HK1N, HK1T, HK1X, HK1MW, HK3JJF, & HK6F), Canada (VA7DX & VE7CT), and the U.S. (K4UEE, W6IZT, N4GRN, N6OX, K9GS, WB9Z, KØIR and myself WØGJ). We would at times debate different ways of doing things, but we had no conflicts that compromised the DXpedition. We all left as great friends. We are now "compadres," which is a Spanish term which means "the very best of friends."

The pileups were NEVER-ENDING. They never stopped! We passed the record for number of contacts for a tent/generator operation and ended up with over 195,625 contacts!!! An amazing accomplishment from an incredibly challenging place! Europe was LOUD. The east coast was loud. Most of North America and all of Asia was right through the middle of the mountain.

I always had my "zero detector" on and any zero always had my fullest attention from OpB. Long path to Asia/JA was my favorite time of the day, just before sunrise.

With a 360 degree unobstructed view, it was easy to work everyone from OpA! Everyone was loud at OpA. There was a lot of demand for RTTY, and even though I spent a lot of time on RTTY, those pileups never got thin.
It is more difficult than it used to be to spread out a pile-up. There are lots of pan-adapters, second receivers, and packet spots indicating the receive frequency of a DX station.

I could have a horrendous pile-up on 18.072 with 18.074 being dead quiet. If I tuned up to 18.074 and waited 30 seconds or so (an eternity) someone might call. When I answered, the masses would move to 18.074 and 18.072 would become silent. While this conserves spectrum, it makes it harder to pull calls and maintain a rate.

WØGJ on the top of the rock

Without the help and leadership of the Columbians, we could not have pulled off this DXpedition. They are all great guys, great ops and wonderful new friends. I cannot say enough good things about them! We made new lifetime friendships with the ops from other countries, too. There was excellent team work without any conflicts. I think everyone was very focused on breaking the existing tent and generator record ….. and we did it!

We were blessed with dry weather for the take-down and fairly calm seas for the trip back to Columbia. Everyone got caught up on sleep on the voyage home.

One very important final note: without major funding from NCDXF (Northern California DX Foundation) and the generous contribution from the Eastern Iowa DX Association and many other DX Clubs and individuals, this DXpedition would not have been possible. Your support and contributions to these organizations is so extremely important!!! ...

Entities high on the Most Wanted List are there for a reason: THEY ARE DIFFICULT TO GET TO and TRANSPORTATION IS EXPENSIVE. It takes a lot of money UP FRONT to get to these places. QSL income is always needed to cover expenses later, but it does not come in time to fund the travel to an entity.

Most don't realize that QSLing by the bureau is expensive for DXpeditions. The recent STØR DXpedition has already spent in excess of $7000 just answering bureau cards!

We are estimating that with nearly 200,000 contacts, our bureau expenses will be in excess of $10,000, for a "free" card! The fastest and best way to get QSL cards now is via the OQRS method! Most DXpedition members have invested a lot of their own resources and time into these trips.

Family life is sacrificed and, like Malpelo, we were not exactly sitting in a comfortable chair with climate control. Risk and hardship, whether from heat, cold, rocks, cliffs or crabs, are always present on these DXpeditions. PLEASE be generous in your contributions to these organizations so you can work the "next one!"

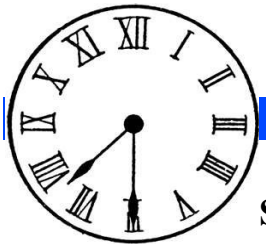
Thanks for being in the pileups and thanks for your generous support!

I hope to see many of my zero friends at the Eastern Iowa DX Association meeting on Friday April 13th !!!

Vivien (KL7YL) and I will be moving to Decorah, Iowa, this summer and hope to see our EIDXA friends much more often.

73!

Glenn Johnson, WØGJ



Minutes

Secretary/Treasurer *Richard Haendal*, W3ACO

EIDXA minutes of the February 3rd, 2012 meeting.

President Rick Heinrich, NØYY called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. 47 Hams answered the CQ call. Introductions were made all around.

Secretary and treasurer's report from the October 2011 meeting were read and approved. Checking account balance as of Feb 3, 2012 is $901.79.

Repeater is working OK, no problems reported.

Rick recognized Karin Blankenhagen, KØEGQ. He thanked her for coming to the meeting. A round of applause followed. She mentioned that Heinz's station will be maintained by Jason Joens, KDØMND, and will be available for some contests.

Three hams applied for membership, NØSL, NOØB and W9EAA. No new hams were inducted into the club.

Vice President Jerry Rappel, WWØE was recognized for doing a super job on the newsletter and given a round of applause.

Brad Farrell, K4RT submitted his resignation as club Webmaster. It was decided by voice vote that up to $100 could be spent to thank Brad for his effort by giving him a EIDXA plaque and EIDXA logo shirt. Glen KØJGH will follow up. Jason Joens, KDØMND is the new club Webmaster.

President Rick Heinrich, NØYY gave a presentation on maintenance and preparation of a contest station PJ2T. With emphasis on the corrosive effects of antennas and equipment near the ocean.

(Revised) Next meeting is scheduled for April 13th. Presentation of the HKØNA DXpedition by Glenn Johnson, WØGJ.

EIDXA NEWS

9MØL Spratley Island

Members of the Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitter Society (MARTS) and the 9M4SDX Team will be active as **9MØL** from Pulau Layang Layang Island (Swallow Reefs - AS-051) near Sabah, East Malaysia, between April 10-24th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, and RTTY. They will try to have as many RTTY QSO's with NA/SA as much as possible. QSL direct to 9M2TO.

Conway Reef 3D2/C

PACIFIC TOUR (Preparing for Conway Reef). In preparation of the upcoming DXpedition to Conway Reef (3D2/C) in September, Hrane, YT1AD, will be in the Pacific during April, and plans to activate Rotuma, Fiji, Samoa and American Samoa. April 7-9th - Callsign KH8/N9YU from Pago Pago, American Samoa, and from AH8LG QTH April 9-11th - Callsign 5W7A from Apia, Samoa April 13-20th - Callsign 3D2R from Rotuma.

PYØS - DXCC Entity To Become Rarer

ST PETER AND ST PAUL ROCKS, SA-014 - The Brazilian government has forbidden all amateur radio activities from this archipelago. The "Brazilian Amateur Radio League" and other DX groups are already working on this issue. PYØS, ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL ROCKS. Already ranked 16th, on the "DX Magazine's Most Needed Countries World-Wide List", it was announced this past week that amateur radio Dxpedition is now prohibited from the archipelago of Saint Peter and Saint Paul Rocks (PYØS). The prohibition is published on the Web site of SERCIM <http://www.mar.mil.br/secirm/proarq.htm> - Secretariat of the Inter-ministerial Commission for Sea Resources that coordinates and controls the "Program Archipelago of Saint Peter and Saint Paul".

Members of the Federal LABRE DX and some groups in Brazil have shown a true outrage on Social Networks on the Internet. There is already a great mobilization on the part of Amateur Radio with the Brazilian Federal Senators and Repre-sentatives to try to reverse the decision to ban DXpedition to PYØS.

ZL1AMO

Legendary DXpeditioner Ron Wright, ZL1AMO, died on March 6, at the age of 75. Since the late 1970s he has made well over 100 Dxpeditions in the Pacific region, including 3D2RW, 3D2RW/R, 5W1CW, C21/ZL1AMO, A35EA, FWØBX, H44RW, T28RW, T28RW, T30BH, VR6HI, YJØRW, ZK1CQ (South), ZK1CQ (North), ZK1MB (North), ZK2RW, ZK3RW, ZL7AMO, ZL8AMO and ZL9AMO.

DM1ØØMGY - DOK1ØØMGY

Special Event Station.
The sinking of the passenger liner **Titanic** has its 100th anniversary on April 15, 2012. After hitting an iceberg the ship sank 300 nautical miles southeast of Newfoundland. Unfortunately, only about 700 of the 2200 passengers and crew members were rescued. It was one of the worst maritime disasters of civilian shipping. This resulted in numerous measures to accelerate the rescue of people at high seas. DM1ØØMGY – DOK1ØØMGY January 1st - December 31st. QSL only via bureau only, no direct QSLs.

CONGRADULATIONS !

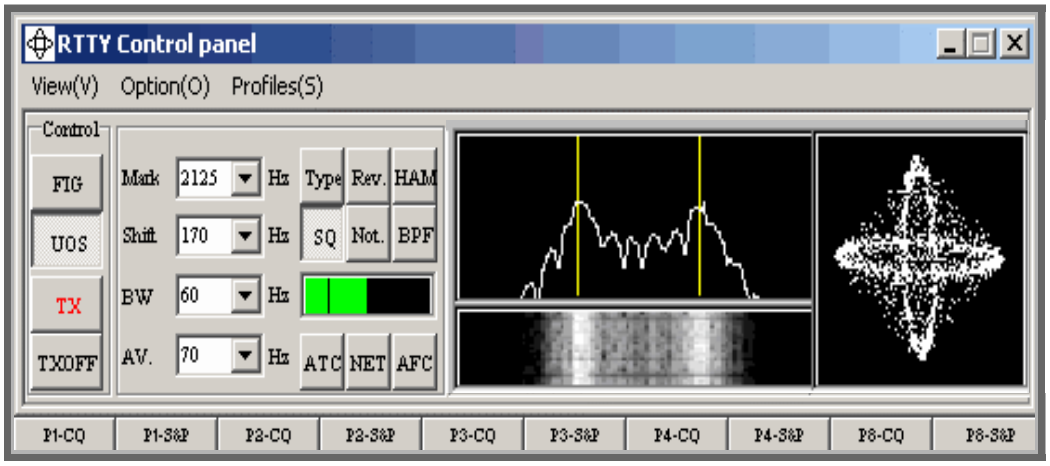
First place in Iowa in the 2011 ARRL DX Phone Contest. Single Operator Assisted High Power Phone

Tom Hise, **NCØO**

First place in Iowa in the 2011 ARRL DX Phone Contest. Single Operator High Power Phone

Sam Burrell, **KØAFN**

RTTY Corner - Jerry Rappel WWØE



The latest DX digi-doings

RTTY facts:

Radio-teletype is one of the oldest digital modes in Amateur Radio, but it remains the most popular for contests. RTTY is fast, about as fast as most of us can type. It avoids the "capture effect, which is common to other digital modes – where the strongest station is the only one copied.

- New in my RTTY log book - HKØNA, ST2AR, HU2DX, KG4SS, KG4KL, EA9IB, FS/F8PDL, C31KC, CU7AA, SLØW, LB8IB, CV5K, 3G30, 5K3R, 5C5W, 6V7S, LX1EA, MIØM, MW2I, M7W, TM22P, ZL1BYZ, KH6ZM, TF3PPN, UA9MA, XF1A, (KD4POJ North Dakota, 30 meters).

- From the RTTY log of **Dave Jaksa, WØVX** - RA2FF, CT3BD, VP6T, HKØNA, YB2EL, TO4M, C21NA, TR8CA, UN7LZ, LA5FHA, FP/W6HGF, 4U1WRC.

- **Joe Hungate, K8OM** worked these DX stations on RTTY - HKØNA, 6V7S, FP/W6HGF, ZK2C, 3B8/SP2FUD, C31KC, K7UGA, VR2XMT, KG4AS, ER3MM, 3C6A, TR8CA, V32TF, HU2DX, FWØNAR, CN8KD.

- **Sam Burrell, KØAFN** sent this log - ZD8F, BD7ANX, JH9FNB, 5V7SI, TG9AHM, IF9ZWA, HZ1PS, & CT2GQN on RTTY/ BPSK.

- **Richard Haendel**, **W3ACO** - has worked a considerable quantity of RTTY stations - TX6T, TN2T, FWØNAR, RA2FF, HKØNA, 4WØVB, ZK2C, 3V8SS, TO4M, D2QR, ST2AR, 9A1A, 5D5A, ED1R, FP/W6HGF, A45XR, 4S7KKG, G5D, HC2/W7SE.

- **Glen Kesselring, KØJGH** submits his exceptional catches - A45XR, C32CT, CN8KD, 5B4AIF, VP6T, TN2T, HKØNA, HU2X, 6O3A, FWØNAR, TO4M, ES6Q, MMØAMW, YB1PT, 3C6A, DP1POL, 9M2MRS, PJ4C, YS1JBL, TT8ES.

April 7th EA RTTY contest

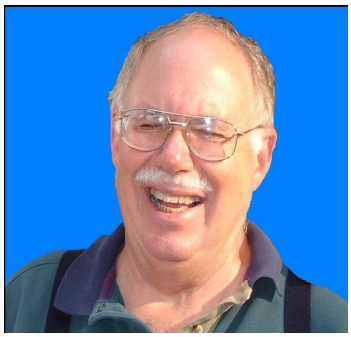
April 28th SP DX RTTY contest

Thanks for the RTTY logs guys.

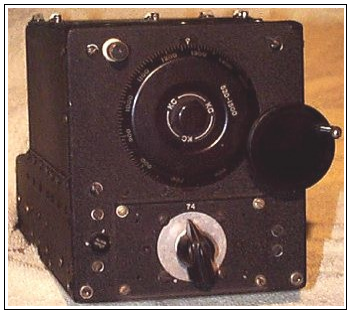
Member's Spotlight

W3ACO

Richard Haendal, **W3ACO - Secretary/Treasurer EIDXA.**



I had an interest in radio as a child at the age of 8 when I lived in New York. That is when I built a single tube regenerative receiver for 40 meters using a 3A4 tube and batteries. My references then were the Radio Amateur Handbooks. I became fascinated with hearing signals from far away, even at that young age. Between the ages of 8 and 15, I built several receivers finding parts in "Radio Row" in Manhattan. I traveled to New York City on the commuter train. In Radio Row, many vendors had boxes of parts outside on the sidewalk to chose from, tubes, passive parts and war surplus ARC-5 radios.



(ARC-5 equipment was modified extensively for ham radio use in the 1950's and 60's).

I joined the radio club, W2SZ when I started my college period at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in 1956. In 1957 I stood for my radio license at the FCC office in Manhattan. I passed the test and in November 1957 I received the technician class license and my call, K2YHL. I operated mostly 6 meters and 2 meters.

At home, in a small town 20 miles North of NYC, I built a 600 watt 6 meter AM transmitter using a 4-400 tube. I was the scourge of the neighborhood, especially on channel 2!. I had an 8 element beam on a 50 foot tower. During the 1960 VHF contest, I worked 37 states and had 245 contacts on 6 meters. My neighbors didn't like me for messing up their TVs. During my stay at RPI, I also built a 2 meter PA using a pair of 4XC150s. Wow that was some transmitter. We also had at W2SZ a single 14 element yagi at 30 feet. My fellow hams and I had a ball learning about 2 meter propagation. Since then I have had a continuing fascination with radio propagation.

I worked for a year or so at Ascension Island, ZD8, as the communications engineer for the Atlantic missile test range. The team operated a multi-transmitter HF station with 1400 foot rhombics using 10 KW and 40KW transmitters. I continued to mess around with HF propagation for at least part of my career.

In 1963 I moved to Maryland. In those days, when you moved, the FCC changed your call so I received the call W3ACO. I was inactive for several years until I moved to Iowa in 1976. Later, I retook all the tests including CW and got my Extra Class license and call ABØZQ. Immediately, I requested my old call back. ABØZQ sounds terrible on CW !

I am an active HF DXer. Unlike many, my "good" station is not at my house, but at my workshop in the country, about 12 miles from Iowa City. I use a K3 with a Tokyo amplifier at 600 watts and a 3 element Steppir at 55 feet. As I am at my "good" station only during the day, I work mostly the higher HF bands.

At home, I have a K2/100 and 20M/40M dipole at 30 feet. I have 312 countries confirmed, and about 1050 band countries for the DXCC challenge. I enjoyed the 2011 CQ DX marathon. My claimed score was 276 entities and 40 zones. I don't think I will do the marathon again this year as it took a lot of time away from my woodworking.

I am also president of the Iowa City Amateur Radio Club, WØJV.

Richard Haendal, W3ACO

Member's Spotlight

KDØHUC

Cheryl Hungate – **KDØHUC**

Amateur Radio, "all in the family"

KDØHUC

In June 1973, I became the wife of an Amateur Radio Operator (Joe Hungate – K8OM). I had no idea what amateur radio was all about until 1977. My hometown of Williamson, West Virginia was severally flooded with all telephone service into the town cut-off and none of my family that still lived there could be located. Several Civil Defense amateur radio operators with their equipment were airlifted into Williamson in order to provide Health & Welfare traffic out of that area. Joe stayed at his radio for several days and nights until my family members were located and we got word that everyone was OK.

We are the proud parents of a girl born in 1975 and a son in 1978. Both are married and now we are the proud grandparents of 6 (4 grandsons and 2 granddaughters). One of our grandsons is also a ham (Tyler - KDØHUB) and a couple others are starting to show interest.
I was never very interested in ham radio until 2009.

Our then 9 year old grandson Tyler really wanted to study for and pass the exam for the Technician Class ham license. I found out that the local ham club had a class starting soon but no one would go with him. I saw how much he really wanted this so I went with him to the classes. On May 9, 2009 we became the first grandmother / grandson team to get their ham licenses together in the Cedar Rapids area.

KDØHUB

We still could not operate on the radio until we received our licenses so after 5 long days, Joe checked the FCC web site and let me know we had gotten our call letters assigned. He wouldn't tell either of us what our calls were so we had to go to the web site and find out for ourselves. To our surprise, we had consecutive call signs. Tyler received KDØHUB and I received KDØHUC….

KDØHUB - KDØHUC

So I guess Tyler has actually been licensed longer than me. I was terrified the first time I got on the radio, but it sure was fun. Tyler and I worked each other on 2 meter FM for our first contact. My very first HF contact was with an Australian ham living in Louisiana. I was really bitten by the ham radio bug after that!!! But I wanted more frequencies to operate on so after a couple of weeks of hard studying, on May 23, 2009 I went for my General Class license and passed. I don't think Joe could believe it! I found out how addictive working DX is and the bug was really spreading fast with me. That was when I really fell in love with 20 meters single sideband. I was starting to increase my countries, zones, continents and states totals. While Joe was at work I got to play on the radio all day and I mean all day. I would get on the air right after he left for work and not get off until he came home at night.

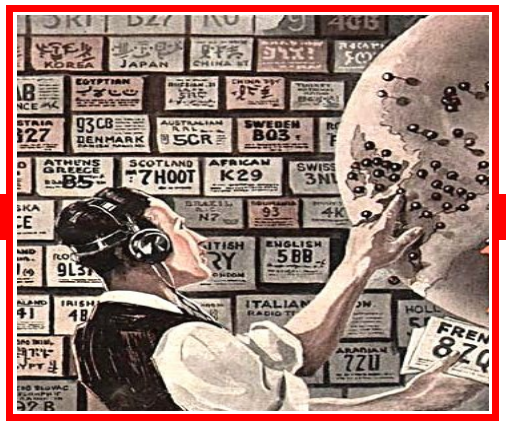
I got to the point where I wanted even more operating privileges so I studied and at the August 2009 hamfest in Cedar Rapids I tested for the Amateur Extra Class license and to my surprise and especially to Joe, I got it. Tyler tried for his General Class license but didn't quite pass. After more studying he passed with flying colors the following February in Vinton, Iowa. We are so proud of him ... a General Class licensee at 9 years old!
So far, after operating for about 3 years, I've been able to achieve W.A.S., W.A.C., W.A.Z., DXCC Mixed (248 confirmed / 269 worked), and 20 meter DXCC. I still have a long way to go to catch up with Joe (but he's been licensed for 48 years) but hopefully it won't be too long.

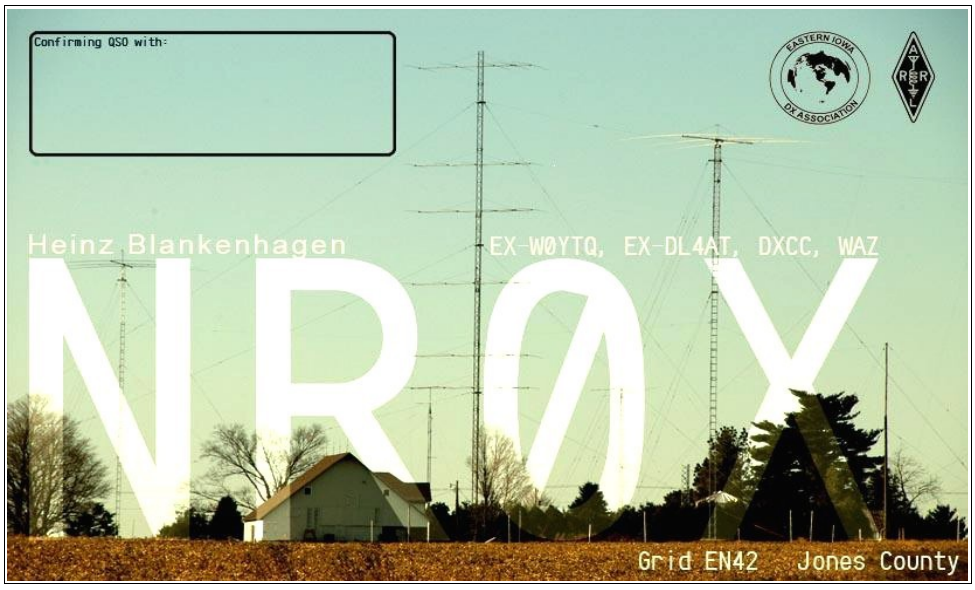
Since his retirement, I don't get on the radio as much as I did but that's OK, I still have the ham bug and get on as often as possible especially when there is a "new one" on. It is great being able to make friends via ham radio with people in Kuwait, British Virgin Islands, around the world and all across the USA. Some of them can even pick me out of the pile ups just by hearing my voice.

Take care, God bless, and I hope to hear you in the pile ups.

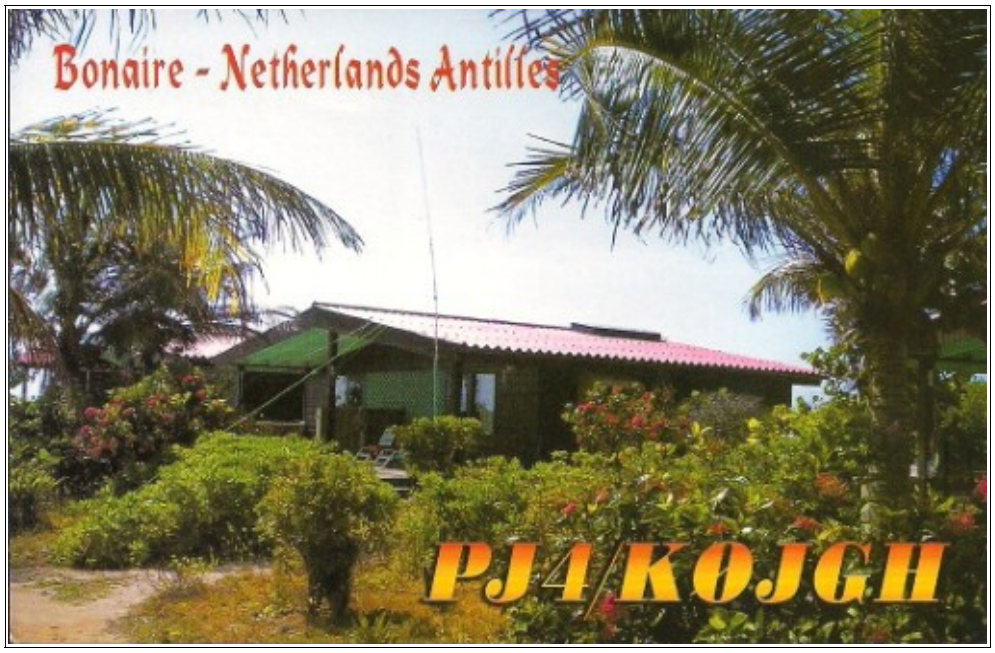
73 – Cheryl – KDØHUC

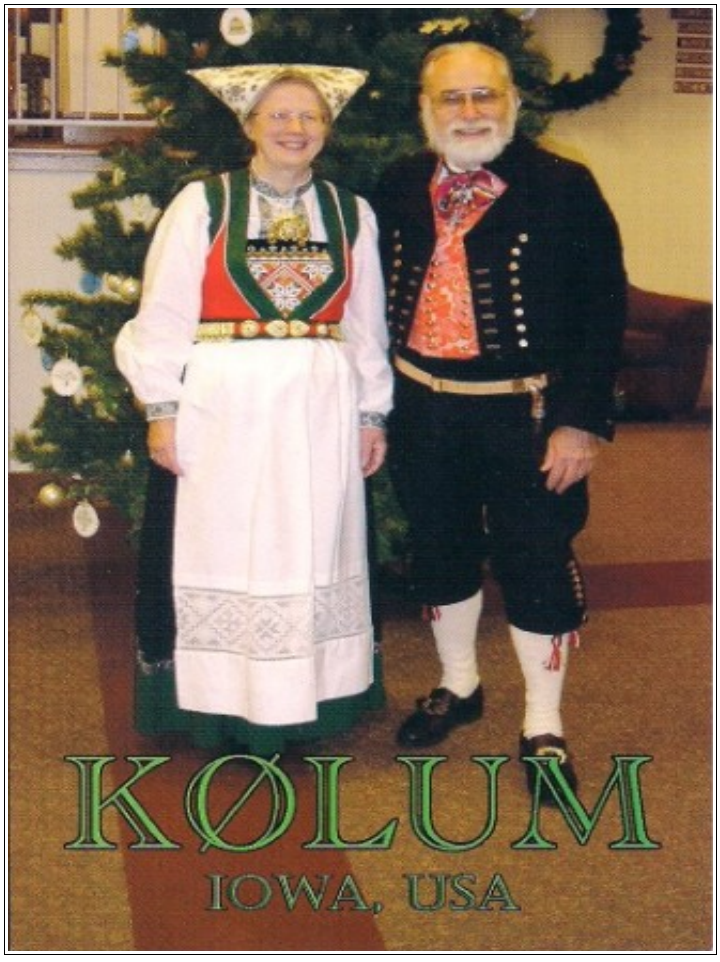
PSE QSL




Confirming QSO with:
EASTERN IOWA DX ASSOCIATION
Heinz Blankenhagen
EX-W0YTQ, EX-DL4AT, DXCC, WAZ
NR0X
Grid EN42 Jones County


NB9Q NA9Q
Arlyce & Michael Nowack

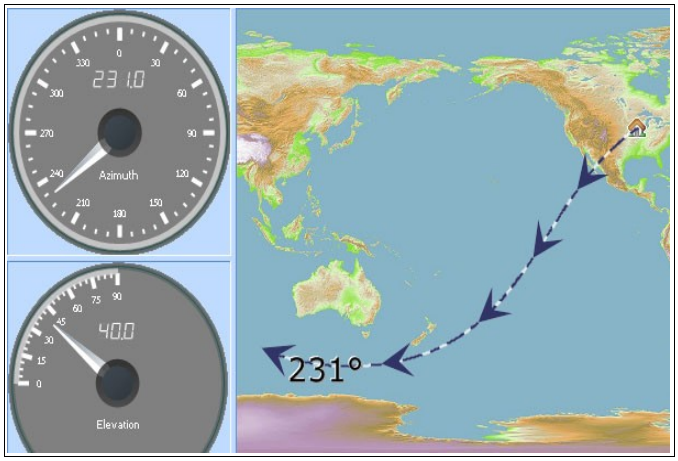

Bonaire - Netherlands Antilles
PJ4/KØJGH


KØLUM
IOWA, USA

AZ/EL Rotor Control Array

Jason Joens, KDØMND

First, a little disclaimer. I am not an electronics expert. In fact, my knowledge of electronics is pretty limited right now. It's the result of a hobby I lost interest in during my teenage years, and am only now reviving a love for. There might be half a dozen better ways to do any one thing I'm doing here, and I welcome any knowledge that says I'm wrong about something in here!



A picaxe is a pretty nifty little gadget. It's a PIC micro controller that already has a lightweight basic operating system burned onto it. Those of you who have worked with PIC programming before know that it's like burning a CD-ROM. You have to have the burner, and once it's done, it's done. There's no going back. And I haven't priced a PIC burner, but I hear they're more than a full tank of gas, and that's really saying something nowadays! But the picaxe chip has an onboard serial port (several, in fact) that you can simply connect to your computer, and hit the Program button. If your program turns out to have a bug in it, you just change it, and reprogram the chip. The programming language isn't difficult, either.

Here's an example:
Main: High 4 Pause 500 Low 4 Pause 500 goto main

Now hook up an LED to pin 4. There, you just made yourself a little blinky-light. This is not to say that all the picaxe is good for it to make a light blink. You can really do a lot with it, which brings us to the point.

I'm working on a home brew project to build an antenna rotor controller from scratch, which includes azimuth and elevation, a digital LCD display, and a computer interface for control with Ham Radio Deluxe, DX4Win, or any other popular rotor program. This project is based on the work of Gavin Nesbitt (M1BXF) over in the UK. Gavin's got a bunch of neat stuff at his website, at http://www.geekshed.co.uk/. I've taken a couple of different designs of his, and tried to melt them down into one creation. So let's get started.

Picaxe runs on 5 volts. A 7805 voltage regulator and a couple filtering caps make a fine power supply for it. Connecting the programming cable from your serial port is just the send, receive, and ground wires from any old serial cable. Use a 22k resistor in series with the input to the chip, and a 10k to ground, and you won't have to worry about RS-232 conversion. Now you have a powered chip, and a way to program it. The programming software is a free download, by the way. You can get it at http://www.picaxe.com/

The picaxe can use another serial port to talk to the LCD display. I used a 4x20 character display from http://www.wulfden.org/ for this. Wulfden has a little piggyback board for an LCD display that lets you talk to it with 1 wire instead of 8-some wires. You can get the display and the controller board in a bundle fur under $40. You give it 5 volts, you give it a ground, and you give it one wire from the picaxe to the controller board, and then you can just tell it what to say. Just like this…

SerOut B.7, T2400_16, ("Hi there everyone! ") Ok, we just told the chip to send from pin B.7, at 2400 baud, and to say "Hi there everyone! " Pretty easy, huh?

Picaxe has a lot of features onboard. It can control servos, perform analog to digital conversion, and a bunch of other stuff. Right now, we're interested in that analog/digital conversion. A 10-bit ADC takes an input voltage between 0 and 5 vdc, and gives it a number between 0 and 1023. Since I'm using a potentiometer in the antenna rotor, I just feed one end of the pot with 5 vdc, ground the other side, and hook up the wiper to an input on the chip. Now I had to open up the rotor for this, because the wiper on the ham series rotors is grounded, and I wanted the end grounded instead. I completely separated the rotor's pot from the rest of the rotor and I send 5vdc, and DC gnd in from down here. At first I tried to share the ground with the AC system in the rotor….fried the chip.

When the ADC value is 0, I'm full counter-clockwise. When it's 1023, I'm full clockwise. A bit of math does the rest. The program reads the ADC, figures out where the antenna is pointing, and sends that info to the display.

Now when it gets a command from the computer to go somewhere, it looks at where it is, figures out if it needs to go left or right, and turns on whichever pin it needs to go that way. The output pins can source or sink about 20ma, so not much. I feed that to a transistor so that I can turn relays on and off. Since my base for this is an old Ham-M rotor, I use 3 relays for left, right, and brake. Turning them on and off is as easy as the blinky-light we did earlier.

Now we can add buttons to the front, so we can have manual control. We can pull the input pins low with a 10k resistor, then feed them through the buttons with 5vdc, so that when we press the button, we pull the pins to 5 volts. The program just looks for those input pins, and if the left pin is high, it turns on the brake and left relays.

Computer control is just a matter of checking to see if the computer sent us something, reading what it sent, and comparing it to where we are now. Using Ham Radio Deluxe, I've been using it to follow several satellites across the sky, and it's actually worked pretty darned well, keeping within 1 or 2 degrees the whole time. If you want the program I wrote for it, just email me at pixelpaint@mchsi.com, and I'll be happy to send it to you.

Taking a look at the picaxe website, you can find all the manuals to download, which show you all the commands you can use, suggestions on how to wire things up, and a lot of other goodies. You can order pre-made boards that you can just plug the chip into and go, and there are a lot of forums where you can ask questions, and see what other people are doing with it. The bottom line is that you can do a LOT with this little chip, and it's really not hard to figure out how to do it. Ok, we just told the chip to send from pin B.7, at 2400 baud, and to say "Hi there everyone! " Pretty easy, huh? Picaxe has a lot of features onboard. It can control servos, perform analog to digital conversion, and a bunch of other stuff. Right now, we're interested in that analog/digital conversion.

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Jason Joens, KDØMND

MV Braveheart

"The most experienced DX vessel in the world".
Having served more that 10 award winning Dxpeditions, ZL9CI Campbell Island, VP6DX Ducie Islands, VP8THU South Sandwich Islands, VP8GEO South Georgia Islands, VP8ORK South Orkney Islands, etc. Burns 11 liters of diesel fuel per nautical mile, about $1.15 per liter at this time.

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WWV | SOLAR REPORT | LATEST ALERTS | SOLAR **FLUX**

NEW DXCC FEE STRUCTURE

The ARRL has announced that effective April 2nd, 2012 the way DXCC fees are assessed will change. These changes will include both rate increases and rate decreases. ARRL HQ will very soon launch an Online DXCC Application, which will allow the client to supply the data from traditional paper QSLs in a digital form. The Online DXCC Application will have rates that are half those of a traditional paper QSL application. "Hybrid applications" (a combination of LoTW and paper QSL credits) will no longer be allowed. Each DXCC application - be it paper QSLs, LoTW or Online DXCC - will be considered separate applications with separate application fees, and there will be no more surcharges added to the second or subsequent applications.

On April 2, 2012 - here is how the DXCC fee system will change:

- No more hybrid applications. Each DXCC application -- be it paper QSLs, LoTW or Online DXCC -- will be considered separate applications with separate application fees.

- There are no limits on the number of applications that can be submitted. There will be no more surcharges added to the second or subsequent applications.

- A traditional, paper QSL application will have an application fee of $15 for ARRL members, and $25 for non-members. These applications will be allowed to include up to 101 QSOs. Additional QSOs in this sort of application will continue to cost 15 cents each.

- A DXCC application submitted using LoTW will have an application fee of $5 for ARRL members and $10 for non-members. There are no limits on the number of QSOs that can be included as part of a LoTW application.

- Each QSO used in LoTW for an award will cost 12 cents, down from a minimum of 15 cents in 2011. We will no longer sell LoTW "credits" in bulk. If you have credits stored, you will still be able to use them.

- DXCC staff will not mail any paperwork for LoTW applications (credit matrix or application summary), as all application information will be available online in the LoTW User account.

- An Online DXCC Application will have an application fee of $7.50 for ARRL members and $12.50 for non-members and will be allowed to include up to 101 QSOs. Additional QSOs will cost 8 cents. This application is primarily intended to be used in conjunction with field checkers, but can be used by applicants who do not have access to a card checker and are willing to ship cards to ARRL HQ.

- Certificates will still cost $14 delivered in the USA, and $16.50 delivered outside the USA. Pins will continue to cost $7 delivered anywhere.

- The fee for an initial DXCC award will now be the same as for any DXCC application.

- The free ***DXCC Yearbook*** that was sent to ARRL members will now be made available electronically, and it will appear in an edition of ***Digital QST.*** For those who want a League-printed ***Yearbook***, it will still be available at a modest cost.

QST Digital Edition to debut with June 2012 issue

QST Magazine will be offering an online digital edition beginning in June 2012. The digital edition will be available to members at no additional cost. The new format offers several advantages including enhanced content, timely access, and a more interactive experience. According to the ARRL, the digital edition is easy to navigate; features: flip pages from cover to cover, zoom in/out, search (full text), print, and follow live hyperlinks. Each issue will include unique, digital edition - only content-video, audio features and extra content.

QSL MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Tom Vavra WB8ZRL

The Golist QSL Manager Data Service is reviving its "QSL Manager of the Year Award". The purpose of this award is to recognize the service of QSL Managers world wide for the service they provide to the World-Wide DX Community. Nominations for this award will be accepted by the Golist from DX and Contest clubs, world-wide, for the year of 2012. Ending Date: August 1, 2012. Each DX club and Contest club is encouraged to poll their members for their nominations for the "Top 5 QSL Managers for 2012". The definition of a QSL Manager for this award is any person who confirms contacts via printed QSL Card for any station other than their Primary Call sign. Each club should tabulate the votes of their members and submit to the Golist the Top 5 vote getters as voted by members of their club. (OhioPenn DX bulletin 1054)

The August 1st due date gives us the opportunity to vote at the July meeting on the five managers we would like to see honored If you would forward to me (wb8zrl@arrl.net) your nominations for manager of the year, I will consolidate the list and send it the the members for consideration prior to the meeting. Send me your nominations at any time, but at least two weeks before the July meeting.

Dxing with Dr. Phil

Dr. Phil: This week, we have ham radio operators on the show. Meet our first guest Danny, he's apparently obsessed with his hobby. His family, friends, and job take a back seat to his obsession with this hobby. So Danny, what are DXers?

Danny: DXers are amateur radio operators that communicate to the far corners of the earth. We eat, sleep, and dream of DXpeditions. It's the center of our universe.

Dr. Phil: First of all Danny, for the life of me, I can't understand why ham radio operators are so obsessed with working some island in the middle of the ocean that most people have never heard of. We'll have Glen in here tomorrow, with the same obsession. OK, when did this "expedition" start, and when does it end?

Danny: Well, Dr. Phil, it started on March 29th and ends on April 21st.

Dr. Phil: OK, this is April 1st, so your "expedition" has been underway four days, and it will continue until April 21st, which is many days away. Before the show, I consulted with some experts on radio propagation. They advised me that the earth is divided into hundreds of areas where propagation differs at any given time. So since it is so early on in this "expedition," what makes you think your area of Iowa is more special than other areas of the world?

Danny: Our DX club helped fund this expedition. So that should be taken into consideration when these guys call QRZ.

Dr. Phil: Oh, I get it. It's all about money. That means if I get a ham radio license, get on the air, and send the next DXexpedition $10,000, then I should get first crack at working them. Could it be that maybe his zero detector wasn't turned on?

Danny: well …

Continued next issue

(KF4B.com - edited by WWØE)

This is a copy of the EIDXA plaque that will be presented to Brad, K4RT.

From Gary Toomsen, KØGT,

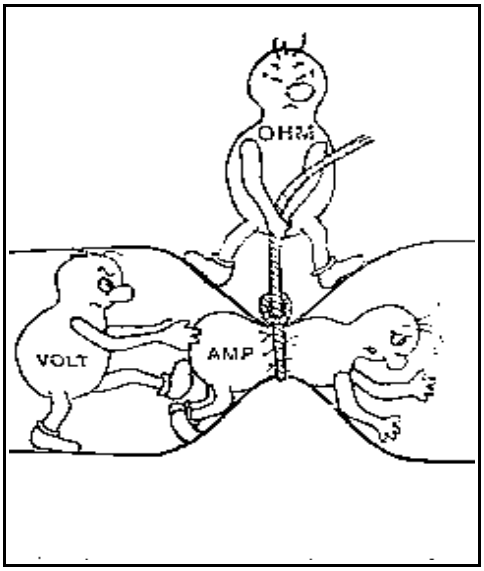
COPPER WIRE - Jim Livengood WØNB

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, New York scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, a California archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet and shortly after, a story in an LA newspaper read: "California archaeologists discover 200 year old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers."

One week later, a local newspaper in Iowa reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30 feet in his pasture near Harlan, Iowa, Ole, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Ole, has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Iowa had already gone wireless." Makes one proud to be an Iowan.

Ohm's Law



From Terry WØAWL

EASTERN IOWA DX ASSOCIATION

Thank You..

to the 17 club members who contributed to this newsletter. Jerry WWØE

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@arrl.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**.

2012 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 EIDXA Meeting – Friday April 13th, 7:30 PM 2012.
Room 219C of Linn Hall on the campus of Kirkwood Community College.
Program: HKØNA Malpelo DXpedition by Glenn Johnson, WØGJ

Established 1975