



Official Newsletter
of the Eastern Iowa
DX Association

NØDX

The Eastern Iowa DXer



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League

Established 1975



July 2012

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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 EIDX meeting: Friday August 3rd, room 219C of Linn Hall on the campus of Kirkwood Community College. Cedar Rapids.
Program - video of the T32C DX'pedition**

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The Eastern Iowa Dxr

www.eidxa.org

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I hope you enjoy this newsletter. The views expressed in the EIDXA newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Eastern Iowa DX Association, or the editor. All newsletter contributions, comments and suggestions are welcome at WWØE@q.com.

Thanks in advance for your newsletter input.

~ WWØE ~

President's Propagation, Pronouncements & Pontification

EIDXA President *Richard Heinrich*, NØYY



Another Dayton has passed, the bands keep offering up new gems, and the weather has warmed as our projects take an outdoor form. It's been a good spring all around.

I look forward to the Dayton Hamvention all year. From the time I return home from the last, my sights are set on the next. This year was no exception. What beautiful weather! Aside from the normal circus-like things like the "Tower Head" or the more recent "hair-do vertical" Dayton has something to offer everyone – including my new friend "Blinky". For me the flea market is the big draw. For others it is the presentations and forums. And others it is the large gathering of vendors to help separate us from our money! EIDXA was very well represented this year. I hesitate to offer a list as I know I would miss someone. But nearly every corner turned brought a familiar face with a smile and a "...did you see Tom?" or a "... wow did you see that vintage SX-28? It was so clean!" And I'm glad I got to hear the stories of many that were able to have made the trek.



This year offered something new and exciting. One of our own, Glenn Johnson – WØGJ was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame for his

outstanding contribution to many DX-peditions and for his humanitarian efforts throughout the world.

Several of us participated in a “Roast and Toast” for Glenn after the formal ceremony. It was a “who’s who” of DX-ers and contesters at the ceremony and at the meet and greet afterward. A hearty – Well Done Glenn and congratulations!!!

This year’s flea market was another improvement. There has been a recent trend away from the old public service mobile equipment sales and a return to the “real radios glow in the dark” collection. The nostalgia of walking around and seeing the radio equipment that formed the foundation for ham radio as we know it today brings a smile to my face. This year I saw more of the golden year equipment produced by Hallicrafters, National, Heath, Collins, and others in wonderful condition. Some restored, some waiting for that painstaking journey.

But that foundation also brings out the new and shiny. Kenwood introduced their new radio to compete with the high end radios of Yaesu and Icom. It is a larger than life radio – quite different than the diminutive K3 from Elecraft. It amazes me how many buttons and knobs can be put on a single front panel! But I guess the game is to make the radio for every possible dimension of operator – the contester, DXer, rag chewer, and maybe even the appliance collector. It certainly enables many heated discussions on which radio is the best choice and why. I enjoy those discussions as they tend to keep me thinking about the technology and how it can be applied to the radio of the future.

But those same radios find their way to the field. We enjoyed operations from 6O and 7O in the past couple of months – I hope all of you were able to work them on your desired band and mode. I think about how most of these DX-peditions enable low band DX-ing which really points to the evolution of the radios we use. A few decades ago it took a lifetime of operating to work 100 countries on 160M. Now a well-equipped station can do that in a single weekend. The signal processing technologies and our improved skills enabled by those radios make it a reality.

And that leads to my final thoughts. Cycle 24 has been flaky so far – not living up to our hopes and expectations. But we can hope that it will improve as we head to the projected peak in 2013. Wait – 2013 is next year!

Does that mean we have maybe two years left on this cycle to extract all that 10 and 12 Meters have to offer? I guess that should be the stimulus necessary to get those antenna projects completed and start the preparations for this the coming winter when we will all sit at our radios and listen for those new ones.

And now for a paid political announcement – well maybe not paid... Officer elections are upon us again in October. I ask all of you to look in the mirror, or out the window, or within yourself – wherever you do your self-reflection and challenge yourself a bit.

The club is only as good as its members. Everyone has something to offer. We are a friendly bunch and the impact of leading the EIDX is not a high-impact sport. Give it a try. I have been asked to be a one-man nomination committee for the upcoming election. I would prefer for someone to step forward as opposed to me “soliciting” your interest and nomination. I am very willing to help mentor anyone in any of the leadership positions. Go ahead and take an interest – it really doesn’t hurt a bit!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the August 3rd meeting. The program will be a video of the T32C operation. We have deferred the DX4Win presentation by Craig, KØCF until the October meeting.

It’s a great hobby – get out there and enjoy it!

Richard Heinrich, NØYY



“Now that's DX”



EIDXA Vice-President *Jerry Rappel, WWØE*



July is considered the most sizzling month of the year! But it's Summer and time for juicy hamburgers on the grille, hot - buttery corn on the cob, cool watermelon, and thirst quenching lemonade. But enough about my breakfast menu, on with the newsletter.



I know this is repetitious ... but this is “your” EIDXA newsletter – it is only published 4 times a year. It is essential to receive input from members to help keep this an informative publication. I believe everyone has something to offer. In the April issue we had 17 members contribute. That was fantastic! *Please volunteer.* Thank you.

UK POSTAL INCREASE

Tom GM4FDM, says the UK Postal system will increase the following:
 A 10gm (0.35 ounces) envelope (airmail type envelope and ONE QSL card) will now cost 87p to Europe and World Zones 1 and 2.
 A 20gm (0.70 ounces) envelope will cost 87p Europe and £1.28 for World Zones 1 and 2. Therefore for a U.S. station to send for a QSL to a UK station (Great Britain and Northern Ireland) is 2 USD (the absolute minimum for return postage), but if you use thick envelopes or expect **MORE THAN ONE CARD** in the same envelope, then depending on return weight, 2 USD may be insufficient postage, so he would suggest 3 USD.

Attention new members:
Eastern Iowa DX Association mailing list

The Eastern Iowa DX Association mailing list serves members of the Eastern Iowa DX Association. This is a private list, which means that the list of members is not available to non-members. <http://mailman.qth.net/> under directory of lists locate EIDX, and sign up for the reflector.



CQ DX Marathon Contest 2011

CONGRATULATIONS - to Tom Vinson, NYØV - 3rd in the **WORLD**. 1st in North America in the **CQ DX Marathon Contest 2011**. Tom says he had a typo for 6OØM ... I had typed in the excel file 6O1M, which caused them to delete one. Other wise, OM3EY and I would be tied for second. But, rules are rules. 8-) (more results in June 2012 CQ magazine).

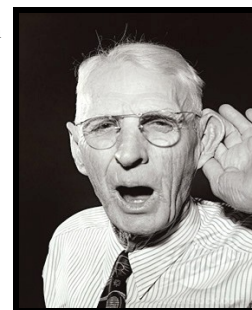
A well known DX'er from Tibet told me how he use to control a pile up. He'd say "stand by everyone, who was that weak station, would you call again".

*In the words of Samuel Finley Morse,
 "If you don't know CW, you don't know DIT".*



Did you hear it ?

The first leap second since 2008 arrived here on June 30th 2012 at 23:59:59 UTC an extra leap second adjustment was inserted into Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) in order to keep it's time of day close to the mean solar time. 75 years ago this month, second pulses were added to the standard frequency station WWV broadcasting on the accurate reference frequencies of 5, 10, and 15 Mhz.



Until next time – "Now that's DX" *Jerry Rappel, WWØE*

Have a great Summer!

NEWS FROM 'TOM VAVRA, WB8ZRL

I am now able to check cards from deleted entities and cards for 160 meters. Contact Tom via e-mail for more information and/or to make arrangements to check your cards: wb8zrl@southslope.net.

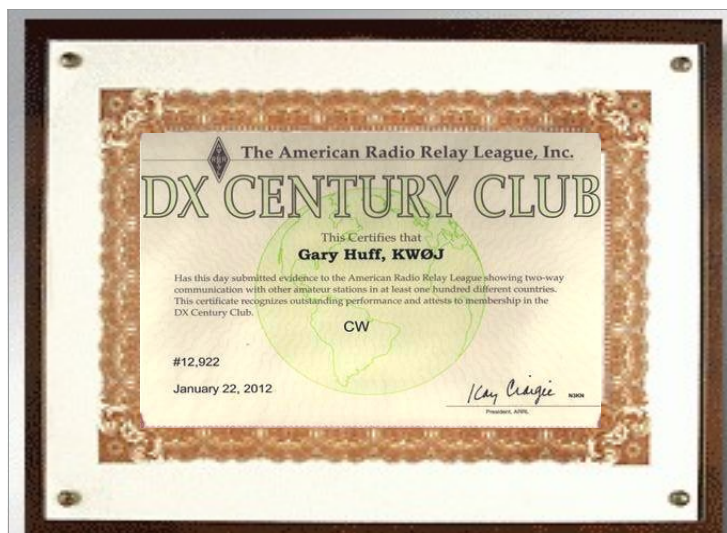
QSL MANAGER OF 'THE YEAR

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 Go List the Top 5 vote getters as voted by members of their club. (OhioPenn DX bulletin 1054).

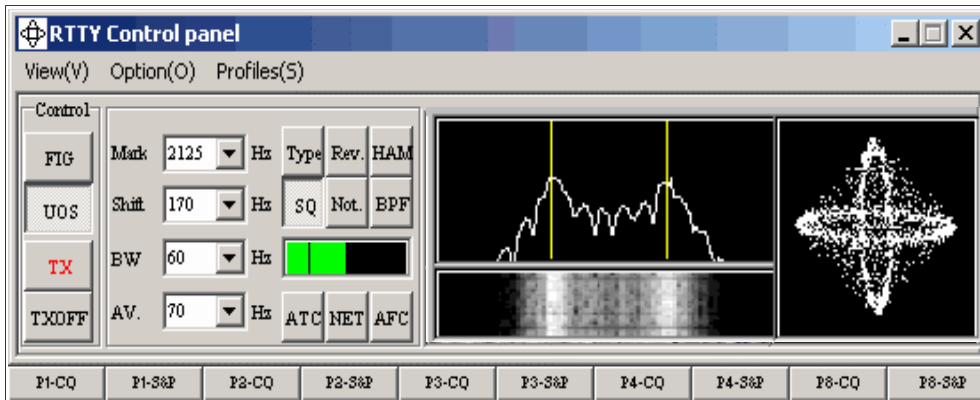
Since the summer meeting is August 3rd, we will have to form an EIDX QSL Manager of the Year list offline. If you will send me (wb8zrl@arrl.net) your nomination(s) I will publish on the reflector a list of the nominees in mid-July, and have a list to forward before the end of the month.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

DXCC CW - Congratulations Gary Huff, KWØJ



RTTY Corner - Jerry Rappel WWØE



The latest DX digi-doings

All DX mentioned in this column is referred to as being RTTY, unless otherwise noted.

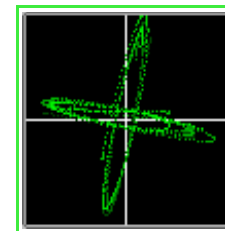
RTTY - or how to eat pizza and still work DX

Are you looking for a new challenge, or a different contesting mode? RTTY can be a lot of fun and an easy going fashion of operating. So called “digital” radio dates back to Guglielmo Marconi, whose original spark gap transmitter was either all the way on, or all the way off.

You haven't lived on the edge (if you are not living on the edge you're taking up too much room) until you experience an RTTY pile-up, working split. But hey – I like a challenge, that's what I relish about this hobby. RTTY DX becomes a matter of just a couple of mouse clicks per QSO. And speaking of spice and relish - since you'll have one hand free most of the time, eating a slice of pizza and having a Dr. Pepper, or say maybe a cold *Shiner* in the other hand becomes possible. What next? - “eating and working rare DX simultaneously” - what a unique hobby. Try that with Single Side Band sometime!



Crossed ellipse indicator. (Lissajous / crossed-bananas pattern). Both ellipses are perpendicular to each other. →



In the beginning - the first RTTY Contest was held by the ***RTTY Society of Southern California*** from October 31 to November 1, 1953. Named the RTTY Sweepstakes Contest, 29 participants exchanged messages that contained a serial number, originating station call, and RST report. So give RTTY a try, you'll like it.

SO HOW PRINT ?



- x I've been spinning the dial and decoded these RTTY stations recently:
A92GE, A45XR, A65EE, SU9VB, E51M, 9K2OK, E4ØVB, 9AØW, 9A4A, 6DØLM, 4Z5AV, ZD7VC, HBØ/DL2SBY, JAØFVU, YJØVK, KH2L, YU8NU, MJ/K8PT, J52HF, 2MØYIO, GM1BSG, W1AW, S5ØXX, RO9O, RXØAE, UT5UDX, UT2G, UW8I, UA9MA, UA9MEJ, UN5C, UN6LN, RT3P, RA3DA, RD3A, RW9UDS, EY7AD.
- x Jason Joens, KDØMND submits his first RTTY log: A65EE, A45XR, SU9VB, 7O6T (3 bands), CU3EM, LA8OOA, HKØNA, XE1XOE. Welcome to the RTTY Corner Jason.
- x Joe Hungate, K8OM gets a round of applause for these RTTY stations: SU9VB, XV2RZ, SV2ASP/A, YJØVK, J28AA, 7O6T, S79RR, E4ØVB.
- x Former Ottumwa tight rope walker, and Extraordinary Dxpeditioner - Glen Kesselring, KØJGH has worked these "long-range wireless" RTTY stations: J52HF, E51M, KH2L, SU9VB, CN2YZ, HBØ/DL2SBY, 7O6T, E4ØVB, S79RR, VR2XMT, OK1EP.
- x World class operator Richard Haendel, W3ACO sends in this log: A45XR, XV2RZ, T6JP, YBØJIV, RZ3PJ, UA4CA, TF3PPN, EA9AXB, 2MØYIO, TO3X, SU9VB, 3B8MM, HBØ/DL2SBY, HSØZJU, JD1BMH, S79RR, EK5KE.
- x Tom "**Mr. DX**" Vinson, NYØV submits his catches: FP/W6HGF, TI5/K2PLF, AP2IA, 3C6A, TJ3AY, SU9VB, E4ØVB, YJØVK, S79RR, A45XR, 6O3A, KH2L, S52WW.

Thanks for the RTTY logs guys.

Results 25th Annual 2011 CQ WW RTTY DX Contest

Over 14,000 call signs were on the air, an 18% increase from 2010. 214 countries were on, representing all 40 zones. 3,373 logs submitted, SFI peaked at 169 that weekend. ST2AR finished with 1,195,583 points, 1,959 contacts, A65EE 972,541 points, 1,273 contacts. (results in May 2012 CQ).

Any members interested in submitting a club log for this years CQ WW RTTY DX contest? September 29th, - 30th.

DL-DX RTTY Contest July 7th -8th

DMC RTTY contest Start: 12:00 GMT - Saturday 14 July 2012 End: 12:00 GMT -Sunday 15 July 2012

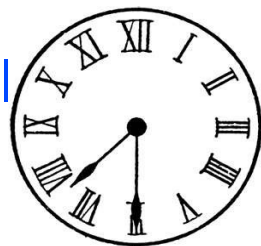
North American RTTY QSO Party July 21-22

~~RTTY OF YESTERYEAR~~



RTTY 33 years ago - Circa 1979 - YAESU YR-902DM Transceiver, and YAESU YR-901DM RTTY Reader.

See you in the Corner next issue. *Jerry*, WWØE



Secretary/Treasurer *Richard Haendal*, W3ACO

EIDXA minutes of the April 13th, 2012 meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Rick NØYY at 7:30 PM.

47 Members answered the CQ call.

The website membership list will be updated by Jason KDØMND, our new webmaster.

KØVM reports that the repeater is working OK. There may be future interference issues as some other local repeaters are being relocated.

The club inducted five new members.

Marty Santic, W9EAA Davenport, **Jim Meade, NOØB** Tiffin, Iowa.
Ron Meyer, NØSL Cedar Rapids, **John Andrews, ACØXY** Iowa City,
and **Bob Schafer, KA4PKB** formally of Alabama who has moved to our area.
Congratulations to our new members !

There was a discussion about the "summer picnic" It was decided to hold it as a social event, not a formal club meeting. Karin Blankehagen offered her QTH. Date to be decided. WØAWL will follow up.

The club voted to increase its dues to \$20.00 per year beginning October, 2012 which is the beginning of our fiscal 2013 year.

NØYY showed the walnut engraved plaque to be presented to Brad K4RT. Rick will carry the plaque to Washington DC and make the presentation. Image is available in the April Newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

An excellent and fascinating presentation of the HKØNA DXpedition was provided by Glenn Johnson, WØGJ. Thank you Glenn !!

EIDXA CQ DX MARATHON 2011 results

Joe Hetrick, KCØVKN

Overall Leaders		Leaders by Country Total.		Leaders by Zone Total		Mode Leaders CW		Mode Leaders SSB		Mode Leaders RTTY	
Station	Total	Station	Total	Station	Total	Station	Total	Station	Total	Station	Total
NYØV	325	NYØV	285	W3ACO	40	NYØV	266	KØAFN	190	WWØE	69
W3ACO	317	W3ACO	277	WØVX	40	KCØVKN	218	WBØLJK	128	WØVX	60
K8OM	314	K8OM	274	NYØV	40	KØCA	216	W3ACO	100	KØAFN	41
KØJGH	312	KØJGH	272	NCØØ	40	KØJGH	176	NCØØ	100	W3ACO	34
NCØØ	303	NCØØ	263	KCØVKN	40	NCØØ	163	K8OM	94	KØJGH	15
WØVX	290	WØVX	250	K8OM	40	K8OM	142	KØCF	91	K8OM	7
KØAFN	280	KØAFN	240	KØJGH	40	WØVX	127	KØJGH	77	KØCA	4
KØCA	279	KØCA	239	KØCF	40	W3ACO	103	WØVX	63	NYØV	2
KCØVKN	258	KCØVKN	218	KØCA	40	KØCF	88	WWØE	46		
WWØE	232	WWØE	193	KØAFN	40	WWØE	63	KØCA	16		
KØCF	219	KØCF	179	WWØE	39	KØAFN	3	NYØV	15		
WBØLJK	160	WBØLJK	128	WBØLJK	32						

The only additional info I have to add is that for 2013 the format will change slightly as CQ has changed their spreadsheet. Instead of people submitting the spreadsheet for me to score on the web-site, people will just fill out a web form for totals. The reason being is that CQ turned the MODES into a drop down that doesn't let the station put which digital mode they used. I think lots of EIDXA members get a kick out of being scored on RTTY/CW/JT65/PSK, etc, and it's a neat way to glimpse what some members chase DX with.

Joe Hetrick, KCØVKN



Dayton 2012 pictures



It was not all play for Tom Vavra WB8ZRL. Here we see him at the ARRL card checking table. He put in many hours checking cards for Dyer's. This is a photograph taken after the ceremony was complete. I believe the person on the left is the president of the Twin City DX club. The rest of the group is made up of EIDX members that attended the ceremony.



Glen Johnson WØGJ was elected into the CG hall of fame Friday night at the Dayton Hamvention. He was co-sponsored by the Twin City DX Club and the Eastern Iowa DX association. Our president NØYY is seen in this photo honoring Glen. Glen is seated beside his wife Vivian.



Here is a picture taken at a restaurant Friday night. The names are clockwise Bob Locker, Jim Spencer, Darrel Peterson, Terry Cellman, Tom Vavra and Rob Locker.



Qatar Amateur Radio Society



**The official count for Hamvention® 2012 was announced as 24,483,
at a recent DARA Membership meeting.**





Martin F. Jue, Owner of MFJ.

Meet Jason Joens, KDØMND - EIDX A Webmaster

When you're a teenager, odds are that the most important radio in your life will be the one in your car, hooked up to the big speakers in the trunk. At least, that's how it was for me. So when my father tried to convince me to get my ham license, by offering to buy me a 2-meter hand held, I did it. But I didn't really care. As KBØRSV,

I talked to dad a few times, and maybe one other person on 2 meters, and that was it. I let my license expire and never looked back. I was a climber though.

Trees, the roof of the house, dad's tower... that was when I got caught climbing! Mom wasn't too happy about that, but Dad realized that he didn't have to go up there anymore! I've always enjoyed heights, so

when Doug Byal, WØSML, hired me to take down his 100 foot of Rohn-25G, I was more than happy to get up there. It was hard work, but I enjoyed it, and I guess Doug thought I did a pretty OK job, because he told his friend, and that was when things changed.



It was a few months later that Heinz called me, and asked me to come and take an antenna down off a tower for him. I thought to myself "More Rohn 25? sounds like fun" and I agreed. After the hour + drive I saw a bunch of towers off the road, and after looking at my GPS, I thought to myself "he must really like radio to live so near to all those towers", whatever they are. Under-estimation Number One now having been completed, I pulled in the driveway to find that Heinz **WAS** all those towers! I was completely blown away by what I had just gotten myself into. But it was too late now. I had already jumped, and the ground was coming up fast. Time to get to work. When the job was done, I came down and started to pack up my climbing gear when Heinz came over to me and asked if I would be willing to come back and do some ground work. I was unemployed, and finding a job that my back can handle had not been a productive road, so we settled on a number, and I was back the next day, expecting to perhaps change the oil in his truck. Under-estimation Number 2? Check!

What followed was something I can only describe as Boot Camp. For the next few months, we tore that old antenna down to scrap metal, and began anew. Heinz taught me how to work the lathe, which I used extensively during that time. We cut tubing, cut saddles, made our own U-bolts (Who does that, anyways?) and hand crafted a 3 element 30-meter beam. It is one of my most beautiful creations. But as time passed, I quickly realized that I wasn't there to build an antenna. I was there to function as a brand new set of arms and legs. I had become the hands, feet, eyes, and ears that Heinz used to change the world around him. And when that antenna was done, the tower raised and re-guyed, and the new beam was soaring over the property, we moved on to the next project. I've done so much here. I've dug trenches, poured concrete, hammered, cut, chopped, bled, sweat, and occasionally cursed over the last 3 years. I've learned how this mammoth of a station works, and I've made changes to most of it. I've redesigned the automated coax switching network, run cable, built more antennas, including a 6-meter beam that Heinz took to his Texas QTH, and more. I've modified the station for accessibility, and for remote access, allowing "The Boss" almost complete control of his creation over any internet connection. Karin kept me busy here, too. I've mowed the lawn here more times than I'd care to recall, and even cut down a tree or two.



The last project we were working on was going to be a new tower, dedicated to 6-meter EME. 30 feet tall, and built strong enough to actually support the moon itself, this tower was going to be the home of an array of 4 beams, each with a 50-foot boom. Fed by the largest coax I've ever used, we would build an AZ/EL rotator, and mount on it something that came out of a Star Wars movie!

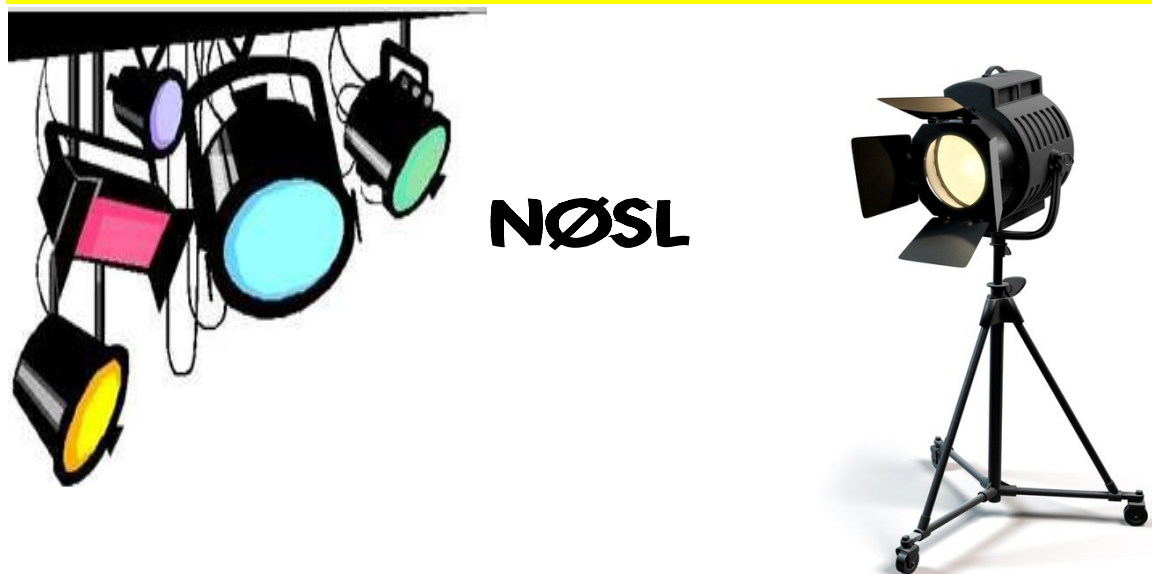
Sadly, this never came to pass, and Heinz has moved on to a place where the band never closes. The EME tower stands here as a monument to my mentor. It says "This is how far we got." My next assumption is that I would have to now destroy everything that we/he had created. I would now be forced to take it all down. I guess being wrong comes in 3's. Karin has asked me to stay on at the farm, and she's put me right to work, too. The NRØX station is to be maintained and stand ready, and to be added to as seen fit.

There is now a memorial 6-meter beacon here at the house, on 50.070.5 and we are constructing a VHF/UHF array for satellite work. I am now KDØMND.

I'm taught by one of the best men I've ever had the pleasure of knowing, and in the future, I will add my own DXCC's to these walls.



EIDXA MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT



One of our newest club members - *Ron Meyer*, NØSL



Growing up in Cedar Rapids with my dad working at Collins, I was exposed to radio communications at a very early age. In 1970, I joined Explorer Post 11 sponsored by Collins Radio. The focus of Post 11 was ham radio and electronics. The post advisers at the time, Dave Hallock WØSS (then KØAZJ) and Emil Martin WØFK, were incredible mentors for a teenager interested in ham radio. WØSS gave the code tests at 5 wpm. Back then the novice tests were given by one volunteer ham. Both KØAZJ and WØFK were fantastic CW operators, WØFK being the avid DX'er. I was first licensed as WNØDLC in January of 1971 at the age of 14.

As part of my Post 11 activities, I built a 50W output, two tube transmitter for 15m. Back then, a novice was restricted to crystal controlled oscillators and 75 Watts. The license was for 2 years and NOT renewable. No VFO's or modern frequency synthesizers! Hard to imagine for new hams these days, right? You had to tune over the band segment to listen for other XTAL controlled novices. Most novices had only 1 XTAL, so you picked where you wanted to be on the novice band and that was it. Back then, the 15M novice band was 21.1 to 21.145 MHz. Post 11 was very active every field day using the call WØFK. We use to operate on Boy Scout property near the Coralville reservoir. This was a perfect spot on top of a ridge overlooking the water, with an old windmill providing a ready-made support for dipoles.



Within a few months of operating I was bitten by the DX bug. I remember one Saturday morning finding a 15M opening into Europe, working DL's, G's, SM's, EA's, LA's, an OD, and a few others. I was hooked! I wasn't much interested in 40M and even less in 80M. I just didn't hear the DX on those bands. To me ham radio is, and always will be about HF and DX. I managed to work 75 countries as a novice. I could have made DXCC as a novice, but I was impatient to get more privileges and I especially wanted to get on 20 meters.

Back then, took the exam at an FCC field office, or other location where an FCC official would give the exam (usually a post office). The closest exam point was the Davenport post office in June. My dad had to drive me since I was too young to have a driver's license so I put the time to good use. I had tape recorded W1AW practice code transmissions at the high speeds several nights before (but not listened to them at time of taping so it was fresh) and played the tape on the drive down. Starting at 35 wpm, going down to 30, 25 and stopping at 20 wpm, then walking into the exam for 13 wpm test... made it seem so very slow. At that time, to pass the code test you had to copy perfectly 1 full minute out of 5 to pass, and also send (with a hand key) one perfect minute.

The FCC issued all novice call signs beginning with WN; the N changed to an A or B when you upgraded. Now I was WBØDLC and a new world opened up. I could operate on more HF bands and SSB.

I tried SSB but CW is where it's at for me! My favorite band is 20M, with 10M a close 2nd during sunspot maximum. I used to make working Russians a hobby on 20 CW. My stack of Russian QSL's is as big as all the others combined. I remember a QST article featuring a few CW phases in Russian, along with the Russian alphabet. There are a few distinct characters to the Russian alphabet that you need to know, such as: dit dah dit dah, and dah dah dah dah. I had a cheat sheet handy to say *Dasvidania* (goodbye) at the end of a QSO. Needless to say I was unprepared for what came back to me, a torrent of unrecognizable characters... a simple: *SRI DR OM - no copy - QSB and QRM - 73s TKS for QSO CU AGN...* got me out of that mess. I learned my lesson.



I finally got DXCC (mixed) in 1979. My first submission to DXCC was exactly 100 QSLs, and unfortunately had one rejected from a Marshall Island QSO because the op typed the QSL card, and substituted a stroked zero with the capital letter Q. DXCC desk rejected this and by then it got delayed for several years due to college and graduate school, where I pursued degrees in electrical engineering, with specialties in communications systems and digital signal processing.

After grad school, I started my career with Bell Labs in Indianapolis, IN. doing R&D in voice-band modems, DSP for speech processing and echo canceling for speakerphones. In 1986, I returned back home to work at Collins and my first love, radio communications and digital signal processing. I finally upgraded to an extra class in '98 when I was tired of hearing all that great DX in the bottom 25 KHz that I couldn't go after. Strange how life is sometimes, KØAZJ now WØSS was one of the VE's for my extra, kind of fitting since he was the guy that gave me my novice test in '71, it really completed the circle for me on a personal basis!

QTH I have only used a Butternut HF6V vertical. My current rig is an Elecraft K3 with 100W PA (at the urging of Rick, W3ACO). Before the Elecraft, I used (and still have) a Collins KWM-2A with a 312B-5 external VFO and 30L-1 desktop linear. I seldom use the Collins, except for an occasional SSB QSO. I am an avid CW op, but I do use SSB when the band conditions are so poor that the CW signal won't get thru! HI HI. I am currently searching for a rural QTH, where I can place a tall tower(s) and a yagi(s) for the hi-bands, but I really want to build a kick-ass 80M station, complete with specialized receiving antennas (aka beverages). In town, the noise levels on my vertical are too high on 80M. The HF6V has a very low radiation resistance on 80M, and therefore is very inefficient. On 80M I have only 8 entities.

To all of the EIDXА members that are new to DXing, or are at a QTH where you are "*antenna dis-advantaged*". Don't be discouraged! My current DX totals are 285 worked/ 283 QSL'ed (CW 274 worked / 271 QSL'ed), and I did all 285 with a vertical. On the vertical, I also have DXCC on 40M, 20M, 15M and 10M. (*I actually have 288 worked, but I have not been able to QSL any EK, EZ, or XW for years, so I am not counting them until I get a new QSOs again and hopefully a QSL*) To the "*antenna dis-advantaged*" I offer these suggestions:

- Listen, listen, listen. Improve your operating skills and learn how to work DX in a pile-up.
- Learn about propagation. The best reference I have seen on this is NM7M's book: "*The Little Pistol's Guide to HF Propagation*". It is out of print, but it's free on the internet. The more you know about propagation, the better your knowledge will be for the best times,

frequencies to work the DXpeditions. In my opinion, propagation knowledge goes a long way.

- For big DXpeditions I used to wait a while for the big guns to work them. As an example, the ZL9CI '99 operation on Campbell Islands was on the air for almost 3 weeks. I waited a week and worked them on 40M, fairly easily. During their last week, I caught them on 15M begging for QSOs. But now I will get in there and work them and compete against the big guns. Why? Because the propagation gods may conspire against you. If you can hear them, give it a go. A prime example was the Yemen 7O6T DXpedition in May. I heard a good signal into Iowa and worked them on 20M after about an hour of effort. I had extra motivation since I heard Rich, NØYY work them. Not to be outdone, I got them about 15 minutes after he did. Thanks Rich!! Conditions degraded somewhat later in the DXpedition and I was unable to hear them again while I was available (*key point to all you lucky retirees out there*).
- Last but not least... As a little pistol you can't get them all, so except that and move on.

I realize this is nothing new to many EIDX members, but I want to offer encouragement to those of you who are not big guns, but little pistols like me. My goal for this solar cycle maximum is to earn a 300 entity sticker for my DXCC, as well as build on totals for other bands. I truly believe that I could make honor roll on a vertical given enough time. However, the trees on my property grow higher each passing year, so I think a few dipoles are in order for the high bands. Hopefully, in the not too distant future we will have a rural QTH with lower noise, and better antennas for both high and low bands.

I send a special thanks to W3ACO for getting me to an EIDX meeting, and to WØSR for his "long term encouragement" to get me into EIDX. Better late than never, right Jim? I look forward to more eyeball QSOs with other members of EIDX!!

73s & good hunting!
Ron NØSL

EIDXA NEWS



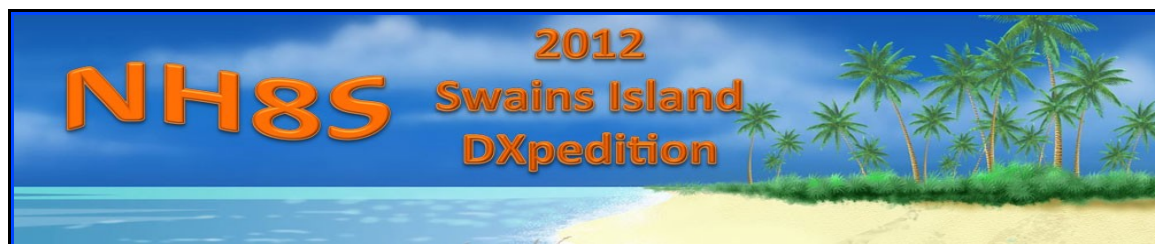
CY9M St. Paul Island July 26th – August 1st

St. Paul Island is called the Graveyard of the Gulf and that is where an international team of DXers will be heading to in July. Plans are well under way for a 10-man team to activate this now wanted DXCC entity, which was last on air in 2005.



COMOROS D64K DXpedition

A team of European operators will be active as D64K from Comoros Islands (IOTA AF-007) in August 2012.



September 4 – 18 2012. Joe W8GEX and Craig K9CT are pleased to announce they are planning another DXpedition to a rare DX entity.

Due to the recent activation of Somalia by the 600CW group, the Intrepid-DX Group has decided to cancel their previously announced plans to conduct a DXpedition in November, 2012 as 6O3A.

DX RUMOURS - my double secret DX sources tell me that a DXpedition to Clipperton **TX5?** is planned for March 2013. Stay tuned!

SABLE ISLAND (QRT) a wounded animal of a protected migratory bird species has been found at the antenna system of CYØ/VE1AWW within the nature reserve. This is the preliminary end of CYØ/VE1AWW.

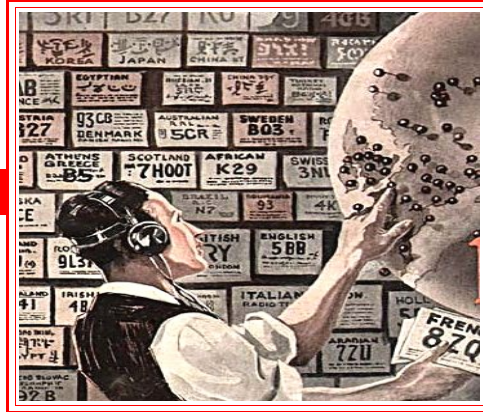
Thirty years have passed since 1A made its way onto the DXCC list. And an activation by an International team looks to celebrate the unique-ide the breezeway.ness of this event. So, from the **1st to the 4th July**, we will listen them on the air as 1AØC from Santa Maria del Priorato, home of the **Sovereign Military Order of Malta**.



DXPEDITION COSTS - The enlightening presentation given by Don, N1DG at the recent Dayton hamvention is now available for download on the Northern California DX Foundation's website (www.ncdxf.org) - it's good food for thought.



PSE QSL



WØWP

Tom Lindgren
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Linn county
EN42

QTH: Stuttgart O · Albert-Schäffle-Straße 107



DL4AT

To Radio: Confirming our fone/cw QSO on 195
 at MEZ / GMT on Mcs Tx: inpt. Watts
 ur sigs were RST Ant:
 Rx: Mni tnx fr QSO 73's
 Pse/Tnx QSL  **Heinz H. Blankenhagen**

D.L.I.C.U. print

Amateur Radio, Around the World Camaraderie

Tom Vinson, NYØV

I had the opportunity presented to me to go to several Rockwell Collins' facilities and run the course instruction for their "Life Cycle Value Stream Management" course. This is basically a program management course for employees where we walk them through the RC business process.



It all started when I saw they were scheduling a course in Singapore and Hyderabad. Hyderabad is the capital of Andhra Pradesh, India. My daughter and son-in-law live in Myanmar. And their first child was due at the end of March. I knew it would be close, so I volunteered to teach the classes in April. In the mean time, I also got signed up to teach the RC Toulouse France course and the RC Heidelberg, Germany course the first two weeks of March. With all this, I was able to convince RC that I could save them over \$6K in travel cost if I just stayed in Bangkok in between the EU classes and the AS classes.

Once the plans were in-place for the four classes, I decided to see if I could meet up with some fellow hams along the way. In France, we have the Collins ARC, F6KNZ that is headed by Fabrice, F5LCU. In Thailand, I had worked



an ex-pat named Charly, HS0ZCW, in Singapore I had worked James, 9V1YC, and in India, Pai, VU2PAI. As I worked to contact each by email, it started to fall into place to meet up. In the end, I decided to decline Pai's kind offer to fly over to his QTH. By the time I got through with the class in Hyderabad, I would have been out of the US

for 6 weeks. It was a good decision as I am writing this from Hyderabad and I am ready to sleep in my own bed!

In Toulouse I met up with Fabrice, who drove me over to one of the local radio club rooms. When we arrived I met a couple of other hams who were helping two guys on the radio theory they need to obtain a license. The club has a Kenwood transceiver with a vertical on the roof. Later that week I got to see where they have F6KNZ at the RC facility. In there, they have an IC706 and use the Collins LPA. Due to security hours they can only operate at noon, usually on Thursdays! I listened around for a bit, but the conditions were terrible. I only heard a few Spanish and Italians on the air.

After the next week in Heidelberg, I flew over to Bangkok to meet up with my daughter, son in law, and my XYL, Karen. My daughter had not had the baby as yet, so I set up a time to meet up with Charly, HSØZCW. Charly is an ex-pat that has married a Thai bride. He lives about 30km west of BKK. We met up in BKK and then headed out to his QTH. He has a nice two story house with two towers.



On one tower is a stack of 5 element mono-banders (aka 205BA type) up about 80 ft. On the other tower is a large, 2 element quad for 40, and the WARC bands. His shack was nice as the primary rig is the FTDX9000. He also has a K-3 above it.



BTW he does not like to use the K-3 due to the buried menu set up. He said it is OK if you set it up and stay on one frequency, but terrible if you want to move around. So, he sticks with the FT9000. I think he had like 7 amplifiers in the shack too, along with an IC-7800 that needed some repair. We listened on the air for awhile, but in the middle of the afternoon it just is not a good time to be on in SE Asia. The only US station I heard was KH7Y calling CQ on 20 CW. There were a few JA's talking in Japanese on the SSB, but that was it!

After two weeks in BKK, it was time to head SE to Singapore, 9V. I had set up a meeting with well known DX'er, James, 9V1YC. I met up with James at his QTH and got the tour of his capable station. His main rig is an IC-7600 with a little Tokyo Hi-Power amplifier. He said anything larger brings TVI



issues in the neighborhood. He has a TS580 (I think that is the number) on the side too. For antennas, he uses a KT34 on one tower and a home made 12m 3 element yagi. There is also an HF-2V vertical for 80 and 40m.

I did get on the air a bit, but once again in the afternoon in the tropics, the bands are pretty noisy and the signals not too great. I heard 4X6DZ on 12m CW, so I popped in on him and gave him a quick report. There were other eastern EU stations, but they were not too strong. As it was getting later in the afternoon, James called up Neil, VA7DX to see if he wanted to get some dinner. Neil is an on-site contract engineer currently working in Singapore. You may have worked him as HK0/M a month ago! He gave James and me a run down on the conditions the team ran into down on Malpelo. It sounded pretty nasty. I have heard that Glenn, W0GJ will be at EIDXA in April to fill in the Club on the terrible working conditions that they had to endure.



In our dinner we brought up that fact here we were three hams from three countries meeting up over Chinese dinner in Singapore. Is this a great hobby or what! In all cases, I found that the camaraderie amongst the amateur community is alive and well.

Reporting in from Hyderabad

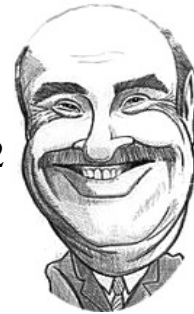


Neil, VA7DX and James, 9V1YC as we talk ham radio over dinner in Singapore.

Tom Vinson, NYØV

Dr. Phil and Dxing – part II

Dr. Phil: and now for part II of our obsessed hams week show. Today we have Robert W6LAND, from Pasadena, California.



Robert: Good afternoon Dr. Phil. I sent the Glorioso Island 2012 DXpedition two messages in their guest book. The first was to teach them how to operate CW. I let them know that the operation needs some sort of control. A set frequency plus or minus QRM, a daily schedule for operating times. The amount of bandwidth for spread is totally ridiculous. There should be times set aside for California, and then the remainder of the world, propagation appears to be best around 18:00 UTC to 23:00 UTC plus for us. EU, Asia, and the Middle East can make it almost all of the time. I see stations getting frustrated at the pace thus QRming on the operators frequency. It is up to both the DXpedition operator and those trying to work it to show some self control. Stupid, ignorant comments, deliberate jamming, swearing, not listening are ruining what very slim chance many of us 6-landers have to work the expedition. Even if you make contact there's no guarantee after hours of work you'll get in the log. We all have to work harder to make the DXpedition a success. Step one sensible listening spread! The second message was in response to not appearing in their log after working them.

Dr. Phil: Robert, I had already read the note you sent to the "DXpedition," as you call it. I also read the note you sent complaining about not appearing in their radio log.

Robert: That's right Dr. Phil, I called for four hours and three minutes, they acknowledged my call sign, and I still didn't appear in the log.

Dr. Phil: Robert, I spoke with many of the DX Police for this "DXpedition" before the show today. They advised me that you were constantly calling on the wrong frequency when the "DXpedition" was working split, or listening on a different frequency. And here you are giving the guys on the "DXpedition" advise on how to operate?

Robert: That's right Dr. Phil. He got on my case about that and I got my act together. I'm just glad I got off with just a warning from the DX Police. But someone needs to tell those guys how to operate. I had fresh knowledge of how things are suppose to be done.

Dr. Phil: I'll remember that if I get a speeding ticket. I'll stand on the side of road with a sign telling everyone to slow down. Besides, I'm the one who knows better. [Laughter from the audience] - OK, now you say you worked them on June 17, at 2303 GMT? (For those of you who don't know, hams log their contacts in Greenwich Mean Time).

Robert: That's correct Dr. Phil.

DR. Phil: OK, I went on the internet and looked at their logs this morning. It very plainly states that their last log entry was on June 17, at 0204 GMT. So if you worked them twenty one hours after they updated their logs, so how in the world do you expect your contact to show in their logs?

Robert: Duh... I didn't think about that Dr. Phil.

Dr. Phil: Here's a plane ticket for you. Get out of here and go back to Pasadena. I've had it with all you 6 - landers who have nothing better to do than whine when you don't get your way anytime you want it. We'll break for another commercial and return with something more sensible.

(kf4b.com - edited by WWØE)

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The DX Police are investigating W3ACO's QTH, after reporting he worked 9MØL on 50 Mhz.



ARRL "Kids Day" Jun 16th, 2012

Twice a year, the ARRL offers an event designed to promote Amateur Radio to our youth. Kids Day is an on-air event to encourage young people (licensed or not) to have fun with Amateur Radio. It is designed to give on-the-air experience to youngsters and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and introduce Amateur Radio to children. My 5 year old granddaughter was at the microphone for Kids Day on June 16th. Her biggest thrill was talking to 11 year old Gabriele, IZ2CEF. A QSL card is on the way. She even received her own Kids Day certificate.

Show us your Aluminum ...

How about a few pages in the October newsletter - of EIDXА members antennas - send me your antenna(s) pictures for the next newsletter.



DX thought for the day:



Ever feel like doing a gag on the W3LPL machine? Just spot W3LPL/P5 on DX Summit and see what happens.

AS SEEN RECENTLY ON →



14195.0 P67RT Pirate? DPR of Korea

14195.0 corrected call sign - suppose to be RP67RT (new Russian prefix).

18160.0 OD5NH \$\$\$\$ for QSL's beware

18160.0 KA2X I have my QSL from OD5NH right here in my hand

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 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 now able to check cards from deleted entities and cards for 160 meters. Contact Tom via e-mail for more information and/or to make arrangements to check your cards: wb8zrl@southslope.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@arrrl.net.

Thanks to the members who contributed to this newsletter.

**2012 EIDXA Meeting
and 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, August 3rd 7:30 PM

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

Program: video of the T32C DX'pedition



WWI SPARK KEY