

The Eastern Iowa OXer



Happy
New Year!

JANUARY 2013



The Eastern Iowa DXer



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League

January 2013

Official
Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX
Association

NØDX

Established
1975

January 2013

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Club Officers:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| President: | Craig Fastenow | KØCF | 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 | | |
| Web Master: | Jason Joens | KDØMND | | |

Next EIDXA meeting:

Friday January 11th 2013, 7:30 PM room 219C of Linn Hall on the campus of Kirkwood Community College. Cedar Rapids.

**Program - NH8S Swains Island Dxpedition
by Craig Thompson K9CT**

THE EASTERN IOWA DXER

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 *Craig Fastenow*, KØCF**

As I began to write this column, I planned to begin with a cheery holiday greeting. But then the news came about the elementary school massacre in Connecticut. I sat watching Diane Sawyer's interview with a teacher who got all of her students into a very small restroom, barricading and locking the door to save the lives of her young students, with tears streaming down my cheeks. I found the whole story so overwhelming, with the kids excited about approaching Christmas only to have their lives ended so tragically. Those who survived will have a difficult time recovering from the horror of this day. Events like this put a different perspective on our lives, don't they? I reflect on how lucky I am to be able to enjoy my family, my retirement and my ham radio hobby, even as I feel such empathy for these families, and such sorrow for so many young lives lost. What a contrast: these horrific happenings compared to the blessings of life that we enjoy (even with the challenges that advancing age often brings).

Well, back to the topic at hand – DX! This has been an interesting year for us DXers, what with major DXpeditions to Swains Island, NH8S, St. Peter and St. Paul's Rocks, PTØS, and Campbell Island, ZL9HR (which had not been on the air in more than a decade). EIDXA offered financial support to all three of these expeditions. Personally, I am impatiently waiting for Bouvet, South Sandwich, South Georgia, Scarborough and a few others that I missed over the past few years. Some of them were missed due to my use of an all-band vertical antenna and only 100 Watts. Some because I wasn't paying attention. I have fixed the antenna problem with a HexBeam that I put up two years ago, and just this month I put the beam on a brand-new tower – a free-standing, tilt-over 40 foot aluminum tower by Universal. On 20 meters the differential between the vertical and the beam measures as much as 20 decibels. The power situation was addressed as well, with the acquisition of an Ameritron solid-state linear amplifier. It is amazing what a good antenna plus a power boost to 600 watts will do!

The year 2012 was good to KØCF: The new antenna and linear amplifier helped me work several new ones. SV2ASP/A, worked on the Memorial Day weekend, was my number 331 on the current list, putting me (at long last) on the DXCC Honor Roll. Then on October 24th, I worked T6LG on 20 CW. I knew he uses LoTW, so I uploaded my log that night. The next morning I had T6 confirmed on LoTW! I then initiated a DXCC application which was processed within an hour, adding another new one to my total, now 332 current/344 total. Less than 24 hours from working a new one to DXCC endorsement! (I think having 12 deleted entities on my DXCC total probably dates me – it takes a lot of years of DXing to have that many deleted out from under you!)

The ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) has been having problems lately. Processing times have reached 10 days plus. Apparently the recent major contests have overwhelmed the system. They do have new computer hardware on order that they claim will fix the problem. Others think that major software changes will be required. Personally, I think that taking on WPX has overloaded the system. What can we do about it? The best thing is to contact our ARRL director, Cliff Ahrens, KØCA, and express your concern. On a happier note, both QST & CQ magazines became available in digital format this year. Digital QST is a free member benefit, and they also have free reader apps for the iPhone and iPad. The CQ digital edition is available at extra cost over the print subscription, currently about \$17 per year. Both are well-executed and are very convenient, especially on a mobile device. You can carry a lot of QSTs around with you on an iPad.

The ARRL has filed a proposal with the FCC for a new MF ham band, a 7-kilohertz-wide secondary allocation between 472 and 479 kHz, with a power limit of 5 W EIRP (or 1 W EIRP, depending on location). This will open a new area of the spectrum to amateurs, with unfamiliar propagation characteristics. Stay tuned...

Season's greetings to all, and to all, good DX! I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our January meeting!

Craig, KØCF

“Now that's DX”



EIDXA Vice-President *Jerry Rappel*, WWØE

Happy MMXIII ! Let's celebrate with a “paradiddle”. (No, this has nothing to do with a non-printing character on your RTTY screen).

NASA predicts that cycle 24 will peak in early or mid 2013 with about 59 sunspots. This would make it the least active cycle in the past one hundred years. The International Space Environment Service predicts the cycle to peak at 90 sunspots in May 2013. Hopefully there will be lots of opportunities for new countries in your DX log. Work 'em while you can !

U.S. MAIL GOING UP!

It was recently announced that the U.S. postal first class rate will be going up to 46-cents, as well as other rate hikes on January 27th, 2013. Postcards will have a 1-cent increase to 33 cents. However, something new has been added. There will now be an inter- ational/global "FOREVER" stamp available for 1.10 USD. To read the complete details, see:

http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2012/pr12_114.htm. The USPS has also requested from the Postal Regulatory Commission, the approval to discontinue sales of IRCs in the US on January 27, 2013. Redemption of IRCs purchased in other countries would continue.



The FCC is proposing to allow former hams to regain their licenses (but not necessarily their old call signs) without retesting, to shorten the grace period for license renewal, to reduce the minimum number of examiners at license test sessions to two, and to permit remote administration of amateur exams in hard-to-reach areas. Additional detail is in the December and January issues of *CQ* magazine. The complete Notice of Proposed Rule Making, WT Docket # 12-283, may be downloaded from [ttp://fcc.us/UyoPLS](http://fcc.us/UyoPLS).

HI THIS IS NIWAKA JAPAN

Skywatchers may get a unique treat from the heavens during December, courtesy of the students and professors at Japan's Fukuoka Institute of Technology who built the FITSAT-1 satellite, also known as Niwaka. In addition to a CW beacon and data links, the satellite features an array of LED's that controllers hope will be visible



from Earth with the naked eye. According to the AMSAT News Service, Professor Takushi Tanaka, JA6AVG, said his team plans to flash "HI THIS IS NIWAKA JAPAN" in Morse Code from orbit on Christmas Eve and was planning to conduct tests throughout late December. So keep an eye to the sky for messages from above in Morse. (CQ Newsroom).

Dayton 2013

Throughout its 62 years, the Dayton Hamvention® has showcased the best that Amateur Radio has to offer. Each year, a specific theme -- such as Amateur Radio clubs, global friendship or the advent of digital modes -- spotlights one of the many facets of the Amateur Radio Service. And when Hamvention opens on May 17, 2013, at Hara Arena, the 2013 theme ***DX Hamvention*** will reflect an important part of ham radio: the distant contact. "Hamvention is often an important DX destination for amateurs from all over the globe," Hamvention General Chairman Charles Kaiser, KD8JZR, explained. "Working DX is often a mix of **"magic"** - conditions and the diligent application of radio theory."

Happy New Year - *Jerry*, WWØE

A trip to the NØNI antenna farm



This is Toni Radebaugh's, NØNI antenna farm near Perry, IA. Where WIØWA Iowa DX and Contest Club signals sometimes radiate. The following EIDX members went on a journey to check it out last October - Karen KØEGQ, Gary KØGT, Jason KDØMND, Jim WØSR, Rick NØYY, and Terry WØAWL.

I never did get an answer to the question, "how many towers are up?" I think I counted 23 or 25 never did get the same total twice. He has a 4 square on 160, (2) 4 squares on 80, (2) 4 squares on 40, 2 - 8 circle antennas for receiving, they take the place of some of the beverage antennas, a new 200 foot tower to attach his 80 meter H antenna on. Toni put 17 of the ten foot sections by himself. He also has towers with multiple antennas for 20, 15, and 10 meters. And has multiple 4 element beams on two towers.

Terry Cellman. WØAWL

EIDXA Marathon

Folks! It's been another good year from the numbers. We've had a few new players as well as some old! The standings as of this writing show the first 3 places to be pretty close. NYØV leads K8OM by 3 points, while K8OM leads KØJGH by 3 points! With just over 2 weeks to go, it could be a close finish this year.

While we have had some different members participate this year, we haven't had more participation. I've been thinking about how to change this off and on through the year and, I'll have to admit, the posted scores are all quite high. I think the lowest score as far as number of countries may be mine, and I've worked well over 150. Not long ago I would have found that to be quite difficult. I suspect that there may be current members who also feel that way, and, I think trying to break out power or antenna classes really wouldn't improve numbers of participants, so I've come up with another idea.

Glancing at the membership list, we have several Associate members, and, since Full membership only requires 100, I'm not sure how many members are only a little over the DXCC mark. A change I propose for 2013 would add a new category which people could enter manually after uploading their spreadsheets: number of all time new ones. I'll create another column (probably removing the zone columns below that are mostly useless, anyway), and leaders in the New Ones will be posted there. The result is that the grizzled old retired guys won't dominate every column of the leader boards, and maybe some slightly newer DX'ers will have some incentive to work some new ones in 2013!

As most participants this year know, CQ changed the spreadsheet to no longer be free-form in the Modes column. here are now only 3 accepted types: CW, SSB, Digital. The result is that we lose the ability to break-out the digital mode top scores which disappoints some members who are most active on specific modes.

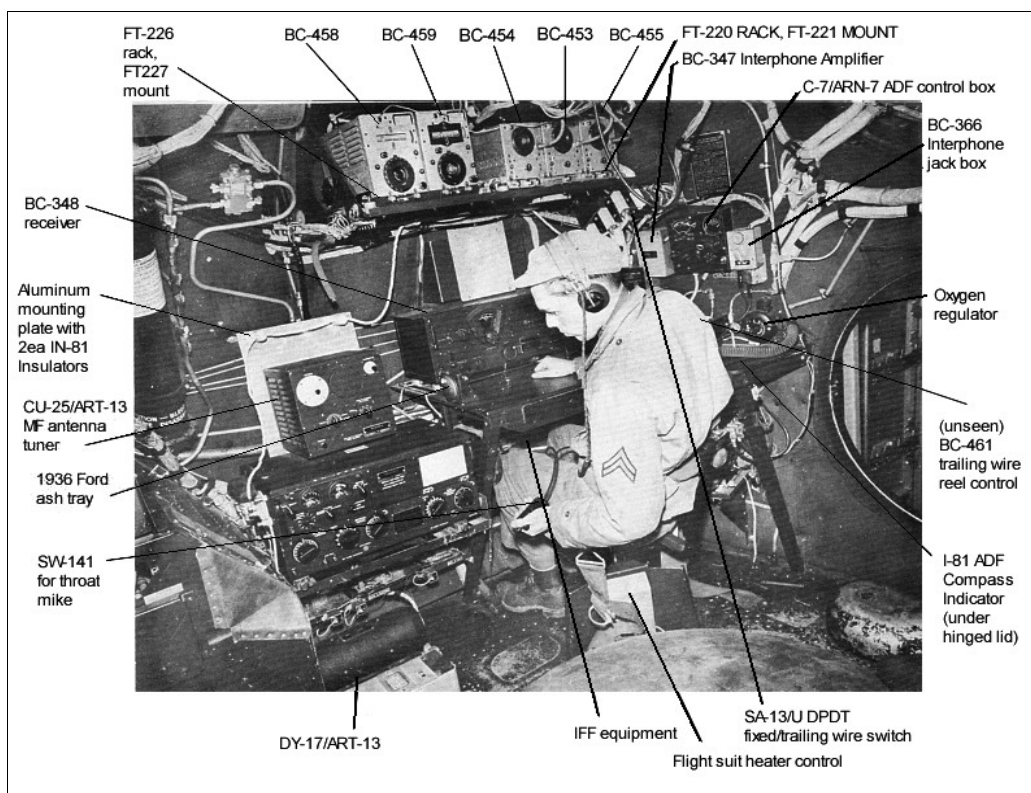
For the moment I plan on maintaining the same process that we've used the past 2 years. My software will accept ODS and XLS spreadsheets from CQ. I will add a method for All Time New entities to be tabulated. If anyone has further input, please drop me an email to kcØvkn-at-arrrl.net and let me know what you think we can do to improve things a bit.

73, and GUD DX. Joe KCØVKN

Feature Story

**How FIFI Got Her Radios
Rod Blocksome, KØDAS. November 2012**

This story really begins seven years ago when The History Center in Cedar Rapids put together a year-long exhibit on the impact of radio technology on Cedar Rapids. Several of the local hams put their heads together and created a fuselage section of a B-29 containing the radio operator position. Why the B-29? Well it happened to have an AN/ART-13 transmitter from Collins Radio and its advanced (for 1940) mechanical and electrical design intrigued the group. In the process of building this replica we learned a lot about the B-29, its radio suite, its history, and met some very interesting B-29 veteran's. We built the replica as accurately as possible - even including the operator's chair (\$200 on ebay), the operator's ash tray (same as 1936 Ford), and his oxygen regulator.



Identification of Equipment – B-29 Radio Operator Position.

The grand opening of the exhibition brought a flurry of interest and visits from veteran B-29 radio operators from WWII. But after a year, the exhibit was dismantled to make way for another theme. The B-29 fuselage was taken apart and all the equipment was put in storage.



The History Center Exhibit with B-29 Veteran Clyde Hussey.

During this time, we searched for a new home for all of the hardware. A B-29 named “Doc” was undergoing restoration at Boeing Wichita and was an early candidate. However, they had more pressing priorities than the radios and our offer never really gained ‘traction’.

Then one day in August of 2007, I received a call from our corporate communications folks inquiring “What was the first tanker aircraft and was it a Boeing aircraft?”

A little research revealed that it was a KB-29 – essentially converted B-29’s in the post WWII era. The follow up question – “Was there any Collins equipment on it”?

“Well yes, the Collins ART-13 transmitter”.

In short order, this conversation evolved into recalling the restoration team, pulling the equipment from storage, and assembling everything into an operational station at a media event called “The Tanker Rally” on the Rockwell Collins lawn on C Avenue.

The purpose of the Tanker Rally was to promote the Rockwell Collins/Boeing team in the competition to provide the new USAF tanker. Media reporters, government officials, community leaders,

Boeing and Rockwell Collins executives attended the event and our working historical radio system was a big hit.



Jules Yoder, KWØY, tunes the AN/ART-13 while Steve Jones, WA6GFD, and Lawrence Robinson, KCØODK contemplate operational details.

The following day the equipment was all returned to storage..... until the fall of 2011 when we hit upon the idea of offering the suite of equipment to the Commemorative Air Force for installation on FIFI – the only flying B-29 in the world. Lawrence Robinson, KCØODK , “cold called” the CAF, explained our offer, and was immediately welcomed with open arms.

This unexpected welcome quickly became a logistics dilemma since FIFI was based in Texas and we were in Iowa. A few days later, this became a non-issue when we learned that FIFI was based at the Cavanaugh Air Museum at Addison, Texas and was quartered in the former Collins Radio Co. hangar. A few phone calls later and an ad hoc team of hams from the Rockwell Collins Richardson facility formed up.

In quick order, the Cedar Rapids group became the equipment restoration and testing arm under the leadership of Lawrence Robinson, KCØODK while the Richardson group became the aircraft system integrators lead by Bob Kirby, K3NT.

By January, 2012 Bryan McCoy and I drove a pick-up load of WWII radio equipment down to Addison, Texas and delivered it to the eager integration team. While we were there, we got our first up-close and personal inspection tour of FIFI. It was a memorable but short 6 hours and then we were back on the road for home.

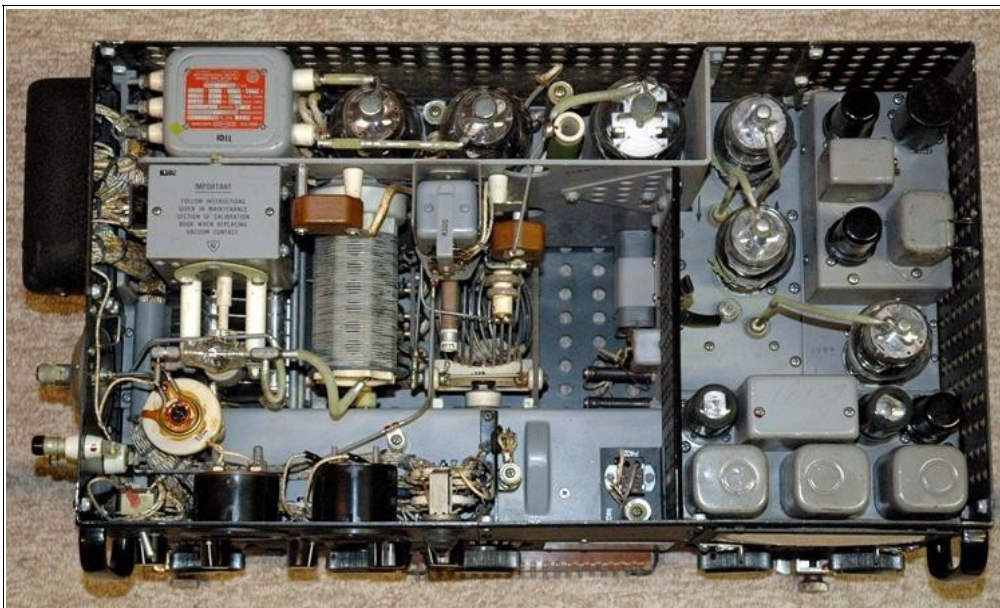


Bryan McCoy, KAØYSQ in FIFI's Cock-pit.

Over the next months, the Richardson team removed the “false front” radios in FIFI and meticulously planned the new installation.

FIFI did not have the original HF wire antenna but again this was a short lived issue when a professional aircraft antenna engineer stepped up to design, fabricate, and install a wire antenna. Spare equipment was needed so an ad was placed in *Electric Radio* magazine soliciting additional equipment in very good physical condition. Several hams responded with donations which we transported from Florida and Tennessee back to Iowa for restoration.

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A Pristine AN/ART-13 – Inside and OutsideA Pristine AN/ART-13 – Inside and Outside.

This put the Cedar Rapids team back into equipment repair and restoration mode for a few months. While the Richardson team began flight testing their installation and uncovering several issues unique to operating 70 year old radios in a 70 year old airplane - such as RF noise in the receiver, acoustic noise in the microphone, RFI due to unshielded antenna leads, etc.

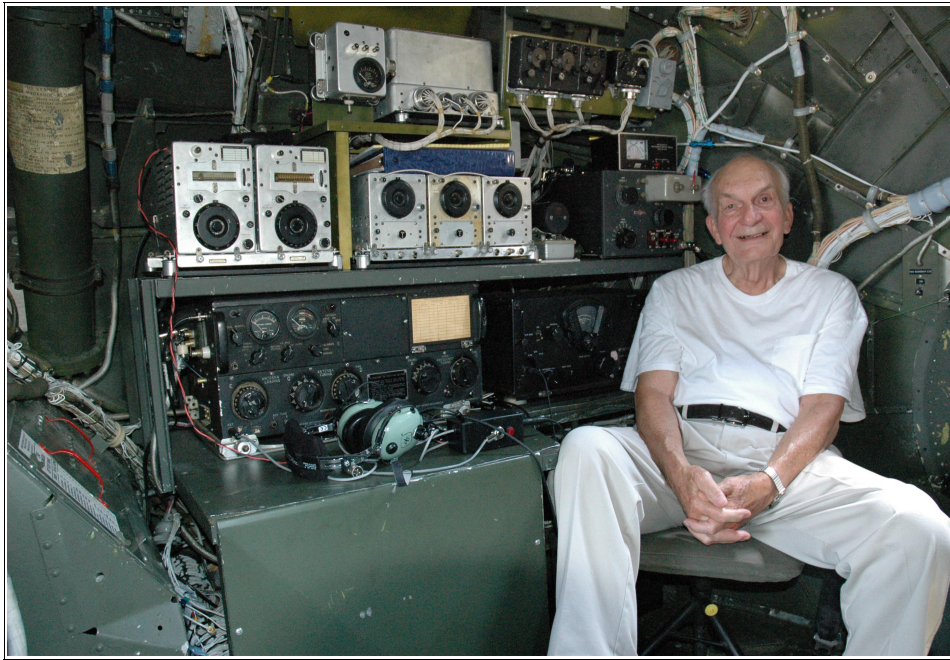
But with great effort and ingenuity these things were solved or mitigated so by June things were ready for the public dedication ceremony of the restored Radio Operator Position on FIFI.

I went down a week early to work on final preparations and was able to do a test flight aboard FIFI as the radio operator crewman. It was one of the most memorable flights I've ever experienced. I wrote about my experience aboard FIFI which can be found on the web site: www.b29radio.com along with many other details of the project and the dedication ceremony. During my flight I was able to work several stations on 40 meters AM and made the first CW QSO from FIFI.

A few days later, at the dedication ceremony, we honored WWII veteran B-29 radio operators: Clyde Hussey, who was the radio operator on the B-29 "Horrible Monster" and, in all probability, was the last B-29 to drop the last bombs on Japan just before the surrender was announced.

Jim B. Smith, veteran B-29 radio operator and author of "The Last Mission" had recently passed away. Hank "Red" Erwin, B-29 radio operator and Medal of Honor recipient, was represented by his son. Clyde was an old friend of the project from the days of The History Center exhibit. At the dedication ceremony, 87-year old Clyde scrambled up into FIFI and took his seat in the radio position. A short time later, FIFI fired up the Wright Cyclone engines and took off for a 1 hour tour of the sky over Texas. It was the first time Clyde had been in a B-29 since 1945 and it was a bit of an emotional moment for Clyde, his family, and friends.

After the flight, Clyde and Hank's son, standing in front of FIFI and before the crowd assembled in the Hangar, related their stories of the war with the B-29 and reflected on the whole experience through their accumulated wisdom of the past years. And it reminded us all of how technology and human courage came together to end one of the worst wars of the 20th century. And it was with these thoughts in mind that we dedicated the radios on FIFI as the "Smith-Erwin Radio Position".



Clyde Hussey at the restored radio position aboard FIFI – June 2012.



Bryan McCoy, KAØYSQ; Rod Blocksom, KØDAS; Paul Veenstra, KCØTEG; Sidney Ross Terry, K5SRT; Bob Kirby, K3NT; Loney Duncan, WØGZV.



Secretary/Treasurer *Richard Haendal*, W3ACO

EIDXA minutes of the October 5th, 2012 meeting.

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

28 hams answered the CQ call. Introductions were made all around.

The October meeting is the beginning of our fiscal year and dues were due at this meeting. For those who did not provide dues, please send them to me via snail mail. Treasurer reported a balance of \$1208.73 which was accepted.

Secretary's report was noted in the newsletter and accepted.

Our Webmaster Jason, KDØMND, provided us with updates on our web pages. Jason did a fine job on the new formats. They are available to review at EIDXA.org/testing. Jason noted the buy-sell page is available for our members use.

Al, KØVM reported no repeater problems.

Tom, WB8ZRL reported that he has an IP address but the cluster is not complete.

Our annual elections were held. Our new President is Craig Fastenow, KØCF. Vice President and newsletter editor is Jerry, WWØE, and our Sec/Treasurer is Rich, W3ACO. Votes were unanimous !

NØYY mentioned that there was a request from Phil, G3SWH to support a 2 man expedition for H44KW. Solomon Islands are #99 on the DX news list and we decided not to support this effort.

There was a discussion about how to develop a methodology to assist us in deciding to support or not support DXpeditions.

Our present informal criteria includes: Top 50 as per DX News, no 6 meter or EME only expeditions, no holiday style operations. Operators may be 2 or 20 and be able to work the HF bands in a serious way. We added that the effort should be 5 days minimum. We also had exceptions in the past when a member of a DXpedition was known by EIDXA. Ron, NØSL will work with W3ACO to develop a more formal spreadsheet to help us decide.

Meeting was formally adjourned at 8:15 PM.

An excellent presentation of DX4Win was provided by Craig, KØCF. It was quite detailed and there were several questions. Requests for Craig's consultation services about use of this program were made by several club members.

Meeting informally adjourned about 10:00 PM. *Richard*, W3ACO

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Yasme Award - WØAWL, Terry Cellman

The Yasme Foundation offers this beautiful plaque to anyone who submits QSL cards showing contacts with 30 different call signs of YASME officers, directors and/or DX operations.

EIDX NEWS



Clipperton Island



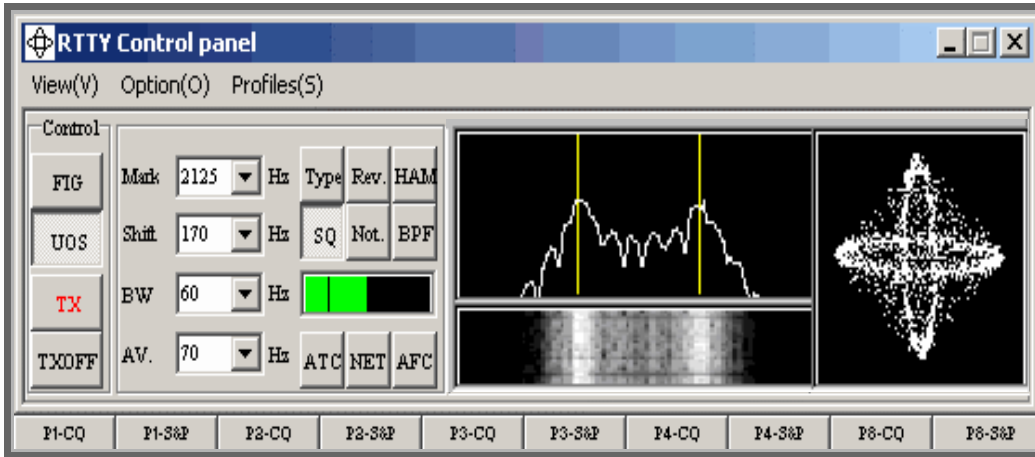
CLIPPERTON ISLAND. The 2013 Cordell Expedition to Clipperton Island will use the call sign TX5K. The DXpedition team will leave San Diego on the vessel "Shogun" on February 19th, and land on the Island by Feb 27th. The Clipperton DXpedition will make use of DXA, the system for displaying QSOs on the DXA web page within 60 seconds after they are logged. Additional technology that will be used on Clipperton is being developed for use on Heard Island in January, 2014.



Farm Update

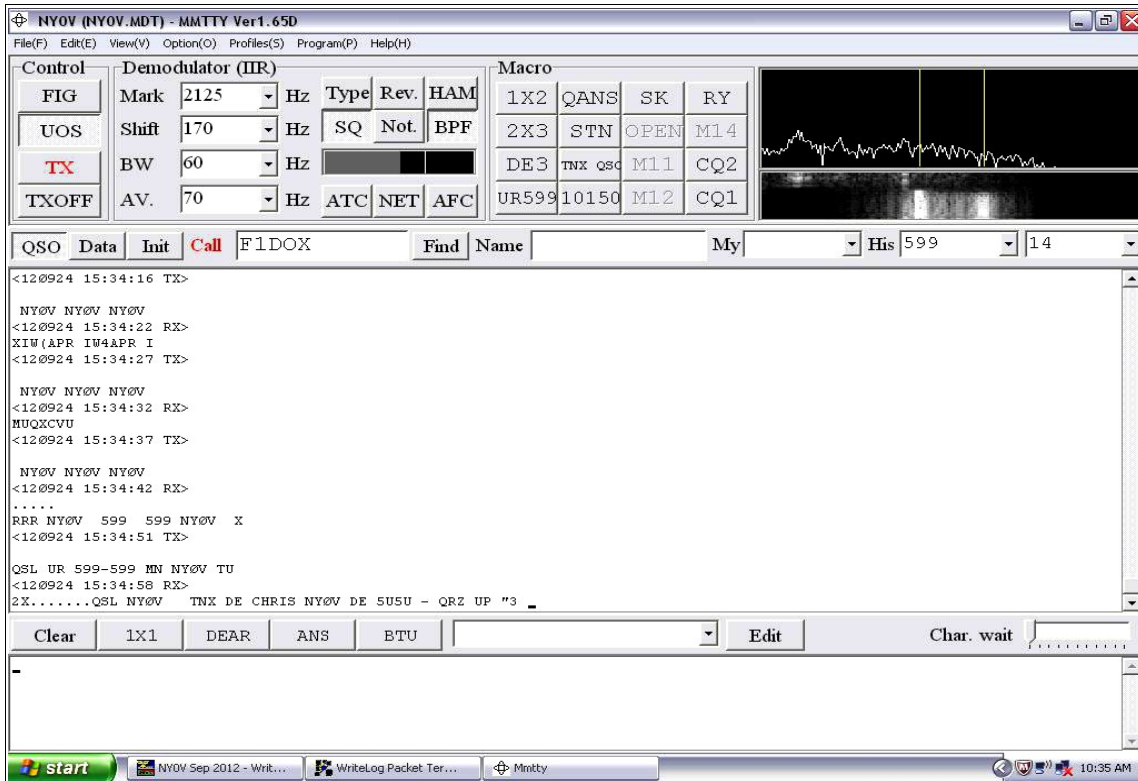
A quick bit of info from the NRØX farm. We are getting ready to make a 6 meter push. The az/el rotor is almost done, and the effort has recently caught the attention of the EME community. There is hope that the array will be in operation in time for the TX5K DXpedition to **Clipperton Island**, where Lance Collister, W7GJ says he hopes to work us via EME on 6. That's a lot of work between now and then though. Stay tuned. Jason Joens, KDØMND.

RTTY Corner - Jerry Rappel WWØE



The latest DX digi-doings

Tom NYØV's screen capture 5U5U.



SO HOW PRINT ?



- x Tom Vinson, NYØV submits his latest RTTY log: P29VPB, A62A, VP2MGZ, PTØS, 5U5U, V84SMD, OY4TN, RA2FF, EL2LF, 5TØSP, 5X1NH, 6W/UN7LZ, FS/K9EL, 7P8D, V63EPO, 9Y4/DL7VOG, 5B4AIF, RØFA. I also picked up H44RK on PSK31 on 10m Long Path. Now that's weird!
- x Glen Kesselring, KØJGH has logged: 1AØC , A45XR, LA5TFA, NH8S, JT5DX, JW7XM, 5U5U, 9M2CNC, YBØDJ, 3B9SP, FS/K9EL, J79WTA.
- x From Joe Hungate, K8OM: 5U5U, TT8TT, 5U8NK, 5W1SA, 3B9SP, C5ØC, 5T5BV, 5V5TH, EL2LF, 5X1NH, 5TØSP, 7P8D.
- x Dave Jaksa, WØVX once again has some great DX: 3B9SP, C5ØC, VP2MGZ, MDØCCE, EA8URL, LW9ETQ, PR2P, STØSP, VA2UP, AL9A, V84SMD, C31JM, EL2LF, 5X1NH, 7P8D.

ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP - January 5th.



Member's Spotlight**W9EAA**

Marty Santic is one of our newest EIDX A members.

I look at some of the amateur radio stations and the antenna farm on a few acres of land and to this day, I am in awe. Yes, I can still dream about the perfect site, tall towers with stacked beams. But my story is a bit different. Guess most would call me a “little pistol” or maybe more fitting, a “little cap-gun”.

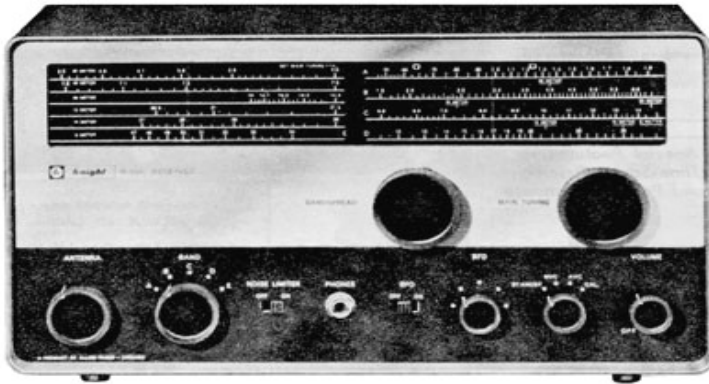


My journey started with a Zenith Transocenanic receiver that my father had purchased. In the late 1960's, I would extend its whip antenna and search for the BBC, Radio Sweden and others. Sending reception reports, I anticipated a SWL card in reply and was surprised when the station sent me a detailed description of their station, antenna and the country.

My introduction to amateur radio occurred in 1969-1970. Was a junior in high school and a group of us would meet on Saturday evenings for ping-pong, spending hours attempting to improve our skill at the game. We did get to be quite good. One of my friends already held a general class and another held a novice license.

After visiting both, and watching one via CW and the other via SSB work stations in California was enough to get me started. WOW, talking to California!

Late 1969, early in 1970, my father and I drove from our home in Calumet City, IL to Allied Electronics on Western Avenue in Chicago. My Dad knew they always had used gear for sale and after a few trips, every Sunday or so, I found my dream receiver. As I remember, it was an Allied Electronics R-55. With a 40M dipole between the peak of the house and a tripod mast on the detached garage, I was in heaven. And then even before passing the examination, I took my life savings and purchased a Heathkit DX60B transmitter. With the help of my friend we had the kit assembled in no time. Now I needed a license!



In July of 1970, I remember taking the train to the FCC offices in Chicago to take the CW test and the written examination. Was no thing as a designated examiner back then. Damn, I passed. College life would begin in a few months, so I worked as many of the states that I could muster.

I joined the amateur radio club at the University of Illinois in Urbana, IL. W9YH was my station at the University, WN9EVH was my station when home. The equipment at W9YH consisted of the Drake C-Line, an old National linear and a HyGain triband beam at 150 feet. Spoiled me to a degree and I itched to improve the home station. I was lucky, in that, my uncle was the business agent for the laborers union on the southeast side of Chicago. Such allowed me to become a card carrying laborer and work summers in the steel mills. Paid very well and allowed me to upgrade the home station. Sold the Heathkit and bought another, a Heathkit SB-301 receiver and SB-401 transmitter. Still had the 40M dipole, so my operating was limited to stateside. Knew very little about DX back then.

College life, and a girlfriend put amateur radio on hold for a few years. Graduated with a degree in Computer Engineering in May 1974 and married that girlfriend. Renee and I were married in August 1974. She worked, and I attended graduate school.

As a graduate student living in a subdivided old mansion in a tiny apartment on Green Street in Urbana, I managed to put up a long wire and get on the air every so often with my brand new Drake R-4B and Drake TX-4B.

Started my career with Commonwealth Edison at the LaSalle Nuclear Station as a construction engineer. Commonwealth Edison became Unicom and then became Exelon. Continued with the same company for 32 years holding a number of positions in engineering and station management. Amateur radio was on hold again, operation was limited due to apartment living, although I did manage to erect a stealth dipole.

We self completed a home in Morris, IL doing all of the work after it was framed, and shortly after completing the home, purchased a 55 foot Heights Manufacturing tower and a Wilson-33 tri-band beam. It was the peak of the sunspot cycle. With the addition of a Drake L-4B linear, the DX bug bit during one of the CQWW-SSB contests. The cards started to arrive in mass and soon applied for DXCC with a grand total of 102 countries.

The twin girls were born in 1985, and the family and work again limited my operation. Managed to increase my country count in the following ten years to the upper two hundreds. And in the 90's traded the Drake twins for a Kenwood TS-940AT.

In 1995, had a son and in the same year moved to Davenport. Was now working in Cordova, IL at the Quad Cities Nuclear Generating Station. But the beam was history the subdivision covenants restrict me now to small stealthy antennas. I continue to long again for a tri-band beam!

A year or so before retirement, I decided to purchase an Icom IC-756 Pro III. Still have the Kenwood. So this "big gun" station now consists of Icom IC-756 Pro III, an Icom IC-7000, a CushCraft R-7 vertical, a 2M/440 Ringo at 12 feet and a 6M Halo at 15 feet! And almost forgot the newest addition, an Icom IC-PW1 linear. Have always wanted to change bands and not fussing with transmitter and antenna tuner. So am very happy with the equipment, not so happy with the antennas!

So where am I with respect to my country totals? The new ones come hard with 307 confirmed. Most if not all of the new ones come via CW when conditions are better than normal. It's hard seeing all of the cluster reports and not being able to hear the station above the noise level.

Still missing some of the easy ones such as ... And still missing some of the hard ones such as ...

My other love is aviation. After retirement I decided to build an airplane. Every summer since 1980 we spend last week of July in Oshkosh, WI with the Experimental Aircraft Association. For one week each summer, EAA members and aviation enthusiasts totaling more than 500,000 from more than 60 countries attend EAA AirVenture at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where we rekindle friendships and celebrate the past, present and future in the world of flight.



"The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration" has it all when it comes to aircraft. Warbirds. Vintage. Homebuilts. Ultralights. Some you would normally find in a hangar at your local airport, others so unique they are the only one of its kind.

Arriving at Oshkosh is a rite of passage that can only be satisfied by being one of the more than 10,000 aircraft flying in, landing at what becomes the busiest airport in the world. During the week we experience daily air shows, aerobatics, an opening day concert, the Fly-In theater, forums, workshops, demonstrations and a night airshow..

A month after retirement, I spent 11 months building a Van's Aircraft RV-12. The RV-12 is a two place airplane with side by side seating and a cruise speed of 125-130 mph. I have been flying the RV-12 for two years and have accumulated 150 hours in the RV-12.



Still dreaming of that "antenna farm". Aviation, the camaraderie of the radio community in general, the DX community and the camaraderie of EIDXA keeps me going. Marty Santic W9EAA.

Member's Spotlight**KØEGQ****Karin Blankenhagen – KØEGQ**

When I graduated from high school in 1956, I celebrated by taking a trip to Silver Spring, MD, to visit my aunt and uncle and my cousin Jack Colson. Jack was a couple of years older than I and he was a ham, W3TMZ I had never heard of ham radio before, and I was fascinated. Well, in a week's time I passed the novice test, and went back to my hometown of Des Moines with a whole new future ahead of me. I became a familiar sight at Bob & Jack's Store for Hams on Forest Avenue.

Jack Landis WØPRF was well-known for his Elmer activity and was recognized by the ARRL in 2000 with a plaque. I was studying for my General Class license and Bob & Jack's was holding evening theory and code classes. Although the store was officially closed for business, on class nights a guy would wander in occasionally if he needed something. On one such evening Heinz came into the store for something or other and I guess he noticed me among the 20 or so guys in the class. Jack introduced us, and that was that.



Ham radio class at Bob & Jack's

Well, time passed, I passed the General Class test and became KØEGQ. I purchased a Hallicrafters receiver and was building a transmitter, with guidance from Jack Landis. The workmanship was not the best, but it was fun to build and I got it on the air. When I had a problem, I would talk to Landis about it. However, plots were brewing at the ham store, and when I needed someone to come over to fix a problem, Jack said he knew just the guy who could help me. That would be Heinz WØYTQ Blankenhagen, and that was the beginning of a six-month-long courtship.



My first shack in Des Moines

I met Heinz in April and we were married October 6, 1956. Sergeant Blankenhagen had missed too many National Guard meetings during that interval so he volunteered for the draft rather than *be* drafted. He was off to Germany on the USNS Geiger and I followed him a month later on the USNS Buckner – so much red tape! He was stationed at the 34th Signal Battalion, Corps at Stuttgart. We lived on the economy for a few months, then we moved to military housing, and that is where we set up our ham station. We got our US military call signs: DL4AT for Heinz and DL4ABS for me. We worked CW and SSB with a Central Electronics 20A, a Hallicrafters SX-100 receiver, homebrew amplifier and a wire strung out the window to the next apartment building. I designed my own QSL card and my father, who was a photographer back in Des Moines, made them up for me. I had plenty of time at the station while Heinz was with the Army. From July 1957 thru January 1958 I worked 71 countries and 37 states, 75 percent on CW. Being a female on the airwaves back then was pretty much a novelty, and I got lots of “88’s” and most of my QSO's confirmed.

When we returned to the States in 1958, our lives changed dramatically. Heinz and I were hired by Collins Radio Co. and we moved to Cedar Rapids.

It wasn't long before Heinz transferred to Comm Central as a radio operator. We lived in Marion by then where Heinz put up two towers and a vertical, and that is about the time I drifted into the background as far as radio was concerned. Not that I minded. There was only one radio and Heinz needed it more than I did. We moved again to an old farmhouse on 40 acres (more space for towers) and I retired from Collins to have children. I also had a couple of horses and a big garden and I found myself very busy indeed. I have always enjoyed my association with ham radio, active or not. I had no desire to compete with Heinz (smart decision) and enjoyed following his success instead. We moved to the Martelle farm in 1970 and during that decade and the next we farmed (cattle and hay) and did some traveling. By 1990 Heinz was ski racing, building bicycles and telescopes, and I went back to work at Collins for another ten years. We rode RAGBRAI in '93 on the tandem that Heinz built. But when he retired in 1992, Heinz returned to his first love in earnest. It was catch-up time, and his lone tower and the wooden pole became dwarfed by six more towers, including the EME array that isn't yet finished. It was never-ending dedication, literally, until the day he died, November 20, 2011.

When Heinz's Parkinson's Disease became severe by 2009, Jason Joens, KDØMND of LaPorte City came on the scene – and what a Godsend! I could help Heinz with such things as QSL cards, spotting DX, etc., and while in Texas with soldering and building coax connectors, but it was Jason who made things happen here. Little did I know then where that would lead. Radio had been a major part of my life for 55 years and I couldn't bear to see it all go. So, Jason is staying on here and, in view of our plans for the station, he'll be here for a long time. 73, Karin KØEGQ



My first climb.

ODE TO PAUL KESSELRING – KØJGI

by Glen Kesselring KØJGH

G. Paul Kesselring - KØJGI died Sept 12, 2000. He was 89yrs old. He was my father and with in my family, we are all hams. My wife is NØICF, daughter NØVTE and son K1KD. I have written a letter of memorial to KØJGI as follows: ODE TO PAUL KESSELRING - KØJGI.

I believe it was about June 9, 1961 on our farm near Ottumwa, Iowa. The time of day was about 11 AM and the day was hot...but that's Iowa. I was a boy of fourteen years, wearing only shorts and work boots. It was time that the mail had arrived and I was anxious each day since my dad and I were waiting for our ham radio licenses to arrive. I walked the 500 feet out to our mailbox, open the door and....OH BOY, the return said FCC and there were two envelopes.



KØJGI Field Day early1980's.

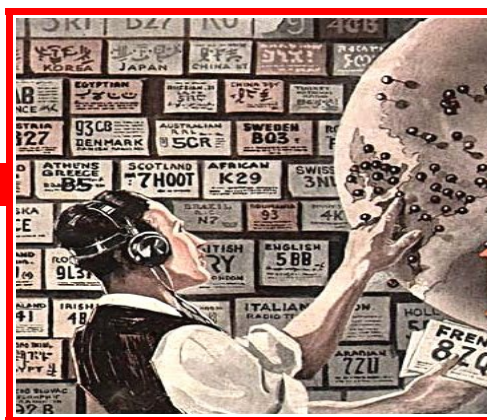
With the mail in hand, I ran to the house and then on passed it to the north east field where my dad Paul was cultivating corn. He most times would not like to be interrupted when in the field, but this was an exception. I still can remember that summer day in June of 1961 when a father and son entered into a hobby and a lifetime of common interest. i think I have learn in life that admiration and bonding comes from the coupling of two person's spirits while experiencing something new to both for the first time. I believe that this is what builds marriages, holds war buddies together for generations and helps to bond family relationships as the one my dad and I have had. We learned about radio together, each Elmering the other. Dad would help me with the theory and math. I excelled at Morse code. Together we up-graded. Dad to advanced and I to extra. My mother has shared that when she would make a complaint about my staying up all night chasing DX, dad would simply reply that at least they knew where I was and I wasn't out drinking beer. Also, I would say there has never been any pregnant Heathkit radios due to over heated drivers in the middle of a pileup.

When I went off to college my parents kept in touch with me via schedules on 75 meters. Many statewide hams began to know Paul from his activity as a net control station and traffic handler on the Iowa 75 meter Net. Much of my interest had turned to contests and DX, so when I would check in on the Iowa frequencies and signed my call KØJGH, the usual response was"oh yes, that's KØJGH...Paul's kid." Over the next few years my work took me farther from Iowa but we still maintained our schedules on the Iowa Net.

I guess maybe we had more people listening to those conversations back then since I was more than once surprised at some picnic to have some regular from the net ask how my son or daughter was doing or ... "so how's Pam these days?" Sure seemed like they knew a lot about my family. Dad became more active in net type activities and found satisfaction in delivering messages. Many of these were to parents of servicemen. I can remember dad telling stories about calling homes to give a message that their son had arrived safely at boot camp and having mom's crying on the phone thanking him so much for such a simple message. I believe that it's a common goal we all share that having departed this life we hope for some legacy left behind will do good for someone else. KØJGI's call will probably fade having left not a circuit or antenna design or modern technological breakthrough. However, to some moms and dads hearing that their son had arrived safely, asking one more time for a relay on that weak check-in as a net control for the Iowa Net....I DO believe he will be remembered, as have many that have been but servant types before him. DAD - may I convince my wife that staying up all night trying to work that DX is better than being in a bar. DAD - may I turn my head when I hear a dad lean over and say "Way to go...sonny boy". DAD - may I yet again hear one of the old Iowa Net guy's say "KØJGH... there is Paul's kid" We'll miss you, Dad... 88, sign KØJGH...

Paul's kid SK (dit dit). Glen Kesselring KØJGH

PSE QSL



KØDAS

Rod Blocksome
690 Eastview Dr.
Robins, Iowa
USA 52328



Collins SM-3, KWM-2, 302C-3, & 399C-1

KØJGH

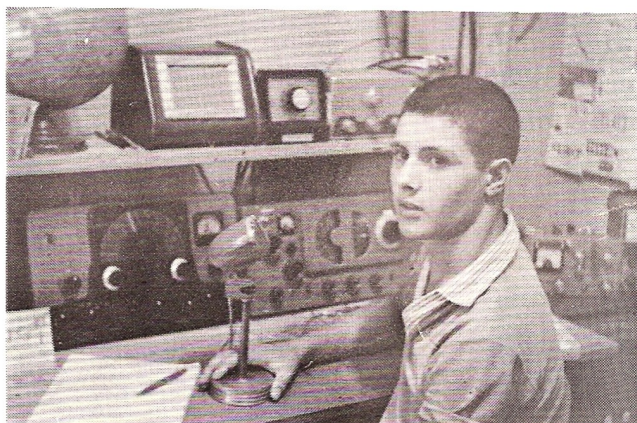
GLEN KESSELRING

Ottumwa, Iowa, R.F.D. 7, Wapello County, U. S. A

W.A.S. R.C.C.

RADIO Confirming
QSO of 196
at CST Ur RST
was on mc.
Xmitter watts
Rcvr
Ant
Remarks;

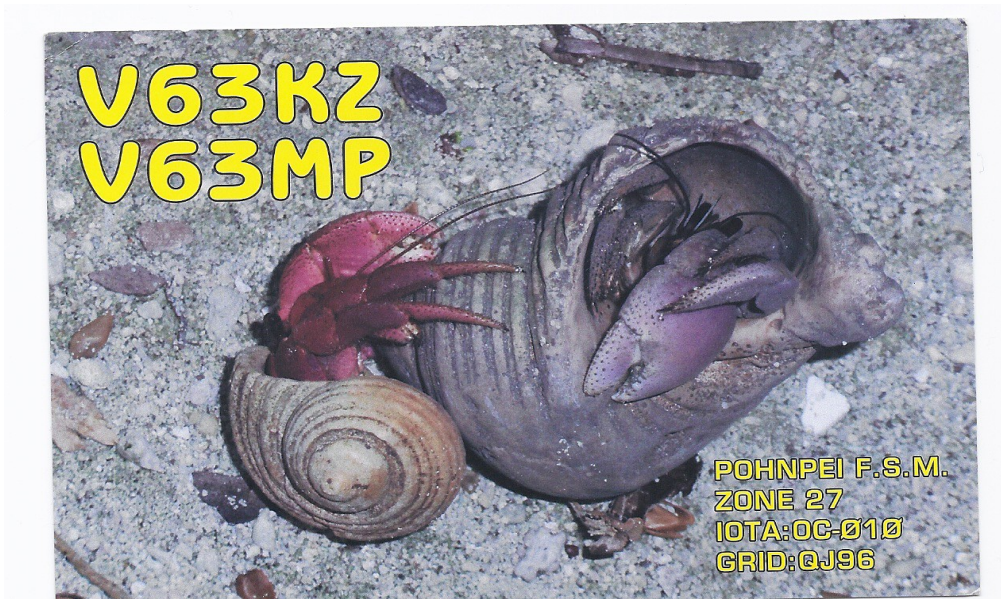
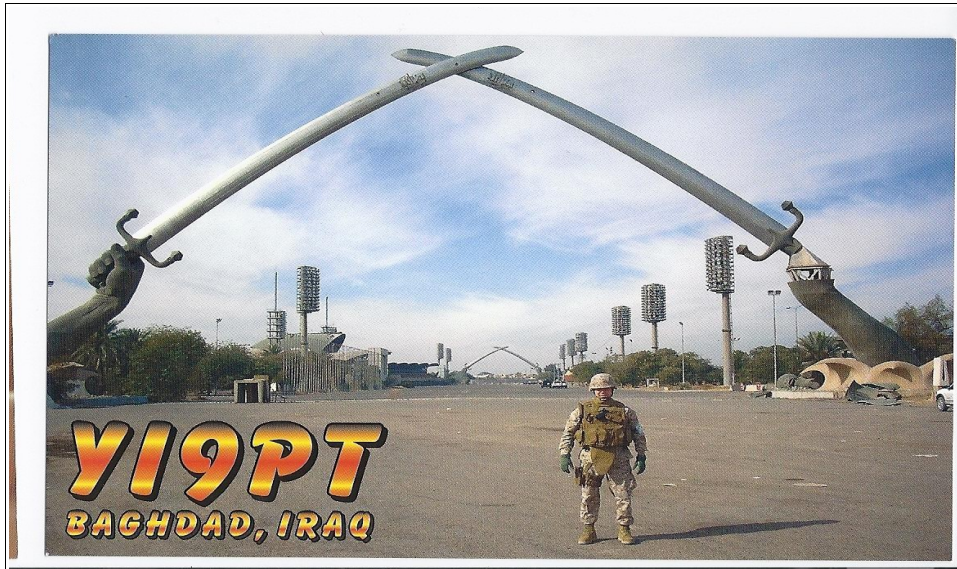
Pse qsl tnx 73,



15 YEAR OLD GLEN AT THE MIC

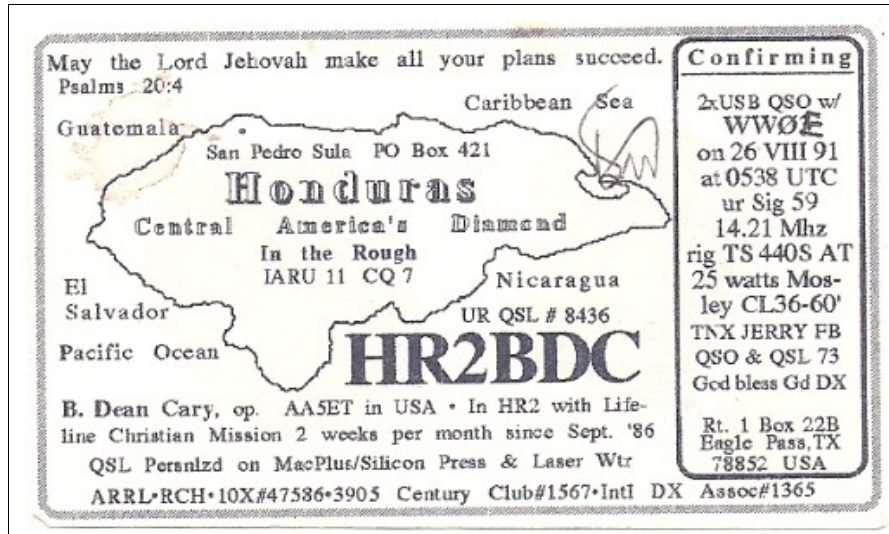
CLUB MEMBERS RARE QSL CARDS

W3ACO, Richard Haendel

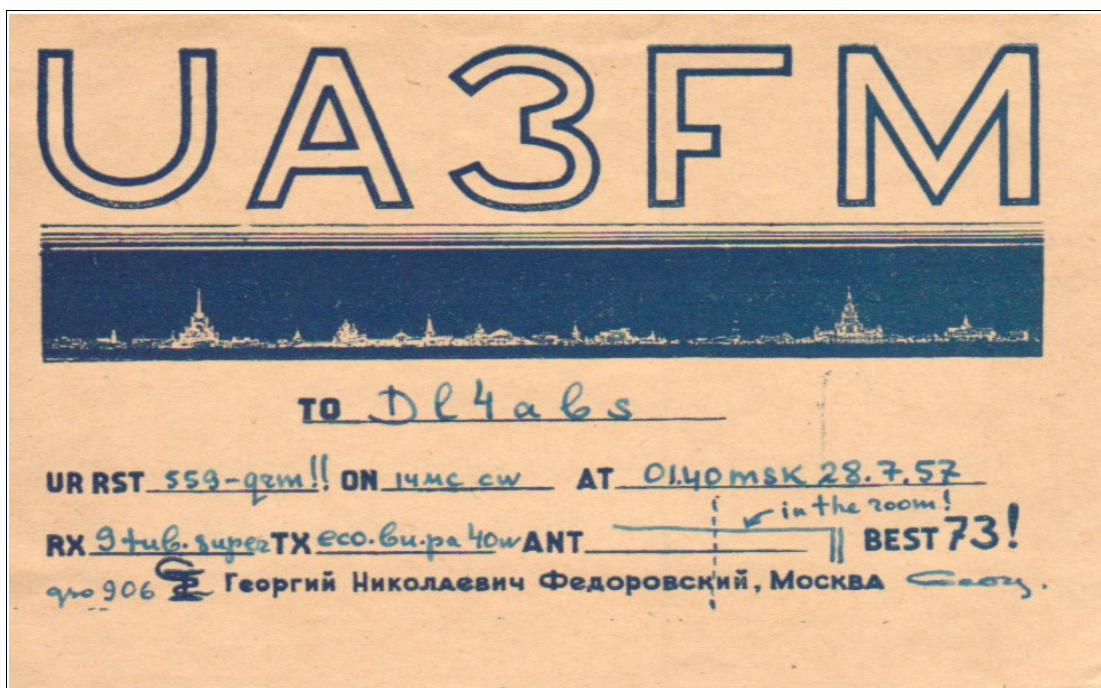


WWØE, Jerry Rappel

My smallest QSL card – actual size is 3” X 1 1/2”.

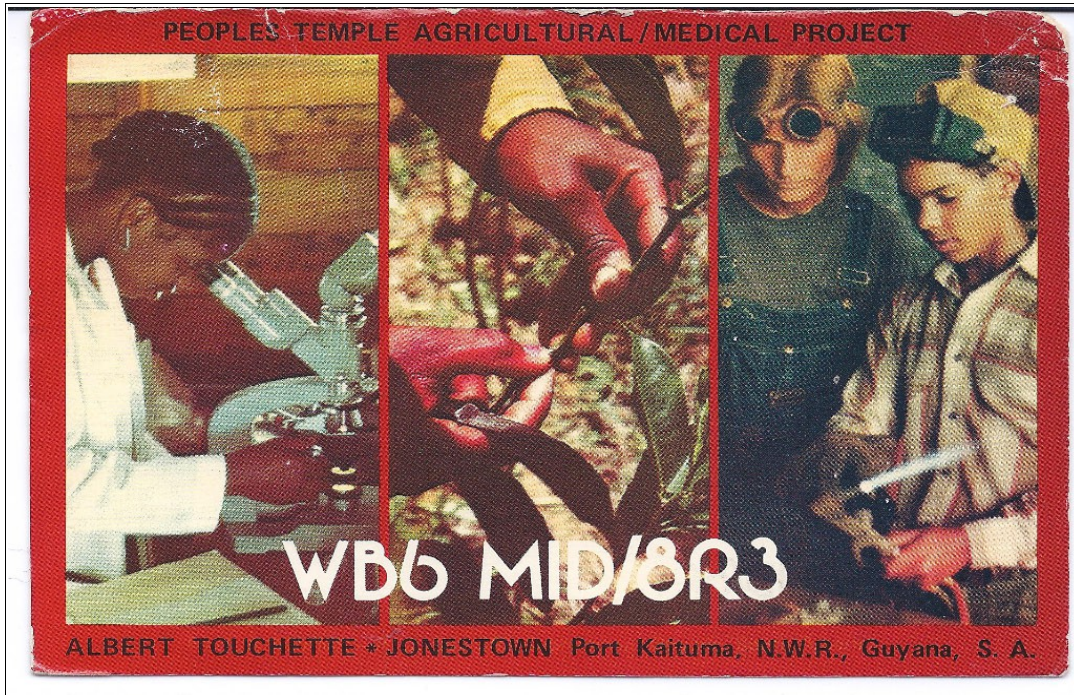


KØEGQ, Karin Blankenhagen



I was operating in Germany as DL4ABS, and my all-time favorite QSL card came from “Georg” UA3FM in Mockba, CCCP. Our QSO was on 20m CW on July 28, 1957. Note on the QSL that his antenna was in the room! In addition to the QSL was a photo of his shack and a letter. They were smuggled out of Russia to Denmark by OZ5EV at a festival in Moscow and forwarded to me. He cautioned me to “Please be careful with your reply letter – it will be censored!” Georg was a psychiatrist in Mockba. We stayed in touch for a while even after returning to the States.

WB8ZRL, Tom Vavra



Agricultural/Medical Project
 Working to assist the Guyanese Government to feed, clothe, and house its people, and further the human service goals that have characterized Peoples Temple.

Radiocall WB8ZRL confirming our QSO on 8/21/78
 GMY 2227 UR SSR X CW AM
 RST. 5/6 MHS 14 XMTR YAESU RCVR 101EE
 Antenna MOSLEY CL 36 Comments:

Thanks for the QSL. This is a beautiful country & the people are quite friendly to the USA. They are doing a great job & appreciate whatever encouragement offered. Best wishes to you and yours.

CUL 73's
AL
WB6 MID/8R3
 Albert Touchette - Jonestown
 Port Kaituma, N.W.R., Guyana

Post Card
 Tom Vavra
 5101 Hahn Avenue
 Fairborn, Ohio 45324

WØVX, Dave Jaksa

KS4CJ

SWAN ISLAND WEST INDIAN ISLANDS

Site of U. S. National Weather Service Upper Air Sounding Station

RADIO **WAØVDX** CONFIRMING ~~2XSSB~~ CW QSO OF **10 DEC 1971**

AT **0455** GMT ON **7** MC. UR SIGS WERE **589**

QSL TO: BOX 717
CHRISTIANSTED, ST. CROIX
U. S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00820

73 **Harold R. McBirney**
(**Mae** W3ZQ KV4AM)


Trax for your QSL *Harold*



DXpedition from the now-deleted country of Saudi Arabia-Iraq Neutral Zone.



WWØE, Jerry Rappel

Pirate Radio Station “*UnderCover Radio*”. Operating on 13.915 USB.
QTH ??



From the middle of nowhere it's Undercover Radio!

| Confirming | DATE | UTC | FREQ |
|--------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Jerry Rappel | 11/9/12 | 2250 | 13915 USB |
| Transmitter | Antenna | Power | |
| Homebrew | Whip | 300 watts | |

Confirmation # 112



The Secret Numbers:

Periodically Dr. Benway will send encoded messages through the airwaves that contain special messages. These messages will help resist the mind control efforts of the Rodent Revolution. The rodents are dangerous. They may seem cute, but if you let your guard down, they will take over your mind. They are quite serious about taking over the world.

*Resist...
Resist...
Resist...
Time to Destroy Commander Bunny*



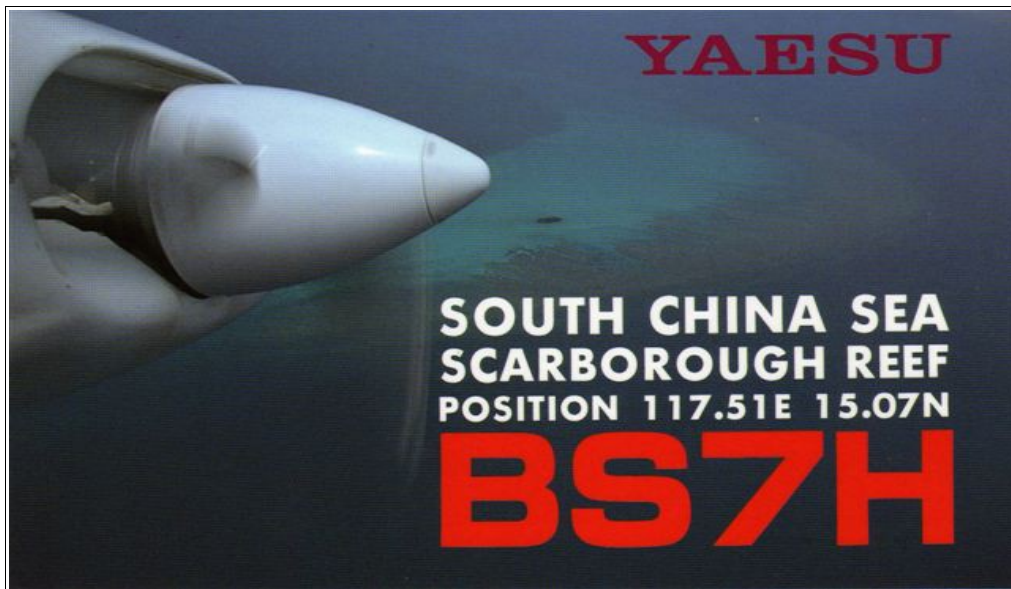
82 101 115 105 115 116
116 104 101
82 111 100 101 110 116
82 101 118 111 108 117 116 105 111 110

83 116 97 121
116 117 110 101 100
116 111
54 57 53 53

83 111 111 110
50 48 48 48
119 97 116 116 115

WØAWL, Terry Cellman

These cards aren't really rare, but the first one kept me from the top of the honor roll for several years. It was the first Scarborough Reef DXpedition (1994), and the table they used did not come in contact with the rock when high tide rolled in. The legs were in water so the top needed to be touching the top of the rocks.



The second card is from the last DXpedition to Scarborough (2007) There was a DXpedition between these two dates, but unfortunately I never was able to copy them.

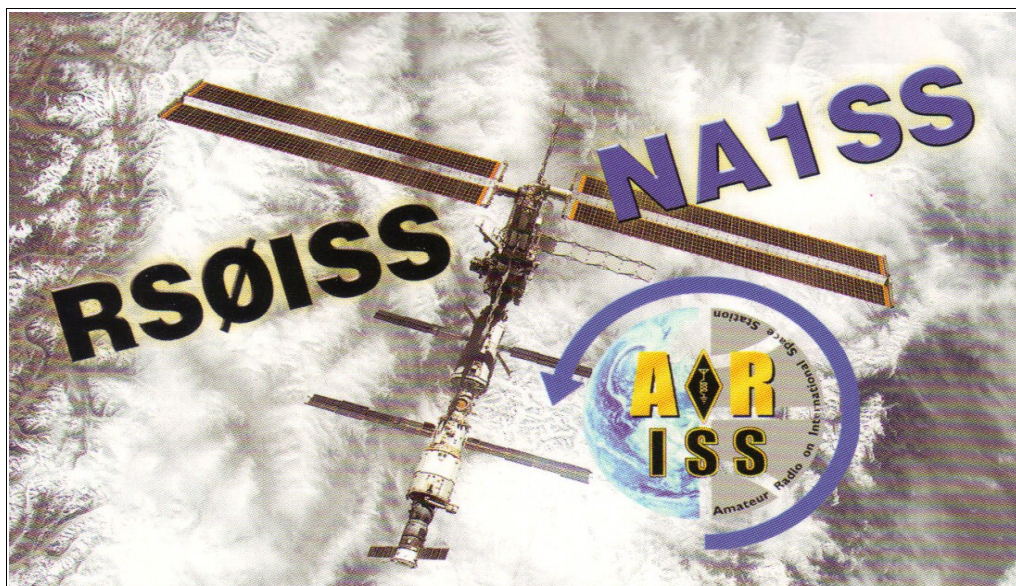


K80M, Joe Huntgate

WP4CLH – This is the first “DX” QSL card I received. I had been a Novice for about 3 months and luckily this guy in Puerto Rico had the same 15 meter crystal frequency that I did. The QSO date was February 20, 1965. There were two 3-cent air mail stamps on the card to get it from Puerto Rico to WV ... my how the rates have gone up!

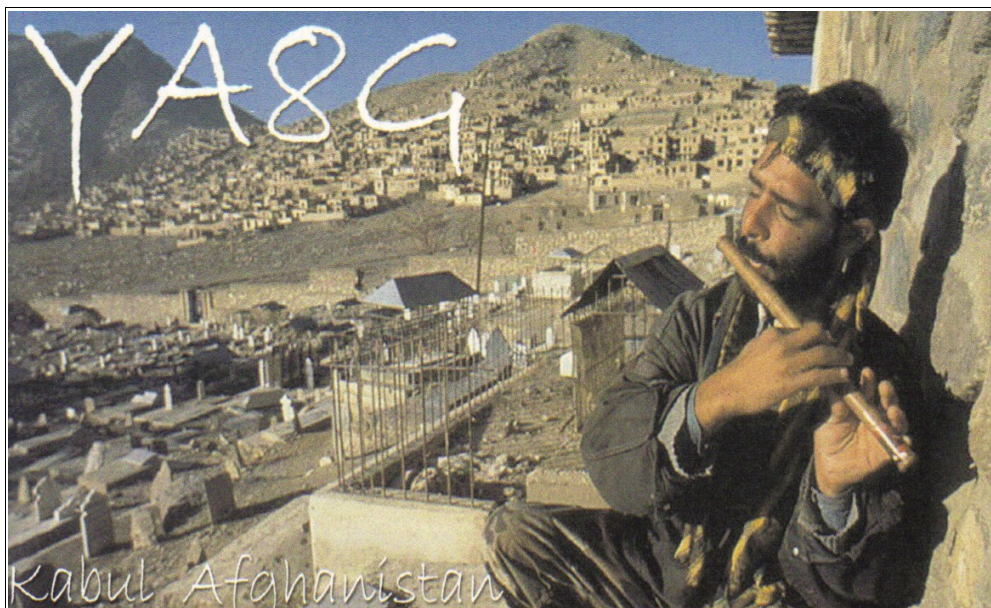


NA1SS – I was lucky enough to work the International Space Station on June 23, 2001. Susan Helms (KC7NHZ but no longer active) was operating 2 meters during one of the passes and I got her. Another ham in NC made an audio recording of my QSO with her (her downlink audio only of course) and sent it to me.





OJØDX – This was a DX-pedition to Market Reef in June 1970. The operators were listed on the back of the QSL and one of them was Martti Laine (OH2BH). This had to have been one of the first DX-peditions Martti was on (42 years ago). I believe he is fourth from the left in the back row but I'm not sure (he's aged a bit since 1970... not like the rest of us).



YA8G – I think the picture depicts exactly what one would expect Afghanistan and its locals to look like.

KØAFN, Sam Burrell



The International Space Station (ISS) is a common project of many nations in Europe as well as Canada, Russia, Japan and the USA. When fully constructed the ISS will consist of about 70 major components and hundreds of smaller ones that are to be launched into space by the year 2010. Some of the major components are:

- **Zarya**, also called Functional Cargo Block (FCB—acronym from the Russian term) – includes the energy block, contingency fuel storage, propulsion and multiple docking points.
- **Zvezda**, also called Russian Service Module – provides life support and utilities, thrusters and habitation functions (toilets and hygiene facilities).
- **Canadian Mobile Servicing System** – includes a 55-foot robot arm with 125-ton payload capability as well as a mobile transporter that can be positioned along the truss for robotic assembly and maintenance operations.
- **US, European and Japanese Laboratories** – together provide 33 International Standard Payload Racks with additional science space available in the two Russian Research Modules.
- **The Amateur Radio station** – which is frequently used to allow ISS crews and visitors to talk with school children and fellow amateurs around the world.

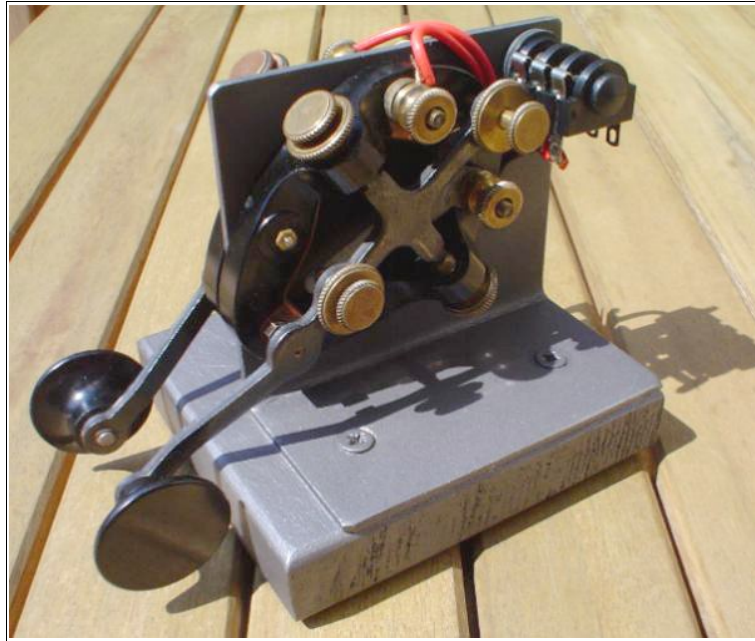
To: *David CDR, ISS*

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------|-----|-----|
| Fr | Day | Month | Year | UTC | MHz |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NA1SS | NA1SS confirms 2-way QSO with | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RSØ | KØAFN | | | | |
| | on 7 - SEP - 2010 | | | | |
| | at 2149 145.8 MHz FM | | | | |

Mode: Voice Packet SSTV ... RS Repeater SWL

Printed by IK1PML - 12/2005

Hey KCØVKN - Can you identify this one ?



Thank You. 

*Thanks to all the club members who contributed
to this newsletter. Jerry WØDE*

DXCC Card Checking Is As Close as EIDXA

The club has another QSL card checker WØGJ, Glenn Johnson. If you look on the ARRL web site under searching for a checker, he shows up with a Calmar, IA address, but a MN phone number. If you look in the master list, he is still listed in MN.



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.

2013 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 January
11th 7:30 PM 2013.
Room 219C of Linn Hall on the campus
of Kirkwood Community College.
Cedar Rapids.
Program - NH8S Swains Island
Expedition by Craig Thompson K9CT**

Established 1975

