

# The Eastern IowaDXer



***October 2014***

**Our 39<sup>th</sup> year**

# Eastern IowaDXer

An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



**OCTOBER**

**2014**

Official  
Newsletter of the  
Eastern Iowa DX  
Association

**NØDX**

Established  
1975

Our 39<sup>th</sup> year

**October 2014**

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Club Officers:

President:	Craig Fastenow	KØCF	<b>Packet Cluster:</b>	<b>WB8ZRL</b>
Vice President:	Jerry Rappel	WWØE	147.51, 144.91, WB8ZRL.no-ip.org:7300	
Secretary Treasurer:	Richard Haendel	W3ACO		
Repeater Committee:	Al Groff	KØVM	<b>Repeater:</b>	<b>NØDX/R</b>
	Joe Finkstein	WØMJN	144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8)	
Membership Committee:	Jim Spencer	WØSR		
	Tom Vavra	WB8ZRL		
	Nelson Moyer	KUØA		
Web Master Extraordinaire:	Jason L. Joens	NRØX		

**Next EIDXA meeting: Friday, October 17th, 7:30 PM.**  
**Campus of Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids.**  
**In the Amana Room in Iowa Hall. Program: Ralph Fedor, KØIR, the expedition leader**  
**from the FT5ZM Amsterdam Island DXpedition (and many other major DXpeditions).**

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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](mailto:WWØE@q.com).

Thanks in advance for your newsletter input.

~ WWØE ~

**President's Propagation, Pronouncements & Pontification****EIDX President *Craig Fastenow*, KØCF**

Welcome to the October 2014 edition of the Eastern Iowa DXer!

Well, the fall contesting season is upon us! Lots of great contests coming up, the most significant of which are the CQ World-Wide SSB and CW contests on the last weekends of October and November, respectively, and the ARRL Sweepstakes CW and SSB contests on the first and third weekends of November, respectively. All great contests and always a lot of fun and great competition! I hope you can get on the air for these great events.

I am very pleased to announce the program for our forthcoming meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>: We are very privileged to welcome Ralph Fedor, KØIR to our club. Ralph is a very active DXpeditioner, having led and participated in more DXpeditions than I can possibly comprehend. He was the team leader for the recent Amsterdam Island, FT5ZM, expedition, and this will be the topic of his talk for us. Before Amsterdam, he was co-leader of the 3YØX Peter I Island operation in 2006, having been there before in 1994 as 3YØPI. He was a member of the VKØIR Heard Island team in 1997, HK1NA Malpelo in 2012, Bhutan as A52IR in 2010, VP8ORK South Orkney Island in 2011, PJ6A Saba Island in 2010, and K5D Desecheo in 2009. In two separate trips, he operated as VP8SSI and VP8THU from South Sandwich and VP8CBA and VP8GEO from South Georgia. Finally, he made a trip to Easter Island as XRØY in 2005. What an incredible string of absolutely top-notch DXpeditions!

In his real life, Ralph is a physician specializing in radiology in Saint Cloud, Minnesota. This will be an incredible opportunity for us all to rub shoulders with one of the great amateur radio operators of our time. Whatever you have to do, please don't miss this meeting and fabulous program!

Unfortunately, I must announce that this will be my last meeting as your president. My wife has been in the hospital for two months as I write this, first for 3 weeks in ICU at Mercy Hospital here in Iowa City, and now at the Long-Term Acute Care Hospital within St. Luke's in Cedar Rapids. She has been on a respirator the entire time. Later this week she is scheduled to move to a Nursing Home in Oelwein that has a skilled care unit with ventilator support (one of only two such facilities in the state of Iowa). She may be there for a month or more before I will be able to bring her home. The demands of her care will not permit me to continue with the office of president.

I must tell you that I have really enjoyed being president of EIDXA, the best radio club I have ever been involved with. I had trepidations before taking the job, especially about the task of arranging programs for the meetings. It turns out that was the highlight of the job – it has been a great pleasure and privilege seeking out programs. I have made new friends, and I think (if I don't break my arm here) I have gotten some great programs for us.

I would like to encourage others to give serious consideration to taking on this most pleasurable of "jobs" – you will have the time of your life running the meetings for this great group of hams and reaching out to hams both inside and outside our club to provide programs for us. It is a *very* rewarding endeavor! I especially encourage a newer member to step forward and volunteer for this great privilege. You won't be jumping into this solo -- there are a lot of us who have "been there, done that" to offer help, suggestions and encouragement to you!

As I mentioned above, our next meeting will be on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in Meeting Rooms C-D in Iowa Hall on the Kirkwood Community College campus. (This room is right down the hall from the Amana Room which we have used for the last several meetings). I will send out an email reminder a few days before the meeting, with detailed instructions on finding the meeting room, complete with links to a couple of maps.

In closing I want to thank each and every one of you for your support of the Eastern Iowa DX Association, and for making my term as president so pleasurable and fulfilling. I will long remember the experience and all the great times!

Hoping to see you all at the October meeting! 73 and good DX!  
Craig, KØCF

|| "Now that's DX" ||



EIDXA Vice-President *Jerry Rappel, WWØE*

Here we go again, the end of summer and the beginning of fall, time to get that antenna work finished.

Careful sun observers may notice that around the fall equinox it gets dark not only earlier but also faster. The fastest transitions between day and night occur at this time. This happens because the sun crosses the horizon at a slightly steeper angle. As a result, we see the sun appear and disappear from the horizon more quickly. But not until September 26 are sunrise and sunset exactly 12 hours apart.

Looks like most members have been in pursue of the WAS WIAW/\_ARRL Centennial QSO Party stations. Talk about pile ups, but what fun!

Did you know:



••• • • ■■■    ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■    ■■■ ■■■■  
 S E E K    Y O U    D X

CQD preceded SOS as in international distress call. It is derived from Morse code slang for (CQ) which meant "calling any station", the D was added for "distress".

### Baofeng Becoming Pofung.

Baofeng - handheld transceiver manufacturer, announced recently that it is rebranding it's product line as Pofung in order to help customers pronounce their name correctly. Baofeng is a literal pinyin translation of a Chinese character name. The new name is easier to pronounce while maintaining the phonetic symbolism of their brand. CQ magazine.

The logo for Pofung, featuring the word "pofung" in a stylized, lowercase font. The "p" is black, the "o" is red, and the "f" is black. The "u" and "n" are black, and the "g" is black.

The 15-Meter SSTV Contest, Fall 2014, will be held on the first weekend of October. Dates, times, rules etc. can be found at <http://contests.wsstv.org/rules/>.



I met Gordon West, WB6NOA  
at the Peoria Hamfest on Sept. 20th.

**EIDXA Summer picnic.**

Once again Terry served up some mouth-watering brats at the EIDXA club picnic September 13th.



Which included a special guest fly-in, N636P.





Future EIDXА member Spencer Johnson, KDØZJE was at the EIDXА picnic. He participated in the ARRL Rookie Roundup a couple months ago at the NRØX farm, and earned high score in Zero Land. He was just licensed in December 2013. Congratulations!



A good time was had by all.

Thanks to the ARRL, Universal Radio and MFJ for the prize donations.



Thank you Karen and Jason for your usual hospitality.

"Now that's DX" until next time - *Jerry Rappel*, WWØE

## Minutes

Secretary/Treasurer *Richard Haendal*, W3ACO

Minutes of the July 18, 2014 EIDXA meeting.

39 hams answered the CQ call.

The treasurer's report was read. The balance sheet was shown to all members on the overhead projector. Tracking of the Tom Hise DX fund was explained. Report was approved.

Secretary's minutes of the April meeting was read and approved.

Tom, WB8ZRL provided details and progress of the Tom Hise memorial fund. Draft bylaw rules will be distributed to the executive committee for review. It is planned that these rules will be voted upon by the membership at our October meeting.

The club approved donations to the following:

4W/K7CO Timor-Leste \$100  
VK9XSP Christmas Is.\$150  
FT4T Tromelin, an additional \$200  
4K9W Vlad Shisko, a donation of \$100

These funds will NOT be matched from the Tom Hise memorial fund as by-laws have not yet been approved by the membership.

On [July 19](#), W3ACO transferred the following via his Paypal account:

4W/K7CO, no transfer, EIDXA gave \$100 in January, 2014 See 4W/K7CO web page.

VK9XSP, transferred \$140, total, including fees was \$146.25.

FT4T, transferred 142 Euros, total, including fees was \$197.08.

4K9W, transferred \$100, total, including fees was \$102.00

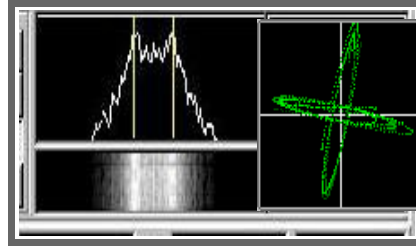
John Ely, WØGN was voted in as a new full member, Congratulations and welcome, John.

EIDXA Picnic is scheduled for Sept 13 at KØEGQ, Martelle, Iowa with a rain date of Sept 27. Start time is usually 3 PM.. Bratmeister is WØAWL.

KØCF announced ongoing negotiations with KØIR for a presentation of the Amsterdam Island DXpedition, FT5ZM at our October meeting. This should be an extraordinary presentation. Visit the EIDXA web site for any announcements!

After a short break, a video of the Juan Fernandez DXpedition, XRØZR was shown.

Rich W3ACO

**RTTY Corner - Jerry Rappel WWØE****The latest DX digi-doings**

Only one log this time around, everyone's busy chasing the W1AW/\_ stations.

SO HOW PRINT ?

- x KØJGH Glen's RTTY log: OA1F, ISØIGV, ZB2R, T6T, LB2TG, A71AE , PYØ/UA4WHX, YO3VU, LY5W, VP2/SP2FUD.

**8<sup>th</sup> annual RTTY DX TEST 27-28 September**

**EIDXA NEWS**

**Glenn, WØGJ heading to Navassa ?**



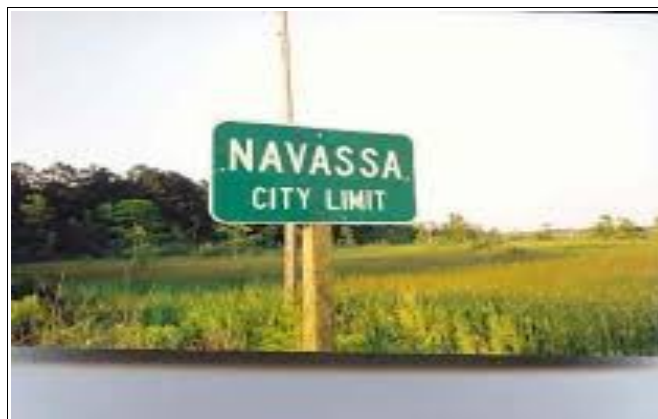
Jason checking out the "highway in the sky" coordinates for Glenn's ascent in his 1968 Piper SuperCub, to his next DXpedition.



Clear for takeoff on Highway #1.



Next stop ...



**STAY TUNED!**

**Member's Spotlight**

# WØGN

EIDXА 's newest member - John Ely.



Member of ARRL, Central States VHF Society, QCWA, and OOTC. Worked for several employers including WOI radio, KHAK radio, E. F. Johnson Company, Collins Radio Company, and Ames Laboratory (USAEC). I also served three years as Business Manager of IBEW Local 1362 (July 1992 - July 1995). Worked for Collins twice, totaling over 30 years. Jobs included laboratory technician, production engineer, and test technician. My fondest memories of Collins are from the early '70's when I worked on Collins ham gear.

I recently retired after working eleven years for a small company that builds chiropractic tables. Much of my ham time is spent in my basement working on various low budget projects. All my antennas were in the attic until recently.

I have 48 states confirmed and VUCC on six meters with those antennas. In the late fall of 2011 I put up an outside wire and can now operate effectively on the lower bands, including 160 meters.

My favorite activity is setting up and operating in ARRL Field Day. The picture below was taken three years ago at the Jones County ARC field day. WØGN is on the left operating with son John (still not licensed). Somehow the table for the camper was locked inside a shed with no key, so everything was set up in a “make do” configuration.

I have always believed in order and neatness. A workman is judged by the workspace he inhabits and electronic work is no different. Below is a picture of my workbench. Also below is one of my many innovative test areas. The unit being tested is a 100 Watt PA that was put together for my software defined radio station. Perhaps it will be working in time for the ARRL September VHF contest.



My only previous connection with EIDX was in the late 1980's when I operated some packet nodes remotely located on a hill near Stone City. The equipment was housed in an old station wagon and eventually included a 220 mHz link to WB8ZRL's DX cluster at Ely, Iowa. In just a few years the Internet made that station unnecessary and I shut it down. My first DXCC was CW #1572 and I finally managed to get a phone DXCC earlier this year.





## Woodpecker Damage Follow-Up!

**Tom Vinson NYØV**

In the last newsletter I showed how a woodpecker had severely damaged my control cables going to my antenna. My solution was to slide a dryer vent expandable tin tubing over the cable bundle. I also sprayed it with red Cayenne pepper!

With warmer weather at hand I took the antenna down and inspected the tubing. The tubing had been “pinged” numerous times, but I do not see any penetration through the tin. Maybe it will keep them at bay. But only time will tell!



**|| Feature Story ||****Friedrichshafen 2014  
Tom Vinson NYØV**

Many of us have traveled to the Dayton Hamvention. You have to do that at least once in your life as it is the “Mecca” of amateur radio. I usually travel with a group from the Radio Farm, NØMA, in Cedar Rapids. We joke that it’s our “once in a lifetime annual trip to Dayton.”

But, Dayton isn’t the only large hamfest in the world. There is of course, Friedrichshafen “Ham Radio 2014” as the EU equivalent of our Dayton. While not as large as Dayton, if you are considering traveling to EU near the end of June sometime, you may want to consider swinging over to Friedrichshafen.

This summer I had that opportunity presented to me when I was asked to be the instructor of a course at Rockwell Collins- Heidelberg. Since that class was to end at noon on Friday the weekend of Freidrichshafen, it didn’t take me long to figure out how to get to southern Germany for the hamfest! I emailed the Ham Radio 2014 (<http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/> ) website contact for the brochure and then set up the train tickets through DB Bahn (<http://www.bahn.de/i/view/USA/en/index.shtml> ) the EU rail pass system.

Friedrichshafen is a town of around 60,000 situated on the north side of Lake Constance (Bodensee) in the far south of Germany. If you wish to travel most directly to Friedrichshafen, I believe Zurich would be a great city to fly into and then take a train over to Friedrichshafen.

In the hotel I stayed at I met other hams from all over EU. I was going to take a city bus over to the exhibition hall(s) when I ended up having breakfast with fellow hams from near Munich. They had driven to Friedrichshafen and offered me a ride to the hamfest. Ham radio comradery is great, isn’t it? My first impressions of the hamfest is that the facilities are excellent! If you have been to Dayton’s Hara Arena you know how run down the facilities are there. The Friedrichshafen hamfest is totally opposite in facility quality.

The buildings are more akin to the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum in both the Quonset shape and quality.

This hamfest draws about 15,000 hams and the facilities easily accommodate this size of attendance. I never felt like it was “rear ends and elbows” like at Dayton.

The other thing that is nice about Friedrichshafen is the food and beer! Excellent German beer and (of course) the brats are hard to beat!



**The Entrance to Ham Radio 2014 in Friedrichshafen with Peter and Alouise from near Munich**



Log Home Portable Operation at the DARC Exhibit. (The builder sells these to various camps). The set up for the hamvention had the vendor and country society booths and contest clubs in the first A1 building. The remainder of the buildings housed the flea market.

What interested me was not the usual ICOM, Yaesu, or Elecraft booths, but the unique EU companies and garage shop hams showing off their wares.

There were some pretty cool SDR radios and a lot of VHF/UHF modules and antennas. Along with these vendors were the individual country societies and clubs.

As I perused the exhibits I enjoyed meeting hams from Sweden, Slovenia, Romania etc. When I came upon the ARRL booth I ran into KØIR and WØAIH! Small world.



**Ralph, KØIR and Paul, WØAIH at the ARRL booth.**



**The Swedish booth, complete with Lingonberry Juice and Cloudberry Jam.**



**Flea Market Housed in Several of the “Quonset” Buildings / and a Two Element 40m Moxon.**

The flea market was also interesting, but I thought a bit pricey. Some of this problem is the EU/USD exchange rate. When the EURO was first introduced the rate was 1 EURO =.85 USD. Now 1 EURO = 1.36 USD. In other words, if a ham in the flea market wanted 100 Euro’s for some cool piece of gear, it would cost me \$136! Not such a good deal. Needless to say when I am traveling in EU I don’t buy too much to take back, though I did end up with a nice Palm Radio mini paddle and code cube set up. I also picked up Scott, KØMD’s repaired MicroKeyer from MicroHam, topping off my carry-on computer bag for the flight home.



**NYØV and Jozef, OM7ZZ from MicroHam / The Staffers (Owner on Right) at OM Power Amps.**

In addition to the exhibits and flea market, there are of course many forums and night time dinners that you can attend. Just like Dayton, the popular Contesting and DX forums had good crowds. Ralph did a great job on the FT5ZM presentation! As I sat down at the DX forum there was Alex, GD6IA whom many of you have probably run into on 17m or in a contest.



### **Alex, GD6IA at the DX Forum (N4XP left) / Ralph Presenting FT5ZM**

Like Dayton, the last day of the hamfest is Sunday. That day it was raining cats and dogs. And with other hams telling me that not too much of a crowd goes there on Sunday I decided to catch an earlier train to Zurich. When I got to the train station platform who should I run into but Franz, DJ9ZB and his XYL. They had just gotten Ralph and Paul onto their train. We spoke about DXing and the problems with the US Fish and Wildlife Service with places like KP1 and then said our Auf Wiedersehen's.



**Running into Franz, DJ9ZB at the Train Station.**

Nigel, G3TXF, has posted some of his many pictures of the Friedrichshafen hamfest at: <http://www.g3txf.com/dxtrip/FN-2014/FN-Jun-14.html>.

If you are ever going to be in or around southern Germany at the end of June I would highly recommend swinging by Friedrichshafen for Ham Radio 2015!

Tom Vinson  
NYØV

**PSE QSL**

None received.



**T**HE LISTENING



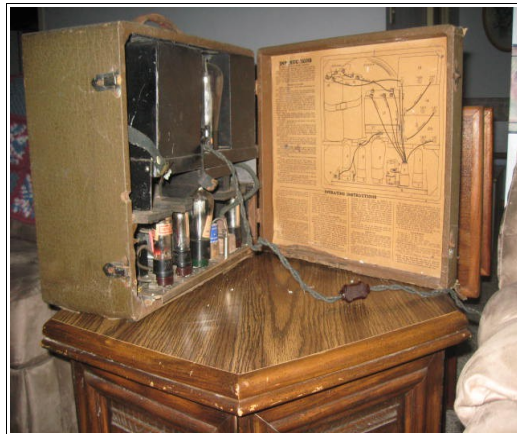
**P**OST

**THE INCURABLE DISEASE OF RADIO-TTIS**

General DXing with different types of vintage radios on shortwave and broadcast bands. For example, what can you pull in with a TRF at night

Do you collect/restore vintage radios, please submit stories/pictures to this newsletter.

My latest find - 1929 Trav-ler AC/DC - 25 pound - "portable" radio.




Bob Lee, WØGXA sends this picture of his tidy, orderly, shipshape, uncluttered, station.




With his new Yaesu FT5000 and matching amp. He said in the first weekend of use he snagged all the main DXpeditions except VK9NT. QRO is the only way to go.

**AIRWAVE PATROL**  
with  
**Billy Hallicrafters**




MAYDAY... MAYDAY...  
CQ...CQ...EMERGENCY!  
FOREST FIRE NORTH  
OF SIOUX LOOKOUT  
NEAR BEAR LAKE!  
WE'RE TRAPPED.  
HURRY...  
HURRY....


DON'T QUIT, TERRY... KEEP SENDING ON YOUR  
SHORT WAVE SET. IF SOMEONE  
DOESN'T HEAR US SOON--WE'RE  
DONE FOR!




CALLING CQ, CQ, CQ.  
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!!!  
EMERGENCY!!! WE'RE TRAPPED  
BY A FOREST FIRE...NEAR BEAR  
LAKE. SEND HELP! HURRY!



QUICK TIM! CALL THE FOREST  
RANGERS... TWO HUNTERS  
ARE TRAPPED IN A FIRE...GOTTA  
HAVE HELP FAST!




WHAT'S THAT, SON? TWO TRAPPED  
HUNTERS? THANKS....WE'LL LOOK  
INTO IT RIGHT AWAY!




LOOK! THERE IT  
IS! BETTER SEND  
A SEAPLANE  
IMMEDIATELY!

RESCUE RANGER  
TO TOWER--I'VE SPOTTED  
THEM! WOW--WHAT A  
BLAZE. HAVE TO GET IN  
AND OUT FAST--HERE GOES!




MAN! ARE WE GLAD  
TO SEE YOU  
HOW'D YOU EVER  
FIND US?




BOY SCOUTS PICKED  
YOU UP ON SHORT WAVE. NOW  
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!!

GIVE ME  
A HAND WITH  
THIS GEAR.



WE DROPPED IN TO  
SAY HOW GRATEFUL WE  
ARE. YOU BOYS SAVED  
OUR LIVES FOR SURE!


THANK SHORT WAVE  
RADIO, MR. MARSHALL!  
WE LISTEN ALL THE  
TIME...THERE'S ALWAYS  
SOMETHING EXCITING  
TO HEAR!



LUCKY FOR US  
YOU DO.

You hear more exciting things  
on a **hallicrafters**  
short wave receiver!

**New!** MODEL S-388  
Brilliant new, low-cost receiver with standard broadcast plus three short wave bands (1640 kc. - 32 mc.) Electrical hand-pumped. Rectified, 5" speaker, phone plug jack. Grey steel cabinet, silver trim, \$54.95. Blonde or mahogany finish with gold trim, \$59.95.



"The amazing world of short wave listening"  
**Yours free!**

Learn all about short wave! How it works... where and when to listen to foreign, amateur, emergency, military stations, plus international time map... frequency spectrum... etc.

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4401 W. Fifth Ave., Chicago 24, Ill.

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STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

Available with convenient terms from your Radio Parts Distributor

Export Sales: International Division, Raytheon Mfg. Co., Waltham, Mass.

**FOR SALE!**

3 - 10' straight sections Rohn 25 \$30.00 ea.  
5 nice straight sections. I would like \$40.00 each - all 8 sections can be had  
for \$250.00.

KT34XA down and ready to pickup \$200.00.

2 sets of torque-arm guy brackets for Rohn 25 for \$50.00 each.

6 turnbuckles for \$8.00 each.

TX2 rotator (my rebuilt spare with CATs quick disconnect) \$250.00.

3el 80m wire yagi with vacuum relays to remotely switch the parasitic  
elements for about 20db front to back. \$100.00.

Various aluminum tubing to repair or build antennas. Free for pickup at  
my QTH.

KØGT  
Gary Toomsen  
2730 Tower Dr.  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
319-395-9329

*Thanks to the EIDX members who made this newsletter.*

*Jerry WØE*

## **DXCC Card Checking Is As Close as EIDX**

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.



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

- ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director, and EIDX member, Cliff Ahrens KØCA attends EIDX 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: [KØCA@arrl.net](mailto:KØCA@arrl.net) or [cliff.ahrens@gmail.com](mailto:cliff.ahrens@gmail.com).



EIDX member Tom Vavra WB8ZRL. Tom is able to check any cards for DXCC. In addition he can check cards for WAS, WAC, and VUCC. Contact Tom via e-mail for more information and/or to make arrangements to check your cards: [wb8zrl@arrl.net](mailto:wb8zrl@arrl.net).

EIDX member Mike Nowack NA9Q. Mike attends EIDX 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](mailto:na9q@arrl.net).

## **2014 EIDXA Meeting & Events Schedule**

Look for this information on the club web-page [www.eidxa.org](http://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, October 17th, 7:30 PM.  
Campus of Kirkwood Community  
College, Cedar Rapids.  
In the Amana Room in Iowa Hall.  
Program: Ralph Fedor, KØIR, the  
expedition leader from the FT5ZM  
Amsterdam Island DXpedition (and  
many other major DXpeditions).**



**Established 1975**