

~~JANUARY~~ 2015

THE EASTERN
IOWA DXER



CELEBRATING
40 YEARS
of EIDX A!

<h1 style="color: red;">Eastern IowaDXer</h1> <p style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;">An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 10px 0;">JANUARY 2015</p> 	<p>cial Newsletter of the Eastern Iowa DX Association</p>  <p>Established 1975</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 1.5em;">Our 40th Year</p>
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January 2015

Club Officers:

President:	Jason Joens	NRØX	Packet Cluster:	WB8ZRL
Vice President:	Jerry Rappel	WWØE	147.51, 144.91, WB8ZRL.no-ip.org:7300	
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 Extraordinaire:	Jason L. Joens	NRØX		

Next EIDX meeting: Friday, January 16th, 7:30 PM. Campus of Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids. In the Amana Room in Iowa Hall. Program: VKØIR DXpedition from 1997. And hopefully it will include commentary by participating members!



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 Jason Joens, NRØX**

This time of year inevitably brings change with it. Changing seasons, remembering to write 2015 on your checks instead of 2014, new upcoming DX, and new elections here at the club. I would like to thank you all for your confidence in me as I take on this new responsibility as President. As I think back, I have followed an amazing path to end up here. Years ago, I promised that I would join the ranks of this club, and that I would hang my DXCC on these walls. I have done so, and my certificate is displayed right next to another with my callsign, from 1965. I promised myself that I would one day stand up and assume a leadership role here. Granted, I wasn't expecting that to happen for another 10 years or so.

To me, the EIDXA is Mount Olympus. It is a place where the gods can be found, having seen it all and worked everything there is to work. I am a good long way from reaching that level of expertise. So here I am, the guy standing at the front of the room. And with a new generation comes new ideas, and a different way of seeing things. I promise to do my best for you all, and to lead us well. But I am going to need the help and guidance of all of you to succeed here.

Bob WØGXA is gearing up for the last week of the ARRL Centennial, and I'm sure it will be a wonderful week, between family time for the holidays, and radio time for W1AW/Ø. I encourage you all to get involved. If you have never been on the receiving end of a pileup, here is your chance to do it from your own shack. Guys like Rick Heinrich and Glenn Johnson will tell you that there's nothing quite like it. But make sure that our shacks don't precede our loved ones. For Christmas time is about family before it is about our radios. 73, and Merry Christmas! Jason NRØX

|| "Now that's DX" ||



EIDXA Vice-President *Jerry Rappel*, WWØE



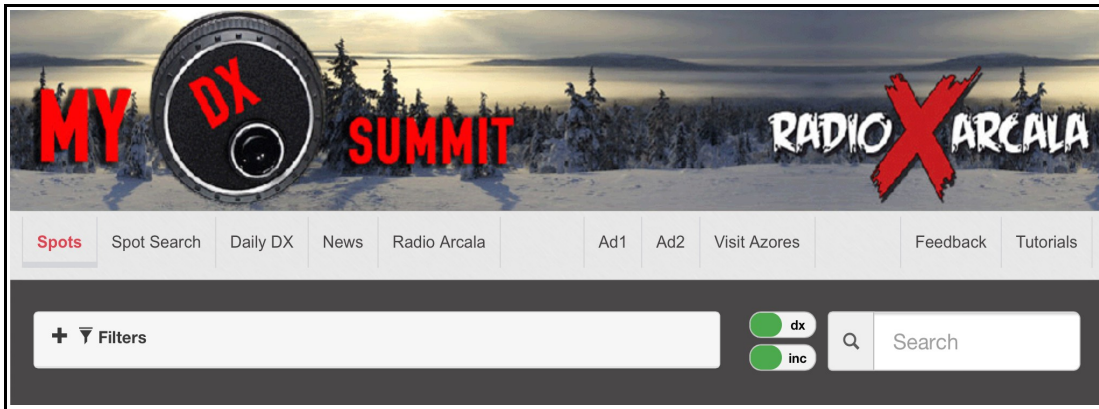
A big welcome to our new EIDXA
President ~
Jason Joens, NRØX.

Happy 2015. The ARRL Centennial activity has almost come to an end. This was not a contest, but an operation that was permitted on all bands. Participants called "CQ ARRL Centennial QSO Party" on phone or "CQ CENT" on CW or digital modes. The focus was to encourage ARRL QSO Party points. I stopped in August after getting W.A.S. But was bitten again alst month by the excitement, I've racked up just over 23K points so far. What a rush! My sound card crashed so most were CW and SSB QSO's.

So now we look forward to the K1N - DXpedition.

Congrats to Rod KØDAS our new Midwest Division Director.
Thanks to Cliff KØCA for his past service.

The new and improved:



As part of the celebrations for 50 years in the field of telecommunications, ICOM will release another transceiver, the IC-7850. (\$8,000 +). The model of the ICOM IC-7850 will be released worldwide in a limited edition, only 150 pieces and in individual locations will ... **Gold trimmed.**

(and if you order before midnight tonight ...)

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

Minutes

Secretary/Treasurer *Richard Haendal*, W3ACO

Minutes of the EIDX meeting October 17, 2014.

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

The DXpedition selection spreadsheet was explained to members on the overhead projector.

Secretary's minutes of the July 2014 meeting was read and approved.

Tom, WB8ZRL provided details of the changes to the by-laws to accommodate the Tom Hise memorial fund. Text was shown paragraph by paragraph on the overhead projector. There were a few questions. The membership voted to approve the by-law changes as presented.

In accordance with the by-law revisions, a DX fund committee shall be formed consisting of three members. The sec/treas shall be one member, the second member shall be a member of the Honor Roll. The third member shall be selected from the membership. The committee shall make future recommendations to the membership as to providing funds for DXpeditions. The committee shall be formed at the January 2015 meeting.

A request from W3ACO for an audit committee shall be formed. As per the by-laws, the audit shall have 3 members and be selected at the January 2015 meeting. An audit shall be conducted after the January 2015 meeting.

Arlyce Nowack, NB9Q was voted in as a full member. Congratulations and welcome Arlyce.

The Club had elections for officers for the new year, 2015. Jason, NRØX was elected as your new president. He will have assistance from KØCF. Jason will continue as webmaster. Your other elected officers are Jerry, WWØE, vice president and newsletter editor, and Rich, W3ACO sec/treasurer.

After a short break, Ralph, KØIR, provided an excellent presentation of the FT5ZM DXpedition. Many questions were asked during the presentation. Ralph, thanks for coming down and making this special effort.

Is This RadioShack's Last Christmas

It seems as if the company that's been providing batteries and power adapters for decades is starting to run out of juice. RadioShack is hitting new all-time lows this week, and it's going to be a challenge for it just to stick around beyond this holiday shopping season.

The chain of small-box strip mall shops that specialize in consumer electronics can't seem to get anything right these days. Store-level sales continue to slip. Losses continue to mount. Store closures and pink slips are the norm. With creditors running out of patience, it could mean that RadioShack is running out of time.

Another Step Down

Sales fell by more than 16 percent relative to the same period a year earlier, fueled partly by shuttered locations but mostly by a 13.4 percent drop in comparable-store sales over the past year.

The biggest drag at RadioShack is its wireless offerings. The company took a big gamble a few years ago, transforming its stores from a place for locals to grab small consumer electronics items to one that emphasizes mobile phone services from most of the leading carriers. RadioShack figured that it could fare better than the stand-alone shops of individual carriers by having a one-stop destination where customers can comparison-shop across the different

providers. This was also the strategy that Best Buy was taking on when it began to open smaller Best Buy Mobile shops.

It hasn't worked. RadioShack still devotes shelf space to many of the traditional retail consumer electronic products it used to carry. That segment is holding up relatively better, but we're still seeing negative sales growth there.

The Iffy Road to Merry Christmas 2015

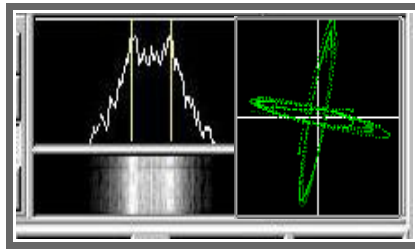
RadioShack has started to remodel some of its stores. The extreme makeovers are paying off. Comparable-store sales at those stores are also negative, but they're holding up a lot better than the traditional format. The challenge for RadioShack is to see if it can invest in the remodeling efforts without going out of business first.

RadioShack has a financial problem. It is generating negative cash flow, and mounting losses mean that creditors are going to have to decide if they want to follow the chain down this rabbit hole. The chain is down to \$62.6 million in liquidity as its long-term debt has ballooned to \$841.5 million. This would be a thorny ratio if this were a profitable company, but it could be downright fatal for the profit-challenged entity that RadioShack has become today. It hasn't posted a profit since 2011, and analysts don't see that changing anytime soon.

The retailer knows that its days are numbered. On Tuesday it introduced its third chief financial officer since September, hiring an advisory firm to guide it through this difficult process. Filing for bankruptcy appears to be the only way out, but that in and of itself wouldn't mean the end of RadioShack. Many retailers have filed for bankruptcy reorganization, bouncing back with a second wind and stronger balance sheet. However, with RadioShack's relevance continuing to fade with consumers in an era of digital delivery and cheaper online solutions, it's hard to fathom the chain itself being around for too much longer.

Investor Center

RTTY Corner - Jerry Rappel WWØE



The latest DX digi-doings

SO HOW PRINT ?

- W3ACO - EP3SMH, YJØX, T3ØD, TX5C, EA9BO, J35X, TF5B, VK9AN, ZA/Z35T, ZD8RH, C37NL, EY7AD, SV5BYR, T6T.

- 5R8M, VK9DLX, VK9XSP, J28NC, FT4TA, Z33F, RI1ANT, J35X, T88XC, A71AE, D44KS, CT3FW, VU4KV, HP2AT, FO8AA/P, FS/K9EL, FW5JJ, FR4NT, TA6AX/2, S01WS. Tom Vinson .

- KØJGH Glen's RTTY log: JRI1ANT, HA6NL, TO4R, FT4TA, VK9DLX, TI7/W5AP, W1AW/KL, P29NI .

EIDXA NEWS

K1N NAVASSA ISLAND DXPEDITION "KP1-5 Project": The KP1-5 Project and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have been working together on preparations for our joint 14 day visit to Navassa Island NWR. Although the actual dates may still vary, it now appears we will begin transport to the Island during the last week of January 2015.

For the KP1-5 Project,
Bob Allphin, K4UEE, President
Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, Vice President
Mike Thomas, NA5U, Secretary

3YØF

3Y/B, BOUVET. A team of 12 operators, lead by Alex, UN7PCZ, will be active as 3YØF sometime between December 2015 and January 2016. The group plans to be on the island for 2 weeks with 6 stations on the air. More details and a Web page are forthcoming. QRZ.com.

REALTIME BAND CONDITIONS WEB SITE

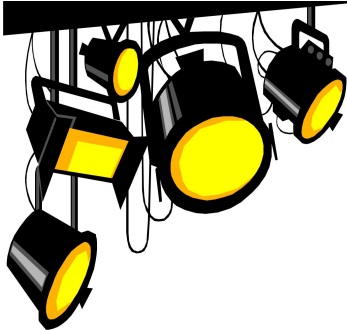
<http://www.bandconditions.com>:

The purpose of this experimental Web site is to provide 24-7-365 actual (REALTIME) band condition information to CW QRPp, QRPe and CW/SSB for Contesters interested in increasing their scores. It can also be of benefit to other Radio Amateurs to determine band conditions for Nets and casual QSO's. This information is NOT based on any software pre-dictions or any kind of satellite based readings. It is based on a new Ionospheric sounding method called "HF Ionospheric Interferometry" which operates very similarly to the PolSAR system used by NASA. QRZ.com.

DAYTON HAMVENTION NEWS (SWØDXA). Press Release/DX Dinner Announcement). The SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) is pleased to announce that we will again sponsor the DX Dinner, held in conjunction with the 2015 Dayton Hamvention®. This, our 30th annual dinner, will be on Friday, May 15th, 2015, at the Dayton Marriott, 1414 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45409. We have worked with our normally generous prize donors to gather prizes that will reflect the momentous occasion that this THIRTIETH anniversary represents. Among other great prizes, Yaesu has generously donated an **FT DX-3000!**

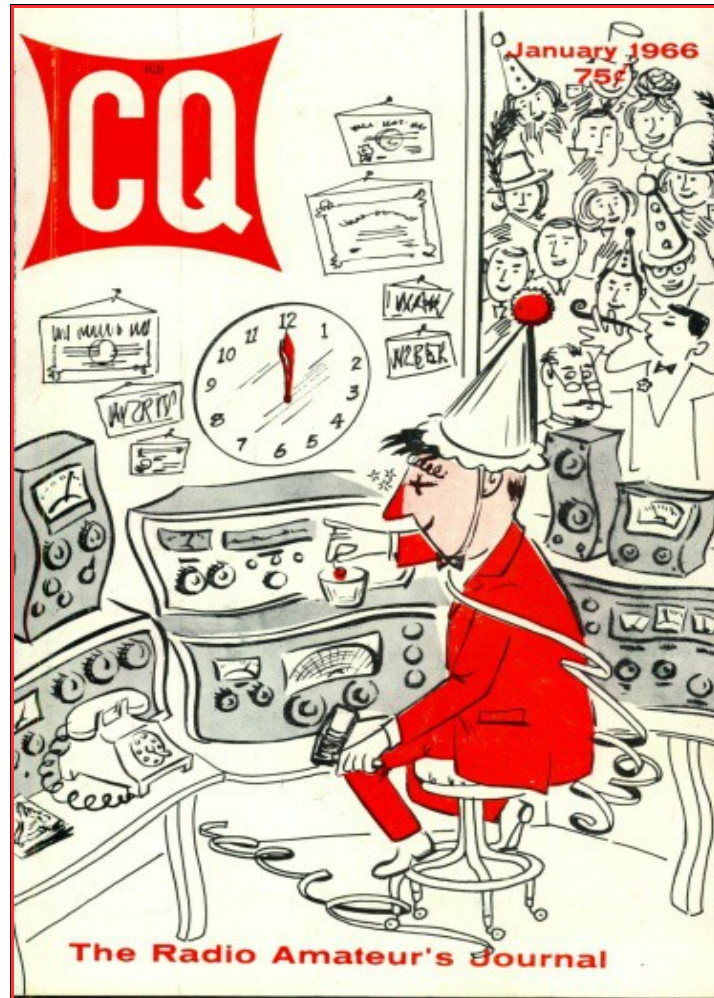
VK9C, COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS (Early Notice). Lars, LB2TB, has informed OPDX of a very early notice about their DXpedition to VK9C planned for March 2016. Activity is planned for 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY, with at least 2 stations operational. They will have 2-3 operators. Focus will be to give out a new one to as many Hams as possible, and activating 80/160 meters. He adds [edited], "Cocos (Keeling) Islands has had several activations - mostly 'holiday style'. We plan to do this as a 100% 'DX - pedition style'.

Member's Spotlight



None received this time.

Have you been featured in the Member's Spotlight? I think most everyone has, if not send me your info for the next newsletter.



Larry KØIS sent this in - says it's his favorite CQ cover from way back then.

Feature Story**My trip to PJ2T**

By Rich W3ACO

Jim Livengood, WØNB, encouraged me to go to PJ2T for the CQ WW SSB contest in October. At first, I was hesitant because I am certainly not a contester although I am an active Dyer. Jim assured me that I would fit in. Geoff, WØCG contacted me by e-mail. Geoff is the on-site manager, operator in many contests, and host of contest operations at PJ2T. He encouraged me and told me that I could be a back up operator and work the multiplier station rather than the run station. He also asked me to be the cook. He told me if no one cooked, the crew would eat cold cereal, cookies and beer for the entire week. I agreed. I felt that if I fed the crew well, they would have the energy to do well in the contest.

I arrived on Oct 21, the Tuesday evening before the contest on Oct 25-26. Geoff met me at the airport and chauffeured me to the PJ2T house. There I met Uli, DL8OBQ and Heiko, DK3DM. They had arrived earlier in the week. Uli came a week earlier and installed stack match boxes as well as DxLOG software on all the computers. Uli was the contest leader.

Wednesday morning, Geoff took me to two supermarkets to shop for food. It seems there was nothing in the fridge except milk, cookies and beer. I had already made up menus for the entire week.

I decided that everyone could fix their own breakfast. For lunches, I bought lunch meat cheese, bread and other fixings do they would make their own lunch. For supper, I prepared the meals from beef, chicken and pork, Geoff can't eat seafood so that was out. Over the week I made chicken piccata, Steak teriyaki, pork chops, pot roast and Spanish chicken. I also made up fruit, veggies and salads.

Thursday Oct 23, was a tune-up day for me. I got on the multiplier station and called CQ using PJ2/W3ACO on 10 Meters. I had a pileup going in less than 20 seconds. I ran 200+ QSOs in less than 2 hours. On Friday morning, Oct 24, I repeated the same scenario. In an hour or so I worked another 100+ stations. What an experience being the DX station. It was harder to say "Pea Jay Two Stroke Whiskey Three Alpha Charlie Oscar, then to make the QSO.



Kei, KG2A, also JJ1RJR, a Japanese ham came in on Thursday afternoon to complete the team roster. As soon as Kei unpacked, he went to the radio and in just a few hours worked 1000 Q's on CW. My, he was fast.

On Friday, Kei called CQ on 15 Meter phone asking for JAs only. He worked hundreds of them, speaking in Japanese, I think a first from PJ2T.



The team was Uli, Heiko, Kei, Geoff and me. Uli had decided to operate Multi/Single, that is one run radio and one multiplier radio. Uli posted a score prediction on the wall for us to aim for. It was 18 million points, quite a challenge for a small team.

The contest started at 0000 hours GMT on Friday evening. Heiko was on the run radio and Kei on the multiplier radio. We started on 10 meters then later, dropped to 15 meters. Even at that hour, 10 meters was still open to NA and JA. Later Heiko switched to 15 Meters and the multiply station dropped to 20 Meters. In the early morning hours, Uli took the run station and Geoff went to 40 Meters then 80 meters and the run station went to 80 Meters and the multiply to 160 Meters.

Everyone except me took a shift until Saturday morning. The run rates were incredible. I saw peak rates near 400 QSOs per hour and sustained rates well above 300 per hour. Propagation from PJ2 is a lot better than from Zero land. It seems at PJ2 there is a magnetic anomaly that promotes propagation at the higher frequencies well into darkness hours.

In the morning, I found Heiko back at the run station on 10 meters with a big pileup. He kept switching the antennas every QSO to find the biggest crowd. He was effective, very effective. I took my turn on the multiply station, first on 15 then on 20 Meters.

10 Meters was open to Europe first, then NA, then later in the afternoon to JA and Asia. Incredible ! For the contest, 10 Meters was the money band, it had the most QSOs.

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160	38	7	15
80	231	21	60
40	1142	28	98
20	1843	38	133
15	2264	37	129
10	3683	32	131
Total	9201	163	

I worked the multiplier station on 20 Meters when the run station was on the higher bands, then I went to 10 Meters when the run station dropped to 15 Meters. For me, working a multiplier is similar to working DX, one must drop your call in just at the right time. Everyone is working simplex, so there is a lot of QRM !

I fed the crew in staggered shifts during the contest. The run station never lost its frequency even during a operator change, perhaps 5 second pause. From my view, Heiko and Kei were the most efficient operators, fast talking and picking out calls from the pileup. All the ops were well experienced and efficient.

The results of the effort were a claimed score of 19.7 million points, fourth in the world for Multi-Single. A good effort on our part. Our score compared to others were:

Multi op, single run TX, High Power						
Call	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
<u>CN2AA</u>	12700	187	747	48	35,369,646	
<u>P33W</u>	10805	174	695	48	27,089,337	
<u>CN2R</u>	9818	176	681	48	25,041,540	
<u>PJ2T</u>	9201	163	566	48	19,741,320	
<u>P4ØS(@P49V)</u>	8667	165	569	48	18,741,956	FRC
<u>4O3A</u>	9713	184	728	48	18,182,544	SKY CC
<u>EI7M</u>	9000	166	660		17,100,000	
<u>9A1P</u>	7965	175	698	48	15,115,995	WWYC
<u>VE3EJ</u>	6489	176	656	48	14,645,696	CCO
<u>K1LZ</u>	5941	180	677	48	14,501,297	YCCC

CN2AA, Morocco, had 21 operators, multiple switched multiply stations.

P33W, Cyprus had 6 operators

CN2R had 6 operators

P4ØS had only 3 operators, a super effort from them with similar propagation as PJ2T.

4O3A had 13 operators, 12 towers, and multiple multiply stations with automatic switching on a mountain top. It shows that even with super technical equipment and many competent operators, propagation plays a large role in scoring. Also 3 point multipliers per QSO makes a big difference !

Some other notable scores for comparison:

K9CT: Multi two, 12.5 Million, 8 ops.

NØNI, Multi Two, 7.4 Million, 7 ops.

K3LR, Multi-Multi, 32.8 Million, 14 ops

LT1F, Multi-Two, 10.2 Million, 8 ops. The Argentine super station did not have the propagation that PJ2T had. They certainly have a huge antenna farm.

What did I learn from all this ?

Our run station needed to change bands earlier when the run rate started to drop. We lost time. We needed more multipliers. I could not hear most of Africa the first day and lost a good number of mults that were spotted. The second day I did better after WØCG climbed the tower and rotated a tri-bander to Africa. Perhaps we could have set up two multiplier stations each cueing mults on two different bands, each becoming active in 10 minute periods. We were short one operator for this. Perhaps next year we will have six or seven ops and we can do better.

I had a blast. If the ham radio Gods are benevolent to me and if I am invited, I would do it again !



Submitted by Joe – K8OM

A friend of mine in the West Virginia DX Association came up with, what I believe, is a rather ingenious idea on improving the odds of getting your QSL, SAE and green stamps to the intended DX station in countries where postal theft is common.

As Clark (W8TN) stated:

I hit upon the idea of trying to disguise my mailing as a Business Communication like an Invoice. So, I created a fake Invoice in Microsoft Word and used an envelope from my business with a glassine window. I included a QSL and return envelope along with \$\$ to cover return postage.

That envelope (see attachment) did indeed reach Val – LZ2WO (along with the cash) for which he was grateful. Now I have a method I can use in the future to get postage and QSL's and SASE's to people where the mail is regularly pilfered.

If you look, you can see the info from the fake Invoice shows through the envelope both above and below the glassine window. Makes it look like a real Business Communication!

73, Clark, W8TN

With a few minutes using Microsoft Word and a color ink jet printer it is quite easy to create your own business envelop. I assume blank envelopes like this can be purchased at Walmart or Staples, etc.

Maybe someone has already tried this but in my 50 years of being a ham and chasing DX it's the first I've heard of it. This may work, at least until the bad guys catch on.

73, gud DX, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!! Joe – K8OM

PSE QSL

None received.

THE LISTENINGP**ost****THE INCURABLE DISEASE OF RADIO-ITIS**

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.

Vintage radio collectors approach the hobby in many different ways: some collect items that are significant to them on a personal level, some compile radios from a single manufacturer; some collect by type; others collect the broadest range of radios possible. I have accumulated a wide range of items, 1950's vintage germanium transistors →



Portable AC/DC radios, a couple TV's circa 1948, transistor radios, classic car radios, and a variety of vacuum tube boxes from the 30's and 40's.

My most recent find is a code practice oscillator - Codemaster Model K, built in a wood box with built-in plunger key and speaker, from 1940, it still works.



It is an exciting and rewarding hobby. Like most vintage items, vintage radios can be found in a many places, from flea markets to estate sales, garage sales, etc. Jerry WWØE





Thanks to the EIDXA members who made this newsletter.

Jerry WIDE

|| 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: KØCA@arrl.net or cliff.ahrens@gmail.com.



EIDXA 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.

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.

2014 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 16th, 7:30 PM. Campus
of Kirkwood Community College,
Cedar Rapids. In the Amana
Room in Iowa Hall. Program:
VKØIR DXpedition from 1997.
And hopefully it will include
commentary by participating
members!**



Established 1975