

The Eastern IowaDXer



JULY 2015

Eastern IowaDXer

An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



JULY 2015

Official
Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX
Association

NØDX

Established
1975

Our 40th year

July 2015
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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 EIDXA meeting: 7:30 PM. Friday July 24th, Campus of Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids. But in a different location, Since our normal room is under construction. For this meeting, we have a room on the first floor of Lynn Hall, instead of Iowa Hall. There will be an updated page on the website including a map and driving directions.

Program: DXpedition video(TBA) courtesy of Tom WØWP.



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

Well, it's certainly been an interesting summer for me, and I've faced a lot of new challenges here at the QTH. We had a water line rupture between the house and the well pump which took some excavation to repair, and left Karin's south garden looking like a construction site! I also finally tore down that old wooden phone pole and dug the hole for another tower. This one will have fixed tribanders on Japan, Europe and the Caribbean, switched with a stack match. Sadly, with all the rain we've been having, the standing water level has been about 6 inches below the surface of the ground!!

I'm sure it makes a great ground plane, but it also sunk the ditch witch into the ground when I was trying to trench to the new foundation. No, I didn't take pictures before using the Jeep to pull it out. Anyways, when I can locate a round tuit (hihi), and some dry weather, I'll be ready to pour the new foundation so I can get this tower up and running.

We are starting to gear up for CQ Worldwide Phone contest in October. I'm very excited that, with the help of Rich W3ACO, and several other operators, we will have the NRØX station ready for a serious contest effort. If anyone wants to get in on the fun, let Rich or me know. We still have room for more people, and Rich has promised to cook at least one meal (I've heard good things). To those who won't be able to join us, we hope you will work us in the contest!

That's all for now. 73 and gud DX!

de NRØX

“Now that's DX”



EIDXA Vice-president
Jerry Rappel, W1DDE

Summertime, and the livin's easy. So the song goes. Fire up the BBQ grill and enjoy the warm rays.

In the northern hemisphere the Summer Solstice occurred on June 21st. The 2015 "leap second" occurred between 23:59:59 and 00:00:00UTC, June 30, 2015. Did you hear it?

Thanks to Bob Lee, W0GXG for submitting two stories for the newsletter.

Dodge has decided to show the world that they too can have a little fun trolling on Youtube. On June 8th they released a new commercial featuring the Dodge Brothers firing up a new 2015 Dodge Charger R/T SCAT Pack. In the commercial they revved the sweet 6.4L Hemi mill and sent out a Morse code using the headlights. The ad states that if you don't currently drive Dodge, you may be offended by this Morse code. For those who are curious the code reads:

--- .. - -
- -
- -
- -

"you just spent five minutes decoding a morse code message from a dodge youtube description".

So off we go. Until next time, "Now that's DX"

Jerry, W1DDE

Minutes

Secretary/Treasurer *Richard Haendal*, W3ACO

Minutes of the EIDX A meeting April 24, 2015

The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 PM by our President, Jason, NRØX.

52 hams answered the CQ call. Minutes of the January 2015 meeting were read and approved.

The treasurers report was given, the spreadsheet was shown on the overhead projector.

Repeater report, the repeater is working fine.

Web site: Jason will make a login page so members can access limited information for members only. The effort is ongoing. Jason offered to host the EIDX A web page on his server at no cost. We still will need to pay for registration of the EIDX A.ORG domain. There was a vote to approve this transfer.

WØIYH(SK) has a crank-up tilt over tower for sale.

WØSR asked that those who don't get reflector e-mail, please contact him. There was a discussion of upcoming DXpeditions.

The DX spreadsheet was shown on the overhead projector. After some discussion it was decided that there would be no funding for VKØ at this time as some of the critical items have not been contracted for and the list of operators is not complete.

The VKØ expedition mentioned Kergulen as an interim stop to avoid Australian VAT taxes, but most likely there will be no radio operations. The club approved a donation of \$500 to the VP8S South Georgian and South Sandwich Islands. The club also approved a donation of \$500 to the Juan de Nova expedition.

One half these funds will come from the Tom Hise fund (\$500) and the other half will come from general funds. Rich, W3ACO will make the payments via his Paypal account.

Greg Lind, KCØSKN presented a field day effort in Hiawatha .He expressed a desire to operate 26A. He invited all those who wish to join to bring their own equipment. Generator power will be provided. Bring your own filters ! For details contact NRØX.

After the break, Glenn, WØGJ made an excellent presentation of the Navassa Island DXpedition. Glenn answered many questions during the presentation. It was well received by all. Thanks Glenn for a first class operation and an ATNO for many !

Submitted by Rich W3ACO

I am compiling a list for those who wish to join the CQ contest October 24-25 at NRØX location in Martelle, Iowa. Starting 7PM Friday thru 7 PM Sunday (48 hours).

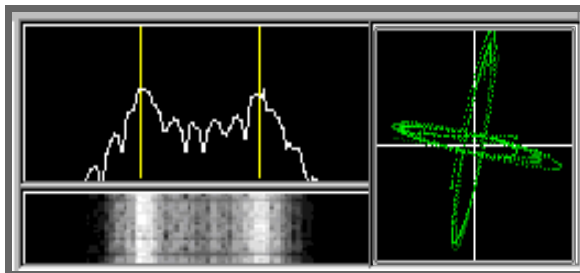
Jason has two operating positions, so we plan on operating Multi-One, that is one run station and one multiplier station.

If you would like to participate in the contest at either station please reply to this e-mail and I will put you on an e-mail list. Some of you have already decided to operate, but since my list is incomplete, please reply again.

As we get closer, more details will follow.

Thanks.
73 Rich W3ACO

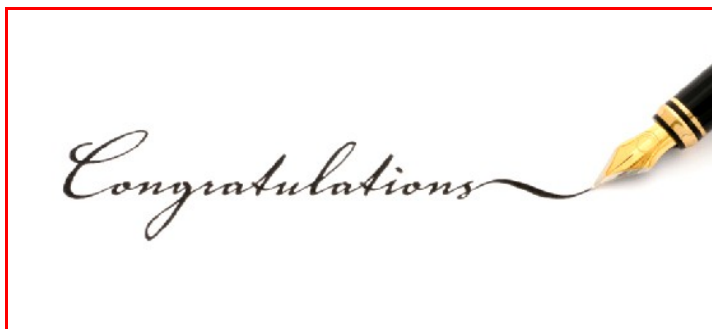
RTTY Corner - Jerry Rappel WWØE



SO HOW PRINT ?

- x WWØE: DS5USH, GI4SNA, ZD7VC, ZL1BYZ, 9A9A, 5IØDX, RN7W, CEØZ/UA4WHX, ZZ8ØPE, TX6G, LX7I, LY2FN, WWØWWW (contest club station), ZR9C, SZ1A, V5/DJ9KM, FP/W6HGF.
- x Tom from Chatfield, MN: DXØP, OA1F, BX4AG, JY4CI, C35MF, YC8ROP, C5YK, 9V1SV, A61BK, VR2XMT, 5ZØL, DS5DNO, ER3ZZ, VQ9XR, 1AØC, JD1BMH, 4L8A, VK16AC, EP6T, K1N, 5H1ES.
- x W3ACO: 5U5U, 4J1EUG, ZW11ØROAR, HG5ØIPA, V31MA, YL2KF, KG4HF, 4U1WB, OHØZ, FO8AA./P, J79SB,
- x KØJGH: LY5W, PYØF/PP1CZ, FW1JG, R12ØRO, MWØCRI, 7X3FG.
- x Joe K8OM, EP3SMH, FP/KV1J, 3GØZC, 9QØHQ, 4U1WB, 7Q7AA ZL7E, 5ZØL.

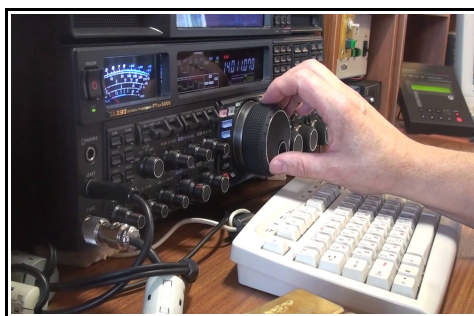
Thanks guys.



Three achievements to celebrate:

Congratulations - 1st Place in the Midwest division for the 2014 ARRL 10 meter contest. Score of 406K, with 836 Qs, 122 mults.

Bob Lee
WØGXA
CW Forever



And another congratulations to Larry S. Albrecht KØIS, for working KL7BHK as state #50 on 6 meters June 22nd.

Were you mobile Larry??



Mrs. MOM.

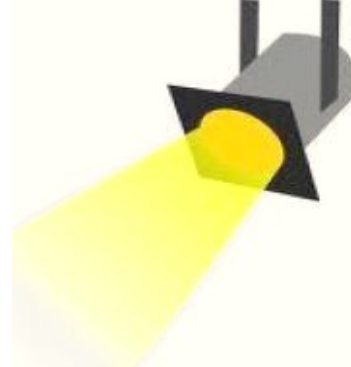
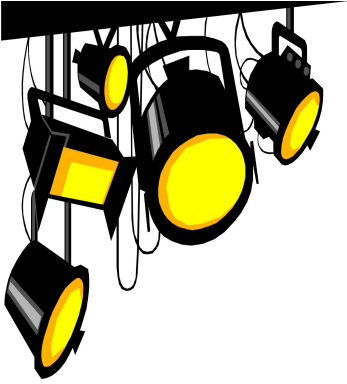


From Joe, K8OM. My wife, KDØHUC, recently got a new vanity call. She is now K8MOM. We sure can cause some confusion if we work a DX station back-to-back (K8OM and K8MOM) or check into a nets together. As one friend said, she is now "K8 Mrs.MOM".

73,

Joe - K8OM

Member's Spotlight



Please submit your profile, station information and picture for the next newsletter. Is there anyone left that hasn't been in the Member's Spotlight?

How I spent a weekend - operating from NØNI in the ARRL DX CW contest at NØNI. By Bob Lee WØGXA

Many of you know I'm more of a contester than a DXer, so it should be no surprise that I sought out a big station to get more practice. I mentioned something to Rick Heinrich about working the ARRL DX CW contest from a bigger station than my own. I wanted to gain more experience working pileups as a loud station and put in some time on the low bands. Rick suggested Toni, NØNI, so he made the introductions and the rest was up to me. I met Toni over dinner one night when he was in town on business. We talked about my objectives and experience, and about contesting in general. I guess I passed the "interview" because he agreed to have me part of the team. If you don't know Toni, he's a really nice guy.

In case you haven't been to Toni's, he has a rather impressive array of antennas and radios. He has what I would call a "crazy-cat-lady" number of towers and antennas. I joked that he has enough steel and aluminum to circle the globe twice. His station layout is a model of efficiency. Six operating positions (all K3's) generally set up to run one or more bands. During the contest, when an operator changed bands, they moved to a different position. Two stations can run all bands and are used for M/2 contests. One key benefit of so many antennas, is diversity receive. You can listen on the transmit antenna in one ear and a receiving antenna in the other. Once I got the hang of it, it helped mitigate some of the QSB on the low bands.

I was very mindful of the fact some of the guys I'd be contesting with have been working with Tony for 20 years. I took to heart some of the recommendations made by K3LR on a recent Contest University video about how to be a good guest operator at a M/M station. I would highly recommend this video to anyone considering joining such a team. There were 10 of us all together and they were all very nice people.

During our "interview", I told Tony I had much to learn so I'd do any job at the station. A couple specific areas of interest to me were low band experience and wanting to test myself picking apart big pileups. I was shocked that he put me on 40m on opening night when he had a much better operator (WØFSL) available. When the opening bell rang, we were off... I did S&P at a pretty good clip for the first 30min and then found a run frequency.

Six hours later, WØFLS relieved me and I went to my hotel to sleep before coming back on duty at 5:30AM. I took the advice of NØYY and WØODS (both good low band ops) and set my CQ speed to 26wpm and tried not to get frustrated having to build calls one character at a time. Six hours on the band, trying to work Eu stations, was frustrating. People wouldn't stop calling when I sent back partial. I understand similar comments made by Glenn in the recent MDXC article concerning rates trying to work Europe from K1N. I went to bed wondering what I got myself into. A new day dawned with me running JAs on 40m during our morning grayline. Much better rate with a much better behaved pileup.

Daytime ops were 10/15/20 meters as needed based on how many other ops were available. No real surprises on these bands. By mid-afternoon there were plenty of ops available so I took a long nap to get ready for Saturday night. This time around, I was assigned 80/160. By now I was more comfortable with the radio, antennas and QRN. I don't recall working any 160m Qs but had pretty good success on 80m with his 4-square. I was relieved at midnight again I slept until it was time for the morning shift. By 630AM, I was on 20m and two others were banging away on 10/15 with rates well over 100/hour. Twenty meters was slow enough that I got some practice with Toni doing S&P for multipliers while I was running. At times we were so smooth, the guys on the other end had no idea we interleaved two QSOs. When we were out of sync, we must have sounded like LIDs! In the end, it was worth the effort to get over there to operate. I gained some valuable experience on low bands and tested myself in pileups. More importantly, Toni is a great host and I met a lot of great guys. I'll go back again one day.



|| Feature Story ||**Jim Spencer W0SR****It seems like only yesterday.**

I finally located some of the old photos of my early ham stations. This one is my first station, the Heath AT-1 was common for people starting out at that time. The receiver is an RME-45.

W7UZR passing out WY in the 1957 Phone Sweepstakes. I started out as a contester, the Novice Roundup was a blast, but I got married and that forced some difficult choices! Not long after that photo I upgraded to a Viking Valiant making it a dream, for me, station. I had a Hygain triband beam on the tower and a Windom offset dipole at 60'. Some might ask how a "kid" can afford all of that nice gear. The secret: a job!



I paid for all of it myself except for the SX-88, my dad paid half. It was a \$600 receiver, about the same as a Collins 75Ax at the time.

This is my Collins station as it looked in 1975. A KWM-2A, 75S-3C, 312-B5 and 30L1. Some years later I added a 30S1 and a KWM-380. Then I sold it all and starting buying JA radios. I still love the Collins stuff and I really understand why it is so heavily collected.



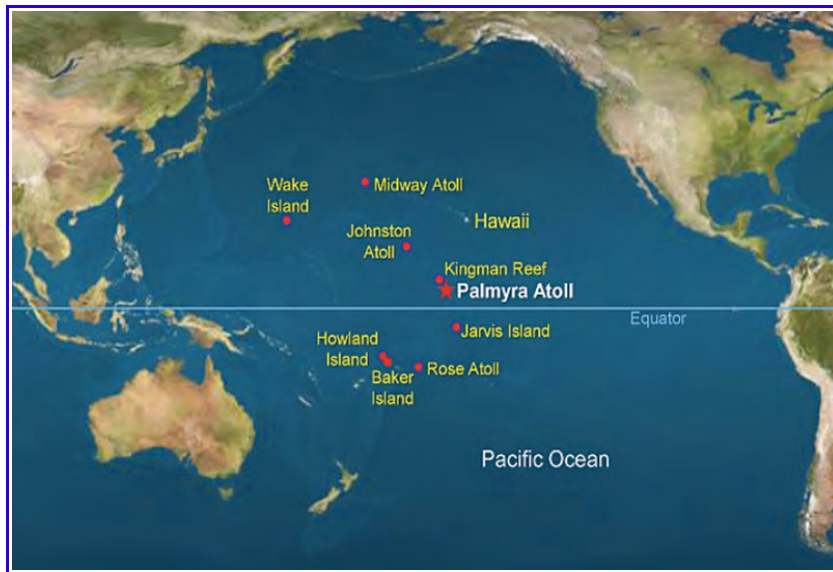
The station at the time I graduated from High School, 1956. I had just purchased a Hallicrafters SX-88 which was really a great receiver compared to anything I had ever heard. Just try to buy a used one now! The transmitter is a Viking II with VFO.



When I showed my father the drawings for a tower I was going to build, he was not impressed. He had driven by a windmill tower that seemed to be unused for years and he got it for taking it down. I was in hog heaven. In this photo I've been working on my first yagi-a 2 element 15 meter one made with tinfoil on bamboo poles. It worked like gang busters and was downright cheap to build.



EIDX NEWS



PALMYRA ATOLL KH5-P DATES ANNOUNCED

Lou (N2TU) and Craig (K9CT) previously announced a DXpedition to Palmyra Atoll at the International DX Convention in Visalia, California. Palmyra (KH5) ranks #9 on the Most Wanted List and #2 in Europe. The Pacific Islands DXpedition Group has been awarded permission to activate Cooper Island in the Palmyra Atoll, Between January 11-26 2016. A team of highly experienced operators and veterans of many DXpeditions has been assembled. Team members include Craig K9CT, Lou N2TU, Jerry WB9Z, Tom ND2T, Mike K9NW, Ralph, KØIR, John K6MM, Bob, K4UEE, Hal W8HC, Dick W3OA, Jim N9TK, and **Glenn, WØGJ**. The Team plans to operate five stations, 160 to 6 meters on CW, SSB and Digital modes.

UE4ØSA marks the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project 40 years ago, the first joint Soviet-US space project. QRV from July 1 to 20; QSL via GMØWRR.



CQ WW WPX CW 2015

Twenty five years ago I was racing bicycles around Iowa and Illinois with a local team. I wasn't a great rider but I did OK. I weighed more than the featherweight riders, so I didn't climb hills as well and I didn't have a lot of sprinting speed. I do have large leg muscles that made me good a time trials. To be an effective team member, though, you need to be well rounded. As I lamented to a teammate about my weaknesses, his advice was: Race your strengths. Train your weaknesses. So, as much as I hated climbing hills, I practiced it every week. I practiced pushing myself in sprints until my vision narrowed. Over time I got better.

What does this have to do with contesting? I've followed my teammate's advice as I operate in contests: Race my strengths, train my weaknesses. As I approach each contest, I think about where I can improve and set some goals around those areas. Goal setting can be a powerful tool. It can keep you motivated when your rate drops, when you're tired, when you're bored. It can also be a boost to surpass your goal part way through the contest, so you strive for the next higher level.

My objectives for this contest season are to operate as much as practical from home to get a good idea what my station will do and improve skills that I can use at any station. I thought about WPX CW for many months and decided I would do three things: Do a single band effort, practice SO2V and operate ~24 hours. I was told you'll really learn a lot about a band if you work one exclusively through a 48 hour contest. SO2R/V is a way to boost your score, if you can do two things at once. Finally, I had never put more than 18 hours in the chair in a contest and want to work up to 36 hours (the limit for most single ops in a two day contest).

With my goals set, I had to choose a band. I wanted to do 10m. It has a very low single op record but with the lack of sunspots, I figured I wouldn't hit it. I didn't want to listen to a lot of static on 40/80m so that left me with 15m and 20m. In the end, I ran about 50 Qs on 15m but could never really get anything going, so I focused on 20m. The SOHP (A) record in WØ was around 760K, so I set a point goal of 810k to allow a wide margin for log checking reductions.

I started out Friday night on 20m and found a very active band with good signals from Europe. There wasn't much from Asia/Pac that I could hear, so I focused on working Europe and domestic stations. I entered the contest SO-Assisted so I could have the spots streaming in order to keep track of conditions/stations on all bands. I did S&P for 4 hours and I was dozing off, so I went to bed around midnight.

I planned to sleep 4 hours but didn't get up until 6:30AM. By then, the band was already opening to Europe so I dove right in. I had a pretty good session until around 11AM when the band started to get mushy. By then stations were moving to 15m, so activity was reduced, but those stations still on 20m were getting soft from

Europe. I continued to run and would practice tuning VFO B to new multipliers and listening between CQs to see if I could hear them. I need a LOT more work in SO2V. It's almost as difficult as singing while flat picking a guitar.

Around 2PM I recall thinking that this is really a slog. A lot of activity had moved to 15m and the band was mushy. Rates were low, it was sunny and nice outside and I started to rationalize quitting early. I had taped my contest goals on the wall so I re-read them every time I felt like quitting and that got me through the low spots. The band started to pick up again in the late afternoon to Asia/Pac, so that helped too. I knocked off for the day at 10PM with a score of 460K; just over half my contest goal.

I was up again at 5AM working European stations but by about 5:40AM I started seeing signs of activity from JAs, so I swung the beam around to NW and worked Asia/Pac stations for 4 hours. Rates weren't high (40-80/hour) but most of the stations calling me were new multipliers. I quickly surpassed my point goal, so I set a new one to break 1M points. I broke that goal by mid-afternoon, so I knocked off for the rest of the contest.

In total, I spent 23 hours in front of the radio with a fair amount of time messing around with SO2V. I'm sure I'll get more efficient with practice. The thing I learned about 20m that really struck me was to listen NW in the early morning hours for Asia/Pac stations. They were loud and easy to work. Next "contest" is Field Day where I'll practice using diversity receive.

Bob Lee WØGXA

PSE QSL

None received.

THE LISTENING

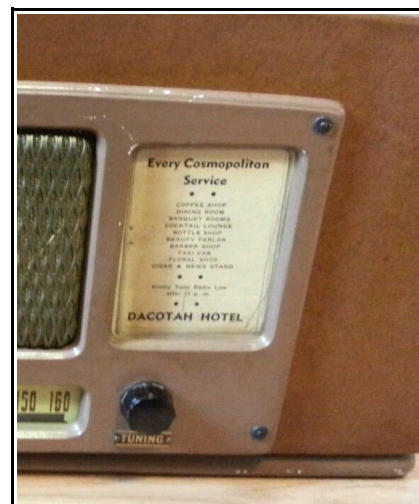


SIDE OF RADIO

Webster defines listening as: to give attention with the ear, attend closely for the purpose of hearing. My latest radio find:



Roberts Lawrence Ro-La - coin operated radio from the Dacotah Hotel in North Dakota. Circa 1948.



The Robert Lawrence Electronics Corporation was a small Minneapolis company which manufactured tube radios for the hotel industry. They are known to have produced only three rare models in their history. A hotel guest would get 2 hours of radio listening for a quarter on this machine. Cards with advertising, phone numbers, etc... were placed in the frame next to the speaker.



It uses a "variable inductor", → another way of tuning a radio that was used in some, early car radios for AM and later for FM tuning. It works with the tuning knob by raising and lowering a slug into the coil to vary the inductance and thus change stations. There ya go, never came across one before, till I got this coin radio.

SOMETIMES IT'S JUST FUN TO LISTEN TO THE RADIO.

Thanks to all 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](mailto: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: 7:30 PM.
Friday July 24th, Campus of
Kirkwood Community College,
Cedar Rapids. But in a different
location, . For this meeting, we have
a room on the first floor of Lynn
Hall, instead of Iowa Hall.
Program: DXpedition video (TBA)
courtesy of Tom WØWP.**



Established 1975

