

Eastern IowaDXer



Eastern IowaDXer

An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



**Official
Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX
Association**

NØDX

**Established
1975**

October 2015

Our 40th year

October 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: Friday October 9th, 7:30 PM. 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: TBA

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The Eastern Iowa DXer

www.eidxa.org

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EIDX

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. The views expressed in the EIDX 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 ~



**EIDXA President
Jason Joens, NRØX**

Hey guys! it was great to see everyone who made it to the picnic. It was a great time, and fun watching Glenn's aerial performance. Glenn Johnson personally assures me that there will be smoke trails, fire, and stunts! (hihi) But now that the party is over, it's time for fall, and we all know what that means. Contest Season!! As cooler weather begins, also begins tower season. Everyone wants to have things fixed before winter, and it's easy to get rushed. So be safe when you're out getting your antennas fixed before snowfall. Gravity only has to beat you one time, and it's all over. October also means elections, and I would like you guys to think about who might be a good choice to step up to the captain's chair and lead us into the future. Serving the club as your President has been a privilege, but I think we need someone with more experience and a better understanding of the organization of such things.

Speaking of contest season, We're doing the CQWW Phone contest from the NRØX QTH later this month, and you guys are invited to join in and get some of the action. Find Rich W3ACO or myself at the meeting to see about joining the party. I think Bob WØGXA is wanting to do the CW contest, too. Personally, I'm looking forward to it. This will only be my second contest, and I really want to see what this station can do in the hands of experienced operators. Even if you don't sign up, feel free to come pay us a visit during the weekend and hang out in the shack for awhile.

Next meeting election of officers. That's all for now. 73 and gud DX!

de NRØX

|| "Now that's DX" ||



EIDXA Vice-president Jerry Rappel, WWØE

The anniversary of an historic solar storm, the Carrington Event. Took place on Sept. 2, 1859, a CME struck Earth's magnetic field with such power that as the day unfolded, the gathering storm electrified telegraph lines, shocking technicians and setting their telegraph papers on fire. The "Victorian Internet" was knocked offline.

Magnetometers around the world recorded strong disturbances in the planetary magnetic field for more than a week and people in Cuba read their morning newspapers by the red light of the aurora borealis. The cause of all this was an extraordinary solar flare witnessed the day before by British astronomer Richard Carrington. His sighting marked the discovery of solar flares and foreshadowed a new field of study: space weather. According to the National Academy of Sciences, if a similar storm occurred today, it would cause a milliun dollars in damage to society's high-tech infrastructure and require four to ten years for complete recovery..



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

Jerry, WWØE

Minutes

Secretary/Treasurer Richard Haendal, W3ACO

Minutes of the EIDXА meeting July 24th, 2015.

EIDXА meeting July 24, 2015

Meeting came to order at 7:30 PM led by Jason NRØX.

21 hams were in attendance.

Introductions were made all around.

The minutes from the April meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was given and accepted.

The website is unchanged. NRØX has nothing to report.

There was a discussion of the repeater installation and possible removal to allow tower repair.

There was a request from KØVM to take over repeater responsibilities. No one volunteered.

September 19 is the date for the picnic, with rain date Sept 26 at NRØX, Martelle.

There was a discussion of withdrawing additional funds from the Tom Hise fund. According to our by laws we are limited to \$1000 each fiscal year. We already withdrew \$500 for K1N and \$500 for VP8S this FY. We can withdraw additional funds after October 1, 2015.

The club voted to donate \$100 to TX3X and \$300 to KH5.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

A video of FT5ZM was shown after the break.

Rich W3ACO

cq dx cq dx cq dx



The ARRL will



increase its annual dues to \$49 at the beginning of next year. The change was approved at the League's July board meeting. According to the *ARRL Letter*, this will be the first dues increase since 2001. CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, Glen Kesselrings friend, noted that the organization had managed to hold its cost increases to 19% over the past 14 years, while inflation overall in the U.S. has been 32% in the same period. He described the dues increase as "a necessity, not an option."

EIDXA picnic

Saturday September 19th EIDXА members and their XYL's enjoyed plenty of great food and conversation. Including four delicious raspberry pies. Tom WB8ZRL, was the happiest person there when his name was drawn from the prize box that he was the proud winner of a Yaesu hat.



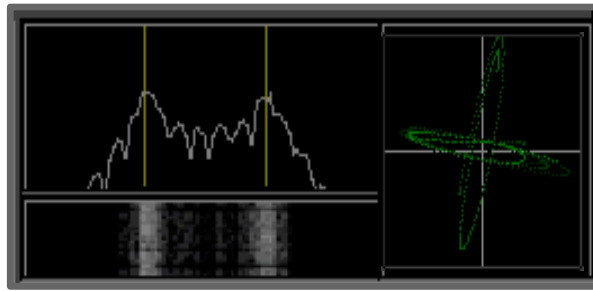
Terry did his thing as the BBQ grille again.



WØGJ clear for take off on runway #1.

A good time was had by all.

Thank you Karen and Jason.

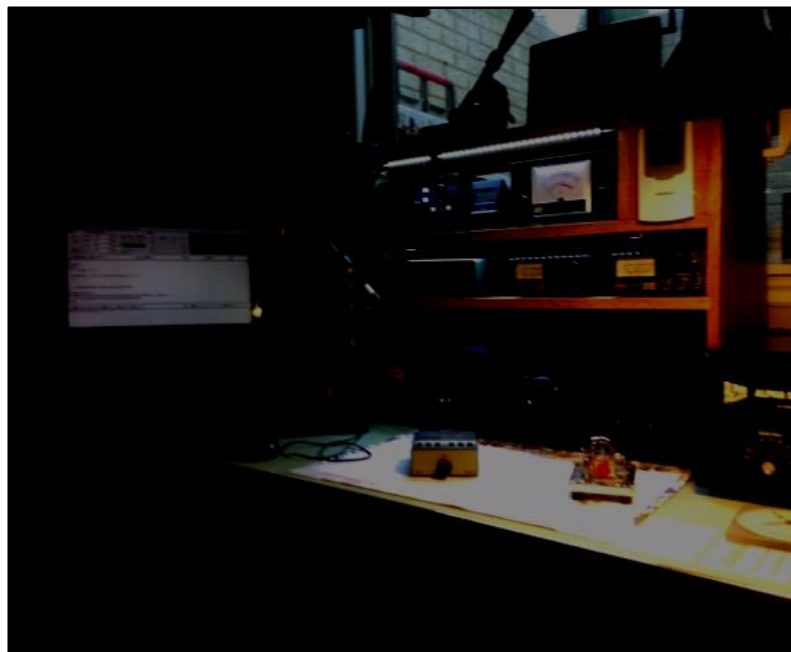


SO HOW PRINT ?

Sam, KØAFN - Digi Log: T6T, ST2NH, C35MF, ZL7E, A71AE, CT7ABQ, 4X1SK and other DX E41WT, XX9LT, E30FB, EP6T, ADB (Armed Forces Day - Camp Foster, Okinawa)

Tom NYØV : condx have not been very good lately. I have only worked a couple of RY stations... TJ3SN and 4U5F.

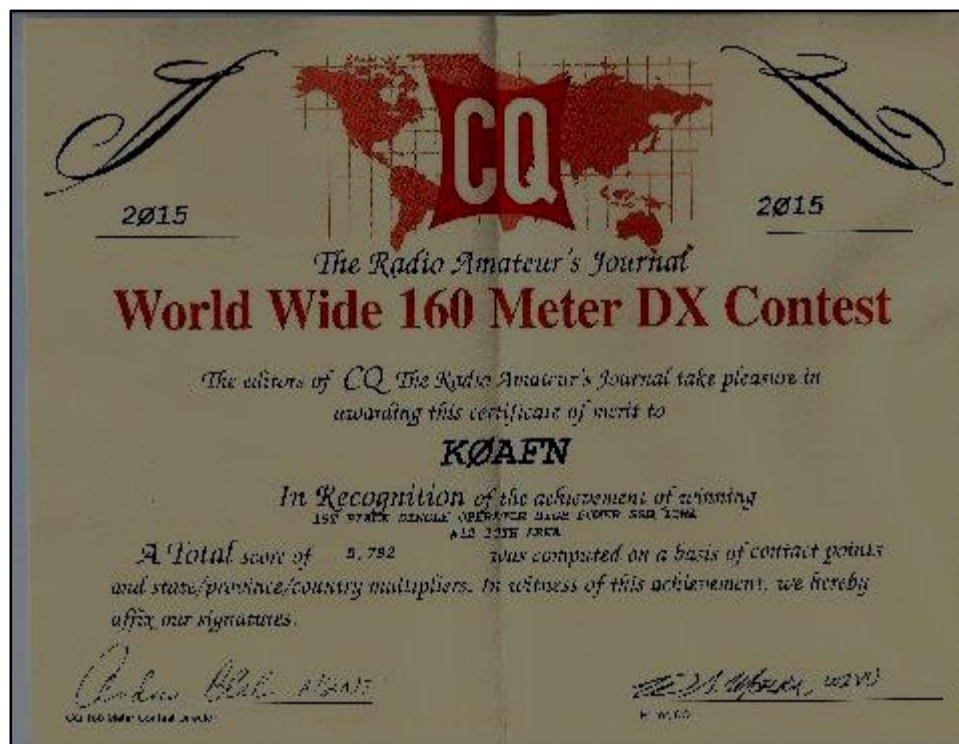
Terry WØAWL: - You were asking for RTTY contacts for the newsletter. Just last night September 4th, I got the new Yaesu FT-5000, hooked it up to the Rigblaster and made a couple of contacts. The C31MF was a new RTTY country. The other contact was with F6FLU. That was the first contact with the 5000, just to make sure things were working.

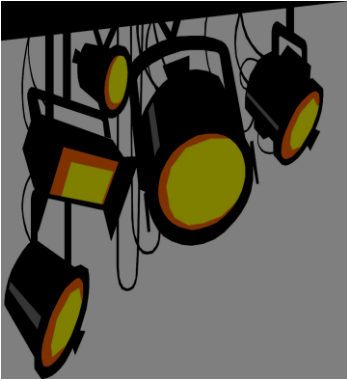


Thanks guys.
Congratulations Sam

CQ WW SSB 160 meter contest (Feb. 28 - March 2015)

KØAFN was the only entry in the Non-Assisted, High Power category for Iowa. I worked almost every station I could hear - 83 contacts - 32 States and Provinces for a score of 5,792 using an Alpha Delta twin sloper and ~ 300 watts. It was fun. I had never entered the 160 meter contest before. When I discovered the band was in such good shape I thought I would get it a try. Top Iowa Score - 2015 CQ WW SSB 160 meter contest (32 States and Provinces).



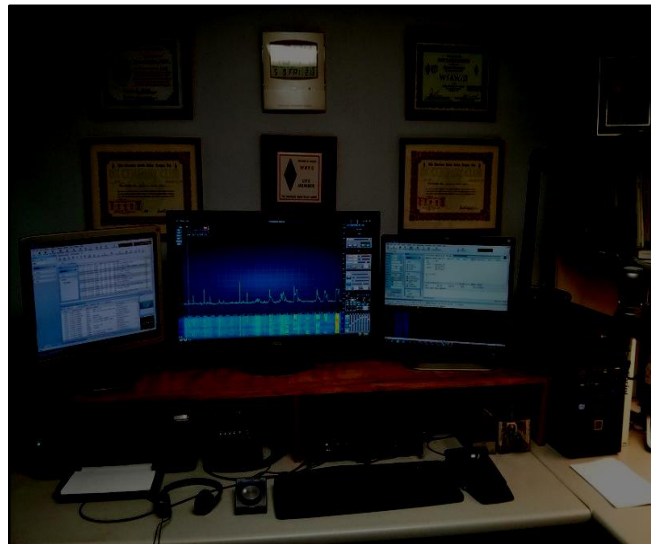


Rick, WØFG

Life Member: ARRL; Member: Benton County ARC, Eastern Iowa DX Assn, QRP-ARCI, NAQCC, NCVA-FRUPAC

Former Calls: WN0FYG - 1963, WA0FYG 1963-1996, KA7CW 1970-1972 Graduated University of Northern Iowa 1968; USN Communications (Cryptologic) Technician R Branch 1968-1972; NCTC Pensacola, FL; USNSGA Cheltenham, MD; USNSGD Medina Annex, TX; USNSGA Hakata, Japan.

In 1968 after graduating university, I enlisted in the US Navy and was selected to become what was then called Communication Technician (now known as Cryptologic Technician) 'R' branch. During my tour of duty with the Navy I worked Manual Morse collection and traffic analysis for the Central Security Service, the military arm of another three letter agency that's recently been in



the news... I'm still primarily a CW operator, though I've been active on RTTY since back in the days of tubes and mechanical teleprinters...

The Butternut HF9V looks a bit chilly here, but still works well, as does the K4KIO Hex Beam on the roof. After a prolonged spell of inactivity, I'm back on the air with a new Flex-6500 and



hard at it chasing the DXCC Challenge award and finishing off DXCCs on 40, 30 and RTTY to go with the completed ones on the higher bands.

It's been a fairly productive few months here at WØFG. I was pleasantly surprised to receive the little W1AW/Ø participation plaque from the ARRL and to discover that I finished just short of 5k points for the Centennial Award, so now have the certificate for that too. I've also got the WAS W1AW plaque on the way. The batch of cards that Tom checked for me at the last meeting let me complete my 30m DXCC, for my 6th band-specific award, and also take me over the top to qualify for the basic DXCC Challenge. I'm thinking that plaque may be my birthday present to myself.



I've been a private pilot, but my lovely vintage 1946 Aeronca Chief was destroyed in a windstorm in 2011, so now my other main hobby these days is riding my Russian Ural sidecar motorcycle. I make it a rule to ride it at least one or two days every month of the year, even during the winter.

Rick, WØFG

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?

“Hamming” it up for 90 Years!

Charles “Charlie” Hellman W2RP Licensed since 1925

Presented with Historic 90th Anniversary Award

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY (August 31, 2015), the Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. (QCWA)—an international organization of amateur (“ham”) radio operators---presented a 90 Year Licensed Certificate Award (Serial #1) to Charles “Charlie” Hellman W2RP. Mr. Hellman is 105 years of age and is the oldest living amateur radio operator in the United States and possibly the world. Charlie was licensed in 1925 as a 15 year-old, and joined QCWA in 1975 and is also a member of local QCWA Chapter 181 (Hudson Valley).

On hand to present the certificate, and represent QCWA President Ken Oelke VE6AFO and the membership were: Treasurer Charles Tropp N2SO, Directors Carole Perry WB2MGP and Pete Varounis NL7XM; along with QCWA Chapter 181 Secretary Mike Sturm, K2AE. Also on hand for the ceremony was Don Finkel, WA2OQM. The certificate reads: “The Quarter Century Wireless Association presents this 90th Anniversary Award to its Distinguished Member Charles “Charlie” Hellman, W2RP to commemorate Ninety Years of Service as a licensed Radio Amateur.”

In addition to the certificate, Charlie was also presented with a letter from QCWA president Ken Oelke VE6AFO which reads in part, “I would also like to say how proud I am that you have kept active for these many years, and to proudly celebrate what many will not be able to achieve in their entire lifetime. Congratulations to you on 90 years as a licensed radio amateur, and may you enjoy many more in amateur radio!”

The information pertaining to Charlie was discovered when the QCWA webmaster, Bob Roske NØUF, was updating member files and discovered that Charlie was still living in New York and was certainly the oldest living member of QCWA. In recognition of his achievement the QCWA Board of Directors quickly voted to award Charlie the 90 year certificate, a first for the organization.

About QCWA

The Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) is a non-commercial international association of radio amateurs organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and experimentation for the establishment and advancement of the radio art and public welfare. QCWA was founded [December 5, 1947](#). In order to qualify for membership one must demonstrated proof of having been first licensed as an Amateur Radio operator at least 25 years prior to application for membership and must be currently licensed.

from NL7XM

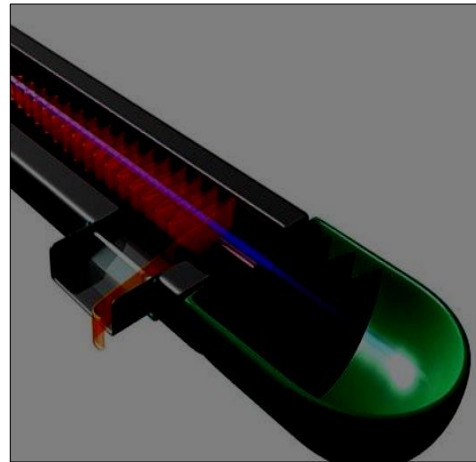
|| **EIDXA NEWS** ||

Palmyra Islands

Lou, N2TU, and Craig, K9CT, recently announced plans for a DXpedition to Palmyra, which currently ranks #9 on the Most Wanted list, and #2 among European DXers. The Pacific Islands DXpedition Group plans to get on the air from January 11 to 26 from Cooper Island. DXNL

Vacuum tubes are still around after six decades.

The venerable vacuum tube is due to take retirement. Though the technology is more than 60 years old, more than 200,000 Department of Defense devices use vacuum tubes, including crucial communications and radar systems, according to DARPA. So, DARPA's Innovative Vacuum Electronic Science and Technology (INVEST) project aims to upgrade today's vacuum electronic devices (VEDs) with more advanced vacuum tubes.



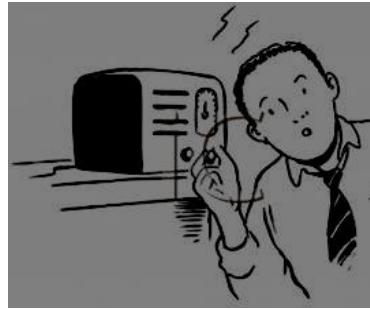
There is a good reason that vacuum tubes are still around after six decades. "Traveling wave tubes [TWTs], not solid-state amplifiers, generate the strong electromagnetic signals in communication satellites because of their exceptional on-orbit reliability and high power efficiency," said a DARPA news release. "And it's the unique ability of vacuum tube electronic devices to generate high-frequency signals at chip-melting operating powers that makes possible modern aviation radar systems for navigation and collision avoidance."

"Any time you need to operate at the outer reaches of the power-frequency parameter space, vacuum tubes are the technology of choice," said INVEST program manager Dev Palmer. "But at the high millimeter-wave frequencies of interest to this program, the design and construction of VEDs is an intricate, labor-intensive process that requires exquisite modeling tools, exotic materials, and expensive, high-precision machining."

The four-year project is soliciting proposals that will tackle the problem that has hampered the search for a better vacuum tube: as the operating frequency of electronic devices goes up, the output power goes down. The immediate goal is to develop new vacuum tubes operating at millimeter-wave frequencies above 75 GHz. The ultimate goal is to have a 3-D printer manufacture "millimeter-wave VED components, among them high-current-density cathodes, tiny vacuum envelopes, and microparts that extract the RF signals amplified inside the component," DARPA said.

From WB8ZRL Tom.

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:



Is this a cool thing or what? My 1948 Stewart Warner "Porto Baradio".

This is a tube radio with a complete bar built into it.

A bar... a radio... all portable. Because nothing mixes better than radio and cheap Scotch.

Sometimes it's just fun to listen to the radio.

***Thanks to all the EIDXA members who made this newsletter.
Jerry WWØE***

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 October 9th Campus of
Kirkwood Community College,
Cedar Rapids**
Program: TBA



Established 1975