

October 2016

EASTERN IOWA DXER

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OCTOBER 2016

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An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



October 2016

www.eidxa.org

Official Newsletter
of the Eastern Iowa
DX Association

NØDX

Established 1975

Our 41st Year

Club Officers:

President:	Joe Hungate	K8OM
Vice President:	Jerry Rappel	WWØE
Secretary Treasurer:	Richard Haendel	W3ACO
Repeater Committee:	Al Groff	KØVM
	Joe Finkstein	WØMJN
Membership Committee:	Jim Spencer	WØSR
	Tom Vavra	WB8ZRL
	Nelson Moyer	KUØA
Web Master:	Craig Fastenow	KØCF

Packet Cluster: *WB8ZRL*
147.51, 144.91, WB8ZRL.no-ip.org:7300

Repeater: NØDX/R
144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8)

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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 *Joe Hungate, K8OM***

Jerry - WWØE, has been our club Vice President / News Letter Editor for 8 years. Jerry has decided to turn over the position to someone else at the end of this year. I've read the newsletters of numerous ham radio clubs and ours far exceeds the quality of most, if not all. Most clubs our size don't even publish a newsletter, yet Jerry consistently generates one that rivals those of clubs that have double or triple our membership. Those door prizes we have at each meeting - thank you Jerry for soliciting the ARRL and equipment manufacturers for those wonderful (and free) prizes!

Rich - W3ACO, our Secretary/Treasurer was first elected to office in 2008 and likewise has decided it's time to relinquish the reins to the club checkbook to someone else at the end of the year. Rich's management of the club finances has been exemplary! He has been instrumental in assuring we stay within budget but yet provide financial support to the most deserving DXpeditions. This is quite apparent when you see our club logo prominently displayed on the major DXpedition websites and QSL cards. Rich has also been a great "go to guy" for anything I have needed help with as president of the club. A great opportunity awaits anyone that would like to step up and fill either open office. Jerry and Rich will assure whoever takes over these positions will receive all of the training/guidance/assistance needed to make this an enjoyable experience. Believe me, no one that has taken an office within EIDXA has been "thrown to the wolves". All you have to do is ask and you will get all the help you need. I ask you to please consider volunteering to fill one of these positions and help advance your club forward. If you haven't yet held an office in EIDXA, or similar organization, you'll find it's not that difficult or time consuming and is actually a lot of fun.

Don't forget, the EIDXA Club picnic is scheduled for September 24 at the NRØX superstation QTH just north of Martelle. The gathering begins anytime after 3:00 PM, and WØAWL will be doing brats about 5:00 PM. Please bring a hot dish or desert to share, your own table service and beverages. Jerry, WWØE will once again have some nice door prizes! The grand prize being a 2017 ARRL Handbook.

If you haven't done so, please mark your calendar for the October club meeting which will be held on the 14th in Linn Hall room 1142. This is the same room where we held our July meeting. After our business meeting / elections, Dale Svetanoff - WA9ENA will present a program on "Lightning Protection and Station Grounding for Amateur Radio". I'm sure we'll all learn a lot from Dale on how to better protect our stations. Until next time..... keep safe, have fun, and work some DX! 73, Joe Hungate, K8OM

|| "Now that's DX" ||

EIDX Vice-President/editor
Jerry Rappel, WWØE



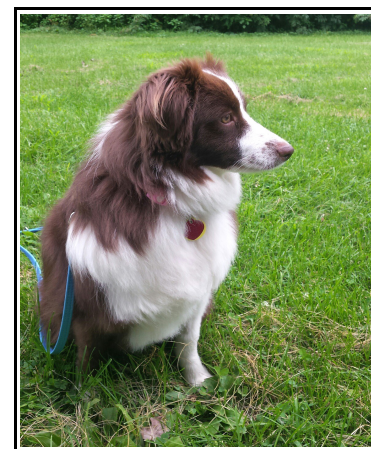
Greetings fellow radio aficionados. After 8 years of inking the presses and loading the rolls of paper for the newsletter, while also serving as Vice President for the Eastern Iowa DX Association. I am resigning my position as of October 14th, 2016. It's been an enjoyable ride and fun assignment. I thank you all for the positive support I received during this period. I have tried to keep the newsletter unique with something for all. I need a break. My endurance is running out. The time has come for another club member to donate their time and efforts for this organization.

THANK YOU



A Good Friend Who's Always There .

The good thing about this radio hobby is it is always there whenever you are ready. It is like a good friend who is always there. Radio is, in fact, a bit like my dog. For those who enjoy dogs like I do, one of the most rewarding things is to come home and find your dog waiting for you, and excited to see you. It does not matter how long you have been gone, a short trip elicits the same excitement upon your return as you would get being gone all day. Good dogs require very little maintenance to be happy, and they are ready for love and attention whenever you are available to give these to them. Kera is our new 1 ½ year old Australian Shepherd, "rescued" from a neglectful home by my wife and I. She has become a Frisbee enthusiast!



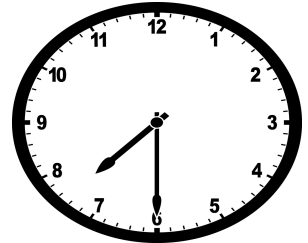
"Kera"

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

Minutes

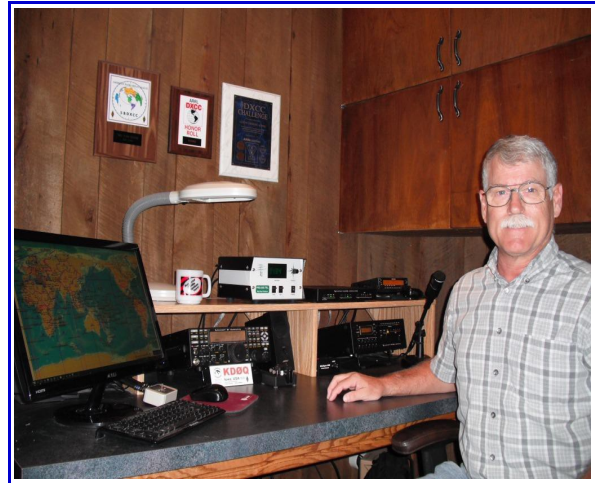
Minutes of the EIDXА meeting July 29, 2016

1. 31 hams answered the CQ call.
2. Meeting was called to order by Joe, K8OM at 7:30 PM
3. Introductions were made all around.
4. Discussions of upcoming DXpeditions led by Glenn, W0GJ
5. The club voted to send \$250.00 to the San Felix Dxpedition scheduled for April 2017. W3ACO will make the payment.
6. KØCF noted that the web site is updated weekly with new contest and DX information.
7. Repeater update was provided. Presently working OK.
8. Club picnic is scheduled for Saturday September 24 in Martelle.
9. Congratulations to Bob, WØGXA for his article in QST.
10. Joe, K8OM provided results of the on-line survey. Takeaway is that we need more youthful hams to join the club.
11. After the break, Roger, N4RR provided an excellent presentation of the VP8STI/VP8SGI expedition and the significant efforts to put these two entities on the air. Thanks Roger.



73 Rich W3ACO

Member Spotlight

**KDØQ Glen Thorne**

I grew up in Oregon, Wisconsin and was first licensed in December 1965 as WN9QWW. Passed General exam at the Chicago FCC Field Office in August 1966 and became WA9QWW. Moved to Cedar Rapids and became WBØZTN in 1977. Passed my Extra exam in May 1980 and was assigned the call KDØQ.

Interest in radio started at age 10 with a homebrew crystal radio "Christmas break" project with my Grandfather who was an SWL in the 1920s. First short wave receiver was a Knight-Kit Star Roamer and 30 ft of hook-up wire in the attic. Became interested in Amateur Radio when visiting my uncle, W9HXM and learned the Morse Code in Boy Scouts. First station consisted of a pair of ARC-5 receivers for 40 & 80 meters, a rock bound Heathkit DX-60 and a fan dipole.

Was a member of the Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club in Madison, Wisconsin through high school, attended meetings at the old Wisconsin School of Electronics where I took classes for a general ticket, also participated in Fox Hunts and Field Day. Introduced to DXing at the shack of W9EEQ after club meetings. First DX thrill was hearing a UA9 at dawn on 80 meters from my own shack.

After high school, some college and military service, I landed in Cedar Rapids and ended up working as a draftsman at J-Tec Associates where I met WØEAN, WØIZ, and others. Joined EIDX as an Associate Member in March 1979 and enjoyed many club activities including Sunday night net and DX spotting on 147.57, the wanted list and middle of the night one-ringers, and multi-op contesting at the QTHs of KØJSY and WØEJ.

A Mechanical Engineering degree from University of Iowa in 1979 started 25 years of career changes, moves, kids and not much ham radio activity. The last move was to my wife's family farm west of Traer and working from home as a Software Engineer. Now some time for DXing and room to grow antennas. Have since discovered RTTY and 160M DXing.

Current rig is an Elecraft K3 with an Elecraft KPA500 amplifier. Tower is an AN Wireless HD-80. Antennas are an M2 7&10-30LP8 LPDA at 82 ft, M2 6M7 Yagi at 92 ft, and a 265 ft OCF Inverted Vee at 75 ft. Receiving antenna is a 580 ft NE/SW reversible Beverage with another one pointed NW/SE under construction.



Amateur Radio interests besides DXing:
Field Day, Storm Spotting, ARES – currently serving as Tama County EC.
Clubs: EIDXА, Iowa Wireless Amateur Radio Network. Tama County Amateur Radio Society and Central Iowa Radio Amateur Society.

DXCC: Mixed Honor Roll 346/332, CW 334/325, Phone 333/322, RTTY 134, 9 Band DXCC, WAS: CW 160M.

Other interests besides grandkids and DXing: avid deer hunter and rabid Hawkeye Football fan.



Sam's response to the current sunspot cycle.

Sam Burrell has added 2 elements on 40 meters just below his HF yagi in response to the current sunspot cycle. A 2 element 40-meter Yagi that went up in Late August at the rural Burlington QTH of Sam Burrell, KØAFN. Nice motorized telescoping tower and tilt-over hand winch.

Thanks - left to right Jim KØTJ, Jerry WØLMU, and Sam KØAFN.

Thanks Jim Livengood, WØNB for the photo.



EIDXA DX'ing Club Survey



At the July 29th club meeting, the results of the “EIDXA User Survey” were presented. That survey focused on EIDXA member’s general background and DX operating interests.

Of the current 73 members of EIDXA, we had 43 members (59%) respond. Thank you for participating and I hope you had fun with the survey.

For those that weren’t able to attend the July 29th meeting, here are the salient points of the results of that survey.

- The average age of those club members responding is 68 years ranging between 37 and 86 years old
- 49 years is the average total length of time our members have held an amateur radio license with a range between 10 and 69 years
- 43% of our members are currently on the DXCC Honor Roll
- Of those members on the DXCC Honor Roll, a whopping 67% are Top of the Honor Roll!
- 308 countries is the average number of countries (current and deleted) confirmed by our members
- 60% of our members are also working on the ARRL DX Challenge Award with an average of 1765 points (band slots)
- “Mixed DXCC” followed by “CW DXCC” and “Phone DXCC” are the most commonly held mainstream DX awards within EIDXA
- 52% of those responding prefer using the ionosphere to get their signal to where they want it to go in lieu of other propagation means such as satellites and moon bounce
- Approximately 25% of those responding have made at least one contact on the 60 meter amateur band with low interest due to no DXCC credit allowance
- 45% of our members use a single Yagi antenna and a few wire antennas to work DX thus proving it doesn’t take enormous towers and antennas to be a successful DX operator (but those sure do make it more fun)
- SSB, CW and RTTY are the most popular emissions used by our members to work DX while the newer digital modes (PSK, JT65) are gaining in popularity
- LOTW (Log Book of the World) is quite popular with our club members in QSLing with 93% of us now using it
- IOTA (Islands on the Air) is of little interest to our club members with only 15% participating

This survey highlighted our need to bring new and younger members into our ranks. If you know a new or potential new ham that hasn't been bitten by the DX bug yet, please invite them to our next club meeting. Additionally, if you have implementable ideas on how to increase our ranks please let me know and we'll definitely pursue them. Also, our members have unquestionably proven that moderate stations using a single Yagi antenna with wire antennas is more than sufficient to be quite successful in working lots of DX dispelling the myth that you have to be a "big gun" to slug it out in the pile ups.

If you have a subject that you would like covered in a future survey please let me know and I'll see about getting it done.

Joe Hungate, K8OM

China to crackdown on unauthorised radio broadcasts

August 2016. In past six months, Chinese authorities have seized over 500 sets of equipment for making unauthorised radio broadcasts, and a total of 1,796 cases related to illegal radio stations were made.

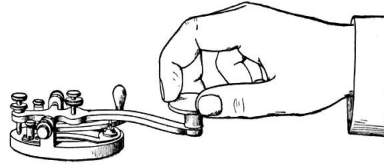
Reportedly, in a national campaign aided by more than 30,000 airwave monitors, in over past six months, more than 500 sets of equipment for making unauthorised radio broadcasts were seized in China. The campaign, launched on February 15 by the State Council, resulted in 1,796 cases related to illegal radio stations, after 301,840 hours of monitoring from February to July, according to an online statement by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. The number of incidents was down by 50 per cent from April to August, the China Daily quoted the statement as saying.



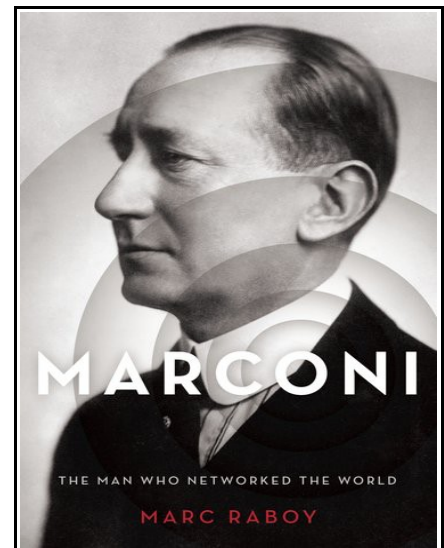
So-called pirate radios have appeared in most parts of China since 2015 and this “has been a channel for criminals to defraud and promote aphrodisiacs, along with counterfeit and poor-quality medicine”, according to the Ministry of Public Security’s Criminal Investigation Department. The operating cost of a pirate radio is low, but profit can be high. A pirate radio station that broadcasts advertisements for aphrodisiacs can pocket more than 70,000 yuan (\$10,500) a month, with an overhead cost of no more than 10,000 yuan, investigators said in a post on Sina Weibo. It said most spare parts for broadcasting equipment can be bought on the internet.

New book - available at Amazon.com.

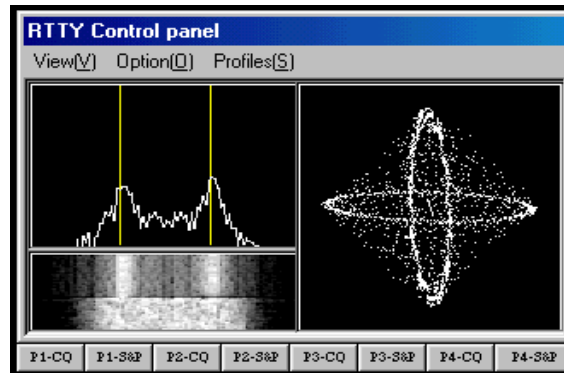
Marconi: The Man Who Networked the World by Marc Raoby.



A little over a century ago the world went wireless. Cables and all their limiting inefficiencies gave way to a revolutionary means of transmitting news and information almost everywhere, instantaneously. By means of "Hertzian waves," as radio waves were initially known, ships could now make contact with other ships (saving lives, such as on the doomed R.M.S. Titanic); financial markets could coordinate with other financial markets, establishing the price of commodities and fixing exchange rates; military commanders could connect with the front lines, positioning artillery and directing troop movements. Suddenly and irrevocably, time and space telescoped beyond what had been thought imaginable. Someone had not only imagined this networked world but realized it: Guglielmo Marconi.



RTTY Corner - Jerry Rappel WWØE



SO HOW PRINT ?

- Tom has taken the time to explain to the club in his “DX technical terminology” the abnormal, surprising, circumstances affecting the way band conditions have been the last couple of months:

Jerry, the bands have been pretty much in the toilet this summer!



NYØV: T88RF, XRØYS, IK2SGL/OA8, 6Y2R, RI1FJ, T3ØAR, CY9C, VP6J.

73 Tom, NYØV

CEØX, SAN FELIX (Update/2017 DXpedition Declared False). The following (translated) appears on the Radio Club de Chile (CE3AA) Web page at:

<http://www.ce3aa.cl/component/content/article/11629-isla-san-felix-dxpediton>

"On September 6, 2016, Radio Club of Chile, represented by its President Dr. Galdino Besomi, Vice President and Don Jose Tijoux, have held a meeting with Admiral Don Arturo Undurraga Contra Chief of the First Naval Zone, whose outcome can inform the Chilean amateur radio community and interested foreigners in the expedition to Isla San Felix that has been advertised in various DX news sites and and led by Mr. Felipe Gutierrez, CE5WQO, for which would have been extended authorization of landing on the island showing off documents that accredits:

- 1) That the Navy of Chile considers that such documents are false.
- 2) The Navy has initiated legal action in this regard.

It is therefore evident that the advertised DXpedition is false and that besides the alleged widespread authorization by SUBTEL for this purpose and circulating in different media it would also be false."

DX news.

Thanks to all the EIDXA members who made this newsletter.

Jerry WØØE

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 former 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:koca@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.

2016 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 EIDX A MEETING:

Next club meeting will be held on October 14th in Linn Hall room 1142. This is the same room where we held our July meeting. After our business meeting / elections, Dale Svetanoff - WA9ENA will present a program on "Lightning Protection and Station Grounding for Amateur Radio"



