



Eastern Iowa DX Association

An ARRL affiliated club - Established 1975

In this Issue

January 2017

President's Message

Club News

Member Spotlight

DX News

- Bouvet 3YØZ - Update

Featured Articles

- Working DX - NYØV
- Tips from the Far Side - KMØO

President's Propagation, Pontifications and Prognostics



Joe Hungate
K8OM

Greetings 2017! I hope everyone had

- Jurassic Journal - A look back in time - WB8ZRL

Member News

- EIDXА at PJ2T
- National Parks on the Air - KØJGH
- WØGXA at NØNI

Logbook

CQ Test

QRM

Club Officers:

President: Joe Hungate K8OM

Vice President: Jerry Rappel
WWØE

Secretary: Rich Haendel W3ACO

Treasurer: Rich Haendel W3ACO

Repeater Committee:

- Al Groff KØVM
- Joe Finkstein WØMJN

Membership Committee:

- Jim Spencer WØSR
- Tom Vavra WB8ZRL
- Nelson Moyer KUØA

a great 2016, worked lots of DX, placed high in all of the contests you entered and mentored at least one new aspiring ham.

So what are your personal goals for 2017? Work at least one ATNO (All-Time-New-One)? Put up a new or taller tower? Purchase the new transceiver and amplifier you can't live without but the XYL begs to differ? All great goals and I'm sure all of us have even more but I would like to invite each club member to add this one simple goal for 2017: become a mentor and grow the membership ranks of EIDXА.

As you are all well aware, our club membership is not growing and very seldom do we have an associate member move up to full membership.

For our club to thrive, we all need to take a proactive stance and do what we can to bring a new or aspiring ham into our wonderful club or help one of our associate members attain full membership.

So how do we bring new individuals into our ranks? I'm sure each of us remembers the one individual who helped push us along to become the ham we are today. What did this individual do to get you so involved in this fabulous hobby? Who's the kid down the street who looks up at your antennas when he / she walks by and wonders what they are? Do you have a child or grandchild, neighbor (any age), church member or scout who you would like to bring to a club meeting and help them understand what's going on (i.e., what the heck are these

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

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

www.EIDXa.org

Web Master: Craig Fastenow KØCF

Newsletter Editor: Bob Lee WØGXA
rclee2266@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

EIDXa, Jan 20

CVARC, Jan 12
Kenwood UMC

Collins ARC, Jan 17

guys talking about?) In other words, don't drive to a club meeting alone; bring someone with you and help them catch the fever of ham radio and DXing. Maybe one of our members would like to have a "DXing 101" class at their home QTH to mentor newer hams in the proper techniques of working DX (operating split, when to call, DX code of conduct, etc).

An even simpler mentoring exercise is helping one of our seven associate members achieve full membership.

Maybe they just need help submitting QSLs to get on DXCC, or help deciding on what type of antenna to put up that fits their yard / budget and then getting the manpower to complete the work. If you would like to help just let me know and I can get you linked up. I'm in the process of helping one of our members when they have time from their very demanding vocation and hope to get them up to full membership this winter.

I'm quite sure all of our associate members would appreciate any and all assistance you can provide!

So maybe we should set a club goal to grow our ranks by 10% (would only be seven new members in a year) and advance 50% (about 4) of our associate members to full membership.

This has to be a team effort but will be very rewarding for all involved when we meet or exceed the goal.

If you have other ideas on how we can meet this 2017 club goal and would like to help launch those ideas, please share them with all of us via the email reflector. Together, we can make 2017 a year of growth for EIDXa and have a

heck of a lot of fun doing so!

73 for now and good DX,

Joe – K8OM

Musings from the Lunatic Fringe

Bob WØGXA

Hello and welcome to the first edition of the Eastern Iowa DXer for 2017



Many thanks to Jerry for all his hard work on the newsletter during the past eight years! He did a great job. I clearly have big shoes to fill.

When I volunteered for this job, I asked a friend of mine who owns a marketing firm in town for help with design. She showed me Mail Chimp, an email marketing platform. It has several advantages over Microsoft Word, namely:

- It's easy to add and format content
- It reads well on-line (no page breaks)
- Readable on a mobile device
- Enables new capability like embedding videos

A few tips to get the most out of this new format:

- The text in the "**In this Issue**" section is linked to content, so you can jump to a section by clicking on the title of the article of interest.
- The "Back" arrow on your browser will take you back to the index.
- If you want to see this in a larger format, most web browsers can be zoomed in/out with CTRL + and CTRL -.
- If you want to print a paper copy or save as a .pdf file, this can be accomplished through your browser print menu.

I surveyed the membership a few weeks ago and, with 22 responding, several

themes came through. First, you all actually read the newsletter. Second, you get most of your timely news from other sources. Examples include DX-World, DXCoffee and ng3k.com. Third, you're interested in what's going on with members, such as station updates, pictures, who you've worked, other radio related interests outside of DXing. Finally, several commented they'd like to see sharing of tips and tricks. Some of these ideas may lend themselves more to the program at one of our meetings instead of the newsletter but we'll sort it out as we go. Incidentally, I looked at the January 2007 version of the newsletter and the club was debating whether or not they should keep it (the newsletter) given all of the other sources of news.

Based on the survey inputs, I'll avoid repeating things you're likely to see through other channels and instead focus on what's happening with our members as we pursue DXing or contesting greatness. I'll make some exceptions on DXpeditions we sponsor, if there's a timely update available. I'll solicit articles from the members and gladly accept inputs on pretty much anything radio related.

You'll see most of the newsletter up to the **Logbook** section is similar in content to past issues. I've expanded **Logbook** to include all modes for QSOs any of the members wish to share. New sections include **CQ Test** (contest scores and more) and **QRM** (oddities and other items without a home).

A newsletter is only as good as its content and content primarily comes from you, the readers. Think about what's going on in your "ham radio life" and tell us about it. If you spot something people may miss in their day to day consumption of news, send it to me. It costs me next to nothing to add content using this app.

I'll continue to refine this as we go. Comments and suggestions welcome at: rclee2266@gmail.com

Club News and Administrative Items

Minutes of the EIDX A meeting October 14, 2016

1. 36 hams answered the CQ call
2. Introductions were made all around
3. Motion to accept the July 2016 minutes, all voted aye
4. Treasurers report and spread sheet of expenses and income were shown to the club
5. DXpedition calculation spreadsheet was presented. Other than Bouvet in Jan 2018, no announced DXpeditions with a Club Log most wanted rating of higher than 50 was identified. No motion to provide funding for any other DXpeditions were made. Recent funding was given to 3YØZ and TL8AO
6. Glenn, WØGJ gave a short presentation of the upcoming Bouvet DXpedition, 3Y0Z, for January 2018. Glenn also gave an update on the situation regarding the previously announced San Felix, DXpedition, CEØX
7. Al, KØVM gave a report regarding progress on the repeater installation schedule. Installation will wait until WOMJN gets back in town
8. Call for election of club officers For FY 2017

Your President is Joe, K8OM, Vice Present is Jerry, WWØE, Sec/Treasurer is Rich , W3ACO

9. Joe, K8OM gave a presentation on proposed by-law changes. They included separating the Vice President office from Newsletter editor and splitting the Secretary-Treasurer position into two positions. Other proposals included changing membership rules for standing committees and allowing one person to hold two positions, except not two executive positions. By-law changes will be written, reviewed by the membership and scheduled to be voted on at the January 2017 meeting
10. Following a break the club received an excellent presentation from Dale , WA9ENA on lightning and grounding protection. A Power-Point handout was made available. The members asked many questions. Dale said he was glad to provide any further answers as needed

Thanks Dale, for a very informative and valuable presentation

Next Meeting

January 20, 2017

Room 1142

Linn Hall

Kirkwood Community College Campus

Social Hour 6:30 PM

Meeting & Program 7:30 PM

Program: Chicken wire - A practical experiment - Bob WØGXA



Card Checkers

We have three club members who can check your QSL cards

- Tom, WB8ZRL
- Glenn, WØGJ
- Mike, NA9Q

Contact info can be found here:

<http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-search>

Member Spotlight



Nothing to report this month. If you haven't been featured in the newsletter, let me know. We'd love to do a story.

DX News



Bouvet Island DXpedition 2018

Glenn Johnson WØGJ

Bouvet is #2 on The Most Wanted List. In 1990 the 3Y5X DXpedition made 50,000 contacts and Chuck Brady N4BQW as 3YØC made 17,000 contacts in 2001. All operations to date have been made from the meteorological site on the west side of the island, at the foot of the mountain with no clear paths to North America, Europe or Asia.



A group of 20, led by Ralph Fedor KØIR, Bob Allphin K4UEE and Erling Wiig LA6VM, have landing permission and licensing for January 2018, a year from now. With the help of Nigel Jolly and the Braveheart crew, the Claymore II (a larger ship) with a helicopter will plan on establishing a camp on the northeast side of the island on a large flat glacier with good take-offs to all of the planet. This will essentially be a repeat of the successful Peter I operation.



Monoband antennas, including a 3-element 160m beam of the type successfully used on the glacier of Peter I. FlexRadios and PowerGenius amplifiers will be used. A 2 ½ week operation is planned, but, of course, is weather dependent.

The biggest challenge of all is the financial hurdle. This DXpedition will most likely cost in excess of \$650,000, with half the expenses being borne by the operators. The DX community is being asked to help fund the difference. Most of the costs are upfront and all contributions, large or small, will help ensure 3YØZ gets into your log.

Please do not wait until after the DXpedition to donate. More details, including up to the minute news, can be found at www.bouvetdx.org

73 - Glenn WØGJ

Featured Articles

A Few Tips and Tricks on Working DX

Tom Vinson NYØV

There has been a lot written about DXing. So why is it I'm writing this for the EIDX Newsletter? No, not because Bob, WØGXA threatened to stick a pin in

my coax if I didn't submit an article! The reason for writing is to share some of the tips I have found useful in my pursuit of DX over the last 40 years. I hope you find these useful.

From the looks of our last club survey, most EIDX members are Old Timers and probably know the DX Code of Conduct. On the outside chance you have not read it, I suggest you read it before going further. Use the website: www.dx-code.org/english.html Once on the site, you will see the basic list of the 13 axioms of the Code. I encourage you to not just read the list! If you either scroll down or click on any of the hotlinks in the 13 parts of the Code, it will expand upon what the particular code of conduct means. I guarantee if you just follow the DX Code, you will be a long way to being a successful DXer!

For those of you who already know and apply the DX Code of Conduct, here are some additional tips to working the rare DX:



TIP #1: Get a rig with two separate VFO's; both TX and RX capability, a programmable split offset button, and the choice of mono or split audio on the left and right headphone earpiece.

Having two separate VFO's enables you to both transmit and receive on VFO B up in the pileup. You need this capability so you don't accidentally transmit on the DX due to switching VFO's back and forth to hear where and how the DX is working the pileup. I usually set my VFO B receiver passband to 1.2KHz in order to hear a large of a swath of the pileup to know who is being worked by the DX. Many guys also have Panadapters to help locate where the DX is working. However, these can be of limited value when people keep calling and calling the DX without listening- in violation of the DX Code!

By using this type of rig, you are improving your chances of working the DX in two ways:

1. you won't be transmitting on the DX's QRG causing all sorts of chaos from COPS on the DX's frequency telling you you're a LID and
2. you will be able to hear both the DX and the pileup to find out where the

DX is working stations.

A rig with a programmable split function is nice because as soon as you push the SPLIT button, it will QSY VFO B to the programmed split frequency. If you run more phone, this may be 5KHz, if you run more CW, make it 1KHz. The nice thing about this feature is a red TX light will extinguish on VFO A and light up on VFO B. At the same time the display updates VFO B to the split frequency. These are great visual indicators to keep you off the DX.

With a split audio output capability you can listen to the DX in one ear and the pileup in the other ear. Some prefer to go MONO and have audio from both VFO's in both ears. Either way, by listening in the pileup on VFO B, you can determine the modus operandi of the DX and can set your VFO to where you believe the DX will be listening next. ie if the DX is moving slightly up frequency for each QSO, you need to be up from where he is working so he will find you.

It sounds pretty easy, eh? Uh, not really when the DX station is rare and the pile up is huge! The catch is *everyone* is calling the DX at the same time. Most of us don't have mountain top QTH's with stacked 5 element mono-banders at 150' and 1.5KW at our disposal. Therefore, you must do something to separate yourself from the pile. This usually means "working the edges" of the pile up. Working the edges is when the DX is listening up 5-10KHz, you might have to try being at 10.5 or 11 up! Or on CW, the DX might be sending UP 1 but it may mean you need to call up .95. This certainly worked for one of our own, Joe, KCØVKN. When I was out on T32 with a 40m CW pile up I found Joe as he was below 1KHz up and stood out from the crowd. This is where a panadapter can help out. If you see there is a slot where no one is calling the DX, you can jump onto the QRG and call in the "open".



TIP#2: Do your homework on the DX.

The homework I'm talking about is the research on propagation from the DX QTH to your QTH and the DX stations' operating habits (i.e. Time and Frequency they will be operating).

There are many propagation resources to assist you in knowing when the bands will be open to your QTH. Some larger DXpeditions will post the charts on their website. These are also available on ClubLog or even running your own charts with VOACAP or similar propagation programs.

While researching propagation, don't forget the long path (LP)! If you understand the LP it's possible the other guys are pointing their antennas via the short path (SP) during when the LP opens. You have opportunity to get in and out before the pileup figures it out. For instance, there are some really good LP openings on 20m in the midmorning into South Africa. When I was pursuing the CQ Marathon in 2011, I was pointing my antenna to the NW and found FT5XT on Kerguelen calling CQ via the LP. One call and he was in the log. What was great about this QSO is he was only there for one day, a real plus when running in the CQ Marathon!

If you know propagation chances are you also understand the greyline. If not, whenever a DX station or DXpedition will be on, check the terminator map to see how the greyline aligns between the DX and your QTH. On the recent VK0EK DXpedition to Heard Island, we did not have the best of greyline alignment, so you had to be lying in wait as the greyline propagation path was short. For the VP8STI operation, if you wanted them on the higher bands, you had to be there in the morning ready to go. The opening was 15 to maybe 30 minutes long. The misalignment on the greyline was also frustrating since stations as close to IA as Ohio were hearing them S-7 but with the poor alignment, they were S-1 to 2 when the propagation came our way.

With the advent of the DX Cluster searching for when certain DX stations have been operating is very easy. DX Summit has a search engine where you can go back a 1000 spots if you wish. The idea is to understand *when* the DX operators have been worked both in time and frequency/mode. ClubLog has a resource for each expedition showing when they have worked stations per band. You want to be in the right place at the right time to get a QSO.

I recall a JA ham was on Banaba (T33) when I needed T33 on 40m. When I started my search, I found he had been spotted several times on 40m. The only issue I had was he was usually on around 0700z in the morning and not on our morning greyline! But, there was no denying he seemed to be showing up on 7005 around 0700z. So before I hit the rack I set up the station to be ready at on 40m. I begrudgingly got up at 0650z and went downstairs to the shack and started tuning the low end of 40m. At 0700z, I heard a tune-up on 7005, a few

V's followed by a CQ. Bingo! One call later he's in the log. I turned off the rig and went back up to bed.

Another hint: Don't always screw down the cluster spots to just NA stations spotting DX. There are times when EU or AS hams spot a good juicy DX station you might just be able to hear. The guys who have the cluster filtered down won't even know the DX is on. In October 9N7WE was on from Nepal on 20m phone. He was spotted by the EU guys and had a fair pile up going with EU. His signal was 55, so I gave my call a few times. It wasn't long before he picked up a partial call "November Yankee" and it went from there. He saw he had propagation to NA and asked for more NA, but no one responded!

The bottom line is "do your homework" before the DX is on so you will be ready with a plan.



TIP#3: Be patient and wait for propagation to favor you.

You may have heard it said nothing beats good propagation. And it's true! Good propagation can give you multiple S Units more advantage. On the low bands this is especially true. As the greyline sweeps across the country, the east coast stations are booming into the DX. You *may* be able to get in and break the pileup. But, if you just wait you will hear the DX working east coast, then the 8's, 5's, and 9's before the 0's as the propagation moves west. If the DX is exceptionally strong, there is nothing wrong with calling when the greyline favors the east. However, if they are not very strong, be patient and let the propagation come to you, then call. When the 2's, 3's, and 4's are being worked less and less and the 8's and 9's are being worked, go ahead and jump into the fray! On the other side of the line, once you start to hear the DX is working Colorado 0's and 7's, your chances are much less of breaking through to the DX.

This tip isn't just for the low bands. The same occurred for VP8STI on 15 and 12m in the morning. The east coast and eastern Midwest were getting in and spotting S7-9 and we could barely hear them. Since the greyline didn't favor us as much as the east coast, we never saw S9 on those bands, but when it was

our peak for those 15 to 30 minutes, we could get in. Once again, you have to know when to be there and understand the propagation.

Sometimes you just have to wait for the band conditions. When Glenn, WØGJ was on K5P operating 10m CW, there were plenty of west coast spots of his frequency. But alas, us poor zero's could not hear a peep. I kept the radio on his QRG and the TX VFO up 1KHz. I unplugged the headphones and just worked in the shack for an hour or so. It was not until near 2100z when he popped up out of the noise enough to copy. I turned around and hit the keyer button and he came back to me. Glenn's zero filter works! His signal faded in short order. The same story went for VP8STI on 15m RY. His signal was just in the noise so I had to wait until I could get a print and go after him. When he popped up, I called and worked him. He was only copy-able for about 15 seconds!



TIP#4: Hone your skill set.

I have two suggestions for honing your skillset to be successful at working DX. One is to get on the low bands. I personally do not like 160/80m as they are noisy and you have to get up early! But, one thing happened when I began working on my 80m DXCC, I started to learn how to better operate my receiver. On those bands, signal-to-noise means you have to work your receiver to best pop the signal out of the noise. It may mean you turn down the RF gain or add in attenuation! I think the experience made me better at pulling out those weak signals. I also realized those newfound skills were transferable to the high bands. When other US stations are not hearing the DX very well, there are less calling. I have made some very weak signal QSO's with good DX just because I was getting better at operating my rig and hearing those weaker stations.

Secondly, try seeing how many "one calls" you can do in split pile ups. This is a little game I have played to see how many DX stations I could work in a row with a single call each time. This personal game made me listen closely, make sure of how the DX was working the pileup, and figure out the best time to call. I warn you, it gets to a point where you are disappointed if you break a streak and take 2 or 3 calls to get them in the log!

To summarize, if you want to work more DX and work it more efficiently, there are several things you can do to achieve the goal: Follow the DX Code of Conduct, find a rig with two separate VFO's with both TX and RX, prepare before the DX is on so you understand the propagation, their band plan etc, be patient and let propagation work for you, and finally, practice to know your receiver and hone those DX chasing skills on the air.

73 ES GD DX! Tom, NYØV

Tips from the Far Side

Tony KMØO / XWØYO

Posted on the Minnesota Wireless Association email reflector. Reprinted here as a nice complement to NYØV's article. Courtesy NYØV - Ed.

A few thoughts on pileup conduct, inspired by my stay in XW:

- 1) If you can't copy me well enough to complete a QSO, do not call me. This should be obvious, but it happens every time I'm spotted. I've replied repeatedly to stations who obviously were not hearing me. See #2.
- 2) DO NOT simply click on a spot and press the send button (this, too, should be obvious). This can easily result in hundreds of callers all calling on the same frequency, many of them calling even before they know they can actually hear me. Then, when they don't hear me come back to them right away, what do they do? Call some more. See #3.
- 3) Don't call without offsetting your transmit frequency from the spotted frequency. This should be a no-brainer, but 99% of callers (really) don't bother. Please offset by 50-200Hz up or down. N1MM Logger will do this automatically. Please use the feature, if you don't want to do it manually. You'll get through this way.
- 4) Don't send your call more than once or twice. Sending your callsign over and over again just creates QRM, delays me coming back to anyone, and breaks the necessary rhythm of the pileup.
- 5) If you hear me send your callsign correctly when I respond to you, DO NOT send it again. It wastes time, and sending it again makes me unnecessarily

think I've copied something wrong. If you are really not sure I have your call correct, sending it again once is usually enough. If I have doubts then, I'll ask for a repeat.

6) Don't send the exchange more than once. I already know what it is.

Exception: if your zone does not match your prefix.

7) If you are using a code reader, please realize they don't work well in QRM conditions, like contest pileups. Unless you are handicapped and unable copy CW by ear, DO NOT even think about using a code reader in a pileup. I'll come back to anyone two or three times, depending on conditions, but if your reader doesn't see it and you don't reply, I won't respond again. DO NOT use a code reader in a pileup. If it's too much of a temptation, toss your code reader off the nearest freeway bridge, or pound it to death with a hammer. Hams using code readers are becoming a significant source of QRM and delays in pileups.

8) If I don't respond to YOUR callsign, don't EVER call over the guy I DID reply to. If you continually do this, be assured I will not work you, not even to get rid of you (I'll just work around you). Call once or twice, and WAIT. If I'm listening up, I'll work one receive frequency until it gets too congested, then listen somewhere else. Just take a few seconds to determine where I'm listening, and in what direction I go when I move. If you do, it's likely I'll get around to you.

9) Don't tail-end, unless you are REALLY good at it. If you do, recognize it encourages others, probably not as talented, to attempt the same. I won't come back to a tail-ender right away, because it breaks my rhythm and encourages bad behavior. But I will usually respond a couple of Qs later. So if you did a nice neat tail-end, stick around on frequency for a couple of Qs.

I was surprised by the size and ferocity of the pileups. Bruce, XW4XR, routinely activates Laos for a week or so, maybe four times a year, and he's very active, and a good CW op. But the demand is still huge, especially on the low bands. The size of the pileups required some extraordinary measures, mostly because of internet spotting networks which, in my opinion, are a curse on the hobby.

The size of the resulting pileups is not necessarily the problem. What is, is the fact, with few exceptions, spotting network users' transmitters all land on the same frequency. Unless someone is really loud, I can't make out ANY

callsigns. You have to hear it to believe it.

Sometimes, if a pileup got too unruly, I'd just QSY and start another one, or QRX for a few minutes. This allowed me to grab several more Qs before the spotting networks would catch on. I had to get creative. I needed to respond to someone, quickly, to maintain a regular rhythm in the pileup and keep the QRM level under control.

Unable to pick out individual callsigns or even prefixes much of the time, I started throwing out random prefixes. If I was running EU, for example, there's a good chance there's a DJ and OK and LY, among others, calling. So I'd repeat "DJ" a couple of times, and sure enough, one would come back, or something close enough. This was enough to get most callers to QRX. I could not have dealt with the huge zero-beat pileups without resorting to this. It became a sort of game, guessing what prefixes would be most productive, and trying to be fair to everyone at the same time. Every once in a while I would just get silence (really, it was working), but it kept things moving 99% of the time.

Also, once I latch onto a caller, I don't let go until I complete the contact. The pile got used to this, and largely cooperated.

The following bears repeating: If you don't want to waste a lot of time calling (and I'm pretty sure you don't), offset your transmit frequency up to 200hz up or down. N1MM Logger will introduce a random offset, if you enable the feature. I cannot believe more operators apparently do not use it. It will distinguish you from the rest of the pile. Another way to make your signal stand out: call faster or slower. Offsetting and sending slower/faster will get you through pretty quickly.

Jurassic Journal

- A look back in time -

Tom Vavra WB8ZRL

Twenty years ago, the winter of 1997

VKØIR - Twenty amateurs, including WØGJ, Glenn, descended upon Heard Island in January of 1997. Their first contact was on Jan 14 with ON4UN. They operated until Jan 27 working over 80,000 QSOs.

	SAT	10	12	15	17	20	30	40	80	160	Total

CW	144	110	574	5362	5149	11977	7111	11079	2789	1241	45536
SSB	490	118	174	4456	4542	16318	0	4479	2504	0	33081
RTTY	0	0	0	0	0	2056	0	0	0	0	2056

Total	634	228	748	9818	9691	30351	7111	15558	5293	1241	80673

Heinz, NRØX, was one of 15 North American leaders with 13 band modes. Nobody in the US worked them on 10 or 12 meters due to poor propagation. On a personal note, Glenn stopped the pileup on 17M to chat with me a bit. A "HI TOM" from a dxpedition is a real ego builder.

ZYØSK & ZYØSG - More than 10,000 QSOs were made in February from St Peter and Paul Islands. Karl and Tino were not able to operate between 12 UTC and 18 UTC because of the extremely high temperatures.

P29VXX - From Misima Island (OC-117) four operators were able to log some 18,000 QSOs in 12 days, with two stations: dupes excluded, they worked 411 stations on 160 metres; 1803 on 80; 3318 on 40; 2127 on 30; 3418 on 20; 1837 on 17; 3113 on 15; 63 on 12; 693 on 10 (14282 CW, 2378 SSB, 623 RTTY).

TN6X - From the Congo, well known DXer Baldur, DJ6SI, handed out many QSOs to the deserving.

PA3CXC/STØ - Was active from the now deleted South Sudan.

9M6TPR - For a short period of time, this station worked the world from Spratley. A rare zone 26 country.

7O1A - The December operation from very rare Yemen issued the following statement in March: "In the wake of questions raised about the status of the December 1996 7O1A operation from Aden, Yemen, the ARRL has been in touch with the Ministry of Communications in Yemen. The Ministry of Communications in Sana'a, capital of Yemen, has advised the ARRL DXCC Desk it is aware of a document issued by its Aden office, but the Ministry of Communications in Sana'a, as the main body responsible for communications, never issued an official authorization for Amateur Radio. Therefore, the

7O1A operation cannot be accepted for DXCC credit". Many DXers would have to wait a long while for this one.

JX7DFA - Einar was very active from Jan Mayen (now quite rare).

South Shetland Island - The first quarter of 1997 saw activity here by hams from CE, LU, EA, OA, and SP.

Antarctic - Lots of activity by hams from W, I, VK, VU, ZS, OH, ZL, and ER

Ten years ago, the winter of 2007

Propagation was much like it is today. During the quarter the Solar Flux ranged between 74 and 94. The A-index ranged from 0 to 24.

VU7RG - The big dxpedition was VU7RG to Lakshadweeps, once known as the Laccadives. Once again, WØGJ was a member of this dxpedition. VU7RG went QRT at 18.30 UTC on 24 January, after 9 days and 92,134 QSOs (65.1% CW, 29.1 SSB, 5.1 RTTY) made from the islands of Agatti, Bangaram and Kadmat. The band and continent breakdowns are as follows:

Band	QSOs	Continent	QSOs
10m	1727	AF	228
12m	4145	AN	0
15m	14186	AS	17041
17m	14050	EU	64286
20m	16035	NA	9377
30m	10915	OC	505
40m	19532	SA	677
80m	9300		
160m	2241		

A personal career highlight was working VU7RG long path on 80M.

Spratly Islands - A group of operators from Japan and the Philippines (including JA1BRK, JF1IST, JA1RJU, JA4DND, JF2XGF, 4F2KWT, DU1BA and DU1EV) were active as DXØJP from Pag-Asa, Kalayaan, in the

Philippine Spratly Islands on 3-13 February. They planned activity on 160-6, with an emphasis on the low bands, especially 160 and 80 metres. Another personal highlight was working DXØJP on 80M for zone number 200 for 5BWAZ.

XT2C - The XT2C team in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso hit the 56,287 QSOs mark during an 11 day operation. Operators were 8 Fs, 2 Ns, and an OE.

9U - Baldur, DJ6SI (9UØX, CW) and Franz, DJ9ZB (9U9Z, SSB) were active on 10-160 metres from Burundi until 1 March.

YVØ - YWØDX was active for 6 days in February. They logged 21210 QSOs.


USA drops CW requirement: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has modified the Amateur Radio Service rules and eliminated Morse code exam requirements for all amateur licence classes. The new rules become effective on 23 February 2007.

Member News

EIDXA in Curaçao - PJ2T

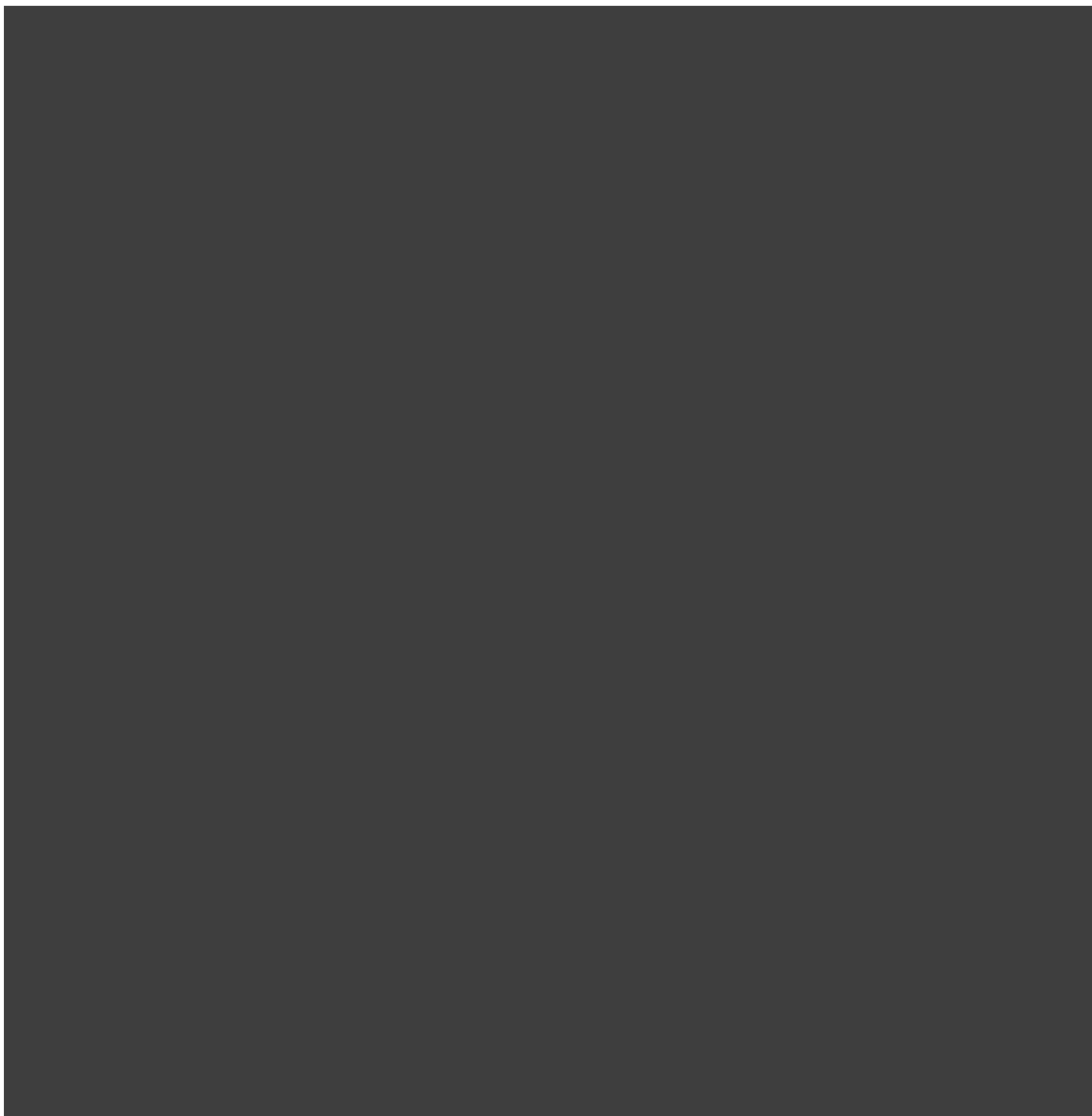
Starring Rich, W3ACO and Rick, NØYY

Rich (SSB) and Rick (CW) traveled to Curaçao for this year's editions of CQ WW.





Our very own Rich W3ACO feeding a hungry team for CQWW
SSB from PJ2T





Rich nearly lost a finger trying to cut the steak fast enough to keep up with demand. Five pounds gone in a flash. NM2O is hovering in the background.





A team dinner before the big day
L to R: Mike (son of NM2O), Jack N4RV, Pete K8PGJ, Tom VE3CX, Rich W3ACO, Kei JJ1RJR, Ray NM2O

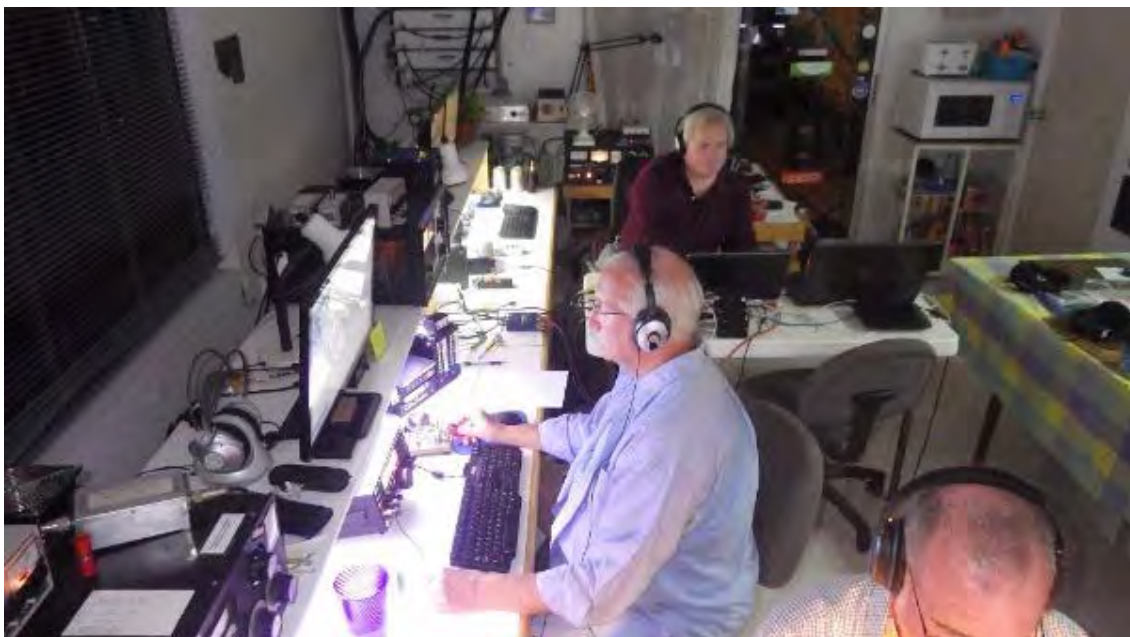


Rich at the 10m station (Top left)





Rich on 20m



Rick kicking off the CW edition of CQWW on 80m, using the station console installed last year.

NPOTA Activations

Glen Kesselring KØJGH

This year, Glen and his XYL took advantage of the National Parks on the Air special event to combine ham radio and sightseeing. Over the year he's activated nine sites; second in Iowa. Parks included: Canyon lands, Grand Canyon, Bryce, Joshua Tree, Saguaro, Mesa Verde, Great Sand Dunes, Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns.

Incidentally, he's also third place in Iowa for units worked.





CQWW CW at NØNI

Bob, WØGXA working at the 80m station at NØNI

"Propagation was awful. No one worked Europe unless they were on the east coast."

Equipment: K3, ACOM 2000A
Antennas: 80m 4-square, beverages and 8-element circle array

Logbook

NYØV RY: 5A1AL, 5T9VB, 9N7FD, D66D, FJ/KO8SCA, FS/K9NU, H40GC, PJ7PL, PZ5V, S9BT, S9YY, TL0A, TO5FP, V26K, VK9LX, VK9NZ, VP2EGR, XZ1A, ZM2B, ZL7G ...and on CW... 4S7AB (30), 5A1AL (15), 5U7RK (30), 8Q7DV (20), FH/HB9AMO (40), XW0YO (40, 17-LP), VU7MS (40), XX9TKB (30), XZ1A (17-LP)

W3ACO: V63GW, TL8AO, TM85VGC, VK2DX, PJ4/N5JR, 6V1IS, S01WS, 5H3MB, ZL7G, 5W0ST, C31AT, VP2EGR, PJ7PL, TY2AC, TL0A, 9G5AM, CY0/VA1AXC, VP6AH, T31T, H40GC, S9BT, T2R. T30COW, VK9NZ

KØJGH RY: TL0A, 5A1AL, RI1AND

WB8ZRL: 4S7AB, 5R8IC, H40GC, H44GC, OG1X, PJ2/N0YY, RI1AND, S9YY, T31T, TL0A, TL8AO, TY2AC, V63YY, V6Z, VK9NZ, Z31NA, ZL7G

WØAWL: FO/K7AR Austral Island (80M)

K8OM: PJ2T (W3ACO at the mic), J7ØBH - Marty Laine celebrating his 70th birthday in Dominica and it was a new one for me on 160 meters,

finally, S57RR, UR0MC and S57A - My first ever 6 meter JT65 EME contacts.
Using portable station at NR0X QTH (with NRØX and KØDAS)

WØGJ: 7Z1SJ for Zone 21 on 160M. Needs only zone 37

KØAFN RY: VP6J, D66D, 5T9VB

KØDAS: 6m JT-65 EME Qs - V6M (Ulithi Atoll), URØMC, S59A

WØGXA: SP5GRM and FS/K9EL - My first two 160m Qs from home

CQ Test

Upcoming Contests: If you're looking for a fun, short contest (10 hours), give one or both of the North American QSO parties a try.
CW is 14 Jan and SSB is 21 Jan.

More info can be found here: <http://ncjweb.com/naqp/>

Scores & Commentary

CQWW SSB

WØMJN Joe Finkstein

Operator Category : SINGLE-OP

Assisted Category : ASSISTED

Band : ALL

Power : LOW

Mode : SSB

ARRL Section : IA

Club/Team : Eastern Iowa DX Assn

Band	QSOs	Pts	ZN	Cty	Pt/Q
3.5	12	28	6	9	2.3

7	32	76	10	19	2.4
14	119	311	19	46	2.6
21	128	348	18	45	2.7
28	21	60	7	10	2.9
Total	312	823	60	129	2.6

Score : 155,547

Call: **PJ2T**

Operator(s): DK3DM DL8OBQ JJ1RJR K8PGJ N4RV NM2O PA1CC VE3CX
WØCG W3ACO

Station: PJ2T

Class: M/M HP

QTH: Curacao

Operating Time (hrs): 48

Location: South America

Summary:

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries		
160:	341	14	35		
80:	1272	24	85		
40:	2505	31	109		
20:	2963	34	134		
15:	3780	31	127		
10:	2482	27	99		
Total:	13343	161	589	Total Score	29,031,000

ARRL Sweepstakes CW

Call: **WØGXA**

Class: Single Op HP

Summary:

Band QSOs

Total: 515 Sections 81 Total Score 83,430

Club: Society of Midwest Contesters

It was no surprise 20m/40m were the money bands. I used this contest for a warm up for CQWWCW in a few weeks. I think all mults except for 5 were captured running. Nice weather made BIC time a challenge. It's not often you're outside in shorts and a t-shirt on Nov 6th!

ARRL Sweepstakes SSB

Call: NØMA

Operator(s): ACØRA KBØNRP KCØSKM KCØYGW KX9Y NØLNO WØIY W7II WBØLJK

Station: NØMA

Class: **Multi-Op HP**

QTH: IA

Operating Time (hrs): 24

Summary:

Band QSOs

160: 0

80: 199

40: 347

20: 489

15: 76

10: 0

Total: 1111 Sections 83 Total Score 184,426

Murphy has come to live at our station this year. Radios, amps, antennas, computers have required fixing. I guess we have been living the good life for too long. At our club station the SS phone contest is our most popular event so we had plenty of help. Conditions were what you expect for this point in the solar cycle. Our last 7 sections were NT, AK, VI, SK, IA, DE, MB. Our usual suspects. The weirdest logging sequence was a run on 20m when we worked 4 CT stations in a row and then 12 minutes later we worked 3 more CT stations in a row. I guess those CT guys travel the bands as a group. Thanks for all the Qs.

CQWW CW

Call: **NØNI**

Operator(s): KØKD NØAC NØAV NØNI NØXR WØFLS **WØGXA**

Station: NØNI

Class: M/2 HP

QTH: Iowa

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries		
160:	92	15	37		
80:	403	27	84		
40:	653	34	118		
20:	1234	36	133		
15:	377	29	95		
10:	91	17	42		
Total:	2850	158	509	Total Score	4,720,359

Call: **PJ2T**

Operator(s): K2PLF KB7Q **NØYY** N7IR NA2U NT6X RWØCN WØCG W8WTS

Station: PJ2T

Class: M/M HP

QTH: Curacao

Operating Time (hrs): 48

Location: South America

Summary:

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries		
160:	961	22	84		
80:	1418	28	100		
40:	3087	35	129		
20:	3390	38	141		
15:	2718	32	130		
10:	1019	21	45		
Total:	12593	176	629	Total Score	29,866,305

Club: Caribbean Contesting Consortium

We assembled a world class team for this year's event. Jim, W8WTS coming from the 2016 CQWW 160 win (multi-op) led the 160M effort for the team this year. Rick, NØYY and Gary, N7IR focused on 80/10M; Gene, KB7Q and Fred NA2U led the 40M effort; Mikhail, RW0CN and Marty, K2PLF worked 20M; and Mike NT6X strong-armed 15M; with Geoff, WØCG/PJ2DX floating to keep the team rocking.

With the team arriving on Tuesday we had barely enough time to get the support items in place before we had to ring out all of the stations to make sure we were truly contest ready. Some tower work, some receive antenna work, and making sure all the computers talked to each other were all part of the tasks in place for us. Much was already done as the CQWW SSB team had competed a few weeks before and things looked to be ready to go.

This is the rainy season in the southern Caribbean, but we really weren't prepared for the help from the evolving tropical storm. Torrential rains hit and limited our preparations. But the worst was yet to come.

We ate like kings! We had great food all week but really enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving dinner prepared by Dee (NØYY's XYL) who served as chef for the entire week.

The gun went off and we hit the ground running. Five minutes in, Murphy started knocking on the door and our 15M station graced us with the all too familiar "essence of ohmite" as something was amiss. Quickly reconfiguring the station we were back on line. In just over 3 hours we had our first 1,000 Qs in the log. Now remember, the SFI was 78 with the A-Index of 24, so for those of you who ask "what's the big deal with 1000 Qs" consider it was on challenged bands!

Saturday morning dawned to a huge downpour as Tropical Storm Otto blew past. The good news was the bands remained relatively quiet and we dodged a local power outage. Our hope for a favorable 10M opening never materialized. A thin opening started at about 15Z with very few European stations heard. It was primarily a US stateside opening. We worked some East/West equatorial stations, but they were also thin. Even with the limited openings on 10M the rate meter peak at 320 per hour a couple of times as the stateside stations kept rolling in!

15M opened earlier but the European opening was not strong. Mid-afternoon we lost internet access but technology prevailed as we turned to cell phone access to the internet for spots. This was necessary to integrate with our on-site skimmers for high band spots.

40M and 20M were alive but they were not as strong and robust as our traditional openings. They opened later, had weaker signals, less polar paths...and did I mention the auroral challenge? We missed several multipliers but pretty much worked all we could hear.

Low bands were very different. We experienced the largest JA openings ever with high rates and endless QSOs on 80M. 20 and 40 carried the day with 15 being strong. But all bands made the contest seem more like an ARRL DX contest than a worldwide contest. Without all the US players it would have been a slow weekend. On a high note we worked more QSOs on 80 from PJ2T than ever before!

Overall, 40, 20, and 15M were the money bands but not quite as good as years past. Late night openings on 15 were thin. 20M had a few surprises late night. And 40M just kept rolling along. We were still adding multipliers as the last QSOs were being made.

In all we had fun, enjoyed the fellowship of our teammates, ate well, and had a GREAT time!

Thanks to the Caribbean Contesting Consortium for the facilities for the contest and to Geoff for all the logistics and maintenance of the station.

And thanks to the sponsors for making this the most fun anyone can have!
Rick NØYY

ARRL 160m

Call: **WØGJ**

971 Q's, 82/83 sections (missed LAX), 11 countries: 171,117 score

Soapbox: QRP 5 watts, rig Flex 1500. Usually 4.6-4.8 watts out on the wattmeter. 80% running, 20% S&P. KH6, KL7, and 4-5 DX called ME when running. Best QSO: Gave CS2C one call and he came right back....fell out of

chair. No injuries. Rest of "countries" in Caribbean/Central America.

The antenna: full-size phased verticals with elevated radials, spaced 1/2-wave apart for beaming East, West, Broadside, or Endfire. *(We'd all like one of these - Ed)*

This is the perfect contest for a Midwest advantage!

73 Glenn WØGJ

Call: **NYØV**

396 QSO's 813 QSO Pts 81 Mults (6 DX) Score: 65853.

I'm a newbie to 160m and I really wasn't planning in participating in the ARRL 160m contest! I got on to see if I could work a new band slot or two for the Challenge award. As it happened I worked AK, HI, WY, ND fairly quickly and thought to myself..."well maybe I should see if I can work WAS on 160m"...I went S&P as I wasn't set up to 'run them'. As it turned out I met the WAS goal (SC was last) and one new band country.

My best QSO was VY1AAA with a big pile on him. Most everyone went high so I decided XIT .060 low. NT in the log shortly thereafter. I missed some of the CA sections: LAX, SB, EB which I assume is just a result of not enough BIC.

Tom, NYØV

QRM

Perils of Ham Radio in Paradise

Bob Lee WØGXA



Salt and Steel

Found on the PJ2T facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/pj2tcuracao/>

According to Geoff, PJ2DX: "some tower members have corroded to one-half their original diameter".

My daughter (aircraft structures engineer at Boeing) informs me "strength is proportional to cross section" . You can do the math.



"High" Maintenance

Antenna maintenance on Curaçao is a chore. At the start of every contest season, someone has to "walk" the beverage arrays to repair any damage.

The area around PJ2T is a landscape similar to New Mexico. It's covered with Wabi bushes - with needle sharp thorns. Pete, K8PGJ is shown here dressed for the job... in 98F weather! I was hoping for a shot of NØYY walking the antennas but apparently he's smart enough to find other jobs.

And finally, something off the beaten path...



Merle Taylor - VE1VCI
Ninety-three year-old veteran
who taught code to airmen in
WWII

We might live in a world where knowing how to write code is gold, but for 93-year-old Merle Taylor there is only one code: Morse code.

Taylor learned Morse code at 20 when she signed up to help Canada and the war effort. Her war-time job was to teach it to the pilots through the British Commonwealth Air Training plan.

"There were 59 airbases built across Canada to accommodate the boys from England, Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia and Canada. It was that group of boys that I taught Morse code to," Taylor said while sitting in her basement outside Antigonish — where she still taps out Morse code.

"It's a signal that will get through because of the sharpness where a voice couldn't. And the other thing is you could send a secret message."

Taylor has a network of people, mostly in Europe and eastern North America where the signal is carried the strongest, with whom she "chats" with using the old technology three times a week.

"People say it's obsolete, it's really not," said Taylor.

"I have a lot of fun with this."

Wanted to join the Royal Canadian Air Force

Taylor originally tried to sign up for the Royal Canadian Air Force in the spring of 1942. But the only job openings available were for cooks, office workers or drivers.

She wasn't interested in any of that.

But in the fall of 1942, casualties were mounting.

"The wireless air gunners, well, ranks were getting thinned out, so they said well, 'We'll take the men who have the radio wireless training and we'll train them to be air gunners and we'll take women into Morse code and they can do the ground work.'"

She was also motivated by her Uncle Sandy Horne, a wireless air gunner killed in action Christmas Eve 1942.

Nov. 11 is the day we all pause to remember — but for Merle Taylor she remembers every day she heads to her basement, sits at her transmitter and starts tapping out Morse code, waiting for someone on the other side of the ocean to tap back. - from CBC



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