



Eastern Iowa DX Association

An ARRL affiliated club - Established 1975

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July 2017

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Joe Hungate
K8OM

I hope all of our EIDXA members are having a great start to the summer of 2017. The HF bands haven't been too great but there's been some DX to be worked. Six meters has been providing some DX excitement with the annual spring Es propagation. The popular weak signal digital mode JT65 is really starting to catch on with the 6 meter operators and working Europe, Japan, Central America and the Caribbean with 75 watts and a small yagi is common place. You can read about WØGN's success with his little pistol station later in the newsletter. So give 6 meter JT65 a try this Es season and

- How "not" to send Green Stamps
- QSL Card-checking Tips
- Callsign Trivia

Club Officers:

President

Joe Hungate K8OM

Vice President

Jerry Rappel WWØE

Secretary

David Christ KØLUM

Treasurer

Rich Haendel W3ACO

Repeater Committee

Al Groff KØVM

Joe Finkstein WØMJN

Membership Committee

Jim Spencer WØSR

Tom Vavra WB8ZRL

Nelson Moyer KUØA

Packet Cluster: WB8ZRL

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

Repeater: NØDX/R

144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8)

www.EIDX A.org

Web Master

Craig Fastenow KØCF

Newsletter Editor

Bob Lee WØGXA

rclee2266@gmail.com



EIDX A on
Facebook

Upcoming Events

EIDX A, July 05 2017

Mercy Medical Center

Hallagan Education Center

CVARC Hamfest 2017

Sunday August 6th

have some fun; who knows what you might work.

It's hard to believe but the October club officer elections will be coming up in just a few short months. All offices are open for candidates to throw their hats into the ring. If you've never held an office in EIDX A now's your chance to serve this great organization. New thoughts, new direction, new vision for our club, or any organization, can be a wonderful thing but don't forget there are plenty of "gray beards" in EIDX A that new officer can turn to for guidance and inspiration.

I think we're all looking forward to the annual summer club picnic which is held in late September. I hope I'm not jinxing us, but we have had excellent weather for this event for at least as long as I've been attending. In addition to the excellent BBQ and pot luck dinner, eyeball QSOs, NR0X's 3-D printer demonstration and W0GJ air mobile fly-in are there any new events you would like to have this year? A few things that come to mind are horse shoes, lawn darts, seeing who can hit Jason in the head with a water balloon at 30 paces (Jason may vote this one down), drone flying demonstration, antique radio or phonograph show-and-tell. I would like to hear your thoughts and ideas via email or at the July club meeting.

Don't forget the new date and location for the July EIDX A club meeting. Hope to see everyone Wednesday evening July 5 at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) at the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center (701 10th Street S.E., Cedar Rapids) in the Community Conference Rooms A & B.

After a short business meeting we will have two excellent guest

8AM - 1PM
More info here

Rockwell Collins ARC July 18 2017
Bldg 131 cafeteria 4:45PM

speakers! Vicky Luetzelschwab
– AE9YL will talk about
“Operating from DX Locations
from a YL’s Perspective” and her
husband Karl Luetzelschwab –
K9LA will talk about
“Propagation Status and
Forecast”.

Until next time, best 73 and good
DX, Joe – K8OM

Musings from the lunatic fringe

Bob WØGXA

Riding Dreams

Another shot from the
Kansas Flint Hills.

At times I've ridden
40 miles and not
seen a human



I hope everyone is having a good summer. I seem to find more things to do than to be on the radio, but I guess there's plenty of time this fall/winter to operate.

I'm sure you all saw the blog post on Midway/Kure ([here](#)). Anyway, they're back on the list. This is really messing with my DXCC Honor Roll strategy of waiting for enough entities to be deleted!

I did an unscientific survey of members on the Bouvet "behind-the-scenes" article. Most respondents said "I had no idea the effort and thought that goes into planning". If there's another topic with a "behind the scenes" interest, let me know. I'll investigate it.

There's a lot of good content in this edition. Thank you to everyone for your willingness to contribute. The newsletter is only as good as we make it.

A few highlights of this issue:

The Iowa QSO Party has a new sponsoring club this year (Story County ARC). They've lengthened the contest to 12 hours and moved it to mid-September, presumably to get away from Worked All Germany and the NY QSO Party. Think about spending an hour or more helping put on a good show for Iowa.

We have a couple articles this month related to DXing - One about how to submit cards to a card checker (or "How not to irritate your card

checker") and one on how not to send "green stamps".

You can read about John's (WØGN) success DXing on 6m with a little pistol station.

Also, I included some pictures of my visit to see Laci, OM2VL, in Slovakia. He and his wife Alica were wonderful hosts.

Finally, our president found time to write a nice article on his work to restore a Crosley 52 radio.

Plus a lot more...

One note of caution: This edition is over 70 pages. Please wait an hour after eating before diving in.

Enjoy

Club News and Administrative Items

Minutes of the EIDX A meeting April 21, 2017

The meeting was opened by President Joe Hungate K8OM at 7:25PM in the education area of Mercy Hospital, Cedar Rapids. Sixty-four people were present for introductions.

Minutes for the January 20, 2017 meeting are available on the EIDX A website. No corrections or additions were needed

Treasurer Rich Haendel W3ACO gave the treasurer's report

DX funding

Funding has been requested by the Mediterranean DX Club for a DXpedition to 9U4M Burundi. No one in the group proposed funding. This is a November proposal so there will be another meeting before the proposed trip.

We have given \$1000 (500/500) to the 3Y0Z DXpedition to Bouvet. The goal for this trip is \$610,000. As of early January they were short \$213,926. By mid-April they were still \$186,118 short. *Note the Bouvet update elsewhere in the newsletter - Ed.*

Membership

Wyatt Dirks ACØRA was voted into membership. He currently has 109 confirmed.

Membership certificates were presented to:

Ray Kratville, K9PYR

Rick Hadkey, WØFG

Jeff Woods, WØODS

DX cluster has been up for 13 months.

KØCF reports that DX news will not be updated for a few weeks due to the illness of KB8NW. No better website host has been found.

Consensus is that the new newsletter is great. *Woohoo! Keep sending me material- Ed*

Approval has been granted for installation of repeater antennas. Jason hopes to have this done in a week. Movement of transmitter will follow. This project may be completed in two to three weeks.

It was moved/seconded/passed that David Christ KØLUM be elected Secretary. *Thank you David - Ed.*

Rich W3ACO announced the availability of two new LF-MF Books from Australia (160 / 630 / 2200 Meters)

- MF Down Under (AUD \$48 / USD \$36.48)
- Cellar-Dwellers on the Go (AUD \$36.50 / USD \$27.71)

A group order would reduce shipping cost. If you're interested contact Rich - W3ACO

A drawing was held for two QEX subscriptions

The meeting was adjourned and followed by an outstanding program

“The Third Earhart Discovery Deep Water SONAR Expedition”

presented by NYØV, KØDAS and KAØYSQ

Respectfully submitted

David KØLUM

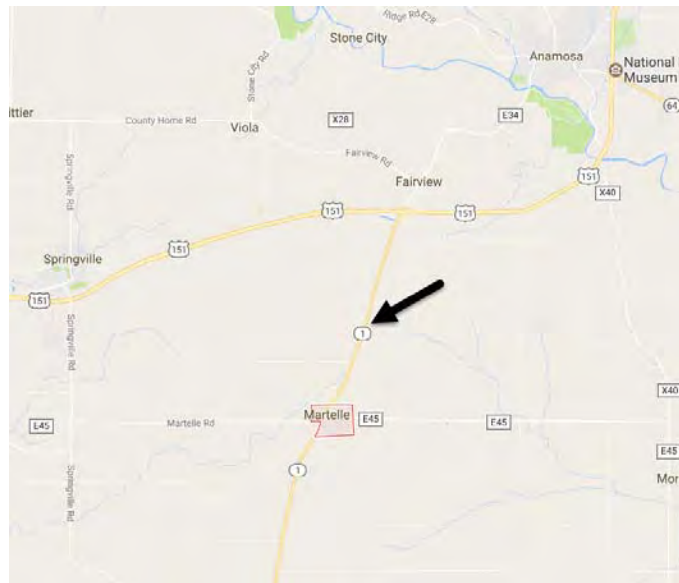
QST - QST - QST



EIDXa Picnic

Don't miss the next edition of the EIDXa picnic. Watch for the date/time to be announced.

Terry says he'll up his game. - Ed.



Location: Home of Karin KØEGQ



Next Meeting

New Day - Wednesday

New Location

July 05, 2017

Hall-Perrine Cancer Center 701 10th Street, S.E.

Community Conference Rooms A & B

Enter the main doors off of 10th. Street S.E. and turn right.

[Map & directions here](#)

Social Hour 6:30 PM

Meeting & Program 7:30 PM

Programs:

Vicky Luetzelschwab- AE9YL - "Operating from DX Locations from a YL's Perspective"

Carl Luetzelschwab - K9LA on "Propagation Status and Forecast"



Card Checkers

We have three club members who can check your QSL cards

- Tom, WB8ZRL
- Glenn, W0GJ
- Mike, NA9Q

Contact info can be found here:

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

Member Spotlight



Wyatt Dirks - ACØRA

ACØRA (L) - NJ7H (R)

DL79 Big Bend National Park

My introduction into ham radio was from a scout leader KB7FSD who wanted me and several others to get licensed so we could communicate on a backpacking trip in Colorado. Well turns out none of us got licensed before the trip but about a year later I broke my leg and was laid up for awhile so I read through the ARRL tech license book. In September 2009 I made it to a test session and week or two later was issued the call KDØIZW. Throughout the next several months I studied for and passed the general and extra class tests and was issued my current call ACØRA.

Until the next summer all I had was a 2m HT and really didn't do much with the hobby except listen to the local repeaters. Then Dave, KB7FSD suggested to me that I attend field day. Not having any idea what that was I drove up to the local Field day site and made my first HF QSOs from the GOTA station. I had a blast at field day and met who would become another great elmer to me Mike, WØMRZ. Over the next several months Mike loaned me a HF radio and an antenna which soon led to me getting my own station on the air.

From that point on my interests in the hobby have increased substantially. I've been really active on the amateur satellites having confirmed over 1200 grids, all 50 states and 67 DXCC. Along with that I have operated from nearly 200 different grids via satellites from all around the country. From my interests in working satellites I drifted into VHF weak signal work in 2013. I now have gear to operate from 6m through 3456 MHz plus 10 GHz. Over the last several years I've competed in quite a few VHF contests as a rover and place quite well nationally in about every contest. (Pictures from ARRL June 2017 VHF contest)

I also enjoy HF contesting but don't currently have my own station. I have joined NØMA for a few contests now and also competed at NRØX for a 10m contest. Other Interests in the hobby have included Hf digital modes, Hf Mobile, DXing, and EME.

You can see Wyatt's set up for the most recent VHF contest in the Member News section - Ed.

DX News

DXing - 6 on 6

John WØGN

I recently rated the 2017 E season as "poor" in the ARRL quick poll. It seems I was a little premature with my rating!

My 6m rig is a Hermes SDR driving a Penny Whistle PA that puts out only 6 Watts to a folded dipole in the attic of my home (which has steel siding). I have lately been having fun working E skip on JT65 and JT9. Incidentally, it's the only 6m antenna I've used over the past 50 years.

Today, June 8, something happened I never expected. I was able to work Canary Islands! I also monitored many other guys working the same station. I've included a screen capture below.

I'll remember this day for years to come. *Congratulations John! - Ed.*

Editor's note: I had to split John's wide screen shot into left/right-half pictures

WSJT-X v1.7.0 by K1JT

File Configurations View Mode Decode Save Help

Band Activity				Rx Frequency					
UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message	UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
1344	-5	0.3	1555	# KC0FGX EA8DBM RR73	1348	-1	0.3	1556	# W6IR EA8DBM RR73
1344	-1	0.3	2615	# TK5MH K2DRH EN41	1350	-1	0.4	2816	# W0GN EA8DBM -01
1346	-6	0.3	1555	# W6IR EA8DBM -04	1352	-6	0.4	2816	# W0GN EA8DBM RR73
1346	-6	0.5	2090	# EA8AQV K2DRH EN41					
1348	-1	0.3	1556	# W6IR EA8DBM RR73					
1348	-5	0.5	2091	# EA8AQV K2DRH R-03					
1350	-1	0.4	2816	# W0GN EA8DBM -01					
1350	-11	0.4	1555	# CQ AA2UK FM29					
1350	-1	0.5	2091	# EA8AQV K2DRH R-03					
1352	-6	0.4	2816	# W0GN EA8DBM RR73					
1352	-21	-0.0	493	# CQ DX W4PKU FM18					
1352	-23	0.4	2093	# EA8AQV N4HB FM17					
1352	-5	0.5	2392	# EA8AQV K2DRH 73					

Log QSO Stop Monitor Erase Decode Enable Tx Halt Tx Tune

50.276 000

DX Call DX Grid Tx even/lst Tx JT65 =

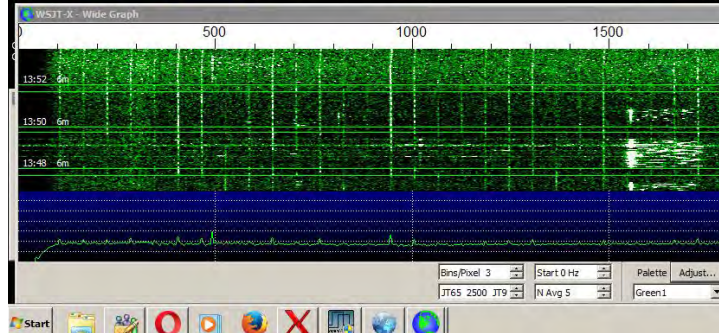
EA8DBM RR73 Tx 2816 Hz Tx - Rx

Az: 351 3343 mi Rx 2816 Hz Rx - Tx

Lookup Add Lock Tx=Rx Report -1

2017 Jun 08 13:53:12

Tx: EA8DBM W0GN 73 JT9+JT65 Last Tx: EA8DBM W0GN 73



Peak2Peak™ Dual-Band SDR (64/128) WinCC

Power 632

MON TUN 50.276 000 VFO Sync Tune Step 25Hz VFO B 50.180 000

6M SSB TX VFO Lock 7.000000 Save Restore TX 6M SSB

50.273 50.274 50.275 50.276 50.277 50.278 50.279

Master AF: 7

RX1 AF: 1

RX2 AF: 0

Forward Gain: 115

Drive: 51

AGC S-ATT

SQL -103

IP-SV A < B

RIT 0 XTI 0

UTC 13:53:12

CPU: 8

VAC1 VAC2

NR ANF Paradoxer AVG Peak

NI SSB MULT BW MNE CTUN

VAC1 RX Gain: 0

VAC1 TX Gain: 0

Sample Rate: 48000

Chds Fx2

TX Profile: Default

3.0k 2.5k 2.0k 1.5k 1.0k 600 300 150 75 Var 1 Var 2

Wide

Shift

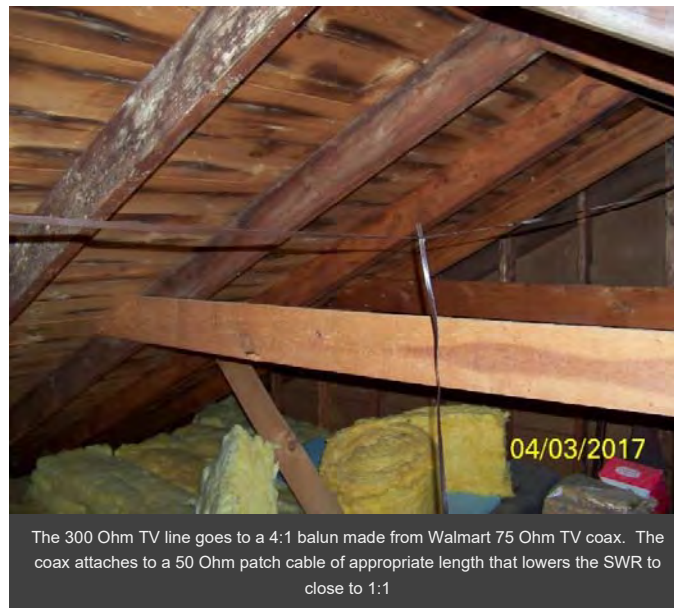
Low High

2000 2500 3000 3500 4000

Platten Ref Spec Spec 30 %

Cumulative

8:33 AM 6/8/2017



3YØZ - Bouvet Update

Bob Lee WØGXA

If you pay attention to the 3YØZ website, you will notice the total cost of the trip has risen from \$610k to \$741k. Bob Allphin hinted this possibility to me when I was writing the article in January's newsletter. I asked him what caused the increase. His response follows -

The increase in our costs is due to a couple of factors. Although, we wanted to use Nigel Jolly and his larger ship, the Claymore II, it wasn't to be. We could not solve the problem of the repositioning cost from New Zealand to our embarkation point i. e. either Chile or South Africa. At the beginning, Nigel was hopeful that another charter would solve the problem, but it was not to be.

Nigel, the good man that he is, started looking for alternatives and invited us to do the same. We found the alternative in Chile. These are the same folks who took us to Peter I in 2006 and returned us all safely. Nigel equipped us with questions and information to vet the ship and will be reviewing the contract when we sign it. We feel that the company, the vessel and the people we will be dealing with in Chile afford us a safe and reliable alternative to make this project a success.

The cost is higher, but that comes with some other important advantages. The ship is 50% larger and will be equipped with two, dual engine helicopters and a hanger to protect them. The deal is a package deal so, the risk of cost overruns is minimized and the package includes turnkey provisions that are hard to place a value on. Promises of assistance from the crew, including meal preparation, site selection by a re-renown Glaciologist and assistance with shelter and camp installation.

The ability to use two helos when the WX allows, means a quicker ingress (and set-up time)and quicker egress than a single

helicopter would permit. Obviously, the safety of a second helicopter means our emergency plans can be greatly simplified and safer.

They will provide many other services and equipment for our use that would not be available from another company as they own 16 helicopters and have pilots with extensive Antarctic flying experience.

So, for many reasons, the higher cost is easy for us to justify.

Our team of twenty operators has committed \$400,000 of their personal money to make this happen. We ask that the DX community help us with the remainder. Several DX Clubs and Foundations have upped their commitment and we are hopeful that more will do the same.

Bob, again thanks for opportunity to fill-in some of the blanks.

73,

Bob-K4UEE

3Y0Z co-leader and CFO

So, there you have it directly from the CFO. Seems to be in-line with their desire to maximize QSOs and do it safely.

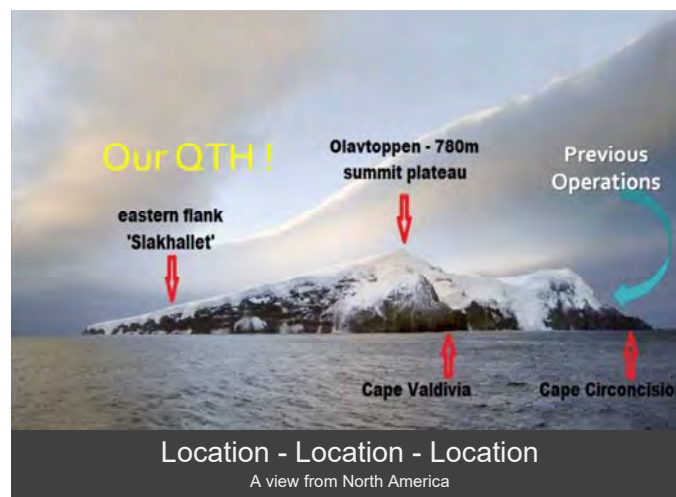
I've also included some pictures from an update presentation provided by Glenn.

Enjoy

Bob WØGXA

Some additional Bouvet information from Glenn

Prior DXpeditions suffered from challenging terrain (rocks) between their site and North American, JA and European hams. 3Y0Z plans their operation from a more favorable location.



The entire round-trip will take a minimum of 7 weeks

The team expects to be at Bouvet for 21 days. They expect to be at

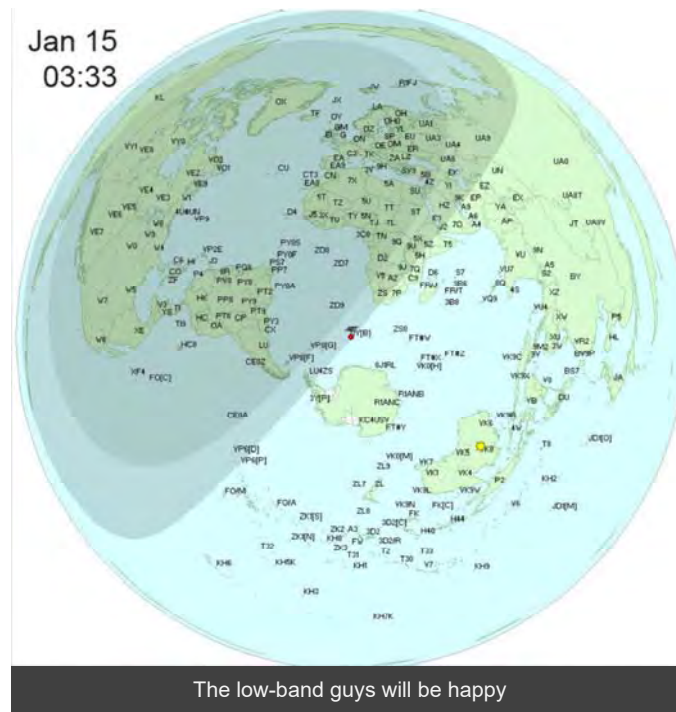
sea roughly 30 days in total.

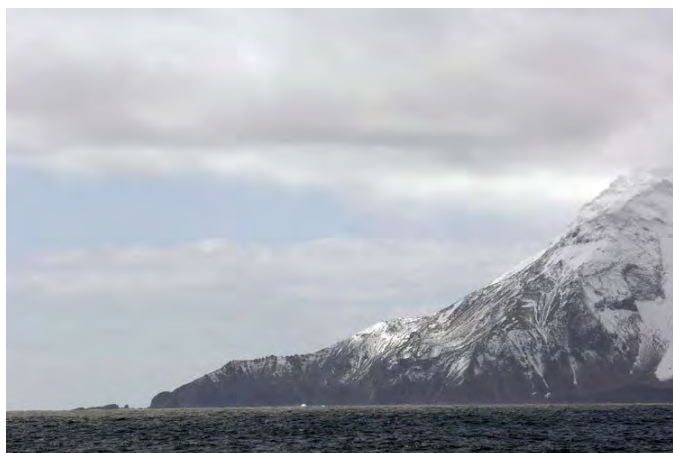
Given that the island sees an average of 300 storms per year, there will be days of no flying. When you factor in set up and tear down, the "best case" will be operation for 12-14 days.

Having two helicopters will increase the speed of moving people and material on/off the island during the short weather windows.

Stations

- 12 stations - all FlexRadios!
- 160 – 10m
- 6 and 2m EME
- CW, SSB, RTTY
- 11 HF stations Flex 6500 with 1.5 kW Flex amplifiers
- 1 stn 2m, Flex 6700 with 1kW VHF amplifier
- 3 ele monoband yagis for 20-10m
- Verticals for 160, 80, 60, 40 (4-SQ) and 30m
- Wire beam for 160m (same as Peter I)
- Yagi arrays for 6 and 2m





[Bouvet Weather - Click here](#)

Note: Wind speed of 15m/s = 33+ mph

Feature Articles

Crosley 52 Antique Radio

Joe Hungate K8OM

For several years, in addition to amateur radio, I've been quite interested in restoring and collecting antique radios and phonographs. The technology in the radios from the 1920's-1930's seems amazingly simple by today's standards but was absolutely amazing during that era.

It would be many more years before television would be introduced to the world so most people dreamed of one day owning a radio receiver so they could listen to nearly real-time news events, farm prices and musical entertainment. The "Golden Age of Radio" was just around the corner.

Radios around 1924 - 1925 ranged in price from approximately \$20 to \$150 which equates to \$280 to \$2,100 in 2017 dollars. Not too many people had that much disposable income to spend on a luxury item like a radio, which, by the way, only received the A.M. broadcast band and required a rather elaborate outside antenna. Most radios in the early to mid 1920's were battery operated, which added additional expense and complexity to owning and operating a radio.

I've found the "hunt" for restorable antique radios to be as interesting and enjoyable as bring one of these old girls back to life. Visiting flea markets, junk stores, estate sales and garage sales sometimes yields some rather interesting catches. Seldom, if ever, is there any personal information available on the original owner of the radio or when and where it was purchased. Sometimes the seller will say they think it may have been grandpa's or it was hanging out in the barn since they were just a tyke.

Finding a Unique Crosley 52 Radio

I typically like to restore and collect the old console type radios and

phonographs. The ones with nice wooden ornate cabinets are what I typically look for. These were real “talking furniture” and the pride and joy of the owners. That was their home entertainment system!

It’s interesting to think that the owners of these radios may have heard breaking news reports on the bombing of Pearl Harbor, D-Day, VE and VJ day. They may have also listened to the FDR Fireside Chats. Who knows, maybe they even tuned into the Orson Wells “War of the Worlds” radio drama in 1938 with one of the radios I have in my collection.

A few years ago I attended an estate sale in the middle of “no-where, Iowa” and found a 93 year old 1924 Crosley 52 battery radio. It’s a small table or portable radio, not the large ornate consoles I usually go for.

The Crosley Radio Company was located in Cincinnati, Ohio and was a prolific manufacturer of radios and appliances during that period.

Powell Crosley started the business in 1921 and in order to sell more radio receivers he built his own radio broadcast station – WLW, which is still on the air today. They even produced an automobile and an airplane for a short period after World War II. Business dropped off considerably after 1929 and by 1956 Crosley Radio Company was completely out of business.

Not rare by any means (and not my typical radio style), but what made this find so unique was that the radio was in the original cardboard shipping box which had the original owners name and address stenciled on the top. Wouldn’t it be interesting to try to learn some history of the original owner? So the quest begins.....

Who Probably Owned this Radio?

As can be seen in Figure 1 and 2, the radio was shipped to the Chandler Lumber Company in Gravity, Iowa (Taylor County, approximately 100 miles south west of Des Moines, Iowa) from P&G Company in Omaha, Nebraska via REA (Railway Express Agency). The serial number on the box and the serial number located inside of the radio match so this is the original box for the radio.



Figure 1 Crosley 52 Radio with Original Shipping Box



Figure 2 Top of Shipping Box

It appears the Chandler family was living in Gravity, Iowa from 1870 onward. According to the Taylor County census of 1880, Benson F. Chandler (father of the clan) shown in Figure 3, was a farmer but the 1900 census listed his occupation as lumber proprietor so it appears the Chandler Lumber Company started doing business in Gravity, Iowa shortly before 1900.

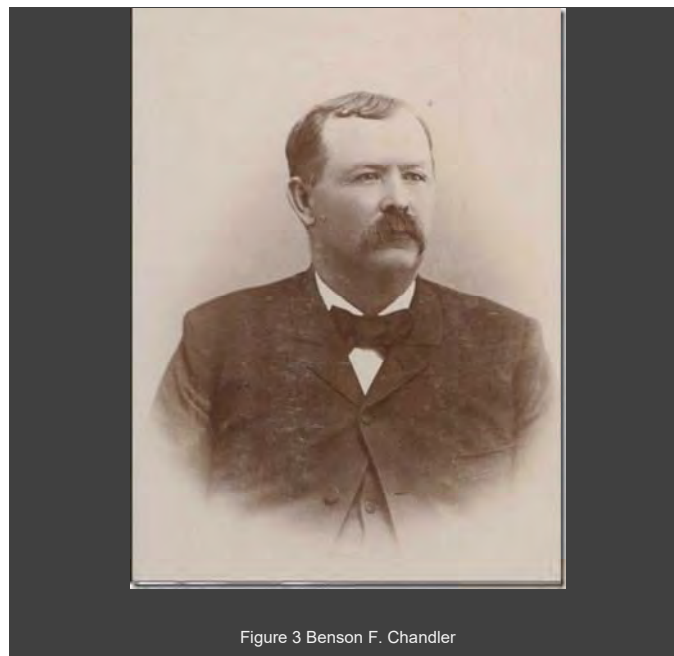


Figure 3 Benson F. Chandler

Research on the internet indicates the Chandler Lumber Company was quite successful and his son Francis "Frank" M. Chandler also helped manage the business for many years. Indications are they were not a general merchandise business but strictly a provider of building materials such as lumber, nails, paints, oils, self-manufactured concrete blocks, etc. and did not offer general household items. Since the Chandler Lumber Company was quite successful and the family appeared to lead a comfortable life style and thus probably enjoyed above average disposable income and additionally since their business did not offer household items, I believe it is safe to assume this radio was most likely ordered for use in the Chandler home (not for resale), which is shown in Figure 4.

The Chandler family enjoyed a fine house, nice automobiles, were active in their community and church so it seems to make sense that they would be the type of people that would also be interested

experiencing this new technology called “radio”.



Figure 4 Chandler House in Gravity, Iowa During a Family Reunion (Circa unknown)

Benson F. Chandler lived to be 83 years old and passed away in 1927. The lumber company continued on for many more years under the leadership of his son, Francis “Frank” M. Chandler, who passed away in 1938 at the age of 66.

Unfortunately, the life of the radio isn’t known after it was delivered to the Chandler Lumber Company in 1924. Since the Chandler family had an active social life, it probably amazed many a visitor to their home.

More About the Crosley 52

The Crosley 52 was built in 1924 and sold for \$30 (\$429 in 2017 dollars). That did not include a speaker (horn type speakers were typical during that period), head phones, batteries or an antenna. Those accessories would probably double the cost of a radio set ownership.

This radio employed 3 triode tubes and required a 6 volt “A” battery for the tube filaments, and a pair of 22.5 volt “B” batteries for the tube plate voltage. One of the 22.5 volt batteries also provided the “C” voltage bias for the audio tubes. This was a TRF (Tuned Radio Frequency) A.M. broadcast band only receiver and required quite a bit of fiddling with the various knobs to receive broadcast stations. The schematic is shown in figure 5.

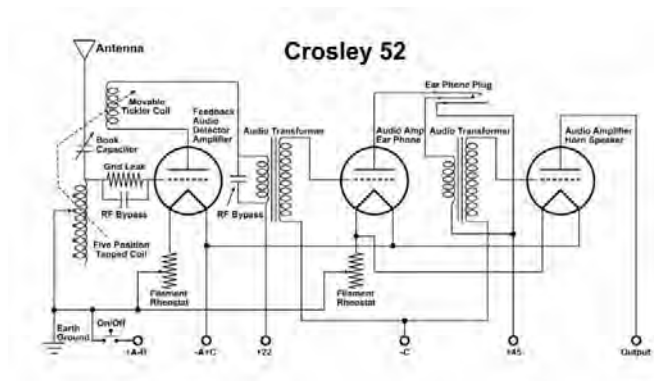


Figure 5 Crosley 52 Schematic Diagram

Note that when using headphones with this receiver, and most TRF receivers of this era, the B+ voltage was applied directly across the

head phone as it rested on the operators head. Some radios used 90 volts DC for the B+. Seems rather risky having that much voltage that close to your head!

Miscellaneous Crosley 52 Photographs



Figure 6 Interior View of 1924 Crosley 52 Radio

All point-to-point wiring with mostly solid #12 wire. The variable grid leak resistor is the long cylindrical yellow colored component in the foreground



Figure 7 Crosley 52 "Portable" Out-of-Doors

Quite often in the 1920's, radio set owners would take their battery operated radios on picnics. Using a horn speaker would have been common so everyone at the picnic could hear the music being broadcast. Of course, the picnic site would have to have a few tall trees in order to support a long wire receive antenna.



Figure 8 1924 Headphones Accessory for \$6

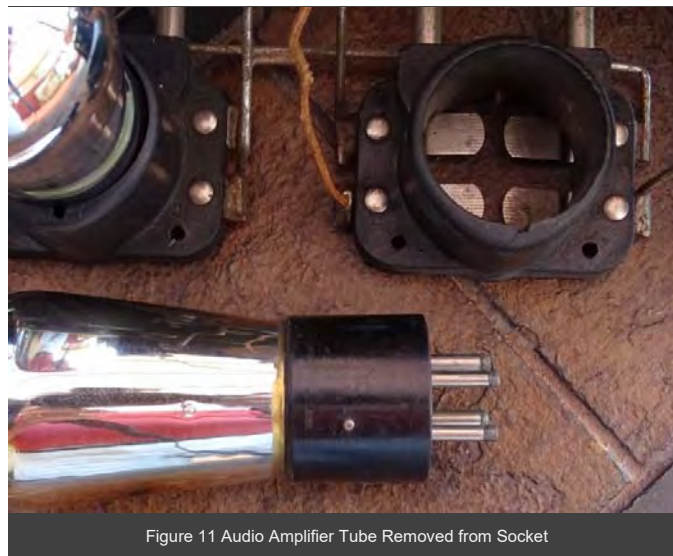
To help conserve the batteries, headphones were typically used for normal listening by an individual. This \$6 set of head phones is equivalent to about \$85 in 2017 dollars. Not very comfortable to wear for any extended periods!



Can't get much simpler than this! The tube on the far right is the detector, the middle tube provided audio amplification for use with head phones and the tube on the far left (with the brown dot in the glass) is the audio amplifier for use with a horn speaker.



This is the underside of the Crosley 52. Note the point-to-point hard wiring..... no chassis. The front panel and tube sockets are made of insulating Bakelite.



The tube sockets were also made of Bakelite. In this photograph it can be seen how the contact with the tube pins is made. Slight spring action helped make the contact more secure but cleaning of the contacts was something a radio set owner probably had to do on a

fairly regular basis.



Figure 12 1924 Crosley 52 and Interesting Box Sticker

A neat looking advertising sticker on the side of the shipping box. Hard to believe someone would keep the cardboard shipping box for 93 years and it hasn't been damaged due to a flooded basement.



Figure 13 Crosley 52 and Sales Brochure

This sales brochure lists several pages of replacement parts, accessories and complete radio sets. A real 1920's "tech nerd" could order all of the parts needed to build their own radio receiver or audio amplifier.

Conclusion

The restoration of the actual radio was actually quite simple. All three tubes tested "OK" and there was not rust or a thick coating of nicotine (as is typical in a lot of old radios) but the wood finish on the radio cabinet had turned into some type of sticky "goo". It was a real mess and a complete refinish of the cabinet was required. Hopefully I made it look as nice as it did when it came out of the Crosley factory in 1924.

Trying to find information on the Chandler Lumber Company and the Chandler family has been very interesting. Being able to trace more of the life of this particular radio would be amazing but sure it is possible.

I hope this radio and its original cardboard shipping box will survive another 93 years and bring several more generations amazement of the electronics technology of the roaring 1920's.

I want to thank Jim – WØSR for his help with this project. Jim graciously downloaded the photographs of the Chandler family for me from a genealogy website that he uses for his own family research.

Jurassic Journal

- A look back in time -

Tom Vavra WB8ZRL

Twenty years ago, the summer of 1997

My log for the summer of 1997 reflects that there was either little activity, poor conditions or I was doing my antenna work early in the year. Some of the activity:

C5 - Franz, DL9GFB (CW) and Iris, DK3EP (SSB) were signing C56/from The Gambia.

VK9WM & VK9WY - The Willis DXpedition of VK9WY (YL operators) and VK9WM (OMs) were active for 10 days in September with a grand total of 42,275 contacts.

3D2_fiji - Ron Wright, ZL1AMO was active from Japan as 7J1YAJ and later from Fiji as 3D2RW.

TT - John, TT8/WB4MBU was issued a new Chad callsign (TT8JFC).

S9 - Hugo, HB9AFH was active as S92AF from 17 to 30 September.

9X - Andy, RW3AH was in Rwanda starting in August for several months. He signed 9X/RW3AH, and then signed 9X0A, mostly on SSB. Gene, 9X/RE3A was also active.

Ten years ago, the summer of 2007

Propagation during the summer of 2007 was much like today. Solar flux ranged between 60 and 79, and the A-index between 0 and 26.

BS7H QSLs. QSL Manager Steve, KU9C, reported that in the first week after the operation he received nearly 7000 envelopes and in the next 5 weeks another 7000 envelopes. Many were from EIDXa members.

3B7, ST. BRANDON - The 3B7C team went QRT after an 18 day operation. The operation netted 137,484 QSOs. The QSO total made this expedition 3rd only to D68C and 3B9C. The breakdown by bands and modes are as follows:

10m - 7599	30m - 13461	Phone: 51718
12m - 8848	40m - 19904	CW: 79221
15m - 18881	80m - 13264	RTTY: 6545
17m - 21043	160m - 2921	

20m - 31563

VK9W, WILLIS ISLAND - Operators Tomi/HA7RY and George/AA7JV activated Willis at the end of September signing VK9WWI. HA7RY concentrated on the high bands during the day and AA7JV worked the low bands during the night. Top band was in many logs.

4U1UN, UNITED NATIONS HQ - Paul/WQ2N and his father Gary/W2VQ activated 4U1UN for a whopping 135 minutes. Not much but it is more than recent years.

E7, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (New Prefix Change) The ARRL Letter reported: The ITU has granted a request from the Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina to replace T9A-T9Z with E7A-E7Z. How many times in the past 10 years have logging programs alarmed to alert us to an EZ when someone missed a dit and got excited?

ST2A

Jovica's, T98A (ex. T94FC) ended his assignment in the Sudan with 40,660 QSOs logged as STØRM and ST2A. During the two years spent in the Sudan, Jovica has made 35,012 QSOs on CW, 3386 on SSB, 2249 on RTTY and 13 on PSK31. He also provided many new ones working 843 QSOs on 160m, 3916 QSOs on 80m and 585 QSOs on 6m.

UA4WHX - AFRICA

World traveller and DXpeditioner Vladimir Bykov, UA4WHX, ended his African activities. An E-mail that Vlad sent to OPDX states the following: "Hello everyone! You must have been wondering if it is true. And the answer is - it is. It is all history now. For now - no more being on the air from Africa (or P5 -which I never did). We leave almost 310,000 QSOs behind, 21 DXCC entities, almost 26 months of life, two radios gone and one finger missing. But we do have lots of people happy - that is what matters.

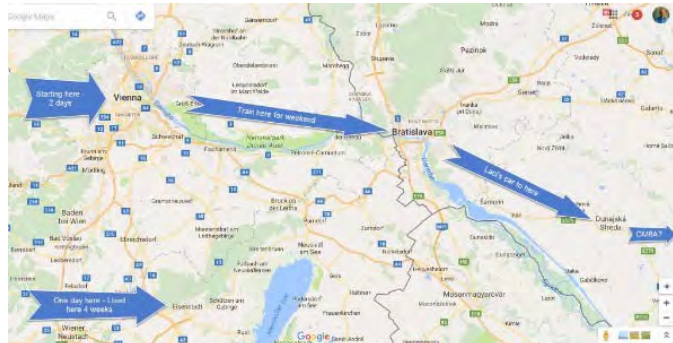
Member News

Bob's Great Adventure

Bob Lee WØGXA



Forty years ago, I lived in Austria for a summer as an exchange student. Until now, I've never been back. I took the opportunity of a business trip to Brussels and London to spend a few days in Vienna.



I've spent a few years helping Laci OM2VL collect counties in Iowa and surrounding states for his county hunter award. Upon hearing I was coming to Vienna, he insisted I spend the weekend with him and his family in SK.

I started my visit with some operating at club station where he is a member: OM8A



The land and house are owned by Tibi OM3RM, owner of OM Power. As near as I could tell, they have about 80 acres of land. Most of it is farmed so full time beverages are not possible. Not shown are some 20 and 40m antennas set some distance from the main station to provide additional isolation when operating two transmitters on the same band.



The house is in a remote location. It's split in two, with tenants in one apartment presumably to "have someone around" for security. The other unit has all the rooms you'd need to support a multi-op team.

Several years ago, someone stole all the copper between the towers and the house. All hardline, power and signal wires. They now have an alarm system for the building and proximity sensors at each tower.

The roads that ZRL and I live on look like new interstate highways compared to the access road to OM8A. Single lane, mostly dirt "road". More potholes than "road". Laci said one year, a snowstorm left some operators stranded there for three days

You have many antenna choices. One 80m beam, multiple beams on 40m and up. They can put at least six radios on the air at once, plus they have two positions set up for SO2R. Radios are K3's and FTdx-5000's.



During my operation I had a stack of three 20m beams pointed to the US and a single mono-band 20m beam pointed to JA.

Laci thought the band would open around 14Z to the US. We got started around 12Z and my first EIDXА contact was KDØQ. He was a solid S9, so I assumed the band was open early. It seemed like Zero's were louder than 9's but mostly the issue I had in copying stations was QRM/DQRM. With three contests underway and those hams who don't have a life and want to cause DQRM, there were plenty of opportunities to ask for fills.

I was impressed by how loud the Russian 10kW stations are when you're right in their back yard. JAs were very loud too.

Laci has qualified for WRTC in 2010, 2014 and 2018. He's got very good ears. This was the first time I've operated along side a WRTC veteran. It reminds you how good you are not.

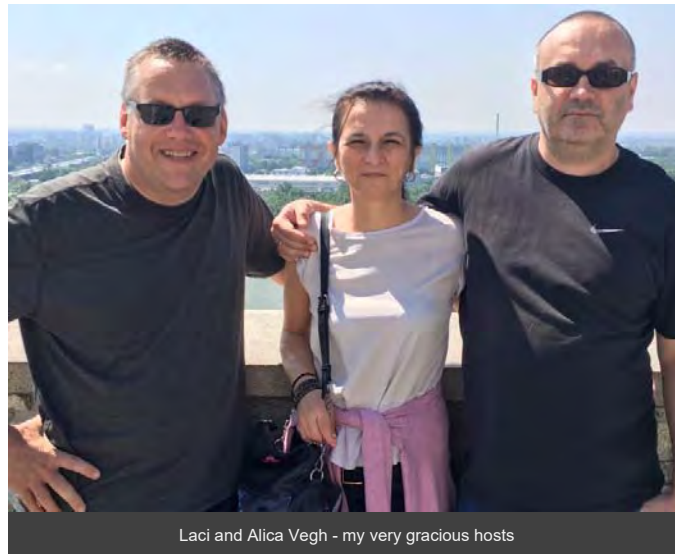
We had to knock off around 7PM local time so we could get to the restaurant by 8PM for dinner. I had about 265 QSOs. It was fun.



It's also a capable VHF contest station







Laci and Alica Vegh - my very gracious hosts

The next day, my hosts took me around on a small driving tour and then spent a couple hours walking around Bratislava before putting me back on the train to Vienna. It was a great weekend and the highlight of my trip.

"Datyon" - 2017 Edition

Many of our members made the annual pilgrimage to Dayton for the Hamvention. Apparently it was muddy...



Rick W3ACO and Tom WB8ZRL at Rick's flea market table - W0AWL



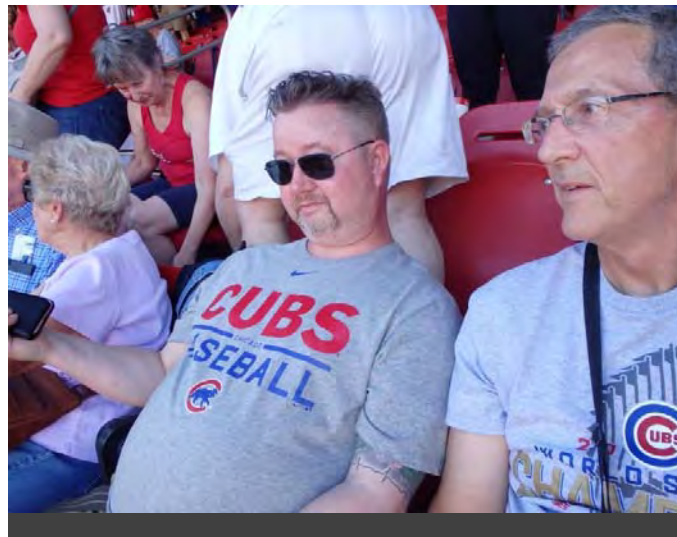
Pre-downpour flea market conditions - WØAWL



Proper flea market footwear - WØAWL

Tom and Ove take Dayton

Ove Friman SFØF and Tom NYØV took the long route to Dayton



Taking in a Cubs game in STL. Cubs lost.



STL



Memphis - Music and BBQ

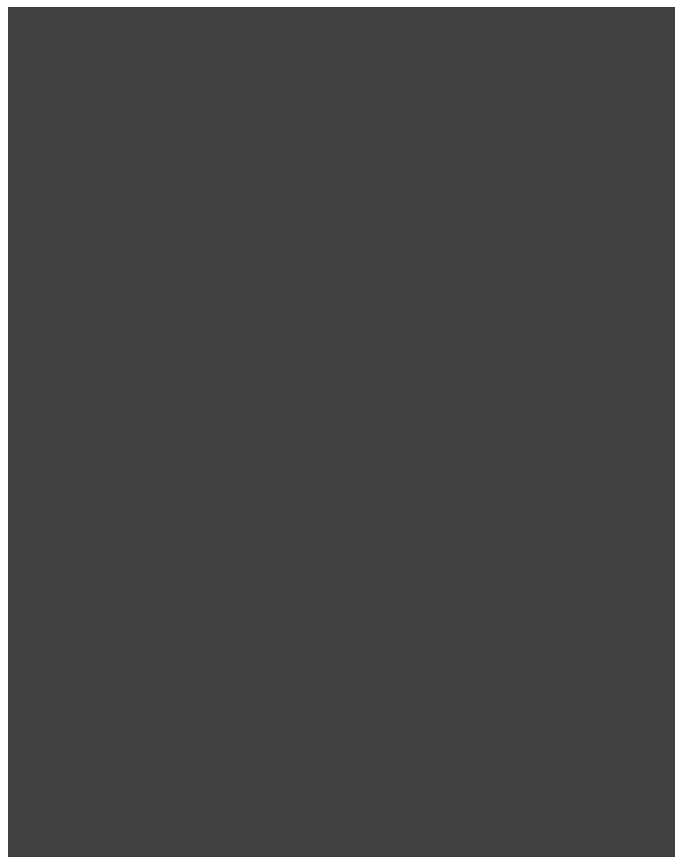
ARRL VHF Contest

Below are some pictures of Wyatt Dirks' (ACØRA) mobile set up for VHF/UHF contesting.



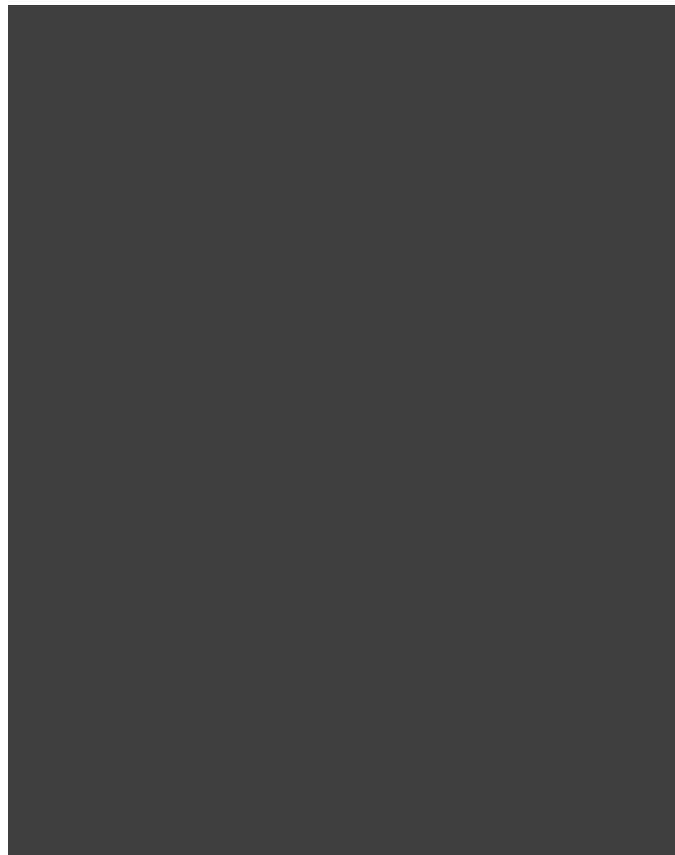


Parked in EN44 during the most recent ARRL VHF contest





The gear rack





Up front...

...another Rover operation...

Bill, NØLNO and Rod, KØDAS



Buying gas in northern MN

Rover Vehicle: Bill's 2009 Toyota Sienna Van

Antennas:

50 MHz: Horizontal "V" dipole 3 ft above roof and 1/4-wave whip
(operator selectable)
144 MHz: 7 element Yagi at 12-ft off the pavement
222 MHz: 8 element Yagi at 10.5-ft off the pavement
432 MHz: 11 element Yagi at 9-ft off the pavement
(All yagi's rotatable with a Yaesu 800 rotator)
Dual Band 144/432 mag mount whip for FM

Equipment:

FT-840 transceiver is 28 MHz IF rig
50 MHz: DEMI Transverter (10W) to Lunar 100W PA
144 MHz: DEMI Transverter (25W) to RF Concepts 160W PA
222 MHz: DEMI Transverter (25W) to TE Systems 120W PA
144 MHz: DEMI Transverter (10W) to modified RF Concepts 100W
PA
144 & 432 MHz FM: Kenwood TM-721A 25W FM Transceiver

Back-up Equipment:

ICOM IC-290H all-mode 25W transceiver
ICOM IC-551D 6-meter all mode 100W transceiver

Narrative:

Station Integration into the vehicle started early - Monday June 5th -
with final intensive work and check-out testing conducted the evening
of Friday June 9th and, of course, the morning before the contest
started.

By 12:45 PM Saturday we declared the job completed and headed out
to Subway for a quick lunch without ever having conducted an on-the-
air contact. Leaving Subway on Council St. and Boyson Rd. we made
our first QSO with Gregg, KCØSKM, at 1:09 PM. This was 9 minutes
into the 33 hour contest - a record early start for this rover team.

Our goal was to operate on-the-go as much as possible in order to
activate as many grids as possible. This meant traveling mostly North
and South and maximum use of Interstate highways for the higher
speed limit and lack of small towns.

Leaving Cedar Rapids on I-380 South we quickly entered EN41 (2nd
grid). Turning west on Highway 30, then turning north on 218, we
went to Newhall then west to stop momentarily on our favorite hilltop
near the cemetery to activate EN31. After a few contacts from there,
we next headed north again on 218 and entered EN32 (4th grid)
working folks as we drove up through Vinton and Waterloo and
eventually joining I-35 west of Charles City. Going North on I-35 we
entered EN33 (5th grid) at about 3:50 PM.

At this point the 6 meter signal seemed weak so we put the Lunar PA
on the IC-551D transceiver. By 5:20 PM we entered EN34 and
proceeded to Minneapolis where we took the beltway around to the
west and picked up I-94 heading Northwest. EN35 (7th grid) was
obtained about 7:00 PM. An hour later we were in EN25 where we
made our first FM contact on 2 meters when we were pulling out of a
gas station and heard KE4KE full quieting calling on FM. Up to this
point, Bill had been driving and Rod operating but at this gas stop the
roles were reversed and we continued up I-94 heading toward Fargo,
ND.

A colorful sunset lingered directly in front of us for the next hour (they last longer the further north you are in the summer). About this time consultation with maps on our smart phones convinced us to abandon Fargo and get off I-94 at Fergus Falls, MN and head directly west to Wahpeton, ND. We were in EN16 now but it was late and distances back to the twin cities were long and despite parking in the open country and calling CQ for 20 minutes, we had no contacts from this grid. Across the street was a nice AmericInn where we got a room for the night.

The next morning we got up early, ate a good breakfast at the hotel, bought gas (a frequent occurrence on this trip due to the wind drag of the antennas), and drove west to pick up I-29 going south. We still had no contacts from EN16 and we were getting worried this might be a bust. Once on I-29 the speed limit was 75 and a light rain was falling and propagation was very poor. After we crossed into EN15, Bill worked WBØHMM in Sioux Falls, SD followed by KØSIX in the twin cities on 144 MHz. By then we were too far south to turn around and go back to EN16 to work these guys. So in the end we visited EN16 but did not "activate" it.

Next was EN14 (our 11th grid) attained at 0815 where we worked more stations. The speed limit in South Dakota is 80 and very few vehicles were out on Sunday Morning. This helped our quest for activating grids but the antenna wind drag plus an estimated 20 mph headwind put the gas mileage way down. The antenna system on the vehicle was subjected to a continuous 100 mph wind load which is why rover on-the-go antennas need to be built very ruggedly. Activation of EN13 and EN12 followed in short order as we rolled on Southward.

I-29 crosses over into Iowa at Sioux City and continues angling slightly to the east which was an advantage for our quest. We took a short detour off I-29 to run over to the edge of EN22 which we activated at 1240. It was here that we discovered our pre-amp in the 222 PA had died. We made a few quick contacts and then beat it back to I-29 where we continued south into EN11 and EN21 (our 15th & 16th grids). A Subway sign appeared and we pulled off for lunch at about 1400.

After lunch, Bill now driving and Rod operating, we decided to make another short detour off I-29 and cross the river at Plattsburg, NE south of Council Bluffs to make a run of about 10 miles west to activate EN10. Three quick QSO's with **ACØRA/R**, EN41, on 144 & 432 plus KM0T, EN13, on 144, and we pulled up and drove back east to pick up highway 75 south to Nebraska City where we crossed the river back into Missouri. We debated about continuing South on 75 to enter Kansas but decided against it as the next river crossing would require considerable state highway miles and the cost in time was too much.

We entered EN20 at 1540 and now things got exciting. We entered a nice tropo opening from there out into Kansas and Oklahoma. While cruising down the interstate, I was able to work **ACØRA/R**, EN41; WQ0P, EM19; KC9GPJ, EM28; W0RT, EM27; K5SW, EM25; N0LL, EM09; W7QJQ, EM25; W0KKK, EM19; & WD0BGZ, EM00. By 1730

things were slowing down a bit, my bladder was full, and the gas tank empty (again). So we pulled in to the nearest gas station. When we left, Bill became the operator and I the driver as we entered EM29 briefly.

At 1800 we entered EM39 as we drove East on highway 36 out of St. Joseph, MO. Bill worked a few stations on tropo until 6 meter sporadic E fired up about 1830. Then it was "game on" again as he steadily filled up the log with exotic grid squares as I trundled through the green hills and valleys of northern Missouri. I turned north on highway 65 at Chillicothe to run up to EN30, usually a rare grid in these contests, while the flow of 6 meter contacts continued.

The plan was to get up to highway 2 in Iowa, then head East through all the county seat towns in an effort to reach EN40 before the contest ended. This looked barely possible without speeding. EN40 was finally entered with just 15 minutes of contest remaining. Bill had several stations cued up waiting for our entry into this our 22nd grid. So the last 15 minutes were a wild run of stations.

After it was over at 10 PM we drove on into Farmington, IA and stopped for food and other necessities plus explaining what "ham radio" was all about and why it took all those funny antennas. I had never been on highway 2 before and thought we were somewhere closer to home. But no, the highway had slowly angled southward and we were almost back in Missouri. We hit the road for another 2 hour drive home.

Our Statistics:

Number of Grids Activated: 22 (we visited a 23rd but couldn't get a QSO)
 Miles traveled: 1,440
 Gas consumed: 62.4 gallons
 Average gas mileage: 23 mpg
 States Activated: 6 (IA, MN, ND, SD, NE, MO)
 Number of QSOs: 161
 Number of unique Grids Worked: 67
 Score (preliminary): 17,711 Score = QSO Points X (Unique Grids per band + Grids activated)

Band	No. QSO	No. Grids	QSO Pt
50	55	27	55
144	68	25	68
222	14	7	28
432	24	8	48
TOTAL	161	67	199

Return on Investment:

Gas = \$136.23
 Hotel = \$130.00
 Total = \$266.23
 Cost per QSO = \$1.65
 Cost per Grid Activated = \$12.10
 QSO mileage = 8.9 miles per QSO

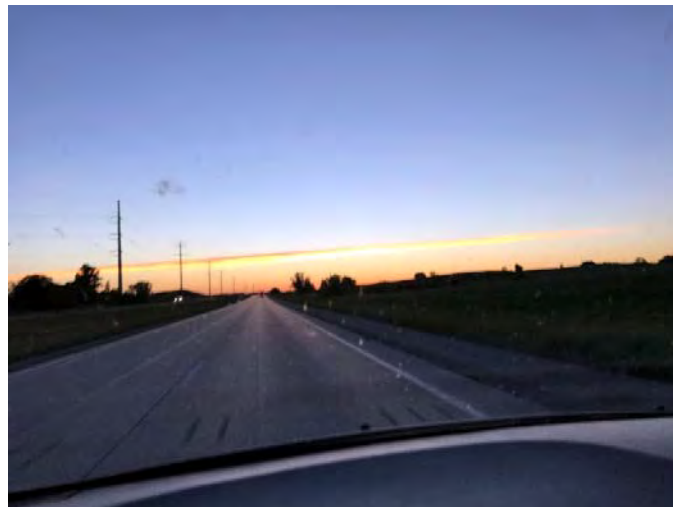
Labor hours:

Mobilization = 48 (est.)
Operating/Driving = 54
De-mobilization = 8 (est.)
TOTAL = 110 man-hours

Labor per QSO = 41 minutes

"The Route"

Blue - Contest Route, Green - Transit home



North Dakota Sunset

Logbook

Logs

NYØV RY: A52IVU, EI44WAW, XW4XR, RI1ANO (VP8/SSH), YJ0YM, V53DX, TL8TT, E51DWC, RI1AND (ANT)

KØAFN: RY: TU7C, E51DWC (40), 6W2SC, AH2P (40), VP6EU, 5U5R, FJ/N2IEN, EY7AD, 5K3MDC, IR9MDC, R7CD; CW: RI1ANC, XX9D, A31MM, J5UAP, S21ZEE, 4S7AB (40), 4W/N1YC (40), A25UK (40), 3W9FU/P; SSB: OE3DIA (40)TX5T, NY0V/MM3 (40), 5U5R,3DA0TM, 9G5X (40), P29LL (40), T30TM (40), HD2RRC/4, 7X2VFK, TM5FI

CQ Test

Contesting by Rick

Rick NØYY

100W and a Wire

I remember when the different magazines used to have “fireside chat” columns that raised topics from novices and big guns to discuss a subject from different perspectives. The intent was to present a subject and offer insight as to why things could take different directions.

This column is intended to do a similar thing. Contesting does not have a single dimension. It has a life of its own or it can be viewed as a tool for other pursuits. My intent is to initiate discussions from different directions to help stimulate thoughts.

But first I would like to offer a comparison. Contesting is also known as Radiosport. If you think of radio sport in its most competitive form, consider a long distance relay foot race. Each member of the team has a role to play. No one individual can win the event. Each contributor must optimize his or her performance to ensure that the team does as well as possible.

The same exists here. Large multi-operator contest stations rely on all players to participate – with whatever they can bring to the table.

Radio technology today allows for copying near noise floor signals and differentiating them from the strong signals. This realization is the basis for this issue's column.

In my list of potential discussions I raised “What can I do with 100W and a wire?” There are a lot of things to consider:

What am I trying to accomplish?

- Improve my code copying speed

- Complete my WAS
- Add new countries for my DXCC
- Add new band countries
- Learn more about my station
- Learn more about propagation

As you develop different questions will be raised.

- Do I need an automated station?
- Do I need computer logging?

Every HF operator has an entry point. I might opine that the logical starting point would be a simple wire (or vertical) and a 100 watt radio.

Or maybe you are limited to less than 100 watts. OK, let's call that your tool kit – what can you do with it? What is your operating "profile"? Do enjoy rag chewing with friends each week? Like many did you call CQ one evening and an exotic PJ2 on a Caribbean island called you? Did you jump back and say "...wow how did that happen?" Or maybe it was Alaska or Hawaii? If you were like me, when that happened, I wanted to know if I could do it again.

Based on that, What are some of the things to consider. I will list many that come to mind. Again, your views might differ, but remember that altogether this forms the basis of successful contest operations

1. Listen, Listen, Listen – know who you are calling. Know the exchange. Listen to the timing and the flow of how the station is working other stations. Don't allow yourself to get complacent because of packet networks and spotting. Understand that everyone else is watching that same window into the world. You will show up with everyone else for that contact. This may work much better on the second day.
2. Be crisp – time is money – oops, time is QSOs and score. Maybe you learned that you are supposed to call stations in a 3x3 format. His call three times – they your call three times. It is likely the station you are calling can hear you, but has chosen to not wait for your long response. Send only the relevant information. If you are calling – just send your call – ONCE. When the other station comes back to you, only provide the necessary information. E.g. 59 Iowa. Not "please copy your signal is 59 and I'm located in Iowa". As Jack Webb used to say – "...just the facts".
3. Timing is everything – Remember when I said "listen" – especially for the rhythm of the information flow, know what is going to happen and when. Then control your destiny. Know when to call – not when everyone else calls – but when you should call. Consider this: When the DX station is ready for a station to call him, it is likely that many will call all on top of each other. Those guys are all running kilowatts and stacks of aluminum in the air. How can you beat that? Call in a different sequence of time. It would be better for you to insert your call a second later when the din is dying down and your signal stands out – even though you may not have the same signal strength. This is a pileup technique when contesting at PJ2T. The roar of the hundreds

of stations calling begins to die down and the weak “late the party” station is the one we get in the log!

4. What motivates you and what are your frustrations? The contest starts at 00Z on a Friday evening. You are sitting at the rig, everything is ready. Do you jump in and start to call stations? This approach is likely to be very frustrating since you are competing heads up with all the big dogs. And it's the same for the big dogs! Think about a station like PJ2T – the start of the contest on 40M. Europe is booming in. But in reality, we point the antennas to South America or to other Caribbean stations. Why? Because the East Coast stations all have their beams pointed to Europe and Europe is pointed at the North East US! Poor PJ2T does not stand a chance. Two hours later, things are VERY different. Now conditions have changed, PJ2T is one of the sought after stations and its off to the races. The same thing applies to the “100W and a wire” class. Take your wife out to dinner. Take the dog for a walk. It is likely that you will become bored or disinterested if you “can't work anyone” those first hours because of who you are competing with.

5. Know where to go. This is a case of going where others are not. Understand that you are not alone. There are many others out there looking for those initial QSOs. So avoid the confusion. Go to a band that is not the most sought after. Start the contest on 10M or 15M. Call the weak stations that are calling CQ multiple times. They are just as desperate as you to get stations in the log. Then move when the roar settles on the other bands. Think about ARRL Sweepstakes – a great opportunity to complete your WAS or maybe work on your 5BWAS. Go high – start on 10M or 15M and go higher in the band. Start working what is available. Let the guys that are “in it to win it” reside on 40M and 20M. Go there later.

6. Pick a spot – every contest has a sweet spot. A place where the masses hang out. Don't go there. Go higher in the band. Consider a CW DX contest. There is nothing wrong with going up to 14.120 MHz and working stations – you will be quite successful – but not if you try to work the guys at 14.025 MHz!

7. Know your competition – in this context the competition is YOU. Unless you are in Ulan Bator, you will be competing with many stations. So what motivates you? Getting a certification of participation? Being first, low power, rookie class, or are you competing with yourself? How did you do last year? Try to beat this this year. Maybe it is a relatively simple thing called “butt in chair” – did you spend more time this year than last and did you do better? Radiosport is all about improving yourself. After you peak your personal skills, then maybe introduce a new piece of technology to your station.

8. Get your name in lights – There is a role for you in the early phases of the contest that has long term impact. And it fully supports the “listen” concept referenced earlier. Spot stations. Listen, and then spot them. Why? Well, when you spot a station, two things happen, the station you are spotting knows who is hearing them and the geographical impact. Second your call is displayed as well! By repeatedly getting your callsign shown on the spots you become more “familiar” – even if you NEVER work anyone. Plus it helps you learn

all the different functions in your logging program! At PJ2T we ALWAYS welcome being spotted. (Just don't only spot a single station, share the wealth.)

9. Accuracy over Speed – Set your goal for a “golden” log – one with no errors. Listen carefully and write down what you hear. Don't rely on packet spots – they can be VERY WRONG. Consider the year that PJ2T, PS2T, PJ4T, and PP2TT were all on. Not much room for error! When the dust settled there were man stations that lost QSO credit because they used the spot info without listening. Turn the keyer down and let your skill grow.

10. Run vs Search and Pounce – everyone is enamored with high QSO rate contesting. I get caught up in it all the time. The winner will find a balance. But in most cases the 100W and a wire station will find themselves more successful with finding other stations and calling them – that is search and pounce. Of course there are exceptions. Consider Sunday afternoon in Sweepstakes. If you are “fresh meat” you can generate a pile of calling stations. That is fun and worthwhile just for the learning experience. It will become a true test of your learning curve.

Do these concepts work? Well let me offer this piece of “insight”.

When I lost my tower to a windstorm/tornado I still wanted to operate. So for the ARRL DX CW contest in February, I decided that what I wanted to do was to see how many DX entities I could work in the contest. So I set up for a 20M single band, low power entry. So with my FT-1000MP and a Cushcraft R5 I spent 10 hours on 20M using the vertical. The result? 117 countries in that 10 hours – all on S&P (search and Pounce).

This is an example where I set a goal to test myself and say it through! Most of those 10 hours were on Sunday when the piles were more workable and I was “fresh meat”!

I expect that this column will raise more questions. Send me a note at n0yy.rick@gmail.com with your questions. I will try to answer them or maybe they will trigger the next column! I look forward to hearing from you.

Remember, the techniques you develop with a small station will impact your success when you move up to having an amplifier and gain antennas.

Good Luck,
Rick NØYY

Upcoming Contests:

NAQP	Rules here
RTTY	Saturday, Jul 15, 2017 1PM - 1AM CDT
CW	Saturday, Aug 5 2017 1PM - 1AM CDT
SSB	Saturday, Aug 19 2017 1PM - 1AM CDT

Iowa QSO Party	Rules here
All modes	Saturday, Sept 16 2017 9AM - 9PM CDT

Scores & Commentary:

WPX CW

Call: WØGXA

Class: SOAB(TS) HP

Summary: Compare Scores

Band QSOs

160:

80:

40: 20

20: 360

15: 13

10:

Total: 410 Prefixes 248 Total Score 160,952

I've seen worse conditions but managed to have fun anyway. I worked around the solar storm that hit during the contest. It was refreshing after three weeks away. - Bob

QRM

How "not" to send green stamps

Laci, OM2VL, asked me to bring \$30 worth of \$1 bills during my trip to see him in May. They were to replace those he's received that banks will not accept. I thought I was going to see really sad-looking bills. What I found was much more subtle.





Notes that have markings on them are "td". It depends on the teller at the bank if they'll accept them or not.

I don't know why torn notes are always rejected but with worn notes, it's easy to see why. It could be an indication of a counterfeit note.

He also gave me some that had been taped or stapled (yes, stapled) together!

He was concerned they were not valid in the US but I assured him as long as I could produce both serial numbers printed on the note, they'd accept it.

Obviously, it may be different in other countries but some reasonable recommendations are:

- No tears or missing pieces
- No writing on the bill
- No repairs (tape, staples, etc)
- Not excessively worn. Best to use nearly new bills.

QSL Card-checking Tips

Tom Vavra WB8ZRL

There are two ways to prepare for submitting a DXCC application (not LoTW, but where real QSLs are checked). One is the same way we did it 20 years ago, where we picked up a pencil or pen and wrote out

the application and the log sheet. The other is to log onto the ARRL online DXCC application, and enter or upload the QSO information for the card(s) you want checked. The last step in the online application is to print the application and log. If the printed log page(s) have "Not For DXCC Application" printed diagonally you have the wrong printout. Complete the application process to include payment, and then print the application and log.

If you choose to have me check your application, there are four things I need to receive from you:

- An application
- the log sheet(s)
- the cards
- a stamped envelope to send the checked application to the DXCC desk.

The application: An online application will ensure that everything needed is filled out. A signature is all that you need to add. When filling out the manual application, the most common thing omitted is the method of payment. I really recommend using a credit card. That way you will not risk making a mistake. If you want to pay with a check, look at the fee schedule on the ARRL DXCC web page.

The log: The manual log requires that cards are sorted by band and within the band, by mode. Cards with multiple QSOs that you want to have checked go to the end of the log. This is to minimize the keystrokes at the ARRL when entering the QSO data. Remember that the entry people are often not hams. QSLs with more than one QSO you wish to count should be at the end. I do not require stickums to point to the QSOs you wish to count, but use the stickums when you submit cards to the ARRL. Many logs I check have errors. Some have many errors. I will attempt to correct those errors, but a bit of care on your part will make my task much easier. The neater your printing, the easier to check the cards. Online logs are much easier. The QSOs need not be in order. They can be but it is not necessary.

The QSLs: The cards need to be in the same order as the log. Check to make sure it is your call on the card. You would be surprised at the number of times it is not. This is not a problem when QSO data is on a label.

Stamped envelope: I am required to mail the checked application to the ARRL within two workdays. The ARRL does not reimburse me for postage costs, so I ask for an envelope with a stamp.

Some of this seems pretty logical, but you would be surprised how often something is wrong or omitted. I once received an application with only the cards and a stamped envelope for the return of the cards. When I eventually received the application, the log sheet was blank. I fixed many errors on this log.

Callsign Trivia

Thanks to Joe for the trivia quiz...

1. Who was 9CXX?
2. Who is WN7UZR and in which state was he first licensed?
3. Is KA0XTT for real?
4. W4BPD (SK) provide several ATNO for lots of deserving DXers. What was his name?
5. FO5GJ / KE6PZF (SK) "Coulda been a contender, Coulda been somebody"
6. What popular 1957 song focused on this high school girl who later became K5PSG?
7. In which general direction would you point your antenna in order to work NA1SS / RS0ISS?
8. This guy used to fly like an eagle. Who is he?
9. Which famous ham could be heard nightly for several decades saying "And that's the way it is...."?

[Click here for answers](#)

Finally - Here's a look at states ordered by hams as a percent of the state's population

Don't ask me why

1	Utah	27	South Dakota
2	Idaho	28	Connecticut
3	Alaska	29	Kentucky
4	Oregon	30	Michigan
5	Washington	31	Minnesota
6	New Hampshire	32	North Dakota
7	Montana	33	Iowa
8	West Virginia	34	North Carolina
9	Maine	35	Florida
10	Wyoming	36	Nebraska
11	Vermont	37	Massachusetts
12	New Mexico	38	South Carolina
13	Colorado	39	Wisconsin
14	Arizona	40	Texas
15	Hawaii	41	Pennsylvania
16	Tennessee	42	Maryland
17	Arkansas	43	Mississippi
18	California	44	Rhode Island
19	Nevada	45	Delaware
20	Kansas	46	Georgia
21	Oklahoma	47	Illinois
22	Missouri	48	New Jersey
23	Alabama	49	New York
24	Ohio	50	Louisiana
25	Virginia	51	District of Columbia
26	Indiana		

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