



Eastern Iowa DX Association

An ARRL affiliated club - Established 1975

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October 2021

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In my June column I explained that Mercy Hospital had opened up their conference rooms to community organizations and that we had our old conference room reserved for October 1st.

It was our first in-person meeting in two Covid years and I was happy to hang up the Zoom.

Guess what? Those who give can also take away. Because of the Delta variant the Mercy Medical Center has returned to isolating the hospital until things improve and our reservation was canceled—I'm sure along with a lot of others. When conditions improve we will be able to get our favorite conference room back. I hope to see you on Zoom Friday night.

Friday night we will elect officers for the next year. We have a full slate of candidates and I thank

CQ Test

QRM

- PJ2T Opportunity!
-

Club Officers:

President:

Jim Spencer, WØSR

Vice President:

Craig Fastenow, KØCF

Secretary:

David Christ KØLUM

Treasurer:

Mike Nowack NA9Q

Repeater Committee:

Jason Joens NRØX

Membership Committee:

Jim Spencer WØSR

Tom Vavra WB8ZRL

Nelson Moyer KUØA

Packet Cluster:

WB8ZRL.no-ip.org:7300

Repeater: NØDX/R

144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8)

www.EIDXА.org

Web Master:

Craig Fastenow KØCF

Newsletter Editor:

Bob Lee WØGXA

rclee2266@gmail.com

all of them for taking on the responsibility of keeping our EIDXА running. I want to thank our current team of officers (Craig Fastenow, David Christ and Mike Nowack) for all their efforts and support. They made my job easy. I would also thank the committee heads and all our membership for their help during these unfortunate times—getting both a Covid pandemic AND lousy SFI's at the same time! A special thanks to Bob Lee for the fantastic job he does on the Newsletter.

At the meeting we will also be talking about EIDXА sponsorship of a DXpedition to a very rare and highly desired DXCC country.

We have also scheduled a great program that should be interesting even for those of us who have never tried this form of DXing. Lance Collister, W7GJ, of French Town, Montana will address us via Zoom. Lance is a world class EME expert and DXpeditioner. He will tell us about EME and about some of his past and future DXpeditions. It should be fun.

I hope to see you all on Friday and in the pileups as I slowly get back on the air. I am not running for office so this will be my last President's Column.

73, Jim WØSR



Facebook



EIDX A

Musings from the lunatic fringe

Bob WØGXA

Well another summer has come to a close. It didn't seem to go as fast as usual. I spent very little time on the air. I worked on projects I didn't get done last summer due to spending 90 days cleaning up from the storm.

It's election time again. I hear we have a good slate of candidates, so get out there and vote early and vote often!

Keep those cards and letters coming. The newsletter is only as good as you make it!

Club News and Administrative Items

NEXT MEETING

October 1, 2021

via Zoom

Social Hour 6:30 PM

Meeting & Program 7:30 PM

Program: Lance Collister, W7GJ, of French Town, Montana will talk about EME and some past and future DXpeditions

Card Checkers



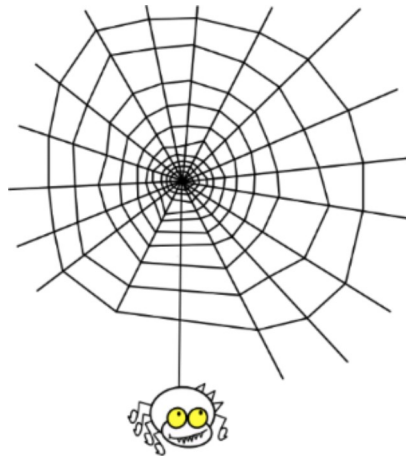
We have three club members who can check your QSL cards

- 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

The Dirty Dozen

"Why are they so difficult?"

Glenn WØGJ

1. P5 DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2. 3Y/B BOUVET ISLAND
3. FT5/W CROZET ISLAND
4. BS7H SCARBOROUGH REEF
5. CE0X SAN FELIX ISLANDS
6. BV9P PRATAS ISLAND
7. KH7K KURE ISLAND
8. KH3 JOHNSTON ISLAND
9. 3Y/P PETER 1 ISLAND
10. FT5/X KERGUELEN ISLAND
11. FT/G GLORIOSO ISLAND
12. VK0M MACQUARIE ISLAND

With all of the news about Bouvet and competing DXpeditions, I thought a summary of the top 10 or 12 entities would be interesting. I asked Glenn to give use a run down on the barriers to activate them. Enjoy - Ed.

What do they have in common? What are the differences?

Many of us remember when amateur radio was outlawed in China & Albania. We thought they would NEVER come on the air. Many at the time were calling for these entities to be deleted. When they did come on the air, the initial pileups were horrendous.

Some entities like Albania, Bhutan, China and the French Indian Ocean entities have all had periods of activity then period of no activity. Having led the A52A DXpedition to Bhutan in 2000 and then living and working in Bhutan half a dozen times after that, the pileups, though always present, died down in intensity. In the late 1960's and early 1970's, Gus Browning operated from Bhutan several times and only three nationals were on the air in those early years. After 1974, there was NO amateur activity in Bhutan until Zorro JH1AJT made a couple short visits in the late 1990's. Still there were no licensed hams in the country. During my first working trip to Bhutan, my family help train the first group of hams the theory AND CW for licensing. Now almost anyone with a tourist visa can apply for and get a license.

I remember that my very last entity I needed for #1 Honor Roll was Andaman Islands. It was the only holdout for me for several years. FINALLY, I worked VU4NRO on December 26th during a very brief, very weak opening. Just a few hours later, the great Andaman tsunami hit and VU4NRO was then in emergency health & welfare mode for the duration of their stay. It took me FIFTY YEARS of DXing to get that contact for #1 Honor Roll.

The competition and intensity of the pileups for those last needed entities can certainly quicken the pulse. That one second of "WØGJ 5NN" is seared into memory so many times. That excitement takes a while to dissipate, just like the bands slowly close on propagation.

As we all know, an operation must present valid credentials to the DXCC desk for approval. Getting credentialed basically involves a combination of getting permission and then getting there.

Four of the dirty dozen have airstrips. After all, what could be nicer than a fly-in DXpedition, avoiding the rigors of a long sickening boat ride?

Every single one requires permission. As a team member, potential team member and being on the board of the Northern California DX

Foundation, I have been involved to a certain extent with every entity currently in the top 11.

The French islands of Kerguelen & Crozet are serviced monthly by the Marion DuFresne, the ship that took me to Heard Island in 1997 (VKØIR). There are often hams stationed at these outposts, but rarely do they get on the air for DXing. More often than not when they do get on, they work only French speaking hams back home. I'm sure now that with satellite internet access making communication more reliable to friends and family back home, many of these entities will become "HF dark."

I was on a team that just about had every last bit of permission granted for Crozet, but the final sign-off authority denied the application because too many individuals were coming from too many places and the chances of bringing in foreign plant or animal material was too great of a risk for the environment.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, I was on a team that was waiting for one final signature to activate Johnston Island, and the denial reason was the fear of what we might BRING BACK HOME! (Johnston is where nuclear and bio/chemical weapons are disposed.)

I was co-leader for the K5D Desecheo and K1N Navassa DXpeditions. OVER 15 years in total was required to obtain permission and to meet the strict environmental regulations. Now that successful eradication of invasive species (like rats, goats & monkeys) has been accomplished, it is even harder to get permission. We can applaud the USFWS for cleaning up these entities. On the opposite end of the spectrum, we could ask, "What are we saving them for anyway?" KH7 Kure, is a real tough nut to crack, because permission is required from THREE entities: USFWS, military and the state of Hawaii conservation department.

In the past, San Felix (a Chilean navy base) and Pratas (a Taiwanese navy base) have issued permission for amateur activity. Recently, "permission" was obtained to activate San Felix. However, the permission was a forged signature, and that applicant is now serving prison time. I'm sure THAT will only hinder future requests for activation. I am on a team waiting to go to Pratas, only waiting for the Taiwanese military to give the "go." The reluctance is even greater now with the aggressiveness of the Chinese in the South China Sea. This also affects the permission and logistics for any Scarborough Reef activation.

Pirates? They are also more present and aggressive than ever. We have lost good hams. There have been executions of hams trying to activate Spratley. There have been plane crashes, like on

Palmyra. There have been severe and life-threatening injuries on many DXpeditions. These remote entities are not without risk of injury or death.

Two entities (Bouvet & Peter 1) are EASY to get permission and to jump through the environmental impact hoops, but GETTING THERE and surviving to return home are the roadblocks almost impossible to overcome. They are so remote that one must contract a vessel at a great cost. But not ANY vessel, a SUITABLE vessel. I was on one of two failed attempts recently to Bouvet. In both cases, the ships were damaged by severe storms and had to turn back, one even AT Bouvet for several days. At Bouvet, there are 300 storms each year and 65% of the time, the wind is gale force or greater. There are no calm days, only very short windows of opportunity to land, either by helicopter or zodiac. Even if the winds are “calm” (a relative term in that part of the world), the swells that persist limit operations. Peter 1 has the additional impediment of absolutely NO chance of a beach landing, as there is nothing but glacial cliffs surrounding the island. Helicopter is the only access. Many of these remote entities are so dangerous that risk of life is very real and ever present.

There have been activations of P5 North Korea over the years. Just like China and Albania, which were thought to be impossible nuts to crack, finally did open up. There is still hope for North Korea, should a regime change take place someday. One recent attempt to activate P5 looked promising, until a “quite large” “licensing fee” was needed. There are strict laws in our country against paying bribes in other countries, so that attempt was cut short.

An up and coming potential top ten entity is Turkmenistan, which suspended activity in 2006. Will it come back? China, Albania, Bhutan and others have come back after an all-too-long time off the air.

Each and every entity in the dirty dozen list has it's own unique hurdle to jump over, some with a series of many and very high hurdles, whether it be permission, remoteness, environmental protection, environmental hazards, military security or political issues.

In my nearly 60 years of DXing, the topmost wanted entities have changed several times. They WILL come around, but will they come around in your DXing lifetime? That is the question for those seeking Honor Roll or #1 Top of the Honor Roll status. I have lists from several friends who have maybe a dozen or so go to get on the Honor Roll. Many of their entities have hams, but rarely active. BEING THERE at the right time/place is all that is needed to knock off a couple here and there. It takes time, patience, and some skill.

Currently, there is a petition circling in the DX community to eliminate the #1 Top of the Honor Roll Award. There are also petitions seeking to delete certain entities that have not been active for so many years for whatever reason. Why? To be “inclusive” so “all” can attain Honor Roll status because it seems impossible to attain these goals in one’s remaining lifetime. How short-sighted!

In my DXing lifetime, I’ve seen the “impossible” come around. When they get into my log, it is very rewarding.....as an understatement!

Why does it deter people if others have plaques to acknowledge their accomplishments? I’m against deletions. And I’m against turning DXCC into a participation award where filling all the boxes is not recognized. It takes work, butt in chair, skill, and most importantly, PATIENCE!

Amateur Radio needs more challenges, not less. We don’t go forward by going backwards.

Hang in there. Be patient. Keep your skills up and your butt down in the chair. Do what you can to financially support and encourage DXpeditions to these “impossible” entities when their time comes around!

Feature Articles

The new Elm tree part II

Bob WØGXA

A continuation of my story from last quarter as I work to replace the 80' elm tree that was my 80/40m vertical support. The antenna is up, tuned against temporary radials, coax is hooked up. I'm awaiting one more mowing and then the permanent radials will go down.



There's one thing I can say for sure: DX Engineering does a nice job with design, and packaging. All the parts are very stout and assembly is straightforward.



This is the tilt mount ready to attach to the mounting pipe. The channel on the left is non-conductive.



Attached to the mounting pipe. The plate on the top is where the winch will mount. Holes are slotted so you can remove the winch when not in use so the web belt doesn't degrade from UV exposure.



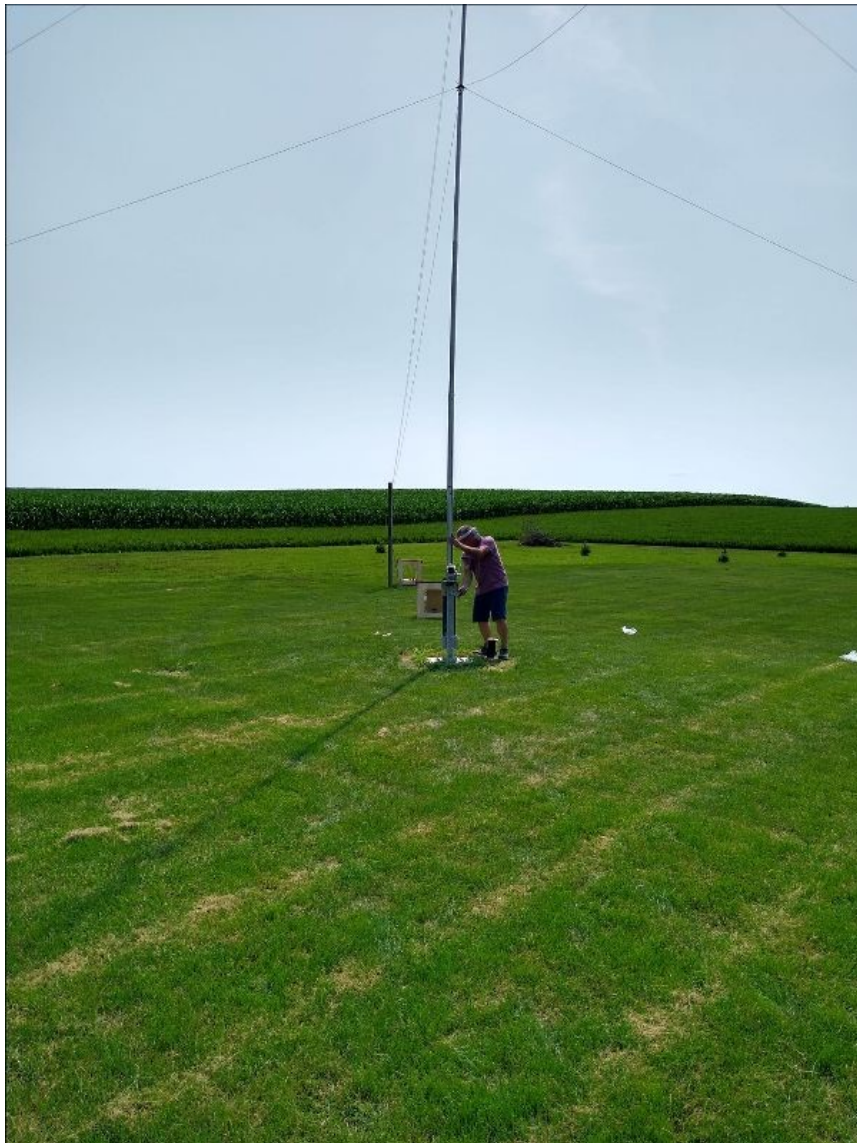
I suppose if I stopped here, it would load on 10m.



Winch in action

Jeff Woods WØODS came over to help get the elements attached to the base and perform final assembly.

I was able to assemble in the garage in two pieces below/above where the trap is located. Trap and capacity hat installation has to occur once installed on-site.



It helps a lot of have someone dress the guy ropes while the antenna is raised. The winch was worth every penny.



Standing tall...

The guy ropes are 3/16" rope. They don't need to be tight. They are to take load for winds above 50 mph, the freestanding rating for the antenna.

Adam Evanschwartz AEØLR came out to do some SWR checks. We laid out some temporary radials, installed the base loading coil and tuned it for CW. It appears to be a well behaved antenna. Permanent radials will be installed in early October.

Next up is lightning protection. I wanted to bond it to the windmill ground system and have about three grounding legs radiating out from the base.



First step was the find the ground system around the windmill



As KCØODK would say, any job worth doing is worth over-doing... so I strung a line and painted where I needed to dig; because everyone likes a straight trench



I bought this shovel when I buried the cables to the windmill. It is a trench shovel designed to clean the bottom of a trench. It also works well at cutting sod especially after sharpening the tip on the grinder



Am I done yet?



Digging is a lot like work but a tile spade is a very handy shovel to have on hand (makes the digging "easier").



Cadweld set up to load



I had trouble lighting these when I did my house, so I created a fuse. After you load the powder and place the cap on top, insert two sparklers upside down in the powder through the hole in the cap. Light the sparklers with a torch and step back. Works every time.



Final shot before clean up

I'll have operational reports for the January newsletter.

Six-Meter DX

Joe K8OM

Who would have ever thought 6 meters would be a major DX band?
Well, it sure was in 2021!

According to my tally, I was fortunate enough to work 64 DXCC entities and all continents on 6 meters this year with a 5 element yagi at 40 feet and 500 watts all on FT8! There were even more DX entities available to those with better equipped stations and those that had more favorable propagation (they had the 6 meter propagation "spotlight" on them). There's chatter that some stations on the east

coast worked over 100 DX entities on 6 meters just this year. It's taken me 20 years to get 110.

With solar cycle 25 coming alive who knows what the next few years will hold for 6 meter DX possibilities. This year may have been the one that goes down in the history books and I'm sure glad I was able belly up to the bar and get my share of the DX!

There were also quite a few EIDX A members in there working the DX on 6 meters. Glenn – WØGJ was heard working Japan and Europe simultaneously and had his own pile up going. He was also heard working other Far East stations, most I could not hear but that's part of the fun of "The Magic Band"... If the spot light is on you, you can work them; if it's not, there is nothing you can do to get the contact. 6 meters and Es is so fickle the very next day we both struggled to work farther than Illinois!

Tom – NYØV was hearing and working China one day and there wasn't a peep here in Marion. Tom said the Chinese stations were pounding in on FT8 at his QTH in Minnesota with signal levels of +10. Yep, the 6 meter spotlight was definitely on Tom!

Thanks to the Es propagation gods and the advent of FT8, two of my bucket list items got checked off..... 6 meter DXCC and 10 band DXCC. Maybe I should find two more to add back in.

Some of the better 6 meter DX worked from my simple QTH included: China, Israel (x3), Kuwait (x2), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Guernsey and 33 JA stations. Bahrain and Lebanon were heard but not worked... maybe next year!

Huntsville Hamfest

Terry Cellman
WØAWL



The Huntsville hamfest is not the Dayton Hamvention. But after missing out on two Hamventions, I was ready to see what other large hamfests had to offer. I received my wife's encouragement to fly to Huntsville and attend the "World's Friendliest Hamfest."

The dealer area had a smaller than expected dealer turnout due to the increase of the Delta variant of the Covid virus. However, it did not

seem to affect the flea market. The flea market filled up most of the Von Braun Convention Center floor. I did not expect the flea market to be as large as it was.



The first day was very well-attended, and the tables were filled with what you would expect at a large hamfest. I did think that many of the radios and amps were overvalued by their owners.

I had not attended a DX dinner for several years, so I decided to attend the Northern Alabama Club's dinner Saturday night. The meal was the usual rubber chicken etc. The best part of the banquet was my table. I sat with 7 other people that were fun to be around. Two in particular were EIDX member Scott WRØU, and Gene K5GS. Gene has been on several DXpeditions, Mellish Reef, Chesterfield Island, and Cambell Island just to name a few.

The speaker was Adrian Cluperca. A young dx'er that has been on many dxpeditons. He described his 2019 trip to A5 with Zorro JH1AJT. As I listened to his presentation, I discovered that he is also scheduled to travel to 3Y0J Bouvet.

See their website. www.dxnews.com/3y0j/



I think the highlight of my Huntsville trip was the time spent at the airport. I had a 3 hour lay-over for my flight home. I wandered down to the pub to see if I could pass the time watching some game on tv. However, I ran into Adrian and 2 other hams sitting at a table and I was invited to join them. We spent most of the time listening to Adrian talk about his many past travels. He lives in NY City and discussed his efforts to return 4U1UN to active status. The club has a lot of obstacles to over come. All three of us were also interested in hearing more details about his upcoming DXpedition to 3YØJ, Bouvet.

Time was flying by so rapidly that I almost missed my plane, I was the last one to board before the door closed! I wanted to get a better picture of Adrian, but as I started to take his picture he took my phone and said he had a better idea.



Jurassic Journal

- A look back in time -

Tom Vavra WB8ZRL

Twenty years ago, the winter of 1997

Ten years ago, the winter of 2007

Member News



Jason NRØX helping out Jim WØSR

Logbook

CQ Test

QRM

PJ2T Opportunity

Contesters,

Almost the entire CQWW CW team for PJ2T has cancelled because of COVID or other medical concerns. (Our SSB team is in good shape.) There are seats available. We have an unprecedented last-minute PJ2T emergency because of these cancellations, so we're taking this unusual step of shotgunning mail to lots of contest clubs.

Can you help us?

COVID - Key Facts

- * CDC has advised against travel to Curacao
- * COVID on Curacao is stable and manageable. Masks are worn in stores, large gatherings are cancelled. All other parts of life continue as normal.
- * The testing requirements are easy to navigate: 48 hour PCR negative at the time your flight leaves for Curacao
- * Third day on the island rapid antigen test, 20 minutes and 20 dollars, easy to get and professionally done.
- * Reentering U.S. requires rapid antigen test taken no later than 48 hours before departing for the States, 20 minutes, 20 dollars
- * A positive result will require staying a few extra days at PJ2T, with a free bedroom and lots of available radios.
- * All above is fluid.

PJ2T - Key Facts

- * We have rented a beautiful house oceanfront with a pool (photo) five minutes walk from the PJ2T shack. It's XYL friendly.
- * Plan is for a M/M but we can cut back if the team is too small.
- * K3s, AL-1200s, and N1MM+ operating environment. Air conditioned shack.

* Meals all cooked and served on site -- we take turns cooking.

* Shared costs for all lodging, food, beer, station expenses normally around \$900 per person. Zero profit is made -- we simply cover our expenditures.

* American Airlines flies twice daily to Curacao from Miami.

Dorothy and I will be on site from mid-October to mid-December. We were on the island for 60 days in February and March, and we found the COVID test requirements to be easy to navigate and completely rational. We are, of course, fully vaccinated, and will require that all ops coming to the station be vaccinated for your and everyone else's protection.

Make your own personal risk assessment, and if you think you'd like to give this a shot, drop a line and we'll get together on the phone.

Thanks, 73,

- Geoff, WØCG, PJ2DX, Suffield, Ohio

As someone who has been there, it's an experience you should try at least once in your life - Ed.



PJ2T "Sleeping Quarters"

Personalized Ham stuff

If you need something to spend your money on, check this out [here](#) on Etsy



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