



Eastern Iowa DX Association

An ARRL affiliated club - Established 1975

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Club Officers:

President:

Glen Kesselring, KØJGH

Vice President:

Todd Le Mense, KKØDX

Secretary:

From the President's Pen

March in Iowa is always a weather mix. From 55 degrees earlier in this past week to a blizzard and 50 MPH winds today. Last month at this time I was operating a laptop via the Ottumwa club's FLEX from Aruba. Much nicer weather than this stuff. This was the third year my new YL shared her time share with us.

As I'm writing this, the team of VK9XU and VK9CU have gone QRT from Christmas and now are signing /CU. I needed Christmas on 30, 80 and 160 meters but was disappointed that with pretty good copy on both 30 and 80 was not able to put them in the log. Both gray line opens were good but they went QRT when it was peaking for me. GRRRR.

It is really great to see all the activity on Google Groups. It has been very useful for posting

Subscribe	Past Issues	Bill Caldwell, NØLNO	active stations as well as announcements of club business.	Translate ▼	RSS 📡
		<u>Treasurer:</u> Mike Nowack NA9Q <u>Repeater Committee:</u> Jason Joens NRØX <u>Membership Committee:</u> Jim Spencer WØSR Nelson Moyer KUØA Repeater: NØDX/R 144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8) www.EIDX A.org <u>Web Master:</u> Craig Fastenow KØCF <u>Newsletter Editor:</u> Bob Lee WØGXA rclee2266@gmail.com	We were able to keep Jerry WWØE hip accident updated. His message that he posted after his release from the hospital showed he really appreciated the good wishes. Back on January 27 a team headed by Martii OH2BH and 5 other operators claimed they had operating permission for Mt Athos signing SV1GA/A. They logged over 10 K contacts. I certainly didn't see any announcement of this activity before they appeared on the air. (Since I was sunning in P40 that week I guess it wouldn't have work out anyway) Now I'm certainly not one to throw water on a good thing but here is information that seems a little blurry.		

[NEWS UPDATE] by OH2BH –

While waiting for an answer from the local authorities that issued our permit, the SV1GA/A team decided to leave Mt. Athos.

Team members Adrian, KO8SCA and Gabi, YO8WW left yesterday and Aris SV1GA, Niko OH2GEK and Marti, OH2BH are on their way home today.

We are hoping to provide further details soon.

Futher explanation:

In January 2025, SV1GA/A was granted a 10-day permit to operate amateur radio on Mount Athos.

- The SV1GA/A DXpedition donated all proceeds to the monasteries on Mount Athos.
- The Holy Community of Mount Athos is responsible for amateur radio on the mountain.
- Permission for amateur radio activities requires approval from the monks who live on Mount Athos.
- Amateur radio activities must comply with Greek regulations.

It has always been my understanding that non Monk transmissions were NOT approved by the Monks authority. I think WFWL.

We need to thank all those that have helped with re writing of the club by-laws. Mike NA9Q and I have worked on a budget.

Stay warm and hope to see you all April 25th. Glenn WØGJ will be presenting the CY9C St. Paul Island dxpedition. Glenn is always an enjoyable speaker.

See you in the pileups..... Glen KØJGH pres.

Musings from the lunatic fringe

Bob WØGXA

First off, congratulations to our very own WØIY in winning the Section Manager election. I'm sure we'll be hearing more from him.

I know one of Barry's priorities is growing the Amateur Radio ranks through the clubs. I had the opportunity to help move a couple of newly minted hams along. The first, a tech at Collins took ownership of an unused Kenwood dual band rig to augment his Baofeng HT. The extra range should add some more interest in the hobby.

The second is my insurance agent. So far it's been a lot of encouragement and pointing out some things he can do to enjoy the hobby in an antenna restricted environment.

I plan to keep nudging them along.

With the weather turning nice, I hope you all have a chance to get outside and either fix the winter-induced antenna problems, or string more. After all, you can never have too many antennas.



One final item: Craig has been doing a fantastic job publishing the bulletin containing useful and timely information on DX, solar conditions and contests. Given this newsletter is published quarterly I will do some redesign to eliminate superfluous sections. For example, when I get a DX related article, I'll combine it in the Feature Articles section. I plan to combine the Logbook and CQ Test sections under Logbook where you can send me either DX logs and commentary or contest scores and soapbox comments. Hint: This is your section to brag :-)

I'll have other look and feel changes in future issues.

Club News and Administrative Items

NEXT MEETING

April 25, 2025

Social Hour 6:30 PM

Meeting & Program 7:30 PM

Meeting and location information [here](#)

Program: Glenn WØGJ will be presenting the CY9C St. Paul Island dxpediton



Card Checkers

We have club members who can check your QSL cards

- Glenn, WØGJ
- Mike, NA9Q

Feature Articles

Extra Long Path DX on 6-Meters

by Rod Blocksme, KØDAS

Back in the day, when amateur radio was in its infancy, the term “DX” was the CW abbreviation for distance. In the 1920’s hams were discovering ionospheric propagation of their shortwave signals and the distance of each contact was a measure of one’s station. It was a noteworthy achievement for a Midwest ham to work a station in Australia! Today, it’s no big deal to work Australia on our HF bands, but working Norfolk Island (VK9) attracts DX hams. It’s the modern DX - even though it’s closer than Australia..


Back in the day, it was a technical challenge to get on 10-meters and most hams considered 6-meters worthless for anything except local contacts. Then, after WWII, it was the band of choice for earning the coveted WATV (Worked All Televisions) award. Today nearly all HF transceivers include the 6-meter band and the new digital modes make access to “weak signal DX” readily accessible.

I first became interested in the so-called “weak signal” modes (CW & SSB but not FM) on the bands above 50 MHz back in the mid-1970s. By then many had already achieved WAS on 6-meters but no one had earned a WAS on 2-meters or higher. It was 1973 when I first met Dick Hart, KØMQS, of Delta, Iowa who was leading the pack in number of states confirmed on 2-meters. He was one of the few using “Moonbounce” to work the last few states that were inaccessible by any other method. He ran full power to a huge rhombic antenna pointed to where the Moon frequently set. A few years later, Dick became the first amateur to work all 50 states on 2-meters.

Visiting Dick’s station got me interested in 2-meter Moonbounce. I built a manually steerable 80-element co-linear array and got to 48 states before family and work travels stalled this effort.

During this time there were only 3 or 4 of hams attempting Moonbounce on 6-meters. The required antenna arrays were extremely large and expensive. So I skipped this band for EME until the “game changer”, called WSJT, came along.

EME on 6-meters using WSJT still required “full smoke” (1500 watts) but could be achieved with a single long yagi such as the M2 6M9KHV 48-foot 9-element yagi. Lance Collister, W7GJ, has been the go-to fellow for 6-meter EME (check out his extensive web site for a wealth of information). When Lance started doing his “one-man 6-meter EME DX-peditions to rare islands, I got inspired to get on and work him.

Subscribe	Past Issues	The "bug" infected several others in the Cedar Rapids area, so a team effort was initiated and we successfully achieved contact with Lance using 6-meter EME starting in 2018.	Translate ▼	RSS 
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Today our station is an IC-9100 driving my homebrew 8877 PA to 1500 Watts via 7/8-in Heliac to the 6M9KHW Yagi on a manual elevation mount at 25-feet high. We are still a "little pistol" but we can work Lance who also uses similar power to a single long yagi on these remote islands.

Last September, I fired up the station to work Lance, ZD9GJ, on Tristan da Cunha. My notebook entries of how this contact progressed follows:

Sept. 19, 2024 (UTC)

0150 UTC – Started listening for ZD9GJ; Moon at 97o AZ & 13o EL; Antenna pointed on horizon; Frequency is 50.223 MHz; CFOM=on (CFOM is Constant Frequency On Moon – takes care of the Doppler Shift for the two stations, thus eliminating a source of operator error); PA checked: 1500 W Forward & 20 W Reflected – all good.

0220 UTC – Moon at 103o AZ & 19o EL and for Lance: Moon at 345o & 46.6o so perhaps it's still too high for him? I elevated my yagi to 20o & ambient noise now below S0. Checked and I'm still external noise limited by 6.7 dB – all good. Still no copy on Lance.

0309 UTC – Moon at 111o AZ & 24.5o EL; re-aimed yagi & checked accuracy by using the Moonlight shadow of the antenna.

0331 UTC – Echo Testing on 50.200 MHz and getting -33, -29, -31, -30, -30, -31, -30, -29, -29 dB SNR on my echoes off the Moon; should be adequate. Oops discovered my computer clock did not sync with the internet and is 9 seconds slow !!!! Shack had lost internet connection.

0352 UTC – Set antenna to 121o AZ & 235o EL

0408 UTC – Echo Testing -42 to -29 dB range

0428 UTC – Seeing signals off the moon but no decodes; probably due to clock error. Going QRT.

Sept. 21, 2024

0315 UTC – Moon at 83o AZ & 19o EL; My echoes are -33 to -29 dB; Started calling Lance.

0405 UTC – Moon at 91o AZ & 28o EL; My echoes are -32 to -23 dB; logged into ON4KST with my phone.

0414 UTC – Jouko, OH7KM reports hearing me at -22 dB!

0422 UTC – Gunar, YL2GD reported I was one of the few stations he

0427 UTC – W5WP (4x7-elements) reports my signal at -23 dB; K5XI, Sid, reports copying me nearly every sequence.

0433 UTC – Moon at 96o AZ & 33.2o EL; I'm pointed directly at the Moon

0449 UTC – My echoes are -33 to -27 dB

0450 UTC – Back to calling Lance on 50.223 MHz

0458 UTC – Got "R IF32" q3 from Lance; his signal = -27dB & mine = -23 dB

In conclusion, this 6-meter contact took a bit over 4 hours operating time but the DX was roughly 478,000 miles! But it was a DX contact by both definitions!

ZD9GJ confirms 50 MHz QSO with **KQDAS**
at 0459 UTC on 21 SEPTEMBER, 2024

MODE: ☒ Q65 ☐ FT8 ☐ USB

PROPAGATION: ☒ EME ☐ TEP ☐ IONOSPHERE

REPORT: ☒ -23 dB ☐

MINI TNX & VY 73, Lance MINI TNX AND VY 73, **LANCE**

6M DXPEDITION AND FIRST EVER EME FROM TRISTAN DA CUNHA

ZD9 was chosen as the site for this DXpedition because it was still needed by many in AS and nobody from NA had ever contacted ZD9 on 6m! The antenna was set up on the west side of the settlement. Many thanks to all the stations whose generous contributions made this 6m EME DXpedition to such a rare location possible! Complete information is on my website:
<http://www.hipolygases.com>

ELAD ZD9GJ ZD9GJ ZD9GJ ZD9GJ The D Shop



By now you may be wondering "what is the attraction to lead one down this path"? Besides the technical challenges to be overcome, you have to admire what Lance goes through just to put these rare exotic islands on the air for the rest of us. So what we do here in Iowa is but a fraction of what Lance accomplishes on his annual 6-meter EME DX-peditions. And finally consider this, who, besides NASA, can actually use the Moon for our own purpose?

Member News

I got this note from Jerry. Sounds like he's on the mend... Ed.

Hi Bob, You might want to mention "No radio info to report, I broke my hip 4 weeks ago, and I'm getting physical therapy for the next few weeks. I haven't been downstairs in my shack for 4 weeks. Thanks to those that sent emails and texts, very much appreciated." Jerry WWØE

WØGXA Shack



As I anticipate a "more retired" future, I did some redesign in my office/shack.

Gone is the standup desk, replaced it with my swivel rocker which is useful for watching boring meetings and reading.

I had to replace the desk top with one slightly larger (4" in each direction) to neatly accommodate the radio equipment. The two cubbyholes I created for the keyer and rotor control cleaned up the layout nicely. - Bob

Logbook

A snapshot of KØJGH's log

Subscribe	Past Issues	LT 44-45	DT Feb 25	AU2V	India	14032.00	FT8	20m	Translate ▼	RSS
		00:53:39	10 Feb 25	AU2V	India	14030.00	CW	20m		
		04:08:00	13 Feb 25	W4CHA	USA	5359.81	FT8	60m		
		05:36:15	13 Feb 25	Z35T	Republic of North Macedonia	5359.81	FT8	60m		
		05:44:15	13 Feb 25	K0WWX	USA	5359.81	FT8	60m		
		05:46:45	13 Feb 25	OK1DO	Czech Republic	5359.40	FT8	60m		
		15:58:58	13 Feb 25	VP5/KOPC	Turks & Caicos Islands	24907.00	CW	12m		
		16:31:59	13 Feb 25	VP2ETE	Anguilla	21286.00	SSB	15m		
		22:07:15	13 Feb 25	V73WW	Marshall Islands	24892.00	CW	12m		
		21:09:46	17 Feb 25	5N9DTG	Nigeria	28092.81	FT8	10m		
		22:22:39	17 Feb 25	V73WW	Marshall Islands	28091.00	FT8	10m		
		22:36:47	17 Feb 25	FP/F4HEC	St. Pierre & Miquelon Islands	18135.00	SSB	17m		
		04:41:15	19 Feb 25	K1OKS	USA	3574.61	FT8	80m		
		04:45:15	19 Feb 25	EA1CQ	Spain	3574.61	FT8	80m		
		04:49:31	19 Feb 25	K4QAL	USA	3574.61	FT8	80m		
		04:49:45	19 Feb 25	W9GNW	USA	3574.61	FT8	80m		
		19:28:05	19 Feb 25	FP/F4HEC	St. Pierre & Miquelon Islands	28450.00	SSB	10m		
		22:52:48	19 Feb 25	V73WW	Marshall Islands	24892.00	CW	12m		
		22:59:12	19 Feb 25	V73WW	Marshall Islands	28005.00	CW	10m		
		19:42:24	20 Feb 25	T11RRC/P	Costa Rica	21041.10	CW	15m		
		20:16:10	20 Feb 25	VK9XU	Christmas Island	14033.00	CW	20m		
		20:33:12	20 Feb 25	FP/F4HEC	St. Pierre & Miquelon Islands	24892.00	CW	12m		
		00:08:06	21 Feb 25	5N9DTG	Nigeria	3575.50	FT8	80m		
		00:55:34	21 Feb 25	T11RRC	Costa Rica	5357.70	FT8	60m		
		03:43:13	21 Feb 25	5N9DTG	Nigeria	3573.00	FT8	80m		
		05:00:44	21 Feb 25	5N9DTG	Nigeria	10136.50	FT8	30m		
		17:03:36	21 Feb 25	V73WW	Marshall Islands	14250.00	SSB	20m		
		12:55:56	22 Feb 25	JA1PTJ	Japan	10136.00	FT8	30m		
		13:58:15	22 Feb 25	BV2KI	Taiwan	10137.75	FT8	30m		
		16:55:30	22 Feb 25	K1KD	USA	10137.75	FT8	30m		
		23:58:15	22 Feb 25	5N9DTG	Nigeria	10137.75	FT8	30m		
		00:03:45	23 Feb 25	FJ/DK6AS	Saint Barthelemy	5358.75	FT8	60m		
		18:36:08	24 Feb 25	FS/DF8AN	Saint Martin	18068.50	CW	17m		
		21:04:31	24 Feb 25	JG8NQJ/JD1	Minami Torishima (Marcus)	24904.90	CW	12m		
		18:20:45	26 Feb 25	FS/DF8AN	Saint Martin	24919.00	FT8	12m		
		00:53:31	06 Mar 25	VK9CU	Cocos-Keeling Islands	10133.00	FT8	30m		
		15:57:54	06 Mar 25	VK9CU	Cocos-Keeling Islands	24900.00	CW	12m		
		03:22:17	07 Mar 25	VK9CU	Cocos-Keeling Islands	21033.00	CW	15m		
		23:21:24	09 Mar 25	D68Z	Comoros Islands	5357.00	FT8	60m		
		04:42:03	10 Mar 25	HCBF	Ecuador	10140.00	RTTY	30m		
		23:53:07	10 Mar 25	HK0A	San Andres & Providencia	14267.00	SSB	20m		
		04:43:02	12 Mar 25	SV1ACI	Greece	3792.00	SSB	80m		
		04:43:31	12 Mar 25	SV2EWU	Greece	3792.00	SSB	80m		

From the log:

160M: 4U1UN

80M: 5N9DTG, 5W1SA, OX3AH, V73WW, VR2KW, KHØ/KCØW, V4/KØYA Tom!

Various HF Bands: S9Z, VP8G, VK9CV, 3D2Y (R), FW7AA, S21DX, XV9T, FR8TZ, KH7AL/KH9, JG8NQJ/JD1 (/M), TX7N (M), Z81Z, A2NEW, SV1GA/A 8-(, ET3AA, J52EC, AU2V (AS161), 7Q8AC, V73WW, TZ1CE, VK9XU, 8Q7FL, VK9CU, JT1CO, VU4AX, S79VU, C5YX, D68Z

6M: CE8EIO in FD46, EI3BMB, HD8FG, HK3X, KG6DX, TF3JB, ZL7DX, VK9DX

Six meters has been a disappointment during Cycle 25. We have not seen very much F2 to EU and AS thus far. Let's hope the upcoming Solstice time frame will be better!

73, CU in the Pileups! Tom, NYØV

QRM

The theme for 2025 Field Day is "Radio Connects" — highlighting the many ways that wireless technology connects people across distances near and far.



www.arrl.org

The Collins and Cedar Valley clubs will again combine their resources to put on a Field Day event this year.

As in years past it will be on Collins property outside of building 120 (NE corner of Collins Road and C Ave NE). Dates are June 28-29, 2025.



TO **N0MA** BAND 80m RX: 80m
 MODE RTTY
 FREQ 3.582 Mhz
 WHEN 05 Jan 2025 05:02 UTC
 RSTS/R 599 / 599
 FR **N8CWU**
 Thanks for our Contact hope to work you again - EM89jw

Creative for sure... Thanks Rod, KØDAS



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