



EASTERN IOWA DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1984

WOMJN/RPTR 144.59/145.19

EIDXA Officers:

=====

President: Joe Finkstein WOMJN
Secretary: Gary Letchford KOLUZ
Vice Pres(editor): Tom Lindgren WOMP

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

=====

The Spring meeting of the Eastern Iowa DX Association will be held May 4th (7:30 PM) at the REC in Marion.

Another good program is planned for the gathering. The Pribilof Island slides along with an audio tape presentation have been promised by the Alaska DX Association. In addition to that a demonstration of Joe's and Bob's Mail-Box system will be set-up.

The business agenda includes discussion of the Summer dinner meeting along with the usual club functions. It promises to be a very good meeting we hope you can attend!

A Golden Day--

WOIZ, Dale, is having a momentous occasion May 25th. He will have been licensed "50 years!" Dale, at the age of 15 years, using a TNT 45 transmitting 10 watts on 80 meters, had his first ever radio QSO with his callsign WBMCQ. He was operating from his home QTH in Toledo, Ohio.

I think we ought to have a pizza and beer night sometime near that date!

On behalf of the EIDXA a great big "congradulations!"



"de WBMCQ calling!"

TXN to the following people for inputs to the Newsletter: WOVI, WOMJN, WOIZ, WOEJ, KOLUZ, K06VB, and NOEAN a very special tnx (THE PRINTING)!

The President's Corner.....

When I last sat in front of the computer to write this portion of the EIDX Newsletter, the ground was white with snow, the temperatures were bone chilling, and Santa had come and gone. But today....spring is here, the grass is green, the birds are singing, and it's almost time to again start working on the antennas.

The 83-84 winter contest season is nearly over, and it seems that our club activity was good. Some of our big guns had some really big scores, and everyone who worked the DX contests seemed to have fun; even those of us who didn't have a lot of time to spend at it.

Mark your calendar now! The next two EIDX meetings scheduled, and I am sure you won't want to miss either of them. The first of these two meetings will be held on Friday, May 4th at 7:30 PM at the R.E.C. building in Marion. The program for this meeting will be a slide show (with sound) on the recent Pribilof Islands DXpedition. This presentation is being provided to us by Mike Baker (NL7G) who is President of the Alaska DX Association and who is leading the charge for DXCC country status for the Pribilofs. Following the slide show, our own DXAC chairman, Jim Spencer (WOSR), will discuss some of the issues regarding country status criteria and the Pribilofs. Also at this meeting Bob Hill (W4NIM) and I will demonstrate the new computerized RTTY radio bulletin board system that has been up on two meters lately.

The second meeting we have planned is a dinner meeting for members and their XYLs or YLs (but not both). This meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 16th at the Longbranch in Marion. As of this newsletter, the program is still in the planning stages, but the Longbranch has been reserved for our meeting. See the WOVX article in this newsletter for more details.

Hey!!! How about our repeater? We managed to make it through the entire winter with out a single failure. It looks like the new antenna held up pretty well, and seems like the signal to the outlying areas did also.

Bob and I are continuing to work on the computerized RTTY radio bulletin board system, and on March 15th the system was put on the air for the first time. The system is still being tested is currently on line only on a part time basis. Hopefully by the next club meeting, it will be on line for full time operation. The frequency is 147.45 Mhz and it is up most evenings.

While on the subject of RTTY, WOIZ and WOWP have gotten the bug and are chasing RTTY DX on the HF bands. Looks like another race for DXCC. Go get 'em guys.

I hope all of you can make it to the next two meetings. I think we have some good ones planned. For those of you going to Dayton, have a great time!

Winter 1984 Meeting Minutes---

Minutes of the EIDX meeting of January 20, 1984. The meeting was called to order by President WOMJN at 7:35 at the REC Building in Marion, Iowa.

Members in attendance were: WOMJN, KOLUZ, WQWP, NOAFL, WDOAWL, KOCF, KZOC, WOVX, WOSR, WOIZ, WOEAN, KCOXK, KDOHY, KBOV, AGOZ, KOGT, KKOR, NBOH, WOEJ, KOGVB, KOVZR, KOJSY, KUOA, KBOPR, KJOD, KDOB, KCOB, WDOEIF, AKOP, KAOD, WOFD, W4N1H, and KOVM.

Visitors in attendance were: WOHUP (former member), NOSM, KOJGH, NOII, and WBOZKG.

Balance of the EIDX treasury is \$236.63.

Tom, WQWP, was congratulated for preparing an excellent newsletter for the EIDX.

A report of the QSL committee by Craig, KOCF, was made. New order blanks for QSLs were going to be sent to all members by mail within the next several weeks.

A discussion about having the next meeting in the Waterloo area indicated that a large number of members who would attend the next meeting in the local Cedar Rapids area would not attend if held in Waterloo. A dinner meeting in the Amana's was discussed as a possibility for the next meeting. Dave, WOVX, moved a committee be organized for a dinner meeting in June. Dale, WOIZ, seconded the motion and the motion carried. A committee of WOVX, WOEAN, and KOGT was formed to organize the dinner meeting. The location and date and time will be announced in the next EIDX newsletter.

Joe requested that all EIDX members consider ideas for a club goal for the year. Members are requested to give the officers some of their ideas in the coming weeks.

A bulletin board system is going to be set up on the EIDX repeater using computers. Joe described the system for members and how to use it.

Jim, WOSR, chairman of the ARRL DXAC committee, gave a report of the thoughts and directions of the committee to the members.

Wade, WOEJ, is updating the EIDX want list in the next few weeks.

Jim, KZOC, is going to research the Volunteer Examiner

Program being started by the ARRL. Perhaps our club can sponsor a testing program for the eastern Iowa area.

Bob, WOEAN, is possibly going to China, BY, in the near future.

Two excellent programs were given to the members after the business meeting. NOII gave a program on Robotics and KJOD gave a program with slides about his DX-pedition to VP2E.

Dave NOAFL moved the meeting adjourn and Jim, KZOC seconded. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:42.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary "Red" Letchford, KOLUZ, Secretary EIDX

For Sale--

Kenwood 8205 with Remote VFO, spare tubes, microphone--\$600 or best offer.

Call Eric, KJOD, work: 398-7000 (ask for Eric Santon) or home: 396-0073 (after 9 p.m.)

A complete S-Line for sale "Cheap". 32s-3 tx, 75s3B rcvr, and 516F-2 pwr supply. all for \$700. Contact Greg, W800ET 377-0366.

EIDX Net....

Every Monday night at 9:00 PM the EIDX net is called to order by WOMJN on the club repeater. The net is to exchange contest and DX information or any other club function announcements. It often brings up to date band rumors or unannounced rare station activity to the stalking DXer. Usually the W6TI bulletin is read along with the QRZ, The DX Bulletin, and the LI Bulletin. The mic is passed around so that everyone has a chance to contribute. The net runs about 20 minutes on the average. Tune in Monday evenings!

EIDX DINNER MEETING

de WOVX

The Dinner Committee (All farmers read Supper Committee!), consisting of WQEAN, KQGT, and myself, has looked into several alternatives for our 1984 first annual dinner meeting. The selection criteria included good food, private room, cash bar, and close proximity to the Cedar Rapids area. After quite a bit of discussion, we settled on the Longbranch Supper Club. As of the first of April they only had 2 dates still available in June and one of them was Field Day. We are signed up for the other and here are the details, subject to club approval:

PLACE: LONGBRANCH SUPPER CLUB
90 Twixt Town Rd. NE (North of Lindale Mall)
Cedar Rapids

DATE: Saturday, June 16, 1984

TIME: 6:00 Cocktails (CASH BAR)
7:00 Dinner

FOOD: Salad Bar, Potato, and Main Entree

COST: \$10.00 or \$12.25 per person which includes tax & tip (SEE BELOW)

PROGRAM: TBD

There are two price ranges on the meal and we will have to select one at the May meeting. For \$10.00 each person will be able to select either a small Filet or Red Snapper as the entree. If we choose the \$12.25 meal, each person may select either Prime Rib or Shrimp as the entree. Actual selection of fish or beef can be made the night of the dinner but we must decide on the price at the May meeting.

All of these plans can be cancelled, without cost to the club, if we decide not to have the dinner meeting. It is necessary to reserve a place 2 to 3 months in advance in order to get the night you want, particularly a Friday or Saturday night.

The program is still open but the officers are looking for something that will interest the XYLs as well as the hard core DXer. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Assuming we approve the meeting more or less as described, you will be getting a reservation mailer with firm details by the end of May. All reservations and money will be due by Monday June 11 as we must let the restaurant know a firm head count by then.

THE NEW EIDX DX WANTLIST

Well, at long last the EIDX Wantlist has been updated and distributed. The list had to be transferred to the IBM PC by hand which took a longer period of time than expected. While making the transfer, a few format changes were made which make it easier to keep the list updated and should make it easier for everyone to use.

First, in an effort to keep the page count to a minimum, the call suffix list for each DX prefix have been printed in a smaller pitch.

Second, spouses names have been removed from the telephone number listings.

Third, the suffix listings after each DX prefix have been alphabetized.

An important procedural change was made to encourage Wantlist users to remain active. If a user fails to make an update to the Wantlist, an asterisk (*) will be placed next to his call in the telephone listing of the Wantlist. If that person provides an update to the Wantlist the next time one is due, the asterisk will be removed. Otherwise, that user will be dropped from the Wantlist. (Note: Some users of the Wantlist may tend to view an asterisk as a sign of individual inactivity and choose not to alert a 'tagged' user of a country he might need even though he is still on the Wantlist. Hence, **BE SURE TO MAINTAIN YOUR UPDATES!!**)

I plan to update the list quarterly with regular publish dates on January 1, April 1 (no Fooling), July 1, and October 1 of each year. Users may make updates at any time in writing or pass them to me on 5.19. Update reminder notices may or may not be given prior to a publish date.

Any EIDX members wishing to be listed in the Wantlist can provide me with their list of wants (either mixed, SSB, or CW) and they will be included in the next update.

As a status report, in this latest printing of the Wantlist, three users were dropped, either by request or due to leaving the area, one was added, and five were tagged for not providing an update.

73 and DX,

Wade W0EJ

Hows DX....

This Winter's DX was definitely highlighted with the fine operations of VU7WCY, YVOAA, ZL8 Kermadec, and the fine tour of South Pacific Islands by DL1VU. We owe our thanks to these fine operations.

Whats coming up this Spring?

BV Taiwan--

A group of Europeans expected to be on the end of April then shortly after they QRT another group from Japan expected to show up.

ET Ethiopia--

ET3P6 active on 14 MHZ SSB QSL via Box 6128, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

1S1 Spratly Island--

DU1CK will be returning April 30 to May 7. Also 1S1JZ to be active by three operators May 1.

3Y Peter I Island--

Rumors abound regarding a winter 1985 operation. ARRL has okayed this one for DXCC.

4U1VIC Vienna--

If you here this one work it. It is possible the ARRL will approve this one for DXCC status. It is a building in Austria.

USSR Callsigns--

The USSR will have its new callsign structure in force starting May 1, 1984. It has been confusing enough to get the countries straight, expect the same with the new assignments.

The following is from the "KIKI USSR TIDBITS #20"

In summary:

1. Some existing individual callsigns will change.
2. All existing collective (club) callsigns will

change.

3. EY and EZ calls (novice-160 meters) will be changed.

4. No pre-1971 calls (two letter suffix) will be changed.

5. New two letter calls will be issued to Category I (200 watt) licenses, if applied for (optional).

6. Callsigns must be changed if moving to a new oblast.

7. New rules become effective on May 1, 1984.

Callsign structure:

First letter-always R or U

Second letter-always indicates which republic

A-N-V-W-Z	R.S.F.S.R. (UA1-2-3-4-6-9-0 now)
B-T-Y	Ukraine (UB5)
C	Byelorussia (UC2)
D	Azerbaijan (UD6)
F	Georgia (UF6)
G	Armenia (UG6)
H	Turkoman (UH8)
I	Uzbek (UI8)
J	Tadzhik (UJ8)
L	Kazakh (UL7)
M	Kirghiz (UM8)
O	Moldavia (UO5)
P	Lithuania (UP2)
Q	Latvia (UQ2)
R	Estonia (UR2)
E-K-S-U-X	(not used)

Numbers-remains the same for R.S.F.S.R., for the other republics, it means nothing.

Third letter-for the R.S.F.S.R. indicates the oblast, in combination with the number. For the other republics, in combination with the second letter, indicates the oblast.

Fourth letter-anything, except W-X-Y-Z for club callsigns only in the republics (not R.S.F.S.R.).

Fifth letter-anything, maybe absent.

Minor details-in the R.S.F.S.R., club callsigns will have a Z as the second letter. Four oblasts will have distinct callsigns (new) for the city and for the non-city portions (UL-6, UB-U, UB-J and UI-A). No word on whether they will count as new oblasts. Navoy oblast will become UI-Q (was UIBLN-) and Talas will become UM-T (was UMBPN-).

KIKI 2/28/84

EIDXA Tidbits...

As I am sitting here contemplating what to put down in this quarter's "Tidbits", I can't help but think it would be easier to write this section with inputs via post card or letter from our out lying members. It isn't that I ignore those people outside the Waterloo, Cedar Rapids and Iowa City area but that I haven't the foggiest idea what these members are up to. Drop me a line a couple of weeks before the next Newsletter. We really want to know what you been up to.....

The two meter box has slowed down quite noticeably with the dropping off of the low band dxing, notably the 80 meter watch-dogs. The winter was not with reward though, several of our club members completed there five-band DXCC. Two members that I know, WOIZ and KCOB have wall paper in hand or should I say plaque on wall with several awaiting cards to send in; WOVX, WOEJ, and KOLUZ. KOVZR, KZOC, and KKOR are just about there also.....

K05VB/C6A was very active for a couple of weeks in February. Gary and his XYL Patty spent there winter vacation in lovely Bahamas. Gary said he will bring some of the trip photographs with him to the Spring club meeting. The editor heard him working pile-ups on fifteen meters running JAs at a very fast clip. Nice job Gary!

Red, KOLUZ, had health problems this winter. Word has it that the RF should be radiating as usual with Red recovering from his surgery. By the way Red is still waiting for QSL card confirmations to complete his five band DXCC. He has about 150 countries worked on 80 meters and about 20 confirmed. Red says "I just don't find time to send out QSLs!" Get well Red we miss you on the bands.

A lot of the locals will be heading over to Dayton, Ohio for the biggy a week before our club meeting. Some of the guys we know who are planning to attend are; WOEJ, KKOR, KOJSY, KCOB, NBOH, WOMP, WOIZ, WDOAWL, KOVZR, K05T. A60Z, and K05VB. It will fun at the club meeting swapping Dayton war stories.

KOJSY, Keith, got his 20 meter yagi fixed this winter. He had lost an element in one of Decembers winter storms. KJOD and WOMP helped him do the bone chilling chore. Keith unhapily missed the ARRL Phone test this year due to business commitments.

WOEJ sure did swell in the 160 meter contest this year. He placed in the top ten and of course taking the state honors. He also has done a super job with the want list updating. It took quite a few man hours of tedious typing to switch the Want List over to the IBM computer system. Nice job Wade.

KOVH (Al), W4NIM (Bob), and W0M3N (Joe) have done superbly maintaining the 145.19 machine. I haven't heard any complaints or down time during the last three months. We all very much appreciate the efforts the Repeater Committee does. Thanks guys.

Bob, W4NIM, has relocated his ham shack and repeater gear. I visited it about a month back and was very impressed with the neat well thought out set-up. Bob has been busy giving demonstrations on the new MacIntosh computer that Apple has introduced. Bob is the Eastern Iowa representative for the Apples.

KCOXK, Brian, has really done a super job in the winter contests. Brian is learning the band savvy it takes to hold a frequency and when to swing the beam and catch those long path openings. I would contemplate that given the pace Brian is doing now, that in the next couple of seasons he will be one of the best midwest operators around. Keep it up Brian!

A recent two meter conversation with Eric, KJOD, asked to QSP to the club members that all his picture QSL cards have arrived from the printer and are being worked on. Eric says he will have the VP2EE6 QSLs on a table filled out for those that were fortunate enough to have worked him from Anguilla.

Well here we go again. This Newsletter is sorry to announce the transfer of another of the EIDXA members. Our Waterloo connection has informed us that Matt, KBOV, will be joining Steve, AKOR, in St. Louis working for Emerson Electronics. Best wishes Matt, we'll be looking forward to working you from your new QTH.

NOAFL, Dave, and WDOAWL, Terry, both received their XU1SS SSB QSLs from last autumn's QSDs! Congradulations!!!

Word has it that KBOFP has updated his computer system to an IBM PC. Tom had been using an Osborne system. Haven't heard you on much lately Tom?

RTTY.....

Are you looking for a new challenge? Something that you can do with your computer without spending big bucks. How about RTTY?

The RTTY bug is hitting the Amateur Radio hobby like gang busters. The RTTY parts of the band are loaded with signals especially on the weekends with many amateurs trying there VIC-20s and Commodore 64s etc. The days of the old hammering 28s and can of lubricating oil are gone. You can sit back and watch the words roll across a crisp easy to read TV screen monitor which is quiet and maintenance free.

There is DX on the RTTY band and with the ARRL announcement last week of the RTTY endorseable DXCC award, it makes for a very attractive challenge for the seasoned Dxr. Some of the rare countries such as XT, JY, OX, FBB, YB, ZK1, 4X, UAO, and many more are QRV on RTTY. There is plenty of opportunity to use your aquired DX savvy on this mode!

What does it take to interface my computer to my rig? Well not much actually. Depending on what computer you use, a software package compatible to your unit is needed. These packages are either on a disk or ROM card or cassette tape. The interface requires that a signal transfer from your radio to the RTTY gear be made. A TU unit serves this purpose. This unit is especially important in that it determines how well you can detect weak signals buried in the noise. It sounds complicated and expensive but it really isn't. As a matter of fact there are two ICs on the market that do the functions required for a mere \$5.95 apiece and are available at Radio Shack stores. These chips are Exar-2206 function generator and the Exar-2211 demodulator/decoder chips. A real good article appeared in the December 1980 QST magazine titled "a State-of-the-Art Terminal Unit for RTTY". If you don't care to build a unit there are several models of TUs on the market. These units generally are priced in the \$60-\$150 range.

Real fine on all that but you still are hesitating because of clumsy finger on the keys or a hunt and peck 10 WPM typing speed. Well don't worry. Most of the software packages have special "brag" messages that you can set before you fire up the system. They usually can contain 250 or more characters of text you can store for quick recall during your transmissions. They make for good fill

material while you are trying to keep ahead of the buffer. It is amazing how good it can make your typing look on the screen!

If you have any questions about RTTY don't be afraid to ask.

de W0NP

Odds and Ends

W9KNI, Bob Locher, has a new book out "The Complete DX'er". It is available from the Idiom Press, Box 583, Deerfield, Ill 60015 (\$10.95 plus \$2 postage and handling).....maybe could be purchased at Dayton?

K0LUZ finished first in the "poguns" team that competes for honors in the North American Sprint contest. Congradulations Red!

The National Contest Journal is published six times a year, by and for Amateur Radio Contesting enthusiasts. They sponsor the North American Sprints and have a very nice publication. Subscriptions are \$8 for six issues.

The address is:
The National Contest Journal
1708 Lake Haven Drive
Irving, Texas 75060

Hamfests

Kanakee, Illinois May 6
Knoxville, Illinois May 20
Starved Rock June 3
Peoria September 15 & 16
Cedar Rapids October 7

(Tu Bandsread Mar 84)

A look into the Archives...

Have any of you ever wondered how long the EIDX has been around? How it got started? Who was responsible for its conception? This ancient manuscript found buried in the mountainous trivia file of the Vice President's sheds a glimmer of light on those questions....

October 6, 1975

WOMJN's House...

Attendance: EGA, FHE, FLY, HOG, MJN, MUH, PCO, SML, SVW, VDX, and WCR.

The meeting chaired by VDX was called to order at 8pm. The purpose of the meeting was to form the Eastern Iowa DX Association. VDX discussed the history of the interest in a DX club, the attempts to set CVARC involved in contests and what he hoped could be accomplished by the constitution and by-laws. The floor was then thrown open for discussion and considerable interest was expressed in the purpose of the club and membership eligibility. It was then agreed to accept the constitution and by laws as written.

Four people in attendance were eligible for Full membership (FHE, PCO, SVW, VDX). They all agreed to join the EIDX. It was moved and seconded that the others in attendance, if interested, be voted in as Associate members by the Full members present, EGA, FLY, HOG, MJN, MUH, SML, and WCR were voted on in this manner. Three additional names were submitted and it was stated they were interested in joining. The following were voted in by the full members:

- WOMOG-Full
- WOHUP-Associate
- WAOVUY-Associate

A slate of officers was presented. The following officers were elected for one year terms:

- President-WAOVDX
- Vice-President-WOPCO
- Secretary-Treasurer-WOFHE

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm by VDX.

Signed-Jim Spencer WOFHE

=====

For the purpose of clarification the following is a callsign update for some of the calls mentioned in the EIDX's first formal meeting.....

- WAOVDX now WOVX (Dave)
- WOFHE now WOSR (Jim)
- WOPCO now W5FO (Lynn)
- WOMOG now W6XD (Art)
- WBOHOG now WB9R6A (Mike)
- WOMUH now KOAT (Fred)
- WAOWCR now WOMP (Tom)
- KOFLY now W0FO (Gayle)
- WAOVUY now KBOKN (Dave)
- WOMJN (Joe)
- WOSML (Doug)
- KOSVW (Steve)
- KOEGA (Vern)
- WOHUP (Jim)



WHAT! CONTEST ON 160??!!

Can a diehard contester find true happiness on 160?? Even a DX contester??? Can you get out of your own back yard, not to mention out of the county, state, country, and continent, on a band that starts only 200 KHz above KCRG?

You can bet your spare final!!

Almost all of us have varying degrees of experience in contesting. While most of the EIDX membership are familiar with the various DX contests, some of us have also dabbled in the "domestics", like ARRL Sweepstakes contests. So far there are few of us who have discovered 160 meters as a contest band. This is understandable. On a given day if you listen between 1.8 and 1.95 MHz, you will probably recognize a similarity between 160 and 75, ie. lots of the usual ragchewing within a 750 to 1000 mile radius. "The Gentleman's Band" or "Top Band" it has been called. With this kind of activity can 160 meters can be much of a band for contests, even DX contests?

There are several contests that feature 160 meters only. These include the ARRL 160 Meter Contest in early December, the 73 160 Meter SSB Championship and CQ 160 Meter CW Contest in January, and the CQ 160 Meter Phone Contest in February. These contests have been enjoying increasing participation over the last few years. In addition, our old friends, the CQWW and ARRL DX Competition, have all allowed operation on 160 meters, and for those who use this band, 160 meters offers a valuable source of additional multipliers. (A rock bottom minimum of at least 5 additional multipliers are usually available on 160 meters per contest.)

Operation in the 160 meter specialty contests resembles that of the ARRL Sweepstakes contests. Most of the stations you will work will be stateside stations, but DX contacts are not uncommon and greatly desired. In all of these contests, the objective is the same: work as many stations and multipliers as possible. In many of the 160 meter contests, DX contacts provide not only a new multiplier, but often a DX contact will be worth substantially more points than a domestic contact.

It is worth noting, too, that, for once, our mid-continent QTH provides us with a definite advantage in these contests. It is easier for us than our brethren on either coast to work all parts of the country on 160 since both coasts and the gulf are about equidistant from Iowa. To verify this, look at the resulting scores in the last ARRL 160 Meter Contest results.

Operation on 160 in our familiar DX contests resembles operation on 80 meters, except the contact rate is usually slower. However, checking 160 regularly between the pre-dusk to post-dawn hours will usually yield some rewarding extra multipliers.

There is one notable feature about the 160 meter band which is not present on the other low bands and that is the existence of the DX Window. The sub-band from 1825 - 1830 KHz has been informally set aside by "gentlemen's agreement" as a segment for DX stations only to transmit. The way this is supposed to work is that DX stations will call CQ from inside the DX Window and listen for return calls from outside the Window. This, of course, keeps the DX station's frequency clear for all to hear. The DX Window is generally observed during contests, although once in a while a DX station will work stations on his own frequency in the Window or a non-DX station will forget and call CQ in the Window. Both of these types of occurrences usually bring loud protests from others on the band.

Some literature sources also indicate another DX window between 1850 and 1855 KHz, but this window is not generally observed.

Needless to say, the DX Window(s) are an excellent place to sniff out DX.

One other DX item to note is that not all countries have the same band privileges on 160, as on other low bands. For instance, some countries do not allow operation below 1830 KHz and other below 1900 KHz.

While 160 has always had its faithful proponents and users, its popularity has skyrocketed since the FCC started to lift the power/band segment limitations a few years ago. (Recall that amateur operation on 160 was greatly restricted to reduce interference to the now obsolete version of LORAN which, now, has been almost totally abandoned.) By the time you read this the FCC may have lifted the remaining restrictions to operation on 160.

Most newer rigs have 160 meters on them and many linears also support 160 meters. And while it helps to have 40 acres to grow 160 meter antennas, it is certainly not necessary. With a little thought and referencing your personal sources of ham "rags" and handbooks, you can probably come up with an antenna that will fit on your lot and work very well besides. It is helpful, however, to use a separate receiving antenna on 160 to attenuate interfering signals and noise sources and enhance the received signal strength of weak signals. (Unfortunately, a beverage antenna does require a long run of wire. It is, however, an excellent receiving antenna.)

With the antenna erection season upon us, now is the time to consider expanding your operation to 160 and be ready for the fall contest season. You probably will not need as much antenna as you thought you did.

See you on 160!!

W8EJ

Leftovers...

KOINR, Tom, is also contemplating a change of computers or at least an additional one. He is looking to purchase an IBM PC. Heck, if I worked for IBM I'd own one too!

KOCF, Craig, completed the task of ordering and delivering the QSLs from last month's order. Thanks for your efforts! Craig has also been very active chasing the new countries and working the contests. He also finally got on the two meter band to talk to the gang on .19 and found it very beneficial. He has upped his DXCC a couple due to the alerting frequency.

NBOH, Jack, has up-dated his hamshack. He has purchased and is using a new Yaseu 757. It has got to be one of the smallest, neatest pieces of amateur equipment on the market. Jack is really enjoying the little rig. He also has a neat homebrew KW PA that will soon be on-the-air!

WOSR, Jim, and his counterparts, the DX advisory committee, have come to a deadlock on the KL7 Pribilof new country decision. The recent vote was 8 members for new country status and 8 opposed. What do we do next?

KDOQ, Glenn, has been hitting the two meter DX openings real hard this season. He has been filling in those "grid squares" with some choice two meter DX QSOs. It takes patience and a keen ear to catch those rare openings.

A couple of the members, WOIZ, KDOQ, and WOEJ are still enjoying the RS satellites. Wade has just got his fancy system on the birds.

The ARRL DX contest unofficial claimed scores were not available at the time of this Newsletter but the thoughts are we did very well as a club. Several good scores were made. Hopefully next Newsletter we'll have the tallies.

C6A and More....

As promised here is a few words from our February Bahamas trip. Patti and I had more fun that last year, because Abaco Island has a lot of activities available. We spent the first 3 days at Gordon's place (C6ABA) which is about 15 miles south of Marsh Harbour. I operated the ARRL CW CONTEST using Gordon's call and had a real good score, single op single band, 160 meters. I hope to have done well enough for some kind of award. Lucky I brought my own gear and didn't have to depend on Gordon's equipment. The salt water has really taken its toll on the antennas at his QTH. I believe that all of his antennas are shorted and I can't understand how he gets out at all, yet he continues to make QSOs. The new bottles I brought him for his FT101ZD are probably destroyed by now, hi. I don't know where I would have started on Gordon's antennas and he seems to think that they are working fine so I simply left them alone. Later on we moved up to Marsh Harbour, a town of about 3500, and stayed in a lovely place overlooking the water. The radio conditions were great, no line noise because all the utilities are underground. No TVI or any problems. I made about 2200 QSOs total in about 12 days of operating. The rest of the time was spent shopping, sightseeing, relaxing and visiting the other small island in the area. The local folks commute from island to island as we would from town to town. Boat rental is reasonable and the small islands are loaded with beautiful scenery and colorful history. Abaco Island was settled by Loyalists and their traditional skills are still practiced. We met a lot of very interesting people and of course the vacation was over all too soon. The Abacos have all the charm that is the Bahamas, they are as the other 500 or so Islands, totally unique. The nice thing about the Bahamas is that they are close enough that you don't have to spend a lot of time traveling there. We have a scrapbook full of pictures and will bring it along to the meeting.

My new toy here is a 10 foot satellite dish and associated equipment. It was certainly interesting to install. Patti and I are enjoying the RF from the various birds 23,500 miles away in space. I wouldn't have thought there was so much information to watch. We enjoy it very much.

Bob Walker, WBOVVY, from the Iowa Electric Crew worked on some insulators in my area a few days back and cleaned up about 95 percent cent of my noise problems. I'm sure not sorry to see that noise disappear.

We're looking forward to Dayton and got our tickets in the mail today. Looks like a good time.

de KØ6VB

The WOMJN Mail Box System....

The following command instructions are for any super-ratt bulletin board system. The system is reset to the 45 baud baudot code until it is changed by your asking it to. To bring the system up you type :WOMJN(return) and let the carrier drop.

The bulletin board is now up and running on 147.45 simplex!

:WOMJN -activates the system
:ENTER -turns the copy buffer on
:END -turns the copy buffer off
:SAVE -saves the copy buffer to disk
:LIST -transmits the copy buffer
:CANCEL -erases the copy buffer
:READ 5 -transmits message number 5
:KILL 5 -deletes message 5 from dir
:HELP -transmits a short list of commands
:COMMANDS -sends the commands file
:WEATHER -sends the weather file
:TIME -transmits the current system time
:NEWS -sends system newsfile
:DIR -sends message dir
:BYE -logs off and resets
:USER -activates a special function
:LOG -sends the user log file
:SYSOP -sounds the sysop alarm
:EXPERT -toggles expert mode
:RYS -transmits a string of RYs
:QBF -transmits the quick brown fox

:ASCII -puts system in ascii mode
:BAUDOT -puts system in baudot mode
:45BAUD -puts system in 45 baud
:74BAUD -puts system in 74 baud
:110BAUD -puts system in 110 baud
:110ASCII -puts system into both
:RESET -puts system back to "normal"
:INPUT A -reads value of game pot A
:INPUT B,C,& D -as above

Contest Calendar...

May 12-13

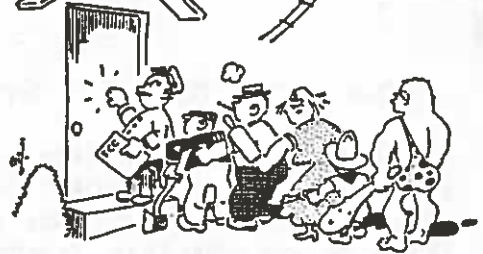
"The CB-M Contest" from 2100Z May 12 until 2100Z May 13. CW and Phone, 3.5 through 28 MHz. Only one QSO per station regardless of band.

May 26-27

"CQ WW WPX CW Contest" This is one we send in for club score! Get ready.



"Maybe this is what happens to those never answered QSLs?"



WHO NEEDS FILTERS OR EXPENSIVE SHIELDING? THIS IS ONE HOME-BREW RIG THAT IS ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED TO BE TVI-FREE

EIDXA MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: MAY 4TH, 1984

TIME: 7:30PM

PLACE: MARION REC BUILDING

PROGRAM: The Pribilof Island DX-pedition and the RBBS Mailbox Demo!

Tom Lindgren W0WP
1260 13TH AVE
MARION, IOWA 52302



W0SR
Jim Spencer
3712 Tanager Dr., NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402