

THE EASTERN IOWA DX'ER

WINTER 1989

CLUB NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN IOWA DX ASSOCIATION

Club Officers

President: NU8P Steve White

Vice-Pres: WRBZRL Tom Vavra

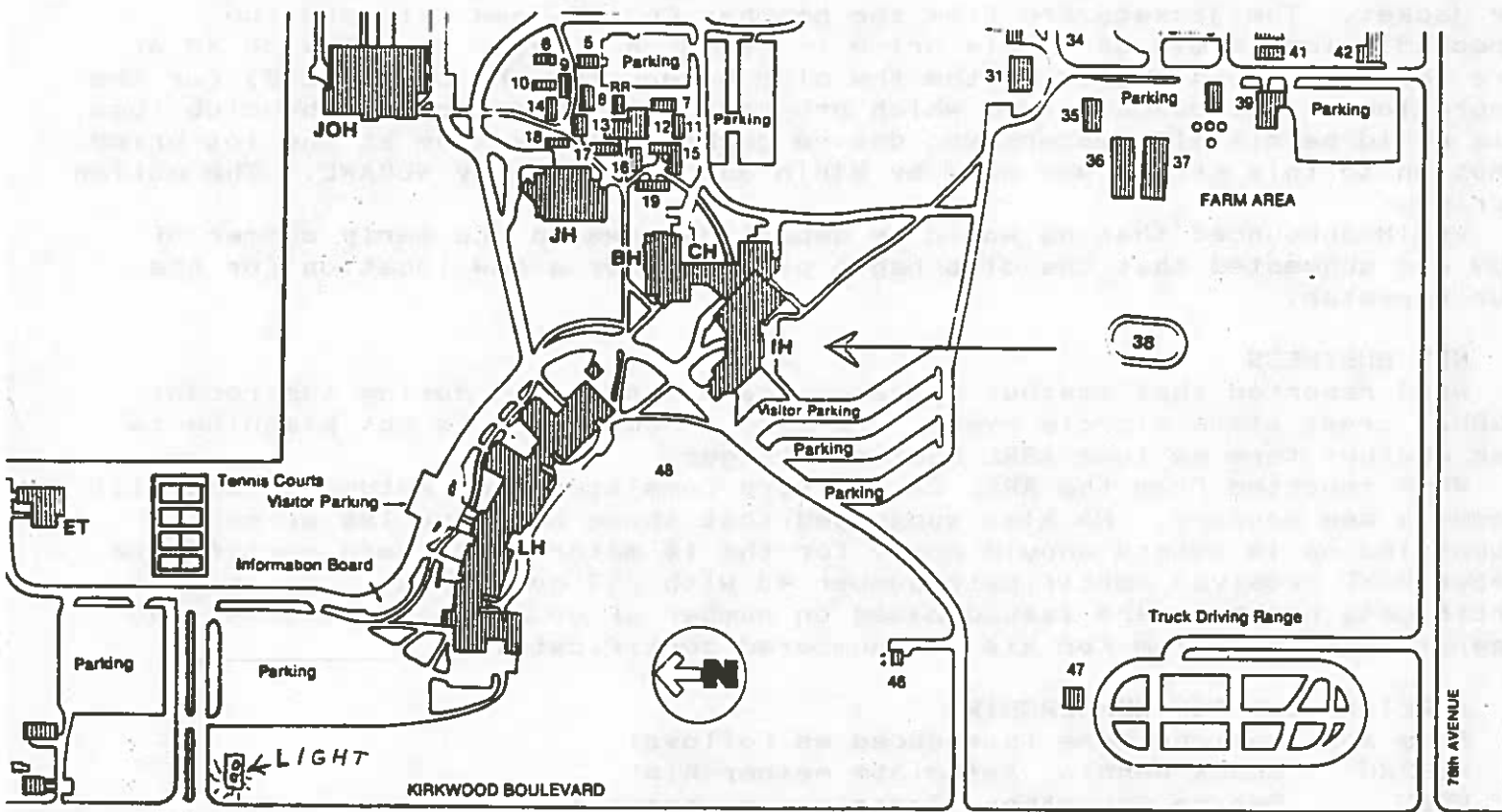
Sec/Treas: NC0D Tom Hise

Awards/Contest: W8WP Tom Lindgren

Newsletter Asst: W4N1M Bob Hill

The Eastern Iowa DX Association's Winter meeting will be held Friday the 27th of January at 7:00 pm at the Kirkwood Community College campus. The meeting will be in Iowa Hall (IH on the map), the 3rd floor in the Amana Room. The doors will open at 6:30 pm. Note that this is one-half hour earlier than normal. Following the business meeting, we will QSY to a local pizza establishment to exchange tall tales and proclaim that DX IS!!!

For the unfamiliar, Kirkwood is located South of Cedar Rapids about 1 mile east of I-380. From the north, exit I-380 at highway 30 and go east to Kirkwood Blvd. Note that you never really get on highway 30, but rather exit directly to Kirkwood Blvd. Go South to the stoplights. From the south of Cedar Rapids, exit I-380 at the Airport exit (note that this is also the exit to the Famous City of ELY). Proceed east to stop sign. Turn North (left) and go to the stoplight. For both approaches, now turn East and enter the campus. Refer to the map to find Iowa Hall (IH).



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AIRPORT RD →

MINUTES OF THE 21 OCTOBER, 1988 EIDXA MEETING

The meeting was called to order an 7:40 PM by the president (KJØH). There were 32 members and four guests present.

After all present introduced themselves, the president presented Larry Newby, WBØB, his membership certificate. He then thanked the officers serving with him for their dedication and also expressed the clubs appreciation to Bob, W4NIM, for his work in printing of the newsletters over the year.

A request for approval of the prior meetings minutes as published was made. The motion was made by WØIZ and seconded by W4NIM. The motion was carried by a vote of those present. It was moved by NCØO and seconded by WØIZ the the Treasurers report be accepted as published. This motion was also carried.

Contest Chairman NUØP announced the club winners of the CQWW to be WØWP for CW and WØPPF for SSB. Steve briefly stated that next year he intended to develop some method of handicapping to stimulate more contest participation by club members. W4NIM reported that the video program is currently at a standstill but is not a defunct project. The video program is to be geared to promote Ham radio and encourage younger people to get into our hobby.

NCØO reported that the Sunday evening net is working well and generally has about 10-12 checkins. It is usually the same group of members who consistently report in to the net. More participation from the remainder of the club is solicited.

OLD BUSINESS

Club Jackets

The president, John, was wearing an example of the club jacket. It has the an embroidered club logo (approximately 10" diameter) in read on the back of the silver jacket. Personal call letters and name are also embroidered on the jacket. The jackets are from the Melcher Co. of Iowa City and the expected price is \$48.50. This price is based on a order quantity of 40 or more jackets. John suggested the the club underwrite the cost (\$250) for the generation of the punched tape which programs the embroidery of the club logo. This would permit all members who desire jackets to buy them at the lot price. A motion to this effect was made by W4NIM and seconded by WDØAWL. The motion carried.

W4NIM announced that he would be departing Iowa in the early summer of 1989 and suggested that the club begin planning for a new location for the club repeater.

NEW BUSINESS

WØEJ reported that amateur operators gave assistance during the recent RAGBRAI cross state bicycle event. He also announced he is not planning to seek another term as Iowa ARRL Section Manager.

WØSR reported from the ARRL DX Advisory Committee that Rotuma Island will become a new country. He also suggested that those who have 100 or more countries on 10 meters should apply for the 10 meter DXCC award certificate. Member WØWP received certificate number 43 with 253 countries. The initial certificate numbers were issued based on number of countries worked, so our congratulations to Tom for his low numbered certificate.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Five applications were introduced as follows:

WBØZKG	Chuck Dennis, Associate membership
WEØU	George Gruenther, Associate membership
WKØI	Terry Parker, Full membership
KØVAA	Ralph Gearhart, Associate membership
KDØRT	Brad Farrell, Full Membership

MINUTES OF THE 21 OCTOBER, 1988 EIDX MEETING (Continued)

A motion to accept the five applicants was made by WDØAWL and seconded by WØIZ. The motion carried and all applicants were elected to the club roster. WØSR voiced the opinion that we should defer voting on applicants who have not attended more than one meeting. The issue was acknowledged that this was a first time precedent but was not prohibited by the current by-laws.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of new officers was conducted with the following results:
 President NUØP, Steve White
 Vice President WBØZRL, Tom Vavra
 Secretary/Treasurer NCØO, Tom Hise

WØSR moved that the Constitution and By-laws be reviewed. The motion was not acted upon but the new president appointed a review committee consisting of the following: WØSR, WØIZ, WØMJN, NUØP and WØEJ.

The motion to adjourn was made by NGØW at 9:5Ø PM.

Submitted by outgoing Secretary, J. Muckler NBØH

TREASURERS REPORT
 As of January 2, 1989

GENERAL FUND
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Balance Forward \$442.28

INCOME

KØVZR Re-up QST	2.ØØ	
Coffee Fund		
Oct Mtg	17.16	
89 Dues Collected	21Ø.ØØ	
Dividend 1Ø-31	2.51	
Dividend 11-3Ø	2.3Ø	

Income Subtotal	233.97	233.97

EXPENSES

Jacket Logo tool cost		
(To KJØH)	\$25Ø.ØØ	
Refreshments Oct Mtg	16.77	

Expense Subtotal	\$266.77	-266.77

Current Balance		\$419.48

Discussion items for Jan 89 meeting

Old Business:
 Club Jackets
 Slide Program
 Bylaw Review

New Business
 Baseball Caps
 Net Controllers
 Field Day participation
 Packet DX spotting nets
 DXpedition
 ARRL officials reports
 Callbook auction*
 EIDX Repeater

*At least one set of 1988 Callbooks will be auctioned with proceeds going to the club treasury. Any others will be appreciated.

REPEATER FUND
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Balance Forward	\$161.ØØ
No change	

Current Balance	\$161.ØØ

The 1989 EIDX officers have been installed for just over 2 months and have been busy trying to figure out how they got elected, better yet, why they got elected. It seems there are some covert activities prior to the election meeting which seem to control the outcome. Never-the-less, we have met several times to discuss our two major responsibilities for the year. Specifically, get the repeater moved to a new location before W4NIM goes on his round the world DXPEDITION, and what should we be doing to make DXing and contesting more fun for the members of the EIDX.

The EIDX repeater has served us well over the years. Its been there with us through the low in the cycle, when the contests were going, when I needed to find some one to help put up towers, and when I was driving home from work. We would miss it if it was gone or didn't provide the coverage that it now does. Since we are going to be moving the repeater transmitter it's a good time to think about what improvements, if any, we might like to make. Over the years we have talked about improving the repeaters coverage, but for one reason or another, we never seemed to do anything about it. This is a good time to think about that. We may be able to make some improvements because of a new location or better equipment or better antennas. This move probably isn't going to come for free and we only have \$161.00 in the repeater fund. The last time we needed a new P.A. we just passed the hat and raised what we needed. It was a good approach then and perhaps it is now as well. No estimates as to the cost of the move have been made yet, but we should plan on a donation during the April meeting. The EIDX has close to 50 members and a \$10-15 donation from each member would raise a significant amount of money which could be used to increase the performance of the repeater. Think about any improvements which you think would be worth while and we will discuss them at the upcoming meeting.

The Executive Committee has also been thinking about what activities would make DXing and Contesting more enjoyable for the club members. One of the things that I have often thought about was going on some sort of simple DXPEDITION. Not one that involves lots of money and years of planning and lousy weather but something where I could combine some good radio activity with some nice surroundings. I would like to see the club investigate the costs and possible location for some sort of reasonable high qso rate contest location. I'm sure that if the money was right we could find some interested people to go along. It's always fun to work our club members in remote locations. This is something I want to look into and report on in the coming year.

Several time's we have had little informal get-to-gethers outside the regular meeting schedule, and they have been enjoyed by all those who have attended, so this year I am scheduling one for March 10th 7:30 pm right after the ARRL DX contests are over and for a lack of a better place why don't we meet at Nasso's in Marion. We can have some pizza and beer and discuss/cuss contest results. So that everyone can plan on attending our meetings I have also scheduled the spring meeting for April 21 back at the REA building location in Marion.

KJ0H is still working on our club slide show and still needs inputs from many of the members. Please bring along slides of your station to the club meeting. Remember, pictures of rigs and antennas are ho-hum without an operator, and remember to smile. Be sure to write your call on the slides so John knows who they belong to, and a few words explaining the pictures would be helpful. KJ0H, W0WP, NC00, K0RW, and K0VZR have volunteered to take the pictures if you need a hand.

That's it for now, see you at the meeting.

EIDXA membership list (Jan 1989)

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Call Status & Name

KUBA FULL Y Nelson Moyer 28 Ealing Dr. Iowa City, Ia 52246 319-351-8775 home 319-335-4500 work
 KBAL FULL N Al Culbert 618 First Ave. Charles City, Ia 50616 515-228-1443 home 515-257-2245 work
 WDBAWL FULL Y Terry Cellaan 703 Linow St. Ainsworth, Ia 52201 319-657-3681 home 319-648-2891 work
 WDBB ASS. Y Larry J. Newby P.O. Box 185 West Burlington, Ia 52655 319-752-8700 home 319-754-4692 work
 WDBX FULL Y Lee L. McKee 1820 Briarwood Lane Muscatine, Ia 52761 319-263-8398 home
 KZOC FULL Y Jim Bohnsack 1169 Rainbow Dr. Waterloo, Ia 50701 319-233-7189 home
 WDEJ FULL Y Wade Walstrom 7431 Macon Drive NE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52401 319-393-8982 home 319-395-xxxx work 124-311 as
 K0BT FULL Y Gary Toomsen 2730 Tower Dr. Cedar Rapids, Ia 52401 319-395-9329 home 137-122 as
 K0GVB FULL Y Gary Ernst RR 2 West Branch, Ia 52358 319-643-2287 home
 KFOH FULL Y Jim Harvey 819 N. Main St. Goldfield, Ia 50542 515-825-3323 home
 KJ0H FULL Y John Schwandke 1108 E. Main Washington, Ia 52353 319-653-3686 home
 N00H FULL Y Jack Muckler 2084 Eastern Blvd. SE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52403 319-362-3462 home
 N0HNJ ASS. N David Corio 38 Leisure Blvd. NE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402 319-395-7973 home 319-395-0462 work
 WK0I FULL Y Terry Parker 535 Sierrra Dr Burlington, IA 52601 319-753-1557 home 319-753-8591 work
 K0IIR FULL Y Clark Pantel 1610 Hershey Ave. Muscatine, Ia 52761 319-263-9158 home 319-263-6141 work
 K0INR FULL Y Tom Taylor RR 1 Shell Rock, Ia 50670 319-885-4400 home 319-236-1500 work
 W0IZ FULL Y Dale Repp 1610 Texas Ave. NE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402 319-393-6724 home
 K0JGH FULL Y Glen Kesselring RR #7 Box 160 Ottumwa, Ia 52501 515-934-5328 home
 NN0L FULL N Ron Borkgren 1106 East 2nd St. Anamosa, Ia 52205 319-462-4113 home
 AB0M FULL Y Vern Lang 118 E. 2nd St. Muscatine, Ia 52761 319-263-2697 home
 WE0M ASS. Y Tom Gordon 6904 Brentwood Dr. NE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402 319-373-8757 home 319-851-7219 work
 W0MJN FULL Y Joe Finkstein 2210 Empire St. Marion, Ia 52302 319-377-6573 home 319-395-2294 work 106-124 as
 NK0N FULL Y Orville Duecker 226 Southcrest Waterloo, Ia 50702 319-296-2390 home 319-233-3569 work
 W0NB FULL N Jim Livengood R.R. 1, Ferre's Lane Burlington, Ia 52601 319-752-9310 home 319-752-2701 work
 WANIM FULL Y Bob Hill 2510 White Eagle Trail SE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52403 319-366-3975 home 319-393-5115 work
 NC00 FULL Y Tom Hise PO Box 104 Shellsburg, Ia 52332 319-436-7786 home 319-395-XXXX work 153-264 as
 NU0P FULL Y Steve White 5820 Sanden Rd. NE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52401 319-393-4547 home 319-395-4641 work 124-313 as
 W0PLS ASS. N Fred Young 5886 Timber Creek Rd. Cedar Rapids, Ia 52401 319-393-8429 home 137-124 as
 W0PPF FULL Y George Carsner 411 Terrace Rd. Iowa City, Ia 52240 319-338-1601 home 319-351-5033 work
 KC0Q FULL Y Jeff Russell 2125 Linmar Dr. NE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402 319-363-4139 home 319-395-4664 work 124-211 as
 KK0R FULL Y Bob Tillman 1257 Deloris Dr. Waterloo, Ia 50701 319-232-8223 home 515-858-3971 work
 N4RR FULL Y Roger Hoffman 17215 Timber Drive Sterling, IL 61081 815-625-6647 home
 KD0RT FULL Y Brad Farrell 1401 Greenwood Dr Ottumwa, IA 52501 515-684-7768 home 515-682-4535 work
 K0RW FULL Y John Lenahan 923 N. 9th St. Burlington, Ia 52601 319-753-6883 home 319-752-2731 work
 N0SM FULL Y Steve Miller Route 6 Box 180 Ottumwa, Ia 52501 515-684-4753 home
 W0SML FULL Y Doug Byal 4431 Deer View Rd, NE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402 319-393-2974 home
 W0SR FULL Y Jim Spencer 3712 Tanager Dr. NE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402 319-393-7353 home 319-395-2305 work 124-115 as
 KB0SY FULL Y Rick Cordle 515 20th St. SE Mason City, Ia 50401 515-424-8493 home
 WE0U ASS. Y George Gruenther 1106 S. Leebrick Burlington, IA 52601 319-753-1463 home 319-753-6253 work
 W0UZ FULL Y John Nelson 3109 Terry Dr. SE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52403 319-365-4432 home
 NY0V FULL N Tom Vinson 10211 Hall Road NE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52401 319-393-8007 home 319-395-xxxx work 120-105 as
 KABVAA ASS. Y Ralph Gearhart 5040 Broadview Dr SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52403 319-366-0158 home 319-365-9461 work
 K0VM ASS. Y Al Groff 1446 Council St. NE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402 319-393-8134 home 319-395-4666 work 124-211 as
 W0VX FULL N Dave Jakska 626 Torrey Pines Ln Garland, Tx 75044 home
 K0VZR FULL Y Tom White RR#2 Jesup, Ia 50648 319-827-6738 home 319-334-7166 work
 NG0W FULL Y Keith Erickson 1810 Hillside Dr. NW Cedar Rapids, Ia 52405 319-396-8510 home 319-398-3551 work
 NX0W ASS. Y Dan Veerhusen 1601 48th St. NE Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402 319-393-6726 home 319-395-467 work 4
 W0WF FULL Y Tom Lindgren 1260 13th Ave. Marion, Ia 52302 319-377-4279 home 319-395-1953 work 107-110 as
 KE0Y FULL Y Tom Kramer 905 LeRoy Muscatine, Ia 52761 319-264-3259 home
 AG0Z FULL N Bill Delaney 2818 Garden Ave. Cedar Falls, Ia 50613 319-277-5150 home 319-236-8856 work
 KF0Z FULL Y Jan Clute 320 College Blvd. Mount Vernon, Ia 52314 319-895-6635 home 319-927-2143 work
 WBBZKG ASS. Y Chuck Dennis 400 E. Vine Toledo, IA 52342 515-484-4837 home
 WBBZRL FULL Y Tom Vavra 682 Palisades Access Rd. Ely, Ia 52227 319-848-7604 home

1989 contesting what it means to you?

With the tinsel and ornaments being packed away for another year and the cold winter setting in for at least two solid months there seems to be more precious time available for tuning the ham bands and uping the DXCC totals. It can also be a time to fine tune your station and operating skills for the upcoming ARRL DX contests. 1989 looks to be a banner year for DXing and maybe a record setting one for radio contests.

It seems that almost all the chirpy transmitters and wooden receivers have found their way to the antique archives and almost all the DX signals are clean and steady. Even the USSR stations seem to be calling stations on frequency. Apparently the crystal lattice filters and pass-band tuning designs made "Radio Sporting Magazine" in Moscow these last couple years. What does this mean? Does it effect contesting and Dxing? Certainly! Have you every tried to work QRP and call UQ1GWW who is running his standard 200 Russian watts putting your stingy S-meter 20 decibles over the 9 mark and have him call CQ again. Or how about the UI8 station that slides through the passband of your 500 HZ filter as your running Asian stations over the pole on twenty. You just can't get his last two letters of his call cuz that darn W1 station covers him up as he slides through the W1's tommygun CQing. It means more QSOs, more points, less headaches and more FUN!

Being the the new Contesting Chairman I've been racking my noggin' trying to figure out a way to spur more activity and to significantly increase our point total and inevitably elevate our national club ranking in the ARRL club standings. Our totals were above respectable last year but certainly improvable. With the solar flux ebbing 250 and with seasonal propagation enhancement during late February and March one can only anticipate burning hot band conditions from 160 through 10 meters. If that isn't incentive enough how about adding the new forty, eighty and ten meter DXCCs now available from headquarters to entice participation?

Chasing countries, looking for oblasts, listening and working that really weak signal drifting above the noise floor, finding that one to fill in that empty album slot in a five band DXCC book is what it's all about. I'm sure that every seasoned DXer has several of these QSOs vividly implanted in the ole gray matter. Is it a secret that there is great satisfaction in digging out rare QSOs on your own? Finding that longpath opening on 20 meters and catching that needed zone 24 or 22 that everyone else seems to be missing in this year's test log? No of course not! You earned those multipliers by using your DX skill and propagation savy to log those special QSOs. Again, what am I getting at? Well its my opinion that with all the spotting, packet board alerting systems, let alone all the bulletins published and spoon feeding DX nets that the only true test of a skilled radio operator is contests. Sure there are inequalities of stations, geographical locations and individual abilities but there is, and I repeat is, real satisfaction in completing a contest that you, yourself operate to the best of your ability. Improvement in operating skill, point totals and country totals all come hand in hand. How good are your skills? Have you honestly ever really tried your hardest in a radio contest? You may surprise yourself if you ever do! Give it a try!

de W0WP

Often the omissions of other years come back to haunt and last week we had one of the local QRPer's puffing up the hill to interrogate us. "I understand that a Deserving DXer has never been turned away by the bulletin," this QRPer says and we were immediately nodding our head. But then we remembered an incident a long time back. This one had gotten inside the portals but did not last. Why was that?" the QRPer asked and we were again recalling the long gone times. "this fellow came saying that he was Deserving," we explained, "and our assumption at that time that anyone who was Deserving had to be a Believer. This was not so." We could see that we had the attention of the QRPer, that beady-eyed look was urging us onward. "It was during that time when so may DXers were struggling to master the new DX concept----- 'DX Is!'. And we were sad to learn that this one was not a true believer. As soon as we found this out, we cancelled the subscription, refunded the balance and curtly advised him never to darken our DX door again. And that was the way it was....and is!!" We thought that we had explained everything but the QRPer was not satisfied. "But just what did he do," the QRPer persisted, "what was it that was so bad that you would not let him associate with all the DXers who are Deserving. What was it?" By this time the memories were flooding back and the fierce anger of those other days was beating at us. Our breathing was more and more labored as we recalled the DX heresy that was uttered and it was hard to control our voice. "what did this fellow do?" we roared, and the windows rattled. "I'll tell you

what he did! This fellow, from someplace north of Washington there in Maryland, had to nerve to tell us that 'DX Isn't!!' Can you imagine a true believer saying something like that? No one who speaks such doubts about DX should be allowed to mingle with the Deserving. Certainly you can understand all of that, even now, can't you?" The QRPer was still looking at us but his eyes were only semifocused. Obviously he was thinking. "Was that all he did?" the QRPer asked and the terrible wrath held in lease over the years was loose. "Was that all he did?" we said, mimicing the high-pitched notes of the QRPer, "was that all? That was what he did and that was enough!! For no true-blue DXer wver thinks else bbut that DX Is!! Understand Buster?" And adding action to the words, we swiftly kicked the chair out from under the QRPer. Leaning over him, flat on the floor there, we asked again: "Understand Buster??" Perhaps we should not have raised our voice even more for it probably will be a long time before we get a reply. For the QRPer was up and out and down the hill, hippity-hopping like mad. And after awhile we got to thinking as to why he went and left us so fast. But one thing for sure, all DXers are Deserving and some more so. But there is not a DXer who is Deserving unless he believes!! And when you believe that 'DX Is', you are closer to understanding the Eternal Enigmas and the Mysteries of the Ages....just keep trying!!

(from the West Coast DX Bulletin of July 4 1979)

Remember conditions a year ago? We thought they were pretty good, but look at how they improved in just one year!

Week Ending	1988		1987	
	Solar Flux Min	Solar Flux Max	Solar Flux Min	Solar Flux Max
5 Nov	157	169	99	107
12 Nov	146	165	91	97
19 Nov	156	189	94	109
26 Nov	142	157	100	118
3 Dec	140	155	88	98
10 Dec	146	170	88	94
17 Dec	180	250	94	99
24 Dec	229	253	91	94
31 Dec	180	220	102	106

Bouvet

Not one but two stations from this remote island. 3Y1VC and 3Y5DQ opened on 27 Dec 78 and plan to stay for nearly 2 months. Their 'Russian Roulette' style was hard on the nerves and was an open invitation to Slim who graciously accepted and was on the scene.

Peter 1 Island

ON8RP is enroute from Punta Arenas with linear amp, 20 meter mono-bander and other necessities to activate this new one.

Franz Josef Land

Slim(ski) drew a big crowd signing UK1PAA, enticing the deserving with rare FJL. Finally UK9AAN called in Russian saying 'UK1PAA this is UK9AAN, over.' Dead silence.

Malden Island

VR0M had a good signal on 10, 15, and 20, proclaiming that the recent independent administration makes it a candidate for dxcc status. Yes, Slim was everywhere.

South Sandwich and South Georgia were active by LU3ZY and VP8PL respectively.

Bhutan

A51PN was a frequent visitor to several nets (SEA and W7PH0) and occasionally operated free style.

Bangladesh

S2BTF shows occasionally near 14.275 at 17Z but is regularly there on Saturdays.

WIAM's top ten need survey

Bouvet, China, 8Z-Neutral Zone, VS9K-Kamaron, Burma, Albania, Spratly, Heard Island, Laccadives, and Abu Ail.

From the log Jan 79

9N1MM, S8FXT, VK9XW, TF3CW, JT1BF, VS5CW, 7P8BC, 5U7AG, FK8CR, 3V8AA, C5AAG, H5FXT, FW0TT, W6KG/T15, VR1BD, A2CBW

The names Charlie and Alma are familiar ones to the Ø-land DXers. The belong to WØQQN and XYL, the two people who make the QSL bureau work. Alma has been the hospital in Omaha since mid-December and as I write this (7 Jan) she is not very good. She has had at least one stroke and some other problems. When Charlie was told that they were in the thoughts of the Eastern Iowa DXers, he passed his 'Thanks' and wanted to insure that we knew the Bureau was 100% up to date. These selfless people are almost more worried about our QSLs than their own problems. A card to WØQQN or the bureau is appropriate. I expect to receive periodic updates from friends in Omaha---ed.

N4RR and NUØP are looking for anyone else interested in a group QSL card buy.

FOR SALE: Loudenboomer P.A. 1200 Watts 3-500 Desk top/floor PS \$400 W4NIM

KFØZ has a buy/sell/trade feature on his PBBS. 145.05 KFØZ-1

A reminder...check the expiration date on your license. With these 5/10 year tickets, it is easy to miss the renewal date.

Thanks to the following for contributions to this newsletter. NUØP, WØWP, KCØQ, and WBØZKG.

DX IS!!

Tom Vavra WB8ZRL
682 Palisades Access Rd
Ely, Iowa 52227-9717

Jim Spencer
MS 124-115