



# THE EASTERN IOWA DX'ER

FALL 1991

NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN IOWA DX ASSOCIATION

## Officers:

Glen Kesselring, KOJGH, President

John Lenahan, KORW, V.P.

Gary Ernst, KOGVB, Sec./Treas.

The Fall meeting of the EIDXA will be held Friday **October 11th, 1991, 7:30 PM** at the REC building in Marion (corner of 35th St. and 10th Ave.) Election of officers, panel discussion and then pizzal.

## OPERATING EVENTS

October

26-27 CQ WW SSB DX Contest

November

2-4 ARRL November CW Sweepstakes

16-17 ARRL November SSB Sweepstakes

23-24 CQ WW CW DX Contest

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello out there all you dxers...boy, with good band conditions and all the recent DX....with Jacky at 3B7, Romeo from XY0RR and just tonight I have been pulled away several times trying to work ZA1A CW on 20 meters. I turned on the repeater and heard 'ol WOWP getting his antennas up and most everyone has an ear to the bands these days. The spots on the cluster have been helpful but don't forget 145.19 repeater. There is something to be said for the calling out of the frequency and the immediate acknowledgement that another local has heard you being worked by the DX station...and of course the congratulations and the instantaneous desire to grab the 2

meter mic and announce boastfully "YESS"! I was in Minneapolis August 16-18 on business and was able to make connect with NOAT on 145.07. That is the cluster frequency up there. I left a message with NOAT thanking him for the use of the cluster and a hello from his fellow DXers to the south. (WOSR -- I told him to say HI to KOSR for you). With the fall meeting comes the time to elect **new officers**. I know I speak for KOGVB and KORW [Not always! -ED] when I say that we all have enjoyed serving the members this past year. It has been a fun year and many new countries have been worked and contests run. We hope we have provided good informative meetings and have provided an atmosphere for good fellowship of our hobby. We'll be electing officers, please come prepared to offer your nominations. The nominating committee will try to have one member for each of the three offices, other nominations from the floor are welcome and for a good run-off, are necessary. Tom, WB8ZRL has asked for a few minutes on the program to inform us about the user commands of the cluster. There will be a short panel discussion on operating techniques that some of the DXers may find helpful. After the meeting to pizza. See you all the 11th and in the pileups, 'till then..... 73, Glen

next page please!

## **SUMMARY OF LAST MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT**

EIDXA meeting held in conjunction with the "Summerfest 91" in Cedar Rapids, August 11, 1991. Meeting called to order at 1009 by president K0GJH. Introductions of those in attendance, minutes of previous meeting approved as published in the last newsletter. Treasurer's report from K0GVB, \$421.83 balance shown. Paul Grauer, W0FIR, Midwest Director addressed the group and announced the DXCC backlog was down to "less than one month". No section report from W0EJ. Dale, W0IZ, membership committee, announced four applicants - K8OM, WB0D, WW0Q and W0GWK. The latter two were in attendance and were inducted by the membership present. Congratulations Rich and Frank. No DXAC report as W0SR not in attendance. Packet DX cluster news, The hardware has been tested at W0DAWL in Ainsworth and may move to WB8ZRL in Ely. Are there any member interested in some more QSL cards with EIDXA logo? There are some, but before a print job is requested would like to get all possible. Gary, K0GVB handed out membership certificates to those who had become recent members. Meeting called to a close, 1041, 46 signed in as attending. Program followed, slides of 4J1FS.

## **WHO'S DOIN WHAT?**

There seems to be some confusion about this section of the newsletter! As it is a requirement, to be a "Full" member, each EIDXA member must show up in a DXCC listing in QST or show up in one of the CQ or ARRL sponsored DX contests - in other words, show some activity. If I missed your

call when scanning the QST its because they are so damnd small! I appreciate those who pointed out that I missed them in the DXCC listings. But just because you have 345 countries it is not good enough to remain a full member, even if there ain't nobody left for you to work for a DXCC, you must at least demonstrate your activity by showing up in one of the above mentioned contests....speaking of contests, I see in October QST that every listing in Iowa for the ARRL International DX CW Contest was an EIDXA member! They were, KE0Y, KF0Z, KZ0C and WB0BI And 3 EIDXA members show up in the fone section, KZ0C, K0GT and W0PPFI I also see in CQ WW SSB single OP, W0EJ, W0PPF. 10M, WA3TIH/0, WR0U, WB0B [from under his manhole cover!] and K0GT. Multi-OP, KZ0C, NU0P and single-OP assisted, WB8ZRL/0! The EIDXA at its finest!

## **1991 "DX HOG" AWARD RULES**

This year, the "DX HOG" award will be given for the CQ WW CW and CQ WW SSB contests. If you won one of these last year you may enter but cannot receive the "award"! The rules are simple, participate in either or both of these contests, submit your total number of DXCC countries worked and your output power to me, V.P.! Be honest about your power output, give it your best estimate, carrier power for CW, PEP for SSB. This year we will use the power as a factor in who is the "DX HOG"! As you can see, this year it is not based on the volume of contacts but the number of countries worked during the contest period. And, in the scoring scheme, higher power is **NOT an advantage!**

## FROM THE V.P./EDITOR

This October meeting is perhaps one of the most important of the year - - election of officers for 1992. As Glen said, come with your nominations and lets do it right! And, while you are at it, bring your checkbook and get a head start on 1992 by paying your dues. 1991 has been a great year for DXing and contesting and for the EIDX, 1992 promices to be evey bit as good!

I got more coorespondence from the membership after the last newsletter than I have gotten all year! One item is a letter from W4NIM, which is included elsewhere, telling about "DX Bound"!

As you may have noticed the "DX HOG" award rules are a little different this year, thought we should make a change and see if some of the "pigs" might make "hog" status! This is why power is going to be included and why only the DXCC countries will be used rather than just the volume of contacts.

The "formula" for calculating the score will be found elsewhere in this issue!

Following up on one of Glen's comments, it sure is nice to have another DXer confirm that you did in fact work another new one! Gary, K0GVB sent me some items for the newsletter and included a note congtrulating me "on working the ZA on CW - I heard ul" That sure made me feel lots better, I was pretty sure I did it, but the QRN for me here in the big city is tough on 40 meters, so I was glad a guy with a nice quiet location like Gary heard what I thought I heard! And the packet cluster is getting closer for me, with WROU on in Mt. Pleasant I might actually have a chance to see what the real guns hear! Find out if this new TS-850 has any ears!

## HEARD ON THE BANDS

While slugging away in the CW pileup for ZA1A, a well known EIDX member was reported to have offered on the EIDX repeater, "I don't know what fly to put on, let alone where to cast!" Perhaps the quote of the week?

## LETTERS!

From Bob & Carol Hill, Sloop "DX BOUND", c/o 2037 SW 61 Avenue, Miami, FL 33155.

Dear John,

I thought I might drop you a line for the newsletter form the southern most member of EIDX to let the gang know what I am up to. So here goes!

Carol (WA4LHB) and I have been working steadily on upgrading a long list of deficiencies in DX BOUND since we bought her in June of last year. The old girl is pushing 18 years of age and some of her systems were a bit tired. She is 41 feet long, weighs in at a hefty 13 tons and draws almost 6 feet of water. We re-did her exhaust system, repaired the refigeration system, increased the water storage by 100 gallons, overhauled a number of sails, built all the ham gear into the navstation console, did a major rewiring of both AC & DC systems and installed an LPG system with a sniffer control system. Then we addressed a myrid number of cosmetic issues which included sanding and painting the below deck flooring and cleaning, sanding and varnishing of a large amount of teak topside. At this time she is in pretty good shape but we still have a page and a half of descrepancies and improvements that we need to accomplish before attempting a

major ocean crossing. Maintenance in this environment, as any of you with NAVY experience can attest, is a never ending process.

We have applied for our C6A licenses. I have a second TS430S with all the xtal filters and an assortment of wire antennas on board ready to be used for a DXpedition to C6A. I will buy a small tribander at the next Miami hamfest and will package it up in PVC cylinder for storage up on deck. I have also been looking at the GAP vertical which is manufactured down here in Florida. I am also looking for a good bargain on a 2.5KW gas generator. This unit will have to be torn down, even though it's new, and be reprimed and painted as well as having all of it's hardware changed to stainless. Otherwise it won't last in the salt air environment. We are planning to operate from one of the uninhabited islands in the EXUMA island chain in C6A for the '92 ARRL phone contest with this set up. I am finding that the most popular cruising transceiver among the hams afloat is the TS440 with the loms coming in a distant second. The small footprint, heavy amplifier, built in tuner and the number of memories seem to be the main draw. I suspect many are using the memories to plug in all the Marine HF SSB channels which is illegal as hell but...if your up to your neck in salt water and the sharks are circling...! I have installed four 440's on sailboats in the last 4 months and they seem to perform very well....with the automatic antenna tuner providing excellent matching.

Carol & I are both working now and again when we come back to the boat in the evening. This, of course, slows progress

down a bit. I do chase a little DX when I hear it and the insulated backstay antenna performs surprisingly well....a fact that Glen, K0JGH, can attest to. Speaking of "el Presidente" as they say down here in Miami....we sure enjoyed the weekend we had with the Kesselring family. We really had a ball! If any of you are down here for a visit or a vacation, be sure to get in touch with us so that we can arrange a little cruise for you...and an update on what's going on in Iowa for us.

We can be reached at our mailing address in Miami or the Waterways Net on 7268 Saturday and Sunday mornings at 0730-0830 Eastern time. If the skip is not long enough at that time try getting a message to me through the Waterways net via the Maritime Mobile Net of Intercon. Just ask if any Waterway Net members are aboard and they will see that I get the message. As Fall approaches I hope to be able to hear the 75 meter EIDX net again and will check in when I do. Right now we will say 73 and wish you all good hunting this next DX season. 73 de W4NIM

This letter was received in early August - ED.

## JOHNSTON ISLAND

Gary, K0GVB worked KB6VUP/KH3 on 80 meters and when he sent his request for a QSL to Jose he also asked about Johnston Island. Here are major portions of that letter. I will start by telling you J.I. is a very small island; about half a mile wide and about two miles long. It is located in the central Pacific Ocean, about 825 miles southwest of Honolulu, Hawaii. The island used to be smaller but it was expanded during the war

for Naval operations. It is about two feet above sea level with beautiful palm trees and has a bird sanctuary. From the airplane, it looks like an aircraft carrier [a guy I worked many years ago on Johnston Island called it "the worlds largest land-based aircraft carrier" - ED ]. Temperatures are about the same all year around, very hot, between 80 and 95 degrees. It is a U.S. territory and managed by the Department of Energy [Gary sez " Johnston Island is a big nuke storage site for the U.S. - ED] and a clearance is required to visit the island. I'm lucky I got to visit. I am in the Army and was there on official business.

Well, the ham shack is not a very bad one. It is a pretty large building with four rooms. First room is where the majority of operations take place and where the hams stations are. You will find a very nice Kenwood 940S with automatic tuner, speaker, desk mic, a phone patch and an electronic keyer. You will also find an Icom 735 with all accesories, an IBM computer with modem connected to an old Collins and lots of amateur maps on the wall. In the second room is the MARS station for which I can not tell you much because it was always always locked. The third room has two old Collins stations and this is backup stations for the MARS or amateur stations. Finally we get to the bench room (workroom) and there you'll have more fun than in any other room - there is electronic equipment to build about five stations, beleive me, I felt like I was in the candy store. You also find in the building a nice bathroom, a bed and a refrigerator so you don't need to leave the building. There are lots of antennas on the outside from verticals

(2) to quads (1), dipoles (2), beams (2) and a log periodic. You'll also find on the outside what I call a monster generator for backup power.

I hope I have provided information to meet your expectations. Oh, by the way, population is 1,500 and about 350 personnel are military. Just four hams on the island. Good luck and 73 to all in the club in Cedar Rapids. Jose KB6VUP/KH6 Aloha  
Thank you Gary!

## STATION IDENTIFICATION

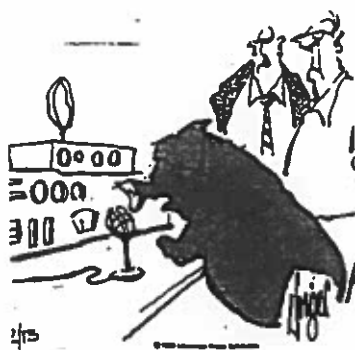
From the *PHD NEWS*, The FCC has started passing out \$1000.00 fines for failing to ID correctly. For example, stations with a call of KA or WA who are "dropping" the A as they ID on fone had even be careful, dont be in a big hurry! ED - This tid-bit may seem silly but I just recently saw the latest schedule of fines for Broadcast radio (as of July) and all their fines are up! The minimum there being \$1,250 up from \$300.

## "DX HOG" CONTEST FORMULA!

Get your results for the "DX HOG" award to me, K0RW as soon as possible after the CQ WW contests. I would like to get them all figured before the January meeting!

Final Score will be found as follows  

$$DXCC \text{ countries worked} \left[ \frac{2000}{\text{Power}} \right]^2$$



"You never seen a ham operator before?"

## The R-150 Countries List

Tom, KE0Y sends the following item. "Any of you who are familiar with the CQ-M contest that occurs in May, may also remember that serious contestants are asked to refer to the R-150 countries list when determining your score. When I sent my log for the 1990 contest I asked for a copy, which arrived in late August. This list is just like the ARRL DXCC list with the exception of a number of oblasts and autonomus regions that they recognize as seperate countries. [If the Russians recognize them as seperate countries, maybe with whats happening in the Soviet "Union" some day the DXAC mite have to consider them! -ED].

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UA4P,Q,R,UW/UZ/RA4P TARTAR  
UA4S,T,UZ/RA4S MARIS  
UA4/UZ/RA4S MORDOVIAN  
UA/UZ/RA4W UDMURTSIAN  
UA4Y,UZ/RA4Y CHUVASH  
UA, UZ,RA6I KALYMKSIAN  
UA/UZ/RA6J NORTH OSSETIAN  
UA/UZ/RA6P,UA6R CHECHEN-INGUISH  
UA/UZ/RA6W DAGHESTAN  
UA/UZ/RA6X KABATDINO-BALKARSK  
UA/UZ/RA9W BASHKIR  
UA/UZ/R9X KOMI  
UA/UZ/RA0O BURYAT  
UA/UZ/RA0Q YAKUT  
UA/UZ/RA0Y TUVA  
UD/RD, N NAKHICHEVAN  
UF/RF, V ABKHAZIAN  
UF/RF6, Q ADZHAR (ADJAR)  
UI/RI, Z KARA-KALPAK  
UA/UZ/RA1N KARELIAN



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