



EIDXA NEWSLETTER

Autumn 1994

EIDXA MEETING NOTICE

DATE: 14TH October 1994 (Friday)

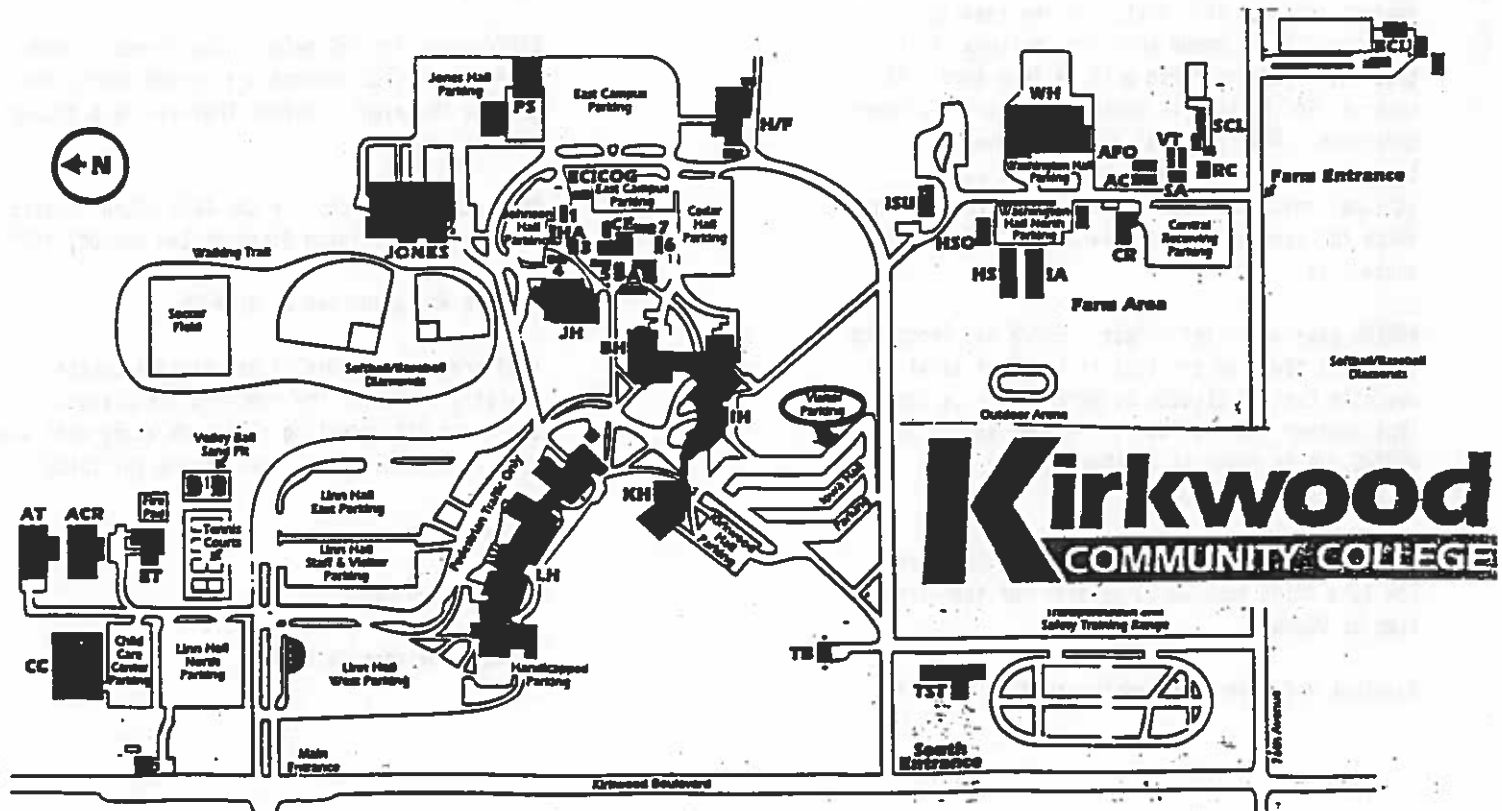
Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Room 219C
Linn Hall
Kirkwood Community College
Cedar Rapids

Agenda: Business meeting, 3YØPI presentation, election of club officers. The usual socializing and pizza to follow.

Building Keys

- Auto Collision - ACR
- Johnson Hall - JH
- Auto Tech - AT
- Linn Hall - LH
- Iowa Hall - IH
- Truck Range - TST
- Washington Hall - WH



SPRING MINUTES

15 April 1994

The Spring meeting of the EIDX was called to order at 7:30 PM in Linn Hall on the Kirkwood campus.

A moment of silence was observed to recognize the passing of KH6IJ.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasury shows a balance of \$492.76 after newsletter expenses paid.

W0SR gave the DXAC report. Jim passed around a copy of DXpedition Basics, a new publication of guidelines for DXpedition operations. Jim related that his DXCC update arrived at headquarters 29 March and was processed on 1 April. DXAC has voted on Mt. Athos deletion but too early for results. The Pratis Island application for country status is complicated by the fact that it is in Chinese and uses complex wording. It has been removed from the agenda pending clarification. Scarborough Reef may not meet the criteria. The DXAC manual of procedures is in place. At this time it appears there will be no further new DXCC's. Call area calling and minimum size requirements for a country are discussion topics.

K0VM reported the repeater is working.

W0EJ reported on the progress of the Linn County Tower ordinance committee. While not yet complete several areas of the regulation are coming together. It is hoped that the portions of it that cover amateur radio will be done soon. The town of Springville is beginning to draft a tower ordinance. K4VX spoke of National level legislation recognizing amateur radio as a national resource could preempt local regulations. Watch for news of any legislation introduced and support it.

W0BZRL gave a cluster update. G3WJN was forced to lower his tower so our link to the East is at a new site East of Clinton at W09PPE. It is hoped that another site halfway in between W0BZRL and W09PPE can be found to further improve the reliability of the link.

W0BZRL offered to pick up copies of ON4UN's new Low Band DXing book to be offered for the first time at Dayton.

Swapfest and general gathering at NC0P's QTH May

28,1994. Marshalltown HAMFEST will be May 15,1994.

W00AWL offered to take orders for clothing items with the club logo imprinted as follows: sweatshirt \$11.00 XXL \$2.00 more, polo shirt \$11.05 XXL \$1.60 more 2nd logo on back for \$2.00, windbreaker \$15.60, pullover \$20.25 and T-shirts for \$6.05. The possibility of embroidered call signs for a \$5.00 fee was also discussed.

K4VX talked about problems showing up during a 16X audit of the QSL field checking for DXCC. Some are being closely watched for errors or sloppy work.

ARRL is investigating providing domestic QSL service as postal service changes now make it possible. So far low interest does not merit the investment necessary.

A00ME's new cartoon fun book was shown off and won as a door prize by W0EJ.

K0GVB brought a radio taken from an Iraqi armored personnel carrier for show and tell.

W0SR led a discussion on the necessity for forming a TVI committee. No resolutions were made but more discussion will be pursued.

More input on the W0 QSL bureau was shared. Dave Suaner's editorial in May QST should be required reading.

K60EJ asked for VEC help at the Midwest Convention as AKSARBEN Club members are spread pretty thin hosting the event. Anyone that can help should contact K60EJ.

W0SR won the new copy of Low Band DXing donated by ARRL Midwest Division Director Lew Gordon, K4VX.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

K4VX presented slides of his various antenna installations over the years to the present. Also slides of his operating positions along with some tips of contest setups and antenna switching.

Respectfully,

Gary Toomsen K06T

Treasury Balance \$556.42

port, and four radios, and two amplifiers. And there are two Astron power supplies providing power for the radios, outboard tnc, and amps.

What I lost was: one DRSI tnc card inside the computer, and the ~~power~~ strip that everything was plugged into. Both amps are on the radios driven by the smoked DRSI board, so the lightning came through watt meters, amps, and radios to get into the computer. The power strip had a smoked MOV that shorted the circuit breaker in the main breaker box. All in all, I was totally off the air only 2 days, as NCOP loaned me a replacement board to put it all back online.

What did I learn? I've asked for my PolyPhaser book back, and the next time I heard thunder, I actually disconnected the antennas. It is amazing how this HF DXer got so involved in VHF/UHF. I hope to see you on the 14th. *de ZRL*

K06VB a friend

With the passing of Gary Ernst, K06VB to the big pileup in the sky, the EIDXA loses one of its closest ambassadors and friendliest members. Being a native Iowa farmer, long standing DX honor roll member, pilot, several year EIDXA club secretary, and a great person to be around, he will be dearly missed by all.

Gary was one of the first DXers to join the newly formed EIDXA. He seemed to know everyone on the air that DXed. At Dayton it never seemed to fail to see 6VB chatting with a DX guest or 160 meter buddy that was an old acquaintance. Gary loved to be on the other end of the pileups too. In his last ten years of DXing he managed trips to VP5, ZF, and C6. One of the highlights of those trips was his winning the 160 meter category for the world in an ARRL DX contest. Speaking of 160 meters, Gary was the first EIDXA member to achieve DXCC on top band (before the 160 meter KW was allowed).

I especially enjoyed my visits to Gary's farm near West Branch. His hospitality and genuine good nature always shined through. Being a native Iowa DXer and living out in God's little acre, he most represented the way most antenna lovers would envision ham heaven. His ham shack was full of memorabilia with vintage radio gear, Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, Heath, and on and on. Gary took pride in the unusual. A unique QSL card was one to be shared at a club meeting, a good story to be told to all. He had his hard times but always met them square and took them on.

Gary we miss you! Your memory lives on with me.
de wp

REMEMBERING K06VB

de Bob WA0DXZ

I met Gary when I was 14, a novice, and was thrilled that a 23 year old Dx'er would take any interest in a scrawny 14 year old novice. One of our earliest adventures, (and there were many) and one of the things we always laughed about, was when he first invited me out to the farm. He was putting up a stacked array of 294-BA's, 20 meter monobanders, on the 60 foot windmill tower. It was February, and freezing cold, blowing snow. He told me to carry a rope up the tower and he would be up shortly. I scrambled up the darned thing, scared to death, but too young to know any better. No gloves, and freezing, I told him a few minutes later I wanted to come down, this could wait until spring. He came up to the rope tied it around me, in somekind of super sailer knot, and told me not to move, he'd be back, and down the tower he went. He stayed inside probably 10 minutes, it seemed like 10 hours to me, before he came up and untied me, and let me down, and he had a great laugh. I wasn't laughing, and that was when I first heard the the thought about the best antennas are put up in the dead of winter, in the worst blizzards. The beams worked great, and we had many a laugh over it for the next 30 years. I always smile now when I see that windmill tower. He was a super ham, and a never to be forgotten friend, 73 Gary.....*de Bob WA0DXZ*

PREZ CORNER

The Fall meeting will be held on October 14, in the same room at Kirkwood Community College as the spring meeting. It will start around 7:30 after some time to socialize. Tom, (thats the KEØMO Tom) has loaned us his video of the 3YØPI operation for the program.

First a reminder that dues are (due). A wallet busting \$5 that won't set anyone back too far. Second, this is election time for club officers. The executive committee (the club officers) plan to present a slate of candidates for office. Members will be allowed to nominate from the floor, but the chair will not accept any nomination unless the nominee agrees. So please, if you wish to nominate someone, get their concurrence before you nominate them.

There are lots of signs of fall. It barely made 50 degrees today, the bulletins are starting to list the CQWW DX-peditions, and I'm starting to think seriously about the antenna work I still want to get done. After visiting NCØP's antenna farm for the 3rd time this summer, and seeing him trying a SECOND 3 element 40 Meter beam, and a 160 meter vertical array, I think that my antennas pale in comparison. And to think that 8 years ago, I never dreamed of the antenna farm I now have. With the bottom of the sun spot cycle still another year or two away, we need to spruce up our low band and WARC systems.

Thanks to an offer from NUØP for an opportunity to ride shotgun on a trip to the Peoria hamfest, I got to attend for the first time. Quite an event. It certainly meets WDØAWL's first rule for attending hamfests: that it take longer to see everything than it does to drive there. I saw quite a number of EIDXaers and got to meet some of the Illinois PacketCluster people. I was also able to purchase a few critically need items, and a few that maybe weren't needed at all. A nice hamfest with a large flea market. I recommend it to everyone.

I recently had my first experience with lightning, and I was really lucky. It was one of those nights when the weather forecaster didn't say anything about thunder storms, but about 4:30 in the morning I awoke to thunder. Sleepily I went to the basement shack and disconnected all the HF equipment, but left the cluster running. Back in bed a few minutes later, I was counting the elapsed time between flash and thunder. The nearest was about 1 mile off, so maybe it was time to think about disconnecting the cluster. I hadn't disconnected all summer long, and wasn't in a real big hurry to break the string. I heard the sizzle before I saw the flash, and the bang coincided with the flash. By now there was no doubt that I should disconnect everything, if only there was something to disconnect. When I got to the shack, I found everything powered off. I disconnected the antennas and pulled the plug from the AC mains. The computer was still running on the UPS, so I turned off the computer. When I next looked at 7:30, I wasn't sure what I would find. My imagination had run rampant, and I envisioned a total loss. The cluster hardware consists of: The UPS which powers only the computer. The computer is a 386SX and contains two DRSI tnc cards for 3 of the cluster ports. There is an outboard tnc for the fourth

D A Y T O N H A M V E N T I O N G L O R I O S O W M
X O N K A N S A S C I T Y K E Y E R G C P A J K V V
C E D A R V A L L E Y A R C H K V D E S E C H E O G
O A X E K L W O R K E D A L L S T A T E S O T O J D
U S P D C M V C L W O R K E D A L L Z O N E S L N S
N T E O T A D Z H I K I S T A N Z K T O X S V G I H
T E D X C E N T U R Y C L U B U K W R P E W T E B G
R R I I C O M E A N T E N N A F A R M L G Q G A I D
I N T Q P C J U S L Q A K H M N O Y O W V K H Z M U
E I I E N O Q E G E F N Z G O L R Q X Y L U J Z S P
S O O E B L L W O R K E D A L L C O N T I N E N T S
L W N E V L J E O L I N E A R A M P L I F I E R A L
I A M E R I C A N R A D I O R E L A Y L E A G U E N
S D Q E F N S T X Z L G S A D J D Q J P G V R K R B
T X K K U S P D M O A D E Q M O U N T A T H O S P L
N A V X L W R T T Y Z P W C U S M A U R I T A N I A
M S N O I E A I D V A P Y I L A A A N W T Y C C C O
Q S X Y W E T R L V E E D K D I R T C D X X D Z R Q
J O E P F P L E C A R R S T N E P E O Q E V A G O S
S C L T P S Y P N B N F T U T B K P S P U N X G A L
S I G C D T I E B T A K L I G B O L E B B A O V T B
G A D F B A S A Q O E N A J C L C N V R A A R V I U
B T K K Y K L T P W U C D Y I A T Q R U T L N I A R
M I T G K E A E I E N V M S R M L K E N W O O D E E
T O G L Q S N R J R T H E D X B U L L E T I N H T A
N N P M V J D X P A C K E T C L U S T E R V P F J U

Mar 13, 1994

Word List

AMERICANRADIOR
ELAYLEAGUE
AMSAT
ANTENNAFARM
BOUVET
CEDARVALLEYARC
CLIPPERTON
COLLINS
CQWORLDWIDE
CROATIA
DAYTONHAMVENTI
ON
DESECHEO
DIPOLE
DODECANESE
DXCENTURYCLUB
DXCOUNTRIESLIST
DXPACKETCLUSTE
R

DXPEDITION
EASTERNIOWADXA
SSOCIATION
GLORIOSO
GREENSTAMP
GRIDSQUARES
HONORROLL
ICOM
JUANDENOVA
KANSASCITYKEYER
KENWOOD
LINEARAMPLIFIER
MACQUARIE
MAURITANIA
MOUNTATHOS
QRZDX
QSLBUREAU
QSLCARD
REPEATER
RTTY
SPRATLYISLAND

SRILANKA
SWEEPSTAKES
TADZHIKISTAN
TENDEC
THEDXBULLETIN
TOPBAND
TOWER
VERTICAL
WARCBANDS
WORKEDALLCONTI
NENTS
WORKEDALLSTATE
S
WORKEDALLZONE
S
YAESU
YAGI

On August 23, while painting the house, the ladder slipped out at its base. The result was a 10 foot fall to the concrete that broke both heel bones through to the ankle joint. This has had me very immobile (no weight on my feet for 4 weeks), then another 4 weeks walking with crutches and supports, all of which is very painful. Because of the pain of moving around, and the shack being in the basement, I have been very inactive. This has let me to come up with a top 10 list of REVELATIONS about my HAM RADIO HOBBY.

10. the doorbell is starting to sound like Morse code.
9. my neck is no longer sore from looking up and checking antennas.
8. the electric light bill is more reasonable.
7. there is more communications with the XYL on weekends when I would normally attend hamfests.
6. there is more sleep at night.
5. I read the articles in QST before looking at the new equipment adds.
4. the low sunspot cycle is not a problem.
3. the ham shack hasn't needed to be cleaned in the past 6 weeks.
2. the money saved on QSLing paid for my new aluminum crutches.
1. There is life after amateur radio.

le WØØAWL

1994 EIDXAOFFICERS

President: WØØZRL Tom Vavra
V.Pres: WØWP Tom Lindgren
Sec/Tres: KØGT Gary Toosen

REPEATER COMMITTEE:

KØVN, Al Groff
WØMJN, Joe Finkstein

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

WØSR, Jim Spencer
WØIZ, Dale Repp

DX Cluster SYSOP:

WØØZRL, Tom Vavra

EIDX REPEATER:

145.19 MHz WØMJN

DX CLUSTER:

144.91 MHz and 147.51 MHz, WØØZRL

thanks to contributors: WØØDXZ, WØØZRL, WØØAWL,
WØSR, KØGT, WØPJ

A GHOSTLY CHASE

by W8BZRL

All I ever wanted to do was chase HF DX. But I needed 2M equipment to work the locals on the simplex spotting frequency. Then I needed packet equipment to connect to the local PacketCluster node. Until recently, I never really needed direction finding skills to further my DX goals.

During the last half of August a signal would all to frequently appear on the repeater, keeping the repeater keyed up until it would timeout. Then some random time later it would go away and the repeater would be available for use again. In early September, K9VM found a signal down around the repeater input that was fairly wide. With some help from hams with rotating 2M beams, Al fixed the source around South Western Cedar Rapids, near Fairfax. With a small yagi and receiver in the capable hands of WA0ZZG and WD0HGI, we were soon sitting under a tower with a 4-bay array on top.

The signal was very strong. The handheld was full scale without any antenna. Walking away from the tower several hundred feet was enough to change the pulsing "modulation" of the signal. We approached to men who were working in the yard of this small commercial firm, and asked them if they could please insure that all their radios were turned off. Of course, we were positive that the 'base' radio was the cause, and when they kept insisting that it was turned off, we were skeptical. So was the owner, and he chased us off.

Somehow Al got in the good graces of the owner and was soon following him around the house and yard looking for a peak to the signal. WA0ZZG told me that it was strongest over in the corner of the yard where there was a bunch of junk and a small boat. It was about then that Al and the owner were walking through that area. Al paused by a back-hoe and tilted his head like he was on to something. A moment later he tapped the body of the back-hoe and we all heard the signal change on our handhelds. "Do that again Al" was heard, so Al did it again. We now had the offender, and we noticed the whip antenna on the back-hoe. As the owner climbed into the back-hoe, we heard microphonics. The owner swore that the radio was turned OFF. As he took the mic from the radio, we heard all the microphonics. When he turned the radio on the signal went away. He turned the radio off, and there was no signal.

We were puzzled until someone found the offending signal down the band about 100KHz. Turning the radio on/off confirmed that it was the source of the signal. Only by unplugging the DC line did the radio stay silent.

Arrangements were made to chat with the commercial maintainer the next day and get the radio repaired.

As I think back over these events, two things come to mind. First, we were lucky to find the problem. The DFing got us to the area, but then in a strong rf field we just stumbled around. I'm obtaining some equipment to rectify that. Second, whatever failed in that radio, think about how small a signal that radio must have been putting out into that 1/4 wave antenna. And what a job it was doing to the repeater. In any case, I 'THANK YOU' to Al, Dave, WA0ZZG, and Rick, WD0HGI.

I've now picked up a bit of DF experience. The things a true blue DXer won't do to insure he can chase DX.

AA

TI081TS

Jim, W0SR, sent us a copy of an interesting letter he received in his DXAC mailbox.....

Subject: Another Avenue for DXCC

They have them for major athletic activities: NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB, even NASCRR and professional fishing, so why not for DXing. I'm talking about DXCC TRADING CARDS! Just think, all your favorites immortalized on cardboard, and I don't mean QSL cards. You would get one trading card for every 10 countries you have for each DXCC award, plus you could buy packs at the ARRL Bookstore, at hamfests and from designated distributors. Later we could put the entire collection on CD ROM with DXing hints on audio from the easters.

There could be different series: DXCC Managers- W1DX, W1CW, W3AZD, K5FUV, etc. or Old Timers: Gus "You boys got any grits to go with my Cake?" Browning W4RPD, Al "I know we worked yesterday, but we don't have six bands today" Hix W8AH, Don "Of course I was there. Trust me" Miller W9NWV, etc. How about the Contemporaries series: Rick "I just love to crawl all over those 1's, 2's, and 3's" Roderick K3UR, Monk "I'm going to hold my breath until I turn purple" Apollo SV2ASP or Romeo "Of course I was there. Trust me" Stepanenko 3W3RR. (In)Famous list masters or well-worked pirate stations (remember 0X0AA-51a)? The opportunities are limitless!

The DXAC will need to come up with a set of criteria for those to be included in the card sets. DXCC totals, Expeditions, band-countries worked, DX contests won could all be candidate discriminators.

What'll you give me for a mint WA4D?

Tom Lindgren W0WP
9786 Blairs Ferry Rd. NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52411

W0SR Jim Spencer
3712 Tanager Drive NE
Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402

