

The Eastern Iowa Dixer



The Official Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX Association



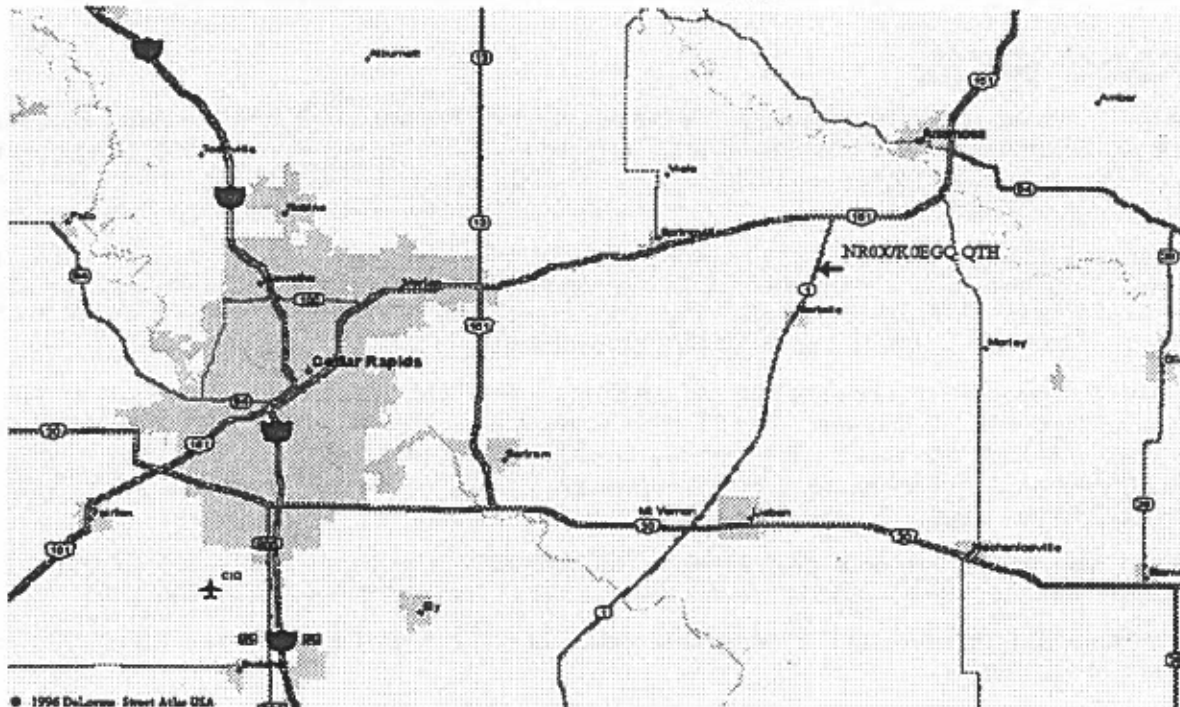
An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League

July, 1998

Club Officers: President: Terry Cellman W0AWL Vice President: Wade Walstrom W0EJ wade@inav.net Secretary/Treasurer: Frank Apple W0GWK fpapple@inav.net Repeater Committee: AlGroff K0VM al@ia.net Joe Finkstein W0MJN josephf@inav.net	Repeater: W0NX/R 144.59/145.19 PacketCluster: WB8ZRL: 147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM Membership Committee: Jim Spencer W0SR w0sr@aol.com Dale Repp W0IZ
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MEETING NOTICE

The 2nd Annual EIDXA Picnic will be Saturday, August 1, 1998, starting at 4:00 PM at the NR0X and K0EGQ QTH/antenna farm. The meeting will actually be a family picnic so bring the family. The antenna farm is between Martelle and US 151 on the east side of IA 1. Like in horseshoes and hand grenades, you just need to get close to find it – look for the antennas! If it is foggy, use 145.19 as a call-in.



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PRESIDENTS NOTES

By the time you read this newsletter, summer will be more than half over. I have had my vacation in Colorado. The weather was about 25 degrees cooler out there than it was in Iowa today. My thermometer said 88 degrees. That type of heat is not good for the corn or for tower erection. However a few sprouts of the new NRØX rotating tower have started to appear on the horizon, and it should be in full view as you drive toward his QTH. I'm guilty of putting undue pressure on Heinz this summer. I want him to get the towers up so the EIDX can brag about his antenna farm. I hope that all of you that attended the 1st annual EIDX picnic will want to return a second time and see the progress of Heinz and his elves. I also hope that those of you that were unable to attend last year will make an extra special effort to enjoy the fun this time.

Everything seems to be in place, the brats are purchased. Oh, by the way Frank, I got a real deal on the brats. Same brats but at a better price. If possible bring a dish to pass, same as last year. I again will bring my famous baked beans.

The storms that passed through Washington and Keokuk county did much damage to the trees and homes in those counties. I was very lucky, I only lost the top of a very beautiful pecan tree. My antennas all were turned 90 degrees off line. Tom KEØMO on the other hand really got hit. Buildings pushed off foundations, two towers folded over, two large Gap verticals ruined, no electricity for 5 days, a TV satellite dish turned into scrap metal, plus damage to trees, crops, other farm equipment. Hope the insurance man is in a good model

Hope to see a great many of you on the 1st of August

de WØAWL



NOTES FROM WØEJ

As you can see by the pictures above, more antennas are getting put back. The two on the left show WØEJ attaching the 15 meter 5 element yagi below the 10 meter and 2 meter yagis. I am the top of the 110 foot Rohn 55 tower. The picture on the right shows, from left to right, KØGT, WØEJ (standing), neighbor Paul Burdick, and WAØKHH. Not shown, but on the user side of the camera, was NCØO as the 15 meter beam is prepared for installation. The 20 meter yagi remains to be installed.

You may remember my article on climbing safety in the last January Newsletter. Just prior to installation of the 10 meter yagi I violated one of my own rules – the one about visually verifying that BOTH lanyard clips are securely and safely fastened before leaning back. Fortunately I was still hanging on. I was at the 75 foot level at the time so the results could have been tragic. Recall the admonishment on the Hill Street Blues television program, "Let's be careful out there!"

I was able to attend the Dayton Hamvention this year and saw many of you there. My older son, Rob, accompanied me this time. The turnout seemed a bit less this year. The DX and Contest forums were moved to the Meadowdale High School auditorium this year. I thought this was a more comfortable venue with more comfortable and ample seating and air conditioning plus there was the usual excellent bus transportation provided. However, it was just far enough away to adversely affect attendance. It will be interesting to see what they do next year.

Did you know you can now renew your ham ticket via the internet? Use Form 900 under electronic forms at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/electcom.html> I have talked to a few who have renewed this way and it works great!

As a reminder, the CVARC Hamfest is again at the Amana Visitor Center on August 9. This was a new site last year with plenty of room both in and outside.

73, Wade

The Eastern Iowa DXer



W0EJ - Lightning Rod Award Winner

W0GJ with K0JGH

W0GJ with K0AL, W0SSR, N0SM, W0SML

MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 3, 1998, MEETING OF THE EIDXA

The Spring meeting of the EIDXA was held on the Kirkwood Campus.

The meeting began with introductions. This was followed by the approval of the minutes as published for the winter meeting.

Tom, WB8ZRL, gave the packet cluster report. He reported that there were between 9000 and 11,000 spots for the recent ARRL contest and approximately 5800 spots for the CQ WPX contest.

Glen, K0JGH, is still looking for QSL card orders.

Jim, W0SR, gave a report of the DXCC activities at the ARRL. He reported that there is a loophole in the DXCC-2000 this concerns the provisions concerning IARU groups. The rounding down from miles to kilometers in the distance requirements will also make a few new areas eligible to be considered countries.

There were no new membership applications and the existing ones will continue to be held.

Terry, W0AWL, is still looking for shirt orders. Either shirts, jackets, polos etc.

It was decided to have another picnic this year. Date chosen was 1 Aug 1998 with 8 Aug 1998 as a rain date.

An election committee was chosen to prepare a slate of candidates for the next election of officers. Those chosen were Tom, WB8ZRL, and Heinz, N0FX.

Terry, W0AWL, discussed internet access in rural areas. He has finally found a way to get service for \$30/mo via an 800 number.

A request for donations for the upcoming St. Brandon, 3B7, DXpedition was brought up and it was decided to pass the hat. \$72 was collected. The club voted to round this to \$75 using club funds.

Wade, W0EJ, was presented with the Lightning Award.

Terry, W0AWL, gave a report on upcoming hamfests.

It was brought up that Dale, W0IZ, has lung cancer. He will be having test and possibly surgery. He is at St. Lukes. It was also mentioned that N0DX, Frank, had had lung cancer and now had brain cancer. It was hoped that surgery would be possible and helpful. Sheets of paper were sent around for everyone to sign to express our best wishes for these two friends and fellow hams.

The meeting was adjourned for a few minutes after which W0GJ, Dr. Glenn Johnson, gave an excellent slide talk on the recent VK0IR DXpedition to Heard Island. These were slides that Glenn took himself while he was there as a member of the team.

Respectfully submitted

Frank Apple W0GWK
Secretary/Treasurer

COLLINS PAPERS TO UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES

The papers of the late Arthur A. Collins, W0CXX, (1909-1987), founder and president of Collins Radio Company, now part of Rockwell International Corporation, have been deposited at the University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City. An electronics pioneer, Collins founded the Collins Radio Company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The company began producing Amateur Radio equipment in 1933. Collins later expanded to other specialized areas of electronics including aviation, navigation, broadcast and general communications.

During World War II, Collins Radio supplied electronic equipment for the military. Later, Collins was the major communications supplier for the US Manned Space Program. When Admiral Richard E. Byrd planned his expedition to Antarctica in 1933, he selected Collins to build the transmitters he used to keep in touch from the South Pole.

The Collins collection fills 33 large boxes with documents covering the years 1932 through the late 1970s. Materials include correspondence, subject files, photographs, notebooks, corporate annual reports, product literature, product drawings and other working papers. The collection is currently being processed, which involves arranging, preserving and describing the materials so that they will be available to researchers. Processing could take up to a year. For more information on the collection and its contents, contact the University of Iowa Libraries, Department of Special Collections, tel 319-335-5921.

From the ARRL Letter Vol. 17, No. 18 May 1, 1998

ELECTRONIC QSLs?

The era of electronic QSLs may not be far away. Security from tampering has always been the main reason why the ARRL and other organizations have been skeptical of this form of QSO confirmation. A secure method developed by MIT in 1983 for the purpose of electronic currency exchange between banks and other financial institutions may offer the solution.

The method is quite simple. A two part key is generated by a computer a "public key" and a "private key". The "public key" is publicized and made available to all. The "private key" is held secure. When a message or data has been processed by a "private key" a "fingerprint" or data stream is attached to the data which describes the data. This description is unique. The recipient is able to check the incoming message or data against the "public key" for tampering. Should ANY change have been made to the data, the message will be reported as faulty. (Note this is not encryption, but verification that the message has not been tampered with in ANY respect.) There are now literally millions of public keys now published.

For instance in the case of a DXpedition QSL manager, a standardized electronic QSL formatter within his logging software of choice (DXbase, CT, TRLog, etc.) would be used to generate the QSL and be processed using his "private key". The QSL message will now have (1) The complete QSO information: Callsign, date, time, mode, report etc, (2) The "fingerprint" generated by the "private key". (3) An electronic fund transfer entry (i.e "Green Stamp" field.) if required. (4) The "public key" of the originator. Upon receipt by the station requesting the QSL, an electronic submission to ARRL along with the fingerprint and "public key" may be made electronically for credit. The ARRL will then verify the authenticity of the QSL by processing it through the originators "public key" that the data has not been tampered with.

There will always be a few of us that will prefer a paper QSL just as there are those who want to hold their airline ticket in their hands when they go to the airport. But for simple credit for DXCC or WAS the electronic QSL would certainly reduce the QSL manager's and QSL bureau's burden, not to mention the saving of lots of trees! I will be introducing this proposal to the ARRL Executive Committee in Seattle on May 9. Lew/K4VX

From the ARRL Letter Vol. 17, No. 18 May 1, 1998

HYGAIN GOES FACTORY DIRECT

HyGain announced at the Dayton Hamvention that they will now be selling antennas and other equipment on a factory direct sales basis only. You may have noticed several dealers liquidating their HyGain stock in the wake of this announcement. To this end they have installed a toll free number (800-898-6723) for factory direct orders. Also, they have a web page at <http://www.hy-gain.com> with a listing of all the products and the factory direct prices.

The factory direct prices appear to be about 10% LESS than prices through the former HyGain dealers. Examples include e TH-11 at \$850.46, TH7DX at \$639.35, and 204BA at \$379.53

Rotators, VHF, UHF, and other equipment is also included in the products that can now be purchased factory direct.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF ARRL MEMBERS USE 160M?

Thought this would be interesting to Topband users. The ARRL recently had a survey conducted of League members by Readex. The margin of error is +/- 3.6% with 95% confidence (from 748 usable responses).

Frequencies Used

2m	83%	80m	54	30m	20	220 mhz	11
20m	67	15m	49	12m	19	902 mhz	3
40m	65	440 mhz	38	6m	18	1240 mhz	3
10m	56	17m	28	160m	18	1300 mhz	1

18% means about 27K ARRL members - far higher than I would have figured. The summary above was part of a summary of findings recently reported to advertisers - I'm sure you'll see a summary of the results in QST as well.

Broken down a little further:

Question asked: How often do you operate on (or listen to) the following bands? (160) regularly 5% - about 7500, which seems about right to me occasionally 14% seldom 21% never 40% no answer 21%

Of course ARRL members are only about 25% of all USA hams and weighted towards the "higher" license classes. The totals probably do represent a significant majority of active HF operators, and less so on the VHF/UHF end.

From the Topband Reflector

SPECTRUM PROTECTION BILL INTRODUCED

At the request of the ARRL, a bill has been introduced in Congress to ensure the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The bill, HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998, would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. The bill was introduced March 27 by Rep Michael Billirakis of Florida, a Republican, with the cosponsorship of Rep Ron Klink of Pennsylvania, a Democrat.

If approved, the measure would amend Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 to preclude reallocation of any primary Amateur Radio allocations or diminution of any secondary allocations, and would block any additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to Amateur Radio, unless the Commission at the same time provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" to the Amateur Service.

The bill points out that a basic purpose of Amateur Radio is to provide "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and that Amateur Radio has "consistently and reliably" provided emergency communication during and after disasters. The measure notes that the FCC has "taken actions which have resulted in the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs."

HR 3572 has been referred to the House Commerce Committee. An effort is under way to enlist additional cosponsors for the measure.

The full text of the bill is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572>:

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THE TOP 17 THINGS YOU WOULD NEVER HEAR A SOUTHERNER SAY:

17. "I'll take Shakespeare for 1000, Alex"
 16. Duct tape won't fix that.
 15. Lisa Marie was lucky to catch Michael.
 14. You can't feed that to the dog.
 13. I thought Graceland was tacky.
 12. No kids in the back of the pick-up, it's not safe.
 11. Wrasslin's fake.
 10. We're vegetarians.
 9. Do you think my hair is too big?
 8. I'll have grapefruit instead of biscuits and gravy.
 7. Deer heads detract from the decor.
 6. I just couldn't find a thing at Wal-Mart today.
 5. Trim the fat off that steak.
 4. Unsweetened tea tastes better.
 3. Would you like your fish poached or broiled?
 2. Hey, here's an episode of "Hee Haw" that we haven't seen.
- And the #1 thing you would NEVER hear a Southerner say is—
1. Elvis who?



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