

The Eastern Iowa DXer



The Official Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX Association



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League

October, 1998

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| Club Officers: President: Terry Cellman W0AWL Vice President: Wade Walstrom W0EJ wade@inav.net Secretary/Treasurer: Frank Apple W0GWK fpapple@inav.net Repeater Committee: Al Groff K0VM al@ia.net Joe Finkstein W0MJN josephf@inav.net | Repeater: W0NXR 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 next meeting of the Eastern Iowa DX Association will be Friday, October 16, 1998, at 7:30PM in room 219C Linn Hall on the Kirkwood Community College campus. As usual, doors open at 7:00 PM for eyeball QSOs. Officers will be elected at this meeting.

Monitor 145.19 for directions if needed.

Dues are due!

See you there!

FRANK WEIGELT, N0DX, SK

Former EIDX member Frank Weigelt, N0DX, became a silent key on October 1, 1998, after a long battle with cancer. Our condolences to Frank's family.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

They say that autumn is a season of change. That seems to be true, at least for several club members. New radios and new antennas seem to be on every one's mind. The Yaesu FT 1000MP seems to be on several club member lists this fall. Tom, (KE0MO) seems to have all the antennas and tower he needs to replace the storm damaged ones. Now he just has to find time to get them up. Heinz has completed the erection of one of the two rotation towers. I guess I don't blame him for taking a well deserved western vacation. Now that the vacation is over, Heinz is probably looking for an early harvest so the beverages can be strung. It must be hell to have to be a big gun on all the bands. Tom (WB8ZRL) should have the 40 meter beam repaired before our October meeting. If you haven't heard by now, Tom (K0VZR) went out of state and purchased a monster 40 meter beam. I hope we can help him get that up before the winds turn cold. Looks like Wade (W0EJ) is ready for cycle 23. Antennas all up and ready for winter. As for yours truly, I'm looking forward to working the low bands this winter and finishing up 5BDXCC, and perhaps spinning the knobs of a new rig. (maybe a 920?) The program for October is the 1995 dxpedition to Easter Island. (XR0Y) This is the last club meeting for 1999, therefore it is election night. Tom and Heinz should have the officer slate ready to vote on. I'm looking forward to turning the presidency over to *NEWBLOOD*. I think this helps the club stay healthy, and keeps a flow of new ideas coming out. Its time for someone new to put his stamp on our club. I hope to see you all at the meeting and eating pizza after.

de W0AWL

MINUTES OF THE JULY, 1998, MEETING

1 Aug. 1998

The Summer meeting and picnic of the EIDXA was held at the QTH/Antenna Farm of Heinz, NR0X and Karin, K0EGQ. The meeting began with introductions. This was followed by the approval of the minutes as published for the spring meeting.

The meeting was held short with the only other business being to decide the date of our next meeting as 16 Oct. 1998.

Two "special" QSTs and Call Book CD were given out as door prizes.

The meeting was adjourned to continue the fellowship.

Respectfully submitted

Frank Apple W0GWK
Secretary/Treasurer

Only in America...can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance...

Only in America...are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink...

Only in America...do people order double cheese burgers, a large fry, and a diet coke...

Only in America...do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters...

Office Vocabulary: Blamestorming - Sitting around in a group discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed and who was responsible.

SHORT NOTES FROM W0EJ

It is that time of year again. Time for the Fall EIDX meeting. We will be meeting at what is now the "usual" place at the usual time. Remember dues are due at this meeting and the \$5.00 per year figure is still a bargain. Also, officers for the next year will be elected at this meeting so it is doubly important to attend. From what I understand, there will be a completely new slate of candidates which will mean a new team of officers. Of course, nominations will be taken from the floor. Not to intimidate anyone, but, "Be there or be ..." elected.

The yagis at W0EJ have all been reinstalled. The resonant point on the 20 meter yagi is lower than I had hoped, but should be ok, at least for now. The next problems are getting the lower band antennas working properly. I purchased double bazooka antennas for 160, 80, and 40 to try. The initial performance on these, so far, has been a bit disappointing. While the SWR is low and flat across most of the bands, it is too high at the bottom of the CW portions. The 160 meter antenna has come down a bit so it would be usable so it seems that there is a far amount of coupling between the double bazookas and the tower and other antennas. I am moving them around to try to find what I hope to be an optimum position for each one. In all the installation, something happened to the WARC band beam or feedline, but I have not been able to find the problem there.

At Dayton this year I picked up the 1998 version of DXBase. I have been loading QSO data from my Novice days on. I have all my old log book data loaded now and am now loading contest logs. This version of DXBase allows importing of CT .bin files directly. Unfortunately, many of those I have had have been lost so I have been scanning the printed logs, doing the optical character read function on the scans, converting the OCR output to the Excel spreadsheet format for clean up and final conversion to the Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF Ver. 1.0) which DXBase will also import. It is a very time consuming process, but manually loading this data is even more so. I have loaded over 13,000 QSOs so far and have at least that many to go. I have yet to interface the TNC, HF radios, and modem to DXBase. I have had a problem getting Com ports 5 - 8 to map into Windows 95 and work and then get any Com port to interface with DXBase. It should be neat when it all gets working.

As you may or may not be aware, Lew Gordon, K4VX, ARRL Midwest Director, has decided not to run for re-election when his current term expires next year. For the past few months he has been trying to persuade me to run to replace him. Lew and I have exchanged e-mail during this time and we discussed the possibilities when Lew was here in August for the CVARC Hamfest. In early September I notified Lew that I would run for the position of ARRL Midwest Director next year and I announced my decision at the Collins Club September "Pizza" Bash (there was no pizza this year!). The response to this announcement was extremely favorable at the Collins Club meeting and I hope I will have the support of the EIDX as well. I will look to many of you for ideas on election strategy and further support assuming this campaign is successful. Lew has assured me of his support for which I am grateful.

On October 8 several of us will be giving a presentation on Dxing to CVARC. The intent to talk about what Dxing is, what is required, what DXCC is, and plug EIDX. Hopefully, we can pick up some new members this way.

I have been contacted by several people about tower problems as related to local government, including our own Linn County (still). One opportunity that presented itself was a chance to allow amateur radio towers in the restrictive covenants for a new development sponsored by Habitat for Humanity. I have not heard how this came out. Success for amateur radio in this situation would be a long shot, but still a possibility.

73,

Wade, W0EJ

More Office Vocabulary: Ohnosecond - That minuscule fraction of time in which you realize that you've just made a BIG mistake.

THE CURSE OF FT. HUACHUCA

BY TOM TAORMINA, K5RC

I'm not often given to looking to the dark side for answers to inexplicable events, but, after a 20 year string of bizarre happenings, I am labeling this one The Curse of Ft. Huachuca (wa-choo-ka). The origins of the curse may never be known, so we pick up the story in the mid-1970's in Peoria, Arizona.

W7KW moved to the far north end of Phoenix to escape neighbors and to build a substantial antenna farm. He acquired about 1,500 feet of military surplus AB-105 tower from Ft. Huachuca Military Reserve (hence the name of the curse) and erected four 180' towers. Virtually from the moment he completed the towers, his problems began. A neighbor started harassing him about the towers and started what would become a four year legal battle. It seems that the neighbor found the towers offensive because they obstructed his view of the mountains! The entire affair was punctuated by incidents of malicious harassment, sabotage and covert activities that were a constant source of aggravation to Bill. He persisted, however, erecting the prototype KLM 4 element 80 meter beam and gaining a famous cover shot in CQ Magazine when he erected an antenna using a hot air balloon. The effects of the curse again manifested themselves in a freak wind storm that totally destroyed the 80 meter beam. Shortly after that, a court ruled that W7KW would have to lower the towers to 120' feet to placate the neighbor.

NA5R and I were starting to build another contest station in Texas when K7GM called and suggested that W7KW might want to sell out. In mid 1982, we went on a recon trip and struck up a deal. Several weeks later, five of us showed up in Peoria with two 40' tractor trailer trucks, a 90 ton Grove crane and, in 3 days, we dismantled W7KW and moved it to Manvel, Texas. Shortly after we left, W7KW became a silent key under circumstances still not explained.

The next year was one of wild enthusiasm as we erected three towers and advertised plans for a killer super-station, with at least 5 towers, stacks on all bands and rhombics. In July of 1983, Hurricane Alicia came to town and leveled Radio Manvel. Still unaware of the curse, we rebuilt and managed to erect the 40 meter, 15 meter and 10 meter stacks. About the same time, NA5R's business and my business began having problems. In December of 1984, the 10 meter tower blew down a week before (what would have been) my 10th consecutive 10 meter contest and I haven't competed in one since. By late 1985, both businesses were out of business and we were both beset by a number of personal tragedies.

We managed to operate a few contests from NA5R, but never were really competitive. In 1986, we were forced to dismantle the station and liquidate it. NR5M acquired the assets and moved them to Hempstead, Texas. In retrospect, George must have had a sense about the curse, because he opted to leave all that tower piled on the ground and build his contest station with Rohn 45 and 55. Proximity must count for something. Even though the AB-105 towers were not up, NR5M's station has never reached its full potential and stands today idle and in disrepair.

In the years since 1986, the only time the AB-105 was disturbed was when WN4KKN acquired some of it to build his station in central Texas. As history dictates, Trey had to dismantle his station, liquidate the tower and move to California, before the potential of that station was realized.

That brings us to 1993. The Stephen F. Austin Radio Club and the Austin County Repeater Association were looking for a tower site for their repeaters, when I remembered the AB-105 laying in waste. A call to NR5M yielded a generous donation of 120' of the tower. In December, several of us unearthed the skeleton of steel from its home among the yaupon and poison ivy. In March of 1994, we stacked it in Bellville, Texas. For several weeks, it was the home of our 2 meter and 440 repeaters (and was soon to be the support for my 160, 80 and 40 meter wire arrays) when, in early April, a freak wind storm blew it down.

The next morning, the workings of the Curse of Ft. Huachuca became crystal clear to me. That tower was never up in any one place very long. It fell twice and was taken down at least four times. Everyone that had it in their possession experienced varying degrees of family and financial problems.

Whether you are given to believe in the unexplained or inanimate objects having a spirit, I believe that in this case the Indian gods did not intend for that tower to be standing vertically. In deference to the evidence, it is now on its way to a nameless scrap metal yard, in an obscure city, where it will rest in peace, horizontally polarized.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING YU, YT, YZ, 4N4 STATIONS.

September 23, 1998 from the CQ 160 Contest Committee to all radio amateurs:

After careful consideration the committee has decided to disallow stations operating with a Yugoslav call inside Bosnia. Calls with the Yugoslav prefix and the number 4 such as YU4, YT4, YZ4, 4N4 must be located within the current boundaries of Yugoslavia to be accepted. The two logs received for the 1998 CQ WW 160 CW are clearly identified as within Bosnia which is assigned the T9 block by the ITU. The logs of YT4I and YZ4IZ will be classified as check logs.

Contacts with such stations will still have the appropriate points (5 or 10) and no contacts were removed from any logs. This will be true for 1999 CQ 160 Contests and beyond. There will be NO multiplier credit for these contacts! This rule applies to other activities such as 1X (UA4) and 1B (5B4).

This decision came after consulting a number of contest groups, the CQ WW committee, CQ Communications management, the ARRL, and the ITU.

David L. Thompson K4JRB (For the Cq 160 Committee)
CQ 160 Contests Director

DX NOTES:

Herman, DJ2BW, once again will head to the Indian Ocean. This time he will be in the Comoros Islands (AF-007) from 26 October to 7 November. Look for D68BW to be on all bands on CW, SSB and RTTY, with an emphasis on 12, 17 and 30 meters and the lowbands. QSL via DJ2BW.

Gus, VO1MP, reports he and VO1MX will operate multi-single as VO2CQ from CQ WAZ zone 2 during the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest. The two will be on the air from 21 to 25 October. The QTH will be the Point Amour lighthouse which is 109 feet tall and will be used to support the 80 and 160 meter antennas. Before the contest they plan to be fairly active on 160 meters CW as VO2ZZ, also some 12 and 17 meter SSB. QSL via VE3FU.

I will be QRV from 25 October until 7 November as D68BW from Comoros with emphasis on LF-bands with a 20 meter high Vertical, all bands CW, RTTY, SSB. CUL, 73 Hermann DJ2BW

Stan /SP3BGD/ who is active from HF0POL will have new antenna for Topband around 3 October. He is "open" to skeds and will be on South Shetlands till 10 December. 73 Rys SP5EWY (From The Daily DX)

The following is from K8MN's manager WA8JOC. As you all probably know, Dave has been very active on 160 from J52US, 9L1US and A22MN. 73, Bill W4ZV

Hi all!

Well... Dave K8MN has started his FINAL rotation in Tanzania! He has just started the licensing application process, and has only just received his residency permits there. He should be there for 3 years or so.

I will again ATTEMPT to keep up with his schedule for very active amateur radio operations as QSL manager for this operation. We will announce operation scheduling as it is available with antennas going up, etc...

As far as I know (now) freq's will range from 160 through to 6 meters. We will update everyone as info is available to us. Time line for licensing is unknown at this point, and as far as I know, NO sched's will be considered for particular bands/modes.

As in the past, direct cards w/sase will be processed first as logs are available. Buro cards, or those without sufficient return postage will be routed through the buro's at one, or 2 times per year.

The Eastern Iowa DXer

DX NOTES (CONT):

The current stations that I handle QSL's for are....

J52US
9L1US
9L9DXG
9L1SL for 2 months only in '91
A22MN
OH0/K8MN
OH2/K8MN
OJ0/OH0/K8MN
5H3?? beginning this year...

Ken
WA8JOC/CY0AA
kss@juno.com (KEN SCHEPER)

LZ, BULGARIA (160m activity planned). Wally, **LZ2CJ**, reports that he will be active in the upcoming CQWW DX SSB as a Single Op/Single Band entry on 160 meters. His QTH is at 1330m ASL, and his antennas will be: phased Inverted Vees to USA, 200m Long wires to Asia, Pacific and Africa. If interested for skeds, send E-mail to: lz2cj@qsl.net
From the OPDX Bulletin

T8 - Palau 08-17 December, 1998 **T88II** 160m-10m (WARC included) with topband emphasis by KJ9I, NF9V, NZ9Z. Contributions appreciated (to QSL manager) KJ9I David Schmocker N7298 CTH F Oconomowoc, WI 53066-9040 USA. DSchmock@Cellular1to1.com.

KP2 - WP2 - St. Croix - 19-27 OCT Members of the Florida DXpedition Group (FDXPG) Bill W4WX, Clarence W4CJK, William N2WB, Chris VE3FU, Jim AA9TK and Ernie W5OXA will be M/S entry in the CQWW SSB contest from St. Croix. They will also be active on all bands and modes, including RTTY, SAT and 6 meters, before and after contest. WP2Z will be used during contest. QSL via home calls and WP2Z via KU9C.

E31DX Well here is an update of where we are at now. We received word from Eritrea that we must apply for our license after we are in Eritrea, and that each operator must pay \$500 for his operating permit, and we could not operate as a group with one license. We have requested assistance on this through the Eritrean Embassy in Washington. We will lose several of our operators if this is not changed, or we do not see a large increase in donations that will help cover this. At this point the donations are just enough to cover the cost of our excessive baggage. There is no place in Eritrea we can safely send it to, so we must bring it on the planes with us as excessive baggage. We are planning to use two hotels on opposite sides of town so we can run 4 stations 24 hours a day. This all costs money, well above what can be expected to be paid by the operators. If you want this to take place, we will have to get additional donations coming in very soon. We are not asking the DX community to cover the complete cost of the license, which is \$10,000 (\$500 X 20 operators), but without some help on this, a large percentage of the operators will not be able to go. So, do you want this to be an all-band, full-scale DX-pedition, that is workable on all bands, to all areas of the world? Or just a causal one that is on some of the bands, only part of the day? Its up to you. For more information, check our web page at <http://qsl.net/eritrea> or <http://pagus.it/E31DX>

All donations by a group, or individual of \$100 or more will be posted on our Web Page, and listed on the QSL cards.

Please send donations to:
Eritrea
c/o Bruce Richards
533 Briarwood Dr.
Clarksville, Tn. 37040 USA

If for any reason we do not go, your donation WILL be returned.
73/DX, Bruce

COMMUNICATIONS EMERGENCY

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SECTION 97.401 OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S RULES AND REGULATIONS, 47 C.F.R. PART 97, A COMMUNICATIONS EMERGENCY IS DECLARED TO EXIST IN THE MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA, AND TEXAS AREAS, REQUIRING THE PROTECTION OF AMATEUR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION FREQUENCIES. AMATEURS ARE REQUIRED TO REFRAIN FROM USING 7285 AND 7290, DAYTIME, AND 3873 AND 3935, NIGHT TIME, PLUS OR MINUS 3 kHz UNLESS THEY ARE TAKING PART IN THE HANDLING OF EMERGENCY TRAFFIC. THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE 1100AM CENTRAL STANDARD TIME ON SEPTEMBER 27TH, 1998 UNTIL RESCINDED. (ARLB079)

PROPOSED POSTAGE HIKES FORCE QSL SERVICE TO ADJUST

Starting in 1999, the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service will increase its fees from \$4 to \$6 a pound. ARRL Membership Services Manager Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, says the move is necessary to absorb the effects of a proposed postal rate increase and to bring the money-losing service a bit closer to a break-even basis. The rate for quantities of 10 cards will remain at \$1.

Kennamer said the rate increase represents a cost of 4 cents per card (based on 150 cards per pound) to sort, package and mail QSL cards to the bureaus of the other IARU member societies. "Even with the increase, this still represents one of the better bargains in services to ARRL members," he said.

Inaugurated in 1976, the Outgoing QSL Service provides an economical way for ARRL members to send their QSL cards to amateurs in other countries. Today, two full time employees handle the more than 2 million cards that show up most years.

"The ARRL has subsidized the Outgoing QSL Service since the beginning, and continues to do so today," Kennamer explained. He said the League's handling and mailing costs now run more than \$9 a pound, leaving a shortfall of more than \$5 per pound at the current rates.

The last rate increase, to \$4 a pound, was three years ago. (From ARRL Letter 9/17/98)

THREE POINTS OF VIEW

Boris Yeltsin, Bill Clinton and Bill Gates were invited to have dinner with God.

During dinner He told them:

"I need three important people to send my message out to all people -
Tomorrow I will destroy the earth"

Yeltsin immediately called together his cabinet and told them:

"I have two very bad news items for you:
1. God really exists, and
2. Tomorrow He will destroy the earth"

Clinton called an Emergency meeting of the Senate and Congress and told them:

"I have Good news and Bad News:
1. The good news is: God really does exist
2. The bad news is: tomorrow He's destroying the earth."

Bill Gates went back to Microsoft and happily announced:

"I have two fantastic announcements:
1. I am one of three most important people on earth
2. The Year 2000 problem is solved!"

