

The Eastern Iowa DXer



The Official Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX Association

An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



October 2000

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Club Officers

President	Dave Andersen, KØRX
Vice President	Nelson Moyer, KUØA
Secretary/Treasurer	Tom White, KØVZR
Repeater Committee	Al Groff, KØVM
Membership Committee	Joe Finkstein, WØMJJN
	Jim Spencer, WØSR
	Tom Vavra, WB8ZRL

PacketCluster
WB8ZRL
147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM

Repeater
NØDX/R
144.59/145.19

From the President

Dave Andersen, KØRX

Wow! It's hard to believe that two years have gone by since I was elected President of the EIDXA. I've enjoyed meeting those of you I didn't know before assuming this position, and I remained convinced that the EIDXA is one of the finest ham clubs in the Midwest. The level of activity by the members in all facets of ham radio, not just Dxing, is outstanding. I don't have much to do with that, but want to tell you that it is fun to lead such a great bunch of hams. I've also enjoyed working with KUØA and KØVZR as the Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer respectively. I know I've caused Nelson to tear his hair out several different times when I was late with my column, but he always rose to the occasion. These two hams represent what is truly outstanding about our avocation. As you know, much of the emphasis I have placed on club activities during the past two years has been DX contest-related. I want to congratulate the club for an outstanding score in the CQWW club competition. Nearly 20 million points is an excellent score, and it enabled us to beat such worthy competition as the Texas DX Society and the Florida Contest Club. Hopefully we can keep up the good work. There are several great stations in the area that have been created or seriously upgraded in the past couple of years, and a couple of new contest operators that have seemingly come out of

the woodwork too. Most noteworthy in this latter category is Jeff, NØDY, who has turned into an excellent CW operator and has been a ham for just a couple of years. The only problem with that is he's probably going to beat me one of these times? As some of you may know, I am also an active scouter with the Hawkeye Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The weekend of September 29-October 1, we held a council-wide camporee for this first time in 15 years. There were about 1300 scouts and scouters that attended. I was very pleased to see several members of this club assisting with the Ham Radio Station event out at the camporee. They even let me operate! I worked an LX1. The scouts I talked to thought it was a pretty neat experience. In my opinion, this kind of outreach is exactly what is needed to assure the growth of ham radio well into the 21st century. Thanks guys, and keep up the good work! We've upgraded our club callsign to NØDX in honor of a former member who died of cancer. This is an excellent way to honor Frank, and sets our club up with a perfect DX callsign. I'd like to see it heard on the air more than just with the repeater, though. Thoughts of a multi-op with EIDXA operators pass through my head every once in a while. That would be a lot of fun. We've lost a couple of other outstanding long-term members of the club during my tenure as president, and I hope we can all take some private time to remember them as well. There are some things that I didn't get done, though. The most

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From the President (continued from page 1)

significant one was to set up an internal club contest competition, in order to promote activity during the major DX contests. NØYY showed the most interest in this of anybody besides me. Maybe I can work with him next year to do something more on it. One of the things I like best about this club is that the meetings are only four times per year. That makes getting interesting programs less of a problem than it is for clubs who meet more often. As a result, I think the programs we do have are quite interesting compared to the usual local club fare. This October should prove to be no exception. Lew Gordon, K4VX, has graciously volunteered to come and present some of his WRTC 2000 experiences for us. Lew was appointed one of the Chief Referees for this event, held last summer in Bled, Slovenia during the IARU World Championship. He's been associated with each of the previous WRTC's as well and as a result has a unique perspective on the event. Please join me at the meeting to hear what Lew has to say. In addition to the main program, we will also have reports from Cliff, KØCA, the Midwest Division representative and newly-appointed chairman of the DXAC, from Wade, WØEJ, our Midwest Division director, and various and sundry other reports. But perhaps most importantly, we will elect officers for the 2001 term. The club nominating committee, consisting of KUØA, KØVZR, and myself, will nominate a slate of candidates. In addition, I would like to encourage those of you interested in an officer position to place your own name in nomination. A vigorous club demands vigorous officers, and they come from highly-motivated members! The club meeting will be held on Friday October 20, 2000 at the usual time and place. 219C Linn Hall on the Kirkwood Campus, with eyeball QSOs beginning and 6:30 pm and the regular meeting at 7:30 pm. If you need directions, talk-in will be on the 145.19/NØDX repeater. Hope to see you there!

73, Dave, KØRX
President, EIDX

Shirt Order Form Enclosed

Terry, WØAWL is taking shirt orders again. Follow the instructions on the enclosed form.

Computer Maintenance—ZRL Style

Tom Vavra, WB8ZRL

My primary computer, an older 486, suddenly started having problems booting. The video display would start, then flash and start over. Often it would cycle through this part of the boot a number of times, and then the screen would go blank. Resetting the computer seemed to have no effect. However I did find that if I just let the computer sit (still powered on) it would soon boot correctly.

Remembering my Air Force experiences, I decided that the heat from the computer was eventually fixing the problem, and that the problem was a bit of corrosion that was preventing proper card or chip seating. The drill is to remove the boards from the computer and clean them. The connectors that actually plug the board into the mother board can be easily cleaned with a clean pencil eraser. With moderate pressure, "erase" the film from the connectors and then brush off the remains. While the board is out, make sure that all the socketed chips are firmly seated. Its amazing how far those chips can work themselves out of their sockets over time.

This rather simple maintenance procedure restored the computer to its usual self.

The Editor's Final Thoughts

Two years and eight newsletters, and now it's time to turn over the editorial pen to a newly elected Vice President. It wouldn't be fitting to take my leave as editor of the EIDX newsletter without some commentary on the past two years as VP. I'm sure Wade, WØEJ, will heave a big sigh of relief, when I lay down the pen, and Lou, K4VX, must not be holding any grudges, because I hear he's going to join the club. The Extra Lites are still talking to me, despite my stand on VE participation, and I got my QSL card from 3CØR, despite some rather critical remarks about their operating style. Prudence restrained me from publishing my editorial about BS7, which contained a scathing attack on the DXAC, the ARRL, Martti et al, and anybody who thinks those rocks constitute a country, entity, or whatever. I must have mellowed a bit while in office, because I met Wayne Mills at the W9 DX convention, and I told him he was a pleasure to work on CW (except on BS7).

Things are quiet in DX circles as I write this column. We sit at the peak of Cycle 23 and 10 meters has been dynamite over the past week. I managed to work XU and some other long haul DX on 10 meters. The DX'peditions keep me figuring out propagation paths, sunrise/sunset times, beam headings and operating habits for those increasingly rare band countries from

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Two Radios and the Sprint From the TRLOG Reflector.

Larry Tyree, N6TR

I thought I had written this post once - but couldn't find it - so here it is: How to best use TR Log with two radios in the CW Sprint. It should be noted that using two radios in the sprint is a LOT different than using it with two radios in something like the SS. In the SS - you spend a lot of time calling endless CQs and you use the second radio to look for new meat on other bands. You will soon wear out your Alt-D key (note - you can rig up a footswitch to activate the Alt-D feature). In the Sprint - you will not use the Alt-D feature. I will now try to explain how I use the program in the Sprint with two radios. If you setup the program by typing TR NEW and selecting the SPRINT contest, you will be asked for your name and QTH. After you enter this information, the program will setup the memories exactly how I set them up for the contest. For the purposes of the examples below - it is assumed that you have followed this procedure. You might want to look at your CQ and EX memories using the Alt-P command. Note that CQ memories F4-F8 and EX memories F7 and F8 have some funny looking characters in front of them. The first > funny character is a Control-A character which will cause the message to be sent on the inactive radio. The second funny character is a Control-B character, which will identify the message as a CQ. When TR sees a message with Control-A and Control-B - it will send the message on the inactive radio and if you type in a call and hit RETURN, it will assume that the QSO is to be made on the INACTIVE radio (which will become the ACTIVE radio). Scenario #1: You are the CQ station during a SPRINT QSO. You have either called CQ - or finished up a QSO where you get to keep the frequency. Let's say K7RAT has called you and you respond and send him your exchange. While your exchange is being sent, you check the second radio and make sure you are on a clear frequency. While receiving the exchange from K7RAT, you can press F7 or F8 to call CQ on your second radio. This CQ will abort if you press a different function key (to give a fill or QSL the QSO). If someone answers the CQ

(let's say it was N6TR) - simply enter the call of the station and the program will switch radios automatically. > If this happens, you should find a clear frequency with the other radio (the band you finished up the previous QSO on) so you can call another CQ when receiving the exchange from N6TR. If you can get an answer to each CQ - you can jump back and forth between bands forever. However, it never works that way in real life. If the CQ goes unanswered - you can call another by pressing F7 or F8 again (note that you are now sending CQ memories, but they are programmed the same as the EX ones). You can keep calling CQ as long as you want (pressing F7 or F8 for each one) and tune the other band for someone new to call. If you find someone - just press the SPACE BAR and the CQ will abort and your call will be dumped on the proper band. If you decide to switch which band you are calling CQ on - use the Alt-R command. Note that the dupesheet will always be on the band where you need it - on the "active radio"'s band. Typical applications of this process are to call "free" CQs on 20 meters when receiving the second exchange on 40 and to continue calling CQ until you find a new station on 40 to pounce. The same process can be used near the end of the contest on 80/40. The CQ memory F4 is useful if someone answers your CQ with a question mark. F5 can be used for a quick CQ. If you are receiving an exchange from someone sending slow - or making lots of mistakes, you can press F7 or F8 again to make the message longer. If a CQ is in progress when you hit RETURN to finish your QSO - the CQ will abort and the dit-dit will be sent. If someone answers your CQ - just enter the call and press RETURN. I hope this helps - if you have any questions - please send me a note.

Band Pirates!

Intruder! You're seeing PacketCluster spots like that with alarming frequency. The Spanish language QRM on the bottom end of 40 meters is getting worse, and it's getting higher in the CW subband. These illegal operators aren't limiting their activity to 40 meters, just turn the page and read about the problems Walt, DJØFX, encountered while operating as FOØPT. Walt's message came with his QSL card.



From FO Ø PT (DJØFX) to All who are interested in Amateur Radio DX !!

PLEASE INFORM OTHERS !!!

I just came back from my DX-Pedition to the Isl. of Moorea OC-046 Society Is; Windward Group. Moorea Is. does not belong to Clipperton Isl. as some US, & QRZ publications wrote! Despite it was a Single man DX-Ped I made a great effort to satisfy all waiting hams, I had a lot of strain and stress. But I enjoyed it very much. Sorry, I could not work all hams in the pile up. I also made regular QSO and finally I had 15 000 QSO in my Log, mostly in CW. I have no computer yet for QSLing, so it will take quiet a time to answer all cards beside my other work.

Since 1982 I made 7 Dx-Ped to French Polynesia, it is frightening to hear the vy bad situation our ham bands! So, defending the Amateur radio QRG was my aim! Those ever increasing Frequency CB Pirates invaded all our QRG from 3,5 to 29,700 MHZ. And they are loud, using HAM equipment with KW AMP & Auto Ant Tuner! Those bandits work ruthless and when I asked them politely to move to there assigned QRG, I got vy bad answers. The main problem is: There is no law Enforcement on 10 000 Islands in YB, BV, BD, 9M2 and South America, but a lot of corrupt people, so we have to defend our vested right. I think, if one ham op spot an illegal /intruder, he should give this info to PACKET RADIO ! Then hundreds of op should tell the intruders to stop those illegal transmissions. I am sure it would help, because if they realize, there is never a quiet QRG for them, they will less and less show up on our bands. But we must Consistently tell them to STOP it. For Month and YEARS to come! It is for our sake! During my DX-Ped I spend at least 70 hours to fight for our rights. Many times I was sucessfull to direct my pile up to an endangered QRG. But many times the pirates ruined my pile up.

On my flight home from French Polynesia to USA I was lucky to have the chance to make 83 QSO from a BOEING 747 as OE6BVG/AM (Aeronautical mobile) 39 000 feet over the South Pacific. I got calls from JA, W, XE and AH8. No EU's.

Before I left Tahiti, I went to the local Radio club ."C.O.R.A" Club Oceanien de Radio et D' Astronomie. I become a member for a year (ca 60.-US \$). I checked about 7000 QSL, send to FO without a QSL MGR info. Some cards date back to 1987! I found about 300 QSL for my previous opn. So, pse all FOØ QSL must go via an QSL MGR or the cards get lost and You will never get an answer.

By the way, I do like French Polynesia very much. Because there are still more then 60% pure Native people, compared to only 1,5 % pure Hawaiians left on the Hawaiian Islands due the very bad influence of our ancestors and missionaries.

Merci beaucoup pour Professeur Philippe FO3BM & his lovely wife Yvette & fa= family + 2 cats & 3 dogs. XYL Yvette is a native from Rurutu Isl. Austral Isl. group ! Ia Orana = 73, Maururu roa = tnx vy much, Au revoir, Walt FO Ø PT



QSL via bureau or

DJØFX, WALTER BRENNER
POSTFACH 1105
D - 83402 AINRING
GERMANY, EUROPE

OR

OE6BVG, WALTER BRENNER
POSTFACH 77
A-8962 GRÖBING
AUSTRIA - EUROPE

Walt
SEP 2000

From June 1943 QST

Dessie Belle and Johnny

BY HEBER H. CLEWETT,* W6QE

Although *db* was expecting him that evening, Johnny Short-wave had a date with Lucy Static. He did not have the *P* to ~~W~~ charms. Lucy had asked him to ~~M~~ near the ~~Q~~ sign at the corner, but luck was against him and he missed ~~+~~ with the streetcar. He went to a phone booth and tried to *W6XYZ* her, but although he could hear ~~Q~~-ringing, no one answered. Poor Johnny was about to ~~W~~ with despair, and decided to walk out to Lucy's Ω , but again he was disappointed, for he found that Lucy had left to visit her ∇ . He ~~+~~ his teeth and began to whistle off-~~+~~ as he walked back to town. His thoughts were of Lucy. With eyes clear as ~~+~~, her smile seemed to ~~|||~~ into an angel, but of late something seemed to ~~Q~~ affection for him. She had accused him of stepping out with *db*, and even though her *C* for forgiveness was great, now

she had probably seen fit to ~~Q~~ his tardiness with the wiles of her rival, although there was really ~~+~~.

Johnny paused to watch a window-~~+~~ in a department store who was busy displaying new clothes the store had to ~~+~~. Passing a cafeteria, Johnny was ~~+~~ he couldn't re-~~+~~ a ~~Q~~ of food, and since he had a little ~~+~~ in his pocket, he decided to ~~+~~ his plans, and he stepped in. The sight that met his eye made him re-~~+~~, stunned to the ~~W~~ by the *Z* of a band of hoodlums who were committing a *Na C*, and ~~+~~ upon the proprietor. The victim was, however, a ~~+~~, and between his shouting and the general din and commotion, Johnny had to ~~+~~ his ears. Using the store's furniture as a ~~+~~, he made a wide ~~+~~ to ~~+~~ the ruffians, ran out a side door, and darted through a ~~+~~ of side streets to the police station.

*704 E. Jefferson Ave., Pomona, Calif.

From the Editor (continued from page 2)

20 meters up. As you approach or exceed 300 countries on those bands, the PacketCluster spots aren't much help anymore. So my advice to you is OPERATE WHILE THE BANDS ARE UP! You may even wind up with the King Kong—pardon me, the DX Challenge Award.

I have one final plea. This newsletter is only as good as its content. We all have the internet, well, most of us do, so it's no longer acceptable to fill the newsletter with borrowed material that most of us have already seen. My challenge to the new editor is to be creative and solicit as much original material as possible. There are a lot of avenues which I wanted to travel, but my professional life held me down, at least sometimes it did. I'd like to see material on low band receive antennas like the flag and pennant. I'd like to find a 160 meter antenna that will fit a 60x120 foot lot with a 48 foot tower in the middle. Most of all, I'd like to know who's doing what in the club, so I know where to go for help. In short, I'm expecting great things from our new editor. But he can't do it all by himself. I appreciate the help I received as editor. I want to thank those who contributed material to the newsletter over the past two years. Give your new editor your support, and contribute!

I suspect these won't be my final thoughts, it's just that from now on, I won't have the freedom to publish them without someone else doing the editing. de KUØA

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the Eastern Iowa DX Association will be Friday, October 20, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in room 219C Linn Hall on the Kirkwood Community College campus. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for eyeball QSOs. Monitor 145.19 for directions if needed. See you there.

2001 Dues are due!



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