

The Eastern Iowa DXer

The Official Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX Association



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League

January 2001

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Club Officers

President: Heinz Blankenhagen, NR0X **PacketCluster** **WB8ZRL**
Vice President: Rick Heinrich, N0YY 147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM
Secretary Treasurer: Tom Kueny, K0DX

Repeater Committee: Al Groff K0VM **Repeater:** **N0DX/R**
Joe Finkstein W0MJN 144.59/145.19

Membership Committee: Jim Spencer W0SR
Tom Vavra WB8ZRL

From the President

Heinz Blankenhagen, NR0X

As I write this column it is uncertain whether I will be attending the next meeting. We had planned to head south shortly after Thanksgiving, but we missed our window and the weather has kept us home all during December.

Thanks to Dave for his leadership and dedication during his two years at the helm of EIDXA. Thanks also to Nelson and the excellent job he did as VP. Especially those very interesting and sometimes controversial editorials! We will miss our departed friend and outgoing secretary/treasurer, Tom White, K0VZR, and appreciate the job he did before his untimely death.

The program at our last meeting was one of the best we have had. Cliff Ahrens, K0CA, gave a very informative talk about DXCC matters and Lew Gordon, K4VX, presented a very interesting and entertaining slide show and talk about the WRTC 2000 competition in Slovenia. Many thanks to

both gentlemen for their excellent presentations and taking the time to travel to the meeting from Hannibal. It is a pleasure and an honor to welcome them as new members of the EIDXA.

Well, some folks put off doing their antenna work until just before the winter weather arrives. This winter's weather really arrived early and with a vengeance, and I suspect some of that work may



From the President (Cont.)

wait until spring. I had a problem with the rotator on one of my rotating towers (10 & 15m) just before the CQWW. I removed the drive chain and had to use the "armstrong" method during the contest. Sure a long way out to that tower, but it was good to have an excuse to get out of the chair occasionally. On our last day of good weather I was able to get it repaired.

It's good news to hear that Alpha Power lives on. I guess Wade will get his new amplifier after all. Come to think of it I could use another one. Dave's presentation on "single op, 2 transmitter operation" must have gotten my attention. I've been working on the interface to do all the necessary switching. Now if I can only get my brain to think about two things at once.

I wonder how many members received a Christmas present in the form of an all time new one. I did. Boy what a surprise when Chuck Brady showed up unannounced from Bouvet Island. Sure wish he could find his CW key. Is P5 going to be sprung on us the same way? Hope not because I will probably miss it while basking in the Texas sun and fishing for fish instead of DX.

The program for this meeting includes a video about the recent Clipperton Island DXpedition. James Brooks, 9V1YC, has produced another excellent video. I hope you all enjoy it as much as I did. He has just finished another one about the A52A operation, which I will obtain for a future meeting.

73 NR0X

The Editor's Corner

By Rick N0YY

Well this is my first cut at trying to prepare something of interest for the members of this fine club. This is quite a challenge with all of the timely and newsworthy issues available on a wide variety of Internet sites.

However, I do have a couple of questions for our club to consider. If we are accessing the information available via the Internet, should we consider placing our newsletter on the Internet as well? I am not concerned about the costs of mailing as much as I am interested in providing a platform of interesting and timely information. I would like to suggest that we present this as a question to the membership at our February 9th meeting.

Another point to consider is whether or not the newsletter is meeting the requirements of the membership. This is your club and the newsletter is your voice. What information should be included? What are your interests?

Another area of interest is a look at our membership. I first joined in 1978 when I arrived here from college. There was a fairly broad range of ages of our members. That does not appear to be the case today. We have witnessed the passing of several of our club members in the past year. We can't deny the issue that our club is getting older! How do we attract youth into our club? DXing and Contesting have very energetic draws for some of us. How do we reenergize our club with some younger members? Please let's think about this a bit.

And on a final note... Many of us enjoy the heat of the battle as we fight for the top spot in a variety of contests. We

now have a predominant call that could be placed in any contest with a high degree of recognition. Some of our members are great operators but may not be blessed with antenna farms and acres of receive antennas. Again, I would like us to think about some form of contesting activity from a club perspective. How about a multi-op for one of the upcoming contests? What about a club Field Day effort? What about some friendly competition between several teams over Field Day? Or maybe an all out effort in the ten transmitter class? Ideas? Comments?

Spectrum Concerns

We are again being faced with challenges to our spectrum. Recently the ARRL mailed a notice requesting support for their World Radio Conference (WRC) activities. Of specific interest are the potential changes for the 40 Meter band. The agenda established at WRC-2000 identified an action to assess an exclusive 40 meter band segment for use by radio amateurs.

This won't happen without other considerations. The commercial users are already eyeing spectrum from 4 to 10 MHz for new use. The ARRL has taken the challenge to work this issue hard for radio amateurs.

On another note, the concept of "use it or lose it" was demonstrated "down-under". In support of last summer's Olympic Games, Australian hams were asked to share 421-432 MHz with the organizers of the Olympics. Apparently the spectrum worked quite well for the organizers. The recent rulemaking in Australia has returned the 421-432 MHz spectrum to commercial use! There is a lesson to be learned here.

License Renewals

The FCC has taken a hard stand on extending the grace period for license renewals. There have been several cases recently where the FCC denied extending the grace period because of missing information on the license renewal form. Use care when renewing your license.

According to the FCC make sure that you now include your Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and renew early. There is also a move to require an FCC Registration Number (FRN) in the future. Watch the ARRL Newsletters and QST for news.

The Multi-Single Challenge

By Rick NØYY

How do you participate in a contest with the intent of improving the score from your station? How do you play and not become a zombie for a week after the contest due to lack of sleep? How do you learn from the skills of others by actually observing and not just exchanging ideas over a couple of cold ones?

The answer might be fairly simple – try entering the Multi-operator, Single Transmitter class in the next contest. For the 2000 CQWW CW DX Contest, Jeff, NØDY and I got together (at the last minute) and decided to try pooling our skills and see what could be done. Using Jeff's outstanding station we planned a simple way of allowing us to get some sleep and to optimize our pursuit of a winning score.

A quick overview found the following, Jeff has a very competitive single tower

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EIDXA Membership

Call	Name	Address	City	St	Zip	Home phone	e-mail
AB0M	Vern Lang	619 Sunrise Cir	Muscatine	IA	52761	319-263-2697	
AK0M	Steve Sutterer	1928 Continental Dr	Cedar Falls	IA	50613	319-277-8139	sjs@cfu.net
K0AL	Al Culbert	328 Norman Dr. NE	Cedar Rapids	IA	52402	319-377-4367	allan-culbert@uiowa.edu
K0BJ	Bruce Frahm	P. O. Box DX	Colby	KS	67701		
K0CA	Cliff Ahrens	65 Pioneer Trail	Hannibal	MO	63401		
K0CF	Craig Fastenow	3503 Foxana Drive	Iowa City	IA	52246	319-351-8258	k0cf@arrl.net
K0DX	Tom Kueny	1573 Eagleview Ct. NW	Swisher	IA	52338	319-857-4595	k0dx@arrl.net
K0GT	Gary Toomsen	2730 Tower Dr.	Cedar Rapids	IA	52411	319-395-9329	k0gt@fyiowa.infi.net
K0INR	Tom Taylor	29981 280th St	Shell Rock	IA	50670	319-885-4400	k0inr@arrl.net
K0IRF	Clark Pantel	1610 Hershey Ave.	Muscatine	IA	52761	319-263-9150	
K0JGH	Glen Kesselring	RR #7 Box 160	Ottumwa	IA	52501	515-934-5320	k0jgh@lisco.net
K0RX	David Andersen	2761 Lakeview Dr	Solon	IA	52333		k0rx@uiowa.edu
K0VM	Al Groff	5710 Michael Drive	Cedar Rapids	IA	52411	319-393-8134	k0vm@rf.org
K0VSV	Tom Kramer	905 LeRoy	Muscatine	IA	52761	319-264-3259	tkramer@muscatanet.com
K0YA	Tom Hauer	1311 Skylark Drive	Cedar Rapids	IA	52403	319-366-4510	hthauer@home.com
K4VX	Lew Gordon	P.O. Box 105	Hannibal	MO	63401		
KA0CWR	Mary Dennis	400 E. Vine	Toledo	IA	52342	515-484-4837	
KA0DX	Randy Glasgow	PO Box 151	Danville	IA	52623		
KA0Y	Ken Kucera	2986 160 th Street	Riverside	IA	52327		
KE0MO	Tom Redlinger	22387 330th Ave.	Keota	IA	52248	515-636-2297	
KK0U	Paul Feddersen	703 Eclipse Lane	Clinton	IA	52732	319-242-9910	
KU0A	Nelson Moyer	28 Ealing Dr.	Iowa City	IA	52246	319-351-8775	ku0a@home.com
KZ0C	Jim Bohnsack	1169 Rainbow Dr.	Waterloo	IA	50701	319-233-7189	kz0c@home.com
N0AAA	Jan Clute	320 College Blvd	Mount Vernon	IA	52314	319-895-6435	n0aaa@n0rx.d.ampr.org
N0AV	Jim Harvey	P. O. Box 115	Goldfield	IA	50542	515-825-3323	n0av@netins.net
N0DY	Jeff Davis	1700 Fox Hollow Rd.	Marion	IA	52302	319-377-0454	n0dy@arrl.net
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N0YY	Rick Heinrich	2062 Hindman Rd	Marion	IA	52302	319-373-5403	n0yy@arrl.net
N2BTJ	Tom Campbell	312 Linden Terrace SE	Cedar Rapids	IA	52403		
N3BF	Brad Farrell	2239 William Penn Way	Lancaster	PA	17601		
NA0IA	Steve Sawyers	1822 Somerset Dr	Marion	IA	52302		sawyers@inav.net
NC0O	Tom Hise	PO Box 104	Shellsburg	IA	52332	319-436-7786	thise@inav.net
NN0L	Ron Borkgren	1106 E 2nd Street	Anamosa	IA	52205		
NR0X	Heinz Blankenhagen	7734 Highway One	Martelle	IA	52305	319-482-7461	blanken@netins.net
NS0V	Jeri Gordon	P.O. Box 105	Hannibal	MO	63401		
NY0V	Tom Vinson	10211 Hall Road	Cedar Rapids	IA	52411		
W0AWL	Terry Cellman	703 Lincoln St.	Ainsworth	IA	52201	319-657-3681	w0awl@onlineia.com
W0CK	Jonathan Poulton	729 Alpine Drive	Iowa City	IA	52245	319-354-1735	jonathan-poulton@uiowa.edu
W0EJ	Wade Walstrom	7431 Macon Drive	Cedar Rapids	IA	52411	319-393-8982	w0ej@arrl.net
W0FG	Richard Hadley	115 Scenic Dr.	Vinton	IA	52349		
W0GWK	Frank Apple	1935 16th St.	Marion	IA	52302	319-377-5563	fpapple@inav.net
W0HBK	Neal LeMense	4360 Ridge Road NE	Cedar Rapids	IA	52411		
W0LBK	Arlo Meyer	7661 Commune Ct.	Cedar Rapids	IA	52411	319-393-7461	w0lbk@juno.com
W0MID	Dennis I. Mallory	2997 Hwy. 63	Toledo	IA	52342		mallory@pcpartner.net
W0MJN	Joe Finkstein	2210 Empire St.	Marion	IA	52302	319-377-6573	jfinkstein@home.com
W0NB	Jim Livengood	R.R. 1 Ferre's Lane	Burlington	IA	52601	319-752-9310	
W0OF	Bill Snyder	3951 Sally Dr NE	Cedar Rapids	IA	52402	319-378-3141	
W0PPF	George Carsner	411 Terrace Rd.	Iowa City	IA	52245	319-338-1601	
W0SML	Doug Byal	2323 Springbrook Dr NE	Cedar Rapids	IA	52411	319-393-2974	dugbert@home.com
W0SR	Jim Spencer	3712 Tanager Dr. NE	Cedar Rapids	IA	52402	319-393-7353	w0sr@aol.com
W0SSR	Chuck Dennis	400 E. Vine	Toledo	IA	52342	515-484-4837	nitesky@cppartner.net

WOWP	Tom Lindgren	9786 Blairsferry Road	Cedar Rapids	IA	52411	319-395-0948	tommyl@cedar-rapids.net
WA3AFS	Bruce Goldstein	2092 Sunland Dr. SE	Cedar Rapids	IA	52403	319-365-3135	wa3afs@inav.net
WB0B	Larry J. Newby	P.O. Box 185	West Burlington	IA	52655	319-752-8700	
WB8ZRL	Tom Vavra	682 Palisades Access Rd.	Ely	IA	52227	319-848-7604	wb8zrl@inav.net
WR0U	Scott Augsburg	1005 Westwood Drive	Mt. Pleasant	IA	52641	319-986-5856	augsburg@interl.net
WV0D	Terry Perkins	3119 Falcon Dr NE	Cedar Rapids	IA	52402	319-393-5503	terryp4871@aol.com
WW0Q	Rich Bingham	707 12th Avenue	Coralville	IA	52241	319-335-5505	richard-bingham@uiowa.edu

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station. He has invested the time and effort in erecting a full suite of beverages for use on 160 and 80 meters. In past contests he was able to run and search and pounce on 20-10 but lacked the edge on 160-40. Well he fixed 40M with a Force 12 3-element beam. To allow Jeff's primary station to be the run station, we decided to supplement it with a simple multiplier station.

We chose my TS-850 and a Cushcraft R-5 as the multiplier station. That would allow chasing multipliers on 20-10 meters. That station would operate barefoot to minimize interference to the main "run" station.

The result? 3.5M points. 2050 Qs with 97 Countries on 40 and more than 100 countries on 20-10 meters. 30+ zones on 40-10 meters. And we both got about 10 hours of sleep throughout the weekend. But most important – we had FUN!

Highpoints,

- Working CN8WW on 160 with 200 watts
- Running JAs on 40
- Busting pile-ups and beating the world-class stations on 40 (including NROX and N0NI)

Lessons Learned

- You need to start planning more than 48 hours before the contest!
- You need an amp on 160M
- The multiplier station needs to be able to operate on 160-10 not just 20-10
- Plan on interstation filtering
- Get the software and hardware interfaces done early and play with them

N0NI presented a different reference point. He had seven ops (including our own K0RX) in the Multi-Single class. It might be interesting for Dave to share their strategy and how they used all the ops!

Personally, I had a blast! I learned a lot from Jeff. Radios do make a difference! I learned about new logging software that amazed me in terms of enhanced capabilities (WriteLog). I'd do it again in a second.

One does wonder though... How would I fare back in the Single-Op, All-Band, High Power category competing against other team players. Hmm...

Please look at the included membership list and provide any updates to your information. Thanks

T-shirt/Jacket Orders

For those that ordered T-shirts, jackets, or polos, I will be bringing the orders to the February meeting. Money at that time would be appreciated.

Thanks,
Terry
W0AWL

Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the Eastern Iowa DX Association will be on Friday, February 9, 2001 at 7:30 in Room 219C Linn Hall on the Kirkweed Community College campus. Doors open at 6:30 pm for eyeball QSOs. Monitor 145.19 for directions if needed. See you there



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