

The Eastern Iowa DXer

The Official Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX Association



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League



March 2001

Page 1

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 Joe Finkstein W0MJN	Repeater:	N0DX/R
		144.59/145.19	
Membership Committee:	Jim Spencer W0SR Tom Vavra WB8ZRL		

From the President

Heinz Blankenhagen, NR0X

We recently arrived back home in Iowa, after spending the last two and one half months in Southern Texas. Many thanks to Rick and Tom for taking care of my club responsibilities during my absence. We arrived home just in time for the snowstorm in mid-March. It made us appreciate our winter vacation even more. We had a wonderful time and the fishing was very good. Arlo, W0LBK, was also on vacation in Texas. We were on Mustang Island which is on the north end of Padre Island near Corpus Christi. He was about 100 miles south of us near Brownsville. Arlo kept me posted about all the ham stuff going on in the area. At one of the lunches he attended he rubbed elbows with ARRL President, Jim Haynie (see picture). I attended only one ham event, a little flea market where I got a good deal on a bunch of N-type coax connectors. Met three fellows from CR, Arlo, Gene Taggets and another fellow who worked at Quaker Oats but don't remember his



name. South Texas is loaded with lowans in the winter. Down there snowbirds are known collectively as Winter Texans.

I did a little operating with my new ICOM 706. Usually came up on the Iowa Snowbird net which meets on 21367kHz at 1600Z, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Talked to W0AWL, WB8ZRL and W0SR, W3TMZ (my XYL's cousin) and W4AXM (ex-W0PKH), plus lots of regulars, both snowbirds and folks up north. Even worked some DX from the mobile.

From the President (Cont.)

DL2MIJ, 9A2NY, IK2YLV, D68C, Z33Z, 5U2K (new band, 10M), V51AS, 3D2AG, FO0ARE, 5U3T (new mode CW & new band 40M). I usually parked on the beach to work DX. I could hear the signal improve as I got near the water. Also got rid of man-made noise. Still, it was a far cry from a KW and the home QTH antennas.

I usually fished when conditions were favorable, mostly for Sheepshead (not to be confused with Iowa Sheepshead, more correctly called fresh water Drum) They are delicious. Minimum size for keeping is 12 inches. My longest was 21 inches. During the spawn in late February and March they run about 6 to 10 pounds and the daily catch limit is 5 fish. Several times our crew of four brought back about 150 pounds of fish in just a little over one hour at anchor. On those days it took about as long to clean them as it did to catch them. We brought about 45 pounds of filets home. All we could get in the freezer. Had to throw out the ice cream to make room.

I had an idea for our summer meeting. I would like to hear what the rest of you think about the club doing field day. We could set up in a couple of campers. I have a small generator (2.5kw). We could set up at my farm or some other suitable place. We could still do the picnic and talk Terry and Shanna into cooking more of those delicious brats.

Sure looking forward to the meeting on Friday the 30th of March. Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, of Bhutan fame will be entertaining us with a pictorial description of his adventure. I have heard from WB8ZRL that some Dxers from the Des Moines area will be our guests for the meeting. Hope to see you all there. 73 NR0X

From the Sec/Treas

By Tom Kueny K0DX

The EIDX Winter meeting minutes are as follows:

- Introductions.
- Announce Spring meeting – 3/30/01 at Linn Hall. Guest appearance by Glenn Johnson, W0GJ.
- Treasurer's report: K0DX reported an account balance of \$591.64
- Group agreed to pass the hat for the D68C expedition. \$43 raised.
- ARRL update by W0EJ: Commented on the CW resolution, dues increase in July, and that the ARRL is looking into E-QSL and electronic log submission issues.
- Repeater: WB8ZRL said it was down for a few days and K0VM was able to fix.
- Cluster: WB8ZRL said they're looking at the possibility of a node at Washington.
- W0SR reviewed what he has gone through with Alliant energy to resolve the interference problems he's had.
- Club website and/or listserv: The group agreed as long as there wasn't any cost to the listserv, W0SR and N0YY could get it going. W0SR and others will look into costs of setting up a web site and will report back.
- WB8ZRL proposed a resolution thanking K0RX, KU0A, and K0VZR for their outstanding service as club officers. Approved.
- Moment of silence for the passing of Tom White, K0VZR.
- W0AWL proposed we make W0GJ an honorary member of EIDX and present him with a plaque next month when he visits. Approved.
- Meeting adjourned.
- Video presentation of the latest Clipperton Island DXpedition.

The Editor's Corner

By Rick N0YY

Skills – We pride ourselves in the skills we develop as contest operators or weak signal work in chasing DX. We are sought after as having finely honed operating skills in times of disasters or when needed in our community. But has technology offered us a crutch that will eventually erode that skill?

I had the opportunity to operate from N0NI's world class contest station for the ARRL International CW DX Contest. WOW – The antennas and station set-up was outstanding. In the end we did exceed our early goals, but were challenged when we learned the results of some of the other participants.

It seems that while we were in the hunt with total number of QSOs we had fallen short in multipliers. Where had we gone wrong? We had the stations staffed, we were running when we should, and we were all reasonably well rested. In a post contest evaluation we wrestled with what to do different next time. We just could not point to a single thing that would help.

But then a light came on. We were relying on packet spots to identify multipliers. We worked everyone that was spotted! But we missed several that were not passed!

We got doing things the easy way. The band maps showed opportunities and we thought we were using the 6 band change per hour to our advantage.

Technology had given us a crutch and we fell into the trap! For a multiplier to get spotted means that someone found it. They were tuning the band and found the multiplier! We were choosing to live off of their efforts. Yes, we found a few

of our own, but we relied on others for our success.

If you want to win you need to optimize your readiness and skills. All of us were ready to go as CW ops. But we might have missed some of the preparation necessary for a winning effort.

Plan, Plan, Plan – What can you do before the contest to get ready. I'm sure that I will miss some of the more obvious things, but I would offer the following:

- Know who is scheduled to be on – don't be surprised by that special call
- Look at the past years results – what are your performance targets?
- Set goals per band or operator – Number of QSOs, Number of multipliers per band, etc.
- Sleep strategy – who will work the midnight shift? Are they still up working a run on 20M when they should be resting to get ready for the 4am JA run on 40M?
- Are you familiar with all of the switches and station functions? – It is hard to learn how to use your radio in the middle of the contest!

I learn something different every contest. Some is just a relearning of the basics. Others are new techniques. There are a group of contesters that work hard all year to get ready for a few weekends of all out efforts with goals of making it into the top ten in a class of operations. (Or maybe the top five...)

We are at a geographic disadvantage in the Midwest. We can't afford to give up anything if we want to compete with our peers. You know that they will pull out all of the stops to climb the ranks.

Try to remember the basics and apply them. Good Luck

EIDXA Member Directory

Tom K0DX is collecting data for a member directory. Please provide the following info to Tom via e-mail at the following address <k0dx@arrl.net>

Membership Questionnaire

Name,
Callsign,
City (and State if other than Iowa)

Date of first license:

Previous callsigns:

Occupation (before retirement):

Amateur gear:

HF rig
VHF
Antennas/Towers
Other

Bands and Modes of Operation

Totals - Total countries worked and confirmed (mixed band and mode)

SSB
CW
RTTY
160
Others
Honor roll?
5BDXCC
5BWAZ
5BWAS
WPX

Total Band Countries:

Other areas of interest: (ie: Contesting, Satellite, ATV, Logging program that you use, DXpedition participant, etc.)

Other club affiliations:

Offices ever held in EIDXA or other clubs:

Other:

Please complete and return to
K0DX@arrl.net

Tips on Using the DXCC QSL Card Field Checking Service

The field checker has a set of rules that he has to follow. If a field checker rejects a card, it does not mean it will not be approved by the DXCC desk. You are encouraged to submit those cards to the DXCC desk for approval.

The field checker cannot check:

- 160 meter cards.
- Deleted countries.
- Cards older than the 10th full calendar year, prior to this year.
- Any card that appears altered.
- Electronic QSLs.
- Photo copies of cards.

Cards from countries that share prefixes, must have the DXCC entity on the card differentiating itself from the other possibilities. (ie: FO0, must state either French Polynesia, Clipperton, Austral or Marquesas).

Applicants need to provide the Field checker with a completed application, an envelope and postage for mailing to the DXCC desk, proper payment to ARRL and cards sorted according to the rules of the application.

Legibility is much appreciated. If it's not legible, you may be asked to rewrite. Typed or computer generated entries are fine as long as they perfectly match the format of the DXCC form.

Do not use hash marks or dittos on the record sheet. Fill it out completely.

After sorting cards by band and mode as instructed, please sort by the DXCC list. Cards with multiple contacts on them are to be listed at the end of the record sheet.

Please separate any attachments to cards before submitting them.

You may submit cards for bands like 12 and 30 meters even though there isn't yet an award for them yet. The ARRL database will keep track of them.

Please view all the complete rules and details of the program on the ARRL website.

Tom Kueny, K0DX
K0DX@arrl.net
319-857-4595



Here's a picture of our own K0RX at his peak during the recent effort at N0NI for the ARRL CW DX Contest. I think that Dave is practicing an new form of telepathic passing of new multipliers using alpha and beta brain waves, but I'm not sure.

Splatter

Jim, W0SR, has coordinated an informal e-mail list of members that participate in a lunch once a month. If you are interested, contact Jim for details.

Thanks to all of you who provided inputs to my query about the CMOS Super-Keyer from the late 70s. I have most of the info I need except a board layout for the non-edge connector version. If anyone has the component view, I'd appreciate a copy. Thanks, N0YY

I'm looking for a used A4S for a new antenna project. Does anyone have one? Maybe an equivalent? Let me know... Thanks, N0YY

I'm always looking for ideas and inputs for the newsletter. If you have something that you would like to include, please get a copy to me via any of the traditional methods. (e-mail, US Postal, etc.)

Let me know if there is a section of the newsletter that you would like to see added or changed.

Remember, this is your newsletter!!

Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the Eastern Iowa DX Association will be on Friday, March 30, 2001 at 7:30 in Room 219C Linn Hall on the Kirkwood 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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