



EIDXA 1975 - 2010 • 35TH Anniversary

Club Officers

President:	Joe Hetrick	KCØVKN	Packet Cluster	WB8ZRL
Vice President:	Tom Vinson	NYØV	147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM	
Secretary Treasurer:	Richard Haendel	W3ACO		
Repeater Committee:	Al Groff	KØVM	Repeater:	NØDX/R
	Joe Finkstein	WØMJN	144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8)	
Membership Committee:	Jim Spencer	WØSR		
	Tom Vavra	WB8ZRL		
	Nelson Moyer	KUØA		

EIDXA Meeting – Friday, January 22, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
Room 219C of Linn Hall on the campus of Kirkwood Comm. College.
Program on the K4M Midway Atoll DXpedition by Craig Thompson K9CT

President's Propagation, Pronouncements & Pontifications

- Joe Hetrick KCØVKN



Hello everyone,

I hope you all had pleasant and safe holidays. As I write this the WX looks to be cooperating locally, which is a bit of a bummer as I was hoping to get some cross country skiing in over the holiday! There is just barely enough snow to keep from destroying my ski's!

A lot has happened this fall; for one I discovered that you all have enough faith (or apathy) in the current crop of officers to elect 2 of the 3 of us in absentia! I hope the meetings have been at least tolerable since I began calling them. I'm not always the most organized person.

I hope everyone managed K4M on at least a few bands. I managed them, and was a bit surprised by it. I had a lot going on at work and home and had limited time to chase them the first few days. I managed to weasel the Friday before they went QRT off of work and woke up anticipating a long hard battle to get them. I really only spent about an hour and a half on 40M, snagged them by 8:30AM. I went in to work. Might as well save the time off!

President's Propagation, Pronouncements & Pontifications

If you didn't get them, you may have to take it up for our planned speaker for the January meeting, K9CT, Craig Thompson (K4M!) will be present to give a talk about the operation. I hope everyone is able to attend, it sounds like he's got a great presentation planned for us.

As everyone has noticed, contest season is in full bloom. CQWW SSB, ARRL SS-CW, CQWW CW, Stew Perry. Remember if you're working DX contests to submit your logs listing EIDX as your club, it's nice to see club totals show up in the results.

If I look a bit haggard in January, our holiday season was blessed by the birth of our second child, Betty May, on Dec. 9th. Sure made my Christmas shopping for my XYL a lot easier than past years!

Dit Dit, Joe KCØVKN

Veep Ramblings – Tom Vinson NYØV

I have some good news and I have some bad news. The good news is that at long last it looks like the sunspots are indeed starting to appear. The numbers have been around 13 or so. The bad news is that I still was not able to work VK9XX on 40m because he was too weak and the JA/UAØ wall was just too thick. I did manage to work them on 30m LP one late afternoon for a new one on that band.



There have been some good runs of DXpeditions this winter though, beginning with K4M. I see the TX3A on Chesterfield was primarily working the low bands, showing up on 1830 almost daily. I did manage to work him on 80m one sunrise. Also on was XV2RZ that I really wanted on 40m, but again, just a bit too weak for me. So, come on sunspots!

Hey, I won the ARRL IA Section for the 2008 10m contest. I entered it as High Power CW...with a whopping 142 Q's. It's a nice certificate, though I don't think too many (if any) Iowan's entered it so it's kind of a "so what" award. As for Rod and my T32CXX operation in last year's CQWW SSB, we learned that we won Eastern Kiribati! Imagine that! Actually, we did manage to take 8th in Oceania, which I think is not too shabby given all the Oceania competitors.

If you haven't seen the latest antenna work at the Radio Farm, NØMA, this fall a "new" 4 ele 20m Monobander has sprouted and grown to 100'. I think it works pretty well as Rod KØDAS was working Sweepstakes when an ET3 broke in that wanted a QSO with him!

Rumor has it that K8OM has a new ICOM transceiver and PW1...now if his XYL would just get off the radio long enough for him to use it! HI! She should be getting close to full DXCC accreditation pretty soon, if not already by the time this newsletter goes out.

Veep Ramblings

NRØX has a new antenna up! Where does he find space for these things? He has converted a 3 ele 40m beam into a new full sized 3 ele 30m beam. From what I've seen, it's another one of those 300 Lb jobs. That ought to liven up that band, eh Heinz?

Tim, WE8P west of Robins has a new call: WØYV. That sounds good to me! Tim has just put up a Carolina Windom on 160m and tied on a new AL82 amplifier. I hear that he is LOUD. He has a PRO 67 up around 90' that he likes to use on the higher bands. From what he says, he may push it up higher and stack 'em.

I see WØEJ has now been reassigned to Bill Nixon in PA. His QRZ info says he's moving back to NE. I haven't heard him on the air as yet. All that I know is that it is still a bit spooky when I hear Igor, WØIZ on the air from Ohio. RIP Dale and Wade.

We have another new graduate from Rose Hulman coming to town to work for Collins, Tom Campie WØEA. Maybe we can swing him into EIDX A?

For those of you who have the FT-2000 or other Yaesu's, IW1AWH has a new version of his "Master Commander" software available on-line. I've used this software a couple of times now to download all of the radio's memories and menu preferences into files set up by his software. (If you have the DMU-2000 you can already do this.) Then when I upload the new Yaesu software fixes, I can also upload the memories and menu items. This sure beats re-setting up the 148 or so menu items! Along with their DSP updates, Yaesu updated their PCC-2000 software that presents the user with an image of the FT-2000 front panel for radio control. I don't see much utility in it, but it looks cool! 8-)

Speaking of Yaesu, I received an email flyer from WØSR that Yaesu is introducing a new FT-5000 transceiver. It looks to be based from their 9000 series with lots o' knobs. This is something to look for at Dayton this year in the Yaesu booth.

I have added a new "toy" to my station, a BHI audio DSP module. This DSP module fits right into the Yaesu SP-8. I was a bit hesitant about drilling three holes into the front panel of my SP-8, but they provide a nice decal that makes it look like it's supposed to be there. The BHI DSP has 8 DSP level settings, but I have found that just using a level of 1 or 2 works just fine at cleaning out noise. The noise reduction really reduces that white noise fatigue on SSB and greatly improves the audio clarity. On the low bands it has made a difference in copy vs. no-copy in some QSOs.

Finally, many of you know that I am going to be moving to Minnesota next June. Ufdah! I want to make certain that I have the word out to the hams in the area that might be interested in my QTH before I put it out to the public. There are no antenna restrictions on the hilltop (besides the Linn County regs) so I would rather sell it to a ham. It is getting harder and harder to find subdivisions around Linn County without CC&R's that restrict antenna height to less than 35' ...or none! Right Terry? I'll be putting the house on iahomesforsale.com at the beginning of March. If you are interested or know of someone who might be just contact me or pass along my info. Tnx in advance.

73, Gud DX – Tom, NYØV

The WØSR Story

The Quarter Century Wireless Association recently recognized EIDXA member Jim Spencer WØSR for his more than half century in ham radio. We asked Jim to submit a biography for this issue of the newsletter.

Being asked to write a history of my more than 56 years as an active licensed radio amateur has started some interesting searches through the old memory banks. A lot has changed over the years although much has remained the same. It is still fun to chat with a friend or someone new. It is exciting to work a new one on a different band. And, thinking and reading about operators living in exotic lands or DXpeditions from rare locations has always been a thrill.



My discovery of amateur radio started around 1950 in Sheridan, Wyoming. My parents had a Zenith cabinet radio that covered shortwave and I started tuning around hearing all sorts of strange things. Most intriguing were those carrying on private conversations in what turned out to be the ham bands. I found that some of the strongest signals were from my hometown! In 1951, “Boy’s Life” magazine sponsored the Boy’s Life Radio Club and I joined and started chasing “wall paper”. I still have

the certificates for Logged All Call Areas, Logged All States and Logged All Continents! I was hooked!

I had saved \$150, mostly from selling Cloverine Brand Salve door-to-door and I purchased a used RME-45 receiver and started learning the code. I passed the novice exam in the fall and received my ticket, WN7UZR, in December of 1953. While waiting for the license to process, I built a Heathkit AT-1 transmitter and bought two crystals. The equipment was ready, but not the operator! When I came home from school and found the license in the mail, I immediately went to the rig and called CQ. Someone came right back and I panicked, turned off the rig and got out of the shack! It took two days before I had the nerve to complete a QSO.



That was the start and I became very active getting my Conditional (we were 500 miles from Denver) ticket later that year which was my freshman year of high school. I was very active from Wyoming during high school through grad school and managed to fill almost 19 ARRL logbooks. My main interests were rag chewing, contests and working DX. It

The WØSR Story

was fun getting a pile-up going and running them—something that was much easier to do from Wyoming in the 50s. Before I could even drive, I operated bicycle mobile using a converted surplus pogo stick on 75 meters and dreamed of the day that I could have a rig in my car. During high school I switched from the Scouts to the Civil Air Patrol because of my interest in aviation. In the CAP I learned that there was a radio service and that many of the operators were hams. I joined up and was given the call, King 15, for my fixed station and Queen 11 for mobile operations. It was fun and I was even the Wyoming net control at times. That led me to joining Air Force MARS and for several years I was active as AF7UZR. It was really too bad that school and jobs got in the way!



After graduating in 1961 I took a job at Collins Radio and had an S-line on the air within months from my apartment. My new call was



WØFHE. Although the call had too many dits for me, I counted my blessings because I didn't receive the call a friend from my hometown received a few months later: WØFRT! Nancy and I married in 1963 and started looking for a house. She had a long list of requirements but I had only two: high location and low power line noise. Well, I got it half right! My antenna was a

vertical for eight years but we were so busy with work and two children that I had limited time anyway.

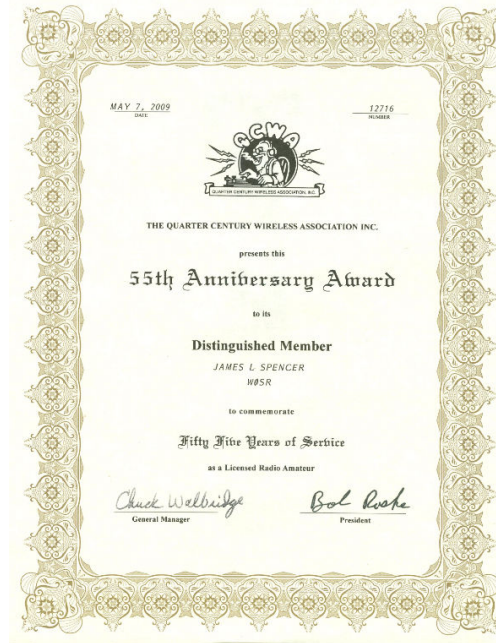
In 1974 I put up a TH6-DXX on a 48' tower and I was off and running. Band conditions were great and it was so much easier to work DX than with the vertical. There was a lot of activity around the Cedar Rapids area by a number of younger DXers, and some OT's too. Around this time I got my extra, we started talking about a DX/Contest club and the EIDX was founded. And with the new FCC ruling, many of us requested one-by-two calls and I received WØSR. I entered a number of contests for the next 10 years or so, some very seriously. I also started trying to work everything on the DXCC list, first on SSB and then on CW (where I'm still missing P5 like almost everyone else). In 1978 I was asked if I would like to be the WØ DX Advisory Committee representative. Without even understanding what the job was, I said yes. Eighteen years on the DXAC was a record at the time. Although at times it required a lot of time, it was great fun and often challenging. There were a number of interesting new DXCC entities recommended or rejected over the time I served, but none more exciting than Scarborough Rock, BS7H. You can't even think up more fun than that!

I had always dreamed of retirement as being a time to kick back and relax. I saw spending two hours or so a day on the rig chatting and working new ones and new band countries. I could see taking the time to recover some of my long lost CW skills where I could actually have a good rag chew at 30 WPM. It hasn't turned out that way mostly due to competing activities for my time. But, I do chase the new band countries at a slower than planned pace even if I seem to never get around to sending them a card. I do spend a lot of time

The WØSR Story

chasing and complaining about power line noise. And, I spend a lot of time associating with fellow radio amateurs, many of you, and that is the best of all.

Let me close with one highlight of my retirement years, although everyone must know all about it. One day in May of 2004 I started hearing strong signals throughout the higher frequency ham bands, and elsewhere. They were spaced not much more than a KHz apart leaving no room for a QSO with anyone except a strong local. I jumped in the van and found a work crew less than a thousand feet from my house still trying to complete the installation. This was my introduction to BPL (Broadcast over Power Line) It turned out that Alliant Energy was running a test of BPL right in my neighborhood. It was amazing to see how the local amateurs banded together to help supply Alliant and the FCC with a lot more data than they may have ever wanted. I turned out being called “the poster boy of BPL” for a while but I was just one player in a great team effort.



KJ9I Now Calling The “Badger State” Home

EIDXА’s Dave KJ9I is in Sullivan, Wisconsin now, and he hasn’t wasted any time putting up towers and antennas.

In a recent e-mail with photo, Dave said “the 6m tower (left) and the HF rotating tower (right). While the HF tower appears to lean, that’s an illusion (it was set true with dual laser transits). HF tower from bottom: 12m 4-element monobander 60’.” Dave’s antenna farm includes a 17m 5-element monobander 85’, KT-34XA 110’ up, 3-element 30m/40m dualbander 160’, 4 full-size 1/2 wave slopers for 160m (attached at 160’ guy ring).



Dave is active in weak-signal CW-favoring DXer active across 2m (moonbounce), 6m, 10m, 12m, 15m, 17m, 20m, 30m, 40m, 80m, 160m. You may recall that Dave has participated in a number of DXpeditions, including VK9ZM (Mellish Reef) / VK9ZW (Willis Island) 1989; VP8SSI (South Sandwich Island / VP8CBA (S. Georgia Island) / VP8CBG Falkland Islands) 1992; T88II (Palau) 1998; SU/KJ9I May and Sept, 2006; VP2EDS, FS/KJ9I and PJ7/KJ9I (May 2007).

KJ9I Now Calling The "Badger State" Home

Dave, a member of the Milwaukee DX Association, said in a recent e-mail, that his station and antennas are working well, and he hopes EIDX members are "doing well."

2009 DXCC Year End Review – Joe Reisert W1JR

DX wise, the year 2009 was very similar to what we experienced in 2007 and 2008. There were approximately 284 DXCC entities activated during 2009, about 10 fewer than in 2008. Unfortunately several DXpeditions were delayed (hopefully only into 2010), had to be cancelled or were thwarted from operating for one reason or another. CW still did not die since there were at least 255 entities active on CW but fewer than in 2008. Many stations with no code licenses, especially outside the USA, have been operating on CW and some have shown great CW skills. One side effect is that we are seeing much more "599 TU" operations with not as much skill to copy other information. Some now say that we have developed a group of computer "code readers." At the same time, some SSB operators have noticed an increase in activity, especially during SSB contests.



The solar minimum first promised for October 2007 and then August 2008 turned out to be incorrect. Despite some recent small sunspots from the upcoming Solar Cycle 24, propagation hasn't really taken off. According to NOAA, it now looks like the Solar Minimum occurred in December of 2008. NASA is now using a new technique called helioseismology to monitor the solar jet stream which is believed to cause sunspots (http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/17jun_jetstream.htm). They say the stream is delayed which portends that the start of Solar Cycle 24 will be later and hence shorter lived with a lower peak (probably less than 90 sunspots) peaking in May 2013. We hope that the long delay doesn't mean we will be having another Maunder Minimum! Only time will tell if we are finally going to see improved HF propagation.

Very few solar disturbances occurred in 2009. A small disturbance occurred at the end of March, another at the end of October during the DX contest, and a larger one starting in mid-December. Ironically the later didn't noticeably improve propagation. The solar flux, the main propagation indicator on the higher bands, stayed mainly at 70 or below all year. In fact most of July, August and September saw one of the quietest Suns in over 90 years with A=66 on August 9th! In early and late December, we experienced an A=0 and K=0 on several days. I have never seen this happen before. However, the solar flux reached 88 on December 17th, the highest level since December 2006. When there are so few sunspots and low solar flux, good DX propagation is still mainly confined to the lower HF bands. Check the daily propagation reports at <http://www.dx.qsl.net/propagation/> or the weekly ARRL Propagation Bulletins by Tad Cook, K7RA. Since official sunspot numbers are a moving index that is 9 months after the fact, the waiting game for Solar Cycle 24 to take off goes on!

Despite the lack of significant sunspots, there was still plenty of DX activity in 2009 albeit mostly concentrated on 160 through 17 meters. 160 Meters seems to be getting lots of DX

2009 DXCC Year End Review

activity but possibly at the expense of 80 Meters which does become active during contests. Several more entities have received permission to operate on 60 Meters bringing the total users almost to DXCC level. 40 Meters is still the night time breadwinner. The expansion of this band from 7100 to at least 7200 KHz for many of the Worlds entities has generated lots more activity, especially during contests. 30 meters is becoming very popular, sometimes being open 24 hours a day. 20 Meters is still the daytime breadwinner although 17 meters is sharing some of the load. During this year 10, 12 and 15 meters were spotty at best and then mostly only on the North/South or skewed paths. Some sporadic E propagation especially during June, July and December did enhance HF DX somewhat but this was not due to increased sunspots.

Equipment and operating techniques are still improving especially in the area of dynamic range and low noise receiving antennas on the lower bands. Newly manufactured equipment can often be upgraded by the manufacturers offering software updates via the Internet not only for transceivers but antennas, rotator controls, logging programs etc. New equipment offerings were few this year except for some panadaptors, speech processors and improved antennas such as the 43 foot vertical for multi-band operation. In particular there was a rise in the use of SDR (software defined radios) which thrive on software updates. Even some instrumentation such as the new Array Solutions VNA-2180 Vector Network Analyzer, a new powerful measurement tool, can be updated on the Internet. Of course, software, especially logging programs is constantly being modified or improved.

Internet use and abuse by Amateurs continues to increase especially for spotting clusters. The DX clusters are an amazing tool for finding and spotting rare DX. One popular one is "DX Summit." Clusters are a far cry from the way we used to spot DX using either the telephone, spotting frequencies on HF or VHF repeaters. However, there are several downsides. All too often incorrect or extremely rare callsigns (not on the air at the time!) are spotted. A rare callsign can cause a huge pileup that may even cover up the DX station. Listen before you call to be sure it is the right station and especially if there are special instructions such as listening UP! In these days of seldom signing callsigns, never reply solely on the accuracy of the spot as you may receive a NIL (Not in Log) to your QSL request. During 2009 there were often two or more DXpeditions operating simultaneously and often pileups coincided or overlapped. Also don't post spots with bragging or QSY request addendums. No one cares and in the case of DXpeditions, they seldom are continuously connected to the clusters so they usually don't see your spot!

Many DX stations, especially the large scale DXpeditions now update their logs on the Internet during their operation. One of the most active Internet activities in 2009 was the use of the ARRL Log Book of the World. This was spurred on by the introduction of the ARRL "Triple Play Award" which was completely awarded on the basis of LoTW entries. Also, several of the large 2009 DXpeditions also put their logs directly into the LoTW. There are now over 250 million LoTW QSO entries and over 35,000 LoTW users, an increase of almost 25% over 2008! Most major contest logs and some awards now have to be submitted via the Internet.

Operating techniques are always changing. Split frequency operation, especially by DXpeditions has its own problems. Often calling stations are not aware of the split and

2009 DXCC Year End Review

QRM the DX. During several of this year's major DXpeditions I carefully monitored the DX station frequency. Often someone would hear this relatively clean frequency, jump right in, hear the DX station giving reports, imagined that they had a QSO and with impeccable timing would hear the DX station say TU and think they had a valid QSO! It goes without saying that if you aren't copying the DX station well enough to have a valid QSO or aren't aware of what technique is being used by the DX station, DON'T CALL! This is a good reason to check logs if they are posted on the Internet rather than receiving back a NIL reply to your QSL request. However, this doesn't mean that we should call continuously and later check the internet hoping to see if your callsign is in the log!

Also, there are the usual problems with "frequency policemen". If you can't refrain from saying something to the interfering stations, drop in a SHORT reminder like UP. Sending a long string of UP UP UP UP UP etc. or calling a station a lid often does more harm than good and often QRMs the DX station. Of course, obscenities are NEVER appropriate. Also, try not to rag chew on frequencies frequented by rare DX. 3.795, 14.195 and 14.260 (IOTA) MHz are just a few frequencies that come to mind. You may not hear the DX station but transmitting on those frequencies will make it difficult for others that are experiencing better propagation than you are.

Many pirate operations showed up in 2009 using existing or unlicensed callsigns. 3W2BV, 3YØQ, C31LJ/M, HV3VO, JW4JLK, OD5GR, OY2JT, R1FJA/P, TKØM, TU2FQ (on CW), YI1SR, YI1HR, YI1HRP, ZD9BNA, ZD9HP, ZK3T, ZL5SP, ZL9C, and ZL9AI are just a few that come to mind. Some stations using YU8 callsigns were also observed but most of them were in located in Serbia, not Kosovo. Those that were QRV from Kosovo during 2009 were YU8/IWØHEU, YU8/HB9BF and U8/HB9EKC. Likewise, some recent operations are still not accepted by ARRL such as 5N/LZ1QK and 9Q/DK3MO. 4U1AIDS operated from Switzerland and does not count the same as 4U1ITU. Also some DXpedition callsigns were even pirated during their operation. WFWL (work first, worry later) these stations but this does little good if they are a pirate so sending a QSL is a waste of time and money.

There were a few major DX items of interest in 2009. One of the biggest surprises was when the ARRL Desk was able to certify that the 7O1YGF operation in 2000 was valid. Furthermore, 7O1YGF QSLs are still available and their logs were placed on the LoTW! Other highlights were the K5D operation from Desecheo Island and K4M from Midway Island, areas that have restricted access and require special permission from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Let's hope that these superb operations and the work of the KP1-5 Project will yield future operations from other restricted areas, especially KP1, Navassa Island! FT5GA was finally operational after a long delay. Big disappointments this year were surely the very limited operation of ZS8T from Marion Island (only 85 QSOs) and FT5WO from Crozet Island.

Even though January (with shortened daylight for those in the Northern Hemisphere) is a tough month for DXers, there were many entities activated. New Years Day (and this year with a long weekend) usually is a great time for DXing since many semi-rare entities often show up. January activity from semi-rare entities was helped in 2009 by operations from E44M, J5UAP, FW8DX, JD1BMM (M/T), VP8DIF (SGA) and a large group of YLs from

2009 DXCC Year End Review

the Falkland Islands. TS7C was also active and apparently set a new RTTY world record with over 12,000 QSOs. I'd estimated that 200-210 DXCC entities were activated during January, about 10-20 less than in the same period in 2008. With some luck and good propagation a very active well equipped DXer could have worked 180-190 DXCC entities.

February was also a very good month for DXers with 160 meters still yielding some very good DX and 17 meters improving. 3B7FQ, FH/G3SWH, FP/KV1J, FW5RE, several HVs, PSØF (F/N), S79JF, T27A, TN5SN, and TT8SK activated some semi-rare entities. A French group activated several Antarctic area entities. However, the biggest excitement was the large scale operation (20 operators!) of K5D from Desecheo Island logging over 115,000 QSOs! If you didn't work them, you probably didn't try!

As the year passed on there were many semi-rare operations. March brought us DXpeditions such as H4ØFN, VK9AA (C/K), VK9LA (LHI) and VK9GMW (Willis I.). April followed with 3B9/SP2JMB, YK1BA, and SØ4R. May had operations such as 5V7PM, ZK2V (who activated 60 meters for the first time), and 7P8R. DX tends to slow down in the middle of the year as the Northern Hemisphere experiences longer daylight. Regardless of the time of year, June gave us S92LX, TZ6EI and 5JØBV (HKØA), the latter two were both also on 6 meters. July had another group operating both 3DAØ and 7P8. August saw operations from OJØ (Market Reef) and 4W6AL.

DX typically increases as we move into the later third of the year when days shorten in the Northern Hemisphere. September saw activity with FO/A, T2, T3Ø, ZL7 and finally FT5GA from the long delayed very rare Glorioso Islands. The later was a military working group on a mission so operations had to be in their spare time. However, over 50,000 QSOs were still made on all DX bands and the logs were posted on the Internet and LoTW.

October was a confusing month with several DXpeditions all operating at the same time including FT5GA. 3D2ØCR activated Conway reef and there were operations from FO/M and PYØT. After overcoming operating permission and several transportation problems, there was a shortened operation from Midway Island by K4M. They still managed to exceed 60,000 QSOs and made over 2,600 QSOs on 160 meters. November saw operations from A25, CEØY, T3Ø, and VK9X. Also active was TX3A from Chesterfield Island making almost 37,000 QSOs between fishing and diving! The later, a two man DXpedition, emphasized the lower bands and uploaded all their logs on the Internet as well as LoTW while still on the Island! December ended the year with operations from 5T, C56, CEØZ, J5 and SV2ASP/A.

And now the drum roll please. Those entities that were NOT believed to have been active during 2009 are as follows:

Africa (16): 3CØ, 3C, 3X, 3Y/B, 5A, 5U, 9X, D6, E3, FR/J, FR/T, FT/X, FT/Z, T5, VKØ/H, and ZD9.

Antarctica (1): 3YØ (Peter 1).

Asia (9): 1S, 7O, BS7H, BV9P, EZ, P5, VU4, VU7, and XZ.

2009 DXCC Year End Review

Europe (3): 1AØ, JX, and R1M (MV Island).

North America (7): CYØ, CY9, FO/C, KP1, TI9, XF4 and YVØ.

Oceania (13): 3D2/R, KH1, KH3, KH5, KH5K, KH7K, KH8S, T33, VKØ/M, VP6/D, ZK3, ZL8, and ZL9.

South America (5): CEØ/X, HKØ/M, PYØ/S, VP8/O, and VP8/Sand.

Note that some rare entities may not be on this list. This is because some operations, however short, were conducted. Examples are 9U1P, E51WL (6 meters), FT5WO, VK9WBM (6 Meters) and ZS8T (only 85 QSOs) to name a few.

A list of DXCC entities that have believed to have not been activated in the last 6-10 years are: 3CØ, 3YØ/B, 7O, E3, FR/E, FR/T, FT/Z, HKØ/M, KH1, KH5K, KP1, P5, and VKØ/H. In addition, there were some short or low QSO total operations from some rare entities such as FT5/W, VKØ/M, XZ, ZL9 and ZS8/M. This shows that an avid DXer working hard at DXCC in the last 7-10 years could have been able to make the DXCC Honor Roll. The list also serves as a guide to those planning DXpeditions to rare entities.

2010 will start with many planned operations. We hope that the excellent cooperation with the USFWS that permitted the recent operation from Desecheo and Midway Islands will help to open the door for operation from other entities such as Navassa Island which has similar environmental restrictions. 2009 operations from D6/F6AML and EZ were scuttled because of licensing problems. Let's hope these issues can soon be resolved. Among some of the rarer entities rumored upcoming operations in 2010 are 3B9, 3W, 9X, CYØ (delayed from 2009), E4, FH, FO/A, FW, H4Ø, J5, S2, T31, VP8/H, YVØ, and ZK3 to name a few. Others maybe in the planning stages and not yet announced.

The possibility of new entities being added to the DXCC list still exists. Kosovo may finally obtain all the needed requirements for separate status. The status of PJ (Netherlands Antilles etc.) can change as some of these Dutch Islands may become more independent from the Netherlands but probably not until late 2010 or early 2011. If so, a few new entities will be created and some will be moved to the "Deleted List." A recent change in the DXCC rules will revert deleted entities to the Deleted List instead of being completely removed (as if they never existed) as previously ruled in 1998. Hence, the present DXCC active entity list still stands at 338.

Sunspots should surely reappear and Solar Cycle 24 will start to improve propagation on the higher HF bands. Look for the solar flux to go over 100 with low A (<20) and K (<3) indices. Solar wind below 300 KM per second and dynamic pressure less than 0.5 nPa as show on NOAA Space Weather are also good indicators.

Finally, DX means many different things to many people. Some DXers are only interested in the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll and soon run out of interest and challenges. Others pursue the never ending ARRL Challenge competition. Some like to chase Islands for the IOTA

2009 DXCC Year End Review

(Islands on the Air) program by the RSGB. There are approximately 1200 IOTA Island Groups and many have never been activated so there are lots of challenges. For the last several years, CQ Magazine has reinstated the year long CQ DXCC Marathon to see who can work the most entities in each calendar year. This program has a few more challenges by also adding several entities recognized only by CQ Magazine but not on the ARRL DXCC list as well as working all 40 zones. And there are the never ending DX Contests. There are lots of things to do. Don't let the airways die for lack of activity. Stay active and join the fun. Best of DX to you in 2010 and here's hoping to see you in the pile ups.

Many thanks to W3UR, W9KNI and K7RA for their valuable inputs to this report.

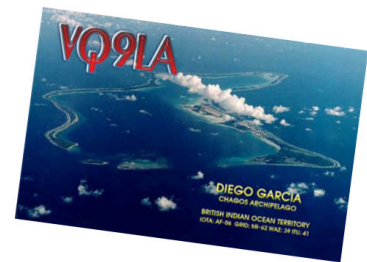
*Reprinted with permission. Copyright © 2010 The Daily DX. All rights reserved.
www.dailydx.com*

DXCC Card Checking Is As Close as EIDXA



EIDXA members can get their DX QSL cards checked for DXCC credit from the following club members:

- ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director, and EIDXA member, Cliff Ahrens KØCA attends EIDXA meetings as his schedule permits. You may also send your cards to him by surface mail. Contact Cliff via e-mail for more information and/or to make arrangements to check your cards: cahrens@mywdo.com.
- EIDXA member Tom Vavra WB8ZRL. Please note that Tom is unable to check cards from deleted entities or cards for 160 meters. Contact Tom via e-mail for more information and/or to make arrangements to check your cards: wb8zrl@arrl.net.
- EIDXA member Mike Nowack NA9Q. Mike attends EIDXA meetings as his schedule permits. Contact Mike via e-mail for more information and/or to make arrangements to check your cards: na9q@arrl.net.



2010 EIDXA Dues – Still Just \$5

Ring in the new year by paying your EIDXA dues. Just \$5.00! Send to club treasurer Rich Haendel W3ACO, 402 McLean St. Iowa City, IA 52246.

2010 EIDXA Meeting & Events Schedule

Look for this information on the club web-page www.eidxa.org. Meeting information on the web site is up to date to ensure everyone has timely access to the information between newsletters.

Next Meeting

**Friday, January 22, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.,
Room 219C, Linn Hall on KCC campus.
Program: K4M Midway Atoll DXpedition.**



EIDXA 1975-2010 • 35TH Anniversary



One of our EIDXA members built the 160 meter receive loop shown in the photo below. By accident, he called a VE3 on 160 CW transmitting into the loop, not realizing the mistake until half way through the QSO – after receiving an S4 signal report!

