EIDXA 1975 - 2010 · 35TH Anniversary

Club Officers

President:	Steve Miller	NØSM	**Packet Cluster** **WB8ZRL**
Vice President:	Jerry Rappel	WWØE	147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM
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	Joe Finkstein	WØMJN	144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8)
Membership Committee:	Jim Spencer	WØSR	
	Tom Vavra	WB8ZRL	
	Nelson Moyer	KUØA	

EIDXA Meeting – Friday, July 15th, 2011, 7:30 p.m.
Room 219C of Linn Hall on the campus of Kirkwood Comm. College.
Program: Eznec (antenna modeling).

President's Propagation, Pronouncements & Pontifications.

EIDXA President - Steve Miller NØSM

Greetings EIDXAers,

   I hope all of you had a good Field Day with your local clubs. It's fun event and a great opportunity for working new operators and to provide training for those who aren't quite so active. Due to some health issues and due to having relatives in from Texas, my participation was limited this year to making a few contacts from home Sunday morning but it was still fun.

It was really great seeing so many EIDXA members at the Dayton Hamvention this year. I counted at least 16 and am certain I missed some. I keep telling Rick Heinrichs that he really needs that big red and white Lusso tower and rotator. The young Japanese woman at the booth told me it was just $50,000 plus the cement base. When I asked her if that was what she used at home, she seemed highly amused.

At the July 15th meeting, one of the items for discussion will be selection criteria for funding Dxpeditions. You have seen some of the criteria offered by our club secretary-treasurer Rich Haendel. Please study these carefully and be prepared to offer your thoughts. We'll try to have a draft proposal at the meeting. That's not a document to ram down the members' throats but a starting point for discussion rather than attempting to begin from scratch. I'm allotting 15 to 20 minutes maximum for discussion so please prepare your thoughts. If we can't do it in that amount of time, we'll continue it at the October meeting.

Some of the recent propagation predictions aren't looking very rosy for next 7 or 8 years. Is it time to start concentrating on the low bands? We've had a couple of winters with some outstanding low band propagation. Do we have the antennas to capitalize on the low bands if these predictions come true? This might make a good program for a future meeting. While we think of low bands to mean basically 160, 80, & 40, one might also want to include 30 since it seems to frequently be available. That said, let's all hope the prognosticators miss the mark and we get our higher bands.

Our program for the July 15th meeting will be **EZNEC (**antenna modeling). I think you'll find it interesting and enjoyable. We'll also get an update from the EIDXA Marathon participants.
Checking the ARRL DX and 425 bulletins, it appears that there will be no shortage of good DXpeditions for the future. Do watch for the the Southern Sudan operation. The country will be granted independence on July 9th so the operation will be sometime after that. They are hoping for the call **STØDX.**

We'll look forward to seeing you at the meeting and afterward for pizza on July 15th.

73, Steve, NØSM.

"Now that's DX" –

EIDXA Vice President - *Jerry Rappel WWØE*

ONE … TWO … THREE KIRIBATIS …?

April/May 2011 - I almost let T31A get away, I had previously worked both East and West Kiribati. Little did I realize that there's also a Central Kiribati. Politically, Kiribati is one country; DXCC-wise, it's three – divided up by the island chains that comprise it: the Gilbert Islands (T30 – Western Kiribati), the Line Islands (T32 – Eastern Kiribati) and the Phoenix Islands (T31 – Central Kiribati). As a group, the island chain is the only country in the world to occupy all four hemispheres since it straddles both the equator and the International Date Line. In August, another DXpedition T32C will activate Eastern Kiribati from Christmas Island (aka Kiritimati Island) for almost a month.

Announced Dxpeditions for July/August:
KA8LOW/KH8 American Samoa July 30th - August 14th, SSB/CW/RTTY.
FO/a Austal Islands July 11th - 14th.
OJØUR Market Reef August 13th – 20th.
VK9HR Lord Howe Islands July 23rd – August 2nd.

SOUTH SUDAN DXCC STATUS

The prospect of a new country has taken an unexpected turn just recently. The country's borderline has never been settled between North and South Sudan in the area (Abyei) where most of the oil reserves are located. It was agreed under the 2005 Peace Agreement that the border issue will be resolved by the people in that province. A referendum to settle the matter has not happened. Instead, the North (*ST2*) has entered the disputed province with force. Additionally, the North has stated that they will not support an independent State in the south

unless the contested region is theirs. The matter now
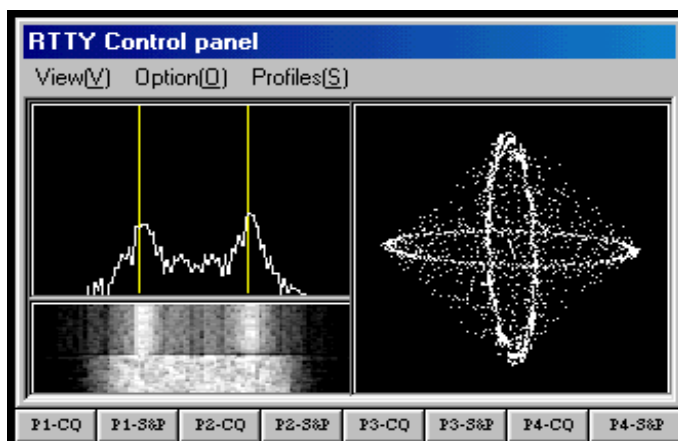remains totally in limbo. (GO LIST)

The DX adventures of Steve and Jerry.

" Surely you can't be serious about Dxing " ?

NØSM   WWØE

"I am very serious Steve, and stop calling me Shirley".

RTTY Corner. Jerry Rappel WWØE

The latest DX digi-doings.

New in the RTTY log book from the past couple months:
KHØPR (Norhtern Marina Islands), VU2NKS - now that one ***REALLY*** blew
me away … 5N7M, HZ1PS, 9L5MS, J39BS, EW8RM, EY8MM,
HP1/IZ6BRN, 2MØWMJ, 9A5ZM, CP1FF, MWØZZK, YT1LD, A65BR,
FJ/OS1T, 9H4JX, FR5HA / PSK31.
"Thank you" to the following EIDXA members who contributed RTTY logs
for this newsletter:
Dave Jaska WØVX: LY3W, A65BR, 4Z4DX, UA5A, 3D2A, S50XX,
HI8PJP, 5C5W, J39BS, EK5KE, J39BS, AHØ/AB2RF, FJ/OS1T.
Sam Burrell KØAFN: 3D2A, 9G5LL, RI1FJ, C31CT, LX8RTTY,
FP/W6HGF, ZL4PW.
Glen Kesselring KØJGH: FJ/OS1T, VU2NKS, AHØ/AB2RF, S21YZ,
T31A, RI1FJ, TJ3AY, 4S7BRG, SV2ASP/A, V85/9M6XRO.
Richard Haendel W3ACO: LZ6GP, VR2XLN,VU2NKS, A65BR, SX5F,
FJ/OS1T, ER1OO, RI1FJ, RA2FF, SV2ASP/A, EY7AD.

The results of the 2011 **RTTY Roundup** are in the July 2011 issue
of QST, page 74.
July 16th is the North American RTTY QSO party.

As you can see, there's lots of hard-core RTTY DX out there !
A65BR and VU4NKS are great catches. Have some fun, give it a try soon.

QR CODE

QR CODE – 55 WPM ? … Not Really - but something you'll be seeing a lot more of in 2011, it's called the QR code. A 2-dimensional redesign of the ubiquitous bar code, the QR code can contain a major amount of information in its random-looking hash. Created by a subsidiary of Toyota in 1994, QR stands for Quick Response and was initially intended to track parts in vehicle manufacturing. The code is surprisingly efficient, one QR code is capable of storing almost 4300 alphanumeric characters. These codes will soon be popping up on billboards, in-store displays products, and even business cards.It's conceivable that these codes could be sent over SSTV to exchange information with the other ham operator.QR codes can be generated through several web applications. If you Google "QR Code Generator" several will pop up. The code was generated by http://qrcode.kaywa.com/ and can be saved to your computer to place on your website or anything else. Anything can be put in a QR code that can be typed on your keyboard. Now the big question: How do you read these codes? If you have a smartphone with a camera, you can simply download a QR Code reader onto your phone. Snap a picture of the QR code and the phone software will decode what's there and display it to you. No smartphone? Dont despair. Go here: http://zxing.org/w/decode.jspx and either upload the image from your computer or type where the image can be found on the web. It will decode it for you.. An innovative idea that can place a large amount of information in a small, compact square. Get your phone's application and start reading the codes.It's fun and a good way to store large amounts of information in a compact place.

DX IS ...

Navy seeks to commercialize Sea Water Antenna

The U.S. Navy seeks to commercialize a system for a Sea Water Antenna through patent licensing and collaborative commercial partnerships. The technology is Patent Pending, Navy Case Number is 84943: Electrolytic Fluid Antenna.Background Increasing use of wireless communications require more and more antennas to support their data transmission. Many situations have limited available real estate for antenna placement. For example, Navy ships normally use metallic antenna elements to transmit and receive VHF signals. However, these protruding structures lead to sighting problems and take up valuable space onboard. Additionally, the height of the antenna cause the ships to be detected on radar scans. The typical Navy vessel currently houses 80 different antennae. With increasing antenna demand in many situations, smaller antennas are becoming more valuable to save precious surface real estate. The Technology SSC Pacific has developed a technology that uses the magnetic induction properties of sodium chloride (salt) in sea water to create a VHF antenna. Sea water is pumped from the ocean into a stream and the width and length of the stream determine the frequency capabilities. An 80-foot-high stream could transmit and receive from 2 to 400 mHz with a relatively small footprint. The Sea Water Antenna is capable of transmitting and receiving VHF signals and has been tested at a receiving range of over 30 miles.

The antenna needs of a typical Navy vessel with 80 metallic antennas could theoretically be replaced with only 10 Sea Water Antennas of varying heights and streams to cover the same frequencies. The technology could potentially be used on land with salt-supplemented water, replacing large unsightly antenna towers with fountains. Another use could be as a solar - or battery-powered emergency antenna system for watercraft. Key Benefits System could decrease antenna footprint in situations where shipboard real estate is scarce by eliminating the need for metallic antenna structures The height and width of the water stream could be adjusted to allow the Sea Water Antenna to transmit and receive many different frequencies The Sea Water Antenna could be turned off when not in use, with no unsightly structure obscuring views, or even allowing ships to avoid radardetection System could be used portably as an emergency antenna for watercraft, potentially powered by battery, solar panel or foot pump.

Typical Navy vessels house 80 or more antenna structures to support their wireless communications

A stream of salt water can be used to transmit and receive signals over various frequencies

The Patent Pending system has been tested at a distance of over 30 miles and at frequencies from 2 to 400 mHz

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific (SSC Pacific) is the U.S. Navy's research, development, test and evaluation, engineering and fleet support center for command, control and communication systems and ocean surveillance.

Spawartechtransfer.navy.mil

HISTORICAL MINUTES ... December 12, 1901

Signal Hill in St. John's, Newfoundland, on December 12, 1901, as Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi receives the first transatlantic radio message.The wind howled and icy rain pelted down as the fragile kite swung desperately in the gale over the Newfoundland cliffs, tugging at its 180-metre wire. It was midday on December 12, 1901, and Guglielmo Marconi sat anxiously in the small, dark room on Signal Hill.

"I placed a single ear-phone to my ear and started listening," he recounted. "The receiver on the table before me was very crude... (but) I was at last on the point of putting the correctness of all my beliefs to the test." Marconi, son of an Irish mother and an Italian father, had been playing with electricity since he was a child. A rebellious student, he hated lessons but loved to experiment and invent. By the time he was nineteen, he had resolved to be the first man to give the world a system of communication based on electromagnetic waves. By trial and error, relying on his own intuition and audacity, Marconi conducted a series of experiments indicating that long-distance wireless communication was possible.

One problem remained. Scientific theory of the time asserted that radio waves followed straight lines that would leave the earth's atmosphere and continue into space. Marconi had a hunch, unsupported by any scientific proof, that the waves would be drawn by gravity and follow the curvature of the earth. If he was right, a powerful signal could cross an ocean.
Marconi set out to prove that global transmission was possible. He built a transmitter in Poldhu, Cornwall, in England, and a crude receiver in the Cabot Tower in St. John's, Newfoundland. His experiments proved that rigid antennae could not withstand the North Atlantic winds, so he decided that in Newfoundland he would use a kite to raise the aerial high enough to capture

the signal from England. "Suddenly, there sounded the sharp click of the 'tapper'... and I listened intently. Unmistakably, the three sharp clicks corresponding to three dots sounded in my ear." Marconi's "big thing," as he called it, had come off. The transmission of those three dots, Morse code for the letter S, marked the first wireless link between the Old World and the New.

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Now that's a busy monitor.

This is a full screen picture of the FLEX SDR screen controlling the FLEX 3000. (Courtesy e-ham).

*"It was 73 years ago today
W6DNS taught the <u>bands</u> to play
6 meters goes in and out of style
but it's guaranteed to raise a smile
So may I introduce to you
the <u>magic band</u> you remember all these years " …*

(lyrics courtesy: Lennon/McCartney/WWØE)

   And so the magic starts... long ago … on a hot July afternoon back in
1938, as Harry - W6DNS, returns from work to his hillside home
 in San Diego. Before taking a short pre-dinner nap, Harry tunes across "five"
and hears the usual hiss of a dead band. Wakening for dinner he checks the
band again. Dinner will have to wait tonight. The band is full of signals...more
than Harry has ever heard before! He later reports
to "RADIO" magazine, "What a shock I got! The band sounded more like
"ten" than "five". W1's, 2's, 3's, 5's, 6's, 7's, 8's and 9's were
coming through. The QRM was terrific...." Twenty-five hundred miles to the
east, Nat - W1EYM, in Connecticut, is also carefully tuning "five",
hearing mostly stations from the central states and the Great Lakes area.
Digging a little deeper he is shocked to hear the S7 phone signal of W6DNS
in QSO with a W7! Nat anxiously waits for the two stations to sign before
calling the Californian and then holds his breath...he knows that if
he hears a reply, things will never be quite the same for "five" again.
"W1EYM this is W6DNS in California!" is heard through the QRM and
at 1810 PDST the first confirmed trans-continental double-hop QSO on the
"ultra highs" forever becomes part of history. Up until this point, "five" had
always been regarded as unpredictable with 'quirky' propagation.
Amateurs had discovered that for some reason, the summer months would

provide sporadic openings out to 800~1000 miles. There had been rumors of W1's hearing W6's and even reports of trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific receptions... but always unconfirmed and often dismissed as "wishful thinking" or "bootleg" operators.

But there was no mistaking what had happened on July 24, 1938! Eventually amateurs would trade **"five"** for what would become known as today's "magic band"... but I think Harry and Nat had already discovered the magic, back on that warm summer evening, long, long ago.   **(*QST 1938*).**

W6DNS - Harry Hasenback of San Diego, CA. Harry used a National NC 1-10 super-regen receiver along with a homebrew HK54 parallel line grid circuit oscillator driving a pair of HK54s at 175W input.

The power supply and transmitting gear were all located on the roof in a plywood box in order to reduce feedline losses. His antenna for the milestone QSO was a vertical collinear array consisting of 3 half-wave elements with directors on a 50' mast.
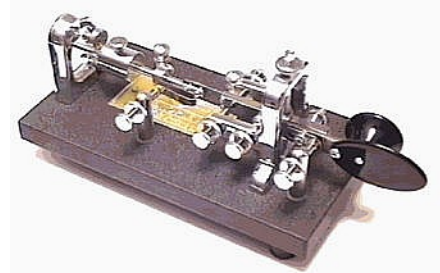
Morse Code Shiraz

The Morse Code Shiraz is a fruit-driven wine with minimal oak to allow the fruit flavors and regional characters to the forefront. The wine shows fruit characters of blueberries and cherries with hints of liquorice and touches of spice and pepper. The palate is rich and full with a nice depth of berry fruit, toasted spice and a touch of mint, with a fleshy mid palate and a soft, round finish. The vineyards destined for the Morse Code are deep sand over limestone. The vineyards destined for the Morse Code Shiraz are harvested when flavor ripe, and fermented on skins for a period of 5 days. Only the free run fraction of the wines is selected for the Morse Code as we aim to have a soft rounded palate with a velvety finish. The wine is matured for a period of around 12 months and a small proportion of the wine finished ferment in barrel, but the majority was un-oaked to allow the fruit to shine. This wine is ideally served at room temperature with meat dishes (pizza?) and hard cheeses.

This label continues on the winery's postal theme and recalls the craft of the Postal Telegraphists. For decades their Morse signals, dexterously delivered across Australia's great telegraph line, connected the island nation with the world and helped to save countless lives. A bottle or two will help get you through those CW pileups. Available from a company in Napa, CA.

 http://www.toastwines.com/r/products/morse-code-shiraz-2008

Gary's new/used tower.

EIDXA member KWØJ recently purchased a used 50 foot crankdown tower – thanks to a lead from member Larry KØIS.
He hopes to start work on it this month. I 'll follow the progress and have an update in the next issue, WWØE.

(2 of Gary's neighbors have moved out of his neighborhood already) …

"Yesterday (April 25th) I made a trip over to the Rockford area and purchased a used tower. It is the same tower Larry KØIS has. Got a tip from Larry about the listing on Craig's list. Was way too good a deal to not act on it. There were two others trying to get it. Luckily I got the $ to him first. I rented a car carrier for the job. It stuck out the end 4 feet so I put on bright orange cones and hoped for no cops.

(Gary - I once got arrested for wearing orange cones ... Jerry)

Not sure what the restriction is in Illinois for objects hanging out. Got it all loaded over thereand strapped down before the really hard rain and wind came. Drove in rain and wind all the way back. Was nerve racking! I pulled off the road five times and checked the straps. Good thing I did because the first couple checks I found they needed tightening a bit.I used a saws-all to cut off the old mounting bolts. Removed the rotator and found it to be a G-1000 Yaesu heavy duty. I will have to get a controller for it as the owner never had it. I'm thinking it has not been used much if at all. Larry came over and helped me measure out the back yard for a possible location. Then will take the info from him and the specs for the base to Bettendorf for approval. I'm thinking the first part of July will be the cement install time period.

Gary KWØJ

How many bags of cement you think you're going to need Gary?

Monk Apollo SV2ASP/A update.
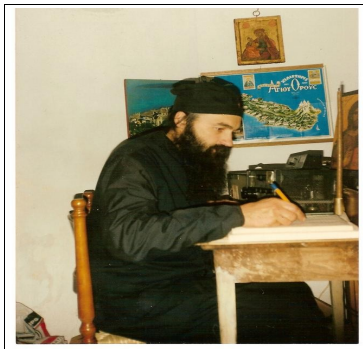
The following from Rick, NE8Z, who recently visited Mt. Athos: "I have just returned from my 2 week visit to Greece and pilgrimage to Mt. Athos". From the minute that I stepped off the plane in Athens to the minute that I left Greece two weeks later I was treated with true 'ham hospitality' by SV1JG, SV2ASP/A and SV2BOH.

"Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A, greeted me with open arms in Mt. Athos. He spent the entire week making sure that I was comfortable. I participated in all of their church prayer services, and I was also able to work for 2 long days with the monks cleaning crystal and silver chandeliers in preparation for Easter services. "Monk Apollo gave me the keys to his Land Rover and told me to 'go...explore...take your time'. I was able to visit many of the 20 monasteries on the peninsula."I was able to make a donation of various pieces of radio equipment to his monastery which will allow him to operate from two or more portable hilltop locations in Mt. Athos. SEMDXA members provided him with a new MFJ Keyer, LDG antenna tuner and a Heil BM-10 headset. Budd, W3FF, and his son Chris donated a complete Buddipole Antenna system. The ARRL donated 8 log books, band plan charts and a backpack for the portable equipment transportation. Monk Apollo never asked for anything. I simply showed up with the gifts for the monastery. "Father Apollo is a very busy monk. His radio time is limited because of church services that last up to 8 hours per day, 7 days per week. After services he is busy working on construction projects for the monastery."He is presently active on the radio daily between 1700-2100z on 160m, 30m, 17m and 12m CW-SSB-RTTY. He is building a new ham shack which will be ready in a few months. Once he is in the new QTH he will install his new 40 foot tubular tower and a Stepp-IR 3 element yagi that was donated to him by Dominik, DL5EBE.

Dayton pictures from Terry Cellman - WØAWL

There was a GIANT toilet back up this year. The blockage spewed out of the pavement in the flea market. Not only did it gush from the clean out cap, it started spewing out from cracks in the asphalt. Flea market venders had RAW sewage water running through their spaces. It paid to be upwind if you were outside.

Remember the ham that had a 3 foot tower on top of his hard had?
Well this gal did him one better. Check out her hair style.
She has a 1/4 wave 2 meter antenna in her hair.

Tidbits . ..

Byte, in computer terms, means 8 bits. A nibble is half that: 4 bits.
(Two nibbles make a byte!)

In "Roger Wilco," what does "Wilco" mean?   Wilco means "Will Comply" in
response to receiving instructions. "Roger Wilco" means "Information
received and understood -- will comply."

A lightning bolt generates temperatures five times hotter than those found at
the sun's surface.

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WØGFQ - "World Radio Laboratories" SK
On April 13, 2011 - just a few weeks after celebrating his 100th birthday, ham
radio legend Leo Meyerson, WØGFQ (ex-W9GFQ), became a Silent Key.
Meyerson founded and ran "World Radio Laboratories" in Council Bluffs,
Iowa, producing the "Globe" line of transmitters that were very popular
among hams in the mid-20th century.

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Spratly Islands

The Daily DX reports that the planned **DXØDX** expedition to the Spratly
Islands has been postponed until April 2012.

Calling all members …

Any member who has article(s) logs, pictures, etc. to contribute to this newsletter, **please send them to me: Jerry Rappel WWØE   ww0e@q.com**. Thank you.

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**.

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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.

EIDXA 1975-2010 ▪ 35ᵀᴴ Anniversary

Before LOTW: