Eastern Iowa DXer

An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League

EIDXA 1975 - 2010 · 35TH Anniversary

Club Officers

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Repeater Committee:	Al Groff	KØVM
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Membership Committee:	Jim Spencer	WØSR
	Tom Vavra	WB8ZRL
	Nelson Moyer	KUØA

Packet Cluster **WB8ZRL**
147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM

Repeater: **NDX/R**
144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8)

Silent key: Heinz Blankenhagen, NRØX

EIDXA Member Heinz Blankenhagen, NRØX, became a silent key on November 20, 2011. Born March 30, 1936, Heinz Herman Blankenhagen, age 75, of Martelle, died Sunday November 20, 2011 at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After leaving the Army in 1958 he went to work for Collins Radio Company, where he remained until retirement in 1992. He enjoyed DXing, contesting and of course building antennas.

NRØX

He was a member of the Eastern Iowa DX Association. And the ARRL for more than 50 years, he was licensed in 1954. He was also a past member of the Cedar Amateur Astronomers club.

Heinz Blankenhagen

Heinz Blankenhagen was born in Petersburg, Nebraska in 1936. He grew up on a farm near Chariton, Iowa. He became a ham in 1954 with the novice call of WNØYTQ. Shortly after he upgraded to general class with the call WØYTQ. His last license upgrade was in 1976 as an extra class license. In 1986 Heinz changed his call to NRØX. Heinz first met his future wife, Karin Karlson, at Bob and Jacks Store for Hams in Des Moines, Iowa. Karin was in the store taking a class so she could obtain her general class amateur radio license. Heinz came in the store for a part and noticed Karin, who was the only female taking the class. Later, when Karin called the store for help in understanding the transmitter she owned, whom do you think the busy store owner sent to help with the explanations? As they say, the rest is history.

Heinz entered the Army in 1956. He served most of his military service with the signal corps in Germany. He had the call sign DL4AT. During his deployment in Germany, Heinz was active in RTTY. He was a pioneer in this mode. While stationed in Germany, he confirmed a contact that gave the first ham to achieve RTTY WAC the European continent. It was also in Germany; Heinz first started playing around with single side band, using a Central Electronics, model 20A Band switching SSB Exciter. The price listed in the Central Electronics catalog was $249.50 for the assembled exciter and $199.50 for the kit.

After leaving the Army in 1958, he went to work for Collins Radio Company as a test technician. He later became a radio operator, at what is now referred to as Comm Central. Heinz was instrumental in the growth and development of Comm Central.

Central Electronics model 20A

He designed the complex switching system, and wrote software to control the switching and remote stations. During the last 15 years of his employment with Rockwell Collins, Heinz was the manager of Comm Central. Heinz retired in 1992. Heinz and Karin have lived in Marion and Central City. They purchased a 130-acre farm north of Martelle, Iowa, where he lived until his death. It was at this QTH Heinz began planning and constructing a world-class amateur radio station. His antenna farm started with telephone poles and has exploded since his retirement in 1992.

Heinz has 5 towers. Three of these towers are over 140 feet, two of which are rotating towers. He has three, 4-element 20-meter Yagis and two nine-element 6-meter Yagis on one of the 150 foot rotating towers. There are three 5-element 15-meter Yagis and three, 6-element 10-meter Yagis on the other rotating tower. A full sized 3-element 40-meter Yagi sits on a 140-foot tower. There also is a full sized 3-element 30-meter Yagi on a seperate 100-foot tower. His receive antennas for the low bands; consist of several reversible direction beverage antennas over 1000 feet long. The telephone poles he started with are still in use today. They support 2 ladderline fed Zepp antennas at 80 feet.

Heinz linked his winter QTH in Brownsville, Texas, to his radios, amplifiers, and antennas, at his home QTH near Martelle, Iowa. His main interests were DXing, contesting and, building antennas. One look at the contest certificates hanging on his shack wall, attest to his station and contest skills. It's not surprising that his DX totals are near the top in all categories.

NRØX *DXCC totals*

DXCC Challenge – 2918 Mixed – 363 Phone – 353 CW – 340 RTTY – 311.

NRØX *DXCC Band country totals*

160 Meters - 243, 80 Meters – 305, 40 Meters - 336, 30 Meters – 314, 20 Meters - 358, 17 Meters - 332, 15 Meters - 342, 12 Meters – 312, 10 Meters - 318. 6 Meters 104.

Heinz Blankenhagen and Glenn Johnson WØGJ

At the January EIDXA club meeting in 2001, the members voted to make Glenn Johnson WØGJ, an Honorary Member of the EIDXA. Glenn attended the March meeting and presented a program on his January 2001 DXpedition to Bhutan. Heinz was the president from January 2001 to January 2003.

His 6-meter contacts were sure to increase. Heinz was in the process of designing and building, with the help of Jason Joens, KDØMND, a four-Yagi moon bounce array. This array would have had 4 nine-element Yagis in an H configuration, on an AZ-EL mount.

Heinz's interests went beyond amateur radio. He was active in astronomy. He was a member of the Cedar Amateur Astronomers Inc. He constructed a reflector telescope from scratch, which entailed grinding and polishing the large reflecting mirror used to focus the light inside the reflector telescope. Heinz would much rather build an item than purchase it. This showed built. Many people didn't realize that not only did Heinz built several bicycles, he also raced them, used them to participate in RAGBRAI, and enjoyed touring parts of northeastern Iowa and southwest Wisconsin with his wife Karin.

Heinz also enjoyed computers, cross-country skiing, downhill ski racing, racquetball, camping and fishing. Heinz and Karin also spent time canoeing the streams of northeast Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by EIDXA members Terry Cellman WØAWL, Jim Spencer WØSR, Tom Vavra WB8ZRL, and Rod Blocksome KØDAS.

EIDXA Meeting – Friday, February 3rd, 2012 7:30 P.M.
Room 219C of Linn Hall on the campus of Kirkwood Comm. College.
Program on
"*Maintenance and Preparation of a Contest Station*" - PJ2T
by Rick Heinrich NØYY.

President's Propagation, Pronouncements & Pontifications.
EIDXA President – Richard Heinrich NØYY.

The writing of this column is hard – there are memories of a significant loss and the joys of a well fought battle. In some ways they are consistent.

It is with profound sadness that we all remember the passing of Heinz, NRØX a long standing member, motivator, mentor, but most of all friend. Heinz was the quintessential ham, never compromising on his goals. Right to the end he was planning more and bigger antennas for 6 Meters – but that's just the way he was. Most of us can claim to have been in the pileups with Heinz – and most of us can attest to his beating us to the punch. His station design was stellar and his skills and knowledge second to none.

I had the pleasure of driving to Dayton with Heinz a few years ago when he was just starting his remote control station adventure. His enthusiasm was as strong on that project as any he had taken on before or would start after. Any shortcoming he had with that station design was not a fault of his design, but a frailty of the internet or the availability of products that he would adapt to make that station work during his winter travels to Texas.

Several of our members are compiling a biographical perspective of Heinz. But we can all smile as we remember our own special times with Heinz. Karin, Heinz' surviving wife has indicated that she wants to leave his towers in place and have Jason maintain them. Who knows maybe there will be a special event or contest that will take place there in the future. I know I will drive by that Martelle location and marvel at the antennas in place and remember how they served him well.

Rest in peace my friend…

This newsletter also finds me just back from another adventure at PJ2T. I led a 10 operator team in the 2011 CQWW CW contest to a score of 41M points based on 15,200 QSO's (15,700 with dupes!) And while this year was fun, it again proved elusive for the win. We were beat by C5A in Gambia who scored 57M points. Well done to the team of Czech ops.

But this year our preparation was more involved. Computer repairs, antenna failures, tower and guy concerns, radio software upgrades, etc. really kept ups busy right up to the start of the contest. I will have a presentation at the upcoming meeting that outlines what it takes to prepare for a major contest from a world class station.

I will also have a "report" of the contest and some overall observations of the DX community as the high bands come alive again in this issue.

The weather has held out this year so hopefully you have been able to get those last minute antenna projects done before the snow files. The contest season is in full force and now is a good time to get on and work those additional band countries or just new entities. The low bands are not as good as a couple of years ago, but they are still good enough to add to the overall totals. As I write this the ARRL 160 and the ARRL 10M contests are done and the 160M Stew Perry Challenge is looming.

Get on – take advantage of all those other stations being on and active. Maybe you were on Santa's list for a new radio or new accessory. It's never too early to plan on getting ready for something new!

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Richard Heinrich NØYY

PJ2T – The 2011 CQWW CW DX Contest

Contest from Paradise? By Richard Heinrich NØYY.

What does it take to be one of the top scoring stations in a major contest? Of course there are the obvious answers like location and the right equipment, but for established stations the answer may not be as clear. For the team at PJ2T the station is well established and its performance is well characterized. The variables include the operators, conditions, and whether or not Mr. Murphy decides to visit or maybe even take up residence!

We had our share of maintenance issue this year between the SSB and CW weekends. But I will address those in the January meeting presentation. But I wanted to share some of my observations of how we prepare for the contest to help offer some insight when you turn on your radio and find a DX-pedition on the air.

I was the overall Contest Director for this year's effort. What does it mean to take on being the Contest Director – well let's just say that I get to live the contest twice – once while planning, the second time while I am sitting at the radio. In the end it is all about preparation and performance. The role of the leader is to make sure everything is ready so that as the team members arrive they have a familiarization with what is expected and that everything is ready for them to perform to their stated task.

This year the team consisted of 10 operators – Geoff – WØCG/PJ2DX the owner of Signal Point, Jeff – K8ND our Station Manager, Jim – W8WTS, Jim – WI9WI, Marty, K2PLF, Wayne – K8LEE, Kyle – WA4PGM, Phil – NØKE, Jim – WØNB, and myself. Jim, WØNB should also be familiar to all of you as he is one of our own EIDXA members! Everyone except Phil, NØKE is a member of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium, the group responsible for keeping PJ2T manned and on the air. All of the members and in this case Phil were all veterans of contesting from the Caribbean. Several of the team have multiple years of experience at TI5N.

In the months leading up to the contest we exchanged many e-mails establishing a team concept and working through operator preferences and experiences.

We chose a team concept that identified "band captains" and band teams. The composition looked something like this:

160/15M – K8ND/W8WTS/WØCG
80/10 – NØYY/K8LEE
40 – WI9WI/NØKE
20 – WA4PGM/K2PLF/WØNB

This year we set up a 5th station on the kitchen table for 15M since we knew that 15 would be open longer and we wanted to be able to run 160 and 15 M simultaneously. This strategy played out as we made over 700 QSO's during what used to be closed band periods!

We choose the band captain/single band approach because the operators get familiar with band conditions, antennas, how the bands feel, opening/closing, etc. all which optimizes performance. In the case of PJ2T where we have a wide variety of antennas and antenna switching it also keeps things simpler.

The high bands were incredible! Run rates were peaking over 200+/hour for several hours. That rate is per band – not total across the 5 available stations. Our peak combined station performance was a rate of 14 QSO's per minute or an hourly rate of 840 QSO's/hour! Our rates during the high band peaks with only 20/15/10 meters was 9.3 QSO's/minute or 560 QSO's per hour!!!!

But the low bands were not dead by any means! I had a peak 10 minute period on 80M on Friday night where the rate meter was above 245/hour! That single hour yielded 143 QSO's – on 80Meters !!!

So how did we do?

Preliminary results from this year's CQWW CW DX contest has the team from PJ2T finishing second to the Czech team that operated at C5A.

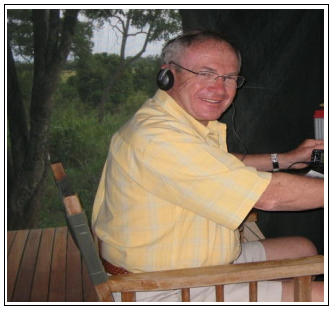
When the dust settled we had the following line score:

Band	QSO	Zones	Countries
160	954	23	82
80	1464	30	101
40	3058	34	122
20	3962	39	141
15	3255	38	136
10	2598	33	123
Total	15291	197	705

For a total score of ***40,916,524.*** What the score does not disclose is that we had over 400 dupes for a total QSO count over 15,700 QSO's!!!

This was the best single contest score **EVER** from Signal Point in any contest. While it did not beat the South American record it gave it a run for its money. As propagation improves, next year promises to offer another opportunity to wind up on top of the heap.

For me it was an absolute blast! We ate well and had fun in the contest. To give you an idea of how well we ate – we had two turkeys for our Thanksgiving dinner – courtesy of our master chef – Jim, WØNB.



Ahhh ! … Next year !!!

WØNB

Richard Heinrich NØYY

"Now that's DX"
EIDXA Vice President Jerry Rappel WWØE

Is it January already? Happy New Year ! I hope those of you that received "Godzilla" amplifiers for Christmas are using them to produce a comfortable contentment of warmth in your shack this time of year.

An abundance of high quality reading in the newsletter this month: "**A View from the Other Side of the Pile-Up",** by Dee Logan from WorldRadio online, **"What's the Best Way to Work DX 'By the Numbers?'** also from WorldRadio, **"Adding a 40 meter and a 30 meter reflector to the 4 element SteppIR"** by Tom Vinson, NYØV. **"Famous Callsigns, Radio Rooms, and QSL cards"**. **"Not your ordinary everyday QSL cards" - time stations,** by WWØE, two **Member Spotlights - W**ØWLL and KIØWA. **"Giddy up giddy up 507" -** by KCØVKN. Etc.

♫ ***You are my sunspots, my lovely sunspots,***
You make me happy when you are here,
You'll never knoooow, how much I missed you,
Please don't take my sunspots away . . . ♪

(*Maybe I shouldn't of had that extra can of Ginger Ale on New Years Eve)*. Recent additions to my DX logbook, DS5USH, XV2RZ, BX5AA, and 8Q7DV. 307 DXCC Mixed, *(as of noon today)* - **Yes !**

***REMINDER*:** Postal increase effective on January 22, 2012. Letters (1 oz.) 1¢ increase to 45¢. Letters to DX destinations 7¢ increase, from 98¢ to $1.05.

My latest award – **DXCC Challenge**. Received November 29, 2011.

Hopefully I'll see you at the next meeting. And don't forget to send your shack information and pictures to me for the Members Spotlight in the April Newsletter.

I'm sorry to say that I never had the privilege of meeting Heinz Blankenhagen, NRØX. Rest in Peace Heinz.

VP6T Pitcarin Island January 20-29.
"Extended" Malpelo DXpedition January 22 – February 22.

Thanks to everyone that contributed to the Newsletter this month !!
Until next time – Keep on DX'in' ! WWØE

DX CODE OF CONDUCT - "Listening"

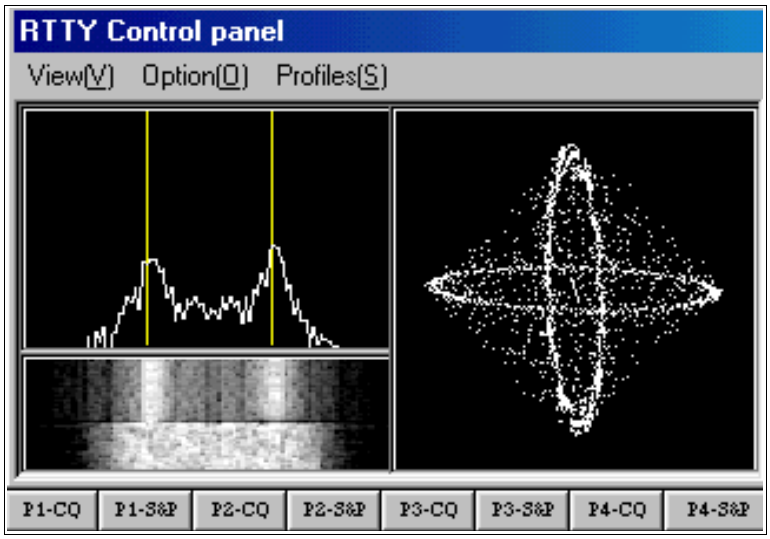
I have, and I'm sure many of you have noticed that most major DXpeditions recently have linked us to their website where the DX Code of Conduct is along with other educational material that they think is a good way to tell those who want a QSO how they are expected to operate. They particularly want to reach the new hams who will replace the Old Timers in the years to come. They want them to learn how to develop good operating habits early in their DX careers. Has this really helped? I still hear the so called "DX Police" out there informing certain operators "He's Listening Up".

Yep – there is the key word - **"Listening"**. How many times have you read in the ham publications the same thing I have, Listen First. Is it because there are so many new HF hams out there recently who are jumping on frequency without **listening** first? I think that's only part of the problem. The "DX Police" seem to enjoy telling others where to go. The other part of the problem is what others aren't doing first - **"Listening"**. Is it just me, or does that seem to be the key word here. They have spotted the DX station on DX Summit and within seconds are on that frequency giving out their call sign for that rare one they need, and not "**Listening"** to the DX operator's instructions. Maybe this should be printed in every HF transceiver, amplifier, etc manual, **"Listen First"**. I also feel a big part of the problem is the world in which we live in today, a lot of people don't want to wait, and are use to not waiting, like with that instant cell phone connection, etc.

The EIDXA supports the DX Code of Conduct. We all need to educate others to do so. I feel that it is also important that all DXpeditions tell hams who want a QSO what they expect from us, to operate ethically in accordance with the DX Code of Conduct.

BTW – when's the last time you heard a "DX Policeman" say: ***"This is WØCOP, the DX station is listening up.*** **Never** – maybe they forgot to **"Listen"** to their Elmer when they were first licensed, about ID'ing your station, evidently they weren't **"Listening"**. In some jurisdictions, police are required to give out a certain number of traffic citations each month for whatever reason. Apparently, these DX Policemen are a part of a DX jurisdiction where they have a "DX Ticket quota". If they don't hand out enough "tickets", they might loose their jobs. We wouldn't want that to happen now would we? As we all know the only thing these policeman are responsible for is QRM. Comments welcome - de WWØE … listening ...

RTTY Corner. Jerry Rappel WWØE



The latest DX digi-doings.

Due to space limitations in this issue - The RTTY Corner will return in the April newsletter. WWØE

January 1 SARTG New Year RTTY Contest
January 7-8 ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP

CALLING *ALL* DX'ers !

ANNOUNCING
THE EIDXA DX
MARATHON CHALLENGE 2012

Come one - come all -
It's the EIDXA DX Marathon
Challenge 2012
Beginning January 1st 2012.

The EIDXA Marathon Challenge 2012 is the perfect answer for you - the DX-er - who needs that extra incentive to get on the air every day!

After all, we are a **DX CLUB** →
So let's all have some fun. Simply work as many DX countries and CQ Zones as you can, regardless of the band or mode. Each country and zone counts only once. Work individually or as a team.

Cycle 24 is getting
HOTTER AND HOTTER ...
let's see what you can do.

Joe - KCØVKN set the stage for us on this event last year, the info and logging are on the web page to get you started.

EIDXA DX Marathon Challenge - KCØVKN

With the close of 2011 comes the close of the EIDXA CQ Marathon challenge! I thank everyone for their participation and help as I worked through the initial scoring hurdles. I hope everyone that participated had a good time, and maybe some others will consider giving it a go. I don't believe you need to put up big numbers to have fun. Set some goals to work some new ones for any band you're good on. With high-band conditions improving like they have, 2012 should be wonderful for all of us with small antenna installations.

I think the common thread for most everyone that participated was it increased their time on the bands looking for DX; even if it was something they'd already worked, maybe they worked it on a new band. I certainly can identify with that. My increased activity also led to several all-time new ones as I was QRV just a bit more often and keeping an eye on the leader boards. That VK6 for my last zone took forever, though.

I think it was also a good opportunity to experience propagation as the bands warmed up near the end of the year. I don't know about everyone else, but, I've hardly left 10 or 15meters for the last couple of months!

I didn't receive any complaints about the log-upload mechanism. It has it's touchy points, but, I think it's a reasonable way to keep everybody drooling for that next one and I won't make many changes to it for next year. I received a couple of suggestions for changing what I display, though, and I think I'll work on implementing a few additions.

1) I think it'd be interesting to see who everybody else is working. I think the zone totals aren't all that interesting and take up a lot of space. I will try and come up with a way to display QSO's for particular entities so we can see if we're all working the same DX or different. Maybe displaying the time would be good so folks are seeing when others are making Q's to those areas.
2) If anyone has links to other clubs doing this, I'll add those links somewhere on the page. I know there are a couple that show world-wide participation (require the stations to submit totals), and that's interesting to see where one is stacking up.

I 'd also like some input as to a way to encourage more EIDXA members to participate. I'm not sure if it's looking at the leaders and feeling hopelessly behind, or, just not having time to operate. At one point WØAWL had mentioned a teams competition; At the beginning of the year we'd split off into pairs or 4's and go that route.

I don't think participation was high enough this year to sustain that, but, if it will help for 2012, I'm all for that. The one caveat here is that this would be internal to EIDXA only, as CQ Marathon rules are for single operator only. I doubt this is a big deal for us, though.

If team's aren't what we want, should I separate out the scoring along the Formula and Unlimited classes.? This would depend on the number of people that are running KW's and beams, versus those with backyard wires and 100W's.

73, Joe KCØVKN

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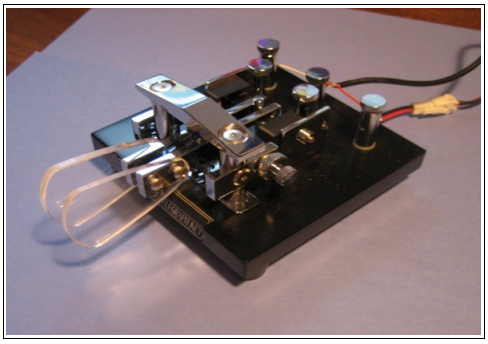
EASTERN IOWA DX ASSOCIATION **ENDORSES** DX CODE OF CONDUCT

Well I saved my pennies and I saved my dimes
♫ (Giddy up giddy up 507)
For I knew there would be a time
(Giddy up giddy up 507) ♫
When I would own a 507 (with Optical Contacts)

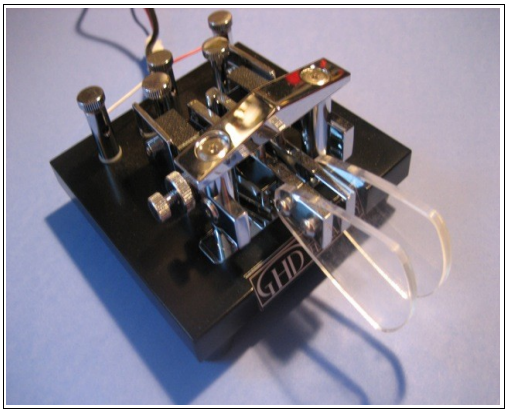
by Joe Hetrich, KCØVKN



As most of you know, I've got a small collection of keys. My first rule is for all of them is that they must be comfortable and usable. No keys for collecting's sake! Still, with so many of them, there has to be a favorite, eh?

For the longest time, my favorite key was my Begali Graciella, which is an upright key. It has a very solid feel, can be adjusted for very close contact spacing and is an interesting key to have on the desk and use. It was inspired by the WBL series of vertical keys, and, in due time, I was able to locate one of those, a V2L to add to my collection. That key, in turn, became the key I kept on the desk most of the time. It has the same solid feel as the Begali, despite being a bit more Spartan in design.

About a year and a half ago, I saw a GHD 507B, made by JA7GHD on QTH classifieds. After some emailing back and forth, an deal was struck, and, I had a new key on the way.



The interesting thing about most all of the GHD's that I've seen is how bright and shiny they are. The chrome on them is very well done and the prep before chroming must be a major task for them. Alas, the B in 507B stands for black, not chrome! It does, however, have one very interesting difference; it's has no mechanical contacts, it uses optical contacts. GHD make several other paddles and bugs that use optical contacts.

There are at least 3 models of paddle and 3 models of bug that are constructed this way. I had always wanted to give one a drive, so I was excited when it arrived.

The key requires 12V for the optical sensors and the 507 is slightly less adjustable than the more expensive 509 with optical contacts. The 509 has a shelf that the optical sensor rides on that can be moved further or closer to the paddle arm with a screw.

The 507 doesn't have this; the sensor is mounted on the same style bracket, but, you have to nudge it around with your finger and then tighten it down. Given how often one adjusts contact spacing, it's not a very big issue.

The paddle arm has a small pad on it that interrupts the optical sensor and a rubber bumper at the very end of the arm is the stop. At first I wasn't certain how much I'd like the feel; I thought it'd feel "soft" when using it at higher speeds. However, I have come to prefer that particular feeling as the key is completely silent with no contact noises when you're operating and the soft "bump" at the end has a pleasant feel to it. The spacing is not as tight as some of my mechanical keys, but it's just about right for me. The main thing is that the "stop" for the paddle arm is slightly after the interruption of the optical sensor, so the actual feel is of a very very close contact spacing.

I now use this key most of the time, though sometimes I switch over to my bug and it makes horrible sounds.

In the end it's quite a luxury to have optical contacts over mechanical ones in a key, but, I figure folks that enjoy microphones will spend a fair bit of money on a nice headset with a boom mic, or even a desk mic, so, the difference really isn't that great. I just paid a fair bit of money for a switch, that is all! Not sure what's next in the stable. I haven't ever used one of GHD's mechanical keys, and I'd sure like to see how it feels compared to some of my other keys, and the 507. I'll report on that when I locate one!

73, Joe KCØVKN

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A View from the Other Side of the Pile-Up, by Dee Logan

(From WorldRadio Online)

(Dee Logan, W1HEO, holds DXCC #1 Honor Roll, 9BDXCC, WAZ and WAS. Previous calls: J3/W1HEO, VK9LM, VP2EOH, VP9/W1HEO, and G5CQF. He is a contributor to the DX Magazine, WorldRadio Online's promotion & recruitment column, editor of the QCWA Cleveland Chapter One newsletter, and author of the book "Tips and Tactics from DX Pros").

His experience in operating from Aruba — P4 (DX World)

"Managing Pileups"

Dee Logan mentioned several techniques he used to help manage his pileups in an effort to give a QSO to as many of "the deserving" as possible. One of those was to call stations "by the numbers." While there are many opinions as to whether this is a good idea, it can be an effective way to help reduce the number of stations calling, resulting in the DX station being able to work more people in the same amount of time. However, as simple as this may sound, there are always exceptions. **Don Segedie, WD9DPK,** of Agoura Hills, California dropped me an email and asked: "In your July ***WRO*** article, you stated: 'If the DX is asking for call area four, then he only wants stations located in call area four to answer him.' I live in area six but my call is WD9DPK. Wouldn't this cause a problem, as it is not following the request of the DX station? Should I wait until he calls for area nine or just do nothing and not respond?" Don brings up an excellent point. Since the FCC no longer requires hams to change their call if they move to a district that is not representative of their "number," we get into some gray areas when DX stations are going by the numbers. In fact, I was in the same situation for a few years after moving to Colorado.

Up until that point, I had been a nine, but always resided in nine-land. However, after moving to Colorado, I was now a nine-lander in Ø-land. When I was working DX stations that were going by the numbers, I always struggled with when to call — do I call when the DX is asking for nines? Do I wait until he gets to Øs?

Do I call when he's asking for either nines or Øs? I have to admit I ended up doing a combination of all three.

However, it always felt a little underhanded to call as a Ø appending /Ø to the end of my nine call. But often times that worked to my advantage as there were typically fewer Øs calling than nines. That said, the goal of the DX station is usually to thin the pile in order to work more guys in the same amount of time (increasing his rate). I would stress to use your best judgment about when to call if the DX is working by the numbers. One thing is certain in all cases: If the DX is asking for eights and you don't have an eight in your call ***or*** don't live in the eighth area, then don't call. Please wait until one of those two criteria is met.

What's the Best Way to Work DX 'By the Numbers?'

by Kelly Jones, NØVD.

Over the course of the last 20+ years I've managed to achieve DXCC Honor Roll only needing 3Y0/B and KP1 for #1 Honor Roll - both of which I missed during my college years. I've also been an active DX cluster sysop since the early days, putting my first node on the air in 1994 and today keeping busy with the DX Central website, I am also the DX Columnist for **World Radio magazine.**

"Even as a casual DXer, it always amazes me that guys think they can work a station more quickly by calling out of turn . . . even when the DX station is transmitting!" writes Don Keith, N4KC. *(Courtesy of N4KC)* WorldRadio Online. A publication of CQ Communications, Inc.

I often find myself yelling at the radio "don't do that" when I hear a DX station engage in this type of operating procedure. Generally speaking, the DXpeditioner must be in control of the pileup. In the end, everybody benefits. For example, more stations will get in the log. One of my favorite stories of "pileup control" comes from the days of Alan Chesire, **VKØMM** — "The Penguinator," as he was affectionately known.

If you were DXing in 1999-2000 you're sure to remember him. At the time Macquarie Island (VKØ/M) was very rare. Alan was stationed on the island as part of a sub-Antarctic research team, but he was an experienced Dxer. When he hit the air, the pent-up demand was unbelievable — and the pileups were just as unruly. Alan's "schtick" was to warn the pileup that if operators did not behave, he would simply QRT — he was not there on a Dxpedition *per se* and didn't "have" to be on the radio. He was simply providing a QSO (and likely a new one) to The Deserving. Since Macquarie would be a new for me, I wanted to work Alan just as badly as the rest of the world.

So it was extremely frustrating for me as Alan stuck by his word and simply turned the radio off when the pileup got out of control. Of course, this toyed with the emotions of the DXers at large. Not only did we not get in the log, but he'd QRT and you didn't know when he'd be back on the air.

There is something about having that carrot in front of your face, only to be taken away and nothing you could do about it. Yelling at the radio and scores of guys who didn't follow Alan's rules didn't help — although I suppose it lowered my blood pressure. After a couple of weeks, Alan's pileups became some of the most "pleasant" I've ever heard. In fact, they became so well behaved, you could even have a short QSO with Alan as opposed to a simple "5-9" and run.

But the bottom line was that more people made it into his log than if he had tried to duke it out with an unruly pileup. There are numerous things you can do to increase your chances of getting into the DX station's log — however, relentless calling is not (or should not) be one of them. A very good web resource is the "DX Code of Conduct" < http://www.dx-code.org/ >. DXers need to comply with the DX station's requests. And always remember, the most important "trick" when working DX is not to call, but to listen.
World Radio magazine

FAMOUS CALLSIGNS, RADIO ROOMS, AND QSL CARDS:

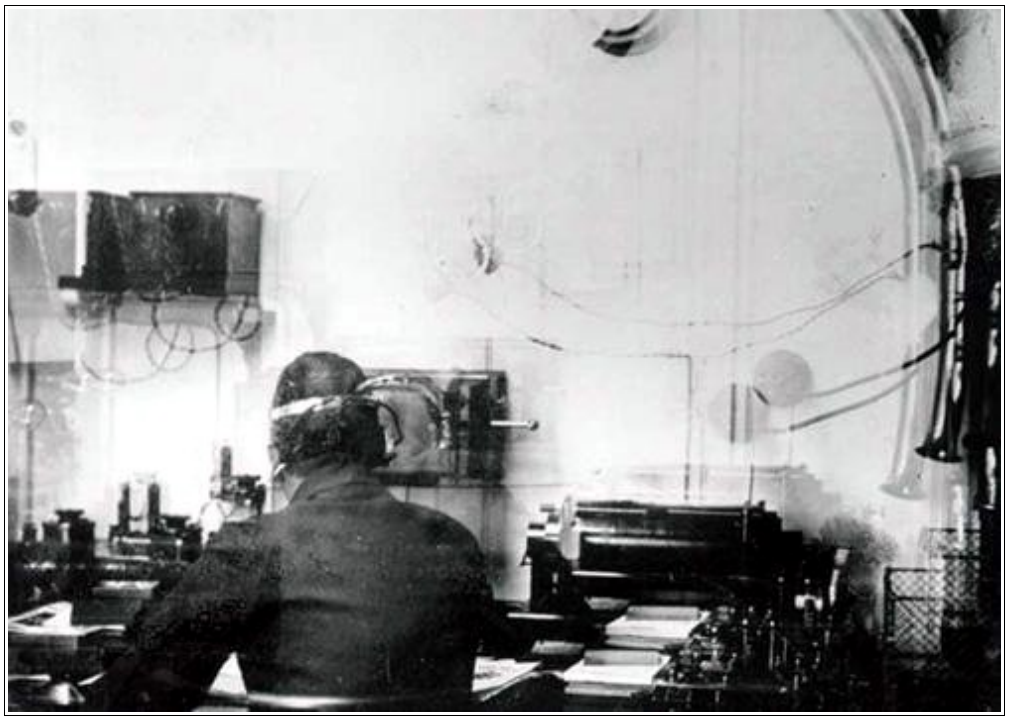
8CR - POWELL CROSLEY, FOUNDER OF CROSLEY RADIO, WLW-AM, OHIO. AND THE CROSLEY AUTOMOBILE.

CROSLEY

9ZN - EUGENE F. MC DONALD, JR., FOUNDER OF ZENITH RADIO.

ZENITH RADIO

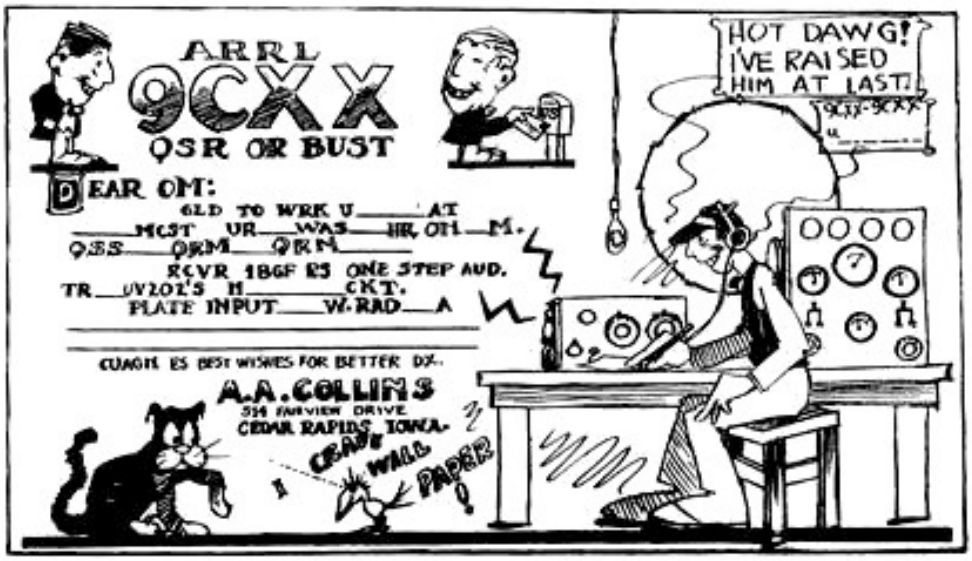
TITANTIC RADIO ROOM - *MGY*



HINDENBURG RADIO ROOM - *DEKKA*

RADIO ROOM at 1313 MOCKINGBIRD LANE - WØWFWL

FAMOUS QSL CARDS:



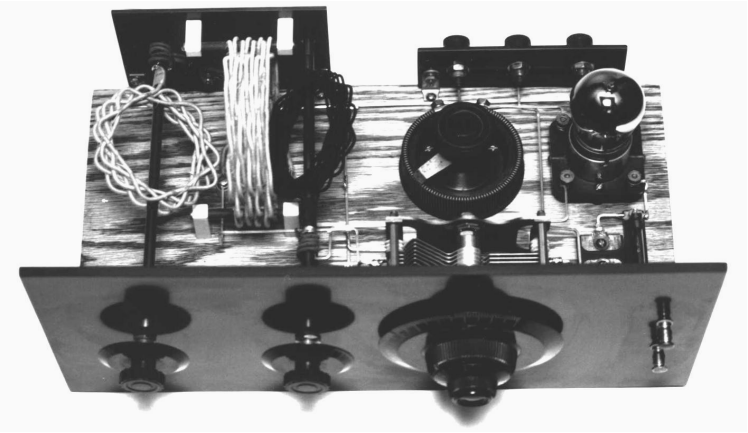
9CXX Late 1920's Cedar Rapids, Iowa

An early Art Collins QSL

His receiver was a "**1BGF** "with one step audio.

His transmitter was UV202's. Good incentive to design better equipment!

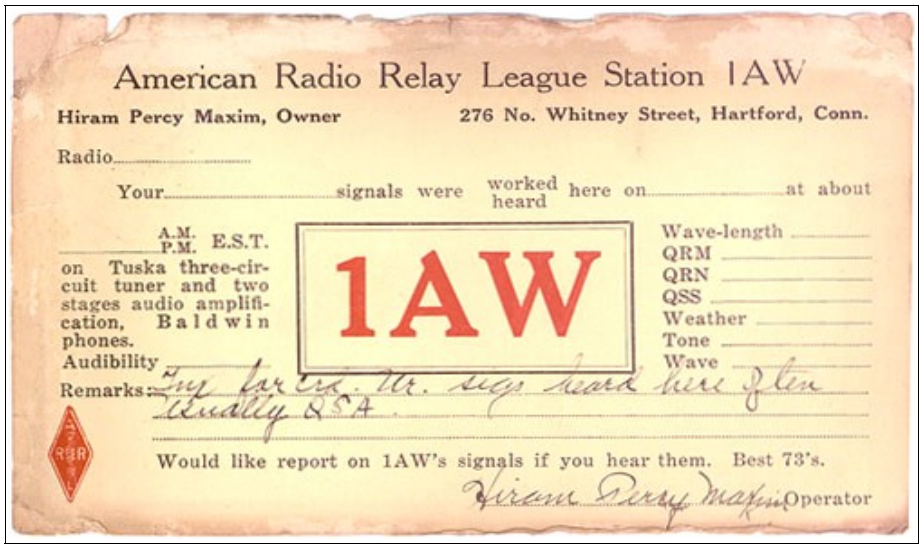
The **1BGF** Tuner, as it is called, was developed in 1924 by radio Amateur 1BGF and the design was featured in QST Magazine of that year. The circuit is a "Armstrong" regenerative design. All components were selected from those available in 1924. The large coils are wound from double cotton covered solid copper wire. They are wound in a basket weave fashion to reduce capacity and allow the receiver to operate in the "short wave" band. This type of construction is known as "low loss". The potentiometer beside the tube is to set the filament voltage. A grid leak is located in front of the tube. The large knob is a gear reduction tuning type that drives a high quality variable capacitor. The center control adjusts the feedback and the end control adjusts antenna coupling.



FAMOUS QSL CARDS:

DJ3NG/MM 1983 near Spratly Islands

DJ3NG along with his friends was on his way to Spratly DX'pedition. A night before arriving at Spratly, his boat was attacked and sunken by Vietnamese gunships. DJ6SI fortunately survived and issued this QSL to mourn DJ3NG, DJ4EI, and others killed by this incident.


American Radio Relay League Station 1AW

Hiram Percy Maxim, Owner 276 No. Whitney Street, Hartford, Conn.

Radio.....

Your.....signals were worked heard here on.....at about

.....A.M. P.M. E.S.T.

on Tuska three-circuit tuner and two stages audio amplification, Baldwin phones.

1AW

Wave-length .....
QRM .....
QRN .....
QSS .....
Weather .....
Tone .....
Wave .....

Audibility .....

Remarks: Fine fer Mr. sigs heard here 9 to 10 usually 8 S 4.

Would like report on 1AW's signals if you hear them. Best 73's.

Hiram Percy Maxim Operator

1AW 1924 Hartford, CT.
Hiram Percy Maxim's signature and hand writing.

EIDXA MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT

WØWLL

My dad and I started studying for our Amateur Radio license when I was about 10 years old while living on a 160 acre farm west of Carpenter, Iowa. (Worth county). However, my official QTH was St. Ansgar in Mitchell county as the little town of Carpenter did not have rural delivery. I was issued my class B license on July 5th, 1949 at the age of 13. I had to take my 13 WPM code test and the written exam before a FCC examiner in St. Paul, MN. Bill Sheka, WØZAM who also went for the test, took me in his father's 1947 Studebaker pick-up truck. The license allowed AM and CW on 160 meters, and on 10, 6, and 2 meters. Only CW was permitted for class B ticket holders on 80, 40, and 20 meters. I don't think 15 meters was available at that time, although 11 meter operation was later introduced for a while. AM was not allowed on 40 meters by anyone, only CW could be used.

Larry Waggoner WØWLL

I had to wait one year before taking the class A written exam at the FCC office allowing AM operation on all bands. I started reporting into the Iowa 75 meter AM noon net as soon as I received the upgrade, and it was reported in a 1950 QST edition that I was the youngest licensed amateur in Iowa at that time. (The class A license was later classified as an Advance license).

Here I am operating the BC-645A on battery power at the North Iowa Amateur Club's Field Day in 1949 at a park in Mason City.

While stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in 1955, I operated the MARS station K4WCL using a BC-610 and a Hallicrafters SX-43 receiver.

(I was curious what a BC-610 looked like, so I looked this one up on the internet). It's a 400 watt CW, AM, and RTTY transmitter built in 1938, it was improved in 1942 for use in war. Editor ...

Dad eventually got his license a couple years after I did, so we were able to have quite a few QSO's until I was shipped to Munich, Germany with the 11th Airborne Division in 1956. I met a German ham operator there band we repaired an old Italian receiver so we could listen to DX on HF from his apartment, but we were not allowed to transmit.

After returning home in 1957, I operated from various apartments while attending college and graduated from the University of Iowa in 1961. So off to Los Angeles I went for my first job with a bank and operated from the city of Whittier using a Hammarlund HQ-129X and a Heathkit DX-40.

Hammarlund HQ-129X

Returning to Iowa in 1962, I was an Industrial Engineer with Collins Radio for a few years, but returned to banking and finally retired from the Iowa State Bank & Trust Company in May 2001. I obtained my Extra Class License in March 2000 because I wanted to pass the 20wpm code test before the requirement was eliminated. The first rig I had at the age of 13 was a WWII surplus BC-654 that is a 12 watt AM/CW transmitter/receiver manufactured by the Crosley Radio Corporation. I still have this along with the battery eliminator and the hand crank generator. (Yes, I still have the connecting cable also). I later graduated my power to a whopping 40 watts by using the WWII surplus Army Air Force command sets.
(BC-457, BC-458, and a BC459). Dad and I built an amplifier and modulator so we could perform AM operation in addition to CW. (Mom failed to see the humor when we used a couple of her cake pans for the chassis).

My present setup consists of a Kenwood TS-940S to an Ameritron ALS-600 amplifier. And I use a Yaesu7 FT100D for 6 meters and above. Also sitting on the desk is a Collins KWM-2 into a Heathkit SB-200 amplifier that I use fro 75 meters. My National NCX-3 and the Swan 500C have belonged to my father WØJHP – and I fire them up in a while just so I cam smell the aroma that is common to those tube rigs.

My Heathkit HW8 –5 watt QRP rig and Radio Shack HTX-10 that puts out 25 watts are used in my motor home when I go on hunting, fishing, or camping trips. (Of course I have a couple of other 2 meter hand helds like everyone else). I have a automatic keyer, a bug, a paddle and my J-38 straight key tat I used when I was first licensed. They are all hooked up in parallel so I can easily switch back and forth, which can be tricky at times. The primary antennas I use are a multi-band dipole, multi-band vertical, and a 3 element tri bander beam. I use a mag mount quarter wave vertical when I'm mobile. So far I have worked 180 countries, 97 islands, all states, and all continents. I would like to obtain an IOTA certificate and of course increase the country count. I prefer CW as my main mode of operation, but once in a while I will revert to SSB or AM. My 3 daughters are too busy with their other activities to work on getting an Amateur license. I was hoping at least one of them would so we could keep my father's call sign in the family.

Field Day 1950.

Field Day 1950, I am holding the mic, and the 4th person from the right is Bill WØZAM who use to be in charge of the Collins Radion Test Equipment Department. Next to Bill is my father WØJHP.

WØJHP

Here is my father operating our rig in our farm house bedroom in 1957. The station consists of a National NC-183 receiver with a “side band” slicer. The transmitter is a Central Electronics 20A SSB rig driving the stuff we made.

So this is a summary of my ham radio experience since the bug bit me 65 years ago at the age of 10. It is a wonderful hobby !

EASTERN IOWA DX ASSOCIATION

EIDXA MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT

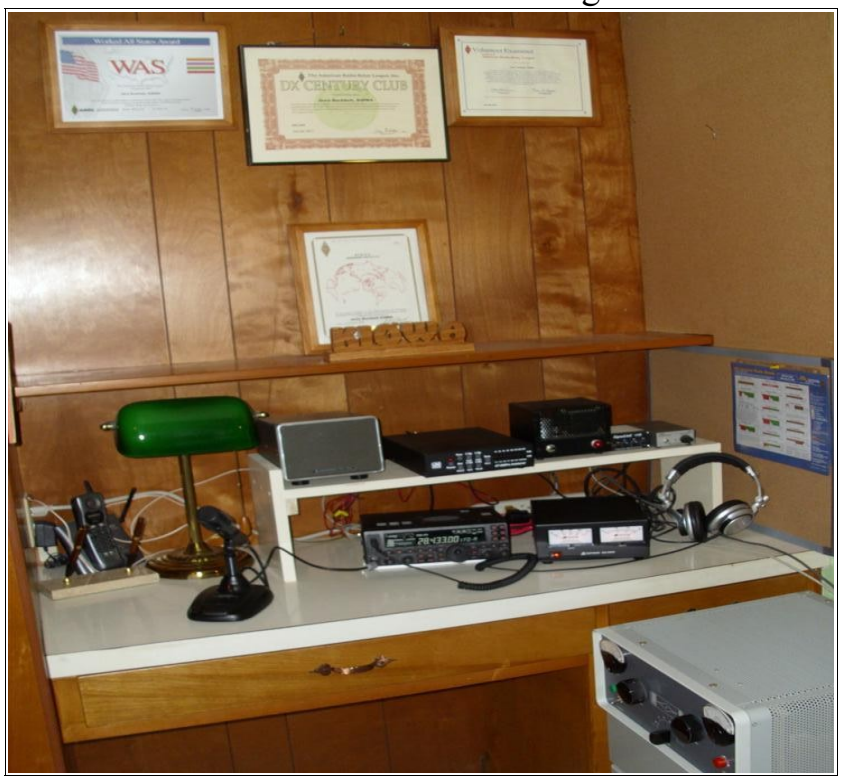
KIØWA

Some people discovered ham radio when they were young. Some were fortunate to get their license then and had many years of enjoyment. I learned about ham radio when I was 12 or so. I immersed myself in shortwave listening and wanted desperately to learn all I could. Unfortunately, there was no one I knew to learn from in a small town in Iowa. Eventually, the hopes faded and I concluded it could not be done. I gave up.

The years passed and I occasionally met some ham operators. I even had a roommate in college who was a ham. My manager at a company in the Dallas Texas area was a ham. It wasn't until I moved back to Iowa and worked at Rockwell Collins that it dawned on me that I should get my amateur license. I took the class offered by CVARC and taught by Al Culbert, KØAL and Steve Sawyers, NAØIA. I passed the Tech and General and got my ticket on 05/05/08. I then went to Dayton and passed the Extra exam getting that license on 06/06/09. I wanted a vanity call and was very pleased to become **KIØWA**.

Now I am thoroughly enjoying the hobby. I look back and recognize that I missed out on years of enjoyment because I lacked having someone to help. Because of this I got involved with helping others, especially those starting in ham radio. I worked with Gregg Lind, KCØSKM, to help a group of Boy Scouts to get their Radio merit badge, taught it to another group with Tom Vinson, NYØV, and again with Dan Leon, AI4OX. Steve Sawyers and I also led the class for the Technician level and I held other sessions for the General license.

After joining EIDXA, I set goals to be active on the air. I recently received the WAS and the DXCC certificates. This was both a challenge and a lot of fun. My station is simple, but capable. The rig is a Yaesu FT-450 which I use for SSB. A SignaLink USB is set up for digital modes which I will explore next. Since I am constrained by a city lot with typical overhead power and cable lines, I use a multi-band dipole antenna for 40-10 meters above the roof with a LDG AT-200 Pro tuner.



It is great fun to use 100 watts to reach islands, lighthouses, ships, and 137 countries (and counting). I recently bought a Henry 2K amplifier to add as well. using a multi-band dipole for 40-10 meters. I am not able to use CW due to a medical condition affecting the sensation in the hands. My next challenge is to explore the digital modes. I became a ham many years after my initial interest. I want to thank the many people that provided encouragement and continue to answer questions and share their experience. Amateur radio is a wonderful hobby.

Jerry Burcheit KIØWA

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO …

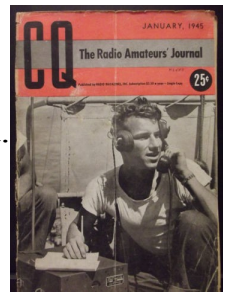
January 1929 – there were 16,926 licensed amateurs in the U.S.

January 1931 – Scientists are starting to believe that "radio conditions" follow what appears to be an 11 year cycle.

January 1936 – QST announces the first WAS award.
(*I still need Delaware - KØJGH*)

Hiram Percy Maxim (September 1869 – **January 1936**) American radio pioneer and inventor, and co-founder of the ARRL.

January – 1945 CQ Magazine is published.



January 1954 – for the first time – U.S. Amateurs will be required to pay a fee for their license.

January 1976– QST switches printers and changes from it's small format size to an 8¼ X 11 format.

January 1981 – QST magazine reports "it won't be long before many hams tie their computers to their radios".

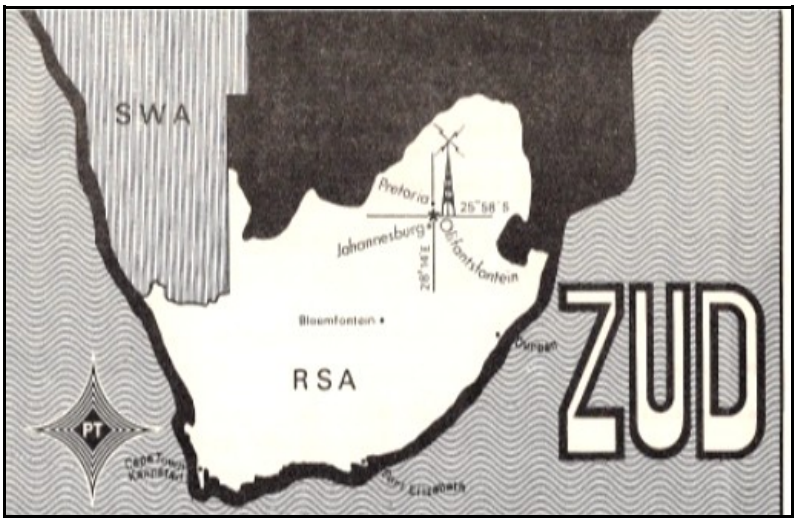
January 1984 – the 10 year license replaces the 5 year term. The FCC begins to phase out of giving Amateur exams. A Volunteer Examiner Program is started , but there was an overlap period where the FCC gradually eliminated their involvement.

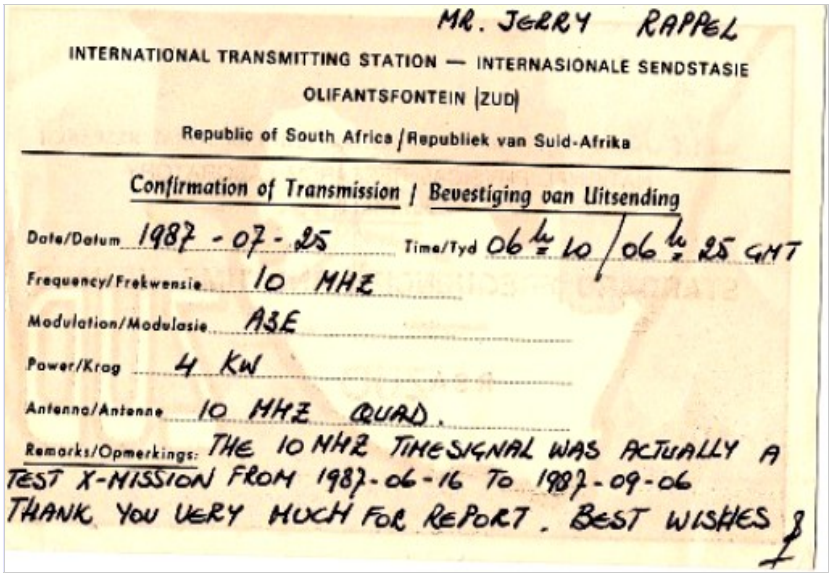
January 1987 – First RTTY Roundup.

Not your ordinary average everyday QSL cards

(from the collection of WWØE)

TIME STATIONS





MR. JERRY RAPPEL

INTERNATIONAL TRANSMITTING STATION — INTERNASIONALE SENDSTASIE

OLIFANTSFONTEIN (ZUD)

Republic of South Africa / Republiek van Suid-Afrika

Confirmation of Transmission / Bevestiging van Uitsending

Date/Datum 1987-07-25 Time/Tyd 06½10 / 06½25 GMT

Frequency/Frekwensie 10 MHZ

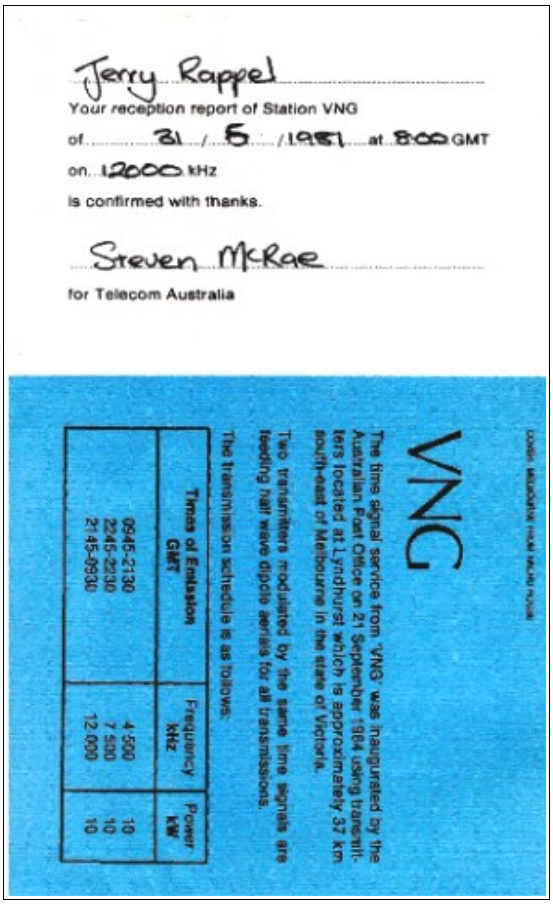
Modulation/Modulasie A3E

Power/Krag 4 KW

Antenna/Antenne 10 MHZ QUAD.

Remarks/Opmerkings: THE 10 MHZ TIMESIGNAL WAS ACTUALLY A TEST X-MISSION FROM 1987-06-16 TO 1987-09-06
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR REPORT. BEST WISHES

Time station **ZUD**, in South Africa use to broadcast time and frequency information 24 hours per day, 7 days per week on 10 Khz.
Here's a QSL that I received in 1987 during one of their test transmissions. Yep, their signal was exceptionally hard to hear, with WWV's pulsating ticks right on top of them !



Jerry Rappel

Your reception report of Station VNG

of 31 / 5 / 1981 at 8:00 GMT

on. 12000 kHz

is confirmed with thanks.

Steven McRae

for Telecom Australia

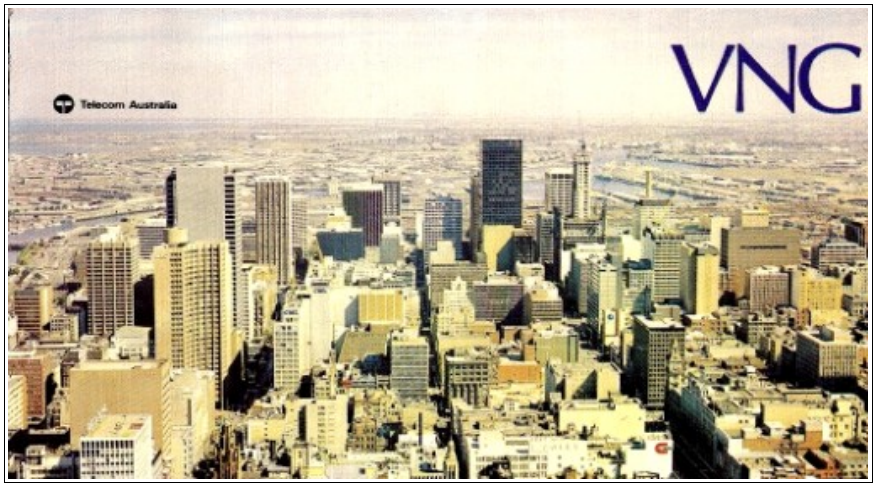
VNG

The time signal service from 'VNG' was inaugurated by the Australian Post Office on 21 September 1964 using transmitters located at Lyndhurst which is approximately 37 km south-east of Melbourne in the state of Victoria.

Two transmitters modulated by the same time signals are feeding half wave dipole aerials for all transmissions.

The transmission schedule is as follows:

Times of Emission GMT	Frequency kHz	Power kW
0545-2130	4 500	10
2245-2330	7 500	10
2145-0930	12 000	10



VNG was Australia's national time signal service, and operated on 2500, 5000, 8638, 12000, and 16000 kHz. They were shut down December 31, 2002 due to a lack of funding.

MINISTERIO DE LA DEFENSA

DIRECCION DE HIDROGRAFIA Y NAVEGACION

OBSERVATORIO CAGIGAL

No. S/N.

Caracas, 27 de Nov. del 81

Estimado Radio-Escucha.

Tengo el agrado de dirigirme a Ud. por medio de la presente, con el fin de darle contestación a su atenta carta de fecha 21 de Octubre de 1981 **********.Donde me dá información de gran utilidad para la verificación de nuestra sintonía a escala Nacional é Internacional.

Adjunto a esta le envío nuestra tarjeta de verificación é QSL, la cual tiene al dorso la firma del Director actual y en el frente, la fachada del edificio donde se encuentra nuestra estación emisora. Este edificio fué construido en el año de 1958.

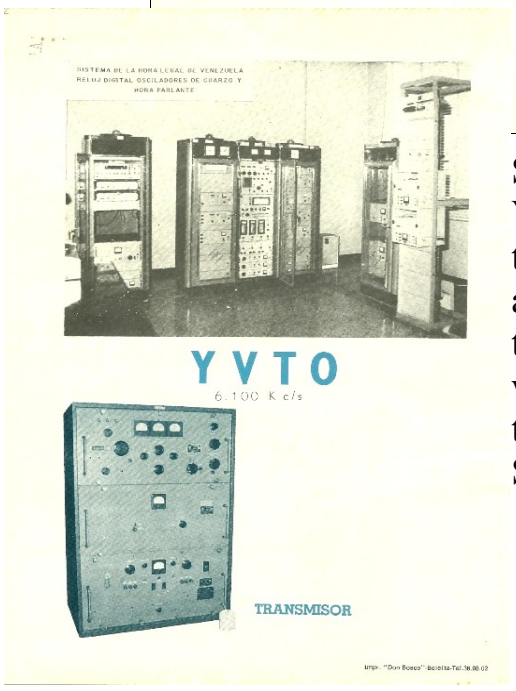
La estación antes mencionada está formada por un sistema de corrección, la cual se efectua por medio de los Osciladores de Cuarzo y Patrones Atómicos de frecuencias; una Hora Parlante para el anuncio de la hora, minutos y segundos; un programador digital, el cual se encarga de enviar la señal horaria al Transmisor, a Radio Caracas Radio y a Radio Nacional de Venezuela; un Transmisor marca GPT-750 de 1Kw. de salida en frecuencia de 6.100 Kc., la cual puede ser captada por un receptor normal de 2 bandas; una antena Dipolar de 49 mts. y un sistema telefónico para todo el país.

Dichos equipos vienen funcionando desde 1954 ininterrumpidamente las 24 horas del día.

El nombre de nuestra Institución es Observatorio Naval "Juan Manuel Cagigal" en homenaje al Coronel de Ingenieros que lleva este nombre, quien fué fundador de los estudios Matemáticos en Venezuela; dicha Institución funciona desde el 8 de Setiembre de 1888, año de su fundación.

Dándole mis más expresivas gracias y esperando sea siempre un Radio-Escucha de nuestra estación me despido de Ud.

Atte. Jesús A. Escalona
Técnico encargado.



Spanish reception report I received from **YVTO**. The Caracas, Venezuelan Spanish time station on 5.000 Khz was audible here a long time ago. Once again - yes, their time signal was partially buried in the mud with WWV's pulsating ticks right on top of them! They ID at the top of the hour in Spanish.

More to come, WWØE

Adding a 40 meter and a 30 meter reflector to the 4 element SteppIR

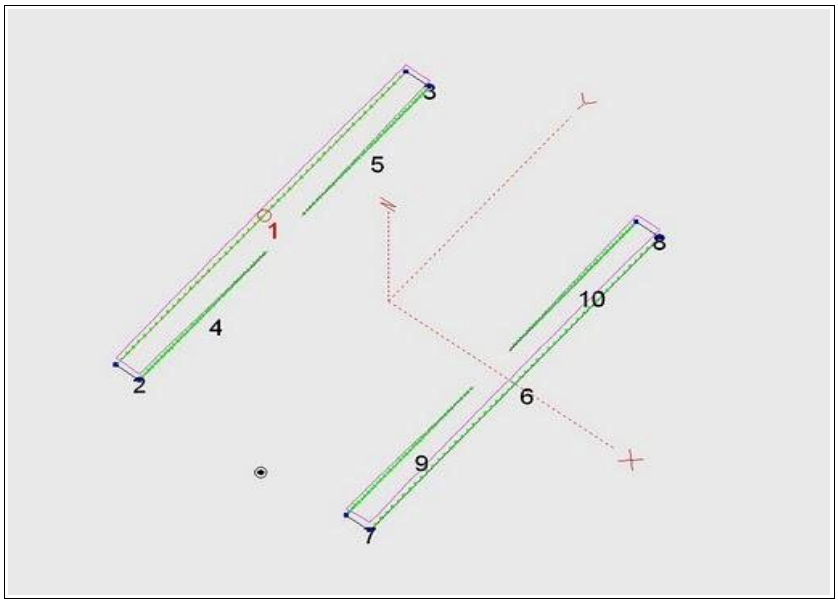
By Tom Vinson, NYØV

When I was residing in Cedar Rapids, I had the use of a Mosley S-402 2 element 40 meter beam. It was mounted about 10' above my KT-34XA. That antenna served me well to get my country total up on 40m to 329. Last year I moved up to Chatfield, MN and put up a 4 element SteppIR on top of a Tri-Ex LM470 motorized crank up tower. I bought that SteppIR from K9LTN's estate. You may recall that it was K9LTN who erected a 2 x 3 array of 4 element SteppIR's. Those were stripped down SteppIR's. ie they didn't have the 40/30 folded dipole "loop" nor the additional 2 parasitic elements for 6m. Since the price was right for the antenna, when I brought it back from Illinois to Minnesota I added the SteppIR 40/30 folded dipole loop. For the two 6m parasitic elements, I shortened two 10m elements from cannibalized KT-34XA's.

The antenna has been working out great. During the winter I had a 40m QSO with Joe, EC6AAE in the Balearic Islands. He also has a 4 element SteppIR. As we talked, he asked if I had seen EA6DX's (Biel) modification to his 4 element SteppIR. I had not, so he proceeding to tell me about a mod that Biel had made to add another non-RF 40/30 folded dipole loop to the Director #2 position as a reflector. This modification makes a 2 element 40 and 30m beam, which is backfired 180 degrees from the normal beam function. As we were in QSO, I found **EA6DX**'s website photos of the antenna at www.ea6dx.com. He also gave me the call of John, VE3NFK who had made the modification to his SteppIR. Needless to say, my interest was piqued! I really missed having both the gain and nulling attributes of a yagi on 40 meters.

EA6DX

My first step was to contact Rich, W3ACO and see if he wouldn't mind modeling the mod in EZ NEC to see what kind of performance I would expect. I found the data on Biel's website, but wanted to make certain this would work. Rich confirmed that indeed, the mod would work as a 2 element beam. The model looks like this:



Model of 2 folded dipole elements on SteppIR spaced at 25'

I contacted John, VE3NFK and asked if he had any information that would help me figure out the dimensions and how to obtain the software. John was very helpful in sending me the data I needed, as well as the Atmel programming info for the controller. Unfortunately, I had no such capability to make that happen, so I decided to talk with SteppIR directly at Dayton.

At Dayton I met up with John at the SteppIR booth. He told me that while the modification is not a product, it seems like it is going to be by default as word gets out! He said to go ahead and order the Non-RF (ie DB-18, 42 version) 40/30 loop and make sure the Sales person contact him for the modified software chip for the controller! I did, and it all arrived at my QTH in a few weeks.

When I opened the box, it was interesting to see the new design changes SteppIR has made to the Electronic Housing Unit, the fiberglass poles, and loop assembly. The EHU is now made of a black Lexan material and has the four wire control wire in a connector internal to the EHU.

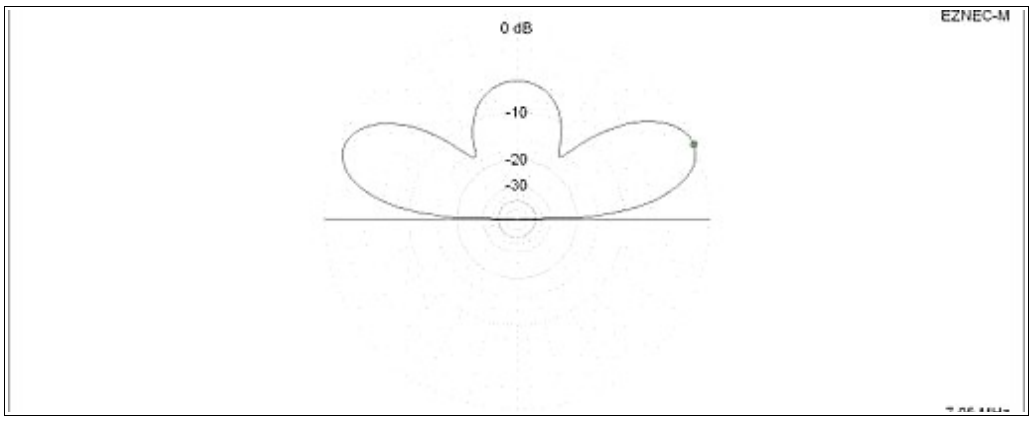
The fiberglass poles are no longer taped with two types of tape. Instead, SteppIR provides a heat shrink sleeve that has glue on the inside to shrink down onto the joints. And the loop assembly is a bit more complicated, they now have you cut each pole to length and counter sink the tip before mounting the semi-circle loop. The assembly is much faster mainly due to not having to double tape each joint. Though, I must confess that I didn't trust the sleeve, so I taped each joint with Scotch 88 just to be certain it's tight and provide a bit more UV protection.

With the new LM470, bringing down the antenna and making the mod is a one-man job. Once down, I removed D-2 as well as the two steel plates that SteppIR provides as counter balance when just the 40/30 driven element is added. I only had one minor "hiccup", the old plate to which I was to mount the new EHU did not have a hole for one of the mounting screws. One hole drilled, and the EHU was mounted. I then clamped the receiving loop holders and drilled that plate, just as is done on the driven element loop assembly. Once I spliced the new control cable, it was done!

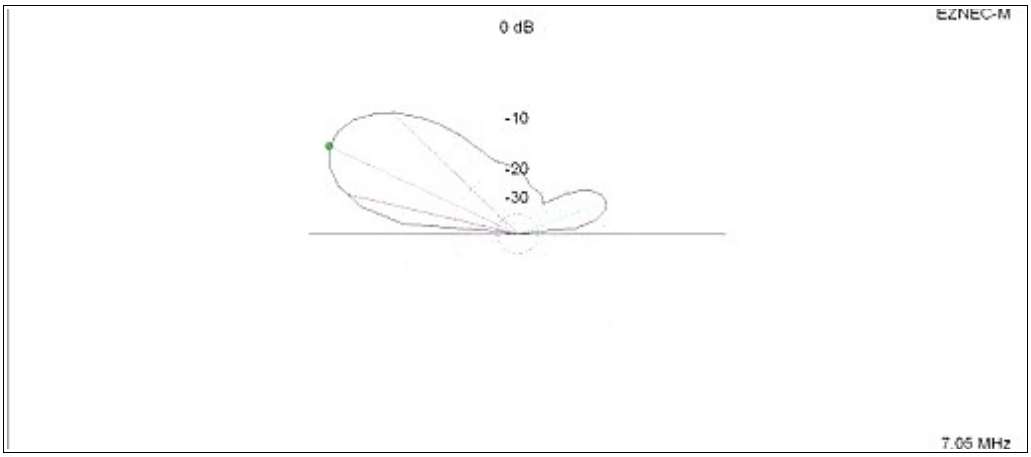
The software is easy to replace in the controller. It is simply a matter of pulling one chip and snapping in another- just as you do with a single 40/30 loop. Having done that, I had to program the controller to know what to do with each of the elements when on 40 or 30 meters. What this entails is setting up the controller to indicate that there is a 40/30 loop on the driven element (and the 6m parasitic elements are added) and then changing the element lengths in the "CREATE, MODIFY" function of the controller. This means to reel in completely both the normal reflector and D-1 and to reel out the D-2 (now a reflector on 40/30) to the lengths necessary to make D-2 a reflector element. I found with the new D-2 element that I had to readjust the driven element length to lower the SWR. John, VE3NFK had provided the length information and the set up went quickly with minor tweaking.

I have found that this antenna modification does work as a yagi. I QSO'd F/TU5KG on 40m who said I was 20 over S-9, and so was he! I've had many first calls and near-first calls on the antenna on both 40 and 30m. While I haven't measure it, here are the before and after models from EA6DX:

Before: (40 m folded dipole)



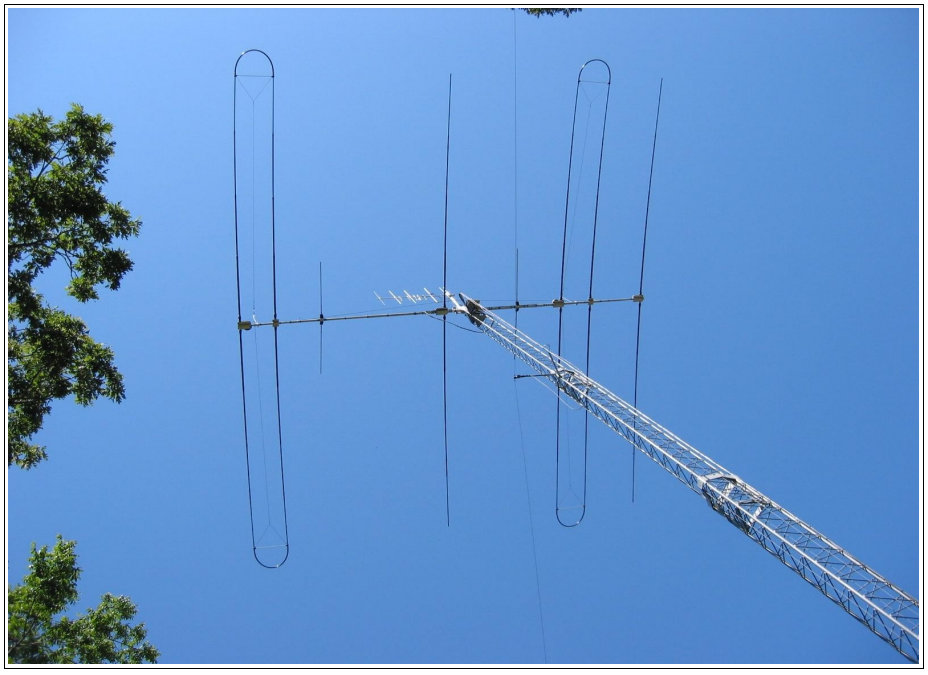
After: (40m 2 elements)



The finished result is now what Biel calls a DB-32. SteppIR does not call it that, but maybe someday they will have it in their catalog.

Here is what it looks like after the modification:

Modified 4 element SteppIR with 40/30 loop at the D-2 position.



I have run some comparisons with my phased verticals on 40m. The jury is still out on that one. Sometimes the signals are louder on the phased verticals and other times, the yagi is louder. There is also the noise level difference between the two antennas to consider. More often than not, the yagi is the one I am using versus the vertical array. It's great to have a little gain and nulling on 40m (as well as 30m) once again!

Tom, Vinson - NYØV

THE ORIGIN OF "CQ"

"CQ" originated, as does much of the "ham" terminology from the days in which telegraphy was the only mode. It was a shortened form of the words "Seek You", as in looking for someone to talk to. CQ was the pre-SOS. CQ was translated as "seek you" by Hashifisti Scratchi's column in CQ magazine in the 1950's, which may account for the "seek you" legend.

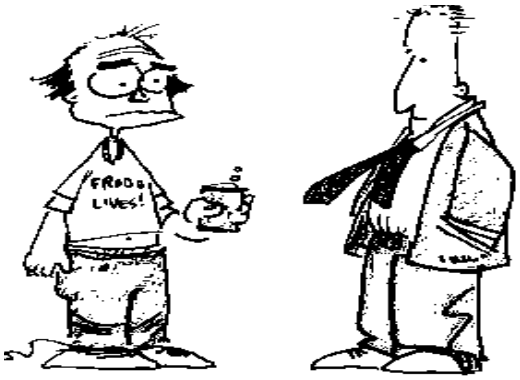
There was a distress version of CQ used by Marconi Company shipboard and coastal operators which was CQD and which was used before SOS. CQD was sent in letters, unlike SOS which is a single procedural signal. But none of this helps advance the archeology of CQ except to confirm that it was already in use in the very earliest days of spark radio.

"I" was used by Ships in distress, before SOS was used. It meant "Come Quick". Let's turn to page 4 of Baarslag's Famous Sea Rescues (formerly titled: SOS To The Rescue): "By 1904 a number of ships in the trans-Atlantic trade were equipped with wireless telegraphy. The British operators were nearly all landline telegraphers who had left railroad or post-office keys to go to sea in the newly opened field. They brought along with them not only their Morse code but also many of their telegraphic abbreviations and signals. One was the general call - CQ, which had been used to attract attention of all operators along a wire. It preceded the time signal in the morning at 10 o'clock and also all notices of general importance. CQ went to sea and became a general call to all ships." A couple paragraphs later, "Early in 1904 the Marconi Company, realizing the desirability of some universal distress signal, filled the need by issuing the following general order: ``It has been brought to our notice that the call `CQ' (All Stations) while being satisfactory for general purposes, does not sufficiently express the urgency required in a signal of distress. Therefore, on and after the 1st of February, 1904, the call to be given by ships in distress or in any way requiring assistance, shall be `CQD.' " "

This seems to imply that prior to February 1st 1904, some ships did use CQ as a distress call, and possibly her calls for help didn't draw the needed attention (this was before the twice-per-hour silent periods were created - 600m was pure bedlam, and a CQ would have gone unheeded).

(KH2PZ)

DURING THE HOLIDAYS SOME OF MY RELATIVES DROPPED BY MY SHACK,
THEY HAD A FEW QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:



WHY DO YOU NEED MORE THAN 1 RADIO?

WHY DO YOU NEED MORE THAN 1 ANTENNA ?

THOSE PEOPLE TRAVELED 10,000 MILES TO SCARBOROUGH REEF
JUST TO TALK ON THE RADIO?
DOESN'T CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES GO THERE ?
AT LEAST THEY HAVE A BUFFET ...

SO YOU DO ANTENNA MODELING ? DOES YOUR WIFE KNOW ABOUT THIS ?

NOW I UNDERSTAND, SO 17 METERS IS BETTER THAN 1 METER ?

WOULDN'T IT HELP IF YOU JUST WRAPPED ALUMINUM FOIL AROUND YOUR ANTENNA?

I'M GLAD THEY ONLY VISIT ONCE A YEAR ... WWØE

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P5RS7
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

TRY TO IMAGINE THE STATION THAT SENT YOU THAT NEWLY ARRIVED RARE QSL CARD.

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Sani-Veri

QSL Sanitizer

ONE LITER SAFELY SANITIZES 300 QSL CARDS.

PRODUCT SAFETY ADVISORY ...
DO NOT USE AS NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENT FOR SMALL CHILDREN.

(BLANDX)

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$ERVICES FOR HIRE

L.S. Albrecht – KØI$

"PERSONAL DX TRAINER AND MOTIVATOR"

For just $50 an hour, ($60 an hour during DX Contests), I'll stand behind you while you work DX and say encouraging words. I'll also critique your knob - tuning technique, headphone placement, listening posture, beam heading, inquire as to why you're not using an Icom rig, etc.

How am I doing Larry?
I believe he's listening up 5 Bill … ($) ...

<u>Actual</u> testimonials from <u>actual</u> EIDXA satisfied members:

I no longer get painful blisters on my index finger from holding the tuning knob incorrectly - KWØJ

$ $ $

After just six two-hour sessions, I now have the courage to send QSL cards again - N9CDX

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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Thanks to all the members who made this newsletter possible !

Jerry WWØE

2012 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, February 3rd, 2012 at 7:30 p.m., Room 219C, Linn Hall on KCC campus.

Program: "*Maintenance and Preparation of a Contest Station*" - PJ2T

by Rick Heinrich NØYY.

CQ DX from IOWAY ...