
# Eastern Iowa DX Association

*An ARRL affiliated club - Established 1975*

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October 2020

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## 2020 Full of Challenges

My last column was about the Coronavirus and how it was impacting amateur radio and the EIDXA. I asked a few questions about how the EIDXA should proceed as it was becoming clear that Covid would be around for some time to come.

Thanks to the many of you who responded. It was clear that a large number wanted for us to get going with Zoom, or brand X, virtual meetings and not try to wait it out until personal face-to-face meetings would be safe. On the other question, should we attempt our annual picnic, there was little encouraging response. I suspect that reflects the concern that it might not be possible to maintain social distancing and that the risk wasn't worth it.

In early August I started out trying to plan a Zoom meeting for late September or early October. Although I've been a participant in many Zoom board and church meetings I had no idea how to access the Midwest Division's Pro Zoom account or how to moderate a meeting. Not

Repeater Committee:
Jason Joens NRØX

Membership Committee:
Jim Spencer WØSR
Tom Vavra WB8ZRL
Nelson Moyer KUØA

Packet Cluster:
WB8ZRL.no-ip.org:7300

Repeater: NØDX/R
144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8)

www.EIDXA.org

Web Master:
Craig Fastenow KØCF

Newsletter Editor:
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Facebook EIDXA

to worry, just wait a few days and an EIDXA meeting falls out of the viewfinder.

After noon on August 10th, I like many of you, shifted all energy adapting to what still seems to be a bad nightmare. After getting caught driving at the start of the storm and getting home just seconds before loosing all power for 11 days, I started to worry about my house, trees and especially my antennas. It turns out the tower is still standing and the SteppIR and 80/40 vertical look great which is amazing. The house has some damage and all seven of the trees, three over 75 feet high, are gone. I really missed the air conditioning, I'm from Wyoming, and camping in Iowa's August humidity was a challenge but most of all I missed my 34 days of Internet service. I'm sure Bob will have a number of your desecho stories in the Newsletter.

Our fall meeting will be held on Zoom on Friday, October 9th.

I will send out the Zoom connection information before that date. It will be a non-moderated secession so please use your mute button when not transmitting. We will start with an open chat at 7:00 pm. That could be interesting. At 7:30 pm we start the meeting with much the same format as the in-person meetings. I'm hoping some of our far out of town members will be able to join in.

George Cooley, NG7A, will present our program on contesting which I'm sure you will find interesting. George has a lot of experience working both sides of the pile up and I'm sure he will have some good advice for those of us still trying to catch on.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the tube.

73, Jim WØSR

*Pro-tip on Zoom: You can configure Zoom where your spacebar is PTT. A challenge for some of us CW guys, but I'm sure the SSB folks won't have an issue - Ed.*

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## Musings from the lunatic fringe

Bob WØGXA

A ***derecho*** (/dəˈreɪtʃoʊ/, from Spanish: *derecho* [deˈretʃo], "straight" as in direction) is a widespread, long-lived, straight-line wind storm that is associated with a fast-moving group of severe thunderstorms known as a mesoscale convective system[1] and potentially rivaling hurricanic and tornadic forces.

*Derecho* comes from the Spanish adjective for "straight" (or "direct"), in contrast with a *tornado* which is a "twisted" wind. The word was first used in the *American Meteorological Journal* in 1888 by Gustavus Detlef Hinrichs in a paper describing the phenomenon and based on a significant derecho event that crossed Iowa on 31 July 1877.

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## WØGXA QTH

Four large limbs crunched the corner of my garage and took out my electrical service. The only antenna damage was one leg of my 80m

dipole.

Right near the end of the storm, just when we thought we'd seen the worst of it, a big gust blew another limb into the side of the house. One stud broke loose, pushed in the wall a few inches, broke out the window and ripped siding and gutters off. All this happened less than a week after we completed a kitchen remodel.

Forty-one trees gone but the most disappointing loss, is one of the trees (an 80' elm) served as my support for my 160m inverted-L!

In spite of the damage, I think we fared a lot better than some.  I never lost internet, I have a generator that kept us going for six days and the house damage was "minor".  WØGXA

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## Club News and Administrative Items

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## NEXT MEETING

***ZOOM*** EIDXA Meeting

Friday, October 9, 2020

Chat: 7:00 pm

Meeting: 7:30 pm

### Program:  A Case for Contesting and Radiosport

George Cooley, NG7A

Contesting encompasses many more skills than is at first apparent. It helps hone operating and technical skills. Emergency

communications, public service event support, traffic handlers and Dxers can all benefit. Best of all, within a club, contesting is really a team effort bringing all the experiences and skills together.

While the first objective is to win by making as many qualifying QSOs as possible, the most important objective is to have fun and learn from each other. This presentation will offer tips and guidelines on planning and executing a successful contest. Whether you are new to the hobby, a seasoned pro or want to get back into radiosport, there is something for everyone.

Note: Zoom connection information will be sent out prior to the meeting.

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## Card Checkers

We have three club members who can check your QSL cards

- Tom, WB8ZRL
- Glenn, WØGJ
- Mike, NA9Q

Contact info can be found here: http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-search

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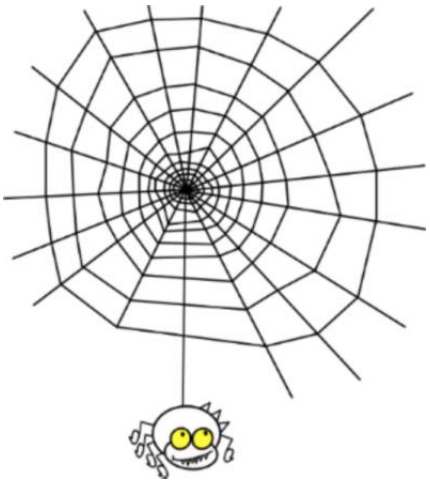
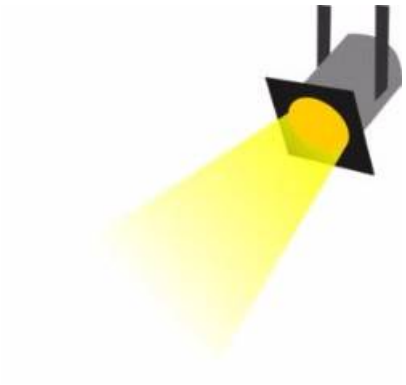
## Member Spotlight





Nothing to report this month. If you haven't been featured in the newsletter, let me know. We'd love to do a story.

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## DX News

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## Feature Articles

https://spectrum.ieee.org/telecom/wireless/the-uncertain-future-of-ham-radio#.XwlbtMNqluQ.facebook

# The Uncertain Future of Ham Radio

Software-defined radio and cheap hardware are shaking up a hobby long associated with engineering

By Julianne Pepitone

IEEE Spectrum

10 JUL 2020

Source: Here

Photo: John Anderson
John Anderson (AJ7M), from Marysville, Washington on the air from home for the 2020 ARRL Field Day event, held June 27-28. Field Day is ham radio's largest on-air annual event and demonstration.

Will the amateur airwaves fall silent? Since the dawn of radio, amateur operators—hams—have transmitted on tenaciously guarded slices of spectrum. Electronic engineering has benefited tremendously from their activity, from the level of the individual engineer to the entire field. But the rise of the Internet in the 1990s, with its ability to easily connect billions of people, captured the attention of many potential hams. Now, with time taking its toll on the ranks of operators, new technologies offer opportunities to revitalize amateur radio, even if in a form that previous generations might not recognize.

The number of U.S. amateur licenses has held at an anemic 1 percent annual growth for the past few years, with about 7,000 new licensees added every year for a total of 755,430 in 2018. The U.S. Federal Communications Commission doesn't track demographic data of operators, but anecdotally, white men in their 60s and 70s make up much of the population. As these baby boomers age out, the fear is that there are too few young people to sustain the hobby.

"It's the $60,000 question: How do we get the kids involved?" says Howard Michel, former CEO of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). (Since speaking with *IEEE Spectrum*, Michel has left the ARRL. A permanent replacement has not yet been appointed.)

This question of how to attract younger operators also reveals deep divides in the ham community about the future of amateur radio. Like any large population, ham enthusiasts are no monolith; their opinions and outlooks on the decades to come vary widely. And emerging digital technologies are exacerbating these divides: Some hams see them as the future of amateur radio, while others grouse that they are eviscerating some of the best things about it.

No matter where they land on these battle lines, however, everyone understands one fact. The world is changing; the amount of spectrum is not. And it will be hard to argue that spectrum reserved for amateur use and experimentation should not be sold off to commercial users if hardly any amateurs are taking advantage of it.

Before we look to the future, let's examine the current state of play. In the United States, the ARRL, as the national association for hams, is at the forefront, and with more than 160,000 members it is the largest group of radio amateurs in the world. The 106-year-old organization offers educational courses for hams; holds contests where operators compete on the basis of, say, making the most long-distance contacts in 48 hours; trains emergency communicators for disasters; lobbies to protect amateur radio's spectrum allocation; and more.

Photo: ARRL
Former ARRL CEO Howard Michel (WB2ITX) at headquarters station, W1AW.

Michel led the ARRL between October 2018 and January 2020, and he fits easily the profile of the "average" American ham: The 66-year-old from Dartmouth, Mass., credits his career in electrical and computer engineering to an early interest in amateur radio. He received his call sign, WB2ITX, 50 years ago and has loved the hobby ever since.

"When our president goes around to speak to groups, he'll ask, 'How many people here are under 20 [years old]?' In a group of 100 people, he might get one raising their hand," Michel says.

Photo: Ronny Risinger (KC5EES)
Members from the LASA High School Amateur Radio Club, K5LBJ, in Austin, Texas participated in School Club Roundup, a twice-yearly on-air event that encourages participation from ham radio school groups.

ARRL does sponsor some child-centric activities. The group runs twice-annual Kids Day events, fosters contacts with school clubs across the country, and publishes resources for teachers to lead radio-centric classroom activities. But Michel readily admits "we don't have the resources to go out to middle schools"—which are key for piquing children's interest.

**We need to "convince them there's more than getting licensed and putting a radio in your drawer and waiting for the end of the world."**

Sustained interest is essential because potential hams must clear a particular barrier before they can take to the airwaves: a licensing exam. Licensing requirements vary—in the United States no license is required to listen to ham radio signals—but every country requires operators to demonstrate some technical knowledge and an understanding of the relevant regulations before they can get a registered call sign and begin transmitting.

For those younger people who *are* drawn to ham radio, up to those in their 30s and 40s, the primary motivating factor is different from that of their predecessors. With the Internet and social media services like WhatsApp and Facebook, they don't need a transceiver to talk with someone halfway around the world (a big attraction in the days before email and cheap long-distance phone calls). Instead, many are interested in the capacity for public service, such as providing communications in the wake of a disaster, or event comms for activities like city marathons.

“There’s something about this post-9/11 group, having grown up with technology and having seen the impact of climate change,” Michel says. “They see how fragile cellphone infrastructure can be. What we need to do is convince them there’s more than getting licensed and putting a radio in your drawer and waiting for the end of the world.”

## New Frontiers


Photo: Sateesh Nallamothu
Dhruv Rebba (KC9ZJX) with memorabilia from his ham radio contact with astronaut Joe Acaba (KE5DAR) onboard the International Space Station.

The future lies in operators like Dhruv Rebba (KC9ZJX), who won Amateur Radio Newsline’s 2019 Young Ham of the Year award. He’s the 15-year-old son of immigrants from India and a sophomore at Normal Community High School in Illinois, where he also runs varsity cross-country and is active in the Future Business Leaders of America and robotics clubs. And he’s most interested in using amateur radio bands to communicate with astronauts in space.

Rebba earned his technician class license when he was 9, after having visited the annual Dayton Hamvention with his father. (In the United States, there are currently three levels of amateur radio license, issued after completing a written exam for each—technician, general, and extra. Higher levels give operators access to more radio spectrum.)

“My dad had kind of just brought me along, but then I saw all the booths and the stalls and the Morse code, and I thought it was really cool,” Rebba says. “It was something my friends weren’t doing.”

He joined the Central Illinois Radio Club of Bloomington, experimented

with making radio contacts, participated in ARRL's annual Field Days, and volunteered at the communications booths at local races.

But then Rebba found a way to combine ham radio with his passion for space: He learned about the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, managed by an international consortium of amateur radio organizations, which allows students to apply to speak directly with crew members onboard the ISS. (There is also an automated digital transponder on the ISS that allows hams to ping the station as it orbits.)

**"We want to be making an impact… The hobby aspect is great, but a lot of my friends would argue it's quite easy to talk to people overseas with texting and everything, so it's kind of lost its magic."**

Rebba rallied his principal, science teacher, and classmates at Chiddix Junior High, and on 23 October 2017, they made contact with astronaut Joe Acaba (KE5DAR). For Rebba, who served as lead control operator, it was a crystallizing moment.

“The younger generation would be more interested in emergency communications and the space aspect, I think. We want to be making an impact,” Rebba says. “The hobby aspect is great, but a lot of my friends would argue it’s quite easy to talk to people overseas with texting and everything, so it’s kind of lost its magic.”

That statement might break the hearts of some of the more experienced hams recalling their tinkering time in their childhood basements. But some older operators welcome the change.

Take Bob Heil (K9EID), the famed sound engineer who created touring systems and audio equipment for acts including the Who, the Grateful Dead, and Peter Frampton. His company Heil Sound, in Fairview Heights, Ill., also manufactures amateur radio technology.

“I’d say wake up and smell the roses and see what ham radio is doing for emergencies!” Heil says cheerfully. “Dhruv and all of these kids are doing incredible things. They love that they can plug a kit the size of a cigar box into a computer and the screen becomes a ham radio…. It’s all getting mixed together and it’s wonderful.”

But there are other hams who think that the amateur radio community needs to be much more actively courting change if it is to survive. Sterling Mann (N0SSC), himself a millennial at age 27, wrote on his blog that “Millennials Are Killing Ham Radio.”


Photo: Sterling Mann
Sterling Mann (NØSSC) is advocating that ham radio shift away from a focus on person-to-person contacts.

It's a clickbait title, Mann admits: His blog post focuses on the challenge of balancing support for the dominant, graying ham population while pulling in younger people too. "The target demographic of every single amateur radio show, podcast, club, media outlet, society, magazine, livestream, or otherwise, is not young people," he wrote. To capture the interest of young people, he urges that ham radio give up its century-long focus on person-to-person contacts in favor of activities where human to machine, or machine to machine, communication is the focus.

These differing interests are manifesting in something of an analog-to-digital technological divide. As *Spectrum* reported in July 2019, one of the key debates in ham radio is its main function in the future: Is it a social hobby? A utility to deliver data traffic? And who gets to decide?

Those questions have no definitive or immediate answers, but they cut to the core of the future of ham radio. Loring Kutchins, president of the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc. (ARSFi)—which funds and guides the "global radio email" system Winlink—says the divide between hobbyists and utilitarians seems to come down to age.

**"Ham radio is really a social hobby...Here in Mississippi, you get to 5 or 6 o' clock and you have a big network going on and on—some of them are half-drunk chattin' with you."**

"Younger people who have come along tend to see amateur radio as a service, as it's defined by FCC rules, which outline the purpose of amateur radio—especially as it relates to emergency operations," Kutchins (W3QA) told *Spectrum* last year.

Kutchins, 68, expanded on the theme in a recent interview: "The people of my era will be gone—the people who got into it when it was magic to tune into Radio Moscow. But Grandpa's ham radio set isn't that big a deal compared to today's technology. That doesn't have to be sad. That's normal."

Gramps' radios are certainly still around, however. "Ham radio is really a social hobby, or it has been a very social hobby—the rag-chewing has historically been the big part of it," says Martin F. Jue (K5FLU), founder of radio accessories maker MFJ Enterprises, in Starkville, Miss. "Here in Mississippi, you get to 5 or 6 o' clock and you have a

big network going on and on—some of them are half-drunk chattin' with you. It's a social group, and they won't even talk to you unless you're in the group."


Photo: Richard Stubbs
Martin F. Jue (K5FLU), founder of well-known radio accessories maker MFJ, is developing new products to accommodate the shift towards digital radio communications in the amateur bands.

But Jue, 76, notes the ham radio space has fragmented significantly beyond rag-chewing and DXing (making very long-distance contacts), and he credits the shift to digital. That's where MFJ has moved with its antenna-heavy catalog of products.

"Ham radio is connected to the Internet now, where with a simple inexpensive handheld walkie-talkie and through the repeater systems connected to the Internet, you're set to go," he says. "You don't need a HF [high-frequency] radio with a huge antenna to talk to people anywhere in the world."

To that end, last year MFJ unveiled the RigPi Station Server: a control system made up of a Raspberry Pi paired with open-source software that allows operators to control radios remotely from their iPhones or Web browser.

"Some folks can't put up an antenna, but that doesn't matter anymore because they can use somebody else's radio through these RigPis," Jue says.

He's careful to note the RigPi concept isn't plug and play—"you still need to know something about networking, how to open up a port"—but he sees the space evolving along similar lines.

"It's all going more and more toward digital modes," Jue says. "In terms of equipment I think it'll all be digital at some point, right at the antenna all the way until it becomes audio."

## The Signal From Overseas

Outside the United States, there are some notable bright spots, according to Dave Sumner (K1ZZ), secretary of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). This collective of national amateur radio associations around the globe represents hams' interests to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a specialized United Nations agency that allocates and manages spectrum. In fact, in China, Indonesia, and Thailand, amateur radio is positively booming, Sumner says.

China's advancing technology and growing middle class, with disposable income, has led to a "dramatic" increase in operators, Sumner says. Indonesia is subject to natural disasters as an island nation, spurring interest in emergency communication, and its president is a licensed operator. Trends in Thailand are less clear, Sumner says, but he believes here, too, that a desire to build community response teams is driving curiosity about ham radio.

"So," Sumner says, "you have to be careful not to subscribe to the notion that it's all collapsing everywhere."

China is also changing the game in other ways, putting cheap radios on the market. A few years ago, an entry-level handheld UHF/VHF radio cost around US $100. Now, thanks to Chinese manufacturers like Baofeng, you can get one for under $25. HF radios are changing, too, with the rise of software-defined radio.

"It's the low-cost radios that have changed ham radio and the future thereof, and will continue to do so," says Jeff Crispino, CEO of Nooelec, a company in Wheatfield, N.Y., that makes test equipment and software-defined radios, where demodulating a signal is done in code, not hardwired electronics. "SDR was originally primarily for military operations because they were the only ones who could afford it, but over the past 10 years, this stuff has trickled down to become $20 if you want." Activities like plane and boat tracking, and weather satellite communication, were "unheard of with analog" but are made much easier with SDR equipment, Crispino says.

Nooelec often hears from customers about how they're leveraging the company's products. For example, about 120 members from the group Space Australia to collect data from the Milky Way as a community project. They are using an SDR and a low-noise amplifier from Nooelec with a homemade horn antenna to detect the radio signal from interstellar clouds of hydrogen gas.

"We will develop products from that feedback loop—like for hydrogen line detection, we've developed accessories for that so you can tap

into astronomical events with a $20 device and a $30 accessory," Crispino says.

Looking ahead, the Nooelec team has been talking about how to "flatten the learning curve" and lower the bar to entry, so that the average user—not only the technically adept—can explore and develop their own novel projects within the world of ham radio.

"It is an increasingly fragmented space," Crispino says. "But I don't think that has negative connotations. When you can pull in totally unique perspectives, you get unique applications. We certainly haven't thought of it all yet."

The ham universe is affected by the world around it—by culture, by technology, by climate change, by the emergence of a new generation. And amateur radio enthusiasts are a varied and vibrant community of millions of operators, new and experienced and old and young, into robotics or chatting or contesting or emergency communications, excited or nervous or pessimistic or upbeat about what ham radio will look like decades from now.

As Michel, the former ARRL CEO, puts it: "Every ham has [their] own perspective. What we've learned over the hundred-plus years is that there will always be these battles—AM modulation versus single-sideband modulation, whatever it may be. The technology evolves. And the marketplace will follow where the interests lie."

About the Author

Julianne Pepitone is a freelance technology, science, and business journalist and a frequent contributor to *IEEE Spectrum*. Her work has appeared in print, online, and on television outlets such as *Popular Mechanics*, CNN, and NBC News.

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## The August 2020 Midwest Derecho

by Mark Obermann, AG9A (from ARRL contest update)

On August 10, 2020, a severe weather phenomenon known as a derecho developed over the Midwest, forming near the border of South Dakota and Nebraska. It traveled 770 miles at an average speed of 55 mph over five states before eventually dissipating over eastern Indiana and Ohio. Derecho means straight in Spanish and describes the fast moving and long lasting high straight-line speed wind storms that can generate hurricane force winds and produce tornados within the thunderstorms. While uncommon, they are generally most prevalent in the northern hemisphere during the months of June, July and August.

Wide swaths of the Midwest were affected, but the most severe damage occurred in several different areas along its path. The highest estimated wind speeds reached 140 mph (equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane) and took place over Iowa. One of the amateur stations that sustained heavy damage was the contest station of Toni Radebaugh, NØNI, located near Rippey, Iowa. The weather forecast for that day included a 30 percent chance of rain with no mention of severe storms. The storm arrived at around 11 AM. In the roughly 30-40 minutes that followed, ten towers were either lost or severely damaged affecting a total of thirty-five HF Yagis. With area winds estimated in excess of 100 mph, many trees, including seventeen 100-year-old cedars on the west side of the towers (and just out of view in the photos) snapped and landed on multiple guy wires. This caused the towers to bend and break, bringing down the towers, antennas and other nearby towers that may have been in the way. The towers and antennas outside of the tree line were not affected, including a homebrew full-size 3-element 40 meter Yagi at 196', a real testament to the robust design of the towers and antennas at Toni's station. Toni stated that he had not lost a tower in 43 years, but when he finally did, it was spectacular.

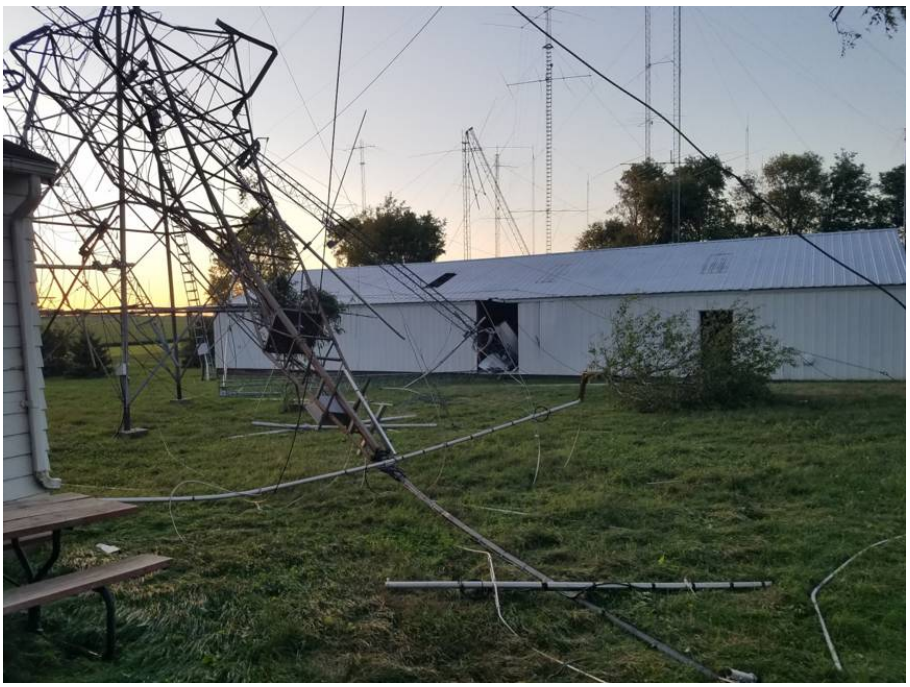
In addition to the tower damage, trees came down on the house and the surrounding corn fields were crushed by the winds resulting in a total loss of much of this year's crop.

Toni vows to rebuild a number of towers and antennas as that is his favorite thing to do in Amateur Radio. This time, they may not go up as high, and of course, they'll be spaced farther away from the remaining trees.

NØNI

NØNI

NØNI



NØNI

## Jurassic Journal

- A look back in time -

Tom Vavra WB8ZRL

Twenty years ago, the fall of 2000

From my log:

XU7 - Antonio, EA5RM, had a good signal from XU7ABD and was often on 10M SSB.

VK - The path to VK was often open on 10M.

4W - K7BV and N6FF were on the air from East Timor for several weeks. 4W/N6FF was the call used on 160 and 80, while 4W/K7BV was used on all other bands.

KH5K - Gale force winds and heavy rain prevented the team from getting the antennas up for some 24 hours but K5K dxpeditionn to Kingman Reef was on the air for about 12 days logging 80,841 QSOs.

A35 - While island hopping, Angelo, I6BQI activated A35BQ from Tonga for about 10 days. He concentrated on working Europe but had time to put my call in his log.

ZK1 - ZK1NJC on North Cook Islands, probably by JI1NJC, surprised me one morning on 40 CW when he said "Hi Tom". That has happened a few times over the years, but unless he was using some callsign lookup program, I don't know he would know my name. Still, it has always been an ego trip when it happens.

A9 - A92ZE was very pleased to work a handful of Ws on 40M CW long path one morning.

SØ7 - IARV (International Amateur Radio Volunteers) operators activated SØ7U from Western Sahara for almost a week.

9M2 - 9M2TO from West Malaysia was quite active in the mornings. Club Log shows him with 387,664 QSOs since 1980. Maybe not as active as KV4AA used to be, but that is a lot of operating.

A5 - Charly, K4VUD, and Jani, 9M6US/YBØUS, signed A52UD and A52AP respectively. The pileups showed that A5 is still needed.

ZK2 - Bill, W7TVF, signed ZK2VF from Niue. Activity was all bands.

Other Fall 2000 activity:

8Q - Kurt, DF4XX and Holger, DL5XAT were at the Maldives signing 8Q7WW during the CQWW contest and 8Q7TX before/after the contest.

EZ - Alex, EZ8CQ appeared on RTTY and 160 metres CW from Turkmenistan. EZ has been silent now for a number of years.

EP - Hamid, EP3HR and Yar, EP3SP operated from the new club station EP4PTT. They use home made equipment, a dipole for 20 meters and 20 watts.

KH5 - Mike, KH6ND/KH5 operated from Palmyra Atoll until the KH5K team pick him up on the way to Kingman Reef. Several months of operating resulted in 25231 entries in his log.

P29 - Dr. Elmer R. Ribeyro, P29DX ended his work assignment after eleven months.

PJ2 - The Caribbean Contesting Consortium inaugurated their new club station in Curacao, for the CQWW CW Contest, signing PJ2T. N0YY was a mainstay at this station for many years.

P2 - Paul, K1XM and Charlotte, KQ1F were P29VPY and P29VCR from Loloata Island, PNG for the CQ WW DX CW Contest.

D4 - Henryk, SMØJHF, operated D44CF (CW only) from Mindelo, Sao
Vicente Island for two weeks.

7Q7 - Ely (I like this guy's name) activated 7Q7CE. *(Me too - Ed.)*

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## Ten years ago, the fall of 2010

WWV numbers for the fall of 2010 were Solar Flux between 74 and 92, and the A-Index between 0 and 22.

From my log:

PJs - October 10th was a big event for DXers. PJ2, Curacao, and PJ7/PJ8, Saba/Saint Eustatius, were deleted. AND PJ2, Curacao, PJ4, Bonaire, PJ5/PJ6, Saba & Saint Eustatius, and PJ7, Sint Maarten were created. Four new ones for the DXers, and very easy to reach for the DXpeditioners. PJ7E, PJ6A, and PJ4B were all very active working the pileups. PJ2T was easily worked during the two CQWWs.

5R8 - 5R8X from Madagascar operated by OH2BH, OH2PM,

OH6KN, OH7EA and OH8NC during the CQWW SSB Contest. They were working the low bands after the contest.

R1F - RI1FJ was Eugeny, UA4RX, operating from Heiss Island, Franz Josef Land.

VP8/sh - DT8A, the King Se-Jong KOREA Antarctic Scientific Base, South Shetland Is. was worked with DS4NMJ, Lee, at the mike.

6W - Matthias DL5MFL, Juergen DL4MAQ and Sven DF9MV were at 6V7Z from Senegal for ten days.

C5 - The OMØC Contest team were at C5ØC for two weeks including the CQWW CW Contest.

ZL8 - Fourteen European DXers, mostly DJs, activated ZL8X on Kermacec Islands two weeks. 148,570 QSOs were logged. I called a neighbor to alert her when the ZL8 was running out of folks to work on 20M SSB. After she figured out how to go split (her first time), she worked them barefoot with a dipole. She then got on the internet to figure out what Kermadec was. KØJCX is now a SK.

PJ2 - Rick was warming up for the contest on 40 cw signing PJ2/N0YY.

ZD9 - Dieter DJ2EH was QRV from Tristan da Cunha, signing ZD9T 18 days.

ZK2 - K1PMR, PA3LEO, LA9SN, N6TQS and K6SRZ were on Niue Island for two weeks signing ZK2A putting 15K into the logs.

4X - 4Z1UF, Ilya, was worked on 160M. I have never heard another 4X, so it was a memorable QSO.

VK9 - The ZK2A team later move to Norfolk Island for two more weeks. While signing VK9NN, they logged 16K QSOs.

J5 - J5V by JA1PBV was worked the final hour of 2010. It was a good year.

Other 2010 Fall activity:

ZD9 - DL2AH, Ulli, was on Tristan da Cunha for 6 weeks of holiday style operating signing ZD9AH.

T8 - Tom, DL2OBO, activated T88DL for one week on Palau.

FJ - Nick, VE3EY joined all the Caribbean activity as TO3A from Saint Barts. He was there for the CQ WW DX CW Contest.

ZS8 - Pierre, ZS8M, on Marion Island was QRT until he could install the equipment at the new base.

9L - Roger, G3SXW and the Voodoo Contest Group participated in the CQ WW DX CW Contest as 9L5VT from Sierra Leone. This project was dedicated to Vince, K5VT, who had became an SK recently.

PJ7 - Joe, KCØVKN was active as PJ7/KCØVKN from Sint Maarten for
6 days just prior to Christmas. He operated holiday style with his preferred mode, CW. Joe is a past president of the EIDXA.

S2 - Zorro, JH1AJT and other five operators were active as S21FGC from Bangladesh for one week.

XW - Hiroo, JA2EZD was active as XWPA (yes, there was no number) from Laos. He was allowed to operate on 40, 20, 17 and 15 metres only, as the licensing fee per band was very expensive.

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# Member News

## Storm Photos

A new polarization courtesy Al KØVM

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Tom, WØWP reports over 100 trees lost, plus some aluminum... tower with WARC and 6m antennas

Tower "bent" at 12' - WØWP

Aluminum foliage -WØWP

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Gayle, KØFLY reports that the antennas fought the tree and the tree won...

Hackberry tangles with the quad - KØFLY

Hackberry 1, Tower 0 - KØFLY

Tower was spared when a tree top fell - KØFLY

Quad remnants - KØFLY

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Terry WØAWL  had his Skyhawk take flight and land on the roof, mast first... poking a hole through the shingles and sheathing, resulting in a lot of water damage.

Aluminum kabobs... WØAWL

WØAWL

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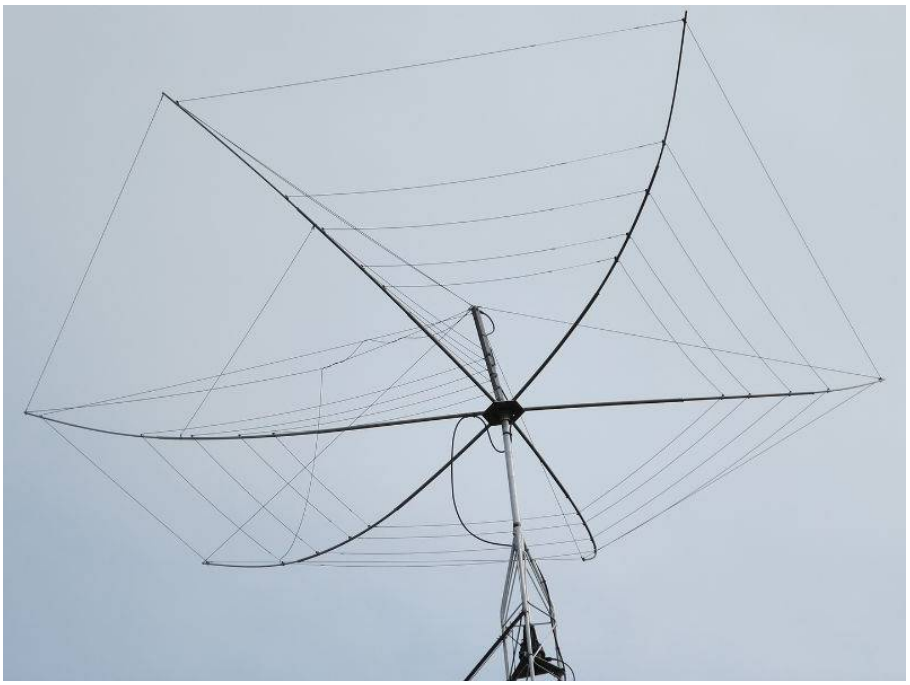
Craig KØCF got off easy in Iowa City...



KØCF

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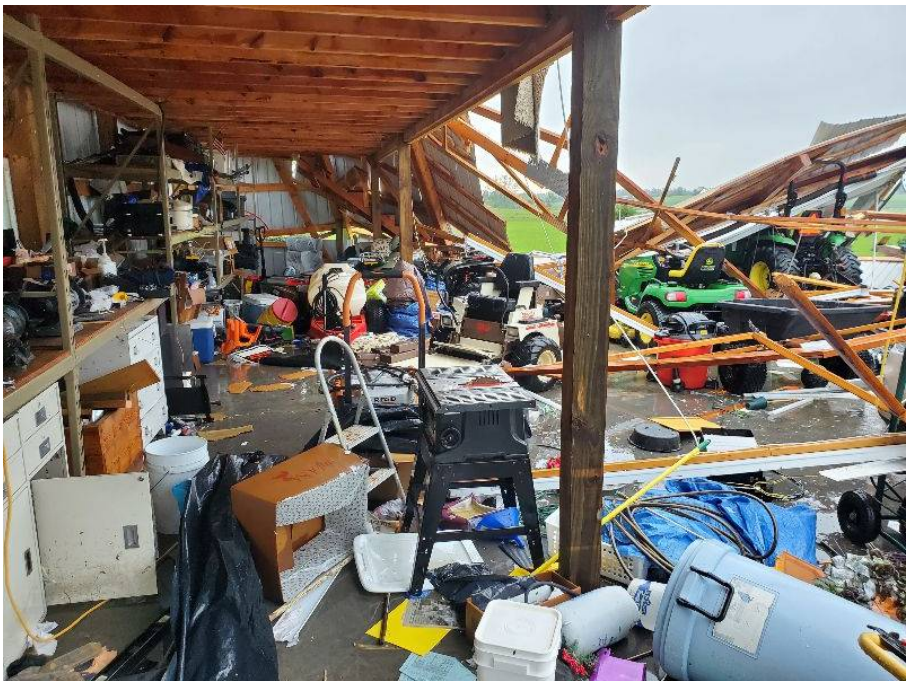
Jim WGØU sends some sights from Palo

The antenna got off easy compared to the pole building. WGØU



WGØU

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## Logbook

**Logs**

WØGXA:  Do number of trees cut count toward DXCC?

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## CQ Test

### Bands Alive DX Ultra-Marathon

If you're looking for a COVID-safe activity in 2021, check this out:
https://www.tbdxc.net/marathon

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## QRM

### **Deep thoughts:**

Has anyone noticed we've had a shortage of sunspots ever since they kicked Pluto out of the solar system?

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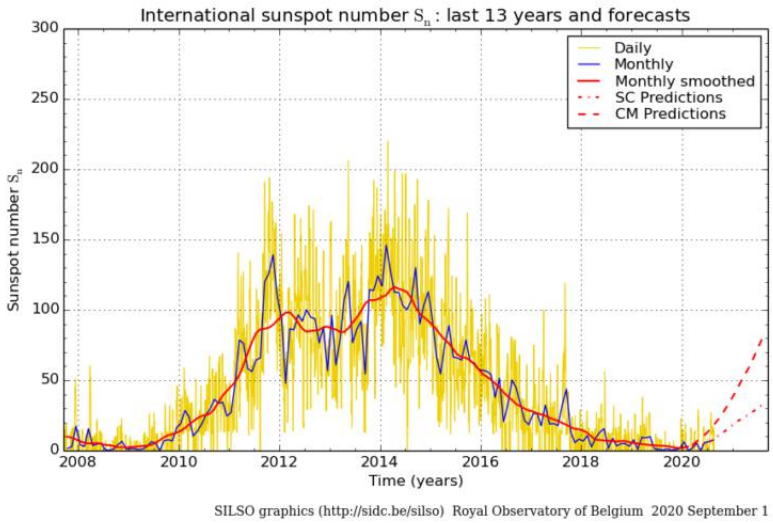
# Hope




In the category of "Hope is the last thing to die", you can see hope in the far lower right of the graph

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