



Eastern Iowa DX Association

An ARRL affiliated club - Established 1975

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I hope all EIDXa members and their families had a very Merry Christmas and wish them a Happy New Year!

I would like to thank the retiring officers WØSR, KØCF and KØLUM for a job well done. The following members continue in their club positions, Mike NA9Q -treasurer, KØCF - Web Master, and the most hardworking of all of us, Bob WØGXA - EIDXa newsletter editor. *(For the record, it isn't that difficult - Bob)*

A special thanks to Rich W3ACO for leading the nominations committee. The club's incoming officers are Joe WØIW (VP) and George NG7A (secretary).

The next meeting is January 21. The program is a very interesting presentation by Tim Duffy K3LR

QRM

titled "The DX Engineering Story". DX Engineering is the place where we find all those nice parts that we don't have time to make.

Club Officers:

President:

Gayle Lawson, KØFLY

Mercy health center has not opened their facility for live meetings, therefore, the next club meeting will be a Zoom internet session. I'm on the list to be notified when the room opens for live meetings. We made the yearly donation to Mercy Health center to show our appreciation for its meeting room use, and hopefully the new COVID variant doesn't cause any undue delay.

Vice President:

Joe Leto, WØIW

Secretary:

George Cooley, NG7A

Treasurer:

Mike Nowack NA9Q

Repeater Committee:

Jason Joens NRØX

Membership Committee:

Jim Spencer WØSR

Nelson Moyer KUØA

The club lost several members during the past quarter, Tom WB8ZRL was one of our DXCC card checkers, membership committee member, and operated/ maintained the EIDX A internet reflector. Tom will be missed. We also lost Vern KØEGA one of the club's founding members and Arlo WØLBK. Our condolences go to Tom WØWP, Joe K8OM and Rich W3ACO who lost their XYs,

Repeater: NØDX/R

144.59 / 145.19 (tone 192.8)

www.EIDX A.org

Web Master:

Craig Fastenow KØCF

Newsletter Editor:

Bob Lee WØGXA

rclee2266@gmail.com

George NG7A authored a low band vertical article in QST. Congratulations George! He has agreed to make a presentation at a future meeting.



Facebook EIDX A

George had described the antenna to me, and I was thinking about installing four of them. However, all of my 70 plus foot trees are gone or their height has been reduced to 40 to 50 feet.

Mike NA9Q has published a document listing the DX-peditions that the club has supported. It can be found on the web site, Thanks Mike .

I hope everyone has recovered from the Derecho, my Quad is back up with a Hazer elevator system, the Hy Tower vertical is back on the air, but, the RX four Square is not performing as it once did. It has been relocated to an area that accommodates larger antenna spacing, however, it is closer to the house and garage, the antennas may be hearing more noise than before.

It was nice to find 12 and 10 meters open this summer, I worked several European DX-peditions operating in Africa, their presence brought back some feeling of normality.

If you have a friend that is interested in DXing please forward the Zoom short cut or invite them to the next live meeting.

Gayle KØFLY

Musings from the lunatic fringe

Bob WØGXA

The turn of the year always brings hope for what's ahead as well as a time for reflection. Unfortunately, we've lost a lot of good people this year. Tom, WB8ZRL, my neighbor was very helpful with recommendations on how to get 5BDXCC during the last cycle (I re-entered the hobby in 2010). There are a couple tributes to Tom later in the newsletter.

Vern, KØEGA, whom I knew before I started working at Collins in '89. He was very helpful in the early years of my career.

Good people who will be missed.

On a positive note: I started my own consulting company which will commence operations starting in January. I'll be doing similar work to what I've been doing the past ten years (business and technology strategies for aviation). My objectives are to a) have more flexibility in what I work on than is afforded to me working for my current employer and b) work less than full time. I have nightmares that I'll end up with two full time jobs but we'll see...

I wish everyone a prosperous new year!

Club News and Administrative Items

Minutes of the EIDX A meeting October 1, 2021

The fall meeting of the EIDX A was held October 1 2021 via Zoom.
Attendance was 31.

Following an hour of rag chewing the meeting was opened at 7:30 PM
by President Jim WØSR.

Members were encourage to say a sentence or two about activities at
their shack.

Minutes for the April 30 meeting can be found in the current
newsletter.

Treasurer Mike NA9Q presented a spreadsheet showing current
activity. Refunds from the abandoned Bouvet DXpeditions have been
been redeposited. This, plus dues paid, constituted the activity for the
period.

Dues are now due for 2022. \$20/year. People over two years in
arrears will be dropped from membership. If in doubt of your status
contact Mike at mnowack@adams.net. Dues can be mailed to him at

Mike Nowack
3208 US Route 67
Milan, IL 61264

WB8ZRL has completed the audit but as not returned the books to
NA9Q

Rich W3ACO chair of the nomination committee presented a slate for
the coming year

- President: Gayle, KØFLY - Gayle is a founding member of the
EIDX A but to my knowledge he has avoided taking on this job.
Gayle takes his time and thinks things out. Example, he waited
55 years to get married.
- Vice President: Joe, WØIW - Joe is from Parkersburg
- Secretary: George, NG7A - George is a gung ho contesteer and
chair of our Contest Committee where he hope to energize the
EIDX A

- Treasurer: Mike, NA9Q - Mike is our current Treasurer and has served for four years. He also is a founding member of the EIDXА

With no other nominations forthcoming the slate was elected by acclamation. NØSM moving and WØJG seconding.

NOØB as program chair is looking for program suggestions. Remember that even after we return to meeting in person the program can be presented via Zoom.

There are no new members pending.

Terry WØAWL reported on DXpedition funding. The only official major DXpedition at this time is another attempt at Bouvet. A ship has been chartered. Terry WØAWL moved and Rich W3ACO sending that \$1500 be donated to the current group to be split evenly between regular and Heis funds.

Rumor is that there is another group planning to go to a top 10 location but has not announce more details at this time.

Craig KØCF has been working on cleaning up the website.

Sam KØAFN continues to have hats available. Part of the proceeds go to EIDXА.

Following a short break Lance W7GJ presented a fine program. He started by discussing antenna requirements for 6 meter EME accompanied by my fine photographs. He continued with stories and photographs of several of the one man 6 meter EME DXpeditions he has been conducting on Pacific islands.

NEXT MEETING

January 21, 2022

Social Hour 6:30 PM
Meeting & Program 7:30 PM

Meeting and location information (virtual)

Program:
The DX Engineering Story
by Tim Duffy



Card Checkers

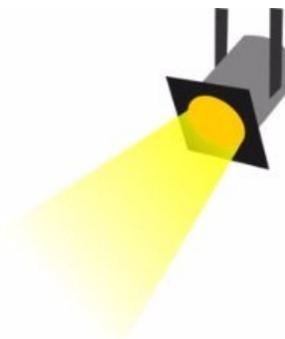
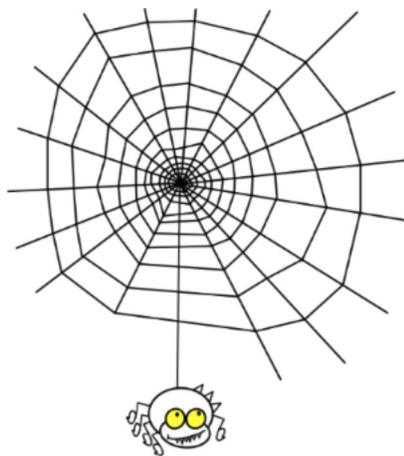
We have club members who can check your QSL cards

- Glenn, WØGJ
- Mike, NA9Q

Contact info can be found here:

<http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-search>

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.

DX News

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Kingdom of Eswatini

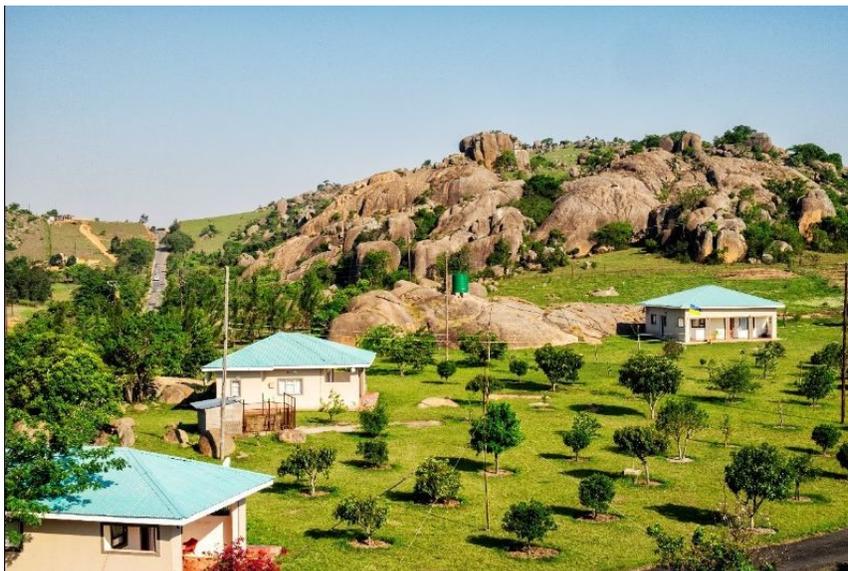
Yuris /YL2GM/

<https://www.lral.lv/3da0ww/index.html>

These unstable times in the world have changed all of our lives. People are eager for traveling and new adventures. Our team also had numerous discussions on when and where could we go next and is it even possible with the given circumstances. When we were looking for the next DX pedition location we had to take into account all the restrictions and this complicated the whole process.

The idea about DX pedition to Kingdom of Eswatini I acquired during my first visit to South Africa in the early of 2021. This country was not very high in DXCC most wanted list (#140), however, it had very interesting history and tales about its king and traditions. In addition, the government representatives were very supportive about our plans to organizing amateur radio event.

Location of our QTH I acquired by studying the map and booking.com website. First option was a hotel far away from populated places and it could be good choice, however, I decided to look for another place because next to it were placed some solar panels and it could have the risks for interferences. Another option which I decided to use was hotel Mdzimba Mountain Lodge located 10 km from the city Manzini. Two houses approximately 80 meters from each other and 1200 meters above sea level. Manzini city was located in valley.



3DA0WW QTH, Mdzimba Mountain Lodge

DX-pedition team roaster consisted of two Latvian and four Ukrainian radio amateurs. We met in Johannesburg airport and from there

travelled together with plane to Kingdom of Eswatini and reached King Mswati III airport on 13th of October. Security service took all our passports, licenses and hotel reservations. It took about two hours and we could continue our journey together with our hotel owner when he arrived. It was about 60 km drive to our hotel. There we split between two houses, Latvian two operators took the smallest house and Ukrainian operators moved into the bigger house.



3DA0WW team: Vlad UW7RV, Jack YL2KA, Yuris YL2GM, Sasha UT7UV, Pavlo UU0JR, Wlad US7IGN

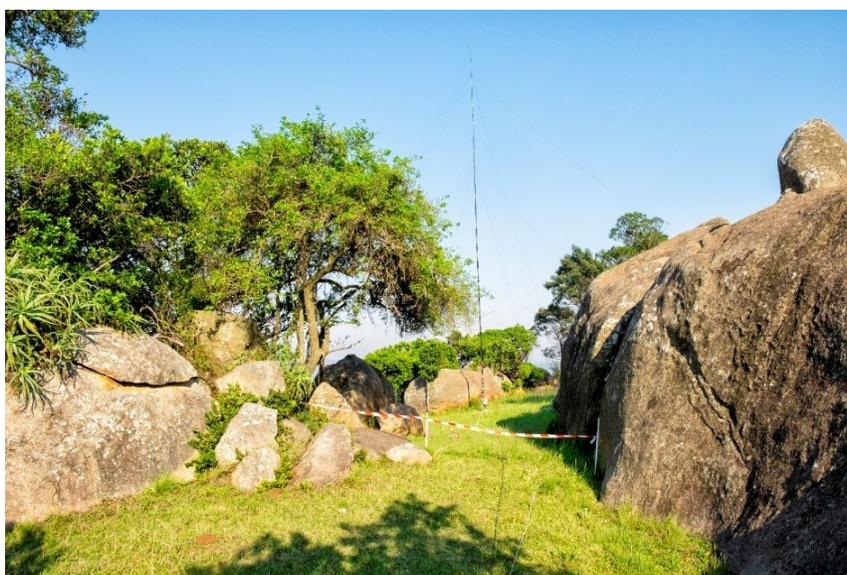
Till the evening dark we managed to install our multi band GP. After turning on transceiver we saw that there are noise level S7-8 on all bands. We were looking for the noise source by gradually switching on and off all light sources. They all made noise and we decided to use only one table lamp as light source during the dark in each house. However, these weren't the only noise sources because in other houses there were also lights that could not be turned off because of security reasons.



Resolving the dogs chewed guy-wire problems

Next morning, we found our multi band GP on the ground because the local dog chew through its guywires. After talking to owner, the dog was moved to a smaller territory behind a fence. During the day we set up Spiderbeam antennas in both positions and operate. This time for each band we have separate filters, we split them between both positions. This ruled out the possibility that both stations would turn on the same band simultaneously. The temperatures were +34 to +36 C during the day and dropped down to +20 C during the night time.

Next day one Spiderbeam was found on the ground with two broken fiberglass tubes. Our friendly dog managed to escape from his fenced territory and right after that he chewed through our antenna guy-wires once more. Dog gets isolated again.



In the morning we set up low band antennas. Sadly, this time our LBS vertical does not operate as intended and we get burned relay and capacitor in the switchbox. We redesign our vertical for low band antenna and use it for 160m, however it's not very effective and the

poor results show that.



The new week starts with heavy rain and thunderstorm. Temperature drops during the night to only +9 C, it's also very foggy because the mountain top was covered with the cloud.



Sasha UT7UV together with hotel owner drives to the local market for food products every second day. Sasha is our chef and prepares breakfast and dinner for the whole team. The most delicious dish is the Ukrainian borsch soup that is prepared using African products.

For the second half of the week the sky clears a bit and the hot temperatures return and again we feel like in Africa. Sun is very hot with very intensive ultraviolet radiation.



On FT8 we get called by 3DA0AQ, however the program does not register the call because it registers as two separate calls, this gets solved by typing manually. Technical problems keep piling and we also start to have issues with our SPE Expert PTT because it works with delay and we lose our first transmitted symbol. This gets resolved by restarting whole software.

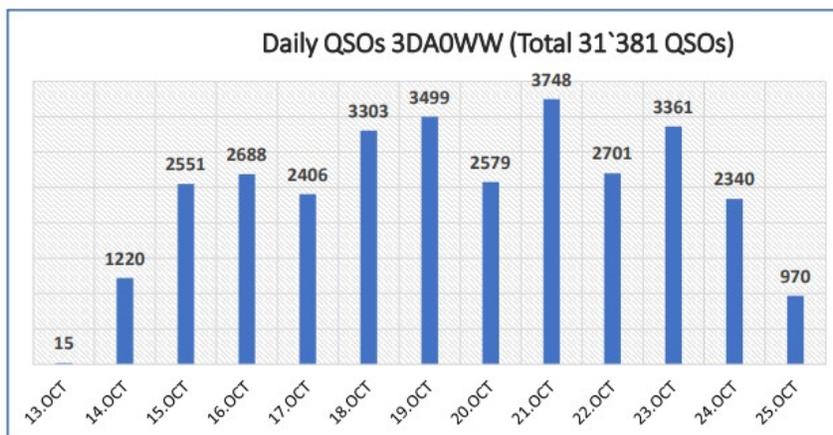
Three days before QRT our K3 driver transistor breaks down so we are left only with one station. All together team spirits are in good mood. In addition, the hotel owner takes us to small excursion to local school that he supports financially. However, the school is empty because of riots in the country. All public transportation is on hold. People are disappointed in the country's ruling. However, the Kingdom of Eswatini is very tourist friendly country with many beautiful mountain and wildlife sceneries. Sadly, because of the pandemic many cultural sites were closed down and we could not enjoy them fully. Because of these reasons we did not plan Hams with Hearts support this time. Two weeks fly by in a blink of an eye and we have to pack our bags for returning home. Expedition plan is accomplished, we managed to make 31k QSOs. For two team members this was their first DX-pedition. Lesson learned from this expedition – if possible, then visit QTH site before the expedition in order limit unexpected noise sources and etc.



Vlad UW7RV, Pavlo UU0JR, Sasha UT7UV, Yuris YL2GM, Wlad US7IGN, Jack YL2KA

Thanks to all of the team and their families for supporting us through our adventures. Thanks to all radio amateurs and amateur radio clubs for supporting and working with us in the air, this would not be possible without your support.





Band/Mode breakdown 3DA0WW

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total	Total %
160	1	70	0	71	0.2%
80	339	1518	0	1857	5.9%
60	0	95	0	95	0.3%
40	476	3115	77	3668	11.7%
30	363	2320	0	2683	8.5%
20	1771	2144	1078	4993	15.9%
17	2823	2925	606	6354	20.2%
15	1783	4031	992	6806	21.7%
12	671	1613	759	3043	9.7%
10	438	979	394	1811	5.8%
Totals	8665	18810	3906	31381	99.9%

DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown 3DA0WW

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total
160	1	19	0	20
80	42	71	0	73
60	0	25	0	25
40	51	89	23	93
30	48	101	0	105
20	76	91	69	113
17	83	92	56	107
15	69	104	70	113
12	55	79	62	87
10	59	75	51	88
Totals	104	132	94	148

Continent by Mode 3DA0WW

Band	SSB	CW	FT8	Total	Total %
AF	66	52	169	287	0.9%
AN	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	141	682	3819	4642	14.8%
EU	2758	6337	9273	18368	58.5%
NA	800	1429	3859	6088	19.4%
OC	13	26	582	621	2.0%
SA	128	139	1108	1375	4.4%
Totals	3906	8665	18810	31381	100.0%

Expedition website: <https://www.lral.lv/3da0ww/index.html>

Expedition movie: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NK_CAbKwKLS&ab_channel=VladfonGurt

Feature Articles

Tribute - Tom Vavra WB8ZRL SK

After decades of effort, I finally got enough confirmations for my 160M DXCC. Unfortunately it was the height of the pandemic and everything, including the ARRL's card checking service was closed down. Tom Vavra WB8ZRL reached out to his ARRL contacts and figured out work arounds for field checking my cards and then personally emailed the paperwork to the correct remote ARRL staff.

As someone so high up on the honor roll, he was very generous in his encouragement and even pointed out some stations that he'd not yet worked. While masked and gloved, we talked about antennas and DXing techniques. It was one of the most memorable and uplifting card checking sessions I'd experienced. RIP WB8ZRL.

George NG7A

I sought out Tom back in 2010 when I decided to get active again in ham radio. I had questions on DXing and station design. I met him at a local eatery and had lunch while he gave me some sage advice.

That advice served me well as I worked through getting DXCC one band per year until I had 5B-DXCC. We talked about goals, working on antennas before adding power, etc... It had a lasting impact on my operations. I've made a point to pass on these bits of wisdom to others.

Bob WØGXA

Member News

Tom's Estate

Tom has donated all of his equipment, towers, and antennas to the EIDX A. WØAWL, WØSR, WØWP, NRØX spent a couple of weeks cleaning out the shack. The towers and antennas will be addressed in the spring.

The plan is to offer these items to club members at a very reasonable price, with the money collected to provide funding for DXpeditions.

Terry has cleaned and tested what he could. He is compiling a list that will serve to inform our members on what is available.

The method by which we'll sell the equipment to interested club members is still being worked. Expect to see some communication in mid January. QRX

If you have any questions, contact Jim Spencer at Jim@SpencerHills.com.

Final antenna report

Bob WØGXA

I finally had the chance to put my new vertical antenna to work during CQWW CW. You may recall I installed the DX Engineering 8040VA Thunderbird to replace the 80' elm tree lost in the derecho.

The short answer is: 4-square > full size vertical > low dipole

The long story...

I had to temper my expectations after spending several years as one of Toni's (NØNI) low-band guys where I had 4-squares on 80 and 160 and dual lane beverages.

I'm happy with the performance. It is a well behaved antenna and performs like you'd expect for a vertical. Combined with my beverages, QSOs in the contest were reminiscent of my "elm tree" ops.

I installed 32 radials at roughly 55' each. I think I went through 300 lawn staples to get them down along the entire length.

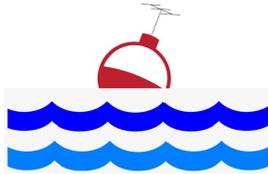


Many thanks to Jeff WØODS and Adam AEØDX for help installing the radials!



Final installation

As shown in the picture, the antenna has guy ropes at three levels. It is rated free-standing to 50mph. The guy ropes are 3/16" dacron. They don't need to be tight since their purpose is to take some of the load during high winds. It has survived 80mph winds (twice) and many days of winds gusting to 50 and higher.



Dispatch from the High Seas

Some of you may know that Jeff, WØODS left Collins to return to the sea - a job as a radio officer, one that he had out of college. What follows is the first in what he promises to be a long series of letters home. - Ed.

Dear Bob,

It's hard to tell you something interesting, radio-wise, about working on a Navy-owned cargo ship in VQ9, but I'll try.

Most of these ships are just paying lip service to the HF GMDSS console because we're 24/7 connected via the robust US Navy DoD satellite link. And GMDSS is designed to be a ship to shore service, not ship-ship like the good ol' 500kHz CW systems I operated until the mid 90's. Last time we did a short test cruise (or, more properly a fishing trip, which turned into Fish Taco Tuesday the day after), I was able to load up the JRC HF rig into the antenna with ease. The PSU looks like it should be able to make 500w output. It's probably down-rated to 250 or so. Should read the manual some day, but it's been busy. Put a pin in that.

I did bring some gear. And by some, I mean a Pelican case that once held the ill-fated Bouvet expedition's "Station 5." Bill Frede (W7II) bought the Flex from K9CT and it included the case. It's got my Flex 6600 in it right now, and the power supply, a small manual tuner, and a Begali keyer. It'll be great fun some day soon.

In addition, a Xiegu G1M 5w 4 band QRP rig was stowed. The thinking was that, if I do get a VQ9 license, it'd be very easy to transport ashore and toss up an EFHW in a palm tree. That looks to be a very workable plan, and will probably be the configuration in which I operate here.

The monkey wrench in the works came shortly before I arrived here in Early December. Were told to bring warm clothes. To a tropical island. Because the ship's going to NORWAY, of all places. And yes, it turns out that we are. Not sure when. Soon. Before the end of the year seems likely. So I've got to find time to get from ship to island in mid-day this week, US license in hand, and find the appropriate official. It could take some doing. Success not guaranteed. After all, this is Christmas week.

If only I had license in hand, I could be ashore on the 1830 launch

every night and bang out some CW until the 2000 or 2130 launch. If only.

It is no small consolation that they have beer ashore at the seaman's club. Tonight I am headed that way to polish off a few cold 807s and spin the dial on my new portable receiver. It's a Tecsun PL-368, and it's one of the few you can find that accept input from an external MW/LW antenna. Last night, I set up an MLA-30 active loop out on the bridge wing and ran the coax into the bridge through a gently closed door. The MLA-30 is a stock receive only active loop available from many Amazon/Ebay vendors for about \$50. Decent little antenna. The loop can be coiled up to fit inside a stock Bouvet DXpedition Pelican Case quite easily, in case you were curious. It's powered by 5V USB. Those rechargeable USB battery packs work great. Inside, there's a charge pump that boosts the voltage to something that gives the circuits a bit of headroom for strong signals. I was favorably impressed.

Last night's log of the Mediumwave band (AM broadcast it's called, stateside) yielded stations from Arabia to India to China. I'm still not entirely sure where some of them originate - tough to get a read if you don't speak the language. I know for sure that All India radio was heard on 576kHz. I've heard it other nights on 684. They broadcast English every now and again. Another station in English was on 1125. Guessing China. The BBC Oman relay on 1413 is a regular after dark. China on 1098 BOOMS in - they're running a megawatt, after all. The strongest station here, and the ONLY one that can be heard in the daytime, is a 25kW outfit from Male, Maldives on 1449. It's usually the station I fall asleep to at night.

What I have not heard, and hope to confirm, are stations from sub-Saharan Africa and Australia. Pretty sure I've heard a station from Jakarta Indonesia at least once, so the path is there. Having quite poor internet, it's been difficult for me to filter out the existing data on MWList.org for strong VK broadcasters. Sadly, their international shortwave service is no more. New Zealand is inaudible here as well, being on the back side of all their antenna patterns.

When I signed up for this hitch, it looked like the USNS Sisler was going to loiter around Diego Garcia all winter. The week before I joined the ship, the Captain emailed to tell me to pack my long johns. The ship's bound for Norway. We'll get there before spring, via the long path around Africa. I'm hoping the Captain will be amenable to his Electronics Officer stringing up a wire once we get underway. Seems likely as I write this. Nothing is for sure out here though.

It's been an absolute nightmare getting up to speed. The crewing plane flies once every two months. It lands at 5 a.m. You get off in a

daze, having spent at least the last 24 hours on that plane. And your body clock is 12 hours off. They hustle you to the ship around 8. You have the one day to learn how to do your job, if you've never been there before. One day. Jet-lagged. The guy you're relieving had to be up at 2 am for a 3 am Covid test, so results would be available before his flight tomorrow. So he's tired. He's also been stuck on the ship for 6 months and Just Wants To Go Home. So your first week, you're completely incompetent at your job and everybody knows it. It's week 2 for me now and I have a little breathing room, finally.

More later. You'll be the first to know if I go QRV VQ9.

73 ES GUD DX

-WØODS/MM

Jeff WOODS

Logbook

CQ Test

QRM





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