



Eastern Iowa DX Association

An ARRL affiliated club - Established 1975

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October 2024

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Greetings from KØJGH;

This fall season is coming on with some great antenna building weather. My decision to do three big house projects did not include anything that radiates RF. I'm sure some of you now have antennas that are catching some new ones with the much-improved solar flux readings. Propagation numbers have been good for 6 meters but nothing has happened here yet. Mike has posted a couple of new band countries for himself.

Member News

- W9DXCC

WØGJ Glenn and his team had a very successful CYØ operation with some nice pictures posted on Google groups page. VP6WR was on in September, E6 Niue is on until September 30th.

Logbook

CQ Test

QRM

- ARRL Ransomware update
-

The N5J from Jarvis Island gave out a good operation for our EIXDA sponsorship. Other activities from my log includes: FP/KV1J, S21AF, K8R, E51, TO8.

Club Officers:

President:

Glen Kesselring, KØJGH

This is not DX but had a clean sweep for the week of Route 66. (We drove as a rover in 2010 W6S).

Vice President:

Gayle Lawson, KØFLY

Please remember Joe WØMJN and Doug WØSML as they are now silent keys since our last meeting.

Secretary:

George Cooley, NG7A

Treasurer:

Mike Nowack NA9Q

Our upcoming October meeting agenda includes elections. Please contact me to help by serving as the nominating committee to propose the slate of officers. I'll make it easy for you with a couple of offices already having volunteers. We still need some volunteers for secretary and vice president.

Repeater Committee:

Jason Joens NRØX

Membership Committee:

Jim Spencer WØSR
Nelson Moyer KUØA

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

www.EIDX.org

Good DX 73 Glen KØJGH pres.

Web Master:

Craig Fastenow KØCF

Newsletter Editor:

Bob Lee WØGXA

rclee2266@gmail.com



Facebook EIDX A

Musings from the lunatic fringe

Bob WØGXA

I hope everyone had a good summer. Watching the email reflector it seems like there was plenty of activity for those so inclined. I hope it was productive filling band slots and snagging ATNOs. My consulting business has been more successful than I want, but I'm tapering my work ahead of this year's contest season to free up some time.

Several of you have been busy getting some antennas ready (Featured Articles).

Cyber security hit a little close to home for me. After six weeks of "strange things" happening, I discovered a keylogger on one of my laptops. Thanks to astute security at one of my credit card companies and quick actions on my part, no one lost any money. I have always had good cyber hygiene, so when I saw some of the more recent reports about the League's systems (Windows 98??), I was shocked. If you haven't seen any updates, I included one in QRM.

Also, it's harvest season, so....

Stay safe out there.

Bob

Club News and Administrative Items

NEXT MEETING

October 11, 2024

Meeting & Program 7:00 PM

Meeting via Zoom

Information on reflector

Program: TBD



Card Checkers

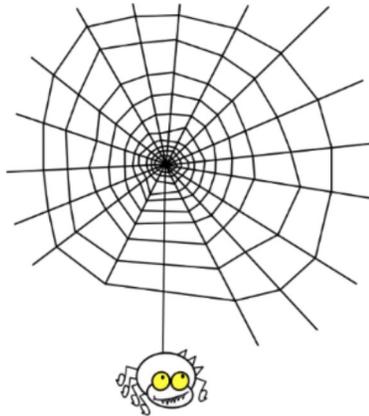
We have club members who can check your QSL cards

- 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

Six Meter EME DXing – de Corn Field EME Gang

by Rod Blocksome, KØDAS

In 2016 a group of hams interested in 6 meter EME joined forces and built a very temporary station in an effort to work Lance, W7GJ who was portable on the island of Palau in the western Pacific. Initially the station was an IC-9100 driving an ARCO PA to about 1200 Watts to an M² 6M9KHW 48-ft. Yagi. The Yagi was manually aimed at the moon while the station and 220 Volt generator was located in the bed of my Ford Ranger. The feedline was short – just long enough to go up from the pick-up to the driven element. As the Moon moved across the sky it was necessary for the pick-up to move to keep the station beneath the driven element of the yagi. Every tenth of a dB counts in this game. For the next four years we enjoyed many successful DX QSO over the nearly 500,000 mile path to the Moon and back.

Then the Derecho wind storm put an end to our 6-meter EME station back in August 2020 and we were off 6-meter EME until now.

Recently we planted some Rohn 25 into concrete at our hill top EME station and refurbished the old 6M9KHW yagi from years earlier. We home-brewed a hinge plate to support a couple sections of Rohn 25 giving us a tilt-over tower of about 25 feet. A 12 Vdc winch from Harbor Freight handles the raising and lowering nicely. It is quite a sight to see an antenna that is more than twice as long as it's supporting tower!

The station is another IC-9100 plus my HB 8877 amplifier I designed and built back in 1990. It easily cranks out the legal limit of 1,500 Watts (remember every tenth of a dB is important in this game). We buried 7/8-in Heliacx from the shack and up the tower to the mast-boom junctions where we transitioned to 1/2-in "Super Flex" around the junction and to the driven element.



Corn Field EME Station and 6-meter EME Yagi

Of course, Lance, W7GJ, is heading out on another one of his exotic EME DX-peditions – this time to Tristan da Cunha operating as ZD9GJ. Our goal was to get everything finished in time to work Lance, which meant leaving a lot of “nice to have” features for later. One

example, was to use manual elevation to aim the antenna at the Moon which meant the Moon had to be visible. Since the antenna site slopes off to the west, visually aiming the antenna at lower elevations required a lot of hiking back and forth to the tower. To verify, I would then go inside and test to see if I could receive my own echoes from the Moon.

This was the scene on the night of September 21, 2024 at 0458 UTC when I finally completed with ZD9GJ after trying for over 3 hours to work him. I could copy my own echoes each time I tested, so I knew my system was working as expected, but I was getting no decodes on Lances' Q65-60A signal. I was getting close to calling it a night when suddenly "Mr. Faraday" (who fools around with polarization of the signals as they pass through the ionosphere twice) decided to "give up" and I decoded Lance at -27 dB. He later said he decoded me at -26 dB.

So that's my story and I'm stickin' to it,

Best Regards, Rod, KØDAS

Feature Articles

30 m Antenna

Gayle KØFLY

Home brew 30 meter vertical.

I haven't had a dedicated 30-meter antenna, I have been using an 80-meter dipole fed with ladder line and a tuner. I decided to build a 30-meter vertical out of salvaged parts from antennas that were broken during the Derecho.

The vertical is mounted on a 12 foot long, 2-inch diameter stainless steel tube which is hose clamped to a 6-foot-high chain link fence. The vertical radiator is approximately 24 feet tall and built from 1- and 1/8-inch aluminum tubing at the base tapering to 1/2 inch tubing at the top.

The antenna base is insulated with DX engineering Resin Support blocks (these were salvaged from a homebrew 20/15 Yagi).

The plastic box at the antenna base provides a tie point for the radial system and will house a 40-meter matching circuit to be switched in the circuit with a relay. The elevated radial/counter poise is 9 feet high at the antenna and slopes down to about 7 feet. The antenna was tuned by trimming the radials to the lowest SWR (about 1.6 to 1). Mix 31 ferrites are used on the coax feed line to choke common mode currents.

The aluminum tubing surface ends were cleaned with scotch bright pads, the tubing inner wall was cleaned with a stainless steel .357 pistol cleaning brush chucked in a drill. The tubing joints are coated with Jet-Lube.

The vertical radiator is guyed with small 1/8-inch diameter rope, rubber gas line hose is used to keep the clamp from cutting the ropes.

The antenna was tuned by trimming the radials to the lowest SWR (about 1.6 to 1). The first QSO was Jarvis on CW, then Jarvis on FT-8. I have used the antenna on 40 meters with an antenna tuner to reduce the SWR. Jarvis was also worked on 40-meter CW and FT-8.







Hexbeam and Tower

John ACØXY

John shared some pictures of his antenna project underway... a tower with a hexbeam.

Thanks to his helpers:

JR Rodriguez

Rick Hermanson

Sarah KEØCHQ

Rich W3ACO

Gawain NØGJW

Terry WØAWL

John KFØHES

Paige KØPZH

Emmett KEØNBH





Hexbeam assembly underway











Finished Product...



Scenes from the tower cam!



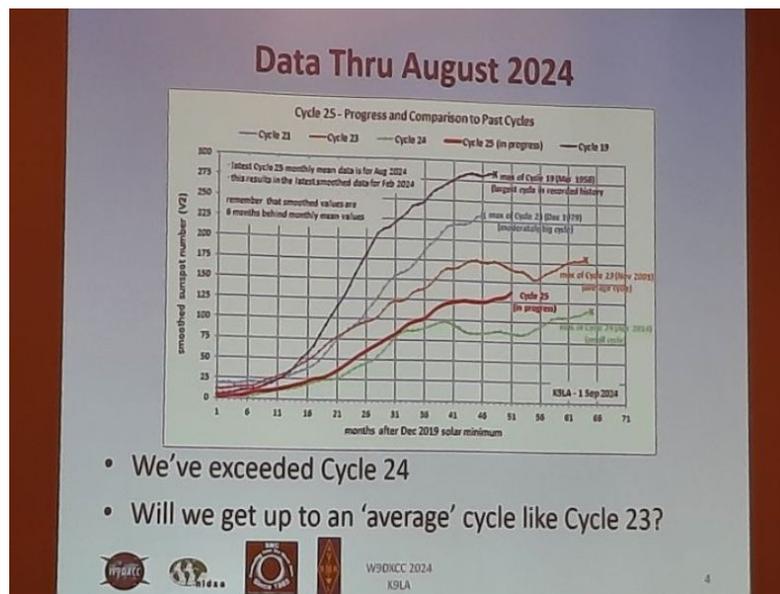
Member News

W9DXCC

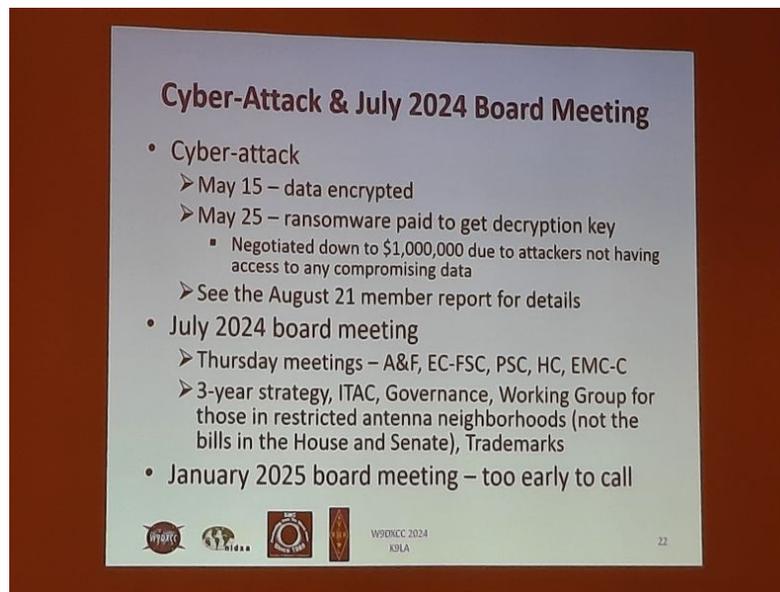
A few notes and pictures from Barry WØIY. If you've not attended one of these events, I recommend checking it out. These guys do a good job. It's held in conjunction with DX University on the following day - Ed.



K9LA giving a briefing on Sol and cyber issues



What's not to love about this?



I'm sure there was plenty of discussion on the cyberattack on the League



K9CT briefing on CY9C, a relatively stress-free DXpedition.

I suppose these (stress free) will be more frequent as the ham population ages :-) -Ed.



CY9C team on St. Paul Island:
Seated: WØPR; Standing L-R: W4DKS, WØGJ, KO8SCA, N2TU,
N2IEN, K9NW, NE9U, K9CT, WW4DX
Photographer: WA4DAN



About 150 in attendance

There was a good presentation on Clipperton and BS from the French DNR folks.

Antenna masts started at 45ft. After a couple days, they mandated 35ft. A few days later 25 ft. Pretty concerned for all of the 3 MILLION sea gulls.

I think they should have told the DNR to swim home.

Barry WØIY

Logbook

CQ Test

QRM

Aurora from the solar storm on 11 AUG 2024

Maybe bits of your signals were caught up in this...



Aurora and Moon over Earth – Photo by NASA astronaut Matthew Dominick / SWNS



Scott Bateman MBE captured the atmospheric display from the cockpit of an Airbus A350-1000 at 39k feet / SWNS



Purple Northern Lights over Ireland by Scott Bateman MBE, from the cockpit of an Airbus A350-1000 (via SWNS)



Red and green Northern Lights by pilot Scott Bateman MBE, from his cockpit at 39k feet / SWNS

Update on ARRL Data Recovery

You may already be seeing this via other outlets... Ed.

Updated 9/25/24

Two major systems that have not been returned to service include DXCC and our accounting system. Most other systems have returned to full service, and we are working to clean up the stragglers.

DXCC® System

Our DXCC software was written some 20 years ago. Although an attempt was made 8 years ago to reprogram it to function in a newer environment, that effort was unsuccessful, so the old system remains running today. The complication with bringing it back to service is that it runs on an older version of Windows that is not supported, and more importantly, we cannot purchase adequate protection to return it to service on an internet-based network.

We have created an air-gapped network to run the system on and have it operating in a test, using a different method for connecting it to Logbook of The World® and online DXCC -- the web service that runs the online DXCC application. This configuration is being tested and we expect it can go into production soon. We will work to process the

backlog as quickly as possible.

New DXCC?

There were statements made by an ARRL Director about work on a new DXCC system. That is not factual. While we have ideas for merging DXCC and LoTW® into a single ARRL Radiosport platform, this concept has not been fully spec'd out or put into development.

ARRL Financials

The system we use for accounting was hit hard by the cyber-attack. Currently, the system is fully operational and the ARRL Foundation books are in place. ARRL's corporate books are current as of 6/30/23, and we are working to load the balance of the data through 12/31/23. Once we are certain that the books tie to the audited 2023 financials, we will move to load the 2024 transactions, which are in digital and paper formats. That will take some time, but we will have all the data current in time for the 2025 Annual Meeting and the annual audit.

Backups

Another statement made was about ARRL's backups of our IT environment. There was an effort last year to move all of our backups into the cloud. That was completed mid-2023. There was a routine discipline of backups that went through mid-May 2024 when the cyber attack occurred. Unfortunately, the entire cloud infrastructure was penetrated, and all of the environments were deleted. Not encrypted. This caused us to revert to other backups that had been made and stored in other places. As a result, we were largely able to continue all of our major services especially publishing our 4 magazines and keeping book projects, like ARRL Handbook 101, on schedule.

Today, ARRL is using a proprietary system to backup systems and data locally and to the cloud. We are also continuing to use air gapped, off-site backups in specific areas and are expanding that for disaster recovery purposes. The new IT environment is currently being rolled out, so the assertion that there is something wrong or staff are incompetent is not factual.

We appreciate your continued patience and understanding.

Bernie McClenny, W3UR

Editor of: The Daily DX (1997-2024)

The Weekly DX (2001-2024)

How's DX? (1998-2024)



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