

# **EASTERN IOWA DXER**

*An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League*



**JANUARY 2016**

Official Newsletter  
of the Eastern  
Iowa DX  
Association

**NØDX**

Established 1975

**Our 41<sup>st</sup> Year**

**January 2016**

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## **Club Officers:**

President: Joe Hungate K8OM  
Vice President: Jerry Rappel WWØE  
Secretary Treasurer: Richard Haendel W3ACO

Repeater Committee: Al Groff KØVM  
Joe Finkstein WØMJN

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

Web Master: Craig Fastenow KØCF

Packet Cluster: WB8ZRL

147.51, 144.91, WB8ZRL.no-ip.org:7300

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

***“SPECIAL DOOR PRIZE AT THE NEXT MEETING” !***  
**Next EIDXA meeting: Friday January 22, 2016. 7:30 PM. On the first floor  
of Lynn Hall. Room 1142. Program: NØYY - PJ2T Rebuild.**

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# The Eastern Iowa DXer

[www.eidxa.org](http://www.eidxa.org)

## January 2016

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I hope you enjoy this newsletter. The views expressed in the EIDXA newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Eastern Iowa DX Association, or the editor. All newsletter contributions, comments and suggestions are welcome at [WWØE@q.com](mailto:WWØE@q.com).

Thanks in advance for your newsletter input.

~ WWØE ~

**|| President's Propagation, Pronouncements & Pontification ||****EIDXA President *Joe Hungate, K8OM***

Wow, it's hard to believe that 2015 is in our rearview mirror and 2016 is stretched out in front of us with wonderful opportunity to work some great and rare DX even though old Mr. Sol is going to be taking a break for a decade or so. With the unbelievable technical advancements incorporated into modern-day ham equipment, marvelous antennas and feed lines, and all of the DX spotting capability now available it seems the demise of sunspots and solar flux isn't the death sentence for working HF DX as it was a few sunspot cycles ago. Before looking too far up the road, I believe EIDXA owes Jason – NRØX a big thank you for his work this past year in leading our club, coordinating the first session of the W1AW/Ø activity, helping Karin – KØEGQ host our end-of-summer picnic at her QTH and all of the tower and antenna work he has helped many of our members with. Thank you Jason!!

Looking forward, there are several DXpeditions to rare and much needed locations that we know are going to happen and an abundance of rumors that even more rare ones may hit the air in 2016. For a club the size of EIDXA, we provide a great deal of financial support to the well deserving DXpeditions and those DXpedition leaders gratefully acknowledge our generosity. One thing I have noticed, however, is that the percentage of EIDXA members that work the DXpeditions we support is fairly low. With that in mind I'm hoping, as this year's club leader, to try to find ways to raise that level of on the air involvement. I suspect that most, if not all, will be ATNO (All Time New One) for a lot of our club members. Some of these DXpeditions may not be on the air again in our lifetime so, I for one, am going to work them on as many band slots as possible. Hopefully, you will too.

As you well know by now, Craig – KØCF has made some wonderful improvements to our club web site and I hope everyone is making good use of and enjoying its new functionality. If there are any changes or additional functionality you would like to see incorporated, please drop Craig or myself an email and we'll see what can be done.

Rich – W3ACO is continuing to be our club Secretary and Treasurer and will continue to help us decide which DXpeditions we will provide financial support. Rich's spread sheet really takes all of the guess work out of the process. Thanks Rich for your effort and guidance.

Thankfully, Jerry – WWØE is continuing as our Vice President, and club newsletter editor. I believe this newsletter is one of the best in the country and he needs all of our support to keep it going. Please make life easier for Jerry by submitting ham radio news, brief write ups on your latest construction project, your review of that new transceiver you just paid and arm & leg for or anything else you would like to share with club members. Along those same lines, if there are any specific club meeting programs you would like to have presented or any new club activities that would be of interest please let me know and I'll make every effort to make it happen. Remember this is OUR club and your input, comments and constructive criticism are always welcome!

In closing, I want to thank all of you for having the confidence to allow me the opportunity to lead this fine organization.

So until next time, "Get out there and work some DX".

73, Joe - K8OM



**|| “Now that's DX” ||**

**EIDXA Vice-president *Jerry Rappel, WWØE***

First of all welcome to our new President - Joe Hungate, K8OM. I've known Joe for a number of sunspot cycles, and his DX'pertise is most welcome to the club.

Also - thanks to David Christ KØLUM for taking the club minutes during the last meeting.

“And now for something completely different” - I will have a door prize for all meetings throughout 2016. The January meeting door prize is an ARRL 2016 Amateur Radio Calendar. 13-month wall calendar, featuring Amateur Radio DXers and DXpedition teams! Perfect for your home, office, car, motorcycle, living room or ham shack.

Courtesy:



So off we go. Happy New Year ! Until next time, "Now that's DX"  
*Jerry, WWØE*

Minutes

EIDXA minutes 31 October 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 by NRØX. Attendance was 36.

Membership Committee: Nothing to report.

Website: NRØX is trying to get new server running but nothing transferred yet. The new design will have a password protected members only section, but the website will generally remain open to the public.

W3ACO was not at the meeting so there was no secretaries or treasurers report.  
KØLUM collected dues and took meeting notes. Dues can be sent to W3ACO at:  
Rich Haendel  
402 McLean St  
Iowa City, IA 52246

DXpedition funding:

VKØEK Heard Island March 2016. It was voted to table discussion of this until the January meeting.

K5P Palmyra Atoll January 2016. Airport has been downgraded by FAA so the planned aircraft is too large to land there. The smaller aircraft that will now be used cannot carry everything in one trip. Rather than reducing the size of the expedition a second trip will be made at an additional cost of \$70,000. Expedition members are contributing an additional \$2500 each but this will not cover the additional expenses. It was voted to donate \$150 from the regular treasury and \$150 from the Tom Hise fund for a total of \$300.

WØGJ mentioned that Expeditions are in the works to two top ten wanted entities next year but the locations are still confidential.

Picnic: Much discussion about date, location, or format should be changed.  
No sense of the group's desires was forthcoming so discussion was set aside for the present.

Repeater: WØMJN reports the Marion water tower which is the transmitter site for the EIDX repeater will be painted next year starting April or May. This may take 3 to 4 months or even longer. This will require removal of all EIDX equipment for the duration. He has been assured that we will be able to return to the site after the work is done. [miss copied the call] may be able to host the repeater while the current site is unavailable. There are two other tenants at the site, CAP and a commercial internet service. WØMJN has requested a joint meeting of the three tenants and the Marion water department to coordinate the work needed. He will try to have a report for the January meeting.

CQWW: The plans for NRØX in the SSB section had to be abandoned. Anyone interested in a group effort in the CW section should contact Jason NRØX.

ARRL: KØDAS reports that there have been many applicants for the CEO position that will be coming available. Also dues will be increasing by \$10. Now \$39, will become \$49.00. If you are contemplating a life membership, do it now as that will be going up \$250.00.

Elections: NRØX is not running for another term. WWØE VP and W3ACO Sec-Treas were willing to continue. Officers elected for the coming year are:

K8OM Joe Hungate President  
WWØE Jerry Rappel Vice president  
W3ACO Rich Haendel Secretary-Treasurer

The meeting adjourned at 8:23

After a short break Glenn WØGJ gave a presentation on the Flex 6700. What a machine !

Respectfully submitted,

David Christ KØLUM

## EIDXA Members Worked VK9WA

The VK9WA DX-pedition to Willis Island is now over and hopefully everyone that wanted to work them was successful. With approximately 60, 000 QSOs in their log this should drive Willis Island down quite a ways on the “Most Wanted List”, put more hams on the DXCC Honor Roll and increase our Challenge Points totals. Who knows when another group will put this DXCC country on the air again, but it will probably be many, many years.

Tom – WB8ZRL, suggested a fun exercise would be to take the EIDXA club member roster and run each call through Clublog.org and see how many of our members were successful in getting into their log. Tom was correct. It was a fun exercise and also rather informative. Thanks Tom for the suggestion!

Below is a synopsis of EIDXA vs VK9WA. I’m writing this in late November so if there have been any applicable VK9WA logbook corrections they are not reflected in my tally.

- Of the 73 current paid members of EIDXA, 25 made at least one QSO with VK9WA (34%)  
One member, Jim-NØAV, was our only member to get a clean sweep (160 meters through 10 meters and data). That takes a lot of BIS (butt-in-seat) time, operating skill and fine antennas. Big congrats to Jim!!!
- 12 meters was the most productive for our club members (20 members are in the log). It was also the most productive for the DX-pedition as they made 18.5% of their QSOs on that band. Interesting how well 12 meters produced QSOs with the declining sunspot cycle.
- Not surprising, 160 meters was the least productive for EIDXA members and the DX-pedition. We had two members (WØGJ and NØAV) make it into the log on 160 meters. Big congrats to both!!

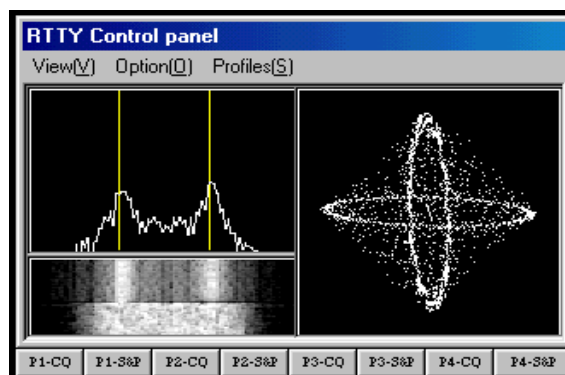
- Breakdown per band for EIDX members:
  - 10 meters: 17
  - 12 meters: 20
  - 15 meters: 16
  - 17 meters: 12
  - 20 meters: 13
  - 30 meters: 12
  - 40 meters: 9
  - 80 meters: 7
  - 160 meters: 2
  - Data (RTTY): 11

One of the goals of the VK9WA team was to balance the QSOs as evenly as possible between the major ham populated continents. It appears they definitely met that goal with the cooperation of the DX community. Per Clublog:

Asia:	30.2%
Europe:	32.1%
North America:	32.8%

A big thank you to the VK9WA team for an excellent DX-pedition, the EIDX members that worked them and for EIDX providing financial support to this and MANY other DX-peditions.

K8OM Joe Hungate, President.



## SO HOW PRINT ?

Just a handful of RTTY logs this time:

- W3ACO: XT2AW, P4ØMA, CN4ØKD, C5YK, V73D, OH8A, S79SP, EX2X.
- Tom NYØV: E51MQT, E6GG, T2GC, S79SP, TX3X, V73D, VK9WA, XT2AW.
- KØAFN worked the following DX: A35KL, CN8KD, FW5JJ, 7N2UQC, UCØA, OX3LX, LX1HD, 4U1WB, 7X3WPL, and CU3EM.

## **An Intro to Amateur Radio for Myanmar Scouts**

Last summer my XYL, Karen and I were planning a trip to Yangon, Myanmar (Burma) to see our daughter Jamie, son-in-law Ethan, and our two grandkids. Ethan is the Director of the Myanmar International School of Yangon (MISY) and our Jamie works for UNESCO. During the planning of getting all of the details worked out, Ethan asked if I would be interested in helping out the boy scouts and girl guides' scout master to introduce them to amateur radio. I thought to myself "Are you kidding me? Does King Kong like big bananas?" Ethan put me in touch with their scoutmaster, Gokul who just happens to be VU3GBG. We were off to the races!



**The most prominent structure in Yangon: The Shwe Dagon Pagoda**

Since the resources available to Gokul in Myanmar are limited, it would be difficult for him to get the scouts introduced to the radio merit badge. We decided that I could pull the resources together here in the States and bring them over. The plan was to take enough material to provide the scouts with an introduction to amateur radio and for Gokul to take the ball from there.

As an aside, I asked Gokul if he knew Pai, VU2PAI (well known in the DX community) as they are both from Bangalore. Not only did he know Pai, but Pai had been in his son's wedding and he was Pai's elmer! Small world?

I put out an email to members of EIDXa, the MWA, and some local hams in Rochester asking for assistance in finding some cheap keys and oscillators. I was not disappointed with our fellow amateur community! I ended up with 4 keys and a couple of oscillators from Mike, NA9Q, Joe, KCØVKN, and Stew, WØSHL! Rod, KØDAS, provided bags of sample parts so we could show the students different part types. Dave, K1AN narrates a very well done video on “An introduction to amateur radio.” (See [radioqrv.com](http://radioqrv.com)) I had my doubts that the internet would be up or fast enough at the school when we wanted to show it. So, I emailed Dave and asked if he knew where I could purchase a DVD. Low and behold Dave sent it to me in the mail at no cost. From that I went ahead and ordered various ARRL materials such as the world call area map, the Walter Cronkite video, as well as K4UEE’s DXpeditions to the Top 10 DXCC Entities. I also purchased some kits so the scouts could learn how to solder parts onto circuit boards as a requirement of the radio merit badge.

Rod put me onto Brian Mileschosky, N5ZGT, who does a lot with Scouting. Brian pointed me to the merit badge materials up on K2BSA’s website. There are other materials out there on K2GW’s website and others!

I ended up packing a backpack full these resources as well as the K2BSA modules for the radio merit badge. I put everything I could on a back-up CD so Gokul could print more student handouts as he holds classes. My thanks to all my fellow hams that showed the spirit of amateur radio in donating so many items!

Gokul set up a meeting in a school classroom that had a computer/projection system. I met him and his XYL, Anita about an hour ahead of the time he would bring the scouts into the room. Anita set the system up as she teaches physics and the electromagnetic spectrum at the school! A great combo of teachers for the kids! I was glad I had Dave’s 19min introduction video as the internet would not stream steady enough to make it happen off the radioqrv website. I had brought a set of QSL examples (the top 20 most needed) and pinned them up on the wall along with the ARRL world call prefix map. Gokul brought typed out phonetic alphabet handouts and a sample QSO. We were ready!





**Gokul, VU3GBG with his XYL, Anita (Unsure of her call)**



**The scouts watching the 19min video “An Introduction to Amateur Radio” - K1AN Narrating**

When the scouts arrived I was amazed at how many he had in tow! There were over 40 students that participate in his boy scouts/ girl guides. A fantastic number to expose to amateur radio at one time! Gokul showed the keys and we presented the introduction to amateur radio video. When it was over, Gokul asked how many were interested in pursuing the radio merit badge. I would say that at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them were interested. I heard some thought that they couldn't learn the technology but maybe that is just some that need some confidence boosting. Gokul and I talked together about how to obtain a license since XZ does not have an amateur service. Zorro, JH1AJT was the last one to obtain a license a year ago or so. It's my understanding that it took a lot of meetings, connections (and probably moolah) to make it happen. I had applied three years ago and was rejected. So this time we thought that maybe the authorities would be open to a scouting club station at MISY. This would be a similar model to China when it opened up and allowed club stations. He has support from the head of scouting and the school has some very influential people in the ownership of the school.



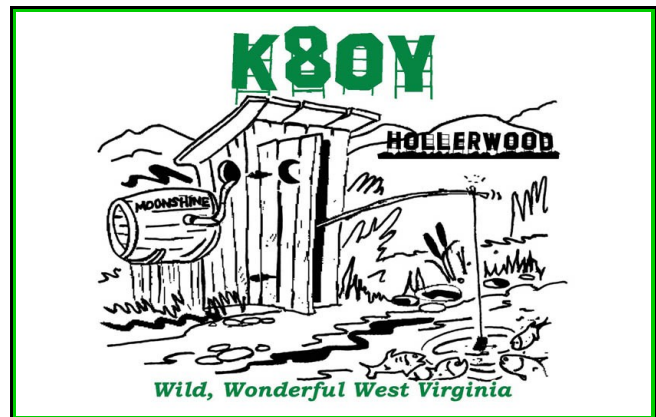
### **Gokul explaining a typical QSO with the ham “lingo”**

If Gokul gets a group of scouts with their radio merit badge and approval for a club station, I am sure that the amateur community at large will come together to help furnish the station! A vision of a dozen or so new hams in XZ operating from a club station could become a reality!

My thanks to my fellow hams who contributed to the assets I took to Myanmar. It was fun to see Gokul's expression of amazement as I kept pulling out more resources for him to use.

73's Tom, NYØV

Here's a QSL from a good friend of mine (K8OY) from my home state of West Virginia. Yes, it's a bit stereotypical but still quite funny. Joe – K8OM



## OLD MEN



For several years, members of the EIDX have been gathering once a month at local restaurants to enjoy each other company and catch up with what has been happening in our lives. On the first Wednesday of the month we gather at a different restaurant at noon. Usually several of us arrive early to get a jump on the conversations. And doughnuts.



The group goes by the name "ROMEO" which translates to *Retired Old Men Eating Out*. However, you don't have to be old or retired to participate.

Attendance is not taken, you are welcome to come whenever it works into your schedule. Tom, WB8ZRL sends out the monthly reminder of the restaurant that we will be attending. Hope to see some new faces next month.

Thanks, de WØAWL Terry

*Thanks to all the EIDXA members who made this newsletter.*

*Jerry WWØE*

The club has another QSL card checker WØGJ, Glenn Johnson. If you look on the ARRL web site under searching for a checker, he shows up with a Calmar, IA address, but a MN phone number. If you look in the master list, he is still listed in MN.

EIDXA members can get their DX QSL cards checked for DXCC credit from the following club members:

- ARRL former Midwest Division 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: [KØCA @arrl.net](mailto:KØCA@arrl.net) or [cliff.ahrens@gmail.com](mailto:cliff.ahrens@gmail.com).

EIDXA member Tom Vavra WB8ZRL. Tom is able to check any cards for DXCC. In addition he can check cards for WAS, WAC, and VUCC. Contact Tom via e-mail for more information and/or to make arrangements to check your cards: [wb8zrl@arrl.net](mailto: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](mailto:na9q@arrl.net).

## **2016 EIDXA Meeting& Events Schedule**

Look for this information on the club web-page [www.eidxa.org](http://www.eidxa.org). Meeting information on the web site is up to date to ensure everyone has timely access to the information between newsletters.