



Eastern Iowa DX Association

An ARRL affiliated club - Established 1975

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January 2019

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"Vote early - Vote often"

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Club Officers:

President:

Vacant

Vice President:

Rick Hadley WØFG

Secretary:

David Christ KØLUM

Treasurer:

Mike Nowack NA9Q

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)

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Web Master:

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Newsletter Editor:

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Facebook EIDXA

Musings from the lunatic fringe

Bob WØGXA

Well, we can put another year in the books. 2018 was interesting for sure, especially with the activities getting to/from Bouvet to kick it off. That soap opera is still playing out. We're all glad everyone got back OK.

Speaking of Bouvet, a lot of us are waiting to see how the next team fares using the "mountaineering" technique.

With Rick NØYY moving out of state, I'm sunseting his contesting column. Rick will be writing instead for the National Contest Journal; a very good gig for sure. He reports he's "on the air" as he completes design of his permanent station.

Sadly, our President has had to resign due to family health reasons. We wish him the best. Now is a perfect time for someone to step up to fill the vacancy!

If you're looking for something to do in a low sunspot period, try your hand at a domestic contest. The NAQP is coming up soon and is very fun.

Club News and Administrative Items

Minutes of the EIDXA meeting October 19, 2018

The October 19, 2018 meeting of the EIDXA was called to order at 7:30 by President Joe K8OM. Thirty members introduced themselves. Also present were guests John K2VV and his XYL KA2CUT

There were no previous minutes due to the previous meeting being held at the Rockwell/Collins Radio Museum thanks to Rockwell and Rod KØDAS.

Treasurer Mike NA9Q reported the treasury is in good condition. There was little activity other than income from some dues and and Sam KØAFN donating a portion of his hat sale receipts. The only expense was for display materials for the district convention.

No DXpeditions meeting our funding qualifications are currently announced. Although rumours suggest that there may be one upcoming involving the Bravehart. One report is that it will be VP6 Pitcairn but no support has been requested as of this time.

Steve Brown WAØDKC, Oskaloosa was voted into full membership.

Tom WB8ZRL reports cluster working fine.

Craig KØCF says there are no problems with the Website and encourages members to make use of the for sale section.

The issue with the GFCI breaker for the repater activating was discussed along with possible ways to mitigate the problem.

The club banner was on display. Sam KØAFN and XYL have created streamers for the DXpeditions we have sponsored. He also has more EIDXA hats for sale. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the club.

Elections were held. Craig KØCF agreed to run for president with the

understanding it would be for a 1 year term only. Rick WØFG Vice president, David KØLUM Secretary, and Mike NA9Q Treasurer were all willing to continue in office. Tom WB8ZRL moved Terry WØAWL seconded that nominations cease and the slate be declared elected. Motion passed.

Dues for 2019 are due as well as for previous unpaid years. All were reminded to send any changes in email addresses to the president and treasurer

Meeting adjourned at 7:45

A program on the DX Advisory Committee and the WØ QSL bureau was presented by John K2VV

NEXT MEETING

January 25, 2019

Program to be announced.

Special election for President

Social Hour 6:30 PM

Meeting & Program 7:30 PM

Meeting and location information [here](#)

Program: TBA



Card Checkers

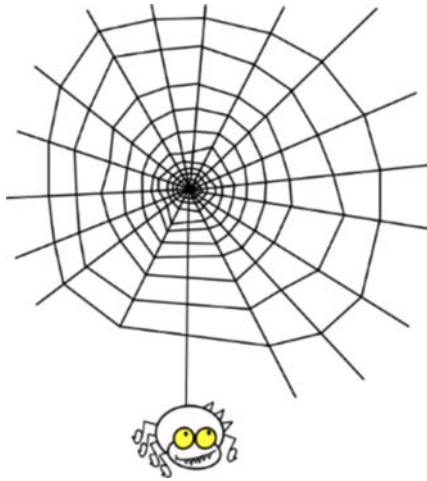
We have three club members who can check your QSL cards

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

Contact info can be found here:

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

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

W9DXCC Convention

The 67th annual W9DXCC Convention and Banquet in suburban Chicago will be held Sept. 13-14, 2019. The event is moving to a new venue: Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois.

Sponsored by the Northern Illinois DX Association, W9DXCC also plans to offer Contest University and DX University on Friday. The daylong session on Saturday will feature speakers, exhibits, QSL card checking and a CW pileup contest, as well as an evening reception and banquet. Paul DeFelice (K9NU) will serve as 2019 chairman.

For more information: <http://w9dxcc.com/>

If you have not been to one of these, they're a great source of information on DXing and contesting. Plus it's a great way to reconnect with regional DXers and testers. - Ed.

TKØC CQWW CW 2017

Here's a nice little video of the TKØC contest operation last year. Video of the station set up. Also, at 6:58 you'll hear our president work them. Thanks Tom (ZRL) for the link. Enjoy



TKØC CQWW 2017

CQ WW SSB 2018 - GS7V Sullom, Shetland (EU-012)

**The story of GS7V 2018 - as written by Keith GM4YXI / GM5X
(Scroll down the page for photos and some comments from Chris
GM3WOJ / GM2V)**

'You must be a masochist!' So said Mike, G7TWC, to Chris during a QSO with M6T. Yes, we both are, if this last CQWWSSB is anything to go by.

Our plans for an exotic, warm DX location for a DXpedition and CQWW SSB contest this autumn (we were V6Z in 2016 and VK9CZ in

2017 WWSSBs) fell through due to Keith's work schedule (again!) and a veritable traffic jam at likely locations over the last two months or so. So one of us, though neither will accept responsibility, suggested we instead made a short dash to Shetland for CQWWSSB. (For any newcomers to the CQ WW contests, the Shetland Islands count as a separate Multiplier) We are, like many, still irritated by the loss of the GZ prefix but instead, decided to use GS7V as the prefix variation allowed for our club SCC call GM7V.

Rather like the idea of going to Shetland, this seemed like a good idea at the time. Not! This is a horrible callsign for SSB contesting – we are sure the 'not in log' and mis-logging stats will be spectacularly bad. Every rotten combination of phonetics was aired over the weekend with 'golf sugar seven victor' the least bad of the lot. So many stations tried to log us as 'Gzero7V'.

Departure was on Wednesday evening from Aberdeen harbour with two cars loaded with stuff. Our attempts to get a hire van with a roof rack failed but actually, the two car solution was OK. The trip north was very rough (note this description for later) especially once we cleared Rattray Head about 50 miles north of Aberdeen and we were warned about the likely conditions on board. WOJ is not a happy sailor so medication was in order (it worked). The sea conditions set off many car alarms, including mine. It was very rough.

We arrived in Lerwick about Thursday 0700 and were off the boat in short order to find a monsoon of slanting rain and single digit temperatures (we had been warned). Food shopping, shopping for waterproof suit (I forgot to pack mine, duh!) and then a 45 min drive to Sullom, across the voe from the gas terminal.

Good radio QTHs are not so easy to find on Shetland. Basically, no one in their right mind builds a property in a high/exposed spot with a good take off all round. The lighthouse at Eshaness was booked and we struggled to find somewhere but eventually secured 'Gaza', a small cottage in a nice spot about 150m from the water on the West side of Sullom Voe. Such were our trials during the weekend, I was tempted to start signing E4/GM7V.....

The cottage seemed fit for purpose though the take off all points west was not great – rising ground – but we figured, rightly as it happened, that this event was likely to be a bit of a Eurofest. To the east it was good and excellent to JA, if only..... Lots of wet, marshy

ground around and no restrictions on use.

We unloaded in rain and started working on antennas. It was wet all day and very windy from North West, then North. Forecast worse for Friday. After scoping out the land, checking rotor cable lengths etc we put up our three 3el yagis for 20, 15 and 10m at 12m, 10m and 8m height respectively. The falling derrick system worked very well and is essential in such challenging conditions – high winds, driving rain, cold hands, very uneven terrain (grassy tussocks and peat bog). By dark all three were up and working. Shack work then sleep – we are very tired after little sleep on the ferry.

Wx on Friday WAS worse. Horizontal sleet blowing 40-50 mph greeted us, and we struggled to get the 12m Spiderbeam pole with the 40m vertical erect. This made us consider our options for the two 18m poles we had for 80m and 160m. We elected to modify 80 to a 15m T-loaded vertical and similarly shorten the 160m pole a bit. These Spiderbeam poles are excellent, very strong, but we did not want to take any risks. As it turned out, both these antennas went up relatively easily – actually they were blown up by the gale so the ‘back’ guys had to be spot on! It actually snowed during the final part of the 160m work on Friday PM. This lot took us most of the daylight available (not much up in Shetland) and a beverage was strung out in the semi-dark. By this time the pair of us were completely exhausted, cold and grateful for our waterproof gear! It was very, very windy.

Chris went for some more supplies to see us through the weekend, whilst Keith did some final checks in the shack. Hmmm, 80m SWR is way high. #####!! Outdoor gear on, torch – tramp down to find 80m vertical lying flat – nothing broken other than pride. Let’s just say the ‘you didn’t tighten the clamps enough vs you tightened the guys too much’ debate was well aired! To be honest, the wind was fierce so keeping anything up in the air was a challenge. Repair not a job for darkness and storms. Further checks in the shack revealed two further issues (1) high SWR on 20m and (2) S9 QRN. Back on with the outdoor gear – half the 20m driven element blown off – not broken. Repair not a job for darkness and storms.

Our mood and motivation were not at their best on Friday evening and we decided to get some sleep and start contesting about 0300z, on

160m and 40m.

The wx was a little better on Saturday morning; still very windy, now from the North so really cold but fewer heavy showers. We fixed 20m and 80m and got QRV with six antennas about 1200z. Whatever we missed in the first 12 hours was missed. Chris managed to find some JA on 20m when he got going, 15m was pretty flat and patchy but stations could be worked. 40m was open but the QRN was really horrible. We tried all sorts of ploys to locate and eliminate but concluded it was coming from the power transformer immediately south of the cottage. We moved the beverage, which was a little help on 160 and 80m.

The rest of the contest is a bit of a blur. We were never going to be competitive and knew it would be a challenging environment but the noise was a real killer. On 20m, the yagi could null the noise a bit but the bearing was not helpful. On 15m it was maybe S7 instead of S9 but harder to null out. There was no DX to the east on 15m bar one YB and whilst a few US stations were workable on Saturday in extremely localised areas, by beaming due south. More US was workable on 20m but QRN and QRM limited the rate. 40m has S9+20 over QRN much of the time. The noise blanker on the 7300 was quite effective but ruined the front end performance so just made the splatter worse! 80m and 160m were least affected and on 80m at least we felt we were getting out quite wellon Sat night/Sunday am at least.

With the ferry leaving at 1730 on Monday afternoon and more bad Wx forecast, we had to make a decision on taking down antennas during the contest. 10m was an easy choice – 4 ESP QSOs by Sunday 1200z. 160m or 15m? Rightly or wrongly we decided to sacrifice 160m as we were struggling to run on Sunday early am and there was little new to find. Of course, which ever one we chose, it would cost us QSOs and points. This took us out of the contest for a few more daylight hours before Sunday evening was on us.

Wx Sunday was actually fine – it was cold but calm and the water in the voe was like a mirror. 15m actually made a better attempt to open to North America on Sunday and a few more were worked. Daytime and early evening on 40m went pretty well – there were times during Sunday morning when JA was actually stronger than EU on short path, but 20m was very difficult and 80m never really got going

Sunday night. Maybe the 160m sacrifice was the right choice? We wondered if there had been some solar event. Even 40m died on us around 2200z

Tear down on Monday was interrupted by some really heavy downpours and a strong SE gale, but we managed everything down and packed up with the help of Hans, GM4SSA/GM5Y – thanks, Hans.

We made it back to the ferry terminal and got checked in amid dire warnings about the rough weather ahead. The freight boat had been cancelled and all were packed onto the passenger ferry. It was very, very rough! More pills. They worked. We arrived back in Aberdeen Tuesday morning, pretty tired but still, it was kinda fun in a masochistic sort of way.

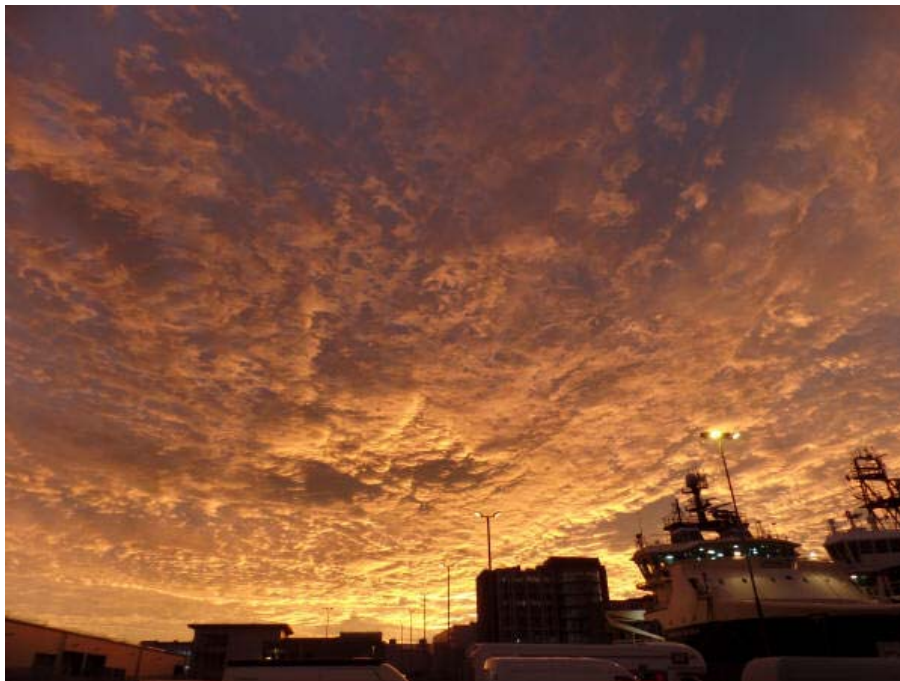
As Pippa, Chris' wife said 'Trust you two to enjoy the adversity'



Chris GM3WOJ / GM2V waiting at Aberdeen harbour - Wednesday evening



Keith GM4YXI / GM5X waiting at Aberdeen harbour



Spectacular sunset over the harbour



GM3WOJ equipment set up at GS7V. K3 + Alpha amp. etc... The radio and monitor positions were swapped before the contest started



Keith GM4YXI at his GS7V station - IC-7300 + Ameritron amp. etc...



The GS7V QTH - a rental cottage called 'Gaza', Sullom



Looking NW towards the QTH. 180m long Beverage supported on canes



Two old wooden boats at the pier to the SE of the cottage. We saw the wakes made by otters swimming here when the water was calm on Sunday morning.



The disused 180m long pier. Built by a local businessman to ship stone from his quarry, transported to the pier by a large overhead conveyor belt system, which was not given planning permission.



The crumbling end of the pier



Antennas (difficult to see) - left to right - 160m vertical, 3ele 20m yagi, 80m vertical, 15m 3ele yagi, 10m 3ele yagi. (40m vertical just out of view to the right of the cottage)



The 16m high top-loaded 80m vertical (with 2 elevated radials)



Left to right - 17m high 160m top-loaded vertical, 20m yagi, 15m yagi, local QRN generator :-)



10m yagi, 40m vertical

Trials and tribulations

Republic of Chad - TT8KO

Single-op DXpedition

08 - 26 Oct 2018



[Click here for an interesting story of the hardship ensured trying to activate Chad](#)

It certainly gives one a new appreciation for what some of these guys go through. *Thanks Tom WB8ZRL for the link - Ed.*



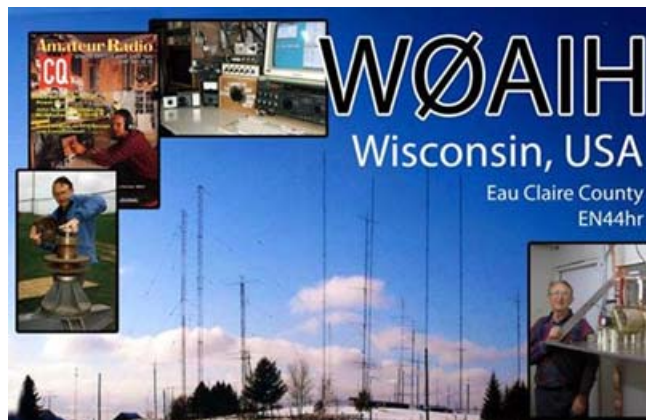
Climate secrets of the world's most remote island

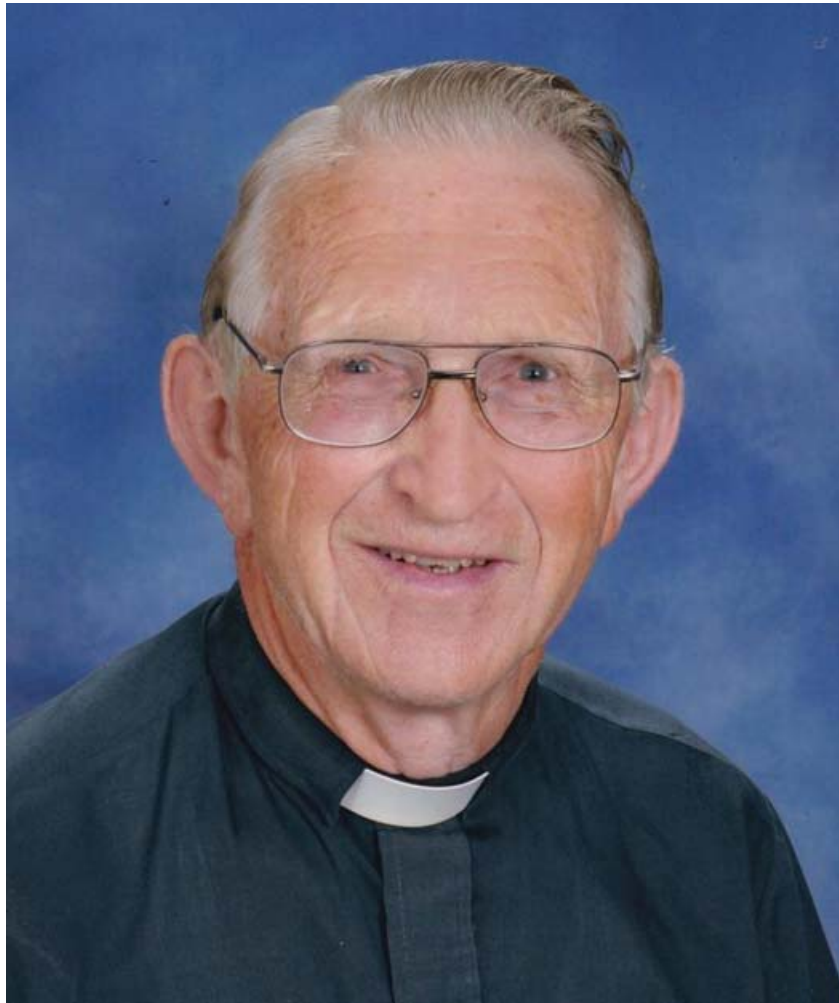
[Click here to check out this interesting article on bbc.com](#)

Feature Articles

Paul Bittner WØAIH

25 Dec 1933 – 31 Oct 2018





Glenn WØGJ assembled a nice set of articles about Paul. It can be found [here](#). FYI: It is a 63Mb file!

Jurassic Journal

- A look back in time -

Tom Vavra WB8ZRL

Twenty years ago, the winter of 1999
Extracts from my log for the first 3 months of 1999.

T2ØFW Five DL travelers activated T2ØFW after a stop at 3D2. They logged 21K QSOs, many on the low bands.

C91CO Jon, 3DAØCA, is active mostly in CW as C91CO/p on 10-40m for the first week of 1999.

T33VU Karl, DL1VU, was active as T33VU during the month

of January. Activity was on all bands, mainly CW.

ZL9CI The ZL9CI DXpedition to Campbell Island had 11 operators from 7 different countries. They overcame bureaucratic roadblocks to log 96,004 QSOs, breaking the (at that time) record of 80,673 QSOs set by the VK0IR Heard Island expedition in 1997.

FO/m Lots of activity from Marquesas: Pekka, OH1RY, and Jaakko, OH1MA, were QRV as FOØKOL and FOØSIL, respectively. Later Gerhard, DL5AWI signed FOØXUU

FO/a While in the neighborhood, DL5AWI signed FOØXUU/a as well.

R1FJL Franz Joseph Land was quite active. Today it is among the semi-rare.

E3ØLA Joe, I2YDX and Bob, IK2WXZ were active respectively as E3ØLA and E3ØMA from Eritrea. They were mainly handing out various IOTA QSOs, but also filled the DXer's logs.

Z2/VK3DXI This was the first trip Mirek, VK3DXI, made to Zimbabwe. Originally SP5IXI, he migrated to Australia and eventually to Western Australia, where he was VK6DXI. He became a Silent Key in 2015.

XT2DM Michel, F5RLE, and Joel, F5AOW were active as XT2DM (on CW) and XT2OW (on SSB) from Burkina Faso. They especially worked the WARC bands, but were on the low bands too.

E44DX Martti (OH2BH), Pekka (OH1RY), Pekka (OH2TA) and Bernie (W3UR) activated E44DX from Gaza, Palestine. This was the first operation from new entity Palestine, netting 33K QSOs.

E44/HA1AG HA1AG (Zoli), HA1TJ (Gyula), HA3OV (Anti) and HA3NU (Laci) followed the E44DX operation and added another 40K QSOs to the logs of the deserving.

C21SX Roger, C21SX (G3SXW) and Bob, C21ZM (G3ZEM) made over 20,000 CW contacts from Nauru. Their attempts to work Europe on 160/80 resulted in only 8 80M QSOs.

CEØAA The Radio Club of Chile was active as CEØAA from Easter Island.

T3ØR/T33RD OK1RD (Jarda), OK1RI (Jiri) and OK1TN (Slavek) operated T3ØR from Tarawa, Western Kiribati. Plans to also activate either T31 or T33 were hampered by transportation problems. They eventually got to Banaba and signed T33RD, including the CQ WPX SSB contest.

S79AG Eric, SMØAGD, was on one of his many dxpeditions.

VK9NQ Toshi, JM1KNQ and Masa, JQ3DUE were active respectively as VK9NQ and VK9NM from Norfolk Island.

ZD8Z Jim, N6TJ was active once again from Ascension Island as ZD8Z in the CQ WPX SSB contest.

Online logs were starting to appear in the late 90s, and I was astonished to discover how many of my logged QSOs were not in these online logs.

Ten years ago, the winter of 2009

WWV numbers for the first three months of 2009 ranged between 68 and 72 for SFI and between 0 and 18 for the A-index.

Good numbers for the low bands, not so good for the other bands.

We were still experiencing tremendous conditions on 160m, and much of my log is Top Band QSOs. Mostly common entities, but many were new ones at the time. Conditions were so good it was common to find RZØAF, zone 18, calling CQ on a quiet band shortly before our sunrise.

T27A Bob, W7Yaq was active from Tuvalu as T27A, including a M/S entry in the ARRL DX CW Contest with Bill, N7OU. Operation was 160-10 meters, mostly CW.

XW1B Worked but no details.

K5D The big operation was a DXpedition to KP5, Desecheo. EIDX A had three members on this dxpedition: Glenn, WØGJ; Jim, WØNB; and Glen, KØJGH. Also on the trip was KØJGH's son Grant, K1KD, a former EIDX A member. They logged

115,787 QSOs. Propagation was poor and if any local worked them on 12 or 10 I

would be surprised. One local was very put out when a former EIDXA member showed up in their 6 meter log. Especially so when he had flown to Florida to work them.

Johnny Cash, the Man in Black, Was a Morse code Intercept Operator during the Cold War

Johnny R. Cash was born on February 26, 1932 in Kingsland, Arkansas to Ray Cash and Carrie Cloverree. He was the fourth of seven children.



In 1950, at the age of 18, Johnny Cash did what many young men of the time did, he enlisted in the United States military, specifically the Air Force, and was shipped off from his home in Arkansas to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. While there, he met what would be his future first wife Vivian Liberto at a roller rink, but the couple wouldn't be married for another four years. After dating Vivian for only three weeks, Johnny received his deployment papers and was shipped off to a base in Landsberg, West Germany for a three-year tour. The base served as one of the forward outposts in the outbreak of the Cold War the world found itself in after World War II in the face of Soviet aggression.

Johnny's enlistment period, he rose to the rank of Staff Sargent and became a crack Morse Code Operator in a Security Service unit. Because Cash showed such skill at deciphering Morse Code, he was put in a prominent seat at his Landsberg post to listen in on Soviet communications.

The Landsberg, Germany experience was an important marker in the life of the Man in Black. During his three years at the base, he exchanged hundreds of love letters with Vivian Liberto, and formed his first ever band, The Landsberg Barbarians. Though many people attribute Johnny Cash's inspiration for writing one of his biggest hits "Folsom Prison Blues" to seeing the infamous prison first hand, he actually wrote the song while stationed in Landsberg, and seeing the film Inside The Walls of Folsom Prison. Johnny felt like he could relate to life in the clink because of his top secret military position. The sensitivity of his job necessitated that he couldn't talk to anyone about what he did specifically, not even his love Vivian back in Texas, and Johnny's off-base privileges were severely limited.

But all this secrecy also led to one of Johnny Cash's biggest accomplishments. While manning his post on March 5th, 1953, Staff Sgt. Cash transcribed what would be a very important communique from the Russians. At the time, Soviet Premier Leader Joseph Stalin was in very poor condition. As the man at the head of the Soviet Empire, Stalin's health status was of critical importance to the United States intelligence community and all Western Powers. While monitoring the Soviet Morse Code chatter on March 5th, Johnny Cash became the very first American to hear of the death of the Soviet supreme leader. Cash then relayed the important info to his superiors, and the rest is history.



Oh course, Johnny Cash couldn't tell anyone of his accomplishment until years later because of the top secret nature of his job, and eventually the fact would just become a footnote of history to Johnny's more famous musical efforts. Though Johnny Cash's mastery of Morse Code and the Stalin death intercept may not seem to have much to do with his music on the surface, Cash's ability to pick out important rhythms and tones in sometimes garbled, busy, and concealed communications lent later in life in his ability to find that unique sound that would speak to America, and eventually the world, in a language everyone could understand.

Source: savingcountrymusic.com

Happy birthday Mr. Cash!

Member News

Jason Goes South

Jason, NRØX, is in the Caribbean doing some tower work for one of the contest stations. Below are some of his comments and two photos:

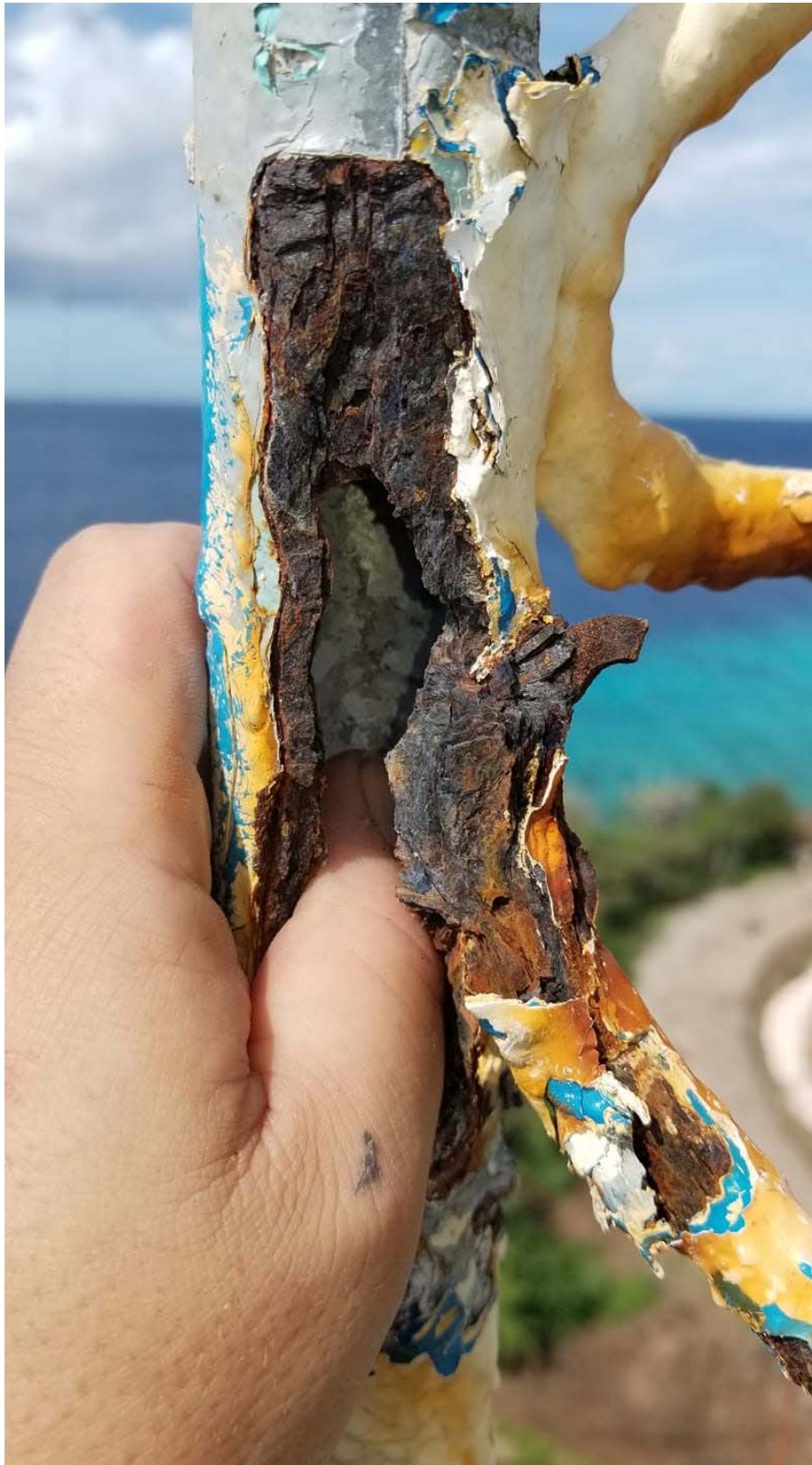
Got a good start today, but it's very slow going. I have to very carefully check the tower as I climb. This thing is in BAD shape. I've attached a couple of pictures for you. One of the big-grip deadend that failed from rust, and another is a rohn 55 diagonal support. There was more than one spot on the tower where I can sink a utility blade almost 1/16 inch into the rust! I'm taking it slow and careful though, checking each step before I put my weight on it, and carefully getting things done.

Today I did something I've never done before. I put my finger through the side of a tower leg! There is so much rust that you can literally stick your finger inside and touch the inside of the leg. The spot was hidden under a tower-to-boom plate that was holding a beam on the side. Needless to say, I was on the ground shortly after removing that plate and seeing the damage. 2 of the legs each have 3 brackets on them, and now that I know

what to look for, I can tell they all show signs that there is similar damage underneath. I think the rest of the mounting plates will stay on the tower, as they are actually holding the damned thing together! Tomorrow I will install a splice over these two holes, to keep the tower solid long enough to finish the teardown.







Logbook

Logs

Rich W3ACO: Concentrating on 30 meters to get my DXCC score up. Now about 140 on this band.

30M CW: C81G, GH0STW, J68GF, PZ5T, JH7JVJ. Interesting at what time of day the band opens, seems to change daily.

Recent RTTY QSOs: ZD9CW, 9X0T, UW1M, ER5LL, Z66F, TY7C, TN5R, XR0YD. RTTY confirmed totals are now about 250.

I worked a few VK's on 20 M and 17 M long path, pointing at 90 degrees over Africa. Signals were strong both ways. This was about 1800Z or earlier, nice surprise! Of course, there was a pileup, mostly East coast stations.

CQ Test

Contesting by Rick

Rick Heinrich NØYY

With Rick's move to VA, he will no longer be writing a contesting column. If you'd like to see some contesting content in a regular column, let me know and we can discuss.

Many thanks to Rick!

Rich at PJ2T

A video from the CQWW SSB team 2018



Rich was a member of PJ2T for the CQ WW SSB contest in October. Team of 10 was mostly Canadians, Scored about 12.5 million points in M/M class. "As usual I did the cooking." - Rich

Apparently, Rich does well cooking moose - Ed.

Upcoming Contests:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| ARRL RTTY | Starts: 18Z Jan 5 |
| North American QSO party CW | Starts: 18Z Jan 12 |
| North American QSO party SSB | Starts: 18Z Jan 19 |
| ARRL January VHF | Starts: 19Z Jan 19 |
| CQ 160 CW | Starts: 22Z Jan 25 |
| CQWW RTTY WPX | Starts: 00Z Feb 9 |
| ARRL DX CW | Starts: 00Z Feb 16 |
| North American QSO party RTTY | Starts: 18Z Feb 23 |

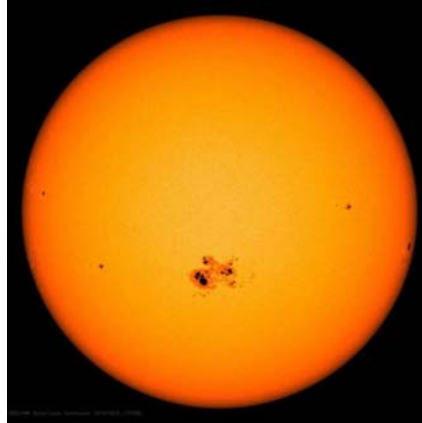
Scores and Soapbox

QRM

No surprise here...

Spotless Days

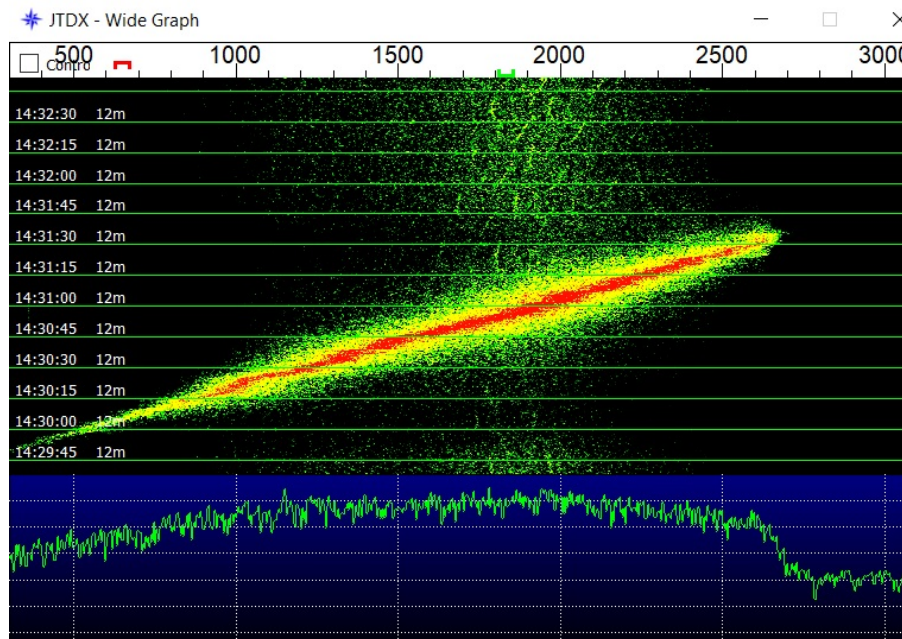
2018 total: 175 days (58%)
 2017 total: 104 days (28%)
 2016 total: 32 days (9%)
 2015 total: 0 days (0%)
 2014 total: 1 day (<1%)
 2013 total: 0 days (0%)
 2012 total: 0 days (0%)
 2011 total: 2 days (<1%)
 2010 total: 51 days (14%)
 2009 total: 260 days (71%)
 2008 total: 268 days (73%)
 2007 total: 152 days (42%)
 2006 total: 70 days (19%)



Courtesy

www.spaceweather.com

A UFO at NYØV?



Here's a screenshot for you...I was monitoring 12m on FT8 this morning when this signal went up through the band. I have no idea what it was as there were no other signals on the band. Possibly some meteor scatter? NYØV

Finally, a little humor from Jerry...





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