

# Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 9, Issue 8

August 2021

## President's Corner

**Live MEETING AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup>  
at NOON, Round the Clock  
restaurant in Chesterton.**

**Congratulations to Carl, K9LA  
for being appointed the Central  
Division Director of the ARRL.**

**I hope to see a lot of you at the  
first meeting in over a year.  
Bring your ham radio stories  
or any others you may have to  
share with everyone.**

**73**

**John W3ML**

**Good DXing!**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President Speaks
- 2- Member News/DX News

**"Working the World from  
the Black Hole"**

**NWI DX Club Website**

<http://nwidxclub.weebly.com/>



**Don't forget Steve Mollman is our QSL  
Card Checker.**

**DXCC Card Checking is available by  
appointment and may be available at  
meetings. E-Mail [kd9hl@arrl.net](mailto:kd9hl@arrl.net) for an  
appointment or to make other  
arrangements.**

## **Reminder, the NWIDX Club has a club call W9NWI.**

The call is available to members for use during contests, special events, Field Day, etc. To schedule dates for its use, contact the trustee, Steve Mollman – KD9HL. [kd9hl@arri.net](mailto:kd9hl@arri.net)

QSL cards are available.

## **Notice:**

**Articles in the Northwest Indiana DX Club Newsletter (except for those separately copyrighted) may be reprinted, provided proper credit is given.**

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# ***Webmaster***

## **Webmaster Appointed**

John Reardon-KD9RON has been appointed Webmaster of the club's <http://nwidclub.weebly.com> website.

John brings expertise in dealing with the “Weebly” format that the website uses and has already brought the site up to date by adding the missing newsletters and other fine tuning.

He is an Extra Class Licensee, a mechanical engineer by profession, a licensed pilot (inactive), and an avid sail boater often cruising the far reaches of the Great Lakes. He is a resident of the Chesterton, IN area.

He can be reached at [kd9ron@ARRI.net](mailto:kd9ron@ARRI.net).

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# **ARRL WEEKLY DX NEWS 7/30/21**

**By**

**Jerry Hess, W9KTP**

**MONTENEGRO, 4O.** Alex, YU0W is QRV as 4O/YU0W/p from several SOTA peaks until August 8. Activity is on 40, 30 and 20 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

**CANARY ISLANDS, EA8.** Look for Philippe, EA4NF to be QRV as EA8/EA4NF from Fuerteventura Island, IOTA AF-004, from August 1 to 14. Activity will be on the FM and Analog satellites from grids IL27, IL28, and IL38. QSL via LoTW.

**FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO.** Yann, F1SMB will be QRV as FO/F1SMB from August 2 to 23 from the locations Moorea, IOTA OC-046, Tahaa, IOTA OC-067, Bora Bora, IOTA OC-067, Tikehau, IOTA OC-066, Rangiroa, IOTA OC-066, and Fakarava, IOTA OC-066. Activity will be in his spare time on 40 and 20 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via operator's instructions.

**SAINT MARTIN, FS.** Hal, W8HC is QRV as FS/W8HC until August 6. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HI.** Max, HB9TUZ plans to be QRV as HI9/HB9TUZ from Las Terranas, IOTA NA-096, during the month of August. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

**THAILAND, HS.** Members of the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand are active as HS18IARU until September 30 to mark the 18th IARU Region 3 Conference 2021. QSL via E21EIC.

**ITALY, I.** Alberto, IU1KZX is QRV as IA5/IU1KZX/m from Elba Island, IOTA EU-028, until August 6. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB. QSL via bureau.

**JAPAN, JA.** Special event station 8J2SUSON is QRV until the end of 2021 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the city of Susono. QSL via bureau.

**PERU, OA.** Alex, DD5ZZ is QRV as OA7/DD5ZZ from Cusco until September 17. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, FT8, FT4, and some CW. QSL via DD5ZZ.

**ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0.** Operators Sergey, M0MSV, Daniil, R6LGT, Andrey, R6MG, Vladimir, RN3BL, Sergey, RX3F and Eugene, RZ3EC are QRV as RI0FF from Turup Island, IOTA AS-025, until August 3. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters. Afterwards they will travel to Sakhalin Island, IOTA AS-018, from August 4 to 6. QSL via RZ3EC.

**MEXICO, XE.** Special event station 4A2MAX is QRV during the month of August to honor the memory of Maximilian Kolbe. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and some digital modes. QSL direct to N5MEX.

**UNITED KINGDOM SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4.** Phil, M7CBK is QRV as ZC4CBK from Akrotiri and plans to be QRV on a regular basis until October. Activity is on 20 meters using mainly FT8 and FT4. QSL via EB7DX.

### PROPAGATION ALERT

For those of you that have been sitting back waiting for things to improve, sunspots are increasing lately and so is solar flux. This week's ARRL Propagation report by K7RA notes that the month of August should be much better than the last few months.

“Predicted solar flux is 76 on July 30 and 31, then 74 on August 1, 72 on August 2 to 4, 74 on August 5 and 6, 75 on August 7 to 12, then 78, 80, 82 and 85 on August 13 to 16, 90 on August 17 and 18, 85 on August 19 and 20, 80 on August 21, 82 on August 22 to 28, 78 on August 29, and 75 on August 30 to September 8.”

Best of DX,  
Jerry

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## MY PL-259 IMPROVED CONNECTION

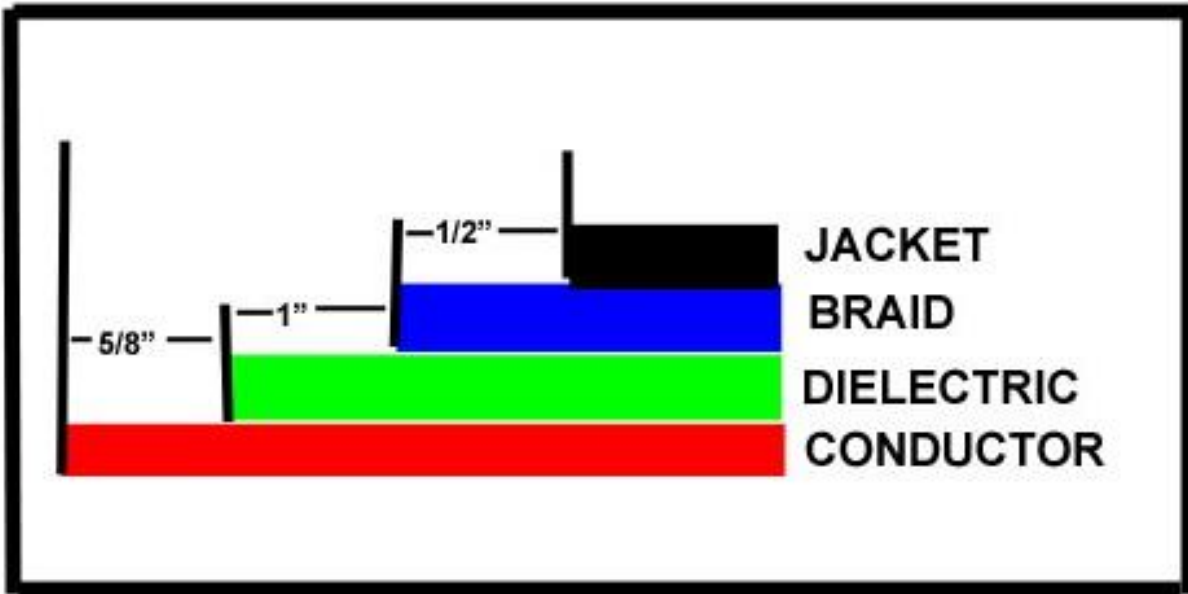
By  
Jerry Hess, W9KTP

Several years ago, I got fed up with problems with faulty PL-259 connector connections. The standard method for installing them is far from trouble free. The main problem is the solder connection through the holes in the connector body to the coax shield. It's a blind connection, you don't know whether you've gotten a good connection or not. In the process, you probably have cooked the dielectric around the center conductor as well. In the picture at the right is an example of a piece of coax removed from a PL-259 that was a little “flakey”. As noted by the arrow, there was only one small area actually bonded to the PL-259. It may have loosened when moving the cable around.



My solution is to use a one-inch piece of 3/8” copper tubing soldered to the barrel of the connector. Burnish the tubing and insert it into the connector. About 1/2” will stick out when seated in the connector. I use a propane torch and run solder around the edge of the joint between the tubing and the connector. It acts like a plumbing “sweat” fitting. After the combination cools down, burnish the copper again and tin it. Prepare a coax end as shown in the drawing.

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Tin the center conductor and flare the shield slightly and slip the connector onto the cable. Solder the center conductor as usual. Then squeeze the shield around the copper tubing and solder it in place. The completed cable will look like the following.

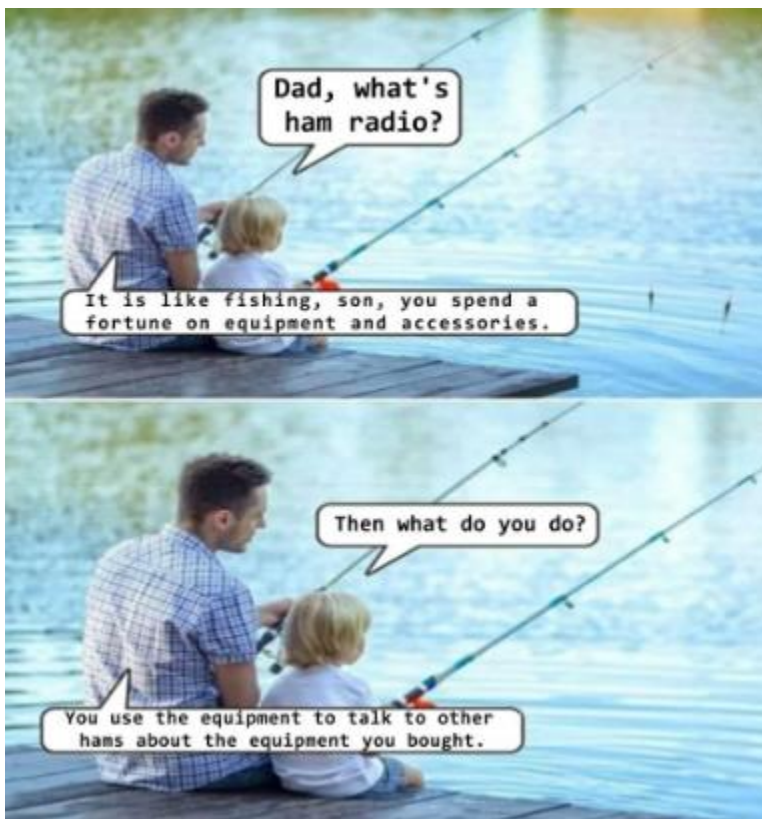


Now if the braid is loose from the connector, it will be visible from outside the connector. I'm not alone with my distaste for the standard method for installing PL-259's. Tim Duffy, K3LR, solders the braid to the outside of the barrel of the connector. I found this made it awkward to unthread the connectors from equipment with the big lump of solder on the barrel. It works for him and he insists on doing all his own connectors.

Next time, give this a try.

73's,  
Jerry

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**PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

**Miskatonic Medical University**

We're not cheap, we're *thrifty!*

**FAKE NEWS  
HUMOR**

A research team led by Quincy Raymond Michales, and Quincy Thomas Holmes, of Miskatonic Medical University have discovered two new genes potentially involved in Amateur Radio Cheapness disease, or ACD. They identified them by exploring which genes were turned on and off in the hippocampus of people who suffered from the disease. The team's findings are published in the February issue of QST magazine.

Amateur Cheapness disease, (ACD), is a neurodegenerative disease that involves extreme pain and the formation of protein plaques around neurons in the brain when any amount of money is spent, no matter how small. A table below outlines the effects of spending on a typical Radio Amateur:

**Amount Spent vs Pain Level**

\$00.00 - \$03.00	Little to no pain.
\$03.01 - \$05.00	Some pain noted, with slight thoughts of building a replacement for less.
\$05.01 - \$10.00	Marked increase in pain, actual designs thought about for replacement items.
\$10.01 - \$20.00	Sustained pain, over longer time frames, designs being drawn up.
\$20.01 - and above	Extreme pain, and actual urges to construct replacement devices.

A secondary effect was also noted, once the Amateur decides to build a replacement item, (see \$20.00 and above in Table 1), to save money, the process begins to feed upon itself, as the Amateur shops for parts for the replacement item, he/she, experiences the effects of Amateur Cheapness disease overlaid on top of the original Amateur Cheapness Disease infection. In some cases this becomes completely debilitating to the Amateur involved. This process is extremely painful. In some cases, observers have noted this fact by observing statements such as:

1. "Oh my God, it's like the walking dead in this hamfest, no one is spending any money".
2. "You have got to be kidding me, I paid good money for that thing, and I'm not giving it away".

Table 2

The hippocampus, part of the brain involved in memory, is one of the first regions to sustain massive damage, followed by the reasoning center of the brain.

Many genes were already known to contribute to the disease, such as gene JT-65, and gene FT-8, but two were unknown, FST4, and FST4W. The FST4, and FST4W gene action is as of yet unknown, the researchers simply noted these genes expressed at the time of hippocampus destruction.

In a related study, it was noted that the size of the hippocampus was actually reduced by up to 12% in Amateur Operators experiencing this disease. Further this second study indicates that ACD, (Amateur Cheapness disease), is far more prevalent in the Amateur Radio population than initially thought, and that signs of airborne transmission are becoming apparent. Overall, the new findings improve our understanding of the genetic and cellular mechanisms that cause ACD. Also noted by the researchers were some telltale signs of this disease. Effected Amateur may make statements such as:

1. I bet I can build that for half the price.
2. That's outrageous, when I was a Novice it only cost X dollars.
3. There's only like twenty bucks in parts here, I could build it for half that.
4. I only buy used if it is 25% of new price.

Table 3

The authors add, there are a number of other symptoms involved in this sadly debilitating disease, however they are far too many to cover in a single paper. Thus, more funding is needed for the effort.

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**Don't Forget Meetings are Live Again Starting  
August 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Hopefully, it will be like it was before the  
lockdown.**

**See below.**

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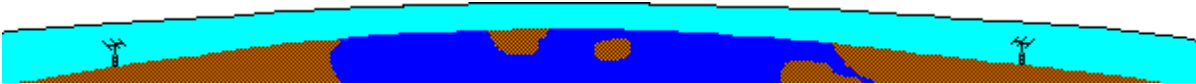




Picture is not the Round the Clock restaurant

**If you have ham items for sale, email me a list along with prices and contact information. I will put it in the next newsletter.**

**I want to thank those that have been sending in articles for the newsletter. All items are appreciated.**



**Until Next Time,**

**73**

*John*  
**W3ML**

<http://nwidclub.weebly.com/>



**DX**

