

# Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 9, Issue 10

October 2021

## President's Corner

It is hard to believe that we have been a Club for Nine years and Ten months.

We have had some very interesting meetings and hopefully we can more.

Watch for a notice of the next meeting in early November.

The bands are open and there is a lot of DX on the air.

73

John W3ML

Good DXing!

## "Working the World from the Black Hole"

NWI DX Club Website

<http://nwidclub.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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## **FOR SALE ITEMS**

MFJ's most expensive 3KW tuner, never used, bought from DX Engineering, cost was \$700 plus. Will entertain best offer. Nick, W9UM. Pick up only.

Contact Nick at his email address: <mailto:ncominos2@gmail.com>

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The following equipment is up for sale. Will accept PayPal, cash, MO, or personal check. Shipping is available for additional cost. For more information on any of the listed items please email Mike at [aj9c@indy.rr.com](mailto:aj9c@indy.rr.com). Prices are listed below the pictures.

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KX3 160-6m QRP Rig

Has the following items:  
 power amp ATU installed; roofing filter; clock battery charger;  
 hand held mic; accessory cable pack, amp connecting cables,  
 KXUSB, Pelican 1550 case.



KXPA100 Amplifier

100 w with ATU



KX3 QRP Rig Control Head



Backside of KX3 radio

**Asking Price: \$2300.00 for all**



Remote Antenna Tuner

I purchased this to make a remote antenna tuner. There is a vacuum variable capacitor with a motor and a ribbon inductor with the motor. The unit is complete.

**Asking Price: \$125.00**



Remote Antenna Tuner Picture 2



Alliance HD-73 Rotor with Control Box

**Asking Price: \$200.00**



SCI-6 Sound Card Interface Kit

Interface kit to use with your radio to get on FT8, PSK31, Rtty, WSJT.

**Asking Price: \$15.00**

**If interested in any of the above items please email Mike at [aj9c@indy.rr.com](mailto:aj9c@indy.rr.com)**

**Right now, Mike is planning to go to w9dxcc. So, if anyone is interested, he might be able to deliver in person along the way.**

## **KD9HL**

### **Signalink USB Sound Card Interface-\$75.00**



**NEW** in open box. Includes cables for Elecraft K3-K3S. (Compatible with other rigs with proper cables) Supports all computer program digital modes and digital voice modes, **WITHOUT** using your computer sound card. Retails for \$125 up.

### **Collins 30L-1 HF Amplifier (Winged Emblem)- \$695.00**



The Collins 30L-1 is a grounded grid linear amplifier using four 811 A or 572B triode tubes. The amplifier is rated to deliver 1000 watts PEP power input on SSB and 1000 watts average on CW for all bands. It can be driven by most 70–100-watt exciters. Finished in the same light gray as Collins' classic S/Line equipment and the KWM-2A. Can operate off of 120- or 220-volt service.

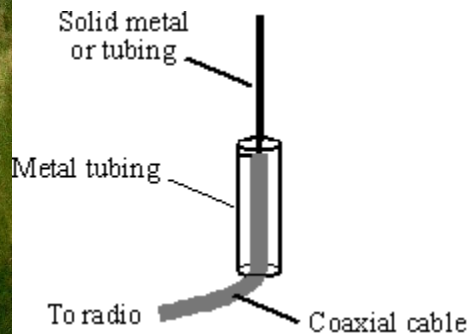
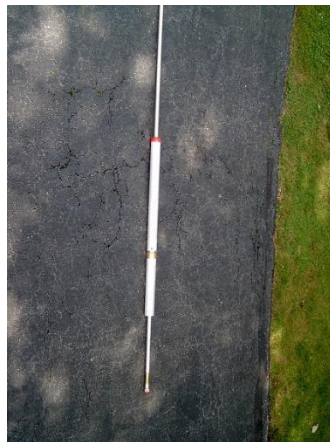
The 30L-1 provides SSB and CW operation and covers the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands; however, provisions were made for general coverage operation. Automatic load control provides maximum talking power without over-driving and distortion, resulting in a cleaner signal.

The tubes can be replaced without removing the unit from the cabinet. With the meter switch in tune position, the 30L-1 tunes by simply adjusting the loading and tuning controls to zero the meter. This unit is in **VERY GOOD** condition. Four matched 572B tubes are installed. A matched set of 811A tubes are included.

### **Andrew 2-Meter VHF Antenna- \$110.00**

Andrew Corp. Type 161-3 coaxial type wide band VHF vertical antenna. 144-150.8 MHz Mil-Spec, very heavy-duty construction for intended for commercial service. Never used. Andrew Corp. sold these for approximately \$800.00 each. Unit is about 114 inches long.





**Contact Steve Mollman-KD9HL**  
[KD9HL@arrl.net](mailto:KD9HL@arrl.net)

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## G5RV Antenna Really Works.

This is from Tom Ruggles, W8FIB, when he lived up here in the north.

Parts list at the end of the article.

Tom said: We have built quite a few G5RV antennas. They are all home built. We use three of them for Field Day every year. I had one up in my backyard about 50 feet up in the oak trees. Of course, we use a tennis ball launcher to get the ropes up there.

These antennas are quite simple and for those who say they are nothing but big attenuators I have worked 311 countries with mine and we have won Indiana field day highest score using three of these each June about five years out of the past 10

Probably the most unique component would be the ladder line. I bought a 500-foot roll of this feedline and we are still using that roll to make 31-foot sections for these 102-foot long G5RV antennas.

I use a specialized wire from Orion wire available from Davis RF. This wire is a steel core multistrand copper with a tinned coating that is similar to copperweld. It is a little difficult to work with but it lasts pretty well.

The center insulator is no longer available from Ten Tec. I was ordering those Lexan polycarbonate center insulators through amateur radio supply in Columbus Ohio but they are no longer available. Just about anything that is strong enough will do the job. The nice thing about the particular center insulator we have been using is that it supports the ladder line. (ED: See Parts List)

The transition connection at the end of the ladder line to the coax is simply another dipole center insulator that is equipped with an SO 239 connector. (ED: See Parts List)

I have been using RG-8X coax running 500 W for all of my contacts so far.

There is no balun between the twin lead and the coax. Just hard-wired together using the center insulator.

The main issue is altitude. These antennas work best at 50 feet. They will work to some extent lower but not as well as when they clear the ground by 50 feet. Probably the most elusive component is a set of supports 102 feet apart and 50 feet tall.

The rope is 3/32 black Dacron Rope that is UV resistant. We get it from DX Engineering and previously from Davis RF. The breaking strength of this rope is 260 pounds which is plenty strong enough to hold a dipole. The rope is so thin that at 50 feet it becomes almost invisible. I had to lower my rope about every year to two years in order to cut out and tie back together for worn spots that fray on the tree branches. It is easier to do this pro-active preventive maintenance than it is to install a whole new rope with a tennis ball launcher if it finally breaks before you get it repaired. We don't bother with any pulleys but where we tie off at the tree trunk down below, we use a heavy screen door type spring to keep tension on the antenna when the trees sway.

The 40 m G5RV will be a multi band antenna that will work from 10 m down to 40 m. If you plan to work only 40 m you could just put up a 40 m dipole and keep it simple. For multiband operation the G5RV does a fair job.

The items listed below are only suggestions found by the Editor and from Tom for the supplies to make this antenna. Center Connector

<https://www.km4mpfsales.com/Ladder-Loc-p217404008>

The Ladder-Loc® is a strain-relief and mounting support for 450-ohm ladder-line. It is UV stabilized and has a proven field record of durability. Over 15,000 have been shipped to satisfied users.



#### **Alpha Delta Antenna Hardware Kits DELTA-C**

Wire Antenna Center and End Insulator, With Support Rope Attachment and Feed point SO-239 w/SEP arc-plug, Kit

<https://www.dxengineering.com/parts/alf-delta-c>



#### **DX Engineering DXE-LL450-CTL - DX Engineering 450 Ohm Ladder Line**

Ladder Line, 450-ohm Window Style Open Wire, 16 AWG Stranded CCS, 3000 W, 0.91 VF, Per Foot \$1.18 currently.

**Tom used this one listed in the High Strength Aerial Wire.**

Another type of connector.





Davis RF wire for antennas.

#14, 19 strand, tinned copper clad steel wire

WM523

<https://www.davisrf.com/antenna-wire/aerial.php>

Polys 13 would be good for lower Visibility **POLYS-13:**

The strongest wire of the group is ideal for the longest of wire runs with or without additional support.

<https://www.davisrf.com/antenna-wire/polystealth.php>

## Mastrant Antenna Support and Guy Line Ropes MM02100



Rope, Antenna Guy, Mastrant-M, Break Strength 562 lbs., 2.4 mm/ 3/32 in. Diameter, 100 m/330 ft. Roll

<https://www.dxengineering.com/parts/msg-mm02100>

<http://www.antennalaunchers.com/gev19.html> 70 psi from car compressor in aux/cig lighter connection

70 psi will put up over 150 ft up.

gets fishing line over 90ft oak tree easily.

Use fishing reel to pull 3/32 line

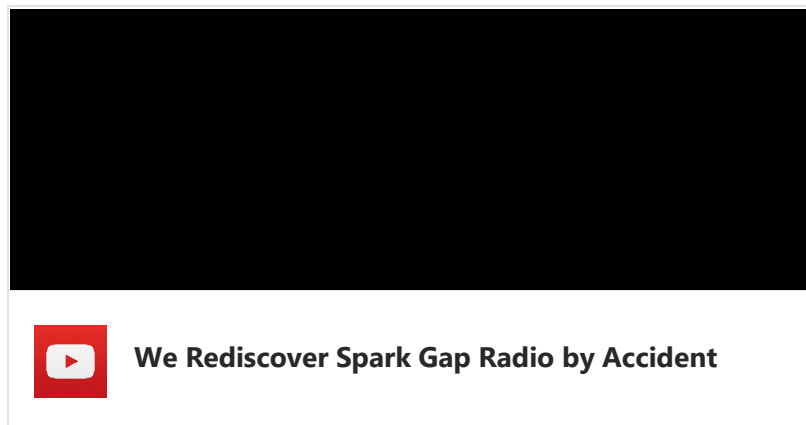
Tennis ball weighted with 26 pennies to make 1/4 lb so ball will pull line down through wet leaves.

Of course, several ham stores do sell G5RV antennas. But there is nothing like making it yourself out of parts you know will last longer than commercial stuff.

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From Tom, W8FIB

## [We Rediscover Spark Gap Radio by Accident](#)



## **HAM RADIO 20XX**

By

**Jerry Hess, W9KTP**

Every so often I have some random thoughts about how ham radio might evolve in the future. Some ideas are odd and some may even be ridiculous. But who knows what the future may bring? Crazy or not here are a few of my ideas.

### Snap, Crackle, Pop (SCP) Radio Filter

When I listen on the low end of 80 meters around 3.510 MHz in the early evenings, generally all I hear is normal atmospheric static or what I call "Snap Crackle Pop" or SCP. The same SCP seems to be present on any adjacent frequencies. Let's switch on a hypothetical SCP filter on my receiver. The filter takes an instantaneous sample of SCP at 3.510 MHz and logically "AND's" it with an instantaneous sample from an adjacent frequency like 3.514 MHz, replacing the

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signal at 3.510 MHz with the result. This continues as long as the SCP filter is selected. Would the SCP at 3.510 MHz disappear? Would there be some great DX stations just waiting to be discovered?

I often thought that I might test this idea at audio frequencies but I don't think that would work. I believe a SCP filter would have to be done in the RF stages of a receiver. I don't know how to do that, but maybe someone does.

### Super Antenna

It has been almost 100 years since the development of the Yagi-Uda or more commonly known as a Yagi antenna. It took several decades before it supplanted rhombic and large array antennas but it has been the dominate gain antenna in recent decades. There are some intriguing antennas on the market such as the "Stepper" and a few others, but nothing that would be considered a major technological change.

I'm thinking someday there will be young person with an uncluttered brain staring at those Maxwell Equations and all that heavy duty theory stuff who will have an epiphany of science and a "Super Antenna" will be born. Here is what I expect our young genius to come up with.

1. Gain of 12-25 dB
2. Electronically steerable in 360 degrees
3. Electronically adjustable elevation and azimuth pattern

Pretty amazing, huh?

### Real Time Propagation

Propagation science is a complex subject as most hams realize. We rely on experts to summarize data collected from numerous sources to plan our activities. We all enjoy and depend on our periodic updates from Carl Lutzelschwab, K9LA at our Club Meetings. Currently, most of the data is collected over periods of times in hours, days or even months to be useful for the average ham.

I have followed some of the references from Carl and several provided by the ARRL Weekly Propagation report. The NOAA data is very extensive and in most cases way over my head. One report I recommend that everyone should checkout at least once is the report by Dr. Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW (See the current ARRL Report for a link).

With all that said as background, I'm hoping by the year 20XX, satellites will be capturing data about the ionospheric layers throughout the world on a real time basis. Super, super, super computers will digest this information and instantaneously make the results available graphically, probably in 3D by 20XX. The ionosphere will always be in a continuous state of change but 20XX computers will compute the necessary parameters for a ham to regularly make a QSO to many parts of the world that we wouldn't think possible today. As usual, timing will always be key. I have to believe the brilliant people working in this endeavor will no doubt do this and probably more.

### Interference Library

Just like submarines can identify ships and other submarines with their sonar signatures, it seems feasible that our future receivers will have access to libraries of man-made noises that could be downloaded and matched to annoying local noises. Whether it's Grandma Maude's 1952 Kelvinator frig or the kid down the street with a 1957 Ford Fairlane with a mis-firing cylinder, there will be a signature for it.

In the future, just download a noise library and run the 'Match Feature' in your receiver. It may even find a few noises you didn't know you had. Once the 'Match Feature' is finished, the library could be off loaded and the receiver run as normal. Particularly in a noisy urban environment this could be a fantastic tool. You could be copying signals that just years before you thought were impossible.

### Awards and Contests

No doubt newer equipment will change the situation for contesting and obtaining of awards but it will still rely on the skill of the operator. Will the new equipment narrow the gap between the top operators and the average ham? I don't think so, but even so, the rules/categories may change to accommodate everyone. As far as awards such as DXCC, it probably would be easier to accumulate higher totals, but I suspect that there still will be rare countries that will require DX-Peditions to activate them. What I still feel concerned about is the pile-up mess like we have today. Perhaps some future thoughtful people can untangle this blemish on our hobby.

Well, there you have it. I told you I'm a little crazy. I hope you enjoyed reading my article and maybe it inspired some ideas of your own!

73's,

Jerry

# **Handy Hint**

## **PL-259 Hints**

**By Steve Mollman-KD9HL**

There have been hundreds if not thousands of write-ups on how to install a PL-259 connector on coax. Nearly all omit two simple steps that could make your installation a little easier.

1. Apply some silicon lubricant to the coax jacket before you screw the fitting on to it. Doing so will make that step easier. Many jackets are “hard” and don’t give easily to the threads of the fitting and the lube can help things along. Most, if not all coax jacket material is impervious to silicon lube. Either spray-on or a very light application of silicon grease can be used. Be careful and don’t get any lube on a conductor that is going to be soldered.
2. Ream out the four solder holes on the fitting. These holes are there to allow soldering the coax braid to the fitting. There are two faults that have occurred in the design and manufacture process. The first is that they are plated with either nickel, silver or even chrome. Chrome is especially difficult to solder to. The other deficiency is that they are small and don’t give much space for iron to heat the braid for a good bond.

Use a small file or drill to enlarge the hole and expose the brass under the plating. Soldering will be much easier if you do this.

Finally. It is always advisable to avoid the cheap fittings from China. They are often chrome plated (hard to solder) and out of tolerance (won’t make a good connection or can’t be inserted at all). The Amphenol brand RF 83-1SP-6 is a high quality piece with a nickel plated body and silver plated center pin.

**◀73's and Good DX ▶**

***Do you have a Handy Hint that you would like to share? Contact Steve Mollman at  
KD9HL@ARRL.net***

## **ARRL DX LISTINGS 10/1/21**

**By**

**Jerry Hess, W9KTP**

**MALDIVES, 8Q.** Nobby, G0VJG is QRV as 8Q7CQ from Innahura Island, IOTA AS-013, until October 13. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, including 60 meters, using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via M00XO.

**MOZAMBIQUE, C9.** Elvira, IV3FSG plans to be QRV as C92R beginning

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sometime in October. Activity will be in her spare time on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL direct to IK2DUW.  
**COMOROS, D6.** Operators Janusz, SP9FIH and Leszek, SP6CIK are QRV as D60AC and D60AD, respectively, from Moroni, IOTA AF-007, until October 2. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL to home calls.

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA.** Members of the DARC club in Backnang are QRV with special call sign DP70BAC until the end of 2021 to celebrates the club's 70th anniversary. QSL via DH1OK.

**IRAN, EP.** Mohammed, EP2MRK has been QRV on 20 meters using SSB between 1520 and 1800z. QSL via RW6HS.

**TAJIKISTAN, EY.** Ken, K4ZW is QRV as EY8/K4ZW until October 7 while on work assignment. QSL to home call.

**HUNGARY, HA.** Tamas, HA6LT is QRV as HA60ANT until the end of 2021 to commemorate the Antarctic Treaty celebrations. QSL to home call.

**ITALY, I.** Station II60ANT is QRV until the end of 2021 to commemorate the Antarctic Treaty celebrations. QSL via I1HYW.

**ANTARCTICA.** A group of operators are QRV as KC4USV from McMurdo Station on Ross Island, IOTA AN-011, until October 31. Activity is on 40 and 20 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via K7MT.

**ARGENTINA, LU.** A group of operators are QRV with special event station LU2BB on October 1 to commemorate the anniversary of Ana Beker, who, known as the Amazon Of The Americas, rode on horseback from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Ottawa, Canada. Activity is on the HF and V/UHF bands using CW, SSB, FM, SSTV, FT8, and Satellite. QSL direct to LU2BB.

**AUSTRIA, OE.** Station OE60ANT is QRV until the end of 2021 to commemorate the Antarctic Treaty celebrations. QSL via OE3DMA.

**MARKET REEF, OJ0.** Pasi, OH3WS will be QRV as OJ0WS from October 3 to 9. Activity will be on the HF bands, and on 160 meters using only CW. He plans on possibly being active in the upcoming Scandinavian Activity SSB contest. QSL to home call.

**SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, S9.** Members of the Czech DXpedition Group will be QRV as S9OK from Sao Tome, IOTA AF-023, from October 3 to 5. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. QSL via OK6DJ.

**DODECANESE, SV5.** A group of operators are QRV as SV5/HB9COG from Rhodes, IOTA EU-001, until October 5. Activity is EME on 70, 23, 13, 9, 6, and 3 centimeters, at various times, using JT65C, Q65C, Q65D, and CW. QSL direct to HB9Q.

**CRETE, SV9.** John, SV9CJO is QRV with special event call SX200CJO

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until December 31 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Hellenic revolution against the Ottoman Empire. QSL via operator's instructions.

**TURKEY, TA.** Vasily, R7AA is QRV as TA0/R7AA from Buyukada Island, IOTA AS-201. Activity of late has been on 20 meters using CW and FT8. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

**KOSOVO, Z6.** Ben, DL7UCX is QRV as Z6/DL7UCX until October 3. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, FT8, and FT4. QSL to home call.

Please see October QST, page 75, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details.



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# Kanton Island — T31EU

## *QRV from a scrap heap*

*By Ronald Stuy, PA3EWP*

While enjoying a nice beer at the 2018 Hamfest in Friedrichshafen, Germany, we exchanged many ideas about our next destination(s).

At the end of August, I was asked to join a German team planning to go to Kanton Island, Central Kiribati, which I initially declined because of the time commitment that would be required; however, when an airline was found that regularly flew from Tarawa to Kanton, my decision was made and I became a participant in the 6-man team.

Our team consisted of team leader Günter Gassler, DL2AWG; co-leader Hans Griessl, DL6JGN; Joe Pick, DK5WL; Norbert Willand, DF6FK; Heye Harms, DJ9RR, and myself. Norbert joined our team a week before our departure as a new operator after Wolfgang Rebling, DM2AUJ, had to cancel due to health problems.

Kanton is an atoll belonging to the Phoenix archipelago (Central Kiribati) and located 1,750 kilometers from the main island of Tarawa, a separate DXCC country for radio amateurs. Kiribati, itself, consists of four DXCC countries: T30 (Gilbert Islands, Tarawa main island); T31 (Phoenix Islands, Kanton main island); T32 (Line Islands, Christmas main island), and T33 Banaba (part of the Gilbert Islands but 450 kilometers west of Tarawa and for us radio amateurs, a separate DXCC country).



*PIPA's office on the island.*

## **Planning Stages**

We chartered the plane to fly us from Tarawa to Kanton, and return for us 17 days later. Of course, we were limited in the total weight that we could take with us (+/- 860kg, including people) aboard the Beech Super King Air 200.

Our goal was to hand out as many All Time New Ones (ATNO) to amateurs as possible, but we also wanted to focus on Europe because Kiribati was high on the “most wanted” list there, and for Western Europe it was in 6th place in digital mode. In addition, when the conditions cooperated, we wanted to have at least two stations active for 24 hours with a focus on the low bands.

Chuck, our contact person on Tarawa, organized a lot of things for us and without him it would have been almost impossible to organize this DXpedition. He purchased many materials on our behalf, including a new generator and, as I was in Tonga (A35EU) at the end of November, I sent him a ski bag filled with several (Spiderbeam) fiber masts and 250 meters of coaxial cables (rather than return with them to the Netherlands, then turn around and take them to Kiribati).

Chuck was busy for at least two months as he attempted to send materials from Tarawa to Kanton by boat, but no boat was to be found; instead, he arranged food and drinks to be delivered by boat from Christmas Island to Kanton. The rest of our materials had to travel with us by plane, which became a big challenge because Chuck, too, wanted to fly to Kanton with us. He had arranged all the paperwork with PIPA (Phoenix Islands Protected Area) for the authorization to land on the island and our license from CCK (Telecom).

**Setting Out.** Because we had to bring the generator and the ski bag on the plane with us, there was no longer room available for Chuck. Even though there were two generators on the island, I insisted on bringing the generator, and the team agreed, with the reasoning that it was more important to bring a good working generator instead of trusting the generators on the island. The day before our planned departure the pilot informed us that the weather was too bad to fly and our flight would be postponed by a day. After some negotiation, we also postponed our return trip by a day, keeping our days on Kanton to 17. Our flight to Kanton took just 4½ hours, and we arrived just before noon. We decided that our shack would be near the airport, as there was a perfect building with a lot of space for antennas.





*Our radio shack located at the airport on Kanton Island.*

**Digging Right In.** We decided to install the 30M and 40M antennas for the first evening/night activities. One of the village's generators was installed outside the shack, and after we started it we noticed that there was no voltage present. Dismantling the generator, we still could not find the problem, so we got the second generator, which was a little better, giving us 220 volts. However, as soon as we started and the power consumption fluctuated, the generator stopped working, so we couldn't use that generator, either. We exchanged that generator for the one we brought with us and our problems were solved. We set up the shack after dinner and we were ready for the first QSOs.



*The interior of our radio shack.*

The next day we installed other antennas, but had no time to place the receiving antenna for the low bands until the following day. We made two shifts of three operators but we were unable to transmit simultaneously with three radios with +/- 1kW output. Our generator was only 3,800 watts and all stations could make approximately 700 watts. The propagation was certainly not optimal, but we knew that beforehand, and Western Europe was our biggest challenge as the signals were weak or totally not workable at all. The path directly over the North Pole was extremely difficult. Often the signals from Eastern Europe were S9, but to the west from central Germany it was very difficult or not at all possible.

The second week we adjusted to two operators per shift, partly because of the poor propagation, and during the late night and the morning only two bands were open at the same time. During the day and in the evening, another operator could use the third station, but on low power only, and that allowed the other two stations to make slightly more than 1kW. The third station was therefore regularly on FT8. We focused on the low bands, as the chance that the high bands were open was minimal.

All the antennas were mostly in the direction of Europe, but during the day we often turned the antennas to North America to be able to work the weaker stations. The Beverage was also pointing north, toward Western Europe. The chance that we would work a lot of Western Europe at 160M and 80M was also very little, but if we didn't try, it would certainly not work. During my own shifts in the evening and at night I was always active at 80M or 160M. Unfortunately, we could use both bands at the same time because we had to extend the 80M vertically for 160M as inverted-L. The antenna had to be taken down for the band to have a chance and we had to make that choice in the evening before it got dark. Normally, it was two days



on 80M and two days on 160M. We had a lot of static on the low bands, sometimes it was so extreme that it was only possible to make some QSOs on FT8.

#### THE ANTENNA PARK LOOKED LIKE THIS

BAND	ANTENNA	DETAILS
10/12/15 Meter	Multiband vertical	10 meter fiber mast
17 Meter	VDA	12 meter fiber mast
20 Meter	VDA	12 meter fiber mast
30 Meter	VDA	18 meter Spiderbeam fiber mast
40 Meter	Phased vertical	2 10-meter fiber masts
80/160 Meter	¼ vertical/inverted-L	18 meter Spiderbeam fiber mast
RX Beverage	180 meters long	Direction north

**A Little History.** In 1979, Kiribati gained its independence from the United Kingdom, but prior to that, both the English and the Americans had their piece of Kanton Island, separated only by the harbor. Today only the American side is inhabited and its population is less than 40, down from a high of 1,200.

The island's infrastructure — roads, telephone, power and water distribution — are what remain from the American and English occupancy and all the houses, buildings and factory halls plus the power station, satellite tracking station and telephone exchange, etc., were still there, but they were in such a state that it was too dangerous to walk inside these buildings. Along the roads, rusted out remnants of trucks, bulldozers, fire engines, etc., sat where they were left 50 years ago.

Kanton was not a tropical, exotic luxury vacation. In fact, it was the opposite, but the people were very friendly and welcoming! The islanders took turns preparing meals for us three times a day.

**Daily operations.** We had three complete stations, which could be used in all modes. Elecraft K3 with an HLA1200 amplifier, Elecraft K3 with an Expert 1.3K amplifier, Elecraft K2 with a THP 1.1 amplifier. We used bandpass filters between the radio and the amplifier to eliminate any interference.

Logging was done with Win-Test in a network configuration, and all laptops could see the QSOs that were logged. We were also able to set the correct time on all PCs for FT8 with WSJT and/or MSHV.

Internet wasn't available in the shack, but on one PC the time was synchronized with a GPS receiver and distributed by network to the other laptops. There was Internet on the island, but it was a 15-minute walk from the shack in the PIPA office, which is where we daily uploaded our log to Clublog, giving amateurs the opportunity to see that they were in the log.

FT8 was mainly used in Fox/Hound mode, but if there were only a few callers we used the normal mode. If there were too many stations calling, we QSY'ed to another frequency for the Fox/Hound mode, usually using the MSHV program for normal mode. We could work up to three stations at the same time.

For me, FT8 was not my main mode; I only used this mode when there was no activity on the other modes. I'd rather make the QSOs myself rather than have the computer make them for me, but I was surprised that it was possible to let the computer log 170 QSOs in an hour on FT8. The signals, however, must be loud and it was only possible with Asia and NA. I found it very frustrating that there was no more activity on CW/SSB or RTTY, only on FT8. The signals were loud enough for a QSO in normal modes. The advantage of FT8 is that many amateurs on the other modes in the past could not work DX, now their computer can work DX with the same setup. Hopefully these amateurs will quickly switch to SSB or CW and will make the QSOs themselves again, certainly if the propagation increases in the coming years.

Because the propagation was poor, we had an extra challenge on SSB. Norbert had the disadvantage that he only does SSB and he was often calling for four hours for less than 20 QSOs. After a few days we had made the shifts in such a way that there was always one band open for the SSB operator. This also made it more fun for Norbert.

**Locals.** While on the island, we made regular visits to the local school and its 20 children and their teacher, Monita, who explained much about the island and its people. Both Joe and I shared with the children about Europe, Germany and the Netherlands and answered their questions. We all had a great time.

On one of the afternoons, the whole school even visited our shack for a radio demonstration and it, too, was something we all enjoyed.



*Joe, DK5WL, gave the local school children a demonstration of our radio activities.*



*(Left) Monita, the teacher at the school on Kanton. (Above and right) Local kids hamming it up for us.*

**Winding Down.** On the last day we dismantled all the antennas except for the 160M as we planned to remain active for our final night, including the sunrise.

That evening we were invited to an appreciation party hosted by the locals and it was beautiful. I know Joe, especially, won't forget that evening, as it was his birthday and all the children sang for him in both English and their language.

All residents prepared food for the party and there were several tables filled with rice and fish, plus two large lobsters and a small pig, which they had slaughtered that day. It was a feast for them as well; there was a lot of singing and dancing by the children and, by the end of the evening, Frank accompanied them on guitar (which we donated to the people) and all the residents joined in the singing. It was an evening that will be remembered for a long time.



*Enjoying our last evening with a feast prepared by the locals.*

Our last 160M shift started with three operators, but the static was so huge it was impossible to make QSOs. Heye had started, then Joe, and when I relieved Joe, there were less than 40 QSOs in the log. I started my shift on CW and soon realized it was impossible to continue. Then I went to FT8 and the computer logged about 30 QSOs including a few southern Europeans. It was very unfortunate about the static, I saw about 10 stations calling during the European greyline, but the computer could hardly decode anything because of the static.

After the last QSO was logged, I started to dismantle the station. After breakfast we took down the inverted-L or 160M and made everything ready for departure, but before we left, we planted a new coconut tree as a tradition.





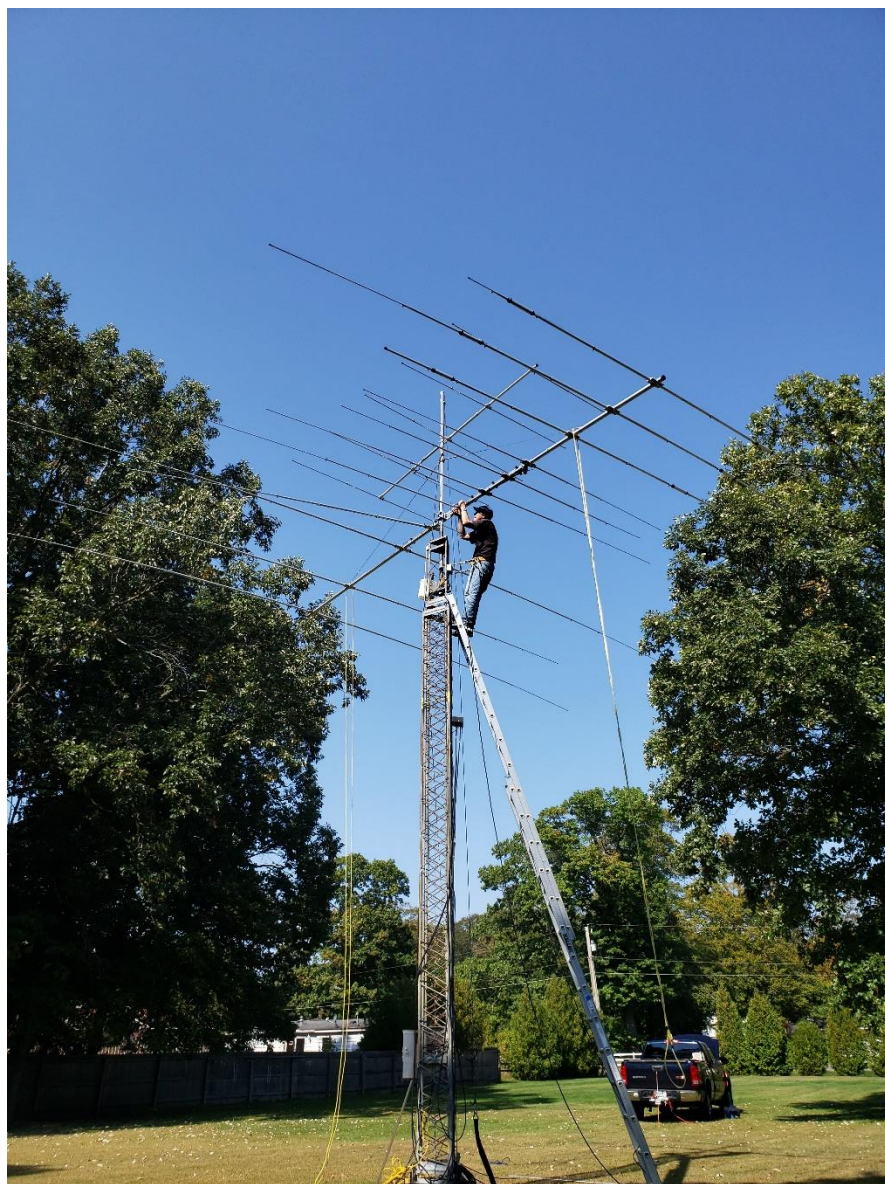
*We followed in the tradition for visitors to Kanton Island by planting a coconut tree prior to our departure.*

**End Results.** We were satisfied with the results, just over 39,000 QSO's, 17% of which were with Europe. The best bands were 30M and 40M for Europe. For more statistics visit [www.clublog.org](http://www.clublog.org).

We left several items for the islanders, including the guitar and our generator. For the children, we gifted them toys, clothing, pens, notepads, caps and, for the girls, chains, hair bands and bracelets. At the PIPA office and the weather observer's house we made and adjusted dipoles so they could communicate with their base in Tarawa and Christmas Island.

*This article is courtesy of the Northern California DX Foundation. The NCDXF relies heavily upon the generosity of its contributors to fund various projects, including this DXpedition. We ask you to consider making an annual contribution of US-\$50 or its equivalent in foreign currency. If \$50 is not within your budget, then please give what other amount you can. Naturally, they welcome contributions in excess of \$50! NCDXF is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law for U.S. taxpayers. Send your contribution to: NCDXF, P.O. Box 2012, Cupertino, CA 95015-2012, USA. You may also contribute and order supplies online via their secure server, visit [www.ncdxf.org/donate](http://www.ncdxf.org/donate)*

**After several attempts, the TH-11 is fixed and up in the air for quite some time to come. Steve, K9HL is very happy to have his antenna up and ready to use.**



**Steve attaching the last of the hardware**



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://nwidxclub.weebly.com/>



**DX**

