

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 11, Issue 2

February 2023

President's Corner

3Y0J has arrived!

I hope to work them as I need Bouvet like all the others for ATNO.
Good luck to those of us that need it.

The Meeting will be March 18th.
Jerry has been busy developing a program list.
If you have something you would like to present, please let me know.

73
John W3ML
Good DXing!

"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 for an appointment or to make other arrangements.

<i>Northwest Indiana DX Club Officers and Staff</i>			
President	W3ML	John Poindexter	w3ml.ohn@gmail.com
Vice President	W9KTP	Jerry Hess	jerryhess@Frontier.com
Newsletter Editor	W3ML	John Poindexter	w3ml.ohn@gmail.com
W9NWI Trustee	KD9HL	Steve Mollman	kd9hl@ARRL.net
Webmaster	W9YOU	John Reardon	kd9ron@ARRL.net
ARRL Card Checker	KD9HL	Steve Mollman	kd9hl@ARRL.net

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@arrrl.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.

New Club CHALLENGE Ends on March 17th.

The new contest is to work 5 EU, 5 SA and 5 Canadian Provinces. This should not be difficult with major contests like CQWW, ARRL DX, and Sweepstakes in the coming months.

Contest starts after the meeting on November 12, 2022.

Send your report to w3ml.john@gmail.com

5 EU, 5 SA and 5 Canadian Provinces

Log would be like:

Your Name/Call	Date	Time	Call	Band	Mode	Location
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The Question of the Month

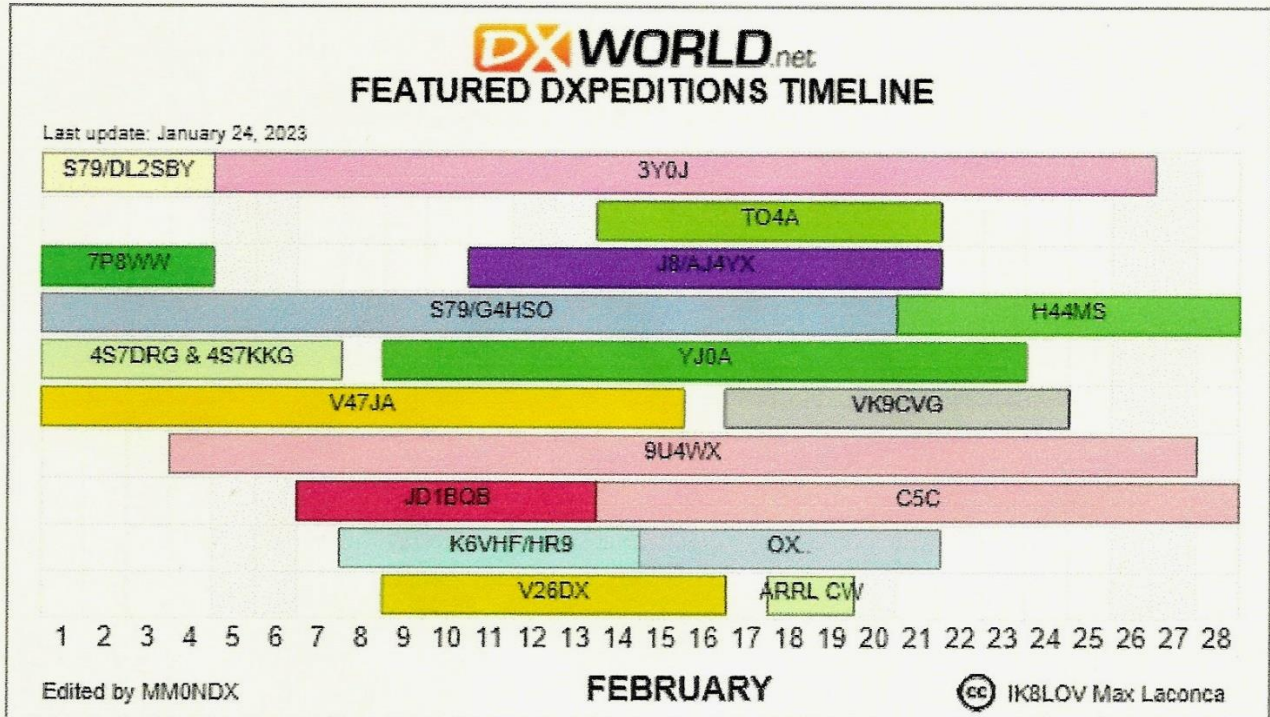
(The correct answer is at the end of the Newsletter)

What two DX entities were deleted by the ARRL in August 2016?

- Midway Island and Kingman Reef.
- Midway Island and Kure Island.
- Kingman Reef and Kure Island
- Kingman Reef and Midway Island.

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DX-World.net Featured DXPeditions timeline



The NCDXF DXCC Rock Collection (DXCCRC)

By Glenn Johnson, W0GJ

Jack Troster, a geologist, was the first secretary of the Northern California DX Foundation. He started collecting rocks from a few places he had been. By word of mouth, a few DXing friends brought him small rocks they had collected while on a DXpedition or on trips to foreign countries.

Rock recognition

In the Summer 1991 NCDXF Newsletter, Jack listed and described a total of 19 rocks from 19 entities he

and friends had visited. In response to this short two-page article, many DXpeditioners sent him rocks from many entities. Soon his collection “made DXCC” with over 100 different entities represented!

Jack was NCDXF’s secretary for 26 years. He became a Silent Key in January 2014 at the age of 93. Several years before he passed away, he gave the NCDXF rock collection to his good friend Jerry Griffin, K6MD. Jerry put the collection in his attic. In the spring of 2022, Jerry was cleaning out his attic and found the rock collection pretty much intact. He made contact with me, and we made arrangements to have it safely packed and shipped to me.

When it arrived, the rocks were in random order, numbered in order of receipt. There were about 152 entities represented. The rocks were in three old parts bin drawers. There was a faded label on each little drawer. Inside each drawer were one or two entities, most having a little story or description of the rock and by whom it had been collected.



190 entities of the NCDXF DXCC Rock Collection.

There was only one unidentified rock, but there was a callsign attached to it. I contacted the German call sign owner and he remembered giving the rock of the same description to Jack. It was from Iran. After telling the NCDXF Board of Directors of the “gold mine” we had inherited, more rocks were sent to me. We now have 190 entities represented in the collection.

Rocks on display

I spent most of a month carefully re-cataloging each and every rock. They were then sorted by call sign prefix order. I found some nice “hot wheels” display cases with a mirrored bottom to show off the rocks. Each case has room for 108 entities. The display is now very impressive, very visible and arranged by entity prefix. Any collection data or stories about the rock are in each little cubbyhole with the rock.

Notable rocks

From Italy we have a small stone from inside the Coliseum and a stone from Marconi’s lab area. There is a stone from the top of Masada in Israel. From Hawaii, there is a piece of lava “one hour old” (at least at the

time it was collected). There is a piece of the Berlin wall, a stone from the roof of 4U1ITU in Geneva, and a piece of marble from a destroyed statue of Lenin in the center of Kiev. Romeo donated a stone from his P5RS7 operation. We even have a P5 stone picked up when an Army major reached over the North/South Korean wall to pick up a pebble. Guns were immediately pointed at him, but the DPRK snipers started laughing when they saw what he was doing.



P5 rock collected at gunpoint.

I was on the aborted 3YØZ Bouvet DXpedition a couple years ago and never got a chance to set foot on Bouvet and pick up a rock. However, we have a rock from the 1990 3Y5X DXpedition ... so I've finally "made contact" with Bouvet!



I finally “made contact” with Bouvet!

We have rocks from Omaha Beach in France and from the shores of Loch Ness in Scotland. There are pieces of petrified wood from at least three continents.

We have a stone from Bounty Bay on Pitcairn Island where the mutineers burned the HMS Bounty.

Some entities don't have rocks, but only coral, shells, or sand. We have these in the collection, too. (The sand is in nice little labeled vials.)

We have rocks from eight deleted entities, too.

We even have rocks from MoROCK-o and E-STONE-ya, but rest assured, we have no stones, as Jack was always pointing out that the geological definition of a stone is something one throws.

We displayed our collection at the 2022 W9DXCC and W4DXCC conventions and hopefully we will have it at Visalia's International DX Convention in 2023.

Missing rocks

Surprisingly, we are missing rocks from some very common entities. On the other hand, we have a number of rocks from some extremely rare entities. The list of rocks still needed to complete the collection can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/10nmp3mch483s0gsbjj0g/NCDXF-Needed-Rocks-15Aug22.doc%3Fdl%3D0%26rlkey%3Dx7d8rt9j60hwc88hkr98git5>

If you or your friends have a rock, shell, or sand from one of our needed entities, or could spare a piece of it, even a tiny piece, you can be assured that it will be proudly displayed in our DXCC Rock Collection showcases! (Anything larger than 1" x 2" will not fit in the display cases.)

Please contact me (w0gj@arrl.net) before sending to be sure we still need it. Mail, do not throw, your rock to me.

Any bets on when we can make DXCC Rock Collection Honor Roll?

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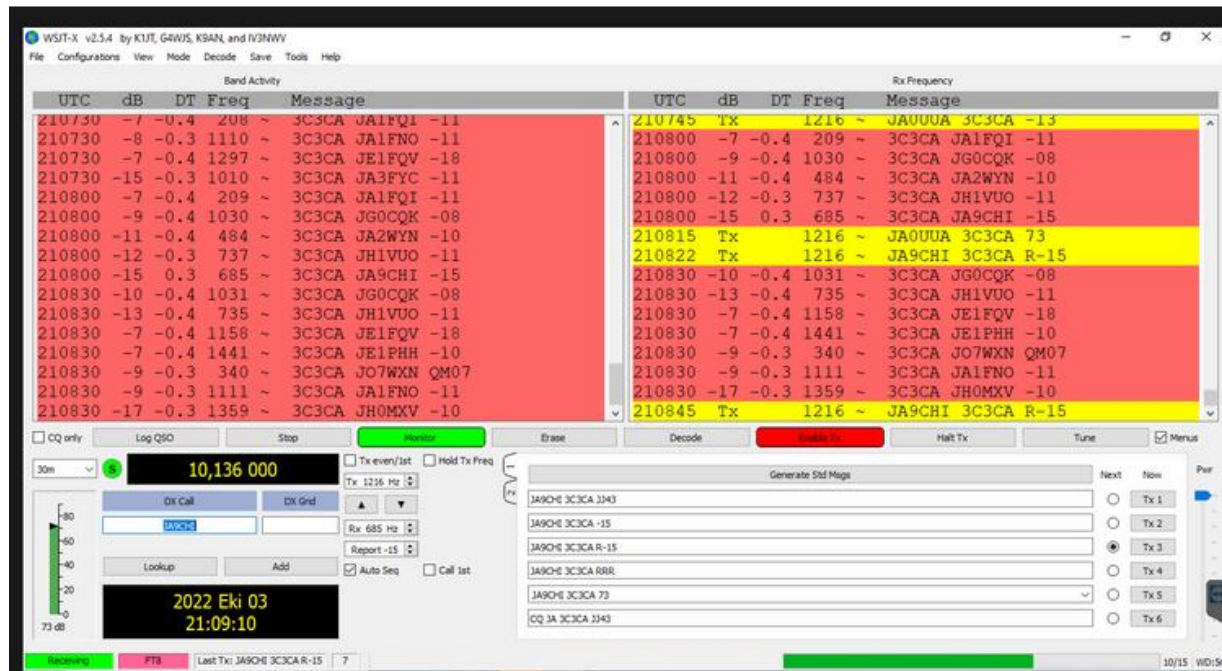
This article was provided with the permission of the Northern California DX Foundation. The Foundation's basic mission is to help well-organized and needy DXpeditions operate from rare places, mostly in the form of financial aid. Since 1997, NCDXF has funded 265 DXpeditions, totaling \$1.4 million in grants. Prior to 1997, DXpeditions weren't large, hugely-organized efforts and, often, consisted of one or two people. They still fund those activities. Since its inception, they have funded and helped over 500 DX activities. The Foundation operation is funded by donations. To donate, please visit their website: www.ncdxf.org/pages/join_renew.html

Did you Ever Wonder?

A peek at FT8 from the DX's Side

FT8 has changed the complexion of DX. A weak signal digital mode that has many of its features automated, it also provides a visual picture of the stations calling while eliminating any confusion as to the calling station's call letters. Below is a "snapshot" of a typical picture that **3C3CA-Ersoy Yilmaz** sees from his

QTH in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. Malabo is the capital of the country.



A couple of things to point out:

1. He considered this a slow moment, but there were still as many as seven stations calling.
2. He didn't respond to the first station to show on his screen, but answered the LAST!
3. Signal strength didn't seem to have any effect on his choice. He responded to a "-15" signal. There were better signals on his screen.
4. No stations were calling on his transmit tone (1216). No QRM this time.
5. There are a lot of JA stations that chase DX!

What to make of all of that:

1. While you have to be heard, to make a contact being the "biggest and meanest" i.e. strongest isn't necessarily going to make the contact.
2. The WSJT-X program apparently uses a "random" algorithm to determine the order of listing the received stations. Signal strength, timing and frequency of tone don't seem to effect the order of listing.
3. Luck of the draw has much to do with whether the DX will answer you or someone else. Being last on the list can be easiest for the DX to answer.
4. There can be a LOT of competition for a contact.
5. Don't QRM the DX by transmitting your tone at the same frequency he is using.
6. The JA "Wall" will always be with us. The same as US stations are a "wall" for other parts of the world, it is a matter of perception and where you are! For example the JA's complain about the

“Wall of US Stations” that make it difficult for them to contact stations in the Caribbean. Enjoy the competition as it helps in getting your blood to flow.



3C3CA-Ersoy Yilmaz. Home Call TA2OM Ankara, Turkey

Is there any way to enhance your chances in a FT8 pileup? Just a few common sense things:

1. Transmit on a clear area of the spectrum.
2. Periodically check and make sure that someone else hasn't decided to transmit on your chosen area.
3. Don't transmit on the DX's frequency.
4. Be patient. Hopefully the DX will eventually get to you.

The DX controls the pileup! Be nice!

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Press Release from the Intrepid-DX Group Announcing Dxpedition to Temotu Province Oct 31 – Nov 14th, 2023

The Intrepid-DX Group is pleased to announce that we will activate H40 Temotu Province from October 31st to November 14th, 2023.

We have assembled a team of eight operators to make a fifteen-day activation of this entity. Temotu Province ranks #45 on Clublog's most wanted DXCC list.

Team members include: Rob N7QT, Paul N6PSE, Sandro VE7NY, Jun OE1JUN/JH4RHF, Heye DJ9RR, Laci HA0NAR and Arliss W7XU and Walt N6XG. We will make a significant effort on the low bands during this activation. We will use 1500 watts on 80/160 meter bands. We will use CW/SSB and FT8 modes.

The Temotu 2023 team appreciates any and all sponsors and donors who wish to support our mission. You may donate via PayPal to intrepiddxgroup@gmail.com or a donation to the Intrepid-DX Group 3052 Wetmore Dr, San Jose, CA USA. You can follow our plans from our website and the Temotu 2023 Facebook pages.

Our website: <https://intrepid-dx.com/temotu2023/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/h40wa>

Thank you,

Rob Fanfant N7QT Co-Leader

Paul Ewing N6PSE Co-Leader

Sable Island - Dxpedition (Update)

Dxpedition leader, WA4DAN, and the CYØS team now confirm the dates of their upcoming Dxpedition to Sable Island Dxpedition... March 20-29, 2023.

Sable Island is ranked #50 on the DXCC “most wanted” list and needed by many DXers for filling in “band slots”! We are planning four stations to be QRV 24/7 during our stay on the island.

Each station will use ICOM radio transceivers and 500-watt amplifiers.
Modes will be CW, SSB, Digital and EME.

The CYØS team has monoband Yagis for 20, 15 and 10m and a duo-band Cushcraft A3WS Yagi for 12 and 17m. The Team will erect dedicated verticals for 160, 80, 40 and 30m and are planning to lay out 4,000 ft. of radials.

We have chartered a BN-2a Britten Norman Islander from Sable Aviation and a Helicopter from Vision Air Services to facilitate transporting equipment, antennas, eight operators, food and personal gear including warm clothing.

Flights to Sable are often delayed due to poor weather or unfavorable beach conditions. But we have successfully negotiated overnight stays and a 2-3 day extension on our permit.

We are extremely limited in the total weight allowed by both our transportation charters to only 3,000 pounds. This is due to weight and balance considerations. And both charter companies have promised a yet-undetermined rate increase due to higher fuel costs. This is in addition to other expense challenges. The current budget is \$75,000 and is likely to go higher.

We have always subscribed to the Dxpedition funding model used by DX Expeditions, Inc. The Team will put up 50% of the total costs and the DX community will be asked to fund the other 50%. In that regard, we are very pleased to announce that an anonymous “well-known DXer and Dxpeditioner,” has offered to match any donations between now and the beginning of the operation.

This is obviously huge and very generous!

Why should you, your DX Club or DX Foundation help us?

* This is the largest Sable Island Dxpedition Team ever.

- * The Team has very experienced DXpeditioners including two DX Hall of Fame members.
- * Right time of Sunspot Cycle.
- * First ever FT8 operation from Sable Island.
- * Very good LB antennas

Indications are that it may be “a while” before a Ham Radio permit will be issued again.

Because of the “matching offer”, this is an excellent opportunity to help us fund the CYØS DXpedition.

Those individual DXers, DX Clubs and DX Foundations that have already agreed to support us may decide on additional support. And of course, those in the DX community who have waited for our plans to be finalized, or who have not been asked for support, this is a way to double your contribution.

To help support us, you may contact Bill, K5DHY or go to:

<https://t-rexsoftware.com/cy0s/donate>

The team would like recognize three important Sponsors: the Anonymous Matching Donor, Vibroplex/ & Spiderbeam companies — and especially DX Engineering who has been very generous!

Mark, WB9CIF, stated, “...you should get all the band fills you can as this will probably be the last DXpedition to Sable Island for some time to come. Especially, look to 6 meters. There may be some Sporadic E with the DXpedition occurring in late March. You never know with 6 meters. At 1400 miles it is a little far for Meteor Scatter. It may still be possible on MS with some Es enhancements.”

Question of the Month Answer:

What two DX entities were deleted by the ARRL in August 2016?

B. Midway Island and Kure Island.

There are 62 ARRL DXCC Entities on the Deleted List. The last ones deleted were Kingman Reef on March 29, 2016 and Kure Island along with Midway Island on **August 26, 2016**.

Kure & Midway were reinstated to the active DXCC list on May 11, 2017.

The justification given in the ARRL press release was that President Obama expanded the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument area on August 26, 2016. This he did, however, the area expanded was *water* only. The water area was expanded out 50 miles, *yet not one piece of land was included!* Since DXCC allows only *land-based* contacts, there was *no* justification for deletion and the ARRL had to correct its error. After review, Midway and Kure were restored to the DXCC List.

Deleting an Entity and bringing it back to the DXCC List because a more stringent review showed the error is not new. It was done with the Cayman Islands deletion in 1960.

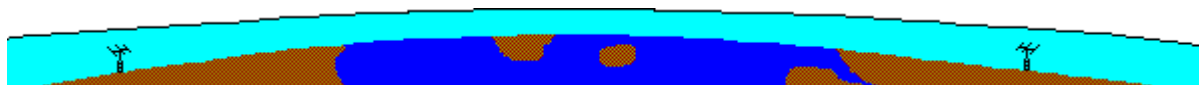
FOR SALE ITEMS

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.

Let me know when an item is no longer for sale so I can remove it.

For Sale items will be removed from the newsletter after 3 months.

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

