

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 12, Issue 2

February 2024

President's Corner

February 9th will be Meeting Day.
Bernie McClenny, W3UR of The
Daily DX will be presenting.

See notice below.

73
John W3ML
Good DXing!

Meeting Feb. 9th
12:00 Noon
Sugar Bowl Michigan City

"Working the World from the Black Hole"

NWI DX Club Website
<http://nwidxcub.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.

Northwest Indiana DX Club Officers and Staff

President	John Poindexter	W3ML	w3ml.john@gmail.com
Vice President	Jerry Hess	W9KTP	dxer340@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	John Poindexter	W3ML	w3ml.john@gmail.com
W9NWI Trustee	Steve Mollman	KD9HL	kd9hl@arrl.com
Webmaster	John Reardon	W9YOU	kd9ron@arrl.net
ARRL Card Checker	Steve Mollman	KD9HL	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@arrl.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.

NW IN DX Club Meeting

FRIDAY February 9th meeting. We will begin assembling at Noon CST at the Sugar Bowl in Michigan City. The plan is to have our special guest Bernie McClenny, W3UR begin to speak via ZOOM about 12:30 CST.

If you live locally, please join us for a great luncheon For all others the following ZOOM link is provided. I will record the session and hope to create a YouTube video for those that can't be available during the live presentation.

Jerry Hess is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Jerry Hess' Zoom Meeting

Time: Feb 9, 2024 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81186877639?pwd=1RQg0tvbPsE9aE7d2iX638ZVpVa8tr.1>

Meeting ID: 811 8687 7639

Passcode: 777947

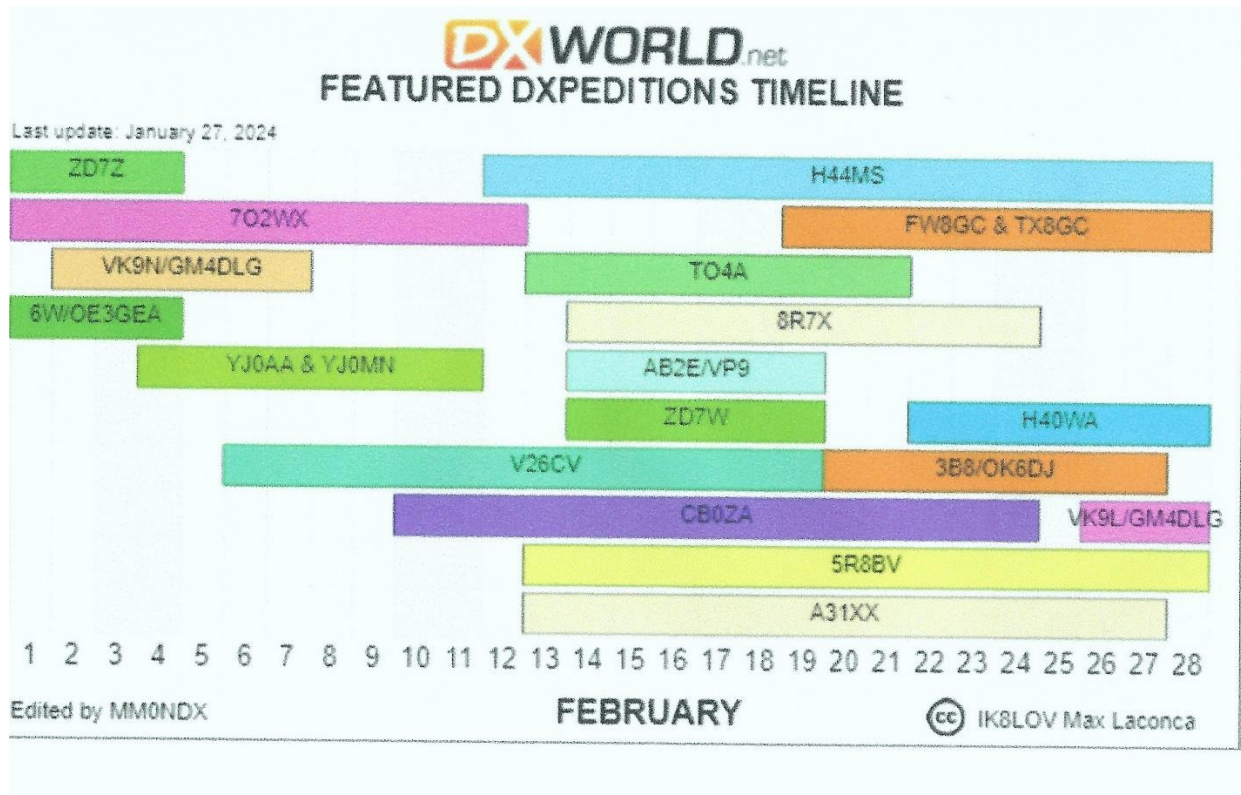
73's,

Jerry Hess, W9KTP



DX Listings for 2/24

Jerry Hess, W9KTP



The ARRL RF Exposure Committee has prepared a new document designed to help amateur radio operators interact with their neighbors about radio transmissions and RF exposure. The document can be found on the ARRL's RF Exposure web page at: <https://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure>

The ARRL presents a number of awards to worthy amateur radio operators in the fields of Education, Media/PR, Technical, and Service. The ARRL staff and Board of Directors depends on nominations from the amateur radio community when selecting award recipients. Due to a lack of nominations, some awards go un-presented. Take a look at the various awards listed on the ARRL website, think about hams you know who might be worthy of one of these awards, and make the nomination. Details about these awards can be found at: <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-award-nominations>

ARRL Indiana Section News for the week of January 22, 2024

Question of the Month

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

What DX entity has three independent DX entities within its borders?

- A. Switzerland
- B. Greece
- C. Italy
- D. USA

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Handy Hint

160 Meter Propagation Anomalies

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

Working 160-meter DX brought to my attention the fact that there is little information regarding conditions and predictions for the band but I have noticed a good news/bad news situation:



1. After an aurora there can be some great long-distance contacts.



2. After a meteor shower the long-distance propagation is often either very poor or non-existent.

Why does this happen? My theory, in simplistic terms, is that during an aurora the ions gravitate toward the pole which opens paths for low band transmissions while a meteor shower generates ions which interfere with low band transmissions. Having voiced our uninformed opinion, we asked an expert, **Carl Luetzelschwab-K9LA** for his thoughts.

“K9LA’s comments:

Auroral activity

Over the years I’ve seen two general trends with auroral activity on 160m. First, when the K index initially spikes, a signal enhancement can occur over high latitude paths like New England to Japan. My best explanation the change in the electric field magnitude can result in the development of the electron density valley between the E region peak and the lower F region in which ducting may occur.

Second, during an aurora, a skewed path can occur. A good example of this is Bill-W4ZV working SM4CAN back in November 1999. Bill noted that SM4CAN was best heard on his 80-degree Beverage. This was not the true great circle short path (about 32 degrees), but rather a skewed path. For details, visit https://k9la.us/160m_Skewed_Path.PDF. This article explains how the skewed path can be the result of increased E region ionization at the equatorward edge of the auroral oval.

In general, electrons that precipitate in the polar cap are low energy and don’t affect RF signals much. But the equatorward edge of the auroral zone is where the action is – high energy electrons, with resultant high electron densities which can absorb or skew 160m RF.

Meteor shower

In my decades on the top band reflector, I’ve not seen this mentioned. Sure, I could have missed this. But it just doesn’t seem to be very common.

The problem here is there are many other variables that can make 160m good or bad: geomagnetic field activity, events in the troposphere coupling up to the ionosphere, the electric field of the atmosphere

(measured in millivolts/meter), absorption in the lower E region at night (since the D region is out of the picture), climate change and maybe a couple others. On many of these, we do not have data. For example, we have no real-time absorption data for normal conditions.

Here are my tips.

- 1) *Improve your transmit antenna*
- 2) *Use an amp*
- 3) *Improve your receive capability*
- 4) *Spend lots of time on the band to catch any short-term enhancement*

Carl-K9LA”

Since we are nearing the peak of the current solar cycle current 160-meter DX performance is often poor. That being said, openings can occur and DX contacts can be made. February and March are often the most productive months for 160-meter DX contacts.

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

BIG NEWS! SQP Club Challenge – [Download SQPCC Rules](#)

The new SQP Club Challenge competition will run concurrently with the 2024 SQP Challenge. The SQPCC scoring will be compiled from individual SQP Challenge entries into <https://3830scores.com/> which include a club name. The SQPCC will only include individuals who have qualified for the SQP Challenge. Start sharing the news with your contest club and rally the troops. SQPCC rules are now available on this website.

<https://stateqsoparty.com/>

EDITOR NOTE: When submitting scores to the 3830 site, our club won't show up in the drop-down list, so in order for scores to be credited to the Northwest Indiana Radio Club, we will need to select "Other" from the drop-down menu and manually type in "Northwest Indiana Radio Club" for the club name. If enough of us do this, our club can be added to the club list.

Links to interesting sites.

The YASME Book *No longer available in print but you may download a free .pdf copy below*

<https://www.yasme.org/the-yasme-book/>

<https://ve3vn.blogspot.com/2023/11/on-becoming-big-gun.html>

<https://www.radioworld.com/columns-and-views/guest-commentaries/why-we-need-shortwave-2-0>

The Big FT8 Money Grab

https://www.n0un.net/the-big-ft8-money-grab/?fbclid=IwAR1_nafBhHKxUZEuPnBAy8GB0M7s3Hi4D1benihZy9tpVT3yIrlJk_rSAI

RF Supply (Bird Wattmeters) <https://www.martinrfsupply.com/>

Question of the Month Answer:

What DX entity has three independent DX entities within its borders?

Answer: C. Italy

Italy has three independent DX entities within its borders. San Marino-T7, The Vatican-HV and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta-1A. Greece has one-Mount Athos-SV/A, Switzerland has one-the International Telecommunications Union-4U1ITU and the USA has one-The United Nations Headquarters-4U1UN.

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FOR SALE ITEMS

ALS-1306, AMPLIFIER, HF+6M, SOLIDSTATE, 1200Watts PEP, 220VAC

No longer need it as I went to Flex. Asking \$1200.00 comes with power supply.

A good deal for a ham that wants an Amplifier. This sells for \$3999.95. Recently back from Ameritron where they put in a new FET and went over it to be sure it was working in proper order.

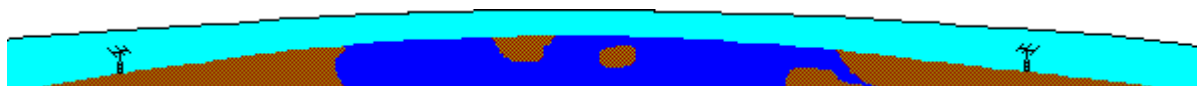
John, W3ML



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

President Northwest Indiana DX Club

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



DX

