

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 13, Issue 1

January 2025

President's Corner

Our next meeting will be on January 24, 2025. Hope to see more of you at the next meeting. The presentation information is on page 3 below.

I want to offer our condolences to David Chasey, N9FN on the loss of his mother.

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://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.

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENT
PRESENTATION BY CARL LUETZELSCHWAB, K9LA
ON
THE SCIENCE OF PROPAGATION

Our fellow member Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, has agreed to make a presentation to our club on the subject of the 'Science of Propagation' at our next meeting on January 24, 2025. As most of you are aware, Carl is a noted propagation expert and regularly makes presentations at W9DXCC convention. This will be an exciting subject for all members.

Hope to see you there.

73's,

Jerry Hess, W9KTP

FOOTNOTE
Previous Speakers
YouTube Recordings

Rob Sherwood, NC0B

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iOp1vsCOCg>

Bernie McClenny, W3UR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1AO3yvUIpU>

Question of the Month

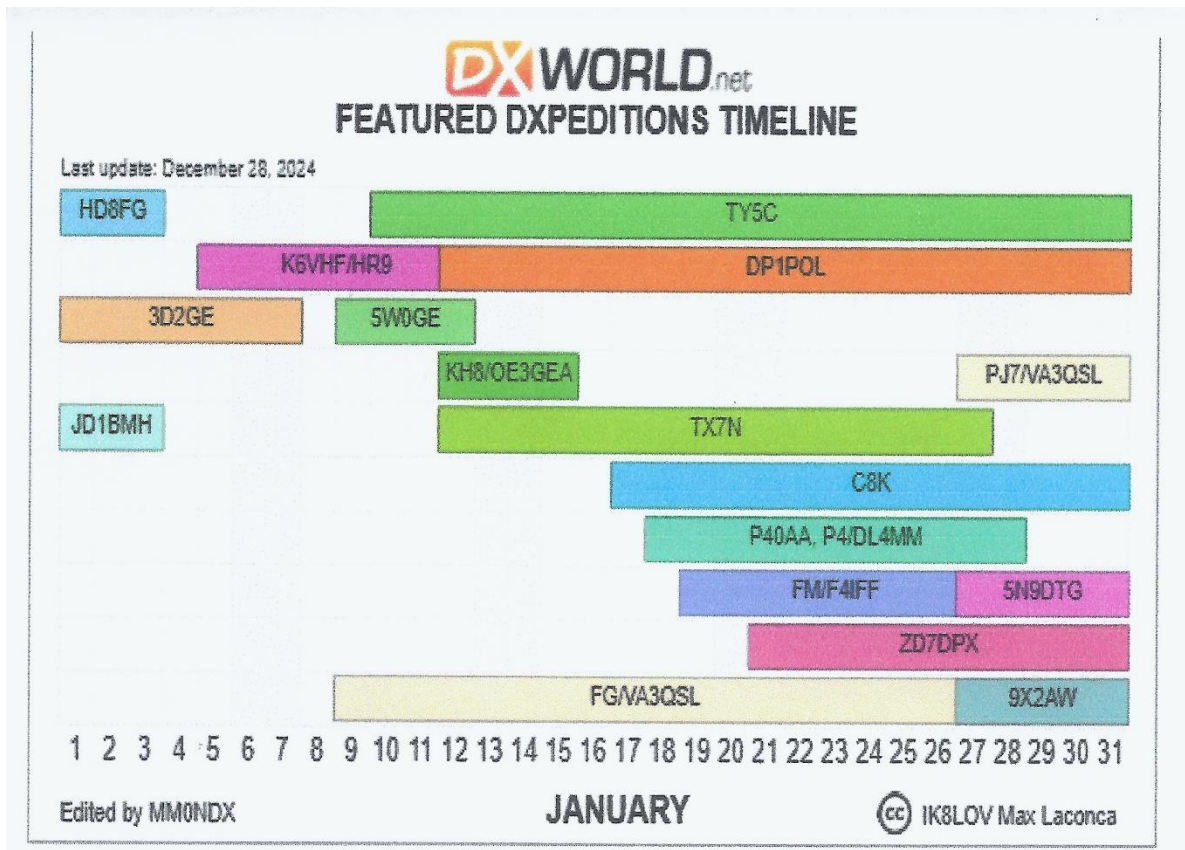
(The correct answer is at the end of the Newsletter)

We often see the term "ADIF" in ham radio. What does the term mean?

- A. **A Darn Interfering Frequency**
- B. **Amateur Data Information Format**
- C. **Amateur Data Interchange Format**
- D. **Amplitude Data Inverter Frequency**

Answer is at the end of the newsletter

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Some websites sent in by Tom W8FIB. Peter 1 and Aves.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_I_Island

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isla_de_Aves

-Handy Hint-

Back Up Your Logs

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

Do you use a computer logging program? When was the last time you backed -up the data? Imagine what a disaster it would be if you lost record of every QSO you ever made! Although computers are very reliable these days, failures do happen. Over the years I have experienced several hard drive failures resulting in the loss of all the data the was on those drives. Fortunately, a rigorous back-up protocol was in place and the damage was minimal.

Most, if not all, popular logging programs have ways to back-up the data. Many can do it automatically while a few require manual intervention. Some back up to “the cloud” and others to an alternate hard drive. While supposedly doing “the job” both these methods have weaknesses as they can be difficult to retrieve.

Another way is to back-up your log files to a removable media such as a CD Disk, Thumb Drive or SD Card.



Some logging programs use a proprietary data protocol but most also allow transfer of their files in the common “ADIF” format. If yours does, back up the file both ways. By doing so you will have options when reinstalling the files.

Finally, there is the “old fashioned way”. Print out a hard copy of your logs. In spite of all of the modern advances, the printed copy seems to survive anything except a fire or flood as technology changes and methods become obsolete and non-compatible with the new. Many new software apps are not compatible with their older versions.

Day	Month	UTC	kHz(MHz)	Mode	Call sign	Find	RST sent	rcvd	Name Country	WAE	QTH CQ	Dist./State	Remarks Award1:	Count	Power Operator	QSL: P	S	R	L	E	C	Sent Date	Cash
2024					QRZ.COM	Clublog			JOTA		ITU	Locator	Award2:										
19	Nov	23:21 23:22	1842.3	FT8	WA4ZXV		+01	+06	W		4 8	AL EM64OR	USA-CA	AL_MADISON									
20	Nov	02:12 02:13	14087.2	FT8	VP8G		+14	+04	VP8/F			FALKLAND IS											
20	Nov	21:54 21:57	24911.6	FT8	ZL7YL		+00	+02	ZL7			CHATHAM IS											
20	Nov	23:04 23:05	5357.6	FT8	OG1X		-14	-15	OH			FINLAND											
20	Nov	23:22 23:23	10138.7	FT8	4K29COP via DC9RI		-14	-10	4J			AZERBAIJAN											
21	Nov	02:24 02:25	5358.4	FT8	PY7ZC		+03	-04	PY			BRAZIL											
21	Nov	02:29 02:30	5358.4	FT8	HB9Q		-07	-13	HB			SWITZERLAND											
22	Nov	22:32 22:33	10140.5	FT8	4U1ITU		-08	+08	4U_IT			ITU HEADQUARTE											
22	Nov	23:07	10136.7	FT8	EA7ISN		-14	-10	EA			SPAIN											

A strong program is to back-up on a regular schedule to some type of removable media AND print a concurrent hard copy. Then you can say you are covered. The main point is to back-up your logs. The day will come when you will be thankful you did!

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

DX Century Club Scorecard

(As of December 31, 2024)

The ARRL DXCC certificate is awarded to amateurs who submit confirmations for contacts with 100 or more entities on the ARRL DXCC List. As of 21 January 2018, there were 340 current entities on the list. The DXCC Honor Roll includes those who are within 9 entities of that figure (or 331 entities) for the Mixed, Phone, CW and RTTY awards. A "Top of the Honor Roll Award" plaque is presented to those who have contacted and confirmed all 340 current entities.

The listing of the DXCC membership contains the call signs and exact credited totals by endorsement level. Awards and Credits are NOT activated automatically; participants must apply to have a particular award or Credit (band, mode etc.) activated when the qualifying number of confirmed contacts are obtained.

The totals were abstracted from the ARRL DXCC Standings lists. <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-standings>

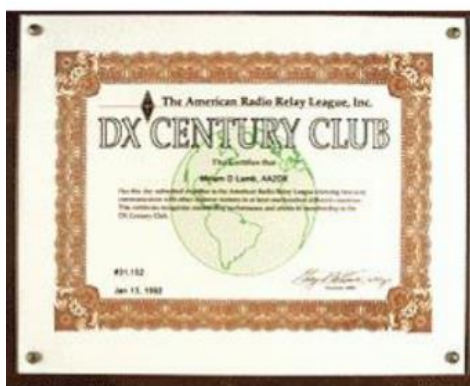
If you have worked and confirmed a DX station but have not formally submitted it to the ARRL, either through a card checker or the Log Book of the World (LOTW) program, those contacts are not counted. We have no way of knowing what new DX has been worked but not submitted.

If you have not submitted an application or update to the ARRL since January 1, 1994 your totals may not be included.

The ARRL listing DOES NOT include records from other organization's DX programs such as eQSL, Club Log, CQ Magazine and QRZ.org



1	K9FN	Dave Bunte	363
2	AG9S	Jim Sjoberg	354
3	N9RD	Juergen Nittner	352
4	AJ9C	Mike Kasrich	351
5	K9LA	Carl Luetzelschwab	351
6	W9KTP	Jerry Hess	351
7	N9FN	Dave Chasey	347
8	KD9HL	Steve Mollman	346
9	KK9R	Mac English	335



10	K9SUH	Ken Reising	330
11	W3ML	John Poindexter	325
12	ND9A	John Sikora	322
13	AE9YL	Vicki Luetzelshwab	320
14	K9WWT	George Kelly	320
15	N9YB	Mike Rosenberg	318
16	N7GVV	James Raisler	315
17	W8FIB	Tom Ruggles	315
18	KY9KYO	Rell Andreica	304
19	WA9JNO	Earl Gumm	303
20	N9DD	Tom Frisz	291
21	W1PIT	Alan Pitts	287
22	N4SV	Bill South	273
23	N9ID	Michael Strong	230
24	AB9QU	Bill Carter	227
25	K9KJ	Tom Johnson	217
26	K9MV	Paul Corey	207
27	KF9UP	Jeff Stewart	202
28	K9MQ	Mark Skowronski	180
29	N9ITB	Jack Albert	159
30	WB9FQS	Larry Brechner	153
31	AB9RY	Tom Breymeyer	144
32	KA9FAX	Anthony Kostelnik	129
33	NA9U	John Nason	121
34	W9DZ	Alan Jones	120
35	WD4MSM	Barry Keating	115
36	KC9GTN	Edward Benchik	110

37	N9AFU	Mike Burdett	109
38	W9ORW	Robert Pence	106
39	KB9BIT	Tom Laskowski	105
40	KC9OYE	Chuck Hill	103
41	KC9TEW	Jeff Kohn	100
42	WJ9Q	Martin Dzik	100

++ Congratulations to all who have added a “new one”! ++

ON-LINE DXCC APPLICATION AVAILABLE AGAIN

The ARRL’s On-Line DXCC Application for QSL cards is available again. When the ARRL suffered its ransomware attack back in May, it prudently shut down the DXCC application system. For many months members were unable to submit applications. After many months, the entire application system is back up and running. The On-Line Application was the last to be reinstated.

The On-Line Application can be accessed at: <https://easydxcc.arrl.org/records.php>

The Online DXCC Application is the preferred method for your paper cards as it will be easier and cheaper for you. Processing will also go a lot faster for the ARRL staff when they get your paperwork since you already entered your card data in the ARRL computer system. With the online application you can enter the cards in any order. Just make sure to enter the QSOs on cards with multiple QSOs together to facilitate checking.

After you have filled out the application and listed your cards, submit them to an ARRL Card Checker, who will verify the cards and submit the paperwork to the ARRL. Steve Mollman-KD9HL is our local Card Checker (email- KD9HL@arrl.net)

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Question of the Month Answer:

We often see the term “ADIF” in ham radio. What does it mean?

Answer: C. Amateur Data Interchange Format

Ever since software has become a part of amateur radio, there have been as many data formats as there have been ham radio software programmers. Hams struggled with converting data among various formats. Several hams had been discussing such a standard via an Internet discussion. In early 1996 KK7A promoted the idea of a standard for exchange of ham data. Then an internet reflector was set up for discussing such a standard. WF1B and WN4AZY, as publishers of commercial ham radio software, took the best suggestions from this discussion and formed a proposal. Ray introduced it at the 1996 Dayton Hamvention. Within a year, this proposal has adapted adopted by most software publishers.

The purpose of ADIF is to provide a standard interchange independent of operating system or programming language for amateur data that will permit easy and direct transfer of data conforming to the standard between various amateur programs as well awards and contest sponsors.

The ADIF standard is not limited to log data. It incorporates other categories such as awards multiplier lists, packet spot data, contest rules, etc., and is expandable to incorporate any new type of data that may appear in the future as the hobby grows and changes.

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What REALLY Happened to RadioShack? (RadioShack History)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bidLW5x_yyk

W8S—An International DXpedition to Swains Island

By Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA



“What do you expect to find there? Well, if I knew, I wouldn’t go there!” ~ Jean Jacques Cousteau

On 7 October 2023, a group of 10 international ham operators from Germany, the Netherlands, and USA landed on Swains Island and set up camp for about two weeks for the purpose of activating this rare DX entity with the call sign, W8S.

Island Background: Swains Island is an uninhabited coral atoll in the South Pacific Ocean, located about 200 miles north of American Samoa. It is about 0.5 square miles in size and it is a USA territory. The Island, about 15 feet high with a circumference of about four miles, is covered by coconut trees and shrubs and has an enclosed lagoon with brackish water.

Jean-Michel Cousteau, the son the famous French explorer Jacques Cousteau, was enamored with Swains Island and its pristine beauty. In 2014, he created the well-received documentary film entitled: “Swains Island: One of the Last Jewels of the Planet.” Although the marine areas

adjacent to Swains Island have been incorporated into the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS) as a sanctuary unit, a lesser-known fact is that Swains is a private island owned by the Jennings family.

The history is a bit hazy, but the story goes like this: An American, Eli Jennings, joined the copra (inside meat of the coconut) farmers on Swains Island with his Samoan wife in 1856. It is said that he purchased the for 15 shillings per acre, plus a bottle of gin. So, if Swains was calculated to be 373 acres, the total paid would have been 5,595 shillings. That would be about \$40,000 at today's value, plus... a bottle of gin.

Alex Jennings is the current owner of Swains Island, and he provided the logistical support for the W8S DXpedition.

To reach the island, the team flew to Hawaii and onto Pago Pago, American Samoa. From Pago Pago, the team loaded their equipment on board the chartered 138-foot vessel, Manu'atele and sailed for about 48 hours to reach Swains.

Swains and ham radio: Prior to the W8S DXpedition, Swains Island, KH8/S, was number 27 on the Most Wanted Club Log DXCC entity list. At the time of this writing, after the DXpedition had ended, Swains Island is listed at number 51.

Swains Island became part of the DXCC program in 2006 when a team led by Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK, made 16,390 contacts with the call sign KH8SI. Other activations of Swains Island include: W5BOS/KH8, 560 QSOs (1994); KM9D/KH8 (2002); KH8SI [did not count for DXCC] (2005); KH8SI, 16,390 QSOs (2006); N8S, 117,205 QSOs — a world record at the time (2007), and NH8S, 105,455 QSOs (2012).

In addition to DXCC, Swains is also part of multiple other Amateur Radio programs such as IOTA OC-200 (Islands on the Air), POTA K-9754 (Parks on the Air) and KFF-6575 (World Fauna and Flora).

The W8S Project: After many years of preparations, as well as setbacks — a measles outbreak in American Samoa, a defective vessel that needed extensive repairs, and the COVID pandemic — team leader Hans Griessl, DL6JGN, and co-leader Ronald Stuy, PA3EWP, were finally able, in October 2023, ready to take the team to Swains Island for an adventure of a lifetime.

Unfortunately, after the team arrived in American Samoa, we were told our project would be delayed once more, for at least a week or maybe two, due to the vessel's schedule changes. A large tropical storm had just passed over the area prior to our arrival and so, our vessel, which has the important task of supplying the communities spread over the multiple islands of American Samoa, had to give priority to servicing those communities.



Our ride to Swains Island, the vessel Manu'atele

We pleaded our case to the vessel captain, we were interviewed by the local radio station, and we contacted the local government. Soon enough the whole island was aware of our situation and the old adage of “if there is a will, there is a way” applied here and the Port Authority was able to adjust the vessel’s schedule to help us reduce the departure delay to only three days.



The landing craft on approach to Swains Island.



One ton of equipment was unloaded onto Swains Island.

Getting Set Up: Nearly a ton of equipment was unloaded on Swains Island. Some was shipped to American Samoa by UPS from the Netherlands, some was brought by the team members on their flights to American Samoa, while heavier items (such as steel masts, hammers, etc.) were purchased by the team in Pago Pago.



Equipment boxes ready for shipping from the Netherlands to Pago

The team set up two separate radio camps (named “Red” and “Blue”), about 1,500 feet apart, to allow for simultaneous CW and SSB operation on the same band. The radio camps ran pileups 24/7 using six stations on CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. A separate camp for sleeping tents and the kitchen area was set up by the support team brought on the island by Alex Jennings.



Our Green, Red and Blue camp setup.

Swains Island had never been activated on EME and the demand was high. So, the W8S team set up an additional station dedicated for 6M with EME capabilities using a Flex 6700 radio and the popular M2 6M8GJ, an 8-element 6M DXpedition EME antenna with 12dBD gain. We transmitted on 50.190 MHz using the new WSJT Q65-60A pileup mode in the first sequence.

For FT8 we used the latest version of the WSJT-X software and operated only in the Fox-and-Hound mode. The team posted the operating plan on their website (swains2020.1ldxt.eu/operating-plan) prior to the DXpedition.

Equipment: The team used Elecraft K3S radios, SPE Expert 1.3K-FA amplifiers, and 4O3A High Power bandpass filters/triplexers — a winning combination that is very popular with the DXpedition teams. DX Engineering, probably the most well-known ham radio store in the world, provided the W8S team with a beam for terrestrial 6M operations, high quality coaxial cable, MIX 31 ferrites, and telescoping masts. The German company RF-KIT provided W8S with two of their popular RF2K-S 2KW amplifiers and those came in handy to the W8S team in their goal of reaching the small pistol stations around the world, who attempted to make an ATNO QSO with a limited setup.

Myriad antennas were installed on the island to cover all the HF bands: VDA antennas for the 10/12/15/17/20 and 30 Meter bands, Hexbeam for 10/15/20 Meters, phased verticals for 40 Meters, T-loaded vertical for 160 Meters, and a vertical for 80 and 60 Meters. Electricity for the radio shack and the camp was provided by multiple 6kW Generac GP5000 gas powered generators.



VDAs, Hexbeam and 8-element 6M beam antennas on the beach.

Prior to the DXpedition, the W8S team met in the Netherlands to assemble, test and pack the antennas for the DXpedition to ensure that all components could work well on the island. That approach paid off as the antenna installation on the island took place without any issues.

For curious readers, detailed station diagrams of the two radio operating camps as well as many antenna pictures are available on our website.

Although the images of the island show a tropical idyllic place, the reality is a bit different. Temperatures hovering around 104° F with high humidity and mosquitos, which seem to be the main inhabitants of the island, made living conditions particularly difficult. Building the stations required a great deal of effort from the entire team. This is one of the reasons why the construction of the stations took longer than we hoped.

The team set up a StarLink terminal on the island, which provided a good quality high-speed Internet connection and allowed us to make daily uploads to Club Log. In addition, the team was able to broadcast, for the first time ever in a DXpedition, live images from Swains Island and participated in a live YouTube broadcast hosted by DX Engineering. Viewers were able to see an

operator's screen and hear the audio signals, which allowed operators around the world to see and hear in real-time, how it feels to run pileups and operate from a DXpedition.

The end result of the W8S DXpedition was a whopping 92,000 QSOs in the log with about 22,000 unique call signs. This was a bit short of our goal of 100,000 QSOs (a result of our delayed arrival). More importantly, due to extensive efforts from the team, the QSOs were equally distributed among the ham radio population around the world, significantly increasing the number of ATNOs (All Time New Ones).

QSO Confirmations: For QSL card confirmations, the team chose the well-known QSL manager, Charles, MØOXO (www.m0oxo.com) to take on the extensive QSL and LoTW managing chores for the W8S operation. If you worked W8S and requested a QSL card, by the time you read this, you should already have the QSL card in your hand.

The W8S Team: The 10-member team with extensive DXpeditioning skills was made up of the following operators: Hans, DL6JGN; Ronald, PA3EWP; Heye Harms, DJ9RR; Rainer Schinkmann, DL2AMD; Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA; Max George, NG7M; Evert Bakker, PA2KW; Martin Jonink, PA4WM; Johannes Hafkenscheid, PA5X, and Gerben Menting, PG5M. Rainer, DL2AMD, was also the team doctor, in charge of the well-being of the team while on the island.

We also had an experienced team of radio pilots who passed messages and feedback to the island radio team from the worldwide ham radio community, in real time, improving the ability of the island team to reach larger parts of the world. The W8S pilot team was made up of: Alex Hengel, PA1AW; Jan Foerderer, DL7JAN; John Warburton, G4IRN; Steve Hass, N2AJ; Siso Hennessey, HK3W; Champ Muangamphun, E21EIC, and Lee Moyle, VK3GK.

Our Thanks: We would like to thank all the hams, clubs, organizations (Especially NCDXF, GDXF, EUDXF and INDEXA) and corporations (Especially DX Engineering and RF-KIT) who supported us in this expensive endeavor! The W8S team appreciates your support! The W8S appreciates your support! The W8S DXpedition website www.swains2023.com as well as the Facebook page and X (Twitter) @Swains2023 contain the latest news and additional details and pictures about this complex project

FOR SELL ITEMS

FREE Astron LS-10A 28 VOLT DC POWER

SUPPLY. No shipping. Power Supply Weight: 18.00 lbs. Contact John, W3ML



For Sale, Cushcraft A3S tri-band HF Yagi, 10, 15 and 20 meters, with the 30/40 meter add-on.

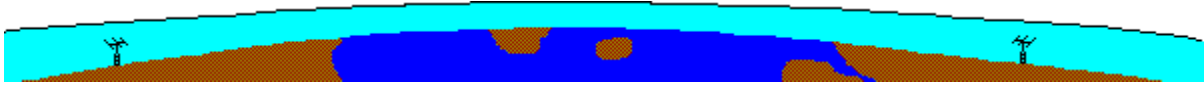
This antenna is just over 2 years old. It worked fine for me, but I soon realized I needed coverage for more bands (WARC) so I replaced it with a new 5 band Yagi. This A3S is in great shape and the price is very good. Look up this antenna now and it is \$799 at DX Engineering for the basic tri-band antenna only, add the A-743 30/40 meter add on and that's an additional \$349, that's \$1200 today, plus you have to pay for shipping and tax, likely \$1400 or more when all is said and done. My price to you, at almost 1/3 the cost of a new one is \$500, or make me an offer. I'll deliver no charge within the NWI region, or you can pick up in La Porte, IN. Its a great tri-band, or 5 band when you add the 30/40 meter add-on.

**Contact me if interested,
Bill, N4SV,
wbs099@yahoo.com**

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://nwidxclub.weebly.com/>



DX

THANKS

Thanks for visiting!

