

# Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 12, Issue 7

July 2024

## President's Corner

Next meeting will be July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Sugar Bowl in Michigan City at Noon.

Presentation will be on Moon Bounce.

LoTW is fixed. There will be a rush to upload. Currently there are over an 8 million QSO backlog.

73  
John W3ML  
Good DXing!

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Meeting Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>  
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](mailto:kd9hl@arrl.net) for an appointment or to make other arrangements.

**NORTHWEST INDIANA DX CLUB OFFICERS AND STAFF**

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<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>John Reardon W9YOU</b>	<a href="mailto:kd9ron@arrl.net">kd9ron@arrl.net</a>
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<b>DX Alert Coordinator</b>	<b>Bill South N4SV</b>	<a href="mailto:wbs099@yahoo.com">wbs099@yahoo.com</a>

**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](mailto:kd9hl@arrl.net)

QSL cards are available.

**Notice:**

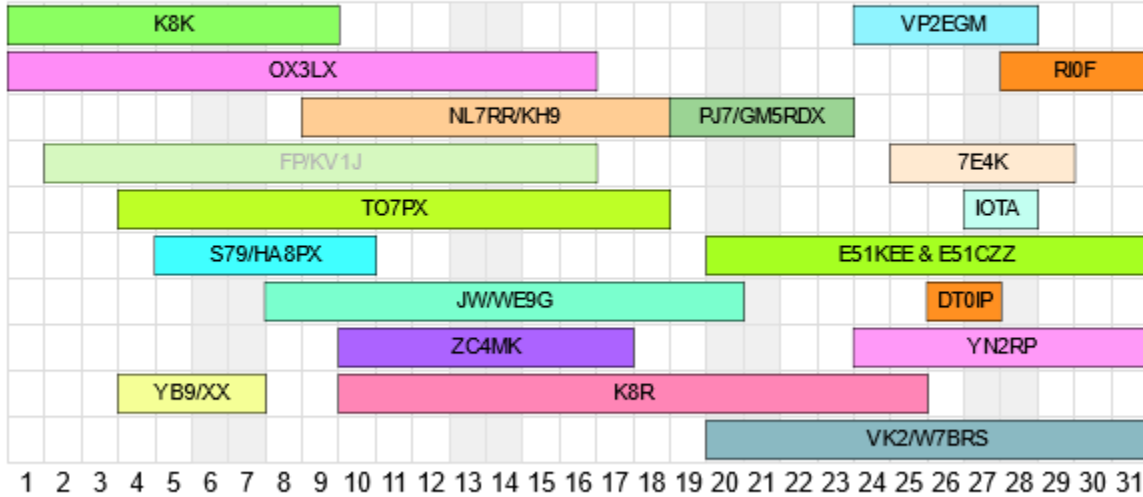
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**DX**WORLD.net  
FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE

Last update: June 30, 2024



Edited by MM0NDX

JULY

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Curiosity of [https://www.hamradiotimeline.com/timeline/dxw\\_timeline\\_1\\_1.php](https://www.hamradiotimeline.com/timeline/dxw_timeline_1_1.php)

# Handy Hint

## What Time is it? Using GPS to Set the Computer Clock

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

I was recently approached by a fellow ham who wanted to operate a solar powered portable rig on Field Day. Because of his low power, he was anticipating some WSJT-X ft8 operation. As we all know, WSJT-X operations are dependent on having an accurate computer clock. How was he going to be able to maintain his clock's accuracy if he was off the grid and without internet access?

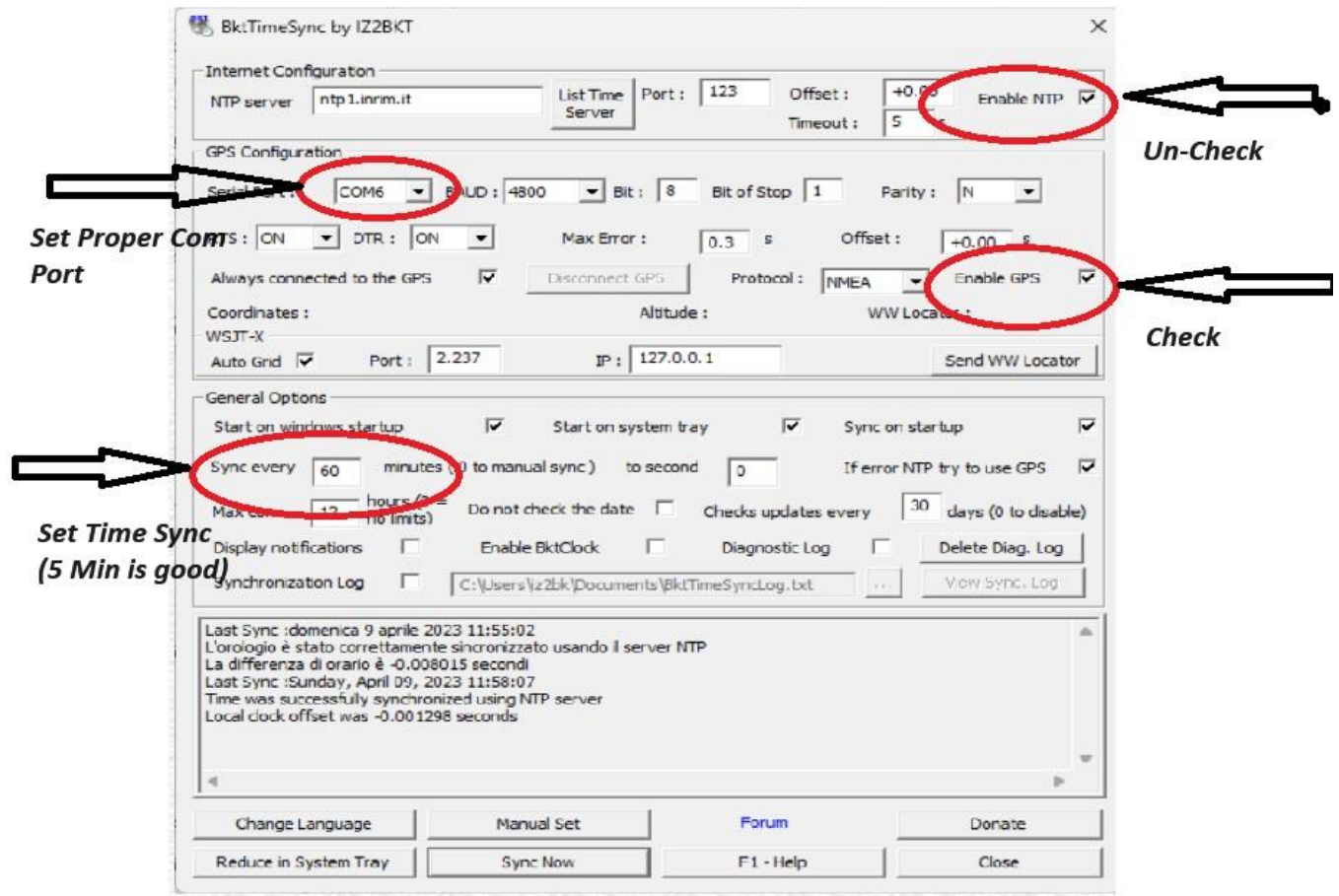
It so happens that the WSJT-X internet board recently had a long running (and long winded) discussion on maintaining clock accuracy using GPS with a laptop computer. While very informative and an overkill on information/theory, none of the commentators mentioned the mechanics of implementing GPS/Computer timekeeping. It turned out to be very simple! First was software for the GPS/Computer interface. Our friend Google quickly located a download source. [BktTimeSync](#) is a small and free 3.7MB program that synchronizes a PC's clock with time signals received by the GPS dongle.

Download the software and install it. After it is installed **AND** after the GPS Dongle is installed open the program and make the noted changes.

Next was something to receive the GPS signals. A quick search of Amazon turned up numerous GPS USB dongles that would plug into a laptop. A Dorhea VK172 G-Mouse USB GPS Dongle<sup>ii</sup> was chosen that sold for \$9.99 plus tax. It had good reviews and was cheap. That solved the hardware problem.



Installation on the Windows 10 computer was simple. The dongle was plugged into an available USB port and the machine recognized the device and automatically installed the drivers. The next step was to open the “Control Panel” and then “Printers and Devices”. Click on the icon for the GPS Dongle to determine its properties and identify the com port. In my case it was Com Port 5.



Step by Step:

- Download and install BktTimeSync but don't run it yet
- Plug in the GPS dongle. Wait while Windows installs the driver and assigns a COM port
- Initially, a red LED will be illuminated on the dongle. After about two minutes (initially, then 20 seconds) the red LED will blink green about once per second, indicating reception of satellites

- Open BkTimeSync and configure it as shown above, replacing "COM6" with whatever port was assigned.

For a few minutes I was puzzled because I couldn't get a GPS signal or lock-on. That was quickly remedied when I realized that my home's metal roof blocked the satellite signals. Stepping outdoors with the computer quickly corrected that and within a few seconds I had a signal, synchronization and an accurate clock. The entire setup took less time than is required to read this article. As a work around for the metal roof, I also tried a USB extension cord of about 10 feet<sup>iii</sup> and placed the dongle out a window. It worked fine with that setup.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.maniaradio.it/en/bkttimesync.html>

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09Q2ZYRCS?ref=ppx\\_yo2ov\\_dt\\_b\\_product\\_details&th=1](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09Q2ZYRCS?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details&th=1)

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.amazon.com/Extension-Extender-Transfer-Charging-Keyboard/dp/B0BRKHHQLG/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?crid=14UCPF9LK3BW7&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.Vjx9XoHcmYuXz8nq\\_9EiA6YiaC1CTNc0W3B7Cfm9I8fC6yyph4Br6iau4z4mAZITaOMmtuTO0LmyEsoBXjp-AdRqPX-aKZyM6Ka-v8keCAIvR0x6JfPnKFWcaewiWG4r3Z8kXZcMhnBnq0xmb1BZbGp1VWcY5iCKtHEMdfbrV7J4qbRWHK8RU3N8BjP38QxJv9n5AMdyWAKFIKzBhfdVbkQQ3Ewg2WS9F2qTCg5fNQ.ihBdMHUtP75eQTU\\_kTrJfE0LgVhD9zcxfuLreO2q54g&dib\\_tag=se&keywords=usb+extension+cable+10+ft&qid=1718497061&srefix=usb+extension+cable%2Caps%2C145&sr=8-5](https://www.amazon.com/Extension-Extender-Transfer-Charging-Keyboard/dp/B0BRKHHQLG/ref=sr_1_5?crid=14UCPF9LK3BW7&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.Vjx9XoHcmYuXz8nq_9EiA6YiaC1CTNc0W3B7Cfm9I8fC6yyph4Br6iau4z4mAZITaOMmtuTO0LmyEsoBXjp-AdRqPX-aKZyM6Ka-v8keCAIvR0x6JfPnKFWcaewiWG4r3Z8kXZcMhnBnq0xmb1BZbGp1VWcY5iCKtHEMdfbrV7J4qbRWHK8RU3N8BjP38QxJv9n5AMdyWAKFIKzBhfdVbkQQ3Ewg2WS9F2qTCg5fNQ.ihBdMHUtP75eQTU_kTrJfE0LgVhD9zcxfuLreO2q54g&dib_tag=se&keywords=usb+extension+cable+10+ft&qid=1718497061&srefix=usb+extension+cable%2Caps%2C145&sr=8-5)

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

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## St Paul Island CY9C DXpedition

Final preparations are being made for the August 26 - September 5, 2024 CY9C DXpedition. One of the requirements for a DXpedition to St Paul is to have in place a one million dollar liability insurance policy. After several months of searching for a company to write the necessary policy, an insurance underwriter stepped forward with a suitable policy for the DXpedition team. The team would like to thank the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans for working with us in this endeavor. The team would also like to thank DX Engineering for providing so many items needed for a large DXpedition. Lee WW2DX has set up and tested a six element Yagi for Six meters. Lee is also testing the EME gear and antennas. Packing of all the DXpedition gear has commenced. All antennas are in their respective ski bags. The team will utilize two 12 X 12 heavy duty tents and two 10 X 10 tents. These tents are packed and ready for transport to Nova Scotia. Eight new Honda EU-2200i generators have been tested and are ready for transport. Final preparations are being made for a couple of back-up antennas. Lou N2TU has done a great job with the CY9C Facebook page. A lot of photos have been posted of the final preparations. There is a link to the Facebook page on the CY9C website. This week each operator on the team made the first of two financial commitments to the DXpedition. This will

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be the most expensive CY9 DXpedition ever. Donations are always welcome to help off-set this cost and can be made through our website at: <https://t-rexsoftware.com/cy9c>

73,

Murray WA4DAN

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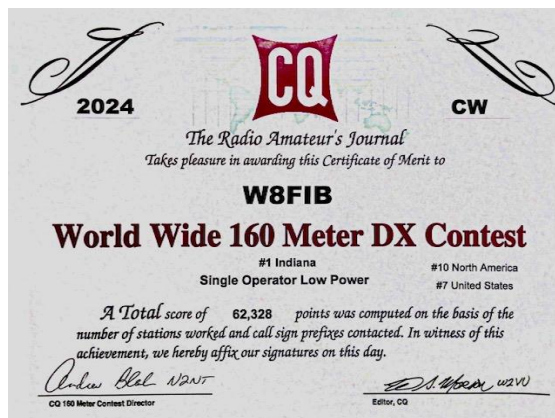
## Question of the Month

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

The recent FT4GL operation was on Glorioso Island, a tiny point in the Indian Ocean that is part of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises). There is a small human presence on the island that operates and maintains a meteorological station. The people on the island are members of what organization?

- A. TAAF- Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises staff
  - B. Le Météo-France- The French National Weather Service
  - C. Le Marine Nationale-The French Navy
  - D. Le Légion Etrangère-the French Foreign Legion
- 

"**Congratulations to Tom Ruggles-W8FIB** for his accomplishments in the last CQ Worldwide 160 Meter Contest. This may be the final contest as CQ magazine has quit publication and contest sponsorship."





# DX'ing on 60 Meters

## 100 Watts and a Wire

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL



Over the past few years many entities have received permission to operate on 60 meters. Some are limited to 15 watts and a dipole antenna while others can use up to 100 watts and a dipole antenna. Over 250 DXCC entities have been active on 60 meters. Most DX activity is FT8 concentrated around channel 3 at 5.357 MHz.

USA operation on 60 Meters is channelized, limited to 100 watts output power and a dipole antenna. Use of gain antennas requires reducing transmitter power. The FCC recently released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for non-channelized operation near channel 3 for USA stations. A decision should be coming soon.

The ARRL Awards program does not recognize 60-meter contacts for DXCC Awards nor for the DX Challenge.

Even with the regulatory restrictions and lack of awards, chasing DX on 60 Meters can be entertaining and rewarding. As a DX'er accumulates DX contacts the number of potential "All Time New Ones (ATNO)" becomes fewer and fewer. 60 Meter DX opens up a new avenue of DX to chase. True there are no ARRL awards to work for, but there is the personal satisfaction of accomplishment and heaven forbid, bragging rights.

About six months ago, on a slow evening on the bands, I happened to switch the transceiver to 60 Meters-Channel 3 (5.357 MHz). Not having a dedicated 60 Meter antenna I was surprised at what I heard. Many DX stations! Some common and some not so common. I immediately saw a challenge. Could I work some of these stations? My first problem was that my low band antenna, a fan dipole cut for 30-40-80-160 meters was not resonate on 60 meters. In fact, when I put the antenna analyzer on it the SWR was 8.3:1. My Elecraft K3 was not going to be happy with that! Fortunately, the K3 has an excellent automatic antenna tuner and after much clicking and clattering it found a match at 1:1 SWR.

Since that fateful February evening I have confirmed 58 DX entities, mostly common types but a few unusual ones such as Chad, Clipperton Island and Temotu Province. Worked ALL States was also accomplished. Obviously, I still have a few to get before I can say "I've got DXCC on 60 Meters" but the challenge is there.

The moral of the story is, that when things get slow on the bands, try 60 meters. It is always a nice feeling when you say to yourself "I got him!", especially considering the power and antenna limitations of the band. So, if things are a little slow on the bands, try 60 meters!



## Upcoming DXpeditions

Zsolt, HA8PX, will be active as S79/HA8PX from Takamaka, Mahe Island, Seychelles, between July 5-10th. Activity will be on various HF bands, during his spare time, using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via his home callsign and ClubLog's OQRS.

## Pitcairn Island DXpedition, September 2024

Bill, G0VDE, is planning to travel to VP6, Pitcairn Island in the Pacific, and be active between approximately 5th to 15th September 2024.

He will initially be travelling to Tahiti on the 31st August, stopping there for a couple of days and then travelling on Air Tahiti to Mangareva Island (Gambier) on the 3rd September. Bill will then take the Pitcairn Island's boat - the 'Silver Supporter' - for the around 30 hour trip to Pitcairn.

The return trip means he will arrive back on Mangareva on 17th September, but as the next flight back to Tahiti is on the following Saturday 21st, he will be staying there for four days and plan to activate Mangareva as FO/G0VDE.

Bill will/should return to the UK on the 24th September.

**Web Page** for more info is at: <http://vp6wr.com/>

## [Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin] Two Steves From E51

**Rarotonga Island: July 27-31st, 2024 Rarotonga: IOTA OC-013**

**Aitutaki Atoll: August 1-6th, 2024 Aitutaki: IOTA OC-083**

**Modes: CW and SSB**

**Bands: Mainly 20 - 15 - 10m Also 40, 30, 17 and 12m**

**Antennas: Verticals on beach next to salt water lagoon, End Fed Long Wires, 2 element yagi for 10m**

**Ops: Steve, ZL2KE, will be active as E51KEE on CW and SSB; arriving on Rarotonga one week before E51CZZ. Steve, ZL4CZ, will be active as E51CZZ on SSB; arrives one week after E51KEE; goes to Aitutaki Island 3 days before E51KEE. Yes both of them are named 'Steve'; staying at the same beach house on Rarotonga, staying at adjacent bungalows in Aitutaki. They are New Zealanders.**

**Gear: Two 100 w transceivers**

**QSL Manager: IK2DUW**

**\*\* Note: This is a DX-Holiday - having a great time snorkeling, socialising, sight seeing, etc. When time permits they will be on the air making as many contacts as possible! This is not an intense 24 hour, 7 days/week DXpedition.**

## **Bouvet Island**

**Check out [3v0k.com](http://3v0k.com) for more updates about the 2026 DX-pedition to Bouvet Island. We're negotiating a vessel and helicopter contract to bring a team of 20 operators onshore with a two camp setup, where one camp is dedicated to give North America a good take-off.**

Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW - E-mail addresses:

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Editor of the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin (OPDX - DXer's Tool of Excellence)

President of the "Northern Ohio DX Association" (NODXA)

DX Advisor for the "Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Past ARRL Assistant Director of the Great Lakes Division (1996-2022)

Sysop of the "Basic Amateur Radio Frequency BBS" ([BARF80.ORG](http://BARF80.ORG))

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## Annual DXCC Challenge Scorecard Canceled

We normally do the annual listing of member's DXCC Challenge Award standings in the July issue. This year, because of the cyber-attack on the ARRL computers and the resulting shutdown of LoTW and the DXCC programs we are not publishing that listing. The information for the listing is abstracted from those programs.



## Question of the Month Answer:

The people on Glorioso Island are members of what organization?

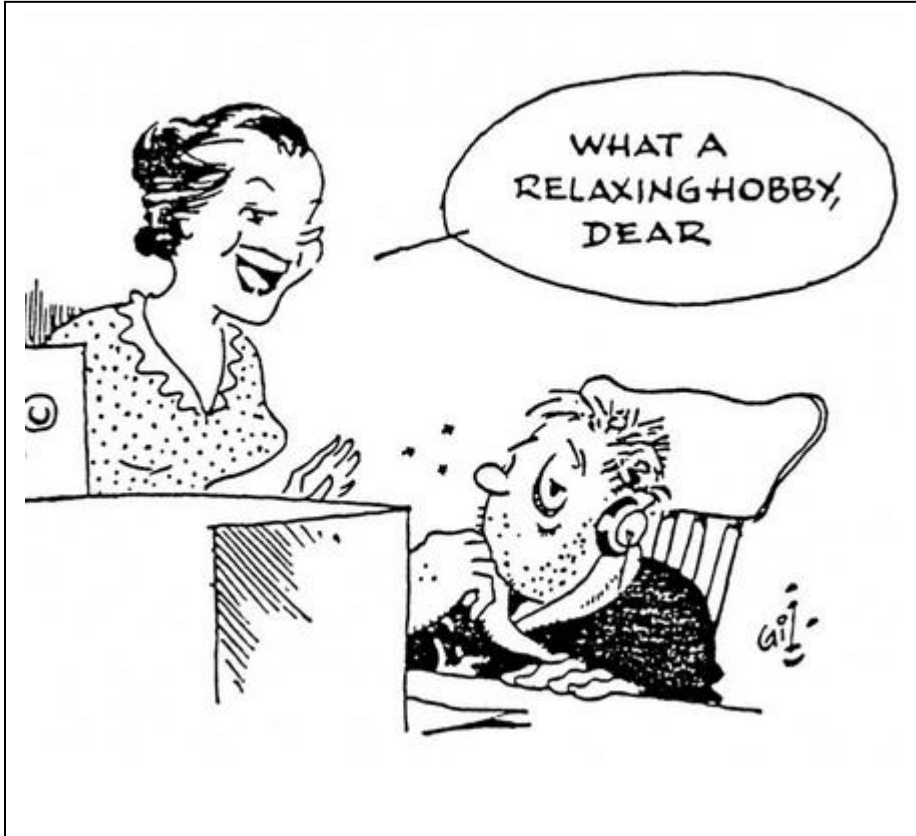
**Answer: D. Le Légion Etrangère-the French Foreign Legion**

This is probably the smallest operational unit of the Foreign Legion. The main roles of the detachment are to provide weather observations and to maintain a French presence on the island and in the region, Glorioso Island is subject to conflicting territorial claims by Comoros and Madagascar. By having the Foreign Legion on the island, France's sovereignty is maintained.





*Happy Hour at a NWIDX Club Meeting*



Thanks to Steve KD9HL for the cartoons.

# FOR SALE ITEMS

**FREE** Astron LS-10A 28 VOLT DC POWER SUPPLY. No shipping. Power Supply Weight: 18.00 lbs. Contact 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**

