

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 11, Issue 7

July 2023

President's Corner

Hello,

Our meeting on June 16, with John Sweeney as our speaker was well attended. We had 16 individuals there at the new meeting place.

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.

2023

NWIDX Club Members DXCC Challenge Award Scorecard

(as of June 30, 2023)



AG9S	JIM SJOBERG, JR	3016
N9FN	DAVE CHASEY	2674
AJ9C	MIKE KASRICH	2557
K9FN	DAVID BUNTE	2323
KD9HL	STEVE MOLLMAN	2015
W8FIB	TOM RUGGLES	1817
W3ML	JOHN POINDEXTER	1621
KY9KYO	RELL ANDREICA	1601
N9YB	MICHAEL ROSENBERG	1451

W9UM	NICHOLAS COMINOS	1427
N9RD	JUERGEN NITTNER	1399
K9SUH	KEN REISING	1356
N9DD	THOMAS FRISZ	1303
N9DA	JOHN SIKORA	1214
N7GVV	JAMES RAISLER	1107

Congratulations to the new qualifiers and to all members who have increased their count.

The above totals were abstracted the ARRL DXCC Standings Lists. <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-standings>
The ARRL DXCC Challenge award is available to applicants who reach 1,000 band points on the bands of 160 through 6-Meters. This includes only current entities. Deleted entities do not count towards this award. All contacts must be made after November 15, 1945. Once you reach the 1,000-entity/band point level, you are automatically entered into the Challenge listing. An application to request the DXCC Challenge listing is not required. This award is endorsable in levels of 500.

There is no certificate for this award but a special plaque is available from the ARRL.

The theoretical maximum possible points as of June 30, 2022 was 3400 points (10 bands X 340 eligible entities-a few entities do not allow operations on all bands, so the actual maximum total is somewhat less. An example is Laos-XW, which bans amateur operations on 80, 30 and 6 meters.

The current world high point holder is EA8AK with 3271 points and the current USA high point holder is W4DR with 3203 points.



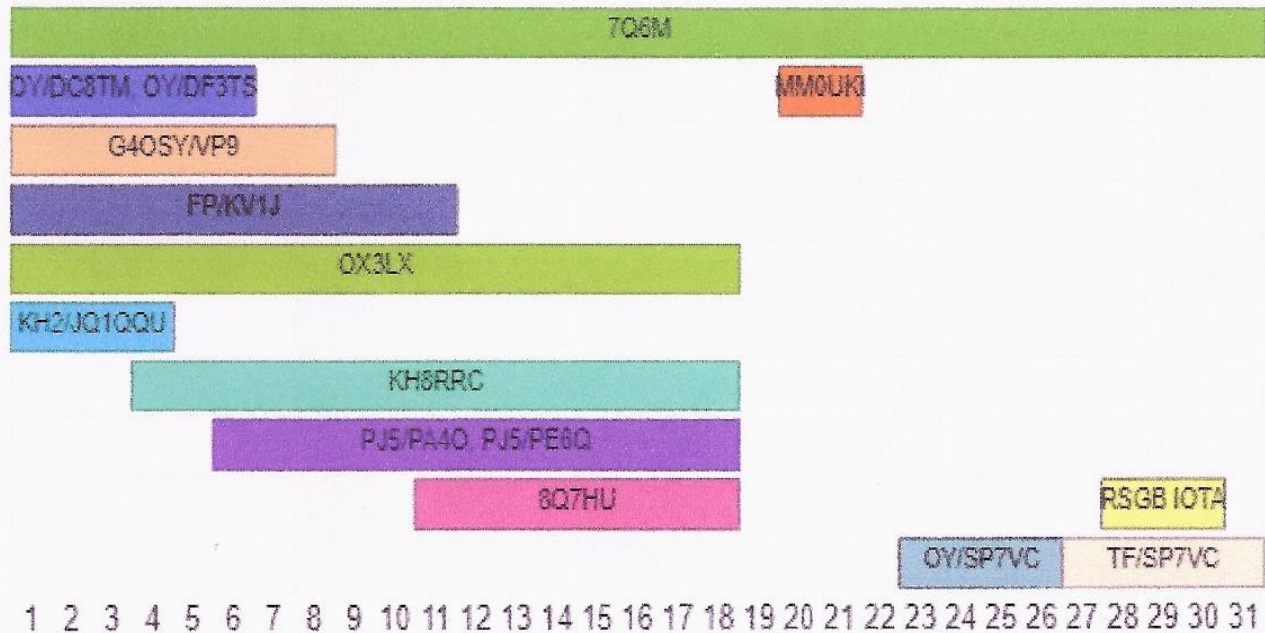
DX LISTINGS FOR 7/2023

By

Jerry Hess, W9KTP

DX WORLD.net FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE

Last update: June 24, 2023



Edited by MM0NDX

JULY

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By Permission of MM0NDX

How to prevent ESD damage

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Here are some tips from Keysight Technologies, one of the leading electronic test equipment companies, on how to prevent ESD from damaging your electronics.

- **USE A GROUNDED WRIST STRAP** whenever you are handling equipment or boards. Using a grounded wrist strap prevents your body from building up charge and causing damage when this built-up charge discharges into your equipment or test boards. Make sure to connect that alligator clip to ground!
- **USE GROUNDED WORK SURFACES OR MATS** for your boards. Do NOT use static generating or insulating materials as a work surface. Non-grounded mats and static generating/insulated materials can inductively charge boards, especially exposed ones. When connecting a charged board to equipment, the board can cause damage by discharging into the equipment's inputs.
- **KEEP CHARGED MATERIALS AT LEAST 0.3 METERS FROM EXPOSED ASSEMBLIES.** This includes plastics, foam, or other materials that can build up charge. Having a charged material near an exposed assembly can inductively charge the assembly. The assembly can then discharge into the equipment's inputs.
- **DISCHARGE YOUR CABLES BEFORE CONNECTING THEM TO YOUR EQUIPMENT.** Electrostatic charges can build up on test probes and test leads, so it's important to discharge them before connecting them to your test equipment:
 - Ensure your device is off.
 - Connect your cable to your device.
 - Attach a 50 Ω shunt to the open end of the cable.
 - Remove the shunt and immediately attach your device to your equipment. This prevents the center conductor of your cable from discharging stored charge into your equipment. A charged assembly can charge connected cables.
- **USE BOARD STANDOFFS AS NEEDED.** In some situations, you need board standoffs to provide extra insulation for your exposed assemblies. This prevents your grounded mats from making unwanted connections on your board.
- **NEVER USE "PINK" PACKING MATERIAL FOR BOARD TRANSPORT OR AS A WORK SURFACE.** While many people think pink packing material is ESD safe, in most cases it easily builds up unwanted charge. Unless continuous, thorough testing is done, treat pink packing materials as charged.



- **CAP UNUSED EQUIPMENT INPUTS** to avoid accidental ESD and physical damage. Damage often occurs by accidentally contacting equipment inputs. Capping unused inputs protects them from incidental ESD damage.
- **USE ESD-SAFE BAGS WHEN TRANSPORTING BOARDS.** This protects boards from ESD damage while moving between ESD-safe locations.
- **DO NOT OVERDRIVE EQUIPMENT INPUTS.** Start your testing at the least sensitive input setting and zoom in on your signal. Additionally, observe the maximum input levels for your specific equipment. The least sensitive setting is the most resilient, so starting there ensures that your inputs are at safe operating levels

After I posted this to my blog, Dave, N8SBE offered some further tips. He writes:

- Grounded heel straps also help reduce static charge. Test them with a floor tester every time you put them on. The floor needs to be somewhat conductive—not metal, that’s a safety hazard—so use conductive wax on tiles, or conductive carpet to drain of electrostatic charges.
- Keep materials, such as styrofoam cups, that form electrostatic charges easily away from your workspace. A styrofoam cup can generate thousands of volts.
- Keep the humidity up in the workspace. That helps to keep static generation down as well.

I like to think that I follow ESD-safe procedures, but there are a couple of things here that I hadn’t thought about before. For example, I’d never really thought about discharging test equipment cables before connecting them. I think that’s a good tip

To learn more, go to <https://www.keysight.com/find/PreventESD>

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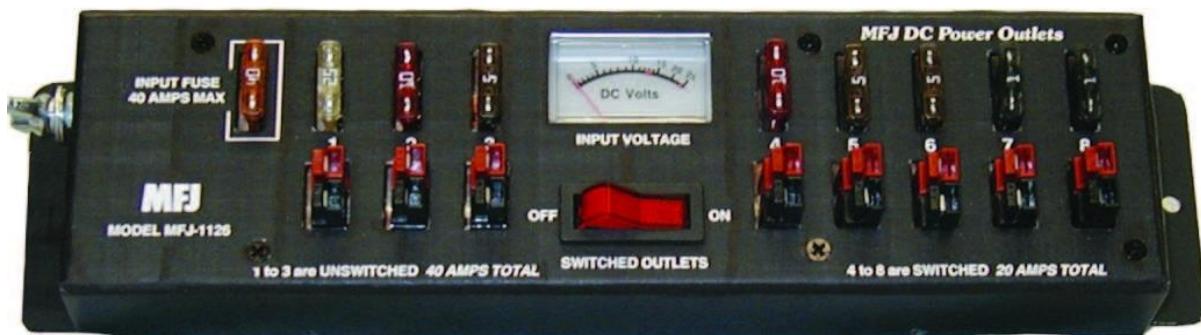
Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not worrying about electrostatic discharge, he teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands.

Handy Hint

Testing Blade Type Fuses

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

Automotive style ATC/ATO blade type fuses are being seen more and more in electronic applications. A frequent use is in multi-outlet power strips utilizing Anderson Power Poles. These units are available from different vendors with up to 16 fused outlets. An efficient way for most amateur radio operators to distribute power from a single power supply to multiple pieces of equipment.

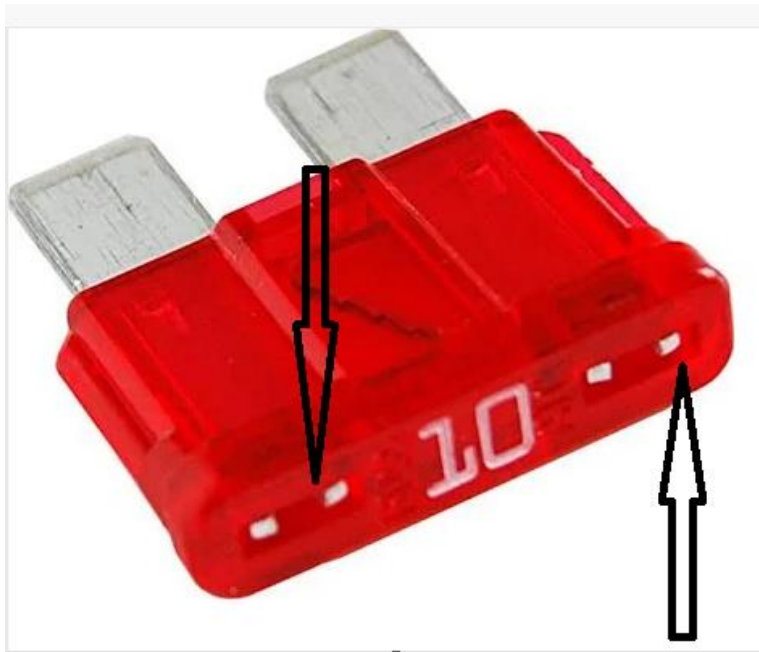


Typical instructions for testing fuses:

- Remove the fuse from its socket. You can use a pair of needle-nose pliers or a fuse puller tool, if available. Gently grasp the fuse and pull it straight out from the socket.
- Inspect the fuse visually. Look for any signs of a blown fuse, such as a broken filament, discoloration, or a visibly melted or damaged fuse element. If the fuse appears to be in good condition, proceed to the next step.
- Use a multimeter set to the continuity or resistance mode. A multimeter is a handy tool that measures electrical properties. If you don't have a multimeter, you can also use a test light.
- Touch the multimeter leads or test light probes to each end of the fuse. The multimeter should display a low resistance value or beep, indicating continuity. If the test light illuminates, it also indicates continuity.
- If the multimeter displays an infinite resistance value or the test light doesn't illuminate, it means there is an open circuit, and the fuse is likely blown. In this case, the fuse needs to be replaced.

The easy way:

There is a way to test the fuses without removing them from their sockets. If you look closely at the top of a ATC fuse you will see two openings with the bare electrodes visible.



Simply put your probes into these openings and you will be able to test the continuity. No need to remove each fuse!

Some Fuse Facts:

The **C** in **ATC** stands for closed which means the element is closed within the plastic housing. The **O** in **ATO** means the element is open to the atmosphere. ATC fuses are the best choice for use where they could be exposed to the weather. The high probability of corrosion build up could eventually interfere with current flow on an ATO type exposed to moisture.

There are three common blade fuse sizes: the small minis (ATM), mid-sized regular (ATC/ATO) and the large maxis (APX). There is also a low-profile version of the mini, the APS, which uses the same universal Amp color coding system. The regular-sized ATC fuse is more common than the ATO.

Bladed Fuse Color Codes:

Fuse Amp Rating		Color
1		Black
2		Gray
3		Violet
4		Pink
5		Tan
7.5		Brown
10		Red
15		Blue
20		Yellow
25		Clear
30		Green
35		Turquoise
40		Orange



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

Cambodia Reinstates Amateur Radio Licensing

In early 2021, Cambodia stopped allowing amateur radio because the bureaucracy had no procedure for licensing either new issues or renewals.

After negotiation with the Cambodia government by local ex-license holders, amateur radio licensing has been resumed beginning in June 2023. The first license granted went to Tadeo (Tad) Yamamoto who was reissued his previous callsign-XU7AKU. Tad also is known as JA1DFK, JF6OJX, KH7J and M0OJX.

Other local ex-license holders are applying for their new licenses. They are expected to soon be on the air as XU7AEY, XU7AKG, XU7AKJ, XU7AKM, XU7AKP and so on.



The Majority of Cambodia's Ham Population

Obtaining a Cambodian amateur radio license requires completing a two-page application written mostly in the Khmer language and the payment of a \$2000 USD fee for approval of the specific transceiver (a very

significant amount, especially in a country where the average family income is about \$1600 annually). The licenses are limited to the specific transceiver and antennas listed on the application and a maximum of 100 watts.

Cambodia is No. 102-Worldwide and No. 25-Eastern USA on Clublog's Most Wanted List. The beam headings from Northwest Indiana are:

<i>Short Path</i>	<i>346 degrees</i>	<i>8588 miles</i>
<i>Long Path</i>	<i>166 degrees</i>	<i>16270 miles</i>

<Ω>

Ducie Island-VP6A Wrap-up Report:

In 2018, on Baker Island in scorching heat, exhausted operators spent a day dismantling 11 tents, 12 antennas, 5 generators, radios, computers, Ethernet stretching hundreds of feet, desks, chairs and trash and hauled it all back to the boat.

On the voyage back to Fiji we wondered if there wasn't a better way.

With funding from the Northern California DX Foundation George Wallner, AA7JV, put together a team to create that new way. Welcome to the RIB (Radio in a Box). VP6A was the first full deployment of the RIB on a rare location.

On 24 July 2023 at 16:00 UTC, VP6A went QRT after making just under 62,000 QSOs of which 24%, 15,000 were unique calls. DXCC was obtained on 6 bands.

There were 4 stations on the island. One used by AA7JV, W6IZT and KN4EEI on the boat and 3 others operated by 34 remote operators from 11 countries. Those operators were: 9V1YC, AA1V, AA7A, CT1BOH, CT1EEB, CT1ILT, DJ4MX, F6EXV, JN1THL, KC1KUG, KY7M, KD4Z, KL7YL, KO8SCA, K1DG, K4NHW, K6GFJ, K6TD, K6UFO, KL2A, K6MM, ND2T, N1DG, N2IC, OH2BH, PB8DX, PY5EG, VE4EA, VE5MX, VK3GK, W0GJ, W1RM, W1VE, and W8HC.

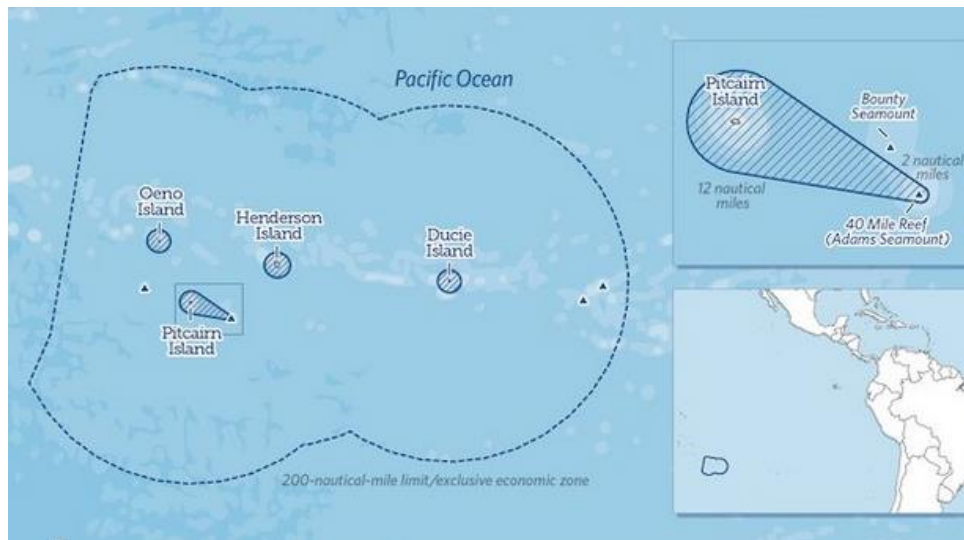
Some stats:

Set Up Time: Radios 1, 2 and RIB2 4 hours. Radio 3 on the third day.

Tear Down: 1 hr 50 min to off the island.

Total Op Time: 13 1/2 days.

Total Fuel Used: 80 gallons = 0.0013 gallons / QSO (5 ml/QSO)



Ducie Island in relationship with its parent, Pitcairn Island

Attached are two pictures. The first with our fully deployed station. The second 2 hours later.

Before



After



The Radio in a Box

Mother Nature and satellite latency threw us curve balls but we are extremely happy with the final result. We hope our audience is too. See you from our next location.

<Ω>

At our meeting on June 16, 2023 we were fortunate to have John Sweeney, K9EL, speak to our club members via ZOOM connection. Attendance was good and the members had a lively discussion with John on a various topics in his presentation. He provided me with copies of his slides which have been converted to M/S Word so it would conveniently fit in our newsletter.

Jerry, W9KTP

DXAC DX Advisory Committee
NWIDXC - June 16, 2023
John Sweeney, K9EL
Central Division DXAC Representative

What is the DXAC?

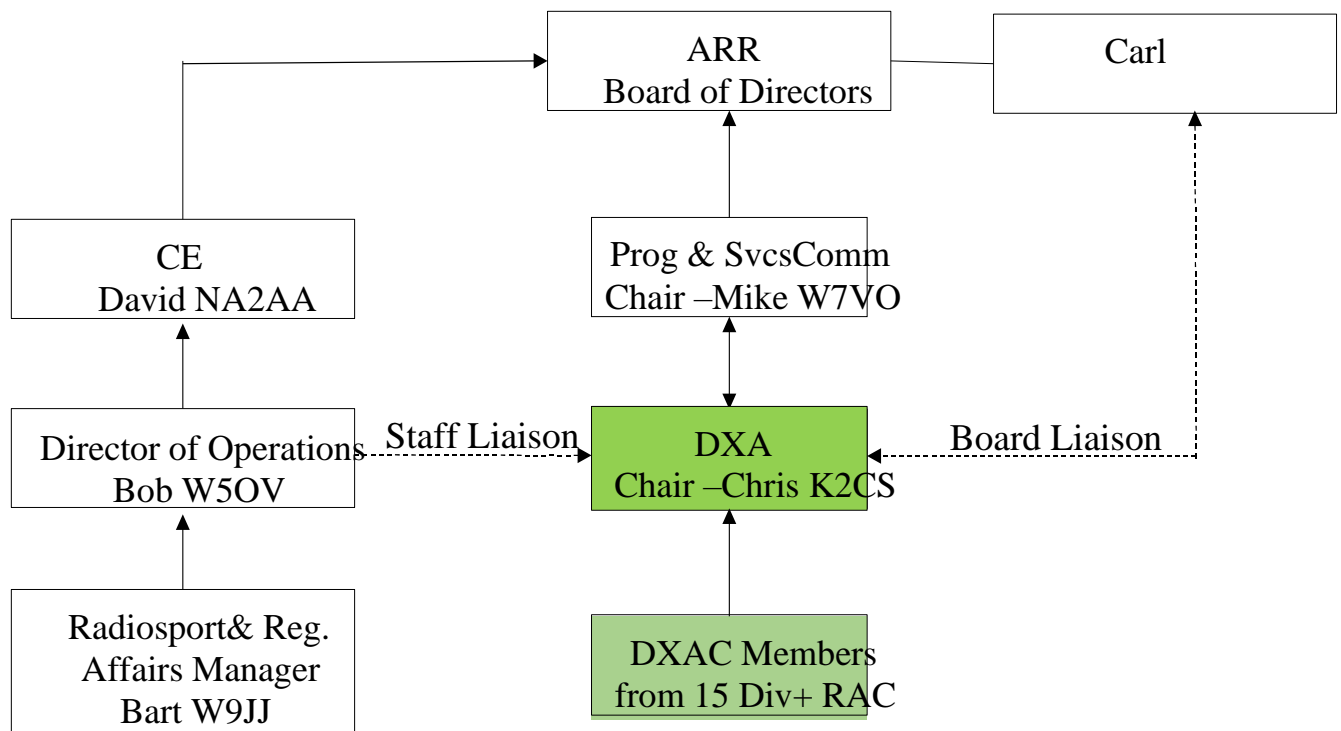
(From the ARRL Website)

The ARRL DX Advisory Committee, or DXAC, are representatives in each division for the DXCC program. One appointment is available in each division and appointments are made by the respective division director. Send comments, suggestions and questions regarding the DXCC program to your local DXAC representative directly, or, as noted in Section I: Basic Rules, Rule 18.

Who is on the DXAC?

Atlantic – Chris Shalvoy, K2CS (Chairman)
Central – John Sweeney, K9EL
Dakota – Mike Cizek, W0VTT
Delta – Steven T. Rutledge, N4JQQ
Great Lakes – Stanley K. Arnett, AC8W
Hudson – Saul M. Abrams, K2XA
Midwest – Udo Heinz, NI0G
New England – Bob Beaudet, W1YRC
Northwestern – Richard Swanson, K7BTW
Pacific – Paul Ewing, N6PSE
Roanoke – Gary Dixon, K4MQG
Rocky Mountain – Richard D. Williams, K8ZTT
Southeastern – Richard Baxter, K5TF
Southwestern – John Schroeder, N6QQ
West Gulf – Coy Day, N5OK (Vice Chairman)
RAC – John Scott, VE1JS
Board Liaison – Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA
Staff Liaison – Bart Jahnke, W9JJ
Administrative Liaison – Sharon Taratula

How does the DXAC fit in the ARRL?



What does the DXAC actually do?

The DXAC is an advisory organization. The DXAC has no direct power or influence in any aspect of the DXCC program since the DXAC reports to the ARRL Board and not the ARRL operations organization. When a major DXCC decision is required within the ARRL, it is often brought to the attention of the ARRL Board of Directors. The ARRL Board may then choose to ask the DXAC for input. The ARRL Board does not have to consult with the DXAC, nor does the Board have to accept or agree with any recommendations that are made by the DXAC. Although the DXAC can raise issues to the ARRL Board, there is no formal procedure for that to happen as the DXAC was created to respond to requests from the Board. With new Directors in place and our very fortunate appointment of K9LA as DXAC Board liaison, I am very excited about future changes and direction for the DXAC.

Current DXAC Topics

The most recent DXAC meeting occurred on March 12th, 2023. The next session is planned for June or July, 2023. The following items were discussed at the March session.

DXCC2025? Should we revisit the current DXCC rules? The last review was DXCC2000. The DXAC was broadly in favor of a DXCC2025 to update DXCC2000 without making major changes. W5OV responded to the official DXAC meeting minutes: "...there is no official "tasking" of any kind at present other than to have Committee members speak their minds, and to discuss DXCC matters with their constituents as they are able." Obviously we have some work to do to move DXCC2025 forward, but we are all very motivated to do so.

Current DXAC concerns to be addressed

- Inaccessible entities due to environmental restrictions.
- Inaccessible entities due to political restrictions.
- Concerns about accessibility and safety (such as Bouvet).
- Specific guidelines for the deletion of existing DXCC entities.
- Deletion of certain entities due to inactivity or others influences.
- Continued effort by some regarding DXCC entity status and approval.
- Rig in a box and remote operation.
- Honor Roll threshold changes
- Enhancements and/or additions to the Honor Roll program
- Digital DXCC

Additional inputs from DXers and recent inputs from W9 DXers

- Remove dangerous locations from DXCC list.
- Add a new DXCC criteria that requires a minimum land area. Entities like Scarborough would not qualify.
- DXCC Staff should not be allowed to add or delete entities without DXAC input. Examples: KH4 was off the list, then re-instated. KH5K was simply deleted with no discussion.
- Remove Scarborough due to Philippines proximity.

Closed DXAC discussion topics

- A number of requests have been received for new country status for islands below 60 degrees South Latitude. Current agreements do not allow for any new countries below

60 degrees and there is no plan or desire to revisit that decision. Some long term DXCC countries are below 60 degrees, but no new ones will be added.

-4U1A – many requests to add 4U1A as a new country as it is recognized by WAE and CQ as an entity. The current rules do not allow any more UN offices to be added as new countries (there are many!). There is no plan to re-visit those rules, so 4U1A will not be recommended as a new country.

-Term limits for field QSL checkers – at one time there was a time limit on how long a field checker could check QSL cards. There are currently no limits and there is no plan to add time limits.

Comments? Questions? Please feel free to send your comments or questions about DXCC matters to me at k9eljohn@gmail.com



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

President Northwest Indiana DX Club

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



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