Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 12, Issue 3 March 2024

President's Corner

March is coming in like a lamb. This will provide some warm temperatures to repair and install new antennas. Be very careful if climbing is involved.

Hope you were able to work some of the DXpeditions that have been on this past month.

Next meeting will most likely be in April.

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.

NORTHWEST INDIANA DX CLUB OFFICERS AND STAFF

President John Poindexter W3ML <u>w3ml.john@gmail.com</u>
Vice President Jerry Hess W9KTP <u>dxer340@gmail.com</u>

Newsletter EditorJohn Poindexter W3MLw3ml.john@gmail.comW9NWI TrusteeSteve Mollman KD9HLkd9hl@arrl.netWebmasterJohn Reardon W9YOUkd9ron@arrl.netARRL Card CheckerSteve Mollman KD9HLkd9hl@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.

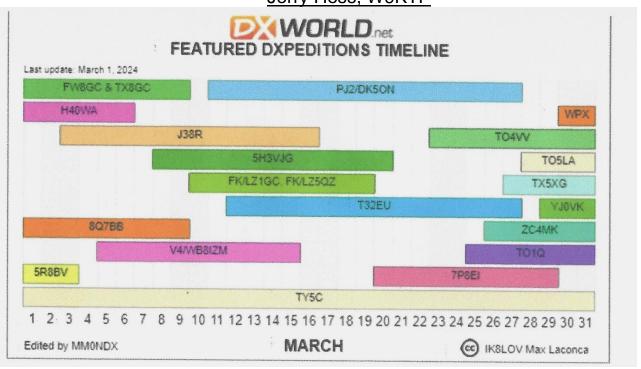
Notice:

Articles in the Northwest Indiana DX Club Newsletter (except for those separately copyrighted) may be reprinted, provided proper credit is given.

Bob Heil, K9EID, SK

"Our beloved founder, Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, is now a Silent Key. Bob fought a valiant, yearlong battle with cancer, and passed peacefully surrounded by his family. Bob's lifelong passion for amateur radio was clear to everyone involved in the hobby. Everything Bob did for the betterment and growth of amateur radio - from his instructional handbooks and countless presentations to his support of the ARRL and youth programs - was based on the foundation and spirit of service. Bob was an Elmer to all of us. While Bob's presence will dearly be missed, his impact on the hobby and everyone in it will forever be felt. On behalf of Bob to all ham radio operators worldwide, 73."

DX LISTINGS FOR MARCH 2024 By Jerry Hess, W9KTP



Question of the Month

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

The current DXpediton to H40WA-Temotu Provence, has as one of its coleaders a former contributor to this newsletter. Who is he?

- A. Craig Thompson-K9CT
- B. Bob Heil-K9EID
- C. Paul Ewing-N6PSE
- D. Jurgen Nittner-N9RD

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Deliberate QRM of DXpeditions

Anti-DQRM grant available

The Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) has a fund of \$100,000 to address the continuing Deliberate QRM (DQRM) plaguing DXpeditions. No one likes it except the source. We are still looking for an effective deterrent to stop it.

NCDXF needs an individual or group to step forward to address this issue. They have had a couple of groups show interest, but other business opportunities are keeping them from committing their resources at this time. Several individuals have shared thoughtful insights to the problem.

They are looking for a dedicated person or team to take the lead in finding solutions. Are you interested? Please let K9CT or N1DG know by email.

K9CT-Craig Thompson: craig@k9ct.us NiDG-Don Greenbaum: don@aurumtel.com

"Our first site this week is all about half-wave antenna supplies for antenna construction.

https://myantennas.com/wp/

Our second site is about building a two-element Yagi. https://k6ark.com/2-element-quick-yagi/

from MARC Update 2/11/24"

Handy Hint

A Little Dab Will Do It

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

Do you remember the Radio Shack product called Archer TV Tuner Cleaner? It was a small aerosol can of chemicals that when sprayed into a TV tuner would clean and lubricate tuner contacts. Many of us used it for TV's and scratchy pots, etc. With the demise of Radio Shack, it is no longer available.

There are products available that mimic and possibly improve on Radio Shack's product.

DeOxit D5, CRC QD Electronic Cleaner, WD-40 Specialist Contact Cleaner and others are readily available.



Besides cleaning and lubrication pots, there are a number of other uses for these products.

- 1. PL-259 and other co-ax connecters.
- 2. Plug-in Integrated Circuit chips (IC's)
- 3. Vacuum tube bases and their sockets.
- 4. USB connectors
- 5. RJ-45 connectors
- 6. Computer connectors
- 7. Wall Sockets and their plugs
- 8. Light Bulbs.

While improving conductivity, they will be easier to attach together and reduce wear.

My personal favorites are the co-ax connectors and light bulbs The Zinc alloy used in light bulb bases and their sockets seems to grow together, sometimes making them hard to remove. (Metallurgists call this process

"Metallic Bonding" a type of chemical bonding that arises from the electrostatic attractive force between conduction electrons and positively charged metal"). A small squirt on the Bulb base will make it easier to screw in and remove.

It doesn't take much. Like the old Vitalis Hair Tonic Ads used to say "A little dab will do it".

A freebie anecdote: Radio Shack sold the Archer TV Tuner Cleaner AND a product called Archer Color TV Tuner cleaner that had identical ingredients but cost 40¢ more. Marketing at its finest!

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



Sable Island-CY0S DXpedition

By Jay Slough-K4ZLE

According to our team leader, Murray Adams, WA4DAN, Sable Island is a very special place. After my participation in the 2023 CYØS operation, I must agree with him. To finally obtain permission to make this multi-operator, multi-day DXpedition a reality, it took multiple phone calls, several trips from Murray's home in North Carolina to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and additional short trips out to Sable Island itself. All of this was at Murray's own expense.

The team and equipment

Our on-island team consisted of the following: Murray Adams, WA4DAN, Dan Sullivan, W4DKS; John Crovelli, W2GD; Lou Dietrich, N2TU; Lee Imber, WW2DX; Craig Thompson, K9CT; Glenn Johnson, WØGJ and myself, Jay Slough, K4ZLE.



The local team consisted of (from left) Lou Dietrich (N2TU), Dan Sullivan (W4DKS), Craig Thompson (K9CT), Murray Adams (WA4DAN), John Crovelli (W2GD), Lee Imber (WW2DX), Glenn Johnson (WØGJ) and Jay Slough (K4ZLE).

The support team consisted of Pat Dolan, N2IEN; Bill Engel, K5DHY, Randy Rowe, NØTG, Bob Allphin, K4UEE; Hal Kennedy, N4GG; Chaz Cone, W4GKF; San Hutson, K5YY, and John Comella, N8AA. There were no rookies on either team. Two are NCDXF board members; three are CQ DX Hall of Fame members, and two are CQ Contest Hall of Fame members. Over half the team had previously operated from Top Ten entities, and our results bear witness to the quality of the team.

We operated 10 to 160 Meters, 2 Meter EME, 6 Meters and satellite. Modes were CW, SSB, FT8, FT4 and RTTY. Antennas used were as follows: Hy-Gain monoband Yagis on 10, 15 and 20 Meters; Cushcraft 12/17 Meter A3WS duoband Yagi with diplexer; Verticals on 30M to 160M (using Spider poles); 60 Meter dipole; 3-element Yagi on 6 Meters, and two 12-element Antennas-Amplifiers PA144-12-7AGPL

on 2 Meters. The same Spider Pole supported both the 160 and 80 Meter verticals. This limited us to having only one or the other band operational at a given time.

On HF there were four K3s and three KPA500 amps. The VHF station consisted of an Icom IC-705 and Italialabs 1kW SSPA amplifier.

Originally, we had planned to have near real time Club Log feeds, but the existing internet on Sable would not support that mode. True to the time proven adage, "Plan well but also plan to innovate," we had to change those plans. As a result, logs were pulled from the master at least twice per day and sent to K5DHY for Club Log upload.

This was not a tent and generator operation, but that does not mean there weren't other obstacles to overcome besides intermittent internet. While the weather on Sable was not as intense as some previous venues, it was not a summer stroll on a tropical beach. We experienced snow in some amount

every day except one. Temperatures were generally in the 30s F, and the wind was almost a constant 25 knots, with gusts into the low 50s. Weather is also a limiting factor traveling to and from Sable, and can sometimes delay plans for days. In our case, we were delayed by half a day traveling to Sable, and because Halifax was fogged in on our scheduled departure day, we were delayed a day. That extra day allowed us to push our total Qs over 80,000.

Background

A Canadian National Park Reserve, access to Sable Island is normally limited. Because of its protective

status, no interference is permitted between wildlife and humanity. The island is as pristine as nature provides. Interference is prohibited, but scientific research abounds. One scientist, Zoe Lucas, has over 40 years of experience as a naturalist there. She does continuous research and monitoring involving terrain restoration projects and biodiversity studies. While there, we learned that over 500 wild horses

roam the island, and it is estimated that up to 400,000 seals arrive during the winter months to breed and pup. In addition, over 350 species of birds have been recorded on the island.

Sable is a shifting crescent-shaped sandbar that gets its name from the French île de Sable which means island of sand. It is approximately 300 km (190 miles) southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and about 175 km (109 miles) southeast of the closest point of the mainland. It is not more than 1.6 km (1 mile) across its widest location and about 42 km (23 miles) long.

Parks Canada, which manages and protects the island, does not recommend coming by boat, so we arrived via air. Normally that would entail a charter with Sable Aviation on their BN-2A Britten Norman Islander from Halifax, NS. Because there were eight of us plus equipment, we would have had to make

two trips. Instead, we chose to also employ Vision Air and their Sikorsky SK-76A++ helicopter. Otherwise, it would have taken two days each way.

Our total weight allowance between the two aircraft was 3,000 pounds. We all committed to personal weight of no more than 240 pounds each, including personal items which included food for the entire island stay. Murray spent many hours (days) juggling equipment composition vs. weight to meet the

weight restrictions. The island has no airstrip, so fixed wing takeoffs and landings are on the sandy beach.



The beach also serves as the runway on Sable Island.

Operations

We arrived on 20 March 2023 and departed on 31 March. Except for during the WPX contest, we operated split. Even though Club Log had rated CYØ at No. 49 most needed, the piles were generally massive. The team participated as a Multi-Multi entry in the WPX SSB contest with the plan to satisfy much of the phone demand during that time. We made nearly 7,900 QSOs during the contest in spite of

a G-3 solar event. This resulted in a new Canadian Multi-Multi record. Overall, Japan, Oceania, Africa and South America were our priorities when there were openings. FT8 was exclusively Fox/Hound mode.

On EME and SAT operation, Lee, WW2DX, focused on 2M EME, 6M, and satellite. As mentioned previously, we did make some RTTY and FT4 QSOs. Total Qs approached 85,000. As a result of this DXpedition Sable Island dropped from No. 49 to No. 73 on the Club Log most needed list as of September 2023.

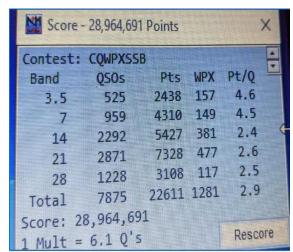
I have been on many DXpeditions, some at the top of the needed list, and while those were once-in-a-lifetime experiences, I consider this operation another once-in-a-lifetime event. There is much history of this island not covered in this summary and so much beauty to be admired. I have been truly

fortunate to visit this place. It is the team's hope that you made it into the log, if you wanted to and if you did not, I fear it could be another seven years or more before it is activated again.

However, if Murray has anything to do about that, perhaps it shall not be so long. Time will tell.

Thanks and Appreciation

As a representative of the team, we are thankful for the individuals and organizations that made this operation possible. We are especially appreciative of Parks Canada staff (Sarah Medill and Ken Wile), our aviation partners and Zoe Lucas for their participation. And, of course, without the financial support of NCDXF and other like organizations, operations like this could not possibly happen. Thank you for your support.



Results from the WPX SSB contest.





The team at Sable Island HQ.

Antennas whipped in the wind.

As an aside and a teaser, many of the same team members are hoping to activate CY9, St. Paul Island, in 2024!

This article is courtesy of the Northern California DX Foundation. The NCDXF relies heavily upon the generosity of its contributors to fund various projects, including this DXpedition. We ask you to consider making an annual contribution of US-\$50 or its equivalent in foreign currency. If \$50 is

not within your budget, then please give what other amount you can. Naturally, they welcome contributions in excess of \$50! NCDXF is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax-deductible to

FOR SALE

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



Question of the Month Answer:

The current DXpediton to H40WA-Temotu Provence, has as one of its coleaders a former contributor to this newsletter. Who is he?

Answer: C. Paul Ewing-N6PSE

Paul Ewing-N6PSE, for a number of years, wrote a column titled "What Do You Think". His column addressed many subjects and observations on ham radio and DX. He has been on numerous DXpeditions both as an operator and as a leader/co-leader.



DX AND CONTEST COMMITTEE REPORTS JANUARY 2024 SUMMARY BY Jerry Hess. W9KTP

Of particular interest to many DXers is the note in the DXAC report about Scarborough Reef. When I noticed it, I gave a call to John Sweeney,K9EL, our Central Division DXAC representative. Only if the Chinese (not the Philippines) operate from Scarborough Reef, it will count as Scarborough. There are several reasons why it will not happen any time soon. First, the Chinese military is expanding in the South China Sea and would be reluctant to allow any non-Chinese personnel in the area. Relationships between the U.S. and China (and possibly many others) are at best "frosty". Also Based on the cost of the 2007



International Operation, it will be very expensive. Bribes, fees and a charge for all Chinese operator's travel and expenses were on top of the normal DX-Pedition costs. China insisted that an equal number of Chinese operators be part of the team. Plus Scarborough is hardly an attractive beach vacation spot.

DX ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DXAC)

Prepared and submitted by Chris Shalvoy, K2CS - Chairman Date: 8 January, 2024

MEMBERSHIP:

Atlantic - Chris Shalvoy, K2CS (Chairman Email: cshalvoy@att.net

Central – John Sweeney, K9EL Email: k9el@comcast.net

Dakota – Mike Cizek, W0VTT Email: mgcizek@gmail.com

Delta – Steven T. Rutledge, N4JQQ Email: crownhaven@bellsouth.net

Great Lakes - Stanley K. Arnett, AC8W Email: AC8W@comcast.net

Hudson - Saul M. Abrams, K2XA (Email: K2XA@arrl.net

Midwest – Udo Heinze, NIOG Email: uaheinze@mmenterprisesllc.com

New England – Bob Beaudet, W1YRC Email: W1YRC@verizon.net

Northwestern - Richard Swanson, K7BTW Email: K7BTW@arrl.net

Pacific -Paul Ewing, N6PSE Email: pauln6pse@gmail.com

Roanoke – Gary Dixon, K4MQG Email: gdixon@comporium.net

Rocky Mountain – Richard D. Williams, K8ZTT Email: k8ztt@yahoo.com

Southeastern – Richard Baxter, K5TF Email: k5tf58@gmail.com
Southwestern – John Schroeder, N6QQ Email: n6qq@msn.com
West Gulf – Coy Day, N5OK (Vice Chairman) Email: N5OK@arrl.net

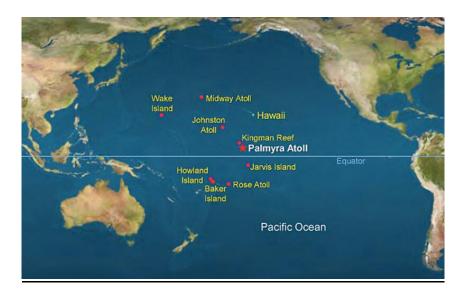
RAC – John Scott, Email: ve1js@myrac.ca

Board Liaison - Carl Luetzelschwab, Email: k9la@arrl.org

Staff Liaison – Bart Jahnke, Email: w9jj@arrl.org

Administrative Liaison – Sharon Taratula Email: staratula@arrl.org

Review of DXAC activity in 2023:



1. There were several items the DXAC reviewed in 2023, most notably the status of Palmyra and Jarvis Islands, KH5. An inquiry was received around the 13 of July by Bob Naumann, W5OV and was forwarded to the DXAC for consideration. Several Zoom sessions were held over the following months and Saul Abrams, K2XA even visited the league for a review of original documentation regarding the initial DXCC inclusion of the islands. His findings are very thorough and are attached for reference.

Bart Jahnke, W9JJ provided documentation from a 1991 determination by the DXAC on Jarvis as well as Point 3(b) in the DXCC rules at the time. Garth Hamilton, VE3HO was even contacted for any addition information he could provide as he was involved with the 1991 Palmyra/Jarvis request. There was a very in depth investigation by the committee before a decision was reached. Nothing had changed since the 1991 request that would reconsider the most recent petition. Every DXAC member submitted consideration on the information provided and it was determined that the request was invalid.

- 2. On 2 November, Bart Jahnke, W9JJ reached out to the committee indicating an upcoming DXpedition to Scarborough Reef as DX0NES (Philippine Call Letters). A license was issued and accepted for DXCC credit but the license expired on 15 December, 2023. Apparently, an extension has been applied for. That DXpedition would be counted as the Philippines, not Scarborough Reef as suggested.
- 3. Later in November, a notification was sent to the committee indicating a license lapse regarding the recent Cambodia operation of XU7GNY. The license submitted was 10 years old and expired. Current QSO credits with this station are pending. Though these items are not directly related to DXCC determinations, they are of interest to the DXAC and continue to update committee members on current DX topics.
- In closing, the DXAC continues to be available for any tasks issued to it and is committed to the DXCC program and related activity. The DXAC also plans to initiate reviews of several DX items, including DXCC 2025

Respectfully submitted, Chris Shalvoy, K2CS Chairman, ARRL DX Advisory Committee

K2XA JARVIS ADDENDUM

Subject: Visit to ARRL HQ regarding Jarvis Island Random facts for whatever they may be worth:

January 1938 QST DX country list has Jarvis Island K6 (no mention of Palmyra).

January 1939 QST list has Jarvis Island, Palmyra Group KG6 (listed under Jarvis, not Palmyra).

February 1947 QST list has Jarvis Island, Palmyra Group (Christmas Island) KP6 (again listed under Jarvis).

A 1950 QST article discussing DXCC "criteria" basically said there were no hard and fast criteria, but the League would discuss country requests with "experts" regarding location and governmental control.

A 1955 QST article listed DXCC criteria as: 1) Political independence; 2) Geographic separation from a "parent" and 3) Any foreign lands in between parent and proposed child.

A 1960 QST article regarding "separation" said this criterion "Shall not apply to islands in a natural island grouping". No specific League document found specifying admission criteria for Palmyra & Jarvis.

On April 19, 1991, VE3HO, DXAC CRRL Representative, sent a memo to the DXAC discussing country criteria and proposing a rewrite. This memo was not acted on, but it contained a lot of useful information. VE3HO prepared three listings of the DXCC countries: 1) as it currently stands with dates for acceptance and criteria under which they were accepted; 2) Country's past history; and 3) new list under his proposal. (He did not specify the source of his information.) The first list is very interesting and suggests that "Palmyra & Jarvis," (listed under Palmyra, not Jarvis as previously done) is a child of Hawaii. Specific details follow: VE3HO's list uses criteria reference numbers current in 1991 and includes parenthetical country references where applicable, but I have converted them to reference numbers current today. Hawaii, KH6, is a listed as a 1) c country, permanent population, own administration, 500 miles, [now 800 km] from parent listed a "K". Johnston Island, KH3, is listed as a 2) b) i country 250 miles [now 350 km] from parent listed as KH6. Palmyra & Jarvis, KH5, is listed as a 2) b) ii country 250 miles from parent and 500 miles from any other children of that parent, listed as KH6, because Johnston Island was listed as the childcountry 250 miles from KH6. Jarvis and Palmyra are not 500 miles apart, so they are treated as the same country. Also, listed as 2) b) ii countries with the parent listed as KH6 are Baker & Howland KH1, Wake KH9, and Guam KH2. 3So, according to VE3HO, Hawaii is the parent for all the U.S. islands in the Pacific, not the USA The following countries are listed as countries because of separate administration (no longer a criterion) from other islands in the same island group; Midway KH4 and Kure KH7 from KH6, and Kingman Reef KH5 from KH5 Palmyra & Jarvis. Since Kingman has been deleted, it becomes part of the Jarvis, Palmyra Island grouping. The history portion of the DXCC listing by VE3HO reiterates that Kingman was admitted by separate administration as part of the Palmyra Group, and Jarvis & Palmyra was admitted because of geographical separation from

Hawaii. Because Palmyra & Jarvis are listed as a 2) b) ii country, and not because of separate administration, who controlled or managed them when originally listed or now, is not relevant.

K9EL raised the question of whether KP1 Navassa and KH5 (I assume he meant Kingman) meet the 800km requirement. Both those countries were admitted as separate administration not by distance. KH5 discussed above, and KP1 separate administration from KG4 Guantanamo Bay.

Although VE3HO's memo was very detailed, I reiterate, he did not cite the specific authority for the data contained in his memo. In looking through all the documents at the League, I was given a large folder of information compiled by Jim Maxwell, W6CF. He compiled all discussions of DX in QST from the early years up to his passing, including the random facts listed above. Very interesting reading (but did not address our current issue). In the correspondence from Jim to the DXAC he noted that some DXAC members thought that errors had been made in the past in applying the DXCC criteria and decisions looked inconsistent. Jim disagreed. He said that the League staff knew exactly what they were doing but the rules were interpreted differently then than now. Decisions that may seem inconsistent or an error then were perfectly valid at the time they were made. In summary, as far as I can determine, Palmyra & Jarvis is a 2) b) ii country more than 500 miles from its parent Hawaii. Palmyra and Jarvis are not 800 km apart, so they are a single island chain country. The applicant's discussions concerning ownership, control or administration are not relevant. Neither Palmyra nor the continental US is the parent of Jarvis as suggested by the applicant. The deletion of Kingman is not relevant, except to add Kingman as part of the Palmyra Jarvis Island chain country.

CONTEST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Atlantic Jon, AA1K, : jz73@verizon.net
- Central Craig Thompson, K9CT; Craig@k9ct.us (Chairman)
- Dakota Jon Platt, W0ZQ; W0ZQ@AOL.com
- Delta Stan Stockton, K5GO; wa5rtg@gmail.com
- Great Lakes Dan Kovatch, W8CAR; w8car@bex.net
- Hudson Zev Darack, N2WKS; zevdarack@gmail.com
- Midwest Dr. Glenn Johnson, W0GJ; w0gj@arrl.netn Zaimes
- New England Rudy Bakalov, N2WQ; r_bakalov@yahoo.com
- Northwestern Jim Cassidy, KI7Y; ki7y@arrl.net
- Pacific Jim Brown, K9YC; K9YC@arrl.net
- Roanoke Don Daso, K4ZA; k4za@juno.com
- Rocky Mountain Darryl Hazelgren, K7UT; darryl@hazelgren.net
- Southeastern Charles Wooten, NF4A; NF4A@knology.net

- Southwestern Mike Fulcher, KC7V, mikekc7v@gmail.com
- West Gulf TBD Radio Amateurs of Canada Samuel A. Ferris, VE5SF; ve5sf@sasktel.net

Overview:

In the last six months, the CAC has not reached consensus on any rule change. We have had numerous online discussions without clear direction. In addition, the CAC VHF Subcommittee has also met on Zoom and considered several ideas. Most of our discussions take place online in our discussion group. Our CAC members report our activities to their respective board members. Our liaison to the PSC is Bill, ACOW and he is kept updated, monitors our discussions and updates CAC on PSC actions.

Tasks: We have completed tasks asked of us to consider. No other tasks have gone beyond discussion.

CAC has been observing the discussions on the internet discussion groups for issues related to prior actions such as change in circle, limited antennas, etc. The general conclusion is that these changes have been favorable.

CAC Membership: The last few months have seen some membership changes to the CAC. Long time member, Chas, K3WW has retired and appointed to his place is Jon, AA1K. Jim, N3BB has resigned but a replacement has not been named.

Other considerations CAC:

Numerous discussions about

- 1. Adding DX to DX contacts to the ARRL 160m contest
- 2. Expediency of contest results and publication in QST
- 3. Differences between the 10 and 160 contests
- 4. Why are the multipliers different between the contests? States/territories
- 5. Operating time in RTTY RU

CAC Semi-Annual Report January 2024 "VHF" CAC Subcommittee

Committee members:

Jon Platt W0ZQ (Subcommittee Chair)
Craig Thompson K9CT
Jeff Ach W2FU
Rus Healy K2UA
Steve Kostro N2CEI
Bob Striegl K2DRH
John Kalenowsky K9JK
Jim Duffey KK6MC
Eric Olson, N7EPD

VHF Subcommittee/CAC:

Online discussions and a Zoom meeting considered

- 1. 222 MHz activity
- 2. EME contest exchange
- 3. Weather considerations for Rovers
- 4. Changing contest dates

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee

Craig Thompson, CAC Chairman

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



W3ML

President Northwest Indiana DX Club

http://nwidxclub.weebly.com/







