

# Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 12, Issue 12

November 2024

President's Corner

## HAPPY 12<sup>th</sup>!

This month will be our anniversary as the club was formed on November 13, 2012.

Hard to believe it has been that long. We have 55 members as of this date.

Hope to see more of you at the next meeting. Watch your email for the notice.

73

John W3ML

Good DXing!

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

President	John Poindexter W3ML	<a href="mailto:w3ml.john@gmail.com">w3ml.john@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Jerry Hess W9KTP	<a href="mailto:dxer340@gmail.com">dxer340@gmail.com</a>
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W9NWI Trustee	Steve Mollman KD9HL	<a href="mailto:kd9hl@arrl.net">kd9hl@arrl.net</a>
Webmaster	John Reardon W9YOU	<a href="mailto:kd9ron@arrl.net">kd9ron@arrl.net</a>
ARRL Card Checker	Steve Mollman KD9HL	<a href="mailto:kd9hl@arrl.net">kd9hl@arrl.net</a>
DX Alert Coordinator	Bill South N4SV	<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:

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

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# MOON BOUNCE PRESENTATION

BY

Dave Chasey, N9FN

Dave gave his presentation on EME (Earth, Moon, Earth) or better known as Moon Bounce at our last meeting on October 11, 2024.

Members present were: John, W3ML; Bill, AB9QU; Allen, W9DZ, Bill, N4SV; Earl, WA9JNO; Steve, KD9HL; Jim, AG9S; Bill, W9SUB; Dave, N9FN; Jurgen, N9RD; Jerry, W9KTP

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## Question of the Month

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

What is the maximum height above ground to which an amateur radio antenna structure may be erected without requiring notification to the FAA and registration with the FCC, provided it is not at or near a public use airport?

- A. 50 feet
- B. 100 feet
- C. 200 feet
- D. 300 feet

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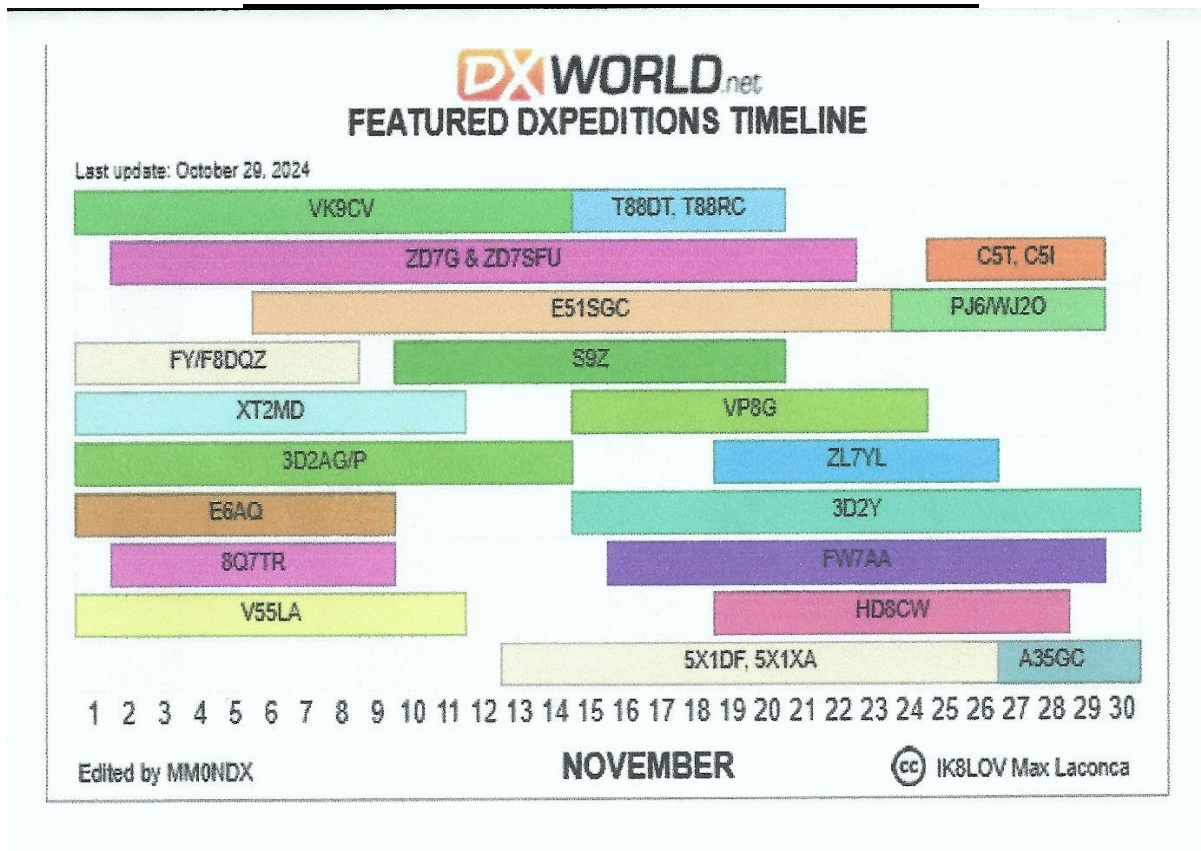
Here is an interesting item for those that like to play and build.

**Subject:** New open-source project transforms Android phones into ham radio transceivers - NotebookCheck.net News

<https://www.notebookcheck.net/New-open-source-project-transforms-Android-phones-into-ham-radio-transceivers.902140.0.html>

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## DX LISTINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2024



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### “DX ‘R’ US”

By

Jerry Hess, W9KTP

In the most recent issue of QST there was an editorial article by David Minster, Chief Executive of the ARRL entitled “The Future of DXCC” (See below). This article hits at the core issues of DXCC and DX-ING in general and specifically focuses on the approaching DXCC 2025 potential revisions. We all need to read it. Good stuff!

In a related matter, I had a recent conversation with Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, Central Division Director, who indicated that he and John Sweeney, K9EL, Central Division representative to the DX Advisory Committee, will begin reviewing proposals to DXCC 2025. As members and as a Club we need to voice our opinions. I am considering creating a questionnaire to gather some consensus from the members but in the meantime, individuals are encouraged to take action.

73's,  
Jerry

## Second Century

# The Future of DXCC



*DXCC<sup>®</sup> is one of ARRL's many ETLAs (extended three-letter acronyms), this one describing our primary recognition program for working countries on the HF bands, the higher bands where EME is necessary, and even satellite. The DX Century Club<sup>®</sup> was born of a time when radios were meager by today's standards, making contact with 100 countries quite an accomplishment!*

As the years moved on, equipment improved, and solar conditions improved to where many who experienced it believe that Solar Cycle 19 was the best one ever. Thrill-seeking hams like Lloyd and Iris Colvin were traveling to rare countries handing out contacts toward progressively higher DXCC totals for their followers! In a letter to the QST Editor in 1966, member Ralph McClintock, K1SCQ, wrote "...this mess is getting to the point where DXCC should be rephrased DX-pedition Continuing Countlessness." Gone were the days of having an actual QSO with a new DX country and learning something about the operator, replaced with a quick 59 QRZ. The change was not a happy one. It is similar to the cries that FT8 contacts should not be counted for DXCC.

Today DXCC is nowhere near a lifetime endeavor. Receiver stats from Rob Sherwood, NC0B, show many outstanding radios with little to no discernable difference among the top radios. DXpeditions are more routine, and pileups, once a badge of honor to bust, are now decoded by modes like FT8 and Super Fox. Even tuning across the bands has become a lost art, replaced by spotting networks and programs tracking when a needed country is on the air, and where. Big stations can achieve DXCC on four or even five bands in one contest weekend!

DXCC has always been a bit of an opportunity to brag about ranking. Attend nearly any DX banquet to observe the tradition of watching people sit down as the emcee counts up the total countries worked, leaving only the top earners left standing for a round of deserved applause. Today's top tier of DXCC is celebrated with two honors: you need 331 countries for Honor Roll and all 340 for Honor Roll #1. Conventional wisdom once showed that it took around 15 years to get on Honor Roll. Not anymore.

The world is dynamic. In the history of the program, governmental changes have caused countries to be added and deleted. Look at Bonaire, PJ4. If you worked the same station with the same call on the same band on 10/9/2010 and again on 10/10/2010, you have two countries in your DXCC count, with the earlier one having been deleted due to a change in government. Same thing

for Canal Zone, now a part of Panama. So a DXCC count including deleted countries is deceiving in terms of an attainable goal.

If a government turns a former DXpedition hot spot into an environmentally protected zone, is it fair to keep the entity on the list or should it be deleted? Will the change last forever?

DXpedition visionary George Wallner, AA7JV, and his team have developed Radio In a Box (RiB) stations, essentially radios with networking infrastructure, in a box, that can be dropped on an island and operated remotely from a boat. He's hoping that teams can make an argument to regulators about operating from a protected area with near zero human footprint. George has also leveraged Starlink internet access to permit remote operators from around the world to keep the stations hopping! No operator fatigue here! But these operations open up new questions about the radio regulations governing these operations and care must be taken to follow them.

The last major change to DXCC was in 2000. Changes have been at a glacial pace, some citing an old guard unwilling to "move the bar" of achievement. Next year, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee will be undertaking "DXCC 2025" to examine the program with the DX Advisory Committee, potentially to make changes to keep up with the changing technologies and environments.

What changes do you want to see to DXCC? Think about the next 15 years. Will you make Honor Roll? Will some heavily regulated entities keep you from your goal? One thing is for sure: you'll need to be radio active to catch the rare ones as they pop up. Be a connector and include friends from your club to tackle the DX challenge together. And see you in the pileups!

David A. Minster, NA2AA  
Chief Executive Officer

# *-Handy Hint-*

## **Protect your USB Ports**

**By Steve Mollman-KD9HL**

Do you have unused USB ports on your computer or ham radio accessories? Did you know that dust and dirt can infiltrate them and cause future connection problems?

A little preventive care can go a long way toward preventing future problems. Available from Amazon and other suppliers are specially designed dust caps that easily insert into the USB port and will stop that dust and dirt from causing future problems.

These USB anti dust plugs effectively block out dust, dirt, and other particles. By using these plugs, you can keep your USB ports clean at all times, preventing any connection issues caused by dust ingress.



Various vendors offer the dust caps in various quantities, colors and prices. Depending on the vendor and quantity, they seem to run from 20 cents to 70 cents each.



A possible use of the color plugs would be to differentiate between USB 2.0 and USB 3.0 ports. Besides the standard USB A size, the plugs are available for other size USB ports.



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*Do you have a Handy Hint that you would like to share? Contact Steve Mollman at [KD9HL@ARRL.net](mailto:KD9HL@ARRL.net)*

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## Question of the Month Answer:

**What is the maximum height above ground to which an amateur radio antenna structure may be erected without requiring notification to the FAA and registration with the FCC, provided it is not at or near a public use airport?**

**Answer: C. 200 feet**

Amateur radio antennas must not be a hazard to aircraft, so the FCC and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) limit the height of an antenna structure to a maximum value. Towers may exceed this maximum value only with formal notification to the FAA and registration with the FCC. With the notification and registration, the tower information can be placed on aviation navigational charts and minimum safe altitude values for aircraft may be adjusted accordingly.

*This regulation is NOT in FCC Part 97 where the Amateur Radio Service rules and regulations reside, but in the FAA Code of Federal Regulations, Title 14, Part 77.9(b).*

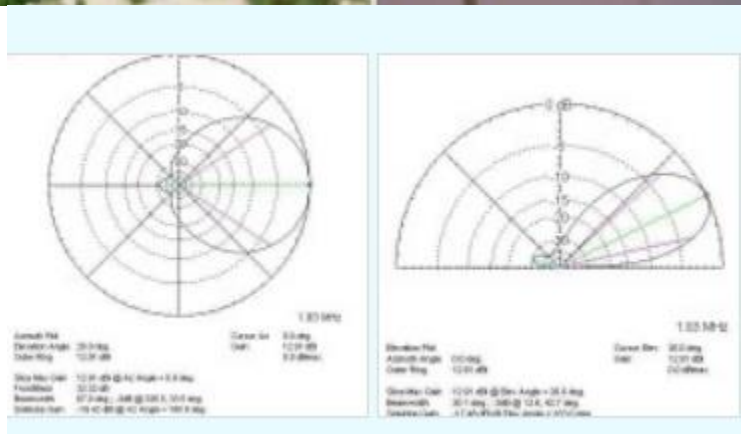
# A Really **BIG** Antenna

## Radio Arcala-OH8X

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

North of Helsinki, close to the Russian border and 40 miles from the city of Oulu, Finland at about 65 degrees North, you need to take an unmarked lane to reach OH8X, once the site of what was probably the world's largest amateur radio beam-Radio Arcala.

The OH8X 80/160m yagi was a 3-element monster on 160 meters and 5-elements on 80 meters with 12.9dBi gain that stood over 330 feet high and weighed an estimated 80000 plus pounds and was built from over 1400 feet of tower sections, which needed 159 gallons of paint! The entire tower was turned on a rotator/bearing assembly weighing 4400 pounds.







### ***The Tower Base***

#### **Height and weight of the system**

Tower height 100 m (330 ft)  
 80 m beam 90 m (300 ft)  
 160 m beam 80 m (270 ft)  
 Total weight 39 600 kg (80 000 lbs)

#### **Elements, gain and take off angles**

160 m 3 elements, 12.9dBi, 26°  
 80 m 5 elements, 15.7dBi, 12°

#### **FronttoBack ratio**

160 m 20-30 dB  
 80 m 20 dB

#### **Operating frequencies**

1810-1845, 1845-1880 kHz (SWR < 1.6)  
 3500-3560 kHz (Lmatch)  
 3700-3800 kHz (50 ohm / current bal)

### ***Marti Lane-OH2BH with the Rotator***

#### **160 m elements**

Weight 1600 kg, (3800 lbs), each  
 Length 59 m (190 ft), all elements 12m (36ft) capacitive hats  
 Each use 700 m (2100 ft) of tubing  
 Tuned with 06 µH coils at the centre  
 Relayswitches for turning the ant 180°

#### **80 m elements**

Length 46 m (140 ft), longest  
 10 m from the 160 m antenna  
 max windload, 70 m/s.

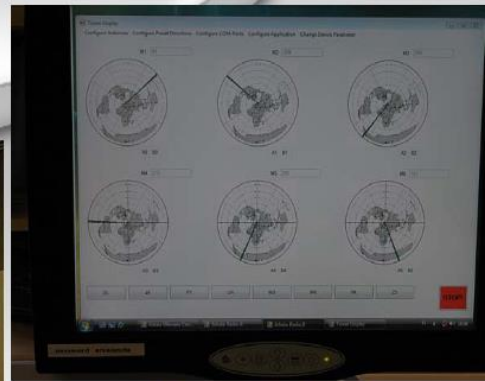
#### **Boom dimensions**

160 m length 71 m (215 ft)  
 80 m length 60 m (200 ft)  
 The triangular 160m boom (2.2 m, 7.3 ft) comes with a rail for walking inside it.

**Alas, this magnificent piece of amateur radio engineering only had a short life. Built in 2009 it collapsed during a 2013 winter storm that had winds of over 78 MPH. It is suspected that automation designed to enable the array to find its most comfortable position in high winds somehow locked up and caused the structure to corkscrew. Consequently, the giant crumbled down on its on base.**



Arkala Cockpit with touch screen station control



Tower Control

Antenna Control



Today Radio Arcala-OH8X consists of six towers mounted with a total of 34 yagis. A state of the art highly automated SOR2 system provides the RF.

This is the third in an irregular series of articles on BIG antennas. Previous articles dealt with USAF "Elephant Cage" spy antennas and Navy Radio Station NSS at Annapolis, MD.

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<https://science.nasa.gov/science-research/heliophysics/nasa-noaa-sun-reaches-maximum-phase-in-11-year-solar-cycle/>

## NASA, NOAA: Sun Reaches Maximum Phase in 11-Year Solar Cycle

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Amateur Radio Satellites for Beginners slide show by N9KT

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Sm1F1lRaT5-L5HdWksEd85ZFze3m5tiMzdTuKNqb66A/edit#slide=id.p>

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## **ARRL Systems Service Disruption**

*10/23/2024*

**Updated 10/23/2024**

The ARRL DXCC® System has been returned to service, and our staff is again processing applications for credit toward DXCC awards. The queue includes nearly 3,000 award applications submitted via Logbook of The World® (LoTW®) accounts and mailed paper applications. We are processing the backlog as quickly as possible, and will provide additional progress updates.

For now, the online DXCC application will remain offline. Any new award applications we receive will experience significant delays as we work through the backlog.

As previously reported, LoTW® was returned to service on Monday, July 1, 2024. Since then, the system has been processing log uploads with little or no processing delay.

We are grateful for your continued patience and understanding as we continue to make progress on the few remaining services that have required additional attention to bring back online.

*This story will be updated with new developments.*

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# 52<sup>nd</sup> FORT WAYNE HAMFEST & Computer Expo

Sponsored by Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society



**Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA**  
ARRL Central Division Director

**Brent Walls N9BA**  
ARRL Central Division Vice Director

**Bob Burns AK9R**  
ARRL Indiana Section Manager

**Mike Alley W9MSK**  
ARRL Indiana Section Emergency  
Coordinator

Ham Radio License Testing All Classes (\$14)  
9 AM till 12 PM Saturday

WAS & DXCC Card Checking and CQ  
Awards

Youth Lounge (under 12 accompanied by adult)

New & Used Ham Equipment Dealers  
Main & Hourly Door Prizes

2 Rooms of Special Interest Forums All Day  
Saturday

Talk-in Radio Frequency 146.880 (-) PL 141.3

Tables: \$30 Regular, \$50 Premium, \$35 Electricity  
Drive Directly to Your Table for Setup

# November 16 & 17 2024

SAT 9 AM to 4 PM  
SUN 9 AM to 2 PM

Admission: \$8 Sat &  
Sun  
\$4 Sun only  
Children under 12 free  
(with adult)

**Allen County  
War Memorial Coliseum  
4000 Parnell Ave  
Fort Wayne, IN  
73,000 sq. ft. all indoors  
(Coliseum Parking \$8 per  
vehicle)**

Get the latest information at  
[www.fortwaynehamfest.com](http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com)  
[www.facebook.com/FTWAYNEHAMFEST/](https://www.facebook.com/FTWAYNEHAMFEST/)

Hamfest General Questions:  
Email: [FM@acarts.com](mailto:FM@acarts.com)  
Table Questions:  
[tables@fortwaynehamfest.com](mailto:tables@fortwaynehamfest.com)  
Mail: PO Box 10342, Fort Wayne,  
IN 46851  
Phone: (260) 579-2196

**ORDERED THREE FERRITES FROM EBAY**



## **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](mailto: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**

