

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 9, Issue 9

September 2021

President's Corner

Live meeting on August 14th was quite enjoyable. We had nine members, one guest and two XYLs.

Carl, K9LA's presentation PDF will be posted on the website.

We will look for a date for the next meeting around the end of September or early October.

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.

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.

Luncheon-Meeting ***August 14, 2021***

Carl Luetzelschwab-K9LA making presentation on the upcoming Cycle 25

Beside Carl; Dave, K9FN; Dave, N9FN; Jurgen, N9RD; Steve, KD9HL; Jerry, W9KTP; Tom, W8FIB and XYL; Jack, N9ITB; John, W3ML and XYL.



Have you ever wanted to call ARRL HQ to ask about something? But didn't know who to call?

There's help out there. It's a list of the various departments (functions) at HQ at <https://www.arrl.org/contact-arrl>. You can expand a department in the list to see the details of who to contact.

You can also download a six-page pdf of the list for future reference, with all the departments expanded. This list can change, so be sure to check for the latest version.

Carl, K9LA





Handy Hint Stripping Wire Insulation

By Steve Mollman - KD9HL

There are times when we need lengths of bare wire for a project such as an antenna. Strange as it may seem, most of our normal local suppliers don't stock bare 12-gauge wire so we have to substitute an insulated wire that is labeled THHN or THWN and attempt to strip the insulation off. Not an easy job and awkward.

Solution: Tie one end to something solid and firm, such as a tree, bench vise or a post. Holding the wire taut, with a utility or box knife, you can walk the length of it and easily strip/shave the insulation off. This works for both short and long lengths.

Did you ever wonder what THHN, THWN etc. mean?

THHN-thermoplastic high-heat-resistant, nylon-coated copper wire.

THWN-The same as THHN but more water resistant.

XHHW-Thermoset Cross-Linked Polyethylene coated, high-heat resistant and water resistant. Has a higher serviceable temperature range than THHN or THWN.

CCA-Copper Coated Aluminum. Compared to pure aluminum wire, CCA does a better job of conducting electricity. The copper coating helps, but it's still not as good as a pure copper wire. It's also stronger than pure aluminum wire, but weaker than pure copper. It can be difficult to solder. It is less flexible than copper so it is harder to work with and the individual strands break easily (brittle) when flexed. It can also be more

prone to corrosion. CCA is often seen in home and auto audio installations because it is cheap. **Not recommended for most uses.**

OFC-Oxygen Free Copper. Another type of wire commonly used in audio installations. A much better conductor than CCA wire without many of the drawbacks.

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ARRL DX LISTINGS 8/27/21

By

Jerry Hess, W9KTP

MALAYSIA, 9M64. Look for various special event stations using the prefix 9M64 to celebrate the 64th anniversary of Malaysia's independence, until September 1. Operations will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and the digital modes. Check QRZ.com for the QSL info because each station's QSLs are different.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 9Y59. Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Amateur Radio Society will be active with special call sign 9Y59IND until September 12 to commemorate the 59th anniversary of the Independence of Trinidad and Tobago. Operations will be on various HF bands and modes. QSL is via LoTW only.

TONGA, A3. Masa, JA0RQV is active as A35JP from Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu Island (OC-049) until early November. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW and ClubLog, direct or via the bureau to his home call.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A60. Members of the Emirates Amateur Radio Society (EARS) will activate special event station A60EXPO from September 1 to October 1 to promote World Expo 2020 in Dubai. QSL via EA7FTR.

SPAIN, AN5. Pascual, EA5WO will be active with special call sign AN5WAR from September 1 to 30 to commemorate the 82nd anniversary of the beginning of World War II. Activity will be on various HF bands. QSL via LoTW or eQSL.

UKRAINE, EM30. Look for special event station EM30UARL to be active until December 31 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Independence Day of Ukraine and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Ukrainian Amateur Radio League (UARL). QSL via UX7UU or UARL bureau.

TANZANIA, 5H. Gab, HA3JB will be QRV as 5H1IP from September 17 to 29. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. He also plans to participate in the CQWW DX RTTY Contest. QSL via HA3JB or ClubLog's OQRS.

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. The Italian DXpedition Team will be QRV from October 9 to 22, using the call signs J5T on CW, SSB and RTTY and J5HKT on FT8. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters. QSL via I2YSB direct, OQRS or LoTW.

HAWAII, KH6. Keith, KC0PP will be active as KC0PP/KH6 until September 12. He plans to participate in the Hawaii QSO Party. QSL via his home call sign, direct or via the bureau.

GUINEA, 3X. Jean Philippe, F1TMY will sign 3X2021 during his upcoming visit, starting in mid-September. He will be on 160 to 6 meters and the QO-100 satellite. He will also be portable from Los Islands, IOTA AF-051. QSL through Club Log.

UNITED STATES, N. N7F is a September 11th 20th anniversary special event call sign by the American Legion Post 10 Amateur Radio Club, N7ALA. They will be active from September 9 to 12 on 40 and 20 meters using SSB, PSK31 and CW. QSL via postal mail, with SASE, to:

N7F **Never Forget c/o American Legion Post 10**, 1215 Pacific Blvd SE, Albany, OR 97321.

Also, N3U will be QRV September 9 to 14 to remember the 9/11 victims who crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania and those in New York City and Washington, D.C. in 2001. Operator W3BTX plans to do mostly SSB and CW but will do some digital modes as well. QSL via W3PN.

SOME NOTES FROM ARRL PROPAGATION WEEKLY REPORT

Sun watchers saw no days without sunspots this week. Average daily sunspot numbers rose from 17.7 last week to 21.7 this reporting week, August 19 through 25.

Average daily solar flux increased from 73.8 to 78.5. Geomagnetic indicators were quiet, with average daily planetary A index declining from 6.1 to 4.7, and average daily middle latitude A index dropping from 7.6 to 5.7.

We are less than one month away from the Northern Hemisphere autumnal equinox, on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. Both hemispheres will be bathed in equal measures of solar radiation, always a positive for HF propagation.

Predicted solar flux is 90 on August 27 to September 2, 85 on September 3, 73 on September 4 to 11, 74 on September 12 to 15, 76 on September 16 to 18, 77 on September 19 and 20, 76 on September 21, 75 on September 22 to 29 and 73 on September 30 through October 8.

Things are looking up. The DX Doldrums are disappearing.

73's,
Jerry

ZK3A — DXpedition to Tokelau

October 2019

By Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA

Tokelau means “North Wind” In Polynesian and is the textbook definition of an island paradise — turquoise waters, incredible beaches and abundant marine life — and the destination for our international team of 19 operators, led by team leader Hrane Milosevic, YT1AD, and co-leaders Alex Yakovlev, UT5UY, and Roman Tkachenko, URØMC. Using the callsign ZK3A, we activated Tokelau from 25 September-10 October 2019.

View of Fakaofu village from the drone.



In addition to the aforementioned, our ZK3A team consisted of the following operators: Andy Kotovsky RW7K, Alex Betsan USØKW, Serge Shalya R7KW, Nick Ovcharenko UT8IO, Vangelis Gkekas SV2BFN, Chris Dimitrijevic VK3FY, Lee Moyle VK3GK, Alex Nersesian K6VHF, David Jorgensen WD5COV, Adrian Ciuperca KO8SCA, Robert Fanfant N7QT, Sandro Nitoi VE7NY, Rafael Oliveira Martins PY2NDX, Sergii Khrypko UR9QQ, Sergey Dyachenko RX3APM, and Dusko Dumanovic ZL3WW.

Planning: Being No. 53 on the Global DXCC Most Wanted List on ClubLog and No. 33 on the Europe DXCC Most Wanted List, Tokelau is a rare DX entity. The archipelago (IOTA: OC-048) consists of three main coral atolls — Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofu — plus many small, uninhabited, islands, located in the South Pacific midway between Hawaii and New Zealand with a population of about 1,500 people. Because of its remote location, Tokelau is not on the usual tourist’s radar, and a visit by a large team of DXpeditioners raises many complications and requires special permits and visas from local authorities. To resolve and negotiate those details, Hrane, YT1AD, and Dusko, ZL3WW, visited Tokelau to meet with telecom authorities many months before the DXpedition. Since the Tokelau islands are located about 300 miles north of the nation island of Samoa, the team’s starting point was chosen to be Apia, Samoa’s capital.

There are no airports that service these remote islands, so the team hitched a ride on the (semi) regular supply boat to the atolls. The ride from Apia to the team’s final destination on Fakaofu Atoll was a little over 24 hours on the open ocean.

While on Samoa, however, the team took care of the remaining logistics before our departure: obtaining visas, packing the equipment for the boat ride and shopping for needed supplies. We coordinated our operations based on the supply boat’s schedule.

There wouldn't be enough time to operate if we planned our DXpedition between two of the scheduled boats, so it was decided to send a 3-person team — Dusko, ZL3WW, Adrian, KO8SCA, and Robert, N7QT — to install many of the antennas, thus allowing the main team to start operating immediately upon their arrival.

Operations & equipment: The ZK3A team was divided into two groups, each operating from a different island, about 2 kilometers apart. Doing so removed the possibility of interference and maximized the number of contacts by allowing both locations to operate in the same band, but on different modes. The local school was located on one of the islands, so there was a boat that made multiple daily trips to ferry children back and forth, and the team utilized that boat, plus others, to move between the two islands.

Camp 1 on Fale Island had a Mosley TA33M beam for 14/21/28 MHz; a Mosley TW33XL beam for 10/18/24 MHz; a LBS 4-square for 3.5MHz; Comtek 4-square for 7 MHz, and a vertical for 10MHz.

Camp 2 at the Teletok location had a Cushcraft A3S beam for 14/21/28 MHz with YAESU GDx 800 rotator; a Mosley TW33XL beam 10/18/24 MHz; a dipole for 3.5 MHz; vertical for 7 MHz; dipole for 5 MHz; 7 element beam for 50 MHz (EME); vertical and delta loop for 1.8 MHz and receiving antenna for 1.8 MHz, plus a 102-meter-long Beverage antenna (BOG), as there was enough space available.

For radios, we utilized three Elecraft K3S, three Kenwood TS-590s, one Icom 7300, SunSDR Pro and a Rig One transceiver. For amplifiers, we used three SPE 1.5kW and one SPE X 1.3kW, a Burst 2kW and one home-brew 1kW amplifier.

Good will: It is important for Amateur Radio DXpedition teams to gain good will and leave a positive footprint on their travels and ZK3A was no different. The team brought in and donated antennas, radios, generators and everything else that was needed to setup a fully functional station for each of the three Tokelauan atolls. The equipment could be used by Tokelau ham radio operators to become more proficient in amateur radio operating and, more importantly, it represents a significant asset during emergency situations.



Tokelauan school kids visited our camp.

During the DXpedition, Hrane, YT1AD, and Lee, VK3GK, conducted Amateur Radio training sessions so that young Tokelauans could obtain their radio licenses. These young islanders, many of whom worked for the local telecom company, were familiar with many technical aspects being presented to them and showed a keen interest on learning about Amateur Radio.



Hrane, YTIAD, teaches young Tokelauens about Amateur Radio — one of the goals of the ZK3A DXpedition

During their day off, team members had the opportunity to visit the island's village and participate in the local activities, including fishing for tuna or barracuda.

Being a dependency of New Zealand, English was widely spoken, which allowed our team to easily interact with the locals and learn more about their Polynesian culture.

Abrupt Departure Three days prior to our planned ending, we were notified that the boat we were going to use for our scheduled departure was required for a medical emergency —we had just three hours to pack up and leave the island or wait another two weeks for the next scheduled trip. This was, of course, unexpected and unfortunate, but we had no alternative. We later learned that the medical emergency was a small infant who required urgent medical attention and that the situation ended well.

The tally and some thanks: The ZK3A DXpedition ended up with almost 53,000 QSOs, of which almost 15,000 were unique calls. The continental distribution of the QSOs is: Asia 38%, NA 37.5%, Europe 19%, Oceania 3.6%, SA 1.6% and Africa 0.4%. The most QSOs were done in CW (near 30,000) followed by FT8 (approximately 12,000), SSB (near 9,000), RTTY (about 2,300 by SV2BFN) as well as a few 6M EME QSOs (by URØMC). Many more ZK3A statistics are available on clublog.org. Thanks to our pilots: Oceania and Chief Pilot and Webmaster, Peter Dernikos, VK3FN; Asia, Champ Muangamphun E21EIC; North America, Steve Hass, N2AJ; South America, Cesar Augusto de C. Rodrigues, PY2YP; Europe, Demetrios Anastasiades, SV2GWY, and Africa, Andre Pretorius, V51B.

We also thank all the Amateurs, clubs, organizations and companies who provided support to the ZK3A DXpedition. A special thanks goes to NCDXF for continuing to support DXpeditions to rare DX entities.

For more details and additional pictures, visit our website www.tokelau2019.com. •

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 the extent permitted by law for U.S. taxpayers. Send your contribution to: NCDXF, P.O. Box 2012, Cupertino, CA 95015-2012, USA. You may also contribute and order supplies online via their secure server, visit www.ncdxf.org/donate

FOR SALE ITEMS

MFJ's most expensive 3KW tuner, never used, bought from DX Engineering, cost was \$700 plus. Will entertain best offer. Nick, W9UM. Pick up only.

Contact Nick at his email address: <mailto:ncominos2@gmail.com>

The following equipment is up for sale. Will accept PayPal, cash, MO, or personal check. Shipping is available for additional cost. For more information on any of the listed items please email Mike at aj9c@indy.rr.com. Prices are listed below the pictures.



KX3 160-6m QRP Rig

Has the following items:
power amp ATU installed; roofing filter; clock battery charger;
hand held mic; accessory cable pack, amp connecting cables,
KXUSB, Pelican 1550 case.



KXPA100 Amplifier

100 w with ATU



KX3 QRP Rig Control Head



Backside of KX3 radio

Asking Price: \$2300.00 for all



Remote Antenna Tuner



Remote Antenna Tuner Picture 2

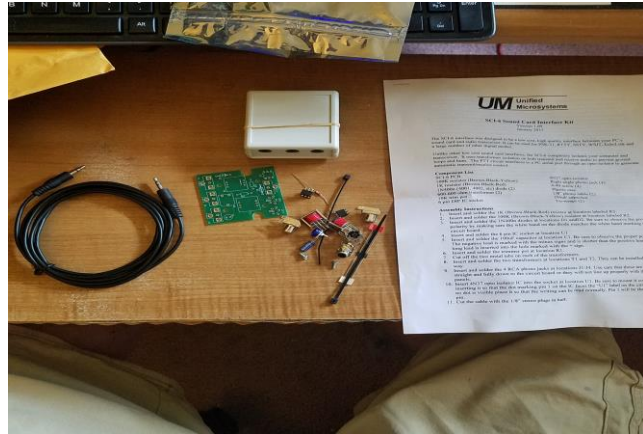
I purchased this to make a remote antenna tuner. There is a vacuum variable capacitor with a motor and a ribbon inductor with the motor. The unit is complete.

Asking Price: \$125.00



Alliance HD-73 Rotor with Control Box

Asking Price: \$200.00



SCI-6 Sound Card Interface Kit

Interface kit to use with your radio to get on FT8, PSK31, Rtty, WSJT.

Asking Price: \$15.00

If interested in any of the above items please email Mike at aj9c@indy.rr.com

Right now, Mike is planning to go to w9dxcc. So, if anyone is interested, he might be able to deliver in person along the way.

KD9HL

Signalink USB Sound Card Interface-\$75.00



NEW in open box. Includes cables for Elecraft K3-K3S. (Compatible with other rigs with proper cables) Supports all computer program digital modes and digital voice modes, **WITHOUT** using your computer sound card. Retail for \$125 up.

Collins 30L-1 HF Amplifier (Winged Emblem)- \$695.00



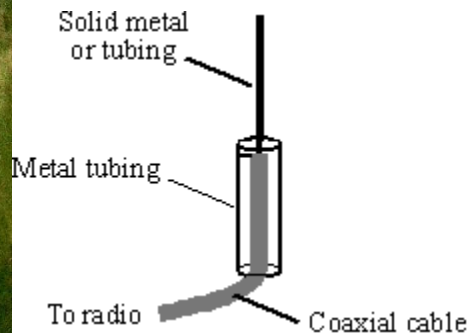
The Collins 30L-1 is a grounded grid linear amplifier using four 811 A or 572B triode tubes. The amplifier is rated to deliver 1000 watts PEP power input on SSB and 1000 watts average on CW for all bands. It can be driven by most 70–100-watt exciters. Finished in the same light gray as Collins' classic S/Line equipment and the KWM-2A. Can operate off of 120- or 220-volt service.

The 30L-1 provides SSB and CW operation and covers the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands; however, provisions were made for general coverage operation. Automatic load control provides maximum talking power without over-driving and distortion, resulting in a cleaner signal.

The tubes can be replaced without removing the unit from the cabinet. With the meter switch in tune position, the 30L-1 tunes by simply adjusting the loading and tuning controls to zero the meter. This unit is in VERY GOOD condition. Four matched 572B tubes are installed. A matched set of 811A tubes are included.

Andrew 2-Meter VHF Antenna- \$110.00

Andrew Corp. Type 161-3 coaxial type wide band VHF vertical antenna. 144-150.8 MHz Mil-Spec, very heavy-duty construction for intended for commercial service. Never used. Andrew Corp. sold these for approximately \$800.00 each. Unit is about 114 inches long.



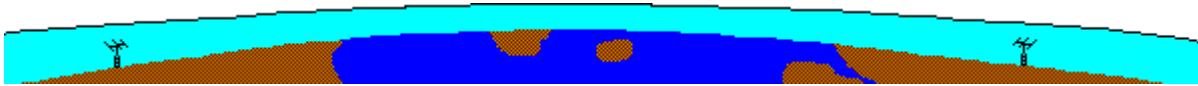
Contact Steve Mollman-KD9HL

KD9HL@arrl.net

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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.

I want to thank those that have been sending in articles for the newsletter. All items are appreciated.



Until Next Time,
73

John
W3ML

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



DX

