

# Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 10, Issue 9

September 2022

## President's Corner

WAC Challenge - DX Club Contest will end soon.  
**Next Meeting is September 24<sup>th</sup>. Round the Clock Restaurant in Chesterton at NOON.**

Please let me know if you change email addresses.

I have had some bounce back and would like to make sure everyone is getting the newsletter and any special notifications.

73

John W3ML

Good DXing!

## "Working the World from the Black Hole"

**NWI DX Club Website**

<http://nwidclub.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.

<i>Northwest Indiana DX Club Officers and Staff</i>			
President	W3ML	John Poindexter	<a href="mailto:w3ml.john@gmail.com">w3ml.john@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	W9KTP	Jerry Hess	<a href="mailto:jerryhess@Frontier.com">jerryhess@Frontier.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	W3ML	John Poindexter	<a href="mailto:w3ml.john@gmail.com">w3ml.john@gmail.com</a>
W9NWI Trustee	KD9HL	Steve Mollman	<a href="mailto:kd9hl@ARRL.net">kd9hl@ARRL.net</a>
Webmaster	W9YOU	John Reardon	<a href="mailto:kd9ron@ARRL.net">kd9ron@ARRL.net</a>
ARRL Card Checker	KD9HL	Steve Mollman	<a href="mailto:kd9hl@ARRL.net">kd9hl@ARRL.net</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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**The Question of the Month**

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*(From the Extra Class Exam Pool-The correct answer is at the end of the Newsletter)*

**What is the result of skin effect?**

- A. As frequency increases, RF current flows in a thinner layer of the conductor, closer to the surface
- B. As frequency decreases, RF current flows in a thinner layer of the conductor, closer to the surface
- C. Thermal effects on the surface of the conductor increase the impedance
- D. Thermal effects on the surface of the conductor decrease the impedance

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**NWIDXC WAC CHALLENGE**  
**“THE END IS NEAR”**



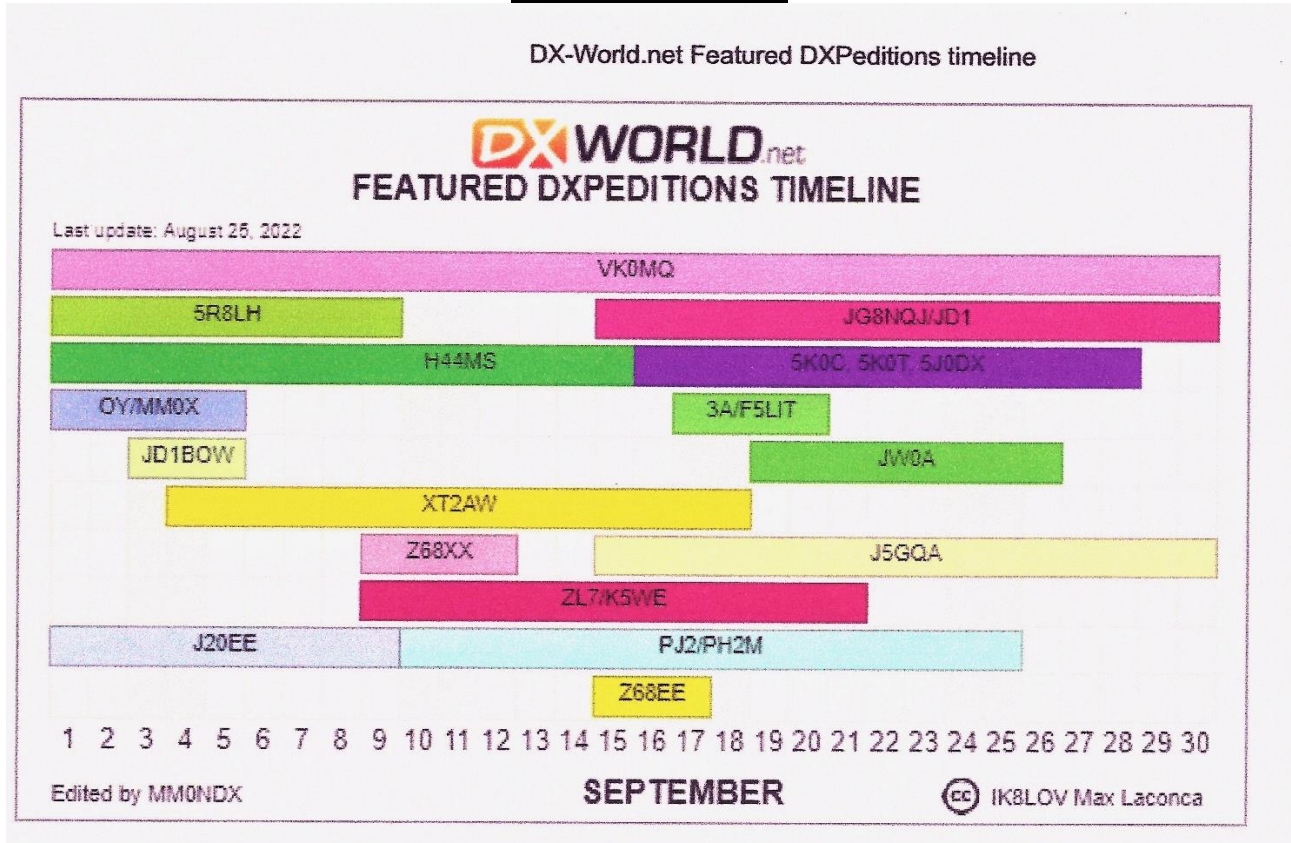
The end of the **NWIDXC Worked All Continents Challenge** will occur at our September meeting on 9/24/2022. Either send your log to Steve, KD9HL, or bring it to the meeting to receive your trophy. If you can't make it to the meeting, perhaps have someone pick it up for you.

Hopefully everyone had fun.

73's,  
Jerry Hess, W9KTP

**DX LISTINGS FOR 9/2022**

**By**  
**Jerry Hess, W9KTP**



By Permission of MM0NDX

**Handy Hint**

**Laying Ground Radials (An Update)**

*By Steve Mollman-KD9HL*

**Radial Wire Metal Anchor Pins**



In the December 2017 issue of the NWIDX Club Newsletter Handy Hints, we discussed a method of burying ground radials and feed lines without digging. That method included advice on making “Anchor Pins” out of scrap wire or old metal coat hangers.

Since that time, a ready-made alternative has appeared on the market-preformed Anchor Pins. They are available in various quantities and sizes from Menards and DX Engineering.

[http://nwidclub.weebly.com/uploads/1/8/8/2/18825430/nwidclub\\_december\\_2017\\_newsletter.pdf](http://nwidclub.weebly.com/uploads/1/8/8/2/18825430/nwidclub_december_2017_newsletter.pdf)

<https://www.menards.com/main/building-materials/landscaping-materials/landscaping-fabric/yardworks-trade-4-landscape-garden-staples-50-pack/91407/p-1444421189237-c-13236.htm?tid=777691708270792206&ipos=12>

<https://www.dxengineering.com/parts/dxe-stpl-100p>

<https://www.dxengineering.com/parts/dxe-stpl-300p>

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

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## **Do you have QRN?**

**The remote lake where lightning strikes 1.6 million times per year – BBC REEL**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkfYIISZMxs>

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# Box 88, Moscow

How many remember when you could only send QSL cards to hams in the USSR by mailing them to Box 88, Moscow?

All QSL's in and out of the USSR were handled by the government controlled CRC, Central Radio Club, and they used the central address, "Box 88, Moscow, USSR."

The USSR QSL Bureau and CRC occupied an entire building in Moscow and had a sizeable staff. It also had an actual "P.O. Box." . This is where incoming QSL cards from all over the world would be deposited for the CRC, and subsequently distributed to the amateurs of the Soviet Union.

Any QSL's that came with money or IRCs were seized and taken by the CRC. IRC's were used for CRC's outgoing postage and the cash was deposited in the CRC bank account and used by functionaries who traveled to IARU Conferences abroad. Russian hams never saw any of this. Nothing went to waste.

DX'ers called Box 88 the "Bottomless Pit" because it seemed that QSL cards would disappear, often forever. Turnaround times of five to six years were common.

Except for a few standard styled cards available from the CRC, Soviet hams had to handcraft their cards (commercial printing services were banned). They would often take post cards or greeting cards and overprint them with their call letters. The call letter stamps were hand carved from artist erasers!





*A handcrafted QSL Card from Asiatic Russia c. 1970*

As of the writing of this article, because of the Russian/Ukrainian War, postal service between the USA and Russia is suspended. The only way to confirm a QSL is via Logbook of the World.

The Central Radio Club has been superseded by the **Russian Amateur Radio Union** (in Russian, **Союз радиолюбителей России**, Romanized as **Soyuz Radiolyubitelei Rossii**) which is the national organization for amateur radio enthusiasts in Russia. The organization uses **SRR** as its official abbreviation, based on the standard Romanization of the Russian name.

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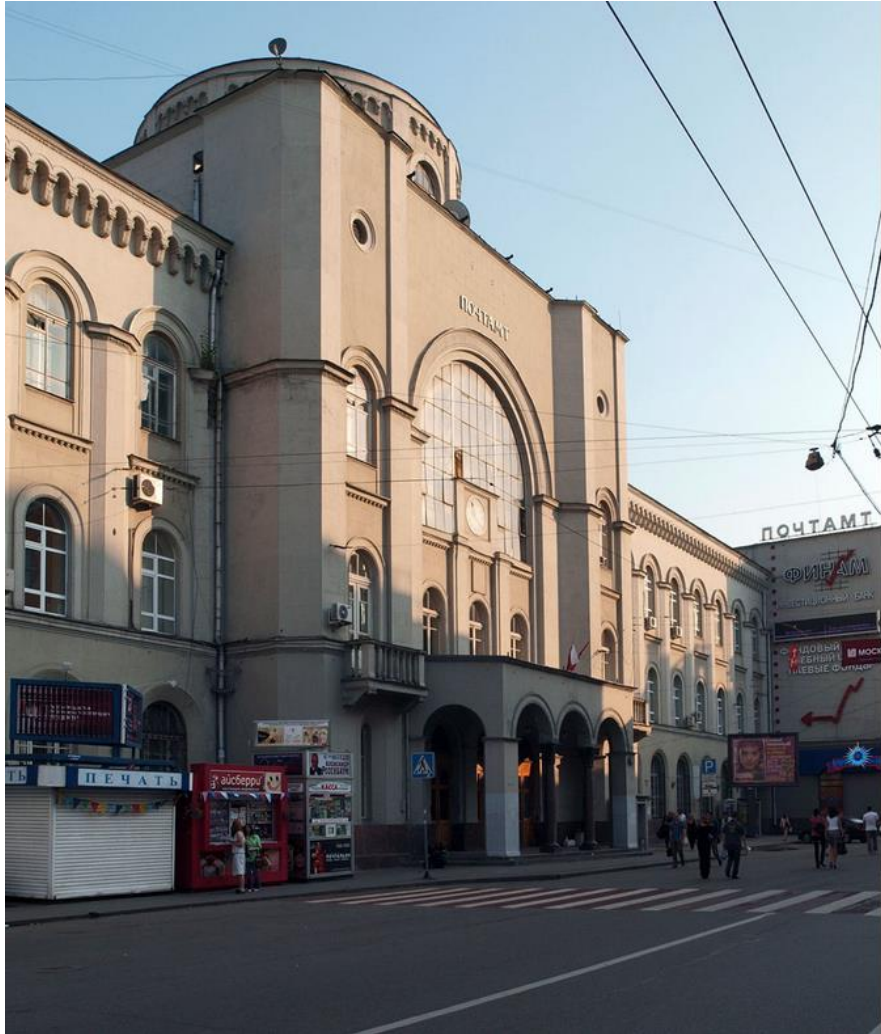
*Edward Kritsky, NT2X in the lobby of the Moscow Central Post Office by the infamous “Box 88”*

*(NT2X is an émigré from Russia)*



*The Infamous and Notorious "Box 88"*





*Moscow Central Post Office*

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**Interesting in kit building? Check out this new kit from MFJ. Yes, MFJ!**

**MFJ-941EK**

You won't get an MFJ paycheck but you will take pride in building your very own manual antenna tuner. Soldering required for the meter pc board. All the parts are here!



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## Question of the Month Answer:

**Group E5D01: What is the result of skin effect?**

- **A-** As frequency increases, RF current flows in a thinner layer of the conductor, closer to the surface

*From the Extra Class Exam Pool*

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## FOR SALE ITEMS

Let me know when an item is no longer for sale so I can remove it.

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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](mailto:aj9c@indy.rr.com). Prices are listed below the pictures.

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Remote Antenna Tuner

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.



Remote Antenna Tuner Picture 2

**Asking Price: \$125.00**



SCI-6 Sound Card Interface Kit

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

**Asking Price: \$15.00**

Mike has additional items available for sale.

Acom 2000A 160-10 m auto tune amp. This has the older style controller and was formerly owned by KE9I and N9QX. Tubes have been replaced by me. Works fine and is in service here. Just purchased a Flex Power

Genius which makes this unit available. Price \$3700. I have 2 new spare GU74b tubes if the amp purchaser wants them then the price is \$4100. The tubes will not be offered for sale until the amp purchaser declines them.



I have also a Harris RF Channel 2 TV amp unit which I have used on 6m for the past several seasons. 10-15w in will deliver 1k output. The purchaser may want to tidy up connections. This includes the power supply to operate the amp. I also have documentation. There is an extra amp deck that could be used via a combiner to increase output or as spare parts. (I have it for spare parts and have not fired up the 2d amp deck.). Included is a DPDT relay with N connectors. I have I believe 3 addition PS that come with the purchase. These again were purchased for spares....just in case.

Price for the 6m amps/parts \$1000

Acom 2000A auto tune, legal limit amp \$3500

Drake MS-4 speaker \$60

Drake R4 series INRAD 2.1 Khz SSB filter \$75



Collins 180L tuner \$125

HD-73 rotor and control box (no lower mast clamp) works \$150

Payment by check, MO or Zelle.

Contact AJ9C at

[aj9c@indy.rr.com](mailto:aj9c@indy.rr.com)

or call 765-661-8495. Leave a message  
if you call.

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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.**

**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

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



**DX**

**THANKS**  
*Thanks for visiting!*

