

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 12, Issue 9

September 2024

President's Corner

The next meeting is in October. Announcement of the confirmed date will be sent later.

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 | w3ml.john@gmail.com |
| Vice President | Jerry Hess W9KTP | dxer340@gmail.com |
| Newsletter Editor | John Poindexter W3ML | w3ml.john@gmail.com |
| W9NWI Trustee | Steve Mollman KD9HL | kd9hl@arrl.net |
| Webmaster | John Reardon W9YOU | kd9ron@arrl.net |
| ARRL Card Checker | Steve Mollman KD9HL | kd9hl@arrl.net |
| DX Alert Coordinator | Bill South N4SV | wbs099@yahoo.com |

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.

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT
of
MOON BOUNCE PRESENTATION
BY
Dave Chasey, N9FN

As many of you know, Dave was not able to attend our July meeting. Fortunately he has agreed to make his presentation on EME (Earth, Moon, Earth) or better known as Moon Bounce at our next meeting tentatively scheduled for October 11, 2024. Hear about the history, technology, his accomplishments and how you may be able to join the Moon Bounce crowd with equipment you already have. Hope to see you there since there will not be a ZOOM link for this meeting.

73's,
Jerry, W9KTP

Question of the Month

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

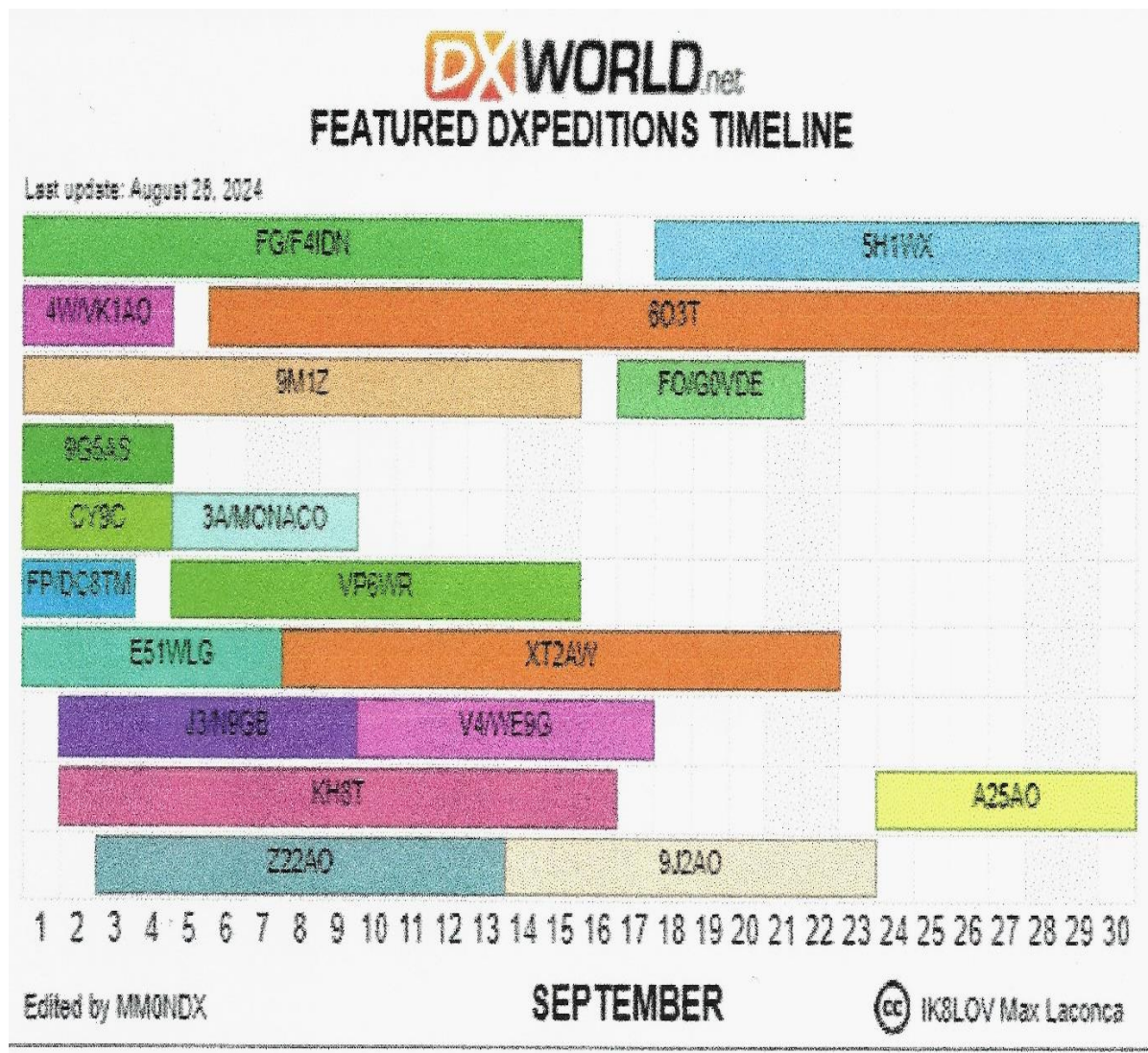
The recent N5J DXpedition was on Jarvis Island. Who is the island named for?

- A. Anna Jarvis-the founder of Mother's Day**
- B. Edward, Thomas and William Jarvis-19th century merchants and speculators**
- C. Jarvis-the butler in several movies such as "Peg O'My Heart" and "Iron Man".**
- D. Charles Jarvis-British soldier awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry.**

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DX LISTINGS
FOR
SEPTEMBER 2024

By
Jerry Hess, W9KTP



By permission by MM0NDX

-Handy Hint-

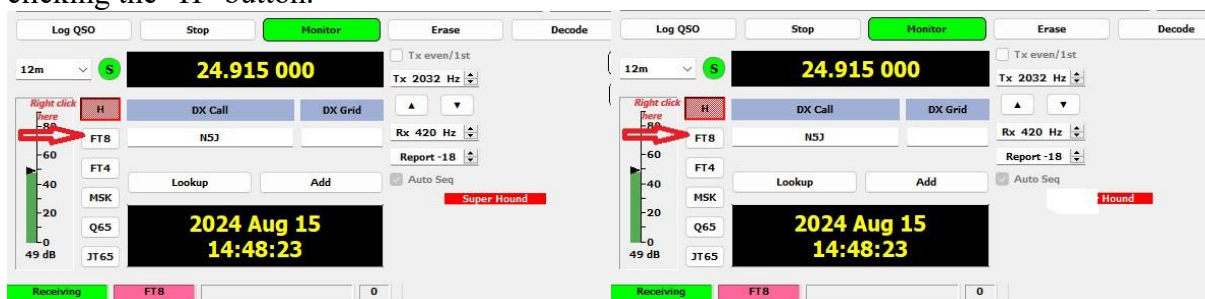
Fox/Hound-Super Fox/Hound Shortcut and an Operating Hint

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

The recent N5J-Jarvis Island Dxpediton brought with it a new form of WSJT-X FT8 called Super Fox/Hound. While still in the beta stage of development, the new mode has shown promise as a way to increase expedition contact counts while maintaining the DX's signal strength.

Many have complained about the supposed awkwardness of toggling between Super F/H and regular F/H. Actually, it is not necessary to go into the menu to make the change. The developers have included an easy shortcut to make the switch.

Do you want to switch from one to the other? Simple: **Click with right mouse button on FT8 button to switch back and forth!** Of course, you can still enter or depart the Hound modes by clicking the "H" button.



A Super Fox/Hound operating hint. This one is strictly anecdotal coming from observation of the pileups. The conventional Hound mode required that the Hound transmit at an audio frequency above 1200. It seems that most DX'ers have taken that instruction over to Super Fox/Hound and that is where they are, creating massive pileups and QRM for each other. Super Fox/Hound has different audio frequency protocols. Super Fox/Hound allows Hound transmission anywhere on the audio spectrum except that of the DX. That being said, you may transmit BELOW the DX audio frequency. This often is clear of any other callers and gives you a clean shot at the DX. Experience with the Jarvis DXpediton showed this technique resulted in fairly short chases and successful contacts.

A big pileup and few clear slots because of the mob? Try a clear audio frequency of 200 to 650. It might get you that new one!



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

MY DC INVERTER FIASCO

By
Jerry Hess, W9KTP

Before I get into my struggles with Inverter technology, I want to note the reason I wanted one. The problem started during my preparations for ARRL Field Day (FD) this year. The rig I use for FD is a Yaesu FT 897, which I bought back in 2013, which included an internal removable AC supply and one battery pack which can be inserted instead of the AC supply. The rig will also work with an external 13.8 Volt DC if desired. I like to operate FD in Class B with the battery for the extra bonus points. Unfortunately, this year's FD, the most power I could get out of the battery was 10 watts. Guess that was the life cycle for the battery. Oh well, default to the commercial lines, Class D for this year.

Not long after FD, we lost electric power for about 12 hours. This outage included morning coffee time. The XYL's tea kettle, my Keurig pot, and the kitchen stove were out of the question. The kitchen stove has a gas interlock during loss of AC. Since we were desperate for a cup of coffee, I used our Charbroil grill to boil water and a little Nescafe did the trick.

This got me thinking about a DC Inverter like the ones I have noticed at Harbor Freight and Menards. I wanted something that would serve the 100 watt FD requirements as well providing enough power for either the XYL's tea pot or my Keurig pot, which requires about 1500 watts.

After some investigation I purchased a Jupiter 1000/2000 watt Inverter and a Thunderbolt 12 volt, 35 Amp-Hour battery from Harbor Freight. I checked other sources for a battery but most of them were designed for automotive purposes (cranking Amps) and don't list Amp-Hour ratings. Yes, it worked but the most power I could get out of it was less than 100 watts with any of my rigs. This definitely would not work for morning coffee. Regrettably, I should have read the instruction sheet for the inverter. To obtain the power

Battery capacity selection:

| Inverter Output | about 1 hour discharge time (Minimum battery capacity) | about 4 hour discharge time (Optimal battery capacity) |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 500W | 80 Ah | 200 Ah |
| 1000W | 150 Ah | 400 Ah |
| 1500W | 240 Ah | 700 Ah |
| 2000W | 300 Ah | 1000 Ah |
| 3000W | 450 Ah | 1500 Ah |
| 4000W | 600 Ah | 2000 Ah |
| 5000W | 750 Ah | 2500 Ah |

I wanted I would need a battery with more than 500 Amp-Hour rating. After a web search, these "beauties" cost over \$500 and weigh at least 45 pounds. Needless to say, I returned the Inverter and battery to Harbor Freight. No problem with the refund.



Undaunted, I noticed an article in January 2024 QST about inverters. I chose the Bluetti EB55 unit which was on sale for \$300. I thought it would handle a 1-200 watt transceiver and our coffee needs. I was close to buying one but I decided to check some YouTube video reviews of the EB55. Some of the

reviewers were not impressed. Now I was getting nervous about my choice. So I called the factory and was told that I would need a much bigger unit which cost over \$1000 to handle everything including the coffee requirements. This was the final straw and I gave up on my Inverter quest.

For someone active in portable operations like Parks On The Air (POTA) or Islands On Air (IOTA), the Bluetti unit might be a handy thing to have. For me it's hard to justify for just two days out of the year. C'est la vie!

73's,
Jerry

Big Six-Meter Opening Predicted

Noted DX'er and contester Francis Donovan-W3LPL wrote in an email published in the ARRL August 16, 2024 Propagation Report:

"Ain't this solar maximum great? Solar Cycle 25 is now much, much stronger than anyone anticipated, and it's slowly growing stronger through at least this weekend. Today's Wednesday (August 11) estimated international sunspot number is 281.

It is increasingly likely that we'll have widespread coast-to-coast and worldwide 6-meter F2 propagation during about half of the days between late October and at least early February. Widespread F2 openings are likely to bring 6-meter CW and SSB to life like we haven't experienced in more than 20 years.

The first sign of enhanced 6 meter F2 will be increasingly frequent Trans equatorial Propagation (TEP) from Europe and North America to South America and the South Atlantic islands. TEP may begin very sporadically by late August and become increasingly frequent later in September and especially during October.

Coast-to-coast F2 propagation and propagation crossing the Atlantic to Europe and Africa may begin sporadically during September and October and become frequent and long lasting by early November.

Effective 6-meter antennas can be very small. Three element Yagis are small, lightweight and very effective. 20-foot antenna height is adequate but sloping terrain or higher antennas perform much better. Heights higher than 50 feet are not necessary and, in many cases, perform poorly.

Are you ready for this once in a lifetime experience?"

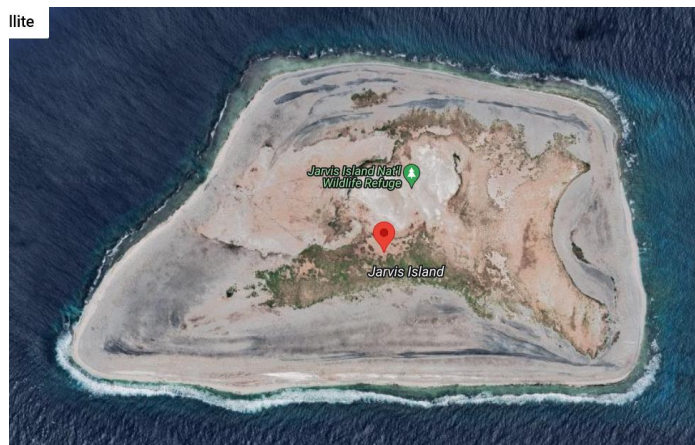


An Aerial View of W3LPL's Antenna Farm



Question of the Month Answer:

The recent N5J DXpedition was on Jarvis Island. Who is the island named for?



Answer: B. Edward, Thomas and William Jarvis 19th century merchants and speculators

The island's first known sighting was on August 21, 1821, by the British ship *Eliza Francis* (or *Eliza Frances*) owned by brothers Edward, Thomas and William Jarvis, 19th century merchants and speculators, and commanded by a Captain Brown. Another example of “sucking up to the boss”.

Except for the butlers, all of the other individuals were real persons born in the 1800's.



Tom Ruggles-W8FIB's New Tower and SteppIR Beam



Sent in by Tom W8FIB

[Magic Smoke Blues by @fascinatingfolkpunk301 | Suno](#)

New Icom Radio

<https://icomuk.co.uk/ICOM-Launches-New-IC-7760-at-Tokyo-Hamfair/2/4842/>

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**

Old style F12 XR5 5 band yagi. The element to boom U-bolts have been replaced with stainless and comes with a Balun Designs balun. The Romex feed cable needs a lug put back on or replaced. \$400

Alfa Spid RAK (reg not BIG) with controller. \$900

Alfa Spid AZ/EL controller only \$375

I got the Alfa Spid stuff as part of my tower deal when I bought the crank-up this last Spring. I just powered it all up. Looks like they work. The RAK and controller spin as they should. All items are being sold as is pick-up in Marion, IN. The rotor stuff could be brought to a HDXCC meeting or W9DXCC.

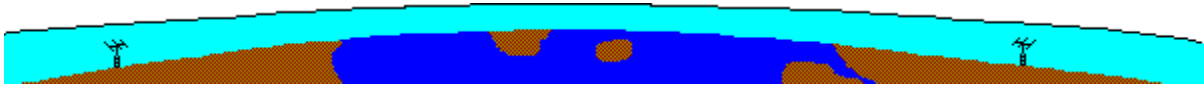
Heil Micro Pro headset. This has the HC4 dynamic mic element. 1/4 in and 1/8 plug on the cable. \$70 shipped, \$60 if you want to pick-up at a meeting as mentioned above. These are not the David Clark style headphones like the current Heil Pro or Radiosport headphones. This has two ear pieces. but they are much more lightweight. You can google the model.

**If interested shoot me a direct email. Contact: Mike Kasrich
aj9c@indy.rr.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://nwidclub.weebly.com/>



DX

