

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2014

President's Corner

If you missed the meeting on the 8th, then you missed the biggest gathering we have had so far. 20 individuals showed up for the meeting, with 17 of them being Hams. We gained three new members at the luncheon.

According to what I have been told, a good time was had by all.

Spring is here, but has not sprung yet. It better hurry and warm up as I am sure there is a lot of antenna work needing down.

This last weekend is another SSB contest. The exchange is RS and Serial No.

We have a new website made possible by John Gianotti, W9WY. The address is below on the left.

If you have any suggestions for putting something on the pages, please let me know.

73
John, W3ML

Don't Forget

DXCC CARD CHECKING

Doctor Richard Lochner, K9CIV has been appointed an Official ARRL DXCC Card Checker. Contact Rich to schedule an appointment for card checking.

You may email him at k9civ@arrl.net for details on how to mail your cards to him, if you desire to go that route.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President Speaks
- 2 Member News/DX News

NWI DX Club Website

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

Member News

If you have any news to tell, please send it to me so I can send it to the group.

Work a New One! Hang Some Wallpaper!

Haven't worked any new DX lately? You have worked a lot of DXCC entities and the new ones are becoming harder and harder to find. 5-Band DXCC is out of the question because 80/75 meters is pretty quiet right now. What to do? Why not chase another DX Style award? Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC), Germany's National Amateur Radio Society, has a number of challenging awards that are a nice adjunct to the DXCC Honor Roll quest.

Probably the most popular of their awards is the "Worked All Europe Award" (WAE). You might question what is the big deal about working all of the European entities? Shooting fish in a barrel! Maybe not! Let's take a quick look at what that entails.



The DARC offers this award in six different varieties ranging from an entry level award needing as few as 40 European entities worked and 100 band points to their top award, the WAE Trophy, which requires working every current country listed on any five bands with a total of 365 band points.

A single band point is given for working one entity on one band-up to a maximum of five bands. Ex: Work Guernsey Island (GU) on 10 meters you get one band point. Work GU on five bands you get five points. Work GU on four bands plus 80/75 meters you get 6 points. Stations from outside Europe may count two points for each QSO on 3,5MHz and 1,8MHz. So, if you have worked 40 European countries once, you have only accumulated 40 band points. You have some work to do to get even the basic award because you don't have enough band points.

The countries on the list generally follow the ARRL DX list for the European continent with a few exceptions. First off, Kosovo (Z6), Shetland Islands (GM/s), UN Vienna (4UN1V) and Svalbard's Bear

Island (JW/b) are added to make a total of 73 active entities. There are also eight deletes such as Malyj Vysotskij Island (R1MV) and the former German Democratic Republic (Y2). The deletes can count for some awards but not others.

The complete rules are available at:

<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/diplome/wae-diplom/>

A nice touch is that the DARC accepts LOTW QSO's and has an automated process for verifying that information into their application forms!

How do you apply? The process is easier than applying for the ARRL DXCC Award. An easy way is to download from the Internet the "Introduction into DARC Contest Logbook" and follow the step by step instructions. It is available at:

http://www.amateurfunk-wiki.de/index.php/The_Introduction_into_DARC_Contest_Logbook

DARC also provides a downloadable Excel spread sheet that can be used.

<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/diplome/wae-diplom/forms>

A hint about dealing with the DARC awards web site. Being a German organization of mostly German amateur radio operators, it makes sense that the web site is written in German. However DARC is somewhat accommodating to those of us that don't read that language. On many but not all of the pages in the upper right hand corner there is an icon of the British Union Jack. Double click that icon and an English translation will appear. Sometimes the icon is very tiny so you will have to look carefully to find it. Thank you to DARC for being so kind!

Verification of non-LOTW contacts (QSL Cards) is usually done by scanning your cards into an e-mail to the Awards Manager, Wolfgang Böhmer (df8aa@darc.de) Generally, he will request only a small random sample of your application's QSL cards for review.

73's and good DX, de Steve Mollman, KD9HL

(kd9hl@yahoo.com)

ADD CW TO YOUR ARSENAL

Are you prepared for P5 (North Korea) or BS7 (Scarborough Reef) or some other rare country to show up but you only operate SSB? How about adding a big plus to your chances of getting them by using CW. Now don't panic, there are some easy ways to operate CW.

WHY?

There are some good reasons for adding CW to your arsenal. Using a little latitude with 'Jerry's Math', you are 23 times more likely to work those rare ones on CW. Check this out.

1. A SSB signal occupies about 2.5 kilohertz, while CW is only 1.0 kilohertz wide. Jerry's math says that 2.5 more room to slip your signal in there.

2. Jerry's math says that a good operator will hear a signal at 600 hertz and another at 1000 hertz at the same time and copy them both. Sharp CW filters help a lot. Double that CW factor for this reason.
3. Major DXpeditions average 1.5 times more CW Qso's than phone.
 - a. PJ7AA (7073/4531) = 1.5
 - b. TO7CC (24284/16655) = 1.45
 - c. FT5ZM (95036/63008) = 1.5
4. What I call the "Dork" factor. After listening to expeditions on both phone and CW, there are at least three times more 'Dorks' on phone interfering on the DX station frequency. The "Up, Uppers", the "Wrong VFOers" or the Yahoos who fire up 2 kilohertz off and claim they have been using that frequency for decades and they are not going to move for anyone. You get a little of this on CW but nothing like SSB.

So if I multiply $2.5 \times 2 \times 1.5 \times 3$, I get 22.5. You are almost 23 times as likely to get in the log.

HOW

But you say you've forgot the code or maybe you've never learned it? OK, don't get excited and stop reading. Basically all you need to be able to do is recognize your call letters and a few letters that are standard with DX exchanges. To make it even easier, there a couple ways to have machines do the transmitting for you. They will also provide a means to practice the CW exchanges.

The most expensive way to go is a memory keyer and a paddle. Probably set you back \$100 to \$200.00. Program in the exchanges, crank up the speed to 20-25 wpm and push a button.

The next option is to dust off that old Windows 95, 98 or XT computer that you couldn't part with. Let that old computer do it all through software and a very simple interface. The simplest one I've found was developed by a Michigan State University professor. I've run it on an XT and a Win 98 system and it works. The program didn't seem to work on Vista and probably won't work on Windows 7-8. The website for his stuff is:

taggart.glg.msu.edu/wb8dqt/wb8dqt.htm (don't put a "www" ahead of it)

The professor's total interface appeared in ARRL Handbooks around 1997-98 as "Quick and Easy CW with Your PC." The handbook includes a receive function also but they don't work all that well. All you need is the transmit side which involves a transistor, a resistor, a diode and a relay. His website includes an even simpler circuit but I prefer the isolation that the relay provides.

You can download the software for either a serial or parallel interface. Remember where you put it when you do the download. Next you'll need to go to DOS which is usually listed under "Accessories." A black screen appears and is ready for a command. For those of you who have forgotten your commands;

```
>CD c:\download 'I put my program in Download, CD means change directory.
                    If you put yours in another directory, replace "Download" with
                    your directory
>CW                'This unpacks the executable of the parallel program
                    'The computer lists the programs that are unpacked
>Morse             'Type in the name of the program and you should get the
                    screen for running the program
```

Navigation is primarily with the arrow keys and ENTER. You'll have to run the 'Calibrate' function (Options/Calibrate) to get the right speed. Each computer has a different clock speed. After you click on 'Quit' in the program, type 'EXIT' to get back to windows

WHAT TO EXPECT

Put your call in one of the program memories and get used to hearing it. Go slow then speed up once you feel comfortable. It takes concentration and focus. Practice until think you match the speeds of a DXpedition.

Now the real thing. Most of time you sent your call and wait for the DX to answer you.

1. Eventually the DX hears your call and responds;
 - a. KB9XXX 5NN 5NN=599
2. You answer with a function key;
 - a. 5NN TU (TU means thank you)
3. Usually you get a confirmation;
 - a. KB9XXX QSL (or TU and the DX station swiftly moves on to another station)

And that's it! You just did it.

At times the QRM is bad and the DX station will sent a partial of your call like;

XXX ? or XXX agn

And you just sent your call again.

It won't hurt to practice. Try working an easy one like a PJ or the current W1AW/X stations this way. They want the state so include it.

5NN IN TU

Congratulations. You are a brass pounder! Give me a call or an email if you need some help.

Here are a few other possible computer interfaces for you to consider.

January 2007 QST, "Simple Audio Computer to Transmitter Morse Keyer" (uses the audio from the sound card)

www.cnet.com, "CwType Morse Terminal"

www.ucxlog.de/, UCX Logging program developed by a German ham. Share. Does the logging and handles CW. Between some rigs and the computer all you need is a cable.

www.k1ea.com, "CT" (An old logging program plus keying function. It takes a little doing to set up.)

www.w1hkj.com/flidigi.html Fldigi is a big time digital mode program and also supports CW. As a note, one of the members of QIN CW Traffic Net checks in with it.

Jerry Hess, W9KTP
jerryhess@frontier.com

Northwest Indiana DX Club March 2014 Meeting Minutes

NWI DX Club met on March 8th at Noon at the Viking Chili Bowl in Valparaiso.

There were 17 members and 3 guests in attendance.

New Business:

Elections of Officers was held with John Poindexter, W3ML being reelected as President/Secretary and Richard Lochner, K9CIV as Vice-President.

A motion was made to add the DX Code of Conduct to our By-laws. This motion was passed unanimously.

Jurgen talked about a Ham operator he knows down in the islands that need an antenna analyzer and he was taking donations.

It was mentioned that the June meeting could be some kind of carry-in picnic at a local park or we could simply meet here at the Chili Bowl again. John mentioned more about this would be in upcoming newsletters.

Jerry, KE9I talked about the upcoming Indiana week of W1AW/9 July 23-30. He was looking for volunteers to work as W1AW/9 for a day or a few hours a day. If interested contact him.

Good conversations were held by all and we had three new members in attendance:

David Bunte K9FN

David Chasey N9FN

Victoria Luetzelschwab AE9YL

Meeting adjourned after 2:00 pm.

Submitted by John, W3ML

MELLISH REEF (Update #3): Mellish Reef 2014 DX-pedition Update #3

March 24, 2014

From Mackay, Australia

1. The full team assembled in Mackay and has been busy with assigned tasks and making preparations for sailing. The boat will have a crew of 5 experienced sailors and 11 passengers.
 2. After several days of continuous rain, the boat is loaded with all our radio equipment, stocked with food and other essentials. The humidity has been excessive and very uncomfortable to those of us unaccustomed to such conditions.
-

3. Our equipment arrived in Australia in excellent condition. We assembled the CrankIR antennas and made final tuning adjustment to the folding hex beams. All antennas tuned to specification.
4. On Sunday we met with the Mackay Boy/Girl Scout Council who will receive some of our surplus equipment.
5. Current plan is to take on fuel for the boat and petrol for the generators at about 1000 (local) on March 25th - immediately after fueling we will set sail for Mellish Reef, as scheduled
6. The team is in good spirits and eager to get underway, seasickness medication in hand.
7. We ask that everyone please listen for the operator's directions and we will do our best to get you in the log.
8. We will see you in the pile-ups.

A picture was sent. View it at:

https://scontent-b-ord.xx.fbcdn.net/hphotos-prn2/t1.0-9/10003445_416802738464651_1453354831_n.jpg

> -----
 ** IMPORTANT NOTICE/REMINDER ** The Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin now has a new FAX number. Contributors can now send/fax their DX information to the following number: 1-419-828-7791 (F A X only!)

SPECIAL NOTE BY EDITOR: If you are having a problem receiving bounced mail by sending mail to me via " kb8nw@barf80.nshore.org ", please send mail to me via " kb8nw@arrl.net " TNX de Tedd KB8NW

PLEASE NOTICE (as of February 12th), NEW ADDRESS CHANGES FOR THE OPDX INTERNET HELP/SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE REQUESTS:

- Help: <mailto:opdx-request@barf80.org?subject=help>
- Subscribe: <mailto:opdx-request@barf80.org?subject=subscribe>
- Unsubscribe: <mailto:opdx-request@barf80.org?subject=unsubscribe>

OPDX WORLD-WIDE WEB HOME PAGE (provided by John, K8YSE):

<http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>

ALSO VISIT THE NORTHERN OHIO DX ASSOCIATION'S WEB PAGES AT:

<http://www.nodxa.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/NorthernOhioDxAssociation>

 Excerpts and distribution of The OPDX Bulletin are granted as long as KB8NW/OPDX/BARF80 receive credit. To contribute DX info, please send via InterNet Mail to: kb8nw@barf80.nshore.org - OR - kb8nw@arrl.net
 Information can now be faxed to the following "NEW" phone line at:
 1-419-828-7791 (F A X only!)

Ed Note:

There are several small Dxpeditions going on all over the bands. They are working many different modes as well. Vp2V; J8; ZL7; MJ; LX2# (LX23, 24, etc).

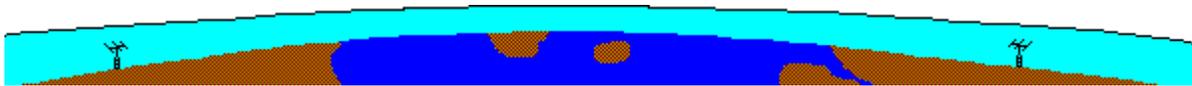
Our next meeting will be in June. We have been treated very well at the Viking Chili Bowl and the prices for a meal are very good. Do we want to continue to go there or maybe have a carry-in meal at a local park, since it will be summer? Draw backs to the picnic idea are heat, bees, and weather.

It is up to the majority to decide. Please email me your suggestion.

<mailto:w3ml@w3ml.com>

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

Don't forget to send in any information you would like to share with the Club members.



Until Next Time,

73

John

W3ML

Logo under construction

