

# Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 9, Issue 4

April 2021

## President's Corner

We still need someone who knows how to work websites to take over the control of ours. All that is involved is placing the newsletter on there once a month. This is after getting it set up in a new free account like the one John used.

**Work some DX!**  
**Please be safe and stay well.**

73  
John W3ML  
Good DXing!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President Speaks
- 2- Member News/DX News

## "Working the World from the Black Hole"

**NWI DX Club Website**  
<http://nwidxclub.weebly.com/>



**Don't forget Steve 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.

**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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## ***Help Wanted***

## ***Webmaster***

The club is in urgent need of a Webmaster to manage our website:  
<http://nwidxclub.weebly.com>.

Normal workload is less than five minutes per month.

If you have the skills needed, please contact the club president, John Poindexter-W3ML at his e-mail address: [w3ml.john@gmail.com](mailto:w3ml.john@gmail.com)



# CONGRATULATIONS

*N9RD-Jurg n Nittner*

*60 Years as a Ham*



NWIDX Club member Jurg n Nittner-N9RD, recently celebrated 60 years as a licensed ham.

First licensed as a teenager as DJ6RD in 1960 in Villingen, Germany, he immigrated to the USA at age 20. The USA welcomed him by drafting him into the US Army. At Fort Benning his operating was limited to an occasional use of friends' rigs using the call DJ6RD/W4.

After the military, he returned to civilian life and Northern Indiana operating as DJ6RD/W9 until the FCC began issuing reciprocal licenses and he became N9RD.

A very active DX'er he has 347 entities confirmed on CW, 348 on SSB and 352 mixed.



# *Plans Proceeding for Fall 2021 Willis Island DXpedition*

The team from the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia (HARAOA) that's planning a November 3 - 13 DXpedition to Willis Island (VK9HR) has expanded by one, and the DXpedition planning is on schedule. A vessel to take the team to Willis Island has been chartered to leave Australia on November 3, returning on November 13. Willis ranks #38 on Club Log's DXCC Most Wanted List. The group announced earlier that it had put off plans to include a stint from Mellish Reef, last activated in 2017. The ham radio team will be just in time to celebrate the centennial of the island's meteorological facility.



"With time away from jobs a consideration for the operators, Mellish is being put off to 2022," said team leader John Chalkiarakis, VK3YP.

While the call sign VK9HR is expected to be renewed in August, Chalkiarakis is trying to get VK9W. "VK9IR will be an additional call sign to be allocated," he said. VK9IR and VK9HR were used for HARAOA's 2011 DXpedition to Lord Howe Island.

Team members for this fall's DXpedition will hail from Australia and New Zealand. They're in the process of obtaining a permit from Parks Australia, which is "required to 'camp' at these Australian Coral Sea marine parks." Chalkiarakis said the most important document is the landing permit, also from Parks Australia. No permit is required to visit these coral sea islands for non-commercial purposes, but a permit application is needed to set up a campsite and to stay overnight on the island.

The now eight-operator team plans to use verticals on 160, 80, 40, and 30 meters, while VDAs (vertical dipole arrays) will be used on 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. Operation on 6 meters is under consideration. Activity is expected on SSB, CW, and FT8 on 160 through 10 meters. The equipment complement is expected to be Kenwood TS-590S and Icom IC-7300 transceivers with amplifiers on all.



A DXpedition website and logo are in the works. Home to a meteorological station, Willis Island is in the Coral Sea, off the northeast coast of Australia.

Chalkiarakis also said that he and some friends have been trying to obtain a landing permit for Macquarie Island (VK0M), which is #12 on Club Log's DXCC Most Wanted List, but he conceded that it's nearly impossible to get permission from the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service because Macquarie is a protected nature reserve. -- *Thanks to the Daily DX and the ARRL Letter*

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## “ZOOMING” WITH BOB HEIL

By

Jerry Hess

Along with many other local hams, I was invited to join the Porter County Amateur Radio Club (PCARC) on Friday, March 5, 2021 at 7:00 CDT for a “Zoom” meeting with audio expert Bob Heil. I already had a copy of Zoom on my computer and thanks to a web address link provided by Matt Melton from PCARC, I was online with the meeting in seconds. It was real easy! (see #1 below for the free Zoom download)

I'd heard Bob speak at the W9DXCC convention in Chicago, but his talk at the time was technical. During the Zoom session, he went into some detail about his personal history which was very interesting. His early years in the world of sound began as a musician (organist) at the age of five. In a few years he was playing professionally locally. By his early teens he had opened his own music store where he repaired and rebuilt organs. About the same time, he became a ham and with the income from his music business he built up a respectable station for the time. His audio expertise led him into support for many of the “Rock and Roll” notables and is listed in the “Rock and Roll Hall of Fame”. Throughout his career he developed a significant commercial business in addition to his hobby related interests. More is available on the website below about his personal history (#2).

Of interest to DXer's is his expertise in the proper selection, use and adjustment of microphones. Early in Bob's career, he became aware of a study done in the 1930's by engineers at Bell Labs on the most effective sound ranges for optimal hearing. They determined that the tones below 200 Hertz are useless and the most effective are between 2400 to 3000 Hertz. The curve for this response is very gradual and jumps 4-10 dB in the 2400-3000 range. In order for hams to take advantage of this fact, internal adjustments in their transceivers need to be modified. Bob has surveyed most of the common transceivers on the market and details of the internal settings for effective sound quality are as noted in reference below (#3). He recommends that any serious DXer take the time to make these adjustments.

Bob also demonstrated the common pitfall of omni-directional microphones. Background noise from a room occupies unneeded bandwidth on the transmitted signal. To combat that, Bob has developed microphones that reject sound from the rear which adds more clarity.

Another temptation by many hams is to sit back and shout at the microphone from a comfortable sitting position. In order to do this requires increasing the microphone gain which increases the room noise as well. For a DXer this is also a bad idea. Bob indicated that you should be speaking no more than 2” from the microphone. Either hold the mike up to your mouth or install

a boom mike. Otherwise try one of today's headsets, they are very good and a good solution for both transmitting and receiving.

I probably missed a few items from Bob's talk. He talked for over two hours. But hopefully, I caught the most important issues.

73's,

Jerry

#1. <https://zoom.us/download>

#2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob\\_Heil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Heil)

#3. <https://heilhamradio.com/support/dsp-settings/>

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## What Mode for DX? Times are Changing

Times change. ClubLog publishes a weekly summary of uploaded DX contacts at:  
<https://clublog.org/dxreport.html>.

This is a representative sample (not scientific) of activity by DX'ers who use ClubLog.

For the week of March 17 through March 24, 2021, FT8/4 made up about 52%, CW about 25%, SSB about 13%, RTTY about 4% and the balance FM and miscellaneous digital modes. This gives us a pretty good idea of where to find the activity.

The summary includes other modes along with other information. You may not like it, but it is believed to be a close approximation of reality.



## ARRL CW DX CONTEST

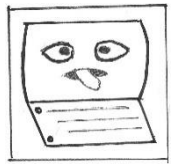
### GONE WRONG

By

Jerry Hess, W9KTP

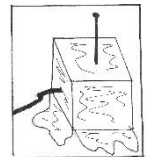
It takes a little time for me to prepare for a contest but this year was a disaster! Friday was so busy that I never got on the air. It wasn't until Saturday afternoon before I had time to check things out. The rig and the amplifier were no problem and the verticals seemed to be working properly. I only wanted to work a few new ones on 80 meters anyway.

First my ham shack Toshiba laptop computer decided to go "stupid". When I brought up the N1NN Contest program, it was out of date and some file was missing. It worked the last time I used it! What happened since then? In addition, the function keys on the keyboard would not work. Also the link to acquire a N1NN update was broken and I had to do a "Google Search" to find the N1NN website. Fortunately, a quick download and the new program was up and running. Still the function keys did not work with N1NN but they did work with my copy of Ham Radio Deluxe. This made no sense. After a few hours of fumbling, it was "chow-time" and I had to give up.



After dinner, I got desperate, and tried the Toshiba firmware reset. Yippee, the function keys were working again. Who knows why? At 7:00 P.M. I started looking for some needed countries. Not much to choose from, so I started to work a few stations anyway. Hm-m-m,m the SWR was climbing after a few contacts. I retuned the T-Match. This kept up after a few more. Finally, I decided to quit before I damaged my amplifier.

I guess since there was two feet of snow at the base of all three verticals, I was melting snow during each transmission. It would have been a big job to dig my way out to each antenna and uncover the base of each one. (Can you say Iditarod?) This was just one contest that was not meant to be.



Oh well, there is always next year. ...or at least the next contest! Hi Hi

73's,

Jerry

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## **ARRL DX LISTING 3/26/21**

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

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by KK9A, The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Mats, RM2D will be QRV as 8Q7MS from Ukulhas Island, Alifu Alifu Atoll, IOTA AS-013, from March 28 to April 10. Activity will be on 40 to 15 meters using CW and some SSB. QSL via EA5GL.  
TAIWAN, BV. Members of Amateur Radio Taipei will be QRV as BP0P from Taoyuan City in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest as a Multi/2 entry. QSL via BP0P.

BAHAMAS, C6. Operators AA7JV, KN4EEI, W6IZT and W8HC are QRV as C6AGU from Water Cay, IOTA NA-001, until March 30. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes being a Multi Op entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL via LoTW.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Philippe, F1DUZ is QRV as FG4KH until April 1. This includes being an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL direct to home call.

THAILAND, HS. Operators E24OYI, E25KAE, E29TGW, E20NKB and E21EIC will be QRV as E2A in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via E21EIC.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Lee, HL1IWD will be QRV as HL1IWD/5 from Koje Island, IOTA AS-081, from April 2 to 4. Activity will be on 40 to 20 meters using CW and some FT8. QSL direct to EA5GL.

ITALY, I. Raffaele, IH9YMC plans to be QRV from Pantelleria Island, IOTA AF-018, as a Single Op entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL via LoTW.

SVALBARD, JW. Stian, LB5SH is QRV as JW/LB5SH from Longyearbyen, IOTA EU-026, until March 28. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8. This includes being active as JW2T in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL via operator's instructions.

PUERTO RICO, KP4. Yuri, N2TTA will be QRV as WP3C in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest as a Single Op entry. QSL via M0OXO.

BULGARIA, LZ. Special event station LZ200GSR will be QRV from Sofia from April 1 to 30 to celebrate the birth 200 years ago of Georgia Sava Rakovski, a historian, and activist for the independence of Bulgaria. QSL via LZ1XM.

ARUBA, P4. John, KK9A is QRV as P40A until March 28. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. This includes being an entry

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in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL via WD9DZV.

BONAIRE, PJ4. Martin, W1MD plans to be active as PJ4G in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL via K4BAI.

GREECE, SV. Savas, SV2AEL is QRV with special call J42A until March 31. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FT4. This includes being a Single Op entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL direct to home call.

TURKEY, TA. Members of the GITRAD Contest Team will be QRV as TC7G in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest as a Multi Op/Low Power entry. QSL via bureau.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Operators Jim, K4QPL and Eric, NR4O are QRV as VP5/home calls from Providenciales. They will be active as VP5M as a Multi Single/Low Power entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL VP5M via K4QPL and all others to home calls.

INDONESIA, YB. Operators YB5QZ, YB5WIR, YB5OB, YC5TEB and YD5NDR are QRV as 7D5RI from Rupert Island, IOTA OC-245, until March 28. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via operators' instructions.

NICARAGUA, YN. Myron, KN6GHM is QRV as H7/KN6GHM from Guanacastillo until March 30. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 meters using SSB. He and Trevis, YN7ZTR will be QRV as YN1YN in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest with two stations. QSL via LoTW.

ASCENSION ISLAND, ZD8. Tev, TA1HZ is QRV as ZD8HZ during all of 2021. He plans to be active in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest as well. QSL direct to home call.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, QCX CW Challenge and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for March 30.

The UKEICC 80-Meter CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for March 31.

Please see March QST, page 72, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details.

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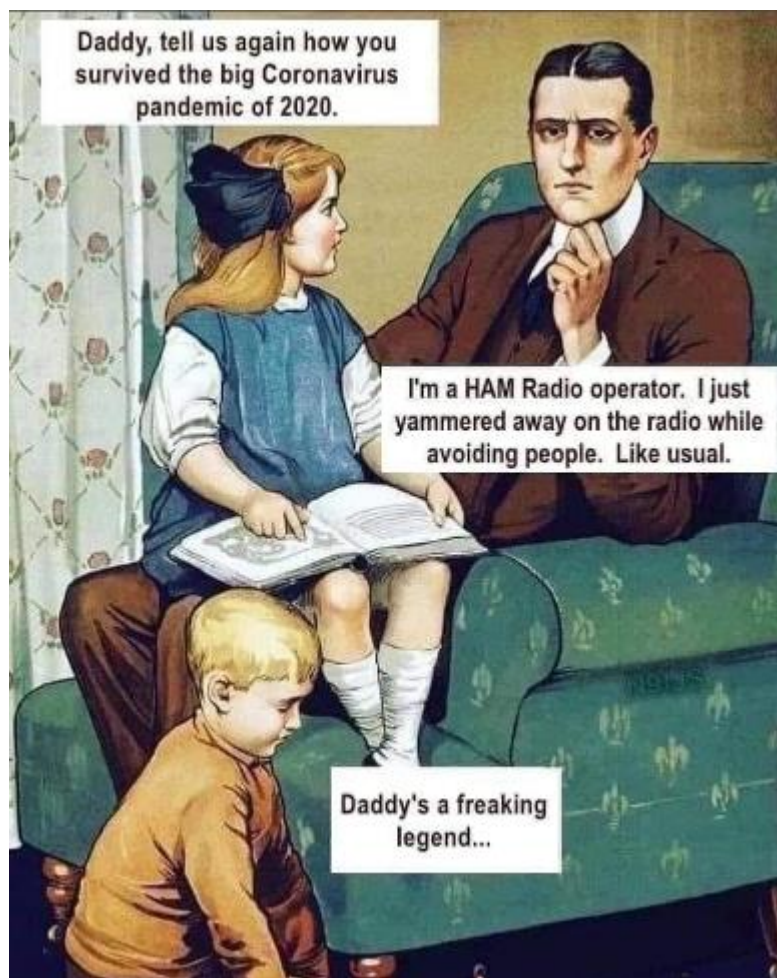
# Wanted

## New Ham Needs a Rig

KD9RON-John Reardon, a newly licensed Ham, is looking for a reliable used transceiver in good condition. Preferably solid state.

If have or know of one available, contact him at [kd9ron@arrl.net](mailto:kd9ron@arrl.net)

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Links sent in by Tom, W8FIB and others

<https://earthsky.org/space/sunspot-cycle-25-among-strongest-on-record-says-ncar>

Source for Hard-to-find Components Mike, AI8Z

<http://www.orenelliottproducts.com//Docs/Catalog.pdf>

If you want to kill almost an hour, you can watch this YouTube video on PJ9W Radioteam Finland CQWW Phone 1990. Quite interesting.

[https://youtu.be/tC1m5G\\_SIY](https://youtu.be/tC1m5G_SIY)

[Unique Solar System Views from NASA Sun-Studying Missions](#)

Use the mouse to slide the green handles

**CQ INQP CQ INQP**

The INQP is coming up soon--the first Saturday in May (May 1-2 UTC). It's time to start firming up plans for your clubs. Early 2021 QSO parties are experiencing high participation again, so the INQP could be a very active, fun time.

Last year there were 14 Indiana clubs participating in INQP club competition even though Covid-19 rules adjustments restricted multiple operator stations. This year, the rules are back to "normal" for multi-single and multi-multi stations considering potential progress with the vaccination program. However, if the situation changes for the worse, the 2021 rules will be adjusted accordingly. Keep an eye on the rules page [here](#).

**Remember, ops using their individual stations (e.g., home, portable, etc.) plus multi op stations may submit logs indicating club affiliation to count toward club competition.**

In 2020, there were 671 logs submitted for the INQP--double recent numbers. But even then many "rare" IN counties were covered only by mobile or rover operators driving long distances to try to ensure that other participants had an opportunity for a QSO with every county. It would

be great if there were more resident ops or ops from adjacent counties putting rare ones on the air in 2021. Please bring this opportunity up to your club members. Folks who operate in rare counties should have interesting pile ups.

Here are 25 counties which might be considered rare ones: Spencer, Pike, Jefferson, Crawford, Martin, Union, Floyd, Shelby, Newton, Owen, Clay, Scott, Orange, Gibson, Jay, Knox, Kosciusko, Jackson, Marshall, Decatur, Rush, Posey, Cass, Dearborn, and Jasper.

Thanks for your interest in and support of the INQP. And have fun! See the [INQP website](#) for more info.

73,  
Len Litvan AE9LL  
HDXCC Member

Editor Note: Place NorthWest Indiana DX Club in your log file to give credit to Club. We had 5 logs last year and placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**Ham Radio – Practicing Social Distancing for over 100 Years!**

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From Dave – K9FN

I have decided to sell my remote antenna tuner. This is NOT an automatic tuner. It currently sits at the base of my vertical controlled by a box sitting on my desk.

The tuner is a Model AT-615U, made by Hamware.de in Germany. I bought mine from Array Solutions in 2016. My total investment is about \$2800, including 125 feet of control cable.

Here is a link to the manual:

<http://www.hamware.de/hardware/tuner615U/short%20form%20manual%20615U-E.pdf>

As an unbalanced tuner, this can be used to feed a long wire, a vertical, inverted L etc. It could be used to feed an open wire fed loop or dipole with a balun at the output of the tuner. The tuner has both a coax output, and a single wire output.

I confirmed more than 85 countries on 160 meters, with just a 30' vertical after putting this tuner into service.

I would prefer to not ship the unit but can do so at additional cost. My guess is that packing and shipping will total \$50 to \$75.

I will gladly answer any questions I can and would be very happy to demonstrate the unit here at my home in West Lafayette.

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I am asking \$1200 and, being a ham, will certainly entertain SERIOUS offers.

Thanks, de Dave – K9FN  
765-714-7618

You may call, but if I don't recognize your number I may not answer. If interested email first and we can arrange to talk on the phone if appropriate.

Please email me directly: [dpbunte@gmail.com](mailto:dpbunte@gmail.com)

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I have received more stuff from K9QA SK's shack. There will be a complete listing later this week on the <http://www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm>

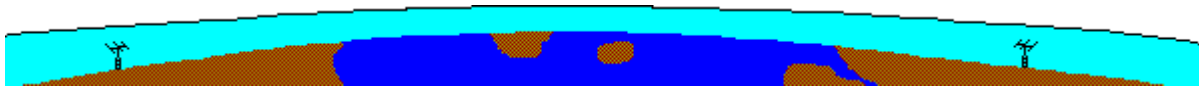
These three items are free to whom ever wants to play with them. I have no idea if they work or not.

Substitution Box  
Samtre Spectrum Analyzer  
Heathkit Condenser Checker. Really rough looking.

**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.**

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Until Next Time,

73

*John*

W3ML

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



**DX**

