

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 3, Issue 8

August 2015

President's Corner

We have some nice articles this month and I want to thank those that submitted items.

Our next meeting will be on August 29th at Noon.

Viking Chili Bowl will be the place. We will be in the backroom.

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer. Mine is over, as our school starts this week. I am so looking forward to retirement.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting on August 29th.

73
John, W3ML

Happy DXing!

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.



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- 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.

Roy Crosier, AC9DN sent in this information on two different sites.

This takes a little working with to use it easily, and I'm not there yet, but some things need to be passed on regardless of my ineptness!

<http://voacap.blogspot.fi/2015/07/voacap-propagation-planner-revisited.html>

73 Magazine archive

<https://archive.org/details/73-magazine>

You have to sign in with an archive library card, but that is free and you will be prompted to sign up.

AC9DN

Wallpaper

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

QRP DX Award

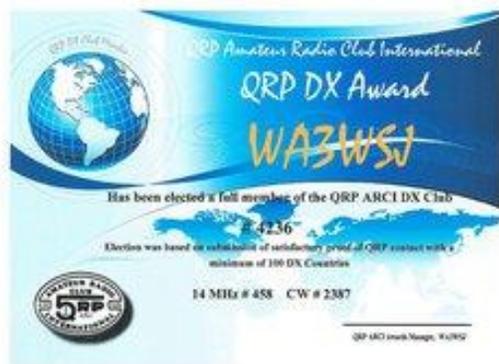
You have been DX hunting for years. Five-Band DXCC, the “Honor Roll” or even “Top of the Honor Roll” may have been attained. Maybe you are up against the “DX Wall”, the point that happens when we reach about 250 countries confirmed and the new ones become fewer and far between. We love DX, but what else is there? What can be done?

A big-gun DX'er once said “Life is to short for QRP”. Is it? Chasing DX is a very personal challenge. We are competing only against ourselves in building a station, developing operating techniques and increasing our count. The gratification of working a run of the mill DX station is just as big when you do it for the first time with 5 watts as working the rarest with 2KW.

The ARRL says, "The Low-power operation, or QRP, has enjoyed a surge in popularity in recent years. Why? Mostly it's the challenge of working stations the "hard way," be it during contests or everyday operation, and the great satisfaction that comes from making contacts that the "big guns" make. Most low-power ops will agree that the motivation for QRP is the same as for chasing DX -- but the rewards are inversely proportional to the amount of power used."

What is QRP? No one has formalized as to what QRP power is. Opinions seem to vary. The generally accepted standard seems to be that transmitter output should be less than 5 watts for most modes. Some seem to feel that 10 watts PEP should be the max for SSB. Perhaps this is a hold over from the days when many QRP SSB transceivers were CB rigs converted to 10 meters. The CB transceiver-conversions had only one power setting i.e. 5 watts AM or 10 watts SSB.

The **QRP Amateur Radio Club International**, an organization for low power enthusiasts, has a number of awards geared for the DX'er. These include Worked All Continents, Seven-Band Worked All Continents, a



Grid Square Award and most important, a QRP DX Award.

The QRP DX award is issued to radio amateurs who have contacted 100 countries (as defined in the ARRL DXCC List) using QRP. Endorsements are available in increments of 25 countries. Band and mode endorsements are also available.

The fee for each award is \$10 USD or free if you are a member of the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (\$25 USD per year). Besides the awards program, the club has other benefits including a nice quarterly magazine.

A GCR list (General Certification Rules formulated by the IARU for the verification of an award qualification) certified by the applicant (the honor system is used), showing the call sign of the station worked, date, time, frequency/band and mode is a necessary part of the application. No QSL cards need be submitted.

Information on all of their awards can be obtained at the organization's website:

<http://www.qrparci.org/awards>

The award application and the self certifying GCR List form is available at:

<http://www.qrparci.org/QRP%20ARCI%20QRP%20DX%20Award%20Package.pdf>

You are probably already equipped to operate QRP. Most modern rigs can have their power turned down to fewer than 5 watts. Both my Elecraft K3 and 35-year-old Drake TR-7 will transmit at less than one watt. The major weakness of many QRPers is the antenna system. Unfortunately, many hams think that with low power, we are required to use basic or even poor antennas. There are no limitations on the type of antenna. Use the best antenna you can. As a DX'er, your present antennas will work fine.

While SSB is used successfully at QRP power levels, CW is the most popular mode and is a natural for QRP due to its efficiency and signal-to-noise ratio performance. Much QRP to QRP operation occurs around the "QRP Calling Frequencies" but it can and does occur in all portions of all the bands. Of course DX is wherever you find it. Only your transmit signal has to be QRP for these awards, the DX can run what ever power they are legally capable of.

QRP Calling Frequencies

Band	CW	SSB
160	1.810	1.910
	1.843 - Europe	
80	3.560	3.985
	3.710 - US Novice	
40	7.030	7.285
	7.030 – Europe - 7.060	
	7.110 - US Novice	
30	10.106	
20	14.060	14.285
15	21.060	21.385
10	28.060	28.385
	28.110 - US Novice	

For suggesting this award, thanks to Earl Gumm – WA9JNO. Earl has 142 entities worked QRP with 125 of those confirmed.

β 73's and good DX de KD9HL β

Kosovo (Z6) Re-visited

A new DX entity?

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL



Woe is the sometimes murky worlds of both international and ARRL DX politics.

Over the past few years there have been many inquiries and questions as to whether the ARRL and its DX Advisory Committee should add Kosovo (Z6) as a new DX entity. The December 2013 issue of this newsletter had an in-depth article discussing the intricacies of the Kosovo situation. Is there a change on the horizon?

With one possible rules exception, under current DXCC rules, Kosovo does not qualify as a DXCC entity. In the meantime, Kosovo's telecommunications regulatory authority is issuing Z6-prefix call signs to radio amateurs. Kosovo also counts as a "country multiplier" for the CQ World Wide DX contests and the various DARC Worked All Europe Awards.

Under the general ARRL DXCC rules, Kosovo does not qualify as a DX entity because it doesn't have an ITU assigned radio prefix nor has it been recognized by ALL of the UN members with veto power, (Russia and China are the two who have not recognized Kosovo's independence). Either an ITU prefix or UN recognition is usually needed.

The July 16 issue of the ARRL Letter makes mention of the recent application to admit Kosovo's national Amateur Radio association, Shoqata e Radio Amatoreve te Kosoves (SHRAK) to International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) membership. Fifty-one affirmative votes were required for approval; 49 affirmative votes were received prior to the close of voting, so the proposal failed. Two more affirmative votes arrived "very shortly after the close of voting" but could not be counted under IARU rules. Because of these postal delays, IARU Region 1 requested the International Secretariat conduct a new vote for the admission of Kosovo. The new vote is now occurring with the results expected in mid December.

What does that mean?

1. There is a good chance that the IARU will be accepting the Kosovo amateur radio association (SHRAK) as a national member.

2. IARU rules prohibit more than one association from representing a country or separate territory.
3. The Savez Radio-Amatera Srbije (SRS) represents Serbia as its national member. Serbia still claims that Kosovo is part of its nation but is an “*autonomous*” province. With the acceptance of SHRAK, would two national members be representing Kosovo or would this be a de-facto recognition by the international amateur radio community of Kosovo’s independence?
4. If this is the case, it would seem that the ARRL, being a IARU member, might be inclined to accept a recognized fellow national member (Kosovo) as an independent state/territory and thus a new DX entity.
5. IARU members may be lobbying the ARRL to make the change because of the preponderance of evidence indicating that the majority of the world seems to have recognized Kosovo’s independence.
6. Kosovo could be declared a new DX entity as an “exceptional circumstances”. For example, the block 1A-1Z is part of a series of prefixes used in case of uncertainty about the status of a territory, 1A was established for the special status of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, 1B is used for the Turk territories in Cyprus and 1S for the Spratly Islands. Finally, there is the long time recognition of Mt. Athos, SV/A, which is an “*autonomous*” religious enclave wholly within the country of Greece. (There is that word again, “*autonomous*”).

While nothing is guaranteed, maybe there is enough of a case that we will see a “new one” added to the DXCC list. If you would like to make your views known to the ARRL, it is suggested that you contact the Central Division DX Advisory Committee representative:

Jim O’Connell, W9WU
512 West Elm Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525
Email: W9WU@arrl.net

Currently, Z63MED, Dave Meadows, a member of the UN mission based in Pristina, is probably the only active ham operating HF from Kosovo. A contact with him counts as Serbia (YU) under the present ARRL DXCC rules.

β 73’s and good DX de KD9HL β

6829 - The position of the Holy Community of Mount Athos for amateur radio emissions from Athos

RADIOERASITECHNIKES EMISSIONS FROM Athos

It is known that long-standing demand of many radio amateurs, for years to come and broadcast from Mount Athos. Older know that in the past and it helped a group of radio amateurs from Thessaloniki and have made emissions from the Garden of Our Lady. Most are aware that in recent years the Holy Community refuses to give permission to anyone. Perhaps most they forget that the policy of the Holy Community was to some extent a result of the way he tried to fool Monks German amateur Baldur DJ6SI to make illegal emissions.

Instead the story to show the way, unfortunately we have become lately witnessed new efforts mockery.

Not long ago some Latvian Radio amateurs came to Mount Athos and without any permission from the Holy Community, tried to enter and make shows, having said, oral permission! Of course neither oral nor written authorization had expelled from Mount Athos. This effort and the communication of their mission, however, although they had the required documents, created a bad image for Mount Athos since appeared on some and amid their longing for a contact, Mount Athos is evil.

Immediately after some time a ham Greek made emissions of Mount Athos. Many messages came again to me with the question whether this ham has the permission of the Holy Community. He argued and said he has permission from a monastery to make educational programs, without taking into account the Regulation of operation of amateur radio stations report on:

'2.3. In specific cases where they have taken special security measures, the owner of the station, a radio amateur with a valid license may, for educational purposes and aiming to progress of amateur radio, allowing the use of the plant to a third person who does not have the status of ham, under his responsibility, their supervision and instructions, for a short period not exceeding twenty (20) minutes. In such cases, after the station's call sign is clarified that the use of the station made by a third person in education process by using its distinctive station followed by the suffix / T (training). »

But on Mount Athos his license not "force" not have the consent of the Holy Community, as defined in Article 12, paragraph 8 of the Operating Rules of amateur radio stations.

"8. Administer to RMC Radio-amateur communications from Mount Athos is needed additionally the written consent of the Holy Supervision of Mount Athos."

So we are talking about another attempt to deceive monks. Again, however, the same negative image in the outside world.

Ultimately we want? To make emissions even if fool Monks doing evil to Athos? We have our conscience by doing so? Did all these actions make bad after the amateur radio, removing even more of a future mission?

Mount Athos is a light source that illuminates all of us and a beacon of Orthodoxy through the centuries.

I asked the Holy Supervision if given a permission and I answered negatively. Indeed, the Holy Community of Mount Athos having regard to the previous illegal broadcasts of the German radio amateur Baldur DJ6SI, the intention of Latvians who wanted to make emissions without the permission of the Holy Community, illegal emissions SV2 / SV1RP / T and / A in the 12- 6-2015, and many other applications hams from around the world seeking to make emissions from Athos, adopted Nos. F.2 / 27A / 1482 /

06.28.2015 Circular to 20 monasteries of Mount Athos which clarifies the issue of amateur emissions from the region of Mount Athos. With this encyclical, the Holy Community stipulates that to make someone else emissions from Mount Athos, it must have a distinctive and the consent of the Holy Community in writing. At the same time it states that all answers to relevant questions were negative, making illegal any emissions.

Please all be more careful in our behavior. More generally good in our lives is when we try something to keep in mind not to insult others, or we raise the values and institutions and try every time by lawful and ethical means to achieve our goal.

With many greetings

Elder Apollos Docheiaritis SV2ASP / A

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Translation: [HTTP:// www. DX-World .NET](http://www.DX-World.NET)

THE AWKWARD MATING OF CW AND COMPUTERS

By Jerry Hess, W9KTP

In the beginning there was darkness between my Z80 Microcomputer and my ham rig (Heathkit SB303/SB401 Combo). An inkling of an idea began to form which resulted in a Basic program for logging and duplicate checking. A few 'Peeks' and 'Pokes' and a digital output provided a keying circuit for the transmitter through a one transistor circuit from Don Lancaster's "TTL Cookbook" (see note 1). Lots of 'LPRINT Statements' and my logging was done. Pretty simple by current standards.

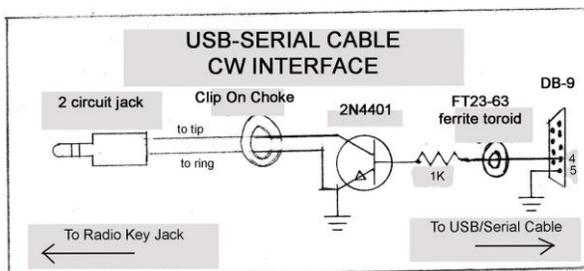
Several years later I moved up to an ICOM 765 rig which had a CT-17(CI-V) serial interface. At that time in history one of the few programs available was K1EA's "CT" program. It was a nice package and worked well. Wow, now I can even capture the operating frequency of each QSO. Admittedly, there were features of the software I never used or understood. The old Lancaster circuit reappeared tied to a parallel printer port. A similar circuit also worked with a serial port.

With the exodus of the ICOM 765 and Windows XP, a great digital chasm again appeared between my computer and rig. A nice new Yaesu FT5000 and a shiny laptop with Windows 8.1 with no serial or parallel ports. Just those mysterious USB ports. Now what? A partial solution was a cable from RTsystems for communicating with the rig and some free software by N1MM. Great stuff! But I operate mostly CW, how do I key the transmitter? Apparently there are no rigs on the market that handle the keying and control through one port according to N1MM. Yeesch! OK, let's try a USB to Parallel cable. I got one from MFJ but it didn't work. Who would have thought that parallel printing is not supported in Windows 8.1. Plan B emerged and a USB to Serial cable was purchased from Best Buy. RTsystems sells one but I was in a hurry. Out of the catacombs the old Lancaster circuit was resurrected and finally I've got a killer combination of computer and ham rig.

I highly recommend the cables for RTsystems. They have a cable for about every modern rig out there. Most have a USB connector on one end and the appropriate connector for each specific radio on the other end. Software drivers are included and are compatible with M/S Windows up through Windows 8.1. I've got one for my FT5000 and my FT897 and they work great. Incidentally, remember to change your rig settings to operate without the internal keyer. Most logging programs do that for you.

Below is the Lancaster circuit and a picture of my serial to key interface. I added a toroid and a 'clip-on' RF choke to minimize the chance of RFI getting into the computer.

Note 1: Lancaster's book is available on Amazon for \$40. It's become a collector's item.



Announced DX Operations

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

NORTHWEST INDIANA DX CLUB

W9NWI 
 Indiana

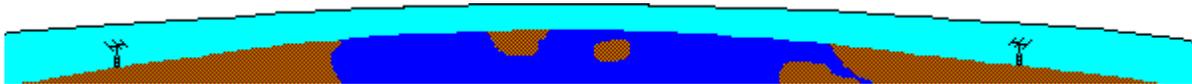
 Northwest Indiana DX Club
c/o Steve Mollman KD9HL
698E - 900N
Westville, IN 46391 USA

Radio	Confirming QSO						PSE QSL <input type="checkbox"/> TNX QSL <input type="checkbox"/>	
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	RST	MHz	MODE	

www.cheapqsls.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

