

# Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2017

## President's Corner

The doldrums of winter have hit a lot of people. The lack of sunshine makes depression set in. But, luckily for us, we can turn to that darken room called the "Shack" and lighten up our world with the dial lights on our equipment.

The low bands have been hopping with signals from all over the place. 40 meters seems to be the band of choice for most and will most likely be the best one for a long time. 80 and 160 are trying to catch up with 40, but observing the clusters they are still way behind.

If you are not enjoying these bands, now is the time to start. Whether you use CW, SSB or digital modes you can find someone to make a contact with, ragchew with or just listen to for a while.

73

John W3ML  
Good 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](mailto: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
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**NWI DX Club Website**

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

# WORKING DX IN THE DOLDRUMS

Part 2

BY

Jerry Hess, W9KTP

## 1. Antennas

I surveyed several of the most common antennas as shown in Table 2. It took a lot of research to find the various numbers in the table. None of it was in any one place. Before you get excited about the results, I tried to stay with common values that relate to the average hams. Few of us have a salt marsh in the back yard or a bunch of 200 foot towers. Therefore, for the sake of illustration, I chose antenna heights above ground of ½ wavelength as more likely what an average ham might encounter. The “Elevation Angle” was chosen at the maximum of the main vertical lobe and the “Beam Width” was chosen as the angle between the 3dB down points of that main horizontal lobe from published charts. Gains were in two forms in the references, dBi and dB (or dBd). “dBi” is a measure relative to a theoretical uniform antenna. “dBd” is measure compared to a standard dipole. I created a separate column and made all values dBi.

ANTENNA TYPE	PATTERN	GAIN-Ref	GAIN-dBi	EL ANGLE	BEAM WIDTH	REFERENCES
1. Dipole	B	2.15 dBi	2.15	30	60	3a, 6c, 9h, 10d
2. Inverted V	U	<2.15 dBi	<2.15	32	<60	3b, 9a
3. Broadside Array	B	2-5 dB	4.15-7.15	18	30	3c, 8a
4. 3 e Yagi	U	7 dB	9.15	25	60	3d, 9b, 9c
5. 2 el Quad	U	7 dB	9.15	30	60	3e, 9d
6. Wire LPDA	U	6.4 dB	8.55			4a, 5a
7. V Beam	B	5.5 dB	7.7	15-19	20	5b, 6a, 7a, 7b, 10a
8. Rhombic	U	8.5 dB	10.65	10	10-13	5c, 10b, 6d
9. Sterba Curtain	U	8 dB	10.15			6b, 10c
10. 1 el Vertical	O	2.5 dBi	2.5	25	360	9f, 3f
11. 2 el Vertical	B	3.6 dBi	3.6	25	90	9g
12. Sloper	O	2.5 dBi	4.65	25	360	9e

Pattern: B=Bidirectional, U=Unidirectional, O= Omnidirectional

**TABLE**

**2**

If you have an antenna that you like and get good results, then you probably don't want to change it. I've added the references that I used and in some cases I had to estimate a value so if you find something 10-20 % different, don't be surprised. Blank entries indicate that I could not find a verifiable value.

OK, now for some notes about each antenna.

1. Dipole – standard antenna.
  2. Inverted 'V' – Does not perform as well as a dipole. Better to pull up the ends.
  3. Broadside Array – I tried one on 40 meters and was not impressed. Might work better much higher than 40-60 feet off the ground?
  4. 3 Element Yagi – An 80 or 40 meter Yagi is a big chunk of aluminum to put in the air and not cheap either.
  5. 2 Element Quad – The Michigan City Indiana ARC put up a 40 meter quad for Field Day and it was a killer antenna (see May 1973 QST). The support was just some 2 x 4 lumber. By changing the length of some open line at the bottom of the loops, the direction could be switched.
  6. Wire LPDA – See reference 4a. I put together a 40 meter version and it worked fairly well but not outstanding. In order to mow the lawn I got tired of removing all the guy ropes (actually cord).
  7. 'V' Beam – My main antenna while we lived in Johnstown, Pa. was a 'V' Beam. Each leg was about 270 feet long. If I could hear them, I could work them in 2-3 tries. However, I was active in the NTS at the time and it caused problems hearing "close-in" check-ins. Wish I had enough space to put another one up at my current QTH.
  8. Rhombic – I know, most of us will never have one. It's a personal issue for me. At the 1977 ARRL National Convention in Denver I sat with the late Don Wallace, W6AM. It was a real honor to listen to him describe his 8 rhombic antenna farm. What a thrill! Check the internet for more on W6AM.
  9. Sterba Curtain – Another old memory. The "Voice of America" station near Dayton, Ohio was dominated by the Sterba Curtain array. What a monster! I drove a group of my very nervous ham friends up to the chain link fence and answered a gruff voice on a speaker that we would like to see the station. He answered, "Come on in." Sometimes it pays to be a little pushy. Yup, another one that will never happen in my current back yard.
  10. 1 Element Vertical – Not a great antenna but does work better for DX than a dipole. I do have on my 'bucket list' to try a "Battle Creek Special" on 160 meters since it is often used on DXpeditions.
  11. 2 Element Vertical – Big improvement over one element. More gain and has directivity. Phasing 180 degrees only requires some coax. Doesn't have to be fancy. Two aluminum or galvanized conduit poles about 32 feet high bolted to a 2 x 4 post and at least 8 radials/pole for 40 meters.
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12. Sloper – Not a bad choice to add to an existing tower. Becomes a killer antenna with four Slopers phased as a unit (9i) with over 6 dBi on 80 or 40 meters.

So, in conclusion, what stands out as a choice for average hams? O.K. eliminate 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 because they are too big, costly or not very effective. The Broadside Array and the 'V' Beam are the best choices because of the low take-off but probably too big also. Next best are 2 Element Quad, LPDA or the 2 Element Vertical. Last would be the Sloper and then a 1 Element Vertical.

There will always be a debate about gain verses beam width but elevation angle has to be the champion in any case. By the way, if you want to try some wire antennas, try your local farm store for aluminum wire. Tractor Supply Company sells a ¼ mile spool of 17 gauge for \$25. You'll need some Ox-Gard or similar goop to make good mechanical connections since you can't solder this stuff. Most big box hardware stores sell it.

73's,  
Jerry

### **REFERENCES**

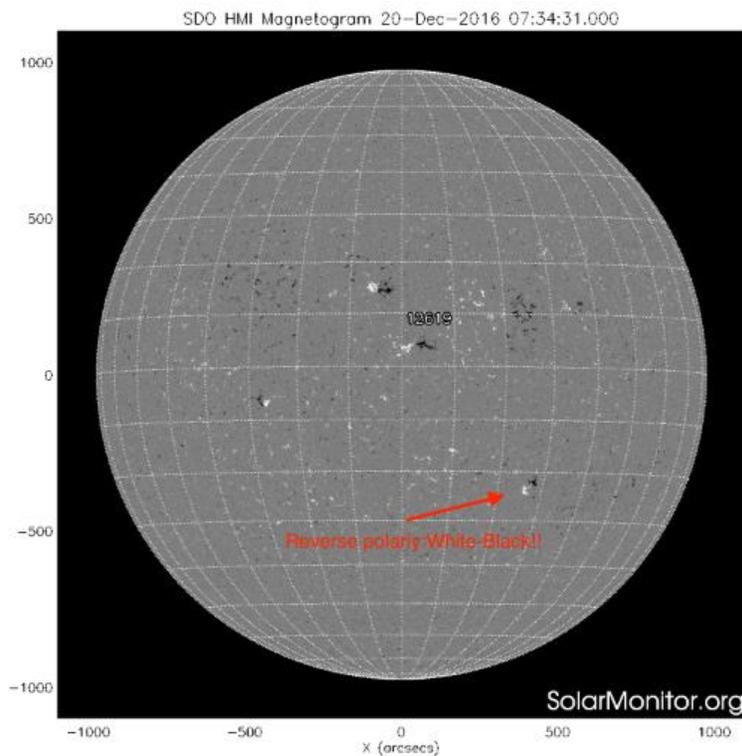
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    - b) Wikipedia : <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ionosphere>
  2. 2016 ARRL Handbook
    - a) Pg. 19-16
  3. 1989 ARRL Handbook
    - a) Pg. 17-4, b) Pg. 17-5, c) Pg. 17-9, d) Pg. 17-15, e) Pg. 17-18, f) Pg. 17-10
  4. ARRL Antenna Handbook, 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition
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  5. ARRL Antenna Handbook, 15<sup>th</sup> Edition
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  8. ARRL Antenna Handbook, 5 Edition, 1949
    - a) Pg. 147
  9. ON4UN's Low-Band Dxing, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition
    - a) Pg. 8-19, b) Pg. 13-2, c) Pg. 13-24,5,6, d) Pg. 13.64, e) Pg. 8-22,3, f) Pg. 9-11, 9-5, g) Pg. 11-3 h) Pg. 5-5,6, i) Pg. 11-77, j) Pg. 3-2
  10. Antennas, J.D. Kraus, 1950
    - a) Pg. 407, b) Pg. 408, c) Pg. 413, d) Pg. 54
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# The First Sunspot of Cycle 25

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

On Friday January 20, Dr. Tamitha Skov confirmed that the first sunspot of Cycle 25 has been seen. John W3ML passed this along to the Northwest Indiana DX Club in his January 22 e-mail, along with the link to view the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMEJEwlm4gw>. At 0:33 in this video, Dr. Skov starts talking about the Cycle 25 sunspot. At 0:43 in the video the Cycle 25 sunspot area is annotated on the magnetogram. For the record, this new sunspot was seen on December 20, 2016.

So, what's a magnetogram? It's a false-color image of the Sun showing the polarity of sunspot areas. Figure 1 is the December 20 magnetogram.



**Figure 1**

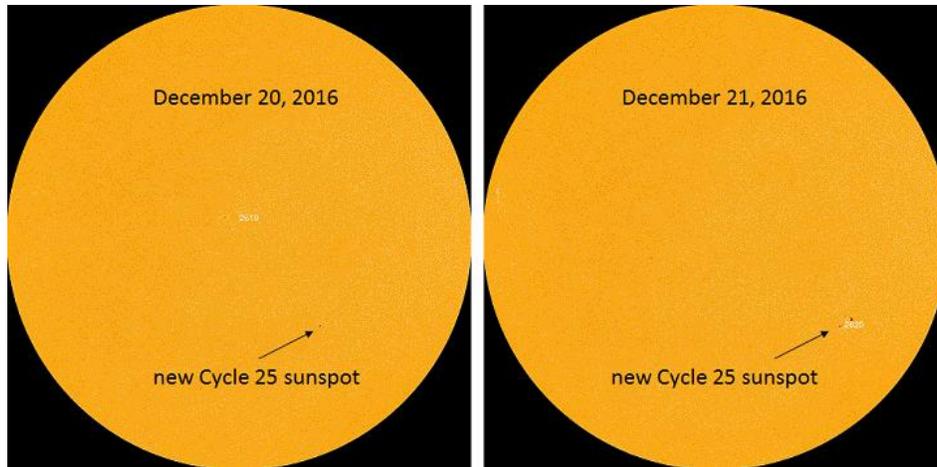
Since sunspot areas are the result of a loop in the Sun's magnetic field, one end of the loop comes out of the Sun and one end of the loop goes into the Sun. A white area indicates the loop is coming out of the Sun and a black area indicates the loop is going into the Sun.

Now we know that sunspots have opposite polarity in the northern solar hemisphere compared to the southern solar hemisphere. We also know that the Sun's magnetic field reverses from cycle to cycle. In the above magnetogram, sunspot areas in the northern hemisphere (above the 0 line on the vertical scale, which is the solar equator) are "white leading black" (going left to right). Sunspot areas in the southern hemisphere

(below the 0 line) are opposite – “black leading white”. So, if a new sunspot from Cycle 25 shows up in the southern hemisphere, it will be “white leading black”. Indeed, that is what we see in the magnetogram.

This is one piece of evidence that indicates the annotated sunspot area is from the forthcoming Cycle 25. The other piece of evidence is that the new sunspot area is at the higher latitudes because new sunspots of a solar cycle start at the higher latitudes and drift down towards the equator as the cycle progresses.

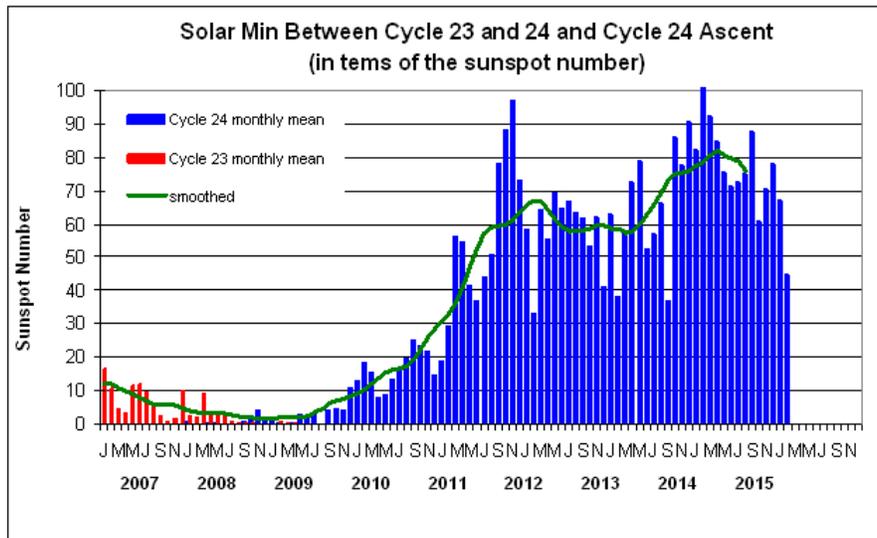
Figure 2 includes images of the visible Sun on December 20 and December 21, 2016.



**Figure 2**

This new sunspot is tough to see on December 20, but on December 21 it grew enough to be assigned a sunspot area number and is quite visible. I mention this as the magnetic field activity in the magnetogram does not necessarily result in a sunspot.

Okay, we have the first sunspot of Cycle 25. What does this mean? Let’s go back to the start of Cycle 24 for a comparison. Figure 3 shows Cycle 23 sunspots and Cycle 24 sunspots beginning in January 2007.



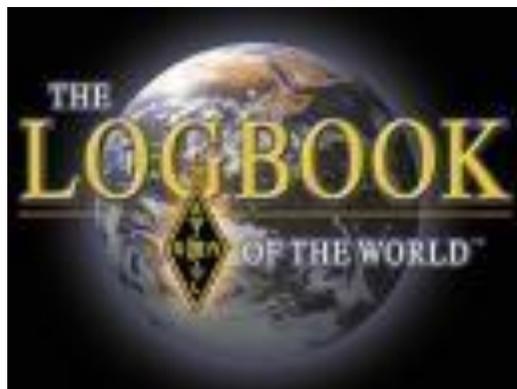
**Figure 3**

The red vertical bars are the monthly mean sunspot numbers from Cycle 23. The blue vertical bars are the monthly mean sunspot numbers from Cycle 24. The green line is the smoothed sunspot number (which includes sunspots from both Cycle 23 and Cycle 24).

If you look really carefully, the first sunspot of Cycle 24 surfaced in January 2008. That's about one year prior to solar minimum between Cycle 23 and Cycle 24 in January 2009. Does this say that the solar minimum between Cycle 24 and Cycle 25 will occur in early 2018? Not necessarily. We shouldn't put too much credence in a prediction from one data point. Think about it – we have 24 data points for all twenty-four solar cycles, and we still can't accurately predict the maximum of the next cycle. Unfortunately, we'll just have to wait and see what happens.

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Editor's Note: Carl, K9LA is a member of the Northwest Indiana DX Club and also the Vice Director of the ARRL Central Division. We appreciate Carl's dedication to Amateur Radio and his work in propagation.



# MEMBER ARRL DXCC STANDINGS

(As of January 17, 2017)

The ARRL DXCC is awarded to amateurs who submit confirmations for contacts with 100 or more entities on the ARRL DXCC List. As of 17 January 2017, there were 339 current entities on the list. The DXCC Honor Roll includes those who are within 9 entities of that figure for the Mixed, Phone, CW and RTTY awards. The following listing of the DXCC membership contains the call signs and exact credited totals by endorsement level. Awards are NOT activated automatically; participants must apply to have a particular award (band, mode etc) activated when the qualifying number of credits is obtained.

1	K9FN	DAVID BUNTE	Honor Roll	362
2	AG9S	JAMES R SJOBERG, JR	Honor Roll	353
3	K9LA	CARL LUETZELSCHWAB	Honor Roll	350
3	W9KTP	JEROME E HESS	Honor Roll	350
3	W9UM	NICHOLAS G COMINOS	Honor Roll	350
4	N9FN	DAVE CHASEY	Honor Roll	346
5	KD9HL	STEVE MOLLMAN	Honor Roll	344
5	N9RD	JUERGEN NITTNER	Honor Roll	344
6	K9SUH	KENNETH REISING		330
6	K9CIV	RICHARD LOCHNER		320
6	K9WWT	GEORGE D KELLY		320
6	WB9IWN	JOHN SIKORA		320
7	AE9YL	VICKI LUETZELSCHWAB		316
8	W3ML	JOHN POINDEXTER		315
9	N7GVV	JAMES RAISLER		306
10	W8FIB	TOM RUGGLES		285
11	WA9JNO	EARL GUMM		265
12	K9DE	ROBERT J NELLANS		260
13	N9DD	THOMAS E FRISZ		236
14	N9ID	MICHAEL P STRONG		226
15	W1PIT	ALAN PITTS		223
16	K9MV	PAUL COREY		207
17	K9KJ	THOMAS A JOHNSON, JR		191
18	KB9ALG	JERRY M JANCO		162
19	N9HSB	CLIFFORD BELZ		155
20	WB9FQS	LARRY A BRECHNER		153
21	KA9FAX	ANTHONY KOSTELNIK		129
22	NA9U	JOHN M NASON		121
23	W9DZ	ALLEN JONES		120
24	KC9GTN	EDWARD P BENCHIK		110
25	W9ORW	ROBERT PENCE		106
26	KB9BIT	THOMAS M LASKOWSKI		105
27	K9MQ	MARK SKOWRONSKI		103

28	AB9QU	BILL CARTER	100
28	AB9RY	THOMAS BREYMEYER	100
28	WJ9Q	MARTIN DZIK	100

Only current call letters are listed. If a member obtained a DXCC certificate under a previous call sign we could not list it. Old call signs are not available to us.

The listing was abstracted from the current ARRL records of approved submittals. <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-standings> If you have worked and confirmed a DX station but have not formally submitted it to the ARRL, either through a card checker or the Log Book of the World (LOTW) program, those contacts are not counted. We have no way of knowing what new DX has been worked but not submitted.

If you obtained a DXCC certificate before the late 1990's, your record may not be included in the ARRL listings. Before that time, the ARRL DX Desk kept all of the records on paper. Sometime in that period the new applications were computerized. The old records were not automatically included during the computerization. Old records were only put into the computer when a personal request was made. This usually happens when a ham has changed his call sign and/or has made application for some new contacts to be included in his record.

If you want to merge your old call signs into the new, contact the ARRL DXCC Desk. (1-860-594-0200 or 1-888-277-5289 (toll-free US only) M-F 8:00 AM-5:00 PM ET)

The listing DOES NOT include records from other organization's DX programs such as eQSL, Club Log, CQ Magazine and QRZ.org.  
Prepared by Steve Mollman, KD9HL

## Interesting Links Sent in By Members

**Power Supply Tear Down.** Sent in by Tom W8FIB

[http://www.edn.com/design/pc-board/4441830/Teardown--12V-AC-adapters---The-Horror?\\_mc=NL\\_EDN\\_EDT\\_EDN\\_today\\_20161229&cid=NL\\_EDN\\_EDT\\_EDN\\_today\\_20161229&elqTrackId=1db2071ad57049b78c3372799d0fbed4&elq=1d937bb0f5a94e1aac889f34f996e6f8&elqaid=35345&elqat=1&elqCampaignId=30894](http://www.edn.com/design/pc-board/4441830/Teardown--12V-AC-adapters---The-Horror?_mc=NL_EDN_EDT_EDN_today_20161229&cid=NL_EDN_EDT_EDN_today_20161229&elqTrackId=1db2071ad57049b78c3372799d0fbed4&elq=1d937bb0f5a94e1aac889f34f996e6f8&elqaid=35345&elqat=1&elqCampaignId=30894)

**Power Supplies** Sent in by Tom W8FIB

[Proprietary AC/DC adapters: Good idea or nasty trick?](#)

IDXC 2017 will be our 68th annual International DX Convention. DXers from around the world will gather once again to meet their fellow DXers, attend interesting and informative programs, see the latest in new products from the top vendors – and have a chance to win some great raffle prizes! This year Friday, April 21, 2017 will be a full day of training, presentations and vendor exhibits.

Full details of IDXC 2017 are at this website: <http://www.dxconvention.com/>

# The Swains Island Story

September 2012

By  
Joe Pater, W8GEX (aka Joe8)



This trip started when Markus Dornach, DL9RCF, and I began brain storming about where in the Pacific we could go on a DXpedition. We had been gathering information and corresponding with Peter Ford, C21TA, on Nauru when two HA's popped up and started operating; so much for that idea.

We then considered American Samoa (AS) and Ofu Island, as Markus had been there and really liked it; however, for a variety reasons, we quickly determined that Ofu Island would not work.

I next emailed Larry Gandy, AH8LG, on AS about setting up there. We wanted a good take off to Europe and thought the north side of American Samoa would work. Larry informed me that we would need permission from the village chief on the north side whom he did not know, but then asked if I was interested in going to Swains Island, owned by the Jennings family.

Located 200 miles north of AS, and 10° south of the equator, Swains had been a coconut plantation since the 1800s but had been uninhabited for about a year. Larry was a good friend of Alex Jennings, the family representative, and he thought the possibility was good that they would grant us permission to go there.

Of course I was interested! I emailed Alex Jennings and he responded quickly, stating he would like to help us put our DXpedition together. Since Alex had already allowed two other groups to conduct DXpeditions there in recent years, he had a good idea of what we wanted to do. He recommended we set our date for September 2012, to take advantage of the nice weather and calmer seas — both of which turned out to be a surprise.

## Planning the Expedition

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Going to Swains turned this into a major DXpedition rather than the smaller group that Marcus and I originally planned, so I next contacted Craig Thompson, K9CT, who was my co-leader of the PJ7E DXpedition. Because Swains is ranked No. 31 worldwide, and very high in Europe on the Most Wanted List in DX Magazine, Craig was excited about the idea of organizing this trip with me.

This would be the third trip for Craig and I, together, our second as co-leaders. This one was special because of its ranking, and its location would make it more difficult than our previous trips, as it would be our first tent/generator operation. We would need good operators and a good support team — we ended up with outstanding help.

My job was the crew, and a big one. We wanted an international team with some very experienced DXpedition operators, plus a few new guys who had never been on a major trip. Because this was going to be an expensive venture, we needed 20 members to help defray costs.

At times I struggled with getting enough participants because, along with the cost, the time commitment was also an issue. Some members dropped off due to illness; others were committed to other trips. Markus was unable to get leave from work and had to drop out. As with all trips, members are responsible for their flights, lodging and meals while traveling to and from the destination.

When Arnie Shatz, N6HC, signed on as an op, he also agreed to serve as our team doctor. Because there was no landing strip or boat dock on Swains for evacuation, each member needed to be in good physical condition.

While I worked on the team, Craig worked on a budget, and we were both gathering a lengthy equipment list. After we determined the number of ops needed to run 24/7 for two weeks, we calculated the number of stations, equipment requirements, the amount of coax needed, number of generators and amount of power they must supply, amount of fuel needed, tents, tables, food, etc. Craig also took care of the business end by setting up PayPal and bank accounts to accept team payments and pay expenses. Joe Blackwell, AA4NN (aka Joe4), agreed to be our QSL manager; his wife, Margaret, agreed to maintain the financial records. Craig asked my wife, Janet, W8CAA, to work on fund raising like she did for K4M and PJ7E. Even though Markus, DL9RCF, was unable to make the trip, he assisted by relaying donations from Europe. Max Mucci, I8NHJ, was unable to join the crew, but he provided computer interfaces, and Don Greenbaum, N1DG, assisted us in shipping logistics.

## **Equipment**

Next our attention turned to radios. Ray Novak from Icom was happy to support our trip by furnishing seven IC-7600s and four PW1 1kw amps. Tom Harrell, N4XP, and Paul Hanson, W6XA, helped with testing the radios, amps, laptops and interfaces before they were shipped.

With a combination of five KPA-500 amps loaned from Elecraft, four PW1s from Icom, and three AL-80s that we purchased, we had a total of 12 amps for seven stations. We wanted to be sure we had enough amps in case some were damaged during transportation. The amps all worked flawlessly so five were never put in service.

We had a good combination of antennas that provided excellent signals. Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z, was the contact person with DX Engineering who supplied the 80M antenna, radial plates, etc. Jerry was also the contact person with Primus, who donated a mile of LMR-400.

Joe4 and Dietmar Kasper, DL3DXX, worked on the four squares for 30 and 40 Meters, designing the layout through emails. We were ready for setup as soon as we landed on Swains.

Kimo Chun, KH7U, loaned us his Titanex V160e vertical, which takes about 10 guys to erect because of its height. During the setup, we got it halfway up before the wind became an issue. At that point all we could do was just stand there and hold the guy ropes until the wind calmed enough for us to get it up to full height.



We had two pilot stations. Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L, handled traffic for North America and Col, MØNDX, handled the European traffic. Both pilots answered what emails they could and sent the rest to the webmaster. John condensed and forwarded them to the island for Craig and me. Emails took some time as the BGAN phone was set to poll the satellite every four hours for our messages and then poll again in four hours for the return messages, so it took up to eight hours to send and receive messages.

Valerie, NV9L, suggested we subscribe to a tsunami warning system, which was a great idea as, needless to say, a tsunami would have been catastrophic to us. There were four cell phones set up to be notified in the event of a tsunami, plus the BGAN satellite phone. Luckily this was not an issue.

Larry, AH8LG (SK), had given us permission to use NH8S, the Swains Island DX Club call, but, unfortunately, Larry passed away during our planning. We contacted his widow, Uti, and, with the club's authorization, appointed Craig to become the trustee of NH8S.

Craig and I feel that communication is a must on major DXpeditions, so we agreed early on to be very transparent about everything. We sent out team newsletters to keep everyone posted as plans developed and we encouraged input from team members. We were also in constant contact with the Jennings family; they knew what we were doing, and we knew what they were doing. Our major donors, including NCDXF, also had some early information to keep them up-to-date on our progress.

### **Getting Ready**

So that our equipment would arrive on time, we had to ship it aboard a container ship to American Samoa in July. To make that happen, all our radio equipment and personal items were sent to Arnie, N6HC, who stacked everything on pallets and then shrink-wrapped the pallets. He arranged for the pallets to be picked up and transported to the dock and then placed on a ship. Once the container left California, it was a three-week journey to AS.

Dietmar, DL3DXX, and I met in Honolulu, and then went on to Pago Pago, American Samoa, four days ahead of the team so we could go over last minute details. Alex Jennings met us when we arrived in AS; his brother David and his crew were already on Swains, so we spoke with David by phone to discuss the setup he and his crew were building on our behalf. Alex gave us a tour of AS, and with our extra time, we visited with Uti, Larry Gandy, AH8LG's, widow, who graciously invited us to run some Qs from his station. It was fun to be able to put another call sign, KH8, in our resumes.



Once the rest of the team arrived, we anxiously boarded the MV Lady Naomi, for the 24-hour voyage to Swains. Lady Naomi was not a luxury ship by any means; she was an old vessel with plenty of critters and roaches to accompany her unpleasant odor. We expected the seas to be calm; instead they were pretty rough and even though we were all wearing Scopolamine patches, some team members were seasick.

### Arrival on Swains

Our contract called for the food, drinks, tents, generators and fuel to be provided by the Jennings family. Under the leadership of Captain Wally and his sailing mate, Tim Thompson, the family had purchased and refurbished an old landing craft, using it to transport 30 drums of fuel, a refrigerator, two chest freezers, water, tents, an ATV and a small wagon prior to our arrival.

By the time we arrived, the advance team had everything unloaded with tents erected, the “kitchen” and the toilet and shower in place, plus the generator/electric system set up. This was no small feat and their work saved us an enormous amount of time. They took care of maintenance of the generators, and got up periodically during the night to refuel them. The support crew consisted of 10 men who built and maintained the camp and all of the facilities. There were also three cooks who kept us well fed, taking advantage of the fresh fish and coconuts, in addition to the food shipped from AS — all plentiful and very tasty. If we came in hot and tired, they were always there with smiling faces and even in the middle of the night, there was a pot of coffee going or cold drinks available. There is no way could we have executed this trip without that hard working team.

The ATV turned out to be an invaluable asset. It was 1,500 feet from the base camp to the SSB camp, and 3,000 feet from base camp to the CW site and the sand was deep and soft, which made walking difficult, especially in such hot temperatures. They used the ATV to bring water to the operating tents several times a day, in addition to moving fuel and oil to the generators.

When we arrived on Swains we transferred the team and personal items to shore by dinghy. After placing our stuff in the sleeping tents, we moved equipment to the operating sites. We were anxious to get everything set up and on the air, and worked two full days non-stop. It was very hot, with temperatures as high as 125°F (52°C) during the day. We quickly realized that because of the heat we had to stop working by 11 a.m., resuming after 5 p.m., which explains why not all stations were running 24/7 immediately.



*Just hanging out between shifts*



*The antenna field for SSB*

### Bumps and Bruises

We unfortunately had our share of injuries. It started on the boat when Juergen Borsdorf, DJ2VO, became disoriented in the middle of the night, fell and cut his leg, requiring multiple stitches. We now think he had a rare reaction to the Scopolamine patch,

causing him to become disoriented and confused. Because of the extent of his leg injury, he returned with the boat to Pago Pago for further evaluation and treatment, where he was hospitalized for a few days. Fortunately he recuperated fully and was able to join us when we returned from Swains.

One team member had a very bad swollen leg, another a stomach virus and others had issues ranging from heat rash, sunburn, blisters and more. The sun and heat were just brutal. One member was bitten by something, as his lower leg was red, very swollen and uncomfortable.

### Success

We had so many good comments during and after the DXpedition. One was from AB7ZU who said “we were the best in his 52 years of Hamming.” That was nice to hear! Those comments and so many like that kept us going in that heat.

We were extremely happy to have worked a total of 105,500 on all bands, all modes. For a breakdown, go to our website at [www.nh8s.org](http://www.nh8s.org)

We stopped operating a day early for a couple of reasons. First, the crew was just exhausted. Even though our shifts were three hours on and six off, we were sleep deprived because we weren’t able to sleep well with the heat and it took a toll on us. The other reason was because a storm was heading our way and we didn’t want to take a chance on it passing through while we were packing. That gave us an extra day to rest and be sure everything was packed properly for shipment.

On our last night, after all of the equipment was dismantled and ready for departure, our hosts surprised us with some entertainment. It was an unforgettable farewell, as they played instruments and serenaded us. When we arrived back in Pago Pago, the Jennings family had a going away party for us, giving each team member a coffee mug with our home callsign and a picture of the island imprinted on it, plus an island tee-shirt and a Certificate of Achievement for making this DXpedition happen.



*The advance “team”*

### Final Words

In closing, all I can say is that this was an amazing trip with outstanding operators. I had one of the best co-leaders to help me plan and execute a successful trip. Our goals were to make a lot of Qs, have fun, be safe and come home friends. Because we had such great support on and off the islands, with a total of 45 people, we met our goals.

We received tremendous support from foundations, including NCDXF, clubs and individuals. There are not enough words to express our appreciation, as this could not have happened without this help. Thank you!

A huge thank you to our great support team: Markus, DL9RCF; Max, I8NHJ; John, K6MM; Col, MMØNDX; Don, N1DG; Tom, N4XP; John, N7CQQ; Valerie, NV9L; Paul, W6XA; Paul, W8AEF; Janet, W8CAA, and Margaret, XYL of AA4NN.

Everyone got along so well and worked so hard. We have wonderful memories and made lasting friendships.

My hat goes off to an amazing team: Barry Fletcher, 9V1FJ; Joe Blackwell, A4NN; Dietmar Kasper, DL3DXX; Alan Brown, K5AB; Carl Schroeder, K9CS; Craig Thompson, K9CT; Mike Tessmer, K9NW; Lou Dietrich, N2TU; Arnie Shatz, N6HC; David Greenhut, N6HD; Mark Stennett, NA6M; Tom Berson, ND2T; Hawk Eriksson, SM5AQD; Charlie Spetnagel, W6KK; Joe Pater, W8GEX; Hal Turley, W8HC; Clark Stewart, W8TN, and Jerry Rosaius. WB9Z.

### **Contributions**

*This article is courtesy of the Northern California DX Foundation. The NCDXF relies upon the generosity of its contributors to fund various projects, including this DXpedition. They ask you to consider making an annual contribution of US-\$50 or its equivalent in foreign currency.*

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The Author

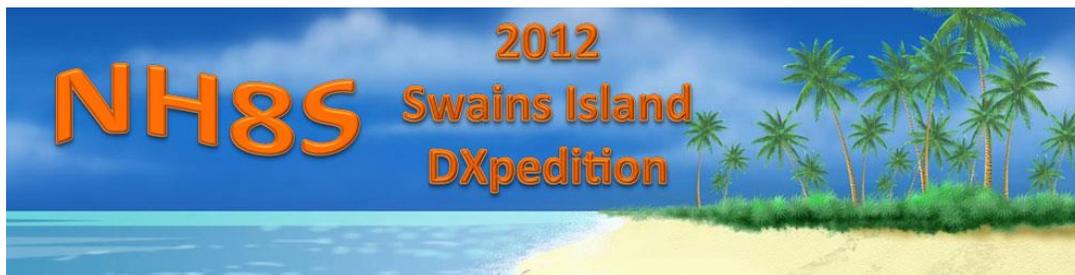
***Joe Pater, W8GEX, is a resident of Oxford, Ohio. He has been licensed since 1970 and holds an Extra class license. His interest is DXing and has confirmed 340 countries for DXCC. He has been on 50+ DXpeditions, many as leader or co-leader.***

***In 2009, he was on the K4M trip to Midway Island and was part of the management team.***

***In 2013 he was part of the management team for the K9W expedition to Wake Island. Another great experience where the DXpeditioners honored the Forgotten 98. That expedition received DXpedition of the Year Awards from GDXF, SMDX, and DX World.net.***

***He is a member of Southwest Ohio DX Assoc. (SWODXA), Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Assoc. (GCARA), Dayton Amateur Radio Assoc. (DARA), ARRL, ARRL A-1 operator club, plus INDEXA, NCDXF and GDXF.***

***W8GEX has held the following calls or operated under: J3K, J3A, K4M, ZF2NF, V47NF, WB8GEX/VP5, VP5VDL, WB8GEX/PJ7, VP5N, C6IOTA, C6AJR, C6DX, C6ADX, A35EX, 3D2EX, T15A, CY0AA, 4O6DX, WB8GEX/1J4, PJ2/W8GEX, VP2EV (Oct.2000), KP2/W8GEX (Nov.2000), N8Z, TO5DX, KH4/W8GEX, KH8/W8GEX, NH8S and K9W, SM5/W8GEX.***





**Wish everybody followed it.**

**NORTHWEST INDIANA DX CLUB**

**W9NWI** 

 Indiana

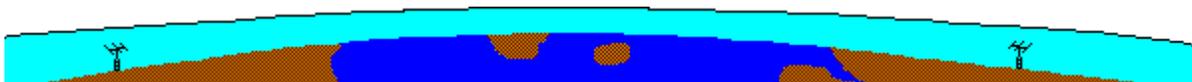
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**I want to thank those that have been sending in articles for the newsletter. All items are appreciated.**

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



**Until Next Time,**

73

*John*  
W3ML

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



**NWI DX CLUB**