

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 6, Issue 2

February 2018

President's Corner

February brings the LaPorte Hamfest, hope to see you there.

Next meeting will be sometime in March.

Again, if someone has new place for the meeting, please let me know.

73

John W3ML

Good DXing!

Don't Forget

DXCC CARD CHECKING

Doctor Richard Lochner, K9QA is our Official ARRL DXCC Card Checker. Contact Rich to schedule an appointment for card checking.

You may email him at <mailto:k9qa@arrl.net> for details on how to mail your cards to him, if you desire to go that route.

NWI DX Club Website

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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

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.



We support the LoTW.

NWIDX Club Logo



Bouvet Coming Soon!

They are over half way there.

<https://www.bouvetdx.org/band-plan-frequencies/>

Kosovo (Z6) a new entity to chase.

Handy Hint

Use Standard Phonetics

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

Recently I was working in the ham shack and had the rig on and tuned to a DX station in Southeast Asia working a North American pileup on 40 meter SSB. His signals were about an S5 to S7 with some QRN present. Not great conditions but very workable on my dipole.

English was not the DX's native language and it was obvious that his fluency was limited but he was able to keep the pileup moving at a steady pace. Working him were hams from Indiana to the west coast. I heard one of our locals come on and he was answered on the second or third call. But there was trouble in the Far East. Our local was using nonstandard phonetics and the DX was having trouble getting the call correct. After several repeats the DX gave up and went on to another caller. Our local was not in the log and missed an opportunity to snare a new one on 40 meters.

Although English is the closest thing the world has to a universal language, many DX operators have only a limited command of it. Sometimes a DX station's English knowledge may be limited to the phonetic alphabet, numbers and a few phrases. Throw in individual voice characteristics and regional accents such as American South, Brooklynese or even the mid-western twang and the difficulty for a DX station to understand your call letters is compounded.

If you are trying to work a new DX station your highest chance of success on phone is to use standard phonetics. Using non-standard or "custom/cutesy phonetics" is asking for trouble. Of course there are going to be exceptions. On some occasions, for some reason, a combination of my voice, band conditions and signal level makes the "L-Lima" sound to the DX as "I-India". When this happens I will change to London. This usually works as a substitute. Keep the substitute simple. Individual results will vary.

There is also the problem of a few nostalgic buffs that insist on using World War II type phonetics. The world has changed. Newer hams weren't even born then and have never heard the Able-Baker-Charlie style phonetics. They learned the modern phonetics and are most comfortable with them.

Ask just about any Ham who has operated from rare DX or a contester and they will tell you they prefer standard phonetics. Standard phonetics avoid confusion. Make life as easy as you can for the DX.

The International Radiotelephony Spelling Alphabet

Letter:	Code Word:	Pronunciation:
A	Alfa	Al fah
B	Bravo	Brah Voh
C	Charlie	Char Lee
D	Delta	Dell Tah
E	Echo	Eck Oh
F	Foxtrot	Foks Trot
G	Golf	Golf
H	Hotel	Hoh Tell
I	India	In Dee Ah
J	Juliett	Jew Lee Ett
K	Kilo	Key Loh
L	Lima	Lee Mah
M	Mike	Mike
N	November	No Vem Ber
O	Oscar	Oss Car

P	Papa	Pah Pah
Q	Quebec	Keh Beck
R	Romeo	Row Me Oh
S	Sierra	See Air Ah (
T	Tango	Tang Go
U	Uniform	You Nee Form
V	Victor	Vik Tah
W	Whiskey	Wiss Key
X	X Ray	Ecks Ray
Y	Yankee	Yang Key
Z	Zulu	Zoo Loo

Numbers

Number:	Code Word:	Pronunciation:
0	Zero	Zee Row
1	One	Wun
2	Two	Too
3	Three	Tree
4	Four	Fow Er
5	Five	Fife
6	Six	Six
7	Seven	Sev En
8	Eight	Ait
9	Niner	Nine Er

A final note. Take a good look at the recommended pronunciation of the numbers three and nine. They are “Tree” and “Nine Er”. That is the pronunciation used in the military and aviation worlds. If you hear it on the ham bands it is a possible sign the user has a background in those fields or maybe just a ham using good operating practices.

β 73's and good DX β

A (very) Short History of the Phonetic Alphabet

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

The **International Radiotelephony Spelling Alphabet**, which is commonly known as the **ICAO phonetic alphabet**, **ITU phonetic alphabet** and sometimes the **NATO phonetic alphabet**, is the world’s most widely used radiotelephone spelling alphabet.

The purpose of the phonetic alphabet is to ensure that critical combinations of letters and numbers like your call letters, are pronounced and understood during the exchange of voice messages by radio or telephone, regardless of language differences or the quality of the communication channel. A spelling alphabet is used to spell parts of a message containing letters and numbers to avoid confusion, because many letters sound similar and the potential for confusion increases if static or other interference is present.

Prior to World War I and the development and widespread adoption of voice two-way radio, the original spelling alphabets were developed to improve communication on low-quality and long-distance telephone circuits. During World War II, many nations used their own versions of a spelling alphabet. The U.S. adopted the "Joint Army/Navy radiotelephony alphabet" in 1941 to standardize systems among all branches of its armed forces. The U.S. alphabet became known as *Able Baker* after the words for A and B. The Royal Air Force adopted one similar to the Americans.

In 1948-1949, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) researched and developed a new spelling alphabet. The ICAO's criteria was that to be considered, a word must:

1. Be a live word in each of the three working languages.(English, French, and Spanish)
2. Be easily pronounced and recognized by airman of all languages.
3. Have good radio transmission and readability characteristics.
4. Have a similar spelling in at least English, French, and Spanish, and the initial letter must be the same letter the word identifies.
5. Be free from any association with objectionable meanings

Several using organizations including NATO and the US Air Force added input and the final version was adopted in 1956. It remains in use today.

It has been adopted by many other international and national organizations, including the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

It is interesting to note the changes that have occurred over the years. An example is the letter "A". In 1920 the accepted phonetic was the word "Argentine". Over the years this progressed through Amsterdam-Able-Adam-Ana-Alpha-Alfa. Alfa is what is used today though most English speakers spell it Alpha. The other 25 letters had similar evolutions.

A final bit of trivia on the phonetic alphabet. In order to avoid confusion because "Delta" is also Delta Air Line's callsign, "Delta" is replaced by "Data", "Dixie" or "David" at airports that have a large number of Delta Air Lines flights, such as Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport..



Adding 30 and 40 Meters to the 3 Element SteppIR Antenna

By Dan Dantzler, WØJMP

I was in the antenna business with Telex-HyGain from 1967 until my retirement in 1999. During that time, I had two choices for antennas: Homebrewed and HyGain. We did not have a firm rule forbidding the use of another brand; I just felt it would be disloyal. From 2000 on, I was free to use any brand of antenna. We, and every other antenna manufacturer, were always searching for designs that would cover a broad range of frequencies. The log periodic dipole array (LPDA), invented in 1958, does provide broad coverage but is heavy, complex and the forward gain is not super impressive. The amateur radio service did not require continuous coverage as our allocations are slices of frequencies. The yagi-uda array was invented in 1926 by Shintaro Uda. A minor role in the design was played by his colleague, Hidetsugu Yagi. Obviously, the minor assistant was a better marketer and the design simply became known as a yagi. It became the most popular design for upper band HF amateur radio use. The downside is that it only covers a fairly narrow range of frequencies.

Since amateur allocations are arranged in “bands” of frequencies, methods were developed to make a single array play on more than one band. The ubiquitous triband beam became a favorite embodiment. The typical configuration covers 10, 15 and 20 meters. The traps provided a convenient way to cover specific bands with a single yagi. When the WARC bands were added, things became more complicated. The common method of covering 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters was to either have two antennas or add interleaved elements. Traps themselves had some drawbacks including losses, power constraints and wind loading.

During the 1980s, we (HyGain) built a lot of what we called CIM antennas, which were antennas for commercial, industrial and military applications. Many of these services had very broad frequency allocations and required nearly continuous coverage. The LPDA and “fat monopoles” like conical monopoles and discones filled most applications. During this time, we developed a vertical antenna that used a copper tape which could be extended to any length within a large fiberglass radome. We used a rope to pull the element up and a optical counter to keep track of how much of the tape was extended. This was a high power antenna (50 KW if I remember correctly) and we fought a lot of issues because of this. The corona would burn off the rope used to pull the tape up and arcing at the contacts occurred if the copper tape was moved with power applied. But the HyGain 4220 did serve a niche.

At the Dayton Hamvention in 2001, SteppIR introduced their antennas I was impressed by the cleverness. Like our 4220, the antenna covered a continuous range of frequencies, in this case, 13.9 to 54 MHz. With the radio interface, the antenna retunes itself whenever you move the dial. Adding 30 and 40 Meters to the 3 Element SteppIR Antenna on your radio. I wanted one but was afraid of the mechanical complexity. I waited to see if the antennas would hold up in the field.

After two years, in April of 2003, I installed my 3 element SteppIR. The service record has been pretty good. The antenna has not been off the tower since it was installed. The original boots did not hold up to UV and were replaced about 5 years ago. A nearby lightning strike disabled the control unit. The EMP took out our garage door opener, intercom and several other items in the ham shack. Rather than repair the control unit, I upgraded to a newer one that had a few more features.

Early this summer, the antenna quit working. I suspected that a stepper motor had failed. But after trouble shooting it with SteppIR service, they thought it more likely that the problem was a control cable as they have had a very low failure rate with the motors. I no longer climb and I cannot get a bucket truck up to the tower.

Scott Stangler, WAØPLR who had done the original work is recovering from back surgery but several club members recommended Denny Moe, KØTT. Since I needed someone come out and do the tower work, I took the opportunity to add 30 and 40 meters to the antenna with the “trombone element”. This element replaces the original driven element with a trombone driven

element. The beryllium copper tape inside the fiberglass radome extends and retracts to match the operating frequency. If you wanted full sized element on 40, the radome would need to be 33 feet long. So SteppIR has the tape return back to the boom through a U-shaped tube which they call it a “sweep tube”, and back through a second fiberglass tube. Very heavy heat shrink tubing with sealant used to secure fiberglass joints

(For those of us of a certain age, “sweep tube” had another meaning entirely.) The two tubes are 30 inches apart. On forty, the tape comes back almost all the way to the boom. The return tube is 30 inches from the outgoing tube. This is a form of linear loading. On 30 meters, the tape barely starts on its journey back to the boom. Conveniently, on 40, the impedance is near 25 ohms which is transformed to 50 by the balun. On 30 meters the SWR is dependent on height and is about 2.2 to 1 in my case.

My antenna is just over 40 feet above ground. On 30 meters, the gain is about the same as a full size dipole. SteppIR claims the forty meter dipole is about 0.37 db down from a full size dipole. As an added benefit, it is rotatable. The early trombone elements had a fairly high failure rate. SteppIR has made a lot of improvements to minimize these problems.

The antenna arrived in two boxes and I excitedly unpacked them. The fiberglass radomes are extended and “jam fit”. On the original antenna, the joints in the fiberglass section were secured and sealed with self -adhesive silicone tape. That tape has held up nicely. But SteppIR has since switched to the heaviest shrink tubing I have ever seen. The inside of the tubing contains a waterproof adhesive that is activated by the heat. I have a trusty little heat gun but it was no match for this uber heat shrink tubing. It took me nearly 20 minutes to shrink one piece! I did not want to buy a more powerful heat gun for this one project so I slowly and carefully used a propane torch.



Very heavy heat shrink tubing with sealant used to secure fiberglass joints

As long as you keep the flame a suitable distance from the tubing and keep moving the flame, it works fine. But care and attention are required. On the regular elements, the fiberglass tube tubes may vary by an inch or more. That does not create any problems. However on the trombone elements, they must both be very close to the same length. So after the tubes are extended and the heat shrink tubing applied, they must be trimmed insuring that they are all the same length. Next the “sweep tubes” are assembled and used to connect the outgoing and return tubes together. The ends of the fiberglass tubes are carefully prepared using a small friction band similar to nonslip strips one might use in a bathtub. Next to the non-slip tape, a blue silicone tape is used for water proofing. I have included some photos of the inside for the motor housing. SteppIR calls them EHUs; Element Housing Units. In the photos, you can see the perforated beryllium copper tape and the stepper motor.

Once I assembled the tubing and the EHU, Denny Moe, KØTT came out to assess the project. My tower is a Rohn HDBX series and is not fun to stand on for a long time (Denny would end up spending about 15 hours on the tower before all was said and

done.). He fabricated an aluminum step to make the job easier and safer. An investigation at tower top confirmed what the SteppIR service person suggested, the antenna control cable was badly damaged. The rotor loop was insufficient or had slipped over the years and the control cable and coax were snagging on the corners of the tower. Besides replacing the control cable and the coax, Denny suggested that we raise the antenna a few inches to minimize a repeat of the same damage.

Damaged Control Cable from top of Tower



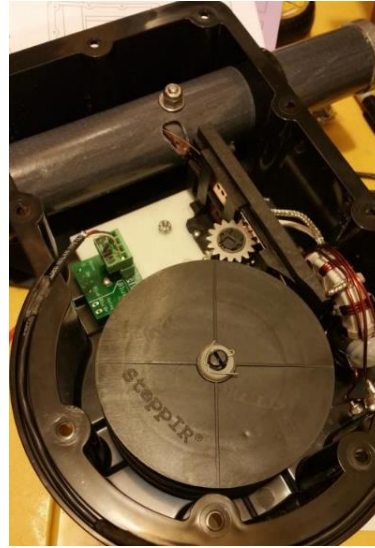
Elements in vertical position

First half of the trombone driven element installed



See the perforated beryllium copper strip.

The sprockets are on the shaft of the stepper motor



Inside Element Housing Unit. The Fiberglass tube at the top supports the elements. Spool contains the beryllium copper strips. Balun is on the right.

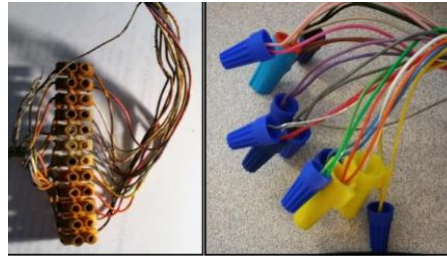
Denny removed the old driven element. The silicone tape was in good condition but the fiberglass itself was showing some damage from UV. The EHU also showed some minor deterioration from the UV exposure. I believe the damage to the tubes and the EHU are only cosmetic.

Next, Denny had to drill holes to mount the element return bracket. Finally, we were ready to install the trombone elements. The trombone elements were just too heavy to lift up and into the EHU and return bracket while the elements were in their normal horizontal position. So we had to twist the boom 90 degrees (elements pointing straight up and down). After the first one was installed, the added weight made it impossible to twist the boom 180 degrees and install the trombone on the other side. Denny made a lever using a boom to mast bracket to allow him to muscle the first half of the trombone straight up in the air. He then installed the second side. My 220 yagi was in the way for all of this and it also needed new coax so we took it down. After the antenna was back in its operational plane, Denny raised it up a few inches and connected the 12 connector control cable to the wires from the three EHUs. This connection is made with European style terminal strips. The entire connection is then in-stalled in a housing made from PVC tubing and strapped to the boom with stainless steel hose clamps. As sunset ended work on the tower for the day, I routed the control cable into my shack. Although I was waiting for a DB -25 connector that had not arrived, I wanted to connect and try the antenna.

There was another Euro -style connecting strip in the cable inside my shack so I thought I could use it for a temporary connection. The joint was tightly wrapped with multiple layers of 3M super 88 electrical tape. I unwrapped the joint and, as I got down a few layers, water ran out! I had heard stories about water migrating down compromised cables but this was first time I experienced it firsthand. There must have been a couple teaspoons of water under the tape and the connector was damaged beyond use (photo). But I still wanted to try the antenna out so a dozen small wire nuts worked for a temporary trial. (Photo) I held my breath and fired up the control unit...it worked!!



The "Sweep Tube and its Fiberglass Cross brace



Top Left: Euro-Style connecting strip corroded by water

Top Right: Temporary workaround while waiting for new connecting strip



Bottom: It Works! Antenna tuned to the low end of 40 meters

So far, I am pleased with the performance of the SteppIR on 40 meters. It seems to be just a little better than my dipoles and is only a few feet higher. The directionality is noticeable and being able to rotate is helpful. There is significant interaction between the SteppIR and my dipoles. I may take down my dipoles but I always like having backup options. The one thing that surprised me is the amount of time it takes to spool the tape out far enough to cover 40. It takes 37 seconds to go from 20 to 40 meters. That doesn't seem like much when I write it but seems like a very long time when I am operating Bottom line: I am satisfied with the long term durability of the SteppIR. Adding the 30 and 40 meter bands was worth the time and money and will simplify operating my station remotely. Now, one antenna covers 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters.

Thank you to Dan Dantzler-W0JMP and the Twin Cities DX Association "Gray Line Report: for their kind permission to use this article. Dan worked for many years for Hy-Gain Electronics and its successor company Telex Communications. He retired in 1999. He is an Extra Class licensee who enjoys chasing DX and is frequently heard working the digital modes and on the 40 and 80 meter bands trying to complete a 5 band DXCC award.



I HEAR HIM, DOES HE HEAR ME?

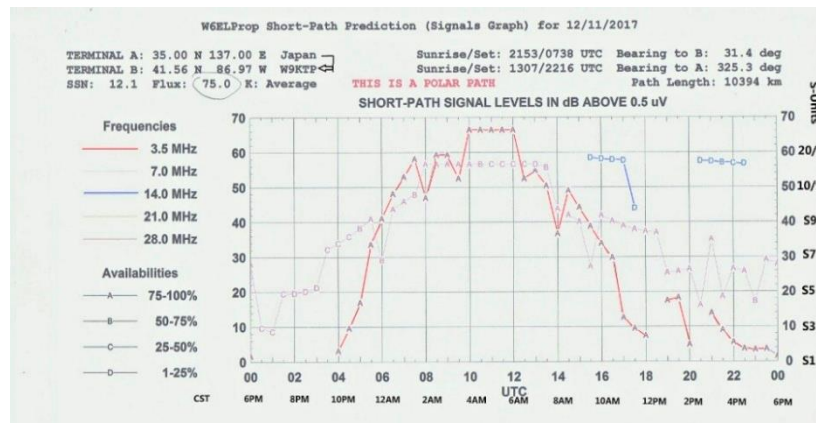
By
Jerry Hess, W9KTP

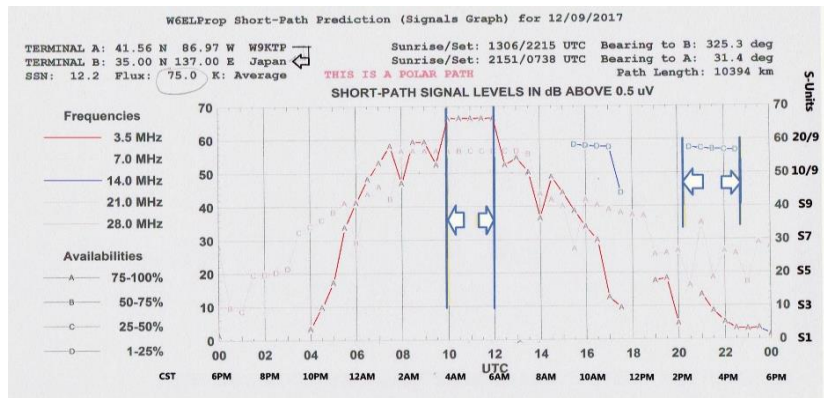
Several months ago, after Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, made a propagation presentation at our NWIDXC club meeting, I asked Carl if propagation is the same for both directions in a QSO.



I figured that since Marilyn Monroe looked different from the front than from the back, why not propagation? I'm pretty sure Carl knew the answer but he suggested that I check it out with a simple propagation program developed by W6EL. I found free access to the program and a tutorial by Carl on his website, <http://k9la.us/>. It took less than an hour to walk through the example in Carl's tutorial. It is really simple to use.

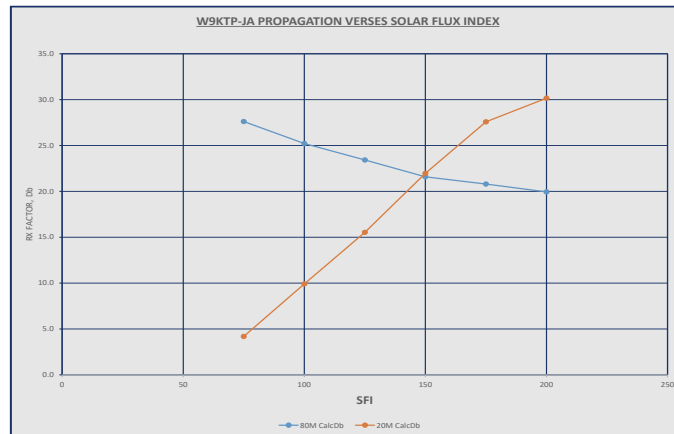
To answer the question about directional propagation, I chose to limit my efforts to 80 (Red) and 20 (Blue) meters and the path to/from Japan. Furthermore, I used Solar Flux Indices (SFI) instead of Smoothed Sun Spot (SSN) since the 'Spotting Networks' report SFI as well as K Index which will be discussed later in this article. I ran the program for both directions and the charts were identical. The Propagation section in recent ARRL Antenna Handbooks (that Carl wrote) does indicate that one-way propagation does occur in very rare cases. I guess Marilyn was unique after all! (Aw-w-w. you knew that, didn't you?)

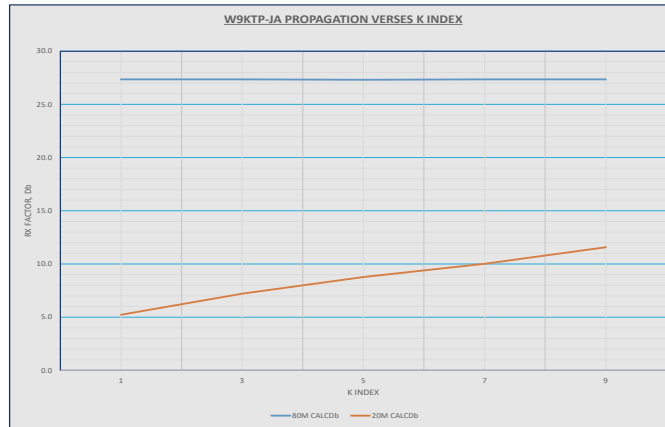




I made it a little easier to read the charts by converting the decibel readings to 'S-Units' and providing the local CST times. The chart shows a strong 80M opening to Japan 4:00-6:00 AM, another 20M weaker one at 9:45-11:45 AM. The third opening is on 20M between 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM. I've experienced this on during contest operating. The signal strengths seemed high to me and Carl later hinted that W6ELProp tended to be a little "generous" with signal strength.

While I was working with the model, I decided to check my 'gut feeling' about the effect of increasing SFI on propagation. I created a propagation factor by converting the 'Available' percentage to a number (A=1.0, B=.75, C=.50, D=.25) and multiplied it times the signal decibel readings. The chart shows a disappointing 80M (Blue) drop off as SFI climbs higher, allegedly due to higher 'D Layer' absorption. But look at 20M (Red)! Man if we only had more months with some of those higher SFI readings.





Since the spotting networks also report the Earth's magnetic field A and K indices I thought it was worth checking how they affect propagation. The A index is an average of the eight K indices for the previous day and the K index is a three hour average of the most recent measurements which might better correlate with current propagation. The K index ranges from 0 representing little disturbance to 9 which is a major disturbance. I'm not sure what to make of the results from the model. It shows no effect on 80 meters (Blue) and an improvement on 20 (Red) as the K index climbs from 1 to 9. I expected that at higher K values propagation would go down. It seems to me that our radio waves would be really mangled when the magnetic component was disrupted. During editing Carl added the following comment. "I wouldn't pay much attention to any results that use a single K index to determine the change in propagation. The best model we currently have uses the last eleven K indices to determine the F2 region change at various latitudes in both hemispheres. See <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/storm-time-empirical-ionospheric-correction>."

I also noticed that the noise level used in 'Signal to Noise' graphs seems to be much lower than what I normally experience. I'm considering doing some on-the-air data logging and see how that compares with the model. It will take some time before I try this. Carl also added.

The model of each of the different noise environments in the Prediction Parameters in the Options tab is from the 1970s. So a given noise environment now is likely to be noisier than the same noise environment in the 1970s due to all the electronic devices we use. For example, if you're in a rural environment, maybe it would be best to bump it up to a residential environment in the predictions.

In the meantime, I hope this was interesting to you and I would encourage you to try the W6EL model.

73's,
Jerry

What Do You Think?

For the love of DX!

By Paul S. Ewing-N6PSE

ISLAMABAD PAKISTAN
WAZ 21 ITU 41

AP2NK

NASIR HUSSAIN KHAN
HOUSE 30, ST. 28, SHALIMAR F-6/1
ISLAMABAD 44000,
Pakistan

To Radio: **N6PSE** W3HNK confirms the following QSO(s):

Date	UTC	MHz	2way	RST
2017-10-11	02:36	20m	CW	559
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Thanks QSL

QSL manager W3HNK

UX5UO print

73, Nasir

In my latest installment of “for the love of DX” I want to share with you my thrill in working Nasir-AP2NK a few weeks ago.

I’ve been a DXer for many years and I have worked a lot of rare DX. None of that diminishes the thrill of working a rare entity and enjoying a nice contact.

One fall night a few weeks ago, I was “spinning the dial” and tuning across twenty meters which has long been one of my favorite bands. I heard a very weak and fluttery CQ in relatively slow CW. I listened intently and was thrilled to find Nasir-AP2NK in Islamabad, Pakistan with no pileup what so ever!

I quickly pounced with my 500 watts. I was thrilled when Nasir came back to my call. His signal was very weak, almost ESP copy so it was futile to exchange anything more than signal reports. After I made the contact, I was pleased to see that Joe-W3HNK was his stateside QSL Manager. It does not get any better than that!

So a suggestion for newer DXers, spin that dial, search across the bands. If Nasir had been spotted I probably would not have been able to have easily made this contact. There is still considerable value and pleasure in spinning the dial and finding your own DX before the DX Cluster broadcasts it. What do you think?

Thank you to Paul Ewing-N6PSE for his kind permission to print this item. Paul is a noted DXpeditioner having operated from many rare and semi rare spots, including the South Sandwich Islands, Yemen, Myanmar, Eritrea and the South Georgia Islands. He can be reached at pauln6pse@gmail.com

QSL Card of the Month

A collection of the old, the new, the rare, the exotic or just interesting QSL Cards

Temotu Province

Solomon Islands

H40

ClubLog 2017: Most Wanted World Rank: #43

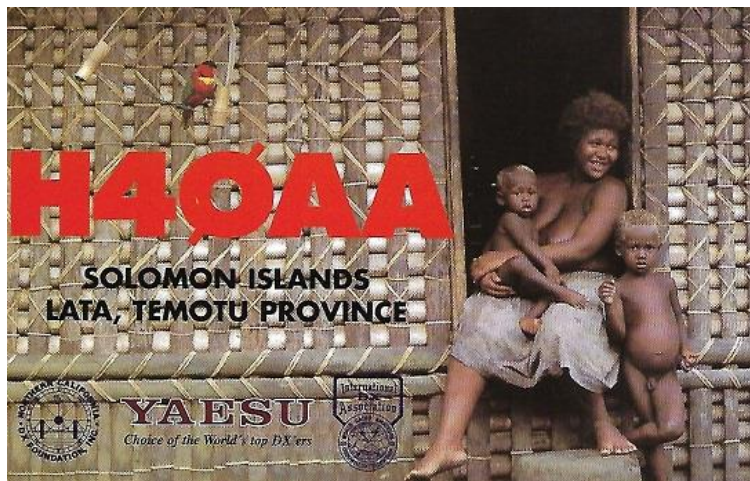
Most Wanted North America Rank: #59

CQ zone: 32 ITU Zone: 51

Continent: OC

Location: 10°45'S 167°0' E

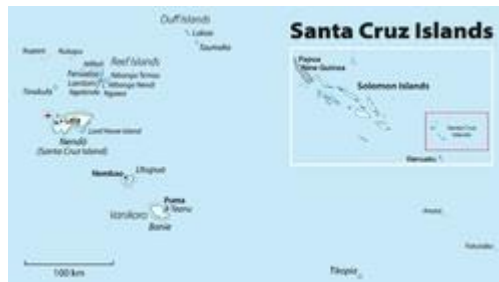
Beam Headings from Northwestern Indiana: 273°/93° 7593 mi / 17266 mi



The Solomon Islands are an independent nation with a parliamentary democracy. The islands are the third largest archipelago in the South Pacific, comprising of 992 islands with Temotu group being the most eastern. Temotu Province has an estimated population of about 21000 people. The vast majority of the people are Melanesians.

Temotu was previously known as the Santa Cruz Islands. This was the site of a major naval battle during World War II.

The area is often called “the islands adrift in time”. This is not a flight of fantasy as such traditional practices as shark calling and exchanging the unwieldy local money such as shells etc. often occur. Reminders of the past practices of cannibalism, headhunting and shrines of skulls can still be seen. Most people live in small villages and cling to a life style that hasn't changed over the centuries.



Because Temotu is separated by more than 350 kilometers from the nearest island of its parent country (Solomon Islands) it qualifies as a separate DXCC entity.

The H40AA card is from the first ever amateur radio operations from the province. This occurred in 1998 and was a multinational team led by OH2BH-Marti Laine. This coming April 2018 should see the activation of this DX entity by Cezar Trifu-VE3LYC. He is also planning on operating from H4-Solomons Islands for about a week.

◀ 73's and Good DX ▶

For Sale Items

NICHOLAS G COMINOS w9um

Email

<mailto:w9um@arrl.net>

Comment

Several items for sale: IC765 Mint contest radio w/250 cycle cw filter, Ameritron 4 position coax switch, two 3kw tuners, Alpha 89 amp legal limit amp and many other ham radios for vhf/uhf all working order. Two rotators, Alliance Heavy Duty and Ham 4 with control boxes. I will entertain most offers.

Address

402 North Indiana St.
Griffith, IN 46319

There are several good items for sale at <http://w9joz.org/forsale.htm>

Last but Not Least a Little Humor

WORDS FROM OUR YOUTH - (OLD~~ FUN STUFF)

Heavens to Murgatroyd! Do you remember that word?

Would you believe the email spell checker did not recognize the word Murgatroyd?

Heavens to Mergatroyd!

Lost Words from our childhood:

Words gone as fast as the buggy whip!

Sad really!

The other day a not so elderly (65) (I say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy and he looked at her quizzically and said "What the heck is a Jalopy?"

OMG (new phrase)!

He never heard of the word jalopy!!

She knew she was old.... but not that old.

Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology.

These phrases included

"Don't touch that dial,"

"Carbon copy,"

"You sound like a broken record" and "Hung out to dry."

Back in the olden days we had a lot of 'moxie.'

We'd put on our best 'bib and tucker' to 'straighten up and fly right'.

Heavens to Betsy!

Gee whillikers!

Jumping Jehoshaphat!

Holy moley!

We were 'in like Flynn' and 'living the life of Riley', and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill.

Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but when's the last time anything was swell?

Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle

skirts, saddle shoes and pedal pushers...AND
DON'T FORGET... Saddle Stitched Pants

Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he
isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a
short nap, and before we can say, well I'll be '
a monkey's uncle!' Or, This is a 'fine kettle of
fish'!

We discover that the words we grew up with, the
words that seemed omnipresent, as oxygen, have
vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues
and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've
left behind

We blink, and they're gone.

Where have all those great phrases gone? (My
Favorite)" Let's all go to the beach
Saturday"...

Long gone:

Pshaw,

The milkman did it.

Hey! It's your nickel.

Don't forget to pull the chain.

Knee high to a grasshopper.

Well, Fiddlesticks!

Going like sixty.

I'll see you in the funny papers.

Don't take any wooden nickels.

Wake up and smell the roses.

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has liver pills. This can be disturbing stuff! ("Carter's Little Liver Pills" are gone too!)

We of a certain age have been blessed to live in changeable times. For a child each new word is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age. We at the other end of the chronological arc have the advantage of remembering there are words that once did not exist and there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our collective memory.

It's one of the greatest advantages of aging.

Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth...

See ya later, alligator!

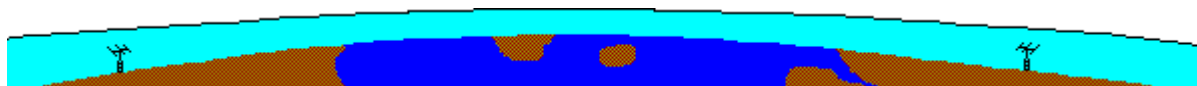
Okidoki

WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE FABULOUS 50'S..

***NO ONE WILL EVER HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY
AGAIN...***

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://nwidclub.weebly.com/>

