## **Northwest Indiana DX CLUB**

Volume 9, Issue 1

January 2021

**President's Corner** 

Happy New Year!

Let us all hope that we can get back together as a group sometime this year. Hopefully, the sun will continue to give us a lot of spots.

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 new QSL Card Checker.

DXCC Card Checking is available by appointment and may be available at meetings. E-Mail <u>kd9hl@arrl.net</u> 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. <u>kd9hl@arrl.net</u>

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.

### Handy Hint

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

## Sealing Coax Connections

Another way

There are probably a dozen ways to seal your coax connections from water intrusion. Some people just wrap the connectors with vinyl electrical tape and hope for the best. That is a method that is guaranteed to fail and leak. The product Coax Seal does a great job of sealing but is a big mess to remove. 3M's Type Super 33+ rubber tape is sometimes used and is advertised as "Easily conforming to irregular surfaces for moisture tight protection."

Borrowing from the marine and boating fraternity, another way is to use <u>marine grade waterproof</u> <u>adhesive lined shrink tubing</u>. This heat-shrinkable tubing has the advantages of good electrical insulation, good sealing, corrosion resistance and high temperature resistance. Anti-aging, tough, not easy to break. The marine grade shrink tubing with an adhesive liner has good sealing performance. When heat is applied, adhesive comes out and seals the connection, creating waterproof and a long-lasting good looking insulation.



A test of removing installed tubing revealed it was an easy job. A lengthwise cut was made with a sharp knife, an edge was lifted up with needle nose pliers and the old tubing was peeled off. There was little sign of the adhesive sticking to the coax or the connector.

<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch diameter tubing is ideal for sliding over coax and PL-259 connectors. The tubing is available from multiple sources including Amazon. Search for "*marine heat shrink tubing*".

### ■73's and Good DX ■ Do you have a Handy Hint that you would like to share? Contact Steve Mollman at KD9HL@ARRL.net

#### ARRL DX LISTINGS JANUARY 2021

SRI LANKA, 4S. Members of the Radio Society of Sri Lanka, formerly known as the Radio Society of Ceylon, celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary with stations adding /70 to their call signs. QSL via operators' instructions.

CYPRUS, 5B. Alex, 5B4ALX is QRV as C4XMAS during the month of December. QSL via IZ4AMS.

SPAIN, EA. Special event station AO50UPC is QRV until December 30 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya. QSL direct. OGASAWARA, JD1. Harry, JG7PSJ is QRV as JD1BMH from Chichijima,IOTA AS-031, and plans to be here until January 9, 2021 unless plans change. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL direct to home call.

ALASKA, KL7. Jim, KL7KK is QRV from Bethel and is generally active on 80 meters using SSB around 1500 to 1600z and then from 1700 to 1900z, daily. QSL to home call. NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event station PH20XMAS is QRV until January 3, 2021. Special event station PH21HNY is QRV until January 31, 2021. QSL both calls via bureau. SLOVENIA, S5. Members of the Radio Club Elektron Brezice are QRV with special event station S520SAFE until January 31, 2021 to support the STAY SAFE campaign and to express their gratitude to medical staff and care workers. QSL direct to S56IPS. POLAND, SP. Members of team SP2PBM are QRV with special event callsign HF2021HNY until January 10, 2021. QSL via SP2PBM. GREECE, SV. Nine multi operator special event stations, SX1A, SX2A,SX3A, SX4A, SX5A from Dodecanese, SX6A, SX7A, SX8A, and SX9A from Crete, are QRV in the countdown towards celebrations of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hellenic War of Independence in 1821. QSL via operators' instructions. SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, Y11DZ is QRV as Z81D from Juba. Activity is on 80 to 10

meters, and possibly 160 meters, using SSB and FT8. QSL via OM3JW.

73's & Gud DX, Jerry, W9KTP

Bruce Draper, AA5B, aa5b.corral@gmail.com

### **Contest Corral**

### January 2021

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at **www.arrl.org/contest-calendar**. Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start - Finish								
Date-Time Date-		<u> </u>						
Гim				Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	0000		0100	3.5	AGB New Year Snowball Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr (if any)	qsl.net/eu1eu/agb_nysb.htm
1	0800	1	1100	3.5, 7	SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, name, happy new year in native language	sartg.com/contest/nyrules.htm
1	1500		1800	3.5-28	QRP ARCI New Years Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrparci.org
2	0000	2	2359	3.5-28	PODXS 070 Club PSKFest	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
2	1200	3	1200	1.8-28	WW PMC Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), PMC abbreviation or CQ zone	www.s59dcd.si/index.php/sl
2	1500	3	1500	3.5-14	Original QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, power category	qrpcc.de/contestrules/oqrpr.html
2	1800	2	2359	3.5-14, 18, 21, 24, 28, 2 repeaters	ARRL Kids Day	Ph	Name, age, QTH, favorite color	www.arrl.org/kids-day
2	1800	3	2359	3.5-28	ARRL RTTY Roundup	Dig	W/VE: RST, state/province. Non-W/VE: RST, serial	www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup
2	2000	3	0700	1.8	EUCW 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, name, EUCW club info or "NM"	www.eucw.org/eu160.html
4	0000	4	0100	3.5-14	K1USN Slow Speed Test	CW	Name, SPC, 20 WPM max.	k1usn.com/sst.html
5	0200	5	0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com
6	1300	6	1400	1.8-28	CWops Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name, mbr or SPC	cwops.org/cwops-tests
6	1700	6	2000	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest		4-character grid square	ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
6	1900	6	2000	1.8-28	CWops Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name, mbr or SPC	cwops.org/cwops-tests
6	2000	6	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	6-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com
6	2300	10	2300	1.8-7	AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest	CW	RST, eqpt year, input power	antiquewireless.org
7	0300	7	0400	1.8-28	CWops Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name, mbr or SPC	cwops.org/cwops-tests
7	1800	7	2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrrlcontest.no
7	2000	7	2200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
9	0000	9	2359	3.5-28	YB DX Contest	Ph	RS, serial	ybdxcontest.com
9	0500	9	0900	3.5-28	Old New Year Contest	CW Ph	RST, sum of operator age and years on the air	radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results

9	1200	10	1200	3.5-28	UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest	Dig	RSQ, UBA section or serial	uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
9	1200	10	2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CŴ	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
9	1800			1.8-28	North American QSO Party, CW	CW	Name, state/DC/province/country	www.ncjweb.com
10				/	NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, 2-letter Fylke/ Lan/Province/Region	www.nraubaltic.eu
10				28	DARC 10-Meter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, DOK (if DOK)	www.darc.de
10	0900	10		3.5,7	NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, 2-letter Fylke/ Lan/Province/Region	www.nraubaltic.eu
11	0000				K1USN Slow Speed Test	CW	Name, SPC, 20 WPM max.	k1usn.com/sst.html
11	0100			1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
13					VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest		4-char grid square	ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
16					Hungarian DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 2-letter HA county or serial	ha-dx.com/en/contest-rules
16	1200				PRO Digi Contest	Dig	RST, serial, "/M" if member	procontestclub.ro/PDC%20Rules.html
16	1800		0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, SSB	Ph	Name, state/DC/province/country	www.ncjweb.com
16			0559	1.8-28	NA Collegiate Championship, SSB	Ph	Name, state/DC/province/country	w9smc.com/nacc
16	1900			1.8	WAB 1.8 MHz Phone/CW	CW Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or serial	wab.intermip.net
16	1900	18	0359	50 and up	ARRL January VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-character grid square	www.arrl.org/january-vhf
16	2000		0559	-	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
17	2300			1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
18	0000			3.5-14	K1USN Slow Speed Test	CW	Name, SPC, 20 WPM max.	k1usn.com/sst.html
21	0130		0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
23	1200			3.5-28	BARTG RTTY Sprint	Dig	Serial	bartg.org.uk
23	1200			3.5-28	UK/EI DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, district code (if UK/EI)	www.ukeicc.com
25	0000			3.5-14	K1USN Slow Speed Test	CW	Name, SPC, 20 WPM max.	k1usn.com/sst.html
27	0000		0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
27	2000		2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	6-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com
28	0130			1.8	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
29	2200	-	2200	1.8	CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	CW	RST, SP or CQ zone	www.cq160.com
30	0600				REF Contest, CW	CW	RST, French dept/prefix or serial	concours.r-e-f.org/contest/
30	1300	-		3.5-28	UBA DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, ON province (if ON)	uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
30	1900	31	1900	All	Winter Field Day	No FT4/8	Category, ARRL section (or "DX")	winterfieldday.com

There are a number of weekly contests not included in the table above. For more info, visit: www.qrpfoxhunt.org, www.ncccsprint.com, and www.cwops.org.

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Contests are not conducted on the 60-, 30-, 17-, or 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or *NCJ*. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.contestcalendar.com and is extracted for public cation in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service.

**Thanks Jerry, W9KTP** 

www.arrl.org QST January 2021 75

# NWI DX Club Member ARRL DX Century Club Scorecard

(As of December 31, 2020)

The ARRL DXCC certificate is awarded to amateurs who submit confirmations for contacts with 100 or more entities on the ARRL DXCC List. As of 21 January 2018, there were 340 current entities on the list. The DXCC Honor Roll includes those who are within 9 entities of that figure (or 331 entities) for the Mixed, Phone, CW and RTTY awards. A "Top of the Honor Roll Award" plaque is presented to those who have contacted and confirmed all 340 current entities.

The listing of the DXCC membership contains the call signs and exact credited totals by endorsement level. Awards and Credits are NOT activated automatically; participants must apply to have a particular award or Credit (band, mode etc.) activated when the qualifying number of confirmed contacts are obtained.

The totals were abstracted from the ARRL DXCC Standings lists. <u>http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-standings</u>

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.

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

K9FN	DAVID BUNTE	Honor Roll	363
AG9S	JAMES R SJOBERG, JR	Honor Roll	354
N9RD	JÜERGEN NITTNER	Honor Roll	352
W9UM	NICHOLAS G COMINOS	Honor Roll	351
<b>W9KTP</b>	JEROME E HESS	Honor Roll	351
K9LA	CARL LUETZELSCHWAB	Honor Roll	351
AJ9C	MIKE KASRICH	Honor Roll	351
N9FN	DAVE CHASEY	Honor Roll	347
KD9HL	STEVE MOLLMAN	Honor Roll	345

K9SUH	KENNETH REISING	330
ND9A	JOHN SIKORA	320
K9WWT	GEORGE D KELLY	320
W3ML	JOHN POINDEXTER	319
AE9YL	VICKI LUETZELSCHWAB	316
N7GVV	JAMES RAISLER	313
W8FIB	TOM RUGGLES	303
WA9JNO	EARL GUMM	293
W1PIT	ALAN PITTS	287
K9DE	ROBERT J NELLANS	260
N9DD	THOMAS E FRISZ	237
N9ID	MICHAEL P STRONG	230
K9MV	PAUL COREY	207
K9KJ	THOMAS A JOHNSON, JR	197
KB9ALG	JERRY JANCO	162
N9ITB	JACK ALBERT	159
N9HSB	CLIFFORD BELZ	155
WB9FQS	LARRY A BRECHNER	153
AB9QU	BILL CARTER	149
AB9RY	THOMAS BREYMEYER	144
K9MQ	MARK SKOWRONSKI	144
KA9FAX	ANTHONY KOSTELNIK	129
NA9U	JOHN M NASON	121
W9DZ	ALLEN JONES	120
WD4MSM	BARRY KEATING	115
KC9GTN	EDWARD P BENCHIK	110
N9AFU	MICHAEL BURDETT	109
W9ORW	ROBERT PENCE	106
KB9BIT	THOMAS M LASKOWSKI	105
KC9OYE	CHUCK HILL	103
WJ9Q	MARTIN DZIK	100
KC9TEW	JEFF KOHN	100

### Congratulations to all who added to their totals.

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## Midwest Derecho-August 2020

by Mark Obermann, AG9A (from ARRL contest update)

On August 10, 2020, a severe weather phenomenon known as a derecho developed over the Midwest, forming near the border of South Dakota and Nebraska. It traveled 770 miles at an average speed of 55 mph over five states before eventually dissipating over eastern Indiana and Ohio. Derecho means straight in Spanish and describes the fast moving and long lasting high straight-line speed wind storms that can generate hurricane force winds and produce tornados within the thunderstorms. While uncommon, they are generally most prevalent in the northern hemisphere during the months of June, July and August.

Wide swaths of the Midwest were affected, but the most severe damage occurred in several different areas along its path. The highest estimated wind speeds reached 140 mph (equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane) and took place over Iowa. One of the amateur stations that sustained heavy damage was the contest station of Toni Radebaugh, NØNI, located near Rippey, Iowa. The weather forecast for that day included a 30 percent chance of rain with no mention of severe storms. The storm arrived at around 11 AM. In the roughly 30-40 minutes that followed, ten towers were either lost or severely damaged affecting a total of thirty-five HF Yagis. With area winds estimated in excess of 100 mph, many trees, including seventeen 100-year-old cedars on the west side of the towers (and just out of view in the photos) snapped and landed on multiple guy wires. This caused the towers to bend and break, bringing down the towers, antennas and other nearby towers that may have been in the way. The towers and antennas outside of the tree line were not affected, including a homebrew full-size 3-element 40 meter Yagi at 196', a real testament to the robust design of the towers and antennas at Toni's station. Toni stated that he had not lost a tower in 43 years, but when he finally did, it was spectacular.

In addition to the tower damage, trees came down on the house and the surrounding corn fields were crushed by the winds resulting in a total loss of much of this year's crop.

Toni vows to rebuild a number of towers and antennas as that is his favorite thing to do in Amateur Radio. This time, they may not go up as high, and of course, they'll be spaced farther away from the remaining trees.





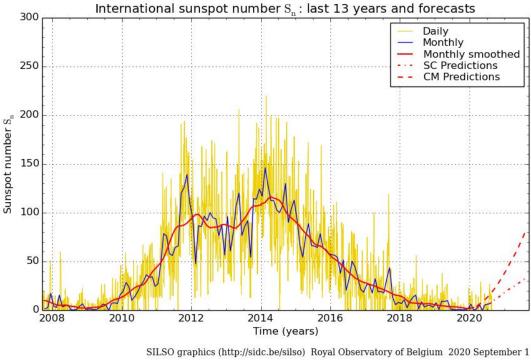




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## HOPE

Has anyone noticed we've had a shortage of sunspots ever since they kicked Pluto out of the solar system?



"Hope is the last thing to die", you can see hope in the far lower right of the graph.  $\triangleleft \Omega \triangleright$ 

## FCC Sets New Fees for Amateur Licenses

Licenses No Longer Free

On December 29, 2020 the FCC issued a new order instituting among other things, a new fee of \$35 for amateur licenses. The new fees will become effective 30 days after the order is published in the Federal Register. It is estimated the effective date will be about January 29, 2021.

Previously there was no charge for amateur radio licenses (including vanity licenses).

The complete FCC order is available at:

https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-184A1.pdf

Amateur radio is discussed beginning on Page 11 of the Order.

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### More on this new order

"The FCC also disagreed with the argument that the Amateur Radio Service should be exempt from fees because amateur radio operators provide emergency and public communications:

[The argument] that amateur radio licenses should be exempt under section 8(d)(1)(B) as they are "operating for all intents and purposes as non-profit entities" because they provide public safety and special emergency radio services in times of crisis on a volunteer basis. While we are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public, we do not agree that amateur radio licenses fit within the section 8(d)(1)(B) exemption Congress provided. These specific exemptions do not apply to the amateur radio personal licenses. Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules. Further, there is no indication that most or all amateurs solely use their license for emergency communications; even the section of our rules allowing certain amateur operators to broadcast civil defense communications limit such authorization to periods of local, regional or national civil emergencies. As we have noted previously, "[w]hile the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service."

#### This shows that they do not need ARES or RACES groups.

"This is a presentation to the Front Range 6 Meter Group by Dr. Scott McIntosh Nov 11, 2020 on this upcoming Solar Cycle 25. It's a fascinating look at how using 22 year Hale Cycles and their Terminators, we can better predict an upcoming solar cycle intensity like cycle 25 which could be in the top 5 since records began. Hope you enjoyed the presentation - I found it pretty interesting and exciting. - Paul NO0T/Bill WT0DX Frontrange6Meter.Group.IO"

#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lRNJPkQPo\_g&feature=youtu.be&ab\_channel=Pa ulSobon

## From Tom, W8FIB Subject: Radio 'hams': The legacy of Iraq's amateur operators lives on - The National

https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/mena/radio-hams-the-legacy-of-iraq-samateur-operators-lives-on-1.746047

I was sent this...I never heard of it. Looks interesting.

https://www.grz.com/db/II1DCC

## What a Real Pile-Up Looks Like





DX'ers aren't the only ones that experience pile-ups. These are photos of bird watchers chasing a "rare one". Conditions must be good!

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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%20man ual%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.

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

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.

Until Next Time, 73 John W3ML

http://nwidxclub.weebly.com/





