

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2020

President's Corner

Happy New Year!

I wish everyone a prosperous and healthy New Year.

We are looking at February 1st for the next meeting. Same place in Chesterton.

If you have a Show and Tell you would like to do at a meeting, please let me know and we can assign it to a meeting date.

73

John W3ML

Good DXing!

NWI DX Club Website

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



Don't forget Steve is out new QSL Card Checker.

DXCC Card Checking is available by appointment and may be available at meetings. E-Mail kd9hl@arrl.net for an appointment or to make other arrangements.

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@arri.net

QSL cards are available.

Notice:

Articles in the Northwest Indiana DX Club Newsletter (except for those separately copyrighted) may be reprinted, provided proper credit is given.

DX LISTINGS FOR JANUARY 2020

2-Dec	2020 Jan05	Ecuador	HC5AGT	2020 Jan05	2020 Jan11	St Lucia	J6
2019 Dec12	2019 Dec31	Honduras	HR5	2020 Jan05	2020 Jan11	St Kitts & Nevis	V4
2019 Dec14	2020 Jan08	Thailand	HS0ZNR	2020 Jan06	2020 Jan12	Palestine	E44RU
2019 Dec21	2019 Dec28	Liechtenstein	HB0	2020 Jan07	2020 Jan13	Palau	T88AQ
2019 Dec21	2019 Dec31	Rotuma	3D2AG/p	2020 Jan09	2020 Jan14	Bermuda	VP9
2019 Dec22	2020 Jan03	Ogasawara	JD1BMH	2020 Jan09	2020 Jan15	Montserrat	VP2MDT
2019 Dec27	2020 Jan17	Gambia	C5SP	2020 Jan11	2020 Jan19	Cayman Is	ZF2PG

2019 Dec28	2019 Dec31	Easter I	CE0Y	2020 Jan12	2020 Jan31	Norfolk I	VK9NK
2019 Dec28	2020 Jan02	Algeria	7X7X	2020 Jan15	2020 Jan23	Palau	T8
2019 Dec31	2020 Jan02	Iceland	TF	2020 Jan20	2020 Feb09	Cocos I	TI9
2020 Jan02	2020 Jan07	Cyprus SBA	ZC4UW	2020 Jan28	2020 Feb07	Gambia	C5XW
2020 Jan03	2020 Jan23	Maldives	8Q7BS	2020 Jan30	2020 Feb13	El Salvador	HU1DL

By permission of NG3K, <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>
 From the ARRL WEEKLY DX LISTING; Nothing available on 12/28
 73's and good DXing,
 Jerry, W9KTP



By: Sergio Valdes

Jerry Hess has a passion for connecting with people. In fact, he has made contact with people in more than 300 countries around the world. But not how you would think.

“I have reached out to all 340 countries that are recorded by ham radio,” Hess said. “There are only a few hundred people in the world who have ever done that.”

Hess, 77, is a retired electrical engineer with a master’s and P.E. certification, though his lifelong passion is working on amateur, or ham, radio. It has opened the door for him to interact with dozens of interesting and unique individuals from places as far away as Africa and North Korea. Ham radio is a popular pastime and service that brings people, electronics, and communication together. Spanning the globe, ham radio can be used for fun, education, and even as a lifeline during times of need or disaster.

“I talked to one guy in South Sudan who had equipped his radio to a camel he was riding,” Hess said.

Hess attributes his love for radio to his childhood experiences in Boy Scouts, where he learned various techniques and even Morse code, which has been a vital tool in his 62 years of ham radio work.

“We didn’t have a lot of money back then, so I had to build my own equipment,” Hess said. “Thankfully I had a lot of experienced mentors, including my father, who were able to guide me.”

To become an amateur radio operator, individuals must have a command of radio technology and operating regulations and principles. Then, they must pass a technical examination to obtain a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license to operate on radio frequencies known as the amateur bands, which are allocated by the FCC for use by ham radio operators.

“There is a whole network of stations that help during things like natural disasters and marathons, as well as simpler things like recreation and hobbies,” he said. “There’s one man who hooks up a radio to a helium balloon and sends it up about 100,000 feet. He does this with youngsters to pique their interest in ham radio.”

Hess is the vice president of the Northwest Indiana DX Club (NWIDX). Founded in 2012, the NWIDX serves to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to conduct club programs and activities to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in the community. Hess writes articles for the monthly newsletter.

“I’m really pleased to be where I’m at today,” Hess said, “It’s been a challenge to get through, but I’m proud of my accomplishments and how far I’ve come. It’s a nice feeling.”

In addition to ham radio, Hess is also interested in wood-working and astronomy. Before retirement, he helped bring several steel mills online throughout the Midwest and is the owner of several patents. He and his wife Laura have a daughter and son-in-law, Amanda and Mike Petrucelli, and two grandchildren, Madeline and Calvin. He has been a loyal Harley-Davidson rider for decades. While Hess is a master at contacting people worldwide on ham radio, his daughter Amanda joked recently that he deleted his Facebook account because it’s annoying.

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NWI DX Club Member ARRL DX Century Club Scorecard

(As of December 31, 2019)

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. <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.

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	JUERGEN NITTNER	Honor Roll	352
W9UM	NICHOLAS G COMINOS	Honor Roll	351
W9KTP	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		311
W8FIB	TOM RUGGLES		303
WA9JNO	EARL GUMM		289
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
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
AB9RY	THOMAS BREYMEYER		100

Congratulations to all who have added to their totals.



FWDXA article for the NWIDXC – number 2
Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

CQ WW DX CW Contest 2019

The 2019 running of the CQ WW DX CW contest was on November 23 and 24, 2019 (a week before the Thanksgiving weekend). I decided to see how many zones and countries I could work on 80m with my quarter-wave vertical for transmit, my Commander HF-1250 (about 1000 Watts out) and my SAL-20 Shared Apex Loop for receive.

I put in 3 hours Friday evening from the contest start at 0000 UTC to 0300 UTC. I ended up with 11 zones and 36 countries. I got on for an hour and a half Saturday morning before our sunrise and added 5 more zones and 5 more countries. The total was now 16 zones and 41 countries.

Vicky and I went to the Boston College – Notre Dame football game on Saturday November 23, and we arrived back home about 9:00 PM. I had planned to operate Saturday night, but I was tired (and still cold!) and went to bed soon thereafter without even turning on the radio.

I operated for about 40 minutes Sunday morning prior to sunrise. Three more zones and 3 more countries were added for a total of 19 zones and 44 countries. I returned to the contest at 2230 UTC Sunday evening, and the last hour and a half resulted in 1 more zone and 15 more countries for the grand total of 20 zones and 59 countries for about 6 hours of operating time.

So how did I do compared to others? See the accompanying table for what K3LR, W3LPL, K9CT and K9NW (at K9UWA's QTH) did.

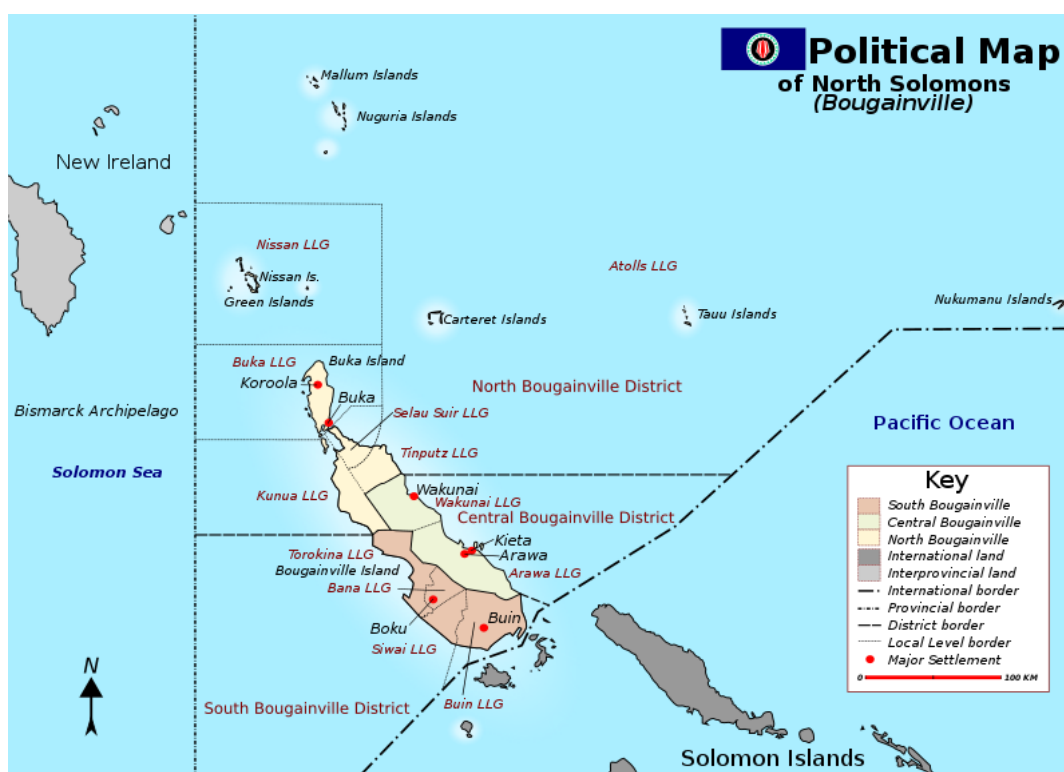
Of course, the two big East Coast Multi-Multi stations (K3LR and W3LPL) had the most zones and countries – they had stations on 80m all the time and they're closer to EU. K9CT did pretty good, too, although they're in the Midwest and they were a Multi/2 entry. K9NW took advantage of K9UWA's great antennas and his operating skill in the Single-Op/All-Band category, and ended up with a very decent 80m effort from the Midwest.

In summary, I don't feel too bad about my effort in the Single-Op/Single-Band category. I know I missed many "easy" countries by operating only 6 hours. Some good catches were 3B8M, 6V7A and P33W in big pile-ups. I struggled to work a JA Sunday morning, but finally worked JA3YBK around sunrise. Several VKs, a ZL, several KH6s and KL7RA also ended up in the log – they were relatively easy.

	state	zones	countries	category
K3LR	PA	34	123	M/M
W3LPL	MD	36	127	M/M
K9CT	IL	33	118	M/2
K9NW at K9UWA	IN	25	90	SOAB
K9LA	IN	20	59	SOSB

Bougainville: Will it become the world's next country? An Update

More than 200,000 registered voters on the Islands of Bougainville, part of the Papua New Guinea (PNG) cast their ballots to choose between "greater autonomy within PNG or full independence." Bougainville Islands voted overwhelmingly (98%) for independence from Papua New Guinea. The government of Papua New Guinea has not yet announced what they are going to do.



For more information: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/12/11/asia/bougainville-papua-new-guinea-intl-hnk/index.html>



Tom W8FIB submitted a couple of items.

USB Charging Cubes and Cables: Bill's tests prove that not all are created equal | The SWLing Post

<https://swling.com/blog/2019/12/usb-charging-cubes-and-cables-bills-tests-prove-that-not-all-are-created-equal/>

Tom W8FIB said my friend and college study partner Mike, AI8Z

Attached are some (bad) photos of the Marconi Tee antenna recently installed at AI8Z. The top hat is 120 ft. each leg, sloping downward to a height of 10 ft. at the end insulators. The vertical wire is 70 feet long, sloping downward from the 73-foot-tall support mast to the "helix hut" about sixteen feet from the base of the mast. The matching network inside the hut consists of a vacuum variable set to about 270 pF (series element) and about 80 uH with an EF Johnson loading coil (shunt element). The counterpoise consists of runs of galvanized steel fencing surrounding the orchard that roughly parallels the antenna Tee. The hut has two entry insulators, one for the antenna lead and the other for the ground. I installed the one for the ground lead in case I want to try an elevated counterpoise system, like the one used by Rudy N6LF to reduce ground loss.

The antenna current measures 2.3 A on the load side with about 50 watts into the antenna matching network. That is a slight improvement over the 2.0 A measured in the Nederland QTH antenna system. It used a ground system consisting of 18 random length insulated copper radials concentrated beneath the 340 ft. inverted L antenna.

The support mast is made of thick-wall aluminum tubing lengths obtained at a local salvage yard. It is guyed at the top and middle with four guy ropes at each location. It was raised in October 2018 using the "falling derrick" method recommended by Ken WB9QDL and Ralph W5JGV. Several hours were spent rigging the guys, ropes, and pulleys to raise the mast but the actual operation took about 5 minutes with Jan N8SEW as observer and myself on the lawn tractor. It went up without a hitch! The hut is made of wood and the matching network supports are made of ceramic and plexiglass to minimize impact to inductor Q.

Antenna and Helix Hut



Wooden Helix Hut (Jan calls it the "rabbit hutch")



Matching Network (L-Network to match from 50 ohms to $3 - j300$ ohms). The knife switch protects the RF Thermocouple Ammeter.



Jurgen Nittner sent in this request.

A friend of mine in Trinidad is looking for an Amp. Nothing special just good 1500W like a pair of 3-500Z's and he likes it to be under \$1000. shipping would be to Miami FL. Please keep your ears open in case you run into something and let me know.
73, Juergen N9RD

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://nwidclub.weebly.com/>



DX

