

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 3, Issue 7

July 2015

President's Corner

Field Day was this weekend, hope some of you participated. I was with the local county club on Saturday, as that was all we wanted to do. We made over 100 contacts.

The last meeting was on the 13th. Not as big a crowd as we have had in the past.

Do we need to change places or what to get more to come? Please let me know your thoughts.

73
John, W3ML

Happy DXing!

Don't Forget

DXCC CARD CHECKING

Doctor Richard Lochner, K9CIV has been appointed an Official ARRL DXCC Card Checker. Contact Rich to schedule an appointment for card checking.

You may email him at k9civ@arrl.net for details on how to mail your cards to him, if you desire to go that route.



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

NWI DX Club Website

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

Member News

If you have any news to tell, please send it to me so I can send it to the group.

N2OO Online QSL Request Service (OQRS)

“Bob, N2OO, is the QSL manager for over 100 DX stations and DXpeditions. You can QSL the old fashioned way too! For full information on all ways for QSLing via N2OO, please visit Bob’s QSL information page.

If you have worked one or more of these DX stations and still need QSLs we offer you an Online QSL Request Form to request your QSL(s).

You can request more than one QSL at one time. Your QSL card(s) are automatically mailed to you or automatically sent through the QSL bureau. You do not need to send us your card!”

<http://df3cb.com/oqrs/n2oo/>

[Watch the first full-color HD videos of Earth from space](#)



Watch the first full-color HD videos of Earth from space

An HD camera mounted to the International Space Station (ISS) released its first videos of Earth from space. And they’re pretty impressive...

[View on www.ecnmag.com](http://www.ecnmag.com)

Preview by Yahoo

Woody Woodpecker

(Soviet PR at Work)

By Steve Mollman

KD9HL

Thirty-six years ago, July 1979 marked the beginning of a dark period for DX. This was when the Soviet “Duga 3 OTH HF RADAR” began transmissions that would plague HF radio users all over the world for years. Operation continued until late 1989. The Duga 3 was commonly known as the “Russian Woodpecker”. Over its lifetime, numerous conspiracy theories abounded, including a group that claimed it was a plot for mind control. However, its true purpose was over the horizon (OTH) detection of missile launches from NATO countries (including the USA and the Navy’s ballistic missile submarines).

This massive transmit antenna system is located within the nuclear contaminated Chernobyl Exclusion Zone of Ukraine. The receive antenna was located about 37 miles away. Although details are lacking, the design appears to be multiple stacked cage dipoles fed by a form of ladder line. This would be a way to accommodate the 40Khz wide bandwidth the “woodpecker” exhibited. It generally transmitted over



frequencies ranging from 7 to 19 MHz. Radiated Transmit power was estimated at 10 Mega Watts.

Transmissions would suddenly appear, sounding like a sharp repetitive tapping noise, which led ham radio operators to nicknaming it the “Russian Woodpecker”. The strong signals and the random frequency-hopping operating pattern severely disrupted legitimate amateur radio communications.

Trying to combat the interference, some amateur radio operators attempted to "jam" the signal by sending CW signals synchronized to the same pulse rate as the offending signal. This was reported to have some success. Participants even formed a club called “The Russian Woodpecker Hunting Club”.

A second and identical facility was located near the city of Komsomolsk-na-Amure in the Russian Far East.

The Woodpecker is gone but today there are a number of OTH radars in operation or experimental stage. The USA, Australia, France, China, Russia, Iran and others are known to have OTH programs. The most notorious of the current OTH operations for amateur radio interference is the “Chinese Dragon” emitting from several sites within Mainland China. One of its favorite frequencies seems to be the 75/80-meter DX windows. There is also a signal that often sweeps broad portions of the 10-meter band with a warbling noise. This has been rumored to be from either Iran or China.



The photos were taken from a remotely controlled drone. In the first photo, note what appears to be a Soviet era statue on a service platform! Is it a post cold war addition or just an individual daring the heights and radiation? The site was opened to limited tours in 2002.

The original Woody Woodpecker was an inane movie cartoon character of the 1940's known for his distinctively irritating “voice” and for going insane without a legitimate reason. An apt description of the Russian version.

For more information see:

<http://www.newsweek.com/hunt-russian-woodpecker-246670>

For a comprehensive inventory of OTH radar operations as of August 2013:

<http://www.iarums-r1.org/iarums/radar-2013.pdf>

Editor Note: In reference to the article above, Roy Crosier AC9DN sent these links in some time ago.

<http://randombio.com/interference.html>

This one has sample examples of different foreign radar sounds:

http://www.sigidwiki.com/wiki/Signal_Identification_Guide

Submitted by Tom , W8FIB

QSO/SWL real time maps - W2LN - 50

Send formatted DX spots indicating clearly both locators and the type or propagation! The rest of information is useless and it doesn't interest anybody. Make sure your locator is OK in the callbook

[View on www.dxmaps.com](http://www.dxmaps.com)

Preview by Yahoo

<http://www.dxmaps.com/spots/map.php>

Submitted by Tom, W9QN

One of the fellows on the Collins net mentioned this website to follow HF band conditions. It updates every 30 seconds:

<http://www.bandconditions.com/>

Member Profile

Earl Gumm – WA9JNO

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

Never holding a novice ticket, Earl Gumm – WA9JNO was first licensed in 1963 as a Technician. In September of 1982 he traveled to the downtown Chicago FCC office and passed both the General and Advanced class exams the same day. Upgrade to Extra Class came in 2000. He also holds a 1st Class Radio Telephone Commercial License.

Earl's early interest in electronics came from his father -WB9OPP (SK), who repaired radios and TV's in his spare time and a father/son hobby of radio controlled model airplanes. After first building and flying "u-control" models as a young teenager, Earl and his father graduated to RC models. The first airplane was controlled by a Babcock one-tube super-regenerative system. After working for a few months dealing with the Babcock's idiosyncrasies (and many crashes), they graduated to the latest technology of the late 1950's, a CG Electronics transistorized tone modulated system that worked well. Both the Babcock and CG used CB frequencies that were sometimes plagued with interference and other difficulties.



Receiving a Knight single channel CB as a high school graduation gift, exposure came to two-way communications. That quickly led to the amateur license. Having a Technician's license allowed Earl to control

his models using the nearly interference free amateur 6-meter band. He then spent \$30 to purchase a surplus Motorola strip and converted that to 2-meters. Motorola's dynamotor power was scrapped and a new linear AC power supply was built with pieces from his Dad's junk box. This had him on FM voice and working the local repeaters.

For many years interest was primarily in rag chewing. The DX bug came because of a fluke occurrence. The ham-shack sits in a corner of the Family Room. One evening, his wife Mary walked by and heard the bedlam of a pile-up. Asked what was going on, Earl explained the reason for all of the noise was the many ham stations trying to make a contact with a DX station in Fiji (3D2). She challenged Earl to try his luck. Much to his surprise, the DX came back to his 100 watts and a new DX'er was hooked. A little pistol can beat the pileup! This first contact was made using a Kenwood TS 520S and a KLM KT34A tri-bander at 48 feet.

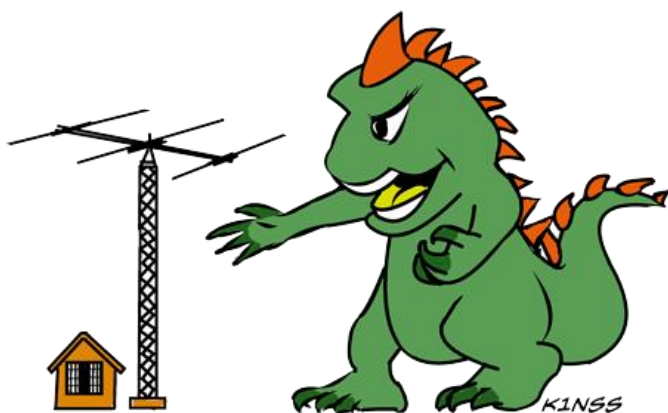
Today the setup is a Kenwood TS 590 with an Ameritron AL-82 amplifier. Antennas include a Force 12 C19XR tri-bander for 10-15-20 meters and a dipole for 40 and 80 meters. A tuner is used with the tri-bander for 12 and 17 meters. An Ameritron AL-80 amplifier is in reserve.

Besides the modern equipment, Earl has a warm spot for vintage Collins equipment such as his 75S-3 receiver and 30L-1 amplifier.

The present country count is 249 worked and 244 confirmed. Two sidelines are working for the "Worked All Europe" award and QRP DX. Using less than 5 watts he has 140 entities worked.

Earl's working career was spent at the US Steel Gary Works where he first started as a summer worker before entering college. After graduating from Purdue-Calumet's electrical engineering technology program, he became part of management in the electrical maintenance department. Retirement came in 2002.

Are the model airplanes still flying? An emphatic yes! He is still on the 6 meter RC sub-band but is now using FM. Earl's "air force" is ready to go.



The CW Dog...

Received in an email from W9QN

During a recent Saturday afternoon drive around Greene County I happened down a back road near the 'Coon River. I saw a sign in front of a broken down aging farmhouse that read, "Talking Dog for Sale."

Well, that made me curious so I stopped to see what the deal was. In the yard there is a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting.

"You talk?" I asked.

"Yep," the Lab replies.

Well, after I got over the shock of hearing a dog talk, I asked "So, what's your story?"

"Ah shucks there ain't much to tell. Is that a screwdriver antenna on your truck out there?"

"How did you know that," I asked?

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I'm a ham radio operator. I got my ticket when I was a young pup. In no time at all I had my 5-band DXCC in Phone and CW. The CIA heard about me and asked me to do spy work for them. I would hang around the communications centers and with my keen hearing could copy the transmissions. Because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years. Copying high speed CW all day really tired me and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the CIA (8 dog years is 56 CIA years) and joined a ham radio club. In fact I won first place in the Iowa QSO Party two years in a row. Then I had a mess of puppies and got away from Ham Radio for a while. I sure miss my radio. Why don't you buy me and I'll be your CW operator in the next DX 'test.."

I said "let me see what I can do."

I went back in and asked the owner what he wanted for the dog.

"Ten dollars," the old farmer says.

"Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He's just a No Code Extra."

Announced DX Operations

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

NORTHWEST INDIANA DX CLUB

W9NWI



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

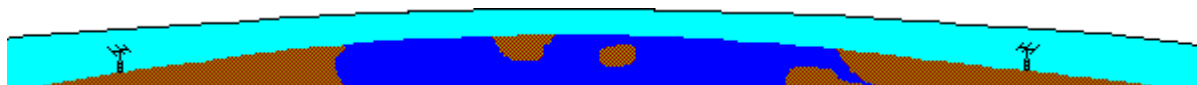


Radio	Confirming QSO				PSE QSL <input type="checkbox"/> TNX QSL <input type="checkbox"/>		
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	RST	MHz	MODE

www.cheapqsls.com

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

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



Until Next Time,

73

John

W3ML

