

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 4, Issue 3

March 2016

President's Corner

Old man winter hit us hard, there has been some great DX makes for a good time. South Sandwich and South Georgia upheld their reputation as not so nice places to spend a vacation, hi hi.

For me, it was tough getting them due to equipment failures popping up. But luckily with the help of Tom, W9FIB one night by providing real time QSX emails for 30 meters, I was able to get them. Now they have been chased off this island too, by the nasty weather.

Next up is Heard Is. and Juan de Nova Is.

Our next meeting will be March 26th at the Viking Chili Bowl in Valparaiso. 12 o'clock, central time.

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.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 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.

Any member planning to come to the meeting, please email John at w3ml@w3ml.com. I need a count of individuals coming.

How cops are catching grow ops with AM radios

Many ham operators can locate a grow simply by taking a radio and portable antennae out into their neighborhood and using the radio to triangulate the exact location of the grow

Feb 4, 2015

With the proliferation of indoor marijuana grows, the indoor “horticulture” industry has been booming. Chinese manufacturers are turning out indoor grow equipment at a rapid pace with little to no regulatory oversight or compliance. Because of this, there has been a significant amount of radio frequency interference (RFI).

Before we get into how to detect a marijuana grow with your car radio, you have to understand some simple mechanics of how a grow operates. To grow marijuana indoors, you need supplemental lighting necessary for photosynthesis. These lights may be fluorescent, LED, and for larger operations, high pressure sodium (HPS) or metal halide (MH).

The HPS and MH lamps may be 1000W per lamp and require a ballast for proper operation. These ballasts were originally magnetic but in the past few years have become electronic. These devices are subject to FCC part 18 rules but there appears to be a total disregard for the FCC rules. Many (if not most) electronic ballasts are manufactured in China and may have little ‘FCC’ stickers on them but there is no evidence of any testing for compliance having been done. Because of this, a large amount of RFI is interfering with nearby electronics. As an example, one grow next to a CalFire station — California’s state fire agency — caused a continuous hum over the station’s callbox speaker and interfered with them receiving radio broadcasts over their station’s PA.

Ham Radio Helpers

Reports have begun to flood into the National Association for Amateur Radio about interference with their ham radios from their neighbor’s marijuana grows. The most complaints come from California and Colorado, for obvious reasons. Many ham radio operators began to see a correlation with marijuana grows and this RFI.

One amateur radio operator located five marijuana grows near his house due to RFI alone! Many ham operators can locate a grow simply by taking a radio and portable antennae out into their neighborhood and using the radio to triangulate the exact location of the grow.

One industrious ham operator went to his local grow shop and borrowed several lights and ballasts to test for RFI. He found that one light and ballast set up would cause interference up to 700 meters. From our experience, we know that most indoor grows have more than one light and ballast, which would amplify the RFI.

Pioneering Field Use

One narcotics officer from the San Francisco Bay Area turns his car radio to 560 AM when he checks out potential indoor grows. He's checked out seven indoor marijuana grows since learning about the RFI issue. All seven times, the car's radio showed significant interference from the ballasts inside of the grow location.

One ham radio operator described the interference this way: "It can be pops, it can be a buzzing sound, whistles — just all kinds of different noises that we'll hear."

Tom Thompson, a ham radio operator, told a Colorado newspaper, "If I can track this down, anybody can track this down. If I listen long enough, I can tell when they turn the lights off... You can tell exactly when the harvest is."

This method of finding marijuana grows isn't fool proof, but it can be another useful tool in your toolbox.

About the author

Keith Graves has been a Police Officer in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1990 and is currently a sergeant assigned to patrol. Keith is a Drug Recognition Expert Instructor (IACP #3292) and teaches both the DRE course and the CNOA Drug Abuse Recognition Course. Keith has also taught at the Basic Police Academy and has developed a number of POST certified drug courses. Keith has held assignments as a Narcotics/Vice Detective, COPPS Officer, Traffic Officer, Training Sergeant, Patrol Sergeant and SWAT Team Leader. Keith has taught thousands of officers and businesses about drug use, drug trends, compliance training and drug investigations. [Graves & Associates](#) provides training and consulting services to law enforcement, probation, parole, corrections as well as corporate partners.

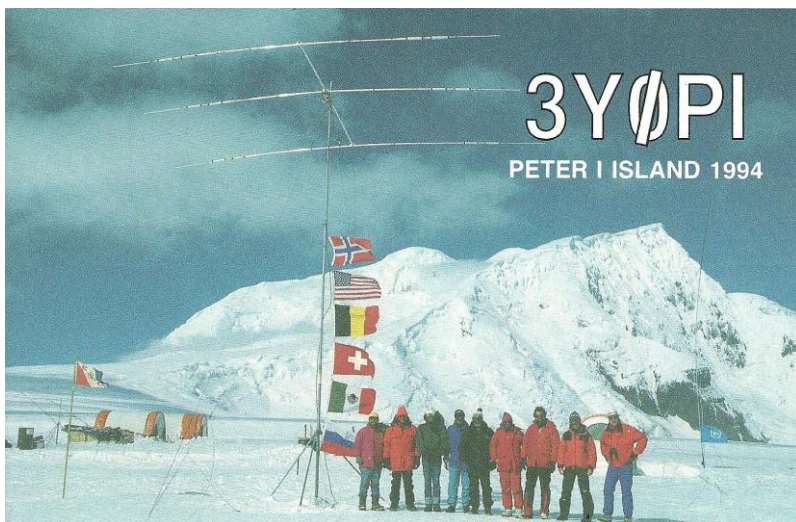
Law enforcement (Active or Retired Police, Federal Agent, Probation/Parole, Corrections, Intel, CSI, etc.) are invited to sign up for Keith's [monthly newsletters](#).

You can interact with Keith on social media on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

[Contact Keith Graves.](#)

Meeting is March 26th. Hope to see you all there.

QSL Card of the Month
A collection of the old, new, rare, exotic and interesting
Peter I Island – 3Y0/P
February 1994



Club Log 2016 Most Wanted Rank: 20

CQ zone: 12 ITU Zone: 72

Continent: AN

Primary prefix: 3Y/P

Location: -68.50°N -90.58°E

Beam Headings from Northwestern Indiana: 181°/1° 7621mi / 17238mi

Peter I Island (IOTA AN-004) is an uninhabited volcanic island in the Bellingshausen Sea, 450 kilometers (280 mi.) from Antarctica. It is claimed as a dependency of Norway and along with Queen Maud Land and Bouvet Island (IOTA AN-002) comprises one of the three Norwegian dependent territories in the Antarctic and Subantarctic. Peter I Island is 11 by 19 kilometers (6.8 by 11.8 mi) long and 156 square kilometers (60-sq. mi.). The tallest peak is the 1,640-meter (5,380 ft) tall Lars Christensen Peak. Nearly the entire island is covered by a glacier and it is surrounded most of the year by pack ice and glaciers making it inaccessible almost all year round. There is little life on the island apart from seabirds and seals.

The first ever-actual landing on the island was by a Norwegian polar expedition in 1929.

For more information on the 3Y0PI Dxpedition, see the November 1994 issue of QST magazine. 3Y0X was the last to visit the island in 2006. *73's!*

Interesting LINKS

Tom, W8FIB has sent in some more links for you to enjoy.

[Ham Radios: The First Social Network](#)



Ham Radios: The First Social Network

View on www.youtube.com

Preview by Yahoo

<http://www.dxwanted.net/> is another site submitted.

From the Maury County (Tennessee) Amateur Radio Club - <http://www.w4ggm.org/> - February 2016 newsletter, I found the following information:

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

"This is the place to go to read past radio publications. If you are old like some of us you can re-read those Popular

Electronic and Electronics Illustrated magazines you read over 50 years ago!"



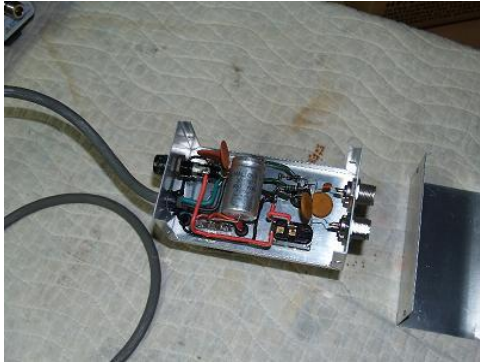
Scroll down to "TECHNICAL: Consumer Electronics - Modern Era " and you will find twenty magazine titles like those above. If you click on the image of a particular magazine, it will take you to a menu listing the available issues and then clicking on the appropriate checkmark will bring in the pdf file for that issue. If you click on "Searchable" next to the magazine image, it will bring up a search engine for that magazine.

My first ham radio homebrew project was an electronic T/R switch from one of these magazines. Somewhere in deepest-darkest corners of my stash of junk, I still have the magazine. I couldn't remember which publication or which issue, but I could remember what the cover looked like. After a few minutes of searching, I located the October-November, 1966 issue of Radio-TV Experimenter and there was my T/R Switch on the cover along with a Novice transmitter that I dreamed of building (maybe I should still do that).

Check out the website, I am sure that you will find it interesting.

Here are a couple of photos of the T/R switch that I built from that article when I was a Novice. I used it with a Hallicrafters SX-101A receiver and a Heathkit DX-60B transmitter that I borrowed from Rollie, K9VCM. The T/R switch worked great.





Download the October-November, 1966 issue of Radio-TV Experimenter and see how well I did.

73',

de Tom, W9QN

Roy, AC9DN sent these two items:

<http://www.ohio.edu/people/posttr/mrt/>

Here is a link to one of the more complete radio/TV history museums in the US. Note especially that in the ham radio section (click the yellow boxes at the end of the page) there is documentation of the station and Century Club effort of Al Hix, W8AH.

The "Turtle Group" of Spain is having a special event through the end of February, but they show up all year long. Their mission is put their country on the air for slower CW operators. On QRZ, search for EG1TOR.

Here is the announcement courtesy of The Daily DX:

EA - Spain -

Promoting CW and especially encouraging newcomers, who may be "slower" with Morse Code, like turtles (and that's okay!) is a group calling itself "Grupo Los Tortugas," "The Turtles." They are on the air with "TOR" callsign suffixes (short for "Tortugas"), CW only, inclusive dates February 13-29, with the callsigns EG1TOR from Cantabria, EG2TOR from Bilbao, EG3TOR from Barcelona, EG4TOR from Madrid,

EG5TOR from Valencia and EG7TOR from Jaen. They will send no faster than 18 words per minute and slower if asked. They have a "Tortugas Award,"

Web page on QRZ: <https://www.qrz.com/db/eg1tor>

Here is a good QSL Card Maker link I found this week.

<http://www.radioqth.net/qslicards>

160 Meter Band Operations

Tom, W8FIB has been working a lot of interesting stations on 160 meters lately. I asked him to explain to me about his antenna. He is using an inverted L antenna and here is what he had to say.

I have a Single wire in inverted L over couple trees. 70 ft up one tree and 45 ft over to the next at height, with two radials on ground and fed w/ RG8X. No networks. I just use a KAT500 tuner.

He started DXing July 7, 2010 and has 85 entities worked on 160 meters. He only intended for TX antenna but is the only RX antenna he has right now. He hopes to put up a K9AY loop for next winter so he can finish off 160m for 9BDXCC.

Departing South Georgia RV Braveheart



Next Dxpeditions coming up are Heard Is. and Juan de Nova Is.

The Heard Island Project is centered on a multidisciplinary scientific expedition to Heard Island, Territory of Australia, in the Southern Ocean, during March/April, 2016.

And

Amateur Radio Expedition to Juan de Nova Isl. - FT4JA

March 29th - April 11th 2016



Wish everybody followed it.

NORTHWEST INDIANA DX CLUB

W9NWI 

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

 Indiana

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

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

