

# Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 8, Issue 10

October 2020

## President's Corner

**Hello everyone,**

**Starting to feel like winter is closing in on us. Do you have all your antenna work finished? Nothing worse than having to put one up in the middle of winter. Of course, they work better then.**

**Work some DX!**

**Please be safe and stay well.**

73

John W3ML

Good DXina!

## "Working the World from the Black Hole"

**NWI DX Club Website**

<http://nwidxc.club.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 [kd9hl@arrl.net](mailto: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@arrl.net](mailto:kd9hl@arrl.net)

QSL cards are available.

## Notice:

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## “Working the World from the Black Hole”

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### ***Handy Hint***

*By Steve Mollman-KD9HL*

### ***Lightning Strikes***

In the September 2020 issue we wrote about the dangers of lightning traveling through computer com ports into radio equipment:

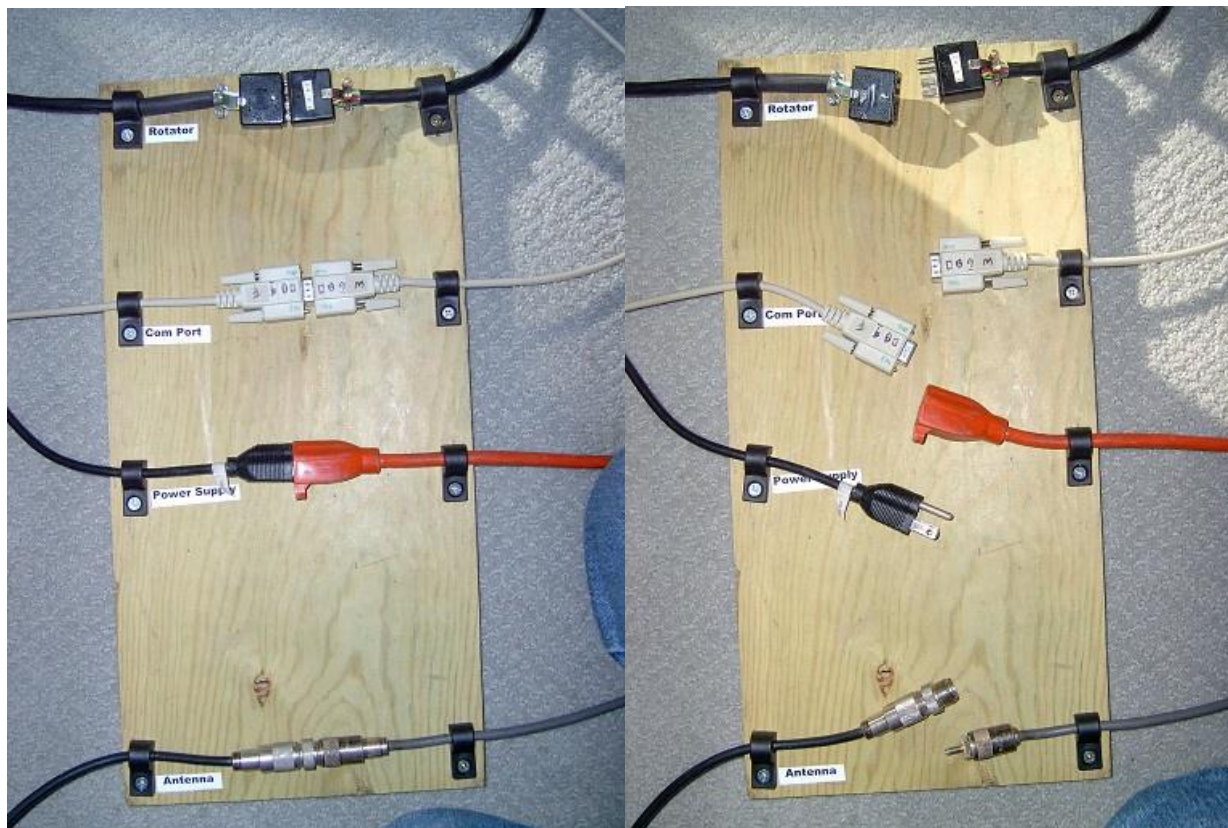
John Poindexter-W3ML wrote:

*“I never thought of the com port. It is a lot of work to disconnect all of that. Both ends of mine are buried behind the equipment which makes it hard to get to. The computer is under the desk and the radio is on a shelf with its back against the wall.”*

While not fancy, a suggestion to make it easier would be to marry two com cables and loop them to a place where they are readily accessible and can be easily disconnected when lightning threatens. Anchor the cables to prevent sliding off.

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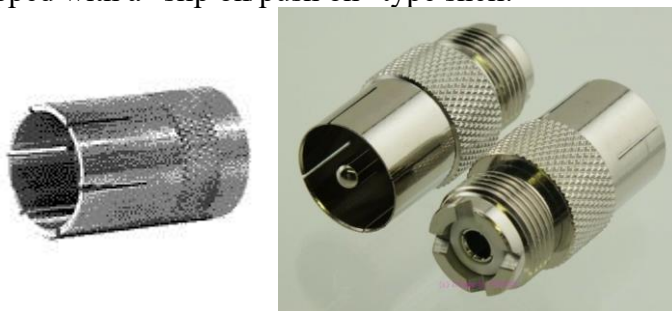
To demonstrate the concept, we mocked up a simple and economical example of a way to disconnect the at risk equipment. Besides the Com Port, we included the Rotator, the Antenna and the Power Supply. Additional equipment would be easy to add.



*Connected*

*Disconnected*

We used a screw-on PL-259 coax connector for the mock-up, but it may be easier to connect/disconnect if the coax connector was equipped with a “slip on/push on” type shell.



Depending upon what is in your Junk Box, the total cost should be minimal. If you already have Jumpers and extra cables the only thing that may have to be purchased would be the cable clamps and they are less than \$2.00 for 25 at Menards or Home Depot.

◀73's and Good DX ▶

*A Face Mask for the Rabid CW Fan*  
*(It would also make a nice bumper sticker)*



(For those “no code” licensees the CW message spells out:  
“Morse Code”)

Submitted by Steve KD9HL

# ARRL DX LISTINGS FOR OCTOBER 2020

SB DX ARL ARLD039  
ARLD039 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by W5AJ, The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites.

Thanks to all.

**TUNISIA, 3V.** Ash, KF5EYY will be QRV as 3V8SS from Sousse in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry. QSL via LX1NO.

**GEORGIA, 4L.** Vaho, 4L8A will be QRV from Tbilisi in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest as a Single Op/Single Band entry. QSL via M0OXO.

**BARBADOS, 8P.** Dean, 8P6SH plans to be QRV as 8P2K in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest. QSL via LoTW.

**CANARY ISLANDS, EA8.** Station EA8AQV will be QRV in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry. QSL to home call.

**ETHIOPIA, ET.** Members of the ET3AA club plan to be QRV in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest. QSL direct.

**PERU, OA.** Special event station OA2TP20 is QRV until September 27 in celebration of Spring in Trujillo. Activity is on 40, 30, and 20 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via operators' instructions.

**ALAND ISLANDS, OH0.** Gaby, DF9TM and Frank, DL2SWW are QRV as OH0/DF9TM and OH0/DL2SWW, respectively, until September 26. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL direct to home calls.

**MARKET REEF, OJ0.** Henri, OH3JR is QRV as OJ0JR until September 26. Activity is in his free time on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL to home call.

**DENMARK, OZ.** Volker, DJ8VW is QRV as 5P8VW from Romo Island, IOTA EU-125, until September 28. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters, including the newer bands, using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

**ARUBA, P4.** Robert, W5AJ is QRV as P42WW until September 30 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and RTTY. He will be active as P40P in the CQ Worldwide DX RTTY Contest as a Single Op/All Band entry. QSL P42WW via P41G and P40P direct to W5AJ.

**AFGHANISTAN, T6.** Robert, S53R will be QRV as T6A in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest as a Single Op/All Band entry. QSL to home call.

**ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0.** Andrey, R1FW is QRV as R1FW/0 until September 30 from Sakhalin, IOTA AS-018, Iturup, IOTA AS-025, and Kunashir, IOTA AS-025. Activity is on 40, 30, and 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

**INDONESIA, YB.** Members of the ORARI Lokal Kulon Progo are QRV as 8I69K from Wates, Jogjakarta, Java Island, IOTA OC-021, to celebrate the 69th anniversary of Kulon Progo. Activity is on various HF and VHF bands. The length of their activity is unknown. QSL direct to 8I69K.

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**CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF.** Bill, W9KKN will be QRV as ZF1A in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest as a Single Op/All Band entry. QSL via K6AM.

DX Bulletin 40 ARLD040  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT October 1, 2020  
To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD040  
ARLD040 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

**NIGER, 5U.** Adrien, F4IHM is QRV as 5U4IHM while on a mission in Niamey. He is active using slow CW on 40 and 20 meters. QSL to home call.

**CHILE, CE.** Members of the Chilean Pacific DX Group are QRV with special event call XR500M during October to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magellan's navigation of the strait named after him. QSL via XQ7UP.

**OGASAWARA, JD.** Makoto, will be QRV as JD1BLY from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, from October 3 to 6. Activity is on the HF bands and 6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8, and on 630 meters using JT9. QSL via JI5RPT.

**SVALBARD, JW.** A group of operators from NRRL's Oslogruppen will be QRV as JW4O from Longyearbyen, IOTA EU-026, from October 8 to 12. The primary reason for this activity is to operate in the upcoming Scandinavian Activity SSB contest. QSL via operators' instructions.

**CURACAO, PJ2.** Operators Angelo, PJ2AFM, Carlo, PJ2CF and Sergio, PJ2SM will be QRV with special call sign PJ2C on October 10 to celebrate the 10th anniversary for the new start for the islands of the Netherlands Antilles. Activity will be on 20 meters using SSB, and if conditions require it, 20 and 17 meters FT8. QSL via EC5AHA.

**SURINAME, PZ.** Yudel, CO7XY is now QRV as PZ2YT from Nickerie. Activity of late has been on 20 meters using SSB. QSL via Paypal, see info at QRZ.com.

**DODECANESE, SV5.** Wolf, DL3DRN is QRV as SV5/DL3DRN from Kolymia, Rhodes, IOTA EU-001, until October 14. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

**TURKEY, TA.** Members of the Tango Alpha Ham Radio Club will be QRV with special event call sign

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TC6EKM from October 3 to 7 to celebrate the Liberation of Istanbul on October 6, 1923. Activity will be on the HF bands using various digital modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

UKRAINE, UR. Special event station EN100LT is QRV until the end of March 2021 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Kharkiv Theater for Children and Youth. QSL via UT5LU.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Portable Operations Challenge, TRC DX Contest, Oceania DX Phone Contest, German Telegraphy Contest, Russian World Wide Digital Contest, IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves Contest, YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest, California QSO Party, International HELL-Contest, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint, FISTS Fall Slow Speed Sprint, SKCC CW QSO Party, RSGB DX Contest and the UBA ON SSB Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and RSGB 80-Meter Autumn CW Series scheduled for October 5.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, ARS Spartan CW Sprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for October 6.

The VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, UKEICC 80-Meter SSB Contest, 432 MHz Fall Sprint, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for October 7.

Please see October 2020 QST, page 69, and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM Contest websites for details.

NNNN  
/EX

73'S & Good Dx,  
Jerry, W9KTP

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## IARU Project Goodwill Albania 2003 A DXpedition That Is More Than A DXpedition

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

*[this article appeared in the February 2004 issue of WorldRadio]*

Albania returned to the amateur radio bands in 1991 when an international group of volunteers put ZA1A on the air and began to train a local amateur population. Twelve years later, Martti OH2BH spearheaded the IARU Project Goodwill Albania 2003 to put an amateur radio curriculum into the university-level educational system. This was done in cooperation with the Ministry of Telecommunications and the Polytechnic University of Tirana. For more general information about this project, please read OH2BH's article *Project Goodwill Albania 2003* in the November 2003 issue of **CQ** and his companion article *Missionary DXpeditioning – A Source of Satisfaction* in W3UR's How's DX column in the November 2003 issue of **QST**. The following narrative is the story of my participation in this project.

When my wife Vicky AE9YL and I attended the Pacific Northwest DX Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia last summer (it rotates each year between Seattle, Portland, and Vancouver), Martti gave a presentation on this project. Later that evening, he

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asked me if I would be interested in helping out by teaching propagation. I thought this was a great way to contribute to the growth of worldwide amateur radio, and I agreed to help out in any way possible.

As the project developed, Warren K7WX was designated the leader for Week 2 – the US week. I personally met Warren three years ago at the 2000 Northwest DX Convention in Vancouver, and I looked forward to working with him on this interesting project. The project's Head Teacher was John G3OKA. He's a professor at the University of Liverpool, and he was responsible for making sure that we followed the syllabus that was prepared. The syllabus followed the RSGB's Radio Amateurs' Examination Manual.

The lessons to be taught in Week 2 were propagation, antennas, and transmitter interference. The US team would also give the students an overview of CEPT (European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration) and FCC licensing. We'd end the week by relating to the students how amateur radio led to our careers.

In addition to the educational thrust, Week 2 also included many other US amateur radio operators who came to Albania specifically to set up stations in the coastal city of Durres (about an hour west of Tirana) on the Adriatic Sea. Vicky and I had the pleasure of meeting Dan NA7DB and his wife Janet, Rich K7ZV and his wife Barb, Paul WF5T, Robin WA6CDR, and Don K6RKE. We all enjoyed a dinner together Saturday evening after our arrival in Tirana, and then we split up (the teaching group stayed in Tirana, the operators went to Durres) to do our specific tasks.

Our students were fourth and fifth year electronics engineering students at the Polytechnic University of Tirana, and they were under the guidance of an exceptional young lady named Sonila. Sonila has an engineering degree, so she was well suited to make sure we kept our sessions up to the technical level required. The ages of the students ranged from 17 to 23, and my count on Monday showed that we had 22 males and 12 females. Their English was more than adequate for the task at hand. As we soon found out, their understanding of electronics and their math abilities were at a very high level. In other words, we didn't have any problems teaching our topics. Additionally, the females in our group were pleasantly surprised to learn that Vicky was also a licensed amateur radio operator. This was an unexpected plus for us, as it showed the Albanian students that amateur radio wasn't solely a 'guy thing'. Our sessions were from 2PM to about 5PM every day, with a 20-minute break at the halfway point.

On Monday I began with a review of electromagnetic waves, and progressed into ground wave and tropospheric propagation. Next I reviewed the Sun, and that lead into ionospheric propagation. Right before beginning the discussion of the Sun, I asked the students who their favorite star was. I kind of expected someone to answer Britney Spears or Madonna, but my heart was warmed when one student responded 'the Sun'. The session ended with a quiz using the practice questions in the Radio Amateurs' Examination Manual (as did all the subsequent sessions).

John G3OKA taught antenna theory and standing waves in the first half of the Tuesday session, and I followed up with practical antennas in the second half. We even built a full size 10m wire dipole to bring some practicality into the lesson.

I taught transmitter interference (harmonics, spurious emissions, and transmission bandwidth) on Wednesday. On Thursday John went through a practice exam, and then Warren finished up Thursday by talking about DXpeditioning and how DXpeditions can be regarded as a propagation laboratory. He even used a 160m QSO as an example to bring ionospheric physics into the picture.

On Friday Dan and Paul came over from Durres, and we all talked about how amateur radio led to our jobs. I finished the day with the discussion of CEPT licensing and the US licensing with our FCC.

We were very busy every day – discussing the events of the day, getting our notes ready for class the next day, meeting with the University faculty, and so forth. But we did manage to break away a bit to do some sightseeing. Vicky and I visited an elementary school Wednesday morning and talked to the students in English. We also attended the opera La Traviata Wednesday evening. We even found time to do some operating Friday afternoon after class. We caught a short opening to the East Coast on 10m, and then quickly moved to 15m to work even more North America stations. The station in our hotel was licensed as ZA/K9LA, so Vicky was obligated to use that call when she operated. Together we only made 200 or so QSOs, but that was ok as we knew our primary mission in Albania was to teach and not to play radio. By the way, one of the very first QSOs Vicky had was with Lenny K5OVC. I swear he must have a 'DX YL' detector on his radio.



By the time you read this, the project will have ended and there will be many more CEPT Level 1 licensed amateur radio operators in Albania. I am pleased to have been able to help out with this project. I enjoyed the academic side of electronics, and very much enjoyed associating with the Albanian people. One last interesting point – when we attended our first Northwest DX Convention in Vancouver in 2000, AI K7AR asked us to go to Syria (which we did as YK9A). At this year's convention in Vancouver, OH2BH asked us to go to Albania. You can bet we'll be attending the 2006 convention in Vancouver – who knows what will come out of it!



**View from the steps of the Polytechnic University of Tirana**



**A view of about two thirds of the students in the class.**



**Carl K9LA and Vicky AE9YL in front of their hotel.**

# Project Goodwill Albania 2003 Produces 39 New ZA Hams

## The Project Comes to Fruition

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

*[this article appeared in the March 2004 issue of WorldRadio]*

The Project Goodwill Albania 2003 story in the last issue of Worldradio gave an overall picture of Project Goodwill Albania 2003. It explained the concept behind the Project and the teaching aspect related to the week of November 17 through 21 – which was the US week in this international effort. The purpose of this follow-on article is to tell of the results of the Project and what's in the future, and to pass along some comments about the Albanians Vicky and I met.

So how did Project Goodwill Albania do? Well, I'm happy to report that the Project produced 39 new ZA hams, which essentially doubled the ZA ham population. Of those 39 new hams, 37 were our students. If you'd like to work an Albanian YL, your chances are now pretty good – 13 of those 37 are YLs. The remaining 2 new licensees went to Sonila (another YL, and I mentioned her in last's months article) and Steve.

Sonila is an engineer, and she is a Lecturer with the Department of Electronics at the Polytechnic University. She was responsible for making sure that the course went according to the University's plan. She was with us in the classroom everyday, monitoring us and absorbing what we taught. We always figured she would take the test at the end of the Project along with the rest of the students. I'm happy to report that she passed with flying colors, and was assigned (appropriately) the call ZA1YL.

Steve works for the company Telenor (Norway), and provides communications needs to the NATO base in Durres. With his communications background, he had no problem with the exam. He also passed with flying colors and was assigned the call ZA1DX.

Instrumental in pulling this whole Project off were John G3OKA and Uli DJ2YA. John was the Lead Teacher for Weeks 1, 2, and 3, and Uli was the Lead Teacher for Weeks 4 and 5. Both are professors at the university level in their home countries. These two individuals made sure the course material followed the RSGB syllabus, and jumped in to teach as necessary.

With 39 new hams, a good question to ask is "will all of these new hams be able to get on the air?" One way for them to get on will be to use the station at the University. It is expected to be operational in the spring (around the time you're reading this). It has been assigned the call ZA1UT (for the University of Tirana).

Another important result of this Project was bringing Albania into the CEPT fold. What this means is that Albanian hams can operate in Europe (and in the US) with minimum of effort. Likewise, European (and US) hams can operate in Albania with minimal effort. I'm sure this will be taken advantage of during the first-ever Albanian DX Convention that is tentatively scheduled for mid June.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention some of the other Albanians we met in addition to the students and faculty of the University. The first Albanian we met was Niko ZA1D. He was waiting for Vicky and me at the airport when we arrived in Tirana. The only reason we knew he was one of us was because he was holding a handwritten sign that said 'ZA1A'. We sat with him at the outdoor café at the airport for about an hour, chatting about the history of Albania, the present state of Albania, and its future. We learned a lot from him about this country we were visiting.

The second Albanian we met was Geni ZA1B. He's been to the US - in fact, he stayed with Warren K7WX (our leader for the week) and several others during his visit. He was invaluable in helping us carry out our goals (both the teaching effort in Tirana and the operating effort in Durres) for the week. If we needed anything, we knew we could call and count on Geni.

Finally, last month I mentioned that Vicky and I visited an elementary school in Tirana. We dropped in with no advanced notice, and wouldn't have felt bad if they were too busy to see us. But they welcomed us with open arms. It went so well that we had dinner the next night with Suzanne (the Director of the school), Elvana (the English teacher), Lorena (Suzanne's daughter), and

Miguel (Suzanne's nephew). All I can say about this is that sometimes going off the beaten tourist path produces the most enjoyable experiences.

For more timely information about the ongoing efforts with this Project, watch the bulletins (The ARRL Letter, The Daily DX, QRZ DX, etc) and check out [www.za1a.com](http://www.za1a.com).



**Sonila, ZA1YL, a Lecturer at the Polytechnic University  
of Tirana, at one of the stations in Durres.**



**Project Goodwill Albania 2003 was a success story for Amateur Radio  
under Lead Teachers Uli, DJ2YA (left), and John, G3OKA (right). Here  
they are having a break with Theodor, ZA1S (center).**

## FCC APPLICATION FEE PROPOSAL OPEN FOR COMMENTS

Comments are being accepted on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which proposes application fees for radio amateurs. Formal deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the NPRM appears in the Federal Register. Comments may be filed now, however, by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), located at, <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings> , and posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. The docket is already open for accepting comments, even though deadlines have not yet been set. The NPRM can be found online in PDF format at, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-116A1.pdf>

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**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/>



**DX**

**THANKS**  
*Thanks for visiting!*

