

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 2, Issue 9

September 2014

President's Corner

The last meeting was August 2nd at the Viking Chili Bowl in Valparaiso. We had 9 members and 4 guests attend.

It was voted on to get a Club callsign. Steve KD9HL will be the Trustee and is applying for the license.

Update since meeting minutes above, we received a callsign and are waiting to apply for the Vanity call W9NWI after the correction is made on the address on the license.

If you do not attend the meetings and would like to donate to the Club treasury for the expense of the Vanity Call and Club QSL Cards feel free to do so.

Northwest Indiana DX Club
204 South Main St
Knox, IN 46534

73
John, W3ML

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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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.

Is it lights out for Pitcairn Island?

[MICHAEL FIELD](#)

Last updated 05:00 03/08/2014



Claire Harvey

LAST ROW: Pitcairn Island's famous longboats may become a thing of the past if the island runs out of people.

South Pacific

[Is it lights out for Pitcairn Island?](#) [Pacific leaders make oceans declaration](#) [McCully's \\$5m safety boost for Pacific Conch](#) [sounds start of Pacific Islands Forum](#) [Pacific islands' plea for NZ to do more](#) ['No ill will' over death](#) [Round-the-world teen pilot killed](#) [Nina search 'poorly managed' - families](#) [Nina searchers praised](#) [Bainimarama waiting on visa to campaign in Auckland](#)

Lonely Pitcairn Island - famous for a South Seas mutiny and disreputable for its sex - is edging toward social collapse with its settlement facing abandonment.

The last place in the Pacific to see a Union Jack flying over British territory is running out of people and a rescue plan is sputtering.

An official report indicates its 49 mostly older occupants soon may have to move to New Zealand, 5500 kilometres away, leaving the 4.6-square-kilometre rock to nature.

The last one to leave will really need to turn off the lights - Pitcairn's last registered electrician is retiring soon.

There are only 10 men fit enough to row the island's vital long boats and it's a matter of polite debate over how many childbearing capable women there are.

It may be just two or three but some studies say there is only one woman capable of pregnancy.

It makes their latest "Repopulation Plan" moot.

"It is undeniable that the Pitcairn population is diminishing and already is very low," Auckland-based Deputy Governor of Pitcairn Kevin Lynch says.

Wellington consultant Rob Solomon has produced a British government-funded study on Pitcairn's future.

He declined to discuss his findings with the Sunday Star-Times but parts of his report had appeared in the Wall Street Journal this month.

"Pitcairn is too isolated and it will never pay its own way," he warned.

Solomon says a survey of 33 "Pitkerners" living mostly in New Zealand showed only three had any interest in returning. Most spoke of being ashamed of their heritage because of its sex scandal.

Lynch admitted the Solomon Study "suggests a gloomy outlook for Pitcairn" with demographics not looking good and not enough young people to do essential work.

"It is a fact that the older we get the less able we are to carry out strenuous physical work."

The Repopulation Plan calls for migration but Lynch says: "Unfortunately, whilst there have been many enquiries, serious interest in migrating to Pitcairn has been minimal." More accurately: Not a solitary person has shown up.

Last month North Carolina man John Brantley, describing himself as an Anglican Rite Old Catholic priest, tried to raise US\$1000 (NZ\$1166) through crowd funding so that he could move to Pitcairn. So far he has not raised a cent.

The rocky island has no runway, although Australian Dick Smith offered to build one a decade ago to connect with Mangareva in French Polynesia, 540km away. Solomon's report says "everybody on the island would have to get on the plane for every flight" to make it economical.

The only regular ship service to Pitcairn is from Tauranga, costing \$5000 a head. Mail services are now slower than they were in the days of sail.

Pitcairn owes its settlement to the Mutiny on the Bounty, which saw Fletcher Christian seize the ship and set captain William Bligh adrift off Tonga. Christian took the ship back to Tahiti and in 1790 he and eight crew,

six Tahitian men and 18 kidnapped Tahitian women arrived at Pitcairn. They burnt the ship and stayed on the island.

The population eventually peaked at around 250 in 1936, all living in Adamstown, the smallest capital in the world.

Its darkest moment came in 2004 when six men were found guilty of 35 sexual abuse and under-age sex charges on the island. They were sentenced to jail for two to six years in a newly built prison - which is now a guest house.

International environmental groups are lobbying London to turn Pitcairn and the nearby islands of Ducie, Henderson and Oeno into the world's largest marine sanctuary. Nine plant species are unique to Pitcairn while the Henderson crane (*Porzana atra*) is one of its unusual flightless bird species. It has been blessed with rich fish stocks but heavy tuna fishing is feared to be causing serious depletion.

If the people go, a Galapagos giant tortoise "Mrs Turpen", who has lived there 50 years, will be left to her fate. British law makes it illegal to kill, injure, capture, maim or cause harm or distress to her.

- Sunday Star Times

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/world/south-pacific/10338206/Is-it-lights-out-for-Pitcairn-Island>

W1AW/9 **Observations of a Pileup Virgin**

Introduction

I really hope most of you were able to work W1AW/9 and maybe participate in the operation. It was a blast and very rewarding. You don't need to be a killer operator, I'm hardly a hotshot contesteer, just follow a few simple rules. Thankfully, Indiana does have many top tier operators and they added much to our QSO count.

I personally think it was one of coolest thing the League has done. For many of us, W1AW was the key to our passing the Novice code test back in the 1950's. It was an honor to hold those call letters for a couple hours a day.

As I mentioned above, I rarely operate in the style of DXpedition operators and choose to "Search and Pounce" in contests. My code speed is respectable but I have little experience handling pile ups. Here are some of my observations from the event.

First Round – 80 M CW

On any night around 0000 Zulu, the lower part of 80 meters is not all that busy except for some of the traffic nets. The second time I called CQ, the band exploded. Suddenly I had dozens of calls, all seemingly with the same tone. I had to wait a few long seconds until I was able to make out a complete call. It was slow going for the first half hour of a two hour shift. Eventually I was able to tune above and below the receive frequency and pick off calls. There were numerous times I had to just catch the first two characters of a call and ask for a fill. That controlled the pile fairly well but slowed things down, too. Also, there are always a few operators that keep calling even if their calls are not the one requested. I ignored them until I was done with the current fill. My QSO count after two hours was only around 130 but that's about as

fast I can go under any conditions. My only regret is that at the end of the shift I left so many others still calling but by that time I was whipped.

Later Round – 160 M CW

160 was nice break from the hectic upper bands. The pile was not so deep and operators seemed to show a little more courtesy. Maybe that's why it's called the "Gentleman's Band."

Later Rounds – 20 M and 15 M CW

It was odd but my afternoon shifts on these bands yielded hundreds of DX stations. I rarely heard or worked a stateside station. For over an hour on 15 meters, I was getting enormous signal reports from Europe and South America. I made it a practice to be absolutely sure I had a call correct. For that I got a "patient" note on the spotting network. That made the hard work worthwhile.

A special note about JA's. Both days, I could hear numerous JA's at a S1 to S3. I worked a ton of JA's and it was in part due to their operating technique. When I would ask for a fill for a JH1, the rest were quiet. Once the pile was quiet, it was an easy copy.

Later Round – 20 M SSB

Even though I'm partial to CW, I have to admit, it's easier to control a pile up on phone. Furthermore it was possible to ask for fills on the last two letters as well as the first few characters. By the time I got to 20M SSB, I asked for a wider split which helped a lot to speed things up. One problem that was annoying, DX stations tend not to use standard phonetics. Add in a foreign accent with QRM and it was tough to figure out what the guy's call was.

There was one contact that made the whole week worthwhile. I heard a WB2 station under all the chatter and called him. He forgot he was on VOX and shouted, "I got him, I got him." That made my day! Any time I can make some ham that happy, it makes me proud to be on the air.

Lessons Learned

1. Before the next W1AW/9 session in December, I plan to practice more with pileups. At least in the CQWW contest and perhaps by copying pileups from other states. I need to improve at catching whole calls and remembering them long enough to enter them into the computer. (Hi,Hi!)

2. On CW I tended to focus on the first two characters of a call. I could have picked up a lot of stations by using the last two characters as well.

3. The really smart thing that should have occurred to me during the event was to ask for a wider split on CW by simply signing "UP" instead of a single frequency like "UP 2". By spreading stations out, I easily would have worked many more stations. (DUH!)

4. Narrow roofing filters on my rig didn't seem to help that much. Possibly if the pileups were even larger and they were spread out more, they would be beneficial. You really don't have a lot of time to fiddle with the rig when working pileups.

WRAP-UP

Are you willing to wait another 100 years (Hi, Hi)? This coming December we get to do it again. Work us! Join us! Even if you just take a few slots in the matrix I guarantee you will have fun.

Jerry Hess, W9KTP

K9CIV Having His SteppIR Antenna Fixed.



Tom W8FIB sent in this link to an Antenna Work Project.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpXL_QaK17E

He also sent in this article on “Electromagnetic Warfare is Here”

http://spectrum.ieee.org/aerospace/military/electromagnetic-warfare-is-here/?utm_source=techalert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=082814

W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet September 19-20, 2014

The 62nd annual W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet will be held on September 19-20. The location is at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg Illinois.

The Northern Illinois DX Association produces the convention. Conventions are held in the Chicago area because it is a central location for the 9th call area,.

The convention has programs that have interest for both Top of the Honor Roll Award holders and those working for their first 100 countries.

Friday, September 19 is dedicated to the “DX University” which will cover such subjects as DX software, propagation, station engineering and DX techniques. There will be an opportunity to listen to recordings of pileups from the DX side. Listening to the Dxpedition’s side gives one a new appreciation of the hard work those people put in. The program is intended for both new as well as more seasoned DX’ers.

Saturday, September 20 will have a wide range of speakers on many subjects including propagation (NWIDXC member Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA), the recent FT5ZM - Amsterdam Island expedition, 160 meter operations from remote Dxpeditons and Ed Hare, W1RFI, the ARRL Laboratory Manager will be speaking on the lab operations. See the Web Site for the full program.

DXCC card checking will be available. All QSL cards can be checked - including those for 160 meters and deleted countries. Normally those cards must be submitted to ARRL Headquarters for checking. Club VP Doctor Richard Lochner, K9CIV is one of the card checkers.

Numerous door prizes, including a Elecraft KX3 160-6M Transceiver Kit, will be given away throughout the day on Saturday. There is a raffle for a Icom IC-7100 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver and the banquet grand prize is a Yaesu FT DX 3000 160-6M Transceiver.

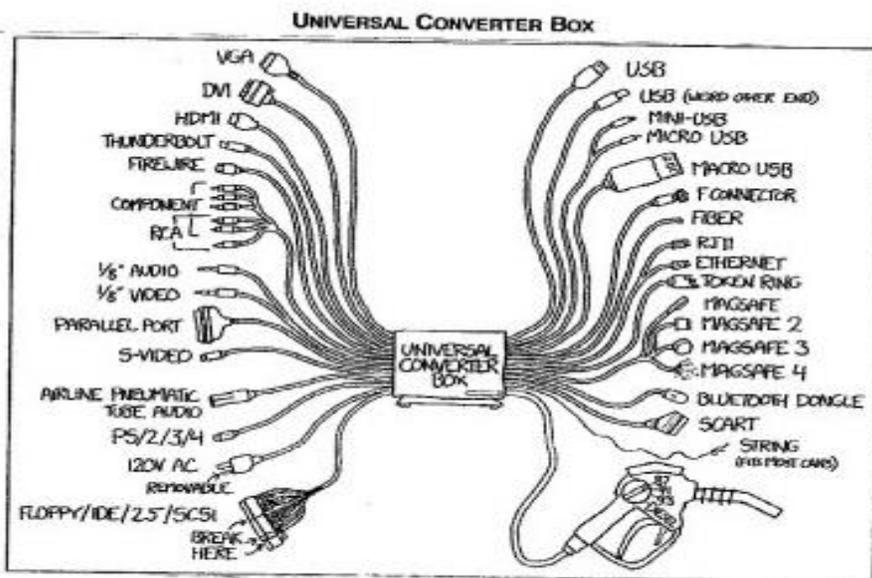
The Convention Committee gives attendees the option of attending all or any of the three individual parts (DX University, Saturday Programs, Banquet). There are plenty of opportunities to socialize, see old friends, make new acquaintances and talk shop.

Several NWIDXC members are planning to attend.

For more information and registration:

<http://www.w9dxcc.com/index.html>

Submitted by: KD9HL-Steve Mollman



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Submitted by Steve KD9HL



We Support the DX Code of Conduct

DX NEWS

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

Zorro, JH1AJT will be visiting the State of Eritrea (E3). Zorro will try to be QRV (call sign: TBA) in his very limited spare time probably after Thursday, 18th September, mainly SSB and possibly some CW. He will bring a TS-590/ ACOM-1010 and a Small-IR with 40/30m optional coil.

Submitted by Rich K9CIV

KP1 Navassa Island

The KP1-5 Project is pleased to announce that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have agreed to allow an amateur radio operation from Navassa National Wildlife Refuge (KP1). The operation will occur within the next 1-2 years.

Submitted by Tom W8FIB

Old QSL Cards

Rich K9CIV

Rich sent in this information on viewing a site with more than 12.000 old QSL.

Under the heading '[Gallery QSL](#)'

- You will find a wide range of rare QSL, old, very old, DXCC entities searched etc ... you below the list of recent QSL trademarks.
- A new album dedicated to QSL [French resorts in the Americas](#) (FG, FM, FP, FS, FY) from 1945 to 1969.
- A new album dedicated to QSL [Allied stations DL2 / DL4 / DL5](#) from 1945 to 1969.
- A new album dedicated to QSL [commemorative stations ITU](#) and [IARU](#) .

When you go to this site you will have to choose English (down on the left side) to read it in English.

<http://lesnouvellesdx.fr/>

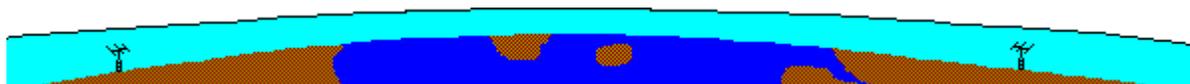
Or go here to get the English page.

<http://translate.google.com/translate?js=n&prev=t&hl=fr&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&sl=fr&tl=en&u=lesnouvellesdx.fr/galerie/galerie.php?page=listtopten&langpair=fr|en&hl=fr&ie=UTF8>

This site has several interesting pages to read. Check them all out.

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

