President’s Corner

The 65th W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet

Friday-Saturday
September 15-16, 2017
Hyatt Regency Schaumburg

Hope to see you there.

The Logo design by Jerry Hess was made into a pin by my grandson Michael and the picture of it is on the next page.

73
John W3ML
Good DXing!

Don’t Forget

DXCC CARD CHECKING

Doctor Richard Lochner, K9QA is our Official ARRL DXCC Card Checker. Contact Rich to schedule an appointment for card checking.

You may email him at k9qa@arrl.net for details on how to mail your cards to him, if you desire to go that route.

NWI DX Club Website
http://nwidxclub.weebly.com/
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

QSL cards are available.

We support the LoTW.
The ARRL publishes the full list of LoTW users!

After some 14 years keeping the users list of its Logbook of the World confidential, the ARRL finally changed its mind and published this long-awaited list on July 29th, 2017!

It is publicly available at this address: https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-user-activity.csv

Even better, this list includes the last upload date for each user. It should be typically updated once a week.

On this webpage, you can see his list of what countries are not on LoTW. He also has them listed by country http://www.hb9bza.net/lotw-users-list

What do you want in a DXpedition?

By Paul S. Ewing – N6PSE

While I was attending the International DX Convention in Visalia, California. I sat and chatted with many DXers from all over the world. I asked them: What do you want in a DXpedition?

By far, most DXers told me that they wanted a team of competent and able operators, who could handle big pileups with skill and finesse. They also want operators and leaders who know and understand propagation and make proper band selections by time of day. They want the DXpedition to do everything possible to enable the DXers to work them. They told me that some DXpeditions seem to “go to bed too early” and miss important band openings to certain areas of the globe.

Many DXers told me that they like a log checking feature. Almost everyone said that a daily upload to Clublog was sufficient and they didn’t need real time logging.

DXers said that they like to see pictures from the operation and they want to know and understand the challenges at the other end of the pileup.

DXers told me that they are very interested in 160 meters and that proper emphasis should be made to have a good antenna, powerful amp and experienced top band operators.

DXers told me that Social Media was of little importance to them. “Just have a good website” was said to me. “Show me how propagation will be in my area”. Have an easy method to obtain the QSL card.
DXers told me that they feel that the best DXpeditions use regional Pilot Relay stations. These people are in tune with the Dxpedition and aware of the propagation and they can best guide the Dxpedition to meet the demand for contacts.

Several DXers told me that if a Dxpedition makes bold statements such as they are also going to Kerguelen or activating a second camp on the other side of the Volcano, then they should really keep their promises. DXers tend to make donations based on promises and they feel wronged when they are not achieved.

DXers told me that they really enjoy it when the Dxpedition Team meets their audience at places such as IDXC and the Dayton Hamvention. They like the rapport that they develop with the teams and their members.

DXers told me that they like the concept of “pure DX”. They don’t want to work a remote station being operated from somewhere else. They want to experience the contact purely through radio. What do you think?

Thank you to Paul Ewing-N6PSE for his kind permission to print this item. Paul is a noted DXpeditioner having operated from many rare and semi rare spots, including the South Sandwich Islands, Yemen, Myanmar, Eritrea and the South Georgia Islands.

Tom W8FIB talking about Field Day 2017
No, they are not sleeping. They are reading the material that Tom passed out.

XYLs chatting to each other.
QSL Card of the Month

A collection of the old, the new, the rare, the exotic or just interesting QSL Cards

Portuguese Timor
CR8

Club Log 2017: Most Wanted World Rank: Deleted 1976
Most Wanted North America Rank: Deleted 1976
CQ zone: 28 ITU Zone: 54
Continent: OC
Location: 8.34°S 125.34°E
Beam Headings from Northwestern Indiana: 309°/129°
9404 mi / 15455 mi

A Portuguese possession from 1702 until 1975, when Indonesia invaded the colony. After a brief conflict, it then became the East Timor province of Indonesia. The colony was deleted as a DX entity in 1976. After much violence and civil unrest, East Timor then became independent in 2002 as Timor-Leste (4W- contacts made March 1, 2000, and after, count for that entity).

Dili is the capital city of Timor-Leste, or East Timor, on the country's north coast. The large Cristo Rei de Dili statue is on a hilltop east of the city, with views of the bay. Landmarks in the city recall
the nation’s struggles for independence from Portugal and then Indonesia. Exhibits on the conflicts feature at the Timorese Resistance Museum and the Chega! Exhibition, the latter of which is in a former prison.

Dili - The capital city of Timor-Leste, or East Timor

The Santa Cruz Cemetery has colorfully decorated memorials, and was the site of an Indonesian-led massacre in 1991. The Xanana Reading Room is a cultural center, gallery and museum, with photographs and a library. It also has several exhibits dedicated to resistance leader and former president, Xanana Gusmão. Nearby, the city's waterfront strip is home to beachside bars and the stately Palácio do Governo building. Ferries run north to the mountainous Atauro Island, across waters inhabited by whales and dolphins. The island is home to secluded beaches, and its coral reefs are popular for diving and snorkeling.

< 73’s and Good DX >

Handy Hint
By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

Yaesu G-800DXA and G-1000DXA Rotator Repair
A number of our members use the Yaesu G series rotators. The following links may be of help should the rotator start acting strange and need repair,
The Technical Manual has much vital information including exploded views of the assemblies and circuit schematics. For the Technical manual:
http://wf0gm.fpage.com/Files/Rotor/G-800DXA_1000DXA_SM.pdf

Before opening up your rotator, be sure to read the comments from AC8DE, Scott Myers:
http://wf0gm.fpage.com/Files/Rotor/Electrically%20Centering%20Yaesu%20Rotators%20by%20AC8DE.pdf

--- <> ---

**Links Sent in From Members**

Rich, K9QA sent this in about FT 8.

K1HTV FT8 prop report
By K1HTV, Rich Zwirko

Starting on July 10th, and for almost a month, I’ve been chasing DX using the new WSJT-X “FT8” digital mode. In the past week, even with the solar flux numbers in the low 70's DX conditions have been very good. After 3 weeks of operating using FT8 I had already worked 89 countries. In the past week as the result of a number of days with low K Indexes, 13 new DXCC FT8 entities were added to the logbook. That brought the K1HTV FT8 total to 102 DXCC countries worked in less than a month.

For the past week, the north polar route to Asia has been relatively undisturbed. On 20 Meters, I was able to work stations in Taiwan, China, Hong Kong and South Korea. The path from my VA QTH to Asia has opened as early as 09Z. But more substantial Asian signals usually can be copied from around 11Z and depending on the day, until as late as 13Z.

Almost every morning on 40 Meters I’ve contacted stations in the Pacific, 30 QSOs being in Australia. Good Trans-Atlantic conditions start around my local sunset and continue until after their sunrise times. This has resulted in many hundreds of 40M QSOs being made with countries across the pond in Europe and the Middle East.

European stations have dominated on 20M from around my local sunrise until after sunset. Signals from UA9 & UA0 stations in Asiatic Russia have been quite good between 02 and 03Z on the band.

The amazing thing is that the over 1000 DX stations that I have contacted so far using FT8 have been worked using a tribander and wire antennas while only running around 50 Watts. With so many stations now
using the new FT8 mode, it is very interesting to see that there are propagation paths open to distant lands at times which one would not normally expect. Two website where FT8 activity can be tracked are PSKReporter and HamSpots:

https://pskreporter.info
http://hamspots.net

If you haven't yet tried the new FT8 mode, you can find it in the free WSJT-X software package, which can be downloaded at:
https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html

_________________________________________
____________________________________________
Tom, W8FIB sent in these links.

Who is the most incessant digital person calling CQ in the world? Now you can check!

https://foc.dj1yfk.de/activity/rank

Here is a couple of antenna ideas sent in by Tom W8FIB.


Another idea here:
https://squashpractice.wordpress.com/2016/04/21/a-simple-pull-up-mono-band-verticle-dipole-antenna-design-and-4nec2-tutorial/

Not really ham related but interesting: https://www.acuity.com/about/flagpole

Update on Bouvet Island DXpedition

We have purchased our airline tickets and will arrive in Santiago, coming from Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, Tajikistan, South Africa and the United States. It’s a 3 1/2 hour flight from Santiago to Punta Arenas, where we will begin arriving on the evening of January 10, 2018. We will fly across the Drake Passage, board our ship at King George Island and plan to sail for Bouvet Island on January 13. Depending on the winds and sea conditions, it will be a 10 to 12-day sail to Bouvet.

As soon as the wind, sea conditions and visibility allow, we will begin our helicopter flights to the island.

http://www.bouvetdx.org/news-and-updates/
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/