

W9JOZ

Volume 7, Issue 4

April 2017

Next Meeting is

April 20, 2017

If you have not paid your dues for 2017 they are still due.

\$12.00

If you wish, you may mail your dues to:
John Poindexter
204 South Main Street, Knox, IN 46534



Meetings are at the Henry F. Schricker Library on the third Thursday of each month, with the exception of December.

The library is located on west Culver Road, two blocks west of Highway 35.



The Bands are OPEN!

Are you on the air?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Meeting Reminder
- 2 Events/Articles

Events

April Birthdays

5th - N9QYK Paul

7th - WB9CAO Levi

25th - KC9QAK Lenny

**I do not have birthdays for KC9LHM, WA9YOZ, KD9BJP,
WA9NGO, KD9IEN**

Starke County Amateur Radio Club Weekly 2 Meter Net

DAY OF WEEK: Saturday 8:00 p.m. Central time
HOST: KN9OX Repeater
FREQUENCY: 145.410 - 600
PL TONE: 131.8

Midway and Kure Islands are Now Deleted DXCC Entities
03/31/2017

Midway and Kure Islands have been placed on the list of DXCC deleted entities, effective August 26, 2016. This came about as an unintended consequence of action last summer by then-President Barack Obama that expanded the [Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument](#) to include the northwestern Hawaiian Islands west of Ni'ihau Island, making it the largest contiguous protected conservation area under the US flag.

Midway (KH4) had qualified for DXCC status by virtue of its being governed by a separate administration. Because it is now under the administration of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, however, it becomes a deleted entity. Approximately 50 people live on Midway, including US Fish and Wildlife Service staffers and contractors. The Battle of Midway, a turning point in the Allied World War II Pacific Campaign, took place in June 1942.

Now uninhabited, Kure Island (KH7K), a part of Hawaii, is separated from the rest of the state by Midway; because of that, it qualified for DXCC status under Section II, 2 (b) (iii) of the DXCC Rules — separation from its “parent” Hawaii. Midway Island’s change in DXCC status in turn made Kure Island no longer eligible for DXCC status, since Kure no longer is separated from the rest of Hawaii by intervening land or islands that are part of another DXCC entity.

Kure Island once was home to a US Coast Guard LORAN station, remnants of which are still evident. It has been a state wildlife sanctuary since 1981.

The relevant parts of Section II of the DXCC Rules follow:

A Geographic Separation Entity may result when a single Political Entity is physically separated into two or more parts. The part of such a Political Entity that contains the capital city is considered the Parent for tests under these criteria. One or more of the remaining parts resulting from the separation may then qualify for separate status as a DXCC Entity if they satisfy paragraph a) or b) of the Geographic Separation Criteria, as follows.

b) Island Areas (Separation by Water):

A new entity results in the case of an island under any of the following conditions:

iii) The island is separated from its Parent by intervening land or islands that are part of another DXCC entity, such that a line drawn along a great circle in any direction, from any part of the island, does not touch the Parent before touching the intervening DXCC entity. There is no minimum separation distance for the first island entity created under this rule. Additional island entities may be created under this rule, provided that they are similarly separated from the Parent by a different DXCC entity and separated from any other islands associated with the Parent by at least 800 km.

Neither Midway nor Kure was able to be activated without prior permission and only for a planned DXpedition. Only contacts made on August 25, 2016, or earlier will count for these two entities.

“Reprinted with permission, March 2017 QST; copyright ARRL.” This may be an April Fool’s joke.



Interesting gadgets I wish I had time for

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm on a lot of mailing lists and participate in a bunch of amateur radio forums. As a result, I see a lot of interesting gadgets that guys are buying or are thinking about buying. Here are three of the latest that look interesting to me. I wish I had time (and money) to purchase all of these and try them out.

Android antenna analyzer

On Reddit

(https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/60nnp1/finally_got_my_mini60_ebay_antenna_analyzer_time/), some of the guys have been talking about the Mini60 Antenna Analyzer (<http://www.ebay.com/itm/CW-USB-Interface-Cable-WINKEYER-compatible-3-5mm-plug-/132121085623?hash=item1ec307c6b7:g:up8AAOSw241YeTei>). Its frequency range is 1 – 60MHz, but the cool thing about this device is that you can use it standalone with the built-in LCD display or with some software (http://www.jtelectronics.co.nz/information_links/MINI60/Add-Bluetooth-Module-To-MINI60-Antenna-Analyser.htm) and a tablet with a Bluetooth interface to get fancy frequency vs. SWR plots. See <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/mini60-ant-analyzer.jpg> for a photo of the Mini60 Antenna Analyzer being used with an Android tablet.

Of course, this is made in China, but how can you beat the price? It costs \$112 shipped.

Multi-functional component tester

Here's another marvel of Chinese engineering and manufacture – a smart component tester (http://www.banggood.com/3_5inch-Colorful-Display-Multi-functional-TFT-Backlight-Transistor-Tester-p-1083042.html) for only \$30, shipped. It identifies and characterizes NPN and PNP transistors, capacitors, resistors, diodes (including Zener diodes), N-channel and P-channel MOSFET, IGBT, JFET, triacs, and batteries.

This isn't the first smart component tester to hit the market, but the unique thing about this unit is that it has a graphical display that not only identifies the type of component that you've connected to it, but also draws the schematic symbol of the part. You can see a video of this tester in action at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07FH6tjzWg>.

Make your Raspberry Pi into a desktop PC

Newark/element 14 will soon start selling a kit of part that will make it easier to turn your Raspberry Pi into a desktop PC (https://www.element14.com/community/docs/DOC-83477?CMP=e-email-SEPO-210317-e14PI&et_cid=28941683&et_rid=1231362216&cmp=). The kit includes:

- Intelligent and Safe Power Controller
- Interface to connect mSATA SSD (upto 1TB)

- Real Time Clock to keep track of time
- Heat Sink
- Enclosure

They don't list the price just yet, but this might be what I need to actually make use of the Raspberry Pi 3 I bought several months ago.

If you have one of these gadgets, or buy one in the future, please let me know how you like it. I'll put your review up on my blog, so that everyone can benefit from your experience.

When he's not drooling over electronic gadgets, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides, and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

We still have several items on the For-Sale page that are good buys.
<http://w9joz.org/forsale.htm>

A handy propagation web site that may be of interest.

<http://www.voacap.com/prediction.html>

The program presents the user with a world map and circular band/frequency chart.

The idea is to place the red marker at the senders location and drag the blue marker to the area you want to call.

The software lets you pick tx and rx antenna types, power and mode of transmission and also shows distance and beam heading.

The circular band/frequency chart then shows the best time and frequency for a contact.

Since the bands are not exactly stellar lately this is another tool to help with DX contacts.

CQ INQP CQ INQP

Sponsored by HDXCC the Hoosier DX and Contest Club

The purpose of the **Indiana QSO Party** (INQP) is to encourage contact with Indiana amateur radio stations by other Indiana hams and hams worldwide. Stations outside of Indiana work Indiana stations only. Indiana stations work everybody, including other Indiana stations. See the [rules](#) for the rest of the details.

INQP 2017 takes place May 6-7 (the first Saturday in May).

The [2017 rules](#) are now available. There one important change this year: The county name abbreviations have changed. The intent is that the new abbreviations will be more compatible with the other QSO Parties that occur at the same time as INQP.

Please announce your operating plans on the email reflector (inqp@yahoogroups.com). You can see what others have planned on the [Activity Map](#).

Worked All Indiana Award

The INQP is a great time to work on your [Worked All Indiana Award](#). It only takes 60 confirmed counties to earn the initial certificate. Your INQP QSOs count as confirmed QSOs toward your WAI. Just indicate the INQP QSOs on your GCR, and we'll use your submitted log to confirm the QSOs.

Stay in Touch

You are invited to join the INQP [reflector](#). Post your questions about the INQP, make suggestions for next year, or just jump in the general discussion with other participants and the organizers.

STARKE COUNTY IS INSTA

Don't forget to claim Club Credit for Starke County Amateur Radio Club.

May 6-7, 2017

A Little Tip

Levi, WB9CAO

Why you should always put a coin in the freezer before you leave home.

Have you ever come home from vacation, business trip or maybe a weekend away with the family - and noticed your digital clocks flashing the wrong time?

Freeze a cup of water first, then place a coin on the ice. If the coin is down in the cup when you return, the power has been off and the freezer may have allowed frozen product to thaw while you were gone'.

You quickly realize that you had a power outage while you were away, but it's basically impossible to tell when it occurred or how long it lasted. It's therefore also impossible to tell just how long the food in your freezer may have thawed, gotten destroyed and then frozen again.

Going Out of Business

Tom, W9QN reported that ICM is going out of business.

International Crystal Manufacturing Company, Inc. (ICM) is a family-owned, business established in 1951 to provide crystals, oscillators and filters for the military. Today, ICM manufactures in the U.S. an extensive line of quartz crystals, oscillators, filters, and TCXOs / VCTCXOs used in military applications, communications, microwave transmission, data acquisition and transmission, and cutting edge research.

You can read about it here: <https://www.icmfg.com/>

North Central Indiana Hamfest

Start Date: 04/22/2017

End Date: 04/22/2017

Location: Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds

1029 West 200 North

Peru, IN 46970

Website: <http://nci-hamfest.net>

See you at a meeting.

73

John, W3ML

