

NorthEast Wisconsin *DX* Association

Board of Directors information to NEWDXA membership

November - 2004



A 160-Meter Antenna for South Cooks

As DXers, we sometimes have opportunities to help DX stations around the world and in this way spread friendship via ham radio. This has happened a number of times for me, and has greatly enriched my life with friends around the world and opportunities to visit some of them -- in Sri Lanka and Luxembourg.

I'm sure most of you are aware of my long friendship with Victor, 4S7VK. That began with a simple QSO and a request for help with tubes for an old rig in a high school. The results of that chance meeting have been, with the help of NEWDXA, other local clubs and some of the school's alumni in England, to get (in addition to the tubes) the complete ARRL library, many back issues of QST, an HF rig, and a complete satellite station to the school. This high school radio club, 4S7IP, has now helped more than 24 teenagers get the 4S callsigns! In addition, Victor and I have visited each other several times, and his son stayed with us a year to attend a local high school.

Another good friendship across the seas resulted from a chance QSO with Roger, LX1BI. During our chat, he asked whether there were any hams in Luxemburg, Wisconsin, as he would like to have a QSO between the two Luxemburgs. When I found out there were none, I enlisted the help of several hams in the ManCoRad Club (this was before NEWDXA existed), and we took an R7 to Luxemburg and give Roger his wish. Later, I took a mobile antenna and, on a visit to Iowa, made contact with Roger from Luxemburg, Iowa. Special (Xeroxed) QSL cards were made out for each occasion. (A ham in Minnesota gave him his final Luxemburg.) Since then, I have visited Roger twice and have been shown a grand time there.

An offer stands, should I ever want to visit St. Lucia, to stay at the home of Ernest, J69AZ, and operate the rig in his guest room. All I did to gain that offer of hospitality was to help Ernest locate a used rig for the guest room. (And Ernest added that there would be no problem with the J6 license, as he is the licensing official on St. Lucia!)

The latest chance to help out occurred during my first 80M contact with South Cooks. I contacted Victor, ZK1CG, and during the course of the QSO, I mentioned that I would really love to get him on 160 Meters. Victor said that he would like to oblige, but that he didn't have an antenna for 160 or an amp. Wire for the antenna, if available there would be expensive, and coax was not even available.

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A 160-Meter Antenna for South Cooks—continued

I told Victor that I would see what I could do to get an antenna for him, with the help of NEWDXA. I quickly found that the costs of wire, coax, etc., and then shipping, would be too much for NEWDXA to handle by itself. I checked with my friend Dave, KJ9I, a low band DXer, and he put me in touch with the Low Band Reflector. There I got a lot of feedback on possible types of antennas that might work in Victor's situation as well as a couple of offers to help.

We finally settled on a $\frac{1}{2}$ wave dipole as the best antenna for Victor, taking into consideration the layout of his antenna supports (palm trees). One hundred fifty feet of RG-213 coax was most generously donated by John, K9DX, a 160 meter DXer from Illinois. An extremely generous offer to donate all the rest of the materials – 300 ft of FlexWeave wire, W2AU balun, insulators, PL-259's, Coax Seal, and 300 feet of Dacron rope (totalling several hundred dollars!) – was made by Craig, K1QX, of Radioware and Radio Bookstore in New Hampshire. All that was left for NEWDXA to pick up was the surface shipping cost.

All the parts arrived on South Cooks and in short order, Victor had the antenna up between the swaying palm trees. (Doesn't that sound inviting with the days getting shorter and colder here?!) Victor has already made contacts with the West Coast of the U.S. and Canada on 160 and hopes to make contacts further east as the band quiets down with the onset of winter. Contacts won't be easy at first, as Victor is primarily an SSB operator, and he's only running 100 watts. But he is practicing up on his code and soon hopes to push his signal further by using CW. (Who knows, maybe "An Amp for South Cooks" might be the title of a future article?)

Victor is extremely grateful to all who have helped with this project, and there is a standing offer to all involved (including all NEWDXA members!) to visit Victor, where he says he'll have a rig at the ready and lots of cold beer!! Victor told me several times during all this how gratifying it is to run into hams who "Walk the walk, not just talk the talk!" He adds, "Please pass on my thanks to the group of real dedicated hams there!" Keep an ear out for ZK1CG on 160 this winter, and realize that NEWDXA helped put ZK1 on 160!

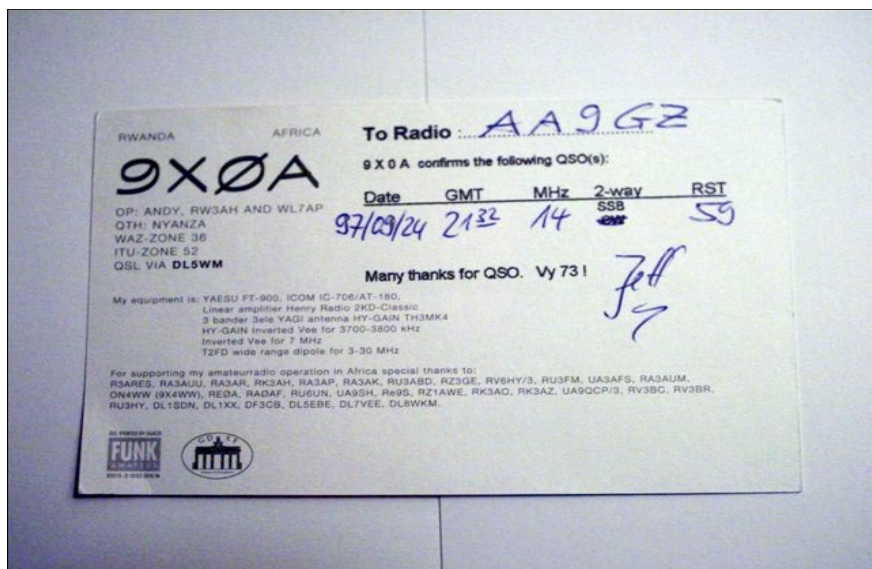
John, NZ9Z



Mark, W9OP (standing) and Tom, N9WI



Bob, KA9JAC (blue shirt) Gerry, WA9 GON (white shirt)

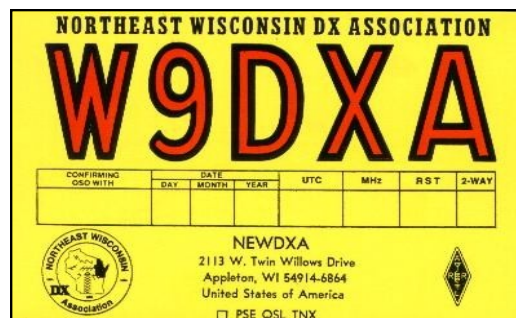


This is the front and back of a QSL card received by Robert AA9GZ. He received this card just before the last NEWDXA meeting. The contact was made in 1997. That was a seven year wait for this QSL card.

**NorthEast Wisconsin
DX
Association**

2005 Candidates to DATE

- President—George—W9MDP
- Vice President—Mark—W9OP
- Secretary—Tom—N9WI
- Treasurer—Bob—AA9GZ
- Assistant Treasurer—Gerry—WA9GON
- Membership Coordinator—John—NZ9Z
- Member at large —Mike—N9UA
- Member at large—Skip—KE9L
- Member at large—Bob—KA9JAC



Election Time

It is that time of the year. At the November meeting we will take nominations for the year 2005 NEWDXA officers.

So far the candidates with an interest are listed at the left. Should you decide you would like to be included please let George know the position you would like.

Elections at the January 15, 2005 meeting in Green Bay.



Skip, KE9L and Sheila



Mark, W9OP (left) and Denis, K9JIG

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Michael, KF9X and Chuck, K9IA (right)



Michael, KF9X (left) and Chuck, K9IA



Left to Right - Jim , K8IR, Robert, AA9GZ, Fran ,W9XYL, John, NZ9Z, Fred, W6BSF, Dennis W9DWN