

AMATEUR RADIO VISITS THACHER ISLAND -1995

Four radio amateurs visited and operated their equipment from Thacher Island, Massachusetts, over the weekend of July 29. Barry Collard, Frank Collins, Walter Madura and Dallas Ward, all from the Hartford, Connecticut area, spent the weekend talking to other amateurs all over the world. Located at the base of the north lighthouse, the annex building provided a unique location to set up their radio station. At 123 feet, the lighthouse itself served as an ideal support for their antennas with an unobstructed radio view for 360 degrees.

That weekend was also a special radio event. The Society of Great Britain sponsored its annual contest promoting Islands On The Air (IOTA). For twenty-four hours the Thacher Island team contacted over 615 other stations in more than 50 countries, Italy, Spain, Russia, Poland, Antigua, Brazil, Barbados, Hawaii and Norfolk Island, to name a few. Many of the stations contacted are also located on islands. Contacts were made in using Morse code and voice. A small 100 watt combination transmitter and receiver in the short wave bands using the call sign, Kilo One Delta Whiskey portable North America one forty-eight (K1DW/NA148).

This was a new experience for the group. They were thrilled to be able to put the Thacher Island "on the air" for such an important international event. The island is a beautiful spot from many aspects. Now it has another reputation as an excellent place to operate during radio contests.

Shown below is a copy of the so called QSL card that Hams, as they call themselves, traditionally use to confirm contacts from special places:

**K1DW / NA148**  
**THACHER IS. MASS, USA**

CONFIRMS  
QSO WITH : \_\_\_\_\_ DAY: \_\_\_\_\_ JULY 1995

UTC: \_\_\_\_\_ FREQ: \_\_\_\_\_ RS(T) \_\_\_\_\_ MODE: CW QSL: TNX  
SSB PSE

<u>QSL VIA:</u> DALLAS WARD K1DW 25 BELCREST RD WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107, USA	<u>OPERATING TEAM :</u> N1EOL K1MM K1EBY K1DW	<u>EQUIPMENT:</u> TS440S DIPOLES 100 WATTS
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