



"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"

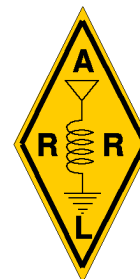
The NODXA RAG

NO8DX - Special Event Callsign
W8DXA - NODXA Repeater 147.360
K8MR - PacketCluster 144.91 & 145.57

Web-site: <http://www.papays.com/nodxa.html>

Newsletter: wd8iou@adelphia.net

Northern Ohio DX Association
P.O. Box 450783
Westlake, Ohio
44145 U.S.A.



January-February 2006

Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Now that the Peter I Island 3Y0X DXpedition is over, the only major operations to look forward to in the coming months are: Benin (TY) - March 15-21st, and the Andaman Island (VU4) activity from the Hamfest/Convention to take place in mid-April. The Glorioso Island DXpedition that was to take place this month (March)



is postponed again (possibly until October).

Getting back to the 3Y0X DXpedition, I would have to say the operation was a major success. I hope everyone was able to work them on the band or mode they needed. Peter I Island should move far down the "DXCC's Most Wanted List". It will be interesting to see how

far it does move down, but I guess we will have to wait until Carl, N4AA, does his famous "Most Wanted" survey for the DX Magazine.

There are two major conventions coming up in the next few months which are of interest for DXers/Contesters, and it is time to start planning for these events. The "International DX Convention" takes place first in Visalia, CA, from April 21-23rd. I have never been there, but some day I would like to attend (maybe some year as a club group).

The second convention is the "Dayton Hamvention" which takes place between May 18-20th. Even though attendance over the past few years "has seemed down", it is still by far the largest stateside event.

Plans for the NODXA hospitality are in the works, and if you attend, make sure you stop by and visit.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

Minutes of the December 5, 2005 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:31pm by the Vice President, Dwaine, K8ME. There were 14 members present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the November 7th meeting. After two callsign corrections were made, the minutes were approved.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account.

Denny, WB8K, reported that the repeater was up and running.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the 4.91 cluster is up and running and that he has used it during contests. The 5.15 repeater is still off the air.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is in progress and is waiting for the Fireside Chat and November meeting notes. He also needs articles.

Ron, K8VJG, reported that the VCR/DVD player has a defective laser pickup and is being repaired.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that Stan, K8VI had broken his hip and was the Parkside Villa nursing home for rehabilitation.

Ron, K8VJG, reported that Gary, NI8Z, had a stroke in Toledo but is now home and listens to the .82 repeater. He also reported that Ron, W8WH, while not at the meeting, wishes everyone the best holidays. Ron also reported that he will have a video of FT5XO, Kerguelen Island, at the next meeting.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that, as of November 22, there were 239 DX entities on the air.

Pete, N8TR, reported that there was excellent DXing on 40 and 80 meters during the recent CQWW-CW and 160 meter contests. A discussion was held concerning the predicted null in the solar cycle occurring in February 2006.

Dwaine, K8ME, also reported the Senegal, 6W7RV would be up from Dec 15th to 22nd and that the Mariana Islands would be up from Dec 22nd to Dec 26th.

Peter I is still on for mid-January. They will operate CEOZ for a couple of days on the way.

Ron, K8VJG made a motion, seconded by Nick, W8XD, that the next meeting be held on the second Monday, January 9th, due to the fact that Monday, January 2nd is the New Years holiday and that there is some good football games on TV. The motion passed unanimously.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that he had received the renewal of our repeater coordination for the 147.36 repeater from N8OOB.

Pete, N8TR started a discussion about the recent ARRL 160m contest. Nick, W8XD, reported just a few contacts.

K5ZD in MA, has a digital recording on the internet of the entire 48 hour contest.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that his house was open for the ARRL Sweepstakes-SSB to the members of West Park Radiops.

Pete, N8TR, reported on the house-to-house travels of K8MR during recent contests and his great operating skills on CW. He usually gets 100 to 200 QSOs per hour, all while reading a book.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Ron, K8VJG. The amount was \$13.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm by the Vice President, Dwaine, K8ME

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

Minutes of the January 9, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 16 members present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the December 5th meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account.

Denny, WB8K, reported that the repeater (147.36), was up and running.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the 4.91 cluster is down. K8MR is doing some board-swapping work on it. The 5.57 cluster also has a problem and is

not on the air. Additionally, the 5.15 repeater is still off the air. Discussion was held concerning drop-outs while connected via cable modem to the internet K1TTT, WinTELNET for DX Cluster use. Users can still connect to K8AZ via TELNET.

Dave, WD8IOU reported that the newsletter needs articles.

A discussion was held concerning the recent passing of Ray, W8BIN and other local hams that people knew. All will be missed.

Tedd, KB8NW, reminded everyone that the Dayton Hamvention will be here before we know it. DX Dinner tickets will be available at the next meeting (February). Tedd also reported that the Peter I Dxpedition will be on their way by the end of the month.

George, K8KR, reported on the vulgar interference on the 146.82, .85, and .88 repeaters. The offender has not been identified as yet.

Ron, K8VJG, is not here tonight so no DVD. Dave, WD8IOU, called him from the meeting and sure enough, he forgot about the meeting. DVD next month.

Ron, W8WH, received an email from Janeen, W8ZET, concerning the Hospitality Suite at Dayton.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that Stan, K8VI, was in Southwest General Hospital recovering from his second broken hip. Everyone wishes him well.

John, K8YSE, reported on the space station communications. Uplink on 144.49 and downlink on 145.800. Passes last about 10 minutes. Modes are packet and voice. John has recently worked them. Wednesday, Jan 11th at St Albert The Great School, NASA will assist in a school contact at 1810 UTC.

Denny, WB8K, reported on "SuitSat", a Russian space suit outfitted with 2m telemetry equipment that will be launched from the space station. Communications with it will be possible until it burns up in the atmosphere. It will last about 6 weeks. Further information can be found at www.amsat.org.

The next meeting will be on February 6th. The program will be a FT5XO DVD.

Tedd, KB8NW, called for a few moments of

silence to remember Ray and others and how much Ray will be missed at Field Day.

The 50-50 Raffle of \$17.00 was won by Ron, W8WH.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted, AI, N8CX, Secretary

Minutes of the February 6, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. 20 members and 1 guest were present.

With N8CX temporarily in the hospital, Glenn, AF8C is taking the minutes.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the repeater is still working fine.

Pete, N8TR, also reported that Jim, K8MR, installed the replacement computer for the Packet Cluster; it seems to be working but every now and then it hangs up and needs rebooting remotely. Both ports are operational. Status of the old (dead?) computer is unknown.

Dave, WD8IOU, needs input for articles in the newsletter.

Old Business: Ron, K8VJG, asked about Dayton. No news or application forms have been received from the Hamvention by anyone in the US mail.

Tedd said if you are interested in attending the dinner banquet, he needs your \$32.00 right now. As far as we know the hospitality room is available as usual. Ron W8WH said that the room charges would be \$142 per room per night.

SUITSAT can still be barely heard on 145.99, after seeming to fail after two orbits. See the AF3V web site for more interesting info.

The ISS (International Space Station) commander, also a radio amateur, working ARISS contacts with schools, completed contacts with St. Albert the Great school students in North Royalton in January.

Ron, K8VJG, witnessed the event. AF8C

participated as part of the NASA radio club supplying the equipment and operators.

Tedd and John K8YSE have both personally contacted ISS. See <http://www.ISSfanclub.com> for more news.

New Business: Elections will be an activity at the March meeting.

From N7MG Wayne Mills, the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee, and the DXAC, have some changes coming. Pete, N8TR, stated that Somalia, 6O, will be discredited. The idea is that if an entity has no recognized government, then cards from that entity should not be valid for government approved operations. The DXAC will also be clarifying a similar situation with 7O, Yemen. Tedd will put any new information on these actions on OP/DX as information becomes available. The members also discussed issues with landing permissions on KP5, Desecheo.

Per George, K8KR, some JA's and K3LP are going to Andaman Island in April where there also will be a Hamfest.

The impending 3Y0X landing has been delayed due to weather.

Tedd, KB8NW, provided an excellent video on FT5XO. which was shown after the meeting adjourned. This video was produced by the James Brooks team.

Ron, W8WH, donated a door prize: a 3Y0X souvenir coffee cup, which was won by AF8C.

Denny WB8K won the main prize, the \$19.00 split of the raffle.

Submitted by Glenn, AF8C.

Low Band Receive Antenna

The conditions for DX on the low bands have been excellent this last winter season! Unfortunately, being an alligator on 80 and 160 meters does not cut the mustard. (An alligator is all mouth and NO EARS.) For transmitting I have had great success with a sloping-bent vertical wire which is ground fed. It is supported at the



tower and bends down at a 60 degree angle which is tied off at a power pole. All my antennas are behind my house as well as are the power poles.

On a city lot not much room is left for receive antennas. No respectable low band beverage is going to fit on a 72' x 170' lot! I have experimented with a small rotating loop and a pennant, both of which were disappointing. This may be due to my failure as a technician, more than a failure of design. I have been using an inverted 'V' multi-band dipole for listening on 80 & 160 and that antenna is quieter although its direction is fixed North & South. I could not hear 3Y0X on 80 meters without being creative!

The Ham-Stick dipole to the rescue!

I own several 5-gallon buckets with a short mast set in concrete (all Hams should have a few around). Inside the small steel mast I inserted a wooden broomstick and affixed an aluminum dipole bracket for using two Ham Sticks. A wedge between the mast and broomstick allows one to rotate (Armstrong method) this contraption as needed. The whole affair is just about 5 foot above the ground. All parts are available from BuxComm for \$ 55.00. <http://www.packetradio.com/RVantenna.htm>

I have only been able to find 75 meter Ham Sticks, which are a little short for CW portions of the band. With alligator clips and some stiff copper wire, I was able to lengthen the whips to resonate at 3.525 MHz.

Yes, the ends droop a bit, but all the neighbors are laughing at the bucket in my front yard not the antenna.

(Hint for all Ham Stick dipoles – the length of each whip does not have to be the same. Cutting one whip shorter than the other can alter it's Impedance at resonance.) I think it is helpful to use a Balun (UNUN) at the feed point to decouple the feed line.

Initial results were disappointing! When I

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, AF8C, N8PW, K8ME, K8RH, W8XD, K4ZLE, N4FOZ, eHam.net, and the ARRL Letter.

NODXA Club Officials for 2006-2007

President - Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)
V. President - Dwaine Modock, K8ME (440-582-3462)
Secretary - Al Moriarty, N8CX (216-221-3682)
Treasurer - Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)
Newsletter Editor - David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)

As of March 2002
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

335

switched to the low dipole my Radio was quiet, I mean really quiet. No signals heard and no noise. Switching on the two preamplifiers in my Pro III, the band came alive with signals. I was able to copy 3Y0X all night long and in the last several weeks I have worked VK6HD, T98U, 3D2NB, YJ0ADX, ZK1NOU, Z36W and 6W/G4WFO.

Signal to noise ratio is the key on all low band receive antennas. You will need a preamplifier if your radio does not have an internal one. This antenna is directional and is located as far away from my transmit antenna as possible (on my property). I will experiment with height above ground, but I have had great luck at 5 feet. I wonder what would happen if I clipped enough wire on the whip ends to get it resonant at 160 meters ???

73, Bill Hannon, N8PW

Rootkit Revealer

By Glenn Williams, AF8C

There is a bad "worm" called "sobel" running around which has in it a "rootkit". A rootkit gets down so low in the operating system that it can't be detected by antivirus and anti-spyware software. The only way to fix your computer is to wipe and reload the hard drive.

The rootkit's purpose is supposed to be to send out bad stuff to other computers and not to crash your machine. Also, there has been a problem with Sony software CD's that had a rootkit on them. In general it is pretty hard to remove the damage that the Sony CD did. What I don't know is how much snooping of your personal data the rootkit might also do. Apparently there are rootkits out there for Mac and Linux also.

Any email from cia.gov or fbi.gov that has recently been floating around also has been known to contain the sobel virus (rootkit).

More information from one of our contacts:

"Home users are more susceptible to them because they tend to visit questionable websites and don't normally have sophisticated firewall and antivirus protection. Most Rootkits are installed from questionable websites that utilize Active-X controls. I configure my home browser to "prompt" before allowing any Active-X controls to be executed. They are also spread through executable email attachments.

Here are two bookmarks if you are interested.

<http://www.sysinternals.com/Utilities/RootkitRevealer.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rootkit>

Related story about Sony entertainment CD's:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4430608.stm>

I have tested RootkitRevealer on this PC without any trouble. It is a short download and is easy to install safely. (There was also a side benefit. While RootkitRevealer was scanning, my antivirus program was checking up on the files at the same time.)

Letter from Ray Brown's Aunt

To all of the Radio Friends of Ray Brown (1946-2005).

I want to express to all of you my deepest appreciation of your friendship with my nephew, Ray Brown.

Ray was the best friend anyone could ever hope for also the best son, grandson, brother, nephew, and cousin, in the whole world and I could go on and on. I remember so well the day he was born - the first grandchild of my Dad and Mom. They too, loved him dearly as they did all their grandchildren, but he was the first! They passed away in 1995 and as most of you know, his Mom, my sister, passed in 1998. He was so very much like his Mom. He was always there for all who needed him. Our family was and still is very close. When any of us hurt we all hurt for each other and rejoiced with each other at happier times. I'm sure his sister, Stacey also thanks you for your relationship with her brother as I do.

He was so funny sometimes and very serious when he needed to be. He always knew when and how to do just what was right in any situation. When he was in doubt about anything, I know he relied on all of you for advice and help.

This was the first Christmas I can remember for a long time that he wasn't at our house to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We always attended Christmas Eve services together. We also went shopping the day before Christmas and had so much fun. We laughed about silly stuff many times.



Please remember him kindly and never forget him. He loved and respected all of you for many years and was so proud to be associated with you and your lasting friendship to him.

Again, Thank you all so very much and remember NO CW!

Love to all,

Aunt Cynthia

Ode to "Radio Ray"

By Bob Haynes, K8RH

In memory of an old friend.

To our old friend "Radio Ray", who passed away. We will look for him another day.

We will look for him on 208 which we know he will appreciate.

We know he will listen from above, so we pass along our love.

Good luck "Radio Ray". 208 gang

8th Area Incoming QSL Bureau 2005 Report

Approximately 110,905 QSL cards were received for redistribution through the central 8th area bureau in 2005. This is down almost 20% compared to 138,236 handled in 2004. We handled 154,054 cards in 2003. The monthly breakout is as follows:

Jan. -- 6,361	Feb. -- 8,083
Mar. -- 10,401	Apr. -- 8,947
May -- 16,102	Jun. -- 5,417
Jul. -- 11,321	Aug. -- 10,891
Sep. -- 4,676	Oct. -- 4,387
Nov. -- 18,773	Dec -- 5,546

From these numbers and trends, you can see that LBOTW and decreasing sunspots are affecting QSL volumes. (Could it also be a decreasing population of active DXers?)

In 2005 we had five cycles where cards were sent from the central bureau to the individual letter managers. From that you can see that each cycle is approximately 11 weeks.

In mid 2005 Dave Blake, N4DB, resigned as the 'G' letter manager after many years of dedicated service. Those folks with a 'G' after the 8 owe Dave a ton of thanks for the work he has done. Don Karvonen, another well known and active DXer, has stepped up to the plate to assume 'G' letter responsibilities. I recently replaced myself as the 'F' letter manager. Bob Boehm, K8YS, has agreed to improve on what I had been doing in that regard.

The bureau is physically located at the VOA Museum in West Chester, OH. We appreciate the work of those members of the West Chester Amateur Radio Association who do the bulk sorting for us. More information on W8 Incoming Bureau operations, policies and procedures can be found at the web site: <http://home.fuse.net/jslough/w8buro.html>

Everyone is reminded that postage rates went up in January 2006. Do they have enough postage on their envelopes at the bureau to cover the new rates? Even more importantly, do they have envelopes at the bureau?

As another item of note, it cost the ARRL a bit over \$1300.00 for direct expenses involving the 8th call area last year. That does not include any associated administrative costs and overhead at the league.

The QSL Bureau - another benefit provided by your league and volunteers who work to serve you.

73, Jay Slough, K4ZLE
W8 Incoming QSL Bureau manager

VU4 Just Around the Corner

It appears that people are now lining up to operate from VU4 in April. See web site below for more details. Looks like lots of people will get an-

other chance to work this rare one ! These German ops usually put on a very good operation so everybody who needs it should have a great chance of being rewarded.

<http://www.dl7df.com>

73, Nick, W8XD

Using Emergency Backup Power

Mike Davis, N4FOZ, via eHam.net

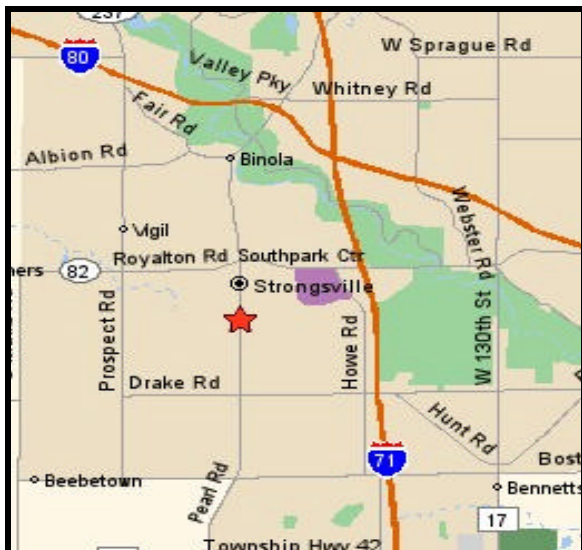
Flashlight close at hand and a mounted DC light in your ham shack. (DC florescent lights are inexpensive and available at most hardware stores)

A second power cable for your radio. Since these cables are becoming more standardized with "T connectors", they are available at many radio shops.

Large size Deep Cycle Battery. A "27 size" works well. Deep Cycle batteries are important as they can be repeatedly charged. Regular automotive starting batteries are not as good. They don't hold the consistent power for our application and repeated recharging can shorten their life span.

A combination "Float" and "Trickle" charger. This is a very important part of the project. The float type chargers maintain a topped off level for the battery without creating a lot of "out gassing", which could be an irritant inside the home. They also don't deplete water the same way a conventional charger can. Proper use of a float charger can maintain the life of a deep cycle battery for years.

What to do: Start with a fully charged battery and keep it in the ham shack with the battery half of the extra power cable attached to it. Then, wire tie the half of the power cable right next to the "T" connector on the primary power cable. This puts the two "T" connectors beside each other. When the AC power goes out, simply unplug the radio half of the power connector from the normal power supply "T" connector and plug it into the battery side duplicate "T" connector and you are now running on backup power!



NODXA Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the **Gourme Family Restaurant** at 15315 Pearl Road (Rt. 42) just west of Interstate 71 and south of Rt. 82 in Strongsville at 7:30 PM. Come early and have dinner and meet your fellow DXers and enter the 50/50 raffle.

NODXA Application and Renewal Form

The Northern Ohio DX Association is a non-profit organization with a primary interest in DXing. We encourage all DXers to join our group and share the interest and fun of DXing. Please complete the application below and send along your appropriate dues or renewal to:

NODXA, P.O. Box 450783, Westlake, Ohio 44145

First Time Membership/Renewal (U.S.)	\$12.00
Foreign Membership (outside U.S.)	\$22.00
*Foreign Membership (no printed newsletter) (but w/Web access for newsletter)	\$12.00

Name _____ Callsign _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/Prov. _____
 Country _____ ZIP _____
 E-mail _____
 ARRL Member? ___ Exp. Date _____ DXCC Member? ___
 Special Interest _____

Newsletter circulation: Pete Michaelis **N8TR**, and Mary Michaelis **N8DMM**

**Dated Material
Please Rush**



The Northern Ohio DX Association
 P.O. Box 450783
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