

January-February 2013

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

You will probably read this in the club minutes, but I thought I would explain/elaborate more on why NODXA has decided to change their donation/ funding policy. It all started with reports of a certain DXpedition in 2012 [which NODXA donated funds to and chooses to not to name publicly] that involved the leaders/organizers of the operation refusing to use the excess of donated funds to help offset costs/expenditures for the individual operators of the DXpedition. Instead, the leaders/organizers will utilize the excess of funds for their organization which for purposes it solely deems appropriate, such as activities not yet announced or known to the DX community. As you can see, NODXA believes this is an unacceptable practice.



Since late December, NODXA has received correspondences from several DX clubs/associations as well as a 12 page letter/document signed by 8 of the 10 operators stating they believe it "is a misappropriation of donations from the DX community" by the leaders/organizers "who are keeping your donations and not reimbursing those of us who paid for this DXpedition.

We believe your donation was intended to support the [unnamed] DXpedition and not intended to be diverted to the" leader's/organizer's "general fund."

Before making a decision, the members of NODXA had a lengthy discussion about this situation during their January and February general membership meeting. Even your club president has contacted a well-known DXer who has organized and gone on many DXpeditions to ask his opinion on this diverting of funds. His answer - "any surplus after a DXpedition should be shared with the team to offset personal expenses and/or returned to the major sponsors. This is always how I have done it..."

The International DX Association (INDEXA) announced in mid-January that they were adding a condition that must be met by DXpeditions requesting their financial help. The members of the NODXA during their February meeting voted to follow the INDEXA's example/guideline by also adding a condition that must be met by DXpeditions when requesting financial help.

"The Mission of the Northern Ohio DX Association is to promote and support Amateur Radio and the DX Community around the world."

As of February 1st, all DXpeditions requesting funds from NODXA will now be sent the following question/statement before the release of any funds:

"Members of NODXA believes that funds contributed to a DXpedition should be used only for that purpose. If there is a surplus of funds after a DXpedition is completed, a refund should be made, using some logical approach, to help offset the personal expenses incurred by individual team members and/or returned to the major sponsors. NODXA is not concerned how the refunds are made, but does believe that any excess funds should not be held by the organizers for other purposes or projects. Do you agree? Yes or No"

I hope I was able to explain this change in our donation/funding policy, and it did not confuse anyone. The members of NODXA felt it would be better to change a policy and make it public (and believe me, it really went public), instead of writing a letter to express our discontent on how the leaders/organizers of the DXpedition used their funds. I do believe many clubs, organizations and associations will follow INDEXA's example, as NODXA has.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

Minutes of the December 3rd, 2012 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:31 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW. There were 17 members and guests present. After the usual round of introductions the minutes for the meeting of November 5 were read by Glenn, AF8C. John, K8YSE, moved to accept the minutes as read, and this was seconded by Ron, K8VJG. The motion passed on a vote.

Mary, N8DMM reported the treasury balance as \$Ka-Ching! No new members have joined this month. Dave, WD8IOU, said the newsletter has been processed. He thanked the club members for their contributions to the newsletter. Dave always needs material for new articles.

Old/New Business:

Jim, KE8G, reported on the news from the US Postal Service. In the January 2013 price increase, an additional side effect is that the USPS will no longer sell IRCs although they will redeem IRCs from foreign countries. Jim says that our U.S. Congress is even contemplating whether to discontinue the \$1.00 paper green stamps in favor of coin. Postage for an overseas direct QSL envelope will be \$1.10. John, K8YSE says IRCs will still be sold in other countries, with the implication that you will just need to find a dealer. Extra discussion occurred on the usage of the \$1.00 coins currently in circulation.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that two different groups are planning to go to the Solomon Islands, to Guadalcanal. The UK group is announcing a CW-only operation while a German group will start at Guadalcanal and then go to Temotu as H40. Half of that group will go to H40G and the other half to H40T, during March 8 through March 25. That operation will be done by DL7DF, Sigi, and others. Their last H44 operation was in 1999. Gary, NI8Z, moved that NODXA fund the Temotu operation for \$100. The motion was seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, and it passed with only one nay by WD8IOU.

Campbell Island is coming up on February 9. The PJ5 is up until December 12. South Cook is on as E51E until January 5. Bruce, N8DJX worked E51E at 4 a.m. local time today on RTTY. A 3W is supposed to be up. XV2RJ will be until January 10. Pete, N8TR, noted that Viet Nam was in the most recent CQ WorldWide CW contest. A lot of Asian stations were on during the contest.



Bruce, N8DJX received an email that his new rotator is ready to be shipped. He said W4ASK is also getting one. Tedd said a few people went to the post-Thanksgiving DX luncheon in Mansfield. Brian, K3USC, reported that 62 to 63 people are now NODXA friends on Facebook.

For the raffle drawing, Tedd, KB8NW gave his winnings back to the club, netting the treasury a total of \$29.00. Door prizes were supplied by Carl, K8AV. Gary NI8Z won the first door prize and Glenn, AF8C, won the second door prize.

Show and Tell Program:

K3USC, described his earliest days in radio and his Knightkit SpanMaster. He brought a SpanMaster to see at the meeting (not the original radio, but more recently acquired). His first SWL card (for mode AM) was sent to W2ICE using the call "issued" by Popular Electronics magazine, WPE3BGU. W2ICE later sent Brian his card. W2ICE was the founder of the Antique Wireless Association. Brian met W2ICE 30 years later.

Karl, K8BCK, described How's DX in QST articles by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD. Karl had a vintage QST with a copy of one of Rod's articles from 50 years ago.

George, K8KR, described his lifetime goal of visiting all 50 states, with Idaho being the last one accomplished. In 1953 he was collecting Wheaties miniature license plates. He has 49 1953 original automobile license plates.

John, K8YSE, showed a Motorola Vibracenter PL tone creator from the 1950s, for 100 Hz and 110.9 Hz. A GE unit from Bramco had both encoders and decoders, along with reverse burst, and squelch tail eliminator.

Dave, WD8IOU showed an interesting unidentifiable electronic object - perhaps a cavity or something.

Pete, N8TR, showed a Fulton Traffic Light finder which was found in a box of cables from eBay that he bought for \$1.00.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Carl, K8AV, and seconded by Jim, KE8G. On a vote the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m. The next meeting will be on January 7, 2013.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the January 7th, 2013 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:31 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW. There were 17 members and guests present. After the usual round of introductions the minutes for the meeting of December 3 were read by Glenn, AF8C. Corrections were noted.



Mary, N8DMM reported the treasury balance as \$Ka-Ching! Ron, K8VJG moved to accept the treasurer's report, and K8ME seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.

N8QXC, Joe Mizik III, joined the club tonight. Our donation to the H40/H44 group was sent, and our logo is now on their Web site. ZL9HR Campbell Island was given some routine discussion. Our repeater has been operating fine.

Dave, WD8IOU reported that the latest newsletter went out on January 6. He thanked the club members for their contributions to the newsletter. Dave always needs material for new articles. For that, Scotty sent a photo of a 1931 radio toy. On YouTube is a video of the mocked up amplifier in a refrigerator.

Old/New Business:

Dwaine, K8ME said that the Green Mountain Repeater Association bought five NODXA patches,

and the patches were received ok by WA3DVO. Mary has the money from that sale. NX3SS and K3VEQ received honor roll patches. Ron, K8VJG, wanted to know where their club was located.

Gary, NI8Z, says the VE tests will be held at the old Independence Rec Center while the Town Hall is being painted.

Pete, N8TR, is making things from the Zazzle Web site. Name badges are inexpensive: \$1.50. Contact Mary for more information on that. Per Tedd, the Mansfield Hamfest is on February 17, which is weekend of the ARRL International DX CW competition.

George, K8KR, operated as Net Control for CARS, and ran a "Trivia Contest" called "Wireless Operators" where a man changed the name to radio operators. That person was DeForest.

Per Tedd, KB8NW, nominations for officers will be taken at the March meeting. There were no requests for donations. The ZL9HR Campbell Island situation was more fully discussed. According to a letter, ZL9HR team members will not be compensated for their considerable expenses from any excess of donated funds. This news became the core of considerable discussion about there being a need for an ethical understanding that agreements made in good faith by potential Dxpediton participants should never be broken except by natural events.

The next topic was the problem with the NOARS president having written to Denny, WB8K, about an NODXA member commandeering the antenna that was not in use in one of the NOARS repeater sites. Eventual clarification by Denny proved that it appeared that NOARS had abandoned their equipment.

For the raffle drawing, Nelson, K8DJC gave his winnings back to the club, netting the treasury a total of \$34.00. A motion to close the meeting was made by Carl, K8AV, and seconded by Jim, KE8G. On a vote the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m. The next meeting will be on February 4, 2013.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Ferretting Out Noise Sources by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About three months ago, I put up a 20m antenna—an end-fed, half-wave antenna (<http://www.kb6nu.com/kb6nu-finally-builds-an-end-fed-half-wave-antenna/>). Right off the bat, I was flummoxed by the high noise level. It was nearly S9, obliterating all but the strongest signals.



The strange thing about this noise was that I was only experiencing it on 20m, and only using this antenna. If I switched to my 40m dipole, the noise dropped back to the S1 - S2 noise level that I usually experience here. (Yes, I know. I'm really lucky to have such a low noise level here.)

It didn't really make any sense to me that this antenna would be so susceptible to noise while my other antennas weren't, but I just couldn't come up with any other explanation. I was not experiencing any noise on any of the other bands, after all. Sometimes 40m is so quiet here that I check to make sure that the antenna is connected to the radio.

As luck would have it, I stumbled upon the noise source a couple of days ago. I had taken the laptop I normally use in the shack somewhere one day last week, and when I returned it to the shack that evening, I switched the rig over to 20m before connecting the power supply back to the laptop. No noise! When I plugged the power supply into the laptop, the noise jumped up to S9 again. The problem noise source was found!

I posted about my experience to my blog and to the HamRadioHelpGroup (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup/>). Mark, K5LXP, one of the gurus on HRHG, advised me to throw the main circuit breaker in order to determine if it was something inside the house generating the noise. Bob, KONR, commented on my blog post, "I have found that flipping off circuit breakers in

was a long time engineer at radio station WELI in Hamden, Connecticut, even started a local ham radio club that was sponsored by the station and he was trustee of the club's license, WA1HRC.

During the next few years we held our club meetings in the radio station's remote building, where the emergency on-air studio was housed. It was there that we built and operated our club station of Heathkit equipment. I recall how we built other equipment, including a 15 meter Yagi one Saturday at the radio station after my dad convinced the broadcast station to purchase and erect a 50-foot crank-up tower. We participated in several Field Day adventures and even made a few trips to ARRL Headquarters.

My interest in Amateur Radio faded when I went to college in 1972 and my dad lost interest soon thereafter. He soon left his position with the radio station to start a two-way radio sales and service company that eventually led to a very successful commercial mobile/cellular business.

In 1981 I returned to the air and was active for a few years, and again this renewed my father's interest in returning to the hobby. As a birthday gift in 1982, I presented him with the exact same equipment I was using at the time: a Kenwood TS-520SE transceiver and matching AT200 antenna tuner.

By 1983 my level of activity waned once again and I sold my equipment. My father kept his gear and was active until around 1988. During his "active" period I helped him put up a 160-meter long wire. Dad constructed some RTTY equipment and wrote an article about the experience that appeared in the June 1985 issue of *73* magazine.

QST-Calling All Amateurs

After my dad retired and he and Mom moved to Sarasota, Florida in 1991, I always assumed that he sold his equipment, among other things, prior to the move. My father passed away in August 2002. Shortly after, I made it a point to notify the ARRL and requested that he be remembered among other silent keys in *QST*.

Later that year I received in the mail the December 2002 issue of *QST*, which surprised me because I hadn't been a member of the ARRL in well over 30 years and I hadn't seen a copy of *QST* since the early 1980s. But in that issue my father's listing appeared in the silent keys column. To this day I am not sure who sent me that issue of *QST*.

For several weeks I found myself going through that issue of *QST* over and over again, looking at the advertisements, reading articles and trying to understand some of the unfamiliar terms that were nonexistent 20 years earlier. All the while I asked myself, "Why was it that I hadn't thought about getting back into the hobby again? If I had done so earlier, maybe I could have renewed my father's interest for a third time." We could have scheduled contacts and my children would have loved the opportunity of "getting on the radio" with their grandfather.

In early December 2002 my mom came to stay with us for a few weeks. One day she noticed the issue of *QST* that I had been thumbing through and said something to me



John Miller, W1PDI (SK), at his operating position in 1984, with a Kenwood TS-520SE transceiver and some homebrew RTTY gear.

that seemed to make time stand still. She said that my father had kept a lot of his ham equipment and asked if I wanted what he saved. When I asked why he kept the equipment, her reply was simply, "He wanted you to have all of it because he had hoped someday you would become interested in ham radio again."

Because of that December 2002 issue of *QST*, my interest in returning to the air was already there. But now, learning that I had access to some equipment and that it was kept with the hope that I might someday want to return to the hobby, well, the timing was right. Arrangements were made to have the equipment shipped to me in January 2003 and I was back on the air by early February.

The Final Courtesy

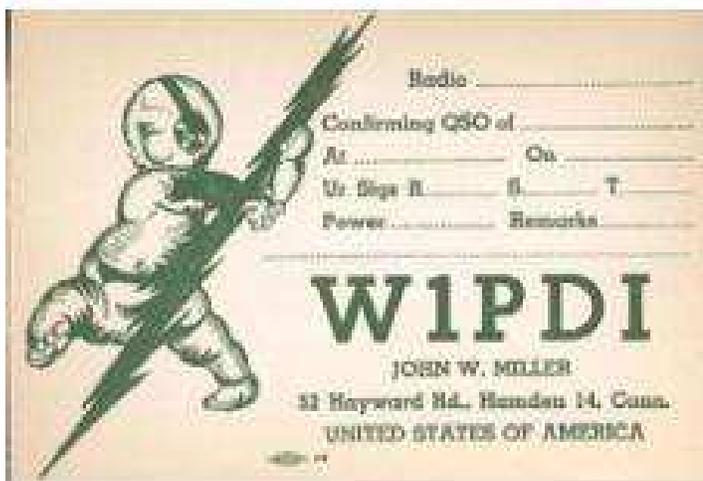
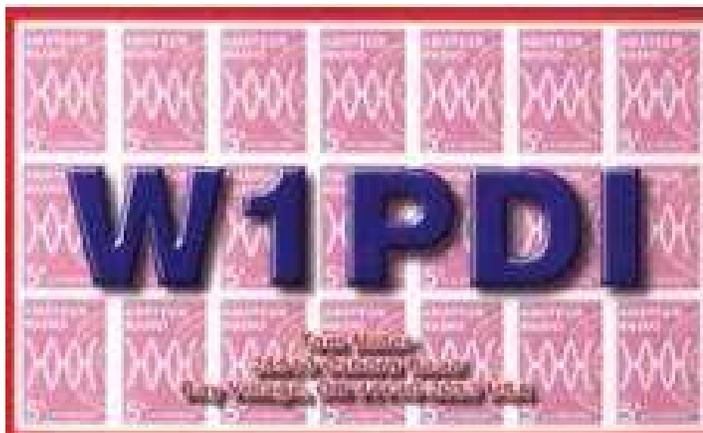
Not only did my father keep the Kenwood equipment I had given him as a birthday gift 20 years earlier, but to my surprise the packages of equipment that arrived that day included more than I ever could have imagined.

That shipment also included nearly all of the original equipment that my dad had set up for me when I first received my Novice ticket: the Heathkit HR-20 receiver, my DX-40 transmitter, matching SWR bridge, my first code key-with his call sign and mine still on the mounting board-and even the SB-600 Heathkit speaker that I bought while still a novice. Also included were QSL cards my dad received over the years, all of his logbooks, his original Vibroplex bug from 1947 and a handful of his own original QSL cards from 1946. What a treasure.

Life is full of odd circumstances. If it were not for the unexpected December 2002 *QST* showing up in the mail, plus the fact that unknown to me Dad had kept his ham equipment, I seriously doubt that I would be back on the air today enjoying Amateur Radio like it was 1966 all over again. Well, maybe not exactly like 1966, since Amateur Radio certainly has changed since then.

As a way to remember my dad, in April 2003 I applied for and was granted the amateur call he held from 1946 to 2002, W1PDI. I just had to keep my dad's call sign in the family. It's good to be back in ham radio, but I just wish I had the chance to once again renew my dad's interest in the hobby that he first introduced to me nearly 40 years ago.

Also included with the equipment my dad kept were a dozen or so old *QST*s from the 1950s and '60s. In one issue, January 1965, on page 74, was the announcement of the commemorative Amateur Radio stamp, first released in Alaska. It was in this issue that I found a block of the commemorative stamps my father must have placed there to preserve them. That, along with it being the stamp's 40th anniversary, is what prompted me to design my current QSL card. On the back of my new card, I've included a tiny version of the lightning-throwing baby in the corner and a note that my dad held my current call sign from 1946 through 2002.



IRC's and Global Forever Stamps by John Papay, K8YSE

As AF8C posted, IRC's will no longer be sold by the USPS after January 26, 2013 . I just ordered a few of them on the USPS.com website as did K8BL. Now you'll have to get them from another country. It would not have cost them anything to have them on the usps.com web store but they didn't see the wisdom of that. According to the website when I ordered, they had 330,900 of them in stock.



If they didn't want to sell them any more, why didn't they just have them on their website until 12/31/2013 when the current issue irc's expire. Now they'll have to shred them. You have to wonder what they are thinking. The post office here must still redeem irc's since that is a requirement of the International Postal Union. Member countries are not required to sell them, however. Good luck with trying to redeem them in your local post office.

On another matter, the new air mail forever stamp will be issued on 1/28/2013. It is a round stamp, quite different from anything seen before. Canada and Mexico are no longer less expensive to send a letter to compared to other countries.

Every country is \$1.10. One hidden qualification to that is that \$1.10 gets you up to 2 ounces to Canada compared to 1 ounce to all other countries.

Our other option to sending money for postage is William Plum foreign postage stamp service. But IRC's are less expensive than stamps for some countries like Italy and Columbia. I've had fairly good luck with sending SASE's with foreign stamps except for a few countries like Venezuela and Columbia. Then there are those hams that won't qsl no matter what you try. Plum has airmail envelopes, European style, that come in two sizes, one slightly smaller than the other so they fit together without folding. Highly recommended.

FOR SALE

Cushcraft-X-9 Yagi Antenna

Frequency Coverage - 40, 20, 15,10 & 6 meters

Total Number of Elements -9

Boom Length -28 feet

Wind Surface -9.9 ft

Wind Load -----255 at 80mph

Excellent Shape, asking \$300.00

Total Elements per Band- 4

Turning Radius - 21.7 feet

Wind Survival ---100 mph

Total Weight ----85 lbs.

Kenwood TL-922A HF-Amplifier

Frequency Range: 160M through 10m which includes 12m & 17m Amateur Bands & QSK. New band switch

Mode & Duty Cycle: SSB continuous for 30 minutes, CW & RTTY-key down continuous for 10 min.

Tubes: Pair Eimac 3-500Z

Power Required: 120V @ 5A; 220/240V @ 14A

Has soft keying and step start circuits, these circuits were redesigned and are much improved.

The work was professionally done by Kessler Engineering

Excellent Condition. w/MANUAL

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Asking \$1400 Dollars, Pickup in Ohio at Sellers House

Seller: Dwaine Modock, K8ME Phone: 440-582-3462 E-mail: k8me@sbcglobal.net



K9IKQ/R 146.685 - 151.4 Hz

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For More Info. Go To:
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THE WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



PRESENTS:



2013 Terre Haute Hamfest & Computer Expo

Saturday -- March 9, 2013

Dede Activity Center Indiana State University

(39° 28' 16" N, 87° 24' 39" W)

Indoor Event – Rain or Shine!

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM EST

(Vendor setup begins at 6:00 AM)

Admission \$7.00 (12 and under free)

Free Tables

Hourly Door Prize Drawings

Free VE Testing Session at 11:00 AM

Talk-In: K9IKQ/R, 146.685 MHz, PL 151.4 Hz

*For More Information about the W.V.A.R.A. please visit
www.w9uuu.org*



Please go to
www.2cars.org to
 reserve and pay for your
 2013 Dayton Hamvention
 Bus Trip

Saturday May 18, 2013 CARS
 is again sponsoring a Bus trip
 to the Dayton Hamvention.



Nearly 25,000 hams & non-hams attended Hamvention® 2012. Every amateur radio operator in the world probably dreams about going to the Dayton Hamvention at least once. Please join us in 2013, it is an incredible event and offers something for everyone.

The Bus trip will cost \$48.00 dollars per person, we will stop for breakfast on the way down, plus have a fast food stop on the way home. You are responsible for both your food and Hamvention tickets. Go to <http://www.hamvention.org/tickets.php> to order your tickets.

Stop 1: The bus will leave promptly at 3:30 am from the Kmart parking lot at the intersection of Engle and Bagley Roads, in Middleburg Heights, Engle Road is a 1/4 mile west of I-71, Kmart is behind the Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there will be security.

Stop 2: The bus will also pickup riders at I-71 & Rt 303 at the SE corner of the Kmart parking lot and will depart for Dayton at approximately 4:00 am. When ordering tickets please tell us which stop you will be at.

Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance.

If you have any questions please see Dwaine at a CARS meeting, call 440-582-3462 or go to www.2cars.org and click on the Dayton Bus trip link to pay using PayPal. Checks can be mailed to: CARS, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, OH 44131-0264 attn. Dayton bus

73, Dwaine, K8ME



Meeting Information

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 Information

NO8DX: Special Event Callsign
 W8DXA: NODXA Repeater 147.360

Web-site: <http://www.papays.com/nodxa.html>
 Newsletter Submission: wd8iou@adelphia.net

NODXA Club Officials for 2012-2013

President: Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)
 V. President: Dwaine Modock, K8ME (440-582-3462)
 Secretary: Glenn Williams, AF8C (440-835-4897)
 Treasurer: Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)
 Newsletter: David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)



DXCC Info

As of February 2012, the current DXCC Entities total is: **340**.

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 361624 , Strongsville, Ohio 44136

First Time Membership/Renewal (U.S. and DX) \$20.00

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

Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, K8YSE, AF8C, N8EHW, W1PDI, and KB6NU.