

January-February 2014

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

Over the past few months I have talked about Sunspot Cycle 24 and the possibility of a double peak cycle. Well now it is official, Cycle 24 has peaked twice. In January we have seen the Solar Flux go from 70 to 188 as this was being written. It actually came at a good time during the Amsterdam Island DXpedition (FT5ZM) which gave some of us a chance to work them on the 10 meters. The opening was short because of the short light hours there, but long enough to work them. Let's hope that the Solar Flux can hang in there for the upcoming DXpeditions in late February and March. Some of the operations to look forward to are:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Feb. 15th-Mar. 2nd | - VIETNAM; callsign XV2BM |
| Feb. 24th-Mar. 22nd | - CAMBODIA; callsign XU7AC |
| Feb. 26th-Mar. 6th | - ANNOBON ISLAND; 3CØBYP |
| Mar. 1st-11th | - CHRISTMAS ISLAND; callsigns VK9X/K7CO and VK9X/K7CXN |
| Mar. 23th-30th | - ANDAMAN ISLANDS; callsign VU4K |
| Mar. 28th-Apr. 9th | - MELLISH REEF; callsign VK9MT |

NODXA members should be interested in the Mellish Reef operation because the club did donation funds to DXpedition, so let's hope for good propagation.

Well, it is that time again to start thinking about the Dayton HamVention. Believe it or not it is only a few months away (a little more than 3 months as this is being typed), and it will be here before you know it. Did you order your tickets yet online or by mail? If you have not heard, the CARS group *will not* have a bus going there this year.

Some of the members enjoyed the "Mansfield Pre-CQWW DX CW Contest Luncheon" so much, the club is planning a couple of "Pre-Contest DX Luncheons" this year. The first will take place March 28th, the Friday before the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th). Look for details in the coming weeks on the NODXA E-mail Reflector.

In closing, I hope to see you in the coming weeks/months, possibly at NODXA's general membership meetings. As a reminder, if you have a topic to discuss about DXing or Contesting, bring it up



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

at the meeting. Also, if you would like to put on a program of some interest for the club in the coming months, let us know so we can schedule you in for a meeting. We are always looking for a program.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

Minutes of the December 2nd, 2013 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 18 members and guests present. After the round of introductions, the minutes for the meeting of November 4 were read by Glenn, AF8C. A motion by Dave, WD8IOU, to accept the minutes was seconded by Dwaine, K8ME, and passed on the vote. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Accepting the treasurer's report was not motioned nor voted.



Tedd reported that the Mellish Reef donation was sent and a thank-you email came back within 30 minutes. The NODXA logo will be on their Website by December 8. Their Webmaster is in Budapest.

The Mansfield DX luncheon on November 22 went well and drew a wide area of attendance. Pictures are on Facebook. Tedd discussed possible new venues for the luncheon that may be tried as early as in 2014.

New member Jim, KC8VTF, described his background in amateur radio. Mary will send club information to him. The repeater was reported as working fine.

Dave, WD8IOU, is working on the Christmas edition of the RAG. He would appreciate any articles, bios, or jokes.

Old/New Business:

Per Dwaine, K8ME, CARS is going to sponsor a bus to the ARRL Headquarters for \$20.00. Riders must pay all other costs. The bus trip is from March 16 to March 18. Pete, N8TR, says that Tony, N8SK, is interested in the trip. Tony is also looking for the ARRL 100th convention trip in Hartford. Per Dwaine, see the December QST for information on the ARRL 2014 activity.

Tedd posted results of Field Day in the newsletter and reflector. We were actually 2nd in QSOs on Field Day in the Ohio Section but another club had more points. Tedd reported there were no new Expedition donation requests received.

Rick, K8ZH, asked about December operating events. Then Tedd supplied information for December for VU7AG, XV2RZ, XV2LLR, T32TM, T32RC, V5/homecall, and in 2014 Ile Amsterdam FT5ZM, Ile Tromelin, Mellish Reef, and Chatham Island. Pete,

N8TR, said that in 2014 the ARRL will allow a "Single Operator Unlimited" contest class. Check new ARRL rules.

Per Dave, WD8IOU, the November issue of CQ listed K8YSE's satellite accomplishments as over 2000 Grid Squares on Satellite. (Check OPDX for more information). Per John, K8YSE, the ARRL does not list VUCC standings in QST, although the ARRL promotes satellites.

The raffle for half of the \$31.00 collected was won by Brian, K3USC, who then donated his share to the club. Tedd wanted to recognize Mary, Pete, and John for their years of service to the club and for Field Day support. So Tedd surprised the group by presenting two new award certificates. The first NODXA presidential appreciation award was for Pete and Mary, with a second certificate for John, K8YSE. Dave, WD8IOU, was ready with his camera to document the presentations.

The next meeting occurs on January 6, 2014. The meeting closed at 8:39 p.m. local

Show and Tell:

John, K8YSE, showed off the "Morrow Model 3 BR-5" converter that was used in mobile opera-

tions in the 1950's. This converter was originally owned by Paul Parobek, W8BUS (SK), John's cousin.

Pete, N8TR, showed a large rotary edge-wound RF inductor he had picked up at one of the Cleveland Hamfests, that could be used in a homebrew tuner or linear. Also he had a large fixed tap capacitor similarly obtained.

Rick, K8ZH, showed off a memento of having once worked on the Alaska Pipeline. His roommate at the time cut an outline of Alaska into a piece of scrap pipe steel.

Nelson, K8DJC, showed off a homebrewed AM modulation monitor.

Brian, K3USC, showed off a key paddle purchased from an estate. He would like more help on figuring out who built it.

George, K8KR, brought a photograph from June, 1960, of K8KR, N8DJX, and N9RC at the Rhodes High School radio club. His second item was one of a set of car logo pins that used to come in Cheerios cereal boxes. His third item was a photograph of a C124 cargo plane, and then he told a story that went with it. While he was involved with some RCA 16S1 SSB units that were continually breaking down and were sent to Japan for repair by Japanese civilians, he was detailed to accompany some of the units to learn why there were continuing hardware problems. This led to George's critique of the repairs and introduction to an officer much higher up in his chain of command.

Then Dave, WD8IOU, discussed how he got into ham radio in 1989-1990 using a GAP Challenger antenna and how he needed to use special radial pins (now available from Ross Radio) to hold the ground radials down in the grass. He happened to have two bags of such pins at this meeting and those became extra door prizes for which drawing led to winners Tedd and Glenn, AF8C.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the January 6th, 2014 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 8 members and guests present. After the round of introductions, the minutes for the meeting of December 2 were read by Glenn, AF8C. A motion by Mary, N8DMM, to accept the minutes was seconded by Denny, WB8K, and

passed on the vote. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! A motion by Ron, K8VJG, to accept the treasurers report was seconded by Dave, WD8IOU, and passed on that vote.

Tedd reported receiving yet another thank you note from the Mellish Reef group for our donation. Their VK9MT expedition is scheduled for March 28 to April 9, 2014.

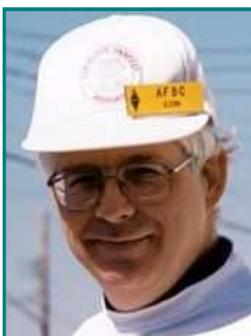
Mary, N8DMM, announced that Association membership dues are due by April 30. The repeater was reported as working fine. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter was sent out a couple of days after Christmas. Note the photograph of the "BLESDX" license plate in the newsletter. Dave needs photos or gossip or news for the newsletter.

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John, K8YSE, is in Florida and wishes us well. It's going to be 40 degrees down there tonight. Here the reported temperature outside is -8 degrees F.

Old/New Business:

Tedd received the press release and request for donations to the Ile Tromelin FR/t DXpedition group. Tromelin is in the Top Ten wanted list. The last expedition there was in 2000. Tedd talked about travel for the operators and so forth. At rank 10, perhaps we need to raise our donation to \$250.00. Then Ron moved that we donate \$250 to the Tromelin expedition and Pete, N8TR, seconded. The motion was tabled. Due to the lack of a quorum tonight, no action on this request will be taken at this meeting.



Ron, K8VJG, asked about a prefix he heard on the repeater. Tedd discussed the theory that we are in the second peak of a two-peak solar cycle. Per Glenn, AF8C, there is news that the solar magnetic field has now completely flipped over.

Glenn, AF8C, reported that Tedd's OP/DX report number 1143, the interview with Jim, ND9M, known for his VQ9JC Diego Garcia operation, was carried in the AMSAT Bulletin ANS-005 that came out today. Jim is not likely to be at Dayton so that he can afford to travel to the 100th Anniversary celebration in Newington in July.

Ron asked about the CARS bus to Newington to the ARRL Headquarters. That information was in the minutes that were read tonight. It was mentioned that in the ARRL 100th Anniversary operations, Tedd, as Assistant Director, is good for 40 points.

Pete, N8TR, reported that K3LR was at the DX Engineering activity this weekend. Pete added that in July 2014 DX Engineering will have an open exhibit at the Summit County Fairground with door prizes for registering for free event. During the last two weeks of 2014 DX Engineering will host W1AW/3.

Tedd discussed that the DX lunch that was held the week before Christmas, at Mulligan's at Prospect and Route 82, was well received and that event likely will be repeated in December, 2014. Pete noted the changes at *CQ Magazine* with their *CQ Plus* magazine that starts February, 2014. Pete reported on his opinion of why *CQ Magazine* is making publication changes.

The next meeting occurs on February 3, 2014. Ron, K8VJG motioned for adjournment. The meeting ended shortly after 8 p.m. local time. The temperature outside was then about -10 degrees F.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Protect your gear from ESD by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Electrostatic discharge, or ESD for short, has been a concern for anyone involved in electronics ever since we made the transition from vacuum tubes to transistors. I was schooled about ESD when I worked as a test engineer for a company called Doric Scientific shortly after I got out of engineering school, and I wrote about it when I was an editor for Test&Measurement World magazine back in the 1990s. If anything, it's even more of a concern today as electronic components get ever smaller.

In 1991, Bryan P. Bergeron, NU1N, published a two-part series on ESD (part 1: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9104019.pdf>, part 2: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9105028.pdf>) in QST. His suggestions about how to prevent ESD damage are as good now as they were 20 years ago:



- Consider using a room humidifier to increase the relative humidity in your shack, or wherever you work on electronic equipment to 65% RH or higher.
- Use grounded wrist straps when handling ESD-sensitive devices.
- Use grounded, anti-ESD work mats when working on electronic equipment.
- Use a grounded soldering iron and anti-static tools.
- Use anti-static bags and containers for storing and transporting electronic equipment.
- Connect the chassis of all your gear to a good earth ground.
- Consider purchasing a desktop ionizer to neutralize static buildup on your workbench.

I might also add consider grounding the chairs that you use in your shack or discharging yourself after getting up from the chair in your shack. I know that the worst electrostatic discharges that I experience are after I get up from my chair. You can even buy ESD-safe chairs (http://www.all-spec.com/products/Benches_and_Chairs%7CChairs_and_Accessories%7CCHR-00/), but they are kind of expensive.

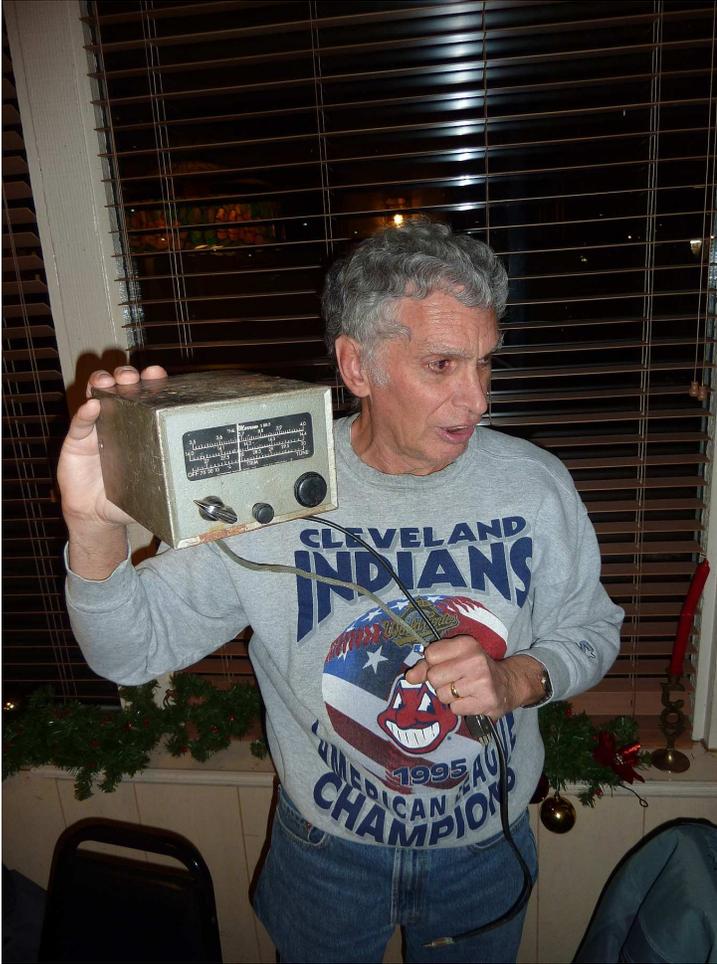
Personally, I use an anti-static mat that I originally purchased for use with a computer keyboard and

a wrist strap that was given to me by an ESD consultant when I worked for the magazine. I use these religiously when building kits or working on any solid-state gear.

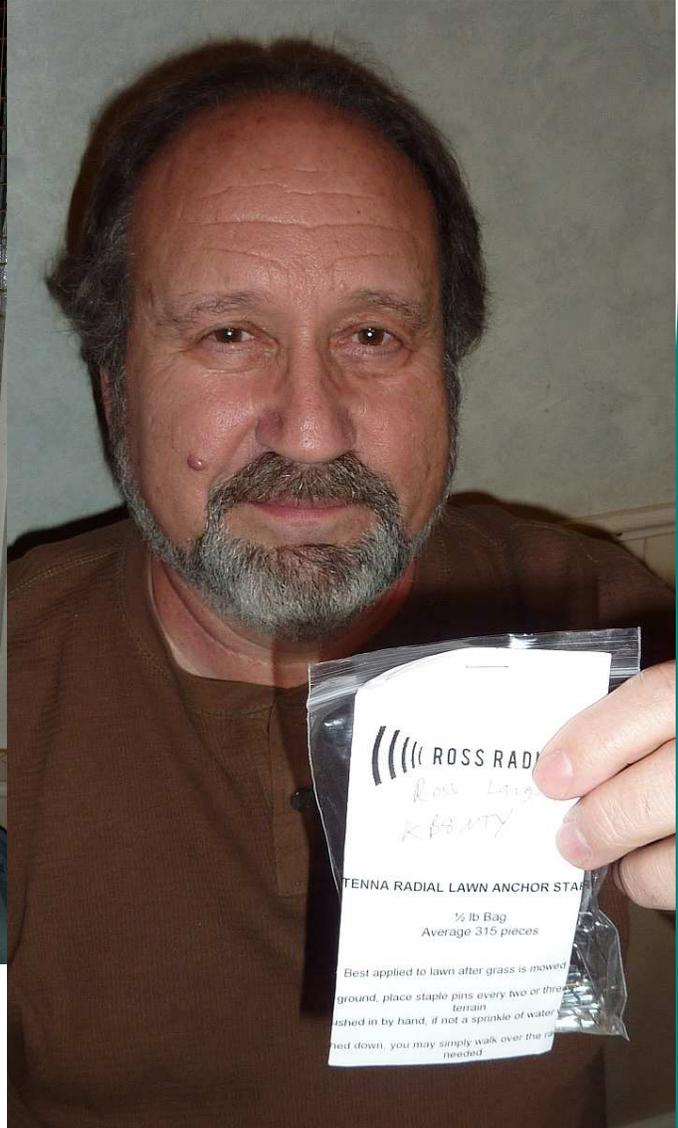
It's not hard to find anti-static products. RadioShack sells a wrist strap for only \$1.23 (<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2103245>)! You can find a whole range of anti-static products on Amazon, too. Wherever you get them, they're a good investment.

'Show and Tell' by Glenn Williams, AF8C, and David Autry, WD8IOU. Photos by WD8IOU.

The December 3rd, 2013 meeting was also the annual 'Show and Tell' event. Several members brought in interesting items from their past with interesting stories to go along with them.



John, K8YSE, brought in his old "Morrow Model 3 BR-5" converter that was used in mobile operations in the 1950's. This converter was originally owned by Paul Parobek, W8BUS (SK), John's cousin.

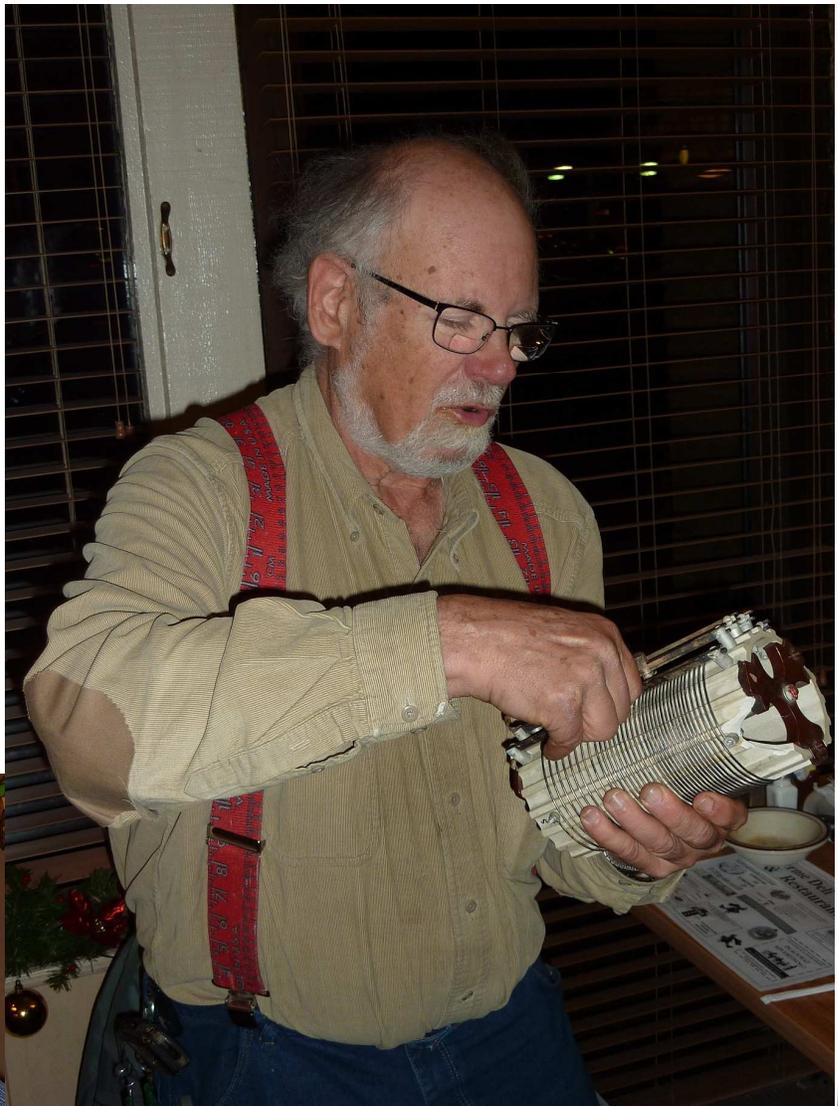


Tedd, KB8NW, displaying the radial staples that he won as a door prize. Dave, WD8IOU, bought in these staples for "Show and Tell". These staples are sold by NODXA club member Ross Langman, KB8NTY.

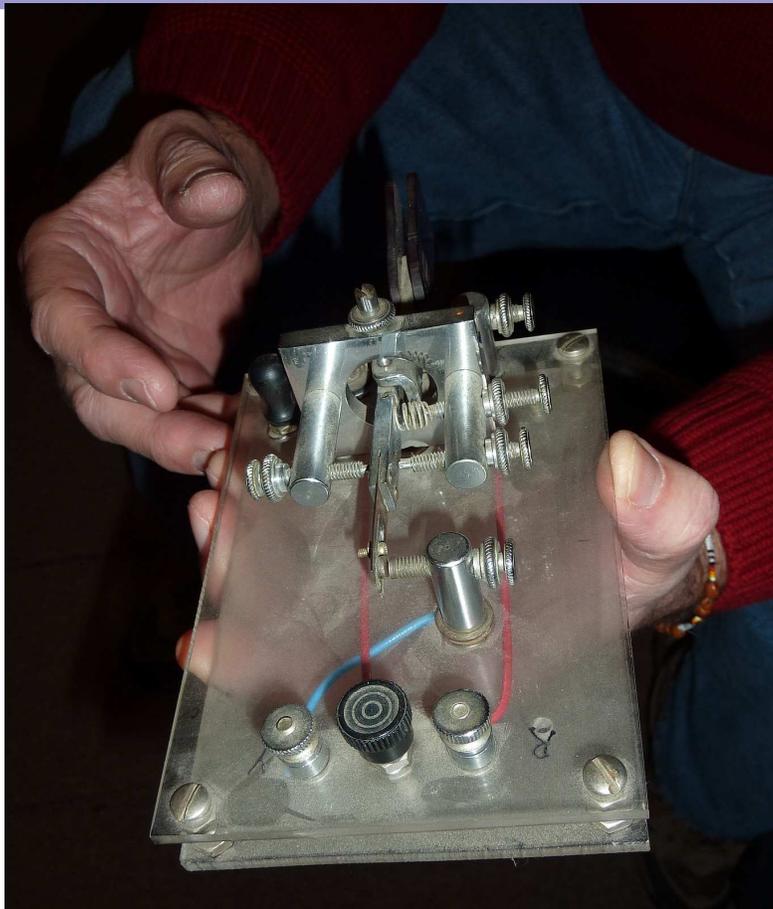
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Right: Pete, N8TR, showed a large rotary edge-wound RF inductor he had picked up at one of the Cleveland Hamfests, that could be used in a homebrew tuner or linear. Also he had a large fixed tap capacitor similarly obtained.



Left: Nelson, K8DJC, showed off a homebrewed AM modulation monitor.



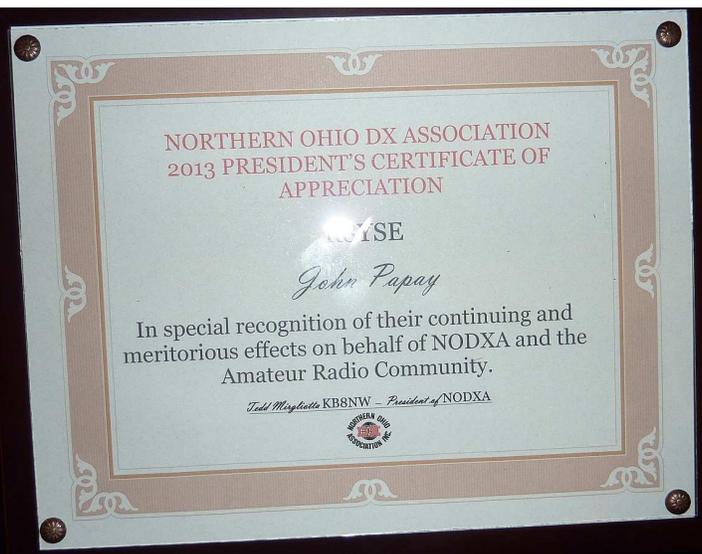
Left: Brian, K3USC, showed off a key paddle purchased from an estate. He would like more help on figuring out who built it.

Below: Rick, K8ZH, showed off a memento of having once worked on the Alaska Pipeline. His roommate at the time cut an outline of Alaska into a piece of scrap pipe steel.



First NODXA Presidential Appreciation Award by David Autry, WD8IOU

The first NODXA Presidential Appreciation Award was presented to Pete, N8TR, Mary, N8DMM, and John, K8YSE by Tedd, KB8NW, at the December 2, 2013 meeting. Tedd wanted to give special recognition to these members for their years of service to the club and for their Field Day support. The first certificate was awarded to Pete and Mary and the second certificate was awarded to John. I think that it is safe to say that all three members were very surprised by this recognition. Congratulations Pete, Mary, and John!



Interesting QSL Cards by Scotty, WK3N

Here are two interesting QSL's that I recently received.

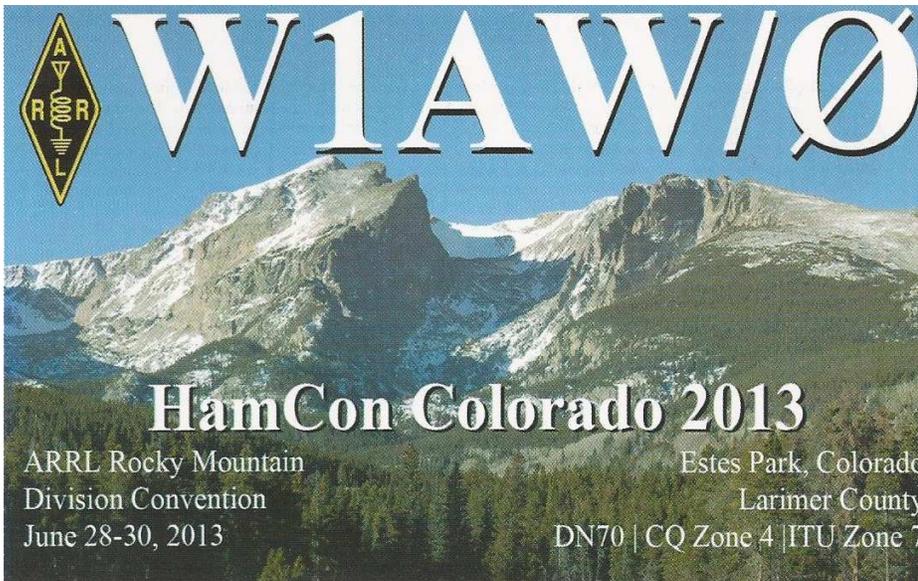
The Navajo talkers, N7C, card came from the ham station on the reservation in Arizona. The resident amateur N7HG , Herbert Goodluck ,is the grandson of one of the deceased "Code talkers" 3rd Marine Division, Signal Core Unit. During WW2 coded messages were send in the Navajo language, as the Japanese couldn't figure out how to decode their language. Thus becoming one of the most important departments in the Marine Core and one of the greatest stories never told. Museum donations are via Navajo Code Talkers Foundation.



The W1AW/Ø QSL came via the 2013 Rocky Mountain Division Convention held in Estes Park, Colorado. The station W1AW/Ø was on for the entire weekend of June 28-30, 2013. Having technical sessions and forums, special guests, vendors and other amateur activities. Wish I could have been to this event ! The photo QSL shows

"HalletPeak and Flat Top. More info at www.HamConColorado.org.

Scotty WK3N



Ham Realizes He'll Never Read Those Magazines Again by K5PO via Hamhijinks.com

TARTAN BLACKRIDGE, Pa. - "It's the collection of a lifetime," says Mel Sallute. He solemnly glances at the room in his eastern Tartan Blackridge home dedicated to the orderly storage of QST Magazines. It seems like thousands of them, though he assures it's "not quite 2,000."

Sallute was born in Tartan Blackridge in 1932 and became interested in amateur radio at a young age. "My Dad was a radio operator and shared the passion of the hobby with me. I was a General Class by my 17th birthday in 1949," he says. He joined the American Radio Relay League in the same year and began to receive their QST Magazine monthly.

"708 of the QSTs are mine from my personal subscription. I also have a few hundred from my uncle, also a ham for many years, and a dozen or so from my Dad. I also bought a large collection off another ham at a hamfest in 1973 for some reason. Mostly duplicates," Sallute said.

"Dad was famous as the 'Great Steady Carrier of the East' because he sorta became an SK and yet not at the same time... he passed away and his head fell on his straight key, sending a carrier for three weeks before they found him," he said.

Focusing back on the magazines, Sallute continued, "I guess I felt they would be a great resource, but I never read one after filing them away at the end of the month. I kept an orderly collection, assuming they'd have some value someday. In 1988, I started to get worried the weight of the magazines would put my house's foundation at risk so I decided to sell them. I had my nephew bring his pickup truck over and we loaded boxes upon boxes into the back and took them down to the Waltville Hamfest. My initial asking price of \$7,500 for the collection was mostly getting sneers and laughs, so I dropped the price to free and still no takers. One ham did grab an issue and rip out pages to wrap some 3-500z tubes he'd bought and needed to transport home."

"I thought the turning point would be when my great-granddaughter got her ham ticket last year. I figured her eyes would light up when I showed her my QST collection that could be hers, but it just wasn't so. She said, 'Grandpa, I can get all those on the ARRL website now in digital form!'"

"I dang near cried," he said. "At that point, I realized neither I nor anyone would ever read one of these again!"

At press time, Sallute was planning a large backyard bonfire fueled by QST Magazines, but he did have his great-granddaughter post an ad on QRZ.com for \$7500, just in case.



(Comic courtesy K8ME and WK3N)



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 2013-2014

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, WK3N, K8ME, KB6NU, K5PO, and Hamhijinks.com.