



*"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](mailto:wd8iou@adelphia.net)

**Northern Ohio DX Association**  
**P.O. Box 361624**  
**Strongsville, Ohio**  
**44136 U.S.A.**



**March-April 2006**

## **Poolside (Almost) Chat With KB8NW**

Fellow DX'ers,

The end of April turned out to be an interesting month for DXers. First there was the activity by S01R from Western Sahara and then the much anticipated Andaman Island (VU4) activities during the Hamfest/Convention. There seemed to be plenty of VU4AN stations on the air for about a week, but from what I read on the InterNet (DX Mailing List), the need is still there. The biggest complaint was propagation.

Did you ever wonder, "Why do they have these major operations during the low sunspot cycle?" Hopefully, the VU4AN activity will open the door for more operations. However, many are hoping that the VU4AN activity will open the next door for a VU7 (Lakshadweep Island) operation. Anyway, I hope those who needed VU4 worked it.



Lastly, the Aves Island DXpedition (YX0A/YX0LIX) hit the air waves during the last 10 days of April. This should have been an easy one to work and was expected to please the low and digital operators. April was truly an excellent month for DX.

Currently, plans are being made to have Mel, W8MV, (one of the 3Y0X operators) attend one of NODXA's club meeting for a presentation during the summer. Hopefully, more details will be forthcoming so you can mark your calendar to attend.

Just a reminder that the "Dayton HamVention" is just around the corner and it takes place between May 18-20th. Hope you made plans to attend the NODXA hospitality room.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. It is time to renew your club dues. Remember, the main purpose of this club is to promote DX and donate to DXpeditions. With your dues you can help achieve this.

## Minutes of the March 6th, 2006 NODXA Meeting

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

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the February 6th meeting. The minutes were taken by Glenn, AF8C in the absence of Al, N8CX. After one callsign correction, the minutes were approved as read.

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

Mary, N8DMM and Tedd, KB8NW both reported that the repeater was up and running. Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster was running okay.

A discussion was held about getting DX spots on the cluster earlier, about 4 to 5 minutes earlier. Data gets backed up at 1200 baud.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter will be out soon.

A discussion was held concerning a donation that the club made to the Glorioso DXpedition last summer. Neither our club name or logo ever appeared on their web site, indicating that we had not donated. Tedd, KB8NW, contacted them three times by email, but never received an answer. The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, found that our check had never been cashed. Further discussion was held as to what we should do about it. Tedd, KB8NW, said that he would call or write N5PA, the stateside contact person.

Ron, K8VJG, reported on the Field Day site. He reported that he had been in contact with Sr. Mary Grace at the Regina Health Center (Mt Augustine). Plans are in progress.

Tedd, KB8NW, wondered if anyone had heard from Don, N8AC. It was reported that he had both knees replaced and is getting along much better now and that he will be coming back to meetings soon.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that he heard Ron, W8GMH, on the air recently.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had seen brochures for travel to Antarctica at Marc's re-

cently. His wife was not amused at the suggestion of taking next years vacation there. Cost was \$6000. per person.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that nominations for club officers was this month. Each officer was asked if they would run again. All said yes. Thus, the nominated officers for 2006 - 2007 are: President, Tedd, KB8NW / Vice President, Dwaine, K8ME / Secretary, Al, N8CX / Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM.

A motion was made by Ron, K8VJG, seconded by John, K8YSE, that the present slate be re-elected. The motion passed unanimously.

Tonight's program is a repeat of a DVD shown at Dayton last year. The Swaines Is. DXpedition.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 3rd.

The 50-50 raffle of \$17 was won by Tedd, KB8NW.

A final note, John, K8YSE, received a QSL card from a 2m FM contact with the International Space Station.

The meeting was adjourned by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

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## Minutes of the April 3rd, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:34pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 13 members and 1 guest present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Mary also reported that we had a new member. Dan, AC7P, of Idaho Falls, ID had mailed in his application and dues. He likes the OPDX newsletter on the internet. She also reported that many emails to the members are bouncing, so she requested that all members confirm or update their email address with her.

Pete, N8TR, said the he will bring the online

roster up to date. Al, N8CX, will also update the club information on the ARRL website.

Pete, N8TR, also requested that Dave, WD8IOU, print and extra 50 newsletters for the hospitality suite at Dayton. Tedd, KB8NW, also suggested that we offer a \$2 discount on new memberships signed up at Dayton. Everyone agreed.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the repeater is working fine. The cluster is working but sometimes he receives a "K8MR busy" message when logging on. He said that resetting the computer fixes the problem, but that the problem should be looked into.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that Pete, N8TR, won the plaque for SSB in the Ohio QSO Party last August. He also reported that Vratislav, OK1KT, of the Czech Republic, won the DX plaque. The DX plaque is sponsored by NODXA.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter will be out soon.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had again emailed, but received no response from, N5PA concerning our donation to the Glorioso DXpedition. Tedd said that he will try other avenues to contact him.

Ron, W8WH, reported that he had spoken with Janeen concerning the hospitality suite at Dayton. All preparations are being made. It was decided to show some DXpedition DVDs at the suite.

Tedd, KB8NW, said the Field Day was coming up fast. Bill, W8JGU, is the Field Day Chairman. Ron, K8VJG, reported that he had again been in contact with Sr Mary Grace at Mt Augustine and that all is okay for Field Day operation. Liability insurance will be taken care of.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had received and email from Bill, N8PW, saying the Mel, W8MV, one of the 3YOX operators was willing to come to a NODXA meeting and give a presentation. The club is looking forward to it.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 1st.

There was no 50-50 raffle tonight due to the lack of members in attendance.

Ron, K8VJG moved, seconded by Carl, K8AV, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The

meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

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## Little Known Fact

He came from a very poor home. And it was necessary for him to go to work at a very early age. So he did. He started out as a jeweler's apprentice. He did that to support his widowed mother. But two things ended that career: one, his heart wasn't in it; and two, he was a terrible jeweler. He once wrote that his creations in gold and silver were so bad that people would hide them from public view.

So, of course, he turned to acting. He told his mother that he was going to pursue a career on the stage. He even wrote two stage plays. That didn't last long either, but this time for a different reason. One day he got his hands on a popular science book of the day and that changed everything - both for him and for us. He fell in love with science, and especially electricity.

He was able to work his way through a local college as an administrative assistant. There he excelled. He dove into every science book he could find, and in 1817, there really were not too many science books to be found. But he did find the writings and discoveries of a genius named Benjamin Franklin to be fascinating. Electricity had just been discovered a few years earlier, and he was beside himself with anticipation.

He put together the first homemade batteries and started experimenting with the idea of wrapping different lengths and diameters of wire around a soft iron core. Back then what little wire existed wasn't insulated, so he used wax to insulate the wires. Yes, he invented insulation for electric wires. And he found that with a simple little 21-pound piece of iron and some wire and a little current, he could lift more than 750 pounds with ease. That, of course, literally changed everything. He had invented the electromagnet.

And if you think about it folks, it would be difficult to name a piece of machinery that does not use a transformer or electric motor today. It was considered the invention of the century. Con-

sidering how it changed the world, I guess it was.

And you may want to know one more little invention he came up with. Something that was probably the other great invention of the century: a way for people to communicate over long distances instantly. Yes, the telegraph. He invented it. So we want to thank and honor the inventor of the electromagnet and the telegraph: Joseph Henry!

Yeah! Joe Henry. Yes, I know you've been told that Sam Morse invented it the telegraph, but he didn't! It's a Little Known Fact that Joseph Henry invented the telegraph nine years before Sam Morse. As a matter of fact Joe taught Sam Morse how it worked.

Now, to give credit where credit's due, Morse did invent the code that is used on the telegraph. And he is the one who patented it and got all the credit. But it was Joseph Henry who invented it. Sam Morse said so many times, too. He tried to give the credit to Joe, but too many people had come to believe that since he invented the code, that he also invented the device. But he didn't. So our hats are off to you Joe. You literally changed the world - twice!

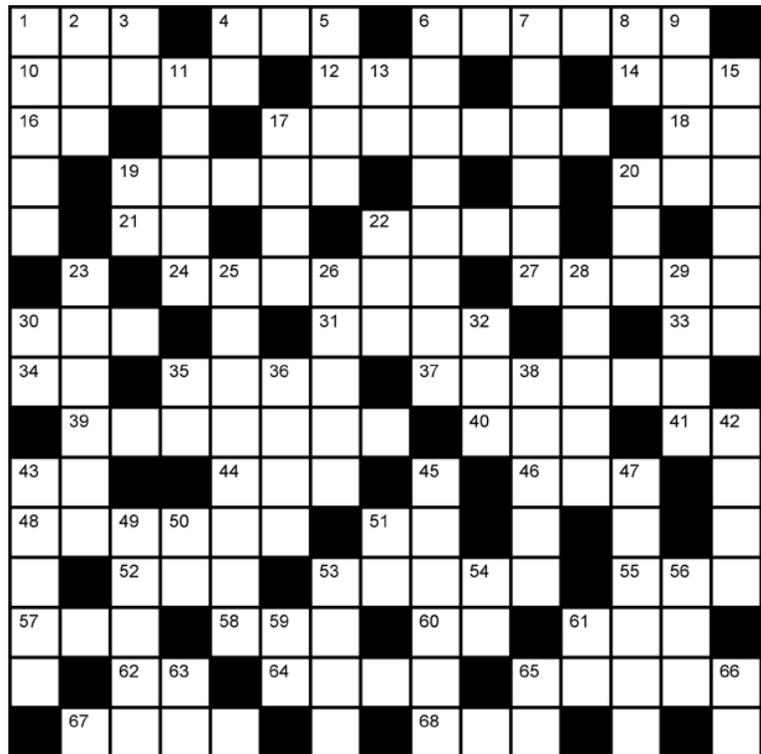
Thanks to 20/9 Radio Club News and [www.littleknownfactsshow.com](http://www.littleknownfactsshow.com)

## The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler

By H. Ward Silver, NOAX

### Across

1. Exception created by the FCC to allow operation not normally allowed (abbr)
4. Highest frequency that supports communication
6. To be present at the convention
10. Commemorative cloth emblem
12. Promise to pay
14. Short way to agree
16. Receiver (abbr)
17. This is often introduced at conventions
18. Switches the antenna during a conversation
19. Boring (two-words)



20. Just to inform (abbr)
21. A contest and a resistor (abbr)
22. Comparatively small
24. Biggest North American hamfest is held here
27. Common aspect of presentations
30. Holds all the swag you pick up
31. Hollered in pain
33. Stand by (CW prosign)
34. Below MF (abbr)
35. One task in a sequence
37. Who must caveat at the hamfest
39. Stuff that's given away
40. Hollered to mean "well done!"
41. Obseleted by kHz
43. Trade name for CTCSS tones
44. One of the traditional TV networks
46. Both a brew and a digital protocol
48. What the listener does at a convention program
51. End of message (CW prosign)
52. The country of A, K, N, and W
53. Made of metal links
55. Small metal or ceramic commemorative jewelry
57. Just a little bit
58. Radio's ol' skyward friend
60. Schematic component designator for a tube
61. Obsolete term for a radio
62. Grid current (abbr)

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, W9NET, NOAX, 20/9 Radio Club News, eHam.net, and the ARRL Letter.

## **NODXA Club Officials for 2006-2007**

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

**As of March 2002  
Current DXCC Entities Total is:**

# **335**

- 64. Used for phone operation
- 65. Program with several experts
- 67. Where programs are held
- 68. Where you park

### **Down**

- 1. Excessive spending at hamfests
  - 2. What the government collects from sales
  - 3. While strolling the aisles, you're .. the convention
  - 4. Unit of inductance
  - 5. Holding a price
  - 6. Listeners to a speech or presentation
  - 7. What you have to have to get in
  - 8. Northern state of the 2nd district
  - 9. Fee paid when taking equipment into a country
  - 11. All those that came to the convention
  - 13. ARRL-appointed ham band monitor (abbr)
  - 15. What you win
  - 17. Small or inadequate
  - 19. Prefix for many Heath rig model numbers
  - 20. Charge for use or attendance
  - 22. Written statement of agreement between organizations
  - 23. Win by purchasing tickets
  - 25. These are prevalent on ham cars at conventions
  - 26. The subject of a program
  - 28. Where conventions are usually held
  - 29. Complement to space
  - 30. Color that means '6' (abbr)
  - 32. Medical insurer (abbr)
  - 35. Direction opposite NW
  - 36. What your interest does if the price is too high
  - 38. Ordinary or clear
  - 42. Makes change
  - 43. What the convention meal is served on
  - 45. Journey to the convention
  - 47. Knowledgeable individual
  - 49. Complement to video
  - 50. FET's source resistance (abbr)
  - 51. Battery energy rating
  - 53. Cheat
  - 54. The object of attention in a game of tag
  - 56. UN agency that administers telecomm
  - 59. Complement to XYL
  - 61. Only one operator (abbr)
  - 63. If you will be present, you must ..
  - 65. Unit of length (abbr)
  - 66. Obsoleted by MHz
- (Solution next issue)**

## **Improving Code Keys Contacts**

Although I'm not a collector of keys, I use CW most of the time and have a few keys that I really like. Some contacts are silver and work well, but others are of other metals, which require cleaning often to make good contact. In my own experience, it seems easier to send good code with fewer mistakes with contacts that are reliable and don't have much resistance. I've taken the cue from all the computer boards, military connectors, and high-end stereo connectors out there and have had the desire to optimize my key contacts for a long time.

There is a product that I've discovered that will easily gold plate my key contacts with a minimum of effort, time, and expense. Its called the "Wizard Pen Plating Kit" from "PMC Supply" in Jacksonville, TX. It can be ordered from <http://www.pmcsupply.com> for \$60.

The kit consists of a felt tip pen with a porous tip and that contains 2 AA batteries, and a small bottle of plating solution. A wire with an alligator clip comes out the top and is to be attached to the metal you want to plate. Soak the tip in the enclosed bottle of gold plating solution and then rub the tip where you want the gold plating to go. It takes about 2 drops per contact surface, and in a short time, the gold plate is applied and the result looks beautiful.

Plating the contacts doesn't alter the feel of key closure, but closure seems more positive and I make fewer sending mistakes at QRQ speeds. I intend to try this on some of the contacts of my Collins gear, especially the RCA connectors, as they tend to corrode over time.

Yes 60 bucks isn't cheap, but it's my job to fix the XYL's jewelry, and this will pay for itself in other ways, too.

John, W9NET, via eHam.net



**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 361624 , Strongsville, Ohio 44136**

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 361624  
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