

March-April 2014

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

It has been an interesting couple of months. The higher bands have provided several new bands fills by several of the latest DXpeditions. It was a little disappointing that the Mellish Reef (VK9MT) DXpedition ended sooner than expected, but safety comes first. NODXA did donate to this operation, and I hope that everyone who needed it got to work it.



The next upcoming DXpedition that NODXA has donated to will be the Tro-melin Island (FR4TA) which takes place between October 30th and November 10th (unless something else come up before then). Not much is happening until then, except the "Dayton HamVention" which is approaching fast (only a few weeks away).

The turnout for the NODXA "Pre-Contest DX Luncheon" for the CQWW WPX SSB Contest was great. We had 20 people attend. Some individuals got to meet one another for the first time. Everyone enjoyed the food and get together. The only complaint by a very few were the high tables and chairs. I will try to correct this for the next luncheon.

Once again I would like to thank the membership in re-electing Glenn/AF8C (Secretary), Mary/N8DMM (Treasurer) and myself (President) as NODXA officers for 2014-2015, and welcome Denny/WB8K as the new Vice President. Dwaine/K8ME chose to step down as Vice President this year, and I personally (along with the club members) would like to thank Dwaine for his many years of service as VP.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone to visit the NODXA Hospitality Suite at the Crown Plaza during the Dayton HamVention. Come and meet/greet the many DXers from around the world and the operators from the many DXpeditions we support.

As always, 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 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

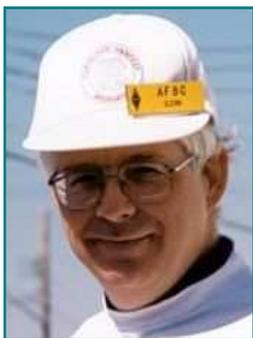
P.S. Reminder -- Dues are due for 2014-2015.....

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

Minutes of the February 3rd, 2014 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 17 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes for the meeting of January 6 were read by Glenn, AF8C. A motion by Denny, WB8K, seconded by Dwaine, K8ME, to accept the minutes was passed on the vote. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! A motion by Gary, NI8Z, seconded by Carl, K8AV, to accept the treasurers report was passed on that vote. Tedd's reminder for us to pay dues by April was duly noted. The repeater was reported as doing OK. Per Dave, WD8IOU, the next newsletter will be in progress soon. He needs your articles, photographs, documentary evidence and so forth.

Old/New Business:



Tromelin will be up for 10 days in November 2014. The Mellish Reef activity will occur at the end of March. Last month's tabled motion to donate \$250.00 to the Tromelin group was removed from the table and passed unanimously. Several comments on the weekend's NOARS winter hamfest were given coverage. Rick, K8ZH, asked if final accounting for Dxpeditions is ever publicly announced. Per Tedd, the actual operators often contribute large sums as part of their joining the team. After that the hope is to be able to close the debt by contributions from interested operators.

Tedd described the Web site "DX Heat". Note that using "DX Heat" with Microsoft Internet Explorer on a PC requires JAVA 7.51 and completion of a necessary security step. Smartphones work with "DX Heat" via an app.

Dwaine, K8ME, asked about support for Windows XP in 2014. While Windows XP will continue to run after April 15, 2014, the usual Microsoft Security Essentials updates will no longer be available. [Post-meeting update: MSE updates will continue until April 15, 2015, but MSE will not longer be installable after April 15, 2014.] Dave, WD8IOU, praised the Windows-based "Classic Shell" program that will add back the familiar GUI to Windows 8.x and 7.

Per Dwaine, K8ME, the CARS Dayton bus will not be offered in 2014. Per Gary, NI8Z, the CARS bus to ARRL Headquarters in early March is still being offered free for members of CARS. CARS membership is \$20.00. Riders will have to cover their own meals and board.

Tedd described the success of the late-2013 "DX Lunch". This will likely lead to a trial DX Lunch at Mulligan's on March 28 before the CQ WPX Phone contest. Mark that on your calendar. Gary, NI8Z, described emailing his recent contest score to "NOHDXA" for it to be accepted. [Post-meeting update: according to the ARRL "Clubs" Web pages, "Northern Ohio DX Assn" is the correct spelling for club credit in ARRL contests .]

Per Dwaine, for the ARRL 100th Anniversary, the new ARRL Handbooks are serialized and can contain your callsign on the cover.

Wrapup:

Per Tedd, next month will be nominations night for club officers. The raffle collection was \$32.00 and Dave, WD8IOU, donated his 50/50 winnings back to the club. The next meeting occurs on March 3, 2014. After the motion for adjournment, the meeting ended at 8:24 p.m. local time.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the March 3rd, 2014 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 13 members and guests present. After the round of introductions the minutes for the meeting of February 3 were read by Glenn, AF8C. A motion by Pete, N8TR, seconded by Dennis, K8LBT, to accept the minutes was passed on the vote. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! A motion by Ron, K8VJG, seconded by Karl, K8BCK, to accept the treasurer's report was passed on that vote. Dues are due by April. Tedd asked for reports on the repeater. Glenn, AF8C, has emailed Denny, WB8K, about a certain noise problem. Denny said that noise on the repeater output after key-up seems to be related to a constant noise on 148.36 MHz that could be disturbing the receiver's input. Also Glenn reported that three weeks ago the West Park Radiops Monday night net was shut down by malicious interference. Per Dave, WD8IOU, the newsletter is out. He always needs your articles, photographs, documentary evidence and so forth. Dave thanked AF8C, December 2 photos, and the QSL card photos from Scotty.



Old/New Business:

Per Tedd, the \$250.00 to the Tromelin group was sent via PayPal. Our logo is now on their Web site. The pre-contest luncheon on March 28 is scheduled at Mulligan's and Tedd needs your headcount information by noon March 28. There may be a published attendance list for that event.

One new request for donations has been received from a German group going to Sri Lanka, per DL7SF, Kurt. CW and SSB callsigns will be "457/ DFG/FRG/LXG" running on March 10-23 on all bands. A motion to table their request for funds was moved by Gary, NI8Z, and seconded by Karl, K8BCK. Pete, N8TR, already has the Dayton fleamarket tickets. Tedd reported that the hospitality room is sure.

Glenn, AF8C, reported on the FCC RM-11708 digital bandwidth symbol rate NPRM. There was new ARRL email explaining commentary out this week. Per Pete, N8TR, the fear agenda behind the NPRM is a concern about expansion of noisy interference from "email" which is currently passing via PACTOR on the CW band segments.

K8KR: Pioneer ARC in Akron will have a Dayton Bus for \$65.00. Gathering site: Rt. 224 and Rt. 91. George, K8KR: reported that K8KH, Ken, is a SK. His widow has a 50 ft. tower available for free to anyone wanting to take it down. Ron K8VJG: Has anyone heard Ukraine on (re: Crimea activity)? Pete N8TR, and Mary reported hearing Ukraine during the contest this past weekend.

George, K8KR: he was on a net last week. Per that net's trivia question, there are 2.3 million licensed operators in the world. Japan has 1.1 million of those. The U.S. has 700 thousand. Thailand is third and South Korea is fourth. NI8Z,

Gary: CARS is having a VE session on Sunday. Also, Ron Boehlein WA8ZJV is a SK. He had some Collins stuff. For the estate sale contact his son Roger N8TCP. Gary also reported that Bob, WB6C, had back surgery February 26. Tedd: Toledo Hamfest is on March 16. Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest occurs Saturday April 12.

Question from George, K8KR: What other callsign is located at ARRL headquarters besides W1AW? (Answer: W100AW, W1INF, KB1ZWL, and W1HQ, at least, per lookup by AF8C.)

Nominations: Tedd opened the floor for officers nominations. As nominated: Treasurer --Mary, N8DMM, by Ron, K8VJG. Secretary -- Glenn, AF8C, by Karl, K8BCK. Vice President--Denny, WB8K, by Dave, WD8IOU. President--Tedd, KB8NW, by Pete, N8TR. For the motion to close the nominations: Ron, K8VJG, seconded by Karl, K8BCK. The ballot is tabled now and will be voted at the April meeting.

Wrapup:

Per Tedd, next month will be elections night for club officers. The raffle collection was \$32.00 and Ron, K8VJG, donated his 50/50 half back to the club. The next meeting occurs on April 7, 2014 with no snow! Ron K8VJG, moved, seconded by Denny WB8K, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

FCC To Reinstate Morse Code Test by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

"It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits FCC official



Washington, D.C. - April 1, 2014 - Today, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 14-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. "It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC's director of examinations. "We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can't."

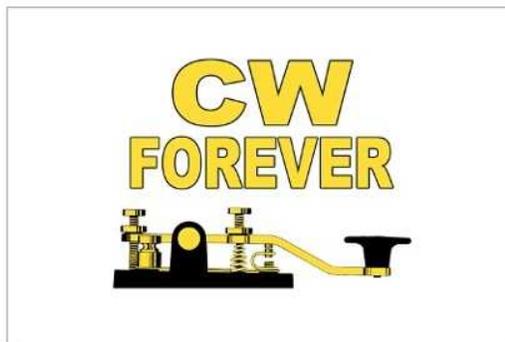
Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2014.

"This isn't going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests," noted Dasher. "We're going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key."

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. "We discussed it," said Dasher, "but decided that since most Techs can't even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment."

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. "We're beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something," she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212 or jim.shorts@fcc.gov. For more news and information about the FCC, please visit www.fcc.gov



"O Romeo, Romeo, Wherefore Art Thou, Romeo?" by Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

ZCZC AE53
 QST de W1AW
 DX Bulletin 11 ARLD011
 From ARRL Headquarters
 Newington CT February 21, 1996
 To all radio amateurs
 SB DX ARL ARLD011



ARLD011 Awards committee vote

The ARRL Awards Committee met recently to review submitted documentation for the 1992-93 P5RS7 operation submitted by Romeo Stepanenko. After a review of all material available, the Awards Committee voted unanimously to disqualify Romeo Stepanenko from participation in the DXCC program.

This disqualification is based upon Rule 12, Operations Ethics, and Rule 13. The disqualification means that Stepanenko is not eligible to participate in the DXCC program in any manner. This includes, as provided for under Rule 12, paragraph (b) disallowance

NORTH KOREA...
 IT'S ANYWHERE YOU WANT IT TO BE!

P5/R0MEO

CONFIRMING PIRATE OSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	MODE 2-WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				
QTH★							

TNX QSL & GREENSTAMPS QTH★ QSL DIRECT ONLY!

ROMEO STUFFURBUCKO
 Box P7RS5
 North Korea, Europe, Asia, Mid East

 QTH★ QTH★

ZONE 24

of contacts made with any station or DXpedition operated by him from the time of this action.

Romeo Stepanenko, aka Roman Vega, P5RS7, UB5RR, 3W3RR, XYØRR, 1SØRR, etc. got in hot water a few years ago when some details about his P5RS7 operation came into question, resulting in the ARRL bulletin reproduced above. But that's neither the start nor the end of the Romeo story. I was a keen fan and follower of Romeo and thought it would be interesting to dig a bit further into the "Romeo story".

Romeo Stepanenko was born 1966 in the Ukraine, son of Vladimir Stepanenko UZ1RR/UZ8RR (UB1RR at the time—guess how Romeo decided on his own distinctive call suffix?). Romeo's father appears to be currently active with two calls. I don't know the significance of the "RR" suffix, but there was a Ukrainian certificate available for working stations with an "RR" suffix. To qualify, one of your contacts had to be Romeo!

Romeo graduated from Simferopol University in Crimeria, majoring in math and computer science. He joined the Mountain Rescue service after graduation. Romeo married Alyona (Alena), who had recently

graduated from college. They have one daughter. In order to talk to Romeo during his absences, she secured the call UT5JDA which she still holds. I don't think this is widely known as her QRZ.com listing shows just 97 lookups.

UZ1RR 

Vladimir A. Stepanenko,
P.O. Box 28 14000,
Chernigov Ukraine

Lookups: 1482 Ham Member

UT5JDA 

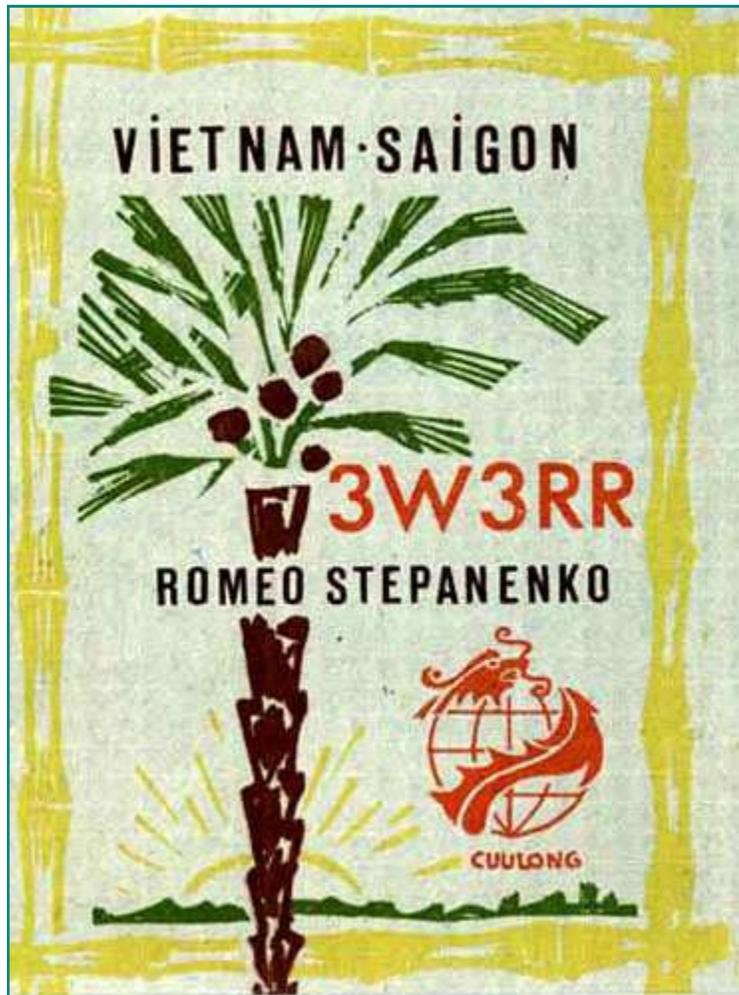
Alena V. Stepanenko,
335059 Sevastopol, ul. Gheroev Stalingrada,
37-54 Ukraine

Lookups: 97



Sometime before or during 1989, Romeo joined Kiulong (CUULONG in Cyrillic), a Soviet/Vietnamese joint venture and a manufacturer of medical devices. Romeo then went to Vietnam and, in his own words: "The Minister of telecommunications of that country wanted to create an Amateur Radio Society; so, after a little thinking, I accepted a job to conduct courses for new hams, create a club station, produce rules and regulations for the Vietnamese. During the day I taught my hams to be; at night I got on the air and operated 3W3RR."

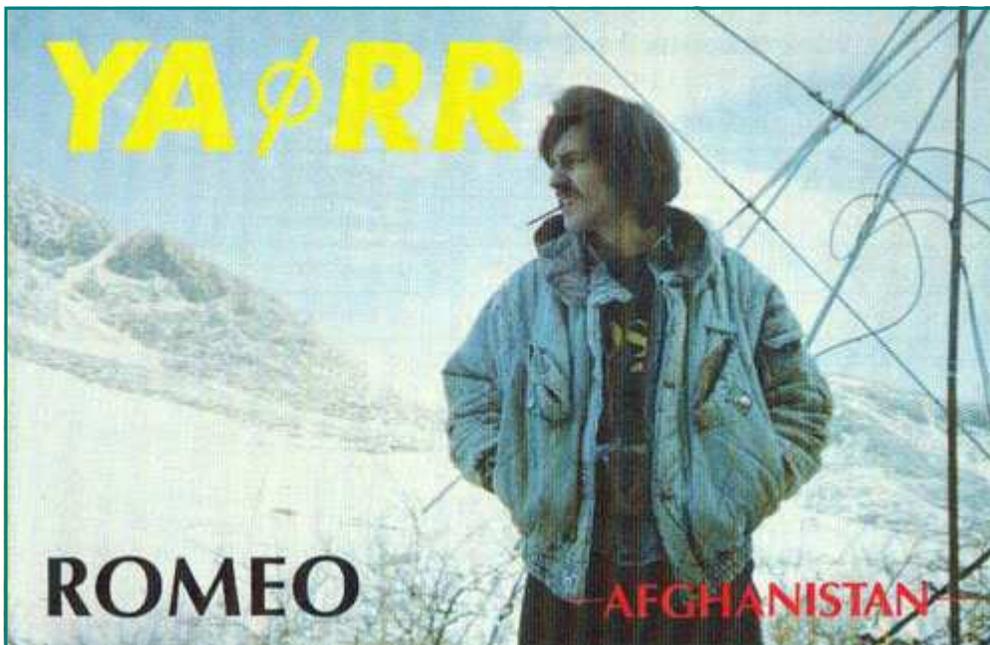
While in Saigon, Romeo contacted local officials about staging a DXpedition to the Spratly Islands. The Spratly's were extremely rare in 1990. The first operation there had been by the infamous Don Miller, W9WNV in 1965. Between the 1S9WNV operation and 1990 there had been only three limited operations from the island group. Also, in 1990, the memory of DJ4EI's death from cannon fire during Baldur's (DJ6SI) 1983 terribly ill fated DXpedition to Barque Canada and Amboyne Cay was still a recent memory.



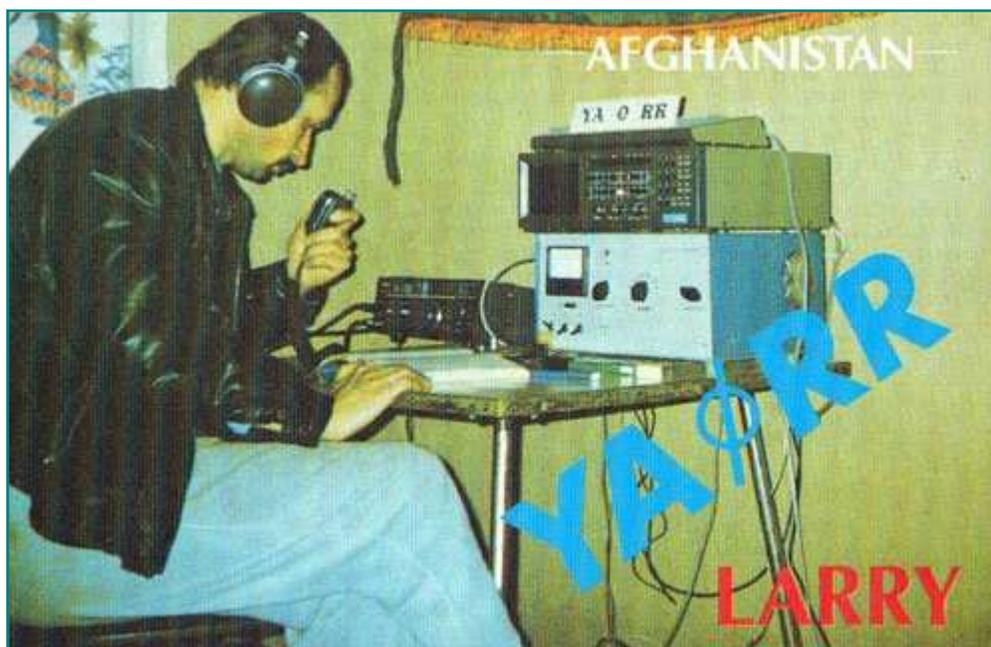
150XV made about 40,000 QSOs. Romeo, using his personal call, 151RR, made 1,027 QSOs.



In December 1990, the YAORR operation was "greenlighted" and the undertaking began with worldwide coordination by Ed Kritsky, NT2X and financial support from Japan and the U.S.A. Ham history says that Yuri Brazhenko, the president of "Moscow Boston International Ltd. Provided an "unlimited" credit line for the project.



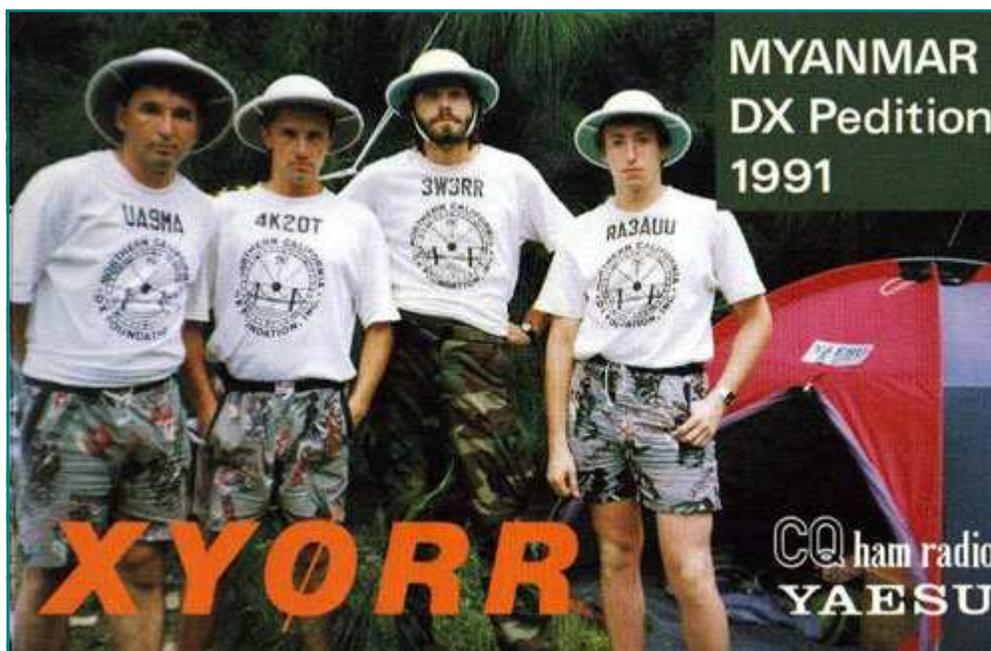
Romeo and his friend Valery "Larry" YL3CW from the club station in Riga flew from Moscow on December 31, 1990 and landed two hours later not in Kabul, but rather in Tashkent! The Russian military had diverted their flight. On January 2, 1991 they boarded a half military flight to Kabul. The Soviet delegation, expected upon arrival at the airport, failed to materialize due to a gap in communications. As it would turn out, this was not the last unpleasant surprise to occur. During the unpacking of the equipment in the Soviet complex in the city, it became apparent that most of the antennas and some of the equipment had been stolen while the team cooled their heels in Tashkent.



The Soviets themselves would not risk going out into the streets after 9:00 P.M., and at 10:00 a curfew went into effect. After that time, any passersby could be shot without warning. The government opposition was 30 kilometers from the city and kept it under continuous bombardment. This was anything but an ideal situation to venture out in. Whoever wished to erect an antenna anywhere was automatically a target of all the warring parties. The danger was so great that the Soviet ambassador prohibited the construction of the station in the occupied city. In addition, the license did not come from the communications ministry, but from a high ranking government official whose name Romeo has never revealed.

Since further government support could not be expected, Romeo and Larry decided to act on their own. On January 5, they found a hideout in a suburb of Kabul and Larry built a 3 meter high, almost invisible loop antenna from thin wire as anything else would be suicide. With this antenna the first 10 meter QSO's were made with 100 watts because the sound of a generator would have drawn unwanted attention. The team changed their location 14 times, from comfortable single family dwellings to primitive foxholes. Ninety percent of the contacts were made with the "Afghani Special", a 21 meter long wire, on which laundry was hung for camouflage. Even without an antenna tuner (it was stolen in Tashkent) it was possible to operate on all bands. The risk of erecting "real" antennas was too great.

Next up, in September 1991, was the XYORR operation from Myanmar. According to Romeo: "What made XYORR possible was a chain of incredible events and coincidences. It was easier to get a license than we had originally thought. A group of four was formed: Harry RA3AUU, Gena UA9MA, Roman 4K2OT/UB1KA and Romeo himself. The team loaded their wares onto a military helicopter. Suddenly it turned out that the operating position was no longer to be in the Miei Islands, as was originally discussed. It was in the Golden Triangle. At some time prior to our arrival, a patch of land had been cleared for the operation. We were briefed by the chief of the guards. An area of 20 x 30 meters was assigned for the operation, and leaving this area wasn't desirable. By the last day of operation we were absolutely exhausted and couldn't take it anymore. The helicopter arrived, forcing us to shut down altogether. We pulled the plug on September 11, with a total of 50,007 contacts in the log."



The DXAC (DX Advisory Committee) repeatedly asked for documentation, and, after examination, accepted the operation for the DXCC program although some doubts about the true location of the station and the validity of its transmit permission still remained.



4K20T Roman RA3AUU Harry 3W3RR Romeo UA9MA Gena

Yoshi Hayashi, JA1UT, had been trying for some time to obtain a license for Myanmar. In January 1990 he met with Lt. Col. Than Tut, Director General of the Information and Broadcasting Department, Ministry of Communication. They discussed the possibility of opening amateur radio. Some time later, Lt. Col. Than Tut was replaced by Lt. Col. Kyi Lwin. Yoshi and his friends travelled to Yangon in May and November 1990, and again in August 1991. Lt. Col. Kyi Lwin proposed to raise the question of the resumption of amateur radio at a cabinet meeting. Then the XYØRR operation by Romeo was given DXCC credit. Meanwhile, in response to a query, the Myanmar Central Government sent a telex to JA1UT stating they had not granted any license or permission for amateur radio operation to foreigners.

I have a DXer friend who lives in the Chicago area that also travelled to Yangon to "pick up his license" only to find out that the central government had squashed the idea.

Romeo operated from Iran in August 1992 as 9DØRR and received prompt approval from the DXAC. He was well on his way to becoming a DX superstar.



IRAN

9DØRR



CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	MODE 2-WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				
K9RHY	14	AUG	92	1626	21	59 599	ØW SSB
	11	AUG	92	2219	14	59 599	CW 600
	11	AUG	92	2355	14	59 599	ØW SSB

OPERATORS: 4K20T/UB1KA (Roman), 3W3RR/AHØM (Romeo), and UH8EA (Victor)

QSL via NT2X
 P.O.B. 766
 Brooklyn, NY
 11230 U.S.A.

Thanks to the following: JA1BK, W8BLA, NCDXF, CO Ham Radio and to INDEXA for their assistance & QSLs.

VERIFIED BY
Edward Kritsky
NT2X


A W4MPY QSL

Next up is my personal favorite. It was reported in a press release that Kan, JA1BK, and Romeo had obtained permission from the North Korean military to operate from the DPRK. The first contact was reported around 0020 UTC on December 19, 1992. There was a second press release on December 20th indicating that the operation was shut down by the local authorities. Thirty minutes later P5RS7 appeared again on 40M.

Romeo submitted written authorization for P5RS7 in 1996 which was rejected by the ARRL DXAC. Romeo was disqualified from the DXCC program under the ethics clause. Any further submissions for any of his operations would be rejected as described in the ARRL bulletin at the start of this narrative.



Romeo enjoyed some extracurricular activity, operating from various places in Soviet Georgia, from Liechtenstein and from a Ukrainian submarine (I am not making this up!) I wish I had been able to work Romeo when he was /AM in a hot air balloon.

YANKEE CLIPPER

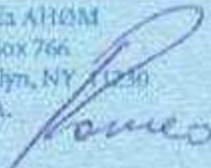
 CONTEST CLUB

AH0M Romeo Stepanenko 3W3RR
 AIR BALLOON
 MOSCOW RUSSIA
EKØRR/AM
 NAVY SUBMARINE
 SEVASTOPOL UKRAINE
EKØRR/MM

Confirming QSO with: **K9RHY**

Day/Month/Year	I/F/C	MIz	2-way	RST
2 Dec 91	1300	28	599	59

#58425L TNR Contest 73

QSL via AH0M
 P.O. Box 766
 Brooklyn, NY 11230
 U.S.A.


YANKEE CLIPPER

CONTEST CLUB

AHØM Romeo Stepanenko 3W3RR

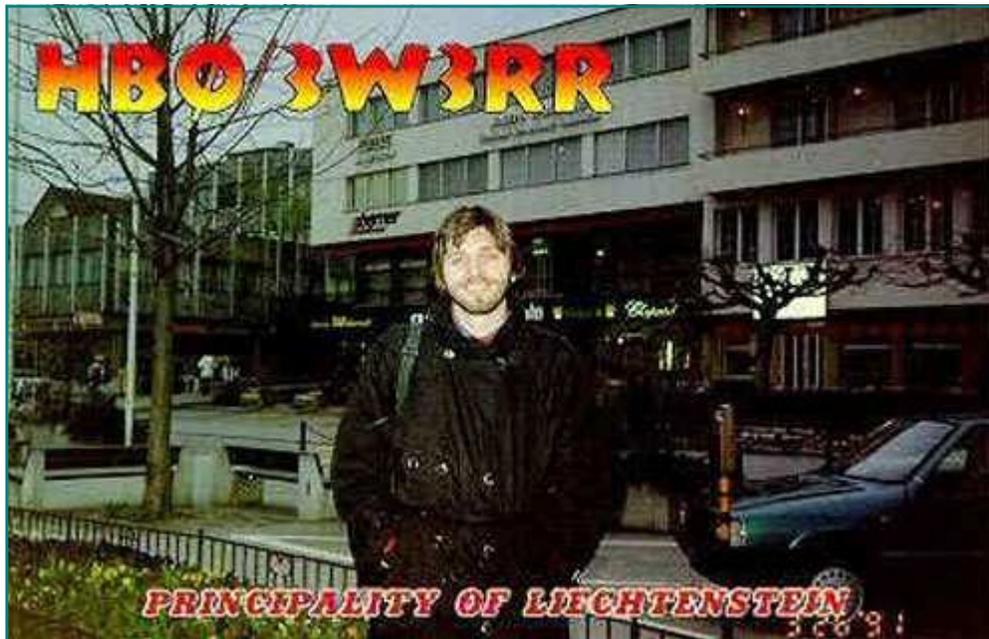
5AØRR Libya
 R3A/3W3RR Russia, White House
 BY1PK China
 4L/AHØM Georgia
 P5RS7 North Korea
 XE2/AHØM Mexico

Confirming QSO with: *K9RHY*

Day/Month/Year	UTC	MHz	2-way	RST
<i>7/2/93</i>	<i>0733</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>CW</i> <small>599</small>	<i>599</i>

QSL via AHØM
 P.O. Box 766
 Brooklyn, NY 11230
 U. S. A.

73! Romeo



In June, 1993, Romeo, accompanied by Danny, LZ2UU and a Libyan national named Said operated as 5AØRR from Libya. According to Romeo: "This DXpedition coincided with the International Arab Summit being held in Cairo, so National security throughout the region was at a fever pitch. The DXpedition was terminated when Danny and Romeo were accused by Libyan counter intelligence and Egyptian police of planning to assassinate both President Mubarak and Libyan Leader Qadafi." To make matters worse and even more bizarre, the authorities claimed Romeo and Danny were using ham radio as a cover for illegal drug trafficking by communicating with Turkish ships in the ports of Benghazi and Alexandria. Romeo and Danny were both arrested and placed in a Libyan prison and held incommunicado.

Romeo continues: "This experience caused my health to deteriorate greatly and I am currently under doctor's care and receiving medical treatment."



And now the Romeo story takes a twist. A very sad twist. Roman Vega, aka Romeo Stepanenko, was arrested and extradited from Cyprus to the United States in March 2004, and charged with 40 counts of wire fraud and trafficking in stolen credit card numbers. He is alleged to have done this in on-line chat rooms. He allegedly bilked over \$3 million through this scheme. Romeo has pleaded not guilty to all charges. He was detained in Northern California, as he was considered a flight risk. His trial was scheduled to begin in San Francisco on Monday, November 28, 2005.

Another indictment in New York for access device fraud and money laundering followed 2 years later and convictions eventually secured.

So I went looking for the official records at the US DOJ website and guess what? No records. But his old sidekick, Ed Kritsky, NT2X, said this in an email dated May 30, 2010.

"Well, it is seven years later and there has been no trial. Detention, yes, continued investigation, certainly, but NO TRIAL.

Call me naive, but I would have difficulty believing this is possible in this country. Well, it is possible. Seven years is a long time to investigate a case against someone held in jail. IMHO, something is wrong with this picture. Or maybe the case isn't that solid? Draw your own conclusions, fellas. He is residing only few miles away, yet we had no contact over this time. This is the first letter I received. I dare to guess that something is changing in his circumstances and he decided to write. He doesn't speak about his case much. It is an intensely private matter.

Apparently he doesn't want to share it with the worlds at this time. The reasons are obvious. Do you want to know if he is alive and well? He is, full of the usual "piss and vinegar". He is doing as well as he can within the jail confines. Romeo shares his cell with other inmates, all 120 of them. Call it a room with a view. Allowing for a peek at distant Manhattan and Gowanus Express-way 40 ft. away.

His English has improved to the point of becoming his official second language. He has spent last 3 years studying Japanese and other languages. Romeo is busy. His own library of about 150 books and a stack of books and periodicals waiting to be read (he is subscribed to about 20), extensive letter writing to all sorts of people, excelling at yoga. His mood is upbeat and he keeps a very positive outlook on life and his own fate. This is the same unbending Romeo I knew back when he was in zenith of his worldwide fame, except showing more wisdom and reserve.

Do I think he is an angel with a snow white consciousness? No, not really. Does he deserve our

sympathy? That depends on which side of the fence you are on. I think that Amateur Radio world may have lost track of Romeo for awhile, but he is not forgotten.

So, boys and girls, fan (and hate) mail may be sent to him directly: Roman Vega, # 59198-004, MDC, PO Box 329002, Brooklyn, NY 11232. Letters, photos and QSLs are welcome, but currency, checks or IRCs of any kind are strictly forbidden by jail regulations. DO NOT SEND them! (Romeo, ain't this ironic?)

He promises a special jailhouse QSL when he gets out (another 'new one' from this DXpeditioner). Just don't expect one too soon.

To those inquiring minds who want to know: Is Romeo Stepanenko using me to get his name back in the limelight again? The answer is no. OK, maybe just a little bit. But I don't mind. He hasn't asked for anything. I'm posting this letter to the Amateur community totally on my own. Opinions expressed are my own and not Romeo's. Reprint and duplication of this information in any form are freely permitted.

The screenshot shows the Federal Bureau of Prisons website's Inmate Locator page. The header includes the FBI logo and the text "Federal Bureau of Prisons An agency of the U.S. Department of Justice". A search bar is present with a "Go" button. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "About", "Inmate Locator", "Prison Facilities", "Careers", "Inmate Matters", "Policy/Forms", "Doing Business", and "News/Information". The main content area is titled "Inmate Locator - Locate Federal inmates from 1982 to present". On the left, there is a sidebar with expandable sections: "About the Inmate Locator", "Visiting - General Info" (with sub-links for Visiting Hours, Who Can Visit?, Background Checks, Business Visits, Special Circumstances, Visiting Room Procedures, and Conjugal Visits), "Locate Inmates Released Before 1982", and "Who is a 'Federal' Inmate?". The main search results area displays a table with the following data:

Name	Register #	Age-Race-Sex	Release Date <small>Actual or Projected</small>	Location
1. ROMAN VLADIMIR VEGA	59198-004	47-White-M	UNKNOWN	BROOKLYN MDC

Below the table, it says "Results 1 - 1 of 1". At the bottom of the results area, there are links for "New Search", "FAQs", and "Privacy". A "Related Documents" section is visible at the bottom left of the page.

Romeo as he looks today.



Romeo's current residence, no antennas are visible.



Romeo in better times, signing QSL cards at Dayton.



Update: December 12, 2013

Ukrainian National Who Co-Founded Cybercrime Marketplace Sentenced To 18 Years In Prison. Read here: <http://www.justice.gov/usao/nye/pr/2013/2013dec12.html>

UB5JRR, Roman Stepanenko, (aka Roman Vega), "one of the world's most prolific cybercriminals, was sentenced to 18 years in prison", reports the United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of New York. "Romeo" who many old timers will remember was a young and up and coming DXpeditioner in the late 80's and early 90's before being tossed out of the DXCC program in 1996, as he broke rules 12 and 13, after several bogus DXpeditions including the infamous P5RS7 scandal.

Used with permission from K9RHY. Photo of Romeo and wife courtesy of Vienna QSL Museum

Dayton NODXA Hospitality Suite by John Papay, K8YSE

Just a reminder that everyone is invited to stop by the Northern Ohio DX Association Hospitality Suite at the downtown Crowne Plaza Hotel, 10th Floor on Thursday, Friday or Saturday evening. Finger food and beverages are available and you'll see a lot of dx'ers, testers, and hopefully satellite types there. Enjoy the Dayton experience!





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, KB6NU, and K9RHY.