



*"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.**



**May-June 2007**

## **Poolside Chat With KB8NW**

Fellow DX'ers,



Those that did not attend Dayton this year missed out on a good time and great weather. I have not heard what the attendance was, but I would imagine it was about the same as last year's HamVention. I would have to say there were more foreigners there this year than last

year.

The DX dinner banquet was very well attended as was the DX Forum. The DX Forum was probably the best and most interesting event than in past years. Speakers were limited to only 20 minutes, but each speaker could have talked longer. The DX Forum was very packed with standing room only. John/K8YSE and I gave our talks early in the program (I was first and

he was third). The DX Forum closed with a presentation on the recent Scarborough Reef BS7H DXpedition. I can not wait for the video to come out on this DXpedition. Looks like there may be some surprises on it.

If you did not work the BS7H operation, don't feel bad. Talking to some other individuals in Dayton, it seems there were a lot of operators who did not get through (even some from 4, 5 and 7 land).

Hopefully, another operation will take place soon with better propagation and during a higher sunspot cycle.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. Just a reminder that it is time to renew your club dues.

**"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 April 2nd, 2007 NODXA Meeting

Open: 7:35 p.m.  
Presiding: Tedd, KB8NW  
Attendance: 16

After a round of introductions the minutes of March 5 were read and there were no corrections.

Treasurer's Report: by N8DMM: \$Ka-Ching!. We still have a couple of pledges coming in. We have collected \$27.00 for the 50/50 raffle, which was won by Glenn, AF8C.

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

Pete also reported that the Packet Cluster is working now. K8AZ has a cable connection with "dynamic IP" and he goes through a service for the dot-no-ip-dot-com connection that some of us use. At times that service's server was not working correctly with K8AZ's IP. A discussion ensued about ISPs and providers.

Dave, WD8IOU, was absent so we have no update on the newsletter.

Under Old Business, Ron, K8VJG, reported that the Field Day site is reserved.

For Dayton, we will still have the NODXA hospitality room. We usually allocate \$250.00 for the Dayton activities.

Glenn, AF8C, reported that the Hamfest Association of Cleveland has said that no food can be sold at the Hamfest other than by their food vendor who needs the profit in order to continue with the Hamfest.

Dwaine K8ME reported that IK3GER Paulo Corsetti has applied for the Club Award, all on CW. Paulo provided documentation for contacts going all the way back to 1985 for K8CW and KQ8M in 1986.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the Scarborough Reef crew did get our donation and is now posting our logo.

This month Tedd has received no new requests for donations to DXpeditions.

Tedd announced in his DX bulletin an opportunity to purchase a "survival pamphlet" for \$2.00.

Tedd announced that the club got a free Northern California DX Foundation DVD.

Bob, W8GC, also reported getting such a DVD. It appears to be a 20 minute advertisement for the NCDXF.

Dwaine, K8ME, drew up a Mission Statement, to wit: "The Mission of the Northern Ohio DX Association is to promote and support Amateur Radio and the DX Community around the world."

A copy of Volume 1 No. 2 of the NODXA newsletter was circulated for people to view and pass.

Swains Island, N8S, may be up earlier, and on from April 3 through April 15. For estimating GMT, use the western hemisphere for N8S, as 7 hours west of us.

George, K8KR, posed a trivia question: In 1914 the ARRL, started by W1AW, created the Elser-Mathes DX Cup challenge. This achievement has never been earned by an amateur radio operator. What was that challenge? Answer: the first two-way QSO between Earth and Mars.

Bob, W8GC reported that at the CARS meeting of April 10 will be a program on what goes on behind the scenes of cell phone calls. Also, at the DX Convention on September 22, K4UEE, Robert Allphin, Jr. will be a featured speaker on VU7RG. Bob has been involved in ninety DX operations. There will be a hospitality room. Cards will be checked, including a special checker for 160m.

The meeting was over at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully, for the secretary, by Glenn, AF8C.

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## Field Day 2007

By David Autry, WD8IOU

It's Field Day time again! June 23 and 24 to be exact. Our perpetual field day chairman, Bill, W8JGU, will once again answer the call to duty and organize this event.

The NODXA site is the same as last year, the Mount Augustine Training Center located on

5232 Broadview Road in Richfield.

Everybody is encouraged to attend this 24-hour marathon, and, most of all, to operate! (Hey, if KB8NW can operate, then you can too!). We especially need CW operators to keep that station running for the full 24 hours.

This year the club will participate in the 2A class using three stations: SSB, CW/RTTY, and 6 meters. We will be housing all these stations in two large tents. Here is your chance to operate RTTY if you have never done so.

Pete, N8TR, is planning an early setup of tents and antennas Friday evening around 6 PM. Everybody is encouraged to stop by and help out; this will decrease the amount of work required on Saturday morning.

The contest starts at 2 PM Saturday and ends at 2 PM Sunday. Operators are real scarce during the "3rd shift" (12 AM to 8 PM) so it would be a great help for our club's score if we could have a couple more operators during those hours.

The club has allocated some money for food and drink so there should be plenty to eat. But we will need some cooks so, even if you don't want to operate, stop on out and flip some bur-

gers!

Speaking of food, Dwaine, K8ME, has promised to bring T-Bone steaks for dinner on Saturday! (Limit: one per customer!). Dwaine was also talking about having "steak and eggs" for breakfast on Sunday!

Remember to bring the bug spray, folding chairs, sun screen, and 807's!

See you there!

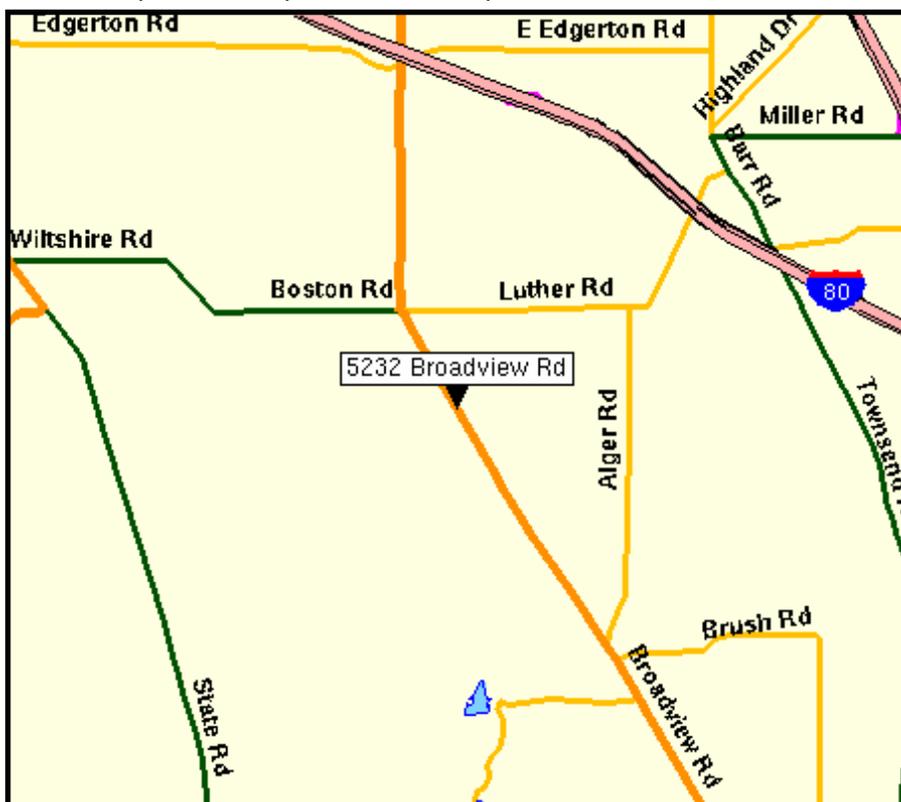
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## Death of a Radio Company

Michael S. Higgins, K6AER, via eHam.net

Many years ago we watched with some ambivalence the slow decline of the Drake Company from the amateur ranks. Mr. WR Drake had died and his non ham son was at the helm wanting to take the company in a different direction. At the time the excitement was high with new radios coming out from Kenwood, Yaesu and ICOM. We are at a similar fork in the road with Kenwood. Looking at the excitement almost every manufacturer experienced at Dayton, Kenwood was one of the loan exceptions.

I talked with their North American sales Manager, Phil and he said they have no high performance HF radio in the pipeline. The sales crew looked haggard and tired and when I visited their booth on Friday and Saturday at Dayton, no one was smiling. No give aways, no fluff and the booth was looking old. The booth was for the most part vacant and best served as a short cut to the MFJ booths further into the arena. They had an empty Plexiglas covered box on Thursday during set up and many hoped a new high HF radio was to appear on Friday. Come Friday morning....just a VHF mobile. At the Visalia DX Convention a month earlier, the Kenwood Factory representative left on Sat-



urday at noon while the convention show lasted for five more hours. Just some brochures were left on the table. They had a TS-2000 but no one stopped to talk. I would have to say the morale at Kenwood must be very low. Their two-way radio division is doing very well but not having a licensed ham at the helm of the amateur radio division is taking its toll. I feel Kenwood has suffered greatly in the HF community since the TS-870 was pulled from production with out a replacement. The last high performance design was the TS-2000 which started designed in late 1999. The technology is over 7 years old and getting long in the tooth.

I have been a Kenwood man for 35 years. My first Kenwood radios were the 599 twins. I own a TS-2000 as a backup radio and it is a very fine \$1500 radio but it is not cutting edge performer. I finally went to an IC-756 Pro III when I upgraded my HF radio and as a result also bought several ICOM VHF radios. The lack of a flagship radio does transcend your buying decision for other radio purchases.

I saw this downward spiral of esteem with the Drake line after the old man died and his non ham son took over. The rest was history. I hope Kenwood is not on the same path.

If three guys at Elecraft can bring out a high perform HF transceiver, the K3 in a year's time it makes you think there is no one left in engineering at Kenwood other than the two way radio division. The crowd at Elecraft booth were two or three deep for much of the show and with every new buyer of a K3 sprouting a proud K3 button his shirt. By the end of the show they must have taken hundreds of orders for I saw K3 buttons every time I looked at the crowd.

I hope this is not the case for Kenwood but as a wise man once said: "watch what a person does, not what they say". Kenwood's actions are speaking very loud.

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## New Gear Debuts At Dayton

*ARRL Letter*

It's always a treat to get your first look at a

new HF transceiver at Dayton. This year, there were no fewer than six to drool over. Here, in alphabetical order, is a rundown:

Elecraft <<http://www.elecraft.com/>> announced its new K3 HF and 6 meter transceiver. It includes many upgrade options, so many, in fact, that you can configure anything from a kit-built 10 W portable QRP radio to a full-featured, contest-ready 100 W rig with \*two\* high-performance receivers. It is scheduled to ship starting in July.



FlexRadio Systems <<http://www.flex-radio.com/>>, a pioneer in high-performance software defined radios (SDRs), introduced its Flex-5000 HF plus 6-meter transceiver series that promises higher performance and more features than its earlier model. Included are the Flex-5000C, a fully integrated system in a single box, and the Flex-5000D, which includes a second receiver.



Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, AF8C, K6AER, eHam.net, and the *ARRL Letter*.

## NODXA Club Officials for 2007-2008

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

As of July 2006  
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

# 337

Hilberling, the first Amateur Radio transceiver maker from across the Atlantic for some years, announced its PT-8000 transceiver. It's offered as a full-featured HF and VHF transceiver available in 10, 100 or 600 W versions. The North America distributor is Array Solutions <<http://www.arrayolutions.com/>>.

Ten-Tec <<http://www.tentec.com/>> has its new Omni-VII HF + 6 meter transceiver on display. The unit's "distributed roofing filter architecture" promises ham-band-only receive performance with a general coverage receiver. Stay tuned for the "Product Review" in July QST.



Finally, Yaesu <<http://www.yaesu.com/>> showed its new FT-450 HF + 6 meter offering. The FT-450 bears some similarities to the Yaesu FT-2000, but with fewer features and a correspondingly lower price.

ICOM <<http://www.icomamerica.com/>> unveiled its IC-7700 HF + 6 meter transceiver. It appears to be a single-receiver version of its top-tier IC-7800, sharing the 200 W transmitter, high performance receiver and 7-inch display of its sibling. Contesters are the market target, but the IC-7700 may be of interest to anyone who covets the features of the IC-7800 but doesn't need two receivers or the higher price tag.





**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**



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