

April-May 2010

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Poolside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,



At the Dayton HamVention I was really surprised to see many young amateur radio operators present at this year's event, as well as the hospitality suites at the Crown Plaza. NODXA's hospitality suite was not left out by their visit, and all were very interested in DXing. Many of the young DXers were even taking their test at the HamVention to upgrade their license which is very encouraging. The first group of young amateurs that attended the NODXA hospitality suite were three boy scouts and their scout leader. It was the boys' first time at Dayton and they told me that they really enjoyed the HamVention. All of them were part of an ARRL exhibit booth in the League's area at the convention. However, there were two young DXers (a sister and younger brother with their Dad from Kansas) who I really enjoyed talking to at our club's site. Both hold a General Class License (but they may have upgraded at the convention) and have worked around 100 countries. They really enjoy working and chasing DX. I guess there is hope for our hobby.

A good way to encourage young operators is to bring them out to "Field Day" this year. Yes, "Field Day" is coming quickly and again please try to attend. NODXA has a great site, and we always have a great time together (operating, chatting and eating..). There is NO pressure to operate or log. My wife (non-ham) came out for the first time last year and operated. She loved it and is doing it again this year. Directions to the "Field Day" site are in this newsletter, and I hope to see you there.

One last reminder. As of May 1st, club dues/renewals are due. Remember, your club dues help fund DXpeditions and club events. Since January 2009, NODXA has donated/funded 6 DXpeditions (K5D, 3D20CR, TX3A, YI9PSE and two others which have not taken place yet - CY0 and VP8/O). Thanks for helping to promote DX and fund DXpeditions. Your membership is valuable.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

"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 March 1st, 2010 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:32pm. There were 17 members and 1 guest present.



After a round of introductions, the minutes of the February 1st meeting were read. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$KaChing! in the account. Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the repeater is okay. Pete, N8TR, said that he hadn't looked at the cluster.

Pete suggested that the VHF cluster be taken off the air because of an unreliable link and non-use. Pete also suggested that we contact Jim, K8MR, to see what equipment could be salvaged. Pete assembled to cluster in 1993.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter will be out in the next couple of days. He is waiting for satellite info from John, K8YSE.

Dwaine, K8ME, suggested that the club renew its sponsorship of the ARRL DX-SSB, Great Lakes Division, single operator, assisted, high power plaque. The membership in attendance agreed.

Old-New Business

Tedd, KB8NW and Dwaine, K8ME, went to see Stan, K8VI, in the nursing home. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that he sees Stan at least once a week. Stan is in the Manor Care Nursing Home.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the ARRL DX-SSB contest is on this weekend. Pete said that the bands have been good lately.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had received a \$150. donation request for the YI9PSE DXpedition to Northern Iraq (Kurdistan). The DXpedition is planned for April 2nd through the 12th. Our logo will be on their QSL card. Bruce, N8DJX moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG that we donate \$150. to the DXpedition. The motion passed.

Tedd, KB8NW, brought up the topic of nominations for next years officers. Ron, K8VJG moved, seconded by Pete, N8TR, that the present officers be nominated for next year. Tedd asked each officer if they would agree to serve again next year. All said yes. The slate would therefore be: Tedd, KB8NW, President - Dwaine, K8ME, Vice-President - Al, N8CX, Secretary and Mary, N8DMM, Treasurer. Ron, K8VJG moved, seconded by Pete, N8TR, that nominations be closed. The motion passed. There will be a "white ballot" election at April meeting.

Tedd also stated that we will vote on the expenditure for the Dayton Hospitality Suite at the April meeting

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the Dayton chartered bus trip has already had some sign-ups.

Gary, NI8Z, reported that an amateur radio license class has begun. The class is being offered by C.A.R.S. Contact Bob, W8GC, for information or go to their web site at www.2cars.org.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported on the following current and upcoming DXpeditions.

Rodriguez Is., 3B9WR, March 3rd until ? - South Cook, E51COF, March 20th to 30th - Ogasawara, JD1, March 28th to April 12th - Annabon, 3CO, in April - Marion Is., ZS8M, April 10th and 11th, Palestine, end of May to June 6th - Sable Is, September - October time frame.

Al, N8CX, reported that it is very possible that the Cleveland Hamfest will be moving to the Great Lakes Expo Center. A final decision has not been made, however.

Tedd, reminded everyone that the next meeting will be Monday, April 5th .

The 50-50 raffle was won by Dave, WD8IOU. The winning amount to \$17. was donated back to the club. Bruce, N8DJX donated a mystery grab bag as a door prize. It was won by George, K8KR.

Tedd reminded everyone that the monthly BARF80 breakfast is held here on the 1st Saturday of the month at 9 am. The breakfast has been held since the early 1980's.

The meeting was closed by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:32 pm.
Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX Secretary

Tech Test Gets a Little More Technical By Dan Romnanchik, KB6NU

Ever since the FCC dropped the code requirement and the Novice license exam, the Technician Class license has really been misnamed. Being the first license that most hams obtain, it really should have been called the Novice license. The question pool was arguably at the appropriate level for newcomers to amateur radio, being heavy on rules and operating practices, and perhaps a little light on technical topics.



That's about to change. On July 1, 2010, the question pool for the Tech test changes, and this version has noticeably more technical questions than the previous test. You could say that the Tech test is getting, errrr, a little more technical.

For example, the new question pool contains more questions about electronics components and their functions. In addition to that, examinees must also be able to identify the symbols for these components on a schematic diagram. This is a big change from the previous test, which had no diagrams at all. There are also more detailed questions about transistors and how they work.

There are also questions on how to make basic measurements with a multimeter how to troubleshoot basic problems that Technicians are likely to encounter. One question asks, "What two measurements are commonly made using a multimeter"? Answer: voltage and resistance. A follow up question asks, "What is the correct way to connect a voltmeter to a circuit"? Answer: in parallel with the circuit.

To make room for these questions, the committee dropped questions on operating practices and rules and regulations. In general, these are not big losses, but two questions that I was sorry to see go are the questions on the "basis and purpose" of amateur radio. I think these are very important for new amateurs to learn and keep in mind. (If you don't recall them, go to <http://www.arrl.org/part-97-amateur-radio> and review them.)

By the time you read this--or shortly thereafter--the new version of my No-Nonsense, Technician Class License Study Guide should be available. You can download it free of charge from my website, www.kb6nu.com. Look for the link in the right-hand column. It's currently in the hands of more than two dozen reviewers, who are proofreading it right now.

While it may not be in the initial release, I plan to include a section that contains links to websites that cover topics included in the study guide. That way, students can find more information on a topic, if they choose to do so. If you have any favorite websites that discuss making measurements with voltmeters or how to read schematic diagrams, I'd love to hear from you.



Mark your calendars!

Field Day is June 26-27!



Field Day 2010 by David Autry, WD8IOU

It's Field Day time again! June 26 and 27 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. John, K8YSE, and Doug, KD8CAO, will also have a satellite station up and operating so here is your chance to learn about satellite operation.

We will also have a GOTA station (Get On The Air) to allow the public and inactive hams to operate. Last year, Karen (my XYL) and Linda (KB8NW's XYL) made several Q's on the GOTA station; Tedd and I have been trying to get them on the air for years! Both Karen and Linda have promised a repeat performance so how about bringing your XYL, or your kids, to field day? They just might have a great time!

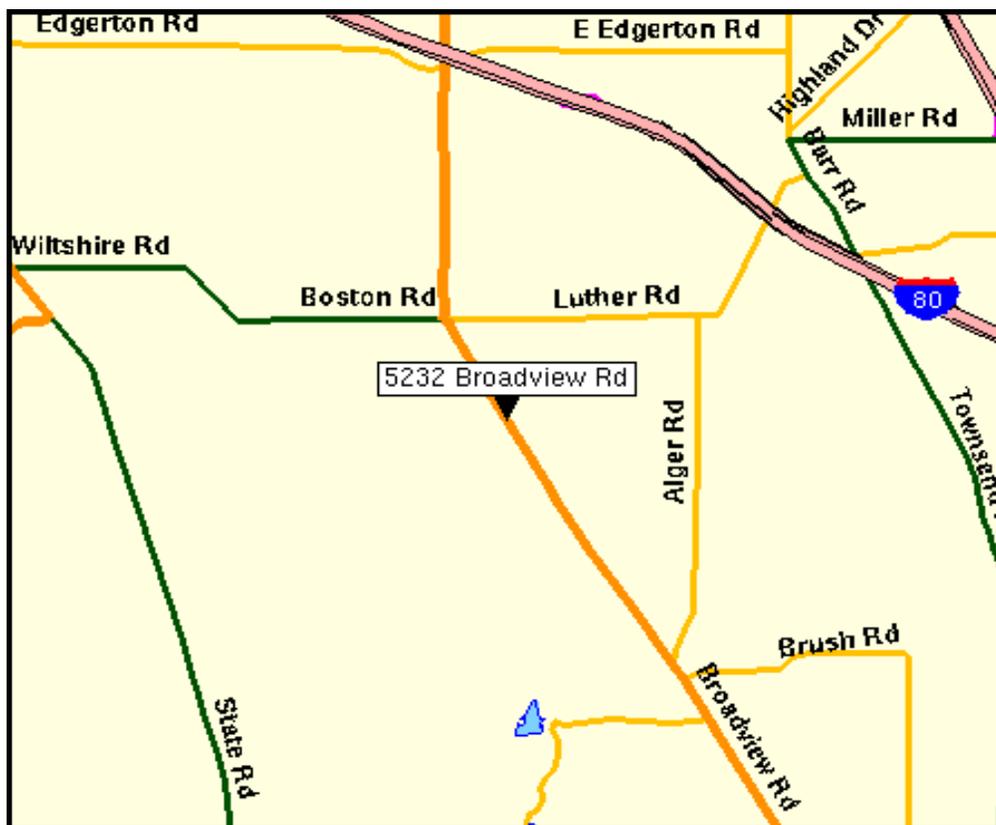
Pete, N8TR, is planning an early setup of tents and antennas Friday evening around 6 PM. Everybody is encouraged to stop by and help out; this will decrease the amount of work required on Saturday morning.

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 burgers!

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

See you there!



2010 Dayton Bus Trip Review by Dwaine Modock, K8ME

The Dayton Bus trip has come and gone for another year, The trip and weather was great, we had 33 paid riders and one no show which it was 32 riders on the bus, As you all know we had to down size the bus because of slow sign-up, Everyone enjoyed our stop at Bob Evans for breakfast, and we arrived at Dayton around 8:20am; the flea-market opened at 8:00 am.

I thought there was more people this year than last year. The flea market was a good size; enough to get sore feet by end of the day! Sales were brisk in both the arena and out in the flea market. Many arena vendors were providing free shipping with the purchase of items. The ARRL booth was giving away free bags and \$5.00 gift cards if you talked to their web-site designer.

Lusto Towers were there again this year, and a ham from the Netherlands purchased it for \$41,000.00 & free shipping. This tower is 150 ft tall with a service platform and is motorized for up and down.

I told all riders to be back at the bus by 5:00 pm; with all the sore feet almost all were back by 4:30. The bus left at 5:10pm from Dayton. With the parking situation the way it is around Hara Arena, the bus is the best deal in town.

I saw Pete & Mary, manning their booth in the flea market, and I also saw KB8NW-Tedd, WB8IOU-Dave, AC8E-John Bostwick, N8MOX-Adam (plus other hams I know) roaming the flea market. I was great to see K8BL-Bob Liddy and he looks like he is over coming his medical issues.

Think about riding the bus next year; try and rearrange your schedules so you can buy your tickets early so we can order the bigger bus. We will have two pickup points like we did this year. Give some thought, it's a fun trip.



Pete and Mary hawking their wares in the flea market.



The bus, ready to roll.



Bob, K8BL, Joe, W8JH, and Tedd, KB8NW taking a load off.



Bicycle mobile, with a screwdriver antenna!

ZS8M on Marion Island by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW

Pierre, ZS1HF, now active as ZS8M from Marion Island the #3 "Most Wanted DXCC Entity" (per the 2009 The DX Magazine survey) until May 2011. He is there as a radio/electronics technician on the island. Pierre sent me about 40 pictures via E-mail. I hope to show them at one of the NODXA meetings. Here are a few pictures.

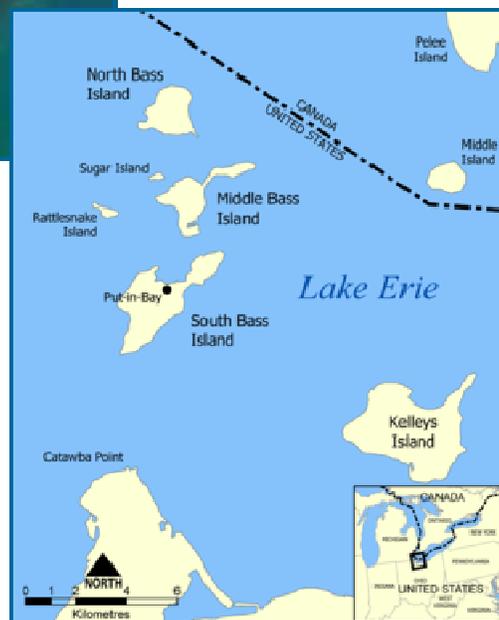


North Bass Island Expedition 2010—Callsign N8B

NODXA club member Byron Berger, KF8UN, is a team member of the North Bass Island Expedition sponsored by the Massillon Amateur Radio Club. The Operating Dates/Times are: 1200 UTC July 24th, 2010 to 1600 UTC July 25th, 2010. Below is some information from their website, <http://www.north-bass-island.com>:

US Island OH006. North Bass Island is the most northern island of the Bass Island chain on Lake Erie. The island is 688 acres and presently has 16 year round residents. The state of Ohio purchased 589 acres to prevent commercial development. Historically, the North Bass Island was mainly used for vineyards when the wine industry in that area was booming. After the purchase by the state, most vineyards were removed so the island could return to its natural condition. Since vineyards and winemaking are woven into North Bass Island's cultural fabric, ODNR will encourage grape production and will continue to lease 38 acres to Firelands Vineyard of Sandusky for that purpose. North Bass Island is located 18 miles from the U.S. shore and only 2 miles from the Canada border. The coordinates are: 41° 43' 0" N, 82° 49' 0" W. Grid:EN81.

A team from the Massillon Amateur Radio Club will depart July 23rd, 2010 for North Bass Island, Lake Erie. The team will setup radio communications in an attempt to make a minimum of 25 QSOs to qualify the island for the U.S. Island Award Program. Two (2) of these contacts must be DXCC. We will be operating on or near the standard US Island Award Program frequencies. Once the required contacts are confirmed, the island will then be designated as OH006L.





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
 K8MR: PacketCluster 144.91 & 145.57

Web-site: <http://www.papays.com/nodxa.html>

Newsletter Submission: wd8iou@adelphia.net

NODXA Club Officials for 2010-2011

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:	David Autry, WD8IOU	(440-238-0417)



DXCC Info

As of December 2007, the current DXCC Entities total is: **338**.

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, N8CX, K8YSE, K8ME, MARC, KF8UN, K8BL, and KB6NU.