

June 2011

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Poolside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

It was another great year for the Dayton HamVention. The weather was perfect (maybe on the warm side) and the turnout was very good. They announced on the last day that there were probably about 20,000 attendees. However, the flea market did look a little down this year.



The NODXA hospitality was once again well attended during all three evenings. Many notable DXers enjoyed the free munchies, eats and several variety of beverages. Many thanks to Janeen, W8ZET, for once again being the major sponsor/hostess of the Hospitality Suite. Without her there would not be the Hospitality Suite. Also thanks to the members who attended the Hospitality suite, especially the individuals who helped set up, played bartender and helped during the clean-up. As far as we know, Janeen will once again sponsor the 2012 Hospitality Suite.

With the Dayton HamVention over, the next big event is the ARRL's Field Day weekend. I am sad to report that Bill, W8JGU, who has been our major Field Day Chairman for many years, will not be there this year to guild the Field Day team through the event and has stepped down as Chairman.

Being FD Chairman is a very hard job and takes a lot of planning. I can understand why Bill would want to retire from the job and pass it on to someone else. So, on behalf of the members of NODXA, I want to thank Bill for the many years of service during the FD event -- the members will surely miss him. I want to thank John, K8YSE, who has currently stepped in to be the FD Chairman for this year. As always, I hope you can attend FD, whether to visit or to operate. Details of the location are somewhere in this newsletter.

On the DX side -- be prepared after July 9th, a new "possible" (most probable) DXCC entity will be hitting the air waves. Look for the Southern Sudan to be active once again (possibly under a new name). Be reading the DX bulletins to keep update-to-date on this possible new one.

Lastly, I would like to remind you once again it is time to renew your club dues. Remember, the major part of your dues help fund DXpeditions, the Dayton HamVention Hospitality Suite and certain club functions (such as Field Day). The club's fiscal year is from May to May. Hope to see you at next NODXA meeting.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

Due to the 4th of July holiday, the next meeting will be on July 11th.

Minutes of the April 4th, 2011 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 7:30pm. There were 20 members and no guests present. After a round of introductions, the minutes of the March 7th meeting were read. After a minor correction, Gary, NI8Z, moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the minutes be approved. The motion passed. The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account.

Tedd reported that John, K8YSE, was back from Florida. Tedd also commented that a web page is available for people to relay an emailed letter to their congressional representative explaining our concerns regarding House Bill HR-607, which would take sizable portions of the 440 MHz band for use by "first responders". The web page is <http://www.kd4pyr.net/hamletter.htm>. Or you can email to arrl@chwatco.com. Tedd has received a letter from Randy, NOTG, from the group going to Sable Island, acknowledging receipt of our donation check. Denny, WB8K, reported a rumor of the possible sale of the "pole" which hosts our repeater. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the next newsletter is in progress.



Old - New Business

Tedd requested a motion to accept the previously nominated officers. Pete, N8TR, moved, seconded by Dave, WD8IOU, that the nominated slate of 2011-2012 officers be elected. The motion passed.

Dwaine, K8ME, asked if anyone was interested in ARRL 2011 Field Day T-shirts. The cost is \$12.50 each. A sheet was passed around for anyone interested to sign up to be on the shirt order. Money will be collected at the next meeting. Dwaine also announced that the club-sponsored ARRL International DX Contest, Single Operator, Assisted Phone, Great Lakes Division plaque had been funded for 2012. Pete, N8TR, won the plaque last year.

Rick, K8ZH, moved, seconded by Pete, N8TR, that the club donate \$100.00 to the group forming the upcoming DXpedition 4W6A, Atauro Island, Timor Leste, (formerly East Timor) on September 16th to the 26th. The motion passed.

Tedd reported that Lee Wical, KH6BZF, has made DXCC Honor Roll after 35 years of DXing. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the NODXA special event honoring 20 years and the 1000th edition of the OPDX Bulletin was a great success. Approximately 900 QSOs were made. Among the operators were Dave, WD8IOU; Tedd, KB8NW; John, K8YSE; Dwaine, K8ME; and Ron, K8VJG. A number of DX QSOs were logged in the event. Tedd has already received 60 QSL cards. TNX reply cards are being sent out. Dave described that during that event the RF from his linear arced over his coax switch.

George, K8KR, mentioned reports that shipments from Yaesu and other Japanese manufacturers will be delayed in varying degrees, because of the earthquake. Pete, N8TR, reported that Hal, W1NN, from Medina, was in Tokyo during the earthquake and experienced the buildings swaying. Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK, emailed Tedd and reported being safe.

Per Tedd's request, Dave, WD8IOU, moved, and Carl, K8AV seconded, that \$250.00 be appropriated for food and beverages for the Dayton hospitality suite. The motion passed. Dwaine, K8ME, reported that seats for the chartered CARS Dayton bus were filling up. A fee of \$40. per seat must be paid by May 3rd. Reservations and payment via PayPal may be made via www.2cars.org. Dwaine also reminded everyone of the bus trip to ARRL Headquarters scheduled for July 17th departure, payable the same way.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Vicki, K8VGM. Tedd closed the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

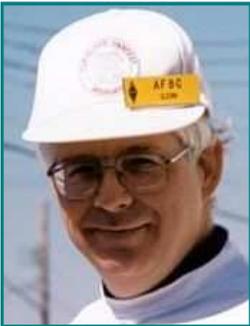
Minutes of the May 2nd, 2011 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:30pm, 22 members and no guests present. After a round of introductions, the minutes for April 4th were read. After a minor correction, Ron, K8VJG moved, seconded by Pete, N8TR, that the minutes be approved. The motion passed. The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Mary also said that dues are again now due.

Old - New Business

Tedd commented that he has not yet sent the letter to the 4W6A DXpedition team.

On Tedd's question regarding the status of the 147.36 repeater, members remarked that it is still operational. The pole was safe after our high winds of April 28. There is an engineering report out on the strength of the pole. Glenn, AF8C, reported that weak signals result in background static in the repeater output. Denny, WB8K,



explained that new cell telephone hardware near club's repeater antenna may have caused some detuning and corrections are in order. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the next newsletter is in work. He requests any information pertinent to the Dayton Hamvention. Dave will also include information on the Dayton bus and the ARRL bus trips. Per Dwaine, K8ME, the Dayton bus is now a go, so seats are available until May 20.

Tedd said that the hospitality suite has been reserved by Janeen. The DX Banquet will be held at the Marriott, but the Contest Dinner and the Top Band banquet stay at the Crowne Plaza. About 10 members are planning to go to Dayton. Near the end of the meeting Dwaine mentioned the table where hams can submit email to protest the HR-607 bill. Dwaine has a reply on that from Representative Betty Sutton.

Per Ron, K8VJG, the Field Day site is reserved for NODXA on June 25-26. Bruce, N8DJX, said he will acquire the liability insurance for that weekend. Discussion started on radios to use. Nick, N8XD, and Jim, K8MR, would be on CW with the best possible radios. The Phone station needs a comparable radio. Dave, WD8IOU, may have a Yaesu FT990 for the GOTA station if there is going to be a GOTA station.

Per Tedd, the T6 DXpedition has been called off after the recent Middle East news and the death of James McLaughlin, WA2EWE/T6AF, in a meeting room ambush by an Afghan pilot. The club's donation will be refunded. Per Dwaine, Turkmenistan, EZ, will no longer be heard due to their government rescinding all operating permits.

Tedd discussed the virtues of geocaching, a popular new hobby. Jim, KE8G, is heavy into the hobby. Geocaching participants use GPS units to locate articles cached in woods, trees, cliffs, etc. Cuyahoga County Public library has classes on geocaching, with Strongsville on May 25 at 7 p.m., Brooklyn May 18, and Berea on May 5. Jim, KE8G, may be able to give a demonstration of it on Field Day.

Tedd said he would send out the URL for a 30 minute CBS news video on Mt. Athos from the show by reporter Bob Simon on April 24. ([http://www.cbs.com/primetime/60 minutes](http://www.cbs.com/primetime/60_minutes))

George, K8KR, announced a slight postage increase occurred May 1. Postcards up a penny, and mail to Mexico and Canada will cost more. First class one-ounce postage remains at 44 cents. George asked if people would favor having the 8th area bureau switch over to cash only, no envelopes. Perhaps we should discuss this at Dayton with our director.

Bruce, N8DJX, had a Digital Equipment PC computer as a door prize, but after several tickets were drawn, no one wanted the computer for parts or anything. The main raffle drawing for half of

\$37.00 was won by George, K8KR.

Tedd closed the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Glenn, AF8C, for vacationing Al, N8CX, Secretary

Field Day 2011 by David Autry, WD8IOU

It's Field Day time again! June 25 and 26 to be exact. Our perpetual field day chairman, Bill, W8JGU, has retired and John, K8YSE, is the field day chairman for this year. I would like to thank Bill for his many years of service organizing 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 two stations: SSB, and CW/RTTY. John, K8YSE 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. If you have any grand kids, nephews or nieces, or friendly neighborhood kids that aren't smashing your mailbox, then bring them out to field day. They just might have a great time!

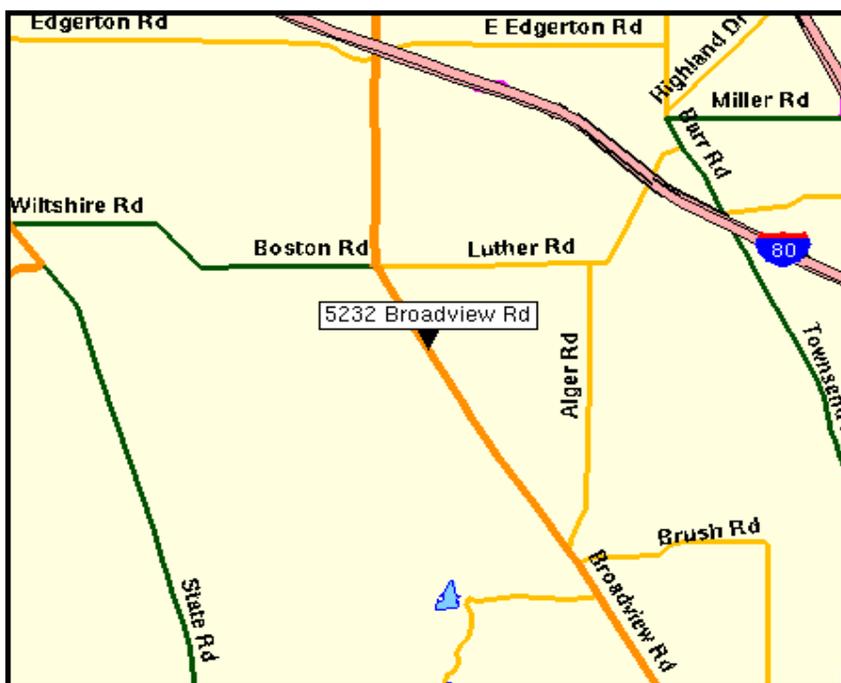
Pete, N8TR, is planning an early setup of tents and antennas Friday evening around 6 PM. Everybody is encouraged to stop by and help out; this will decrease the amount of work required on Saturday morning.

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!



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

I'm Going Buggy By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Last year at Dayton, I bought a used Vibroplex Original bug for \$50. The stainless steel plating wasn't in the greatest shape, and the silver contacts needed cleaning, but I thought I'd gotten a pretty good deal.

Well, I never could get it to work quite right. I thought it was just that I didn't know how to adjust it properly. Whatever the reason, it just didn't work quite right, so while I played around with it from time to time, it mostly just sat on the bench.

About a month and a half ago, I decided to once and for all to figure out what was going on. I played with the adjustments, but again didn't get good results. I did notice, though, that the contacts were in really bad condition. It looked as though someone had taken a file to them. That's a real no-no for key contacts.

Fortunately, Vibroplex has a relatively low-cost service for contact replacement. For \$40, they'll send you a complete set of new contacts. There are a couple of caveats, though:

You have to send in two contact posts so that they can replace the contact point on them.

The order form on their website has the wrong address on it.

Both of these issues caused a delay. I first sent the order to the wrong address, and it took a week for the Post Office to return the letter to me. Then, I didn't understand that I had to send in the posts, so that delayed my order. The second issue was my fault, but the first is Vibroplex's fault.

I finally got that all straightened out, and the parts arrived on Wednesday. I put the bug back together yesterday, and now it works like a charm.

The only problem is that the dits are very fast. I'm going to have to experiment with ways to slow that down. Vibroplex makes a thing called the Vari-Speed that does this, but it costs another \$35, and I'm not sure I want to spend that much more. In any case, I'll be practicing with the bug and hope to "get buggy" on the air soon.

Device Tests PowerPole Outlets By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I just found a link to this unique little device and had to blog about it right away. The [PowerPole Polarity and Voltage Tester](#) is similar to one of those little devices that you plug into an AC outlet that tells you if the outlet is wired correctly. Except that you plug this device into an unknown PowerPole outlet.

What surprised me is that this little device actually uses a microcontroller to measure the voltage. I guess that I really shouldn't be surprised, though. Microcontrollers come in very small packages now, and programming them is very simple to do .



Because microcontroller are programmable, you could extend the functionality of this device. For example, you could add a small alpha-numeric display or more LEDs to indicate different voltage ranges.

While the circuit is very simple, and is easily fabricated on some perfboard, the author of this [Instructables](#) project, has indicated that he intends to make a PC board and kit available. I've e-mailed him about this, and will report on what he has to say about price and availability.

Another thought that occurs to me is that I could make one of these with the Arduino that's been languishing beneath my workbench for the last year or so. Basically, I'd just take the front end circuitry from this project and connect it up to my Arduino. I'd have to do some programming, but I think I can handle that. :)

Ohio QSO Party 2010 DX Award Winner

By Uli Ann, DL2HBX

Dear members of the Northern Ohio DX Association,

Thank you very much for the beautiful plaque for the DX section of the Ohio QSO Party 2010 which I received this week! This award means a lot to me. For one, it is the first Single OP achievement since my return from Michigan in 2009 where I had been active as KK8I for six and a half years. And secondly, I have been on the other side of the contest twice from Ohio as a mobile and got to know the fun part of mobile contest operating, something that we do not have here in Germany. My report of the successful 2006 operation with K8BB can be found at http://ann-usa.com/OQP_2006/index.html.

My sincere thanks go to Jörg, DF9LJ, who offered me to operate from his fine station. I hope to be back this summer, from the DX side again.

73! Uli, DL2HBX



2011 Dayton Hamvention Bus Review By Dwaine Modock, K8ME

The Dayton Bus, Another successful year, all had good time, especially after we had a great breakfast at Bob Evans; the manager had extra people to help us get served faster. We arrived at Dayton Hamvention at 8:10 am and flea market just opened up. Number of us walked thru the flea market waiting for the Area to open at 9:00 am. Dwaine and couple others brought qsl cards down to have checked, and receive cards from S9DX & VP8ORK, Lot of nice equipment, DX Engineering had very big display, Congratulations to Bruce-N8DJX, purchasing a tower, Linda -N8LRS won a \$800 scanner at the Alinco booth, Gary-NI8Z & Tom- WB8N opening up there wallets and purchasing a number of juicy items.



The hamvention always nice to run into people you talked to, Dwaine/K8ME meet ON4UN from Belgium, meet number of dx'ers at the dx forum.

The day progressed and everyone was walking back to the bus at the end of the day with plenty of sore feet and conversation to talk about.

The Bus left Dayton Hamvention at 5:05 PM. With a quick stop on I-71 & RT-36 for fast food, dropping two riders off at RT-303, then arriving at Middleburg Heights at 9:00 PM. Number of riders showed an interest to go next year so get your reservations in early, and arrangements are already being worked on for next year which the Dayton Hamvention will be Saturday May 19, 2012.

73, Dwaine - K8ME



Tedd, KB8NW, and Dave, WD8IOU, waiting for their room to be cleaned at the Crowne Plaza. At least we all got a free dinner and breakfast for our trouble! Photograph courtesy of John, K8YSE.

The Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Presents

NOARSFEST 2011

Spitzer Conference Center, LCCC
1005 North Abbe Road 44035
Saturday, July 16, 2011

Doors open 8 AM until 1 PM - Vendors setup at 6 AM

Admission STILL only \$6.00! 6' Indoor Table only \$10.00 each! Flea market space STILL only \$5.00!
Get your reservations in early so we can get you the best table configuration!

Food and beverages will be available for purchase from 8AM-12PM.

Contact info:

Table Reservations Manager: Darlene Ohman,
KA8VTS - 216-398-8858 before 11PM.
email to: secretary2011 (at) noars (dot) net.

General inquiry's to: NOARS Hamfest Committee,
161 Herrmann Drive, Avon Lake, Ohio 44012
(Vendor Special: 20% discount on 6 or more tables with early reservation and payment. Cutoff June 30, 2011)

Saturday setup @ 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM; Public admission @ 8:00 AM
Mobile check/talk in 146.700 - PL 110.9 @ 7:00AM-9:30AM
Mobile check in drawing @ 9:45 AM, winner must be present

1st Prize: \$150 - 2nd Prize: \$100 - 3rd Prize: \$50

Door prizes every hour starting at 9:00AM until Noon,
(winners must be present)

50/50 Drawing @ 11:15 AM, winner need not be present

Map Quest link:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?address=1005+North+Abbe+Road&zipcode=44035>



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 2011-2012

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 January 2011, 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, N8CX, K8YSE, K8ME, AF8C, DL2HBX, and KB6NU.