

August-September-October 2009

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



# The NODXA RAG



## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

September and October turned out to be great months for DXing, but propagation did not cooperate as everyone wished. We had five major DXpeditions which took place: FT5GA Gloriosos, TX5SPA Austral Island, 3D20C Conway Reef, K4M Miway Island and TX5SPM Marquesas Island. October ended with the popular CQWW DX SSB Contest which had plenty of stations to work for those who like to fill-in those band countries needed. There was also more good news at the end of October. As this was being written, the sunspot numbers increased over the last few days of October, and the flux took a jump from 76 to 82. I guess there is hope for the higher bands.



November will be starting out interesting with a DXpedition to Chesterfield Island (TX3A). Activity is to last until November 26th (possibly longer). Remember, NODXA has donated funds to this operation.

The TX3A team is big into the low bands, and they are expected to put an emphasis on 160/80/40/30 meters. Also, just a reminder that November will end with the popular CQWW DX CW Contest. A good place to see who will be on during these contests is NG3K's contest announcement Web site at: <http://www.ng3k.com/Contest>

In closing, I hope the sunspot numbers will continue to increase and the flux climbs higher as we head into the winter months. Hopefully, they will be higher than what is predicted (just around 90). Have a great Thanksgiving and holiday season. I hope to see you at the next meeting (programs are planned for November and December).

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 July 6th, 2009 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:30pm. There were 20 members and 1 guest present.



After a round of introductions, the minutes of the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting were read. After some minor corrections, the minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. We also gained a new member at the meeting; Brian Hemmis, K3USC.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the repeater is okay. Bruce, N8DJX, reported that the K8AZ cluster was okay. Jim, K8MR, reported that he thought his K8MR cluster was okay. He questioned if the cluster should remain on the air? The question will come up again if it goes down. He also stated that the location of the cluster is okay for now.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that he will start the newsletter soon. He said that he needs pictures from Dayton, articles, etc.

### Old - New Business

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that all contacts for KU2US / K2D would get credit as he had to take his son to the hospital.

Bruce, N8DJX, reported that Glorioso was postponed again. Maybe in late August or September.

Jim, K8MR, had an extensive list of contest announcements. He reminded everyone that the Ohio QSO Party is coming up on August 27<sup>th</sup> and that the write-up for the 2008 contest had gone to the web master. Jim also reminded everyone that the IARU-HF contest is this weekend, July 11th and 12<sup>th</sup> and that the CQ VHF contest will be July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Glenn, AF8C, reported that sunspot 1024 is looking good and is a big spot. This sunspot is reported to be from Cycle 24.

Ron, K8VJG, asked for details on the upcoming NOARSfest. Al, N8CX, provided details including the new location. Al also said he would e-mail directions to the new location to all members.

Mary, N8DMM, reported that the BARF-80 breakfast is at 9:00 A.M. and she asked Ron, K8VJG, about Sr. Mary Grace. Denny, WB8K, moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the club donate \$100.00 in appreciation for the hospitality shown on Field Day. The motion passed.

Bill, W8JGU, turned the Field Day report over to John, K8YSE. John's report is as follows.

Callsign - W8DXA, GOTA station callsign - NO8DX, Field Day category - 2A, number of participants - 31, CW QSOs - 840, SSB QSOs - 1665, Digital QSOs - 10 Total QSO points - 3365 with the x2 power multiplier, total QSO points claimed score = 6730

Claimed bonus points are as follows. 100% emergency power - 200 (2 transmitters), media publicity - 100, information booth - 100, NTS message to Section Manager - 100, W1AW Field Day message - 100, formal NTS messages handled (10) - 100, satellite QSO completed (1) - 100, natural power QSO completed (1) - 100, site visit by invited elected official - 100, GOTA station bonus - 120, Field Day report submitted via the internet - 50, and an educational activity held - 100. Total claimed bonus points - 1270.

Total claimed Field Day score - 8000 points

Pete, N8TR, reported that Pete, N8PR, had e-mailed him saying that he had a great time visiting here over Field Day. Pete presently lives in Florida. Glenn, AF8C, reported that Pete had visited West Park's Field Day last year.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that he had heard ZL2/K5 remoteing into TX on 40 meters.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that Field Day expenses were \$111. An amount of \$100 had been allocated.

Tedd, KB8NW, commented that members should bring their families out to Field Day. We should

get some "youth" activity and possibly some bonus points. Tedd also reported that he had not received any requests for donations and that Midway is still planned for October.

Tedd reminded everyone that the next meeting is August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Dennis. K8LBT The winning amount of \$14 was donated back to the club.

The meeting was closed by the president, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX Secretary

## Minutes of the August 3rd, 2009 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:32pm. There were 25 members and 2 guests present.

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



The Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$\$\$\$\$\$ in the account.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the repeater is okay and that he assumed the cluster was okay as well.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that he needs pictures and articles for the newsletter.

### Old - New Business

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the Cleveland Hamfest was coming up on Sunday, Sep 27<sup>th</sup>. NODXA will have a table.

Pete, N8TR, suggested everyone look at the W8DXA page on the ARRL website for John, K8YSE's, excellent soapbox.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had received a donation request from Jan, DJ8NK, for the upcoming Conway Reef DXpedition scheduled for Oct 1<sup>st</sup> thru the 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Seven operators are planned. Conway is 22<sup>nd</sup> on the Most Wanted List (19<sup>th</sup> in Europe). The callsign will be a special commemorative and is secret for now. The callsign will be in remembrance of the original team. Ron, K8VJG, moved, seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, that \$200 be donated to the DXpedition. Bruce, added that he will add an additional \$100 to the amount, for a total of \$300. The motion passed. Tedd, KB8NW, will e-mail Jan to see where and how the money should be sent.

Another discussion was held on the Midway DXpedition. They are 24<sup>th</sup> on the Most Wanted List. Bruce, N8DJX, suggested that we postpone discussion until next month.

Tedd, KB8NW, asked if anyone had looked at the Great Lakes Divisions' awards for different activities and achievements.

Bruce, N8DJX, asked why it is taking so long to receive the K5D (Desecheo) QSL cards by mail. Most others have already received theirs.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Dave, WD8IOU. The amount of \$24 was donated back to the club.

The program for the meeting was an excellent presentation on the current status of HF propagation by Lee, KH6BZF.

Lee was accompanied by his wife, Sandy. The presentation touched upon a number of subjects including the lack of sunspot activity in the current Cycle 24, although there are differences of opinion as to whether or not we are actually in Cycle 24. Lee left the area for Hawaii sixty years ago. His former callsign was K8HQR. His Japanese callsign is 7J1AAP.

The meeting was closed by the president, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX Secretary

## Minutes of the September 14th, 2009 NODXA Meeting

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



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

Ron, K8VJG, moved, seconded by Dwaine, K8ME, that the minutes be approved as read. The motion passed.

The Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Mary reported two new members. Lee, KH6BZF and Bob, K(W)8RH.

Tedd, KB8NW, commented that maybe we should have had the meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup> instead of September 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be back here in just a couple of weeks. Pete, N8TR, commented that we should bring the matter up next year.

Tedd reported that the repeater and cluster are okay. He also reported that he had received an email from Lee, KH6BZF, with information on Cycle 24. The current predicted solar flux peak value will be around 90.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is out. It is a larger issue due to pictures.

### Old - New Business

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that he and Keith will be the DXCC card checkers will be at the Cleveland Hamfest. WAS, VUCC and DXCC cards will be checked.

Tedd, KB8NW, asked how many needed 70, Yemen, to complete DXCC Honor Roll. The response was indeterminate.

Dwaine, K8ME, commented that next years chartered bus trip to Dayton has already been reserved for Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. The price will be \$40.

John, K8YSE, showed the cover of the current AMSAT Journal. NODXA, using callsign W8DXA, took 1<sup>st</sup> place in Field Day satellite contacts. Thirty QSOs' at low power, netted 73 points. W9LDX, Lafayette IN, was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 63 points.

Ron, K8VJG, noted again that the NASA Visitors Center will be closing on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported on the ARRL "140" contest in honor of Hiram Percy Maxim's 140<sup>th</sup> birthday. One had to work 25 stations with a /140 added to their callsign. Those stations had to be a Life Member, card checker or other appointment from the ARRL. Dwaine reported that he had worked four Rhode Island contacts in one morning.

Bruce, N8DJX, reported that the annual Rt. 66 operating event was on now. Bruce commented that WA6TST-R is W6E for the event and that he a contact with him via echolink on John's, K8YSE, repeater.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that Glorioso would be on the air tomorrow, September 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a propagation chart on the DXpeditions website. Tedd further reported that he had received an email stating that the equipment for Conway was being shipped soon. The callsign will be 3B20CR. Jan and two others will be on Monseratte November 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Tedd also received a donation request of \$50. from Don, K8MFO, whom he saw at the Findlay Hamfest, for Chesterfield Island, TX3A. Don is a NODXA member. Bruce, N8DJX, moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that we make the donation \$200. The motion passed.

Tedd also received a donation request from Frank, DL7UFR, for a DXpedition to Vietnam November 4<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. Bruce, N8DJX, suggested that the motion be tabled.

At the recent Findlay Hamfest, the president Tedd, KB8NW, received a DX Lifetime Achievement Award while attending the Great Lakes Division Symposium. Many congrats to Tedd. Tedd also reported that the hamfest was very good and had a large flea market.

Ron, K8VJG, reported that CARS will be holding a ham radio license class starting in October.

Tedd also reported on the passing of K8WIW who lived on the east side and that the next meeting will be on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Tedd then commented that he needs some people to make up a 'new-member' information packet about NODXA, its activities and other general information. A discussion was held and suggestions made as to contents. Rosters, newsletter, web site, membership certificate, club activities, etc.

A door prize of an ARRL t-shirt was won by John, K8YSE.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Dave, WD8IOU. The amount of \$15 was donated back to the club.

The meeting was closed by the president, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX Secretary

## Dwaine's Corner

### Worked All States Award Hidden Credits

There are a lot of people that like Certificates of various types; well you might have on your wall or in your drawer the Route 66 or the most recent certificate the Thirteen Colony Award, which was active around July 4<sup>th</sup> 2009; very nice Certificate.



The two certificates mentioned above can be used for applying for Worked All States Award. If your applying for WAS with a Field Checker make sure you take the certificate with you along with your cards for the other states, make sure you write in on the WAS forms the states from the certificate with a little note along side each state on the form, certificate Name, so the Field checker can verify the two.

Example: if you had a clean sweep on the 13 Colony Award, that means you worked thirteen different states, so you would write down those states on the WAS forms, even though you don't have the QSL card, it still verified by the award manager of that certificate; same goes for Route 66.

If your sending the WAS forms and application along with your card to ARRL, it's the same process except you will have to send the original award certificate along with your QSL cards of the other states, which in turn ARRL will process and return your QLS cards & Award certificate.

Remember the Cleveland Hamfest is the end of September, and there will be card checking there for: DXCC WAS, VUCC.

If your going to have cards checked make sure you have all proper forms, application and check with the fee made out to the ARRL.

73, WAS/VUCC Checker, Dwaine Modock, K8ME

### NODXA Sponsors 2009 ARRL DX Phone Contest

The Northern Ohio DX Association sponsored the 2009 ARRL DX Phone Contest Great Lakes Division Single operator / High Power. The Winner:

James Lancaster K8FL, from Hamilton, Ohio, with a score of 231,636 qso.

James will receive a nice plaque from the ARRL.

CONGRAT'S--James

73, Dwaine Modock, K8ME Vice-President of NODXA

## DXCC Submission Alert

The DXCC 2009 Submissions are in; many of you should have received or will receive your QSL's back with confirmation sheet.

The clerical DXCC Data entry staff at ARRL, doesn't have a clue about country listings etc. (Example: this happened to me, I sent a QSL cards for FO Austral RTTY,

On their computer when they type in FO, it brings up French Polynesia. I called Bill Moore and stated I didn't get credit for austral RTTY. He checked it out on his computer while I was on the phone and was surprised French Polynesia came up,

Bill said he will correct that problem in the program and will check other multi call areas like 3d2, vp8, etc.

The point I am making is the data entry staff is not giving full credit where credit is due; please check your country & LOTW matrix.

If you find a problem let Bill Moore know about either by phone or e-mail.

GOOD DX'ING

73, Dwaine, K8ME

## NODXA at the Cleveland Hamfest



N8KOL, Keith, and K8ME, Dwaine, checking cards at the Cleveland Hamfest. They checked over 1300 cards!



K8ME, Dwaine, W2THU, Bob, and KB8NW, Tedd, at the NODXA table at the Cleveland Hamfest. W2THU is the assistant section manager for Ohio and your editor's statistics teacher at CSU.

## Stuart's First QSO By Dan Romnanchik, KB6NU

One of the great things about Field Day are the stories. Every year, I add a story or two to my repertoire. This year is no exception.

My best story from Field Day 2009 starts about 1:30 pm on Saturday. I was at my post at the public information table/GOTA station. We had been ready to rock and roll for at least a half hour, so a group of us were just sitting around chewing the fat when 13-year-old Stuart and his mother walked up to the table.



Her son was a little on the shy side, so his mother explained that Stuart had seen a listing of our Field Day site on the Internet and had asked her to bring him out to see us. She mentioned that Stuart had been listening to ham radio operators on his little Yaesu handheld scanner for several years and was very excited to actually meet some ham radio operators and see ham radio in action.

Not only that, she said that he had taught himself Morse Code. A kid after my own heart! I quickly volunteered to give them a tour of our Field Day site. First, I showed him our VHF/UHF station, and he seemed really impressed with the five single-band radios.

Next, I took him into the 40m phone station. I asked how fast he could copy Morse Code, and he

said 30 words per minute. I cranked the receiver down into the CW portion of the band, and sure enough, he could copy anything that I tuned in.

At this point, it was still only 1:45 pm, so I told him, "Let's go over to one of the CW stations, and we'll see if we can make a contact." We marched over to the CW #2 station, and after getting clearance from the station captain, I tuned around for a clear frequency, then called CQ. Immediately, N5VV, replied.

At this point, Stuart was so excited, he was shaking a little bit. Since the contest was just about ready to start, I kept the contact short, but that didn't matter. Stuart had finally gotten to see ham radio in action.

Stuart's mother then inquired about taking the test. I explained that our Volunteer Examiners give the test every second Saturday of the month and gave her the URL of our website. She said that Stuart had been studying and was ready to take the test.

Unfortunately, they had to leave at that point. I told Stuart's mother that we'd be there through 2pm Sunday and to come back any time. She said that they'd definitely be back the next day.

### Stuart Makes His First Contact

Stuart and his mother returned about 1:30 pm on Sunday. He wanted to see the VHF/UHF station again, so that was our first stop. He took a couple of photos of the setup, and then I suggested we go over to the GOTA station. When we first got there, someone was at the mike, but shortly afterwards, they got up, and Stuart and I took the controls.

When we first sat down, I made a few contacts using my call to show him how to use the paddle. I noted that holding the levers down produces a series of dits or dahs, and that by tapping the other lever while holding down the first, you can produce a dit between dahs or a dah between dits.

Then, I asked him if he'd like to try it. He said yes, so just to see how it would go, I tuned up to above 7100 kHz. There was no activity up there, so I set the keyer speed to 15 wpm and told him to send my callsign a few times. He reached over with his left hand and sent it perfectly. Now, remember, this is someone who'd never touched a paddle of any kind before. Not only that, he even sent the K (dah-di-dah) iambically! That is to say that he held the dah paddle while tapping the dit paddle to slip in a dit between the two dahs.

Then, I asked if he'd like to make some contacts. He said yes, so I said, "Let's switch seats." We switched seats, and I said, "OK, tune around a little and find a strong station calling CQ." We found K2ZR, and I coached him a little on how to reply. "Now, remember," I said, "we're going to use the W8PGW callsign." When I gave him the nod to send, he reached over with his RIGHT hand and sent W8PGW perfectly! When K2ZR replied with our call and the exchange, I coached him to reply with "4A MI." Not only did he do that, but he slipped in a "R" to denote that we'd copied the exchange. When K2ZR replied with a "TU," I showed him how to log the contact.

That's all the coaching I needed to do. After the first contact, I said, "OK. Now, tune around for another station calling CQ, and we'll make another contact." He was off to the races. As soon as he made a contact, he jumped up to type it into the log. His arms weren't long enough to reach the computer from where he was seated.

When we started, the keyer speed was set to 15 wpm. After a couple of contacts, I asked if he might want to send faster. When he said OK, I bumped it up to 18 wpm. After a few QSOs with only couple of mistakes, he asked if we could go faster, so I set it at 20 wpm. Again, only a couple of mistakes, so we bumped it up to 22 wpm. There, he started making more mistakes, but let me repeat, he never touched any kind of key before in his life. I have no doubt that with a little practice, he could easily do 30 wpm.

Overall, he made 12 contacts in the 21 minutes he operated the station. Not a bad rate for some

one who'd never sent a character of Morse Code in his life, don't you think?

Unfortunately, Stuart was not able to take the test at our July VE session as he was at Boy Scout camp. Come the second week of August, though, he'll be a ham. He even has a vanity callsign picked out for himself. Listen for him--in the CW bands, of course.

## KB8NW Wins "DX Achievement Award"



KB8NW receiving the Great Lakes Division "DX Achievement Award" at the Findley Symposium in September. Presenting the award is Jim Weaver, K8JE, the ARRL Great Lakes Division Director, and Gary Johnston, KI4LA, the ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director. Congratulations Tedd!

## Shakespeare's Sonnets in Morse Code

Do you need some Morse Code practice? And you like Shakespeare? Then I have just the site for you! KE7BOJ has converted 152 of Shakespeare's sonnets to Morse code! You are able to select speeds of 7, 13, and 20 WPM. Try it out here: [http://www.retards.org/radio/shakespeares\\_sonnets\\_cw/](http://www.retards.org/radio/shakespeares_sonnets_cw/)

## Newest NODXA Member

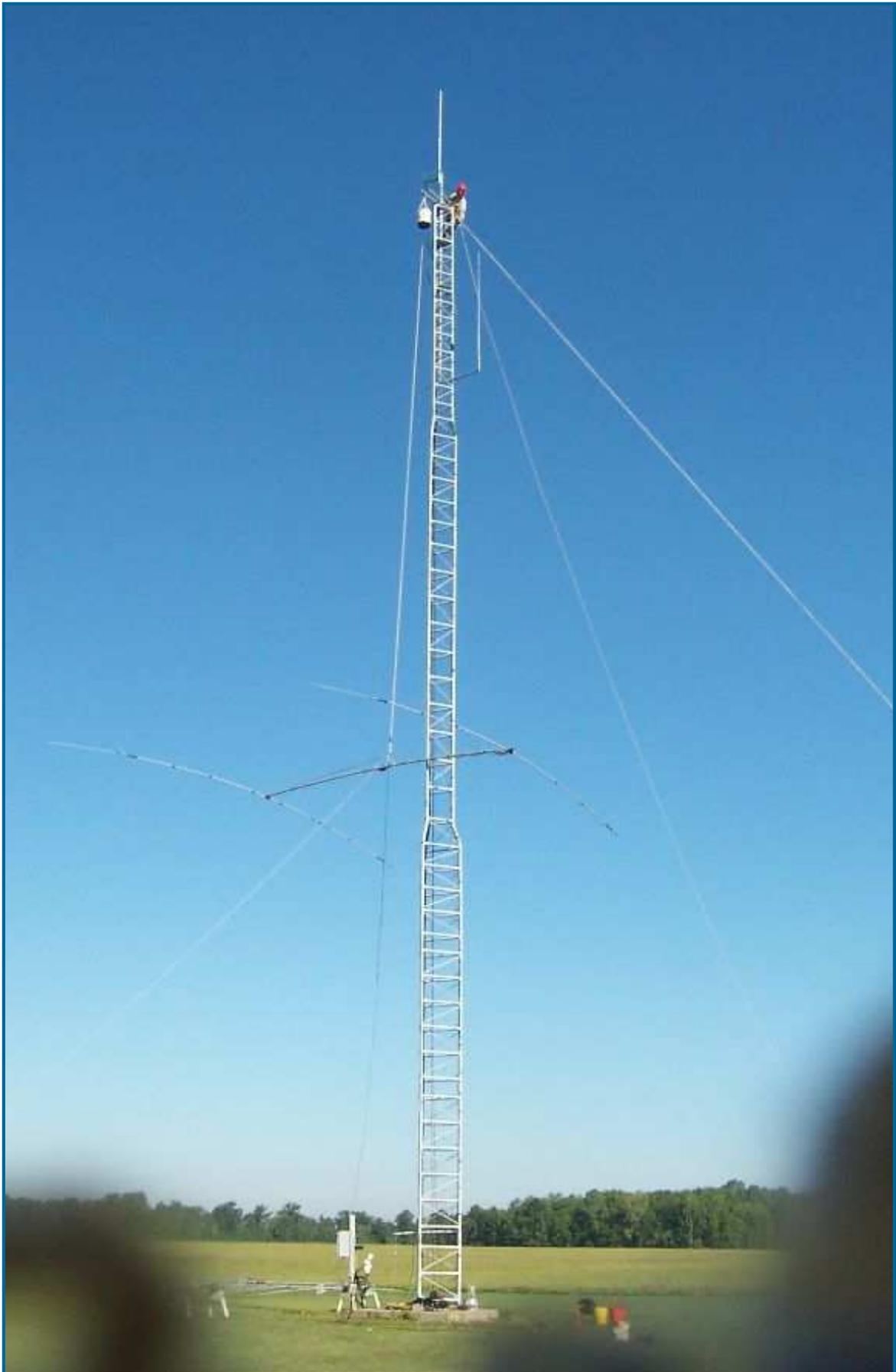


This is Lee, KH6BZF, well-known propagation guru and newest NODXA member visiting a NODXA meeting in August. At the meeting, he gave a talk on the current sunspot cycle. He currently lives in Hawaii (during the winter). He is also a big Cleveland Indians fan.

## Antenna Raising Party at K8PV By John Papay, K8YSE

Pictures of our antenna raising party at K8PV's place on 9/3/2009. We got the 2el Cushcraft 40m beam, the Cushcraft X9 and the rotator installed on his tower. The beams were damaged by a lightning strike and had to be repaired. (All photos courtesy of K8MFO).









**Go to**  
[www.2cars.org](http://www.2cars.org)  
**to reserve and**  
**pay for your**  
**tickets**

## 2010 Dayton Hamvention Bus Trip

CARS is again sponsoring a Bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention, the 2010 bus trip will take place on Saturday May 15.

The Bus trip will cost \$40.00 dollars per person, we need a minimum of 35 people to break even, the bus will be stopping for breakfast on the way down, with a brief stop on the way home for quick bite. You are responsible for your food and Hamvention ticket costs.

The bus will be leaving at 3:30 am from the Kmart parking lot at the intersection of Engle Road and Bagley Road, in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, Engle Road is a 1/4 mile west of I-71, which is the first intersection you come to, Kmart is behind the BP Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there will be security to watch cars.

Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance. If we do not sell 35 bus tickets by May 8, 2010 the bus will be cancelled and your money returned.

*If you have any questions please see Dwaine K8ME at a cars meeting, CALL 440-582-3462 or go to [www.2cars.org](http://www.2cars.org) and click on Dayton Bus trip to reserve a seat or pay by PayPal. Checks can be sent to: CARS, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, OH 44131-0264 attn. Dayton Bus committee*

73, Dwaine, K8ME and the committee



## 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](mailto:wd8iou@adelphia.net)

## NODXA Club Officials for 2009-2010

|               |                        |                |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 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, KB6NU, KE7BOJ, and K8MFO.