



"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

Northern Ohio DX Association
P.O. Box 450783
Westlake, Ohio
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October-November 2004

Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Once again, over the past month, more announcements were made about some major DXpeditions that will either take place soon (upcoming months) or during 2005. To start, there were announcements by two Indian DXers trying to get permission to activate Andaman Islands (VU4). The Andaman Islands are ranked second or third on the most wanted DXCC Entity List.

The last activation of these islands was in 1987, and the operator was Bharathi (YL), VU2RBI. She is one of the DXers (along with Miku, VU2WAP), who is asking for permission to operate from VU4. Both operators feel the time is right for an operation due to a change in the personnel at the Indian Department of Telecommunications. The Minister of Communication is now a radio amateur. However, both VU2 stations are calling for help by the DX community to write to the Indian Telecommunication Ministry to convince them to authorize an operation

to the Andaman Island.

I have written a letter of support from the NODXA club to both operators. Hopefully, we will see VU4 hit the airwaves before the end of the year.

It seems more rare French islands may hit the airwaves soon. Amsterdam Island (FT1) is expected to be on the air before the end of the year due to a change in the French operating rules. A VHFer now has privileges on the HF bands; so be listening. Look for Crozet Island (FT5W) to be on the air early next year (January/February). Also, a large operation (by the group that activated Europa recently) to Glorioso Island (FR/G) may "possibly" take place in May 2005. Sounds like the next several months could be interesting.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

December 31 is the deadline for ARRL WAS/90 Award. For more info, please go to the following site: <http://www.arrl.org/awards/#was-90>

Minutes of the October 4th, 2004 NODXA Meeting

The meeting, which was held at Gourmet Deli and Restaurant in Strongsville, Ohio, was called to order at 7:29 PM by Vice President Dwaine, K8ME. The around the room introductions was followed by the 17 members in attendance.

A balance of \$Ka-Ching! exists in the treasury as reported by Mary, N8DMM.

Pete, N8TR, informed us on the status of the 2 meter repeater.

A discussion on band conditions and DX was opened by Dwaine K8ME.

The 50/50 raffle was won by John, K8YSE. His share was \$15.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM by Dwaine, K8ME.

Following the meeting a video on the Ten-Tech factory and featuring the Orion transceiver was shown.

Secretary: Ron K8VJG.

Minutes of the November 1st, 2004 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM which was held at Gourmet Deli and Restaurant in Strongsville, Ohio and followed by the around the room introductions by the 17 members in attendance

Mary, N8DMM, reports a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the treasury.

The packet cluster is working OK as related by Pete, N8TR.

Tedd, KB8NW, informed us on the upcoming Andaman Island Dxpediton.

Wayne, K8FF, had heart bypass surgery and is now at home and doing well as informed to us by Tedd, KB8NW.

A report on the Web Page was made by John, K8YSE.

A discussion on recent Dxpeditons was opened by Nick, W8XD.

Alan, N8CX, won the 50/50 raffle. His share

was \$16.00.

Tedd, KB8NW, adjourned the meeting at 7:59 PM.

Secretary: Ron K8VJG

AY1ZA – South Orkeny Island Dx-Pediton Jan 29 to Feb 22, 2004—Part 2

AY1ZA ACTIVITY

The two operators helped me giving me free space in the air for the amateur hams.

I started at 05:00 gmt and 11:00 gmt when conditions start to dim my bed was waiting for me and woke up at 16:00 gmt for lunch, then it had a free space and with good propagation I transmitted up to 18:30 gmt were the Navy operator started with his transmission and ended out 00:00 gmt, then, I had free space again, so I returned to the radio up to 02:00 gmt at the end I slept until 05:00 gmt and start al again with my unforgettable day hi hi !!!

I remember about two years ago, with Claudio and also Jose Luis, we worked at 22:00 gmt 15, 17 and 12 mts band with very good conditions and sometimes 10 mts. between USA and Japan, but this year propagation changed too much. I hope I will return again to communicate and give the chance to those who are looking forward the South Orkney Island.



Adrian op.2004, Anibal op.2003
and Henry LU4DXU/AY1ZA.

Old Ways Work

Gene, K1ZF, via eHam.net

"Hello CQ calling CQ, CQ forty..." It was a weekday afternoon and why the radio was tuned to 7.260 I don't know, but it was and here was this guy calling CQ forty, something you don't hear as often as you used to. Hitting control "S" to save the document I was working on, I rolled the swivel chair over to the operating desk. "W8*** this is K1ZF" I said into the mike. He came back and we started to have what was beginning to be a very enjoyable QSO. We had several things in common besides ham radio and as happens so often in this hobby, it looked like I was going to have another friend.

We chatted for a while and while he was talking it happened: There was an audible "thunk", and the hundred KW AM signal of Radio Liberia slammed into my antenna. Bummer. But all was not lost. Even though they were some 15 KC wide, by massaging a few knobs I could still copy the W8. My radio is a vintage Icom IC 765, with most, although not all the mods and, of course, no DSP. On went the attenuation switch, to 20 DB. Off went the AGC. Down went the RF gain. -- On with the notch filter. The last thing was to switch the mode to wide CW. -- Was it armchair copy? Nope. I tweaked the pass band tuning and gave the RIT a little bump up. I could hear the guy just fine under the rhetoric spouting from Radio Lib. He turned it back to me and I replied "Up ten! Up ten!" I looked up and down the band but alas! He was nowhere to be found, obviously not hearing me.

As a sometimes contester hired gun, I've been lucky in that I to get to operate a lot of different radios. Some are easier than others to use, but all of the modern sets do a pretty good job of pulling stuff out of the mud. With few exceptions, so do most of the older rigs, too. It's just that the skill level needed to do the same things is a bit higher. If I were using the latest bang box in the example above I'd have DSP to help. That's cool. But with the older rigs,

like mine, it's not as simple as pushing a button and, like a magic wand; all the bad stuff goes away. There is a learning curve here. It can be a lot of fun to pull someone out of the mud when a summer thunderstorm is between you and the guy in the middle of the country. Even if you're not in QSO with him there's a sense of pride in being able to dig through all the hash.

One of the most common mistakes operating any receiver is allowing it to be overloaded. That's why we have AGC. But like most things automatic, AGC is a compromise. Most radios around today give you the option of fast, slow or no AGC. On phone, when it starts to get rough, I almost always set the AGC to fast. That does tend to make the audio choppy to be sure, but you don't loose nearly as much as with it set to slow. And when it really goes down the drain, like in the extreme example above, I turn it off altogether, and feather the signal using the RF gain. Again, not too smooth, but you are able to copy.

Using the wide CW filter works quite well. Narrow filters, 500Hz or less tighten it up a little too much. Then, the law of diminished returns comes into play. In the old, old days, before receivers had product detectors, you had to play with the BFO to clarify a SSB signal. That took a bit of skill. Today, the radio does it for us. That's not a bad thing, but it's a lot more fun to be able to do it yourself when things get tough.

With some new radios getting up there in cost close to what we paid for a new car not all that long ago, maybe it's time to take a closer look at why old ways work.

Bear Interrupts DX Operation

Paul Signorelli, WORW, July 11, 2004
via eHam.net

Last night there was a 20-Meter contest on with lots of strong European stations coming in so I took my Elecraft KX-1 out in the backyard to try for a few.

I was outside walking around just after midnight when I worked Alex, YL2KO, Latvia, on

NODXA Club Officials for 2003-2004

President - Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)
V. President - Dwaine Modock, K8ME (440-582-3462)
Secretary - Ron Borkey, K8VJG (440-237-6718)
Treasurer - Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)
Newsletter Editor - David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)

As of March 2002
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

335

14,060. This was my first European contact on 20 whilst being peripatetic (Pedestrian) mobile. I was hand holding my KX1 and had my eight-foot whip and a drag wire trailing behind me on the grass.

While calling another station, I saw a big black hulk in my driveway. I also heard a raspy sound of claws scratching the cement; I almost dropped the KX-1 as I dashed for the door. I was trying to figure out how to get inside the door with the 8-foot whip tied to my body, as it slammed shut, locking me outside. The big black bear was only 10 feet away. I had to awaken my XYL to let me back into the house. She went to the wrong door not knowing what was happening outside.

The bear was scared away by the clanking noise of my new antenna's capacity hat, a pie pan, and ran the other way back up the driveway . . . whoosh!!!

The adrenaline rush of working Latvia while Pedestrian Mobile QRP is nothing compared to having a bear walk up on you while you are working DX in the dark. I think I will leave the midnight (zombie) operation for winter time when the bears are Hibernating....Just life in the city -- Colorado Springs, Colorado.

PS: The Bear was back in the yard on 9/31/04. I got the QSL card from YL2KO but He never heard the rest of story. The local TV crew was out interviewing another lady who had seen the bear and right during the interview the Bear came back into her yard. The TV crew got great pictures of the Bear. The week after the Bear showed up in my back yard the local Paper, The Gazette, July 21, Metro section, Pages 1 and 8 had a picture of this bear eating a fawn! The article said you could fight the Bears off with Binoculars... great!

First Australia-US QSO Was 80 Years Ago

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) notes that the first direct two-way radio communication between Australia and the US occurred 80 years ago on November 3, 1924. Walter Francis Maxwell "Max" Howden, A3BQ (later VK3BQ), contacted William L. Williams, U6AHP, of Pomona, California, using Morse code. The contact took place in the vicinity of the current 80-meter band. Located near Melbourne, A3BQ ran 130 W using a single-tube transmitter. His antenna consisted of six wires, 65 feet long and 80 feet in the air.

"The first transpacific QSO was a very significant achievement at a time when radio amateurs were seeking to prove that long-distance communication was possible on short wavelengths that governments had considered to be useless," said the WIA's Jim Linton, VK3PC. Nine days later, Howden achieved the first Australia-to-Great Britain two-way wireless telegraphy contact by working E. J. Simmonds, G2OD, in Buckingham, England. The following February, A3BQ again worked G2OD for the first two-way Amateur Radio phone contact between Australia and the UK--another world first. "The efforts of the late Max Howden, VK3BQ, and many other pioneering radio amateurs of that era, both the southern and northern hemispheres, significantly added to the knowledge of communications." Linton remarked. "It led to the rapid development of radio in terms of inter-continental and global communications and opened up the short waves for broadcasting, international wireless telegraph and many other uses over long distances."

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, K8VJG, K8YSE, LU4DXU, K1ZF. WORW, eHam.net, and the ARRL Letter.



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 450783, Westlake, Ohio 44145

- 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**, Mary Michaelis **N8DMM**, and "Radio Ray" **W8BIN**

**Dated Material
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