

October–November 2013

“Ohio’s First DXCC Field Checking Club”



The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

November looks like it is going to be a banner month for DXers. So far I have listed twelve major operations for the month. Half of the operations are in the top 50. The list of operations for the month are as follows:

Scheduled Dates	DXCC Entity	Callsign(s)	Ranked**
Oct.30th–Nov. 6th	Austral Island	TX5RV	47
November 1–7th	Easter Island	XR0YY	79
November 1–10th	San Andres	5JOR	N/A
November 3–9th	Niue	E6AA, E6AK & E6AY	N/A
November 3–15th	Wake Island	K9W	21
November 5–18th	Banaba Island	T33A	33
November 8–20th	Juan Fernandez	XR0ZR	43
Nov.12th–Dec.2nd	American Samoa	W8A & N8A	93
November 15–26th	Myanmar	XZ1J	26
November 16–27th	Swaziland	3DA0ET	N/A
November 14–28th	South Sudan	Z81X	49
November 17–26th	Bangladesh	S21ZBC & S21ZBB	52
Nov.20th–Dec.10th*	Laccadives	VU7AG & VU7KV	34

* Sometime between, 14 day op.

** The DX Magazine rating.



Some of the above DXCC entities may be ranked a lot lower if you consider the bands and modes needed. NODXA has only funded two of the above operations (K9W Wake Island and XR0ZR Juan Fernandez Island). Also, by the time you read this, the top six operation above will probably be QRT.

Well, if you have not heard, Kosovo is moving one step closer to becoming a DXCC entity. In September, Serbia dropped its opposition to an international dialing phone code for Kosovo. This means if the ITU issues a phone code for Kosovo, usually an ITU callsign block will follow later. Once the ITU callsign block is issued, this will qualify Kosovo as a DXCC entity. KYFC!

In closing, I hope you can attend one of the upcoming general membership meetings, especially December. This December we will have our annual "Show and Tell" program. You can bring anything (radio related or not) that you think would be of interest to the membership. You'd be amazed what things are brought (some stuff really humorous and/or unique). As a reminder, if you have a topic to discuss about DXing or Contesting, bring it up at the meeting. Also, if you would like to put on a program of some interest for the club in the coming new year, let us know so we can schedule you in for a meeting. We are always looking for a program.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

Minutes of the September 9th, 2013 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW. There were 20 members and guests present. After the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the usual round of introductions, the minutes for the meeting of August 5 were read by Glenn, AF8C. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Also, all memberships are now renewed. Ron, K8VJG, moved, and Bruce, N8DJX, seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report as read. That motion passed on the vote. Tedd, KB8NW, asked if anyone had heard Byron, KF8UN, in Tanzania. No one responded that they had heard him.

Tedd ran into a snag with sending our contribution to the Juan Fernandez Dxpediton group. The contribution had to be sent in Euros. This required Tedd to make the executive decision to spend \$135.21 to get our contribution through.

The repeater was reported as working fine. Glenn, AF8C, has an activity to plot some of the radio paths of the West Park Radiops users of the W8DXA repeater, using the technique just published in the latest ARRL QEX magazine.

A report on this will come at a future meeting. Dave, WD8IOU, reported the latest club newsletter is out, but the photograph of Bruce, N8DJX, was accidentally omitted. So that photograph will be in the next newsletter.

Old/New Business:

Per Gary, NI8Z, CARS will start a new license class on September 18. The classes will be held in Seven Hills. See the CARS2 Web site for information. CARS is going to vote on having a Field Trip via bus to ARRL headquarters in Newington.

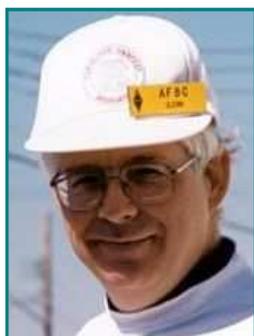
Jim, K8MR, reported that in 2014, the 100th year of the ARRL, there will be a W1AW portable station operating for two weeks in each state. Jim has reserved W1AW/8 at the end of August, 2014. George, K8KR, worked the ARRL president in the Ohio QSO Party. Tedd reminded us of the opportunity to have a table at the Cleveland Hamfest coming September 22.

Jim, K8MR, thanked everyone who operated in the Ohio QSO Party. The results are of course not published yet. For eleven hours in the Ohio QSO Party, band conditions were such that Ohio operators could not hear Ohio. Kansas and Hawaii QSO parties were coming in well.

Tedd reported that there are no current requests for donations. Tedd reported that the last ARRL Board meeting made a decision to review the status of the DXCC rules. This result in several comments from the group. Tedd reported on the upcoming Wake Island operation, K9W.

Bruce, N8DJX worked a VK on 160m. Tedd reported that Jim Weaver, K8JE, the ARRL Division director, has announced the new DXAC representative is AC8W. Tedd announced that the 2013 DXCC Yearbook will be available digitally. Jim K8MR promoted operating in the September ARRL VHF contest on September 14. Also there will be the WAE SSB DX contest.

Tedd announced that John, K8YSE, has worked all 488 grid squares in the continental U.S. John, K8YSE, added his personal comments on that. [The ARRL web link for the Fred Fish W5FF Memorial



Award (at <http://www.arrl.org/ffma/>) discusses the award status for working all 488 grid squares.] Dwaine, K8ME, checked three VUCC applications in the last few weeks. Dwaine announced that Scottie WK3N is up to 3000 in the ARRL Challenge. Bruce, N8DJX, reported being up to 2800. Bruce announced that on September 24 his new rotor and antenna will be joined.

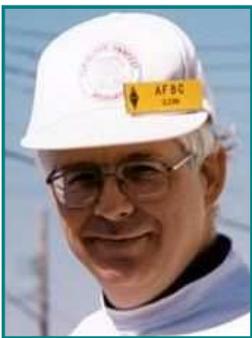
The next meeting will be on the first Monday, October 7. The raffle basket contained \$32.00 and the winner of the half-share was Dave, WD8IOU, who donated his share back to the club. On a motion from Ron, K8VJG, and seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, the meeting was declared closed at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the October 7th, 2013 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:31 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW. There were 19 members and guests present. After the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the usual round of introductions, the minutes for the meeting of September 9 were read by Glenn, AF8C. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Per Dwaine, two DXCC patches were sold at the September Cleveland Hamfest. Both Dwaine and Ron, K8VJG, sold equipment at the NODXA table. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report as read. That motion passed on the vote.

Everyone chuckled about the skunk at the Hamfest. Anyone with photographs of the skunk can send them to Dave for the newsletter. The repeater is reported as working fine. Glenn, AF8C, hopes to capture some sound files of possible interference on the repeater during the Monday night 9 p.m. West Park Radiops net. So far the only known issue on that frequency is the Butler, PA repeater that is often heard on Monday evenings.



There's an update on the DXAC actions: Kosovo has been submitted to the ITU for acceptance with a legitimate callsign prefix. If Kosovo is approved by ITU, then ultimately the DXCC list would include it. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that he is looking for input to the newsletter, and photographs of individual stations or towers or the skunk would be welcome.

Old/New Business:

The K9W Wake Island startup has been delayed by the federal government shutdown. Pete, N8TR, said that for the World Radio Team Championship, K8MR is a team captain for NA8. Jim has selected K9NW as his partner. This event will occur during the July 2014 IARU Roundup. It will be done Field Day style, multi-double, with every team having exactly the same equipment in order to equalize the chances.

People said they saw K8IE and K3LR at the Hamfest. Bruce, N8DJX has no tower report this month. Pete, N8TR, had his 40m 40-2CD and KT34XA antenna taken down by K8YSE, K8MR, with K8ZH and N8DMM on the ground, and helped by W3YQ and W8WWV. W8WWV used a model helicopter to take videos of the work. The rebuilt antenna was put back up by K8MR and W8YQ with K8ZH, W8WWV, and N8DMM assisting. Of course Pete was working the winch for these efforts. The problem was diagnosed as a PL259 compression connector on the feedline which was replaced by a connector from MCM Electronics that goes for about \$6.00.

Bruce N8DJX asked if the CYO operation will use RTTY. Tedd said no they will not, and the CYO folks are leaving tomorrow anyway. George, K8KR, asked about a music band that played at K8FH, of which one member being a radio amateur. Pete said K8FH has a nice antenna farm and lives not too far from Pete. Gary, NI8Z, reported on a great experience with STEPPIR due to chipmunks having chewed on the control cable. Tedd reported that the Android app for a repeater directory is in beta testing until February, 2014. Tedd told us to plan ahead for the December 2 program which will be

Show and Tell.

Tedd listed a whole series of DX opportunities that are coming up. In 2014 will be Mellish Reef. Jim, KE8G, asked about Myanmar. Rick, K8ZH, says W7OO has issued a challenge to the world-wide DX community to contribute to the Northern California DX Foundation and will match all donations to NCDXF. For contributors who file United States income tax returns, contributions to NCDXF are tax-deductible as NCDXF is a Section 501(c)(3) entity with the IRS. Pete, N8TR, reported that W6BH is a Silent Key. Brian, K3USC worked him early.

The next meeting will be on Monday November 4. The raffle basket contained \$36.00 and the winner of the half-share was Glenn, AF8C, who donated his share back to the club. Tedd announced that the BARF Breakfast will be on Saturday, October 12 at 9 a.m. The meeting closed at around 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Uno, Dos, Tres... by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

If you have done any amount of listening to shortwave radio outside of the ham bands, you have undoubtedly run across "numbers stations." The broadcasts from these stations consist streams of numbers or letters, often in a computer-generated female voice speaking in Spanish. Every now and then, a numbers station pops up on 30m, sending five-character groups in Morse code.

According to the Conet Project (<http://www.irdial.com/conet.htm>), "Shortwave Numbers Stations are a perfect method of anonymous, one way communication. Spies located anywhere in the world can be communicated to by their masters via small, locally available, and unmodified Shortwave receivers. The encryption system used by Numbers Stations, known as a 'one time pad' is unbreakable. Combine this with the fact that it is almost impossible to track down the message recipients once they are inserted into the enemy country, it becomes clear just how powerful the Numbers Station system is."



The Conet Project sells a CD with a number of recordings for \$55, but you can find a bunch of mp3 files at <http://www.archive.org/details/ird059> for free.

Recently there was a thread on the Glowbugs Google Group about numbers stations. One fellow mentioned "The Numbers Station," a movie released earlier this year starring John Cusack. IMDB (<http://www.imdb.com>) says that The Numbers Station is about "a disgraced black ops agent dispatched to a remote CIA broadcast station to protect a code operator. Soon, they find themselves in a life-or-death struggle to stop a deadly plot before it's too late." It's currently available for streaming on Netflix, and I watched it recently. It's kind of violent (lots of people get shot), but it's a decent thriller.

Jim, K6FWT mentioned ENIGMA 2000 (<http://www.apul64.dsl.pipex.com/enigma2000/>). The group's website describes ENIGMA 2000 as "a UK based online group, whose aims are to bring together listeners and enthusiasts who monitor and gather information on 'Number Stations' and other related radio transmissions. Through our Yahoo Group monitors can share their logs, discuss frequencies, thoughts and opinions on this most emotive subject." Jim says, "These folks are SERIOUS enthusiasts. I have heard that they surpass many intelligence services with their thoroughness. You can get in up to your eyeballs if you don't watch it."

These stations have been around since World War II. I remember as a kid in the 1960s and 1970s, reading articles about numbers stations in Popular Electronics and Electronics Illustrated. They're as much of a mystery today as they were back then.

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

Local Ham Confuses Trick-or-Treaters by K5KVN via Hamhijinks.com

New Blighton, N.H. — Trick-or-Treaters in the southside neighborhood of Burlington aren't sure if they received a trick or a treat last night from one local man.

Parents say they didn't know what to make of the objects in their bags.

"My son came home with a walkie talkie and I'm like 'what is this?!' I still don't understand what it does," said Becky Juang, a parent in the neighborhood.

Ben Wagonroth, the man responsible, says he can explain. "Halloween totally caught me off guard. I only had ten Glucerna Nutrition Bars in the house and I gave those out in about five minutes."

Wagonroth, a self-proclaimed "tinkerer" and ham radio operator says he felt he had to give something to the kids that rang his doorbell. "I remembered I had a huge box of Beofengs, so I dumped those into a bowl and handed them out, batteries included," said Wagonroth.

"Those things were CHEAP, about the cost of a large candy bar, and I picked up a bulk order online last month. You know, just to have them around," he said.

Parents and kids had peculiar looks on their faces when he placed them in their bags. He said one small child cried and a pair of teenagers threatened to "toilet paper" his trees after receiving the strange items. "One kid, though, really liked the flashlight on the top of the radio," he said.

He says he'll be better prepared with candy next year, and already has plans to build a scarecrow out of a Collins S-Line and a front-yard cemetery that includes crosses made from sections of Rohn 45 covered with black bed sheets.



Why Mho is Mo' Better by KL7AJ via eHam.net

In 1971, the International System of Units decided that every electrical unit had to be named after a dead science guy. As a result of this, the unit of electrical conductance became the siemens, after a dead science guy by that name, replacing the much beloved mho.

This was a travesty of the highest order, not that Siemens the dead science guy was a bad dead science guy. In fact, he was probably one of the best dead science guys. I've had dozens of Siemens electrical devices in my long electronics career; I've even ridden on the incredible Siemens high speed rail that runs all through Taiwan...a phenomenal work of engineering.

But the point is, the mho came first. Just because it wasn't named after anyone... well, at least not directly...is no reason to relegate it to the dustbin of history. I like the mho for a number of reasons that have nothing to do with or without dead science guys.

Mho is easy to spell, and easy to remember. It's also easy to apply. When I teach parallel circuits, I tell them that with mo' mho, you have mo' flow (current flow, that is). How can you forget something like that? Nothing rhymes with siemens. Well, except maybe demons. But Siemens' demons have absolutely nothing on Mho's flow. This is why mho is mo' better.

They did the same thing with Hertz, another dead science guy. Now, admittedly, Hertz probably had more to do with frequency than Siemens had to do with conductance, but that's probably beside the

point. It still hurts to use Hertz. I can't think of Hertz without wanting to rent a car. I never had this problem with cycles per second. Even someone who wouldn't know Heinrich Hertz from Henry Higgins has no problem grasping that "cycles per second" has something to do with cycles and seconds.

I live in constant dread, however, that some European science bureaucrat will decide that we need to rename the second after some dead science guy too! What would they name it...the Huygens? (Huygens was a dead science guy who did a lot of stuff having to do with time. Well, actually he wasn't yet a dead science guy when he was doing that stuff, but he's dead now. If he hadn't invented time, he'd probably still be a non-dead science guy).

Now, mind you, I'm all for giving credit where credit is due. I would love to have a unit named after me, though I'd rather not have to be dead before it happened. It's probably a safe bet that none of the aforementioned dead science guys could give a deep-fried rat's patoot that they had units named for them after they became dead. If you want to honor me for my brilliance, I'd rather have you do it while I'm still around to wallow in the fame.

Finally An Antenna That Works by W8BNL via eHam.net

Recently - I decided to set up my radio and an antenna at my son's house about 6 miles away and try to get on the air with a remote station.

My radio is a Kenwood TS-480SAT so I figured that I could either use the Kenwood KNS program or even RemoteHams.com to get my radio connected to the internet so that I could access it from the "Antenna Free Zone". First attempt was with a shortened G5RV Lite (not the Jr.)- it is a 102' antenna that has some "coils" in it that shorten it to 66'. This worked but was very noisy. I didn't find out till a couple of days ago that the entire neighborhood where my remote was being set up has terrible line noise from the old transformers there.



I knew that a loop antenna is inherently quieter than a dipole so I began to research that angle. That is when I stumbled upon the work of AG6IF - Jim. He has done extensive modeling on the loop design and has developed what he calls "The Talented Balun". He determined that most Loop antennas have an impedance of around 115 Ohms. (Don't get picky - I said "around".) Anyway - most people then use a 4:1 balun if they want to coax feed their loop. As you can see - the 4:1 balun will take the impedance well below the desired 50 Ohm target. This prompted Jim to develop and build his 2.5:1 balun which he calls "The Talented Balun".

Well - to say that I am absolutely blown away with this antenna would probably be an understatement. But I can't think of any other suitable accolades. All of the local (Great Lakes Area) HF Nets are being heard like never before and the other Net members have been asking me if I moved to a new QTH. The neighborhood where my remote is has some very noisy electric transformers - but I have been able to deal with it since it is mostly on 75 meters - 40 on down are very enjoyable. In fact - I was even more amazed when I put my call out to the Route 66 special event station in Albuquerque, NM and the guy came back on the first try - and that was on 17 meters. A few days later on 20 meters - I worked a guy in Mississippi who had just received his General ticket and was using the /AG identifier. I was his first HF contact and both of us were excited.

This loop - even at only 22' AGL - is definitely not a "cloud warmer" - in fact - about an hour ago, I worked EA8YB in the Canary Islands on 17 meters with a 59+ signal. Wow - I was beginning to think that living in a mobile home park with no antennas allowed would spell the end of my HF activity. But thanks to a lot of research - and the fantastic product created by Jim AG6IF - I am back on the air!!! This is one antenna product that actually delivers and I will definitely be telling everyone I can about how well it works. On the previous page is a picture describing the antenna layout and my station.

If you want more information about AG6IF's great antenna - please follow this link - <http://www.ebay.com/gds/Ham-Talented-Balun-skyloop-antenna-160-80-40-20-15-10m-/10000000175955422/g.html>

73 to everyone - Keep Smiling - Keep Experimenting - And above all else - HAVE SOME FUN!!

Art Bell, W6OBB, Returns to the Air by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Art Bell to make comeback with Sirius show about the paranormal. Art Bell, W6OBB, radio's master of the paranormal and outward edges of science, will return to the microphone on Sept. 16 with a new nighttime show on Sirius XM Radio. Bell was one of radio's top syndicated voices in the 1990s before walking away from his nightly show in 2002 due to family issues. He worked occasionally after that but hasn't been on the air since Halloween 2010.



NODXA 2013 Field Day Results by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW

Good showing NODXA. The ARRL Field Day Results are now posted at: http://www.arrl.org/results-database?event_id=47575

Here is what NODXA did this year.....

Ranked	Details
82	out of 2548 participants
14	out of 398 participants in the 2A category
2	Great Lakes Div. 2A category
9	Great Lakes Div. overall, 237 participants
6	Ohio Section overall, 121 participants
2	Ohio Section 2A category, 15 participants
73	QSO count overall participants
7	QSO count Great Lakes Div.
5	QSO count Ohio Section
1	QSO count Ohio Section 2A category

Good job..... 73 de Tedd KB8NW



Club Item For Sale

HyGain TH3-MKIII antenna complete with BN86 Balun and new set of plastic trap caps. Antenna is in good condition. This antenna was donated to the Northern Ohio DX Association as part of an estate.

Please contact John Papay at john@papays.com



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 2013-2014

President:	Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW	(440-237-2816)
V. President:	Dwaine Modock, K8ME	(440-582-3462)
Secretary:	Glenn Williams, AF8C	(440-835-4897)
Treasurer:	Mary Michaelis, N8DMM	(440-236-5426)
Newsletter:	David Autry, WD8IOU	(440-238-0417)



DXCC Info

As of February 2012, 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, K8YSE, AF8C, K5KVN, KL7AJ, KB6NU, W8BNL, eHam.net, and Hamhijinks.com.