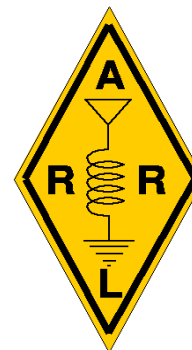


November-December 2009

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



# The NODXA RAG



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

## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Well, 2010 is here and I hope everyone had a great holiday season. As I was typing this no major announcements of DXpeditions were issued for the new year (that is for the Top Ten Most Wanted). I am constantly being asked, "When is Navassa Island coming up?". All I can tell you is that nothing is being reported yet! Maybe we will hear something (hopefully) by Dayton HamVention time, and that is coming quickly (just about 4 months away). It will be here before you know it. Have you made your plans to attend yet?



If you have not heard, the results of "The DX Magazine's Most Wanted Survey" is out. There are some changes to the list compared to last year's results. North Korea (P5) still remains #1 one on the list, while Yemen (7O) which was #2 on last year's list is now #5 thanks to the acceptance of the 7O1YGF QSLs. Desecheo (KP5), which was #6, is now not even in the top 100.

Glorioso (FR/G) and Marion Island (ZS8) were probably the disappointments of 2009. Glorioso (FR/G) went from #4 to #8, and Marion Island (ZS8) went from #5 to #3. The top ten are as follows:

2009 PREFIX / COUNTRY	2008	2009 PREFIX / COUNTRY	2008
1 P5 NORTH KOREA	1	6 VKOH HEARD ISLAND	8
2 KP1 NAVASSA	3	7 FT5W CROZET	9
3 ZS8 MARION ISLAND	5	8 FR/G GLORIOSO	4
4 3Y/B BOUVET	7	9 FT5Z AMSTERDAM	10
5 7O YEMEN	2	10 S. SANDWICH Is.	12

If you would like to see the "Top 100 Most Wanted", go to "DX Magazine's" Web page at: [http://dxpub.com/dx\\_news.html](http://dxpub.com/dx_news.html). Also, pick-up a copy of the January/February issue of "The DX Magazine" and read about the survey. Look for a complete breakdown by mode to be published in the March/April 2010 issue.

In closing, it seems that the sunspot numbers for the new year are finally starting to increase. The solar flux is bouncing between 80-90 for the winter months. So start watching 12 and 10 meters. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

## Minutes of the October 5th, 2009 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:33pm. There were 22 members and 1 guest present.



After a round of introductions, the minutes of the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were read. After one callsign correction, the minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Mary reported one new member, Walt, KB8VJE.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that our club logo was on the Chesterfield Island web site. He also reported that the repeater was okay.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster was okay as well. Pete also commented that the Telnet address for the K8AZ cluster is [telnet.k8az.no-ip.com](http://telnet.k8az.no-ip.com).

Dave, WD8IOU, said that he needs pictures from the recent Cleveland Hamfest for the newsletter. Dave's email address is [wd8iou@roadrunner.com](mailto:wd8iou@roadrunner.com).

Tedd, KB8NW, commented on the NODXA table at the Cleveland Hamfest and said that the ARRL card checkers had checked over 1300 cards. He also stated that the vendors looked good and the weather turned out okay.

### Old-New Business

Ron, K8VJG, reported that CARS would be holding a license class beginning this coming Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. The class will be held at the Independence Civic Center.

Pete, N8TR, reported that CQ Magazine, in honor of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, would be having a special WAZ certificate for working all 40 CQ Zones between November 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 and October 31<sup>st</sup> 2010.

George, K8KR, reported that the current Glorioso DXpedition, FT5GA, was difficult to work. Total QSOs were expected to be around 50,000.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that Conway, 3D20CR, would be QRT on October 12<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that Marquessa would be up October 16<sup>th</sup>. He commented that DXing and contesting are on the up-swing in the fall.

Rick, K8ZH, reported that Tom, K8PV, was back on the air after recent treatment for an illness. Rick and others repaired Tom's antennas in the meantime and now everything is working fine.

Adam, N8MOX, reported that an apparently unlicensed operator was on 14.225. A call to the FCC got no satisfaction from the person spoken to.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had received no requests for donations. Next month is the Massillon Hamfest on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Tedd also reported that he will try to have the Desecheo, K5D, DVD to show at the meeting. Tedd also commented that, as rumor has it, St Marrens and Curaco will become separate DXCC entities on October 10, 2010. Tedd also gave advanced notice that the December meeting would also be a "show-and-tell" night. Everyone should try and bring something, be it from a hobby, ham radio or otherwise to show.

The next meeting will be Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Dave, WD8IOU, moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed.

The meeting was closed by the president, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:19 P.M.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Nick, W8XD. The amount was \$23 (and was donated back to the club?)

A mystery prize, donated by Bruce, N8DJX, was won by Nelson, K8DJC. The prize was a pair of computer speakers.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX Secretary

## Minutes of the November 2nd, 2009 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:30pm. There were 26 members present.

After a round of introductions, the minutes of the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were read. Bruce, N8DJX moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the minutes be approved as read. The motion passed.



The Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the repeater is okay. Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster was okay.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter was delayed, but will be out soon.

### Old-New Business

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that his XYL, Karen, had fallen and injured herself. Pete, N8TR, reported that the Glorioso QSO's are on the ARRL Logbook of the World.

Dennis, K8LBT, thanked all who had helped him with his new tower and antenna system.

Bruce, N8DJX, asked about the recent sunspot (singular) that had appeared on the Sun. The solar flux value jumped to 82 from its normal 70. Others reported that 15 meters had been good lately.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported receiving a request for an upcoming IOTA DXpedition to Vietnam/Conoco Isl. The callsign will be 3W6C. The team, mainly from Switzerland will have 16 operators, including Jan, DJ8NK. The operation is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> thru the 18<sup>th</sup>. The reported cost of the DXpedition is \$85 thousand dollars.

Tedd also reported that Kenya, 5Z0 will be up February 10<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. Tedd further reported that Chesterfield Isl., TX3A is setting up today and might be on 40 or 80 meters tonight.

Tedd reminded everyone that the next meeting will be Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was closed by the President at 7:55 PM.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Wayne, K8FF. The winning amount of \$22. was given back to the club.

After a short break, a DVD of the K5D, Desecheo, DXpedition was shown.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

## Let the Sun Spots Shine By ARRL Letter



Tad "The Sun shines hot and the wind blows cold" Cook, K7RA, reports: The sunspots just keep coming: Two new sunspot groups appeared on March 1, numbered 1052 and 1053. This brings the total number of sunspot groups appearing over the last month at 11. Looking at our 3-month moving average of daily sunspot numbers, the latest for December-January-February is 22.4, for the period centered on January. The 3-month moving averages for the periods centered on July through January were 4, 4, 4.64, 7.1, 10.16, 15.15 and 22.4. The average sunspot number for the month of February was 31, up from 21.3 for January and 15.7 for December. The February average

being 8.6 points higher than the trailing three month average (22.4) is a good trend. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site on Friday, March 5, including more news from happy radio amateurs commenting on improved conditions on the higher part of the HF spectrum. The vernal equinox occurs in a little over two weeks, ushering in good spring conditions.

## Give Your Generator Some Space By Dan Romnanchik, KB6NU

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the same folks that bring you WWV, publish a monthly newsletter called NIST Tech Beat. Here's an item from the 10/6/09 issue of NIST Tech Beat that will be of interest to radio amateurs:



To subdue the steaming heat of hurricanes or to thaw out during a blizzard, gasoline-powered, portable generators are a lifeline during weather emergencies when homes are cut off without electricity. But these generators emit poisonous carbon monoxide—a single generator can produce a hundred times more of the colorless, odorless gas than a modern car's exhaust. New research from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) shows that to prevent potentially dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, users may need to keep generators farther from the house than previously believed—perhaps as much as 25 feet.

Up to half of the incidents of non-fatal carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning reported in the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons involved generators run within 7 feet of the home, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Carbon monoxide can enter a house through a number of airflow paths, such as a door or window left open to accommodate the extension cord that brings power from the generator into the house. While some guidance recommends 10 feet from open windows as a safe operating distance, NIST researcher Steven Emmerich says the "safe" operating distance depends on the house, the weather conditions and the unit. A generator's carbon monoxide output is usually higher than an automobile's, he says, because most generators do not have the sophisticated emission controls that cars do.

"People need to be aware that generators are potentially deadly and they need to educate themselves on proper use," Emmerich says. With funding from CDC, NIST researchers are gathering reliable data to support future CDC guidance.

NIST building researchers simulated multiple scenarios of a portable generator operating outside of a one-story house, using both a test structure and two different computer models—the NIST-developed CONTAM indoor air quality model and a computational fluid dynamics model.

The simulations included factors that could be controlled by humans, such as generator location, exhaust direction and window-opening size, and environmental factors such as wind, temperature and house dimensions. In the simulations the generator was placed at various distances from the house and tested under different weather conditions.

"We found that for the house modeled in this study," researcher Leon Wang says, "a generator position 15 feet away from open windows was not far enough to prevent carbon monoxide entry into the house."

Winds perpendicular to the open window resulted in more carbon monoxide entry than winds at an angle, and lower wind speeds generally allowed more carbon monoxide in the house. "Slow, stagnant wind seems to be the worst case because it leads to the carbon monoxide lingering by the windows," Wang explains. Researchers determined that placing the generator outside of the airflow recirculation regions near the open windows reduced carbon monoxide entry.

In the next phase of the study NIST will model a two-story house that researchers believe will interact with the wind differently. NIST researchers also have worked with the Consumer Product Safety Commission on related work. (See: "NIST to Study Hazards of Portable Gasoline-Powered Generators," NIST Tech Beat, March 5, 2008.)

The generator study can be downloaded at <http://fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/build09/PDF/b09009.pdf>.

\* L. Wang and S.J. Emmerich. Modeling the Effects of Outdoor Gasoline Powered Generator Use on Indoor Carbon Monoxide Exposures. (NIST Technical Note 1637,) 2009.

## Making your own Connectors for 3/4" CATV Aluminum Hardline

By George W. Dowell, KØFF, via eHam.net

### Material List:

- 1 ea. 1/2" aluminum conduit coupler ( actually has a 3/4" inside diameter)
- 1 ea. 1/2" length of 1/4" copper water tubing. Drill 2 cross hole for solder.
- 8 ea. #8 X 3/8" aluminum self tapping screws, modified per instructions.
- 1 ea. 1/2" aluminum threaded hole plug. Drill to fit connector.
- 1 ea. RF connector of your choice.

Connectors are made similarly to splices (see previous article).

First eight number #8 X 3/8" aluminum self tapping screws are prepared by grinding off the tips, and leaving a flat end. In all cases where screws are used, first a small pilot hole is drilled with a 1/16" bit, then an unmodified pointed screw is screwed part way in, forming the correct size hole, and somewhat extruding the shield material into the fitting. Before the full size screw reaches bottom, remove it and replace it with a flat end one. This procedure minimizes intrusion inside the coax, and reduces the impedance bump .





*Figure 1: Threaded aluminum plugs of the kind sold to seal off unused holes in outdoor electrical junction boxes are drilled to accept a variety of RF connectors.*



*Figure2 - Here the prepared connector plug center pin is being soldered to the cable center pin via a 1/2" length of 1/4" copper tubing ( typical as used in icemaker installations).*



Figure 3 - Next insert the dielectric material saved when the cable was prepared.



Figure 4 - Completion merely requires threading on the Aluminum shield Coupler and securing with screws.

## N8TR Wins 2009 CQ WW 160 Meter Contest

by David Autry, WD8IOU

NOXDA club member Pete Michaelis, N8TR, won the 2009 CQ WW 160 Meter contest for the USA in the Single Operator Assisted SSB category. In fact, Pete's score of 349,297 placed him number three in the world! Congratulations Pete!







Pete, N8TR, displaying the plaque he was awarded for winning the 2009 CQ WW 160 Meter contest for the USA. Pete has an efficient and well equipped shack that is capable of producing big scores!

## DX Calendar

MAR 3-10	VK9 — COCOS KEELING
MAR 3-APR 2	3B9WR — RODRIGUES
MAR 4-7	J37K — GRENADA
MAR 4-9	YN — NICARAGUA
MAR 4-14	6Y9V — JAMAICA
MAR 8-22	7P8AO — LESOTHO
MAR 9-16	J6/G3PJT — ST. LUCIA
MAR 10-23	CE0Z/LA9SN — JUAN FERNANDEZ
MAR 11-24	TO5SM — S T. MARTIN
MAR 13-14	9G — GHANA
MAR 16-APR 4	V21ZG — ANTIGUA
MAR 20-30	E51COF — SOUTH COOK
MAR 22-APR 8	OX — GREENLAND
MAR 28-APR 12	JD1 — OGASAWARA
APR ??	3CO — ANNOBON
APR 2-12	YI9PSE — IRAQ
APR 7-21	3B8SC — MAURITIUS
APR 10-18	3W6C — VIETNAM
APR-APR 2011	ZS8M — MARION ISLAND
MAY 28-JUN 6	E4X — PALESTINE
SEP-OCT	CY0 — SABLE ISLAND
NOV 19-DEC 5	ZL8X — KERMADEC

## New Tower and Beam for K8LBT by David Autry, WD8IOU

Dennis, K8LBT, recently erected a new tower and beam combination consisting of pieces parts from other NODXA members. Dennis purchased a Hy-Gain HG54HD 55' self-supporting tower and Tail Twister rotor from Stan, K8VI. On top of the tower, Dennis placed a monster Mosley PRO-67B beam purchased from Pete, N8TR, which used to belong to Ray, W8BIN. Dennis reports that he is having lots of fun busting through the pileups with this winning combination!





**Go to  
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, K8LBT, KØFF, KB6NU, eHam.net, and the ARRL Letter.

