

November-December 2010

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Merry Christmas!

Fellow DX'ers,

Well it has been a fun couple of months working the four new DXCC entities. There has been plenty of activity on the air, especially during the CQWW DX Contests by these new entities:



Curacao (PJ2)

St. Maarten (PJ7)

Bonaire (PJ4)

St. Eustatius (PJ5) ---> These two count

Saba (PJ6)-----> as the same.

Remember, confirmations for these new DXCC entities will be accepted for credit starting January 1st, 2011. However, Bill Moore, NC1L, Awards Branch Manager, states: "You may submit all your QSOs with PJ stations to LoTW anytime. There is no need to hold them out of your log or do anything differently from what you already have been doing.

You do not need to assign country names or identifiers. After we issue certificates to the PJ license holders, LoTW will make matches and assign the correct entities automatically."

So with 2010 coming quickly to an end, what can we expect for the upcoming new year? Well there are two major DXpeditions expected to start in January 2011. The first will be the Spratly Islands. The 37 operators (in a three team effort) from 15 countries will be active as DXODX between January 6th and February 1st. Activity will be on all bands and modes.

The second big DXpedition will be from the South Orkney Islands. Thirteen operators will be active as VP8ORK between January 26th and February 8th. This is a Mirco-Lite DXpedition. Activity will also be on all bands and modes. By the way, NODXA has donated funds to the VP8ORK operation. Please refer to the following two Web pages for more information on these two DXpeditions at: <http://www.dx0dx.net> and <http://www.vp8o.com>

It looks like the beginning of 2011 should keep DXers busy on the air for at less a few weeks.

At this time I would like to wish everyone a great Christmas holiday season and a Happy/Healthy New Year. Hope to see you at the next NODXA meeting.

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 August 2, 2010 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 7:30pm. There were 15 members and one guest present.



After a round of introductions, the minutes of the July 5th meeting were read. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. The decrease from last month is a result of Field Day expenses. Mary also reported a renewal by a member who has been gone for 10 years. Joe Hoffman W8JH, formerly WV8X. Joe presently lives in Marblehead OH.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the repeater is okay.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter will be out soon. Field Day results will be in a later issue.

Old - New Business

Ron, K8VJG, reminded everyone that the Ohio QSO Party is coming up on Saturday, August 28th.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that anyone who worked the 13 colonies over July 4th, that those states count for the Worked All States award.

Brian, K3USC, reported that Iraq is now on the Logbook-of-the-World database.

Tedd, KB8NW, requested that Al, N8CX, provide the club with an extra sales table at the Cleveland Hamfest. The hamfest will be held on Sunday, September 26th at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea. Ron, K8VJG, moved, seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, that the club spend the extra \$10 for the table. The motion passed.

Dave, WD8IOU, asked the members if any had been to, or had information about, the Alladin Hamfest in Columbus. The response was general in nature.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that his knee surgery went well and he is progressing. Tedd also reported that a press release from the Southwest Ohio DX Association had stated that the location for next years DX Dinner at the Dayton Hamvention had changed. The new location is the Marriott which is about five minutes from the Crowne Plaza.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported on some DX information. The Netherlands Antilles will break up its official): Curacao and St. Maarten will become separate countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, while Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius will become special Dutch municipalities.

Tedd further reported that the flux had been in the low 80s' recently and that Sable Island, Kermadec and Jarvis are scheduled for this fall. South Orkney is scheduled for January 2011.

Ron, K8VJG moved, seconded by Brian, K3USC, that the meeting be closed. The meeting was closed by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:04 pm.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Dwaine, K8ME. The winning amount was \$13.

Bruce, N8DJX, donated a door prize which was won by Karl, K8BCK. The item was a USB printer cable.

Tedd reminded everyone that the next meeting will be on Monday, September 13th. This is the second Monday because the first Monday is the Labor Day holiday.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX Secretary

Minutes of the September 13th, 2010 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 7:30pm. There were 19 members and one guest present.



After a round of introductions, the minutes of the August 2nd meeting were read. Dave, WD8IOU moved, seconded by Dwaine, K8ME, that the minutes be approved as read. The motion passed.

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

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the repeater is okay. Tedd further reported that the club will have two tables at the Cleveland Hamfest. One table for club promotion and the other for equipment sales. Dwaine, K8ME, also reported that there would be card checking at the hamfest. He will check WAS and VUCC, while Keith, N8KOL, will check DXCC cards.

Tedd reported that the Jarvis DXpedition has been cancelled until next year.

Tedd further reported again on the Netherland Antilles becoming a separate entity on October 10th. Details concerning other Dutch territories in the area could be found in the bulletin and in the minutes of the August 2nd meeting.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter was out last week. Lee, KH6BZF, had submitted an article on propagation for the newsletter. Dave suggested a monthly propagation article be submitted by someone.

Old - New Business

Gary, NI8Z, reported that Ron, W8WH, was having back surgery today.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the chartered bus for the 2011 Dayton Hamvention was already reserved. The trip is scheduled for Saturday, May 21st.

Pete, N8TR, reported that anyone wishing to reserve a room for next years hamvention contact Janeen now. Due to changes in the management and policies, she needs a head count. Rooms should be paid for by January 1, 2011.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the annual Route 66 operation is now operating.

Tedd also reported on information from Robert, S53R, in the Sudan concerning a DX Code of Conduct. More can be read at www.dx-code.org. There is a section for clubs and you can get your club logo on the website. Some big DX'ers are supporting it.

A request was made for a donation by DL7DF for the upcoming Rawanda & Burundi DXpedition from October 27th to November 9th. Karl, K8BCK moved, seconded by Al, N8CX, that the club donate \$100 to the operation. The motion passed.

Glenn, AF8C reminded everyone that there would be a Flex Radio demonstration this coming Friday at the West Park Radiops meeting.

Nick, W8XD, reported that ROB, N8HAT, had spent 2 1/2 years in Hungary and had recently discussed old times with friends.

John, K8YSE, reported on his recent 5000 mile "grid-expedition" trip while making contacts using various satellites from 32 grid squares. He used his TS-2000 transceiver and at one point had made 30 contacts on a single pass. Overall, he made approximately satellite 2000 contacts. Some of the satellites used were: AO-7, 27 and 51, SO-50, FO-29, VO-52 and HO-68.

Tedd asked how many had worked the Ohio QSO Party. Tedd got 181 contacts and Gary, NI8Z, got 265 contacts. A suggestion was made to have a competition among the members next year and have awards.

George, K8KR, reported that he had taken a 5000 mile trip at the same time as John. George traveled across the country by train and commented on the beautiful scenery.

Pete, N8TR, won the NODXA-sponsored plaque in the, ARRL DX Contest, Phone, Single Operator

Assisted category. Congratulations to Pete for a great effort! As an additional reward, Pete also won the 50-50 raffle. The winning amount was \$19. Pete donated the money back to the club.

Tedd reminded everyone that the next meeting will be Monday, October 4th.

The meeting was closed by the president Tedd, KB8NW at 8:14pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

Minutes of the October 4th, 2010 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 7:30pm. There were 18 members and 2 guests present.



After a round of introductions, the minutes of the September 13th meeting were read. Ron, K8VJG moved, seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, that the minutes be approved as read. The motion passed.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Mary also reported that we gained two new members. Bob Schumaker, no callsign yet, and Alan Schafer, AC8AP. Bob Schumaker's XYL, Amy, was also in attendance.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the repeater is okay. Tedd further reported that the Cleveland Hamfest was good this year. Keith, N8KOL, checked three groups of DXCC cards. Dwaine, K8ME, reported that he did not receive any WAS or

VUCC cards for checking.

Tedd reminded everyone that Sunday, October 10th at 0400z, the big change in DX entities in the Dutch Antilles takes place. There are eleven operations scheduled to be operating in the new entities. Try to work all of them. Bonaire will have a big group operating with each station using their own callsign. Pete, N8TR, reported that Curacao should be easy. Tedd reported that Curacao, St Martten, Bonaire and Saba would be the new entities.

Tedd reported that our club logo is on the 9U0A, Burundi web site. We had made a donation to them.

John, K8YSE, reported that he had listed the HDR-300 antenna rotator on the web. He got a reply from a ham in Virginia. He hopes it will be sold.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had made a sale at the hamfest and that Dwaine, K8ME, had brought a power supply.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter would be out this weekend.

Old - New Business

Nick, W8XD, reported that two Polish hams going to H40, Solomon Islands, had travel problems and had to return home. They hope to be back.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that C.A.R.S. will be starting a ham license class after New Years.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had received a donation request from seven operators going to Sao Tome, S9DX, from February 2nd to the 17th. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting. Tedd further reported that Sable Island would be up from October 21st until the 29th.

George, K8KR, reported that the postal rate increase scheduled for the first of the year has been cancelled.

Glenn, AF8C, reported that he asked about the 44 cent stamps at the Bay Village Post Office and was told that they were okay.

Pete, N8TR, commented that if the envelope contains any advertisement, it cannot be sent at book rate.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported about DX jammers and that info could be found at www.dx-world.net.
 Dwaine, K8ME, won the 50-50 raffle. The winning amount was \$16.
 Tedd reminded everyone that the next meeting will be Monday, November 1st.
 The meeting was closed by the president Tedd, KB8NW at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX Secretary

A Ham's Night Before Christmas by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

T'was the night before Christmas,
 And all through two-meters,
 Not a signal was keying up
 Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
 From the tower, quite high,
 To catch the weak signals
 That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
 Took their HTs to bed,
 And dreamed of the day
 They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
 I plugged in the key,
 And we tuned 40 meters
 For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
 by a signal with power.
 It smoked a small diode,
 and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
 And with all she could muster
 Logged a spot of the signal
 On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window
 And peered up at the sky,
 To see what could generate
 RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
 But the moon made it gleam -
 A flying sleigh, with an
 Eight element beam,

And a little old driver
 who looked slightly mean.
 So I thought for a moment,
 That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa
 The Santa of Hams.

On a mission, this Christmas
 To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
 Then stopped in his track,
 And he slid down the coax
 Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
 Behind stacks of CQ,
 This Santa of hamming
 Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
 Of paper and parts,
 And filled out all my late QSLs
 For a start.

He ran copper braid,
 Took a steel rod and pounded
 It into the earth, till
 The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
 Re-soldered connections,
 Cranked down modulation,
 Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
 In my linear amp...

(Never worked right before --
 Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
 Cleaned up the TV,
 He corrected the settings
 In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
 That would not compute,
 And he backed up the hard drive
 And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
 In the bag that he brought,
 And he pulled out a big box,

"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
 A Yaesu, for me?!"
 (If he thought I'd been bad
 it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
 How could I deserve this?
 Could it be all those hours
 that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
 And in record time, quickly
 Worked 100 countries,
 All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
 It was my call he sent,
 But the cards and the postage
 Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
 And left a card by the key:
 "To Gary, from Santa Claus.
 Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
 Looked me straight in the eye,
 Punched a code on the pad,
 And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
 And the pile-up was big,
 But a card from St. Nick
 Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
 came over the air.
 It was copied all over.
 It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
 What a ham might expect,
 "Merry Christmas to all,
 And to all, good DX."

Digital Wonder Do-IT-All S-Meter by John Wilson, KO1P

Product Release from the Idaho Potato Contest Group. Proud to announce a first of it's kind device that simplifies the modern Ham Shack! It will improve your operation skills. Compatible with most radios , Collins, Drake, Yaesu, Icom, Kenwood, Ten-Tec.

Using modern technology there's no longer any reason to give false and misleading signal reports, accuracy is so important during Net and DX operations, plus serious contesters can rest assured they are giving the correct report for every QSO ! Its an absolute must for WAS nets, this S-meter in-sures a good contact every time!

Just position the *Digital Wonder Do-IT-All S-Meter* close to your rig, it's like magic. What's the secret ? massive quantities of high speed silicon devices (1N4148's) that couple the electron's flow in your rig's AGC circuit to the S-Meter. Fool Proof, A must for serious operator, order now for April delivery, get the 2011 Dayton Discount.



Above, shown in DX SSB mode, working a JA station. Simple, Sleek, complements any rig!

Shown in action, on the right, during an 80 meter contact on the Worked All States NET.. I never heard the station calling, the Net Control yelled "over", I pressed the button, gave the report.

The net control was *extremely pleased* that I had the correct report, he told the guy "it's a good contact" and to send me a card?

Is this great or what?? It's so easy, no guess work - now I'm getting a QSL card. *How good can it get ?*



For the CW contester - The USB interface (opt 001) couples the S-Meter to your keyer, just push the button, ur keyer does the rest.

This S-meter handles 6 of the toughest operating conditions, from casual DXing to CW contests. Never give an incorrect RST again. Just think ! You've only seen 3 of the 6 modes in action. This Cutting Edge device makes the County Hunters Mode as smooth as the WAS mode, for working & confirming stations you can't hear. Its mindlessly simple !



Operating Instructions:

1. select your operating mode.
2. Press the button , give the report
3. confirm UR QSO via EQSL ??

Advanced pricing:

\$599 Digital wonder S-meter
 \$59 USB contest keyer interface, opt 001
 \$22 Bang Bang Voice module for WAS mode, opt 22
 free Eqsl interface, opt 000
 (considered useless)

Orders UR's Now, free shipping and the Dayton Discount \$599, order at this email urkid-ding@ipcg.net

Is Ham Radio Dying? By Dan Romnanchik, KB6NU

If you've been around ham radio for even a year or two, you've no doubt heard or participated in the debate as to whether or not ham radio is dying. The question is as perennial as the grass.

Recently, this was a topic of discussion on the ARRL PR mailing list. Allen, W1AGP, the ARRL's Media & PR Manager, generated a chart to show that ham radio is NOT dying. It showed the number of licensees in the U.S. every year from 2005 to 2009:

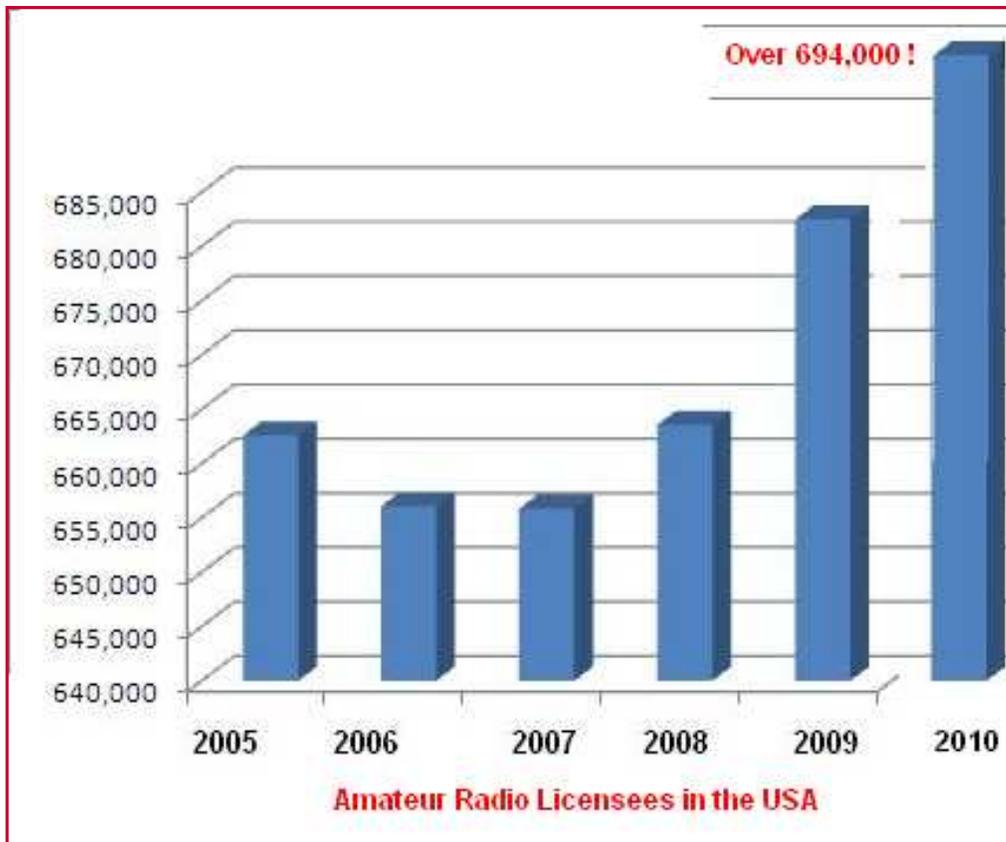


2005: 661,000
 2006: 655,000
 2007: 655,000
 2008: 662,000
 2009: 681,000
 2010: 694,000!

This chart as drawn a good example of how you can lie with statistics. The y-axis started at 640,000, so the rate of increase in the number of licensees looked quite dramatic. Even so, the good news is that the number of licensees is quickly approaching 700,000, and should surpass that number shortly.

Upon seeing this chart, Jerry, N9TU, did a little statistical analysis of his own. Of the 83 licensees in his zip code, nine are deceased and one has expired. There are four Novices, 36 Techs, 18 Generals, five Advanced and ten Extras.

From this data, he deduces, "If this is an average sampling of deceased members, expired members and club licenses, there are roughly 90,000 fewer licensees than shown in the data nationwide. I have no clue of the error rate involved with my data. Your results may vary." My guess is that his zip code is probably pretty typical, and that his analysis is essentially correct.



There's also the question of activity. It's my guess that nearly half of all licensees are inactive, and that if we could figure out a way to activate those hams, then we'd really be able to say that our hobby is not dying. It's something worth thinking about, but there's certainly no easy answer to this problem. As Yogi Berra is purported to have said, "If people don't want to come out to the ball park, there's nothing you can do to stop them."

Overall, though, I think the numbers are headed in the right direction. Ham radio is NOT dying. Let's all keep up the good work.

Satellite Base Stations By Craig Gagner, W1MED, via eHam.net

I recently became interested in Amateur Satellite Communication. I started out this past summer utilizing a dual band HT capable of using split frequencies and a hand held directional dual band antenna made by Arrow Antennas. I was amazed at how easy it was to make QSO's with this set up, however being out in the yard in all weather conditions was something I wasn't too fond of. So I decided to put together a Satellite Base Station.

The first thing I needed was a base rig capable of doing Full Duplex operations. I looked at the current line up of radios and Kenwood is the only one making SAT radios at present. The TS-480SAT and the TS-2000. The 480SAT didn't fit the bill as it isn't capable of doing VHF/UHF and after some research I heard that the TS-2000 has a birdie problem on a couple of the more popular satellites so I decided a used older rig was in order. There are two rigs which are very popular with the satellite group, the IC-910H and the FT-847. I searched around and decided on the FT-847 as it is also capable of doing HF and would be the perfect back up rig for HF as well as being a SAT radio. Icom is suppose to be releasing the IC-9100 in the near future and it is a SAT rig with tons of capability, but I am sure it will be up there in price as well.

Next I need a azimuth / elevation rotator. A friend found me a new in the box Yaesu G-5400B for a great price. The rotator had never been used and I saved a few hundred dollars to boot. I also had another friend donate a Rohn 20 tower that was at his home and was used for a TV antenna. I installed

the tower and its bracketed to my house, its only up about 28 feet but its high enough to clear my roof peak and should have no issues with any antenna I decide to put up there.

Next was the antenna, there are many options and after some research and recommendations I went with the Gulf Alpha Dual band SAT antenna. Don't expect to get this antenna quickly, Pete makes these antennas as they are ordered and its gonna take 2 to 3 months before you get it. I can say that its well worth the wait as this antenna is just awesome.

Now I wanted to add Pre Amps to get better RX on low passes. AR2 was recommended as they make mast mounted Pre Amps that can be powered via the coax and are capable of handling 160w of RF so I started with the 440 Pre Amp which made a big difference and I just ordered up the 2m Pre Amp as well.

Yes there is more to it, I wanted to be able to track the Satellites via the computer. There are several inexpensive computer interfaces that work with the Yaesu rotators. I started out with the ST-1 which I found lacking in features and would only do one axis at a time, but for the price it cant be beat if you want a real simple interface. I decided to get the ERC-R made in Germany with the optional LCD Screen. The ERC controller is fantastic, it is software calibrated and will adjust both axis at the same time and also provides feedback to the software. For the software I am using the SatPC32 software. This is a very nice package and by registering the software you are also supporting the AMSAT organization.

So here is the entire roll up in costs, as you will see the project gets up there in price rather quickly.

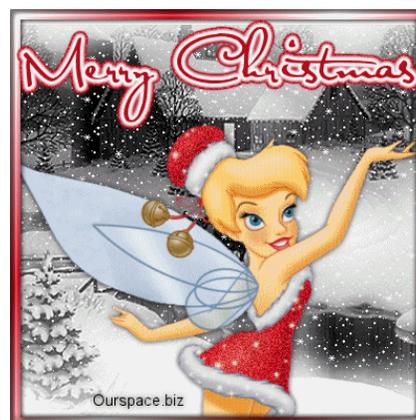
Yaesu FT-847	used	\$1000.00
Yaesu G5400B	used	\$400.00
Rohn 20 Tower	used	Free
Gulf Alpha Antenna	new	\$239.00
AR2 440 PreAmp	new	\$239.00
AR2 2m PreAmp	new	\$239.00
ERC-R Controller	new	\$161.00
Misc Stuff	vary	\$250.00
Grand Total		\$2528.00

Note the Misc stuff is for Coax, Rotator wiring, concrete, connectors etc etc.

If you would like to see pictures of my set up just check out www.w1med.net and look at the Satellite Base Station page. If you have any questions feel free to shoot me an e-mail, my e-mail is good on QRZ.com

Quick Links

Easy Rotator Control	http://schmidt-alba.de/index.html
Gulf Alpha Antenna	http://gulfaantennas.com/
AR2 PreAmps	http://www.advancedreceiver.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 2010-2011

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, KOIP, W1MED, eHam.net, and the Pocatello Amateur Radio Club.