

November-December 2012

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

As I am writing this, 2013 is only a few days away. Looking back over 2012, I would have to say it was another good year for DXers. We had 7 DXCC entities out of the top 20 most wanted listed by "The DX Magazine", and one listed in the top 10. The DXCC entities were Yemen (7O, ranked 5), Macquarie (VKO/M - #11), Malpelo (HKO/M - #11), Mt. Athos (SV/A- #14), Campbell Island (ZL9 - #15), St. Peter & St. Paul Rocks (PYOS - #16) and Wake Island (KH9 - #19). Just a reminder that NODXA has donated funds to three of the major operations (HKO/M, PTOS and ZL9). In all, there was plenty of DX throughout 2012 to work other than the above mentioned. It was just a fun year for DXers.



So, what can we expect in 2013? To start, some are saying that 2013 will be the peak year of sunspot cycle 24. Scientists suggest it will peak in early or mid 2013 with about 59 sunspots. We are not going to see the levels like past cycles as this has been a very poor cycle. It will be interesting to see what will happen after 2013.

As far as DXpeditions for 2013, the "only important/rare" operations reported to take place in the new year are Clipperton Island (TX5K) in late February (28th) through early March (10th), and Tokelau Island (ZK3N) late April (23rd) through early May (4th). During the first three months on 2013, there will also be some various semi-rare operations to take place. For more details on these operations, keep up-to-date by reading the various DX outlets (bulletins and Web sites).

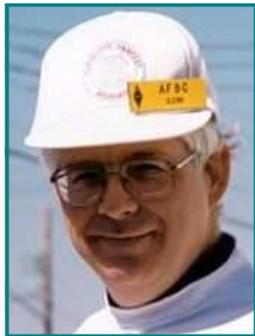
Lastly, I hope everyone had a great Christmas holiday, and I would like to wish everyone a great and healthy New Year, as well as a new DXCC entity for 2013, either be it a new band slot or just a new one for the DXCC award. Hope to see you in 2013...

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 October 1st, 2012 NODXA Meeting

The meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW. There were 17 members and guests present. After the usual round of introductions the minutes for the meeting of September 10 were read by Glenn, AF8C. Ron, K8VJG, moved to accept the minutes as read, and this was seconded by Bruce, N8DJX. The motion passed on a vote. Mary, N8DMM reported the treasury balance as \$Ka-Ching! Dues were received from KK8ZZ, Robert Hinkle. Tedd has sent the previously approved donations to all three groups. Our club logo is now on all their web sites. Tedd is updating the club brochure. We have donated to eight organizations in 2012, including HKONA. A list of these organizations will be in the next club newsletter. Dwaine, K8ME, sold the signal generator for \$15.00 at the Cleveland Hamfest. Our sales were great. Rick, K8ZH, recommends we individuals who contribute to Dxpeditons mark "NODXA member" in order to help give the club credit.



Recently the repeater was down for three days. Per John, K8YSE, the code to put the controller on standby had been received on the input. Nothing else was wrong. Dave, WD8IOU asked for more articles for the newsletter. Send them to wd8iou@roadrunner.com

Old/New Business:

Metro, W8MET, thanked all the members who helped with the raising of a new antenna for our new member KK8ZZ. Ron, K8VJG, asked about the situation with the callsign for the recent Kosovo operation. Unfortunately any Kosovo call does not count for anything due to Kosovo's unofficial status.

Dwaine, K8ME, and Keith, N8KOL, counted approximately 500 cards at the Cleveland Hamfest. Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, has appointed a new card checker, Joe Wehner, W8KNO, of Hiram, Ohio. A person having a DXCC on 160m can count 160m cards (New rule [Section IV, Rule 1 (a)(i-iv)]). Rick, K8ZH, asked who might be working on getting P5 on the air.

Tedd's ISP's server went down for a week, and just came up today. Pete, N8TR, said 3D2C is quitting two days early due to site conditions. John, K8YSE, discussed the topography, geography, and food on Swain's Island. The population there is presently very low due to past experiences with weather hazards from typhoons.

The raffle was for half of \$26.00. Rick, K8ZH, won and donated his share back to the club. The meeting closed at 8:03 p.m. The next meeting will be on November 5, 2012.

Respectfully submitted, by the Secretary, Glenn, AF8C.

Minutes of the November 5th, 2012 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:34 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW. There were 18 members and guests present. After the usual round of introductions the minutes for the meeting of October 1 were read by Glenn, AF8C. John, K8YSE, moved to accept the minutes as read, and this was seconded by Dave, WD8IOU. The motion passed on a vote. Mary, N8DMM reported the treasury balance as \$Ka-Ching! No new members have joined this month.

Al, N8CX, reported hearing the repeater's ID. He described how West Park Radiops now wants to have only two meter nets, so every Monday they want to use the NODXA 2m repeater from 9 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. This club approved that usage.

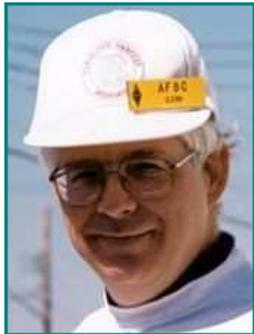
Dave, WD8IOU, sent the newsletter out this weekend, and thanked the club members for their

contributions to the newsletter. Dave mentioned the article on the Venus key design by Wayne, K8FF and the LED lighted rotator control box modification by Jim, KE8G. Dave always needs more articles. Send articles to wd8iou@roadrunner.com.

Ron, K8VJG, mentioned the CARS Christmas holidays party happening at the Independence Civic Center on December 7. Tickets are \$16.00, see the CARS web site or call W8GC. Pete, N8TR, described the conditions for the CQ WW DX phone contest for 10 and 20m as great and 160m as the worst ever.

Field Day results are now out on the ARRL Web site. NODXA has 8100 points and stands as 103 out of 2617 entries, 21 out of 408 on 2A. In the Great Lakes Division we were 14 out of 243 and second in 2A. In Ohio we were eighth out of 122, and 2nd out of 17 for 2A.

We received two requests for donations. F6KOP will be going to Uganda, 5X, with six stations during February 8 to 13. St. Peter and Paul Rocks will be starting up soon. Phil/G3SWH and Jim/G3RTE will be going to the Solomon Islands as H44KW in an all CW operation. The club had no interest in donating to any of these. There was discussion indicating that the US Postal Service will cease selling IRCs after January 1, 2013. Foreign IRCs will still be able to be redeemed.



Old/New Business:

Pete, N8TR, mentioned that CQ WW CW is coming at the end of November. Pete mentioned there has been one big change in the entry to CQ contests. You only have 5 days after the contest to send in your log file. This is intended to prevent post-contest "editing" of the log. Pete says that now some stations using Software Defined Radios and computers with large disks merely record the entire band, edge to edge, for the full 48 hours of the contest, so anything anywhere can be replayed back after the contest in order to perform log touchups.

Tedd, KB8NW, described that the Annual Mansfield DX Luncheon will occur on the day after Thanksgiving. Call Tedd for information. Brian, K3USC, remarked that the number of NODXA friends on FaceBook is creeping up toward the 20's. Per Tedd, the December 3 program will be Show and Tell night. Dave, WD8IOU, provided in the newsletter a link to the entire archive of 73 Magazine. The 50/50 raffle (where the pot was \$32.00) was won by Brian, K3USC. He returned his \$16.00 portion to the club.

The meeting closed at 8:08 p.m. The next meeting will be on December 3, 2012.

Respectfully submitted, by the Secretary, Glenn, AF8C

ANTENNA FOR SALE

Cushcraft-X-9

Frequency Coverage - 40, 20, 15,10 & 6 meters

Total Number of Elements -9

Boom Length -28 feet

Wind Surface -9.9 ft

Wind Load -----255 at 80mph

Excellent Shape

Total Elements per Band- 4

Turning Radius - 21.7 feet

Wind Survival ---100 mph

Total Weight ----85 lbs.

Asking \$300.00

Contact Dwaine K8ME

K8me@sbcglobal.net

WW1 Doe Boy Radio Operator Toy Soldier by James "Scotty" Scott, WK3N

Greeting's Everyone,

I was going thru some of my antique radio stuff and found this old gray lead Barkley WW 1 doe boy radioman, circa 1935. When you get to my age, looking thru old boxes one has, is like Christmas Day all over. This little guy will adorn a shelf in my shack between an antenna tuner and code keyer. I think he's happy to be home. :) He'll make lots of contacts as my new DX God. Maybe he will even show up in the NODXA Rag?

Regards to all, Scotty WK3N. "DX NEVER SLEEPS"



Building an End-Fed Half-Wave Antenna by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I've always been interested in end-fed, half-wave antennas before, but until this recently, I'd never built one. One of the reasons for this is that most designs are for QRP antennas and not made to handle more than 5 - 10 W of power.

A couple of months ago, though, I ran across a design rated at 100 W



(http://earchi.org/proj_homebrew.html). The design seemed relatively simple to build, requiring only a single toroid and a capacitor made with a short length of RG-174 coax. Well, it just so happens that I bought 100-ft. of RG-174 at Dayton this year, and I found the toroid cores online from the "Toroid King" for a very reasonable price, so I decided it was high time to build one.

All told, the parts cost about \$10, the biggest part of that being a 4-in. x 4-in. x 2-in. plastic junction box (Carlson E989NNJ-CAR) I got from Lowe's for \$6.41. Compare that with the \$60 that LNR wants for their end-fed antenna.

I put up the antenna about three weeks ago, on a beautiful fall Sunday, running 34 feet of wire up a trellis attached to a small deck in my backyard, then out to a tree near the back of my lot. With more than a little anticipation, I put the antenna analyzer on it, only to be somewhat disappointed with the readings. The SWR was 2.6:1 at 14.000 MHz, dropping to about 1.5:1 at 14.900 MHz.

Since the internal tuner on my IC-746PRO is supposed to be good to 3:1, I did use it and made a couple of contacts. A guy in MA even gave me a 599 signal report. So, while I was a little uncomfortable with an SWR so close to the limit of my tuner, it did seem to radiate pretty well.

I e-mailed the guy who published the design and asked why he thought the resonant frequency was so high, and he said that all I had to do was add a couple feet of wire to the antenna. I also did some more reading about end-feds and several websites suggested that adding a counterpoise might be a good idea, too.

A week later, I finally got back to playing with the antenna. I added 24-in. of wire to it, and it did indeed bring down the SWR of the antenna to below 2:1 in the CW portion of 20m. I'm happier with this. I made a couple of contacts that day, too, with both stations giving me good reports.

I still do plan to try a counterpoise. Not so much to improve the SWR, but to see if it makes the antenna a little more efficient.

Overall, this has been a fun project. I learned something about end-fed, half-wave antennas and saved a bunch of money by rolling my own. Isn't that what ham radio is all about?

25, 50, and 75 Years Ago in QST (Oct 2012) by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

QST publishes a column every month towards the back of the magazine that highlights from issues 25, 50, and 75 years ago. Now that the QST archive is online, it's really worth taking a look at these articles. Here are a few that caught my eye in October:

October 1937

* Modernizing the Simple Regenerative Receiver (http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/19076) by Vernon Chambers, W1JEQ. This a nicely-designed and built regen using two tubes, a 6K5 pentode and 6C5 triode. I'm going to keep this design in mind if I ever get around to playing with all the tubes I have. As an aside, I searched on W1JEQ's callsign and found out that he wrote 87 articles for QST from 1936 through February 1958. This was his third article.

* Concentrated Directional Antennas for Transmission and Reception

(http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/19078) by John L. Reinartz, W1QP, and Burton T. Simpson, W8CPC. This article describes two different antennas. The first is a half-wave loop antenna that the author says works on 2-1/2, 5, 10, and 20m. The second is a square loop antenna called a "signal squirter" for 14 Mc.



October 1962

* In "New Apparatus" (http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/46246) on page 27, a key made by J. A. Hills, W8FYO, of Dayton, OH is shown under the heading, "New Key Mechanism for Electronic Keyers." The photo clearly shows a key whose design was adopted by Bencher for the BY-1 paddle.

* The Towering Problem (http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/46122) by Jay Kay Klein, WA2LII clearly shows that putting up towers have always been a problem for amateur radio operators. This is a humorous take on the problem. What's notable is that this type of humorous article almost never appears in QST anymore. Amateur radio seems to have lost its sense of humor, or at least its cadre of humorous writers.

ers.

October 1987

* Stalking Those Fugitive Components (http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/81357) by Doug DeMaw, W1FB. Today, we often complain about the demise of local parts suppliers, but this article shows that this was a problem 25 years ago as well. W1FB gives some advice that I gave not long ago on my blog. That is, stock up on parts, especially when you find a good deal on them, and you won't have to scrounge around for them when you want them.

Digitizing all of the back issues of QST and putting them online is one of the things that the ARRL has done right. This is a wonderful resource for members. If you have a favorite QST article I'd love to hear about it. Please send me the title and the month it was published. My e-mail address is cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

W5IG "Cool Transmitter" Submitted by Nelson Wittstock, K8DJC

This is a neat video. It shows what looks to be a huge Collins amplifier but is actually a refrigerator in disguise. I think that club members might find it interesting.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=neHreW-PNtw



Common Scammer Traits by Scott Neader, KA9FOX (QTH.COM)

We've seen an alarming increase in the number of scammers utilizing ham radio classified ads to scam hams. I wanted to take this opportunity to explain what some of these scammers are doing, in hopes it will better protect you from them, when you are selling equipment on the QTH.com Classifieds at <http://swap.qth.com>.

About 100,000 ads are placed each year in the QTH.com Classifieds, and only a tiny, tiny fraction wind up being fraudulent. I do not want to scare you into thinking that it is unsafe to trade online. Rather, I simply want to arm you with knowledge, so that you will be able to sniff out the bad guys, and stay safe.

Common scammer traits:

1) They will use some else's callsign, and they will create an email address that contains that callsign, usually with a free email provider like gmail, yahoo, ymail, hotmail, etc. Recently, they have even taken to breaking into ham's profiles at QRZ.com and changing the email address there, so that when you check to see if they match the ham's profile, they do!

2) They predominantly post "For Sale" ads, with prices that are a little too good to be true.

3) They will use pictures of equipment they have found on the Internet (they don't really own the equipment).

4) They seem to like payments via Western Union (no protection for the buyer), but will also use PayPal (hoping to drain their account before the buyer realizes they have been scammed).

5) They seem to know ham radio jargon. For all we know, these scammers are hams, but we can't be sure.

6) They are sophisticated enough to use "proxy servers" so their IP address cannot be easily detected. This makes it difficult for us to block the scammers. We are constantly tweaking our filters to block these guys when possible, but it is a constant cat and mouse game.

What can you do to protect yourself?

* Ask for a phone number and call the person before agreeing on any deal. This is probably the #1 way to expose the rats.

* Ask for a photo of the equipment WITH THEIR QSL CARD IN THE PICTURE. Unless they are very good at photo editing, you should be able confirm that they actually own the equipment this way.

* Check to see if the email address they used matches what is listed for that person on their QRZ.com profile. It could be a red flag if there is a mismatch. However, if it DOES MATCH, that is not a guarantee that the seller is not a scammer (again, we are seeing some of these scammers manage to edit QRZ.com profiles to get their bogus email listed)

* Be especially cautious of dealing with foreign hams. Not all foreign hams are scammers, of course! Just be extra careful!! Recently, the scammers have almost always been using US Callsigns though.

* Never use Western Union. Be very cautious of using Money Orders and Cashier's Checks. PayPal and Credit Cards seem to be the best option, as far as having any buyer protection. Money Orders & Cashier's Checks are perfectly acceptable if you are absolutely sure who you are dealing with.

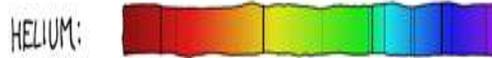
* Read all of my "Safe Trading Tips" at <http://chat.qth.com/viewtopic.php?t=12>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly at ka9fox@qth.com.

THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

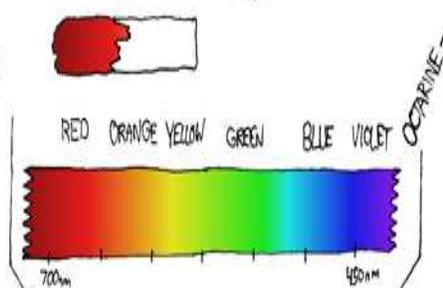
THESE WAVES TRAVEL THROUGH THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD. THEY WERE FORMERLY CARRIED BY THE AETHER, WHICH WAS DECOMMISSIONED IN 1897 DUE TO BUDGET CUTS.

ABSORPTION SPECTRA:

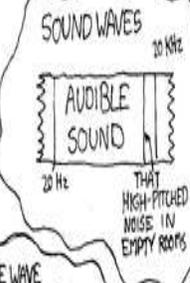


DEPENDS®:

TAMPAX®:



OTHER WAVES:



SHOUTING CAR DEALERSHIP COMMERCIALS

CIA (SECRET)

HAM RADIO

KOSHER RADIO

SPACE RAYS CONTROLLING STEVE BALLMER

99.3 "THE FOX"

101.5 "THE BADGER"

106.3 "THE FRIGHTENED SCRAWNEL"

2 1/2 NPR PIECE DRIVES

CELL PHONE

CANCER RAYS

ALIENS

SETI

GRAVITY

WIFI

BRAIN WAVES

SULAWESI

SUPERMAN'S HEAT VISION

SUNLIGHT

MAIN DEATH STAR LASER

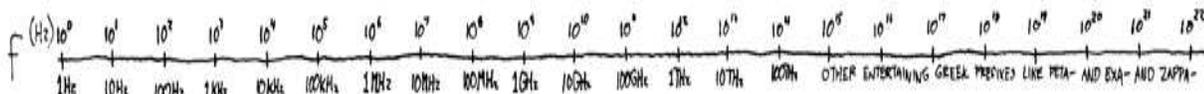
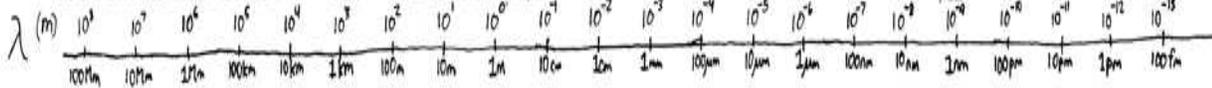
JACK BLACK'S HEAT VISION

POTATO

BLOGORAYS

MAIL-ORDER X-RAY GLASSES

SINISTER GOOGLE PROJECTS





Rick/K8ZH, Nick/W8XD, Brian/K3USC, Don/K8MFO, and Tedd/KB8NW attended the annual Mansfield DX Luncheon on the day after Thanksgiving.

10-Meters is Open by Ed Eggert, K3VO (via eHam.net)

Ten meters is open but not many people are using it. Just before the CQ Worldwide Contest ten meters was dead of all activity. As soon as the contest started then 10 as well as 15 and 20 were open to the world. Today the day after the contest I hear two CW signals on 10 plus some beacons. Not a single SSB signal at all. If you tune down to the CB band skip is booming in from all over the country.

I believe that these days hams look at the DX cluster and if they see no activity in there area then do not even try 10 or any other band for that matter. Back in the days before a cluster one would listen to beacons or believe it or not call CQ. You do remember how to do that I hope.

We all wait for the sunspot cycle to come around and frankly I thought this one was a bummer until I started checking the CB bands.

Last Jan. I moved into a new home here in Nevada at the base of the Sierras. Due to antenna restrictions I put up a 1/4 wave ground plane for ten at ground level on my patio. I turned on my rig tuned across ten and heard only one station a KH6 booming in begging for contacts. I gave him a call with my 100 watts and some how got over the Mountain in front of my house and had a nice contact.

Since then the only ten-meter contacts I have had are during contests. We have a large population of hams in our town who are retired for the most part. All have said they though we were having a bad sun spot cycle due to the lack of activity on 10 and even 15. I urge you guys if you want to have a lot of fun try ten meters, call CQ you might be surprised what comes back.



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 2012-2013

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 July 2011, the current DXCC Entities total is: **341.**

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, WK3N, K8DJC, KA9FOX, K3USC, K8ME, KB6NU, K3VO and eHam.net.