

October-November-December 2014

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

2014 is coming quickly to an end and the DX season/conditions are here. The FT4TA Tromelin Island DXpedition was a good start for the season but disappointing because of the behavior of a misguided few. This is 2014 and you would think DXers would be educated by now to "NOT" feed or acknowledge the misguided few who deliberately interfere the DXpedition's transmissions. All that the misguided few want is attention and should be ignored. Let's hope we do not see (or hear) this behavior in January for the upcoming K1N Navassa Island DXpedition. (KYFC!!)



The new year, 2015, will have a good start for DXers with major operations from Navassa Island (#2) and Iran [Kish Island] (#30). Both DXpeditions are expected to take place during the end of January (no specific dates have been announced as this was being type - Nov. 11th). If you missed the November

meeting, NODXA members voted to help fund both of these operations. Since Navassa was ranked #2, the membership voted and decided to give an exceptional more than normal amount. Remember, this is what your dues go toward and why it is important to renew your dues.

The ARRL has announced the 2014 Field Day results, and once again NODXA had an excellent showing thanks to Field Day Chairman John Papay, K8YSE. The 2014 Field Day Results can viewed at: http://www.arrl.org/results-database?event_id=58360

How did NODXA do? Here are the results:

- #1 -- In 2A in Ohio (out of 11 participants)
- #1 -- In 2A in the Great Lakes Division (out of 28 participants)
- #6 -- In Overall categories in Ohio (out of 132 participants)
- #8 -- In Overall categories in the Great Lakes Division (out of 247 participants)
- #22 - In 2A in All Divisions (out of 392 participants)
- #103 - In Overall categories in All Divisions (out of 2686 participants) I would have to say

NODXA did pretty well.... What a great job by all who participated.

As always, I hope to see you in the coming weeks/months, possibly at NODXA's general membership meetings. 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 months, 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 August 4th, 2014 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 22 members and guests present.



After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes for the meeting of July 7 were read by Glenn, AF8C. A motion by Ron, K8VJG, seconded by Dwaine, K8ME, to accept the minutes was passed on the vote. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! The dues include all donations. The fiscal year is May to May, and dues are still being accepted. A motion by Bruce, N8DJX, seconded by Karl, K8BCK, to accept the treasurers report was passed on the vote.

With regard to the donation to the 4W operation, Tedd reported that after the funds were sent via Paypal, our logo was on the 4W Website within one hour. The repeater was reported as working fine. Dave, WD8IOU, stated that the newsletter is getting started. He still can use photos and stories for the newsletter. He also reported on submitting the NODXA newsletter to N8SY for the Ohio Section Manager's newsletter contest. Thereafter he attended the meeting at the Columbus Hamfest where the newsletter winners were to be announced and he watched other club newsletters take the winning slots.

Old/New Business:

Tedd reminded us of the August 23 date for the Ohio QSO Party. For the W1AW/8 operation coming up, please apply on the Mad River page managed by Jim, K8MR. Gary, NI8Z, has copies of the application form and he has signed up. Pete, N8TR, reported that there are still empty time slots to be a part of that operation. Of note is that the W1AW/8 operation occurs in the middle of the Ohio QSO Party and then the remainder of that week. At this point Glenn, AF8C, and John, K8YSE, discussed the ARRL's page on how to QSL the W1AW operations.

Tedd's next topic was the Cleveland Hamfest. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Ron, K8VJG, seconded to allocate the \$20.00 to purchase a club table at the Cleveland Hamfest. The motion passed on that vote. Dwaine, K8ME, will do the usual VUCC checking at the hamfest. Tedd will contact Keith, N8KOL, to come for the usual DXCC card checking. Tedd is still waiting for the Amsterdam Dxpediton video to come out. Tedd next asked the members for more suggestions for programs. Mary, N8DMM, suggested another Show and Tell program.

Pete, N8TR, reported that YouTube is carrying the 2013 Contest University video series. Each video runs for around 45 minutes. Gary, NI8Z, asked if anyone watches HamNation videos on the Web. Tom Wayne emailed Gary that Tom's station video is on HamNation. Then Gary asked if anyone would be interested in supplying a brag tape of their station. A few stations work Islands. Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the currently running VK9X operation is not working many U.S. stations.

Tedd's next topic of hamfests in the area included discussions about Cleveland, Warren, and Cuyahoga Falls. Dave, WD8IOU, reported on arriving at the Columbus Hamfest about 11:30 and found the hamfest rapidly winding down and that he could get in for free. Then rain five minutes later closed the very small flea market. The July NOARSfest was about the same size as last year in spite of the excellent facilities. Dwaine, K8ME, reported that CARS will be running a station on 7250 kHz at the Cuyahoga County Fair using power from the fairgrounds windmill. They will be using the callsign W8BM. Pete outlined the weekly flea market that occurs near the Berea windmill every weekend. John, K8AJS, discussed the WAE contest coming Saturday.

Bruce, N8DJX, passed around photographs of his awesome tower and rotator. Linda,

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

N8LRS, mentioned that there will be a POW/MIA Rittman Bike Run to the Western Reserve National Cemetery at Rittman Saturday August 9.

Wrapup:

The next meeting will be on September 8 after Labor Day. Dave, KZ8Y, won half the raffle basket of \$42.00 and he donated his half back to the club. Tedd asked for a motion to adjourn. Ron, K8VJG, moved to adjourn, seconded by Brian, K3USC. With the vote on that motion the meeting closed at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the September 8th, 2014 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 17 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes for the meeting of August 4 were read by Glenn, AF8C. A motion by Gary, NI8Z, seconded by Brian, K3USC, to accept the minutes was passed on the vote. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! The dues include all donations. The fiscal year is May to May, and dues are still being accepted. A motion by Dave, KZ8Y, seconded by Dwaine, K8ME, to accept the treasurers report was passed on the vote. The repeater was reported as working fine. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter was going to be delayed. Dave is very short on material for the newsletter. He will soon produce a newsletter with whatever material he has. Send any material for the newsletter to Dave. He will even take "articles" for anything to sell.



Old/New Business:

Al, N8CX, has two tables reserved for NODXA at the upcoming Cleveland Hamfest. For CARS, Gary, NI8Z, will have the usual two tables. Tedd remarked that a lot of hamfests have been really small this year. Joe, N8QXC, said that the Findlay Hamfest was in one big building which was full. Pete, N8TR, again described the weekend flea markets that occur near the track at the Berea Fairgrounds. George, K8KR, explained how CARS recently operated at the weekend flea market at the Berea Fairgrounds on turbine wind power, and logged 450 QSOs. He mentioned that during heavy rain the turbine blades can swing a dangerous load of raindrops.

Tedd said that Keith, N8KOL, will be doing DXCC card checking at the Cleveland Hamfest. George, K8KR, said that the recent W1AW/8 operation ran up 33,000 QSOs, 1000 less than in March. W1AW operations in general have been very successful. John, K8YSE, made more than 200 contacts on satellite. Denny, WB8K, was chasing spacecraft S050. Right now John, K8YSE, is out west activating grid squares on satellite. APRS.FI is showing his several locations including K8YSE-9. Tedd then complemented APRS on the Web. Dwaine, K8ME, complemented the TV History Channel for showing "The Universe".

Tedd commented on email he received. K4UEE, Bob Alfin, reported that sometime in the next 18 months the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will accept one group of amateur radio operators to put on a Navassa Dxpedition. The FWS is taking proposals and will pick and choose which group is accepted. See <http://kp1-5.com>. Bob is asking for NODXA to support Bob's group. Gary, NI8Z, moved, and Pete, N8TR, seconded for approval of this club to support the K4UEE group. The motion passed on a vote.

Tedd gave us an early reminder of the CQ WW SSB pre-contest luncheon on Friday October 24 before the contest. Tedd discussed the Eritrea operation by Zorro, JH1AJT, on or around Septem-

ber 15 to September 21. Bhutan will be up September 26 to October 2. 4W will be up during October 8 to 20. During mid-October there will be operations at Mariana Island and Timor-Leste. Tromelin will be up during October 30 to November 10.

Wrapup:

The next meeting will be on October 6. Gary, NI8Z, won half the raffle basket of \$32.00 and he donated his half back to the club. Thereafter a couple of door prize tickets were drawn. Denny, WB8K, won a DVM and Dave, KZ8Y won a tape measure. Tedd asked for a motion to adjourn. Al, N8CX, moved Brian, K3USC, seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting closed at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the October 6th, 2014 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 20 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes for the meeting of September 8 were read by Glenn, AF8C. A motion by Karl, K8BCK, seconded by Denny, WB8K, to accept the minutes was passed on the vote. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! A motion by Gary, NI8Z, seconded by Karl, K8BCK, to accept the treasurers report was passed on the vote. The repeater was reported as working fine. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter went out with what he had. For new articles he will also take lists of gear to sell. Send any material for the newsletter to Dave.



Old/New Business:

The first topic was a wrap-up of events at the Cleveland Hamfest. Dave, KZ8Y took most of the table to sell his items. Nelson, K8DJC, sold his TS140. A lot of people stopped by. Keith, N8KOL, processed four DXCC applications. Dwaine, K8ME, processed one VUCC application. All the important ARRL people were there. Mary, N8DMM said a lot of estates sales were seen. And they were orderly and clean. Dave, WD8IOU, says his XYL goes to garage sales. So she brought home some old Siltronix stuff. It sold well at the hamfest.

For news from Tedd: the NODXA DX pre-contest lunch is on October 24 at Mulligans, east of Prospect off Rt. 82. The announcement for that lunch was on the reflector today. Send email to Tedd if you are coming. When Denny, WB8K, worked SO50, he did manage to work Doug Papay, and also Bob Liddy, running as a VE2 situated at 20 feet above sea level, using an ALINCO 605 Dual Bander crossband at 10 watts. Denny made 20-30 QSOs on satellite. Working the FM25 grid square on the Outer Banks gave Doug his next to last grid square in the U.S. K8YSE operated 27 grids out west, ending up at K8YSE-7. John used an ICOM 910H computer controlled radio and Arrow antennas exclusively. (See AMSAT reports.) John drove a Ford Escape on the road. APRS Viewer on Android was discussed.

For DX coming up—another Timor-Leste by 4W/G3ZEM through Oct 20. ZK3, Tokelau Islands, will be up. A Chesterfield Island operation yet has no date. Easter Island and Lord Howe will be on in a week. Marquesas, TX7G, will happen October 18 to 25. One of two Christmas Island operations is gone. The second Christmas Island operation will occur during October 18 to November 1. Another Timor-Leste will be on October 19 to 31. Tromelin FT4TA will happen October 30 to November 10. Others to mention are T31, VU, Laos, Viet Nam, and VKOMH, all sometime between early November to April. Per Dave, KZ8Y, W1AW/7 is on 80 and 160 and is very hard to hear. Tedd asked for a motion to adjourn, supplied by Karl K8BCK, and seconded by Brian, K3USC. The motion passed.

Wrapup:

The next meeting will be on November 3. On December 1 we will have the annual Show and Tell pro-

gram. Glenn, AF8C won half the raffle basket of \$39.00. Due to the complicated math involved for splitting the funds, he donated his half back to the club. Thereafter a couple of door prize tickets were drawn. N8QXC, Joe, won a digital voltmeter and Karl, K8BCK, won an LED flashlight. The meeting closed at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

How Do We Promote Better Operating Practices? by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



A lament that I often hear is that many amateur radio operators either don't seem to understand the importance of good operating practices or just don't care about them. Just this morning, a reader sent me an e-mail saying, "I think there are too many hams out there that don't know how to call a station on split frequency. It's amazing that we have so many dummies out there."

I wrote back, saying, "Maybe we need another type of Official Observer, called the Operating Observer. This group would note when operators aren't following good operating procedures and send people gentle reminders." Of course, as soon as I hit Send, I knew this wasn't a very good idea. As my reader noted, this would be a thankless job, and chances are the poor operators would simply ignore the notices, anyway.

Even so, there must be some way to encourage good operating procedures. One effort to promote better operating procedures is the DX Code of Conduct (<http://www.dx-code.org/>). This is a list of 13 suggestions to make DX operation, particularly pileups, less chaotic. The website includes a small image that you're supposed to post to your website to show that you support the Code. While this is certainly a step in the right direction, I wish there was something that we could do to be more proactive in improving operating practices.

There is, of course, the ARRL Operating Manual. This publication is now in its tenth edition and is a valuable source of information about how to operate properly. The problem is only a fraction of the amateur radio operators on the air have a copy, much less read it.

Another attempt at promoting good operating practice is the ARRL's A-1 Operator's Club (<http://www.arrl.org/a-1-op>). While a noble effort, I think that this program really requires more promotion. In addition to being more aggressive about finding A-1 operators and bringing them into this "club," the ARRL should use it to promote better operation. Perhaps a series of videos with the A-1 Ops logo showing how to operate split or how to properly call CQ would help improve operating practices overall.

Talking about videos, I'd be surprised if there weren't already some YouTube videos that illustrate good operating practices. If you know of any, please e-mail me. It would be great to have a list of really good ones that I can send to people who want information on how to operate better.

What do you think? Do we need to be more proactive about encouraging hams to use good operating practices? If so, how do we go about it? What do you do to encourage better operating practices?



Rules for DXing or How to have more FUN on the Bands by Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX

The DX MODE

1. If you come upon a pileup, find the exact DX frequency and slowly tune up your KW right on his frequency. Take your time doing this as it has maximum effect this way. The longer you take, the better. It lets others know that YOU are going to call the DX.

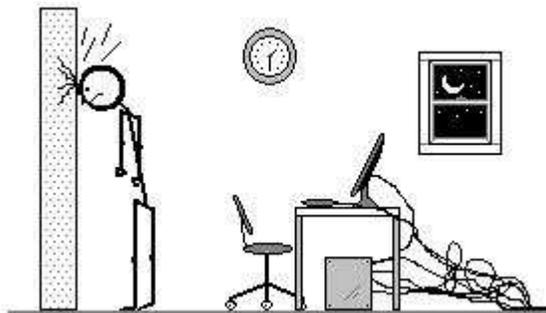
2. If you cannot wait to find out the DX call sign, ask, "What is the DX call sign?" On CW send "?DX?? Call?" Do NOT listen, this takes time. DO this repeatedly until someone gives you the DX call. This will show all others on frequency that you are serious about wanting to work this DX. This is called sharing.

3. When you find out the DX call, repeat your call over and over again on the DX frequency. Even if he is working split there is a chance he may be listening on his transmit frequency.

4. When the DX says "ABC only" - Don't believe him. If he says "Europe only" - Don't believe him. If he says, "2's only" - Don't believe him. Keep giving your call "XYZ? !!.XYZ !! .XYZ !! How Copy MARIO?" Make sure you use his name when you call him, he may think you are someone he knows. It must work as we hear it on bands all the time so it has to be effective. Don't pay attention to directional calls. When did any DX know what they wanted? What matters most is what YOU want.

5. To get the DX to work other modes tell him you want to set up a schedule later which is convenient to you. You should wait until the pileup has built up to several hundred and just before the band is about to go out, then ask him to meet you on CW, PSK31, RTTY or SSB at a set time and frequency. Above all, make sure you tell him that YOU need him on these modes. This will endear you in the hearts of all on frequency, it shows that you can work more than one mode and are a well-rounded amateur.

6. If you have worked the DX previously make sure you call him and tell him that he is stronger than the last 6 times you worked him this week. The DX station will want to know this. Others on frequency will respect you more, you will be recognized as a Big Gun DXer.



7. When you find a DX pileup, to bring your operating skills to a higher level and impress all those on frequency - Zero beat the DX send "QRL? Is this frequency in use?" This shows character and that you are truly a caring person.

8. When finally making the DX contact, give the DX some background about yourself, TX, RX, ANT, WX, how many children and grandchildren you have, where they went to college, what size bedroom slipper you wear, or any other items of interest to the DX. This shows that you are not just a 59 kind of guy. This is most effective when the band is just about to fold.

9. After you have worked the DX you will need the QSL route. Although this will be listed on the DX packet cluster, in ARRL & DX News Letters, and on the Internet, there is no reason for you to go to all the bother of reading these sources. You can just keep calling on the DX frequency. "What is the QSL Information?" If you don't get a reply with the information after 8 or 10 calls, keep it up, your persistence will payoff. There are plenty of other stations on frequency who are waiting to work the DX who have read these publications and they willing and ready to help you.

Rules for THE FUN MODE

1. For a split operation, spend most of your day listening and transmitting on the DX sending frequency. On CW, if someone calls on the DX transmitting frequency, right away using your J-38 at 4 WPM, send VP.UG.NP .UP. until you get it right. If the station continues to call on the DX frequency, then send LSD LIB LED. LID until you get it right.

This has three benefits.

A. Others waiting to work the DX will be forever indebted to you for informing the offending station that the DX is working split.

B. The offending station will be grateful.

C. You will get some needed code practice to get you over that 5 WPM hump.

2. For those with CW and voice memory keyers this will be easy. All you have to do is program in "UP" and "LID". For the more advanced operators you can add "SPLIT" "YOU IDIOT, WORKING SPLIT". Using the memory keyers for your day's activity will save your voice. Should you happen by chance to have a QSO you will need it.

As always.... Work'em First and never confirm! ;)

Navassa (KP1) DXpedition by Bob Allphin, K4UEE, President

The KP1-5 Project is pleased to announce that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to allow an amateur radio operation from Navassa National Wildlife Refuge (KP1). The operation will occur within the next 18 months and will be coordinated with the USFWS work flow.



Over the past year, the KP1-5 Project has had numerous meetings with various levels of USFWS management. Throughout our discussions, their personnel have been courteous, professional and cooperative. We have been treated with sincere interest and respect and believe that amateur radio operators may now be viewed as partners and not adversaries.

As with the Desecheo operation in 2009, and in order to be transparent and fair, the USFWS has requested proposals for the amateur radio operation from those individuals and groups that have already applied for a Special Use Permit in the past. The KP1-5 Project will be submitting a proposal and hoping to be selected as they were for the very successful Desecheo (K5D) operation.

We wish to thank the USFWS for their decision to allow this operation.

Navassa Island is ranked #2 most-needed DXCC entity by The DX Magazine and #1 by ClubLog.

Please visit our website for up to date information. <http://kp1-5.com/>

Editor's note: KP1 is expected to be active near the end of January.

2014 Dayton CTU Videos Posted and CTU Centennial by Tim Duffy, K3LR

Select video presentations from Contest University (CTU) Dayton 2014 are now available at:
http://www.contestuniversity.com/main/page_videos.html



Registration for Contest University Dayton 2015 will open in mid December 2014. Watch <http://contestuniversity.com> for the latest updates.

For the first time in the last eight years there will be a second CTU offered in the USA this year. CTU Centennial will occur on Thursday, July 17, 2014 in Hartford, CT as part of the ARRL Centennial celebration.

Centennial Contest University - Hartford, CT.
 Facilitator: K3LR

Speakers:

- "Contesting Hints & Kinks" - Ward Silver, NØAX
- "Ergonomics for Contest Stations" - Doug Grant, K1DG
- "Low Band Receiving Antennas for Smaller Lots" - Frank Donovan W3LPL
- "Multi Operator Contest Planning" - Tim Duffy, K3LR
- "Tips for Being a Better Single Operator" - Randy Thompson, K5ZD
- "The Essentials of RTTY Contesting" - Dennis Egan, W1UE

More information and registration (the class is filling up fast) for CTU Centennial 2014 is available here: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/tab2.aspx?EventID=1248082>

Editor's note: For a great read on the early days of multi-multi contesting, please look at the following article: www.kkn.net/dayton2008/when_giants_walked_the_bands.pdf. Thanks to Brian, K3USC for the submission!

W8BE (SK) by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW

It is with great sadness to report that John, W8BE, became a Silent Key (SK)..... The following was in the Plain Dealer today and online.

In the old days of DXing before DXclusters and the InterNet, John was very active on the NOARS 145.150 repeater helping others work DX. He will surely be missed... 73 de Tedd KB8NW

MARHEFKA JOHN MARHEFKA SR., age 101. Beloved husband of Mary (nee Ostasevich) (deceased); loving father of John A. (Kathy) and Nancy Heinisch (Robert); dear grandfather of five; great-grandfather of two.

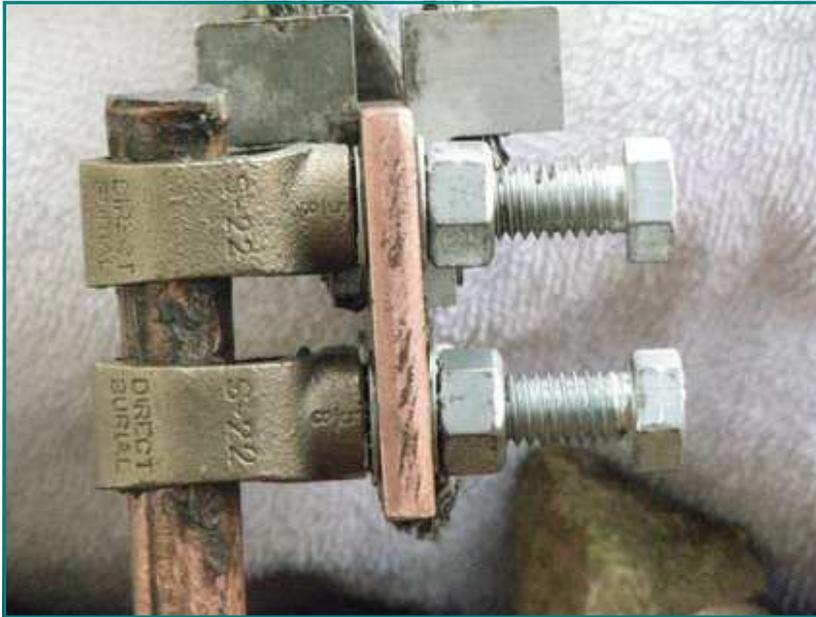


John was a Radio Operator during the 1930's on the Great Lakes with the Sparks Transmitter. ALL SERVICES Monday, Dec. 22, 2014 at St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral, 733 Starkweather Ave., Cleveland, OH at 10 a.m. Interment St. Theodosius Cemetery.

FAMILY WILL RECEIVE FRIENDS AT THE CATHEDRAL MONDAY MORNING 9-10 A.M. Arrangements by THE MALLCHOK FUNERAL HOME, (440)-884-9100. See more at: <http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=john-marhefka&pid=173546360&fhid=15565#sthash.gEjHOiGj.dpuf>

Ground Rod Connection by Jake, K9WN, via eHam.net

Previously I would "try" to cram several leads under one ground rod clamp. I was always concerned that I wasn't getting good contact. While digging thru the junk box, inspiration hit. I have no idea where I picked up the copper scrap, but with a little modification, this is what I ended up with. Be advised that drilling copper is tough. Go slow and use LOTS of lubricant. Aluminum plate would be easier to drill.



I had a couple of IDENTICAL ground clamps (note emphasis), replaced the bolts with longer stainless bolts and internal washers. You must remember to use lots of your favorite anti-ox compound, and I always check tightness Spring and Fall. And, yes, I know all about Cad-welds and such.



Editor's note: A great article on this subject is "*Amateur Radio Station Grounding and Lightning Protection*" available at this link: www.bwcelectronics.com/articles/WP30A190.pdf

Possible Cure for Relay Contact Cancer? by Craig Houghtaling, N7UTB, via eHam.net

I was undecided whether to create a forum subject or write an article, but I had to do something because this discovery is too good not to share with the Armature Radio Community. Since my idea has only been tested by two people that I know of, I was hesitant to write an article. However I wanted greater exposure to reach out to potential Guinea pigs as well as anyone who might find fault with the idea. So far I have not been able to find any fault with my application, so I think it's time to put it out there for beta testing.

Let me preface this by saying I use my station every single day, all year, and I am a devout rag-chewer. So needless to say my radio gear gets heavy use. I was having trouble with the TX/RX relay contacts on my Heathkit SB-200 amplifier, mostly on receive where the contacts would intermittently attenuate the receive signal. Cycling the PTT would fix it temporarily, but it was steadily becoming worse and needed to be cycled more and more often while listening. So I replaced it with a new relay from a reputable source specializing in these. Within a month the new relay started acting up intermittently, so I set out to rebuild my old one by burnishing the contacts back to the original finish (I have the *proper* tools and compounds for this). Even though the rebuilt relay was already to go, I kept putting off the installation due to time limitations.

As time passed, I had the idea to try some Ox-gard on my TX relay contacts. Ox-gard made by GB (Gardner Bender) is a wonderful dressing to use in the place of dielectric grease in certain applications, because unlike dielectric grease which only keeps out moisture, Ox-gard improves conductivity in a connection and helps reduce resistance and heat, as well as keeping out moisture. Even though it was developed to reduce oxidation between dissimilar metals in high current electrical applications, it is a favorite of mine under the hood of the car and on all my motorcycle electrical connections. I have used this for decades with nothing but great success and have never had an intermittent electrical connection where Ox-gard was applied. Never. If you have never heard of this electrical wonder-drug, check it out here: <http://www.gardnerbender.com/en/ox-100b>

It had never occurred to try it in my radio, let alone on the relay, the initial thought was almost rejected immediately as it passed thru my mind. But since relay contacts are electrical connections, why not? Clearly I had electrical contacts that needed help conducting. So with a rebuilt relay standing by and nothing to loose, I applied some Ox-gard to all the contact surfaces of the relay that was giving me trouble. Several months later the rebuilt relay is still standing by and collecting lots of dust, because the relay in the amp has been working flawlessly ever since.

All this time, my neighbor (AC7AV) was having trouble with the relay in his Ameritron 811H, and had ordered a replacement for it. His problem was on transmit only, causing him to break up occasionally until he cycled the PTT a time or two. He could even hear it crackling and sizzling sometimes! His replacement relay came in a while ago, however the amount of work involved caused him to put it off again and again like it caused me to do.

After seeing (hearing) first hand the success I had with Ox-gard on my relay contacts, he decided to try it on his amp's relay, since it was far easier to get to the contacts than it was to replace it, and he also had a relay standing by, there was nothing to loose. He applied Ox-gard to charred black contacts and immediately it started working again. That was over two months ago -as of this writing- and his replacement relay is still in the box -collecting dust! His old fried-out relay has not malfunctioned once since he applied Ox-gard to the contacts. It is working perfectly. He is so convinced of its effectiveness, he has now started to spread the word on the air whenever he hears another HAM with a relay problem.

So I am inviting anyone to dialogue with me about this subject, pro or con. I especially want to hear from anyone who has a good reason NOT to use it (All you engineers; I'm talking to you). I don't want to add to the mountain range of misinformation that exists out there in radio land. However, I'm starting to think this really works, and just might be the greatest discovery since the valence electron!!

Turkey Takes Toll on Ham By WBØRUR, via HamHijinks.com

SAUSALITO, NV - A local ham radio operator has been cited for careless and imprudent radio operation by the Federal Office Responsible for Monitoring All Transmissions (FORMAT).

Robert "Chick" Brown dozed off during the 40 meter "Thanksgiving Day Net," a traditional radio gathering since 1942, where hams "check-in" to offer thanks for the blessings of the past year.

As Junior Thompson offered thanks on the net for the blessing of his Kenwood TS-990 due to a large worker's comp settlement check, Brown's VOX opened up and he was heard snoring with 1500 watts P.E.P. delivered into a 7-element Yagi.

In a prepared release, the National Radio Retransmission Legion (NRRL) defended Brown's indiscretion, saying it was directly related to the amount of turkey consumed immediately prior to the net and that the broadcast was purely unintentional. (Reporter's note: the chemical tryptophan-L, found in turkey, can induce sleep when ingested in large doses.)

FORMAT says agents immediately received world-wide complaints about "the buzz-saw noise" emanating from North American shores.

NRRL spokesman Johnson Longfellow says the "...combination of turkey, dressing, cranberries, Watergate salad, and candied yams played the devil with Brown's metabolism, placing him in a stupor seldom paralleled in the annals of modern medicine."

For their part, the local ham radio club "Emergency Response Team" was called away from their Thanksgiving tables and placed into action to triangulate the origin of the signal and shut it down.

Brown has 45 days to file an appeal with the Federal Office Responsible for Monitoring All Transmissions, but the sleepy ham says he'll "...probably just pay the fine and move on, since Junior will spot me some left over worker's comp money. And maybe I will try not to eat so much turkey next year."



This photo of "Chick" Brown shows him asleep in his shack, while cradling a dual-band HT.



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 2014-2015

President:	Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW	(440-237-2816)
V. President:	Denny Jakubisin, WB8K	(440-237-3248)
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, KB6NU, K3USC, K3LR, **WBØRUR**, **K4UEE**, **3Z9DX**, **K9WN**, **N7UTB**, and www.hamhijinks.com.