

Fall 2022

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

As I am writing this, it is less than a week before the Day-Xenia HamVention and there have been a few developments since I wrote last. The Covid pandemic is still around, but not as severe, and things are starting to slowly turn back to normal. Everyone is still cautious, but not like last year.



DXpeditions are on the increase and the upcoming fall and winter seasons look to be promising. The planning of the 3Y0J Bouvet Island DXpedition (<https://www.3y0j.no>) is really going to happen. Plenty of details have been reported over the last several weeks. Most of the 3Y0J team will also be attending the upcoming HamVention, and they plan to have a booth there to meet the operators. As far as the top secret 3Y0I Bouvet Island DXpedition the details are just that "TOP SECRET" with nothing to add, but they claim it has not been canceled. Other DXpeditions expected to happen later in the year are Sable and Crozet Island (just to name a few). NODXA has donated funds to all of the DXpeditions above except the 3Y0I.

If you have not heard, NODXA has a new meeting place. We started in-person meetings again as of Monday, May 2nd, at Amici Italian Restaurant & Bar, in North Royalton: <https://www.amicisfam.com>. The address is 13000 Royalton Road. It is easy to get to and is right on the northeast corner at Route 82 and W.130th Street. Those who use I-71 will go east for about 2 miles instead of west (missing all the mall traffic).

PLEASE NOTE: Meetings now start at 6:30 pm (not 7:30 pm), and anyone who would like to have dinner can start to show up at 5:00 pm. The Restaurant serves not only Italian food, but wings, burgers, panini sub sandwiches and various specialty drinks, beers & wines. All of their pasta, meatballs and sauces are made in house. Reports on the first meeting were great, and everyone enjoyed the food. So we hope to see you at the meeting in the new location.

As always, I hope to see you in the coming weeks/months, possibly at a hamfest, or NODXA's general membership meetings every first Monday of the month (unless it is a holiday -- it will be the second Monday).

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.

Let's hope that the COVID-19 virus situation comes to a complete end and things can get back to normal. For now, I hope everyone stays healthy in the coming months. Get on the bands and work something.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. Did you renew your dues? It is time (as of May) to renew your membership. If not, you can now renew via PayPal at:

marysbarn@roadrunner.com

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We look forward to seeing you!

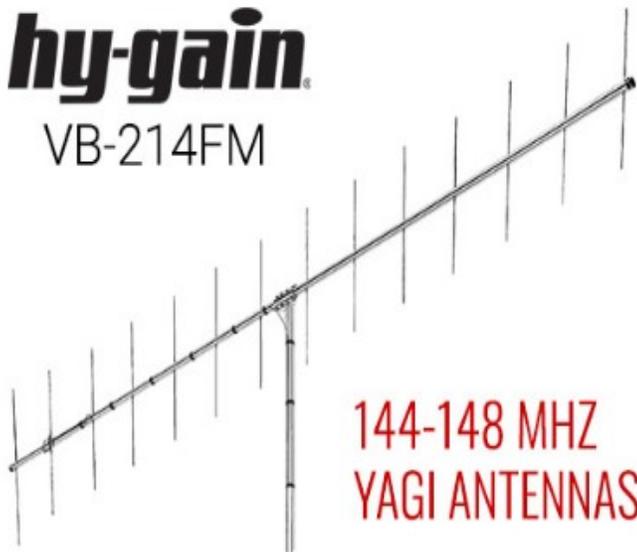
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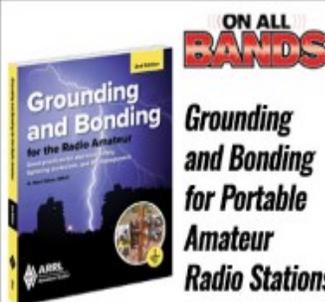


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DX Engineering Guy Line Guards

VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

Minutes of the January 13th, 2022 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 8:40 p.m. on the K8FF 10m net with 11 members and guests present. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of December 2, 2021, there were no corrections. John, KT8D, moved and John, K8YSE, seconded to approve the minutes and this passed on the vote. The treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! Ken, W8KEN, moved and Wayne, K8FF, seconded to approve the treasurers report and this passed on the vote. Glenn, AF8C, confirmed that the repeater is OK. Our editor was not on the net tonight.

Old/New Business:

Tedd reported that the Crozet website is up now. The PayPal connection is not yet active. Our logo is on the website. Tedd informed us that the Gourme Restaurant was indeed sold (this news was from Joe, N8QXC). The building may become a Mexican restaurant and the back room will be open. Tedd received a note from INDEXA that they will be funding some upcoming operations but not all. A copy of the INDEXA newsletter is available from Tedd if you ask by email. Tedd was informed that the Visalia DX Convention is closed for 2022 due to the pandemic. Also Tedd receive an email from our ARRL Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, that the ARRL has done away with all Assistant Vice Directors in the Great Lakes Division. John, K8YSE, asked if any email came from OARC regarding the annual \$5.00 repeater registration confirmations postcard. Tedd responded that he hasn't seen the postcard yet.

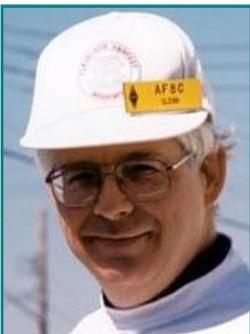
Wrap-up:

Tedd suggested that the next meeting will likely be on this net on February 3. Then this meeting ended at 8:55 p.m. on the net.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the February 3rd, 2022 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 8:48 p.m. on the K8FF 10m net with 13 members and guests present. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of January 13, 2022, there were two corrections. Dennis, K8LBT, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded to approve the minutes and they were approved. The treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! Ken, W8KEN, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded to approve the treasurers report and this passed on the vote. Glenn, AF8C, confirmed that the repeater is OK. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, was on the net tonight. He said that he will soon finalize the next newsletter.



Old/New Business:

Relevant corrections to last month's minutes include that the Visalia DX Convention is only being canceled in 2022 due to the pandemic. Also the OARC website shows that our repeater is still coordinated but OARC is late with their renewal card mailing. Renewal is every other year so we still have a whole year to go. Tedd reported that the August 27, 2021, Ohio QSO Party results are out. He has not heard anything new about the former Gourme Restaurant except it appears that the remodeling to be a Mexican restaurant is stalled, perhaps due to the weather. Tedd said that he is looking at another possible place. Next Tedd remarked that in the March meeting nominations for officers will be accepted. This time Tedd said that he is leaning toward not running.

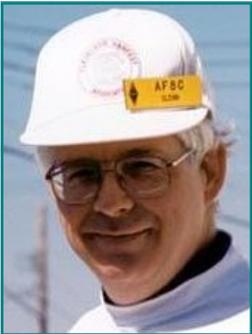
Wrap-up:

Tedd suggested that the next meeting will likely be on this net on March 3. A motion to close the meeting came from Denny, WB8K, and a second came from Wayne, K8FF. Then this meeting closed at 8:56 p.m. on the net.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the March 3rd, 2022 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 8:49 p.m. on the K8FF 10m net with 9 members and guests present. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of February 3, 2022, there were no corrections requested. Dennis, K8LBT, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded to approve the minutes and they were approved. Our treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! Denny, WB8K, moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded to approve the treasurer's report and this passed on the vote. Glenn, AF8C, confirmed that the repeater is OK. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, was not on the net tonight, but the new newsletter is out.



Old/New Business:

Per Tedd, KB8NW, the Gourme restaurant rework is stopped. The NOARS Winter Hamfest is on March 13. Tickets are \$7.00 and tables are \$10.00. Tedd has received only one funding request. An Svalbard expedition with call sign JW0X will be up between April 19 to April 26, with 15 operators, 5 stations, on all HF bands and standard modes and a satellite station JW100QO. This will have credit as IOTA EU-026. They will operate from 2 different locations on the island. QSL to MOURX. Tedd asked if we want to donate and there were no motions to do so.

Denny, WB8K, discussed that the satellite QO-100 would not even have a footprint we could use. Interest in donating to this one was nil. The DARA Xenia Hamvention is ON. There will be a club hospitality suite at the Radisson. During the April meeting we will discuss the costs for that. George, K8KR, stated there will be a CARS bus to the Hamvention on Saturday. The DX Dinner banquet will be downtown at the Marriott. But the Top Band Dinner banquet will be at the other location. Wayne, K8FF, reported that JW is number 201.

We had nominations for 2022-2023 officers. The nominations went as follows.

Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM - nominated by AF8C, seconded by N8TR and accepted by Mary.

Secretary, Glenn, AF8C - nominated by N8TR, seconded by K8KR, and accepted by Glenn.

Vice President, K8LBT - nominated by N8TR, seconded by WB8K, and accepted by Dennis.

President, Tedd, KB8NW - nominated by K8LBT, seconded by WB8K, but Tedd held off.

Thus we will wait until the April meeting to work this out. Glenn, AF8C, suggested we might not have a quorum tonight anyway. Later Denny, WB8K, having done some investigations, says that QO-100 will not be heard in the U.S.

Wrapup:

Tedd suggested that the next meeting could be on this net on April 7 depending on Tedd's schedule. A motion to close the meeting came from Dennis, K8LBT, and a second came from Glenn, AF8C. The vote to close the meeting passed. Then this meeting closed at 9:10 p.m. on the net.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

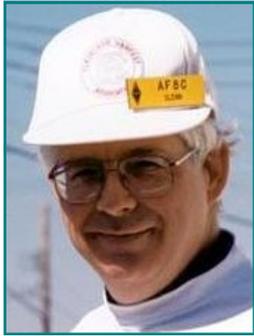
Minutes of the April 14th, 2022 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 8:38 p.m. on the K8FF 10m net with 10 members present. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of March 3, 2022, there were a few corrections requested. Then Ken, W8KEN moved and Wayne, K8FF, seconded to approve the minutes and they were approved. The treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! Pete, N8TR, moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded to approve the treasurer's report and this passed on the vote. Dues are due by May 1, 2022. You can renew with the paper document on the newsletter or on PayPal using the email address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com". Glenn, AF8C, confirmed that the repeater is OK. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, was not on the net tonight.

Old/New Business:

Tedd has received a note from Jan, 4X1VF, of the November-December 2021 Rwanda 9X4X operation that we donated to. He sent a QSL card showing our club logo on the card. During last week's net Tedd offered to email out a copy of a resolution from the Virginia DX Association regarding changing the DXCC rules regarding entities that have not been on in ten years. Tedd reported tonight that 8 to 9 people asked for the email. This comment raised a bit of discussion tonight.

The next activity was concluding the election of officers for this next cycle. Tedd said he could fill in as "acting" president until someone volunteers for that office. With that Glenn, AF8C, moved a white ballot and Pete, N8TR, seconded. The ballot was unanimously elected.



Tedd announced that the NODXA hospitality room at Dayton will be at the Radisson (former Crowne Plaza) free of charge from Thursday through Saturday on Dayton weekend. Funding needed to be voted for this. We usually go with a \$500.00 allocation. This was moved by Dennis, K8LBT, and seconded by Pete, N8TR, and approved on the vote. However Tedd said he will try to hold the expenses to \$400.00 in spite of higher cost of supplies.

At this point Glenn, AF8C, asked about the plans for Field Day. There are three new Field Day rules this year. Tedd held other discussion on that topic while discussing that relatives of Ron, K8VJG, SK, are planning to empty out and sell the house. Dennis, K8LBT, asked about the power cable. Our generator power distribution cable, worth a lot of money, was supposed to be stored at Ron's house. Tedd asked Ron's nephew about the cable. The nephew has the radio and he is supposed to check for the cable. Tedd talked to John, K8YSE, and John said he would call the relatives to

see if the cable is still there.

Pete, N8TR, mentioned that Dave, WD8IOU, bought a quiet inverter generator for loads of 2 to 3 kW. We could feed power with regular 100 foot #12 cables to the loads in a star formation, except for the problem of cooking and powering a coffee pot. Someone needs to contact Dave, WD8IOU about all that setup. Also someone, perhaps John, K8YSE, needs to contact Mt. Augustine. Mary, N8DMM said that we have continued to contribute to Mt. Augustine so they will likely be open to our being there in 2022.

Wrap-up:

Tedd has arranged that we will meet in person on May 2, 2022 trying out a new restaurant called Amici's Italian Restaurant and Bar at 13000 Royalton Rd. This is at the intersection of Routes 82 and West 130 in North Royalton. The reservation is for 5 p.m. for dinner and the meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. They do have burgers and wings and alcoholic beverages. Tedd says that the old Gourme Restaurant being reworked as a possible Mexican restaurant seems to have construction stopped. A motion to close the meeting came from Ken, W8KEN, and seconded by Pete, The vote to close the meeting passed. The meeting closed at 9:15 p.m. on the net.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the May 2nd, 2022 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m. at Amici's Italian Restaurant and Bar. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of April 4, 2022, there were zero corrections requested. Then Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z seconded to approve the minutes and they were approved. Tedd followed with some comments relative to those minutes.

Tedd passed around the Rwanda, 4X1VF, card he had received. Our logo was on the card. Tedd also discussed the Virginia DX Association petition suggesting changes in the status of DXCC entities that have not been on for 10 years or more. Discussion on that went around. Tedd asked for a show of hands of people who have Honor Roll and also who are Number One on the Honor Roll. Tedd asked Mary to email him with the number of club members who are also ARRL members. Then treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! Tedd said that he needs to report to the ARRL how many club members are members of the ARRL.

Tedd thanked Bruce, N8DJX, for his \$500.00 contribution to the Bouvet DXpedition group. This caused a round of applause. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Denny, WB8K seconded to approve the treasurer's report and this passed on the vote. Dues were due by May 1, 2022. You can renew with the paper document on the newsletter or on PayPal using the email address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com".

Glenn, AF8C, confirmed that the repeater is OK. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, was at the meeting. He said he will start the next newsletter soon.

Old/New Business:

Glenn, AF8C, sent around a list of equipment for sale by some elder radio amateurs. Metro, W8MET, was saying he would take down the tower at the QTH of Ron, K8VJG. There was a report that the tower is still up. We heard no news from John, K8YSE, on the status of the very expensive generator power cable that should have been at Ron's QTH. Tedd asked Ron's nephew about the cable and may receive an answer later.

On sunshine news, Tedd reported that Dave, KZ8Y, was getting chemo. Nelson, K8DJC, is getting a back operation. Those members were not here tonight. There was a report that Bob, W8IMO, became a silent key.

Tedd has received the renewal invoice for our INDEXA newsletter, for \$20.00. Gary, NI8Z, moved and Bruce, N8DJX, seconded that we pay for the newsletter renewal and the vote approved that. Tedd reported he has already started buying items for the Dayton-Xenia hospitality room which is free for the club. Tedd reported on the \$20,000 first prize offering planned for the Hamvention.

Dave, WD8IOU, said that Kenwood will not have a booth at the Hamvention. But DX Engineering will have 11 booths. Pete, N8TR, has 4 tickets and 2 flea market spots available. Denny, WB8K, has a spare ticket. Dave, WD8IOU, has a room reservation at the Radisson. Rick, K8ZH, has a ticket for the Top Band dinner. With a show of hands, about 5 members said they would be going to the Hamvention.

On DX, VU4W, Annobon Island, is up now until May 16. Yuris, YL2GM, is the operator. VU4 is ranked number 48. We decided to donate \$250.00 to that operation after the motion to donate by Dennis, K8LBT, seconded by Gary, NI8Z, and voted approval. An Italian group will operate as J28MD, Djibouti, with 15 operators during October 29 to November 7. We will wait to decide whether to contribute to that group. View the story at www.mdxc.org/J28MD.

On May 15 there will be a free trunkfest at Dover/Tuscarawas. The Field Day news is that Nick, W8XD, will not be able to come to Field Day. Also Goose has not been heard from. Others who are not able to support Field Day will be Dave, WD8IOU, and Tedd, KB8NW.

Wrap-up:

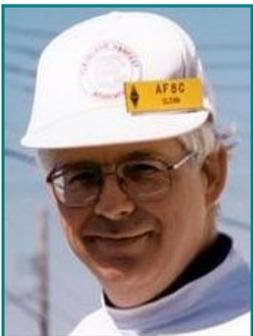
Due to the popular approval of the new meeting site, we will meet there again on June 6, 2022. As a result the decision was made by a motion from Wayne, K8FF, seconded by Denny, WB8K, to reduce the K8FF 10 meter net appearances to the last Thursday of the month, which will be May 26 this month. So we will meet on June 6, 2022, at Amici's Italian Restaurant and Bar at 13000 Roy-alton Rd. The reservation will be for 5 p.m. for dinner and the meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.

A motion to close the meeting came from Bruce, N8DJX, and was seconded by Joe, N8QXC. The vote to close the meeting passed. The meeting closed at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the June 6th, 2022 NODXA Meeting

Vice-president, Dennis, KLBT, opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m. at Amici's Italian Restaurant and Bar. Thirteen members were present. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of May 2, 2022, there were zero corrections requested. Then Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Wayne, K8FF, seconded to approve the minutes and they were approved. Then treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Denny, WB8K seconded to approve the treasurer's report and this passed on the vote. Glenn, AF8C, confirmed that the repeater is OK. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, was not at the meeting.

Old/New Business:

Dennis, K8LBT, discussed the J28MD DX Dxpedition. J28 is number 119 in ClubLog. On 6M CW they are number 50. A decision to finish any donation action was left on the table. Jim, K8MR, reminded us of renewing our annual support for the DX Plaque for the Ohio QSO Party which happens in August. The associated costs are \$60.00 for the plaque and \$25.00 for the international shipping. OM2VL always seems to win this. Bruce, N8DJX moved and Jim, K8MR seconded that we fund the 2022 plaque for not to exceed \$100.00. This passed on the vote.

Nick, W8XD, asked about the Russian activity of TYORU on Benin to take place October 10-25, 2022. No support is being requested at this time. The WPX contest will not give credit for that. George, K8KR, discussed SWLing Radio Moscow in 1957 and sending them a card. They sent back to George his first QSL card. Many years later Vladimir Pozner, the voice of the North American service of Radio Moscow was in Cleveland and Joel Rose radio helped George meet him and get his autograph on the card.

K8MR Jim, used the NODXA contest score NO8DX in WPX CW. For Field Day 2022, there was no interest this year. The QTH for Ron, K8VJG, still has the tower up according to three of the club members tonight.

Wrap-up:

The next meeting will be on July 11, 2022 at Amici's. The reservation will be for 5 p.m. for dinner and the meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. A motion to close the meeting came from Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Wayne, K8FF seconded the motion. The vote to close the meeting passed. The meeting closed at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the July 11th, 2022 NODXA Meeting

**** PLEASE NOTE: NODXA's Secretary was not available this month, so NODXA's President wrote the minutes from memory.**

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:28 p.m. at Amici's Italian Restaurant and Bar; 16 members were present. After the Vice President Dennis, K8LBT, read the minutes for the meeting of June 6th, 2022, there were zero corrections requested. Then George, K8KR, moved and Wayne, K8FF, seconded to approve the minutes and they were approved. Then Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! Dennis, K8LBT, moved and Wayne, K8FF, seconded to approve the treasurers report and this passed on the vote. Everyone confirmed that the repeater is OK. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, was not at the meeting.



Old/New Business:

President Tedd, KB8NW, wondered since OM2VL wins the NODXA DX Plaque for the Ohio QSO Party every year, if Jim, K8MR, would ask him to take a picture of his wall with all the plaques and send it to us. Tedd then introduced the request for funding of the J28MD DX Dxpediton. J28 is number 119 on "ClubLog's Most Wanted Entities." On 6M CW they are listed as number 50. George, K8KR, moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded to approve a donation of \$100 for the J28MD DXpediton. A discussion/vote took place and the motion was passed on the vote.

A discussion took place next on the DayXenia HamVention. The convention was reported to be well attended with over 31k people showing up. However, President Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the NODXA Dayton Hospitality Suite was NOT well attended. Probable reasons were the pandemic and cancellations of rooms (65 down to 13) by the NODXA group.

Tedd and his XYL tried to save the club money the month before the event by buying beverages locally as well snacks, munchies, various foods, and hauled it down to Dayton. With low attendance, a lot of food had to be thrown out over the three nights. The club spent \$333.67 on food, beverages, and various items. However, Tedd, KB8NW, absorbed \$98.16 of the cost (which he used items so it would not go to waste). The NODXA donation jar at the hospitality suite collected \$63.00. With the two deductions, the 2022 NODXA Dayton Hospitality Suite cost the club \$175.51. KB8NW stated that one of the biggest disappointments was only one club member attended the hospitality suite.

After the hospitality report, a discussion took place on whether to continue the Hospitality Suite for 2023. The conclusion came down to "Let's see what happens next year". It was mentioned that the NOARSFEST Hamfest will take place at the LCCC on July 16th. There was also a discussion on whether the club would have another picnic before the fall season. Members would like to have it sometime in mid-September.

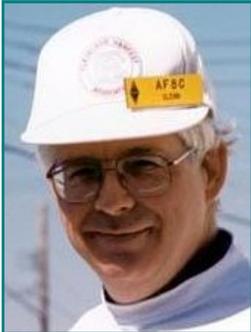
Wrap-up:

The next meeting will be on August 1, 2022 at Amici's. The reservation will be for 5 p.m. for dinner and the meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. A motion to close the meeting took place and it passed. The meeting closed at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully, Tedd, KB8NW, President

Minutes of the August 1st, 2022 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Amici's Italian Restaurant and Bar. Thirteen members were present. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of July 11, 2022, there were zero corrections requested and the minutes were approved by acclamation. Then treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! No new members joined. But dues are still coming in. Dennis, K8LBT, moved and Bruce, N8DJX seconded to approve the treasurers report and this passed on the vote. Glenn, AF8C, stated that the repeater has occasionally has a bout of popping sound static on some nights but on most nights it is clean. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, was not at the meeting to provide a newsletter report.



Old/New Business:

Last month we approved funds for J28MD, Djibouti. The donations were made and our club logo was on their website within a day. AG4W and IZ8CCW acknowledged our \$100 donation. Last month we talked about having a club picnic on September 8 or September 15. Prices are going up. The former \$59.99 price of one chicken and pizza order will be \$79.99 in 2022, so our two orders would cost near \$160.00. Planning will start with September 8 at 4 p.m. for the picnic at Aukerman Park. The building is roofed (in case of rain).

Tedd reminded us of the OH QSO Party happening on August 27. For that the club is funding the DX Plaque. Tedd said no DXpeditions are currently requesting funds. Operators will be up this week from Rodrigues Island, 3B9. The cluster is showing negative comments on Russian operators. There have been no new Internet comments on a months old proposal to lower the DXCC Honor Roll threshold. Scarborough Reef became a short topic of discussion.

Wrap-up:

Tedd stated that the next meeting will be on September 12, 2022 at Amici's. Dennis, K8LBT, moved and N8TR seconded that the next meeting could be combined with the picnic. The vote on that motion failed 4 to 4. A motion to close the meeting came from Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Denny, WB8K seconded the motion. The vote to close the meeting passed. The meeting closed at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Sandy Muirhead-Gould, K8FUN, SK

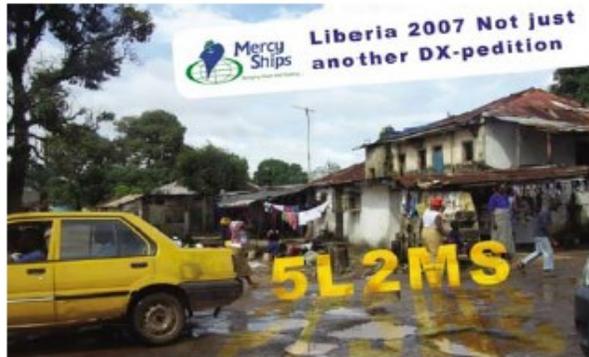
It is with deep sorrow that I must report the passing of Sandy Muirhead-Gould, K8FUN. Sandy was a long time friend of NODXA member Byron, KF8UN. The club would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Sandy's family for their loss.



Liberia 2007 - 5L2MS

Arie Kleingeld, PA3A

(Edited for GDXF by Prof. Dr. Uwe Jaeger, DJ9HX)



When & Where:

Time in Liberia: 3 Oct – 24 Oct 2007

Radio Operations: 5 Oct – 21 Oct 2007

Location: ELWA Compound, Monrovia, Liberia

5L2MS team:

Arie PA3A, Arie PA3AN, Henk PA3AWW and Ad PA8AD. Dickson EL2DT joined our team during our stay in Liberia.

The cause:

1. Bringing out the good work of the Mercy Ships Organization (see below)
2. Sponsoring a little hospital, the Gaye Town Clinic, that is only just starting to operate in a country that was destroyed in a 13 year civil war and where peace keeping is done by the UN
3. Supporting the Liberia Radio Amateur Association (LRAA) with equipment to build a new club station

The used equipment, etc:

It was a 4 men operation, limited budget for the dx-pedition itself (due to the cause), no monobanders, no super-transceivers, no 4-squares, no high towers.

Nine months of preparation brought us to that moment that we were really going on our expedition.

The journey started 3 Oct 2007 at 05:30 AM. The 5L2MS team assembled at Zaventem Airport, in Brussels, Belgium. Four men eager to go on a mission of Mercy using ham-radio as a means.

Lots of luggage to carry, three transceivers, two linears and other equipment... and some clothing of course. Luckily, bulky antennas, coax cables, generators, tower materials, ropes, beds, bed sheets, food, coffee machine, etc. (in total about 275 cubic feet) were already shipped to Liberia in a sea container.

Ready to go!

So how come that this DX-pedition took place.

It was Christmas 2006 that two hams, Henk PA3AWW and Arie PA3AN were talking about a voluntary job Arie did on board of a hospital ship, the m.v. Anastasis. This vessel is owned by an international organization called Mercy Ships. Mercy Ships provides humanitarian aid to countries with none or limited healthcare facilities by means of hospital ships. Crewmembers are all volunteers who come on board for a short or longer period. These people are skilled and work for free. They even pay for their stay on board.

After a while an idea came up. What if a DX-pedition could be combined with the good cause of Mercy Ships. Henk had done that before. He was a member of the 9G1AA DX-pedition in 1993. The expedition members were united in the DAGOE Foundation at that time (DAGOE – Dutch Amateurs Going On Expedition). They were able to sponsor the building of a complete recovery room for the Dormaa Hospital in Ghana, using the QSL money and sponsoring received from different ham radio organizations.



The AFRICA MERCY

In April 2007 the hospital ship m.v. Africa Mercy visited Rotterdam on her maiden voyage before leaving for Liberia. Mercy Ships and DAGOE came to an agreement on the DX-pedition and how it could contribute to the work of Mercy Ships. Besides promoting the work of Mercy Ships in general, DAGOE wanted to choose a shore based help project.

This project became the building of the Gaye Town Clinic. The Gaye Town Clinic was originally founded by a local Baptist Church in Gaye Town to improve healthcare for all local residents and to start an AIDS prevention program.

In partnership with Mercy Ships the clinic could be completed and staff was trained. A giant step forward if you know the situation in Liberia at this time. Liberia was torn apart by 13 years of civil war and is now starting to build a new future again.

UN troops are stationed to do the peace keeping. Up till now they are successful, but their job is not done yet. Besides the UN there are about 1500 NGO's (non governmental aid organizations) active. Getting some insurance for your luggage in Liberia is impossible. So,,, nice place for a DX-pedition, huh?

Arrival in Liberia.

After a full day travel the team arrived at Robertson Airport Liberia. Rain was falling, temperature 29 degrees Centigrade and a humidity of 100%. That was a nice start.

October should be the beginning of the dry season but somehow somebody had forgotten that. We were picked up by the people of Mercy Ships and about two hours later we arrived on board the Africa Mercy, berthed in the harbor of Monrovia, Liberia.



5L2MS and local Hams

We received a warm welcome. After this, it soon became clear to us that the ship was a complete and well run hospital and a safe habitat for the crew. The medical treatment on board the Africa Mercy is done by a crew of more than 400 people.

Besides direct medical treatment the crew also works ashore empowering and developing communities. Any description of all the hands-on work of the Africa Mercy in this article would take to many pages and never would say enough. You'd have to see it for yourself.

Their website www.mercyships.org gives a reasonably good impression.



ELWA Radio station

Preparing for Radio Operation.

The next day, first thing in the morning, Dickson EL2DT joined our team and we left for the ELWA Compound. A one hour drive through Monrovia and along the coastline.

ELWA is not only a name, but also the callsign of an FM and shortwave broadcast station. ELWA also stands for Eternal Love Winning Africa. Broadcast listeners probably are familiar with this station. It was well known until 1990, before the start of the civil war in Liberia. They had radiobroadcasts directed towards all 4 corners of Africa and beyond, preaching the Gospel in 30 languages.

The station was destroyed during the war and they only had one 75W FM transmitter left, which broadcasted live about 8 hours per day. At the time we were in Liberia a new 5 kW shortwave transmitter was being installed and antennas were reconstructed. In 2008 the station will broadcast in English and several different Liberian dialects again.

After talking to the technical staff of ELWA we found a nice place for the antennas and for our shack. Of course, the area for the antennas was not quite a nice summer lawn. Yes, it was flat but at the same time covered with high grass and bushes. We were able to hire several workers to clean the place. Since about 80% of the people of Liberia are unemployed this was a win-win situation. Work for them and a nice flat area (size of a football-field) for us.



Top view ELWA compound

The same day we went to downtown Monrovia to meet Ashley EL2AR and Bassam EL2BN for an eyeball QSO. Ashley is the president of the LRAA (Liberia Radio Amateur Association) and Bassam is the secretary.

We had been in contact with them from the start of the operation. Bassam and Ashley arranged our license at the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications and handed it officially over to us. 5L2MS became a fact.

Building the station.

The next morning, Friday 5 October, we collected all equipment we had transported in a sea container 3 months ago. The stuff was locked away in a warehouse somewhere on the Monrovia Docks.

When we opened the warehouse all our stuff was scattered all over the place, but it was all there and in good shape. After loading everything onto a truck we headed for ELWA.



EL2AR president of LRAA and PASAD

The first antenna we put up was a 3 element 20-15-10 tribander at about 40 feet high. The tower was a design of Arie PA3AN and consisted of two stacked 20 ft steel scaffolding pipes. It could simply be erected with another 20 ft pipe as leverage. We had already tried this out in the Netherlands and it worked again under the blazing sun of Liberia.

The tribander was connected to the tower by two pivoting pipes and could be rotated by walking around the tower pulling a rope that was connected to the reflector. Simple as that.



Erecting the 2el Tribander – the PA3AN way

At the same time the transceivers, linears, laptops and other auxiliary equipment was unpacked, and put together. Coax cable was cut, and plugs were soldered. The 40 meter quarter wave vertical was erected also and radials were spread out on the ground. Then we made our first QSO's on 20 meters to test the equipment.

That afternoon we drank about a gallon of water each to compensate the loss of body fluid (sweat). Although not an easy decision, we called it a day and went to the ELWA guesthouse for a Liberian dinner.

Saturday 6 October while the first morning pile-up was managed by one operator, the others erected the 30m-

17m-12m triband vertical and the 80m quarter wave vertical. The 80m vertical (over 20 meters in length) is a big antenna. It took some time to prepare, especially the guy wires, but once ready on the ground it was erected in a few minutes.

After that the guy wires were adjusted and ground anchors were checked. This became a daily routine for the other antennas too because of the tropical rain, wind and thunderstorms.

A temporary setback.

During the first day of operation we discovered a serious problem: S-9 noise from a generator nearby. ELWA has 3 electricity generators and all three generate a lot of HF noise.



Generators at ELWA

If the tribander was turned towards Europe and Siberia the noise level was at minimum but still S5 or higher, depending on the generator in use. Turning the beam to the West (directly over the generator building) made reception nearly impossible.

Clearing the airwaves at the source could not be done, so we found a way to work around this. We took a small shortwave transistor radio and walked around the compound until we found a place that we could actually hear something on that little radio.

That became the place for the two element 20-15-10 tribander, about 80m from the shack. So the second beam was set up. The Signal to Noise ratio increased a lot. Still not super, but we could turn the beam towards the Americas while actually hearing something. We decided to move the 40m vertical to a place near that spot also.

160 meter antenna.

The 80m vertical could be base-tuned to 160m but we decided not to. Instead of that, plans were made to construct a 160m half wave inverted Vee dipole and use the VHF tower of ELWA as an antenna support. We talked to the guys from ELWA radio about this and they gave their permission to do so.

A few days later Ad PASAD was hanging in the tower at about 120 ft above the ground while both Arie's (PA3AN and PA3A) assisted with the dipole wires and coax. The antenna was tested with an MFJ analyzer and

in one go we tuned the inverted Vee to 1825 kHz. During the expedition the dipole performed pretty well. We got reports like “booming signal” and “strong” on the DX cluster most of the time. Receiving with all the QRN present was a totally different thing though.

Propagation and operations.

During our stay in Liberia: Sunspots... ZERO. Well, that was very promising, but not in the positive way. Another fine thing was this. Sometimes we were trapped by the D-layer at mid-day. It was like a curtain closing over the antennas. No signals could be heard or whatsoever. So why not try a higher frequency then? Now, the F-layer did not help us much either. Higher frequencies could not be used most of the time. But sometimes we were able to get out on 10m and 12m for a few hours, so we could put some stations in the log on those bands.



PA3A and PA3WW operating

Operating on 80m and 160m was extremely difficult. Lots of QRN made reception impossible most of the time. There was a limited window during a few hours around midnight. And, of course, QRN and static's mean thunderstorms. We had to get off the air several times because of lightning striking nearby. It usually meant stopping the operation for the rest of the evening. Talking about electrical things.

A countless number of times we were off the air because of a power down on the compound. There were certain times during the day that the power down was planned. There were many times however that it was not.

After a week or so, we were able to be back on the air within a minute thanks to a team effort. Power goes down - switch everything off - start our two own generators - unplug from mains - plug into generators - switch everything on - a five seconds warm up for the linears - QRZ?

As we promised in several articles and on our website, we took time to listen to the “far corners of the Earth” to give everyone a chance to work Liberia. For the guys from Australia and New Zealand this is a very difficult job. Via our website (www.liberia2007.com) we received daily reports from VK about our signal strength.

With these reports we were able to tune our operation schedule so that it would be possible for them to work us. And yes, they did break the “EU-zoo” and the “NA-wall”, and overcame the “Japanese terror” (these words are from the DX cluster). We were able to put some VK's and ZL's in the log. This was not always easy. At times their signals were strong enough, and when we were asking “only VK”, then lots of hams from all over the world except for VK, seemed to think that they were from Australia too. You know what I mean?

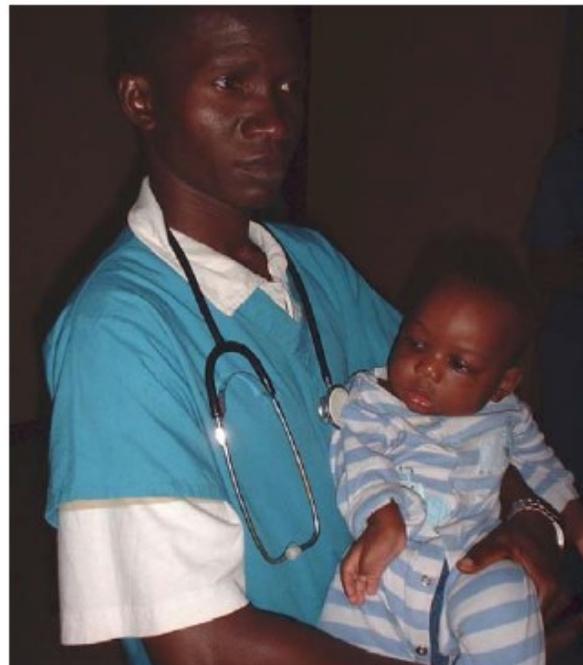
Bad Operators, Excellent operators.

Boy, sometimes it was impossible to do any good to some of the radio amateurs. If we were working CW: “when are you coming on SSB” and if we were on 10m “when are you coming on 12”, “15 meters is open”, “please Asia”, “please ...”, “change operator”, etc. Okay, during the first two days or so we were not always performing at our best. But after that we did pretty well. The insults on the DX cluster stopped and we became “excellent operators”.

Thanks to Bassam EL2BN, we had access to internet and we could read everything people wrote about us on the DX cluster. If comments on our operation were valid, we changed our way of operating immediately. It was a steep learning curve and we did not mind.

Our website was of great help too. All messages posted in the guestbook were very positive. That really kept us going. Many hams posted a message asking for our band schedule and modes of operation.

Every day we were able to answer those questions via the News page on our website. Sometimes we gave straight answers on the DX cluster and announced for example our scheduled time on top band or RTTY-mode etc. I think that helped us and the guys at the other side of the pile-up a lot.



Otis Young of the Gaye Town Clinic with a 3 years old child

Not just another DX-pedition.

We were not always QRV. Besides the radio operations we had other things to do, like witnessing the work of Mercy Ships and visit the Gaye Town Clinic.

So what is Liberia like? Let's do the statistics:

- Liberia: about 3.5 million inhabitants
- Percentage of people unemployed: 80% - 85%
- Healthcare: none or very little
- Number of dentists in Liberia: 2 (yes, two)
- A day of hard work: Salary US \$ 0,78

Shall we go on?

We witnessed this with our own eyes and ears. There are so many things to do in Liberia. People are surviving, and there is hope. Now that peace has come, people are on the streets, trying to buy and sell all kinds of goods to make a living.

Small shops selling old nuts and bolts, coconuts, petrol in bottles, pancakes, haircuts, plastic bottles, you name it. It's all there. Electricity is being restored bit by bit. Roads are being repaired. People are beginning to have faith that all will become good again. Yes, it will take many years but they will overcome the problems.



Shopping in the Gaye Town Area

The Gaye Town Clinic was founded by a local Baptist Church in Gaye Town to improve healthcare for all local residents and to start an AIDS prevention program.

In partnership with Mercy Ships the clinic was completed and staff (mostly people from the Church) were trained. The Liberia 2007 DX-pedition team supports this project. With the received donations and sponsoring we provide the clinic with means to continue the good work.

Any other of those statistics then?

- Number of QSO's made: 27.879 in total,
17.250 x CW, 8.919 x SSB, 1.710 x RTTY
- 4 operators from the Netherlands, 1 from Liberia
- 2 ham-transceivers in Liberia before we arrived
- 4 ham-transceivers in Liberia after we left

We repaired one old FT-80 transceiver and we donated a TS-50 to the Liberia Radio Amateur Association. So that makes four. Together with the transceiver, we donated all the dx-pedition antennas and 500 meter of coax cable to the LRAA, to start their new club station. We hope that the world will hear more of Liberian ham radio soon.

So what happened to the rest of the 275 cubic feet of material we transported in that sea container? Well, you already know about the ham-radio material.

All our other stuff (two 3 kVA generators, power cables, field beds, blankets, sheets, tool case, construction material, spares, etc, etc) was donated to the Gaye Town Clinic and to a new orphanage that was being built with help of Mercy Ships at the time we were in Liberia.

So, mission accomplished?

Yes, we think so. We reached all our goals, It was, and is, a very rewarding experience for all of us. The team functioned very well. All preparations came together in those 3 weeks. During and after the expedition we have received many positive e-mail messages about the cause of this dx-expedition.

QSL manager is Henk PA3AWW. All claimed QSL-cards that were received by direct mail or via the QSL-request page of our website, were sent out before Christmas 2007.

If you wish to get in contact with the 5L2MS team about other matters than QSL, please send an e-mail to the author.

Thanks.

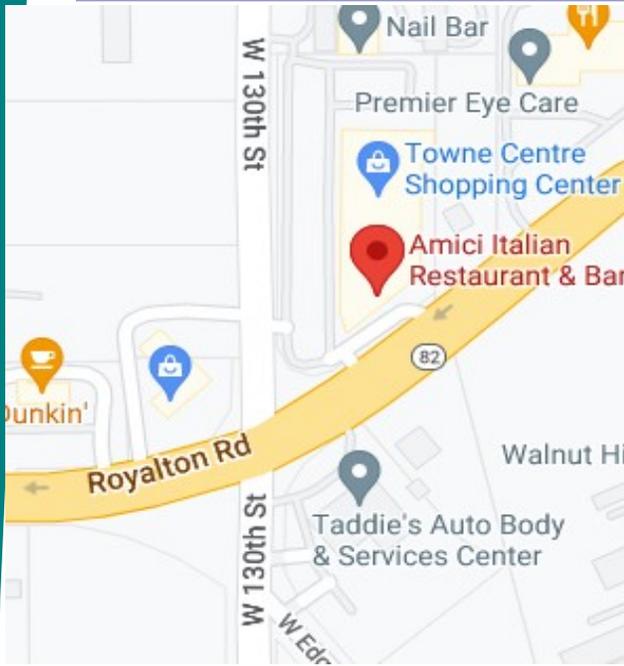
We would like to thank our direct sponsors and donating hams for all the help we got and are still getting. You can be sure about it that the Gaye Town Clinic will use it in a good way. We sincerely hope that we can help Liberia with your gifts and see this country being rebuilt step by step.

Our special thanks go to Marie Keevern of Mercy Ships. Without her support, this DX-pedition would not have been possible. Never!

For the 5L2MS team, Arie Kleingeld, PA3A
pa3a@hccnet.nl



Hope for the future



Meeting Information

NODXA Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the *Amici Italian Restaurant & Bar* at 13000 Royalton Road east of Interstate 71 on the northeast corner of Route 82 and West 130th. in North Royalton at 6:30 PM. Come early and have dinner and meet your fellow DXers and enter the 50/50 raffle.

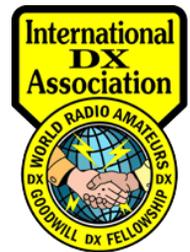
NODXA Information

N08DX: 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 2022-2023

President: Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)
 V. President: Dennis Stuber, K8LBT (440-628-1959)
 Secretary: Glenn Williams, AF8C (440-934-5566)
 Treasurer: Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)
 Newsletter: David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)



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DXCC Info

As of January 2018, 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, AF8C, K8YSE, PA3A and GDXF.