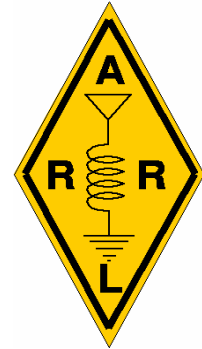


January-February 2008

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,



The year 2008 looks like it is going to be a banner year for Dxers and DXpeditions (wish the propagation was better). It looks like the year 2008 will be known as the year of many DXpeditions. Already several individuals and groups have activated DXCC's new entity St. Barthelemy (FJ), so this entity will move down the most wanted list fast. The first three months of 2008 have kept DXers busy with Bouvet Island (3Y0E), Duice Island (VP6DX), Cocos Island (TI9KK) and Clipperton Island (TX5C). As I am writing this (during the middle of March), two larger operations are active: Mauritania (5T5DC) and Rwanda (9X0R). These two DXpedition may not be high on the most wanted list, but they are fun to work.

Since I wrote last, there have been more major announcements of DXpeditions: Spratly Island (9M6/N1UR, late March), Glorioso Island (FR/g, May-early June), Timor-Leste (4W, June) and Marion Island (ZS8, sometime in 2008). Wow! what a year, and all the above taking place during the first half of 2008. Bring on the sunspots.

Oh, I almost forgot... We have the possibility of a new DXCC entity to be added to the DXCC list. Kosovo has declared itself independent from Serbia on February 17th. According to Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Manager, one of two things must happen before it get added to the DXCC list: 1) It becomes a member of the UN or 2) It receives a prefix bloc from the ITU. I believe the first item will not happen for a long while, but the second item will happen sooner. The date when one of the two happens is when Kosovo will be added to the list. So right now there is no hurry to work it because it still counts for Serbia.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that club dues will be due in May, and they are now \$20. Remember, your funds are to help promote DX and support DXpeditions.

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 November 5th, 2007 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:33pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 15 members and 1 guests present.



After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the October 1st meeting. Ron, K8VJG moved, seconded by Dwaine, K8ME, that the minutes be approved as read. The motion passed.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Tedd, KB8NW, reminded everyone that next years dues (starting May 1st) will be \$20.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the repeater is running okay.

Jim, K8MR, reported that the cluster is okay, but sometimes needed to be re-booted at the K8AZ end.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter was sent out yesterday, November 4th. He also reported that he needs articles and that the Treasurers report in the on-line version had been dropped. Members were advised by Tedd, KB8NW, to get Treasury information from the printed version.

Old-New Business:

Steve, N8IS, displayed the new Field Day direction signs. One for the site area and two for directions at the entrance and along the road. Each sign had a different direction arrow on each side so it could be placed appropriately. This also solved a problem which was discussed at length at a previous meeting.

Jim, K8MR, reported that the Ohio QSO Party logs were in and finalized. He thanked the club for its sponsorship of the DX Plaque award. Jim, K8MR, moved, seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, that the club sponsor the plaque for 2008. The donation amount would be \$85 and would include airmail cost, which this year was \$25 to Europe. The motion passed..

Jim, K8MR, moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the club pay the 2007 airmail cost of \$25. The motion passed.

Linda, N8LRS, moved, seconded by Dave, WD8IOU, that the club give a \$50 donation to Dan, WB8K's son who has prepared the Field Day video for the last two years. The motion passed.

Dwaine, K8ME, suggested that we have a club calendar. Steve, N8IS, reported that he had done it for CARS and that it was a real problem. Pete, N8TR, added that there are many on-line sources and that he had had good success.

Bruce, N8DJX, asked what has been happening with DX. Pete, N8TR, reported that he had good success in the CQWW-SSB contest. Pete also reported that Jim, K8MR, would be at PJ2T, Curacao, for the CQWW-CW contest. Pete further reported that Jeff, W0CG, had retired from Kent State Univ. and that he was building a station there.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had not received any requests for donations. He reported that Clipperton Island was coming up in March 2008 also, that Guinea Biseau, J5, was coming up and that Kosovo would become a new country at the end of 2008.

Al, K8EUR, reported that Motorola was buying Vertex Std. (Yaesu). He also commented DX contacts on 60 meters (5 MHz channelized band). Power is limited to 50 watts ERP. Using gray-line propagation is the rule.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Glenn, AF8C. The amount won was \$16.

The next meeting will be Monday, Dec 3rd.

The meeting was closed by the president, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

Minutes of the December 3rd, 2007 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 17 members and 1 guests present.



After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the November 5th meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Pete, N8TR, reported that the repeater is running okay. Pete also reported that the cluster was okay for the CQWW and the 160 meter contests.

Dave, WD8IOU, says that he needs articles for the newsletter. He also commented on Dwaine, K8ME's, joke pile.

Old-New Business:

Dwaine, K8ME, reported the following:

- that he had received a letter from the Repeater Council acknowledging that he had filed documentation.
- that he had received a stack of QSL cards for NODXA dating back to 1999.
- that W9DXCC has NODXA listed as a major contributor
- and that he had received a QSL card for his 160 meter contact with Japan

Tedd, KB8NW, reported the following:

- that Frank, DL7UFR, was an operator on the 9U4A Burundi team.
- Frank also gave Tedd a CD with pictures of the Burundi operation and that the scenery was very nice.
- there is a possibility of Steve, W4DTA / YV5DTA, a well-known DXer moving into our area, possibly Northfield, because of employment. He wants to join NODXA.

Tedd also reported that he had received a donation request for a DXpedition to Swan Island, HQ8R, a rare IOTA Island probably in Central America. There would be 4 stations. Their web site is at <http://www.hondurasdx.com>. No action was taken.

Tedd also took a poll as to how many were going on the trip to K3LR.

There was additional discussion about the K3LR trip and if everyone knew the directions and what information questions to ask while there.

Pete, N8TR, reported on the merits of WinTest, a contest logging program, costing 40 Euros. The program does not contain all state QSO Party's nor all RTTY contests, but all the other big contests are there.

Linda, N8LRS, received her WAC Award. She is working on DXCC and has 30 contacts confirmed. The Route 66 operating award was passed around with some very nice comments about it.

Bruce, N8DJX, asked about anything new in DX. Pete, N8TR, reported that the ARRL is way behind in processing QSL cards for DXCC. LOTW is a much faster way to go about it.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that nothing great was happening at this time. February and March will be big months. The flux is still way down and 10 meters is very sporadic. Some key sunspots have not shown up as yet for the new solar cycle to begin.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 7th.

The 50-50 raffle of \$14 was won by Ron, W8WH. Ron donated the amount back to the club treasury.

Bob, W8GC, reported on the upcoming CARS Christmas Party to be held at the Independence Civic Center on December 15th. Tickets are \$15. Reservations may be made at 2cars.org.

In closing, Tedd, KB8NW, wished everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays.

The meeting was closed at 8:11pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

Hard to the right! By Paul Dunphy, VE1DX



One of the Local QRPers was by the other day, and he made his way up the hill. He was a little out of breath, so he sat down and looked at us with a puzzled look. We were going to ask what was going on, but we decided to wait him out. Finally he said, "You know, as a DXer, you don't find me rag-chewing very often, but since the bands are flat most days at the bottom of the cycle, I got on 20 this morning and worked a few of the louder stations. Nothing new, but I was just in the mood for talking." We nodded and replied, "Nothing wrong with that. Every QSO doesn't have to be a machine gun speed 59 and a new one." "I know", he replied, "but this fellow I was talking to, he has me confused. He wanted me to run more power." "So you were hard to copy? That's a reasonable thing for him to ask. And with your new amp, you sure make the electricity company happy when they calculate your power bill!" we said with a grin. "That's the confusing part", he replied, "I was running about 300 watts and he gave me a 20 dB over report. And when we got around to discussing our stations, I told him about my amp, and that I was running 300 watts to a yagi. You know, the usual stuff. Anyhow, he asked me if my amp was broken!"

Son of a Gun! We were starting to get a glimpse of what was going on, but we needed to hear more. "This fellow you were working, was he also strong?" "Sure was", came the reply, "He was the loudest signal on the band. He said he had a big amplifier and stacked yagis at 110 feet. That's why I didn't bother to use very much power. Besides, we are only supposed to use the lowest amount of power to make the QSO. That's right in the rules. But that's not the point. If I was 20 dB over, why did he want me to run full smoke?"

We thought we knew the answer, but so as not to give this QRPer poor advice, we hauled him further up the hill to see the Old Timer. We found him out back of the house, down in the field, soldering more wire on to the end of his Beverage. The QRPer repeated the story, ending with, "And if he was hearing me 20 dB over, why did he ask if my amp was broken? He must have known it wasn't." The Old Timer put down the soldering gear and turned to the QRPer. "Son", he said, "you found another DXer who decided to rag-chew today, that's all."

"Yes, yes, I figured that out because he was talking about his DXCC totals and he was telling me all about how he was planning to work the upcoming Ducie operation on all the bands, even 160. How did you know he was a DXer?"

The Old Timer looked at the QRPer for a moment and then said, "DXers don't run 300 watts when they can run full smoke. DXers don't use their towers at 30 feet when they can crank them up to 100 feet. A DXer never gets on the air unless he has the antenna as high as it will go, and all knobs on everything turned hard to the right. If you want to be a true DXer, you have to learn this. Everything is always full bore! Mic gain hard over, never look at the ALC reading on the rig, and never hook the ALC line up between the rig and the amp. Most importantly, never, ever use the amp unless it is tuned to get out every last watt. Every DXer knows this!" And he turned around and started soldering his Beverage again. It was clear this was all we were going to hear on the subject.

As we walked down the hill, the QRPer asked us, "Why did he say that? It doesn't make sense. The regulations are quite clear. You are only supposed to run the minimum amount of power necessary to make the QSO, and if you overdrive your mic, it will likely sound raspy and abrasive, and you likely will be wide and splatter over someone else. Why did he tell me to do that?"

Son of a Gun! What could we say? It was clear this QRPer didn't get it. He was not quite ready to become a true blue DXer. So all we could do was repeat the same old refrain, and hope that someday he would attain enlightenment. "It's one of the Mysteries of the Ages and the Eternal Enigmas of DXing, son. Only the Deserving will work the DX." "But what about running excessive

power and the regulations?" he repeated. We just looked at him and shrugged. Sooner or later he'd figure it out. Meanwhile we had to put that new tube in our own amp, because we sure didn't want to be in the third tier when the VP6DX operation opened up. DX IS!

Paul Dunphy, VE1DX

K3LR Field Trip

By David Autry, WD8IOU

On December 8, 2007 a group of hams from the CARS and NODXA clubs took a field trip for the world famous K3LR multi-multi contest station in West Middlesex, Pennsylvania. We all met at a central location near the Ohio turnpike and then had a little convoy to the site.

Once there we were divided into two groups. The first group was given a tour of the station by Scott Jones, N3RA, while the second group was lead by Tim Duffy, K3LR, who gave a detailed explanation of all the aluminum in the air and wire on the ground. The groups then switched leaders and the process was repeated.

After the tour was complete, we headed over to the Original Quaker State and Lube in Sharon, Pennsylvania for lunch. The food and service was good and everybody had a great time.

This tour was an informative look at what it takes to design, build, and operate a world class award winning multi-multi contest station. I would like to thank K3LR and N3RA for their hospitality and the opportunity to see such a wonderful station up close.



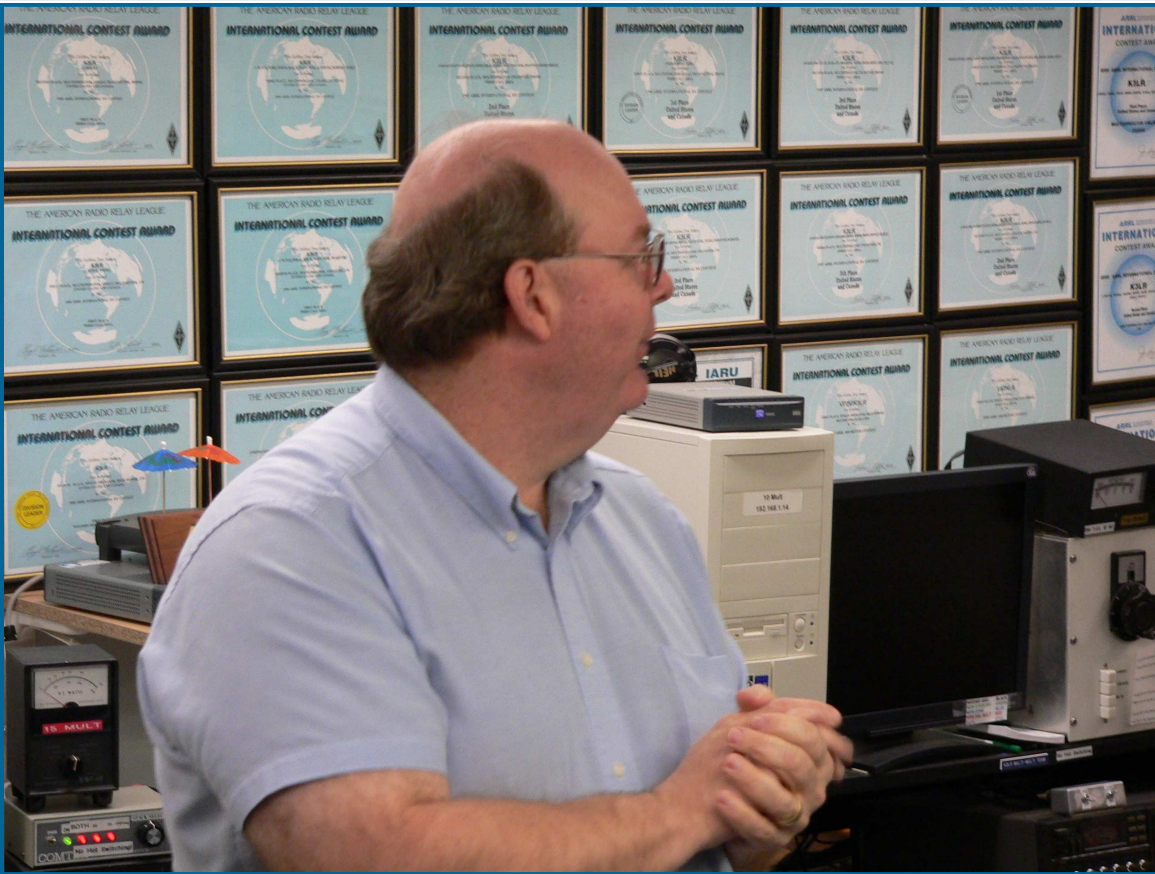
We had a good crowd for the K3LR tour!



There is plenty of aluminum in the air at K3LR!



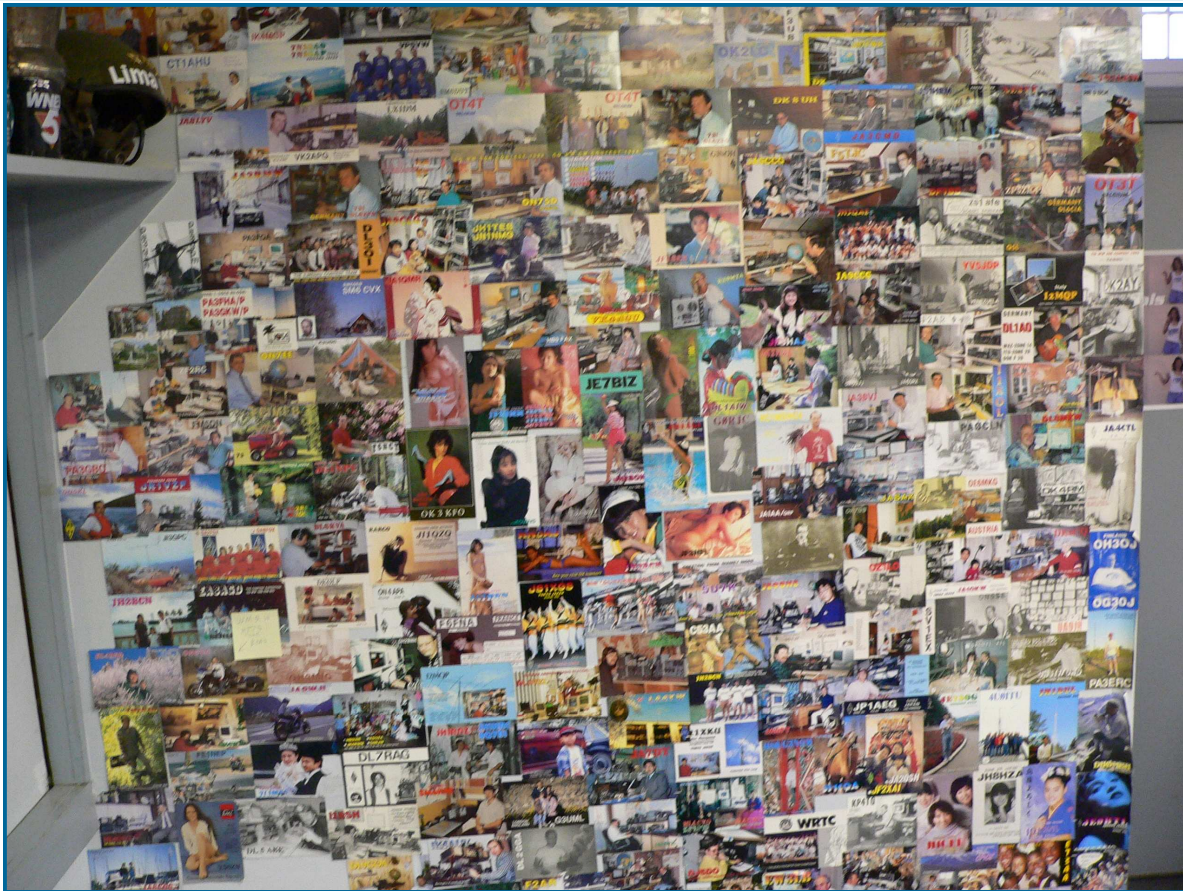
It's a bird! It's a plane! It's SuperTenna!



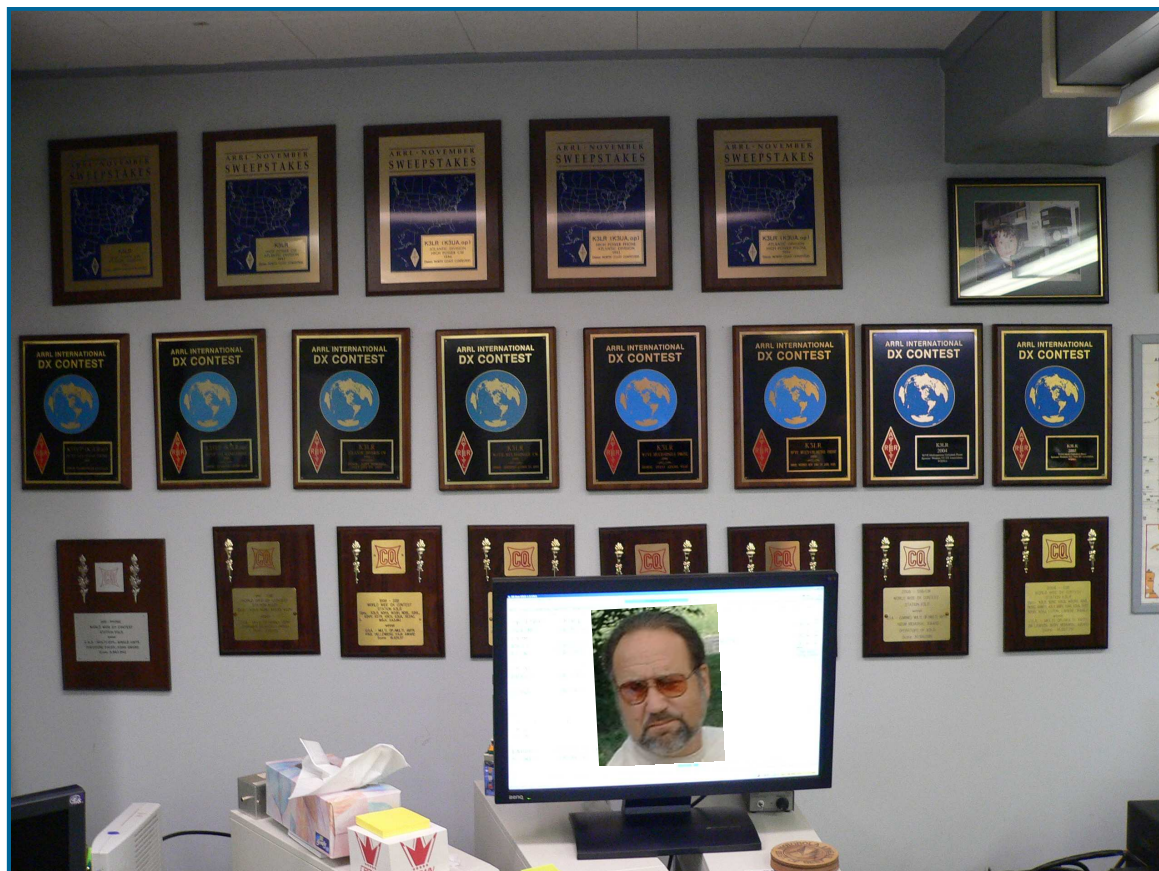
Scott, N3RA, explaining the organization and details of the multiple operating positions.



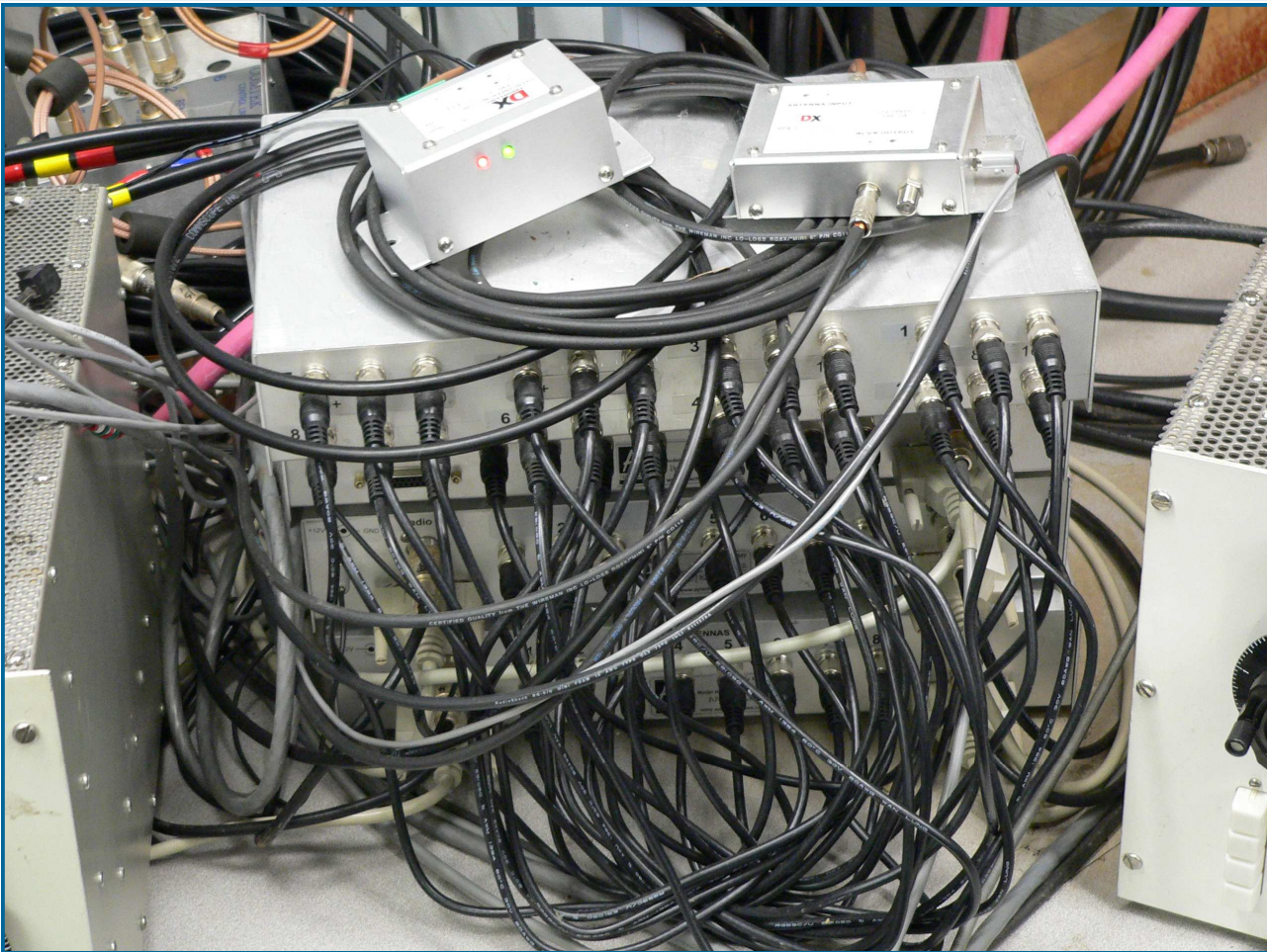
Close-up of one of the operating positions. Notice the home-brew amplifier on the right!



Some of the more interesting QSL cards at K3LR.



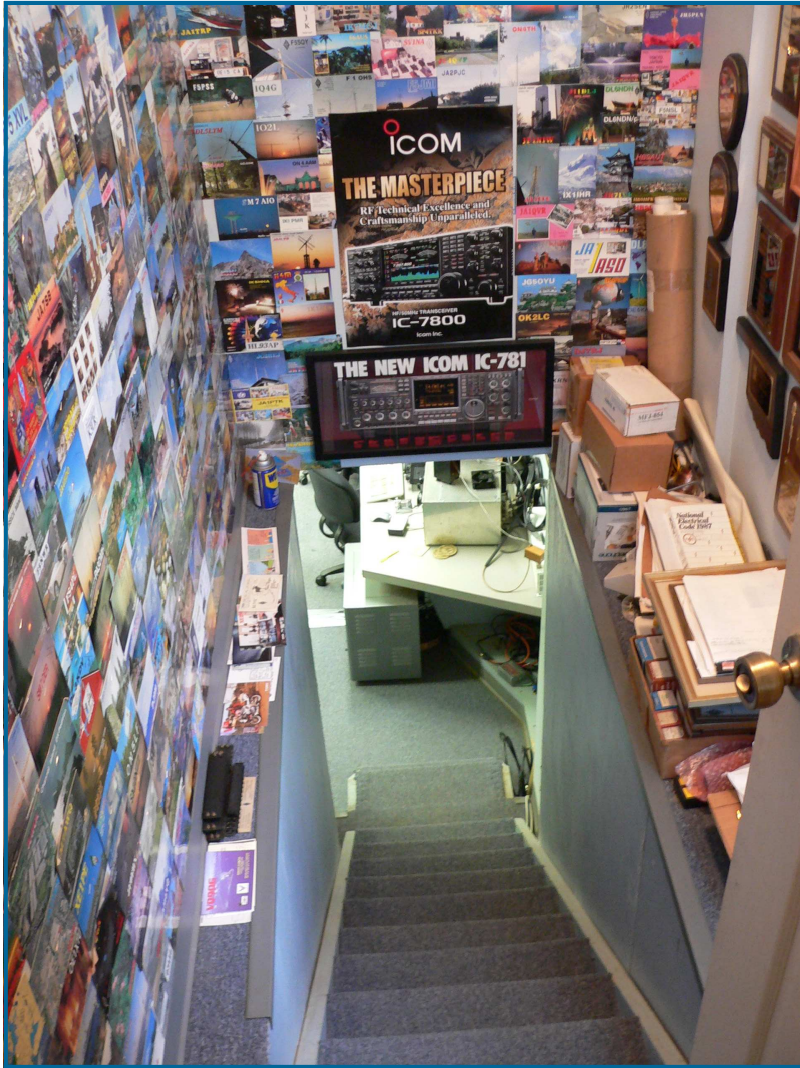
Very nice wall paper! Look at all those awards!



As you can imagine at a station like this, there are wires everywhere!



Ron, K8VJG, Tedd, KB8NW, and John, K8YSE, thanking Tim, K3LR, for the tour.



I thought that this is an interesting view of the stairway down to the contest station.



A few final pictures of the magnificent antennas at K3LR.



ISSUE
217

THE DXERS MAGAZINE

AN OPERATING
AID FOR MORE
AND BETTER DX

JULY 21
1971

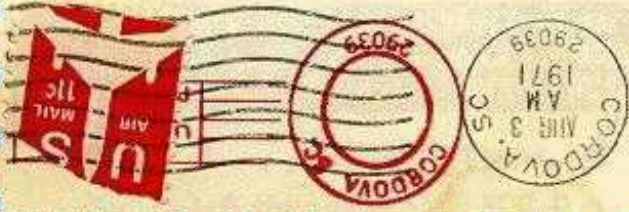


T19J/T19CF OPERATING POSITION AND OPERATORS

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ENOS, W4VPD-CARLOS, T19CF-DON, K1CBZ- AND JOSE-T12J. FEB. 1971 DXPEDITION. THEY CAUGHT 2 - 3½ FT SHARKS, DRANK COOL MOUNTAIN WATER! T12J SHOT 2 WILD MOUNTAIN GOATS WHICH THEY ATE FOR DINNER ON THE BOAT. OPERATED FROM BOTTOM OF MOUNTAIN BECAUSE IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO GET TO THE TOP ON ACCOUNT OF THE JUNGLE THICKETS. WOULD HAVE TOOK TWO WEEKS TO CHOPPED THEIR WAY TO THE TIP TIP! ISLAND ABOUT 7 BY 7 MILES. 800 FT TALL, 400FT W. FALLS.

AIR MAIL

FROM
THE DXERS MAGAZINE
DRAWER "B"
CORDOVA, S.C. 29039
U. S. A.



Remember when, before the internet, how we got our DX info? (Photo courtesy of K2CD)

Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

54th Annual HAMFEST ELECTRONIC, AND COMPUTER SHOW

Sunday, April 20, 2008 - 8 AM to 1:30 PM

Same Huge Location - All On One Floor

Emidio & Sons Party Center

48 E. Bath Road

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Admission: \$6 at the door, \$5 in advance

Check in on the club's repeater: 147.27+ and win a mobile checkin prize!

More information at: www.cfarc.org/hamfest2008.htm

FOR SALE

- Hy-Gain HG54HD Tower with TH7DX plus D3W Rotatable dipole and raising fixture
- Pair of Stacked 2-Meter Beams
- 2-440 Vertical Antenna
- Five-position Remote Antenna Transfer Switch
- Tail Twister Rotor with modified control box
- 2K Alternator (Gasoline Powered)
- Hy-Gain 80-40 Dipole
- 160-meter with loading coil
- Sears 2200 watt gasoline generator

Asking price \$3,000

- TS-570D with Computer Control Cable
- Henry 2KD5
- Two brand new spares
- Ameritron AL80
- Two used spares
- Nye Viking Antenna Tuner
- Miscellaneous Accessories, such as MFJ259B and others
- FT990 Transceiver
- (1) 20-Amp Power Supply
- (2) 30-Amp Power Supplies

Asking price \$3,000

CONTACT: Stan Haase, K8VI

K8vi@sbcglobal.net

or (440) 842-6154.

Prefer to sell each listing as a complete package. Priced to sell!



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

N08DX: Special Event Callsign
W8DXA: NODXA Repeater 147.360
K8MR: PacketCluster 144.91 & 145.57

Web-site: <http://www.papays.com/nodxa.html>

Newsletter Submission: wd8iou@adelphia.net

NODXA Club Officials for 2007-2008

President:	Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW	(440-237-2816)
V. President:	Dwaine Modock, K8ME	(440-582-3462)
Secretary:	Al Moriarty, N8CX	(216-221-3682)
Treasurer:	Mary Michaelis, N8DMM	(440-236-5426)
Newsletter:	David Autry, WD8IOU	(440-238-0417)



DXCC Info

As of December 2007, the current DXCC Entities total is: **338**.

NODXA Application and Renewal Form

The Northern Ohio DX Association is a non-profit organization with a primary interest in DXing. We encourage all DXers to join our group and share the interest and fun of DXing.

Please complete the application below and send along your appropriate dues or renewal to:

NODXA, P.O. Box 361624 , Strongsville, Ohio 44136

First Time Membership/Renewal (U.S. and DX) **\$20.00**

Name _____ Callsign _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____

Country _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

ARRL Member? _____ Exp. Date _____ DXCC Member? _____

Special Interest _____

Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, K8ME, VE1DX, and K2CD.