



*"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"*

# The NODXA RAG

NO8DX - Special Event Callsign  
W8DXA - NODXA Repeater 147.360  
K8MR - PacketCluster 144.91 & 145.57

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

Newsletter: [wd8iou@adelphia.net](mailto:wd8iou@adelphia.net)

Northern Ohio DX Association  
P.O. Box 450783  
Westlake, Ohio  
44145 U.S.A.



**February-March 2005**

## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Since I last wrote my "Fireside Chat" the DX community was expecting the 3Y0X DXpedition to be active on the air. However, that did not happen due to transportation problems, and now the DXpedition is postponed until 2006. I guess those who need Peter I Island will have to wait another year for this one.

As this was being written, "The "Microlite Penguins DXpedition Team" was on their way to Kerguelen Island (FT5X), and they are expected to be on the air by March 18-19th. This rare French Island should excite a very large crowd of DXers. The callsign is unknown as I am writing, but activity is expected to last until April 2nd. The DXpedition Team leader is James Brooks, 9V1YC, which means there will be another fantastic DXpedition video available by him.

Another rare French island that is expected to hit the airwaves in the coming months is Glorioso

Island (FR/G or TO4G). There is not a whole lot of details on this one, but activity should take place in May (hopefully not during the Dayton HamVention).

Did someone say "Dayton HamVention"? Can you believe it? It is less than a couple of months away (May 20-22nd). Individuals are already asking, "Will the convention be well attended or will the crowds be down this year due to gasoline prices and 9/11 again?" Hopefully not. Anyway, I am looking forward to attending the SWODXA DX Dinner Banquet and meeting all the DXers/Contesters at the NODXA Hospitality Suite.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone (an early reminder) that the ARRL Field Day is only about three months away. WE NEED NIGHTTIME OPERATORS. Please make plans to attend this year.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

## Minutes of the February 7th, 2005 NODXA Meeting

The meeting which was held at Gourmet Deli and Restaurant in Strongsville, Ohio was called to order at 7:39 PM by Vice President Dwaine K8ME. The around the room introductions followed by the 20 members/guest in attendance.

A balance of \$Ka-Ching! exists in the treasury as reported by Mary N8DMM.

Jim K8MR and Pete N8TR reported on the packet cluster.

Articles for the Newsletter are requested by Dave WD8IOU.

The Toledo Hamfest is to be held on March 19, 2005 and the Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest will be on April 17, 2005 as informed to us by Dwaine K8ME.

Jim K8MR opened a discussion on E-mailing.

A discussion of Field Day to be held in June, 2005 was opened by Dwaine K8ME.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Carl K8BCK. His share was \$19.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM by Dwaine K8ME.

Following the meeting, a video on the Banaba Island Dxpediton was shown.

Secretary: Ron, K8VJG.

---

## Minutes of the March 7th, 2005 NODXA Meeting

The meeting which was held at Gourmet Deli and Restaurant in Strongsville, Ohio, was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Tedd Mirglotta, KB8NW.

An around the room introductions were made by the 18 members and guests, who were in attendance.

Secretary Ron Borkry, K8VJG, was not present to read February's meeting minutes. Motion was made by Bruce Bacik, N8DJX, to table the minutes until the April meeting. It was seconded by John Papay and passed by membership.

A balance of \$Ka-Ching! exists in the treasury

as reported by Mary, Michaelis, N8DMM.

Ray Brown/W8BIN and Denny Jakubisin/WB8K informed members on the status of the 2 meter repeater.

Pete Michaelis, N8TR, reported on the status of the NODXA's PacketCluster.

Club Newsletter Editor, David Autry, WD8IOU, was not present for a report. The Club President reminded members to send articles to Dave for the newsletter.

A discussion on Dayton HamVention activities took place. Several NODXA members will be present at the SWODXA DX Dinner at the HamVention.

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, reported receiving some QSL cards from the club's Field Day activities in 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Club President received an E-mail from the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) thanking NODXA for their VU4 donation. They also mentioned, with regret, that the VU4 QSL cards were printed before receiving the club's donation and they were unable to list the club's name on the QSL card. However, the club's name will be listed on their Web page.

Club President received an E-mail from the Peter I Team informing the club that we have an option to receive their donation back for the cancelled 2005 DXpedition or put the donation towards the 2006 DXpedition. Membership decided to put the donation towards the 2006 DXpedition.

Club President received an E-mail from Joca, PS7JN, requesting a donation towards a new radio. He reports that he will be going to St. Peter and Paul Rocks (about 3-4 time in 2005), and that the salt and weather there has been damaging his radios. Karl Gruber, K8BCK, made a motion to donate \$50.00 toward a radio for Joca. Seconded by Byron Berger, KF8UN, and passed by membership.

Discussion took place about the new GoList Program for DX/Contest Clubs.

Club President opened the floor for nominations for 2005 club officers. Nominations for the current incumbent President, Vice President and Treasurer were accepted and unopposed. Incum-

bent Secretary was not present and his acceptance is pending until April meeting.

Club President reminded everyone that "Field Day" is coming, and we are looking for nighttime operators.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Karl, K8BCK. His share was \$16.00. Karl has donated \$5.00 towards Joca's, PS7JN, radio. Joca will now receive \$55.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM by Club President.

Club President: Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW.

---

## Broad Changes Proposed In DXCC Program

Francis Vesci, W1NK, via eHam.net

In a decision that is sure to stun the amateur community, the ARRL & the DXCC Department have proposed sweeping changes in how the award and subsequent endorsement levels are attained.

The changes are being brought about as the result of numerous complaints to the DXCC desk about amateur conduct during Dx'peditions over the past 10+ years. The DXCC department first started hearing complaints in the late 80's - early 90's. Mostly about people tuning on frequency or the occasional "cop" who would constantly tell others "up, up, up!" But as of late the complaints have grown. The most common complaint has been deliberate QRM as evidenced during such expeditions to Scarborough Reef (BS7), Chesterfield Island (TX9), and most recently, Kerguelen Island (FT5X).

Before the DX Advisory and Awards Committees, is a proposal that, beginning in January 2007, would essentially wipe the slate of all DX'ers clean, thus resetting their totals to 0. In place of QSL card submissions, amateurs would be allowed to sit for a 2 part written examination. Part 1 would cover operating procedures while Part 2 would be an oral-practical in which DX'ers would be given a country prefix and must then name the country and its great circle bearing. Only after successful completion of Part 1

would an amateur be allowed to sit for Part 2. DXCC would be credited upon successfully naming at least 100 countries. After naming the initial 100, the candidate would then have the option to obtain endorsements. Endorsements would be given in increments of 25. Of course, the potential to "work them all" exists for those who are able to name every active DXCC entity. An optional Part 3 will be available to those DX'ers who feel confident enough to name the deleted countries, again, based on prefix only (the great circle bearing requirement would be waived).

Certificates will be available for the initial 100 countries and endorsement stickers will also be available. An Honor Roll plaque will be available for those who "work them all". A cut crystal cup will be available to those who name the entire active as well as all the deleted entities in one sitting. Separate Don Miller and Gus Browning endorsements will be available to those who can name those countries Don and Gus operated from.

---

## Reflecting

Jim Weaver, K8JE

Director, Great Lakes Division ARRL

I don't mean the type of reflecting we count on for bouncing signals in Earth-Moon-Earth communication or even the Earth-Ionosphere-Earth-Ionosphere, etc. The reflecting to which I refer is on the past. Even at @\$ years young, I don't dwell much on the past except to try to learn from it. There is too much to do now and in the future. On the other hand it is rather useful to think of where I've been, where I am and where I want to go.

With the above background laid, I will apply reflection to Amateur Radio. On a personal plane, my reflection reminded me I had absolutely no aspiration to become even a little fish in the pool of a small ham club. My objectives changed, though, and I moved up the positions to hold a number of leadership positions in clubs and, surprise of all surprises, in ARRL. I even told one of my friends (an SK now) I had absolutely no aspi-

ration to run for any form of office in the League. This was 100% true at the time, but my interests and objectives changed.

At one time, I told anyone who would listen that DXing may be a nice thing to do, but it offered no particular value to the community. The real game, I said again and again, was "emergency communication." I spent 20 years working as a leader in ARES/ARPS and Civil Defense (now the EMA). But, now, I am a DXer. I still say Emergency Communications is THE most important phase of Amateur Radio, but I've learned it isn't the only thing. So, after redirecting my Amateur Radio career, I hold 5 Band DXCC and am on the list of hams who have earned a DX Challenge plaque. Things change. We do not stay the same year after year.

About DX offering no particular value to the community: The recent VU4 DXpedition has caused me to eat my words about the value of DXing to the community. This DXpedition party was the first to report the devastating tsunami in the Far East. This group as well as other DXers in and out of the stricken area stayed on the air as the only contacts between victimized areas and relief forces for several days after the incident. Thank goodness for DXers!

OK, so what is the point of all this waste of bytes? It is simple. One major fact of life is that nearly each of us goes through changes in interests over the years. As a result, we individuals do not dare to make fun of the interests of anyone else. It just could be that we may see our preferences redirected

sometime in the future to the very activity that we deride today. Exercise -- even enjoy -- legitimate differences.

Fine tuning this, don't go around bashing others because they have no desire to communicate beyond the range of VHF and UHF repeaters. They are hams just as much as DXers or public service-oriented folks. Similarly, don't put Techs down because you have a higher license class; put no code licensees down because you passed 13 or 20 wpm. They are just as much radio amateurs as those of us who became Extras under the 20 wpm requirement. Laws and regulations change. People change. Situations change.

Rather than dividing the ham ranks into no code vs. coded licensees, or Old Timers vs. newbies, or traffic handlers vs. DXers, ad nauseum, let's pull together in a never-before-seen manner for the good of Amateur Radio. OK. I'm off my Ivory Soap box.



Guess who? NODXA member, Carl, K8AV, sent me this picture of him operating from a MARS station in Germany around 1957. Carl says that he used this state-of-the-art station to make phone patch calls to his mother back in Cleveland and that is when the HAM bug bit. Look at all those nice boat anchors!

# My Dog Thinks He is a Cat, But He Can Copy Code

Fred Hambrecht, W4JLE, via eHam.net

First let me explain why my dog, Rocko- a small Chihuahua, thinks he is a cat. I will get to the code part in just a minute. He was raised with a cat that slipped this mortal coil a few years ago. If you have ever been around a Chihuahua, they have two major rules they live by. First they own their human and second no one other than them is to receive any attention. Prior to our cat assuming room temperature a call of "kitty kitty" created a furor as Rocko, feeling he was missing out on attention, would bound into the room as the cat feigned indifference. I take you through all this because we have just moved to a new home here in South Carolina. Picture if you will the neighbors as we pulled into our new home, my Subaru wagon replete with a screw-driver antenna and an Arrow 2/440 J-pole mounted on the roof led the procession.

Several days later they observed me calling "kitty kitty" to entice my dog back into the house. Their suspicions were confirmed, a total nut ball had moved into the neighborhood!

That all changed after Rocko's appearance on the Letterman show! But, I am getting ahead of myself. For the past 70 dog years he has laid on my lap as I was teaching code to prospective amateurs. My XYL had even absorbed enough that sending "food" or "coffee" on the practice oscillator would bring a sandwich or the requested coffee. Little did I suspect that Rocko had noted the connection. I was setting on the couch watching the ole modulated milk bottle when he began barking "DiDiDaDit DaDaDa DadiDit" (he, like me, is not a very good speller). I got up and filled his food bowl and assumed he had just learned a sound and hoped to get results.

I was not prepared for the consequences of the simple act of filling his bowl, for the next few hours he was like Patty Duke in the miracle worker! He would go to an object in the room and act all excited. I would send the name of the object on the oscillator and if he understood

would bark "DiDaDit". He gained a bit of fame in the neighborhood as a dog that understood code. Several professors from the local university came by and stated emphatically he did not understand code, he just associated sound with objects and it was a conditioned response. Needless to say I was really disappointed. This all changed one day, as I removed him from my lap and set him on the desk, so I could retrieve a chew of Redman. His wagging tail hit the paddle and emitted a sound! Like any novice it took a while to develop a readable "tail". At first after a few words his tail would cramp up and he had to quit. Within weeks he was able to send at about 15 WPM and copy 10. It was shortly after that we were invited to the Letterman show to be on "stupid pet tricks"

Those of you watching that night may have noticed that Dave ticked Rocko off by making fun of him. When he asked Rocko to send something, I translated it as "He is glad to be on the show", only me and some of the hams watching knows he really sent "Dave you are one supercilious SOB".

He really got the big head after being on the show and got a lot more obnoxious. During the last election, he being a "yellow dog democrat" would sneak in and send "bushs are to pee on" and then run around the house barking "Hi Hi" while I fumed!

My only reason for subjugating my fellow hams to this tale of woe is to apologize to all of you in the pile up on the lower end of 80 meters last night, who thought you were working R Zero CKO, It was just my dog screwing around! I am truly sorry.

I have to run, he is at the rig again. His speed is now up to 35 WPM and as I don't copy that fast I have to write down the dits and dahs and read it later...

DiDa DiDaDaDit DiDaDit DiDit DiDaDiDit  
DiDiDaDit DaDaDa DaDaDA DiDaDiDit

If any of you doubt this story I can send you a picture of my car with the dog in it!

---

## Notes from KL7

NODXA member Phil Sauvey, KL8DX,  
(formally KE8RO) recently moved from warm and

sunny Northern Ohio to Alaska. Phil sent me an email asking a few questions but also gave a nice report on how things are going with getting his new QTH on the air:

Hope all is well down there in Ohio! Our days are getting longer and warmer here in downtown Alaska. Life is good, DX'ing has been poor but the bands are starting to take on life up here, finally.

Thanks in advance and I will have my station in full operation this summer. I have my Rohn tower in the garage ready to go up this summer once the ground thaws enough (probably will be late May into early June. I hope to have my big amp in operation about the same time but I need to run 220 into the shack first. I currently can work 10 thru 40 with a beam on 6 meters. I have only had one okay six meter opening up here this season (that I caught anyhow). I work weekends currently so it is hard for me to put any long hours on during the contests but have been trying to get on as much as possible.

I worked the CW contest last weekend and hope to be on RTTY this coming weekend. I am plagued with high winds where I live (we live in a mountain pass that has constant wind) and my vertical (my only current operational HF antenna) is buried in a snow bank. I could not get to it right now if I wanted. But, it works well being surrounded by snow. Winter snuck up on me last fall so I only got one tower installed and that has my local VHF stuff and my 6 meter beam on it. I am at a elevation of over 2000 feet and I have a nice path to the SE toward the lower 48. I am surrounded by mountains but that direction looks pretty good! Can't wait to get my beam up and finally be able to point and shoot.

Once I get my station in full operation, I will send along some photos of my QTH and a small blurb for the newsletter. Take care and the best of DX to you and all of my fellow NODXA members!

73, Phil, KL8DX

Check out Phil's web page at:

[www.dempsey2.com](http://www.dempsey2.com)

## CQ DX Field Award

*ARRL Letter*

CQ magazine has introduced the CQ DX Field Award to recognize making two-way contact with at least 50 of the world's 324 "grid fields." The CQ DX Field Award is based on the Maidenhead Grid Locator system, already popular among VHF DXers and contesters, in which the world is divided--based on latitude and longitude--into 324 10x20-degree fields, and each field is broken up into 100 1x2 degree grid squares or locators.

CQ DX Awards Endorsements will be issued for each additional 50 fields up to 150. Further endorsements will be available in increments of 25 fields, up to the 324 maximum. Contacts made on or after January 1, 1980--when the grid system was adopted for Amateur Radio use--may be applied toward the new award.

Full details and rules will appear in the April 2005 issue of CQ and posted on the magazine's Web site <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>>.

---

## New QST Column

*ARRL Letter*

"Getting to Know Your Radio" debuts in the April edition of QST. Author and ARRL Product Review Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, says the column "basically talks about what all those knobs do" on modern equipment.

"The idea is to acquaint users with the typical features of modern radios." Hallas says there was a time when radio receivers were pretty easy to understand--in some cases not all that much different from the broadcast set in the kitchen or living room--so most new amateurs could quickly learn their way around the front panel. It's a new world now.

"It's fair to say that modern transceivers have come a long way since the boat anchors of

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, K8VJG, K8YSE, W1NK, K8JE, K8AV, W4JLE, KL8DX, WB8K, eHam.net, and the ARRL Letter.

### NODXA Club Officials for 2003-2004

President - Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)  
V. President - Dwaine Modock, K8ME (440-582-3462)  
Secretary - Ron Borkey, K8VJG (440-237-6718)  
Treasurer - Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)  
Newsletter Editor - David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)

As of March 2002  
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

# 335

the 1950s and earlier," he says.

"Many transceiver makers seem to sell their wares by claiming the most and newest features." As a result, modern ham transceivers can be pretty intimidating, making operation daunting for newcomers and veterans alike.

The first installment of "Getting to Know Your Radio" will cover the now-popular--and common--passband tuning feature. Hallas says a column on audio compression systems is in the works.

### Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Sunday, April 17, 2005, 8 AM– 2 PM  
Emidio and Sons Party Center

48 E. Bath Road at the corner of State Road  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

ADMISSION: \$5

See <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2005.htm> for more information.



NODXA member, Denny, WB8K, sent this scan of a nice certificate he won. Here is his comments: "This was one of the 3B9C DXpedition contest awards. They called it the 'Nevada' award. Note the category, guess my 500 watts on a good day is 'high power'. The certificate is 11.5" x 16" on a semi glossy stock". Great job Denny!



**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 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 450783, Westlake, Ohio 44145**

First Time Membership/Renewal (U.S.)	\$12.00
Foreign Membership (outside U.S.)	\$22.00
*Foreign Membership (no printed newsletter) (but w/Web access for newsletter)	\$12.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member?  Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ DXCC Member?

Special Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter circulation: Pete Michaelis **N8TR**, Mary Michaelis **N8DMM**, and "Radio Ray" **W8BIN**

**Dated Material  
Please Rush**



The Northern Ohio DX Association  
P.O. Box 450783  
Westlake, Ohio 44145 U.S.A