



"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@arrl.net

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



April 2003

Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

There were some mixed reviews about last month's meeting place, but as you can see by the meeting's minutes, we are giving "The Bone-Yard" a second chance. Most of the complaints were about the noise and the rooms size. Ron, K8VJG, has talked to the General Manager of "The "BoneYard", and he has agreed to turn the music down in the restaurant during the meeting.

As far as the size of the room, yes, it is a little small, but I think with some moving/organizing the tables better we can make it more comfortable. Besides, I think we had more people attending the meeting than normal. There will actually two big pluses about the place. No one complained about the food, and some mentioned they liked the wide variety of food.

Also, those who stuck around for the video last month were impressed with the large screen TV. If "The BoneYard" May meeting does not meet the club's needs we will continue to look elsewhere.

Lastly, the Dayton HamVention is getting closer. I hope everyone who attends will visit the club's hospitality suite. This year's event will be special and dedicated to Jim Hire, W8ZET (SK). Also, just a reminder that it is that time of the year to renew your club dues.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

Moving Sale

IC765 --1200.00
TS940SAT with Speaker--900.00
IC25A--90.00
Henry 2K4A Amp floor model with extra set 3-500Z tubes--900.00
Hazer H4 by Glen Martin--250.00
Johnston Commercial Radio set up for Packet--90.00
Sommers XP807 Beam covers 40 meters to 10 meters--450.00

Jerry Kurucz, WB8LFO (440) 282-2123
wb8lfo@centurytel.net

Minutes of the April 7th, 2003 NODXA Meeting

The meeting, which was held at the Boneyard in Broadview Heights, was opened at 8:04 PM by Tedd, KB8NW, followed by the around the room introductions by the 29 members/guests in attendance.

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

Dues are due for the year 2003 as reminded to us by Tedd, KB8NW.

Pete, N8TR, reported on the packet cluster.

There will be a Hospitality Suite in Dayton this year as stated by Tedd, KB8NW.

Tedd, KB8NW, commented on this year's Field Day.

A report on the DX-pedition of the Year was given by George, K8KR, and was followed by a discussion. Several groups were recommended. A vote was taken and the VP6DI, Ducie Island, group was elected for this award. A motion to allot \$100.00 for a plaque for this purpose was made by George, K8KR, and seconded by John, K8YSE. A vote was taken and passed.

Jim, K8MR, informed us on this year's Ohio QSO Party. Pete, N8TR, and seconded by Ray, W8BIN, made a motion to have a plaque made for the Ohio QSO Party. A vote was taken and passed.

A discussion on the use of the new meeting site was

opened by Tedd, KB8NW. A motion was made by John, K8YSE, and seconded by Karl, K8BCK, to return to the Boneyard for the May meeting. A vote was taken and passed.

Nick, W8XD, won the 50\50 raffle. His share was \$24.00.

Tedd, KB8NW, adjourned the meeting at 8:41PM.

Following the meeting a DVD video on WRTC, World Radio-sport Team Championship was shown.

Secretary: Ron, K8VJG.

DXpedition of The Year Award

At the April 7th Meeting, the NODXA DXpedition of the Year committee, consisting of George, K8KR, Bob, W3HKK, and Byron, KF8UN, presented it's recommendations for the NODXA Annual DXPedition of the Year Award to the membership.

The leading candidates were: PWOT - TI9M - VP6CI - CYO - and the P5 Operations. All were characterized by:

- efficient, reliable, predictable on the air operations
- outstanding planning and teamwork
- a consistently friendly, courteous, cooperative attitude that reflect well on the amateur radio community
- fairness in their distribution of contacts to all areas of the world
- and last but not least, reliable QSLing.

During the animated discussion, led by George, K8KR, the 28 members in attendance selected VP6DI as their top DXPedition for the year 2002, just edging the P5, and followed by PWOT, TI9M and the CYO operations.

\$100 has been awarded to cover the plaque which is to be presented by The Club at the Dayton Hamvention 2003. Thanks to all who participated!

Bob W3HKK

Armed Forces Day

ARRL Letter

The US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will cosponsor the annual military/Amateur Radio cross-band communications tests May 10-11. The event will mark the 53rd celebration of Armed Forces Day. Although Armed Forces Day actually is Saturday, May 17, the Armed Forces Day Amateur Radio event is held a week earlier to avoid conflicting with Hamvention.

The event features a military-to-amateur crossband communications SSB voice test and the Secretary of Defense message receiving test. During the crossband test, 14 military stations will listen on amateur frequencies and transmit on selected MARS frequencies. Most military stations will commence operation at 1200 UTC on May 10. Amateurs are asked to limit contacts to two minutes or less.

Eight military stations will

transmit the Secretary of Defense's Armed Forces Day message at stated intervals via digital modes, including RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, CLOVER and MT63. QSLs and certificates are available. More information is available on the ARRL Web site www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/af-day/armdfrcs-2003.html.

Just Say "No" to Wideband SSB

ARRL Letter

The FCC has sent advisory notices to four enthusiasts of what's become known as "enhanced SSB"--the practice of engineering transmitted single-sideband audio to approach broadcast quality. Letters went out earlier this month to amateurs in Illinois, Florida and New Jersey who are aficionados of enhanced SSB, also known as "upper wideband" and "lower wideband."

"The Commission has received numerous complaints regarding the operation of your station," FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth wrote Paul Christensen, W9AC, John Anning, NU9N, Anthony Latin, W4NSG, and Sareno Salerno, W2ONV, on April 3. Hollingsworth said complaints to the FCC alleged that the bandwidths of the stations' enhanced SSB emissions were "wider than necessary and contrary to good engineering practice."

"Wideband overly-processed

audio, especially when coupled with the high intermodulation levels of certain amplifiers, results in the use of bandwidths extremely inconsiderate of other operators," Hollingsworth said. Such transmissions may violate FCC rules and may be at odds with what Hollingsworth described as "the expectation that the Amateur Service be largely self-regulated."

Occupying more bandwidth than necessary in a heavily used amateur band, Hollingsworth wrote, not only could generate ill will among operators but lead to petitions asking the FCC to establish bandwidth limits for amateur emissions. At present, the FCC imposes no specific bandwidth limits on various amateur modes.

Hollingsworth cited §97.307 (a) of the Amateur Service rules that requires the signal of an amateur station not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice." Some amateurs have complained that enhanced SSB signals can take up 8 kHz or more of spectrum, cause splatter and unnecessarily interfere with other stations.

"The Amateur Service is not a substitute for the Broadcast Service," Hollingsworth said, "and the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Service were not allocated for a 'broadcast quality' audio emission or sound."

Hollingsworth suggested the enhanced SSBers operate when

the bands are less busy or on bands that are not heavily used. The many complaints the FCC has been getting--20 or so per week--leads to the conclusion that the stations' enhanced SSB operation is having "a negative impact" on the Amateur Service, Hollingsworth said. He requested that the four amateurs "fully review the rules" and make sure their stations conform to them.

Three Year DXpedition

By OPDX

OPDX was informed by Skipper Susan Meckley, W7KFI, that she was starting her three year DXpedition to Central America and the South Pacific. At the time she contacted us she was in Mexico soon to sign W7KFI/mm. NOW FOR THE AMAZING PART! Susan told OPDX that she originally was to go on a 1946 Brewer, the vessel called *Menage-A-tROIS*. However, she states she soon found out that, at the age of 69 years old (YES 69), she could no longer single handedly sail the boat in heavy weather.

She stated, "It was just too much boat for an old lady." Susan traded her boat for a Challenger 1932. The Vessel S/V *Dharma*. She stated, "This size boat I can handle all by myself."

Susan left Oakland, CA, in January and has been slowly working her way south. She has spent time in many ports, and

she found them very nice. Susan has been in Ensenada, Mexico for the last month, but has now left again on Wednesday, April 16th, for San Jose, Punta Cabras.

Heading south, Susan told OPDX that she would be operating from an island that has not been operated on before, the Isle San Martin (NA-162). She was heard April 17th as XE2/W7KFI from San Martin on 14249 kHz at 2341z. The length of her stay is not known. However, Susan provided OPDX with her next stops (no dates given). Her next stop will be at Bahia de Torguga (Turtle bay), and from there to Magdalena Bay, Cabo San Lucas, and finally La Paz.

Susan will be in La Paz for a few weeks, then it is off to the islands in the Sea of Cortez for operating...and into Guymas for the hurricane season. Come fall she will go down the mainland coast ending in Costa Rica. In April 2004, she is off to Galapagos Islands and into the South Pacific.

Susan states, "I will be in the South Pacific for up to three years, operating from any island that will give me a license to operate. This is a fully self-funded expedition. I asked all around for support but was unable to get any.

Rig is an FT-847 with two 32' pop-up masts and I will be on all modes except SSTV... including Pactor. I intend to follow in the footsteps of Danny Weil from the 50's. Hopefully, I will not end up on a reef like

he did."

We hope Susan will continue to contact us on her amazing trip, and we wish her the best. One last note. Susan told us that she has room on board for a crewmember if anyone wants to go. If interested, let us know and we will forward the message.

NODXA Hospitality Suite

The Northern Ohio DX Association (along with WVNO Radio) will once again sponsor a Hospitality Suite at this year's Dayton Hamvention. This year's Hospitality Suite will be dedicated to the memory of one of NODXA's "Silent Key" club members Jim Hire, W8ZET. Jim loved ham radio and enjoyed meeting his friends from around the world each year at Dayton. He was also a NODXA "Honorary Life Member" and was very involved with NODXA and the Hospitality Suite.

This year Jim's wife, Janeen (now a new ham - KC8BRS) has decided to keep the tradition going and will provide some special memorabilia of Jim at the Hospitality Suite. Please stop by and visit. It will be in Suite 1011 on the 10th Club Floor of the Crowne Plaza Hotel (old Stouffers) on Friday and Saturday evenings.

All DXers/Contesters are welcome. Munchies and refreshments will be available. Come and meet the members and friends of NODXA.

Tedd, KB8NW

The Story of ZL7C October 2002

(part 3)

By Ken Holdom ZL4HU and
Stan White ZL2ST

The comfortable lounge on the top level of the operating site provided us with magnificent views of the total race-course and surrounding areas. It also contained a small kitchen. We set up the operating stations in two groups with two stations per table along the sides of the lounge. The SSB setup consisted of four rigs plus three amplifiers, while the CW setup had three rigs and two linears. The VHF equipment was situated between the two areas.

The equipment used consisted of Yaesu FT900, FT920 (2), FT1000MP (2), FT1000MP Mk V, FT100, FT817, and Icom 756 Pro II (2) with FL7000 (2), FL2100B, SB 220, Acom 1000 (2) linear amplifiers. S.C.S. Pactor II with an upgrade was used for loading logs and photos to the website daily and for receiving daily reports and requests which proved to be a huge success.

Our first QSOs were about 5 pm local (0315Z - Chathams time is 45 minutes ahead of New Zealand) on Thursday. We were amazed at the QSO demand and by the end of the

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, K8VJG, K8YSE, W3HKK, ZL4HU, ZL2ST, OPDX, 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)

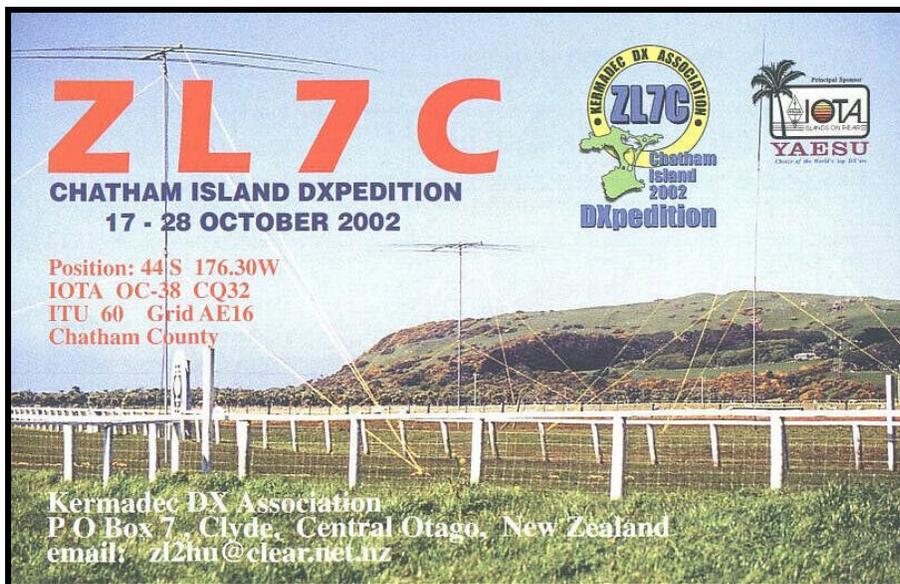
As of March 2002
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

335

first 24 hours we had clocked up 10,000 contacts. The next 24 hours produced another 10,000 QSOs and then the rate dropped a little to about 6,600 per 24 hours. We continued with 24 hour operation and gradually introduced more low band operation including the 80 metre SSB and 160 metre European windows at 0600Z followed by USA and Asian openings.

All team members had an enjoyable time handling the pileups which were generally well behaved and we endeavoured to make ZL7C available to all, whether they be the big guns or the small pistols or even the dupes making sure of contacts with us. Operating for 24 hours per day provided us with some interesting and exciting moments especially when we worked several African stations (these are always difficult from ZL) and YA5T in Afghanistan.

Various digital modes were used at times including RTTY, PSK31, SSTV, hand-sent CW by Steve G4EDG (for the benefit of the local newspaper) and Steve's 5 Watt 20M transceiver. Conditions were generally kind to us but on a few days 10 metres was poor. 160 metre CW was a struggle at times, particularly on the evening an electrical storm passed over us. Both our Web Site manager Gordon ZL2ARN



and our ZL Pilot, Lee ZL2AL provided us with excellent backup and feedback and we were able to respond to concerns on a daily basis.

We also received much assistance from local people including Terry Kamana and his wife Trish. Both of whom had been operators at New Zealand coast stations in earlier days and Terry had recently obtained his new ham licence which he proudly displayed. During a quiet period, one afternoon Terry operated the 15 metre CW station and made some 16 contacts using his new call ZL7TK. A rig is being shipped to Terry and he hopes to appear on the bands from time to time. The only other resident ham is ZL7NAA who is at present inactive.

We entered the Multi-2 sec-

tion of the CQ Worldwide SSB contest with two rigs. One designated for 10 and 20 metres while the other was used on 15 and 40 metres. In the 30 hours of the 48 hours of the contest we had 5,500 plus QSOs.

W8 QSL Bureau Address Change

Effective May 1, the address for the W8 incoming QSL Bureau will change to W8 QSL Bureau, PO Box 307, W Chester, OH 45071-0307. Jay Slough, K4ZLE <k4zle@arrl.net>, has been named to replace the retiring Ed Gassman, N8HTT, who has managed the W8 QSL Bureau for several years.



NODXA Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the **"The Boneyard" Restaurant** on RT.82 just west of Interstate 77 in Broadview Heights at 8:00 PM. Come early and have dinner, drink beer, 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