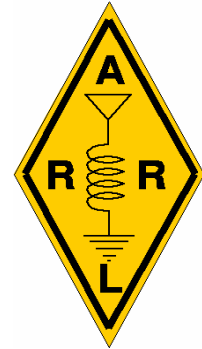


March-April 2008

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Since I wrote last, Kosovo still has not become a new DXCC entity under the current rules by the ARRL's DXCC program. However, CQ Magazine's contests and CQ DX Award programs are recognizing Kosovo. So, if you are involved in their award programs, and you made a contact on or after February 17th, you are able to receive credit for Kosovo.



Once again the May, early June DXpedition to Glorioso Island (FR/g) has been postponed. The delay this time has to do with the building of anti-cyclonic shelters to protect the military personnel and some equipment for the weather station on the island. This is causing added personnel on the island, and the Glorioso team did not want to be there at the same time. The DXpedition is now set for late September and early October. Actually, this is a

better time to probably work them because the propagation should be better.

By the time you read this, Petrus, ZS6GCM (aka 3Y0E), should be active from Marion Island. Marion Island is ranked 6th on the most wanted list by "DX Magazine". Petrus is expected to be on the island for about a year and he will be signing ZS8T. The year 2008 continues to provide DXers with some rare and interesting operations (Remember, Timor-Leste (4W, June).

As I am writing this the Dayton HamVention is only about two weeks away. If you are attending I want to remind everyone to make sure you visit the NODXA's Hospitality Suite at the Crown Plaza Hotel (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). It is a great place to meet and greet DXers from all over the world (along with free beverages and munchies). It is always a good time for all. I hope to see you there.

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 January 7th, 2008 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:29pm. There were 16 members and 1 guest present.



After a round of introductions, the minutes of the December 3rd meeting were read. After some minor corrections, the minutes were approved.

The Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported that there was \$Ka-Ching! in the account.

Tedd, KB8NW, reminded the members that dues will increase to \$20 this year. He also reported that the repeater appeared to be running well.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster had been running fine.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter was in progress. He is also re-designing the newsletter.

Old-New Business:

Ron, W8WH, questioned how the club stays affiliated with the ARRL. A short discussion followed. The club renews its affiliation and keeps the club information page on the ARRL website up to date each year.

An announcement was made that there will be an upcoming VE Session at CARS and that they are going to have classes for Technician, General and Extra Class licenses.

Dwaine, K8ME, asked if the recent FJ/OH2AM Dxpedition to the new entity Saint Barthelemy, would be approved in spite of recent license problems. The answer was yes, but problems with the French government still remain.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that 2008 will be a big year for DX entities. Many new ones are expected to be announced. He also reported that a solar report had indicated that the new sunspot cycle had in-fact started. Pete, N8TR, offered that certain sunspot functions have occurred, maybe! But, we won't know for certain for about 6 months.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that Stan, K8VI, was back home after a stay in the hospital.

Bill, W8BG, donated an ARRL Wire Antenna Classics book for a raffle at next months meeting. He also donated some radio and test equipment to the club. The club may decide how to use the equipment or sell it.

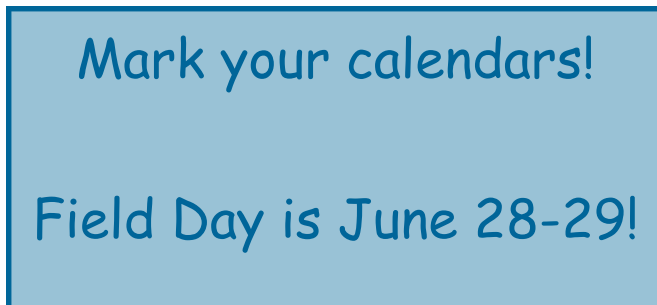
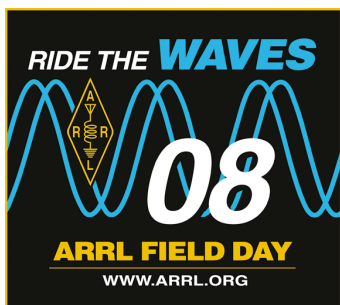
Ron, W8WH, reported that Jenneen at Dayton will be in contact concerning reservations at the Hamvention.

There was no 50-50 raffle tonight as everyone wanted to get home and watch the Ohio State - LSU football game.

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 4th.

The meeting was adjourned by the President, KB8NW, at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary



Minutes of the February 8th, 2008 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:30pm. There were 16 members and 2 guests present.



After a round of introductions, the minutes of the January 7th meeting were read. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account.

Tedd, KB8NW, reminded the members that dues will increase to \$20 this year. Even though the fiscal year is from May 1st to May 1st, dues paid anytime in 2008 will be \$20. In answer to a question concerning when to pay, Mary, N8DMM, stated that if one paid early (before May 1st), those intervening months would, in reality, be free. Dave, WD8IOU, moved, seconded by Carl, K8AV, that the new membership rate be the same for everyone, including DX, as we don't have mailing

costs anymore. The motion passed.

Tedd also wanted newsletters for Mansfield. He and Pete, N8TR, will print some up.

Comments were made concerning the new look of the newsletter, everyone liked it. Dave, WD8IOU, was thanked for his effort.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that some apparently unlicensed individuals were using the repeater. If heard, Tedd asked everyone to try listening on the input frequency to see if they could hear them.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster was running okay.

Old-New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that nominations for officers would be held at the next meeting (March).

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that Stan, K8VI, wishes to sell all of his radio equipment, as his health is not good and he wants to get out now.

Tedd, KB8NW, noted that Dayton was coming up very soon. He reported that Kahn, JA1BK, will be there and at the hospitality suite as well.

Pete, N8TR, reported that if anyone wants the same flea market space they had last year at Dayton, they would have to get their request in now.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the 9X0R Dxpediton to Rawanda was coming up March 16th to the 27th. DX Magazine rates Rawanda as #45 on the most needed list. Tedd also reported that the International DX Association (INDXA) wants us to join. They support many Dxpeditons annually. Tedd also asked how many were still waiting for DXCC approval from the ARRL. He reported that the backlog was running about 5 months and that no 2008 applications would be processed until all 2007 applications had been processed. The estimated time to start processing was in July of this year.

Tedd, KB8NW, suggested that we try to get Jim Weaver, K8JE, to a meeting. We will write to the ARRL and Jim.

There was no 50-50 raffle this evening.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 3rd.

The meeting was closed at 7:55pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW.

The program this evening was an excellent DVD documenting the recent BS7H Dxpediton to Scarborough Reef.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

It's Antenna Time By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Here in Michigan, the daffodils are blooming and the birds are singing. That means only one thing--it's antenna time! Since my lot is a city lot and not really suited to towers, I mostly play around with wire antennas. Currently, I have a random wire for 80m, a wire ground plane for 20m, and a 40m/30m "fan dipole" that also loads up on 15m and 10m. This year, I want to experiment with two new wire antennas--a horizontal loop and Windom antenna.



The "Loop Skywire"

The concepts behind the full-wave loop antenna have been known for many years, but the antenna has become more popular after the publication of the article, "The Loop Skywire" in the November 1985 issue of QST. This article is available as a PDF from the ARRL website, if you are a member (<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/tis/info/pdf/8511020.pdf>). A lot more information is

available on Internet. Just Google "loop skywire," and you'll find hundreds of references.

Basically, the antenna is a full-wave loop of wire for the lowest band that you wish to operate. For 80m, that would be about 272 feet. For 40m, the length will be 136 feet.

Ideally, you'd like to set up the loop so that the area inside the loop is at its maximum. This occurs when the loop is a circle. Unfortunately, that's usually impractical. From a practical point of view, most guys shoot for a square configuration using four supports.

Another consideration is how to feed the antenna. The Loop Skywire article calls for a coax feedline, but the practice these days seems to favor ladder line. The reason for this is that the SWR on bands higher in frequency than the band for which the antenna was cut can be quite high. Coax is quite lossy when the SWR is high, but that's not the case with ladder line.

How does it perform? Well, it's been my experience that guys with loop antennas often have the strongest signals here at KB6NU. And they seem to get through even when band conditions are poor. Guys who use them also report that they are great DX antennas as well. So, all things considered, it sounds like it's worth a shot.

The Windom Antenna

The Windom antenna is an antenna that I've just become familiar with. It's intriguing because, like the loop antenna, it is also a multi-band antenna.

The Windom is a half-wavelength antenna, but instead of feeding the antenna in the middle as you would a dipole antenna, you feed it about 1/3 of the way from one of the ends. At this point, the feedpoint impedance is about 200 ohms. With a 4:1 balun, you can feed it with 50-ohm coax.

The interesting thing about this antenna is that the feedpoint impedance is 200 ohms not only on the fundamental frequency, but it's close to 200 ohms on all harmonics of that frequency. So an antenna cut for 40m, will also have a feedpoint impedance close to 200 ohms on 20m, 15m, and 10m.

You do need a 4:1 balun for this antenna to operate properly. Fortunately, these are not difficult to make. I made one a couple of years ago, just for fun (<http://kb6nu.com/even-more-fun-with-baluns/>). Now, I have an application for it!

There's all kinds of information on the Net about the Windom antenna as well. One of the Web pages I found most useful was written by W8JI (http://www.w8ji.com/windom_off_center_fed.htm).

I certainly have my hands full this antenna season. Whatever you decide to put up, remember to be safe.

When Dan isn't thinking about antennas, he's operating CW on the HF bands or teaching ham radio classes. He's just published a printed version of his No-Nonsense Tech Class Study Guide. See his blog, www.kb6nu.com, for more details.

"Radio Scouting" To Be Explored at Dayton Hamvention

by ARRL

DAYTON, NJ - May 1, 2008 Scout Leaders will be reaching out to Ham Radio Operators at the Dayton Hamvention May 16-18 to encourage them to provide Amateur Radio opportunities to Boy Scouts back in their home towns. A forum session will given on Saturday, May 17 at 9 AM in Forum Room 2 explaining how hams can reach out to Scouts to get them involved in the exciting world of Amateur Radio. And, for the first time, an exhibit booth will be staffed by veteran "Ham Scouters" to answer hams questions and provide them with resources about "Radio Scouting" Booth 631 in the East Building will be location of the Scout Radio outpost.

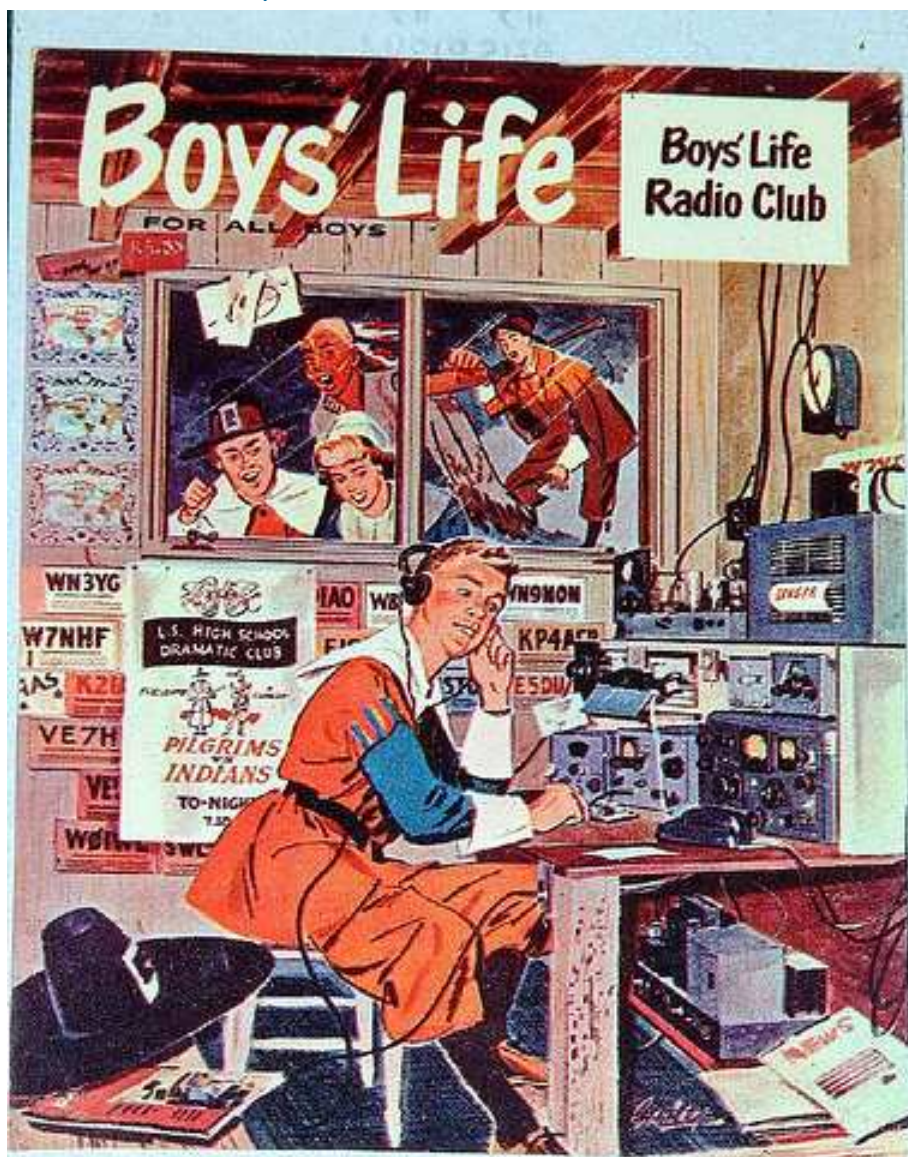
Bill Ragsdale, K6KN, District Chairman of the Yolo District of the Golden Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America is leading the effort. Bill says "This is how we assure the future of your local ham community by growing the next generation of amateurs via the Boy Scouts. At the same time, we also build community awareness about amateur radio. Scouts have a built-in sense of adventure which ham radio complements"

Hams will also learn how to teach Radio Merit Badge and help their local Scouts participate in Scouting's largest annual event, the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). "Each October, a half million Scouts around the world talk to each other via Amateur Radio. Tips on how hams can let their local Scouts participate will be shared". Visit <http://YoloBSA.editme.com/Dayton> for further information.

Hams can also learn about a new program being developed for 2010's 100th birthday of the Boy Scouts of America.

"Scout Camps On The Air (SCOTA) promises to be a fun way for hams to help encourage Amateur Radio Operations at Scout Camps and other large Scouting Events", says, Matt Murphy, KC8BEW, of the Muskingum Valley Council, BSA, who is coordinating that program.

The Boy Scouts of America currently serves more than 4 million youth and adult members. So stop by booth 631 and the forum session to learn how you can help some of them become the next generation of hams.



ARRL Legislative Action Program by John D. Meyers, NB4K

As the newly appointed DLAC (District Legislative Action Chairman) I would like to familiarize you with what we are doing, where we're going and how you may help. This process has been proven in the field and at the present time seems to work the best as it is laid out.



What is the ARRL Legislative Action Program? The ARRL Legislative Action Program is designed to make it possible for ARRL members to promote and protect Amateur Radio through coordinated, legitimate political action at the Federal government level.

Why should I become involved in this program? Isn't talking with our Congressmen a waste of time? Federal Legislators frequently vote based upon their understanding of the wishes of their constituents. As a constituent, your opinion is important to them. *Elected officials view their constituents as "resources" and want to hear from them. They need input from their constituents to gauge positions on a piece of legislation and determine how it will impact the voters in their districts. As a licensed Amateur Radio operator, you can provide a valuable resource to your member of Congress. More often than not, the knowledge Legislators have of Amateur Radio is fairly limited. Therefore, your combination of being a constituent and a federally licensed operator can help make a difference by ensuring that your Congressman and staff receive the balanced information they need to make good decisions on Amateur Radio related legislation.*

How is this Program organized? *The ARRL Board of Directors (Board) selects legislation that is to be supported or opposed through the Program. The ARRL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) manages the day-to-day operations of the Program. The ARRL President monitors operation of the Program and reports on this to the Board and, between Board meetings, to the ARRL Executive Committee (EC). The EC ensures compliance with the policies of the Board during periods between Board meetings. Each ARRL Division Director is responsible for the operations of the Program in his/her Division. The Director may appoint a Division Legislative Action Chair (DLAC) to manage on his behalf. The Director or DLAC appoints, trains and manages one or more Legislative Action Coordinators (LAC) for each state in the Division. The LAC appoints, trains and manages Legislative Action Assistants (LAAs) to meet with Federal Legislators/Congressmen or with their legislative aides in their offices "back home." The discussions and the materials left after the meetings encourage Legislators to support laws friendly to Amateur Radio. Visits to Legislators' "home" offices are made only when requested by ARRL Legislative Action Program managers through Division officials. These visits may involve key Legislators or all Legislators. Depending on the specific situation, managers in the Program will be requested to have all members in relevant Divisions, states or Congressional Districts to write in support of the ARRL legislative position to their Federal legislators.*

Who chooses which legislation we will support or oppose? The ARRL Board of Directors chooses the legislation to support or to oppose.

Who develops strategies and tactics for the Program? The ARRL President, ARRL CEO, ARRL General Counsel, ARRL Executive Committee and the Congressional Relations firm the League retains work together to develop strategies and tactics to be used in the Program.

Why doesn't the Program operate at the state and local levels of government as well as Federal? Each Section Manager (SM) is encouraged to maintain a program in the Section to support or oppose legislation at the state and local levels. A person known as the State Government Liaison (SGL) typically heads this program. The SGL position was established in Minute 20 of the July 1982 Board Meeting. Persons who participate in the state and local program may also choose to participate in the Federal program and vice versa. To learn more about this state and local program, con-

tact your Section Manager at <http://www.arrl.org/sections/>.

I thought ARRL is a tax-exempt non-profit organization and that US IRS rules do not allow it to become involved in lobbying and the law-making process. *ARRL is a tax-exempt non-profit organization as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As discussed in the "It Seems to Us" editorial in the August 2006 issue of QST, "What is prohibited [to us and other tax-exempt non-profit groups] is any involvement in a political campaign. Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. The prohibition applies to all campaigns at the Federal, state and local level, and violating it could result in revocation of tax-exempt status." Also explained in the August 2006 QST editorial, ARRL is allowed to promote or work against specific public policy issues. Issues we have found of significant interest to Amateur Radio include Federal legislation to control excessive interference from Broadband Over Power Lines, Federal legislation to protect Amateur Radio frequencies and Federal legislation essentially to ensure all amateurs are allowed to install an antenna.*

I have often contributed to and worked for one or more political candidates in my area. Do I need to stop being active in political campaigns if I work in the ARRL Legislative Action Program? *No, as a citizen of this country you are encouraged to speak and act for yourself in political campaigns if you wish. If you do this, what you need to do is to ensure that your participation in the political process is clearly understood to represent your own, personal position and actions, and not the position and actions of ARRL. When you act as a private citizen, be certain to wear your "private citizen" hat and not your ARRL hat.*

Who is eligible to participate in the Program? ARRL members who are willing to follow the guidelines of the Program are eligible to participate in it. Members who wish to become Division Legislative Action Chairs (DLACs), Legislative Action Coordinators (LACs) and Legislative Action Assistants (LAAs) need to participate in a brief training program before making calls on legislators.

I am not a member of ARRL, why can't I participate in the Program? We would like to be able to work with all amateurs to make this program as successful as possible; however, Federal IRS regulations place limits on the amount of effort ARRL as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, can devote to nonmembers regarding legislative affairs. We invite you to join ARRL and become a key part in this program. For information on ARRL, go to <http://www.arrl.org/aarrl.html>.

How do participants in the ARRL Legislative Action Program get information and materials needed to call on or write to US Representatives and Senators? *Background information on legislation, the names and addresses of "your" Congressmen, educational leave-behind leaflets and more that are needed to make visits to Congressional offices can be found at the Grassroots link on the Members Only area of www.arrl.org. This information is available to be printed out. Draft letters to Congressmen are similarly available at this same location.*

So, as you can see there is nothing too hard to do and it doesn't take a lot of time when we work together on legislation.

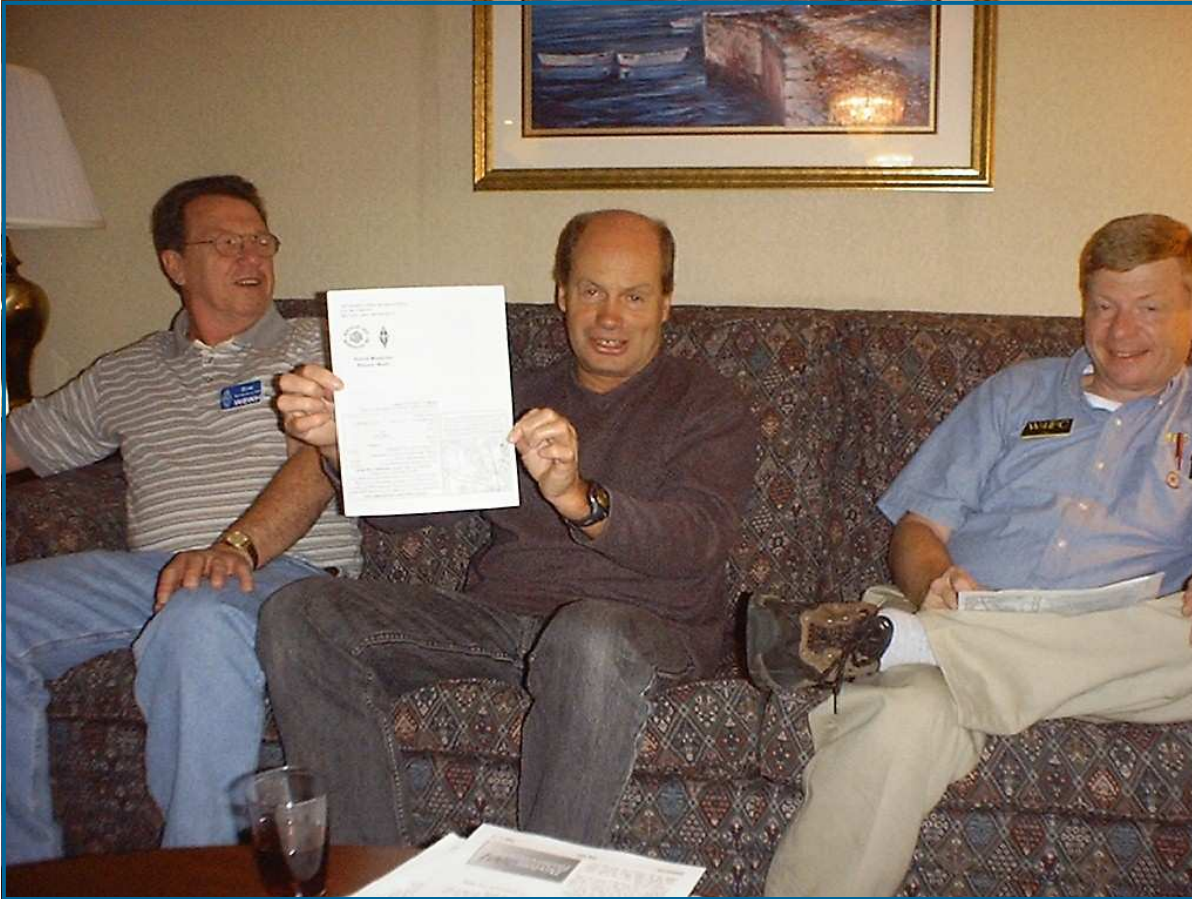
If you are interested in helping in this area here is whom you may contact. In Kentucky the Legislative Action Coordinator e-mail for your information is Patrick R Thrush, N4PRT at n4prt@hamtechtalk.com, in Ohio send it to Brent C Stover, WD8PNZ at wd8pnz@yahoo.com, and at this time we are in need of a Legislative Action Coordinator in Michigan. Until one is seated e-mail me NB4K with your information at nb4k@arrl.org.

If you have any questions on this feel free to call or e-mail me. We need our frequencies and this is just one avenue that we have to protect them.

73, John D. Meyers, NB4K DLAC nb4k@arrl.org 859.472.6690

"Uli" Ulrich Adelung, DK2OC (SK) by Tedd, KB8NW

It is with great sadness to report NODXA has lost a friend. Uli, DK2OC, has become a "Silent Key" (SK) on April 6th in a Berlin Hospital. Many DXers will probably remember him running a great 10 meter DX net back in the late 80's and early 90's. Uli was one interesting person... One year he attended the Dayton Hamvention and visited the NODXA Hospitality Suite. Here is a picture of him explaining the finer points of the NODXA Rag....



The Forgotten "Q" Signals by Dale Lamm, NX8J

This issue, I'd like to pass along a list of long-forgotten Q signals. These were brought to my attention by KD8CGH. Because this is a family newsletter, some of the words have been intentionally QRM'd with octothorpes.

Original by KA0SEY & K7ITL, additions by K3HRN and members of QRP-L.

- . QAS - I am speaking out of my a##
- . QBA - My antenna is BIG!
- . QBO - Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting.
- . QBS - It's getting deep in here.
- . QBS - Clean the bird s##t off your antenna so you can hear me
- . QCW - I am going to whistle Morse Code on FM (or SSB)
- . QDR - Damn Right the frequency is busy! In response to QRL
- . QET - Phone home.

- . QEW - Copy is difficult due to Ear Wax.
- . QFH - This frequency is MINE! - go elsewhere.
- . QHI - I am jumping in quick to say hi, then going QRT.
- . QKB? - How many knobs does your radio have?
- . QKB n - My radio has "n" knobs.
- . QKN? - How many of them do you know how to use?
- . QLF - I am sending with my left foot.
- . QLK - I am sending with my left foot and keyboard.
- . QNO - I am sending through a non-standard orifice.
- . QOF - Yes, I am an Old Fart.
- . QOK - Your last transmission was Okie Dokie.
- . QRC - Warning, rag chewer on frequency.
- . QRG - You are transmitting in or near the [wave length or frequency] amateur band.
- . QRG? - Am I transmitting in or near an amateur band, and if so which one?
- . QRW - Means QRP - Really Weak
- . QWC? - Who cares?
- . QWC - I have to go to the bathroom
- . QZZ - I fell asleep at the mike.
- . QZZ? - Is that a 60Hz hum, or are you snoring?

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

NO8DX: 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, KB6NU, NB4K, NX8J, the "FEEDLINE", and the ARRL.