"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.

May 2003

Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Well Dayton HamVention 2003 is now in the books and hopefully, there will be another one next year (as we know it). This year's HamVention was good in spite of the weather. However, it took it's toll on me and I paid for it over the following week. I was super exhausted, probably because of all the walking and not getting enough sleep over the three day event. My full strength and stamina still has not returned after my operation.

However, it was worth it! The DX Forum was really interesting this year. I got to present the 2002 NODXA DXpedition of the Year award during the forum, as well as hearing details on the ARRL's "Logbook Of The World" (LOTW) and a talk (no slides) by Don Miller, AE6IY (ex-W9WNV).

Also, the club's hospitality suite was a big hit again this year. We had a great turn out and we were open for three nights instead of two as in the past.

Once again, a big thanks goes to Janeen Hire (probably now as W8ZET) for all her hard working in booking of the rooms and the hospitality suite, which normally would have been done by her husband (Jim, W8ZET, now a Silent Key). She also provided some great momentous of her late husband Jim, along with some great hospitality, food and drink. Many looked at the display of pictures, QSL cards and awards that Jim received and they reminisced about him. He was surely missed. Thanks again Janeen, I know Jim would have been proud of you.

Lastly, if you are on the NODXA's E-mail list you should have received announcement about a new meeting place for June. Actually, it is an old meeting place, but under a new name. Details should be listed in this newsletter somewhere. I hope to see you there.

Also, just a reminder that it is that time of the year to renew your club dues.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

Minutes of the May 5th, 2003 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM, which was held at the Boneyard in Broadview Heights. The around the introductions were followed by the 25 members/ guest in attendance.

Mary, N8DMM, reports a balance of $Ka-Ching! in the treasury.

Pete, N8TR, informed us on the packet cluster status and was followed by a discussion.

Articles are needed for the Newsletter as requested by Dave, WD8IOU.

A discussion on new meeting sites was opened by Tedd, KB8NW.

Tedd, KB8NW, opened a discussion on the future of the Dayton Hamfest and on the Dayton Hospitality Suite.

A motion was made by Carl, K8AV, and seconded by Ray, W8BIN, to allot up to $200.00 for the Dayton Hospitality Suite for refreshments. A vote was taken and passed

The DX-pedition of the Year Award plaque was brought to the meeting by Dwaine, K8ME, and was passed around to the members to view.

Tedd, KB8NW, informed us that the guest speakers, one being the Great Lakes Director, for tonight's meeting was unable to attend due to a death in the family.

Bob, W8GC, informed us on the classes on Amateur Radio conducted by the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society. For further information go the CARS website at www.cars.org.

The 50/50 raffle was won by George, K8KR, and his share was $21.50. A second and third drawing , books on Health at Home, were won by Bill, W8JGU, and Gary, NI8Z.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54PM by Tedd, KB8NW.

Following the meeting a video on East Timor Island was shown.

Secretary: Ron, K8VJG.

"Logbook of the World" Enters Beta-Testing

ARRL Letter

The long anticipated "Logbook of the World"--the ARRL's secure electronic contact confirmation system--is being opened for beta testing. While a formal unveiling was set for the Hamvention DX Forum May 17, LoTW now is available to all who wish to participate in the beta testing program, expected to last 60 days.

At the heart of the Logbook of the World concept is a huge repository of log data provided by operators--from individual DXers and contesters to major DXpeditions--and maintained by ARRL. Logbook of the World Project Leader Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the system will benefit big and little guns alike by providing quick QSO credit for awards offered by ARRL-- and, it's hoped, those offered by other organizations as well-- without having to first collect and submit hard-copy QSL cards.

Visit the ARRL Logbook of the World Web site www.arrl. org/lotw to learn more, download the necessary software and take part in the beta testing effort. For the purposes of the beta test, validated users are asked to submit log data for contacts made on or after January 1, 1998. Once a certificate is issued, beta testers may e-mail their log data to the LoTW database lotw-test@arrl.org.

LoTW will accept authenticated data--either in Cabrillo or ADIF format--directly from computerized logs via the Internet. Software Development Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, noted that because the software still is under development, any data uploaded during the beta-testing period will be erased before LoTW "goes live." Beta participants will have to obtain new certification even if they've participated in earlier LoTW testing. The beta certification will be good only for the beta-test period. Bloom emphasized that every call sign would need a separate certificate.

Bloom and Mills encouraged beta-test DXers and contesters to upload their log files--the bigger the better--to test the robustness of the software as well as to populate the database and create a more realistic en-

vironment. LoTW will find and match contacts between stations based on the log data submitted by users, and the results will appear on the Logbook of the World Web page.

"We're not replacing the whole paper QSL scheme with Logbook of the World," said Mills, who is also ARRL's Membership Services manager. "This is really a system to offer credits for awards."

Waterproofing RF Connectors

Waterproofing RF connectors is a concept many amateur radio operators fail to recognize. When you're dealing with weak signals or a repeater system with a dynamic range of 140 dB, that Radio Shack education just doesn't cut it.

There are a lot of different ways to protect and waterproof your RF connections, some actually work!

Just because you've been doing something wrong for 30 years doesn't mean it's right!

1. Wrap the entire connection once (or twice) with 3M Scotch Super 88 or 88T PVC electrical tape. Super 88 is recommended over Super 33 or the other crap because of its ideal temperature characteristics and the fact it's 20% thicker. Be sure to allow a significant overlap of each turn. It's also to best to wrap the tape *up* to connector, or the opposite way of intended water flow. This is done to pre-

vent the electrical tape from wicking water in. You'll want to do this for each tape layer, if possible. Also, on the last turn, don't pull the tape hard, just leave it loose and press it down. This will help prevent it from unwrapping.

2. Make sure there are no air cavities or openings in the tape! Where there is air, there will be water.

3. Next, wrap the entire connection once (or twice) with 3M Scotch 2242 rubber electrical tape. Pull the tape so hard that it turns from black to gray, and wrap it tightly around the entire area previously covered with Super 88 electrical tape.

4. Wrap the entire connection once (or twice) again with a layer of Super 88 electrical tape, just like in step one.

5. That's it! A fully waterproof seal, with the ability to remove the tape layers using nothing but a utility knife.

6. If you put CoaxSeal directly on a RF connector, I will hunt you down and shoot you.

7. If you put CoaxSeal directly on a RF connector, I will hunt you down and shoot you.

8. If you put CoaxSeal directly on a RF connector, I will hunt you down and shoot you.

It's often recommended that you spray clear-coat type

sealants (Scotch-Kote) on your connection to make it waterproof. This is O.K. to some extent, but not recommended as an end-all solution. These sealants contain acetone and other chemicals which can eat the rubber gaskets in N and Heliax connectors, along with the outer covering on some types of coax. They also break down in ultra-violet light (sun light), the sealant will then flake off. If you do need to use that type of sealant, for whatever reason, cover it with Super 88 electrical tape.

You can use spray clear-coat type sealants to waterproof non-critical connections, like to avoid dissimilar metal electrolysis, or in areas where it is just to hard to reach. Be sure to check the connection at least once a year though.

If you do need to use Coax-Seal, please apply a layer of electrical tape to the area first.

RF connections are somewhat waterproof to begin with, but wrapping the connection will help prevent the connection from coming loose due to vibration.

If the connection will be underground, you may want to apply Plasti Dip spray-on coating over the final tape layers.

It is better to be cautious and waterproof your connections on the ground in the summer than to stand around like an idiot in January wondering why nothing works.

(Green Bay Professional Packet Radio Tech Bulletin #1)

The Story of ZL7C October 2002

(part 4)

By Ken Holdom ZL4HU and Stan White ZL2ST

Meanwhile operation continued on SSB on the WARC bands and on digital modes on all bands. All up, in 11 days we had an amazing 72,213 contacts including 30,819 CW, 39,002 SSB, 2059 RTTY, 333 PSK.

On 6 metres Bob ZL3TY or 'Mr Static' as we knew him, spent many hours listening to noise and running the 6 metre beacon on an FT100 rig and 5 element yagi. He was rewarded with three FSK441 meteor scatter and two CW QSOs on 6 metres with ZL stations and then on our last operating day a nice opening to Japan which produced 136 CW QSOs. On 2 metres Bob used the FT100 with a Daiwa 150 Watt amplifier adjacent to the 12 element yagi to make four JT44 moonbounce QSOs with USA stations. Bob also spent some time dealing with HF pileups. SSB operation was handled by Ken ZL4HU, Murray ZL1CN, Bill N2WB, Al K3VN, Reinhard DF4TD, Hiro JF1OCQ, Stan ZL2ST, Bob ZL3TY, while digital operation was carried out by Paul WF5T, Dave KW4DA, Steve G4EDG, Wilbert ZL2BSJ, Stan ZL2ST, Hiro JF1OCQ. Wilbert also spent many hours 'working' on our logs for the daily transmission to webmaster Gordon ZL2ARN.

Our eating arrangements were very flexible indeed and if you are fond of burgers and chips or chips and burgers then you guessed it. However, they were tailored to suit the tastes of the various team members by a very helpful local café. We were provided with two most welcome barbeques and on a more exotic occasion we were treated to cooked crayfish and a green salad, compliments of Terry and Trish, the fine hosts of Ken's XYL Emily and son William who joined us on this DXpedition.

The weather on Chatham Island is a little cooler than what we are used to in New Zealand, courtesy of a regular cool south-westerly wind. However during the period we were operational and particularly at assembly and dismantling times we were treated to more rain than is normal. Most of us walked the 1.5 km from the backpackers to the racecourse daily but on occasions during the showers the rental car was most welcome.

The operation was closed down at midnight local time on 28 October to allow us to have some well earned rest before dismantling the aerials early next day. As we finished, the pileups were still there but somewhat diminished after 11 days operation. Following the pack up on Monday the group with some invited guests enjoyed a dinner at the Waitangi Hotel which was settled with some fine New Zealand wines and Chatham Island 'Black Robin' beer. The beer is named after the Black Robin bird which is a local endangered bird of which there were only about 5 in existence in 1980. It was the world's rarest bird. After careful management numbers of the birds are now increasing.

On Tuesday morning most of the gear was loaded on to the Air Chathams truck and the Christchurch bound group also set off for the airport. The Wellington group occupied themselves on their final day on Chatham Island by sightseeing.

From Waitangi which is towards the bottom of the western side of the island we went east to look through the local (diesel powered) electricity generating station and on to Owenga on the east coast to view the Tommy Solomon statue and village. We then went up back to the west coast and north to the top eastern corner of the island (about one and a half hour trip) and viewed the centuries old Mori Ori tree carvings nearby and the village of Kaingaroa. We the headed south and then west to walk to the basalt columns on the coast and then drove on to Port Hutt village with it's shipwreck on the beach. Each of the villages has it's own fish processing factory.

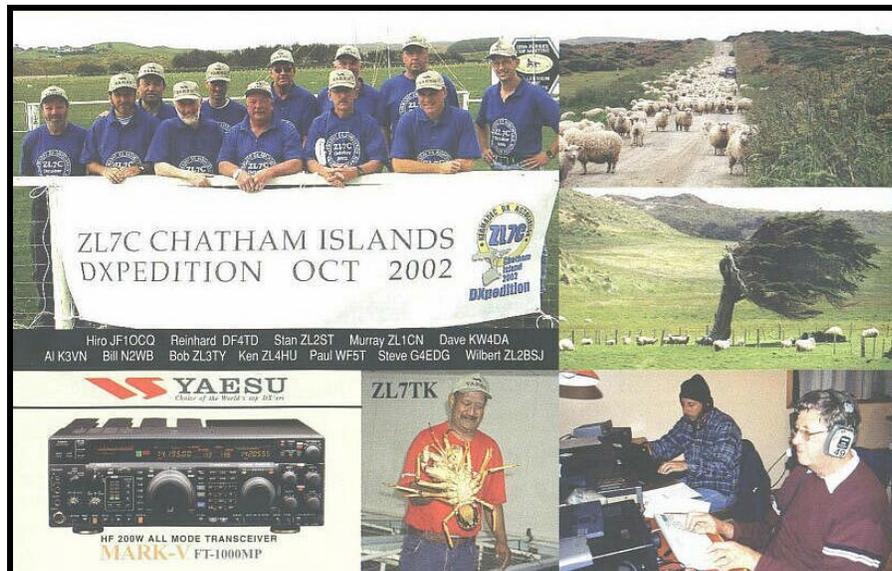On return to Waitangi the group proceeded up the hill to the old ZLC coast radio station which now houses the telephone

exchange. Only one mast remains for various VHF telephone services. We then visited the local TV studio which is closing soon because many of the islanders are now receiving TV signals directly via satellite. The TV station is above the local wharf where the shipping service to New Zealand calls regularly. Next day it was the turn of the second group to leave for Wellington.

We were supported extremely well by the local Chatham Islands people and our heartfelt thanks goes to them. As a result of placing an advertisement of the TV a number of folk visited us to gain for themselves an appreciation of what we up to.

To all our supporters/ sponsors we would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to you all and without this support this DXpedition would not have taken place. We hope that you will continue to support these ventures and hopefully or even maybe, the Kermadec DX Association will again be heard on the Airwaves.

For more pictures and information plus ZL7C logs have a look at our website at www.qsl.net/zl7c/.

ZL7C CHATHAM ISLANDS DXPEDITION OCT 2002

Hiro JF1OCQ   Reinhard DF4TD   Stan ZL2ST   Murray ZL1CN   Dave KW4DA
Al K3VN   Bill N2WB   Bob ZL3TY   Ken ZL4HU   Paul WF5T   Steve G4EDG   Wilbert ZL2BSJ

New Meeting Location!

NODXA'S new meeting location is at *Laura's Family Restaurant* at 4601 E. Royalton Rd (Rt 82, close to I-77) in Broadview Hts, Ohio. Please see the map on the last page of this newsletter.

4601 E Royalton Rd, Broadview Heights, OH 44147
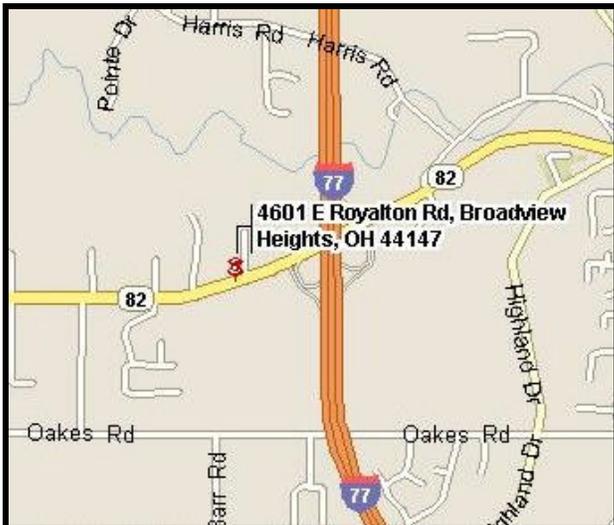
NODXA Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the *Laura's Family Restaurant* on RT.82 just west of Interstate 77 in Broadview Heights at 8:00 PM. Come early and have dinner and meet your fellow DXers and enter the 50/50 raffle.

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

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