

May-June-July 2020

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Poolside (Almost) Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

We are almost halfway through 2020, and it hasn't been an enjoyable year so far due to the Covid-19 crisis. The last three months have been pretty bare for major DXpeditions. However, I don't think I have seen this many world-wide coordinate special event (Stay-At-Home) callsigns on the air. It is surprising that the U.S. is not joining in on the world-wide fun with these special callsigns.



Getting back to DX. There are a few major DXpeditions scheduled to take place during the last quarter of the year (we hope!). They are:

*1) Swains Island (September 23rd-October 6th) - Callsign W8S
Web page: <https://swains2020.1ldxt.eu/>

2) Chad (September 29th-October 12th) - Callsigns TT8RR (CW/SSB/RTTY) and TT8XX (FT8);
Web page: <http://www.i2ysb.com/idt/>

3) Midway Island - Specific dates have not been announced (possibly sometime in August or later);
Callsign KH6VV/KH4; no official Web page; just updates at: <https://www.qrz.com/lookup/kh6vv/kh4>

4) Sable Island (October 17-26th) - Official callsign has not been announced; Web page at:
<http://cy0dxpedition.net/index.html>

5) Wake Island - Randy, WW6RG, expects to be active as KH9/WW6RG sometime in mid-July.

6) Bouvet Island - Specific dates have not been announced (December was mentioned); Callsign 3Y0I; Web page: <https://bouvetoya.org/>

(*) An update: After I wrote this, an announcement came out saying that the W8S team has postponed this operation until Spring 2021 (at the earliest) "due to the Covid-19 pandemic (it is still impossible to travel to Swains Island."

"The Mission of the Northern Ohio DX Association is to promote and support Amateur Radio and the DX Community around the world."

So far that is about it for DXpeditions announced in 2020. Travel restrictions are a major factor due to this Covid-19 crisis which has prevented operators from going anywhere.

If you have not been checking in on the NODXA 10 meters net on Thursday nights, you have missed some important club updates. Since NODXA has not been able to have their monthly meeting at the restaurant, NODXA has been having an "On-Air-Meeting" during the 10 meters net. The first one was April 30th, and the second was June 11th. Two important things have been voted on:

1) It is sad to report that there will not be a physical gathering in participation in the ARRL Field Day event. The club is following the League's guidelines (using social distancing), and encourages club members to operate from home and send your score in under the club's name.

2) **There will not be a physical club meeting in July. August is still up in the air.**

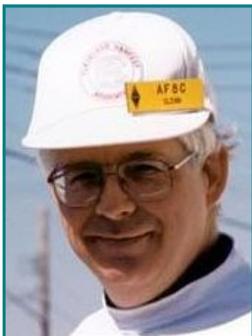
Let's hope that the COVID-19 virus crisis comes to an end and things can get back to normal. For now, I hope everyone stays healthy in the coming months. Get on the bands and work something.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. Just a reminder. If you have not done it yet. Club dues are due as of May.

Minutes of the February 3rd, 2020 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with 18 members and guests present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of January 6, 2020. After Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded that the minutes be approved, the minutes were voted approved. Next our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! A motion by Bruce, N8DJX, and a second Gary, NI8Z, resulted in approval of the treasurer's report by a unanimous vote. The repeater was reported as OK. Dave, WD8IOU, said the newsletter went out. He needs newsletter support with articles and photographs, including the luncheons, etc.



Old/New Business:

Dave, WD8IOU, can split charges for a hotel room at the Crown Plaza near the May Hamvention. Tedd, KB8NW, said that in 2021 the forums will move to a locale near the Air Force Base. Tedd said that the 2020 Hospitality Suite probably will be the last one unless a better alternative is found.

At the January DX Engineering "open box hamfest" the weather was tough, but the event was surprisingly active. Byron, KF8UN, will be in Armenia in mid-May for five days and in Georgia as 4L/KF8UN for five days on a bird watching tour. Glenn, AF8C, mentioned that Greg, WD9FTZ, in Akron, was listed in the newsletter from our SM, Scott, N8SY, as a high score QRP contester in CQ WW RTTY on 80m in fall, 2019. Tedd mentioned that Stan, LZ1GC, who operated T30GC and gave everyone in this club who worked him QSO credit in LOTW, will be sending out the QSL cards. However, Dennis, K8LBT, and Denny, WB8K, already received cards for that.

Tedd reported on new requests. The group that was going to Pajaros Rock Islands, 3G1DX, IO-TA SA-100, ended up cancelling and we got the money refunded. Today that group is operating at a rare IOTA SA-101 in Juan Fernandez as CBOZ until February 5 or 6. They wish for funding support for that. The operators are K9AJ and an Italian. Our logo is already on their website. Bruce,

N8DJX, moved and George, K8KR, seconded a motion for \$100 to that activity and the motion was approved on the vote.

The second request discussed was for Cocos, TI9A, who are operating there now and will last until February 7, including operating on FT8. This activity received little interest here. A third support request came for a Zambia operation, 9J2LA, with 10 operators, three stations on the air March 4-15. That entity is #15 on 160m, and #19 on 80m. Their goal is 30,000 Qs. Gary, N8IZ, moved \$200, with Bruce, N8DJX, seconding. That motion was voted and approved.

A fourth request was for an operation with Alex, 5B4ALA who is going to W. Kiribati, Tarawa, T30, during March 18 to April 2 as a single op hoping to make 20,000 Qs. He will have two radios on all three modes, 6 through 160m. That's rated ClubLog #72. No interest was expressed.

The Mansfield Hamfest is on February 16. The ARRL Great Lakes Division convention will occur on March 14, in Toledo, with the Toledo hamfest following on March 15. Tedd suggested a spring DX Luncheon be scheduled for mid-March. Look for an email on that. Another DX Engineering hamfest occurs on August 8. The Cleveland Hamfest is on September 27.

March is the month for officers nominations. Tedd said Goose, W8AV, can be at Field Day this year. He may bring a guest operator. Pete, N8TR, can bring the CW station. The status of Ron, K8VJG, is unknown at this time. Per George, K8KR, the Hara Arena will not be revamped and will be torn down. As a note, the first Dayton Hamfest was at the Biltmore Hotel in 1952.

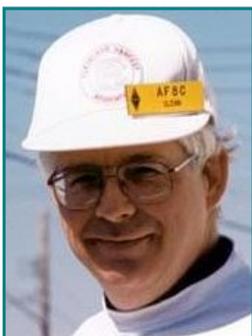
Wrap-up:

Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded that the meeting be closed, and that received a vote of approval. The next meeting will occur on March 2, 2020. For the 50/50 raffle collection of \$30, the drawing for the half was won by Dave, KZ8Y, who donated his winnings back to the club. A door prizes of a DX Engineering hat was won by George, K8KR. All discussion closed at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the March 2nd, 2020 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:31 p.m. with 17 members and guests present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of January 6, 2020. After Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded that the minutes be approved, the minutes were voted approved. Next our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! with no activity. A motion by Gary, NI8Z, and a second Linda, N8LRS, resulted in approval of the treasurer's report by a unanimous vote. Dues are due in May, 2020. The repeater was reported as OK. Dave, WD8IOU, said the newsletter went out. He needs newsletter support with articles. Also photographs from any club events would be appreciated.



Old/New Business:

Tedd handed out some T30GC cards that were mailed as a group to Tedd. CBOZ and 9J2LA have sent "Thank You" letters. For Field Day, Goose, W8AV, has notified Tedd that Goose "may" bring another operator. Also Tedd was informed by Alex who was supposed to go the Western Kiribati is postponing due to the coronavirus. The Swains Island DXpedition has been postponed.

Linda, N8LRS said that a VE exam session will be held in Independence, Ohio. The Mansfield Hamfest was reported as OK with 1.5 buildings. The Toledo Hamfest will be on March 15 after the

ARRL Great Lakes Convention on March 14. Dave, WD8IOU, announced of reading of a hamfest in Italy was cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak there. It is not clear about the fate of the Hamvention.

Dave also has started thinking of Field Day and likes the idea of borrowing or renting a light Honda generator. That might cost \$100.00 or so. Tedd mentioned that the old generator the club used last time is in his garage. This was Dwaine's (K8ME) generator. Dave says a Honda generator would generate very little RFI and a lot less noise and could be closer to the operating tents. After some discussion Dave agreed to get prices for such a generator. Perhaps someone in the club has one to loan for Field Day? We would need a propane stove for making coffee or light cooking. George, K8KR, moved to allocate \$900 to pay for a Honda generator. But there was no second. Some discussion occurred about placing any ads in the club newsletter, for instance DX Engineering.

Tedd reminded everyone of two recent Silent Keys from the club, former members Ron, W8GMH, and Reno, WT8C. Per Pete, N8TR, Reno operated many contests at K8AZ. Several complementary stories about Reno were discussed. Reno was running some FT8 QSOs only hours before his death. Ron was formerly the newsletter editor and secretary. Several discussions occurred about Ron's history. At least a couple members went to his wake. Tedd has a list of Ron's equipment. Tedd reported that Ron, K8VJG, is in a nursing home recovering after a fall.

On a show of hands, almost everyone worked South Orkney. The logs will not be updated until after the operation. This month there were no requests for funding. Tedd said that the winter INDEXA newsletter is out and Tedd can supply a link to it.

Rick, K8ZH, mentioned the controversy about the financing for ZK3A. There have been questions about the expenses for that operation. Tedd said that Jim, K8OZ, misses us. He is in New Mexico at this time.

At this point of the meeting it was time for nomination of officers for 2020. But Pete, N8TR, nominated the existing slate of officers be continued. This was seconded by Linda, N8LRS, and all of the existing officers accepted the nominations. The election will occur in April.

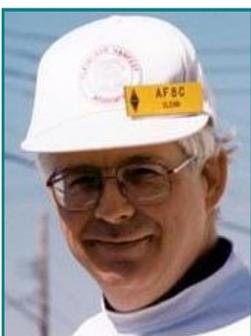
Wrap-up:

Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Wayne, K8FF, seconded that the meeting be closed, and that received a vote of approval. The next meeting is planned for occur on April 6, 2020. For the 50/50 raffle collection of \$30, the drawing for the half was won by Bruce, N8DJX, who donated his winnings back to the club. A door prize donated by Joe, N8QXC, also was won by Bruce, N8DJX. All discussion closed at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the April 30th, 2020 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 8:32 p.m. on Wayne, K8FF's, 10m net on 28480 kHz, with 11 regular members and 4 other net attendees present. The initial topic was to decide where future such virtual meetings should be held, on 10m or on Zoom. Two meters was not considered because several members do not have 2m equipment. The final decision was to conduct these meetings on 10m via a voice vote. There will be no inside meeting in May and also not likely in June. **It was the general opinion that a group Field Day will also not happen.** Then the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of March 2, 2020. After Ken, W8KEN, moved and Pete, N8TR, seconded that the minutes be approved, the minutes were voted approved. Via email but not on the net our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the



treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! with no activity. Dues are due in May, 2020. Use the form on the newsletter to send in your check for dues. The repeater was reported by Glenn, AF8C, as OK. Dave, WD8IOU, was not on this net but he will still need material for the next newsletter. Articles and photographs from any club events would be appreciated.

Old/New Business:

We have open the 2020 officers nomination from the last meeting wherein all the existing officers were renominated to be elected at the April meeting. Pete, N8TR, moved that the nominees be reelected, and Ken, W8KEN, seconded that motion. The voice vote passed the motion unanimously.

Per Tedd, the INDEXA membership dues of \$20.00 is due. A motion by Pete, N8TR, to pay that \$20.00 was seconded by Dennis, K8LBT, was voted and passed unanimously.

Tedd received a funding letter from a group going to operate on Sable Island on October 17 through 26. The entity is ranked 54 worldwide, 28 on CW, and 17 on digital. They plan to earn 40,000 QSOs on 160 through 6 m plus on 2m EME. Our club logo could be on their QSL card along with a link to our web page. Pete, N8TR, moved we contribute \$200 to that team, with a second by Glenn, AF8C. The motion passed with one nay vote where a member was concerned about the impact of Covid-19 in October.

Wrap-up:

The next meeting was voted to occur on the 10 meter net at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday May 21 after Pete, N8TR moved for closing the meeting which was seconded by acclamation. The June meeting will also occur on a Thursday 10m net. The meeting portion of this net closed at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

"Alexa, Please work VKOHI on 160 Meters using FT8" by John Papay, K8YSE

Every now and then something comes along that changes our ham radio hobby dramatically. Back in the late 50's and early 60's it was the change from AM to Single Sideband (SSB). In the late 60's and early 70's it was the rapid implementation of FM repeaters and Japanese radio equipment. Then around 1990, a contest logging program called "CT" was written for DOS computers and that changed contesting as we knew it. Computer logging had people getting into contests that were previously never interested.

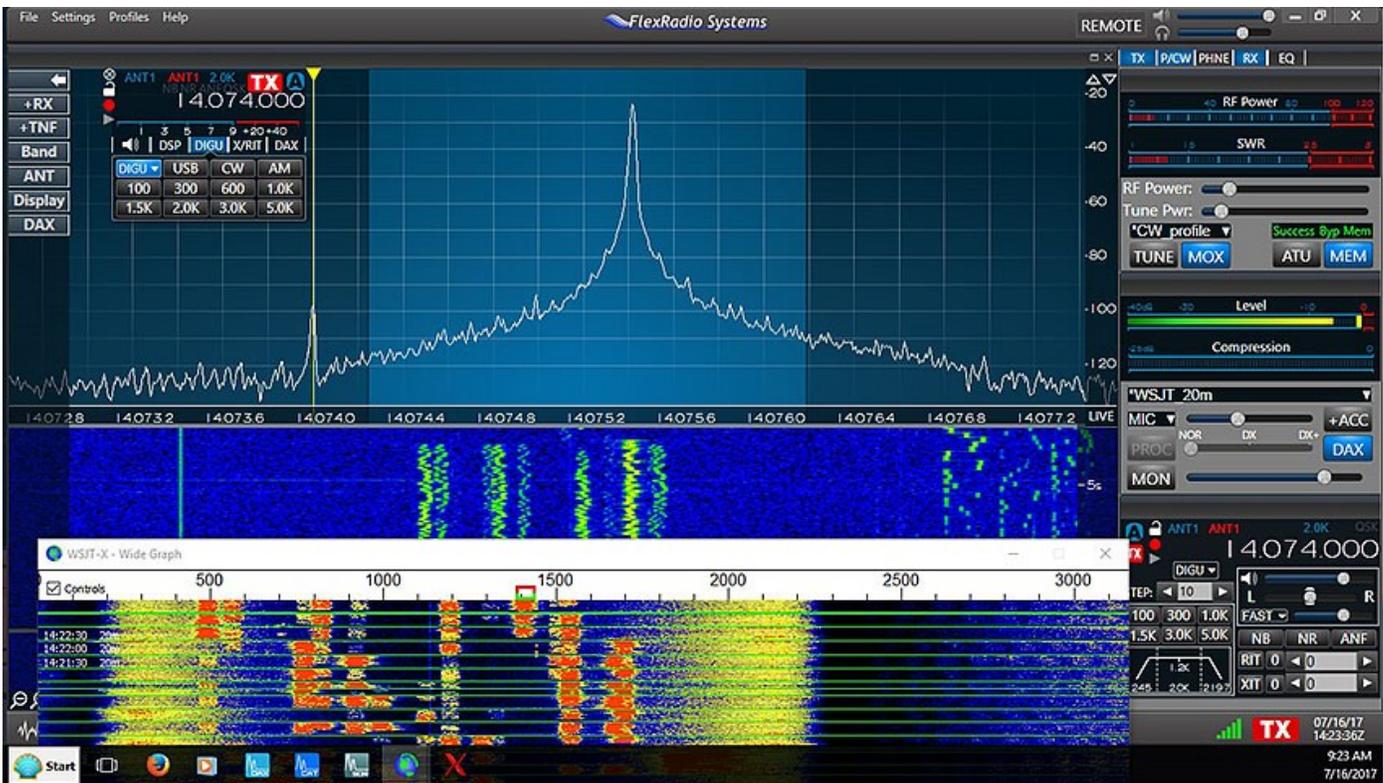


You typed in a callsign and you knew immediately if you had worked that station before. Prior to CT it was paper and pencil logging and "dupe sheets" that kept track of who you worked on each band. The operator skill level had to be up there if you were to be competitive. With CT, when the contest was over, a few clicks generated your score and a log sheet that you could simply print and mail in. It was so much fun that you had to try it out for yourself! And hams did just that.

Not long ago a new kid called "FT8" appeared on the block. This new digital mode would have a profound impact on how we make contacts, especially contacts that are to be used for award purposes.

FT8 is a mode whereby information between two stations is exchanged. It differs from other digital modes like RTTY or Packet in that the exchange is limited to certain information. Callsigns and signal strength are exchanged and the qso is complete when all acknowledgements are successfully sent and received. In other words, you can't have a conversation like would be possible on SSB/CW/RTTY. But when you think about working DX, the exchange is simply a callsign and signal report so no big difference there. In fact the signal report isn't 59, it is an actual signal level in both directions; much better, right?

Maybe, and maybe not. Accuracy is certainly a worthy thing to strive for but the operator should play some role, if not the most significant role in making that contact. FT8 contacts are really exchanges between two robot computers over a radio link. The operator has to construct the station, put up an antenna and interface the computer with the radio, but after that it is just a few clicks and then just staring at the screen. Once you get things started, you really don't have to be there; the computer robot handles everything! And that is why it doesn't feel like ham radio to some people. There is no conversation, no exchange of ideas, no personal interaction; it's all very sterile. From the standpoint of efficiency, it is hard to beat. DXpeditions are using it profusely. There is very little operator fatigue. If you fall asleep, no problem; the robot stays awake and is active.



Last year the ARRL raised a concern about the mode. These robotic qso's probably didn't feel just right to the Board of Directors. And so they issued a rule change prohibiting "automatic" operation when contesting or making contacts that are to be submitted for ARRL award purposes. You have to "initiate" the contact. So you "initiate" the contact and then leave for dinner. When you return you have a confirmed contact. Pretty slick! There is no way to enforce such a rule and it's all on the honor system at best. If you submit a contact for DXCC, how do you know that the station you worked "initiated" the contact? You cannot vouch for the other person, only yourself.

The fully automated amateur station can easily be a reality. Turn on your radio and computer. Initiate a CQ or your robot looks for new countries, new callsigns, new band countries or whatever you want to work. The robot has your logbook and knows what you have worked and confirmed and it will never make a duplicate contact. That will make all of the dxpeditioners very happy. A sophisticated robot will be able to switch antennas, turn antennas, calculate potential propagation, check the cluster and never miss a beat. No more missing contacts because you had to work. In fact, you'll get a text message every time you work a new one! Never miss any sleep. Never be late for dinner. And the contacts keep piling up. That's where we are headed, no matter what. It is just a natural progression. Pandora's box is wide open.

Even if you are sitting in front of the radio and "initiating" contacts, there is very little skill required. Even if you play by all the new rules, it's still a lot easier than making contacts on SSB or CW. Conditions can be poor but there is no strain or pain. The robot does it all and it doesn't care about anything but getting that station in the log. So what does that do for the DXCC Awards? It makes them a lot easier to achieve. Only the SSB and CW awards are not impacted by FT8. Your SSB or CW Honor Roll certificate represents a lot of hard work; your awards that have FT8 contacts in them, well not so much. Ideally FT8 contacts should have been totally separated from the existing DXCC award categories. But as with the FCC, technology moves much faster than the rulemaking process. Single band and multi-band awards allow mixed modes so only you know how much effort went into them. Now it is too late to change and we are stuck with what we have.

So by now you probably are thinking this guy hates what FT8 is doing to ham radio. But you would only be partially correct. Actually there is a silver lining to this mode. Remember what "CT" did for contesting? Well FT8 is doing the same kind of thing for many hams that weren't doing much of anything with the hobby. Six meter FT8 has boomed. Dxpeditions are making more contacts on bands that have poor propagation. And most importantly, new people are being attracted to amateur radio because it is so cutting edge. and you can do pretty good with a small antenna and an inexpensive radio. Without new blood, our hobby dies. If we still had the code requirement our ranks would be half of what we have now at best. And that can lead to loss of spectrum and the hobby altogether. So yes, FT8 is good for us in that respect. As far as the DXCC Awards are concerned, it's more about your personal satisfaction and achievement. So making it easier for the next generation should not be a problem for most! Right now, there are no FT8 contacts in my logbook. Maybe someday and maybe not.

73 and good luck in the contest

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Northern Ohio DX Association (NODXA) or its members. This article may be reprinted in other amateur radio related publications, but only in its entirety (including this caveat) and only if credit is given to the NODXA RAG Newsletter.

T30GC DXpedition 2019 by Stan Vatev LZ1GC

The decision to activate Western Kiribati (T30) on the amateur radio bands was taken by me at the end of January 2019. Initially, I had plans in October and in beginning of November 2019 to activate two destinations in the Pacific, namely: the North Cook Islands - E51 / N, such as E51GC and Western Kiribati - T30, such as T30GC, but after surveys for these two countries in the Pacific and due to urgent commitments in my job, the Northern Cook (E51 / N) option dropped from my plans.



I would like to introduce the readers of this article to some information about the island country of the Republic of Kiribati, an integral part of which is Western Kiribati (T30).

The Republic of Kiribati is located in the central Pacific Ocean, with a population of 110,000, comprising many islands located in the north and south of the Equator. The main island groups of the Kiribati Republic are the Phoenix Islands, including Kanton Island and several smaller islands. This group of islands is known to the radio amateur community as Central Kiribati (T31). To the east of the Phoenix island group is the Kiritimatī Island, also called Christmas Island, which together with several other islands form the so-called Eastern Kiribati (T32), known as the Line Islands.



T30GC team (left to right) - Mitko (LZ3NY), Karel (OK2WM) and Stan (LZ1GC)

Western Kiribati (T30), also known as the Gilbert Islands, includes the islands (atolls) - Abaiang, Tarawa and Tabiteuea. The westernmost island of the Kiribati Republic is the Banaba Island, known among radio amateurs as T33.

From February until the middle of March 2019, I did a lot of research on the internet and made e-mail contacts with Rolf (DL7VEE) and Tony, 3D2AG to gather enough first-hand information for Western Kiribati, to be familiar when preparing this expedition. Both were already active from Western Kiribati - Rolf (DL7VEE) as a team member of the T30D in 2014 and Antoine (3D2AG) in 2016 as the T30AR. The information I received from them helped me a lot in the preparation of the T30GC DXpedition 2019.

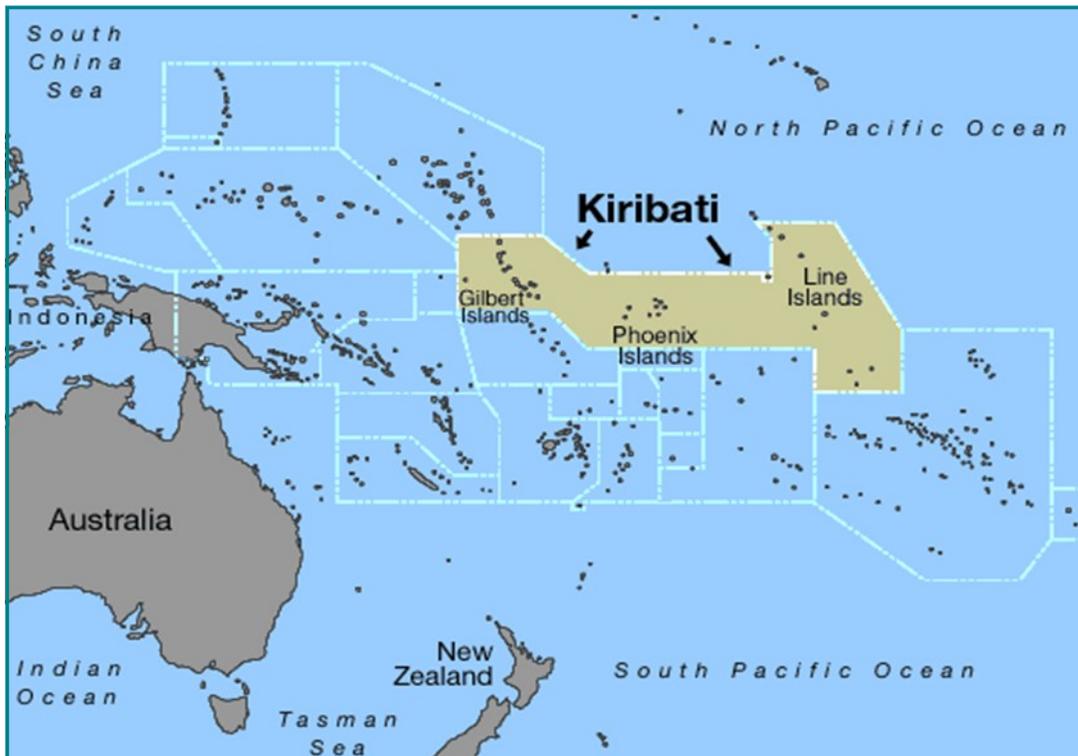
The first thing I did when starting the preparation of this expedition was to develop the itinerary and, according to it, to specify the period during which this expedition would take place - between 2 October and 27 October 2019.

In February 2019, I quickly requested and obtained my required amateur radio license - T30GC. At the end of the same month I had already booked an accommodation at Dreamers Guesthouse, Ambo, Tarawa atoll, the Western Kiribati.

In middle of March 2019, I purchased the necessary airline tickets for this expedition. The route that, I had specified had to be operated by 4 flights and included the following destinations: Sofia (Bulgaria) - Paris, France - Seoul, South Korea - Nandi, Fiji Republic - Bonriki, Western Kiribati. In the Republic of Fiji (3D2), I had planned a 3-day stay due to the lack of an earlier flight for the last part of the trip - from Fiji to Kiribati.

At that time, after emails and telephones contacts with me, Mitko, LZ3NY and Karel, OK2WM, also joined the T30GC DXpedition 2019. Thus, the number of operators for the forthcoming expedition was increased to 3 persons. Since I had already purchased tickets for the trip to Kiribati and back, I assisted them in purchasing of their tickets.

Whenever I organize DX expeditions, I prefer to do things on my own so I know everything is done right. I have to tell you that there was really no particular desire on the part of the other team members to do anything about the organization of the expedition. So, in practice, the whole organization of



the T30GC DXpedition was made by me - as immodest as it sounds!

Getting a T30GC license, booking the accommodation on Tarawa Atoll, Western Kiribati, and purchasing airline travel tickets were just a small part of the organization of this expedition! As an organizer, I had to anticipate many things that could have happened to us during the trip and the radio amateur activity from Tarawa, Western Kiribati (T30GC). An important part of organizing of the expedition was to provide sponsors, to support and help us!

Those who have already made radio amateur expeditions to the Pacific are aware of the high cost of excess luggage, as well as the many other payments made during the journey and during the expedition. Activating all of the HF bands and working on the air with several radio equipments is unthinkable without extra luggage, including antenna masts and other antennas and technical equipment. In many cases, excess baggage payments exceed \$ 2,000–2500 USD.

I have sent requests for financial support for the upcoming T30GC DXpedition 2019 to about 30 Amateur Radio Clubs, Associations and Foundations from all over the world. I am grateful to all who have supported and helped us, depending on their capabilities!

I am impressed by the support, which I receive from Spiderbeam Ltd, Germany and ACOM Ltd Bulgaria in the form of antenna masts and equipment needed for the antennas and technical equipment of all the expeditions organized by me so far. I turn to these corporative sponsors because I know that what they provide me is reliable and secure things!

I have already mentioned that as the organizer of the expedition I was obliged to anticipate everything, starting with ensuring safe and hassle-free travel, ensuring good working conditions on the Air from the chosen destination, as well as successful and safe return of the expedition members after the end of activity. To accomplish all this and to make the expedition a success, I made several contacts with my great friend Aves Kang (DS2AGH), who is committed to providing our team with everything needed during our stay in Seoul, South Korea. The success of any expedition depends on logistics and good logistics is a guarantee for the success of any expedition!

On the way to Tarawa, Western Kiribati, we had a 3-day stay in Fiji, due to the lack of an earlier flight from Nadi, Fiji Republic to Bonriki Airport, Western Kiribati. I contacted Tony (3D2AG) via e-mail



Stan (LZ1GC) with the luggage

Mitko (LZ3NY) and Stan (LZ1GC)

and together we decided to pay him a visit at his home in Suva, Fiji on 5 October 2019. The following two days, I planned for us to stay at the "Down town" Hotel in Nadi, Fiji Republic, before our Flight to Tarawa, Western Kiribati on 07 October 2019.

An important step in organizing the expedition, though from a distance, was to provide a good generator for electricity. I had prior information about power failures and frequent power cuts in Kiribati, and without reliable power supply, the expedition would not have been successful! Although at a distance, this issue was resolved relatively quickly. A Honda-3 generator was provided, which was available at our booked accommodation place and which we could use, when needed, during T30GC activity.

Information about the upcoming T30GC DXpedition 2019 was published on the websites of DXNEWS.COM and DX-World.net, as well as on the website of T30GC DXpedition 2019 at www.C21GC.COM on March 13, 2019, but its preparation just started.

The organization and preparation of this expedition took a long time. In addition to the preparation and testing of antennas and technical equipment - it took me about 7 months to organize and prepare the T30GC DXpedition 2019. If anyone thinks that arranging a good expedition takes 1 - 2 months, he is just out of his mind!

The time from April to middle of September went into preparing and testing the technical equipment that would be used during the T30GC activity. During this time, hundreds of meters of wire (about 1000 meters) passed through my hands. In addition to 2 Vertical antennas for 160, 80 & 40 m bands and the multi-band GP antenna (from 40 -10 m), during this period I also prepared and tested mono-banders vertical antennas for 40/30/20/17 m, which we could also use during our expedition. All antennas were equipped with radials, tensioners and tuning boxes. I also prepared backup radials so that we were 100% secure with regard to antennas equipment. During this period I also prepared about 200 m of coaxial cable - at different lengths.

In mid-September, I had a clear vision of how much our luggage was and how it would be distributed between the three of us from the expedition team. While preparing and testing the antennas, I was greatly assisted by Val (LZ1WX) for which I am extremely grateful!

At the end of June 2019, I was unpleasantly surprised by Korean Air that our flight from Seoul, South Korea - Nadi, Fiji Republic is cancelled. It was really not only an unpleasant surprise, but also a big



The T30GC team aboard the aircraft

Stan (LZ1GC) and Mitko (LZ3NY)

problem - an itinerary already prepared, tickets purchased and one part of our trip missing! I reacted quickly and changed some of the route, not having to travel directly from Seoul, South Korea to Nadi, Fiji. The change was a trip from Seoul, South Korea to Sydney, Australia and from Sydney, Australia to Nadi, Fiji. So our flights increased by one more in both directions! Still, it was a better option than working out a new itinerary and buying tickets again!

In this situation during our return trip from Western Kiribati to Sydney, Australia we had a scheduled 10 hour stay before our flight back to Europe. I figured it wouldn't be a good idea to spend that time at Airport or around the airport in anticipation of our next flight. After the end of the expedition and after two flights had already been completed, we would be very tired!

About our stay in Australia (on the way back), I've spoken with my friendly family, Bulgarians - Olga (LZ1QG) & Nick (LZ1QP), who have lived for many years in Sydney, Australia. They offered to meet us at the Sydney Airport and to have us as their guests at their house for a few hours before we catch the flight from Sydney, Australia to Paris, France! I would also like to clarify that Olga (LZ1QG) did an excellent job in the early preparation of the expedition, namely in communications with Mrs. Beta, the owner of Dreamers guesthouse, Ambo, Tarawa Atoll, Western Kiribati and also for the contacts with Ms. Cabotera - Director of the Kiribati Telecommunication Commission!

Committed to my permanent job in Bulgaria and working on the preparation of the expedition, the time from March to the end of September passed very quickly.

It's early morning - 5:30 on 2 October 2019. I and Mitko (LZ3NY) were at Sofia Airport - Terminal 2. Since our luggage (about 100 kg) could not be transported in one car - our helpers are Anna - the Chief of LZ1KDP and Ivan Kotev (LZ1IK), a good friend of us and our supporter, each with his car. After the usual procedures during our Check in at Sofia Airport and after a 3 hour flight by plane of Bulgaria Air, we arrived at International Airport (CDG) in Paris, France.

There, at the Paris International Airport, we had an appointment with Karel (OK2WM) who had to arrive by flight from Vienna to Paris to continue our journey together to Tarawa, Western Kiribati. We met Karel as planned at the International Airport CDG in France and the three of us continued our journey with Korean Air (flight KE 902) at 21:00 on October 2, 2019.

On October 3, 2019 at 3:00 PM, an Airbus A380-800 aircraft of Korean Air landed successfully at Incheon Airport, Seoul, South Korea. Our next flight from Seoul to Sydney, Australia was in 3 hours and 30 minutes. I had an appointment with Aves Kang (DS2AGH), who had agreed to bring me the ACOM 700



linear amplifier at the airport, which I had left to him the previous year after 5W0GC & YJ0GC DXpedition 2018.

The meeting took place. Aves Kang was waiting for me at the exit of the "arriving passengers" sector. A hearty handshake and a brief conversation followed, since there wasn't much time until the next flight. I want to tell you that I feel this person as my brother. Every year he does so much for me and others who are on the expedition team and travel with me. He greets us, sends us off, provides us with lodging, and despite his many business commitments, he devotes so much time to us during our stay in South Korea for it to pass unnoticed and quickly.

After meeting with Aves (DS2AGH), our "hand luggage" increased by another 15 kg - I mean the ACOM 700 power amplifier I got from Aves Kang (DS2AGH). Our journey from Seoul, South Korea to Sydney, Australia lasted almost 12 hours, but it went unnoticed for us. We had a 6 hour stay in Sydney until the next flight, but this worked out well as we needed to take a walk after two 12 hour flights from Paris, France to Sydney, Australia.

At 1:00 PM local time on October 4, 2019, the T30GC team was already aboard the Airbus 330-200 (FJ 910) in anticipation of our departure to Nadi, Fiji.

After a 4 hour flight, at 7pm our plane landed at Nadi International Airport, Fiji. We were stopped here for inspection by Fiji Customs officers for the huge amount of technics we carried, but after explaining to them that we are travelling for an expedition to Kiribati and after showing them our license we were quickly released to continue our journey! We took a taxi in front of the airport. We had a lot of luggage - about 150 kg and we had to hire 2 taxis. I have no idea, after 3 flights what I looked like, but I remember that when I got in the taxi - the driver, named Taki, who was about 30 years old, turned to me and told me: "When I saw you, I said - this is Rambo! Yes I was impressed!". Understanding that I was from Bulgaria, he kept driving the car and kept saying, "The Bulgarian Rambo", and we busted out laughing! We stayed at the Down Town Hotel, located in the central part of Nadi, Fiji.

In the meantime, we made an appointment with Taki to drive us to Tony (3D2AG) in Suva, on the following day. So it happened - on October 5, 2019, we spent some unforgettable hours at Tony's home, 3D2AG.

Tony (3D2AG) is a wonderful person and a very good radio amateur. I have known him personally since



The T30GC team at Tony's (3D2AG) home

2019, but in previous years we have contacted him by phone and e-mail. Writing this article now, I think of the tragedy that struck him, when he lost his elder son in January 2020 ... I still can't believe this has happened! I remember playing football with his two sons when we visited Tony on October 5, 2019. I hope, Tony can overcome this huge loss! I pray for him and his boy!

Before we left Tony's home (3D2AG) we also met with Philip (3D2TS), who lives close to Tony. It has always been a pleasure for me to meet fellow radio amateurs and interact with them. In such meetings, I do not feel "alone", although in this case I was thousands of kilometres away from Bulgaria!

On October 6, 2019, we had a day off - a day of relaxation, before our flight the following day to Bonriki, Tarawa Atoll, Western Kiribati. In anticipation of our last flight to Western Kiribati (T30), we couldn't stay in one place. Even the night, before the flight we were able to sleep only 3-4 hours, waiting for the morning. We were excited thinking, that soon we will arrive in Kiribati!

On October 7, 2019, after a 3 hour flight from Nadi, Fiji to Bonriki, Kiribati, at 10:30 local time we arrived at Bonriki Airport, Tarawa Atoll, Western Kiribati.

It turned out that the people from the guest house where we had reservation, had forgotten to wait for us at the airport and to transport us to our accommodation! With the help of an employee from the airport, the owner of the guest house was informed of the problem and after an hour they came and drove us to Dreamers Guest House, Ambo, Tarawa Atoll, Western Kiribati.

After our arrival at the Dreamers guest house, we quickly started installing the equipment, creating three different operators places. Karel (OK2WM) quickly installed his Crank IR vertical antenna for 40 - 10m bands and started working on 20 m, CW using an Elecraft K3 transceiver and linear amplifier Expert 1.3 K. He started with a good rate and the contacts began to grow fast!

Stan (LZ1GC) and Mitko (LZ3NY) started to prepare the 18 m masts for vertical antennas on 160/80/40 m bands. We had 2 such antennas, but unfortunately, we were unable to install them immediately after our arrival due to the fast approaching evening. At the same time, it struck me that the coastline is very narrow at the time of tide. This was a problem for the installation of our vertical antennas, because the tuning boxes of these antennas would end up in the water at the daily high tides! The



Left to right: Tony (3D2AG), Karel (OK2WM), Stan (LZ1GC) and Mitko (LZ3NY)

narrow shoreline also proved to be a problem for the installation of my favourite antenna - the multi-band GP antenna designed to operate from 40 to 10 meters bands, including WARC bands.

During the first night of T30GC activity, Karel continued to work at 20 and 40 meters, and me and Mitko (LZ3NY) continued to prepare for the installation of our 160/80/40 m vertical antennas, including mono bands vertical antennas for the 30, 20 and 17 m bands. Early in the morning on October 08, 2019 we started to install the two vertical antennas for 160/80/40 m. That way we had the possibility of working during the night of following days on 160 and 80 m, with two operating places.

In the early afternoon of October 8, 2019, in addition to the Crank IR antenna, we had already installed 2 pieces vertical antennas for 160/80/40 m and one vertical for 30 m. The installation and adjustment of these antennas took us a long time because we had to lift the tuning devices to these antennas about 80 cm from the bottom (base) of the masts. So we solved the problem of rising water levels at the time of tides.

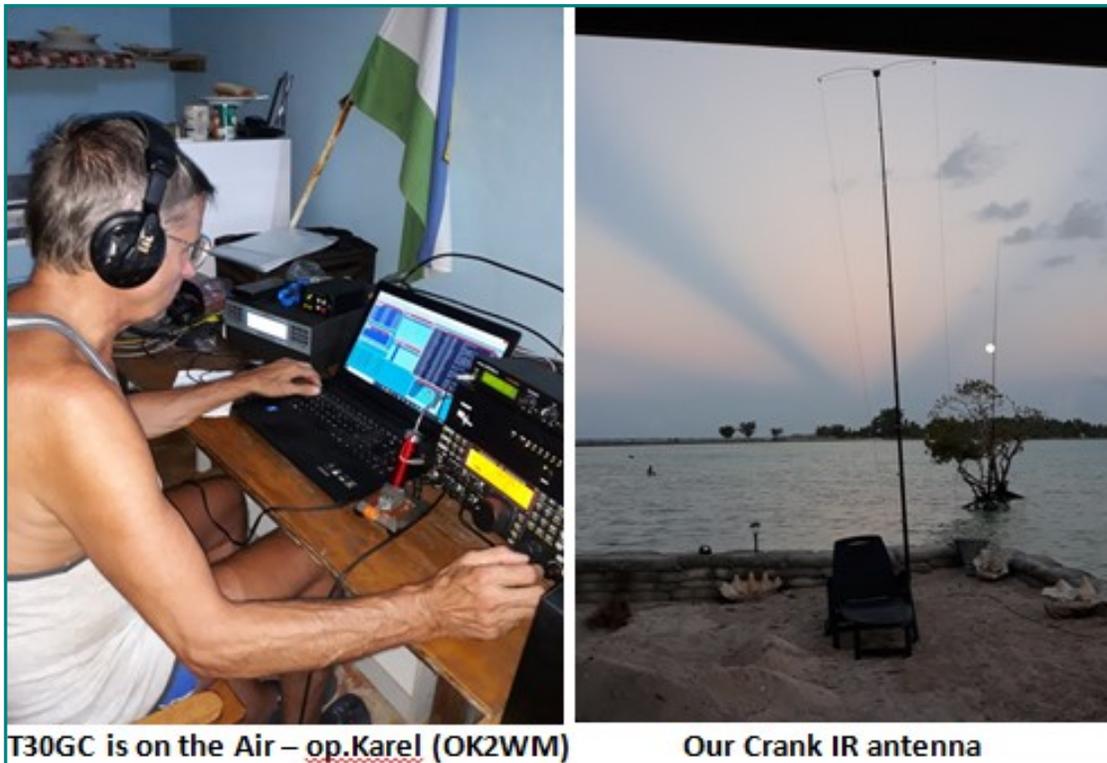
The same day, we started on the Air with 2 more operating places equipped with the Kenwood TS 480 SAT + Linear Amplifier ACOM 1200 S and ICOM 7300, complete with ACOM 700 S.

On October 8, 2019, afternoon, the T30GC was already on the air with 3 operating places on 40/30/20 m, CW. Throughout the night we continued to work on the Air at 160, 80 and 40 meters with two places.

On the 3-rd day of the T30GC activity, we installed a receiving antenna for 160 and 80 m of Array Solution: SAL - 30 and two vertical antennas for 20 and 17 meter ranges, which at high tides turned out to be literally in the water but they worked well.

During the first week of the T30GC activity we were working on CW, SSB and RTTY. Since October, 16 2019 we were also active on FT8 mode. Using the good condition windows, we alternated the bands and modes, striving to transmit without any interruptions on the Air.

My worries about the island's power supply problems were justified. More than 50% of T30GC activity was with the use of a Honda-3 generator, which luckily worked flawlessly. Another problem during the expedition was the daily repair of torn radials after the tides. There were days with high winds during

T30GC is on the Air – [op.Karel \(OK2WM\)](#)

Our Crank IR antenna

our activity, but thanks to Spiderbeam's resilient and sturdy masts, we had no problems with our verticals.

Despite the problems described above, between October 7 and October 23, 2019, the T30GC was at on the Air all times. Since recent years have been characterized by a period of minimal solar activity and lack of any good propagation on the high bands, our focus has been - more activity on 160/80/40/30/20 meter bands, without missing even the small windows of better propagation on higher bands - 17/12/10.

I want to share very briefly the good attitude of the local people towards us.

We had the full support of the locals we contacted during our stay in Tarawa Atoll, Western Kiribati. Whenever we needed anything, we met the support not only of the people at Dreamers Guest House - Mr. Ata and Mrs. Beta, but also of their neighbours. We did not have any problems with the locals, although part of the antennas and their radials, took some place from their yard!

From 3:45 AM GMT on October 7, 2019 to 6:05 PM GMT on October 23, 2019, the T30GC made 20164 contacts on all HF amateur radio bands: 160 to 10 m, in CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 modes.

I will remember this expedition especially with the many contacts on low bands! The contacts on the other bands were enough many and also impressive! I provide the readers with a statistic of Clublog about T30GC activity.

On October 23, 2019, at 6:10 AM GMT, T30GC went in QRT and finished his activity and We began to quickly dismantle the antennas and pack our luggage. At the end of the previous day, we had carefully dismantled some of the antennas so that despite our limited time, we were able to cope with the preparation of our luggage for our upcoming trip. Our long journey back to Europe began with a flight from Tarawa, Western Kiribati to Nadi, Fiji.

At Nadi Airport, Fiji, despite our short stay, we had an appointment with Tony (3D2AG) which took place. We gave Tony (3D2AG) an 18m Spiderbeam Fiberglass pole mast as a gift, which he can use for his forthcoming expedition to Rotuma and after a short but very cordial conversation we headed to the sector for our next flight to Sydney, Australia.



Stan (LZ1GC) is on the Air as T30GC



Our 30 m Vertical antenna

On October 24, 2019 at 10:10 PM, after 4 hours flight: Nadi, Fiji - Sydney, Australia operated by Fiji Air, the T30GC team arrived at Sydney, Australia. At Sydney airport we were greeted by my friendly family of Bulgarians - Olga (LZ1QG) and Nick (LZ1QP) who drove us to their home, about 30 km



Our two Vertical antennas for low bands, both used on 160/80/40m bands

Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Total %
AF	0	2	0	11	7	2	1	0	0	0	23	0.1%
AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	576	698	6	1147	1300	2221	1495	983	381	36	8843	43.9%
EU	582	596	31	880	1281	1164	30	30	0	0	4594	22.8%
NA	700	516	60	724	729	1286	703	443	14	0	5175	25.7%
OC	42	62	1	160	135	311	177	121	15	2	1026	5.1%
SA	5	17	1	77	52	77	88	154	5	0	476	2.4%
Totals	1905	1891	99	2999	3504	5061	2494	1731	415	38	20137	

from the airport. We had nearly 8 hours until the next flight and we spent many pleasant hours at their home, for which we are very grateful.

On October 25, 2019 at 5:45 pm, after a 12 hour flight Sydney, Australia - Seoul, South Korea, with Airbus 330-300 (KE 122) on Korean Airlines, we arrived at Incheon Airport, Seoul, South Korea. There waiting for us were Aves Kang (DS2AGH), along with two of his business colleagues. In the following few hours, we enjoyed of the wonderful Korean food (cuisine) in a local small diner place. In the evening we stayed at a local hotel - Punta Star, before our upcoming 12 hour flight on the following day to Paris, France.

The flight Seoul, South Korea - Paris, France on October 26, 2019 was 12 hours. After so many sleepless nights during the expedition, we took advantage of the long flight and spent most of the flight time in sleep. So, time passed unnoticed and at 6:30 pm on October 26, 2019, the Korean Airlines Airbus A380 -800 aircraft landed at International Airport CDG, Paris, France.

There at the International Airport CDG in Paris, more than 12 hours of stay until our last flights

Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Total %
AF	0	2	0	11	7	2	1	0	0	0	23	0.1%
AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	576	698	6	1147	1300	2221	1495	983	381	36	8843	43.9%
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Totals	1905	1891	99	2999	3504	5061	2494	1731	415	38	20137	

followed: for me and Mitko (LZ3NY) to Bulgaria, and for Karel (OK2WM) to Vienna, Austria and after that to Czech Republic. Finally, in the evening of October 27, 2019, we all went home. That's how the T30GC DXpedition 2019 ended.

We, the T30GC operators, are very happy to have done our utmost for the success of this expedition, that we delighted many radio amateurs with a new country! We are very grateful for the support we received from many individual sponsors - before and after the expedition!

We are extremely grateful for the support which we have received in carrying out this expedition from all Amateur Radio Foundations, Associations and Clubs, such as:

German DX Foundation, Swiss DX Foundation, FEDXP Foundation, CDXC (U.K.), European DX Foundation, LA DX Group, GM DX Group, Clipperton DX Club, LYNX DX Group, Mediterraneo DX Club, Thracian Rose Club, South Eastern DX Club, South West Ohio DX Association, West Virginia DX Association, Oklahoma DX Association, Lone Star DX Association, National Capitol DX Association, Long Island DX Association, Twin City Dx Association, Greater Milwaukee DX Association, Great Southern DX Association, **Northern Ohio DX Association**, Willamette Valley DX Club, and the North East Wisconsin DX Association.

We, are very grateful to our corporate sponsors for their support, namely: Clublog, ACOM Ltd - Bulgaria, LZ Antenna, Spiderbeam Ltd - Germany and GES Electronics.

In the end of this article, We hope that the T30GC DXpedition 2019 will leave good and lasting memories among the radio amateur community!

Here's to new meetings on the air!

With respect! 73! Stan, LZ1GC (T30GC)

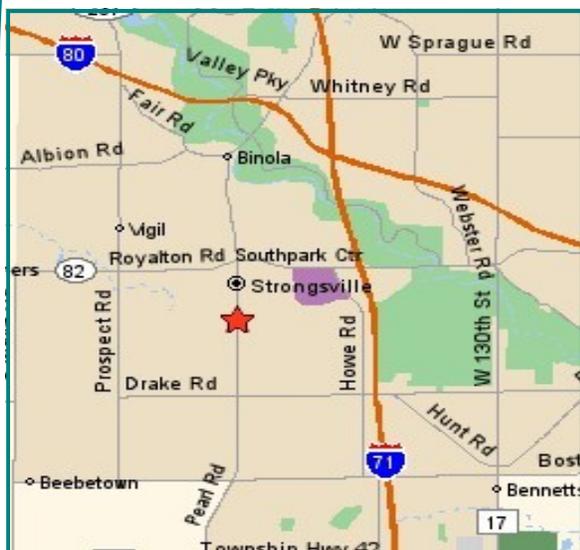


The T30GC team at Incheon Airport, Seoul, Korea with Aves Kang, DS2AGH (left)

NODXA WILL NOT have Field Day this year. You can work Field Day stations from your home station and give credit to the club.



WWW.ARRL.ORG



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

Web-site: <http://www.papays.com/nodxa.html>
 Newsletter Submission: wd8iou@adelphia.net

NODXA Club Officials for 2019-2020

President:	Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW	(440-237-2816)
V. President:	Dennis Stuber, K8LBT	(440-628-1959)
Secretary:	Glenn Williams, AF8C	(440-934-5566)
Treasurer:	Mary Michaelis, N8DMM	(440-236-5426)
Newsletter:	David Autry, WD8IOU	(440-238-0417)



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DXCC Info

As of January 2018, the current DXCC Entities total is: **340**.

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 _____
 Telephone _____
 ARRL Member? _____ Exp. Date _____ DXCC Member? _____
 Special Interest _____

Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, AF8C, K8YSE, and LZ1GC .