



"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.



July 2003

Poolside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Well it finally happened. If you have not heard, delegates at the World Radiocommunications Conference 2003 (WRC-03) "eliminated the requirement that amateur applicants prove Morse Code proficiency to operate below 30 MHz, leaving it up to individual administrations to retain or drop Morse Code as an exam element." I should say WOW, but we all saw it coming. The United Kingdom has already eliminated their CW exams, and I am sure many others will follow. Let me first say I hate to see the CW exams go (even though I am not CW active), but I believe there is a reason for this change (the writing is on the wall).

Face it, next time you go to a club meeting or a hamfest, look around. "WHERE HAS THE YOUTH GONE?" It is just not there. I think there is a major push to get more people interested in amateur radio by making it easier to get a license. With a larger number of operators, there will be more of a reason to protect our amateur radio frequencies. As far as what the League is going to do, word from our ARRL Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, (recently back from a Board of Directors meeting) states, "the general sense is that we (the League) should wait to see what FCC proposes to do before investing much

effort in anticipation of FCC's plan. Remember, there is no need for the Commission to do anything. No action is necessary if they decide to let things stand as they are at this time." I am sure over that the next several months this will be a major topic at most amateur gatherings.

I would like to remind everyone that the "Ohio QSO Party" will be this month (August 23-24th). It would be great if you could get on and hand out a few QSOs and turn in your scores for NODXA. I was a little disappointed to see only 2 or 3 people from NODXA (and one of them was me) was active in the contest. So, I hope to hear you on the air.

Lastly, I sure by now you heard NODXA has lost another member. Joe Skraba, W8ZSD, became a Silent Key on June 29th. I want to thank the many NODXA members who attended the funeral home to pay their last respects. Joe was a great guy and friend. I will miss his humorous words and wit, and his laugh/smile, especially at the NODXA meetings and "BARF80 Breakfasts". It was always fun to talk to him. He will surely be missed.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

Minutes of the July 7th, 2003 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM and followed by the around the room introductions by the 21 members/guests in attendance. The meeting was held at Laura's Kitchen in Broadview Heights, Ohio.

Tedd, KB8NW, informs us of the death of fellow club member Joe Skraba, W8ZSD. He will be missed by all.

There is a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the treasury as reported by Mary, N8DMM.

Bob, W8GC, informed us on the Quad antenna for 3B9FR and also on the CARS classes for the Extra Class License. For more information go to www.cars.org and select education.

A report on the packet cluster was given by Jim, K8MR, and Pete, N8TR.

Dave, WD8IOU, requests articles for the Newsletter.

A request for donations for the Banaba Island and Surinam dx-peditions was related to us by Tedd, KB8NW.

Tedd, KB8NW, informs us about the proposals on Morse Code changes by the IARU and the 40 Meter band realignment and on the use of transmitting signals over utility power lines called Broadband over Power Lines.

CARS special guest speaker at the August 20, 2003 meeting will be Jim Weaver, K8JE, our ARRL Director, Great Lakes Di-

vision, as related to us by Gary, NI8Z. The meeting is to be held at the Oak Grove Picnic Area of the Metro Parks in Brecksville, Ohio starting at 7:30 PM. Bring your ARRL questions and suggestions for Jim. Use the 146.820mhz repeater for assistance.

A discussion on being a collection location for a transceiver for Monk Apollo, SV2ASP, was opened by Tedd, KB8NW.

Steve, N8IS, informs us on the JOTA in the third weekend, the 18 & 19, of October, 2003 for Scout participation. Contact Steve at n8is@cars.org.

A report on Field Day 2003 results was made by John, K8YSE. The number of participants was 22 and had 2 transmitters operating simultaneously. There was 600 cw contacts, 998 phone and 15 digital qso's. There was a battery multiplier and points for the W1AW Field Day Message and 100% Emergency power for a total claimed score of 4456 points. This was followed by a discussion.

A motion was made by Ray, W8BIN, and seconded by Bill, N8PW, to donate \$100.00 to the Mount Augustine Facility for the use of the Field Day site. A vote was taken and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM by Tedd, KB8NW.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Steve, N8IS. His share was \$19.00.

Secretary: Ron, K8VJG.

7 MHz Realignment Compromise Makes Radio History

ARRL Letter

In an 11th-hour compromise, delegates to World Radio-communication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. The expanded worldwide allocation at 40 meters goes into effect on March 29, 2009. Amateurs in the US and the rest of Region 2 will continue to enjoy the 7000 to 7300 kHz band they now have, but with greatly reduced broadcasting interference.

The compromise marked the first time in the history of internationally coordinated radio spectrum allocation that an HF broadcasting band was shifted to accommodate the needs of another service. The compromise cuts in half the incompatibility between amateur and broadcasting use of the 7 MHz band and doubles the 40-meter spectrum available to amateurs in Regions 1 and 3.

While the result falls short of the IARU's goal of a 300-kHz worldwide exclusive band for amateurs, the cooperation of broadcasters, opposing delegates and many others was required to make a positive step for ham radio. Spectrum between 4 and 10 MHz is on the agenda for WRC-07, but further changes to 7000-7200 kHz

will not be considered.

The conference also dropped the international Morse code requirement, leaving individual countries to decide if they want to retain a code proficiency requirement, and adopted a number of improvements to the other international regulations for the amateur service. The delegates also agreed to allow a secondary allocation for satellite borne synthetic aperture radars at 70 cm and made amateur call sign assignment more flexible.

FREE!

GAP TITAN multi-band vertical Antenna to the first person who comes and gets it. On the ground but needs to be dis-assemble.

Please call Stan - AA8IN at 330-667-6011 to set up a time.

Stan (aa8in@arrl.net)

NODXA and the Ohio QSO Party

Saturday, August 23 is the 2003 Ohio QSO Party. This year it's a special one, celebrating Ohio's Bicentennial.

For several years NODXA has supported the Ohio QSO Party by sponsoring a plaque for the highest scoring DX station. For 2003 I'd like to see the club get involved in an additional way – by actively competing in the Ohio club competition.

Like other contests, the OQP club competition is determined simply by the sum of the scores submitted by its members. This can be guys operating from home, or in a host of other fun ways – multiops, portable operations from rare counties, mobiling around Ohio, special events stations (K8ZOO/ K8CRF?), etc.

NODXA have a lot of very good contest/DX stations in a number of northern Ohio counties. If we can get them on the air, we will have a very good base for a big club score. I for one will again be out driving around Ohio – probably the southeast part – and submitting my score for NODXA.

Full details about OQP are at www.mrrc.net/oqp. In a nutshell, the OQP runs from noon to midnight EDT (16z Saturday to 04z Sunday), people outside Ohio work only Ohio stations, but us Buckeyes work everyone, inside or outside Ohio. Exchange a QSO number (starting at 1) and your QTH. Multipliers are by mode, so working Cuyahoga county on both phone and CW gets you two multipliers.

For those NODXA members outside Ohio, join in the fun by chasing Ohio station and Ohio counties. Although only Ohio scores count toward the OQP club competition, we hope those outside Ohio will try to work as many Ohio stations, and NODXA members, as possible. For those outside the USA and Canada, there is a very nice plaque sponsored by NODXA – can you win it?

When you send in your log, be sure to list NODXA as your club, so that your score will be counted towards the club total.

We hope to see everyone on the air on August 23!

Jim Stahl, K8MR

Party Etiquette and the Ohio QSO Party

Like any social gathering, the Ohio QSO Party (and those of other states as well) have a few largely unspoken rules of etiquette. Many are a lot like etiquette for any party. To get you a bit more familiar, here are a few of them:

If you can't be there at the start, get there when you can. Though the serious party goers will be there from noon to midnight, feel free to arrive when your schedule permits. And don't give up if you have to leave. As with any party, people do come and go through the course of the day. And unlike many parties, if you do have to leave, feel free to come back! There are likely to be lots of new people you did not meet the first time around.

Of course if you aren't there full time, you may miss some special guests you will later regret missing – like a mobile or someone else making a short appearance from a rare county.

Come as a group. There is a club competition in OQP – the winning club determined by the sum of the scores from its members. Get your club in-

volved in a great late summer on-air activity!

Or come alone. You're still very welcome even if you're not in a club.

Greet the guests! As Ohioans, we are the "hosts" of this party. Good hosts make a point to approach the visitors and make them feel welcome. Be the first to speak - call CQ! In QSO parties like OQP, the in state guys are typically the ones who do most of the CQing, while the out of state guys typically mostly tune around looking for people in Ohio. So find a frequency and call some CQ's. There will be people, both inside and outside Ohio, who are looking to meet us Ohioians. This may include a lot who are former Buckeyes!

Typically 40 meters is the busiest band in the OQP, but remember that there are lots of people not so close to Ohio who'll be joining the fun. Don't ignore them: spend some time on 20, 15, and if it opens, 10 meters. And don't forget 75/80 at night.

R.S.V.P. Advance reservations of course aren't required, but let the world know of your plans to attend. The OQP has an e-mail reflector to announce plans, ask questions, share ideas, and in general to get psyched for the weekend. You can subscribe to this reflector at the OQP web site, www.mrrc.net/oqp.

No need to bring a hostess gift. Your activity is quite enough!

Send a thank you note. Do

this by sending in your log after the contest. Electronic logs go to oqplogs@mrrc.net. Paper logs go to K8MR at his callbook address.

Attend other people's parties as well. Many other states have their own QSO parties. Like birthday parties, your own are the most special, but you can have lots of fun at other people's parties as well. If you have fun in Ohio's party, check out those other state parties as well.

See you at the Ohio QSO Party - Saturday, August 23. Noon to midnight, EDT. This year is a special party - for Ohio's Bicentennial. Be there!

Jim Stahl, K8MR

C.A.R.S. News

Jim Weaver, K8JE, ARRL Director Great Lakes Division, will be a guest speaker at the C.A.R.S. Aug. 20, 2003 picnic meeting. Get your ARRL questions and suggestions ready for Jim. The location of the picnic is in the Brecksville MetroPark at the Oak Grove site. See map at www.cars.org for details.

Also, CARS will be putting on Amateur Extra classes starting August 27 and going through October 8, 2003 Wednesday evenings, 6:30pm sharp till approx 8:30pm.

*August 27 is for sign up, orientation & handouts.

*October 8 will be a VEC extra class exam for class

members only.

*cost \$30 per person (non CARS members) including CD and all class materials. CARS members get a \$5 discount.

*location: Independence Civic Center, Willow room (map on our web site) 6363 Selig Drive Independence, Ohio 44131

If you want to get your Extra class license go to www.cars.org, follow the link under "EXTRA CLASS INSTRUCTION SIGN UP TIME" and fill out the registration form or send me an e-mail at bob@2cls.com.

USI Activity

Look for NODXA member Byron, KF8UN, to be active from Tappan Lake Island (USI OH-New) between August 9-10th. Activity will be on all bands 80-6 meters. QSL via the address on QRZ.com.

Byron says: "KC8WTP Sandy and I will be camping nearby the night before, weather permitting, and plan to get on the air as soon as the antennas are up on Saturday morning the 9th of August. KC8WTP will be on 6m. if the band opens up. Route-250 crosses Tappan Lake Island".

Go to <http://www.eng.mu.edu/~usi> for more info on the US Islands Award program.

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, K8VJG, K8YSE, K8MR, WB8K, K8AV, N18Z, W8GC, KC41YD, KF8UN, 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

DX Tidbits

NODXA member K8MFO is at number eight in the DXCC Challenge Award program with 3006 entities. NODXA member KF8UN is at number 150 with 2149 entities. For more information on the DXCC Challenge, visit www.arrrl.org/awards/dxcc/listings/challenge.html.

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Manager, wants to remind everyone that once again, the deadline for submitting applications for the 2003 DXCC Annual List is rapidly approaching. Applications must be postmarked September 30, 2003.

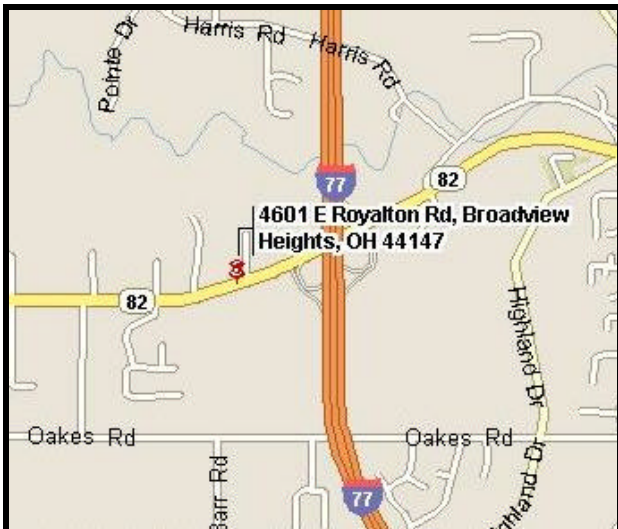
Mike, GM4SUC, reminds everyone that there are only three weeks to go before the International Lighthouse/Ship Weekend takes place (starts at 0001z Saturday, August 16th and ends 2359z Sunday, August 17th). There are just over 250 stations in 34 countries confirming their participation in the event. The list of these stations can be found at: <http://lighthouses.net.au/illw/2003.htm>. Mike states, "If you have notified us of your participation would you please check that the details are correct." Full rules and details of the weekend event can be found at: <http://lighthouses.net.au/illw/index.html>.



Field Day Chairman W8JGU working the pileup on 6 meters



Field Day 2003 Antenna Crew Raising the 20 Meter Hex Beam



NODXA Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the **Laura's Kitchen 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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