

July 2011

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Poolside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

NODXA's ARRL Field Day was a perfect "10" this year. Where do I begin? We had our best score ever, most QSOs ever, BEST weather ever, along with great participation and support, great food, set up (on Friday) and tear down (on Sunday) was quick and easy. Things went so well on tear down we even took a short break, had something to drink and talked about how well Field Day went. We were all impressed with our QSO count (which end up to be almost 2900 QSOs for 2A). Field Day, well "IT WAS JUST PERFECT...."



A big thanks goes to John, K8YSE, who stepped in to be this year's FD Chairman -- great job. Another big thanks goes to Pete, N8TR, (along with his XYL Mary, N8DMM) for the FD antenna system set up. OH YES, we must not forget Chef Dwaine, K8ME, for keeping the troops fed. There was plenty

of things to eat beside burgers and brats. Linda Mirgliotta (my XYL) and Karen Autry (WD8IOU XYL) both cooked special bakery items.

Linda also brought out something special for breakfast on Sunday morning, but we also must not forget her big hit on Saturday -- "barbecue Banana Walnut Cake". You had to be there to try it -- it went quick. Also, had our annual sheet pizza (that I buy every year). If you did not attend, you missed out on the fun and a great Field Day effort by those who did attend. Hope to see you there next year.

On the DX side -- As I was writing this, the Southern Sudan is now the newest country in Africa. It is only a few days (July 14th) before the U.N. votes on accepting the Southern Sudan into the U.N. as its 193rd country and member. Once this happens, the ARRL will accept the Southern Sudan as a new entity for DXCC. At the July NODXA meeting the club voted to fund the "Intrepid-DX Group and the DX Friends" multi-national DXpedition to Southern Sudan. Our club logo is now on their Web page at:

<http://www.dxfriends.com/SouthernSudan2011/foundationclubs.php>

Dates for this operation have not been announced yet, but it should be on or after July 14th, an last for two weeks. Have fun working this new one. Lastly, I would like to remind you once again it is time to renew your club dues. Remember, the major part of your dues help fund DXpedi-

tions, the Dayton HamVention Hospitality Suite and certain club functions (such as Field Day). The club's fiscal year is from May to May. Hope to see you at next NODXA meeting.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

Minutes of the June 6th, 2011 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 7:30pm. There were 18 members and 1 guest present. A round of introductions was held.



Due to a communications mix-up, the minutes of the May 2nd meeting were not available, but would be read at the next meeting, July 11th.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Mary reminded everyone that dues are still due.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the Afghanistan DXpedition did not take place. We received a check for \$225. of our initial \$250. The other \$25. was retained for expedition expenses.

Tedd also reported on the Dayton Hospitality Suite. The club had allotted \$250. for expenses with \$54.76 left over. The club also received \$168 in donations.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the repeater is okay.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is in-progress.

Old - New Business

Tedd, KB8NW, gave a report on the Dayton Hamvention. He reported that the Hamvention was good this year. Early reports state that approximately 20,000 attended. Tedd rated the flea market good as well. Some international DXer's were there as well. There will be a hospitality suite next year and that 57 rooms were already spoken for. Tim, K3LR, reportedly has purchased all remaining rooms in the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The report from everyone was that the hotel was very friendly and accomodating.

Bruce, N8DJX, reported that the DX Dinner was very good and that VP8ORK, S. Orkney, and ZL8X, Kermadec were the top DXpeditions of the year. The new location for the DX Dinner was large and gave people room to circulate. Tedd added that the DX Forum was very good as well.

John, K8YSE, reported that a former commander of the ISS reported that an ammonia leak could have caused a loss of communications. He got the ham radio equipment ready just in case.

Tedd talked with Jim Weaver, K8JE, the Great Lakes Division Director, about doing away with the envelope system for QSL cards from the bureau.

Tedd reported on the following requests for DXpedition donations:

Timor Leste, 4W6A, DXpedition in September. No action was taken at this time.

Afghanistan group now thinking about going to S. Sudan in July or August. Subject to U.N. approval and ARRL recognition and callsign issuance. Bruce, N8DJX moved, seconded by Pete, N8TR that the donation request be tabled until the next meeting. The motion passed.

Wallis Futuna, FWOR and FWOR/T scheduled for January 2012. Dwaine, K8ME, moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the motion be tabled until the next meeting. The motion passed.

Nauru, C21AA, scheduled for November 10th to December 6th 2011. Bruce, N8DJX, moved, seconded by Pete, N8TR, that the motion be tabled until the next meeting. The motion passed.

Tedd reported that DL2HBX, had won the NODXA-sponsored DX plaque in last years Ohio QSO Party.

Tedd also reported that the team from the Congo, ZL3IO and ZL3IQ had moved from Germany

to New Zealand.

John, K8YSE, headed-up the Field Day planning at the meeting. The plans were extensive and involved planning for food, equipment, tables and shelters. Who would bring what, who would help set up on Friday night and who would bring food and cook. Pete, N8TR, and Nick, W8XD, would bring transceivers. Antenna tuners were needed. Pete would bring tables, Dwaine, K8ME, would bring the grill along with BBQ and chicken.

Dave, WD8IOU, moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the club allot \$150. for Field Day food and supplies. The motion passed.

Tedd, KB8NW, reminded the members that due to the July 4th holiday, the next meeting would be Monday, July 11th.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Ron, K8VJG. The winning amount of \$15.50 was donated to the Field Day food fund.

The meeting was adjourned by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

Field Day 2011 - NODXA Style by John Papay, K8YSE

The 2011 Field Day Exercise is now history and I am pleased to report that it was our best ever. We racked up 1131 CW qso's and 1747 on phone. A big thanks to all the participants who made our Field Day Exercise a huge success.



There are many reasons that we had such a good score this year. For one, the weather was absolutely perfect. Usually it is very hot and everyone is uncomfortable. But this year temps were in the 70's with some cloud cover and that made for an ideal environment to operate. NODXA has been using wire antennas for many years. Pete, N8TR, shoots arrows over the tree tops and the attached lines allow us to pull up our wire antennas high over the ground. This year Pete did his best ever in getting those ropes at the very tops of those trees and the antenna performance seemed to be better than in previous years. Even the GOTA antenna was high off the ground this year.

We had two FT1000D's for the CW and SSB stations this year. They were set for 150W output and that gave us an edge over our 100W stations that were used in the past. The FT1000D, although almost 20 years old now, is a high performance radio and is still preferred by many over the newer rigs. Our GOTA station was a FT1000MP, another very good radio.

Although we have some members who contest, most of us are DX'ers. We don't have scheduled times for people to operate; rather it just all comes together and anyone who comes out has a chance to operate. We are more concerned with having a good time than we are with posting a good score. This year, things just seemed to come together. Nick, W8XD, started out with his FT817 on 40meters with the solar panel providing the power. The required 5 contacts were made on CW in just 11 minutes. Nick then moved the antenna to the FT1000D and started hammering out the contacts.

Denny, WB8K, took the honors on SSB hammering out 134 q's in the first hour on 20 meters and then returning at 1200z the next day with 111 q's in that one hour period. On CW, K8MR started operating at the very end of the contest. He had two hours with 84 qso's each, very impressive for the end of the test 1500-1800z. Although there were breaks between operators, the only significant one was on phone and that lasted for 37 minutes. Dave, WD8IOU, operated from 0558z to 1142z on SSB and sets the record for the longest stretch, almost 6 hours! How did he stay awake?

The CW Operators are the ones that had the most stamina. W8XD operated for 4 hours and 53 minutes at the beginning of the contest racking up 200 q's. Then Jim, KE8G, took over for the next

4-1/2 hours making another 300 q's. Then Al, N8AGU, operated for 5-1/2 hours during the night and made 160 q's. Being able to operate for these long periods of time is exceptional.

Our GOTA operators included Linda, KB8NW's xyl and Karen, WD8IOU's xyl. Linda made 66 q's and Karen made 23. Harriet Russell made 2q's, Marie Wislocki had 5 q's and Denny's xyl, Kathy N8KEP made 2 more. This was good for 160 bonus points on top of the 98 points towards our qso total!

John K8YSE had his satellite truck at field day again this year. He netted 3 cw and 33 voice qso's on 6 different satellites. He made a contact with PA1TNO, 1D DX, on FO-29. After quite a time on AO-51, John managed a qso with W4BS, 3A Tennessee operated by Damon WA4HFN. Our AO-27 contact was with W8MAI, 2A Michigan. On SO-50 we worked AA5PK, 1D West Texas. We limited our FM contacts to one per bird per the ARRL rules. This year we did not have HO-68 and SO-67 as they were both inoperative. Our linear birds were AO-7, FO-29 and VO-52. The equipment operated without a hitch.

Our bonus points were about the same as last year except that we did not send 10 extra NTS messages for an extra 100 points. We did send one NTS message to the section manager as always. Although we invited the press, no one showed up this year. North Royalton Mayor Robert Stefanik was invited but did not attend. Also not in attendance but invited was North Royalton CERT Director Nick Phillips.. Richfield Police Chief Dale Carter was invited by Carl, K8AV, but did not make an appearance.

Field Day would not be a success it is if it were not for those that bring all the stuff. But no one comes close to bringing more than Pete N8TR and Mary N8DMM. If it were not for these two highly motivated individuals, the NODXA field day would not be what it is. Pete has accumulated everything that you could possibly need and piles it into two vehicles to take to field day. If you need coax, jumpers, headsets, adapters, connectors, antennas, switches, fans, power strips, you name it and Pete has it. Others bring many necessary items as well and their efforts all contribute. We try to keep it as simple as possible with 2 stations and wire antennas. It makes setup easy and teardown takes 1-1/2 hours. We are usually leaving at 3:30. We don't rely on any infrastructure.

We literally operate in a field on field day. All power is supplied by a generator, a solar panel and batteries. We put up tents; there are no shelters and flush toilets. If the generator quits, it is pitch dark except for the lights you can see in the distance. The true test of emergency operating is not having anything but your equipment and using what nature has provided. Year after year we prove we can do it. It goes mostly unnoticed by the public. But when a disaster strikes, we are there. We know how to make things work and we know how to communicate. Ham radio is a National Resource. Every time there is a disaster, we show the world that we are up to the challenge. This year's field day was only a test. Now we return you to your regular programming, already in progress.

2011 Total Score: 8,018 Contact points + 1,110 Bonus points = 9,128

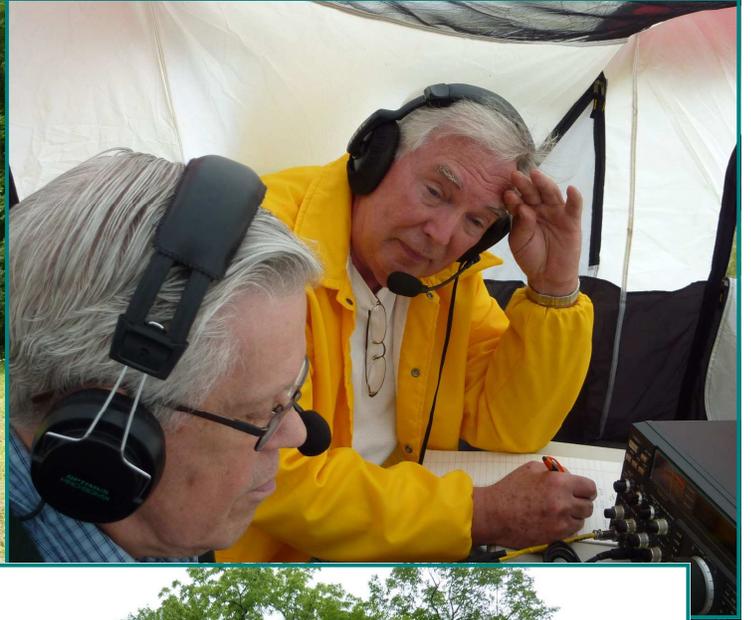
2010 Total Score: 6,826 Contact points + 1,170 Bonus points = 7,996

73, John K8YSE, Field Day Chairman

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

NODXA 2011 Field Day in Pictures Submitted by John Papay, K8YSE, and Dave Autry, WD8IOU





Review of *The Elecraft® K3 - Design, Configuration, and Operation*, author Fred Cady - KE7X by Jim Blanca, KE8G

"All you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask!" How appropriately put by Frederick M. Cady, KE7X, author of the new book [The Elecraft® K3 - Design, Configuration, and Operation](#) available though his website www.ke7x.com.

Although most of the information contained in this 288 page resource can be found in the Elecraft® K3 Owner's Manual, Fred takes a different approach. He includes numerous photographs, illustrations and charts to help the reader visualize the practical operation of the K3 Transceiver. He goes further by providing exercises to promote actual hands on adjustments to both the transmit and receive portions of this radio.



This manual is broken down into nine chapters; starting with Ordering Your K3 to the description and use of the optional P3 Panadapter.

In chapter one, Fred gives the reader an overall explanation of how the roofing filters work, charts listing the available roofing filters for CW/DATA and SSB operation. He includes four exercises to help the reader determine the correct filters for their operating style. He concludes the chapter with a brief explanation of all the K3 options.

Chapter two covers the configuration of the K3. It includes topics; such as, Per-mode, Per-band configuration, Programmable Function Keys, using the K3 utility to update its firmware and Crystal Filter Setup, to mention a few. I found the Crystal Filter Setup section to be a valuable tool, plainly describing alternative bandwidth switching points. Until reading this chapter, I was using the factory set defaults for my 400Hz & 250Hz filters.

Chapter three goes on to explain about the VFOs, tuning, noise blanking and noise reduction, operating CW and a detailed explanation of the Audio Peaking Filter (APF) that was recently introduced via firmware to the K3.

Chapter four covers the K3's Operating Hints & Kinks for reducing interference via Passband filtering, how the DSP algorithms work, and onto the pre-amplifier, attenuator & RF gain controls dos & don'ts.

Chapter five goes into the specifics for the K3 Receiver; including a well thought out section on AGC which includes several graphs to make the explanation much clearer. Using Fred's illustration, I was able to easily setup the Receiver Equalizer making a big improvement for my K3. I feel this alone was worth the cost of the manual. Please see Fred's website (www.ke7x.com) for my quote on this!

Chapter six goes into the details of the K3 Transmitter section; including sections on the KAT3 antenna tuner and the KPA3 100 watt power amplifier.

Chapter seven goes into a detailed explanation of the KIO3 I/O interface. This unit is what allows the K3 to send & receive digital modes, allows a computer to control the radio, and communication

The Elecraft® K3 Design, Configuration, and Operation

Fred Cady - KE7X



All you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask!

with other station equipment.

Chapter eight covers some of the special operations that can be accomplished with the K3. These include macros, the optional Digital Voice Recorder (DVR), recording received audio, and the use of numerous optional transverters.

Chapter nine speaks on the optional P3 Panadapter and its use with the K3. Included in this chapter is information on basic screen layout, front panel controls and their use, and a DXers most important tool, separate markers for VFO A & VFO B. It makes split operation during a pileup an easy task!

It doesn't end there! There are many Appendices included; for those who operate phone, a chart of all compatible microphones, and in tabular form the Main & Configuration Menus, to mention a couple of them.

I would highly recommend this book for anyone owning a Elecraft® K3, whether a seasoned veteran or a newcomer. There is something in this book for everyone! It is available in several configurations: spiral bound hardcopy, CD and PDF download. I picked the third choice, as I can easily search the manual electronically. I was able to print it out and now have a hardcopy in a loose leaf binder. Great for highlighting important parts. I am also able to re-print pages, if needed!

For the next newsletter I will write about the must have software, K3 EZ. This free software makes for easy setup and configuration of the Elecraft® K3 transceiver.

Ohio QSO Party!

By Kenny Silverman, K2KW

CQ Ohio Hams! Stations from across Ohio are making plans to be on the air for one of the premier state QSO parties: the Ohio QSO Party (OhQP). We hope you will join the fun on Saturday, August 27.

People from around the world are seeking out Ohio stations in this event and it's a fun time for

Ohio stations to be on the air and be the hunted station, or "DX". The OhQP occurs on Saturday August 27, 2010 from local noon to local midnight (12 short hours).

In the basic QSO exchange, Ohio stations send a consecutive serial number + county, and non-Ohio stations (who can only work Ohio) send a consecutive serial number and their state, VE province, or "DX". Suggested frequencies are:

SSB 3825, 7200, 14,250, 21,300, and 28,450 kHz

CW: 3545, 7045, 14,045, 21,045, 28,045 kHz

When you get on the air, try calling CQ in addition to searching and pouncing. Remember, everyone is tuning the bands looking for Ohio stations - your CQ's will be answered! Full details and an OhQP operating guide can be found on the official website at: www.ohqp.org

This is a great event for a club activity or a training ground for new(er) hams. QSO rates are as high or higher than Field Day, and there's virtually no QRM in this event. Round up the club and have some fun. If you are in the mood to enjoy the great Ohio countryside, try operating portable or mobile from a rare county. Remember, the ultimate goal is to just get on the air and have some fun!

73 and we hope to hear you on the air,

Kenny K2KW

Ohio QSO Party PR Coordinator

kenny.k2kw@gmail.com

www.ohqp.org



Amateur Radio Cruise-In



So you think that you have one of the best amateur radio mobile installations to be found? Well here is your chance to show off that mobile rig and have the opportunity to compare it to dozens of others, HF, VHF, UHF, you name it.



On Wednesday, August 17, 2011, starting at 5:00 p.m., the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) will be sponsoring an Amateur Radio Cruise-In Night at the **A&W** Restaurant located at 769 East Main Street in Ravenna.



Hams from all over Northeast Ohio will be cruising in to check out the wide variety of mobile radio setups and get some ideas for their own vehicles. Prizes will be awarded for the most unique and the ugliest installations and for the farthest DX station worked by an HF mobile rig from the A&W between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Have you wondered how well screwdriver antennas perform? Confused about how best to run your power cables from the battery to the passenger compartment? How have other hams dealt with all that noise generating equipment in newer cars? Can you work DX from your truck? Need a solution for mounting that remote control head?

Well come on by and get those questions answered while you enjoy a burger, some fries, and a mug of **A&W** root beer. Enjoy an evening of ham radio fellowship and fun and get to know other hams from throughout the area.



Talk-in will be on the N8EQJ repeater,
146.895 MHz, PL 110.9

More information can be found at the PCARS web site, www.portcars.org or contact Jim, KC8PD, at KC8PD@portcars.org or 330-297-7979.





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 2011-2012

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 July 2011, the current DXCC Entities total is: **341.**

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, N8CX, K8YSE, K8ME, KE8G, and K2KW.