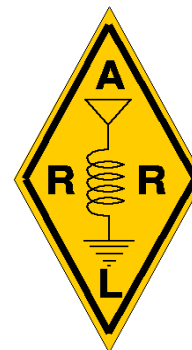


June-July 2015

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Poolside (BRRRR...Almost!) Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

Well, the 2015 Dayton HamVention has come and gone. This year's event was fun as usual, but seemed a little uneventful and definitely tiring. The flea market was on the slim side, and the things that were being displayed on the inside didn't get me excited or interested in buying anything. As far as being tired, maybe it is my age showing and the loss of sleep over the three day event. The weather was not too bad. The first day was hot with some rain.



The second day was cool to warm with a downpour of rain, while the last day was dry. Announcements as far as DXing goes - K1N Navassa Island operation was awarded "DXpedition of the Year"; Vlad, UA4WHX, was awarded "DXpeditioner of the Year"; and CQ Announced its 2015 Hall of Fame Inductees. (see [http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2015/05/cq-announces-2015-hall-](http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2015/05/cq-announces-2015-hall-of-fame-inductees.html)

[of-fame-inductees.html](http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2015/05/cq-announces-2015-hall-of-fame-inductees.html))

They were all announced at the Southwest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) DX Dinner. Also announced at the DX dinner banquet was that three BY operators will be activating Scarborough Reef (BS7H) in 2016. This was a major surprise. The DX Forum presentations were on the VK9MT Mellish Reef, EP6T Kish Island (Iran), K1N Navassa Island DXpeditions and speaker Don Miller, W9WNV.

There were huge crowds that attended the NODXA Hospitality Suite at the Dayton Crown Plaza all three nights. Look for some pictures in this newsletter. In all, the convention still has a lot to offer. Next year's event will take place May 20-22nd, 2016, and if you have not heard, Hara Arena will be doing some renovations to the Hara complex which is expected to be completed by next year's show.

The next big event is the ARRL's Field Day, June 27-28th. I hope you can come out and visit (possibly operate, but not required) and support your club. It is a get time to meet other members (bring a friend, ham or non-ham). We will have three stations on the air - CW, SSB and 6 meters. Details and a map are available somewhere in this newsletter. Hope to see you there....

As always, I hope to see you in the coming weeks/months, possibly at a hamfest or NODXA's general membership meetings every first Monday of the month (unless it is a holiday -- it will be the second Monday).

As a reminder, if you have a topic to discuss about DXing or contesting, bring it up at the meeting. Also, if you would like

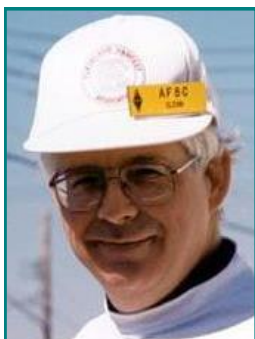
"The Mission of the Northern Ohio DX Association is to promote and support Amateur Radio and the DX Community around the world."

to put on a program of some interest for the club in the coming months, let us know so we can schedule you in for a meeting. We are always looking for a program.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW P.S. Did you renew? Dues are due as of May.

Minutes of the May 4th, 2015 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 22 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the undersigned read the minutes for the meeting of April 6, 2015. Ron, K8VJG moved and Bruce N8DJX seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed on the vote.



Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Dave, KZ8Y moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded the motion to approve the minutes. That motion also passed on the vote. For the refreshments for the Dayton hospitality suite, Gary, NI8Z moved for a funding allocation of \$250.00. The motion was seconded by Dwaine, K8ME. The motion passed on the vote. The repeater was reported to be working fine. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU was absent at this meeting. Initial comments on Dayton were requested by Tedd, and a few were offered.

Old/New Business:

Some opening discussions on Field Day included Dwaine reporting that he has fixed the generator. Ron reported that he has a backup generator. Dwaine, K8ME, announced that only two seats are remaining available for the Saturday CARS bus to Dayton. Tedd reporting having two new DXpedition donation requests and also we have the leftover request for Palestine 2016 from our last meeting. A quick decision was made to leave the Palestine discussion on the table for the future. A DXpedition to Viet Nam was the first new one to be discussed. Twenty-two operators from nine different countries will work low bands with six stations, two on each mode including digital, from October 31 to November 10 using the call 3W8MD. A question on the list ranking for Viet Nam came up with 45th on digital. So the Viet Nam topic was tabled.

For the second request, a large group is going to Palmyra, ranked two for Europe and 10 for the U.S. There will be 12 operators for 14 days on 160 through 6, all modes. The required funding has been estimated to be around \$198,700 so evidently they need more funding help. The operating period will be January 11 through 26 in 2016 as possibly the call K5P. This request was also tabled. People can read about the plans on www.palmyra2016.org. Nelson K8DJC, moved and Dwaine, K8ME, seconded to table this discussion until after Dayton and the voters agreed.

Tedd announced that we are at the end of fiscal year so dues are due for the next year. George, K8KR, asked if any amateur radio support was provided for the Nepal earthquake disaster. Tedd said that nets on 14205 and 14215 were announced on NEWSLINE. Tedd described the TV show, "Forgotten 98", shown on the History Channel, about the WWII post-war survivors on Wake Island. As described in the show, one of 98 men might have been a radio amateur. George described being on Guam in 1962.

Denny, WB8K, described the R120 Alphabet Soup Contest in which he worked a number of stations and received a fine certificate. There is another R120 event this month. Mary, N8DMM, again discussed the \$7.00 NODXA caps for sale. Gary then discussed the old club roster from 2008 that he found on www.papays.com and he questioned why there is no newer roster in its place. Ron, K8VJG, asked if Scarborough Reef is going to become a deleted entity. Tedd responded "no" to answer that question.

Tedd reminded everyone of David Vore, K8WW having become a Silent Key in late April. Dave

was big on 6m and contesting. It was reported that Dave suffered coronary blockage from a blood clot after a knee operation.

Wrapup:

The next meeting will occur on June 1. At that meeting the main discussion will be for Field Day planning. Ultimately Gary, NI8Z, moved to close the meeting. This was seconded by Ron, K8VJG, and approved on the vote. The 50/50 raffle basket contained \$36.00. Joe, N8QXC, won the raffle drawing and donated his half back to the club. All activities closed at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Field Day 2015 by David Autry, WD8IOU

It's Field Day time again! June 27 and 28 to be exact. John, K8YSE, is the field day chairman this year and has decided that we will do a low-key, just for fun, operation. As a result, we will not have a GOTA station this year because of all the extra work required to set it up; the club will participate in the 2A class using two stations: SSB, and CW/RTTY.

The NODXA site is the same as last year, the Mount Augustine Training Center located on 5232 Broadview Road in Richfield. A map to the Field Day site is below.



Everybody is encouraged to attend this 24-hour marathon, and, most of all, to operate! We especially need CW operators to keep that station running for the full 24 hours.

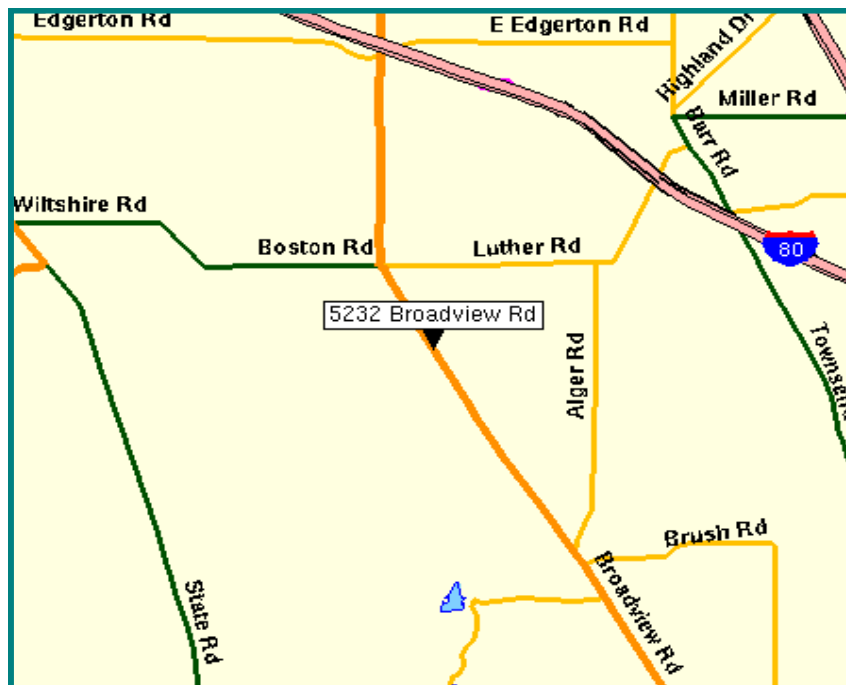
Field Day is a great way to introduce young people to ham radio. So bring your grandkids, nephews/nieces, etc.

Pete, N8TR, is planning an early setup of tents and antennas Friday evening around 6 PM. Everybody is encouraged to stop by and help out; this will decrease the amount of work required on Saturday morning.

The contest starts at 2 PM Saturday and ends at 2 PM Sunday. Operators are real scarce during the "3rd shift" (12 AM to 8 PM) so it would be a great help for our club's score if we could have a couple more operators during those hours.

The club has allocated some money for food and drink so there should be plenty to eat. But we will need some cooks so, even if you don't want to operate, stop on out and flip some burgers!

Remember to bring the bug spray, folding chairs, sun screen, and 807's! See you there!



NODXA Hospitality Suite 2015



Lots of talk, beer, food, and just good times at the NODXA Hospitality Suite.



The breakfast provided by Janeen and Linda was fantastic! Good job ladies!



The Breakfast Babes, Janeen and Linda, with Wes Lamboley, W3WL



Tedd, KB8NW, and Zorro, JH1AJT, mugging for the camera.

Tromelin 2014 FT4TA (Part 2) By Seb, F5UFX

Sunday, November 2

We fully measured the enthusiasm of the entire planet around our project. Propagation conditions were exceptional. The same band could open to Japan, Europe and the United States simultaneously. We did not let ourselves be carried away and stuck to our original plans.

As clear as they were, our instructions were sometimes difficult to enforce as the world jostle to make contact at all costs. If you thought that the pileups seemed dense from your side, know that you were hearing only a small part of them. Even our performing equipment was close to the limit of saturation. Despite filters, attenuators and the experience of the operators, we had no choice but to greatly expand the splits. This will be true from the first to the last day of our activity.

By late afternoon, a 200m reversible beverage covering North America and Europe was installed. Skeptical about the performance of this kind of antenna in this environment, it proved to be an ally of choice and worked well even without a preamplifier. Both directions allowed us to toggle between the short path and long path, position on which we listened to the west coast of the USA (W6-W7) from 30m to 160m. The second beverage stretched towards Japan remained less efficient, probably due to the proximity of water or the physical setting in this direction.

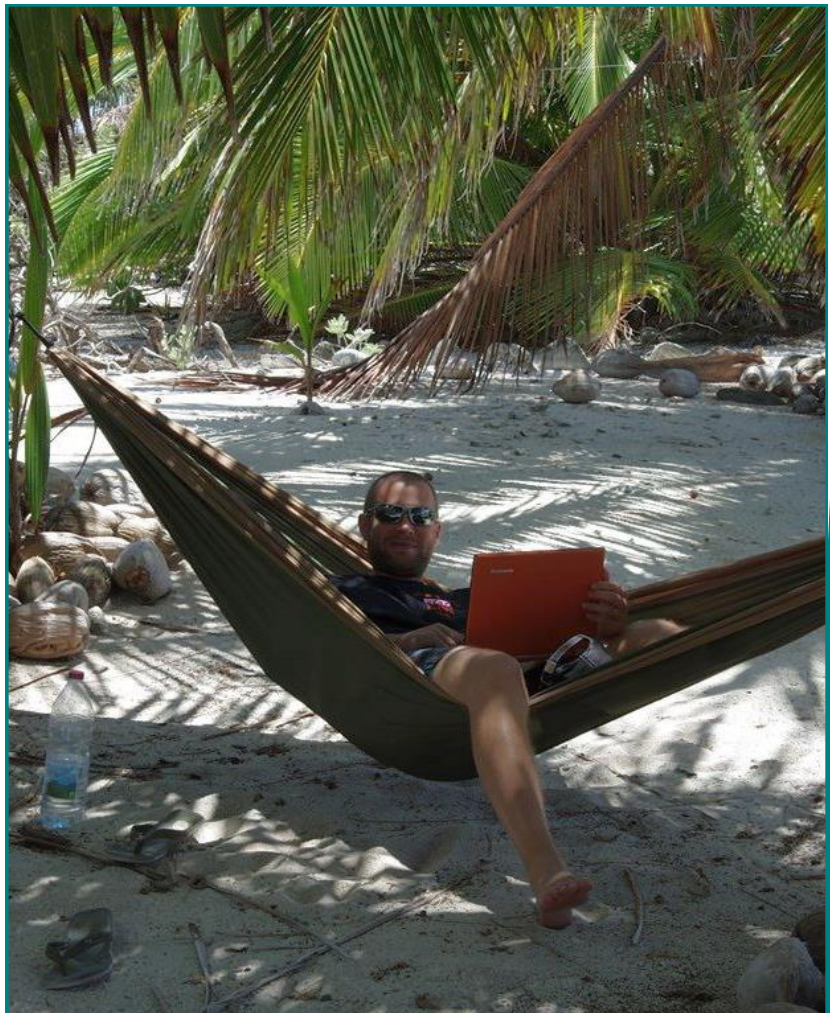
Again very good openings on 6m to Asia and in the evening to Europe. The number of contacts increased. Five (or six) stations kept busy the whole day. At night we kept "only" 3 to allow everyone to sleep.

Monday, November 3

This was back-to-school day on Réunion Island and the first date in a long series with students, since each half day until Wednesday would be devoted to a different school. The tests carried out the day before between Frank, F4AJQ, and Axel, FR5GS, confirmed the feasibility of the link. The 40m band was chosen because on one hand it offered the best signals for short skip propagation and secondly it was not used in these time slots.

ARRA Amateur radio operators took the opportunity to show students in different schools what our hobby is all about. Journalists had been invited and again we took the opportunity to talk about our activity. Contacts between Frank and amateurs in different schools started. The Q&A took place for about an hour, questions such as how we got there, to do what, how did you wash, what made your stay on Tromelin remarkable, etc.

Right after these conversations, we



turned off our generator to perform routine checks and maintenance. We used this moment to have lunch together and discuss the direction to take after analyzing the first statistics and feedback from our pilot stations. By mid-afternoon, other schools were contacted. Everyone enjoyed the contacts, operators, children, and teachers. Patrick, Henry and Eugène came by and had fun with the type of questions asked. According to feedbacks from Axel, FR5GS, media coverage was good. A long article was in preparation for the local newspaper.

Tuesday, November 4

The pace was frantic. Yet the pileup stopped suddenly. Fred, F5ROP, found a small turtle at the steps of the Malagasy house, probably attracted by the lights. Since our arrival we had been waiting for this moment. We indeed had observed the previous days some turtles laying eggs on the beaches at night (the reason why we could not install our antennas there) but this impromptu meeting was something out of this world. Caught and released in the ocean, we returned to our stations where the pileup resumed as if it had never been interrupted.

Wednesday, November 5

At breakfast, we received email news from Yann, F1NGP, our QSL Manager. He just got the LOTW certificate we applied for before we left providing the required supporting documents and proof of our presence on the island when we arrived. In great secrecy, we had decided to load the logs during the expedition on LOTW, an approach that was hailed by the amateur radio world. Feedback submitted by our pilot stations was taken into account though sometimes contradictory. No band was open 24 hours a day, not even 20m which completely closed for a few hours after our sunrise. We adapted our presence and hours of rest around these moments of respite. The 10m and 15m bands were exceptional and were the two bands that had the longest openings. Logically enough, we made the most of it and did not let an opportunity go by.

Thursday, November 6

We were about to surpass the 50,000 contacts. The day before was the most prolific day with 8,500 QSO.

As expected, the West Coast of the United States remained the most difficult area to contact, but we strove to make every effort to achieve it. These efforts were rewarded particularly on 30m and 40m long path at our sunset.

That morning, we



had some rain, but not enough to fill tens of tanks distributed around the station. This was the first time we had rain since our arrival. Water management remained a key concern for the TAAF staff, which was able to educate us on our arrival. A pump system could raise the water so it could be used for showers, kitchen, toilet, but it could not be wasted, especially here more than anywhere else. The rainy season was eagerly awaited because reserves were dwindling.

Thursday was also the first day of the philatelic exhibition. At the time and frequency agreed we called, somewhat anxious. After a while, we heard the guys back in Paris answering. The connection was not excellent but the contact was established! The operation would be repeated for 4 days, morning and afternoon until the end of the show.

Friday, November 7th

That day was a bit special since it was Flo's birthday. For the occasion, Eugene prepared an apple cake and we used a second generator maintenance check to have this meal together. Having one's birthday on Tromelin is a rare privilege!

The connections with the philatelic exhibition, in the form of fifteen-minute exchanges came and went under excellent conditions. Again, feedbacks were extremely positive. We were told that the imminent contact was announced through the sound system of the show. At that moment, the TAAF stand would become the center of attention. The audience held their breath anxiously waiting to hear FT4TA on the radio. People got interested and asked many questions. All would like to speak into the microphone. Journalists were also present. The F6KOP members were on the stand from the opening to the closing of the exhibition, introducing our activity and answering all kinds of questions.

Weekend of November 8 and 9

The milestone of 60,000 contacts being reached we immediately increased the new goal to 70,000. By chance, the 70,000th QSO would be performed on Sunday evening with the philatelic exhibition. Throughout the weekend we had a steady heavy traffic although a CW and RTTY contest paralyzed our activity on the so-called traditional bands. This had the effect of dramatically slowing down our progress even though the conditions were excellent.

The end of our sojourn nearing, we established a dismantling schedule over two days. On Sunday, the 20/17/15 VDA were folded as well as the 160m and 80m verticals. The 4-square was dismantled; only a long stick would be used for each band.

The last night, only the 10m/12m VDA, the Step-Ir and two vertical dipoles were kept, the very same ones that had been employed the first night. The team members who did not operate were working to clean, pack and store equipment in the crates.



We spent our last evening having a meal together. This was an opportunity to prepare some memories: group photos, signing special envelopes with "our" stamp, autographing of the flags, etc. The only trace of our passage was left in the guestbook of the weather station. So FT4TA went down in history of Tromelin alongside the many events contained therein.

Monday, November 10

The last items were quickly removed and protected with a plastic film. We had to ensure that the equipment would not be damaged by moisture or salt, especially since we did not know how long the crates would stay on Tromelin. Around 9:30 we closed them and finished cleaning the premises. We also made sure that no paper or piece of tape had been forgotten on the ground.

Ten minutes before their arrival, the aircraft crew made contact on VHF, just enough time to position ourselves to film their arrival from all angles. The traditional group photo completed our stay. Exchanges and thanks to our friends staying on the island continued for a little while, perhaps to delay the scheduled departure. The latest accolades reflected the genuine bonds that developed despite the short duration of our mission. We finally boarded the plane with a heavy heart. At our request the pilot made a tour of the island that allowed us to take some pictures. The view is amazing and helped give us an unforgettable memory of Tromelin, knowing that we would probably never return.

The return flight was extremely quiet. We relaxed and everyone was carried away by fatigue. As in the first leg, we conducted a short technical stop at Tamatave before returning to Mayotte. Upon arrival, we contacted our families to reassure them and to get some news. We found emails, comments and impressions that tended to reassure us about the quality of our work and proceeded to send the missing part of the log. We had not been able to send that last part from Tromelin due to a problem with the satellite connection. Many of you expected this last update. That last evening together was festive, but within the limits of general fatigue!

Tuesday, November 11

The team split after breakfast. Again, hugs and handshakes were long. Franck, F4AJQ, and Fred, F5ROP, were the first to fly to Paris. Gil, F4FET, stayed in Mayotte for a few days for sightseeing and...more radio! Michel, FM5CD, Flo, F5CWU, Vincent, F4BKV, and myself (Seb, F5UFX) went to Réunion Island to debrief at the TAAF headquarters. We were greeted by Axel, FR5GS, and Stéphane, F5UOW, in St Denis. Both participated in the operations from schools on Réunion Island.

The next morning, we met with the



TAAF staff who welcomed us warmly. The responses following our mission were good. Preparation and seamless logistics allowed them to have no concern. Similarly, all communication activities were highlighted and appreciated in all services. The outstanding issues were addressed, including the repatriation of the crates. To conclude, we gave our thoughts extensively with the environmental conservation services and shared our findings on the nesting area for birds and species observed during the stay.

We ended that day not without scheduling an appointment for a meeting and new exchanges in Paris during the 1st quarter of 2015.

Conclusion

As this was being written some topics remained to be addressed. It is therefore not a conclusion but a reflection on the whole project.

The simple fact that we were able to complete the mission is a satisfaction in itself. So many things could have gone wrong. It's a huge relief to be here today writing this text and to have no negative point to report.

In this type of activity, the challenges are many and risk taking is important. This is of course part of the game and whatever happens we need to stand up for it. Throughout our journey, several steps proved to be major points of no return, which in addition to affecting the operation's success directly, would have been a major financial burden in case of failure: purchase of equipment, shipping of the crates and charter aircraft. Only a careful preparation leaving no element of chance allowed us to succeed.. The past year has not been a cakewalk. Each dossier was treated as a professional matter and was subject to strict monitoring. The same rigor was applied to all involved: the team members, small group leaders, external parties.

The operators all had numerous expeditions under their belt before this one, including some from extremely popular entities. Naturally, we relied on these experiences to prepare this project.

Thanks to all, "Tromelin 2014" is the success that everyone recognizes today. The objectives, whether or not directly related to the radio were achieved, even exceeded. With a track record like that, we would have immediately signed up for it a few months ago!

After 10 days of operation, more than 70,000 contacts were made, while respecting the commitments and particularly that of giving a chance to ham radio operators located in geographic areas where contact with Tromelin is difficult. We made sure that we gave a chance to as many people as possible to contact us, although it must be admitted that all callers could not reach their goals. Nevertheless, we are pleased to have pushed back Tromelin ten places down in the ranking of the most wanted countries. Thank-you messages and positive reviews here and there on the internet abound and further support our satisfaction.

With our findings during those eleven days and reading



many constructive comments on our return, we could debrief with supporting statistics. Therefore we can raise some specific issue for consideration.

Every effort has been made to allow as many different people to establish at least one contact. Since no band could have been used day and night continuously, we have tried to follow the openings and ensured virtually permanent presence on 10m and 15m, bands on which the propagation conditions were quite exceptional at the time of the DXpedition, even going beyond our most optimistic forecasts.

From sunrise until the middle of the night, the radio traffic was directed towards the most suitable areas to contact at that specific time. From Japan to the Pacific through the Americas, the entire globe was thus scanned. Some of you have reported to us QSO made from their car in Japan, or with simple dipoles and 100w from California. Proof were it needed that anyone with an antenna, a little patience and experience has had their chance.

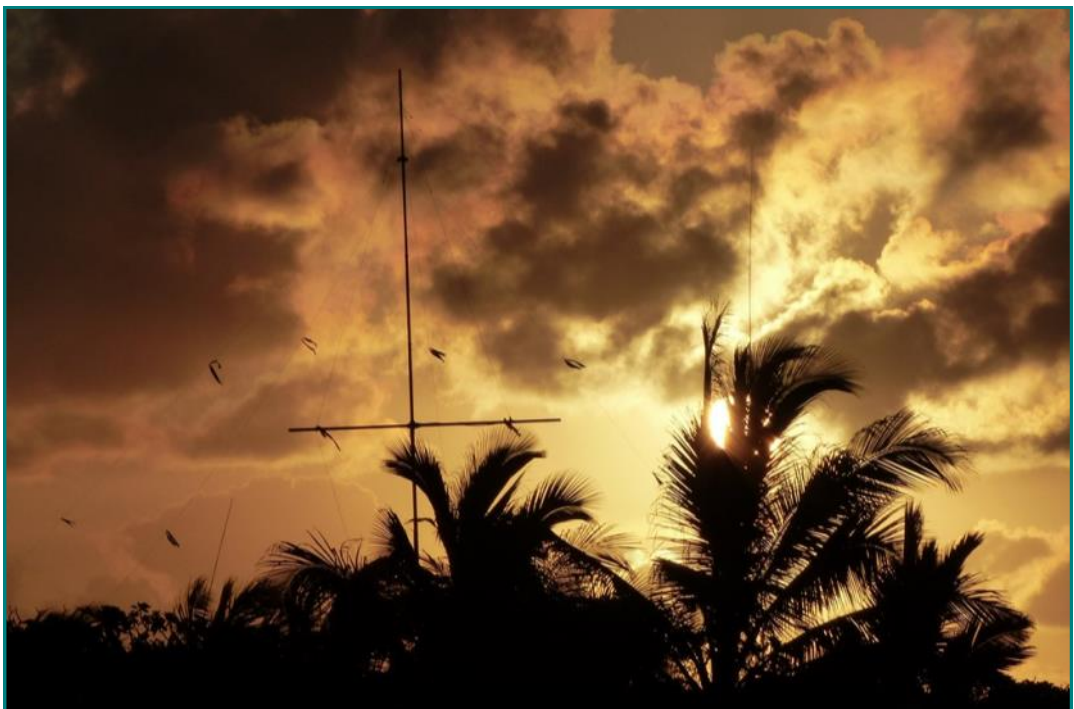
The previous expedition (2000) that took place in the months of July-August, had made few contacts on the low bands. Being ourselves passionate, a focus on 80-160m was our second stated objective.

Just hours after we landed on Tromelin, we were active on 160m. Many of you had a hard time believing that a QSO took place as it is so unusual. It is clear that this choice has paid off because the conditions were exceptional the first few days. Subsequently, we tried to improve reception by testing different devices (DHDL, beverages) even though the static level intensified. The best results were obtained with a reversible beverage as well as with the transmitting antenna as in previous operations. The final log displays more than 1,200 contacts on 160m and 2,700 on 80m. Again we have given our best to satisfy all geographic areas.

Across all bands, the distribution of contacts by continent is what we wanted to achieve. We had to manage traffic and take advantage of each opening to allow Asia and the Americas to earn almost 40% of the contacts while the path to Europe was invariably open day and night.

So yes, it was difficult for many of you to make contact as the demand was high. However, at no time had we suggested that it would be otherwise. Rest assured, it was necessary for us to give the best we had too. There was no respite or slackness on our part. None of the 70,000 QSO was easy, every call pulled out from the pile-up was hard work and deserved.

After 13 years of silence, an expedition of 10 days with 7 operators was clearly advertised as a sprint which all radio amateurs in the world would participate. This has inevitably resulted in overcrowded bands, sometimes overflowing with all the difficult side effects to control: very broad splits, discipline problems. Despite these conditions, the operators have kept their composure and keep the rhythm while achieving a mini-



mum error rate. Everyone followed the instructions and the guidelines decided earlier.

We read here and there that our splits were a little wide. Looking back, we think that sometimes they could have been slightly tightened, but not at the expense of speed or luck left to smaller signals.

FT4TA is unlike some "QSO factory" expedition we encounter more and more frequently. Please be aware that there is nothing critical in this statement. This is just not to compare what cannot be compared!

We appreciate all projects with a team of 25 operators operating from a rare entity for a month with 10 stations 24 hours a day. The contacts are easy, and everyone, regardless of their antennas, power and expertise, is sure to fill in a few lines in his logbook. Projects like FT4TA can never be this way for many reasons discussed above. This is a very good opportunity to challenge yourself and improve your equipment and especially your operator skills.

Tromelin2014 was meant to be an important promotional event for both the amateur radio world and for the TAAF. Our website was greatly successful and some pages dedicated to the radio operation or to more general articles on the island have generated an amazing number of visits. Each statement was widely relayed on a host of French and foreign websites. Our partners, DXworld and Clublog, also recorded peaks of activity.

On a daily basis during our stay we transmitted via a satellite connection exclusive articles and photos for the "blog of the Head of Mission" on the TAAF website, a way to share with most our adventure and experience on this island so amazing.

Our F6KOP buddies have reported the excitement around the TAAF stand at the philatelic exhibition. During these three days, the magic worked, particularly during demonstrations on the occasion of daily connections with Tromelin. From now on, all visitors will look differently at our antennas, wondering what distant island may be on the other end of the waves. TAAF was delighted with this provision that created an additional craze for the "FT4TA" stamp. Collectors from around the world are desperately looking for this stamp and even want to get the QSL card. In this regard, we have decided to mail all the envelopes received for QSL requests with this commemorative stamp. Envelopes will be mailed from Tromelin and decorated with exceptional stamps. Although this procedure extends some processing time, we wanted to offer everyone a last memory of our operation.

On the Réunion Island side, very positive feedback was received from both members of the ARRA and school teachers. Through the educational project, the students and their teachers have discovered Tromelin and amateur radio operators. Many already wish to renew this type of operation. A full page of the Journal de la Réunion (JIR) recounted this event. Whatever their age students and even teachers were



amazed. It even seems that we have stimulated some talents...

In human terms, this experience will of course remain engraved in the memories. The team members are now linked by an indescribable feeling. We are aware that they are privileged in having obtained permission to access this protected area. The nights haunted by problems to solve now have left room for dreams populated with turtles, boobies and white terns.

During our stay, we became aware of the work of these few guards who take turns to monitor, maintain and preserve this wildlife sanctuary. Tromelin is not like on the postcard. The ocean is hostile with violent currents, intense heat and an incessant wind. Under these conditions, how can we not give a thought to the slaves abandoned on the island for 15 years?

We hope that you have had as much fun as we did in this adventure. These pages will have shown you behind the scene, the difficulties associated with a project of this scale, the importance of a solid and reliable team. Hats off to all our interlocutors in the TAAF who have been able to meet all our needs and were an amazing help. Working with them was a pleasure. Thank you to all of you who brought their technical, logistical, financial or moral support. Without your help, nothing would have been possible.

Now what?

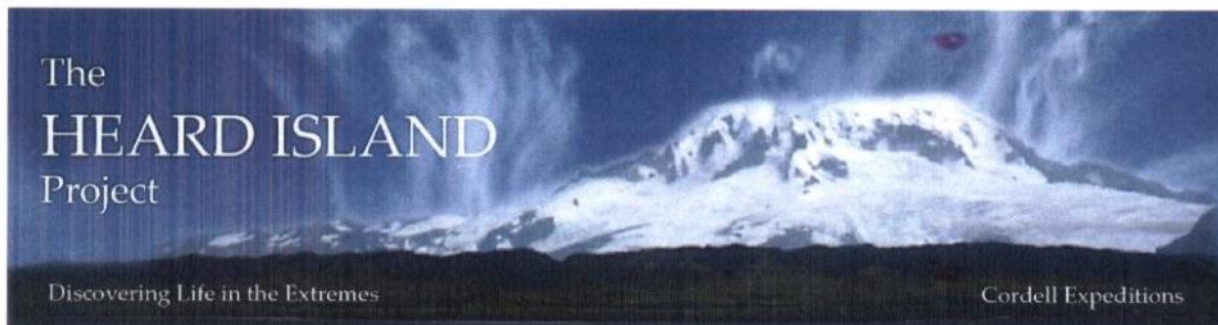
The FT4TA project is not completed and it will probably never be. The team will be present as much as possible in the coming months to meet you at the various shows and conventions. Several meetings are already in the pipe: Dayton (USA), Visalia (USA), Friedrichshafen (Germany), Metz (France), Madrid (Spain). Others will probably be added. The video is also being put together and will be presented soon.

Of course we already have several ideas for a sequel, but this will be, perhaps, a new history!

Special thanks to the TAAF, DSAC-OI, Inter-Iles, G. Limouzi, F5UKW, W0MM, F8IJV, FR5GS, F6KOP's & ARRA's members, A. Baras, 4X4DK, F4ENK, F4ERS, N4AA, K6TU, our pilots stations & QSL manager F1NGP and our families for their support. and encouragements along this adventure.

Thanks to Elecraft, OM-Power, Spiderbeam, MicroHAM, DX Engineering, Messi & Paoloni, Palm radio for the equipment.





28 May 2015

Northern Ohio DX Association
 %Ted Mirgliotta
 P. O. Box 361624
 Strongsville, Ohio 44136-0028

Dear Ted and all the members of the Northern Ohio DX Association:

On behalf of the Heard Island 2015 DXpedition team and DXers everywhere, I want to express our sincere appreciation to you for the generous contribution of \$500 (ck. # 279) to the Heard Island DXpedition VKØEK.

I have updated the expedition website www.heardisland.org /SPONSORS/ to show this contribution. I hope you will look at the website now and then for news about the expedition. We also maintain the blog website www.vk0ek.org where you can see news specifically related to the radio operation.

The expedition will use the vessel Braveheart, departing Cape Town March 8, 2016, spending about three weeks at Heard Island March 20-April 10, and arriving Fremantle, Western Australian on April 22, 2016. We should be QRV as VKØEK during at least 2 weeks during our visit.

During the operation, I hope that you will watch DXA, now in version 3, in order to get confirmation of your successful QSOs within 1 minute after making them. You can see a running simulation of DXA now at www.dxa2.org/dxa3dev.

Thank you again for your contribution, and I wish you GL in the pileups!

Dr. Robert Schmieder, KK6EK
 Organizer and Expedition Leader, VKØEK



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info@cordell.org
<http://www.heardisland.org>



"I have had many unsolicited compliments..."

... writes J. O. Baumgardner, W8BF, of his
Electro-Voice Model 729 Ceramic Cardioid Microphone.

W8BF, consistently among the top-rated hams throughout the world, has a DX Century Club certificate almost covered by endorsement stamps that put his score at a hefty 299. Working successful DX phone requires a top-notch signal, and "Orrie" tells us that a good microphone is vital for good scores. *"Because of my many years of working DX on fone, I know that it is important to have audio quality that will penetrate heavy QRM and, at the same time, be smooth and pleasant to listen to."* W8BF goes on to say that, *"After running many tests with both local and DX stations, I am sure the Electro-Voice Cardioid Model 729 fills the bill very well. I have had many unsolicited compliments since using the 729."*

"Orrie" concludes by saying he, *"recommends this mike to those amateurs using VOX operation, due to its low background pickup. All in all, I think it is a very fine mike for amateur use."* W8BF is just one of many hams all over the world who are switching to Electro-Voice cardioid microphones for higher modulation, less interfering room noise and more positive VOX operation. The result is more and better contacts, even in the face of heavy QRM. The 729, with its high quality is modestly priced to fit every ham's pocketbook. We

suggest that you follow W8BF's lead and try an Electro-Voice Model 729 Ceramic Cardioid on your rig today.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING: Model 729 Ceramic Cardioid uses sound entrances to both sides of diaphragm to provide uniform cardioid pickup pattern at all speech frequencies. Cardioid pattern reduces random noise pickup by 67% over non-directional types, permits greater working distance. Placing monitor speaker at rear of 729 allows higher listening levels without triggering VOX circuits. Smooth response from 60 to 8,000 cps is free from peaks for natural voice reproduction. Peak-free response also means maximum modulation levels. Rugged ceramic element is unaffected by heat, humidity or rough handling . . . ideal for mobile or fixed station operation. Slip-in stand mount, table stand provided. Available with relay-control switch.

Model 729 Amateur Net Price: \$14.70
Model 729SR (with relay-control switch)
..... Amateur Net Price: \$15.90

Electro-Voice®

Commercial Products Division
ELECTRO-VOICE, INC.
Dept. 1112DX Buchanan, Michigan

Rick, K8ZH, submitted this ad from an old DX magazine from November 1961. Rick says "W8BF was a fixture on the bands back then. He was the fire chief for Fairview Park I believe." Thanks Rick!

Boat Anchor Body Building Gaining Popularity by K5KAC, on the scene

WICHITA FALLS, Texas — A new workout craze is sweeping shacks from DX land to the United States: Boat Anchor Body Building, or "BABB" as abbreviated in online forums. The workout's originator, Reg Gains of Wichita Falls, Texas, is quickly gaining a cult-like following.

"I decided I would share my secret with the world. I posted my transformation photos to my QRZ page, and I got bombarded with emails." Gains says that he woke up one morning and didn't like what he saw in the mirror. "Frustrated, I walked into the shack and picked up an old HTX 202 and started curling. It all took off from there," he said.

Gains now squats two Hammarlund SP-600 Super-Pro receivers and notes improved vigor and confidence. "Let's face it. It's a sedentary hobby, and we all have extra equipment laying around. Pick up that old Azden PCS-4000 and lift it over your head a few dozen times. You'll feel better, I promise."

67-year-old Bill Schmitz is a disciple of BABB. "I wanted that Gordo look, and I knew I could attain it," said Schmitz as he rigged a length of RGBX through a pulley in his shack ceiling and connected the PL 259 to the back of a modified Hallicrafters SX-73. When asked whether his XYL minded all the disarray in the shack, he winked, flexed, and quickly answered, "Not at all."

Gains is currently crafting a beginner's routine to ease new hams into his functional strength plan. Titled "From HTs to HWs," the program is meant to slowly build strength. The template can be purchased for \$14.99 and comes with his "QRN Signal Boosters" all-natural supplements (active ingredient: Black Coffee). ### HamHijinks.com

Editors note: After unsuccessfully trying to sell a Hallicrafters SX-42 and SX-101 this year at Dayton, I can attest to the effectiveness of the boat anchor workout.





NODXA club member Wayne Smith, K8FF, showed the club his 50-year ARRL membership certificate at the April 2015 meeting. Congratulations Wayne!



Dear NODXA members,

This year, I was presented the QHQP DX plaque again. This is a special award to me as it is the first wooden plaque that I received for my new call DM5EE and where I operated from my new station (55ft tower, X7, 40m rotary dipole). The contest was difficult with local QRM/QRN and a broken main RX of my FT-1000MP (could only use the 3kHz wide sub-RX) but this makes the award even sweeter. I hope to make it to Dayton in the coming years and would be happy to see many of you.

73! Uli, DM5EE (KK8I, ex DL2HBX)



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 2015-2016

President: Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)
 V. President: Dwaine Modock, K8ME (440-582-3462)
 Secretary: Glenn Williams, AF8C (440-835-4897)
 Treasurer: Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)
 Newsletter: David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)



DXCC Info

As of February 2012, 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, K8YSE, AF8C, K8ZH, F5UFX, DM5EE, K5KAC, and www.hamhijinks.com,