



*"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](mailto:wd8iou@arrl.net)

Northern Ohio DX Association  
P.O. Box 450783  
Westlake, Ohio  
44145 U.S.A.



August 2003

## Poolside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Let me first say that I do not know what exactly to write about this month, and I am at a loss for words. So much has happened over the past month, I do not know where to begin.

Do I talk about how bad the weather and summer have been? (Bring out the ark... more rain is on its way... HEY, what happen to summer.. Is it September already???? GEEE..)

Do I talk about the "2003 BLACKOUT"? (WOW, that was an interesting 14 hours for me. Especially since it was just before I went on vacation and the power finally came on two to three hours before leaving. Did you lose any equipment? I did!)

Do I talk about "BPL"? (I guess I could talk about this since this is real important. However, I know how well up-to-date you guys/gals are on this serious subject, so there is no need. If you are not up-to-date, I suggest you go to the ARRL Web page and read about BPL.)

Do I talk about DX? (Well, DX has been so so... However, we do have a few interesting operations coming up in the coming months... 3C0, BQ9P, FO0/A, XU, XZ, ZK1/N...etc... Also, the bands will be picking up... That is something to look forward to...)

It is official! I guess I will talk about nothing, and your club president has decided to take this month's FIRESIDE off. See you at the next meeting.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

**Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting will be on Monday, September 8, 2003.**

# Minutes of the August 4th, 2003 NODXA Meeting

The meeting, which was held at Laura's Kitchen in Broadview Heights, Ohio, was called to order at 8:01 PM by Tedd, KB8NW. The around the room introductions were followed by the 23 members/guests in attendance.

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

A report on the packet cluster was made by Pete, N8TR, and was followed by a discussion. A motion was made by Pete, N8TR, and seconded by Dwaine, K8ME, to authorize the sum of \$150.00 towards the software for the K8AZ cluster. A vote was taken and passed.

Send articles and information for the Newsletter to Dave, WD8IOU.

Tedd, KB8NW, related to us that the 3 element SteppIR antenna was sent to 3B9FR. Many thanks to those who donated money and especially to Bob, W8GC, who is to be commended on his hard work in organizing this project.

A dx-pedition to Banaba Island, using T33C call, will be on April 4-16, 2004, as informed to us by Tedd, KB8NW. A motion to donate \$100.00 toward this dx-pedition was made by Nick, W8XD, and seconded by John, K8YSE. A vote was taken and passed. Another dx-pedition to take place on September 27-October 10, 2003

to Annobon Island, 3C0, was announced by Tedd, KB8NW. A motion was made by John, K8YSE, and seconded by Wayne, K8FF, to donate \$100.00 to this dx-pedition. A vote was taken and passed.

A discussion on the proposed Morse Code requirements was opened by Tedd, KB8NW.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported on a transceiver for Monk Apollo, SV2ASP, and donations for this purpose, and a discussion followed. The current project is on hold due to other considerations.

A discussion on the DXCC Patches was opened by Tedd, KB8NW.

George, K8KR, informed us about a new DX Reflector by e-mail and was followed by a discussion.

The next meeting will be held on September 8, 2003 as announced by Tedd, KB8NW.

Ray, W8BIN, won the 50/50 raffle. His share was \$21.00.

Tedd, KB8NW, adjourned the meeting at 8:53PM.

Secretary: Ron, K8VJG.

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## Changes to 8th Call Area Bureau

Please visit the new 8th call area Bureau page where changes in bureau operation is explained. This page is located at <http://home.fuse.net/jslough/w8buro.html>. Here is a summary of the changes to the bureau page:

- 1) Added a description of where the bureau will soon be physically located (VOA Museum)
- 2) Suggestion that users of the bureau be ARRL members
- 3) Not accepting cards for other than W8 bureau designees (not being an input point for cards brought back from other bureaus or for outbound cards to DX. (Those must be sent to ARRL HQ per outbound bureau operating guidelines as found on the ARRL website.)
- 4) Once cards have reached the unclaimed status for a given call, we will continue to destroy future incoming cards without further notification, until we are notified by the intended recipient that they want the cards. (We are assuming that once refused or the recipient is uncontactable, they remain so which gives implied consent to destroy forever.)
- 5) We will not forward between letter mangers/bureaus for calls without envelopes; i.e., you must have envelopes on file for every call for which you want to receive cards. If you change calls for any reason, vanity call, upgrade, moved to or from the 8th call area, you need envelopes for every call.
- 6) We will NOT use used envelopes
- 7) 1x1's require envelopes on file with dates of operation on the envelope
- 8) If you do not want bureau cards for DX operations you did or are manager for, once we are notified, we will destroy the cards and not re-

turn them and do not take responsibility for destroying cards addressed to you, for your US operations.

9) Similarly, we will not forward bureau cards at league expense to the new manager if you cease being the manager for a DX station.

Part of what is implied is that we will no longer return unclaimed cards at league expense except for cards to Silent Keys and other obvious defects like invalid call or wrong call. Cards not returned will be destroyed. Before they are destroyed the letter manager will have attempted to contact the intended recipient and have held the cards for at least the minimum time required under the SOGs (90 days).

As stated on the web page the biggest problem we have is not having envelopes on file for those whom we receive cards. The letter managers expend too much time trying to track people down to notify them that they have cards at the bureau and need to send us an envelope. Please encourage our fellow hams that if they work any DX at all they should expect to get bureau cards.

I also want to remind everyone that we can not accept cards for lower-48 US to lower-48 US contacts-period! They too will be destroyed.

If anyone has questions or concerns after reading the web page, they may contact me at [k4zle@arrl.net](mailto:k4zle@arrl.net).

Thanks for your assistance in making the hobby more fun

for all of us.

Jay, K4ZLE, 8th Area incoming QSL bureau manager

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## FCC Wants Comments on Morse Code Related Petitions

### ARRL Letter

The FCC has invited public comments on six separate Morse code-related petitions for rule making, some of which would altogether eliminate Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse test, from the Amateur Service rules (Part 97). World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made optional the requirement to prove the ability to send and receive Morse signals to operate below 30 MHz.

A petition from Peter M. Beauregard, KI1I, designated RM-10781, would give all Technician licensees current Novice/Tech Plus CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters and limited phone and image privileges on 80, 40 and 10 meters. Beauregard said the CW privileges would "encourage Technician class licensees to upgrade to General" by giving them a "practice area." He has proposed new Tech phone/image privileges on 3850-3900 kHz and 7225-7300 kHz. His petition would not eliminate Element 1, however.

Pete V. Coppola, KG4QDZ, and family--Tina Coppola, KG4YUM, and Pete A. Coppola,

KG4QDY--have asked the FCC to eliminate Element 1 from the rules. The Coppolas' petition, designated RM-10782, would grant Tech Plus HF privileges to current Technician licensees. It also would retain the current CW-only subbands. The Coppolas asked the FCC to make the change effective immediately on a provisional basis.

Kiernan K. Holliday, WA6BJH, has asked the FCC simply to "remove all requirements for knowledge of Morse code" from the Amateur Service rules. Holliday said there is less reason to require Morse code in the Amateur Service today. In his petition, designated RM-10783, Holliday also said the code requirement limits the ability of handicapped individuals to get ham tickets. "The Commission's policy should be to encourage the use of Amateur Radio," he said.

Dale Reich, K8AD, petitioned the FCC to delete Element 1 for General class applicants but keep it in place for Extra class applicants. Under Reich's scheme, "no-code" Techs wanting HF privileges would have to upgrade to General first. Reich's petition is designated RM-10784.

Eric Ward, NOHHS, seeks immediate elimination of "proficiency in telegraphy using Morse code." The "immediate removal of the telegraphy requirement from Amateur Radio licensing is appropriate and clearly in the public interest," Ward contended in his petition, designated RM-10785.

In a detailed, nine-page petition, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) is calling on the FCC to delete Element 1 and give "Tech Plus" privileges to current Technician licensees. The NCVEC also asked the FCC to "take expedited action" to allow volunteer examiner coordinators (VECs) to discontinue administering Element 1 "as soon as possible."

"The Amateur Service community suffers from the loss to its ranks of a large number of potentially excellent operators who are turned away because of the CW requirement," the NCVEC petition said.

The organization, the umbrella group for the 14 VECs in the US, said there's "no longer any reasonable justification for requiring an applicant to demonstrate this antiquated skill," and that most applicants never use Morse after they pass the test. The NCVEC petition is designated RM-10787.

The ARRL-VEC abstained from voting on the NCVEC's petition question when it came up during the NCVEC's July 25 meeting in Pennsylvania. At its own July meeting in Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors affirmed its interest in reviewing members' input on the Morse issue as well as on other possible revisions to Part 97 arising from WRC-03. The Board's current position is to retain the Morse requirement for HF access.

Two more recently filed petitions--one from No Code In-

ternational and another from two amateur licensees--are expected to be put on public notice in the near future.

Interested parties may file comments on any or all of these petitions using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) [www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/), which also permits users to view the petitions and all comments on file. There is a 30-day comment window.

To file a comment, click on "Submit a Filing" under "ECFS Main Links." In the "Proceeding" field, type the full RM number, including the hyphen, and complete the required fields. "RM" must be in capital letters, and you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number. You may type your remarks into a form or attach a file. ECFS also accepts comments in active proceedings via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.

While a Morse code exam element remains on the books in the US, Canada and elsewhere, a handful of countries--including Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands--already have moved to drop their Morse requirements. Austria and New Zealand are expected to do so soon.

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## California QSO Party (CQP) 2003

1600Z October 4, 2003 --  
2200Z October 5, 2003

Sponsored by the Northern

California Contest Club (NCCC)  
FUN FOR CLUBS OUTSIDE  
OF CALIFORNIA.

Last year 20 clubs turned in scores for the "Top Non-California Club" plaque.

The Tennessee Contest Group won the plaque with 16 logs and a score of 703,996 points. You can view the TCG 2002 plaque at [www.k4ro.net/tcg.html](http://www.k4ro.net/tcg.html)

Start your contest season with a "big bang" in CQP 2003. Participation was up a whopping 21% in CQP 2002. Come join us and win awards (plaques and wine), earn a certificate, buy a t-shirt and most importantly "have fun" in one of the largest state QSO parties.

OBJECT: Stations outside of California work as many California stations in as many CA counties as possible (CW and phone, 160-80-40-20-15-10-6-2 meters). Stations in California work everyone.

\* Updated Multi-Single rule for 2003 allows unlimited band changes!

\* Complete and final rules and other information at <http://www.cqp.org/>

EXCHANGE:

\* Stations outside of California send QSO number and U. S. State, ARRL Canadian section, or Country.

\* California stations send QSO number and county.

AWARDS: The most plaques

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, K8VJG, K8YSE, K8ME, K8KR, K4ZLE, W6ZZZ, AE4TR, and the ARRL Letter.
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## 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

and awards in any state QSO party.

- \* 34 Plaques (wood and metal, not mere wallpaper!)
- \* 40 Bottles of California wine (commemorative CQP labels with your call sign)
- \* Certificates to the top Single-Operator in every state, province, country, and CA county
- \* Certificates to each and every entrant who makes at least 100 QSOs

Commemorative CQP 2003 T-shirts are available for purchase if you make at least 100 QSOs (waived for DX entries). Please include your size (M / L / XL / XXL) and \$10 (\$15 for DX entries).

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR LOGS !**

Free logging software CQPWin at [www.cqp.org/Software.html](http://www.cqp.org/Software.html)

Entries must be submitted no later than November 15.

\* Logs should be submitted by e-mail to [cqp@contesting.com](mailto:cqp@contesting.com)

\* Logs may be submitted via postal mail to: NCCC, c/o Al Maenchen, AD6E, 3330 Farthing Way, San Jose, CA 95132-1908.

- Marc, W6ZZZ, a member of the CQP Publicity Team

CALIFORNIA  
QSO PARTY

## Procrastination, an Ode to HAM Radio

While sitting in my shack one night, Looking out the window, what a beautiful sight, The sun had set, the moon was shining bright, Every thing was fine, much to my delight.

Listening to my radio, the hams were complaining, There's a storm brewing, static was increasing, As I watched the moon, much to my dismay, A cloud passed over, more was on the way.

Soon there were many, the moon began to dim, The temperature was falling, winter was setting in, Rain was falling, and snow began mixing, I just remembered, my antenna needs a fixing.

It had served me faithfully for so many years, I should be ashamed, it almost moved me to tears, Work while the sun shines, my father told me, But I was lazy, and time passed, as you can see.

Fear not, it's still up there, I said, as I gladly, went to bed, It's battered and torn, and hanging by a thread, It's winter outside, and dark as can be, It will make it through the night, just wait and see.

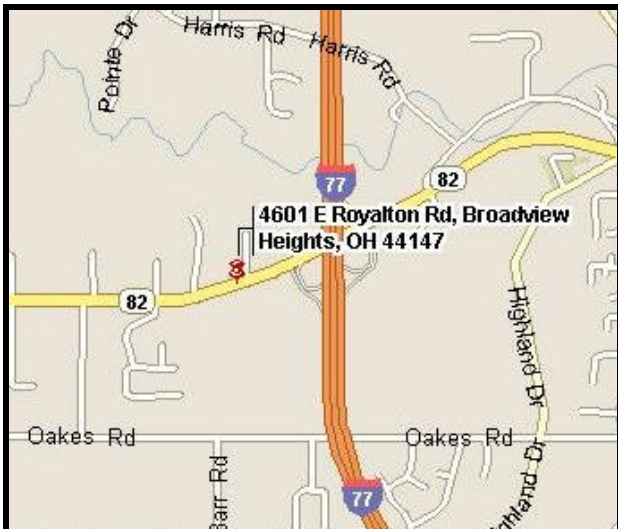
Morning came, I was up early, waiting for daylight, I went to my shack, in snow , up to my back, It had snowed all night, now Ice was forming, I slowly drank my coffee, while waiting for morning.

I turned on my Rig, a-hah! I said in my head, It's still working, or else all would be dead, The hams were still complaining and going strong, There's snow and ice, and it will be there long.

I rushed outside to have a look see, But damage to my antenna was not to be, It's still up there, I said, while the feelings were mixing, There's one thing for sure, "my antenna still needs a fixing".

Bennie H Mineer (AE4TR) via eHam.net





**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**



The Northern Ohio DX Association  
 P.O. Box 450783  
 Westlake, Ohio 44145 U.S.A