



"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@adelphia.net

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



August 2004

Poolside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

The month of August sparked some excitement for a few days with the activation of Aves Island (YV0). However, the YV0D team had their operation cut short due to some bad weather. It is a shame that this happened because this DXCC entity was ranked 10th on the most wanted list by the "DX Magazine".

Once the YV0D team realized that bad weather was heading their way, they did their best to satisfy everyone's wants in the closing hours of the operation. I hope that those who needed it for an all time new one worked YV0D at least once. If not, hopefully another operation will be scheduled soon, and you will not have to wait another 10 years before it is activated again.

Probably the next big DXpedition scheduled is Peter I Island (3Y0). This operation is scheduled for mid-January and early February. The club has already voted to donate funds for the

upcoming 3Y0X operation. This DXCC entity is ranked 5th on the most wanted list. Since summer is coming to an end, you may want to get your antennas ready for winter so you will be able to work the 3Y0X operation.

There will be a program at the September NODXA meeting, so you may want to attend. The club will be showing the 2001 D68C Comoros Island DXpedition video. I am sure you will enjoy this one as much as last month's 3B8C video.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting will be on Monday, September 13, 2004.

Minutes of the August 2nd, 2004 NODXA Meeting

The meeting, which was held at the Gourmet Deli and Restaurant in Strongsville, Ohio, was called to order at 7:33PM by Tedd KB8NW. The around the room introductions followed by the 24 members/guests in attendance.

Mary N8DMM reports a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the treasury and will pay the \$60.00 for the equipment insurance.

The repeater and cluster are working fine as stated by Pete N8TR.

Dave WD8IOU made his comments on the Newsletter. Please send your articles to him for the Newsletter.

A request in a letter, sent by Bob Allphin Jr. K4UEE, for a donation for the Peter 1 Dxpedition. A motion was made by Ron W8WH and seconded by Carl K8AV to send \$100.00 for the Peter 1 Dxpedition. A vote was taken and passed. Another request for a donation for the Cameroon Dxpedition was made. No action was taken at this time.

Tedd KB8NW informs us in an E-mail received from John K8YSE concerning buying the equipment from the estate of Joe W8ZSD.

Bob W8GC informed the membership about a automobile trip to the Hammond Radio Museum in October 2004. For information go to the CARS Web-

site at www.cars.org.

The September meeting will be held on September 13, 2004 due to the Labor Day Holiday as informed to us by Tedd KB8NW.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Dennis AB8NI. His share was \$17.00.

The meeting was adjourned by Tedd KB8NW at 8:02 PM.

Following the meeting a video on the Dxpedition to 3B9C Rodrigues Island was shown.

Secretary: Ron K8VJG.

3C0V Story, Part 3

At 1945 UTC "3C0V" called on 18.145 MHz and listened 150 to 155 resulting in a giant pile-up from Europe. PAOWRS was the first PA, DK2CK the first DL station in the log and then US stations beginning with AB2RF, W9RPM kept calling. The signals were very strong with many stations hunting for a new DXCC country or IOTA island. Around 0100 UTC we secured the FT-897 since generator noise penetrates the huts of the locals and disturbs their night's rest. During this first operation of the rig the station table was taken over by insects and mosquitoes, leaving an interesting pattern of squashed colors on the table. In this first night of longed for rest time the mosquitoes kept hounding me - probably serving them as a prime target.

Next morning we continued

the WARC activity beginning with Europe and Africa and followed by North America. Around 2100 GMT we logged the first Japanese station, JA7BVH after having changed the beam direction with the boom rope. During the morning we interrupted our operation a few times to assemble more antennas. We began with the Mosley Mini 33 beam for 10 - 20 meters and two Hy-Gain dipoles for the same bands and a 5 element Cushcraft 6 meter beam. Victor, EA5FO, a DXpedition newcomer started RTTY on 20 m and 16N0 was his first EU contact, DL2AYL the first DL and W3UR the first US station in the RTTY Log.

Vincente, EASYN commenced late afternoon around 1700 UTC on 15 m CW and W200 was his first log entry. Our plan was to concentrate in the first week mainly on the higher bands and in the second week on the low bands. Meanwhile our ICOM IC-706 was ready on 50.120 MHZ with the beam heading north. We enjoyed excellent conditions on the WARC bands into all parts of the world and Sunday brought many stations looking for a QSO with 3C0V.

During the Spanish colonial era roughly 80% of the population became catholic and on Sunday morning we saw many children and adults going to church. During the morning and in the evening the temperatures are fairly pleasant but around noon the Sun radiates from the blue sky and brings unbearable

heat. Elmo accompanied me in the late afternoon on a first walk around the town and as it turned out later, our only opportunity to take a few photos.

The Annobonians live in simple huts and live modest lives. The women sow, plant and harvest vegetables, while the men go to sea daily. Fish is the main staple on the island. From the huts we heard the cheerful voices of children. We brought some gifts for the kids, mainly school items, like notebooks, pencils, coloring pens etc and they were happy to receive them. Their eyes that look at you are so real that you feel the thankfulness when you observe their happy smiles. On the beach a recently stranded ship rusts away but serves as a playground for the children. We also saw in some distance a larger transport vessel on anchor. Later we had a number of male visitors on our terrace enquiring what we are doing. Some introduced themselves as Customs and Telecom employees. This however interrupted our ham communications, as we are obliged to answer the many questions they had. After all we were guests on their island!

Next day we had problems with the Mini beam. High SWR was evident and found to be an interruption in the radiating element and not locally repairable. So we decided to unpack our Windom antenna and install it to get back to 20 - 10 meters. Then we spent a few hours to install the Titanex V8OE to be able to use 160 -



40 meters. However our first attempt does not bring useable SWR readings on 40 and 160 m. We measured and cut 20 radials and layed them out in a circle - at these temperatures truly sweat work. We recognized later follow-up was needed and continued our operation meanwhile on other bands and in other modes.

With the Windom we commenced operations in the evening hours on 40 and 80 m and installed a dipole for 10 Mhz making 3COV QRV on 30 meters. Friday Morning Damian and Elmo were called to the Military Commandant in town and returned with the news that we had to stop our radio operation. They were also told we had to leave all our equipment and antennas in place. When we heard that we were shocked, as there was no explanation for this demand. Maybe the Military was asked to cut all un-

controlled communication from the island to the outside world? We agreed to another visit and discussion for Saturday Morning Oct. 4 but Elmo and Damian did not have a good feeling after the visit the day before.

It was good that we already had made over 500 QSOs on 80 and 40m and were able to do a few test QSOs on 160 with the V8OE antenna. What would this new day bring for us? The wind started up, dark clouds hung in the sky and the day started with rain showers. However we were operating while wondering what was going to happen. When our two team members came back we could read from their faces that it was not good news. We had no time to broadcast the news on the bands, as we had to shut down immediately.

We were ordered to appear at the airport with our luggage in 2 hours and fly back to

Malabo in an Antonow-24. This shocking news and the little remaining time to disassemble and pack everything kicked us into high gear - at least we wanted to bring back our equipment. While we were packing we saw the Antonow plane landing. Soon we were at the airport with our luggage; received our passports and tickets (which we had to pay for in addition).

Now they all returned for the farewell - the children and the adults. Raymundo, who lives on the island with his wife and two small children and who became a good friend asked me would I come back again? I answered right away: YES. The pilot after take-off circled the island one more time, an impressive view from above, and a jewel of nature. One can only hope that this nature remains largely untouched.

The flight back to Malabo took 2 1/2 hours. With 2 fully loaded taxies we left the airport for the town. Initially we stored the expedition equipment with some acquaintances of Elmo before we started to look for a hotel. Unfortunately the Bahia Hotel, well known to DXers was booked fully, but we got rooms for two nights in the Ureca Hotel. From there we phoned Gaby, OD5NJ and let him know the reason for the termination of 3COV operation. In the evening we were all dining together and drinking Spanish beer and spent our last CFA-Francs. The return flight for Victor and me was rebooked for Monday, but Elmo and Vincente had to ap-

pear at the Spanish Embassy and in the Office of the Military Commandant in Malabo and were scheduled to fly back October 10th.

As it happened our departure day was the day the new airport terminal was dedicated. Therefore the check-in and luggage control took a fair amount of time. We finally boarded the airbus, which took-off in the morning for the Spanish capital of Madrid. Late in the afternoon I arrived in Strasbourg where my XYL picks me up. The next 3 days I was in bed with high fever - but luckily it wasn't a malaria infection. Piles of QSL cards to respond to had already arrived. We worked over 20,000 QSOs in this week of operation from Annobon, 14,000 of which in SSB, 6500 in CW and 800 RTTY/PSK contacts.

73, Elmo EA5BYP Team Leader

What's Up With Didadidadidah?

Ok, let's get the flame throwing material out of the way from the start. I am primarily a CW operator. I do NOT look down on anyone who does not work CW. It happened that when I started in ham radio, as a kid (circa 1959) all I could afford to build was CW equipment. I do CW because it is fun for me. If you don't like CW, I suggest you do not use it, but DO NOT flame me because I happen to like it. This is primarily for CW ops, so if

you are not a CW op I suggest you simply skip this post.

Ok guys, what's up with didadidadidah? What ever happened to dadidididah? Or, better yet, just a "double pause" between sentences (ie: twice the length of time of a pause between words). Hopefully we have enough smarts to figure that the "double pause" means a new sentence is coming up!

Seems to me this didadidadidah stuff is becoming more and more prevalent. The other day I had an otherwise enjoyable QSO where the other station spent roughly 30% of his transmissions sending periods, didadidadidah. UR SIG IS 599 didadidadidah. NAME IS BOB didadidadidah. QTH IS PO-DUNK didadidadidah. RIG IS ICxxx didadidadidah. ANT IS VERT didadidadidah, ad-auseam! When I mentioned that he sure seemed to be using a lot of periods, his response was didadit didadidadidah !!

I realize keyboard types do this because they are typing a period on the keyboard, but why can't they ALSO skip the period? When did this practice become so commonplace?

If that ain't enough to start a flame war, try this one on: How many of you know what this means? Nag 5ere is 606? (Hint: if you use a bug, it's a no brainier!)

73, Larry Bailey, K3TIN, via eHam.net

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, K8VJG, K8YSE, EA5BYP, K3TIN, N4EWS, 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

The Drake Song

To the tune of Mercedes Benz (Janis Joplin)

Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Drake TR-4 ?
My friends all use a Ricebox, They seem such a Boor.
Worked hard for that DX, without all that high noise floor,
So Lord, won't you buy me another Drake TR-4 ?

Oh Lord, won't you buy me that Big L-4B ?
Look at all that DX, that is trying to find me.
I wait for that pileup each day until three,
So, Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Drake L-4B ?

Oh Lord, those prices on Ebay are giving me a frown !
I can't even afford a tuner, Lord please drive those prices
down.

Prove that you love me and buy me the next round,
So, Oh Lord, won't you blast them prices in the ground !

Everybody!

Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Drake TR-4 ?
My friends all use a Ricebox, They seem such a Boor.
Worked hard for that DX, without all that high noise floor,
So Lord, won't you buy me a Drake TR-4 ?

That's it!

Joe Deaton (N4EWS)

County Hunters Turn to 30 Meters

ARRL Letter

County hunting enthusiasts have begun using 30 meters (10.114 MHz) for their CW activities. "With the decline of sunspot activity and worsening propagation on 20 meters, county hunters have established the new frequency for working mobile stations around the US," says Bob Voss, N4CD. "All are welcome to join in and work the mobiles as they travel through the 3077 counties in the USA giving out contacts." The new 10.114 MHz frequency joins the 20 and 40-meter CW county hunting frequencies of 14.0565 MHz and 7.039 MHz. CQ sponsors the USA Counties Award (USA-CA) program. More information is on the County Hunters Web site at www.countyhunter.com.

DX

For Sale

Hy-Gain Hytower, covers 10-160 meters.
Needs some cleaning up. Cheap! Call Larry
(WB8PHI) at 440-259-5003 if interested.



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 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:

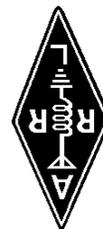
NODXA, P.O. Box 450783, Westlake, Ohio 44145

- 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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