



"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.



July-August 2005

Poolside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Once again, the "ARRL's Field Day" has come and gone. Also, the NODXA Field Day crew did another outstanding job for this year's event. The turnout was about the same as last year, but I feel this year there were a few new faces that showed up and there was more participation. We even had more operators during the night shift. Field Day Chairman, Bill Mac Craken, did an excellent job in organizing the whole event. The setup on Friday evening went smooth, and tear down went quick and easy. Even the weather was great, a little hot, but great. So hats off to all that helped setup/tear down, the individuals who operated, and those who attended for moral support or to just visit. It was a lot of fun. If you did not attend, you missed out on the club's only annual event. Maybe we'll see you next year.



There is nothing major to report on (in the way major DXpeditions) for this month or actually the next couple of months. The only thing of interest may be the upcoming contest. I guess this is a good time to plug the "Ohio QSO Party". It is time to start thinking about being on the air for this event. It will take place August 27th, from 1600-0400z. Please try to be on the air; even for an hour or two. It is an easy contest to operate. For details, visit the OQP Web page at: <http://www.oqp.us>

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. Did you remember to send in your club dues/renewals for 2005?

**Due to the Labor Day holiday,
the next meeting will be on
Monday, September 12, 2005.**

Minutes of the June 6th, 2005 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:34PM by the President, Tedd, KB8NW.

There were twenty (20) members present.

After a round of introductions by those members in attendance, the Secretary, Al, N8CX read the minutes of the May 2nd meeting. Having no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the repeater and the cluster may get a T1-line sometime in the future. This would require a new computer with Windows XP. The 144.91 cluster has a bad battery and is off the air. The 145.57 cluster is the one to use.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter will be out soon.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the plaque we had donated to the Ohio QSO Party was given out at Dayton. It is a really nice plaque. Carl, K8AZ moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJC, that the club donate another plaque for this year. The motion passed unanimously.

Tedd, KB8NW reported that the Dayton Hospitality Suite was a big success. The cost for beverages, chips, beer, etc. was \$115. Leftovers will be at Field Day. The club received approximately \$112 in donations. The club received two membership renewals and has a contract for the suite of two rooms for next year as well. It was also commented on that this was the first time in fifteen or so years that there was no rain during the Hamvention.

Tedd also reported that John, K1ER, of Honolulu, Hawaii was KH8SI, Swains Island. Swains Island was once a coconut growing island that had 250 families living there. Now there are five families. Baldur, DJ6SI donated a DVD of Glorioso.

Discussion was held concerning the fact that The Northern California DX Club (NCDX) was a big contributor to DXpeditions. George, K8KR, suggested that membership in NCDX would be

beneficial.

John, K8YSE, commented about the great job that our President, Tedd, KB8NW has done and noted how well recognized he is in the DX community. Tedd was given a loud round of applause.

Tedd, KB8NW, has received a request for donation for a Kure Island (K7C) DXpedition. This will be a big operation by KK6EK and will be operational sometime in late September or October. Ray, W8BIN, moved, seconded by Bruce,

N8DJX, that the club donate \$100. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Dwaine, K8ME, reported that DXCC patches were sent to the W9DXCC convention. Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had received two tickets to the Columbus Hamfest on August 6th. They are available for anyone wanting them.

Field Day! Pete, N8TR, said that setup will be on Friday night and that a good turnout of members to help was needed. Bill, W8GJU, reported that the sanitary facilities will be extraordinary. A description (snip...) was made. Operators, especially during the night are needed. This year it will be CW and SSB only. No RTTY, as last year very few contacts were made. John, K8YSE moved, co-seconded by Bruce, N8DJX and Ray, W8BIN, that \$75 be used for food and related items. The motion passed unanimously.

Nick, W8XD reported on his DXadventure while vacationing in Hawaii. While on the island of Maui, he set up his FT-817 QRP rig with a "W3FF buddie-style" 7 foot vertical antenna on the beach behind his hotel. He reported working a lot of DX that we would rarely hear. Among them was Jim Smith on Norfolk Isl. (4500 miles), a VR2 in Hong Kong, 9M2VZ (7000 miles). He also heard and worked many Southeast Asia and Russian stations. While he heard some west coast U.S. stations they were difficult to work owing to a 4500 foot mountain behind him. He said it was a great "radio adventure" operating experience.

The 50-50 raffle of \$19.00 was won by Dave, WD8IOU.

A second raffle prize, an ARRL DXCC List, was won by Nelson, K8DJC.

The meeting was closed at 8:35PM by the President, Tedd, KB8NW.

The meeting was followed by two presentations. Nick, W8XD showed .mpeg movies of his DXadventure while vacationing in Hawaii. Tedd, KB8NW, had a number of DXpedition DVD's on hand. One, JF1IST/7J1 1979 DXpedition to Okinotoroshima was shown at this meeting and the rest will be shown at other meetings. These include Duce Isl., and Swains Isl.

Respectfully submitted, AI, N8CX, Secretary.

Minutes of the July 11th, 2005 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:33PM by the President, Tedd, KB8NW.

There were twelve (12) members and one (1) guest present.

After a round of introductions by those members in attendance, the Secretary, AI, N8CX read the minutes of the June 6th meeting. After some minor corrections, the minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM was not in attendance but reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account.

Pete, N8TR, was not in attendance for a repeater report, but Tedd, KB8NW and Ron W8WH, reported that the repeater and the cluster are okay.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter will be out soon and will include the minutes from both the June and July meetings. A Field Day report will also be included.

A discussion was held concerning the club's Field Day operation. A short summary follows.

17 members participated

1134 SSB contacts (includes 113 from the 6m station)

749 CW contacts (includes 10 from the 6m station)

5264 total points plus expected bonus points of: 100 for emergency power, 100 for reception of the ARRL Field Day message and 50 for electronic filing of logs (dupe sheets).

John, K8YSE, suggested more bonus point activities for next year. These include: publication in local news media, satellite contacts and natural (solar) power operation.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported the Friday evening setup went well and was a big help.

Dwaine, K8ME reported that he had received some QSLs from Field Day contacts including K8JE.

Old Business: Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had received a letter from the upcoming Peter I DXpedition requesting additional money, as they had been beset with unexpected expenses. The club has already donated \$100. The topic was postponed until next month when more members are present for a discussion. Mid January until the end of February is the only window for the DXpedition due to weather. This is summer on Peter I.

Tedd, KB8NW and AI, N8CX, commented that the NOARSfest was the following Saturday, July 16th. Mention was made that there was a good vendor lineup.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that his computer was working again and that he will get our donation letters out to the Kure Isl. and Glorioso Dxpeditons.

There was no 50-50 raffle at this meeting due to the low attendance. Dave, WD8IOU, being the most recent winner, will take care of tickets at the next meeting. Next month's meeting program will feature either the Swains Isl. or Bouvet DVD.

The meeting was closed at 8:15pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW.

Respectfully submitted, AI, N8CX, Secretary.

A Vacation to PY8 Land

By Bob Elek, W3HKK

The XYL's Family Reunion was held in Belem, Para, Brazil, on August 24th, 2004, to celebrate my mother-in-laws 88th birthday. It would be the first time all 80+ surviving family members would

be together. Four generations came from as far away as Spain, the US, and the Brazilian states of Amazonas, Sao Paulo, Para, Rio Grande do Norte, and Santa Catarina. Also attending were the handful of surviving friends from the Japanese immigration influx of the 1930s. The event was held at the Japanese Cultural Center in Belem Para Brazil.

History: In 1935, a then 17-year-old Kiyoko Harada, and her husband (now deceased) departed from Kyoto, Japan, on an ocean voyage that would last almost 9 months. They left home as newlyweds, to create a new home, and farm, from jungle along the banks of the Amazon River. They brought little more than the clothes on their backs, a steamer trunk of belongings, and dreams of a brave new world in their hearts. They left everything else – and everyone else – behind, on a one way voyage half way around the world, to the opposite hemisphere, and a very different culture, at a time when transportation and communications as we know it were almost non existent. It was truly the beginning of an amazing adventure.

Background: Today, over one million Brazilians are of Japanese descent. But during the 1930s, boatloads of immigrants left an overpopulated Japan to settle in small groups in sparsely populated northern Brazil. By “special arrangement” between the two governments, these young, mostly newlyweds, were given free land (actually wild jungle) along the Amazon River and its tributaries, in places nearly devoid of infrastructure or government services. Hospitals, doctors, medicine, pharmacies, first aid stations were usually hundreds of miles away, by boat. There were no roads, trains, stores, or government agencies nearby. They were almost entirely on their own. Their goal: turn virgin land into farms, and to create their own infrastructure.

As in the US, Japanese-Brazilians would lose freedoms and material possessions during and right after WW II. They were disliked and mis-



This is PY8-Land: The city of Belem seen from the bay which forms part of the complex mouth of the Amazon River.

trusted. In the decades that followed WW II, most Japanese immigrants would move to the southern city/state of Sao Paulo (often called the New York City of Brazil), but some any still remain in the northern cities of Belem and Manaus, and along various Amazon River towns in between. They have largely left farming, due to the notoriously poor soil conditions in the region, with thin topsoil that must be replenished by sediment from annual flooding (the famous floating docks in Manaus vary by over 90 ft in some years, between peak flood level and minimal river levels during the dry season.) Many becoming successful doctors, lawyers, businessmen, and educators now. Only a few remain in agriculture but their work ethic has helped to energize a rapidly growing nation.

Rivers remain, even today, the primary “highways” for 90% of the Amazon basin. However, modern amenities now include airports, regular flights to numerous cities, a national phone system using satellites rather than hardwire, and cell phones galore. TV, both national and international programming such as CNN, and Japanese language broadcasts arrive live via satellite into millions of homes.

But the Amazon basin remains a fascinating area of deep contrasts: Life styles of the rich and famous alongside subsistence living, all in a tropical rain forest setting.

Belem (Bethlehem): Founded in 1616 by Portuguese explorers, the Belem of today is a large city of over 1.5 million inhabitants, located 100 miles south of the equator, between Guajara Bay and the Guama River, two of many estuaries comprising the mouth of the Amazon River which finally empties into the South Atlantic Ocean, some 75 miles away.

Belem is the major port city of the north. Located some 800 miles west is the famous inland rubber capital of Manaus, also situated along the Amazon River.

The Amazon River system is a huge meandering waterway beginning in the Andes Mountains some 2400 miles away, draining water from at least 9 surrounding countries and a large part of Brazil, a country approximately equal to the US in size but not population. Water takes nearly one year to flow from its headwaters in the Andes down to the Atlantic Ocean. Soil is swept from river banks, due to extensive annual flooding, giving the water a brownish look even 40 or more miles out to sea. The river is teeming with life including some of the largest and tastiest fish in the world. River widths are over one mile, with water depths of over 300 feet as far as 800 miles inland! I've seen it myself.

Tropical Belem has just two seasons - the rainy season from December-February, and the dry season. Temperatures vary little, with day-



PY8/W3HKK Bob Elek stopping for some liquid refreshment at one of the beaches on the Island Nature Preserve of ALGUDUAL.

highs near 90 and morning lows around 75F. The indoor tropical plants we cultivate in the US thrive in the wild and along streets and land around Belem. With a 12 month growing season, city trees are huge, producing much needed shade to protect inhabitants from the intense midday sun. Most trees bear delicious and exotic fruit or nuts, only a few of which (like bananas, pineapples, cashew nuts, brazil nuts) are known to us. My personal favorites are the absolutely delicious cupuacu, acai, mango, and mamao. But there are dozens and dozens more, used extensively in the local cuisine, which is also high in fresh water fish, saltwater fish and seafood. Some of the best freshwater fish in the world come from the Amazon River. This is no exaggeration. Top end restaurants in downtown Cleveland specialize in fish like pirarucu and tambaci.

Beef chicken and pork are also present but comprise a much lesser portion of the average tropical diet than ours.

In it's rubber boom heyday during the late



A typical small greeting party of family members as Julia and I arrived at the very modern Belem International Airport.



Julia (XYL), Lina, Bob, and Geraldo on ALGOUDUAL Island. Brother and sister-in-law treat us to a few days at their weekend home by the sea.

1800's, Belem was considered the "Paris" of Brazil. Wide, tree lined avenidas were dotted with palatial homes. Many such homes still remain, but over 200 high rise buildings are now scattered throughout the city, which, due to its watery surroundings is forced to do most of its growing "upwards." A major highway connects Belem to cities to the east and south, including the nation's "planned" capital city of Brasilia. Most is a modern divided highway of macadam. However, some parts remain unpaved, and are prone to washout during the rainy season. It's a long sometimes dusty and hot trip. Trains are almost nonexistent in the country. So those who can, fly.

I've visited over 40 countries in North and South America, Europe and Africa. To me, Belem is one of the most fascinating, unique, exotic, places I've ever seen. Brazilians are very social and welcoming, and live a lifestyle that few Americans have seen, blending jungle/river/tropical/ indigenous Indian lifestyles with European (mostly Portuguese) culture and coastal living. It's an intensely catholic country but coexists peacefully with African religions like macumba and voodoo. It is truly another world, filled with paradoxes, compared to what most of us have known.

Belem is located 2400 miles southeast of Miami and has a modern international airport. Striking views of the area's land and waterways can be seen during approach and takeoff. Local boat tours of the estuary and nearby islands are available on a daily basis, as well as luxury cruises up the entire length of the deep water Amazon, and more adventurous journeys into the headwaters high in the Andes Mountains. Recently, part of the cities docks have been converted into a lovely bayside promenade complete with indoor/outdoor restaurants, shopping, and entertainment. Adjacent, is the cities largest outdoor marketplace, fishing docks and fish market—a tourist highlight. A ten minute walk away is the Hilton-Belem Hotel, located in the heart of the city on Praca da Republica.

Hamming in Belem: This was my fourth visit to Belem, but the first time with a PY license (W3HKK/PY8.) A reciprocal ham license was easily obtained thru ARRL for \$10 and completion of a form and a couple of photos. It took just 2 weeks to receive my PY8 ticket!

LABRE is the ARRL of Brasil. I had emailed them prior to my trip and was put in touch with the LABRE Club in Belem, and in particular the local Big Time Dixer, PY8AZT, Luc Moreira. We traded several emails and even tried a few skeds on 20M but with no success. Luc was to be out of town for the first week of my visit so I would have to cool my heels till his return.

So, in my spare time, as I accustomed myself to the tropical weather, I listened on my IC-2AT 2M handheld to fairly active vhf repeaters on 146.94 and 146.76, (no tones) and worked a dozen hams in and around Belem. From their reactions I could tell they weren't used to having DX stations visiting them. Several offered to show me the town but family obligations kept my schedule pretty well booked.

The day after Luc returned from his business trip to the South of Brazil, we worked on the .94 machine and made plans for the next day. Luc picked me up and we drove to the local LABRE club station, and met 4 more hams who were just hanging out - 3 OMs and 1 XYL, all in their 50s 60s and 70s. The club has a two story

building all to themselves near the center of the city but on a fairly quiet side street. After introductions, a short rag chew, and QSL exchange, we fired up the club station. Turns out their rig is was the same rig I use at home: an old FT-901DM. It looked good and received well (the antenna is a tribander at 55 ft.) but alas the old transmitter needed some serious work, due to severe audio distortion. I called and called CQ with no luck. I tuned around for a strong signal, and after many calls contacted none other than Jim "Bull" Bullington, 5U7JB in Niger, on 20M ssb. But it took 9 transmissions, constantly repeating my name and call before he could copy it. And just barely. Not due to QRM or QRN, but rather my S9 signal's very garbled audio. So after one contact, I reluctantly gave up on the LABRE station.

Luc, suggested we go operate from his home station. Not one to blow a golden opportunity, I said Ate Logo! to the club and headed to Luc's QTH, a high rise bachelor' apartment about 20 minutes away in downtown Belem. Luc has a serious contest station (computer logging, TS2000, triband yagi at 130 ft and numerous awards including high score in the CQ World Wide Test (single op, CW mode) in 2003. Luc is an engineer in his late 20's, single, and loves contesting and DXing. He operates all the major DX contests (CW only) as well as several island DXpeditions from the Amazon basin area, and is well known throughout PY land.

So from 8 pm till midnight, Luc and I chewed the rag, and in between, I called periodic CQ's on 14.180, his favorite frequency for SSB rag-chewing with the PY's, while beaming to the Mid-western USA. The band was fairly quiet with noise levels around S5, and most CQ's brought back 2-3 replies, but very few with big signals. Most of my contacts were with the east and Midwest, with signals of S7-8. Surprisingly, most of them were running 100w to vertical antennas, from states like NY, NJ, Pa, Ma, In, Il, Wi, and a smattering of southern states like Fl and Ga. I didn't hear anything from 5, 6 or 7 land. Most disappointing of all, I worked just one 8, and he was in northeast Ohio around Youngstown.



A trio of PY8's including Luc, PY8AZT, in the Center, taken at the LABRE Club Station in downtown Belem.

I wasn't in the mood to operate contest style yet (the tropical heat slows you way down!) so I rag chewed my way through the evening, making contacts at a leisurely pace. I'd describe what it was like in the tropics, in an out of the way, exotic, metropolitan city, the steady heat and humidity, daily temperatures of 75-78F at sunrise and 90F at mid day. And how the mid-day sun was so intense, especially from 11am-3pm, that when I explored the city on foot, I'd seek shade and liquid refreshment on a regular basis. Cerpa and Antarctica are two of the more popular local beers here, and are available in the US if you're interested.

I operated solely 20 ssb, making a total of 55 contacts, all on 14.180, all on the same day.

I had hoped to email Jim K8EIO about when I would be on the air so he could tip off CFARS members, but operating turned out to be more limited and unpredictable than even I thought.

Around midnight, because Luc had to work the next morning, I reluctantly pulled the plug (over

his protests) and headed back to my sister-in-law's apartment. Luc and I made tentative plans to come back for an all day operation the following Sunday, so I left, "pumped" and looking forward to some serious contest style DXing. Unfortunately, subsequent power supply problems kept Luc and I off the air for the remainder of my time in Belem.

From the "Lessons Learned Department:"

Next trip I'll be sure to bring one of the compact new 100w rigs as back up, and allow much more personal time to operate from this truly fascinating corner of the world. I'm sure the LABRE Club in Belem would appreciate a state-of-the-art transceiver to stir renewed interest, as well.

73 de Bob, W3HKK, Ex: F7AL, ON8UD, 9G1GS, 5A3TG, PY8/W3HKK

PS: Mrs. Harada, now approaching 89, is still active in family and cultural affairs. She remains energetic, spry, and is clearly still going strong. Between ages 78 and 88 alone, she traveled on three separate trips to the US, Japan, and Spain, and is planning yet another trip to the US in the near future.

In March, 2005, Mrs. Harada was selected from among over 25,000 entrants, as one of ten winners of The Emperor of Japan's Annual Haiku (poetry writing) Competition. This tradition is over 1000 years old. Yes, 1000 years! She was invited to attend formal commemoration ceremonies at the Emperor's Palace in Tokyo, Japan, and to meet the Emperor and his wife at that time.



Mrs. Harada celebrating her 88th birthday in Belem, Para, Brazil.

In recognition of this extraordinary event, your humble correspondent is sponsoring a contest! The first NODXA member to identify the lucky ham, and on what page their picture appears, will win a mystery gift!

Send your submissions to me at wd8iou@adelphia.net. Good hunting!

Find the DXer Contest

By David Autry, WD8IOU

A prominent NODXA member was featured in the August 2005 issue of QST. Well not exactly "featured", more of just "got in the way"! Anyway, most hams that I know would love to have their picture in QST and this member got their wish!

DX

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this month's edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, W3HKK, and K8AV.

NODXA Club Officials for 2005-2006

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 Editor - David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)

As of March 2002
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

335

NODXA 2005 Field Day



How do you light this thing?



And you thought I didn't do CW!



Bill, W8JGU, and his cranial cooling system.



Twilight falls on W8JGU's custom 6M beam.

The 2005 Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show

September 25, 2005 8:00am to 2:00pm at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea, OH. Admission \$6 per person, Flea Market \$6 per space. More information at: <http://www.hac.org>





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**



The Northern Ohio DX Association
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