

June-July-August 2010

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



# The NODXA RAG



## Poolside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Once again the members of NODXA had a great Field Day. The membership turn out for Field Day was also great (all-around; set up, attendance, operational and tear down). One of the big improvements this year was the CW station. We had a great CW team this year. The CW operators had more QSOs than the Phone operators. The CW station made 1071 QSOs and the SSB station made 981 QSOs.



The other special stations also did well (6m, GOTA and the Satellite station). Other great Field Day items were: the weather, the food (thanks to FD Chef Dwaine), Mary's (N8DMM) educational class on poison ivy and Bill's (W8JGU) Flex radio on 6 meters.

Beside the great team work, we must not forget the individuals who made it possible. Thanks to NODXA's FD Chairman Bill/W8JGU and the FD Tech Team of John/K8YSE and Pete/N8TR. Without them and their great planning for FD operations, we would not have had a smooth, successful and fun FD.

As far as DX goes, nothing much and big to report. For July look for activity from Wallis and Futuna Island (FW) between the 14-24th and an operation from Togo (5V7DX) between 15-26th. There is nothing major for the summer.

One other reminder. As of May 1st, club dues/renewals are due. Remember, your club dues help fund DXpeditions and club events. Since January 2009, NODXA has donated/funded 6 DXpeditions (K5D, 3D20CR, TX3A, YI9PSE and two others which have not taken place yet - CYO and VP8/O). Thanks for helping to promote DX and fund DXpeditions. Your membership is valuable.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

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

## Minutes of the April 5th, 2010 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Vice President, Dwaine, K8ME, at 7:30pm. There were 20 members and 2 guests present.

After a round of introductions, the minutes of the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting were read. After a couple of minor corrections, the minutes were approved as read.



The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Denny, WB8K, reported that the repeater was okay. Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster is off-the-air.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that he will start the newsletter in about a week.

Pete, N8TR, moved, seconded by Dave, WD8IOU, that the slate of officers, as nominated at the March meeting, be approved and elected for the coming year. The motion passed.

Dwaine, K8ME, suggested that the club allocate \$250. for hospitality suite expenses at Dayton. Bruce, N8DJX, moved, seconded by Glenn, AF8C, that the amount of \$250. be approved. The motion passed.

### Old-New Business

Dwaine, K8ME reported that seats on the Dayton chartered bus are still available. Price is \$40. per person. The bus will leave the K-Mart parking lot at Bagley and Engle roads at 3 to 3:30 am and leave Dayton for the return trip between 3:30 and 4:00 pm. Dwaine also reported that Tedd, KB8NW, will arrange for beverages at the Dayton hospitality suite.

Dwaine, K8ME, further reported on the following:

The ARRL will be adding all 32 Mexican states as multipliers in its annual 10 meter contest.

A combined Russian/Ukrainian team will DXpeditioning in the south pacific next month. The operation, Pacific Odyssey, will be active from Samoa, Central Kiribati and Tokelau. The team, comprised of RK3FA, UX0HX, UR3HR, US7UX and UT5UY, will have the following schedule:

18-19 May	5W00X	Samoa (OC-097)
22 May-1 June	T31X and T31UR	Central Kiribati (OC-043)
2-6 June	ZK3X	Tokelau (OC-048)

More information is available at: at [www.uz1hz.com/pacificodyssey.html](http://www.uz1hz.com/pacificodyssey.html)

At 7:49 pm, the meeting was paused for a satellite demonstration by John, K8YSE. John, utilizing the restaurant wifi system and a laptop computer, contacted his equipment and antennas at home via the internet and made several contacts during a pass of AO-51, an FM repeater satellite. Signals were remarkably clear.

George, K8KR, commented on the addition of the 32 Mexican states as multipliers in the ARRL 10 meter contest. Worked all states has taken on a new meaning.

Ron, K8VJG, reported that the next CARS meeting on April 13, will have a demonstration on the Flex Software Defined Radio. CARS meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at the Busch Funeral Home on Ridge Rd just south of Pleasant Valley Rd.

Rick, K8ZH, wants to sell equipment owned by Tom, K8PV. Tom is ill and wants to divest all of his equipment.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that Stan Haase's son Rick wanted to thank everyone who attended Stan's funeral.

Dwaine, K8ME, called for a moment of silence for Stan, he will be greatly missed.

Dwaine also noted that the next meeting will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Nelson, K8DJC. The amount winning amount was \$19.50.

The meeting was closed by the Vice President, Dwaine, K8ME, at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX Secretary

## Minutes of the May 3rd, 2010 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 7:37pm. There were 21 members and no guests present.

After a round of introductions, the minutes of the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were read. After one minor correction, Bruce, N8DJX, moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the minutes be approved as read. The motion passed.



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

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the repeater is okay. Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster is down.

### Old - New Business

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the Dayton bus has been downsized from a capacity of 41 to a capacity of 33. As of now, there are 27 seats reserved. In addition, there will be no restroom.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the hospitality suite at Dayton is all set and Janeen said that she was ready as well. Tedd also reported that he will fill in at the ARRL booth and John, K8YSE will fill in at the AMSAT booth.

Tedd brought up Field Day which is next month. He said that the club will need help transporting equipment. Three members have trucks. Tedd suggested that members bring their family and kids as they represent bonus points. Ron, K8VJG, has talked with the ARRL concerning bonus points for senior citizens.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that there was no interest in donation to the R/UK. He also reported that the affiliated club section on the new ARRL web site is down. We will wait to update the information on the web site. At present, we have about 58 members with only 4 or 5 being non-ARRL members.

Tedd gave a brief rundown on current and future DXpeditions. A summary follows:

Sable Island coming up in October. Expected cost is around \$25K. Bruce, N8DJX, moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the club donate \$100. A vote followed, with 10 for the measure and 9 against. The motion passed.

S. Orkney, VP8O, coming up January 27, 2011 to February 8<sup>th</sup>. Expected total cost is about \$300K, with \$227K for transportation. Bruce, N8DJX, moved, seconded by Adam, N8MOX, that the club donate \$250. The motion passed.

Others which are this month (May) and early June are as follows:

Ogasawara, Maldives, Central African Republic, Marion Island (until April 2011) and Palestine.

Tedd further reported that the World Radiosport Team Championship would be held in Russia this year. As before, there will be 50, 2-man teams. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and then withdrew a motion to donate \$50 to the operation.

The program this evening was a DVD of the Midway Island DXpedition, K4M. CARS donated the projector for the program.

Tedd reminded everyone that the next meeting will be Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, and that Lee, KH6BZH, will have another presentation on current and projected propagation conditions.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Brian, K3USC. The winning amount was \$18.

Brian, K3USC, donated 6 copies of RadComm magazine from the RSGB (Radio Society of Great Britain) as door prizes. Two winners each won 3 copies. They were Bill, W8BG and Nick, W8XD.

The meeting was closed by the president, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX Secretary

## New DXCC activation of PJ4, Bonaire

The end of a country - The Netherlands Antilles With a 99% certainty, many things are about to change for the people and all radio amateurs in the Netherlands Antilles. On October 10, 2010 the Netherlands Antilles will cease to exist as a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the islands will emerge with several new statuses:

St. Maarten and Curacao will become an independent country within the Kingdom and will be granted the same status that Aruba attained in 1986.

Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius (also called BES islands) will be given the status of a public body (a kind of special municipality) in the Netherlands and will therefore fall directly under Dutch rule.

What does this mean for radio amateurs? The two current DXCC entities of PJ2/PJ4 (Leeward Islands) and PJ5/PJ6/PJ7 (Windward Islands) are expected to be deleted. However, several new entities are likely to emerge on 10-10-2010.

Both St. Maarten (PJ7) and Curacao (PJ2) will become a new DXCC entity.

Bonaire (PJ4) will become a new DXCC entity.

Saba (PJ6) along with St. Eustatius (PJ5) will become a single DXCC entity due to their proximity to each other. In short, 2 entities will be disappearing, but 4 will come back!

## 468: Ham Radio's Magic Number By Dan Romnanchik, KB6NU

Here in the U.S.—where we still measure length in feet—468 is a magic number. Why? Well, the formula for calculating the length, in feet, of a half-wave dipole antenna is:

$$L \text{ (ft)} = 468 / f \text{ (MHz)}$$

If you do the math, a half-wavelength is actually  $492/f$ , so where did the number 468 come

from? The explanation most often given these days is that a radio wave travels about 5% slower in wire than it does in free space, so the distance that a radio wave would travel in a wire is about 5% less than it would travel in free space.

Now, I don't know about you, but while I've used this formula for building dipoles, I've never had one tune up perfectly using that number. There are a number of reasons for this, the main one being the height above ground of the dipole. What I've found is that the elements of the dipole are usually longer than they need to be.

I sometimes joke that whoever came up with that number did so that hams wouldn't cut their dipoles too short. After all, it's much easier to make a length of wire shorter than it is to make it longer.

Ward, NOAX, wasn't satisfied with any of the common answers to where the number 468 came from. In the latest issue of QST, he consulted the materials in the ARRL library and found the answer. The October 1926 issue of QST included an article titled, "The Length of the Hertz Antenna." ("Hertz antenna" was the name most commonly used for a dipole in the early days of radio.)

The author of that article constructed nine different dipoles and measured their resonant frequencies. He then calculated a value, K, by which you'd multiply the wavelength to get the wire length. If you multiply that number by 300, you'd get values ranging from 423 to 471.

The number 468 first appeared in the 1929 ARRL Handbook.

For this article, NOAX did a number of simulations of a 20m dipole at various heights, ranging from 1/8 wavelength to 2 wavelengths. He came up with numbers ranging from 466.4 to 483.4. This is somewhat at odds with my experience, although I must admit that I've never been able to get my dipoles up that high. That's my guess for why my dipoles are almost always shorter than  $468/f$ .

At any rate, this article is certainly worth reading.



## QSL, The Beginning

Submitted by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW

The following letter was published in the June 1916 edition of QST magazine. The editor's comments were by the then editor of QST, who is not identified, but is believed to be Hiram Percy Maxim. The letter appeared in an earlier edition of the NJDXA Newsletter and was published again in response to Jim Smith's (VK9NS) query in one of his stories about how this QSL business started.

### QSL

The editor received a letter as follows from Mr. Edward C. Andrews of Philadelphia, Pa: I am enclosing a postal which I have received from Mr. W.T. Fraser of Buffalo, N.Y. (8VX) on which he states my signals were heard in Buffalo clear and strong. This is a distance of over 400 miles and I naturally felt somewhat elated as it was accomplished with 1-4 Kw. Chambers open core transformer.

But aside from the fact that this is a fairly good record, I wish to commend the spirit of unselfishness that is quite evident in Mr. Fraser and others who send cards which tell of receiving the signals of a fellow amateur. While these cards of 8VX (Mr. Fraser) may have come to your attention before, I have never seen a notice about it in your magazine. When one goes to the trouble and expense of having a postal printed in order to inform those of whose signals he hears, it seems to me that a long stride has been taken, toward aiding the perfection and inspiration to amateur work.

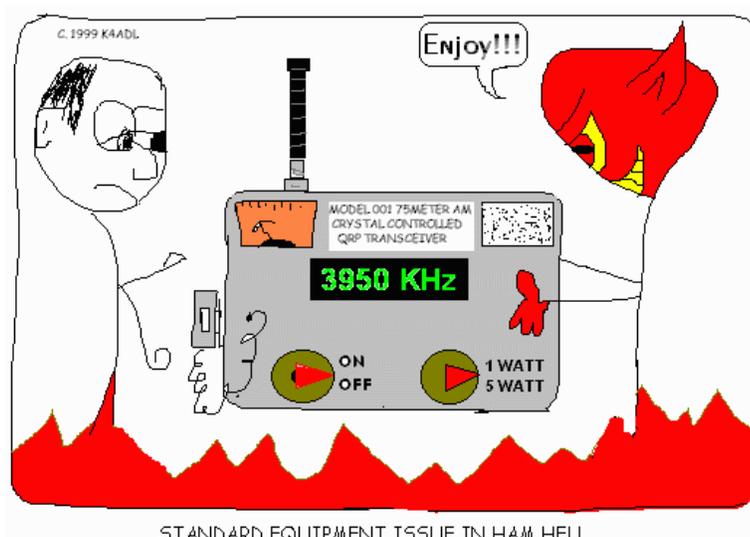
Until I received word from 8VX, I thought my maximum sending range was seventy-five miles. At Mauch Chunk and the Delaware Gap my signals were slightly stronger than NAI and quite similar to WHE.

I would urge upon the members of the A.R.R.L. and the readers of QST to notify by postal and by the very next mail the owner of the station whose signals they hear and to give such other information as they think of aid or inspiration to the recipient.

Respectfully,

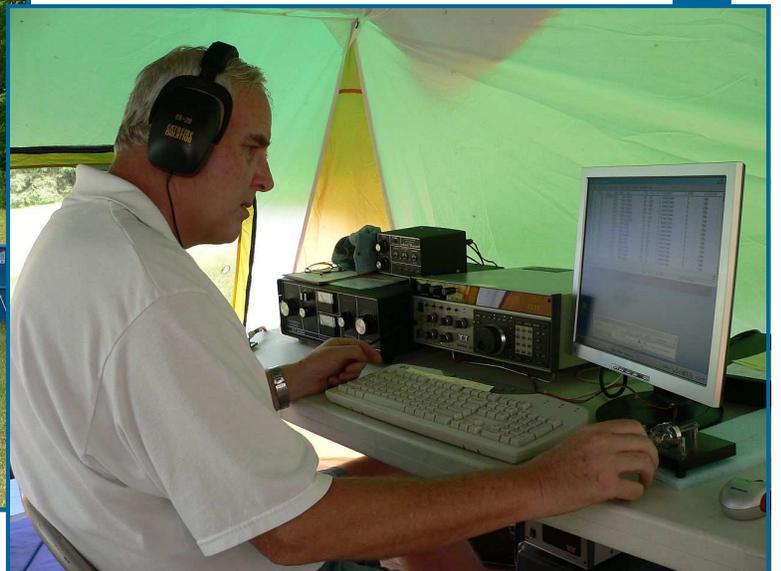
(Sgd) Edward C. Andrews, 8TQ.

**EDITORS COMMENT:** The idea of notifying the amateurs is a fine one, and the Editor earnestly recommends that all of our readers adopt this plan. At small expense, a postal can be had and on it printed a short description of the receiving station and other data which bring the amateurs of our great organization in closer touch with each other.



NODXA 2010 Field Day in Pictures Submitted by Rick Chilcote, K8ZH, and Dave Autry, WD8IOU





## JP and the Bed Lamp

By Phil Chambley, Sr., K4DPK, via eHam.net

Back in the late fifties, I 'd been transferred to Eastern North Carolina, so we moved into a duplex apartment while waiting on our new house.

It was cramped, operating a pair of 4-400As with 810 modulators. In retrospect, that was much too much rig for the close proximity of the neighbors, especially on 15 meter AM.

When I first moved in, the apartment behind me was vacant. I never heard much from the neighbors, except once the guy who lived upstairs in the building next door came to call.

He rapped on the front door, so lightly as to make me think he didn't really want me to hear. The timidity and uncertainty telegraphed by this person on my doorstep hinted I might not be dealing with a genius. He could hardly begin a hello; much less explain the reason for his impromptu visit. He stammered something about "Dragnet".

It was then I surmised (owing partly to the 21 mc IF frequency of TV sets in those days) his visit might be the result of an interrupted evening of television. Not implausible, since the path to the middle east involved pointing a seven element Yagi at his living-room window. Quite possibly, he had more interest in how Joe Friday solved his case, than whether I finished my conversation with Mitch, VS9MB in the Maldives.

Being pressed for time, I helped him open the conversation, and soon learned I'd guessed correctly. He said, "Yes, that's it. I can hear you on my TV."

We would only stay in the apartment a couple more weeks. If I could buy a little time, the problem would no longer exist.

So I inquired, "I see, and do you have an FCC license?"

"No."

"Hmmm. Well, we have something of a problem here." I ushered him inside, as if to hide him from prying eyes up and down the street.

I asked in a near whisper, "Listen, are you aware it's against the law to eavesdrop on conversations like you've been doing?" He seemed stunned.... Exactly the reaction I'd hoped for.

"If I were you, and I was breaking the law that way, I sure wouldn't be going up and down the street knocking on doors, telling people about it."

He apologized and left.

I think that man was stealing gas out of my car, but we left the neighborhood before I could prove it.

Anyway, a young man moved into the apartment adjoining ours, and he kept to himself, so I didn't learn what happened there until after we'd moved away.

Seems he had one of those little fluorescent lamps that hooked over the headboard on his bed. Shortly after he moved in, he started having problems with it. It'd come on at odd times, and he'd jiggle the switch and it would go off.

One night, he was reading in bed. Getting sleepy, he turned the lamp off, but just as Morpheus overtook him, the lamp came back on. He roused and jiggled the switch, and the light went out.

Back in the covers, almost asleep, the light reappeared. Jiggle, jiggle. The light went out.

Back to near-sleep. Light came back on. Jiggle, jiggle....no effect.

Unplugged the light from the wall, and it went out. Fine.

Almost asleep.

Light came back on.

This guy raised the window beside his bed and threw the lamp out into the yard. No kidding, the lamp was unplugged, in the grass, lit up in all its 20w fluorescence. He packed his clothes before he left for work the next day and moved back in with his Mom for a while.

When I did find out about all this, I also learned his percolator, which seemed to have somehow developed a talent for the English language, had also encouraged his decision to evacuate. (Many of us

built mechanical detectors when we were kids, receiving strong signals with a needle and a razor blade. The loose lid on the percolator made an excellent receiver.)

That coffee pot had just narrowly escaped destruction once, when the young man entered his apartment and heard voices in the kitchen. A tense situation arose when it (the pot) actually was threatened with a double-barreled quail gun. Strangely enough, coincident with my leaving the neighborhood, the percolator lost its ability to speak and survived to brew another pot.

It's amazing how some of these RFI problems just seem to solve themselves.

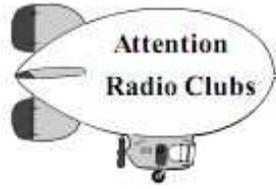
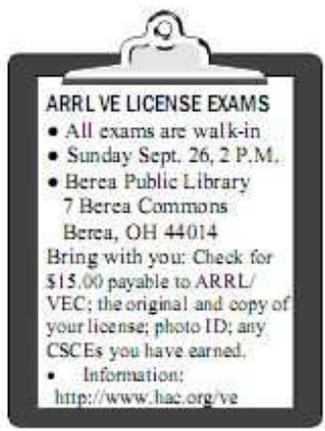
**Plan for a Funday!**  
**Sunday Sept. 26**



**The 2010 Cleveland  
 HAMFEST &  
 COMPUTER SHOW**

**Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds—Berea, Ohio**  
**Gates open at 8:00 a.m. Show closes 2:00 P.M.**

**Enjoy a Great Day at our Indoor/Outdoor Flea Market  
 With Prizes, Forums, Food and More!**

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Door Prizes</b></li> <li>1st: \$400 Cash</li> <li>2nd: \$300 Cash</li> <li>3rd: \$200 Cash</li> <li>▶ <b>Hourly Prizes</b></li> <li>▶ <b>Mobile Check-in</b></li> </ul>	 <p><b>Tickets Still              \$6.00              At the Gate</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FORUMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ ARES Emergency Communications</li> <li>▶ ARRL Forum</li> <li>▶ Ohio ARES Dist. 10 Go Box Contest</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vendor Spaces</b></p> <p>All tables \$20.00 each—does NOT include admission ticket. (First table with ticket: \$25.00.)</p> <p><b>Flea Market:</b> \$6.00 per space. Vendor and flea market setup at 6:00 a.m.. No overnight parking without city permit!</p> <p><b>Table reservations:</b>  <a href="http://www.hac.org/tables">http://www.hac.org/tables</a></p>	 <p><b>Attention              Radio Clubs</b></p> <p>Tables are free to radio clubs, so plan to promote yours by pre-registering with your request. No sales permitted, but if you elect to sell items, tables cost \$10.00 each.</p>	 <p><b>ARRL VE LICENSE EXAMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All exams are walk-in</li> <li>• Sunday Sept. 26, 2 P.M.</li> <li>• Berea Public Library              7 Berea Commons              Berea, OH 44014</li> </ul> <p>Bring with you: Check for \$15.00 payable to ARRL/VEC; the original and copy of your license; photo ID; any CSEs you have earned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information:  <a href="http://www.hac.org/ve">http://www.hac.org/ve</a></li> </ul>

**For further information contact:**  
**Hamfest Association of Cleveland, Inc., P.O. Box 81252, Cleveland, OH 44181-0252**  
**1-800-CLE-FEST (253-3378) URL: <http://www.hac.org>**



## 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  
 K8MR: PacketCluster 144.91 & 145.57

Web-site: <http://www.papays.com/nodxa.html>

Newsletter Submission: [wd8iou@adelphia.net](mailto:wd8iou@adelphia.net)

## NODXA Club Officials for 2010-2011

President:	Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW	(440-237-2816)
V. President:	Dwaine Modock, K8ME	(440-582-3462)
Secretary:	Al Moriarty, N8CX	(216-221-3682)
Treasurer:	Mary Michaelis, N8DMM	(440-236-5426)
Newsletter:	David Autry, WD8IOU	(440-238-0417)



## DXCC Info

As of December 2007, the current DXCC Entities total is: **338**.

## NODXA Application and Renewal Form

The Northern Ohio DX Association is a non-profit organization with a primary interest in DXing. We encourage all DXers to join our group and share the interest and fun of DXing.

Please complete the application below and send along your appropriate dues or renewal to:

**NODXA, P.O. Box 361624 , Strongsville, Ohio 44136**

First Time Membership/Renewal (U.S. and DX) **\$20.00**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 ARRL Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ DXCC Member? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Interest \_\_\_\_\_

## Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, K8ME, K8ZH, K4ADL, KB6NU, K4DPK, ARRL, and eHam.net.