

August-September 2011

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



# The NODXA RAG



## Poolside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

I hope everyone got a chance to work the new DXCC entity South Sudan. The club did vote to fund the "Intrepid-DX Group/DX Friends" multi-national DXpedition. The operation made over 121k QSOs. There have been reports that some members did work them on several band and mode slots, while some only worked them on a few bands and modes. Anyway, this should not be a very rare one in the future, and I would not be surprised if another group or groups goes there for the winter contest season (for the CQWW DX CW and SSB Contests). Watch the DX bulletins for possible operations.



The next operation (that the club funded) coming up is the 4W6A DXpedition to Atauro Island (IOTA OC-232), Timor-Leste (East Timor), between September 16-26th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with up to four stations on the air simultaneously.

The QSL Manager is MOURX, direct (SAE plus 1 IRC/2 USDs), by the Bureau, or LoTW. The entire log is expected to be uploaded to LoTW as quickly as possible after the end of the operation, or if possible, during the DXpedition. Hopefully, propagation will be favorable for us.

Also in September, and just a reminder, the Cleveland Hamfest will take place on September 25th, at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. The club will have two tables again this year, one for club promotions and the other for members of NODXA to sell stuff. We need people to help man both tables (for about 30-60 minutes would be great). The bad news is that I will not be able to attend this year because I will be in Tennessee to be with my daughter (who is having my first grandchild). NODXA's V.P. Dwaine, W8ME, will be in charge/filling-in for me at the hamfest this year.

Lastly, (and I know this sounds like a broken record, but) I would like to remind you one more time to renew your club dues. Remember, the major part of your dues help fund DXpeditions, the Dayton HamVention Hospitality Suite and certain club functions (such as Field Day). The club's fiscal year is from May to May, and it is already September.

Hope to see you at next NODXA meeting.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

## Minutes of the July 11th, 2011 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 7:30pm. There were 21 members and 1 guest present. A round of introductions was held.

The minutes of the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were read. After some callsign corrections, Pete, N8TR moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.



The treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching in the account. Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the repeater was okay.

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

### Old - New Business

Tedd reported to expect a new country this week, Southern Sudan, callsign unknown at this time. The former Afghanistan group is planning on going to S. Sudan. Pete, N8TR moved, seconded by Jim, KE8G, that the club donate \$250 to the expedition. The motion passed.

A group of seven Germans and two Polish operators, headed by Ziggy, DL7DF, are scheduled to go to Guinea, 3XY1D, October 18<sup>th</sup> until Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.

An operation to Benin, TY1KS, is expected in August of this year.

Tedd also reported on the unexpected passing of Christina Check, W8HBI. She is the daughter of Bob Check, W8GC. Our heartfelt sympathies go to Bob and his family.

Jim, KE8G, reported on an excellent book about the K3 Transceiver written by Fred, KE7X. Pete, N8TR, reported on an iPad application where you can get information on the K3.

Gary, NI8Z, reported that he had invited Jim Weaver, K8JE, the Great Lakes Division Director, to the August C.A.R.S. meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday.

Linda, N8LRS, won an Alinco DJX-2000 scanner at the Dayton Hamvention. The unit, which is valued at \$800, is for sale.

John, K8YSE, gave a rundown on the club's Field Day results. The club's category was 2A with a GOTA station.

### QSOs

1,747 SSB	1,131 CW	98 GOTA	36 Satellite
<u>Total QSOs 3,012</u>	<u>Total QSO points 8,018</u>		
Bonus points 1,110			
<u>Total claimed Field Day score, category 2A, 9,128 points</u>			

John, K8YSE, and Pete, N8TR, thanked everyone who helped out, brought food, etc.

Tedd asked for a round of applause for John, K8YSE, who headed-up the Field Day effort.

Ron, K8VJG moved, seconded by Denny, WB8K, that the club donate \$100. to Mt. Augustine for their hospitality. The motion passed.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that Byron, KF8UN, was going to Peru. The callsign OA4/KF8UN is scheduled to be active from July 22<sup>nd</sup> until August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Tedd, reminded the members that the next meeting would be Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Dave, WD8IOU. The winning amount was \$17 which Dave donated back to the club.

The meeting was adjourned by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

## Bitten by the Bug

By Craig Miller, W8CR

Ahhhhh, just put the kid on the bus, and the wife is on her way to the salt mine. Now, I have 45 minutes to see if I can scare up a quick QSO.

40 meters sounds pretty quiet this morning--no ear splitting static crashes. The usual morning CW junkies must have already headed off to work or out mowing the grass. I spin the dial down to 7.023 to see if any speedsters are still on. Some days, I can even keep up with them at 30-35 wpm. It must be later than I thought, though. Those guys are gone too.



Tuning back up to 7.030, I hear a couple of guys wrapping up a chat at about 20 wpm: "FB FRED MUST QRT TO WALK THE DOG 73 ES CUL..." (translation: "Good copy, Fred, but I really gotta go to the bathroom! Best regards and see you later.>").

I spin the dial up to 7.032, and don't hear any beeps or boops. I guess here is where I'll cast my line. "QRL?" (translation: "Anybody out there working that last rare DX station for your DXCC that I can't hear?"). Nuttin' heard. I'll QRL one more time before "CQ CQ CQ DE W8CR W8CR K". Silence. Again "CQ CQ...". Just the hiss out of the speaker. Well maybe this ain't gonna happen today. One more time...

Bam - I got one! He's got a nice strong signal too. But, wait. What the ...? What is he sending me? "DAAAAHHHHHH DIT DIT DIT DIT DAAAAHHHHHH DAAAAHHHHHHH DAAAAHHHHH DIT DITDITDIT DIT DIT DITDITDITDAAAAHHHHHH." NUTS! He's using a bug, a mechanical key dating back to the old railroad days. It's an ingenious mechanism for sending high speed code, but it takes a lot of practice to send clear, copyable code. I can barely make out my callsign let alone his - this isn't gonna be fun.

I have two options:

1. Don't reply and pretend I didn't hear him. He's really strong, though, and most likely I am, too. He knows I can hear him. Plus, that's the coward's way out.
2. Answer him and tough it out.

I answer him. We exchange the usual stuff. My RST is 579, his name is Bill, and he lives in Niassa Fihls, errrrr, Niagara Falls, NY. "Niagara Falls, eh?" We've been wanting to visit there before our kid gets too old to even want to be seen with his parents, let alone ride in a car for 6 hours to look at water flowing over rocks. Plus, that's where Nikola Tesla built his hydro power station that illuminated Buffalo over a hundred years ago. I'm hooked now - lotsa questions for him.

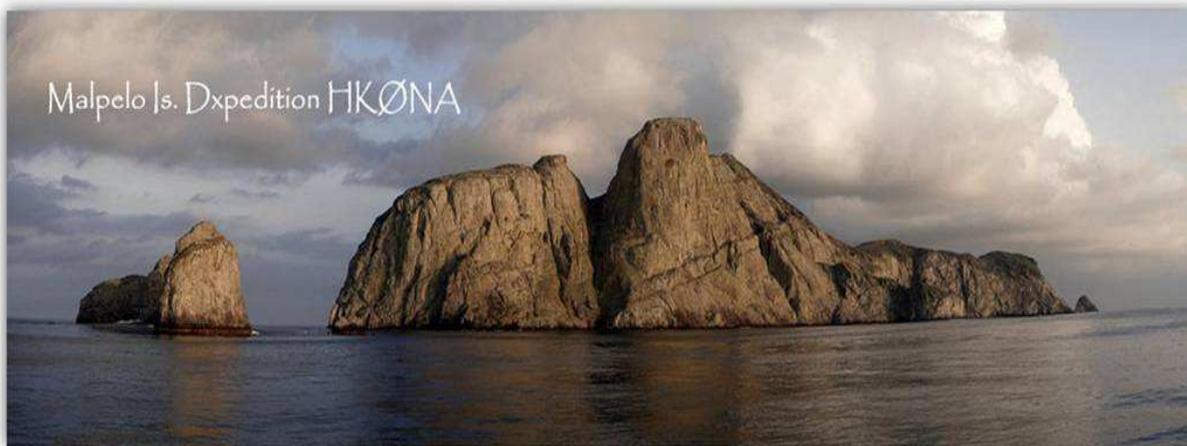
As our conversation progresses, his dot-to-dash ratio varies all over the map, but I slowly get used his style of CW. It's like listening to British shows on PBS. At first, they're totally unintelligible, but over time, your brain figures it out.

I have to give him credit, he's using something that is a passing skill. I have a bug I bought years ago, but could never master it well enough for me to feel comfortable subjecting others to the noise.

Well, that 45 minutes passed fast. Time to get to work. I promised I would look him up whenever we get to Niagara. I guess it wasn't a total nightmare working him and his bug, after all. Kinda like talking to somebody with a thick accent.

After all, he is a New Yorker.

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



## Northern Ohio DX Assn.

On behalf of the DX Amateur Radio Club of Colombia (DXARC), thanks for your contribution of \$500.00 to the Malpelo 2012 DXpedition

It is dedicated and generous DX Clubs like yours that make DXpeditions such HKØNA possible.

One of the goals of the Malpelo DXpedition is to provide at least one QSO to every DXer who needs this #11 ranked DXCC entity for a new one.

Your contribution will help make this happen.

DXers world-wide...thank you!

We look forward to contacting you on the air!

See you in the pile-ups!

Again thanks,  
DXARC

**STØR - South Sudan is approved for DXCC** by "The DX Sentinel"

121.286 QSO in STØR Database.

27.991 Unique Call signs. 175 DXCC. 40 CQ Zones.

First QSO at 22/07/2011 @ 15:36 | Last QSO at 10/08/2011 @ 07:01

CW	SSB	RTTY	Band	
6M	728	181	0	909
10M	3.971	3.458	857	8.286
12M	4.803	4.720	1.052	10.575
15M	9.590	10.417	4.676	24.683
17M	10.038	11.205	4.329	25.572
20M	11.964	15.524	4.055	31.543
30M	5.402		2.279	7.681
40M	5.785	1.701	884	8.370
80M	2.502	486	0	2.988
160M	675	4	0	679
Total	55.458	47.696	18.132	121.286

The STØR operation rates high on the list of fine dxpeditions. 5 stations plus 6 meters and some of the best op's in the world banded away for 15 days to a total of 121,286 qso's. A massive total and a new RTTY dxpedition record of 46.696 qso's. Hindered by the time of the year. Low propagation numbers and less than optimum antennas this group pulled off incredible statistics. How did NODXA members do?

**NODXA MEMBERS STØR DATABASE SCORES:**

20.....WK3N	6.....W8AV,W8XD
19.....K8MFO,N8TR	5.....K8BCK,K8QXB,N8LRS
15.....W8KEN	4....K8AV,K8DJC,N8AGU
13.....NI8Z	3.....K8VJG
11.....N8DJX	2.....AF8C,K8KR,K8LBT,KB8NW,KE8G,KH6BZF,
10.....N8KOL,N9RC	N8DMM,W8HB
9.....K8YSE,W8GC,WB8K	1.....K8YN,WD8IOU
8...K3TLP,K8ME,W8NW	0.....19 MEMBERS
7.....K8FF,K8ZH	291 QSO's by 35 members

## A Downsized Field Day

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It seems like everyone (except for maybe Google) is downsizing these days. With that in mind, I thought that I'd downsize my Field Day. Instead of participating in the large 5A [ARROW](#) Field Day operation, the guys that hang around [WA2HOM](#), our club station at the [Hands-On Museum](#), decided to set up a much smaller operation.



Our first idea was to set up outside the museum. That seemed like it was going to work out until Quentin, KD8IPF, informed me that he couldn't attend, as his wife was going to be out of town, and he needed to take care of his kids. I was concerned that without Quentin that we wouldn't have enough operators to have two people there at all times.

Then, Quentin volunteered his backyard. This turned out to be a great venue. He has a fairly large, with a couple of big trees. Not only that, he lives next door to his mother-in-law, and she's volunteered her trees as antenna supports. You gotta love a mother-in-law like that!

One of the advantages of downsizing is that you don't have to spend so much time setting up. Instead of setting up antennas for five HF stations, a GOTA station, and a VHF/UHF station, all we had to do was set up antennas for our two HF stations. And, since we planned on using Quentin's already-installed, multi-band dipole, we only really had one antenna to worry about.

That being the case, we decided that we really didn't need to start setting up until noon on Saturday. Jim, K8ELR, and I actually arrived about 11:30 am, and that proved to be more than enough time. Jim brought with him a 40m dipole and a 30m, end-fed half-wave antenna, while I brought my BuddiStick. We quickly decided to put up the 40m dipole, and by 1pm, we were already on the air.

### A Tale of Two Antennas

Of course, it wasn't really as simple as all that. When we started operating, the two stations interfered with one another something terrible. So much so that my KX-1 was even causing Quentin's LDG autotuner to retune itself when I transmitted.

The problem was that the 40m dipole and the multi-band dipole were running nearly parallel to one another. I should have known that this would occur, having been involved with more than a few Field Days by now, but it never even crossed my mind.

Fortunately, the solution was relatively simple. All we had to do was to take down the multi-band dipole and hang it from two different trees, one of them in the adjoining yard. After we did this, the two antennas were nearly perpendicular to one another, and the interference just went away. The phone station could not hear my little peanut whistle signal at all, and while I could hear the phone station transmit, it really didn't affect my ability to make contacts.

I really didn't think that this was going to work, but Ovide, K8EV, was quite confident that it would. I was the one that ate crow.

### Did You Really Use a KX-1?

So, I can hear a lot of you asking, "Did you really use a [KX-1](#) for Field Day?" Yes, I did. Our original idea was to run all QRP. The thinking behind this is that if you run all QRP, then you get 5 points for each QSO.

The other reason for doing this is so that we could run off batteries. Quentin had access to two, 66 Amp/hr batteries, and we'd planned to use these two batteries as our power source. I figured that with the 12V gel cell that I have for my KX-1, that would be plenty of power.

Unfortunately, that didn't work out. Quentin and Ovide were just not having any luck making any

contact at 5W—and consequently not having much fun—so they decided to increase power. That blew our QRP multiplier, but what the heck, it multiplied our fun factor.

### Plenty of Power

As it turned out, just one battery provided plenty of power for the phone station, even at 100W. Granted the station was off the air from about midnight Saturday through 9 am Sunday morning, but there was apparently plenty of juice to power that station throughout the entire 24 hours.

Likewise, my little gel cell provided enough power for the KX-1 over the 12 hours that I had it on the air, and I'd guess that the charge would have been good for the entire 24 hours. I have yet to run down that battery so low that it failed to power the radio.

### What Did We Learn?

We learned several things from this Field Day:

1. A downsized Field Day can be as much or more fun than a full-blown operation. Without a big crowd vying for just a few positions, everyone got a chance to operate. Plus, setup and teardown times were a lot shorter.
2. You still have to pay attention to your antennas. If we'd done a little more planning and thinking about our antennas, we would have avoided the interference we experienced and possibly even been able to run QRP on phone. How, you might ask? Well, if I'd thought about rigging up some kind of wire beam or a Moxon beam for the phone station, they may have been able to run QRP and still make contacts. This is certainly something to think about for next year.
3. The batteries worked great. Not only did they provide enough power for a 100W rig for more than 12 hours, they were quiet. The noise of a gas-powered generator can really get on your nerves over the course of a Field Day.
4. While I probably wouldn't want to run the KX-1 in a big DX contest, it worked pretty well for Field Day. I made more than 160 QSOs with it in about 12 hours of contesting.

### So, What About Next Year?

Since it's never too early to plan for next year's Field Day, we're already kicking around a few ideas:

1. Find a campground to have Field Day at next year. The upside is that the scenery might be nicer. The downside is that we might not have the nice antenna supports, errrr trees, that Quentin has in his backyard.
2. Be more competitive. Joe, N8OY, came by late Saturday evening, and racked up a bunch of points for us on 20m CW. He suggested that we organize some of the local hot-shot CW operators around here and set up a real competitive operation. The upside is that scoring a lot of points is fun. The downside is that being competitive excludes the less-experienced operators.

One thing is for sure. Running a smaller Field Day event in no way diminishes it as the "quintessential" amateur radio event. We still enjoyed all the camaraderie as well as all the technical aspects of Field Day. Now, I can't wait until next year.

## A Dust Cover for Round Keys By "Scotty", WK3N

I have been searching for a dust cover for my N3ZN ZN-SLR single paddle "SUPERKEY".....here is what I found. My ham buddies think it looks awesome. No problem sending either. I got this 5 1/2" by 3 3/4" glass dome from [www.glassdomes.com](http://www.glassdomes.com). With shipping price was \$ 36.23. I drilled a 1/2" hole in the bottom, then used the side of a drill to make the chamber for the wire to out the side. When done I used Old English on the channels to make them match the walnut base. The assembly wont skate at all.

This key out performs every key I have ever owned. RE: Begalli, Bencher, Zach, Vibroplex, etc . I do plan to glue a Nuvistor tube to the top of the dome to keep fingerprints off the glass. As well as add a unique look.



## Billy Williams, N4UF, retires as CQ DX Awards Manager

thanks to "Scotty, WK3N, for this information

Keith Gilbertson, KOKG, of Rochert, Minnesota, has been named the new CQ DX Awards Manager, effective immediately, it was announced today by CQ magazine Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. Gilbertson's appointment follows the retirement of Billy Williams, N4UF, after more than three decades of service to the amateur radio DXing community.

Williams took over administration of the CQ DX Awards program in 1979, when the number of SSB awards issued was in the mid-600s and the number of CW awards was in the mid-300s. Today, over 2500 SSB awards have been issued as well as more than 1100 CW certificates. In addition, the intervening years have seen the introduction of the CQ DX RTTY award and Honor Roll, the CQ DX Field Award program and the CQ iDX Award program.

Gilbertson has been a licensed ham since 1970, and a shortwave listener (WPEOBHO) before that. His addiction to DXing came early! He holds CQ DX Awards for both CW and SSB and is on the Honor Roll for both modes. Additional DXing awards include CQ's WPX Award of Excellence and 5-band Worked All Zones, along with ARRL's DXCC Honor Roll, 5-band DXCC and the DXCC Challenge, as well as the YASME Award.

Keith has also been elected to the A-1 Operators' Club and is an active island chaser, holding the IOTA-400 award and closing in on 500.

A retired vocational/technical education teacher and community college administrator, Keith is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and Air Force Reserve. He lives in Rochert, Minnesota, with his wife, Jeannie. They have two adult children and four grandchildren.

"Billy Williams has been a rock here at CQ since long before I arrived," noted Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. "He has always run the award so efficiently that it seemed to run itself, and has always been a source of excellent counsel, even on matters beyond the DX award program. I will miss working with Billy, but I also look forward to an excellent relationship with Keith."

Effective immediately, any correspondence relating to the CQ DX Award program should be directed to: Keith Gilbertson, KOKG, 21688 Sandy Beach Lane, Rochert, MN 56578-9604.

Keith may be reached by e-mail at [keith.gilbertson@q.com](mailto:keith.gilbertson@q.com).

## 4W6A Dxpediton Thank You

To NODXA Club,

On behalf of the whole 4W6A team, I am writing to thank you for your sponsorship of this DXpedition. It is thanks to the sponsorship of DX clubs and foundations, as well as donations from many individuals, that we have been able to ship most of the heavy equipment from Australia to East Timor in advance of the operation. This will allow us to operate with up to four linear amplifiers simultaneously and so allow us to put out a better signal on all bands. Without the sponsorship we would have had to rely on what we could physically carry with us on the aircraft.

Team members leave their homes next week and all are scheduled to arrive on Atauro Island, East Timor, by the afternoon of Friday, 16 September. We hope to have one or two stations on the air that same day and all four stations active by the morning (UTC) of 17 September.

We have noted the conditions under which your support has been offered and will do our absolute best to comply with all those conditions. We will be in touch with you once again after the conclusion of the DXpedition.

Once again, thank you for your kind support and we look forward to putting as many of your members as possible in the 4W6A log.

On behalf of: Steve, 9M6DXX, John, 9M6XRO, Tim, MOURX, Ant, MW0JZE, Bernd, VK2IA, Oliver, VK8DX

73 de Stuie, VK8NSB  
4W6A DXpedition Team Leader  
[www.4w6a.com](http://www.4w6a.com)

## Heathkit Getting Back into the Kit Business

By SAARA

Heathkit Educational Systems hopes to reenter the Amateur Radio market by the end of 2011. Back in August, Heathkit announced its return to the kit business and actively solicited suggestions. The response from Amateur Radio operators convinced Heathkit to develop several Amateur Radio products.

"When we made the announcement on our web page about a month ago, we had no intention of entering the Amateur Radio kit market," Ernie Wake, Heathkit's Director of Sales and Marketing, told the ARRL. "The response was really overwhelming, exciting and scary. The scary part is that the brand name has so much loyalty that we don't want to disappoint the people who have such fond memories."

Wake said that Heathkit is presently working on developing a few Amateur Radio kits. "Initially, the kit line will include a few 'accessories,' like kits for a Dual Watt Meter, Antenna Tuners and the Cantenna," he explained. "Once we are a little more 'settled,' I think we will develop a QRP receiver. We won't rush to market just to get there. We want to develop a line of kits in the tradition of Heathkit. I'm hoping to have one or two kits by the end-of-the-year."



Tedd, KB8NW, John, K8SYE, and Dave, WD8IOU taking a break at the recent Findlay Hamfest. The rain stayed away and a good time was had by all. Photo courtesy John, K8YSE.



## 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](mailto:wd8iou@adelphia.net)

## NODXA Club Officials for 2011-2012

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 July 2011, the current DXCC Entities total is: **341.**

## 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, W8CR, WK3N, KB6NU and the Salem Area Amateur Radio Association (SAARA).