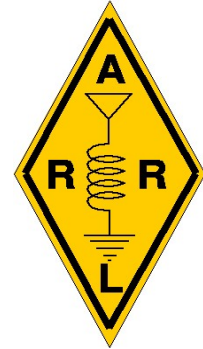


September 2024

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



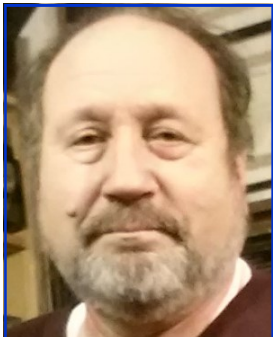
The NODXA RAG



Poolside Chat With KB8NW (written June 22, 2024)

Whew!!!! As I am writing this, summer came in with bang. Those who plan to participate in the "2024 ARRL Field Day" will probably be cooked with the 90 degree weather at this year's event. Operating in these kind of conditions, especially in tents, is not pleasant or cool (no pun in- tend). Good luck to the participants.

Since I wrote last, DX has also been somewhat hot. Glorioso Island has just finished being active for about 25 days. Operations were interesting for a very wanted DXCC entity. The FT4GL activity made just over 61k QSOs. Modes total were 51684/FT8, 5198/SSB, 49/RTTY and 4187/FT4. The bands breakdown were: 352/80m, 2589/40m, 3089/30m, 11525/20m, 6208/17m, 13558/15m, 9799/12m, 13677/10m and 321/6m. The QSO breakdown by continents were: 410/AF, 4/AN, 12962/AS, 33528/EU, 11998/NA, 1317/OC and 899/SA. The big complaint about the FT4GL operation was that it did not include the CW mode. The operation was also plagued sometimes by JAMMERS which made it a challenge to work the station. With one operator (Marek, FH4VVK) on the island, I guess he did the best he could. Anyway, hope you were able to work him if you needed it for ANTO.



Currently, as I am writing this, Yuris, YL2GM, is active as VK9LA from Lord Howe Island until June 24th, but will move on to American Samoa as K8K between June 26th and July 10th. Activity from both locations will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. NODXA has donated funds for this operation.

THIS IS A REMINDER! If you have not renewed your club membership, "PLEASE DO SO." The month of May is NODXA's fiscal year. The club has funded several operations this year to the amount of almost \$1000. So funds are getting low. REMEMBER: You can now renew via PayPal at: marysbarn@roadrunner.com

As always, I hope to see you in the coming weeks/months, possibly at a hamfest, or NODXA's general membership meetings every first Monday of the month (unless it is a holiday -- it will be the second Monday).

As a reminder, if you have a topic to discuss about DXing or contesting, bring it up at the meeting. Also, if you would like to put on a program of some interest for the club in the coming months, let us know so we can schedule you in for a meeting. We are always looking for a program.

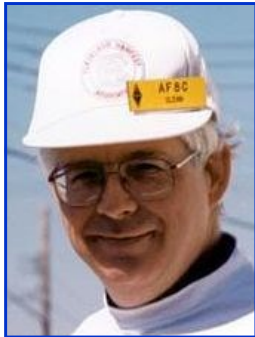
73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

"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 March 4th, 2024 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Amicis Italian Restaurant and Bar. A total of 10 members and guests were present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of February 5, 2024.

Thereafter Dennis, K8LBT, moved and Dave, WD8IOU, seconded for the minutes to be approved. The approval was passed by vote. Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the balance report, of \$Ka-Ching! Dues will be due in May. PayPal can be used to send Mary the dues (via the address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com"). Thereafter Dave, WD8IOU, moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded for the treasurer's report to be approved. That vote passed. Glenn, AF8C, reported the repeater was OK. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, has received submissions for the next newsletter and email from Tedd, and Dave is also looking for photos.



Old/New Business:

Dave, WD8IOU, asked about the status of receiving T2C cards. Tedd replied that because the booklet took more than a month to arrive, the cards will likely take some time. The booklet seems to be available to clubs who sent funding. Tedd reported being notified by the ARRL 8th Area Incoming DX Bureau that NO8DX cards are waiting for shipping support from the club. The usual support in terms of SASE's and/or cash is necessary in order to obtain the cards. Tedd already sent \$5.00 for the cards. Dave moved and Pete, N8TR, seconded that we approve the \$5.00 payment to the 8D card manager. We do not know how many cards are actually there. The vote on was approved.

Next Tedd reported that a DXpedition to Pitcairn Island has requested funding support. The one-person DXpedition is planned for April 4 to 19, using call sign VP6G, on the bands 40 to 10 meters on SSB, CW, and FT8, with two stations. Pitcairn is ranked 67 on the most wanted list. Logistics and transportation is figured to be about \$8000. LOTW updates will be instant. QSL manager will be MOOXO. Dave, WD8IOU, moved and Joe, N8QXC, seconded for a contribution of \$100 and that was passed by vote.

The NOARS Winter Hamfest is coming on March 10. Dave reported that the Toledo Hamfest is on March 17. Tedd announced a Jarvis Island KH5 Date Line DX Association DXpedition is planned for sometime in August. Jarvis is ranked 18 on the Most Wanted lists and has not been on since 1990. They will have 25 operators and will be on 160 through 6, SSB, CW, and FT8. For other upcoming DX, Tedd handed out 6 calendars printed from the web.

Then it was time for nomination of officers for 2024-2025. The summary of nominations for officers follows in brief form as Nominee, (first nominator and second nominator). Secretary Glenn, AF8C, (K8LBT and N8QXC); Treasurer Mary, N8DMM (KB8NW and WD8IOU); Vice President Dennis, K8LBT (AF8C and WD8IOU); and President Tedd, KB8NW (K8LBT and WB8K). The voting will happen at the next meeting. Dave, WD8IOU, asked about one of the common groups that operate DXpeditions. Tedd suggested people can look up that group on the Internet.

Wrapup:

Tedd, KB8NW, stated that the next meeting will be on April 1, 2024, at Amicis. Dave, WD8IOU, moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded for the meeting to be closed and the motion was voted approved. The meeting closed at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the April 1st, 2024 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Amicis Italian Restaurant and Bar. A total of 17 members and guests were present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of March 4, 2024. Thereafter Gary, NI8Z, moved and Dudley, WA1X, seconded for the minutes to be approved. The approval was passed by vote. Treasurer

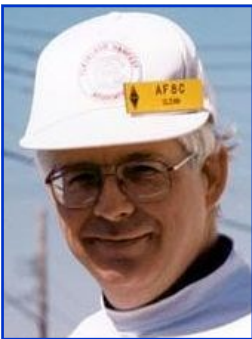
Mary, N8DMM, reported the balance report, of \$Ka-Ching! Dues will be due in May. PayPal can be used to send Mary the dues (via the address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com"). Thereafter Dave Gary, NI8Z, moved and Metro, W8MET, seconded for the treasurer's report to be approved. That

vote passed. Glenn, AF8C, reported the repeater was OK. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, has the newsletter in progress and it should be out soon.

Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the T2C cards came approximately 4 days after the last meeting. Also the NO8DX bureau cards came in 2 batches. Most of those cards were from K8MR's CQ WPX CW operations. There were also a few cards for W8DXA. The postage for all these cards added up to less than \$5.00.

Tedd used the NO8DX call to work (John) K8YSE's granddaughter K8LG and son K8DP on St. Lucia as J62K on 10 and 15 during the CQ WPX SSB contest on March 30. There was a thank-you from PG5M, to be up as VP6G, Pitcairn, some time this week. He will be on SSB and FT8. Our logo is on his website.



Tedd received four new funding requests. The first was Grande Glorioso Island, #7 on the most wanted list. The call will be FT4GL, reported by FH4VVK, on SSB and Digital, 10-160, 27 days. Dave, WD8IOU moved we donate \$200. Dudley, WA1X seconded. This passed when voted.

The second request was for Jarvis Island, #19 on the most wanted list, with a RIB operation. They are #9 in EU. The call sign will be N5J, August 1 to 13. Denny, WB8K moved for a donation of \$200, Dudley seconding, and that passed on the vote.

Third was a request for St. Paul Island, CY9C, #53 on the list. They will be up August 26 to September 5, on all modes including satellite and EME. Dennis, K8LBT, moved we donate \$150 and Nelson, K8DJC, seconded. That passed when voted.

Fourth was for Liberia, A8OK, with 8 operators on the lower HF bands and 6m, with SSB, CW, RTTY, FT8, PSK, and satellite, from April 4 to April 19. Wayne, K8FF moved, and Gary, NI8Z, seconded for \$100 which passed when voted.

Next we had the nominated officers elected for another season with a white ballot voted. That vote was moved by Dave, WD8IOU, and seconded by Gary, NI8Z.

The Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest is coming on April 13, with Tusco on April 21. World Radio Day will be on April 18. Then Dave, WD8IOU, asked if there is a new I letter manager for the 8th Area Incoming DX Bureau. Glenn, AF8C, will find out. Finally, Tedd noted that we haven't been doing the raffle for quite some time and he asked if anyone wanted to handle it. There were no volunteers for that.

Tedd, KB8NW, stated that the next meeting will be on May 6, 2024, at Amicis. Denny, WB8K, moved and Metro, W8MET, seconded for the meeting to be closed and the motion was voted approved. The meeting closed at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the May 6th, 2024 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Amicis Italian Restaurant and Bar. A total of 18 members and guests were present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of April 1, 2024. Thereafter Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded for the minutes to be approved. The approval was passed by vote.

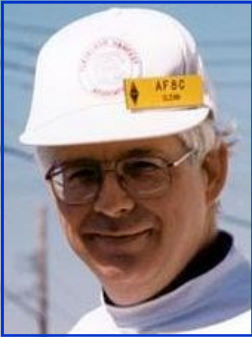
Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the balance report, of \$Ka-Ching! Dues will be due in May. PayPal can be used to send Mary the dues (via the address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com"). Thereafter Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded for the treasurer's report to be approved. That vote passed. Glenn, AF8C, reported the repeater was OK. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, has the newsletter out and the next one is in progress.

Old/New Business:

Glenn, AF8C, passed around a copy of an article from the Cleveland Plain Dealer about Gary, NI8Z, printed when Gary was 59 years old. Some of the DX groups we supported last month have been on the air. WOPR sent a thank you from the St. Paul Island, CY9C, group. A thank you came from Don Greenbaum, N1DG, for Jarvis, to be N5J. The A8OK group sent us a thank you. They were easy to work. Tedd had taken a list from our members who worked A8OK and wanted early LoTW credit. Tedd sent that list in and people should have their credit.

The Pitcairn representative sent a donation thank you with a picture of their flag, as VP6G, with our club logo. Members can email Tedd for a PDF of the photo. Glorioso's representative sent a donation thank you with a photo of the island with our club logo on top. Let Tedd know if you want that picture. The Glorioso call will be FT4GL and will only be active on SSB and FT8.

The month of May was time to renew the club's INDEXA subscription for \$20.00. Tedd had already sent the funds for the renewal.



Glenn, AF8C, received email from the Eastern Kiribati, T32EU, group after that DX operation was already over. Tedd should have had the earlier email. So this never was brought to the club's attention at a meeting. George, K8KR, moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded for a donation of \$100 to T32EU. The motion passed when voted. T32 is number 35 in North America. They also sent us an article that Dave could use in the newsletter.

Tedd received a note announcing the June 1 Fulton County Hamfest.

Tedd, KB8NW, noted that Glenn, AF8C, submitted information to the ARRL regarding the passing of Karl Beduhn, K8AV, at age 84, in early 2023.

Tedd has started using a new ISP for OPDX email coordination. OPDX subscribers now have a certain amount of ability to maintain their own contact information. George, K8KR, suggested we send a card to Prudence who retired from the res-

taurant. George will bring in a card next month for us to sign. This was George's motion and Gary, NI8Z, seconded.

Tedd has a few T2C cards left over for members who are not at the meeting. Brian, K3USC, volunteered to take the cards to Dayton for anyone who can be found there. Tedd wondered if we wanted to do a picnic in June. He will see if that can be arranged. Dudley, WA1X, asked if this club is going to do Field Day. There is no serious interest in Field Day now. Dave, WD8IOU, said CARS has a bus going to Dayton, leaving on Saturday at 5:30 a.m., for \$60 after March 31. George, K8KR, invited people to come to the next CARS meeting to hear an interesting speaker about Lee Harvey Oswald.

Wrapup:

Tedd, KB8NW, said the next meeting will be on June 3, 2024, at Amici's. Brian, K3USC, moved and Bruce, N8DJX, seconded for the meeting to be closed and the motion was voted approved. The meeting closed at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the June 3rd, 2024 NODXA Meeting

Vice President Dennis, K8LBT, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Amici's Italian Restaurant and Bar. A total of 18 members and guests were present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of May 6, 2024. Thereafter Gary, NI8Z, moved and Metro, W8MET, seconded for the minutes to be approved. The approval was passed by vote.

Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the balance report, of \$Ka-Ching! Dues will be due in May. PayPal can be used to send Mary the dues (via the address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com"). Thereafter Brian, K3USC, moved and Dudley, WA1X, seconded for the treasurer's report to be approved. That vote passed. Glenn, AF8C, reported the repeater was OK. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, has the newsletter out and he needs articles and/or photographs for the next one.

Old/New Business:

George, K8KR, had the card for Prudence that we all signed. Dave, WD8IOU, reported on words from Doug, K8DP, that John, K8YSE, wants to discuss administration of the club webpages. This will have to be discussed at the July meeting if possible.

A donation thank you came from Elmar/DF4GV for our late contribution to T32EU. Tedd, KB8NW, has not yet sent T32EU photographs to editor Dave. So as previously explained, our late contribution and email meant the club logo was not on the final T32EU card. Included was a picture of the power generator they used.

We have a funding request from Yuris, YL2GM, who is going to VK9LA, Lord Howe, June 14-24, for #63 in the wanted list. He will then relocate to American Samoa, K8K, June 26 to July 8. Esti-

mated cost is going to be approximately \$12600. We already sent him \$150 for recent activities. George, K8KR, moved and Nick, W8XD, seconded for a \$200 contribution to K8K, and the motion passed when voted.

Gerben/P65M, had sent an article about the Pitcairn/VP6G operation. Tedd has not yet sent that article to editor Dave.

There was a discussion in May email from Bill, AJ8B, to the DXAC about splitting Jarvis Island and Palmyra Atoll into two separate DXCC entities. For this Glenn, AF8C, consulted world map sources and wrote an email to the DXAC and AJ8B suggesting factual reasons for the split being in accordance with current DXCC rules.

On the topic of a club picnic, Nick, W8XD, said the 2023 picnic was last August. So soon we need to plan for the 2024 picnic.

Wrapup:

Tedd, KB8NW, wrote that the next meeting will be on July 1, 2024, at Amicis. Brian, K3USC, moved and Metro, W8MET, seconded for the meeting to be closed and the motion was voted approved. The meeting closed at 6:50 p.m.

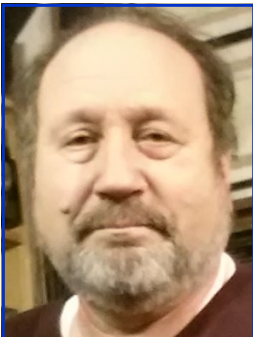
Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the July 1st, 2024 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Amicis Italian Restaurant and Bar. A total of 13 members and guests were present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States the Vice President Dennis, K8LBT, read the minutes (due to the absent of the secretary) for the meeting of June 3, 2024. Thereafter George, K8KR, moved and Nick, W8XD, seconded for the minutes to be approved. The approval was passed by vote.

Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the balance report, of \$Ka-Ching! Dues will be due in May. PayPal can be used to send Mary the dues (via the address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com"). Thereafter Brian, K3USC, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded for the treasurer's report to be approved. That vote passed. There was no repeater report. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, reports the newsletter is in the works.

Old/New Business:



The card for Prudence (waitress) was all signed and presented to Tedd, KB8NW, to give to her in the coming days. John, K8YSE, informed Tedd, KB8NW, that he still wants to administer the club webpages. Yuris, YL2GM, sent a 'Thank You' for the funds for his VK9LA Lord Howe and K8K American Samoa DXpeditions. David, OK6DJ, sent NODXA a story of his group's A8OK DXpedition. Laci, OM2VL, sent a 'Thank You' to NODXA for his Ohio QSO Party DX plaque.

It was announced that Jim, K8MR, used the club's callsign, NO8DX, during the CQ WPX CW Contest and made 489 QSOs. A request for funds was put on hold for the upcoming 3D2Z Rotuma DXpedition. More info is needed.

It was announced that LoTW is back online, but is limited over the next two weeks. Tedd, KB8NW, mentioned that John, K8YSE's, grand-daughter, Grace, K8LG (ex-KE8RJU), was awarded YOTA's Youth of the Year.

NODXA's annual summer picnic will be held once again at Cleveland's MetroPark "Aukerman Park", located at 15561 York Rd., North Royalton, OH, 44133, on August 22nd, at 4 p.m. Pizza, chicken and bottles of water will be provided. A motion was made by Dennis, K8LBT, and seconded by Nick, W8XD, to not exceed \$200. The motion passed.

It announced that the NOARfest would be held on July 20th, at the LCCC again.

Wrapup:

Tedd, KB8NW, mentioned that the next meeting will be on August 5, 2024, at Amicis. Brian, K3USC, moved and Dudley, WA1X, seconded for the meeting to be closed and the motion was voted approved. The meeting closed at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully, Tedd, KB8NW, President

Kiritimati Island - where the day begins

T32EU DXpedition in March 2024 to Christmas Island
By DL2AWG



Geography

Christmas Island – or “Kiritimati”, as the inhabitants of Kiribati call the island – is located 189 km north of the equator and 2100 km south of Hawaii. Kiritimati belongs to the Independent and Sovereign Republic of Kiribati, an island country in the Micronesia subregion of Oceania in the central Pacific Ocean. With 388 km², Kiritimati has the largest land area of any coral island worldwide. And with 345 km², the island has the largest lagoon in the world. Strictly speaking, it is an "uplifting" atoll, whereby the salty lagoon in the east and southeast has already dried out and is only open to the west. Depending on tide, there are countless small and tiny islands in the center of the lagoon.

The atoll has an east-west extension of 44 km, and a north-south extension of 40 km. Christmas Island covers 48% of Kiribati's land area, but with less than 7400 inhabitants, it is home to just under 6.2% of Kiribati's population. The non-indigenous population, mainly from the Gilbert Islands, is spread over four towns, Banana, Tabwakea, Poland and London, where the port is located.



Map of Kiribati

The highest point of the island, Joe's Hill, is in the southeast and is 13 just meters high. Local time of Kiritimati and the Line Islands is UTC+14, which is the same time as Hawaii but one day earlier.

The inhabitants speak Kiribati (also known as Gilbertese) and often also English.

Planning and Preparation

In many conversations with other radio amateurs, I was repeatedly told: Guenter, why don't you go to T32. In fact, there are a number of good arguments in favor of T32: the island is relatively easy to reach by airplane, and there is a small number of hotels, especially the Captain Cook Hotel, now called Christmas Island Lodge.

I therefore started planning after Ham Radio 2023. For fall of 2023, however, I had already planned a DXpedition to Chuuk Island, V6 Micronesia, and this preparation was almost complete. During the sunspot maximum, not only did radio amateurs around the world become more eager to go on expeditions, but German radio amateurs did so, too.

It was therefore difficult to assemble a team of 6 operators.

After a long search, Elmar DF4GV, Ernö DK2AMM, Georg DL4SVA, Frank DL1KWK, Olaf DJ7TO and his XYL agreed to take part in the T32EU adventure.

It soon turned out that the Christmas Island Lodge specializes in fishermen from the USA and only offers 7-day packages especially for fishermen, which did not meet our expectations in terms of price.



From left: DL2AWG; XYL-DJ7TO; DF4GV; DL1KWK; DJ7TO; DL4SVA; DK2AMM

My next first choice was the Lagoon View Hotel. It seemed suitable for our plans and, from what I could tell from Google Earth, it also offered space for our antennas.

Correspondence with the South Pacific is often difficult and very lengthy. Response times are long and often you don't get a reply at all.

The Lagoon View Hotel always replied promptly, and I had supposedly reserved 5 bungalows for us for the period March 13 to 27.

There is only two planes per week to Christmas Island – one from Fiji and one from Hawaii, both on Wednesday. We decided to fly via Hawaii, and I informed the Lagoon View Hotel that we had now booked the flights.

Unexpectedly, however, they informed me that the hotel was for this period meanwhile booked out by fishermen who had already booked and paid since long. A shock for us. They offered us to re-schedule and arrive one week later, where they would have bungalows available for us and they would even cover the rebooking costs. Unfortunately, postponing by one week was not an option for some members of our team.

So what now?

At that time, Dominik T32TT was QRV from the island. I had already been in contact with Dom several times via social media and so I asked him for help.

Dom was at "The Villages Hotel" and he was immediately willing to reserve five bungalows for us for the period we wanted.

Dom assured me several times: "Guenter, your reservation is ok". Unfortunately, this statement was not convincing enough for some of us and they would have liked confirmation directly from the hotel management.

However, direct communication with the hotel management was very difficult and even Dom couldn't get the reception to send us an email with a confirmation.

All our emails seemed to disappear in the WWW and remained unanswered.

Elmar, whose second mother tongue seems to be English, was particularly committed here.

He tried several times to call the hotel, but all the phone numbers we had seemed to be wrong.

The period was also very unfavorable for direct communication, as Christmas and the New Year were just around the corner, and everybody seemed to be on leave. There was practically nothing moving in Kiribati for the next 3 weeks.

Our radio license was also still unclear. The callsign T32EU had been promised to me from the beginning by the CCK license authority in Tarawa. But that was all. I had transferred the license fees promptly and had also sent our passport and license copies by email. No reply. Not even the receipt of the money was confirmed.

What to do? I knew Chuck Corbett from our previous DXpedition to T31. He is an American who has been living on Kiribati for a long time and who used to have the callsign T32NCC.

I contacted Chuck and asked him for help. This worked. I promptly received an email from the CCK that our license fee had arrived, but that the head of the CCK was away on other islands. She now wanted to take care of our application and I should please send her copies of my license and passport. Then another long silence.

In the meantime, Elmar had successfully contacted the tourist office of Kiritimati and the lady there had worked on our request for confirmation and had directly contacted the Villages Hotel.

Dom had meanwhile left the island, as a 3-day power cut had been announced. He assured me again that our reservation had been entered in the book.

A few days later, we finally received confirmation from the hotel manager. Now the last participants could book their flights with peace of mind.

Equipment

We were 7 travelers, and each was allowed 23 kg of checked baggage plus 7 kg carry-on baggage, plus laptop. Elmar had booked his flights well before everyone else at his own risk and therefore had a different routing to Hawaii. He had also booked business class for medical reasons and therefore was allowed 2x 32 kg of checked baggage. We therefore had 179 kg of checked baggage free.

We planned to operate two stations 24/7 with 6 operators, plus a third station for free use. We had with us 3x K3, 2x Expert 1k3, 1x KPA500 and as a reserve 1x FT-DX10 and a PA EB1200.

Our antennas were 2x 18m spider masts for 80 and 160m verticals. 1x DX Commander for 40m to 10m, 1x 15m fiber mast for a 30m J-Pole antenna and 1x 9m fishing rod for 6m Rhombic antenna, as well as a 10m aluminum mast for a spider beam.

We planned to operate several stations simultaneously on the spider beam, using a pentaplexer.

We foresaw filters between each TRX and PA, and high-power filters at the output of the PAs.

Our personal items such as T-shirts and underwear were reduced to a minimum.

In the end it looked like this: 2 big aluminum boxes each 32 kg with equipment and personal items. 1 ski bag with aluminum and fiber poles 23kg. A golf bag with spider beam, coax cables and fiber masts 23 kg. 4 suitcases with filters, coax cables and personal items weighing 23 kg each.

K3, expert PAs and pentaplexer in carry-on luggage. But it was still not enough, and we decided to pay for one additional suitcase.



Part of our luggage

Travel and Arrival

We decided to drive to Frankfurt the day before our (early) departure. We booked an overnight stay in a hotel near the airport with long-term parking.

Here we also had the opportunity to transfer luggage and optimize all checked baggage to 23kg each.

Our flight went via San Francisco to Hawaii, while Elmar flew via Vancouver. We arrived at Hawaii at around the same time on March 13, where we had booked another night in an airport hotel.

Then came the first unpleasant surprise at the baggage carousel in Honolulu: two suitcases had been left behind in San Francisco. One belonging to Olaf and Margit and the other one to Ernö.

In addition to their personal belongings, there was also a lot of equipment inside, e.g. some high-power filters and the power supply for the KPA 500, as well as antenna wires for the DX Commander, etc.

United Airlines had no hope to deliver the two suitcases to Honolulu by the next midday, when our flight with Fiji Air to Kiritimati was due to depart.

So next morning, Margit, Olaf and Ernö went on a high-speed shopping tour in Honolulu to replace at least a few of the missing personal items.

At the Fiji Air check-in counter, Elmar spoke to the lady for a long time and then gave her a piece of paper the size of a boarding pass, on which he noted the baggage numbers and his contact details, asking her to please take care of the two suitcases and send them to us on the next flight to the island, i.e. in a week's time.

Fine, I thought to myself and had already mentally written off the suitcases. "We will only see them again - if at all - after our return to Germany when they will be delivered by Lufthansa". These were my thoughts and certainly not only mine.

The plane was 90% full. All fishermen. I hadn't expected that.

When we arrived in Kiritimati, we were welcomed at the airfield by the hotel manager's daughter and taken to the hotel on the platform of a truck.

The road was very bad and the journey of about 20 km took a correspondingly long time.

The "Villages Hotel" is located in Tabwakea directly on the lagoon and has 18 small, very simple double room bungalows. We had booked five of the bungalows.

When we arrived, there was no electricity. Little did we know that this shortcoming would be a frequent occurrence from then on.

After some discussion we were able to swap the bungalow that was supposed to be our shack for another one so that our shack was now closer to the beach and to the antennas.



Our shack in "The Villages Hotel"

All the hotels on the island specialize in anglers and everything is geared towards these tourists. As a result, there is virtually no service available during the day, as all the anglers were fishing in the lagoon or the open water.

We quickly moved into our bungalows and started setting up the antennas and stations.

It was already after 5 p.m. local time when we started and there wasn't much time left, as it gets dark there shortly after 6 p.m.

We had wanted to set up the DX Commander for the first night. That would have been very quick, but the wires were in one of the lost suitcases.

So, we decided to set up the 30m J-Pole antenna first. At the same time, we started to assemble the spider beam.

Darkness, however, came quickly and after dinner we started with one operator per shift on 30m.

At around 5 a.m., the power suddenly went off again.

This is not uncommon on Pacific islands and didn't worry us much at first. But this power cut lasted and lasted - in the end over 12 hours.

We used the time without power to set up the spider beam, the 80m vertical, and 6m Rhombic.

Suddenly - the power was back on, and we now started the real shift operation.

T32EU Operation

In the beginning, there were repeated long power cuts lasting 8 hours or more.

Elmar had a good connection to the hotel manager's daughter and came to me on day #3: "Guenter, we have a generator!"

Wow, great. It was an old diesel generator, heavily rusted and without a rating plate. Supposedly 2.5 kW. Ok, better than nothing.



Shift change in our shack.

The generator could not be moved any closer to our shack bungalow because of the noise pollution, especially at night.

Elmar therefore bought 2x 30m power extension cables at a hefty AUD 300, but what the heck. Despite our best efforts, we normal Central Europeans were unable to start the diesel generator. We simply lacked the necessary muscle power. Even the muscular locals, who were always very helpful to us, needed several attempts. And what about at night when the power goes off? No problem – even at night there were always strong men on site who could start the generator for us.

Thanks to the generator, we were now able to operate around the clock even when the power was off. In SSB and CW, two stations with 500W were no problem for the generator. The add't'l third station with 100 W also worked quite well. However, it was problematic when one or even both stations were operating in digi mode. Then the supply voltage of the K3s frequently dropped below 10V, which they acknowledged by switching off. This was annoying as it happened very often.



Our first muscal diesel generator

We therefore decided to run (during generator use) one station on normal FT8 frequency in the second period and the other one on DX frequency in the first period. This allowed us to make 350 to 400 W per station.

The optimism, which had been quite low at times, returned, and our QSO numbers increased - our goal of "30000 QSOs" seemed again in reach.

A day or two later, the hotel had surprisingly bought a new generator. A gasoline engine with 2.5 kW, which we could now use instead of the old, very noisy generator. It worked much better, and its output voltage was much more stable.

Every day we had heavy rainfall, some of which lasted for hours and turned the roads and meadows into lakes. Ernő and Margit took advantage of the hours of sunshine to go for a walk. However, the roads were still muddy, and the puddles were not completely dry, so Margit slipped and fell. Broken arm, close to the wrist. Complicated fracture, slight misalignment clearly visible. A trip to the hospital in London, where the diagnosis was confirmed. The hospital was a very basic one-story building, certainly less than 100 square meters, patients were mostly lying on the floor, dogs from the street were strolling around. The hospital was not equipped for an operation and the doctor advised a prompt operation in either Fiji, Hawaii or at home in Germany.

Health comes first. So, the only option was to return home early, with all the additional costs that would hopefully be covered by insurance. But all this was secondary for the time being.

This bad mishap occurred on Monday and the next flight to Hawaii only left on Wednesday morning.

Olaf, supported by Elmar, rebooked his flights, which seemed to be no problem. Just expensive.

At the same time, we received the news that the two suitcases were due to arrive on the plane from Hawaii on Wednesday afternoon. What a miracle!

However, Olaf and Margit were still unable to take their suitcase with them, as their flight left at 7 a.m. and the suitcases didn't arrive until the afternoon.

We didn't want to let them fly back without any luggage at all - if only to minimize our excess baggage on the return flight. So, we decided to send one of the two 18m spider masts, various unused coax cables, the KPA500 and one K3 back with the two of them.

We still had 3 TRX and 3 power amplifiers and we wanted to make the 80m vertical switchable for 160m, as we had already successfully done on V6.

Unfortunately, the 160m antenna was not well in resonance and could not be brought to an acceptable SWR, it was never better than 1:5 although this same antenna had worked very well on V6. Elmar suspected that the elevated radial, with the hot end running through a lush leafy tree, was the problem. Due to space problems, there was also no obvious alternative course. So unfortunately, we couldn't make any QSOs on 160m.

Wednesday came and we said goodbye to Margit and Olaf with best wishes for their recovery. Note: The operation in Germany went very well and Margit is doing well again.

In the afternoon we picked up the two suitcases at the airport. Now all the high-power filters were there, as well as the transformer for the KPA500, which, however, was now in Olaf's suitcase on the flight back home to DL. Hi.

We no longer wanted to set up the DX Commander as we had already used the mast for a 40m vertical.

Suddenly and without warning, Georg's Expert 1.3k failed. It was not possible to locate the fault on site and we had to run the K3 from then on with 100W – mostly in FT8.

Our amplifier EB1200 was used with the FT-DX10, mostly in CW. Unfortunately, also in this PA a power transistor failed, but I was able to replace it on site.

After that, the power amplifiers worked perfectly until the end.



from left: FT-DX10 with EB1200, K3 with Expert 1k3; K3 w/o PA

Despite all these adverse circumstances, our QSO numbers continued to rise steadily, and the power cuts became fewer and fewer until they even stopped completely a few days before our departure.

Conclusion

It turned out that the Villages Hotel was a much better choice than the Lagoon View Hotel which we had originally considered. The Villages offers considerably more space for antennas and the hotel management was always eager to support us.

When we left, the hotel manager expressly emphasized that we left a good impression as an amateur radio group and that the hotel would be happy to accommodate future amateur radio groups.

We left Christmas Island happy, satisfied, and with over 40000 QSOs in the log. 48 hours after leaving the hotel, we all returned home safely.

In closing, we thank all sponsors who supported us and all those who found their way into our log, even if it was sometimes difficult.

QSOs pro Band und Kontinent

	Total	1.8	3.5	7	10	14	18	21	24	28	50	144	432
EU	10107	0	175	129	586	3483	2968	1247	954	565	0	0	0
AS	14182	0	399	858	1554	2213	2475	2372	2151	1990	170	0	0
AF	224	0	6	8	22	49	35	30	40	34	0	0	0
NA	14121	0	524	370	801	2279	1696	2617	3004	2822	8	0	0
SA	750	0	7	12	47	83	71	170	136	221	3	0	0
OC	872	0	46	55	102	159	134	160	82	118	16	0	0

QSOs pro Band und Mode mit Land Papier-QSLs empfangen %

	Total	1.8	3.5	7	10	14	18	21	24	28	50	144	432
CW	14841	0	279	219	849	2821	2941	2604	2507	2621	0	0	0
PHONE	5767	0	0	0	0	1816	1200	743	838	1170	0	0	0
REST	19650	0	878	1213	2263	3631	3238	3249	3022	1959	197	0	0
Total	40258	0	1157	1432	3112	8268	7379	6596	6367	5750	197	0	0



T32EU Emergency Backup Generator



YDXA Day At K3LR by David Atry, WD8IOU.

Special thanks to Doug Papay, K8DP, for his help with this article.

On July 27, 2024, Karen (my XYL) and I attended the annual North Coast Contesters club meeting at Super Station K3LR. I knew that Tim Duffy, K3LR, would be giving a tour of the station, including the massive antenna farm, and I wanted to see it again. The tour of the grounds was fascinating, I've never seen so much aluminum in the air!

During the tour, Tim noticed that one of the massive stacks of beams was rotating and he said proudly, and I am paraphrasing, "That's my girl! Grace is moving the beam looking for new stations to work". What I wasn't aware of at the time, is that there was a contest going on and that there were three youths in the station participating in the RSGB IOTA Contest.



These young people are members of YDXA, the Youth DX Adventure organization. YDXA goal is to bring young people into amateur radio and specifically contesting. YDXA started into 2010 with six youths, and one parent, and leaders. The first site was TI5N in Costa Rica. Over the years, other sites were used to host the youths and in 2022, the site was PJ2T in Curacao.

YDXA is doing excellent work in bringing young people into our hobby and these young people are the future of our hobby and this effort needs to be supported. YDXA is supported by donations from clubs, individuals, and businesses including DARA, INDEXA, PCARS, SWODXA, and many others. More information about YDXA is available here: <https://youthdxa.org/>

Walking the down basement stairs into the bowels of Super Station K3LR, I noticed three youths were busy racking up Q's as fast as they could. All three were intently searching the bands for new contacts but it was obvious that they were also having a lot of fun.

Katie Campbell, KE8LQR, was at the 15m position. Katie is a friend of Grace, K8LG, and they both presented at CTU this past year on the topic of Youth in Contesting. Grace and Katie were mentors (aka "graduate assistants"--as Tim K3LR called them) for the YDXA event at K3LR in July. Katie is an avid CW operator and is a Long Island CW Club instructor. She is 16 years old and earned her license at the age of 10. Her primary interest in amateur radio at the moment is contesting.



Katie Campbell, KE8LQR, at the 15m position.

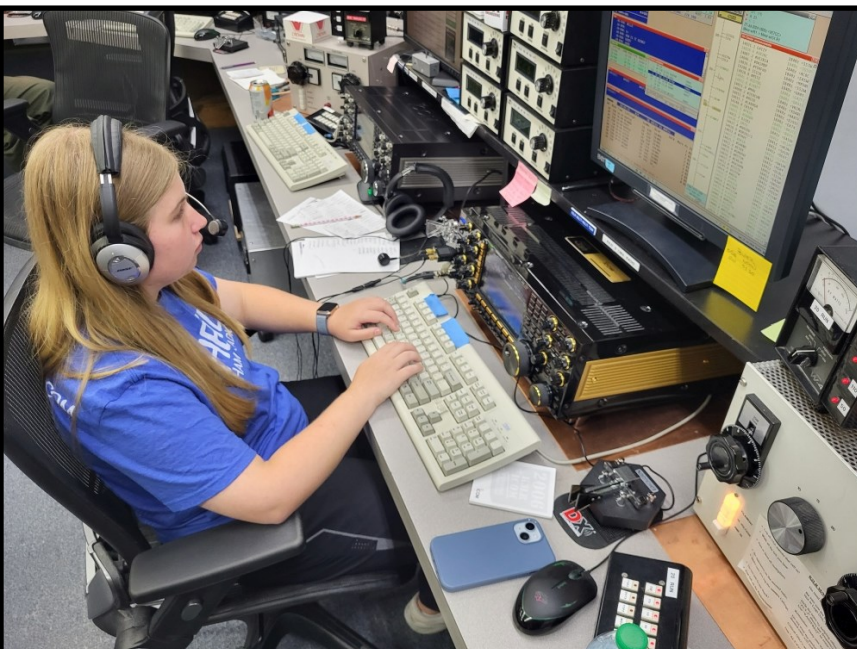
Ian, KI9AN, and his father, Tim Alkema, K8LK, were operating at the 40m position. The Alkema family is from West Michigan and are members of the Holland Amateur Radio Club. Grace encouraged Ian to apply for the YDXA. Ian really enjoys POTA and presented at the Dayton Hamvention Youth Forum this past year on the subject. Tim is 13 years old and received his Technician license in December 2021, his General license in June 2022, and his Extra license in August 2023 at the age of 12!



Ian Alkema, KI8AN, and his father, Tim, K8LK, working 40m SSB.

Ian Alkema, KI8AN, and his father, Tim, K8LK, chatting with NODXA member, Wayne Smith, K8FF.

Grace Papay, K8LG, has amateur radio in her DNA. Her grandfather is NODXA club member John Papay, K8YSE, who is a world class satellite chaser and, I believe, has the most confirmed satellite grid squares of any amateur. Her farther is Doug Papay, K8DP, and Doug is also an avid satellite chaser. Her Grandmother is W8ZJB, her mother is Carrie, K8CLP, and her Uncle Ed is W8EDB.



Grace Papay, K8LG, working the pileup on 20m SSB.

Grace decided to get her license to honor her grandfather, and her first contact was a satellite contact with him. Grace received her Technician license in March 2021 and passed her Extra just one year later in March 2022. She has 1030 satellite grid squares worked/confirmed and needs just nine more grids to be worked to have all of them in the continental United States.

Grace's passion is contesting and she participated in the WPX Phone Contest Multi 2 High Power contest as J62K in St. Lucia this year. Grace has had articles published in the National contest Journal (Nov/Dec 2023) and in CQ magazine (August 2022). She was also recently selected as the 2024 Bill Pasternak WA6ITF Memorial Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year. She will be attending Cedarville University and studying electrical engineering.



Grace Papay, K8LG, and her father, Doug, K8DP, enjoying the moment.

It was a wonderful experience watching these youths in action. All of them are a great asset to amateur radio and the greater community. I wish them the best of luck in both their amateur and professional careers.

You can watch a video of a presentation by these youths, hosted by Tim Duffy, K3LR, of DX Engineering, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmGKOZJ-x-E>

Here is a video of these youths operating during the RGSB ITOA contest at K3LR: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjfBbwqf8>

Here is a video of an interview of Katie, KE8LQR, by W1DED: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5fp59ow-lo>

Here is a video of an interview of Grace, K8LG, by W1DED: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkuRZGBDURQ&t=3s>



DX ENGINEERING
Mobile Cruise-In

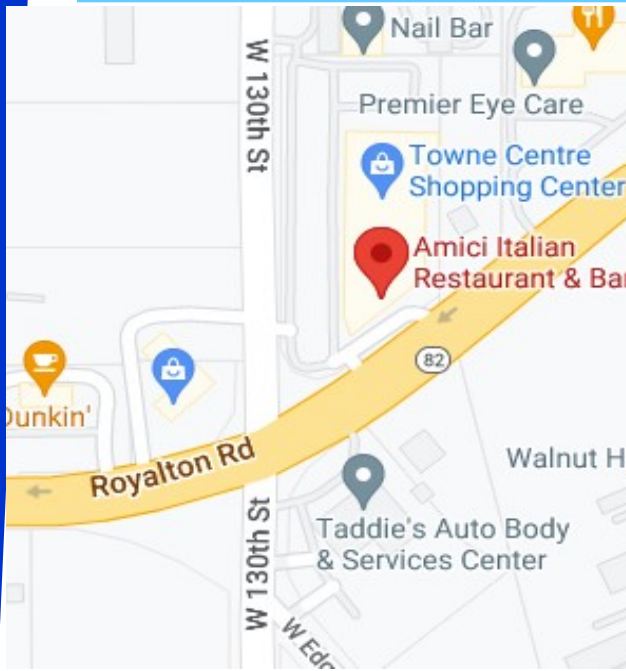
Date: October 3, 2024
Time: 5:30pm to 8pm EDT
Location: 1200 Southeast Ave. Tallmadge, Ohio 44278
- use farthest parking lot entrance on 532

DX ENGINEERING

The DX Engineering Mobile Cruise-In looks like a fun event! You may be able to get some good deals!



Gerben, PG5M was active as VP6G from Pitcairn Island, IOTA OC - 044, NODXA supported his operation with a donation. I worked him on just one band, and was looking for more.



Meeting Information

NODXA Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the *Amici Italian Restaurant & Bar* at 13000 Royalton Road east of Interstate 71 on the northeast corner of Route 82 and West 130th. in North Royalton at 6:30 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

NODXA Club Officials for 2024-2025

President:	Tedd Mirgliotta,	KB8NW	(440-237-2816)
V. President:	Dennis Stuber,	K8LBT	(440-628-1959)
Secretary:	Glenn Williams,	AF8C	(440-934-5566)
Treasurer:	Mary Michaelis,	N8DMM	(440-236-5426)
Newsletter:	David Autry,	WD8IOU	(440-238-0417)



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DXCC Info

As of January 2018, the current DXCC Entities total is: **340**.

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, AF8C, K8YSE, K8DP, K3LR, and DL2AWG.