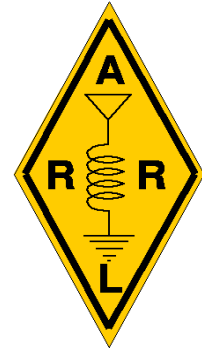


December 2013

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



# The NODXA RAG



## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

## Merry Christmas!

Fellow DX'ers,

With the year 2013 coming to an end, I would have to say it was the best year for DXing ever or should I also add for working DXpeditions. I can not remember any other year that had so many DXpeditions. Also, out of the top 50 most wanted DXCC entities (per 2012 DX Magazine survey; 2013 results are not available until January 2014), there were 16 active: CE0/Z, EP, FO/A, FO/C, H40, JD1/M, KH9, SV2/A, T33, VK9X, VU7, XZ, YA, Z8, ZK3 and ZS8 (ed. Hopefully, I did not miss any!). The number of 2013 DXpeditions that took place were too numerous to count at this time, but there were plenty (especially over the last 4 months of the year). I hope everyone had a chance to work some of the DX because this fall/winter season "may" be the last great propagation we will probably see for a while.



The current Sunspot Cycle 24 may have peaked and the good propagation is possibly coming to an end. However, there is a prediction that Cycle 24 "may be" a double peak cycle, and it may last through 2014. As of now, the propagation gurus are saying that Cycle 24 is a very weak sunspot cycle which started in January 2008, and is now considered the smallest sunspot cycle since Cycle 14 in February 1906.

What does this mean for DXers? You better enjoy the band conditions while you can because the well may dry up soon -- probably during 2014.

It has been great over the last few months working things on 15-10 meters. Hopefully the DXing in 2014 will be as good as 2013, and there will be some propagation left over for the 2014 fall/winter season, but you never know.

In closing, enjoy the winter propagation season and have a great Christmas/New Year holiday with your family. Hope to see you in the new year, possibly at NODXA's general membership meetings.

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 new year, let us know so we can schedule you in for a meeting. We are always looking for a program.

73, Good DX, and Happy Holidays de Tedd KB8NW

## Minutes of the November 4th 2013 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW. There were 20 members and guests present. After the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the usual round of introductions, the minutes for the meeting of October 7 were read by Glenn, AF8C. A motion by Gary, NI8Z, to accept the minutes as corrected, was seconded by Bruce, N8DJX. The motion passed on a vote.



Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Accepting the treasurer's report was not motioned nor voted.

Per Tedd, KB8NW, the CYO Dxpedition stayed a few extra days because they could not get off the island when planned.

The club's repeater is operating well. A couple of buzzes on the repeater occurred during a West Park Radiops net. Glenn, AF8C, sent recordings of the buzzes to Dennis, WB8K, for comment.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that he is looking for input to the newsletter, and photographs of individual station shacks would be helpful.

### Old/New Business:

Pete, N8TR, has seven NODXA-logo caps for sale for \$5.00, as residuals from certain clothing orders. Dwaine, K8ME, brought in his 2013 Route 66 special event certificate, which was passed around for examination. Tedd reported receiving one application for funding donations, the Mellish Reef operation to occur in 2014 as VK9MT. They will operate 160 through 10 on CW, Phone, and RTTY, for 10 days in March, 2014. Dates of that operation are not yet specified. They will have 10 radios on the air. The current list of operators include: Pista/HA5AO (Team Leader), Heye/DJ9RR, Luigi/IV3YER, Dave/K3EL, Glenn/KE4KY, Jacky/ZL3CW, George/HA5UK, Gene/K5GS, Luke/VK3HJ, and Les/W2LK (Co-Leader). Their website is up at <http://www.vk9mt.com/>.

Dave, WD8IOU, moved for a donation of \$100.00 to the Mellish Reef group. This was seconded by Ron, K8VJG. The motion passed when voted. Tedd passed around a literature page on a dual band HT "radio starter kit" offer, for \$69.95 online from Radio City. Ron, K8VJG, asked if any special event would be happening during Veteran's Day. Panera Bread is the recorded answer to that question. Glenn, AF8C, reported on his experiences trying to follow to the letter the Logbook of the World's certificate renewal documentation.

The next meeting will be on Monday, December 2. The program will be the annual round of Show and Tell. Tedd then reported on the numerous current and interesting DX operations. They include Wake Island, San Andres, Juan Fernandez, Easter Island, and Myanmar. The list will be in the newsletter. Bruce, N8DJX, confessed to not having any progress report on his tower but he will have a report at the December 2 meeting. Tedd reported that on Friday, November 22, the annual Mansfield DX lunch will occur before the CQ WorldWide CW contest which runs November 23 to 24 GMT. Contact Tedd or Rick, K8ZH, for information. The location is in Mansfield off Route 30.

The raffle basket contained \$40.00 and the winner of the half-share was David, KZ8Y, who donated his share back to the club. The short meeting closed at around 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

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

## Special Event Stations Educate, Entertain By Dan Romnanchik, KB6NU

I like special event stations. I enjoy operating them and making contact with them. Whenever I operate WA2HOM, our club station at the Ann Arbor (MI) Hands-On Museum, one of the first things I do is to search for special event stations.

One of the reasons I enjoy operating special event stations is that it's educational. For example, on November 17, I worked W4D in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. They were commemorating the 520th anniversary of the discovery by Europeans of the island of Puerto Rico. As a result, I learned that on November 19, 1493 Christopher Columbus landed on the island, naming it San Juan Bautista in honor of Saint John the Baptist, a name that was later changed to Puerto Rico (rich port).



Working special event stations is also entertaining. Most times when you work a special event station, you can tell that they're having a good time. One time, I worked W4B, operating from the Kentucky Bourbon Festival. Now, those guys were really having a great time!

How do you find special event stations? One way to find special event stations is to just tune around. Most special event stations will be operating at least a 20m phone station, so take a look at that band first. Also, consult the special event stations listings in QST or on the ARRL website (<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>). KE2YK also has a special events page (<http://ke2yk.wordpress.com/special-event-station-events/>).

In addition to working special event stations, you should consider organizing and operating one of your own. For the past two years, several members of our Rotary Club who are also amateur radio operators have operated W8P on the third weekend in February, which commemorates the founding of the Rotary Club and helps spread the word about the End Polio Now campaign (<http://www.endpolio.org/>). It was not only fun to do this, but I think that we helped raise awareness about polio around the world.

Whatever your reason for holding a special event, you'll want to be somewhat knowledgeable about your topic. For example, if you decide to set up a special event station at the local Rutabaga Festival, you might want to know how long they've been having the festival, how many pounds of rutabagas are produced by local farms and around the U.S., and maybe even find a couple of rutabaga recipes that you could send out to stations that work you.



"Blessed are the DX'ers for they shall work the world." WB8K.

## Crazy Field Day Story and CQWW SSB 2013 (M/M) on Lampedusa (IG9Y)

By Romeo Rabic, S52RU & Aurelio Bellussi, PC5A Translation help: Katja Casar

The first idea of the IG9Y expedition reaches back to November 2012, when Romeo (S52RU) thought about a possible participation of a IG9Y team in CQ WW SSB-2013 from the island of Lampedusa which is interesting because it is counted as a separate country located in zone 33.

Soon after the idea was posted on our website <http://ig9.ii9p.com/>, the team was formed and the exchange of emails and phone numbers began. You can read all about the preparations on the website mentioned above.

In this article, we would like to describe our journey to Lampedusa. As the story continues the team grows. The journey/ October; Romeo took a bus equipment was stationed and to Vulkanizerstvo Franc picked up Romeo from the home where Romeo tried spent the night in the Hotel ber, Romeo joined up with Peter S54W. Gaby HA1YA (of now 6 people) one day equipment in the car. That nato's house S57UN. In the Renato, Drago, Peter, Gaby and set off on a long awaited journey to Lampedusa. During the ride, we picked up Silvo S50X in Celje and Slavko S57DX in Vrhnika. The IG9Y team also made a stop in Koper at Romeo's place and then continued towards Italy. Along the way, we had a few stops to take a short break from driving, relax and have a snack that S50X prepared for us. In Calabria, we decided to take a larger nap in our cars. After that, we continued towards Villa San Giovanni, where we took a ferry to Sicily. After a 45 minute long travel, we reached IT9 and picked up Aurelio PC5A from the airport in Catania. We continued towards the location of II9P, where our friend Dale N3BNA was already waiting for us. After lunch we visited a company called NOVAQUADRI, the owner - Antonello IT9EQO - is a friend of Romeo. There we picked up a most valuable package from EAntenna: several aluminum masts, 1 VHF and 4 HF yagi's. Also we loaded an amplifier in our biggest car. After handing over some gifts, making a group picture and shaking hands we continued towards Porto Empedocle in the province of Agrigento.

A horrible road led us to Porto Empedocle, and when we arrived, Romeo immediately rushed to the SIREMAR office and asked for tickets for the overnight ferry to



adventure starts on the 11th of to Murska Sobota where the where cars were rented (thanks Benki). A good friend S52ZW bus station and drove him to his delicious Prekmurje cuisine. He Štrk. On Saturday 12th of Octo-Renato S57UN, Drago S59A and and his wife Edit joined the team later and we put Gaby's VHF night, Romeo was a guest at Re-early morning, the group (Romeo, and Edit gathered at 4.10 a.m.



Lampedusa. We were shocked by the news that the ferry would not sail that night because of the bad weather on the open sea. We were all very disappointed because we wanted to reach the destination as soon as possible. After the news had sunk in arrangements were made how to spend the night. Some of the members found a cheap hotel, some slept in the cars.

On Wednesday the situation on the open sea unfortunately did not improve so the ferry would not



depart again... Romeo's next move was to find a cheap B&B, so that we could all sleep comfortably and enjoy something cooked from S50X. A Sicilian local was so kind to take him to Margeritha B&B in the center of Porto Empedocle. The owners showed the rooms and with a few negotiations over the price, we finally came to an arrangement. We were allowed to use their kitchen and the Internet too. Slavko S57DX (2nd night!) and Aurelio PC5A were prepared to watch the cars so they slept there. Thank you Slavc!

On Thursday morning - hurray! The ferry finally got the permission to

"sail" out of the harbor. We immediately bought the tickets and when the clock struck midnight, we were underway for a 9 hour long journey to Lampedusa.

Early next morning (Friday the 18th), the ferry stopped at Linosa. Some passengers got out, some got on the ferry. From afar, we saw Lampedusa - our long awaited destination. Around 10 a.m, we arrived to Port Vecchio - Lampedusa and while we were disembarking, Sebastiano and his brother Angelo, the owners of the contest location, were already waiting for us. First, Sebastiano took us to the village and then to the I69Y contest location: Punto Alaimo (at the North side of Lampedusa). The view left all of us speechless: from west over north to east the edge of the cliffs over the sea was only few (tens of) meters away! Then, our Slavc S57DX started to sing a verse of the popular song "More, more, more, more svud oko nas".

After lunch, Drago S59A and Peter S54W started to set up the 4-SQ antennas for 80m, and the others started to assemble the monoband antennas. Gaby HA1YA set up his equipment for 2, 4 and 6 meters.

On the 21st of October, Ken VE3LA, Vlad RCOF and Igor RT4RO arrived on Lampedusa, and the next day also Rob PE1ITR arrived (our next operator on VHF bands). The team was complete on



the 23rd, when Don JH5GHH (CQWW CC member) joined us.

Moreover, Romeo had many errands to run during our stay on Lampedusa. He was promised to get an electric generator, but its rated power capacity was far from enough so he, Sebastiano, Luigi IK8HCG and Salvatore Belviso were quite resourceful and solved the problem. They found a new generator rated at 66kVA, rented it from Tuesday till Monday and tested it, if it was appropriate for M/M operation. With Sebastiano's help, we also got a good Internet connection going by making a point to point link over about 2 km.



The following days passed by working from sunrise till way after sunset. Every day the routine was similar: breakfast at 06:30h (still dark), get into your working clothes, drive (or walk) to the contest location (witness a spectacular sunrise) and spend the rest of the day getting all the outside hardware in the air. This was done in small teams to maximize efficiency. After 7 days working non-stop from morning to well after dark the following antennas were ready to be used in the contest:

160M: dipole at cliff (about 70mtr above the sea) and 400 meter beverage towards North America

80M: 4-square and dipole, 2 reversible beverages 170 meter long NW-SE and NE-SW

40M: 4-square and dipole

20M: two 4 EL OWA Yagi's by EAntenna, one on a rotor the other rotatable by hand

15M: two 4 EL LFA Yagi's by EAntenna, both rotatable by hand because the rotor was broken...

10M: one 4 EL Yagi's by PKW (lent from II9P) on a rotor and one 3 EL delta loop beam (lent from II9P) rotatable by hand

The Thursday afternoon/evening before the contest was spent to start setting up all six stations inside. The list with transceivers: FT1000D (160M), FT1000MP (80M), FT2000 (40M), FT1000MP (20M), K3 (15M), TS850 (15M). Each station had an amplifier except 10 & 160, they shared one.

Friday morning more setting up was done and in the afternoon the team took a short break by visiting Rabbits beach. It was only during the last hours before the contest on Friday evening when we were able to test all stations simultaneously. It turned out 80M was making a lot of QRM on 160M, but there was no time to cure this problem.

One hour before the contest we had a short meeting to make band teams:

160m Renato S57UN , Dale N3BNA

80m Drago S59A , Gaby HA1YA

40m Romeo S52RU , Igor RT4RO

20m Slavko S57DX , Peter S54W, Silvo S50X

15m Aurelio PC5A , Vlad RCOF

10m Don JH5GHH , Ken VE3LA

VE3LA + JH5GHH on 10M, RCOF + PC5A on 15M, S57DX + S54W on 20M, S52RU + RT4RO on 40M, S59A + HA1YA on 80M, S57UN + N3BNA on 160M and S50X to help out on any band. The group then split into teams to decide who would start.

At 00:00UTC the battle began. 10M was very quiet. First station worked there was our neighbor in

Sicily II9P, in the next hour only D4C made it into the log. 10M opened again between 5 and 6 UTC. A similar story on 15M. First station logged was a nice multiplier ZD8O. This station turned out to be the last surprise of the contest, 20 minutes before the end it was a double mult on 80M. Around 4UTC JA5FDJ was loud and clear via long path but did not hear us... also a number of stations from South



America were loud on 15M during the following hours but did not hear us; probably they had their beams to NA. 20M started slow but after one hour the rate picked up and Slavo got some nice runs going toward NA. The hour between 2 and 3 UTC was the best of the first night: 150Q's. 40M started with hourly rates <100. Igor racked up 130 Q's between 3 and 4 UTC. 80M started strong with hourly

rates ~150 during the first 4 hours. The 4-square proved its capabilities. 160M suffered a lot from QRM caused by 80M. It was difficult to run rates on this band also because we were limited to a \*10kHz\* bandwidth. Only very strong stations were copied despite the beverage.

After 24 hours of contest we reached a score of 19.6M points, with 8.4M QSO's. The second half is always slower in terms of QSO rates but per QSO you get more points. It seemed feasible to reach 40M if things continued like the first half. On the second day less QSO's were made. We most bands worked 35 to 40% less QSO's on the 2nd day there were two exceptions, 10M did only 25% less than day1 but 20M however did only 50% of day1. At the end of the contest when the dust settled and all bands were dead empty the score had reached 36.7M, 13.5k QSOs and 912 mults. WHAW. Everyone was \*very\* pleased with this first result. At that time we were at the 5th place world-wide. None of our competitors had a comparable field day style station like we did which made us feel even more proud and gave us a very positive drive to try this again next year.

Analyses show that 20M and 10M were the bread and butter bands (only 10M got 40 zones). 40M was more than 1000 QSOs behind 20M which was disappointing, despite a decent antenna system (4-square). It was just impossible to keep a clear frequency and running rates with our current setup. Also we missed quite a few multipliers because we didn't have a multiplier station or 2 stations per band, like most of our competitors.



Here is a breakdown:

Band	QSOs	Pts	ZN	Cty
1.8	405	203	12	65
3.5	1631	4864	28	98
7	2317	6918	32	110
14	3701	11035	39	160
21	2394	7118	39	137
28	3057	9087	40	152
<b>Total</b>	<b>13505</b>	<b>40225</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>722</b>
<b>Score : 36,685,200</b>				

% of QSO's across bands and continents

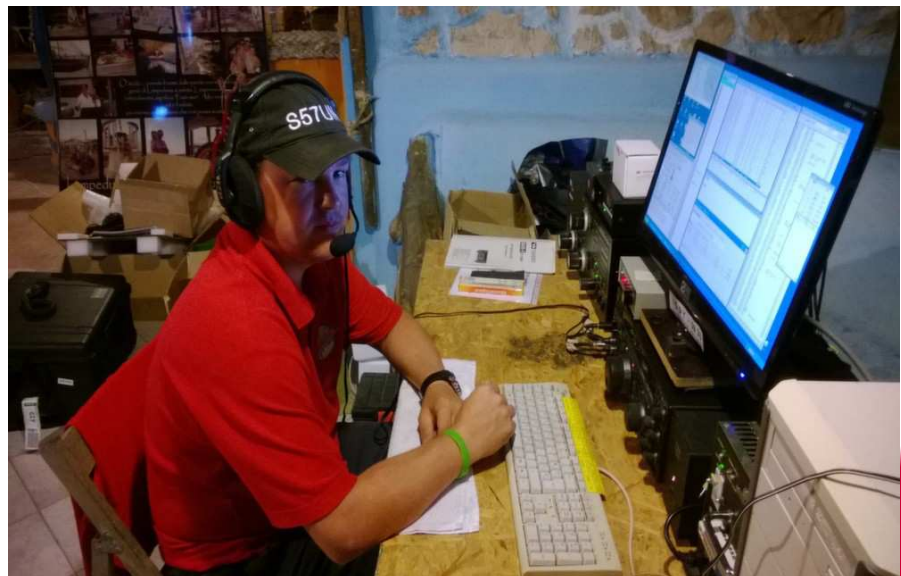
Band	Total	EU	AS	AF	OC	SA	NA
1.8	3	2	3	1	0	0	3
3.5	12	80	2	1	0	0	16
7	17	78	7	1	0	1	14
14	27	63	6	1	2	2	26
21	18	65	6	1	1	3	23
28	23	48	13	1	1	5	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>

In summary it was an awesome experience for each and every one of us.

At midnight, CQWW SSB 2013 Contest ended. The whole team was satisfied with the result, if we take in consideration that we transferred the whole equipment from Slovenia and set it up in 6 days. We opened Radgonska Penina and took a group photo. Soon, Don JH5GHM and Dale N3BNA said goodbye, and in the afternoon, Ken VE3LA left the island too. Meanwhile the rest of the team was working hard to take the entire station down pack all gear into the two cars and leave the club spotless.

On Tuesday, others took a day off, enjoyed the city, shopped and bathed in the sea. Aurelio PC5A and Romeo S52RU took care of some expenses and on Wednesday, we were ready to depart. Around 11 a.m., we boarded the ferry Laurana Siremar. Goodbye Lampedusa, see you in 2014.

On the ferry, the team reminisced about our adventures on Lampedusa. We were satisfied with the work done. Around 9 p.m., we arrived on Sicily. We said goodbye to Igor RT4RO, Aurelio PC5A and Luigi IK8HCG, who chose stay overnight in a B&B and continued their journey on the next day. The rest of the team travelled to Ragusa where we returned the borrowed equipment and then continued towards Messina, where we boarded a ferry to Italy. We arrived safe and sound in Slovenia.





A few personal words from **Romeo S52RU**: *I would like to thank my team IG9Y 2013 for their work and effort during the expedition, all sponsors and donors that are mentioned on the website and to our major sponsor Boyko Iliev LZ1QN, who unfortunately did not participate in expedition due to health reasons. You are kindly invited on the expedition in 2014.*

*I also want to express thanks to radio amateurs around the world for all contacts. The gained experience will ease the planning of the next expedition and we are looking forward to our new adventure in 2014.*



IG9Y TEAM with DONORS

TRANSFERED 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## Ham Op Gets CB Radio Christmas Gift Again by K5PO via Hamhijinks.com

**WREXHAM, Wales** - Wrexham area amateur radio operator Milt Arbunt received a thoughtful, but misguided Christmas gift from his family, creating what seems like a new tradition he wishes he they would stop.

For the fourth year in a row, Arbunt received a CB radio for Christmas from a family member at the annual Christmas gathering. Milt Arbunt, 34, is a "Final Glazing Supervisor" at the Cadbury plant in Wrexham and has been an active amateur radio operator for the past twelve years. He does not use nor does he have any interest in Citizen's Band radio.

"I just know Milty just loves playing with his radios," said Arbunts' aunt Jean about the selection of the CB radio as a gift this year. "He's always back there in his office turning knobs and playing with blinky lights. The one I got makes a farty noise! I thought he'd just the most fun playing with that with his CB buddies," she said with a chuckle.

Arbunt says his aunt actually bought him the same radio three years ago. "Auntie Jean was actually the first one to start this CB buying thing for Christmas and I think she's also been the one to keep suggesting others in the family do the same," said Arbunt.

"Heck, even if I wanted to open up the CB's transmit capability, I wouldn't be able to use it on the ham bands as it has far too much spurious emissions... and I don't mean the built-in fart noises."

"I even made a wish list and distributed it to my family members this year, hoping I could avoid getting another dang CB. I have a Signalink digi interface on there and a Yaesu MD-200 mic for my FTDX-3000. I figured maybe they'd get the point. I guess not," he said.

He has been able to return the radios and get his wife a gift with the money. "I'm getting her a clothes iron again this year!" said Arbunt. "I got her one the last two years and she seemed happy enough."



"I want this card!" Scotty, WK3N



## 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 2013-2014

President:	Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW	(440-237-2816)
V. President:	Dwaine Modock, K8ME	(440-582-3462)
Secretary:	Glenn Williams, AF8C	(440-835-4897)
Treasurer:	Mary Michaelis, N8DMM	(440-236-5426)
Newsletter:	David Autry, WD8IOU	(440-238-0417)



## DXCC Info

As of February 2012, 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, K8ME, KB6NU, WK3N, WB8K, S52RU, PC5A, K5PO, and Hamhijinks.com**