



*"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"*

# The NODXA RAG

NO8DX - Special Event Callsign  
W8DXA - NODXA Repeater 147.360  
K8MR - PacketCluster 144.91 & 145.57

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

Newsletter: [wd8iou@arrl.net](mailto:wd8iou@arrl.net)

Northern Ohio DX Association  
P.O. Box 450783  
Westlake, Ohio  
44145 U.S.A.



January 2003

## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

DXCC activities are up according to the latest February QST. The ARRL's DXCC Manager, Bill Moore, NC1L, feels this is due to the "DXCC Challenge" program and the "surprisingly long-lived peak of sunspot Cycle 23". The ARRL's DXCC office checked more than 60,000 QSLs in 2002 than 2001. Also, the "ARRL Outgoing QSL Service" reported an increase. This service was just "shy of cracking the two million outgoing cards mark in 2002 and handled over 10,000 pounds of incoming cards".

An interesting figure about the QSL Service is one-third of all the cards going out head to only six countries: Japan, Germany, Russia, Italy, Great Britain and Spain. Hopefully, this is good news for our hobby, and DXing will continue to be an important part/key in keeping amateur radio alive and well.

Well, I am sure you all have heard by now about my unexpected early Christmas present; a

rebuilt heart. Currently, I am doing fine, bored, but fine. I am walking over two and half miles every day at the local shopping mall. I also can drive my truck now. So, I am getting around OK, but I just can not pick up anything over 25-30 pounds.

I want to thank the many who sent get well E-mails/cards and flowers to me. It was truly touching, especially when you feel low and helpless. I hope to see you at the next meeting or possibly at the Mansfield Hamfest (the club will have a table there).

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW



healthy  
heart

## Minutes of the January 6th, 2003 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:04PM by Tedd, KB8NW and followed by the around the room introductions by the 18 members/guest in attendance.

The treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, reports a balance of Ka-Ching!

A report on the packet cluster was given by Pete, N8TR.

Please submit your articles for the Newsletter to Dave, WD8IOU, the editor.

A discussion on the Dayton Hamfest 2003 was opened by Tedd, KB8NW.

Dwaine, K8ME, opened a discussion on the DXCC Patches.

Classes for amateur radio code and theory classes will be conducted by the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society as informed to us by George, K8KR. Contact Gary Dewey, NI8Z. at 216-642-8705.

Tedd, KB8NW, informs us that Billy G. Pickard, WA5PAE, has been appointed the new Great Lakes Division DXAC Representative.

The NOARS Winterfest will be held on 02 February, 2003 at the Gargus Hall in Lorain, Ohio from 8:AM till 2:PM as related by Tedd, KB8NW and that the Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest and Computer Show is to be held on Sunday 09 February, 2003 at the Richland County Fairgrounds from 6:30 AM till 3:00 PM.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Dwaine, K8ME, his share was \$15.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM by Tedd, KB8NW.

Secretary: Ron, K8VJG

## ARRL Concludes 5-MHz Experiments

### *ARRL Letter*

Without fanfare, the ARRL allowed its WA2XSY 5-MHz experimental license to lapse January 1 rather than request renewal for another year. Last May, the FCC proposed going along with the ARRL's 2001 request for a new domestic (US-only), secondary HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.4 MHz. Discussions with various governmental agencies--including the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)--continue on how to accommodate amateur operation in the band, which is primary for several governmental agencies including the military. The NTIA regulates radio spectrum allocated to the federal government.

"At this point, we have every reason to believe the FCC will act on its proposal early this year," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "As to what the outcome will be as far as 5 MHz is concerned, we cannot predict."

In a December 24 letter, Sumner thanked the 15 Ama-

teur Radio clubs and individual amateurs who took part in the 5-MHz experimental operation that began in January 1999 and largely concluded in 2002. "You assisted in providing an important part of the groundwork for our petition for a domestic allocation to the Amateur Radio Service in this frequency range by demonstrating the desirability and feasibility of a shared allocation," he wrote. "We hope it will not be long before amateurs throughout the country are able to enjoy the fruits of your efforts."

Sumner said the ARRL chose not to request another renewal of the WA2XSY license because it already had obtained sufficient information to justify its petition for the band.

Until surprise opposition surfaced last fall from the NTIA, the FCC had the League's request for a new 60-meter band on the proverbial fast track. In a letter filed with the FCC last August--after the comment deadline had passed--the NTIA recommended that the Commission not go forward with the 5-MHz proposal. The NTIA said several government agencies with allocations in the proposed spectrum had expressed reservations about allowing amateurs to use the band, even on a non-interference basis.

The ARRL has been working with the federal agencies involved to resolve the impasse the NTIA letter raised. The NTIA said critical federal agencies, including the Depart-

ment of Justice, the US Coast Guard and the Department of Defense, were making extensive use of 5 MHz frequencies. The FCC's May 2002 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) fails to adequately protect these "critical government operations" from harmful interference, the NTIA asserted.

The ARRL has called the 5 MHz allocation "an urgent priority of the Amateur Service." In its July 2001 petition, the League told the FCC that a new band at 5 MHz would aid emergency communication activities by filling a "propagation gap" between 80 and 40 meters.

Experimental operations on 5 MHz continue on a very limited basis in the United Kingdom and in Canada. In Newfoundland, the Marconi Radio Club's VO1MRC has been operating under experimental authority from Industry Canada and an endorsement from Radio Amateurs of Canada to conduct experiments on 5 MHz. On December 21, VO1MRC completed a cross-band (5 MHz/7 MHz) CW contact with VK7RO in Tasmania.

---

## "Radiomobile"

A couple of months ago I received an email touting the terrain mapping software "Radiomobile" found at

[www.cplus.org/radiomobile.htm](http://www.cplus.org/radiomobile.htm)

After a little bit of installing and a lot of downloading

from government terrain profile data bases, I now have a map that includes from the lake to North Royalton, with elevations and streets marked (courtesy of MAPQUEST.COM). Also included is the ability to perform computerized radio path analyses on all HF and VHF frequencies. As most of you would know if you checked it out, getting a signal out of my QTH near Lake Erie to most of Cuyahoga county means essentially transmitting up hill, and in fact over some "hills" which are not obvious if you are on the road driving. To many typical sites to the south and southeast, my signals are often diffracted with single or double obstructions. A typical dB path loss from here to North Royalton, even without diffraction, will be about 118 dB or so.

You may be amazed at those dB figures. But path loss is a lot higher than you might think, because the signal attenuates inversely with the square of the distance. All the computed S-meter readings at 10 watts out (from my QTH to points southeasterly in the county) are reasonable and appear to match some of the local 10 meter net operations I have been in. From my QTH to the NODXA Packet Cluster appears to be relatively unobstructed (whew).

The software also has the ability to build a sequence of picture files so one can "fly" the path with a simulated fighter pilot's or bird's eye view. Computer simulations of entire polar and cartesian an-

tenna patterns as affected by terrain appear to be a feature of the program, but I have not tested those yet.

Software and data file installation assistance is available if you need it.

-de Glenn, AF8C

---

## Nine-year Old Makes Extra

Elizabeth Harper of Vine-mont, Alabama, became one of the nation's youngest Amateur Extra-class licensees during the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club hamfest examination session November 9. Accompanying the nine-year-old on her upgrade journey were her parents, Anthony, NO2M, and Sondra Harper, KA4EIC.

There was a lot of excitement as the volunteer examiners from the Montgomery CAVEC group graded her Element 4 answer sheet, then rechecked it twice more. A General licensee at the time of the session, Elizabeth also might hold the distinction of being the only youngster her age now working on her third ham radio call sign. When she sat for the Extra, she was KG4NAU. The FCC issued her a new sequential call sign, AG4WP, which she held for about three weeks until the FCC granted her vanity application. Elizabeth now is AK3H.

--Steve Padgett, K4NM



## Welcome to the 2003 Mansfield Mid\*Winter Hamfest & Computer Show.. February 09, 2003

6:30am to 3pm Tickets: **\$5.00** in advance and **\$6.00** at the door.

Tables: \$12.00 advance only. Table deadline 01 February, 2003

Advance orders must include SASE to:  
Dean Wrasse, KB8MG  
1094 Beal Road  
Mansfield, OH 44905  
419-522-W8WE

### Poptronics Ceases Publication

*ARRL Letter*

Poptronics magazine--which evolved from the former Popular Electronics and Electronics Now magazines--ceased publication with the January 2003 edition (Vol 4, No 1). "After 94 years of publishing electronics magazines Gernsback Publications is no longer in operation," said Larry Steckler, Poptronics' editor in chief and publisher.

"Negotiations are under way to provide an alternative publication to Poptronics subscribers."

Steckler says a new on-line edition of Poptronics will soon be available. Poptronics Interactive, a separate on-line, paid subscription site announced in the October issue of Poptronics, also is scheduled to return soon, Steckler said. The company plans to post the latest information on its Web site [www.poptronics.com](http://www.poptronics.com).

[Poptronics.com](http://Poptronics.com). The site has been undergoing "remodeling," but Steckler said it should be back in operation by the end of January.

Many veteran amateurs may recall the "Carl and Jerry" stories by John T. Frye, W9EGV (SK), which appeared in Popular Electronics in the 1950s and 1960s. The tales involved the ham radio-related exploits of a couple of teenaged hams.

---

### Christmas Wish

All I want for Xmas is a BS7  
A BS7, a BS7  
All I want for Xmas is that  
stinking Reef  
I'd then have relief  
If I could work that reef

All I want for Xmas is that  
card on the wall  
Then I'd have them all  
As my needs are small.

All I want for Xmas is a BS7

A BS7, a BS7  
I'd be in heaven  
All I want for Xmas is that qsl  
so small  
Then I could wish you all:

A Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year

Good health, happiness, and a  
BS7 in your stocking.

W9OL, Bill H. in Chicagoland

# DX

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition:  
N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW,  
K8VJG, K8YSE, W9OL, WB8K,  
AF8C, K4NM, K8ME, K8AV, K8PF,  
KC41YD, KB8QOF and the ARRL  
*Letter*.

President - Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)  
 V. President - Dwaine Modock, K8ME (440-582-3462)  
 Secretary - Ron Borkey, K8VJG (440-237-6718)  
 Treasurer - Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)  
 Newsletter Editor - David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)

335

FOX HOLE RADIO

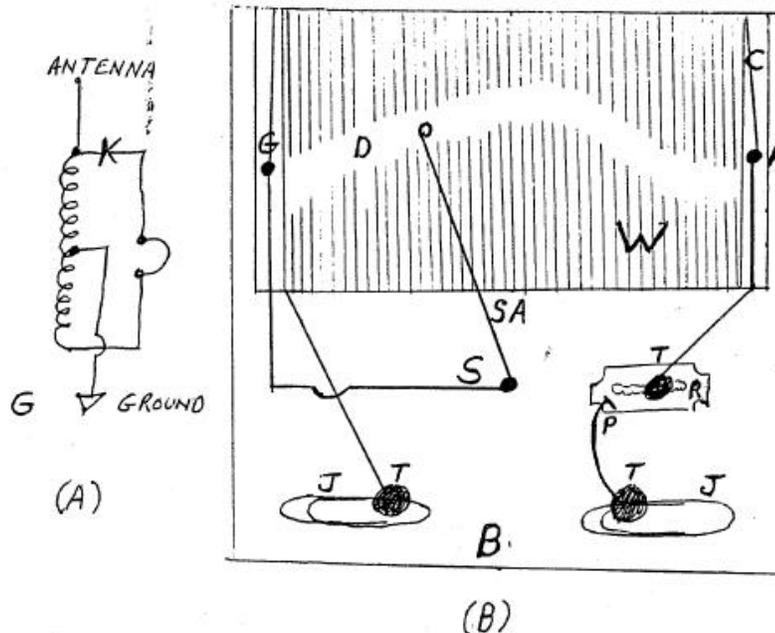
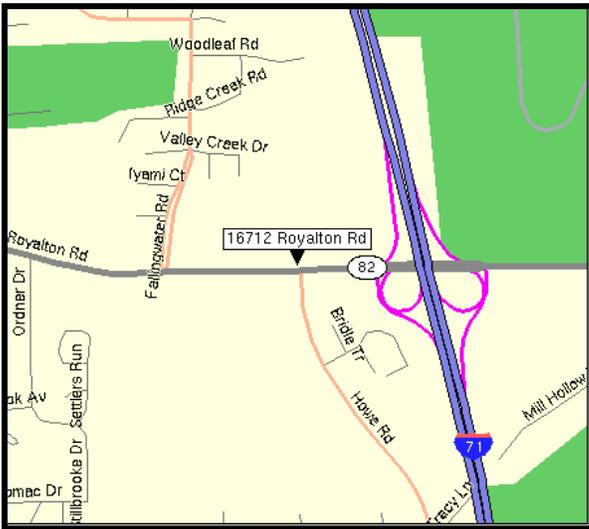


FIG. 1 RAZOR BLADE RADIO USED BY WBEFW IN SOUTH PACIFIC. MANY REPORTS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED CONCERNING THE VARIOUS TYPES OF FOX HOLE RADIO SETS CONSTRUCTED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. NATURALLY, TUBE LESS AND BATTERY LESS RADIOS MUST BE USED BY MOST OF THE BOYS IN THE FIELD. FEW PARTS ARE REQUIRED FOR A RAZOR BLADE SET. ARMED FORCES RADIO STATIONS UP TO TWENTY FIVE MILES HAVE BEEN HEARD, USING A FAIRLY GOOD ANTENNA AND GROUND. GREATER DISTANCES HAVE BEEN REPORTED ON SIMILAR SETS. LT. PAUL M. CORNELL, SC, WBEFW

- A. ANTENNA CONNECTION-THIS NAIL ALSO FASTENS COIL TO THE BASE BOARD.
- B. BASEBOARD  $\frac{1}{4}$ " THICK 4 INCHES SQUARE
- C. COIL FORM- WOOD BLOCK  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " INCHES LONG 2 INCHES WIDE  $\frac{1}{4}$  INCH THICK
- D. AREA OF COIL SCRAPED CLEAN ALONG ARC OF SWITCH.
- G. GROUND CONNECTION. THIS NAIL ALSO FASTENS COIL FORM TO BASE BOARD.
- J. JACKS FOR PHONES. PAPER CLIPS HELD DOWN BY TACKS.
- P. DETECTOR. PENCIL LEAD WRAPPED WITH COPPER WIRE AND RESTING LIGHTLY ON RAZOR BLADE. ADJUSTMENT OF LOCATION AND PRESSURE MAY BE REQUIRED
- R. RAZOR BLADE- HELD DOWN AND CONNECTED TO WIRE BY TACK
- S. SCREW OR NAIL FOR PIVOT OF SWITCH ARM
- T. THUMB TACK OF ANY KIND.
- W. COIL WINDING - APPROXIMATELY 175 TURNS OF #26 INSULATED WIRE
- SA SWITCH ARM- BENT COPPER WIRE TO CONNECT S TO SCRAPED ANTENNA COIL



**NODXA** Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the **Demetrio's Family Restaurant** on RT.82 just west of Interstate 71 in Strongsville at 8:00 PM. Come early and have dinner, drink beer, meet your fellow DXers and enter the 50/50 raffle.

### NODXA Application and Renewal Form

The Northern Ohio DX Association is a non-profit organization with a primary interest in DXing. We encourage all DXers to join our group and share the interest and fun of DXing. Please complete the application below and send along your appropriate dues or renewal to:

**NODXA, P.O. Box 450783, Westlake, Ohio 44145**

- First Time Membership/Renewal (U.S.) \$12.00
- Foreign Membership (outside U.S.) \$22.00
- \*Foreign Membership (no printed newsletter) (but w/Web access for newsletter) \$12.00

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

Newsletter circulation: Pete Michaelis **N8TR**, Mary Michaelis **N8DMM**, and "Radio Ray" **W8BIN**

**Dated Material  
Please Rush**



The Northern Ohio DX Association  
 P.O. Box 450783  
 Westlake, Ohio 44145 U.S.A