



"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@adelphia.net

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



January 2004

Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Happy New Year! Let's hope 2004 will be kind to Dxers and the propagation will not be too bad as we head downward in the sunspot cycle. We also hope that our "Most Wanted DXCC Entities" will make an appearance during the year 2004.

Have you seen the results of the latest DX Magazine's "Most Wanted Survey"? The interesting results have Scarborough Reef (BS7) as the most wanted DXCC entity followed by Andaman & Nicobar Island (VU4), North Korea (P5), Lakshadweep Island (VU7) and Peter I Island (3Y). Rumor has it (and we do mean rumor) that there may be an operation from Scarborough Reef this year (I hope so - my last one).

Although originally scheduled to be active this year, Peter I Island was postponed. However, plans are in the works for a Peter I Island operation to take place in 2005. It looks like there is no hope for the other three entities

(VU4, VU7 and P5). KEEP PRAYING!

Finishing off the top 10 most wanted (6-10) are: Yemen (7O), Juan de Nova & Europa (FR/J&FR/E), Navassa Island (KP1), Desecheo (KP5) and Aves Island (YV0). The Juan de Nova & Europa (FR/J&FR/E) entity is a little deceiving.

Please remember that this survey was taken before the recent TO4E and TO4WW operation. This entity should drop much lower (Also, look for more activity from this one). Activity from Aves Island should (is expected) to take place in early 2004. As for 7O, KP1 and KP5, KEEP PRAYING. If you have access to the Web, the complete list of the top "100 Most Wanted (World-Wide)" can be viewed at: <http://www.dxpub.com>.

Those of you who use the NODXA Packet Cluster may have noticed a change in cluster spots and the link to the network is not being disconnected anymore. The K8AZ cluster (which we are linked to) is now getting QSNs from the world-wide InterNet cluster network. This was made possible because the club bought the nec-

essary software for the K8AZ cluster. To help in the purchase of this expensive software, NODXA members Bruce/N8DJX and Don/W8IMF graciously donated funds. The club and I would like to send out a special thanks to Don and Bruce for their dedication and generosity towards the club.

73 and Good DX de
Tedd KB8NW

Minutes of the January 5th, 2004 NODXA Meeting

Tedd KB8NW opened the meeting at 7:30PM which was held at Laura's Kitchen in Broadview Heights, Ohio. The around the room introductions followed by the 19 members/guest in attendance.

A reminder by Tedd KB8NW to write a letter or e-mail to your Congressman concerning anti BPL legislation.

Mary N8DMM reports a balance o \$Ka-Ching! in the treasury and that donations of \$150.00 from Bruce N8DJX and \$75.00 from Don W8IMF for the packet cluster upgrades.

A report on the packet cluster was given by Pete N8TR and was followed by a discussion. For Telnet access to the cluster use k8az.no-ip.com

The Eritrea E3 has been cancelled and the club's donation check has been returned as informed to us by Tedd KB8NW.

Dave WD8IOU, our News-

letter Editor, requests articles for the Newsletter.

A discussion on the Dayton Hamfest and the hotel space availability and the Hospitality Suite was opened by Tedd KB8NW.

Tedd KB8NW opened a discussion on the promotion and improving NODXA.

George K8KR won the 50/50 raffle. His share was \$15.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09PM by Tedd KB8NW.

Secretary: Ron K8VJG

Weaver's Words

License Restructuring Plan:

Our overall goal was to develop a license restructuring proposal that would promote Amateur Radio in the long term, not just for tomorrow. Our sights were set on 15 years in the future.

As you know, every one of the 15 Directors voted at the Board meeting last week to petition FCC to change the Amateur Radio rules. I would like to share some of the thinking that went on during the six months that preceded the vote.

How We Got Here:

In July, the Board directed the Executive Committee to draft a proposal to address the International Telecommunications Union treaty deletion of the 5 wpm Morse code proficiency requirement for Amateur Radio licenses. The EC was also

instructed to review the existing very muddy US licensing structure. The EC draft was circulated to the Directors and Officers of the Board in October. Comments and suggestions on it were shared among Board members.

Thursday evening before the Board meeting President Haynie called the Board together to discuss the draft and the rationale behind it. During 2 1/2 hours, several of us suggested modifications, most of which we learned had been considered by the EC which dropped them for valid reasons. Some changes were made. The next day the proposal was formally reported to the Board. After discussing it for about two additional hours and after a couple of amendments had been proposed and overwhelmingly defeated, the proposal was adopted by unanimous vote.

Why We Did A Couple Of Things— Morse Code:

As did many of you, I passed the 20 wpm (and lesser speed) code tests only to have FCC later reduce the overall speed requirement to 5 wpm. This displeased and angered many hams. Change brings displeasure and anger. Years ago many of the Old Timers became very churned up over FCC forcing amateurs of the time to stop using spark gap and move to CW. CW is better than spark gap so why the anger? It was a change. Later, many amateurs after WW-II cussed about the

imminent demise of Amateur Radio that was most assuredly brought on by FCC initiating the old Novice license that required ONLY 5 wpm proficiency.

Novice License:

I came into this great avocation through the Novice license. At the time it was valid only for one year and was not renewable. Later, the FCC changed the term to two years but it was still not renewable. This finally was changed 10 years and renewable.

We on the Board wanted to encourage FCC to return to a true entry-level license that would appeal to youngsters of today. Does Morse Code offer this appeal? No. Why not? Young people of today already use walkie-talkie/video/cell phones daily to talk to and see each other nearly anyplace in the world. The Internet with its worldwide communications is another reason code repels them from Amateur Radio. Finally, does anyone actually think the FCC is going to continue to demand code proficiency in the future even as it does today?

We believe allowing HF/VHF voice and other privileges for Novices brings us at least to parity with modern cell phones and the Internet. We decided to request dropping the code requirement for Generals also because of the need to compete with modern alternate communication and the ITU's dropping of code.

Grandfathering:

If there was a viable alternate to grandfathering to help resolve the license structure fiasco FCC has created, it would have passed. We couldn't find one. A major goal of ours was to get the license structure back to no more than three, distinctive classes. As it stands at this moment, the license structure is abysmal -- there are three functioning classes with a total of five classes on the books.

Think about it: 1) There is no true entry level license. 2) FCC prohibits Advanced operators from using the Extra Class CW segments even though new Extras pass 5 wpm vs. the 13 wpm passed by Advanced. 3) We have No Code Techs who have the same privileges as Tech Plus ops.

Finally, we have had people inside the FCC tell us (off the record, of course) there is no meaningful differences between the written exams taken by Tech, Tech Plus and General, and also between Advanced and Extra. In my opinion, this is insane. How can this be resolved?

Another major goal we had was to take privileges away from NO ONE! The only way we could find to accomplish this last goal was to grandfather. No one, whether they are happy with or unhappy with the resulting proposal, has lost anything through the grandfathering proposal. Is it fair? It is as fair as we could make out. Were we totally thrilled over

the grandfathering? No.

The Board's petition will be submitted to FCC within the next two weeks. Provided the Commission sees merit in it, it will ultimately invite comment from citizens -- pro or con. Any of you are invited to comment on it at such time.

Please let me know if you have further questions. In the meantime, I will continue answering individual questions I've already received, but have not yet had time to answer. To you, thanks for getting in touch with me. This is the only way I can learn how you feel.

Please be sure to reply to: k8je@arrl.org.

73, Jim, K8JE

DXCC Rule Change

By OPDX

Wayne Mills, N7NG, ARRL Membership Service Dept. Manager, sent out the following ARRL News Release:

At its January meeting in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors removed paragraph 1.c) from the criteria for determining a DXCC Entity. This provision, implemented in 1998 as part of the DXCC 2000 Program, had provided that "An Entity will be added to the DXCC List as a Political Entity if it ...has a separate IARU Member Society."

Since that time, the rule has allowed for the addition of four new DXCC Entities and the retention of one existing Entity.

At the time it was not expected that this would create difficulties with the administration of the IARU. Unfortunately, the provision has had the unintended consequence of stimulating applications for IARU membership that do not further the objectives of the IARU, creating an unfortunate and unnecessary administrative burden.

The rule change will have no effect on those Entities created by or as the result of the rule. According to DXCC Rule II, 5. C), "A change in the DXCC Criteria shall not affect the status of any Entity on the DXCC List at the time of the change."

The other two criteria for the determination of a Political Entity for DXCC continue in effect: a) The entity is a UN Member State. b) The entity (except international organizations) has been assigned a call-sign prefix block by the ITU.

The text of the Board resolution reads:

WHEREAS, the DXCC 2000 program adopted by the Board in 1998 included changes to the criteria for a DXCC entity, and WHEREAS, one of the new criteria makes separate IARU membership the basis for determination of a "political entity," and

WHEREAS, this rule has served a constructive purpose with respect to existing IARU societies, but

WHEREAS, the rule also has had unforeseen consequences in creating an incentive for the creation of proposed

IARU societies that do not further the objectives of the IARU, and

RECOGNIZING that elimination of the rule has no effect on the DXCC entities that already have been created as a result of the rule,

RESOLVED, that the DXCC rules are hereby amended by deleting IARU membership as a basis for determination of a "political entity."

Cyber Alert System

As of 1-28-04 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is now operating a "cyber alert" system. Users of this system receive email bulletins detailing new viruses, worms, exploits, and other security related topics. You can sign up for this FREE service at <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

In addition, a free web-based virus scan can be used to check your computer for viruses, Trojans, and worms at <http://housecall.antivirus.com>.

Honor Roll Deadline

By OPDX

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Manager, wants to remind everyone that the deadline to be shown in the next DXCC Honor Roll list is March 31, 2004. Submissions must be postmarked March 31, 2004, for your submission to count for this listing. The DXCC Honor

Roll list will appear in August 2004 QST. There are 335 entities on the DXCC list, and you must be within the numerical top 10 DXCC entities to qualify. The current minimum requirement for Honor Roll is 326 current entities.

Items For Sale

Great Starters or use on Packet Radio, All Computers have Windows "98"

IBM PERSONAL COMPUTER

350 – 167 mhz 640kb memory, 384mg Ram

15" * & 17" Monitors, Keyboards, Mouses

One Laser Compact XT, with Kraft Monitor –DOS Only

Okidata Microline 184 Turbo Printer

NEC Pinwriter P-3200 Printer

If interested call (Larry)- W8DNH at 330-273-1031

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, K8VJG, K8YSE, WB8K, K8ME, OPDX, and the ARRL Letter.

NODXA Club Officials for 2003-2004

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)

As of March 2002
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

335

SI9AM AWARD

1. Mixed (CW, SSB, Digital modes):

Any band 1.8 – 28 MHz, at least 2 bands.

For European stations:

5 contacts with SI9AM, at least 2 QSO on CW and 2 QSO on SSB.

For stations outside Europe:

3 contacts with SI9AM, at least 1 QSO on CW and 1 QSO on SSB.

2. CW:

Any band 1.8 – 28 MHz, at least 2 bands.

For European stations:

5 contacts with SI9AM.

For stations outside Europe:

3 contacts with SI9AM.

3. SSB:

Any band 1.8 – 28 MHz, at least 2 bands.

For European stations:

5 contacts with SI9AM.

For stations outside Europe:

3 contacts with SI9AM.

4. Digital modes:

Any band 1.8 – 28 MHz, at least 2 bands.

For European stations:

5 contacts with SI9AM.

For stations outside Europe:

3 contacts with SI9AM.

5. VHF/UHF/SHF:

Any band 144 – 1296 MHz.

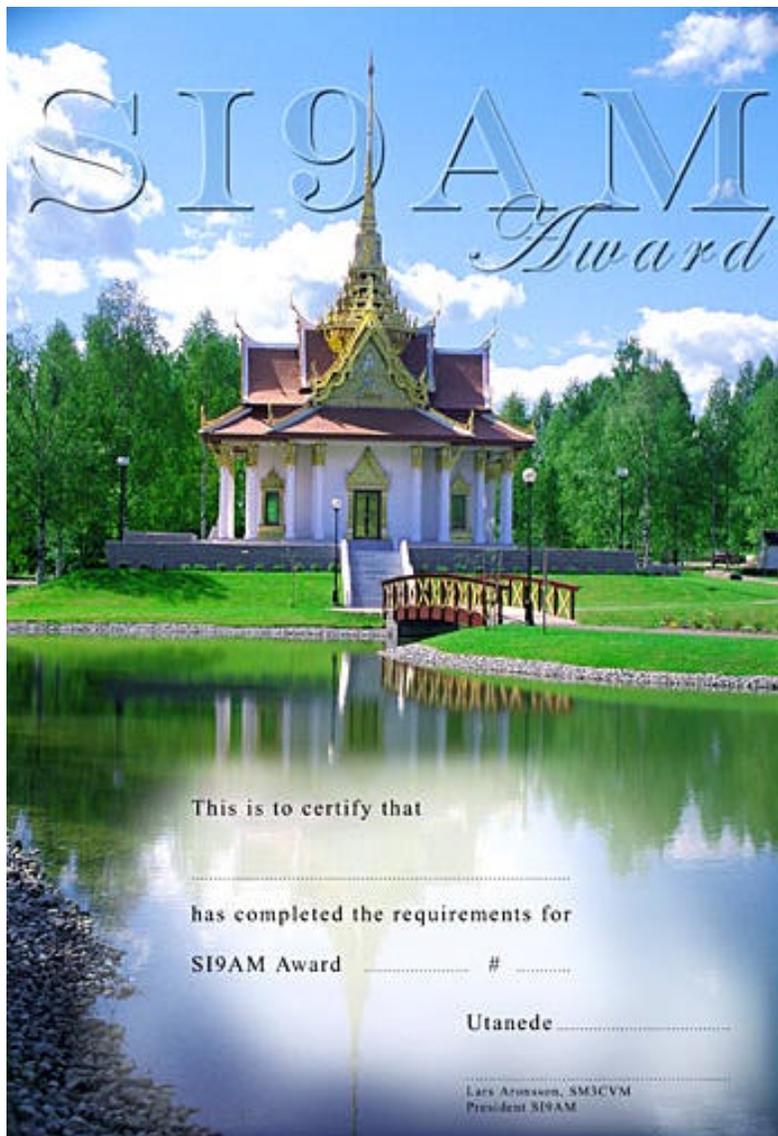
3 contacts with SI9AM, either on CW, SSB, Digital modes or FM (repeater contacts included).

6. SWL:

According to paragraphs 1 – 5.

Contacts from July 19, 2000 are valid.

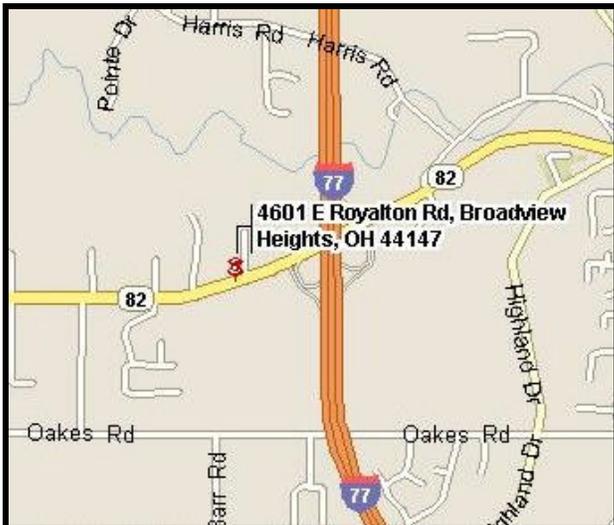
The fee is 10 Euro including postage (alt. USD or SEK equivalent to 10 Euro).



Send the application with a log copy and award fee to:

SM3CVM, Lars Aronsson
Lillfjallvagen 62
SE-831 71 OSTERSUND
Sweden

E-mail: si9am@qsl.net



NODXA Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the **Laura's Kitchen Restaurant** on RT.82 just west of Interstate 77 in Broadview Heights at 8:00 PM. Come early and have dinner and 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**



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