



*"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](mailto:wd8iou@adelphia.net)

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



December 2004– January 2005

## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Well, the Andaman Islands (VU4) did show up on the air for the month of December, and I hope that those who needed it were able to work it as new DXCC entity. If not, this operation (VU4RBI and VY4NRO) hopefully opened the door to more activity. In the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, the VU4RBI and VU4NRO team showed the Indian government how important amateur radio is when they began to provide emergency communications. As I am typing this, the VU4 team has stopped their operation to help provide health and welfare communications. Once the emergency is over, there is a possibility that the VU4 team may get their permit extended.

Just a reminder that the Peter I Island 3Y0X DXpedition is expected to be active starting January 19-21st (depending on the weather). This should be an interesting operation because of all the operators and equipment that is going

to be used. The "Topbander" guys should be very interested in this one because the 3Y0X team really wants to make an effort in working as many as possible on 160 meters. Be prepared! This will be a great DXpedition to start off the new year. Good luck if you need it.

Lastly, I want to wish everyone a good, healthy and a safe New Year. Even with the low sunspot numbers, the year 2005 will hopefully bring us something new and exciting to work (Maybe a Scarborough Reef DXpedition?)

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW



## Minutes of the December 6th, 2004 NODXA Meeting

The meeting which was held at Gourmet Deli and Restaurant in Strongsville, Ohio was called to order at 7:32 PM by Tedd KB8NW.

The treasury has a balance of \$Ka-Ching! as reported by Mary N8DMM.

The repeater is working OK as reported by Ray W8BIN.

Articles for the Newsletter are needed. E-mail to Dave WD8IOU at [wd8iou@adelphia.net](mailto:wd8iou@adelphia.net)

Dwaine K8ME displayed a Certificate of Appreciation from the W9DXCC group to NODXA.

A report on the transfer of control of the station at the Rain Forest building in Cleveland, Ohio was given by Dwaine K8ME and also presented a QSL card and a certificate earned by Ray W8BIN to him.

Tedd KB8NW displayed new membership certificates and distributed them. Anyone who has not received a NODXA membership certificate contact Denny WB8K.

Tedd KB8NW showed a shirt from the CARS radio club and proposed to use a similar type to be adapted for NODXA and was followed by a discussion.

The Andaman Island VU4 is now in operation as informed to us by Tedd KB8NW and donations for this DX-pedition are requested.

A discussion took place about the legislation that was introduced into the House of Rep. (H.R. 5361) to force the Fish and Wildlife Service to allow ham radio operations from Desecheo and Navassa Islands. The discussion also included the possibility of donating funds towards the legal fees.

A video on the Banaba Island DX-pedition (T33C) is to be shown at the next meeting on January 03, 2005 as informed to us by Tedd KB8NW.

Wayne K8FF won the 50/50 raffle. His share was \$ 17.00.

Tedd KB8NW adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Submitted by Secretary: Ron K8VJG

## Minutes of the January 3rd, 2005 NODXA Meeting

Tedd KB8NW called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM which was held at Gourmet Deli and Restaurant in Strongsville, Ohio. The around the room introductions followed by the 19 members/guest in attendance.

Mary N8DMM reports a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the treasury.

A motion was made by Carl K8AV and seconded by John K8YSE to donate the sum of \$100.00 toward the Andaman Island Dx-pedition and was followed by a discussion. A vote was taken and passed.

Pete N8TR reported on the packet cluster.

A report on the newsletter was given by Dave WD8IOU.

Tedd KB8NW opened a discussion on the Dayton Hamfest to be held on May 20, 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup> in 2005.

Dwaine K8ME won the 50/50 raffle and his share was \$18.00. A DVD on the Banaba Island Dx-pedition was won by Glenn AF8C and Bruce N8DJX won a DXCC countries list.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM by Tedd KB8NW.

Submitted by Secretary: Ron K8VJG

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## How To Protect Yourself Before BPL Comes

Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Ohio Section Manager

Ohio ham radio operators are asking is "What can I do about Broadband Over Powerlines (BPL)?" Well, here is a quick suggestion - conduct your own baseline measurements. Kirk Swallow, W8QID, team leader of the Cincinnati BPL/LIC committee, suggests every Ohio ham facing a BPL installation in their area, first get baseline measurements of the local spectrum noise floor. Get these measurements recorded and documented so you will have an accurate comparison to the day

you may suspect BPL interference.

Here is a quick, "cookbook" approach to making such measurements now before BPL arrives. Use any good radio receiver having 4-20 Mhz HF receiving capabilities (your transceiver will do just fine but any good short-wave radio will do) and follow these instructions:

- (1) Set up your receiver for AM reception, with the AGC set for 'Fast" and Noise Blanker turned off:
- (2) Several times a day or as often as you can, record your s-meter noise readings. Take tape recordings of these readings as well.
- (3) Take readings both outside and inside the amateur band limits (your favorite freqs). Outside the ham radio bands, Kirk suggests known frequencies like near WWV and/or near well known foreign broadcasts.
- (4) For each reading, write down carefully the date, time of day, the frequency, and the s-meter reading. Be sure there are no signals present, only noise.

Of course, said Kirk, the purpose of this exercise is to establish and document a baseline for noise at your particular location. In the event BPL does come to your area and introduces additional noise/interference in a measurable amount, you will be able to provide a before and after comparison. Such comparisons can be the basis of complaints to the power company or to the FCC, if necessary.

The Cincinnati BPL/LIC committee is a special Local Interference Committee that was formed by Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE. It was formed shortly after Cinergy Corporation, the local power utility, announced plans to make Cincinnati the biggest build out of BPL in the United States. At the present time, the team monitors the Cinergy progress. The amount of build out in Cincinnati has been too small to make any conclusions, it has been regularly reported.

## The Old Man

Dan Metzger, K8JWR, via eHam.net

The guy they called The Old Man? Sure, I knew him. Well, it wasn't actually me - it was my buddy, Al. I think his family knew him from way back. However it was, three or four times during our sophomore and junior years of high school Al called me to say that he had been invited to The Old Man's shack because he "wanted to talk" - and would I like to come along?

The Old Man's shack was a two-car garage, partitioned into operating room, workshop, and storage area in about the proportions of 1-to-2-to-3. His rig consisted of three six-foot relay racks full of what appeared to be home-brew exciters, amplifiers, modulators, and power supplies. The rig was dark and silent, and he never turned it on while we were there. In fact, I never heard him on the air, and later, when I got home and looked up his call in the Call Book, it wasn't there.

His receiver, a Collins 75A-2, was always on, with CW signals mumbling softly in the background. Once, while The Old Man was rummaging in a junk box, I reached for the tuning knob to get the feel of this paragon of receivers, and he put me in my place with a curt, "Please don't monkey with the receiver."

Well, The Old Man had said he wanted to talk, and talk he did - for nearly two hours. He regaled us with stories of how the Radio Inspector had threatened to confiscate his spark transmitter one Friday back in '24 because he was interfering with Great Lakes shipping traffic, and by the next Monday he had his first vacuum tube rig on the air. He told of being an engineer at a local radio station in the '30s and climbing a 200-foot tower in the wintery darkness to make an antenna repair in time for Amos and Andy. We heard how he was in the South Pacific during World War II, training island natives who didn't know a word of English to copy code by rote memory: dot-dash, write an A; dash-dot-dot-dot, write B; and so on. His eyes sparkled as the

names of hams and radio men he had known rolled off his tongue by the dozen, and he seemed to expect that we should know these people as well as we knew our classmates in school.

Finally, he wound down and said, "Well, this is boring to you. Now, how would you boys like some radio parts, on the square?"

Al managed to say, "Sure!" but I could only hope that The Old Man read the wide grin that broke out on my face as a "Yes!" That first visit he gave me a power supply for my VFO. (I had just gotten my general.) It used a type 80 rectifier, so it must have been from the early '30s or late '20s. I had ridden my bike over, and it was a real struggle to keep that bulky thing under my left arm while managing the bike with my right.

By the second visit Al was driving, and we made sure the trunk was cleared out before we came. Good thing, too, because that time he gave me an old Hallicrafters AM transmitter; it must have been three feet wide and weighed over a hundred pounds. On other visits we came away with antenna tuners, microphones, transmitting tubes, and 500-watt power transformers.

He mentioned that the transformer secondary was 900 volts RMS, and when I asked him what "RMS" meant, The Old Man practically exploded: "How can you do anything in radio if you don't know what RMS means?" So he sat me right down and explained it to me, and even though I was still a little shaky on the details I told him that I understood it perfectly, Yes Sir!

Well, that's about all. We were supposed to see The Old Man again one Saturday in late May, but Al got a call on Friday that they'd taken him to the hospital, and a few days later we heard that he'd died. What with school and me starting my first job about then, I never did find out what happened to his garage full of stuff and that untouchable 75A-2.

Say, look - I've got to be getting home. The kid across the street is into computers, and I told him that if he'd come over after supper I'd give him my old PC, and a modem and some other junk. It's funny - that kid comes over and gets me talking, and he don't leave for maybe two, three hours. I was telling him about my first

computer, an Apple II - and I don't think he'd ever heard the name of Steve Wozniak before. And he didn't know what TTL levels were! Now, how's he going to do anything in computers if he doesn't know what TTL levels are?

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## Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty

Neil, V73NS, via eHam.net

In the world of CW there is one way to display poor operating skills and add QRM at the same time. As DX, I can tell you I hear it all too often, the Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty... commonly known as a question mark.

I can be sorting my way through a pile up and they appear... Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty's. It seems one breeds another and another. No DX station in their right mind will stop everything to work a Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty. Who is this station that is so impatient that they refuse to LISTEN and think this is a way to get the DX station to answer them so they can rapidly send their exchange and run off to Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty the next DX spot? Everyone else is listening and sending only at the proper time. If they are in a hurry to work me because they were being called to save the world... they should have told me!

Other times I can be CQ'ing in the clear and magically from the speaker comes... Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty. Again, someone not listening! But I was listening and heard a station transmit (without ID'ing) so I logically send QRZ? which means, "who is calling me?" This must have gone in one of their ears and out the other so they send Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty, telling me they are confused by my last transmission, so I again will ask, QRZ? You'd think they would be able to copy three letters and one punctuation... maybe not because I again hear a Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty sent. Maybe they need to brush up on their Q-signals?

Partial calls are a no no on CW, but maybe

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, K8VJG, K8YSE, K8ME, K8QOE, K8JWR, V73NS, eHam.net, and the ARRL Letter.

### NODXA Club Officials for 2004-2005

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

their call is something, something, IMI? Either way it's a bad-operating practice.

There have been other times while the Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty's couldn't understand the QRZ? that I sent, someone else did and chimed in with their call sign, which gets them into the log and an exchange is sent.

Sending a Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty is rude, annoying, and the sure sign of a Lid. Don't do it! If the DX is calling CQ they plan on being on the air for a while so spend some time listening. If the station asks, QRZ?... tell them your call. Same goes in a pile up, there are 40 stations that know the DX's call and are trying to get in. Wait a few minutes, listen, and send your call once you know who you're trying to work. The Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty's don't control things... they only wish they did. DX station do ID often, a few minutes isn't going to ruin your day.

I'm not a phone operator but I seriously doubt you hear anyone say Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty there. Be a top shelf CW op and don't subject yourself to the wrath of the Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch.

## "CQ Gang" On-Air Event

CQ Amateur Radio magazine invites Amateur Radio operators around the world to join in celebrating its 60th anniversary by taking part in an on-air event during the first 60 days of 2005. CQ's first issue was published in January, 1945. During the "CQ Gang" activity--January 1 until March 1, 2005--all hams ever associated with CQ as staff members, contributing editors or authors--as well as current subscribers to CQ, CQ VHF and Popular Communications may sign "/60" after their call signs. Certificates will be issued for contacts with enough /60 stations to garner a minimum of 60 contact points, based on number of contacts times the number of different position multipliers (eg, editor, columnist etc) worked. Shortwave listeners also are eligible to earn contact points and certificates. Endorsements will be issued up to 600 points. CQ club station WW2CQ will be active from various parts of the US during the event. Separate certificates will be available for working WW2CQ in all call sign districts from which it is active. Complete rules for the CQ Gang 60th Anniversary activity appear in the December 2004 issue of CQ and on the CQ Web site.

## *Welcome to the 2005 Mansfield Mid\*Winter Hamfest & Computer Show.. Sunday - February 13th*

750 North Home Road, Mansfield, OH

Tickets: \$5.00 in advance and \$6.00 at the door. Gates will open at 7:00am for general admission.  
Tables: \$12.00 advance only. Table deadline February 01, 2005

For more information call (419)-522-9893 or e-mail Jenny, N8QKE at [n8qke@neo.rr.com](mailto:n8qke@neo.rr.com) or Dean at: [deanwrasse@yahoo.com](mailto:deanwrasse@yahoo.com) or check [http://www.iarc.ws/hamfest\\_info/default.htm](http://www.iarc.ws/hamfest_info/default.htm)



**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 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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