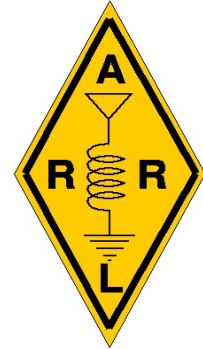


Sep2019-Jan2020

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



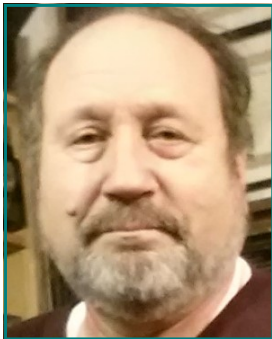
# The NODXA RAG



## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

The year 2019 is quickly coming to an end. For me there were low and high points during 2019. Let's start with the low (or bad) points of the year.



In January, I learned that the club's membership was down to about 32. This shocked me because I thought it was around 60, and at one time several years ago, it was close to 150. I know that in the past the membership usually fluctuated with the sunspot cycle, and I also know we have had several members become Silent Keys (SK). However, this is a big drop. We need to work on encouraging and recruiting new members for 2020 (especially younger individuals).

The second low point of the year was Field Day. According to the ARRL, nearly 1.1 million contacts were made during the 2019 ARRL Field Day, and NODXA wasn't in the event for 2019 because we could not have enough CW operators to participate. I hope this does not happen for 2020.

The above two low points are about the only major things I am concerned about other than maybe some more participation by club members.

Moving onto the good points of 2019. Over the last few years, NODXA's treasury has become fairly healthy due to some estate donations from the passing of members and donations by active members. This has caused the membership of NODXA to become generous in donating to more DXpeditions.

Over the last two years, NODXA has donated to 21 DXpeditions, nine DXpeditions for 2019 and two for 2020. I still feel that NODXA is still achieving its main purpose in promoting DX and funding DXpeditions.

The second good point for me in 2019, was meeting old friends from the past and learning that they still think very highly of NODXA. This occurred at the 2019 Day-Xenia HamVention with the reunion of our friends from Germany, Holger, DL7IO (now ZI3IO), XYL Birgit, DL7IQ (now ZL2YL) and their daughter Xenia, ZL4YL. We met up at the HamVention, and they later visited at the NODXA Hospitality Suite at the Crown Plaza. It was a 26 year reunion which started many years ago with past NODXA member Don Schmidt, N8AC/SK, and they still fondly remember NODXA. Birgit recently wrote an article about her first visit to the Dayton HamVention and mentions NODXA in the article. Hopefully, it will be in this newsletter or the next.

As always, I hope to see you in the coming weeks/months, possibly at a ham-

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

fest, 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.

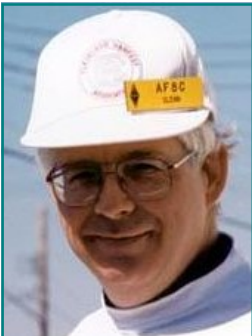
73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. I hope you all have a great holiday season and a Happy New Year....

## Minutes of the July 1st, 2019 NODXA Meeting

President

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with 12 members and guests present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting for June 3, 2019. Then Gary, NI8Z, moved and Linda, N8LRS, seconded that the minutes be approved and the motion passed. Next our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! This report was approved.



### Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that our donation to T306C was accepted and our logo is on their site. They will be on during October 22-30. We also received a thank-you letter. The annual 13 Colonies event is on right now. A couple of our members have already worked all 16 call signs. The Web site is [www.13colonies.net](http://www.13colonies.net).

The NODXA summer luncheon became the next topic. Tedd inquired as to the best date for that activity, and also the venue to be chosen. July 25 became the

chosen date.

There is "not a whole lot" of upcoming DX. On DX, Tedd reported that CY9C will be up July 31 to August 7. Palestine E44WE will be up July 6 to August 6. 3W3B will go to Laos as XW4WR until July 7. Joe, N8QXC, reported on being at the W8DXCC convention. K9LA was there and he reported that a few sunspots can be expected now and then but we are still heading for the bottom of Cycle 24. Tim, K3LR, had his clip to show at the convention. NR8V and K8BV talked on wire antennas. W8MAL and K3CR talked on FT8 and FT4. A number of prize drawings occurred with an FTDX3000 being the main prize. DEBCO was there. There were about 200 people at the convention.

On propagation, Denny, WB8K, reported on 6m being open to Europe for three days lately. For hamfests, we heard that the Milford, PA, hamfest had a fair amount of stuff. There will be a tail-gate swap event on July 7 in Austinville. The NOARSfest will occur on July 20. Van Wert is on July 21. Portage will be on July 28. Columbus will happen August 3. DX Engineering will have their first parking lot hamfest on August 10, in the morning, 8 to noon. Any tents will need to have legs weighted to prevent wind driven blowovers.

Dave, WD8IOU, suggested we should contribute our normal annual Field Day fee to Mt. Augustine even though we did not have a Field Day. It was reported that Ron, K8VJG is back home and making jokes after his operation. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the Hara Arena is still standing. He used to go to the Hamvention at the arena for 4 whole days. He told a Thursday parking lot story.

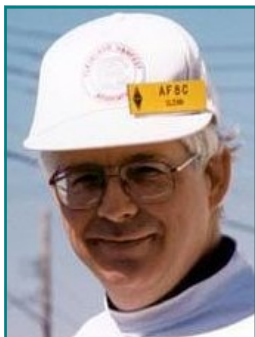
### Wrap-up:

Linda, N8LRS, moved and Metro, W8MET, seconded that the meeting be closed, and the motion was passed on the vote. The next meeting will occur on August 5, 2019. The 50/50 raffle was skipped tonight. The meeting closed at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

## Minutes of the August 5th, 2019 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with 12 members and guests present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting for July 1, 2019. Then Dennis, K8LBT, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded that the minutes be approved and the motion passed. Next our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded that the treasurers report be approved and the motion passed. The repeater was reported as working fine. The new newsletter is not ready yet.



### Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, reminded us that the DX Engineering Hamfest is on Saturday. Attendance has no fee. The drawing for the Icom radio is also free. Tim mentioned the parking lot is available at daybreak. Tedd mentioned that the NODXA summer luncheon had 25 people attending. W8AV was checking cards there. Dave, KZ8Y, brought 302 cards. Glenn, AF8C, won the DX Engineering door prize. The club's repeater coordination with OARC was renewed with Ken, W8KHW, by Tedd. The club usually donates the DX plaque for the Ohio QSO Party. This year Ohio QSO party will be on August 24. On donations, the following table list several donations which were all passed on the vote, listing who moved and seconded last.

DX plaque for Ohio QSO Party. no more than \$100.00, Gary, NI8Z, Bruce, N9DJX.

LA7GIA going to 6O, Somalia, 160-10, CW & FT8, \$100, Rick, K8ZH, Bruce, N8DJX.

ZK3A, Tokelau Is., October 1-11, #40 most wanted (#26 in EU), 10 days, Crane, HT1AD lead, 160-6m, SSB, RTTY, FT8, EME, \$250. Gary, NI8Z, John, K8YSE.

5A0YL, a YL on SSB, called "ELHAM", elmer'd by 5A1AL, Bob, W9XY, supplied IC-7300 and other equipment, wants his expenses back; on ClubLog, \$100. Bruce, N8DJX, Dave, KZ8Y.

W. Kiribati, T30L, 9/6-9/15, then Nauru C21WW 9/16-9/25, with a YL3 operator. \$100, Bruce, N8DJX, Brian, K3USC.

New IOTA SA-100, P.. Rocks in Chile, 3G1DX, 10/18-10/20, or 10/21-10/23, \$100, Bruce N8DJZ, Gary, NI8Z.

Field Day donation to Mt. Augustine, \$150, keep our record on paying, Dave, WD8IOU, Bruce, N8DJX.

Tedd mentioned that W8AV will not be going to Field Day in 2020 either. And Nick, W8XD, is not certain also. A 3Z9 DX activity on Banaba had three IC-7300's where all the receivers went bad. The Ducie Island group sent us a financial report. Their projected cost was over \$190,000. They worked 112,000 QSOs with 2500 unique call signs. They have so far collected \$23,000. The same group is going to South Orkney in 2020. Glenn, AF8C, read news about the Thirteen Colonies Web site being shut down. On a show of hands, 5 or 6 of our members worked the 13 Colonies this year.

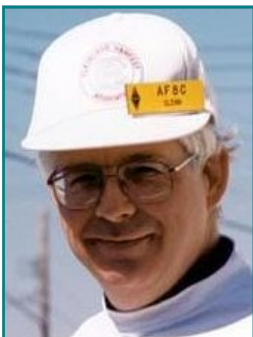
### Wrap-up:

Bruce, N8DJX, moved, and John, K8YSE, seconded that the meeting be closed, and the motion was passed on the vote. The next meeting will occur on September 9, 2019. The 50/50 raffle for half of \$28.00 was won by K3USC. There were 3 door prizes. Dave, WD8IOU, won something in an envelope. Joe, N8QXC, won a three-screwdriver set donated by Pete and Mary. Mary, N8DMM, won the third. The meeting closed at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

## Minutes of the September 9th, 2019 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with 12 members and guests present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance by the members, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting for August 5, 2019. Then Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded that the minutes be approved and the motion passed. Next our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! We spent a lot of money last month with donations and bills. No new members have joined. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Rick, K8ZH, seconded that the treasurers report be approved and the motion passed. The repeater was reported as working fine. The new newsletter is done, after having been delayed by problems with a Windows 10 update of the editor's computer. The newsletter contained lots of pictures.



### Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, stated that we received a nice thank-you letter from the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine for our Field Day grounds usage fee. Rick, K8ZH, suggested that for the 2020 Field Day, John, K8AJS, could be invited as a CW operator. From the Hamvention days, a lot of leftover hospitality room refreshments are in storage and need to be disposed of. In the case of the 5A0YL Icom IC-7300 donation story, Bob, W9XY, sent a letter stating he will keep us informed via a very nice letter of the funding status. Ken, LA7GIA, is going to 6O7O for a September 14-28 operation, 160 through 10. He also sent a thank you letter for our donation. T30L, Western Kiribati, is up. Rick, K8ZH, reported only hearing nothing on 40m due to propagation. Bruce, N8DJX, hears T30L from 5 to 6 a.m. with no QSL. They will then go to operate C21WW from September 16 to 25. Pajaros Rock Islands, 3G1DX, IOTA SA-100, due up from October 18-20 sent us a thank you letter. Tokelau will be up during October 1-11 also and they sent a thank you letter.

Next, discussion occurred relative to reserving two tables at the Cleveland Hamfest. Tedd proposed that the next DX luncheon could occur after the CQ Worldwide SSB DX contest, essentially on October 30 or 31. We will be informed of the final invitation via email. Note that Thanksgiving in November will be before the CQ WW CW contest. For additional new DX announcements, Tedd mentioned HK0, San Andres, will be up as 5K0K during October 15-30 and will be on 160 through 10 on CW, RTTY, and FT8, and in the CQ WW SSB contest. The members decided tonight not to donate to the Pitcairn Island VP6R, number 62 on the ClubLog most wanted list, with operations occurring on October 18 to November 1. The previous group that cancelled out of Bouvet, has now also postponed a Banaba Island until next year.

Upon Dave, WD8IOU asking, Tedd discussed the DX Engineering Hamfest. Anyone winning anything had to be there to the end. John, K8YSE, reported that K8AZ won the IC-9700 prize. Paul, NO8D, was seen walking around. Pete, N8TR, was buying Al tubing at a good price there. Pete, N8TR, Mary, N8DMM, and Jim, K8MR, reported on taking down the tower with a SteppIR beam, owned by Fred, K8PP. Jim Galm, W8WTS, wanted the tower. Astronomers have predicted that the next solar cycle starting in 2021 will be even lower.

### Wrap-up:

Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded that the meeting be closed, and the motion was passed on the vote. The next meeting will occur on October 7, 2019. No 50/50 raffle occurred. The meeting closed at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

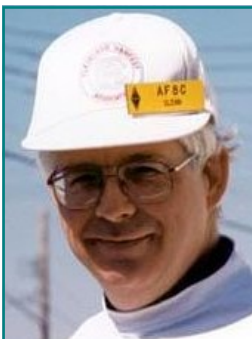


## Minutes of the October 7th, 2019 NODXA Meeting

Vice President Dennis, K8LBT, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with 16 members and guests present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance by the members, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting for September 9, 2019. Then Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded that the minutes be approved and the motion passed. Next our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! We spent a lot of money last month with donations and expenses. John Kassimatis, W68H, joined the club again. A bit of residual estate hardware was sold at last month's Cleveland Hamfest. The repeater was reported as working fine. The newsletter editor was absent to-night.

### Old/New Business:

The Cleveland Hamfest wrap-up discussion reported that it was a good hamfest. The next DX Luncheon announced in email is set for October 31 at the Buffalo Wild Wings. At the luncheon Goose, W8AV, can check cards, with the requirement to limit the number of cards to a reasonable number. The donation to the 3G1DX group DXpedition was paid via PayPal, and because that event was canceled, our funds will be returned through PayPal. There are no new donation requests this month.



Linda, N8LRS, and Metro, W8MET, ran the eighth area portion of the POW/MIA 2019 event and got 630 QSOs. Our members, Gary, NI8Z, and Dennis, K8LBT, worked them. Glenn, AF8C, was on PAPAYS.COM and noticed that the listing for DXCC patches that was handled by Dwaine, K8ME, is still there with the old wording and contact address information. A report from Pete, N8TR, was that at the DX Engineering Hamfest K8AZ donated an IC-9700 radio to the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation.

### Wrap-up:

Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded that the meeting be closed, and the motion was passed on the vote. The next meeting will occur on November 4, 2019. The 50/50 raffle amount of \$28.00 was split with Dave, KZ8Y, but he returned his half to the club. A door prize of a solder gun donated by Pete, N8TR, was won by Linda, N8LRS. The meeting closed at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary



## What is Hamvention? By Xenia Berger, ZL4YL

So, I'm sure you are looking forward to the report from the world's largest amateur radio fair in Dayton Ohio. This was our big goal for this year's short vacation to the USA. A direct flight took place on May 15 this year, immediately after Sassi's graduation, from Auckland to Chicago. Since Holger and I were only there in 2017, we only looked for things we didn't know, such as the [John Hancock Center](#) ,



where there is a 360° viewing platform on the 94th floor. The hit, however, is the so-called [tilt](#) You stand on the edge of the window and are then folded outwards by 30 °. You have to have good nerves and trust in the system, because the view down to the street is completely clear.



After a quick run through Chicago and some rain, we drove a rental car to Dayton, Ohio, where we got hold of a room at the Crown Plaza Hotel with some good relationships. The parties and club events



always take place there in the evenings and you don't want to have to walk far. The [Dayton Fair](#) has been around since 1952, at that time in the Biltmore Hotel. In 1964 they moved to the Hara Arena in



Dayton. Everyone felt very comfortable there and therefore one was very disappointed when it was closed in 2017 for reasons of age. The new place is Xenia, yes you heard right, written exactly like our Ixi.

The number of visitors to the fair fluctuates between 20,000 and 30,000. This year it should have been 28,000. So why is it now called [Hamvention](#)? Ham is actually called ham in German, so it's just a nickname for an amateur radio operator, no idea why. Convention is the English word for event and both are composed of [Hamvention](#).



What do you do at the Hamvention? First of all you will find all providers of amateur radio technology, such as radios or antennas. Then there are the clubs and interest groups, from the American Radio Association (ARRL) to robot technology for children and adolescents. The variety is enormous and



very varied. Then there is the huge area of the flea market, where you can find used technology of all kinds (including computer accessories, components, technology cases, and much more). Occasionally you come across a stand with jewelry or handicrafts for the spouses.



In addition, all possible lectures and forums are offered in the various halls. For example, one forum was dedicated to young people. Here Ixi was allowed to listen for 10 minutes with a (here with link) [Lecture](#) and then the children were showered with gifts. We had to buy an extra suitcase for this.



As already mentioned, after the day's program at the trade fair, it goes straight to the hotel and I can tell you we didn't sleep much. We met a lot of interesting people from all over the world (it was especially nice to meet old friends from the Northern Ohio DX Foundation after all these years) and had a lot of good conversations. I was only there for the second time after 1993, but it was awesome again and highly recommended.



After two and a half days (in very good weather) the show was over and we continued towards Indianapolis, but there is not enough space for that. To be continued :). See you soon.

Yours, HanneBergers

PS By the way, the good old Hara Arena was totally destroyed by a tornado a few weeks later, so now it's completely gone, sad.

Editor's note: This article was originally written in German and converted to English by Google Translate.

## What Actually is the Dayton Hamvention? By Birgit Berger, ZL2YL

### Prologue:

26 years ago, a young YL and her partner went to the Dayton Hamvention for their first time ever.

In their luggage was a lot of curiosity, excitement and a big portion of nervousness as they were not just there to visit the worlds biggest amateur radio fair, but to give a speech at the DX forum.



The Dayton Hamvention is not just a gigantic event with hundreds of exhibition stands and an even bigger flea market, it is three days packed with forums, presentations and simply walking around and meeting a lot of kindred spirits from all over the globe. On top of that, there are many banquets, dinners and radio club parties in the good old Crown Plaza Hotel (Stouffers at the time).

The Dayton Hamvention history dates back to 1952 when it was held in the Builtmore hotel. From 1964 till 2017, the venue was the Hara Arena in Dayton. There were a lot of sad faces when everything had to be moved to Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia (Ohio), however, the Hara Arena building had just aged too much and was therefore closed for renovation.



In May (17-19) 2019, we finally visited Dayton Hamvention again, this time a bit more experienced and relaxed. This may have also been due to the fact that we handed over the speaker responsibility to our daughter Xenia; this year it was her turn to give a speech (at the Youth forum). She was particularly thrilled to get the chance to visit a city that has the same name as her. It was also the year with the

biggest attendance ever, with 32,472 visitors being counted.

So what did we do and see this time?

1. Although the official start of the event was on Friday, lots of people arrived there by Wednesday. The reason for this was the "Contest University" as an additional activity before the main event. The pro-



gram was packed with top-class presentations. Many of them featured technical topics that weren't just of interest to contesters. They are available for download (files and videos can be found here: <http://www.contestuniversity.com> > [www.contestuniversity.com](http://www.contestuniversity.com)).

2. As usual, the indoors expo hosted the 'who is who' in Amateur Radio technology and you could find their latest state-of-the-art product releases.



One of them was the new K4 SDR transceiver from Elecraft where everything is about easy remote access and connectivity. Three models of the K4 will be made available approximately by the end of 2019. All of them will be direct sampling radios (160-6m, 100W) but still with a conventional user interface, an



antenna tuner and an extension slot for a future UHF/VHF transverter. Both K4D and K4HD will have a second independent receiver.

Yaesu introduced the new FTDX101D transceiver (160-4m, 100W, antenna tuner). The radio has a hybrid receiver with direct sampling and small band SDR in the first IF stage. The 200 W version is called FTDX101MP.



Also from YAESU is the hand held radio FT3DE (2m, 70 cm, 5W) for analog FM and the digital voice mode C4FM. An inbuilt GPS module allows APRS operation.

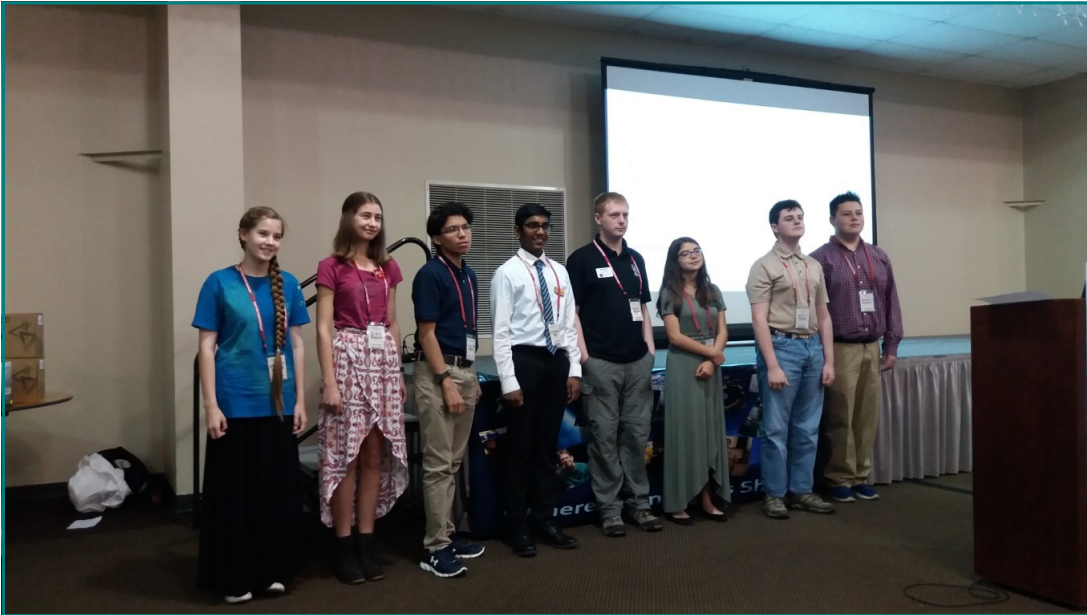
Flex Radio released the "Multiflex". This is the new Software (version 3) for their SDR's. It allows two operators the simultaneous access and operation of a flex radio. By doing so they can be in different locations at the same time.



Icom presented the UHF/VHF SDR IC9700 with the same form factor as the IC7300 plus the IC-V86 a MIL-spec IP67 portable handheld radio.

If you are one of the high-tech SDR fans, you need to check out the MB1 from Expert Electronics. This one combines a PC and a top notch SDR in one box.

3. At the huge flea market, you had to be careful not to get lost. Whatever you were looking for, there was a good chance that you'd find it there. Besides the obvious amateur radio gear and all sorts of antennas, there was also a lot of IT equipment, travel cases, jewelry, handicrafts - we even found a booth with hand made swing chairs.



4. If you want to visit the Hamvention, you should make a plan on what you are actually interested in, as there were many presentations and forums which share the same time slot.

<<https://hamvention.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Forums-Overall-Schedule-4-2019.pdf>>



A big crowd was usually found at the DX forum, the Antenna forum or the contesting forum but for us a large part of the event this year was naturally the Youth forum. Together with a few other kids, Xenia



had a 10 minute speaker slot to fill which she did very well. Afterwards, the kids were buried under heaps of freebies and generous donations. There were also a couple of other activities like the Ham Radio Workbench or Robotics in the classroom lecture that engaged the youth and hence the next generation of Ham Radio operators. We hugely enjoyed meeting a big number of young people; some were even from New Zealand.

5. As I mentioned before, there was also a big number of affiliated events in and around Dayton. Many groups who shared the same interests got together in the evenings. For DXers and contesters the Crown Plaza Hotel in Dayton was the center of gravity. Every night a few hundred people met there for Context / DX / Top Band banquets and diners till late. You could finally associate faces to some legendary callsigns you have only heard on the bands previously. Some radio clubs hosted gatherings in the suites upstairs like the Kansas City DX Club who runs a CW pileup competition each year that attracts a lot of people.



My personal highlight was to meet our old friends from the Northern Ohio DX Association who had adopted us in 1993 as part of their own and who welcomed us whole-heartedly again in 2019. We all looked a bit older and the party was a bit shorter but we still had a great time.

Epilogue:

Very sleep deprived but with lots of new impressions and good memories, we returned back home to Napier. Here we heard the sad news that a big tornado had gone through Dayton and its surroundings which had entirely destroyed the Hara Arena on May 28.

Hamvention 2020 is planned for May 15-17. So go ahead: be there and be part of the fun - it is worth it Smile.

## Can you copy at 20 WPM by Hand? by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a month ago, this email from the ARRL was send to the CWOps mailing list:

From: Fusaro, Norm W3IZ [<mailto:w3iz@arrl.org>]  
 Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 4:00 PM  
 Subject: W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate  
 Greetings Morse Code Enthusiasts.

I have some exciting news that I want to share with you! The ARRL has reinvigorated the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate program. Several things have changed beginning with our new sponsor, Vibroplex, a legend in Morse telegraphy equipment. If you see Scott Robbins W4PA and the Vibroplex team at a hamfest or convention please be sure to thank him for his support. The Vibroplex logo will appear on the newly designed certificates (see below) and in the award recipient page that will appear every month in QST.



That's right, each month in QST we will publish the most recent recipients of the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate, beginning with all the 2019 recipients. As a bonus, we are sending all the 2019 CPC holders a new certificate at no cost to replace their older style award.

The award is available to anyone who copies one solid minute of code during the qualifying runs. Complete program details can be found on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/code-proficiency-certificate>.

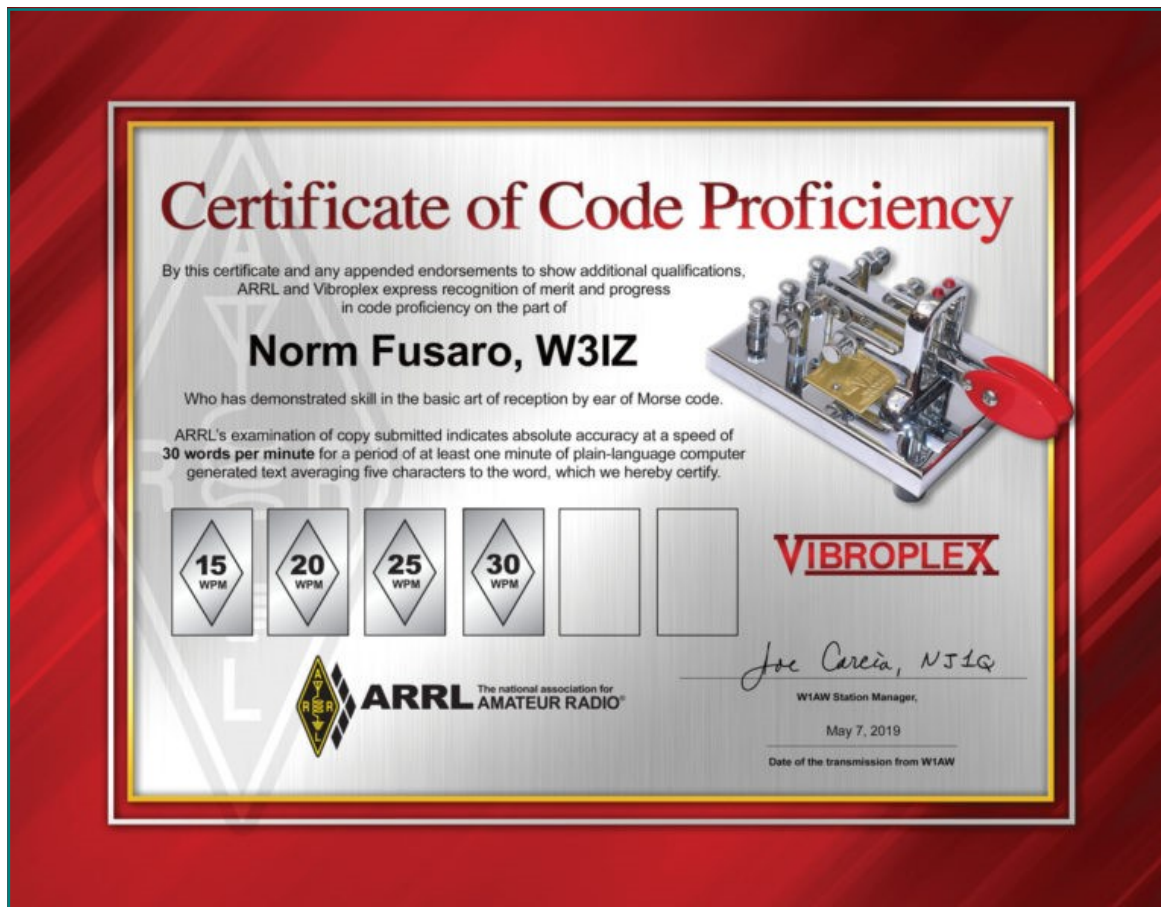
And to make the award available to more people we will double the number of opportunities to copy the CW text. Beginning September 2019, the qualifying runs will increase from twice per week to four times per week.

I am sharing this advanced notice with the Morse code clubs so that you can share it with your members. I have attached PDF files of the new certificate and the announcement that will appear in August QST, available in digital format July 8. I hope you are as excited about this as I am.

In closing, I want personally thank all of you who promote the use and proficiency of Morse code on the air waves and ask that you challenge your club members to submit their copy for the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate.

73,

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Director of Operations





Almost immediately after I posted this to my blog (at [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com)), my friend, Paul, KW1L, replied, "How does one copy legibly at 40 wpm?" When I replied, "Typing," he countered, "On page 98 of the July 2019 QST, it says, 'Legibly copy at least 1 minute of text by HAND...'"

To this, I replied, "Well, I guess you and I are both screwed then. I can't copy by hand at 20 wpm, and it's really not worth it to me to practice and get that fast. I'm guessing that I'm not alone in this regard. The upshot is that the ARRL is going to be sending out a lot fewer of these Vibroplex certificates than they think."

I then emailed W3IZ for a clarification. He shot back, "By hand is to mean not using a code reading machine." I suggested that he clarify this, both on the ARRL website and in QST. Of course, they haven't yet taken my suggestion, and the website still reads, "Copy one of W1AW's qualifying runs and submit one minute of solid copy (legible)."

## When will the Robots take over? by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It's inevitable. At some point, machines are going to render humans irrelevant. It's been a recurring theme in science fiction since before I was born (1955), and there are numerous predictions of the Singularity, the point in time when machines will be smarter than human, occurring between 2030 and 2045.

It may happen in amateur radio sooner than we think. A couple of days ago, one of my readers, sent me a link to a blog post by John, AE5X: [Automated FT8 "FoxBot" in upcoming DXpedition - confirmed](#). He wrote:



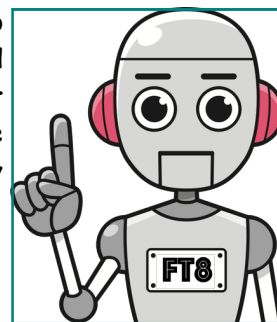
"A [DXpedition to Tokelau](#) will take place from 1 to 11 October and it will be your chance to work an FT8 robot operating in Fox/Hound mode. "Stathis SV5DKL has been working on a "FoxBot" for some time now, is listed as a partner to this DXpedition and has confirmed that the DXpedition will be using his FoxBot."

John has since updated this post, noting "The SV5DKL logo has now been removed and the DX team will be in 'full compliance' with the mode." Full compliance meaning following the rules set up by the ARRL DXCC rules.

The ARRL is, of course, against the use of robots. A recent *ARRL Letter* noted:

"ARRL has incorporated changes to the rules for all ARRL-sponsored contests and DXCC, prohibiting automated contacts and requiring that an actual operator is initiating and carrying out a contact. These changes also apply to Worked All States (including Triple Play and 5-Band WAS), Fred Fish W5FF Memorial, and VUCC awards. The changes are effective immediately and affect the rules for both HF contests, and VHF/UHF contests as well as DXCC.

"A resolution at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting pointed to 'growing concern over fully automated contacts being made and claimed' for contest and for DXCC credit. The rules now require that each claimed contact include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may either be local or remote."



As AE5X says, however, the use of FT8 robots in the future is a certainty.

Sooner or later, some DXpedition is going to use an FT8 robot without saying anything about it. How is the ARRL going to know that a DXpedition is using robots if the DXpedition operators don't tell them?

I'm wondering when some DXpedition is going to give up on SSB and CW altogether. Why bother with those modes when you can make hundreds or thousands more contacts by just operating FT8?

Another thought just occurred to me. If the ARRL gets its way and Techs are awarded HF digital privileges, how long will it take for some enterprising Tech to make the DXCC Honor Roll using FT8 exclusively. Oh, the horror of it all!

## New Ham Radio Dating Service Emerges via [hamhijinks.com](http://hamhijinks.com)

By K5PO, on the scene

**LONELY OAKS, Texas** - After seeing the flood of [#hamentine](https://twitter.com/search?q=%23hamentine) tweets on his Twitter feed for Valentine's Day, Lonely Oaks ham radio operator and Sr. Web Developer Bobby Grindle had a grand idea to solve a common problem of single operators on the prowl: Finding that special YL!

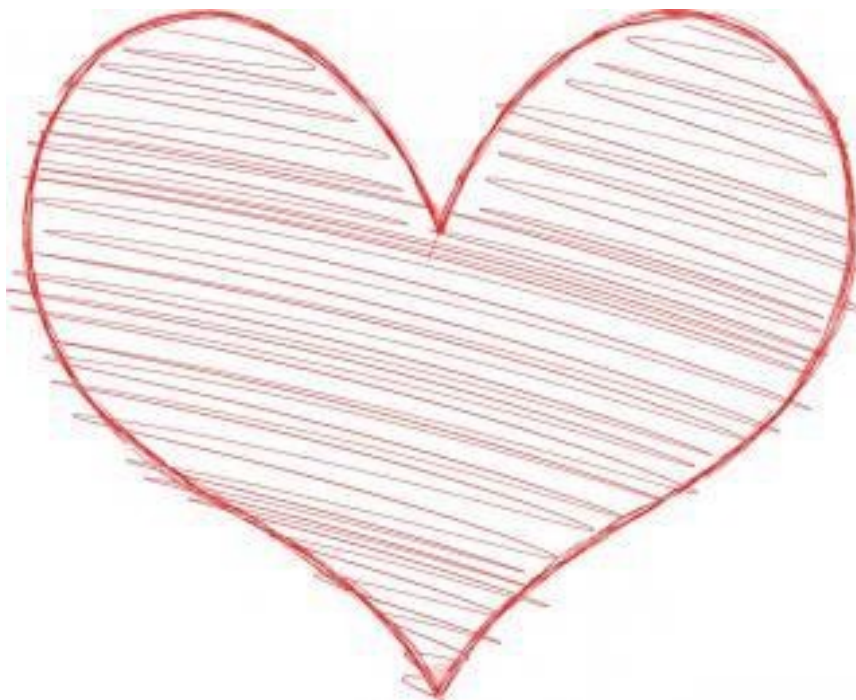
Grindle's team of crack coders/hams sprung into action and the site was able to launch just two days after the lovebird holiday at [www.1-to-1.perfect50ohm-YL-match.com](http://www.1-to-1.perfect50ohm-YL-match.com). "We've had a huge response!" cited Grindle. "Apparently I'm not the only successful and single ham radio op out there looking for that special YL to fill my shack!"

"Maybe you don't want to go solo on the long car ride to Dayton, or perhaps you would just like the warm company of a fine lady at the local club meeting at Denny's. If so, well then buddy, this site is for you!" claims Grindle with his used car salesman-styled pitch.

Unlike many dating websites, Grindle's matching service doesn't really use any algorithms at all. "Basically, if you're a lady, and a ham radio operator... well... that's plenty."

Users are invited to first start with a text-based "QSO" through the site's servers. If they seem to be resonant, they're encouraged to have a live video-chat "Eyeball QSO." Those that really arc-over may even opt to meet in person.

Grindle concedes that the site seems to be a bit lacking in a vital element. "We have some 30,000 registered members since just last Monday, but only... well... we have just two YLs."







## 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 2018-2019

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



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## DXCC Info

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

## Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, AF8C, K8YSE, ZL4YL, ZL2YL, KB6NU, K5PO, and [hamhijinks.com](http://hamhijinks.com).

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_