



"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

Northern Ohio DX Association

P.O. Box 450783

Westlake, Ohio

44145 U.S.A.



February 2003

Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

How many of you have been reading about Yugoslavia in the newspaper? It looks like there may be a possibility of two new DXCC entities and one DXCC deletion. Welllllll, not just yet, but it's getting closer. It seems that the Yugoslavia's Parliament formally abolished its nation (Yugoslavia) on Tuesday, February 4th. The remaining two republics of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) will now become two loose unions with semi-independence.

According to a deal arranged by the European Union with an aim to keep the two republics together, Serbia and Montenegro will continue to share the capital of Belgrade, and a joint administration for defense and foreign affairs. With the approval by the two chambers of the Yugoslav Parliament, the birth of a new country called "Serbia and Montenegro" was formed.

According to the ARRL Web page, "The new arrangement will have little immediate impact on

Amateur Radio. For DXCC purposes, Serbia and Montenegro will be considered a single entity--at least for the time being--and amateurs there are expected to continue using YU/YT prefixes. The situation could change in three years when residents of the two republics would be allowed to vote to stick together or go their separate ways." So it looks like we will have to wait a few years yet to work two new entities.

Lastly, if you did not work DXCC's newest entity Ducie Island last year, you will have a second chance this month (March). Activity is expected to take place sometime between March 7th and 15th. The callsign has not yet been announced. Good luck in working them if you need them.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

New Call

Bob "Rabbi" Turek (ex K8AAI) is now KN8AI, which is a variation of his novice call.

Minutes of the February 3rd 2003 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, called the meeting to order at 8:PM. The around the room introductions by the 19 members in attendance.

The treasury report by Pete, N8TR, has a balance of Ka-Ching!

The packet cluster is working okay as stated by Pete, N8TR.

Pete, N8TR, reported on the problems with the packet cluster.

Please send articles for the Newsletter to Dave, WD8IOU.

Denny, WB8K, reported on NODXA certificates. A sample of the upgraded certificate was displayed.

Tickets for the Dayton Hamfest DX Banquet are \$34.00. Contact Carl, K8AV, for tickets and information.

A discussion on DXCC Honor Roll listing deadline was opened by Tedd, KB8NW, reminding everyone that the cards are to be into the league by March 31, 2003.

There is a possibility of one deletion and two new entities due to the potential breakup of Yugoslavia, a discussion followed.

An interview with Don Miller, AE6IY (ex-W9WNV), and his past DXpeditions is available on Website <http://www.gsl.at/common/miller2.html> as informed to us by Pete, N8TR. A discussion on this fol-

lowed.

George, K8KR, opened a discussion on a future meeting site.

Glenn, AF8C, won the 50/50 raffle. His share was \$18.00.

A second drawing was two tickets to the Lake County Hamfest and won by George, K8KR.

Tedd, KB8NW, closed the meeting at 8:31 PM.

After the meeting a video on the South Georgia 2002, VP8GEO, DXpedition was shown.

Secretary: Ron, K8VJG

DXCC Honor Roll Deadline

ARRL Letter

The deadline for the next DXCC Honor Roll list is rapidly approaching. DXCC Honor Roll applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2003, for operators to appear in the next list, which will appear in August QST. The DXCC Honor Roll list includes only current entities; deleted entities do not count toward Honor Roll.

With the addition of Ducie Island in 2002, the minimum number of entities required for Honor Roll is 326. For Number One Honor Roll, the total is 335 current entities. Plaques remain available for anyone currently or previously on the Honor Roll. Order forms are available on the DXCC Web site <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>.

On a related note, the

DXCC Desk has finished entering September DXCC applications, and all but a handful (ones requiring special attention) are on their way back to members.

"With the 75,000 cards postmarked September 30 out of the way, we expect to make a significant reduction in the processing time in the weeks ahead," said ARRL Membership Services Department Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG.

New Field Day Entry Class

ARRL Letter

Field Day will gain another entry class for 2003. "Class F" stations will operate at emergency operations centers, or EOCs. The change renews the emphasis of Field Day's 1933 origins as an emergency preparedness exercise as opposed to a routine contest.

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said that last year the League received a record number of Field Day entries from groups and individuals. Given the increased emphasis on emergency communications since September 11, 2001, the ARRL Board's Membership Services Committee asked that the Contest Branch come up with something to reflect that emphasis. The new Class F station is the result.

"This is a major change," Henderson said. "Class F has been established to encourage

groups to test and further their working relationships with established emergency operations centers."

The updated rules and a list of frequently asked questions in the new 2003 Field Day packet spell out the details.

A Class F entry station must set up at an "established EOC" center activated by a club or non-club group. Class F EOC operation must take place in cooperation with the EOC staff. Class F stations are eligible for the same bonus points as Class A stations.

High Performance Audio

As the reward for finally earning my extra-class call (which only took 35 years), I purchased a Yaesu Mark V Field. It's a wonderful radio, with more bells and whistles than the space shuttle, and I was very happy with what I could do with it. Constant "599" signal reports I was getting from the stations I worked. I thought this rig had everything I could ever hope for. Boy, was I wrong!

The very next weekend, I attended a hamvention and heard a talk about transmit and receive audio, given by Bob Heil, the inventor of the Heil "Goldline" microphone series.

One sentence Mr. Heil said remained stuck in my head, long after the conference had ended: "You can spend \$2000 on a radio, but remember, most stock microphones have a

wholesale price of less than \$7, and their audio frequency response is tailored to the higher pitched voices of those who live in Japan, because that is where most of their business lies."

I went out and purchased a Heil ProSet II headset the next day, and a Goldline Mic the week after that. Yes, it made that much difference in the way the rig sounded!

Then I discovered the "ssbaudio" <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssbaudio> discussion forum on "Yahoo Groups". Wow! Here is a great bunch of amateur radio operators dedicated to only one thing: Improving the way each of us sounds on the air.

I spent a few weeks "lurking" on that board, until I felt confident enough to ask a few beginner questions. The next thing you know, I'm helping other people optimize their transmit/receive audio, the same way people on that group had originally helped me.

Give it a try, you're all welcome to join! You've spent many, many hours obtaining your amateur radio license, and hundreds, if not thousands of dollars have gone into your station. Once you experience hearing just how good your transmit audio can sound, I bet you'll be hooked, also.

Warning: High performance audio is addictive! Now I've got a Behringer equalizer (Less than \$50) between the mic and the rig, and I'm shopping for a good used noise gate on eBay.

Just when you thought your

radio could do it all, it just keeps on getting better.

Rich de KY6O

The Story of ZL7C October 2002

(part 1)

By Ken Holdom ZL4HU and
Stan White ZL2ST

The Chatham Islands is a group of ten islands, two of which are populated – Chatham with 700 people and Pitt with 50. The islands are situated 770 km or 1 hour 40 minutes flying time southeast of Wellington, New Zealand. Enclosed within the main island of Chatham is a very large lagoon which is only open to the sea occasionally. The Chathams were first inhabited by Moriori people for 700 years and then Maori. The statue of the last full-blooded Moriori, Tommy Solomon who died in 1931, stands at Owenga on the East coast.

In the 1960s there was an invasion of fishing boats and their crews in search of riches from crayfish (rock lobster), wetfish and paua (abalone) and these areas were considerably overfished. These days some wealth still comes from crayfish and paua exports while sheep farming also produces revenue. There is a small but growing tourist industry. The occasional 'ham' visit contributes to this!

Following on from two very highly successful DXpeditions to ZL8RI in May 1996 and to ZL9CI in January 1999 the

Kermadec DX Association began planning a further DXpedition to ZK3, Tokelau Islands in July/August 2002. Initial enquiries were made regarding the cost of chartering a suitable vessel and when costs were realised, it was out of the question to ask the international DX community to support such a venture.

With the blood pressure still at a high level and the adrenaline pumping a decision was made to undertake a 'fun' DXpedition to ZL7 in October 2002. A majority of those who had already contributed towards ZK3 were only too willing for their support to be transferred to ZL7 and the planning commenced immediately. Whilst this was to be a 'fun' DXpedition it still had to be conducted in the same professional manner as were ZL8 and ZL9 and we certainly did not wish to tarnish our reputation in any way.

When this DXpedition to Chatham Island was announced, advice like 'Its not worth it. Its been worked out', 'You are wasting your time' - negative comments a plenty! But determination prevailed from a leader who doesn't understand the meaning of the word 'NO'!

Some initial enquiries were made with friends in the Chathams as to a suitable venue and a trip was made there in March 2002 by Ken ZL4HU to confirm all that was needed. Our initial site was dismissed for a number of reasons and an alternative site was located at the local racecourse named the Norman Kirk Memorial Reserve in honour



of one of New Zealand's more prominent leaders and a former Prime Minister, the late Rt. Hon. Norman Kirk.

Immediately, Ken negotiated a formal lease agreement and the DXpedition was destined to be a success. Having a site, we then needed to begin working on a team and arranging air travel, accommodation etc. There was significant interest in our plans and we had enquiries from several enthusiastic operators throughout the world. Having finally decided upon an adequate number to get a discounted air fare deal we settled on a group of 4 from the USA, 1 from Japan, 1 from England, 1 from Germany and 5 from New Zealand. Past experience and reputations were of paramount importance in selecting this team.

With the team selected, the organising of equipment etc. was to become a significant part of the operation. Originally there were to be no on line logs, no

web site and no pilots. We just wanted to do another "back to the basics" DXpedition. Other members had different ideas to Ken and he reluctantly relented to their desire to have all the aforementioned. In hindsight this was a wise move.

Approaching our loyal and faithful previous sponsors was not an envied task especially as the status of ZL7 was not even within the top 100 most wanted countries. Surprisingly most were receptive to our call and responded positively. ICOM America loaned us two transceivers. Vertex Standard (formerly Yaesu of Japan), Cushcraft Antennas of USA, SCS of Germany and our extremely supportive local cable company General Cables of Christchurch, New Zealand all provided additional equipment.

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition:
N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW,
K8VJG, K8YSE, K8ME, AF8C, KN8AI,
KY60, ZL4HU, ZL2ST, eHam.net, and
the ARRL Letter.

NODXA Club Officials for 2002-2003

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

For Sale

**TIMEWAVE MODEL 59+
FILTER SYSTEM FOR ALL
MODES = \$40.00**

**MFJ TNC MODEL 1270B -
-2PACKET RADIO HF &
VHF WITH MANUAL =
\$35.00**

**128 MEG MEMORY CARD
FOR PC-100 SPEED BRAND
NEW = \$12.00**

**MAKE OFFER ON ANY OF
THE ITEMS ABOVE**

**CONTACT DWAIN --
K8ME**

E-MAIL: k8me@peoplepc.com

Phone: 440-582-3462



New ARRL Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, and Club President Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW, at the Mansfield Hamfest.

TMRA Hamfest and Computer Fair

**Sunday, March 16, 2003
8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
Lucas County Recreation Center
2901 Key Street, Maumee, Ohio**

**All tickets are \$6.00 at the door
Free Parking**

Talk-In 147.27+

<http://tmrahamradio.org>

25th Annual Lake County Hamfest

**Sunday, March 23, 2003
8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
Madison High School, Madison, Ohio
(Corner of Middle Ridge and Burns)**

**All tickets are \$5.00 at the door
Free Parking**

Talk-In 147.81/21

<http://www.lcara.org>



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**



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