

January-February 2015

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



# The NODXA RAG



## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

2015 looks like it will be a great year for DXers. Large operations from Iran (EP6T Kish Island) Island, Navassa Island (K1N), Juan Fernandez Island (3G0ZC) and Cocos Island (TI9/3Z9DX) [also an Eritrea operation which has not been announced yet - SSSHHHHH!!!!] will start the year off right. However, the end of the year (as well the beginning of 2016) looks to be the most interesting. Starting with TX3X Chesterfield Island (October), VK9EK Heard Island (November-December) and 3Y0F Bouvet (December), followed into 2016 by South Georgia Island (VP8/G), South Sandwich Island (VP8/SS) and possibly another Bouvet (Jan-Apr). There will be more details on the end of the year stuff as we get closer. I counted at least 9 in the "Top 20 Most Wanted Entities" to be on the air within the next year. It should be a fun 12 months.



Believe it or not, it is time to start planning for the Dayton HamVention. It is only four months away as this is being typed. Announcements have been made for all the many different dinner banquets, so if you have not started to look for a room or ordered your ticket for the convention, you better start [..... it will be here before you know it].

Here is a list of upcoming DX between the months of January and March, as this was being typed:

Jan 20th-Mar 1st	-- V47JA - St. Kitts
Jan 22nd-Feb 17th	-- TG9/VE7BV - Guatemala
Jan 23-30th	-- XW4ZW - Laos
Jan 26th-Feb 6th	-- 7Q7VW - Malawi
February	-- K1N - Navassa
Feb 20th-Mar 8th	-- 3G0ZC - Juan Fernandez
Feb 16-23rd	-- TI9/3Z9DX - Cocos Island
March	-- 9Q0HQ - Dem. Republic Congo
Mar 25th-Apr 4th	-- C21AU - Nauru

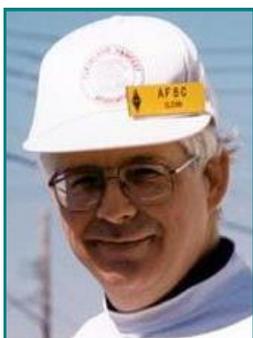
As always, I hope to see you in the coming weeks/months, possibly at NODXA's general membership meetings. As a reminder, if you have a topic to discuss about DXing or contesting, bring it up at the meeting. Also, if you would like to put on a program of some interest for the club in the

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

## Minutes of the November 3rd, 2014 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:35 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 23 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes for the meeting of October 6 were read by Glenn, AF8C.



A motion by Ron, K8VJG, seconded by Brian, K3USC, to accept the minutes was passed on the vote. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! A motion by Gary, NI8Z, seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, to accept the treasurer's report was passed on the vote. The repeater was reported as working fine. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter has been started. He needs articles. He can use photos of QSL cards.

The DX luncheon was held at Mulligans on October 24. Attendance was slightly down, but everyone there had a good time. Another luncheon may be scheduled before the WPX contest in March, 2015. Also there may be a Christmas get-together on December 20.

### Old/New Business:

QCWA had an amateur radio event helping Copley High School and Middle School. Linda, N8LRS, and Gary, NI8Z, were the recipients of awards from that event. Karl, K8BCK, asked if we donated to the FT4TA operation. Tedd, KB8NW, confirmed that we did. Dwaine, K8ME, received a QCWA award for 50 years in amateur radio. The K1N Navassa operation is now number one on the most wanted list. They will run 160m through 6m on SSB, CW, and RTTY. Satellite operation is also possible. The operation costs will be around \$300,000; and each operator pays in \$7500 just to go. A club logo-worthy donation is \$500. Individual contributions are assigned \$250. Ron, K8VJG, moved that the club donate \$250. Dave, KZ8Y, seconded that motion. After discussion the vote was called and the motion passed. Bruce, N8DJX, announced he will add another \$300.00 to that amount, making the total from the club \$550.

Number 30 on the most wanted list is Kish Island, AS-166, EP6T, as part of an Iran operation on 160m through 10m during two weeks in January. Pete, N8TR moved that the club donate \$100.00 to that operation. Brian, K3USC, seconded that motion which passed on the vote. Planning for a Bouvet Island DXpedition will take place in January of 2016 for three months per ON4WW, if funding can be acquired. Bouvet is ranked number 3 in the most wanted list. Discussion of FT4TA opened with who has worked Tromelin already, and on what bands and modes the operation will occur. Pete worked the FT4 around 0200Z.

### Wrapup:

The next meeting will occur on December 1. On that night we will have the annual Show and Tell program. Karl, K8BCK, won half the raffle basket of \$44.00. Karl donated his half back to the club. Thereafter a couple of door prize tickets were drawn. Denny, WB8K, won an LED light, and Leon, KB8WUA, won a handheld digital voltmeter. The meeting closed at 8:14 p.m.

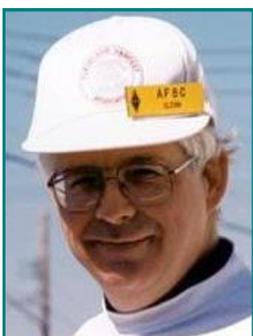
Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

## Minutes of the December 1st, 2014 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 22 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, Glenn, AF8C, recited the minutes for the meeting of November 3. A motion by Bruce, N8DJX, seconded by Dave, KZ8Y, to accept the minutes was passed on the vote. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! A motion by Bruce, N8DJX, seconded by Gary, NI8Z, to accept the treasurer's report was passed on the vote. The repeater was reported as working fine. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is in progress. He needs articles and material. Photos of QSL cards are also acceptable. The club's donations as described in the October minutes were all completed with alacrity.

### Old/New Business:

Tedd described the Field Day results that were announced by the ARRL. The club was #1 in 2A for the Great Lakes Division, #1 in 2A for Ohio, #6 overall for Ohio, #8 in the Great Lakes Division, #22 for all ARRL divisions and #102 in all participants.



Tim, ex-W8MLV (now K3HX) retired from the Cleveland Police Department and works in Pittsburgh, PA for MRI Associates.

Tedd has received three donation requests. The first is for Cocos Island, Feb. 18-24 as TI9/3Z9TF on 80 thru 10m, SSB, CW and RTTY. The second is for Bouvet in 2016 per ON4WW. But also received was news of another Bouvet operation for 64 hours at the end of 2015 by UN7PCZ and a large group. The third was for Zorro, JH1AJT, who is planning another multi-operator event in Eritrea, E3, in late February and early March of 2015. A motion by Bruce, N8DJX, to donate

\$100 to the E3 operation and seconded by Rick, K8ZH, was doubled to \$200 and passed on a vote.

Rick, K8ZH, reported on the Mansfield DX Luncheon. Dwaine, K8ME, reminded everyone of the W1AW Centennial grand finale operation in December when a lot of stations will be on. Near the end of the meeting Dwaine, K8ME, asked whether ground braid is better than using a solid copper sheet. Flatter material has lower inductance. Pete, N8TR, said ground braid also weathers poorly outside.

### Program:

The Show and Tell articles are described here. Tedd, KB8NW, presented a plaque to Dwaine for being club vice president for 24 years. Dwaine showed off his QCWA membership plaque. Gary, NI8Z also had a plaque from QCWA. Metro, Tom Wayne, and Gary, NI8Z were thanked for their support of demonstrating amateur radio at Copley Middle School. Denny, WB8K, showed his old time miniature platen press for printing cards. Pete, N8TR, showed off his soldering "pistol" from 1963. Nelson, K8DJC, was KN8DJC in 1956 and he brought his first ever QSL card to show around. George, K8KR, reported working Nelson as G2FUX. He saw the first Telstar across-the-Atlantic TV. Dave, KZ8Y, used to work for Sears, and showed a Pace 1000M CB radio converted to 10m for working mobile in 1982-83. Glenn, AF8C, was stationed in Asmara, Eritrea, Ethiopia in the Army in 1971 and he could bring in a 1971 slide show if wanted. Joe, N8QXC, showed a pickup coil for telephone reception (RCA). George, K8KR, showed a photo of a New York Yankees uniform. A couple of weeks ago he was in Italy and saw the building housing 1A0, Sovereign Military Order of Malta. He also visited the historic Pompeii volcanic site as a rock collector and brought back a piece of pumice, which he passed around.

### Wrapup:

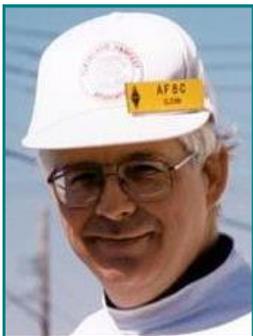
The next meeting will occur on January 5. A motion to adjourn by Wayne, K8FF, and seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, was passed on a vote. The winner of half the raffle basket of \$38.00 donated his

half to the club. Thereafter three door prize tickets were drawn. Ayn, KD8YIE won an LED flashlight. Mary, N8DMM, and Nelson, K8DJC both won digital voltmeters. All activities closed at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

## Minutes of the January 5th, 2015 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 17 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the undersigned recited the minutes for the meeting of December 1, 2014. A motion by Gary, NI8Z, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, to accept the minutes was passed on the vote. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! A motion by Dwaine, K8ME, seconded by Gary, NI8Z, to accept the treasurer's report was passed on the vote. A week ago the repeater was reported as having a noisy squelch shutdown. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is out in spite of his having computer trouble. He always needs articles and material. Photos of QSL cards are also acceptable. Dwaine, K8ME, reported having processed the OARC repeater registration for 2015. John, KD8NQ is now the Ohio Section ACC appointee.



### Old/New Business:

Dwaine, K8ME, reported on receiving a letter ordering two DXCC patches by KCODAC. The order came as a result of the notice on our Web site. Our club is still listed in awards directories. Tedd, KB8NW, reminded us of the MFJ day at DX Engineering this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. An open box sale will be held there concurrently. The Mansfield Hamfest occurs on February 15. The Tromelin group sent us an autographed QSL card and even with a special postage stamp. Tedd announced the big upcoming Dxpeditions. Of the top 20 most wanted entities, seven will be up during 2015 and early 2016. South Sandwich, Palmyra, Eritrea, Chesterfield Island, Iran EP all need financial support. There was a discussion of propagation conditions to those locations. Crozet Island southwest of the Amsterdam Islands in the Southern Ocean has difficult propagation conditions.

### Wrapup:

The next meeting will occur on February 2. A motion to adjourn was moved and seconded and passed. The winner of half the raffle basket of \$30.00, Dennis, K8LBT, donated his half to the club. All activities closed at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

**"Show and Tell"** by Glenn Williams, AF8C, and David Autry, WD8IOU. Photos by WD8IOU.

At the December 1st, 2014 meeting, NODXA held its annual "Show and Tell" program. Members are encouraged to bring in interesting and/or unusual objects and to tell a story about them. This is always an interesting meeting and you never know what items will show up and what stories you will hear. Glenn, AF8C, has details in the December 2014 meeting minutes, presented earlier in this issue. The following pages has pictures of some of the items presented.

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



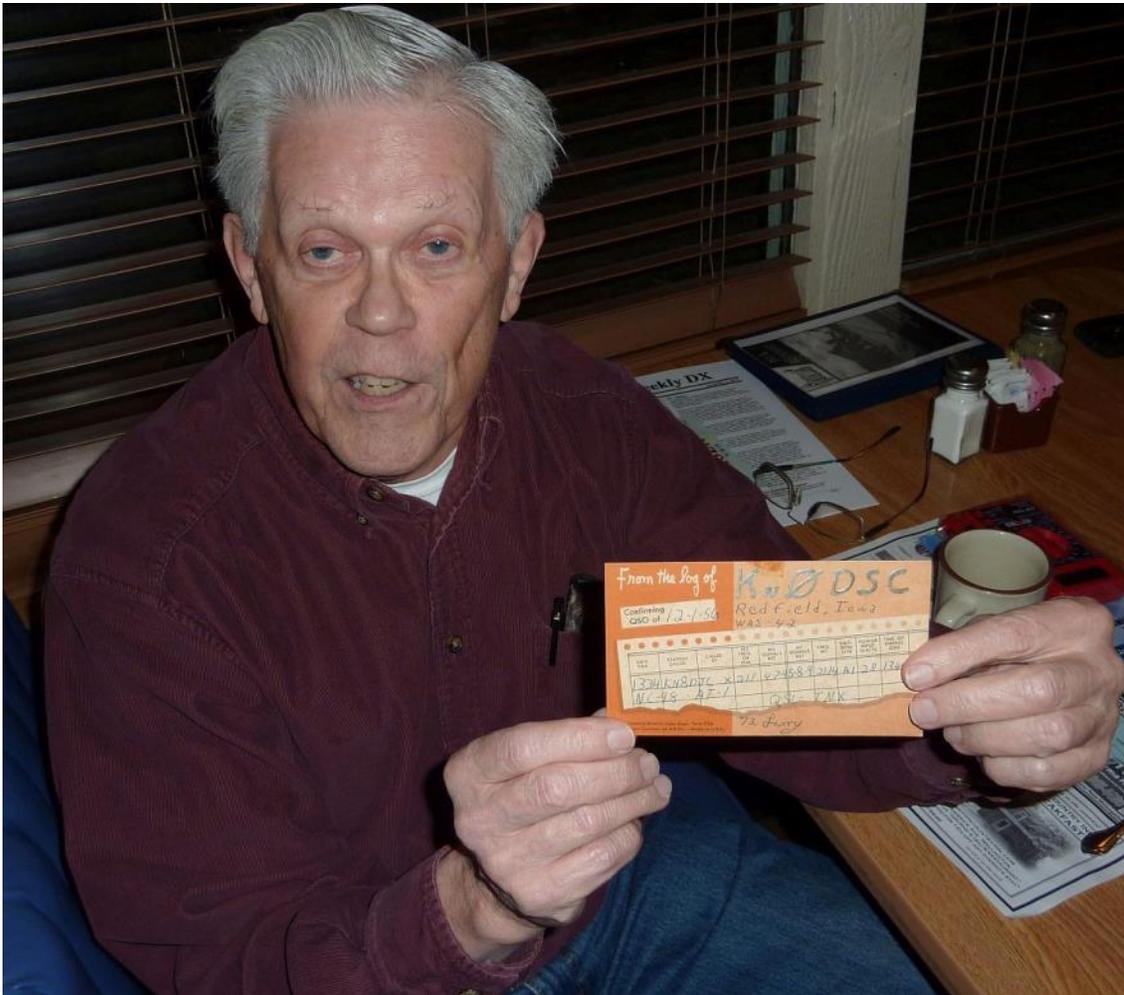
Dwaine, K8ME, displaying his 50th Anniversary plaque from the Quarter Century Wireless Association.



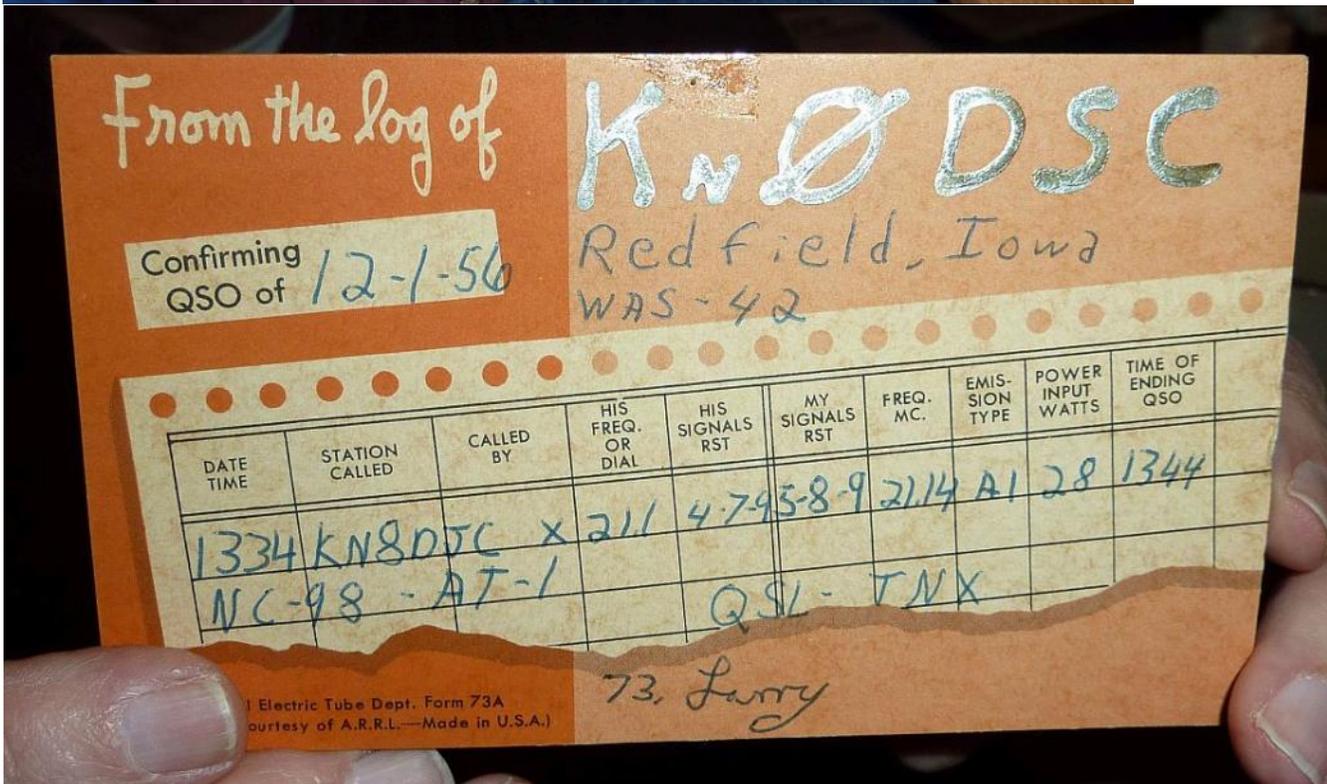
Denny, WB8K, showed his old time miniature platen press for printing cards. It was still operational and could be used to make old fashioned QSL cards.



Pete, N8TR, displaying a pistol type soldering gun from 1963. The ad is from the November 1963 issue of Popular Science and the soldering gun was selling for just \$4.95! A dollar sure when a lot further back then.



Nelson, K8DJC, was KN8DJC in 1956 and he brought his first ever QSL card to show around. Wow! I was just 13 months old when the Q was made.

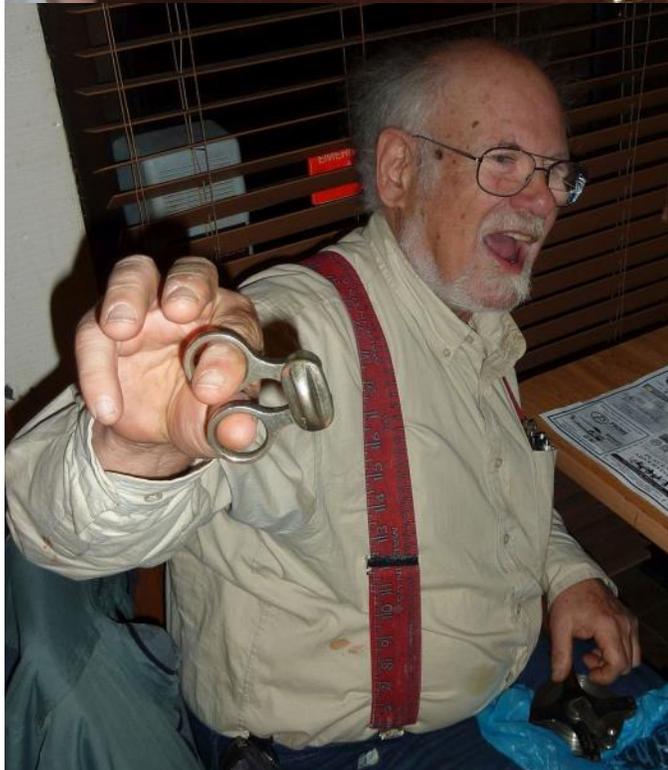




Joe, N8QXC, showed a mystery device that he wasn't quite sure what it was. After some discussion, the club decided that it was a pickup coil for telephone reception .



Dwaine, K8ME, displaying the 2014 Presidents Certificate of Appreciation Award presented to him by Tedd, KB8NW, for being club vice president for 24 years and for his service to the Amateur Radio Community.



Gary, NI8Z, received the 2014 President's Award from Quarter Century Wireless Association's Chapter #1 for his support in demonstrating amateur radio at Copley Middle School. Look at that Golden EIB microphone!

George Pindroh, K8KR, displayed a New York Yankees locker room photo that was taken in an alternate universe. They won it all that year!

Pete, N8TR, displayed a mystery device that no one in the room could guess what it was. Pete finally revealed that it is a "Tape Clamp Handle". It is used for gripping a surveyor's steel measuring tape.

## With Just a WSPR by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



It's really amazing what you can do with computers in amateur radio, and there's been an explosion in the number of digital modes. One interesting mode that I've recently been introduced to is WSPR, which is short for Weak Signal Propagation Reporting. The protocol and the original WSPR program was written by Joe Taylor, K1JT, and is designed for sending and receiving low-power transmissions on the HF bands to test propagation paths.

I won't try to cover all the technical details here. There are several sites that cover them pretty well:

\* Wikipedia: WSPR

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WSPR\\_%28amateur\\_radio\\_software%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WSPR_%28amateur_radio_software%29))

\* G4ILO's Shack: WSPT - Distant Whispers (<http://www.g4ilo.com/wspr.html>)

I was introduced to WSPR by my friend, Joe, AC8ES. He posted a message to our club mailing list asking if anyone had a toroid core that he could buy to make a QRP

balun for 10 MHz. When I asked what he was going to use it for, he said that he was making a WSPR transmitter with a Raspberry Pi, and the balun was for the dipole he built for it. He said that he'd gotten roped into doing this because he'd attended a local Raspberry Pi users' group, and when he mentioned he was an amateur radio operator, they encouraged him to try this project.

How could I refuse a request like that? I have a whole kit of ferrite cores, and after some back and forth, we found a small core that he could use.

The software he chose is WsprryPi (<https://github.com/JamesP6000/WsprryPi>). It's described as "Raspberry Pi transmitter using NTP-based frequency calibration." It uses a GPIO port to generate WSPR signals anywhere from 0 to 250 MHz. Joe said that there are several Raspberry Pi programs that run WSPR, but that he chose this one because it seemed to have more features than the others.

Figure 1 shows Joe's setup. Since the output generates a square wave, a low-pass filter is needed to filter out the high-frequency components. As you can see, the GPIO output is fed through a 0.1uF decoupling capacitor into a Mini-Circuits 10.7MHz low-pass filter, then to a 1:1 balun, which is connected directly to the dipole elements.

Joe says, "The antenna is just a dipole taped up to the walls of my living room and hallway." As you can see he made the balun and dipole from 24 ga speaker wire.

The performance of this setup has been kind of amazing. In one e-mail, Joe reported, "Your toroid seems to be working well. Got the balun and antenna finished and executed seven WSPR transmissions from the Raspberry Pi. The WSPR reporting website WSPRnet (<http://wsprnet.org>) came back with a couple dozen reception reports; typical distance is ~300+ miles, max was 593 miles." In a second e-mail, Joe writes, "Did a few more beacon transmissions and checked the WSPR signal reports again. Someone picked up my 5 mW signal from 1010 miles away in Canada."

Joe's turned into quite a WSPR fan. He's even written an Android app - WSPRnet Viewer



(<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.glandorf1.joe.wsprnetviewer.app>) to retrieve and displays report from [www.wsprnet.org](http://www.wsprnet.org). Tapping on a specific report displays more details about it, along with a world map that shows transmitter and receiver locations.

Unfortunately, I don't have a Raspberry Pi, or I'd try this as well. I do have a BeagleBone Black, but there doesn't seem to be software that I can download and install as easily as the Raspberry Pi software. That being the case, this might be a good excuse to purchase one of those new, cheaper RPis.

## New Ham Radio Movie Causes Controversy By K5KAC, via HamHijinks.com

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — "50 Shades of Grey Line Propagation," a film based off of the now famous book of similar name, is raising cries of both outrage and pride in the amateur radio community. The book, written by Earl Glenn in 2007, was an overnight success.

"Hell, I don't know. I just write what I feel. It's very organic. If you've never gently probed the ionosphere with a QRP signal or wound your own ferrite by hand, you wouldn't get it," Glenn said before slamming his phone down.

The reclusive author is famously secretive of his process and has a P.O. Box listed on the ULS, making eyeball QSOs very difficult.

"It reminds me of my YL days in the college club back in '62. I couldn't tell you why," said ham radio operator Vernard Rather of Skiatook, Oklahoma, adding, "it's tame compared to last year's club Christmas party!"

An excerpt from the book may give some insight to the controversy around the movie (used with author's permission):

*"Earl slowly pulled the dipole legs apart, each length gently quaking as it submitted. He studied his solid length of coax up and down. He marveled at the intersection of the dipole. Moisture barrier? Check. 1:1? Check. Now he had to feed it.*

*The faint red neon light from his Astron RS-35A flickered on and maintained itself. His rig came to life, moaning muffled static from the tempestuous afternoon sun. Out of his shack window he could see the lusty orb lowering itself to the horizon. Grey Line would be here soon. And with it would come DX."*

It is rumored that Glenn is currently working on his second work, "Power in the Shack," an exploration of power relationships between exciter and operator.



## Reserve and pay for your 2015 Dayton Hamvention Bus Trip

Saturday May 16, 2015 CARS  
is again sponsoring a Bus trip  
to the Dayton Hamvention.

*Nearly 25,000 hams & non-hams  
attended Hamvention® 2012. Every  
amateur radio operator in the world  
probably dreams about going to the  
Dayton Hamvention at least once.  
Please join us in 2015, it is an  
incredible event and offers something  
for everyone.*



The Bus trip will cost \$50.00 dollars per person, we will  
have a fast food stop on the way home.

You are responsible for both your food and Hamvention tickets.  
Go to <http://www.hamvention.org/tickets.php> to order your tickets.

*Stop 1: The bus will leave promptly at 5:00 am from the Kmart parking lot at the  
intersection of Engle and Bagley Roads, in Middleburg Heights, Engle Road is a  
1/4 mile west of I-71, Kmart is behind the Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there  
will is security.*

*Stop 2: The bus will also pickup riders at I-71 & Rt 303 at the SE corner of the  
Kmart parking lot and will depart for Dayton at approximately 5:30 am.*

***When ordering tickets please tell us which stop you will be at.***

***Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance.***

*If you have any questions please see Dwaine at a CARS meeting or call  
him at 440-582-3462. Checks must be made out to CARS and mailed to:  
Dwaine Modock K8ME, 8113 Thornhurst Dr., North Royalton, OH 44133  
attn. Dayton bus*

73, Dwaine, K8ME

## Annual Worked All States/Counties QSO Party! by Scott Davis, N3FJP



If you've been following along, you know that after the conclusion of ARRL's super Centennial QSO Point Challenge, my friend Dave, N3HCN, son Chris, KB3KCN and I were lamenting its conclusion and wishing it was an annual event. Just for fun, we started brainstorming what an annual contest would look like if we could develop our own. I mentioned the possibility in some previous e-mail, we received a lot of enthusiastic support, a brainstorming group formed, suggestions ensued and to make a long story short, our Annual Worked All States / Counties QSO Party is now up and running!

I want to extend a huge amount of thanks to my son Chris, KB3KCN, who solely created all the web site infrastructure. This is a much bigger job than you likely imagine! This event would not be happening without Chris' skills, time and very hard work.

You'll find the rules on my web site under the Additional heading.

This link will take you directly to the rules <<http://www.n3fjp.com/wascntyqsoparty.html>> and I've pasted them below for your convenience.

Enjoy the Annual Worked All States / Counties QSO Party! Click here to upload your log, see your current rank and score now! <http://www.affirmatech.com/contest/>

How to play in the Annual Worked All States / Counties QSO Party:

The Annual Worked All States / Counties QSO Party is a fun, year long operating event that facilitates reaching your Worked All States (WAS) goals, county hunter objectives and DXCC achievements. Every new station you work on each band and mode is worth a point and each new county and DXCC entity is a multiplier. Just upload your log in ADIF here <<http://www.affirmatech.com/contest/>> often! The web site will process your score for you and display your real time current standings.

Great ways to play in this contest are to participate in other contests throughout the year including the DX contests, state QSO party contests and any other contest or activity that puts Qs in your log. Contacts you make in those contests count for this one too!

When you aren't working contests or making rag chew QSOs, call "CQ Counties" ("CQ CNTY" on CW and digital) and work as many folks as you can!

In short, work as many stations as possible, seek out county and DXCC multipliers and upload your log <<http://www.affirmatech.com/contest/>> often. That's all there is to it! Here are all the details, with additional thoughts and future possibilities below.

### Worked All States / Counties QSO Party Rules

**Objective:** Create a fun operating event that will be engaging and encourage on air activity on multiple bands and modes for a long duration (12 months). This event will facilitate reaching personal, multi band Worked All States (WAS) goals, county hunter objectives and DXCC achievements.

#### Rules:

- Contest Period: This is a 12 month, annual contest, January 1, 00:00:00 UTC through December 31, 23:59:59 UTC. Everyone starts fresh January 1st each year.
- Bands: Any Amateur Radio band except 12, 17, 30 and 60 Meters.
- Modes: CW, PH and DIG. PH includes any voice mode such as SSB, AM, FM, etc. DIG includes any digital mode such as RTTY, PSK31, etc.

- **Choosing an Operating Frequency:** In addition to FCC rules and regulations, please always be mindful of the Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide <<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/conop.pdf>> and be careful to choose a frequency that will not interfere with other QSOs and operating nets.

- **Making Contacts:** Call "CQ Counties" on phone and CQ CNTY on CW / Digital, similar to the ARRL Centennial QSO Party. All QSOs, including QSOs made during other contests, as well as casual operating, can be counted for points and multiplier credit.

- **Exchange:** Exchange of state and county is encouraged, but not required. The county and state do not actually have to be exchanged during the QSO, but must be included in your upload for multiplier credit. It's fine to use another data source to determine the state and county after the contact and add it to your QSO record before uploading.

- **Score:** QSOs are one point each. Multiply the number of unique counties and DX entities worked on each band and mode (CW, PH and DIG) times the number of QSOs. Your score will be calculated for you when you upload your log and we encourage you to do that often. Please see Reporting / Score Tracking for more details.

- **Multipliers:** 3,077 counties and 340 DX entities are counted for multiplier credit on each band and mode. For example, assuming you work Harford County MD on 5 different bands on CW, SSB and Digital, Harford County MD will be counted as a multiplier 15 times (5 CW, 5 PH and 5 Digital).

- **Duplicates:** The same station may be worked once on each band and mode for QSO points and multiplier credit (if applicable). There is no penalty for working the same station on the same band and mode again, but no additional points or multipliers will be earned. Exception - if the station worked is a rover and has activated a different county, the contact is eligible for QSO points and multiplier credit.

- **Country List:** Country multipliers are the 340 DXCC entities documented here: <[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/2013%20DXCC%20Current\\_a.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/2013%20DXCC%20Current_a.pdf)>. The DX ADIF country code <[http://www.adif.org/304/ADIF\\_304.htm#Country\\_Codes](http://www.adif.org/304/ADIF_304.htm#Country_Codes)> must be included in your ADIF file (most logging programs include the country code number in their ADIF export).

- **County List:** Counties and their spellings must match this list <<http://countyhunter.com/counties1.htm>>. Missing or misspelled counties will not be counted for multiplier credit.

- **Categories:**

Power: High (1,500 watts or less), Low (150 watts or less) and QRP (5 watts or less).

Operator: Single, Multi

Rover: A rover is any station, mobile or stationary, operating outside of their home county. There isn't a separate rover category, but rover operation is fine. Rovers may activate any county and apply QSOs made while rover to their yearly total. Rovers who work the same station on the same band and mode from a different county do not receive additional QSO points as defined by the duplicate rule.

Reporting / Score Tracking:

Please upload your log <<http://www.affirmatech.com/contest/>> in ADIF format often throughout the

year! Track your current score and leader board rank on line here  
<<http://www.affirmatech.com/contest/>>!

Please include your entire year's data with each upload, as your previous data is replaced. When you upload your log, any duplicates and ineligible bands are removed, so simply uploading your entire general log for the contest period is fine. Your final log file submission must be uploaded before January 7th, 23:59:59 UTC of the following year.

#### Achievement Levels:

First Level: 10,000 points (Could be achieved with 100 QSOs with 100 unique multipliers)  
Second Level: 150,000 points (Could be achieved with 500 QSOs with 300 unique multipliers)  
Third Level: 500,000 points (Could be achieved with 1000 QSOs with 500 unique multipliers)  
Fourth Level: 2,000,000 points (Could be achieved with 2000 QSOs with 1000 unique multipliers)  
Top Level: 10,000,000 points (Could be achieved with 5000 QSOs with 2000 unique multipliers)

These QSO and unique multiplier values are just examples. Points can be earned with any QSO / multiplier combination.

#### More Details and Back Story:

With the success of the 2014 ARRL Centennial QSO party fresh in our minds, my son Chris, KB3KCN, good friend Dave, N3HCN and I started brain- storming. We thought it would be great fun to develop an annual, year long, Worked All States / Counties QSO Party, with a similar flavor to the ARRL Centennial!

With lots of great input from other interested folks, we developed a set of rules to facilitate reaching personal, multi band Worked All States (WAS) goals, county hunter objectives and DXCC achievements. By making all counties multipliers, virtually all stations will be sought after when calling "CQ counties" on the air, encouraging lots of fun activity!

Simultaneously, in early January, 2015, ARRL President Kay Craigie reflected on the success of the Centennial QSO Party <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2015-01-08#toc01>> and included these thoughts:

President Craigie said some have asked what the ARRL will do next. She said that while the League doesn't want to wear out the exuberance and goodwill the Centennial events engendered, "it's clear that operating challenges outside of the traditional menu of contests and awards have a great appeal." She expressed the hope that, in the months and years ahead, all hams will seek out other operating challenges sponsored by all sorts of ham radio groups and keep the bands alive with signals.

We'd like to think this contest fits in beautifully with President Craigie's hopes!

#### Future Suggestions:

This Worked All States / Counties QSO Party is now up and running as we originally envisioned. Meanwhile, we've received lots of additional suggestions to our basic rule set including:

- Schedule an emphasis on specific states each week, similar to the Centennial. The schedule for each state may be close to the time of that state's QSO party weekend. Coordinators in that state would encourage activation of as many counties as possible.

- Create a web site of specific calls signs in counties to look for and when.
- Issue plaques, certificates to leaders in each state, overall, etc.

- Issue awards to stations who have the largest number of states with a "clean sweep". You earn a "clean sweep" for a state when you have worked all the counties in that state.

#### Current Status and Future Possibilities:

We have to reign in some expectations for now, while opening the door to these and other possibilities. This project is something Chris, Dave and I are working on in our "spare" time. I'm not planning to write a program for this project. AC Log (or any program that exports in ADIF) will work fine, as it did for the Centennial.

With the volume of work I already have creating, supporting and maintaining N3FJP Software, my involvement in this QSO party is very enthusiastic, but limited to helping craft the rules and working with Chris to create the web site infrastructure for log scoring. Answering contest support e-mail, organizing on air scheduling, coordinating plaques, etc., simply isn't something we have the resources to do here.

We've created the rules, built the basic web infrastructure and set it on automatic pilot, so we are up and running! If we remain at this level, that's fine, we will have a lot of fun! Go make contacts, upload your log <<http://www.affirmatech.com/contest/>> and see your current score!

That said, it's clearly possible this can become much more! I couldn't be more pleased if an experienced organization or contesting group would like to take the lead on this contest and take it to the next level. If your group would like to support this event and make some of these other suggestions happen, please e-mail me!

#### Speaking of Contests..... by David Autry, WD8IOU

Glenn, AF8C, and Bob, K8BL, reminded me that the ARRL issued new HF contesting guidelines at the end of the December. They now have a 22 page PDF file you can download at this link: [www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20-%20General/HFContestingGuidelines\\_201411.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20-%20General/HFContestingGuidelines_201411.pdf). Check it out!

## For Sale

200 FOOT OF NEW HEAVY DUTY 8 CONDUCTOR ROTOR CABLE-  
CERTIFIED QUALITY WIREMAN LONG LIFE, UURES. ROTOR P/N 302  
601008. \$150.00/BEST OFFER.

MIRAGE RF AMPLIFIER MODEL-A1015G 50-54 MHZ, 10W IN- 150W  
OUT, WITH CABLES/MANUAL, \$300.00

CUSHCRAFT X-9 BEAM 24 FOOT BOOM/ 20-15-10 METER NINE  
ELEMENT BEAM. *BOOM SLIGHTLY BENT*, GOOD SHAPE. EASY TO  
ASSEMBLE WITH MANUAL-- \$300.00

CONTACT: DWAIN K8ME at [k8me@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k8me@sbcglobal.net)



## 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 2014-2015

President: Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)  
 V. President: Denny Jakubisin, WB8K (440-237-3248)  
 Secretary: Glenn Williams, AF8C (440-835-4897)  
 Treasurer: Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)  
 Newsletter: David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)



## DXCC Info

As of February 2012, the current DXCC Entities total is: 340.

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

## Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, K8YSE, AF8C, K8BL, K8ME, KB6NU, N3FJP, K5KAC, and [www.hamhijinks.com](http://www.hamhijinks.com),