



"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"

The NODXA RAG

NO8DX - Special Event Callsign
W8DXA - NODXA Repeater 147.360
K8MR - PacketCluster 144.91 & 145.57

Web-site: <http://www.papays.com/nodxa.html>

Newsletter: wd8iou@adelphia.net

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



February-March 2004

Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

During the month of March expect several good DXpeditions to take place. Right now, as this is being written, an operation from Socorro Island, XF4IH, (counts for Revilla Gigedo) is taking place and should last until March 20th. Also, look for some activity from Franz Josef Island to take place between March 17-25th. The callsign will be R1FJ.

Then look for the Mega-DXpedition from Rodrigues Island to take place between March 19th through April 14th. The callsign will be 3B9C. This is one operation that NODXA donated funds to. Activity will be everywhere, all bands and modes, including the satellites, EME, PSK, RTTY.... EVERYWHERE!

This should be a fun operation to work (just like their D68C operation). Also look for Bhutan to be active by Jim, W4PRO, signing A52PRO between March 22nd and April 3rd. Yep! March should be a fun month for DXers.

Club elections were held during the March meeting and once again the same slate of officers were re-elected for 2004-2005. On behalf of the club officers, I want to thank the membership for their confidence to have the present slate continue through the next year.

The Dayton HamVention is approaching fast, and I am sure some discussion will take place about the hospitality suite during the club's meeting in April. This will probably be the last year NODXA has the hospitality suite unless we can find a backer. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

Toledo Hamfest/Computer Fair

Sunday, March 21, 2004, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Lucas County Recreation Center
2901 Key Street, Maumee Ohio (exit 59 on TP)
\$6 at the door

www.tmrahamradio.org for more info

Minutes of the February 2nd, 2004 NODXA Meeting

The meeting which, was held at Laura's Kitchen in Broadview Heights, Ohio, was called to order by Tedd, KB8NW, at 7:31PM and followed by the around the room introductions by the 20 members/guests in attendance.

The treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reports a balance of \$Ka-Ching!

Pete, N8TR, reported on the packet cluster.

Comments on the repeater were made by Ray, W8BIN.

The Newsletter will be available shortly as informed to us by Dave, WD8IOU, and articles are requested.

The Dayton Hamfest DX Banquet tickets will cost \$32.00. See Carl, K8AV, for tickets.

For rooms at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Dayton for the Hamfest weekend contact Don, K8MFO. His e-mail address is k8mfo@aol.com.

Tedd, KB8NW, read requests received by mail from the Clipperton Island DX Group and UK Malawai DX Pediton 2004 for donations and this was followed by a discussion.

Dwaine, K8ME, informs us about a letter from the Ohio repeater council and has renewed our membership.

A discussion on the new Amateur Radio licensing proposals was opened by Tedd, KB8NW.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Steve, N8IS. His share was \$20.00.

Tedd, KB8NW, adjourned the meeting at 7:55PM.

Secretary: Ron, K8VJG

Minutes of the March 1st, 2004 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:31PM which was held at Laura's Restaurant in Broadview Heights, Ohio. The around the room introductions followed by the 22 members/guest in attendance.

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

Comments on the packet cluster were made by Pete, N8TR.

Ray, W8BIN, relates that the repeater is working fine.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported on the Newsletter.

A letter from the 3COV DX Group was read by Tedd, KB8NW, and a story on this is to be put in the club newsletter.

Tedd, KB8NW, related that our Great Lakes Director, Jim Weaver, K8JE, and the Ohio Section Manager, Joe Phillips, K8QOE, may possibly be at our meeting in May, 2004.

In a letter read concerning the ARRL International DX Plaque sponsored by NODXA for 2004 was read by Tedd, KB8NW, and a discussion fol-

lowed.

Nominations for Officers for NODXA for the year 2004 was opened by Tedd, KB8NW.

For president: Pete, N8TR, and seconded by Ray, W8BIN, nominated Tedd, KB8NW.

For Vice President: Ray, W8BIN, nominated Dwaine, K8ME.

For Treasurer: Dave, WD8IOU, nominated Mary, N8DMM.

For Secretary: John, K8YSE, nominated Ron, K8VJG.

A motion to accept the slate of nominees was made by Pete, N8TR, and seconded by John, K8YSE. A vote was taken and passed.

Congratulations to all.

A discussion on obtaining tickets for the Dayton Hamfest was opened by Tedd, KB8NW. Go to the website at www.hamvention.org for information.

Stan Hasse, K8VI, is recovering from kidney related problems and is at home as informed to us by Dave, WD8IOU.

The 50/50 drawing was won by George, K8KR. His share was \$20.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM by Tedd, KB8NW.

Following the meeting, talks on ham mobile radio were presented by John, K8YSE, Ron, K8VJG, and Ray, W8BIN.

Secretary: Ron K8VJG

"Tips To The Top From DX Pros"

by Tedd, KB8NW

A new book is available for DXers to add to their collection. This interesting book is for both old and new DXers who are trying to reach the "Top of the DXCC Honor Roll".

The 32 page book titled "Tips To The Top From DX Pros" is written by Devere "Dee" Logan, W1HEO. The book contains details of a survey conducted among 100 leading DX operators listed in the DXCC Honor Roll, Worked All Zones and CQ DX Awards rankings, plus key DXpeditioners.

With over 40 percent of the 100 surveyed, this book provides "A Summary of Tips, Tactics and Secrets for reaching the Top of the DX heap - From those who've made it". The book's contents deals with subjects such as, mark of a good DXer, Station equipment (and features), Favorite DX Antennas, Stalking the Rare DX and Success in the Pileups. It also contains subjects on logging memorable DX QSOs, QSLing, and a listing of some helpful DX tools to use.

If you want something that is very "Helpful" as well as "Quick and Easy to Read", this book is for you. Book cost is \$9.00 USD (plus 1.50 USD shipping and handling per copy). Available via: DX Book, 9901 Cypress Cir., Mentor, OH 44060.

Hamvention 2004 Plans Going Well

ARRL Letter

Hamvention General Chairman Gary Des Combes, N8EMO, reports all is going smoothly as the 2004 show approaches. Hamvention will take place Friday through Sunday, May 14-16, at Hara Arena in Trotwood, near Dayton, Ohio. The theme for the 53rd Hamvention is "The Year of the Contact."

"Things are going well, and my team is outstanding," Des Combes said in summing up Hamvention's preparations to date. "I really am fortunate to have the best volunteers in the world."

Des Combes says all forum slots have been filled, and about two-thirds of the inside exhibit spaces have been spoken for--which, he points out, is ahead of last year. Des Combes says advanced ticket sales and flea market signups appear to be strong. "We are compiling data now, but demand is very high," he said. Hamvention has another mailing in the works in an effort to attract additional exhibitors. Des Combes also notes that the Hamvention Web site has been upgraded and now provides for on-line, credit card ticket purchases.

Under the banner of its Great Lakes Division, the ARRL will offer a Hamvention forum, "How Grassroots Action Gets Lawmakers' Reaction," on Friday, May 14, 12:15 PM. Moderated by ARRL Great Lakes

Division Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT, the forum will feature an introduction by ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, and participation by ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, who will discuss "How to Influence Congressional Representatives," ARRL New England Division Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, on "Getting State Legislators to Work with Us" and ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who's titled his remarks "ARRL: Tighten that Cinch, and Go Do It!"

The annual ARRL Forum gets under way at 8:30 AM on Saturday, May 15. Check www.hamvention.org for additional details.

ZACH Paddle Review

by "Scotty" WK3N.

Fifteen years ago a careless motorist nearly ended my life. Leaving me with permanent physical damage to my right (cw send) hand. After a lengthy hospital stay, I returned home to find I could no longer successfully use my Bencher keyer. I attempted to find a paddle that was workable with my problems.

After trial and error with a number of keys and paddles, I decided a cw keyboard way the only way I could still go. For my style, the keyboard is cumbersome and slow, but it gets the job done.

In January of 2004 a keyer

caught my eye in DX Magazine, published by Carl, N4AA. It's called the Zach paddle and is hand made in the CZECH. REP by OK1TN. Carl stated "he had been using one for a while and found it beneficial to his style of paddle slapping". He mentioned its TWO AND ONE-HALF POUND base keeps it from dancing all over the table. A perfect keyer for me I thought! My style would be considered similar!

Stateside retail sales are handled by Tom Harrell, N4XP@juno.com. A call to him at 706-769-9119 got me the information I needed. A single paddle as well as double-paddle styles are available. These include a brushed brass base version or one with the base top in polished brass and the sides in brushed style. I chose a polished top version. A payment to him of \$100 plus shipping got a quick FedEx delivery to my door.

Upon its arrival, my first observations led me to think "Bencher clone". But I was completely wrong. The Zach paddles use a separate spring for adjustment of each of the paddles. Adjustment of my old Bencher was trial and error.

The feel of the Zach is also entirely different. I found it to be smooth, easy to use, and adjustable to my style. My cw paddle days are back! This is the most forgiving paddle I has ever used and my thoughts are it could possibly be a teaching aid for new hams learning iambic cw.



The looks of the Zach are quite appealing. Amateurs who visit my shack, often comment of its attractiveness. Hand assembly plus hand-made mahogany handles make each one a little different. (So Tom tells me). Its base is reminiscent of the mid-evil area with its elephant style feet at each corner. No other keyer base gets close in style and beauty. It looks like it belongs in an art/history museum.

Its top and all parts have retained their high shine for some time now, so it may have a clear protective coating. Four rubber grips under the base plus its weight and even my pet gorilla could not knock it off my desk.

I am no expert when it comes to mechanical keying designs, but I do know what works for me. Thanks OK1TN/N4XP/N4AA.

Editor's Note: Scotty in-

formed me that NODXA members K8ME and NA8A both have the Zach paddle and like them as well.

The Evolution of Prefixes VR1 & VR3 to Prefixes VR8, T2, T3Ø, T31, T32, & T33

by Barry Johnson - W4WB
North Alabama DX Club
<http://www.nadxc.org>

Recently, I was looking at some old QSL cards and noticed that one was from VR1G confirming a QSO back in 1962. The top of the QSL had printed "Gilbert & Ellice Is. Colony, Central Pacific" while the operator John Walker had "Ocean Island" printed beneath his name. As an aside, this was a SSB to DSB QSO, which was not uncommon during those transition years from AM to SSB. If you look in "The ARRL

DXCC List" Prefix Cross References, you will observe that VR1 before 1980 is to be counted as T3. Okay, what is T3? There are now four T3s. After a call to Wayne Mills at the ARRL DXCC Office to attempt to understand how to apply T3 in general, I decided to look into the history of this Central Pacific region shown in the map below. While under British rule, this vast Central Pacific region was divided into two DXCC entities, viz., VR1 and VR3 as shown on the map.

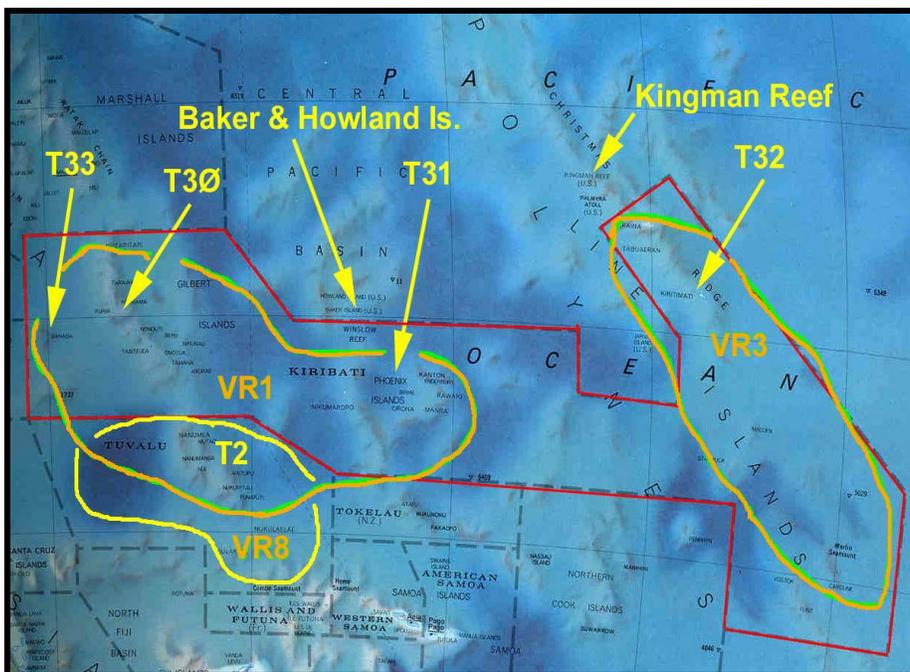
ignated T3 at the time. The red lines indicate the boundaries of present day Kiribati. In 1976, Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands became the head of the new Kiribati Government, or T3Ø, and was then designated as West Kiribati in 1979.

The Ellice Islands were sighted in 1568 by Alvaro de Mendenña de Neira and became a British protectorate in 1892. In 1915, they were annexed with the Gilbert Islands. When the Ellice Islands were separated from the Gilbert Islands,

part of the Gilbert & Ellice I. Colony and has always been a part of Kiribati. Its original name, and current name, is Banaba Is. When it was discovered, it was noted that Ocean Is. is nothing but a vast pinnacle up-thrust out of the depths, built upon by reef-building coral polyps. Not a paradise to be sure and it is basically uninhabited now. The British had found a rich source of guano to mine, which began to become exhausted in time. In the nick of time for the phosphate trading company, it was discovered that the island had a huge amount of the purest phosphate of lime yet discovered by man in a natural state. In the late 1970's, this too became exhausted and the native residents of Banaba Is. purchased the island of Rambi (also Rabi) in distant Fiji that was for a time administered from the Republic of Kiribati capital.

This bit of digging into the history made me wonder why the island of Rambi, some 1600 miles from Banaba Island, wasn't a separate DXCC entity during this period with the potential prefix of T34. In any case, Rambi Is. is now again a part of Fiji and the Banabans enjoy their culture protected by the Fiji Government.

When Kiribati gained self-rule, Banaba Is. became T3Ø since it was considered with the Gilbert Islands as East Kiribati. In the mid-1980s, Banaba became a new DXCC entity, T33, but that's another story.



The British discovered the Gilbert Islands in 1764 and they were made a protectorate in 1892. In 1915, these islands were elevated to a colony with the Ellice Islands. Later in 1975, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands were separated and each given internal self-government. The Gilbert Islands became the nation of Kiribati (pronounced "Ki-ri-bas"), or generically des-

they became known as Tuvalu, and designated VR8 during the transition period 1976 till 1979. In 1979, Tuvalu became designated T2.

The Phoenix Islands became a part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony in 1937 (see below for U.S. involvement). They are also called Rawaki and became T31 in 1979.

Ocean Is. was also made a

The collection of islands, Gilbert & Ellice I., Ocean Is., and the Phoenix I., was formerly designated with the prefix VR1 until Kiribati gained self-rule and Ellice Is. was separated.

The Line Islands cover a large area of the Pacific Ocean and includes Christmas Is. (now Kiritimati), which is said to be the world's largest atoll in land area. This area had the prefix VR3. One of the islands is called Starbuck Island, but I'll bet you would have a hard time finding a good cup of coffee there.

Once Kiribati was formed, it wanted to claim the Phoenix Is. and most of the Line Islands. Since before WWII, the British and the U.S. each laid claim to certain of the islands in each group, and exercised joint control by agreement. In order to achieve the Kiribati objective, the U.S. relinquished all claims to the sparsely inhabited Phoenix and Line Island groups in a 1979 treaty of friendship with Kiribati. The Phoenix Island Group then became Central Kiribati, or T31, and the Line Island Group became East Kiribati, or T32.

Wayne recalled that there was a question in the past over the proper counting of Ellice Island (Tuvalu) in the three-month period between when they were legally separated from the Gilbert Islands in October 1975 and the actual hand-over of authority on 01 January 1976. Lloyd and Iris Colvin operated there as VR1Z

at the end of 1975 and the beginning of 1976. Resolution was that it counted as VR1 until January 1, 1976, when it began being counted as T2. As far as how the VR1G QSL card I have counts, it clearly counts as T33.

For those of you needing T33, the T33C, Spring 2004 Banaba DXpedition team, has completed the loading of a shipping container containing almost 5 tons of materials, which is now on the way to Kiribati. Check out their web-site at <http://www.dx-pedition.de/banaba2004/pictures-index.html> to learn more about the DXpedition, their equipment, and how to maximize your QSOs with them. They are offering an interesting QSL option as well.

For some years, Kiribati has attempted to, and continues attempting to, gain control over the Baker & Howland Is. (annexed by the U.S. in 1935), Kingman Reef (annexed by the U.S. in 1922), Palmyra (annexed by the U.S. in 1898), and Jarvis Is. (annexed by the U.S. in 1936). There is some thought that the U.S. Government may consider turning one or more of these islands over to Kiribati in return for certain rights and concessions (whatever that means). If that happens, the islands turned over to Kiribati will become deleted entities in all likelihood.

Editor's Note: Thanks to C. A.R.S President Bob Check, W8GC, (who is a friend of the author) for providing this article.

Three ARRL Awards Discontinued

By ARRL Letter

Effective immediately, the ARRL Awards Branch has discontinued the Rag Chewer's Club, the Old Timer's Club and the Friendship Award. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says that the number of amateurs applying for awards in general has declined significantly over the years, and interest in these three awards had slowed to a trickle. DXCC and WAS remain among the most popular ARRL Awards, he said, but the eliminated awards "had outlived their interest level." For more information on ARRL awards, visit The ARRL Awards Program page .

NPR Spotlights Addition of @ Symbol to Morse Code

By ARRL Letter

Some hams may have thought they'd left their transceivers turned on Tuesday, February 17. That's when the popular National Public Radio afternoon news magazine All Things Considered ran a piece

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this month's edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, K8VJG, K8YSE, WK3N, W8GC, W4WB, K8ME, OPDX, and the ARRL Letter.

NODXA Club Officials for 2003-2004

President - Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)
V. President - Dwaine Modock, K8ME (440-582-3462)
Secretary - Ron Borkey, K8VJG (440-237-6718)
Treasurer - Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)
Newsletter Editor - David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)

As of March 2002
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

335

about the pending addition of the @ symbol to the official international Morse code lexicon. That's because NPR introduced and closed the nearly four-minute segment with actual CW, catching the ear of many hams.

ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, conceived of the new character,

necessary for transmitting e-mail addresses in CW, among other possible purposes. Assuming approval by International Telecommunication Union member-states, the new character--the first added to the code in many, many years--will be "AC" run together (.-.-.-).

The new character, Rinaldo

says, is both unique in the Morse world as well as a mnemonic (think of an 'a' wrapped in a 'C').

ATC co-host Robert Siegel interviewed ARRL Senior News Editor Rick Lindquist, N1RL, for some background on the change, giving Lindquist an opportunity to mention his passion for mobile CW operation. The short feature, "Morse Code Enters Cyber Age," is available on the National Public Radio Web site,

Lake County Hamfest/Computer Show

Sunday March 28, 2004

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Madison High School, Madison, Ohio

Corner of Middle Ridge and Burns Roads

Directions/Talk-in: 147.21 PL 110.9 Hz

\$6 at the door

Rocky@lcara.org for more info

Field Day 2004 Packets Available

By ARRL *Letter*

Rules and entry packets for the 2004 running of ARRL Field Day now are available on the League's Web site. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June--this year June 26-27. The activity begins at 1800 UTC Saturday and ends at 2100 UTC Sunday. There are no rule changes from 2003. Participation in Field Day now is open to all amateurs within IARU Region 2--the Americas. FD stations may contact stations in other regions for point credit, but stations outside Region 2 are not eligible to submit entries.

Items For Sale

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

IBM PERSONAL COMPUTER

350 - 167 mhz 640kb memory, 384mg Ram

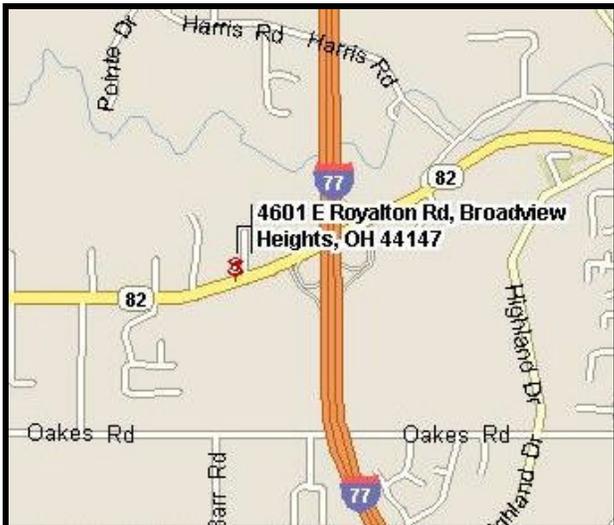
15" * & 17" Monitors, Keyboards, Mouses

One Laser Compact XT, with Kraft Monitor -DOS Only

Okidata Microline 184 Turbo Printer

NEC Pinwriter P-3200 Printer

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



NODXA Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the **Laura's Kitchen Restaurant** on RT.82 just west of Interstate 77 in Broadview Heights at 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**



The Northern Ohio DX Association
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