

January-February-March 2009

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,



Spring is only a few days away as I am writing this, and it is good to know winter is coming to an end. However, heading into the warmer seasons (spring and summer) also means poorer conditions for propagation. This past winter season was not exactly perfect propagation (especially for the higher bands), but 160 meters through 17 meters kept many DXers satisfied. Probably the highlight of the winter was the K5D Desecheo Island DXpedition. For once DXers in northern Ohio had it easy working a rare DXCC entity (for a change).

The only disappointment was that many were not able to work them on 12/10/6 meters. Again, propagation was not perfect for those bands. I am sure the K5D team was satisfied with their 115.5k QSO count but not with a little over 1200 Qs total for those three bands (12/10/6m). In all, the K5D

DXpedition was an excellent operation. Hopefully, the void on 12/10/6m will inspire another operation (from KP5), but this time during the peak in the sunspot cycle.

Now this brings us to the question, "Will there be a Navassa Island (KP1) operation?" I would have to say "YES". The answer to "WHEN" is yet unknown.

I would think that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) was satisfied with how the DXpedition was conducted and would be open to allow an operation to take place on Navassa Island (KP1). Again, the question is will the USFWS use the same procedure as they did for Desecheo and ask for written proposals or allow the same group to go to Navassa Island. Then there is the money issue.

The DXpedition to Desecheo Island was very expensive, and I am sure that a Navassa DXpedition would cost about the same. I guess we will just have to wait and see. Stay tuned!

Once again on behalf of the current slate of NODXA officers, I would like to thank the membership in re-electing Dwaine/K8ME, Mary/N8DMM, Al/N8CX and myself for another term. We hope to keep things interesting over the coming year and keep sponsoring and promoting DX. Hope to see you at the next NODXA meeting. Remember, Dayton Hamvention is just around the corner and Field Day is fast approaching. It is time to plan for these special events.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

Minutes of the December 1st, 2008 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:32pm. There were 18 members and 1 guest present.



After a round of introductions, the minutes of the November 3rd meeting were read. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Mary also reported that we had five renewals as a result of the renewal letter that was sent out. One of whom, was Roger, W3HWY, of White Oak PA. He signed up on the internet.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported finding an archive of all previous newsletters on the internet at archive.org. He also reported that the repeater was okay. Dennis, WB8K, reported that the NOARS 145.15 repeater had been moved from the former site because the tower had been sold to Antenna Tower Corp. Al, N8CX, reported that the repeater is now co-located with the Northcoast ARC's 145.29 repeater.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster was okay, but had run a little slow during last weekends CQWW DX-CW contest.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter went out a couple of weeks ago. He also requested for sale and other items for the newsletter. Dwaine, K8ME, wrote an article for the newsletter outlining repairs and updating of Kenwood TL-922 Amplifiers and finding replacement bulbs for Hy-Gain rotor controls, as the original bulb cannot be found.

Old-New Business

There were no items to discuss.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported receiving a donation request from Bill, VK4FW, of the VK9LA Ocenia Amateur Radio DX Group, for an upcoming DXpedition to Lord Howe Island from March 24th to April 3rd. Their website is odxg.org. Tedd reported that a donation of \$100 would get our logo on their QSL card. The topic was tabled.

A short discussion of new and sometimes free telephone communications methods. Pete, N8TR, reported on Skype (meaning unknown) and its Skype-to-Skype free phone service using their software. Dave, WD8IOU, commented on Magic Jack phone service which replaces your normal phone company service.

Tedd wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. The next meeting will be Monday, January 5th.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Dale, NA8A. The winning amount was \$14.50

The meeting was closed by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

Minutes of the January 5th, 2009 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:33pm. There were 17 members and 1 guest present.

After a round of introductions, the minutes of the December 1st meeting were read. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Mary also reported that we had two more renewals as a result of the renewal letter.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the repeater was okay, but needed people to use it. Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster was okay. Pete also reported that John, K8YSE, was heard on the 444.075

repeater and that he reported that was enjoying himself on the sunny beaches in Florida. Pete further reported that the International Space Station (ISS) was in cross-band repeater mode. Uplink on 145.990 and downlink on 437.800 Mhz. He reported that it is easily worked.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the newsletter editor, Dave, WD8IOU, needs info and articles for the newsletter and asked that the members try to contribute something.

Old-New Business

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the new cost of an IRC is \$2.10 and that the turnaround for DXCC submissions is about 7 - 8 weeks. Bob, W8GC, and Karl, K8BCK, reported on 4 and 5 week turn-arounds.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that many of the now Netherland Antilies will become separate entities (countries) by the end of this year 2009. This means a whole new group of DXCC countries to work.

George, K8KR, reported on using Skype, a free internet video phone service, for quite some time and has a weekly sked with a friend.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported on a new ARRL Triple-Play award. The award concerns achieving WAS via CW, Phone and RTTY. Contacts from previous years do not count and QSLing must be done via the Logbook of the World, LoTW. Tedd also reported on a few upcoming events. The SW Ohio Digital Symposium would be held on January 10th at the Middletown Campus of Miami University. The NOARS Winter Hamfest on February 1st at Gargus Hall and The Mansfield Hamfest on February 15th.

The question of a contribution to the Lord Howe Island DXpedition was tabled.

Tedd, KB8NW, reminded everyone that we will hold nominations for 2009-2010 officers at the February meeting.

Pete, N8TR, reminded everyone that the CQWW 160 meter Contest was coming up and that it was a good place to start working on the new Triple-Play Award.

Tedd reminded everyone that the next meeting will be Monday, February 2nd.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Bob, W8GC. The winning amount was \$17.50.

Two golf calendar door prizes were won by Mary, N8DMM and Ron, K8VJG.

The meeting was closed by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

Minutes of the February 2nd, 2009 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:32pm. There were 15 members and 1 guest present.



After a round of introductions, the minutes of the January 5th meeting were read. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Mary also reported that we had one renewal, K8QXD, as a result of the renewal letter.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that John, K8YSE, had said that it was just too far to drive to the meeting. John has a web-cam weather station set up down in Florida. The site is at wunderground.com and can be viewed by entering the zip code 32983. Tedd also reported that the repeater is running okay, but needs more use. Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster was okay as well.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter would be out this week.

Old - New Business

Ron, W8WH, reported that Jeneen had sent a letter stating that plans for the Dayton Hamven-

tion were underway.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the one-day bus trip to Dayton was still on and that the fare cost would be \$35 per person. Anyone interested can go to 2cars.org and sign up.

Tedd, KB8NW, also reported that there would be a hospitality suite at Dayton again this year.

Pete, N8TR, reported that Reno, WT8C, had achieved #38 of the ARRL's Triple Play Award.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had received a donation request from EA4ATI for the upcoming Nauru DXpedition, C21TI, tentatively set for May 3rd to the 17th or 15th to the 30th. Dwaine, K8ME, moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the request be tabled until the March meeting. The motion passed.

Pete, N8TR, commented on the excellent propagation and band conditions during the recent CQ 160 meter contest. The fact that no major atmospheric storms were happening contributed to the unusually quiet band conditions. He heard some stations routinely working European and Japanese stations. His own results were just under 700 Q's with some 200 being DX and 70 countries worked.

The president, Tedd, KB8NW, called for nominations for 2009-2010 officers. After all present officers agreed to retain their offices, Ron, K8VJG moved, seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, that nominations be closed and that a "white-ballot" election be held at the March meeting. The motion passed.

Al, N8CX, reported on the recent NOARS Winter Hamfest and on the new location of the NOARS Summerfest. The Summerfest will be held in the Spitzer Center at Lorain County Community College on July 18th, the 3rd Saturday in July.

Tedd, KB8NW, reminded everyone that the Desecheo, K5D, DXpedition was coming up on Feb 12th and will last until Feb 26th. Pete, N8TR, also reminded everyone that the CQ 160 meter SSB and the ARRL DX contest CW were coming up.

Tedd, KB8NW, reminded everyone that the next meeting will be Monday, March 2nd.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Ron, W8WH. The winning amount was \$17. The money was donated back to the club.

Dave, WD8IOU moved, seconded by Dwaine, K8ME, that the meeting should be closed. The meeting was closed by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

Vertical Tales and Adding 17 Meters to a Hustle 6-BTV By Mike Herman, WB8EVI

Many hams, for one reason or another, are using a vertical antenna on HF. A vertical is much cheaper than a tower and beam, and does not scare the neighbors nearly as much. At this house, I started with the Hustler 4-BTV located on the ground without any radials. It was located just outside my basement window, on a pipe I pounded into the ground. Total height was around 25 feet. Needless to say, I had a few problems. For one it coupled to the aluminum downspouts that were only a few feet away. I replaced them with PVC, laid down a couple 20 meter radials along the side of the house,



and retuned the antenna. It was much better, but still not ideal. On windy days it would bang against the eave of the roof. I added the 80 meter resonator, and then had a 5-BTV. Actually I first used the 75 meter resonator, and discovered the problem of trying to tune it to the CW portion of the band.



Buy the 80 meter one, and you can tune it to either end, or the middle. You can not get the whole band. It just is not that broad. When you get above or below the resonant spot, the SWR climbs rapidly, even worse than on the 40 meter band. The other bands are quite broad. Next I added the 30 meter kit. This was easy to install and gave a low SWR. I then had a 6-BTV. I came across a good deal on some half inch Andrews Heliax, and decided to locate the antenna further away from the house, and replace the RG-8X cable that I was using.

I wanted to locate it in the center of the backyard, but the XYL approved location was behind the storage shed. I

installed 100 feet of the cable in the house, and another 140 feet I buried in the ground. I just used a shovel, making a small slit a couple inches deep. Then I pushed the cable in and pushed the ground back over it. It has been there for several years now, without any problems. I picked a spot about two feet from the rear of the shed to locate the antenna. This is also about 18 feet from a metal fence that is on the lot behind mine. I also have a buried wire loop around my entire lot. This is an

"invisible" dog fence. It passes a few feet behind the antenna. I did not want any buried radials to go across that for fear of shocking the dog whenever I was on the air. I also did not want to pick up any radio noise from the transmitter it uses. I had the "dog fence" people come out with their motorized tool, and bury some radials for me. That was \$100 well spent. They even used their own wire, which was insulated stranded copper. I have one quarter wave radial for 80, 20, 15, and 10 meters; with nothing for 40 or 30 meters. I lined the inside of the shed's back wall with metal chicken wire fencing that I purchased at the local Home Depot. I grounded that. This allows me to move metal objects around inside the shed without detuning the antenna. Since we get some pretty strong winds here, I braced the vertical with a couple of pieces of PVC pipe to the back of the shed. After a lot of trips between the radio and the antenna, I had it working fairly well.

I started hearing a lot of DX on 17 meters and wanted to use that band, but had a horrible SWR





there. No surprise, since the antenna was not designed to cover that band. I saw several ads in the magazines for add on kits, but they were not rated for more than a few hundred watts. I came up with a better and cheaper idea. I made a quarter wave add on with 14 gauge insulated copper wire, a couple of pieces of small PVC pipe and some hardware brackets. I clamped it on the vertical just above the base insulator, making an electrical connection there. A quarter wave up, more or less after tuning, I attached another PVC pipe that supported the top of the 17 meter add on. The wire went through holes in the PVC about 5.5 inches out from the vertical. The PVC pieces were preformed 90 degree bends that I found at Home Depot. I had to do a LOT of retuning for every band. I got every band working well, except for 15 meters. This one would require more tuning. Sun-spots are low, the band is dead most of the time now; I left it alone. Some of the adjustments required a hack saw to shorten the distance between traps. Depending on your surroundings, you may or may not have to do that. Does it work? You bet it does. I worked Samoa with only 100 watts on 17 meters. It will also take full power without any arcing. The problem was the wind. It moved

the PVC brackets around and the wire became loose. I only used a single bolt to attach each PVC pipe to the bracket. The flexing from the wind would work them loose. A sturdier solution was needed.

I came across a long piece of aluminum tubing that looked perfect for replacing the wire. I used a larger aluminum pipe for the bottom bracket, and a hose clamp to attach it. I cut two pieces of PVC to make insulated supports for higher up the 17 meter tube. Again, hose clamps to attach them. First try resulted in broken PVC. I had the holes for the hose clamps too close the end of the PVC pipe. When I tried raising the antenna, it flexed a little and the PVC broke where the hose clamp went through it. Second trial was with better PVC brackets, using more space between the holes. It is now much sturdier, and lucky me, 15 meters has a much better SWR now. My first contact on 17 with this was to Hawaii. Obviously it works.

I do think about adding more radials. I also think about trying an isolating current balun out at the antenna. However, what I now have works just fine. I have all 50 states and 182 countries verified, and recently worked a few new countries.

So you have no excuses now. Just about everyone has room for a vertical. You can even put the whole thing in a PVC pipe and hang a small flag on it. Your neighbors won't even know it is an antenna.



Do You Remember? By Glen E. Zook, K9STH (ex W5UOJ) Copyright 1997

Every once-in-a-while, many amateurs like to take time to reflect, a time to remember. About 20 years ago I wrote a similar article which Wayne published in 73 which met with a favorable response from the readers. This one has been updated somewhat, but is still aimed at the over 25 crowd. Over 25 years as an amateur, that is, the QCWA crowd. However, newer amateurs might just get a "kick" out of trying to make sense of the following list. But, if you have to ask any questions, then you really don't remember.

So, without further ado: Do you remember?
 The "Sixer", "Twoer", and "Tener"?
 ARC5s?
 The "Dream Receiver" (the one I owned was more like a "nightmare!")?
 The BC779?
 The "My QTH" QSL cards?
 When VO was a separate country from VE?
 When the "ideal" novice rig was a DX40 and an SX99?
 Controlled carrier modulation?
 DSB?
 The SX101A?
 The VF-1 VFO?
 The DX20, DX35, and DX60?
 The 30L1 transmitter (not the 30L1 linear!) by Collins?
 The KWM1?
 The original "Bandit"?
 The TBS50D (160 through 2!)?
 The HRO series?
 When an 807 was tube, not a drink?
 The 814?
 The G66 and G77?
 The one-eyed "Gooney Bird"?
 The second generation "Gooney Bird"?
 When Novices could operate 2 meter phone but not the Technicians?
 Crystal control and 75 watts?

When the "Adventurer" and "Challenger" were not space vehicles?
 The Drake TV300HP?
 Using a BC459 or BC457 as a VFO?
 "Rice boxes" and "Japtracs"?
 The 16V and 30D?
 8th MOs (and even earlier!)?
 The 41V and 80D?
 The 75A1?
 The AF67 (or even earlier, the A54H)?
 When a "Tribander" was a converter, not an antenna?
 The NC-2-40D?
 The NC183D (or even earlier, the NC173)?
 The "Sky Buddy"?
 The S40B?
 The S77?
 Globe Chiefs and Globe Scouts?
 The Apache, Mohawk, and Seneca?
 The Mohician?
 The KWS1?
 Leo?
 When Leo had hair?
 The orange QSL cards from Walter Ashe?
 The logbook QSLs from GE?
 HI HI HI HI from space on CW?
 The Invader and Invader 2000?
 Pedestals?
 The Quad at HCJB?
 The Central Electronics 10B and 20A?
 The CE 100V?
 Modifying a BC458 to use with a CE 10B or 20A?
 The Techcraft coverters?
 International Crystal six meter rigs?
 The Lincoln?
 Knight Kits?
 The R100A?The Swan 120 (or 175, or 140)?
 The Swan 240?

- Heath monobanders?
 The HQ129X (or, even earlier, the HQ120X)?
 The SP600?
 Your first QSO?
 "Bugs", not keyers?
 The Vibroplex Champion and Standard?
 Astatic?
 When W9IOP (also W8IOP, W2IOP, etc.) won the Sweepstakes every year?
 W9VW (hint, look at W9IOP DX contest scores)?
 The 75A4?
 The S85?
 The HQ105TR?
 When Johnson built only ham gear?
 The AT-1 and AR-1 (I owned an AR-3)?
 6AG7-807 (or even 6V6-6L6)?
 The 2E26 and 6146?
 When the 829B was the "cats meow" on 2 meters?
 The SCR522?
 ROWH (Royal Order of the Woulf Hong)?
 ROHO (Royal Order of the Hoot Owls)?
 "No lids, no kids, no space cadets....."?
 W2OY (I got on his "reserved" frequency once!)?
 W5IO ("I know this guy, he bought a donkey.....")?
 ZL2BE (and his 20 wavelengths on a side rhombics)?
 The rhombic?
 100 North Western in Chicago?
 When Lafayette was across the street from Allied?
 When Radio Shack bought Allied?
 Olson?
 "California Kilowatts"?
 AGL Electronics?
 6 Up Magazine?
 Western Radio Amateur?
 When W2NSD ran CQ, not 73?
 Cowan Publishing?
 Zepp Antennas?
- The T2FD?
 "Radiates equally as poor in all directions"?
 The DX100?
 The SB-10?
 The quad versus yagi debate?
 AR22 rotors?
 Prop pitch motors?
 Selsyns?
 The Communicator III?
 WR calls?
 When an "X" call meant experimental?
 QBE?
 The 310B?
 Any Hunter rig?
 The Drake 1A?
 Hammurlund, Hallicrafters, and National?
 ICE?
 Varitronics?
 Sideband Engineers, Gonset, and Central Electronics?
 Heathkit, Johnson, and Collins?
 The Swan 500?
 Twin Vs (not "Twin Peaks")?
 The "Outercom"?
 The 200V?
 When all major companies had QSL cards for their employees?
 The Warrior?
 The 2B (or was it "not to be")?
 The SW3?
 The Ocean Hopper?
- I could go on for hours. But, all the "oldtimers" will get the point, and all the "newcomers" will scratch their heads. However, it is nice to take a look at nostalgia and just remember.

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

The Bands are Going to the Dogs! By Dale Lamm, NX8J

Hope all are having a good time in this weekend's CQ WW prefix contest.

Unfortunately, my voice went to hell sometime Saturday and the computer voice keyer was broke. Never fear, you can't stop a desperate ham!

With just a little encouragement, family member Burt stepped up to the task and pulled for the team.

Should have done this hours ago, since dog QSOs are worth the same as CW QSOs in any other contest. [dig, dig!]

Now, back to the bands!
73 de NX8J/canine



Who is this bearded Ham? What is that contraption that he is standing next to? Where was this picture taken?

**Sign
up
now**



2009 Dayton Hamvention Bus Trip

CARS is again sponsoring a Bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention, the 2009 bus trip will take place on Saturday May 16.

The Bus trip will cost \$35.00 dollars per person, we need a minimum of 35 people to break even, the bus will be stopping for breakfast on the way down, with a brief stop on the way home for quick bite. You are responsible for your food and Hamvention ticket costs.

The bus will be leaving at 3:00 am from the Kmart parking lot at the intersection of Engle Road and Bagley Road, in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, Engle Road is a 1/4 mile west of I-71, which is the first intersection you come to, Kmart is behind the BP Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there will be security to watch cars.

Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance. If we do not sell 35 bus tickets by May 8, 2009 the bus will be cancelled and your money returned.

If you have any questions please bring them up at a cars meeting or contact me by email or phone: Dwaine 440-582-3462 or K8me@sbcglobal.net

See you on the Bus
Dwaine ---K8ME



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
 K8MR: PacketCluster 144.91 & 145.57

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

Newsletter Submission: wd8iou@adelphia.net

NODXA Club Officials for 2009-2010

President:	Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW	(440-237-2816)
V. President:	Dwaine Modock, K8ME	(440-582-3462)
Secretary:	Al Moriarty, N8CX	(216-221-3682)
Treasurer:	Mary Michaelis, N8DMM	(440-236-5426)
Newsletter:	David Autry, WD8IOU	(440-238-0417)



DXCC Info

As of December 2007, the current DXCC Entities total is: **338**.

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, N8CX, K8YSE, K8ME, WB8EVI, N9STH, NX8J, and K8DJC.