

January-February-March 2017

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



# The NODXA RAG



## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

At least there is some good news to report this time about propagation. Dr. Tamitha Skov <<https://twitter.com/TamithaSkov>>, also known as <#SpaceWeatherWoman> reported on January 20th, the first sunspot of cycle 25! Watch her video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMEJEwlm4gw>



However, the new sunspot cycle 25 is not expected to arrive until about 2019-2020. So it looks like we will have to struggle with a few more years of bad propagation, and yet, the increase in sunspot numbers will not happen overnight. It will be a slow increase, but at least an increase. If you are on Twitter, Dr. Tamitha Skov does provide some interesting info on her page and has been helping hams understand the ionosphere for many years on Ham Nation.

Also, an interesting thing about Tamitha, she is not an amateur radio operator.

Her tweets and comments about propagation have caught the eye of the "Contest University" (CTU) group, and she will be one of the CTU professors this year during the Dayton HamVention CTU classes at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

So, what is going on as far as DXpedition? Not to much because of the band conditions. March will have a few interesting operations: 9G5X, Ghana (March 7-21st), 9N7EI, Nepal (March 8-20th), TU (TBA), CÔTE d'IVOIRE (March 9-19th) and 5U5R, Niger (March 9-21st). There was an announcement that a group will be going to St. Brandon Island (3B6) sometime in October, and that is all for now...

As always, I hope to see you in the coming weeks/months, possibly at a hamfest or NODXA's general membership meetings every first Monday of the month (unless it is a holiday -- it will be the second Monday).

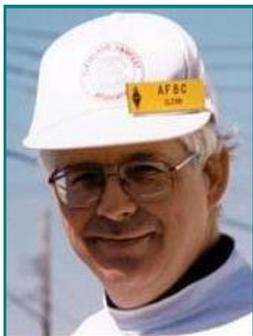
As a reminder, if you have a topic to discuss about DXing or contesting, bring it up at the meeting. Also, if you would like to put on a program of some interest for the club in the coming months, let us know so we can schedule you in for a meeting. We are always looking for a program.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. It is time to think about renewing your club dues. NODXA has a few big expenditures coming up (Dayton Hospitality purchases, BIG Donation to the 3Y0Z Bouvet DXpedition...etc.)

## Minutes of the December 5th, 2016 NODXA Meeting

Vice-president Dwaine, K8ME, opened the meeting at 7:31 p.m. There were 14 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the undersigned read the minutes for the meeting of November 7, 2016. Ron, K8VJG, moved and Rick, K8ZH seconded that the minutes be approved and they were approved. Then treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! and that was approved. The repeater was reported as OK.



Denny, WB8K, reported that the repeater tower peak lamp is not lighted. The pole is only 175 feet high and lighting the peak is not required for that location and height. The "82" repeater was reported having interference due to propagation. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the next newsletter is in progress but that he needs more material.

### Old/New Business:

Tedd reported that the Pitcairn Island, VP6EU, (IOTA OC-044) group is listing their operation for February 16 to March 5, 2017. Our logo is now on their Web site after our contribution. Don't forget the Christmas luncheon at Buffalo Wild Wings on December 14 at 12:30 p.m. The 2016 Field Day results are now in the latest QST magazine. We were number 8 in 2A and we won the Great Lakes Division in that category.

Pete, N8TR, reported logging onto the FCC ULS site to update the club call sign. Pete had the FRN number but the FCC also wanted a certain format for a password. The FCC also has new security questions that must be answered and then reviewed by the FCC before the application is processed.

During the Show and Tell discussion, Pete, N8TR, showed off his old large silver plated General Electric fixed inductor that has variable taps for tuning. He purchased this for \$2.00 at the 2014 Cleveland Hamfest. Next Mary, N8DMM, who is a collector of tools from the "American Industrial Past" showed off several old tools. There was a pair of parallel action pliers patented in 1921. Also shown was several other parallel jaw pliers. Pete and Mary both passed their items around for the group to touch and see up close.

George, K8KR, originally licensed as K8KRN in 1958, had his original license with him. His license was signed by John Huntoon (ex-W1LVQ) of earlier ARRL fame. George also showed off the ARRL's "Operating An Amateur Radio Station" booklet from that period. At that point several other people also talked about their early Novice experiences. David, KZ8Y, showed off his balun from a Carolina Windom antenna. He was wondering if the balun has become defective.

### Wrapup:

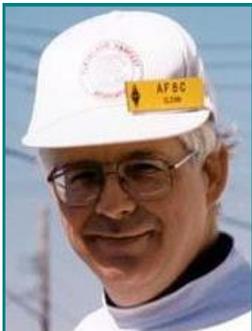
Ron, K8VJG moved, and Brian, K3USC, seconded that the meeting be closed. The next meeting will occur on January 2, 2017. The 50/50 raffle drawing was won by Joe, N8QXC, who donated his half of \$28.00 back to the club. The meeting closed at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

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

## Minutes of the January 2nd, 2017 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m., with 14 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the undersigned read the minutes for the meeting of December 5, 2016. Ron, K8VJG, moved and Denny, WB8K, se-



conded that the minutes be approved and they were approved. Then treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching!. Joe, N8QXC, moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded that the minutes be approved and they were approved. The repeater was reported as being OK. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU, was absent.

### Old/New Business:

Tedd reported that the Christmas luncheon on December 14 was enjoyed by 18 people. Rick, K8ZH, reported that the rotor repair company CATS, moved to Kentucky. This can be verified on the Mt. Sherman, KY, Web site [<http://www.rotor-parts.com/>]. On QRZ.com he is found as N8DJB Craig Henderson.

Tedd said we have one request for funding of an operation, and that is from the German group who are planning the XX9D Macao operation (as reported in OPDX 1296). They will work SSB, CW, and Digital modes. They are rated 19 in U.S. and the operation could occur on February 13-26 on the bands 160 through 10. The radios will be all K3 and amplifiers. Pete, N8TR, moved that we donate \$100.00 to the XX9D operation, and this was seconded by Denny, WB8K. The motion passed on the vote.

Tedd said that PayPal is working great for our donations. Rick, K8ZH, asked for the latest word on when the Bouvet operation will occur. Tedd said that will likely be in 2018. Tedd listed the top ten most wanted which are P5, 3Y/B, FT5/W, KH1, BS7H, CEOX, BV9P, KH3, VKOM, KH7K. Cycle 24 is not almost over and the effects of Cycle 24 will be really bad for the next two years. Tedd made the early announcement that the 2017 nominations of officers will happen at the March meeting.

### Wrapup:

Ron, K8VJG moved, and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded that the meeting be closed, and this passed the vote. The next meeting will occur on February 6, 2017. The 50/50 raffle drawing was won by Tedd, KB8NW, who donated his half of \$26.00 back to the club. There was a door prize donated by Joe, N8QXC, and with the drawing the winner was Glenn, AF8C. The meeting closed at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary



## Minutes of the February 6th, 2017 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m., with 17 members and guests present. A moment of silence was given for Karl Gruber, K8BCK, who became a Silent Key (SK) on January 2nd. Then after the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, Dwaine, K8ME, read the minutes for the meeting of January 2, 2017. Gary, NI8Z, moved and Bruce, N8DJX, seconded that the minutes be approved and they were approved. Then Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching!. Gary, NI8Z, moved and Bruce, N8DJX, seconded that the treasurer report be approved and they were approved.



A mention was made that the club dues are coming up in May. The repeater was reported as being OK. Our last newsletter was reported to be of nice size, and club editor, Dave, WD8IOU, reports he is looking for more articles from the membership for the next issue.

### Old/New Business:

Tedd reported that the club's donation for the XX9D Macao operation was made via PayPal® and the club's logo was on the XX9D Web page in less than a day. The club also received a "thank you for the donation" E-mail from Werner, DJ9KH. The E-mail message was passed around for the membership to read. The XX9D operation was to begin on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Tedd reminds everyone that the 2017 nominations of club officers will be taking place at the March meeting and the election will be held in April. The annual "Post/After CQWW WPX DX SSB Contest Luncheon" was announced. Luncheon will be held again at Strongsville's Buffalo Wild Wings on March 29<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30. Dwaine, K8ME, made announcement and passed out flyers on the CARS's bus trip to the Dayton/Xenia Hamvention®. It was also announced that all the parking at the Hamvention® was going to be FREE!

Another discussion continued on the upcoming Bouvet operations, and it seems that the 3Y0Z operation (lead by Bob, K4UEE, and team) is for sure to happen in early 2018. Four other possible operations/callsigns were announced, but no dates of operations. After much discussion the membership decided to help fund the 3Y0Z DXpedition on a move by Gary, NI8Z, and a second by Ron, K8VJG, that NODXA donate funds (along with an individual contribution), but would not release the funds until April. The vote was taken and passed.

It was announced that the "Oldest, Longest-Licensed U.S. Ham and Educator" became a Silent Key at the age of 106 - Charlie Hellman, W2RP. He was first licensed as W2AMK in 1925 at the age of 15. George, K8KR, mentioned that he applied for the "W1AW Worked All States" plaque, and his form/money was returned because the League ran out of plaques. In closing, members reflected on the memories of Karl, K8BCK, and his passing.

### Wrapup:

Bruce, N8DJX, moved, and Metro, W8MET, seconded that the meeting be closed, and this passed the vote. The next meeting will occur on March 6, 2017. The 50/50 raffle drawing was won by Ron, K8VJG, who donated his half of \$30.00 back to the club. The meeting closed at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully, Tedd, KB8NW, Club President

(Written for Secretary Glenn, AF8C, not present for personal reasons)

## Dwaine Modock - K8ME (xWA8MEM), Silent Key, March 11, 2017

by John Papay, K8YSE

I got to know Dwaine, prior to being a dx'er, through the US Army MARS program. We shared an interest in Military Communications both HF and VHF. Dwaine liked CW and RTTY which in those days involved mechanical teleprinters like the 28ASR. MARS members were always helping each other with their stations and antennas so we spent a lot of time together, both at his house in North Olmsted and at other member's places. Dwaine was always willing to do whatever he could to help.

We would also travel down to Ft. Meade or Ft. Detrick, Maryland to operate the US Army radio station "WAR" for the amateur to military cross-band test on Armed Forces Day. Dwaine really enjoyed the trip and making all those contacts. We would take our own equipment and use the big Log Periodic Antennas they had everywhere. After setting up we would go out to a restaurant for a good meal. One time Dwaine asked the waitress, "How many shrimp do you get with this?" pointing to the Stuffed Shrimp on the menu. The waitress replied "you get two." In loud voice everyone could hear he said, "ONLY TWO???" We all cracked up with that remark! Dwaine always said he liked those Supreme Pizzas.....except for all those toppings! He had the wit.



One of the most memorable times I shared with Dwaine was our trip to the ARRL in Newington, CT, to have our DXCC cards checked. This was in the early 90's when Don Search, W3AZD, did all the checking manually. We set up an appointment with Don to come up for the day so that he could check our cards and we could take them back with us. We drove through the night in Dwaine's Continental Mark III and got there at about 9am. Don acted like he never heard of us, but that all changed after a great conversation about DX'ing. Then he went to work checking a few thousand cards that we had

brought. We had a nice tour of ARRL HQ and I remember Dwaine walking into Dave Sumner's office and shaking his hand. Later we both were able to operate W1AW and make some q's from the HQ station. We stayed overnight and drove back the next day.

Dwaine went on a dxpedition to Anguilla, VP2E, with a group of club members. He talked about what a good time they had there. Maybe K8KR or K8BL could share some of those memories with the Club.



Dwaine had a passion for Dx'ing and in particular RTTY and 6 meters. It was always a challenge to keep everything working but he managed to do it and worked a lot of DX. He was particularly proud of the DXCC Challenge Plaque that he earned not long ago. Dwaine was always interested in qualifying for awards and acting as our club awards manager. He came up with the DXCC and Honor Roll Patch offering which continues today. Dwaine was a

VUCC and WAS card checker. He checked a lot of cards over the years including over 1500 of my satellite cards.

Dwaine was our NODXA Vice President for many years and an active participant at our Field Day Exercise. He was our Chef for many years and supplied the generator that powered our Field Day Stations. At Club Meetings he usually had some tidbits of information about operating events, QSL cards and awards that he would share. Dwaine was a good friend, neighbor and fellow dx'er. He will be missed by everyone that knew him.

John K8YSE

## Iran, EP2A, April 15–25, 2016 by Yuris Petersons, YL2GM

### THE BEGGINING OF EP2A

The idea about DXpedition to Iran was born in 2011 when I met with Natig 4J5T in Azerbaijan. He was fluent in Farsi Language and we thought it would help us organize and carry out the DXpedition. Situation changed when Natig got very ill and he had to go for treatment to United States of America. Sadly, Natig passed away in 2015 and never had the chance to see EP2A.

In 2015 we got outrun by EP6T. However, I didn't give up on this idea and later that year after correspondence with Mohammad EP2LMA and the cooperation with Latvian-Iran friendship association I visited Iran for the first time, where I met with Mohammad Mobini EP3MIR and Mohammad Azimi EP2LMA and we agreed on organizing common expedition.



Yuris YL2GM and Natig 4J5T (Azerbaijan, 2011)

### THE PLANNING PROCESS

After analyzing EP6T slips we decided to look for a location outside highly populated and industrialized areas. Mohammad EP3MIR was responsible for acquiring necessary permits from CRA and government institutions. My responsibility was to complete the equipment and team.

### THE TEAM

The first difficulties I faced when I started to gather the team. I called my friends but everyone rejected for different reasons so I decided to post information on contest.ru forum, where I met with Alex UXOLL - radio amateur from Ukraine. He helped to find 3 other team members, that allowed to complete the Ukrainian part of the team. Later for personal reasons 2 members called off their participation and from that point we were 8-man team that didn't change - 3 Latvians, 3 Ukrainians and 2 Iranians.

Operating licenses in Iran are issued individually and to receive them we had to send individual applications with additional information. Not everything went as planned. After collecting all necessary information, the documents were sent to Iran via Latvian post office in one package, but the package was lost during the postage and it took a month or so for us to find this out. We had to collect the information again and that took some time as well. However, the documents were dispatched



Mohammad EP3MIR, Yuris YL2GM, Mohammad EP2LMA (Iran, 2015)

once more, this time using different post service and it was delivered to the recipient safely. This was one of the reasons that DXpedition starting date got postponed by 8 months. However, the good news was that we all received licenses and on top of that we were granted our desired callsign - EP2A.

During the whole DXpedition our team was supported from home. From Latvia by Agris YL2VW, Ziedonis YL2GN and Kaspars. From USA Herbert K7GEX.

### EQUIPMENT AND ANTENNAS

I contacted Andrey RA6LBS and he helped us to provide the expedition with six "Perfo Box - 1500" band pass filters and two antenna Four-square switch relay units. More detailed information about this equipment you can find on his website <http://lowbandsystems.com>

Regarding power amplifiers, I talked to Martti OH2BH and he consulted me that the best option is Expert amplifiers with antenna tuning. Then, after writing personal message to Gianfranco IOZY, his company SPE manufactured two Expert 1.3k-FA amplifiers especially designed for EP2A and we received them just one week before the expedition starting date. Third amplifier (homemade) was provided by Eugene EA5HPX.

As for transceivers we used two K3 (mine and YL2KL) and one TS-590 (UT7UJ). Antenna construction and testing I accomplished together with Jack YL2KA in the field next to my home. Altogether we completed 7x antennas: (2x) 5band spiderbeams, (2x) four-square arrays (30m and 40m), (1x) 160/80m vertical and (2x) RX antennas from Hi-Z. For the 160/80m and 30m, 40m we used fiberglass poles from spiderbeam. More information on this equipment can be found on their websites: <http://www.spiderbeam.com> and <http://www.hizantennas.com>

For equipment and antenna transportation to Iran we used ATA carnet services. I would recommend using this service for transportation if possible because of low costs, reliability and easy way to deal with customs. However, I need to mention that this service is not available for all countries. More info on <http://www.atacarnet.com/what-carnet>

### TRAVELING

Tickets for trip Riga - Kiev - Tehran were ordered in advance and we had no problems with this.

It was Saturday morning 3am when I finished packing my bags. After three-hour nap and a quick breakfast I was on the way to Riga airport where I met with Larry and Jack. From Riga we flew to Kiev where we met our Ukrainian friends in person for the first time. In Tehran we landed after midnight where we were greeted by local radio amateur friends and expedition members EP3MIR and EP2LMA with this amazing post-



*Perfo Box 1500 bandpass filters and Four-square relay switch units by RA6LBS*



*Expert 1.3K-FA power amplifiers by IOZY (SPE)*



*Spiderbeam*

er. After couple of hours dealing with custom formalities we were on the 420km trip to Gilan province - DXpedition location.

### SETTING UP DX POSITIONS

Day1: After quick survey of surroundings we start to set up our 1st spiderbeam antenna in the yard and the first QSO is established on 15th of April at 15:09 local time. Later the same day we manage to set up 30m 4-SQ antenna and the second station is operational.

After couple of hours operating our plans are interfered by local neighbor who with the help of axe starts taking down our 30m 4-SQ antenna. Local amateurs negotiate and with the assistance of the police the problem gets solved.

Day2: Second spiderbeam and 40m 4-SQ antennas are completed by noon, when other neighbor arrives with complaints about electricity usage. After presenting papers and a friendly chat the problem is solved. Third position is operational.

Rest of the day goes for setting up GP 160/80m. We are having some problems with noise levels (59+10db) and its practically impossible to hear something. It turned out to be power supply unit fault and after changing 2 of them the noise levels went down.

Day3: We finish setting up antennas. Computers are connected through wi-fi but he connection breaks down frequently which requires to re-start network frequently. To solve this problem we had to use



Welcoming in Tehran airport wires.

4SQ on 40m and 30m with the relay switch unit from RA6LBS were perfect combination. 160/80m transmitting antenna is also RA6LBS design. Both Spiderbeams are set up in the yard next to the house very close to each other, we could not set them further because of limited space, which caused some minor interference between them but other than that they worked good.

### RESULTS AND STATISTICS

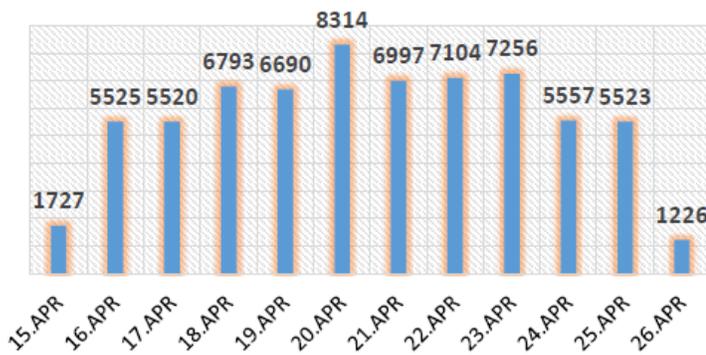
Result wise we had 2 goals for EP2A and we reached both of them. These goals were:

- 1) to beat EP6T QSO score;
- 2) to make more QSOs with NA.



Vertical 160/80m

Daily QSOs



DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

Column1	PH	CW	RTTY	Total
160	1	66	0	66
80	17	73	0	73
40	80	105	42	111
30	0	112	77	115
20	109	114	59	125
17	90	103	28	109
15	97	105	49	119
12	25	66	0	69
10	24	53	0	58
<b>Totals</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>151</b>

Band/Mode breakdown

Band	PH	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
160	2	1765	0	1767	2.6%
80	42	2007	0	2049	3.0%
40	2522	5593	310	8425	12.3%
30	0	9209	2527	11736	17.2%
20	8207	10694	796	19697	28.9%
17	4565	6833	334	11732	17.2%
15	4137	5796	527	10460	15.3%
12	223	1116	0	1339	2.0%
10	148	879	0	1027	1.5%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19846</b>	<b>43892</b>	<b>4494</b>	<b>68232</b>	

Continent by Mode

Band	PH	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
AF	126	144	12	282	0.4%
AN	0	1	0	1	0.0%
AS	2813	8203	1080	12096	17.7%
EU	14745	28531	2901	46177	67.7%
NA	1880	6452	445	8777	12.9%
OC	118	242	33	393	0.6%
SA	164	319	23	506	0.7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19846</b>	<b>43892</b>	<b>4494</b>	<b>68232</b>	

Continent by Band

Band	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Total %
AF	1	7	23	37	65	54	71	12	12	282	0.4%
AN	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.0%
AS	141	125	910	1810	2517	2997	2929	488	179	12096	17.7%
EU	1610	1782	6048	7372	13188	7480	7080	809	808	46177	67.7%
NA	9	122	1314	2379	3696	1105	152	0	0	8777	12.9%
OC	1	0	20	54	144	54	90	22	8	393	0.6%
SA	5	13	110	84	87	41	138	8	20	506	0.7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1767</b>	<b>2049</b>	<b>8425</b>	<b>11736</b>	<b>19697</b>	<b>11732</b>	<b>10460</b>	<b>1339</b>	<b>1027</b>	<b>68232</b>	

**EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM DXPEDITION**

1st lesson learned from this DXpedition is, that it is necessary to have more powerful computers. Moreover, it is mandatory to connect and test their network capability before the expedition in order to avoid networking problems like we had.

As well we are planning to switch log software from N1MM to Wintest or similar. N1MM takes much time to make call corrections and it doesn't support DXpedition recording feature.

Regarding transceivers for EP2A we used K3 and TS-590. For next DXpedition we will prefer K3 and we are planning to test new SDR IC-7300. As for power amplifiers we will use only Expert 1.3k because they proved as very good and reliable PA and in our opinion there aren't better alternatives.

## EP2A QSL CARD



## THANK YOU!

I want to thank all EP2A team for your devotion, involvement and participation in DXpedition. It was an honor to work with you together and I`m looking forward to work with you again on future DXpeditions.

Thanks to EP2A support team for help and support.

Thank you EP2A families for patience and moral support.

Thanks to all clubs, associations, cooperates and radio amateurs for financial support. Thank you for following our progress and being active on bands.

Thank you!

On the endnote I would like to share EP2A movie and remind you of EP2A website for more detailed information on DXpedition. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsPrvtfi3xo> and <http://www.lral.lv/exped/ep2a/>

73, Yuris /YL2GM/

## EP2A SUPPORTERS





# CERTIFICATE of Gratitude

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

***NORTHERN OHIO DXA***

FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO EP2A DXPEDITION 15.-25.04.2016

5.10.2016 ON BEHALF OF EP2A TEAM *Jan* YL2GM



## Interesting Gadgets I Wish I Had Time For by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm on a lot of mailing lists and participate in a bunch of amateur radio forums. As a result, I see a lot of interesting gadgets that guys are buying or are thinking about buying. Here are three of the latest that look interesting to me. I wish I had time (and money) to purchase all of these and try them out.



### Android Antenna Analyzer

On Reddit ([www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/60nnp1/finally\\_got\\_my\\_mini60\\_ebay\\_antenna\\_analyzer\\_time](http://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/60nnp1/finally_got_my_mini60_ebay_antenna_analyzer_time)), some of the guys have been talking about the Mini60 Antenna Analyzer ([www.ebay.com/itm/2016-Bluetooth-Mini60-Sark100-HF-ANT-SWR-Antenna-Analyzer-Meter-Android-APP-/182255840910?hash=item2a6f4b6e8e:g:G8oAAOSw9NdXvnIC](http://www.ebay.com/itm/2016-Bluetooth-Mini60-Sark100-HF-ANT-SWR-Antenna-Analyzer-Meter-Android-APP-/182255840910?hash=item2a6f4b6e8e:g:G8oAAOSw9NdXvnIC)). Its frequency range is 1 - 60MHz, but the cool thing about this device is that you can use it standalone with the built-in LCD display or with some software ([www.jtelectronics.co.nz/information\\_links/MINI60/Add-Bluetooth-Module-To-MINI60-Antenna-Analyser.htm](http://www.jtelectronics.co.nz/information_links/MINI60/Add-Bluetooth-Module-To-MINI60-Antenna-Analyser.htm)) and a Bluetooth device to get fancy frequency vs. SWR plots as shown above.

Of course, this is made in China, but how can you beat the price? It costs less \$120 shipped.



### Multi-functional component tester

Here's another marvel of Chinese engineering and manufacture - a smart component tester ([www.banggood.com/3-5inch-Colorful-Display-Multi-functional-TFT-Backlight-Transistor-Tester-p-1083042.html](http://www.banggood.com/3-5inch-Colorful-Display-Multi-functional-TFT-Backlight-Transistor-Tester-p-1083042.html)) for only \$25, shipped. This isn't the first one to hit the market, but the unique thing about this unit is that it has a graphical display that not only identifies the type of component that you've connected to it, but also draws the schematic symbol of the part. See the video below: ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7FH6tjzwWg&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7FH6tjzwWg&feature=youtu.be))



## How To Clean Wires For Soldering by Soloman Singer, NH7ZE

Here is an old ham radio operator's trick for cleaning wires for soldering that are old and corroded. It is hard to find this technique printed anywhere! I am a ham, NH7ZE, and learned it from my Elmer (mentor). I am passing it on. I hope it helps people who need to clean wires.

Normally, if you strip a wire, and see it is corroded, there is not much you can do to

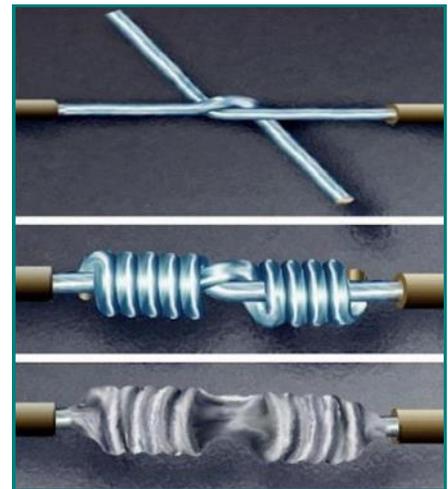


restore its shiny new conductive properties. There is scraping and scratching which comes to mind, but you'll never get it to the solderable slickness it once was long ago. After laboring and fretting over the corroded pieces of wire for a long, long time, you see that your sweat coming out of your palms and fingers are corroding the copper **AGAIN!!!!** Oh, dear. **NOT TO WORRY!!!!** Give yourself a pat on the back, because what you will pull out of your bag of tricks now, will send all the corroded copper wires scurrying and scampering away in fear!!!! Here is how to clean any corroded wire without even touching it, in 30 seconds!! And what's more, you can even solder it!!!

This process uses two solutions, one is regular table salt and vinegar. Any kind of vinegar will work, from balsamic, to rice, to white vinegars. Its the acidity and corrosiveness of the salt and vinegar together that you want. The other solution is Sodium Bicarbonate, or baking soda, and water. This is used to neutralize the corrosive properties of the other solution, and to further clean the wires.

1. Strip the wires to be cleaned.
2. Get 2 containers, one for each solution. They can be paper cups, plastic, glass, bowls, whatever you can find. I have vials, because I am a professional electronics installer and I use these solutions out in the field.
3. Get 1 tablespoon of raw salt, and put it in one of the containers. Fill up the rest of the container with vinegar, and stir the both together. As a general rule of thumb, put as much salt in the vinegar as will dissolve.
4. Get 1 tablespoon of Sodium Bicarbonate, (baking soda) and add it to the other container. Fill up the rest with water, and stir well. Add more baking soda to make it cloudy. The amount is not important, as long as it is alkaline to cancel the acid of the vinegar solution.
5. Put the stripped end of the wire in the vinegar solution, and stir the solution with the wire. Any wire you want cleaned needs to be under the solution. Movement of the wire in the liquid speeds up the process.
6. After 2 minutes or so, the wire will look very shiny and new in the vinegar solution. The acid and salt in the solution is etching away the oxides, exposing the bare metal. Make sure the metal is uniformly shiny. Leave it in longer if it is not perfectly clean throughout.

Once the wire is satisfactorily clean, remove the wire from the vinegar, and plunge it into the baking soda solution to neutralize the acid's corrosive properties. If the wire was exposed to the air, without neutralizing the acid first, it would quickly corrode again. The baking soda keeps it clean and shiny. Swish the wire around in the baking soda water for about 10 seconds, and then you are done!! Shiny new wire ready for soldering, and conducting once again!!



Before using this lineman's splice, clean the wires using the technique described here.

## Bouvet Island DXpedition-2018

On behalf of the Bouvet Island DXpedition-2018, thank you for your kind contribution of \$750 USD on behalf of The Northern Ohio DX Association.

Please accept this small gift (download the attachment) to recognize your important and generous contribution toward the Bouvet DXpedition-2018 expenses. As you probably know, this is likely the most expensive DXpedition ever attempted.

It is dedicated and generous DXers like you and your club members that make DXpeditions such as this possible, and we are pleased that NODXA is now one of our important supporters.

One of the goals of the Bouvet Island DXpedition-2018 is to provide at least one QSO to every DXer who needs this #2 ranked DXCC entity for an all-time new one (ATNO). Also, we want to provide as many band/mode contacts needed by DXers as we possibly can. We believe we have the plan, the team and the equipment to make this happen!

Your contribution will help make all this a reality for not only our team of DXpeditioners, but for DXers, worldwide...THANK YOU!

See you in the pileups!

For the team,  
 Ralph Fedor - KOIR  
 Bob Allphin - K4UEE  
 Erling Wiig - LA6VM

**Certificate of Appreciation**  
**3Y0Z**

Thank you for your support of  
**THE BOUVET ISLAND DXPEDITION 2018**


© Copyright 2016 <http://www.bouvetdx.org>

**Please reserve and pay for your "2017 Hamvention" ride to Xenia, OH Bus Trip ASAP.**

**Saturday May 20, 2017 CARS is again sponsoring a Bus trip to the "2017 Hamvention" 1<sup>st</sup> time now located at the Green County Fairgrounds, Xenia, OH.**



*Every amateur radio operator in the world probably dreams about going to the Hamvention (formerly Dayton Hamvention) at least once. Please join us in 2017, it is an incredible event in a new Venue and offers something for everyone.*

**The Bus trip will cost \$50.00 dollars per person, we will not stop for breakfast on the way down, but there may be 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 56 passenger 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 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 Xenia 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 Metro W8MET at a CARS meeting or call him at 216-520-1320. Checks must be made out to CARS and mailed to: Metro Sinko W8MET, 6511 Elmerge Dr., Independence, OH 44131 attn. Xenia bus***

**73, Metro, W8MET**

## AREG Develops New DX Pileup Defeating Technology By AREG

### Introducing DX Buster!

After months of rigorous testing, the Amateur Radio Experimenters Group Inc is pleased to announce the beta version of our new *DX Buster(tm)* is nearly ready for initial release. What is it you might ask? Well, it is designed to help you to break through pile ups during DX Contests and DXPeditions, ensuring your signal is the one heard clear and true, first time, every-time!

There will be no more disappointment that the DX got away when you are using a *DXBuster! (tm)*, even if you are only a small 100W pistol or 400W VK "high power" station located more than double the distance from that rare DX station compared to the majority (as is often the case when comparing VK to Europe, North America and Japan where they run 1kW or more). Now, with *DX Buster! (tm)* on your team, you can rest assured your signal will always be clearly heard among the pileups at the DX stations end, guaranteeing you *will* get that rare one in your log, even with modest power.

### How does it work?

*DX Buster!(tm)* is a DSP device you insert into your microphone audio stream, and then also connect to the Internet. It works by mixing your transmitted audio with an anti-phase, time correlated / corrected version of the signals that the DX station is listening to, based on what is being received via any [WebSDR](#) located close to the major source of the DX calling pile-up stations.

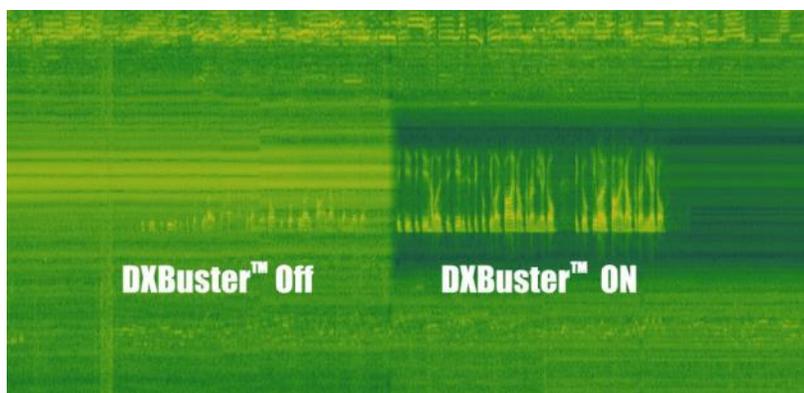
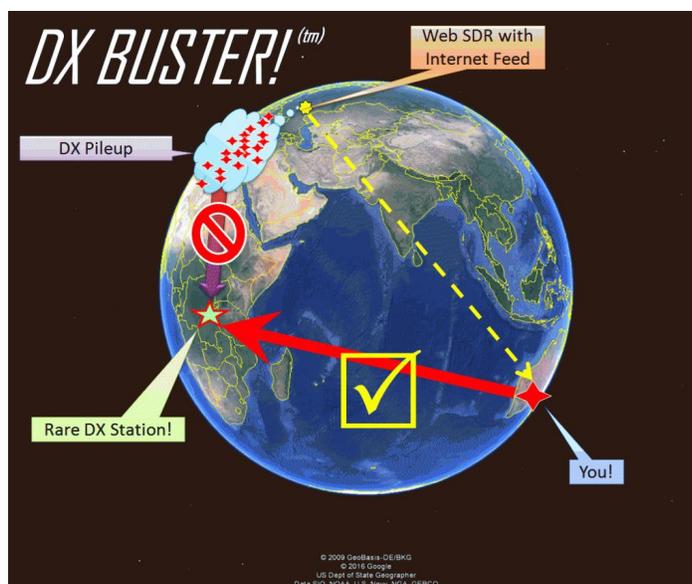
Using patented [Flux capacitor](#) technology, and augmented by feeds from the [Reverse Beacon](#) and [PSK Reporter](#) systems tuned to the WSJT JT65 networks as well as space weather predictions from the [NOAA](#) and [Australian Bureau of Meteorology](#), the propagation channel between your station and the rare DX is computed. Then, the anti-phase signals matching the majority of the pile up stations within 4kHz of your signal are delay matched to your station and then injected into your audio. The rest follows the laws of physics! When the out of phase signals are combined at the DX stations receiver with the other pile up traffic, that traffic is attenuated, while your own audio laid over the top passes through unaffected. The end result is a minimum 10-30dB improvement in your apparent signal to noise ratio as measured at the DX station.

Don't quite believe it? Take a look at the following waterfall charts and sample audio streams to be convinced! [www.areg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/dxbuster\\_sample\\_3.mp3](http://www.areg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/dxbuster_sample_3.mp3)

### How can I get one?

Currently only a prototype of the unit is available, as a number of technical details are still being refined to make it adaptable to as many transceivers as possible. As soon as these are resolved, we will open our books for orders!

Keep watching the [AREG website](#) for further details!



## Midway and Kure Islands are Now Deleted DXCC Entities By ARRL

Midway and Kure Islands have been placed on the list of DXCC deleted entities, effective August 26, 2016. This came about as an unintended consequence of action last summer by then-President Barack Obama that expanded the [Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument](#) to include the north-western Hawaiian Islands west of Ni'ihau Island, making it the largest contiguous protected conservation area under the US flag.

Midway (KH4) had qualified for DXCC status by virtue of its being governed by a separate administration. Because it is now under the administration of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, however, it becomes a deleted entity. Approximately 50 people live on Midway, including US Fish and Wildlife Service staffers and contractors. The Battle of Midway, a turning point in the Allied World War II Pacific Campaign, took place in June 1942.

Now uninhabited, Kure Island (KH7K), a part of Hawaii, is separated from the rest of the state by Midway; because of that, it qualified for DXCC status under Section II, 2 (b) (iii) of the DXCC Rules — separation from its "parent" Hawaii. Midway Island's change in DXCC status in turn made Kure Island no longer eligible for DXCC status, since Kure no longer is separated from the rest of Hawaii by intervening land or islands that are part of another DXCC entity.

Kure Island once was home to a US Coast Guard LORAN station, remnants of which are still evident. It has been a state wildlife sanctuary since 1981.

The relevant parts of Section II of the DXCC Rules follow:

A Geographic Separation Entity may result when a single Political Entity is physically separated into two or more parts. The part of such a Political Entity that contains the capital city is considered the Parent for tests under these criteria. One or more of the remaining parts resulting from the separation may then qualify for separate status as a DXCC Entity if they satisfy paragraph a) or b) of the Geographic Separation Criteria, as follows.

b) Island Areas (Separation by Water):

A new entity results in the case of an island under any of the following conditions:

iii) The island is separated from its Parent by intervening land or islands that are part of another DXCC entity, such that a line drawn along a great circle in any direction, from any part of the island, does not touch the Parent before touching the intervening DXCC entity. There is no minimum separation distance for the first island entity created under this rule. Additional island entities may be created under this rule, provided that they are similarly separated from the Parent by a different DXCC entity and separated from any other islands associated with the Parent by at least 800 km.

Neither Midway nor Kure was able to be activated without prior permission and only for a planned DXpedition. Only contacts made on August 25, 2016, or earlier will count for these two entities.

### Antennas For Sale

Cushcraft A3S - Three element beam for 20/15/10 meters - \$200  
(Original manual included)

KD9SV design Two element trapped yagi for 17/12 meters - \$50

Both are partially disassembled.

Contact Denny @ [wb8k@arrl.net](mailto:wb8k@arrl.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 2016-2017

President: Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)  
 V. President: Dwaine Modock, K8ME (SK) (440-582-3462)  
 Secretary: Glenn Williams, AF8C (440-934-5566)  
 Treasurer: Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)  
 Newsletter: David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)



## DXCC Info

As of August 2016, the current DXCC Entities total is: **337**.

## 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, K8ME, KB8NW, K8YSE, AF8C, W8MET, KOIR, KB6NU, YL2GM, NH7ZE, ARRL, and [www.areg.org.au](http://www.areg.org.au)