



"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.



April 2005

Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

At the April NODXA meeting, the membership completed their annual election of officers for the club year 2005-2006. The other NODXA officers and I would like to thank the membership for their confidence in re-electing the same officers and Al Moriarty, N8CX, as the new NODXA Secretary (replacing outgoing/retiring Ron Borkey, K8VJG). Also, I would like to thank Ron for his many years of service as club secretary. I am sure the members will miss his words of wit during the reading of the minutes each month. However, I believe Ron will still provide us with his words of wit, but from the sidelines. Thanks again Ron for your hard work as club secretary.

Can you believe it? Another major DXpedition has been postponed. The DXpedition to Glorioso Island (FR/G or TO4G) has been postponed until October or November "due to security reasons". However, this is actually good. The propagation

should be a lot better in those months than in May.

You may want to attend the May NODXA meeting. We plan to have our second NODXA "Show and Tell" that month. Everyone really enjoyed the first, and it should prove to be interesting again. Remember, it is open to everyone. Bring something (hopefully Ham related, but not mandatory) of interest. Interesting QSL cards, awards, old equipment or homebrew projects are a few suggestions. Hope to see you there.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone again that the ARRL Field Day is only about two months away. Mark your calendar. **WE NEED NIGHT-TIME OPERATORS.** Please make plans to attend this year.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. Remember, club dues/renewals are now due for 2005.

Minutes of the April 4th, 2005 NODXA Meeting

Tedd KB8NW called the meeting to order at 7:32PM which was held at the Gourme Deli and Restaurant in Strongsville, Ohio. An around the room introductions were made by the 20 members and guest in attendance.

Mary N8DMM reports a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the treasury and that a new member, Metro Sinko W8MET has joined the club.

Pete N8TR made a report on the packet cluster.

A report on the newsletter was given by Dave WD8IOU.

Dwaine K8ME informed us that two patch orders were sent out to Edwin Musto ZS5BOO and Jim Scott WK3N.

If you did not receive your last newsletter, please inform John K8YSE as to your latest E-mail address.

A discussion on the Dayton Hamfest 2005 was opened by Tedd KB8NW.

A motion was made by Ray W8BIN and seconded by Pete N8TR to allot \$250.00 to be used at the Hospitality Suite in Dayton. A discussion followed and a vote was taken and passed.

Tedd KB8NW informed the membership of a donation request from Floyd Gerald N5FG of the Clipperton Radio Club for the Glorioso Island DX-pedition. A motion to donate \$110.00 to the Clipperton Radio Club for this DX-pedition was made by John K8YSE and seconded by Dwaine K8ME. A discussion followed and a vote was taken and passed.

A package from Jose Jacob VU2JOS sent to Tedd KB8NW in behalf of NODXA containing India Leading Journals on Amateur Radio, a few old QSL cards, and a letter of thanks for our \$100.00 donation to the Andaman Island DX-pedition as related to us by Tedd KB8NW.

A discussion was opened on the new Field Day rules by Tedd KB8NW.

Tedd KB8NW made a report on the Kerguelen Island FT5XO DX-pedition.

Dwaine K8ME nominated for Club Secretary for 2005, Al Moriarty N8CX, and was seconded

by John K8YSE. No other nominations were made. Al N8CX is the new Secretary.

A discussion on Field Day for 2005 was opened by Tedd KB8NW. NODXA will operate as 2A class.

Tedd KB8NW informs us that the May 2005 meeting will be a show and tell.

Karl K8BCK won the 50/50 raffle. His share was \$19.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16PM by Tedd KB8NW.

Secretary: Ron K8VJG.

8th Area QSL Bureau Annual Report

By Jay Slough, K4ZLE, (Bureau Chief)

The year 2004, was the first full year that the 8th Area QSL bureau (Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia) was been located at the former VOA Bethany Relay Station in West Chester, Ohio. The QSL Bureau facilities are now part of the new VOA Radio Museum being developed by local ham radio operators and local Veterans groups under the sponsorship of the West Chester Division of Parks and Recreation.

Upon receipt cards are first bulk sorted by the first letter after the numeral. This is being done by members of the West Chester Amateur Radio Association, who also operate ham radio station WC8VOA at the VOA location. Once every 4 to 8 weeks the sorted cards are boxed and mailed to the letter managers where they are further sorted and placed into your envelopes. Once your envelope is full, it is then mailed to you.

Last year the bureau handled 135,000 cards, down 15,000 from the 150,000 in 2003. More detailed information on how the bureau operates can be found on the web at <http://home.fuse.net/jslough/w8buro.html>.

Your individual letter managers are listed on the web site. Remember all of your bureau workers are volunteers. These men and women, some

BETHANY RELAY STATION

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Half a century of broadcasting to the world



are not even active DXers, love the hobby enough to freely give their time and effort as a service to the DX community. Their desire is to provide first class service and for the most part, they do. Sometimes family commitments, vacations and work schedules impose an additional delay in the distribution system. However, in the big scheme of things where it takes an average of more than one year to turn a card around through the bureau system, that occasional week or two additional delay is minimal. If you appreciate your letter manager's effort, let 'em know. The positive feedback they receive is not adequately proportional to the positive work they do for you.

Bureau correspondence can be directed to the bureau manager, Jay Slough, K4ZLE at: k4zle@arri.net. C U in the pile-ups.

"Show and Tell" at the next meeting!
See Tedd's "Fireside Chat" for
more information.

Methods to Shunt Feed a Tower

Hal Williams, N6TZ, via eHam.net

This is a follow up to an article that appeared on this site a few days ago titled "How Can I Have a Vertical and a Horizontal Antenna Too?"

In the comments that followed that article, were a few requests for details to Shunt Feed a Tower. I hope I may lend some advice to help others successfully load a tower on several bands. In the tips below, we will configure a shunt fed tower of the Monopole or Unipole design. With careful grounding and connecting of bonding points along with the use of a antenna autotuner, the Ham with some mechanical ability should be able to operate his tower on 30, 40, 60, 75-80, and 160 meters.

The tower or mast should be 40 feet to 65 feet, and the more beams and stuff on the top, the more top loading it will have to help it work on 160 and 80 meters. The tower used for shunt

feeding must be electrically conductive from top to bottom. In the case of a crank-up tower, you may require some of the following steps; and these steps should also be considered for push-up masts, etc also:

1. If you have a beam or other antenna on top of the tower, make sure the coax shield to that beam is electrically connected at the top of the tower (usually the beam is grounded to the tower and that does it). If this is not possible (like a quad), then run a tracer bare wire from a bonding point at the top of the top tower section down and maybe two or three times around the tower and bond it at the base of the tower. The tower must look electrically solid.

2. At the base of the tower, carefully open the jacket of the coax feeding the beam and solder a small bonding wire to the coax shield, waterproof the cut, and bond to the base of the tower. Also, bypass the rotator cable wires with .005 or .01 at 1kV caps to a bonding wire to the base. Also, bond the tracer wire coming down the tower if you used one.

3. Ground radials. There is no substitute for radials. Ground rods will help for lightning, but will not make a vertical work. In a small yard, put in as many of any length as you can. A minimum of 10 to 12 of 30 feet or more is just a starting point, but that number will work. At the base of the tower, bond by soldering them together and run a short lead from them to the bonding point on the tower. This bonding point is the same place you put the bonding from the coax, rotor bypass, and tracing wires. Use a stainless steel bolt and washers and clean the surface of the tower where you drilled or used an existing hole at the bottom of the tower. Lug and solder all the wires that will be bonded, and place them between stainless washers under the nut. Use at least a ¼ stainless bolt. Don't put the lugs directly in contact to the steel of the tower, let the stainless bolt and washers be the only contact with the steel of the tower. A little no-ox compound would be nice at this junction.

4. Purchase about 10 to 20 feet of copper flat ribbon strap, available from several ham sources. Get at least 2 inch wide stuff, but 4

inch is better. Now pick a place about 5 to 20 feet away from the tower base to use as your feed point. You will want to have a weatherproof box for your feed point. You will need the ability to run coax and control wire to that feed box from the shack. From this feed box, you will run the flat copper ribbon strap underground to the bonding point of the tower base. At the feed box, if you wish to do it proper, also run some radial wire from the flat copper strap to a couple of the radials that run nearby the feed box. If you solder ground connections that will be UNDERGROUND, get a propane torch and use the plumbing solder as it will hold up longer than the 60/40 electronic solder underground. Now you have a good grounded tower and feed point!

5. Next, you will need your shunt feed. Remember the point at the top of the tower where the tracer wire or the coax shield bonded. That should be right at the rotor or at the top of the top tower section. Run a wire (12 or 14 ga.) from there down at the angle away from the tower to the feed box. This is the wire you will feed this UNIPOLE or MONOPOLE Vertical; or do you want to picture this as a "half of a folded dipole" standing on end.

6. Now to match and feed. The easy way for 100 Watt operation is to place inside the weather proof box an automatic antenna tuner. The feed will be the "single wire" output of the tuner, and the chassis of the tuner goes to that copper strap ground, and the 12 vdc operating voltage and control and coax lines go to your shack.

7. If you have problems matching on 160 or sometimes 80, you may have to add a coil of 10-15 turns at 3 inch diameter in series with your feed wire. Use at least 12 ga wire for that coil. But lets hope that the auto-tuner can get down to the low impedance that 160 will present. You will have to tap that coil to see just how little of the coil you can get away with, as less is better. Also, this coil may have to be switchable in and

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, K8VJG, K8YSE, K4ZLE, N6TZ, K5TR, eHam.net, and the ARRL Letter.

NODXA Club Officials for 2005-2006

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 Editor - David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)

As of March 2002
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

335

out for use of the upper bands above 80. If your tower is 60 feet or more with top loading, you probably won't need that coil.

8. If you want to build your own tuner, it can be done, but I will warn you, this kind of matching project with all the complexities for multiband operation is not for the beginner or the faint of heart. It will keep you busy and is the kind of situation, which I cannot even begin to give values for parts for your configuration. The impedances exhibited by this kind of system will vary GREATLY from almost identical installations, and there is no way to duplicate a tuner for two sites. Just plain way too many variables. I built my own tuner, but my occupation is broadcast engineering and I have a big advantage over the average ham on this kind of thing.

You can see my system at my friend Steve's site: <http://earthsignals.com/N6TZ>

Good Luck, Hal, N6TZ n6tz@arrrl.net

DXCC Listings Now Available On The ARRL Web Site

ARRL Letter

The ARRL Web site now features up-to-date listings of DXCC awards earned. The new system shows every issued DXCC award known to ARRL's computerized DXCC system, with the exception of individual standings for 5BDXCC. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the Web site listing is even more complete than the DXCC Yearbook ever was, since the printed list did not list inactive band-accounts for the previous year.

"This will list everything and everybody," Mills emphasized. "The new system makes available a separate listing for each DXCC award type--band or mode." Even more important, Mills notes, is

that it essentially renders obsolete the manually generated monthly and yearly reports.

"Under the new system, DXCC listings will updated daily," he emphasized. The DXCC standings of all ARRL members will remain in dark type. Call signs of non-members who have not submitted credits for 10 years or more are in grayed-out type. Each listing by band or mode is complete in a separate Adobe PDF file. The largest listing (DXCC Mixed) now runs to more than 50 pages, but the size of the PDF file is only about 150 kbytes because of file compression. Printing format options include US letter-sized or ISO A4 paper.

The DXCC listings can be found at <http://www.arrrl.org/awards/dxcc/#listings>.

FT5XO Kerguelen Island DXpedition Logs 67,954 Contacts

The recent FT5XO Kerguelen Island DXpedition racked up 67,954 QSOs during its 11-plus days of operation in late March. Located in the subantarctic region of the Indian Ocean, Kerguelen --also known as "Desolation Island"--is ranked as the 13th most-wanted DXCC entity worldwide and the 10th most-wanted in the US. The multinational Microlite Penguins DXpedition Team--AG9A, G1ONWG, HB9ASZ, MODXR, N6MZ, N0TT, SP5XVY, VE3EJ, VK6DXI, W3WL, W7EW and 9V1YC--reports that 68 percent of the contacts were made on CW--many of them on 40 and 30 meters--while 29 percent were on SSB and 3 percent on RTTY. European DXers were the primary beneficiaries, accounting for slightly more than one-half of the FT5XO contacts made. Japan followed with 21 percent, and the US at 17 percent. The DXpedition was organized and sponsored by the Northern California DX Foundation. QSL FT5XO via VE3XN.--George Fremin K5TR



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 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
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