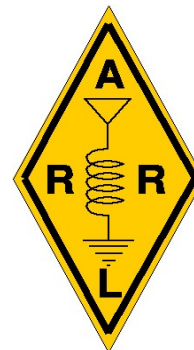


February-April 2020

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



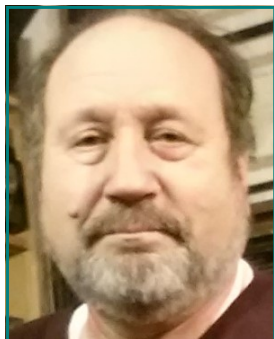
The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

As I am writing this on March 20th, the coronavirus situation is increasing every day. It has become a serious and scary situation that none of us have ever seen. NODXA was lucky enough to have their monthly meeting in early March, and their annual Spring Post/Pre-Contest Luncheon before Ohio's Governor closed/limited group gatherings.



The NODXA luncheon was held on March 12th, and we had 18 individuals who attended with four no shows. The main topics of discussion at the luncheon were the coronavirus and the possibility of the cancellation of Day-Xenia HamVention. The majority of the attendees felt that the HamVention would be cancelled because of the virus. Then three days later on March 15th, the announcement came that HamVention would be cancelled for 2020.

This is the first time in its 68-year history, that Dayton's Hamvention will not take place. This also includes the Contest University, the Dayton Contest Dinner and Dayton Top Band Dinner. As I was writing this, no word about the SWODXA's DX Banquet, but I am sure it is also cancelled. Who would have thought that this would have ever happen? What a major disappointment!

The coronavirus has also caused some DXpeditions to cancel and change their plans, many due to travel restrictions. As I was typing this, a total of 40 operations were postponed to later in the year or cancelled.

It would seem that the next item to be cancelled would possibly be the ARRL Field Day Event. This would depend on the increasing cases or the slow-down of the virus. Let's hope that it is a slow-down of the virus.

Many amateur radio clubs are now deciding to cancel their April and May meetings. **I also feel that NODXA will not have meetings in these months, and possibly June (we will wait and see for now).**

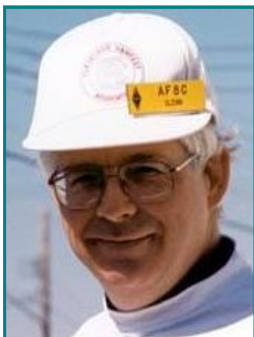
For now, I hope everyone stays healthy in the coming months. Get on the bands and work something. Let's hope that this situation goes away soon so we can all get back to normal.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

"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 November 4th, 2019 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with 17 members and guests present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting for October 7, 2019. Then Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded that the minutes be approved and the motion passed.



Next our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Mary reported "very little activity". Then Joe, N8QXC, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded a motion for the treasurer's report to be approved, and it was approved by the vote. The repeater was reported as OK.

The editor, Dave, WD8IOU, is looking for photographs of the club table at Cleveland Hamfest for the next newsletter. Send him any photos or any stories or articles for newsletter.

Old/New Business:

The 3G1DX Pajaros Rocks expedition refund arrived. The E86.28 Euros effective donation netted us a \$96.09 return with the nearly \$4.00 difference kept for expenses. Five or six club members worked the T30GC Western Kiribati group. Stan from that group wanted an update of our roster. Stan wants to get our QSOs in Logbook of the World early. So Tedd asked for those who worked it to put their name down on a list for Stan.

There were 25 club people at the DX Luncheon at Buffalo Wild Wings where K8ZH, Rick, won a \$100 credit certificate from DX Engineering. Tedd discussed some matters relative to the Contest and DX forums at the 2020 Hamvention. George, K8KR, discussed a rumor that someone wants to spend \$750,000 rehabilitating the Hara Arena. Dennis, K8LBT, heard that Clevelander Don, W8IDM, became a Silent Key.

On donation requests, an international group, mostly Germans, want to go to Swains Island. They will run 160 through 10 on CW, SSB, and Digital (consisting of RTTY and FT8) during March 10 through 25. They will use K3's and Expert Linear kilowatt amplifiers. The island is on the order of 10 feet above sea level. Tedd discussed their cost estimates. Swains Island is number 34 on ClubLog. Bruce, N8DJX, moved, and John, K8YSE, seconded that we donate \$200.00 to that group. The motion passed on the vote.

Tedd announced that the Mansfield group will be having their DX luncheon on November 27 in Dalton. Look for email on that. Pete, N8TR, mentioned a Go-Fund-Me site for helping the group currently planning to go to Bouvet. Bruce, N8DJX, moved, and Rick, K8ZH, seconded that we table any idea of contributions for that one. Dave, WD8IOU, wondered if the Libyan YL operator is on the air (as 5A0YL) with an IC-7300. Tedd acknowledged that she is indeed active.

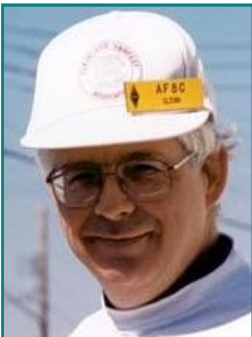
Wrap-up:

Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Linda, N8LRS, seconded that the meeting be closed, and the motion was passed on the vote. The next meeting will occur on December 2, 2019. The program will be a Show and Tell. For the 50/50 raffle collection of \$30, the drawing for the \$15.00 half was won by Glenn, AF8C, who donated his winnings back to the club. Two door prize items, Harbor Freight flashlights, contributed by Joe, N8QXC, were won by ticket drawings. Rick, K8ZH, won the first one and then John, K8YSE, won the second one. The meeting closed at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the December 2nd, 2019 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with 11 members and guests present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting for November 4, 2019. A unanimous vote approving the minutes occurred. Next our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! A unanimous vote approving the treasurer's report occurred. The repeater was reported as OK. Dave, WD8IOU, our newsletter editor, was absent.



Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, said Burket and Holger will write an article on attending Dayton for the first time, along with photos, and send all that to our editor Dave, WD8IOU, for the newsletter.

The Mansfield group luncheon in Dalton went very well. There were about 25-30 people. From DX Engineering, Tim, K3LR, and Terry, K8MNJ, were there. They supplied two door prize certificates for \$100. Denny, WB8K, brought his wife and she won one. The food was very good, as always.

Dennis, K8LBT, confirmed that T30GC is updated on Logbook of the World. Our donation to Swains Island, W8S, was for €172.25 euros. Our logo is now on their Web site. We received two Thank You's, from Uwe, DJ9HX and Ron, PA3EWP.

Tedd received the fall INDEXA newsletter which he passed around. The repeater coordination with OARC was completed for \$5.00. A unanimous vote in favor of the coordination sealed the deal. We got three donation requests. Dave, KZ8Y, asked if people got Logbook of the World confirmation for ZK3A. Dave revealed how there was a log file problem with ZK3A's computers that was solved and then data went to LOTW. Dave got his confirmation thereafter.

We got two requests for the same location, Palestine. The French group, led by Frank, F4AJQ, is going to Palestine as E44CC during February 5-17, on 160 through 10, SSB, CW, RTTY, and PSK FT8, FT4. But the Russian Robinson Club group is going to Palestine as E44RU during January 6-13, on SSB, CW, and PSK FT8, but no RTTY. Who do we donate to? Palestine is rated #76 NA all bands. #132 on DXCC most wanted, but #32 on 160m. Dennis, K8LBT moved and Denny, WB8K seconded we fund \$100 to each group. The motion passed.

At that point Dennis interjected that he seriously wants Crozet, a closed bird sanctuary, which is #3 on ClubLog. Tedd received a note regarding Kosovo. Z32ZM was going there this month as Z68MA, mostly on 160m, but some on 40&30. The meeting was closed by unanimous vote.

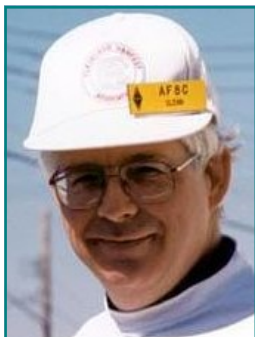
Wrap-up:

The next meeting will occur on January 6, 2020. For the 50/50 raffle collection of \$22, the drawing for the half was won by Nelson, K8DJC, who donated his winnings back to the club. Door prizes were won as follows: W8AJ, a tape measure; KZ8Y, a 12-pack of Sprite; K3USC, wire cutters; N8QXC, a 12-pack of Coke; and K3USC again, a 12-pack of 7-Up. Pete, N8TR, moved that the Show and Tell program be moved to the January meeting. This meeting closed at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the January 6th, 2019 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:31 p.m. with 16 members and guests present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of December 2, 2019. After Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded that the minutes be approved, the minutes were voted approved.



Next our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Former member Ken, W8KEN, joined again. A unanimous vote approved the treasurer's report based on a motion by Gary, NI8Z, seconded by Bruce, N8DJX. The repeater was reported as OK. Dave, WD8IOU, needs newsletter support with articles and photographs.

Old/New Business:

George, K8KR, reported that Ken, W8KEN, is working Moon bounce. Pete, N8TR, reported on the high quality of Ken's station. The club previously donated funding for both Palestine operations. Tedd, KB8NW, reported on receiving thank-yous from both of those stations with our logos on both Web sites. T30L and C21WW both sent "credit card flash drives" from YL7A (Latvia) that contained actual videos and articles on their operations. A two page 2019 update came from INDEXA came.

An Italian operator runs a "Dxpedition Trophy" Web site and Tedd has the URL. The site accepts voluntary donations. Tedd announced the following hamfests: DX Engineering on January 18, 9 to noon; Mansfield February 16; TUSCO amateur radio club on January 26 as a small hamfest in Strasburg, OH.

Tedd mentioned an announcement from the ARRL DXAC of two emergency actions requesting immediate comments, one to approve changing 5 Band DXCC to any five amateur bands, and second that Silent Keys be removed from the DXCC annual listings. Email your opinions on these to the DXAC very soon. Tedd passed around a printout of the January DX activity calendar. Pete mentioned that a lot of entities have not been on for the last ten years.

Tedd then described how sunspot numbers are created. The number of groups are counted and multiplied by 10 and then added to the total number of spots and then slightly adjusted for various visibility factors. George, K8KR, asked about the cause of the excellent 1958 sunspot activity. Tedd said there were no requests for funding this month.

Wrap-up:

Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded that the meeting be closed, and that received a vote of approval. The next meeting will occur on February 3, 2020. For the 50/50 raffle collection of \$30, the drawing for the half was won by Rick, K8ZH, who donated his winnings back to the club. Door prizes were donated by Rick, K8ZH, and were won as follows: Dave, KZ8Y, won a DXCC coffee cup. Dennis, K8LBT, passed on a prize because he donated one. Another door prize was supplied by Pete. An ARRL calendar was won by Rick, K8ZH, and Glenn, AF8C won another such calendar.

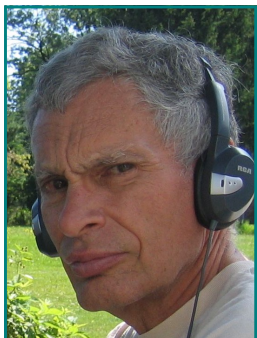
Thus began the Show and Tell program. Joe, N8QXC, showed off a 1982 original Air Force molded radio helmet with headphones. Wayne, K8FF, reported that the TV show "Last Man Standing" is on again, and showed off his AA6RR QSL card for 20m Phone. Pete, N8TR, showed off some original 50 year old radio catalogs from 1969. Then Nelson, K8DJC, showed his souvenir RSGB hamfest card and an RSGB nametag. Tedd said that the video on the flash drive credit card could be the program next time. The discussion closed at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Remembering Don Search W3AZD by John Papay, K8YSE

The ARRL DX Century Club (DXCC) Award is the most prestigious and sought after Amateur Radio Award on the planet. Hams around the world travel to far away and dangerous places and spend tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars so they can make contacts with others seeking to claim credit towards the DXCC Award. Don Search, W3AZD, was responsible for managing that Award at the ARRL for about 15 years. The Integrity of the Award was always his main focus. Without integrity, the DXCC Award would be just another piece of paper.

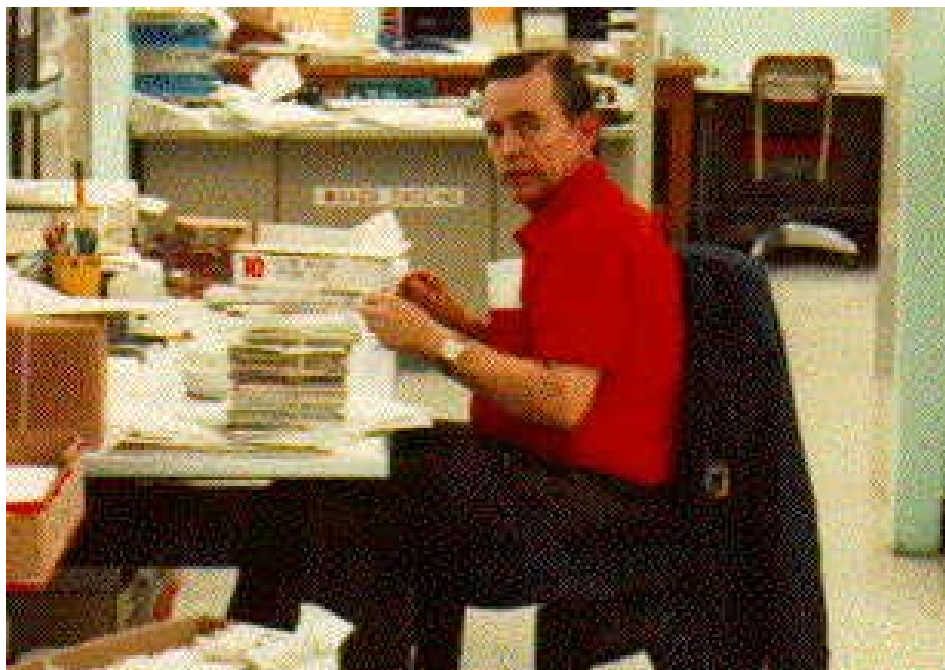
Don knew everything about DXCC. He checked cards and approved dxpeditions with a critical eye.



He could spot a phony QSL card a mile away. Before a dxpedition was approved for credit, he made sure they had permission to operate and had to be convinced that they were really where they said they were. Not much got by Don. And that's what integrity is all about! He set the bar for those that followed him as DXCC Managers. He is a DXCC Legend!

Back in 1990 I had over 1000 cards to be processed for DXCC. There were 500 cards for 5BDXCC plus more for bands and modes. Dwaine xW8MEM/K8ME(SK) also had many cards to be checked and we were both reluctant to trust the mail to send them to the ARRL in Newington. So I called Don on the phone (he always made himself available to talk about DX) and asked him if we could make a visit and have our cards checked. He hesitated but then agreed. So we drove from Cleveland to Newington through the night and arrived early one Friday morning. Don was there but forgot about our arrangement. It took a while for him to come to grips with this unforeseen visit but he eventually pulled out all the stops and agreed to drop what he was doing and process a few thousand cards. This was a daily activity for Don for many years. It was the pre-digital age and everything was manual. Somehow he kept up with it; he was amazing.

After Don retired he could be found at the Dayton Hamvention and was always willing to chat with fellow dx'ers. He moved down to Florida and was always at Orlando Hamcation as well. At home he frequented the local repeaters. Once in a while he could be heard on the HF Bands talking about DX. Don was a Legend in his own time. He shaped the DXCC program and helped make it what it is today. Don Search, W3AZD, May he rest in Peace.



The VP6R DXpedition, From a Rookie's Point of View by Mike Cizek, W0VTT

Most DXers probably dream about going on a DXpedition some day. I know I did, but never thought I'd get the chance to actually do it. For me, the next best thing was going to Dayton and the DX conventions where I could rub elbows with the "Big Boys" who go to all of these strange far away places. I enjoyed getting to know a number of the guys who went to top ten countries, and really enjoyed the rare occasion when one would call me by name in a big pile up. After chasing DX for 30 years, I was content with my place in the DX game and had stopped thinking about ever operating from someplace rare or exotic.



Receiving an email from Ralph Fedor KOIR in September of 2018 inviting me to the VP6R team was quite a shock. Ralph explained that he wanted to do a trip to some place fun with a team that combined some seasoned DXpeditioners with some new folks like me. I emailed back immediately expressing my thanks, but also expressing my doubt that he plan would be approved by the family comptroller. The shock from receiving Ralph's email was nothing compared to my wife giving her blessing to the trip:

"I think you should go." After a few emails and phone calls, I was added to the team. Learning who the other team members were impressed me to no end. These were the guys I had worked from all over the world; the guys I looked up to and respected. Now I was going to go out to play radio with them. The



Container Loading

experienced team members were mainly from the previous year's 3Y0Z operation and they wanted to go some place a little nicer than Bouvet. Almost every email Ralph sent out ended with "...let's have some fun", and that became the motto of our DXpedition. Our team email reflector was named "No-Ice Island". The wheels were turning...

We were soon trading planning messages on our team email reflector. I always knew there was a lot of preparation required, but for the first time was getting an inside look at the details. I had little or no experience in most of the requisite subject areas, but found one place where I felt able to contribute: fund raising. I know how to type and send emails so with a little direction from Ralph, I took on this task. If you are reading this in your DX club newsletter, your club was one of our contributors. Thank you!

Other team members contributed in their areas of expertise. KOIR kept contact with the folks on Pitcairn, Nigel Jolly of the RV Braveheart, the licensing authorities in New Zealand, and kept tabs on the rest of us. Craig K9CT took care of assembling, testing, and networking the radios, computers, and amplifiers. He was also our treasurer and QSL manager. George N4GRN runs a construction company and knows about international shipping and customs. He handled this area and calculated that we would need to have all of our gear ready and packed in a sea container by 1 June. We all had plenty to do, and it was still over a year before we would leave. I kept typing emails and sending them to every DX club I could find.



Tahiti Airport Motel

Most of our equipment was from the 3Y0Z operation. It was still packed in the sea container from Bouvet and was sitting in K9CT's company parking lot in Peoria IL. Some of the team gathered there in December 2018 to do a quick inventory and a few of us went in March 2019 to assemble and test the EME antennas. The weekend before Dayton most of the US team members assembled in Peoria to load the container. Our task was to unload the 40' container from the Bouvet trip, do a complete inventory and assessment of everything, decide what we needed to take to Pitcairn, and pack it properly in a 20' container. We also needed a comprehensive itemized listing of what equipment was in each box in the

container. Two days later we were finished. George almost wore out his laptop typing in every item as we packed and loaded it. The container was sealed and would be picked up in a few days to begin its journey. More than a few cold 807s were hoisted in celebration that evening. I was getting my first taste of DXpedition team fellowship. This is going to be a fun trip.

All of our equipment was on its way, but we still had plenty to do in preparation. Ralph was still finalizing details of our stay on the island and trying to get permission to operate 60 meters; a first from VP6. He found amazing accommodations for us; one of the islanders agreed to house and feed us for a very reasonable fee. Check out Pitcairn on Google maps, look for Andy's Pizzeria, and you can see where we stayed. Look at the terrain view and you can see our take off angle to NA, EU (both NE) and JA (NNW). It was an amazing site. We also received permission to operate from the old commercial radio station ZBP, just a short walk from Andy's house. We would be operating from what were probably the best two locations on the island. Glenn WOGJ was coordinating our travel and lodgings en route. We were getting close to departure.



The legendary RV Braveheart!

There were a few changes to the team during the year from initial planning to departure due to work, family, or medical issues. Real life has a nasty habit of interfering with our ham radio plans. The real shock came just a few days before our departure when our team leader KOIR told us he had a medical issue and would not be able to go with us. Ralph immediately named Glenn WOGJ our new team leader. Glenn picked up the reins, kept us moving ahead, and we hardly missed a beat. Our final team was now EA3HSO, EY8MM, JR4OZR, KOPC, K9CT, K9NW, N4GRN, N6HC, SM5AQD, WOGJ, WOVTT, W6IZT, AND W8HC. It was time to go.

Did I mention that this was my first DXpedition? I'm not a seasoned traveler, and was more than a little nervous about the trip. Fortunately, I had company every step of the way. On Saturday after-

noon 12 October, WOGJ and I met in Rochester MN to take the shuttle bus to the Minneapolis airport. There we met KOPC and K9CT; the four of us would all be on the same flight to Los Angeles. In LA, we met most of the rest of the team and were all on the same flight to Tahiti. We landed early Sunday morning and walked across the street to the Tahiti Airport Motel where we met the remaining two team members. JR4OZR and SM5AQD were waiting for us in the motel lobby. Since there is only one flight a week from Tahiti to the Gambier Islands where we meet the Braveheart, we allowed an extra day, just in case there were any delays. We now had an extra day to play tourist in Tahiti and everyone headed in to town for the day.



Underway!

Glenn called a team meeting for Monday morning at the motel so we could discuss our arrival and set up plans. He stressed the need to get set up quickly since we were arriving on Thursday morning and there was a large rain storm forecast for the weekend. Tuesday morning we left Tahiti on the four hour flight to Totegegie in the Gambier Islands. After landing at the VERY small airport (one gate, one plane), we took a short ferry boat ride to Mangareva Island where we boarded the Braveheart.

The legendary RV Braveheart! This ship had been there and done that, all over the southern hemisphere. I had seen the pictures and read & heard the stories, and now I was finally getting a chance to board her. Matthew Jolly, the captain, welcomed us aboard. He knew many of the team members from their earlier voyages with him; the greetings were warm and heartfelt. Matt introduced us to the crew, and to his wife Rachel and their son Finn, who were along for the ride. Three year-old Finn wasn't quite sure about these crazy ham operators at first, but he finally decided we were OK. I asked him if he was going to be the next captain of the Braveheart, and he very confidently said no, he was going to be four. After a quick safety briefing, plates of sandwiches from the galley appeared and we had a nice mid-afternoon snack. A short time later, we cast off and were underway. I spent a while exploring the

ship, then settled down on one of the upper decks to enjoy the view and the fresh sea air.

We arrived off of Pitcairn Island early Thursday morning and sat off shore waiting for the islanders to come out in one of their longboats to bring us to shore. We were all pretty excited now and eager to get ashore and get started. We were very fortunate that because of the Braveheart's schedule with other charters, our equipment had been placed on to the island a month earlier. ALL of our radio gear was there waiting for us. After a short welcome at the dock on Bounty Bay, some of the islanders loaded us on to their ATVs and we headed up the "Hill of Difficulty" to Andy's house.



Bounty Bay

Once we all arrived at Andy's house, station setup started directly. We had our plan, formulated in our Monday morning meeting, and everyone got right to work. Once again, I was impressed at how quickly things happened. Everybody seemed to know what they were doing and by supper time, we had set up five Yagis for 10-20m, two verticals for 30 and 40m, and four complete, networked stations. K9CT made our first QSO on 30m CW with N7XM at 0200z (6pm local time). VP6R was on the air.

The next day we set up our low band antennas at ZBP, the old commercial radio station site. Our main project was erecting a 90' (27m) tall vertical for 160 meters; 70' of aluminum tower with 20' of mast tubing and top loading wires. This required the entire team working together. The antenna is mounted on a hinged base and we used a 40' falling derrick to raise it. The biggest folks handled the pull up ropes and pushed up the tower; the rest of us held the guy ropes to guide it up straight; WOGJ directed everyone, telling us when to pull or when to let up. The antenna went up in just a few minutes.

We also installed verticals for 30, 40 & 80 meters and a second 20m Yagi. That first night on 160 meters Nodir EY8MM made over 700 contacts. He came back to Andy's house shortly after sunrise with a big smile on his face, and promptly went to sleep.

A number of people had told me "you won't believe the pileups" on the DXpedition. I've been a DXer for 30 years and have been in plenty of big pileups, but never from the DX side. I had been practicing from home mostly by listening in the big pileups on other DX stations and picking out callsigns, and thought I was ready. I wasn't! I like to think I'm a pretty good CW operator, but the pileups on the first few days were just too much for me. I retreated to FT8 and let the more experienced ops handle CW. After a few days, things slowed down a bit and I was able to do better. I now have an even greater respect for the ops who have the ability to pick out callsigns quickly and consistently in these huge pileups.

Once I got going, operating from the DX side was a real blast. It was nice to get a good rhythm of steady QSOs going and especially rewarding to work friends from around the world and call them by name in the pileups. It was fascinating to experience propagation from another part of the world. Naturally, we had propagation predictions and most of the team had operated from the south Pacific before, but there



Longboat

were still plenty of surprises. 30 meters was open all over the world most of the night. We would often work all continents within a five minute period. We had a regular path on 10 and 12 meters to CT, CN, D4, EA, and EA8 for a few hours almost every day. Sometimes these signals were surprisingly loud.

The most interesting opening I experienced was on 12 meters one morning. I was calling CQ on what appeared to be an empty band. Around 1730z (0930 local) I heard a very weak and watery SM2 station. I worked him and was called by a second SM2. The opening spread into OH and southern SM, but not into LA or UA. A little later some North Americans appeared, then some stations from southern EU, then more and more USA until at 1800z the Europeans had disappeared completely. This one wasn't on our propagation prediction charts!

Remember the storm that was forecast for the weekend? It rained sideways for four whole days with wind gusts up to 50 mph. We were pleasantly surprised that our 160m vertical survived, but we lost both

20m beams and an element off of the 15m beam. Fortunately, only a few pieces of tubing were bent and we had spares. Once the storm had passed we had everything repaired and back in the air in short order. Once again, it was amazing how quickly and efficiently the team worked together.

VP6R was a multi-multi entrant in the CQWW SSB contest. We shut down our N1MM DXpedition mode logs a few hours before the contest and were ready to start in contest mode right at 0000z. Since I'm mainly a CW DXer, I asked to do 10 meters during the contest. I thought it would be interesting just to see what propagation we would have over the course of the contest. The contest started at 1600 local



On the air!

time and 10m was pretty slow at first. After only three QSOs in the first hour, the band finally opened up with a nice JA run that lasted almost two hours. I was up bright and early Saturday morning calling CQ, but the band didn't open until 1600z (0800 local). We had a strong opening into Zone 33 and I got a good start on my "Worked All EA8" award. I had no idea there were so many stations in the Canary Islands! After a handful of Zone 33, it was all North & South America, all day long, until around 0000z when the opening shifted to JA. It was almost like someone throwing a switch; propagation changed that quickly. By the end of the contest, we had 1050 QSOs on ten meters. I never had so much fun operating sideband before! The final numbers haven't been published yet, but I'm pretty sure we took first place for multi-multi in VP6.

All too soon it was time to put our toys away and go home. We took down the low band site on Thursday 31 Oct. Our last QSO was with Jerry WB9Z our chief pilot station on 17m SSB at 1800z on Friday 1 Nov, after which we took down the antennas at Andy's house. Everything was packed up and ready to go by lunch time that day. Once again, we had allowed extra time, just in case, but everything went very quickly. We now had some time to play tourist and do a few good deeds for some of the local hams.

We helped Meralda VP6MW and Mike VP6AZ get back on the air by providing antenna parts, supplies,

and some technical assistance. Meralda was already active before we left the island, and let's hope that Mike is on soon. I was especially happy to help Meralda because she was my very first Pitcairn Island QSO back in 1989.



Meralda VP6MW

This trip would not have been possible without a lot of help from a lot of people. First and foremost, thanks to ACOM, DX Engineering, and Flex Radio. These three companies were VERY generous with their support. We also had other corporate sponsors, 38 different DX clubs and, hundreds of individual DXers who helped us out. Thanks to all of you on behalf of the entire VP6R team.

No DXpedition report would be complete without some numbers. We made over 82,000 QSOs on all bands 160 through 6 meters. We were pleased to have 21% of our QSOs come from Europe, a very difficult path from the South Pacific. We were also happy to make nearly 900 QSOs on 60 meters and 36 EME QSOs on 6 meters; both were firsts from Pitcairn. For a complete analysis of our operation please see the statistics page on our Clublog DXpedition Chart.

The trip back home was remarkably similar to the trip out to Pitcairn, but with greatly different feelings. Going out was filled with anticipation, excitement, and more than a little trepidation; I really didn't know what to expect. Going home was mostly gratitude for having such a wonderful experience. There was also a bit of regret at having to leave such a beautiful place, but it was mixed with the desire to return home and resume my "normal" life. This was truly a once in a lifetime experience for me. It was wonderful to visit a strange far away corner of the world, to meet new people, and to finally experience the radio

conditions on the "other" side of the pileups.

The travel and radio experiences were wonderful, but for me the most rewarding aspect of the trip was experiencing the wonderful fellowship among our team members. Being a part of this team was an honor and a pleasure I will remember for the rest of my days. From the very beginning of planning, KOIR kept saying "let's have some fun", and that's exactly what we did. We hope you had fun, too.



JR4OZR Teaching EA3HSO the Ninja Dance



INDEXA

International DX Association, Inc.

398 Lakeview Shores Loop • Mooresville, NC 28117

www.INDEXA.org

December, 2019



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INDEXA: 2019 Membership Update

Hello INDEXA Members and fellow DXers,

I would like to sincerely thank all of you for your INDEXA membership and support in 2019! We had some personnel changes this year. The officers are Bob N2OO President, Jerry WB9Z Vice President, Dick W3OA Secretary/Treasurer. Our Board of directors are led by Ralph K0IR (Chairman of the BOD). Directors include: Bob K4UEE, Lou N2TU, Gary K4MQG, Franz DJ9ZB, John K8YC, Steve KZ2I, Hal W8HC, Otis NP4G and Val NV9L. A special thank you goes to John K8YC who has decided to retire from his VP and Newsletter duties after many years of dedicated efforts. Jerry WB9Z is the new the VP. Our new newsletter editor is Val NV9L. Martti OH2BH is our European Ambassador. Steve KI4KWR is the committee chairman for Social Media.

INDEXA: 2019 Supported DXpeditions

- Kanton Island, T31EU
- Nauru, C21W
- Western Kiribati, T30W
- Somalia, 6O7O (plus Hams with Hearts)
- Lakshadweep, VU7RI (plus Hams with Hearts)
- Pitcairn Island, VP6R, (Hams with Hearts)
- Marquesas, TX7T

INDEXA: 2020 Supported DXpeditions

- Swains Island, W8S

INDEXA: Other supported projects

- Club Log—2020 and Beyond

Let me review some of the new paths that we are embarking on...



“[Hams With Hearts](#)” update. As most of you already know, we were blessed with a substantial contribution from Zorro JH1AJT that initiated this new fund within INDEXA. The purpose is for DXpeditions going to countries that have people of need to be able to help in some way as part of their DXpedition. In the early startup for this fund we had been looking especially for low cost but high impact projects aimed at the top 60 DXCC entities. Upon more careful review we found that after removing uninhabited entities from the top 60 where a humanitarian contribution would not be warranted, it left us with a smaller list of qualifying entities. As such, we have expanded “Hams With Hearts” qualified entities to the top 100.

DXpedition support remains at the top 60 entities.

Also, in an effort to offer a limited expansion for providing support, we have designated some limited funds for worthy DXpeditions, or other DX related projects that may not fall under the top 60 requirement.

“HERITAGE CLASS” of INDEXA membership. We have made this fairly simple to join. Anyone who pledges that they have provided for INDEXA in their wills or other estate plans will be added to this category and posted on our web site under the “Donors” section. <http://www.indexa.org/donors.html>

501(c)(3): In case you missed it, INDEXA is a bona fide Non-Profit organization in the USA. For U.S. taxpayers this means that your donations to “INDEXA” are now tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please consider an “end of year” contribution to “INDEXA”! Do you have a friend who you would like to give a Christmas gift to? Consider a membership! It is still only \$20/year and you can beat any potential dues increases in the future by paying up in advance for multiple years.

Best wishes for a WONDERFUL holiday season to everyone!
 Bob Schenck, N200
 INDEXA President

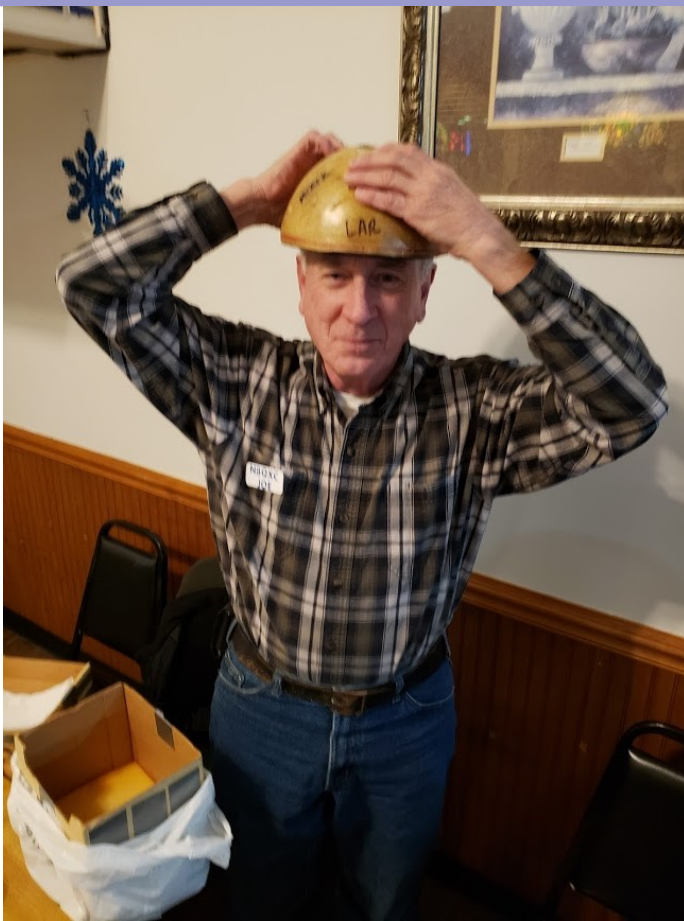
Shown and Tell at the January 6th, 2019 NODXA Meeting by Dave, WD8IOU

The club had its annual "Show and Tell" program during the January 6th, 2019 meeting. I was able to snap a few pictures of the items presented but it appears I didn't take any pictures of Pete, N8TR, and his collection of old radio store catalogs. Sorry about that Pete!



Nelson, K8DJC, showed his souvenir RSGB hamfest card

Remember! The April and
May 2020 meetings are
CANCELLED!



Joe, N8QXC, showed off a 1982 original Air Force molded radio helmet with headphones. Wayne, K8FF, showed off his AA6RR QSL card for 20m Phone.





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

NODXA Club Officials for 2018-2019

President:	Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW	(440-237-2816)
V. President:	Dennis Stuber, K8LBT	(440-628-1959)
Secretary:	Glenn Williams, AF8C	(440-934-5566)
Treasurer:	Mary Michaelis, N8DMM	(440-236-5426)
Newsletter:	David Autry, WD8IOU	(440-238-0417)



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DXCC Info

As of January 2018, the current DXCC Entities total is: **340**.

NODXA Application and Renewal Form

The Northern Ohio DX Association is a non-profit organization with a primary interest in DXing. We encourage all DXers to join our group and share the interest and fun of DXing.

Please complete the application below and send along your appropriate dues or renewal to:

NODXA, P.O. Box 361624 , Strongsville, Ohio 44136

First Time Membership/Renewal (U.S. and DX) \$20.00

Name _____ Callsign _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/Prov. _____
 Country _____ ZIP _____
 E-mail _____
 Telephone _____
 ARRL Member? _____ Exp. Date _____ DXCC Member? _____
 Special Interest _____

Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, AF8C, K8YSE, and WOVTT.