



"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 2004

Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

The first thing I want to talk about is the Dayton Hamvention. The yearly event is coming quickly and it will be here before you know it. I have been informed by Janeen, W8ZET, that everything is a go for the hospitality suite. The hospitality suite will "probably" be open again on Thursday evening. So you have three days to stop by and visit. Once again, the club would like to thank Janeen for hosting/sponsoring the suite.

Secondly, it is hard to believe that NODXA has to move its meeting location again. Members who attended the April meeting had a big surprise when they arrived at "Laura's Kitchen Restaurant" and the doors were closed. It seems the restaurant is no longer open for dinner hours (closing at 2:00 PM). With members heading to the restaurant, I had to quickly find a location close by to hold the meeting. Lucky enough, and thanks to "Panera Bread" in Brecksville, we were

able to hold an abbreviated meeting at their restaurant. However, "Panera Bread" will not be our location for the club's monthly meetings.

Monthly meetings will now be held at the "Gourme Family Restaurant" in Strongsville, on 15315 Pearl Road. This location is only 5 minutes away (depending on traffic) from the club's original meeting place. A map of the new location is provided somewhere in this newsletter.

Lastly, there will be a guest speaker at the May meeting. Ohio Section Manager, Joe Phillips, K8QOE, will attend the meeting and will speak to the membership. I would like to have a good turnout for his talk as well as for our new host, "Gourme Family Restaurant".

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

New Meeting Location!!

Please read "Fireside Chat" for information on the new meeting location. A new map, and directions, is on the last page of this newsletter.

Minutes of the April 5th, 2004 NODXA Meeting

The meeting, which was held at Panera Bread in Brecksville, Ohio, was called to order at 7:45PM by Tedd, KB8NW. There were 26 members/guests in attendance.

Dwaine, K8ME, made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and was seconded by Ray, W8BIN. A vote was taken and passed.

Mary, N8DMM, reports a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the treasury

The ARRL International DX Plaque will not be sponsored by NODXA as related to us by Tedd, KB8NW.

A discussion on the Dayton Hospitality Suite was opened by Tedd, KB8NW. A motion to allot \$250.00 toward the Hospitality Suite was made by Carl, K8AV, and seconded by Dwaine, K8ME. A vote was taken and passed.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that JA7MGP, Toshiyuki Sasaki, has applied for the NODXA Award.

A discussion on Field Day of June 2004 was opened by Tedd, KB8NW. Last year's site in Richfield, Ohio is reserved for the club as informed to us by Ron, K8VJG. Bruce, N8DJX, will handle the liability insurance needed for this weekend.

A new meeting location is needed and a discussion concerning this was opened by Tedd, KB8NW.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM by Tedd, KB8NW.

Secretary: Ron K8VJG

IC-7800 Preview

ARRL Letter

Members of the ARRL Headquarters staff got a hands-on preview of the not-quite-yet-released ICOM IC-7800 transceiver, thanks to Icom Engineering Manager John Gibbs, KC7YXD. Gibbs visited Headquarters March 4 with a pre-production model of his company's new top-end Amateur Radio HF plus 6-meter transceiver.

Among its multitude of features, the IC-7800 offers a seven-inch color TFT display, two independent receivers, a spectrum display, CW autotune, and RTTY and PSK31 capability just by plugging in a keyboard. The IC-7800 will replace the venerable IC-781 as the capstone of Icom's Amateur Radio product line.

In terms of performance, Gibbs claims the IC-7800 will offer third-order intercept (IP3) performance in the +40 dBm range and two-tone, third-order intermodulation distortion dynamic range well in excess of 100 dB.

Although a retail price has not yet been firmed up, it's anticipated that owning an IC-7800 will set buyers back less than \$11,000. Musician Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, and audio ex-

pert and manufacturer Bob Heil, K9EID, were among the operators as the IC-7800 saw action at W1AW during the ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) March 6-7.

The IC-7800 will be the focus of Icom's Hamvention exhibit May 14-16, and it could be on the market in a month or so.

BPL Handout Available

ARRL Letter

The ARRL has posted a two-page document that discusses Broadband over Power Line (BPL) in lay terms.

"Broadband over Power Line: Why Amateur Radio is Concerned about its Deployment" is available for reprinting and use as a handout when, for example, dealing with members of Congress, municipal officials, power utilities and the news media.

While emphasizing that hams do not oppose broadband services per se and tend to be "early adopters" of new technology, the information sheet outlines Amateur Radio's concern about BPL's potential to create interference. Other broadband delivery methods "do not pollute the radio spectrum as BPL does," the paper states.

It also defines BPL, outlines its current deployment status, discusses FCC regulations already in place and explains that BPL's interference potential is

real, not just theoretical. Finally, it lists "Others at risk," including short-wave listeners, public safety agencies and federal government radio systems.

Editor's Note: The BPL Handout is available at this link: <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/BPL-leave-behind.pdf>

3COV Story

Editor's Note: The following letter from Elmo, EA5BYP, is a preface to part one of the actual article which follows.

Dear friends of NODXA:

We are sending you 'photos' of our expedition to the Island of Annobon 3COV as well as QSLs from 3COV 2003.

At the same time we are sending you an article about what happened there.

Unfortunately, we have a bad experience there since the military authorities did not approve of our stay on the island because they did not understand and did not want to find out about, the world of amateur radio.

Even though all our permits to land on the island as well as our radio operator licenses were in order, they opted to expel us from the island, for different personal reasons that, since we want to leave open the possibility of a return expedition to Annobon, we regretfully prefer not to discuss further. Personally, I would like to say that it is not easy or pleasant to re-

member the experience, and I ask for your understanding.

Thank you for your collaboration, for your support to DX and ourselves, the Team 3COV-2003 Annobon Island, we are QRV.

73, Elmo, EA5BYP Team Leader

Adventure Annobon

Reports of DXpeditions fascinate again and again in a special way the sizable group of Hams interested in DX. Sometimes these stories lend wings to our thoughts, awake dormant interests and desires, and expand our horizon with descriptions of foreign lands and exotic islands.

What actually draws us into the distance? What is the appeal to travel again and again into new DXCC countries? Don't we accept sometimes unnecessary risks when we activate for instance rare DXCC areas and islands far away from civilization? The selected target this time was the small island of Annobon in the Atlantic Ocean, known to Hams better with the rare prefix "3C0". Every time when I looked at this small dot on my Amateur World Map I realized that the planning for and the execution of a DXpedition to Annobon would not be an easy undertaking.

Our DXpedition target

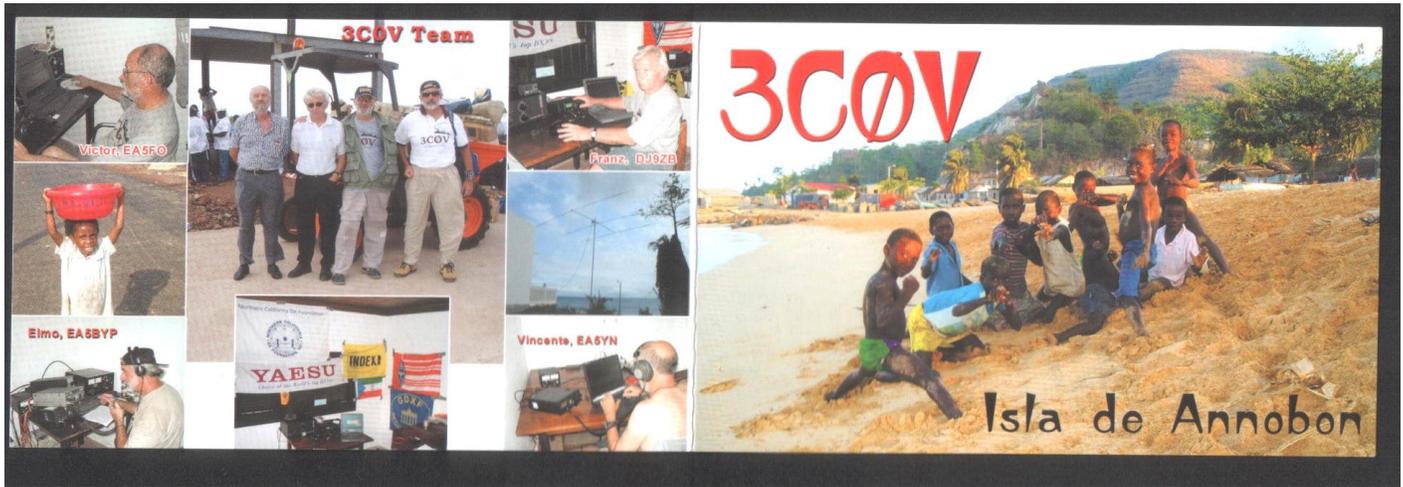
A small, square mainland area near the equator, 100 miles of coastline with sandy

beaches and mangrove swamps, farther inland rain forests and in addition a number of larger and smaller coastal islands. This is the Republic of Equatorial Guinea or Republica de Guinea Ecuatorial. For decades this country was seldom mentioned in the media, not because it is not interesting, but because it was too difficult for foreigners to visit. Meanwhile Visitors can move about relatively free and get to know the people and the country.

With a size of 28061 square kilometers (10800 square miles) and roughly 475,000 inhabitants this republic is one of the smallest countries on the African continent. Here one can detect the remnants of the colonial era more clearly than in many other countries in Africa. The country consists of the mainland portion and the two volcanic islands of Bioko and Annobon. Geopolitically the 780 square miles large island of Bioko (old name Fernando Poo) is closer to Cameroun (only 21 miles distance away) than to the mainland area of Mbini, which used to be called Rio Muni and is 155 miles away.

The distance to the third part of the country, the island of Annobon is more than 400 miles. Annobon used to be called officially Pagalu from 1973 to 1981.

Between these two islands is not only the Atlantic but also the island state of Sao Tome and Principe. Equatorial Guinea's existence is more a factor of colonial history, as the three



parts of the country were once Spanish possessions, which were given independence on October 12, 1968. The capital of Malabo with roughly 50,000 inhabitants is a small, reasonably maintained town and is situated picturesquely above the sea on the rim of a long dormant volcanic crater.

Arrival in Equatorial Guinea

After the six hour flight with the Spanair Airbus A-320 we landed on Friday, Sep 26, just past 8 a.m. local time at the international airport in Malabo. We, being Elmo, EA5BYP, Vincente, EA5YN, Victor, EA5FO, all from Alicante in Spain and the writer Franz, DJ9ZB. We had 770 lbs of luggage and needed to get to the 200 km distant island of Annobon just south of the equator. Following a very long preparation time, numerous phone calls and many hurdles the Ministry of Communications finally granted our ham radio licenses and permission to enter Annobon. We agreed to a departure date in

late September 2003 and sought the necessary entry visas from the Embassy of Equatorial Guinea in Madrid. Getting the air tickets was just routine for the travel agency.

The departure day started very early in the morning as my xyl had to drive me from our home in south western Germany to the airport in Strasbourg, France - and that with 185 lbs of luggage. After I spent lots of Euros for the excess luggage fees I was able to depart around noon on an IBERIA airbus for Madrid Barajas airport in Spain. My Spanish friends arrived a little later from Alicante on another IBERIA flight. Next followed 5 hours of waiting for our check-in for the flight to Malabo. There we had a date with Ramon G. Salazar, 3C1GS, who as a UN employee was on his way to Bagdad, Iraq but would have loved to join us on Annobon. This time we were not hindered by more excess luggage fees and took off at 2 a.m. for Malabo. After arrival in the old airport building in Malabo our entry visas and vac-

ination documents were examined and, of course the open hand was ready for contributions'.

With the many documents we carried for this trip from many different authorities we were guided into a separate air-conditioned waiting room, where we again spent several hours. Meanwhile we could see through the window how the military examined our luggage contents and finally cleared everything to be loaded onto an old Russian Anonow-24 plane for Annobon. I tried to capture this with my camera but was instantly hindered to do so with the words: "Tienes Permisso?". Luckily my camera was not taken away. The outside temperature had climbed to 30 C (86F) meanwhile and high humidity was prevalent. Finally after 4 hours of waiting we were permitted to embark our plane.

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, W8BIN, KB8NW, K8VJG, K8YSE, K8AV, K8ME, EA5BYP, and the ARRL Letter.

NODXA Club Officials for 2003-2004

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

As of March 2002
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

335

FCC License Generator

By Carl, K8AV

The below site has a FCC license generator. Just put your call sign in a box and then generate your FCC license from the FCC database with your FRN number. They call it a REFERENCE COPY.

On the right side of the page is a url that will take you to a site to be able to print out a very nice looking certificate with your call sign suitable for framing (Vanity HQ). <http://amateur.mailpen.net/Generate.html>

Editor's Note: The above link IS NOT a FCC or US government web site; this site belongs to Dean Gibson, AE7Q. But this site is excellent! You can individually select the font to use for the callsign text and the body text of the license.

The link for Vanity HQ is here: <http://www.vanityhq.com/>. This site has EVERYTHING you need to know about vanity licenses. The callsign certificate that Carl refers to looks really nice and is customizable with League membership status and code speed endorsements.

Thanks Carl for the information!

K8OZ Returns to NODXA

Mary, N8DMM, informs the RAG that she just got a renewal and a nice donation from Jim Koshmider, K8OZ, who moved down to Cincinnati a while back. Jim's new address is 1990 Adams Rd, Mt. Healthy, OH 45231. Mary sent him a message about our current club doings. Welcome back Jim!

award was for all SSB contacts made over the years. The NODXA Awards details can be found in the K7BV Awards Directory. There is possibility the award requirements will appear in the newsletter in the future.

Congratulations Toshiyuki!

K8ME, Dwaine

NODXA Award Recipient

There has been an application for the NODXA Award. The recipient of this award goes to Toshiyuki Sasaki, JA7MGP. This



For Sale

Hy-Gain TH-5 broadband 5 element triband antenna. Complete with manuals.

Comes with BN4000 high power current balun.

Excellent condition - New end caps.

Sells new @ \$760 - Asking \$ 225.00

Cushcraft D3W rotatable dipole. Complete with manuals.

For 12, 17 and 30 meters.

Good condition. Asking \$ 35.

Carl, K8AV. 216-328-0709 or cfwb@cox.net



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
Please Rush**



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