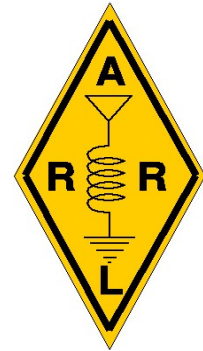


April-August 2019

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



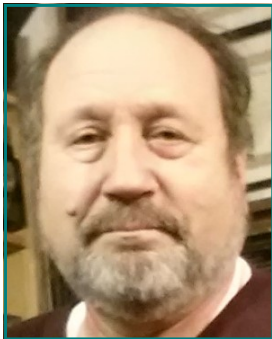
# The NODXA RAG



## Poolside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

It was a spectacular HamVention this year. The weather actually cooperated with only some rain early Friday morning, but the rest of the weekend was bright sunshine. It was well attended with Friday (it would seem) to be the biggest day of the event. The NODXA Hospitality Suite was well attended for all three nights, although down a little from last year. Everyone enjoyed the munchies, food and beverages that the club provided. The biggest surprise came late (and I do mean late) Saturday night from some old foreign club members. Holger, DL7IO (now ZL3IO), and his XYL Birgit, DL7IQ (now ZL2YL) and their daughter Xenia, ZL4YL, visited the suite, and we spent about an hour talking to them. They moved from Germany and they are now living in Waimarama Heights, on the east coast of the central North Island, New Zealand. By the way, Holger and Birgit have another daughter named Saskia, ZL2GQ, who could not make the trip to HamVention this year. It was great seeing them and catching up on what they have been doing. It was the highlight of the HamVention this year to meet with them again. It has been a long time (close to 20 years). There should be some pictures in this newsletter of Holger and his family. All in all, the HamVention was great this year and the NODXA Hospitality Suite provided some good "PR" for the club.



If you haven't heard, I am sad and disappointed to report that during the June's General Membership meeting, the membership voted to not participate in this year's ARRL Field Day (FD) event. This is due to not having enough CW operators to run 2A. The option of running 1A was talked about, but the membership felt that we could not be competitive enough for the FD event. The whole disappointing thing about this is NODXA has many CW operators in club. I have heard many state that they only operate CW, and yet they do not want to operate/participate on CW for FD. Hopefully, next year (2020) NODXA will have enough CW volunteers to participate.

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.

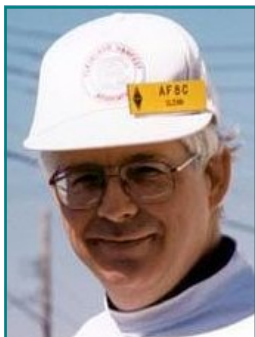
"The Mission of the Northern Ohio DX Association is to promote and support Amateur Radio and the DX Community around the world."

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. Dues were due as of May for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

## Minutes of the March 4th, 2019 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:31 p.m. with 14 members and guests present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting for February 4, 2019. Then Gary, NI8Z, moved and Rick, K8ZH, seconded that the minutes be approved and the motion passed. Next our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Then Denny, WB8K, moved and Metro, W8MET, 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, discussed progress on the next newsletter. He could use photographs from club activities and/or QSL card images. The Hamvention Bus announcement is out, for the bus trip on May 18.



### Old/New Business:

Tedd announced receipt of a letter thanking the club for its donation to the ZROZRC DXpedition. Our logo will be on their Web site. Tedd said that the March 20 DX spring luncheon is on. However, card checker Goose, W8AV, will not be there. The DXpedition to Pitcairn Island, VP6R, will occur on October 17-31, and they are seeking donations. Transportation will be the *Braveheart*. There will be 8 stations on, from 160 to 10m using Flexradio hardware. Gary, NI8Z, moved, and Rick, K8ZH, seconded a motion for a \$250 donation to that group. The motion passed on the vote.

Also requesting a donation to V51MA in Namibia where his existing radio equipment has failed. Also he has a borrowed Yaesu 747GX which has failed. The story is on QRZ.com. Dennis, K8LBT, suggested that this request be tabled and it was. Tedd next pointed out that now being March we must nominate new officers, with the election being in April. Dennis, K8LBT, was nominated to be vice president by KB8NW and KZ8Y. Tedd, KB8NW, was nominated to be president by K8LBT and WB8K. Mary, N8DMM, was nominated to be treasurer by WD8IOU and K8ZH. Glenn, AF8C, was nominated to be secretary by NI8Z and W8MET. Gary, NI8Z then moved to close the nominations for tonight, and that was seconded by Metro, W8MET.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported on signing up for membership on ClubLog. ClubLog suggests any member should list the names of clubs he/she is in. But NODXA is not in their list of clubs. ClubLog needs 10 club members of any club before that club is eligible to be listed. Tedd asked how many members here have joined ClubLog, The answer by a show of hands was AF8C, NI8Z, W8MET, WD8IOU, N8TR, WB8K, KZ8Y, and K8LBT.

Dave, WD8IOU, remarked that he is alarmed that our club membership is down to 32. He hinted that we should do more to promote working to get people to join. We need old membership lists as a source of names. Dave said the club has four Hamvention flea market spots so there is space available if someone wants to set up a table for sales. Does the club want to sell them? Discussion followed.

George, K8KR, stated that in 2010 four new Caribbean countries came on the air. George was looking to get a card from PJ7E, and after requesting it the card came in a week for free. Dennis, K8LBT and Dave, KZ8Y, then also reported on getting cards for free from various sources. Tedd discussed that the DXCC entity Chagos will be politically returned to Mauritius (OPDX 1404). Metro, W8MET, reported that Linda, N8LRS, won the Section Manager's ARRL Handbook drawing today. Dave, KZ8Y, reported on getting interference from LED lighting after Glenn, AF8C, questioned if anyone has such interference. Metro announced that CARS will have more VE sessions.

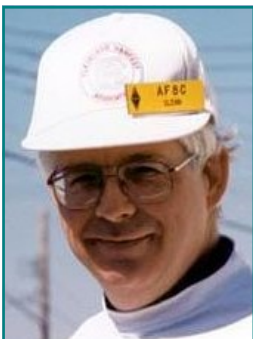
Wrap-up:

Dennis, K8LBT, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded that the meeting be closed, and the motion was passed on the vote. The next meeting will occur on April 1, 2019. The meeting closed at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

## Minutes of the April 1st, 2019 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:31 p.m. with 14 members and guests present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting for March 4, 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! Then Gary, NI8Z, moved and Bruce, N8DJX, seconded a motion for the treasurer's report to be approved, and it was approved by the vote. Mary also distributed draft copies of a new club roster for members to review and feed back any corrections. The repeater was reported as OK. The editor, Dave, WD8IOU, discussed progress on the next newsletter. He will get the next issue out before the Hamvention, and it will include the bus announcement. Dave always could use photographs from club activities and/or QSL card images.

Old/New Business:

The spring luncheon had 18 people attending and was well received. For donations, V51MA sent a letter requesting a donation. His QSL manager is collecting funds. Two more members of NODXA joined ClubLog so now we can have NODXA in the club list. Dave, WD8IOU will set that up. Janine Hire, W8ZET, is an honorary member of NODXA. George, K8KR, visited Ron, K8VJG. Ron seemed well. NODXA received a thank-you letter from the Pitcairn Island crew. KOIR and WOVTT sent a thank you from VP6R. During February 21 to March 6, 2020, South Orkney will be on after a 9 year hiatus. They will be riding the *Braveheart*. It will be the same group that went to Ducie Island. South Orkney is number 16 on the Most Wanted List. They plan to run 160m to 10m and will use FT8, with nine stations, 14 operators. Their call sign is To Be Announced. Bruce, N8DJX, moved, and Gary, NI8Z, seconded that we contribute \$300 to the South Orkney event, and the motion passed.

George, K8KR, noted that the Robinson Crusoe Island activity will be up for two more days. Members noted that the Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest happens on April 13. Next came the 2019 Officers Election. Bruce, N8DJX, moved, and Gary, NI8Z, seconded a motion for a white ballot. Everyone approved. Dick, K8AB, asked if anyone knows when the Westlake Boat Anchors group event at Clague Cabin will happen. At the May meeting we will vote on approving the spending for the Dayton hospital-ity suite. Linda, N8LRS, noted that this Saturday there will be a flea market at the Independence, Ohio, Field House, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

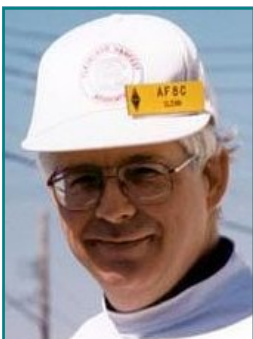
Wrap-up:

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 May 6, 2019. The 50/50 raffle collection of \$32 was won by Dave, KZ8Y, who donated his half back to the club. Door prizes were supplied by Joe, N8QXC. A screwdriver was won by Gary, NI8Z. A parts pan was won by Denny, WB8K. The meeting closed at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

## Minutes of the May 6th, 2019 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m. with 19 members and guests present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the secretary read the minutes for the meeting for April 1, 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! We have a new member, Jody, KE8GKO. Then Bruce, N8DJX, 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, announced that the latest issue of the club newsletter has gone out. Dave always could use suggested news articles.



### Old/New Business:

From the last meeting we were sending \$300.00 to the South Orkney DXpedition group. That money was sent and now our logo is on their Web site. Tedd, KB8NW, received the annual membership renewal email from INDEXA. Though not needing a motion to pass this, Bruce, N8DJX, suggested we pay the \$20.00 to renew. Tedd has passed current receipts to Mary.

Tedd announced that Monk Apollo, SV2ASP passed away on May 5 at age 64. SV1DPI put that information out on FaceBook. The information will be in Tedd's bulletin.

Then we needed to vote funds for the Dayton Hospitality Suite. We had a show of hands on how many of tonight's attendees will be going to the Hamvention and how many will be at the hospitality room. Last year we spent about \$500.00 on the hospitality suite. The number is different every year. A major banquet has moved to the Marriott. Bruce, N8DJX moved, and Rick, K8ZH, seconded that we fund the hospitality suite this year for \$500.00. Mary, N8DMM, spoke eloquently in favor of this. The vote on this was unanimous. Pete, N8TR, announced that a JA pop star will entertain a group on Friday night in a room off the side of the Banquet Room.

Dick, K8AB, has available 135 feet of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch jacketed 75 ohm cable TV hardline for sale. Pete, N8TR, said there are applications for  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch cable where that cable will work fine. Tedd told us about a new ARRL Hamvention app for the two main groups of smartphones. If you install the app you will have all the important data for the Hamvention activities. A YouTube video demonstrates how to use the app. On Sunday visitors can attend the Hamvention for free.

Tedd announced a new funding request from Stan, LZ1GC, who is going to Western Kiribati as T30GC. That location is rated #68 in mixed mode, working 10 through 160 and WARC bands. There was no mention of FT8. The operation will be from October 7 to 23. Action of a motion on this was tabled. The operation will go to North Cook next year. Glenn, AF8C, announced that a short-life beta version of a new FT4 is coming out soon. Pete, N8TR, stated that FT4 is still buggy as a beta. As the last item for tonight, Tedd announced that the next meeting is expected to be the Field Day 2019 planning meeting.

### Wrap-up:

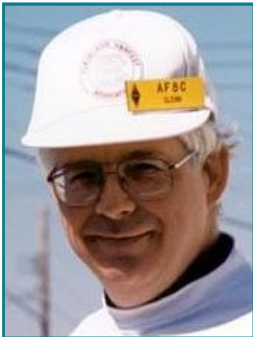
Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded that the meeting be closed, and the motion was passed on the vote. The next meeting will occur on June 3, 2019. The 50/50 raffle collection of \$34 was won by John, K8AJS, who donated his half back to the club. A door prize drawing contributed by Joe, N8QXC, was for an NRA American Hunter coin. The winner was George, K8KR. The meeting closed at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary



## Minutes of the June 3rd, 2019 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:32 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 for May 6, 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! The club's amplifier from Dwaine's estate was sold at the Hamvention for \$1300 with the amplifier going to the VA Hospital. Then Bruce, N8DJX, 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, announced that the latest issue of the club newsletter has gone out. Send editor Dave, WD8IOU, any photos from the Hamvention or any other news articles for the next newsletter.



### Old/New Business:

Brian, K3USC, described how the Hamvention app for the iPhone operated well. Tedd, KB8NW, and Pete, N8TR, using the Android app, noted that the prize drawing page did not display, but other portions of the app were fine. The Hamvention weather was great after a heavy rain on early Friday. The Hamvention leaders have declared this year's event attendance was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest ever. George, K8KR, complemented the golf cart service from the parking lot. The CARS bus was there from 9 to 4:45. People said that Sunday attendance was about normal, a bit sparse.

Pete, N8TR, discussed a unique Mosley CM-1 receiver which had six all identical tubes, acquired in 2018 and was on sale in 2019. George, K8KR, reported the food was varied and great including the best ice cream. The CARS bus had plenty of storage room capacity for newly acquired hardware. The aforementioned Japanese lady (a ham) performed. Another performing group did not show. Tedd thought attendance was higher on Friday. Our Ohio SM Scott, N8SY, has listed the attendance as 28400, which is more than the county fair gets.

There were stories about the Hara Arena tornado damage. Tedd said the Hospitality Room attendance went well. The sign-in card was on display at tonight's meeting. The club spent \$420.97 for supplies out of the \$500 allocated. Donations were very good. Water was very popular. Tedd then passed the receipts over to Mary, N8DMM. There will be a Hospitality Suite in 2020. It happened that visitor and former club member Holger, DL7IO, showed up along with XYL Birgit, ZL2YL and daughter Xenia, ZL4YL. Some members of the upcoming Pitcairn activity, Ralph, KOIR and Glenn, W0GJ, also visited.

Last month we tabled donating to T30GC, 160-10m. Bruce N8DJX and Wayne, K8FF, seconded a motion for a \$150.00 donation to that team, and the motion passed unanimously. EP3AS, Abass, a 15 year old in Iran, is looking for support for a new transceiver. His letter might be up on OPDX. Tedd announced that June 15 is the the 8<sup>th</sup> area W8DXCC Convention at the Milford hamfest near Cincinnati. Tim, K3LR will be the keynote speaker there. Another speaker will be Carl, K9LA, speaking on solar Cycle 25. The emcee will be Jay, K4ZLE. See [www.w8dxcc.com](http://www.w8dxcc.com).

Field Day: With the news that neither of our CW operators Goose, W8AV, and Nick, W8XD, will be at any Field Day activities this year, that even though Ron, K8VJG, has secured the usual site permission, the members were not ready to compete with a 1A phone station. So Bruce, N8DJX moved that we curtail having a Field Day activity this year. John, K8YSE, seconded the motion. Some folks suggested make it a picnic day but that thought did not gain enough support. Sunshine: Ron, K8VJG is recuperating after having a fall. Tedd announced that the Rebel DX Group will be 3D2CR at Conway Reef.

Wrap-up:

Gary, NI8Z moved and Bruce, N8DJX, seconded that the meeting be closed, and the motion was passed on the vote. The next meeting will occur on July 1, 2019. The 50/50 raffle collection of \$30 was won by Brian, K3USC, who donated his half back to the club. A door prize drawing contributed by Joe, N8QXC, was for a Greene County Fairgrounds coin. The winner was Mary, N8DMM. The meeting closed at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

**2019 NODXA Hospitality Suite** Photos by Tedd, KB8NW













## DXpedition 2017 by Stan Vatev, LZ1GC

Temotu Province, Santa Cruz Islands group ( H40 ) in Pacific area is a very sought-after destination by many radio amateurs around the World! In 2016 and early 2017, Temotu Province (H40) occupied 30th place in the CLUBLOG list for the most wanted countries. It is currently in 46<sup>th</sup> place and is still needed by many radio amateurs in worldwide, especially on SSB. The H40GC DXpedition 2017 was my second activation of this rare country. My first activation was from Lata, Nendo Island ( IOTA OC - 100 ) - between October 4 - 17, 2016. Deciding to return to Temotu for a second activation was made easier as there were less unknowns! Additionally, this time I had a serious commitment besides the HF activation of this country. I had to carry out a humanitarian mission under the auspices of INDEXA and with the generous participation of CDXA & CDXF, Kontrax Ltd - Bulgaria and Andy, LZ2HM. I would like to recognize the individual and corporative sponsors, amateur clubs, associations and organizations that sponsored me before the expedition in practice are also participants in this humanitarian mission. I am thankful to all.

In October 2016 during the H40GC DXpedition 2016, I had meetings with teachers and students from the only high school in Temotu Province - JCP College, located on Nendo Island. About 400 students are learning in this school. So on the spot I got to know their problems and their needs. As early as 2016 I was convinced that the best way to help these boys and girls is to provide them with 1 or 2 laptops and other school supplies such as notebooks, pencils and pens. Such are luxuries in a province where the unemployment rate approaches 90 percent of the population. This makes it difficult for the students to buy even simple supplies. The school had not a single computer available! I think that helping young people and



Stan, LZ1GC at International Airport Brisbane, at the night before the flight to Solomon Islands (H44)

investing in them is the best thing that can be done for a country and its people because our future be-

longs to the younger generation!

Also in October 2016, I had meetings with the head official and officers of the local provincial office for disasters and accidents. They also did not have even a laptop computer to help with their protection of the population living on the various islands belonging to Temotu Province. So, I was aware of what we, radio amateurs could do to help the people of Temotu. My view of helping Temotu inhabitants met with the understanding and support of INDEXA, under whose patronage this humanitarian mission was finally accomplished!

I write about all of this because my understanding is that it is not enough to travel and activate on radio amateur bands at various rare destinations around the world, but that we have to leave something of us there by doing something good that the locals can remember! This will also popularize our wonderful hobby!

The organization and preparation of the H40GC DXpedition 2017 took about 6 months. During these six months, I purchased the required airline tickets, received a renewal of the H40GC and H44GC licenses (from 27 June 2017 - 26 June 2018), booked a room for my stay at Lata Motel on Nendo Island and prepared the antennas and the technical equipment necessary for the expedition. Every day during these six months I was doing something in preparation. Even when I was at work or on weekends I was walking in the nearby mountain - my thoughts were on what I had to do for the expedition so I would not miss something!

On 24 September 2017, my trip to Nendo Island, Temotu Province in the Pacific began with a 3-hour flight from Sofia (Bulgaria) to Heathrow, London (England). I had 20kg of hand baggage and two check-in baggage - each weighing 23kg. After a 5-hour stay at Heathrow Airport, a 13-hour flight from London to Changi Airport, Singapore, followed. In Singapore, the same plane was loaded with fuel, and the trip continued (8 hours flight) to Sydney, Australia. From there immediately - I took a domestic flight operat-



The meet with Mr. Aaron Hopa at local Telecom (TCSI) in Honiara, Solomon Isl.

ed by QANTAS Airways to Brisbane (Australia). At 09:30 on 26 September 2017 local time, I was already at the International Airport in Brisbane.

Next, I flew from Brisbane, Australia to Honiara, Solomon Islands (H44) on the next day - 27th of September 2017. The hotels in Brisbane are very expensive (over 100 EUR per a night), at least for people with my budget! So I decided to stay at the Airport and repack my luggage to meet the various baggage limits imposed by different airlines.

The airport in Brisbane is equipped with many luggage scales that helped me to organize my luggage to minimize any overweight charges. I packed my bags and paper boxes all night. All of my pockets were full of cables and different things which I needed for the expedition.

On September 27, 2017, after a 4-hour flight with Solomon Airlines from Brisbane to Honiara, I arrived on the Solomon Islands. The following two days in Honiara were used to get the originals of the H40GC and H44GC licenses. I was honored to visit the local telecom (TCSI) to meet and talk with Mr. Aaron Hopa - Manager of the local TCSI and get my license.

Considering Mr. Aaron Hopa as a good friend, I surprised him with a wonderful gift for his wife - Bulgarian perfume of rose oil! The meeting with Mr. Hopa was very useful because he helped me to buy two laptops (the donation to Temotu Province) by directing me to the best local computer shop. On September 29, 2017, the day before my flight to Lata, Temoto Province, I visited the management of Solomon Airlines. It occurred to me to talk to someone of the leadership seek free shipping for the donations I had purchased. Having explained to them the purpose of my visit, a nice girl told me that I should discuss my proposal with Mr. Colin Sigimanu - Manager Commercial of Solomon Airlines. So I did - I met Mr. Sigimanu - a respectful and stern man. After a brief discussion - a conversation in which I included a brief introduction to our hobby, he responded positively to my request, assuring me that he would take care of the matter. On leaving, he gave me his business card and said, *"If you have any problems with Solomon Airlines employees - show this business card. It will help you!"* At the time this sounded exaggerated, but his business card really opened doors. Twice if found that showing this card helped resolve issues that surely would have caused me conflict!



Stan, LZ16C at Domestic Airport Honiara (H44)



Upcoming flight: Honiara to Lata, Nendo Isl. (H40)

On 30 September 2017 at 12:30 local time, the small 36-seat Solomon Airlines airplane landed at Lata Airport, Temotu Province after a 1 hour 40 min flight from Honiara. I was very happy because I was again on Temotu (H40) and in a few hours later H40GC would be on the air!

The Chief of the Provincial Disaster Management Office of Temotu Province - Mr. George Tego, anticipated my airport arrival with a service car. I was quickly taken with my baggage to Lata Motel where I had a reservation. Mr. Tego also had previously arranged for 3-4 local people to help immediately with the erec-



tion of the 160/80/40 m bands vertical antenna. The next activity was the installation of the radio shack and initial antenna testing. After several adjustments to the tuning box, I started working 40m CW.



Stan arrives on Lata, Nendo Isl, Temotu (H40)

With the baggage after arrival at Lata Airport

On 30 September 2017, at 08:38 GMT - H40GC was already on the air. The first contact was with VK3GA. After 2 - 3 minutes the PILE UP grew ever larger, which is normal - H40GC - Temotu Province, a rare DXCC country was on the air! On the second day as H40GC, I installed a multi-band ground plane antenna for 40 - 6 meter bands, including the WARC bands. In the following days until the end of the H40GC activity, despite the extremely poor propagation, I did my best to maintain a good qso rate. The statistics for the operation show I managed to do it!



The vertical antenna for 160/80/40m bands

View of 160/80/40m antenna from the beach





Stan (H40GC) just tuning and testing 160/80/40m antenna

I tried to spend as much time as possible on the air - as much as 18 - 20 hours per day. During the night hours I worked 160/80/40 or 30m and during the day on high bands - 20/17/15/12/10. I worked all modes - CW, RTTY and SSB. With minimal pauses for a sleep, food, internet and some antenna repairs, H40GC made nearly 18,000 contacts from 08:30 GMT on September, 30 to 12:00 GMT on October 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2017! Unfortunately, a problem with the linear amplifier on 30 meters on the 10th day of the operation deprived me of the opportunity to realize at least another 1,500 QSOs on this band.

A few words about the propagation during H40GC activity - EXTREMELY poor propagation! I think, I nevertheless managed to use the small windows of better propagation when available on different bands so that I can give many radio amateurs the chance to make multi-band contacts with Temotu (H40).

More qso's could have been made, but I was also engaged with the humanitarian mission of this expedition and that also cost me time and effort!



At the beginning of this article, I mentioned that I had a vision of what humanitarian mission could be accomplished during the H40GC DXpedition 2017 so that it would remain a lasting memory of the local population and help them effectively.

On October 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 while visiting the local Provincial Disaster Management Office of Temotu Province, I donated one new, fully equipped HP laptop.

Mr. George Tego, who managed the work of this office accepted this donation with great excitement and gratitude. Only a few minutes later he began working with the new computer.



I want to highlight the fact that the 3 employees working for this important and responsible unit are Temotu residents who daily work for the benefit of their brethren and the local environment the province. Their work is often connected with travels to Reef Island and other islands of Temoto Province, so I am sure that this donation will help them carry out their daily and responsible work!

The main humanitarian activity during the H40GC DXpedition 2017 was intended for the local, and only high school, JCP College. At this school 400 students are progressing from grade 1 to 7 per their local education system. In order to qualify for this school, they must first have completed a primary school of grades 1 to 4. JCP College is located on Lata, Temotu Province, and draws students from various located on a distant part of Nendo Island, accessible only by motorboat. The journey from Lata to there is 40 minutes in one direction.



Travel via motorboat to JCP College



My helpers - the motorboat driver and Wesley



The JCP College visit was planned and coordinated with the College's management for 11:00 on October 12, 2017. In order to be safely transported to the college, I made contact with the Chairman and the Mayor of Nendo Island. I told them that I needed their help and cooperation. It turned out that the Mayor is the custodian of JCP College and he is also the chairman of his council! He directed that I was allowed to use a motor boat owned by the municipality. The Chairman and the Mayor of the island were fascinated with the forthcoming donation to JCP College and said that they were impressed by this humanitarian action. I gave credit to the sponsors, INDEXA, CDXA & CDXF and Kontrax Ltd - Karlovo, Bulgaria. The donation to JCP College consisted of one new HP laptop including accessories: laptop bag, extended mouse, flash RAM, 400 notebooks, 400 pens, 400 pencils, folders, markers, sharpeners and other school supplies.

The motorboat trip to the JCP College was successful although the ocean was not very quiet this day.

After my arrival at JCP College a meeting was held with students and teachers at the local church. The meeting began with the performance of the Temotu Province anthem by the students. I will remember this moment forever - the students standing and singing the hymn, myself and the teachers standing also, standing still and listening to this brilliant performance! It was really impressive!

Having introduced the students as to the purpose of my visit, the college director gave me the floor. In my address to the college students and teachers, I briefly explained what the donation is and that it is given under the auspices of INDEXA, with the generous participation of CDXA & CDXF, Kontrax Ltd - Karlovo, Bulgaria, Andy (LZ2HM) and with the help also of all the clubs and organizations which sponsored my expedition to Temotu Province.

I explained to them what our hobby is and that the purpose of radio amateur organizations and clubs is to not only support radio amateurs but also humanitarian activities in different parts of the world.



At this meeting I was asked many questions concerning our hobby and life and work in Bulgaria. I saw that my responses were interesting to those youngsters and students from JCP College. They asked me where Bulgaria is, what I have studied, do I have a family, what is my job and many other things. Keep in mind that most of Temotu residents spend their entire lives without visiting another country,

I answered their questions to the fullest. At the same time, I firmly told them that they must believe in the success and struggle to achieve more. I told them that it all depends of them to study and pursue a higher education leading them to a good profession, find a good job, to be able to work and visit other countries. I will remember forever those youngsters and girls with their interest in how other people and cultures live.

The meeting at JCP College lasted about 3 hours. When I left with the motorboat back to Lata, there followed an unforgettable friendly send-off. With the voices ringing - "Stan, come again here", the students did not hide their satisfaction and sympathy to me. After getting off with the boat, I heard their voices for a long time - wishing me good-bye!



Returning to the Lata Motel, I continued to work on the air. I did not need any rest because the meeting at JCP College was an exhilarating experience for me! By prearranged plan the H40GC DXpedition 2017 had to finish on October 20, 2017. My return to Bulgaria had to take place after a series of 5 flights starting with a flight from Lata, Temotu Province to Honiara, Solomon Islands. This first flight had to be at 1 PM local time on October 21, 2017. The night before the flight, I worked on 160 meters. My last QSO was at 14:20 GMT with WL7E.

After going QRT I spent all night dismantling the antennas and packing luggage for my upcoming trip. The next morning, while expecting the taxi to take me to Lata Airport, I was told that because a eruption of the volcano Tinakula, my flight to Honiara was canceled! At this point, the uncertainty was before me - When would there would be a flight? There was also a danger of my missing the other four flights to Europe and Bulgaria. I was worried about my job, my family, and about my limited funds at the end of the expedition. There were no banks and ATMs on the island! I was relieved to be among friends, people I knew from the previous year. I believed they would not leave me in trouble! I was most worried for my job. I have had this work for 38 years, and I understood that a delay of more than 10 days would not be good for me. I managed to get in touch with my relatives and my colleague at work and received permission to continue my leave.

I was more relaxed now! My only concern remained - when will there be a flight to Honiara. The first two days after canceling the flight, I visited Solomon Airlines local office 3 - 4 times a day, hoping to find out that there would be a flight on the next day! Alas, because of the continued eruption of the Tinakula volcano, flights were impossible! Not knowing when there will be a flight, I



decided to erect again the 160/80/40m antenna and continue to work on these three bands. So, I continued H40GC activity until 12:00 GMT, October 25, 2017. Just a few hours before my flight to Honiara on October 26, 2017, I dismantled the antenna again and fast packed my luggage.

Finally, October 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2017, a little be after 3 PM local time, the Solomon Airlines plane from Lata to Honiara landed at the Honiara Airport. I was even more relaxed now, realizing that the night-mare after the volcano eruption and the canceled flights was over!

I immediately decided to visit again Mr. Colin Sigimanu - Commercial Manager for Solomon Airlines, who I previously met before my trip to Lata, Temoto Province. My idea was ask for his assistance with my missed out flight from Honiara to Brisbane by Solomon Airlines. It turned out that Mr. Colin remembered me! After explaining to him that the humanitarian mission had been successful, I briefly discussed with him the problem of my missed 5 flights back to Bulgaria. I will remember this man with good feelings. Understanding my problem, Mr. Colin ordered his subordinates immediately to include me in the list of passengers traveling the next day from Honiara to Brisbane. He told me that a first class hotel paid for by Solomon Airlines will be provided for me in Brisbane.

Thank you, Mr. Sigimanu, for your goodness and humanity. We parted like good friends. Immediately after this meeting , I took a taxi to S. S. E. C. Guesthouse Honiara, where I had to spent the night and met Bernard (H44MS) and Mrs. Serah in charge of the accommodation there. My meeting with them was very friendly - like a meeting between old friends! It was an honor for me to meet personally with Bernard (H44MS). I want to point out that this is the man, who since 1990, visits yearly for several months the Solomon Islands. During these more than 25 years he has activated for the IOTA program from very rare islands belonging to the H44 and H40 DXCC entities!

Bernard ( H44MS ) and I quickly found a common language. The next morning, with his help, I contacted via mobile phone a British Airways representative who assisted my booking return tickets from Brisbane, Australia to Sydney, Singapore, London and Sofia (Bulgaria)! Finaly, after a long and tiring trip on October 30, 2017, I arrived successfully in Bulgaria, and on 31 October 2017 I was in my home - "my fortress"!

With the story of this DXpedition told, I would like to thank all the individual sponsors before and after the expedition that helped for the success of this expedition!





I thank all members of the GDXF which supported me after the Tinakula Volcano eruption on Nendo Island! Thanks a lot for the support at this moment from Chris (DL5NAM), Rolf (DL7VEE), Uli (DM5EE), Sigi (DL6QW), Gerd (DL7VOG), Roland (DL7BA), Volker (DL7AUV), Helmut (DL5DSM), Wolf (DL8USA), Peter (DK2NG), Ulla (DF6QP) & Walter (DL8JS), Tom (DL1AMQ), Bernd (DL3GCB), Volker (DJ8QP), Tom (DK3DUA), Uwe (DK2ND), Tom (DJ6YX), Ed (EA8AXT), Ed (N4II), Bob (W9BF) and many others!

Thanks to all the Foundations, Associations and Clubs which supported me for this expedition: GDXF, SDXF, CDXA & CDXF, EUDXF, INDEXA, WVDXA, Lone Star DX Association, SWODXA, NODXA, KC5WXA - Jake McClain Driver Memorial Amateur Radio Club, WWDXC, Willimette Valley DX Club, LA DX GROUP, GM DX GROUP, Clipperton DX Club, Mediterraneo DX Club and LYNX DX Group!

Thanks for the understanding and support from Spiderbeam, Clublog, ACOM Ltd Bulgaria and Kon-trax Ltd - Karlovo, Bulgaria!

## Field Day 2019 by David Autry, WD8IOU

Did you suffer from the Field Day blues because your club canceled Field Day? Well I did so I visited the field day sites of CARS, the Medina Two Meter Group, and the North Coast Amateur Radio Club. Here are some pictures from those sites.































## 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 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)



INDEXA

## 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 LZ1GC