



*"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](mailto:wd8iou@adelphia.net)

**Northern Ohio DX Association**  
**P.O. Box 361624**  
**Strongsville, Ohio**  
**44136 U.S.A.**



**August-September 2006**

## **Fireside Chat With KB8NW**

Fellow DX'ers,

Well, this has been an interesting summer for DXers, and it is hard to believe that the summer is over. DXers were fortunate to work two new DXCC entities (Montenegro/YU4 and Swains Island/KH8/S). When was the last time something like that happened? Usually the summer season is a boring time for DXers. However, these two new entities definitely brought excitement to the bands. It



also brought out some of the DXers who have been hibernating during the low sunspot cycle.

Speaking of the sunspot cycle, word has it we may be entering a new cycle. A reverse sunspot has been spotted on the sun and usually this is the start (a very slow start!) of a new cycle. There is more good news for DXers during the upcoming winter. It seems Lakshadweep Island

(VU7) will be activated during the first part of January. Many big name DXers will once again head to the Indian Ocean (as they did for the Andaman Island) to activate this rare island. What a way to start a new year!

In closing, I want to thank the individuals who helped me man the NODXA table at the Cleveland Hamfest (Dwayne/K8ME, George/K8KR, Mary/N8DMM, Keith/N8KOL, Linda/N8LRS and Metro/W8MET). Once again the weather cooperated for this year's event. I think more people would have attended the hamfest if it was not for the local weathermen predicting doom and gloom for the day. They are all high-tech, but they still can not predict the weather.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. Did you renew your club dues? Remember, the main purpose of this club is to promote DX and donate to DXpeditions. With your dues you can help achieve this.

## Minutes of the August 7th, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 25 members and 4 guests present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the July 3rd meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account.

Pete, N8TR reported that the repeater and the cluster are working fine.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is in progress.

### Old-New Business:

Pete, N8TR, reported that he has received an okay for the sale of Ray, W8BIN (SK), equipment. He will email a list. The equipment may be seen at Pete's home.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the W8DXA license is coming up for renewal. Pete, N8TR, and George, K8KR, commented on recent renewals. Renewal can be handled at the Volunteer Examiners Club of America at [www.w4vec.com/](http://www.w4vec.com/). The procedure is very easy and carries a fee of \$6.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the 2007 Great Lakes Division Convention will be held here in Cleveland on Saturday, September 22nd. CARS and LEARA are involved in the planning. Tedd has been appointed to a seminar committee.

The convention will be held at the Embassy Suites in Strongsville.

Jim, K8MR, reported that the Ohio QSO Party was coming up on Saturday, August 26th, from Noon until Midnight.

Tedd, KB8NW, introduced John, K8YSE, who gave a recap of his recent DXpedition to KH8SI, Swaine's Island, in American Samoa. Swaine's Island is a new DX Entity and John was part of the first DXpedition there. John gave an extended talk outlining the entire journey and the delays and pitfalls involved. The Jennings family owns the island, which is an atoll completely surrounded by coral reefs. Boats have to navigate between cuts in the reef to reach shore.

The island is about 1 1/4 miles across and

used to be a coconut plantation with a population of about 200 people. The population is now 6. Others are expected to return once the school is rebuilt. John reported that the local residents are very friendly.

George, K8KR, moved, seconded by Dwaine, K8ME, the club donate \$250 to John, K8YSE's expenses. John declined to accept any donations and suggested that the donation be sent to Kan, JA1BK, instead. The motion passed unanimously.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Glenn, AF8C. The amount was \$29.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm by the president Tedd, KB8NW.

The next meeting will be September 11th because of the first Monday being a holiday.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

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## Minutes of the September 11th, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:31pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 16 members and 1 guest present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the August 7th meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account.

Pete, N8TR, and Denny, WB8K reported that the repeater and cluster are still there and working fine.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is in progress.

### Old-New Business:

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the W8DXA license had been renewed via W5YI. Dwaine also reported that he will be doing WAS card checking at the upcoming Cleveland Hamfest. Tedd, KB8NW reported that he will contact someone to do DXCC card checking at the hamfest.

John, K8YSE, reported that the Rt. 66 operating event would be held starting September 9th and running for about two weeks. Rt. 66, featured in a former television series, runs from

Chicago to Santa Monica CA. Stations W6A through W6Q will be on the air.

Tedd, KB8NW and John, K8YSE both reported on attending the NOARS annual picnic and seeing Al Altomari, W8QWI, who is reportedly leaving ham radio due to age.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported the he and John, K8YSE, had uploaded to the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LOW). Both reported that uploading is relatively easy, but takes a lot of time. Others in the group commented on their use of LOW.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had received a thank you card from Sr. Mary Grace thanking the club for their \$100 donation for use of their property for the Field Day site. She is looking forward to seeing the club again next year.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 2nd.

Dwaine, K8ME, won the 50-50 raffle. The amount was \$15.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW.

This evenings program was a DVD video of the KH8SI, Swaine's Island DXpedition. The event was filmed by Kahn, JA1BK.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

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## FCC "OMNIBUS" Report and Order Contains Pluses, Minuses and Errors

*ARRL Letter*

The FCC's recent Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140 seems to offer something for just about every sector of the Amateur Radio community, but it's not without shortcomings. Most appear to be unintended consequences stemming from the FCC's arguably too-generous allocation of 75 meter phone spectrum to Amateur Extra class licensees. The FCC indicated it was only doing what the ham radio community said it wanted.

"Indeed, a number of commenter's argue that

the NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rule Making) proposal to increase the amount of spectrum permitted for voice communications would still not meet the demand for voice communication in the HF bands, particularly in the 80 meter band," the FCC said in the R&O, released October 10. Several radio amateurs filing comments justified extending the phone allocation further into the CW band, the FCC continued, citing their arguments that the CW band is "grossly underused and represents a huge waste in spectrum."

Once the new rules go into effect, the 75 meter phone band will span 3800 to 4000 kHz for Generals, 3700 to 4000 kHz for Advanced class licensees (ARRL had requested 3750 to 4000 kHz), and 3600 to 4000 kHz for Amateur Extras (ARRL had requested 3725 to 4000 kHz). Far more modest phone expansions were the rule for 40 and 15 meters, the other affected bands.

But the ample 75 meter Amateur Extra class phone allocation not only effectively reduces the amount of 80-meter spectrum available for CW, RTTY and data, it actually eliminates Advanced and General class access on any mode to certain segments where they now have privileges. Sensitive to fallout from the "incentive licensing" debacle of the late 1960s, the FCC in the past has indicated it wouldn't let that kind of thing happen again.

In the run-up to the April 2000 license restructuring, the FCC assured that any pending changes would not take away any incumbent licensee's privileges, and it carefully avoided doing so in its restructuring R&O. In applauding the ARRL's "refarming" proposal in this docket's NPRM, the FCC pointed out that "as proposed, no licensees would lose any spectrum privileges."

Nonetheless that's just what happened:

Generals lose 150 kHz of CW/data spectrum on 80 meters but gain 50 kHz of phone spectrum on 75. They also lose 25 kHz of CW/data spectrum on 40 meters but gain 50 kHz of phone privileges on that band. Factoring in another 25 kHz of phone spectrum on 15 meters that's an overall gain of 125 kHz of phone spectrum offset by an overall loss of 175 kHz of CW/data spectrum -- or a net loss of 50 kHz in spectrum

privileges.

Advanced licensees also lose 150 kHz of CW/data spectrum on 80 meters but gain 75 kHz of phone spectrum on 75. They also lose 25 kHz of CW/data spectrum on 40 meters but gain 25 kHz of phone spectrum there. That's an overall loss of 175 kHz of CW/data spectrum offset by an overall gain of 100 kHz of phone spectrum (25 kHz less than Generals). The net loss in Advanced privileges works out to 75 kHz (25 kHz greater than Generals).

The new rules are "nothing but net" for Novice and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees. These licensees take home a whopping 250 kHz of additional CW spectrum (CW/data on 10 meters).

The R&O contains several apparent mistakes, too. For example, in §97.301(d) the 80 meter row should read 3.525-3.600 MHz for all three ITU regions. In §97.305(c), the frequencies in the first line for 40 meters should read 7.000-7.100 MHz. The FCC will fix these errors when the "official" R&O text appears in the Federal Register later this fall.

Other corrections may prove more troublesome. Creating a humongous 75 meter phone band for Extras effectively, but apparently inadvertently, deleted the only 80 meter segment where automatically controlled digital stations may operate -- 3620 to 3635 kHz. The new rules no longer permit RTTY and data there, however.

In addition, the FCC accommodated the inclusion of images in data transmissions by defining a range of image emission types as "data" and limiting them to 500 Hz bandwidth in the RTTY/data subbands. Unfortunately, it did so in a way that also limits J2D emissions -- data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter -- to 500 Hz bandwidth.

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## You Might be Addicted to Ham Radio if?

Martin Brossman, KI4CFS, via eHam.net

When you get up at 03:00 AM for a DX schedule on 75 meters; net control every

Wednesday evening and checks in every day of the week; radios in the airplane, his car and even my car; back yard looks like Frankenstein's lab; friends keep asking why the roof is full of aluminum tubes and wire; and calls people on the phone and talks about passing radiograms.

When you notice that the wife and kids have left you, you place a personal ad something like this, divorced male, hardcore ham radio operator, secure job, seeks female ham operator send pictures of radios, amplifiers, towers and antenna farm.

When you have to get your 'ham' fix at all costs and ignore the more important things in your life such as your job, your family and your health.

When you are ecstatic about getting a 200 or 300 watt soldering iron to do up PL 259s the RIGHT way--And, your wife asks you what its doing in your bed.

When sun spots are more exciting than your XYL's G-spot.

When your reaction to a solar flair bringing down the entire electric grid for the North East is that the bands will tank for a week or more.

When you look forward to the Super Bowl, because there won't be a lot of QRM.

When you look at a full moon and wonder how much antenna gain you'd need.

When you know what the second foreign country is above ME.

When you know Antarctica is a continent and you know penguins range as far north as the Galapagos Islands.

When you think ceramics classes teach how to make antenna insulators.

When someone mentions post and beam construction and you envision a tower with a tri-bandier on top.

When you are bored, you tap out CQ.

When you call Dish or DIRECTV CSRs, and you know they don't have a clue about what they are telling you.

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, KI4CFS, KC1QF, eHam.net, and the *ARRL Letter*.

### **NODXA Club Officials for 2006-2007**

**President** - Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)  
**V. President** - Dwaine Modock, K8ME (440-582-3462)  
**Secretary** - Al Moriarty, N8CX (216-221-3682)  
**Treasurer** - Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)  
**Newsletter Editor** - David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)

**As of July 2006**  
**Current DXCC Entities Total is:**

# 337

When someone asks for directions, you pause, wondering if long or short path would be best.

When you can look at a globe and be able to point to your antipode (when you know what an antipode is).

When you can name three countries completely surround by Italy.

When you know how many ports are on Pitcairn Island, what the most common last name is there, and why it is the most common last name.

When one would rather, "entertain", a contest, rather than your wife/girlfriend...or husband/boyfriend, whatever your scenario is.

My your wife says "You wake up at 3am on your days off because you say the 'iono-whatever is right. When it rains, walk into the back yard. The antennas are so dense they act like an umbrella'".

When your dogs are learning CW. My WYF and kids know what ITU region we are in and understand the GMT offset.

transmitted some test calls using my IC-706. A few seconds later my voice appeared on the dxtuner receiver telling me that I am getting out!

The dxtuner system was created by a group of Scandinavians, who use Java software that they install remotely onto a PC connected to a receiver (most of them are Icom PCR-1000) and a DSL/Cable line.

A couple of receivers are free; others cost a donation of about \$50/year but don't quote me on this. The free receivers are fine for checking our signal however.

I have been using the DXtuner system on and off for some time, and find it useful for checking my transmit signal.

There are receivers in most of the US, most of Europe, South Africa, Australia, Canada, Dubai, Thailand and Venezuela.

It is amazing to hear your voice on the radio a few seconds after you transmit! Just like working satellites!

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## Best Way to Know If You Get Out!

Peter Vekinis, KC1QF, via eHam.net

I have been using a system for quite some a time that enables me to check whether my signal gets out and where, all with 100% certainty.

How?

Well, I use the [www.dxtuner.com](http://www.dxtuner.com) system, which puts many receivers around the world at your fingertips.

Just now I wanted to check if my antenna system operates as promised. So I went to DXtuner.com, selected one of the receivers (used the one in Berlin), set the frequency to my transmit frequency and started the receiver. After checking that there was no QSO in progress, I

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## Trev Hilfer, W8NL - Silent Key

Tedd, KB8NW

I have some sad news to report. Nick, W8XD, informs me that Trev, W8NL (ex-WD8QBP, K8AZE), passed away Monday night (October 16). He was a member of NODXA a while ago but has dropped off the list in recent years as his health went down hill. Services will be held on Hiram's campus at the All-Faith Chapel, but the date or time has yet to be set. The family will receive friends from the close of the burial service until 8pm at 11552 Vaughn Road, Hiram, OH. The announcement is expected to appear in the Beacon Journal, the Plain Dealer and the Record Courier.

NODXA extends its deepest sympathies to Trevor's family.



**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 361624 , Strongsville, Ohio 44136**

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**, and Mary Michaelis **N8DMM**

**Dated Material  
Please Rush**



**The Northern Ohio DX Association  
P.O. Box 361624  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136 U.S.A**