

July-August-September 2014

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Poolside (closed for the season) Chat With KB8NW

I can not believe it is already September. Three quarters of the year is already gone, and the fall season is this month! Wow! Where did this year go? With September here, it is time to make plans to go to the Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show (September 28th) at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea, OH. I hate to say it, but I will not be there this year because I will be in Tennessee for my grandson's 3rd birthday on the 27th. Anyway, the club will have two tables there (one for club members to sell stuff and the other for club promotions and card checking). As always, we are looking for members to help man the tables for 30-60 minutes. Let's hope for a good turn-out and weather.



NODXA once again had an excellent Field Day this year thanks to Field Day Chairman John, Papay, K8YSE, and his organization of the event. We had many visitors this year, including members from other clubs and a local newspaper.

The operating crew was about the same as last year, but with a few missing key CW operators who had other commitments. In all, NODXA still had a good score at the end. The weather was perfect, as well as the food and beverages. Everyone had a great time. I want to thank those who showed up and especially those who operated. If you did not attend this year, hopefully you can next year.

As far as DX goes, there is nothing big coming up until the October-November FT4TA Tromelin Island DXpedition as mentioned last time. Here is what to expect between September and October:

- Between Now and October 4th - ZD9ZS Tristan da Cunha
- September 15-22nd - E3 Eritrea (limited op!)
- September 18-25th - 9H3JA Malta
- September 26th-October 2nd - Bhutan
- October 2-15th - T30D Western Kiribati
- October 3-13th - TX5G Austral
- October 8-20th - 4W/G3ZEM Timor Leste
- October 18-26th - TX7G Marquesas
- October 18th-November 1st - VK9XSP Christmas Island; Polish ops
- October 19-31st - 4W/K7CO Timor Leste
- October 30th-November 10th - FT4TA Tromelin

As always, I hope to see you in the coming weeks/months, possibly at NODXA's general membership meetings. 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.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

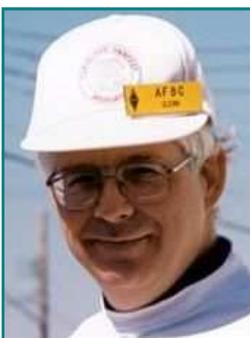
P.S. Reminder -- Dues are due for 2014-2015.....

Minutes of the June 2nd, 2014 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:31 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 22 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the May 5 minutes were read by Glenn, AF8C. Gary, NI8Z, moved, and Karl, K8BCK, seconded to accept the minutes. The vote passed. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching!, not yet including proceeds from the equipment sales. The fiscal year is May to May, and dues are still being accepted. Vicki, K8VGM, moved and Dave, WD8IOU, seconded to accept the minutes. That vote passed. The report was that the repeater is working fine. John, K8YSE, reported that the pole's detuning wires are still wrapped around the pole. Dave, WD8IOU, stated that the newsletter went out in time for Dayton. He still can use photos and flea market stories for the newsletter going out before Field Day.

Old/New Business:

Brian, K3USC, reported that the old MLA2500 amplifier was sold to Randy, W9ZR, for \$250.00 on Thursday on the way to Dayton. But after Mary, N8DMM, received that cash, Randy returned the amp to Brian to be resold. Saturday two gentlemen paid \$200 for it. Randy got \$200.00. Mary, N8DMM, gave Brian \$50.00 to return to Randy. Thus Randy got his \$250.00 back and the club got the \$200 they expected to get. But the extra tubes still need to be sold.



Dayton hail and rain might have caused a drop in vendor attendance. George, K8KR, Dwaine, K8ME, and Gary, NI8Z, had a deal with HRO for a package of three Yaesu FTDX 5000's for \$5200 each as the last three radios that included the graphic scope. Gary, NI8Z, went to contest university. N1MM is coming out with a new upgrade. 9K2WA was an interesting person. Gary reported that Tim,

K3LR, did an outstanding job speaking at Contest University. Gary's wallet was lost and then returned without any losses.

George, K8KR, reported that Qatar had their own table. NN1N was there. He "invented" the concept of the W1AW state stations for the ARRL centennial. There will be a special Web site for W1AW WAS. Pete, N8TR, reported that the 2013 Contest University is available on YouTube segments. Tedd said that the hospitality suite cost \$212.34. Three club renewals were picked up and the donation jars were generously filled. The signature poster was passed around at this meeting. Don Miller, W9WNV, and Don Search W3AZD were there. At Dayton the "Top Mobile" plaque in the Michigan QSO Party was presented to Jim, K8MR, who in turn gave it to John, K8YSE, for his service as rover team driver. At the AMSAT banquet the STARCOMM group gave the Grid Master Award Number 1 for working all continental U.S. grids (488) to John, K8YSE. The ARRL PR guy, KX9X, interviewed John.

For DX, Tedd said that Tuvalu will be up during Oct. 8-13. It is #44 on the Most Wanted list. Jim, K8MR, sponsors the Ohio QSO Party plaque. Jim K8MR moved and Pete, N8TR, seconded a motion to fund the 2014 plaque for \$65.00. That passed on a vote.

On July 13 there will be the competition for the World Radiosport Team Championships in IARU Radiosport in Massachusetts. Jim, K8MR, is the leader for the NA8 team as de-

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

scribed in the WRTC Web site. Jim will also be the coordinator for the August 20 W1AW/8 Mad River Radio Club team. Dwaine, K8ME, has an FTDX1000 with a 6m tranverter for sale.

In the matter of Field Day at Mt. Augustine, Bruce N8DJX, needs to get the insurance. Field Day setup will start Friday at 6 p.m. For a 2A Class operation, K8YSE led discussion on the assignments of members supplying radios and other equipment.

Wrap-up:

The next meeting will be on July 7. The BARF breakfast occurs on Saturday. Adam, N8MOX, won half the raffle basket of \$42.00 and he gave some of his part to cover his dues. More ticket drawings yielded winnings of Dayton 2014 medallions to Vicki, K8VGM, Dwaine, K8ME, Karl, K8BCK, and Glenn, AF8C. The meeting closed at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the July 7th, 2014 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 21 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the June 2 minutes were read by Glenn, AF8C. Brian, K3USC moved, and Gary, NI8Z, seconded to accept the minutes. The vote passed. Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching!. This includes Field Day expenses but not the two memberships paid tonight. Gary, NI8Z, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded to accept the minutes. That vote passed. The report was that the repeater is working fine. There was no report on the newsletter as Dave was not here at the start of the meeting. There was breaking news from the ARRL. Jim Weaver, K8JE, resigned at noon today. The former Vice Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, of Dundee, MI has moved up to Director, and the League President Kay Craigie N3KN has appointed W. Thomas "Tom" Delaney, W8WTD, of Cincinnati, OH, to be the new Vice Director.

Old/New Business:



John, K8YSE, gave the Field Day report. His Memphis buddy said that their club was rained out. Club QSOs recorded include 963 on CW and 1252 on phone, for score points of 6356. The bonus points earned were 950, so the submitted total score is 7306. The Royalton Recorder editor and spouse came out to see some of the operation, thus earning the Elected Official bonus points. Later the reporter came out to write up K8YSE for an article in the Recorder. Top operators were WB8K with 91 QSOs in the first hour. Later Bruce, N8DJX, earned 98 QSOs in an hour. John K8YSE made five satellite contacts. The food was excellent with Tedd as the cook. Pete N8TR had an excellent program on antenna construction. John discussed the score break downs, the simplicity of using wire antennas, and the height of the site near the top altitude in the county.

Tedd received a donation request for Timor Leste, 4W/K7CO, with four operators planned during the period October 19 to 31. 4W is number 71 on the 2012 Most Wanted list. Dwaine K8ME moved and Ron, K8VJG, seconded that we donate \$100 to the 4W operation. The motion passed. Then Dave, WD8IOU, moved and Brian, K3USC seconded that the club donate \$100 to the Sisters of Charity at Mt. Augustine for hosting our Field Day operation. Pete, N8TR, discussed that Saturday will be the IARU contest, with the World Team championships at stake for the WRTC teams. Pete explained the details of the rules, and the established conditions for making the scoring even. Bruce, N8DJX, has purchased Dwaine's older FTDX 1000 radio and 6m transverter. Pete, N8TR, brought news that John, N8RF, has become a Silent Key.

On active DX of note, FP is up now. South Korea now has expanded privileges on 160m. After the Tromelin operation in October the remainder of the year will be light on interesting DX operations.

Wrap-up:

The next meeting will be on August 4. The BARF breakfast occurs on Saturday at 9 a.m. Next month the Ohio QSO Party, the Lighthouse operating event, and the W1AW/8 operating event all take place. Brian, K3USC, won half the raffle pot of \$32.00 and he donated his half back to the club. Brian moved and Gary NI8Z seconded for the meeting to be closed.

The meeting closed at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Should QSOs From Remote Stations be Given DXCC Credit?

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In July, the DX Advisory Committee Report recommended several rules changes for the DXCC program (www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Committee%20Reports/2014/July/Doc_27.pdf). Among them, was a recommendation that rule I.9 be changed such that a QSO is acceptable for DXCC credit only when the remote station and the operator's home station location are no more than 200 km apart.



As with any rule change, this precipitated a lot of comment in the amateur radio community. A thread on the eHam.Net forum (www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,98348.30.html) got quite a few comments. N7NG had a nice blog post (<http://n7ng.wordpress.com/2014/03/05/remote-control-dxing-and-dxcc/>) on this controversy.

Perhaps the most strident post on this topic was written by WW1X (<http://ww1x.com/opinion/2014/08/14/in-defense-of-remote-dxcc.html>). He called these recommendations "uninformed, misguided, and detrimental to the future of our hobby." Detrimental to the future of our hobby? Seriously?

Of course, WW1X has a vested interest in this debate. He's the lead developer for RemoteHamRadio.Com, a company that charges other hams to use the "super stations" that they've set up around the world.

Note that the DX Advisory Committee is not saying that amateur radio operators should not use and enjoy these remote stations. All they're saying is that the QSOs made with them, unless they are located less than 200 km from an amateur's home station, are not eligible for DXCC credit. I'm sure that if you asked any of the members of the committee they would agree with WW1X that the remote stations serve a very useful purpose for amateurs who are not able to set up their own home stations.

WW1X prattles on about how "DXCC is not a contest. It's not a competition. There are no winners or losers. It's a personal achievement award, plain and simple." This is just silly. Of course it's a competition. As N7NG rightly points out if it's not a competition, why publish the DXCC Honor Roll?

What I think is detrimental to the hobby are hams who use RemoteHamRadio.Com to simply add to their DXCC scores. I see no sense in doing so, and furthermore, where's the personal achievement? Anyone who can afford to pay what they charge—and it's not a small sum of money—can work the rarest DX with one of those stations.

A friend of mine, Mark, W8MP, is a RemoteHamRadio.Com customer, and it's a boon for him. He loves being able to work DX from his home in a development where no outside antennas are allowed. He's not trying to pad his DXCC score. He does this for the pure love of talking to other hams in far-away places.

When the final decision is made, I hope the DX Advisory Committee goes back to first principles as set forth in FCC Part 97.1 and makes their decision on whether or not allowing DXCC credit for remote station QSOs contributes to "the advancement of the radio art" or is an "extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill."

No-Code in 1934? by Larry Banks, W1DYJ, Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association

KB6NU Note: This article originally appeared in the January 1934 issue of the magazine *Short Wave Radio*. PDFs of *Short Wave Radio* as well as many more magazines from the early days of radio can be found at www.americanradiohistory.com/index.htm.

A Codeless Amateur License ? No!

ALTHOUGH we doubt if anyone in Government circles is giving the matter any serious thought, there

seems to be a lot of noise at the present time about creating a special class of amateur license that will not involve a code test. Considering the numerous and unmatched privileges already enjoyed by the American amateur, it seems to us that any demands for a license class of this kind are ridiculous. Many honest amateurs admit that even the present test is too easy, and is bringing many irresponsible persons on the air. Of course, everyone has to begin some time, so we must forgive the beginner his rotten fist or his hoarse modulation, as long as he stays within band, uses d.c. for plate supply and otherwise conforms to the spirit, as well as the letter, of the Federal Radio Commission regulations.

When you stop to consider that the American amateur is not even required to pay a cent in the way of license fees, that he is permitted to operate absolutely unhampered, and that the Army and the Navy defend him at international conferences while the highly military governments of other nations try to wipe him off the map, we think it is time to stop biting the hand that feeds us, so to speak.

The recent federal economy wave was responsible for a serious reduction in the technical administrative staff of the F.R.C. You can just about imagine

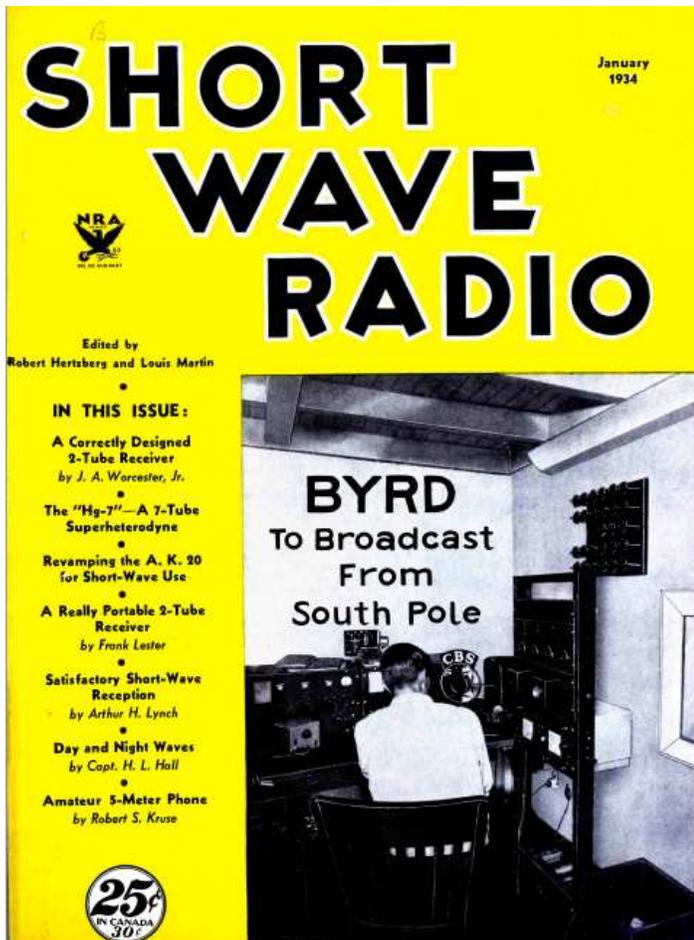
the mess that would be created by a lot of unchecked so-called "amateurs" who are willing to jeopardize their own freedom by their unwillingness to learn the code, which, after all, is the real language of radio.

Why do some people consider the code a stumbling-block? It is really very easy to learn, as 10 - year old children and 75 -year old patriarchs have discovered. Besides, a knowledge of the code greatly increases the enjoyment that you can obtain from a short -wave receiver, even if you have no intention of applying for an amateur license.

To many people not familiar with the code, the host of mysterious dots and dashes that sometimes interrupts music are things which should be eliminated by law; but to those with even a slight knowledge of the code, these mysterious interruptions are highly interesting.

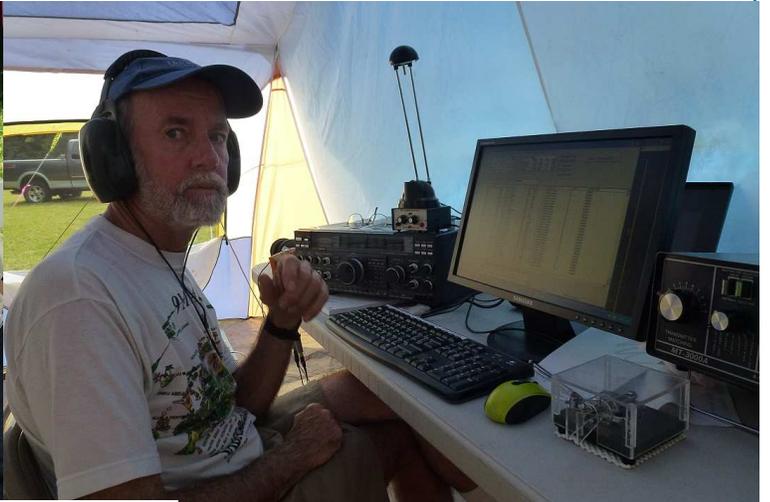
Airplane, coastal and naval stations, all transmitting information that really makes sense, may easily provide hours and hours of entertainment, especially when you want to get away from the beaten path.

-R. H.



Field Day 2014 In Pictures photos by John Papay, K8YSE





Field Day event demonstrates the importance of hams

By SHIRI STAFFORD

Contributing Writer

Modern communications keep the world connected. But this complex system is vulnerable. Society has become dependent upon cell phones and the internet for contemporary communication. Conceiving this way depends upon infrastructure. If the infrastructure is compromised, communication is cut off. Fortunately, amateur radio operators (hams) are able to communicate even when cell phones and the internet are down.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sponsored a nationwide Field Day event for amateur radio operators (hams) on Saturday, June 28 through Sunday, June 29. For 24 hours straight, hams operated independent of infrastructure to simulate what might happen during a real emergency. The event is not only an educational demonstration of how amateur radio can assist during an emergency but also how they serve the general public.

Amateur radio operators have been assisting the public for a century. They have assisted with communications during disasters, like hurricanes, tornadoes, 9/11, and other emergencies and provide communications to private and government agencies involved in disaster relief when their systems are compromised or overloaded, and when they lack resources to adequately staff all of the points where communications are needed. They also use their skills to assist in marathons, parades, and other planned

events and non-emergency activities. Amateur radio clubs are made up of technical and knowledgeable individuals who volunteer their time, equipment, and skills. Ham operators communicate locally, statewide, and internationally.

During the Field Day event, local members met at Mount Augustine in Richfield and set up their communication capabilities. Several North Royalton hams participated with the Northern Ohio DX Association and include John Papay, Diane Papay, Ed Berger, Ron Botkey, Dwayne Modlock, Dennis Stuber, Nick Wislocki, and Dennis Jakubish.

The group set up their generators and antennas in a field, and day and night, they communicated with other stations world-



Denny Jakubish W3BK is operating from the phone (voice) tent with a Yaesu FT1000D radio. Logging of all contacts is computerized. The radio is connected to the computer so that frequency and mode data is imported automatically. Submitted photo

wide. They made 964 contacts using CW (continuous wave) Morse code and 1,252 voice contacts. They made contacts with every state except Alaska and communicated with Germany, Finland, Ukraine, Japan, and Canada.

"We used simple wire antennas for the vast majority of our contacts," said John Papay, Field Day Chairman. "One of our members uses a bow and arrow tied to a fishing reel to shoot a line over the tree tops. A larger line is then pulled up with the wire antenna attached. We can usually get our antennas at least 50 feet above the ground this way."

Nick Wislocki operated a 5 watt trans-

ceiver powered by a solar panel to make the first five contacts. With only 5 watts and a wire antenna, he contacted Maine, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Virginia.

Governor Kasich proclaimed June 28-29 as Amateur Radio Operators' Appreciation Day. There are more than 30,000 hams in Ohio and more than 700,000 in the country. This honor recognizes the passion, contribution, and importance ham operators are to public service and emergency communications.

Anyone interested in learning more about amateur radio, visit www.emergency-radio.org. The ARRL Field Day happens on the fourth weekend of June each year.



A tent is set up for Morse Code and one for Voice contacts. A generator is located a few hundred feet away and powers everything on the site. Tedd Mingiotta (left), president of NODXA, with John Papay, Field Day Chairman. Photo by I A Magneti

**Congratulations to
Dr. Matt Brantz**

Dale's Tales, Support HR-4969 by Dale Williams, WA8EFK, Great Lakes Director

You have doubtlessly heard of the national effort working towards passing HB 4969. This is known as the Amateur Radio Parity Act and is aimed at directing the PRB-1 style "reasonable accommodation" provisions for Amateur Radio antennas to include all types of land-use regulation, including deed restrictions and restrictive covenants, hence the term "parity". "CC&Rs" (covenants, conditions and restrictions) are the prohibitions and limitations placed on properties by builders or home-owner associations (HOAs) which prevent licensed Amateurs from erecting even modest antennas. As Congress is returning to Session in early September, ARRL is asking for your personal assistance in contacting your Congressperson to ask for support for HB 4969.



Full information can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969>. This page will also allow you to identify your congressman and his/her address. There is a link on this page that will allow you to download the draft of a letter to use as an example. I urge you to write and ask your Congressperson to support this request for reasonable accommodation for our antennas.

Now, this is really important to accomplish. The number of residents now living in HOAs has grown significantly in recent years. In many regions of the country, there are few opportunities for home ownership outside HOAs. Thus, the impact upon ham radio antennas has become significant. Some HOA "contracts" do not allow any sort of outdoor antenna. Somehow, it seems absurd when one considers they do not allow a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave UHF mag-mount sitting on a rain gutter...The HOAs really do need to get "reasonable".

2014 Ohio Section Newsletter Awards by Scott Yonally, N8SY, Ohio Section Manager

Here's the results of the Twenty-Second Annual Ohio Section Newsletter Awards.

Honorary Mention:

- Monday Morning Message - Alliance Amateur Radio Club - John Myers, KD8MQ editor
- Monday Morning Memo - Highland Amateur Radio Association - John Levo, WA8KIW editor

Third Place:

- The QSO - Marion Amateur Radio Club - Lynn Lovell, W8MLL editor
- NODXA Rag - Northern Ohio DX Association - David Autry, WD8IOU editor

Second Place:

- The Radiogram - Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) - Tom Parkinson, KB8UUZ editor

First Place:

- The Mike & Key - Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association - David Self, K8SSN editor.

Also, the twentieth recipient of the Allan Severson Award was announced and it was none other than Frank J. Piper, KI8GW.

Jackie Piper, KC8ESO was given the Ohio Section Manager's "Special Recognition Award." In recognition for her many years of patience and understanding and willingness to put up with all of us that demanded time from her family.

And there you have it all.

Thanks go out to everyone that came and had good fun and fellowship at this year's Columbus Hamfest / Ohio Section Conference.



NODXA RAG Ties For 3rd Place by David Autry, WD8IOU

The NODXA RAG was awarded a tie for 3rd place for amateur radio newsletters for clubs in the Ohio Section. The award was presented by Scott Yonally, N8SY, Ohio Section Manager, to your friendly neighbor newsletter editor, me. The ceremony took place on August 2nd, 2014 at the Columbus Hamfest, which also doubled as the Ohio Section Conference.

A successful newsletter requires contributions from many people other than the editor. The editor requires material to publish and support to distribute the newsletter. I had a little speech prepared to acknowledge and thank the individuals who have supported me over the years but I did not have an opportunity to give it at the presentation, so I will do so now.



Tedd, KB8NW, President of NODXA for many years and the publisher of the weekly OPDX, writes his Fireside/Poolside column for every issue of the RAG. Tedd's column is very well written and contains timely information related to the DX community, such as up coming DXpeditions, possible new countries, rule changes, etc. Tedd also provides many of the articles that I publish which are sent to him by his contacts in the DX community. Tedd also "encouraged" me and provided the "motivation" for me

to take cover the editorship of the RAG so I want to thank him for that and also for his leadership in running the club.

Pete, N8TR, and Mary, N8DMM, spent countless hours licking stamps, sorting, stapling, folding pages and mailing the newsletter back in the olden days when it was printed. Pete also maintains the club's roster and Mary does a great job as the club's treasurer. The newsletter would not have been possible without their efforts and I want to thank them for that.

The club has had a few secretaries the last thirteen years and they have all done a wonderful job. It is hard taking the meeting minutes, I've done it a couple of times and had to rely on a sound recorder to fill in all the blanks that were in my written notes; I don't know how they do it. So special thanks are in order to Ron K8VJG, Al N8CX, and Glenn AF8C. Keep those pencils sharp!

John, K8YSE, is the clubs webmaster. John provides the site for NODXA's web page and also the web page for the RAG at his own expense! John also emails the notifications to the membership when a new edition of the RAG has been released. John does a great job with his website and is a bundle of energy, always on the go. You can see John's handy work at <http://www.papays.com>.

My goal for next year is sole possession of 3rd place! That's it for now.





*The American Radio Relay League, Inc.
Headquarters, Newington, Connecticut*

Ohio Section Newsletter Contest
Third Place

This certifies that

“NODXA Rag”

has been awarded *Third Place* in the
twenty-second annual Ohio Section Newsletter Contest.

NORTHERN OHIO DX ASSOCIATION
Editor: David Autry, WDSIOU

John Ross, KD8IDJ
Ohio PIC & Contest Manager

Presented on 02 August, 2014

Scott Yonally, N8SY
Ohio Section Manager

Ohio Amateur License Plate Rules Have Changed by Gene Fahrer, WA8MCN

I just have to tell you this story that happened to me when I went to get my new Ohio Amateur Radio license plates. As most of you know I have been driving my wife's van for several years now, she bought a new car and I got the old one. Now since the van was in her name it obviously had her Amateur Call on the license plate (go figure). Well, on the way home from the Athens Hamfest late last month, the old van just started giving up. It started making noises that even I couldn't identify. I can't really complain as that it had over 175,000 miles on it with very little repairs in the 10 years that we had it. I took it to the repair shop and found that I would have way more in repairs than I would ever get out of the van, so it was time for another vehicle. I purchased one and off we went to get the plates for it.

I had my old call plates hanging in the garage from when I was driving a vehicle under my name, so I thought that getting them updated would be a breeze.. WRONG!! Since these plates hadn't been renewed for more than 3 years they were expired and could not be renewed. So, it's now new plates that I have to acquire. Now either way I knew that I would have to go to the local Deputy registrar's office to either get the old plates re-issued which I now knew was not really going to happen, or get new plates. I thought about this for a bit and decided to take a copy of my Amateur License with me just in case they would need it for the new plates. With title and Amateur License along with the old registration from the old pates in case someone might take pity on me and allow me to just catch the old plates up to current times and off I went to my local Deputy Registrar's office.

I got there and went through the miles of paperwork that they now require you to sign to get things started, and then they told me that I had to have a current Amateur Radio license to complete the paperwork. I presented it to them and asked why they needed it since I'm already on file with the current call sign. That's when they told me that the law had been changed and you now have to present your license each time you renew. I was flabbergasted; I couldn't believe that my 10 year FCC Amateur Radio License would be challenged each year by the State of Ohio, but it's true. In a little publicized act of the Ohio Congress last year, they changed the law. Now you have to demonstrate to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in Ohio every year that you hold a current and non-suspended, none-expired official FCC issued Amateur Radio License, and with that you are now only given 2 ways of renewing your license, through the mail, or a personal visit to your local Deputy Registrar's office. The on-line renewal of your Amateur plate is still an option for now, but according to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in Columbus, this option will soon go away as they update the website to reflect the new law.

It's really funny that the State of Ohio feels compelled to check my license each year, but that's the new law. With that, you will no longer be afforded the same opportunity of renewing your license plate on-line as everyone else, including those with "special" vanity plates can do.

Here's the information from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles website about what is now required:

Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of Ohio and hold an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission may apply for these plates. The official call letters will be the license plate numbers.

There are no options.

Registrant Eligibility - Owner must submit a copy of the un-revoked and unexpired official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. (FCC).

Title Requirements - Ohio Certificate of Title issued in the same name as the FCC license, either singly or jointly, or the name on the FCC license is the same name on the lease agreement.

Vehicle Information - These plates may be issued to passenger vehicles, non-commercial trucks, recreational vehicles, house vehicles and non-commercial trailers.

Type of Plates - Plates will be manufactured with the FCC license.

Issuance Information - Amateur Radio plates cannot be issued with system assigned, reserved, or personalized plate formats.

Renewal of plates can be done at your local Deputy Registrar or by mail using their renewal notice. Amateur Radio License Holders must provide a copy of their current unexpired and unrevoked official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at the time of any type renewal transaction.

All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card unless customer requests otherwise. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured.

Special license plate applications are available at all Deputy Registrar license agency locations or can be downloaded by clicking [HERE](#).

Cost - These plates cost an additional \$10.00 annually plus the normal registration fees. The fee is determined by Ohio Revised Code section 4503.14.

For those of you who would like to see this for themselves, here is the link:

http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/sp_amateur_radio.stm

Araucaria DX Group Award by "Scotty", WK3N

Dear members of the Araucaria DX Group,

I am proud to say I am the winner of your sponsored CQ Magazine CQDX Marathon 17 Meter winner plaque for 2013. I have included a photo of myself with the award in my shack. This is a very hard award to win.

The CQDX Marathon is a massive challenge that requires a year of devotion to being at one's amateur radio. There are many factors one must learn to achieve this "highest level" of DX competition. I have been DXing for 35 years now and still learn new things about this hobby. One must always remain humble and respect our competitors if we are to satisfactorily succeed.

Thank you so very much for being the sponsor of this fine award. Your efforts are much appreciated. Your country has many fine DXer's. I also must thank CQ Magazine editors and the DX Marathon manager K9EL for the time he donates as well. With out all of you, there wouldn't be such a great contest.

Warmest regards,

James Lee Scott WK3N aka "Scotty"



Ham Throws Out Family Cat via hamhijinks.com

By [K5KVN](#), on the scene

BEEDEVILLE, Md. — Morse, the family cat at the Muester household, is now fending for himself outdoors.

The cat was given its name after Samuel Morse, the inventor of Morse code, an antique mode of communication sometimes used by amateur "ham" radio operators.

"Morse [the cat] has been fascinated with my radio gear since he was a kitten. He would lay on my lap and sometimes his tail would hit the Morse code key. I thought it was pretty funny at the time," said Ernest Muester, a ham radio operator since the 1990s. "That's why I call him Morse!"

A recent event changed his attitude about the cat, though.

"I was in the shack Sunday night getting ready for the Wire Twister Net on 7.227 MHz, but headed into the kitchen to fix a sandwich. Morse stayed in the shack," said Muester. "I got distracted by my wife talking about a dancing show on the television, so I didn't get back to the shack until probably 15 minutes later."

"I immediately knew what was going on and I might have screamed a little," said Muester. He still has trouble talking about the incident.

"I dropped my sandwich and frantically ran to the desk, knowing that I had left the radio on the frequency for the net which had started 15 minutes earlier. That damn cat had been sending a carrier over the net the entire time!"

Morse [the cat] is no longer living a cat's dream of food always at the ready and winter naps next to warm vacuum tubes. "I picked him up right then and there and put him in the backyard. For good!"

His family isn't happy. "My dad's a jerk," said Muester's 10-year-old son.

Muester, still feeling the embarrassment of the moment, says he does not yet have the courage to check in to the net again.



KC4AAA on the air from the South Pole by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In the [Amateur Radio Enthusiast](#) LinkedIn group, Joe, W5FJG says:

KC4AAA - Amundsen - Scott South Pole station has begun **digital** operations. We are up on JT65, PSK-31 and RTTY. We have completed testing and have worked a hand full of stations. We tend to operate now, from 0200 to 0300UTC, as it seems to be the best time for propagation into North America. I have been up around 1500 UTC, working into Europe. Look me up on QRZ and follow KC4AAA on Facebook. We intend to give more info on operating times and freqs. We also operate CW.



For Sale

Dentron MLA 2500 Amplifier for sale. 8875 tubes in excellent condition, makes LOTS of watts...Stored for 25 years. Two different mods for tuned input not yet installed. \$650.00

Also Cushcraft 2 Element 40 meter yagi 40-2CD. Used only 3 years and has been in dry storage for 25 years, Great condition. \$550.00

Please contact Dave, KZ8Y at 440-458-8201 or cell 440-567-8999





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 2014-2015

President:	Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW	(440-237-2816)
V. President:	Denny Jakubisin, WB8K	(440-237-3248)
Secretary:	Glenn Williams, AF8C	(440-835-4897)
Treasurer:	Mary Michaelis, N8DMM	(440-236-5426)
Newsletter:	David Autry, WD8IOU	(440-238-0417)



DXCC Info

As of February 2012, 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, K8YSE, AF8C, KB6NU, WK3N, KZ8Y, W1DYJ, WA8EFK, N8SY, K5KVN, www.hamhijinks.com, Merry-meeting Amateur Radio Association, and the Royalton Recorder.