

October-November-December 2016

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



# The NODXA RAG



## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

It has been a while since I last wrote, and here we are in a new year. I look back on 2016, and it was a pretty good year for DXing. We actually had some rare operations that took place during 2016. We are talking some "Top 10" most wanted DXCC entities. According to ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted List" dated December 31st, Heard Island (VKOH) which was bouncing around in the "Top 5" most wanted for years is now ranked 22nd. The South Sandwich Islands (VP8/SS) and South Georgia Islands (VP8/SG) were also ranked number 3 and 8 last year at this time and are now ranked 18th and 28th. Other major moves are Palmyra (KH5) which is now 24th and Juan de Nova, (FT4/J) now 27th. So who is in the "Top 10" now? Well, here they are:



- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. P5 DPRK (North Korea)       | 6. CE0X San Felix Islands |
| 2. 3Y/B Bouvet Island          | 7. BV9P Pratas Island     |
| 3. FT5/W Crozet Island         | 8. KH3 Johnston Island    |
| 4. KH1 Baker & Howland Islands | 9. VK0M Macquarie Island  |
| 5. BS7H Scarborough Reef       | 10. KH7K Kure Island      |

Checkout ClubLog's complete "DXCC Most Wanted List" at:

<https://secure.clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

Now let's see who will be active in 2017. Your guess is good as mine on North Korea (P5). It was expected to be active last winter and then postponed until the end of summer, but nothing materialized. Bouvet Island (3Y/B) will not happen until early 2018. Crozet Island (FT5/W) is another puzzle. There is a French guy who is on a fishing boat sailing around Crozet, Kerguelen, Amsterdam and Tromelin, who "might" operate from these islands. The Baker & Howland Islands (KH1) are expected to be activated by the YT1AD/N6PSE/K3LP group sometime in the September/October time frame.

Scarborough Reef (BS7H) is another puzzle. A Chinese group reportedly was planning to go there in 2016, and equipment has already been donated to the group, but nothing has been announced. There was an announcement about a 2017 DXpedition to San Felix Islands (CE0X), but it turned out to be false. On Pratas Island (BV9P) -- ZERO Word on this one. Macquarie Island

(VKOM) almost became very rare a few months ago. The Australian Federal Government was talking about closing their research station in 2017, but changed their minds. NO WORD on any operations in 2017. Lastly, there is Kure Island -- NO WORD on this one either. I was hoping to be able to shed some light on the "Top 10" and hope there will be some better news on upcoming operations from them.

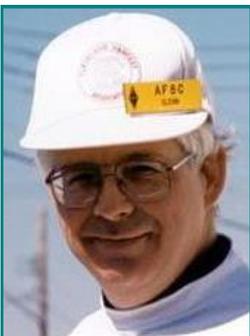
As always, I hope to see you in the coming weeks/months, possibly at a hamfest or NODXA's general membership meetings every first Monday of the month (unless it is a holiday -- it will be the second Monday).

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.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

## Minutes of the September 12th, 2016 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by president Tedd, KB8NW, with 22 members present. A round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance was followed by AF8C, Glenn, reading of the minutes for August 8, 2016 that were recorded by Dwaine, K8ME. The minutes were approved after Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z seconded. Mary, N8DMM, reported a treasury balance of \$Ka-Ching! Dues are steadily coming in and we will still be making more DXpedition donations. The treasurers report was approved after Gary, NI8Z, moved and Bruce, N8DJX, seconded.



Tedd reported that in the last month Stephen, N8WB, asked if the NODXA repeater could be used for Newline broadcasts. That request could not be approved because our repeater could not handle the 100% duty cycle of a broadcast. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is delayed and he needs new material. He recently got some good material, but he could still use more. Tedd's question on the status of the repeater was answered with "OK".

### Old/New Business:

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the club's 2016 Field Day score was not the highest score ever recorded by the club, but it was close. Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the repeater FCC license has been renewed. This prompted a reminder that the Ohio BMV needs a copy of your FCC license when you renew your call sign car tags. Dwaine, K8ME, said that C.A.R.S. club will be running a bus to the Xenia Hamfest in 2017. Also reported was that the big vendors have already signed up for the new venue and K3LR has been quoted as liking the venue.

George, K8KR, stated that ARRL 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary QSL cards are at the QSL bureaus so send in your SASE's. Joe, N8QXC, who went to the Findlay Hamfest, reported that Universal Radio and R&L were there. One good size building was about 80% full. Tedd reported on some details regarding the recent FT4JA DXpedition to which the club donated.

The FT4JA folks sent an 8 page story of their event to our editor WD8IOU. Included was a link to hundreds of photos of the activity. Also, on their card we were listed as NOHDXA. For the Cleveland Hamfest Pete, N8TR, moved, and Ron, K8VJG, seconded a motion to buy two table tickets. The motion passed on the vote. After a question by Gary, NI8Z, when sending in a club participation contest score to the ARRL, Glenn, AF8C, and others stated that applicants must use the spelling of the club name that is listed in the ARRL Clubs Web page.

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

W8AV will be at the Cleveland Hamfest to check DXCC cards. Tedd alerted us that Dwaine, K8ME, will be presiding the October. On a question, Tedd will be sending out email to announce the CQWW Phone contest luncheon. at Buffalo Wild Wings on October 26 at noon. Tedd announced a new donation request for TL8AO, in the Central African Republic, looking to work 15,000 QSOs starting November 26. They are 19<sup>th</sup> on the most wanted CW list. Bruce, N8DJX, moved, and Gary, NI8Z, seconded a motion to donate \$100 to TL8AO via Paypal. The motion passed on the vote.

Polish operator, 3Z9DX, is going with two other operators to Kanton Island (OC-043). Started by a question from George, K8KR, a discussion occurred on the status of the Spratly Islands that are claimed by China and eight other countries. Glenn, AF8C, mentioned newscasts stating that Catalonia, a section of Spain, is agitating to secede from Spain. A short discussion also occurred about the U.S. House passing H.R. 1301 for amateur radio. Next action on that could be in the U.S. Senate.

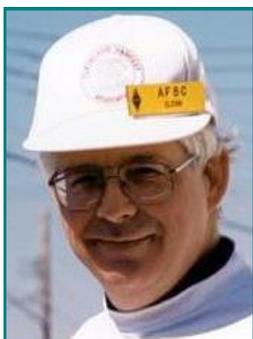
#### Wrapup:

The next meeting will occur on October 3. The 50/50 raffle pot was \$42, with the split being won by Metro, W8MET. Two door prizes were raffled off. AF8C won an ARRL license plate holder that had been donated by Joe, N8QXC. A new ARRL Handbook, that had been donated by Wayne, K8FF, was won by Karl, K8BCK. A motion by Ron, K8VJG, and seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, to close the meeting passed on the vote. The meeting closed at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

## Minutes of the October 3rd, 2016 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:31 p.m. by vice president Dwaine, K8ME with 18 members present. A round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance were followed by AF8C, Glenn, reading the minutes for September 12, 2016. Those minutes were approved. Mary, N8DMM, reported a treasury balance of \$Ka-Ching! The treasurer's report was approved. The repeater status was reported as OK. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter went out. Part one of the Juan De Nova story is in there. Also included was the Field Day article and some Field Day photos.



#### Old/New Business:

The weather was great at the Cleveland Hamfest. Pete, N8TR, thought that there were more than the average number of outside vendors. Glenn, AF8C, reported that the post-event attendance count came out virtually the same as last year. Dwaine reported that our logo is on LA7GIA Web page. That group thanked us for our donation. The CO2KK Cuban hurricane net is on 7110 kHz and 7120 kHz. Other Hurricane Nets are on 7045, 7080, 3740 and 3720. Per Brian, K3USC, other hurricane nets were also on 14325, and 7268.

Everyone should already have Tedd's email about the DX Luncheon on October 26 at Buffalo Wild Wings. According to Pete, N8TR, the ARRL Contest Branch has issued new rules for any clubs wishing to enter any of the nine ARRL Club Competition contests. People uploading their logs to the contest robot and including the identifier for a club competition will need the Club Liaison person to include them on a special new list that must be input to the robot before the contest starts.

From Pete, N8TR, Logbook Of The World will no longer accept logs encrypted with 2009 or older TQSL programs. (The ARRL wants you to do your upgrades.) Per Glenn, AF8C, people creating new passwords for logging into the LOTW Web page must only use lower case passwords. However, older passwords using upper case characters are being grandfathered.

In email sent by Bob, K8BL, the ARRL Outgoing DX Bureau fees are going up. Tedd, KB8NW, previously informed Dwaine that there are no new funding requests right now. Dwaine heard St. Hele-

na last Friday. Several people reported working an S9 station (Sao Tome & Principe).

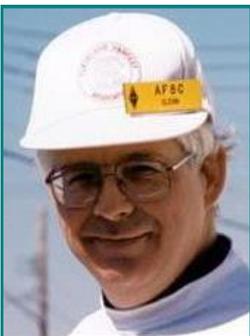
Wrapup:

There was no 50/50 raffle due to lack of having tickets at the meeting. Gary, NI8Z, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded a motion to close the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting ended about 7:59 p.m. The next NODXA meeting will occur on November 7.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

## Minutes of the November 7th, 2016 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by president Tedd, KB8NW, with 20 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the undersigned read the minutes for the meeting of October 3, 2016, and the minutes were approved. Then treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Gary, NI8Z, moved that the treasurer's report be approved and Bruce, N8DJX seconded. The motion passed. Dues are always due. The repeater was reported as OK except on the evening of October 24, when some users on a net had extra noisy audio, according to Glenn, AF8C. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the next newsletter is in progress but that he needs more material.



Old/New Business:

Dwaine went to see the amateur radio booth at DXEngineering. He reported that the display was very nice. He added that DXEngineering is planning to erect a whole SkyHawk antenna tower on top of the Summit Racing building. Rick, K8ZH, reported seeing a DX Engineering sign on the Tim Allen TV Show "Last Man Standing". Next Tedd reviewed the activities of the October 26 CQ WW pre-contest DX luncheon. Tedd described how, at that event Tim Duffy, K3LR, distributed some handouts and then discussed the venue layout of the Fairgrounds site for the 2017 "Dayton Hamvention". Also described was how Tim, K3LR, hosted a roll call for attendees with high DXCC totals. And who else but Don, K8MFO, was in the top position! Tonight Tedd announced there will be a WPX contest luncheon next year.

Tedd showed off the EP2A plaque and video DVD that came in the mail as a result of our support for that DXpedition. Tedd announced that on November 9, the ARRL President will be visiting the Mercer County Amateur Radio club and any interested amateurs are invited to come. The club has a new donation request, this one being from a German group going to Pitcairn Island as VP6EU, during February 16 to March 5, 2017. The ranking for VP6 is currently 55 on CW, 57 on SSB, and 58 on Digital. Bruce, N8DJX, moved that the club donate \$100 to that activity, and Pete, N8TR, seconded the motion. The motion passed on the vote.

George, K8KR, was pleased to show off a real J-38 key obtained via eBay. Pete said that Don, K8MFO has a quite impressive collection of keys. Denny, WB8K, discussed the propagation conditions during the weekend of the CQ WW SSB contest. Then George, K8KR, called the conditions for the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest as "horrible". A short discussion of the status of solar cycle 24 ensued, during which Glenn, AF8C, claimed that Web page graphs show that the cycle still has two more years to go. Finally Tedd asked if the group would be interested in a Christmas luncheon at the same venue of the last DX luncheon. The general consensus was yes and the date would be December 14. Members should expect to see an email announcement for that event.

Wrapup:

Bruce, N8DJX, moved, and Metro, W8MET, seconded that the meeting be closed. The next meeting will occur on December 5. The 50/50 raffle drawing was won by AF8C, Glenn, who donated his half back

to the club. A door prize, an ARRL coin that was donated by Joe, N8QXC, was won Rick, K8ZH, on a second drawing. The meeting closed at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

### Field Day 2016 Results by Tedd, KB8NW

The 2016 ARRL Field Day Results are in...NODXA was listed as follows:

Rank	No. Participate	All/Division/State/Category
48	2696	Overall -- All Category
8	376	Overall -- 2A
4	250	Overall -- G. L. Division -- All Category
1	29	Great Lakes Division -- 2A
4	122	Overall -- Ohio -- All Category
1	15	Ohio -- 2A

The complete list of results can be viewed at: [http://www.arrl.org/results-database?fd\\_category=&fd\\_power=&fd\\_sect=&ss\\_call=&sort0=&sort1=&sort2=&event\\_id=80253](http://www.arrl.org/results-database?fd_category=&fd_power=&fd_sect=&ss_call=&sort0=&sort1=&sort2=&event_id=80253)

### K8BCK, Karl Gruber, SK by Dave, WD8IOU

I am deeply sadden to report the passing of NODXA member Karl Gruber, K8BCK. Karl was a fixture at our meetings and at Field Day and will be missed by all. The club would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Karl's family. Karl's obituary is available at: <http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=karl-e-gruber&pid=183302372&fhid=3547#sthash.a3xSBWWu.dpuf>



## FT4JA Juan de Nova 2016 DXpedition—Part 2 by Florent Moudar, F5CWU

Last night, the low band operators made contacts under epic conditions, disturbed by the thunderstorms which burst over the ocean each evening. The high bands, almost dead for a few nights were exploited almost until the morning. The stations of the west side of the USA have incredible signals on 20 and 17m. From the start of the expedition, 6m was disappointing with only very short openings to southern Europe (EA, SV, I) and Middle East countries making few QSOs possible. A 6m beacon was running each day and we still hoped it might be possible to work stations on EME.

In spite of the adrenalin brought by monstrous pile-up, tiredness is never far and always wins in spite of the regular coffee breaks which push back the limits. In the last resort, we lie down on the ground about twenty minutes before going back to the pile-up. It is necessary to hold on! What a relief when the fresh operators show up at the first gleams of the day. The instructions are exchanged and we give up our seats in order to return to the sleeping area to have a rest. After the re-fueling the three generators and checking the fuel stock, we leave the radio camp. The tide is low, water was withdrawn to the coral reef located at more than one kilometer, letting appear an immense sand field. There are enormous grey clouds in the sky. In the West direction, a double rainbow show-up and our cameras capture it. The light is splendid.



As we return to the TAAF building, an enormous wind and rain falls down on the island, pouring thousands liters of water, mingled with violent gusts of wind. The roof pours water in torrents. Under the courtyard, we have breakfast but we do not hide our concern about these gusts of winds and its cloudburst. Is the radio camp is flooded? Have the tents resisted the gusts? What about the generators? We are imagining the worst! Maybe this episode means the end of the expedition. In a lull,

and in spite of the tiredness, we run up to the radio camp. This kilometer and half felt like ten. We fear how the "battleground" will look like. However, at midway, we perceive the humming of a generator, and then see the silhouette of some of our verticals. Once we arrived at the camp, we discover the team running the pile-up peacefully. They managed the crisis very well. There is no damage except to the capacitive hat of the 160m vertical. Reassured and happy to have escaped this incident without serious consequences, we return to take a few hours of rest, benefitting from the freshness brought by the rain which continues to fall, filling the water reserves of the island.



As we get towards the end of the second week we are looking to break the 100,000 QSO mark. This target is all consuming. We activate the whole seven station whenever possible. The QSOs are fast and furious. There is at least one station on 15m throughout the 24 hour period in order to maximize QSOs especially uniques.

6m EME proved disappointing and did not lead to a complete 2-way contact. However, it is all the more infuriating, our signals were heard and we received several reports, without ever having the time necessary to complete the contact. The density of the *filaos* and the obstacle formed by the lighthouse placed exactly on the azimuth of the Moon did not certainly play in our favor. However, this is a challenge worth taking on! Except for some small fixes, we did not have any problem with equipment. The equipment chosen shows an incredible reliability in spite of difficult conditions of operating (heat, salt air, operation around the clock, etc.).

Three days before the end of our mission, it was necessary for us to complete the reports and interviews which will be used for the video of the expedition. With this intention, we leave the camp at dawn in order to benefit from the exceptional light. At the end of the landing track, several cottages house the equipment of weather stations from which the data is transmitted automatically. The first permanent station goes back to 1973, taking over the 20 year old auxiliary station called "La Goulette" in reference to the Captain Marcel Goulette who was constrained to land on Juan de Nova with his Farman 190 in 1929. He left about two months later, having arranged a rough track. Nowadays, at 1200m, it is the essential link with the outside and makes it possible for military planes to carry out the changing of staff every 45 days.



We go along the track bordered by tall filaos which is without any doubt the most represented species of trees on the island. The flora is relatively poor. Some coconuts, vestiges of an old copra plantation are drawn up close to the TAAF building. At the top of beach, we note the presence of some "velvet trees". The heart of the island is a patchwork of vast clearings covered with high grasses and more wooded parts. At mid-track, we turn and we enter the forest. We keep our eyes open because

these underwoods are a hunting ground for the big spiders which weave immense inclined webs while waiting for their prey. The way curves to a clearing where there is a large stone house. Although in ruins, the "*Patureau house*" appears massive with its two levels, perched on a vast concrete base. Its imposing staircases and its ironwork give it an air of a mansion.



In 1952 Hector Patureau obtained, from the French government, a concession to extract guano in Juan de Nova. Phosphate is used as fertilizer. The exploitation thrived and employed many workers. The Patureau House was constructed during this period. When the phosphate prices collapsed, the work closed at the end of the Sixties. The last workers left the island in 1975. Today, only ruins of this short industrial adventure remain and are slowly being absorbed by the vegetation. The path which leads towards the East leads us to the SEGA camp which hosts the military detachment, installed partly in the buildings which formerly lodged the workers. Then, we head in direction of the beach and pass in front of the dechetry of the island where all rubbish is carefully sorted. All collected waste, including that collected from the beach is gathered there. Regularly, this material is removed from the island then recycled. On the ground, sections of rails which were used to convey the "*Decauville railway carriage*" full of phosphate still exist. We follow them to the bottom of the old pontoon, partly collapsed which stretches out into the lagoon. In other times, the ore was loaded onto boats before transportation to Europe.

Time passes too quickly. It is time to go back at radio camp to replace our comrades who ensured the morning radio operation. We go along the beach, escorted by several *raven-magpies* which follow us in silence, rather than their normal loud chatter. In a general way, we were surprised by the calm of the

island. The terns which we had had the chance to see and live alongside throughout our stay in Tromelin had already left the island after the period of nesting (2 million couples of sooty terns). Only some small red fody were seen during our stay, perched in height to perhaps secure attacks of wildcats. They were introduced to fight against the proliferation of rats but it is mainly in the population of terns that suffer. An eradication campaign of the wildcats is in progress.

We do not have the chance to renew the magic meeting with the turtles leaving water to go to lay their eggs in the sand, not even a single opportunity of seeing the characteristic tracks in sand. Our authorization only permitted us to erect our tents not to exceed the first line of vegetation so as not to disturb the turtles. We had to follow a similar instruction with our antennas and in addition had to attach colored ribbons to all guy wires to make them visible to the birdlife.



In the same way as we had to plan our arrival, we had to carefully plan our departure from the Island. We had to take into account the state of the tide and the height of the swell. One by one we removed the antennas and carefully loaded our tender one generator at a time. By the final afternoon, we had only one generator, 4 HF stations, 5x VDA and a vertical for 40m and 30m. Everything else was back on the yacht.

During the last evening we each took a turn at operating to allow us all to experience the pileup one last time. We had already surpassed our target of 100,000 contacts but our enthusiasm did not waver. Our last QSO took place at 2100z on 10th April after twelve days and eight hours. In total we had 105,600 QSOs in our log.

Next morning, it was a race against time to dismantle everything that remained and have it removed from the Island back to the yacht, before the turn of the tide. We were fortunate that there was no wind and the conditions were good. As the last load of equipment left on the tender, we examined our site very carefully to ensure we left everything as we found it. It was very difficult to tell that we had even been there. This had to be done to comply with our landing and operating permit. The tide had now turned and the team had to wait for the next tide to leave the Island. They made use of their last moments on the Island to make one final meal using all the leftover food. It also gave us the opportunity to have a look at the logs and our statistics. Our initial look showed that we made 60% of all QSOs with Europe, 21% with North America and 16% with Asia. We were happy to have achieved our objectives and allowed many amateur radio friends all over the World to make at least one contact with this very rare and remote Island. We were also very proud that it was an entirely French expedition with the exception of Christian EA3NT, but after two weeks of being with the team, he became almost French, and that we were able to overcome some very complex and difficult problems. We were also able to demonstrate that it is possible for amateur radio and wildlife conservation to co-exist without detriment to the environment. We would like to thank everybody who helped in one way or another to make this adventure possible, for their advice, for their benevolence in helping us around the various complicated issues of visiting such a remote wilderness.



We cannot finish this long story without warmly thanking all those who supported and helped us starting with companies Elecraft, SPE Expert, Spiderbeam, DX Engineering, KD9SV, Microham, Messi & Paolini, DX Avenue, GM00BX Cables, SunSDR.eu, ExpertElectronics, Antlion Audio, and F5JRC Print Shop.

On all the continents, the clubs and foundations have been reactive in spite of a complicated season for their finances because of many expeditions in search of sponsors. An immense thank you to Northern California DX Foundation, as well as the International DX Association, German DX Foundation, Network of

the French Transmitters, Clipperton DX Club, Colvin Award, Southeastern DX Club, Chiltern DX Club, Twin City DX Association, Eastern Iowa DX Association, NIDXA, Danish DX Group, European DX Foundation, Mediterraneo DX Club, OHDXF, Carolina DX Association, Willamette Valley DX Club, Swiss DX Foundation, Lone Star DX Association, Northern California DX Club, the U.K. Six Meter Group, ORCA, CQ Hamradio JA, Western Washington DX Club, F8ATS Stamp fund, ETDXA, the DX Group, GMDX Group, FEDXP, WVDXA, eQSL, Ehime DX, Utah DX, Tokyo 610, TDXS, SEMDXA, Lynx DX, GSDXA, Shizuoka DX, Delta DXA, RemoteHamradio.com, UFT, LIDXA, 599DX, NWIDXA, NODXA, ADXA, Nara DXA, Mile-Hi DXA, OKDXA, SEDCO, Passau DX, FWDXA, Mulan DX, GMDXA, KC5WXA, Spokane DXA, Madison DX, NADXC, SDXG, WNYDXA, GPDx, BARTG, DX Hogs, Most Wanted DX, Yokohama DXC, ARAN59, VADXCC, Six Italia.



We wish to underline the exceptional help of the amateur radio community through all the people who took part in the project. Thanks to F6AGM, K1QX, F4ERS, F6BKI, F5VHJ, K6TU, N5FG, JA4DND, F5JRC, our pilots F5UKW, JJ3PRT, WOMM, ON9CFG.



In conclusion, we wish to thank cordially the staff of the French Southern Lands and Antarctic (TAAF) and its Prefect, the administrator of the TAAF, Mrs. Cécile Pozzo di Borgo who authorized us to carry out this mission and provided constant support during all the preparation.

While we are writing these last lines, Juan de Nova is nothing any more but a dot on the horizon. We leave with a head full of memories, the SD cards of our camera boards crowded with photographs and videos and 100000+ contacts in the log. There is no doubt that the actions of conservation done by the TAAF will make it possible to protect this marvelous island, and that one day perhaps, we may have the opportunity to visit again.

FT4JA, Seb F5UFX & Flo F5CWU (adaptation Tom GM4FDM)

## Noise floor report does not inspire confidence? by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Last June, the FCC's Technical Advisory Committee asked licensed and unlicensed users of the electromagnetic spectrum to answer some questions about the noise they were experiencing and whether or not it was affecting their services. Specifically, they asked:



- \* Is there a noise floor problem?
- \* Where does the problem exist? Spectrally? Spatially? Temporally?
- \* Is there quantitative evidence of the overall increase in the total integrated noise floor across various segments of the radio frequency spectrum?
- \* How should a noise study be performed?

Well, the results are in, and Radio World recently published a summary of the responses that the FCC received (<http://www.radioworld.com/business-and-law/0009/noise-floor-where-do-we-go-from-here/338242>). The FCC received 93 replies from 73 (great number, eh?) different people or organizations, including:

- \* 23 companies/industry organizations
- \* 39 RF professionals (broadcast and wireless)
- \* 31 licensed radio amateurs
- \* 9 responders did not reply to the questions asked

Respondents included the ARRL, the Society of Broadcast Engineers, the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, ATT, and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. I found especially interesting comments from the Society of Broadcast Engineers. They include:

- \* Increased cooperation is needed between manufacturers of Part 15 devices and users of radio spectrum to identify noise sources and take appropriate remedial action.
- \* Radiated emission limits below 30 MHz in the FCC Part 15 rules for unintentional emitters should be enacted. There are presently no radiated emission limits below 30 MHz for most unintentional emitters.
- \* Reduced Part 15 limits for LED lights should be enacted to be harmonized with the Part 18 lower limits for fluorescent bulbs.
- \* Better labeling on packaging for Part 18 fluorescent bulbs and ballasts to better inform consumers of potential interference to radio, TV and cellphone reception in the residential environment.
- \* Specific radiated and/or conducted emission limits for incidental emitters, such as motors or power lines, should be enacted.
- \* Conducted emission limits on pulse-width motor controllers used in appliances should be enacted.
- \* Substantially increase the visibility of enforcement in power line interference cases.

Other organizations made similar comments.

While the report is encouraging, it won't mean a thing if no action is taken on these issues. Given that the FCC is cutting back on its field offices, and our president-elect has said that he plans to reduce the number of governmental regulations, I'm not optimistic that we'll see the noise situation get better before it gets worse. What do you all think?

## Decoding Callsigns At High Speed? by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, someone wrote me:

I had the pleasure of a short QSO with you on 40m a month or so ago, and you offered to answer any questions I might have regarding CW. I do have one, so here goes...

I'm struggling to get my receive speed up from about 18-20 to 25WPM. One of my stumbling blocks is the ability to decode amateur callsigns at 25WPM+. At 20 wpm, there is adequate time to "decode and digest" each character, but at 25 and higher, the characters and numbers come so quickly that if you don't IMMEDIATELY recognize the character, you're sunk...you miss the next few or the entire call.



I've tried various strategies to get the calls, such as "chunking" (decoding the first three characters and then decoding the remaining characters of the call), just getting the first and last characters and trying to guess the middle (good luck with that!), or trying to repeat the code sequence back in my head slower to decode it (awful strategy).

Perhaps there is no substitution for instant recognition of each character and number, but I was wondering if there was a strategy that assists you in decoding and retaining a semi-random group of letters and numbers like a callsign.

I replied:

Hi,

First, let me say that if you're trying to write down the calls instead of just copying them in your head, I think you're fighting a losing battle. You might be able to type them, but you'll have to be able to touch type to do that. When I'm just ragchewing, I don't write down anything, except to type in the callsign and other QSO data into my logging program.

Of course, when operating in a contest, you have to log certain information. That's part of the contest. When contesting, I use the N1MM contest software. What I find when I operate in a contest at high speed is that I just have to go with my gut and not try to analyze every character. Sure, I make mistakes sometimes, but that's the way it goes.

Having said that, do you about [RUFZ](#)? Here's how the website describes it: "'Rufz' is the abbreviation of the German word 'Rufzeichen-Hören,' which means 'listening to Callsigns.' RufzXP is an excellent training software for improving code speed and CW practice, particularly (ultra) high speed memory copying of true amateur radio calls. Focussing on improvement of CW proficiency, it is no contest simulator and does not provide for QRM. It provides additional tools for keeping track of training progress and comparing with other operators via International RufzXP Toplist."

Another thing you might consider is participating in the CWOps' [CW Academy](#). This program is designed to take someone operating between 15-20 wpm and get them up to 25 wpm or more.

Keep in touch. Let me know if any of this helps.

Do any of you have a tip for this fellow?



## NODXA Christmas Luncheon by Dave, WD8IOU

NODXA held its annual Christmas luncheon on December 14th at the Strongsville Buffalo Wild Wings. Fifteen members and guests were in attendance, including K3USC, AF8C, K8AJS, K8KR, K8LBT, K8ME, KB8NW & Linda, N8TR & XYL N8DMM, NI8Z, W8AV, WB8K & XYL N8KEP and WD8IOU & Karen. K3USC was sitting in the chair with the red jacket but appears to be camera shy since he isn't in the picture. Goose was also available to check cards if you had any. The food was good and a great time was had by all! When people were asked what they wanted for Christmas, the most common request was "Sunsports"! Till next year.....



## Antennas For Sale

Cushcraft A3S - Three element beam for 20/15/10 meters - \$200  
(Original manual included)

KD9SV design Two element trapped yagi for 17/12 meters - \$50

Both are partially disassembled.

Contact Denny @ [wb8k@arrl.net](mailto:wb8k@arrl.net)



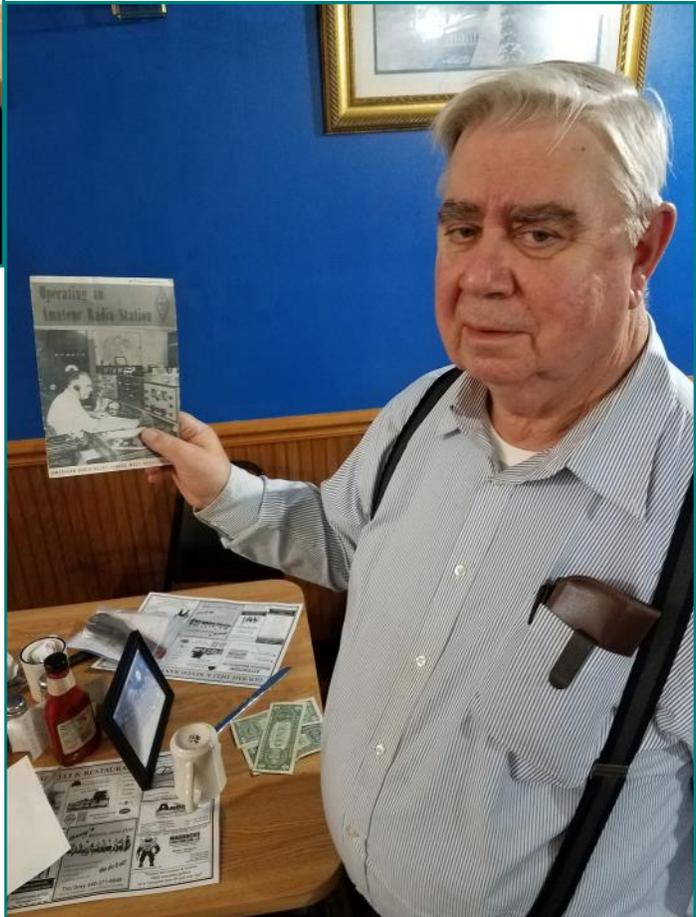
## Show and Tell NODXA Style by Dave, WD8IOU, and Glenn, AF8C

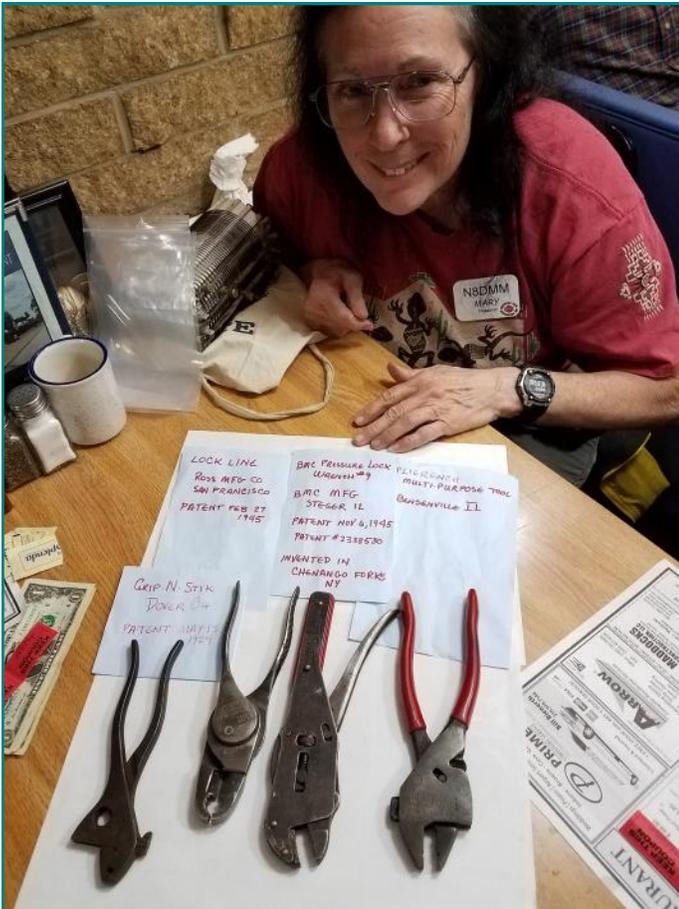
NODXA held its annual Show and Tell meeting on December 5th. One item that wasn't shown was club President Tedd, KB8NW, who had other obligations that evening. Vice-president Dwaine, K8ME, did a fine job running the meeting. Several members bought in some interesting items which are shown below.



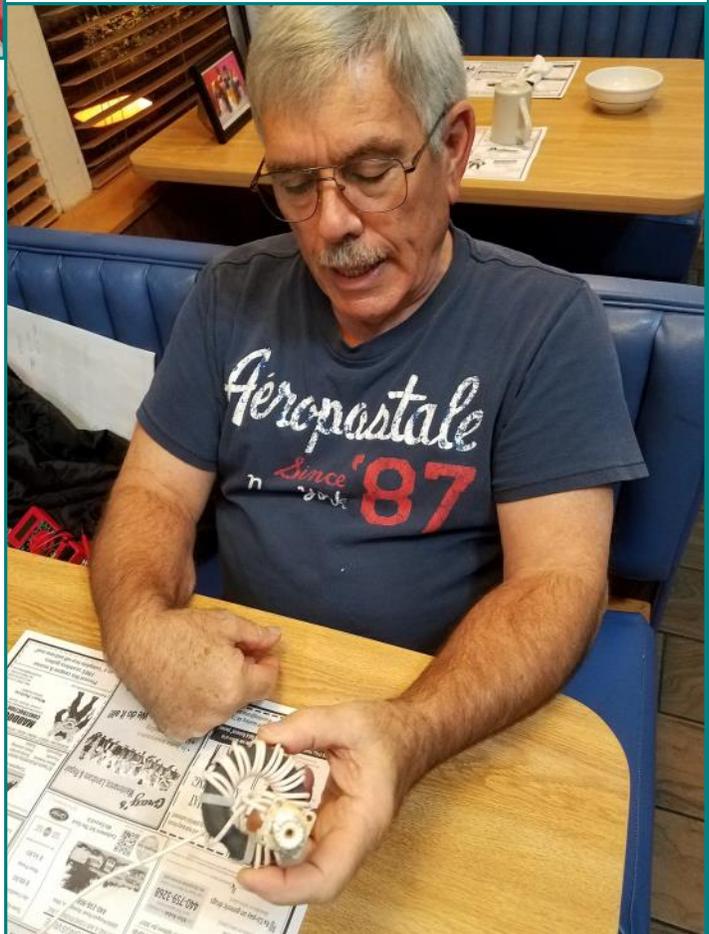
Pete, N8TR, showed off his old large silver plated General Electric fixed inductor that has variable taps for tuning. He purchased this for \$2.00 at the 2014 Cleveland Hamfest.

George, K8KR, originally licensed as K8KRN in 1958, had his original license with him. His license was signed by John Huntoon (ex-W1LVQ) of earlier ARRL fame. George also showed off the ARRL's "Operating An Amateur Radio Station" booklet from that period.





Mary, N8DMM, who is a collector of tools from the "American Industrial Past" showed off several old tools. There was a pair of parallel action pliers patented in 1921. Also shown was several other parallel jaw pliers.



David, KZ8Y, showed off his balun from a Carolina Windom antenna. He was wondering if the balun has become defective.

## Trump Promises Greatest Propagation Ever by K5PO, via <http://hamhijinks.com/>

**NEWINGSTEAD, VT** – Newly inaugurated President Trump wasted no time reaching out to members of the amateur radio community. On Monday, President Trump was the keynote speaker at a banquet co-sponsored by radio equipment manufacturer [Peanut Whistle Transmitters Inc.](#) and the National Radio Retransmission Legion (NRRL). Trump was a surprise late addition to the speaker lineup for the annual two-day "Radio in America" gathering at the NRRL's headquarters.

"We invited him as a courtesy, but honestly didn't expect he'd show up. I assume he's a very busy man," said NRRL president Bob Gilligan. "But then I received a call yesterday from the Trump administration who informed us that the President would most certainly meet with such great communicators. We were shocked! To fit in the President we had to cancel Wiley Roger's planned panel discussion on his hypothesis that blue-colored wire has increased his DX performance."

President Trump's speech to the 27 attendees lasted a little over three hours and ranged in topics from installing antennas atop Trump Tower to the low sunspot cycle. When Peanut Whistle Transmitter Company's Chief Counsel asked Trump if he had any plans to improve propagation as we approach a new low in the sunspot cycle, President Trump had no reservations in stating, "My administration will bring amazing propagation to all of you. To all American hams. It'll be the best. The best propagation. So big. They'll be so much DX, we'll be exporting it to other counties. You've never seen propagation like the propagation we'll have."

Trump closed the banquet with the announcement that he'll immediately sign an executive order to increase sunspot counts to 1000 within the next 100 days. Ham Hijinks inquired with NOAA Space Weather Scientist Ramish Pental about how the administration would go about this executive order. He quickly replied, "It literally makes zero sense. I have no idea whatsoever."





## 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 2016-2017

President: Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)  
 V. President: Dwaine Modock, K8ME (440-582-3462)  
 Secretary: Glenn Williams, AF8C (440-934-5566)  
 Treasurer: Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)  
 Newsletter: David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)



## DXCC Info

As of March 2016, the current DXCC Entities total is: **339**.

## 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, K8ME, KB8NW, K8YSE, AF8C, KB6NU, F5CWU, and <http://hamhijinks.com/>