



*"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"*

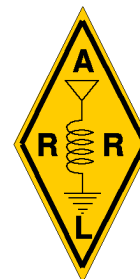
# The NODXA RAG

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 450783  
Westlake, Ohio  
44145 U.S.A.



**January-February 2006**

## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

Now that the Peter I Island 3Y0X DXpedition is over, the only major operations to look forward to in the coming months are: Benin (TY) - March 15-21st, and the Andaman Island (VU4) activity from the Hamfest/Convention to take place in mid-April. The Glorioso Island DXpedition that was to take place this month (March)



is postponed again (possibly until October).

Getting back to the 3Y0X DXpedition, I would have to say the operation was a major success. I hope everyone was able to work them on the band or mode they needed. Peter I Island should move far down the "DXCC's Most Wanted List". It will be interesting to see how

far it does move down, but I guess we will have to wait until Carl, N4AA, does his famous "Most Wanted" survey for the DX Magazine.

There are two major conventions coming up in the next few months which are of interest for DXers/Contesters, and it is time to start planning for these events. The "International DX Convention" takes place first in Visalia, CA, from April 21-23rd. I have never been there, but some day I would like to attend (maybe some year as a club group).

The second convention is the "Dayton Hamvention" which takes place between May 18-20th. Even though attendance over the past few years "has seemed down", it is still by far the largest stateside event.

Plans for the NODXA hospitality are in the works, and if you attend, make sure you stop by and visit.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

## Minutes of the December 5, 2005 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:31pm by the Vice President, Dwaine, K8ME. There were 14 members present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. After two callsign corrections were made, the minutes were approved.

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

Denny, WB8K, reported that the repeater was up and running.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the 4.91 cluster is up and running and that he has used it during contests. The 5.15 repeater is still off the air.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is in progress and is waiting for the Fireside Chat and November meeting notes. He also needs articles.

Ron, K8VJG, reported that the VCR/DVD player has a defective laser pickup and is being repaired.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that Stan, K8VI had broken his hip and was the Parkside Villa nursing home for rehabilitation.

Ron, K8VJG, reported that Gary, NI8Z, had a stroke in Toledo but is now home and listens to the .82 repeater. He also reported that Ron, W8WH, while not at the meeting, wishes everyone the best holidays. Ron also reported that he will have a video of FT5XO, Kerguelen Island, at the next meeting.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that, as of November 22, there were 239 DX entities on the air.

Pete, N8TR, reported that there was excellent DXing on 40 and 80 meters during the recent CQWW-CW and 160 meter contests. A discussion was held concerning the predicted null in the solar cycle occurring in February 2006.

Dwaine, K8ME, also reported the Senegal, 6W7RV would be up from Dec 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> and that the Mariana Islands would be up from Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> to Dec 26<sup>th</sup>.

Peter I is still on for mid-January. They will operate CEOZ for a couple of days on the way.

Ron, K8VJG made a motion, seconded by Nick, W8XD, that the next meeting be held on the second Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, due to the fact that Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> is the New Years holiday and that there is some good football games on TV. The motion passed unanimously.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that he had received the renewal of our repeater coordination for the 147.36 repeater from N8OOB.

Pete, N8TR started a discussion about the recent ARRL 160m contest. Nick, W8XD, reported just a few contacts.

K5ZD in MA, has a digital recording on the internet of the entire 48 hour contest.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that his house was open for the ARRL Sweepstakes-SSB to the members of West Park Radiops.

Pete, N8TR, reported on the house-to-house travels of K8MR during recent contests and his great operating skills on CW. He usually gets 100 to 200 QSOs per hour, all while reading a book.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Ron, K8VJG. The amount was \$13.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm by the Vice President, Dwaine, K8ME

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

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## Minutes of the January 9, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 16 members present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

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

Denny, WB8K, reported that the repeater (147.36), was up and running.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the 4.91 cluster is down. K8MR is doing some board-swapping work on it. The 5.57 cluster also has a problem and is

not on the air. Additionally, the 5.15 repeater is still off the air. Discussion was held concerning drop-outs while connected via cable modem to the internet K1TTT, WinTELNET for DX Cluster use. Users can still connect to K8AZ via TELNET.

Dave, WD8IOU reported that the newsletter needs articles.

A discussion was held concerning the recent passing of Ray, W8BIN and other local hams that people knew. All will be missed.

Tedd, KB8NW, reminded everyone that the Dayton Hamvention will be here before we know it. DX Dinner tickets will be available at the next meeting (February). Tedd also reported that the Peter I Dxpedition will be on their way by the end of the month.

George, K8KR, reported on the vulgar interference on the 146.82, .85, and .88 repeaters. The offender has not been identified as yet.

Ron, K8VJG, is not here tonight so no DVD. Dave, WD8IOU, called him from the meeting and sure enough, he forgot about the meeting. DVD next month.

Ron, W8WH, received an email from Janeen, W8ZET, concerning the Hospitality Suite at Dayton.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that Stan, K8VI, was in Southwest General Hospital recovering from his second broken hip. Everyone wishes him well.

John, K8YSE, reported on the space station communications. Uplink on 144.49 and downlink on 145.800. Passes last about 10 minutes. Modes are packet and voice. John has recently worked them. Wednesday, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> at St Albert The Great School, NASA will assist in a school contact at 1810 UTC.

Denny, WB8K, reported on "SuitSat", a Russian space suit outfitted with 2m telemetry equipment that will be launched from the space station. Communications with it will be possible until it burns up in the atmosphere. It will last about 6 weeks. Further information can be found at [www.amsat.org](http://www.amsat.org).

The next meeting will be on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The program will be a FT5XO DVD.

Tedd, KB8NW, called for a few moments of

silence to remember Ray and others and how much Ray will be missed at Field Day.

The 50-50 Raffle of \$17.00 was won by Ron, W8WH.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted, AI, N8CX, Secretary

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## Minutes of the February 6, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. 20 members and 1 guest were present.

With N8CX temporarily in the hospital, Glenn, AF8C is taking the minutes.

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

Pete, N8TR, reported that the repeater is still working fine.

Pete, N8TR, also reported that Jim, K8MR, installed the replacement computer for the Packet Cluster; it seems to be working but every now and then it hangs up and needs rebooting remotely. Both ports are operational. Status of the old (dead?) computer is unknown.

Dave, WD8IOU, needs input for articles in the newsletter.

Old Business: Ron, K8VJG, asked about Dayton. No news or application forms have been received from the Hamvention by anyone in the US mail.

Tedd said if you are interested in attending the dinner banquet, he needs your \$32.00 right now. As far as we know the hospitality room is available as usual. Ron W8WH said that the room charges would be \$142 per room per night.

SUITSAT can still be barely heard on 145.99, after seeming to fail after two orbits. See the AF3V web site for more interesting info.

The ISS (International Space Station) commander, also a radio amateur, working ARISS contacts with schools, completed contacts with St. Albert the Great school students in North Royalton in January.

Ron, K8VJG, witnessed the event. AF8C

participated as part of the NASA radio club supplying the equipment and operators.

Tedd and John K8YSE have both personally contacted ISS. See <http://www.ISSfanclub.com> for more news.

**New Business:** Elections will be an activity at the March meeting.

From N7MG Wayne Mills, the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee, and the DXAC, have some changes coming. Pete, N8TR, stated that Somalia, 6O, will be discredited. The idea is that if an entity has no recognized government, then cards from that entity should not be valid for government approved operations. The DXAC will also be clarifying a similar situation with 7O, Yemen. Tedd will put any new information on these actions on OP/DX as information becomes available. The members also discussed issues with landing permissions on KP5, Desecheo.

Per George, K8KR, some JA's and K3LP are going to Andaman Island in April where there also will be a Hamfest.

The impending 3Y0X landing has been delayed due to weather.

Tedd, KB8NW, provided an excellent video on FT5XO. which was shown after the meeting adjourned. This video was produced by the James Brooks team.

Ron, W8WH, donated a door prize: a 3Y0X souvenir coffee cup, which was won by AF8C.

Denny WB8K won the main prize, the \$19.00 split of the raffle.

Submitted by Glenn, AF8C.

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## Low Band Receive Antenna

The conditions for DX on the low bands have been excellent this last winter season! Unfortunately, being an alligator on 80 and 160 meters does not cut the mustard. (An alligator is all mouth and NO EARS.) For transmitting I have had great success with a sloping-bent vertical wire which is ground fed. It is supported at the



tower and bends down at a 60 degree angle which is tied off at a power pole. All my antennas are behind my house as well as are the power poles.

On a city lot not much room is left for receive antennas. No respectable low band beverage is going to fit on a 72' x 170' lot! I have experimented with a small rotating loop and a pennant, both of which were disappointing. This may be due to my failure as a technician, more than a failure of design. I have been using an inverted 'V' multi-band dipole for listening on 80 & 160 and that antenna is quieter although its direction is fixed North & South. I could not hear 3Y0X on 80 meters without being creative!

The Ham-Stick dipole to the rescue!

I own several 5-gallon buckets with a short mast set in concrete (all Hams should have a few around). Inside the small steel mast I inserted a wooden broomstick and affixed an aluminum dipole bracket for using two Ham Sticks. A wedge between the mast and broomstick allows one to rotate (Armstrong method) this contraption as needed. The whole affair is just about 5 foot above the ground. All parts are available from BuxComm for \$ 55.00. <http://www.packetradio.com/RVantenna.htm>

I have only been able to find 75 meter Ham Sticks, which are a little short for CW portions of the band. With alligator clips and some stiff copper wire, I was able to lengthen the whips to resonate at 3.525 MHz.

Yes, the ends droop a bit, but all the neighbors are laughing at the bucket in my front yard not the antenna.

(Hint for all Ham Stick dipoles – the length of each whip does not have to be the same. Cutting one whip shorter than the other can alter it's Impedance at resonance.) I think it is helpful to use a Balun (UNUN) at the feed point to decouple the feed line.

Initial results were disappointing! When I

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, AF8C, N8PW, K8ME, K8RH, W8XD, K4ZLE, N4FOZ, 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 March 2002  
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

# 335

switched to the low dipole my Radio was quiet, I mean really quiet. No signals heard and no noise. Switching on the two preamplifiers in my Pro III, the band came alive with signals. I was able to copy 3Y0X all night long and in the last several weeks I have worked VK6HD, T98U, 3D2NB, YJ0ADX, ZK1NOU, Z36W and 6W/G4WFO.

Signal to noise ratio is the key on all low band receive antennas. You will need a preamplifier if your radio does not have an internal one. This antenna is directional and is located as far away from my transmit antenna as possible (on my property). I will experiment with height above ground, but I have had great luck at 5 feet. I wonder what would happen if I clipped enough wire on the whip ends to get it resonant at 160 meters ???

73, Bill Hannon, N8PW

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## Rootkit Revealer

By Glenn Williams, AF8C

There is a bad "worm" called "sobel" running around which has in it a "rootkit". A rootkit gets down so low in the operating system that it can't be detected by antivirus and anti-spyware software. The only way to fix your computer is to wipe and reload the hard drive.

The rootkit's purpose is supposed to be to send out bad stuff to other computers and not to crash your machine. Also, there has been a problem with Sony software CD's that had a rootkit on them. In general it is pretty hard to remove the damage that the Sony CD did. What I don't know is how much snooping of your personal data the rootkit might also do. Apparently there are rootkits out there for Mac and Linux also.

Any email from cia.gov or fbi.gov that has recently been floating around also has been known to contain the sobel virus (rootkit).

More information from one of our contacts:

"Home users are more susceptible to them because they tend to visit questionable websites and don't normally have sophisticated firewall and antivirus protection. Most Rootkits are installed from questionable websites that utilize Active-X controls. I configure my home browser to "prompt" before allowing any Active-X controls to be executed. They are also spread through executable email attachments.

Here are two bookmarks if you are interested.

<http://www.sysinternals.com/Utilities/RootkitRevealer.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rootkit>

Related story about Sony entertainment CD's:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4430608.stm>

I have tested RootkitRevealer on this PC without any trouble. It is a short download and is easy to install safely. (There was also a side benefit. While RootkitRevealer was scanning, my antivirus program was checking up on the files at the same time.)

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## Letter from Ray Brown's Aunt

To all of the Radio Friends of Ray Brown (1946-2005).

I want to express to all of you my deepest appreciation of your friendship with my nephew, Ray Brown.

Ray was the best friend anyone could ever hope for also the best son, grandson, brother, nephew, and cousin, in the whole world and I could go on and on. I remember so well the day he was born - the first grandchild of my Dad and Mom. They too, loved him dearly as they did all their grandchildren, but he was the first! They passed away in 1995 and as most of you know, his Mom, my sister, passed in 1998. He was so very much like his Mom. He was always there for all who needed him. Our family was and still is very close. When any of us hurt we all hurt for each other and rejoiced with each other at happier times. I'm sure his sister, Stacey also thanks you for your relationship with her brother as I do.

He was so funny sometimes and very serious when he needed to be. He always knew when and how to do just what was right in any situation. When he was in doubt about anything, I know he relied on all of you for advice and help.

This was the first Christmas I can remember for a long time that he wasn't at our house to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We always attended Christmas Eve services together. We also went shopping the day before Christmas and had so much fun. We laughed about silly stuff many times.



Please remember him kindly and never forget him. He loved and respected all of you for many years and was so proud to be associated with you and your lasting friendship to him.

Again, Thank you all so very much and remember NO CW!

Love to all,

Aunt Cynthia

## Ode to "Radio Ray"

By Bob Haynes, K8RH

In memory of an old friend.

To our old friend "Radio Ray", who passed away. We will look for him another day.

We will look for him on 208 which we know he will appreciate.

We know he will listen from above, so we pass along our love.

Good luck "Radio Ray". 208 gang

## 8th Area Incoming QSL Bureau 2005 Report

Approximately 110,905 QSL cards were received for redistribution through the central 8th area bureau in 2005. This is down almost 20% compared to 138,236 handled in 2004. We handled 154,054 cards in 2003. The monthly breakout is as follows:

Jan. -- 6,361	Feb. -- 8,083
Mar. -- 10,401	Apr. -- 8,947
May -- 16,102	Jun. -- 5,417
Jul. -- 11,321	Aug. -- 10,891
Sep. -- 4,676	Oct. -- 4,387
Nov. -- 18,773	Dec -- 5,546

From these numbers and trends, you can see that LBOTW and decreasing sunspots are affecting QSL volumes. (Could it also be a decreasing population of active DXers?)

In 2005 we had five cycles where cards were sent from the central bureau to the individual letter managers. From that you can see that each cycle is approximately 11 weeks.

In mid 2005 Dave Blake, N4DB, resigned as the 'G' letter manager after many years of dedicated service. Those folks with a 'G' after the 8 owe Dave a ton of thanks for the work he has done. Don Karvonen, another well known and active DXer, has stepped up to the plate to assume 'G' letter responsibilities. I recently replaced myself as the 'F' letter manager. Bob Boehm, K8YS, has agreed to improve on what I had been doing in that regard.

The bureau is physically located at the VOA Museum in West Chester, OH. We appreciate the work of those members of the West Chester Amateur Radio Association who do the bulk sorting for us. More information on W8 Incoming Bureau operations, policies and procedures can be found at the web site: <http://home.fuse.net/jslough/w8buro.html>

Everyone is reminded that postage rates went up in January 2006. Do they have enough postage on their envelopes at the bureau to cover the new rates? Even more importantly, do they have envelopes at the bureau?

As another item of note, it cost the ARRL a bit over \$1300.00 for direct expenses involving the 8th call area last year. That does not include any associated administrative costs and overhead at the league.

The QSL Bureau - another benefit provided by your league and volunteers who work to serve you.

73, Jay Slough, K4ZLE  
W8 Incoming QSL Bureau manager

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## VU4 Just Around the Corner

It appears that people are now lining up to operate from VU4 in April. See web site below for more details. Looks like lots of people will get an-

other chance to work this rare one ! These German ops usually put on a very good operation so everybody who needs it should have a great chance of being rewarded.

<http://www.dl7df.com>

73, Nick, W8XD

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## Using Emergency Backup Power

Mike Davis, N4FOZ, via eHam.net

Flashlight close at hand and a mounted DC light in your ham shack. (DC florescent lights are inexpensive and available at most hardware stores)

A second power cable for your radio. Since these cables are becoming more standardized with "T connectors", they are available at many radio shops.

Large size Deep Cycle Battery. A "27 size" works well. Deep Cycle batteries are important as they can be repeatedly charged. Regular automotive starting batteries are not as good. They don't hold the consistent power for our application and repeated recharging can shorten their life span.

A combination "Float" and "Trickle" charger. This is a very important part of the project. The float type chargers maintain a topped off level for the battery without creating a lot of "out gassing", which could be an irritant inside the home. They also don't deplete water the same way a conventional charger can. Proper use of a float charger can maintain the life of a deep cycle battery for years.

What to do: Start with a fully charged battery and keep it in the ham shack with the battery half of the extra power cable attached to it. Then, wire tie the half of the power cable right next to the "T" connector on the primary power cable. This puts the two "T" connectors beside each other. When the AC power goes out, simply unplug the radio half of the power connector from the normal power supply "T" connector and plug it into the battery side duplicate "T" connector and you are now running on backup power!



**NODXA** Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the **Gourme Family Restaurant** at 15315 Pearl Road (Rt. 42) just west of Interstate 71 and south of Rt. 82 in Strongsville at 7:30 PM. Come early and have dinner and meet your fellow DXers and enter the 50/50 raffle.

### NODXA Application and Renewal Form

The Northern Ohio DX Association is a non-profit organization with a primary interest in DXing. We encourage all DXers to join our group and share the interest and fun of DXing. Please complete the application below and send along your appropriate dues or renewal to:

**NODXA, P.O. Box 450783, Westlake, Ohio 44145**

First Time Membership/Renewal (U.S.)	\$12.00
Foreign Membership (outside U.S.)	\$22.00
*Foreign Membership (no printed newsletter) (but w/Web access for newsletter)	\$12.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member?  Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ DXCC Member?

Special Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter circulation: Pete Michaelis **N8TR**, and Mary Michaelis **N8DMM**

**Dated Material  
Please Rush**



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





*"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"*

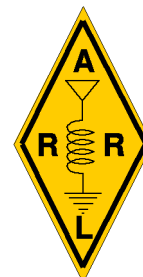
# The NODXA RAG

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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.**



**March-April 2006**

## **Poolside (Almost) Chat With KB8NW**

Fellow DX'ers,

The end of April turned out to be an interesting month for DXers. First there was the activity by S01R from Western Sahara and then the much anticipated Andaman Island (VU4) activities during the Hamfest/Convention. There seemed to be plenty of VU4AN stations on the air for about a week, but from what I read on the InterNet (DX Mailing List), the need is still there. The biggest complaint was propagation.

Did you ever wonder, "Why do they have these major operations during the low sunspot cycle?" Hopefully, the VU4AN activity will open the door for more operations. However, many are hoping that the VU4AN activity will open the next door for a VU7 (Lakshadweep Island) operation. Anyway, I hope those who needed VU4 worked it.



Lastly, the Aves Island DXpedition (YX0A/YX0LIX) hit the air waves during the last 10 days of April. This should have been an easy one to work and was expected to please the low and digital operators. April was truly an excellent month for DX.

Currently, plans are being made to have Mel, W8MV, (one of the 3Y0X operators) attend one of NODXA's club meeting for a presentation during the summer. Hopefully, more details will be forthcoming so you can mark your calendar to attend.

Just a reminder that the "Dayton HamVention" is just around the corner and it takes place between May 18-20th. Hope you made plans to attend the NODXA hospitality room.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. It is time to 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 March 6th, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 20 members and 1 guest present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the February 6th meeting. The minutes were taken by Glenn, AF8C in the absence of Al, N8CX. After one callsign correction, the minutes were approved as read.

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

Mary, N8DMM and Tedd, KB8NW both reported that the repeater was up and running. Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster was running okay.

A discussion was held about getting DX spots on the cluster earlier, about 4 to 5 minutes earlier. Data gets backed up at 1200 baud.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter will be out soon.

A discussion was held concerning a donation that the club made to the Glorioso DXpedition last summer. Neither our club name or logo ever appeared on their web site, indicating that we had not donated. Tedd, KB8NW, contacted them three times by email, but never received an answer. The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, found that our check had never been cashed. Further discussion was held as to what we should do about it. Tedd, KB8NW, said that he would call or write N5PA, the stateside contact person.

Ron, K8VJG, reported on the Field Day site. He reported that he had been in contact with Sr. Mary Grace at the Regina Health Center (Mt Augustine). Plans are in progress.

Tedd, KB8NW, wondered if anyone had heard from Don, N8AC. It was reported that he had both knees replaced and is getting along much better now and that he will be coming back to meetings soon.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that he heard Ron, W8GMH, on the air recently.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had seen brochures for travel to Antarctica at Marc's re-

cently. His wife was not amused at the suggestion of taking next years vacation there. Cost was \$6000. per person.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that nominations for club officers was this month. Each officer was asked if they would run again. All said yes. Thus, the nominated officers for 2006 - 2007 are: President, Tedd, KB8NW / Vice President, Dwaine, K8ME / Secretary, Al, N8CX / Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM.

A motion was made by Ron, K8VJG, seconded by John, K8YSE, that the present slate be re-elected. The motion passed unanimously.

Tonight's program is a repeat of a DVD shown at Dayton last year. The Swaines Is. DXpedition.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 3rd.

The 50-50 raffle of \$17 was won by Tedd, KB8NW.

A final note, John, K8YSE, received a QSL card from a 2m FM contact with the International Space Station.

The meeting was adjourned by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

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## Minutes of the April 3rd, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:34pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 13 members and 1 guest present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Mary also reported that we had a new member. Dan, AC7P, of Idaho Falls, ID had mailed in his application and dues. He likes the OPDX newsletter on the internet. She also reported that many emails to the members are bouncing, so she requested that all members confirm or update their email address with her.

Pete, N8TR, said the he will bring the online

roster up to date. Al, N8CX, will also update the club information on the ARRL website.

Pete, N8TR, also requested that Dave, WD8IOU, print and extra 50 newsletters for the hospitality suite at Dayton. Tedd, KB8NW, also suggested that we offer a \$2 discount on new memberships signed up at Dayton. Everyone agreed.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the repeater is working fine. The cluster is working but sometimes he receives a "K8MR busy" message when logging on. He said that resetting the computer fixes the problem, but that the problem should be looked into.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that Pete, N8TR, won the plaque for SSB in the Ohio QSO Party last August. He also reported that Vratislav, OK1KT, of the Czech Republic, won the DX plaque. The DX plaque is sponsored by NODXA.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter will be out soon.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had again emailed, but received no response from, N5PA concerning our donation to the Glorioso DXpedition. Tedd said that he will try other avenues to contact him.

Ron, W8WH, reported that he had spoken with Janeen concerning the hospitality suite at Dayton. All preparations are being made. It was decided to show some DXpedition DVDs at the suite.

Tedd, KB8NW, said the Field Day was coming up fast. Bill, W8JGU, is the Field Day Chairman. Ron, K8VJG, reported that he had again been in contact with Sr Mary Grace at Mt Augustine and that all is okay for Field Day operation. Liability insurance will be taken care of.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had received and email from Bill, N8PW, saying the Mel, W8MV, one of the 3YOX operators was willing to come to a NODXA meeting and give a presentation. The club is looking forward to it.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 1st.

There was no 50-50 raffle tonight due to the lack of members in attendance.

Ron, K8VJG moved, seconded by Carl, K8AV, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The

meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

---

## Little Known Fact

He came from a very poor home. And it was necessary for him to go to work at a very early age. So he did. He started out as a jeweler's apprentice. He did that to support his widowed mother. But two things ended that career: one, his heart wasn't in it; and two, he was a terrible jeweler. He once wrote that his creations in gold and silver were so bad that people would hide them from public view.

So, of course, he turned to acting. He told his mother that he was going to pursue a career on the stage. He even wrote two stage plays. That didn't last long either, but this time for a different reason. One day he got his hands on a popular science book of the day and that changed everything - both for him and for us. He fell in love with science, and especially electricity.

He was able to work his way through a local college as an administrative assistant. There he excelled. He dove into every science book he could find, and in 1817, there really were not too many science books to be found. But he did find the writings and discoveries of a genius named Benjamin Franklin to be fascinating. Electricity had just been discovered a few years earlier, and he was beside himself with anticipation.

He put together the first homemade batteries and started experimenting with the idea of wrapping different lengths and diameters of wire around a soft iron core. Back then what little wire existed wasn't insulated, so he used wax to insulate the wires. Yes, he invented insulation for electric wires. And he found that with a simple little 21-pound piece of iron and some wire and a little current, he could lift more than 750 pounds with ease. That, of course, literally changed everything. He had invented the electromagnet.

And if you think about it folks, it would be difficult to name a piece of machinery that does not use a transformer or electric motor today. It was considered the invention of the century. Con-

sidering how it changed the world, I guess it was.

And you may want to know one more little invention he came up with. Something that was probably the other great invention of the century: a way for people to communicate over long distances instantly. Yes, the telegraph. He invented it. So we want to thank and honor the inventor of the electromagnet and the telegraph: Joseph Henry!

Yeah! Joe Henry. Yes, I know you've been told that Sam Morse invented it the telegraph, but he didn't! It's a Little Known Fact that Joseph Henry invented the telegraph nine years before Sam Morse. As a matter of fact Joe taught Sam Morse how it worked.

Now, to give credit where credit's due, Morse did invent the code that is used on the telegraph. And he is the one who patented it and got all the credit. But it was Joseph Henry who invented it. Sam Morse said so many times, too. He tried to give the credit to Joe, but too many people had come to believe that since he invented the code, that he also invented the device. But he didn't. So our hats are off to you Joe. You literally changed the world - twice!

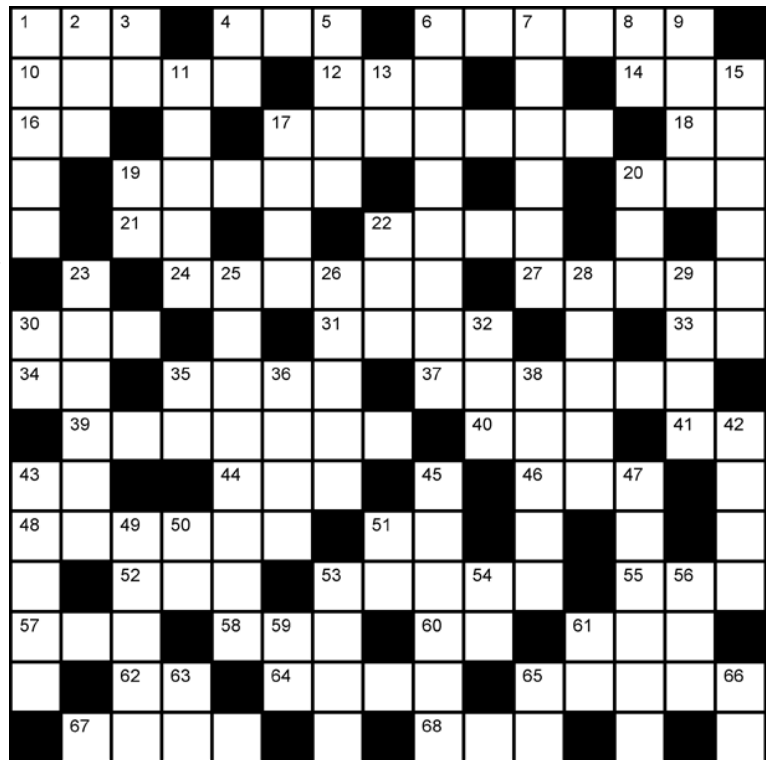
Thanks to 20/9 Radio Club News and [www.littleknownfactsshow.com](http://www.littleknownfactsshow.com)

## The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler

By H. Ward Silver, NOAX

### Across

1. Exception created by the FCC to allow operation not normally allowed (abbr)
4. Highest frequency that supports communication
6. To be present at the convention
10. Commemorative cloth emblem
12. Promise to pay
14. Short way to agree
16. Receiver (abbr)
17. This is often introduced at conventions
18. Switches the antenna during a conversation
19. Boring (two-words)



20. Just to inform (abbr)
21. A contest and a resistor (abbr)
22. Comparatively small
24. Biggest North American hamfest is held here
27. Common aspect of presentations
30. Holds all the swag you pick up
31. Hollered in pain
33. Stand by (CW prosign)
34. Below MF (abbr)
35. One task in a sequence
37. Who must caveat at the hamfest
39. Stuff that's given away
40. Hollered to mean "well done!"
41. Obseleted by kHz
43. Trade name for CTCSS tones
44. One of the traditional TV networks
46. Both a brew and a digital protocol
48. What the listener does at a convention program
51. End of message (CW prosign)
52. The country of A, K, N, and W
53. Made of metal links
55. Small metal or ceramic commemorative jewelry
57. Just a little bit
58. Radio's ol' skyward friend
60. Schematic component designator for a tube
61. Obsolete term for a radio
62. Grid current (abbr)

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, W9NET, NOAX, 20/9 Radio Club News, eHam.net, and the ARRL Letter.

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

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

**As of March 2002  
Current DXCC Entities Total is:**

# 335

- 64. Used for phone operation
- 65. Program with several experts
- 67. Where programs are held
- 68. Where you park

### **Down**

- 1. Excessive spending at hamfests
  - 2. What the government collects from sales
  - 3. While strolling the aisles, you're .. the convention
  - 4. Unit of inductance
  - 5. Holding a price
  - 6. Listeners to a speech or presentation
  - 7. What you have to have to get in
  - 8. Northern state of the 2nd district
  - 9. Fee paid when taking equipment into a country
  - 11. All those that came to the convention
  - 13. ARRL-appointed ham band monitor (abbr)
  - 15. What you win
  - 17. Small or inadequate
  - 19. Prefix for many Heath rig model numbers
  - 20. Charge for use or attendance
  - 22. Written statement of agreement between organizations
  - 23. Win by purchasing tickets
  - 25. These are prevalent on ham cars at conventions
  - 26. The subject of a program
  - 28. Where conventions are usually held
  - 29. Complement to space
  - 30. Color that means '6' (abbr)
  - 32. Medical insurer (abbr)
  - 35. Direction opposite NW
  - 36. What your interest does if the price is too high
  - 38. Ordinary or clear
  - 42. Makes change
  - 43. What the convention meal is served on
  - 45. Journey to the convention
  - 47. Knowledgeable individual
  - 49. Complement to video
  - 50. FET's source resistance (abbr)
  - 51. Battery energy rating
  - 53. Cheat
  - 54. The object of attention in a game of tag
  - 56. UN agency that administers telecomm
  - 59. Complement to XYL
  - 61. Only one operator (abbr)
  - 63. If you will be present, you must ..
  - 65. Unit of length (abbr)
  - 66. Obsoleted by MHz
- (Solution next issue)**

## **Improving Code Keys Contacts**

Although I'm not a collector of keys, I use CW most of the time and have a few keys that I really like. Some contacts are silver and work well, but others are of other metals, which require cleaning often to make good contact. In my own experience, it seems easier to send good code with fewer mistakes with contacts that are reliable and don't have much resistance. I've taken the cue from all the computer boards, military connectors, and high-end stereo connectors out there and have had the desire to optimize my key contacts for a long time.

There is a product that I've discovered that will easily gold plate my key contacts with a minimum of effort, time, and expense. Its called the "Wizard Pen Plating Kit" from "PMC Supply" in Jacksonville, TX. It can be ordered from <http://www.pmcsupply.com> for \$60.

The kit consists of a felt tip pen with a porous tip and that contains 2 AA batteries, and a small bottle of plating solution. A wire with an alligator clip comes out the top and is to be attached to the metal you want to plate. Soak the tip in the enclosed bottle of gold plating solution and then rub the tip where you want the gold plating to go. It takes about 2 drops per contact surface, and in a short time, the gold plate is applied and the result looks beautiful.

Plating the contacts doesn't alter the feel of key closure, but closure seems more positive and I make fewer sending mistakes at QRQ speeds. I intend to try this on some of the contacts of my Collins gear, especially the RCA connectors, as they tend to corrode over time.

Yes 60 bucks isn't cheap, but it's my job to fix the XYL's jewelry, and this will pay for itself in other ways, too.

John, W9NET, via eHam.net



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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Newsletter circulation: Pete Michaelis **N8TR**, and Mary Michaelis **N8DMM**

**Dated Material  
Please Rush**



**The Northern Ohio DX Association  
P.O. Box 361624  
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*"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"*

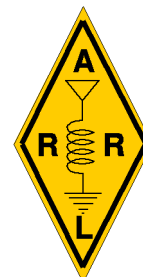
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NO8DX - Special Event Callsign  
W8DXA - NODXA Repeater 147.360  
K8MR - PacketCluster 144.91 & 145.57

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.**



**May 2006**

## **Poolside Chat (Almost) With KB8NW**

Fellow DX'ers,

As I am writing this, I am hoping that you receive this newsletter before the club's June 5th general membership meeting. As I mentioned at the April meeting and last month's newsletter, Mel, W8MV, (one of the 3Y0X operators and native of the Canton area) planned to attend one of NODXA's club meetings. It is now official, and Mel will be at the June meeting to do a presentation on his recent trip to Peter I Island. I hope you can attend. It should be very interesting. We plan to have Mel's presentation first and then the club's business meeting after. So come early and have dinner.

Once again, the Dayton HamVention was a lot fun and the NODXA Hospitality suite was well attended. Several of the 3Y0X operators,

as well as many other notable DXers, attended the hospitality suite during all three days. Everyone enjoyed the finger sandwiches, cheeses, munchies and beverages. A special thank you goes out to Janeen Hire, W8ZET, for once again sponsoring the NODXA suite and the great spread of food for the many visitors. I would also like to thank John/K8YSE and Dave/W8IOU for helping with the setup and clean up, and Ron/W8WH for bartending each night. More details about the hospitality room will be available at the next NODXA meeting.

Field Day is approaching fast, and I hope you marked your calendar to attend this year's event. Directions and a map should be available somewhere in this newsletter. Please come out and visit or possibly operate.

Lastly, if you have not heard, there is a possibility of another new DXCC entity to be added to the countries list. Serbia and Montenegro will be splitting and it looks like Montenegro will become the new entity. More details will probably be available next month.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. It is time to 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.

and drink so there should be plenty to eat. But we will need some cooks so, even if you don't want to operate, stop on out and flip some burgers!

Remember to bring the bug spray, folding chairs, sun screen, and 807's!

See you there!

## Field Day 2006

By David Autry, WD8IOU

It's Field Day time again! June 24 and 25 to be exact. Hopefully our perpetual field day chairman, Bill, W8JGU, will once again answer the call to duty and organize this event.

The NODXA site is the same as last year, the Mount Augustine Training Center located on 5232 Broadview Road in Richfield.

Everybody is encouraged to attend this 24-hour marathon, and, most of all, to operate! (Hey, if KB8NW can operate, then you can too!). We especially need CW operators to keep that station running for the full 24 hours.

This year the club will participate in the 2A class using three stations: SSB, CW/RTTY, and 6 meters. We will be housing all these stations in two large tents. Here is your chance to operate RTTY if you have never done so.

Pete, N8TR, is planning an early setup of tents and antennas Friday evening around 6 PM. Everybody is encourage to stop by and help out; this will decrease the amount of work required on Saturday morning.

The contest starts at 2 PM Saturday and ends at 2 PM Sunday. Operators are real scarce during the "3rd shift" (12 AM to 8 PM) so it would be a great help for our club's score if we could have a couple more operators during those hours.

The club has allocated some money for food



## Scarborough Reef Video

Nelson, K8DJC, wrote this short note about a video on the BS7H "DXpedition":

"As one of the many who do not have BS7 in the log I just enjoyed viewing a video of the BS7H operation. I don't know how many guys have seen it but I thought you might want to post the link in a newsletter:" [www.iijnet.or.jp/JA1BK/BS7H/index.html](http://www.iijnet.or.jp/JA1BK/BS7H/index.html)

"I knew it was a small place but had no idea it is so very small. It is hard to believe that it qualifies as an 'entity'".

Your editor can't believe it either as it does not pass my "Minimum Outhouse Rule", if it's not big enough to hold a Porta Potty then it's not big enough to be an "entity".



The video is very interesting and so is the commentary from the web site, which I have reprinted here:

Many DXers have been asking about BS7, Scarborough Reef. Why was the last expedition short? Why hasn't there been another expedition. This is your answer from those who were there! Watch this video of the 3rd BS7H Dxpedition to see how difficult setting up a station is and how friendly the BY hams were.

The operation was interrupted by the Philippine Navy and shortened 2 days and this caused the Chinese government to not allow a planned 4th BS7H.

Who is so jealous and such a bad DXer that they would stop a DXpedition to a very rare spot? Two jealous JA DXers, that is who. They didn't want your score to equal theirs so they called the Philippine embassy to complain that a Chinese expedition was going to Scarborough Reef so they would disturb the BS7H operation. (And you thought some LID tuning on DX was bad!)

In the movie you see the festive start of the expedition with the full support of Radio Sport in China, and how difficult setting up a station to GIVE YOU a new one can be. Real DXers are both the ones giving you a new one and the deserving waiting for a contact. The LIDS, enemies of DX, cause first a Philippine recon aircraft then a ship from the Navy to visit and see what was happening. The Chinese ships were unarmed research ships 72 and 74 supporting RADIO SPORT/DX. Their captains called the Foreign department in Beijing to ask what to do. The answer was close the stations two days early and



come home with no fight.

The Philippine chart shows Scarborough is Chinese territory and the only face to face contact was Kan JA1BK and the PI Navy guys.

You have two JA DXers to blame if you still need BS7. Until we organize an international DXpedition with hams from China, Philippines, Japan and the USA, be patient.

Many thanks to JA1BK for the great web site and video.

---

## The "Lost" Q-Codes

By KG4ZPN

- QBA - My antenna is BIG!
- QBA? - How big is your antenna?
- QBO - Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting.
- QBO? - Buddy, can you spare some soap?
- QBS - It's getting deep in here.
- QBS? - Did I tell you about the one that got away?
- QBS - Clean the bird sh\*t off your antenna so you can hear me.
- QBS? - Should I clean the bird sh\*t off my antenna so I can hear you?
- QCP - I am using Cat Power (From Rotary Cat Power Wheel)
- QCP? - Are you using Cat Power?
- QCW - I am going to whistle Morse Code on FM (or SSB)
- QCW? - Why are you whistling Morse?
- QDR - Damn Right the frequency is busy!} In response to QRL
- QDR? - Do you have a Receiver? In response to QRL
- QET - Phone home.
- QET? - Has anyone called me from another planet?
- QEW - Copy is difficult due to Ear Wax.
- QEW? - Is copy difficult due to Ear Wax?
- QFH - This frequency is MINE! - go elsewhere.
- QFH? - Is this frequency hogged?
- QHI - I am jumping in quick to say hi, then going QRT.
- QHI? - Are you leaving after only one transmission?

QLF - I am sending with my left foot.  
 QLF? - Are you sending with your left foot?  
 QLK - I am sending with my left foot and key-board.  
 QLK? - Are you sending with your left foot and keyboard?  
 QNO - I am sending through a non-standard orifice.  
 QNO? - Are you sending through a non-standard orifice?  
 QOK - Your last transmission was Okie Dokie.  
 QOK? - Was my last transmission OK?  
 QPM - Your signal is purr modulated.  
 QPM? - Is my signal purr modulated?  
 QRC - Warning, rag chewer on frequency.  
 QRC? - Are you a rag chewer?  
 QRW - Means Qrp - Really Weak  
 QRW? - Qrp, you are Really Weak?  
 QWC - I have to go to the bathroom.  
 QWC? - Do you have to go to the bathroom?  
 QZZ - I fell asleep at the mike.  
 QZZ? - Is that a 60Hz hum, or are you snoring?

## Tom W8JI Observes

If you have RF noise entering your house (and shack) and being re-radiated on the power lines, Tom W8JI observes that it may be possible to "detune" the lines and stop the re-radiation. "I built a bypass capacitor with two 120VAC rated .01uF capacitors, each one tied from one side of the line to the safety ground, into a plug.

I just moved that plug around to different outlets until I found one that detuned the power lines, and made the noise radiating from the lines in my house disappear. The noise virtually vanished even though I'm positive the source of noise several hundred feet away still remained." Make sure you use line-rated capacitors!

Henry G. Schuett, Jr. - K3LOW

## DXCC Fees Going UP!

By OPDX

The ARRL DXCC Desk has announced DXCC program fees will rise slightly when a new awards fee schedule goes into effect July 1st. The fee for a basic DXCC application (including certificate and pin for initial applications only, 120 QSO maximum) and for first endorsement applications within a year will increase to \$12 for ARRL members and to \$22 for foreign nonmembers. Second and subsequent endorsements (120 QSO maximum) within a year will be \$22 for ARRL members and \$32 for foreign nonmembers. The \$10 fee for a basic DXCC application (120-credit maximum) was established in 1990, and the current overall fee schedule has been in effect since 1998.

## Solution to Last Issue's Crossword Puzzle

1	S	2	T	3	A	4	M	5	U	6	F	7	A	8	T	9	T	10	E	11	N	12	D
10	P	A	T	11	C	H	12	I	13	O	U	14	Y	15	U	P							
16	R	X		17	R		P	R	O	D	U	C	T	18	T	R							
	E		19	H	O	H	U	M		I		K		20	F	Y	I						
	E		21	W	W		N		22	M	E	R	E		E		Z						
		23	R		24	D	25	A	26	Y	T	O	N		27	T	28	H	29	E	30	M	E
30	B	A	G		N		31	O	U	C	32	H		O		33	A	S					
34	L	F		35	S	T	E	P		37	E	M	P	T	O	R							
		39	F	R	E	E	B	I	E		40	O	L	E		41	K	42	C				
43	P	L			44	N	B	C		45	T		46	A	L	47	E						O
48	L	E	49	A	50	R	N	S		51	A	R		I		X							I
	A		52	U	S	A		53	C	H	A	54	I	N		55	P	56	I	N			
57	T	A	D		58	S	59	O	L		60	V	T		61	S	E	T					
	E		62	I	63	G		64	M	I	K	E		65	F	O	R	66	U	M			
		67	R	O	O	M		P		68	L	O	T										C

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, K8DJC, JA1BK, KG4ZPN, W8JI, K3LOW, and the OPDX.

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**Newsletter Editor** - David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)

**As of March 2002**  
**Current DXCC Entities Total is:**

**335**

**Dayton 2006 Memories**



**Andy, N8VES, makes his annual appearance at Dayton.**



**Tedd, KB8NW, and Gary, GOENW, pose for John's, K8YSE, camera.**



**Some NODXA members at the club table at the DX Dinner Banquet.**

**DX**



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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member?  Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ DXCC Member?

Special Interest \_\_\_\_\_

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Newsletter circulation: Pete Michaelis **N8TR**, and Mary Michaelis **N8DMM**

**Dated Material  
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**The Northern Ohio DX Association  
P.O. Box 361624  
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*"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"*

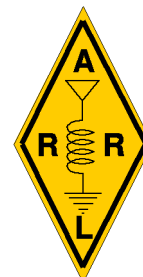
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**Northern Ohio DX Association**  
**P.O. Box 361624**  
**Strongsville, Ohio**  
**44136 U.S.A.**



**June-July 2006**

## **Poolside Chat With KB8NW**

Fellow DX'ers,

This year's ARRL Field Day event was great. We had a wonderful turnout of club members



and plenty of participation. Once again, Bill, W8JGU, and his crew did a fine job in setting up and tearing down the Field Day site.

According to John, K8YSE, we had way more QSOs than last year. John also did a super effort in pushing for the bonus points this

year. Out of the 10 possible ways to earning bonus points, the club was able to achieve nine of them. So, with high QSOs and bonus points NODXA should rank high in the standings.

We even had a new ham participate (Linda, N8LRS, XYL of Metro. W8MET) for the first

time at Field Day, and it is always a pleasure to see one enjoy herself at an event like this. I personally want to thank everyone who came out and helped or just came out to support the troops.

As I am writing this, one of NODXA's members is about to do something that all of us have dreamed about doing. John, K8YSE, is about to activate a new DXCC entity for the first time. After some transportation problems, John was able to activate Swains Island as KH8SI. I would suggest to attend the August 7th club meeting. I am sure John will have some great pictures and stories to tell us about his great adventure. Hope to see you there.

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 May 1st, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 15 members and 1 guest present.

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

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Mary also reported that we had a new mailing address. The new mailing address is PO Box 361624, Strongsville OH, 44136.

Tedd, KB8NW, mentioned that dues are due and that the repeater is okay.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster is "not talking" to K8AZ. Our cluster is okay, but tests are needed. The possibility that there might be a feedline problem was discussed. The link is on 220MHz.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter had been sent to John, K8YSE. John is presently out of town.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the hospitality Suite at Dayton is all set up. Ron, W8WH, reported that there was going to be a pre-Dayton dinner in Mansfield.

Bruce, N8DJX, moved, seconded by Dwaine, K8ME, that \$250 be allocated to underwrite the hospitality suite at Dayton Crowne Plaza. The motion passed unanimously. The Okino Toroshima DVD will be shown at the suite as it seems to be a popular one.

Tedd, KB8NW, again reported on email attempts to contact Al, N5PA, concerning our seemingly and unreported donation to the Glorioso Island DXpedition. Tedd also requested help with Field Day setup and operation.

Dwaine, K8ME, moved, seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, that the club send four (4) DXCC Honor Roll patches and four (4) DXCC patches to the W9DXCC convention to be held in September. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary, N8DMM and Pete, N8TR reported that they will be in Flea Market slots 928-929 at Dayton. They invited everyone to stop by, say

hello and maybe drop off their heavy packages.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that there was an article in last Sunday's Plain Dealer concerning the upcoming vote for independence in Montenegro. If it passes, it would probably lead to a new DX entity.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Dave, WD8IOU. The amount was \$12.

The meeting was closed by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

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## Minutes of the June 5th, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 23 members and 4 guests present.

After a round of introductions, Mel, W8MV, an operator with the 3Y0X, Peter I Island DXpedition, gave an excellent presentation of the DXpedition operation. His presentation included a description and history of the island along with pictures and description of the entire trip to the island, operation, and return home. Weather caused many delays both getting on the island and off. This was the third DXpedition to Peter I and lasted 10 1/2 days. Again, weather cut the operation short. A total of 86,888 QSO's were made. For a well documented presentation of the DXpedition see [www.peterone.com](http://www.peterone.com)

After a short break, a short business meeting was held. The Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the May 1st meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Mary also reported that we had many dues renewals at tonight's meeting. Tedd, KB8NW, reported that we had nine renewals at the hospitality suite at Dayton.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported on a newspaper article which stated that Montenegro had voted for independence. Thus, we can expect a new callsign prefix to be forthcoming.

Jim, K8MR, reported that the cluster in running fine. A switch on the back of a TNC was found to be in the HF position. The repeater is running fine as well.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is out.

Tedd, KB8NW, gave a report on the hospital-suite at Dayton. The club received donations to defray expenses and got nine dues renewals. Members of the 3Y0X operation were also there. Visitor attendance was very good.

Jim, K8MR, moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the club again sponsor the DX Plaque for the Ohio QSO Party.

The motion passed unanimously. Jim also reported on the forthcoming NODXA reflector on the internet. It would be for members only with password access. Its address probably would be [nodxa@contesting.com](mailto:nodxa@contesting.com)

Field Day took up a large part of the meeting. Arrangements were by various members to bring rigs, antennas, accessories, tents, tables, food, etc. Friday night setup will begin at 6pm. Ron, K8VJG moved, seconded by Byron, KF8UN, that the club allocate \$75 for food and refreshments. The motion passed unanimously. Tedd, KB8NW, encouraged all members to come out and participate whether as an operator or not.

Next months program could be either Joe Phillips, K8QOE, the Ohio Section Manager, or a DVD presentation of the BS7H DXpedition.

There was no 50-50 raffle due to time constraints.

The meeting was closed by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

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## NODXA Field Day 2006

By John Papay, K8YSE

The Northern Ohio DX Association participates in Field Day every year. Our goal is to keep it simple; nothing elaborate so it doesn't become an aggravation to set up and take down.



Linda N8LRS was ecstatic about her qso with Texas on 6 meters.

We put up two tents in a field (is that why they call it "field day?") and used wire antennas supported in the center by a tree.

Pete, N8TR, skillfully shoots his arrow over the tallest tree available and his wife Mary, N8DMM, always manages to find it in the woods without contracting poison ivy. Bill, W8JGU, brings his 6 meter beam on a 34' tilt up mast with the rotor at the base. The six meter antenna is about 250' away from the wire antennas so that there is no interference (Denny, WB8K, complains bitterly if he hears the cw noise in his ft847, so it was just easier to do it that way!) The generator is off in another direction to minimize the noise as well. After a few years at doing the same thing, you get better at it!

This year we decided to go after the extra points. It did make the event more exciting and it does challenge everyone to think about other modes and activities besides cranking out the q's. We operated 2A with one transmitter on cw and the other on phone. An FT-847 was used to make vhf contacts.

A solar panel, purchased at Dayton, along with an FT817 gave us points for the alternate source of energy used to make 5 qso's. Nick, W8XD, started off on 40cw with this setup and the sun cooperated fully. In 5 minutes, we had 5, 40m qso's using solar energy. Nick remarked, "This is easy!" Right, easy for him to say!



L/R Tedd KB8NW, John K8YSE, Bill W8JGU, Denny WB8K, Nelson K8DJC, Mary N8DMM, Pete N8TR, Dwaine K8ME and Linda N8LRS. Those not pictured were obviously operating!

But the most rewarding part of field day is seeing a new ham get involved and make her first contact on 6 meters. N8LRS, Linda Sinko, xyl of Metro, W8MET, was just recently licensed. After making a qso with Texas, she was elated! This was her first field day but I think it will not be her last! Sadly though, we dearly missed our fellow dx'er, Ray, W8BIN. He became a silent key last year. His presence at field day added a spark to the event. It's not the same without him. But we know that he would have been proud of all of the operators that came out for this event and would want us to continue the tradition. He was missed, but not forgotten.

The satellite qso was not as easy. But perseverance pays off if you attempt a qso on every pass. The FM birds were a zoo, the sideband birds were better and Denny, WB8K, with an antenna pointing assist from John, K8YSE, netted a qso with KFOZ in Colorado on FO29, another 100 points! Even Denny was excited about this contact!

The field day message was copied and one was initiated to our SM for extra points. Sending those additional 10 messages was a challenge for me since I haven't sent traffic in many years. The biggest challenge is finding nets to send the traffic on. The pre-field day legwork paid off.

A reporter from the Richfield Times (Richfield is a very small village/township south of Cleveland) came out to see what this was all about. He stayed over an hour and seemed fascinated by it all. We gave him the tour, showing him our APRS setup and our portable packet node, operated by Mike, WB8EVI. The article is scheduled to be printed at the end of July. I'll bet he will be back next year!



Denny WB8K with his portable satellite antenna, good for one SSB QSO with KFOZ on FO-29!



## Ham Equipment Inventory from the Estate of W8BIN

Item Name	Description	Price
1 Daiwa CN-801	Cross Needle SWR & Power Meter 1.8 - 200 MHz w/box, manual	\$90.00
2 Yaesu SP-7	Mobile External Speaker 5W w/swivel-type mounting bracket w/box	\$12.00
3 MFJ 259	HF SWR Analyzer	\$100.00
4 Heil Promicro-4	Headset w/box w/Yaesu adaptor	\$50.00
5 Kantronics KPC2	Packet communicator II TNC	\$35.00
6 Optimus Pro-50MX	Headset (with Microphone) Cat. No. 33-1135 new in box	\$25.00
7 Yaesu FT-8100R	VHF/UHF Dual Band FM Transceiver w/box	\$225.00
8 Scanner	Radio Shack PRO-2050 VHF/UHF/Air/800MHz 300-Channel Home Scanner w/box	\$60.00
9 Yaesu MD100A8X	Dynamic Microphone w/box	\$75.00
10 Radio Shack PRO-90	Hand-held 300-Channel Trunk Tracker Scanner w/box	\$70.00
11 Paddle	Vibro-Keyer Standard - Single paddle	\$75.00
12 Trac TE122	CMOS Electronic Keyer	\$25.00
13 Yaesu FT-100	Compact Transceiver w/box (repaired 2004 by Burghardt) with YSK100 Separation Kit and NMB-62 Mobile Controller Bracket	\$400.00
14 Yaesu Memorizer	FT-227R VHF FM 2M Transceiver	\$50.00
16 Drake TV3300LP	Low-pass filter - 1KW	\$15.00
17 B&W Model 424	Low-pass filter - low power	\$5.00
18 Lafayette LPS40	3 amp/12 volt power supply	\$5.00
19 Timewave DSP-9	Audio noise reduction filter	\$40.00
20 Para Dynamics PDC8	Small mobile power meter	\$10.00
21 Olson CB-391	SWR Wattmeter (CB type)	\$5.00
22 Yaesu	4-pin microphone	\$3.00
23 VOM	Micronta 22-204-C 43-range analog w/box	\$10.00
24 Yaesu FT-100MP	Transceiver with 5 Inrad filters: roofing, two 1.8 SSB, 400Hz CW, and 500Hz 2nd receiver	\$1050.00 stock \$1550.00 w/filters
26 Coax	RG8-X approximately 30' long	\$5.00
27 CX-201	A-B Switch	\$10.00
28 Speaker	Yaesu large size	\$15.00
29 Fan	110 v External Whisper	\$3.00
30 Soldering gun	Weller 8200N dual heat 100/140	\$15.00
31 Project box	Archer Deluxe Metal Utility Cabinet 3 x 5.25 x 5.875	\$5.00
32 Vert Antenna Handbook	Capt. Paul H. Lee N6PL (2nd Edition 1984)	\$6.00
33 HF Mobileering Book	Everything You forgot to Ask About HF Mobileering by DK Johnson W6AAQ	\$6.00
34 Antenna Book	The ARRL Antenna Book with software (1994) by R. Dean Straw N6BV	\$10.00
35 ON4UN Book	Low-Band Dxing with CD-ROM (2005 Fourth Edition) by John Devoldere	\$24.00
36 Speaker	Mobile speaker, small	\$3.00
37 Coax	Two pieces RG-58 with connectors each approximately 74' long -new	\$10.00 each
38 Coax	One piece RG8-X with connectors, approximately 21' long -new	\$4.00
39 Jumpers	Six miscellaneous RG-8	\$2.00 each
40 Connectors	Nine PL-259	\$9.00
41 Connectors	Nine miscellaneous coax adapters-new	\$9.00
42 Coax	One piece RG-58 with connectors,	\$4.00

	approximately 26' long	
43 17"LCD Monitor	Samsung 173V	\$125.00
44 2 SS Radial Plates	DXE-RADP-1P with Hdw.	\$35.00 each
45 Coax Switch	5 Positions -circumferential	\$15.00
47 Trunk/Hatchback mount	Diamond Antenna 400C	\$30.00
48 Large HF Ant.	Mosley Pro-67-B (on the tower)	Make Offer
49 Computer	HP Pavilion 520N, 1.3ghz Celeron w/ 60GB HD,XP sp2 w/ 17" monitor and printer	Make Offer
50 Screwdriver Antenna	High Sierra HS-900DX 6m-40m	\$200.00

Contact: Mary Michaelis - N8DMM at [n8dmm@adelphia.net](mailto:n8dmm@adelphia.net) or (440) 236-5426  
Prices are negotiable (somewhat)

## Swains Island Report

I returned home this morning from an experience of a lifetime, a dxpediton to a brand new country in a very remote part of the world. Swains was an island that not many will ever set foot on. I was honored to be part of the team that went there and put a brand new one on the air.

The dxpediton was made possible by Kan JA1BK. He found this country and he led the campaign to have the dxcc rules changed back to what they were so that Swains would count. He was relentless in this pursuit.

The dxpediton was nearly scrapped when our transportation seemed as if it were beyond grasp. We were considering leaving Pago Pago to return another day. But at the last minute a solution was found that would get us to the island for about four days. We went up on a boat from the Tolelau's and came back on the MV Cili out of Pago Pago.

The culture in the Pacific Islands is quite different than it is here in the States. Things are simple and there is not much western influence. They just got a McDonald's on Pago Pago and there is a Pizza Hut and KFC. Checkers was just opened. But other than that, there is no trace of what we have here. Shops and restaurants are

local rather than chains. But American Samoans are very patriotic. They can't understand why we have Mexican Americans or African Americans. They are American Samoan's, not Samoan Americans! Many of their sons and daughters join the military. There are churches everywhere. It is a simple life and family is the focus of life there.

The weather on Swains was very hot and humid and we had some equipment and computer trouble. CW was slow because the keyer would not ramp up on the speed.



### 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

Congratulations to those who made a qso! I also made a lot of qso's from Larry Gandy's (AH8LG) qth . There was lots of mail waiting for kh8/k8yse!

John Papay, K8YSE

## Worked All States "WAS" And VUCC

The Worked All States and VUCC checking for Low Bands and VHF operations is alive and well. The Worked All States Checker is Dwaine Modock, K8ME. If you have cards to check contact me by Phone: 440-582-3462, or E-Mail: [k8me@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k8me@sbcglobal.net), to set up the arrangements. The VUCC checker is for Qsl's above 50 mhz, is Al Moriarty, N8CX. He can be reached 216-221-3682, or E-Mail [n8cx@mindspring.com](mailto:n8cx@mindspring.com), You must have the new forms filled out, which can be downloaded from ARRL Web-site, just follow the instructions. If there is any Qsl that's little questionable, please try to have a backup. Thanks Again and Good Hunting.

73 QSL Checker Dwaine Modock, K8ME

## For Sale!

Compaq FS7600e 17" Flat Screen CRT Monitor, brand new in a sealed box, purchased in July, 2006, \$50. Contact John, K8YSE, at [john@papays.com](mailto:john@papays.com) or call 440-237-3377.

## Postage to Europe

If you are qsling to Europe, remember that new "IRC's" with deadline date will be out end of July. Also note that for France and most of Europe, postage is .90 euro or little more (\$1.00 dollar US = .75 euro). So if you are sending qsl cards direct, remit at least \$2.00 dollars US.

Remember that "IRC'S" are \$1.85. If your post office has new IRC'S it will have price of \$1.75, so then the post office will or should place another 10 cent stamp in middle of irc.

Good DX'ING, 73 Dwaine Modock, K8ME

## KH8SI Summary Report

By Tedd, KB8NW, OPDX

A QSOs summary sheet on the KH8SI DXpedition became available this past week. The KH8SI team made some 16,390 QSOs from Swains Island. The first QSO was on July 28th (2006) at 2219z with AH8LG on 20m SSB. Last QSO was on August 2nd (2006) at 1600z with VK1XP on 20m SSB.

Activity took place during 6 days with the solar flux around 73 and the K at 1. QSL via JA1BK.

For the story, log search and pictures visit: [http://www.iiynet.or.jp/JA1BK/home\\_e.html](http://www.iiynet.or.jp/JA1BK/home_e.html)



Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, K8ME, K8DJC, K8KR, OPDX, and the ARRL Letter.



### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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**



*"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"*

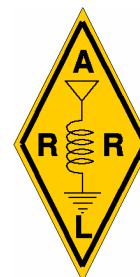
# The NODXA RAG

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, K8YSEs 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.

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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!

---

## **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.



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 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 ARRL Member?  Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ DXCC Member?   
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Newsletter circulation: Pete Michaelis **N8TR**, and Mary Michaelis **N8DMM**

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



*"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"*

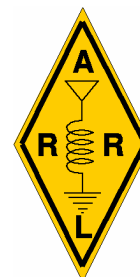
# The NODXA RAG

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.**



**October-November-December 2006**

## **Fireside Chat With KB8NW**

Fellow DX'ers,

The year 2006 is coming to a close very quickly as I am typing this (less than a week and a half away). As I look back on 2006 I would have to say that it was a banner year for DXers. There were two new DXCC entities (Montenegro/YU4 and Swains Island/KH8/S)



added to the ARRL DXCC List. Imagine, two new entities in one year, which I believe is pretty rare.

We also had several major operations take place in 2006 which include Peter I Island (3Y0X), Libya (5A7A), Lakshadweep Islands (VU7LD), Revillagigedo (XF4DL) and Aves Island (YX0A/YX0LIX). Even though the propagation was not the best, chasing the above operations

brought some excitement and a challenge to avid DXers. Let's hope the year 2007 is as fruitful as 2006 but with better conditions.

If you haven't heard, there will be a major change coming soon. It seems that the FCC will be dropping the code requirement for a ham ticket very soon. I recommend going to the ARRL Web site and reading the updates and details there.

In closing, I want to remind everyone that the January meeting will be held on the 8th and NOT on the 1st. It will be a very short meeting due to the OSU football game being played on that same night (GO Bucks!).

Lastly, I hope everyone has a great and safe holiday season and a great New Year in 2007. May the new year bring better propagation and possibly Scarborough Reef and Yemen (for those who need it).

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

## NODXA Meeting Minutes

The NODXA Meeting minutes are unavailable due to Club Secretary, Al, N8CX, health problems. The following is a short note from Glenn, AF8C.

"I talked to Al today. They are using new state-of-the art surgical techniques to seal the incisions they did in the past few days. He needed a blockage in his hip artery opened up to allow antibiotic IVs to get to his foot. The foot was cleaned out and is now in a bandage configuration that is high tech.

"They actually use sponges and tape, and also a permanent IV port that can last a year. Al believes he will go home Tuesday. He is in SW General, but the room is now 123 in the "TCU" I think he said. I just call the hospital main number to get them to dial his line."

On behalf of the club, I would like to wish Al a speedy recovery and a quick return to good health.

---

## Review of N3FJP's Amateur Contact Log v 3.0

By Mike Herman, WB8EVI

For years I just used an Excel spreadsheet for a log. It worked and was cheap. I kept seeing the magazine ads for this one, and decided to give it a try. The trial version is free, and the full registered version is only \$19. Installation on Windows XP of the basic program is very easy, just take the defaults. There are some additional features that require a little more effort, but not much.



Features are many. You can edit the fields you would like to see, and even move them around a little on the screen. It will keep track of how

many of this and that you worked, for award tracking. You can import and export standard ADIF files and AC Log files. If you download the free wave files, and enable the feature, when you click on a box, and a pleasant female voice prompts you for the data. This same voice will tell you if it sees one you need on the DX cluster, if you enable cluster monitoring. Yes, that is also in the program. It will work with telnet or with a packet link. LOTW uploads are also painless. Call book data can be automatically entered from CD-ROM, QRZ.com lookup, etc, or you can download files ready to go from the website. Twice a year both FCC and RAC call data are available for download in AC Log format. If you can't wait, simply download the data from the FCC yourself, and use the built in conversion program to make the data readable by AC Log. I have done it both ways without a hitch.

Interfacing your rig is not very complicated. I have done it with an IC-756, my prior rig, and with my FT-1000MP. This allows fields for the band, mode, frequency, etc. to be filled in for you by polling the transceiver for data. Many of the common rigs are in the menu to pick from. Just plug your rig into a free serial port and configure the software options according to your rig's manual.

One of the newer features of this program is transmitter interfacing. You will need an interface to operate your PTT circuit that will work with a serial or parallel port on your computer. If you also want the rig interfacing with data, as mentioned above, then you will need a second free serial port or a parallel port for PTT operation. I followed a suggested schematic for a parallel port interface that is on the website. Two transistors, a diode, and a couple of resistors are all it takes. The entire circuit fits inside the DB-25 parallel port connector. I plug this into a stereo Y adapter from Radio Shack with my key, into the back of my FT-1000MP. With that arrangement, I can use the keyboard or my hand key. Within the program you configure what you want sent with each function key on your keyboard. F12 just puts the entire keyboard to use, for easy conversations. I pro-

grammed F1 through F11 with my call, CQ, QTH, etc. It is also possible to use voice or RTTY with the transmitter interface, but I have not tried either yet.

AC Log is not the most feature rich logging program out there, but for under \$20 you get more than I need. Oh and once you register, you are paid up for all future releases. Each update is just a download and easy install away. I recommend you download it from <http://www.n3fjp.com> and try it for yourself.

---

## N7NG Resigns

On Thursday, December 14, 2006, much to



my regret, I delivered a letter of resignation to David Sumner, K1ZZ. Such an early departure had not been my plan but had become necessary. On Friday, in a meeting with Dave and Mr. Harold Kramer, ARRL Chief Operating Officer

(COO), I made it clear, when asked, that my resignation was in no way a retirement. I also conveyed that it did not indicate any fundamental differences with ARRL outside of the jurisdiction of Mr. Kramer. I offered them the opportunity to release information about my resignation, but Mr. Kramer could send only a terse two-line message, and then only to the HQ Staff and the closed reflector of the ARRL Officers, Directors and Vice Directors, hence this message.

All in all, it's been a fun six and one-half years. The League has been a great place to work, and I'd do all but the last 22 months over again. I thank all of you around the World for your great support. In particular, I offer special thanks our volunteers - advisory committee members, log checkers and advisors. I also urge all of you to support the ARRL financially. Be sure to tell them what you want, though - they don't

always ask. I hope to regenerate an active interest in Ham Radio back in Wyoming. Maybe there'll be another DXpedition or two as well, and look for N7NG - Jackson Hole - to be an active Wyoming contributor to LoTW as long as it's in business.

73, Wayne, N7NG  
Jackson Hole, Wyoming

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## Quick and Easy Radial Attachment

Robert Harper, AFOH, via eHam.net

For quite some time I've been in need a quick, simple, and convenient way to attach radials to my homebrew 20-meter vertical. Having tried many common methods, I knew there had to



be an easier (and more permanent) way. I finally came up with what I think is a workable solution that's inexpensive, practical, and fully functional.

A simple hanging loop made from #6 Solid Copper Ground Wire solved my problems. Coming down from the coax attachment, it makes a simple loop - which is easy to solder to. The only tools needed to attach the radials would include a propane torch, solder, and flux (optional). As you can see, with 8 radials, there is plenty of room left to add more if I decide to. It took longer strip off insulation and solder than it did to install the antenna itself. If I decide to move the antenna or take it down, all I have to do is cut the radials off at the solder joint. Worst case, it's easily replaceable without any real cost. Sure beats spending \$50.00 on a radial plate when this works just as well.

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## W8QWI, SK

Tedd, KB8NW

It is with great sadness to report that NODXA has lost another great DXer. Al Altomari, W8QWI, became a Silent Key this past week (November 17). Complete details are unknown right now, but are forthcoming. Please watch the papers for any details. He was a great NOARS and NODXA friend who I will miss. I was glad to see him (with John, K8YSE) this past summer at the NOARS annual picnic.

---

## Outgoing QSL Service Rate Increase

ARRL Letter via Glenn, AF8C

The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service has announced a new rate structure, effective January 1, 2007. The new basic rate will be \$5 per half-pound (8 ounces -- or approximately 75 cards) or any portion of a half-pound. That's a change from the current rate of \$4 per half-pound or any portion. The new rates are in response to a major postal rate increase and price restructuring in early 2006, after which our postage costs nearly doubled. One pound will now cost \$10, and

larger packages will be assessed \$5 for each additional half-pound (or portion thereof). For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds of cards will cost \$15, while a package containing 1.75 pounds of cards will cost \$20. For smaller packages, the new fee is only \$1.50 for 10 or fewer cards, \$2.50 for 11 to 20 cards and \$3.75 for 21 to 30 cards. The new rate structure will help to cover increased postage and basic handling costs for smaller packages while continuing to offer a price break to moderate-volume users submitting less than one-half pound of cards. The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service is available only to ARRL members. The last rate revision went into effect in March 2001.

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## IRC Info

This seems like a pretty knowledgeable web page about IRC expirations:

<http://www.n6hb.org/s-a/irc.htm>

He says the old ones DO NOT expire. That seems to differ with what I remember So I got out my paperwork. Guess what?

The "little" ones are NOT marked to expire, but the NEW ONES "Beijing Model 1" EXPIRE at the end of THIS MONTH. So you have to replace them with the newer "Beijing Model 2" which expires Dec. 31, 2009.

ALL YOU FOLKS with the larger format IRCS: get them out, and read the fine print on the lower back for the expiration date. Or else in January you can wrap them around your cigars and smoke them!

73, Glenn, AF8C

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, WB8EVI, AF0H, AF8C, N7NG, K6AER, WB8K, W8GC, eHam.net, and the ARRL Letter.

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## **Whole House AC Surge Protection**

Michael S. Higgins, K6AER, via eHam.net

There is a great device on the market which I have been using for many years to mitigate surge damage from AC mains. Not many hams know this but over 90% of electronic damage to the home from lightning surges comes in via the power line and not through the antenna and other direct strikes. With many miles of above ground power lines and even those feeding underground AC lines you can see up to 10,000 volts coming in via your 220 volt home feed.

Hams will spend a great amount of time grounding their antennas, station, coaxes and control lines but neglect the AC feed from the power grid. When a power surge arrives via the AC main the voltage is looking for a ground. Upon arriving at your AC panel no ground is available. No surge device is there so the high voltage races through the house wiring looking for the lowest impedance path to earth and guess where that is...your wonderfully grounded station.

By installing a surge protector at the AC panel along with a very good panel ground you have just closed the door on the most common high voltage surge path into the home. You can build your own surge protection for under \$10 just by buying 150 volt 22 MM MOV's from Mouser or DigiKey, but there is a better deal.

Intermatic makes a surge protector you can install on your own panel for under \$60. They are available from electronic supply houses and some hardware stores. All you need is two spare 20 amp breakers for each 120 volt side of your split phase panel and about fifteen minutes and you're done. Cost of the surge protector is under \$60 and as the info commercials would say there is a

bonus. With the purchase of the surge protector you get a limited \$10,000, 5 year insurance policy should your electronics be damaged by a voltage surge after properly installing the device. The Intermatic device is sold under part number IG1240RC. It is enclosed in a heavy plastic case with a green and white ground wires and two black leads for each AC feed. The directions are clear and easy to follow. Once installed you will find a Green LED's to indicate that each 120 volt line is working. Upon a surge the red led will be lit. If resetting the breakers does not extinguish the Red LED you will have to replace the surge protector.

Given you get surge protection and a five year insurance policy for under \$60 how can you lose. Maximum surge protection is up to 60 KA. The product is compliant to NEC code 285. A word of caution in AC panel surge protection, your surge protection will be only as good as your panel ground. In most cases a single 8 foot ground rod is not a low enough ground impedance compared to what you might have installed on your station. You may want to install more grounds or have your ground rod tested by an electrician for ground resistance. A good ground will have less than 5 ohms ground resistance. Also your station and tower ground must be bonded with your panel ground via a number 4 solid copper line. This is also a NEC code.

This year four of my friends on twenty meters got hit by lightning. Three had proper grounding and had minimal damage. The fourth had minimal grounding and lost a TS-2000, FTDX9000 his computers and much of his station equipment. He had insurance but was off the air for 2 months waiting on the insurance company. Proper grounding is always safer and in the long run and much cheaper.



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