



*"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"*

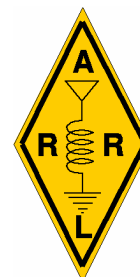
# The NODXA RAG

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.**



**January-February 2007**

## **Fireside Chat With KB8NW**

Fellow DX'ers,

It seems 2007 has started out well so far



for DXers. January so far has brought us few rare DXpeditions. The second group on Lakshadweep Islands (VU7RG) showed up as promised. The club station at the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (1A4A) made a rare appearance on the

air with a new prefix. Bangladesh (S21XA) was on the air for a short period. There was an excellent operation from Burkina Faso (XT2C) that was fun to work, especially on the low bands.

The month of February looks like it should also be interesting and will keep DXers busy. Look for DX0JP from Spratly Island to hit the air between February 3-13th. From February 3-21st, look for ZK3RE to be active from the

Tokelau Islands. Also, another Aves Island operation will be on the air between February 8-15th using the callsign YWODX. Hopefully, the band conditions will be good for these stations.

Lastly, I hope everyone is surviving the winter season and hope to see you at the next club meeting or possibly at the next hamfest. Also, remember to mark your calendar for the September 22nd, for the ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention. Details will be forthcoming.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW



Congratulations to Linda, N8LRS, for her recent upgrade to General! Her OM, Metro, W8MET, is so proud of her accomplishment. Way to go Linda!

## Minutes of the October 2nd, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:35pm by the Vice President, Dwaine, K8ME. There were 16 members and 1 guest present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the September 11th 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 is running fine and that he had given Jim, K8MR, a backup computer for the cluster. The original computer was found to have all three internal fans not working after seven years in operation. Once replaced, the computer is running fine.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that he will be out of town next week but will start on the next newsletter after that.

### Old-New Business

The club has received a donation request from a German group for the upcoming XF4DL DXpedition to Revilla-Gigedo Socorro Isl. George, K8KR moved, seconded by Ron, K8VJG, that the club donate \$50. After a lengthy discussion, a vote was taken. There were 8 yes votes and 6 no votes with 2 abstentions. The motion passed.

Tedd, KB8NW, received an email from OK1KT, the winner of the DX Plaque in the 2005 Ohio QSO Party, saying that he would not be able to participate in the 2006 QSO Party.

Dwaine, K8ME, thanked everyone who helped out at the NODXA table at the recent Cleveland Hamfest. He also thanked Keith, N8KOL for DXCC card checking. Dwaine checked WAS cards as well.

At next years Great Lakes Division Convention here in Cleveland, Dwaine, K8ME, will check WAS cards, Al, N8CX, will check VUCC cards and, hopefully, Keith, N8KOL, will check DXCC cards.

George, K8KR, received a 3Y0X card. He stated that there was no NODXA logo.

John, K8YSE, reported that he had worked all stations participating in the recent Rt. 66 operating event, including RTTY. He also reported

that there was a lot of PSK-31 as well.

Glenn, AF8C, reported that John, W8BE, had recently moved into an assisted-living complex. Mary, N8DMM, also reported that John had donated an Ameritron AL80B amplifier to the club.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that ST2A is QRV from the Sudan and that JH4HRF will be active from VU4. Other groups will be going to VU4/VU7 as well.

The members present decided to postpone the 50-50 raffle until the next meeting. Dwaine, K8ME won the September drawing.

Ron, K8VJG moved, seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by the Vice President, Dwaine, K8ME, at 8:16pm

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

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## Minutes of the November 6th, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 19 members and 1 guest present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the October 10th meeting. After some callsign corrections, 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 is running fine. He also reported that the K8AZ cluster was down for about 24 to 30 hours during the CQWW-SSB Contest because of a power failure.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is in progress and that anyone with information should email it to him.

### Old-New Business

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that 3DA0TM had sent in 8 contacts for the NODXA Award. Metro, W8MET, also received the award.

Ron, K8VJG, moved, seconded by Bob, W8GC, to have a minimum \$100 donation to any DXpedi-

tions supported by the club. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob, W8GC, reported that the CARS Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 9th, at the Independence Civic Center. Deadline for tickets is Friday, December 1st.

Al, N8CX, reported that the NOARS Christmas dinner will be on Saturday, December 2nd, at Gargus Hall in Sheffield. Deadline for tickets is November 23rd.

John, K8YSE, showed his certificate for working all Route 66 stations during the annual event. He also showed some Japanese publications concerning the recent KH8SI Swaine's Island DXpedition. John also reported that he was informed by the power company that he would have to file a complaint with the FCC concerning some recent noise problems.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had received an email from Kahn, JA1BK, thanking the club for their donation to the KH8SI DXpedition. Tedd also reported on some other requests for donations he has received. These are: A multinational group to VU7RG, The Lacadives and, a month-long VU7LD during December with Indian operators only. Bob, W8GC, moved, seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, that the club donate \$200 to the Lacadives DXpedition. The motion passed unanimously. Action was deferred on the VU7LD Dxpediton.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Linda Sinko.

The meeting was adjourned by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

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## Minutes of the December 4th, 2006 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:33pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 17 members and 1 guest present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the November 6th 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 cluster are running fine. He also reported that the 1200 baud link is too slow and that spots are experiencing long delays until displayed.

Dave, WD8IOU, was not present and thus no newsletter report.

Old-New Business

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the repeater renewal application was filed with the \$5 fee for 2007.

Denny, WB8K, printed and Dwaine, K8ME presented Metro, W8MET, with the NODXA Award for working 10 NODXA members. Dwaine also reported that he will send one to 3DA0TM an award as well.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had mailed a donation to WOCG for the VU7RG DXpedition. Tedd also reported that DL8LE sent a thank you to N8TR for the clubs donation to the XF4DL DXpedition. Tedd also reported that the Dxpediton to Bangladesh would have the callsign of S21EA.

Tedd gave a well-deserved thank you to Steve, N8IS, Tom, WB8N and Gary, NI8Z for giving CPR and aid to Ron, K8VJG, after having a heart attack at a recent CARS meeting. They are credited with saving Ron's life. CARS will be having CPR classes in the near future.

Tedd reported that a Peter I DVD will soon be available.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the Potomac Valley Radio Club has produced a DVD set on contesting, antennas, grounding etc. and he will bring them in for programs at future meetings.

Bob, W8GC and Pete, N8TR, commented on computer contest log checking by the ARRL and CQ and the penalties imposed for inaccurate contact information. They also commented on big-gun operators and their antennas for 80 and 160 meters.

Tedd, KB8NW, stated that the January meeting will be on the 2nd Monday, January 8th due to New Years Day being on the 1st Monday.

The 50-50 raffle of \$17 was won by Nelson, K8DJC.

The meeting was adjourned by the President, Tedd, KB8NW, at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

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## QSL Card Care and Feeding

David F. Doler Jr., WA3YAY, via eHam.net

If you're going to print your own QSL cards, have a look at [www.wilhelm-research.com](http://www.wilhelm-research.com) first. What you're sending to that other ham might not last very long if you using a generic brand ink and photo paper. In fact, using the cheap stuff, your card might last less than a year before it fades into oblivion.

I received a home printed QSL a couple of days ago from a Ham in Florida. It was a pretty one with a nice bright sunset and all the QSO information printed on it. Knowing from my experience with digital photography and printing, I'll have to keep that card in a closed box unless I want to see that sunset disappear in relatively short order.

On my desk are about two hundred cards that I've received that were printed in the 70's and 80' by commercial printers like 'The Little Print Shop'. These were offset printed or maybe by 4-color CMYK process for photos. Done properly and cared for, these cards will last a lifetime. Cards made by at-home inkjet methods probably won't.

When I was a novice in the mid-70, I had the stamina to stay on the air for hours on end happily pounding out 20 watts of CW on 40 and 80 meters. This netted me lot of QSL cards. Ever so proud of my accomplishments, I made the mistake of cellophane taping my favorite cards up onto heavy poster boards and sticking the whole think up on the wall.

Even the best quality QSL cards are probably not printed on archival quality, acid free paper stock and they eventually my cards interacted with the adhesive on the tape and turned brown - and fell off the board too. To compound my mistake, I attempted to pull of some of what tape

remained only to damage the back surface of the cards and in some cases ripped the card too.

During a recent work project repairing old engineering blueprints, I discovered a small company in New York City called Talis (212-219-0770) that sells bookbinding supplies. They have an archival quality pressure sensitive, thin, transparent paper tape called Filmoplast P that's made from a special wood-free paper that virtually disappears leaving a mend that both looks and feels like the original paper. It won't discolor or damage the QSL card over time. Needless to say, I bought a roll and brought the old cards out into light and did my best to repair the tears and rips. It worked well and the cards should be stable for quite a while.

You should store QSL cards in an archival-quality, acid-free box. Tamis also sells these. But if you want to display the cards either on the wall or in a ring binder, be sure that the clear oversheets do not contain unstable chemicals such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyether or acetate as these can, under the right conditions bind to the surface of the card. Also never, ever use the cheap "static"-type photo holders. They are about as un-archival as they come and will surely stain your cards over time. The best combination is a binder with acid-free fiber materials and 'foggy' Polypropylene for a coversheet. These offer the best environment for the cards survival.

The way I see it, QSL cards, like a well-kept logbook are a history lesson about your life as a Ham. It's worth sending good quality cards and taking care of the ones your get. One of my favorites is from K1HO aboard the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute's R/V Knorr research ship. I had a QSO with them while they were at sea right over the site of their discovery of the RMS Titanic in 1985.

That's one that will last a long time.

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, WA3YAY, AF8C, and the *ARRL Letter*.

## NODXA Club Officials for 2006-2007

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

As of July 2006  
Current DXCC Entities Total is:

# 337

## New UK Postal Rates

### ARRL Letter

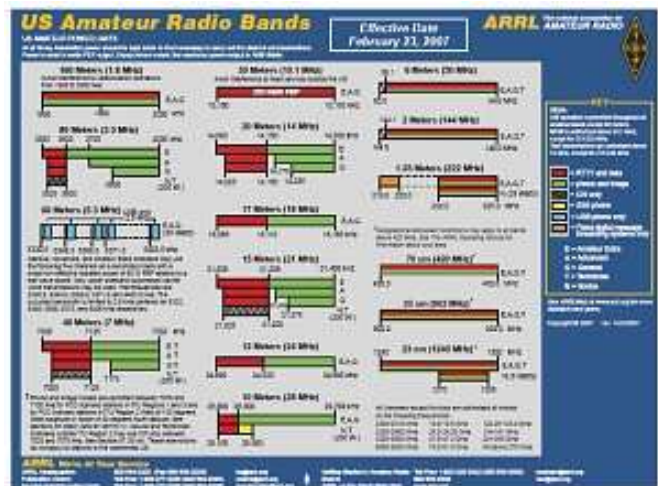
QSL MANAGER Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH (AD5YS), reports that beginning April 2nd, 2007, the UK postal rates will rise across the board by slightly more than 10%. Current situations and for some time now, the 1 USD has been insufficient to pay for the minimum return postage to countries outside Europe. This new increase will mean that 1 USD is no longer sufficient to pay for the minimum return postage to countries \*WITHIN\* Europe. There is no surface mail service offered by the Royal Mail to countries within Europe. However, they do offer a surface mail service to countries outside Europe. However, at today's exchange rate, the new postage cost is barely met by 1 USD and with the continuing decline in the dollar/pound sterling exchange rate, it is unlikely to remain so.

The good news is that the new, 2009 expiry IRCs are still exchangeable for the minimum return postage to all parts of the world. However, very few seem to be using them at present. Please bear the above in mind when sending QSL requests which may not be able to be processed and returned be-

fore April 2nd. In particular, the cards for the VP2MTE operation are unlikely to be received from the printers by this date. Please do not send currency other than USDs or properly stamped, 2009 expiry IRCs. If you must use mint stamps, please supply them loose (not stuck onto the envelope). Any QSL requests received without adequate return postage will be answered via the RSGB bureau.

## Revised ARRL Band Chart Available

A new ARRL band chart reflecting all recent changes to the FCC Amateur Radio Service rules as of February 23, 2007, now is available for downloading on the ARRL Web site in either black and white or color versions at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>. Created by ARRL Senior Technical Illustrator, Dave Pingree, N1NAS, the attractive new chart represents a major change from earlier designs. This is the same chart featured in the eight-page "Welcome" tear-out section in March QST (following page 48). The entire QST tear out also is available for downloading in PDF format at <http://www.arrl.org/HFWelcome/Welcome.pdf>.





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

### NODXA Application and Renewal Form

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

**NODXA, P.O. Box 361624 , Strongsville, Ohio 44136**

First Time Membership/Renewal (U.S.) \$12.00

Foreign Membership (outside U.S.) \$22.00

\*Foreign Membership (no printed newsletter) (but w/Web access for newsletter) \$12.00

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Dated Material  
Please Rush**



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