



"Ohio First DXCC Field Checking Club"

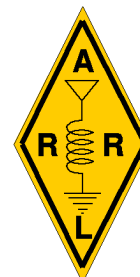
The NODXA RAG

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

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



November-December 2005

Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

It is hard this month (December) to write something because it was a bad month for me. First there was the passing of my dad during the first week and now the passing of Ray Brown, W8BIN, three days before Christmas.

The announcement was a shock for those who knew Ray. It is one of those unexpected things that happen. Everyone who called me took it hard. All I can say to the membership is to remember the good times and memories we had with Ray (during his term as President of NODXA in the late 1980s and especially during Field Day).

Ray was an "ICON" for NODXA. Those who knew him, know this is a fact. It is going to be hard not to hear his voice on the club repeater, especially during the late drive home from work. His comments and input about contesting/DXing and Cleveland sports will leave a void on the air.

We will also miss the favorite lines he used

to say. One was "NO CW", but those who knew him and saw him at "Field Day" know this was not true because he would be at the key working stations. His other favorite line was "Get the rate up" during Field Day.

Sure Ray will be missed, but memories of him will still live on during every NODXA club event. It is hard to let someone like him to be forgotten.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

Due to the New Years Day holiday, the next meeting will be on Monday, January 9, 2006.

Wanted

VHF Packet Radio TNC - Contact John, K8YSE, k8yse@papays.com

In Memoriam, Ray Brown, W8BIN

RAYMOND L. BROWN III, "RAY", of Westlake Ohio went home to be with his Lord and Savior on December 22, 2005. He was born July 9, 1948 in Akron, Ohio, the son of Raymond L. Brown Jr. and Charlotte Colbert Brown, formerly of Springfield and Urbana. Both are now deceased.

Ray, whose call letters were W8BIN, was an active member of the licensed amateur radio community and frequently made contact with other "hams" all over the world. From his truck he talked on the radio every day with friends all over the country while he was driving to every point of Ohio and Pennsylvania for a custom delivery service. He was a member of the Northern Ohio DX Association, a local club dedicated to promoting radio contact with other countries, and the North Coast Contest Club, an award-winning ham radio contest group.

Ray had the honor of being the youngest person at that time to obtain a ham operator's license when he was 10 years old. Ray kept up with acquaintances from high school and Cuyahoga Community College and with fellow drag racing enthusiasts. He was an avid sports fan, following especially baseball and basketball.

Ray is survived by his sister, Stacey (Thomas) Rapp, two nephews, Joshua and Aaron Tousley, a niece, Tiffany, and several grand nieces and nephews, all of Billings, Montana. He is also survived by his devoted Aunt Cynthia Craig-Parshall (Marvin) and her son Clark Brinnon of Urbana and his children Evan and Camille. Also surviving are cousin Libby (Raymond) Alty and their son and daughter Mark Alty and Ann Schaub all of Alpharetta, Georgia. His Uncle Marion W. Craig also preceeded him in death. He will be missed greatly by all his many friends and family and remembered as a kind and gentle person.

Interment will be at Sunset Memorial Park.

In celebration of Ray's Life, memorial contributions may be made to the Church on the Rise or to the Berea Animal Rescue.

For information www.jenkinsfuneralchapel.com.

Published in The Plain Dealer on 12/26/2005.



Minutes of the October 3rd, 2005 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 19 members present.

After a round of introductions, the Secretary, Al, N8CX, read the minutes of the September 12th meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Thus far, 55 members are paid through April 2006. Nineteen members have not paid.

Tedd, KB8NW commented that we need more members.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the repeater is up and running and that no interference has been noted. It is unknown whether the 145.57 Cluster is up. K8MR has been busy and had not been contacted. The 144.91 Cluster is up.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is in progress and that he needs articles.

The Medina Hamfest is this Sunday, October 9th.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the K7C DXpedition will remain operating until the gas for the generators runs out. This was expected to be about Wednesday, October 5th. Kure is west of Midway. Many members have made contacts. Pete commented that for the low bands, between 0800z – 0900z is a good time to hear them.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had not received any letters for donations recently. Another discussion about Peter I followed. The members noted that we had donated previously and would not donate any additional funds.

A flyer from Neil, K8IT, stating his priorities and goals was distributed. Neil is running for Great Lakes Division Director.

Tedd, KB8NW, noted that the next meeting will be November 7th and that tonight's program is a video of Ducie Island.

The 50-50 drawing of \$21 was won by Karl, K8BCK.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW.

Respectfully submitted, Alan, N8CX, Secretary

Minutes of the November 7th, 2005 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW. There were 18 members present.

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

The Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Thus far, 56 members are paid through April 2006. Sixteen members have not paid.

Denny, WB8K, rehashed the interference problem on the repeater and that a bare cable was touching a dish antenna on the tower. Note was also made of broken de-tuning wires on some nearby cell towers. Denny said that he has made phone calls to the appropriate people, but has not received any responses as yet.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the 4.91 cluster is up and running and that the status of the 5.57 cluster is unknown. The 5.15 repeater is still off the air.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is in progress and that he needs articles.

Ron, K8VJG, reported that the VCR/DVD player was not working.

John, K8YSE, reported that a number of emails to members are bouncing and that if anyone knows these individuals they should inform them to let John know their correct address. The members are: K18EE, W8CY, N9RFK, W8VLK, W8NW, W8KS, W8CZN, KA8YYZ, K8VI, KF8UN and W8HB.

John, K8YSE, gave a short talk on APRS. A 2m radio and a TNC are required equipment. Adding a GPS unit will not only spot your exact location to others, but is very useful in finding others especially in an emergency. Hams may go to 'findu.com' on the internet, enter your call-sign, and it will spot you on a map. John cautioned about purchasing GE 'Phoenix' radios on ebay. An internal chip which programs frequen-

cies for the unit is usually missing. Also, the chip must be reprogrammed for amateur frequencies and requires a programming unit which is not readily available.

Tedd, KB8NW, received an email from A35RK concerning Minerva Reef. Both Fiji and Tonga claim ownership. Both have decided to let SEABEP court decide the matter. He will keep Tedd informed. Tonga no has possession.

Tedd also reported that he will not be at the December meeting.

Mention was made that Rick's radio store (NOARD) was closed and vacant.

The 50-50 raffle of \$18.50 was won by Tedd, KB8NW.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW.

Respectfully submitted, Alan, N8CX, Secretary

Notes from W8BIN's Funeral

At noon on December 28, 2005, a fine crowd of Ray's friends gathered at Jenkins Funeral Chapel on Dover Center Road, Westlake Ohio for the two hours of visitation and a service by one of the pastors of Church on the Rise, where he had been attending recently. They got to see lots of photos and memorabilia from his drag-racing days and from his most recent trip to the Dayton Hamvention and the 2005 NODXA Field Day.

Ray's kin came from downstate, a long enough drive, and his older sister and her husband drove all the way from Billings, Montana with their Australian heeler. Several of his fellow drivers from Bonnie Speed Custom Delivery Service came by, as did old friends from his drag-racing days, but the biggest turnout was hams, who were among the six pallbearers.

A large contingent caravanned to the cemetery, Sunset Memorial Park, about 5 miles away, where Ray was buried on a beautiful hill facing toward the northeast and next to his parents. He would have appreciated the optimal propagation characteristics of the location.

It was very overcast, about 48 degrees, but there was no wind and the morning's rain had quit.

We still have a hope that another licensed ham will buy Ray's house and get some use out of the crank-up tower, vertical array, and customized shack layout that he finally got just right. It is an affordable ranch home with 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, new roof, and a terrific new barn-style garage with workshop and storage loft. The lot looks to be an acre with tall trees in front and mostly open lawn in back. Lots of radials under all the antennas. Location is Westlake, a very desirable suburb on the west side of Cleveland.

Ray's family were very moved to find out about the support and concern of friends in Ray's amateur radio communities both local and across the country. It is still hard to believe he is gone.

Mary, N8DMM

De-Soldering Irons

Web Williams, KR4WM, via eHam.net

I've been around electronics since I was 16, piddling and building kits, sometimes plans from magazines, sometimes "dead-bugging". I'm, lets see, 47 now, so that means I've been melting solder for around 31 years, not all of them as a ham operator.

I never found a need for a desoldering iron, mostly because they are darned expensive. How can somebody justify a multi-hundred dollar desoldering iron for the pursuit of a hobby? I've always gotten by with a big solder-sucker. I got a lot of satisfaction from the loud and resounding "THUNK" resulting from the pressing of the button on the side, yet knowing I was likely going to have to do it three or four times to get the desired results. I never did understand people who used desoldering braid because you have to cut

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, KR4WM, eHam.net, and the ARRL *Letter*.

NODXA Club Officials for 2005-2006

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

off and discard the end after each use. It seemed wasteful to me!

Anyhow, I wound up at a yard sale earlier this year, and lo and behold, there was a very nice soldering/desoldering station on one of the tables. No hand pieces, just the base. But the price was right- \$35. I had no idea if it was in working condition, but for \$35, I took the chance.

After getting it home, it took me about an hour's worth of research to locate the manufacturer, find a sales rep, and order both hand pieces. It's a Xytronics. I'd never heard of them. Apparently, they make high-end stuff. The unit I bought, although an older model, in it's current iteration and complete, would sell for around \$900.00! New hand pieces set me back \$120.00, which made it a worthwhile investment.

The new hand pieces arrived after a week, and almost immediately, I had a job come in that would make excellent use of it, replacing some burnt-out backlight display bulbs on a Yaesu mobile transceiver. Instead of taking an hour and having to juggle a soldering iron in one hand and a solder sucker in the other, I was done changing ALL the bulbs in 10 minutes! You place the hot tip on the solder to be removed, press a button on the side of the iron with your index finger, and a vacuum pump inside the base comes on and sucks the solder into a small, easy-to-empty container inside the hand piece! You can hold the vacuum pump on for as long as you need to in order to remove all the solder. It doesn't get any easier than this!

If you've ever built a kit and installed a part with the incorrect orientation, which must be removed and resoldered, this tool is for you! An optional tweezer iron will make this risky (heat damage to the part), unsavory job go so quickly that you'll almost forget making the error!

\$155.00 may be more of an investment than many hams might be willing to make for the privilege of speed in repairs. You may have more time than money, and I can understand this. It isn't for everybody. A \$2.00 spool of desoldering wick and a \$15.00 iron will save you a lot of money. If I had to pay \$900.00 for this gadget, I *never* would have bought it! But it sure is making life easy when I have to desolder something...

Leap Second to be Introduced as New Year Arrives

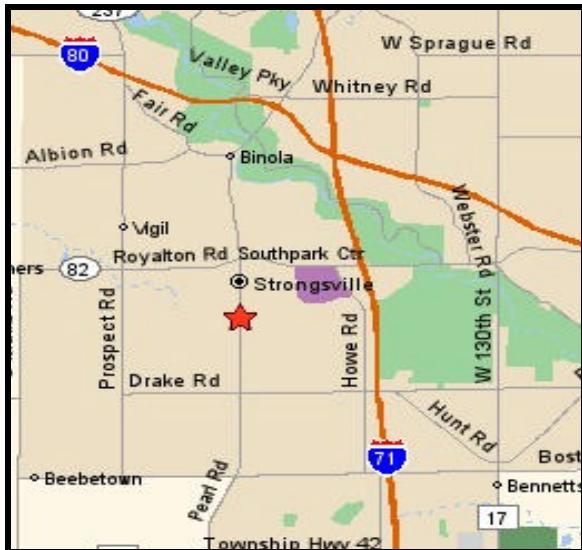
From ARRL *Letter*

The International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) has announced the introduction of a "time step" at the end of December to add a "leap second" as 2006 arrives.

Leap seconds are needed to keep clocks in step with Earth's rotation, which varies by several thousandths of a second per day. Slowing down the clocks every year or two keeps them in sync. As 2005 transitions to 2006, Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) will be retarded by 1.0 second. This essentially means that the last minute in 2005 will be 61 seconds long: December 31, 2005, 23:59:59; December 31, 2005, 23:59:60; January 1, 2006, 00:00:00. This adjustment will affect UTC and all time scales based on UTC.

Loran-C and GPS will not be adjusted physically, however. Times of Coincidence for LORAN-C are available on the Time Service Web Page.

For GPS, the leap second correction, contained within the UTC data of the navigation message transmitted by satellites, will change. After the leap second GPS will be ahead of UTC by 14 seconds.



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**



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