

April 2025

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Almost Pool Side Chat With KB8NW (written January 27, 2025)

Fellow DXers,

Out goes the old and in comes the new. Happy New Year to all NODXA members. The year 2024 was a pretty good year for DXers, lets hope 2025 continues to be the same. So how good was DXing in 2024? Well, according to Joe Reisert, W1JR, in his annual review, there were 285 DXCC entities activated during 2024. He states, "Two on the ClubLog's DXCC Most Wanted List were activated.



Single operator FT4GL put Glorioso Island on the air for a month and multi-op N5J activated Jarvis Island. Several DXpeditions made over 100K QSOs, including A8ØK, TX5S (Clipperton Island), N5J, 9L5A, 3D2V, VK9CV, PXØFF, CY9C and T32TTT." I would say that made it a pretty interesting and good year for DXers.

As I am writing this, DXers had an unbelievable surprise hit the airwaves in the last week of January (2025). An operation from Mount Athos, SV1GA/A, became active by operators Aris/SV1GA and Martti/OH2BH, together with Adrian/KO8SCA, Gabi/YO8WW and Niko/OH2GEK. What a great way to start the year. Mount Athos is ranked #27 on the most wanted lists by ClubLog (dated January 15th). Activity is to honor the 50th anniversary of the 1975 activation. Operations so far have been on CW, SSB and FT8. Their length of stay (as I am writing this on Jan. 26th) is until February 3rd. However, there is some controversy by the Mount Athos Holy Community on whether this operation is legitimate. Stay tuned!

So what else can be expect in 2025? So far we have had a big operation from Marquesas Islands (TX7N). The next major operations in the next three months will be from:

- *Feb. 11-23rd -- Marshall Islands; Callsign V73WW
- *Feb. 18th-Mar. 4th -- Christmas Island; Callsign VK9XU
- *Mar. 4-12th -- Cocos Keeling Island; Callsign VK9CU
- *Mar. 10-25th -- Andaman Islands; Callsign VU4X
- Apr. 18-26th -- Galapagos Islands; Callsign HD8G

Currently, four of the operations are pending(*) on a vote by NODXA for donating funds towards their operations. The vote should take place in February.

THIS IS A REMINDER! If you have not renewed your club membership, "PLEASE DO SO." The month of May is NODXA's fiscal year. The club has funded 15 operations this year to the amount of almost \$2100+. So funds are getting low. REMEMBER: You can now renew via PayPal at: marysbarn@roadrunner.com

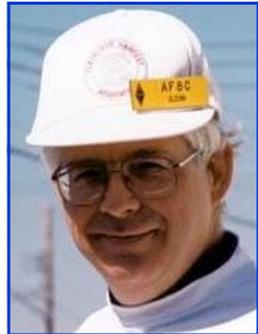
As always, I hope to see you in the coming weeks/months, possibly at a hamfest, or NODXA's general membership meetings every first Monday of the month (unless it is a holiday -- it will be the second Monday).

As a reminder, if you have a topic to discuss about DXing or contesting, bring it up at the meeting. Also, if you would like to put on a program of some interest for the club in the coming months, let us know so we can schedule you in for a meeting. We are always looking for a program.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

Minutes of the December 2nd, 2024 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Amic's Italian Restaurant and Bar. A total of 13 members and guests were present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of November 4, 2024. Thereafter Dave, WD8IOU, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded for the minutes to be approved. The approval was passed by vote.



Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the balance report, of \$Ka-Ching! Dues will be due in May. PayPal can be used to send Mary the dues (via the address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com"). Thereafter Kevin, K8VUS, moved and Dave, WD8IOU, seconded for the treasurer's report to be approved. That vote passed. Glenn, AF8C, reported the repeater was OK except for the interference problem from the VE3MMX, Shedden, Ontario, repeater. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, has the newsletter in progress and he needs articles and/or photographs for this one.

Old/New Business:

Gerben, PG5M, sent a picture of their future card design, with photo of his VP8G, Falklands, operating station and with our club logo on the picture. We received a thank-you from TX7N, Marquesas, January 12-27, with our club logo on their website.

Three other ones that were going to come up early in 2025 were C8K, Mozambique, January 17-February 2; Christmas Island, VK9XU, February 18 - March 4 and Cocos-Keeling, VK9CU, March 4-12; and Andaman Island, VU4X, March 10-25. Tedd asked how we should now handle those. Tedd said the QRZ.COM pages for the VK9s already have our club logo on their web pages. There was a consensus to wait until January to decide what to do with those.

Next came the topic of our Christmas luncheon. Reservations were already made for Gran Fiesta in Strongsville on December 19 at 1 p.m. If you are going to be there and are not already listed send Tedd an email. Tedd reminded us to pay dues to help with our donations.

Wrapup:

Tedd, KB8NW, wrote that the next meeting will be on January 6, 2025, at Amic's. Dennis, K8LBT, moved and Joe, N8QXC, seconded for the meeting to be closed and the motion was voted approved. The meeting closed at 6:52 p.m.

Show and Tell:

Joe, N8QXC, showed off a Communications Handbook from the 1944 Naval Training Center, Pensacola, FL. He also had a Telex Hygain Model 18TD Reel Tape Portable Dipole, for 10-80m. On this you stretch out the dipole to use it and use the crank to wind it back up. Then Mary, N8DMM, showed off and passed around a 1913 farm tool, a "Weed Tire Chain Tool", resembling pliers, used for installing tire chains.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the January 6th, 2025 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Amic's Italian Restaurant and Bar. A total of 13 members and guests were present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of December 2, 2024. Thereafter Dave, WD8IOU, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded for approval of these minutes. The approval was passed by vote.

Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the balance report, of \$Ka-Ching! Dues for 2025 will be due in May but we welcome people to renew at any time. PayPal can be used to send the dues to Mary (via the address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com"). Thereafter Dudley, WA1X, moved and Kathy, N8KEP, seconded for the treasurer's report to be approved. That vote passed.

Glenn, AF8C, reported the repeater was operating OK. Glenn also reported he has

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

sent the Ohio Area Repeater Council an email detailing the Canadian repeater on the 147.36 W8DXA repeater frequency but using the 110.9 PL frequency. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, invited us to read in the new newsletter the article on the travels and operation in South Africa by Byron, KF8UN, as he continues his birding activities.

Tedd reported 21 people attended the enjoyable Christmas Luncheon at Gran Fiesta. It was reported that while John, K8YSE, has moved to Michigan, his towers are still up in North Royalton, Ohio. His cameras still are operating there also.

Old/New Business:

Tedd reported on getting the cost budget from the 3D2Y team but that they did not meet their funding goal. The FT4GL Glorioso card is out and it carries the signatures of the remote operators. The FT4GL Glorioso team wants to operate Kerguelen next. TX7N, Marquesas, #61 on the most wanted list, was announced. We have three tabled requests to discuss at the February meeting: support of C8K, Mozambique; VK9XU and VK9CU, ranking #62 and #69; and VU4X, Andaman Island. Dudley, WA1X, moved and Joe, N8QXC, seconded for us to contribute \$100.00 to the VK9 team. The motion passed on the vote. The VK9's will have experienced operators from previous Dxpeditions such as Iran and Burundi. For VU4X, Andaman Island, we will wait until the February meeting to decide on any actions. Tedd had some printed DXpedition calendars to hand out.

Wrapup:

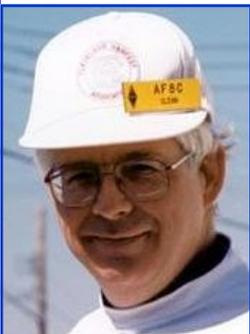
Tedd, KB8NW, noted the next meeting will be on February 3, 2025, at Amicis. Denny, WB8K, moved and Kathy, N8KEP, seconded for the meeting to be closed and the motion was voted approved. The meeting closed at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the February 3rd, 2025 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Amicis Italian Restaurant and Bar. A total of 16 members and guests were present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of January 6, 2025. Thereafter Denny, WB8K, moved and Metro, W8MET, seconded for approval of these minutes. The approval was passed by vote.

Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the balance report, of \$Ka-Ching! Dues for 2025 will be due in May but we welcome people to renew at any time. PayPal can be used to send the dues to Mary (via the address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com"). Thereafter Dave, WD8IOU, moved and Dudley, WA1X, seconded for the treasurer's report to be approved. That vote passed.



Glenn, AF8C, reported the repeater was operating OK but there was the uncommon problem of weather causing static on the signal last Monday. We believe that might be an antenna problem. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, needs articles for the next edition of the newsletter. Dave will accept and use images of QSL cards from people.

Tedd said that the recent newsletter was uploaded to the DLARC (Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications) server. Tedd said a lot of newsletters from other clubs now are being archived there. George, K8KR, opened a discussion of the May, 2024, ransomware hack of the ARRL and the associated recovery "fee" cost that was paid but covered by insurance.

Old/New Business:

Tedd reported that only hours before this meeting he received email from Patrick, F2DX, one of the operators at 9L5A. The email contained much information. Our club logo is on their QSL card. Tedd announced having received email announcing the ARRL's new "Trident" awards for various milestones of confirming entities for DXCC. Tedd reported that we received a Thank You for our contribution for the TX7N operation. Currently the ARRL still has considerable delay on catching up with thousands of DXCC update applications.

Tedd reported that currently there is concern about accreditation of the interrupted Mt. Athos operation. Pete, N8TR, reported a concern about the call sign for the upcoming Mt. Athos operation.

In the matter of funds requests, the C8K operation has been postponed. The VK9 operations will be happening in February and Tedd suggested we go ahead and contribute to those two (VK9XU and VK9CU). The VU4X operation has announced their new call sign will be VU4AX.

Then Dudley, WA1X, moved and Dave, WD8IOU, seconded a motion to send \$100.00 to the VK9 operations. This motion was voted and passed. Dudley, WA1X, brought up Winter Field day for discussion. Tedd said that a few folks worked it, including Doug, K8DP, and John, K8YSE, at a club setup. Joe, N8QXC, stated that the Parma radio club had some folks operate the Winter Field Day from inside a building but with an antenna set up outside.

Wrapup:

Tedd, KB8NW, noted the next meeting will be on March 3, 2025, at Amicis. Denny, WB8K, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded for the meeting to be closed and the motion was voted approved. The meeting closed at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

SV1GA/A— Mt. Athos Update April 1, 2025 by dx-world.net

We apologize for the long delay of the accreditation process of our recent SV1GA/A Mt. Athos operation. Unfortunately, this process will still encounter some further delays but we would like to state the following:

It should be noted that it has been more than 35 years since an outside group was able to transmit from Mt. Athos. The paperwork we presented is in a way unique and as such ARRL is probably looking into it diligently to ensure compliance.

Quite recently, Monk Iakovos, SV2RSG, was suffering similar pains, during the ARRL process of getting his activation approved for DXCC. Although with a long delay, ultimately everything was settled. SV1GA is now in a similar process.

To speed up the process, the SV1GA team has approached a former and seasoned ARRL DXCC expert and approached legal advice to help the ARRL DXCC Desk build a complete picture of this somewhat challenging situation.

It is known to us that the ARRL accreditation represents climbing a larger mountain than the mountain itself, for a DXpedition to a rare location, such as Mt. Athos.

The late Roger Wester, G3SXW, used to say that "the country is rare for a reason"! We think that his saying fits well with the Mt. Athos situation today.

With kindest regards,

Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA and Martti Laine, OH2BH

Editor's Note: As of April 4, 2025, the ARRL has approved the SV1GA/A operation. See the announcement here: <https://www.arrl.org/news/view/arrl-dxcc-statement-on-mount-athos-operation-sv1ga-a>





Sep 29 - Oct 22, 2023

Tristan Da Cunha Island

<https://lral.lv/zd9w/>

Hi there! We meet again with one of the LRSF latest DX-pedition's story. There has been already one more DX-pedition after ZD9W, however, I will talk about that another time.

The first plans to visit Tristan Da Cunha Island (ZD9) were already set in 2018. Initially it was planned to visit ZD9 with a four-operator team. However, couple weeks before starting our trip we were informed by island representative that there won't be any available berths for us on the ship. The regulations say that the first hand for berths on the ship is for islanders, followed by their relatives, then officials and our category as tourists are the last ones to pick.



Yuris YL2GM starting DXpedition from home in Latvia



"Lance"

After this came covid and the island was closed down for all visitors. All restrictions were lifted only in spring 2023 and immediately I started to communicate with the island administration. Opportunity came up, however, this time I decided to go alone because the chances to get berths for more operators were lower. I was offered a berth on a cargo ship "Lance" leaving Cape Town on 15th of September 2023. The return was planned with fishing vessel "Edinburg" on 24th of October 2023.

As I'm used to do, in a timely manner I acquired necessary plane tickets and together with them I posted all necessary documentation to South African embassy in Stockholm to

receive visa. On that day when I should have received back my documents and visa, instead I got returned mail with a mark that the recipient did not collect it. Remaining time window till plane departure was getting shorter and to mitigate risks I decided to go for visa in person and the next day I was on a flight to Stockholm. Unfortunately, the visa was declined because my passport did not have enough empty spaces. To receive visa there has to be at least two blank pages left. Flew back home and in a matter of urgency a new passport was made the same day for additional costs. One more flight to Stockholm and the embassy staff was already waiting for me, visa was ready later in the afternoon.



Yuris sitting in the captain`s chair

On Monday 11th of September, the trip begins by boarding the plane from Riga to Cape Town. As usual, I have one extra bag of gear with me and this makes it difficult when I have to change terminals in Frankfurt airport by taking train between the terminals, baggage carts are no option there and all bags had to be carried by hands. After landing in Cape Town, I have three days to spend. I settle in a hotel and rent a car to visit my friend. During the visit I pick up antenna bag with *Spiderbeam*, *LBS* vertical and cables that I left with him during my previous visits.

Departure of *Lance* was planned on 15th of September 14:00z. The day before I brought all bags with equipment to the ferry station and in the morning the shuttle bus took me to the port. After passing through all travel formalities and boarding the ship, everyone was shown to their individual rooms. The ship left the port as planned and the ocean journey had begun.



Lance`s chef

Later that day we were invited to lunch and got introduced to the captain. Afterwards the ship crew took us for a tour to great cabin, ship deck, engine deck, storage spaces and answered to all of our questions. We did also get the basic training regarding ship security. When the evening came, I started to feel sea sick and this continued for one more day. Chamomile tea helped and on third day I was feeling like nothing had happened.

During further trip I get acquainted with the ship`s captain Oleg. He is a good man originally coming from Kaliningrad and has managed to complete international ship crew that works like a watch. His ship "*Lance*" is the

main supply ship for Tristan Da Cunha Island with its 234 islanders. Special shout out to "Lance" Indonesian chef, who prepares food for 18-man crew and other passengers. Food is served three times daily with lots of variety and imagination. Any restaurant would be grateful to have a chef like him.

The voyage continues and the initial plan to reach Tristan Da Cunha Island is one week later on 22nd of September. However, captain informs us that the weather conditions will be getting worse and in best case scenario we will reach our destination only by 26th of September. Also, this heavily depends from local weather on the island whether we will be able to disembark.



First sight of Tristan Da Cunha Island through fog

Internet on the ship is very limited only available every second day for one hour only for text messaging. No picture and video transfer possible. However, this is enough to inform our families that we are safe.

After rough sailing through high winds and waves, in the evening of 27th of September, we finally saw the contours of Tristan Da Cunha Island and when we reached the island it was completely dark outside. Next morning the weather was bad and we had to spend one more day on the ship. Bags are packed and we are hopefully waiting for next day to finally disembark. Around midday, the barge arrives and takes us ashore.



Waiting to disembark

Locals and Islands administration kindly welcomes us and show us to our homes. In my possession I have a guest house, however, there is problem with little space for antennas because the house is close to other house yards and roads. Nevertheless, I set up small vertical for FT8 and turn on the station. First expedition QSO is made with JE1RMI on 21 Mc 15:25. Then it starts to rain and the wind is getting stronger. There is no internet at the guesthouse so I have to go to town center where the internet station and its antennas is located. After receiving login credentials, I finally can contact home.

During the night weather conditions are getting worse and when the morning comes, I see that my vertical has



Guest house - first QTH location



Vertical bending in the strong winds

found different solution and arranged a room in the kindergarten building. Kindergarten works 5 days a week from morning till 3pm, with 3 baby sitters and 5 kids. With place for antennas and free horizon to main directions for US, EU and JA this place was ideal. For lunch and dinner every day I still went to the guesthouse where the meals were prepared by the hosts.

For the next three days the weather forecast was ideal so firstly I started with setting up *LBS* 18m vertical for low bands that was located inside fence perimeter and its 20m radials didn't trouble anyone. This was followed by *Spiderbeam* and 6m antenna that were placed closer to the station. Antennas for this expedition were prepared so I could set them up alone without help from others.

At this point I could have said that the station was ready and all that remained is just to operate. However, my work with the antennas didn't stop there. On Friday 11th of October, during midday the wind gusts got stronger. With high difficulties I managed to lower *Spiderbeam* and *LBS* vertical. For the next day antennas remained lowered and just before getting dark I raised *LBS* vertical to

been broken in half, however, the upper bands are still operational. Later, after raining stops, I find some time to fix the antenna. With the afternoon the rain and high winds return. The weather forecast with 50 m/s winds are starting to come true and I have to take down the antenna for the wind not to break it again. With morning the storm has passed and I return to work.

Tuesday morning, I went to tourism administration and talked about finding different location for me because this one was not suited for my activities. I asked for a place somewhere in town outskirts so there would be place for setting up antennas. Some of the guest houses were going to be vacated only on 15th of October when the next ship departures. In the end, we



Antennas and the free horizon



Antennas and the mountain behind, station bottom-left



Broken Spiderbeam



Broken LBS vertical



Cows tangled in the Spiderbeam wires

work EU and JA on 80m telegraph. I was planning to do the same on low bands for the following night as well, however, the weather had different plans and the winds just got stronger. This continued for a week and during these days I lowered and fixed *LBS* vertical three times and similar situation was with *Spiderbeam* also. The 6m *Yagi* was beyond repairs.

On early morning of 21st of October, while there still was dark outside, *SPE* power amplifier switched off several times. It turned out that the antenna field got visited by cows and one cow with its calf tangled in the *Spiderbeam* guy wires and my last hopes to fix this antenna were gone with freeing them. Last expedition days were worked only with *DX Commander* and *LBS* vertical.

Initially my goal was to make 60k QSOs so it would qualify for a new Single Op record. However, on 17th of October, when this milestone was reached, my friend Girts YL2KL encouraged me to go for 70k QSOs. The #70 was also special because of my 70th birthday that was coming soon. Doing this was tough but in the end, I managed to reach this result on Sunday evening 20:27z by making the last 70112th QSO on 7 mc CW with CQ0ODX. During the dark I took down the *DX Commander* and packed my gear.

Ship *Edinburg* arrived on Friday, however, weather conditions permitted passengers to disembark only on Monday. Monday morning, after finishing all formalities in the immigration and tourism office, I visited the islands administration and then it was time for boarding. This time the ship was a fishing vessel that's used to catch lobsters that are being processed and packed right there in the ships factory.

Initially, the sailing was planned for 7 days but because of bad weather conditions it was 2 days longer and Cape Town was reached only on Thursday morning. After disembarking and travel formalities I drove to the airport that was followed by couple of flights and finally on Friday's evening I was greeted by my loving wife in Riga airport.

This time I was away from home for more than six weeks. Back home I will be only for one week before going to the next DXpedition VK9XY un VK9CY.

Thanks to all supporters and family. Thanks for going through all of this together with me.

73, Juris /Yuris /YL2GM

Expedition website: <https://lral.lv/zd9w/>



With Tristan Da Cunha's Island administrator

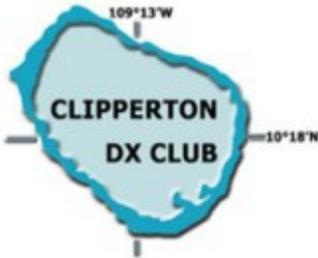
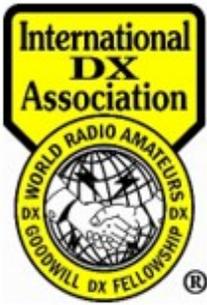


Me in shack

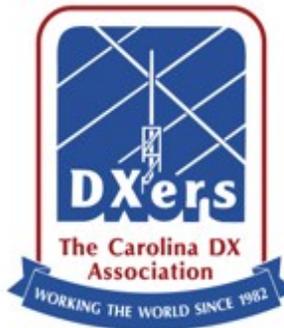


Tristan Da Cunha Island

Main DXpedition supporters



Minnesota



Willamette Valley



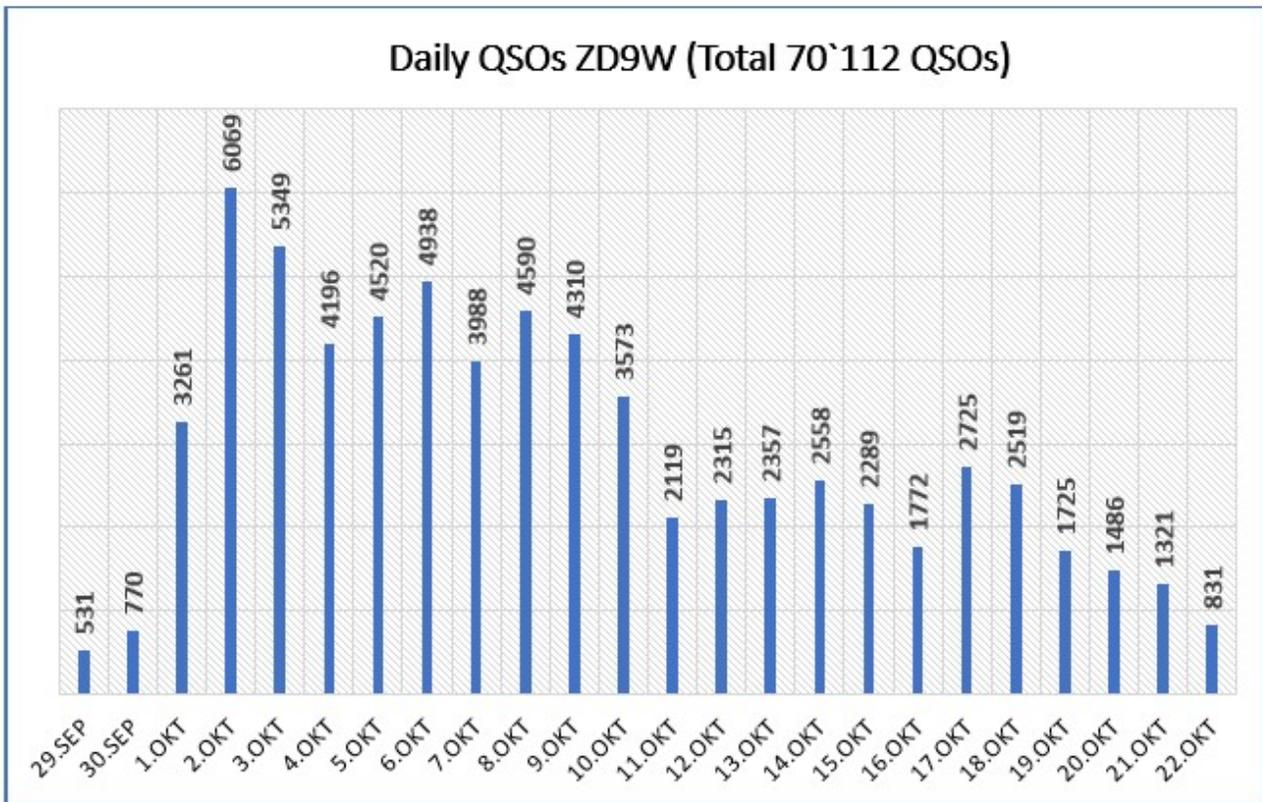
Radioamateurs
du Luxembourg



W6RS, JI1WMI, K6NR, YL3FT, DM2HK, YL2KL, JA1ANR, JA1BK, HB9BAS,
N4II, WA7NB, JO7WXN, LY2BAW, WA1NXC, W3ACO, N7NR, EY8MM, K8FH
and other supporters...



STATISTICS



Band/Mode breakdown ZD9W

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total	Total %
160	114	1406	0	1520	2.2%
80	283	2484	0	2767	3.9%
60	0	0	0	0	0.0%
40	1195	7680	8	8883	12.7%
30	571	7161	0	7732	11.0%
20	490	7696	506	8692	12.4%
17	312	7566	257	8135	11.6%
15	1183	7926	534	9643	13.8%
12	1314	7724	631	9669	13.8%
10	2424	9681	952	13057	18.6%
6	0	14	0	14	0.0%
Totals	7886	59338	2888	70112	100.0%

DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown ZD9W

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total
160	33	57	0	58
80	44	77	0	79
60	0	0	0	0
40	57	108	5	109
30	57	108	0	110
20	48	111	56	116
17	50	115	40	119
15	82	109	55	117
12	71	111	66	116
10	85	118	73	131
6	0	4	0	4
Totals	105	139	94	153

Continent by Mode ZD9W

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total	Total %
AF	84	408	60	552	0.8%
AN	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	857	11921	60	12838	18.3%
EU	4411	29019	1825	35255	50.3%
NA	2175	15434	813	18422	26.3%
OC	26	664	1	691	1.0%
SA	333	1892	129	2354	3.4%
Totals	7886	59338	2888	70112	100.0%

Continent by Band ZD9W

Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	Total	Total %
AF	9	25	0	64	51	63	60	90	89	101	0	552	0.8%
AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	32	409	0	2160	2318	2150	1600	1704	1189	1276	0	12838	18.3%
EU	980	1448	0	3425	3011	3462	4007	5143	5797	7968	14	35255	50.3%
NA	448	726	0	2728	2042	2579	2171	2232	2232	3264	0	18422	26.3%
OC	0	5	0	124	106	129	80	119	64	64	0	691	1.0%
SA	51	154	0	382	204	309	217	355	298	384	0	2354	3.4%
Totals	1520	2767	0	8883	7732	8692	8135	9643	9669	13057	14	70112	100%

QSL card



DELIVERED EXACTLY™

I Have Made Contact with an Alien Intelligence by Dudley Chapman, WA1X

It all started with a project to revive a broken LDG 200-watt autotuner that I picked up at a hamfest from someone selling it for parts. My plan is to replace the PIC processor chip with an Arduino-compatible processor and write custom code. The goal is to have the tuner control a network of antenna relays out in the woods, and do the tuning for various horizontal and vertical antennas.

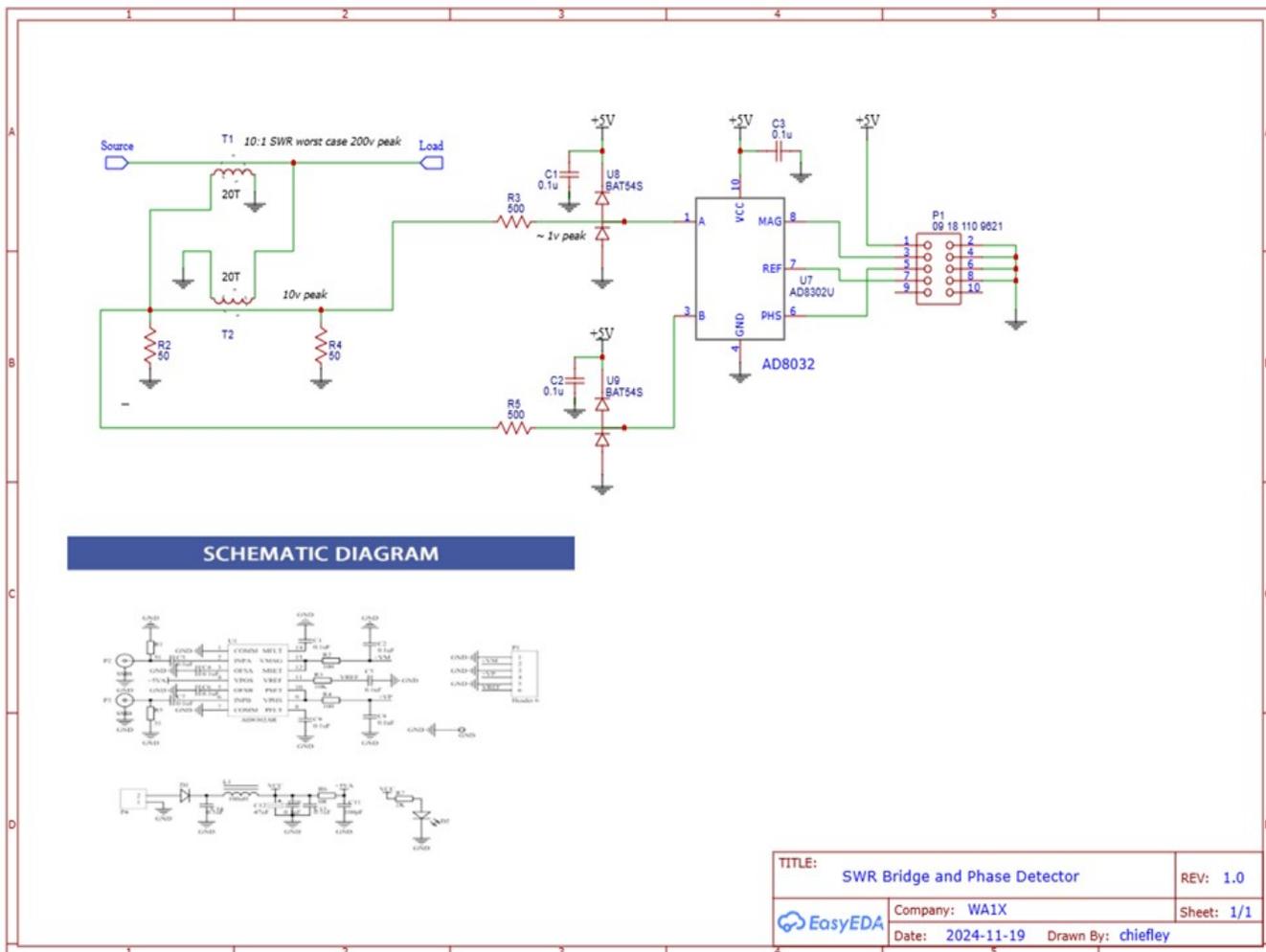
One thing I've always wondered is why these autotuners don't include circuitry to measure the impedance they're trying to match. You'd think that if they could measure both the real and imaginary components of the load impedance, they could calculate the conjugate match, set the values, and be done. Yet, if you've ever watched an SWR meter during autotuning, you've seen how it cycles through various inductance and capacitance values, searching for a good match.

Recently, I came across an ad from Analog Devices for a chip that measures both the ratio of forward and reflected power and their phase difference. I found a small breakout board on Amazon featuring that chip, and the possibilities began to take shape.

Arduino-compatible processors are programmed in C or C++. I used these languages extensively in my early career, automating scientific instruments. However, that was over 40 years ago. Since then, I've worked with more modern, expressive, and productive languages. Suffice it to say, I wasn't particularly thrilled about diving back into writing a lot of C code.

This is where the "alien intelligence" comes in. In my professional software development work, I've been using an AI called ChatGPT to assist with various coding tasks. The more I've learned how to communicate effectively with it, the more complex work it can handle. So, I decided to see if ChatGPT could help me design the circuit and write the C code for this project. Specifically, I needed it to interface with the Analog Devices chip, perform the necessary calculations, and control the antenna relays.

Here's the schematic for the SWR bridge and phase detector circuit. I used an online tool called EasyEDA for schematic capture.



On the left side of the schematic is a classic Stockton SWR Bridge circuit. It measures the RF current and voltage of the transmitted signal going to the antenna. The rectangular component labeled AD8302 represents a small breakout board containing the 8302 chip, along with supporting surface-mount resistors and capacitors. The vendor's schematic for this board is shown at the bottom left. The connector on the upper right allows data transfer from the phase/magnitude detector to the Arduino-compatible controller board.)

Two key design decisions involved selecting the turns ratio for the toroidal transformers and choosing appropriate values for resistors R3 and R5. These needed to be optimized to keep input voltages within the chip's allowable range, even under high SWR conditions. Fortunately, the AD8302 chip features logarithmic amplifiers, enabling it to handle a wide range of input levels. I had the AI perform the necessary calculations for these components.

In a previous conversation about the 8302, the AI suggests protecting the inputs to the 8302 chip with Schottky diodes. This was totally unprompted, but I imagine it probably came across this as it searched the web for information. By the way, the particular part it chose is an excellent choice. Schottky diodes respond really fast. The part it chose has the two diodes in it and it is cheap and readily available.

In my conversation with ChatGPT, I specified that the processor would be a particular version of the ESP32. Remarkably, the AI was able to provide detailed recommendations for pin assignments based on the specific ESP32 board I described. (I haven't included the schematic for the controller part of the project in this article.)

Working with AI systems like ChatGPT is similar to collaborating with a knowledgeable colleague. You provide clear instructions, background information, and your goals. The AI then returns a well-organized response, which may require further refinement based on your feedback.

At the end of this article, I'll provide a link to the full conversation I had with ChatGPT. While you don't need to read through all the technical details, you may find the flow of the conversation and the AI's comprehensive responses quite interesting. My side of the dialogue is displayed in right-aligned comment bubbles, while the AI's responses appear as the main text.

It's worth noting that I've been using ChatGPT for about six months. Over time, it has developed a profile based on our work together and from a résumé I provided early on. This allows it to tailor responses to my level of expertise and provide just the right amount of detail.

One final note: I asked ChatGPT to edit this article for grammar and readability. I hope you found it engaging and informative! The link to the actual conversation with my alien friend is below. Click on the link and scroll to the top of the conversation.

"Open pod bay doors, Hall"

"I'm afraid I can't do that, Dave."

[The Actual Conversation.](https://chatgpt.com/share/67aab78e-5c5c-8006-a500-75a1a43c317a) <https://chatgpt.com/share/67aab78e-5c5c-8006-a500-75a1a43c317a>

Editor's Note: As an experienced software engineer myself, I am blown away how Dudley was able to use ChatGPT interactively and by the output and suggestions that it provided to him. I have used Copilot in my job but not for anything as complex as doing the design and writing the code for Dudley's project. In fact, I am not even sure that the version of Copilot that I'm using is even capable of this. I highly recommend reading the interaction in the links above if you are interested in what AI can do today, and it will just keep getting better.

W8KEN, Ken Kontor, and KZ8Y, David Espasandin, SK by David Autry, WD8IOU

I am saddened to report that NODXA has lost two long time club members, W8KEN, Ken Kontor, and KZ8Y, David Espasandin.

Dave, as he was known by the members, was a former President of NODXA in the early 80s. He was first licensed in 1978 as WD8MOV and upgraded to extra class in 1983 and got his vanity call in 1986. Dave's favorite modes were CW and digital, especially FT8 and FT4. Dave was able to achieve a lot of awards over the years:

- DXCC mixed and phone (Honor Roll)
- 9 band DXCC
- 7 band WAZ
- CQDX
- 5 band WAC
- 9 band WAS

He is survived by his wife Judi.

Ken was first licensed as WN8IAU in June 1963 and upgraded to Technician as WA8IAU in September 1963. He spent many years on 6m, 2m, and 70cm and then upgraded to Advanced in 1979 to work 10m DX. Ken received his vanity call in 1997 and upgraded to Extra in 2000. Ken enjoyed contesting and was a member of the North Coast Contesters contest group.

Ken also had a lot of achievements:

- Top of DXCC Honor Roll - March 2016
- DXCC Challenge Level 2500
- 11 Band WAS - 5 Band WAS with 2m, 6m, 12m, 17m, 30m, and 160m Endorsements
- 10 Band DXCC - 5B DXCC with 6m, 12m, 17m, 30m, and 160m Endorsements
- 5 Band WAZ - 198 Zones CFM
- 2m and 6m WAC

RIP Dave and Ken.



KZ8Y, Dave, well organized shack



WKEN, Ken, busting the pileups!

KF8UN's VK9CV QSL Card by

Byron, KF8UN, was recently active from ZS6 and made just one contact, but it was a good one!

COCOS KEELING ISLAND
VK9CV
 DXPEDITION 2024

Locators: NH87JT
 ITU: 54
 WAZ: 29
 IOTA: OC-003

ZS6/KF8UN
 02-Nov-2024 16:00 17m SSB 59
 TNX QSL de VK9CV

QSO VERIFIED
 OK6DJ
 W73

VK5GR, OM4AYL, OK2ZA, OM5RW, OM4MW
 OM4MM, OK6DJ, OM3PC, OM5ZW

QSL DESIGN: OM4MM QSL PRINT: LZ1JZ

Logos: TCDXA, Minnesota, SDXF, LARS BLY DX ASSOCIATION, IOTA, EUDXF, CDXC (The UK DX Foundation), IOTA, IOTA

QRM Cover by Bob Dunn, K5IQ

HOA Special: Build a STEALTH 160 Meter Phased Vertical Array

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QRM



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DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO BAD HYGEINE

QRM Reviews

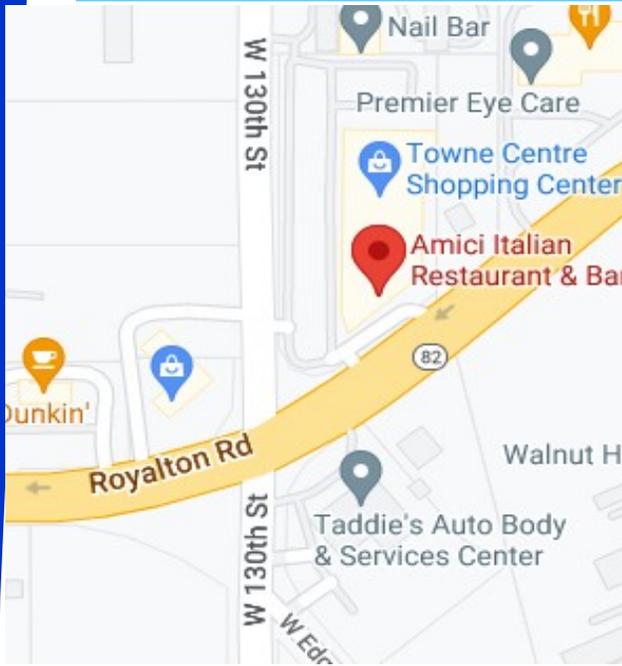
Optimud 9106A
75 Meter AM
Audio Processor

Klabx-V12 Tri-band
Software Defined
Dummy Load

Medi-Tron Truss with
H-T Holster

Special Issue DXPedititions





Meeting Information

NODXA Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the *Amici Italian Restaurant & Bar* at 13000 Royalton Road east of Interstate 71 on the northeast corner of Route 82 and West 130th. in North Royalton at 6:30 PM. Come early and have dinner and meet your fellow DXers and enter the 50/50 raffle.

NODXA Information

NO8DX: Special Event Callsign
 W8DXA: NODXA Repeater 147.360

Web-site: <http://www.papays.com/nodxa.html>
 Newsletter Submission: wd8iou@adelphia.net

NODXA Club Officials for 2024-2025

President:	Tedd Mirgliotta,	KB8NW	(440-237-2816)
V. President:	Dennis Stuber,	K8LBT	(440-628-1959)
Secretary:	Glenn Williams,	AF8C	(440-934-5566)
Treasurer:	Mary Michaelis,	N8DMM	(440-236-5426)
Newsletter:	David Autry,	WD8IOU	(440-238-0417)



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DXCC Info

As of January 2018, the current DXCC Entities total is: **340**.

NODXA Application and Renewal Form

The Northern Ohio DX Association is a non-profit organization with a primary interest in DXing. We encourage all DXers to join our group and share the interest and fun of DXing.

Please complete the application below and send along your appropriate dues or renewal to:

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

First Time Membership/Renewal (U.S. and DX) **\$20.00**

Name _____ Callsign _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/Prov. _____
 Country _____ ZIP _____
 E-mail _____
 Telephone _____
 ARRL Member? _____ Exp. Date _____ DXCC Member? _____
 Special Interest _____

Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, AF8C, K8YSE, WA1X, KF8UN, YL2GM, K5IQ, and dx-world.net.