

February-March-April 2016

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,



Here we are in April and spring is here as of March 20th, but you could of fooled me with all the snow we had during the first week of April. Hopefully winter is finally over. Although I can not complain too much because it has been an easy winter. Let's hope that our spring and summer are warm and dry ones. We do not need another wet ARRL Field Day like last year. Field Day which is less than three months away (mark your calendars, June 25-26th).

So, let's talk DX. January, February, and March were interesting months to start the year for DXers. I hope everyone got a chance to work the K5P, VP8STI, VP8SGI, VKOEK and FT4JA operations for an "All Time New One" (ATNO) or for a band fill. Here is the line-up (as I am writing this) for the

coming months:

April 11-24th	-- 8R1A Guyana; Ranked #114
April 16-24th	-- CEØY/LU4DXU Easter Island; Ranked 105
April 16-25th	-- EP2A Iran; Ranked #56
April 18-22nd	-- V85/OE9SBD Brunei; Ranked #101
April 19-25th	-- 5WØXG Samoa; Ranked #162
April 30th-May 28th	-- YJØCS Vanuatu; Ranked #94
August 19-29th	-- CY9C St. Paul Island (NA-094); Ranked #60

* All rankings are from ClubLog's Most Wanted List (Overall Listing).

<http://www.clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

NODXA has finally received a request for a donation for the CY9C operation, but the membership is undecided whether to donate due to other coming events. The P5/3Z9DX North Korea (Ranked #1) operation was supposed to take place sometime in January/February, but has now be postponed until the end of summer 2016. Reports indicate that Dom, 3Z9DX, has submitted his documentation in mid-January to the ARRL DXCC Desk for approval for his recent P5/3Z9DX operation in December 2015. On March 30th, the P5/3Z9DX operation was approved for DXCC. However, on March 28th, Kingman Reef (KH5) was deleted from the DXCC list because of DXCC Rules Section II DXCC List Criteria, Part 5(a) Deletion Criteria:

"An entity may be deleted from the List if it no longer satisfies the criteria under which it was added. However, if the entity continues to meet one or more currently existing rules, it will remain on the List."

It is time to start thinking/planning for the upcoming May 2016 Dayton HamVention. The HamVention will be here before you know it. Word has it that it is still going to be at Hara Arena this year. Tickets and details are available online at: <http://hamvention.org/about/hamvention>

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).

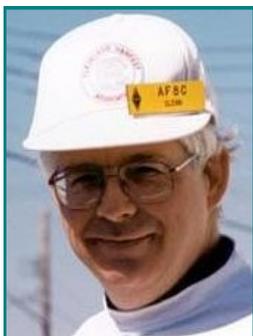
As a reminder, if you have a topic to discuss about DXing or contesting, bring it up at the meeting. Also, if you would like to put on a program of some interest for the club in the coming months, let us know so we can schedule you in for a meeting. We are always looking for a program.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. It is time to start thinking about renewing your dues!!!!

Minutes of the December 7th, 2015 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by vice president Dwaine, K8ME, with 20 members and guests present. Goose, W8AV, was our guest and card checker this evening. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the undersigned read the minutes for the meeting of November 2, 2015.



The treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the next newsletter is in progress but that he needs more material. He is looking for useful material for the newsletter and he will accept photos of QSL cards, DX stories, or other related items.

Dwaine discussed that January will be busy with Palmyra and other good DX. VK9WA has been confirmed by W8AV on Logbook of the World. W8AV, Goose, will not be in Florida and he may be checking cards at our meetings twice a year. The Mansfield Hamfest is to occur on February 21, 2016, which is again the same weekend as the ARRL DX CW contest.

Old/New Business:

Under Old Business, Dwaine has the documentation for the Indiana QSO Party. Under New Business there is important news relative to the expiration of our Statutory Agent status with the State of Ohio. Glenn, AF8C, in doing some random perusal of the State's records back in November, learned that NODXA's registration expired in 2005. Thereafter, Tedd applied for renewal, a process that required paying \$25 for Tedd to become the Statutory Agent, \$25 to have the Club reinstated (you can not renew after 5 years) and \$50 to have the mailing address changed. On a motion by Tim, W8TAH, and seconded by Gary, NI8Z, the club will cover those costs to the tune of \$100.00. The motion passed on the vote.

Next month's meeting will have the video of the K1N Navassa DXpedition. Pete, N8TR, spoke on the recent CQ WW DX contest. The conditions allowed contacting many countries and zones. Pete worked 175 countries on 40, 20, and 15m, working all zones as an assisted class operation. WB8K reported having 3800 QSOs at K8AZ, eventually going over 4000. Pete said that FL on 10m could hear a lot of stations. W8AV had 123 countries on 40m. Pete heard that Don, K8MFO, used a 4-square on 80m very successfully. Rick, K8ZH, helped at that site, which is a Christmas tree farm. Dwaine noted that the ARRL 10m contest is happening this coming weekend. After that the next contests worth working for DX are the CQ 160m contests in early 2016.

It was announced that KL7RA became a Silent Key a few weeks ago. This means that possibly no AK stations will be on 160m. Karl, K8BCK, noted that the Princess Elisabeth Station OPOLE from Antarctica is again up. Dwaine then mentioned that the RI1A station is also on.

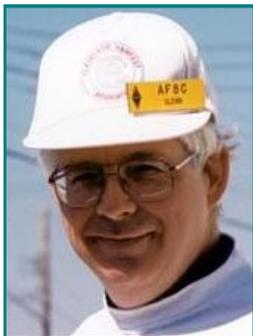
Wrapup:

The next meeting will occur on January 4. Karl, K8BCK, won the door prize that was contributed by Linda, N8LRS. All discussions closed at approximately 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the January 4th, 2016 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by president Tedd, KB8NW, with 17 members present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the undersigned read the minutes for the meeting of December 7, 2015. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed on the vote.



The treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed on the vote. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the next newsletter has been delayed by all the holiday events, some vacation, and computer problems. He always needs more material for the newsletter.

Tedd's question on the status of the repeater was answered by Glenn, AF8C, reporting that during last Monday's 9 p.m. West Park Radiops net on the repeater there was a large amount of static. This may have been occurring during weather related precipitation. Tedd reviewed again the Statutory Agent renewal process that happened in December. On Tedd's question of how often the renewal must occur, both Pete, N8TR, and Glenn, AF8C, among possible others, stated that the renewal must occur every five years. On the question by Glenn, AF8C, whether the annual repeater renewal with OARC had been accomplished, Dwaine answered in the affirmative.

Old/New Business:

Gary, NI8Z, stated that the CARS VE exams this month will occur at the gymnasium in Independence and not at the Old Town Hall. A Dayton story: an astronaut was signing certificates but Dwaine, K8ME, missed his chance. So he wrote a letter to NASA and soon a certificate came in mail from astronaut Richard Garriott, W5KWQ. Dave, KZ8Y, announced he received his Chesterfield cards just today. Gary, NI8Z, is still awaiting a certificate for working Route 66 stations.

Tedd discussed that the area previously named Auckland and Campbell Islands has had a name change to New Zealand Subantarctic and includes the Antipodes and Bounty Islands which have never been activated before. ZL9A, as Antipodes Island, will be on during January 7 through 10 as IOTA OC-286, 40-10m CW, SSB. There was no interest by members for sending a contribution to ZL9A. W5KUN has been holding Tuesday evening video roundtable events on the Web. Tuesday night the roundtable is bringing people from DARA to discuss the next Hamvention status. The station P5/3Z9DX was on for a short burst of DX in late December, and in the U.S. it was only heard on the West Coast. Tedd listed the next few big DX events in the next two months: ZL9A, Palmyra on January 12, South Sandwich and South Georgia, and Heard Island. Conditions these days are not all that good, so "Work Them While You Can".

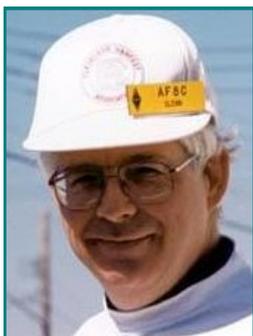
"The Mission of the Northern Ohio DX Association is to promote and support Amateur Radio and the DX Community around the world."

Wrapup:

The next meeting will occur on February 1. A motion to adjourn made by Tim, W8TAH, was seconded by Bruce, N8DJX, and passed. Nelson, K8DJC, won the 50/50 raffle and donated his half of the \$28 back to the club. Joe, N8QXC, won the drawing for a door prize, a refrigerator magnet. All discussions closed at approximately 8:00 p.m. and preparations were started for the viewing of the K1N (Navassa) video that was previously announced.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the February 1st, 2016 NODXA Meeting



The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by president Tedd, KB8NW, with 20 members present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the undersigned read the minutes for the meeting of January 4, 2016. Gary, NI8Z, moved and Tim, W8TAH, seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed on the vote. The treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Tim, W8TAH, moved and Dwaine, K8ME, seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed on the vote. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the next newsletter is in progress. He has a nice article on the TX0. He has the needs for more material for the newsletter.

Tedd's question on the status of the repeater was answered by Glenn, AF8C, reporting that on December 28, January 11, and January 25 the West Park Radiops net on the repeater suffered with a large amount of static, but only on certain stations, not all. This may have been occurring during weather-related precipitation. Tedd, and Denny, WB8K, requested that AF8C provide a list of operator's station radios, microphones, power levels, and call signs for directionality and power research to see if there is a pattern in the noise produced.

Old/New Business:

Bruce, N8DJX, will contribute \$50.00 to ZL9A now. Gary, NI8Z, moved and Tim, W8TAH, seconded a motion that the club match that amount. The motion passed on the vote. Tedd, KB8NW, said we will have our logo on their card. Dwaine, K8ME, had Dayton bus ride flyers available. The Dayton Saturday is May 21. The bus carries 56 passengers and has WIFI and restroom facilities. The Mansfield Hamfest is on February 21, the same day as the ARRL International DX CW competition. The NOARS winter hamfest is on March 6.

Tedd has received a donation request from the St. Paul (CY9) group. That group will operate on CW, SSB, and RTTY. They have been to the NODXA Hospitality Suite. Tedd said that DX Magazine wrote that the CY9 will be in Club Log. VK9CK Cocos Keeling will be up on February 26 with CW, SSB, RTTY, on 80 and 160. You can get their rank off Club Log in March. Iran DX EP2A will be up in April, with Lithuanian and Russian operators.(YL7A) . Rich, K8ZH, says that ET7L is on. One request was tabled.

N8TR reported that VP8SGI was on 160m at 11 p.m. They were on 40m today at 4 p.m. K8ME, Dwaine, worked them on 30m last night. See Tedd's bulletin about Layang Layang Island, Spratly Islands, 9MOS. A discussion of VP8STI's recent operations and travails occurred. Pete, N8TR, said K5P, Palmyra Island, was just using vertical antennas which explains their signal quality.

Tedd needs to ship his FT-1000MP back for repair and needs a shipping box. WA4GEG is the repair guy. This radio was originally owned by Joe, W8ZSD. Soon the video of VP8SSI will be shown again. Discussion ended with a pun about South Sandwich Island.

Wrapup:

The next meeting will occur on March 7. Nominations of new officers will occur during that meeting. A motion to adjourn made by Tim, W8TAH, and seconded by Dwaine, K8ME, and passed. Ron, K8VGJ, won the 50/50 raffle and donated his half of the \$32 back to the club. Door prize drawings were won by K8FF, AF8C, K8ZH, NI8Z, and K8ME. All discussions closed at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Why You Should Get Your Extra Class License by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Amateur Extra Class license is the highest class of license in the United States, and perhaps the world. Many hams—even hams that live outside the U.S.—aspire to pass the test and be awarded one.

There wasn't always an Amateur Extra Class license. The Extra class license, as we know it today, was created as part of the 1951 license restructuring, that also created the Novice and Technician Class licenses. (In 1951, the Novice license was the "beginner's license." To get a Technician Class license, you had to pass the written test that General Class operators had to pass.)



Although it gave an operator no additional privileges, to get an Extra Class license, one had to:

- * Pass a 20 wpm code test (Generals had to pass only a 13 wpm code test).
- * Pass a longer and more difficult written examination than the General Class exam.
- * Have at least two years of experience as a licensed radio amateur.

Today, without the code test and the experience requirement, many hams upgrade to Extra Class as soon as they can. Some even pass the Technician Class, General Class, and the Amateur Extra Class exams in a single test session.

So, what's the attraction? Why should you upgrade to Extra?

One of the reasons that you should upgrade to Extra is that you get use of the entire 80m, 40m, 20m, and 15m bands. Portions of those bands, such as 3.6 - 3.7 MHz in the 75m band and 14.150 - 14.175 Mhz in the 20m phone band, are reserved exclusively for Extra Class licensees. Extra Class operators also have exclusive privileges in the CW portions of the 80m, 40m, 20m, and 15m bands. These are the frequencies where the DX stations hang out.

Another reason to get your Extra Class license is that only Extra Class licensees can administer General Class and Extra Class license exams. General Class operators can become Volunteer Examiners (VEs), but they are only allowed to administer Technician Class exams.

Another reason you might want to get an Extra Class license is to get a fancy vanity callsign. Only Extra Class operators can apply for 1×2 or 2×1 callsigns, such as W8RP or KT8K. A short, snappy callsign can help you work more DX or improve your contest scores.

Whatever your reason, studying for the Extra Class exam will open your eyes to many aspects of the hobby that you may not be familiar with. And, as you work your way through the material, you'll learn things that make you a better amateur radio operator and enable you to enjoy the hobby more. It's not easy, but in the end, an Extra Class license will help you have more fun with amateur radio.



Memorial Event "Fornovo's Sack Battle" ? by Cristiano Cornini, IW4CLV

April 18th - 28th, 2016 - IQ4FE - Special commemorative QSL

From April 18th to 28th, 2016, A.R.I. Fidenza will be On the Air on HF bands with the callsign IQ4FE, to commemorate the World War II event "Fornovo's sack battle" occurred near Parma - Italy end April 1945 with the contribution of the Brazilian forces supporting the allied troops: "Força Expedicionária Brasileira" (FEB).

Special commemorative QSL via bureau to IQ4FE, for further information see : www.arifidenza.it and IQ4FE at www.qrz.com.

A.R.I. FIDENZA
ASSOCIAZIONE RADIOAMATORI ITALIANI

Commemoration
of the World War II
military event
"Fornovo's sack battle"

April 18th to 28th , 2016

A.R.I. - Italian Radioamateur League - Fidenza Group (Parma, PR)
www.arifidenza.it - arifidenza@arifidenza.it

A.R.I. FIDENZA
ASSOCIAZIONE RADIOAMATORI ITALIANI

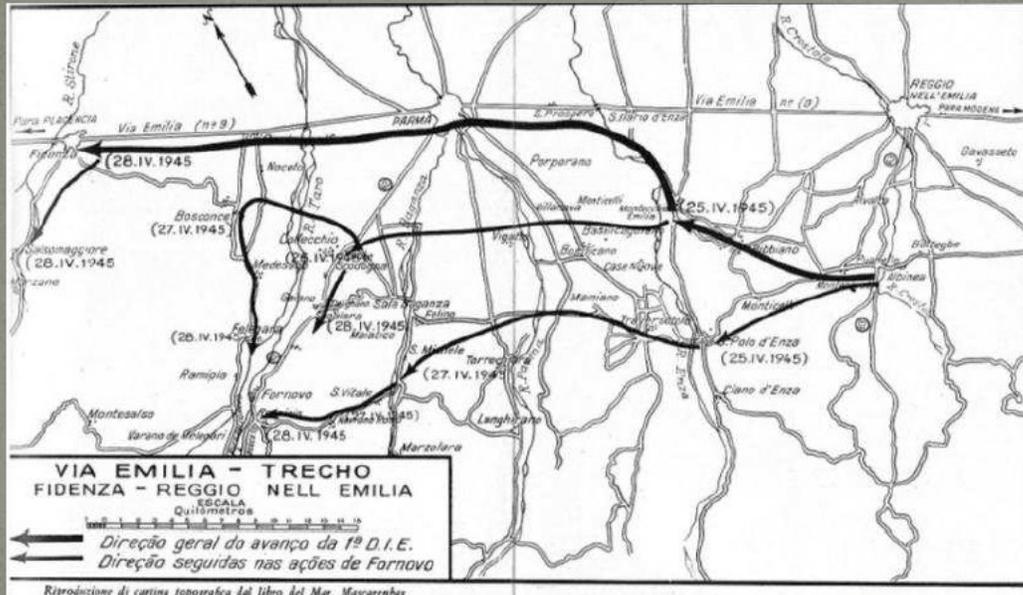
History records the
"Fornovo's sack Battle"
as one among the last military events at the end of World War II
in Italy, which took place at the end of April, 1945.

The facts related to this battle took place in the wide plain valley
around Fornovo di Taro, during the retreat of the German army
coming from the "Gothic Line" and attempting to find a way
through back to Germany, crossing Taro river.

In this context the German army fought against the Brazilian
troops belonging to the "F.E.B." (Força Expedicionária
Brasileira) supported by units of the Italian "partisans",
spontaneous antifascist insurrectional groups.

A.R.I. FIDENZA
ASSOCIAZIONE RADIOAMATORI ITALIANI

Military map, part of the F.E.B.'s soldiers equipment.



A.R.I. FIDENZA
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F.E.B. units in action

A.R.I. FIDENZA
ASSOCIAZIONE RADIOAMATORI ITALIANI

Many attempts and efforts were spent with the aim of avoiding further suffering and bloodbaths to the local population. Specifically a courageous priest, *Don Alessandro Cavalli*, took the initiative to negotiate the capitulation conditions between the fighting forces. As a recognition of his brave actions, the priest was honoured with both civil and military highest Brazilian decorations.

Hostilities officially ceased on April 28th 1945, after countersignature of the capitulation treaty by hand of the German forces.

A few days after surrendered to the F.E.B. forces also Gen. Mario Carloni and Gen. Otto Fretter-Pico, heads of the territorial Italo - German units.

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ASSOCIAZIONE RADIOAMATORI ITALIANI

From the left to the right : Gen. Carloni and Gen. Fretter-Pico surrender to the plenipotentiary heads of the F.E.B. (recognisable through the characteristic epaulettes depicting a cobra snake smoking pipe)

A.R.I. FIDENZA
ASSOCIAZIONE RADIOAMATORI ITALIANI

The “Fornovo’s sack Battle” is the only military action involving the F.E.B. during the World War II. For this reason, still nowadays Brazilian people celebrate this event with deep emotion and gratitude feelings.

For the same reason, the Brazilian military Authorities participate every year in the celebrations taking place on April 25th at the Municipality of Fornovo di Taro.

For bibliographic references and further details, see :

<http://win.storiain.net/arret/num187/artic5.asp>

<http://www.iatfornovo.it/page.asp?IDCategoria=482&IDSezione=2264&ID=72898>

Historical research by Claudio Venusti, IU4DTT

A.R.I. FIDENZA
ASSOCIAZIONE RADIOAMATORI ITALIANI

In order to commemorate these dramatic historical events, which scared the people living in these territories at the end of the second World War, from April 18th to April 26th 2016 the Radioamateurs of A.R.I. Fidenza will held wide - world radio contacts, specifically with their Brazilian colleagues, whose military units were located in these places at that time.

At the end of the activity period “On the Air”, a special event - dedicated, commemorative “confirmation card” (QSL), specifically designed for this event, will be sent for free to every contacted Radioamateur.

A.R.I. FIDENZA

ASSOCIAZIONE RADIOAMATORI ITALIANI

The goal of this initiative is to join the “Technical” aspect of the radiocommunications with the “Historical – Cultural” one in full harmony with the “HAM Spirit” of the Radioamateurs, consisting mainly in didactic and educational activities, research and dissemination of the technical Culture, aimed to ideally join together in Peace people and Nations all over the world.

For further informations :

A.R.I. – Associazione Radioamatori Italiani
 Ratified as “Ente Morale” (Entity with Moral purposes) by the Italian Republic Decree
 D.P.R. n. 368 of Oct.01, 1950
 Group of Fidenza (43.02) - IQ4FE
 Piazza Garibaldi 25/F – 43036 Fidenza (PR)
 www.arifidenza.it - arifidenza@arifidenza.it

DXCC Deletion of Kingman Reef by Dave Patton, NN1N

The ARRL Awards Committee has voted to delete Kingman Reef (KH5) from the DXCC List, effective 29 March, 2016. Kingman Reef will be added to the Deleted Entities List on 29 March, 2016. The total number of entities on the List will drop from 340 to 339.

The deletion process is described in DXCC Rules Section II DXCC List Criteria, Part 5(a) Deletion Criteria: “An entity may be deleted from the List if it no longer satisfies the criteria under which it was added. However, if the entity continues to meet one or more currently existing rules, it will remain on the List.”

With respect to the previous paragraph’s text, Kingman Reef’s original addition by virtue of separate administration has changed (separate administration by the U.S. Navy has been removed), and the reef does not meet any current criteria to remain on the list. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers Kingman Reef and Palmyra Island. The reef is too close to Palmyra Island to count as a separate entity. The reef is now considered part of the Palmyra/Jarvis DXCC entity.

DXCC members who have affirmed credit with Kingman Reef will see their current entity totals drop by one on their DXCC awards -- including on the bands and modes where Kingman Reef credit is given. They will also see their DXCC Challenge totals drop commensurately. Honor Roll status will now be attainable after confirming 330 entities on the DXCC List.



Press Release



The Amateur Radio Section of ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) and the Documentary Archives Radio Communications /QSL Collection will operate, for 72 hours only, a special event station with the call sign

OE16M

Friday, 22. – Sunday 24. April 2016 (00:00-24:00 UTC)

**OE16M is an official “International Marconi Day” station.
Contacts made on Saturday, 23 April 2016 are valid for the IMD Award.**

Bureau QSL via OE1WHC. QSL info: www.qrz.com/db/oe16m

Press Contact: Wolf Harranth, OE1WHC

office@dokufunk.org

QSL motif download www.qsl.at/down/oe16m.tif

REVIEW: QRPGuys Iambic Mini Paddle by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I really wanted to like this little \$15 paddle, especially after the great experience I had building the [QRPGuys code practice oscillator](#). Being in the ham radio business myself, I applaud the [QRPGuys](#) for jumping in and trying to produce products that make ham radio more fun.

Unfortunately, I just don't like this paddle.



First of all, assembling the paddle seems more difficult than it needs to be. I should have paid attention with the product's webpage said, "Allow a couple of hours or so to build." It took me about an hour and a half, and I'm not an inexperienced kit builder.

There are lots of parts. The parts list showed 50 parts, and there are lots of little nuts, washers, and screws. The hardest part is attaching the paddle arms to the spacers. This is done with #2 hardware, and it's a real pain to get the #2 lock washers and nuts on the screws. And, I have fairly small hands and fingers. I can only imagine how much more difficult it would be if my hands and fingers were larger.

Another feature that I didn't care for is the lightweight shim material used for the levers. I don't think they are stiff enough. The assembly instructions say, "The .010" thickness paddle leaves provide a light touch. A user could make a leaf with thicker material for a stiffer touch."



I think that what the QRPGuys should really do is to either include two sets of levers—one thin and one thick—or offer the stiffer material as an option. Knowing that I generally like a stiffer feel, I would have chosen the thicker material when I purchased the paddle had I been given that option.

Finally, before you purchase this paddle you really should know exactly how you want to mount it. As shown in the photo above, it's designed to mount to a homebrew enclosure, and there are no provisions for other mounting schemes. You won't be able to use this with your KX3, for example. I think that severely limits the applications for this paddle.

One possibility is to use a longer screw in between the two paddles and mount it to a metal plate. I might look into doing something like that.

The bottom line is that if you know exactly where you're going to mount this paddle, then this paddle could work for you. On the other hand, if you don't really have a specific application for it, you're probably better off not buying this paddle.

The NEW Heathkit GR-150 Explorer Jr. AM Radio Receiver Paddle

By Neil Shapiro W2NLS

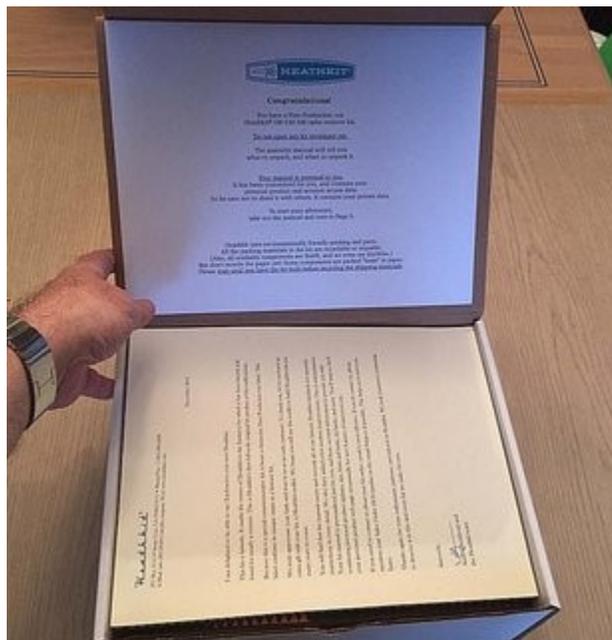
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In 1992, the Heathkit Company announced that they would no longer make kits. With that announcement decades of kit building came to an end. Most of us thought Heath kits would never return. But in 2012, on their website, they announced they were going to restructure and kits would come back. Finally, a few months ago (in the latter part of 2015) I saw an announcement for their first new kit since 1992 - the GR-150 Explorer Jr. AM Radio Receiver. I immediately ordered one, I just could not help myself.

Yes, the website description raised a lot of questions. First off, the price of around \$150 for an AM receiver kit seemed quite high. The pictures showed that the little radio did not have a tuning dial, but just a blank knob for tuning. There seemed to be no volume control (!) and it was offered without any internal or external speaker but would accept ear buds. And there was no soldering but the parts attached to the circuit board with screws.

I didn't care. Heath was back! There had to be something great about the new kit, something that would not just be nostalgia but exciting. In just a few days the kit arrived and I was transported back many decades to the first time, as a Novice back in 1960, I had tackled the first of many kits.



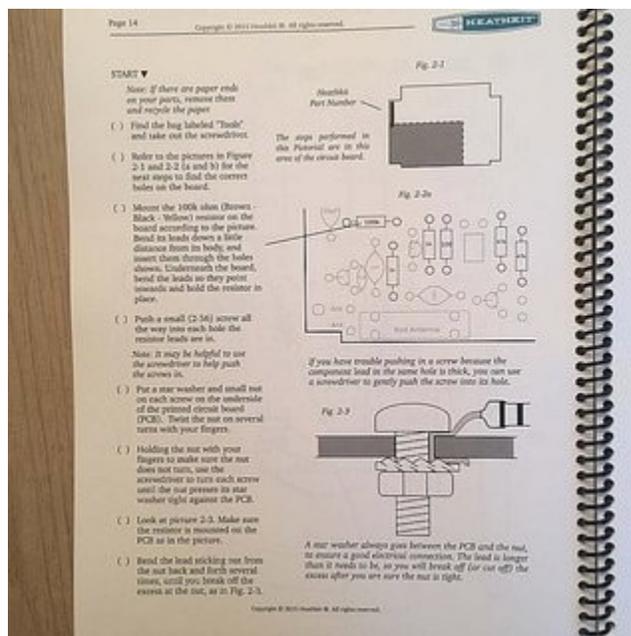
The packing box, as shown in the photos, was quite Heathkit like. And opening it presented me first with a congratulatory letter on purchasing this new kit. Moving aside the letter and emptying out the box (see photos) was very much a Heath experience. The manila envelopes with sorted and labeled parts, the nicely wrapped cabinet and the manual were all there again. Particularly the manual caught my eye. In my opinion, no one has ever produced manuals of the quality and the general helpfulness of a Heathkit manual. This one appeared to be no exception.

Looking over the manual my first choice was to either adopt the new methodology of using stainless steel screws, washers and nuts to install the parts or to go with soldering. Yes, the manual indicates

soldering is indeed an option although because the holes are bigger in diameter there are a few things to watch out for. However, I decided to try something new and used the screws. They did make good connections and were easy to install. (See photo). Overall, it was slower than soldering but this is a kit that as the manual indicates was designed with everyone in mind from 9 years old and up. So, don't worry about buying this for your grandkid and then having to explain to her Mom how she got those burns.



The PCB assembly went very quickly (at least once I got into the screw-down technique). The manual was spot-on and was overkill for the complexity level for me for sure but, again, this is for new as well as old builders. The only glitch was that three resistors were missing. And although the manual cautions about tightening too much on the hold down screws I managed to break a lead off a ceramic cap.

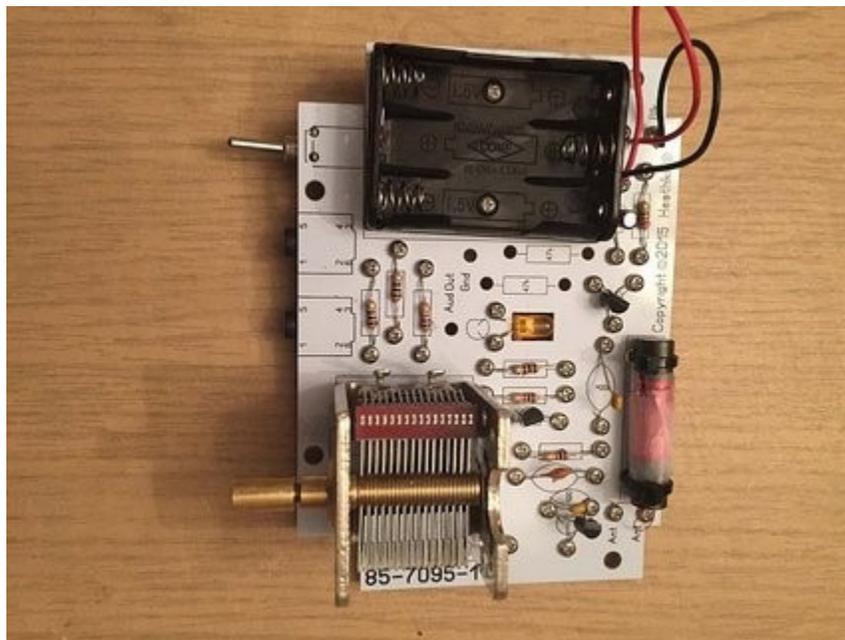


It was just after Christmas and I emailed Heath, not expecting to hear until after the holidays. But just a day later I did get a reply saying that although they were closed for the holidays they would go in especially for me and pick the parts and mail them to me. Great support! I received the four parts two business days later and completed the board.

Most of the assembly was straightforward. I had not wound a coil in years and must say I was a little worried about it. But the manual was very clear and illustrated a technique that was new to me and it took me just a few minutes to make a very nice professional looking coil.

Turning it on after installing the included AAA cells lit the LED and ear buds plugged into the first of two pre-installed jacks showed it was working. Next thing was to mount it in the cabinet.

The cabinet is small but well made. The wood front has a really beautiful grain. The metal below that wood can be chosen in a number of colors. I chose a color close to the wood but you can contrast as well. Assembly of the cabinet was a little tricky but the standoffs and all did fit well and it looked very handsome or, at least, quite cute.



So how does it work?

OK, let's first talk a little theory. This is not a world-class or even up-to-date AM receiver. Actually, it is far from that. This is a TRF or Tuned Radio Frequency receiver. According to Wikipedia this circuit was patented in 1916. That is not a typo! However, due to solid-state componentry they were able to reduce the multiple tuned stages of such radios in the 1920's to just one tuned circuit. This cuts way down on the complexity of tuning.

Tuning this radio is very simple although not as simple as today's radio circuits. You must tune very slowly across each signal. It is similar to tuning an AM station while set in SSB mode. You first hear the whine of the lower sideband, which gradually clears to the AM carrier (and if you go by it the whine starts up again). Selectivity is just about not there although it is more sensitive than I had thought it would be. Here on Long Island it easily picks up all of the stronger stations and a few of the medium strength ones as well.

The only bone I have to pick with its operation (keeping in mind it uses technology from 1920!) is the metal case is very sensitive to being touched. I believe it is because your finger causes a change in the coil tuning. Worse, I found that of the two ear bud jacks one works much better than the other one. The one nearer the knob seems to impart some frequency instability to the tuning. Not enough to make it useless but you cannot put two sets of ear buds on the receiver at once (at least this one) as both

will have to be tuned and used separately or you get the detuned whining sound.

But, I tell you it is really a thrill of sorts to use, as it is truly an old-time radio. I think that I may actually buy another to put aside to maybe build with my own grandson in a few years. I can see where you could build this with a young girl or boy and actually be able to explain what is happening and how the radio works rather than if you built something with an IC doing all of the work in one complex place.



I understand that Heath will also be offering an expansion or matching external speaker. And, as a builder, you get your own login to a special area where in the future users will share hacks and modifications as well as Heath authorized tricks and techniques. It looks like it will be fun.

Still, I am wondering how this kit will sell? It is a little difficult to see how many of the kids who grew up with TV just before it went 3D and 4K are going to want to build an AM radio. And the cost of \$150 is certainly not cheap. I hope that Heath will perhaps try giving schools special pricing and try to sell it in multiples as a classroom project or the like. Lowering the price could not hurt either.

It's a far cry from an updated SB-220 linear amplifier for sure. But it does show innovation, appealing design and a real hope that we will see Heathkit once again becoming a force in the industry. Here's a fan who wishes them well!

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Neil Shapiro was the Electronics Editor of POPULAR MECHANICS Magazine from 1975 through 1984 and introduced many Heathkits to hams and other enthusiasts.

The NODXA Pre-Contest CQWW WPX Contest Luncheon



The NODXA Pre-Contest CQWW WPX Contest Luncheon.

Attendees are KB8NW (picture taker), right-side - K8LBT, KC8VTF, K8BCK, K8ME, K8QXC and K8AJS.

Center N8KEP. Left-side - K8EUR, N8TR, N8DMM, WB8K, K8KR and AF8C.

Everyone enjoyed the new restaurant (Buffalo, Wild, Wings) and big room....

The Quest For Zone 23 by Scotty, WK3N



Zone 23 is the most sought after and most rare of all the CQ zones here in North America. It includes Mongolia, a small part of RUSSIA and China.

After working BG9XD on 12 meters, I checked his bio to find he was in zone 23. I emailed him, Mr. Chenxing Yu, asking for the call signs of Chinese zone 23 stations. He reported back they are BG9XD, BG9MFY, BG9OF, BD9XE and BD0AAI.

I know this will help those who have excepted this difficult challenge. Good Luck.

Please reserve and pay for your 2016 Dayton Hamvention Bus Trip ASAP.

Saturday May 21, 2016 CARS is again sponsoring a Bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention.

Every amateur radio operator in the world probably dreams about going to the Dayton Hamvention at least once. Please join us in 2016, it is an incredible event and offers something for everyone.



The Bus trip will cost \$50.00 dollars per person, we will not stop for breakfast on the way down, but there may be a fast food stop on the way home. You are responsible for both your food and Hamvention tickets. Go to <http://www.hamvention.org/tickets.php> to order your tickets.

Stop 1: The 56 passenger bus will leave promptly at 5:00 am from the Kmart parking lot at the intersection of Engle and Bagley Roads, in Middleburg Heights, Engle Road is a 1/4 mile west of I-71, Kmart is behind the Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there is security.

Stop 2: The bus will also pickup riders at I-71 & Rt 303 at the SE corner of the Kmart parking lot and will depart for Dayton at approximately 5:30 am.

When ordering tickets please tell us which stop you will be at.

Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance.

If you have any questions please see Dwaine at a CARS meeting or call him at 440-582-3462. Checks must be made out to CARS and mailed to: Dwaine Modock K8ME, 8113 Thornhurst Dr., North Royalton, OH 44133 attn. Dayton bus

73, Dwaine, K8ME

Items For Sale

Hygain T2X Tailtwister Rotor with manual and control box. Has been repaired and updated by CATS Rotor Doctor.

\$500

Kenwood TL922 Linear Amplifier with manual and new band switch and updated by Don Kessler, has pair of 3-500Z tubes, 160 through 10 meters.

\$800

Contact Dwaine, K8ME @ k8me@sbcglobal.net

Antennas For Sale

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

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

Both are partially disassembled.

Contact Denny @ wb8k@arrl.net

**Hams obey
Ohm's Law**

<http://www.kb6nu.com>



Meeting Information

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

NODXA Information

NO8DX: Special Event Callsign
 W8DXA: NODXA Repeater 147.360

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

NODXA Club Officials for 2016-2017

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



DXCC Info

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

NODXA Application and Renewal Form

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

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

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

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

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

Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, K8ME, KB8NW, K8YSE, AF8C, IW4CLV, OE1WHC, W2NLS, NN1N, WK3N, and KB6NU.