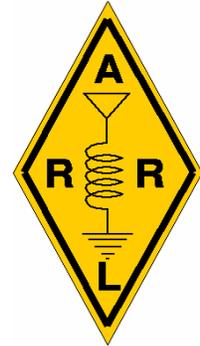


May-June 2008

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



# The NODXA RAG



## Poolside (finally!) Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DX'ers,

WOW! I can not believe that half of the year is almost over. The Dayton HamVention is over and it was great as always (even though the attendance was down). The NODXA Hospitality Suite was well attended on all three nights. The club thanks Janeen Hire, W8ZET, once again for providing the suite and the great munchies (I look forward to the chocolate-chip cookies every year). I believe we have the best suite every year.



Now back to DX. As this was being written, 4W6R from Timor-Leste is on the air, so this should make June fun for a couple of weeks before "Field Day". There is still no activity yet by Petrus, ZS6GCM (aka 3YOE), from Marion Island as ZS8T. Be patient on this one. Petrus is expected to be on the island for about a year. Other operations expected during the month of June will take place from Mozambique (C9), Sable Island (CY0), and Uganda (5X1). Stay tuned!

I want to remind everyone that the ARRL's "Field Day" will take place on June 28-29th. NODXA's "Field Day" suite will be at the same location as last year. I hope to see you out there. We always have a great time operating and rag-chewing. There is always plenty of munchies and beverages. Let's hope for good weather. Come out and join the fun. A map should be available somewhere in this newsletter.

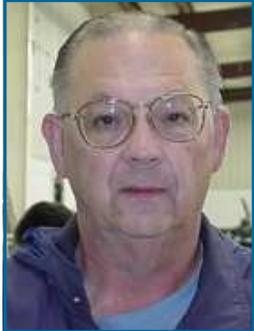
Lastly, (I hate to be a broken record) I want to remind everyone that the club dues were due in May, and they are now \$20. Remember, your funds are to help promote DX and support DXpeditions.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

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

## Minutes of the March 3rd, 2008 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:30pm. There were 15 members and 1 guest present.



After a round of introductions, the minutes of the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting were read. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$\$\$\$ in the account.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the repeater is running fine and that the apparently unlicensed operators are gone. Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster was running fine for the recent CQWW DX - SSB contest. The week before there were problems.

Old - New Business

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter was delayed because of computer problems.

Linda, N8LRS, reported that she had now has 80 meter Worked All States after working Alaska.

Pete, N8TR, reported that Phil, KL8DX, is now a ranger in the Denali National Park in Alaska. He is a current NODXA member.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that he had had his cards checked for 160 meter Worked All States.

Pete, N8TR, reported that he had 860 contacts and had worked all states in the recent ARRL DX - SSB contest.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship in Akron will be running a tour bus to Dayton. The cost is \$45 for the bus only, or \$60. including a ticket to the Hamvention. The reservation deadline is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Dayton Hamvention is May 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting now shifted attention to the nomination of next years officers. The nominations follow:

Ron, K8VJG, nominated, seconded by Linda, N8LRS, that the current President Tedd, KB8NW, be re-nominated for President. Tedd accepted the nomination.

Linda, N8LRS, nominated, seconded by Dave, WD8IOU, the current Vice President Dwaine, K8ME be re-nominated. Dwaine accepted the nomination.

Glenn, AF8C, nominated, seconded by Linda, N8LRS, that the current Secretary Al, N8CX, be re-nominated. Al accepted the nomination

Dwaine, K8ME, nominated, seconded by Linda, N8LRS, that the current Treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, be re-nominated. Mary accepted the nomination.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Linda, N8LRS. The amount won was \$15.50. Glenn, AF8C, won a copy of the ARRLs' Wire Antenna Classics book.

The program at the next meeting, April 7<sup>th</sup>, will be a DVD on the 3B7C St. Brandon Dxpedition. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm by the President, Tedd, KB8NW.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary



Mark your calendars!  
Field Day is June 28-29!



## Minutes of the April 7th, 2008 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:31pm. There were 23 members and 1 guest present.



After a round of introductions, the minutes of the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were read. After some minor corrections, the minutes were approved.

The Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the repeater is okay.

Pete, N8TR, reported that the cluster was running fine with the exception of a few random outages. Pete also commented on the possibility that if TV Channel 8 were to be sold, and if Jim, K8MR, were to retire, that the cluster might have to be relocated.

### Old - New Business

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the January-February newsletter was available on the website. Tedd, KB8NW, commented that Dave needs articles or other information on an on-going basis.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that he was getting an order together for ARRL Field Day t-shirts. He sent a sign-up form around for those that are interested. The cost is \$13. Dwaine also commented the Hal, W8PN, from West Park Radiops, was putting together a historical book of all present and former members. As many members of other clubs, including NODXA, are or have been members of West Park, Hal needs QSL cards from these individuals.

Bill, W8BG, reported that CQ Magazine each year begins a new listing of DX stations worked (in the CQ DX Marathon) by individual amateurs, but also has a club listing that NODXA might enter and list stations worked by members.

Ron, W8WH, talked with Jeneen and was told that all rooms at the Crowne Plaza were taken, but there was a possibility that one room may become available later.

Tedd, KB8NW, requested funds for the hospitality suite at Dayton. Ron, K8VJG, moved, seconded by Carl, K8AV, that \$250 be approved for operation of the hospitality suite. The motion passed.

Tedd, KB8NW, called for election of officers. Ron, K8VJG, moved, seconded by Bill, W8BG, that the slate of nominations from the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting be elected. These are: Tedd, KB8NW, President; Dwaine, K8ME, Vice President, Al, N8CX, Secretary and Mary, N8DMM, Treasurer. The motion passed.

A discussion followed concerning acceptance of Kosovo for DX credit. It was reported that CQ had approved credit for its awards, but that the ARRL had not. The ARRL wants an entity to have its own callsign prefix and acceptance into the U.N. It was stated that acceptance into the U.N. was unlikely, at least at this time.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the bandswitch assembly in Kenwood TL922 Amplifiers can be replaced with a more reliable assembly.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Dennis, WD8LBT. The amount was \$24. Dennis donated the money back to the club.

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

The program this evening will be a DVD on the 3B7C, St Brandon Dxpediton.

Respectfully submitted, Al, N8CX, Secretary

## Ham Cram, or the One-Day Tech Class

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I used to be skeptical of one-day ham radio classes, sometimes called "Ham Cram" classes. After teaching a couple of these classes over the past year, however, I've become a supporter of this method of teaching, at least for the Technician Class license test.



One reason I'm an advocate of the one-day class is that I think a lot of people "learn by doing." I'm not an expert on pedagogy, but my guess is that more people learn by doing than learn by reading or by listening. That being the case, isn't it a good thing that new hams get their licenses quickly so that they can begin doing--thereby learning--more quickly?

Second, people are busy. Tell them that the class is going to eat up one evening a week for six to eight weeks and a lot of them will tell you that they just don't have the time to do it. Squeezing in six to eight hours on a Saturday is, however, something that they can do.

Critics of the one-day classes say that if people just cram for the test, they may learn enough for just long enough to pass the test, but they really don't know enough to be "good hams," whatever that may be. There's some truth to this. It's important not to abandon them once they get their tickets. I encourage all of the students to join a ham radio club and make myself available to answer any questions they may have as they get started in ham radio.

Critics also say that releasing this horde on the amateur bands will create nothing but chaos. Fortunately, I've personally seen no evidence that the hundreds of folks that have taken these classes across the country have created said chaos.

### Make Your Next Class a One-Day Class

I would encourage you to give this a try. Make your next Tech class a one-day class. You don't conduct Tech classes? Well, get started! Another benefit of the one-day class format is that it's easier to find teachers since it takes less time for them, too.

As I mentioned previously, over the past year, I've taught two "ham cram" classes. We've learned a few things along the way.

Perhaps the most important thing is to stress that students should study the material before coming to class. The study guide we use is one that I've written. You can find the KB6NU No-Nonsense Study Guide online at <http://www.kb6nu.com>. You can also purchase a pre-printed version of the study guide at [www.booklocker.com/books/3408.html](http://www.booklocker.com/books/3408.html).

Another key is to not get bogged down on a particular topic. Our class runs from 9 am to 3 pm, at which time, the VEs come in and give the test. To cover all of the material, you have to keep one eye on the clock and keep plowing ahead. To help you do this, a set of PowerPoint slides for teachers of Ham Cram Tech classes is available at <http://w9pe.us/>.

We conducted our first class last August. Nine out of twelve passed the test that day; the remaining three passed on their second attempt. In early May, we taught our second one-day class. This time, eleven out of twelve passed.

I am encouraged by these results, and I am planning to make these one-day classes a regularly-scheduled event here in Ann Arbor. Time will tell if these people become active, life-long hams, but so far, so good. If you have any questions about our experience with the one-day class, please e-mail me at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## Field Day 2008

by David Autry, WD8IOU

It's Field Day time again! June 28 and 29 to be exact. Our perpetual field day chairman, Bill, W8JGU, will once again answer the call to duty and organize this event.

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

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

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

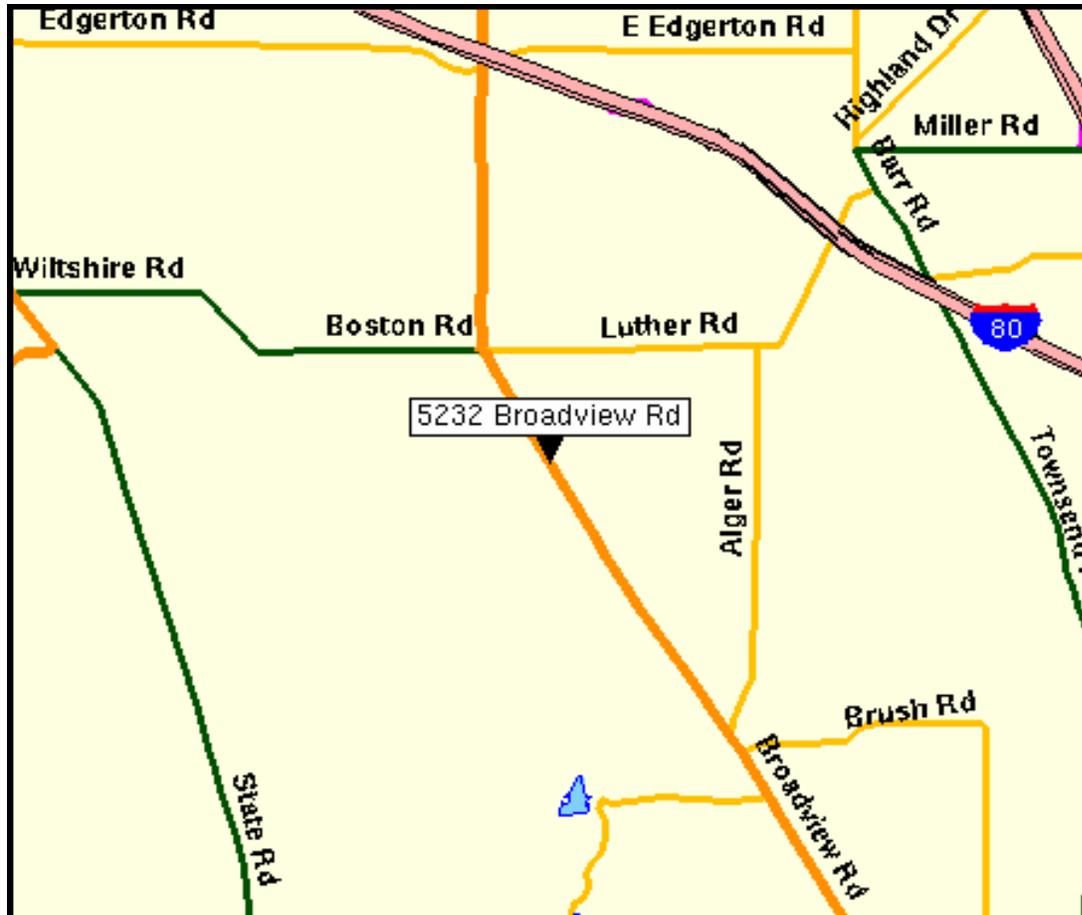
Pete, N8TR, is planning an early setup of tents and antennas Friday evening around 6 PM. Everybody is encouraged to stop by and help out; this will decrease the amount of work required on Saturday morning.

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

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

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

See you there!



## Expanded DXing Tips by Adam Taylor, N7YA, via eHam.net

There have been some fine articles on here from plenty of experienced DXers, as well as many tidbits of great advice. But this subject is rarely complete as DXing is a constantly changing, very dynamic beast. Some tips and advice just bear repeating.

Now the reason I'm posting this is not to toot any proverbial horn as I'm certainly not at the top of the Honor Roll, but I'm in the HF trenches everyday and hear all the right and wrong ways of DXing...some ops are exceptional, some still need some work. No worries, we all still have room for improvement. But with the current trend in society for increased rudeness and "me me me," we hams must continually police our own personal actions to assure the retention of the gentlemanly traditions of ham radio in the international arena (HF, sats, etc.)

I know many of these points have been made before, and some I have just noticed and wanted to share, either way, they bear repeating from time to time. If for no other reason than to help new DXers have a much smoother trip to the top of the Honor Roll, and also to help remind the big guns to monitor themselves. We all make mistakes; this is fine; the important thing is that we learn from them. I have a few things that may help as I have heard them on the air.

1) LISTEN! The greatest tool in the ham shack is the ham himself, and the greatest tools that he possesses are his ears and knowing what he's hearing. This is a simple practice, it requires only sitting and not transmitting, even if only for a couple of turns. Listening will tell you who the DX is (don't always rely on the Internet to fill in the blanks, this is the wrong way to do it), where he's listening (whether its simplex or split, and if its split, how far up or down), and so on. If you hear a DX station on a nice clear frequency, listen for a second. All too often I hear a DX station send "TU UP," then the roar of hundreds of high pitched signals 2KC and higher; there's always one guy who somehow always missed that "UP" part and calls on his calling frequency, and he apparently also doesn't hear the snarling pileup that's just up from him. The result is inevitable; a dozen cops descend on him and start hurling "UP LID" and other choice epitaphs.

If you are not a very good CW op, but you really want that station, learn how to recognize some basic commands, like "UP" and "AS" and "ONLY". As well as QSL info and such, but if you hear "AS"...stop transmitting. If you hear "UP," then set your TX frequency up.

2) Pileup etiquette: I covered a little bit in the previous paragraph and simple listening can avert much of the frustration, but pileups are a fluid monster. Few hobbies create more high blood pressure by sitting still than working a pileup...but these days, we must include the Internet into the equation. Granted, forums are not what I speak of, but DXsummit or any spotting medium, though not ham radio, is just as international as being on the air itself. Tempers flare online and on the air easily when you are in the heat of battle...you lose your cool and start freaking out and hammering out insults, the whole world sees or hears it...and they all have your call sign now, as well as the DX.

Another thing, and this one causes a lot of frustration for the DX station, is when he sends a partial call because he didn't get it the first time, again...listen! If he is asking for "WB5??" and your call does NOT have a W, a B or a 5 in it...don't keep sending your call over and over! I recall a certain VKO station who would get this kind of thing, finish his QSO with the guy he was trying to pull out, then he would work the offending party and finish it with "NO QSL"...ouch! Mind your manners, you never know when it can rear up and bite you back.

3) Know your gear. Know where the VFO is and how to use it, know how to recognize when its on. I'll be honest, I've made this mistake today in a pileup for an HH station, I was calling the guy and kept hearing others on his calling frequency being cops and I was refraining from joining the fray until I heard my suffix in between the DX...then to my horror, I noticed my VFO was not set,

and I had the cops on my tail. I can't recall ever making this mistake before in 25 years, but I waited for the DX to stop transmitting (and them too) and sent a quick "SRI", and fixed the problem...2 calls later, he was in the log. Where do you hide when the entire pileup has your call? As I said, we all make mistakes, and I certainly made one there. This all ties in with keeping your cool, you just never know who is making an honest mistake...but a simple glance at the panel and I would have spotted the missing "clar" LED.

I also hear guys in the pileup with failing gear, now its easy to say "well that's HIS problem"...but if its a bad relay, or a failing final, he will be clicking and spluttering all over the place causing undue harm to everyone trying to hear what's going on...this situation is unforgiving if you are an op who has trouble with #1 up there. If you are going to run full legal limit in a pile, please make sure your gear is clean.

4) Go with the flow. Many times, DX stations enjoy real human conversation over the quick fire 5NN TU stuff. If you really need that guy in Africa, but you can clearly hear that he is a slow op, exchanging names and QTH and asking questions about the other op, be prepared to have a conversation...at least the basics. If you really wanted the QSO, but want to see what else is out there, make a GRACEFUL and courteous exit, something like "...Ok Franz, I thank you very much for the nice QSO, good to hear you are doing well, there are many stations calling you and I don't want to hold you up, 73 my friend"...there, you left him with a positive feeling about the QSO, you have him in the log and you can now start working on getting the card. And who knows, you may even have learned something new about his life and his country, more of us could stand to do this.

On the other hand, most rare and semi-rare DX QSOs will be of the 5NN TU variety. simply because of the sheer volume of stations waiting in line. Now I hear lamenting online and on the air regarding this, how 5NN TU is not a real conversation. They are wrong. Its perfectly valid, and both parties are expecting this, the DX is enjoying the run of stations he is getting and just knowing that he is giving a new country to many hams is gratifying to him. And for the DXer, its a small victory...everyone is happy in this situation. This said, if you want to work a station who is operating in this manner, then carefully listen for your call, and return a quick 5NN TU, this may be all he wants...it sounds impersonal, but it is what it is. If he is just giving the basics, please don't sit there and give name, QTH, rig, WX, etc. There is plenty of time for ragchewing. But consider this, if its a rare DX station, he may have only a week or two to work as many stations as possible to give everyone a fair chance at getting a new one before having to pack up and go home. And another thing, propagation changes...he may be loud to you, but he is fading fast to many others frantically calling, and this may be their last chance to put this one in the log. And remember, most hams aren't spring chickens...this may truly be their last chance!

5) Never give up! All too often I hear sayings like "life's too short for QRP," and hams commenting on the air about how they don't have a chance to work the rare one because the amp is on the fritz...meanwhile, I'm putting the DX in my log with 100w and an inverted V. Why? Because I didn't get the memo that I'm "too weak," that's rubbish! Granted, I cant work everything I hear and some pileups are just too huge and the DX is barely in there, but I do surprisingly well with what I have. I do so because I believe in my ability to make it work and lo and behold...I usually hear my call coming back. In addition to good ears, good skill can net you comparable results...results you can be proud of. Are these bragging rights out on the street? Nope, in fact, most non-hams will STILL think you are just a nerd, but if you are posting great DXCC numbers, WE will all see it, and we will all know what you've accomplished.

6) QSL manners. It is said that the final courtesy of a QSO is a QSL. Again, times are changing and things are getting expensive...not every QSO will result in a QSL. This is ok. But if you work a rare one and really need that card (unless you use LoTW) then there are some things that may help you. QSLing is a separate facet unto itself, and few people outside of the postal service

understand how mailing works better than hams. I recently worked VP6DX 11 times for many new bands and modes, so the next thing I needed to do is send the QSL. I'll use them as an example.

First, I didn't send 11 cards. I used only one card. On the front, I only filled out the DX call, then in the open area I put "11 QSO's ON BACK" with an arrow. Once there, I made a box with 11 lines for each QSO, then dividers for the info at the top. The most important (in my experience) for managers is chronological order by date first, then time, band, etc...Unless a website indicates otherwise. You must think about the QSL manager, this is a volunteer job. And if they worked 100,000 QSOs on the DXpedition, he is going to be busy! Help him out by making it easier to NOT make a mistake on YOUR card.

If you decide on the 'info on back' route, I would highly suggest putting your call back there on top so he doesn't have to flip the card to see whom it is. And make sure you have the proper postage, as this is of high importance. The USD is not all that strong these days, so \$1 will assure you a 2 year wait as your card comes back via buro...consider it a tiny donation. You need to put \$3 or one current IRC in there to be safe...hey, its only 3 bucks. And make sure the IRC's are stamped on the LEFT. Also, make sure you research the route thoroughly before mailing anything off, you may have worked an operation that was specialized and has its own manager for that 2 week period...you never know, so make sure you check it all out, doing so will save you a lot of time, money and stress.

On a final note on the subject, make sure to thank the manager and the ops for a fine job...its easy to criticize an expedition on a forum or a spotting page when you are all fat and comfy in your shack, with air conditioning and a fridge...meanwhile, these guys are battling sea lions or crabs nipping at their feet, while ocean spray and sand is getting into everything, humidity is draining the gear and the ops, or freezing cold wind is making it hard to hear signals or work the key for eight hours in a pup tent with frozen fingers...far from the comforts of home and far from their families. They do this because they love the hobby and want to give you an opportunity for a new one. Please be respectful to the ops and managers doing this for you. And don't be afraid to put a little extra in the envelope if you can. I rarely hear complaining and whining from hams that have actually DONE a DXpedition, they already know what it takes to get one of these things in the books.

This isn't everything, but I leave the topic open for anyone to add on to it. Hopefully when we exchange ideas and information, we can all enjoy the hobby a little more and hopefully, become better DX'ers for it.

Good DX to you, Happy Hunting and I hope to hear you all in the pileups!

The letters 'DX' are rendered in a large, bold, serif font. The letters are filled with a vibrant green color and have a subtle, textured pattern, possibly representing a map or a globe. The 'D' is on the left and the 'X' is on the right, both with a slight shadow effect.

## Dayton 2008 in Pictures



Doug, KD8CA0, Dave, WD8IOU, and Tedd, KB8NW taking a load off after walking the flea market.



Kan, JA1BK, and John, K8YSE, before the DX banquet



Kan, JA1BK, and Bill Kennamer, K5NX (former DXCC Manager) at the DX banquet



No table? No Problem!

FOR SALE

**GPS -- Magellan Maestro 3100**  
 Auto-Navigation System, new been used  
 Price—\$145.00

**Kenwood Linear Amplifier TL-922**

TOTALLY Restored Professionally, all 12 & 17 meters mods installed, qsk has been added, brand new band switch, circuitry has been totally redesigned, all done professionally, plus documentation, by KB6CZ  
 Price: \$1200 or best offer

**CONTACT:** Dwaine at [k8me@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k8me@sbcglobal.net)

FOR SALE

- Hy-Gain HG54HD Tower with TH7DX plus D3W Rotatable dipole and raising fixture
- Pair of Stacked 2-Meter Beams
- 2-440 Vertical Antenna
- Five-position Remote Antenna Transfer Switch
- Tail Twister Rotor with modified control box
- 2K Alternator (Gasoline Powered)
- Hy-Gain 80-40 Dipole
- 160-meter with loading coil
- Sears 2200 watt gasoline generator

Asking price \$3,000

- TS-570D with Computer Control Cable
- Henry 2KD5
- Two brand new spares
- Ameritron AL80
- Two used spares
- Nye Viking Antenna Tuner
- Miscellaneous Accessories, such as MFJ259B and others
- FT990 Transceiver
- (1) 20-Amp Power Supply
- (2) 30-Amp Power Supplies

Asking price \$3,000

**CONTACT:** Stan Haase, K8VI  
[K8vi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:K8vi@sbcglobal.net)  
 or (440) 842-6154.

Prefer to sell each listing as a complete package. Priced to sell!



## 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

**N08DX:** Special Event Callsign  
**W8DXA:** NODXA Repeater 147.360  
**K8MR:** PacketCluster 144.91 & 145.57

Web-site: <http://www.papays.com/nodxa.html>

Newsletter Submission: [wd8iou@adelphia.net](mailto:wd8iou@adelphia.net)

## NODXA Club Officials for 2007-2008

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:	David Autry, WD8IOU	(440-238-0417)



## DXCC Info

As of December 2007, the current DXCC Entities total is: **338**.

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

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

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

## Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, K8ME, KB6NU, and N7YA .