

August-September 2015

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Poolside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

I can't believe that it has been almost 4 months since I last wrote. With it being August, summer seems to be quickly winding down. Where has the time gone?



Well, NODXA had their "Field Day" in June, and what an "ARRL Field Day" it was to remember. At first, I thought that the club was going to have to build an ark to operate from. This was probably the worst Field Day that we have seen as far as weather goes. Between the mud and rain, you had to wear boots and raincoats to be comfortable. As John, K8YSE, would say, "This is what (radio amateur) Field Day is all about -- being prepared and ready for such an event or disaster." It was a true adventure this year. However, Mother Nature did cooperate just a little -- during set up on Friday night, at the beginning of FD when the sun came out and we got our solar contacts,

and an hour before tear-down when the rain stopped and the sun came out.

All in all, the FD team still had a great time, was fed well, survived and ended up with great numbers to show for it. We had the highest score and QSOs count ever in the history of the club. The "2015 ARRL Field Day" will definitely be a memorable one. I want to thank all who came out and helped as well as participated in FD. I also especially want to thank John/K8YSE (FD Chairman), Pete/N8TR and Mary/N8DMM.

The next club event will be the Cleveland Hamfest at the end of September (27th). Our club should have two tables -- one for club business and the other for selling club members' stuff. If you can help man the tables for about 15-30 minutes to help promote the club, that would be great.

As far as DX goes, nothing big is expected to happen until the end of October. This is how it usually goes -- right after the beginning of the fall season and normally around the CQWW DX SSB Contest.

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).

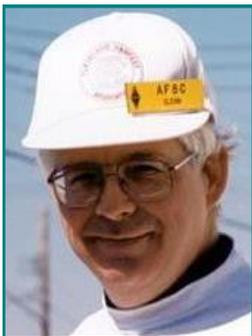
As a reminder, if you have a topic to discuss about DXing or contesting, bring it up at the meeting. Also, if you would like to put on a program of some interest for the club in the coming months, let us know so we can schedule you in for a meeting. We are always looking for a program.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. Did you renew? Dues were due as of May.

Minutes of the June 1st, 2015 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 25 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the undersigned read the minutes for the meeting of May 4, 2015. Ron, K8VJG moved and Bruce N8DJX seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed on the vote. Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was Ka-Ching! Most member dues have been paid. The repeater was reported to be working fine. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU sent out last month's newsletter and is working on the new one.



Old/New Business:

Per Tedd, KB8NW, an announcement at Dayton will be that a Scarborough Reef DXpedition with three operators from China will be up in 2016. Dennis, K8LBT, asked when a new club roster will be provided. Pete, N8TR, will send over a new roster in time for the next newsletter.

Discussion began on the final plans for the club's Field Day setup and operation. Jim, K8MR, will not be at Field Day this year. George, K8KR, announced about hearing that Byron, KF8UN, might show up. W8AV may be coming to Field Day. Field Day discussion then halted for a few minutes.

For DXpedition funding requests, Tedd currently has three including those previously tabled. All three requests were tabled for the July meeting. Tedd announced that Keith, N8KOL, the DXCC card checker, has resigned that position. W8AV and K8ME are interested in filling that position but nothing is definite at this time.

At Dayton, the hospitality room attendance went well. Zorro was there. Most of the Navassa operators were there. The hospitality suite cost more than usual but there were more visitors. The left over non-perishable items can be used at Field Day. Three membership renewals were collected at Dayton.

Then discussion resumed on Field Day plans. The nuns want \$100 to \$150 for the occupation of the grounds during Field Day. K8YSE said that there is now a road to the back of the grounds and the grass is mowed. We need a quick decision on whether to pay that rent just mentioned. Pete, N8TR, and Mary will set up wire antennas Friday afternoon. Saturday setup will start on Saturday at 9 a.m. Further discussion on who will bring what items to Field Day took several minutes. Ron, K8VJG, says the club has the insurance for Field Day. A motion by K8YSE for \$150 for Field Day expenses was seconded by Bruce, N8DJX. This motion passed on the vote.

Next were words from Tim, W8TAH, who wants to buy a beam antenna. The club has one available. John, K8YSE, suggested that we could sell that antenna to Tim for \$150.00. There was no motion on that choice.

Discussion occurred on the upcoming availability of Microsoft's Windows 10. Dave, WD8IOU, says that Windows 10, which will be available on July 29, will be a touchy installation. He advised waiting several months to have the world test Windows 10 before you do it.

Then Tedd said that Carl, K8AV, wants to move and must dispose of some items. A variety of ground screws, books, and envelopes were raffled off.

Finally, Glenn, AF8C, is seeking volunteers to help with the Cleveland Hamfest and/or even to join the hamfest committee. Clubs currently received free tables at the Hamfest and it would be good to have reciprocal physical support from those clubs.

Wrapup:

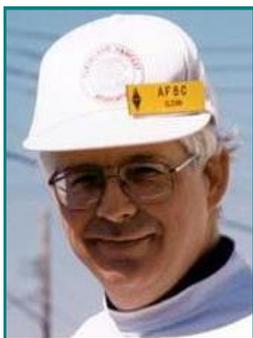
The next meeting will occur on July 6. At that meeting program possibilities include a video of

the Amsterdam Island FT5ZM and/or 3X5ZM DXpedition. A motion by Bruce, N8DJX, to close the meeting was seconded by Gary, the motion was approved on the vote. This time Tedd, KB8NW, was the winner of half the raffle basket of \$42.00. He donated his half back to the club. All discussion closed at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the July 6th, 2015 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:33 p.m. by Tedd, KB8NW, with 18 members and guests present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the undersigned read the minutes for the meeting of June 1, 2015. Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was Ka-Ching! The food bills have been paid but she needs further guidance on a thank you contribution for use of the Field Day site. Most member dues have been paid. Denny, WB8K, moved and Ron, K8VJG, seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed on the vote.



The repeater was reported to be working fine. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU sent out last month's newsletter before Field Day. He has sent a copy of the newsletter to the Ohio people collecting newsletters for the Ohio Section Newsletter competition. Now he is working on collecting input articles for the next issue. Ron, K8VJG, moved, and Dwaine, K8ME, seconded to have the club send a contribution of \$150.00 to Mt. Augustine as a thank you for use of their property for Field Day.

Old/New Business:

Dwaine, K8ME, reported winning a W1AW Centennial Plaque. The plaque was sent around for people to see up close. At the suggestion of George, K8KR, a show of hands showed that five people at the meeting worked all the 13 Colonies. George also inquired about the September 12-22 Route 66 event. On another topic, Glenn, AF8C, brought a list of all the amateur radio equipment owned by Norm Fleming, W8PJ. Norm is 98 years old and is giving away all his equipment.

Tedd, KB8NW, has the paperwork for the three tabled requests of Dxpeditions, Palmyra, Palestine, and Viet Nam that have sought club donations. Palmyra wants \$500 for logo recognition. They will operate in January 2016. About a dozen members, when asked for a show of hands, reported working Eritrea, E30. QSL manager for that is MOURX.

Field Day was discussed for over 20 minutes. It was one for the record books because of the rain and mud, and the rain and wind at night. There was a leak in the SSB tent cover which had to be covered by a tarp. There were radio problems and computer problems at the start. Total participation was 21 people. Hot dogs eaten was 24, and 50 hamburgers, 8 pounds of potato salad. Brian, K3USC, brought noodle kugel.

The club got a total point score of 9162, which compares to 9128 points in 2011. The logging program used was N3FJP Field Day. Phone contacts numbered 1432 including 83 on 6m, 3 on Satellite. CW contacts numbered 1287 with three on 6m. Total QSO points add up the 8012. Tim, W8TAH, sent traffic messages on 2m to the Burning River and Tri-County nets. Total bonus points were 1150. Pete and Mary do the bulk of equipment supply. Denny, WB8K, supplied the pavilion. Tedd, KB8NW, did the cooking.

Nelson's friend from New Hampshire was there and contributed \$20.00 to the club. There were many other miscellaneous interesting stories.

Tim, W8TAH, has information on a digital rotator controller costing \$120.00. He wants to move from IC-706 operation to something

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

better. Dave KZ8Y, got a quiz list from Jim, K8MR. The members were amused by one of the questions.

Wrapup:

The next meeting will occur on August 3. At that meeting program possibilities include a video of the Amsterdam DXpedition. A motion by Ron, K8VJG, to close the meeting was seconded by Dave, WD8IOU. The motion was approved on the vote. This time Mary, N8DMM, was the winner of half the raffle basket of \$30.00. She donated her half back to the club. All discussion closed at 8:34 p.m.
Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Field Day 2015 Results by John Papay, K8YSE



Call Used:W8DXA ARRL/RAC Section:OH Class:2A
 Participants:21 Club/Group Name: Northern Ohio DX Assn
 Power Source(s): Generator, Battery, Solar
 Power Multiplier: 2X
 Bonus Points:

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	200
Media Publicity	100
Information Booth	100
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Formal NTS messages handled - No.=10	100
Satellite QSO completed	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Submitted via the Web	50
Educational activity	100
Total Bonus Points	1,150

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	1287	0	1432		
Total Points	2574	0	1432	4003	Claimed Score = 8,012

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m	236	150			194	150
40m	835	150			553	150
20m	134	150			599	150
15m	55	150				
10m	24	150				
6m	3	100			83	100
2m						
1.25						
Other						
Satellite					3	50
GOTA						
Total	1287		0		1432	

Field Day 2015 in Pictures by John Papay, K8YSE, and Byron Berger, KF8UN













NODXA ROSTER 2015

CALL	NAME		STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	EMAIL
AA8IN	Stan	Zupan	5341 Strail Road	Perrysburg	OH	43551-9507	419-450-6552	aa8in@arrl.net
AF8C	Glenn	Williams	513 Kenilworth Rd.	Bay Village	OH	44140-2476	440-835-4897	af8c@arrl.net
K3USC	Brian	Hemmis	21255 Seabury Ave	Fairview Park	OH	44126-2754	216-848-0211	K3USC@arrl.net
K8AJS	John	Bastin	2244 Eddy Road	Wooster	OH	44691-2158		jbastin@sssnet.com
K8AV	Carl	Beduhn	431 Justo Lane	Seven Hills	OH	44131-3810	216-328-0709	cfwb@cox.net
K8BCK	Karl	Gruber	18409 Orchard Hill Drive	Walton Hills	OH	44146-5254	440-232-4613	k8bck@en.com
K8DJC	Nelson	Wittstock	3444 Cook Rd.	Medina	OH	44256-9233	330-725-0751	witstock@mail.ohio.net
K8DZO	Ronal J d	Karlosky	1168 N. Jefferson #24	Medina	OH	44256	330-723-2076	rkarlosky@msn.com
K8FF	Wayne	Smith	19121 Cascade Ct.	Aurora	OH	44202-8603	440-543-7324	k8ff@aol.com
K8KR	Georg e	Pindroh	3217 Joslyn Rd.	Cleveland	OH	44111-1562	216-941-5304	pindroh@en.com
K8LBT	Dennis	Stuber	3343 Akins Road	North Royalton	OH	44133-5311	440-237-7793	wb8lbt@arrl.net
K8ME	Dwain e	Modock	8113 Thornhurst Drive	North Royalton	OH	44133-2055	440-582-3462	k8me@peoplepc.com
K8MFO	Don	Karvonen	6905 South Carr Road	Apple Creek	OH	44606-9365		k8mfo@aol.com
K8MR	Jim	Stahl	30499 Jackson Rd.	Chagrin Falls	OH	44022-1730	216-831-6954	
K8QXB	Steve	Dando	4572 Mark Trail	Akron	OH	44321-1462	330-666-7222	k8qxb@arrl.net
K8RH	Robert	Haynes	12118 Glen Valley Road	Brecksville	OH	44141-2121	440-526-4452	k8rh@highstream.net
K8VJG	Ronal d	Borkey	10699 Ridge Rd.	North Royalton	OH	44133-2915	440-237-6718	k8vjg@arrl.net
K8YSE	John	Papay	4910 Royalton Rd.	North Royalton	OH	44133-4049	440-237-3377	john@papays.com
K8ZH	Rick	Chilcote	7770 Buffham Rd,	Lodi	OH	44254-9705	330-948-2594	k8zh@arrl.net
KB8NW	Tedd	Mirgliotta	16806 West 130th St.	Strongsville	OH	44136-4660	440-237-2816	kb8nw@barf80.nshore.org
KC8VTF	Jim	Erclauz	1617 Berwick Dr	Brunswick	OH	44212-3625	330-273-2259	jerclauz@yahoo.com
KD8AJK	Jeff	VanScoyc	2721 Timberland Dr	Norwalk	OH	44857-9041	440-396-2488	KD8AJK@arrl.net
KE8G	Jim	Blanca	11209 Sharon Dr	Parma	OH	44130-1437	440-842-9346	ke8g@cox.net
KK8ZZ	Bob	Hinkle	37120 Deer Run	Solon	OH	44139-2504	440-498-0799	bob@10squirrels.com
KL8DX	Phillip	Sauvey	P. O. Box 108	Denali National Park	AK	99755-0108	907-978-4537	akdxer@yahoo.com
KN8AI	Bob	Turek	25877 Sprague Road	Columbia Station	OH	44028-9693	440-235-9516	rlturek@sbcglobal.net
KZ8Y	Dave	Espasandin	11748 Robson Rd	Grafton	OH	44044-9161	440-458-8201	AKZ8YDAVE@oh.rr.com
N8CX	Al	Moriarty	2140 McKinley Ave.	Lakewood	OH	44107-5452	216-221-3682	n8cx@mindspring.com
N8DJX	Bruce	Bacik	35200 Fairmount Blvd.	Hunting Valley	OH	44022-6614	440-461-2224	n8djx@yahoo.com
N8DMM	Mary	Michaelis	12224 East River Road	Columbia Station	OH	44028-9578	440-236-5426	n8dmm@arrl.net
N8GLS	Bradford	Williams	7827 Barnaby Lane	Mentor	OH	44060-8405	440-255-3611	n8gls@arrl.net
N8HHE	Rob	Szule	6032 Porter Road	North Olmsted	OH	44070-4930	440-734-5963	n8hherobi@gmail.com

CALL	NAME	STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	EMAIL
N8LRS	Linda Sinko	6511 Elmerge Drive	Independence	OH	44131-4919		
N8MOX	Adam Grossmyer	14570 Pease Rd	Maple Heights	OH	44137-1052	216-662-5131	n8mox.oh@gmail.com
N8PW	William Hannon	319 - 21st Street NW	Canton	OH	44709-3911	330-454-7793	n8pw@neo.rr.com
N8QXC	Joe Mizik	POB 360152	Strongsville	OH	44136-0003	216-246-3977	-
N8TR	Pete Michaelis	12224 East River Road	Columbia Station	OH	44028-9578	440-236-5426	n8tr@roadrunner.com
N9RC	Ronald Schuster	7034 Driftwood Lane	Cincinnati	OH	45241-1040		hamguy2@fuse.net
NA8A	Dale Breno	10813 Clearbrook Circle	Strongsville	OH	44136	440-238-1255	-
NI8Z	Gary Dewey	7009 Ivandale Rd.	Independence	OH	44131-5328	216-642-8705	gdewey@en.com
W8AJ	Allan Jaffe	2623 Courtland Oval	Shaker Heights	OH	44118-4761	216-321-5530	w8aj@aol.com
W8AV	Elmer Steingass	1690 North Honeytown Rd.	Wooster	OH	44691-9511		w8av@aol.com
W8BG	Bill Tarczy	16517 Morning Star	Strongsville	OH	44136-7647	440-238-9073	tarczan@sbcglobal.net
W8CAR	Dan Kovatch	406 Bardwell Road	Castalia	OH	44824-9330	419-684-7021	w8car@buckeye-express.com
W8GC	Bob Check	7395 Brecksville Road	Independence	OH	44131-6446		bob@netmakers.com
W8JH	Joe Hoffman	9336 East Bayshore Road	Marblehead	OH	43440-2414	419-960-4560	w8jh@arrl.net
W8KEN	Ken Kontor	9170 Cedar Road	Chesterland	OH	44026-3525	440-729-9388	w8ken@yahoo.com
W8LIG	Larry Bryan	5150 Hummingbird Street	Elida	OH	45807-1439	419-604-1308	larry@w8lig.com
W8MET	Metro Sinko	6511 Elmerge Drive	Independence	OH	44131-4919		metro351@sbcglobal.net
W8TAH	Tim Holmes	2741 Lester Road	Medina	OH	44256-9478		TAHolmes160@gmail.com
W8XD	Nicholas Wislocki	3275 Perl Ct.	North Royalton	OH	44133-2238	440-237-8089	w8xd@sbcglobal.net
W8ZET	Janeen Hire	366 St Andrews Ct.	Mansfield	OH	44903-9237	419-529-3332	janeenhire@hotmail.com
WB8K	Denny Jakubisin	8768 Royal Haven Dr.	North Royalton	OH	44133-1657	440-237-3248	wb8k@att.net
WD8IOU	Dave Autry	18181 Saratoga Trail	Strongsville	OH	44136-7235	440-238-0417	wd8iou@roadrunner.com

Editor's Note: Please email any corrections or updates to the roster to Mary at N8DMM@Roadrunner.com

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

How Much Performance Do You Really Need? by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A reader recently e-mailed me:

"Just a quick question - Are you still in the thinking stage about getting an Elecraft K3? Great rigs, aren't they?"

"What I would like you to think about, though, is how many contacts you log in one year's time. If you log 100 per year (check your log) then your cost will be \$50 per contact for that year. If you log 500, then your cost will be \$10 per contact. If you keep that rig for three years, and log 500 contacts over that time, then you will have spent \$10 per contact.



"Now, consider what that rig will be worth in three years. Will there be something come along that just blows the K3 away in terms of performance?"

I replied: "K3s are great radios. I've just purchased a used KX3, though, so I am not planning on getting a K3 in the near future. I have purchased a 50-W HobbyPCB amp to use with the KX3, so I'm not going full QRP.

"I make a lot of QSOs/year. My average over the last 13 years is more than three per day, and that doesn't include contacts made with other call signs, such as the club station, or on Field Day. I'm sure that my cost/QSO will be low enough to justify my investment. :)"

"In addition, rigs seem to keep their value pretty well. I'd guess that you can sell a three-year-old K3 for at least 80% of what you paid for it. I think that one of the reasons that an Elecraft K3 is worth the investment is that Elecraft provides such good customer support, and that they are continually improving their radios. For example, they just came out with a new synthesizer board, with better RF specs, for the K3.

"I don't see anyone coming out with a radio that blows the K3 away in terms of performance in the near future, although I might be wrong. FlexRadio has perhaps the best chance of doing that, but you'll have to buy into the Flex user interface philosophy to take advantage of that. I think that Elecraft and Flex, plus the three Japanese manufacturers, will make incremental performance improvements over the coming years, leapfrogging one another as they bring out new models.

"One thing to think about is how much performance is overkill? Just like you can now buy a computer that has way more computer power than the average user will ever need, I think that most of these high-end radios offer way more performance than the average ham will ever need. It's cool to look at the Sherwood Engineering receiver tests and see that your rig is in the top ten, but will the average ham actually notice the difference? My guess is probably not.

"Thanks for sparking my thought process on these issues."

My guess is that most amateur radio operators don't think about what the rig will be worth in three years when buying an HF transceiver. Instead, they're looking at what the radios that are currently available cost, and when there's a big price difference between two models that appeal to them, they're trying to figure out if the higher price is warranted. In many cases, the lower-priced model wins out. It's not because the more expensive radio isn't better, but it's not that much better.

It all goes back to how much performance you actually need. Yes, you can probably do more with a \$10,000 radio than you can with a \$1,500 radio, but is it really worth the added expense? In other words, are you going to have more fun with a \$10,000 radio than you are with a \$1,500 radio?

Let me know what you think. E-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

80 Meter Vertical Experiment by Bob Raynor, N4JTE, via eHam.net

I have spent most of my creative antenna energy on 40 meter wires and have had great success with those experiments. HOWEVER, the 40 meter band shuts off like a light switch here in upstate NY a couple of hours after sunset.

Having had a lot of unexpected fun with phased verticals on 40, I researched a way to get the same benefits on 80, as it seems to be the only band available after dark.



Problem is I don't have two 60ft towers laying around, I know spiderbeam sells them for about \$250 but not wanting to spend that much on an "experiment" I was forced into finding a way to use my existing 40ft poles.

I only ventured into phased verticals after figuring out an accurate way to cut feed and phaselines as detailed in previous articles. That epiphany opened a whole new area of experiments for the lower bands. The other revelation that got me going was the value of the Christman method of obtaining correct phase angles using 50ohm coax in place of complicated L/C constants which are beyond my math/circuit board experience.

THE PLAN:

- Utilize 2 available 40ft. pushup poles spaced 1/8 WL apart and achieve the theoretical gain of 3DBD in switched directions.
- Incorporate the phaselines as detailed by ON4UN in his bible, "Lowband DX'ing." Based on the unique qualities of 135 degree phasing.
- Top load the 33ft. existing verticals with a (T) loading wire of appropriate length of #18 insulated wire to achieve resonance.
- Cut (2) phase lines at 157 degrees and (1) delay line at 39 degrees,
- Wire up 12v DPDT relay to achieve reverse capability.
- Wait for snow/ice temperature to go above 18 degrees!

THE REALITY:

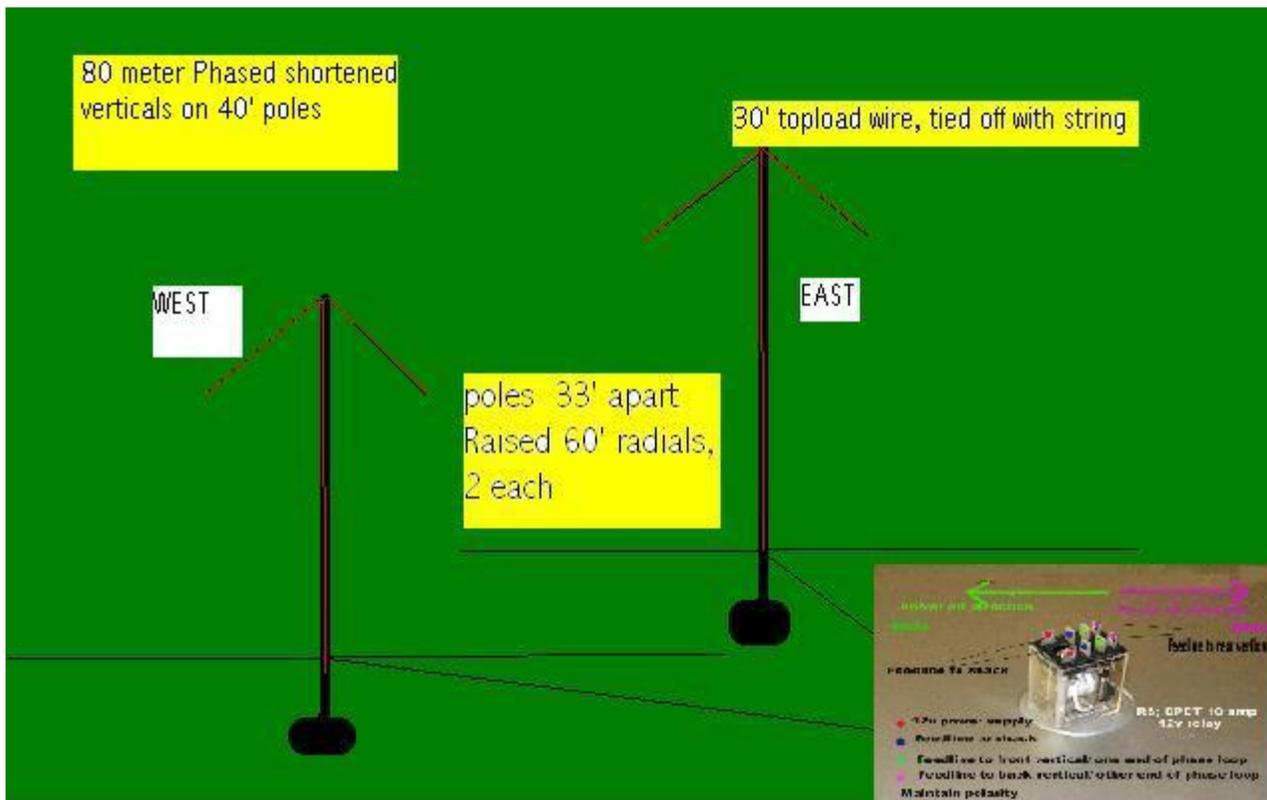


My understanding of shortened verticals tells me that any loading system should be as close to the top as possible, I queried my fellow Elmers on Eham and realized pretty early on that a coil at the base would be far from ideal. Adding wire at the top is the way to go and my lazy alternative of adding bottom fed coils was rejected.

If ON4UN is correct, and he usually is, he tells us that if the vertical is not less than 66% of 1/4WL height, you will have close to the same gain and front to back as that of a full size antenna array. You will be handed a narrow bandwidth, but that can be a matter of choice when designing the antenna and the use of a matching network at the antennas will expand your range of operation.

The first step was to top load one of the existing 40 meter verticals and achieve resonance at 3.7 megs. I cut a piece of 18 gauge insulated wire to 30 ft. and exposed the center and attached it to

the vertical 33ft. wire. Before raising it back up I attached some masonry string to the ends to facilitate tying off in opposite sloping directions.



With 2 raised radials, resonance was above my target frequency so I lengthened each end of the top loading wire until I got close enough. I checked resonance, lowest swr, at the radio instead of antenna base because I don't trust the MFJ at low frequencies due the fact we have a local am/fm station less than 1 mile away that could possibly skew the readings. A lot more trudging in the snow but worth the effort as this way the whole "system" is being measured.

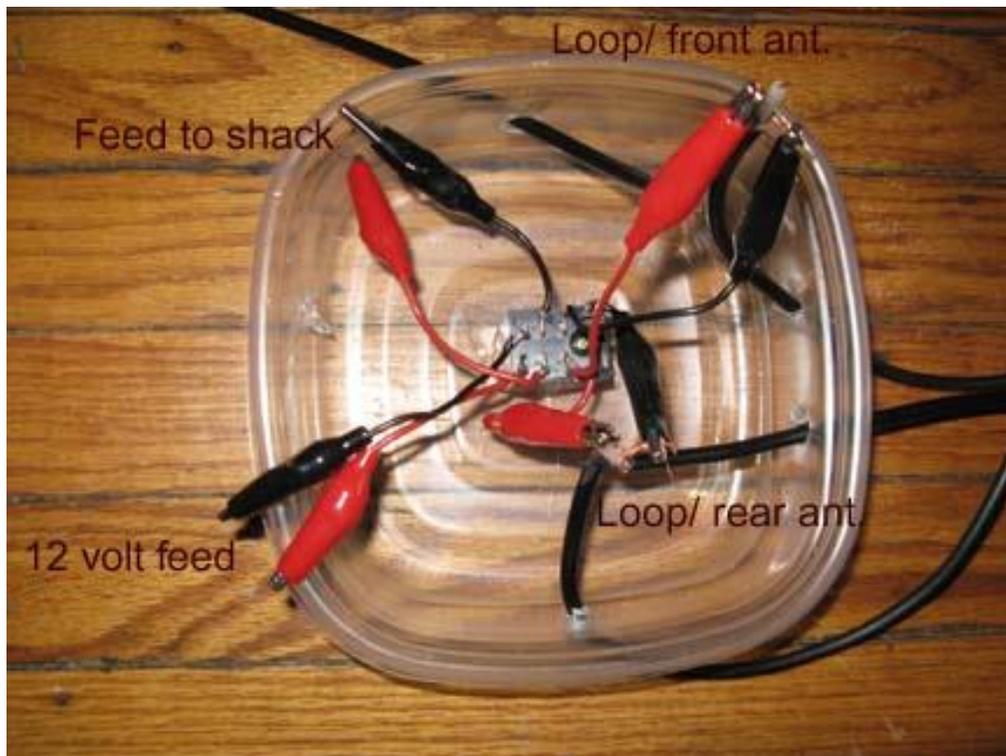


The sequence was repeated on the second vertical while taking pains to keep the top loading wires parallel to the other vertical's. Not sure why, but my instincts tell me that the mutual coupling of 33ft. should be maintained on the vertical and T wires.

I rechecked the resonance of the first vertical and noticed a slight increase in the resonant frequency. I could probably have spent a few more hours freezing my butt off to fine tune it, but I'll save that chore for spring!

Reversibility;

I have existing poles in an East/West orientation as it seems the best compromise for DX and stateside contacts from my home here in upstate NY. I believe the verticals are fairly broad, somewhere around 135 degrees so that's where they going to stay for this experiment.



The relay was wired up with short alligator leads as detailed in previous articles again taking care to maintain polarity. The phase line of 39 degrees was cut out of 50 ohm coax and ended up around 15ft. The 157 degree feedlines ended up around 63ft.each.

I never rely on published VF except to get a general idea of approximate length then I use the MFJ to get the exact readings, also spelled out in previous articles.



Not shown for clarity is the feedline to the shack nor the 12volt wire from power supply in shack, 3amp Radio Shack.

Performance;

Remember when I said I would wait till Spring before getting both verticals exactly frequency matched? Well, preliminary testing as built was not outstanding. One antenna showed a 1.2 to one swr and the other was 1.8 to one, impossible to switch directions effectively. So before continuing on air testing, I put on the Carharts and ventured back out into the 13 degree weather to make both antennas resonant on 3.700 by adjusting the top loading wire lengths, not fun in these temperatures! That mission accomplished, I thawed out and was rewarded with a 1.2 on each wire in both directions, no tuner needed for a change.

My comparison antenna is a 40 meter EDZ at 60 ft and very close to resonance at 3.700

Did the verticals work? Absolutely, I got significantly better reports, 3 to 5 S units from various European stations as compared to the dipole and I had the same results with CA. contacts. This antenna works well but is very narrow banded. I did not lose too much in the 400 to 1000 mile range probably due to the sloping top wires. The horizontal component was not completely cancelled out as would be the case with flat top loading.

Final Thoughts;

This antenna will maximize your signal on 80 in a relatively small footprint with a very small investment as compared to store bought shortened miracle antennas. I probably will invest in a couple of 60ft. poles and eliminate the time consuming top loading and resultant narrow bandwidth. But for now I will be happy with doubling my ERP in opposite directions. And while the snow keeps burying all the mess I made in the backyard, I will be reading ON4UN's book by the fireplace for the 5th time, looking for the next big idea. Maybe phased inverted L's for 160 meters! Stay tuned.

Brian Williams: My Ham Radio Claims May Be Inaccurate by HamHijinks.com

By K5KVN, on the scene

NEW YORK CITY — Some amateur radio operators are questioning claims by NBC News anchor Brian Williams that he is a newly licensed ham radio operator. Branching out from the "professional" broadcasting ranks into the "amateur" radio hobby is something Williams said he has wanted to do "since interviewing Hiram Percy Maxim in 2009."

"I was thrilled to take and pass the Advanced license class exam earlier this week," said Williams. "I ordered my first Heathkit straight from the factory on Tuesday."

The newsman said he passed the exam in his hometown of Ridgewood, New Jersey.

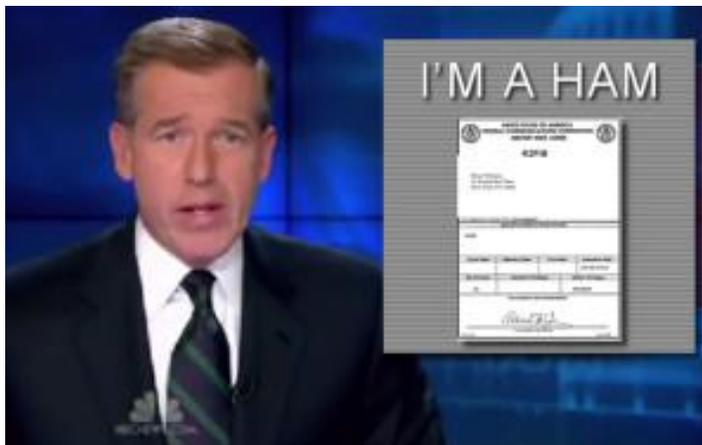
"In addition, it was only a few minutes after receiving my vanity call sign K2FIB that I earned my DXCC certificate," said Williams.

Williams announced that he had his license in an amateur radio online forum, when he posted in the "Wanted To Buy" section, looking for "one of those cheap handheld Chinese radios."

"I don't recall you being in my test session," said Renee Spangledorf in reply to the forum post. He is the Volunteer Examiner in charge of testing for the Ridgewood Radio Rangers.

Williams posted a reply saying he may have misremembered some of the facts. "I might be a no-code Tech. I'm not sure," he said.

Ham Hijinks will continue to follow this story.





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 2015-2016

President: Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)
 V. President: Dwaine Modock, K8ME (440-582-3462)
 Secretary: Glenn Williams, AF8C (440-835-4897)
 Treasurer: Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)
 Newsletter: David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)



DXCC Info

As of February 2012, 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, K8YSE, AF8C, KF8UN, WB8K, KB6NU, N4JTE, K5KVN, eHam.net and www.hamhijinks.com,