

July-August-September 2017

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



# The NODXA RAG



## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

WOW! What a last few months NODXA has had. The members of NODXA have been quite busy during the months of May, June and July; with Field Day, taking down towers, removing and selling equipment of our two "Silent Keys". Busy Busy Busy.... Let's start with Field Day. From the looks of it, we had a great Field Day effort. The turn-out was good, but as always we need more night-time operators. The food and munchies were also good, and the weather was perfect. I have been told by our Field Day Chairman Dave Autry, WD8IOU, it all added up to a great score. We should all commend Dave for his hard work and effort. I would have to say that I didn't participate in operating this year (but did help in set up and tear down) due to the illness and the passing of my father-in-law (day after FD).



Even though we are all getting older, it is good to see many are still interested in FD activities.

In July, NODXA had two events take place during the month. The first event was the NODXA Day at "DX Engineering" (DXE), followed by the tour of the K3LR Contest Station. There should/may be pictures from both locations somewhere in this newsletter. Everyone had a great time from both locations. Those who attended DXE received a goodie bag with brochures and a few extra items in their bag as well as coffee and doughnuts after the DXE/Summit Racing tour.

Second event was the "NODXA Summer Luncheon" at Buffalo Wild Wings in Strongsville. We had just under 20 individuals attending, and it was a great get together lasting about 2 1/2 hours. Two \$100 gift certificates to DXE were given out at the luncheon thanks to Tim Duffy, K3LR, of DXE.

As I reported last time, NODXA lost two members in the first part of 2017--Karl/K8BCK and Dwaine/K8ME. The NODXA members have been helping the families deal with the equipment. All of the towers have now been taken down and all of the equipment has been removed. The club is in the process of selling items from both estates at various hamfests. There may be a list of some items in this newsletter. Like I mentioned last time, there was a great showing of members to help take down the towers/antennas and removal of equipment. A special thanks goes out to Glenn/AF8C, Dennis/K8LBT, John/K8YSE, Rick/K8ZH, Dave/KZ8Y, Mary/N8DMM, Joe/N8QXE, Pete/N8TR, Metro/W8MET and Denny/WB8K (hope I didn't miss anyone). Again, I am very proud to be a member/president of a club that was this willing to help during these removals.

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).

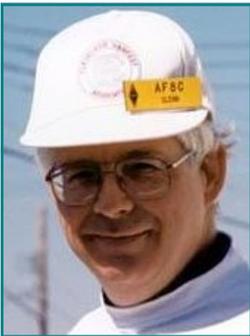
As a reminder, if you have a topic to discuss about DXing or contesting, bring it up at the meeting. Also, if you would like to put on a program of some interest for the club in the coming months, let us know so we can schedule you in for a meeting. We are always looking for a program.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. If you have not done it yet, it is time to renew your club membership. This helps NODXA with big expenditures (Dayton Hospitality purchases, Field Day, donations to DXpeditions...etc.)

## Minutes of the June 5th, 2017 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:31 p.m., with 23 members and guests present. Following that we recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Next the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of May 1, 2017. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded to approve those minutes and they were approved by vote. Then Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Memberships are coming along. Gary, NI8Z, moved and Linda, N8LRS, seconded to approve treasurer's report and it was approved by vote. The repeater was reported as being OK. Editor Dave, WD8IOU, reports he is working on the next newsletter. Progress on that is slow and he could use more photographs. The newsletter needs to go out before Field Day. Dave is always looking for more articles from the membership. He does have the photographs from Dayton and the K8ME tower take down.



### Old/New Business:

The first topics discussed were the many stories from the 2017 Dayton Hamvention at the Greene County Fairgrounds, with the rain, mud and traffic management. There were very few video monitors listing winning numbers and announcements. The vendor food was reported as excellent. Gary, NI8Z, asked if any members put their QSL cards up on the board. Tedd said there are post-Hamvention debriefings on YouTube. Dave, WD8IOU, noticed that a number of vendors did not show up. Scooter rental costs were very high. The forums were well attended and included air conditioning. Pete, N8TR, said the track was still reserved for horse exercises.

Tedd said the Club's Hospitality Suite that had a good attendance. For that we spent less for refreshments than was allocated. So Tedd has returned a bit over \$50.00 to the treasurer. The extra leftovers can be used at Field Day. Tedd reminded us of how the Hospitality Suite was started many years ago by Janeen's husband Jim, W8ZET. Janeen continued with it these many years. But she will no longer sponsor the Hospitality Room. Don, K8MFO, will take over the task. This year the beverages cost \$221.00. Tedd's wife Linda will be the hostess in 2018. We are thankful for her help this year at the Suite. There will be breakfast for those who are in the block of rooms at the Crowne Plaza, but not as large as Janeen would have it. The added cost to the room will be determined.

Tedd announced that the Club is now a member of INDEXA as W8DXA with number 4999. Tedd thanked the many people who helped to close out the K8ME station on Tuesday May 23. We will try to sell some of the items at the NOARSfest and at Portage in July. K8BCK's cousin is not yet ready to make decisions on amateur radio estate sale prices. Perhaps a trip to relocate some of Karl's equipment will occur on June 9 or 10. Dave, WD8IOU, nominated Dennis, K8LBT, to fill the empty seat of Vice President. Dennis was subsequently voted in.

We have a request of funds for an operator going to H40 on September 30 to Oc-

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

tober 30. There will be only one operator. H40 is ranked number 30 in North America and number 40 in ClubLog. Bands and modes will be 160, 80, 40, SSB, CW, and RTTY. Bruce, N8DJX, moved to contribute \$200 with him personally covering half of that cost, and Gary, NI8Z seconded. The motion was voted and passed.

Tedd was mentioned by N200 in CQ Magazine. A copy for viewing was passed around during the meeting. Dave, WD8IOU, will be Field Day chairman. Dave and N8TR will bring radios, DuneStar filters, and a tuner for CW. John, K8YSE, will bring equipment. Nighttime operators are needed for CW. N8TR has invited N8PR to come and operate. Another 10 minutes of discussion covered other planning. After a question from N8TR, Denny, WB8K, moved and N8TR seconded for allocating \$150.00 for Field Day funding.

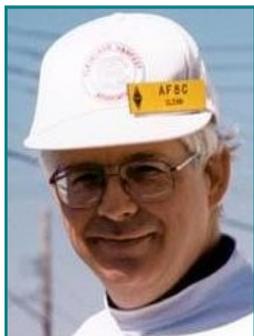
#### Wrapup:

Bruce, N8DJX, moved, and Brian, K3USC, seconded that the meeting be closed, and the motion was passed on the vote. The next meeting will occur on July 3, 2017. The 50/50 raffle drawing was won by Steve, K8QXB, who took his half of \$40.00. The meeting closed at approximately 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

## Minutes of the July 3rd, 2017 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m., with 18 members and guests present. Following that we recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Next the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of June 5, 2017. Brian, K3USC, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded to approve those minutes and they were approved by vote. Then Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! She is still processing Field Day vouchers and collected dues. Memberships are coming along. Brian, K3USC, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded to approve treasurer's report and it was approved by vote. The repeater was reported as being OK. On the repeater, Denny reported the fan is running OK and that APRS is running fine. John, K8YSE, provided a short history of the repeater hardware history. The repeater is a Yaesu Vertex unit and is backed up with a UPS. Editor Dave, WD8IOU, reports it is time to be working on the next newsletter. He has some Field Day photos and could use more from any members.



#### Old/New Business:

Tedd, reported that our logo is now on the H40GC Web site (LZ9GC). Regarding K8BCK's estate equipment, Tedd and others have removed all the interior equipment. There is a question of what to do with the amplifiers. Discussion continued on the status of other pieces, some of which Pete, N8TR, has for testing. Pete has a list of the equipment. Karl left it all to the club. Karl's crankup tower is nested down but is in poor condition. There is a relatively new WARC band antenna and a VHF/UHF log periodic antenna, but everything else outside seems to be in disrepair.

Next, Tedd discussed that the NODXA day at DXEngineering is July 22, from 9 to 11 a.m. Following that is the K3LR visit. People may want to car pool to the K3LR site. The NODXA summer luncheon is on July 26 at Buffalo Wild Wings.

For a wrap on Field Day, John, K8YSE, said that T&S Mower can fix the generator for \$266.00. John moved, and Dave, WD8IOU seconded a motion to spend up to \$275.00 to have the generator repaired. The motion passed on the vote. Field Day QSOs totaled 1383 on SSB, 1378 on CW (not including 6m), and 27 on Satellite. John described the "train" of small spacecraft the Chinese have up

where you can work one right after the other. Tim, W8TAH, ran message traffic for all those points. The bonus points totaled 1450. The rough total is 9696 with a chance to exceed 10,000. Nick, Goose, and Denny did all the CW. Doug Papay, KD8CAO, is a sideband wizard. Dave, WD8IOU, was the Field Day chairman. There was a round of applause for Dave's leadership. Goose, W8AV, checked cards at the Field Day site.

John, K8YSE, suggested that for preparing for the local card checker to check cards, go to the ARRL's online site and sign up the forms for the cards in advance of showing everything to Goose. The club's Web site domain is up for annual renewal on GoDaddy, for \$20.00 as .org and \$15.00 as .com. The decision was to renew for another year before seeking new rate on a new registrar. Pete, N8PR, suggested using "NODXA.CLUB" instead of ORG or COM. John moved, and Pete, N8TR, seconded a motion to spend the \$20.00 for .org now. That motion passed on the vote. Note that visitor Pete, N8PR, is currently president of the South Florida DX Association.

#### Wrapup:

John, K8YSE moved, and Brian, K3USC, seconded that the meeting be closed, and the motion was passed on the vote. The next meeting will occur on August 7, 2017. The 50/50 raffle drawing was won by Pete, N8PR, who donated his half of \$34.00 back to the club. The meeting closed at approximately 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

## Field Day 2017 Report by David Autry, WD8IOU

Field Day 2017 was a record setting event! The club achieved an all time record score! More on that latter.

Field day preparations started Friday evening with Pete/N8TR and Mary/N8DMM erected the wire antennas as usual. Pete uses his trusty bow to launch a weighted arrow with line attached to it to pull the wires high into the trees. The rest of the crew did the grunt work of setting the tents and the canopy, pounding the ground rods into the soil, etc. Everything went smoothly that afternoon, Saturday morning was a different story.



There is a lot of heavy work to do on Saturday morning. All the radios and equipment for both the CW and SSB tents have to be placed and configured. The AC wiring is on a wooden spool and it is HEAVY. That wiring has to be unloaded from the truck, unspooled, and then ran from the generator to the tents. The portable gas station has to be placed near the generator and it is heavy since it holds about 14 gallons of gas. Of course, the generator itself is also heavy. Ah, the generator; old reliable, working fine for years without any complaints or problems. That is until your editor tried starting it for the first time.

I filled the generator with gas, looked for any kind of shutoff valve (didn't see any), choke it, and then started yanking the rope. Nothing. More yanking, nothing. We checked for spark and it was sparking when pulling the rope. I finally called Tedd/KB8NW and he told me about the hidden shut off valve. Yep, there it is. I open it and started yanking the rope again. Now it is starting to pop, one more yank ought to do it. The next thing I knew is that I was holding a piece of rope in my hand, and the generator wasn't running. Field Day was starting in a couple of hours, what to do?

Fortunately, Mr. Fixit Denny/WB8K was available and he started tearing the generator apart. We were lucky that Pete/N8TR had his well stocked tool truck available. Denny was able to put a new knot in the end of the rope and install it in the ratcheting mechanism in spite of the fact the part that needed to come off was held on by rivets instead of screws or bolts. And then it roared to life! The generator

ran perfectly for the entire 24 plus hours of Field Day. After Field Day was over, and the generator was having a well deserve rest, Tedd/KB8NW tried starting it again. You should ask Tedd/KB8NW what happened next.

Denny/WB8K had quite an audience while repairing the generator so we decided to use that experience as our official educational activity bonus: emergency field repair of small generators!

The rest of Field Day was a blast! Doug Papay/KD8CAO was running them in the SSB tent at a fast clip, same with Goose/W8AV in the CW tent. I think the SSB station was active continually and the CW station was inactive only for a short while early Sunday morning. The 6M station was popular this year with 17 CW and 70 SSB QSOs. Doug and John/K8YSE also made 20 satellite QSOs!

As usual, there was lots of good food and conversation. Ron/K8VJG bought custom donuts from his brother's donut shop and they were almost too pretty to eat! But they didn't last long. I could tell that some people were trying to resist (got to watch that waistline) but they succumbed in the end. My lovely wife (Karen) cooked the first batch of hamburgers and hot dogs and everybody enjoyed them. Karen also shopped and purchased most of the food.

I would like to thank everybody who participated and attended Field Day this year, it was a great club effort and it took contributions from many people to make it a success. I would like to give special thanks to Bruce/N8JDX for his donation of the portable gas station, complete with gas!

Score wise, we did great, the best ever for NODXA! We had 8494 QSO points and 1450 bonus points for a total of **9944!** Not bad for 2A. Details are below, maybe next year we can break 10K!

Bonus Points:

100% Emergency power	200
Media Publicity	100
Public Location	100
Public Information Table	100
Formal message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Formal messages handled - No.=10	100
Satellite QSO completed	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site Visit by invited elected official	100
Submitted via the Web	50
Educational activity	100
Social media	100
Safety officer	100
<b>Total Bonus Points</b>	<b>1,450</b>

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	1387	0	1473		
Total Points	2774	0	1473	4247	Claimed Score = 8,494

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m	219	150			150	150
40m	728	150			149	150
20m	300	150			1084	150
15m	123	150				
10m						
6m	17	100			70	100
2m						
1.25						
Other						
Satellite					20	10
GOTA						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1387</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>1473</b>	





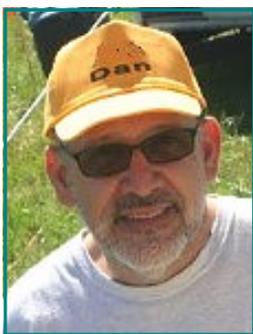




## How to Copy CW in Your Head by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The second most common question that I get about CW is, "How do I learn to copy in my head?" When I get this question, I give, what to some, is a very unsatisfying answer. One day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Carlo Consoli, IKOYGJ, author of *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy* ([http://www.qsl.net/ikOygj/enu/ZART\\_r20101008m.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/ikOygj/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf)), says that what operators need to do is to program themselves to copy in their heads. He counsels operators to practice relaxation and visualization exercises. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and maybe one day you will be one.



This approach seems to have worked for Consoli. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm. I'm not sure that this is really going to work for everyone, though.

Another approach is touted by Carl, N7AGK. On his website, Carl writes, "I have created a program to assist you in learning to copy Morse code in your head. Everything you need will be contained on a single USB flashdrive that I will provide to you. In the program there are audio Morse code presentations followed by a visual display. The visual display shows the information in large print and upper case letters. The visual display verifies that you have received the Morse code correctly." Carl's program costs

\$20 and is available from [n7agk.com](http://n7agk.com).

Zeb, HB9FXW, has created a free web application called Seiuchy (<http://www.kb6nu.com/let-walrus-help-copy-head/>) to help people learn head copying. Seiuchy, which Zeb says is Japanese for walrus, simulates on-air contacts. The trick to using this app is that instead of copying exactly what's sent, you only copy the most important bit of information. The idea is that if you train yourself to do this, then you can concentrate on what's important rather than getting bogged down in copying what's not important.

A different take on head copy was sent in by one of my blog readers, Bill, W3MSH. He wrote, "I was a CW op for many years and discovered something fascinating. I first began to hear "dots and dashes", then letters, words, sentences and at 35+ wpm, thoughts in my head."

I think Bill may have hit the nail on the head with this comment. I like the idea that copying code in your head is more akin to generating thoughts than it is to copying individual characters or words. Everybody talks about how getting faster is about moving from copying individual characters to copying words to copying entire sentences. I've never thought of it that way, although I was at a loss as to how to describe how I do it. I think the idea that when copying in your head, the code creates thoughts directly is a beautiful way to put it.

Isn't that what's happening when you talk to someone? When someone talks to me, I don't consciously parse the sentences and then analyze them to see what was just said. It's more of an unconscious process. The sounds being uttered are creating ideas in my head.

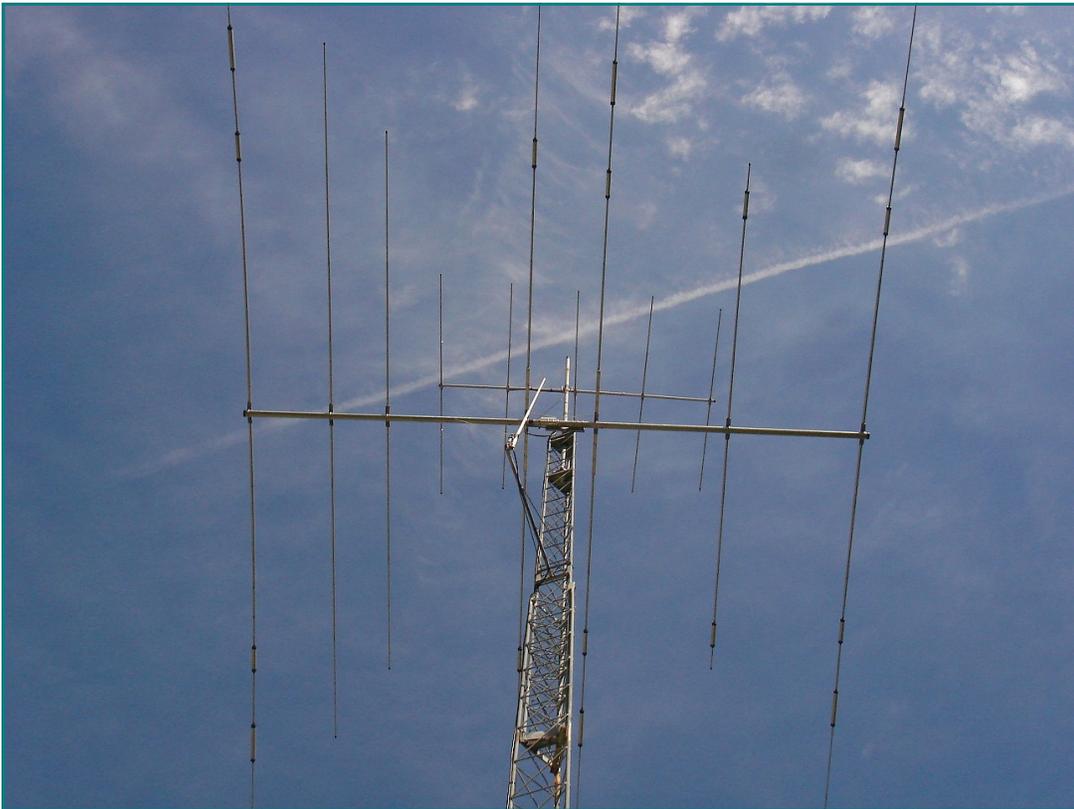
Shouldn't we approach head copy in the same way? Instead of thinking about head copy as the process of writing down the characters on an internal blackboard to be read later, it should be about translating the sound of the Morse Code directly into concepts. The sounds "dah di dit...dah dah dah...dah dah dit," should conjure up the image of a poodle or a pitbull, not the letters "D O G."

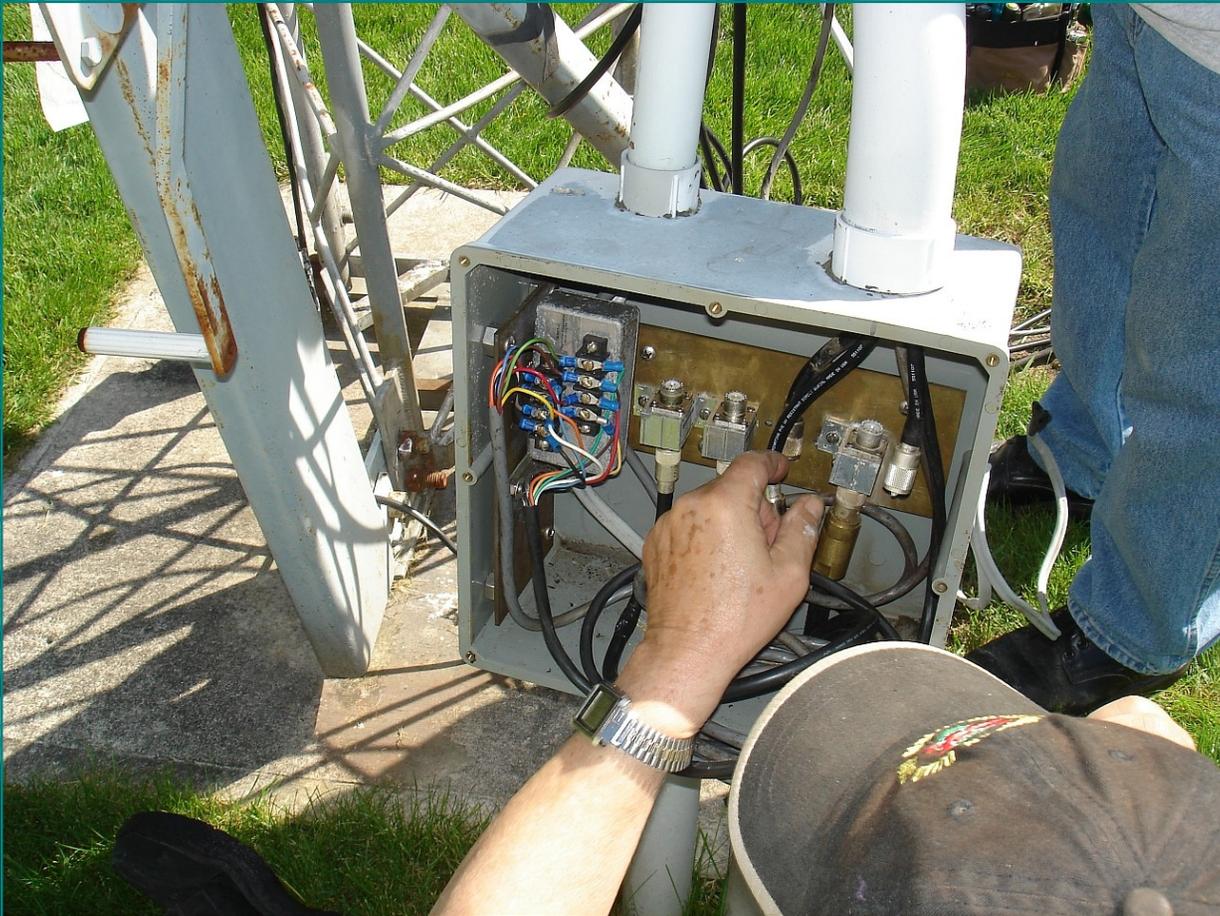
How that translates into a program or a method for learning to copy the code in one's head is another matter. It might be worth thinking about, though.



# K8ME Tower Takedown—May 23, 2017

photos by Glenn Williams, AF8C









# NODXA Day at DX Engineering photos by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW







Above is the new NODXA QSL card. The photo was taken at the 2017 Field Day site. What a rowdy bunch of guys! (And girls)

The following items are for sale from the K8ME/SK and K8BCK/SK estates. All items are pretty much negotiable (within reason). If price is not listed make offer. If interested, let me know via E-mail....

73 de Tedd KB8NW <[kb8nw@barf80.nshore.org](mailto:kb8nw@barf80.nshore.org)>

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE: Most items will be available at the upcoming Hamfests...

ANTENNAS :

Create 6m to 1300 MHz log periodic (listed \$519.95) (\$250) comes with some coax

HY-GAIN TAILTWISTER (\$450)

New Cushcraft A270-10s Yagi Beam (\$85.00)

WARC band rotation dipole (possibly a Cushcraft D3W) (\$160)

-----  
RADIOS & Accessories:

YAESU FTDX-3000D (\$1200)

\*YAESU FT-1000 Transceiver (for parts)

\*Yaesu SP-8 FT1000 External speaker

Yaesu FT 2000 Transceiver w/External power supply and Micro tuning kit 80/40 (new) in two boxes (\$1600)

\*Kenwood 820 Transceiver (For Parts)

\*Kenwood SP 820 Speaker

\*Kenwood VFO - 820 Remote VFO

-----  
Misc Items:

\* New in the Box (Sealed) two 8875 tubes (\$600.00 for the pair) [Very Rare]

\* Used 3-500ZG Tubes (Make Offer)

-----  
\* Will not be at the hamfest.....  
-----

Ameriton AL82 (\$1600)

Used MFJ 6 Meter Tuner MFJ-906 (\$50.00)

MJF \$22B-X Keyer (\$90.00)

Used MFJ-249 SWR analyzer (\$150.00)

Universal Tower Controller RMC-1000 (Make Offer)

MFJ MFJ-407B Deluxe electronic keyer

Hy-gain Tailtwister Antenna rotator (\$450)

CW8-HD-UV Rotor cable 100' w/ connectors (\$75)

Weaver 1025 Climbing belt with adjustable lanyard (new)

-----  
We have some Heathkit Items and Amps which still have to be tested, but if interested let use know.....  
-----

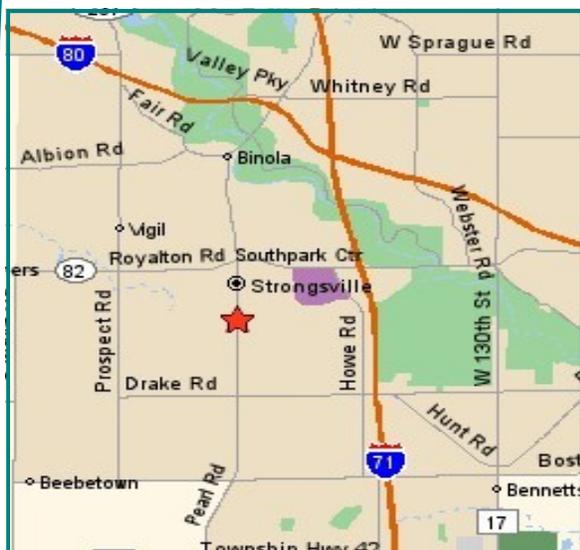
Heathkit SB401 Transmitter

Heathkit SB303 Receiver w/SB600 speaker

Heathkit SB220 Misc parts

Heathkit SB220 Amplifier

Heathkit SB220 Amplifier



## 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](mailto:wd8iou@adelphia.net)

## NODXA Club Officials for 2017-2018

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



INDEXA

## 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, KB8NW, AF8C, W8AJ, and KB6NU,