

May-June 2016

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Poolside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

The Dayton HamVention was again great and fun as always. However, this year there was nothing there that got me excited to buy anything. I bought some odds and ends (non-ham related items) and a new IOTA directory which added up to about \$50. This seem to be the only disappointing thing about Dayton. The night activities (NODXA's hospitality suite) and the camaraderie of meeting with other DXers (new and old) and other hams was the highlight for me. The NODXA hospitality suite was another big success. I feel that there were more interesting DXers who attended this year than any other year.



Janeen, W8ZET, was again a great hostess/sponsor of the suite and provided plenty of food/drink for those who attended. On behalf of the club, thanks, Janeen for all of the hard work in sponsoring the suite and preparing the food/drink. Also, let's hope that the HamVention is in the same location next

year.

As I am writing this, the ARRL Field Day Weekend is only a week away. The details and the NODXA FD site are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you can attend. We can use all the help we can, especially this year.

NODXA's FD Chairman will be there in spirit this year. John, K8YSE, will be having surgery a few days before FD, and we wish him the best and a quick recovery. His presence will be surely missed.

If you have not heard, Dom, 3Z9DX, is expected to be active any time now from North Korea. Specific dates are not announced. North Korea authorities will give Dom a short notice when he can come there and operate. So Dom is sitting and waiting for the call with bags packed.

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).

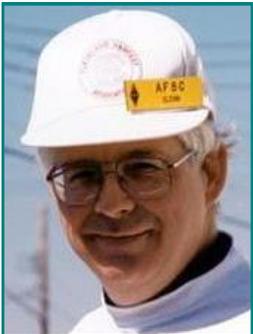
As a reminder, if you have a topic to discuss about DXing or contesting, bring it up at the meeting. Also, if you would like to put on a program of some interest for the club in the coming months, let us know so we can schedule you in for a meeting. We are always looking for a program.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

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

Minutes of the March 7th, 2016 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:32 p.m. by president Tedd, KB8NW, with 23 members present..



After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the undersigned read the minutes for the meeting of February 1, 2016. Ron, K8VJG, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed on the vote. Then treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Mary said dues are coming in nicely. Tim, W8TAH, moved and Ron, K8VJG, seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed on the vote. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU, reported that he is working on the next newsletter. He has need for more material for the newsletter.

Tedd's question on the status of the repeater was answered by Glenn, AF8C, who reported the continuing concern by the West Park Radiops members about the intermittent static noise that happens only on random Monday evenings during their net. In response to the suggestion that the repeater's receiving antenna might become noisy in high wind levels. Denny, WB8K, stated that the feedline is inside the pole shield, out of the wind, so the feedline cannot shake. The antenna, however, is outside.

Old/New Business:

Per Tedd, our donation to the ZL9A group was completed and our logo was up on their Web site the same day. Next a discussion of the DXEngineering catalog, sales location, the leadership by Tim Duffy, K3LR, and North Coast Contesters continued until 8:04 p.m. Pete, N8TR, discussed the use of the HI-Z short vertical receiving array on 160m and 80m. He also noted the inclusion of access to information on those antenna systems in the DXEngineering catalog. Dwaine, K8ME, opened discussion on the newly announced ARRL and FCC news raising the possibility of making all amateur licenses become lifetime licenses. Dwaine raised the question about whether that is a good idea. Commentary on the question came from Pete, N8TR, and George, K8KR. Another question was whether the FCC's fee for vanity calls was previously discontinued.

Rick, K8ZH, announced that Brian, K3USC, who is spending time in Florida in the winter, has had some medical conditions meriting people send him get well cards. In DX, Tedd announced that the Heard Island group will be leaving Capetown on the *Braveheart* on March 10. They will be on the Island for 21 days. Along with Heard Island will be the Juan de Nova activity for 14 days.

There's news that Hrane/YT1AD, will be going to KH1, Baker and Howe Islands, in the period of July through September 2017. Some of tonight's members reported having received their CQ magazine on March 1. Tedd said he has two VP8SSI videos on DVDs. One of the videos is 24 years old. Next Tedd asked if the members would be interested in a pre-contest luncheon before, or a post-contest luncheon after, the CQ WPX SSB contest coming on March 23. Look for email to come out on that event.

For Dayton news, Tedd says that Janeen has rooms available. For donation requests, our possible action on CY9C was left on the table until the April meeting. The officer's election process consisted of Pete, N8TR, re-nominating the current slate of officers for another one year term and all the members present agreeing to that. The officers being re-nominated all accepted the proposed ballot. The ballot vote will occur in April. Rick, K8ZH, asked if there is any news on Scarborough Reef. On that, Tedd responded that news sources have been really quiet.

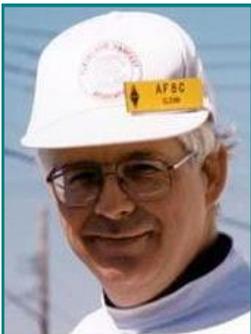
Wrapup:

The next meeting of NODXA will occur on April 4. A motion to adjourn the meeting was passed. Rick, K8ZH, won the 50/50 raffle and donated his half of the back to the club. The meeting closed at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the April 4th, 2016 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:16 p.m. by president Tedd, KB8NW, with 16 members present. After the round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the undersigned read the minutes for the meeting of March 7 2016. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Dwaine, K8ME, seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed on the vote. Then treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported that the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Mary said dues are coming in nicely. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Dave, WD8IOU, seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed on the vote. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU, reported that he is working on the next newsletter. He has need for more material for the newsletter.



Tedd's question on the status of the repeater was answered by Glenn, AF8C, who reported that during the last few weeks during the 9 p.m. Monday West Park Radios nets the repeater has been clean of noise.

Old/New Business:

Dave, WD8IOU, pointed out that the W8DXA repeater license will need to be renewed by November 26, 2016. A bit of discussion on license renewals followed. The period of renewal for a license currently starts 90 days before the license expires.

Per Tedd, the food and room at the recent pre-CQ WPX contest luncheon at Buffalo Wild Wings received many accolades. Fourteen people were at that event. At the next such luncheon it is highly likely to include the showing of a contest or DX video. Tedd announced that at the May meeting there will be a vote on the usual budget for the Dayton hospitality room. We usually allocate \$250.00 for those expenses. Last year the final costs slightly exceeded the \$250.00.

Tedd has received another funding request, this one being for Iran, EP2A, occurring on April 15. Eight operators will be in that event. EP is number 54 in the DXCC wanted list. Dave, KZ8Y, asked if EP2A will work U.S. stations. Also on the table we have the funding request for CY9C. Bruce, N8DJX, moved that we also table EP2A for now. Tim, W8TAH seconded the motion and the vote was a chorus of ayes.

Next Pete, N8TR, moved to elect by white ballot the slate of officers nominated at the last meeting. This motion was seconded by Bruce, N8DJX. The vote passed on this action. Dwaine reminded us of the Dayton bus opportunity for which seats are still available. It was not surprising that we would discuss the current operations of Heard Island VK0EK, and Juan de Nova, FT4JA, which we did. Tedd passed around a sheet of current QSO statistics on the VK0EK. Pete, N8TR, mentioned the ON4KST chat room where the Heard Island 160m operator appeared on one occasion. Pete also discussed the 160m propagation conditions for Heard Island.

Tedd announced that Spratly, 9M00 and 9M05, will be up, along with East Timor, 4W and Cambodia, XU7AKC. Dave, KZ8Y, brought up the ARRL DXAC decision to delete Kingman Reef, KH5K, from the DXCC rolls. This action also drops the active DXCC entity ceiling to 339, and reduces by one entity the credits of everyone who has credit for KH5K. Pete discussed the history of the ownership and sinking reef status of KH5K. George, K8KR, inquired as to the ownership of Macau. The answer was that it's a Special Administrative Region of China, as is Hong Kong.

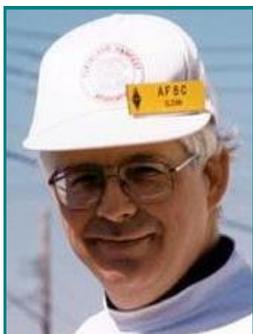
Wrapup:

Tedd has three videos of South Sandwich Dxpeditons. The short 24 minute video will be shown tonight. The next meeting of NODXA will occur on May 2. A motion by Bruce, N8DJX, which was seconded by Tim, W8TAH, to adjourn the meeting was passed. No raffle occurred tonight. The meeting closed at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the May 2nd, 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 April 4, 2016. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Dwaine, K8ME, seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed on the vote. Then treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported a treasury balance of \$Ka-Ching! Mary reported on having received dues from new member KE8CZQ. Terrance Vacha. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed on the vote. Our editor, Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter went out last month and he is starting to work on the next edition. Tedd's question on the status of the repeater was answered with "OK".



Old/New Business:

Tedd inquired as to the outcome of the EP2A operation. Some members said that EP2A had no 160m. A few people got EP2A, including Dave, KZ8Y. George, K8KR, moved and Dave, KZ8Y, seconded that the club donate \$100 to EP2A's expenses. On the vote there were counted 9 ayes, 3 nays, and at least one abstention, so the motion passed. Tedd, KB8NW, thinks it might be too late to have our logo on the card, however.

On the matter of the CY9C operation, George, K8KR, moved and Bruce, N8DJX seconded that the club donate \$100 also to CY9C. That motion passed unanimously. On the renewal of the repeater license, that will happen on the same date as Dwaine's K8ME license, November 16. Dwaine again announced that there are still seats available on the Dayton bus. Next came a discussion on the rumor in the Dayton Daily News that a developer might buy and build on the Arena property. The owner is allegedly in arrears on the property tax.

Dave, WD8IOU, announced having two extra flea market tickets. Tedd needed a motion to cover the expenses of the hospitality suite. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Dave, WD8IOU, seconded a motion to allocate \$250.00 for hospitality suite expenses. On the topic of Heard Island, Tedd did not hear them. VKOEK reportedly only worked 2300 SSB QSOs in North America between Monday and Sunday. High QSO levels were mostly for CW and RTTY to Europe and Asia.

Tedd said that JA1BK will be at Dayton. Pete, N8TR, said only 6 QSOs occurred in Zone 4. Reports from TX3X were received. The expenses for TX3X were to be on the order of \$152,000. Pete, commenting on VKOEK, said that with it so late in March, the twilight line was not favorable to North America. There were two hours of common daylight with two hours of common darkness.

Wrapup:

Last meeting's program video was of VP8SSI. The next meeting will occur on June 6. The 50/50 raffle pot was \$30, with the split being won by Jim, KC8VTF, who donated his half back to the club. Door prizes were won by Dennis, K8LBT; George, K8KR; and Bruce, N8DJX. A motion by Bruce, seconded by Karl, K8BCK, to close the meeting passed on the vote. The meeting closed at 8:08 p.m. Following that was a video on VP8THU.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

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

Design Advances Make Portable Operation Easier, More Fun

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



I've just returned from the Dayton Hamvention. Dayton was a blast as usual, and if there's one thing I took away from this year's event it's that portable operation is not only becoming more popular, but more sophisticated as well. In fact, it's a virtuous circle. More sophisticated portable equipment is making portable operation more popular, which is spurring manufacturers to make more sophisticated equipment, which is making portable operation even more popular, and around we go.

This is perhaps most easily seen in the evolution of the Elecraft products. One of their first rigs was the K1, a small rig that was frequently toted out into the field, even though it wasn't really designed for that purpose. It had a small form factor, but had a conventional front panel layout.

The next evolution was the KX1. This CW-only radio was designed specifically for field work. It originally only covered 40m and 80m, and had a very limited front panel, but its built-in battery pack and KXPD1 paddle made it a great choice for portable operators when it was introduced in 2004.

A big leap forward was made when they introduced the KX3 in 2012. This radio combined a bunch of features never before found in a portable rig. The KX3 features an SDR architecture and covers all modes, including (SSB, CW, Data, FM, AM); used the same full-sized LCD display as the K3; has advanced DSP features; and can be connected to a computer via USB for firmware upgrades and for use with other ham radio software. The KX3 is so full-featured that many operators use it as their main rig with a suitable linear amplifier.

At Dayton 2016, Elecraft took this concept even further and introduced the KX2. It's about half the size of the KX3, but yet has almost all of the features of the KX3. There was a tremendous amount of buzz over this radio at Dayton among portable operation aficionados. The base price of the KX2 is \$750, and with options, will cost you about \$1,000.

Of course, Elecraft isn't the only company competing in this market. LNR Precision sells a radio called the LD-5, and at Dayton, they introduced the LD-11, which like the KX3 and KX2 features an SDR architecture and covers 160m - 6m. This radio goes for about \$800, and has also proven to be popular among portable operators.

Dayton also had a number of exhibitors that supplied products other than radios to aid portable operation. There were several portable antenna manufacturers, including Buddipole (buddipole.com) and PackTenna (packtenna.com), and BiEnno Power (biennopower.com) was also there, showing off their new lithium-iron batteries,

While radios like the KX2 and LD-11, at relatively low prices, allow operators to easily get out into the field, portable operation would not be as popular as it is without organized activities. Programs like the Summits on the Air (SOTA, www.sota.org.uk, na.sota.org) and the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA, npota.arrl.org) make portable operation even more fun. These programs do this by providing a structure in which operators can find one another and gain awards for operating. SOTA did not have a booth at Dayton, but NPOTA was a big part of the ARRL section there.

If you aren't already a portable operator, you should give it a try! You don't have to invest a bunch of money in a rig to just try it. KX1s have been had for less than \$400, and simpler QRP rigs cost a lot less. Getting outside and operating in the fresh air is a lot of fun and could give you a whole new perspective on amateur radio.

A new Heathkit! So, why am I not excited?

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago I got an e-mail from Heathkit. Yes, the NEW Heathkit. you might remember that a couple of years ago, there was all this hype about a "new" Heathkit and how they were going to start designing new kits as well as revive popular old designs. Then, nothing. They went completely quiet—until a couple of weeks ago. In an e-mail sent to their "insiders," they say:



"Dear Heathkit Insider,

'What I really hope Heathkit will produce,' a Silicon Valley colleague recently told me, 'is a new radio kit with a beautiful finish, maybe in rosewood.' Something great to enjoy building and learn from, and also visually stunning, so he could put it in his living room and keep it forever.

"Today, my friend gets his wish.

They then go on to explain all of the work they've been doing in relocating Heathkit to Santa Cruz, CA, acquiring a second company, and securing all the intellectual property rights to the old Heathkit manuals and logos (meaning no more bootleg copies on the Internet). The e-mail continues:

"That's a lot, but there's more. We've designed and developed a wide range of entirely new kit products. We authored the manuals for these kits, complete with the beautiful line art you rely on, preserving and respecting our iconic historic Heathkit style. We developed many new inventions and filed patents on them.....We built the back office infrastructure, vendor and supply chain relationships, systems, procedures, operations methods, and well-thought-out corporate structure that a manufacturing company needs to support its customers, to allow us to scale instantly

the day we resume major kit sales. All this effort enables us to introduce a fleet of new kits and helps ensure Heathkit can grow, prosper, and continue to bring you great new products for a very long time."

So, what's the exciting news? A new QRP transceiver? Maybe a shortwave radio? A new 100-in-1 experimenter kit for Makers?

Uh-uh. Sorry. The "exciting" news is a tuned radio frequency (TRF) AM band (yes, I said AM band)



radio kit that costs \$150 (<https://shop.heathkit.com/shop/product/explorer-jr-trf-am-radio-receiver-kit-black-case-gr-150-bk-16>). Not only is that crazy expensive for an AM radio, it doesn't even come with a speaker. On top of that, there's no soldering. You screw all of the components to the board. I'm speechless (well, figuratively, not literally).

I'm not sure what the target market is for this product. It's certainly not amateur radio operators, who expect a lot more (in terms of both functionality and "fun") for their money. Nor is it the "Maker" folks, who want something more challenging than an AM radio. I think that if I took this to show off at the local Ann Arbor Maker group, they'd laugh me out of the place.

I really hope that they have something better up their sleeves. A strong Heathkit would be good for the Maker movement and for ham radio.

Editor's Note: The <https://shop.heathkit.com/shop> website lists several new products and upgrades for older Heathkit products.

Hexbeam by SP7IDX by Denny Jakubsin, WB8K

Here are a few of pictures from today's activity. Total of about four hours work from assembling the antenna to mounting it on the tower. Final resting place will be about five feet higher (55') when I raise the mast and install the rotor.

Many thanks to the ground crew - Pete N8TR, Mary N8DMM and Kathy N8KEP.

Initial SWR check shows all six bands are within specs.

73, Denny - WB8K



Field Day 2016 by David Autry, WD8IOU

It's Field Day time again! June 25 and 26 to be exact. John, K8YSE, the club's normal field day chairman is not available due to a upcoming surgery, so we will be "winging" it this year. John may be available to make a quick satellite QSO and we wish him the best. As usual, we will do a low-key, just for fun, operation. As a result, we will not have a GOTA station this year because of all the extra work required to set it up; the club will participate in the 2A class using two stations: SSB, and CW/RTTY.



The NODXA site is the same as last year, the Mount Augustine Training Center located on 5232 Broadview Road in Richfield. A map to the Field Day site is below.

Everybody is encouraged to attend this 24-hour marathon, and, most of all, to operate! We especially need CW operators to keep that station running for the full 24 hours.

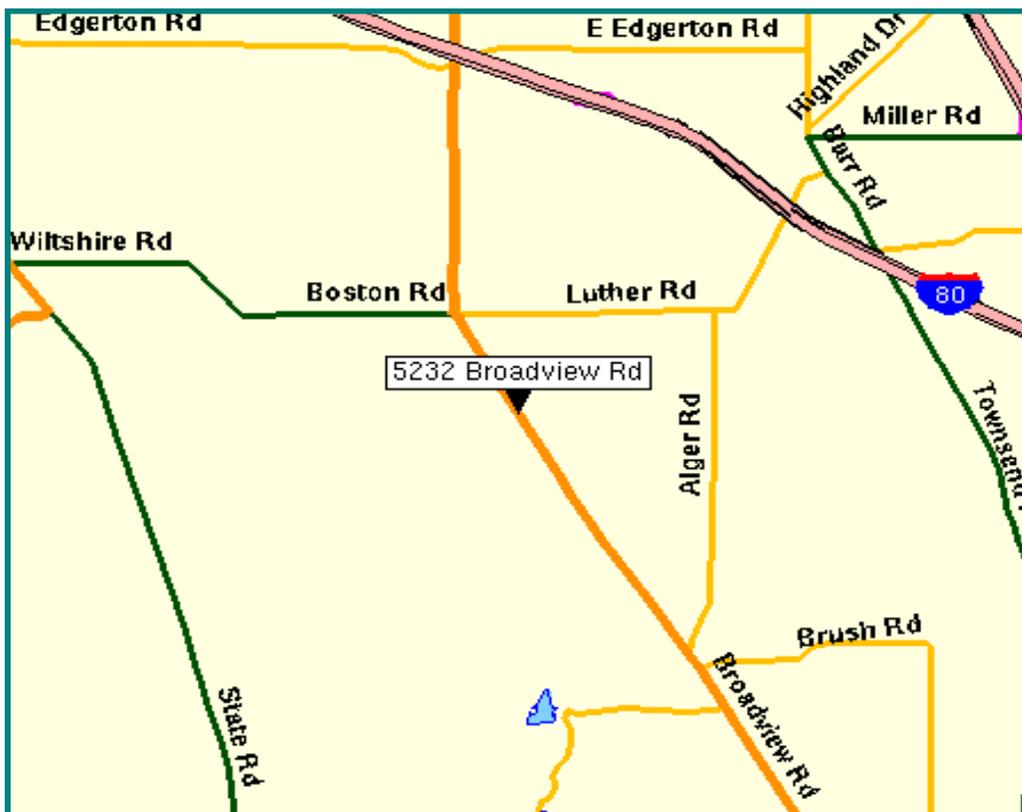
Field Day is a great way to introduce young people to ham radio. So bring your grandkids, nephews/nieces, etc.

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!



Dayton 2016 by David Autry, WD8IOU photos by Tedd, KB8NW and WD8IOU

Dayton 2016 was a blast this year, plenty of stuff to do. The weather was hot one day and then cold the next. This year was different for me since my primary goal was to sell boat anchors and other miscellaneous stuff. Staying put in the flea market spot for all three days sure saved a lot of wear and tear on the old feet! Anyway, here are some photos of Dayton this year.



Linda (XYL of KB8NW), Nigel Jolly (KC3HAE, Owner of the Braveheart), Janeen Hire (W8ZET) and the world famous waffle iron!



At the Convention, Paul/N6PSE, Dave/WD5COT and Tedd/KB8NW Both operators from the VP8STI and VP8SGI Operations.



Dave (WD8IOU), Neil (VA7DX), and Tedd (KB8NW). Wow! I really make you guys look small!



Kathy (N8KEP) selling her hand made blankets on that cold Saturday. I think she almost sold out of everything!



Rick/K8ZH, Pete/N8TR, and Nick/W8XD, at the NODXA flea market spot.



Step right up! I have a deal for you!



Hospitality suite with Tom/K8CX (Ham Gallery Web page), Wes/W3WL and Tedd/K8NW



The famous Spurious Emissions band! These guys are great! Check them out on youtube!



Chowing down at the Spaghetti Warehouse!



Sitting in the stands hoping to win an unclaimed door prize, or maybe the big one! Dayton is over :(

Big Changes Coming To Field Day by <http://hamjinks.com/>

By [WBØRUR](#), on the scene

NEWINGSTEAD, VT — In a controversial decision, the National Radio Retransmission Legion (NRRL) will no longer accept Field Day score summaries on paper beginning next year.

The organization had no choice, says NRRL Director of Contests and Promotions Dr. Johnson Longville.

"This year we received over 1,200 hand written log entries," says Longville. "And about 80% of them are illegible."

The contest director says it's not poor hand writing which creates the issue, but food.

"This year we saw it all. One club entry was complete with smeared apple pie and Cool Whip. Another included BBQ sauce. One club even submitted an entire chicken salad sandwich with their entry...and the mayonnaise ran all over the bonus point section. Completely illegible."

Longville provides this breakdown of "foreign particulates" submitted with entries.



- 1. Coffee and or creamer stains:** 462
- 2. Cherry pie (or other fruit) filling:** 276
- 3. Mustard/ketchup/alternative condiment:** 194
- 4. Bacon grease and fried egg:** 143
- 5. Fosters Beer:** 1

Longville says in the future, clubs must download a 4.5 terabyte logging and score-keeping app, submit a pass code request from NRRL, and run Linux Red Hat version 2.8 on a 8GB ram desktop computer.

Additionally, uploads to the NRRL computer must be made with a Level 4 VPN secure connection similar to those used in the NORAD Command Center.

"We know it's a bit of a difficult process for most clubs to get this set up," says Longville.

"But it's still easier than setting up Logbook of the World."

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, WB8K, KB6NU, and hamhijinks.com/