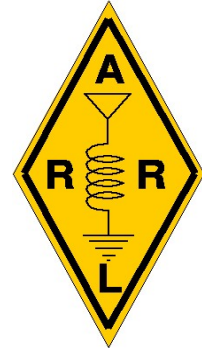


Summer 2021

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG

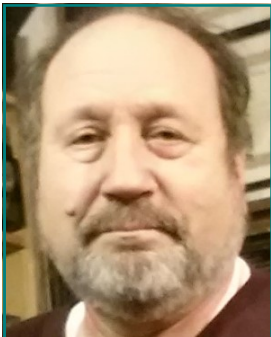


Fireside Chat With KB8NW

Fellow DXers,

Let's close the door on 2020 and hope that 2021 will be a better year.

As I write this on February 3rd, the COVID-19 crisis still continues. It will almost be a year since we had an in person meeting in March of last year, and in mid-March was our last NODXA luncheon. WOW! has time flown.



The NODXA club continues to hold their "On-The-Air" business meetings (which are fairly short) once a month during one of Wayne's, K8FF, weekly NODXA Thursday night 10 meter nets at 8:30 pm on 28480 kHz. Usually, the net starts with one or two rounds of individual comments and then the club's business meeting will start. It is recommend to check-in so you can keep up on some important club updates.

The weekly net averages about 10-12 individuals who check-in each week. Wayne does a great job of running the net, and it is good to hear (as well as keep in touch) with the individuals that check-in. Conversations during the "On-The-Air" net range anywhere from a variety of discussions on DX, FT8 and COVID-19. However, everyone still misses the in person meetings and the NODXA luncheons.

Not much is really happening as far as major DXpeditions. There was some word that the 3Y0I team may make a go at Bouvet Island, but as always everything is secretive again with this group (no date, no details). The only thing we know is that some team members are in South Africa (possibly getting things ready to leave for 3Y. Watch the DX info sources to keep updated.

Most major and small hamfests are still canceled, especially the Day-Xenia HamVention. A lot of major hamfests are turning to "virtual" hamfests online.
Hopefully by September the Cleveland hamfest will be able to take place. KYFC!!!!

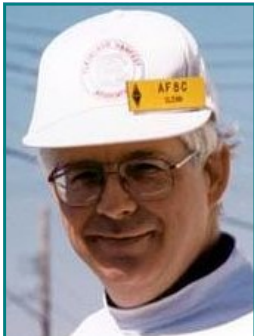
Let's hope that the COVID-19 virus crisis comes to an end and things can get back to normal. For now, I hope everyone stays healthy in the coming months. Get on the bands and work something.

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 November 12th, 2020 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 8:38 p.m. on Wayne, K8FF's, 10m net on 28480 kHz with nine regular members and one guest attendee present. Then the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of October 15, 2020. Gary, NI8Z, moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved by vote.



Via email but not on the net our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance is solvent at \$Ka-Ching! There was one more dues payment and one refund. You can use the form in the club newsletter to send in your dues. Gary, NI8Z, moved and Metro, W8MET, seconded that the treasurer's report be approved. The treasurer's report was approved by voice. The repeater was reported by Glenn, AF8C, as OK. Editor Dave, WD8IOU, was not on the net tonight.

Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that last month's donation to the 7Q7RU operation was gratefully accepted. Tedd received a thank you and our logo is on their site now. There are 8 to 9 operators there. The arrival was complicated by a last minute visa problem. So far the activity has been on 160m through 15m, mostly CW, FT8, and Satellite. Tedd reported that the JX0X operation was canceled due to "too many uncertainties involved in this project". Our donation was quickly re-funded via PayPal.

Sunshine:

Tedd reported that famous DXer John Devoldere, ON4UN, became a SK this week after a long illness. His daughter wrote well about him. He was the author of the ARRL book "Low Band Dxing". George, K8KR, noted that if you ever worked ON4UN, you really did get a QSL card back. Look for Tedd's OPDX Bulletin for any new announcements of any commemorations for ON4UN. Tedd visited our favorite restaurant recently. The owner Azar is medically in serious condition due to his fall. There is a huge card for him for people to sign if they drop by the restaurant.

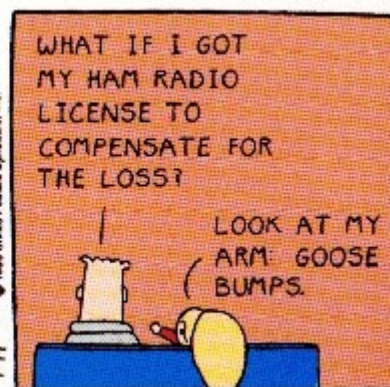
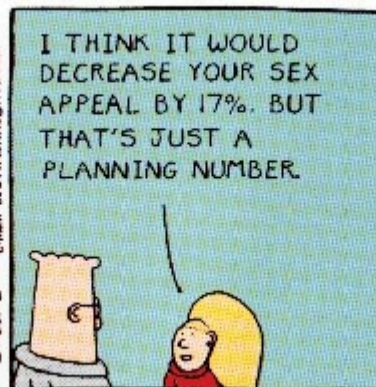
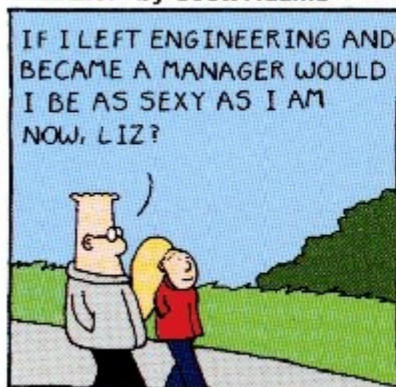
This time there was no news on Dave, KZ8Y. We know that Dave is home now. Tedd called to try to talk to someone about the condition of Ron, K8VJG. Only a recording was available. But John, K8YSE, reported on contacting Ron's daughter although she had little to add. Visitors can arrange to have a visit with Ron by talking through a closed glass door at his care center.

Wrap-up:

Tedd brought the question of whether to cancel or not cancel the December meeting. John, K8YSE, moved, and Denny, WB8K, seconded that we have the meeting on the air again in December. There were no objections. For closing this meeting, John, K8YSE, moved, and Ken, W8KEN, seconded the motion to close the meeting. It was so voted and the meeting closed at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

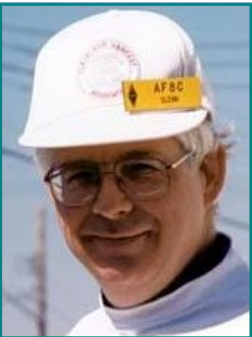
DILBERT™ by Scott Adams



Minutes of the December 3rd, 2020 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 8:40 p.m. on Wayne, K8FF's, 10m net on 28480 kHz with eleven regular members and one guest attendee present. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of November 12, 2020, Gary, NI8Z, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved by vote.

Via email but not on the net our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance is \$Ka-Ching! She reported one more dues payment and one refund. You can use the form in the club newsletter to send in your dues. The treasurer's report was approved as OK. The repeater was reported by Glenn, AF8C, as OK. Editor Dave, WD8IOU, was not on the net tonight.



Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that last month's donation to the 7Q7RU operation was gratefully accepted. Tedd received a thank you note and our logo is on now on their website. They have 8 to 9 operators. Their arrival was complicated by a last minute visa problem. So far the activity has been on 160m through 15m, mostly CW, FT8, and Satellite. Tedd reported that the JXOX operation was canceled due to "too many uncertainties involved in this project". Our donation was quickly refunded via PayPal.

After the November meeting Tedd received the annual postcard announcing the need to renew with OARC for renewal of the repeater, with a \$5.00 fee. Gary, NI8Z, moved, and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded for the club to fund the renewal. There were no objections. Tedd reported that the repeater needed more monitoring for its use. Tedd reported on the FCC decision that starting in 2021 all license applications and modifications will require that the licensee supplies a valid email address. He also reported receiving news that Universal Radio is closing its business. He also reported having received no funding donation requests. Denny, WB8K, reported that Dave, KZ8Y, is around and working DX.

Wrap-up:

Pete, N8TR, moved, and Denny, WB8K, seconded that we have the meeting on the air again in January, 2021. There were no objections. Gary, NI8Z moved that the motion to close the meeting. It was so voted and the meeting closed at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the January 7th, 2021 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 9:06 p.m. on Wayne, K8FF's, 10m net on 28480 kHz with 12 regular members and one guest attendee present. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of December 3, 2020, Dennis, K8LBT, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved by vote.

Via email but not on the net our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance is \$5824.65. You can use the form in the club newsletter to send in your dues. W8MET, Metro, moved and Ken, W8KEN, seconded that the treasurer's report be approved and it was approved by vote. The repeater was reported by Glenn, AF8C, as OK. Editor Dave, WD8IOU, was not on the net tonight.

Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that the Rebel DX Group is again planning for the 3Y0I DXpedition. There are no details on timing yet. They need much funding help. But they do not want conditions from clubs in exchange for funding. So no money is being requested. Some of the operators are in South Africa. [More information is in OPDX Bulletin 1498.]

The FCC has announced that the earlier mentioned license fee proposal for \$50.00 has been reduced to \$35.00. All new license applications will need a working email address, starting on June 29, 2021. Check the ARRL Letter for further information.

Denny, WB8K, mentioned a possible VHF contest on from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on January 9. George, K8KR, asked about the status of the 2021 Hamvention. Tedd reported that information sources on the Hamvention have been quiet. The answer probably depends on the Greene County officials. Denny, WB8K, mentioned the ARRL VHF contest starting Saturday at 1900Z and ending Monday at 03:59Z. John, K8YSE, remarked that the EIDX repeater Echolink connection is back up running again.

Wrap-up:

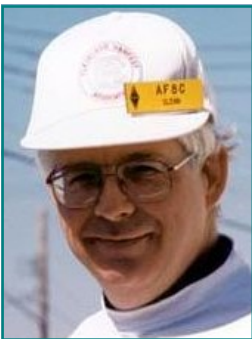
John, K8YSE, moved, and Wayne, K8FF, seconded that we have the meeting on the air again on February 4, 2021. There were no objections. Gary, NI8Z, moved for the motion to close this meeting. It was so voted and the meeting closed at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the February 4th, 2021 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 8:42 p.m. on Wayne, K8FF's, 10m net on 28480 kHz with ten regular members present. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of January 7, 2021, Denny, WB8K moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved by vote.

Via email but not on the net our Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance is \$Ka-Ching! You can use the form in the club newsletter to send in your dues. Pete, N8TR, moved and Ken, W8KEN, seconded that the treasurer's report be approved and it was approved by vote. The repeater was reported by Glenn, AF8C, as OK. Editor Dave, WD8IOU, was not on the net tonight.



Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that activity has been low. For DX updates, information on 3Y0I, Bouvet Island, has been quiet. Operators are planning for operating VK9W, Willis Island, during November 3rd to 13th 2021. They have not sent funding requests. (Mellish Reef is being planned for 2022.)

Tedd mentioned that the number of new DX activities reported on the NG3K website has been way down. Tedd reported that March seems to be a month for special event stations. The favorite activity mode these days has become FT8.

The Dayton Hamvention has been canceled for Covid-19 reasons. The Dayton group has announced a Hamvention QSO party. The Huntsville Hamfest will be on August 21 and 22. Tedd reminded us that March is the month for officers nominations. Pete, N8TR, mentioned that the "QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo" on the Internet on March 13 to 14 has a \$10.00 registration fee.

Wrap-up:

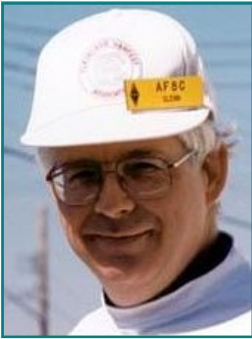
Tedd has no new information on the status of Azar from the restaurant. The next meeting will be on the net again on March 4 if the members wish. John, K8YSE, moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded that we have the meeting on the air again on March 4, 2021. There were no objections. The meeting closed at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the March 4th, 2021 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 8:46 p.m. on Wayne, K8FF's, 10m net on 28480 kHz with ten regular members present. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of February 4, 2021, there were no corrections.

Our treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance is \$Ka-Ching! You can use the form in the club newsletter to send in your dues. Wayne, K8FF, moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded that the treasurer's report be approved and it was approved by vote. The repeater was reported by Glenn, AF8C, as OK. Editor Dave, WD8IOU, was not on the net tonight.



Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, said there is little to report on. The ARRL DX Phone contest is happening this weekend. Tedd noted that the NG3K Announced DXpeditions website has one of the shortest lists ever seen, with only 17 events listed. A year ago there were 40 different activities listed. Tedd reminded us that on March 14 Daylight Savings Time shift happens.

Pete, N8TR, noted that the February CQ magazine says that 200 to 210 DXCC entities are expected to be operating in the CQ World Wide contests this fall. In 2020 there were only 149 such entities. Glenn, AF8C, reminded us of the VK9CE Cocos

Keeling operation starting on March 16 for a week.

The major business tonight was to nominate new club officers for the April vote. For secretary, Glenn, AF8C was nominated by KB8NW and seconded by Denny, WB8K. For treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, was nominated by Pete, N8TR, and seconded by Glenn, AF8C. For vice president, Dennis, K8LBT, was nominated by Glenn, AF8C and seconded by Pete, N8TR. For president Tedd, KB8NW, was nominated by Dennis, K8LBT, and seconded by Pete, N8TR. A White Ballot vote to happen in April to elect 2021-2022 officers was moved by Tedd, KB8NW, and seconded by Pete, N8TR. This motion was approved unanimously.

Wrap-up:

Tedd has no new information on the status of the restaurant. Tedd discussed a possible in-person meeting at the restaurant, but when? After a bit of discussion, Pete, N8TR, suggested that everyone will need shots first. Tedd said that relative to a luncheon at Buffalo Wild Wings, the back room is closed right now. The next club meeting will be on the net again, as early as April 8. Wayne, K8FF, suggested that our first in person meeting could be done in a Metroparks pavilion outdoors, as a meeting/picnic. Tonight's meeting closed at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Appendices:

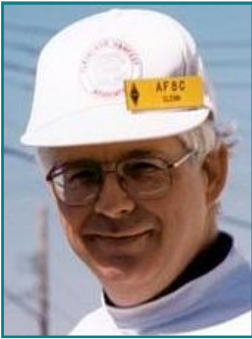
I. On the March 11, 2021, net directed by K8FF, Tedd announced a short fuse decision was necessary on whether to provide funding to the A25RU DXpedition to Botswana which will be live in two days, March 13 through March 28. R7AL is the leader of this activity to run on 160m through 10m on CW, SSB, and FT8, and SAT, no RTTY. John, K8YSE, moved to send \$150.00 to the event, and Wayne, K8FF, seconded. A subsequent motion to increase the amount to \$200.00 gained no second. The motion for 150.00 was passed by a unanimous vote.

II. On the March 18, 2021 net Tedd confirmed that the funding was sent by PayPal and that our logo was on their website by March 12, 2021.

Minutes of the April 1st, 2021 NODXA Meeting

On the one year anniversary of having our meetings on Wayne, K8FF's, 10m net on 28480 kHz, Tedd, KB8NW, opened this net meeting at 8:47 p.m. Eleven regular members were present. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of March 4, 2021, there were no corrections. Pete, N8TR, moved and Wayne, K8FF, seconded for approval of the minutes. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Our treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance is \$Ka-Ching! after all deposits have been done. You can use the form in the club newsletter to send in your dues due by May. Mary also listed an email address to use to send dues via PayPal (remember to send to a "friend" not a business). Send annual dues (\$20.00) to "marysbarn@roadrunner.com".



Dennis, K8LBT, moved and Pete, N8TR, seconded to approve the treasurers report and the motion was voted approved. The repeater is OK. Editor Dave, WD8IOU, was not on the net tonight.

Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, said that the Russian A25RU operation is over and that we received a donation thank-you from R7AL. His group is working to set up for another operation as C92RU in Mozambique on April 4 to 13. No additional funding requests have been received from anywhere.

Last month we had nominations for officers, with a straight renomination of all officers. Tonight we had a motion by Denny, WB8K, seconded by Pete, N8TR, to vote the White Ballot which was accomplished.

Wrap-up:

Tedd has no new information on the status of the restaurant. A bit of discussion happened about a possible in-person meeting in May, with a location stated as "somewhere". But due to concerns about unknowns about the Covid-19 virus variants, we would plan on meeting on the net again on May 6. Then Pete, N8TR, moved to approve a net meeting on May 6, and Ken, W8KEN, seconded, and that was agreed to. Tonight's meeting closed at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the May 6th, 2021 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 8:46 p.m. on Wayne, K8FF's, 10m net on 28480 kHz with eleven regular members present. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of April 1, 2021, there were no corrections. Ken, W8KEN, moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded for approval of the minutes. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Our treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance is [TBA] after all deposits have been done. You can use the form in the club newsletter to send in your dues of \$20.00 due by May of this year. Mary also listed an email address to use to send dues via PayPal (remember to send to a "friend" not a business). Send funds to "marysbarn@roadrunner.com".

Denny, WB8K, moved and Pete, N8TR, seconded to approve the treasurers report and the motion was approved. The repeater is OK. Editor Dave, WD8IOU, was on the net tonight and he is seeking articles for the next newsletter.

Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, said he received an email reminding the club to renew our Indexa membership for

\$20.00 before May 31. Dennis, K8LBT, moved and Pete, N8TR, seconded that we pay for that renewal. The vote was in favor of renewal.

Two weeks ago Tedd took a list of members seeking Logbook Of The World confirmation of their A25RU QSOs and he passed on the information to R7AL, the group leader. We did not send more funds for the C92RU expedition but some of our club members worked them. Tedd asked if we want to add some support now. No motion for C92RU funding was heard.

Tedd has an Eham.net notice from N6PSE promoting the upcoming January 2023 3Y0J Bouvet expedition. That activity cost up to \$750,000. Fourteen operators will ride the *Braveheart* for the 20 day expedition in which there will be a 16 day operation. To get our logo on the 3Y0J QSL card will cost at least \$500. Pete, N8TR, spoke in favor of the \$500 but suggested that members also kick in to help build the \$500 payment. George, K8KR, will contact Bruce, N8DJX. George also described that Bruce is gaining strength and is closing his shop permanently. Tedd will hold the question open for the June meeting.

Wrap-up:

Tedd asked if we could have an in-person meeting in June. The meeting might happen on June 14. Some people were thinking positively about an inside meeting. But most of the discussion leaned on checking out the possibility of having a later meeting in a park pavilion. Tedd will check on whether the restaurant will allow us to eat outside, with the additional concern about whether there enough tables with social distancing space available outside the restaurant.

Dennis, K8LBT, will check with the North Royalton parks department on the availability of a park pavilion. Tedd mentioned the possibility of the club paying for pizza in the pavilion and that we would meet at 6:30 p.m. for that. Stay tuned for more decisions.

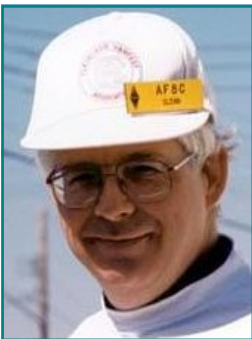
Tonight's meeting closed at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the June 10th, 2021 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 8:43 p.m. on Wayne, K8FF's, 10m net on 28480 kHz with 14 regular members checked in. After the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of May 6, 2021, there was one correction of a typo.

Then our treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance is \$Ka-Ching! after all deposits have been done. She reported six renewals were paid via PayPal. You can print the form in the club newsletter to send in your dues of \$20.00 which were due by May of this year. Alternatively, the dues can be paid via PayPal email using the email address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com". The treasurer's report was accepted by acclamation.



The repeater is OK. Editor Dave, WD8IOU, was on not the net tonight but of course he is seeking articles for the next newsletter.

Old/New Business:

Tedd, KB8NW, alerted us to pay attention to when Dayton 2022 hotel reservations at the Hope Hotel will go online. Mary, N8DMM, announced that Byron, KF8UN, will be active as HC1/KF8UN from Ecuador on 20m on 14260.0 until June 19.

The next order of business was the tabled action to donate \$500 to the 3Y0J Bouvet expedition. Although the club's "standard donation" for a DXpedition is \$100, Tedd suggested that there is ample reason this time to donate \$500 to \$1000. Then Dennis, WOJX, moved that we should make an "initial grant" of \$500. This was seconded by Ken, W8KEN. At that point George, K8KR, reminded us of Bruce, N8DJX, having a record of personally providing extra support to our donations. So we should wait to let Bruce into the grant support. Pete, N8TR, added additional voice support for a minimum of \$500. So the motion was again laid on the table.

Tedd proposed that we again have our July meeting on the net. But to make it possible to have face to face meeting time, Tedd announced that on June 17 at 4 p.m. at the North Royalton Aukerman Park we will have a summer picnic with pizza, chips and pop. Club support for that was suggested to be approximately \$120 and there were no objections.

Finally, with ARRL Field Day happening at the end of June we needed to decide on whether we will have a club Field Day at the usual site. But we no longer have our personal inside contact via Ron, K8VJG. And, no one else is familiar with how to make the request. So John, K8YSE, moved to cancel out of Field Day this year, and Brian, K3USC, seconded the motion. The vote to cancel passed on a voice vote.

Wrap-up:

Tedd announced his intent that we must resume having our meetings at the restaurant on the first Monday in August, being August 2. The July meeting will happen on K8FF's net and the date for that will be announced later.

Tonight's meeting closed at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

How to prevent ESD damage by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Here are some tips from Keysight Technologies, one of the leading electronic test equipment companies, on how to prevent ESD from damaging your electronics.

USE A GROUNDED WRIST STRAP whenever you are handling equipment or boards. Using a grounded wrist strap prevents your body from building up charge and causing damage when this built-up charge discharges into your equipment or test boards. Make sure to connect that alligator clip to ground!



USE GROUNDED WORK SURFACES OR MATS for your boards. Do NOT use static generating or insulating materials as a work surface. Non-grounded mats and static generating/insulating materials can inductively charge boards, especially exposed ones. When connecting a charged board to equipment, the board can cause damage by discharging into the equipment's inputs.

KEEP CHARGED MATERIALS AT LEAST 0.3 METERS FROM EXPOSED ASSEMBLIES. This includes plastics, foam, or other materials that can build up charge. Having a charged material near an exposed assembly can inductively charge the assembly. The assembly can then discharge into the equipment's inputs.

DISCHARGE YOUR CABLES BEFORE CONNECTING THEM TO YOUR EQUIPMENT. Electrostatic charges can build up on test probes and test leads, so it's important to discharge them before connecting them to your test equipment:

- Ensure your device is off.
- Connect your cable to your device.
- Attach a 50 Ω shunt to the open end of the cable.
- Remove the shunt and immediately attach your device to your equipment. This prevents the center conductor of your cable from discharging stored charge into your equipment. A charged assembly can charge connected cables.

USE BOARD STANDOFFS AS NEEDED. In some situations, you need board standoffs to provide extra insulation for your exposed assemblies. This prevents your grounded mats from making unwanted connections on your board.

NEVER USE "PINK" PACKING MATERIAL FOR BOARD TRANSPORT OR AS A WORK SURFACE. While many people think pink packing material is ESD safe, in most cases it easily builds up unwanted charge. Unless continuous, thorough testing is done, treat pink packing materials as charged.

CAP UNUSED EQUIPMENT INPUTS to avoid accidental ESD and physical damage. Damage often occurs by accidentally contacting equipment inputs. Capping unused inputs protects them from incidental

ESD damage.

USE ESD-SAFE BAGS WHEN TRANSPORTING BOARDS. This protects boards from ESD damage while moving between ESD-safe locations.

DO NOT OVERDRIVE EQUIPMENT INPUTS. Start your testing at the least sensitive input setting and zoom in on your signal. Additionally, observe the maximum input levels for your specific equipment. The least sensitive setting is the most resilient, so starting there ensures that your inputs are at safe operating levels

After I posted this to my blog, Dave, N8SBE offered some further tips. He writes:

GROUNDING HEEL STRAPS ALSO HELP REDUCE STATIC CHARGE. Test them with a floor tester every time you put them on. The floor needs to be somewhat conductive—not metal, that's a safety hazard—so use conductive wax on tiles, or conductive carpet to drain of electrostatic charges.

KEEP MATERIALS, SUCH AS STYROFOAM CUPS, that form electrostatic charges easily away from your workspace. A Styrofoam cup can generate thousands of volts.

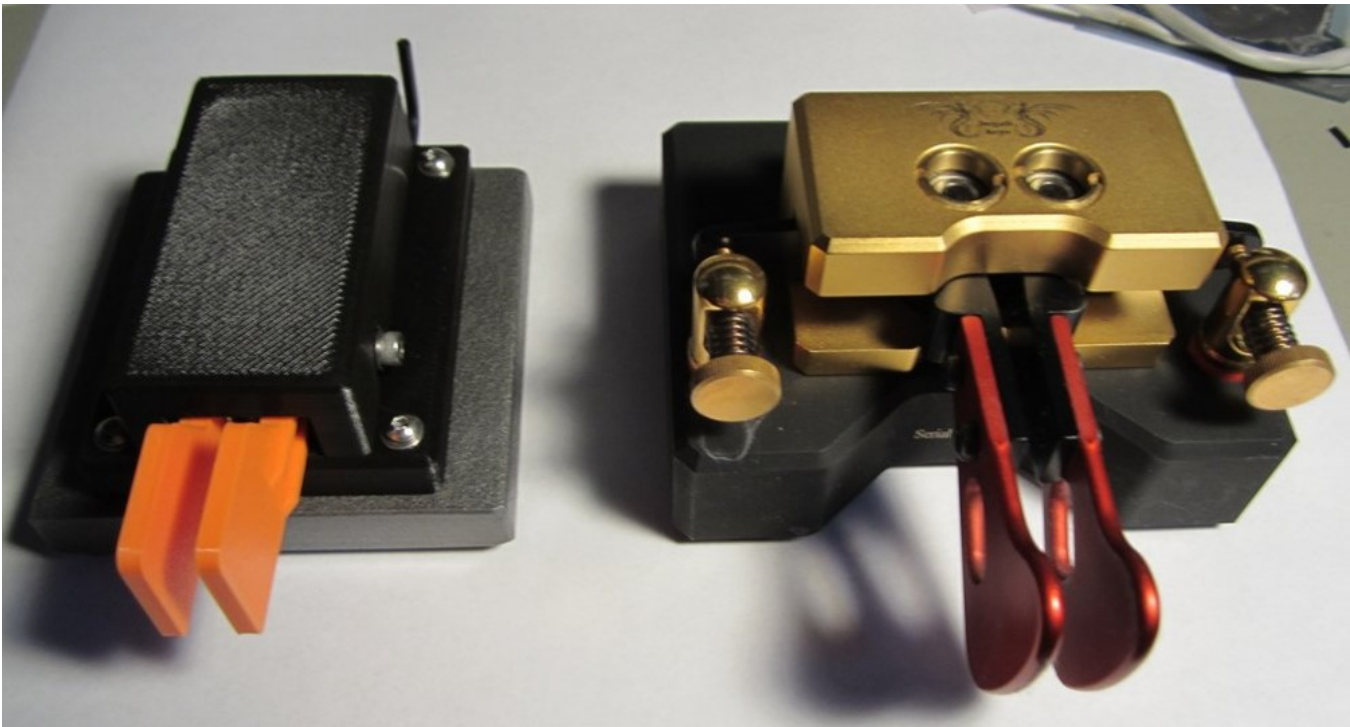
KEEP THE HUMIDITY UP IN THE WORKSPACE. That helps to keep static generation down as well.

I like to think that I follow ESD-safe procedures, but there are a couple of things here that I hadn't thought about before. For example, I'd never really thought about discharging test equipment cables before connecting them. I think that's a good tip

To learn more, go to <https://www.keysight.com/find/PreventESD>

It's not a Begali, but... by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One of the questions I'm most frequently asked is, "What is a good paddle for a beginner?" My usual answer to this question is to look for a used Bencher BY-1 at a hamfest or on one of the online venues. You used to be able to get them for \$60 or less. Now, however, there are few hamfests and the price has gone up. Now, used Benchers are close to \$80.



It's not a Begali Magnetic Pro (right), but the CW Morse dual-lever paddle (left) is worth considering as a first key.

Another option that newcomers might consider is the CW Morse paddle (<https://cwmorse.us/>), shown in photo below. They cost \$60 with a steel base (\$43 without), and are available from 3rd Planet Solar (<https://kc9on.com/product/cw-morse-iambic-paddles/>) and Gigaparts (<https://www.gigaparts.com/cw-morse-orange-morse-code-double-paddle-key-37-820-s.html>). I purchased one recently, and used it for a couple of days. To be honest, I was prepared to hate it, but it actually works pretty well. It's not a Begali, but it's good enough that I'd recommend it as a starter key.

These keys are mostly made from 3D-printed plastic parts. You can tell this from the finish. While not as bad as some 3D-printed parts, they do look a little rough. I wouldn't be surprised if they go to molded parts, though, at some point. In high volumes, it has to be cheaper to mold the parts rather than print them.

The key does have metal parts where it counts, though. The contacts are all brass, the base is made from 1/2-in. cold-rolled steel, and the levers pivot on sealed ball bearings. My key weighed 22.5 oz (1.4 lbs.), and was quite stationary on the silicone mat that I use for my keys. The Begali is, of course, a lot heavier at nearly 60 oz. (3.75 lbs.).

A spring between the levers provides the tension. Two screws allow you to adjust the contact spacing. Unlike the Begali, whose adjustment screws have a very fine thread to give you plenty of adjustability, these screws are standard thread screws. What this means is that it can be a bit tricky to set the contact spacing. The screws are spring-loaded to prevent the adjustment from changing, but the springs don't seem to be very beefy, and I can see where the adjustment might change after a lot of use.

The ball bearings give the key a nice action. During my tests, I had the speed cranked up to 23 wpm, and this key performed well at that speed. One thing I didn't like very much is that the arms tend to flex more than I like, but I actually have the same problem with the plastic Begali finger pieces. That's why I use the aluminum finger pieces on the Begali.

Overall, though, I'm quite happy with this key. And, for sixty bucks, which is about one-fifth of the price of a new Begali Magnetic Pro, I can certainly recommend this key to newcomers getting started in CW.

New Ham Radio Dating Service Emerges via hamhijinks.com (WBORUR)

HORSESHOE LAKE, WISCONSIN — Local ham radio operator and self-avowed bachelor Giani Balboa says his latest creation will revolutionize the lonely hearts of the hobby.

The prize winning tailor (his garment making took 1st place at the 2004 Cumberland County Fair) has developed a new digital software format designed for the amorous ham.

"I call it FT-88s," says Balboa. "It will whisper your call sign to hams of the opposite gender and you'll be making contacts in no time!"

Designed to run on a home computer, the software comes in both "male" and "female" versions.

Transmitting on a 15 second cycle, the male FT-88s client includes several preset messages including:

- HOW YOU DOIN'?
- DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?
- DO I KNOW YOU FROM SOMEWHERE?
- WHAT'S YOUR (CALL)SIGN?

Female version, preformatted messages include:

- NO COPY; I HAVE OTHER PLANS
- SORRY, I HAVE TO WORK DX LATE
- I'VE SEEN BIGGER SIGNALS

Balboa says the software will exchange the "kissing emoji" with the correct keystrokes. He adds that third-party software will allow you to swipe left for logging to HRD log and swipe right for logging to AC Log.

Talking to reporters while exercising at his home gym/hamshack, he says QSOs will be digitally signed automatically and transferred to both NRRL's Logbook of the Globe and www.hothamradiooperators.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 2020-2021

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)



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DXCC Info

As of January 2018, 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, AF8C, KB6NU, W8ORUR, hamhijinks.com, and Scott Adams.